Scottish Government research in the pandemic

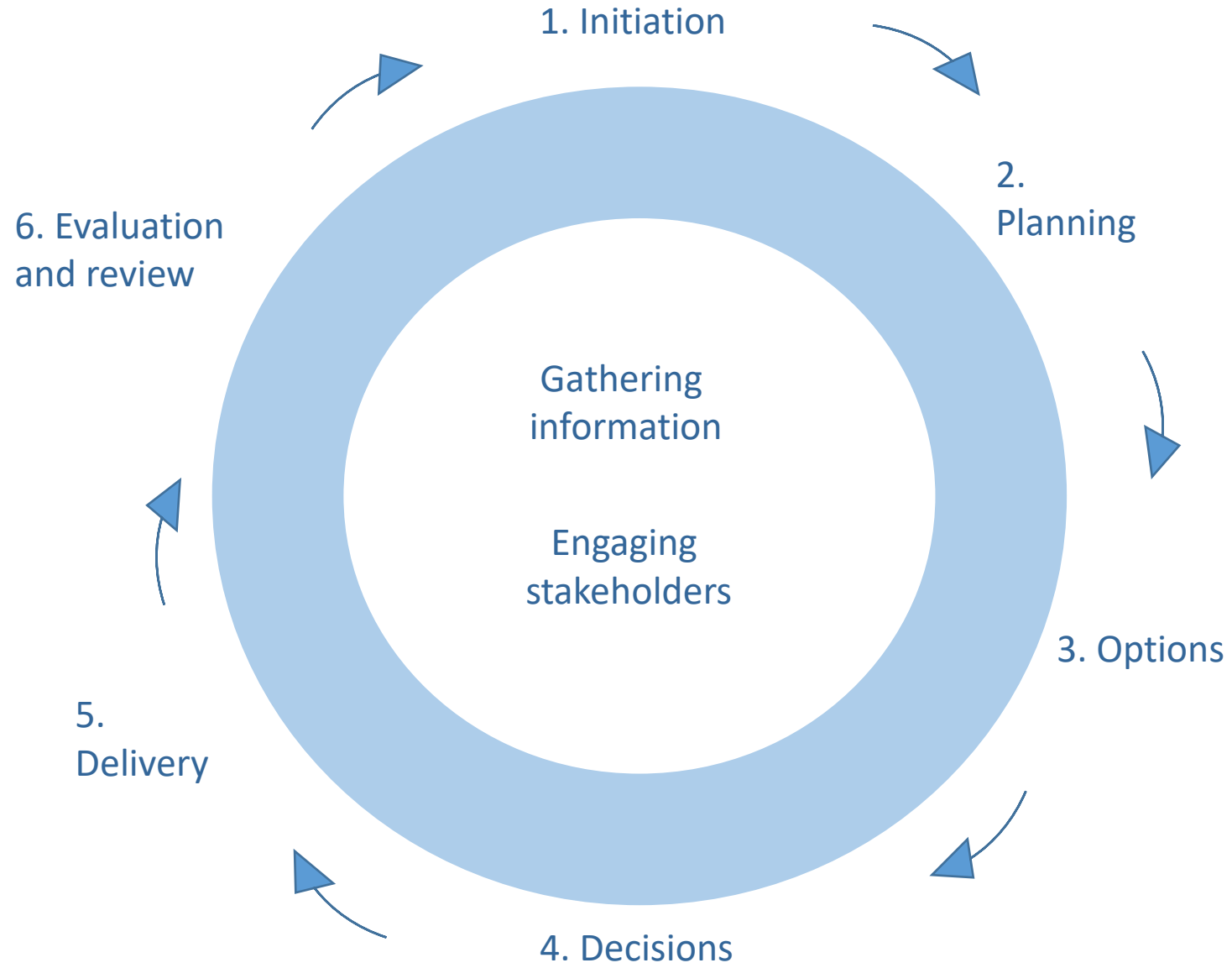April 2021   @SRA_Scotland   @benj

Scotland's National Performance Framework

The policy cycle

1. Initiation

2. Planning

3. Options

4. Decisions

5. Delivery

6. Evaluation and review

Gathering information

Engaging stakeholders

Social Capital - Themes and Questions

1. Social Networks

- Could you rely on a neighbour for help?
- Would neighbours keep an eye on your home?
- Could you turn to neighbours for advice
- Would you help your neighbours?
- Do you meet socially at least once a week?
- Have you felt lonely in the last week?

2. Community cohesion

Library

- How good is your neighbourhood?
- Do you feel you belong to your neighbourhood?
- Do you feel safe in your neighbourhood?
- Can people be trusted in your neighbourhood?
- Are people kind to each other in your neighbourhood?
- Do people from different backgrounds get on well?
- Are there places to meet and socialise?
- Are there welcoming places to meet new people?

3. Social participation

- Do you volunteer formally?
- Do you volunteer informally?
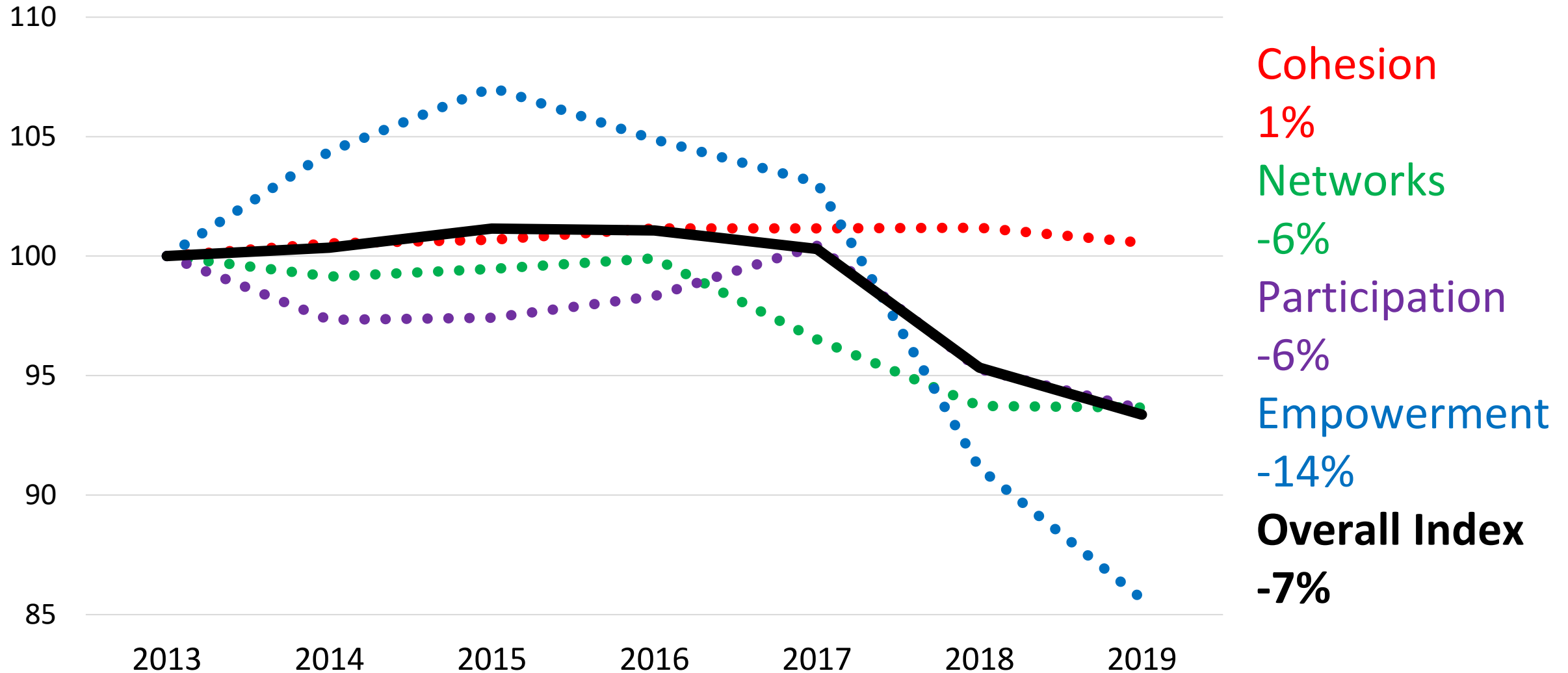
4. Community empowerment

- Can you influence local decisions?
- Do people improve the neighbourhood?

All data from Scottish Household Survey 2013-2018

Social Capital Index: % Change Since 2013

Cohesion 1%
Networks -6%
Participation -6%
Empowerment -14%
Overall Index -7%

COVID-19 The Four harms

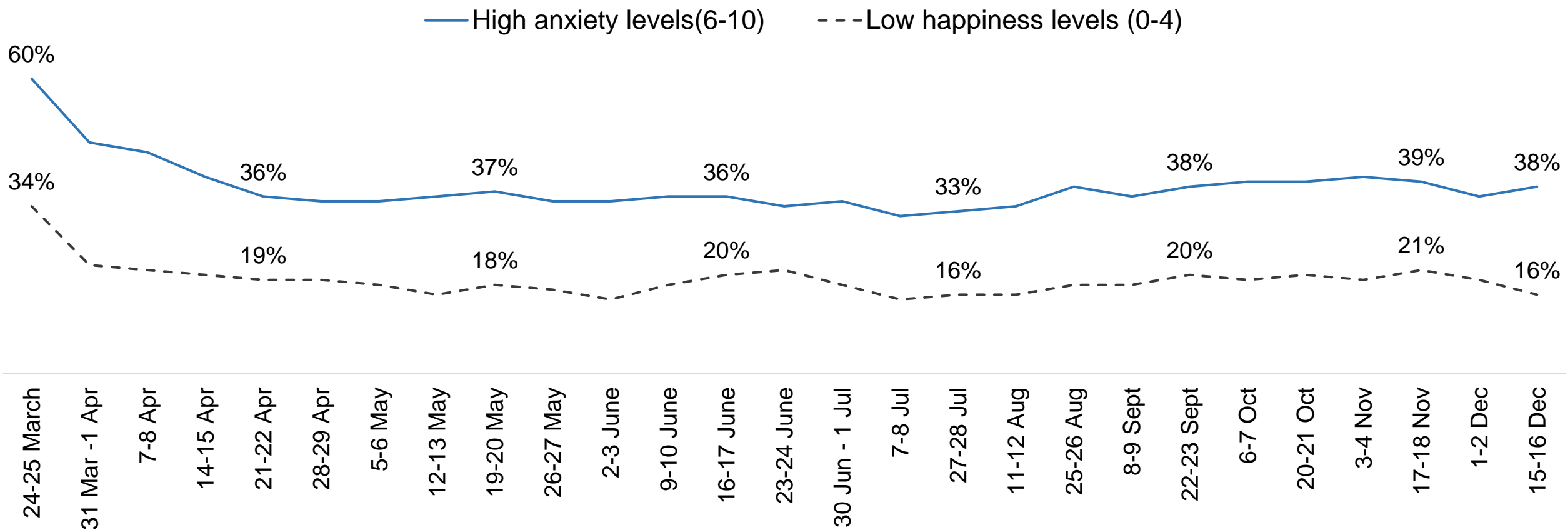Direct health harms

Non-Covid Health harms

Societal harms

Economic harms

Data sources

Administrative data	Online panel polling	Telephone surveys	Public engagement research	Qualitative research
Health, Police, Transport, Education, etc	21 weeks of Ipsos Mori Global tracker survey	3 waves of Ipsos Mori Scotland telephone polling	Public engagement consultation – via Citizenspace	Focus groups with community groups, run with voluntary organisations
Google Mobility	56 weeks of YouGov online poll		Consultation with stakeholder organisations	Interviews and focus group project – JRS Scotland

Anxiety

Overall, how happy/anxious did you feel yesterday (on a scale of 0-10)

High anxiety levels(6-10) — — — Low happiness levels (0-4)

60%

34%

36%

37%

36%

33%

38%

39%

38%

19%

18%

20%

16%

20%

21%

16%

24-25 March
31 Mar -1 Apr
7-8 Apr
14-15 Apr
21-22 Apr
28-29 Apr
5-6 May
12-13 May
19-20 May
26-27 May
2-3 June
9-10 June
16-17 June
23-24 June
30 Jun - 1 Jul
7-8 Jul
27-28 Jul
11-12 Aug
25-26 Aug
8-9 Sept
22-23 Sept
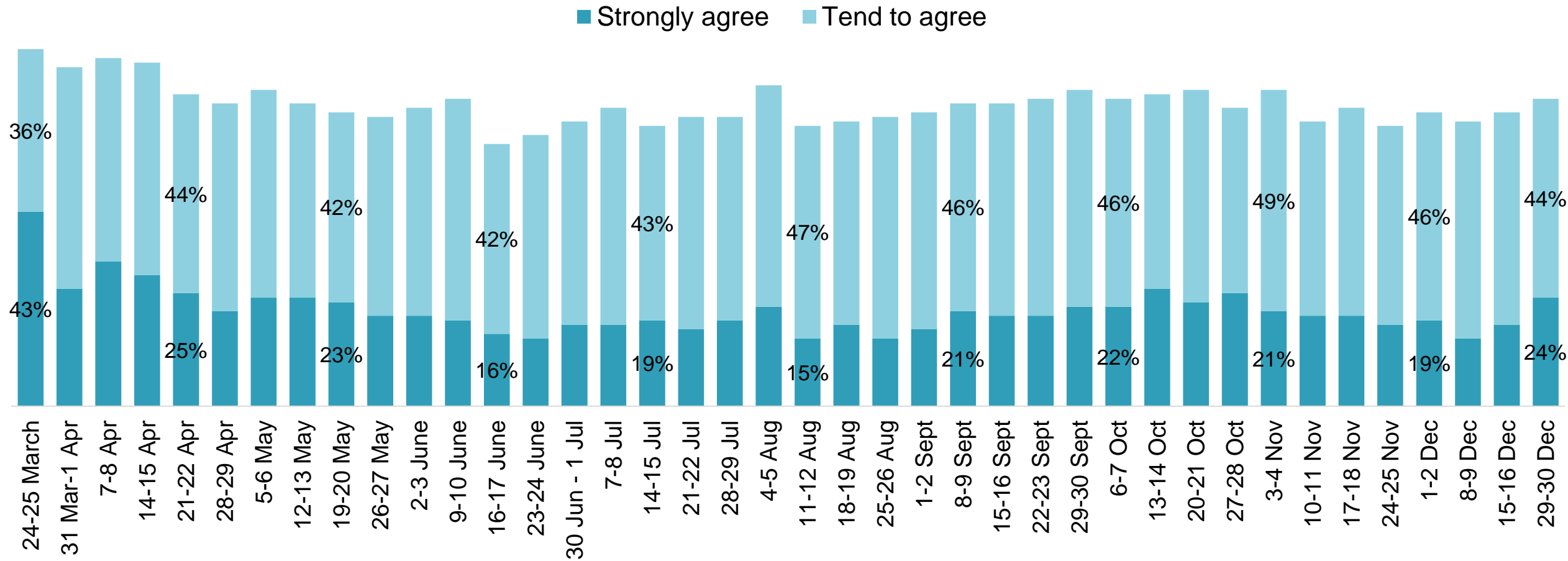6-7 Oct
20-21 Oct
3-4 Nov
17-18 Nov
1-2 Dec
15-16 Dec

(Source YouGov)

Worry

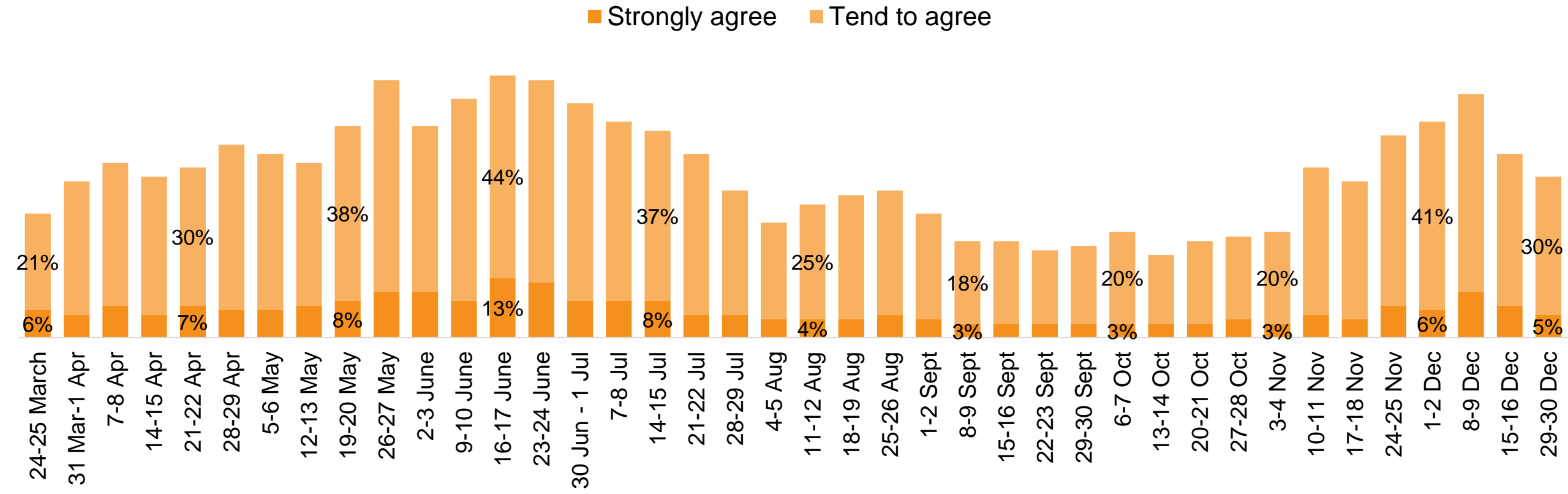"I feel worried about the coronavirus situation"

(Source YouGov)

Optimism

"I'm sure things will start to get better soon"

■ Strongly agree   ■ Tend to agree

21% 30% 38% 44% 37% 25% 18% 20% 20% 41% 30%
6% 7% 8% 13% 8% 4% 3% 3% 3% 6% 5%

24-25 March | 31 Mar-1 Apr | 7-8 Apr | 14-15 Apr | 21-22 Apr | 28-29 Apr | 5-6 May | 12-13 May | 19-20 May | 26-27 May | 2-3 June | 9-10 June | 16-17 June | 23-24 June | 30 Jun - 1 Jul | 7-8 Jul | 14-15 Jul | 21-22 Jul | 28-29 Jul | 4-5 Aug | 11-12 Aug | 18-19 Aug | 25-26 Aug | 1-2 Sept | 8-9 Sept | 15-16 Sept | 22-23 Sept | 29-30 Sept | 6-7 Oct | 13-14 Oct | 20-21 Oct | 27-28 Oct | 3-4 Nov | 10-11 Nov | 17-18 Nov | 24-25 Nov | 1-2 Dec | 8-9 Dec | 15-16 Dec | 29-30 Dec

(Source YouGov)

Major worries

Which, if any, of the following things, are major worries for you at the moment?
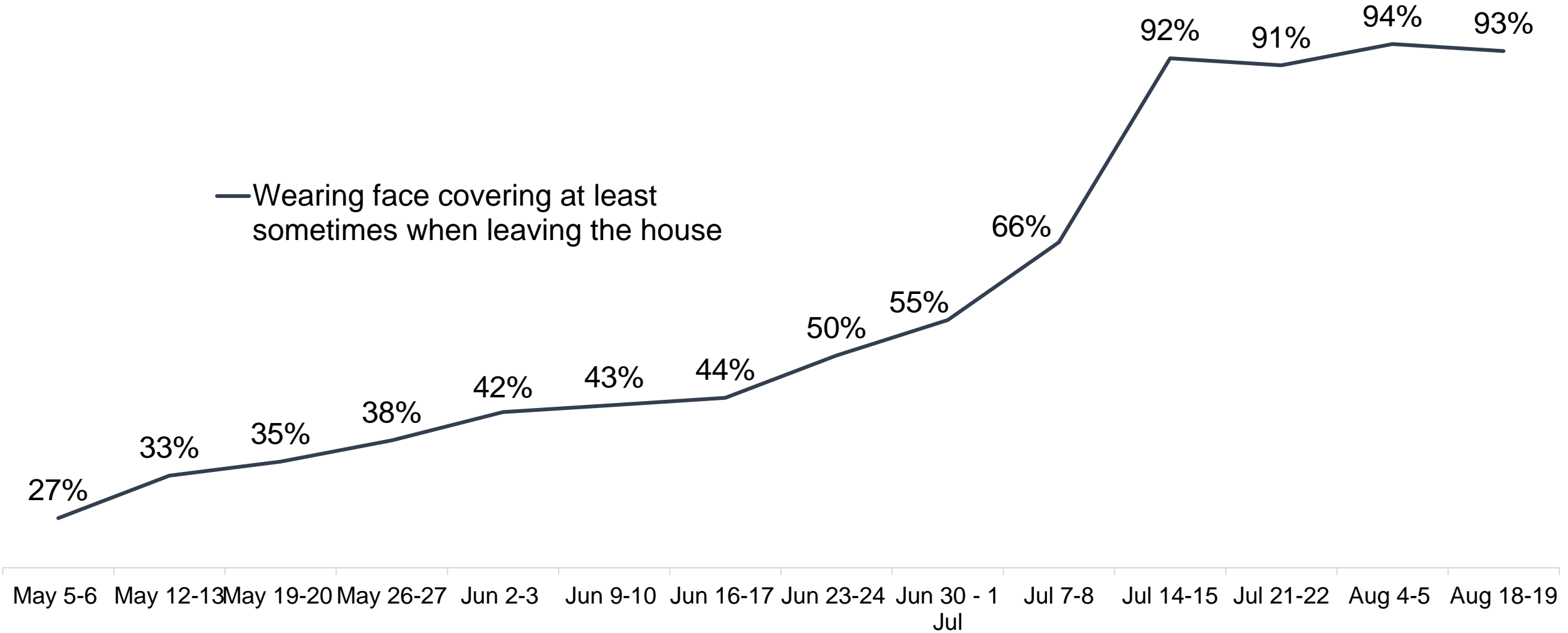
	W1 (May 2020)	W2 (Dec 2020)
Friends or family becoming seriously ill with Covid-19	75%	68%
A friend or family member's mental health	41%	48%
Becoming seriously ill yourself with Covid-19	37%	31%
Your own mental health	26%	28%
Your financial situation/losing your job	24%	25%
None of these	10%	17%
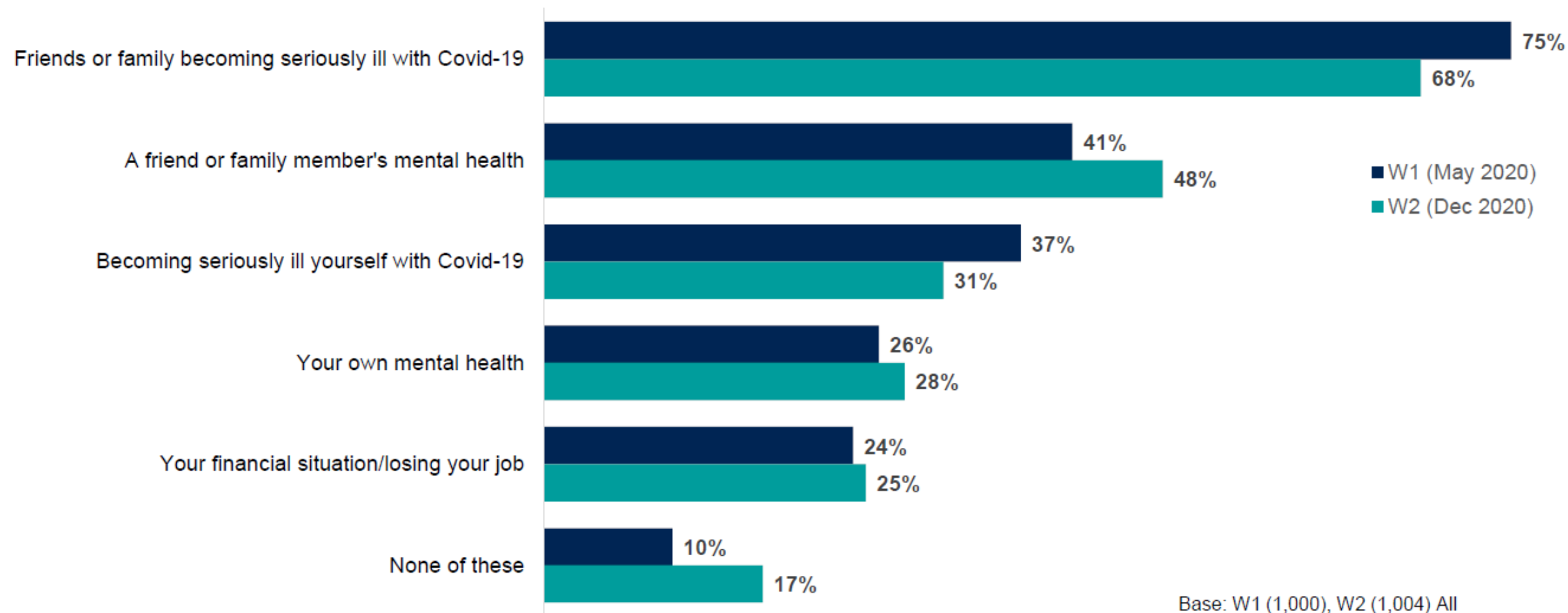
Base: W1 (1,000), W2 (1,004) All

Ipsos

Social distancing behaviours, March-April 2020

Trying to keep 2m distance from people when out
- 80%
- 77%
- 76%
- 79%

Avoiding gatherings with friends and family
- 77%
- 76%
- 73%
- 74%

Only leaving your home for essential trips
- 75%
- 76%
- 73%
- 77%

Avoiding non-essential travel journeys
- 74%
- 72%
- 66%
- 69%

Avoiding non-essential use of public transport
- 72%
- 66%
- 61%
- 65%

Avoiding contact with elderly or vulnerable people
- 67%
- 63%
- 65%
- 67%

Working from home (only those in employment
- 42%
- 41%
- 38%
- 41%

Not leaving home at all
- 20%
- 21%
- 26%
- 24%

Legend:
- ■ Apr 16-19
- ■ Apr 9-12
- ■ Apr 2-4
- ■ Mar 26-28

Source: Ipsos MORI, Scotland data. Scottish base (n=652-668)

Face Coverings

Wearing face covering at least sometimes when leaving the house

27% 33% 35% 38% 42% 43% 44% 50% 55% 66% 92% 91% 94% 93%

May 5-6 May 12-13 May 19-20 May 26-27 Jun 2-3 Jun 9-10 Jun 16-17 Jun 23-24 Jun 30 - 1 Jul Jul 7-8 Jul 14-15 Jul 21-22 Aug 4-5 Aug 18-19

Source: YouGov weekly Scotland survey. Base (n=1001-1036)

Adherence to the restrictions
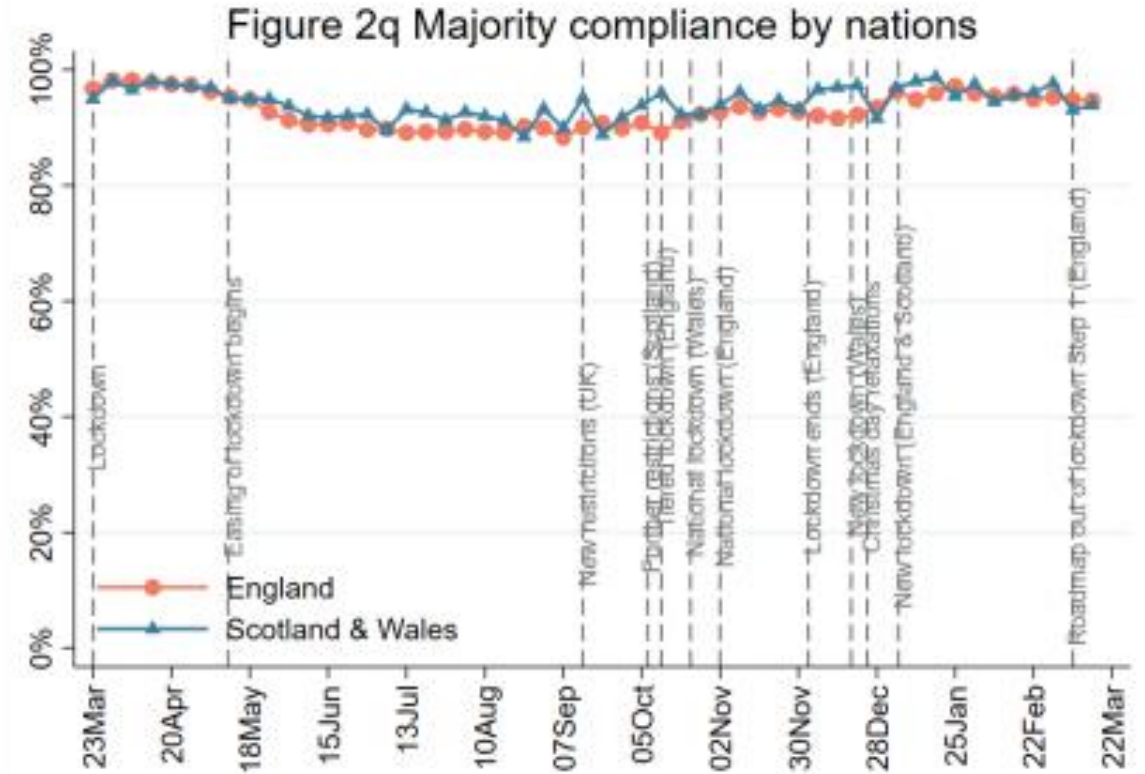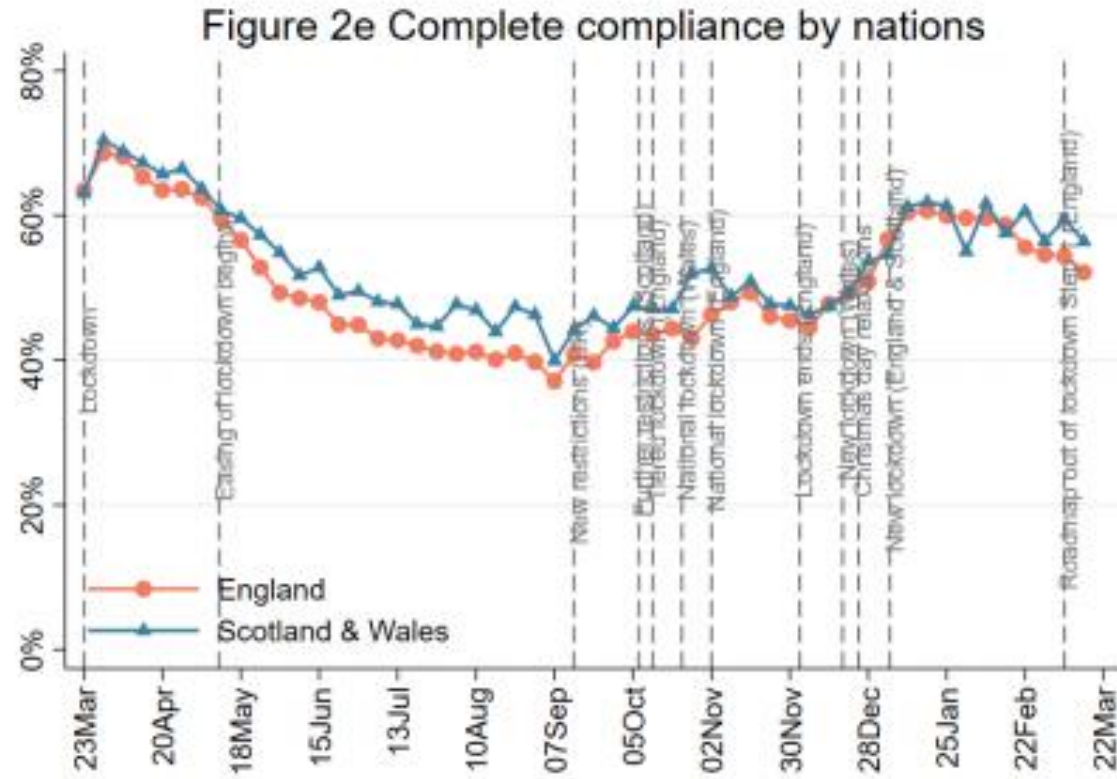
Source, UCL COVID-19 Social Study

Changes to life in December 2020 compared to May 2020

1 in 3
had the virus or knew someone who had been infected

1 in 5
reported social contact less than once a week

A quarter said their household income was lower than at the start of the pandemic

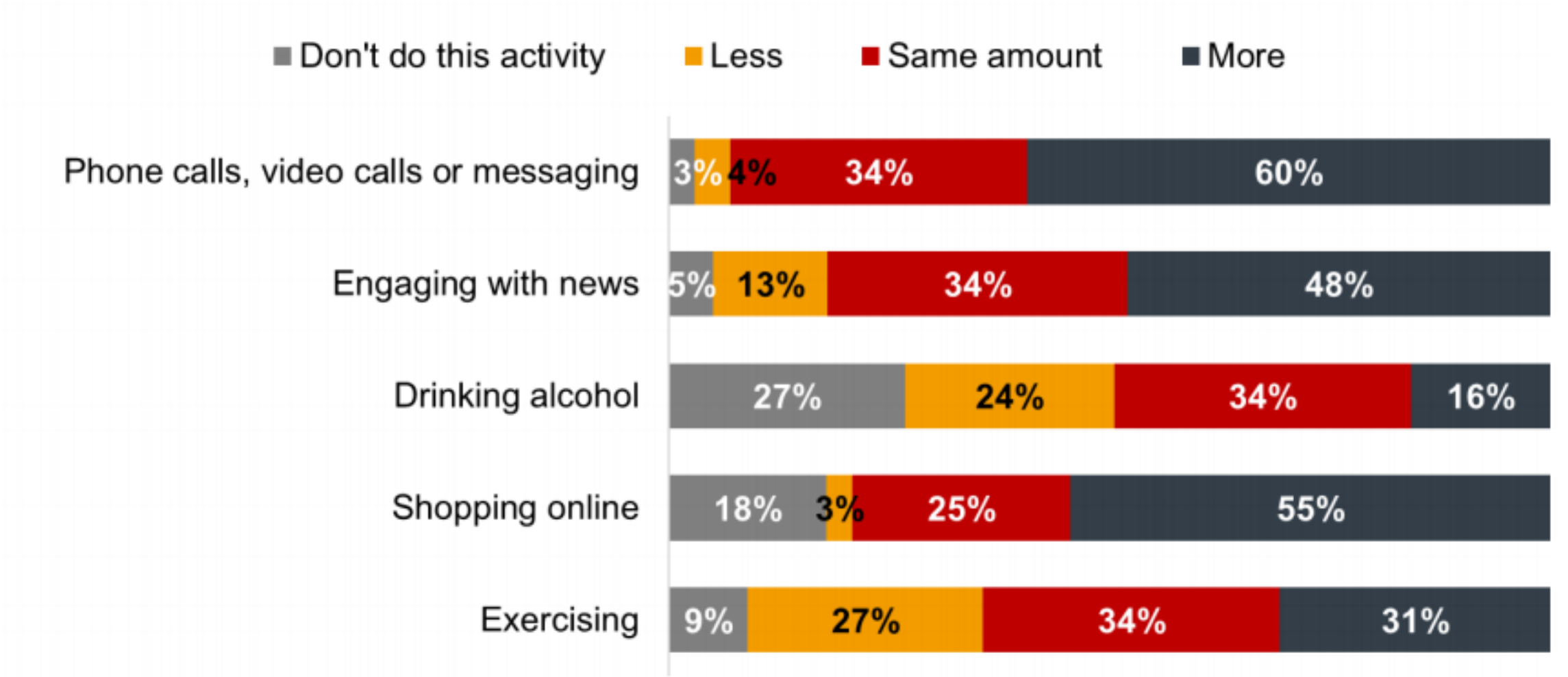The proportion of people who received help from others was lower than in May 2020

4 in 10
reported changes to their work since the beginning of the pandemic

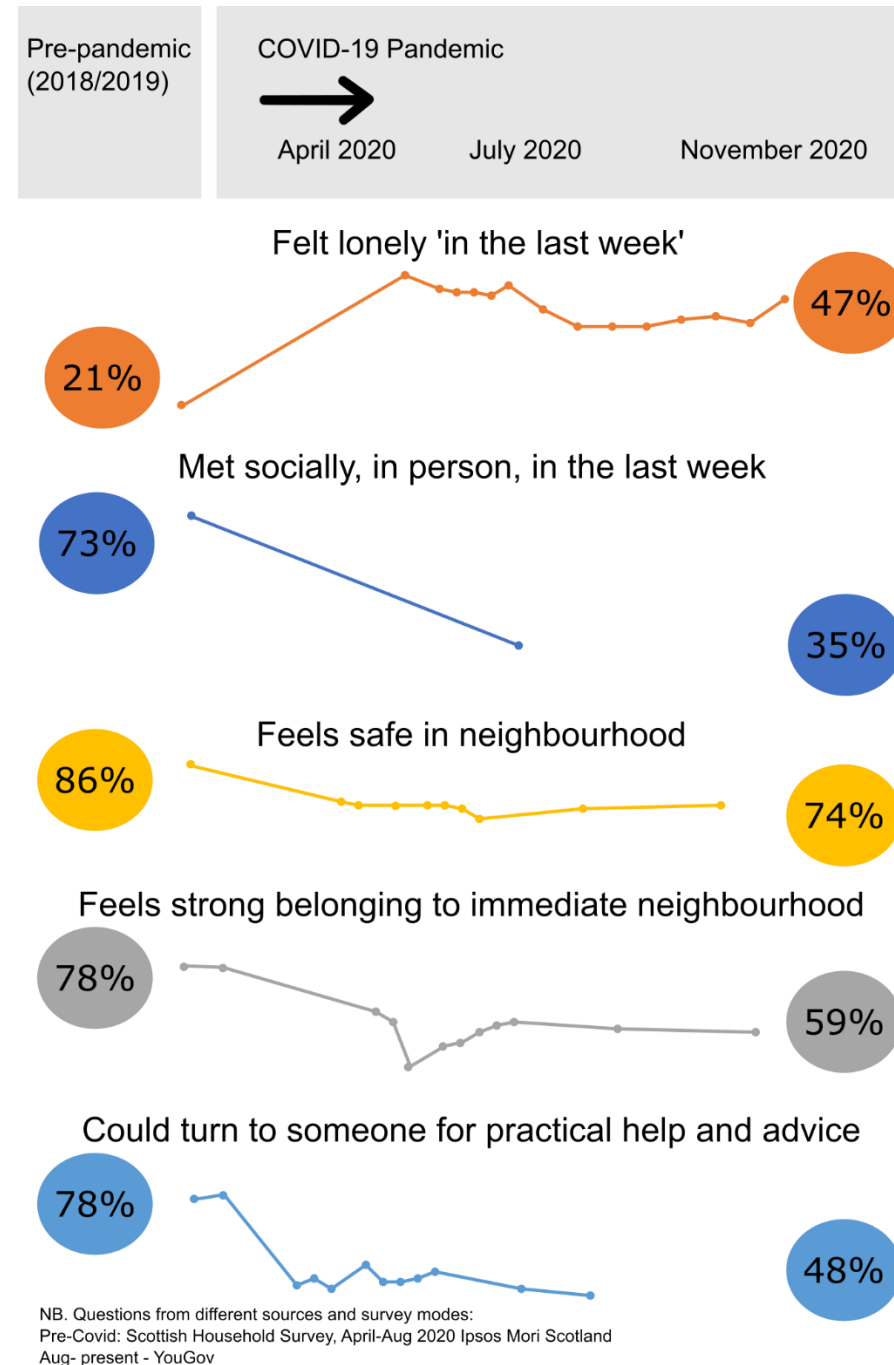31% are exercising more and 27% are exercising less than before the pandemic

Source, Ipsos Mori Scotland

Activities done in December, compared to March 2020

■ Don't do this activity   ■ Less   ■ Same amount   ■ More

Activity	Don't do this activity	Less	Same amount	More
Phone calls, video calls or messaging	3%	4%	34%	60%
Engaging with news	5%	13%	34%	48%
Drinking alcohol	27%	24%	34%	16%
Shopping online	18%	3%	25%	55%
Exercising	9%	27%	34%	31%

Source, Ipsos Mori Scotland

Social capital measures before and during COVID

Pre-pandemic (2018/2019)

COVID-19 Pandemic

April 2020   July 2020   November 2020

Felt lonely 'in the last week'

21%   47%

Met socially, in person, in the last week

73%   35%

Feels safe in neighbourhood

86%   74%

Feels strong belonging to immediate neighbourhood

78%   59%

Could turn to someone for practical help and advice

78%   48%

NB. Questions from different sources and survey modes:
Pre-Covid: Scottish Household Survey, April-Aug 2020 Ipsos Mori Scotland
Aug- present - YouGov

"Having a toddler is difficult at the best of times. Both my partner and I are nurses, it has been difficult to obtain child care whilst observing lockdown policy. Also, engaging in activity with our child has been difficult"
man aged 35-44, employed full time, not disabled

"I work with individuals with Learning disability and they really struggle when the restrictions change as they find it confusing"
woman aged 35-44, employed full time, not disabled

"It's difficult not seeing the people that are most important to you face to face but we are lucky with today's technology"
woman aged 45-54, employed full time, disabled

"My parents are elderly and live 5 mins away from me. I am utterly desperate to be able to go into their house and sit down to have a cup of tea and a chat with them"
woman aged 35-44, employed full time, disabled

Future challenges

- How to make quickly make sense of what is changing
- Digital exclusion
- Capturing information and experiences from diverse settings
- Changes to the policy cycle

Social research priorities

- Programmes and projects
- Insights from experience
- Communication and relationships

Further information and data sources

COVID-19 in Scotland dashboard:

- https://data.gov.scot/coronavirus-covid-19/index.html

Public attitudes to coronavirus reports:

- April 2020 summary - https://www.gov.scot/publications/public-attitudes-coronavirus-april-summary/
- May 2020 summary - https://www.gov.scot/publications/public-attitudes-coronavirus-summary/
- June and early July 2020 summary - https://www.gov.scot/publications/public-attitudes-coronavirus-june-early-july-summary/
- October 2020 update - https://www.gov.scot/publications/public-attitudes-coronavirus-october-update/
- November 2020 update - https://www.gov.scot/publications/public-attitudes-coronavirus-november-update/
- January 2021 update - https://www.gov.scot/publications/public-attitudes-coronavirus-january-update/

Other reports:

- Social Capital in Scotland: Measuring and understanding Scotland's social connections, February 2020 - https://www.gov.scot/publications/social-capital-scotland-measuring-understanding-scotlands-social-connections/
- Coronavirus (COVID-19): impact on wellbeing, September 2020 - https://www.gov.scot/publications/impact-covid-19-wellbeing-scotland/
- Coronavirus (COVID-19): impact on communities and priorities for recovery, September 2020 - https://www.gov.scot/publications/impact-covid-19-communities-priorities-recovery-perspectives-organisations-working-communities/
- Barriers to adherence with COVID-19 restrictions, January 2021 - https://www.gov.scot/publications/barriers-adherence-covid-19-restrictions/
- Coronavirus (COVID-19) impact on wellbeing, March 2021 - https://www.gov.scot/publications/impact-covid-19-wellbeing-scotland-work-finances-neighbourhood-support-personal-wellbeing-behaviour-changes/

Comments or questions: covid-19.behaviours@gov.scot