

# Coronavirus: vaccine beliefs as the rollout ramps up

9 April 2021

# Vaccination perceptions and misperceptions

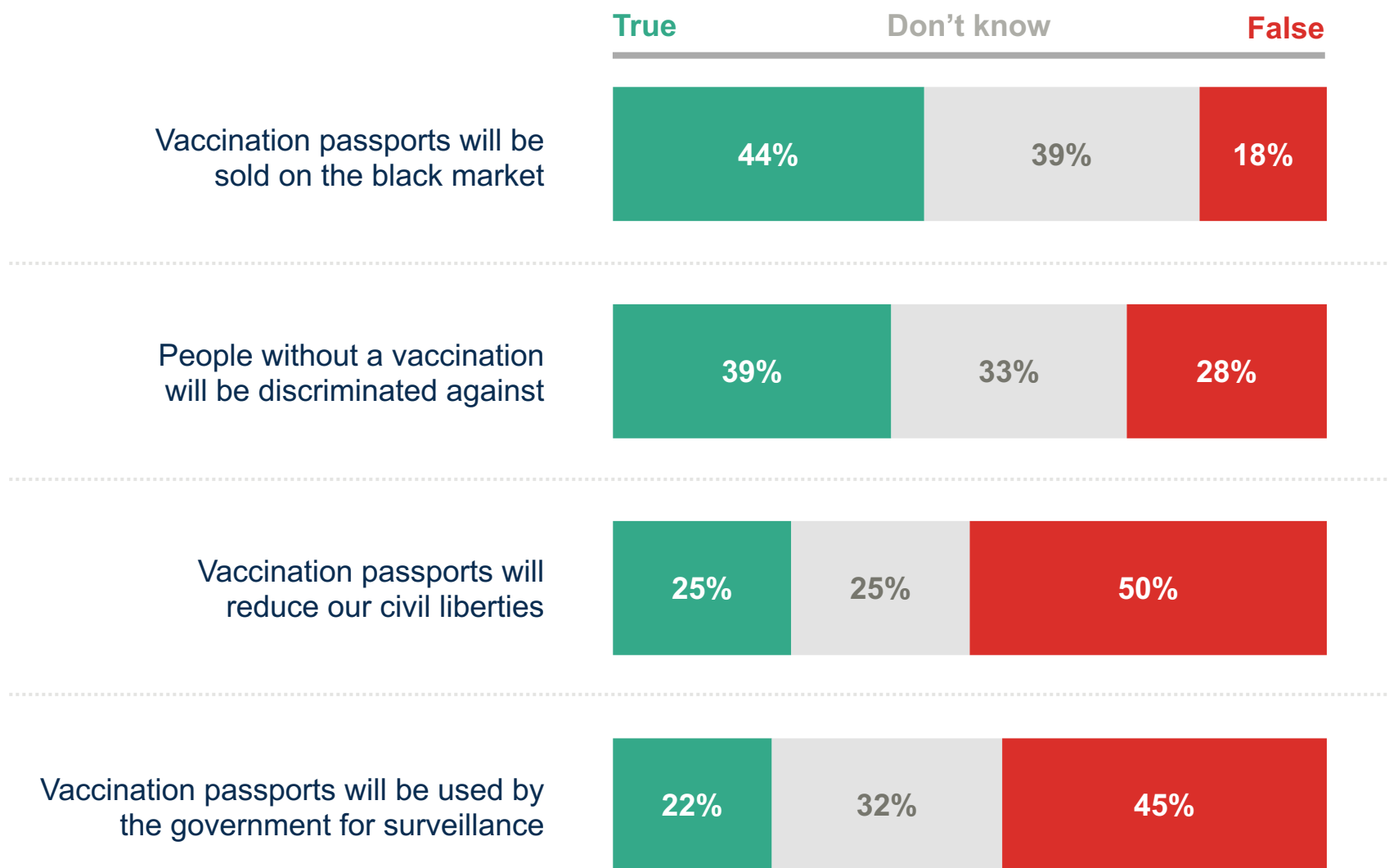
44% of the public predict that vaccine passports will be sold on the black market – but there is a high degree of uncertainty, with 39% saying they don't know.

And there are signs of potential worry among some sections of the public about the implications of the vaccination effort in general and vaccine passports in particular.

Four in 10 (39%) think people who haven't been vaccinated will be discriminated against, while a quarter (25%) think vaccine passports negatively impact civil liberties. However, the public are twice as likely (50%) to think individual freedoms will not be limited by the measure.

Similarly, while 22% think the passports will be used by the government for surveillance, more than twice that proportion (45%) believe they will not be used for this purpose.

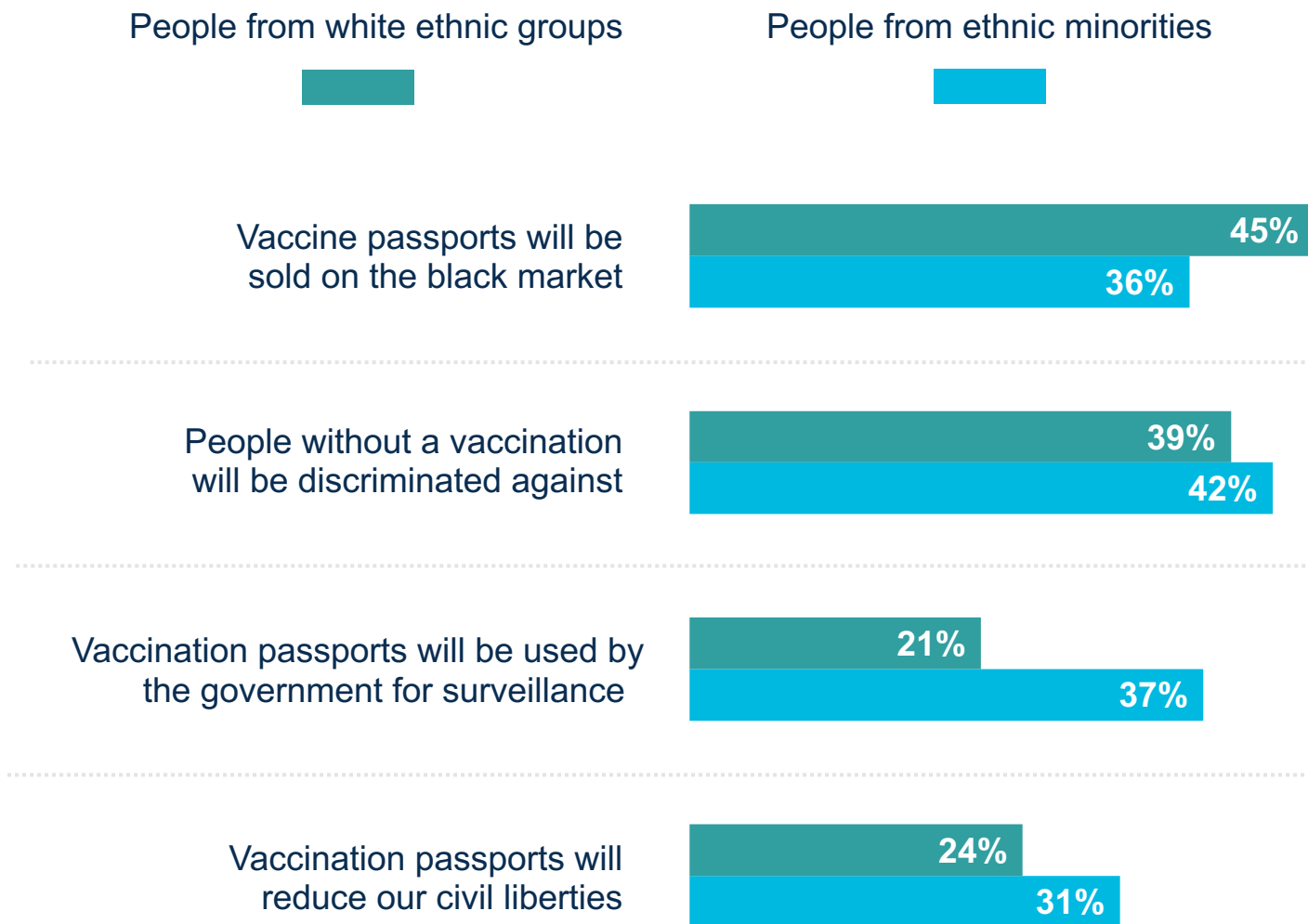
## Are the following statements true or false?



People from ethnic minority groups (37%) are almost twice as likely as white people (21%) to believe vaccine passports will be used by the government for surveillance. They are also more likely to think that the passports will limit civil liberties (31% vs 24%).

By contrast, white people are more likely to think vaccine passports will be sold on the black market. (45% vs 36%).

## % who think each of the following statements about vaccination passports are true

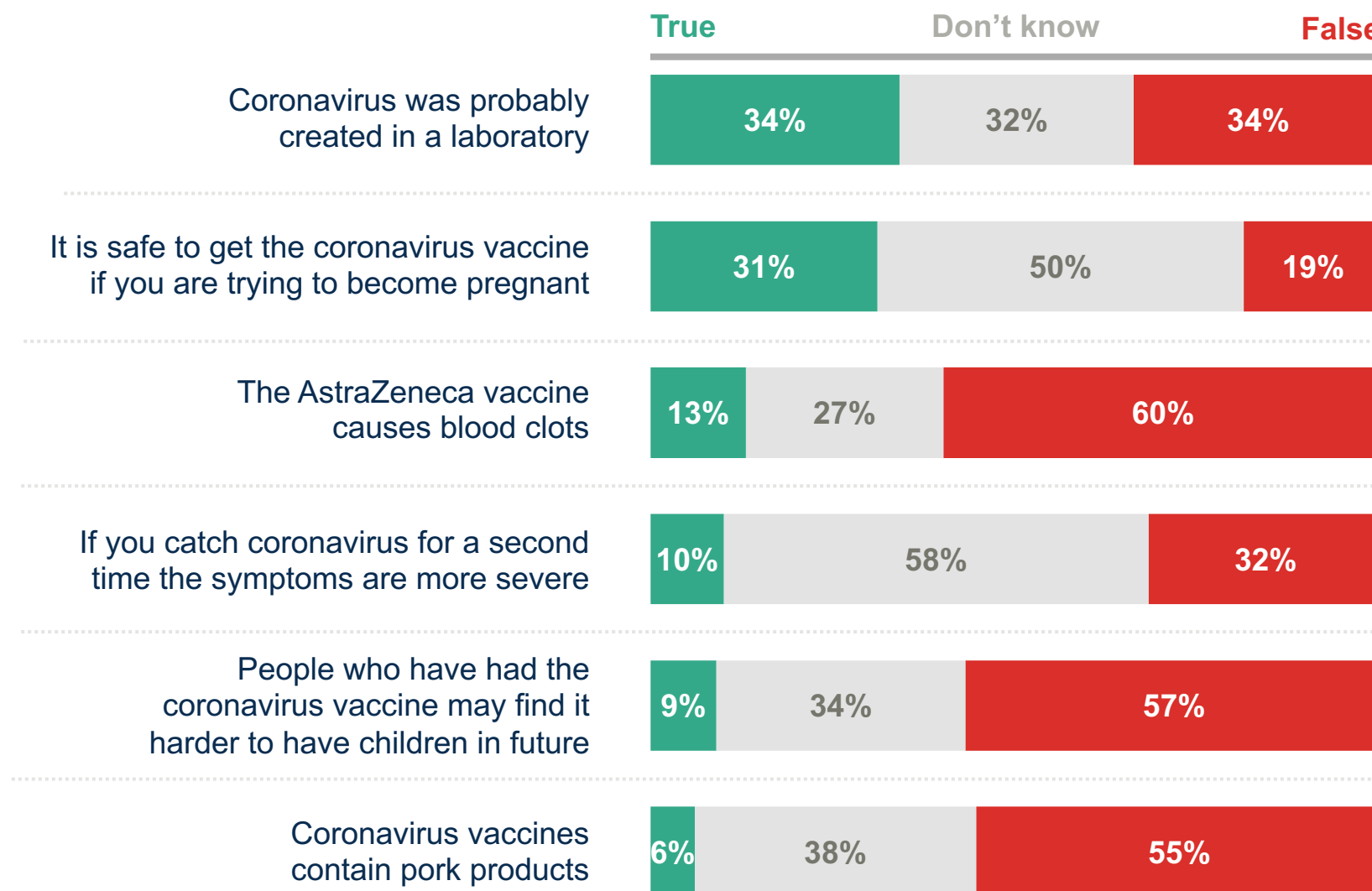


One in eight people (13%) say it's true that the AstraZeneca vaccine causes blood clots – but the majority (60%) think this is false.

And there is a great deal of uncertainty on some claims about vaccine safety. For example, half the population (50%) say they don't know if it's safe to get a Covid vaccine while trying to get pregnant and a third (34%) are unsure whether a vaccine could make it harder to have children.

Almost six in 10 (58%) are also unsure if Covid symptoms are worse if you contract the virus a second time.

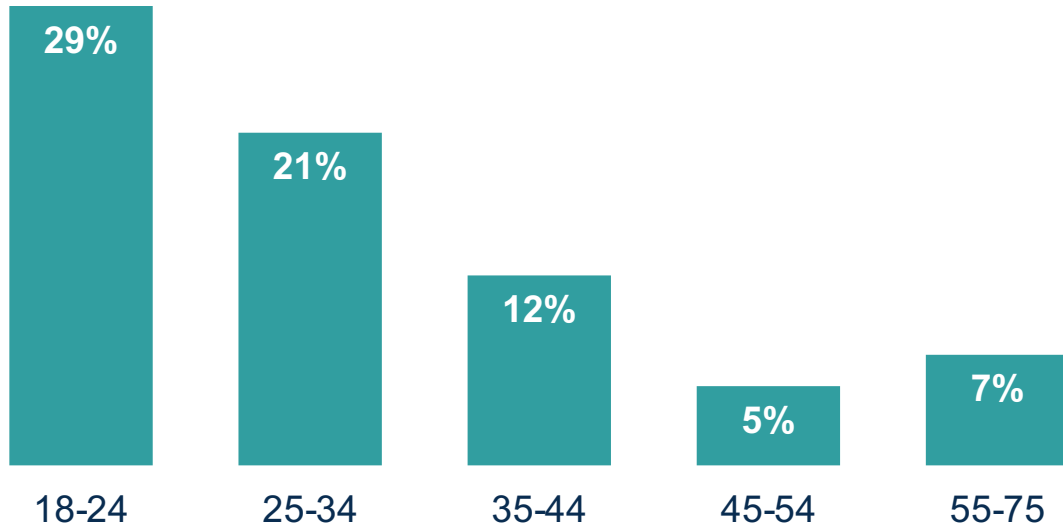
## Are the following statements true or false?



People from ethnic minority groups (27%) are more than twice as likely as white people (11%) to believe the AstraZeneca vaccine causes blood clots.

Belief in this claim is also much higher among younger age groups – for example, 29% of those aged 18 to 24 think it’s true, compared with 5% of those aged 45 to 54.

% who believe that the AstraZeneca vaccine causes blood clots

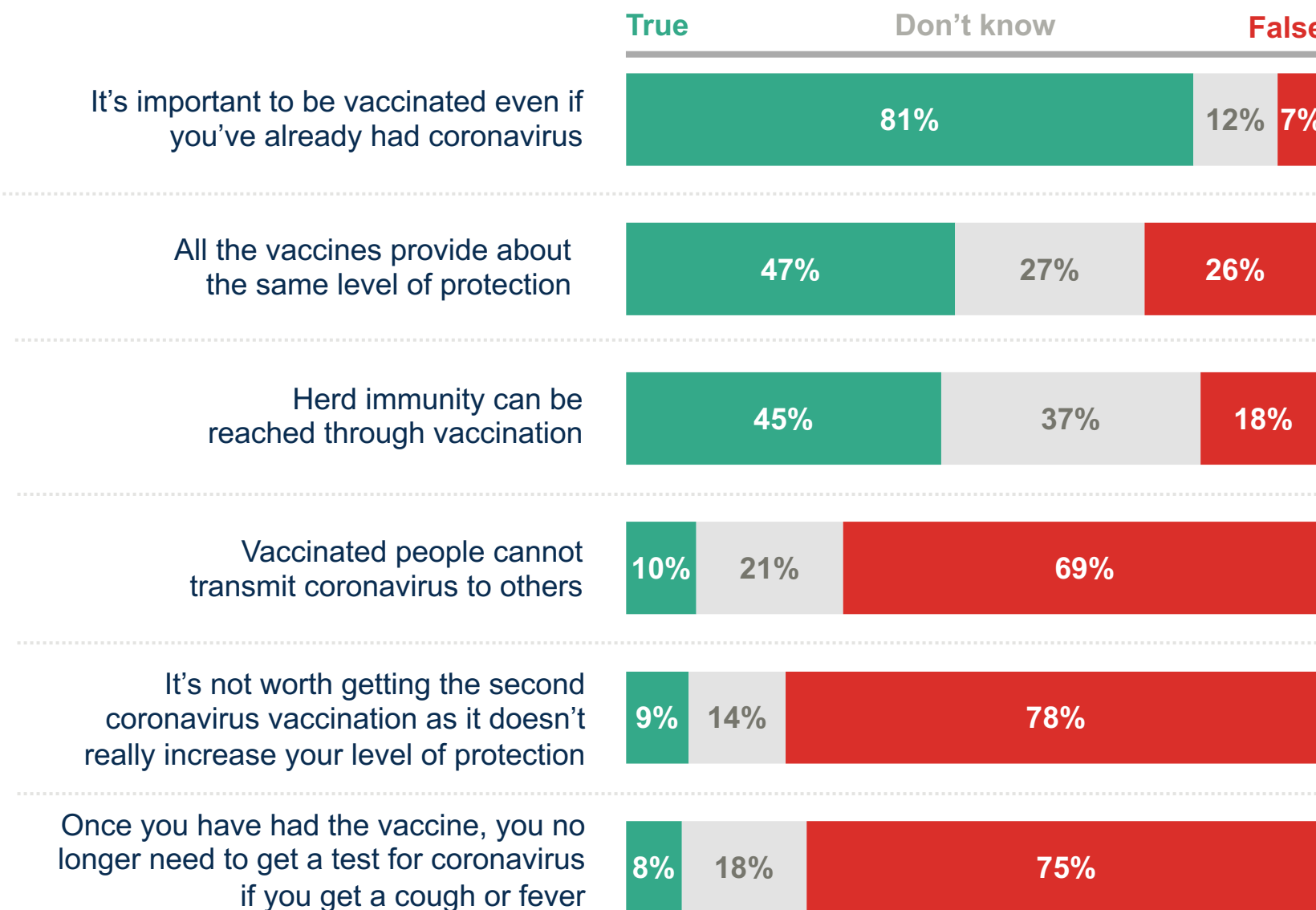


The vast majority of people (81%) understand the importance of being vaccinated for coronavirus regardless of whether they have already been infected – but there is some confusion about other aspects of the vaccination effort.

Half the public (47%) think all vaccines offer roughly the same level of protection against Covid, but another half either don't know or think this is false. There is a similar split in opinion on whether herd immunity can be reached through vaccination.

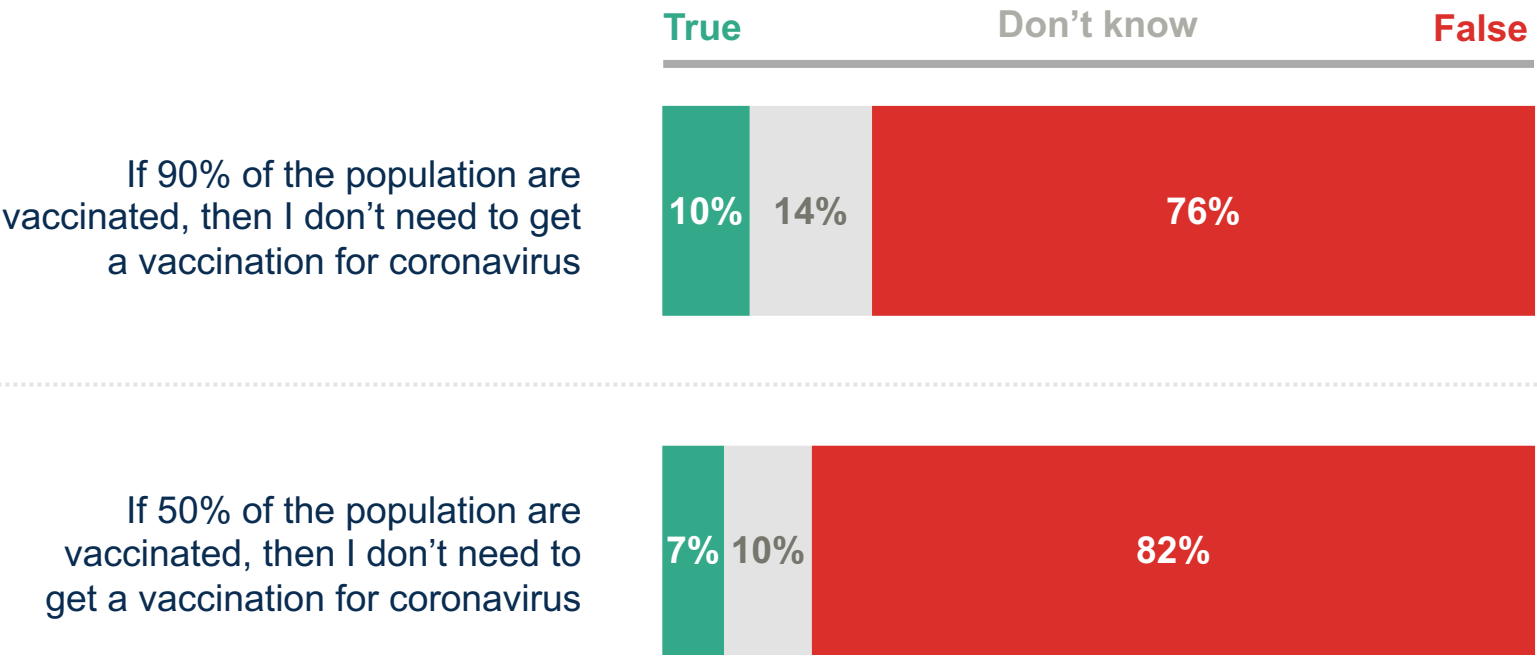
By contrast, significant majorities have a clearer view on other issues: 69% think it's untrue that vaccinated people can transmit the virus, and around three-quarters recognise it's important to get a second coronavirus vaccination and to still be tested if you develop symptoms once you've had the vaccine.

## Are the following statements true or false?



The vast majority of the public understand the importance of still getting vaccinated even if large proportions of the population have already received their vaccination.

Are the following statements true or false?



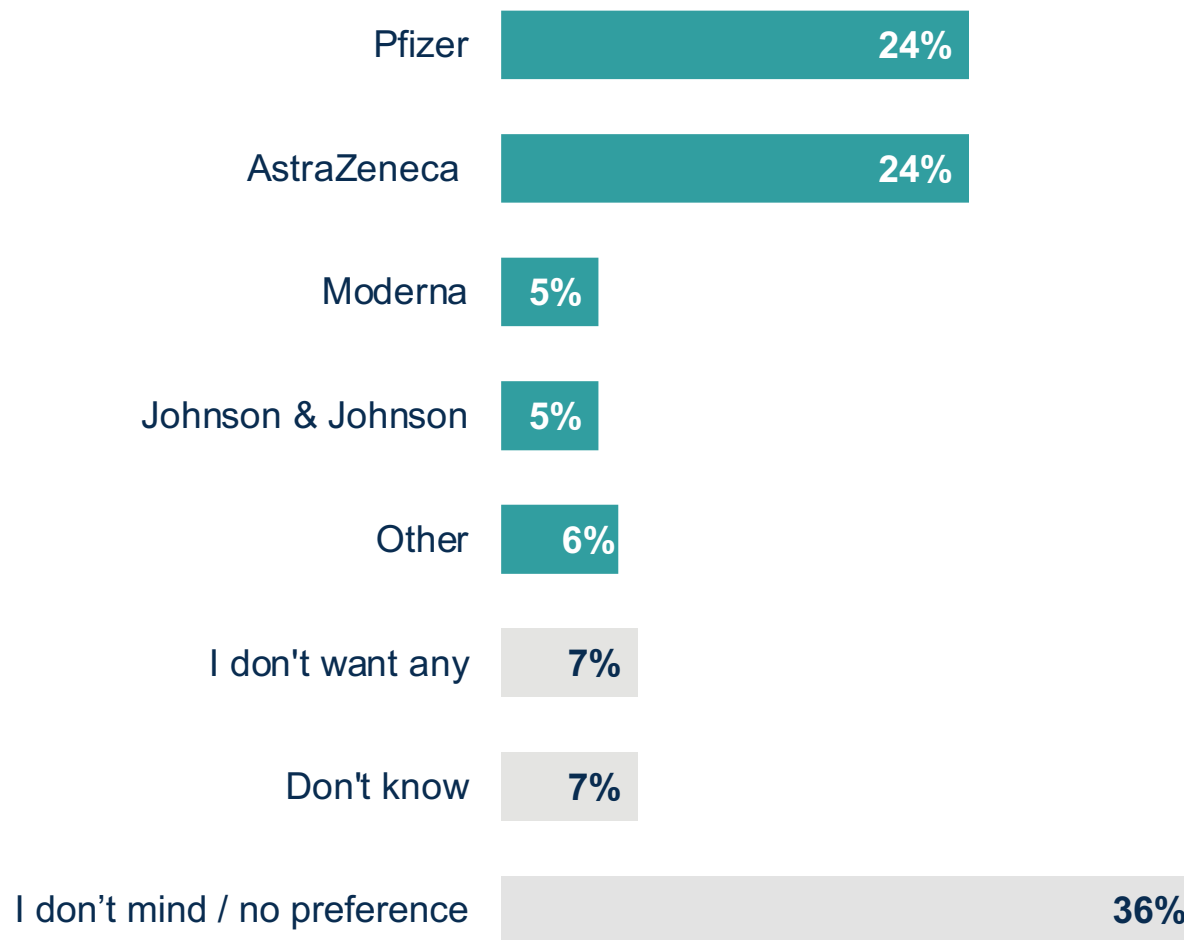


The Pfizer and AstraZeneca vaccines come joint top as those which the public would most prefer to have. A quarter of the population say they'd choose either of these vaccines, likely reflecting their wider availability in the UK and greater awareness of them.

Other vaccines which are less widely offered – such as Moderna and Johnson & Johnson – are preferred by far fewer people.

But the most commonly chosen answer is that people don't mind which vaccine they are given (36%).

If you had a choice of which vaccine you could get for Covid-19, which, if any, of the following would you choose?



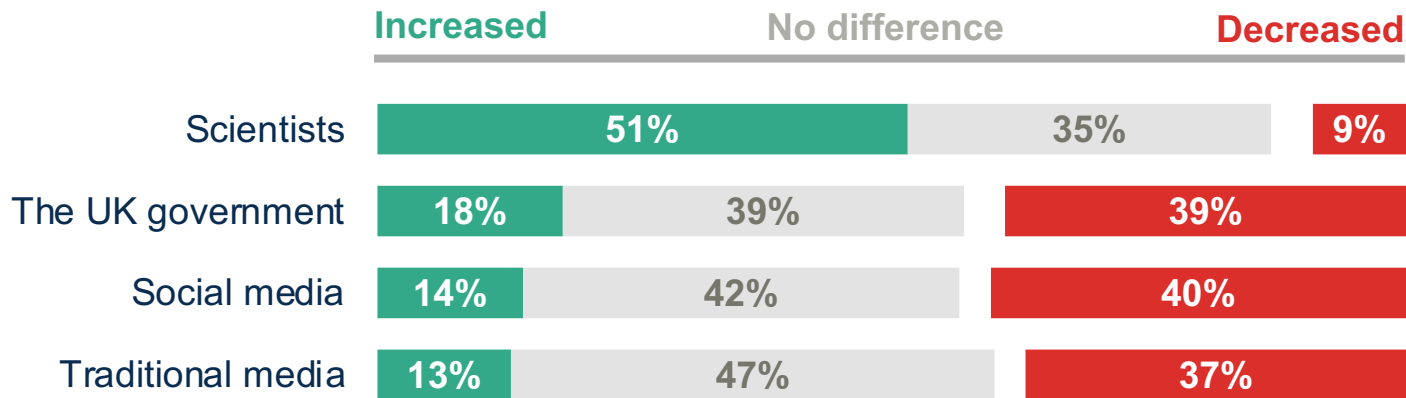
# How the vaccination effort has affected trust

There are signs that the vaccination effort has bolstered public trust in the UK government.

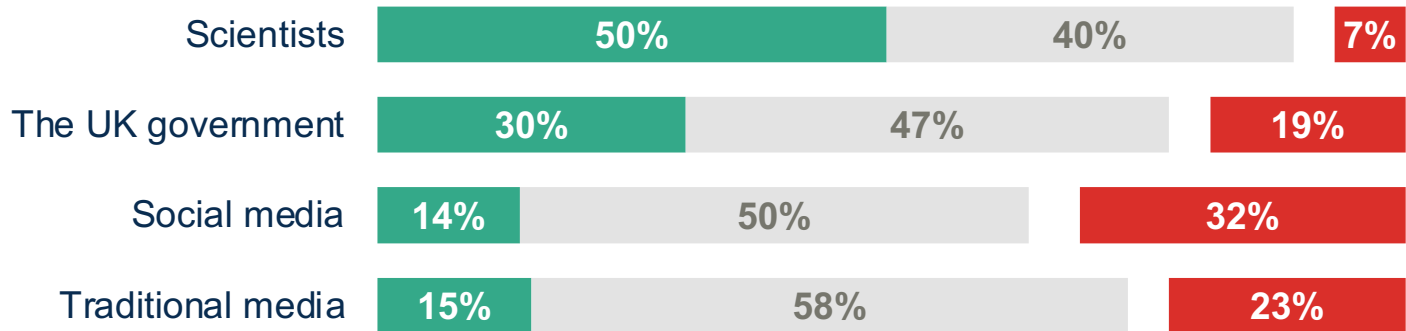
When people are asked how their trust in the government has changed as a result of the overall experience of the pandemic, 18% say it has increased, while 39% say it has decreased.

But they have a much more favourable view when asked how the vaccination programme has influenced their views. In this case, 30% say their trust in the UK government has increased because of the vaccine rollout, while 19% say it has decreased.

Has the overall experience of the pandemic in the last year increased, decreased or made no difference to your general level of trust in...



Has the rollout of the vaccination programme and communications about it in the last year increased, decreased or made no difference to your general level of trust in...

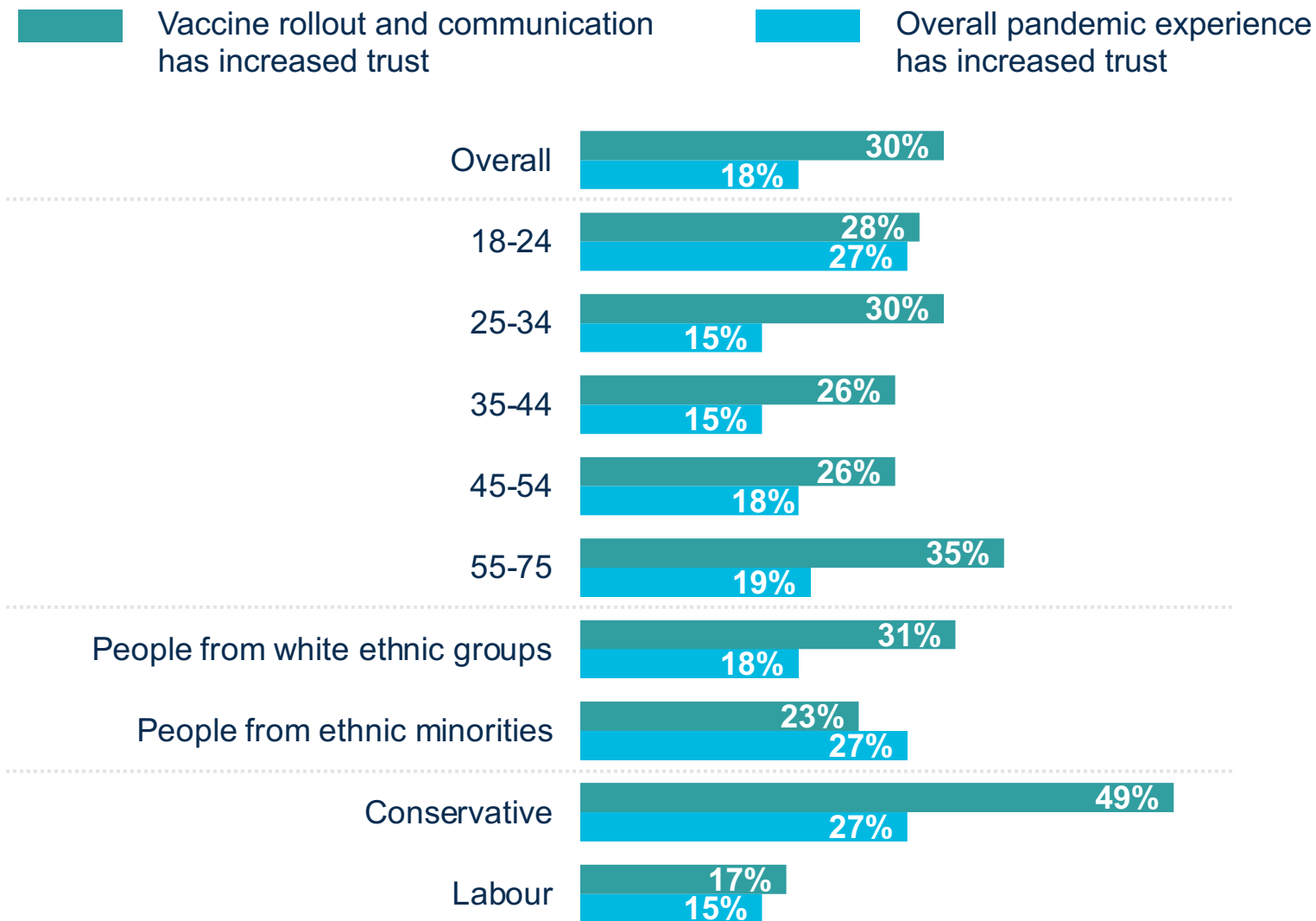


Base: Split sample: 1,105 UK adults asked about overall pandemic experience and 1,105 asked about the vaccine rollout, aged 18-75, interviewed online 24-26 March 2021.

49% of 2019 Conservative voters say the vaccine rollout has made them trust the UK government more, compared with 27% who say the same about the overall experience of the pandemic. Labour voters are no more likely to say their trust in government has increased when asked about the vaccination effort (17%) rather than the pandemic as a whole (15%).

There are also relatively big changes among some age groups, depending on what they are asked about. For example, the proportion of 25- to 34-year-olds who say their trust has increased doubles when asked about the vaccine programme rather than the pandemic overall (30% vs 15%).

## % of those whose trust in the UK government has increased



Base: Split sample: 1,105 UK adults asked about overall pandemic experience and 1,105 asked about the vaccine rollout, aged 18-75, interviewed online 24-26 March 2021.

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