

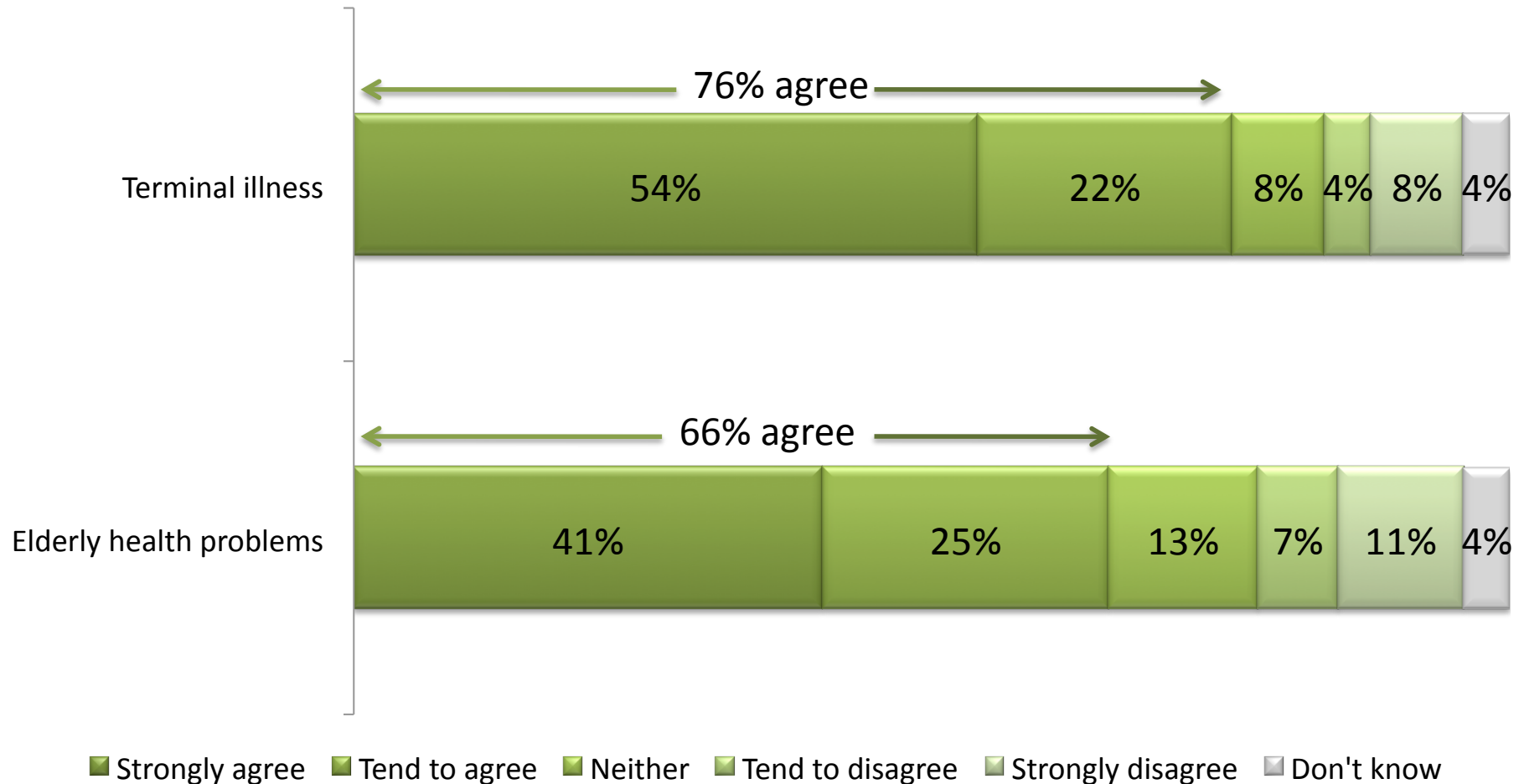
Old age rational suicide

A poll of UK adults

24 March 2011

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

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...

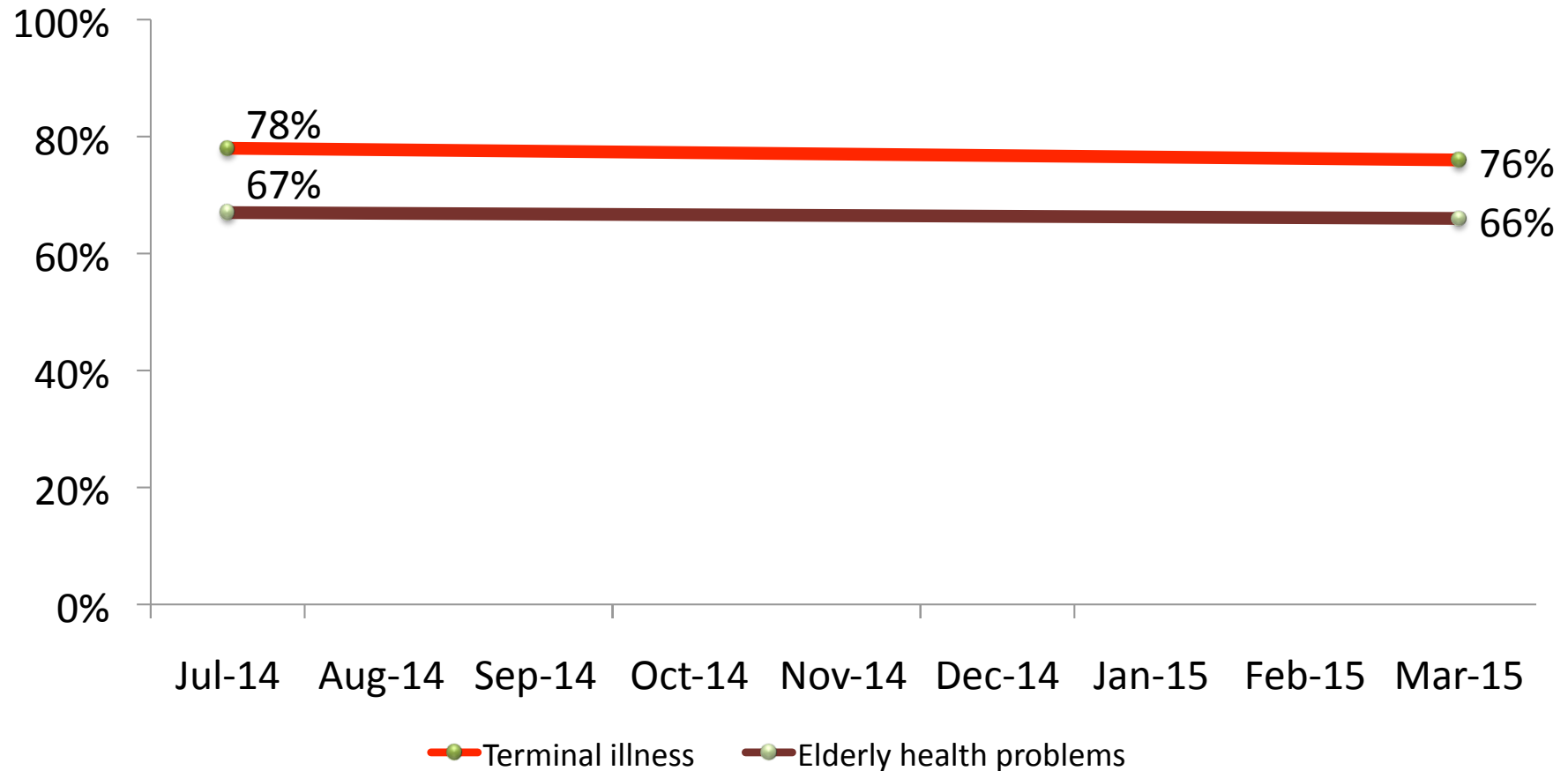
... They are suffering unbearably from a terminal illness they are expected to die from within six months

... 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 (1008)

There has been no significant change in opinion since July 2010

Total who 'strongly' or 'tend to' agree that 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?

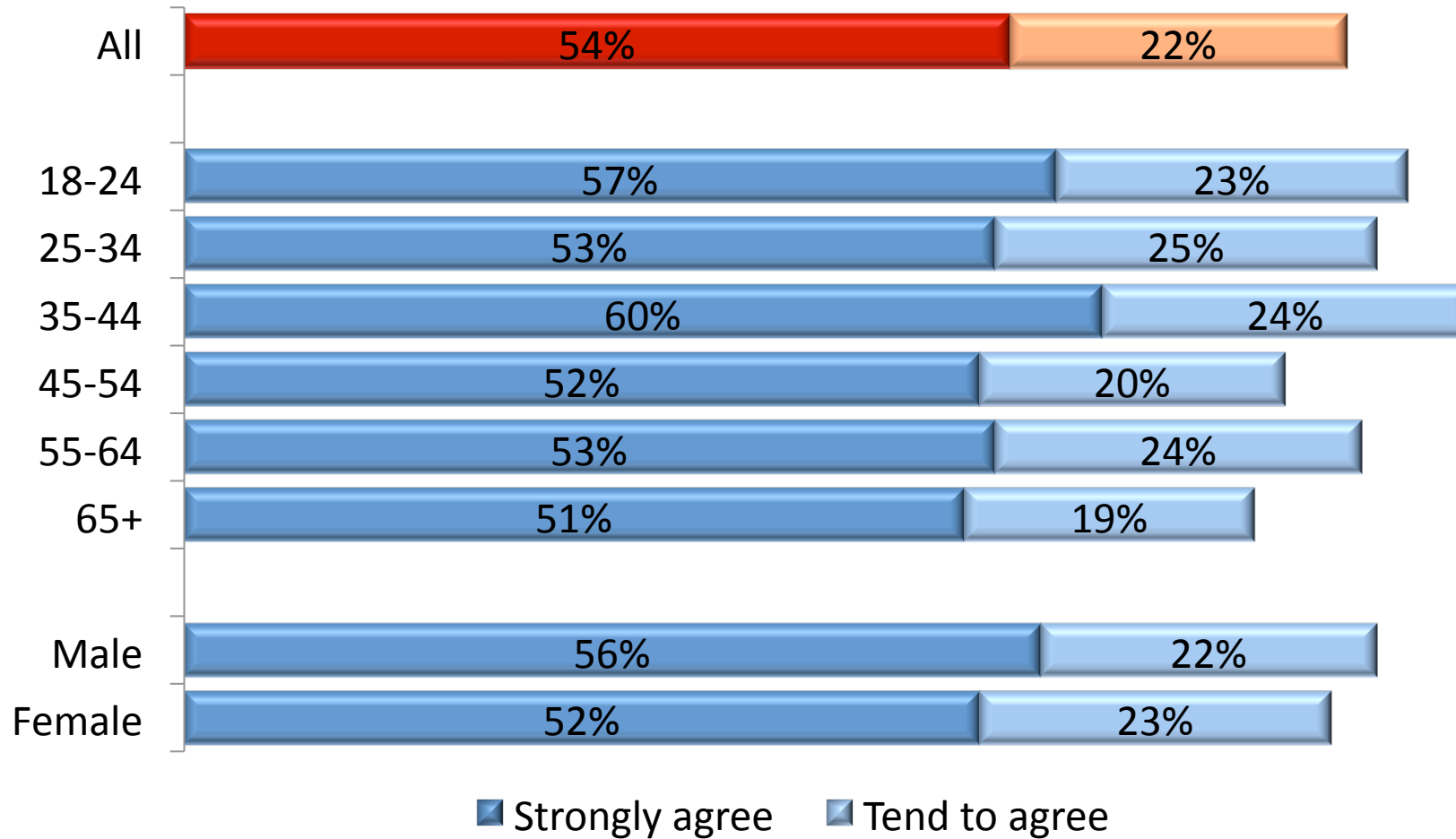
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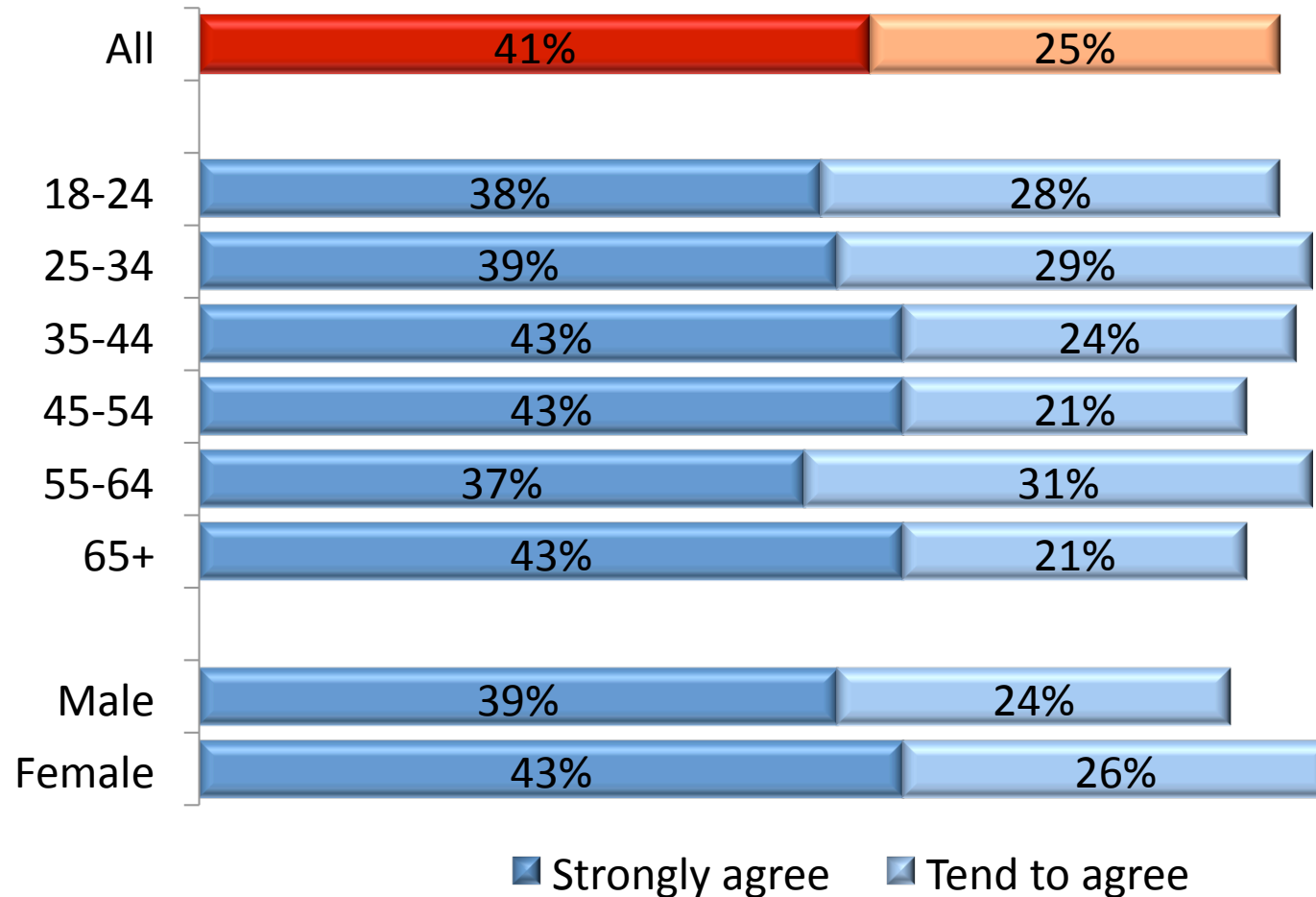
Base: All adults (July 2010: 1009/ March 2011: 1008)

Support for legal assistance to die in the event of **terminal illness** tends to be stronger among the under 45 year olds



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 (1008)

Support for legal assistance to die if someone **elderly** and suffering unbearably, tends to have stronger support among the over 35 year olds



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

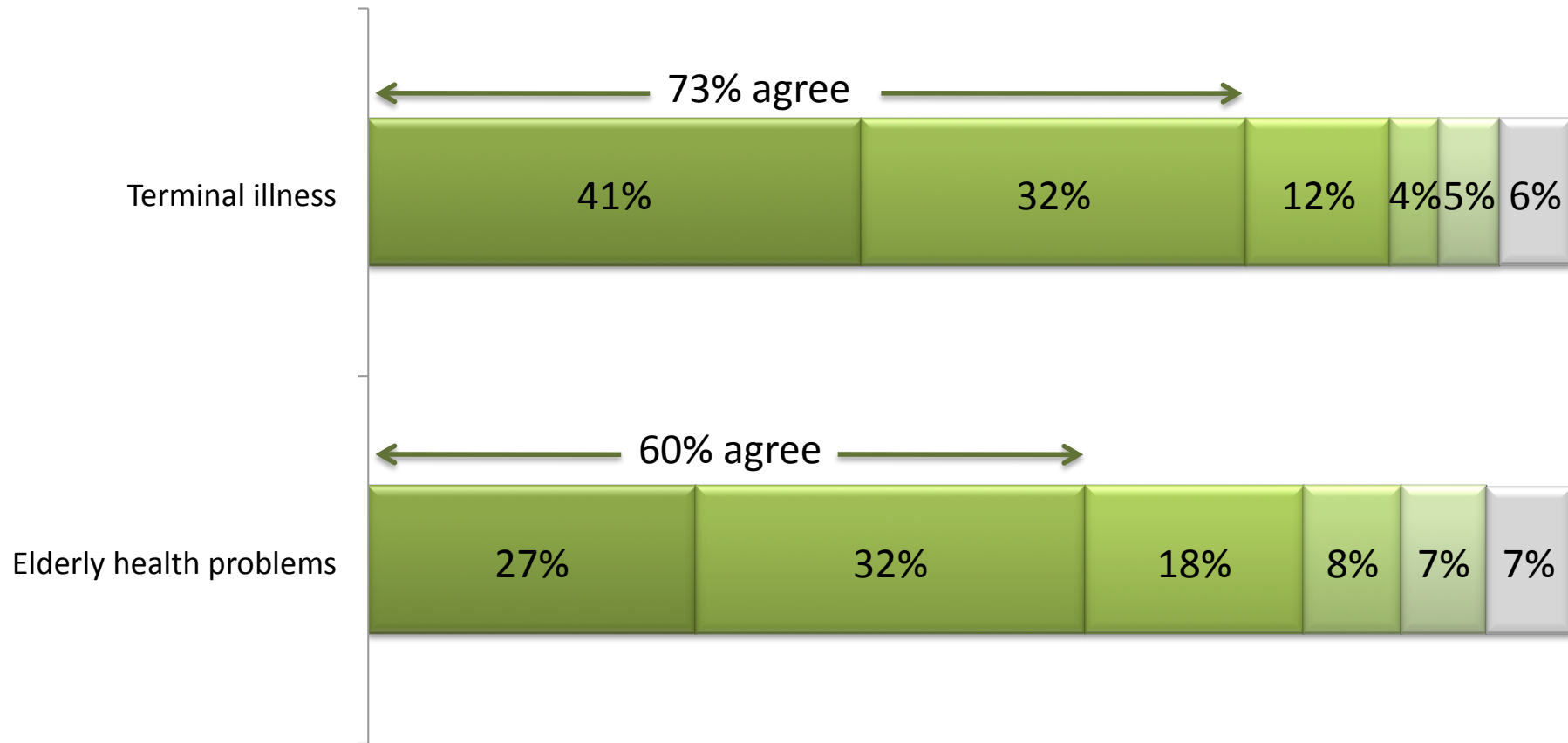
Base: All adults (1008)

Technical note (telephone research)

- A total of 1,008 interviews were completed between 4-6 March 2011 with UK adults aged 18+ (1,009 2-4 July 2010)
- Interviews were conducted by telephone and the data was collected by ICM Omnibus
- Quotas were set by age, gender and working status then weighted to achieve a representative sample of UK adults
- This report is accompanied by data tables
- 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

Fewer 'strongly' agree when a similar sample is asked the same questions **online**

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



■ Strongly agree
 ■ Tend to agree
 ■ Neither
 ■ Tend to disagree
 ■ Strongly disagree
 ■ Don't know

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 (2,024)

Technical note (online research)

- A total of 2,024 interviews were completed between 4-6 March 2011 with UK adults aged 18+
- Interviews were conducted online and the data was collected by ICM Omnibus from their panel of 135,000 panellists (largely recruited by telephone)
- Quotas were set by age, gender and working status then weighted to achieve a representative sample of UK adults
- The online sample profile is very similar to the telephone sample profile so it is likely that there is something about the method of data collection that is influencing the proportions who agree 'strongly'. There are a couple of possibilities:
 - People are considering the moral or legal implications more carefully and moderating their views because they recognise the complexity or their own lack of understanding.
 - The lack of an interviewer removes any social pressure to give a socially desirable or morally correct answer to the interviewer