



Canada This Month Political Landscape

Public Opinion Research
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Field Dates: April 01 to April 13, 2021

Political Landscape

The COVID-19 outbreak has set off a series of changes in the Canadian political landscape. Satisfaction with how the federal and provincial governments are handling COVID-19 are heading on a steady downward trajectory as the severity of outbreaks increases across the major provinces. Along with this, Canadians are higher this month on saying both the federal and provincial restrictions put in place are 'too loose'.

Today, INNOVATIVE is releasing results from our April 2021 *Canada This Month* survey. This online survey was in field from April 1st to April 13th, 2021 with a weighted sample size of 1,500. Detailed methodology is provided in the appendix.

This report covers key results on how Canadians are rating their government's handling of COVID-19 and whether they believe current restrictions are too tight or too loose.

Government Approval

As the COVID-19 outbreak worsens in Canada's largest provinces, so does approval of the job both the federal and provincial governments are doing to manage COVID-19. With the exception of BC, this drop in approval of COVID handling is also bleeding over into more general approval of the provincial governments' performance.

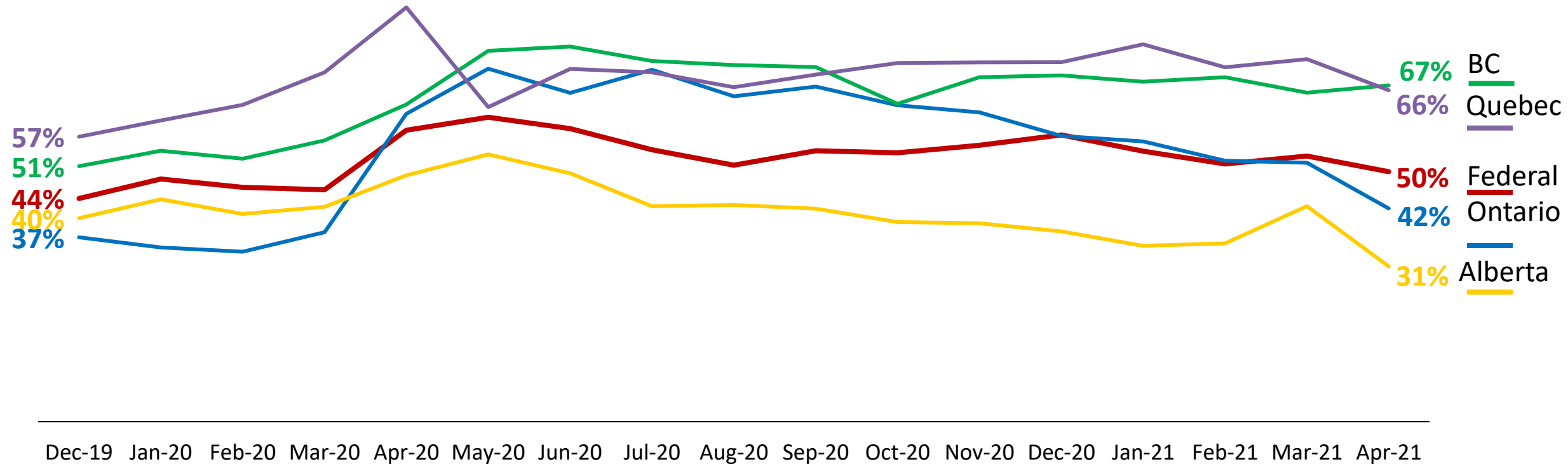
Overall Satisfaction: Satisfaction with provincial government performance is down this month in QC, ON, and AB



[Federal government] Generally speaking, how satisfied are you with the performance of the FEDERAL government in Canada? Would you say you are...?
[Provincial governments] Generally speaking, how satisfied are you with the performance of the PROVINCIAL government in [PROV]? Would you say you are...?

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

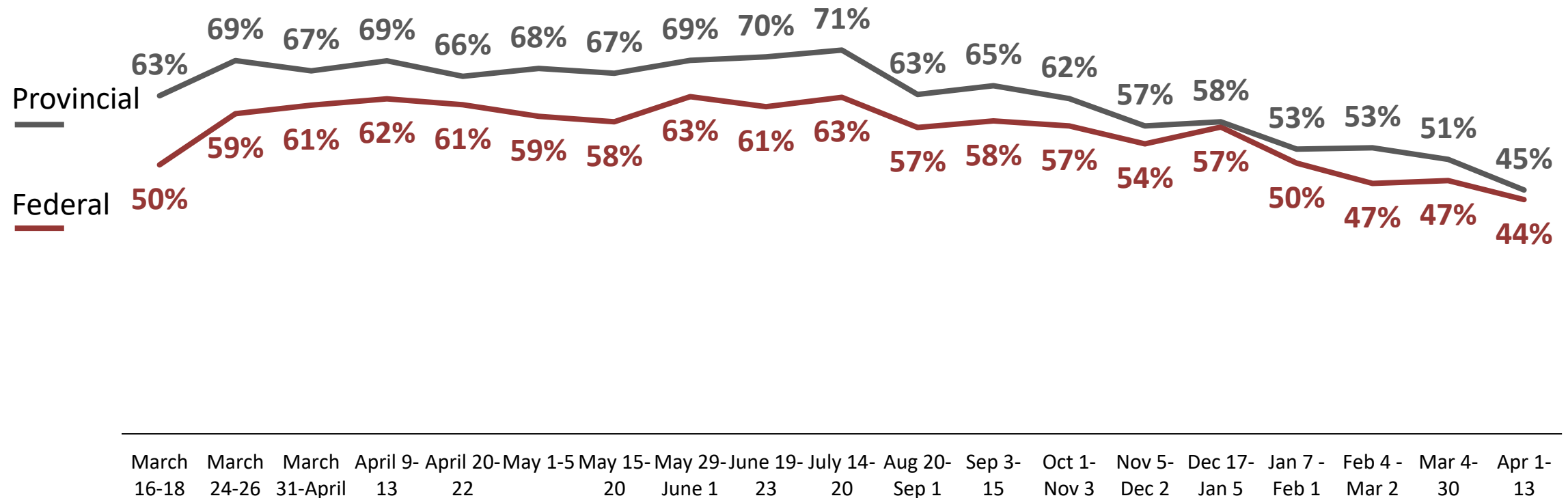
% who say they are "very/somewhat satisfied"



COVID-19 Handling Tracking: Approval of both the provincial and federal gov'ts handling of COVID-19 continues to trend downwards

% who approve of government's handling of the COVID-19 outbreak: Federal vs. Provincial

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



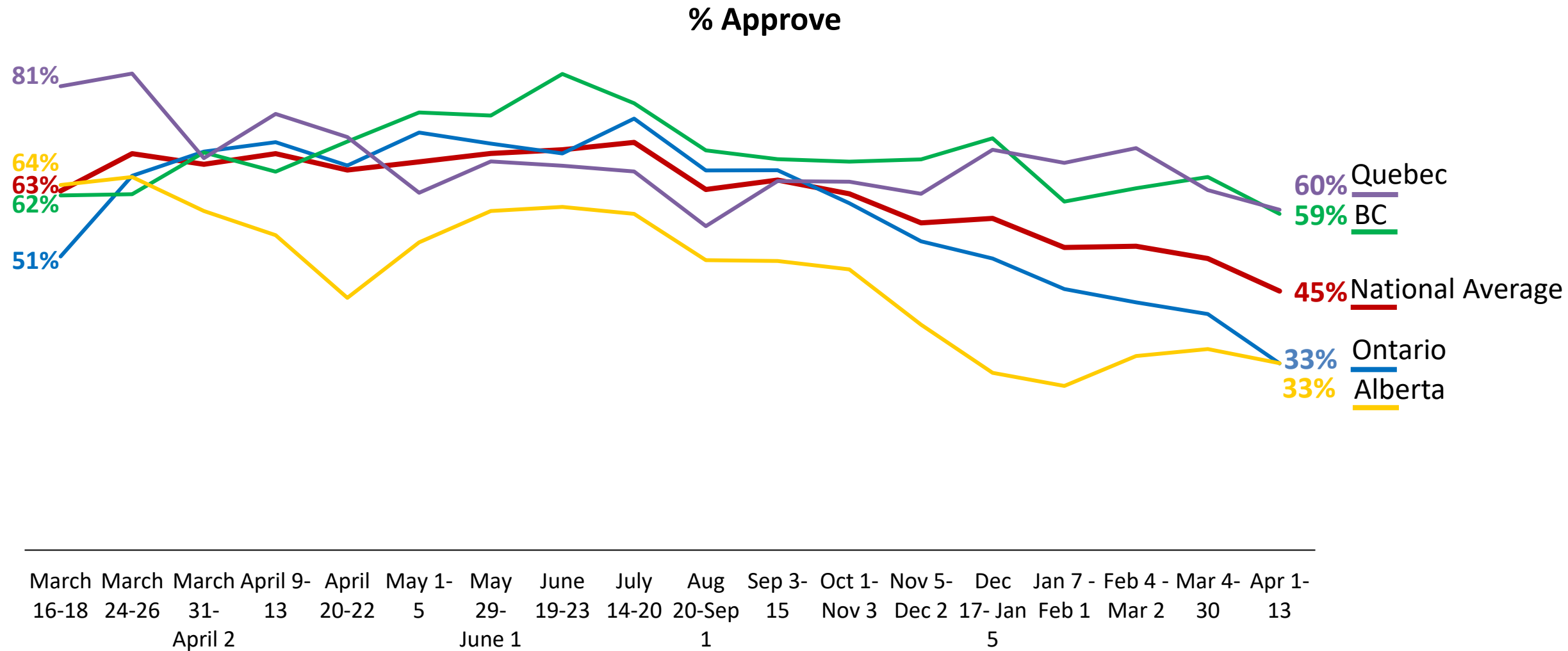
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COVID-19 Provincial Handling Tracking: Approval of provincial gov'ts handling of COVID-19 is down in all four of the major provinces



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

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



Restrictions

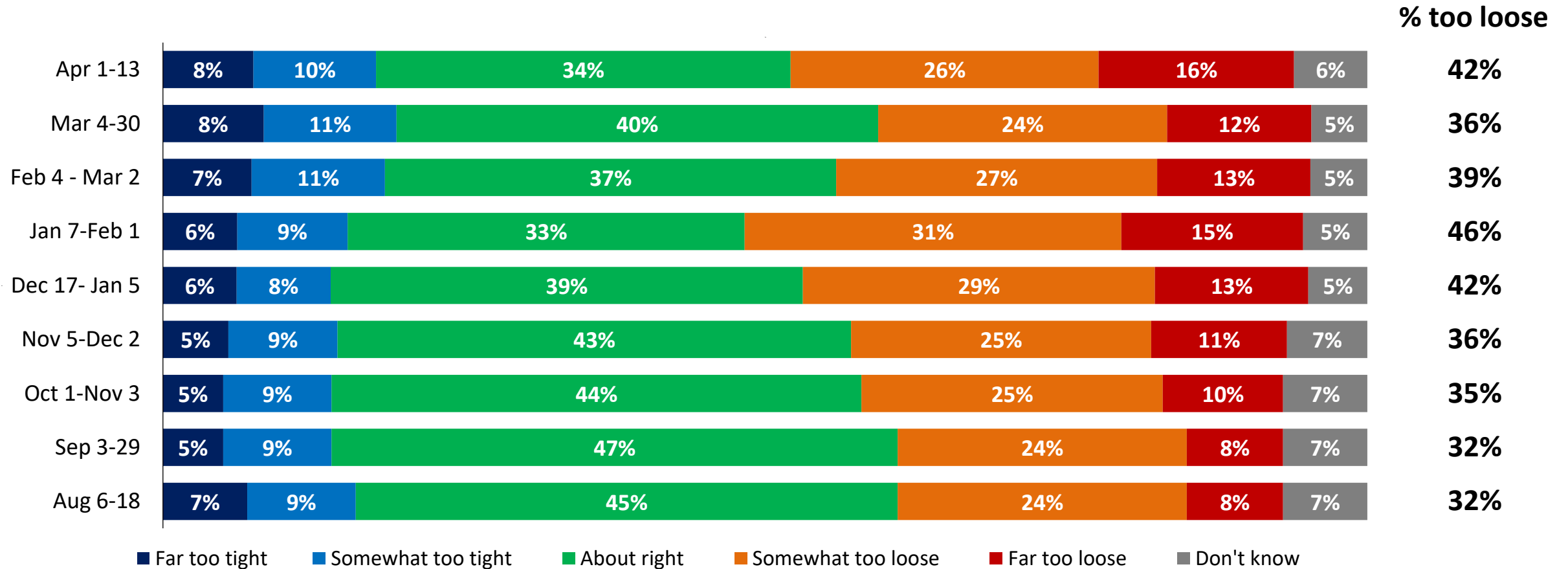
Both federally and provincially, there has been an uptick this month in the share of Canadians who think the restrictions put in place by the federal/provincial governments are 'too loose'. Those saying provincial restrictions are 'too loose' is up across all four of the biggest provinces in Canada.

Federal Restrictions: The share saying federal COVID restrictions are 'too⁸ loose' is back up 6 points this month from 36% in March to 42% now



Now, thinking about the restrictions the federal government currently has in place to reduce social contacts and combat the spread of COVID-19, do you think the restrictions are too tight, too loose, or are they about right?

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

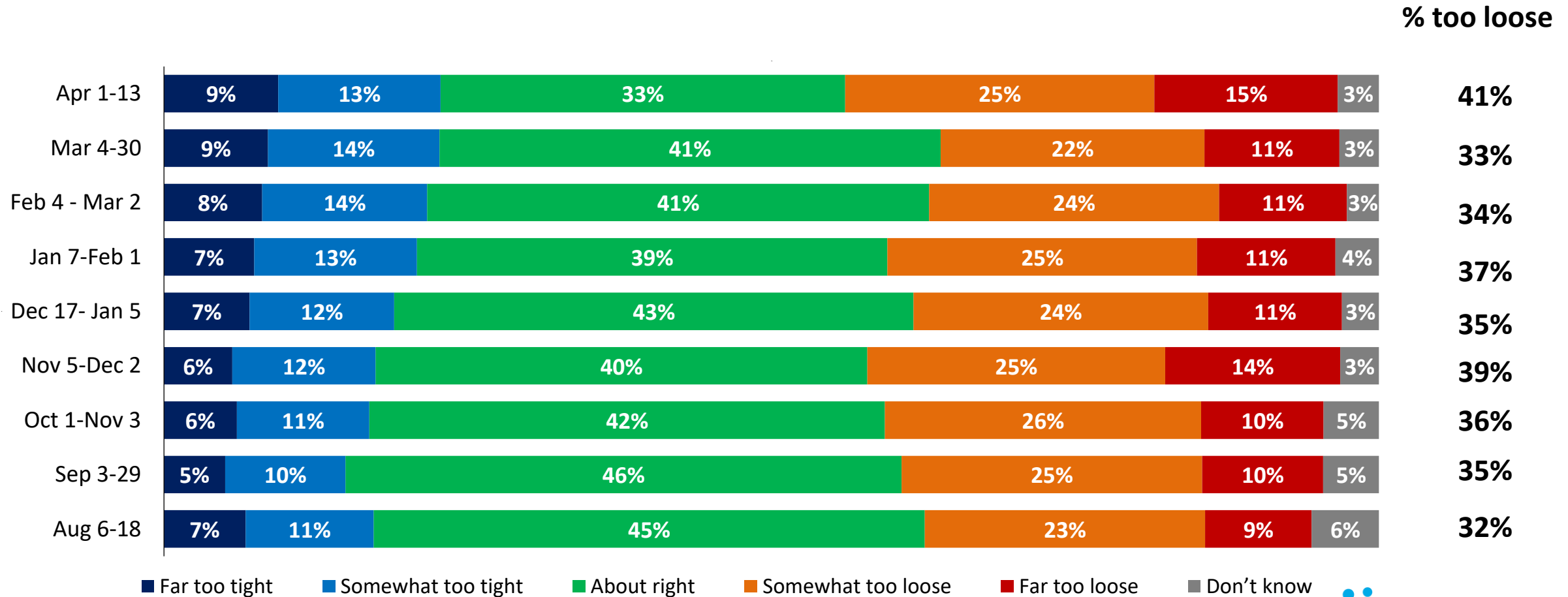


Provincial Restrictions: Those saying provincial restrictions are 'too loose' is up to its highest point across tracking at 2-in-5 (41%)

Q

Now, thinking about the restrictions the provincial government in [PROV] currently has in place to reduce social contacts and combat the spread of COVID-19, do you think the restrictions are too tight, too loose, or are they about right?

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

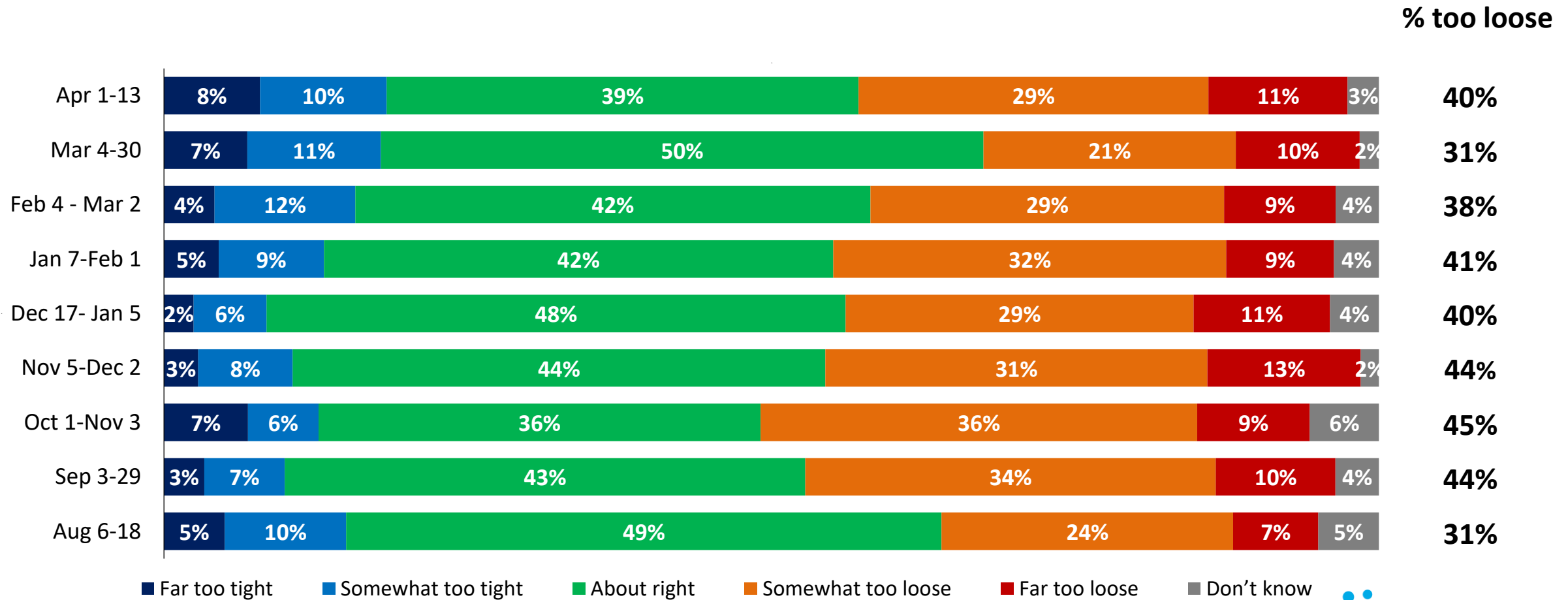


Provincial Restrictions - BC: The share of British Columbians saying provincial restrictions are 'too loose' is up 9 points this month to 40%

Q

Now, thinking about the restrictions the provincial government in BC currently has in place to reduce social contacts and combat the spread of COVID-19, do you think the restrictions are too tight, too loose, or are they about right?

[asked of BC respondents; n=205]

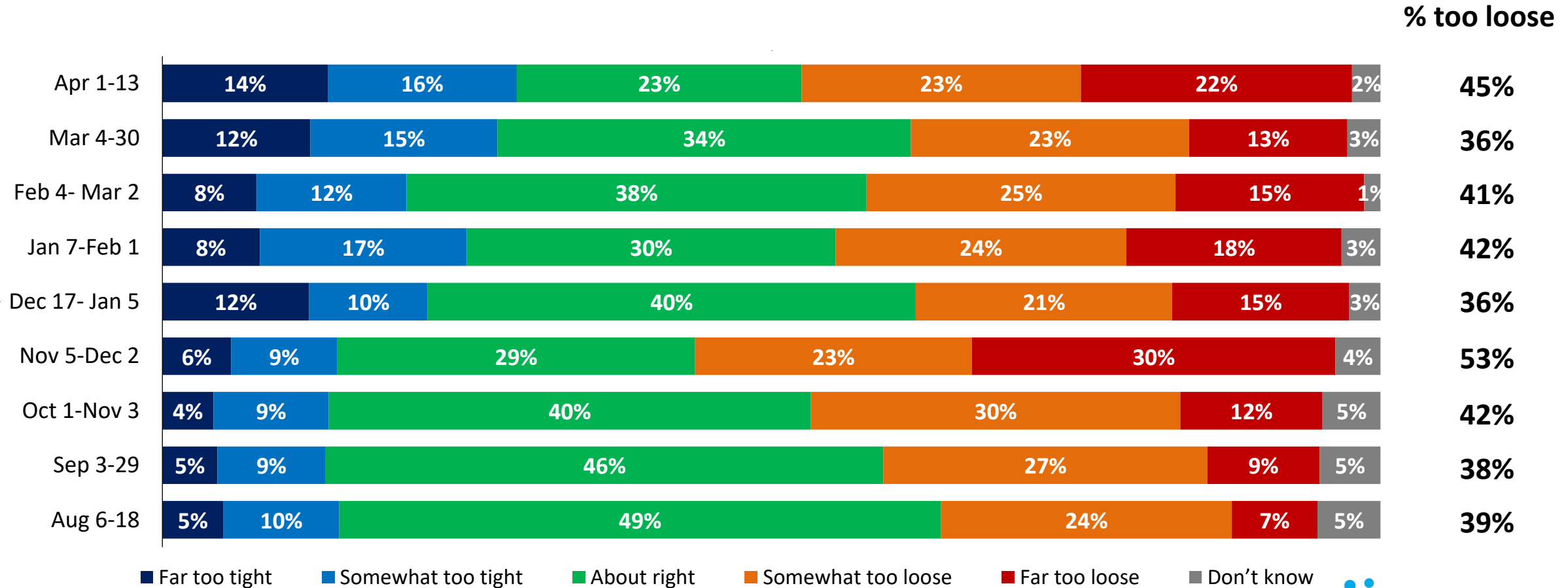


Provincial Restrictions - Alberta: Nearly half of Albertans (45%) say provincial restrictions are 'too loose'; up 9 points month-to-month

Q

Now, thinking about the restrictions the provincial government in Alberta currently has in place to reduce social contacts and combat the spread of COVID-19, do you think the restrictions are too tight, too loose, or are they about right?

[asked of AB respondents; n=170]

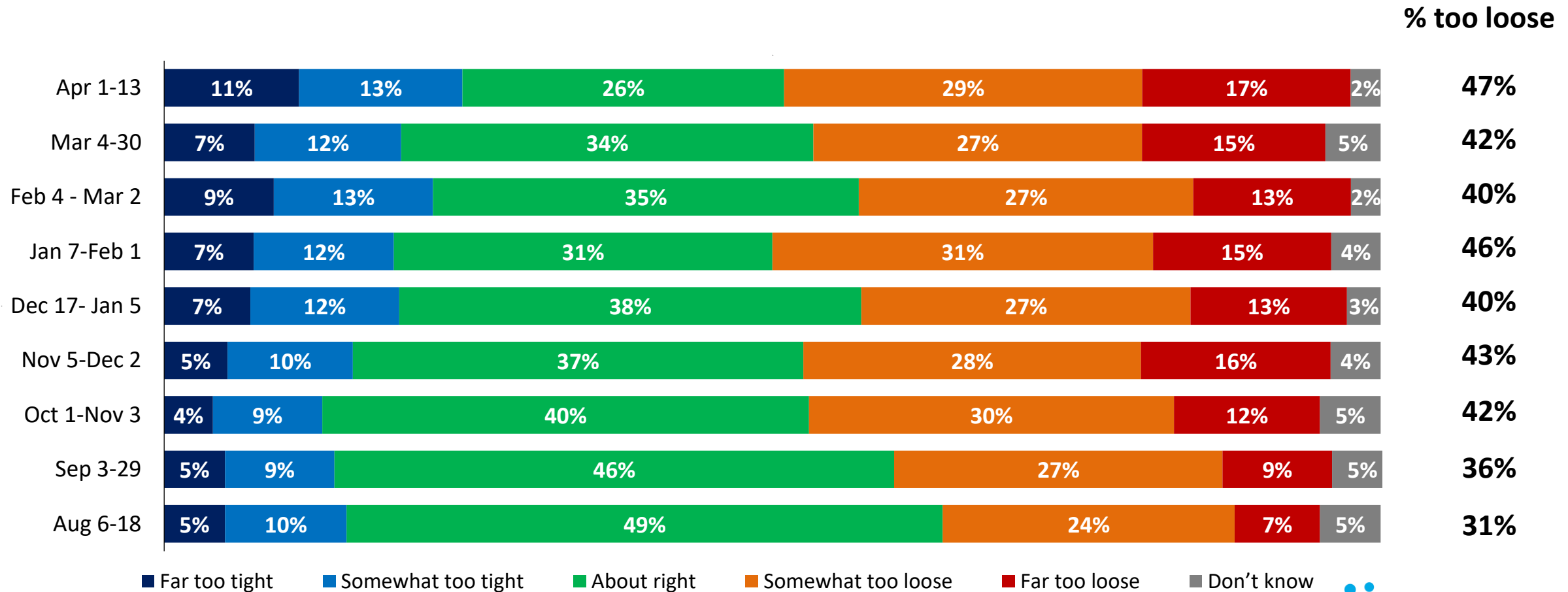


Provincial Restrictions - Ontario: Even in light of the lockdown, half (47%) of Ontarians say provincial restrictions are 'too loose'



Now, thinking about the restrictions the provincial government in [PROV] currently has in place to reduce social contacts and combat the spread of COVID-19, do you think the restrictions are too tight, too loose, or are they about right?

[asked of ON respondents; n=577]

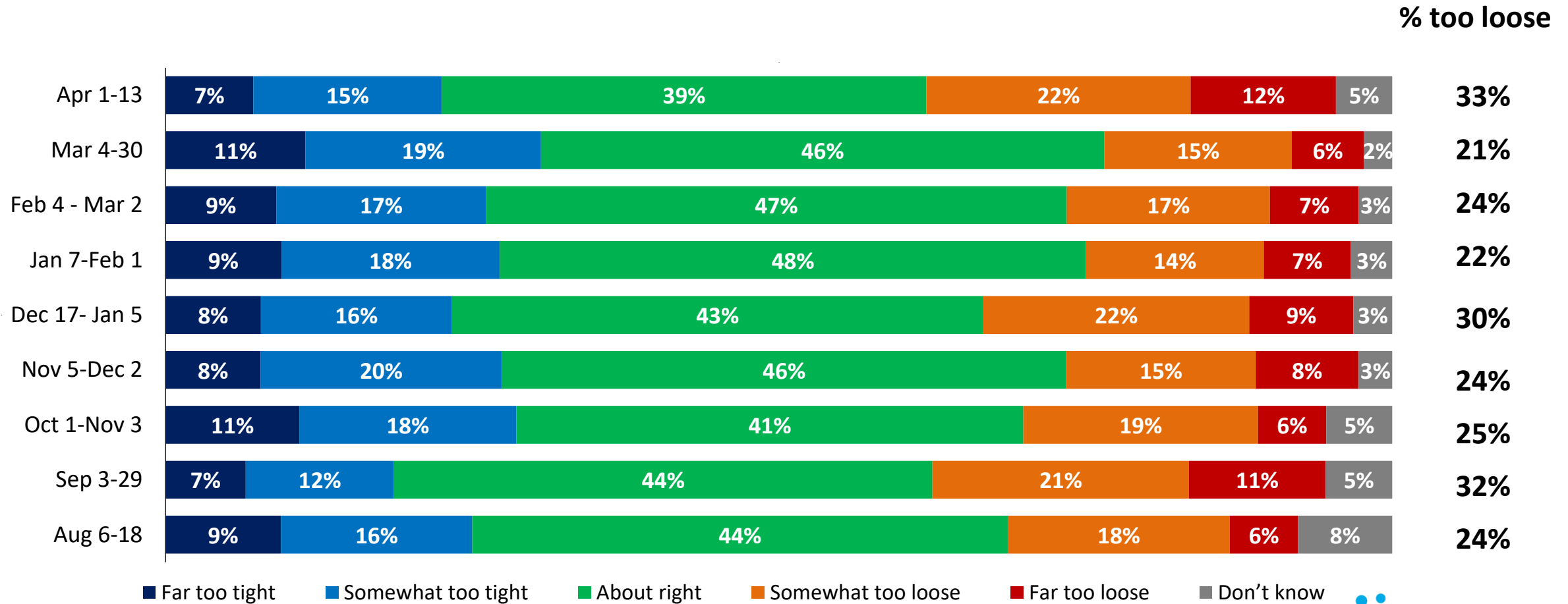


Provincial Restrictions - Quebec: After reaching its lowest point in March, those saying provincial restrictions are 'too loose' is up to 33%



Now, thinking about the restrictions the provincial government in [PROV] currently has in place to reduce social contacts and combat the spread of COVID-19, do you think the restrictions are too tight, too loose, or are they about right?

[asked of QC respondents; n=346]



Restrictions

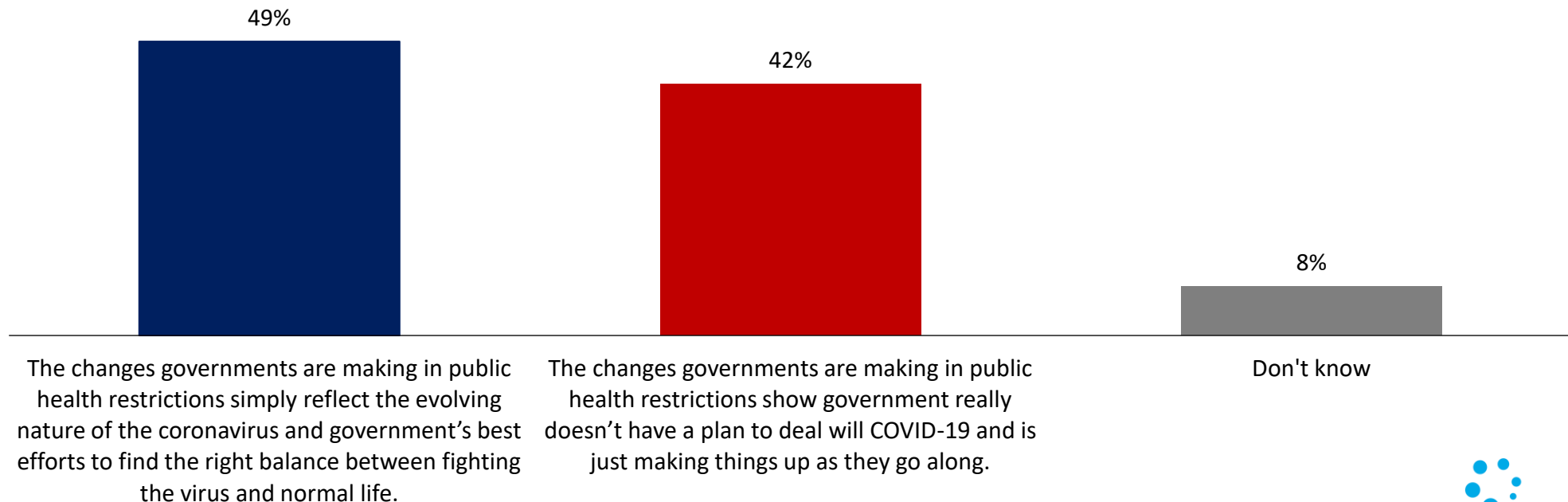
While a plurality (49%) believe governments have a plan to deal with COVID-19, 42% say they do not and they are making things up as they go. More than 6-in-10 Canadians say governments should set strict rules on movement within provinces and enforcement them with fines and checkpoints.

Public Health Restrictions: 42% of Canadians say governments don't have a plan and are just making it up as they go

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There have a number of changes in the public health restrictions in many places in Canada. Which of the following points of view is closest to your own?
[asked of all respondents after April 8; n=1,000]

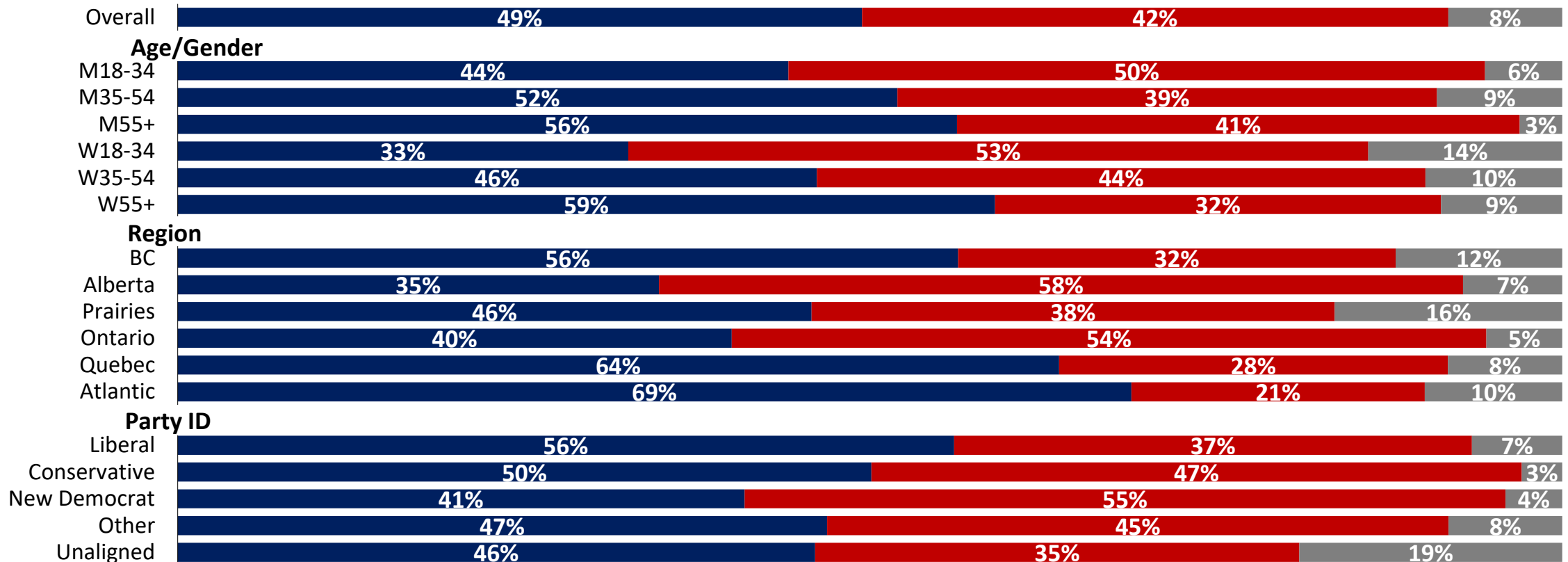


Public Health Restrictions: Belief that governments don't have a plan is highest in Ontario and Alberta



There have a number of changes in the public health restrictions in many places in Canada. Which of the following points of view is closest to your own?

[asked of all respondents after April 8; n=1,000]



■ The changes governments are making in public health restrictions simply reflect the evolving nature of the coronavirus and government's best efforts to find the right balance between fighting the virus and normal life.

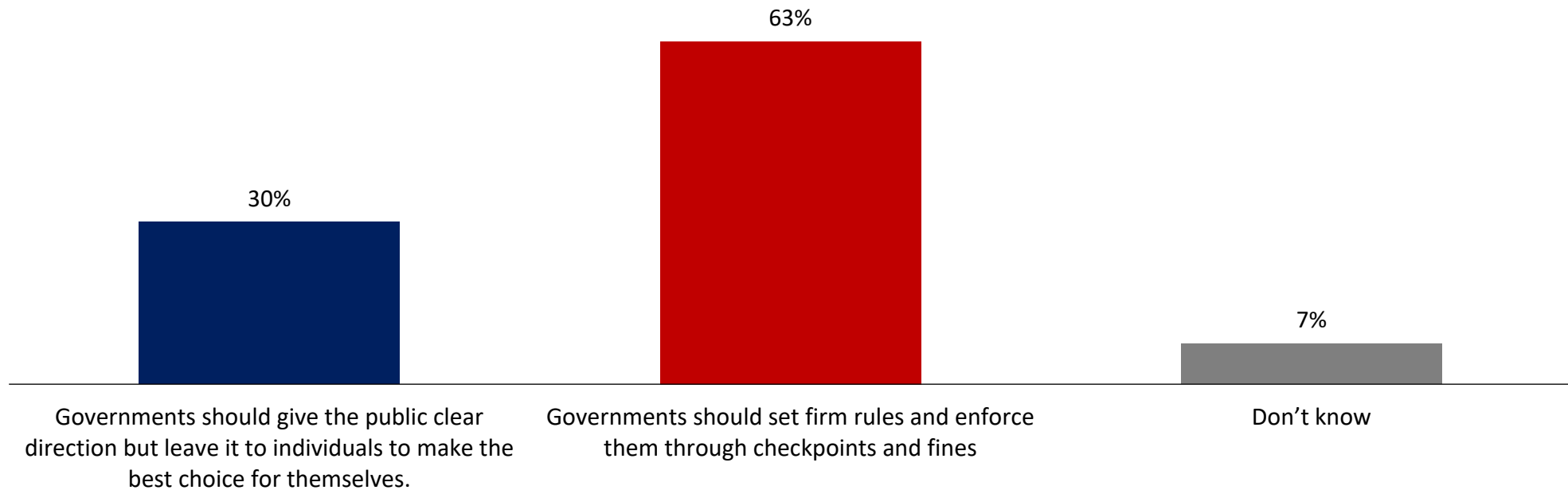
■ The changes governments are making in public health restrictions show government really doesn't have a plan to deal with COVID-19 and is just making things up as they go along.

■ Don't know

Public Health Restrictions: Nearly 2-in-3 (63%) say governments should set firm rules and enforce them through checkpoints



When it comes to public health restrictions such as limiting travel of residents within your province, which statement is closest to you own view?
[asked of all respondents after April 8; n=1,000]

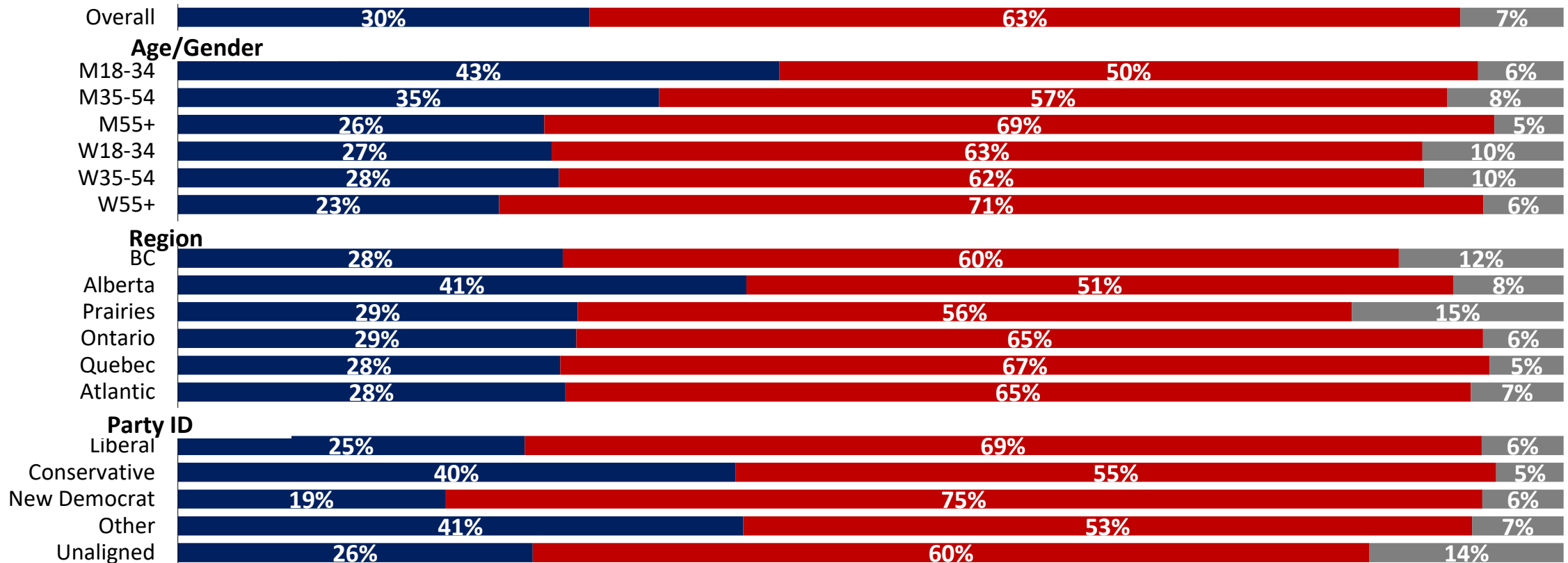


Public Health Restrictions: Young men and respondents in Alberta are most likely to say leave it up to individuals



When it comes to public health restrictions such as limiting travel of residents within your province, which statement is closest to your own view?

[asked of all respondents after April 8; n=1,000]



■ Governments should give the public clear direction but leave it to individuals to make the best choice for themselves.

■ Governments should set firm rules and enforce them through checkpoints and fines

■ Don't know

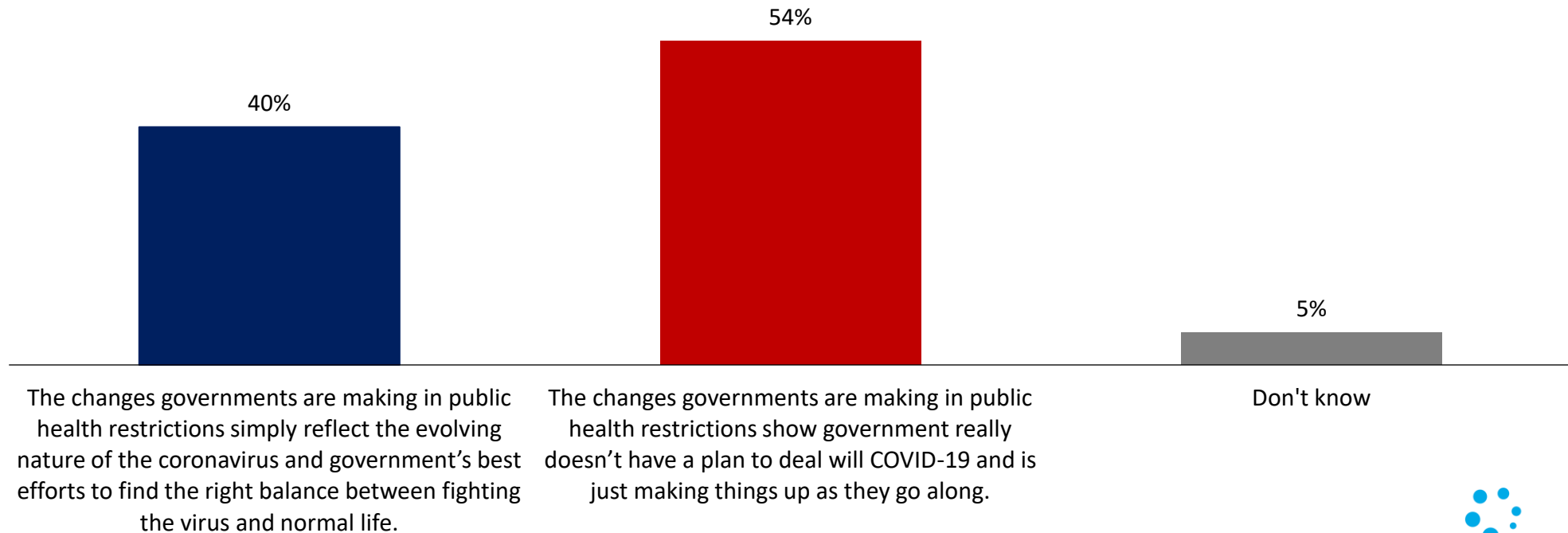
Restrictions – Ontario Only

In Ontario only, a majority (54%) say they governments do not have a plan and they are making things up as they go. However, a large majority (69%) support the governments decision to impose a stay-at-home order on the province as a whole.

Public Health Restrictions: In Ontario, more than half think governments are just making things up as they go along



There have a number of changes in the public health restrictions in many places in Canada. Which of the following points of view is closest to your own?
[asked of all respondents after April 8; n=535]

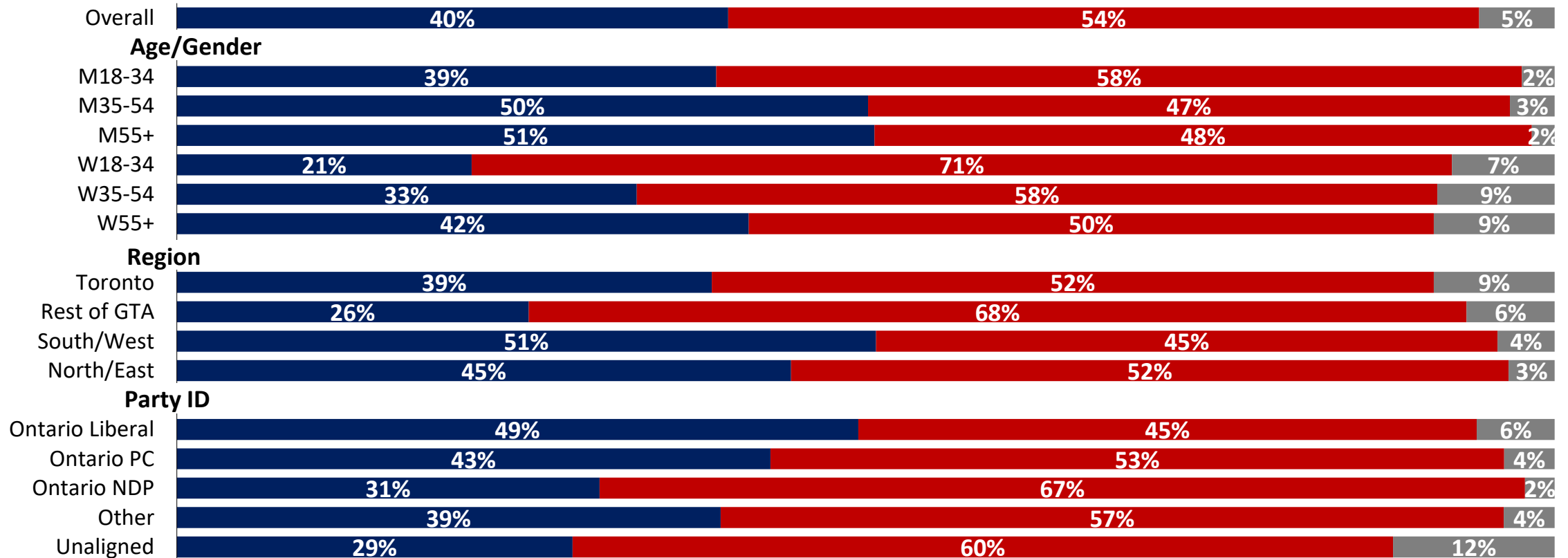


Public Health Restrictions: Young women and Ontario NDP partisans are the most likely to say governments have no plan to deal with COVID-19



There have a number of changes in the public health restrictions in many places in Canada. Which of the following points of view is closest to your own?

[asked of all respondents after April 8; n=535]



■ The changes governments are making in public health restrictions simply reflect the evolving nature of the coronavirus and government's best efforts to find the right balance between fighting the virus and normal life.

■ The changes governments are making in public health restrictions show government really doesn't have a plan to deal with COVID-19 and is just making things up as they go along.

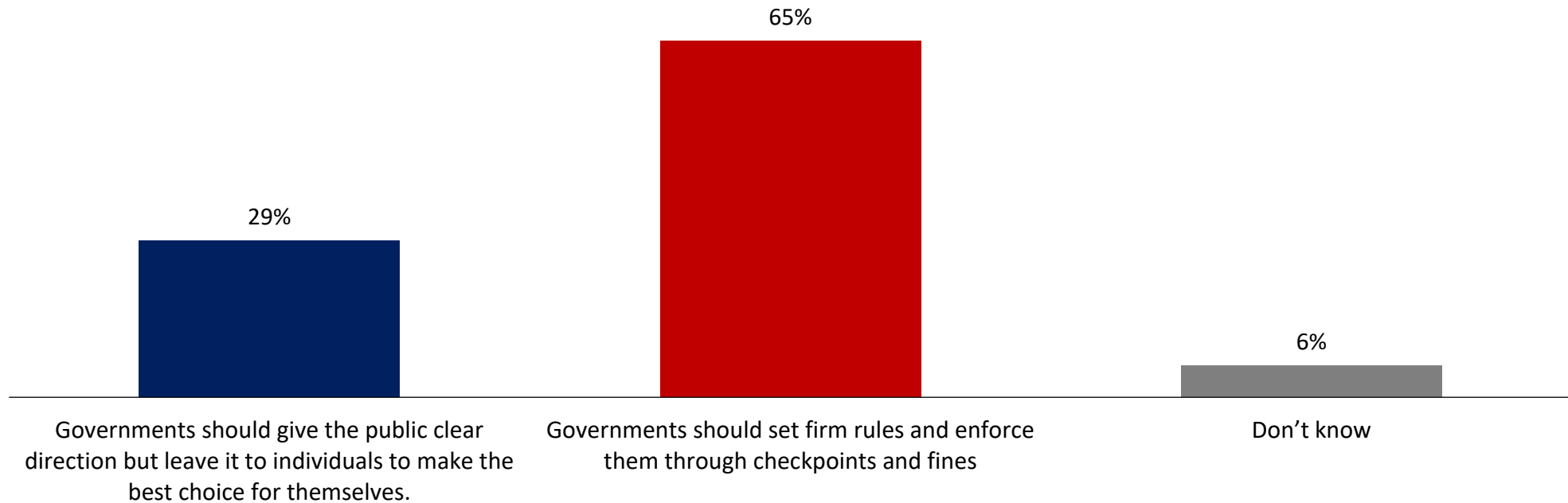
■ Don't know

Public Health Restrictions: Nearly two thirds of Ontarians say governments should set firm rules and enforce them with checkpoints



When it comes to public health restrictions such as limiting travel of residents within your province, which statement is closest to you own view?

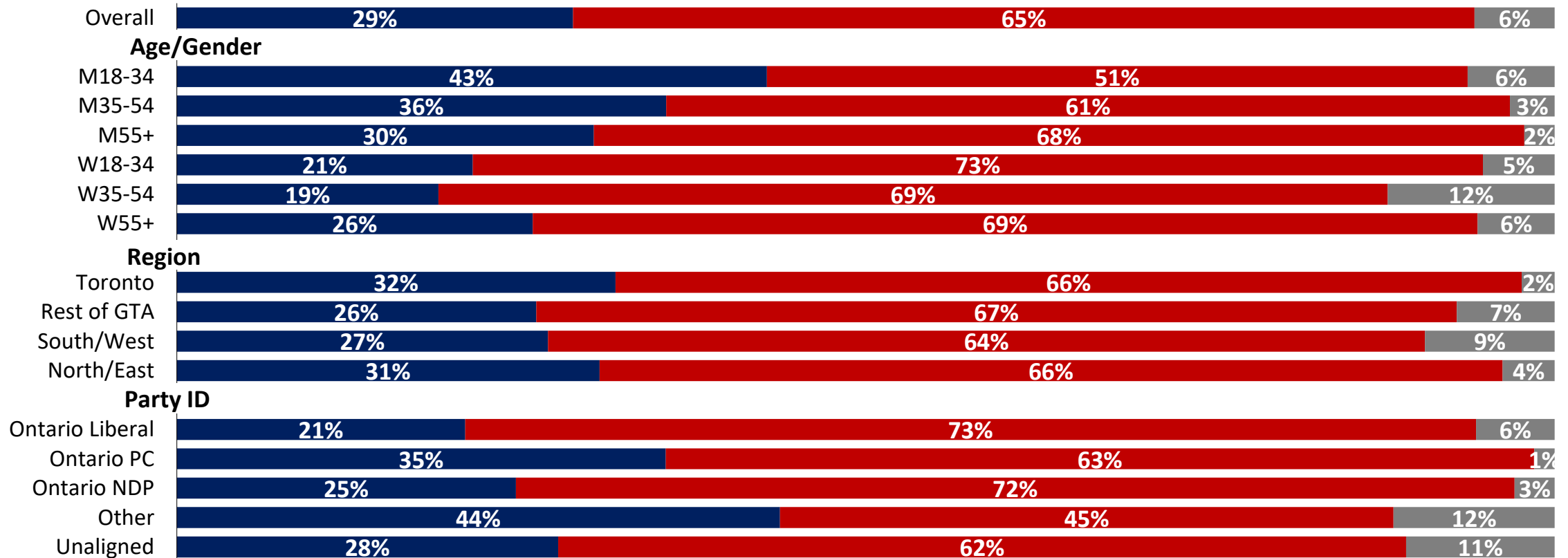
[asked of all respondents after April 8; n=535]



Public Health Restrictions: Support for fines and checkpoints is highest among Ontario Liberals and women ²³



When it comes to public health restrictions such as limiting travel of residents within your province, which statement is closest to your own view?
[asked of all respondents after April 8; n=535]



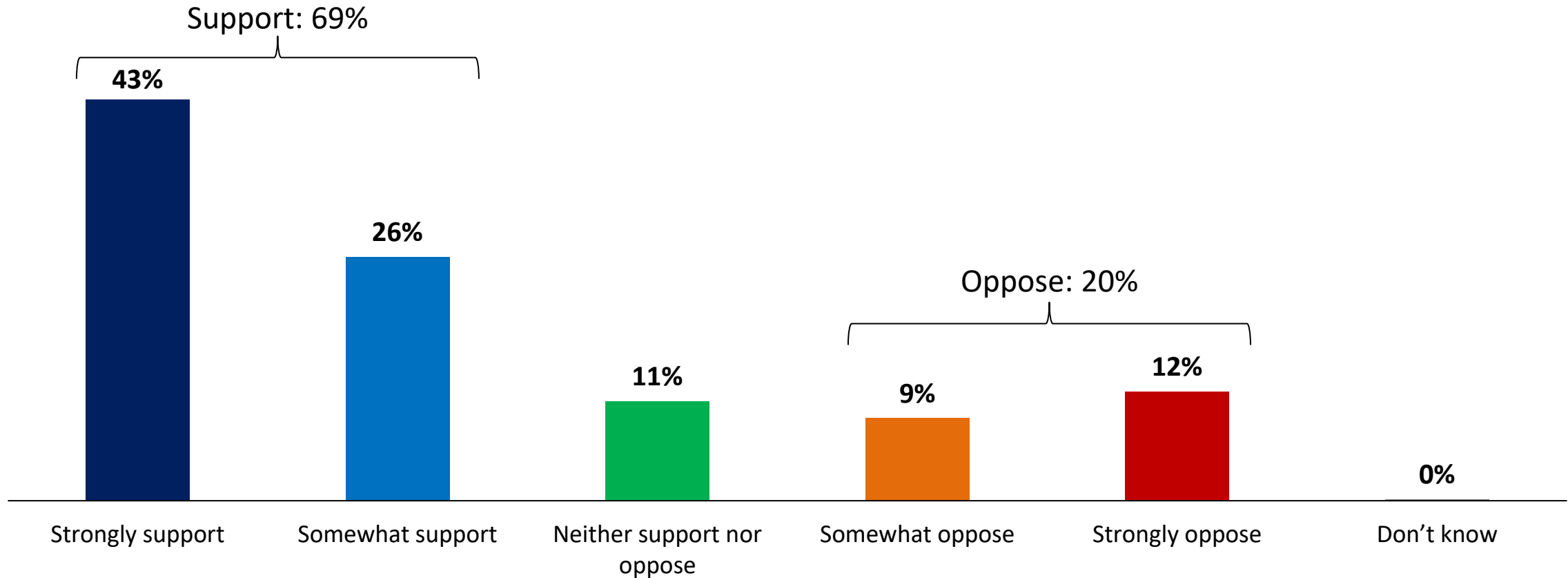
- Governments should give the public clear direction but leave it to individuals to make the best choice for themselves.
- Governments should set firm rules and enforce them through checkpoints and fines
- Don't know

Ontario's Lockdown: Nearly 7-in-10 Ontarians support the current four week stay-at-home order



Do you support or oppose the provincial government's decision to implement a four week long province wide stay-at-home order?

[asked of all respondents after April 8; n=535]

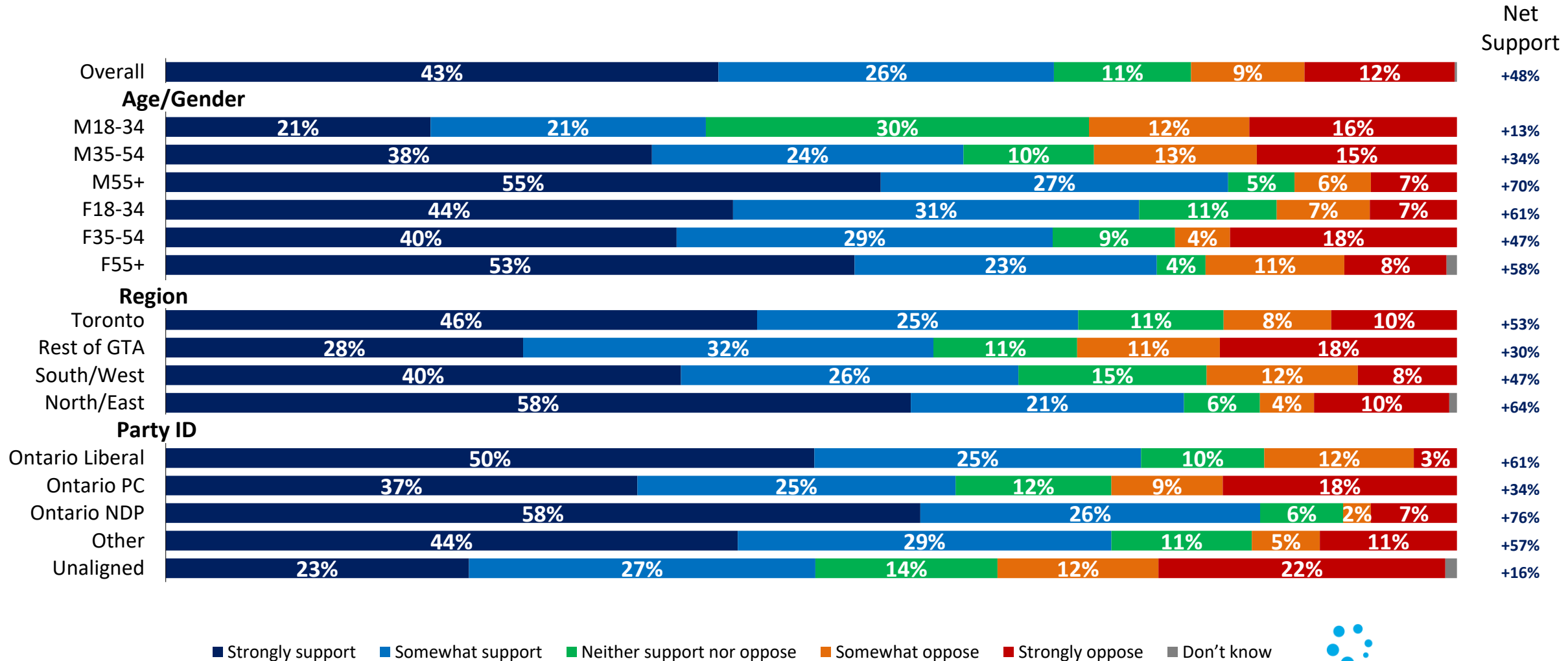


Ontario's Lockdown: Net support for the stay-at-home order is highest among NDP partisans and men over 55

Q

Do you support or oppose the provincial government's decision to implement a four week long province wide stay-at-home order?

[asked of all respondents after April 8; n=535]



Methodology



Survey Methodology

These are the results of an online survey conducted between April 1st and April 13th, 2021.

Method: This online survey was conducted using INNOVATIVE's Canada 20/20 national research panel with additional respondents from Dynata, 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=2,390 Canadian citizens, 18 years or older. The results are nationally weighted to n=1,500 based on Census data from Statistics Canada.

Field Dates: April 1st, 2021 to April 13th, 2021

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 (%)
Men 18-34	202	8.5%	200	13.4%
Men 35-54	389	16.3%	251	16.8%
Men 55+	575	24.1%	272	18.2%
Women 18-34	288	12.1%	206	13.8%
Women 35-54	410	17.2%	261	17.4%
Women 55+	520	21.8%	306	20.5%
BC	254	10.6%	205	13.6%
AB	228	9.5%	170	11.4%
Prairies	120	5.0%	99	6.6%
ON	984	41.2%	577	38.5%
QC	477	20.0%	346	23.1%
Atlantic	327	13.7%	103	6.9%

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