



IRELAND'S **AUTISM** CHARITY

# Same Chance

Report 2024



IRELAND'S  
**AUTISM**  
CHARITY

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## Foreward

Dear Reader,

I am delighted to present this year's Same Chance report, on behalf of AsIAm, Ireland's Autism Charity. Our annual Same Chance Report allows us to show the document and explore experiences of Autistic people and families in Irish society. This includes the systemic barriers experienced by Autistic people accessing education, the workplace, disability services, healthcare and the social protection. This report also explores day to day life in the community from participating in social and family life to accessing day-to-day amenities and services.

This year's report was completed by over 1700 people, family members, parents and carers. The report highlights a range of barriers, fears, challenges that are uniquely faced by members of the Autistic community. These challenges range from discrimination in accessing healthcare, not having access to suitable housing, being excluded from education, feeling ashamed to disclose an Autism diagnosis. Appended to this report is our annual Attitudes to Autism poll which was conducted across a representative sample of 1,000 Irish adults and provides a snapshot of the Irish public's knowledge, understanding and acceptance of Autism and Autistic people.

This year's report comes as we approach the one-year anniversary of the publication of the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Autism's final report. As this report highlights, the ubiquitous nature of the barriers and challenges facing the Autistic community have not diminished. This report demonstrates the continuing barriers to Assessment of Need, mental health services, suitable and inclusive education and accessing adult services. The Autistic community needs Government to deliver tangible and neuro-affirmative policies in response to the Joint Oireachtas Committee's final reports 109 recommendations.

This year's report is a special one as AsIAm celebrates its 10th birthday and whilst it is important to look back and be proud of the journey we have been on together so far; we know there is much more work to do. The Same Chance Report provides invaluable data which will inform our advocacy, support, training and public engagement activity right across the year. In completing the Same Chance Survey, community members were also invited to complete a series of questions on the work and priorities of AsIAm, which will inform our strategic planning process as we look to the decade ahead.

This report is published during April 2024, which is also World Autism Month. We hope that this will provide a snapshot of Autistic life in Ireland in 2024, and the urgent need to address the pervasive barriers which Autistic people face to ensure all in our community have the same chance. In this report, Autistic people and their families have been brave enough to share their experiences and have told us that they do not have the same chance to participate in Irish society as non-Autistic people. I hope that you will absorb the lived experience of those who took part in our survey, and will work with us to provide the same chance to Autistic people across Ireland.

Best Wishes,

**Adam Harris**

Founder/CEO of AsIAm



IRELAND'S  
**AUTISM**  
CHARITY

## Our Vision

AsI Am is Ireland's Autism Charity. Our vision is to create a society in which every Autistic person is accepted "as they are" – equal, valued, and respected. Our purpose is to advocate for an inclusive society for Autistic people that is accessible, accepting and affirming. We work to support Autistic people, our families and our wider community to fully engage in Irish life and build the capacity of our society to facilitate true inclusion.

## Methodology

The data was collected via a survey conducted from the 21st February until the 4th March. For the first time, community members were invited to complete a single survey which was distributed widely through social media, our newsletter lists and to participants of AsI Am's family support and adult support programmes with a total of 1748 responses.

The survey was completed by Autistic adults and by parents/ carers of Autistic people. The survey had 116 questions, with participants invited to answer those relevant to them and their families' experiences to-date. For example, Autistic adults exclusively were invited to answer questions pertaining to employment.

## Profile of Respondents

A total of 1748 people participated in this survey. Respondents were asked to complete the survey from the perspective of the Autistic person and, where more than one family member was Autistic, it was possible to complete a survey for each Autistic person in the household. This approach is an effort to be as inclusive as possible to ensure the diversity of experiences within the Autistic community is fully captured within our dataset. As in previous years, the majority of respondents were the parents of Autistic people (74%), the second largest group was Autistic adults (22%). There were a small number of responses from other family members (2%) and primary carers (3%). The survey responses relate to a majority of Autistic males (57%) with females accounting for the second largest cohort (38%). Answers were also provided from the perspective of non-binary (3%) people with small cohorts preferring not to say (1%) or identifying as "Other" (1%). The age of those represented in the responses ranged right across the lifespan from under 5 years of age to 65 years and over age range. The largest single cohort was 10–17-year-olds (39%). A majority of responses related to children (69%) with adults also significantly represented (31%). A majority of those represented were in pre-school /school-based education (65%), with some of this age group presently not attending any form of education (6%). Adults represented in our findings are engaged in a variety of activities including further/higher education (4%), employment (9%) and adult services (3%).

Many of those represented in the data reported a co-occurring difference, diagnosis or disability (61%), 10% of respondents had an undiagnosed co-occurring difference. We received responses from each county in the Republic Ireland, as well as a small number of responses from Northern Ireland. As is to be expected, Dublin accounted for the largest percentage of responses (37%) followed by Cork (11%). The lowest response rate from a county in the Republic of Ireland was Longford (0.6%). The largest cohort represented were diagnosed under the age of 5 (37%). The failure of the public system to provide timely diagnosis to children or any pathway to diagnosis for adults is clearly reflected in the fact that most of those represented accessed their diagnosis privately (53%).



## Executive Summary

The survey provides us with a “state of the community” report on Autistic life in Ireland, from cradle to grave. Key findings include:

- » **90%** do not believe that the Irish public understand enough about Autism.
- » **38%** do not feel safe and protected in their community.
- » **36%** have experienced discrimination in the last year on the ground of being Autistic.
- » **53%** accessed their diagnosis privately.
- » **60%** had a co-occurring difference, diagnosis or disability aside from Autism.
- » **51%** do not believe the education system was inclusive for Autistic people, based on their experiences.
- » **71%** do not believe the healthcare system was inclusive for Autistic people, based on their experiences.
- » **67%** do not believe the public transport system was inclusive for Autistic people, based on their experiences.
- » **38%** felt lonely either all of the time or some of the time.
- » **73%** of respondents said they did not have the same chance to demonstrate and use their strengths in the community.
- » **51%** felt that their broader family did not understand and accept their Autistic identity.
- » **47%** of respondents said businesses in their community are not accessible and inclusive.

- » **81%** of respondents felt that most social gatherings/occasions were not accessible and inclusive to Autistic people.
- » **73%** of respondents felt that they were treated differently in society, in either a negative or a very negative way.
- » **83%** of respondents felt that they had to change who they are in order to receive the same chance to participate in day-to-day activities within society.
- » **90%** said they did not have the same chance as non-Autistic people in Irish society.
- » **50%** of respondents said they generally choose to disclose their diagnosis.
- » **66%** of social welfare recipients do not believe that the current rate is sufficient to meet their needs.
- » **74%** of respondents said they incurred extra costs due to being Autistic.
- » **79%** of respondents said that their experience of the cost-of-living crisis was more challenging due to the realities of being Autistic.
- » **86%** of respondents said Autism is a barrier to being accepted by and forming friendships with others.
- » **37%** felt that Autism was a barrier to forming romantic relationships.

**90% said**

**they did not have the same chance as**

**non-Autistic people in Irish society.**

## Inclusion and Acceptance

In our Same Chance survey, we asked respondents "What is the one thing you wish people knew about Autism?" Below is just a sample of common themes and messages from the community:

*"Everyone has different needs, and these can fluctuate over time"*

*"That he's not giving me a hard time he's having a hard time"*

*"We are actually pretty normal if you take time to get to know us. Lack of understanding and stigma are the main barriers."*

*"Assume competence. Just because someone is non-verbal does not mean they do not have complex thoughts and feelings just like everyone. Being non-verbal can be very isolating. My son struggles at birthday parties and gets invited to less and less social occasions as time goes on."*

*"I am not better or worse than anyone else I think my brain is just wired different. And not all Autistic people are the same they all have their own personalities and histories. Women can be Autistic too."*

*"That he'll do it in his own time! And he can be a good friend if given half a chance."*

*"That it is an invisible disability. That although they may be 'high functioning', autism is a spectrum, and some aspects of life are extremely challenging for them. That they are exhausted from trying to mask and keep going every day. That communication is a real struggle, and they may not be able to share their worries."*

*"That a meltdown is not a tantrum, that they [Autistic people] do not just need to get over themselves"*

*"It takes a little more time and effort to be inclusive and to make Autistic people feel welcome and to form friendships but if everyone had more patience and understanding it would make a huge difference in helping Autistic people to feel included and less isolated."*

*"It is lonely"*

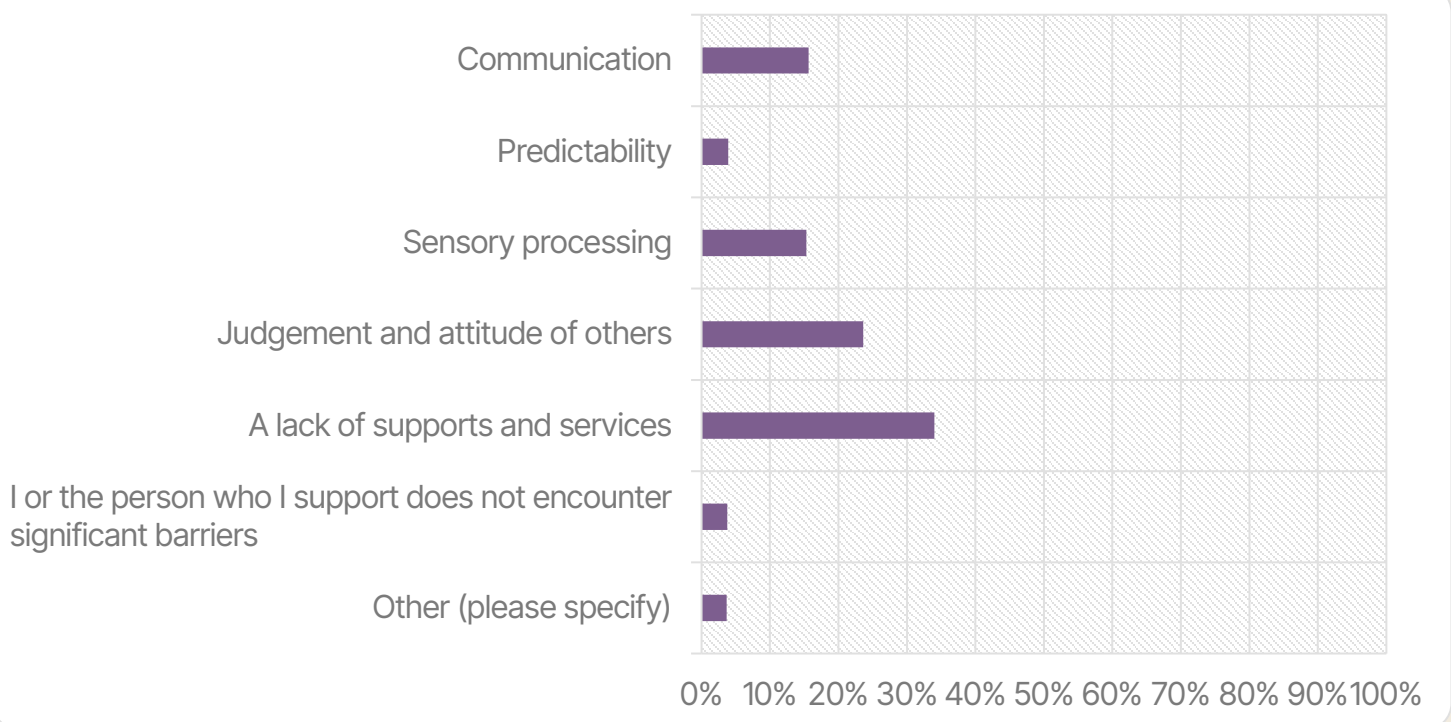


The data shows us that those who know an Autistic person personally are more likely to understand and be empathetic towards a person's differences. Whilst this is a positive, for Autistic people to truly feel accepted in Irish society they must be accepted in their own families and communities without the prerequisite for disclosure. 50% of people surveyed in this year's Same Chance survey said they did not feel understood and accepted by their broader family. Although this number is high, it is a reduction in the 57% that felt this way in 2023.

A lack of understanding of Autism among the general public leads to Autistic people having to mask their identities. This can have significant consequences on an Autistic person's access to opportunities as well as impact on their mental health (e.g. burnout). 37% of people do not tend to disclose their diagnosis to other people, which is a fall from the 58% of people who gave the same answer last year. 62% of people felt that it makes a positive difference to them when others know of their Autism diagnosis, this is yet again another positive increase from 2023 when the number was 58%. 74% of people felt that they were treated negatively by Irish society due to their Autism diagnosis. 4 in 5 people said that they did not feel as though social gathering were accessible and inclusive of Autistic people. 83% of people said they felt that they had to change who they are to receive the same chance to participate in Irish society.

Media plays a key role in informing public attitudes and the communities that we live in. Only 10% of respondents felt that the media's portrayal of Autism was accurate and respectful, with 56% saying it was inaccurate and disrespectful.

**What is the most significant barrier to inclusion for you or your family member?**



## Life in the Community

90% of Autistic people feel that the Irish public do not understand Autism. This aligns with the findings in the Attitudes to Autism Poll that demonstrates that the Irish public's awareness of Autism and desire to live in an inclusive society does not only translate into an understanding and acceptance of practical differences such as avoiding eye contact or not feeling comfortable talking on the phone. Another important aspect of participation in the community is feeling safe and protected. 39% of those represented in the report do not feel safe and protected within their community, with a further 19% saying they "do not know" whether they feel safe. It is unacceptable that only 4 in 10 Autistic people feel safe in their own community. Significantly, 36% of respondents have reported that they or their family member experienced discrimination in the past year on the grounds of being Autistic. There is an obligation on local communities, businesses, public services to make reasonable accommodations to allow Autistic people to feel equally valued and have the same chance to participate.

As we have covered in the last section, Autistic people experience systemic and invisible barriers to everyday life that non-Autistic people simply do not. Attitudes to Autism also clearly captures the belief amongst wider society that these barriers should not exist. Feeling connected to the community and participating in everyday activities is critical to living a happy and healthy life.

Participation in Autism support and advocacy groups at a local level play a crucial role in helping Autistic people access the true benefits of community, with 29% of those surveyed accessing a local Autism support group. 10% are members of an Autistic Self-Advocacy group or an Autistic Adult led group. These groups can often provide help in supporting Autistic people to engage in their local community by ensuring that the Autistic voice is heard in the planning of local events, policies and planning.

**90% said**  
**of Autistic people feel that the Irish public**  
**don't understand Autism**

**Some of the experiences of discrimination from community members included:**

"My child was having an operation in (named) hospital. I was having a conversation with a Doctor where I was answering routine questions about medical background the Doctor said she did not believe that my child was autistic saying they're too pretty to be autistic and just does not want to speak to me and that they would grow out of it and speak later. She also commented that many parents make this up for attention and sympathy."

"While stimming, vocal stim, he [the respondent's son] was asked to stop or parents would be contacted, maintaining it was disruptive. There are lots of similar experiences or just name calling".

"We were informed by the manager of the creche that my son attends that he is no longer allowed to attend the childcare service outside the hours of 9 to 12 where he receives AIMS support even though she attended this creche with full childcare since September 22 without preschool and AIMS support."

"Work discrimination and prolonged work-related trauma, led to unemployment (Big corporation)."

"I have felt more neglected rather than discriminated against whereby no effort was made to understand the impact which a negative sensory environment has on my ability to self-regulate when explained to a certain authority. Despite providing supporting documentation it was treated as if it was a choice as opposed to a necessary accommodation."

"By the guards. They refused to allow me to use my Loop earplugs when I was overwhelmed and insisted that I be verbal even when I told them that was not possible."

"Children in my son's class did not want to attend his birthday party or invite him to their own parties."

"Mocked verbally when stimming in public."



When given a 1-5 scale, with 1 being not at all and 5 being very much so, 39% of people did not feel supported and accepted in their communities. When asked to rank the barriers to this inclusion the top five were:

1. A lack of support and services (34%)
2. Judgement and attitude of other (24%)
3. Sensory processing (15%)
4. Communication (15%)
5. Predictability (4%)

**39% said**

**they did not feel supported and accepted**

**in their community**

## *We also asked those completing the survey*

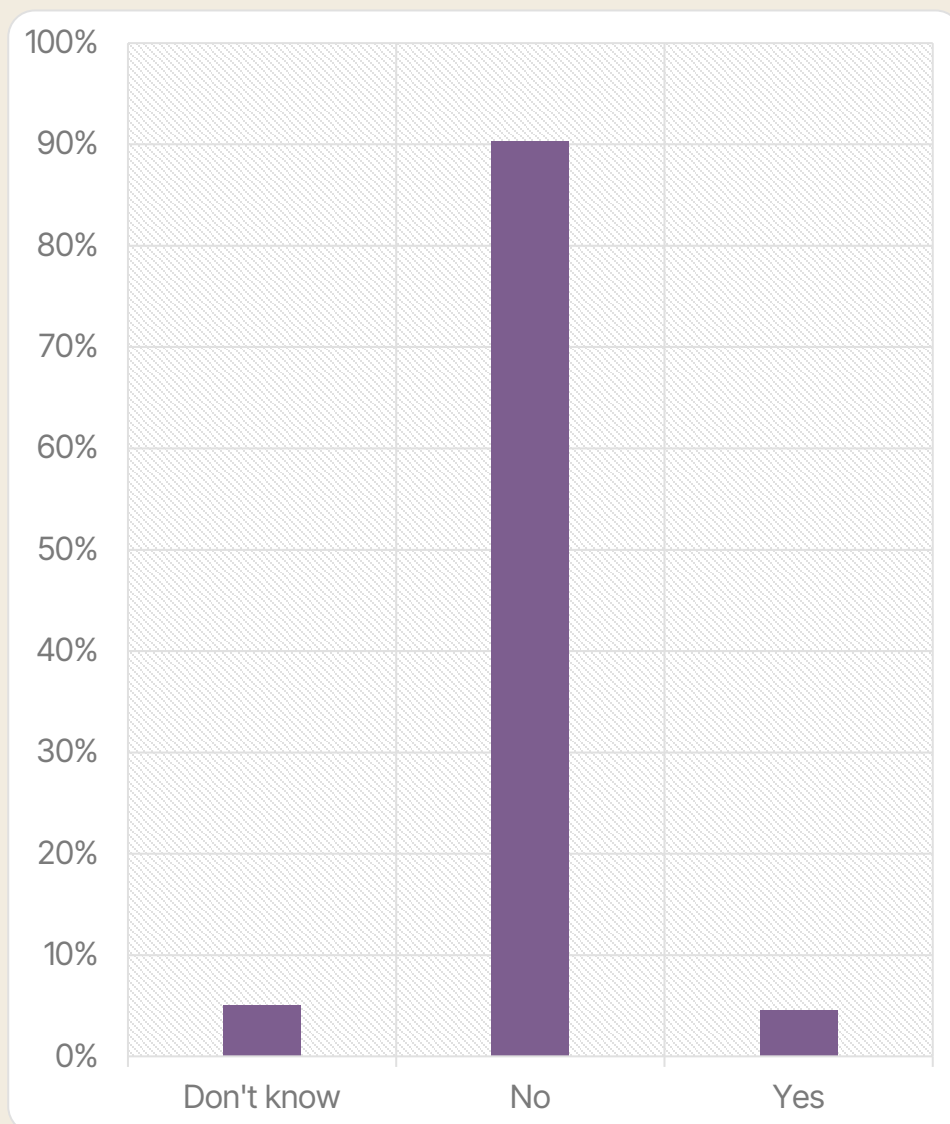
*"What is the one thing that people could do to remove barriers in you/your family members day-to-day life",*

### **A sample of responses which captures common themes is outlined below:**

- » "Educate themselves, do not be afraid to ask questions, be open to the fact that people have different communication styles and needs."
- » "More autism friendly spaces and more community supports."
- » "Respect my rights and respect the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD)."
- » "Say what they mean. I do not like grey areas. Be mindful of environmental challenges and sensory."
- » "Do not be so judgemental, be more understanding!"
- » "Lack of ambition for our children. With families being made to feel grateful for very basic access to education and health etc."
- » "Educate themselves better instead of making harsh and false assumptions."
- » "Just give her [daughter] a chance, she maybe standoffish, but once you get to know her, she can be an amazing friend and so loyal."



Did you or your family member think  
the Irish public understand enough about Autism?



## Mental Health

Autistic children's often experiences many systemic barriers in accessing mental health services such as Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) due to their Autism diagnosis. It has been the long-standing position of the HSE that this does not or should not occur, however this year's survey shows that 23% of those represented in the survey have experienced a barrier to access CAMHS. Overall, 48% of people experienced a barrier to accessing at least some form of mental health service such as Adult Mental Health Services (AMHS), Primary Care or Private Mental Health Services. A further 5% of people surveyed did not have any experience of trying to access such services. The most significant barrier remains that those who are attempting to access CAMHS, due to a co-occurring mental health concern, are referred to their Childrens Disability Network Teams (CDNT) or Primary Care teams due to their Autism diagnosis. It continues to be a priority for AsIAm to end the discrimination against Autistic people and people with intellectual disabilities in the provision of mental health services. An Autistic person's diagnosis is often used as a way of moving them to a different service that is disability specific. Many community members require support from both mental health and disability services, it is critical that a "no wrong door" policy is felt practically on the ground and that those who require mental health support can access it, in line with national policy.

**48% experienced**

**a barrier to accessing**

**mental health service**



## Healthcare

58% of people surveyed felt that healthcare system was not inclusive and accessible for Autistic people, with 12% saying the question was not applicable. Although this 58% figure is down from 75% last year, it remains a great concern that only 3 in 10 people surveyed found the healthcare system accessible and inclusive. Autistic children, adults and their families face unique barriers to accessing healthcare in Ireland. This is the case for both disability services and healthcare services generally.

There are pervasive problems with accessing an Assessment of Need (AON) through public means, with 53% of those surveyed this year accessing their assessment privately. This places a significant financial burden on Autistic people and their families and can also create added complexity for an individual or family's interaction with state services. For example, the ongoing failure of CORU to protect the term "psychologist" and regulate those practising in the field which exposes those accessing private assessment to a range of undue risks. Almost 8,900 children<sup>1</sup> are classified as overdue for assessment of need under the Disability Act 2005 as of the end of 2023. 7,000 had been waiting for longer than three months. This number is now the highest that it has ever been and is invariably leading to more parents feeling compelled to seek private assessments to access supports, Autism classes and social protection payments. It also worth noting that there is no current pathway to for adults to receive an Assessment of Need.

Of the survey respondents representing the voice of Autistic children, just 31% were currently receiving support from their local CDNT. Of those who are not currently receiving support from a CDNT, 60% are on a waiting list for supports. CDNT's are currently experiencing long-term staff shortages, with approximately 34% of positions vacant across the country. It is also deeply concerning that of those who are on a waiting list 37% have been waiting for longer than 4 years. An additional 29% have been waiting for between 2-3 years, 22% have been waiting for between 1-2 years. Only 4% of those waiting have been waiting for less than 6 months.

**37% have been waiting**  
for longer than 4 years

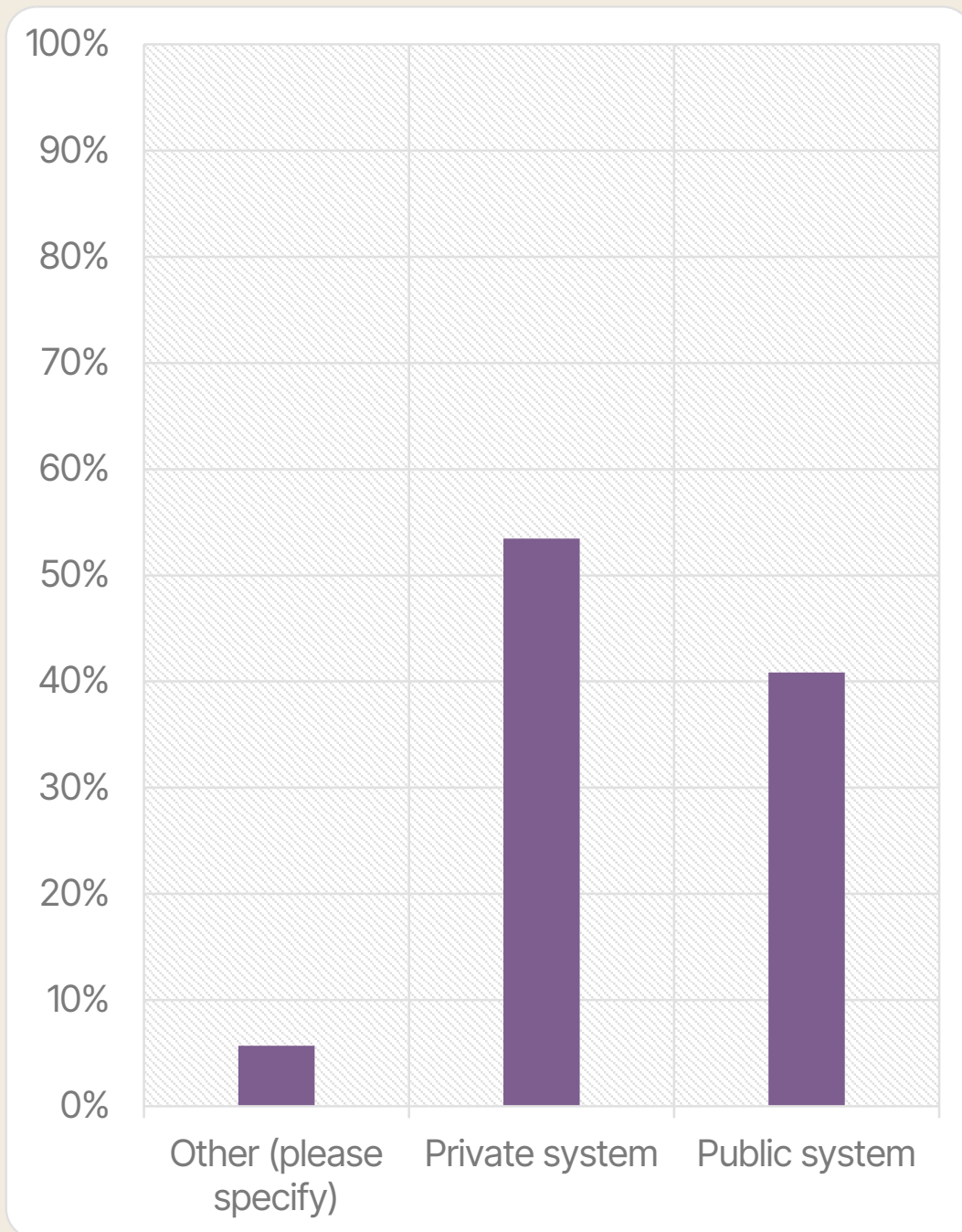
<sup>1</sup> <https://www.rte.ie/news/2024/0318/1438551-hse-waiting-list/#:~:text=An%20assessment%20of%20need%20identifies,required%20to%20meet%20those%20needs.>





Did you or your family member

receive their diagnosis through the public or private system?



## Education

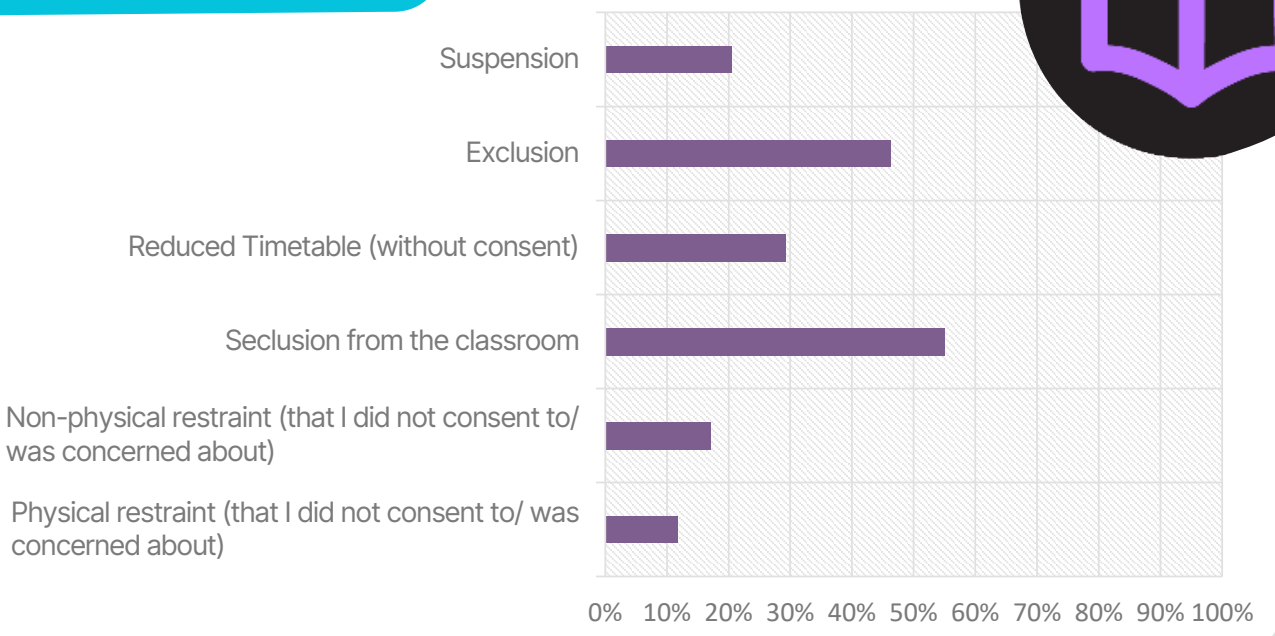
This survey highlights several challenges many autistic children and families experience in accessing an appropriate education. 56% of respondents said, they did not find the education system to be inclusive or accessible for Autistic people. These barriers to inclusion include a lack of Special Educational Teaching (SET) hours, non-inclusive school policies and procedures such as codes of behaviour, a lack of understanding of Autism from educational professionals and Autistic children being disproportionately excluded compared to the non-Autistic school going age. 1 in 4 of parents represented in the report said that their child did not have a suitable school place.

The use of restraint and seclusion in the classroom are unfortunately a common experience of school life for Autistic children and young people. Of those represented in the report, 55% have experienced seclusion from the classroom. Acts of seclusion from the classroom are a direct breach of an Autistic child's access to an inclusive education under the Education Act and Education for Person with Special Educational Needs Act (EPSEN), as well as the United Nations Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. In addition to seclusion, 12% of respondents said that their child had experienced physical restraint that they did not consent to or were concerned about. 17% experienced non-physical restraint that they did not consent to or were concerned about. There has long been a need for more stringent regulation of all acts of physical intervention in our schools, and for the end of the use of restraint. Where a physical intervention is required in an emergency situation it should only be administered by an appropriately trained staff member and require documentation, external oversight and at always comply with Children First Guidelines.

29% of Autistic children featured in the report experienced a reduced timetables without the consent of the parent which is contrary to current guidelines. This can act as a form of suspension/exclusion from mainstream education, which is a further breach of a child's right to access an inclusive education. The below graph provides a breakdown of this particular question, with a further 21% experiencing a suspension.

If you or your family member are of school-going age

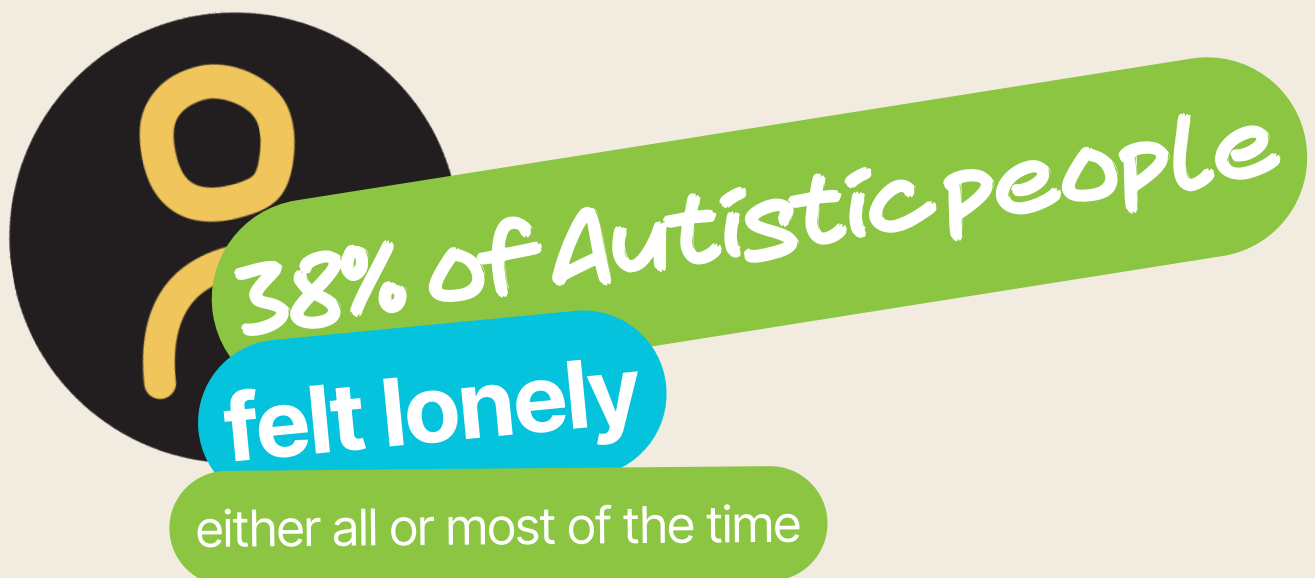
have they ever experienced:



## Loneliness

We also know from a recent EU-wide survey that Ireland is the loneliest country in the European Union with 1 in 5 people feeling lonely all the time. Recent British research found that disabled people are almost twice as likely to be chronically lonely than non-disabled people. Furthermore, research also shows the Autistic people are four times more likely to suffer from loneliness than their non-Autistic peers<sup>1</sup>. A successful strategy must see the implementation of an action plan to combat loneliness and isolation as committed to by Government in The Roadmap for Social Inclusion in 2019 and again in the Programme for Government in 2020. Our survey found that 38% of Autistic people felt lonely either all or most of the time.

The barriers to social inclusion for Autistic people are bespoke, 61% said they felt that the general public's lack of understanding of Autism as the most significant contributor to their loneliness. Other factors include differences in making and maintaining friendships (56%), a lack of social spaces that are Autism friendly (54%), a lack of predictability in social settings (53%), other not understanding communication differences (44%). 86% of people felt that being Autistic was a barrier to being accepted by others and forming friendships. Of those who it was relevant to, 85% said that being Autistic was a barrier to forming romantic relationships.

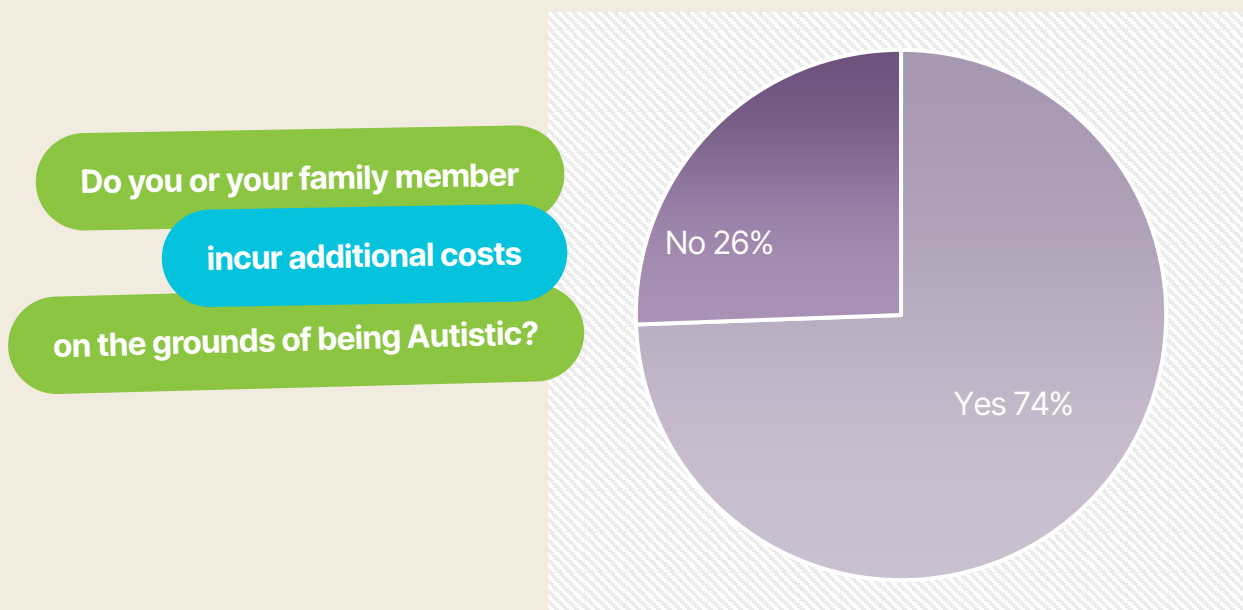


## Social Protection

Earlier this year, AsIAm contributed to a lengthy submission to the Department of Social Protection on their proposed disability income supports (link). In preparing the submission, we conducted an extensive survey which demonstrated the anxiety felt by the community towards this proposal. For example, community members reporting anxiety that they would be required to undertake unsuitable work or lose support if they were unable to engage with Intreo services that may not be accessible for Autistic people. In this year's survey, of those who the question was relevant to, 61% said that they did not believe the current social protection system was inclusive and/or accessible to Autistic people. This includes the assessment procedure for access to social protection payments, Intreo offices not being suitable to people's communication and sensory needs, rates of payments not being sufficient to cover the hidden costs of disability.

In our submission to the Department of Social Protection we made 24 recommendations, many of which were around the adequacy of payments. The annual cost per child for families amounted to over €28,000 as a result of paying for private Autism services, lost income and informal care, while over €14,000 of state funded services were consumed <sup>1</sup>. We know that many Autistic people are incurring hidden additional costs on a day-to-day basis due to a wide range of accessibility requirements, such as dietary requirements and transport needs. This is why a key recommendation of AsIAm's and many other Disabled Persons Organisation was to introduce a universal cost of disability payment to cover these costs. 66% of those who we surveyed said that the current rates of social protection payments that they were receiving was not sufficient to cover their needs.

60% of those surveyed this year were in receipt of a disability-specific social protection payments. Furthermore, 18% of those surveyed have been rejected for a disability specific social welfare payment. Of these, two-thirds of respondents appealed and were awarded the payment upon appeal. This highlights a lack of fairness and effectiveness in the initial process that determines whether or not someone is awarded a payment. This also contributes to the unhelpful view within the community that those who 'shout the loudest' receive the greatest attention. The appeals process can often be daunting, confusing and time consuming which can put a lot of Autistic people and/or their families from appealing an unsuccessful claim.





## Cost of Living

74% of those represented in the report incur additional costs on the grounds of being Autistic. 66% of those who are in receipt of disability specific income support said that their current rate was not sufficient to meet their needs. In addition to this, 4 out of 5 people said the inflation crisis has been made worse because of their Autism diagnosis.

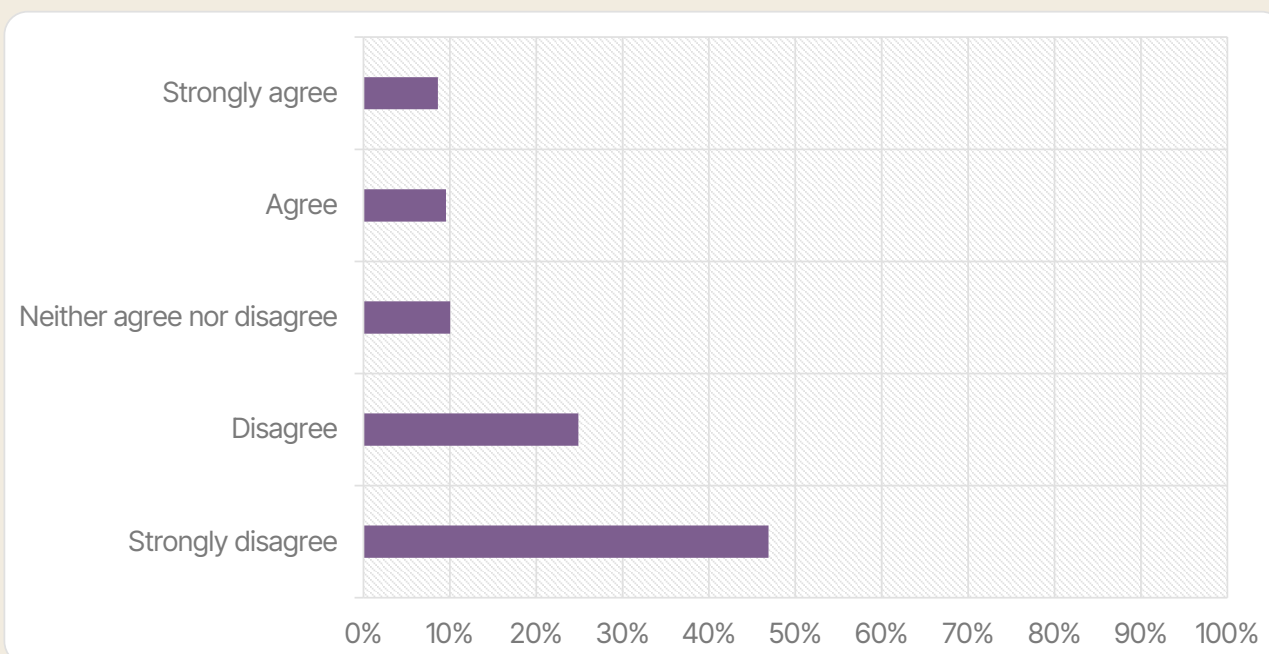
## Employment<sup>1</sup>

In our submission to the Department for Social Protection, it is very clear that Autistic people want to work but are frustrated by the barriers they face in securing employment. 56% of those represented in the report who are currently employed have never disclosed their Autism diagnosis to their employer. The entire process of finding work can be difficult for some Autistic people to navigate. Of those represented in the report, 88% said that they did not receive any supports or reasonable accommodations during the recruitment process for their current role.

93% of those represented in the report who were currently employed stated they believed that it was more difficult for Autistic people to find the job they wanted than it would be for a non-Autistic person. Starting with trying to find appropriate work that has hours that suit the Autistic person's schedule and needs, then trying to find work that allows people to work from home, if that is what the person required for accessibility purposes. An Autistic person must also find work that is within their transport means and meets their skills and abilities. 67% of those represented in the report said they did not find the public transport system accessible.

How much do you agree or disagree with this statement:

**The government does enough to support Autistic people in securing and retaining employment**



<sup>1</sup> The Employment section of the Same Chance Survey 2024 was completed by 209 people out of 1748 as it was only open to Autistic adults.

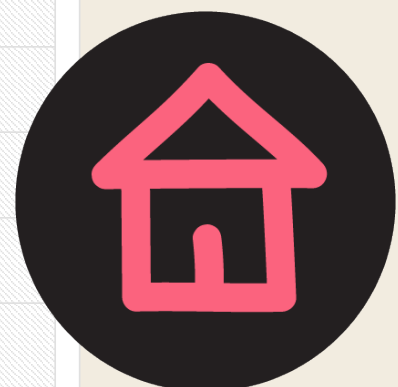
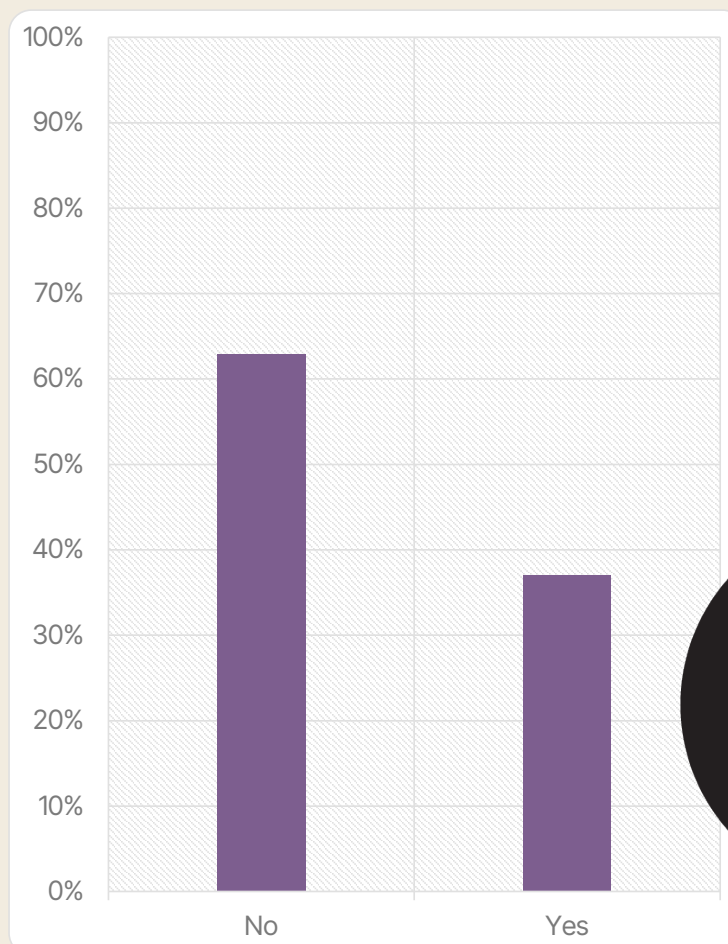
## Housing

27% of people surveyed said their current housing situation did meet their needs, which is the same level as last year. Queries to AsIAm on housing have risen in recent years and we have been working to ensure the concerns raised are heard by Government. Autistic people often have very different housing needs than those who are not Autistic, and requirements can also differ to other groups of disabled people. Autistic adults should have the ability to live independently in their own community, with the supports they require. However, 63% of those surveyed do not believe they are supported well enough to be able to do this.

It is clear from our work that the level of engagement that people receive on the ground varies greatly depending on which Local Authority (LA) they are dealing with, even though the application process is meant to be universal. Of those who have engaged with their LA on their housing needs, 46% said their engagement was negative. This number is down from 55% last year which is positive, however this is still a very significant minority of people who are reporting being treated negatively by their LA.

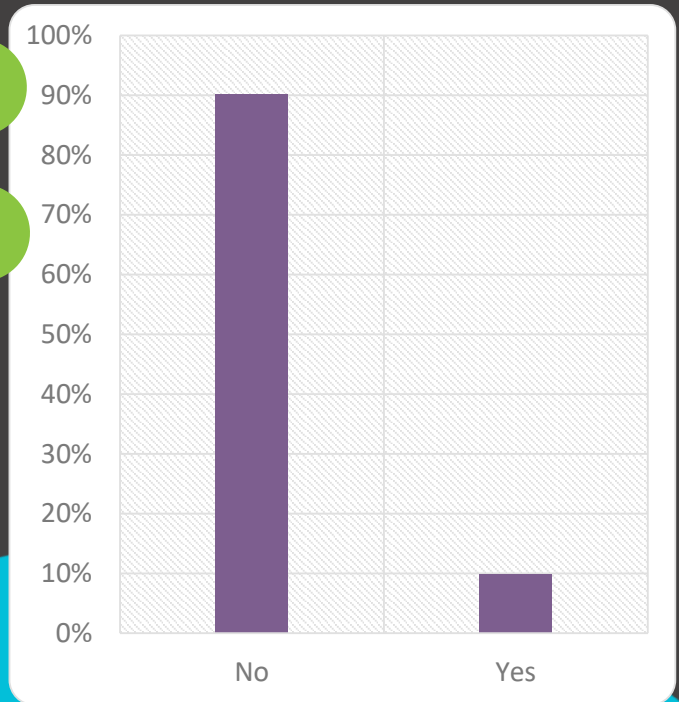
Do you believe that you or your family member

have enough support to live independently in your local community?



# Conclusion

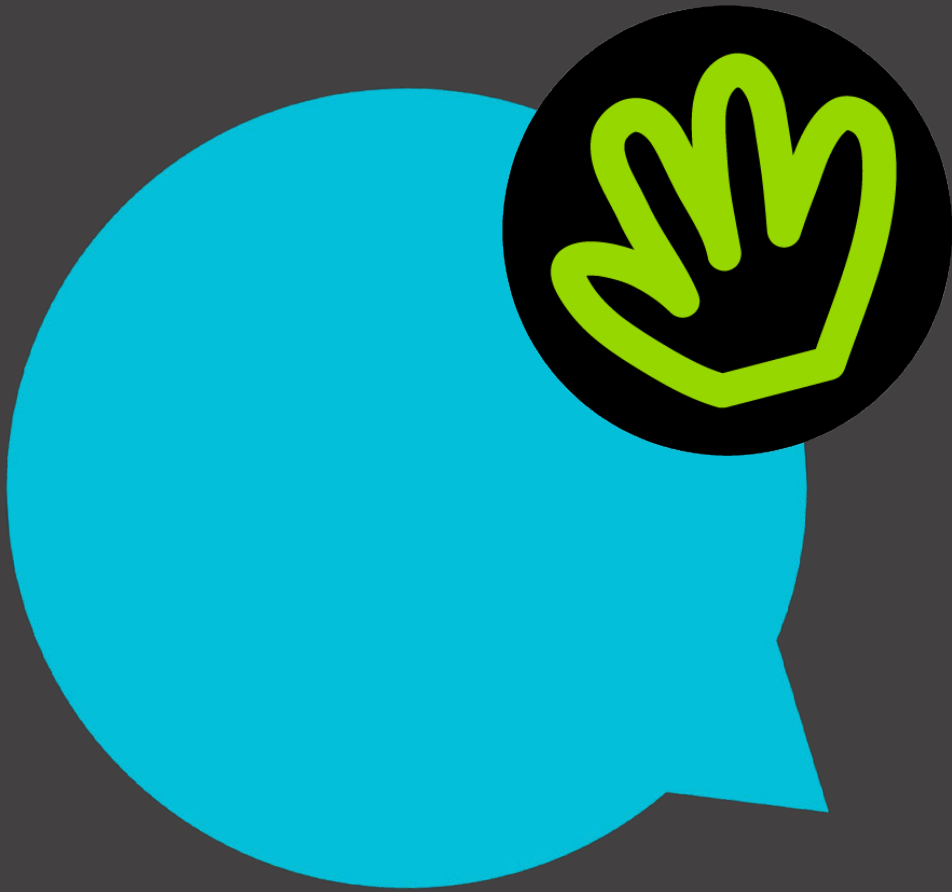
Do you or your family member  
have the same chance  
as non-Autistic people in Irish society?



Although it is positive that a majority (51%) of people who took part in the survey said that they felt proud of being Autistic, the fact that a significant minority (49%) said that they did not know whether they were proud or that they were not proud at all of being Autistic. It should be the aim of everyone to create an inclusive society through our education system, economy, social protection system, healthcare provision, business community and our communities more broadly. Autistic people should have the ability to take part in day-to-day activities without having to mask who they are, yet only 17% of people say that they are able to do that.

It is the responsibility of everyone, not just the Autistic community, to create a society that celebrates neurodiversity and the many strengths that Autistic people can add to their communities. Although the publishing of the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Autism's final report was a welcome step in the right direction, it is crucial that we continue to advocate for this final report's recommendations to be fully realised. AsIAM will continue to lead this effort, and not allow for this report to fall by the wayside.

As we celebrate our 10th anniversary, we invite you to engage with us this World Autism Month, to explore how we can help to remove the invisible barriers which Autistic people face and allow people to live as they are. Equal, valued and respected.



# *Attitudes to Autism*

Appendix 1

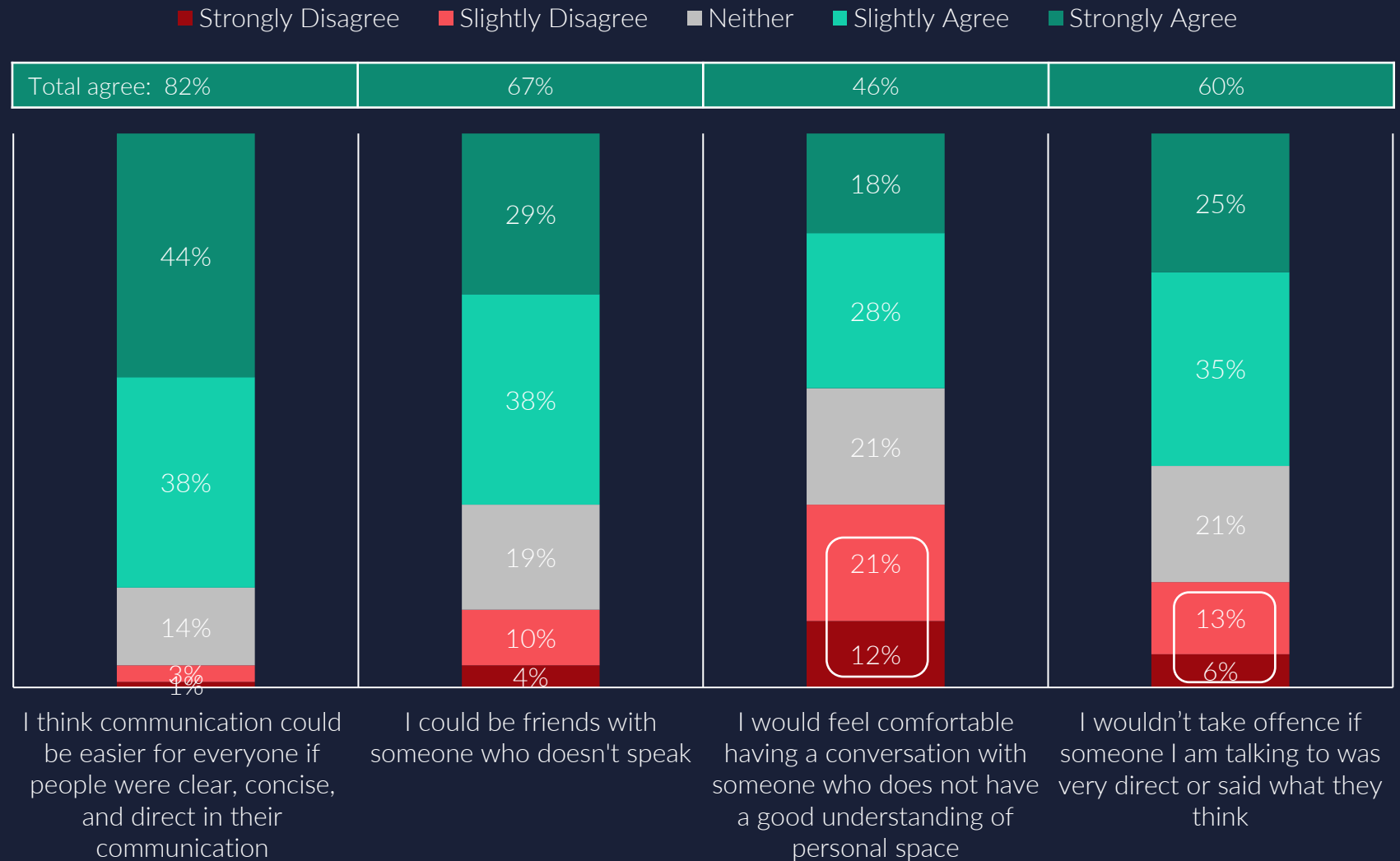


# AsI Am - Autism in Ireland

March 2024

# Communication Differences / Accommodations

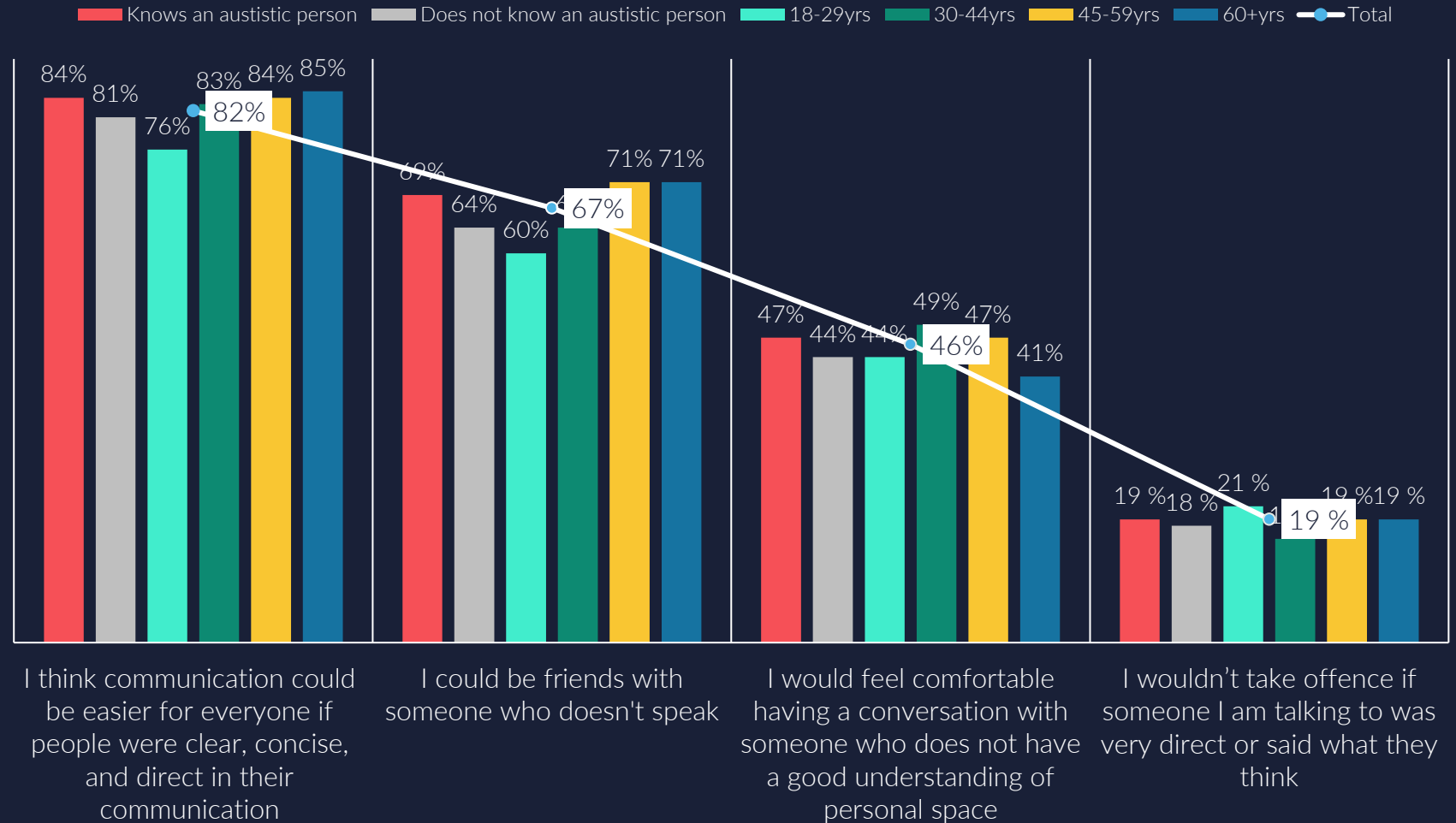
# Communication Differences / Accommodations



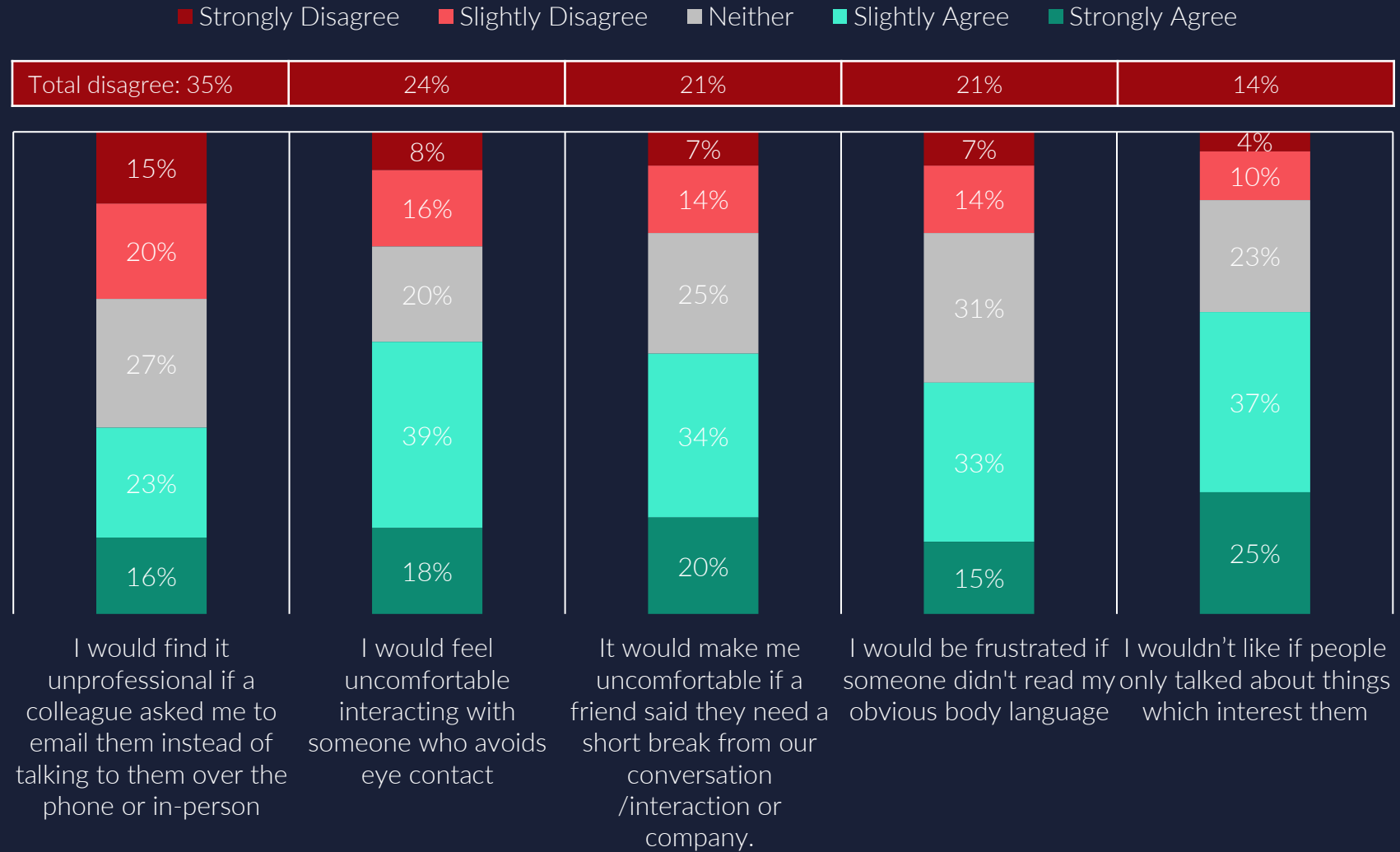


# Communication Differences / Accommodations X Cohort

% Total Agree

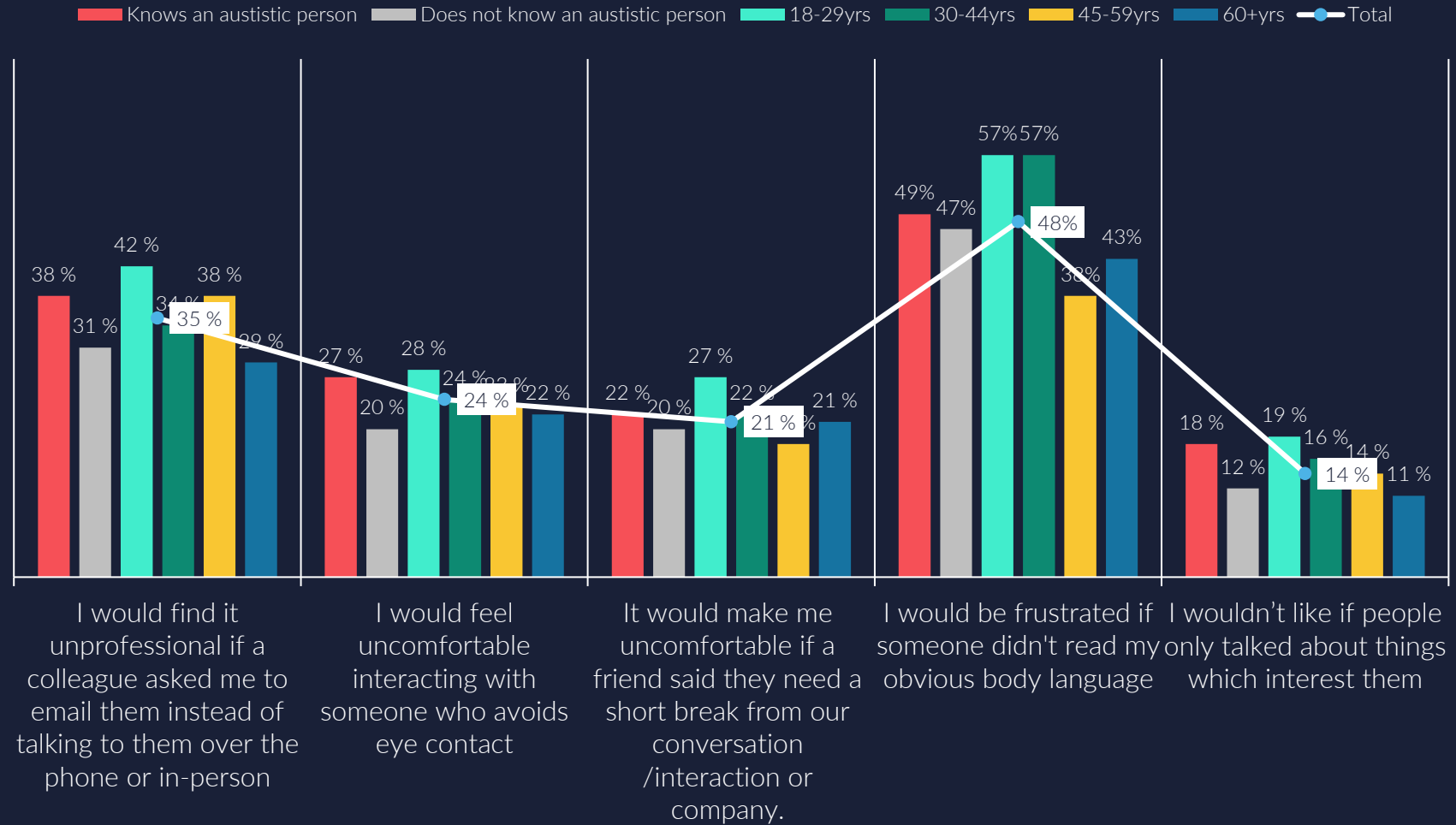


# Communication Differences / Accommodations



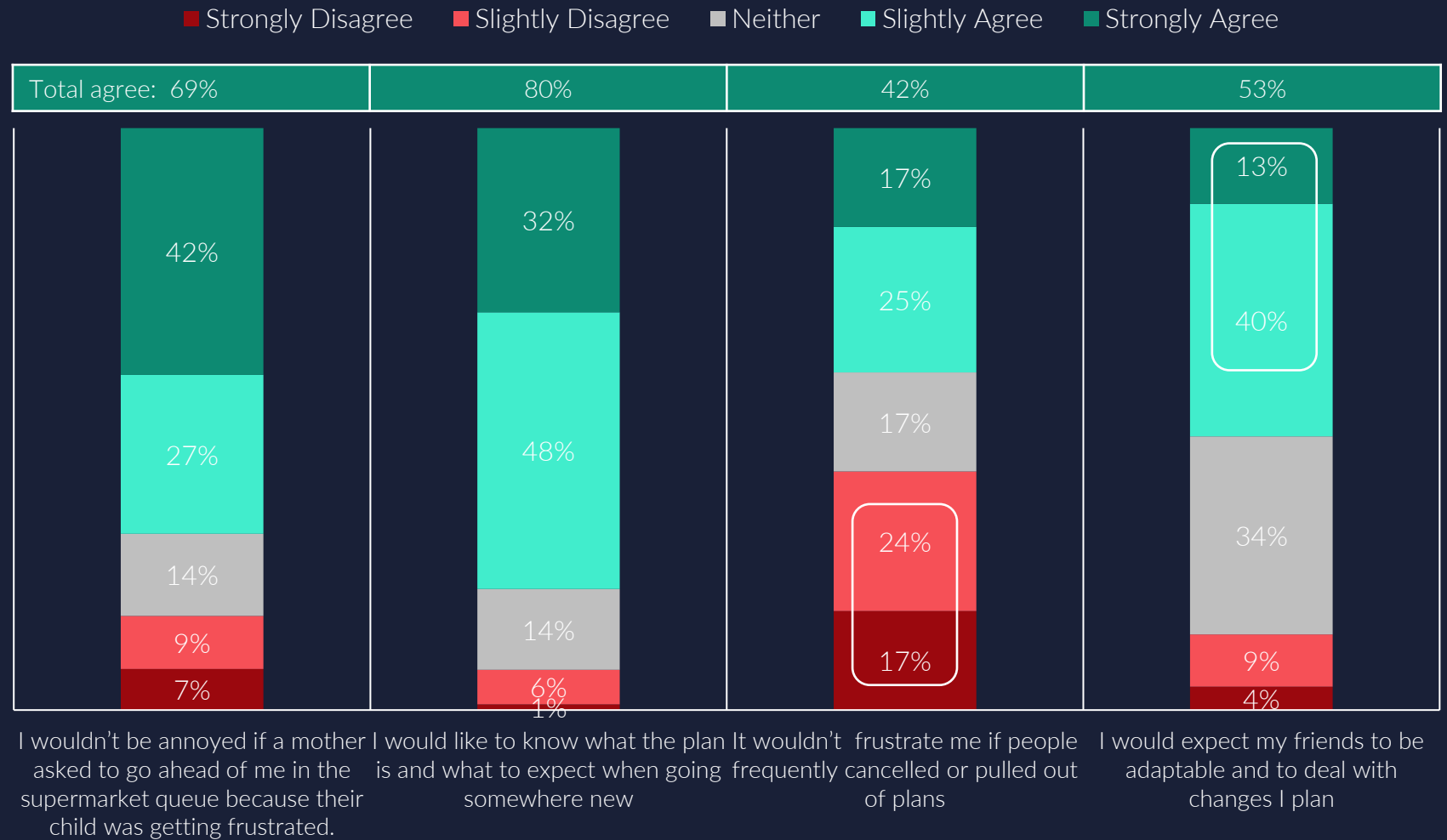
# Communication Differences / Accommodations X Cohort

% Total Disagree



# Predictability Differences / Accommodations

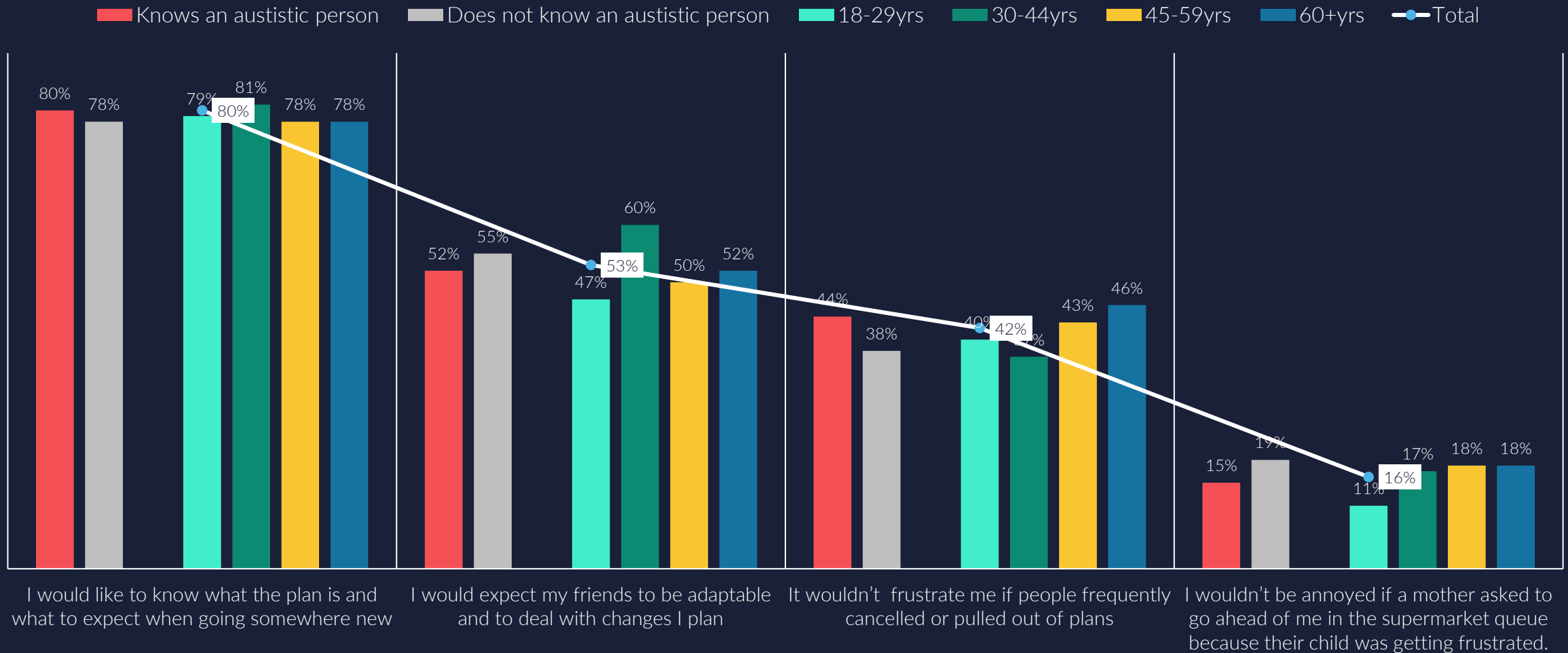
# Predictability Differences / Accommodations





# Predictability Differences / Accommodations X Cohort

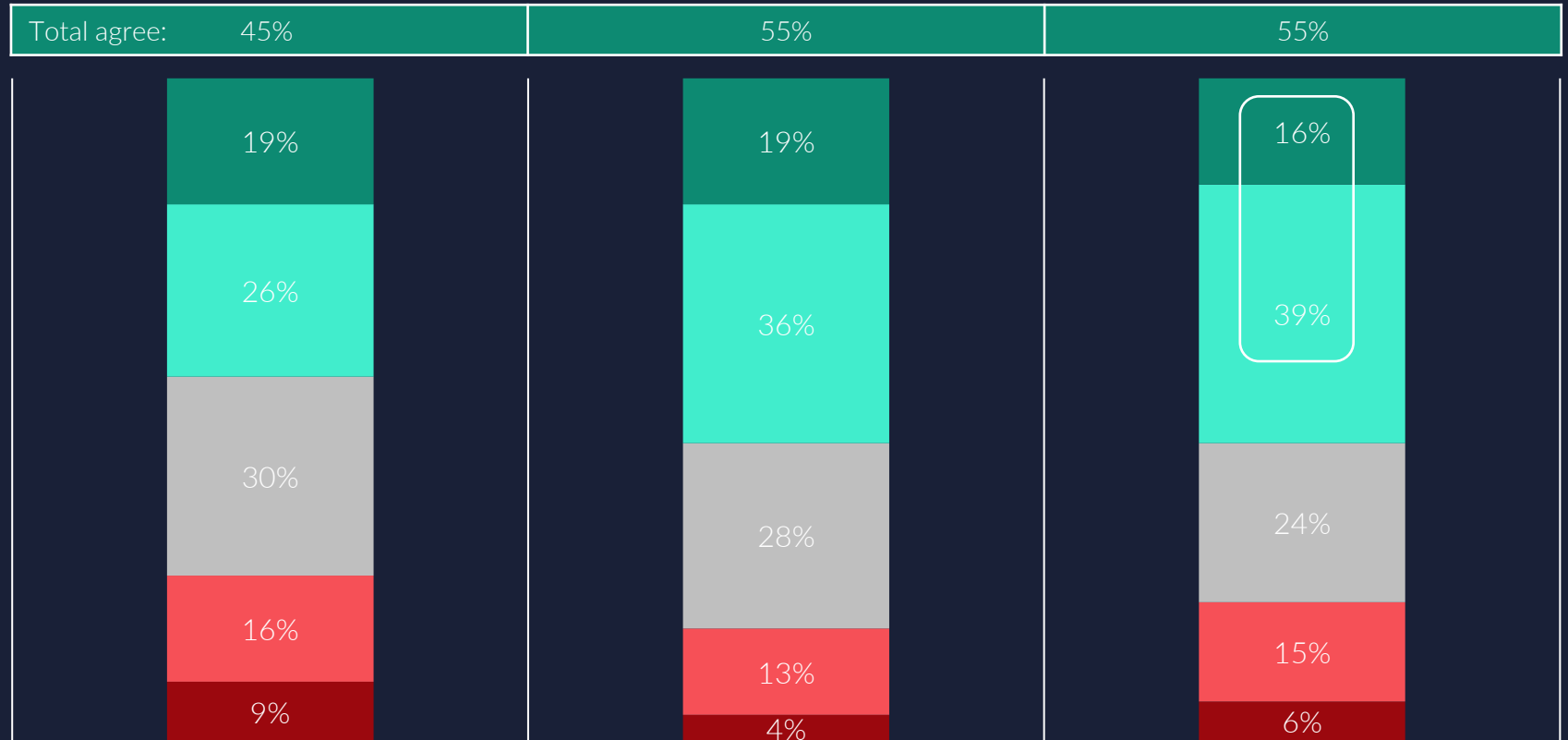
% Total Agree



How much do you agree or disagree with the statements below? Base: 1,000

# Predictability Differences / Accommodations

■ Strongly Disagree  
 ■ Slightly Disagree  
 ■ Neither  
 ■ Slightly Agree  
 ■ Strongly Agree



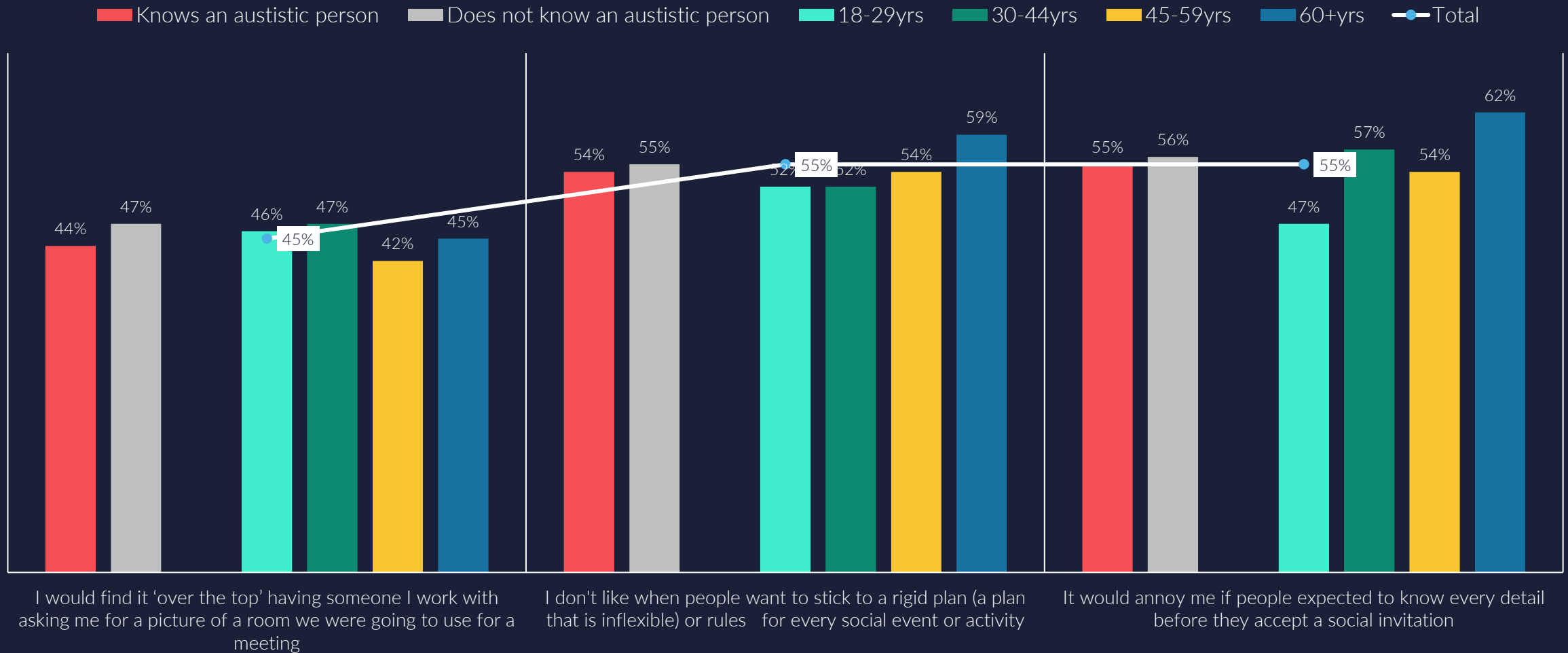
I would find it 'over the top' having someone I work with asking me for a picture of a room we were going to use for a meeting

I don't like when people want to stick to a rigid plan (a plan that is inflexible) or rules for every social event or activity

It would annoy me if people expected to know every detail before they accept a social invitation

# Predictability Differences / Accommodations X Cohort

% Total Agree

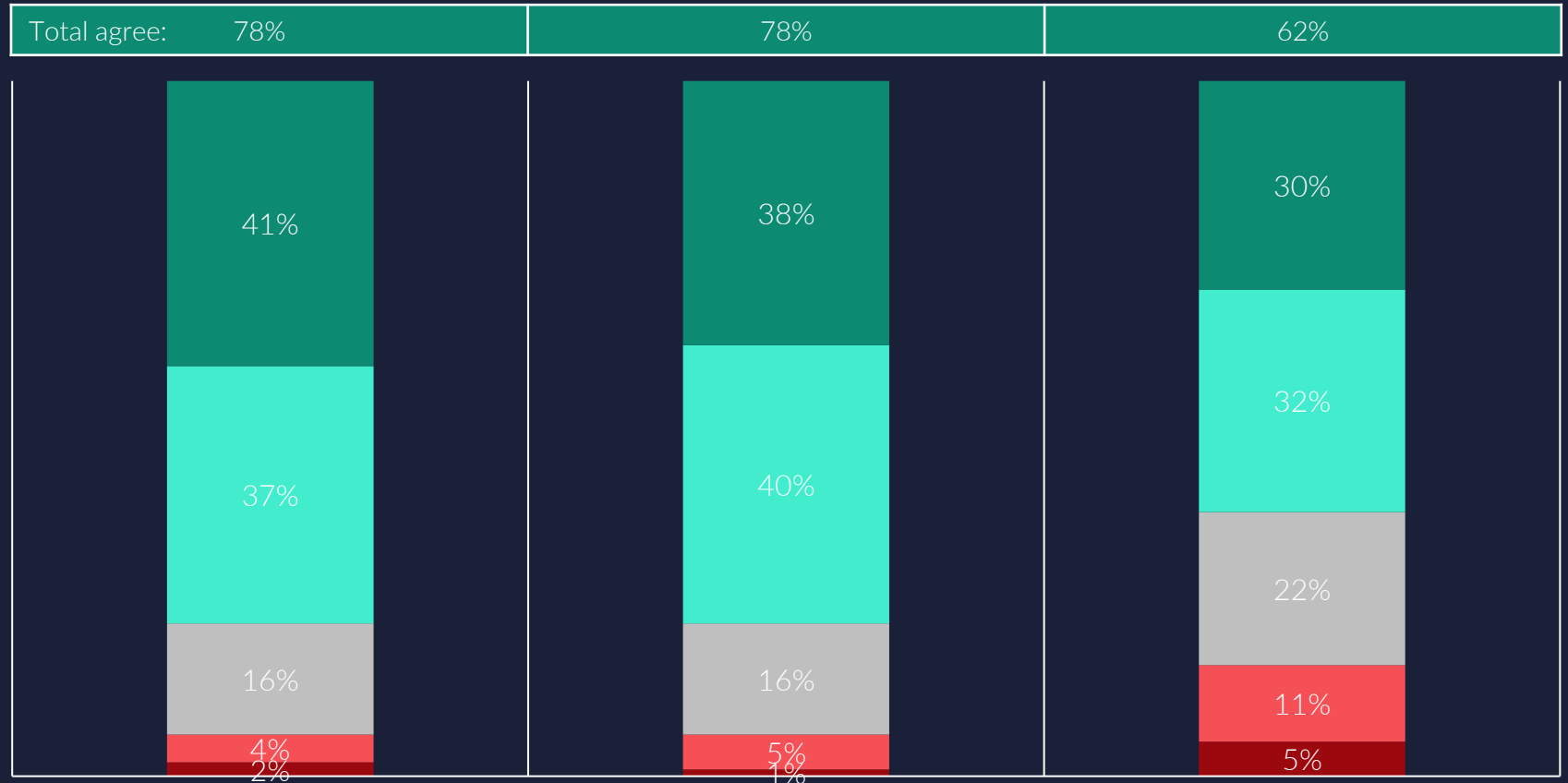


How much do you agree or disagree with the statements below? Base: 1,000

# Sensory Differences / Accommodations

# Sensory Differences / Accommodations

■ Strongly Disagree  
 ■ Slightly Disagree  
 ■ Neither  
 ■ Slightly Agree  
 ■ Strongly Agree

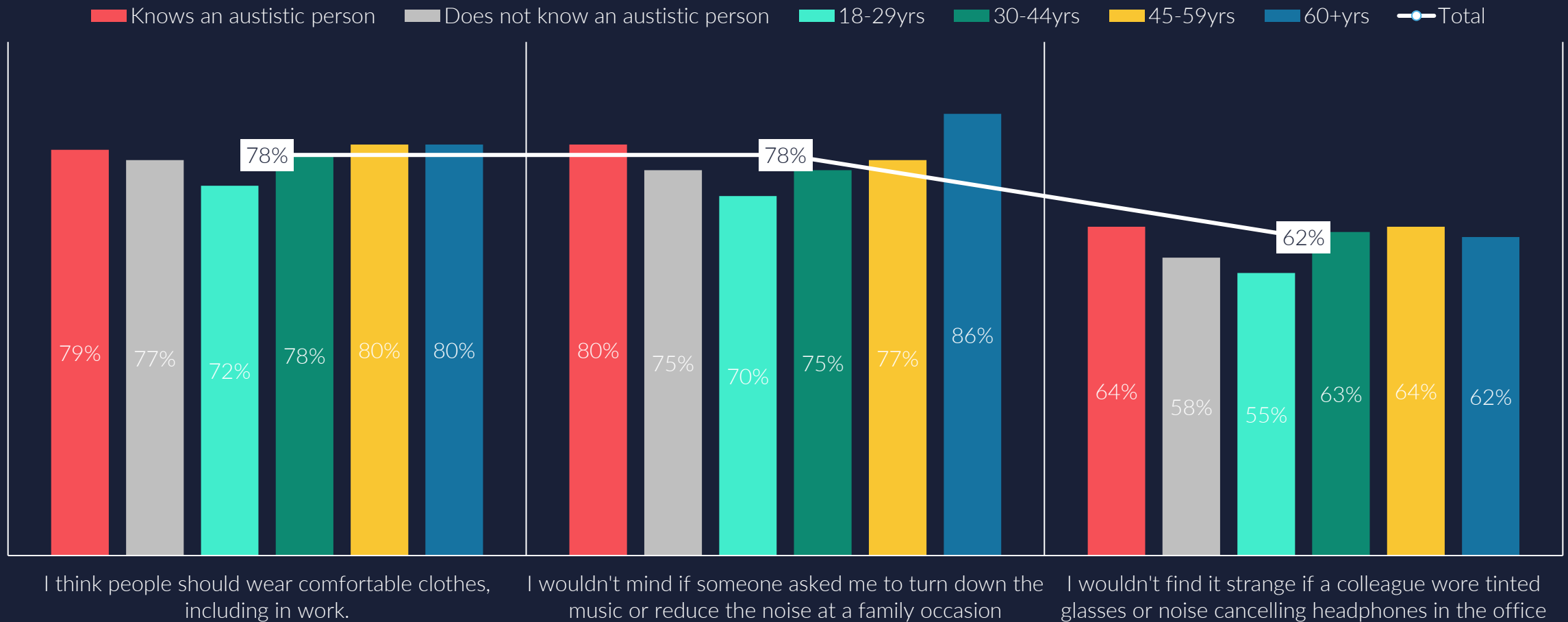


I think people should wear comfortable clothes, including in work.

I wouldn't mind if someone asked me to turn down the music or reduce the noise at a family occasion

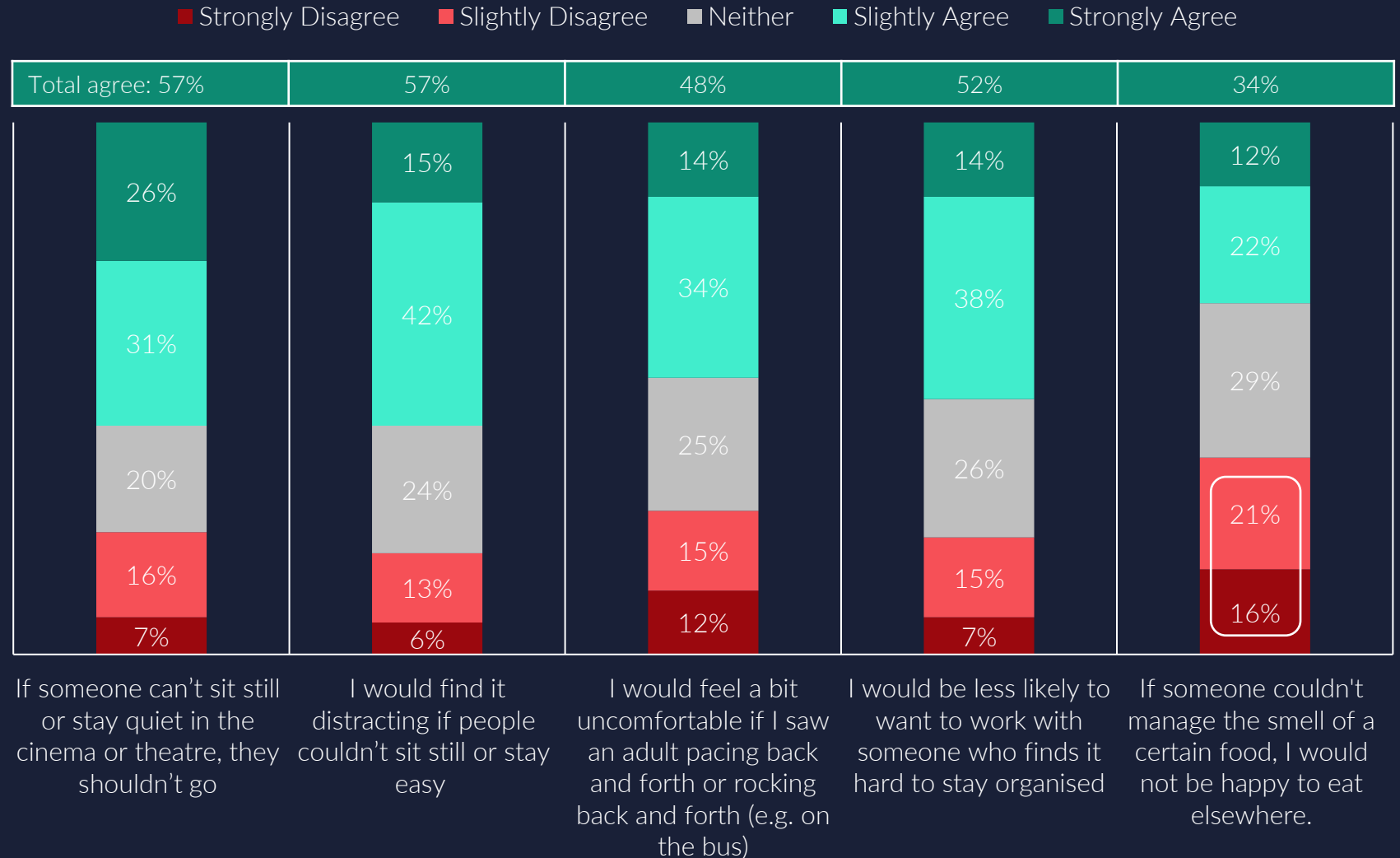
I wouldn't find it strange if a colleague wore tinted glasses or noise cancelling headphones in the office

## % Total Agree

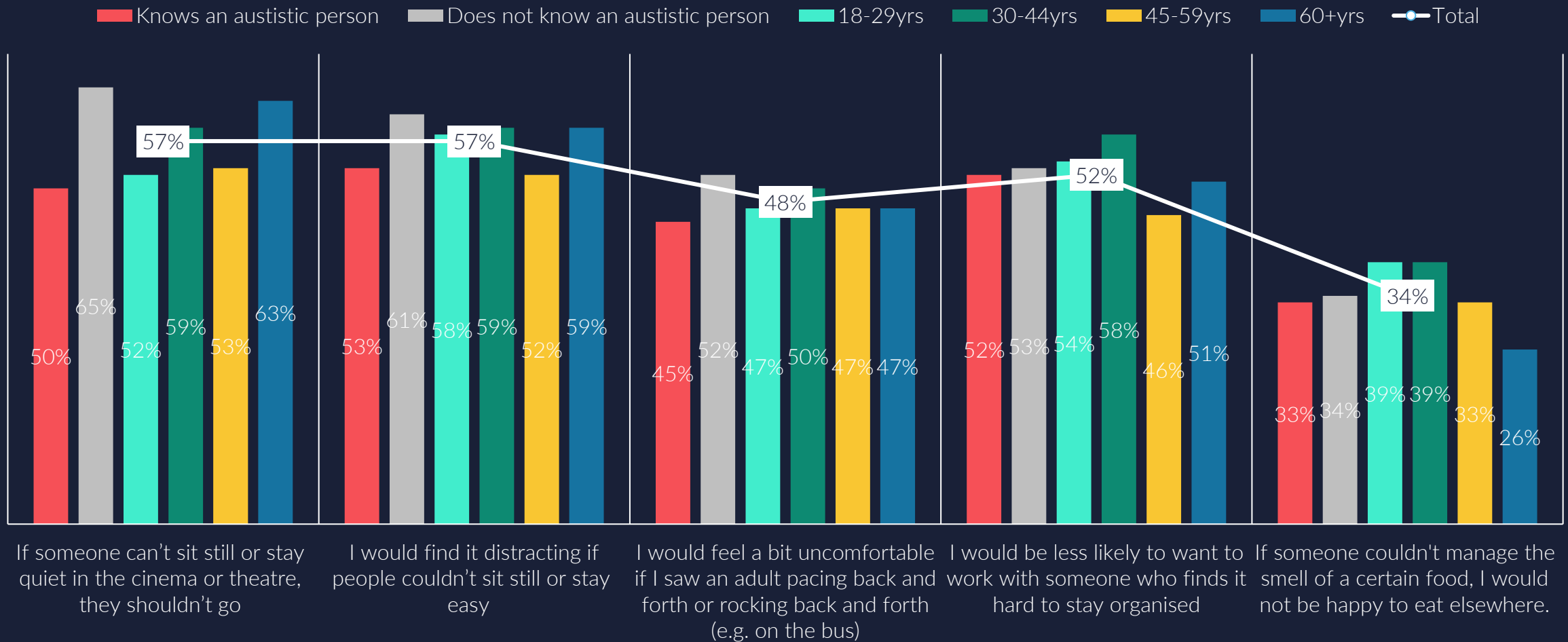


How much do you agree or disagree with the statements below?

# Sensory Differences / Accommodations



## % Total Agree

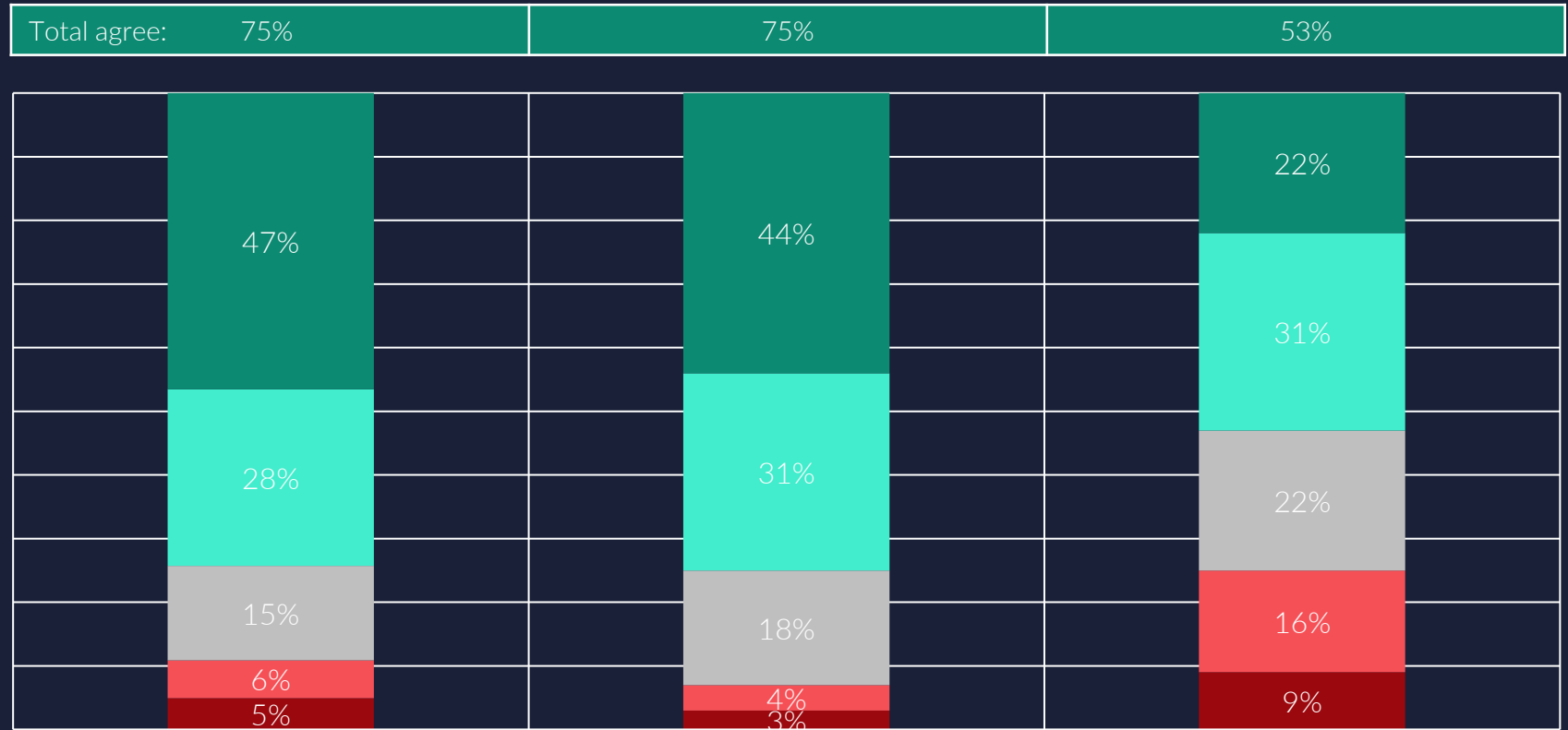




# Judgement & Attitude

# Judgement & Attitude

■ Strongly Disagree  
 ■ Slightly Disagree  
 ■ Neither  
 ■ Slightly Agree  
 ■ Strongly Agree

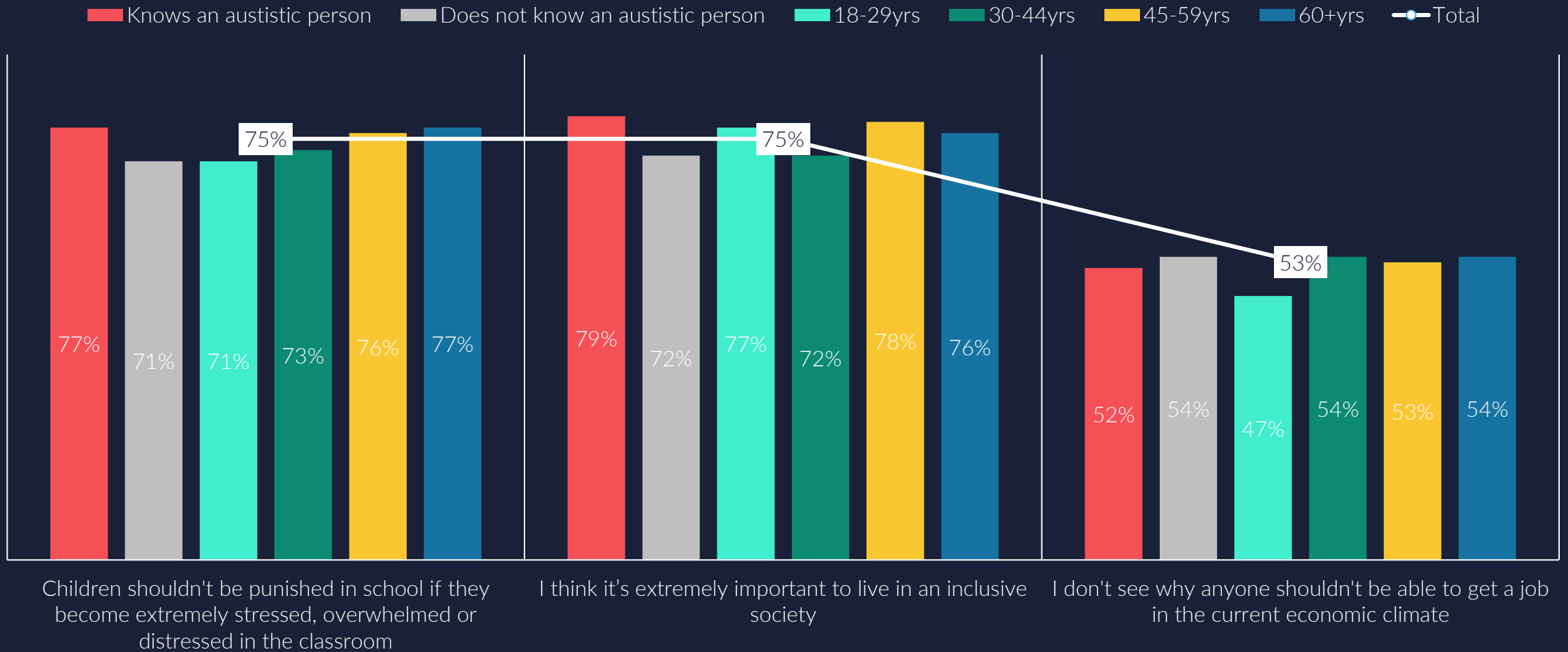


Children shouldn't be punished in school if they become extremely stressed, overwhelmed or distressed in the classroom

I think it's extremely important to live in an inclusive society

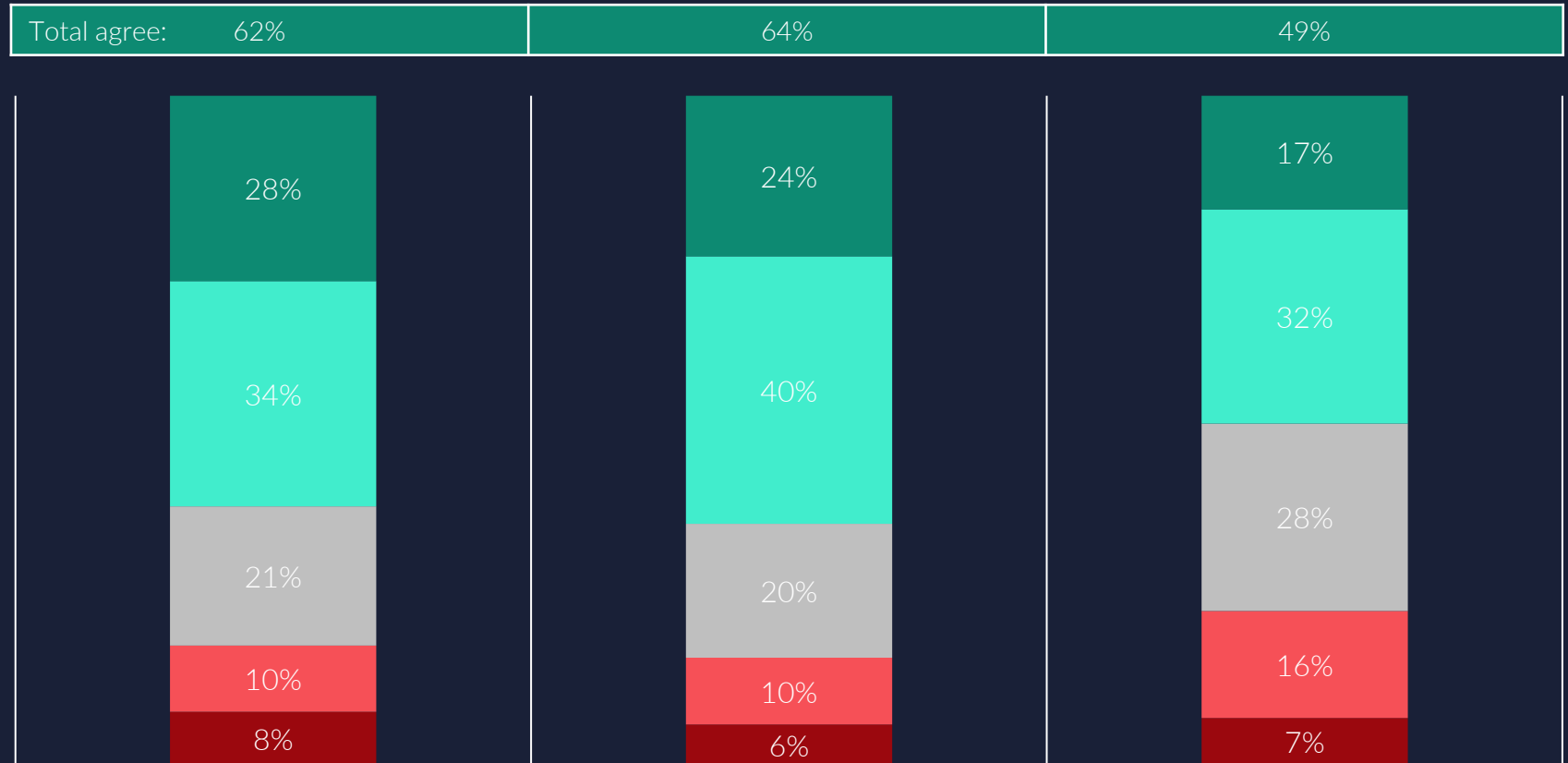
I don't see why anyone shouldn't be able to get a job in the current economic climate

## % Total Agree



■ Strongly Disagree  
 ■ Slightly Disagree  
 ■ Neither  
 ■ Slightly Agree  
 ■ Strongly Agree

# Judgement & Attitude

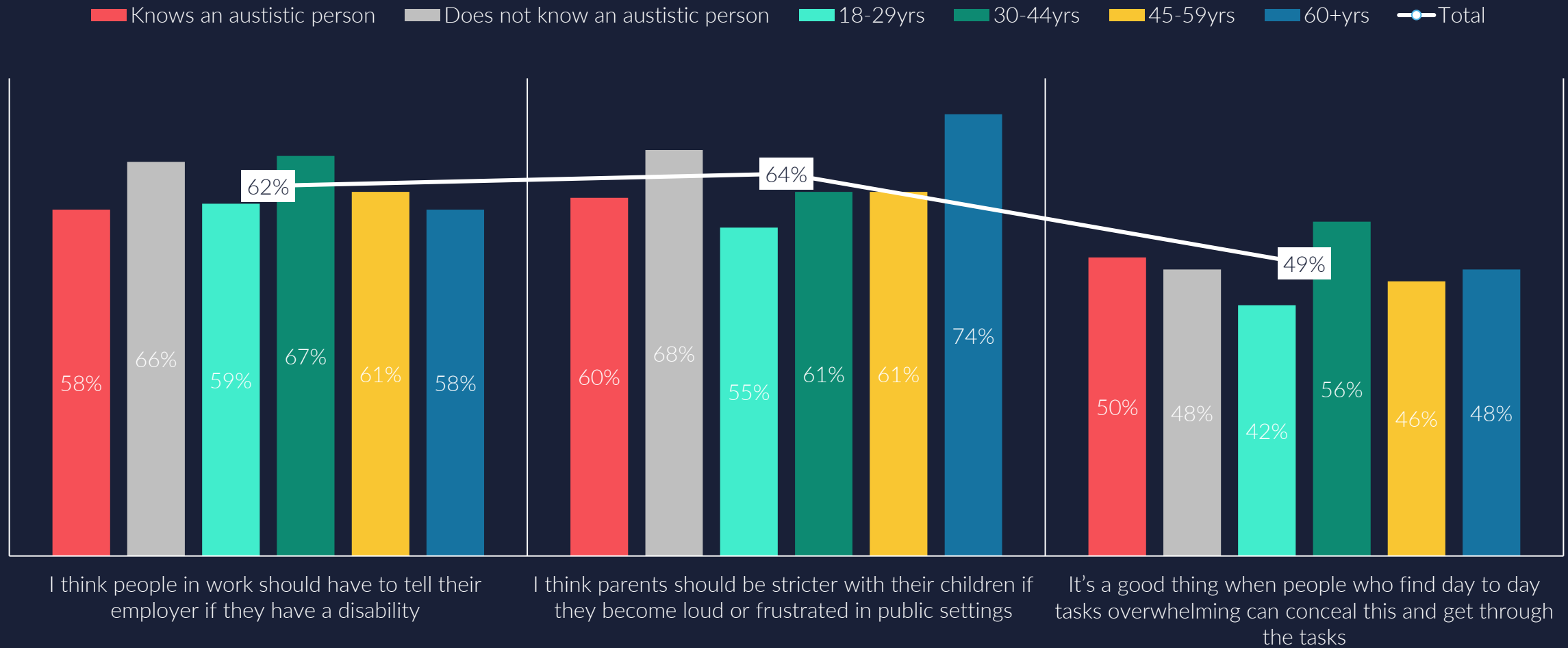


I think people in work should have to tell their employer if they have a disability

I think parents should be stricter with their children if they become loud or frustrated in public settings

It's a good thing when people who find day to day tasks overwhelming can conceal this and get through the tasks

## % Total Agree

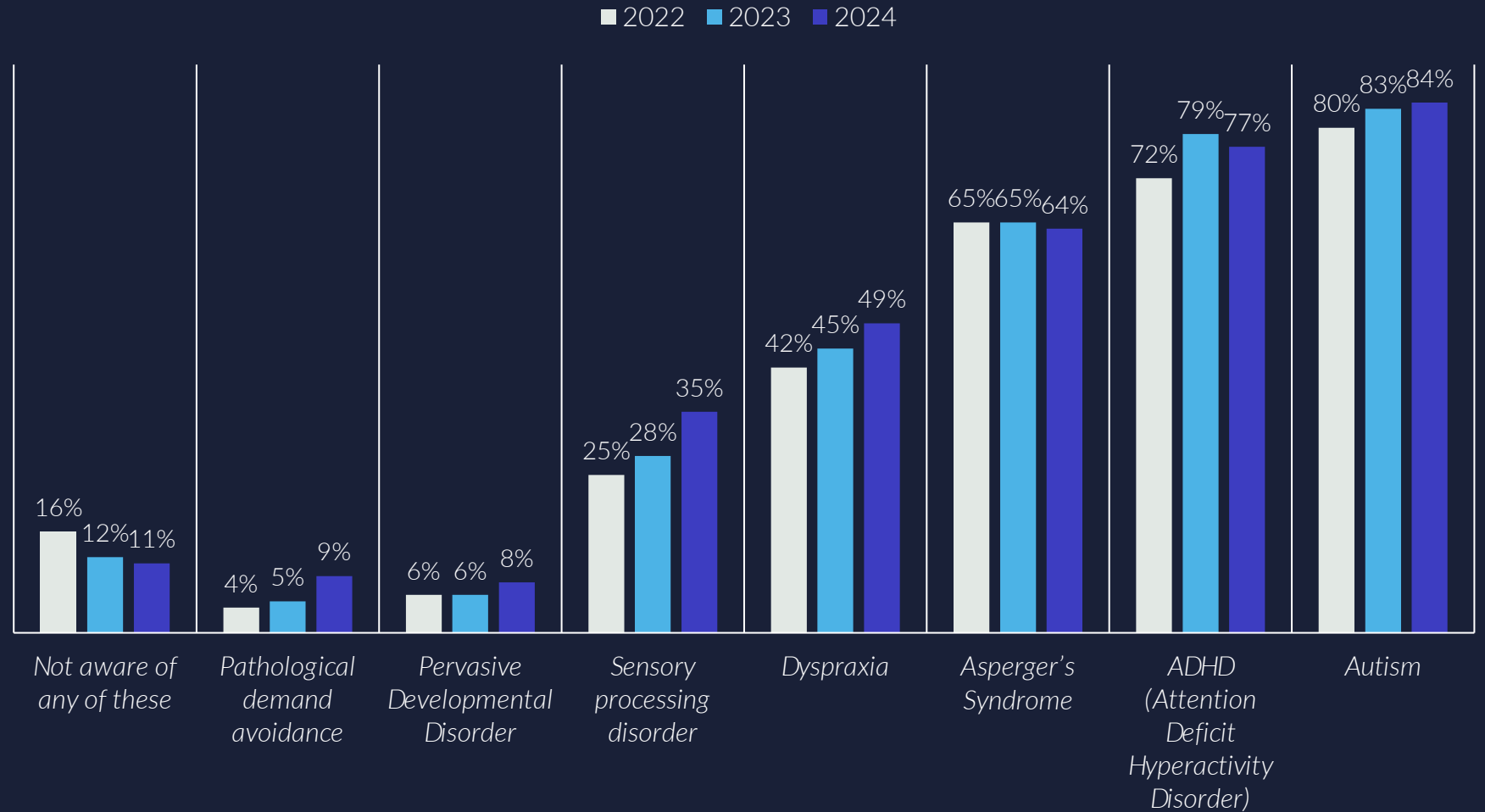




# Knowledge of Autism

# Which of the following diagnoses if any, are you aware of?

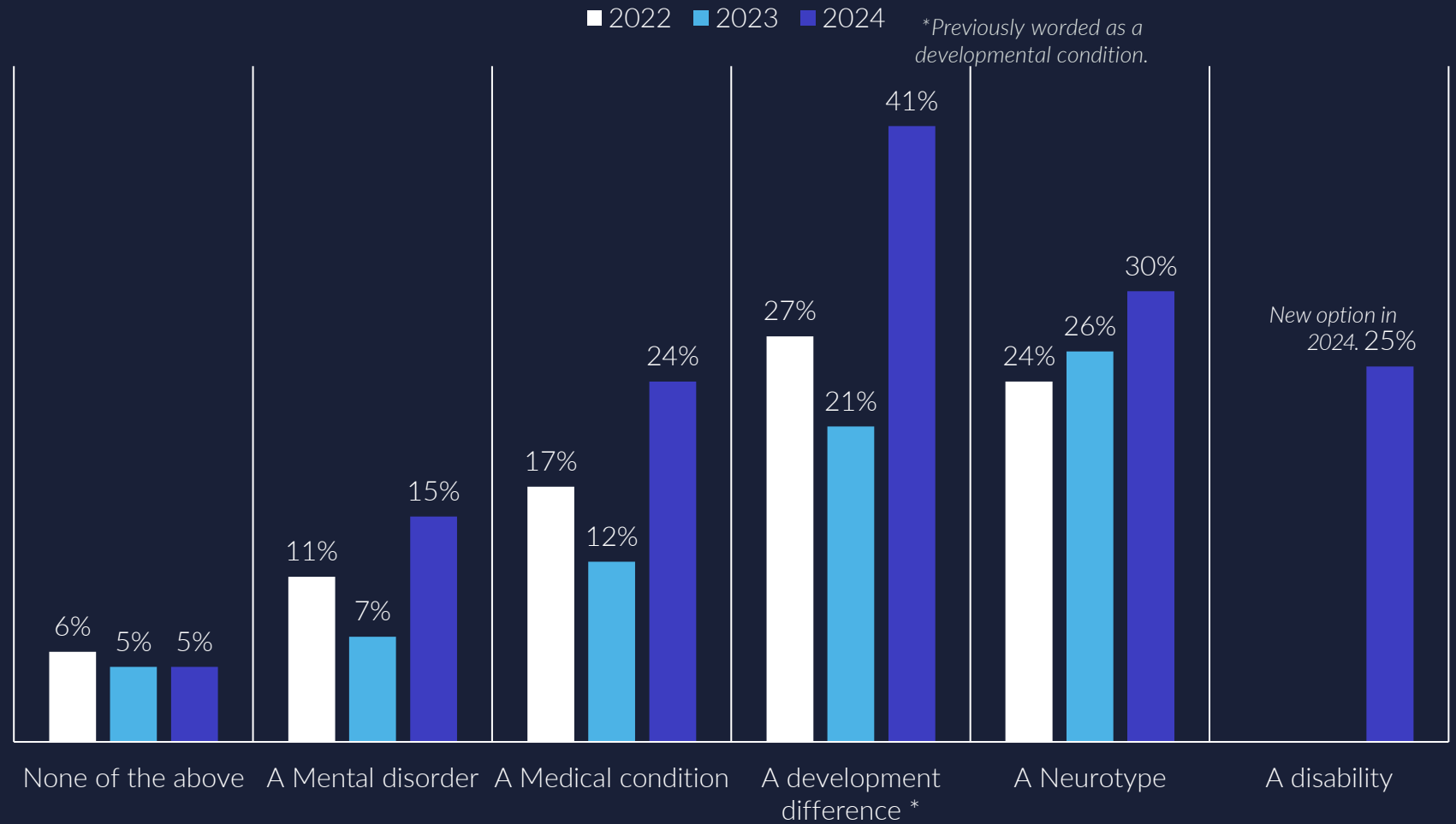
## Diagnoses Awareness



Which of the following diagnoses if any, are you aware of?  
Please choose all that apply. Base: 1,000

# Do you think autism is.....

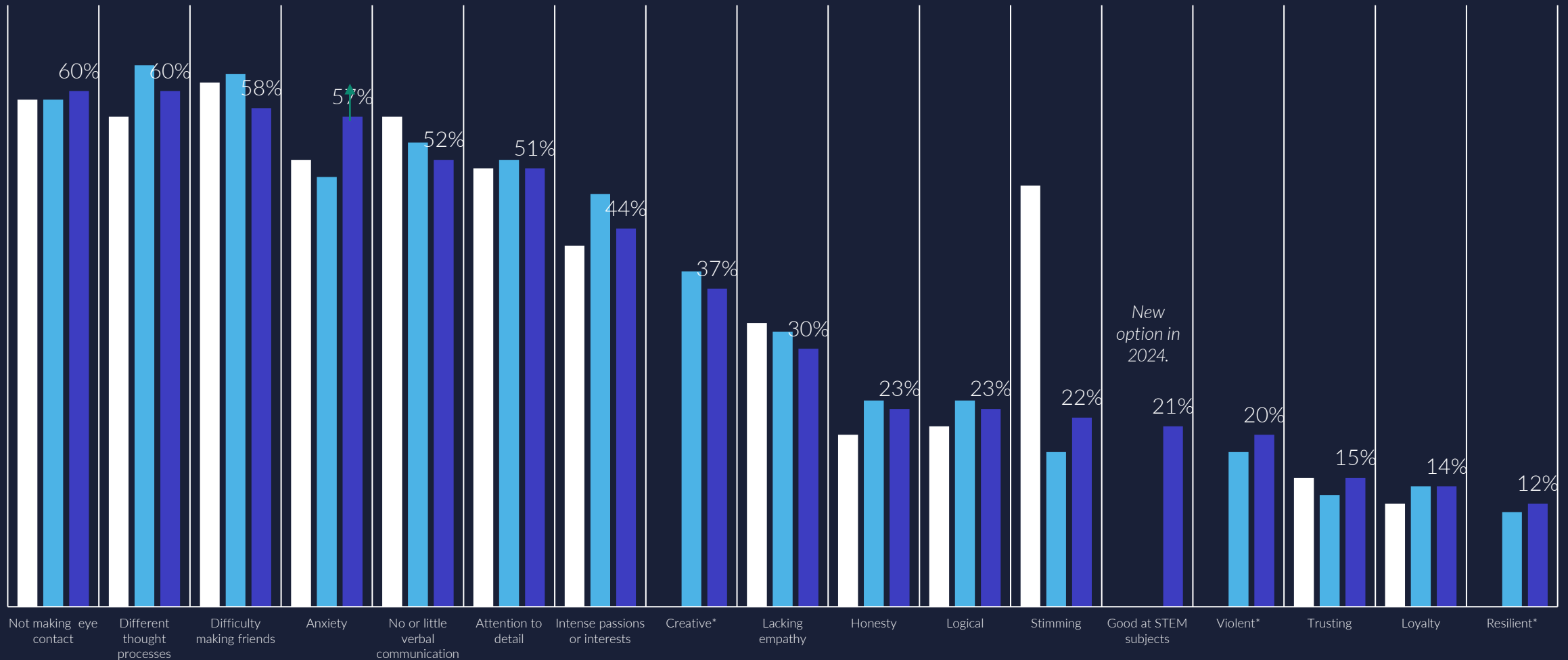
## Do you think Autism is ...





# Which of the following characteristics, if any, would you associate with autism?

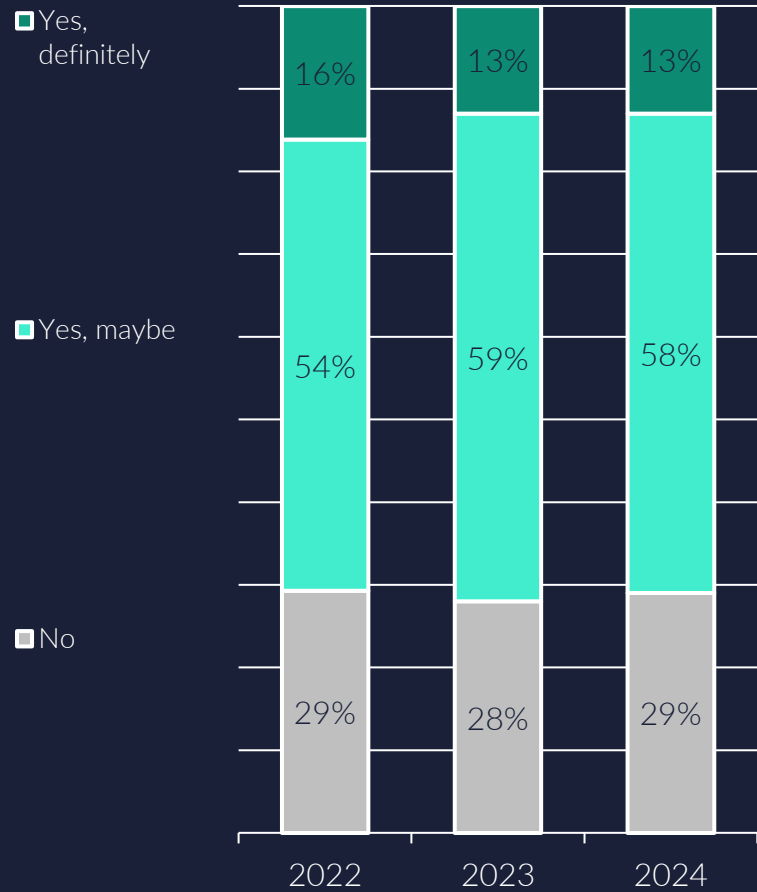
■ 2022 ■ 2023 ■ 2024



Which of the following characteristics, if any, would you associate with autism?  
Please choose all that apply. Base: 1,000

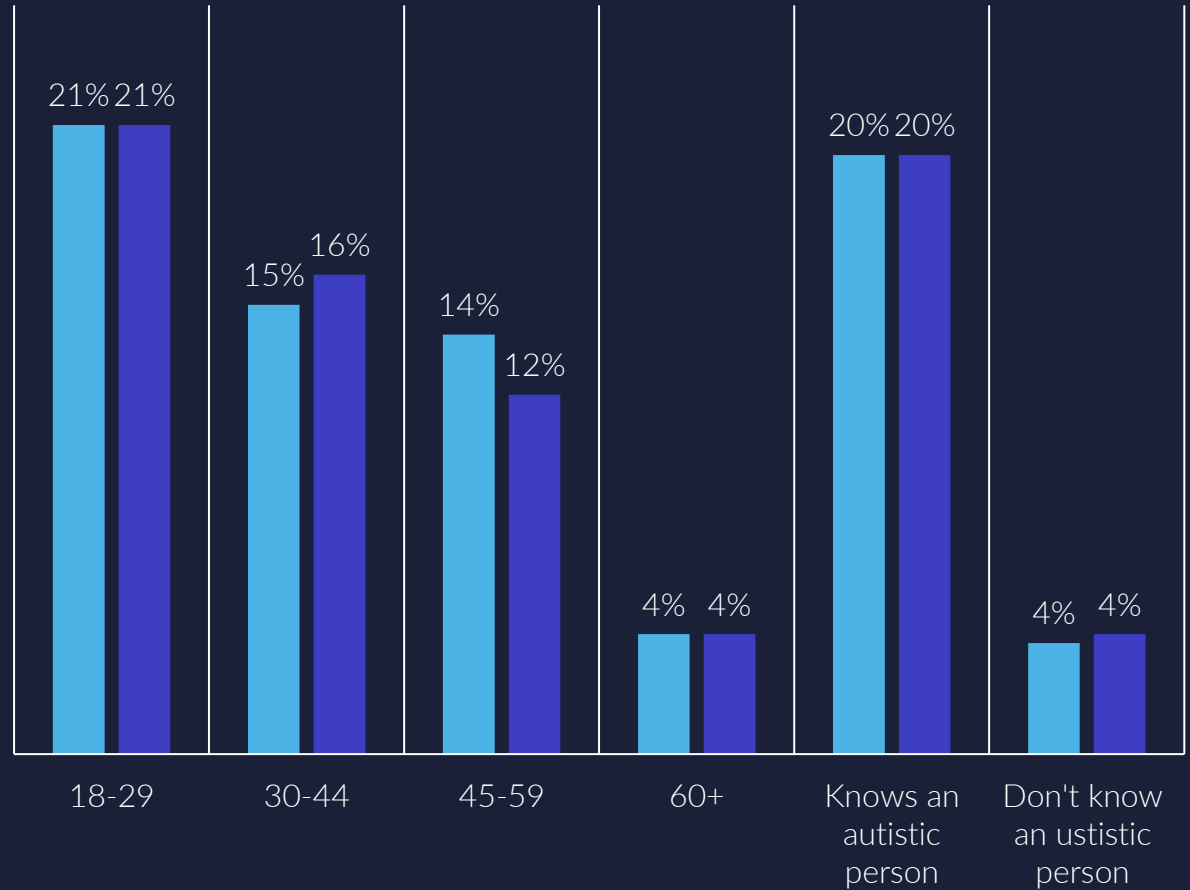
# Do you think you would know if a person is autistic, having never met them before?

Would you know if a person is autistic...



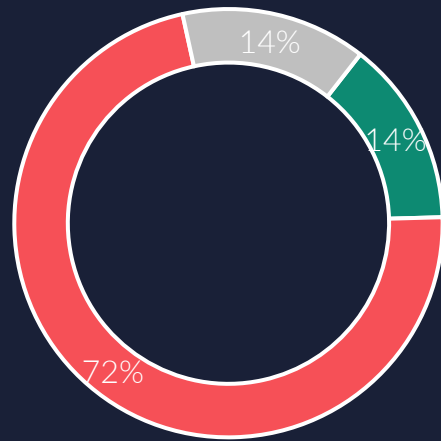
% Yes, definitely

■ 2023 ■ 2024



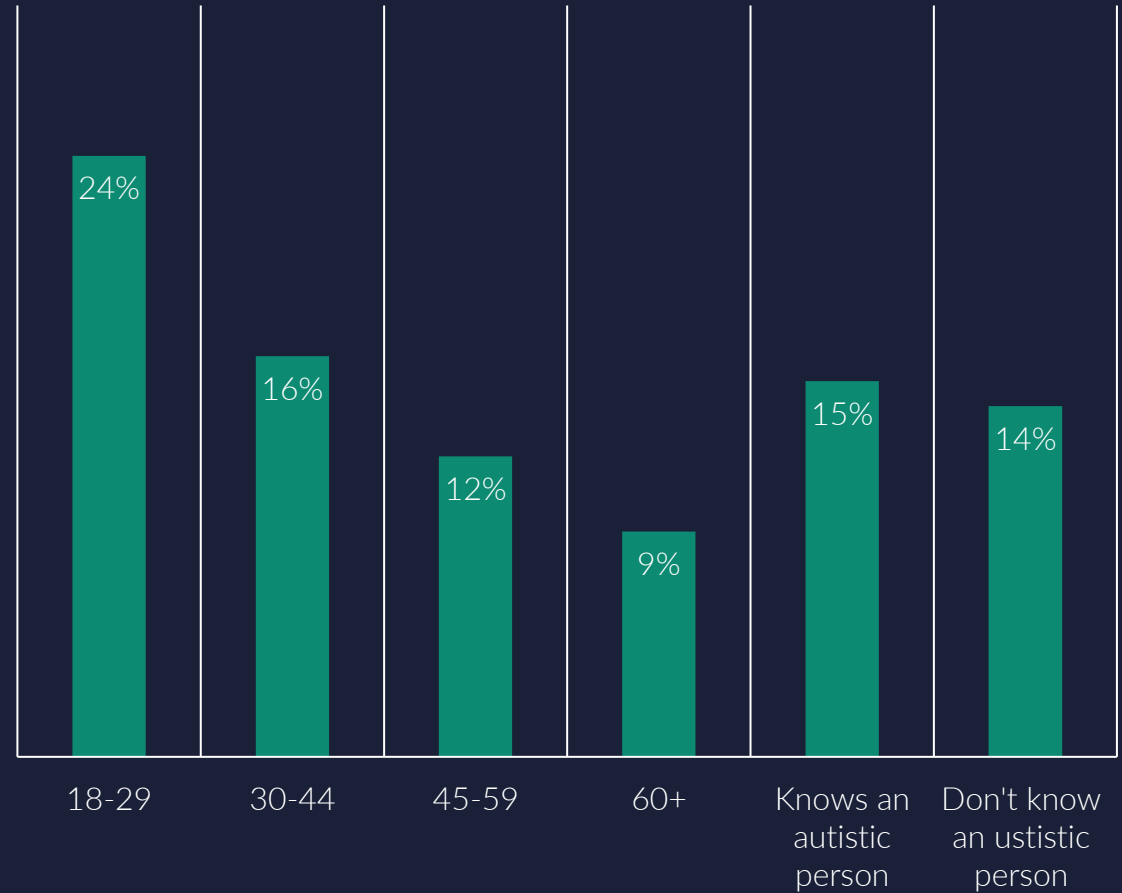
# Do you think people who are Autistic look different to people who are not Autistic?

Difference in appearance



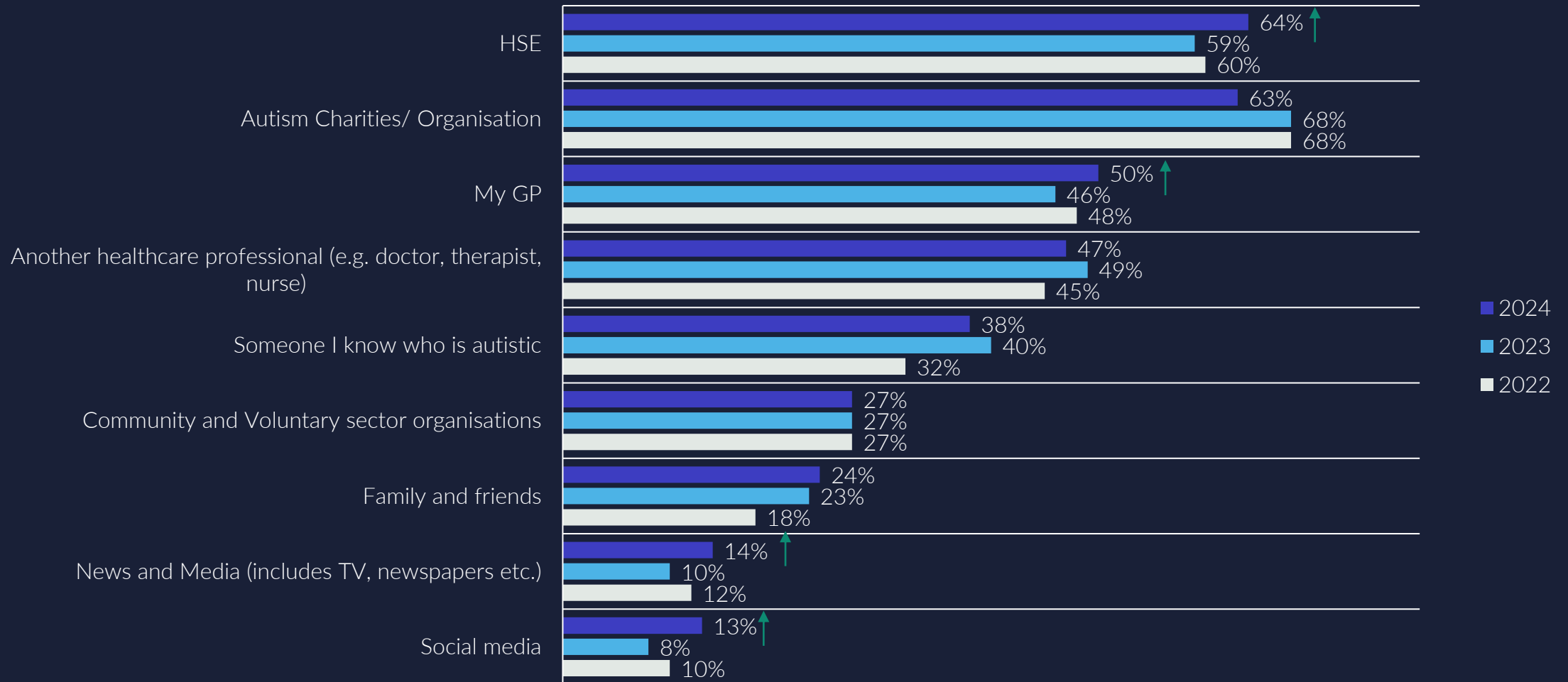
■ Yes ■ No ■ Don't know

% Yes



# What do you think are reliable sources of information on autism?

## Reliable Sources of Autism Information

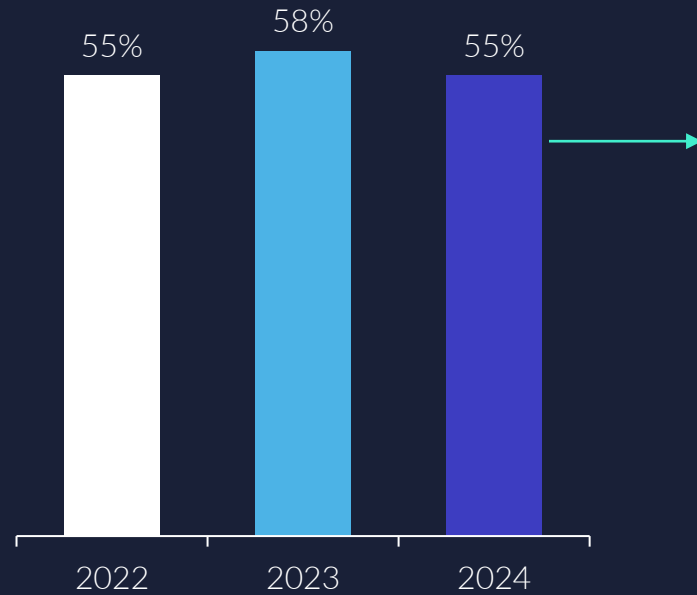


# Relationship with people who are autistic

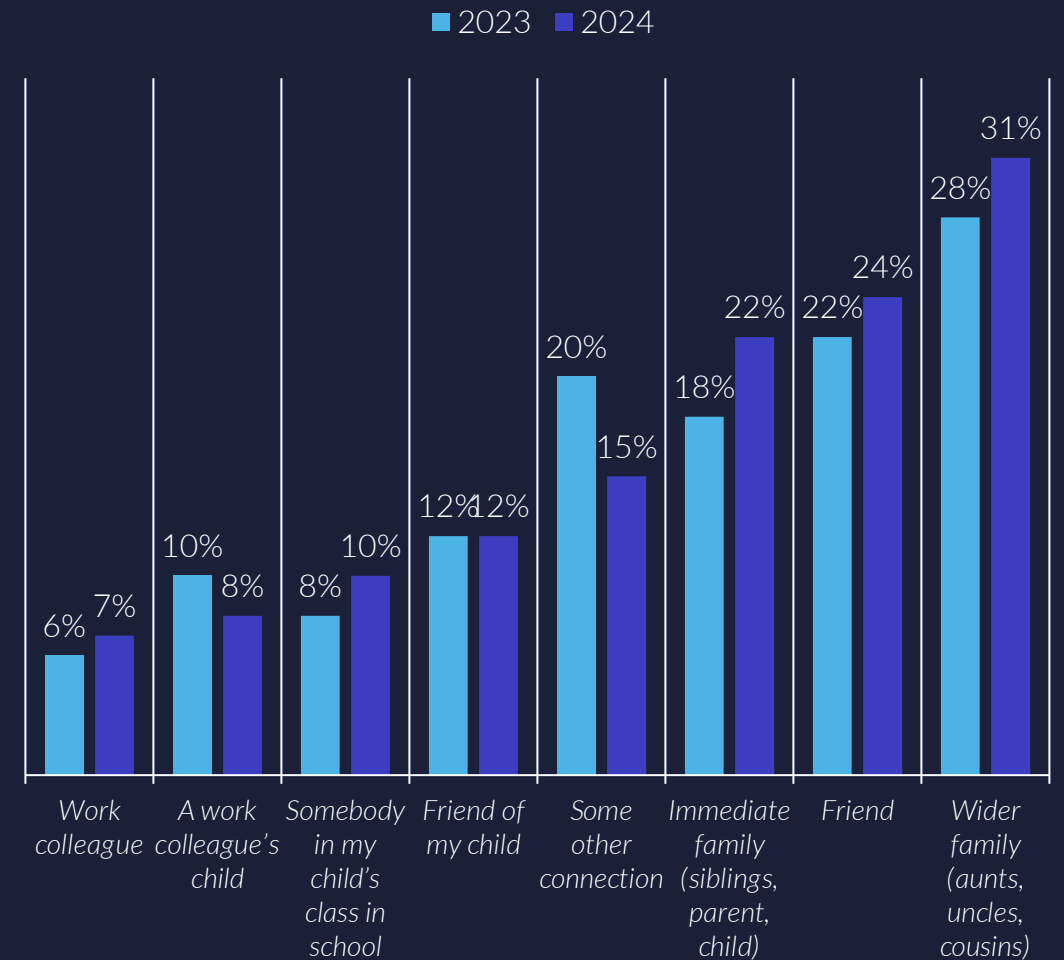


# Do you personally know anybody who is Autistic?

## Know an Autistic Person



## Nature of Relationship

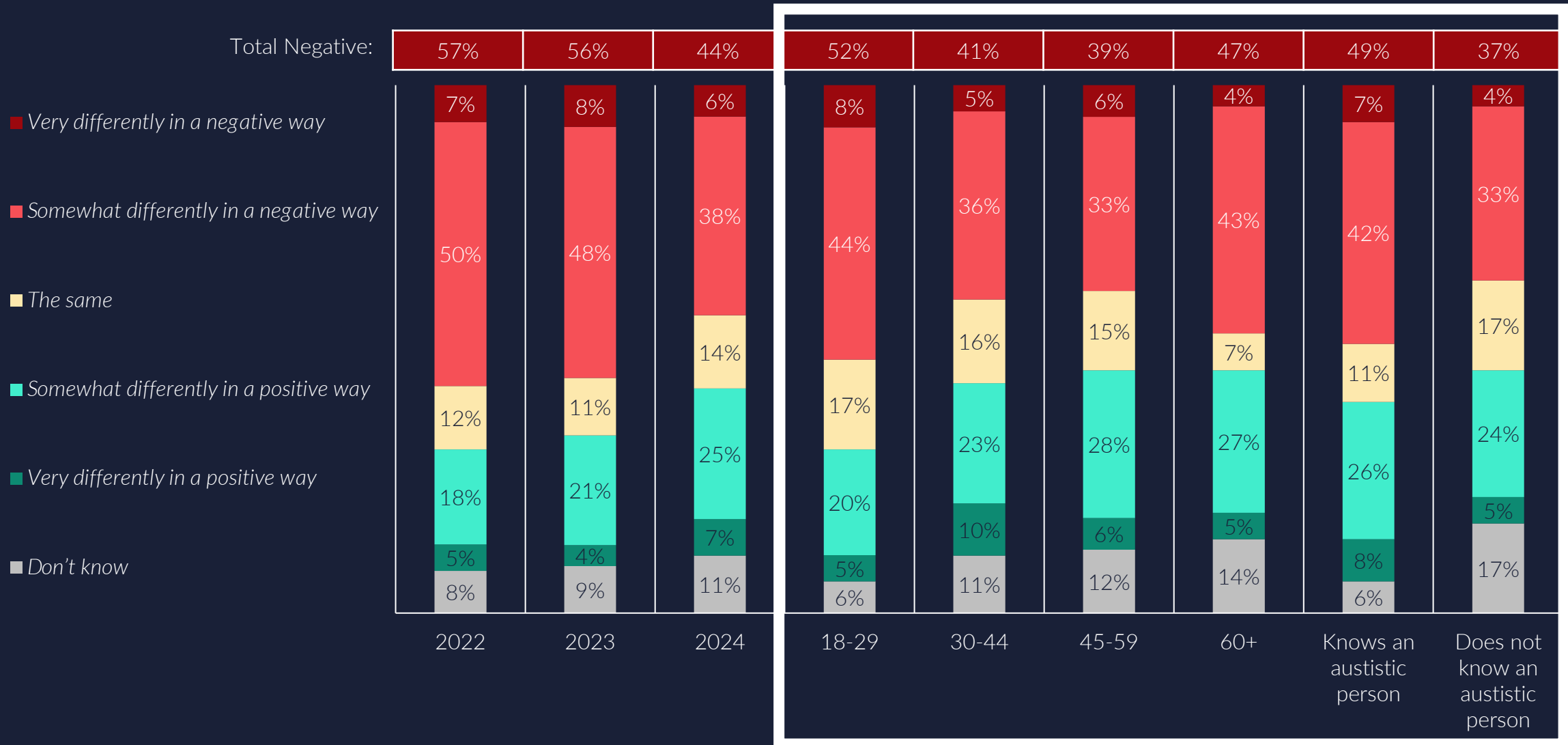




# Attitudes towards autism



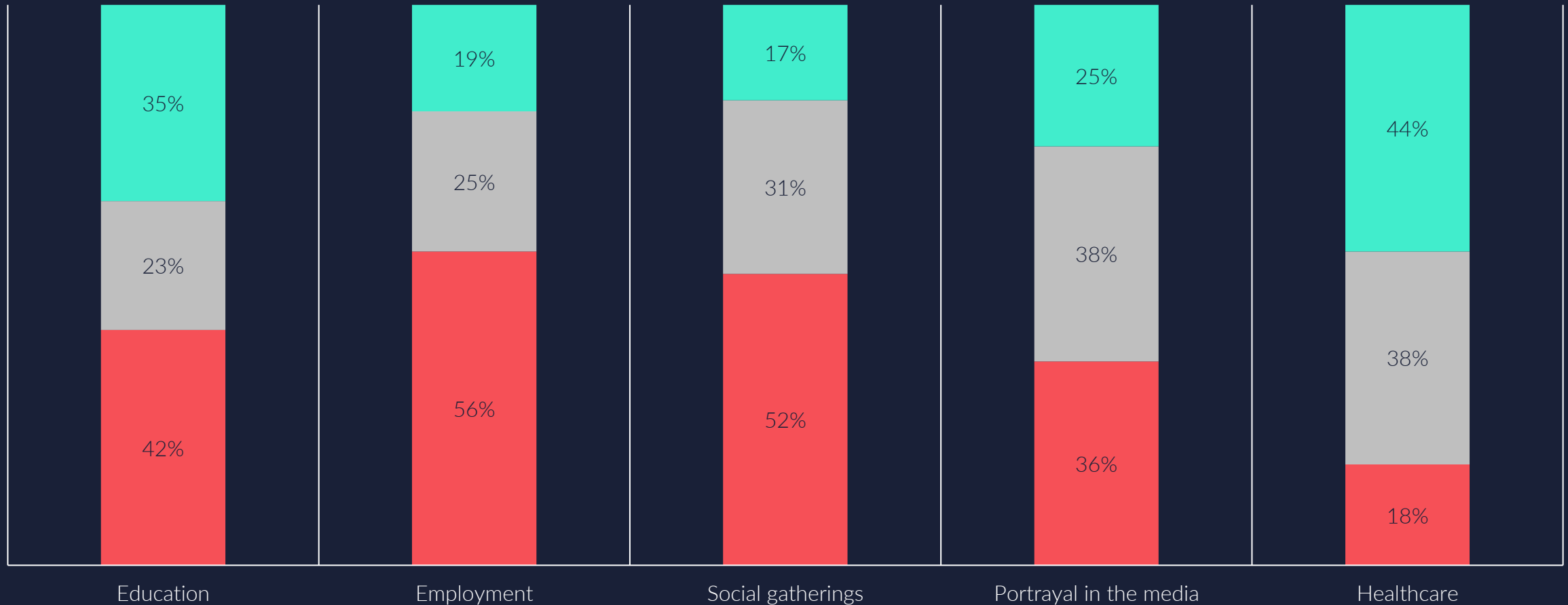
# In society, how do you feel autistic people are treated compared to non-autistic people?



# In the following areas, how do you feel autistic people are treated compared to non-autistic people?

## Treatment of autistic people

■ Negatively ■ No difference ■ Positively



# In the following areas, how do you feel autistic people are treated compared to non-autistic people?

% Negatively

■ 2023 ■ 2024

