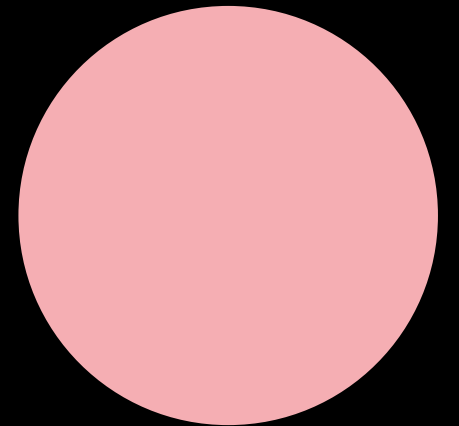
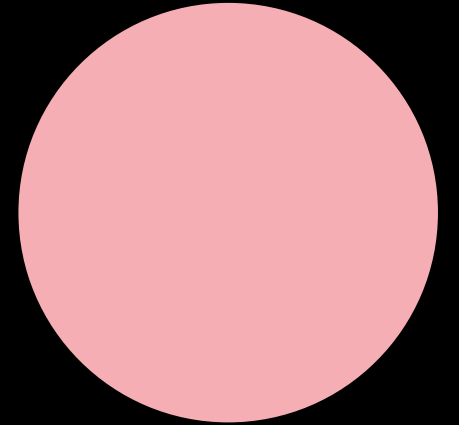


House of Commons Justice Committee Survey

The data can be accessed [here](#).



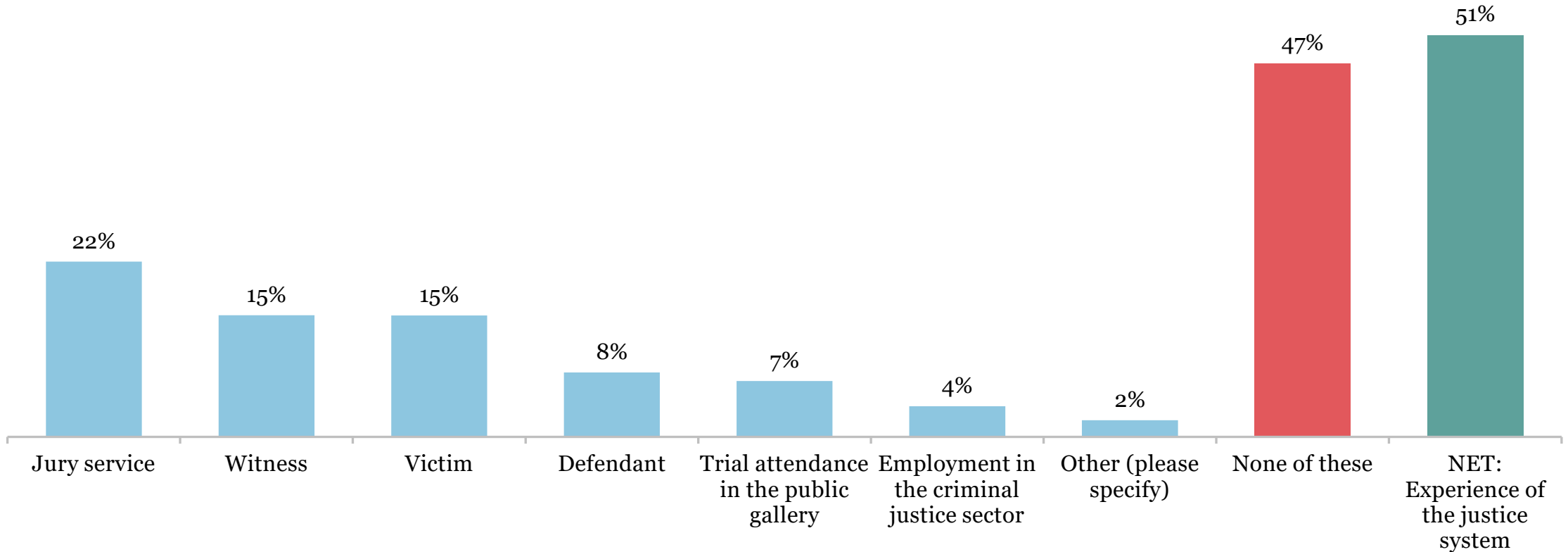
Methodology

Savanta interviewed 2,057 adults in England and Wales aged 18+ online from 24th February to 1st March 2023

- The length of survey was approximately 5 minutes
- Quotas were set and the data was weighted to ensure a nationally representative sample of adults in England and Wales by age, gender, region and socio-economic grade.

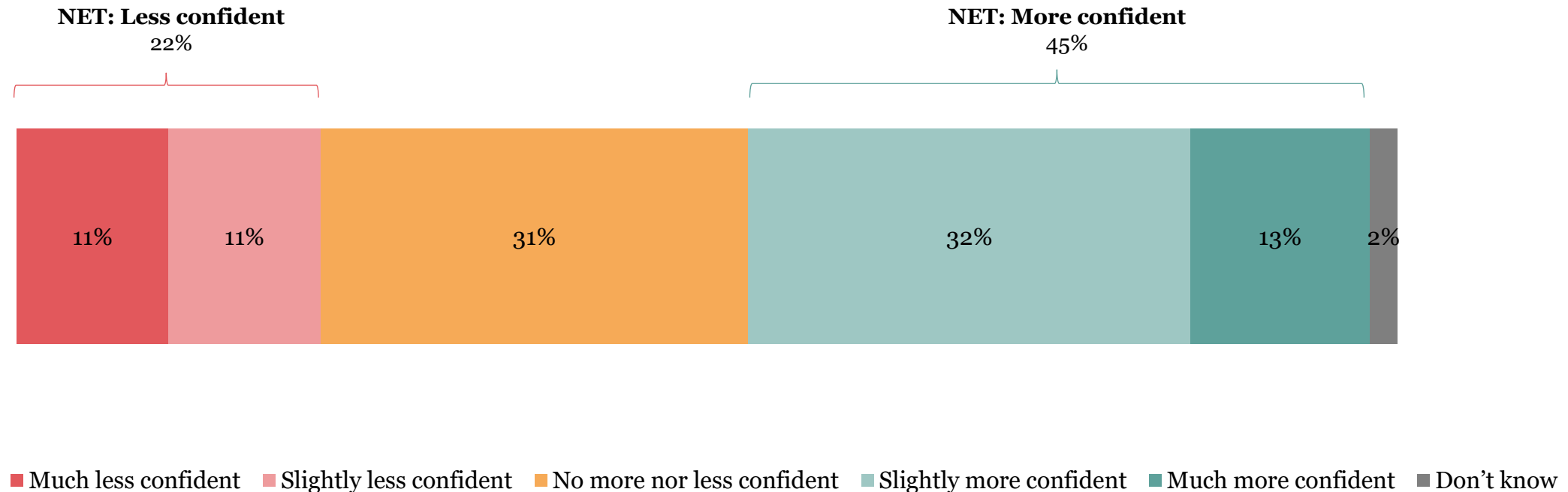
Half say they have experience of the criminal justice system with around one in five saying they have performed jury service

Experience of the criminal justice system in England and Wales

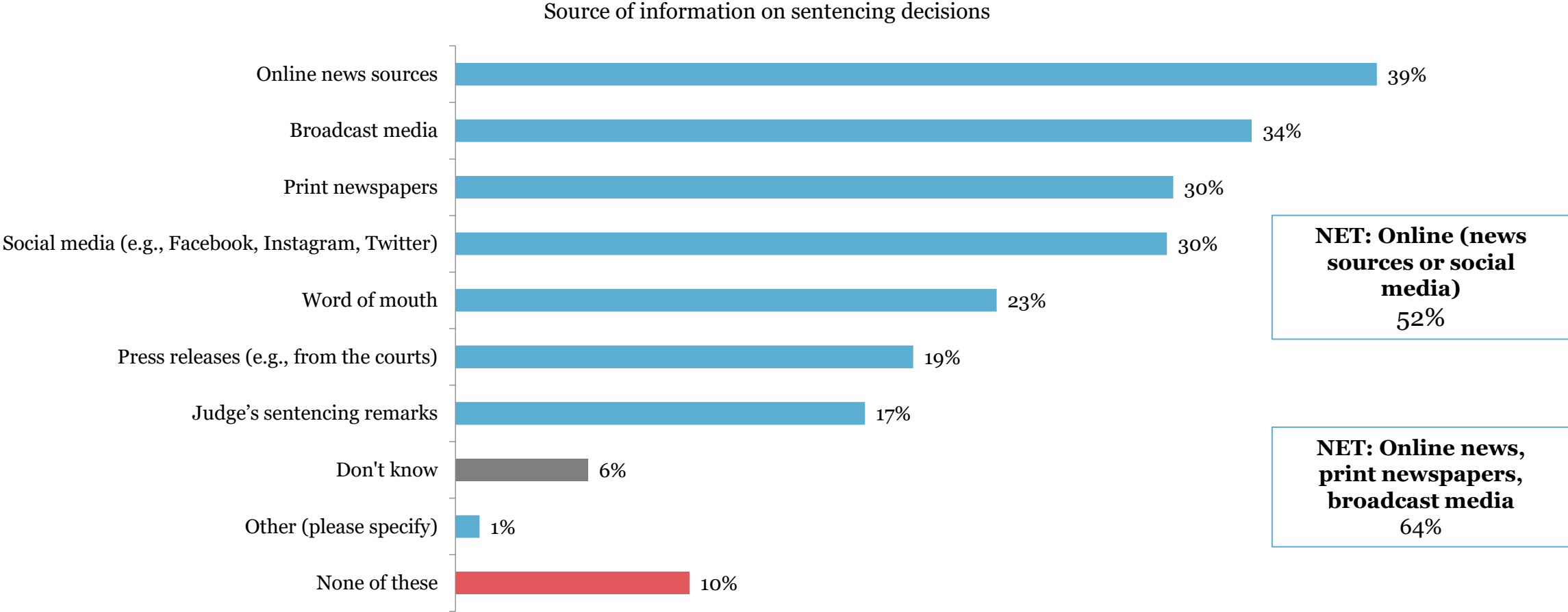


Approaching half of respondents say their experience of the criminal justice system made them more confident in the system and the processing of offenders

Confidence in the criminal justice system after previous experience

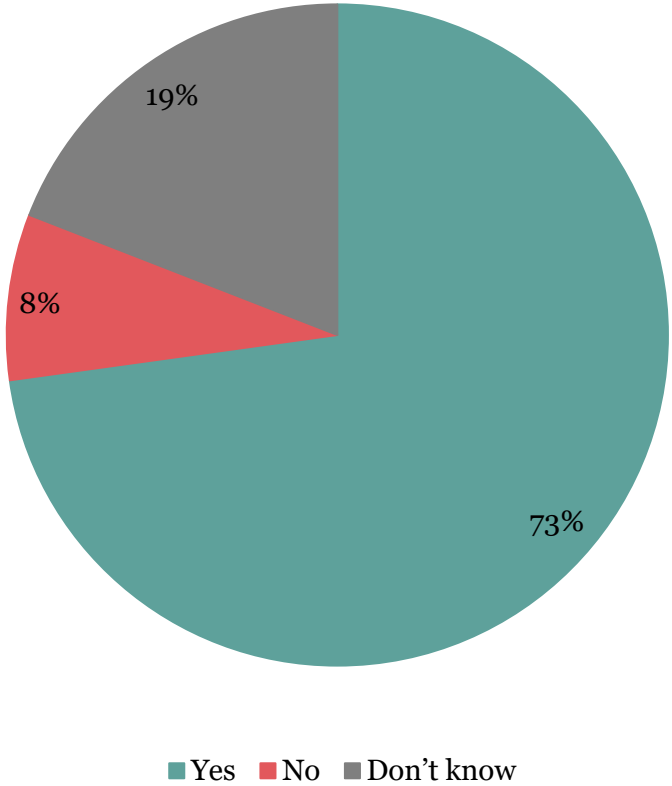


Two in five say they get their information on sentencing decisions from online news sources, whilst one in three get their information via broadcast media



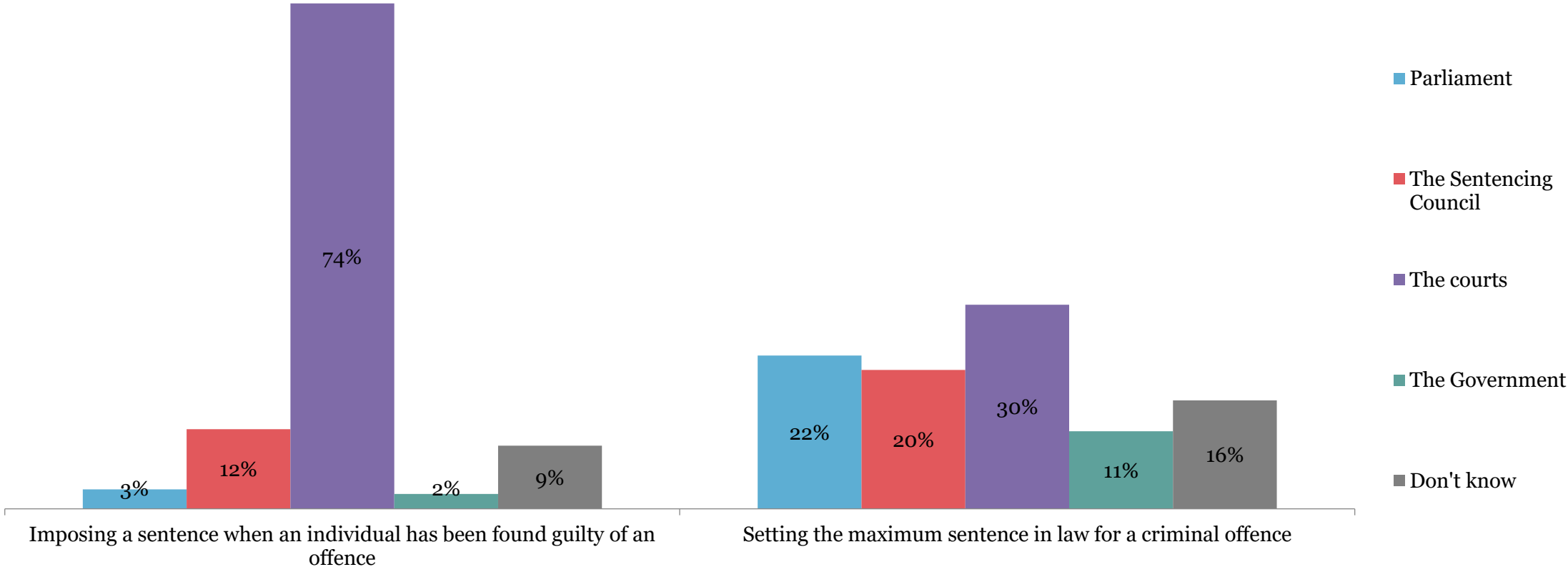
Three quarters of respondents say that when sentencing an individual the judge is under a legal obligation to follow sentencing guidelines, around one in five don't know

Is a judge under a legal obligation to follow sentencing guidelines when deciding sentence length?



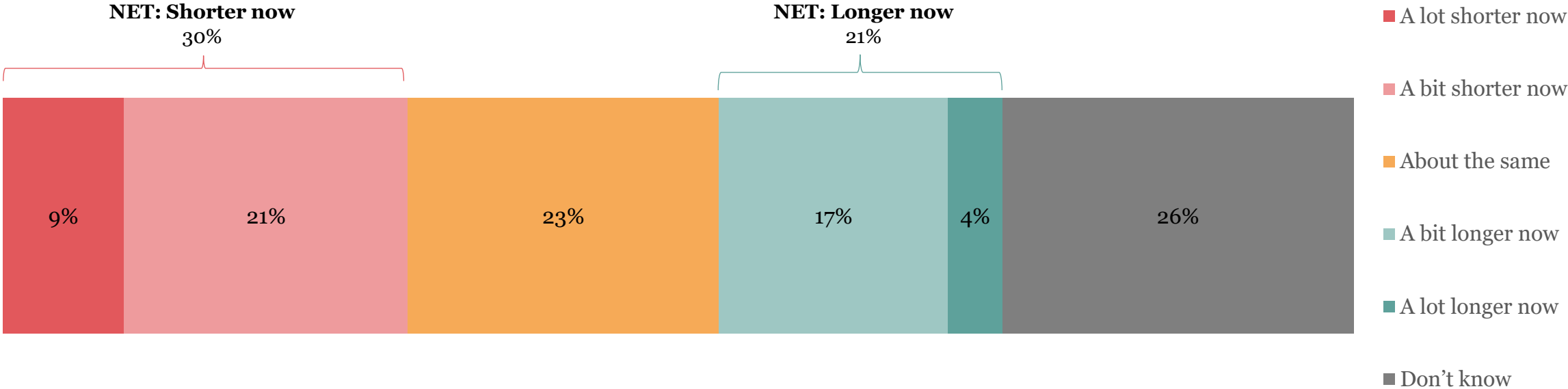
Three in four say that the courts are responsible for imposing a sentence on a guilty individual, whilst knowledge of who is responsible for setting the maximum sentence in law for offences is more mixed

Perception of which bodies are responsible for actions within the criminal justice system



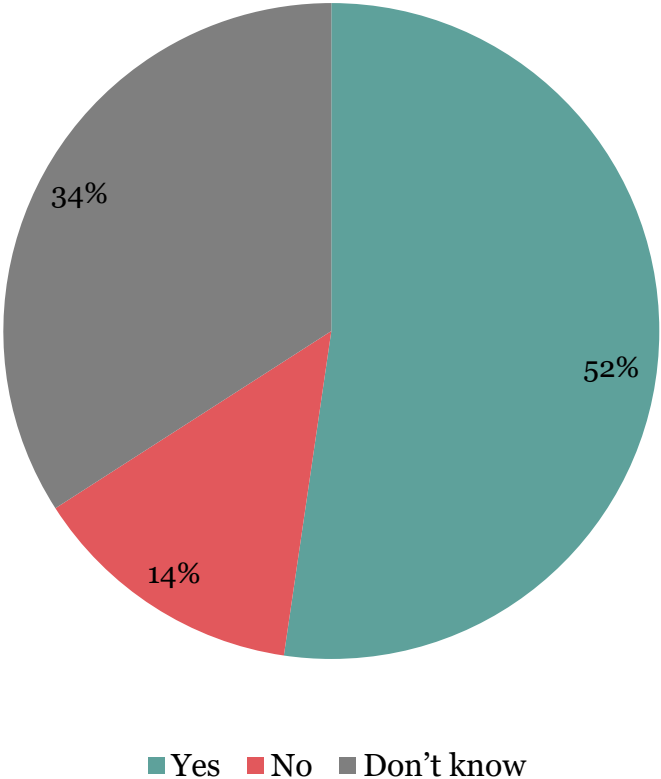
Respondents are divided on changes to the average prison sentence length since 2012, with broadly similar proportions saying sentences are shorter, longer, about the same or that they don't know

Perception of change in average sentence length for indictable offences since 2012



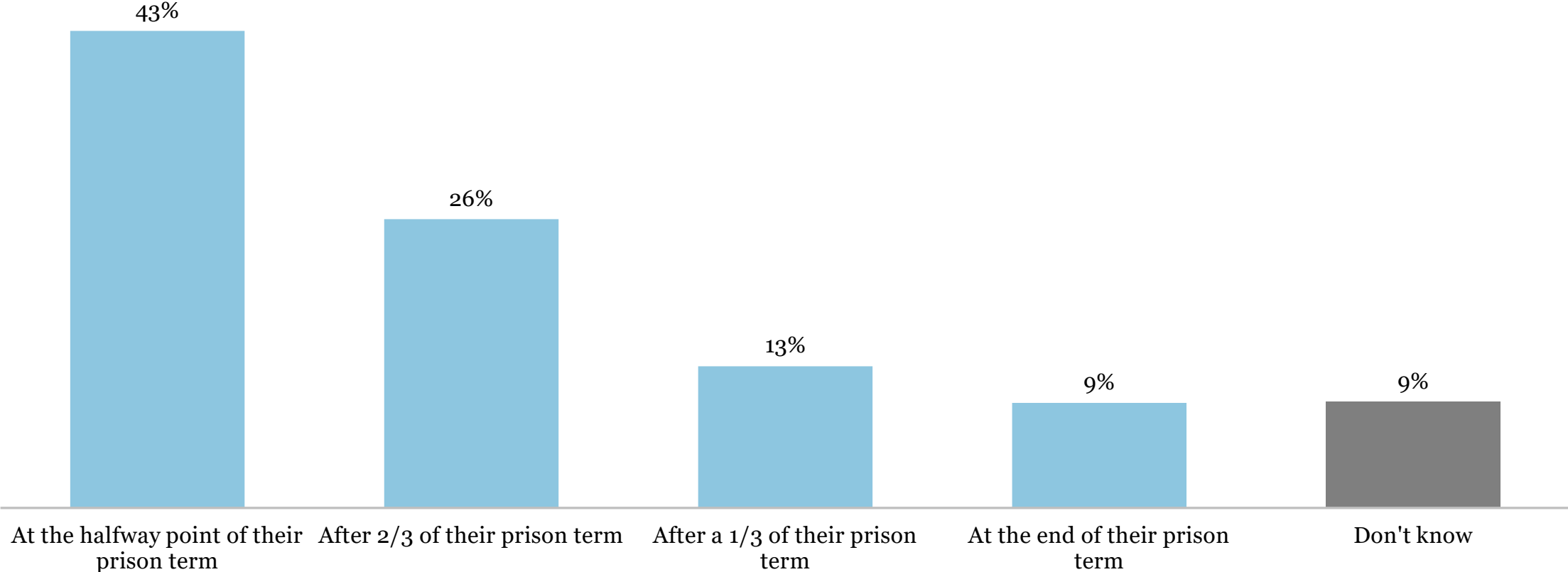
Half of the respondents say the public can ask the Attorney General to consider if a sentence should be referred to the Court of Appeal, however a third don't know

Perception of whether the public can ask the Attorney General to consider referring sentences to the Court of Appeal

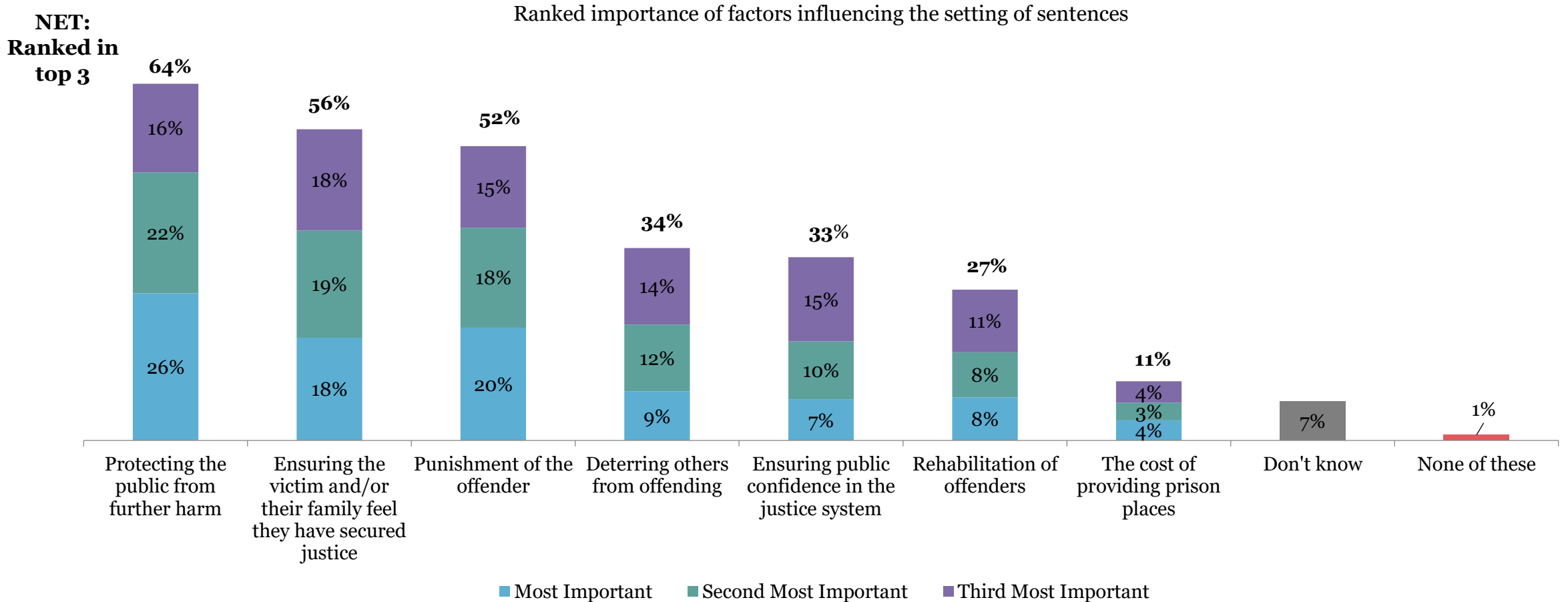


Around two in four say that the halfway point of their prison term is when a defendant would normally be released for sentences of less than four years. Only one in ten say the full term would be served

Perception of when defendants would normally be released from prison if given a prison term of less than 4 years

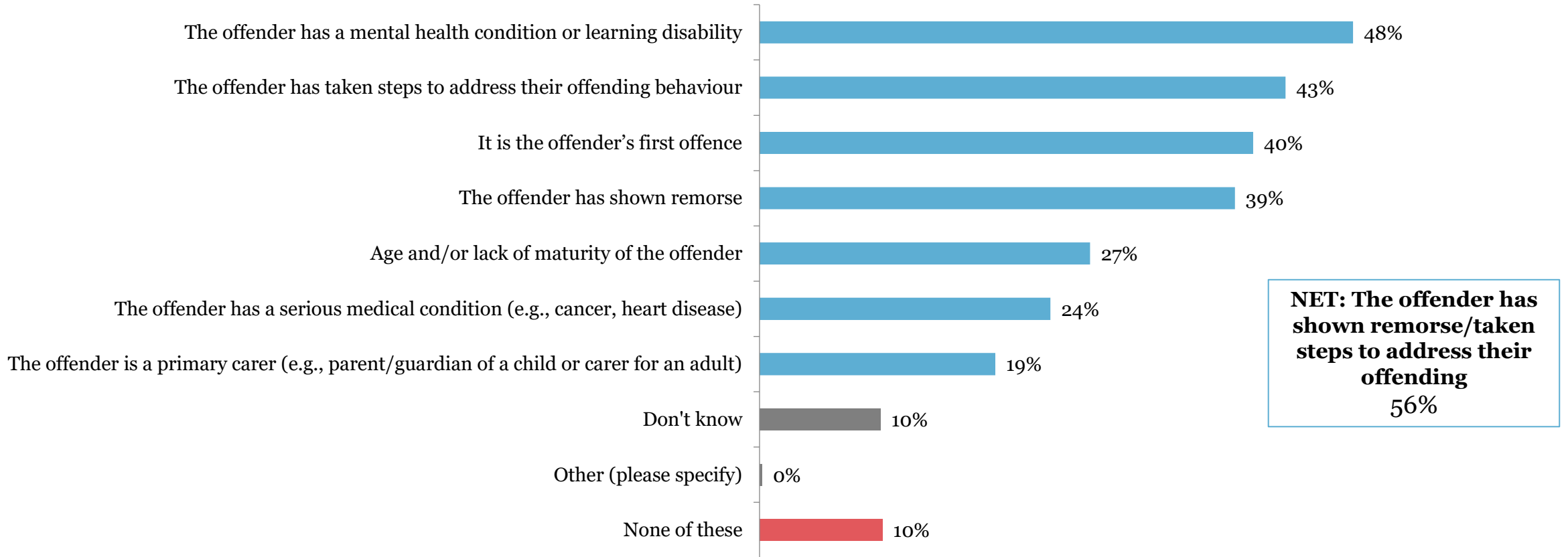


Protecting the public from further harm, followed by securing justice for the victim and punishing the offender are seen as the most important factors in the setting of sentences



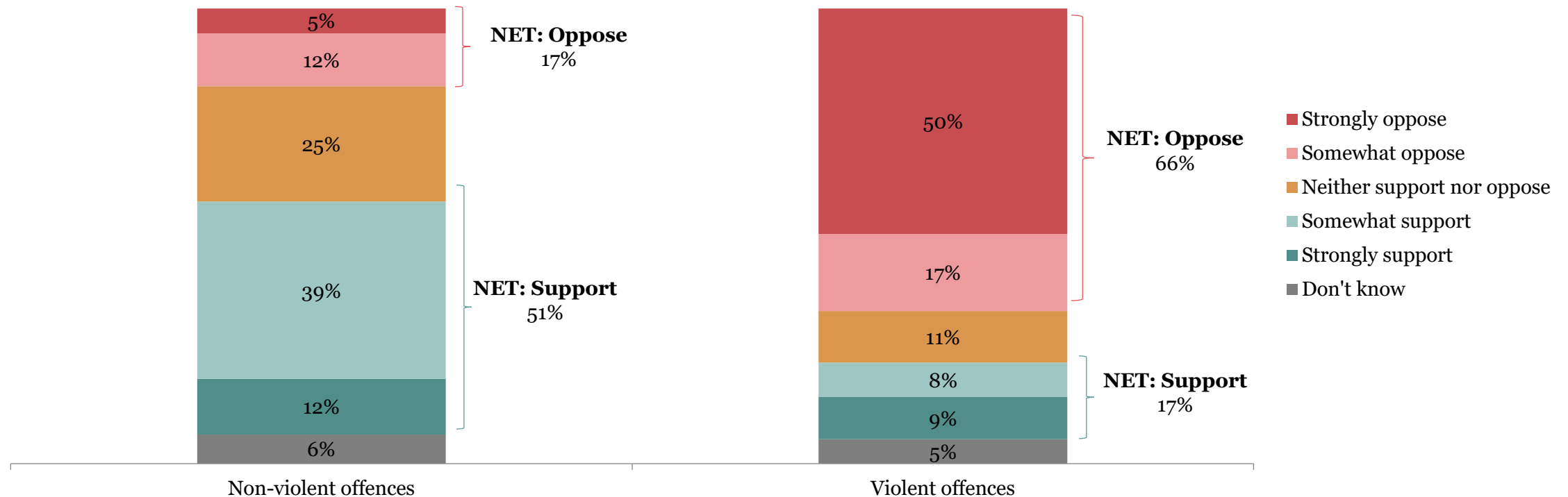
Half of respondents say that mental health conditions or learning disabilities should be considered when deciding sentencing

Mitigating factors judges should take into account when deciding sentences



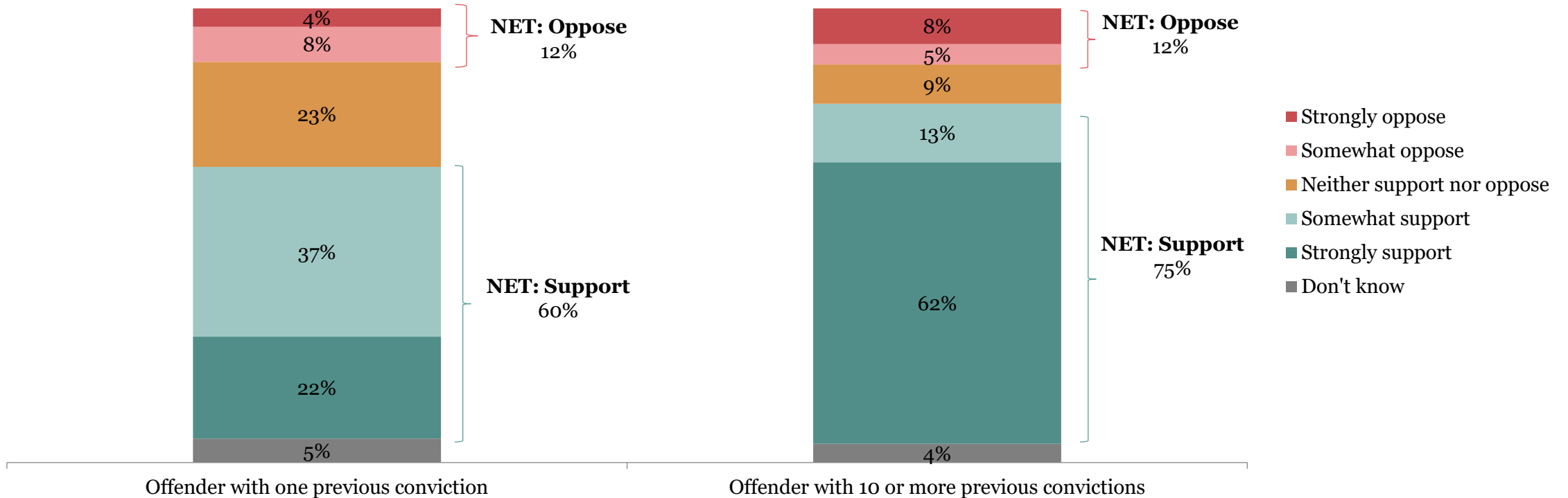
Half of the respondents support the use of non-custodial sentences for non-violent offences, whilst two thirds oppose their use in violent offences, with half strongly opposing this

Support and opposition for non-custodial sentences for non-violent and violent offences



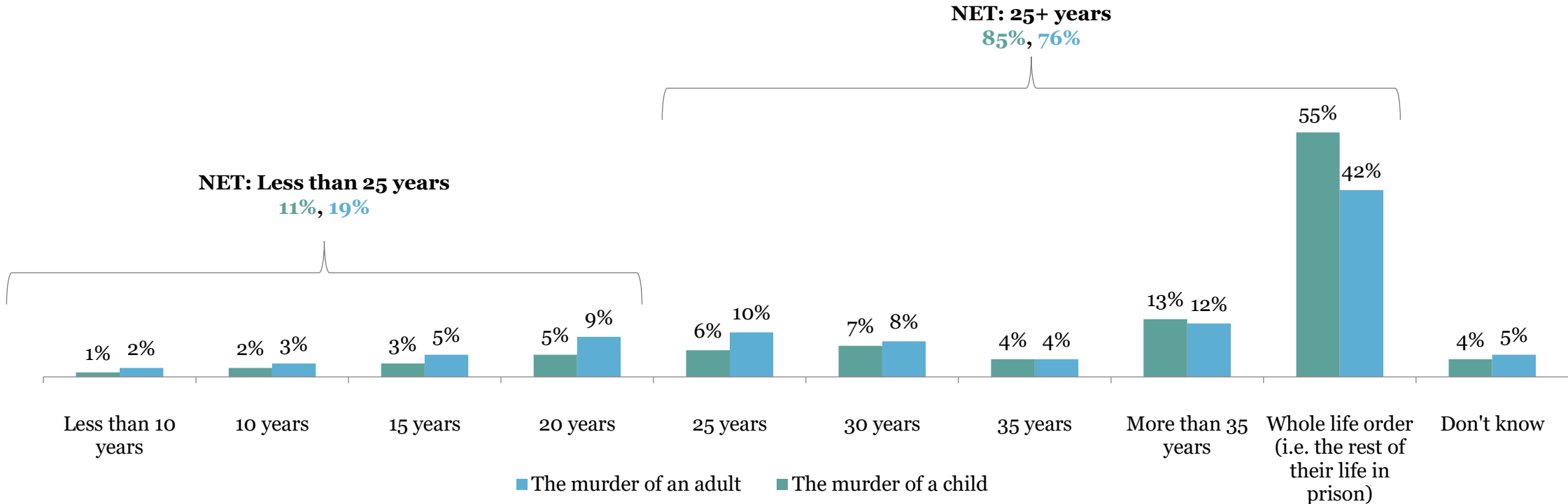
Three in five support an increase in sentence length for offenders with one previous conviction, this jumps to three quarters for offenders with 10 or more previous convictions, with three in five *strongly* supporting this

Support and opposition for an increase in sentence length for offenders with previous convictions



More than half say that an offender should receive a whole life order for the murder of a child, and two in five for the murder of an adult

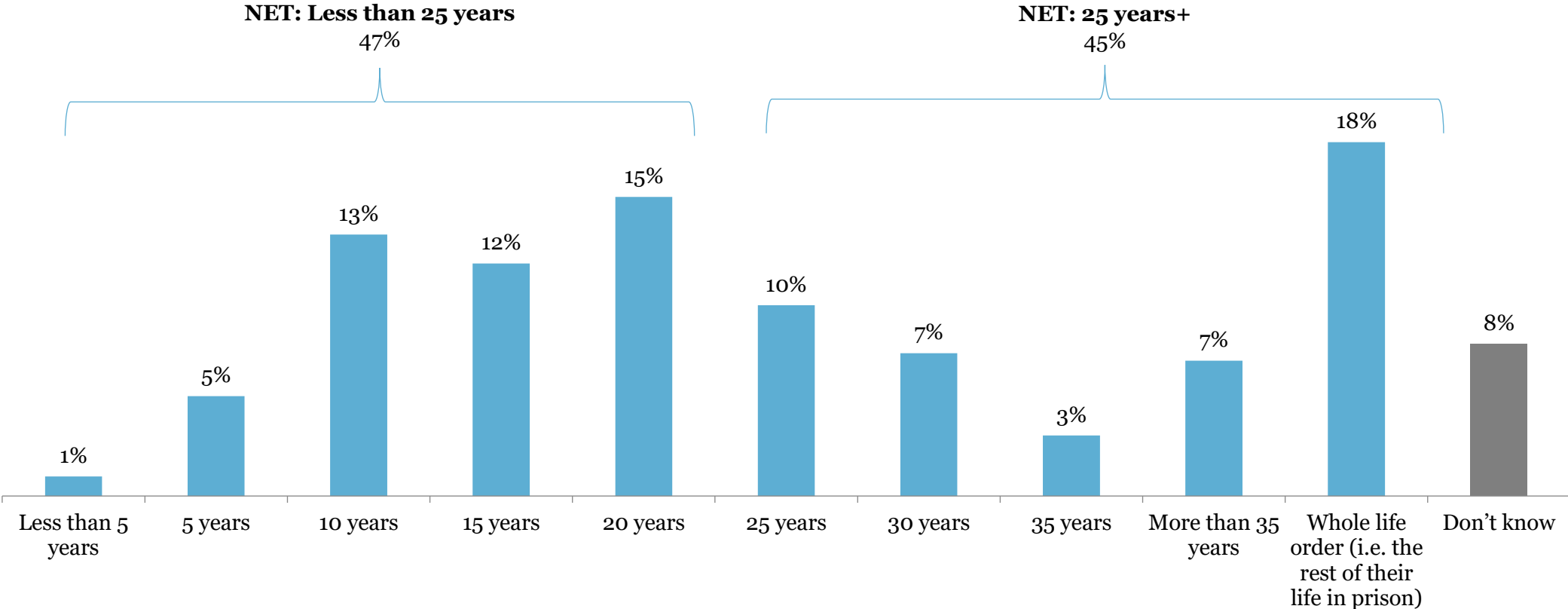
Starting point for the prison term for an adult offender found guilty of murder of an adult and child



Sample size: n = 2,057 | Base = 2,057 | Q13 = When an offender is found guilty of murder, it is for the judge to decide how long the offender must stay in prison before they can be considered for release. In your view, what should the starting point (i.e. before mitigating factors that might reduce the sentence length, or aggravating factors, that might increase the sentence length, are taken into account) be for the prison term for an adult offender found guilty of...

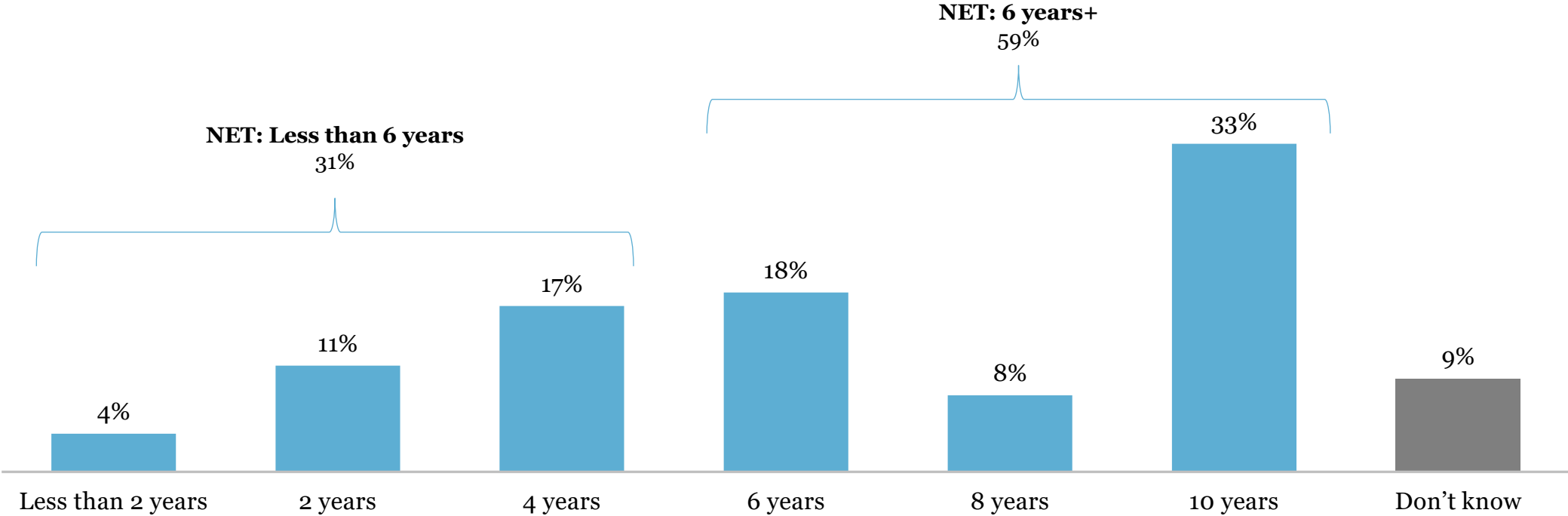
Almost half say that the starting point for offenders found guilty of the most severe rape cases should be less than 25 years, however a similar proportion say that the starting point should be more than 25 years, with one in five saying they should receive a whole life order

Starting point for the prison sentence for the most severe cases of rape



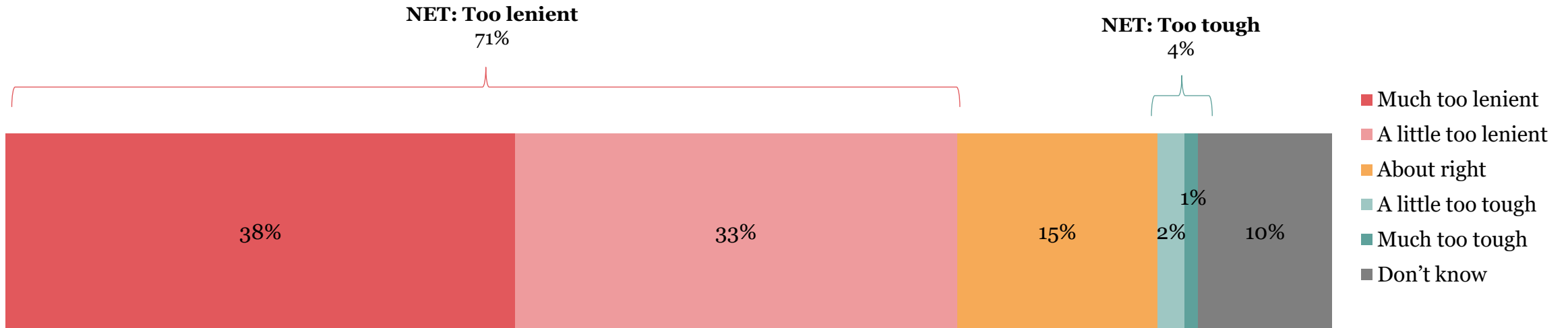
Three in five say that the starting point for those found guilty of the most severe cases of domestic burglary should be more than 6 years, whilst a third say that the starting point should be less than 6 years

Starting point for the prison sentence for the most severe cases of domestic burglary



Seven in ten respondents say that sentences handed down by the courts in England and Wales are too lenient, with two in five saying sentences are *much* too lenient

Perception of sentences handed down by courts in England and Wales



Half of respondents say that public opinion should influence sentencing, whilst a third say that public opinion should not influence sentencing

Views on whether public opinion should or should not influence sentencing

