

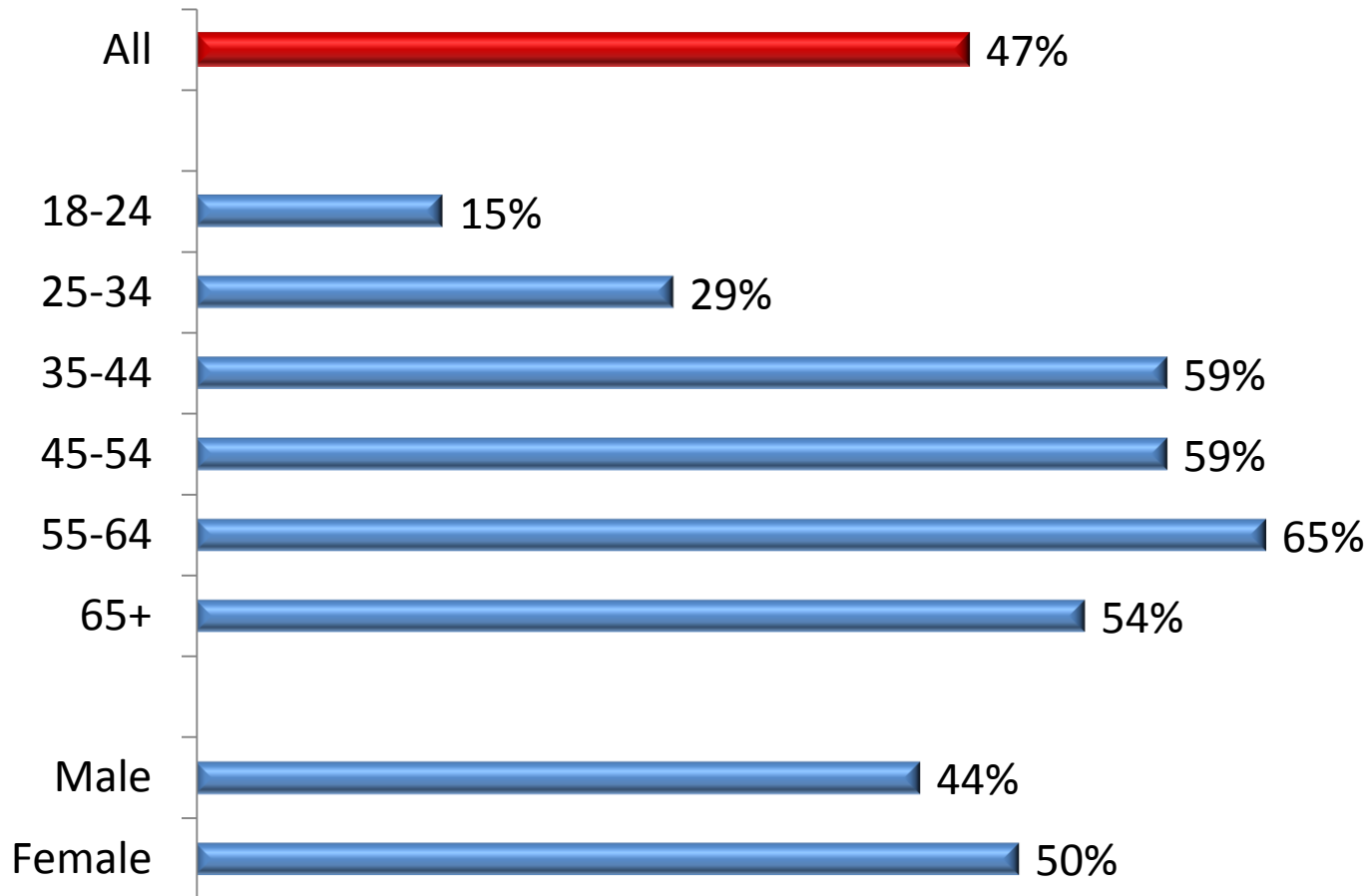
# Old age rational suicide

A poll of Brighton & Hove adults

22 February 2010

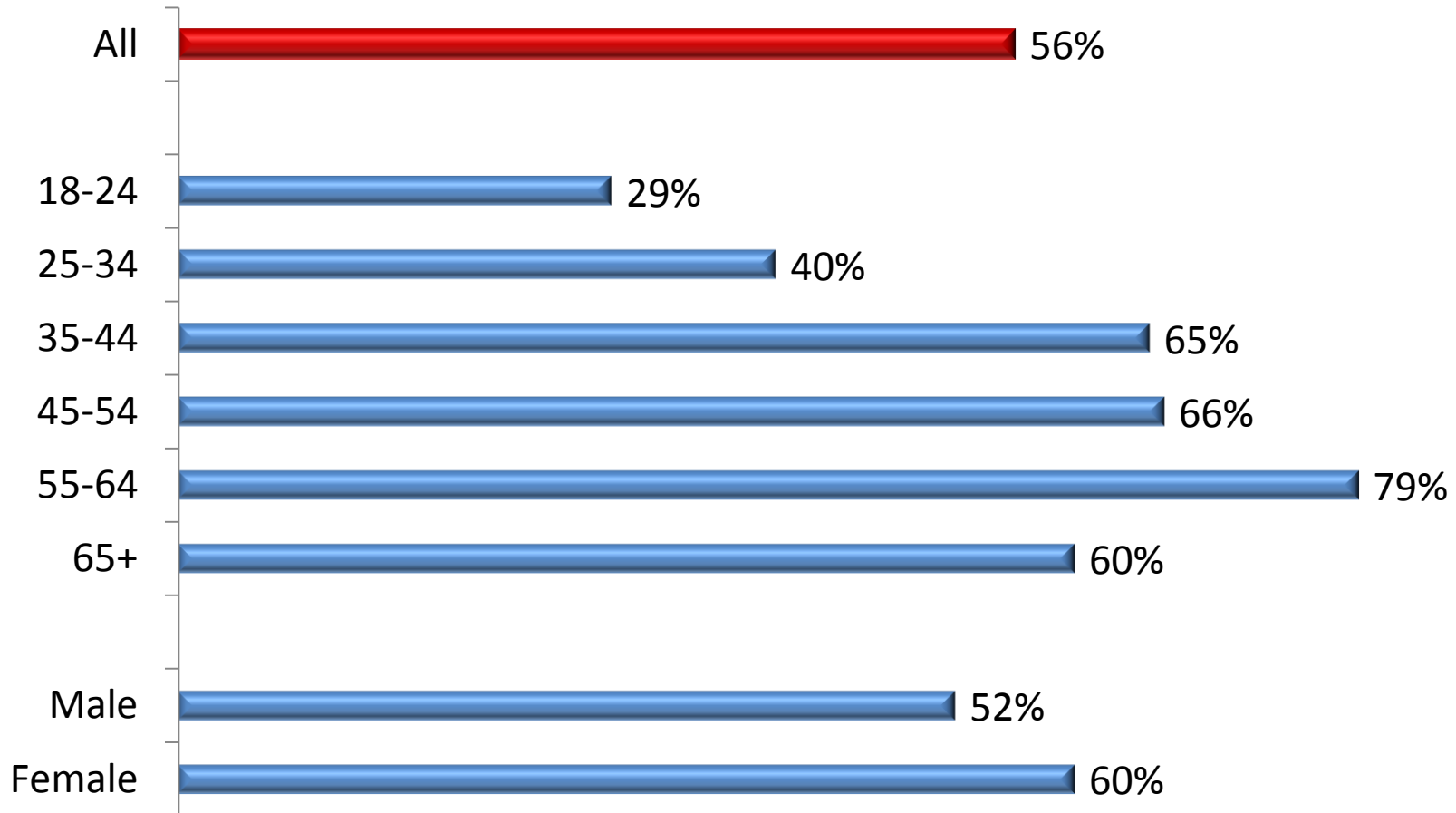
# Nearly half have heard of “Living Wills”

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# Awareness of Living Wills rises to over half of adults when they are explained in more detail

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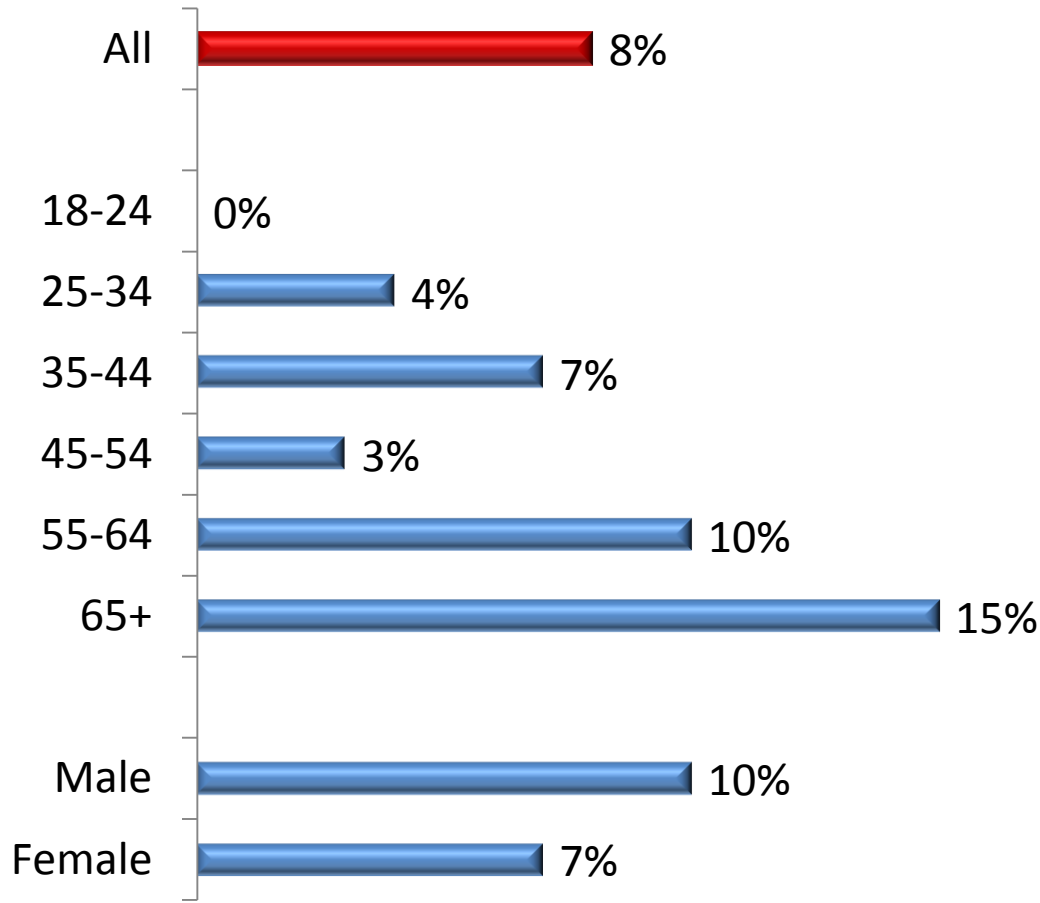


Q8. To be absolutely clear, a person's Living Will states what medical treatment they would like if they became terminally ill or severely disabled and they weren't able to communicate. Have you ever heard of that?

Base: All adults (1000)

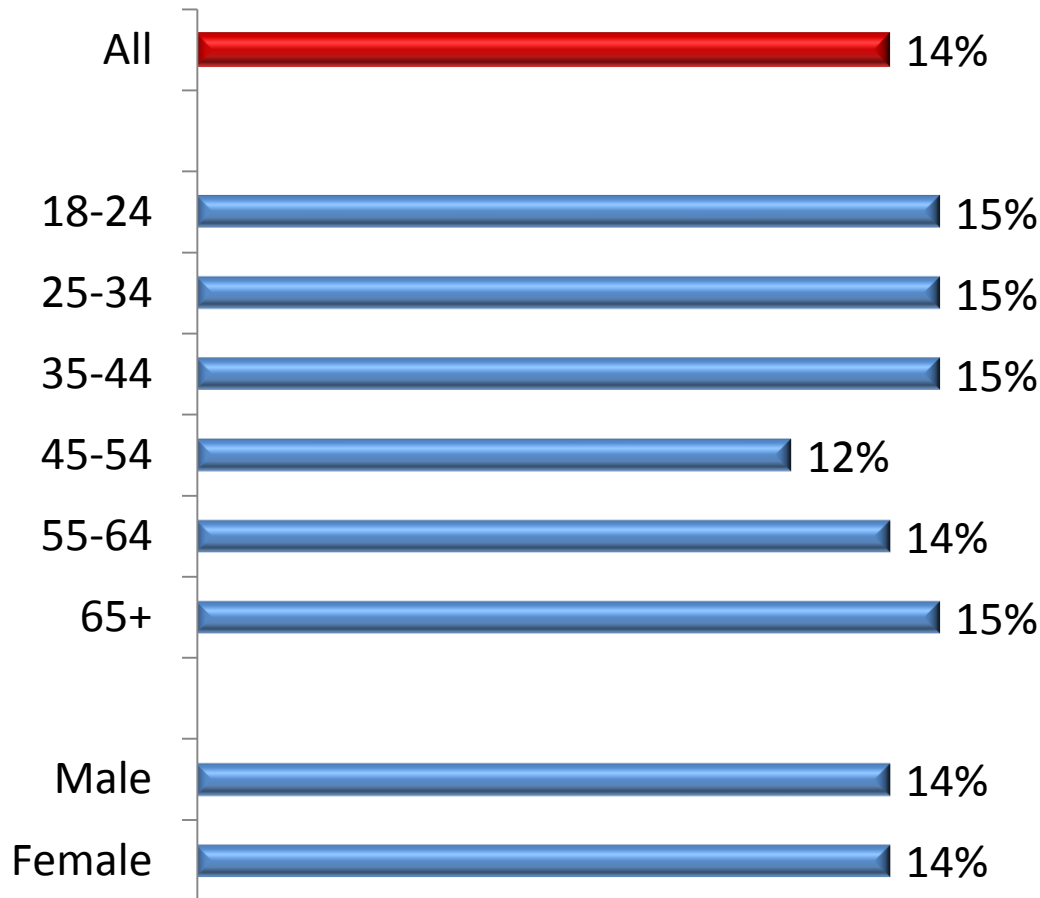
## 8% claim to have a Living Will (rising to 15% of those aged 65+)

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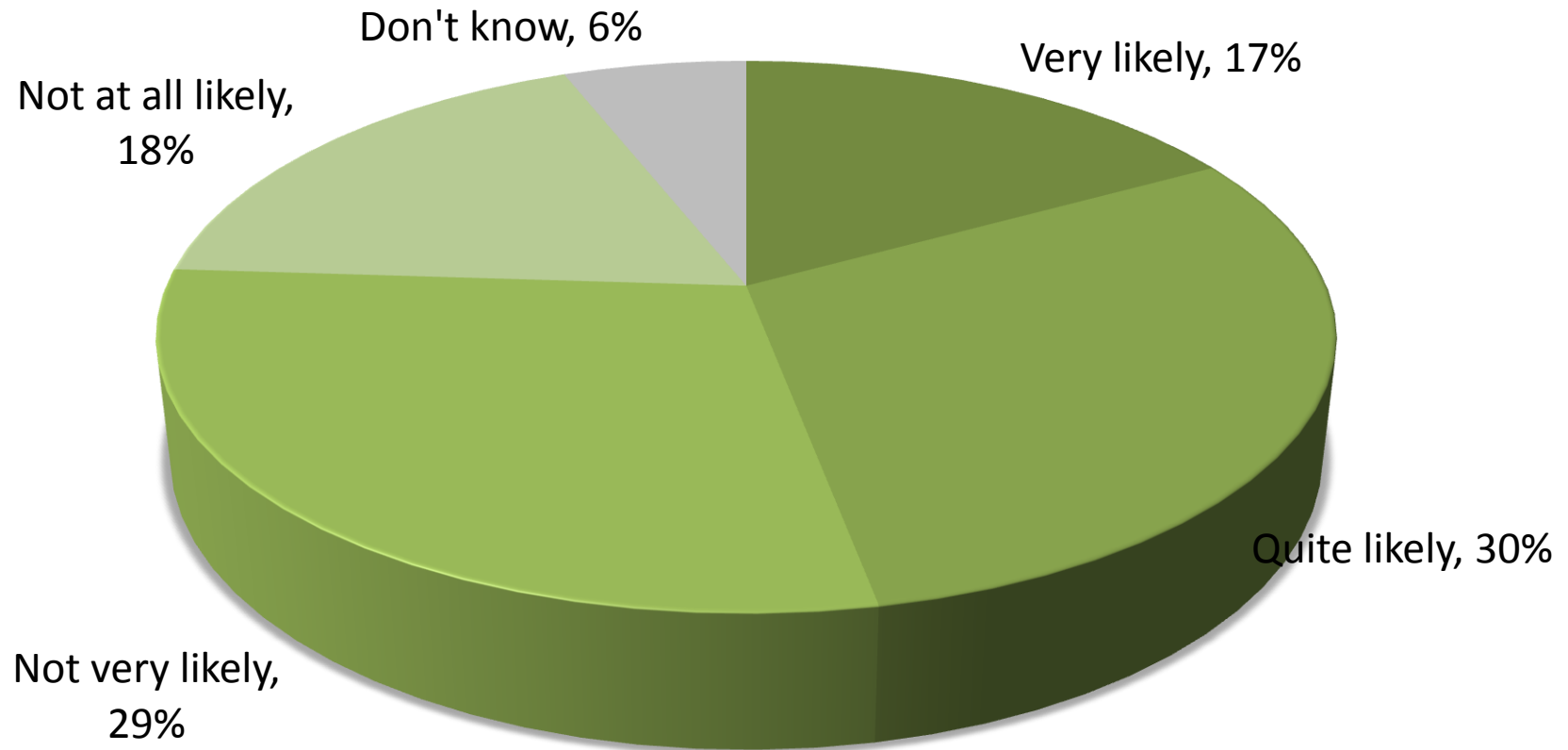
# Just 14% know of friends or family who have living wills (which suggests these are private decisions)

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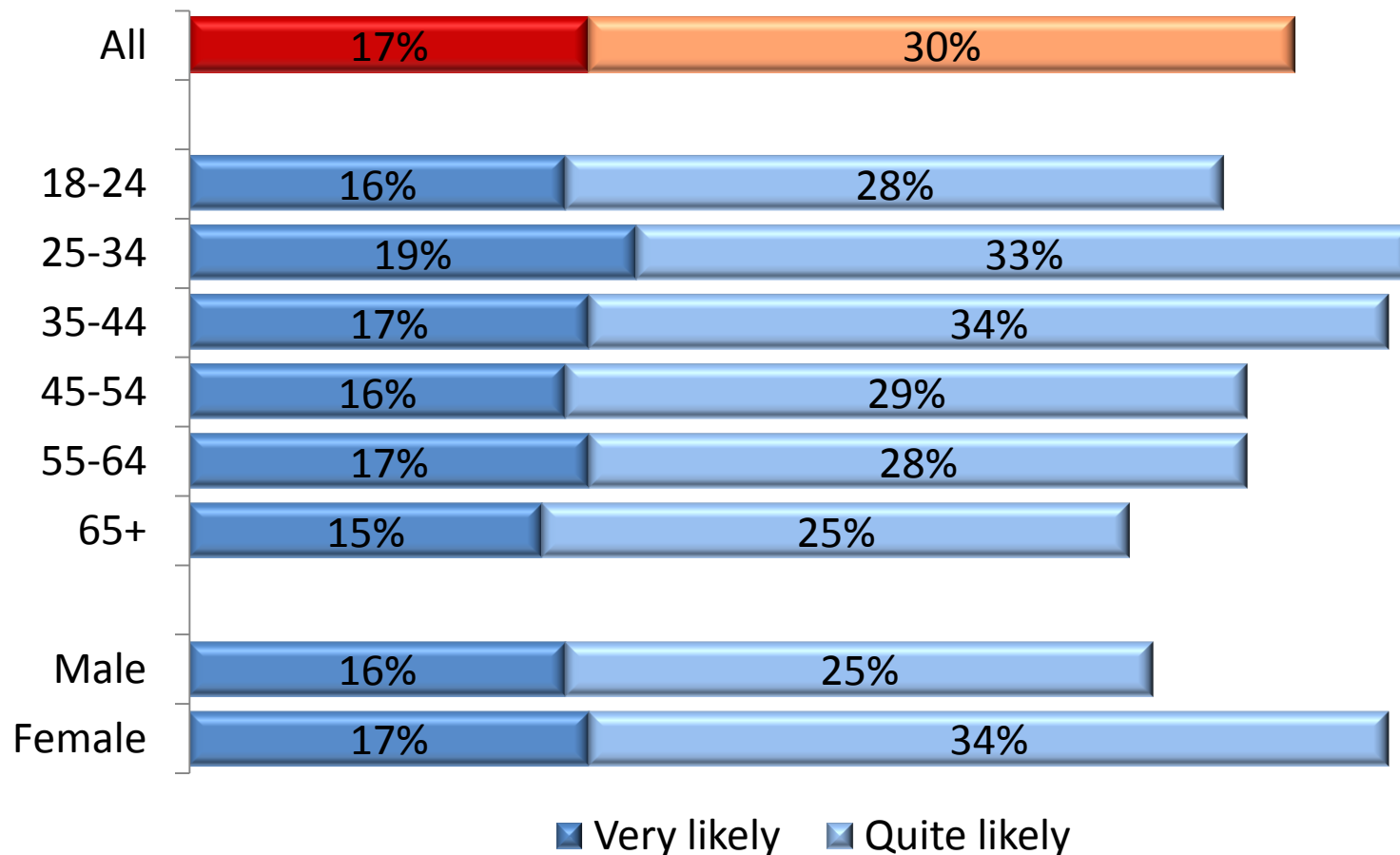
# Nearly half would be very or quite likely to write a Living Will assuming it was easy to do

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# Women and those aged 25-44 are most likely to write a Living Will

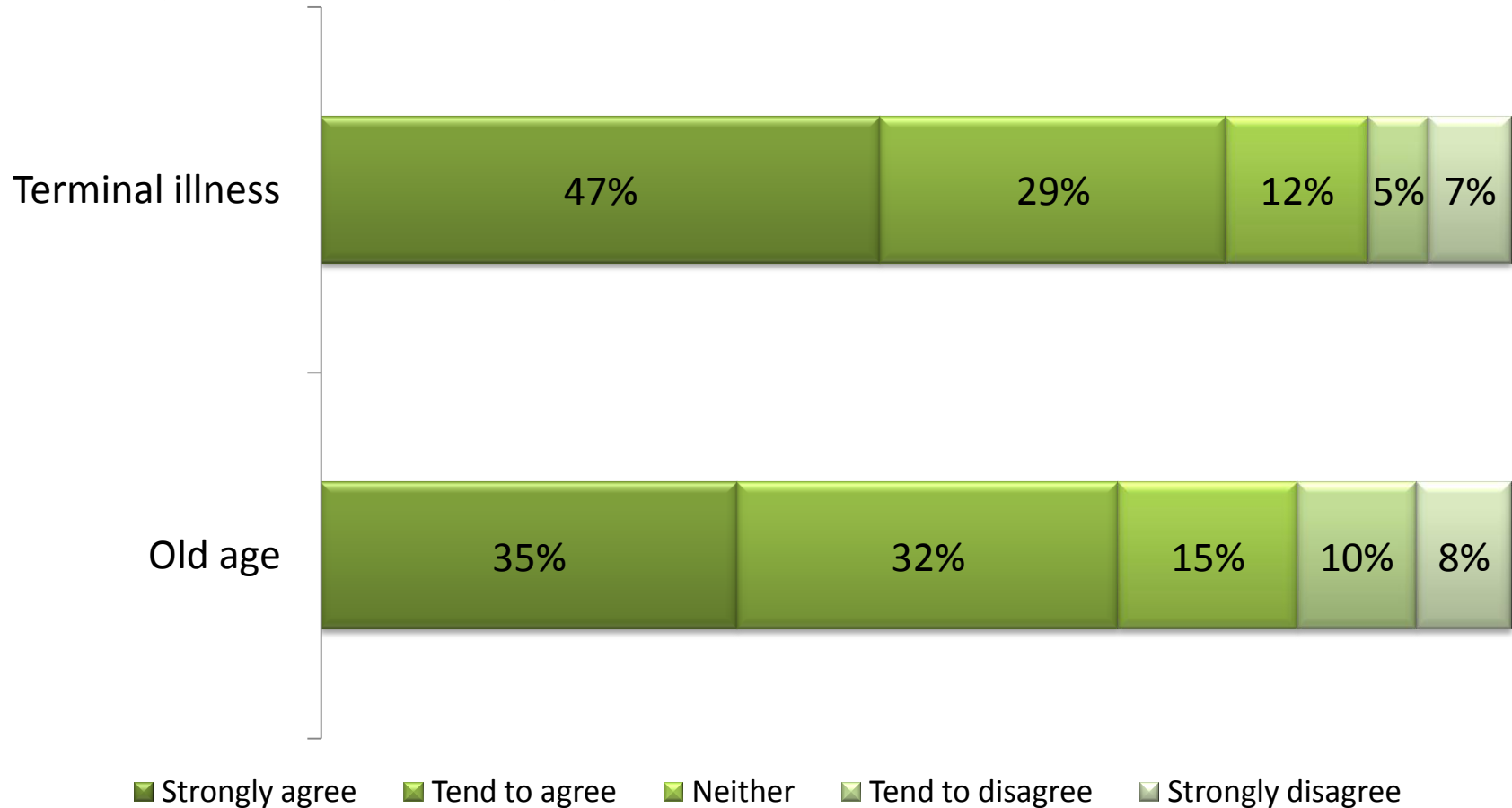
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# The vast majority agree that assisted suicide should be legal, particularly in the event of terminal illness

8

A mentally competent adult should be legally allowed to receive a doctor's assistance to die in the event of...



Q.12 How much do you agree or disagree with the following two statements?

A mentally competent adult should be legally allowed to receive a doctor's assistance to die if...

... They are suffering unbearably from a terminal illness they are expected to die from within six months

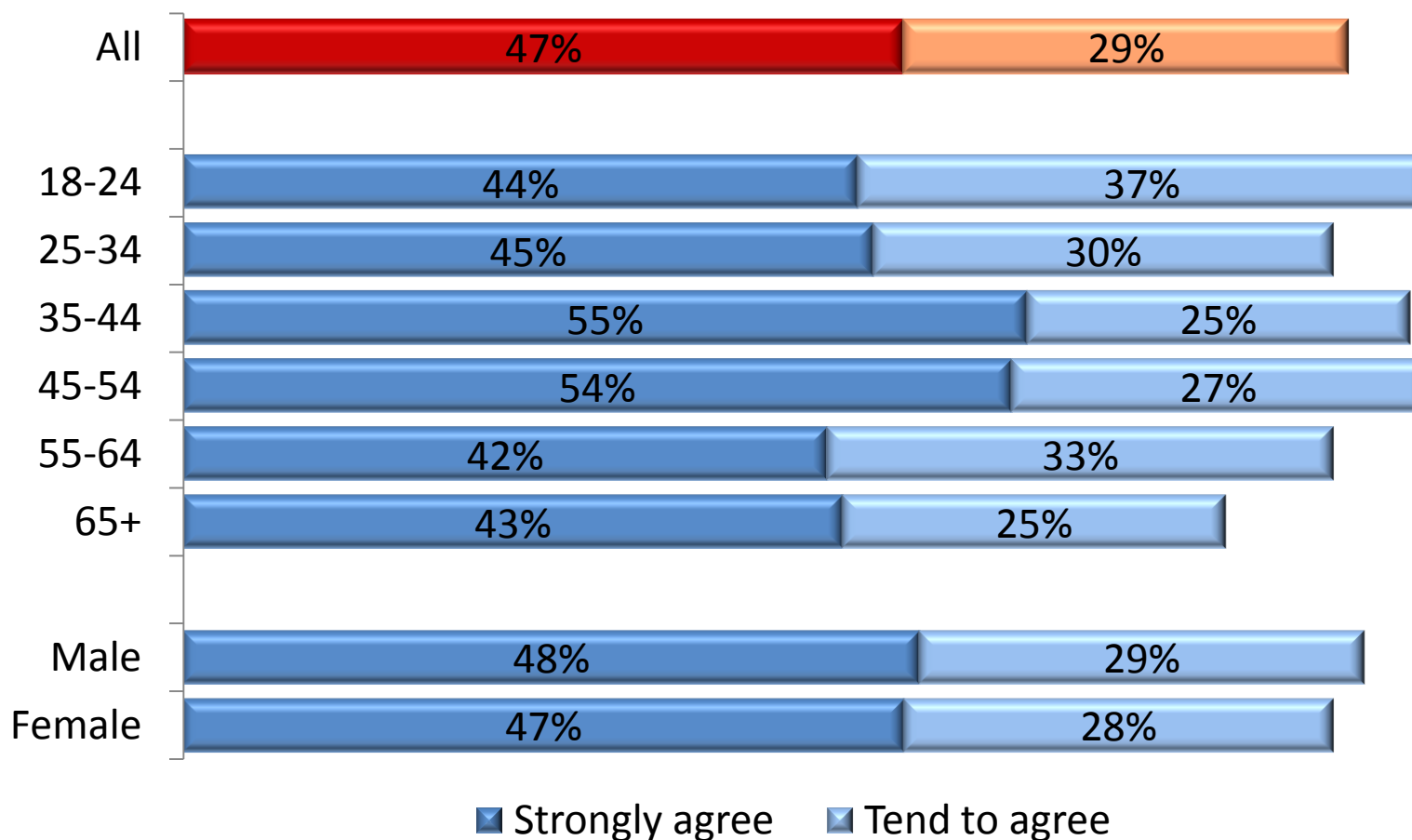
... They are very elderly and suffering unbearably from a variety of serious health problems that they will not die from, if this is their persistent request

Base: All adults (1000)



# Support for legal assistance to die in the event of **terminal illness** slightly higher among the 25-44 year olds

9



Q.12 How much do you agree or disagree with the following two statements?

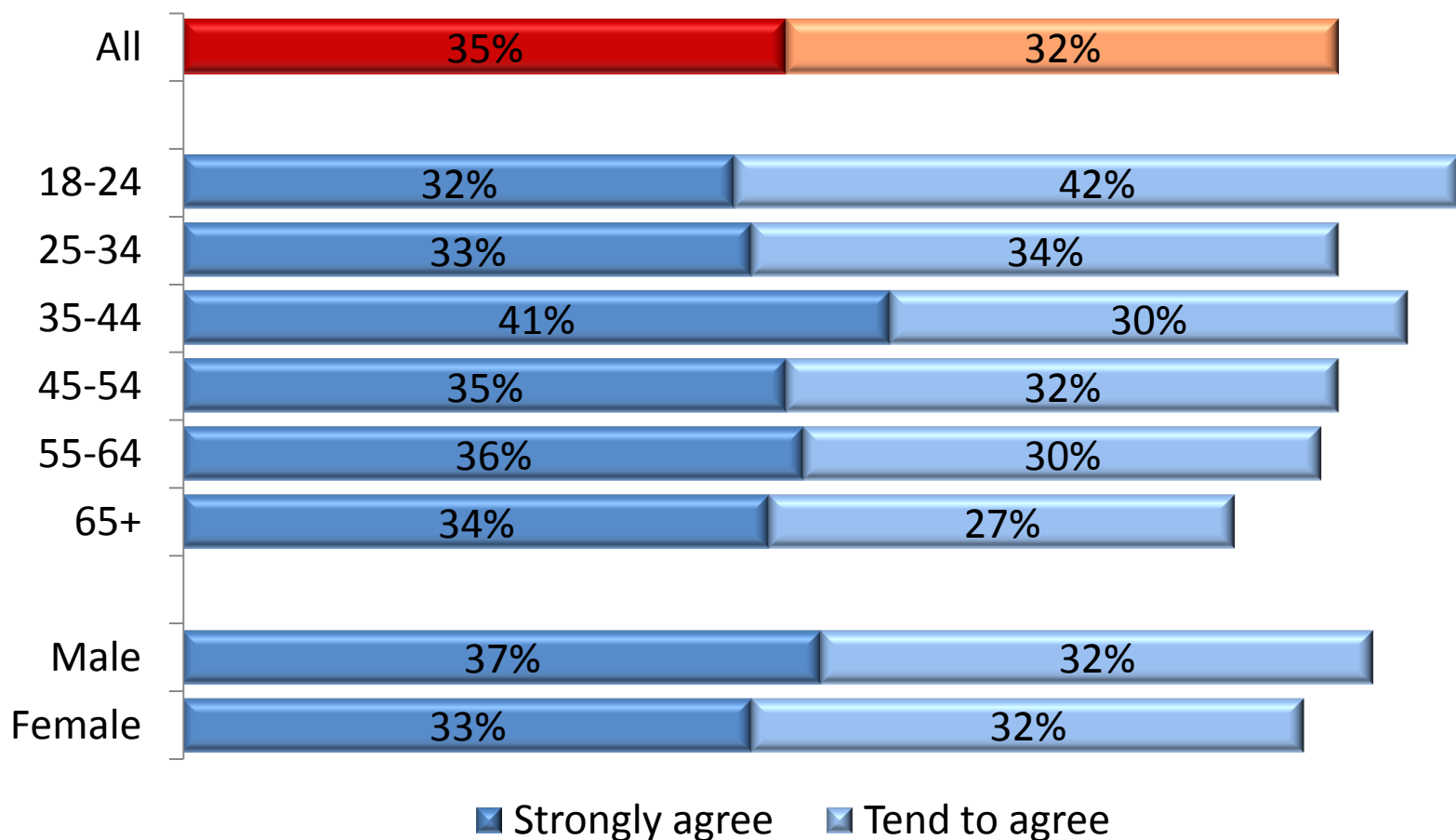
A mentally competent adult should be legally allowed to receive a doctor's assistance to die if...

... They are suffering unbearably from a terminal illness they are expected to die from within six months

Base: All adults (1000)

Support for legal assistance to die in the event of **old age** when someone is suffering unbearably, tends to have broader support among younger people

10



■ Strongly agree   ■ Tend to agree

Q.12 How much do you agree or disagree with the following two statements?

A mentally competent adult should be legally allowed to receive a doctor's assistance to die if...

... They are very elderly and suffering unbearably from a variety of serious health problems that they will not die from, if this is their persistent request

Base: All adults (1000)

# Technical note

- A total of 1,000 interviews were completed between 8-14 February with adults aged 18+ permanently resident in the city of Brighton and Hove
- Interviews were conducted by telephone and the data was collected by ICM Direct
- Quotas were set by age, gender and working status within each constituency according to the 2001 census and then weighted to achieve a representative sample within each constituency
- The research was commissioned by the Society for Old Age Rational Suicide
- Any reporting of poll findings needs to include the details of this technical note and credit Kindle Research and the Society for Old Age Rational Suicide