# The Health Foundation COVID-19 Survey – second poll

A report of survey findings

**Ipsos MORI, Public Affairs October 2020** 



#### **Contents**

1

Background, context and methodology

2

**Executive summary** 

3

The impact of Coronavirus and the public's response to it

4

The Government's handling of the Coronavirus crisis

5

Contact tracking via a smartphone app or the NHS Test and Trace programme

6

The public's experience and views of the NHS

7

The public's views on health inequalities

8

The public's views on immigration reform and social care



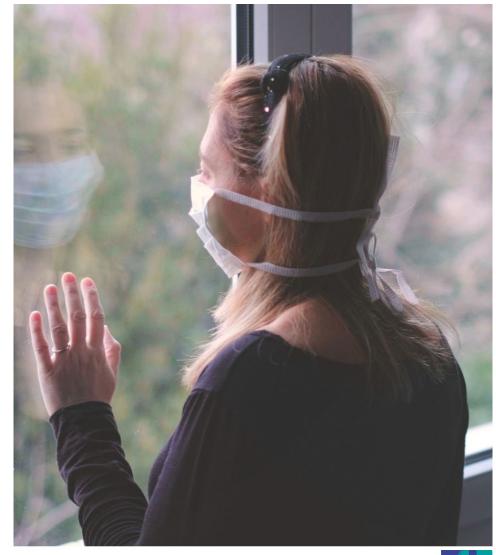
## 1. Background, context and methodology



#### **Background and context**

The Health Foundation commissioned Ipsos MORI to conduct a representative poll of the general public in Great Britain to understand opinion on a range of issues including:

- Experience of using NHS services during the pandemic and perceptions as to how services are managing;
- The impact of Coronavirus on people's health and wellbeing, including mental health;
- Levels of support or opposition to the Government's handling of the Coronavirus pandemic;
- Attitudes towards a potential contact tracing app;
- Likelihood to engage with the NHS Track and Trace system;
- Support for a social care visa;
- Views on health inequalities.



#### Methodology

The July survey was conducted by telephone on the Ipsos MORI CATI Omnibus survey, a weekly telephone omnibus survey of a representative sample of people aged 18 and over in Great Britain. **Fieldwork took place between 17**th **July and 29**th **July 2020**. **A total of 2,246 people were interviewed**. For the main sample, quotas were set on age, gender, Government Office Region and working status. In addition to the people from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) backgrounds interviewed as part of the main sample, a booster survey was conducted. The sample includes a total of 423 interviews conducted with BAME participants, of which 181 participants were interviewed as part of the main sample and 242 as part of the booster sample.

For the overall July findings, data has been weighted to the known population proportions for age within gender, Government Office Region and working status and social grade. For the BAME findings, data has been weighted to the known population proportions for age, gender, Government Office Region, working status and social grade.

The **May** survey was also conducted via telephone on the Ipsos MORI CATI Omnibus survey. A total of 1,983 people were interviewed **between 1**<sup>st</sup> **and 10**<sup>th</sup> **May 2020**. Where questions were repeated in the July survey, these have been included in the report against the May data for comparison, with significant differences commented upon.

Throughout the report findings will highlight, and make reference to, different sub-groups based on responses to certain questions. When interpreting the survey findings, it is important to remember that the results are based on a sample of the population, not the entire population. Consequently, results are subject to margins of error, and not all differences between sub-groups are statistically significant (i.e. a real difference). Differences between sub-groups which have been reported are all statistically significantly different.



#### 2. Executive summary



#### **Executive summary: The impact of Coronavirus and Government handling**

- Concern about the risk that Coronavirus presents to the health and wellbeing of the nation has fallen since May but remains high, with nearly nine in ten (86%) saying they are concerned. However, the public are even more concerned about the risk to health and wellbeing of the knock-on impact of Coronavirus on lifestyles and the economy (94%) than about the virus itself.
- The **financial impacts of the outbreak on people's income have improved slightly** since May (those experiencing a negative financial impact has fallen from 41% to 35%) and **fewer people are finding it harder to do basic things** such as communicating with family and friends (down from 47% to 38%) and getting basic food items (down from 54% to 23%).
- However, there are signs that **the pandemic is taking a greater financial and emotional toll on people from a BAME background** over four in ten people from a BAME background (43%) report a negative impact on their income as a result of Coronavirus, while people from a BAME background are more likely to report concerns about their mental wellbeing as a result of the outbreak (40% say they have no concerns, compared with 50% overall).
- The public are becoming **more critical of the Government's handling of the Coronavirus outbreak**. A majority (56%) now believe that the Government has not handled it well, significantly more than in May (39%). Half of the public think that the Government measures do not go far enough (50%), while a minority believe the measures are about right (40%).
- The clarity of the Government's current official guidance varies. The Government's guidance on travelling safely is clear (78%), along with the guidance on self-isolation (68%) and staying safe outside the home (62%). However, significant minorities think the advice is not clear (for example, 46% think the guidance on visiting places safely is not clear) and a majority of 54% think the guidance around who and how many people they can meet with is *not* clear.
- There is **scepticism among the public that other people are following the Government's advice**, with three in five believing that other people are *not* following advice on who and how many people you can meet with (62%), and advice on visiting places such as pubs and shops (59%). Perceptions of the clarity of Government advice appears to affect how the public perceive compliance with this advice there is a clear correlation between guidance which the public believe is unclear, and guidance which the public believe other people are not following.

#### **Executive summary: Contact tracing and use of health services**

- Awareness of the Government's contact tracing app has increased since May (from 36% knowing a great deal or fair amount in May to 47% in July), although over half (53%) know just a little, have only heard of, or know nothing about the app. When given no information about the app, just over half of the public (52%) say they would download it. There is no difference in reported likelihood to download the app depending on whether a decentralised or centralised version of the app.
- There are **few reservations about sharing contact details of people who they have come into contact with** as part of the NHS Test and Trace programme nine in ten (90%) say they would be likely to do so. And the public are **more likely to self-isolate if asked to by a NHS contact tracer** (95%) than if suggested to by the app (84%).
- The impact of Coronavirus on the use of health services appears to be lessening: around two in five of the public have used health services since the Government introduced lockdown (42%, compared with 24% in May), and fewer people have had an appointment cancelled/been asked not to come compared with May (down from 12% in May to 7% in July). Most commonly, people access their GP practice (61%) or local hospital (24%).
- However, people from BAME backgrounds are less likely to report using health services (36% have, compared with 42% overall), and are more likely to have considered using a health service but decided not to (9%, compared with 5% overall), an important finding given the known increased impact of Coronavirus on BAME communities.
- Where people accessed services, the majority felt comfortable doing so, though there was some variation depending on the service used. Compared with May, the public would also now feel more comfortable over the next 3-4 weeks if they needed to use their local hospital (77% would now feel comfortable, compared with 52% in May) or GP service (89% would now feel comfortable, compared with 78% in May). Where people are uncomfortable accessing services, this is largely due to concern about Coronavirus exposure (72% for hospitals and 53% for the GP services).
- People from BAME backgrounds also say they would feel less comfortable accessing their local hospital (28% would feel uncomfortable, compared with 22% overall).



#### **Executive summary: Health inequalities and social care visas**

- With regards to public opinion on inequalities, the public think **living somewhere safe and having access to affordable, healthy food have the greatest impact on people's chances of living a long and healthy life (71% and 68% respectively think they have a great deal of impact). Education level and access to transport are seen to have the smallest impact (36% and 30% respectively think they have a great deal of impact).**
- However, the public think the **Government has the greatest responsibility for education and ensuring safe neighbourhoods** (75% and 63% respectively think the Government has a great deal of responsibility for these).
- Areas of both relatively high perceived impact and Government responsibility are **living somewhere safe**, **housing conditions**, **and employment and working conditions**.
- In general, people from BAME backgrounds are more likely to think that the Government has responsibility for addressing the different areas of inequality.
- With regards to "levelling up" different parts of the country, the public think it is most important that the Government addresses differences in people's economic prosperity (62% say this is *very* important).
- The majority of the public (77%) would support a social care visa for those who want to come and start working in social care in the UK.



# 3. The impact of Coronavirus and the public's response to it

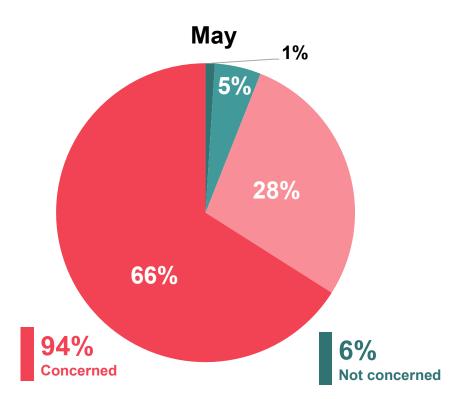


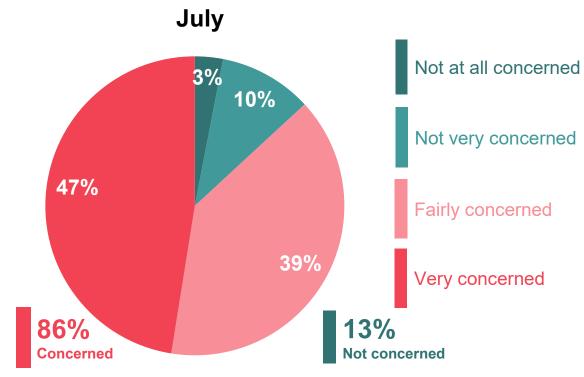
## Concern about Coronavirus has fallen since May, but remains extremely high

Concern about the risk that Coronavirus poses to the health and wellbeing of the nation remains high in July, with 86% concerned about it. However, this is a decrease from May, when 94% were concerned. Around one in ten (13%) say they are not concerned, a rise of seven percentage points since May (when only 6% were not concerned).

Q. How concerned are you, if at all, about the risk that each of the following poses to the health and wellbeing of the nation?

#### Coronavirus (COVID-19)

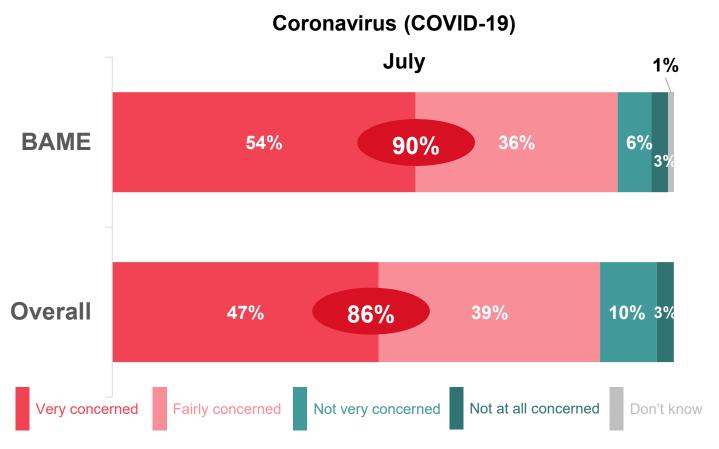






# People from a BAME background, women, older people and people in managerial, administrative and professional occupations are more likely to be concerned about the virus

Q. How concerned are you, if at all, about the risk that each of the following poses to the health and wellbeing of the nation?



**Ethnicity:** People from a BAME background are significantly more likely to be concerned about the risk that the virus poses to the health and wellbeing of the nation (90%, compared with 86% overall) and are significantly more likely to be 'very concerned' (54%, compared with 47% overall).

The following groups are also more concerned about the risk that Coronavirus poses to the health and wellbeing of the nation:

- Women: 91%, compared with 82% of men.
- People in older age groups: 90% of 45-54 year olds and 92% of those aged 65+, compared with 86% overall.
- People in managerial, administrative and professional occupations: 91%, compared with 86% overall.

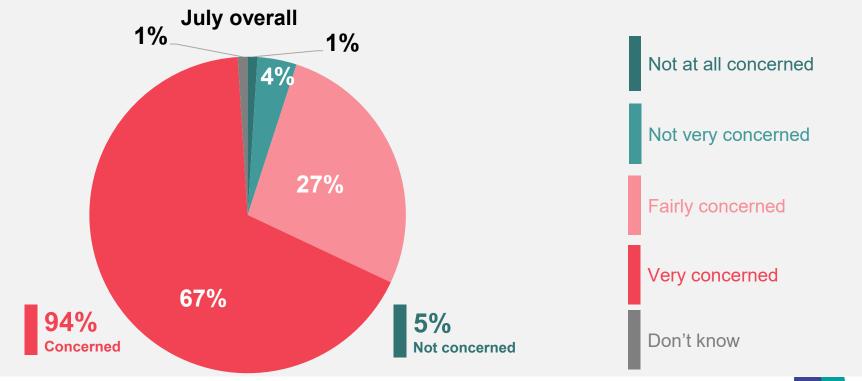


## Concern about the knock-on impact of Coronavirus on lifestyles and the economy is even higher than concern about the virus itself

Overall, the public are more concerned about the knock-on impact of Coronavirus (for example on lifestyles and the economy) on the health and wellbeing of the nation than the risk that the Coronavirus poses. While 94% are concerned about the knock-on impact, 86% are concerned about the impact of Coronavirus itself on the health and wellbeing of the nation.

Q. How concerned are you, if at all, about the risk that each of the following poses to the health and wellbeing of the nation?





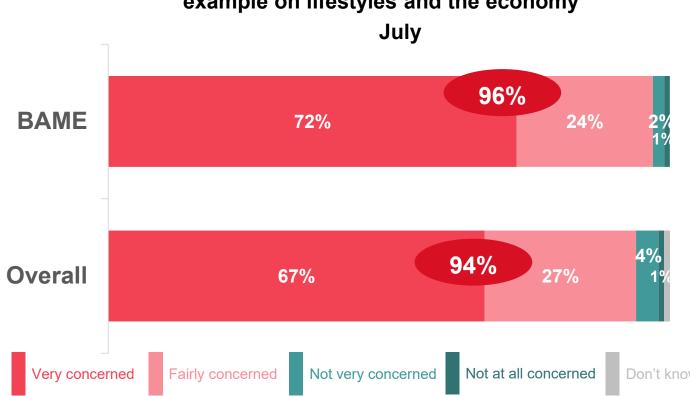
Base: July: All respondents (2,246), BAME respondents (423) (GB adults aged 18+, interviewed via telephone between 17th – 29th July 2020).



# And people from a BAME background are particularly likely to be 'very concerned' about the knock-on impact, along with women and people in managerial, administrative and professional occupations

Q. How concerned are you, if at all, about the risk that each of the following poses to the health and wellbeing of the nation?

The knock-on impact of Coronavirus (COVID-19), for example on lifestyles and the economy



**Ethnicity:** People from a BAME background are significantly more likely to be 'very concerned' about the knock-on impact of the virus (e.g. on lifestyles and the economy) on the health and wellbeing of the nation (72%, compared with 67% overall).

The following groups are also more concerned about the risk that the knock-of impact of Coronavirus poses to the health and wellbeing of the nation:

- Women: 95%, compared with 94% of men.
- People in managerial, administrative and professional occupations: 97%, compared with 94% overall.



## Since May, fewer people are finding it harder to do basic things such as getting medication and household goods

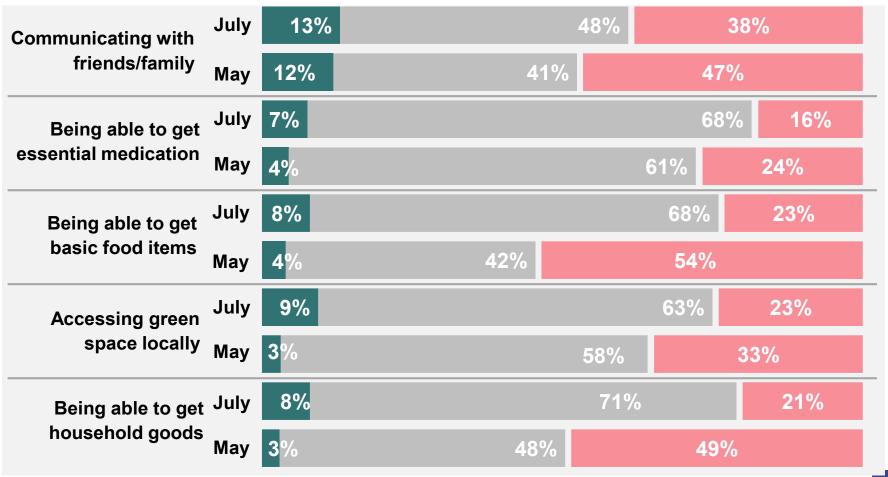
Q. At the moment, are you finding each of the following easier, harder or about the same compared with before the Coronavirus outbreak?

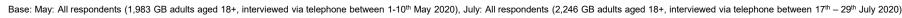
Much/a little easier

About the same A little/much harder

In general, the public is finding it about the same or easier to carry out many basic tasks as before the Coronavirus outbreak. Communicating with friends and family is the area that people find particularly difficult in comparison with before the pandemic (38% say this is now a little or much harder).

Doing basic things has become less difficult for people since May. For each task asked about, the public is now more likely to say they are finding it about the same as before the pandemic.







# Although there are differences among different groups, with younger people, those with disabilities and people from BAME backgrounds tending to find basic tasks harder

Younger people tend to be more likely to say basic tasks are more difficult now: For example, 28% of 18 to 24 year olds say it is harder to get household goods (compared with 20% overall), while 29% of 18 to 44 year olds say it is harder to access green space locally (compared with 23% overall). This could be linked to differing expectations.

People who have a long-term condition or disability are more likely to say many of the tasks are now more difficult: For example, 21% are finding it more difficult to access essential medications (compared with 15% of those with no long-term condition or disability) and 29% are finding it difficult to access basic food items (compared with 22%).

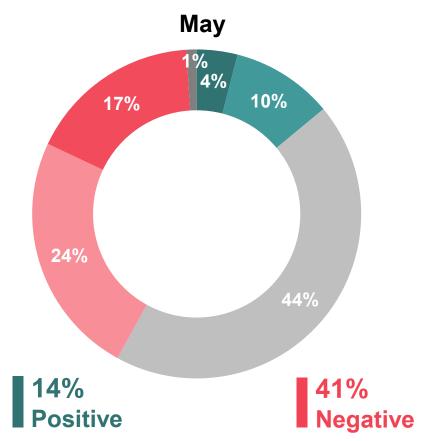
People from BAME backgrounds are more likely to find two of the basic tasks more difficult since the pandemic: Being able to get basic food items (28% of people from BAME backgrounds say this is harder now, compared with 23% overall) and being able to get basic household goods (25% compared with 20%).

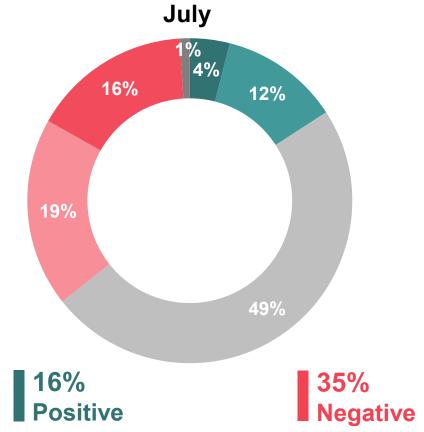


## The financial impacts of Coronavirus on people's income have improved slightly since May

Around half of the public (49%) report no impact on their income as a result of Coronavirus, while over a third report a negative impact on their income. However, fewer people in July report a negative impact on their income as a result of Coronavirus than in May (35%, compared with 41% in May).

Q. What impact has the Coronavirus outbreak had on your income, if any?

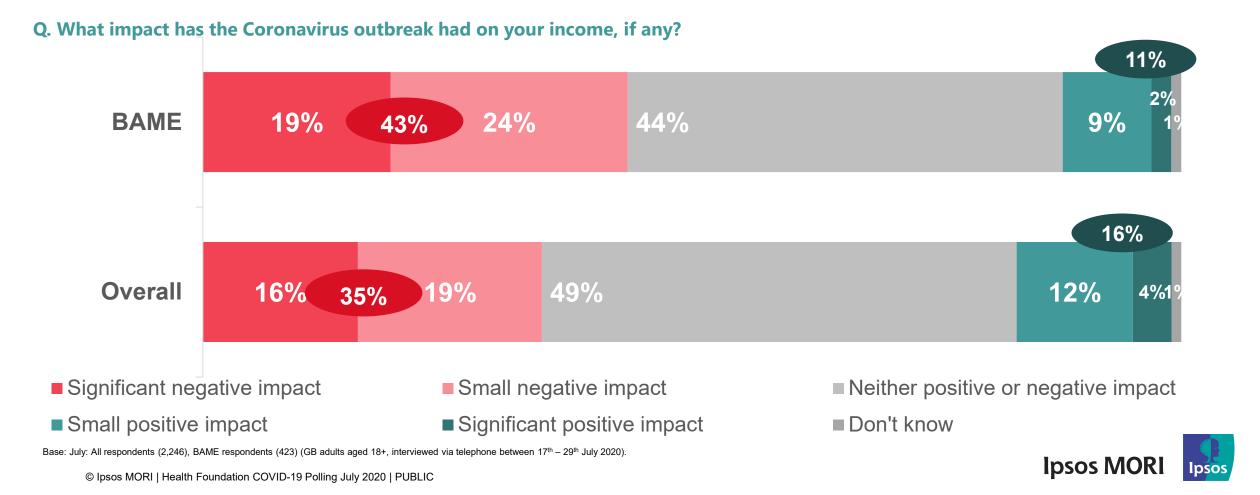






## However, Coronavirus is having a particularly negative financial impact on people from a BAME background

Just over two in five (43%) people from a BAME background report a negative impact on their income as a result of Coronavirus, compared with 35% overall. Other groups that are more likely to report a negative impact are: **young people** aged 18-24 (44%); **those aged 45 to 54** (41%); **routine and manual workers, state pensioners and the unemployed** (41%); and **Londoners** (44%).

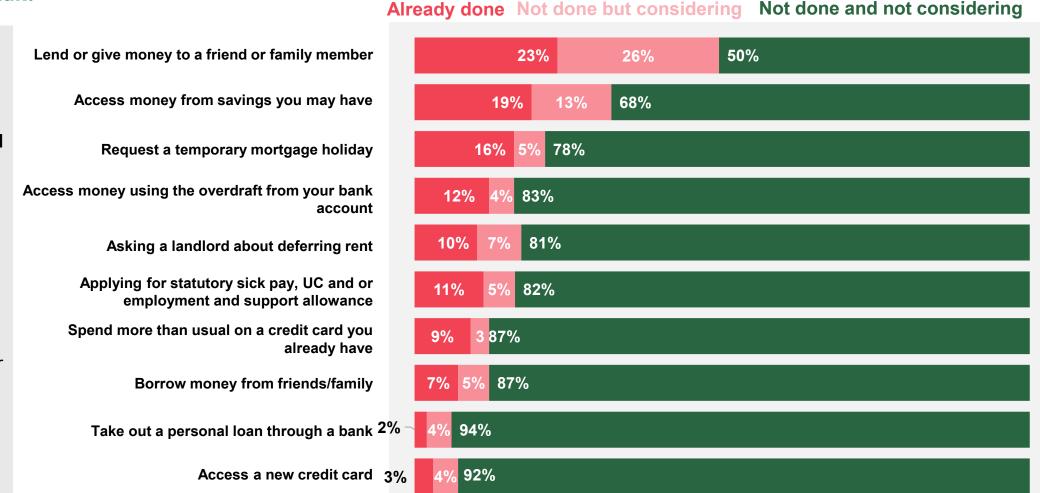


## The public are continuing to take a range of measures to address their financial situation as a result of Coronavirus

Q. Thinking about your current financial situation, have you done or are you considering any of the following due to the Coronavirus outbreak?

The most common measure taken as a result of Coronavirus has been to lend or give money to a friend or family member (23%, with a further 26% considering doing so).

Other more common measures are accessing savings (19% have done this) or requesting a temporary mortgage holiday (16% of those with a mortgage have done this).



#### There are some changes since May in financial measures taken

Q. Thinking about your current financial situation, have you done or are you considering any of the following due to the Coronavirus outbreak?

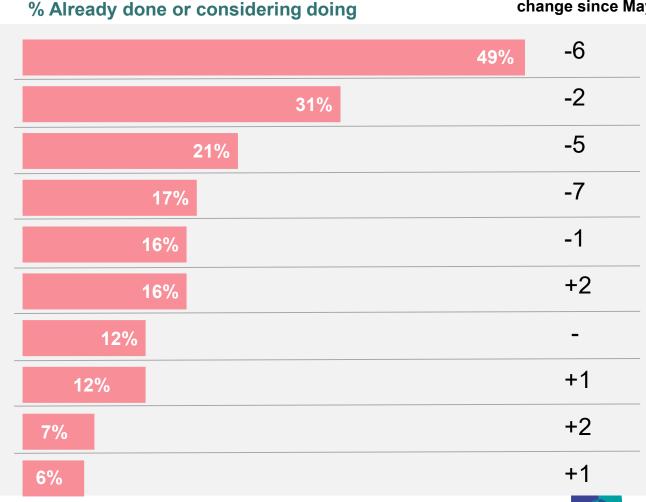
Percentage po

Percentage point change since May

In comparison with May, **more people have** lent or given money to a friend or family member (up from 20% to 23%), applied for welfare support (up from 9% to 11%) and borrowed money from family and friends (up from 5% to 7%).

Despite more having taken these measures, **fewer have**, **or are considering**: lending or giving money to a friend or family member (from 55% in May to 49% in July); requesting a temporary mortgage holiday (from 26% in May to 21% in July), or asking a landlord about deferring rent (from 24% in May to 17% in July).

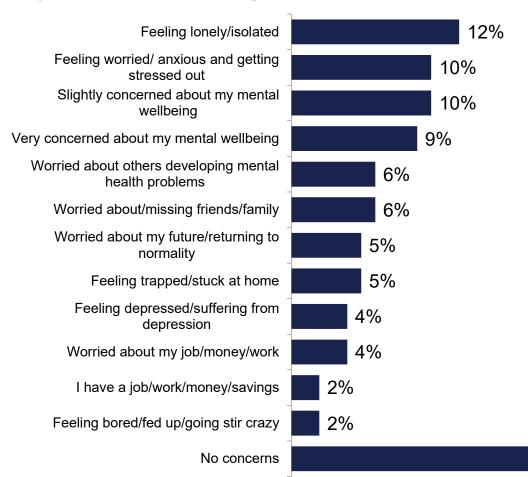






## Half of the public have concerns about the impact of the pandemic on their mental health, with loneliness the top concern

Q. Thinking about the current Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, what, if any concerns do you have about the impact on your mental wellbeing?



Half (50%) report no concerns about their mental health. This is unchanged since May (51%).

**Ethnicity:** People from a BAME background are less likely to say they have no concerns, with 40% saying this, compared with 50% overall.

Older people: Those aged 55-64 and 65+ are less likely to have concerns about their mental wellbeing, (55% of 55-64s and 58% of over 65s say they have no concerns about the impact of Coronavirus on their mental health, compared with 50% overall).

50%



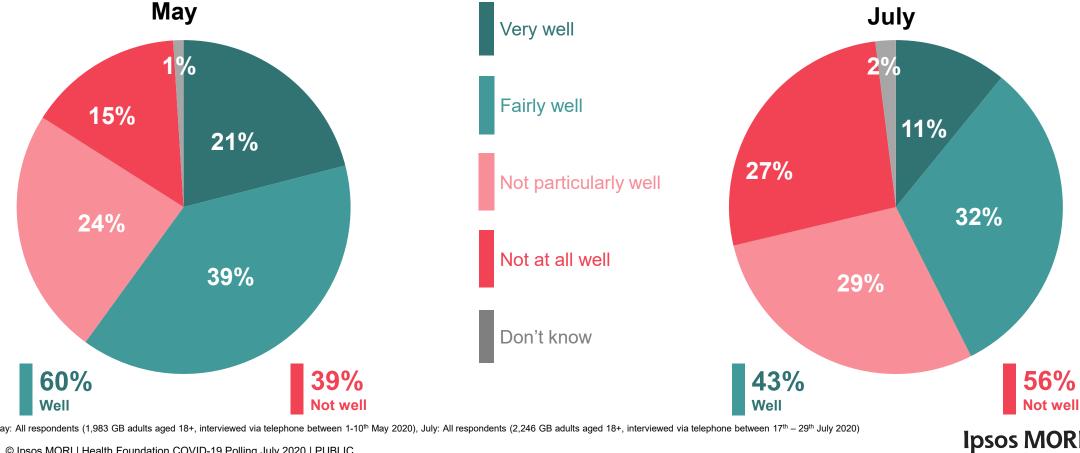
# 4. The Government's handling of the Coronavirus crisis



#### A majority of the public think that the Government has not handled the Coronavirus outbreak well

Over half (56%) of the public think that the Government has not handled the Coronavirus outbreak well, with around four in ten (43%) believing the Government has handled it well. Approval of the Government's handling has fallen considerably since May, with 60% believing the Government was handling the Coronavirus outbreak well in May, compared with 43% saying this in July.

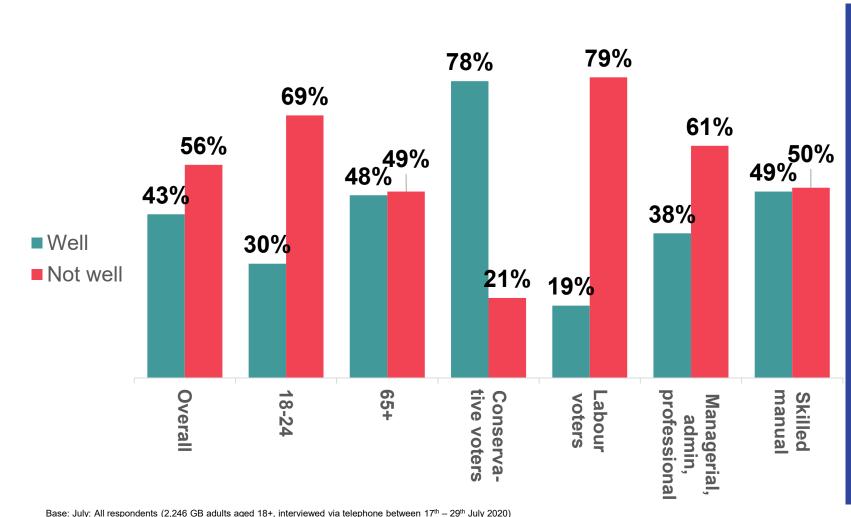
#### Q. Overall, how well, if at all do you think the UK Government has handled the Coronavirus outbreak so far?





## There are demographic variations in how people rate the Government's handling of the Coronavirus outbreak

Q. Overall, how well, if at all do you think the UK Government has handled the Coronavirus outbreak so far?



Those aged 65+ are more likely to believe the Government has handled Coronavirus well (48% vs 43% overall). Conversely younger people (18-24) are less likely to think the Government has handled Coronavirus well, with only 30% of people aged 18-24 thinking this (compared with 43% overall).

Those in managerial, administrative and professional jobs are also less likely to think the Government has handled the outbreak well (38% vs 43% overall), while skilled manual workers are more positive, with 49% thinking it has been handled well (vs. 43% overall).

As would be expected, there is a divide along political lines, with four in five (78%)

Conservative voters believing the

Government has handled the outbreak well, compared with just 19% of Labour voters.

lpsos MOR



## And half think that the Government measures have not gone far enough, a significant increase since May

Half of the public (50%) think that the measures the Government has taken do not go far enough and more should be done. This has increased significantly since May, when 37% thought the measures did not go far enough. People from a **BAME background are less likely to believe that the measures taken are about right** (33%, compared with 40% overall). The following groups are more likely than overall (50%) to believe that the measures do not go far enough: those in **London** (56%); **women** (52%); **younger people aged 18-24** (59%).

Q. When thinking about the different measures the Government has taken so far in order to tackle the Coronavirus outbreak, which of the following statements comes closest to your view?



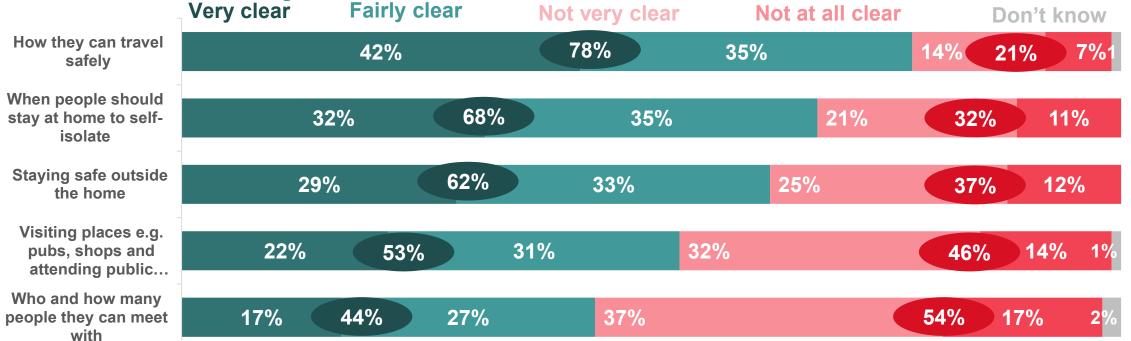
Base: May: All respondents (1,983 GB adults aged 18+, interviewed via telephone between 1-10th May 2020), July: All respondents (2,246 GB adults aged 18+, interviewed via telephone between 17th – 29th July 2020



## The clarity of the Government's current official guidance varies, with advice on meeting with other people particularly unclear

Nearly four in five (78%) think **the Government's guidance on travelling safely is clear**, while around two-thirds also think the guidance on self-isolation (68%) and staying safe outside the home (62%) is clear. However, significant minorities think the advice is not clear (for example, 46% think the guidance on visiting places safely is not clear) and a majority of 54% think the guidance around **who and how many people they can meet with is** *not* **clear**. Across all the advice, older people aged 65+, women and routine and manual workers, state pensioners and the unemployed are generally more likely to think the advice is clear, while men, those in professional, administrative and managerial jobs and younger people are less likely to think the advice is clear.

Q30N. Please think now about the Government's current official guidance for the public. How clear, if at all, do you think the official guidance is on each of the following areas?

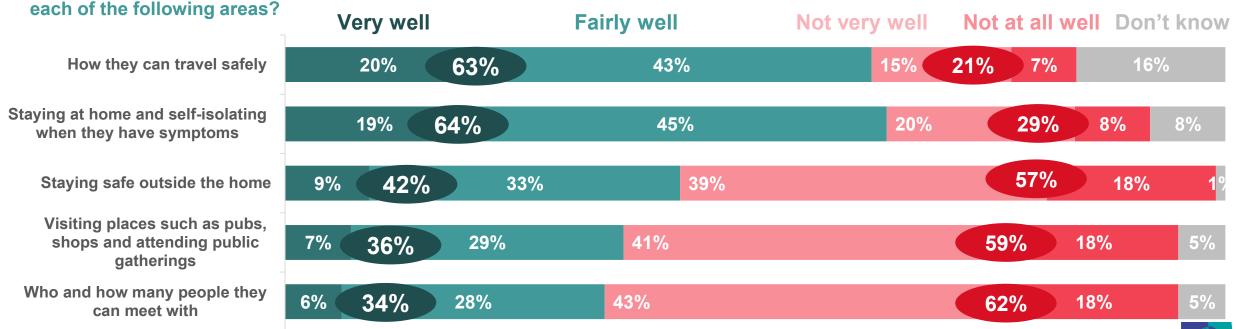




## And the public are sceptical that other people are following parts of the Government's advice

Generally, there is scepticism among the public that other people are following parts of the Government's advice. Around three in five think that other people are not following Government advice on visiting places such as pubs (59%) and advice on who and how many people they can meet with (62%). The public are more positive about other people travelling safely and self-isolating, with 63% and 64% respectively believing others are following this advice well. Across the different types of advice generally, those in professional, administrative and managerial jobs, men and younger people (18-34) are more likely to think that people are following the advice well, while women and older people are less likely to think people are following the advice well.

Q31N.And how well, if at all, do you think that people generally are following the official Government guidance on

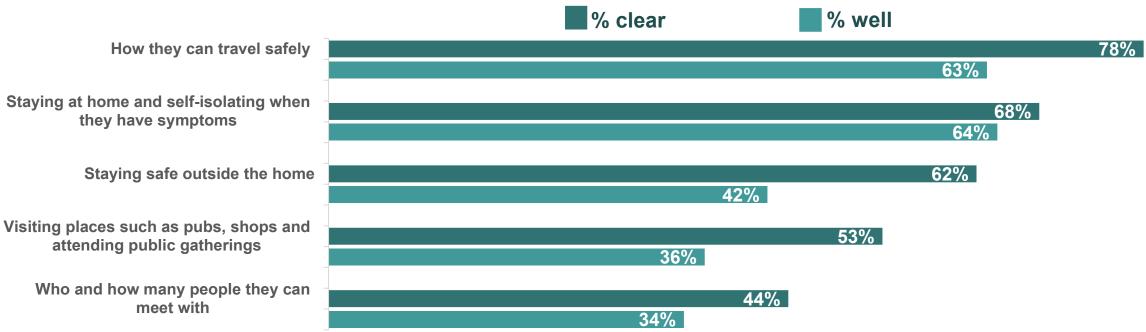




## There is correlation between how clear the guidance is and how well people are thought to be following it

For each piece of guidance, people are more likely to say the advice is clear than to say they think other people are following it well. There is a strong correlation between the proportion of people saying that the Government guidance is clear, and the proportion saying that people are following this advice well. For example, while just over two thirds (68%) believe that the advice on when to stay at home and self-isolate is clear, around the same proportion (64%) believe that other people are following this advice well. This suggests that greater clarity may aid adherence to the guidance.

Q. How clear, if at all, do you think the official guidance is on each of the following areas? / And how well, if at all, do you think that people generally are following the official Government guidance on each of the following areas?





# 5. Contact tracing via a smartphone app or the NHS Test and Trace programme

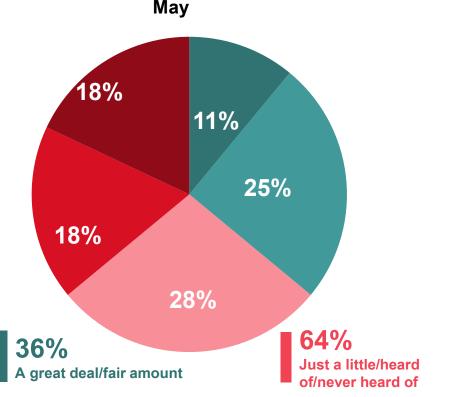


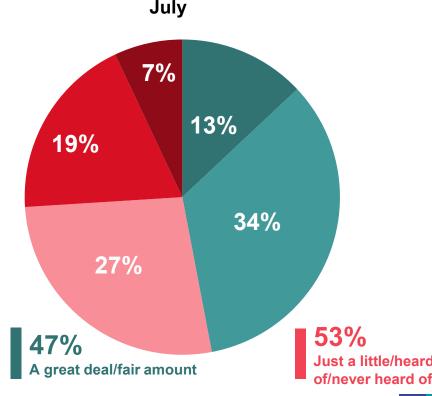
## Awareness of the Government app has increased, but over half still know only a little or nothing about it

Participants were told about the Coronavirus contact tracing app that the Government is developing and asked how aware they were of the app. Over half (53%) say they know just a little, nothing about it or have never heard of the app. However, since May there has been an increase in those knowing a great deal or fair amount about the app (rising from 36% to 47%).

Q31. Before now, how much did you know about Government plans to use a smartphone app?



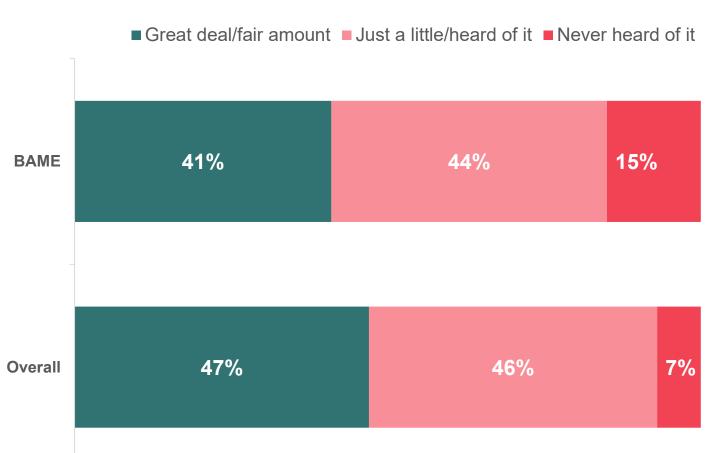






# People from a BAME background, women, the youngest and oldest age groups, and routine and skilled manual workers, pensioners and the unemployed have lower awareness of the app

Q31. Before now, how much did you know about Government plans to use a smartphone app?



**Ethnicity:** People from a **BAME background seem to know less about the app**, with 41% saying they know a great deal or fair amount, compared with 47% overall.

The following groups are also less likely to say know a great deal or fair amount about the app:

**Women:** 42% say they know a great deal or fair amount about the app, compared with 54% of men.

**People in the youngest and oldest age groups:** Only 36% of 18 to 24 year olds and 43% of those aged 65 and over say they know a great deal or fair amount about the app (compared with 47% overall).

**Socio-economic differences**: Just 33% of routine and manual workers, state pensioners and the unemployed say they know a great deal or fair amount (compared with 47% overall), while awareness is also lower among skilled manual workers (41% know a great deal or fair amount).

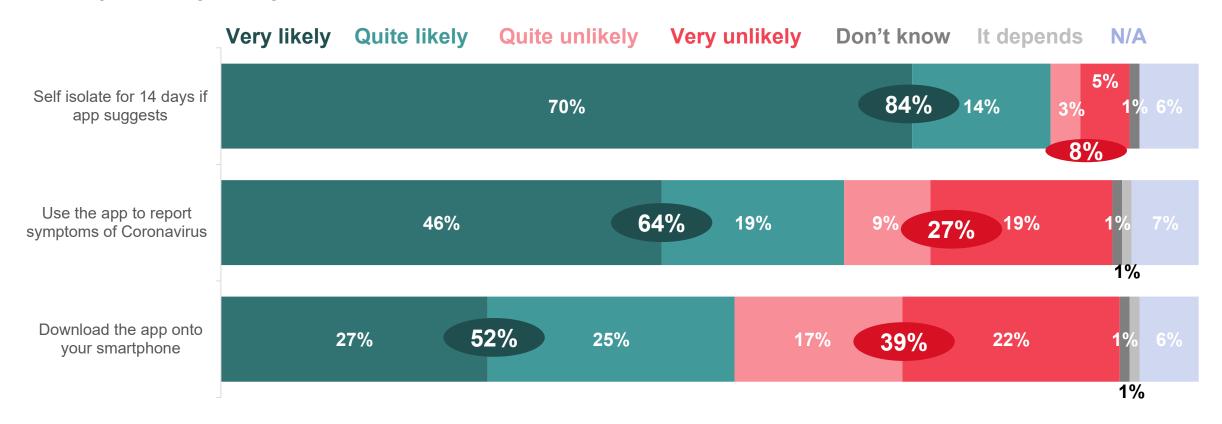
Base: July: All respondents (2,246), BAME respondents (423) (GB adults aged 18+, interviewed via telephone between 17<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> July 2020)



#### Around half report to be likely to download the contacttracing app

Although a majority say they would download the app (52%), a large minority say they are unlikely to download the app (39%). Over four in five (84%) are likely to self-isolate if the app suggests, while two-thirds (64%) would use the app to report symptoms.

#### How likely or unlikely would you be to ...?

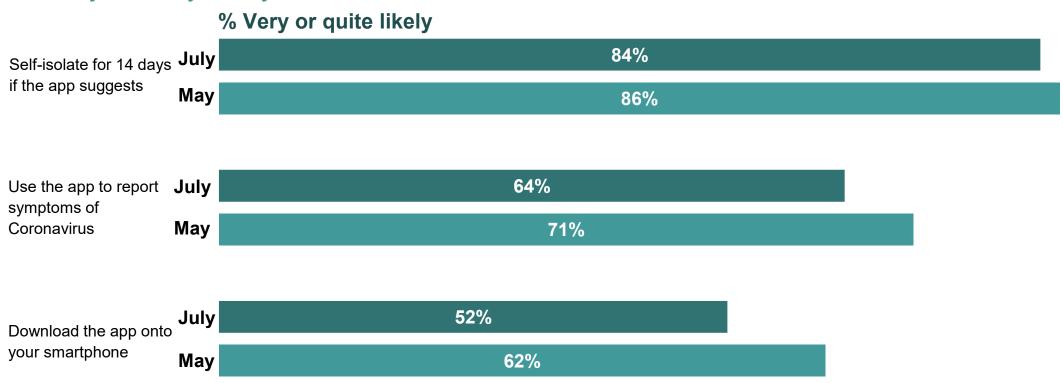




## And there has been a fall in those saying they are likely to download the app, or use it to report symptoms

The public is less likely to say that they would download the app now than in May. Only around half (52%) say they would, compared with 62% in May. Similarly, they are less likely to say they would use the app to report symptoms of Coronavirus (down from 71% in May to 64% in July). This fall in people engaging with the app could be explained by the fact that the survey in July was conducted against a context of a loosening of restrictions and falling concern about the pandemic, perhaps translating into lower willingness to take action.

#### How likely or unlikely would you be to ...?

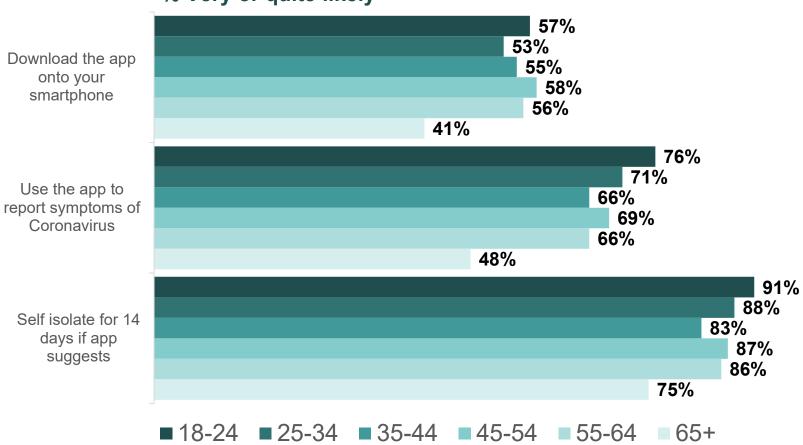




#### There are variations between age groups in likelihood to download and use the app, and likelihood to self-isolate

How likely or unlikely would you be to...?





Younger people (18-24) are more likely to say they would download the app, use the app and self-isolate for 14 days, while in general, the oldest age groups (65+) is least likely to say they would download the app, use the app and self-isolate for 14 days (largely because they are less likely to own a smartphone – 21% do not, compared with 6% overall).

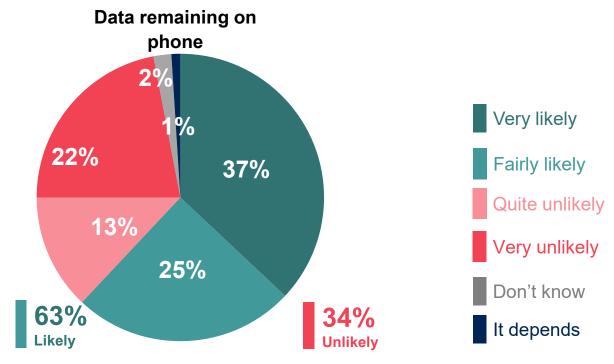
**Socio-economic groups:** People in professional, administrative and management roles are more likely to say they would download the app, report symptoms and self-isolate if the app suggests.

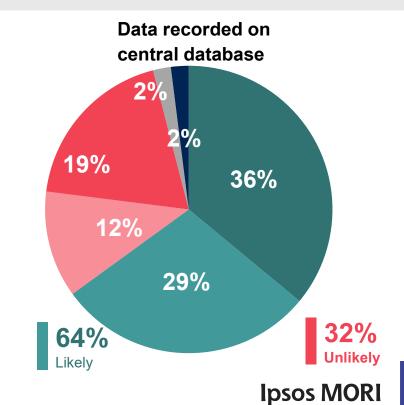
**Education:** People with no formal qualifications or GCSE or equivalent qualifications are least likely to say they would download the app (31% and 47% respectively say they would, compared with 52% overall).



#### Around two thirds say they are likely to download a contact tracing app, whether a decentralised or centralised version

The survey asked about two different approaches to a contact tracing app, a decentralised version that would keep anonymised data linking the user to other app users on the user's phone, and a centralised version which would collect anonymised data linking the user to other app users and record this on a central database. Half of the survey participants were asked about the decentralised version, while the other half were asked about the centralised version. There was no significant difference in reported likelihood of downloading the app between the decentralised and centralised versions. Nearly two-thirds say they would be likely to download either app (63% and 64%) respectively), while around one-third would be unlikely to download them (34% and 32% respectively).





Base: July: All valid respondents (Q34N 1040, Q35N 1020 GB adults aged 18+, interviewed via telephone between 17th - 29th July 2020)

## Those in managerial, administrative or professional jobs are more likely to say they would download the app

**Older people:** Older people aged 65 and over are particularly unlikely to say they would download the centralised app (56% say they would, compared with 64% overall).

**Socio-economic status:** Those working in **managerial, administrative or professional jobs** are significantly more likely to say they would download each version of the app (74% would download the version in which data is recorded on a central database, and 70% the version in which data remains on the user's phone, compared with 64% and 63% overall respectively).

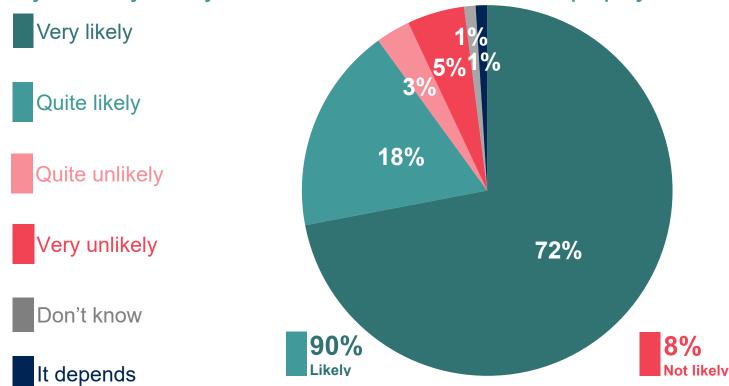
**Voting intention: Conservative voters** are more likely than overall to say they would download the version in which data is recorded on a central database (73%, compared with 64% overall).



### There are few reservations about sharing contact details as part of the NHS Test and Trace programme

The NHS Test and Trace system will rely on people sharing contact details of those they have come into contact with, so they can be contacted by an NHS contact tracer (without identifying the person who gave the contact details). **Nine in ten (90%) report that they would be likely to share contact details** with a contact tracer.

Q32N. How likely or unlikely would you be to share the contact details of the people you have been in close contact with?

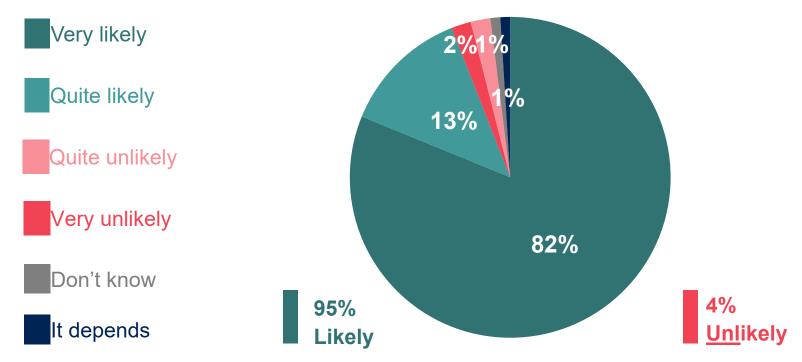




#### Similarly, people overwhelmingly report that they would be likely to self-isolate if asked to by a contact tracer

Almost all (95%) report that they would be likely to self-isolate if asked to by a contact tracer. This figure is higher than those saying they would be likely to self-isolate if the app suggests they need to (84%), indicating that a human contact tracing system will be more effective than an app at ensuring people self-isolate when needed – albeit that both have high rates of hypothetical adherence.

Q33N. And how likely or unlikely would you be to self-isolate for 14 days at home if you were asked to by an NHS contact tracer?





# 6. The public's experience and views of the NHS

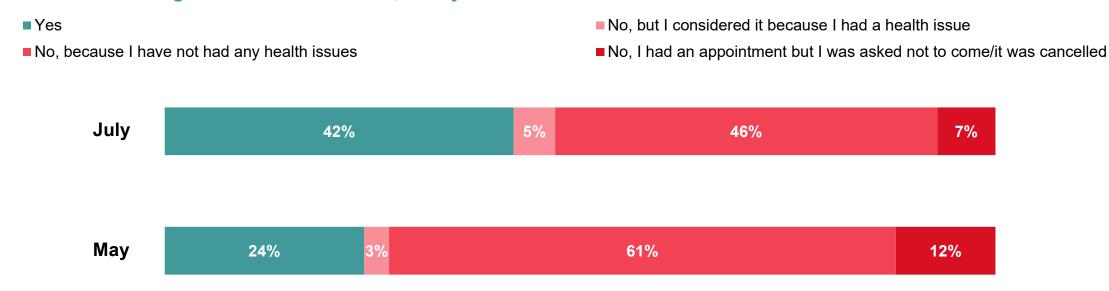


#### More of the public have used health services than in May

Around two fifths (42%) of the public have used a health service since the Government introduced lockdown in response to Coronavirus. This is a greater proportion compared with those asked this question in May (where only 24% had used a health service), though this is to be expected given that more time has passed since lockdown was introduced). However, the majority of the public continue to report that they have not used a health service since lockdown (58%), mostly due to not having any health issues (46%).

The **impact of Coronavirus on use of health services appears to be lessening**: in July seven per cent of the public had an appointment cancelled/were asked not to come, a decrease compared with 12% of people reporting this in May. However, in July five per cent considered using a service for a health issue but decided not to, an increase compared with three per cent in May.

#### Q. Since lockdown began on the 23rd of March, have you used a health service?

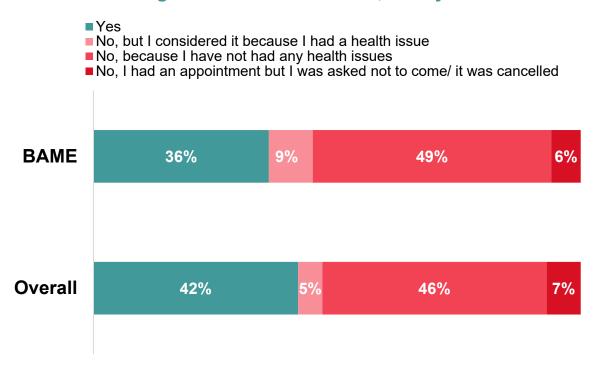




# However, people from BAME backgrounds are less likely to report using health services

Although overall use of health services has increased, people from BAME backgrounds are less likely to report using a health service (36%, compared with 42% overall). In addition, more people from BAME backgrounds considered using a service for a health issue but decided not to (nine per cent compared with five per cent overall). This finding is important given the known increased impact of Coronavirus on BAME communities, and suggests that access to health services could exacerbate health inequalities for BAME groups.

#### Q. Since lockdown began on the 23rd of March, have you used a health service?



There are some other differences in the profile of people who reported using health services.

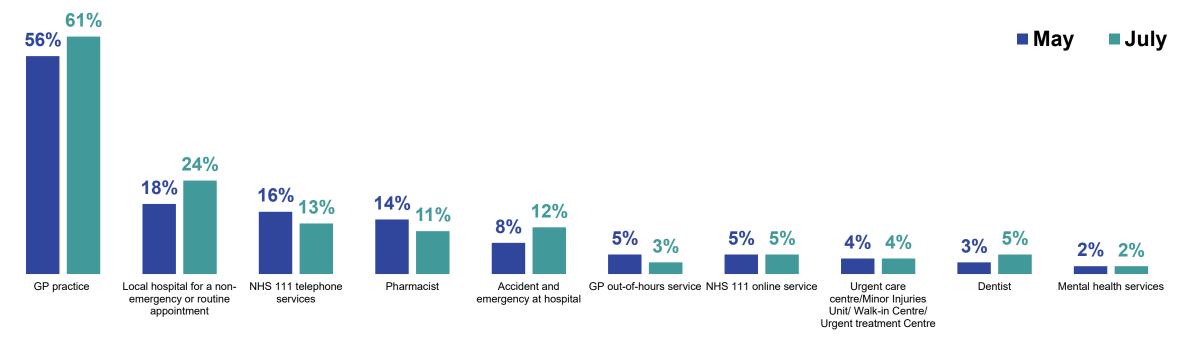
- Women are more likely to have used a health service (50%, compared to 34% of men). However, men are less likely to have needed to use a health service for any issues: 55% did not have any health issues compared to 38% of women.
- Some groups are more likely to have an appointment cancelled/be asked not to attend: overall seven per cent reported this, compared with 10% of those aged 65+, 12% of those with a disability and nine per cent of those who had a flu jab. These groups were also more likely to have used a health service.



# The public continue to most commonly access their GP practice or local hospital

Of those who accessed a health service since lockdown began, almost two-thirds used their GP practice (61%) and one in five accessed their local hospital (24%). Comparing results between May and July, the public are more likely to report accessing frontline services: 12% report accessing A&E (compared with eight per cent) in May, and 24% reporting accessing their local hospital for a routine appointment (compared with 20% in May). Looking at people from BAME backgrounds who accessed a health service since lockdown began, they are less likely to report accessing their GP practice (51% compared with 61% overall) and more likely to use NHS 111 telephone services (26% compared with 13% overall).

#### Q. Which health service did you use?



Base: May: All respondents who used a health service since lockdown began (486 GB adults aged 18+, interviewed via telephone between 1-10<sup>th</sup> May 2020), July: All respondents who used a health service since lockdown began (945 GB adults aged 18+, interviewed via telephone between 17<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> July 2020)

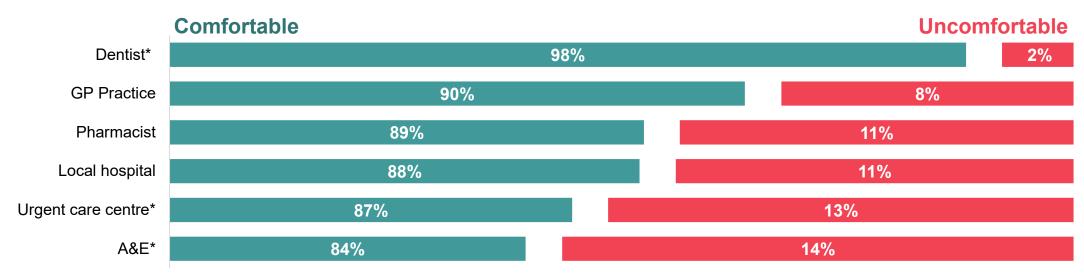


# Where people accessed services, the majority felt comfortable doing so

The **majority of people felt comfortable when they accessed health services**, though there was some variation depending on the service used. People were most likely to report feeling comfortable using their dentist or GP practice, and less likely to report feeling comfortable using "frontline services" such as their local hospital, urgent care centre or A&E.

Comparing results from July with May, where people accessed services they were generally more comfortable doing so: 90% were comfortable accessing their GP practice (compared with 84% in May), 84% were comfortable accessing A&E (compared with 70% in May) and 88% were comfortable accessing their local hospital (compared with 78% in May).

#### Q. How comfortable or uncomfortable did you feel using that part of the health service?



<sup>\*</sup>Please treat results with caution due to low base size <100.



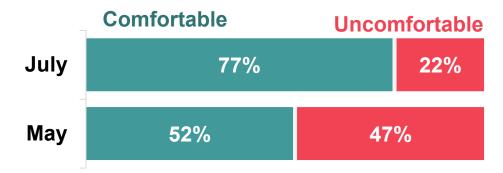
### The public would also now feel more comfortable if they needed to use health services over the next 3-4 weeks

All participants were asked how comfortable they would feel using their local hospital or local GP service if they needed treatment over the next 3-4 weeks. Overall, the public would now feel more comfortable if they needed to use health services.

Around three-quarters (77%) report they would be comfortable accessing a hospital, a significant increase from 52% in May. Similarly, almost nine in ten (89%) report they would be comfortable accessing a local GP service, up from 78% in May.

For both services, a minority reported feeling uncomfortable, and this percentage has decreased. For example, in July only one in five (22%) would feel uncomfortable accessing their local hospital, whereas in May, a sizeable minority of respondents would have felt uncomfortable accessing their local hospital (47%).

Q. If you developed a health issue that you felt needed treatment over the next 3-4 weeks, how comfortable or not would you feel using your <u>local hospital if necessary?</u>



Q. If you developed a health issue that you felt needed treatment over the next 3-4 weeks, how comfortable or not would you feel using your <u>local GP service if necessary</u>?





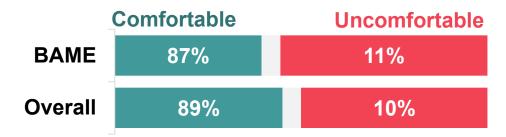
# However, people from a BAME background would feel less comfortable using a local hospital

People from BAME backgrounds report feeling less comfortable if they needed to use a hospital (70% would feel comfortable, compared with 77% overall). The majority of people from a BAME background say they would be comfortable using a GP practice (87%) which is in line with the overall figure (89%). However, fewer BAME people would be *very* comfortable (41%, compared with 52% overall).

Q. If you developed a health issue that you felt needed treatment over the next 3-4 weeks, how comfortable or not would you feel using your <u>local hospital if necessary?</u>



Q. If you developed a health issue that you felt needed treatment over the next 3-4 weeks, how comfortable or not would you feel using your <u>local GP service if necessary</u>?



Some other groups are also **more likely to feel uncomfortable accessing their local hospital**: those aged 65+ (25%) and those with a disability (34%). In contrast, males continue to report feeling more comfortable accessing their local hospital (80%, compared with 77% overall).

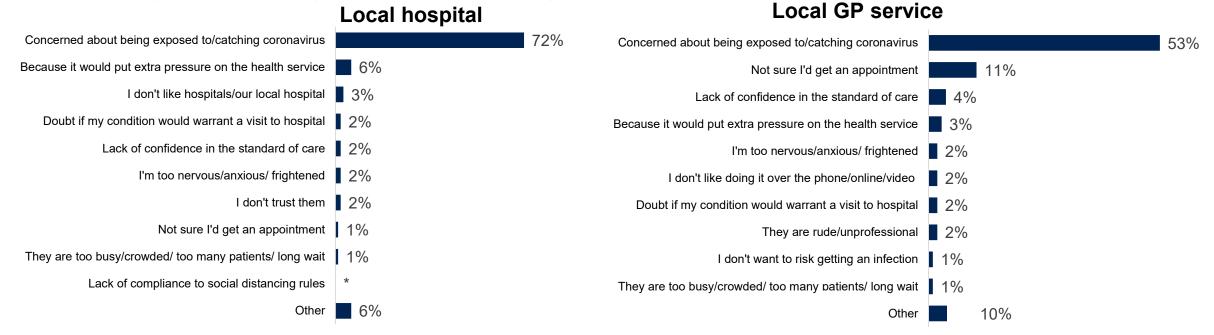
There is less variation around how comfortable people would feel accessing their GP practice, with the majority of people across subgroups reporting they would be comfortable. However, those with a disability are more likely to report they would feel uncomfortable accessing their local GP (16% compared with 10% overall).



### Where people are uncomfortable accessing services, this is largely due to concern about Coronavirus exposure

For those who feel uncomfortable accessing either their local hospital or local GP service, the overwhelming concern is fear of being exposed to Coronavirus. Three quarters of participants (72%) would feel uncomfortable visiting their local hospital due to this. Although there is less concern of Coronavirus exposure for those uncomfortable accessing their GP service, over half (53%) report this reason. This level of concern is consistent across subgroups – people from BAME backgrounds are slightly more concerned about being exposed to Coronavirus in their local hospital (78% compared with 72% overall). In addition, around 6% of participants would not feel comfortable accessing their local hospital because it would put extra pressure on the health service. Around one in ten (11%) would not feel comfortable accessing their GP service because they are not sure they'd get an appointment.

#### Q. You said that you would feel very/quite uncomfortable. Why is that?



Base: July: GB adults aged 18+, interviewed via telephone between 17<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> July 2020: all respondents who said they would feel uncomfortable using their local hospital (509), all respondents who said they would feel uncomfortable using their local GP service (233)

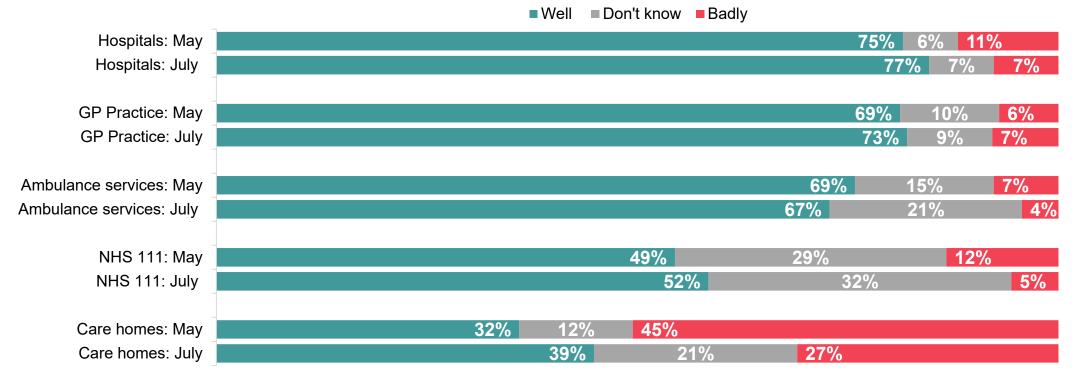


### Health services are perceived to be managing well overall

Taking everything into account, **the public think that most health services are managing well at the moment**, with a majority reporting that hospitals, GP practices and ambulances services are managing well (77%, 73% and 67% respectively). Around half of people (52%) think that NHS 111 is managing well.

Fewer people think that care homes are managing well (39%) – this has increased since May, when 32% thought care homes were managing well. However, the public is less likely to give an opinion (21% say they don't know, compared with 12% in May).

Q. Taking into account everything you have seen, how well or badly are each of the following services managing at this moment in time...





# However, there are differences in perceptions of health services between groups

**People from BAME backgrounds** are less likely to think hospitals are managing well (69%, compared with 77% overall) and less likely to think care homes are doing well (32%, compared with 39% overall).

Women have a more optimistic view of some services: 75% of women think GP surgeries are managing well (compared with 71% of men), 55% think that NHS 111 is managing well (compared with 49% of men), and 41% think care homes are managing well (compared with 36% of men).

There is no notable pattern of differences by age, though those aged 65+ are more likely to think care homes are doing well (44%, compared with 39% overall). Younger people are more likely to think NHS 111 is doing well (65% of those aged 18-24 and 64% of those aged 25-34, compared with 52% overall).

Those working in managerial, administrative or professional jobs are more positive about how several services are performing (61% think NHS 111 is doing well, 75% think ambulance services are managing well; 78% think GP surgeries are doing well; 45% think care homes are doing well).



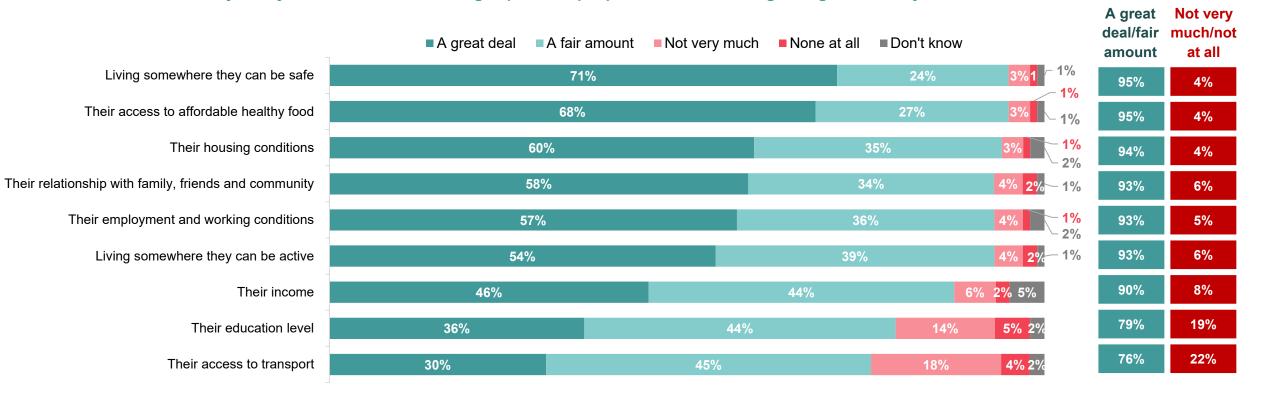
# 7. The public's views of health inequalities



### The public think living somewhere safe has the greatest impact on people's chances of living a long and healthy life

The two areas seen to have the greatest impact on people's chances of living a long and healthy life are **living somewhere they can be safe** (71% think this has a great deal of impact) and **having access to affordable**, **healthy food** (68% think this has a great deal of impact). Education level and access to transport are seen to have the smallest impact (36% and 30% respectively think these have a great deal of impact).

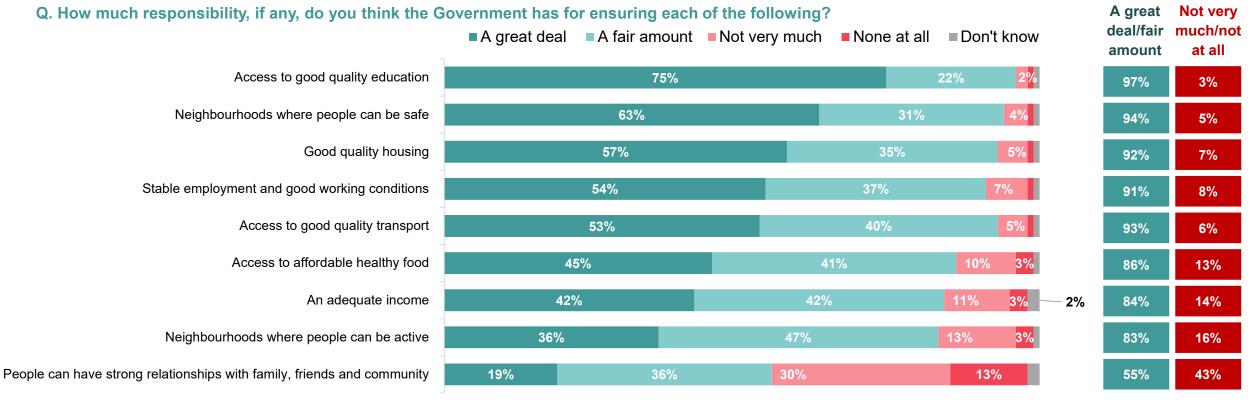
Q. To what extent would you say that each of the following impacts on people's chances of living a long and healthy life?





### The Government has greatest responsibility for education and ensuring safe neighbourhoods

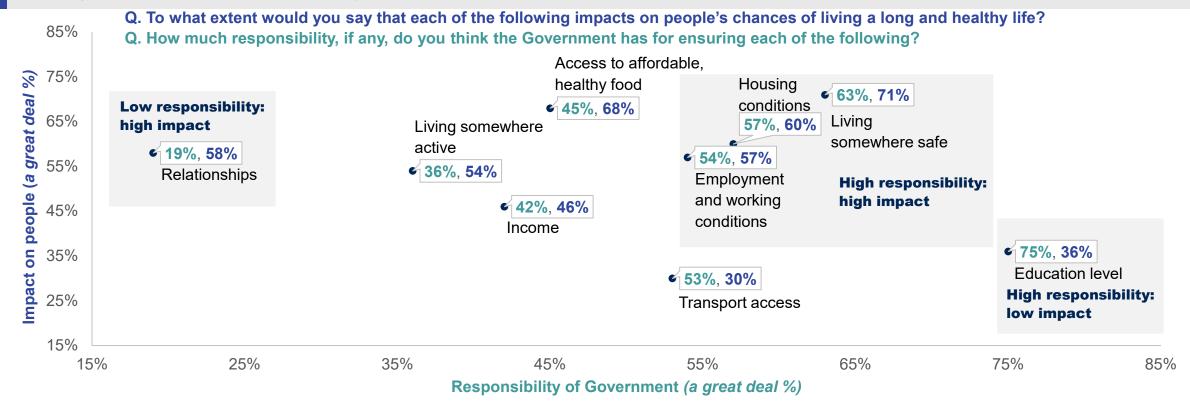
Although education is seen as having less impact on people's chances of living a long and healthy life, this is the area where the public think the Government has greatest responsibility: 75% think the Government has a great deal of responsibility to ensure access to a good quality education. Around two thirds of the public (63%) think the Government has a great deal of responsibility for ensuring safe neighbourhoods, in addition to thinking this has the great impact on people's chances of living a long and healthy life. **People think the** Government has far less responsibility for ensuring people can have a strong relationship with friends, family and community (19% think the Government has a great deal of responsibility).





### Good housing conditions, stable employment, safe neighbourhoods are considered both impactful, and areas of greater Government responsibility

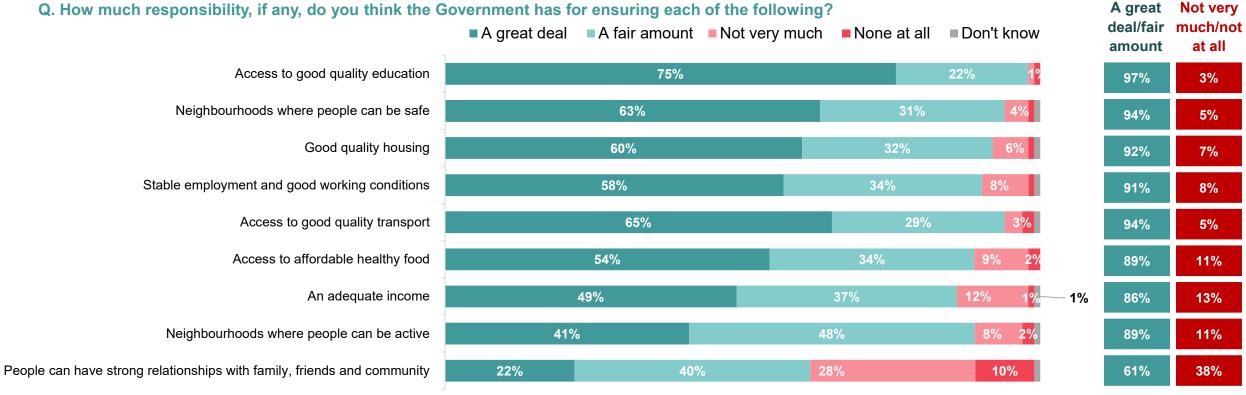
Areas of both relatively high perceived impact and Government responsibility are living somewhere safe, housing conditions, and employment and working conditions. As mentioned, although education is seen as having less impact on people's chances of living a long and healthy life, this is the area where the public think the Government has greatest responsibility. In contrast, strong relationships are seen to have a great impact, but low responsibility for the Government.





### In general, people from BAME backgrounds are more likely to think it is important for the Government to address areas of inequality

People from BAME backgrounds are more likely to think the Government have a great deal of responsibility to ensure access to good quality transport (65% of people from BAME backgrounds compared with 53% overall), and that access to transport would have a great deal of impact on people's chances of living a long/healthy life (40% compared with 30%). People from BAME backgrounds are also more likely to think the Government is responsible for ensuring access to affordable healthy food (54% compared with 45%), an adequate income (49% compared with 42%), and neighbourhoods where people can be active (41% compared with 36% overall). In addition, compared with the overall results, people from BAME backgrounds are more likely to think that income has a great deal of impact (46%, compared with 56%), but are less likely to think living somewhere safe has a great deal of impact (66% compared with 71%). In a number of areas, females and those working in managerial, administrative or professional jobs are more likely to think these areas have an impact on people's chances of living a long and healthy life.

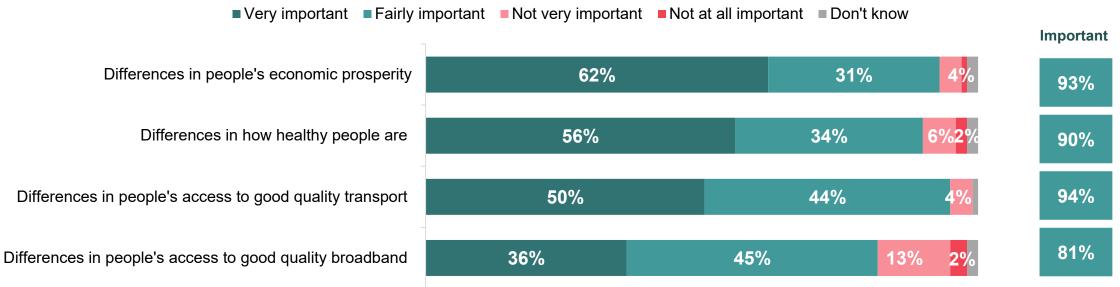




#### The public think it is most important that the Government addresses differences in people's economic prosperity

The Government has made a commitment to addressing regional inequalities in the UK, to try to 'level up' different parts of the country. All participants were asked for their views on how important it is for the Government to address inequalities in several areas. It is most important to the public that the Government addresses differences in people's economic prosperity, for example job opportunities and income disparities (62% say this is *very* important), followed by differences in how healthy people are (56% say this is very important) and differences in people's access to good quality transport (50% say this is very important). It is less important to the public that the Government addresses differences in access to good quality broadband: although 81% think this is important, only around one-third (36%) think it is *very* important.

#### Q. How important do you think it is, if at all, that the Government addresses inequalities in the following areas?







# 8. The public's views on immigration reform and social care



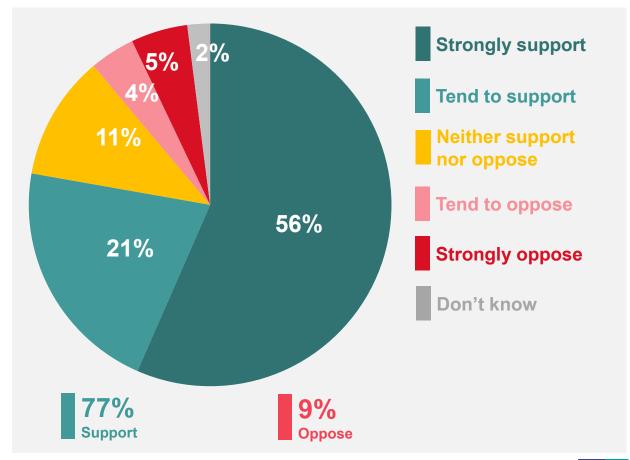
### The public support a social care visa for those who want start working in social care in the UK

A new points-based immigration system will be put in place in January 2021. Under the current plans, people living in the EU are unlikely to be able to come to the UK to work in social care, for example working in care homes or caring for people in their own homes. Some people have suggested there could be a social care visa, which would make it easier for international workers in the social care sector to work in the UK.

Three-quarters of the public (77%) would support a social care visa (56% strongly support and 21% tend to support), and a minority would oppose (9%).

This support is consistent across most demographic groups, including people from BAME backgrounds. However, those working in managerial, administrative or professional jobs are more likely to support a social care visa (84%, compared with 77% overall). In addition, those who would vote Labour or Liberal Democrats are more likely to show support (86% and 88% respectively), compared with 74% of Conservative voters who would support this.

Q. To what extent would you support or oppose a social care visa for those who want to come and start working in social care in the UK?

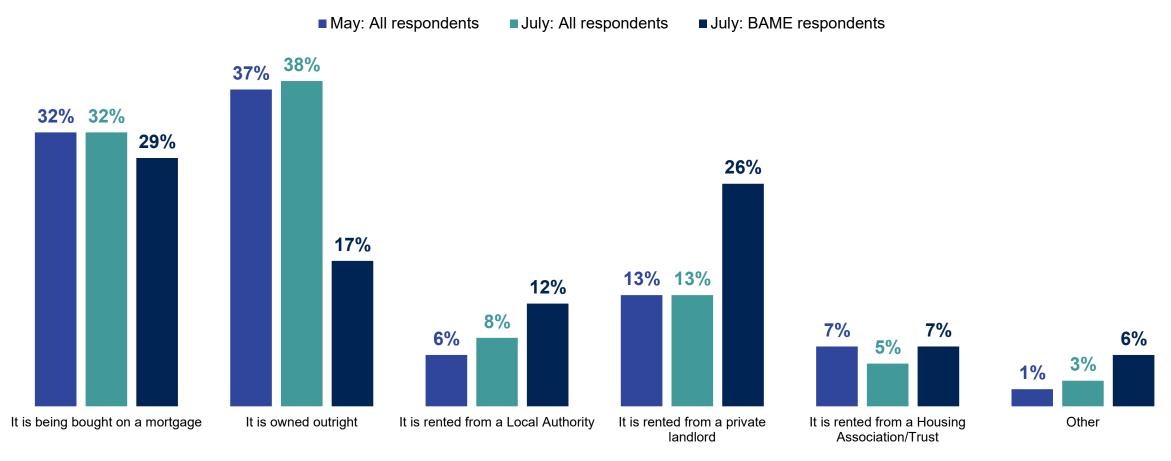


### **Demographics**



# The majority own their home outright or are paying for a mortgage, whilst fewer currently rent

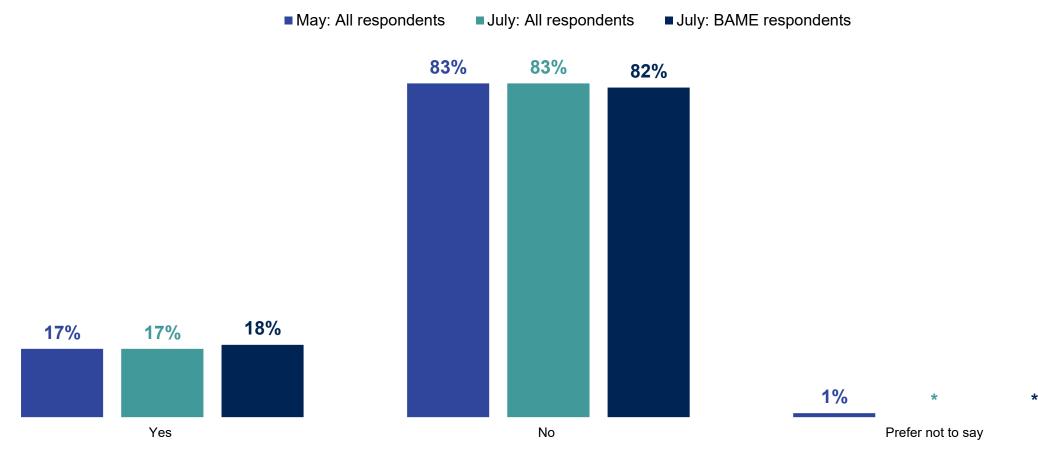
Q. Which of these applies to your home?

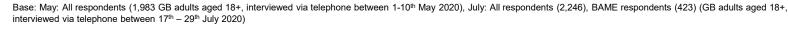




#### Nearly one in five have a long-term health condition

Q. Are your day-to-day activities limited because of a health problem or disability which has lasted, or is it expected to last, at least 12 months?

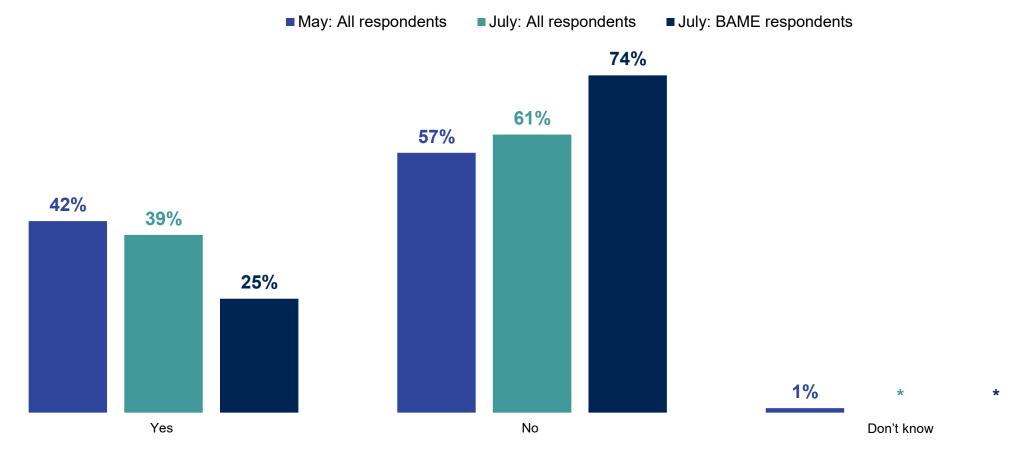






### Two in five have been offered a flu jab in the past 12 months

Q. In the past 12 months, have you been offered an influenza (flu) vaccine/jab because you have been identified as being at increased risk of flu?

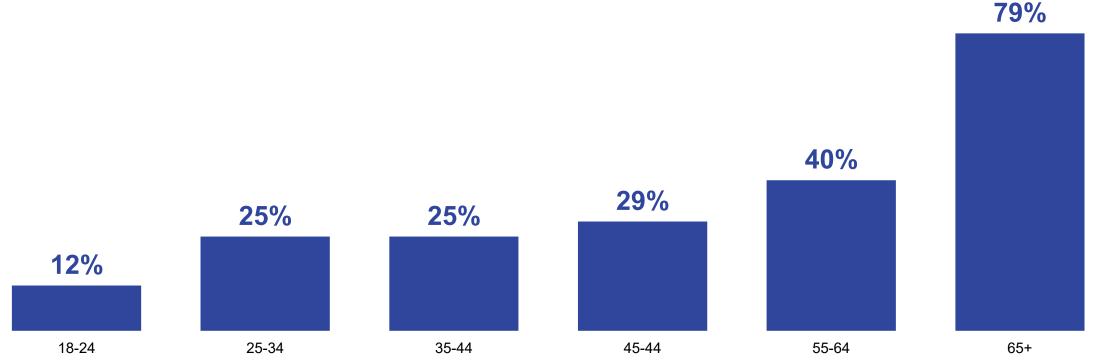




# A significant proportion of flu jabs were offered to those over the age of 65

Q. In the past 12 months, have you been offered an influenza (flu) vaccine/jab because you have been identified as being at increased risk of flu?

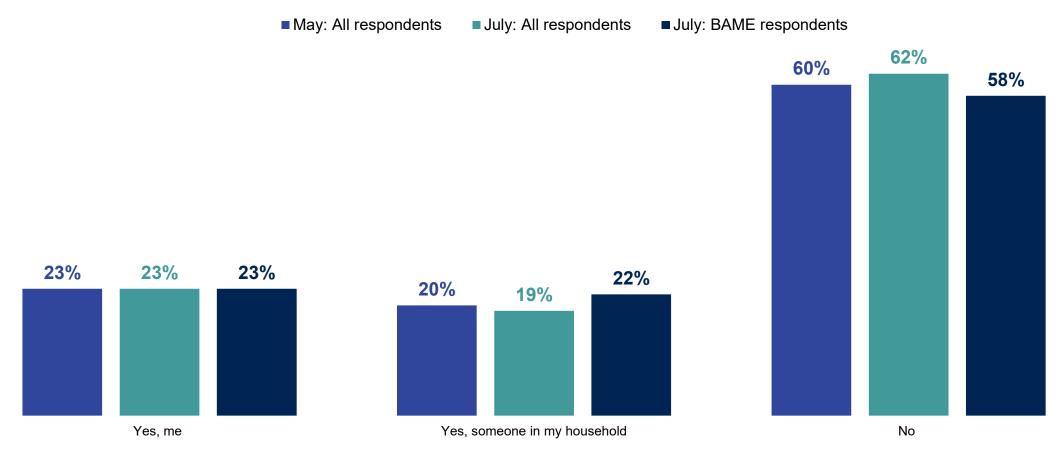
% Yes





### Around a quarter of those surveyed are designated key workers

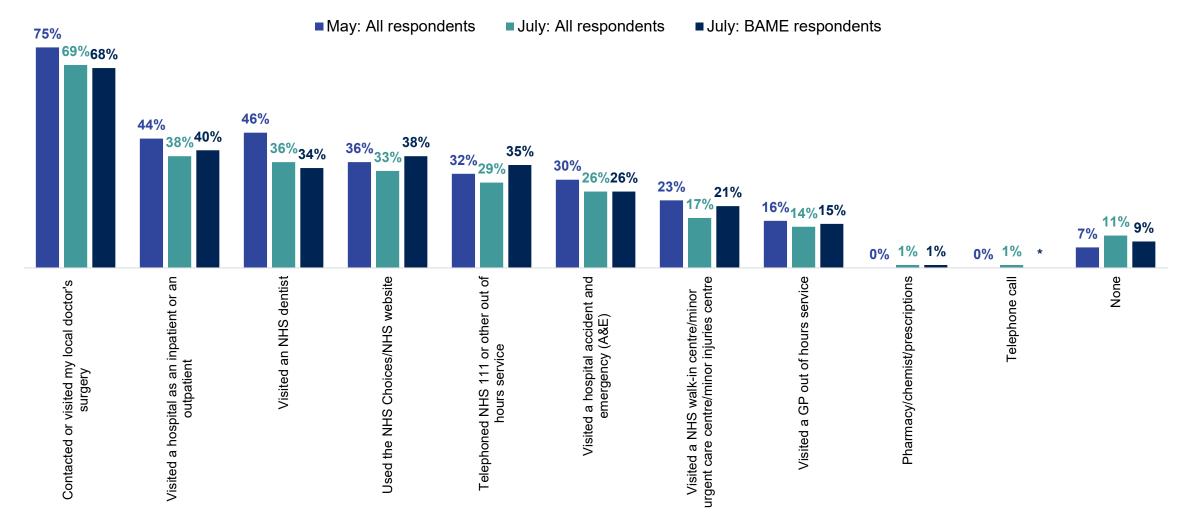
Q. Are you or someone in your household, a designated keyworker as identified in the UK Government's official guidance?





#### **Use of NHS services is varied**

Q. In the last 12 months, in which of the following ways, if any, have you used NHS services?





# The majority would vote Labour or Conservative in a general election

Q. How would you vote if there were a General Election tomorrow? Would you vote...?

