



# Traveller Community National Survey

**July 2017**

PREPARED FOR:

**The National Traveller  
Data Steering Group &**



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# Survey Sections

- 1** Life today
- 2** Media
- 3** Health
- 4** Accommodation
- 5** Traveller Culture
- 6** Travellers and the settled community
- 7** Employment & Training
- 8** Financial Service and Supports
- 9** Education
- 10** Summary & Conclusions

# Survey of the Traveller Community: Sample Design

## REGIONAL AREAS

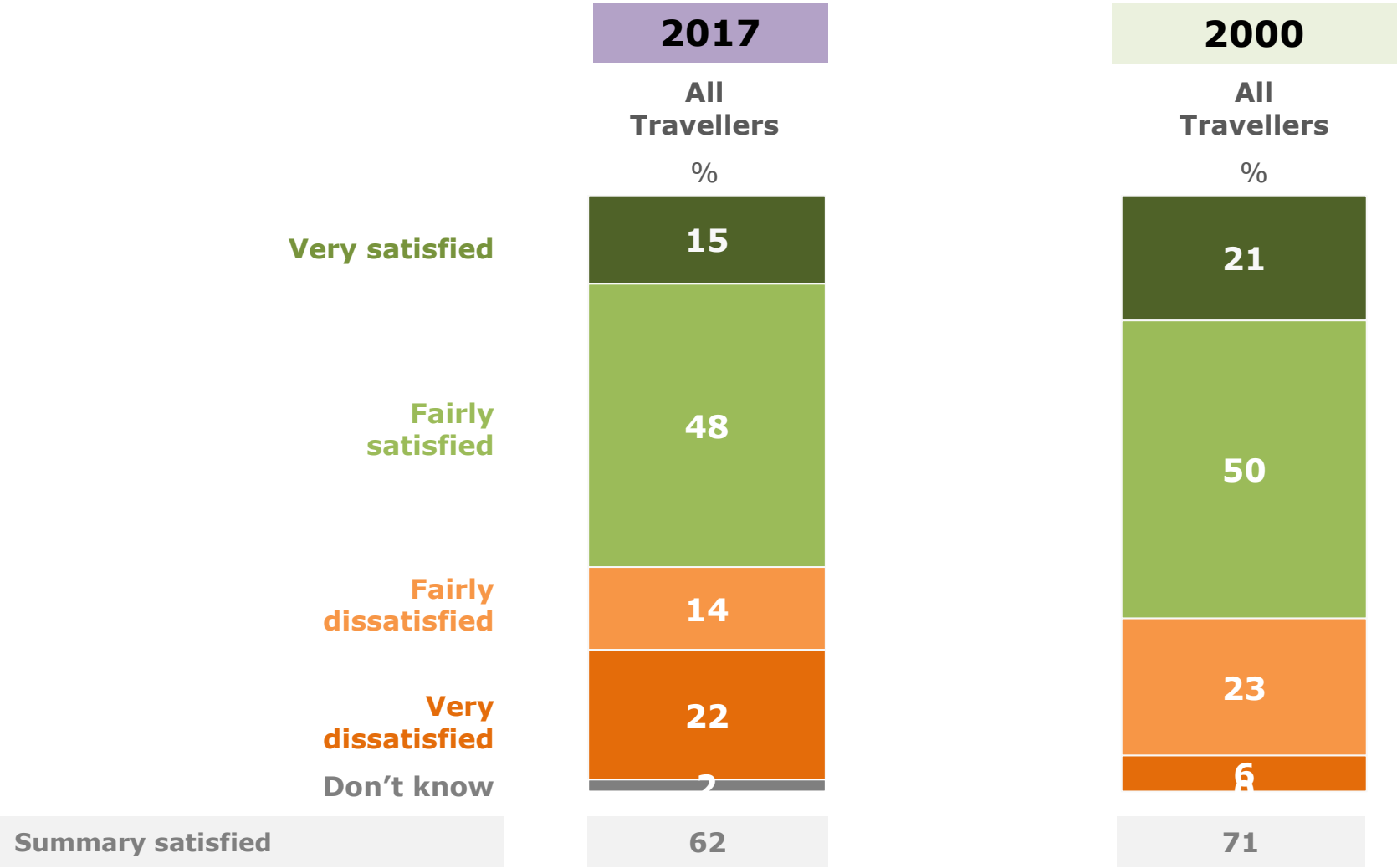
Regional Areas	Actual Population		Research Interviews
	Nos	%	
		<b>100%</b>	
Dublin City Council	737	7%	39
Fingal County Council	469	5%	16
South Co. Dublin (incl. Dun Laoghaire)	561	6%	30
Louth/Cavan/Monaghan	767	8%	36
Meath/Kildare/Westmeath/Longford	1054	11%	43
Laois/Offaly/Carlow/Kilkenny	867	9%	41
Wexford/Wicklow/Waterford	1134	11%	62
Donegal/Sligo/Leitrim	441	4%	15
Roscommon/Mayo/Galway	1522	15%	81
Clare/Limerick/Tipperary	1338	13%	70
Cork/Kerry	1107	11%	48
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,997</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>481</b>



**Life today**

# Satisfaction with life in general

Base: All Travellers n - 481



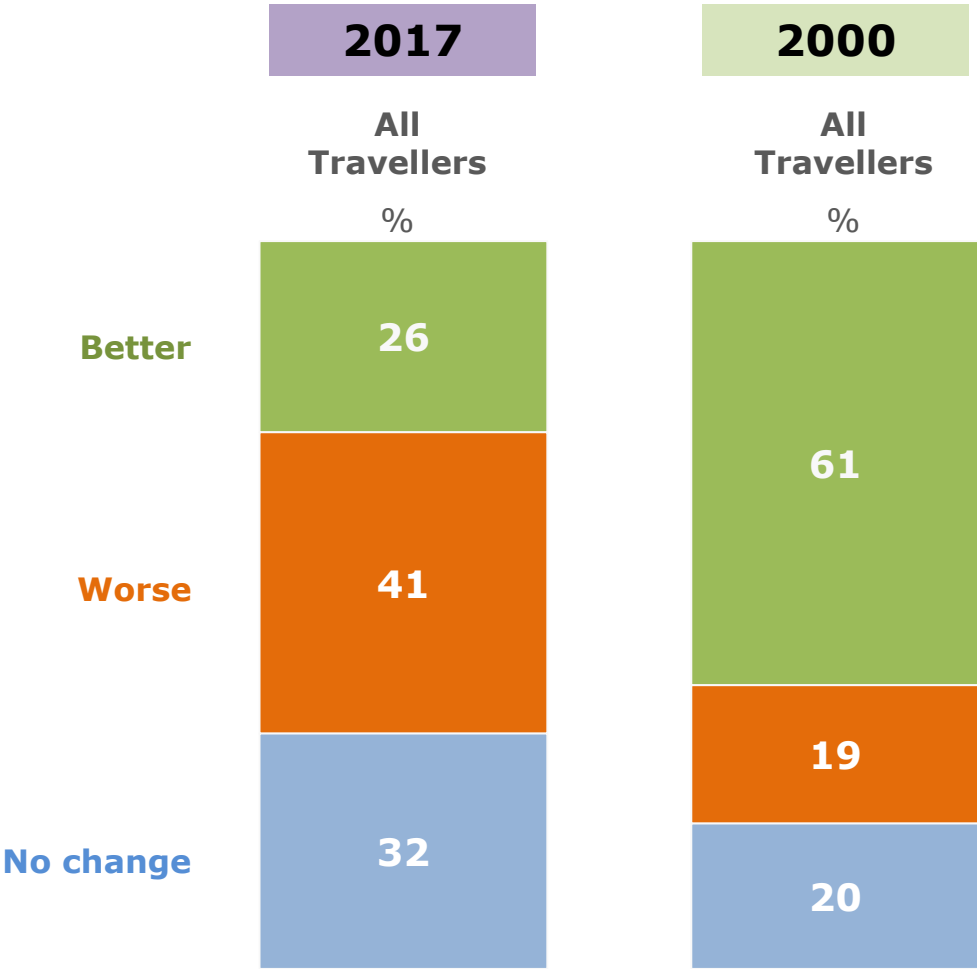
In 2017, just over 60% of the Traveller community classify themselves as being 'Satisfied with life in general in Ireland these days'; in 2000 research, 71% of Travellers were satisfied. The corresponding 'satisfied' figure for the general public in 2017 is 87%.



Q.1 To begin with, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with life in general in Ireland these days?

# Conditions for Travellers vs 5-10 years ago

Base: All Travellers n - 481



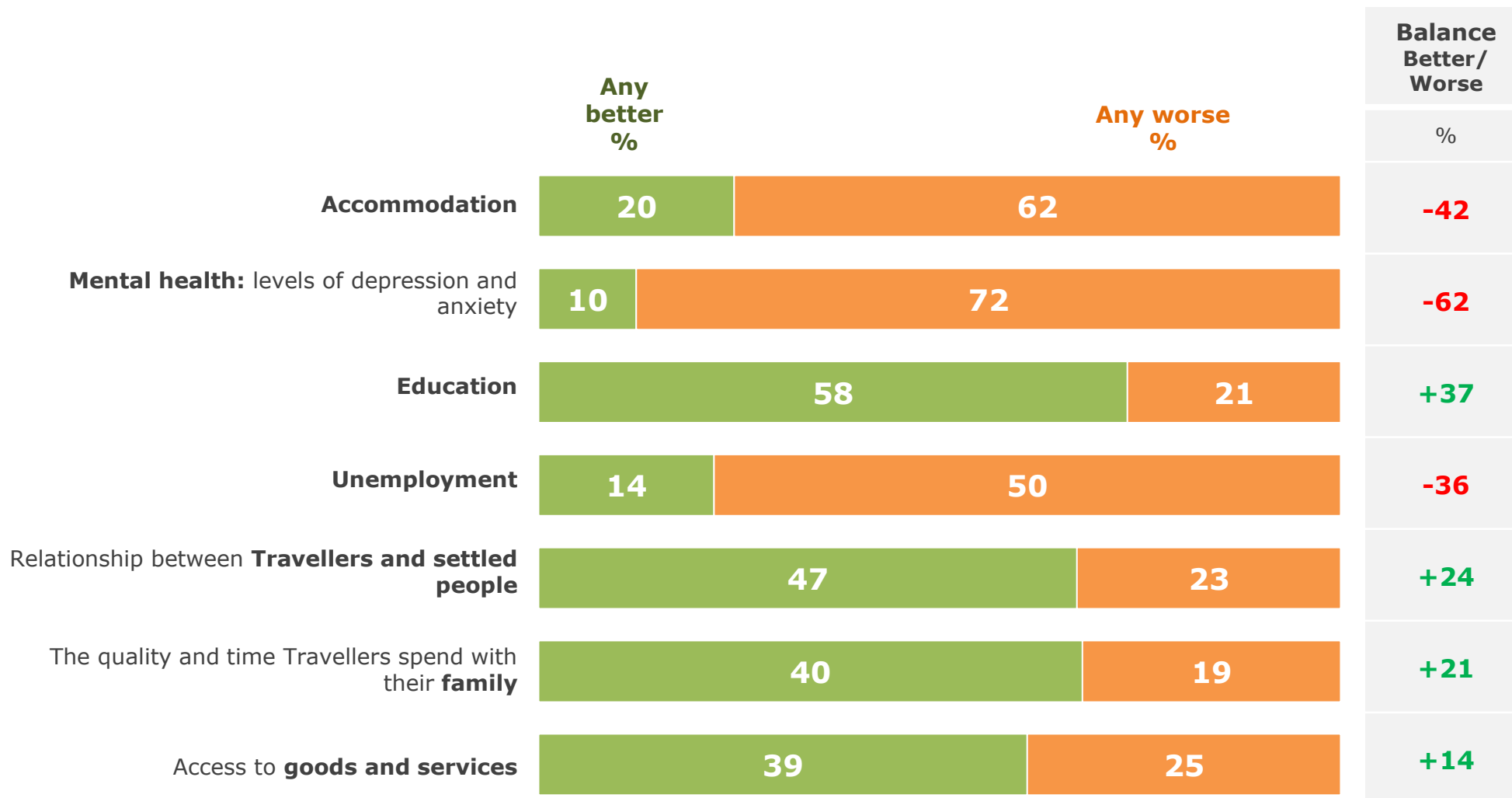
**Only 26% of Travellers consider life in general to have got better for Travellers over the last 5-10 years (versus 61% in 2000).**



Q.2 Over the last 5-10 years would you say life in general has got better or worse or hasn't changed from the standpoint of Travellers like yourself?

# Aspects of life for Travellers vs five years ago

Base: All Travellers n - 481



**Mental health, accommodation and unemployment are the aspects of life that are perceived to have declined over the past 5 years.**

# Summary: Life Today

Base: All Travellers n - 481

	Total	Region			
		Dublin	Rest of Leinster	Munster	Conn/Ulster
	481	85	156	128	112
	%	%	%	%	%
<b>Dissatisfaction</b> with life in general	36	34	41	44	25
Life in general has <b>got worse</b> over last 5-10 years	41	43	45	59	19
<b>A lot worse over last 5 years...</b>					
Accommodation	46	42	51	55	39
Mental health	55	61	49	65	48
Unemployment	37	42	37	45	27
<b>Key problems for Travellers...</b>					
Problems facing young couples	47	57	51	49	35
Drugs and alcohol	45	52	47	48	36

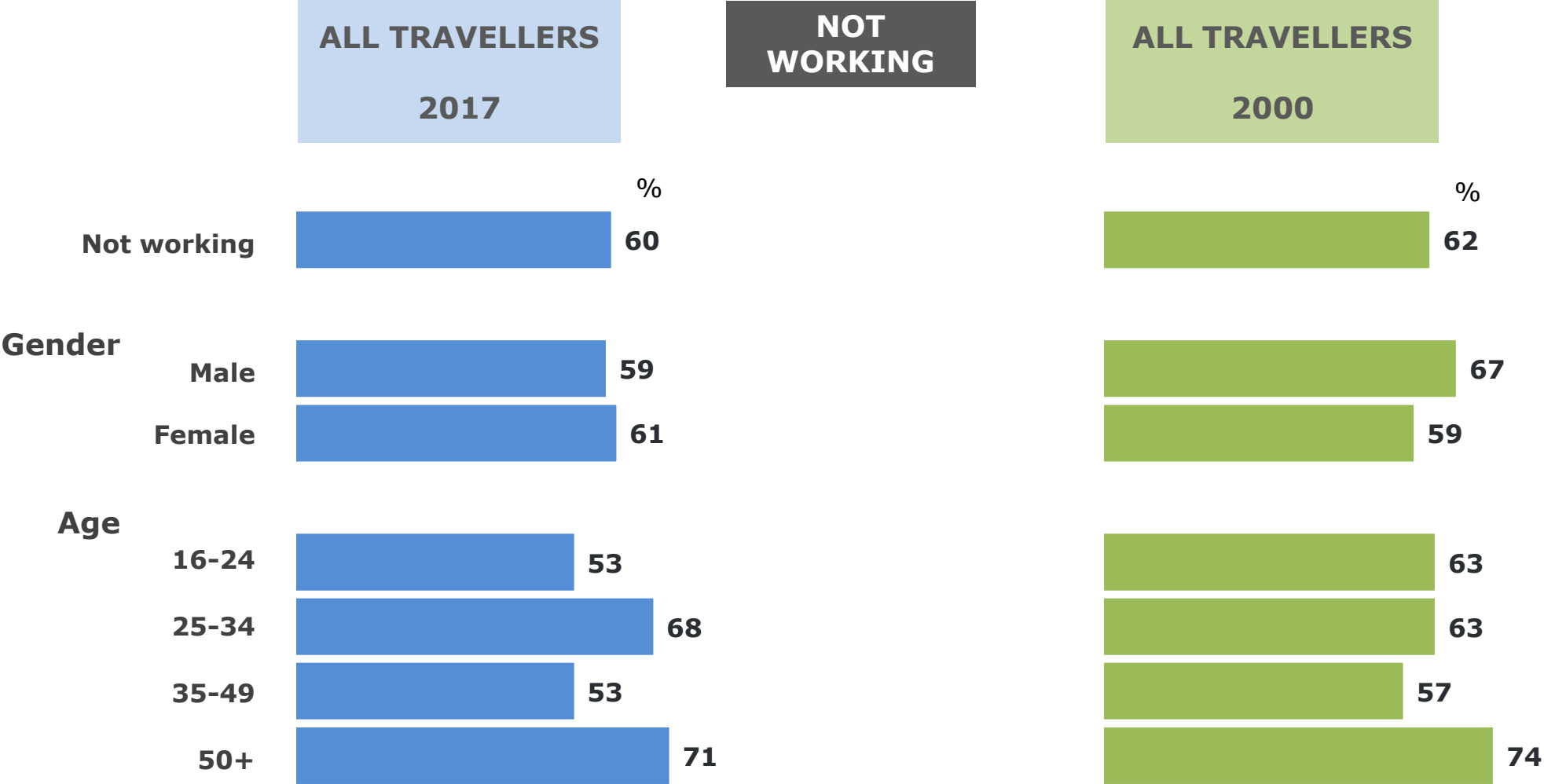




# Employment, Training & Support Services

# Employment status

Base: All Travellers n - 481



Incidence of 'Not Working' is very similar between 2000 and 2017



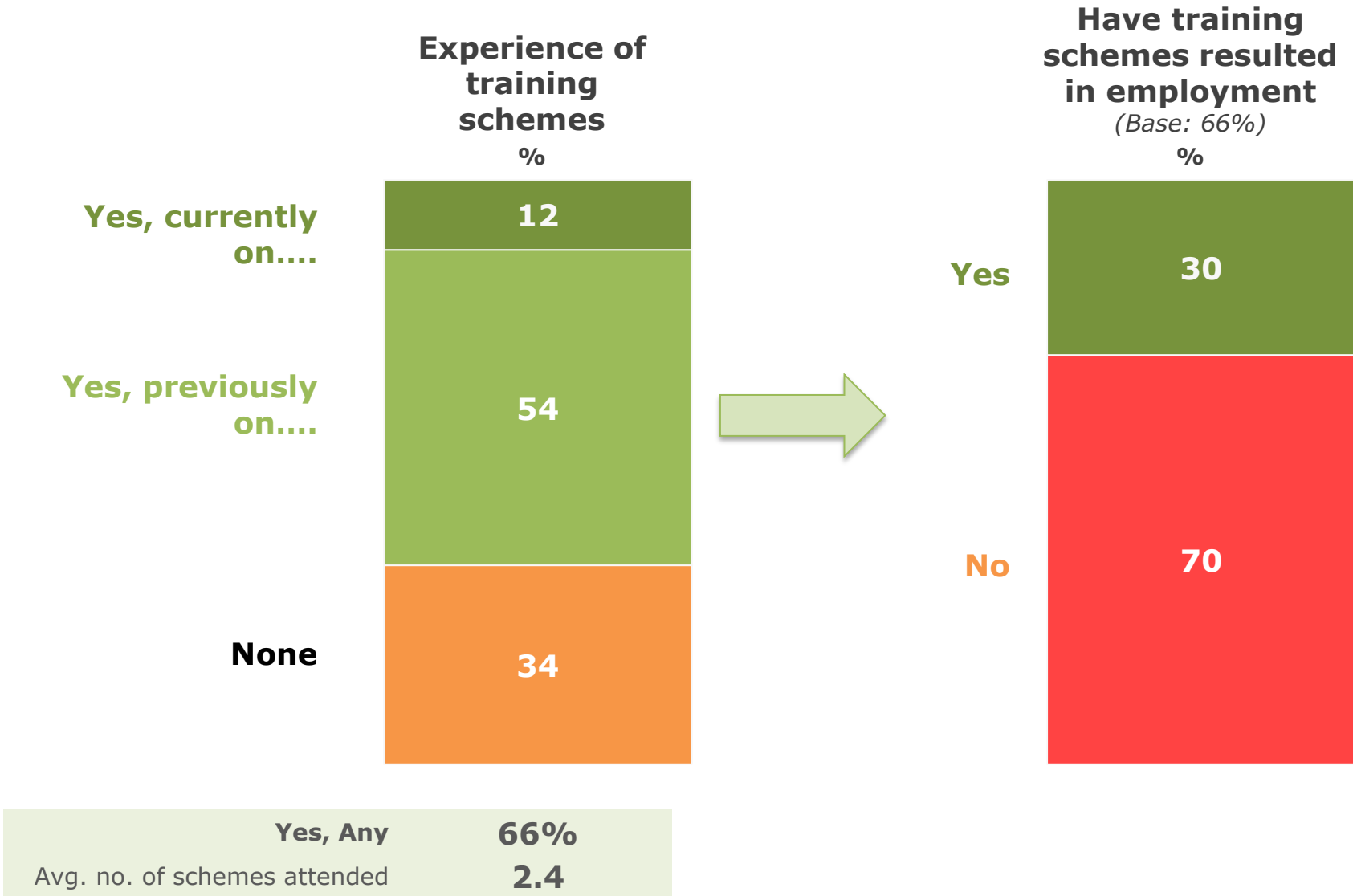
# Employment status

Base: All Travellers n - 481

YES A LOT	Total	Gender		Age				Region			
		Male	Female	16-24	25-34	35-49	50+	Dublin	Rest of Leinster	Munster	Conn/ Ulster
<i>Total</i>	481	202	279	136	130	135	80	85	156	128	112
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
<b>Not working</b>	60	59	61	53	68	53	71	41	68	76	51
<b>Working in Traveller community work</b>	17	10	23	12	11	29	17	25	14	14	17
<b>Working for Company</b>	6	9	3	5	11	5	2	3	4	-	14
<b>On a Community Employment Scheme (CE)</b>	6	8	4	12	4	-	7	16	3	2	7
<b>In Local Training Initiative</b>	3	4	3	6	2	1	-	12	1	2	-
<b>Youth Reach Programme</b>	3	3	2	7	-	1	-	2	1	1	6
<b>Working for other person</b>	2	2	1	2	2	1	-	-	3	2	-
<b>Community Group</b>	2	2	2	2	1	5	2	1	3	1	4
<b>Working for self</b>	1	2	1	-	1	3	1	-	2	2	1
<b>Working in Traveller economy (Prompt: trading, horses, etc.)</b>	1	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	-	1
<b>Don't know</b>	0	0	-	-	1	-	-	-	0	-	-

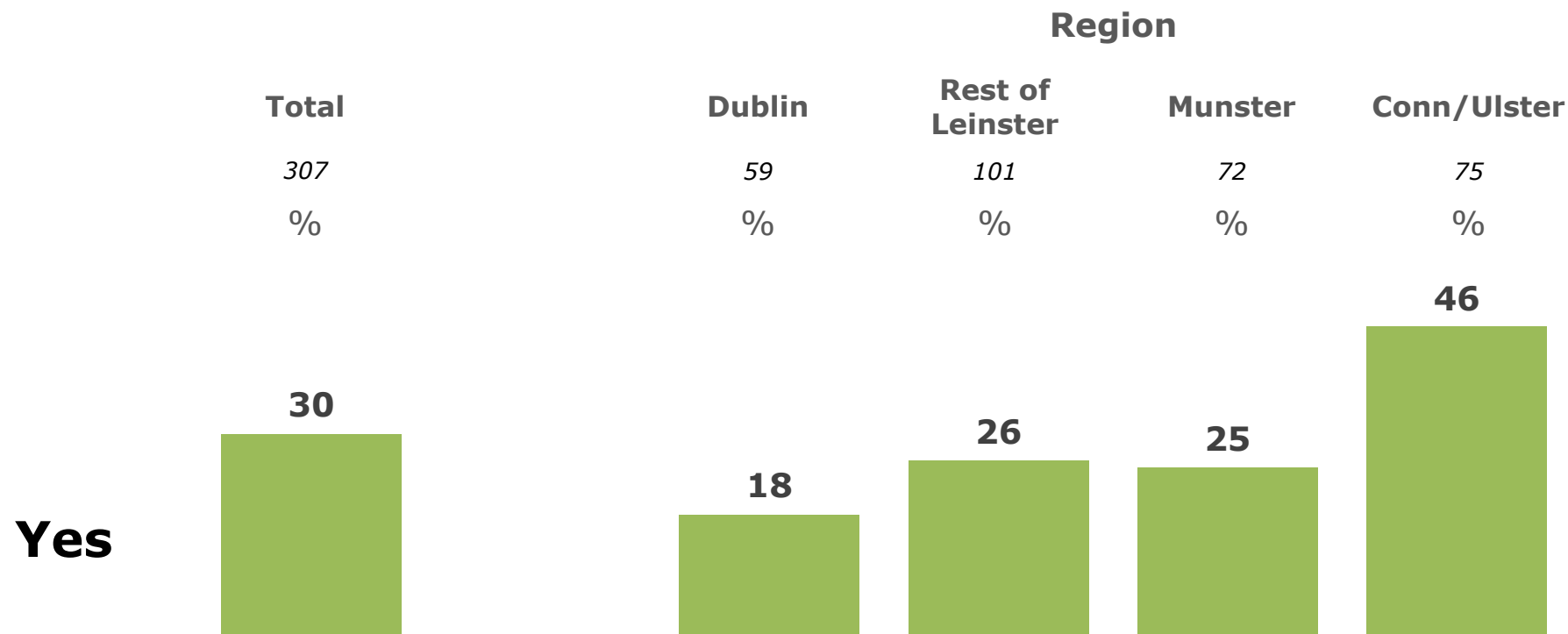
# Training schemes

Base: All Travellers n - 481



# Have training schemes resulted in employment

Base: Participation in training scheme n – 307 (66%)



30% of those who have attended a training scheme have gained employment as a result.





**Health**

# Health issues categories

## 1. Healthy lifestyle & diet factors

- Not eating enough healthy food
- Spending too much time indoors
- Spending too much time on phones, computers or watching TV
- Not taking enough exercise
- Putting on weight

## 2. Long term physical illness

- Experiencing a chronic health condition like asthma, diabetes, cardiovascular disease, or cancer

## 3. Drugs & alcohol consumption

- Smoking
- Alcohol consumption
- Experimenting with drugs
- Use of prescription drugs bought online

## 4. Body image factors

- The use of steroids
- The use of tanning injections or tablets
- Body image generally

## 5. Isolation

- Being alone, not interacting with others
- Not having close friends to talk to and confide in

## 6. Mental health issues

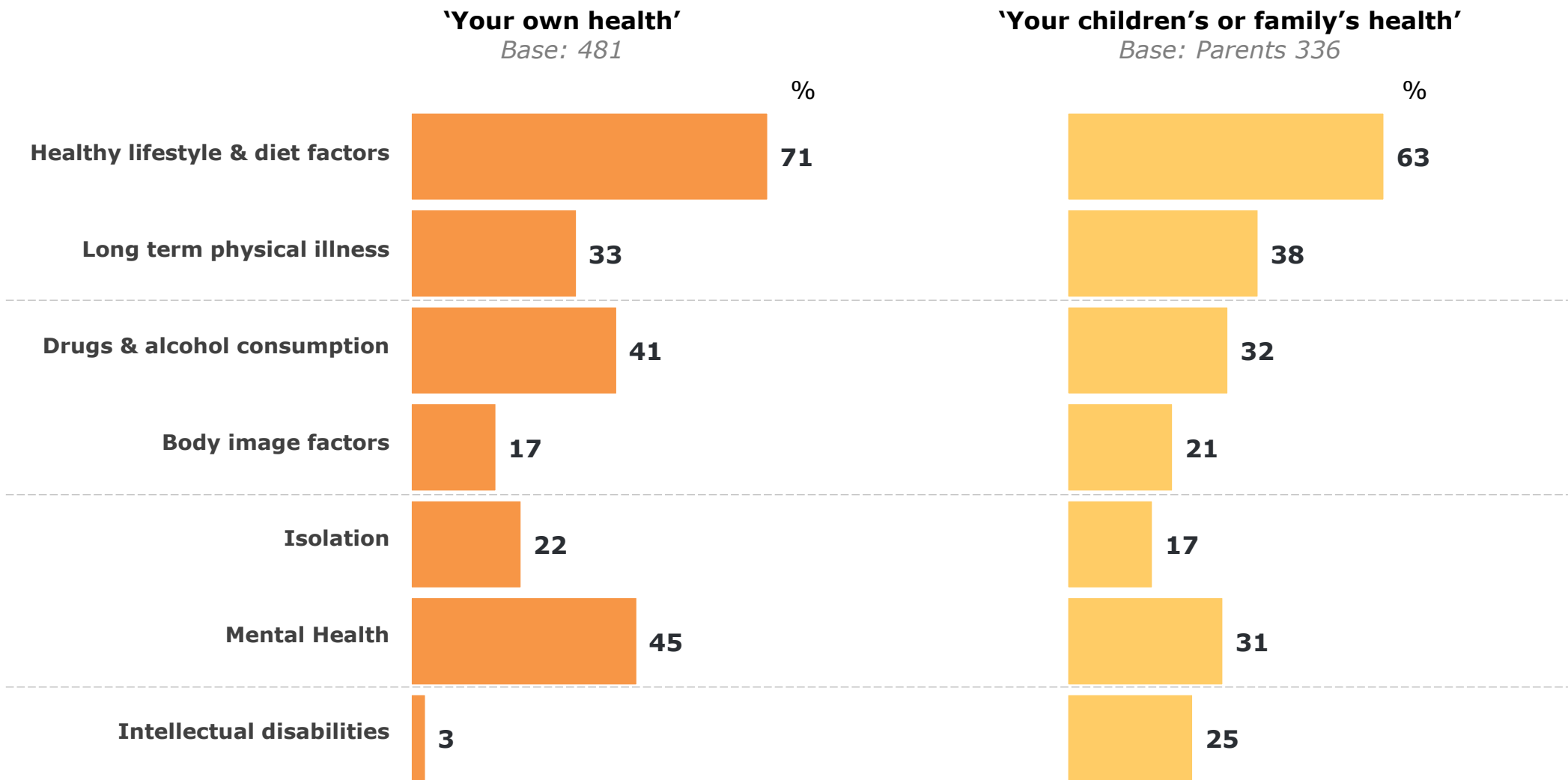
- Anxiety
- Depression
- Over prescription of anti-depressant medication

## 7. Intellectual disabilities

- Autism
- ADHD Hyperactive Disorder

# Health issues categories

Base: All Travellers n - 481



**Across a poor overall personal and family health assessment, lifestyle, drugs/alcohol and mental health issues are especially prominent.**

Q.11 Which of the following issues are you actively concerned about in relation to your own health?  
Q.12 And now thinking of any of your children or family, which of the following issues are you actively concerned about in relation to their health?





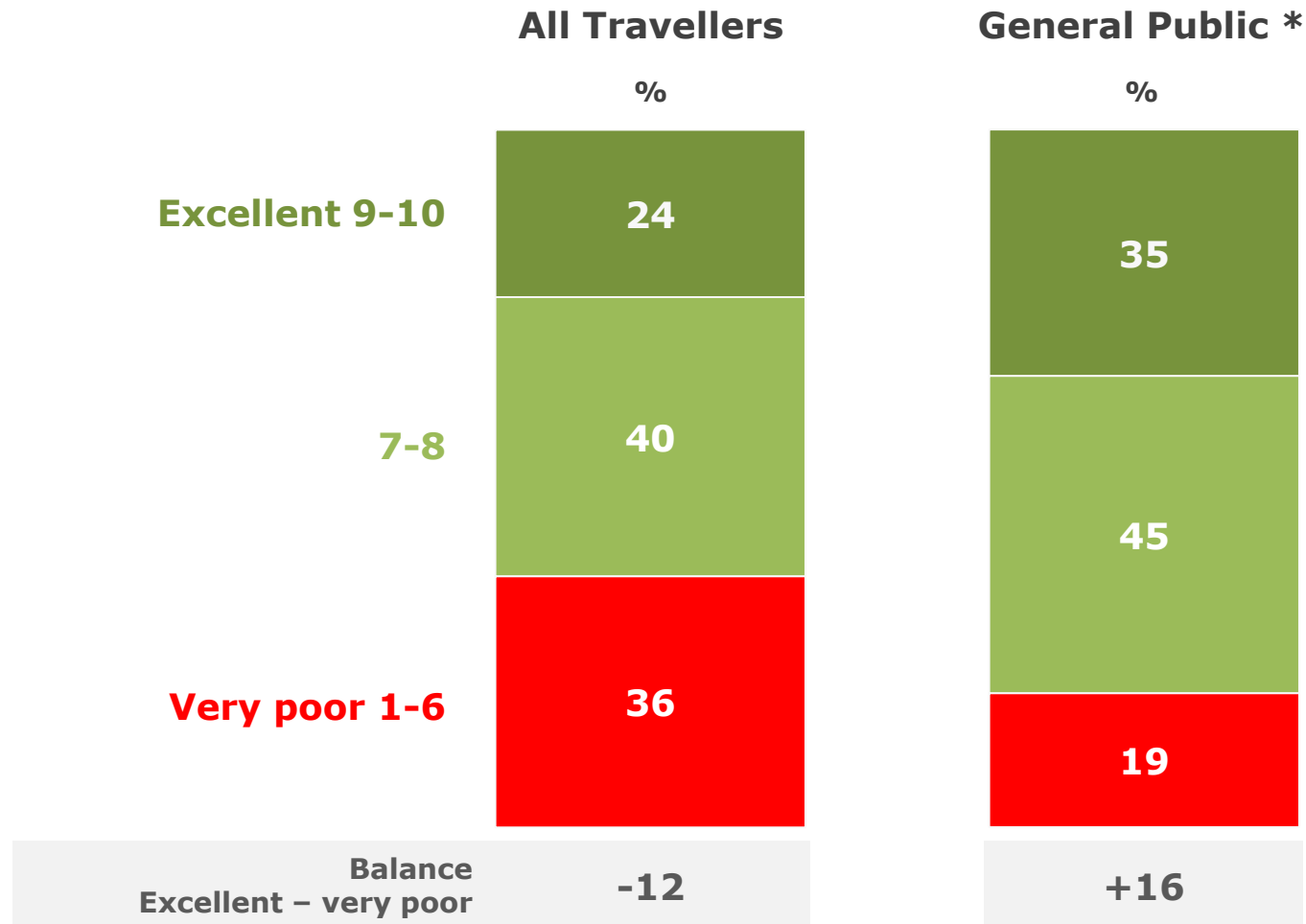
# Health issues categories: Your own health

Base: All Travellers n - 481

	Total	Region			
		Dublin	Rest of Leinster	Munster	Conn/Ulster
Total	481	85	156	128	112
	%	%	%	%	%
Healthy lifestyle & diet factors	71	75	78	66	63
Long term physical illness	33	35	33	43	25
Drugs & alcohol consumption	41	36	49	40	36
Body image factor	17	24	17	18	10
Isolation	22	22	17	31	21
Mental Health	45	32	49	53	41
Intellectual disabilities	3	2	4	4	3

# Assessment of personal health

Base: All Travellers n - 481



\*Pfizer Health Index 2016

**Only 24% of Travellers assess their own health as being 'excellent' with 36% assessing it as poor/very poor.**

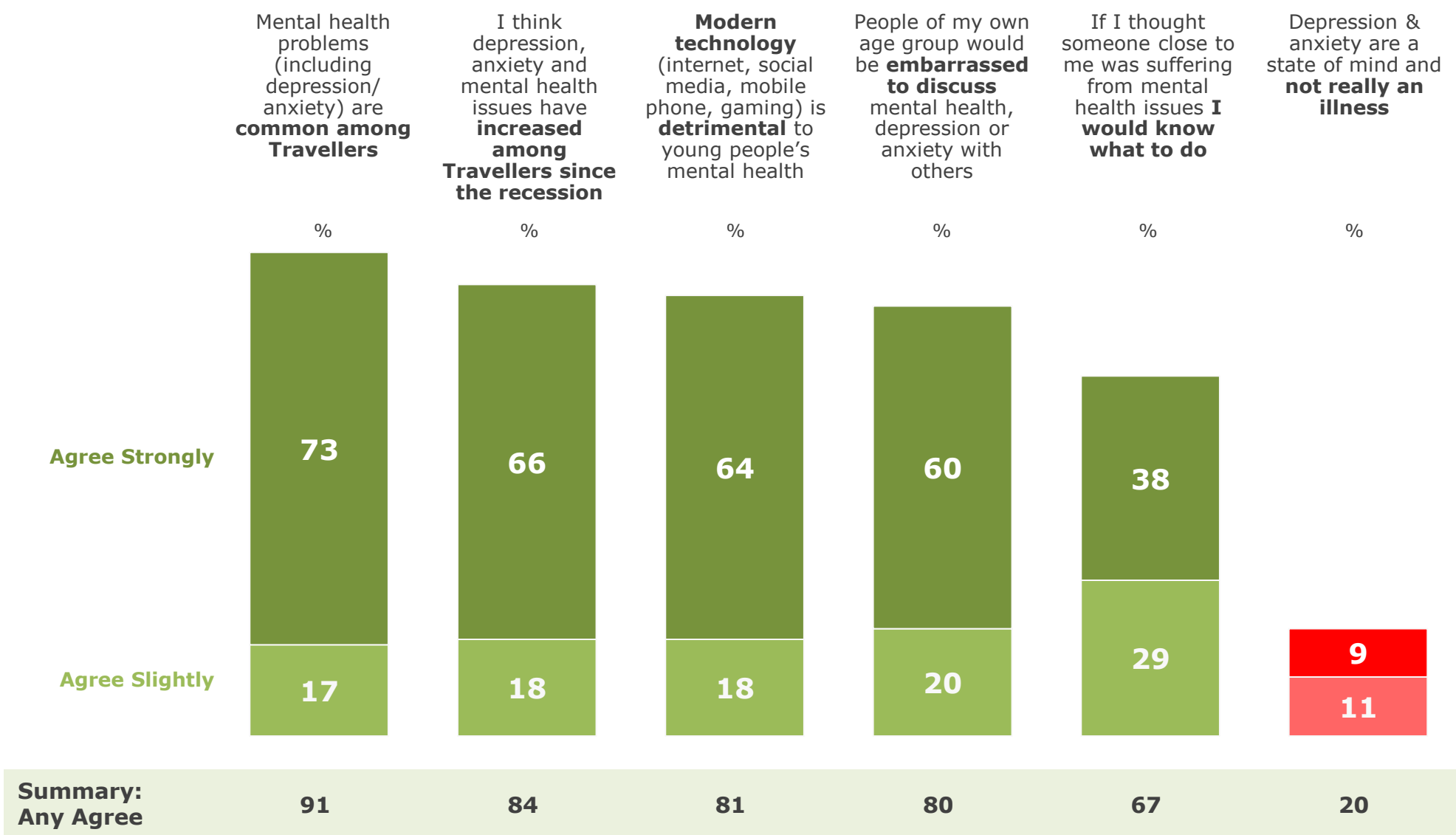
# Assessment of personal health

Base: All Travellers n - 481

Balance (Excellent – Very Poor)	
	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>-12</b>
<b>GENDER</b>	
<b>Male</b>	<b>-15</b>
<b>Female</b>	<b>-9</b>
<b>AGE</b>	
<b>16-24</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>25-34</b>	<b>-4</b>
<b>35-49</b>	<b>-23</b>
<b>50+</b>	<b>-46</b>
<b>REGION</b>	
<b>Dublin</b>	<b>-3</b>
<b>Rest of Leinster</b>	<b>-16</b>
<b>Munster</b>	<b>-16</b>
<b>Conn/Ulster</b>	<b>-12</b>

# Attitudes towards mental health

Base: All Travellers n - 481

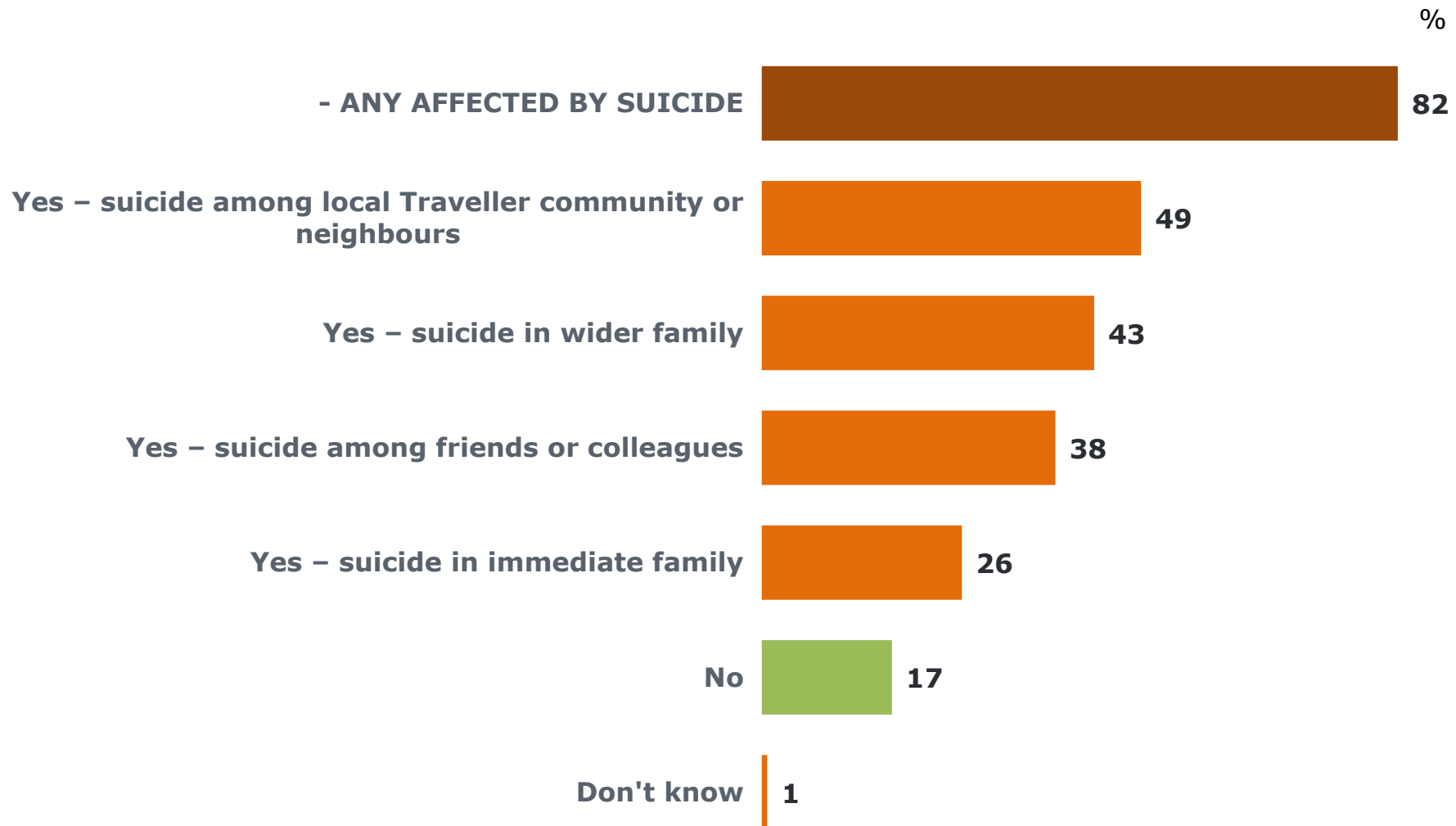


Over 90% of Travellers agree that mental health problems are common among the community. The discomfort with discussing mental health issues is common across age groups.

Q.13 Thinking about the area of mental health to what extent, would you personally agree or disagree ...

# Affected by suicide

Base: All Travellers - 481



**82% of the community have been affected by suicide.  
44% of those affected by suicide in their immediate family have also experienced suicide in their wider family.**

Q.14 Suicide is a particular concern in the Traveller Community. Would you mind indicating if you or your family has been directly affected by suicide?

# Affected by suicide

Base: All Travellers n - 481

	Total
Total	481
	%
- ANY YES	82
- ANY YES Dublin	92
- ANY YES Rest of Leinster	69
- ANY YES Munster	81
- ANY YES Conn/ Ulster	90

**82% of the total community has been affected by suicide; rises to 90% or more in Dublin and Conn/ Ulster.**

Q.14 Suicide is a particular concern in the Traveller Community. Would you mind indicating if you or your family has been directly affected by suicide?



# Accommodation

# Length of time living in present location

Base: All Travellers n - 481



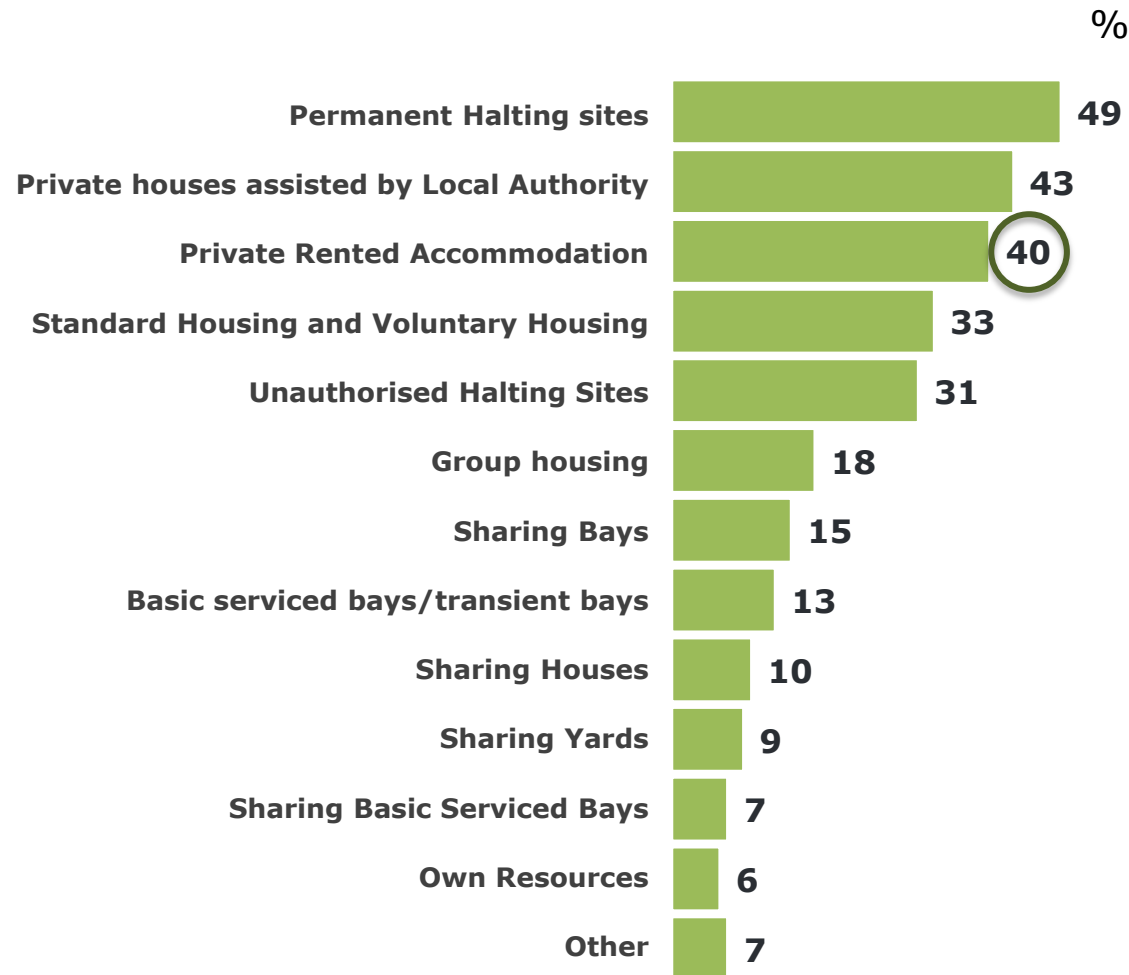
49% of the community indicate they have been living in their present location for longer than 7 years (vs 28% in 2000). Nearly half of those in private rented accommodation have been in their present location for up to 2 years.





# Type of accommodation ever lived in

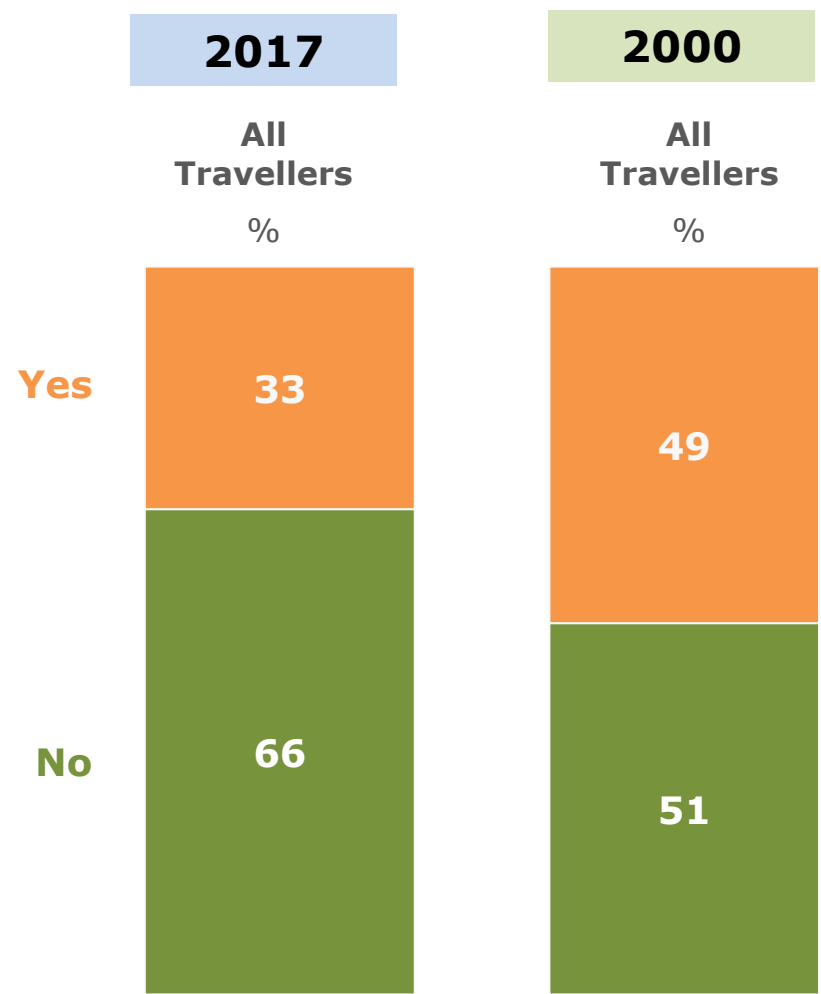
Base: All Travellers n - 481



**40% of Travellers have lived in private rented accommodation at some point.**

# Forced movement from any accommodation

Base: All Travellers n - 481

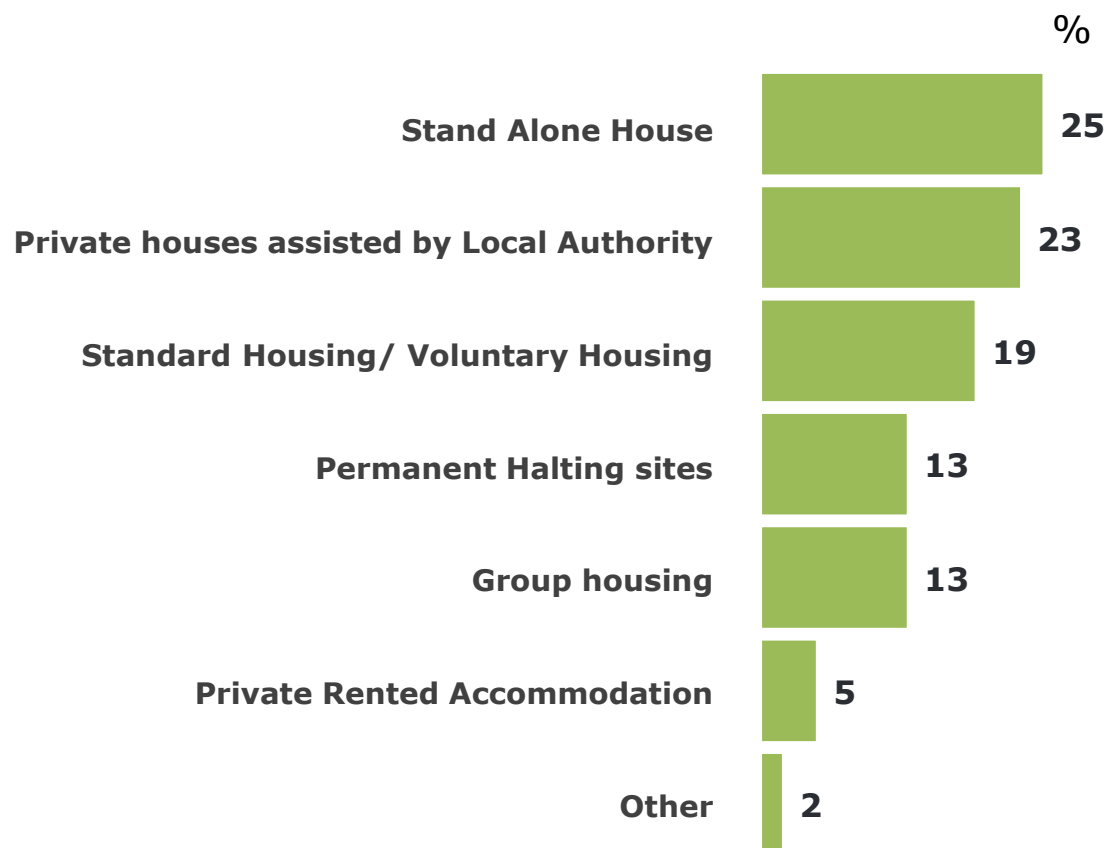


**1 in 3 Travellers have been forced to move from their accommodation/area at some point (vs. 49% in 2000). The incidence among those under 24 years is 1 in 5.**



# Ideal place to live

Base: All Travellers n - 481



**48% of Travellers define their ideal place to live as a stand alone house or private house (assisted by LA). Preference is largely consistent by age but exhibits more variation by region and accommodation type.**

# Ideal place to live

Base: All Travellers n - 481

	Total	Current Accommodation Type				
		Accom L.A.	Unauth- orised Site *	Own Resource*	Private Rent	Share House*
<i>Total</i>	481	312	27	27	86	29
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Stand Alone House	25	24	18	29	31	17
Private houses assisted by Local Authority	23	20	20	25	33	14
Standard Housing/ Voluntary Housing	19	19	23	14	18	28
Permanent Halting sites	13	14	31	20	1	23
Group housing	13	14	5	8	12	18
Private Rented Accommodation	5	5	-	4	7	-
Other	2	3	3	-	-	-

\* Caution low base size

**Preference exhibits variation by current accommodation type.**

Q.23 If you could choose an ideal place to live at present, which of the following would you choose?

# Ideal place to live

Base: All Travellers n - 481

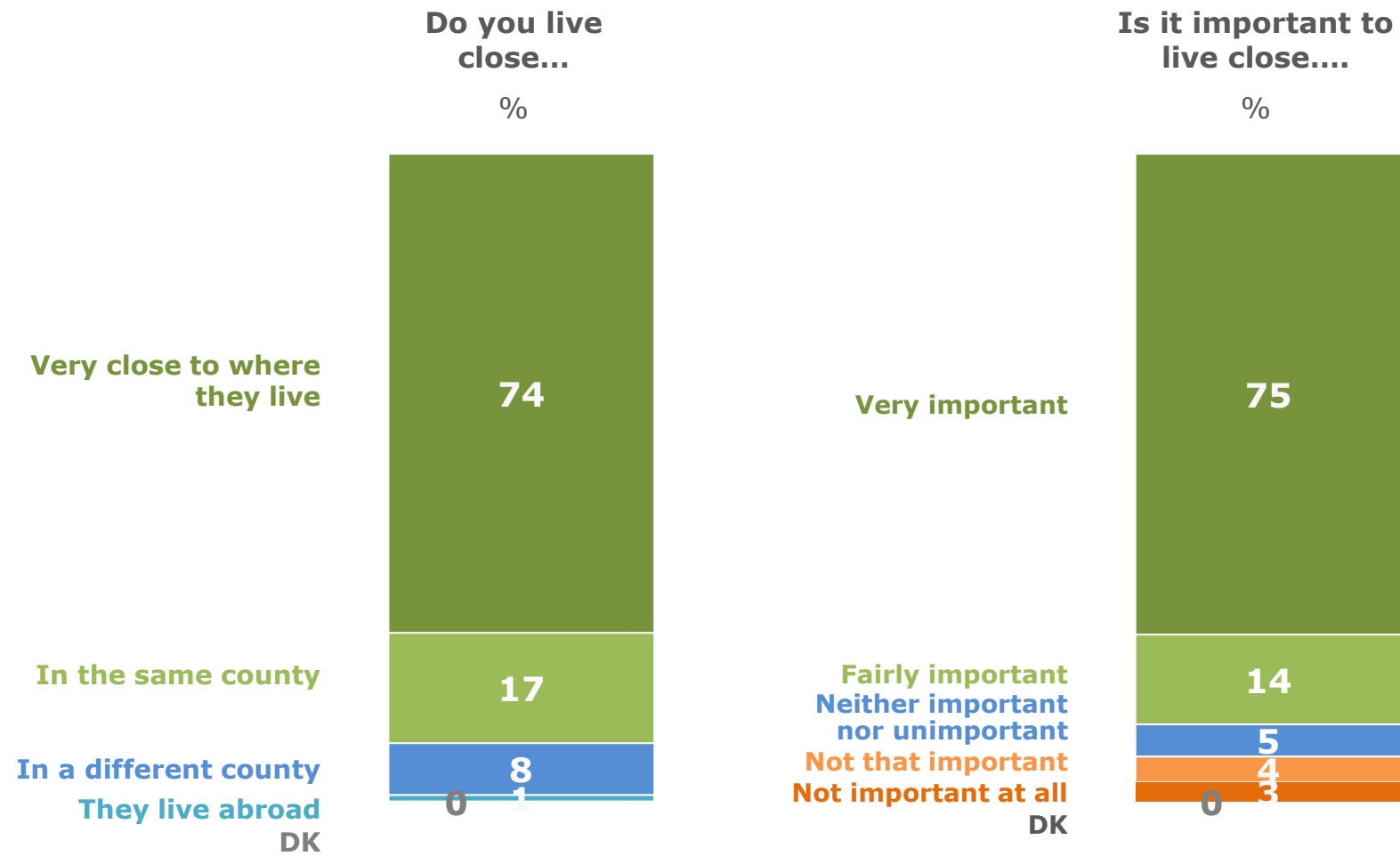
	Total	Age				Region			
		16-24	25-34	35-49	50+	Dublin	Leinster	Munster	Conn/Ulster
<i>Total</i>	481	136	130	135	80	85	156	128	112
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Stand Alone House	25	25	23	32	17	22	27	27	24
Private houses assisted by Local Authority	23	25	24	19	24	19	22	17	32
Standard Housing/Voluntary Housing	19	19	15	21	21	6	9	35	27
Permanent Halting sites	13	15	11	10	12	20	14	12	6
Group housing	13	8	18	11	22	26	16	9	4
Private Rented Accommodation	5	5	8	2	1	4	9	1	4
Other	2	1	1	4	2	3	1	-	3

**Preference is largely consistent by age but exhibits more variation by region and accommodation type.**

Q.23 If you could choose an ideal place to live at present, which of the following would you choose?

# Living close to immediate family

Base: All Travellers n - 481



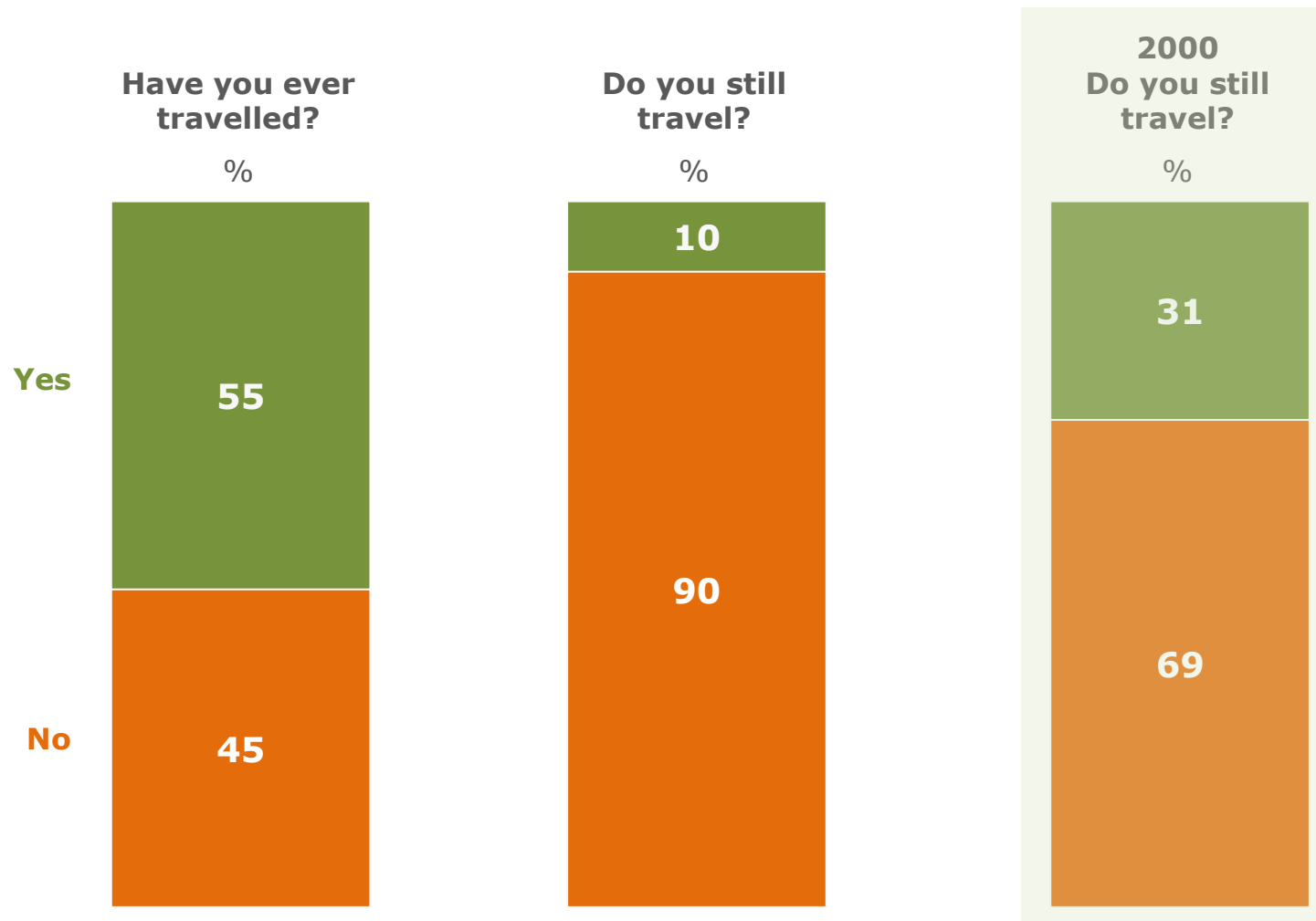
3 in 4 Travellers do live close to their immediate family; and consider it very important to do so.

Q.18 Do you live close to your immediate family (brothers, sisters, mothers, fathers etc.) or do you live in a different area?  
Q.19 How important or not is it to you that you live close to your immediate family?



# Travelling

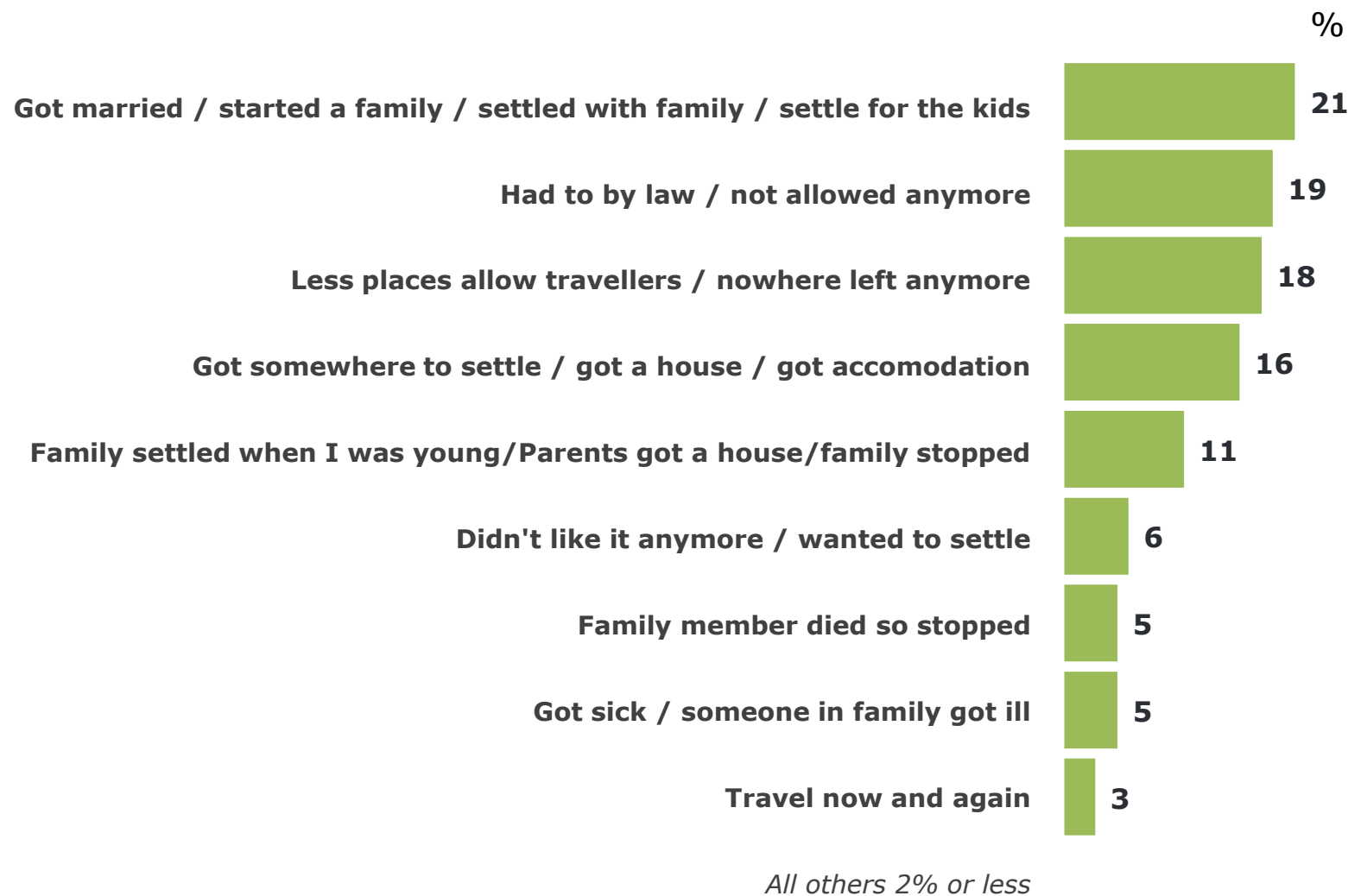
Base: All Travellers n - 481



**45% have never travelled.  
Only 1 in 10 of the community still travel (versus 1 in 3 in 2000).  
54% of those who did travel stopped doing so at least 10 years ago.**

# Reasons for no longer travelling

Base: Ever travelled but no longer do n - 225





# Summary: Travellers and Accommodation

Base: All Travellers n - 481

	Total	Region			
		Dublin	Rest of Leinster	Munster	Conn/Ulster
	481	85	156	128	112
	%	%	%	%	%
Longer than 7 years in present location	49	42	45	47	59
Ever forced to move from accommodation	33	31	34	42	26
Live close to immediate family	74	80	70	77	71
Very Important to live close to immediate family	75	70	75	82	72
Ever Travelled	55	49	67	63	37
Still Travel	19	10	16	30	18

Q.17 How long have you been living here in this location?  
 Q.22a Have you ever been forced to move from your accommodation and/or area, against your will, at any time?  
 Q.18 Do you live close to your immediate family (brothers, sisters, mothers, fathers etc.) or do you live in a different area?  
 Q.19 How important or not is it to you that you live close to your immediate family?  
 Q.25a Have you ever travelled?  
 Q.25b Do you still travel or not?

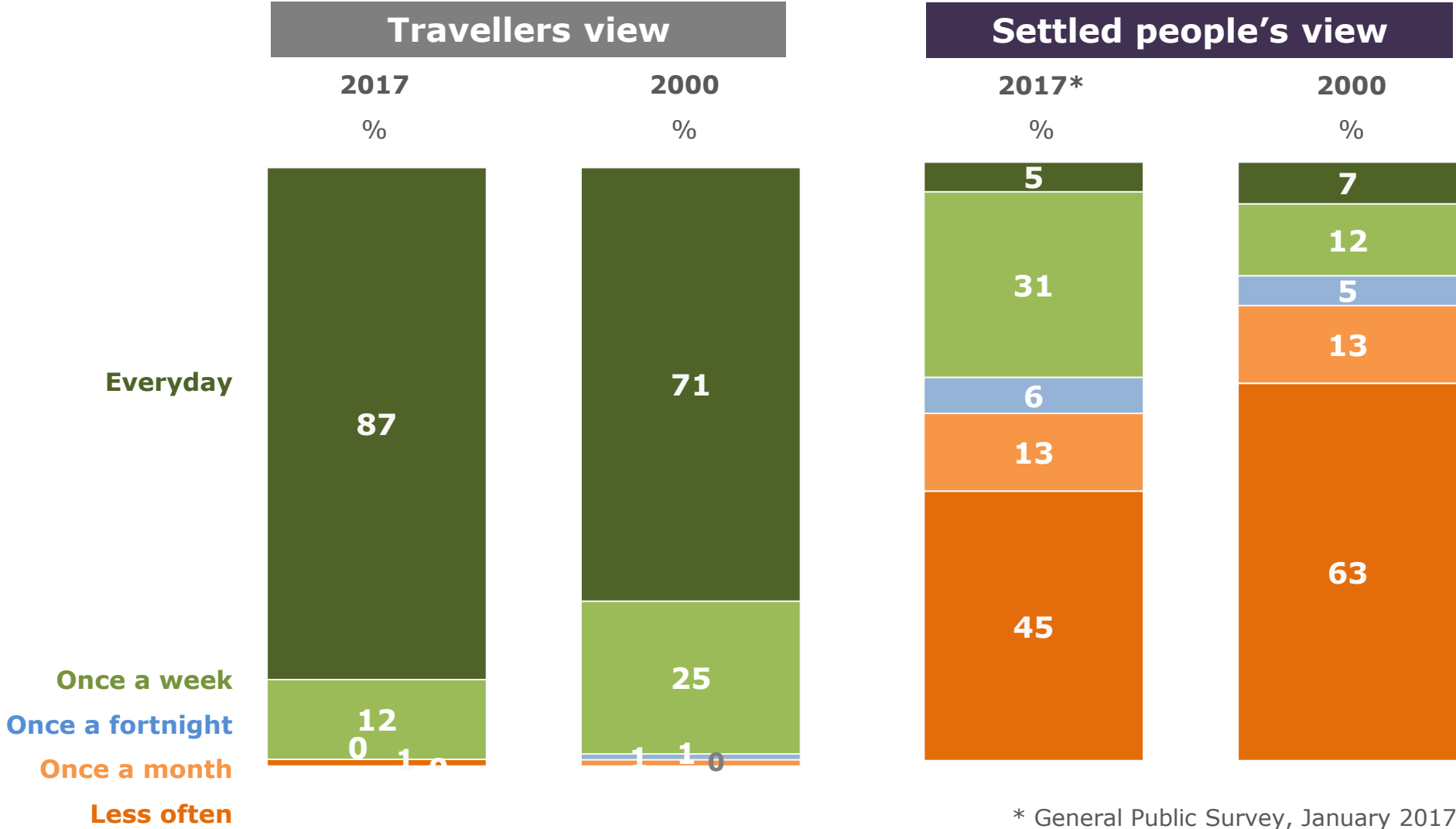




# Travellers and the settled community

# Frequency of coming into contact with other community

Base: All Travellers n - 481

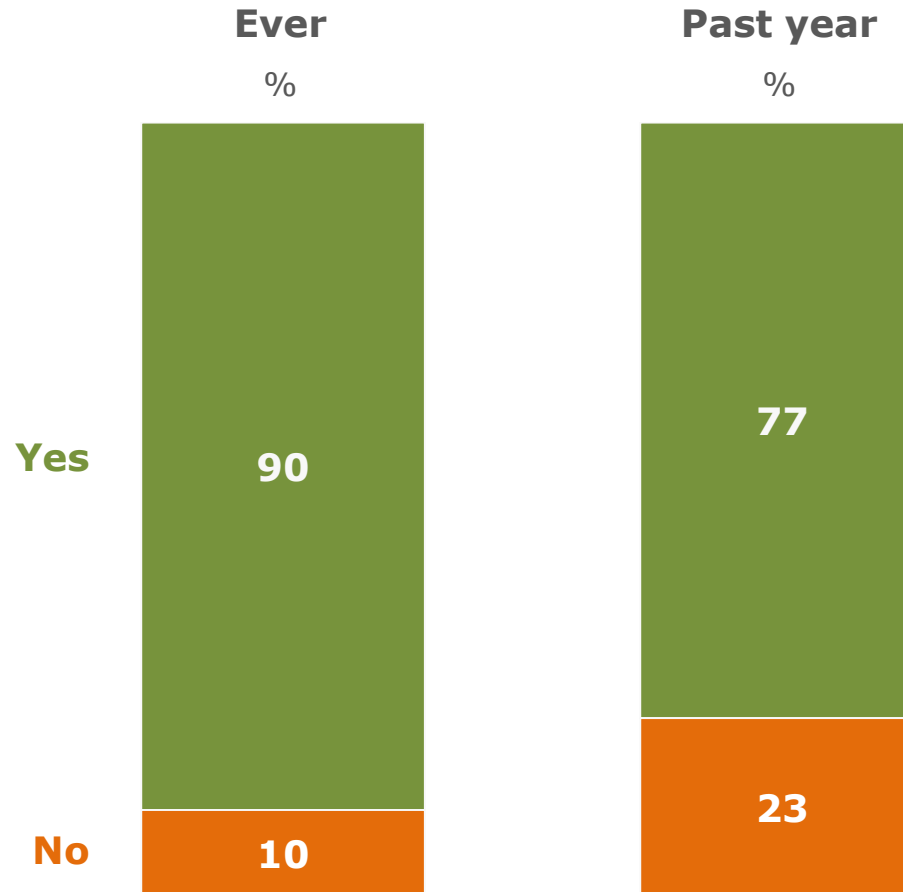


There is a huge difference in perception between the two communities on their level of interaction (just as there was in 2000).



# Experienced discrimination

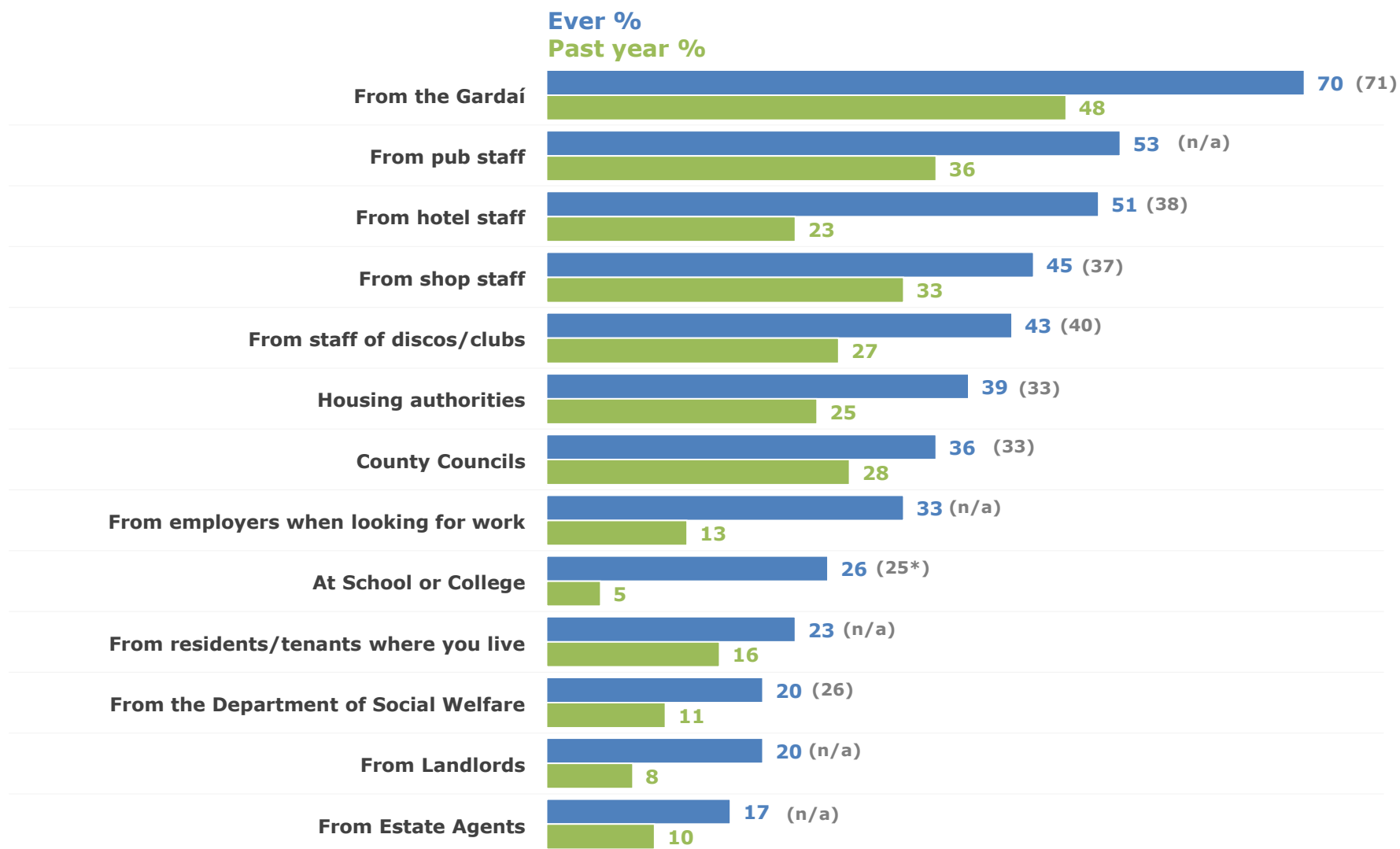
Base: All Travellers n - 481



**77% of Travellers have experienced discrimination in the 'past year'.**

# Experienced discrimination

Base: All Travellers n - 481

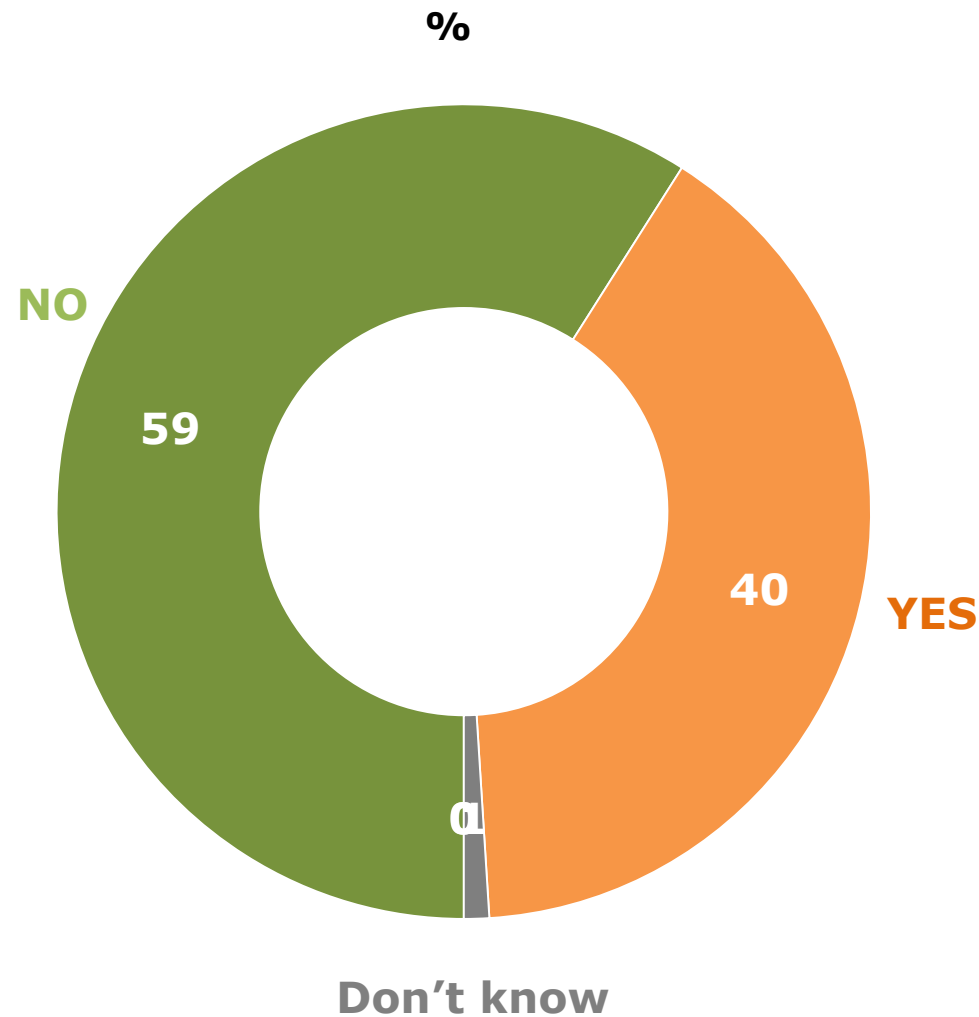


(2000 survey in brackets)

\* Slight change in phrasing in 2017

# Travellers being bullied in school

Base: All Travellers n – 481

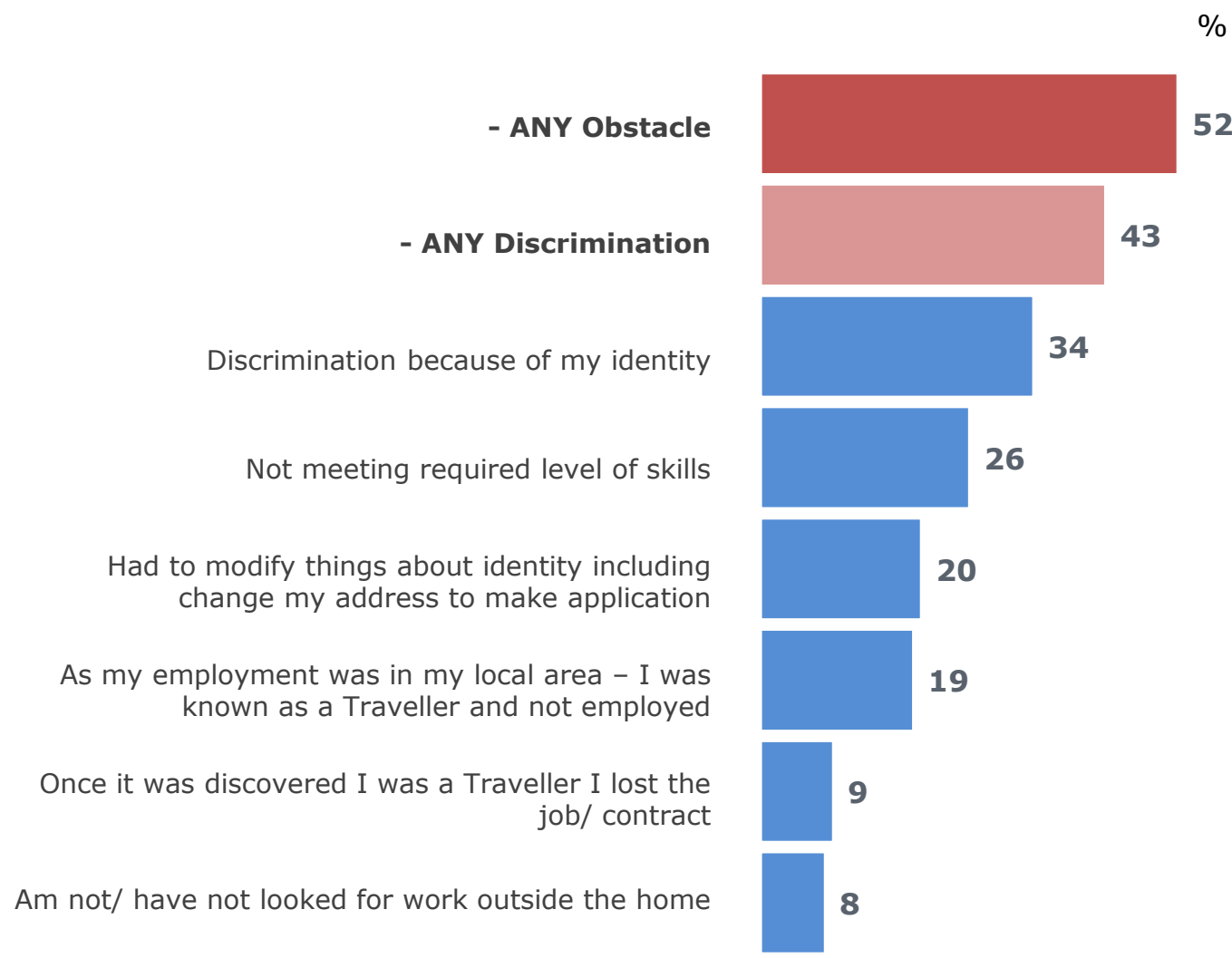


**40% of Travellers indicate they or their children have been bullied at school due to their identity.**

Q.42 Have you (or your children) been bullied in school because of your/ their identity as a Traveller?

# Obstacles encountered in accessing employment

Base: All Travellers n - 481



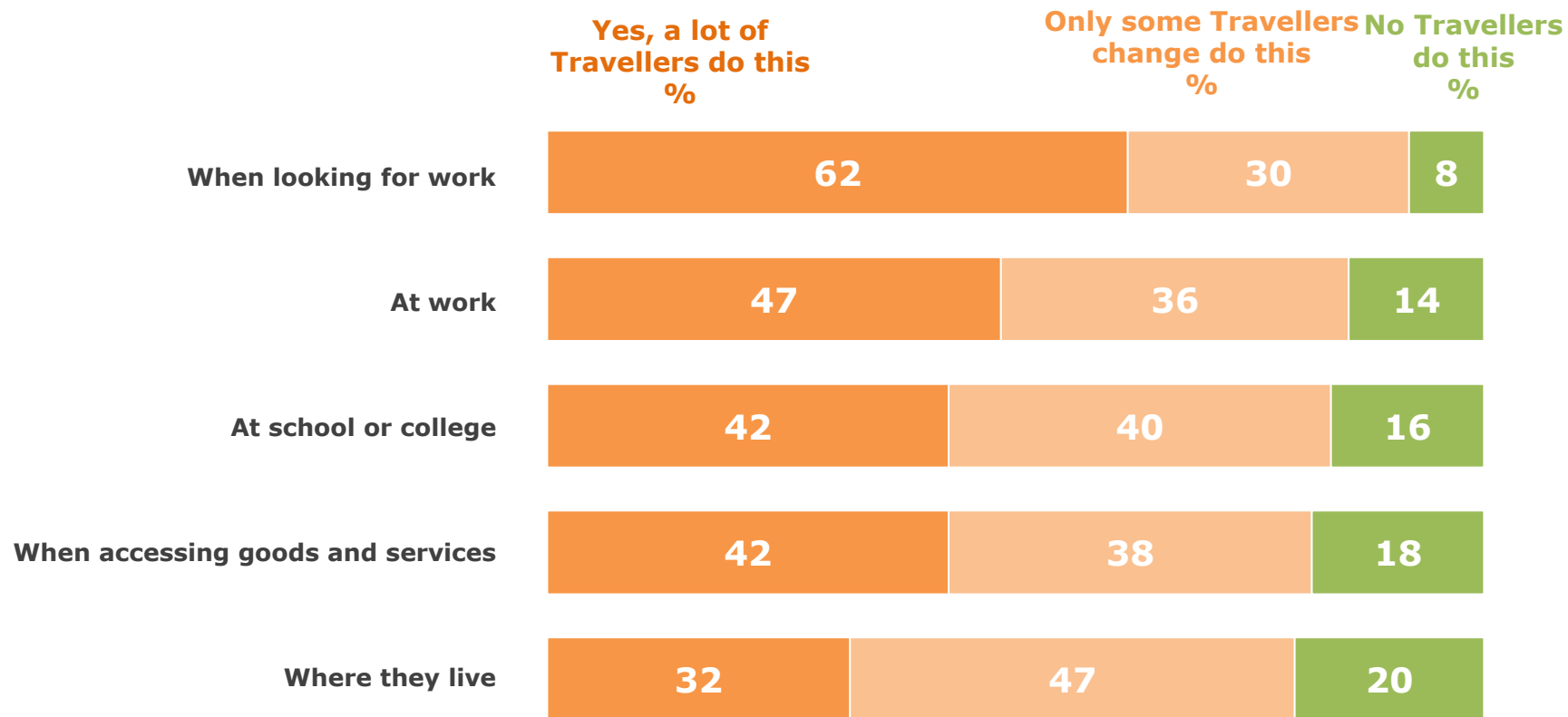
**43% of Travellers indicate they have encountered discrimination while accessing employment**



Q.47 Which, if any, of the following obstacles have you encountered in accessing employment or while in self-employment?

# Travellers changing behaviour and presentation to fit in more

Base: All Travellers n - 481



**Travellers believe the vast majority of the community is adapting their behaviour and the way they present themselves in multiple areas of life to 'fit in more'.**



# Summary: Travellers & the Settled Community

Base: All Travellers n - 481

	Total	Region			
		Dublin	Rest of Leinster	Munster	Conn/Ulster
	481	85	156	128	112
	%	%	%	%	%
Ever <b>experienced discrimination</b>	90	96	90	95	81
<b>Past Year</b> experienced <b>discrimination</b>	77	82	80	86	61
<b>Bullied in School</b>	40	43	43	45	31
<b>Discrimination</b> when accessing <b>employment</b>	43	51	44	45	33
<b>Changing</b> behaviour/ presentation <b>to fit in more</b>	67	76	57	58	79

Q.29 Have you yourself ever experienced discrimination from  
Q.30 And has that happened in the last year?  
Q.42 Have you (or your children) been bullied in school because of your/ their identity as a Traveller?  
Q.47 Which, if any, of the following obstacles have you encountered in accessing employment or while in self-employment?  
Q.31 From your experience, to what extent do you think Travellers change the way they behave and present themselves in order to fit in more with those around them in the following areas of life..



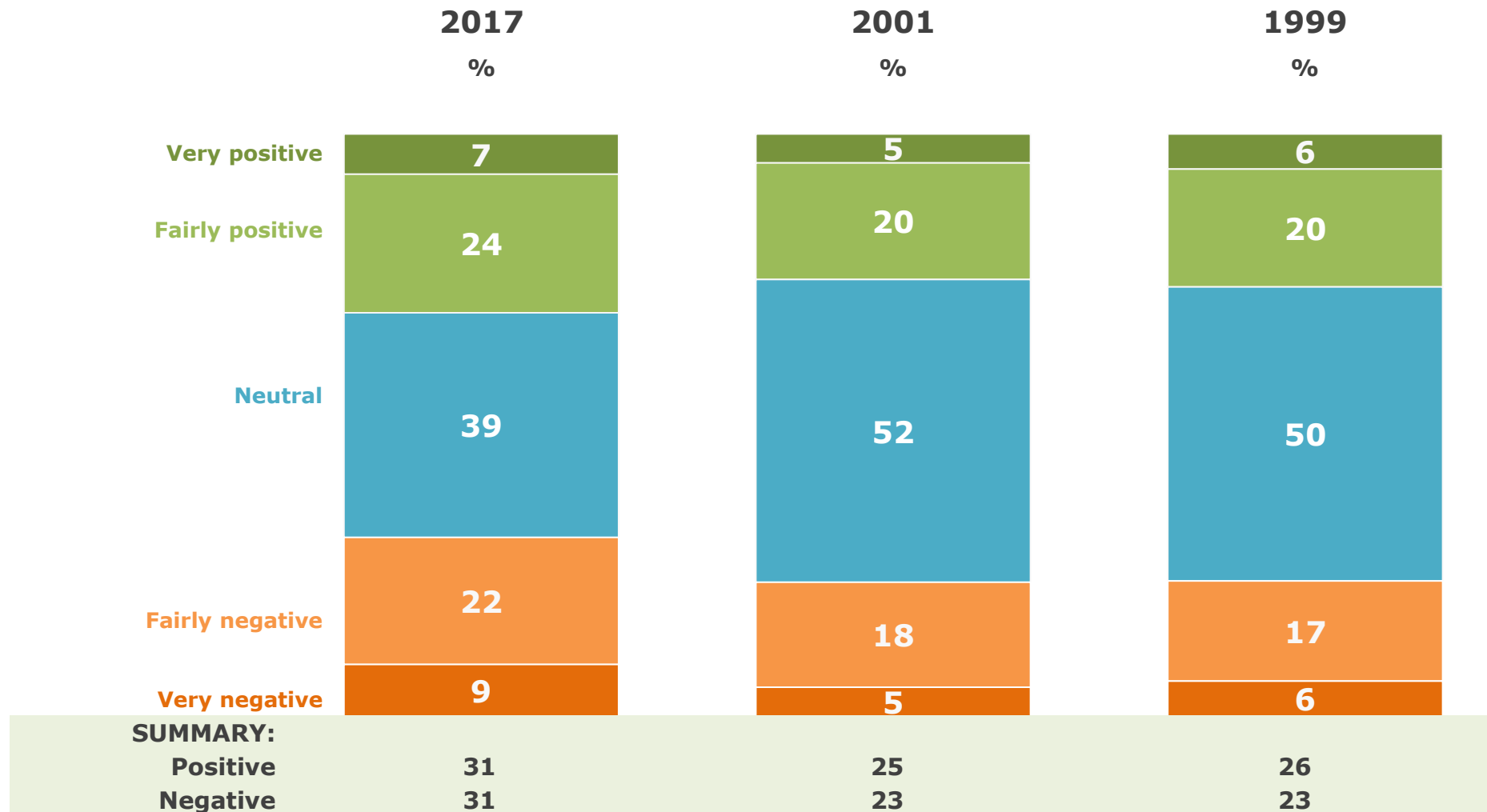


# **General Public Survey: January 2017**

# General public

## Overall view of Travellers

Base: All Adults n - 1007



**The general public's overall view on Travellers has remained largely consistent between 2001 and 2017.**

# General public

## Detailed attitudes towards Travellers

General Public Survey Jan 2017

Base: All Adults n - 1007

	Agree strongly %	Agree slightly %	Neither agree nor disagree %	Disagree slightly %	Disagree strongly %	Summary Agree 2017 %	Summary Agree 2001 %
Travellers should receive support to access and progress in education	36	37	19	5	4	73	n/a
Travellers get a <b>bad image</b> because of the actions of a few	39	34	16	7	5	72	85
Travellers have a <b>valuable place in Irish society</b>	23	36	27	8	7	58	55
Travellers are <b>treated less equally</b> than other Irish people	19	32	22	16	10	52	n/a
I believe the <b>Government should provide major investment</b> to tackle the barriers that Travellers experience	18	32	26	14	10	50	65
The <b>media</b> such as television and newspapers are <b>unfair to Travellers</b>	14	29	22	21	14	43	40
<b>Accommodation</b> for Travellers <b>should be a priority</b> item for local authorities	14	27	25	17	16	42	55
I think it is <b>acceptable</b> for Travellers to be <b>refused entry</b> to hotels, pubs and shops	9	17	28	24	21	27	n/a

**73% of general public agree that Travellers should receive support to access and progress in education. When the results are analyzed, the differences in attitudes to Travellers between urban and rural residents is consistently apparent.**



## Views on different groups in society

Base: All Adults n - 1007

Friendship	'Would have as close friends'
Employ	'Would employ'
Neighbour	'Would have as next door neighbours'
Co-work	'Would work in the same workplace'
Community	'Would welcome as community member'
Visit	'Would have as visitor only'
Avoid	'Would avoid their company'

# General public

## Views on different groups in society

General Public Survey Jan 2017

Base: All Adults n - 1007

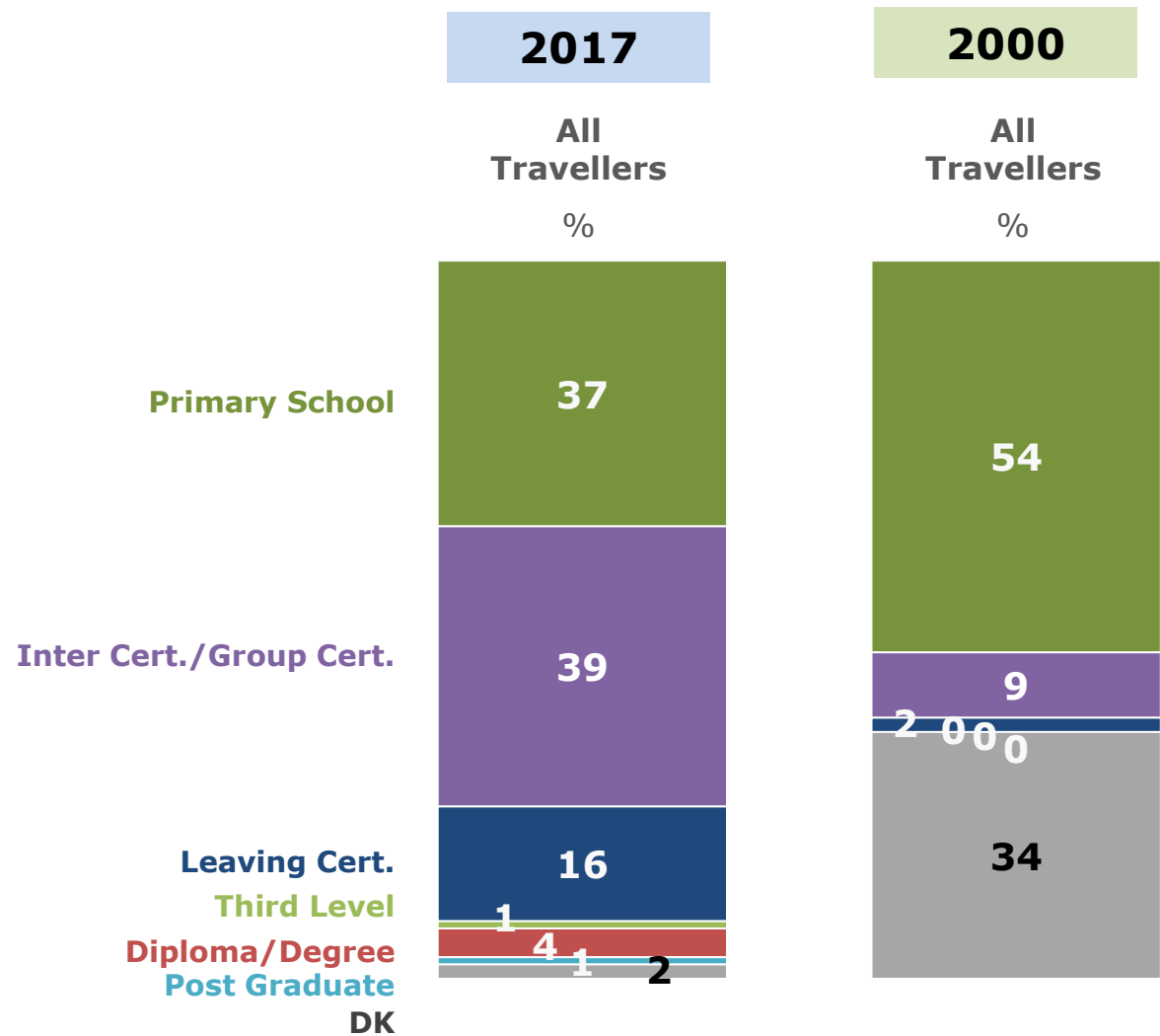
	Kinship	Friendship	Employ	Neighbour	Co-worker	Community Member	Visitor	Avoid
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Africans	17	28	27	38	36	61	8	9
Chinese	19	33	32	43	40	64	5	3
Polish	28	43	40	51	47	63	5	2
Eastern European	23	34	34	41	42	59	7	6
Roma	9	18	17	22	24	37	12	37
Muslims	13	25	24	33	34	51	12	18
LGBT people (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender)	25	47	35	49	43	65	5	3
Pakistani	15	26	28	40	39	60	9	9
Refugees	12	21	24	32	32	58	13	13
Asylum Seekers	12	19	23	31	30	59	13	14
Travellers	9	15	17	22	25	45	9	35
Jews	19	30	29	41	39	66	8	7



# Education

# How far did you go in school

Base: Completed schooling n - 429



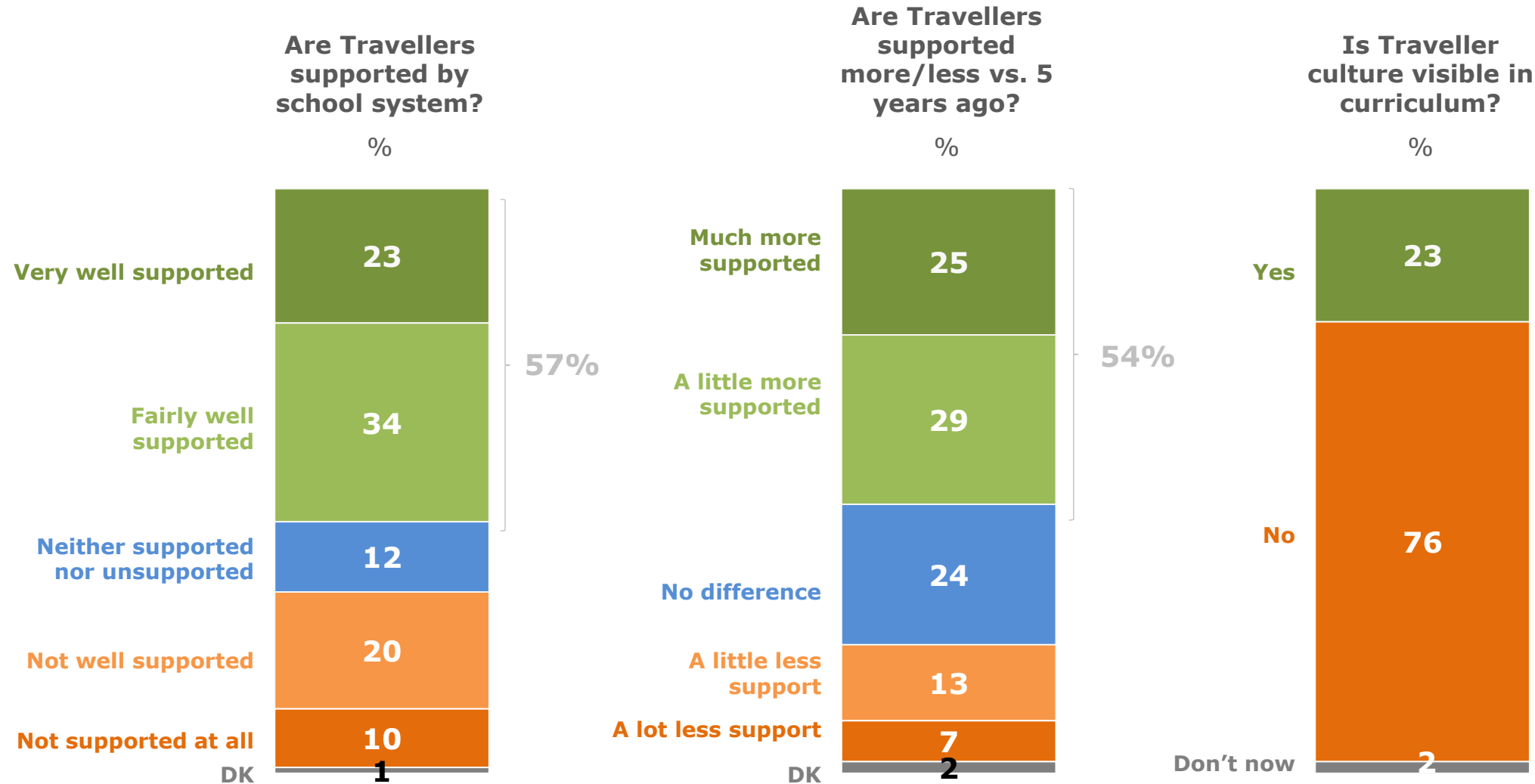
39% completed their Inter/Group Cert in 2017 (Vs 9% in 2000).





# School system and Travellers

Base: All Travellers n - 481



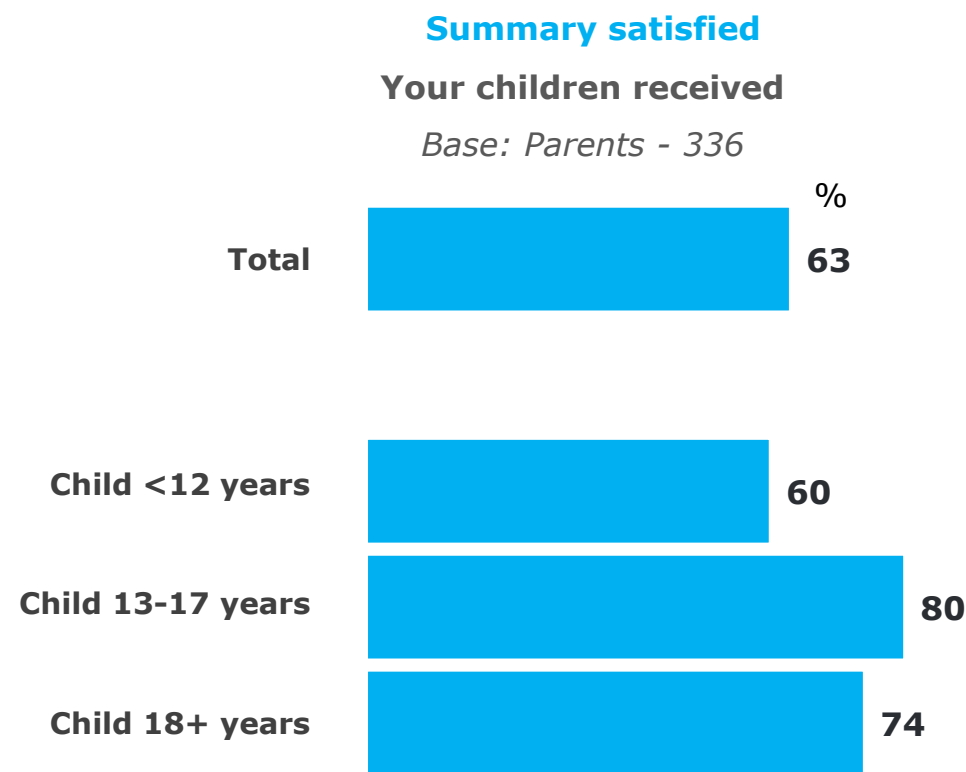
**57% of Travellers feel the community is well supported by the school system; 54% feel Travellers are more supported than 5 years ago. The evaluation of the school system is broadly consistent by age.**



Q.37 To what extent do you believe Travellers are supported by the current school system?  
Q.38 And would you say Travellers get more or less support from the school system than they did 5 years ago?  
Q.39 Do you think Traveller culture is visible in the school subjects/curriculum?

# Satisfaction with education received in school

Base: All Travellers n - 481



**Satisfaction with personal education is much stronger among younger Travellers.**

Q.43a Taking everything into account, how satisfied or not are you with the education you receive (d) in school?

Q.43b And thinking now of your children, again taking everything into account, how satisfied or not are you with the education they receive (d) in school

# Summary: Education

Base: All Travellers n - 481

	Total	Region			
		Dublin	Rest of Leinster	Munster	Conn/Ulster
Base:	481	85	156	128	112
	%	%	%	%	%
Completed <b>Inter/ Leaving Cert</b>	55	55	42	63	62
Travellers are <b>well supported by school system</b>	57	60	54	45	68
Travellers receive <b>more support</b> from school system ( <b>vs. 5 years ago</b> )	54	60	51	51	57
Traveller <b>culture is visible in curriculum</b>	23	23	27	18	21
<b>Satisfaction</b> with <b>own schooling</b>	51	45	47	51	60
<b>Satisfaction</b> with <b>children's schooling</b>	63	83	57	50	69

Q.34 How far did you go in school?

Q.37 To what extent do you believe Travellers are supported by the current school system?

Q.38 And would you say Travellers get more or less support from the school system than they did 5years ago?

Q.39 Do you think Traveller culture is visible in the school subjects/ curriculum?

Q.43a Taking everything into account, how satisfied or not are you with the education you receive (d) in school?

Q.43b And thinking now of your children, again taking everything into account, how satisfied or not are you with the education they receive (d) in school?

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# Summary & Conclusions

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- In 2017, just over 60% of the Traveller community classify themselves as being 'Satisfied with life in general in Ireland these days'; in the 2000 research, 71% of Travellers were satisfied.
  - Life satisfaction in the Traveller Community appears to decline with age.
  - Only 26% of Travellers consider life in general to have got better for Travellers over the last 5-10 years (versus 61% in 2000).
- Only 24% of Travellers assess their own health as being 'excellent' with 36% assessing it as poor/very poor. Across a poor overall personal and family health assessment, lifestyle, drugs/alcohol and mental health issues are especially prominent.
- Mental health, is a key 'aspect of life' that is perceived to have 'gotten a lot worse' over the past 5 years. Over 90% of Travellers agree that mental health problems are common among the community. The discomfort with discussing mental health issues is common across age groups.
- 82% of the community have been affected by suicide. 44% of those affected by suicide in their immediate family have also experienced suicide in their wider family.
- 77% of Travellers have experienced discrimination in the 'past year'.
- 43% of Travellers indicate they have encountered discrimination while accessing employment.
- 40% of Travellers indicate they or their children have been bullied at school due to their identity.
- Travellers believe the vast majority of the community is adapting their behaviour and the way they present themselves in multiple areas of life to 'fit in more'.

# Summary & Conclusions

- 3 in 4 Travellers live close to their immediate family; and consider it very important to do so. Near half (49%) of the community indicate they have been living in their present location for longer than 7 years (vs 28% in 2000)
  - 47% of those in private rented accommodation have been in their present location for up to 2 years.
- 48% of Travellers define their ideal place to live as a stand alone house or private house (assisted by LA). This preference is largely consistent by age but exhibits more variation by region and accommodation type.
  - Only 1 in 10 of the community still travel (versus 1 in 3 in 2000). 54% of those who did travel stopped doing so at least 10 years ago.
- 60% of the community indicate that they are 'not working' – the relevant figure in the 2000 survey was 62%.
- 66% of Travellers have experience of a training scheme and 30% of those have gained employment as a result.
- The average age for finishing school among Travellers under 24 years is under 15 years (vs. 13.7 years for the full community). 39% completed their Inter/Group Cert in the 2017 research (vs 9% in 2000).
- 57% of Travellers feel the community is well supported by the school system; 54% feel Travellers are more supported by the system than 5 years ago.
- Satisfaction with education received is stronger in relation to the community's children and personal satisfaction with education is much stronger among younger Travellers.
- 73% of general public agree that Travellers should receive support to access and progress in education.



# Traveller Community National Survey

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