

Crime and Law Enforcement

March 2006



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Introduction

Research Methodology

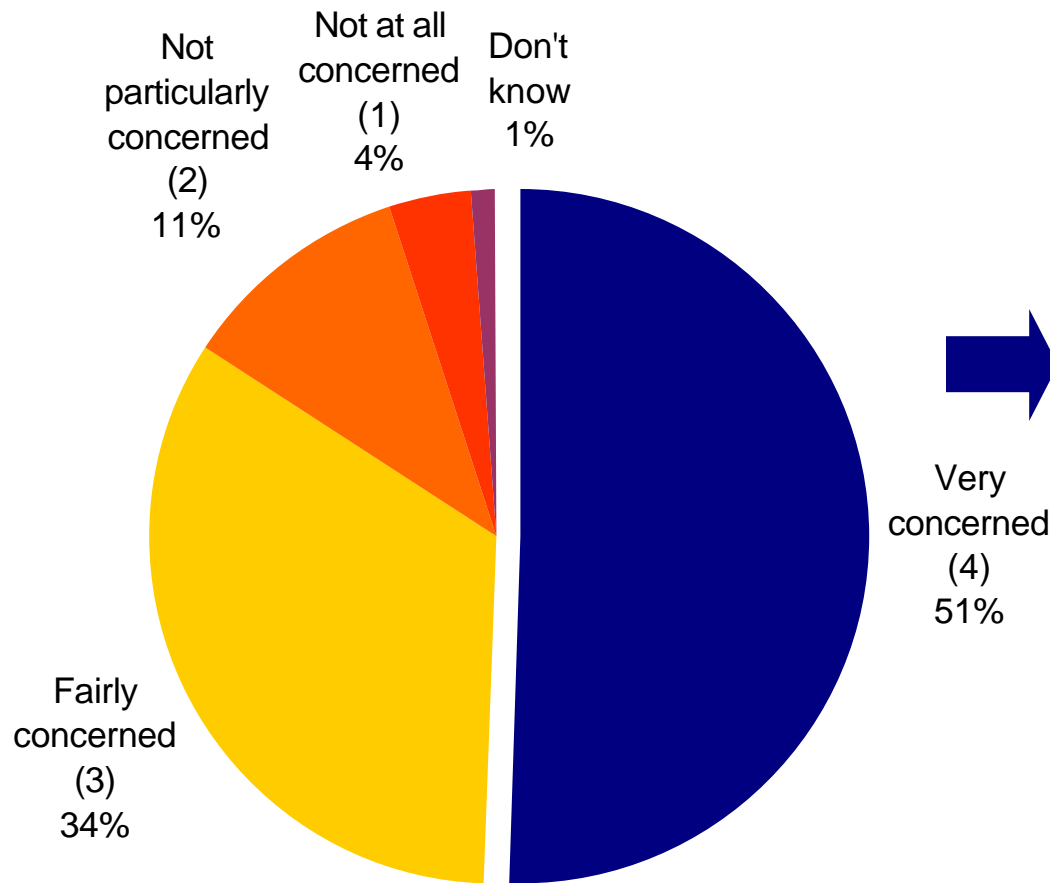
- This research was carried out on TNS mrbi's omnibus service, PhoneBus. PhoneBus access a nationally representative sample of 1,009 adults aged 15+ years.
- The telephone numbers used were randomly generated by computer so that both listed and ex-directory numbers were called.
- Quotas (age, sex, social class & region) were applied to ensure that the final sample was representative of all adult population age 15+ with fixed line telephones in the Republic of Ireland.
- Fieldwork was carried out between 7th – 16th March 2006.

Findings

Public Concern with Crime and Public Order Maintenance

Level of Concern with Crime and Public Order Maintenance

Base: All adults age 15+ years: 1,009

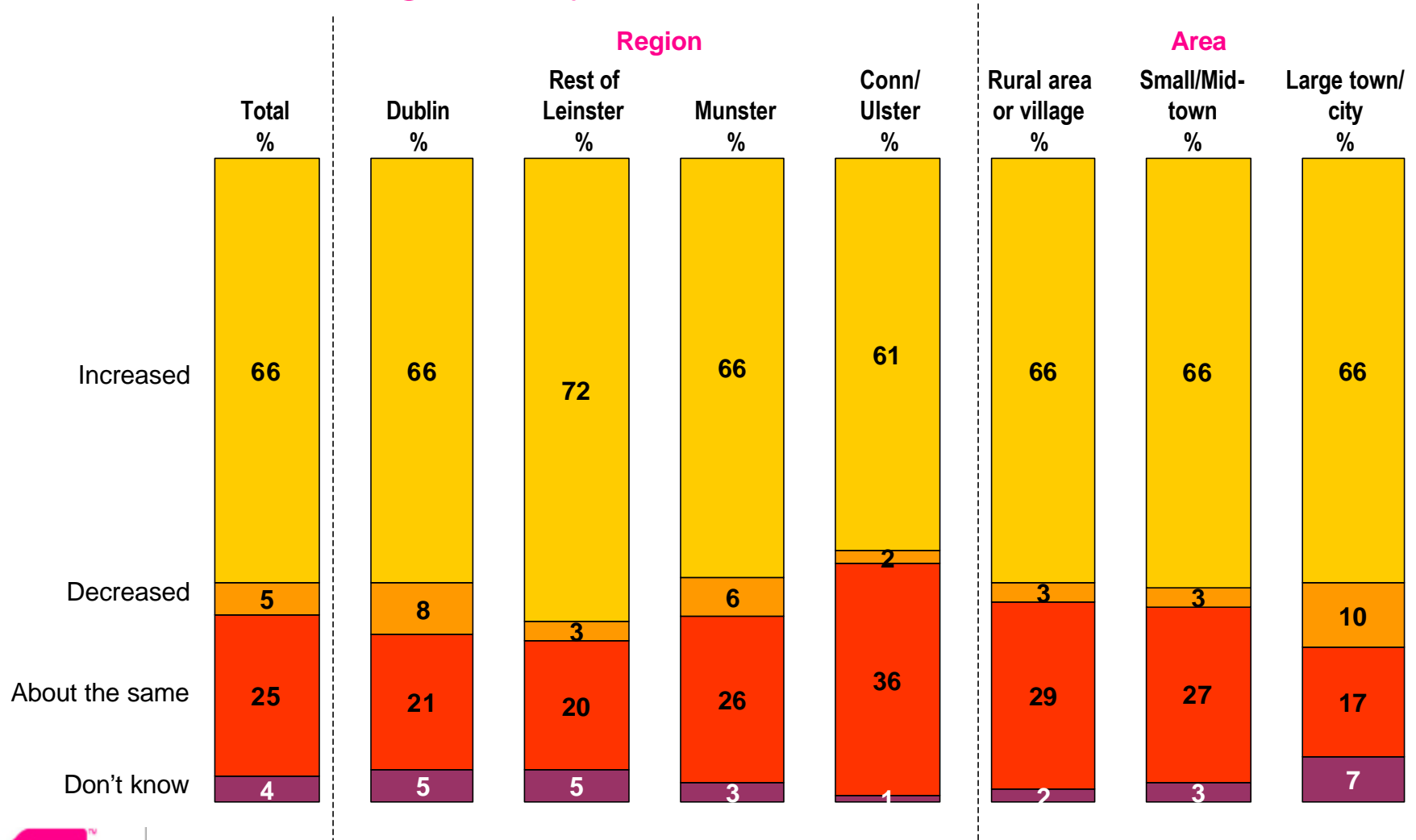


Mean Score: 3.33

Very Concerned (Demographics)	
	%
<u>Gender</u>	
Males	44
Females	58
<u>Age</u>	
15-24	21
25-34	40
35-44	58
45-54	57
55-64	74
65+	74
<u>Social Class</u>	
AB	46
C1	48
C2	47
DE	53
F	72

Perceived Level of Crime in Local Area Compared to 10 Years Ago

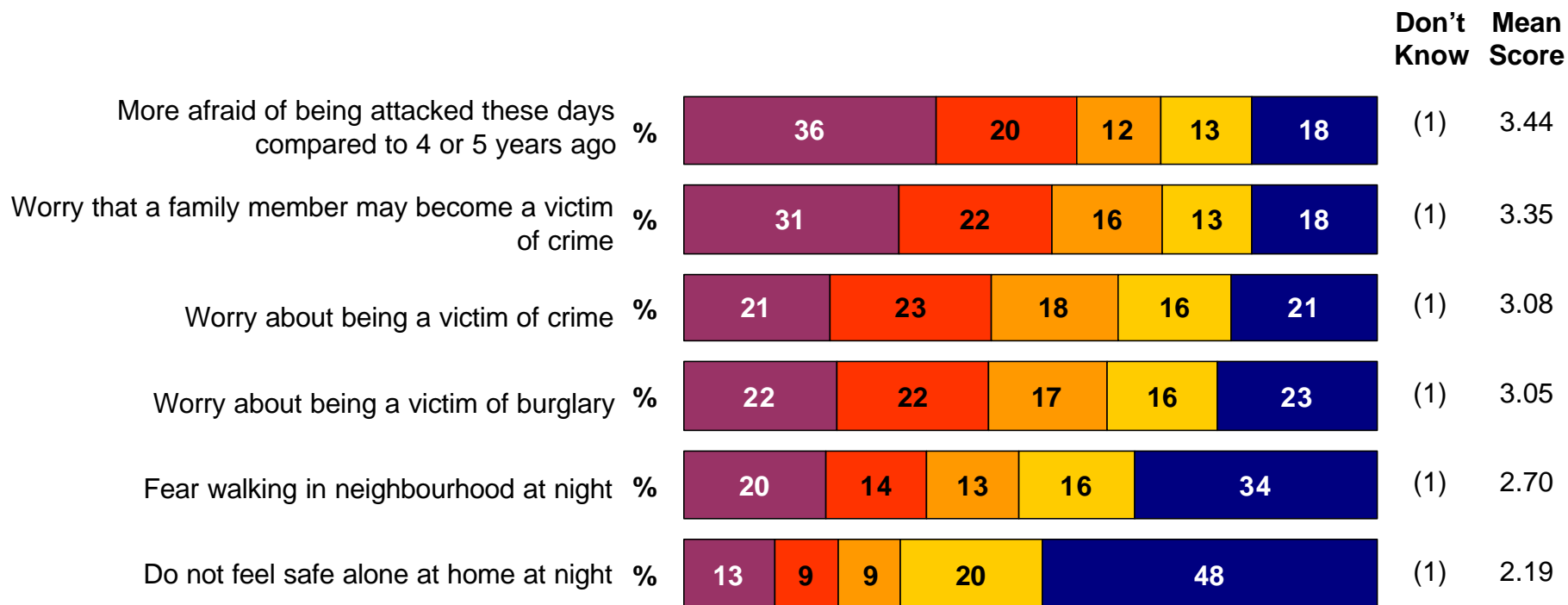
Base: All adults age 15+ years: 1,009



Q.2 And do you think that levels of crime in your local area have increased, decreased or remained about the same compared to 10 years ago?

Attitudes to Crime Nowadays

Base: All Adults Aged 15+: 1,009

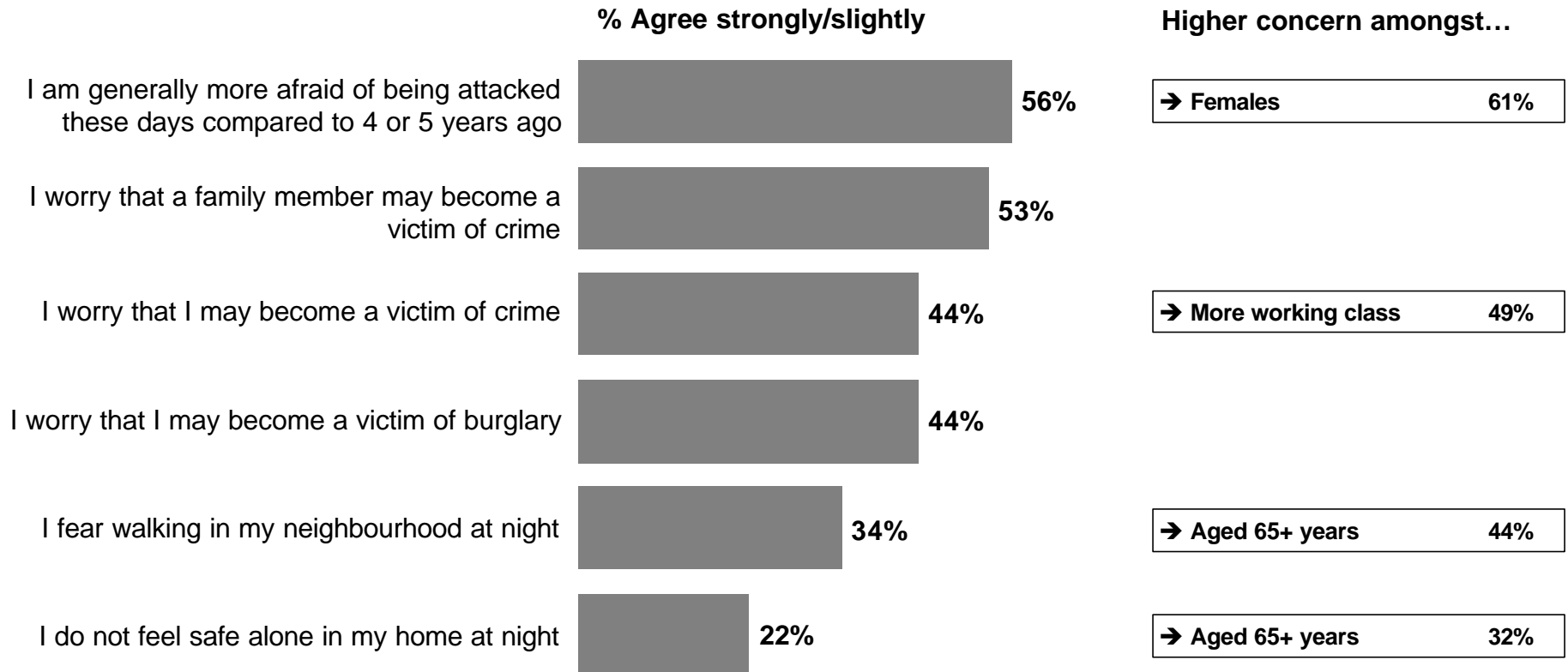


■ Strongly Agree (5)
 ■ Slightly agree (4)
 ■ Neither agree nor disagree (3)
 ■ Slightly disagree (2)
 ■ Strongly disagree (1)

Q.3 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

Attitudes to Crime Nowadays (Demographics)

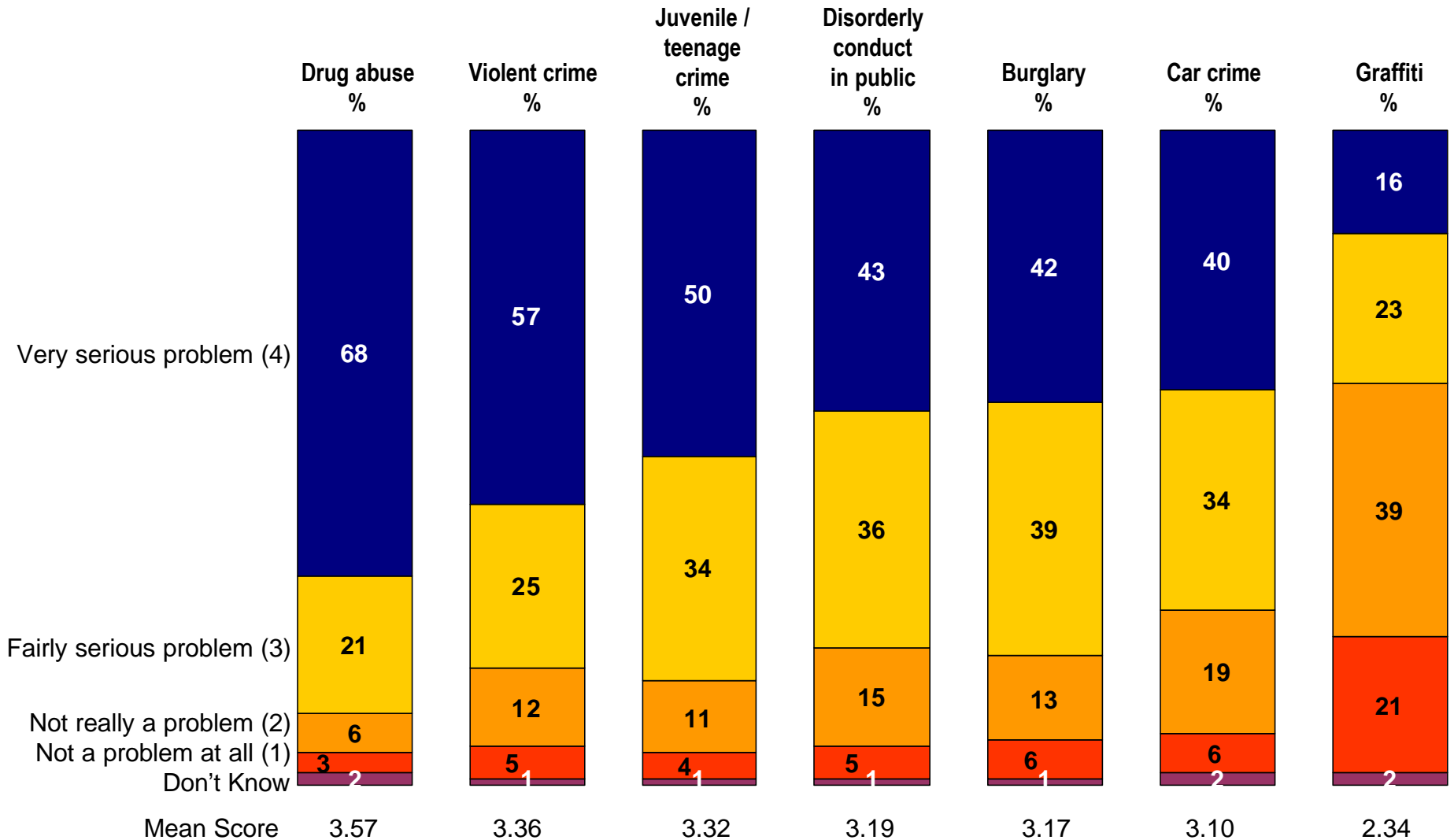
Base: All Adults Aged 15+: 1,009



Q.3 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

Level of Perceived Seriousness of Crime Types

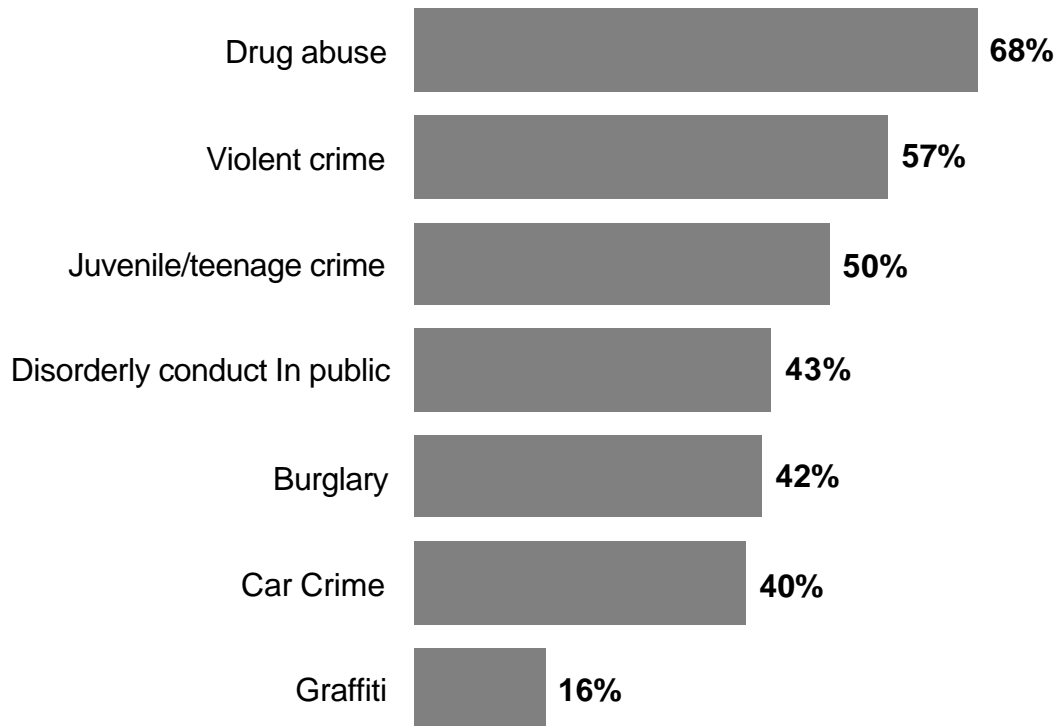
Base: All adults age 15+ years: 1,009



Level of Perceived Seriousness of Crime Types

Base: All adults age 15+ years: 1,009

Very serious problem



Highest amongst...

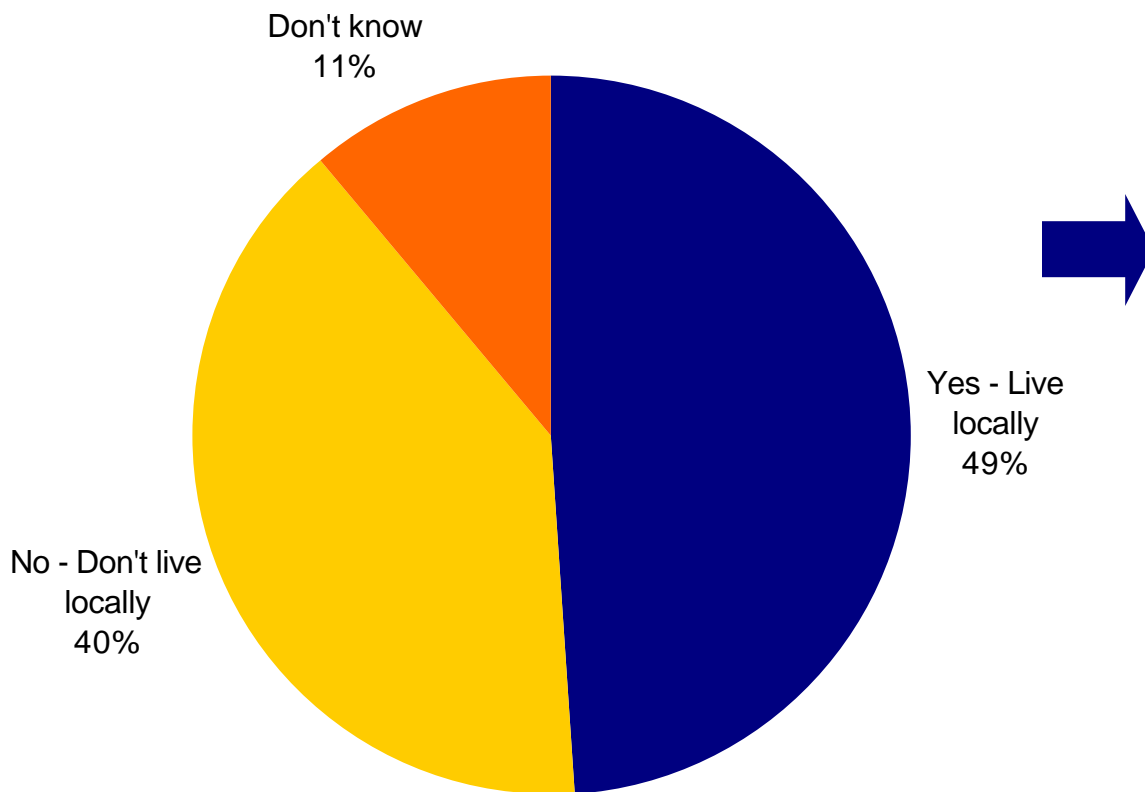
→ Aged 45-54 years	77%
→ Aged 55-64 years	69%
→ Aged 55-64 years	56%
→ Aged 55-64 years	57%
→ Aged 35-44 years	49%
→ Aged 65+ years	48%
→ Aged 65+ years	25%

*Q.4 Please tell me to what extent you feel each of the issues I am about to read out are a problem or not nowadays?
In each case, please tell me whether you feel it is a very serious problem, a fairly serious problem, not really a problem,
or not a problem at all nowadays?*

Public Satisfaction with Garda Law Enforcement

Perception of Gardaí Residence

Base: All adults age 15+ years: 1,009



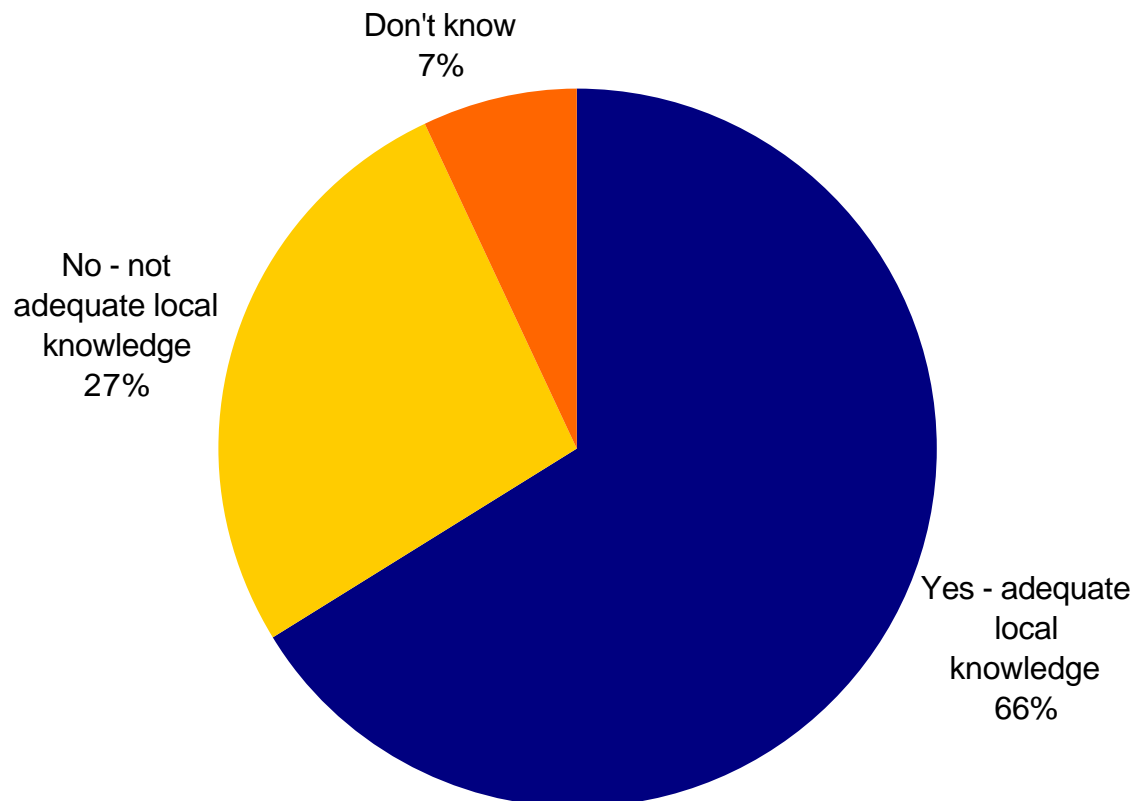
% Believing Garda Live Locally

<u>Area</u>	
Dublin	31
Ireland (total)	56
<u>Social Class</u>	
AB	56
C1	46
C2	47
DE	45
F	64

Q.5 Do you believe that the Gardaí who police your local area live locally, or not?

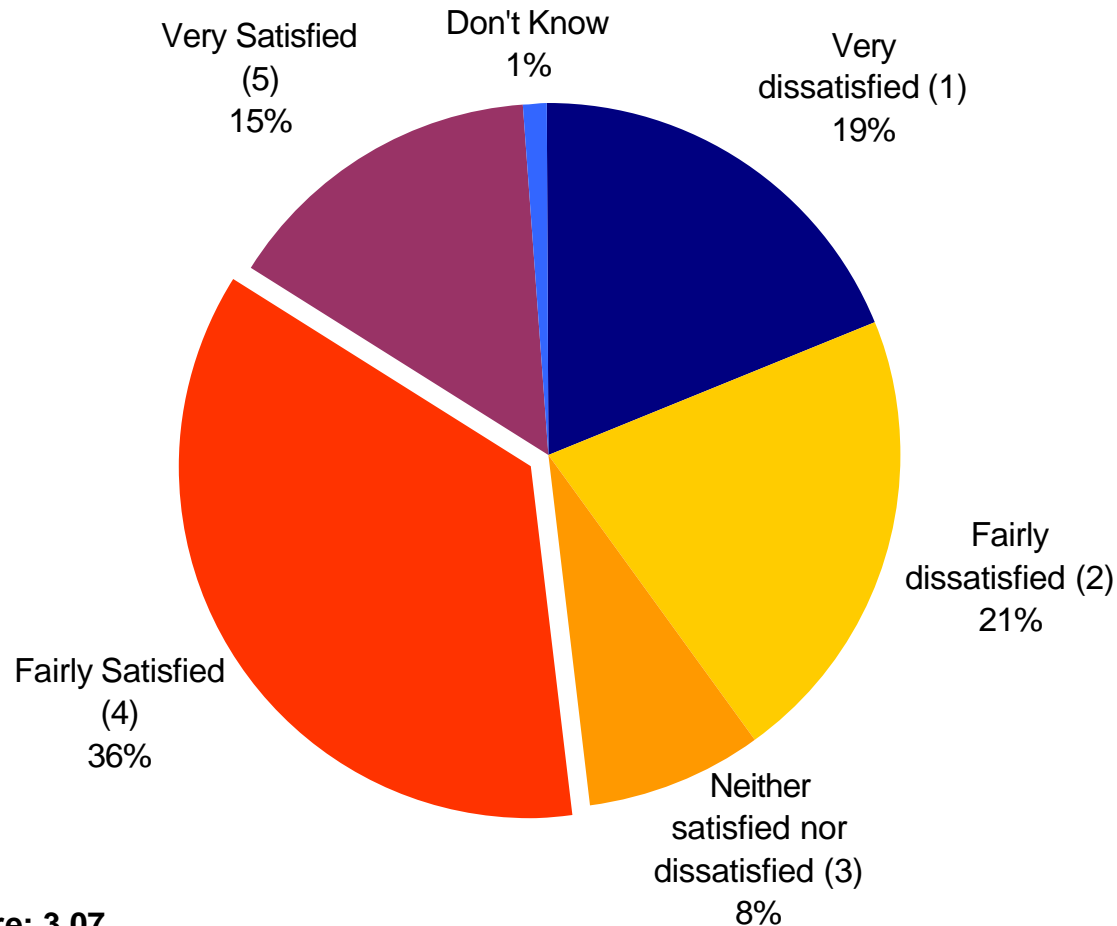
Perceived Adequate Local Knowledge of Gardaí

Base: All adults age 15+ years: 1,009



Level of Satisfaction with Garda Presence in Own Area

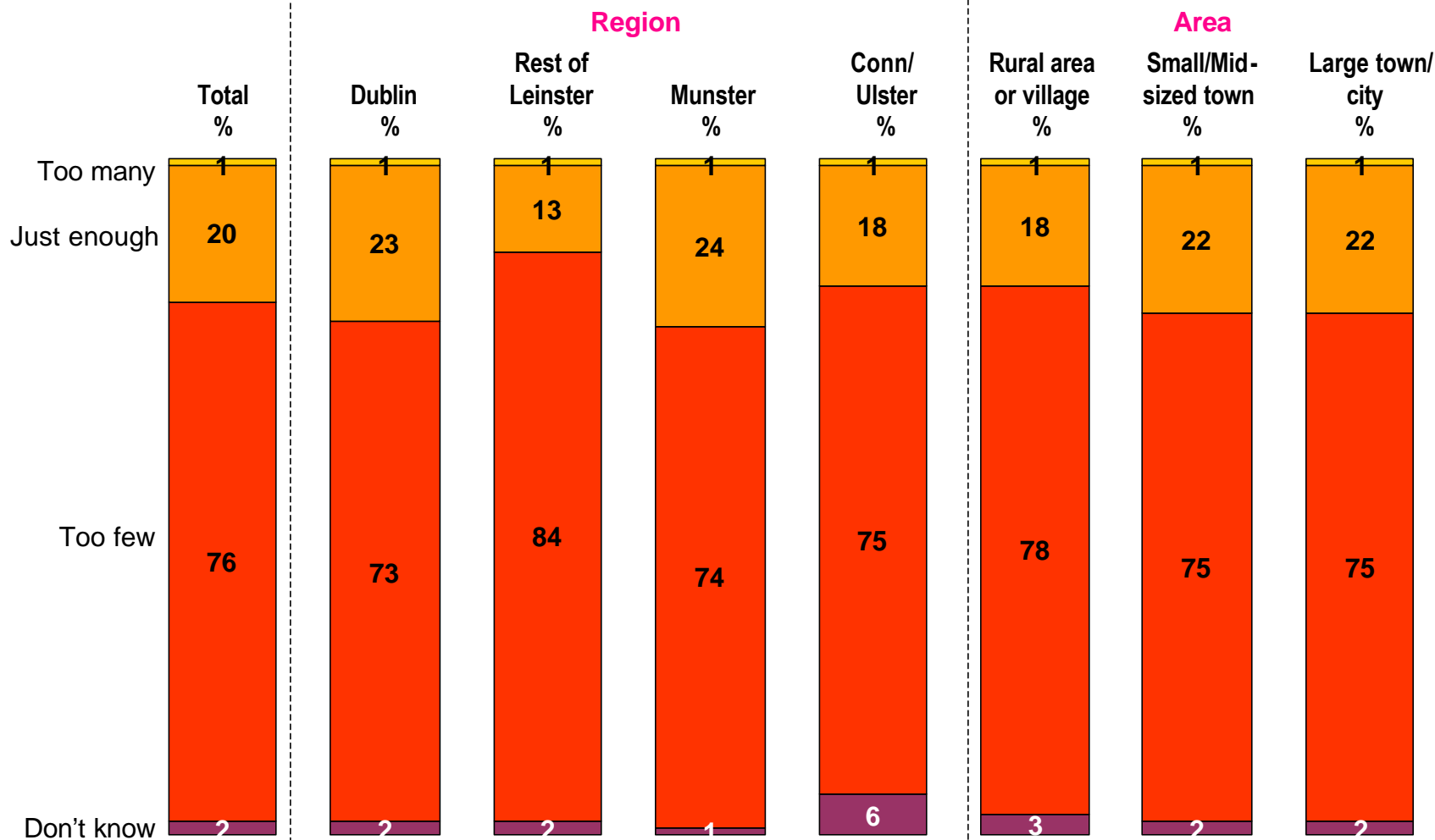
Base: All adults age 15+ years: 1,009



Mean Score: 3.07

Perception of the Amount of Uniformed Garda Patrols on our Streets

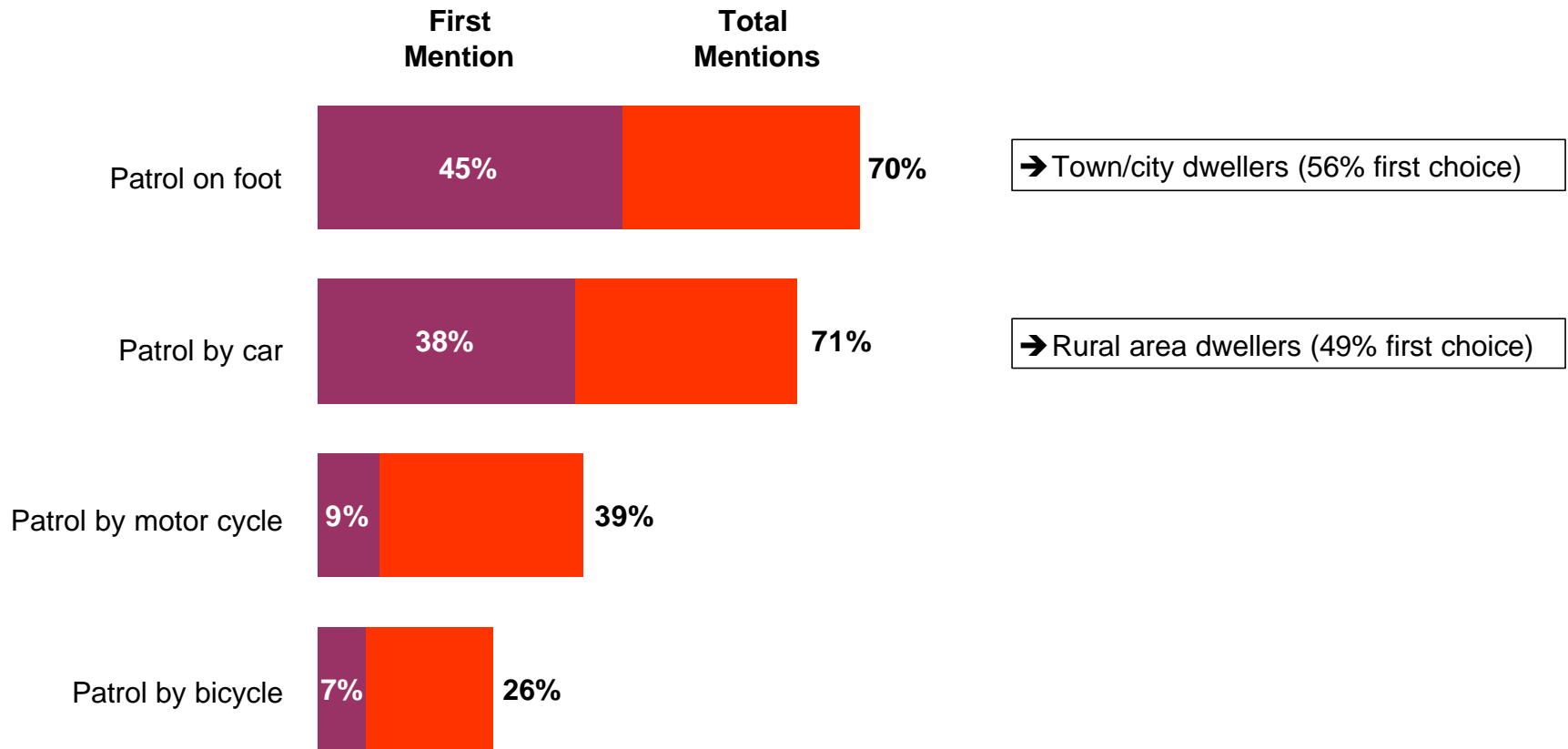
Base: All adults age 15+ years: 1,009



Q.8 Thinking about the amount of uniformed Garda patrols on our streets, do you think there are ...?

Preferred Types of Garda Patrols

Base: All perceived there to be too few Gardaí / Don't know: 818

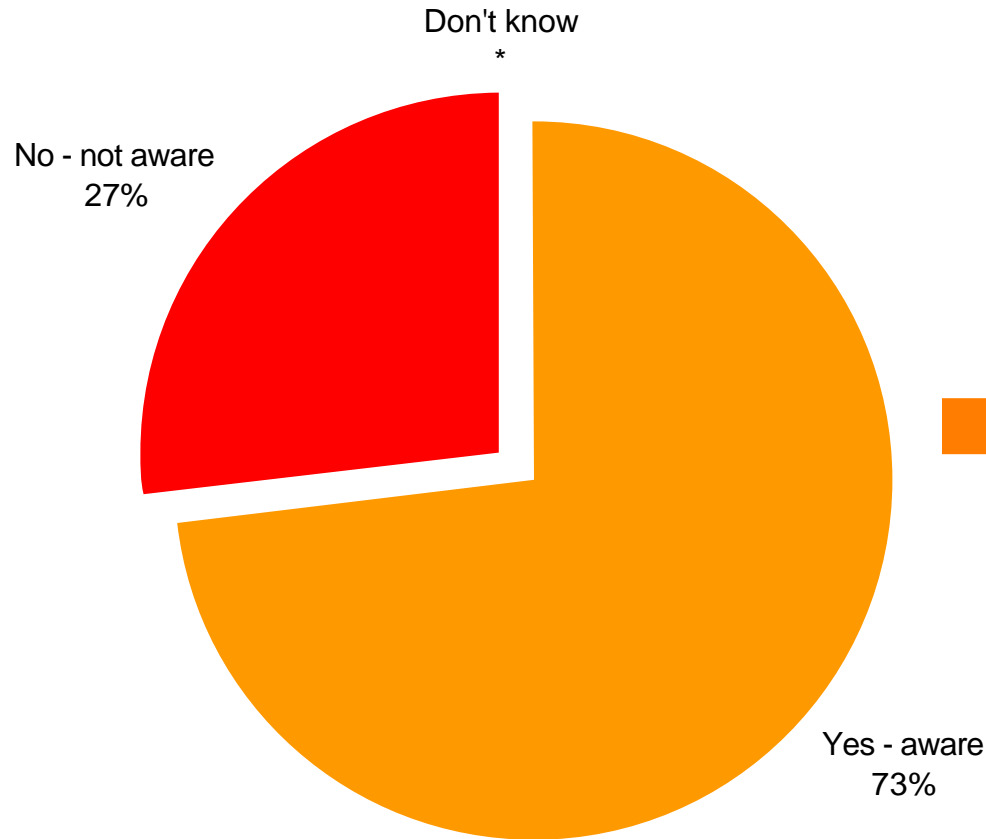


Q. 9 Which one of these patrols would you most like to see in your area?

Attitudes towards Garda Reserve Initiative

Awareness of the New Garda Reserve

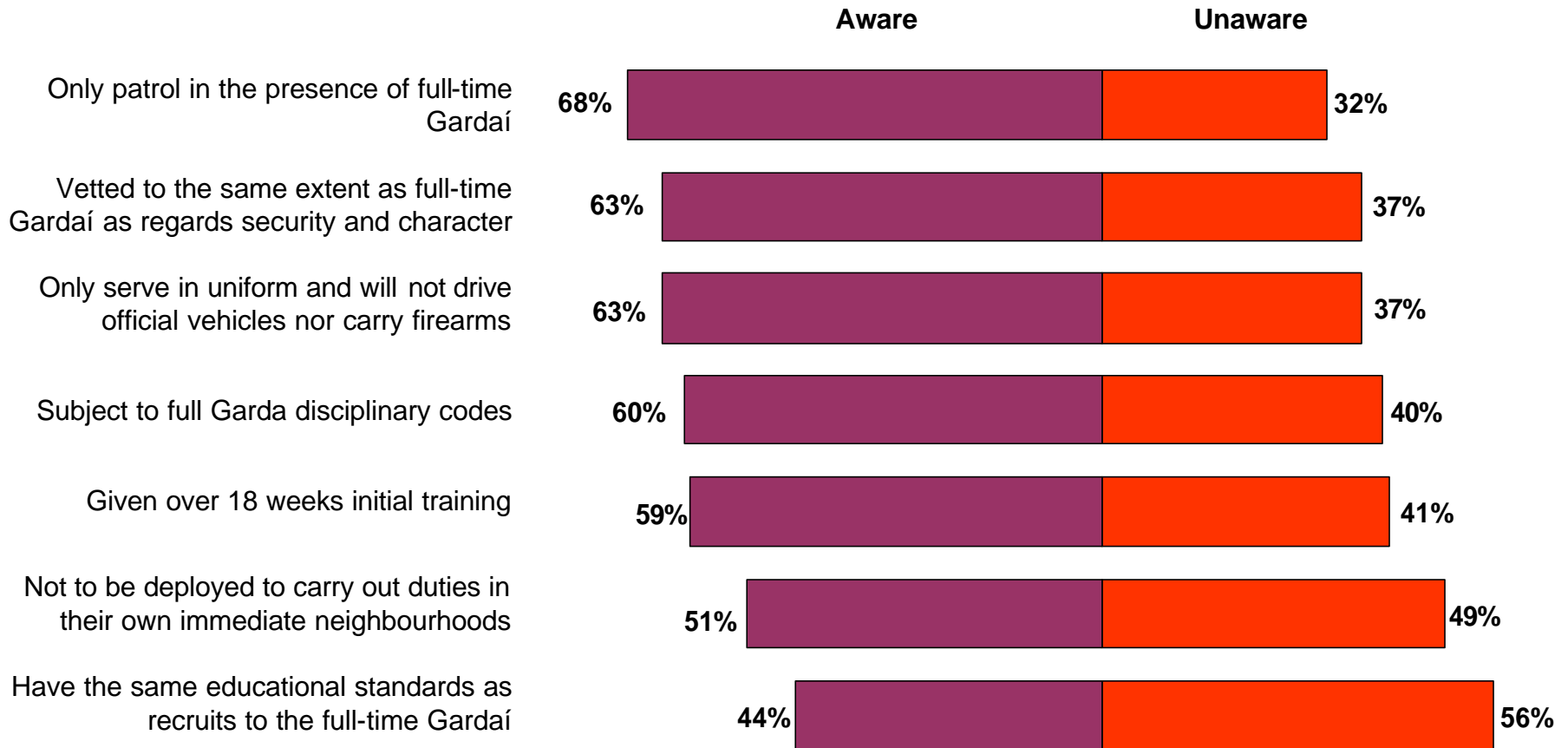
Base: All adults age 15+ years: 1,009



* >less than 0.5%

Extent of Awareness of the Garda Reserve

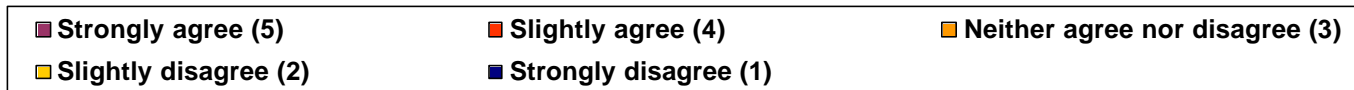
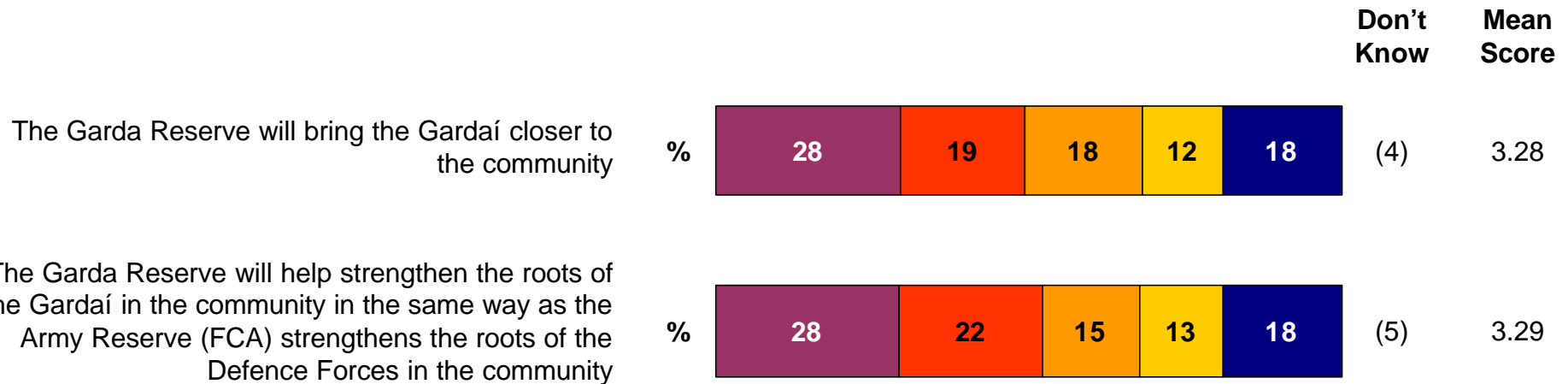
Base: All aware of the Garda reserve: 732



Q.11 To what extent were you aware or not that the Garda Reserve will...?

Attitudes towards the Garda Reserve and the Community

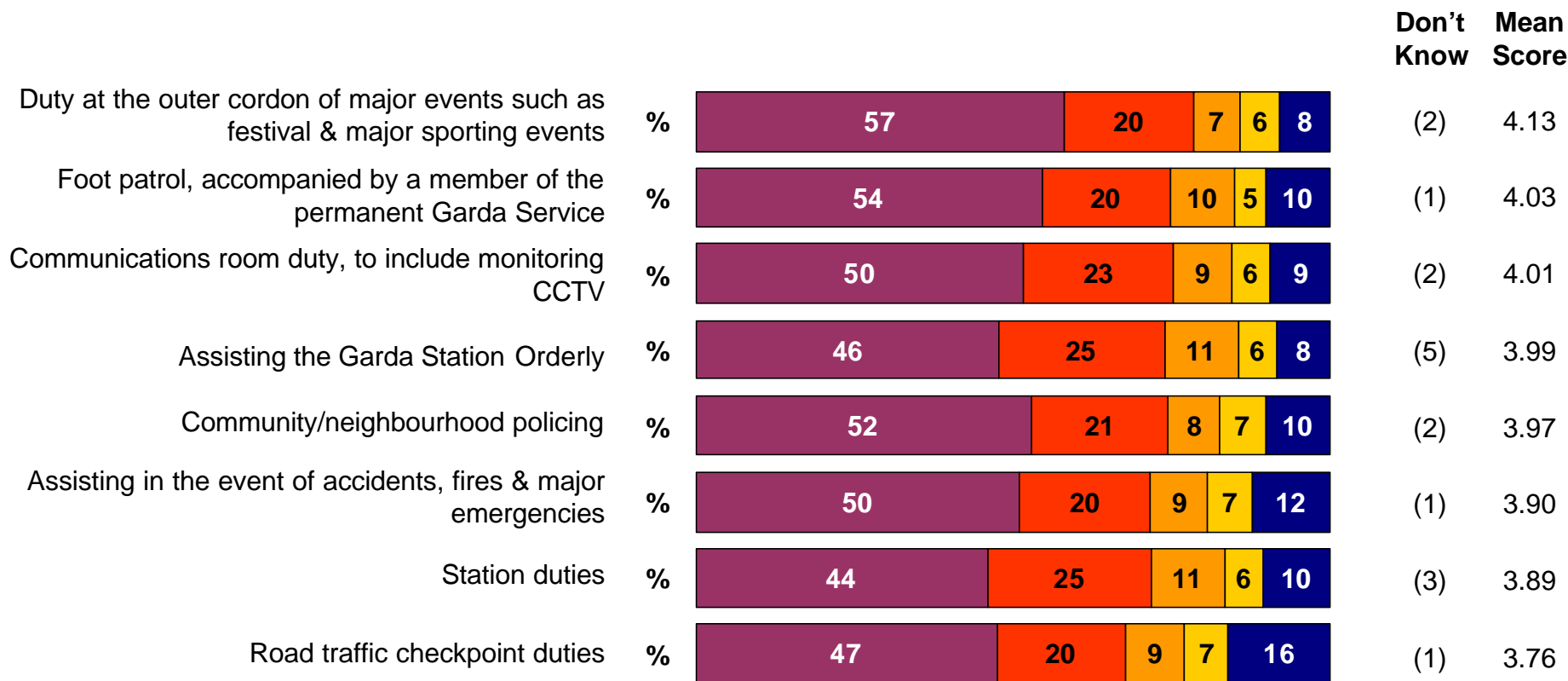
Base: All Adults Aged 15+: 1,009



Q.12 Please tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following statements I am going to read out about the Garda Reserve

Attitudes towards Garda Reserve Duties

Base: All Adults Aged 15+: 1,009

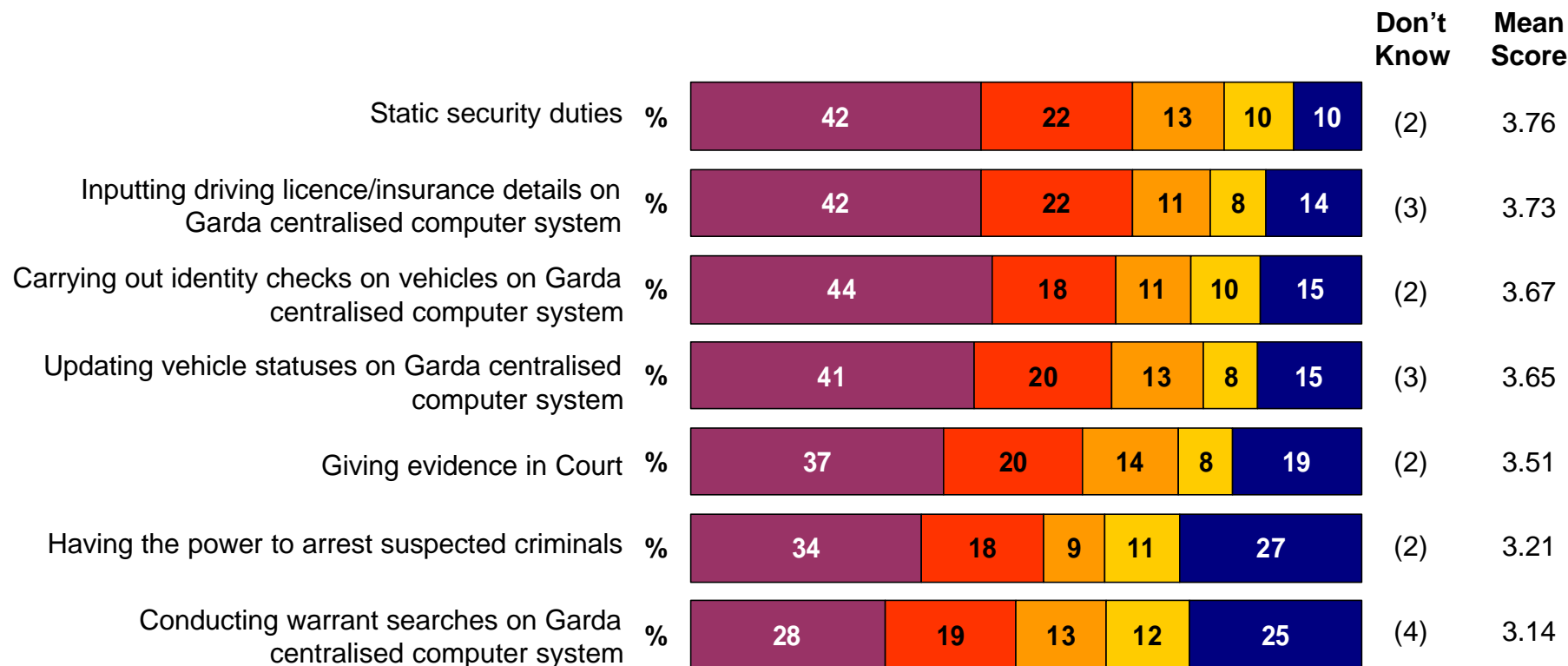


■ Strongly Agree (5) ■ Slightly agree (4) ■ Neither agree nor disagree (3) ■ Slightly disagree (2) ■ Strongly disagree (1)

Q.13 To what extent you feel that the Garda Reserve should perform the following duties?

Attitudes towards Garda Reserve Duties (cont'd)

Base: All Adults Aged 15+: 1,009

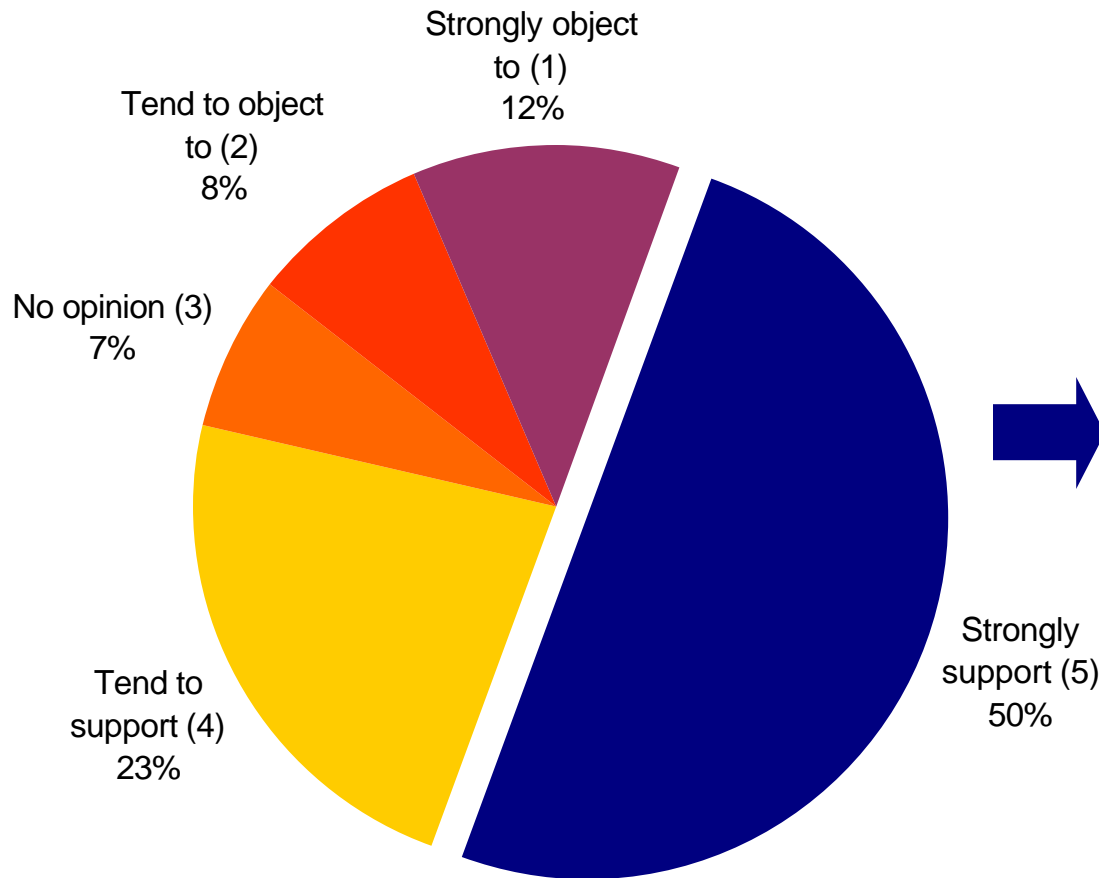


■ Strongly Agree (5) ■ Slightly agree (4) ■ Neither agree nor disagree (3) ■ Slightly disagree (2) ■ Strongly disagree (1)

Q.13 To what extent you feel that the Garda Reserve should perform the following duties?

Level of Support for Garda Reserve

Base: All adults age 15+ years: 1,009

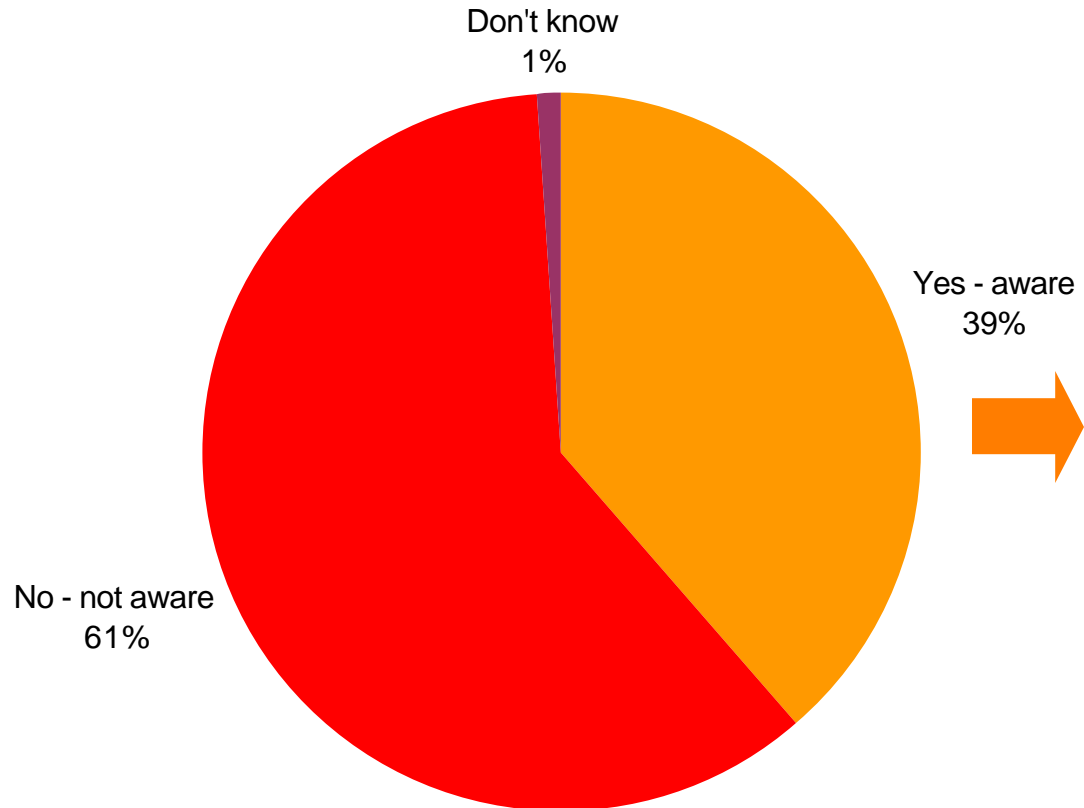


Mean Score: 3.9

Strongly Support	
	%
<u>Gender</u>	
Males	50
Females	49
<u>Region</u>	
Dublin	52
Rest of Leinster	51
Munster	52
Conn/Ulster	40
<u>Social Class</u>	
AB	47
C1	52
C2	48
DE	54
F	41

Awareness of the Garda Reserve Legislation

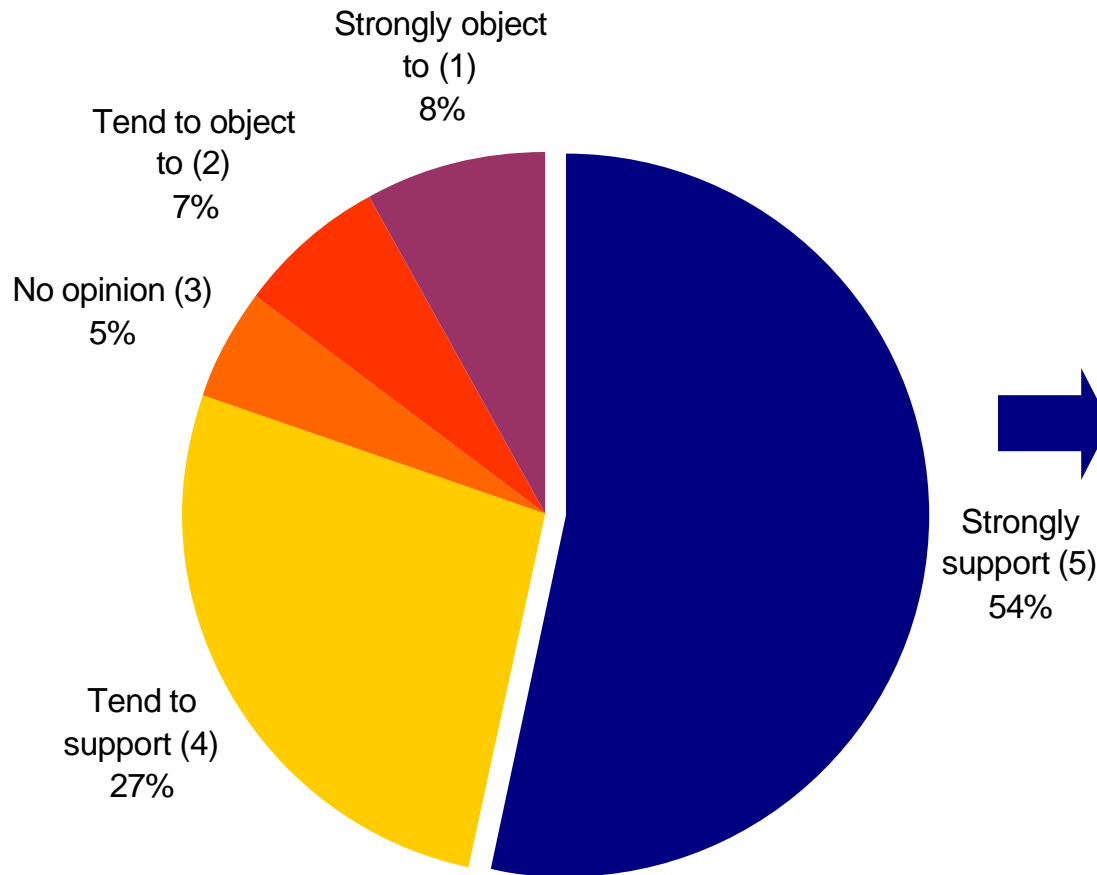
Base: All adults age 15+ years: 1,009



Awareness highest amongst	
	%
<u>Gender</u>	
Males	49
Females	29
<u>Age</u>	
15-24	19
25-34	29
35-44	50
45-54	45
55-64	50
65+	50

Level of Support for Greater Use of Civilians in Garda Offices

Base: All adults age 15+ years: 1,009



Mean Score: 4.11

Strongly Support (Demographics)

	%
<u>Gender</u>	
Males	55
Females	52
<u>Age</u>	
15-24	42
25-34	48
35-44	56
45-54	53
55-64	65
65+	65
<u>Social Class</u>	
AB	51
C1	58
C2	53
DE	58
F	37

Management Summary

Management Summary

The Extent of Public Concern over Crime and Law Enforcement

- There is widespread public anxiety over matters of crime and public order maintenance at present with four in five of those polled expressing some concern over these issues. Over half stated that they are “very concerned” in this regard. Those who expressed the most concern were women and older people. Three quarters of those aged over 55 admitting to being “very concerned”. Where respondents perceived that they or their family members were likely to become victims of crime, this was reflected in the level of overall concern.

Perceptions of the Level of Crime Compared to 10 Years Ago

- The majority of respondents (two-thirds) believe that crime levels have increased in the past 10 years. These figures are consistent across all ages and social classes.

Management Summary

Worries about Crime

- Half of all adults aged 15+ expressed a worry about a family member becoming a victim of a crime. Concerns are also high relating to the respondents themselves being a victim; a third expressed fears about walking in their neighbourhood at night and such anxieties were equally common in rural areas and in larger towns or cities. 44% are concerned about becoming a victim of a burglary.
- Over half are generally more afraid of being attacked these days compared to four or five years ago; this worry was more common amongst women.

The Degree of Seriousness of Crime Nowadays

- High levels of concern were exhibited regarding most of the crimes listed. Drug abuse was almost universally seen as the most serious problem, followed closely by juvenile/teenage crime, violent crime and burglary. While the over 55s in particular regard violent crime as a very serious problem, these fears are by no means unique to older individuals.

Management Summary

Level of Satisfaction with Garda Service

- When asked about their level of satisfaction with the Garda presence in their area, over half claimed to be either very satisfied or fairly satisfied, while two-fifths were dissatisfied. Two-thirds believe that Gardaí have adequate local knowledge, a belief which correlates with lower concerns about crime and public order maintenance.
- Approximately half those asked believed that the Gardaí who police their area live locally, though in urban areas, and indeed Dublin, less believed this to be so. Over three quarters feel that there are too few Gardaí patrolling the streets in general. Those who were most concerned about crime rates were more likely to be of this opinion. Among those who perceived the Garda presence to be too modest, the preference was for increased foot patrol, although patrol by car was also a popular option, especially among those living in rural areas.

Management Summary

Garda Reserve Initiative

- A high awareness of the Garda Reserve exists with just under three-quarters of respondents aware of the Garda Reserve initiative, with older respondents (45+) displaying the highest awareness.
- Of those who had heard of the initiative, the majority were quite well informed about the individual elements of the initiative. However, most did not realise that the Garda Reserve will have the same educational standards as recruits to the full-time Gardaí. This element will need greater emphasis in future communication.
- Support for the Garda Reserve initiative amongst the public is widespread (73%) with 50% “strongly” supporting the initiative. Levels of support are largely consistent across age, socio-economic class and regional divisions.
- Less than two-fifths were aware that the Garda Reserve legislation was passed in the Dáil with cross party support. Perhaps this is an area for further public communication.
- Just under half believe that the Garda Reserve will bring the Gardaí closer to the community while a similar proportion believe that the Reserve will help strengthen the roots of the Gardaí in the community. Older respondents tend to be more optimistic on these issues.
- Furthermore, four fifths would support the increased use of civilians in Garda offices, with the over 55 age bracket providing the strongest support.

Management Summary

Duties of the Garda Reserve

- The majority of duties were deemed appropriate for members of the Garda Reserve to perform. The most acceptable duties include duty at the cordon for major sporting events, etc., foot patrol (accompanied by a member of the permanent Garda Service) and assisting with communications duty and CCTV.
- Certain tasks were treated with trepidation, and will require careful handling in future communication. For example, the prospect of Reserves having access to the Garda centralised computer system for the purposes of conducting warrant searches together with the power to arrest suspected criminals were the least popular duties.

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