





Commissioner for Older People
for Northern Ireland

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Impacts of COVID-19 on older people in Northern Ireland

September, 2020



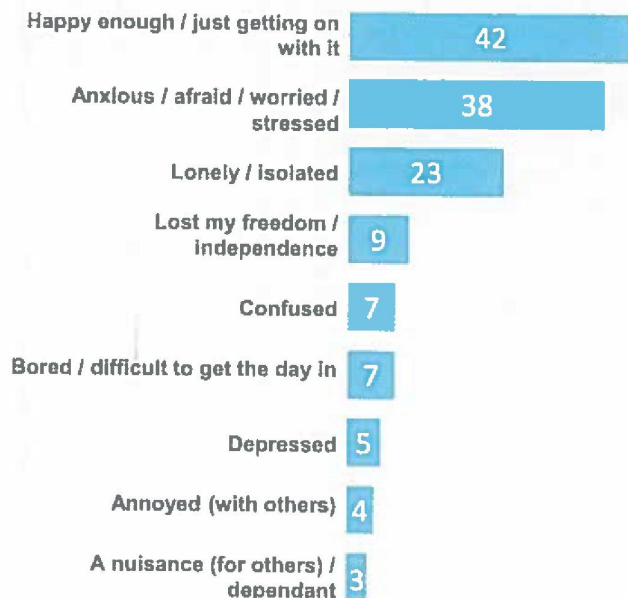
IMPACT OF COVID PANDEMIC ON OLDER PEOPLE

COPNI

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THE COVID EXPERIENCE

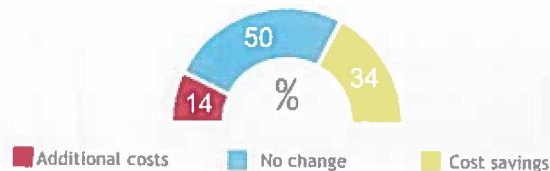
FEELINGS DURING LOCKDOWN



THE POSITIVES OF LOCKDOWN

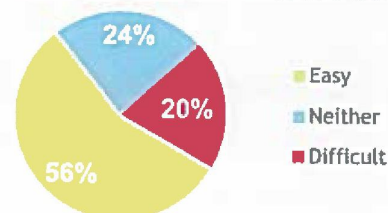
- ✓ 14% reported increased contact with family
- ✓ 11% undertook more outdoor activity or exercise

IMPACT OF COVID ON FINANCES



FOOD AND SHOPPING

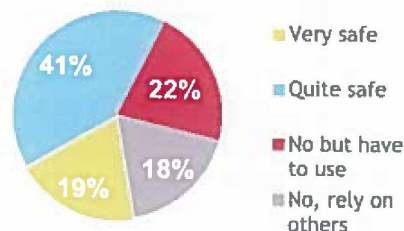
EASE OF GETTING SHOPPING



Reasons for difficulty include:

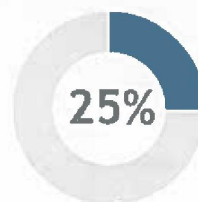
- Queuing in store
- Relying on family and friends
- Hard to get some items
- Health problems
- Problems with deliveries
- Having to shield

FEEL SAFE USING SHOPS



66% feel more confident to go out when wearing a mask

ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE



One quarter report that accessing medical services has become harder during the pandemic

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

% experiencing...

Increased loneliness 32%

poorer health and wellbeing 37%

This study was conducted by telephone with 202 people aged 60 or over. Interviewing took place from 1st to 14th September and was conducted by the independent research company:



Approach

AIM:

The aim of this research project is to provide a deeper understanding of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and lockdown on older people in Northern Ireland.

METHOD:

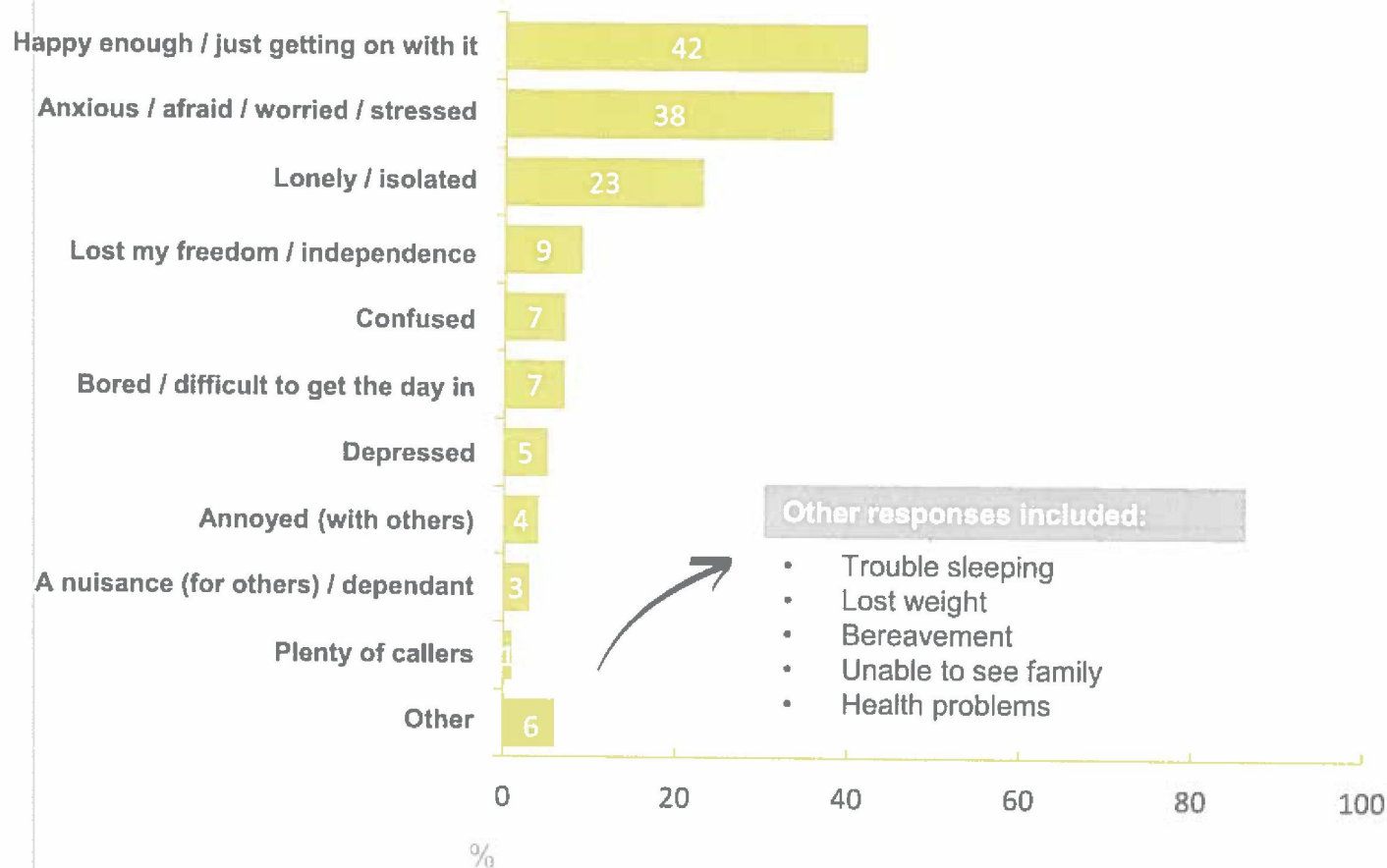
- 1 Telephone interviewing took place across Northern Ireland, from 1st to 14th September 2020.
- 2 In total, 202 interviews were completed to quota representative of businesses in Northern Ireland.
- 3 The data was processed using specialist survey analysis software.



Your experience of the pandemic

B1 Describe how you felt during lockdown and the COVID-19 pandemic.

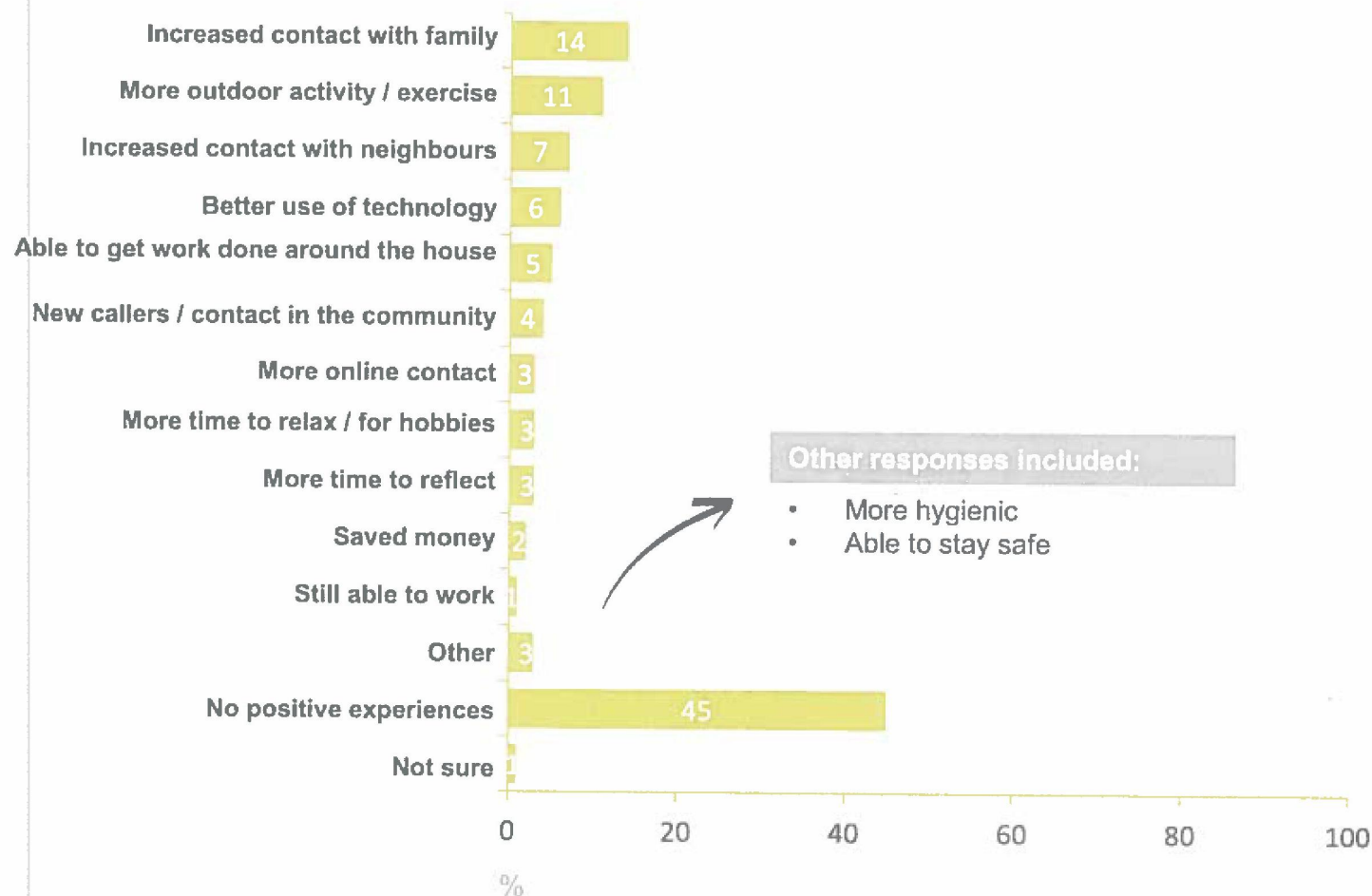
Base 202: All respondents



¹ Multiple choice question

B2 What, if any, good or positive things happened to you as a result of COVID-19 and the lockdown?

Base 202: All respondents

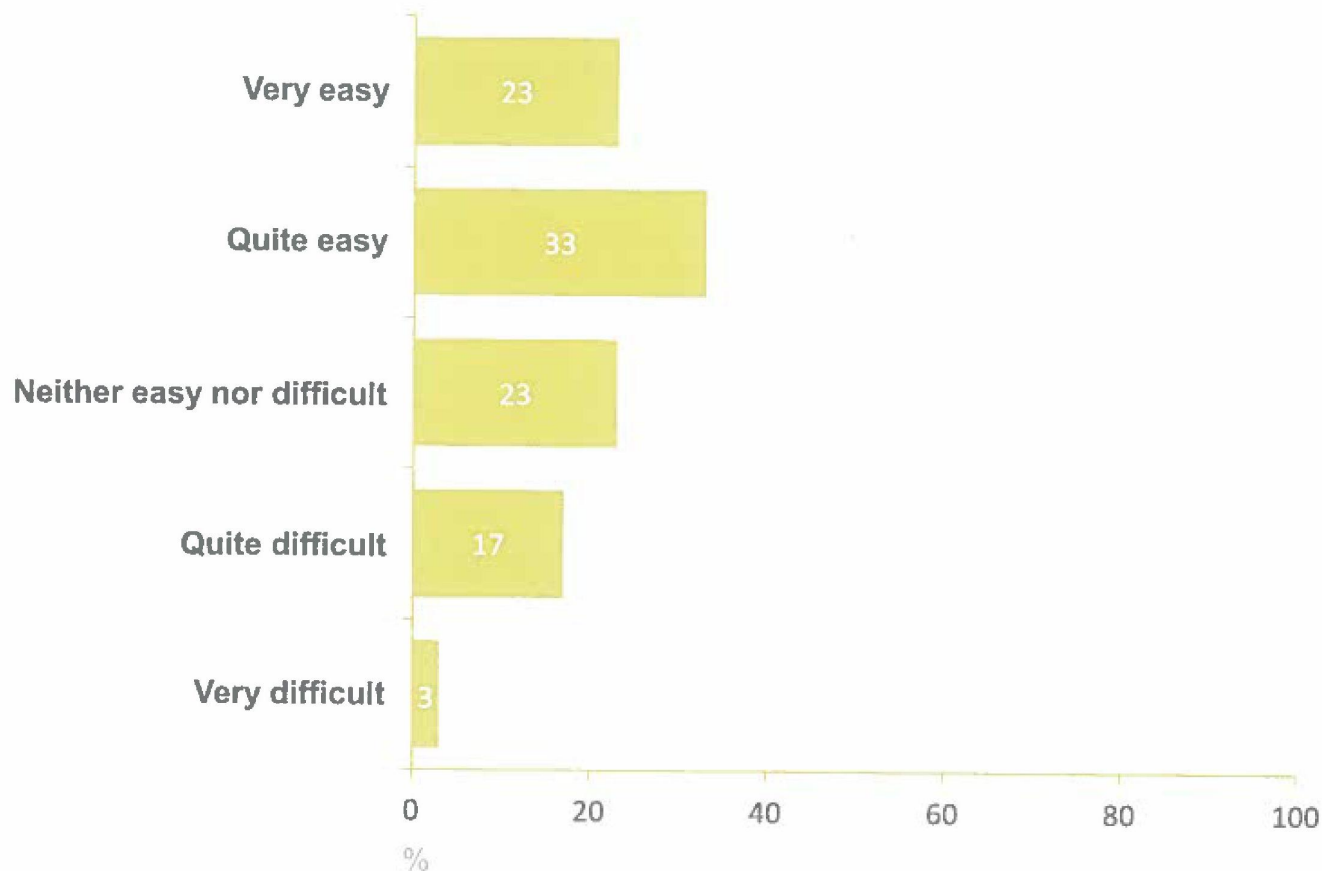


¹ Multiple choice question

Food and shopping

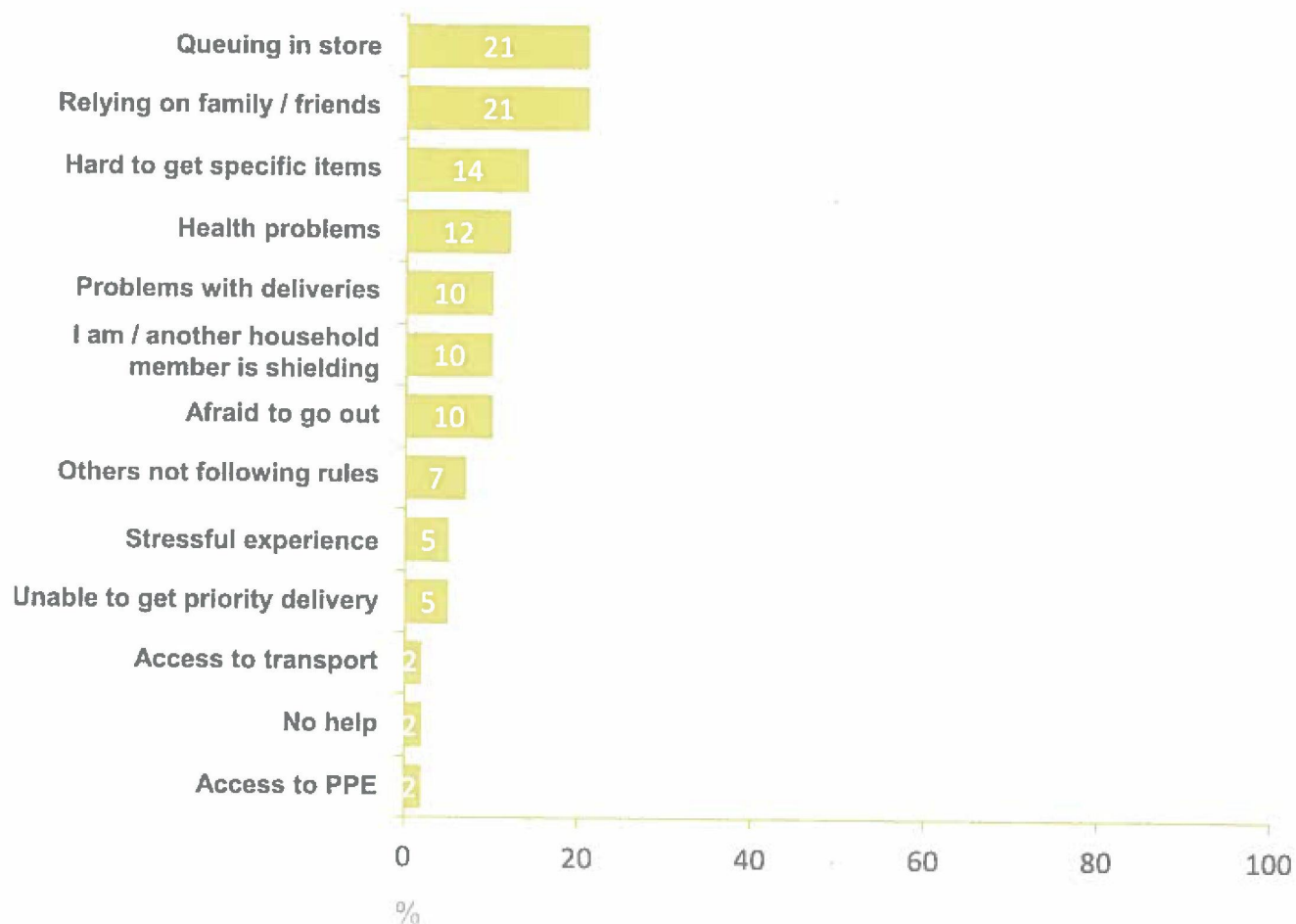
C1 To what extent was it easy or difficult to get shopping and other household necessities during COVID-19 and lockdown?

Base 202: All respondents



C1a Why has it been difficult to get shopping and other household necessities?

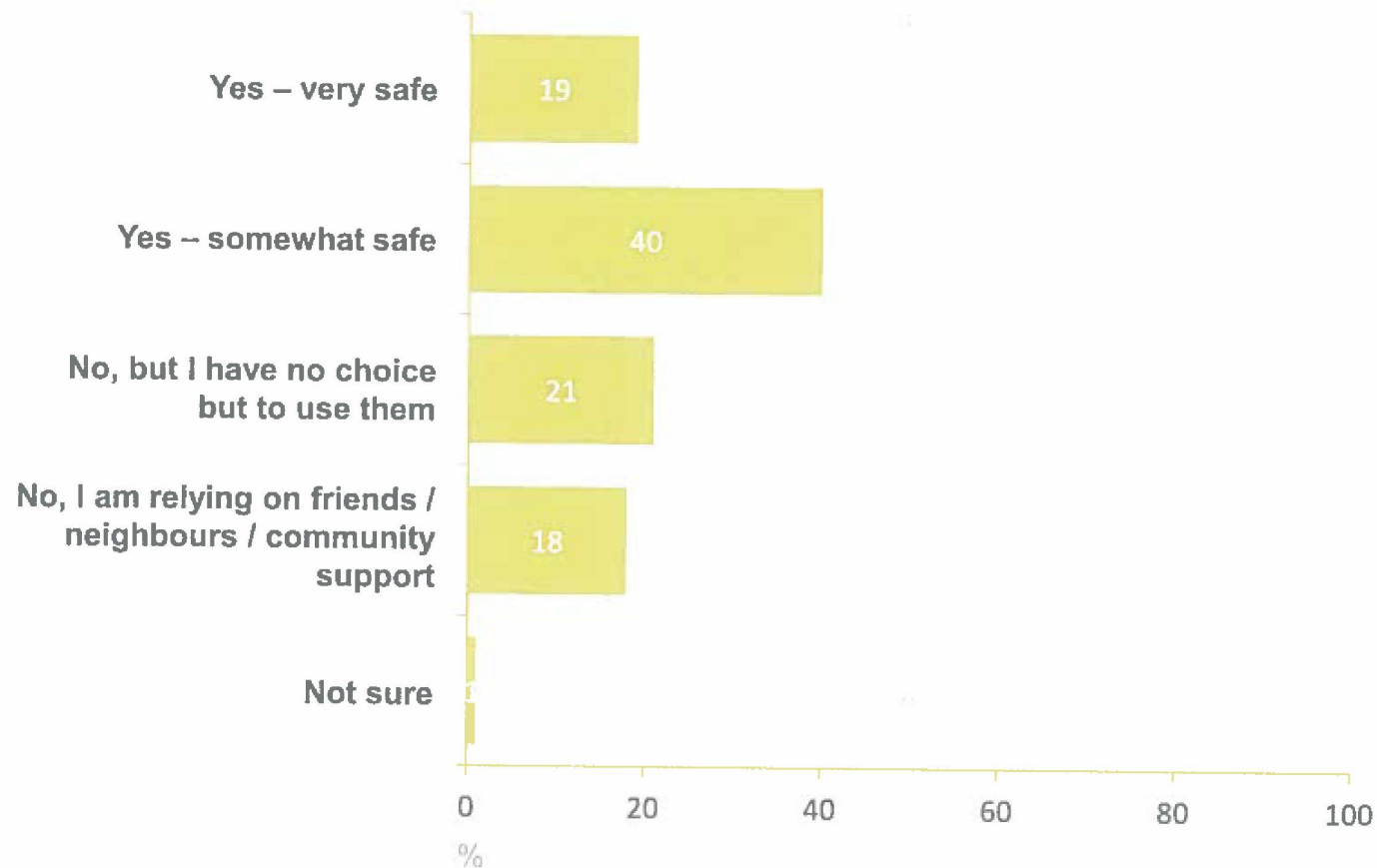
Base 42: Those that found shopping difficult



¹ Multiple choice question

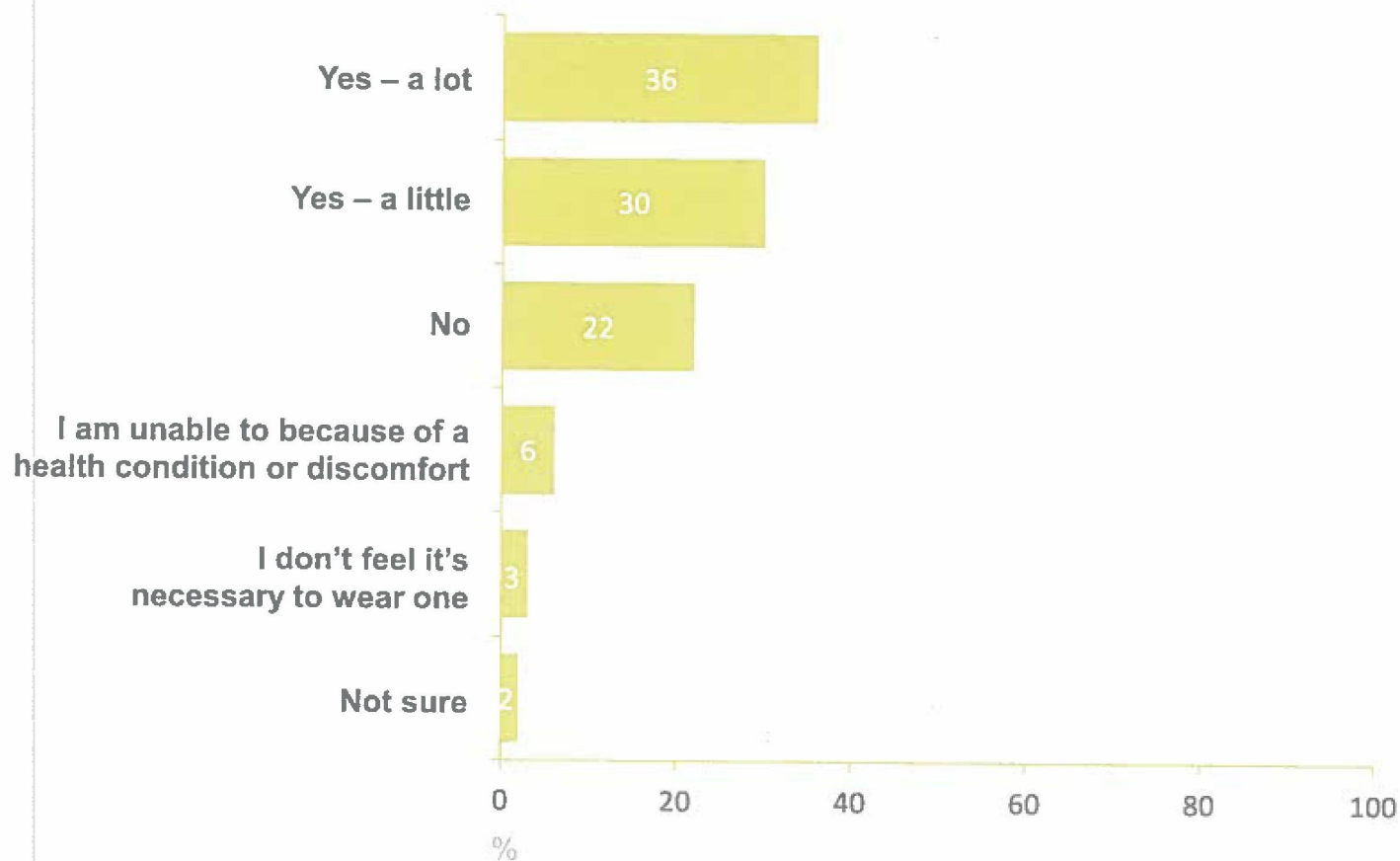
C2 Do you feel safe using shops and supermarkets?

Base 202: All respondents



C3 Does wearing a mask or face covering give you more confidence to go out?

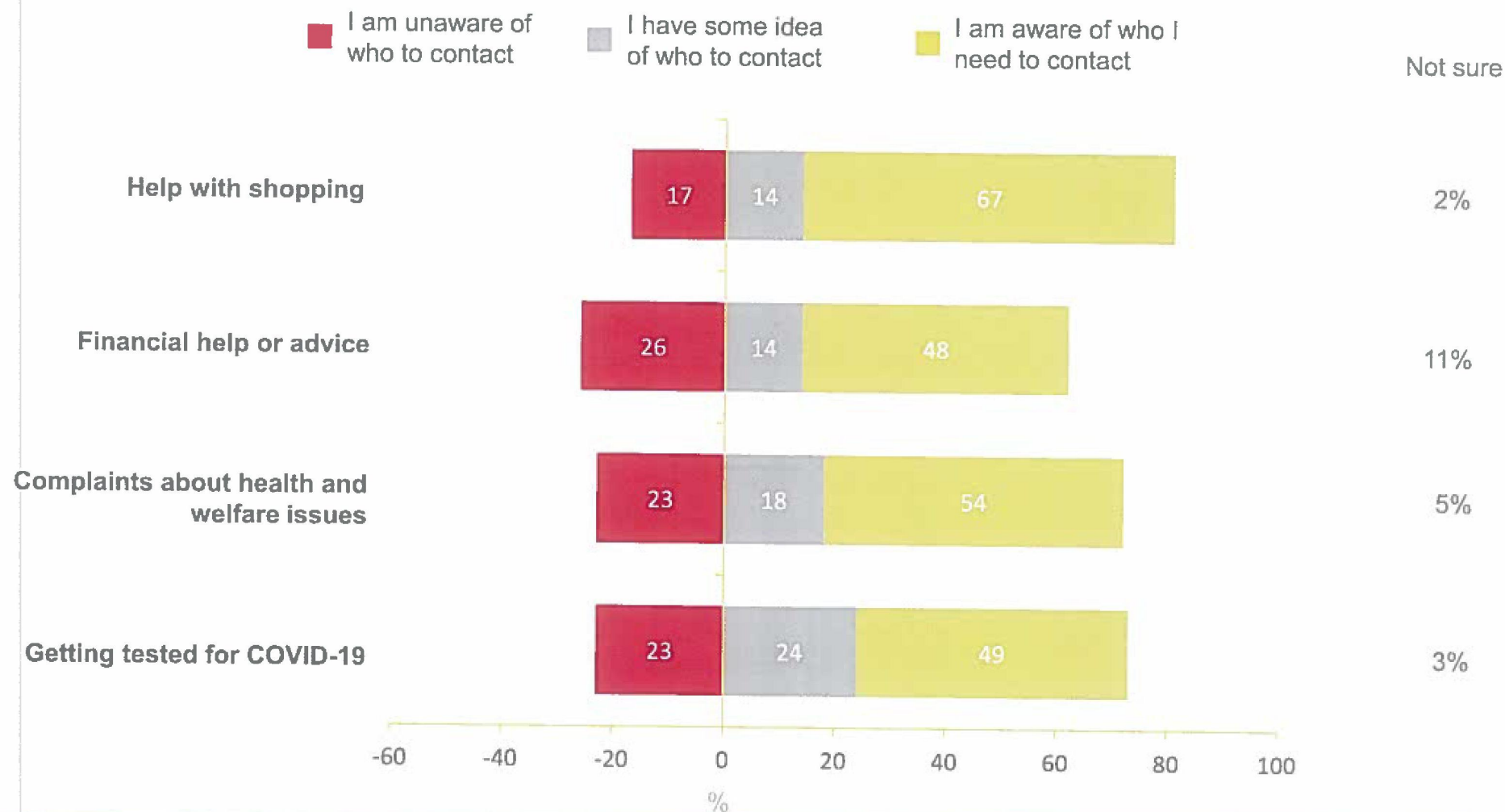
Base 202: All respondents



Information and assistance

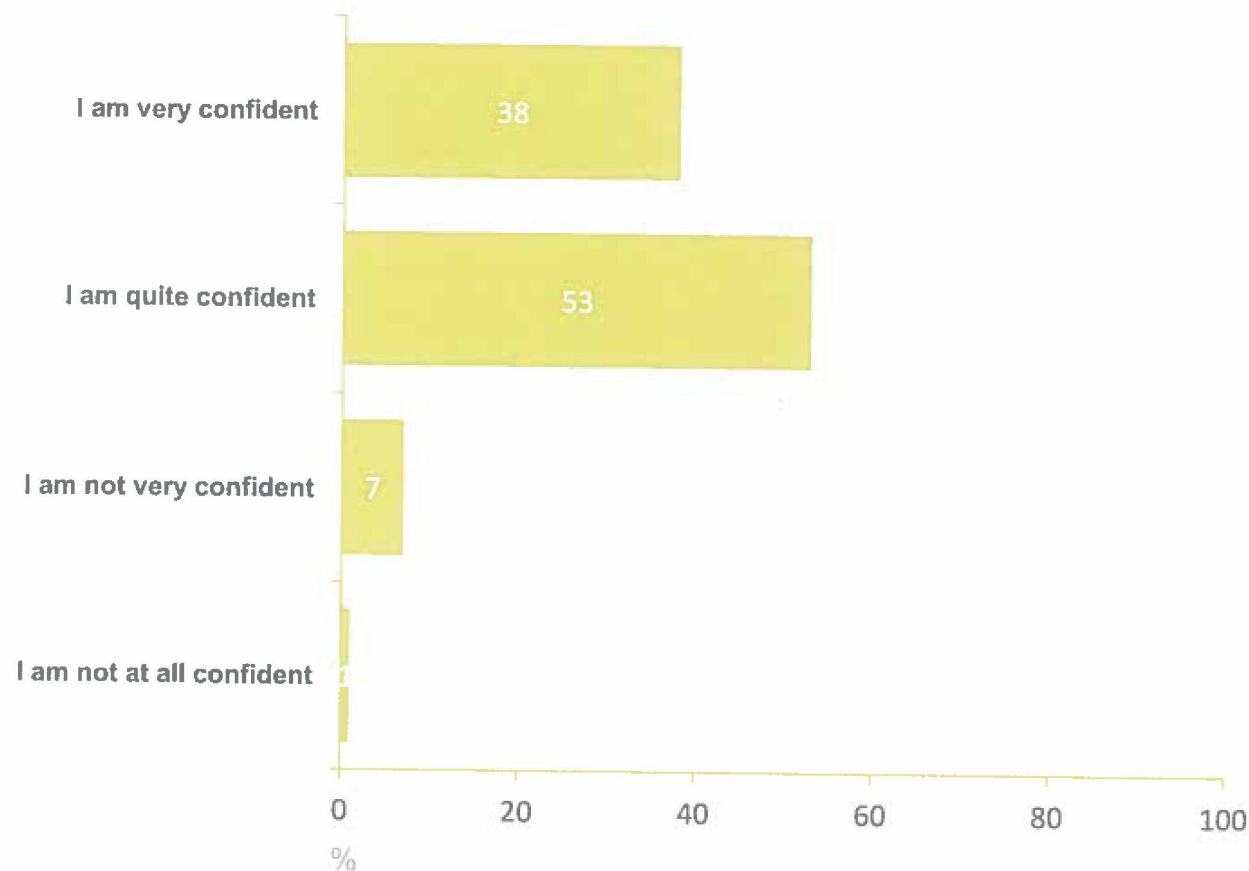
D1 If you needed help with the following, would you know who to contact?

Base 202: All responses



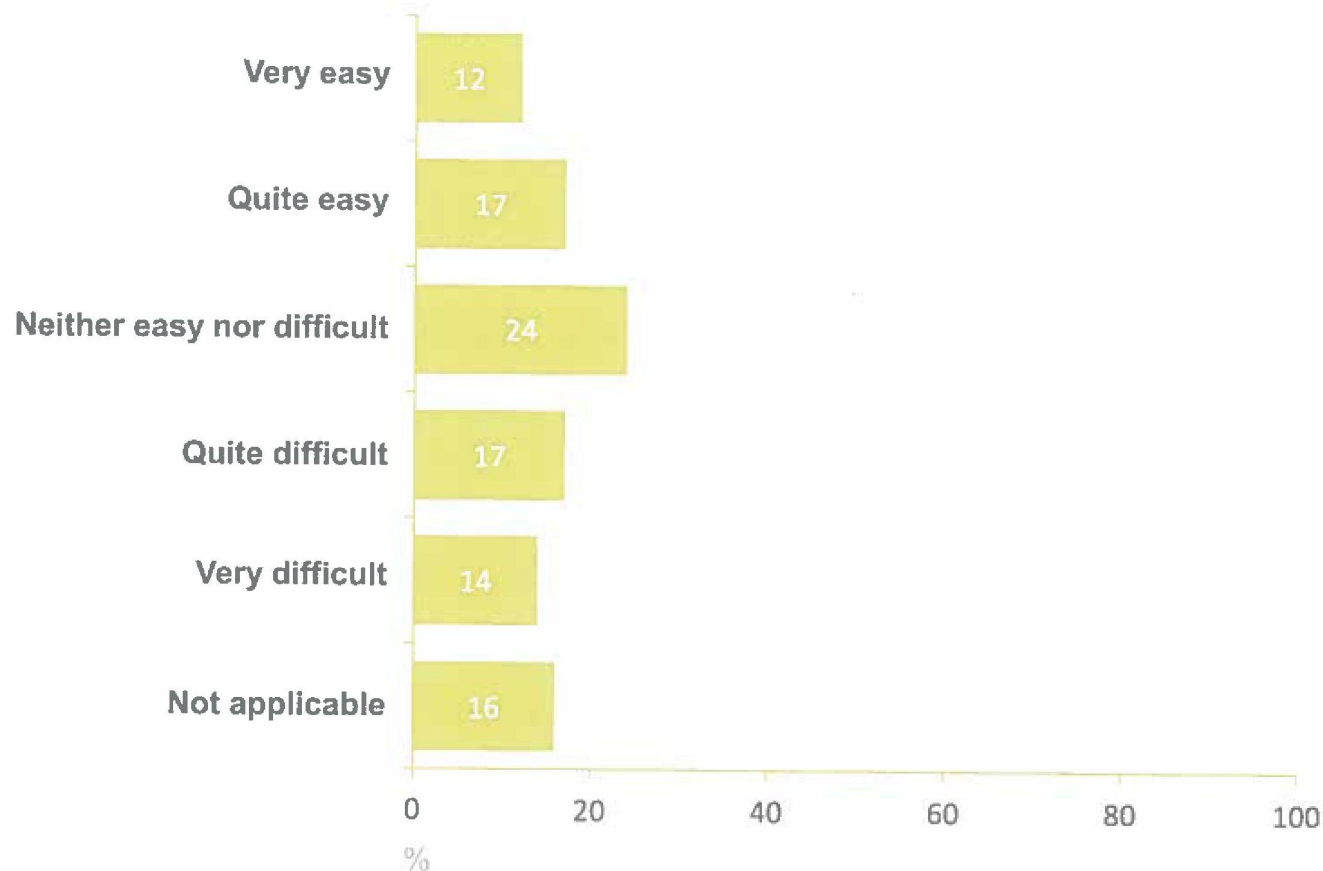
D2 How confident are you of what COVID-19 is, its impacts, how to stay safe and what is required of you and other people?

Base 202: All respondents



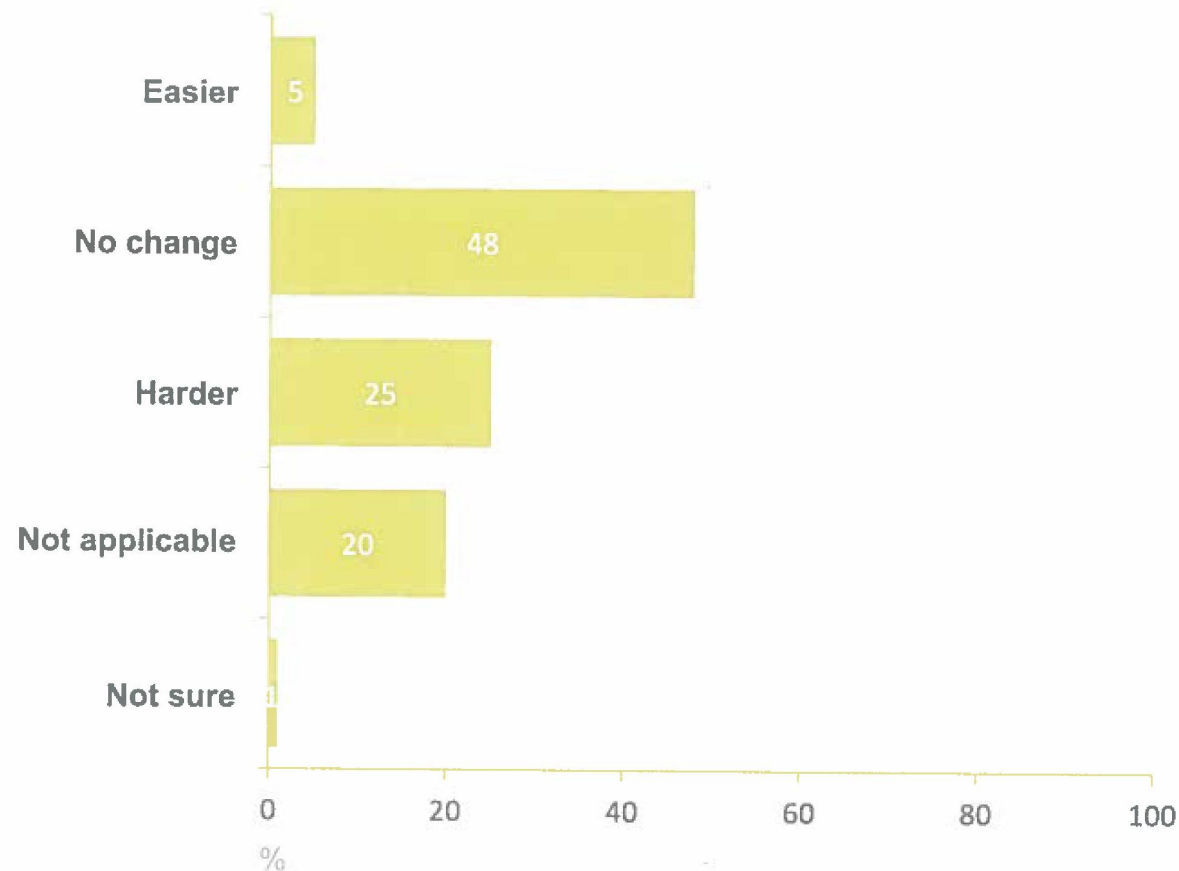
D3 During the COVID-19 pandemic and lockdown, how easy or difficult have you found accessing medical services such as doctor's surgeries or care?

Base 202: All respondents



D4 Since COVID-19 and lockdown, has accessing medical services such as doctor's surgeries or care become easier or harder, or has it not changed?

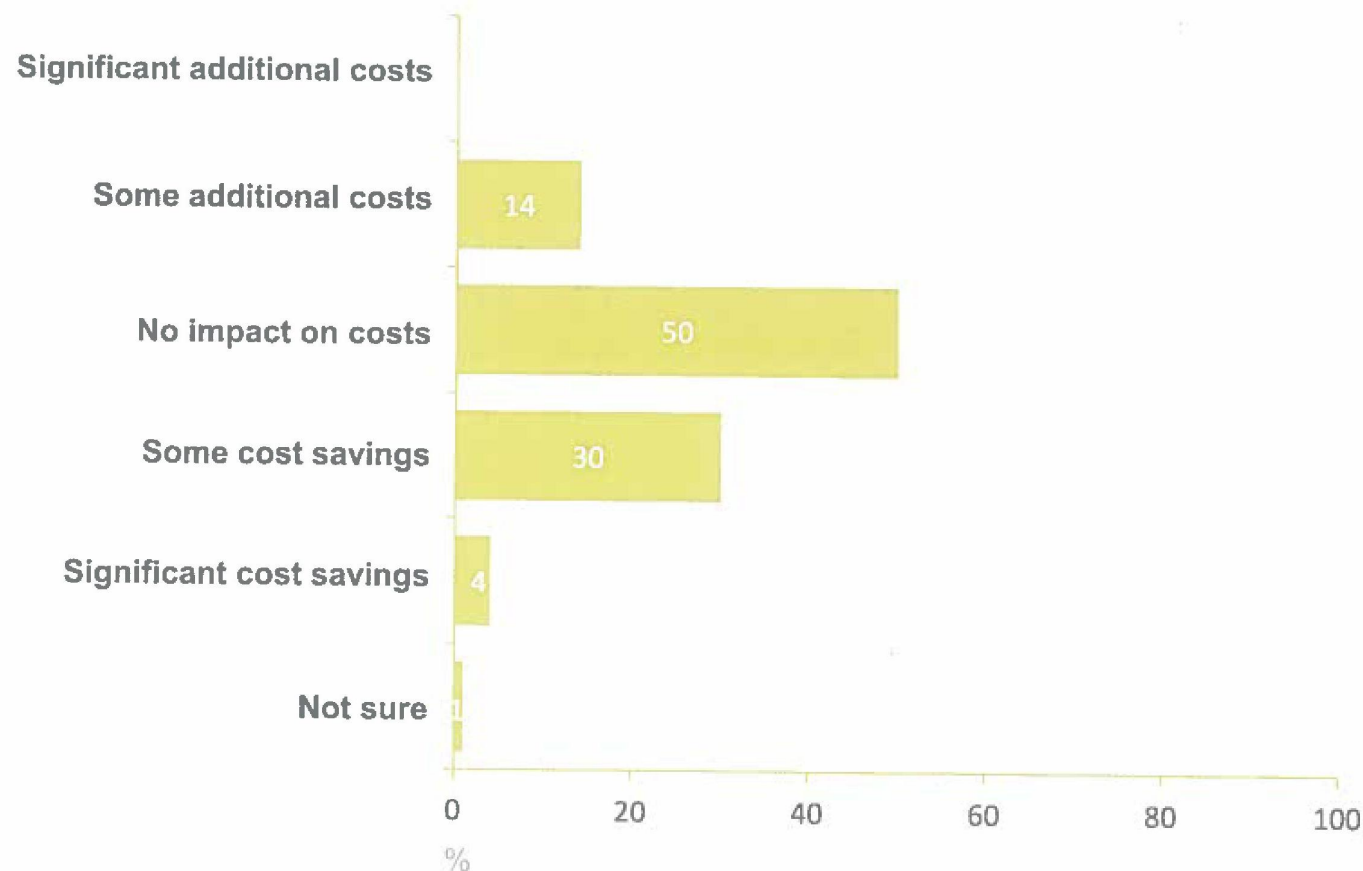
Base 202: All respondents



Finances

E1 What impact, if any, has COVID-19 and the lockdown had an on your finances?

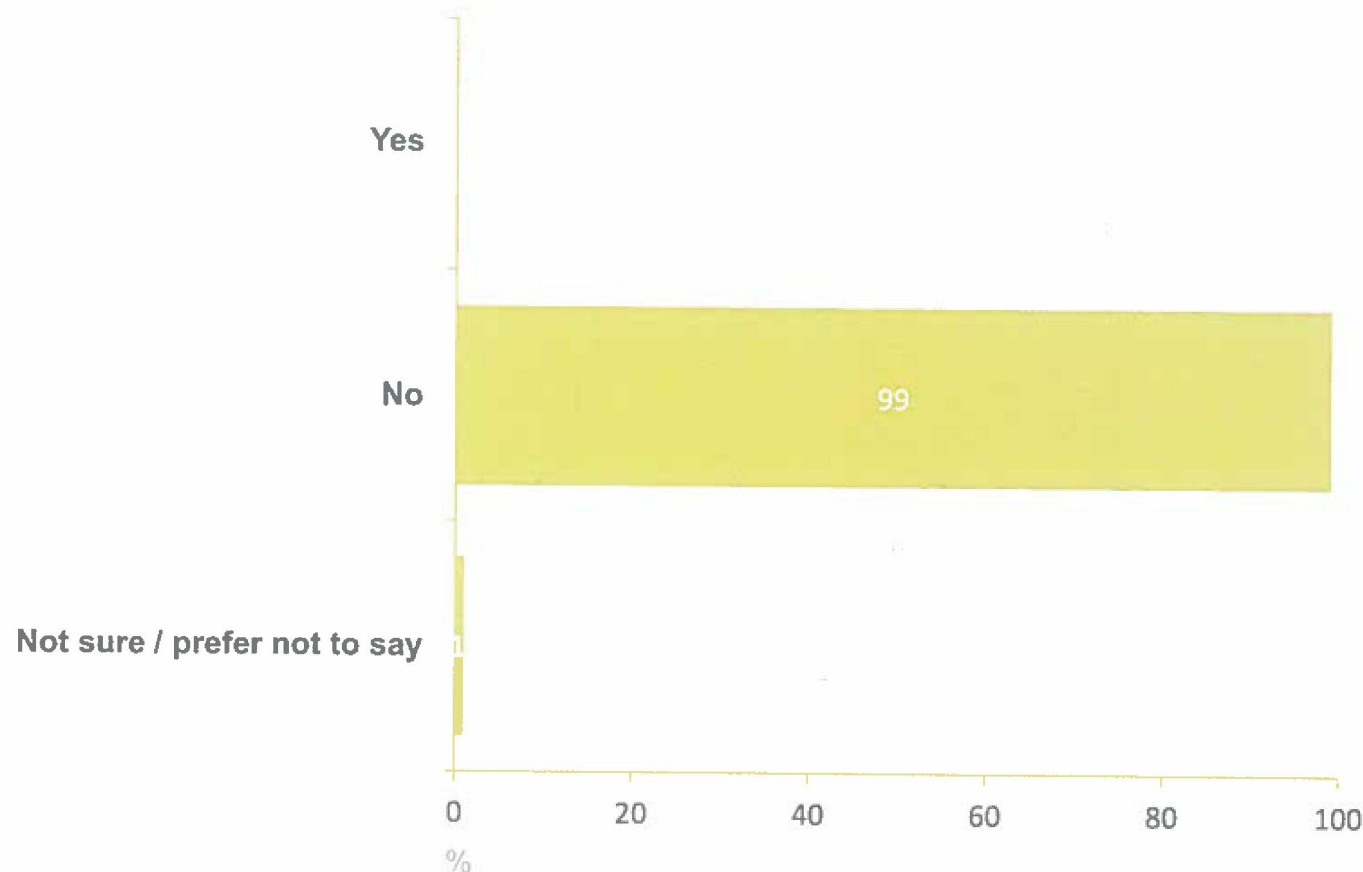
Base 202: All respondents



¹ One respondent reported 'significant additional costs', however due to rounding this appears as 0%

E2 Since COVID-19 and the lockdown have you experienced any difficulties in heating or utilities, such as keeping warm, maintaining supply, topping up your meter or additional costs?

Base 202: All respondents



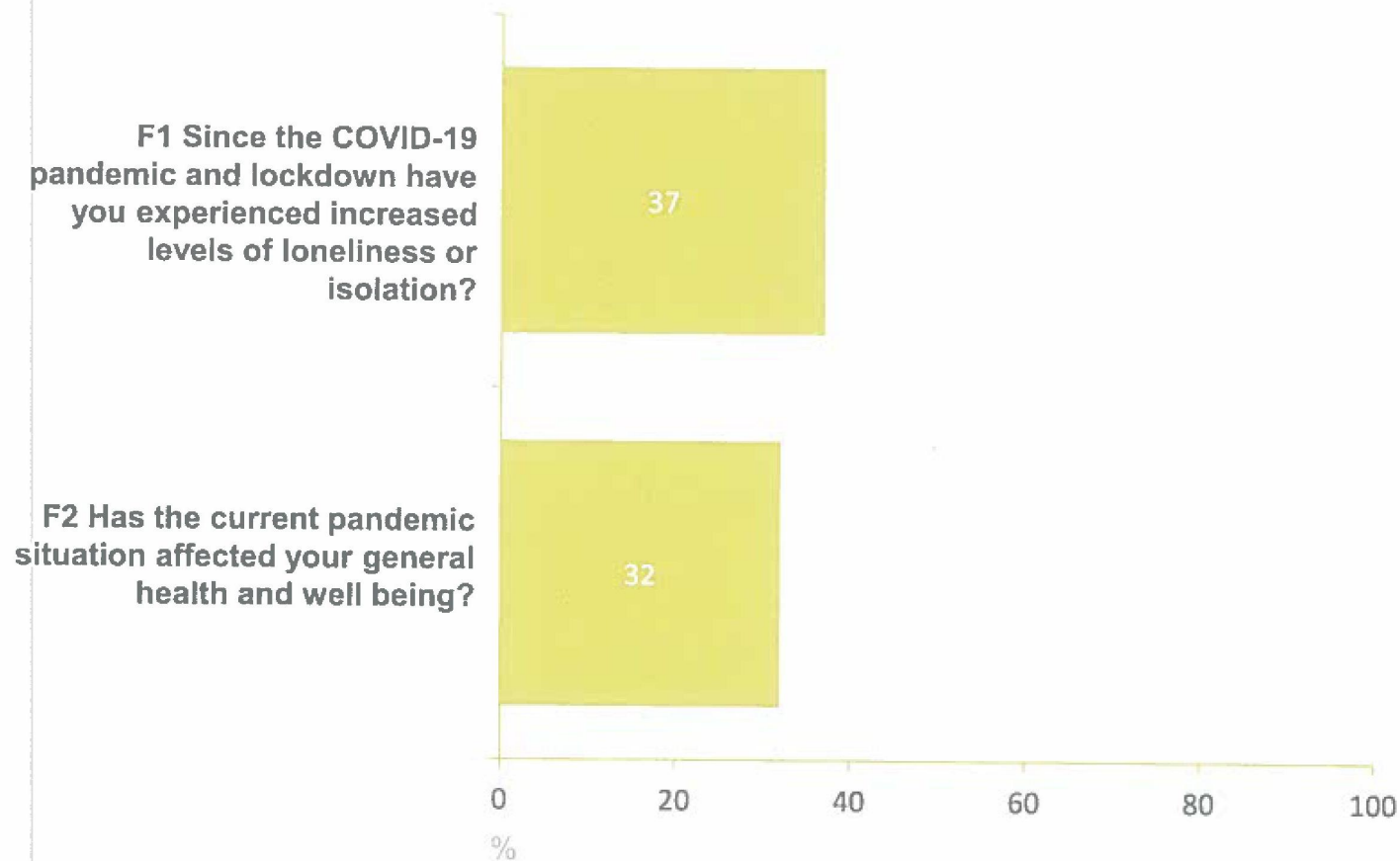
¹ One respondent reported that their central heating had broke down during the lockdown, however due to rounding this appears as 0%

Health and well being

Health and well being

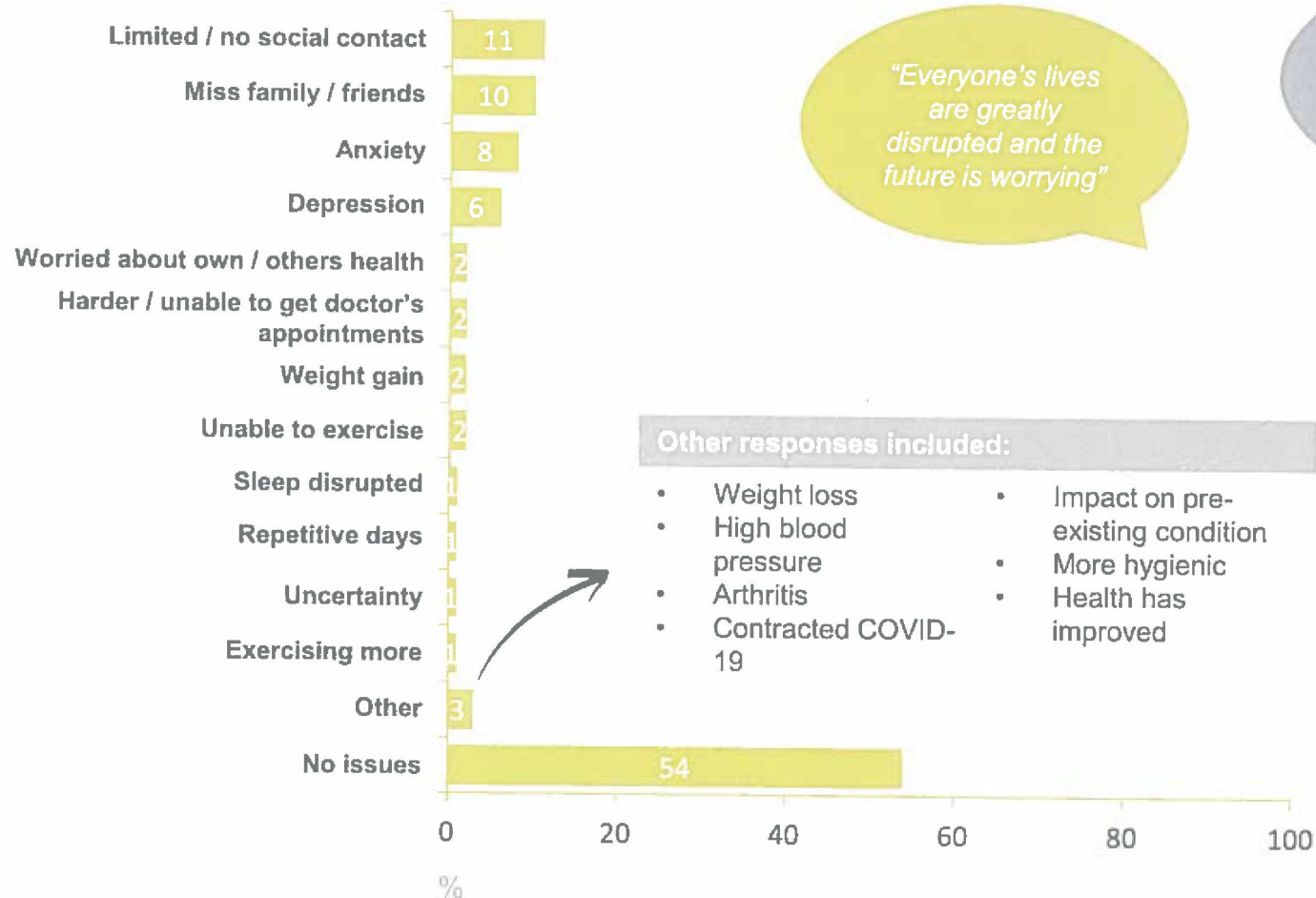
Base 202: All respondents

% saying yes



F3 Please provide a brief description of the issue.

Base 202: All respondents



"Everyone's lives are greatly disrupted and the future is worrying"

"We keep safe and get on with it but we really miss our grandchildren and family"

"I would be afraid to go near a hospital if I needed to"

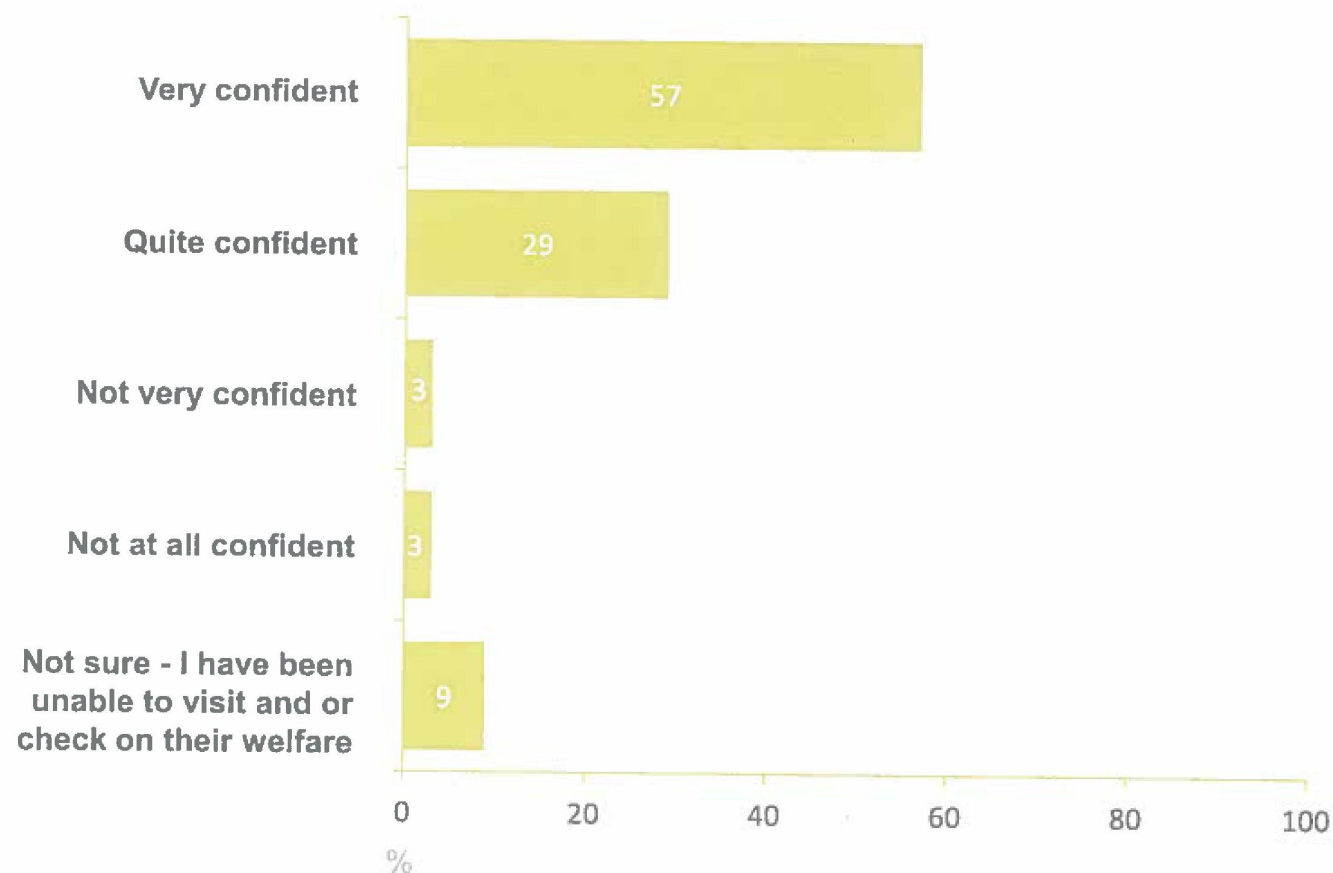
¹ Multiple choice question

Access to relatives in care settings / supported living settings

G2 To what extent, if at all, are you confident that this relative is receiving the care that they need?

Base 35: Those with a relative in care or supported living settings

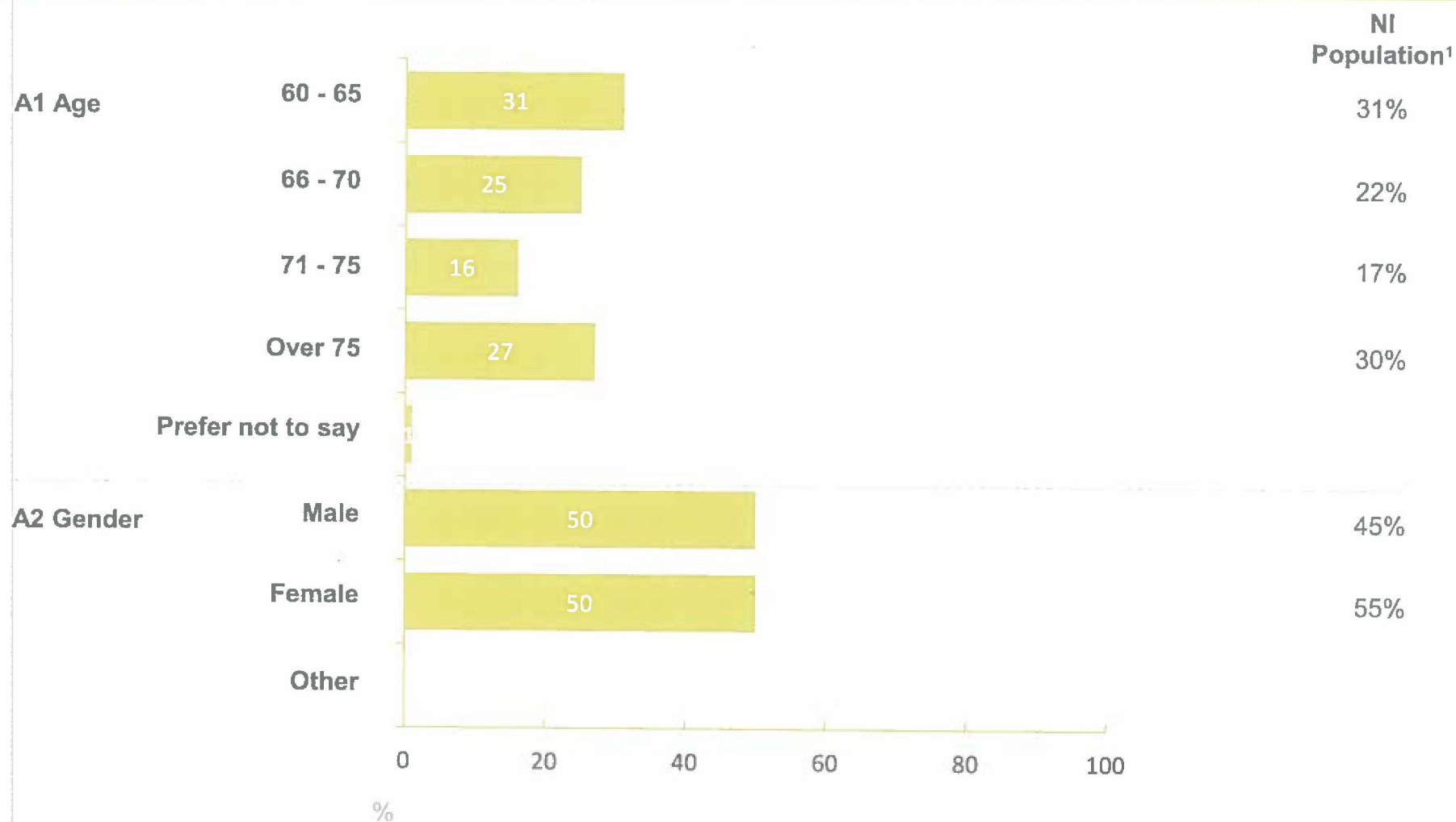
17% of respondents have relatives in care or supported living settings



Appendix A: Who took part

Respondent profile

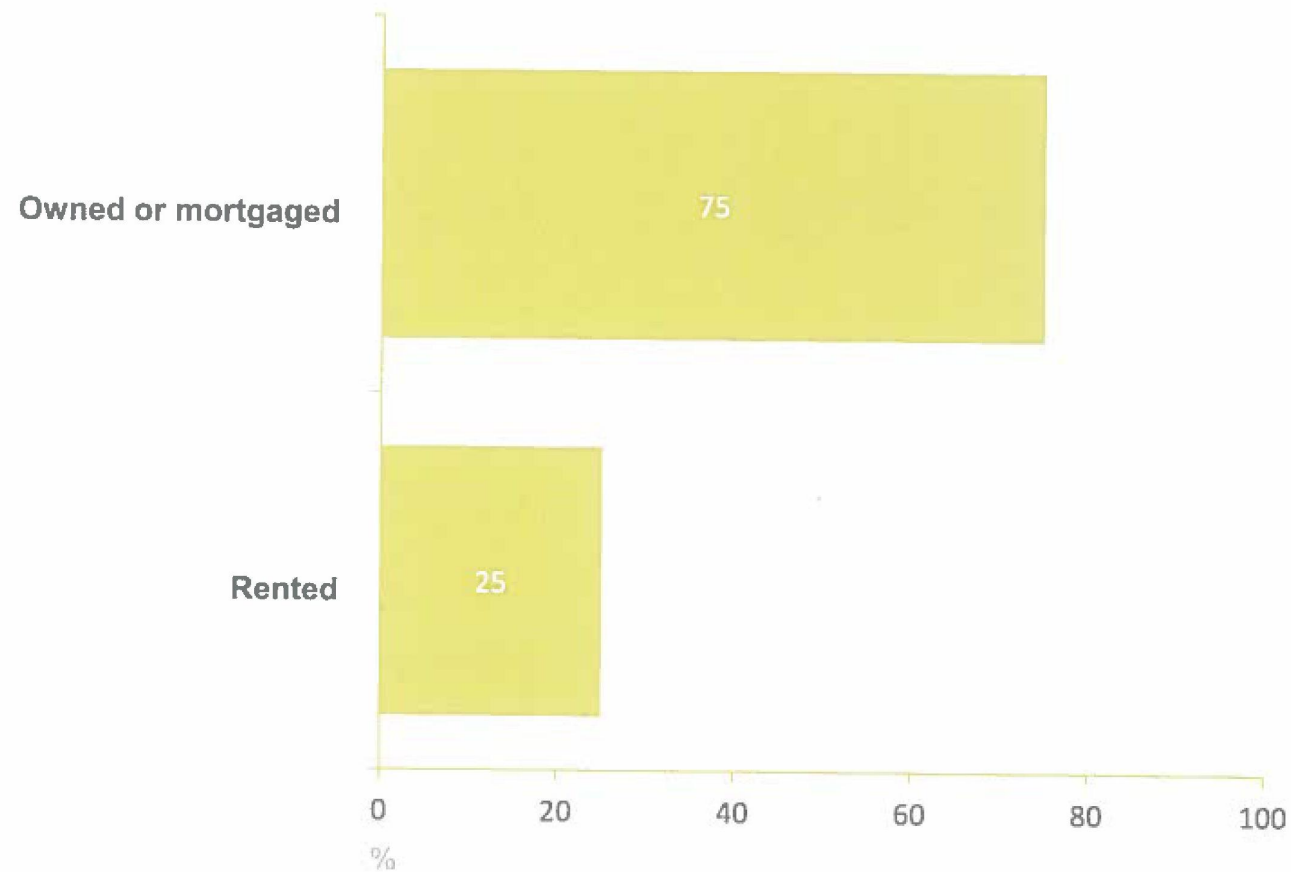
Base 202: All respondents



¹ Census 2011

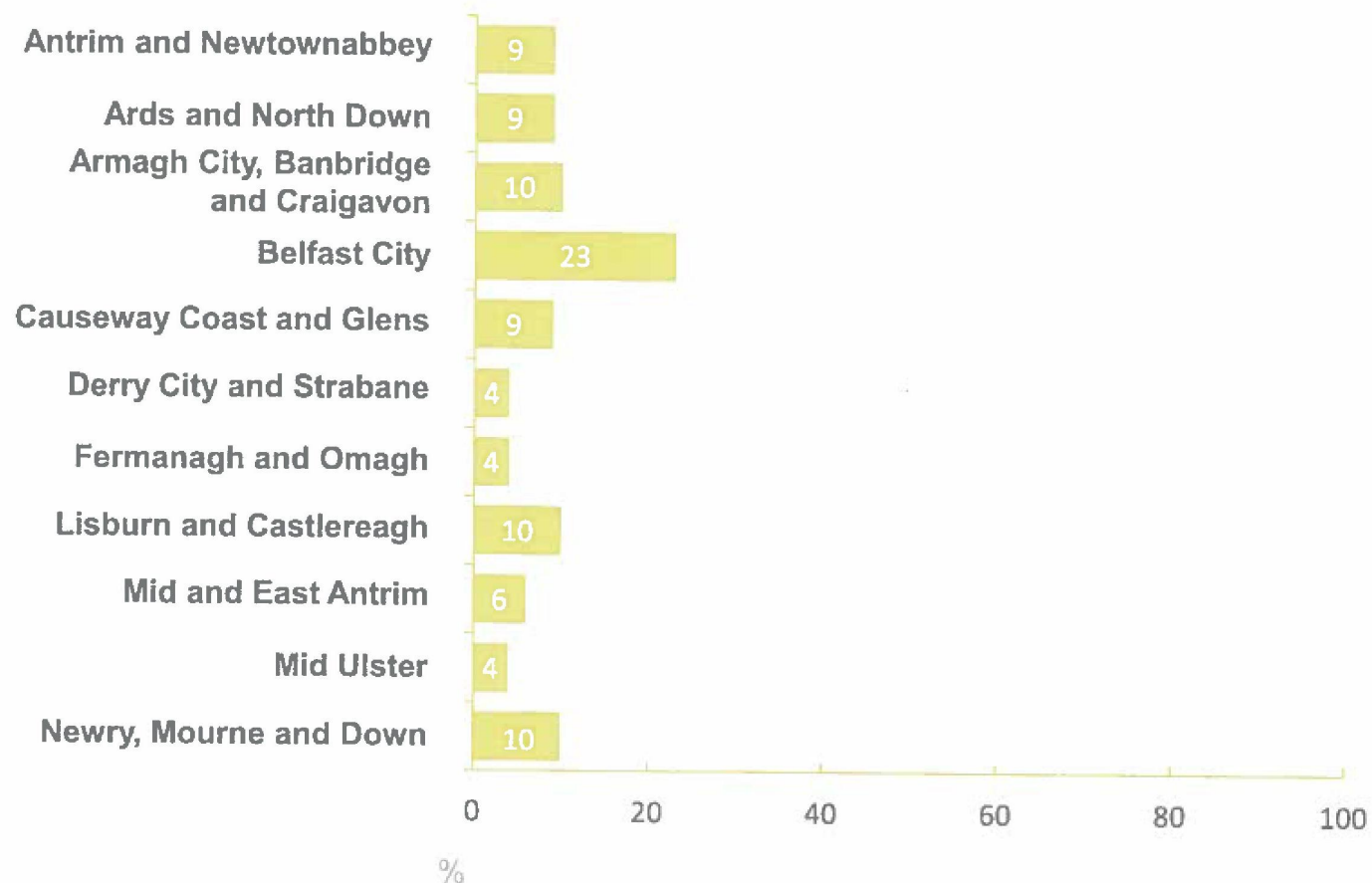
A3 Is your home...?

Base 202: All respondents



A4 In which District Council area do you live?

Base 202: All respondents



A5 Would you describe the area you live as...?

Base 202: All respondents

