

Canada This Month COVID-19 Tracking

Public Opinion Research
Release Date: May 08, 2020
Field Dates: May 01, 2020 to May 05, 2020

Tracking the Impact of COVID-19

Since early March, INNOVATIVE has been tracking attitudes and reported behaviors impacted by the COVID-19 outbreak. This report is our sixth wave of this ongoing effort to understand the evolution of public opinion on the situation.

Today, INNOVATIVE is releasing results from our May 2020 Canada This Month survey. This online survey was in field from May 1st to May 5th with a weighted sample size of 1,500 Canadian residents and oversamples in every province. Detailed methodology is provided in the appendix.

This report covers the attitudes and behaviors that INNOVATIVE has been tracking related to COVID-19, including key segmentations.

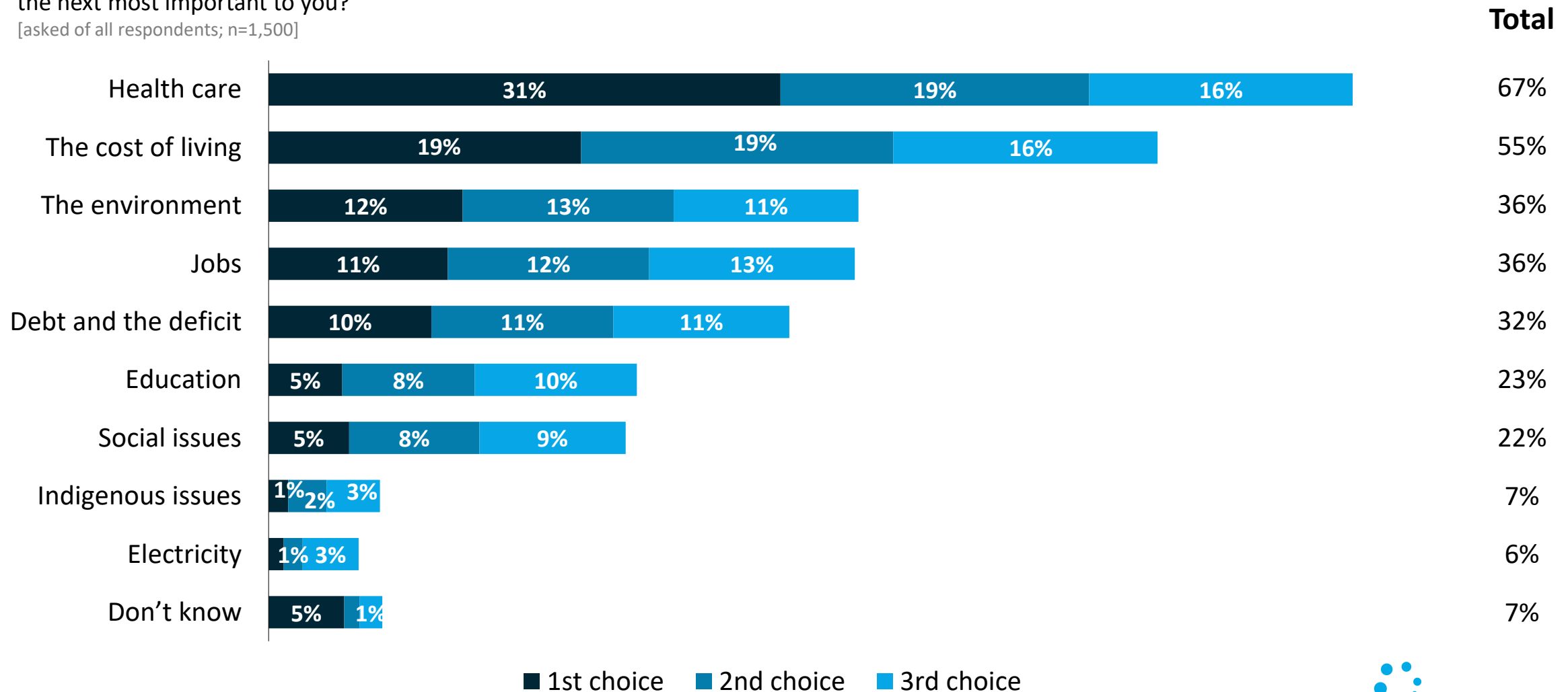
Healthcare and cost of living have consistently remained the top 2 issues for Canadians through the outbreak.

Issue Importance: Nearly 7-in-10 (67%) say health care is an important issue followed by cost of living (55%), and the environment or jobs (36%)



Which of the following issues is the most important issue to you? And which of these issues is the next most important to you? And which of these issues is the next most important to you?

[asked of all respondents; n=1,500]

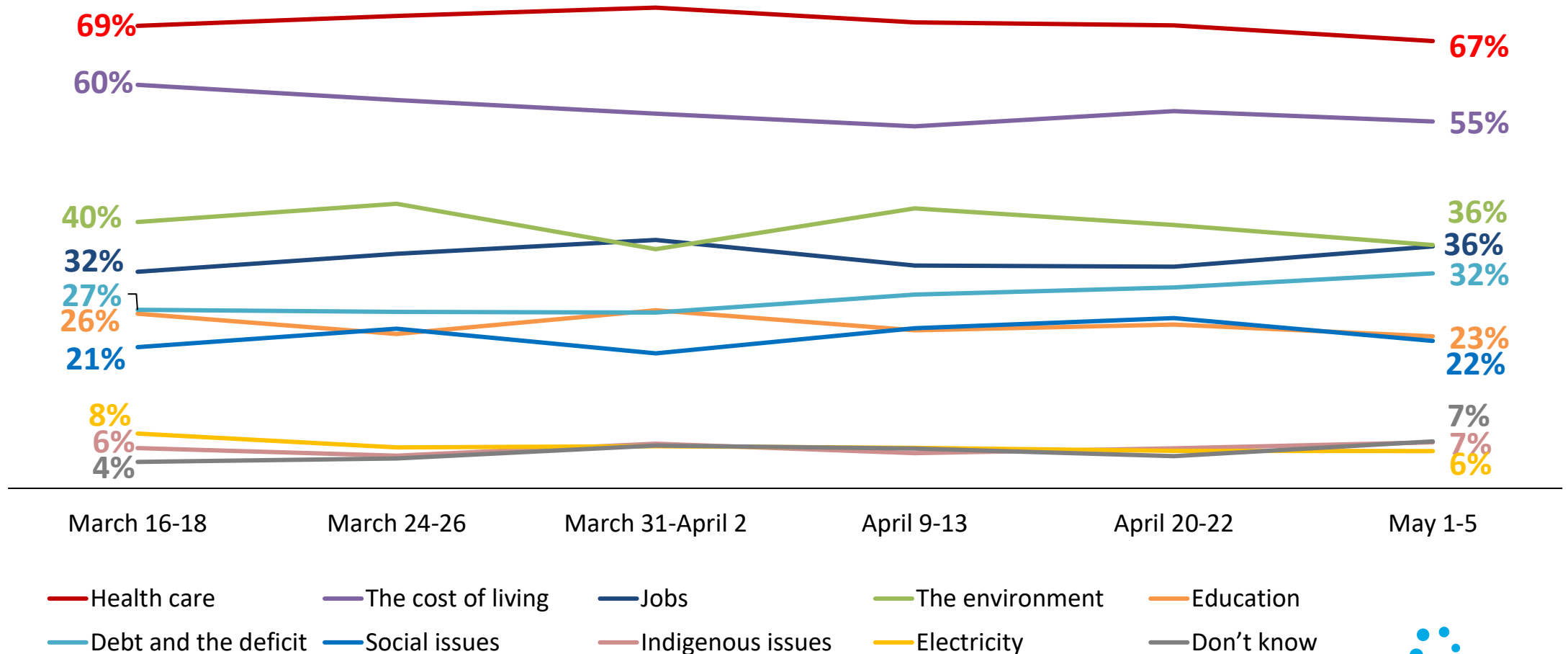


Issue Importance: Healthcare and cost of living have consistently been the most important issues since March



Which of the following issues is the most important issue to you? And which of these issues is the next most important to you? And which of these issues is the next most important to you? **Showing total.**

[asked of all respondents; n=1,500]



Reported behavior has remained
consistent since the start of April

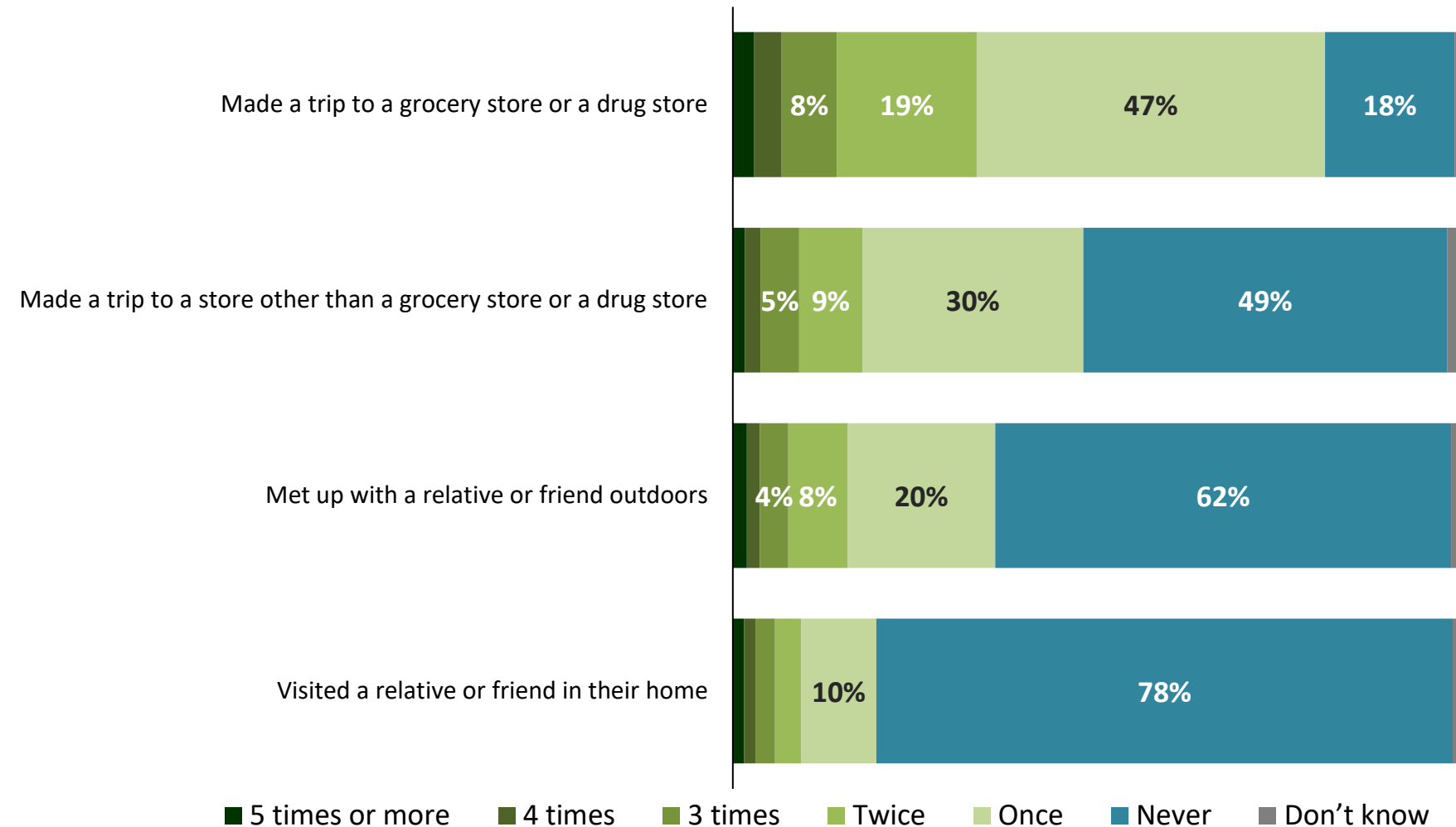
Activities: Taking a trip to a grocery/drug store remains the top activity; ⁷ those who've gone at least once in the last week steady week-to-week



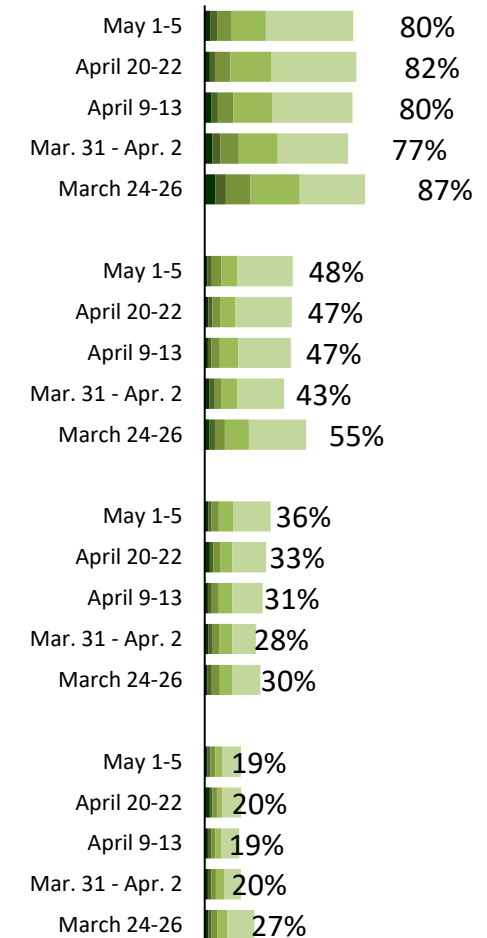
Over the past 7 days, how often have you done each of the following?

[asked of all respondents; n=1,500]

Current Wave: May 1-5



Tracking: % at least once



Note: Labels not shown for categories with a frequency of 3% or less

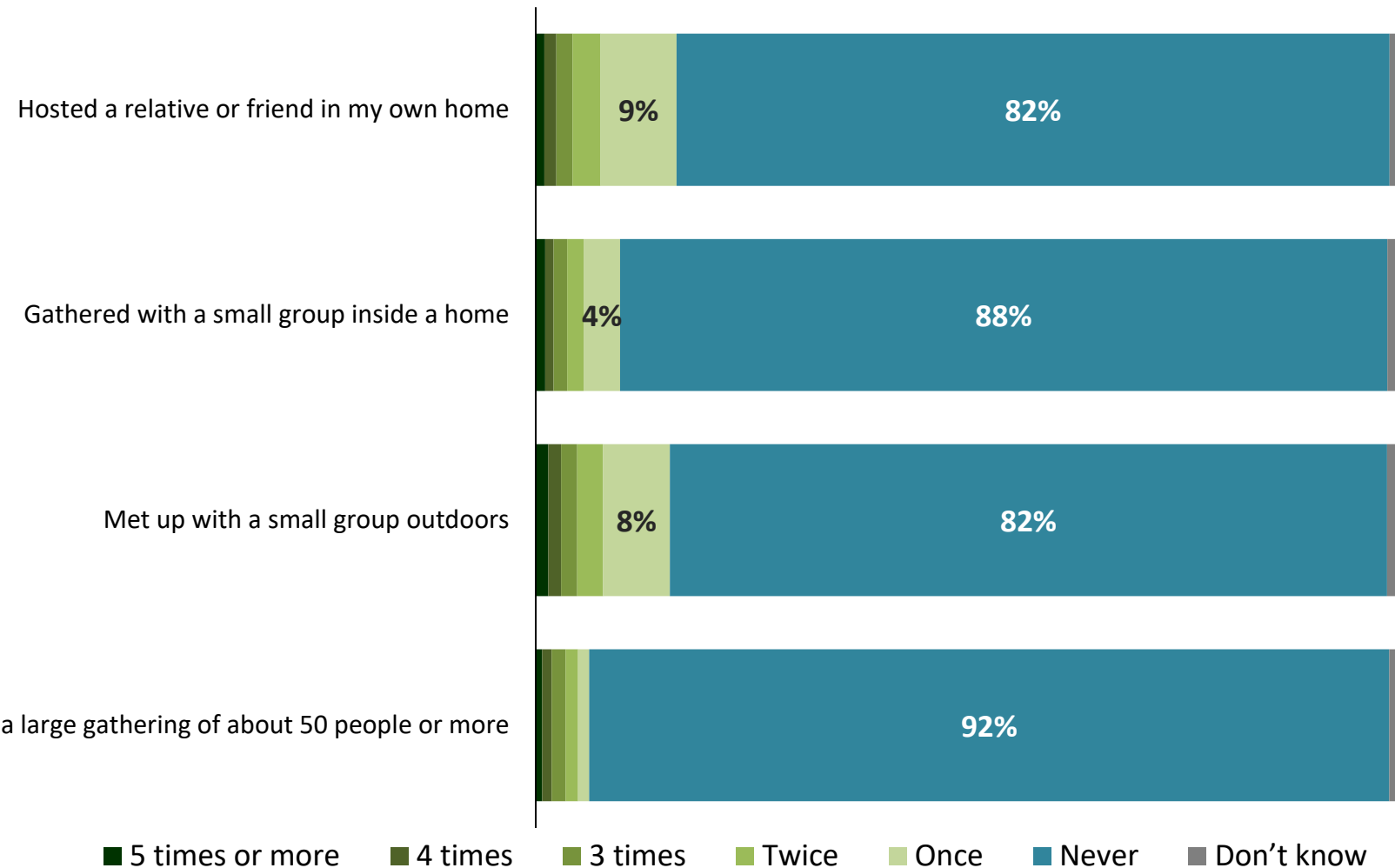
Activities: No significant changes in reported behaviour week-to-week



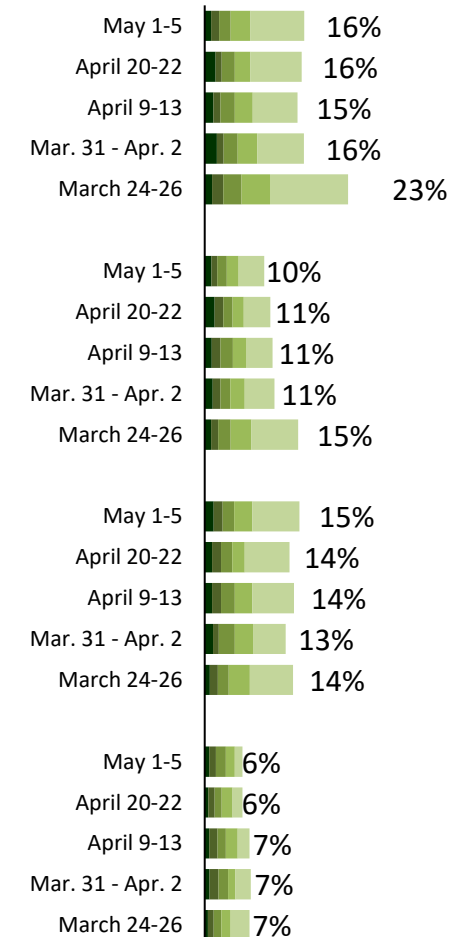
Over the past 7 days, how often have you done each of the following?

[asked of all respondents; n=1,500]

Current Wave: May 1-5



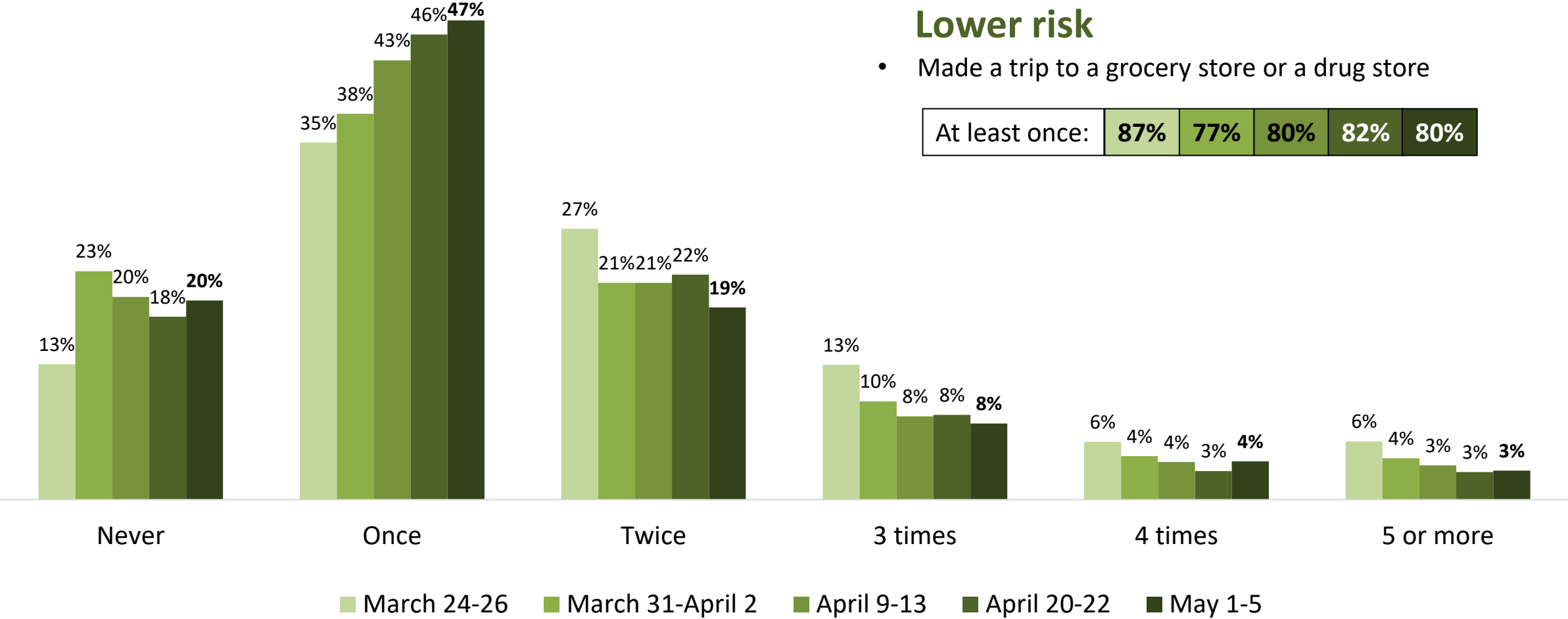
Tracking: % at least once



Note: Labels not shown for categories with a frequency of 3% or less

Activities: The number of Canadians taking just one trip to the grocery store each week has been climbing steadily since late March

Q Over the past 7 days, how often have you done each of the following?
[NOTE: Each behaviour asked separately, results for groups are summed; all respondents, n=1,500]

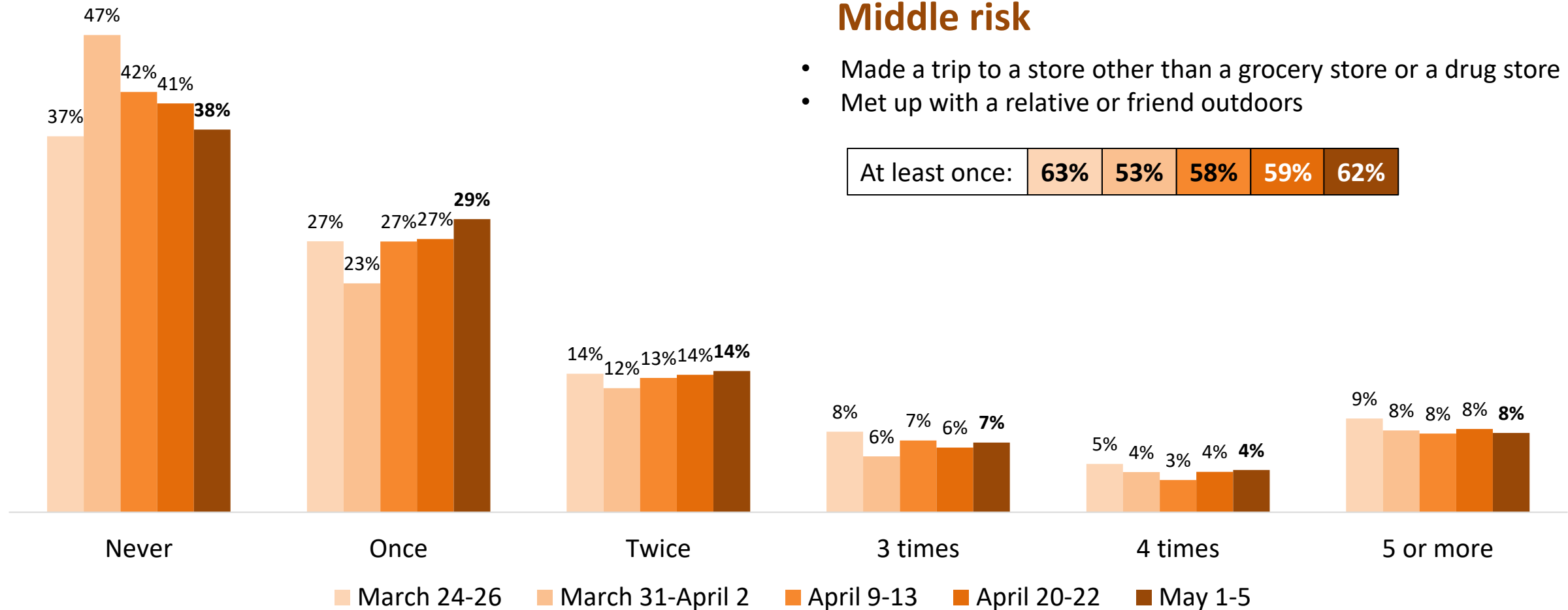


Activities: Those who say they *never* took one of these middle risk actions last week peaked at the end of march and is trending down



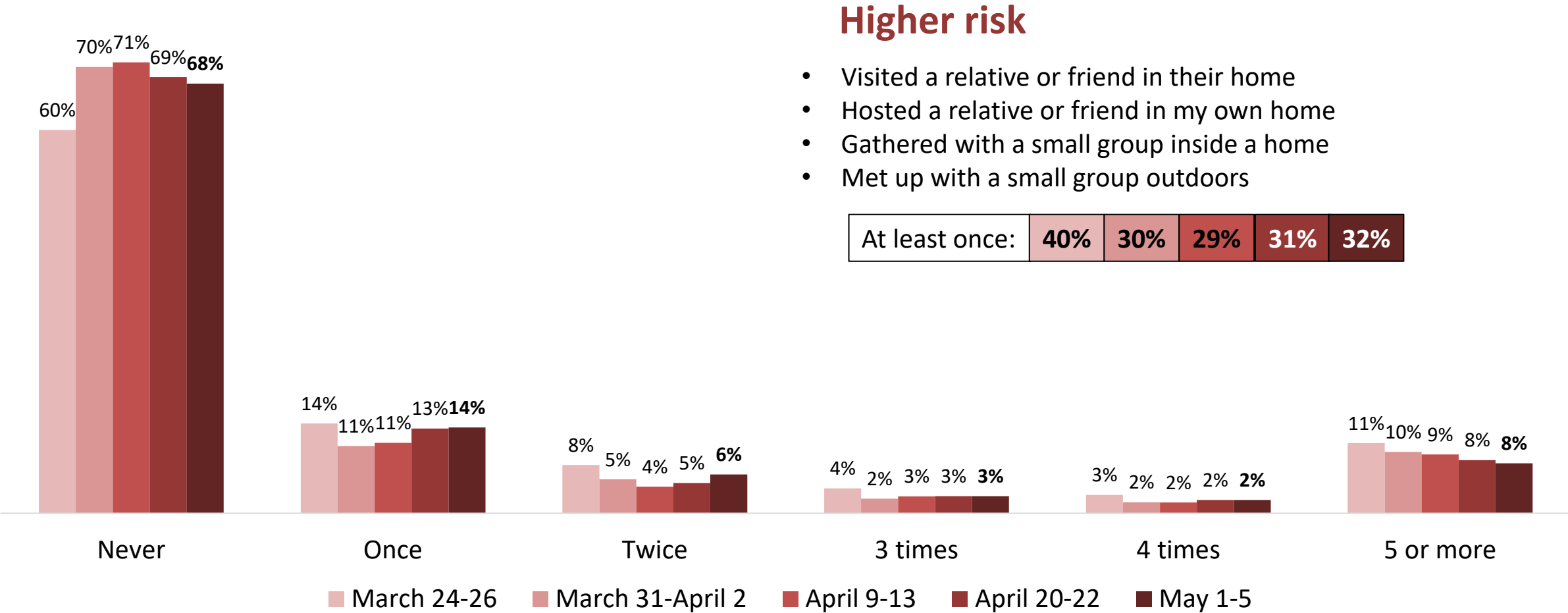
Over the past 7 days, how often have you done each of the following?

[NOTE: Each behaviour asked separately, results for groups are summed; all respondents, n=1,500]



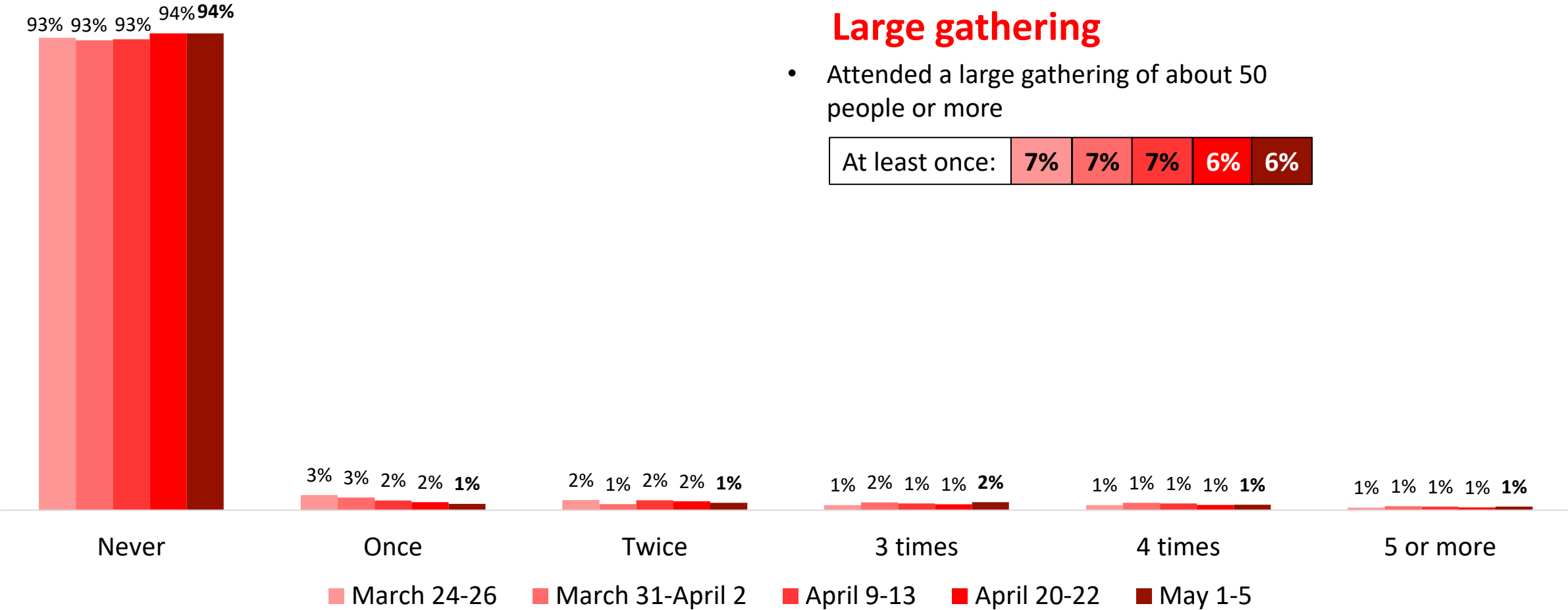
Activities: No significant change in reported engagement in higher risk activities since last week

Q Over the past 7 days, how often have you done each of the following?
 [NOTE: Each behaviour asked separately, results for groups are summed; all respondents, n=1,500]



Physical Distancing: Those who say they have attended a large gathering of 50 or more people remains very low

Q Over the past 7 days, how often have you done each of the following?
[NOTE: Each behaviour asked separately, results for groups are summed; all respondents, n=1,500]



Large gathering

- Attended a large gathering of about 50 people or more

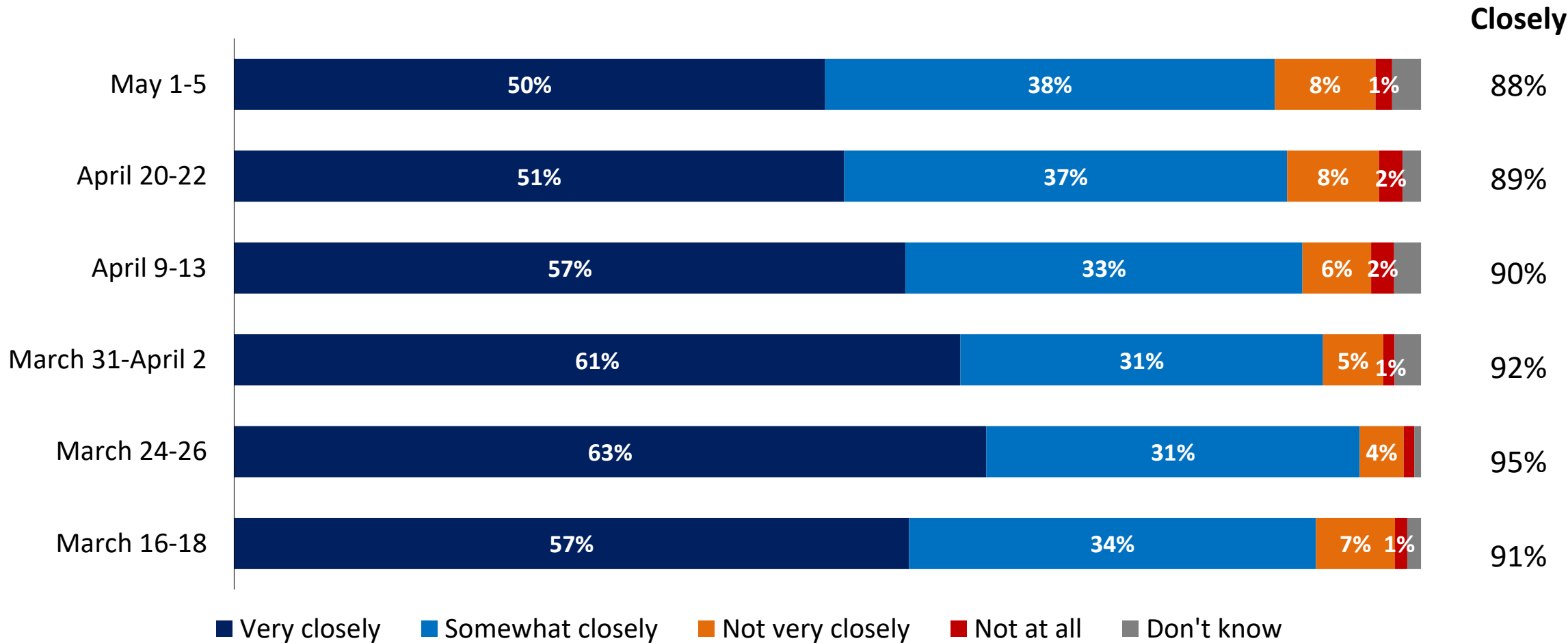
At least once:	7%	7%	7%	6%	6%
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While attention to COVID has remained high, the intensity has been dropping

Attention to COVID-19 News: Those who say they are following COVID-19 news at least 'Somewhat closely' steady week-to-week at 88%



How closely have you been following news about COVID-19 which is also known as the novel coronavirus?
[asked of all respondents; n=1,500]

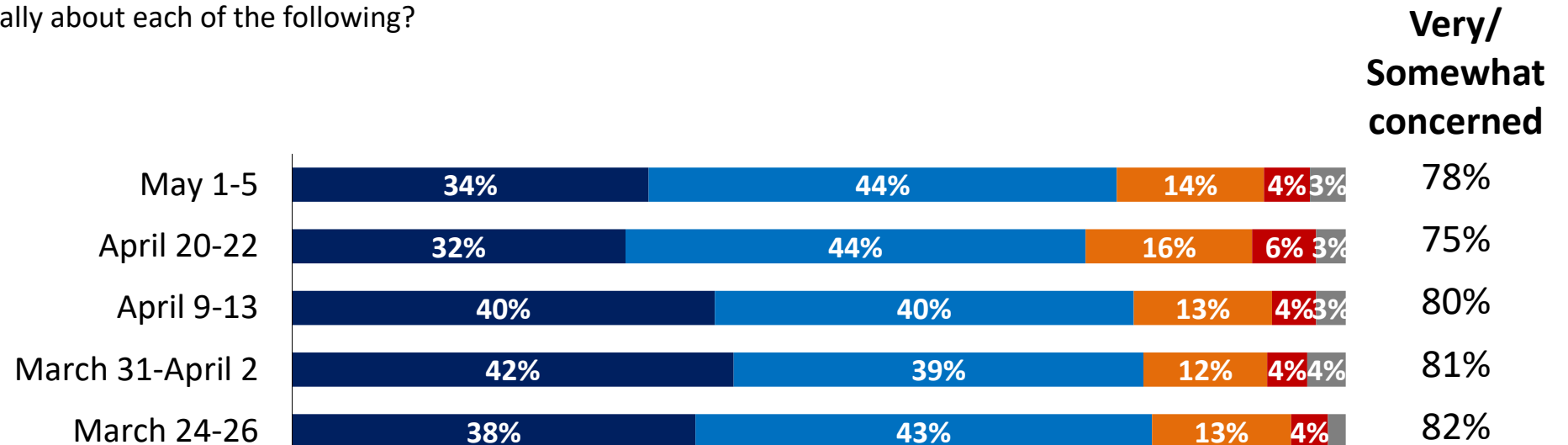


Canadians have consistently been more concerned about the health of their friends and family than their own health

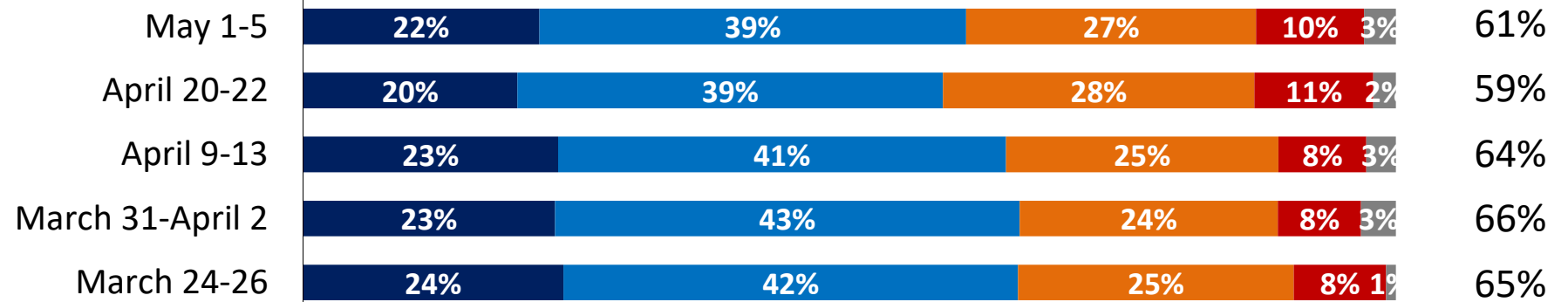
Concern: Concern that a vulnerable friend/family member will contract the virus is up 3-pts directionally week-to-week to 78%

Q How concerned are you personally about each of the following?
[asked of all respondents; n=1,500]

That a vulnerable friend or a relative will contract COVID-19



That you yourself will contract COVID-19



■ Very concerned
 ■ Somewhat concerned
 ■ Not very concerned
 ■ Not at all concerned
 ■ Don't know

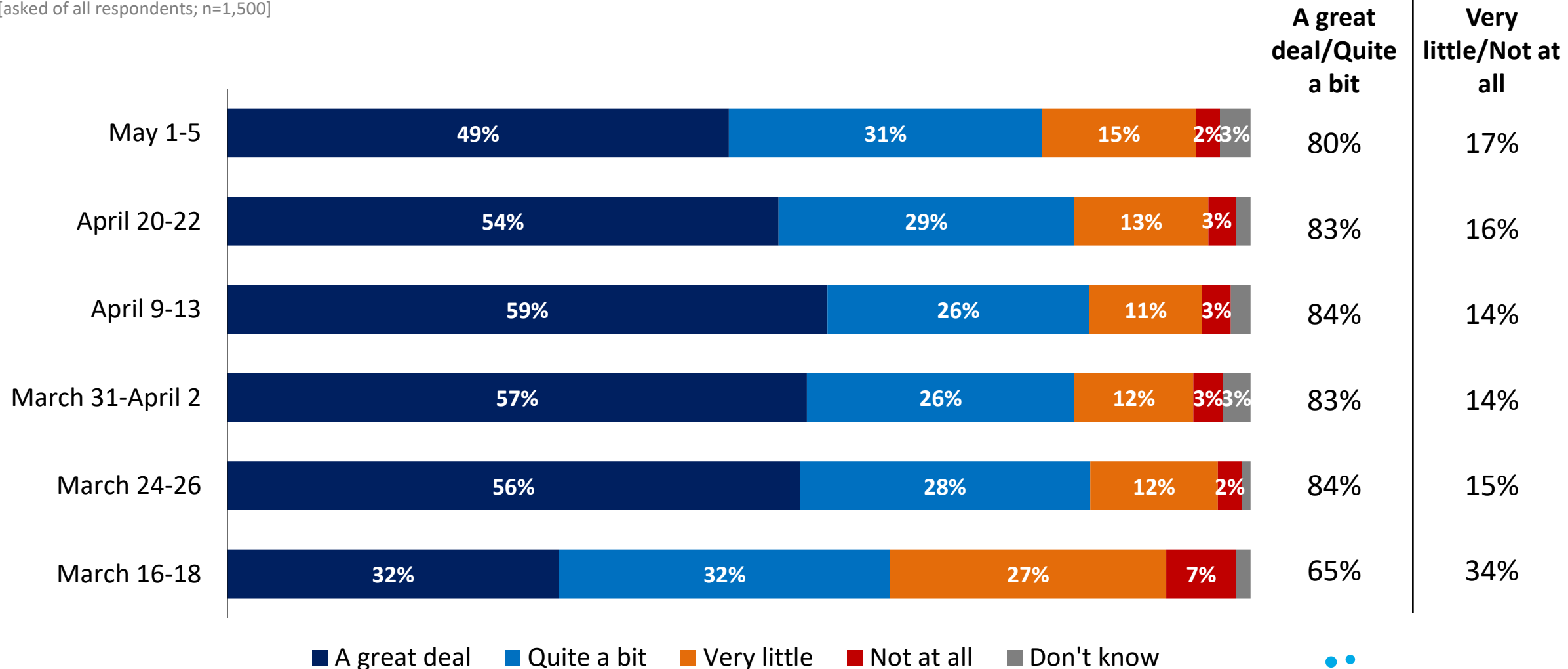
Canadians continue to say that their behavior is very different now than it was before the outbreak

Behavioural Changes Tracking: Those saying they've changed their behaviour at least quite a bit down 3-pts directionally week-to-week



How much have you changed your day-to-day behaviour in order to reduce the chance you will get COVID-19 or pass it on to others?

[asked of all respondents; n=1,500]

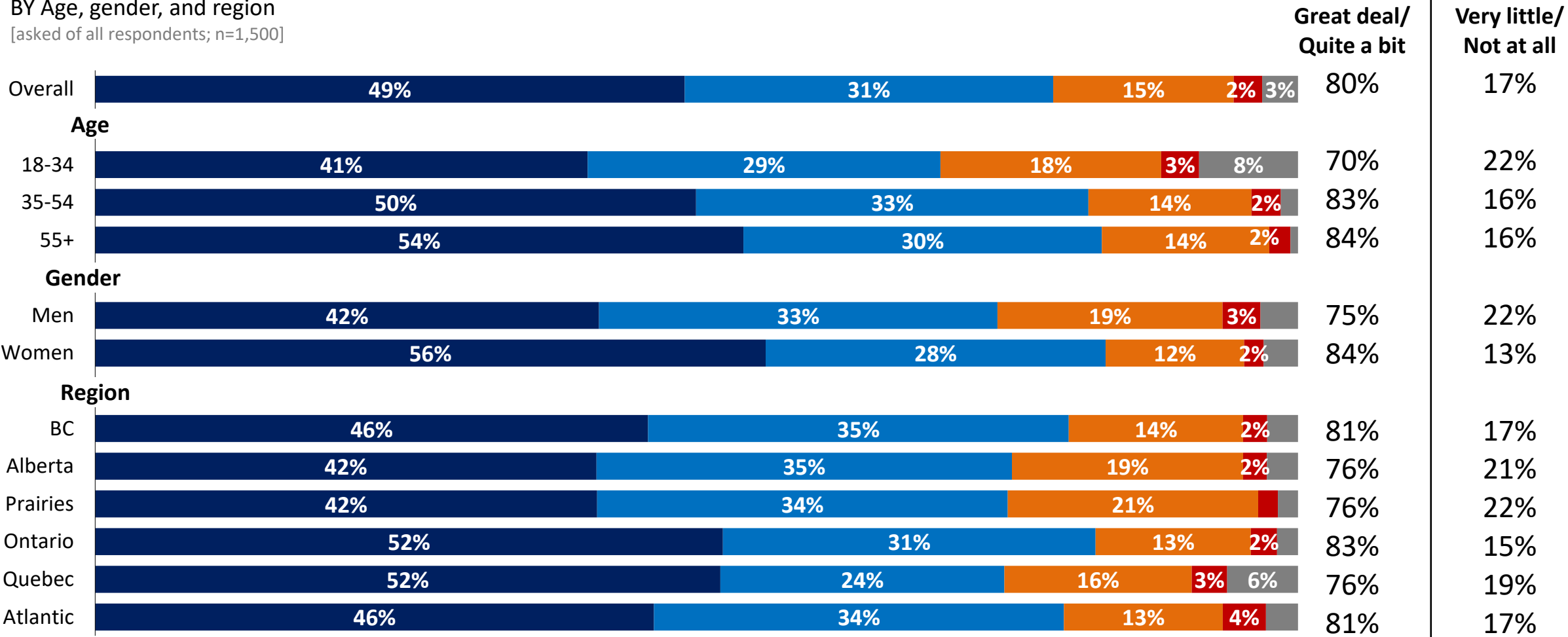


Behavioural Changes: Older respondents and women are more likely to say they have changed a great deal; highest among those in Ontario



How much have you changed your day-to-day behaviour in order to reduce the chance you will get COVID-19 or pass it to others?

BY Age, gender, and region
[asked of all respondents; n=1,500]



■ A great deal ■ Quite a bit ■ Very little ■ Not at all ■ Don't know

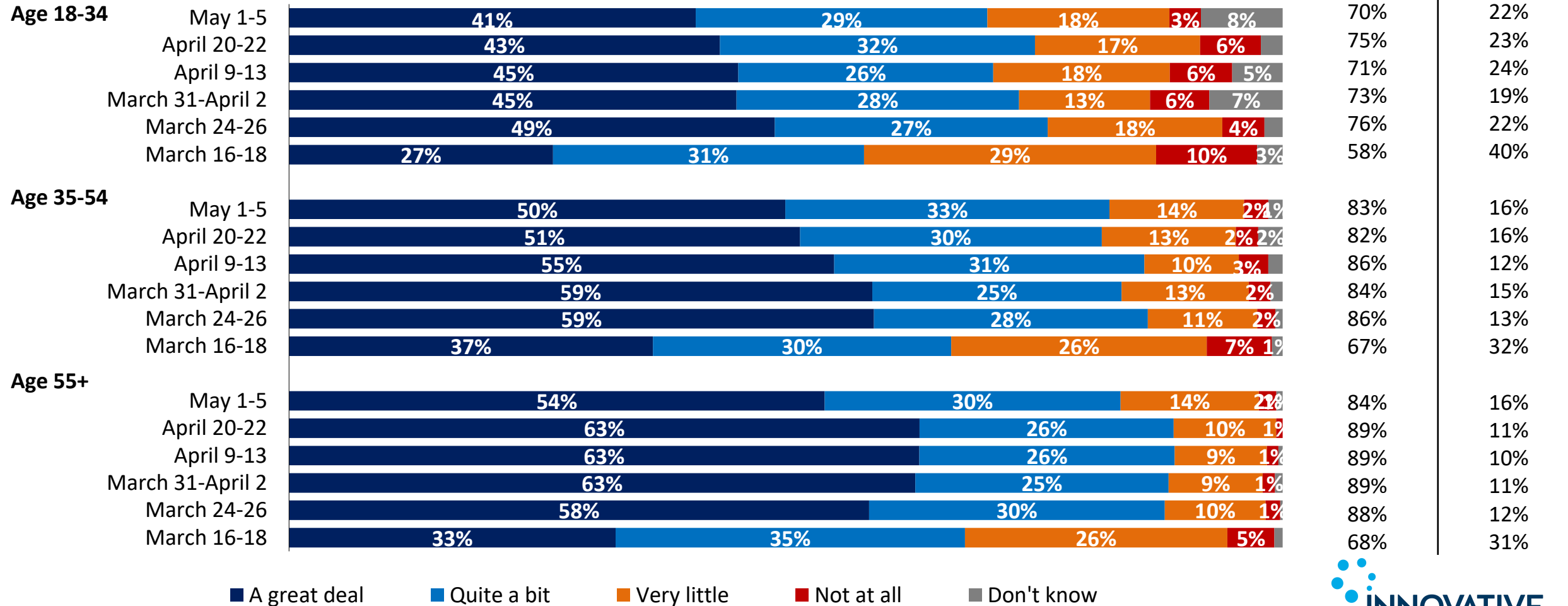
Behavioural Changes – Trend by age: 70% of those 18-34 say they've changed their behaviour at least quite a bit, down 5-pts directionally

Q

How much have you changed your day-to-day behaviour in order to reduce the chance you will get COVID-19 or pass it to others?

BY Age

[asked of all respondents; n=1,500]



■ A great deal

■ Quite a bit

■ Very little

■ Not at all

■ Don't know

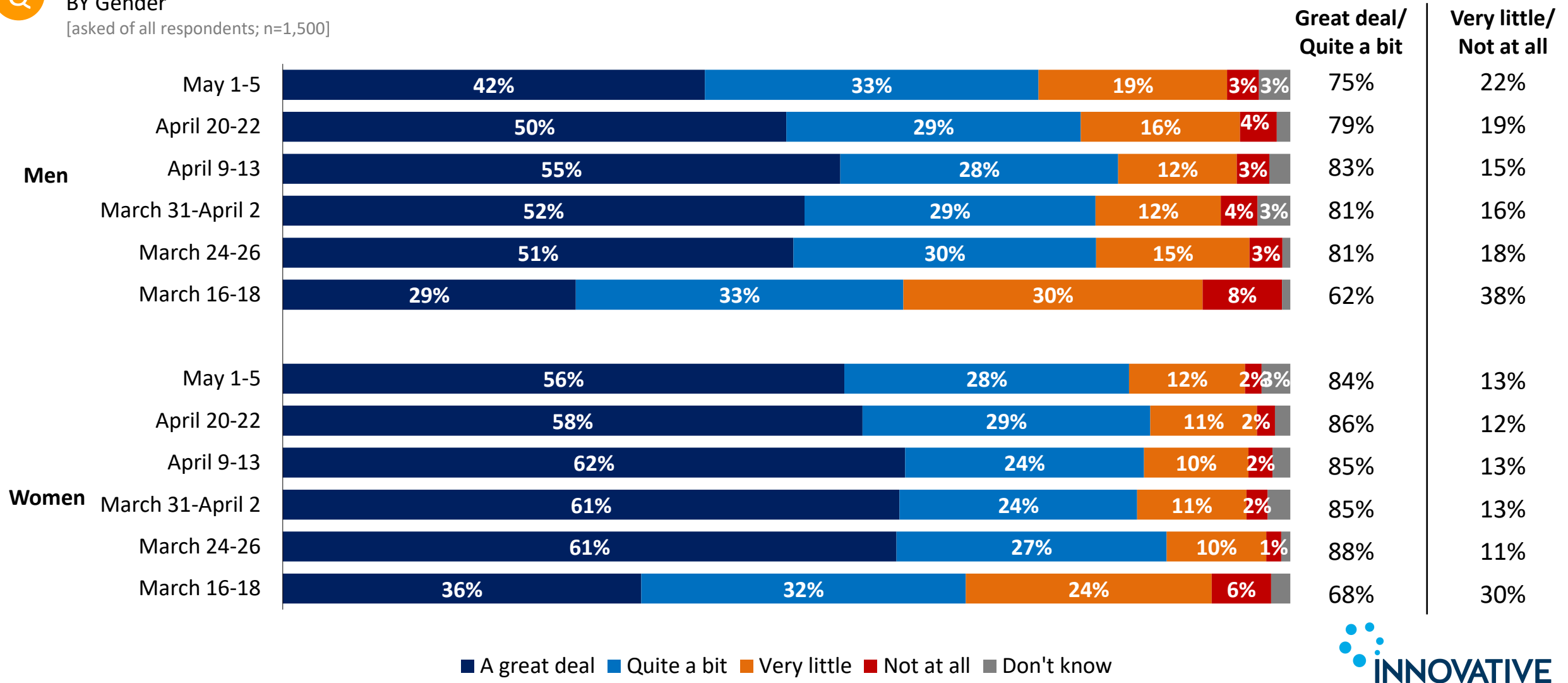
Behavioural Changes – Trend by gender: Men down 4-pts directionally²¹ on saying they've changed their behaviour at least quite a bit



How much have you changed your day-to-day behaviour in order to reduce the chance you will get COVID-19 or pass it to others?

BY Gender

[asked of all respondents; n=1,500]



Behavioural Changes – Trend by region: Those who say they've changed their behaviour at least quite a bit down 10-pts week-to-week in Prairies



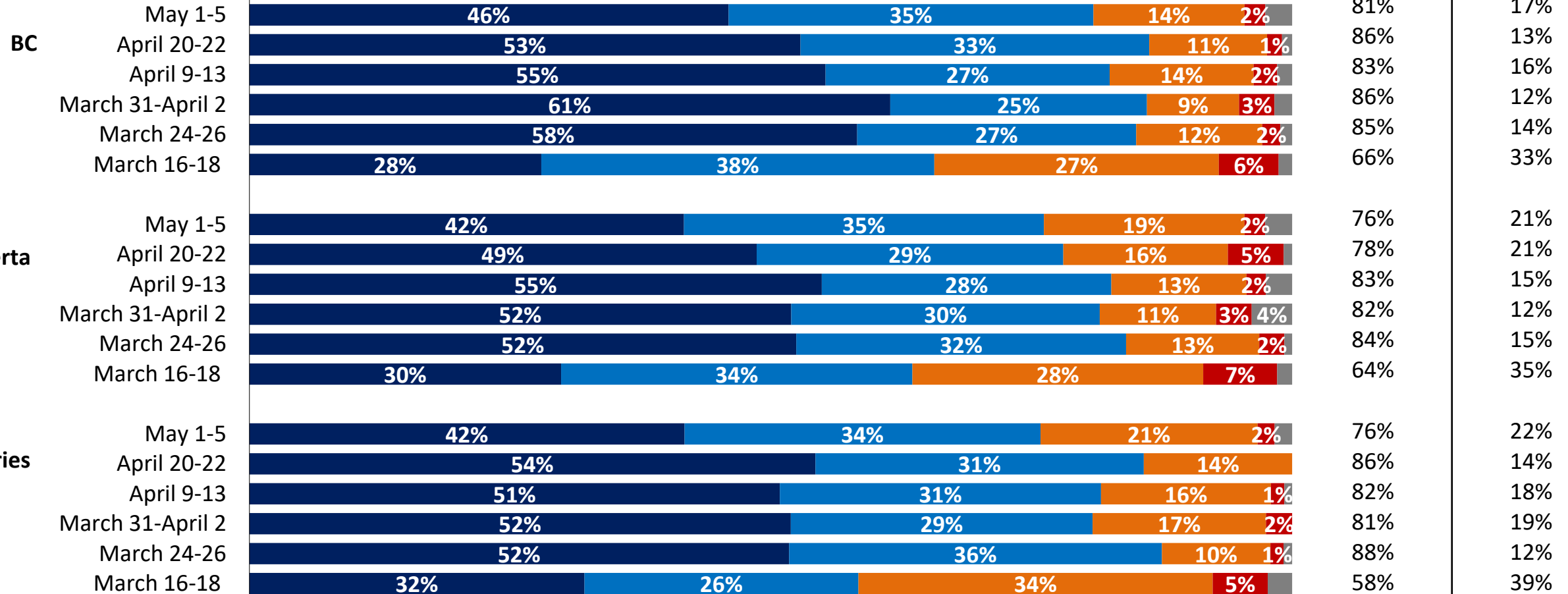
How much have you changed your day-to-day behaviour in order to reduce the chance you will get COVID-19 or pass it to others?

BY Region

[asked of all respondents; n=1,500]

Great deal/
Quite a bit

Very little/
Not at all



■ A great deal ■ Quite a bit ■ Very little ■ Not at all ■ Don't know

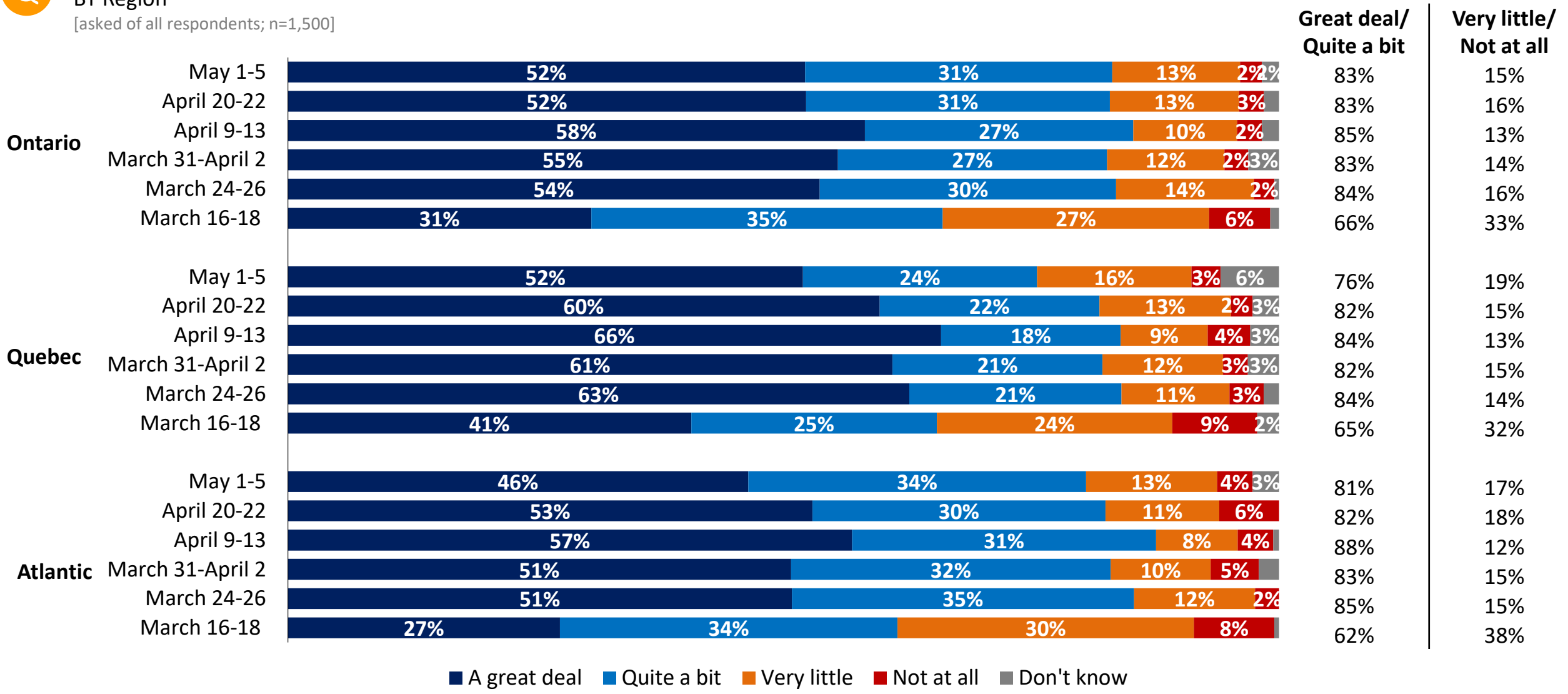
Behavioural Changes – Trend by region: Reported behaviour change is steady in ON and Atlantic and down 6-pts directionally in Quebec



How much have you changed your day-to-day behaviour in order to reduce the chance you will get COVID-19 or pass it to others?

BY Region

[asked of all respondents; n=1,500]



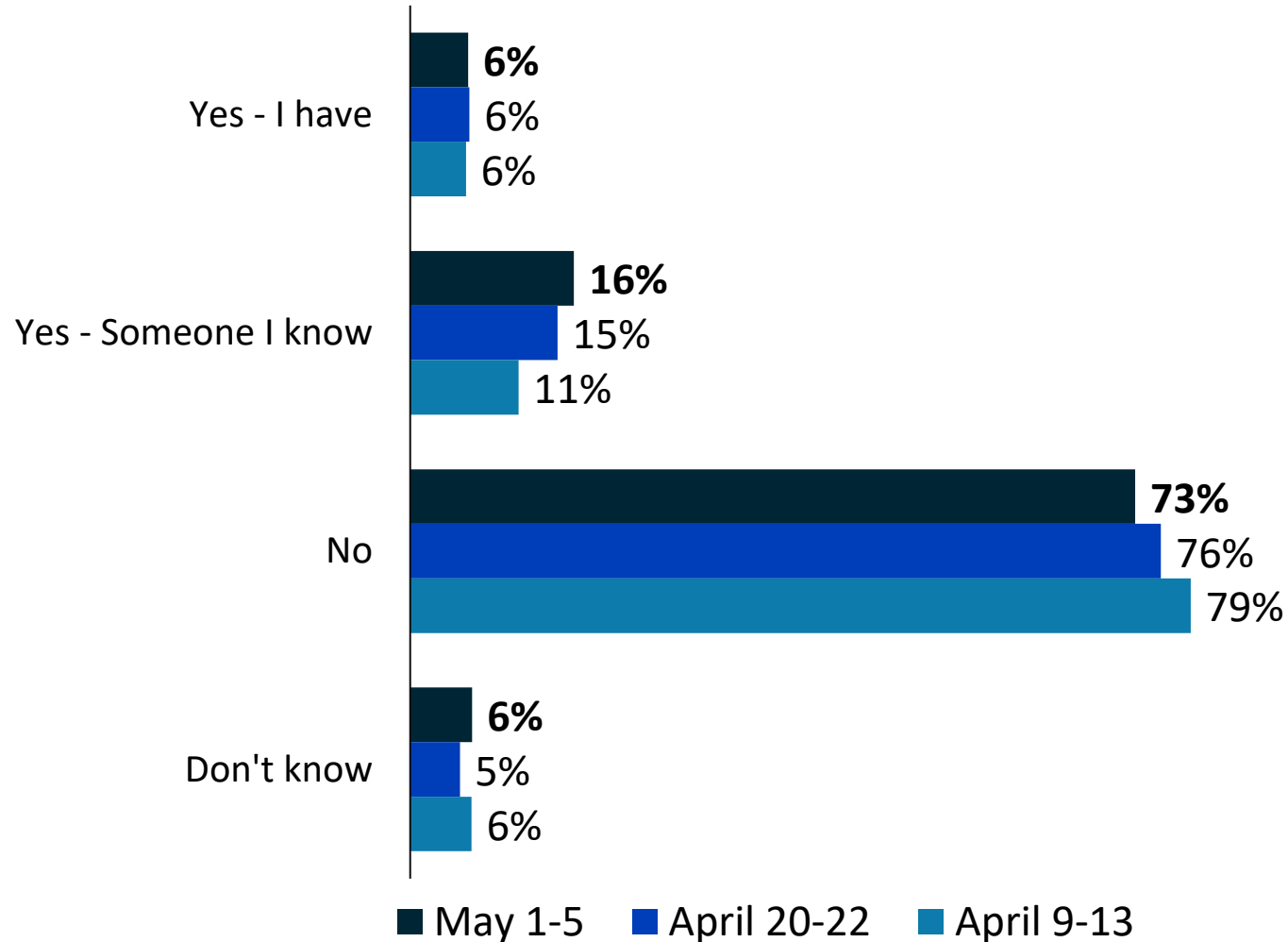
The number of Canadians who say they know someone affected by the virus has continued to edge upwards

COVID-19 Health Affects: Portion of those with personal COVID-19 experience steady week-to-week



Have you or someone you know experienced symptoms that could be caused by COVID-19?

[asked of all respondents, multiple mentions allowed, n=1,500]



Segmentation (Current wave)

Respondents who say "Yes I have"

Age-Gender

M 18-34	7%
M 35-54	10%
M 55+	3%
F 18-34	7%
F 35-54	5%
F 55+	4%

Region

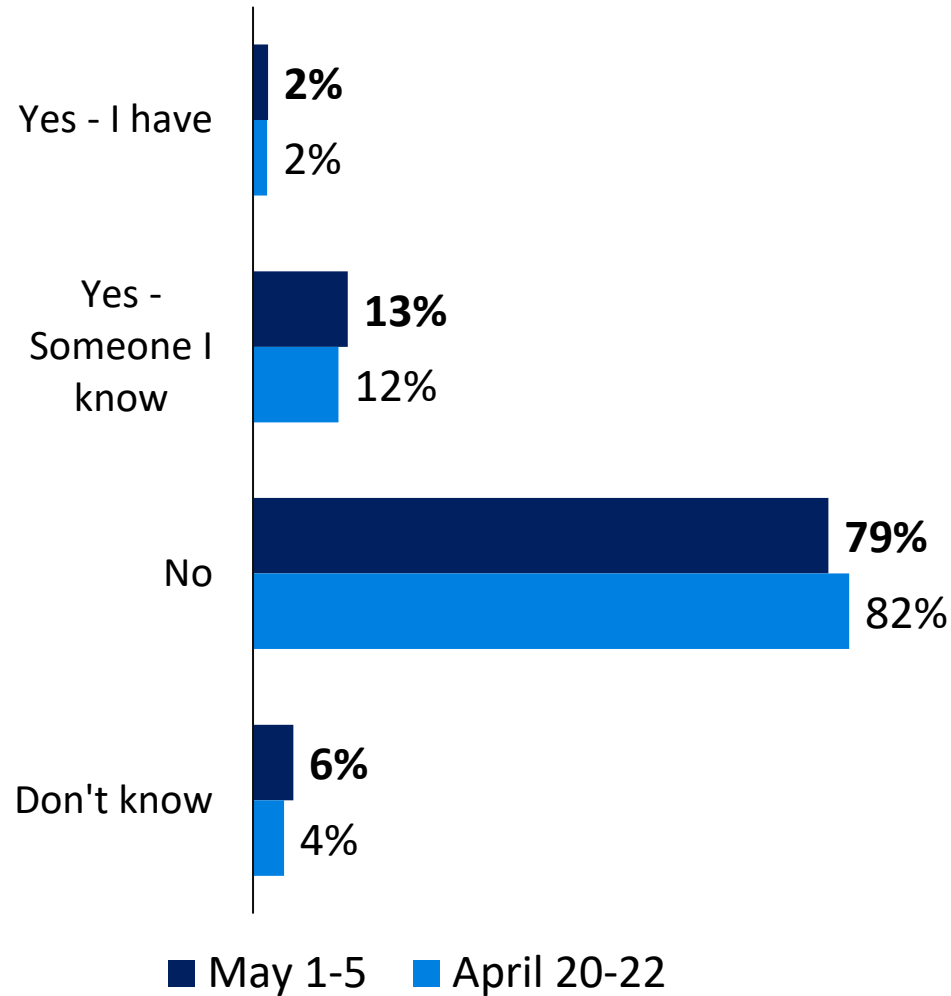
BC	6%
Alberta	7%
Prairies	9%
Ontario	7%
Quebec	3%
Atlantic	3%

COVID-19 Health Affects: Of those who have sought medical treatment²⁶ for the virus, 1% say they've been admitted to the hospital



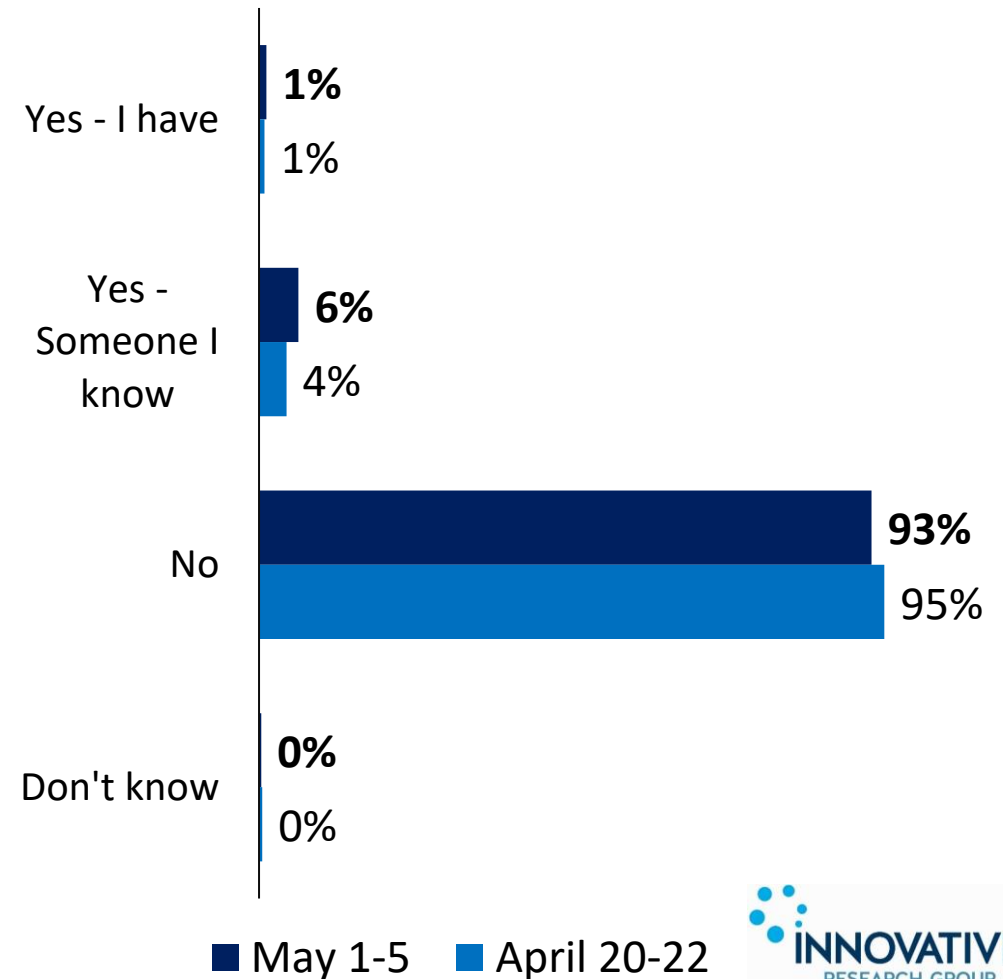
Have you or someone you know sought medical treatment for a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19?

[asked of all respondents, multiple mentions allowed, n=1,500]



Have you or someone you know been admitted to the hospital for at least one night for a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19?

[asked of all respondents who sought medical treatment, multiple mentions allowed, showing results among all respondents, n=1,500]

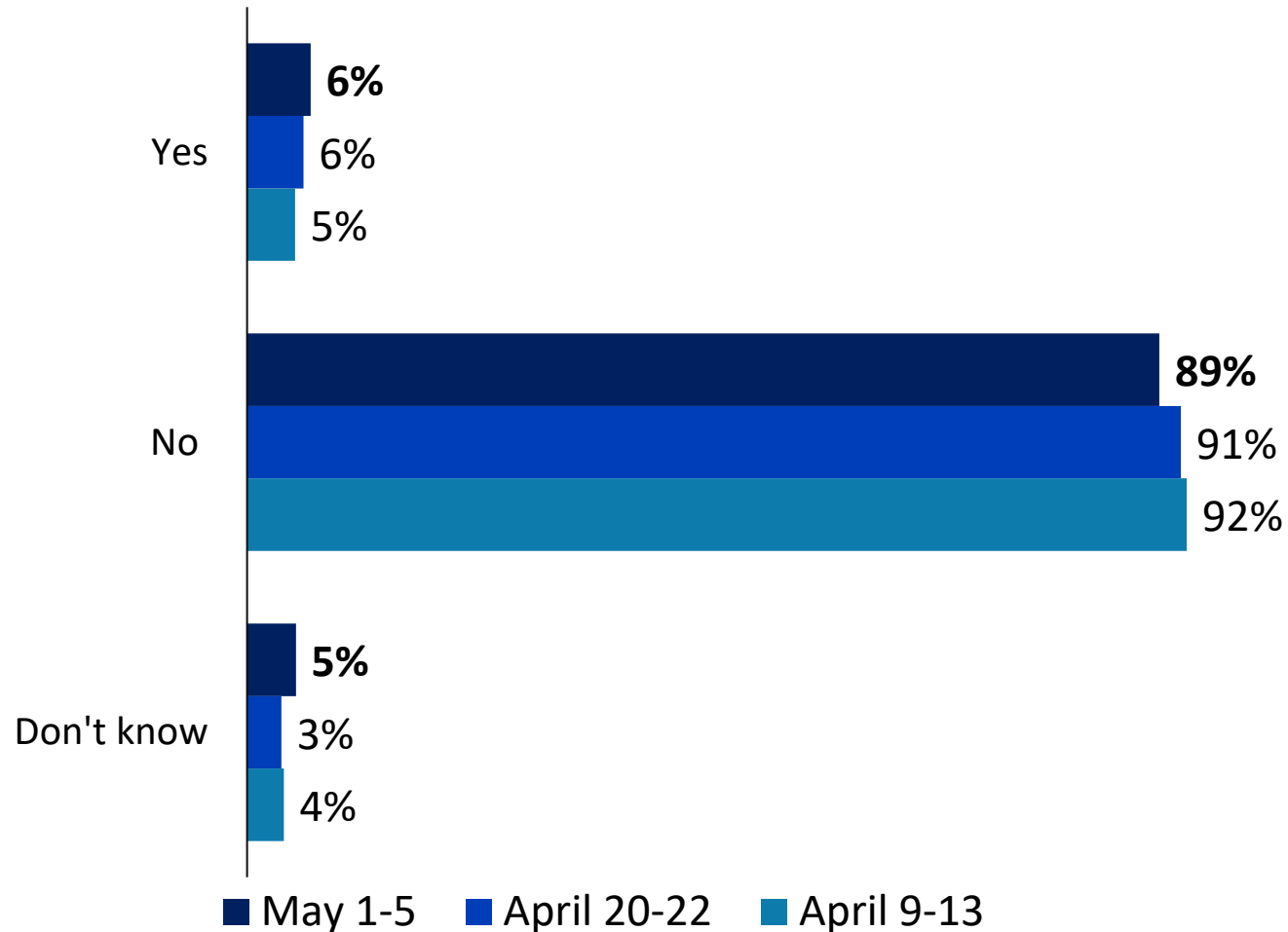


COVID-19 Deaths: Those who say they know someone who has died as²⁷ a result of COVID-19 steady since last week at 6%



Has someone you know died as a result of COVID-19?

[asked of all respondents, n=1,500]



Segmentation (Current wave)

Respondents who say "Yes"

Age-Gender

M 18-34	6%
M 35-54	5%
M 55+	7%
F 18-34	7%
F 35-54	6%
F 55+	6%

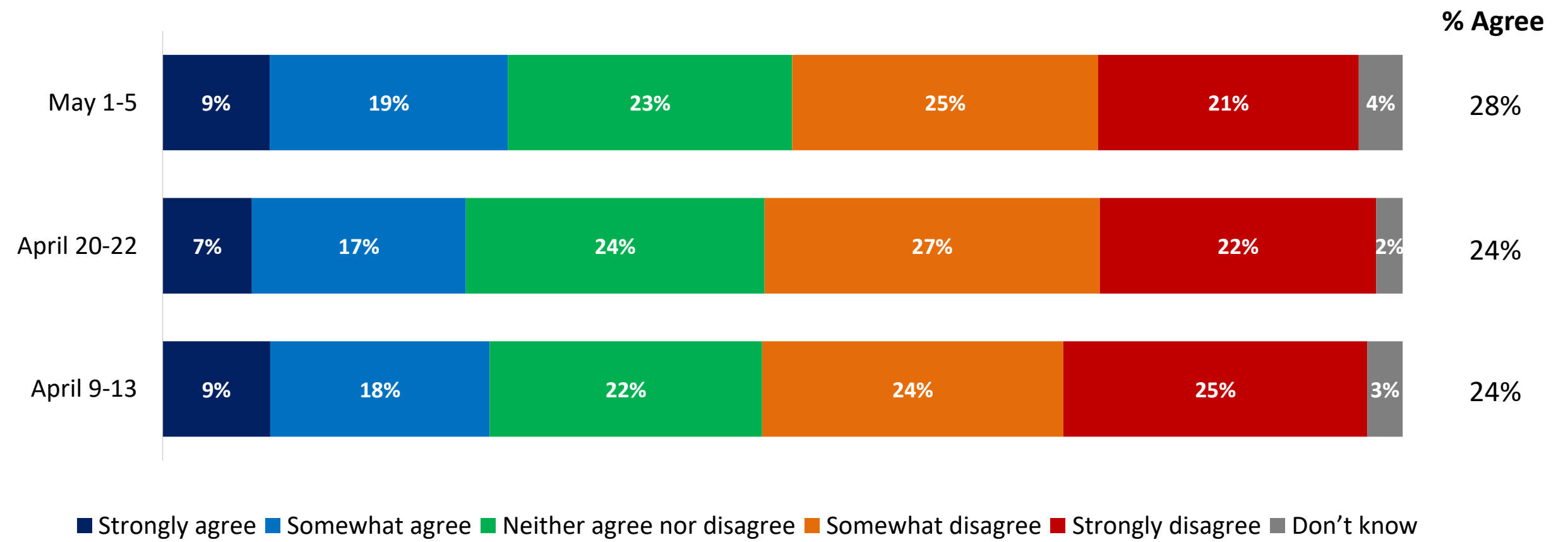
Region

BC	5%
Alberta	4%
Prairies	3%
Ontario	8%
Quebec	6%
Atlantic	4%

There hasn't been an increase in
behavioural fatigue since tracking on it
began

COVID-19 Behavioural Fatigue: Agreement that ‘I don’t think I can keep²⁹ up these changes for very much longer’ up 4-pts week-to-week to 28%

Q Thinking about the changes you’ve made to your daily life, do you agree or disagree with the following statement?
I don’t think I can keep up these changes for very much longer.
[asked of all respondents, n=1,500]



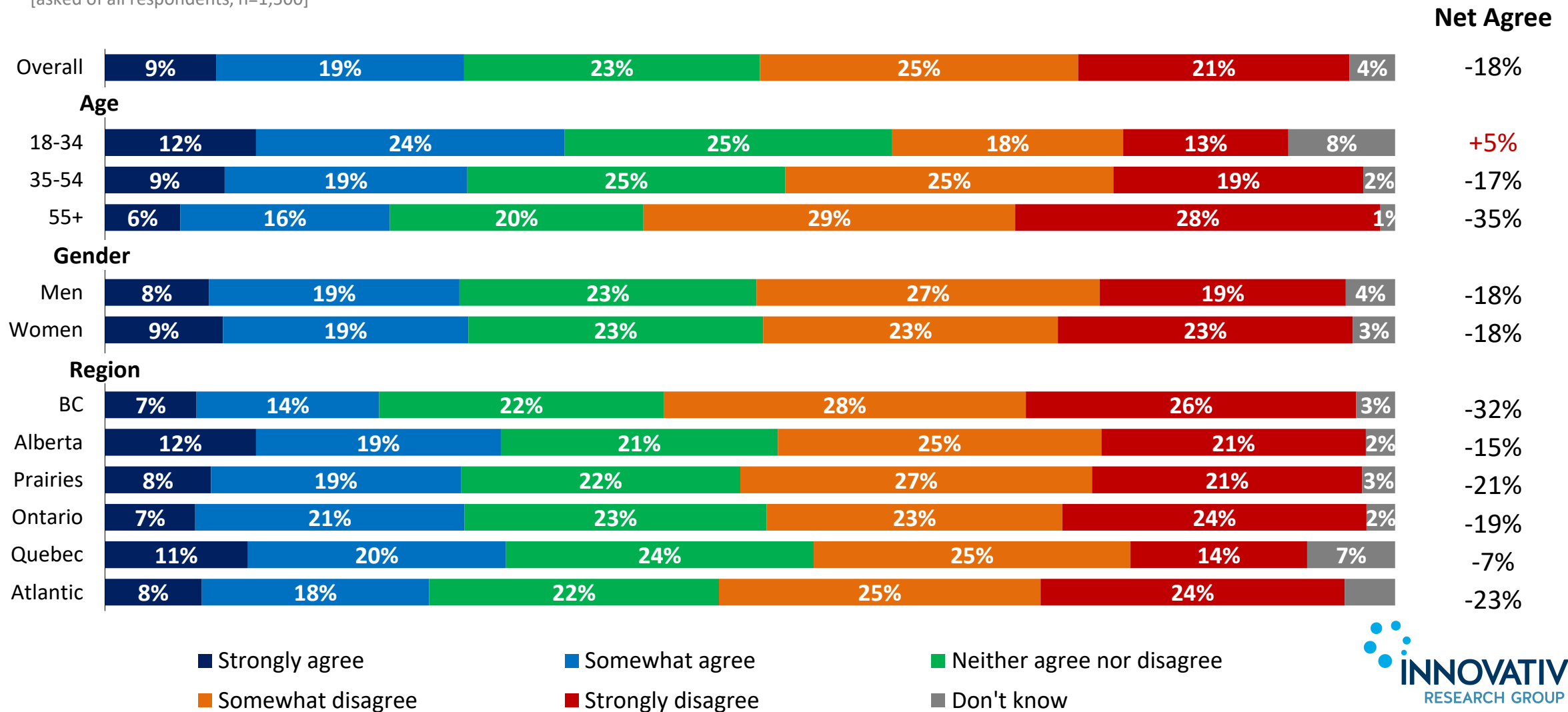
COVID-19 Behavioural Fatigue: Younger respondents most likely to agree that they can't keep up these changes (+5% net agree)

Q

Thinking about the changes you've made to your daily life, do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

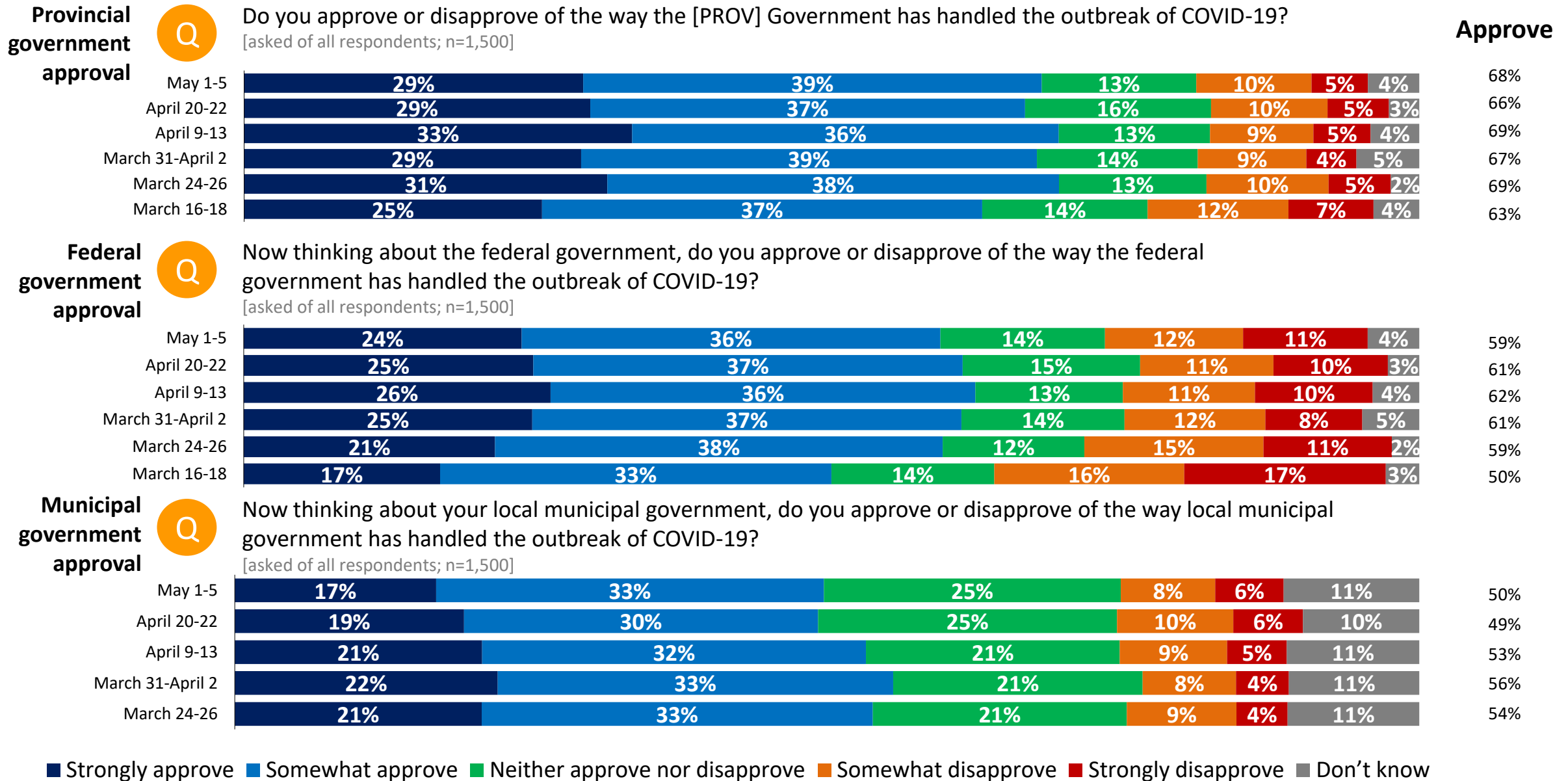
I don't think I can keep up these changes for very much longer.

[asked of all respondents, n=1,500]



Government approval on COVID-19 has remained high in all jurisdictions, but is starting to slip in Quebec

Government Approval Tracking: Approval of provincial, federal, and municipal handling of COVID-19 all steady week-to-week



Provincial Government Approval: Approval for provincial handling is highest in BC, Ontario, and Atlantic Canada and lowest in Alberta

Provincial
government
approval

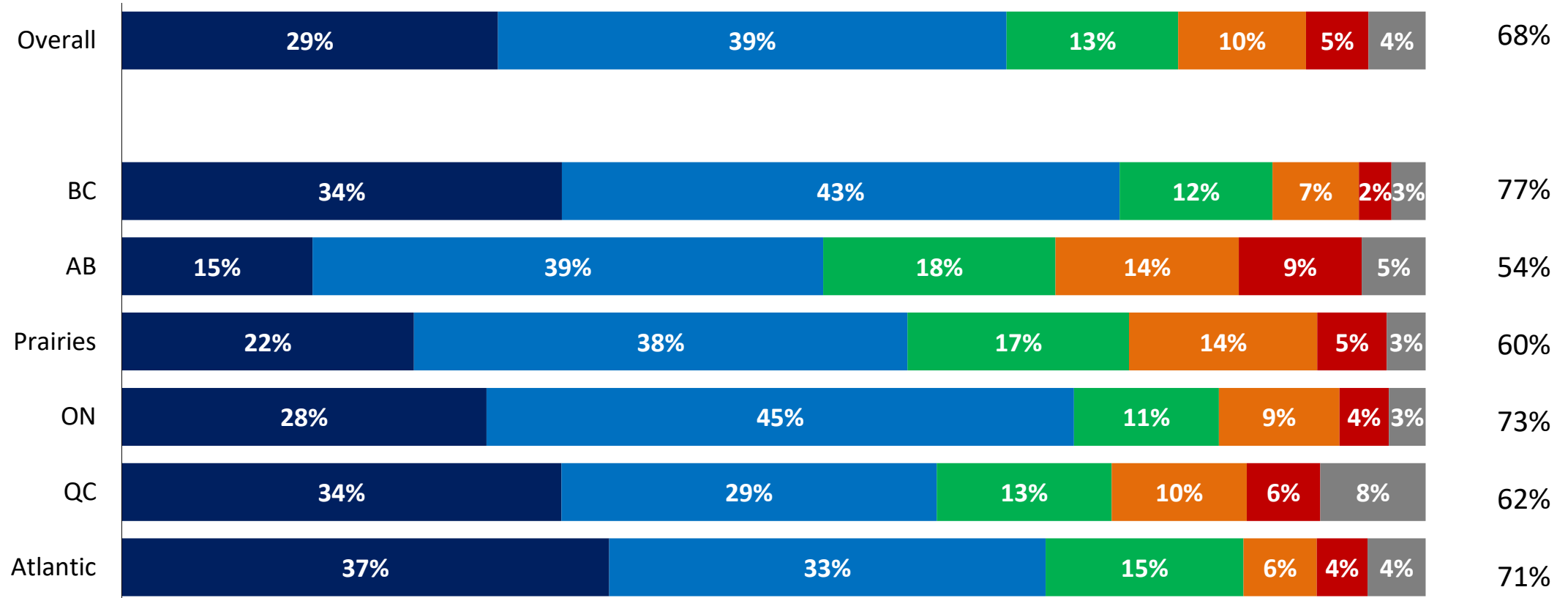


Do you approve or disapprove of the way the [PROV] Government has handled the outbreak of COVID-19?

BY Region

[asked of all respondents; n=1,500]

Approve



Strongly approve

Somewhat approve

Neither approve nor disapprove

Somewhat disapprove

Strongly disapprove

Don't know

Approval of Provincial Governments: Approval of provincial handling of COVID-19 up 10-pts week-to-week in Alberta to 54% approval

Provincial
government
approval



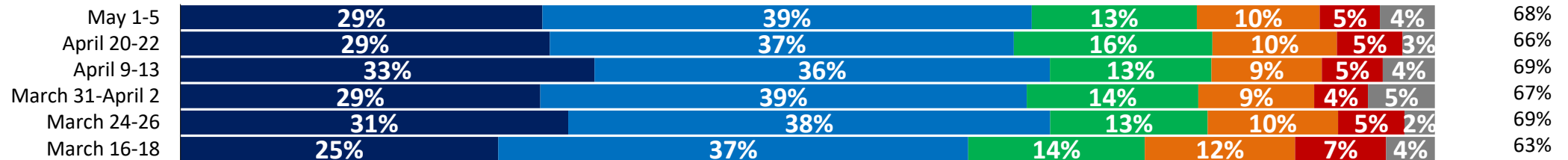
Do you approve or disapprove of the way the [PROV] Government has handled the outbreak of COVID-19?

BY Region (BC, Alberta, and the Prairies)

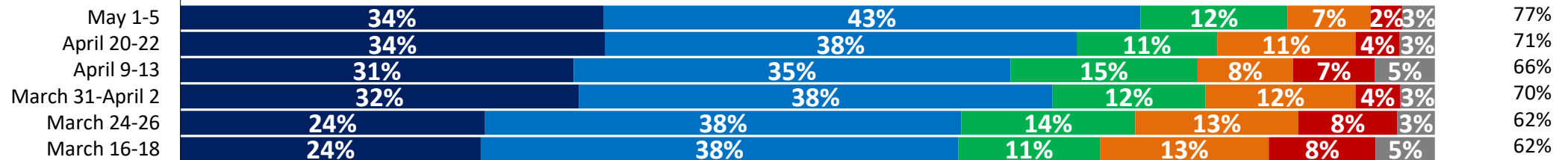
[asked of all respondents; n=1,500]

Approve

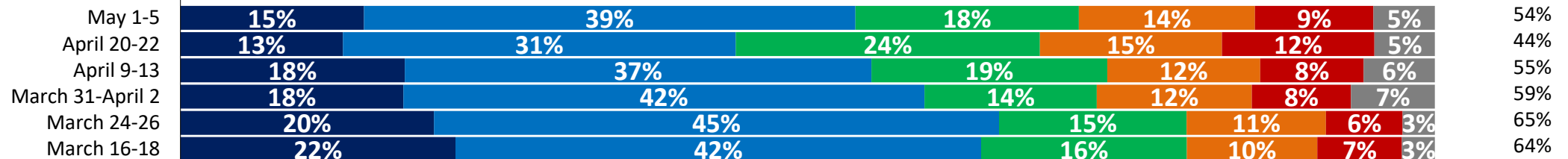
Overall



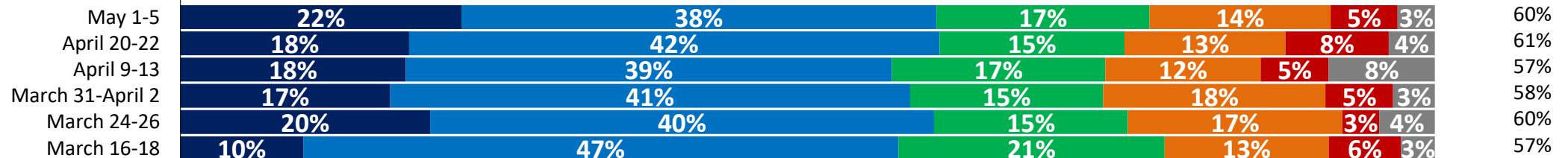
BC



AB



Prairies



Strongly approve

Somewhat approve

Neither approve nor disapprove

Somewhat disapprove

Strongly disapprove

Don't know

Approval of Provincial Governments: Approval of provincial handling of COVID-19 down 10-pts week-to-week in Quebec to 62% approval

Provincial
government
approval



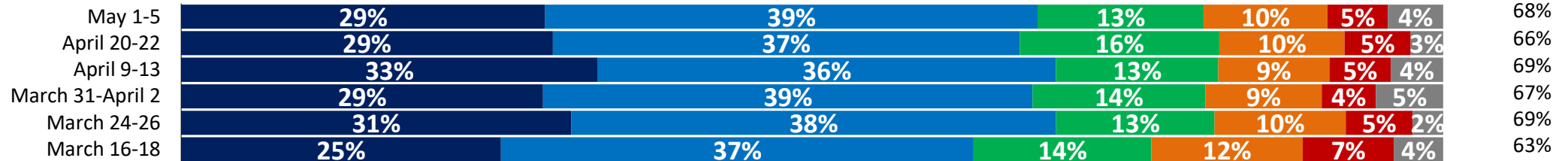
Do you approve or disapprove of the way the [PROV] Government has handled the outbreak of COVID-19?

BY Region (Ontario, Quebec, and the Atlantic)

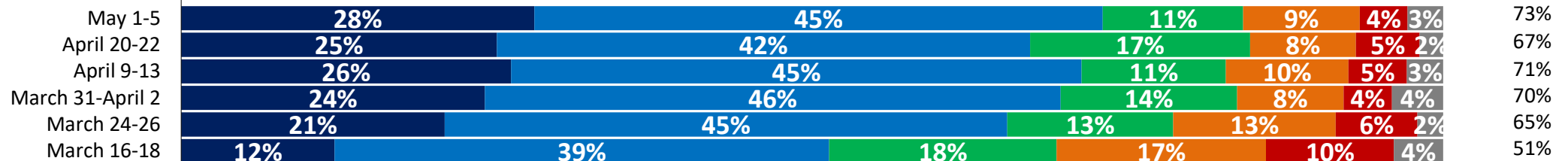
[asked of all respondents; n=1,500]

Approve

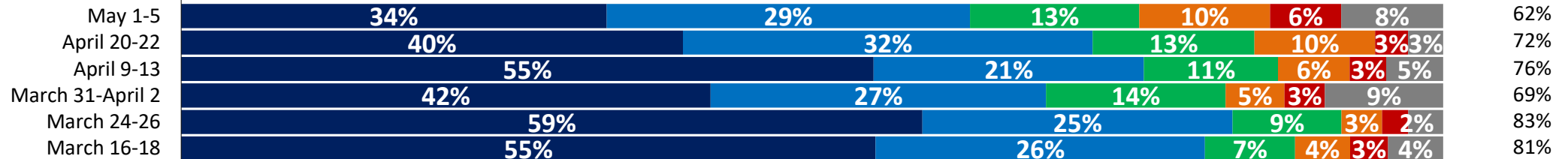
Overall



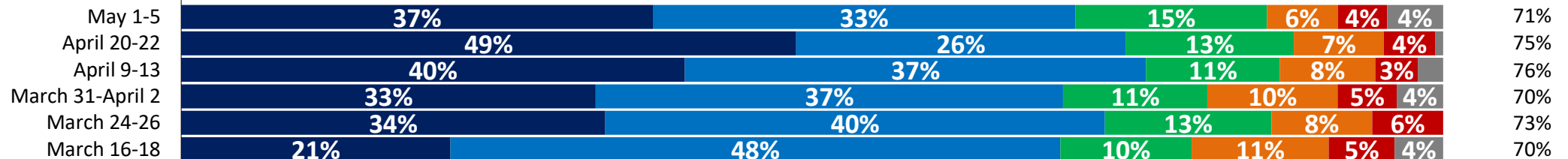
ON



QC



Atlantic



Strongly approve

Somewhat approve

Neither approve nor disapprove

Somewhat disapprove

Strongly disapprove

Don't know

Federal Government Approval: Approval of the federal government's response is highest in BC, Ontario, and Atlantic Canada

Federal government approval

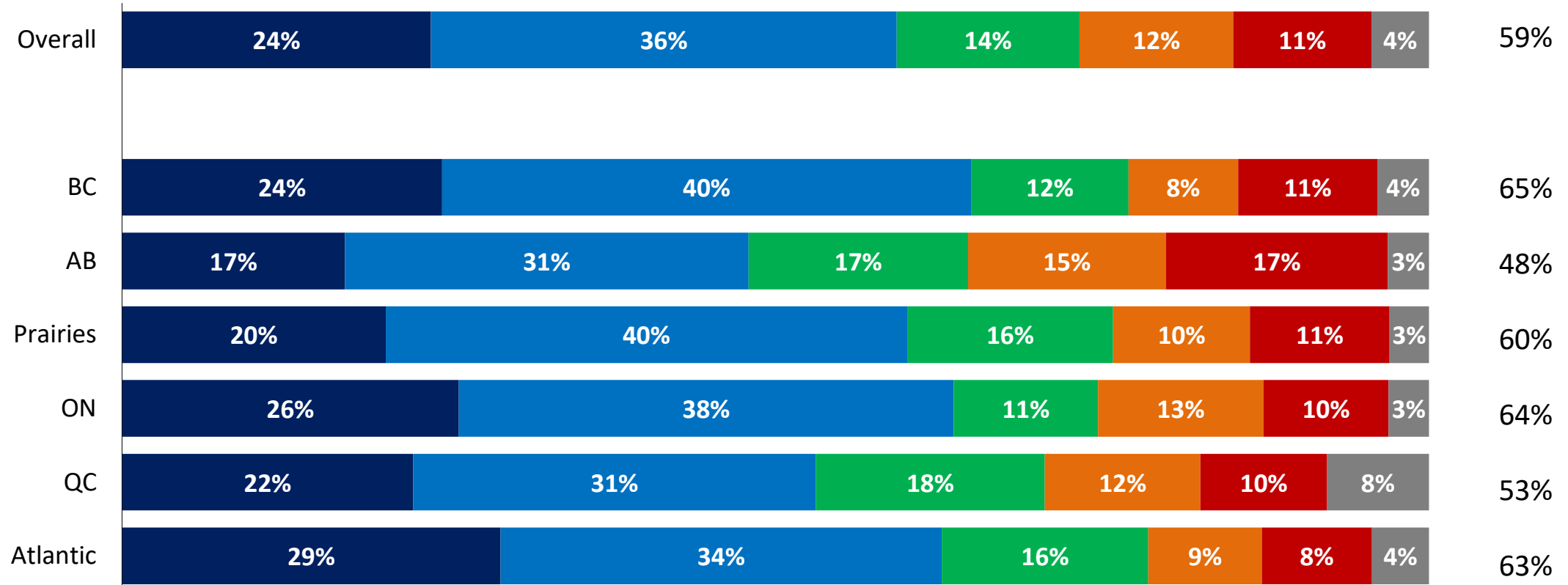


Now thinking about the federal government, do you approve or disapprove of the way the federal government has handled the outbreak of COVID-19?

BY Region

[asked of all respondents; n=1,500]

Approve



Strongly approve

Somewhat approve

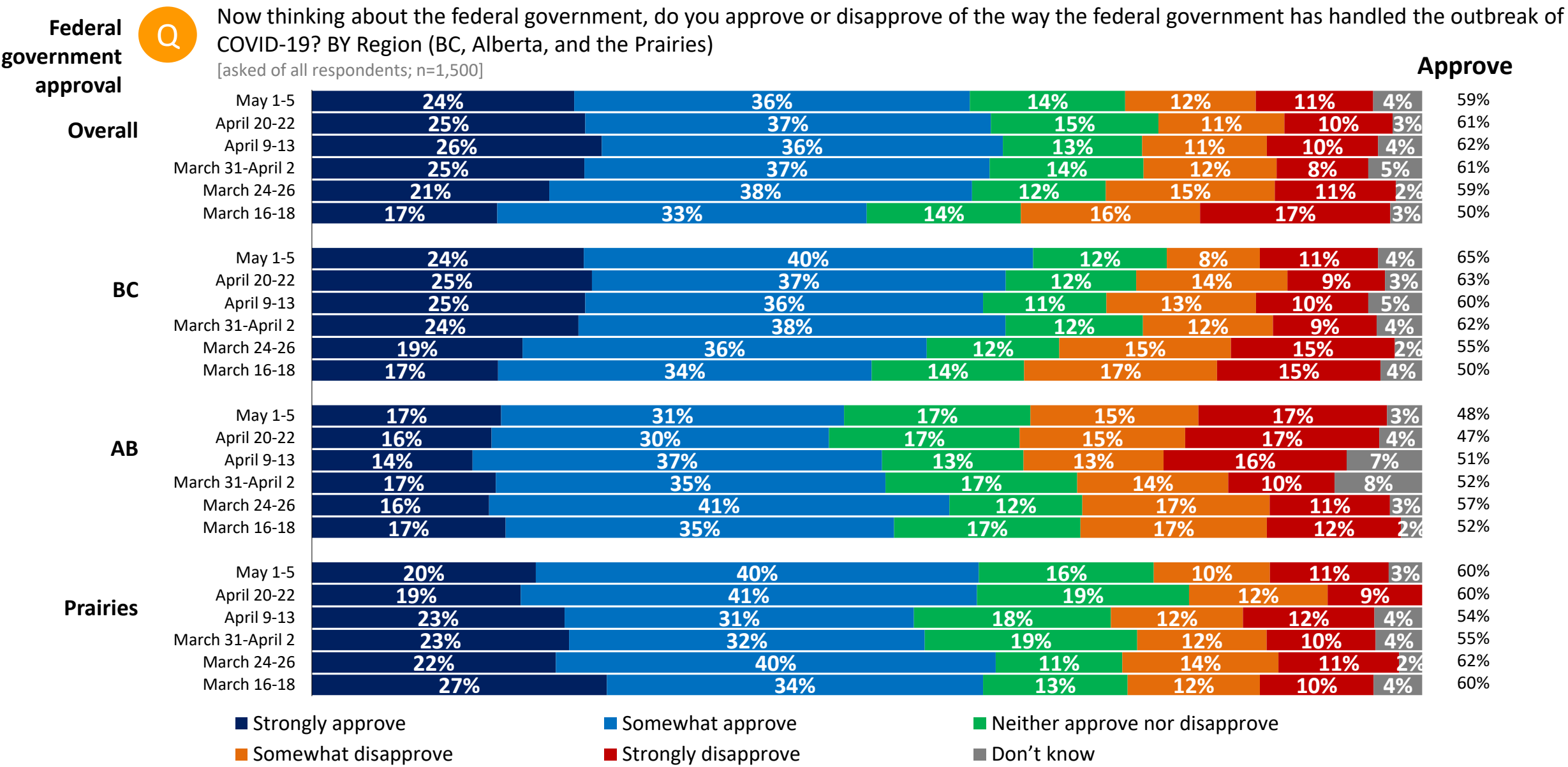
Neither approve nor disapprove

Somewhat disapprove

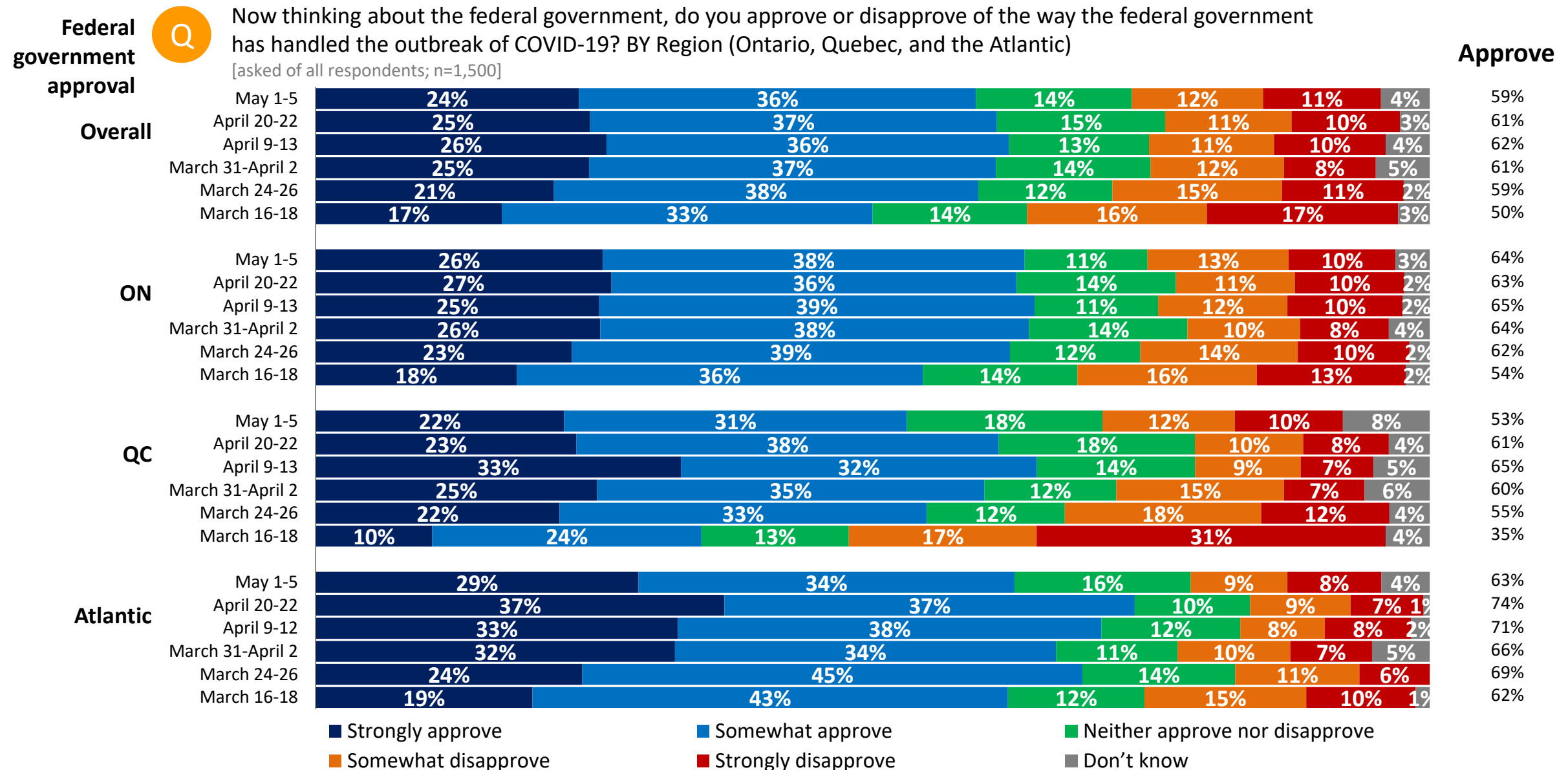
Strongly disapprove

Don't know

Federal Government Approval: Approval of Federal handling is steady in BC, Alberta, and the Prairies



Federal Government Approval: A majority approve of the federal government's handling, but sharp decline in Quebec, Atlantic Canada



Municipal Government Approval: Approval for municipal handling is highest in the GTA and Greater Edmonton, lowest in Ottawa-Gatineau

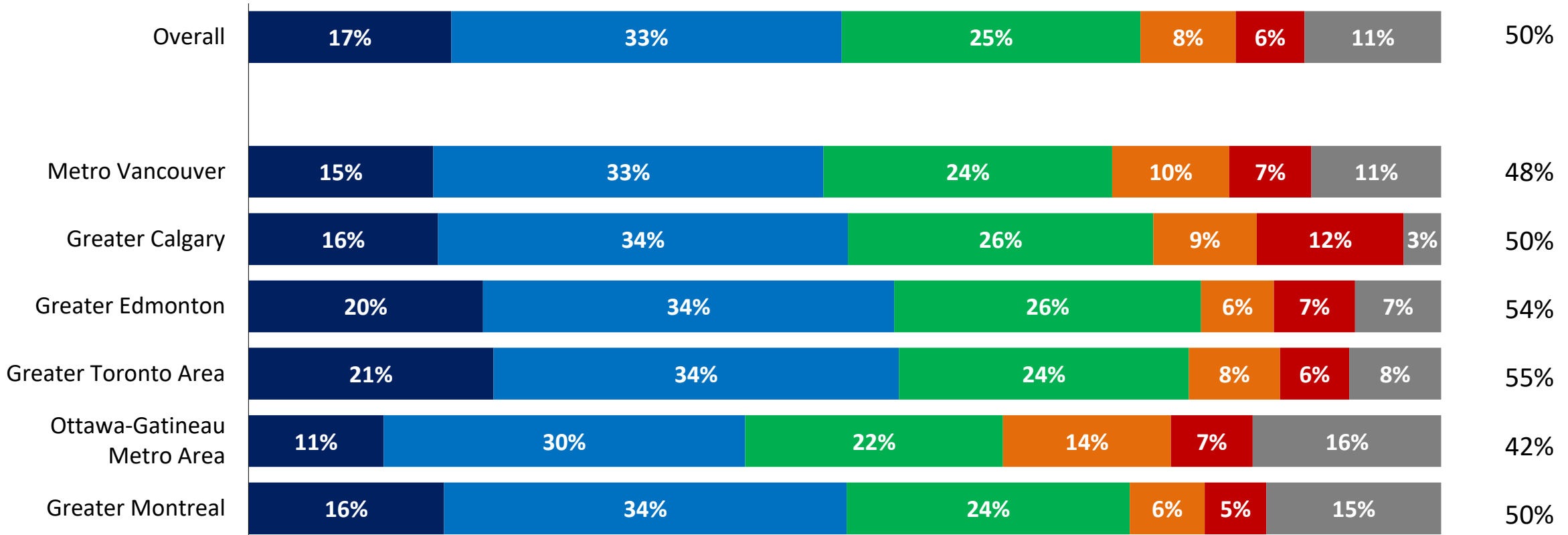
Municipal government approval



Now thinking about your local municipal government, do you approve or disapprove of the way local municipal government has handled the outbreak of COVID-19? BY Large Metropolitan Area

[asked of all respondents; n=1,500]

Approve



Strongly approve

Somewhat approve

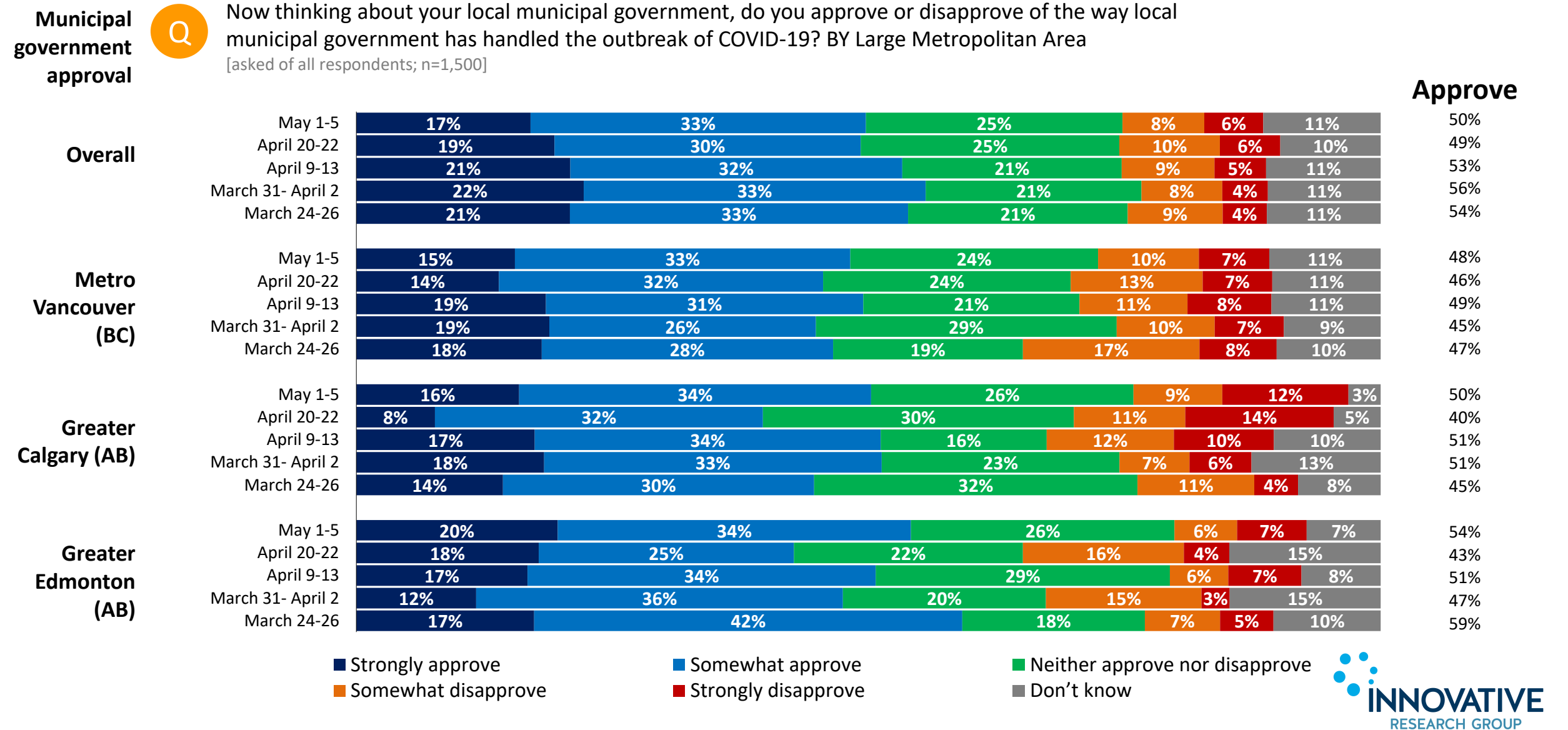
Neither approve nor disapprove

Somewhat disapprove

Strongly disapprove

Don't know

Municipal Government Approval: Greater Calgary and Edmonton show⁴⁰ double digit improvements in approval for municipal government



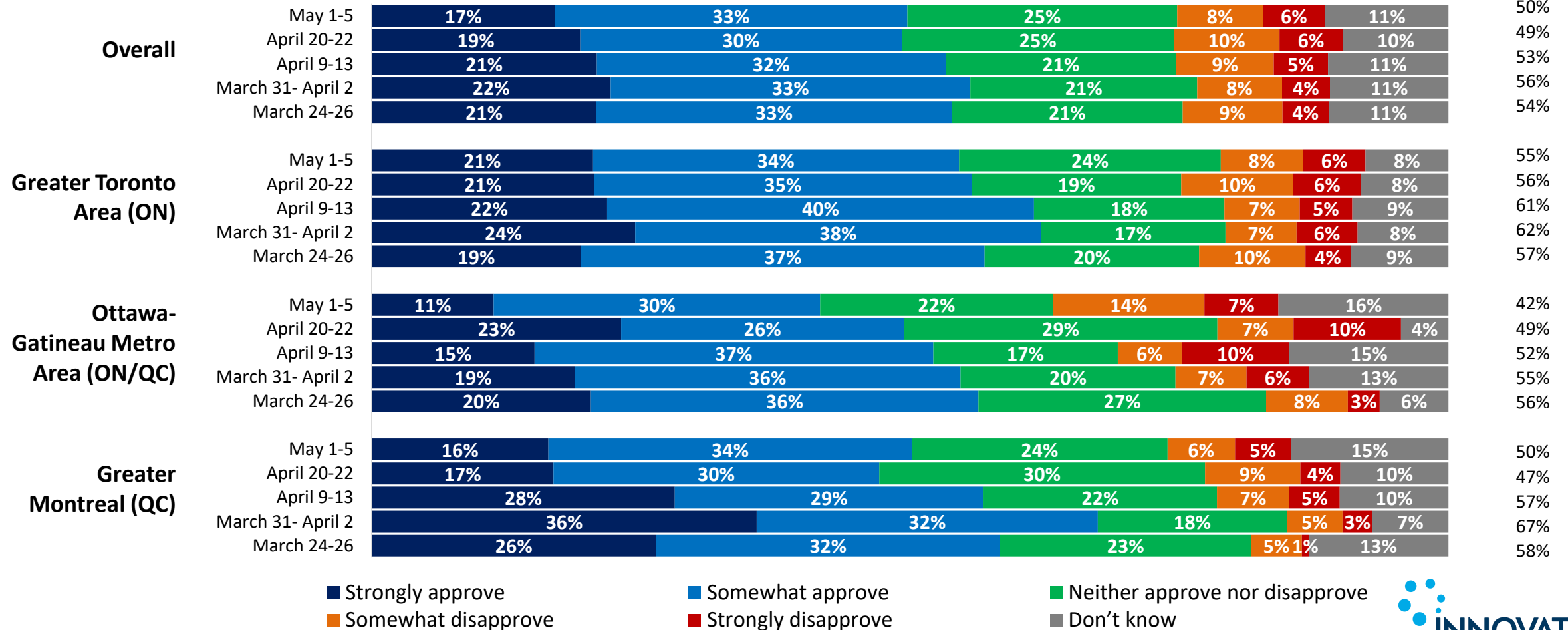
Municipal Government Approval: Seven point drop in municipal approval this week in Ottawa-Gatineau Metro Area

Municipal government approval



Now thinking about your local municipal government, do you approve or disapprove of the way local municipal government has handled the outbreak of COVID-19? BY Large Metropolitan Area
[asked of all respondents; n=1,500]

Approve

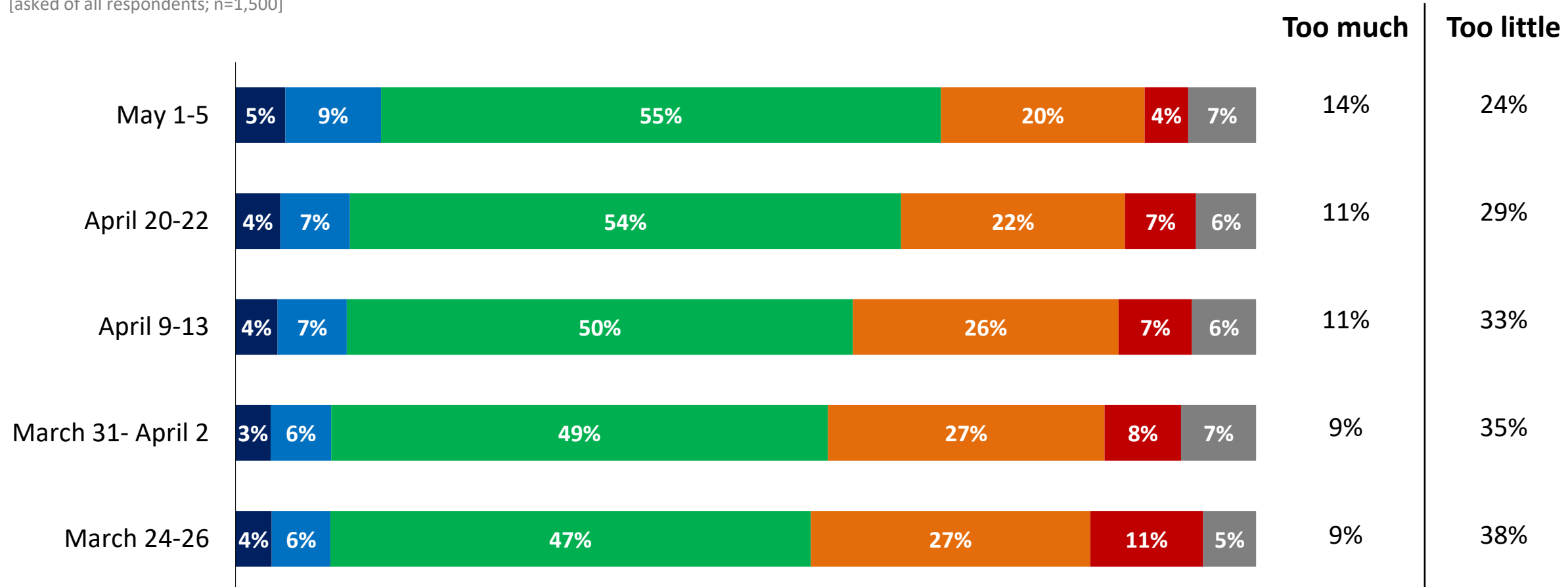


COVID-19 Government Response: Those saying governments have done 'too little' in response to the outbreak down 5-pts week-to-week



Would you say that in response to the COVID-19 outbreak so far governments have done too much, too little, or the right amount?

[asked of all respondents; n=1,500]



■ Far too much ■ Somewhat too much ■ The right amount ■ Somewhat too little ■ Far too little ■ Don't know

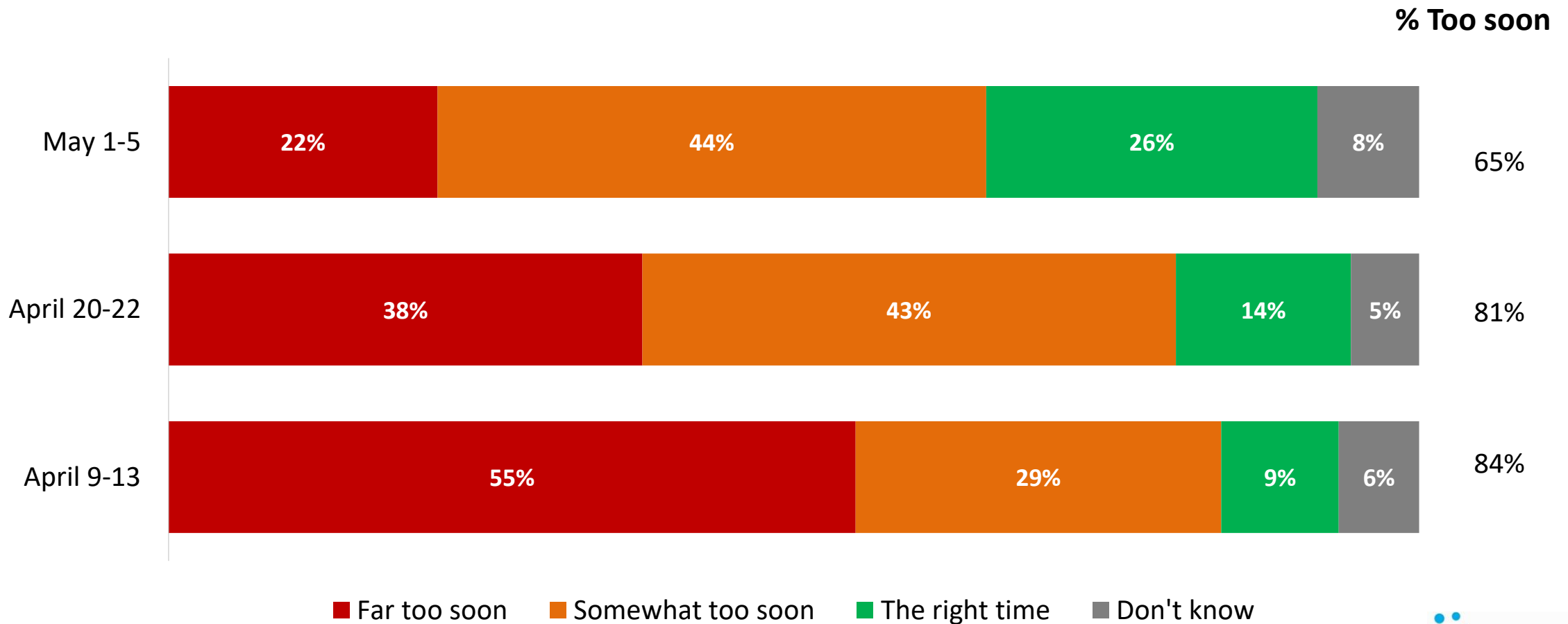
A quarter now say it is the right time to start lifting restrictions, but nearly 2-in-3 still think it is too soon.

COVID-19 Reopen Business: 2-in-3 (65%) think it is 'too soon' to reopen,⁴⁴ a 19-point drop from early April; 1-in-4 (26%) think it's the 'right time'



Some people are saying we are at a point in the COVID-19 outbreak where governments can start lifting restrictions and reopening businesses. Thinking about your province, do you think it is the time to start reducing restrictions or is it still too soon?

[asked of all respondents, n=1,500]



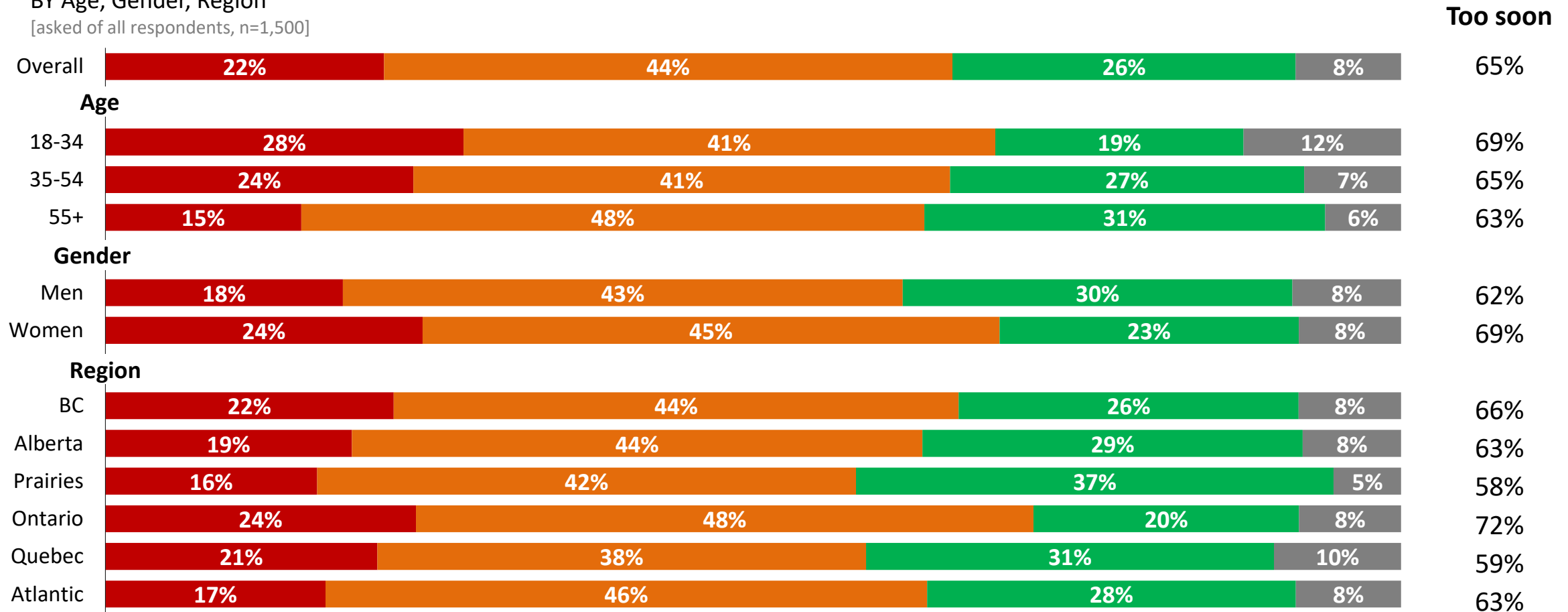
COVID-19 Reopening Businesses: Younger respondents, women, and Ontarians are most likely to say it's too soon to reduce restrictions

Q

Some people are saying we are at a point in the COVID-19 outbreak where governments can start lifting restrictions and reopening businesses. Thinking about your province, do you think it is the time to start reducing restrictions or is it still too soon?

BY Age, Gender, Region

[asked of all respondents, n=1,500]



■ Far too soon ■ Somewhat too soon ■ The right time ■ Don't know

Methodology



Survey Methodology

These are the results of an online survey conducted between May 1st and May 5th, 2020.

Method: This online survey was conducted using INNOVATIVE's Canada 20/20 national research panel with additional respondents from Lucid, a leading provider of online sample. Each survey is administered to a series of randomly selected samples from the panel and weighted to ensure that the overall sample's composition reflects that of the actual Canadian population according to Census data to provide results that are intended to approximate a probability sample.

Sample Size: n=2,696 general population, 18 years or older. The results are weighted to n=1,500 based on Census data from Statistics Canada.

Field Dates: May 1st to May 5th, 2020.

Weighting: Results for Canada are weighted by age, gender, and region to ensure that the overall sample's composition reflects that of the actual population according to Census data; in order to provide results that are intended to approximate a probability sample. Weighted and unweighted frequencies are reported in the table.

Margin of Error: This is a representative sample. However, since the online survey was not a random probability based sample, a margin of error cannot be calculated. Statements about margins of sampling error or population estimates do not apply to most online panels.

Note: Graphs may not always total 100% due to rounding values rather than any error in data. Sums are added before rounding numbers.

	Unweighted (n)	Unweighted (%)	Weighted (n)	Weighted (%)
Males 18-34	266	9.9%	206	13.8%
Males 35-54	335	12.4%	251	16.7%
Males 55+	772	28.6%	272	18.1%
Females 18-34	320	11.9%	204	13.6%
Females 35-54	389	14.4%	260	17.4%
Females 55+	614	22.8%	307	20.4%
BC	384	14.2%	204	13.6%
Alberta	314	11.6%	170	11.3%
Prairies	368	13.6%	100	6.7%
Ontario	791	29.3%	573	38.2%
Quebec	433	16.1%	350	23.3%
Atlantic	406	15.1%	102	6.8%



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Building Understanding.