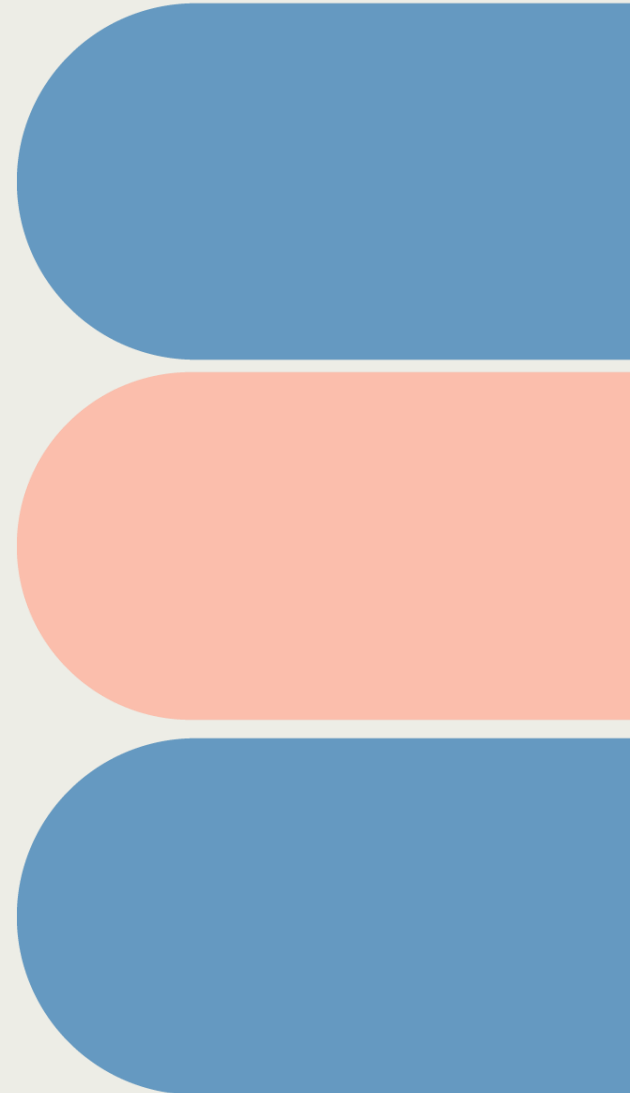


Survey of Lithuanian Public Perception About Transgender Persons

The survey was conducted by „Spinter Research“ on behalf of the Office of the Equal Opportunities Ombudsperson of Lithuania





Methodology



- **Survey period:** 18 – 25 February, 2024
- **Number of participants:** N = 1010
- **Object:** 18+ year old residents of Lithuania
- **Survey type:** mixed – interview online and by phone

● Margins of error:



	% 3	% 5	% 10	% 15	% 20	% 25	% 30	% 40	% 50
N									
100	3.3	4.3	5.9	7.0	7.8	8.5	9.0	9.6	9.8
200	2.4	3.0	4.2	4.9	5.5	6.0	6.4	6.8	6.9
300	1.9	2.5	3.4	4.0	4.5	4.9	5.2	5.5	5.7
400	1.7	2.1	2.9	3.5	3.9	4.2	4.5	4.8	4.9
500	1.5	1.9	2.6	3.1	3.5	3.8	4.0	4.3	4.4
700	1.3	1.6	2.2	2.6	3.0	3.2	3.4	3.6	3.7
1000	1.1	1.4	1.9	2.2	2.5	2.7	2.8	3.0	3.1



Comparison

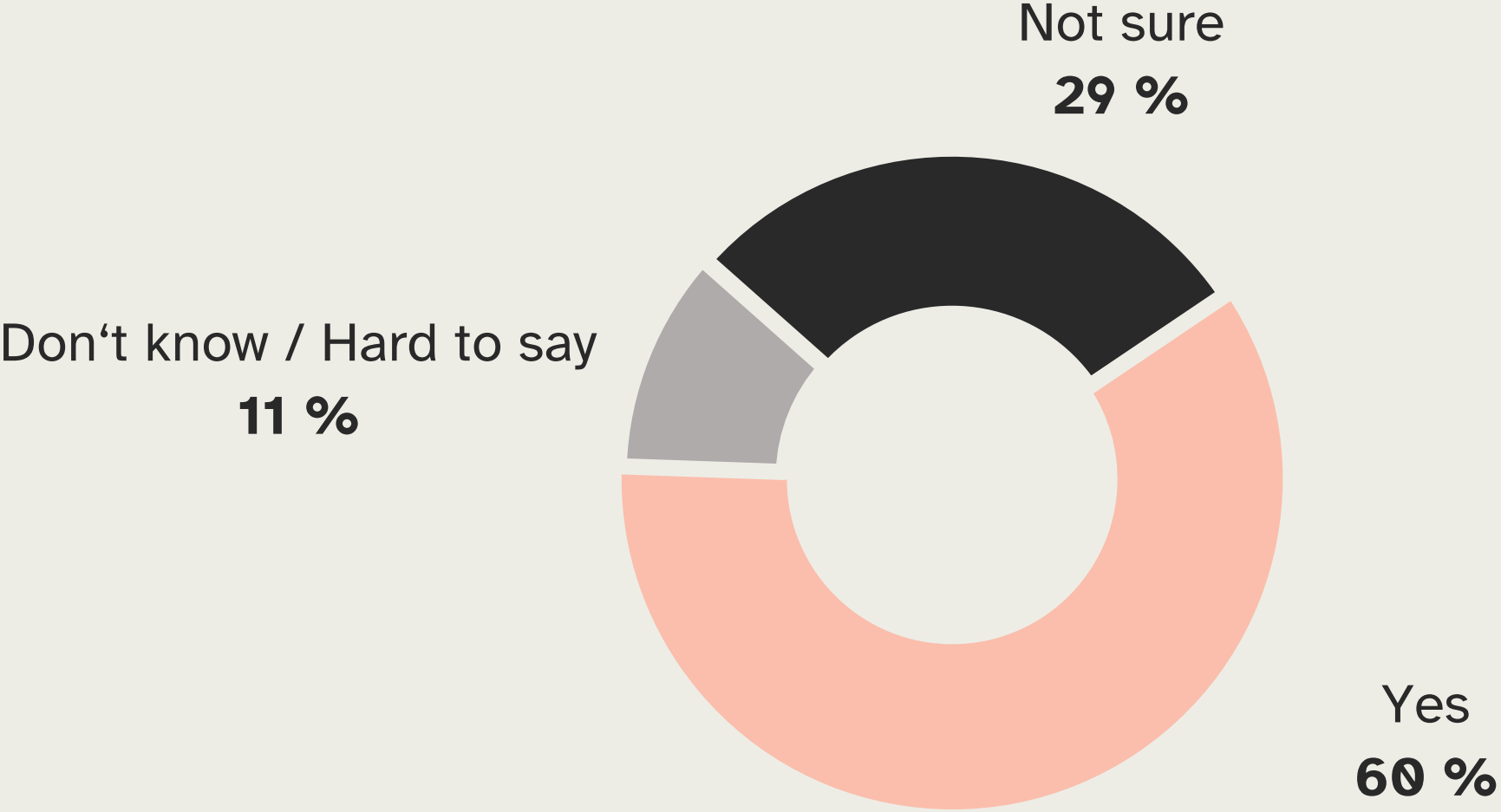
In this overview some of the **2024** survey results are compared to the results of a similar representative survey conducted in **2018** on the same topic.

- **The survey in 2018** was conducted by the public opinion and market research center “Vilmorus”



Results

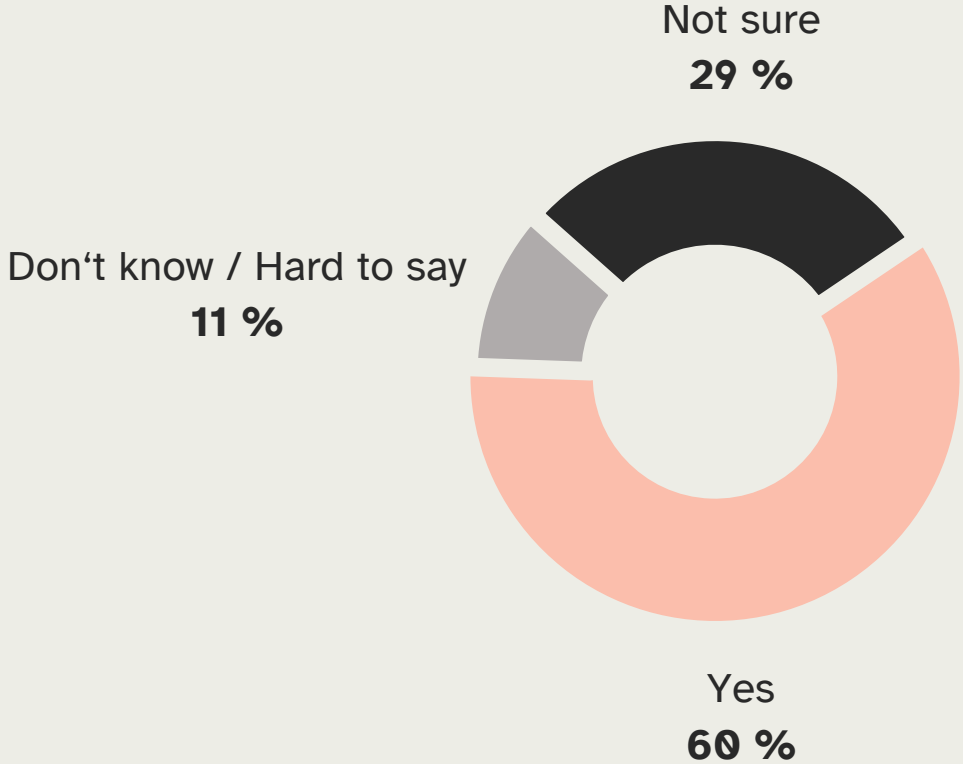
Do you know what the term "transgender person" means?



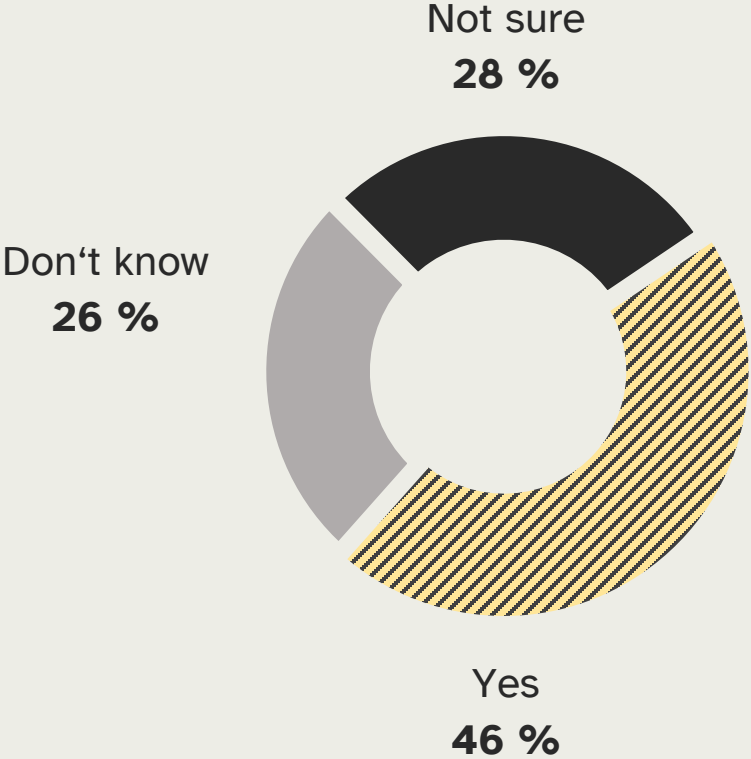
Do you know what the term "transgender person" means?



2024

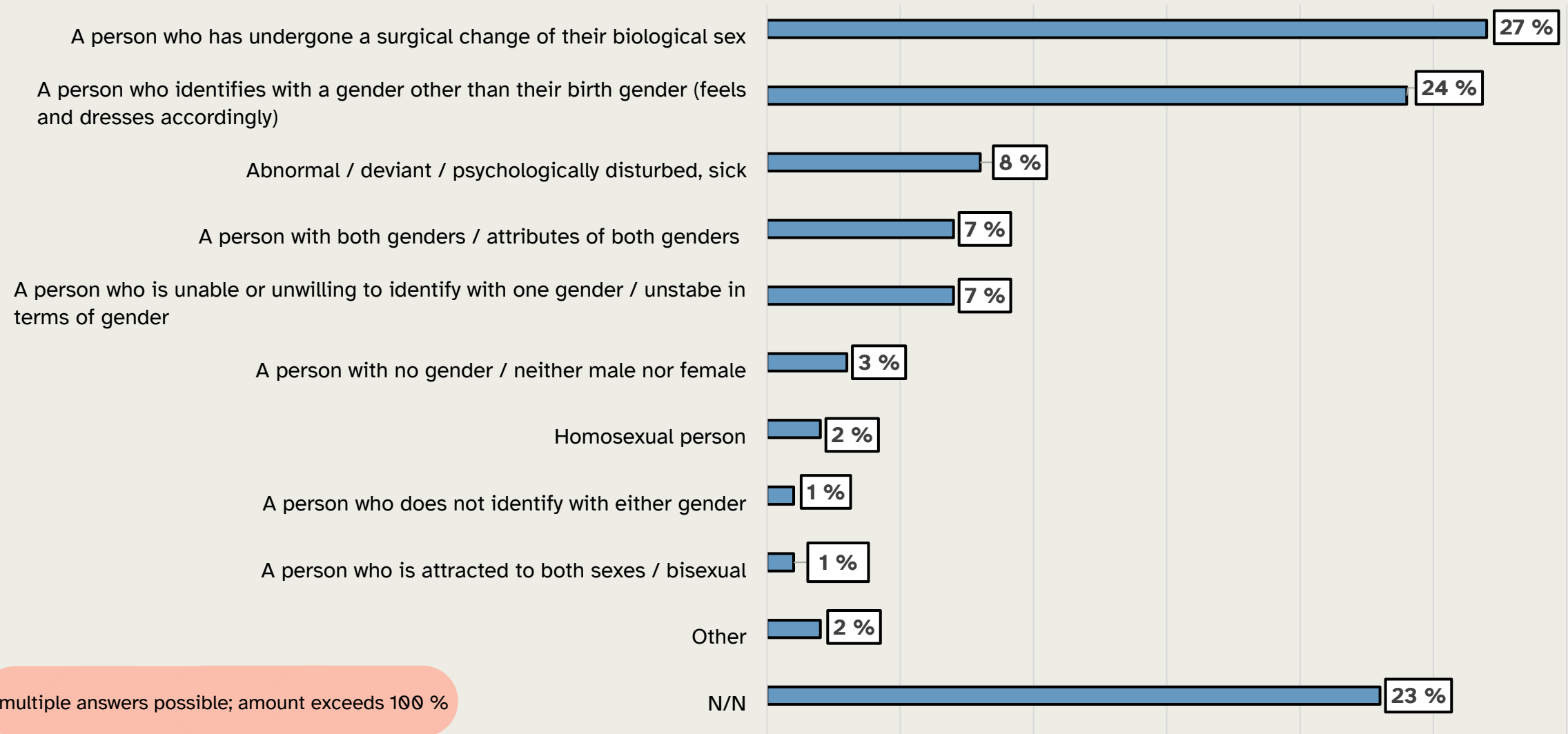


2018



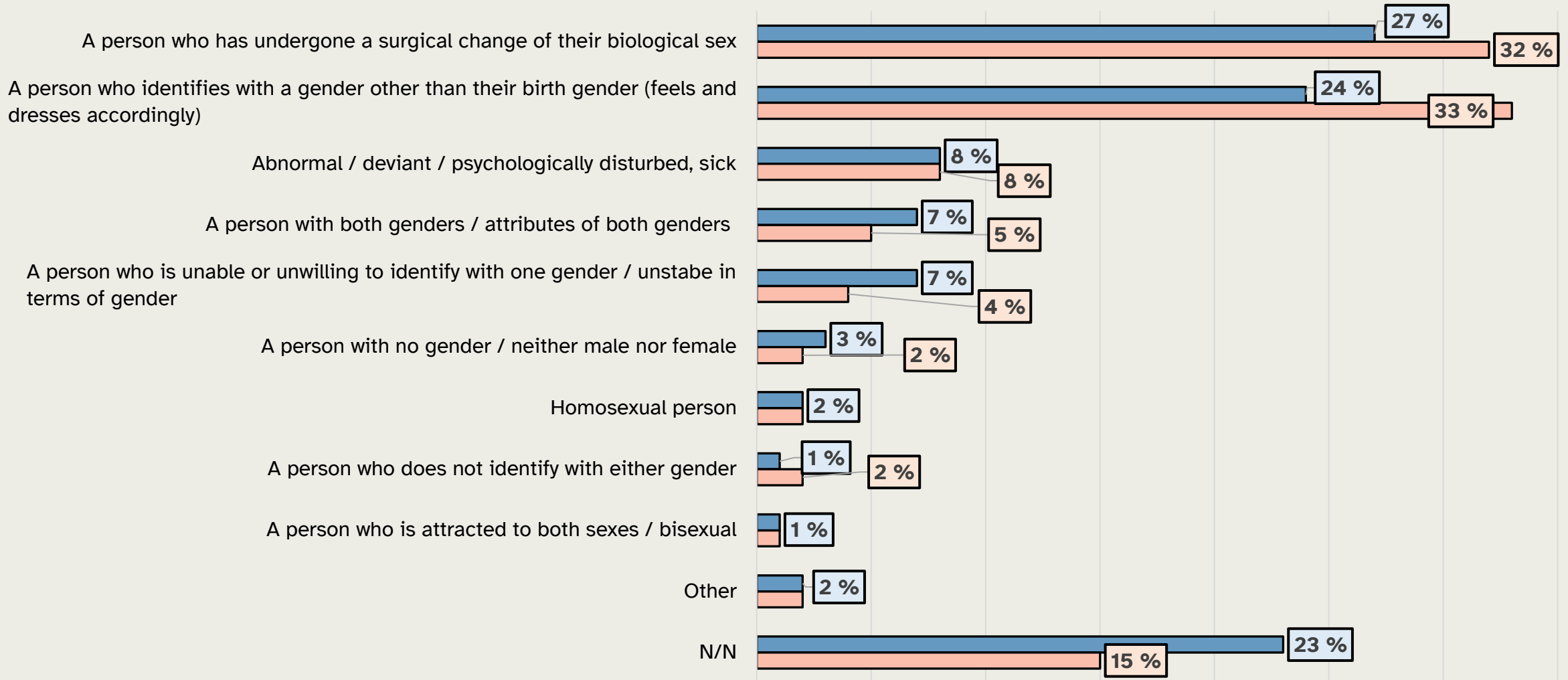
Please describe - what is a transgender person?

Open-ended question, options are provided by the respondents themselves



*multiple answers possible; amount exceeds 100 %

Please describe - what is a transgender person?

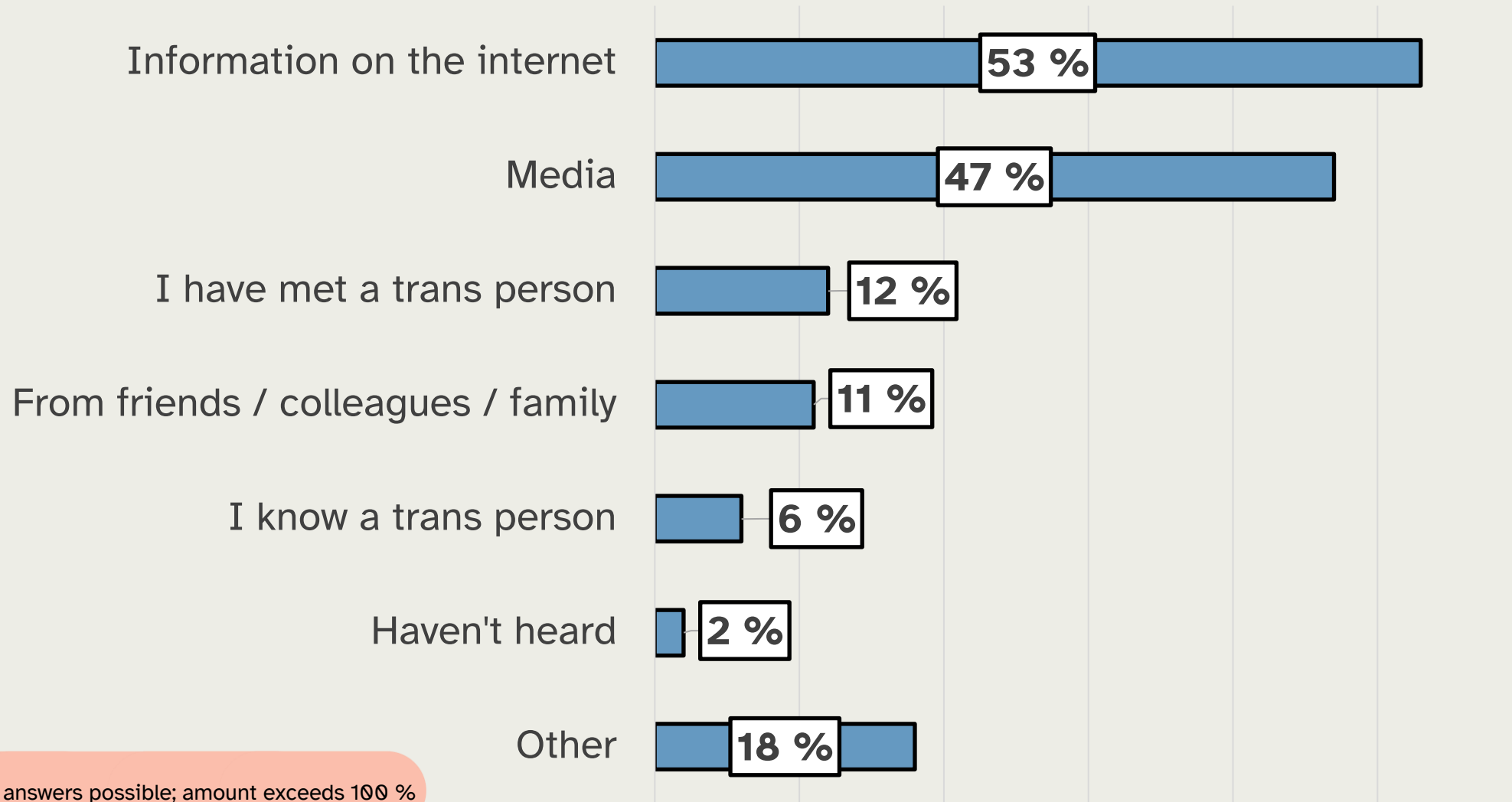


*multiple answers possible; amount exceeds 100 %

● All respondents
N=1010

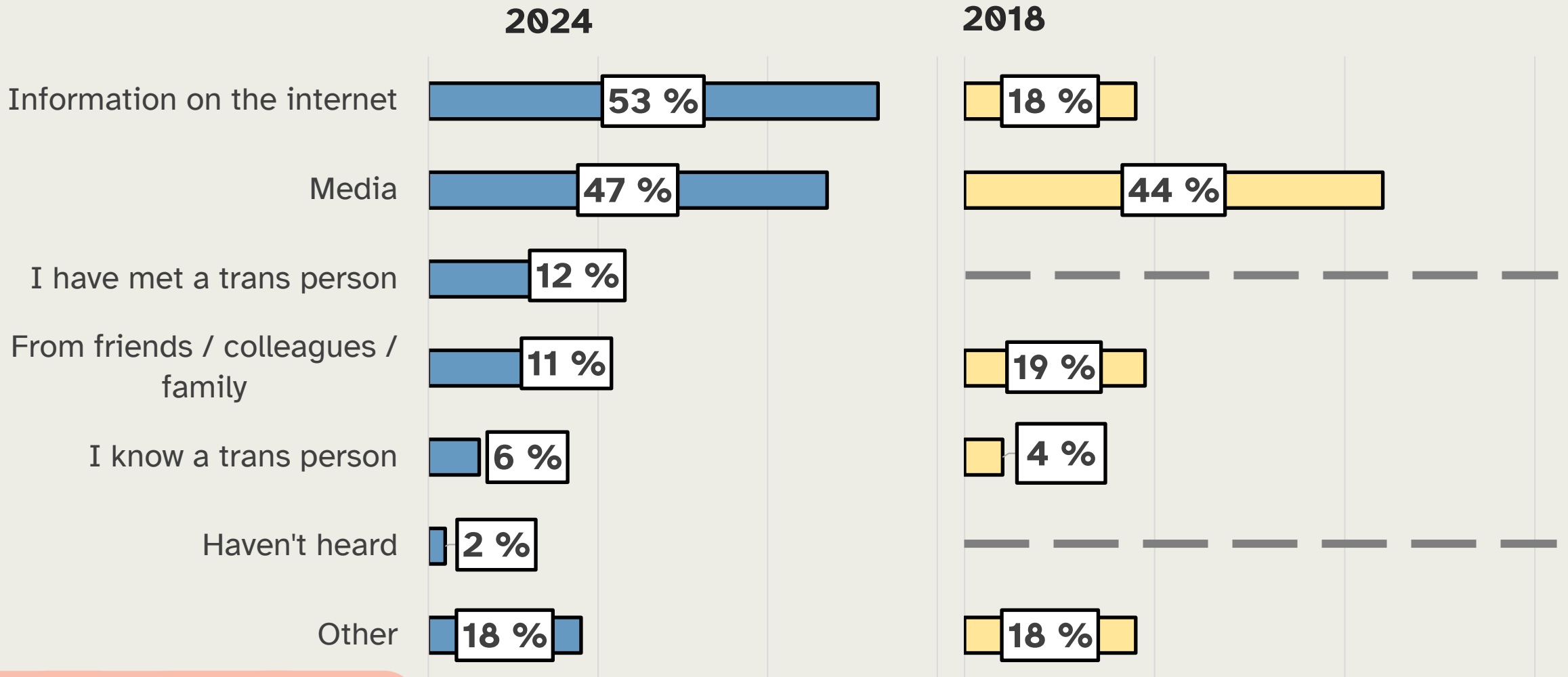
● Those who claim that they know what a transgender person is
N=610

If you have heard about transgender people before, from what sources did you get this information?



*multiple answers possible; amount exceeds 100 %

If you have heard about transgender people before, from what sources did you get this information?

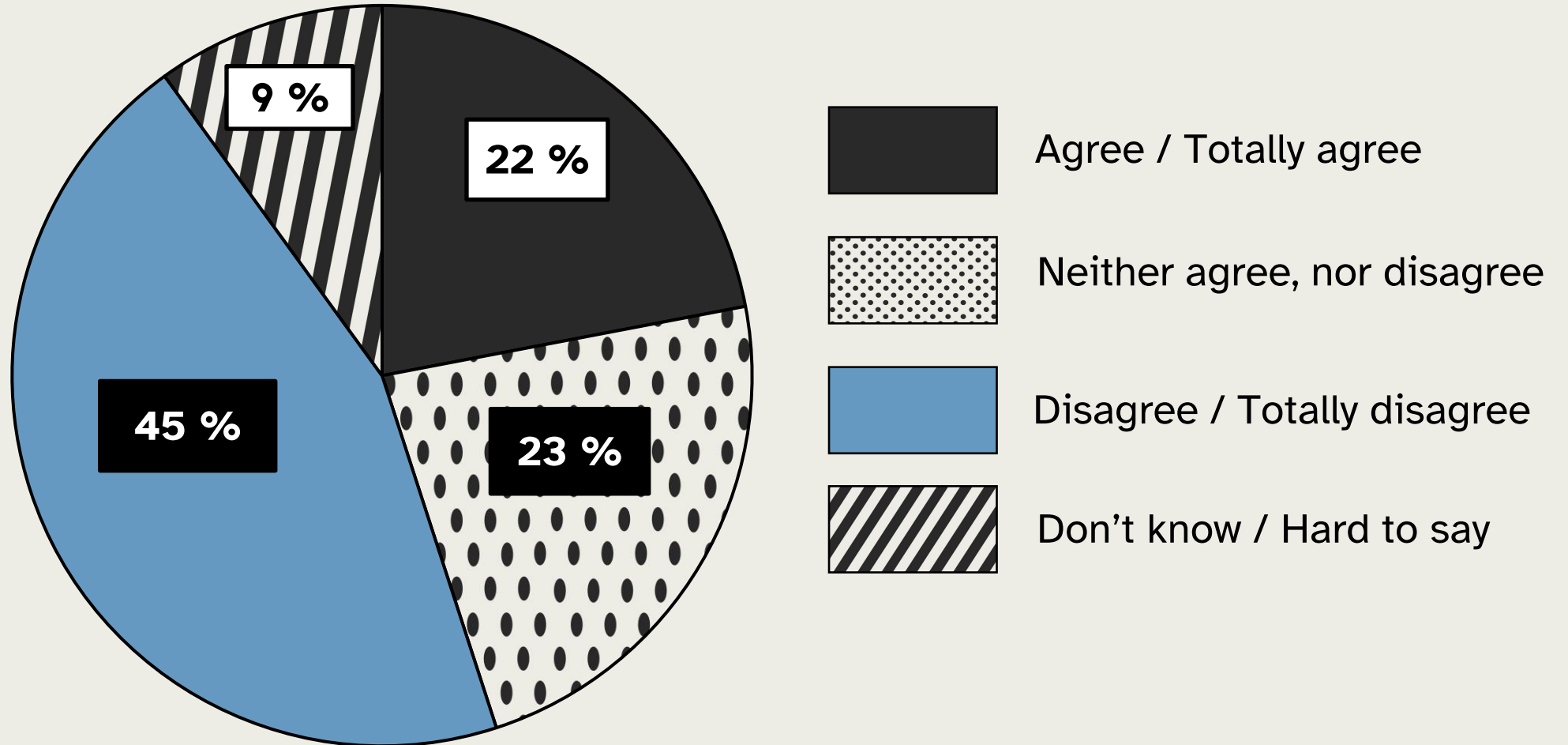


*multiple answers possible; amount exceeds 100 %

----- - option was not available in the survey of 2018

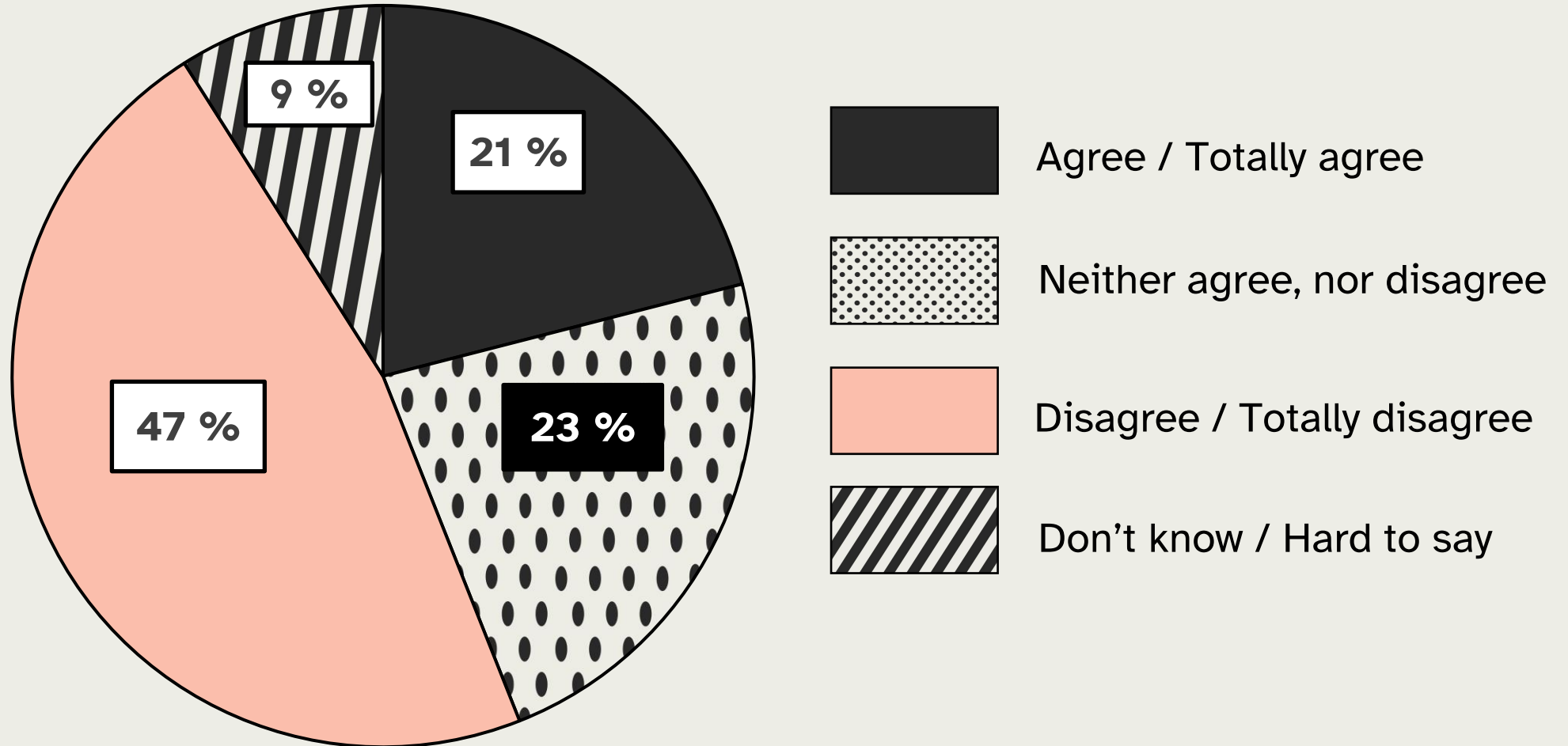
Do you agree with this statement?

A transgender woman is a woman just like other women



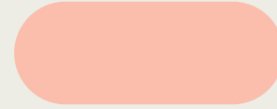
Do you agree with this statement?

A transgender man is a man just like other men





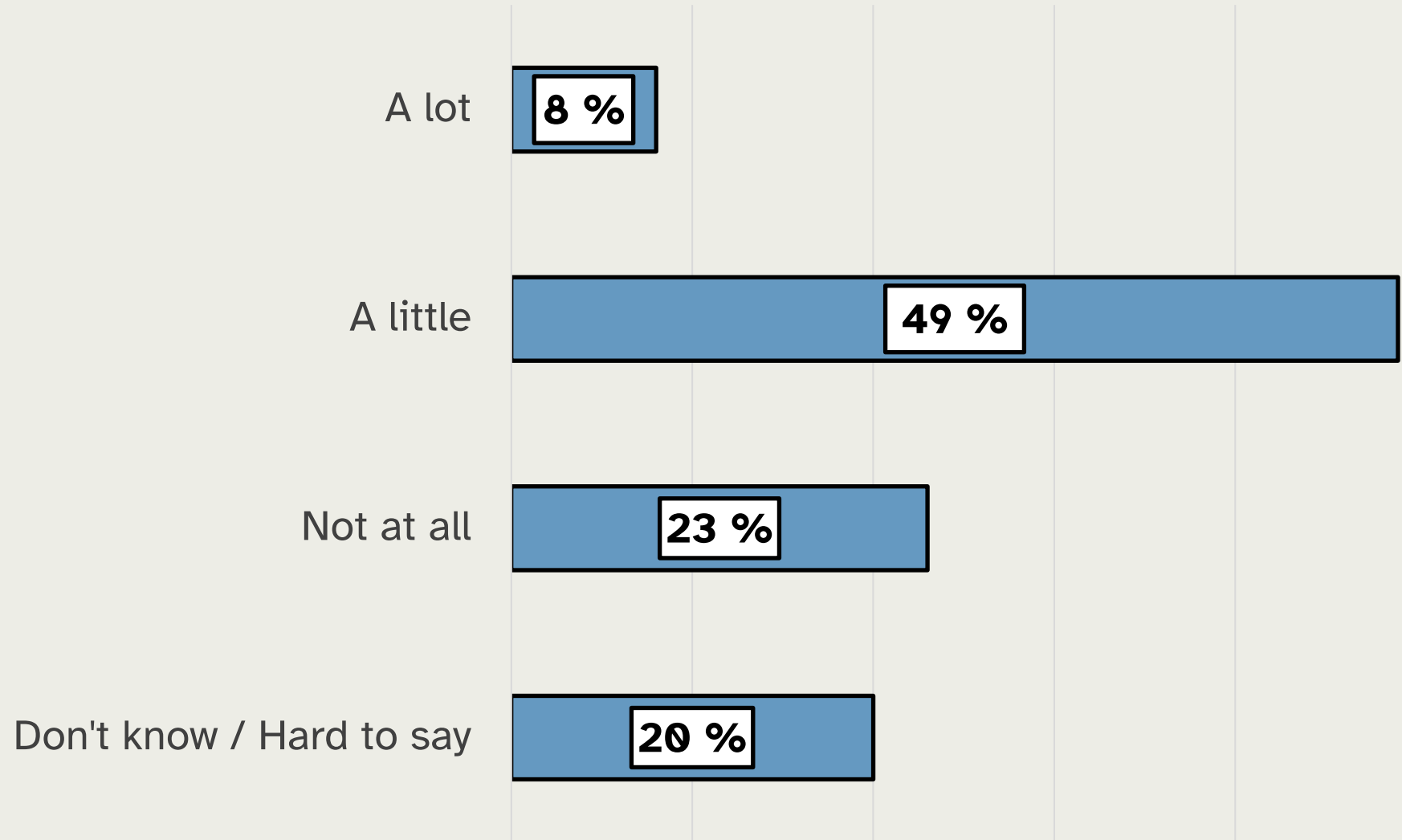
22 % in **2024** and
14 % in **2018** agreed that
a transgender woman is a
woman just like other
women.



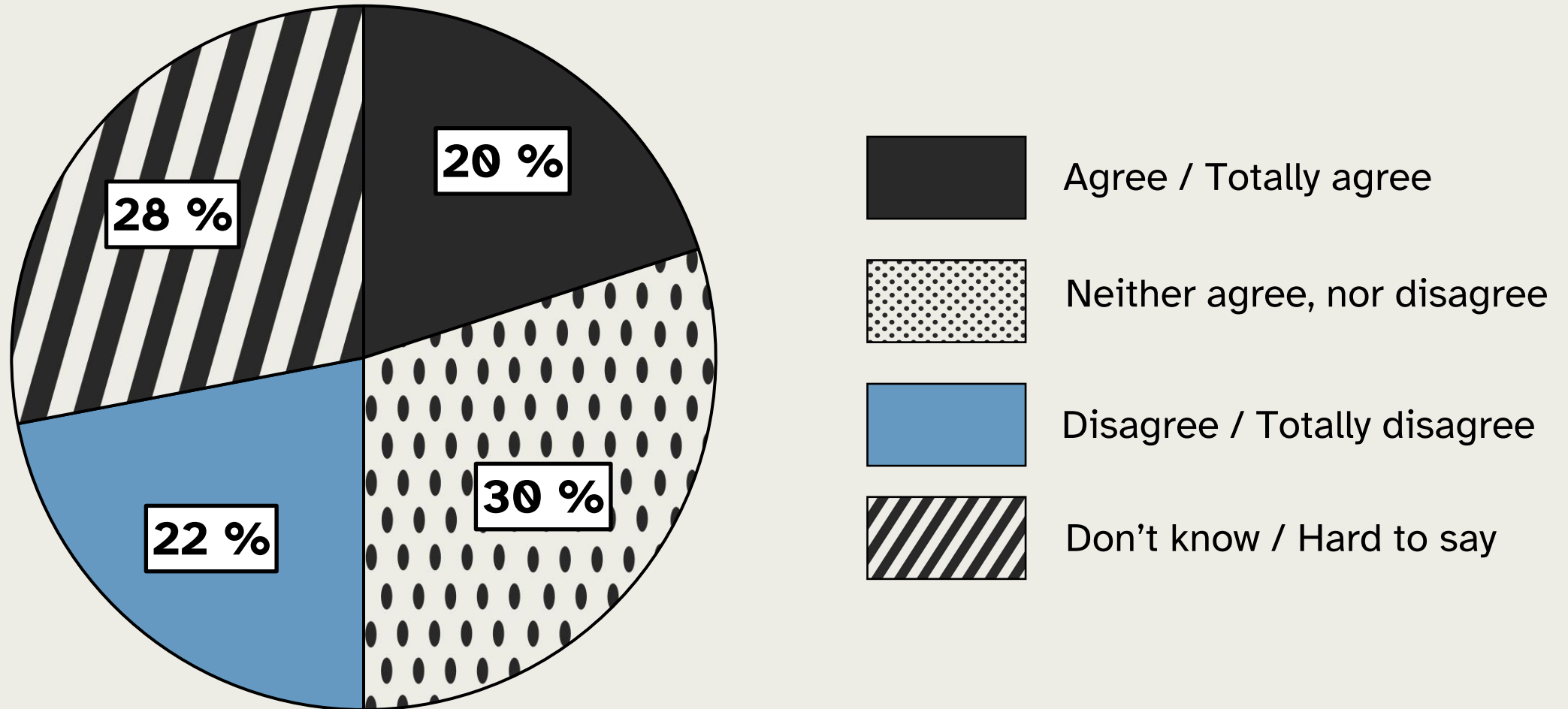
21 % in **2024** and
15 % in **2018** agreed that a
transgender man is a man
just like other men.

*In the survey of 2018 this question was worded differently: Do you agree with the statement that transgender people **are not** the same as other men/women?

Have you heard about non-binary people?



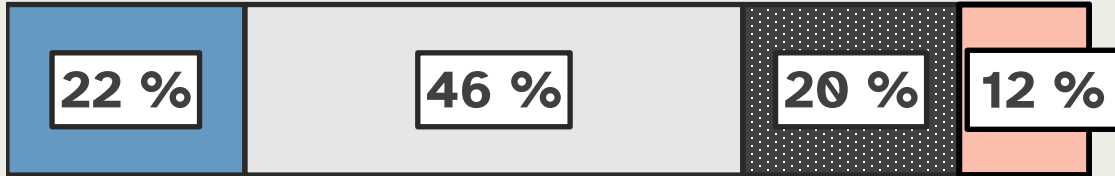
Do you agree with the statement that being transgender is a temporary desire?



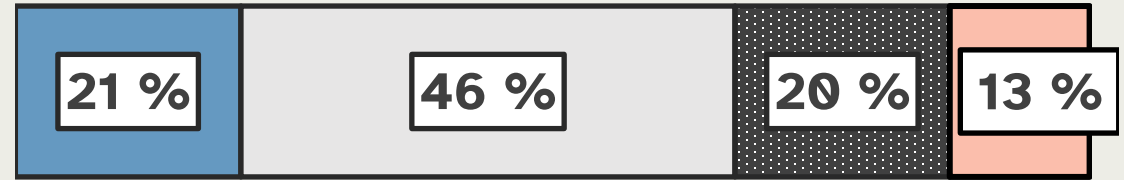
How would you feel if:



A transgender person would **work in your workplace**



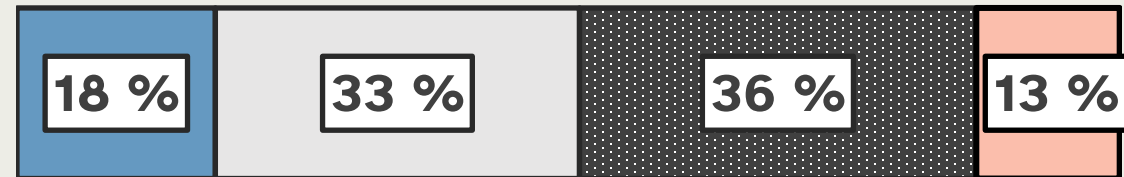
A transgender person would **live in your neighborhood**




A transgender person would occupy a **leading position in Lithuanian government**





A transgender person would **work at the school your child attends**



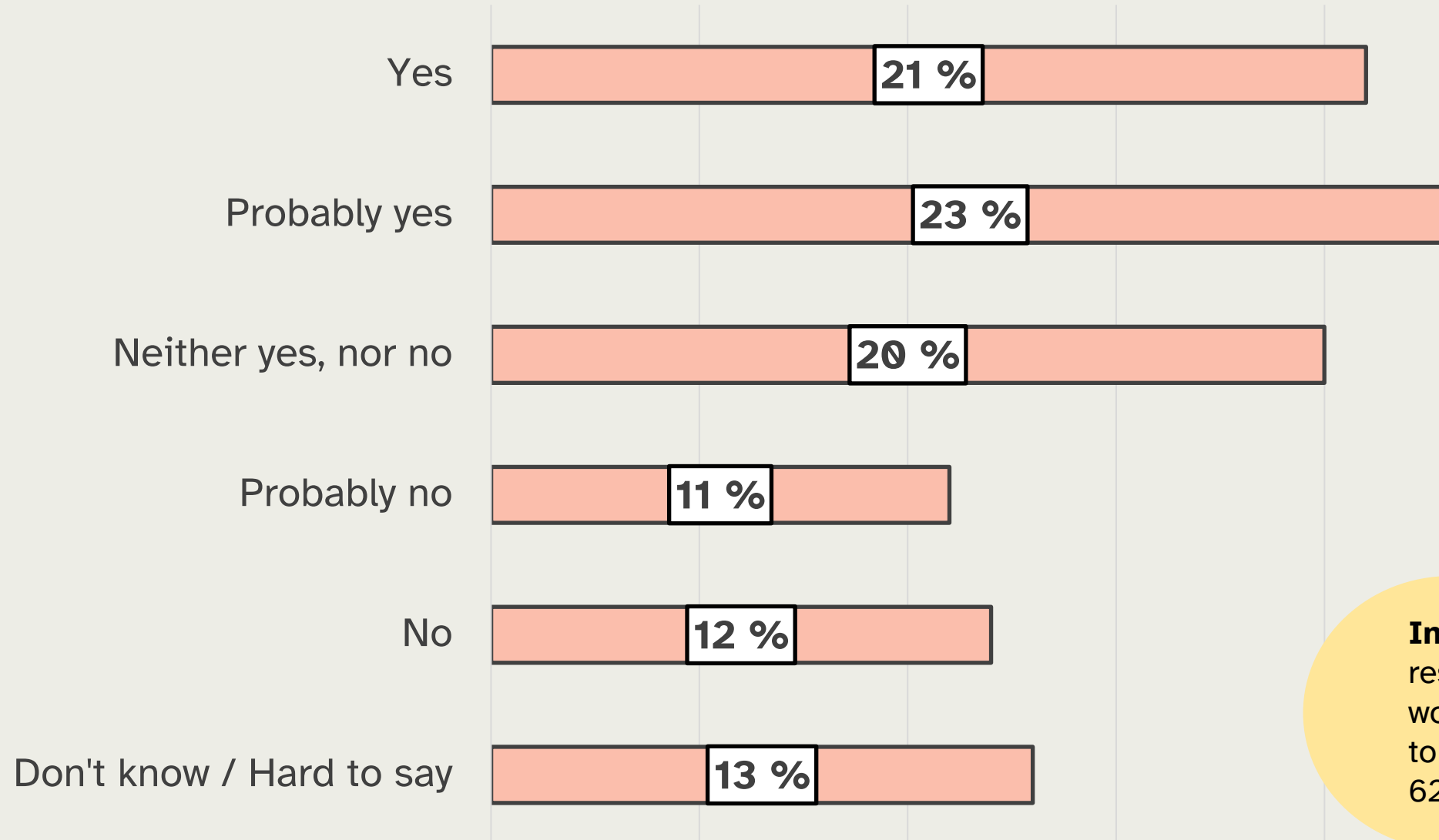
 Comfortable / Very comfortable

 Neutral

 Uncomfortable / Very uncomfortable

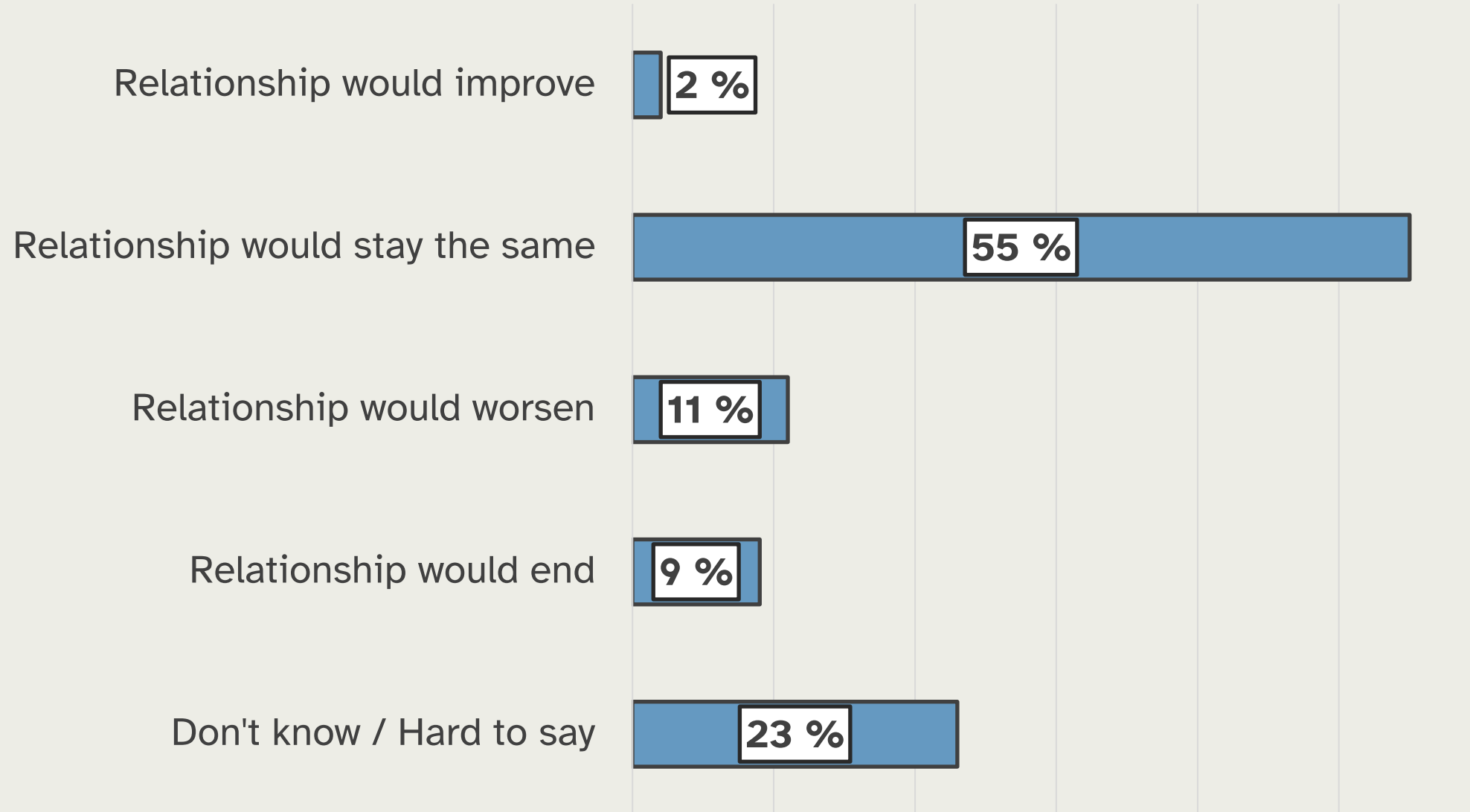
 Don't know / Hard to say

Would you agree to rent housing to a transgender person?

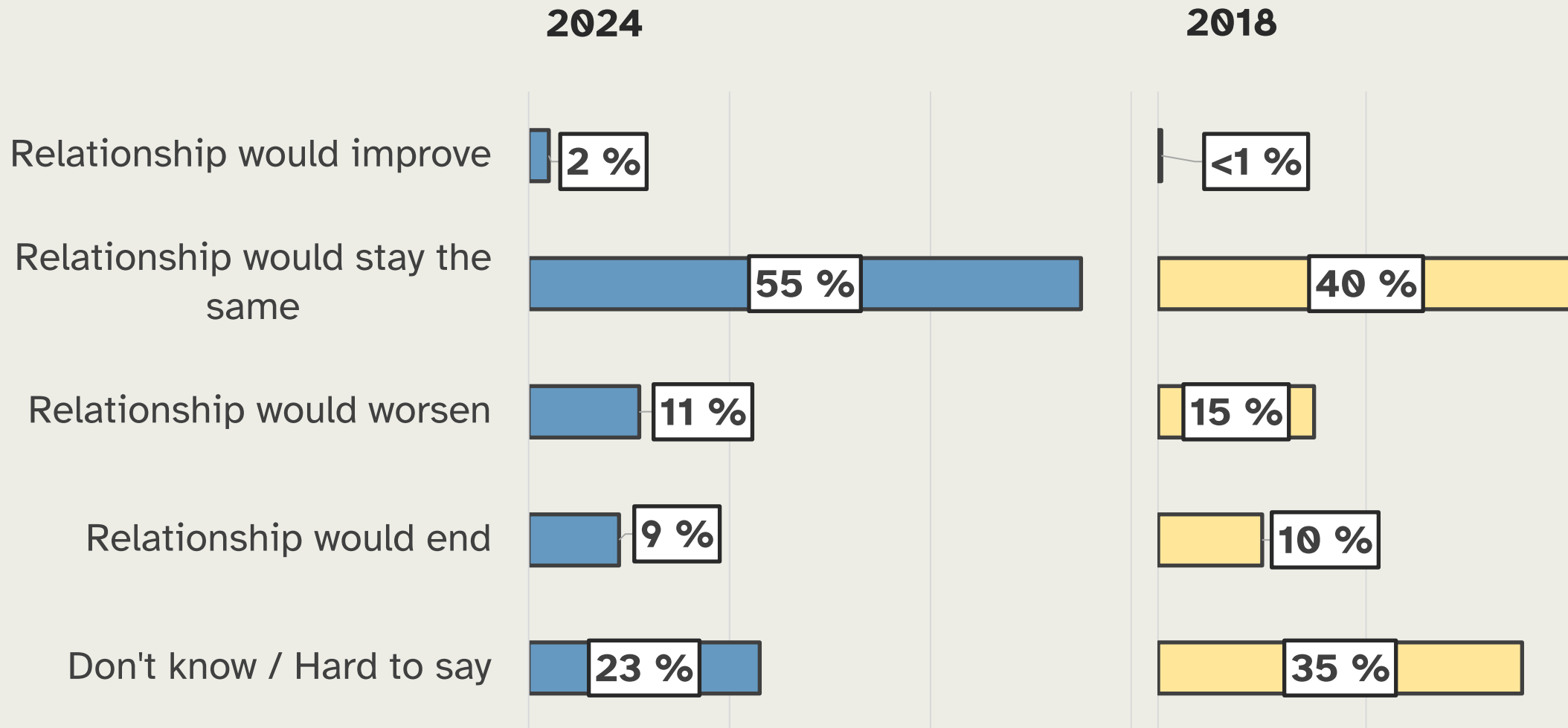


In 2018 38 % of respondents said that they would agree to rent housing to a transgender person, 62 % said no.

If you found out that your close friend is transgender, how would it affect your relationship?



If you found out that your close friend is transgender, how would it affect your relationship?



If your child told you they were transgender, how would you react?



Named specialists:
Therapist; psychiatrist;
priest / would seek help in
religion.



Express support

25 %

Not react

11 %

Look for information

32 %

Seek specialist advice

15 %

Other

3 %

Don't know / Hard to say

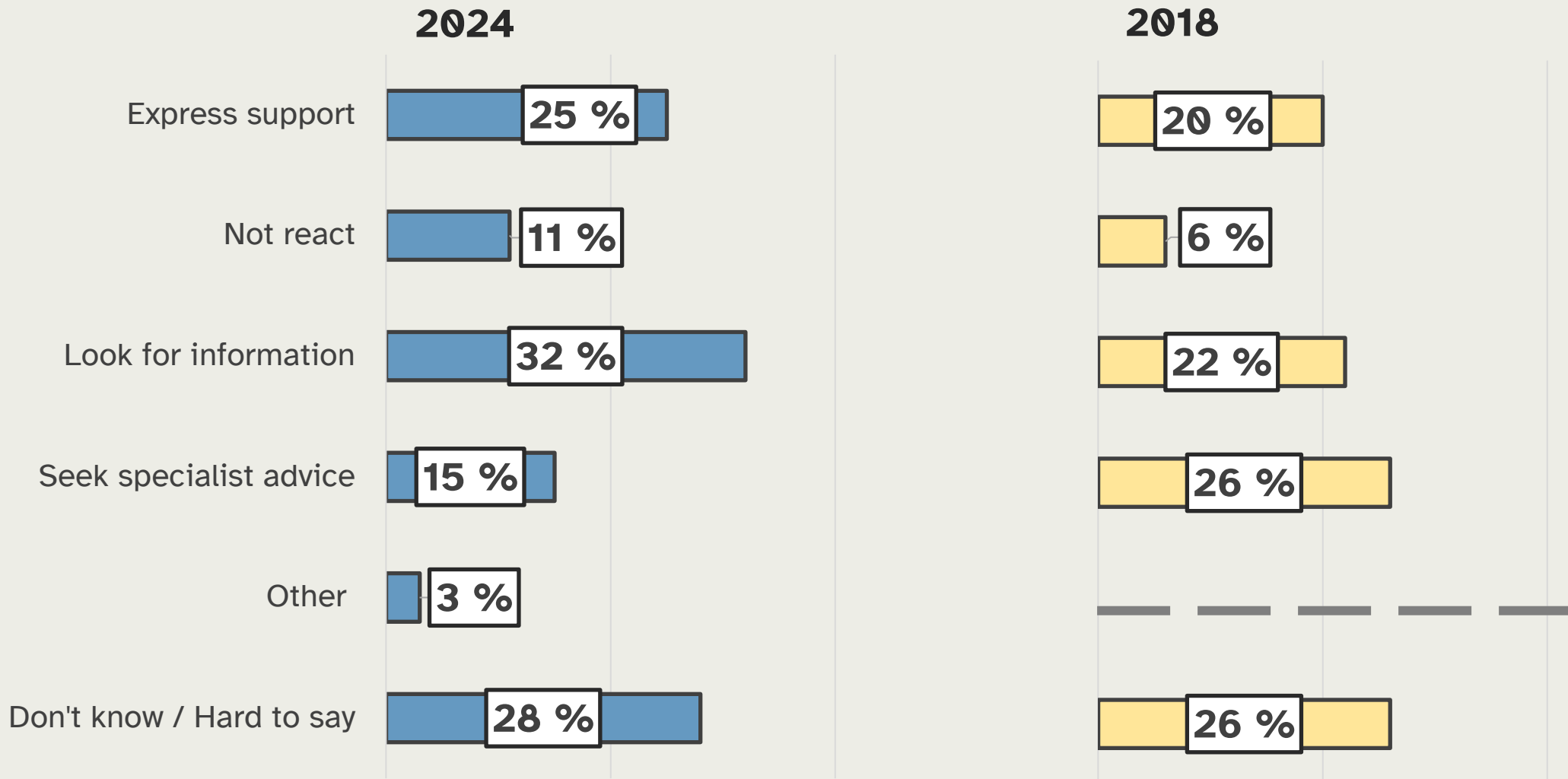
28 %

Other mentions:
Would seek to re-educate
/ clarify / return a normal
identity



*multiple answers possible; amount exceeds 100 %

If your child** told you they were transgender, how would you react?



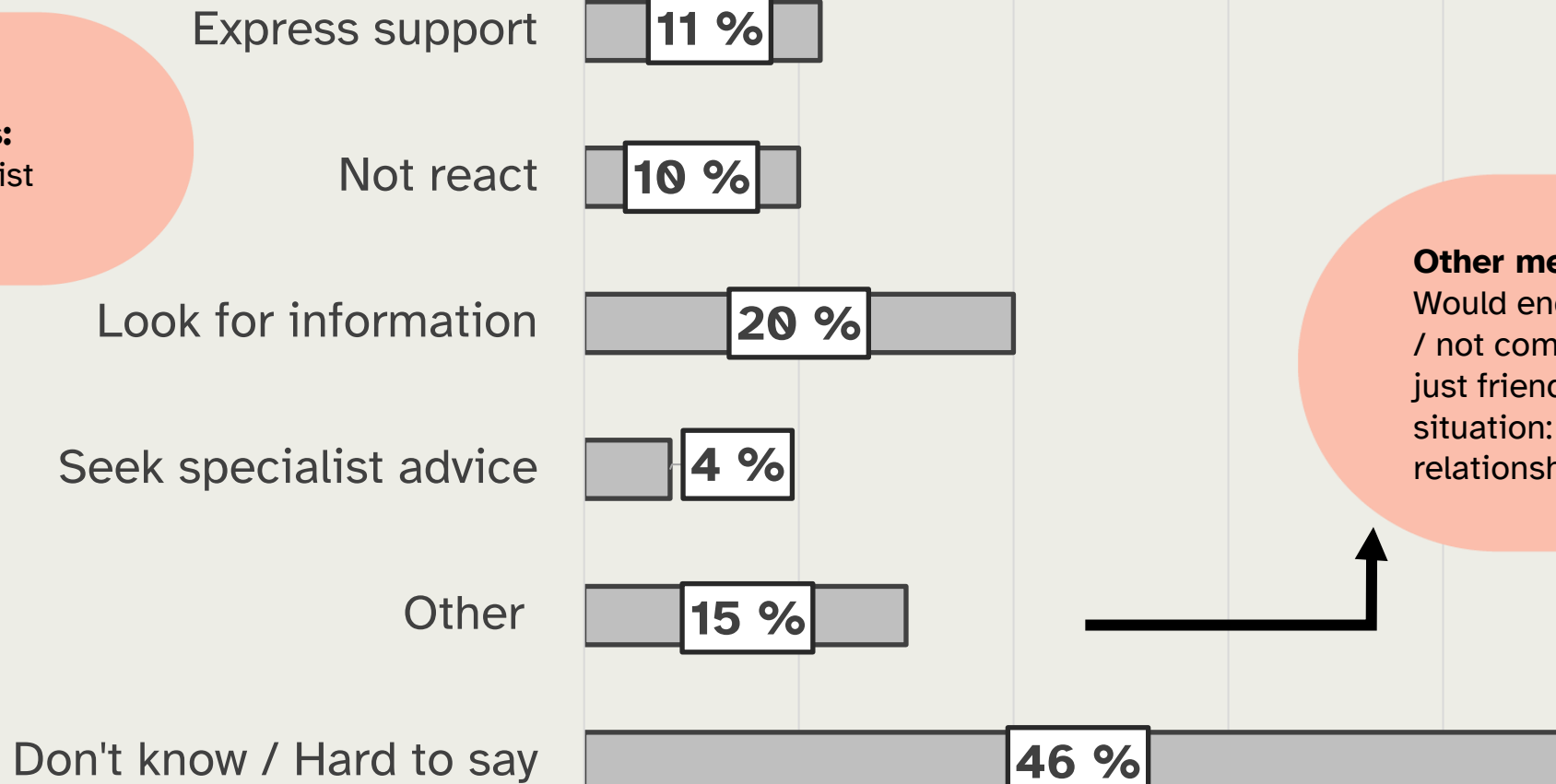
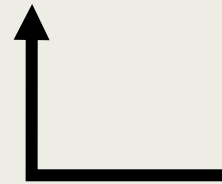
*multiple answers possible; amount exceeds 100 %

** In 2018 this question referred to an **adult** child

If your romantic partner told you they were transgender, how would you react?

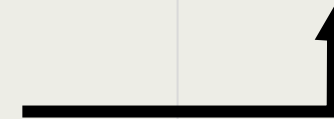


Named specialists:
Therapist; psychiatrist



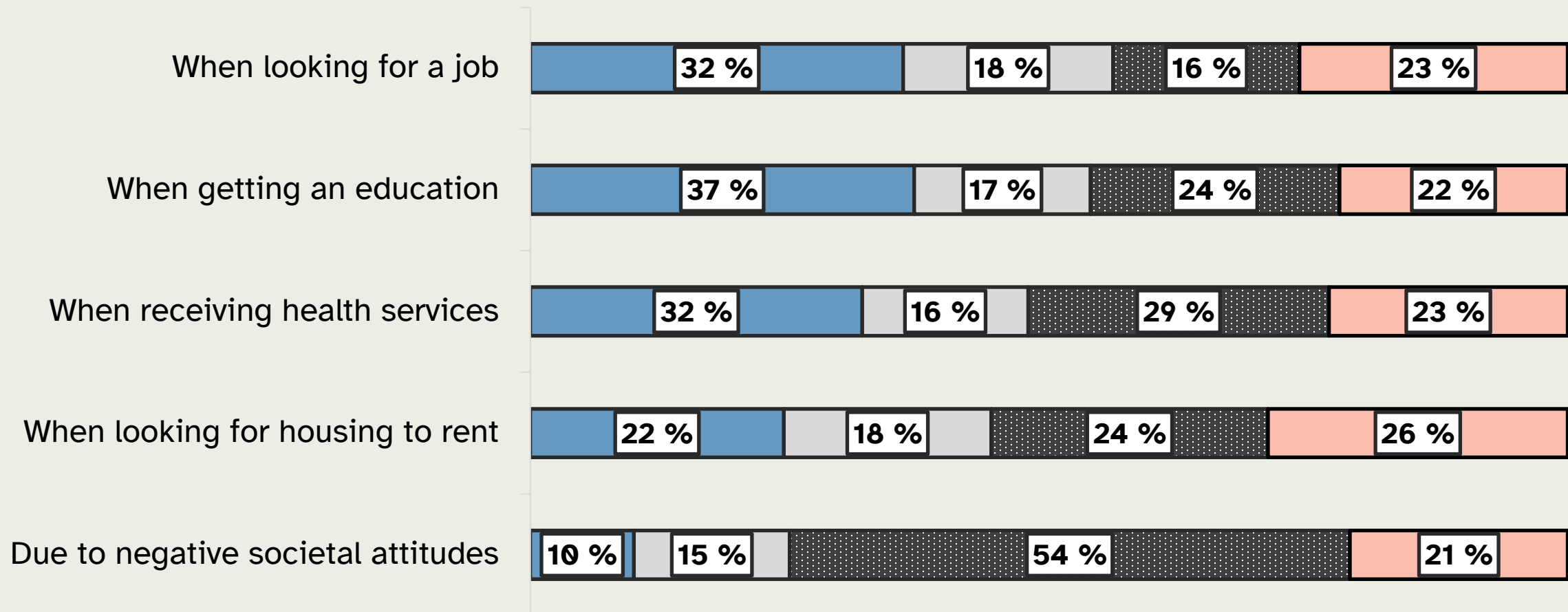
Other mentions:

Would end the relationship / divorce / not communicate; we would remain just friends (not partners); impossible situation: I wouldn't even start a relationship.



*multiple answers possible; amount exceeds 100 %

Do you think transgender people living in Lithuania face difficulties...



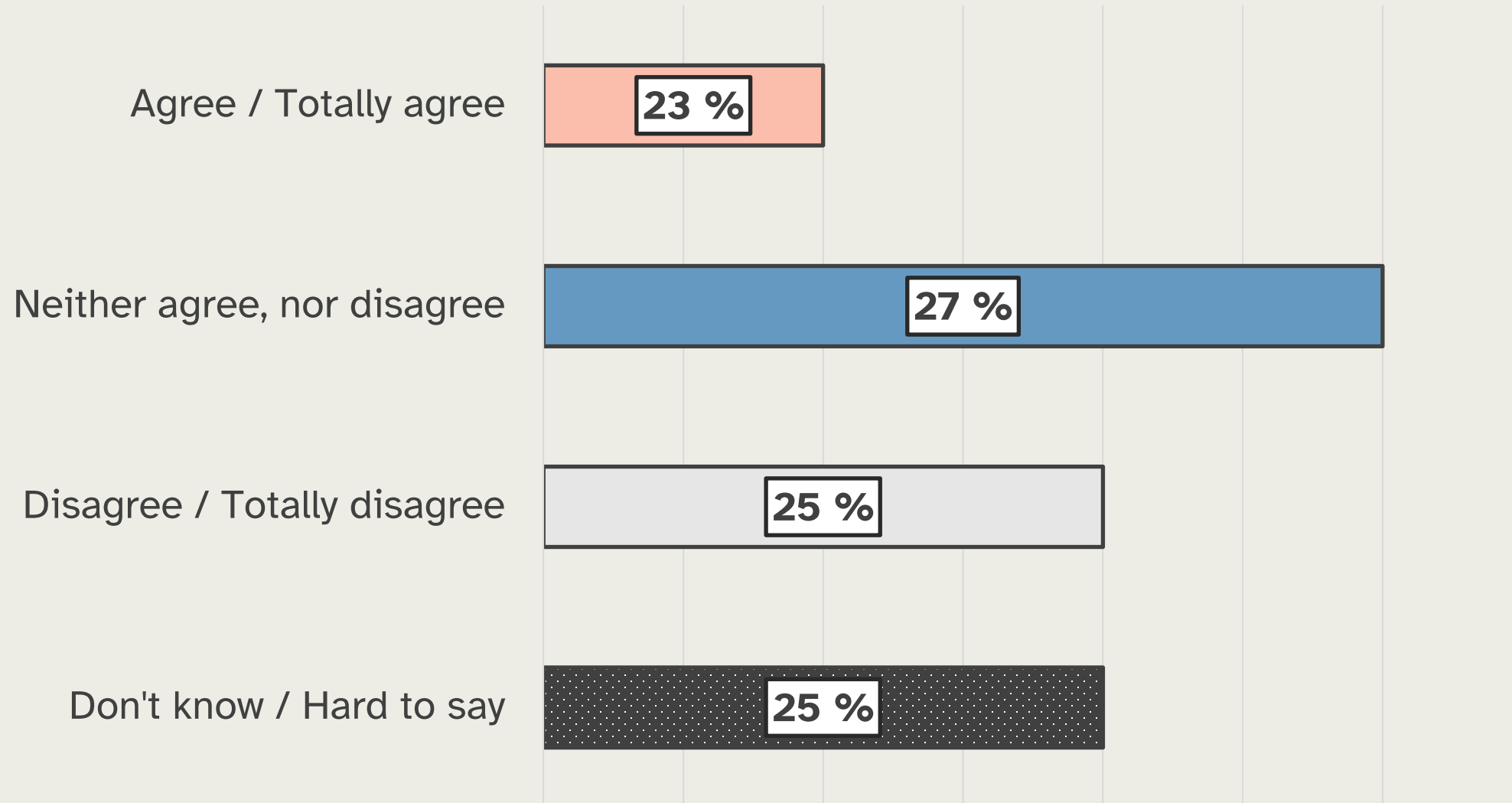
Often / Very often

Sometimes

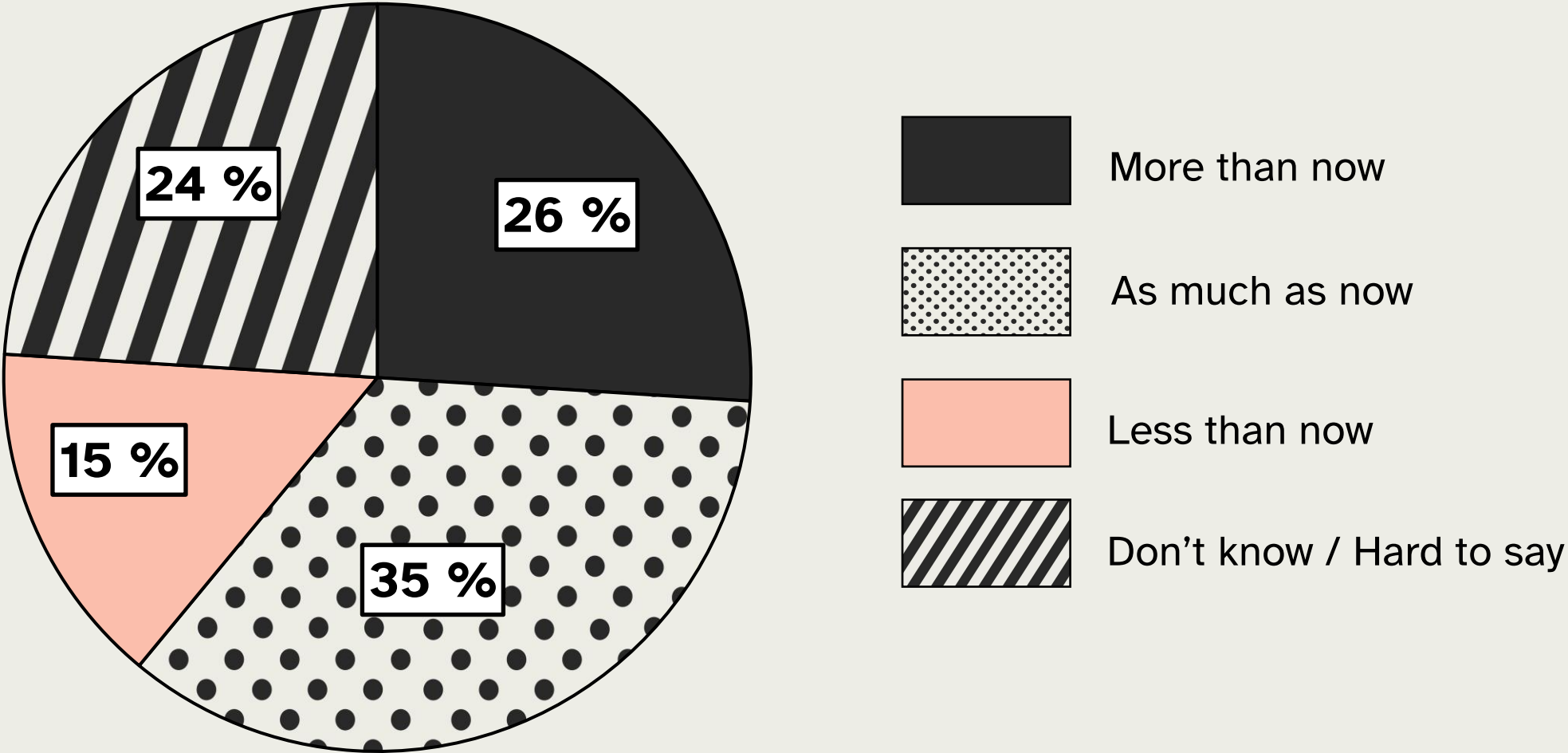
Rarely / Very rarely

Don't know / Hard to say

Do you agree with the statement that Lithuanian laws sufficiently protect transgender persons from discrimination?



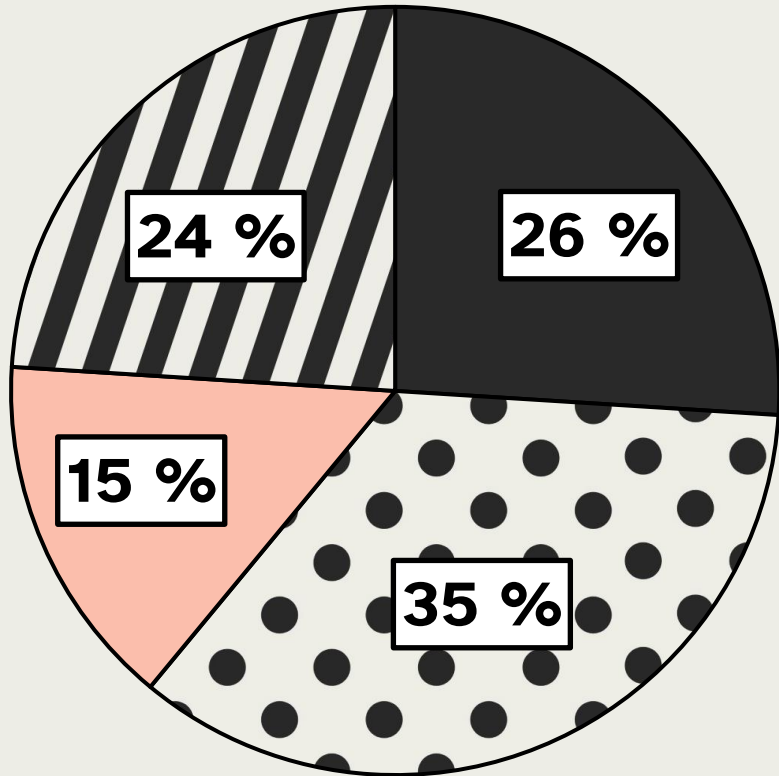
In your opinion, to what extent should the government ensure protection of transgender persons from discrimination (in labor market, when receiving public, health services, when seeking to get an education, etc.)?



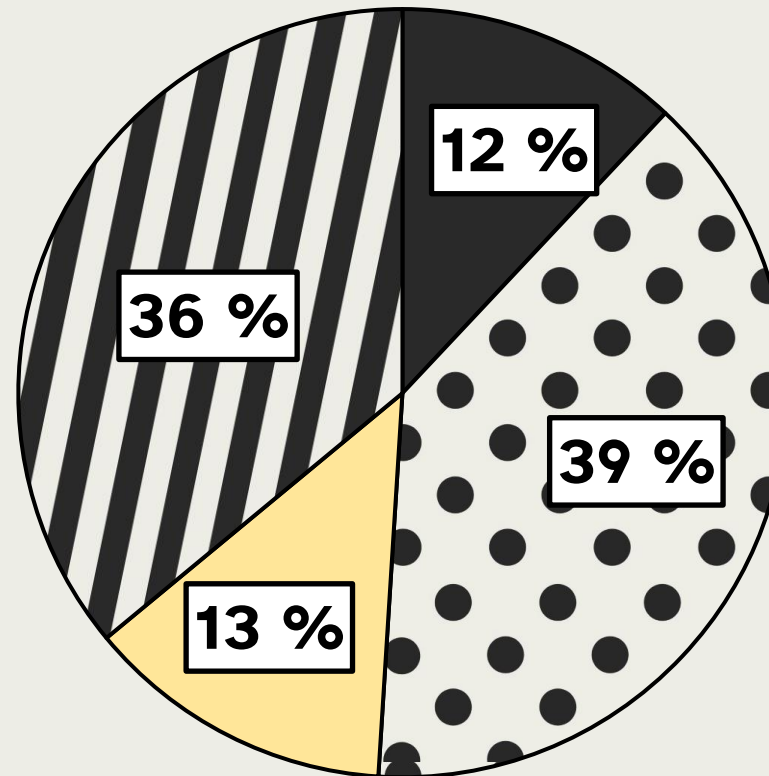
In your opinion, to what extent should the government ensure protection of transgender persons from discrimination (in labor market, when receiving public, health services, when seeking to get an education, etc.)?



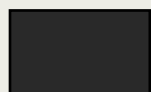
2024



2018*



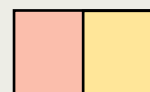
***2018 question:**
How much should the government care about transgender people rights?



More than now



As much as now



Less than now



Don't know / Hard to say



Summary

Public knowledge of transgender people



1.

Society's perceived awareness of transgender people is growing. 60 % of respondents claim to know what the term "transgender person" means, compared to 46 % of survey participants in 2018. The demographic groups most likely to claim familiarity with this term are residents aged 18-35, women, individuals with the highest education levels, and those living in big cities.

2.

49 % of people say they have heard a little about non-binary people, while 8 % indicate they have heard a lot. The demographic least likely to have heard about non-binary persons is respondents aged 56 and older.

3.

Lithuanian residents mostly learn about transgender people from information on the internet (53 %) and from the media (47 %). In the last 6 years, **the popularity of information on the internet, as a source about transgender people, has grown the most.** In 2018, only 18 % of respondents chose this option.

4.

24 % understand the concept of a transgender person as "a person who identifies with a gender other than their birth gender (feels and dresses accordingly)". 27 % respondents consider a transgender person to be "a person who has surgically changed their biological sex at birth." These descriptions were mostly chosen by respondents who claim to know what a transgender person is. **This shows that while perceived awareness is growing, the actual perception of being transgender is still often stereotypically associated with medical transition.**

Attitudes about transgender people



5.

Over the past 6 years, **there has been an increase in the number of people who agree that transgender people are just as much women and men as others.** 22 % of respondents in 2024 and 14 % in 2018 agreed that a transgender woman is a woman just like other women. 21 % in 2024 and 15 % in 2018 had the same opinion about transgender men. **Men are more likely to totally disagree with both statements.**

6.

When assessing attitudes towards transgender people in different social contexts, the trends remain similar to those in 2018: **the majority of respondents would respond positively and neutrally to a transgender person in their workplace** (68 %) and in their **neighborhood** (67 %), but the number of respondents who would feel comfortably or neutrally would decrease if a transgender person occupied a leading position in Lithuanian government (51 %) or worked at a school attended by the respondents' children (51%).

7.

A change in attitudes can be seen when assessing respondents' reactions to finding out their close friend or their child is transgender. 55 % of respondents say that if they found out that a close friend is transgender, their relationship would remain the same. In 2018, the same was said by 40 % people. After learning about their child being transgender, 25 % survey participants would support them. The same was said by 20 % of respondents in 2018. In 6 years, the number of those who would seek information in such a case increased from 22 % up to 32%.

Attitudes about transgender people



8.

Many of the survey results show a divide in attitudes between men and women. **Negative attitudes about transgender people are more often held by men.** For example, twice more men than women would feel very uncomfortable if a transgender person worked in their workplace. Men also said more often that they would feel uncomfortable with a transgender person in the neighborhood and in a leading position in Lithuanian government. Almost twice more men than women also say that if they found out about a close friend being transgender, their relationship would end or get worse.


9.

The results of the survey show that Lithuanian residents have many negative attitudes about transgender people. Despite this, 54 % respondents claim that transgender people rarely or very rarely encounter difficulties due to negative societal attitudes. This suggests that **people often do not see a connection between their personal attitudes, biases, or actions (such as refusing to rent housing to a transgender person) to the real impact on the lived experiences of transgender people.**

10.

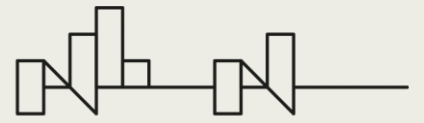
Although the questions in 2018 and 2024 are slightly different, **it is possible to see a change in the attitudes and a more positive opinion about the state ensuring the rights of transgender persons.** In 2018, residents were asked how much the government should care about the rights of transgender people. 12 % of survey participants answered “More than now”. In 2024, the survey asked to what extent should the government ensure protection of transgender persons from discrimination. Option “More than now” was chosen by 26 % of those interviewed.

More information

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Ombudsperson

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Liechtenstein **Norway**
Norway grants **grants**