

Sue Ryder

UK PUBLIC OPINION POLL

**AWARENESS AND
ATTITUDES TO
NEUROLOGICAL
CONDITIONS**



“I fear that I would have everything done for me and have no independence”

Survey Respondent

AWARENESS AND ATTITUDES TO NEUROLOGICAL CONDITIONS

CONTENTS

- 04 | Fear
- 06 | Knowledge
- 10 | Attitudes
- 14 | Treatment, care & critical areas
for the future

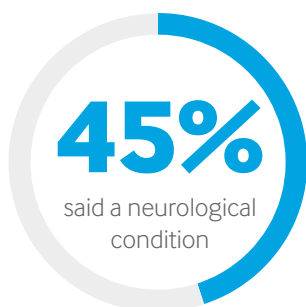
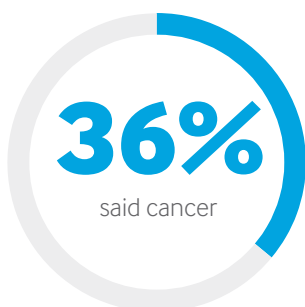
FEAR

People are more fearful of getting a neurological condition than cancer.

“I fear not being in control of my life and not knowing my family.”

Survey Respondent

When asked more broadly (across a range of conditions) which they feared getting most



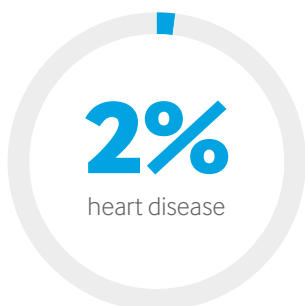
- Dementia (25%)
- MND¹ (12%)
- MS² (3%)
- Parkinson's (3%)
- Huntingdon's (2%)

When asked specifically, if they were diagnosed with a condition that affected their brain, spinal cord and nervous system they would be more fearful than if they had a cancer diagnosis



4 in 10 agreed

Only 10% disagreed, and 51% neither agreed or disagreed



The public is around 20x more fearful of getting a neurological condition than coronary heart disease.

twenty times

The key reasons the public feared getting neurological conditions were related to the burden it would place on their family and loved ones, a lack of independence and poor quality of life – these issues rated higher than the physical pain they might experience or even their impending death. Another major concern centred around the social isolation the disorders might cause.

¹Motor Neurone Disease ²Multiple Sclerosis



When asked which human abilities or senses they fear losing most...

over a
quarter

of the public said they fear losing
their memory the most

the top four answers



37%

said sight



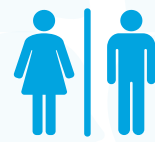
26%

memory



8%

independence



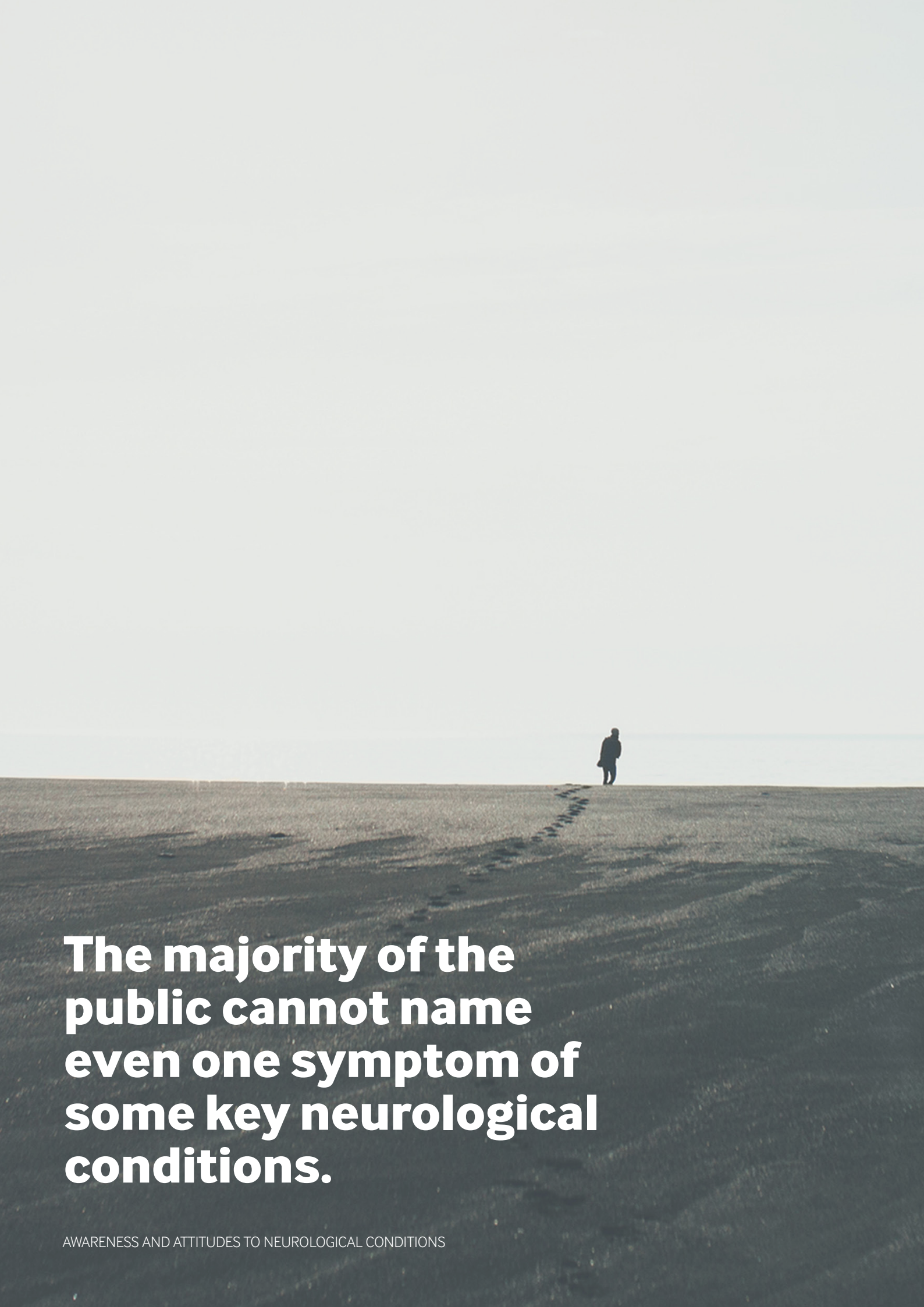
6%

bowel or bladder control

KNOWLEDGE

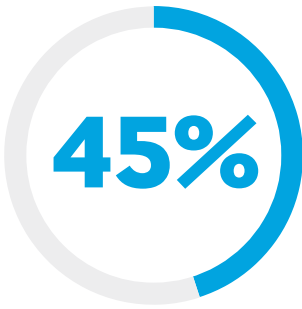
The majority of the public say they have no, or very little, knowledge about neurological disorders with nearly half not being able to name one condition.





The majority of the public cannot name even one symptom of some key neurological conditions.

How many neurological conditions can you name?



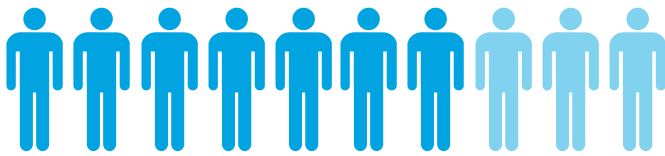
can't name a single neurological condition



say they don't know anything, or know very little, about neurological conditions

two thirds

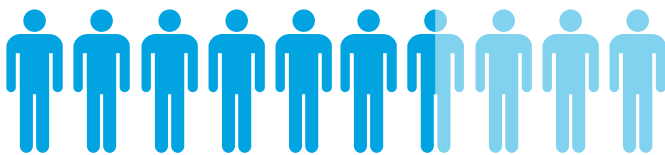
Can you name one symptom of MND, Huntingdon's Disease, MS and Parkinson's?



68% can't name one symptom of MND



85% can't name one symptom of Huntingdon's



65% can't name one symptom of MS



27% can't name one symptom of Parkinson's

"I would experience intense negative emotions and lose my ability to understand what was happening to me."

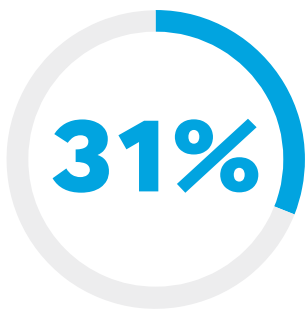
Survey Respondent



ATTITUDE

Over 6 in 10 said that they think the general public can be scared or embarrassed to talk to people with neurological problems in public.

When asked about the stigma associated with neurological conditions



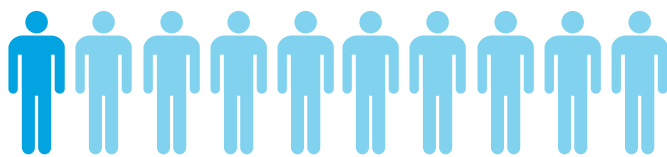
agree that neurological disorders suffer more stigma than any other long term health condition



agree that people can be scared or embarrassed to talk to people with neurological problems in public

two thirds

Have you ever seen or heard someone with a neurological disorder being verbally bullied or teased by a member of the public because of their condition?



8% said yes

There's not much that can be done for people diagnosed with neurological conditions (To what extent do you agree with the following statements?)

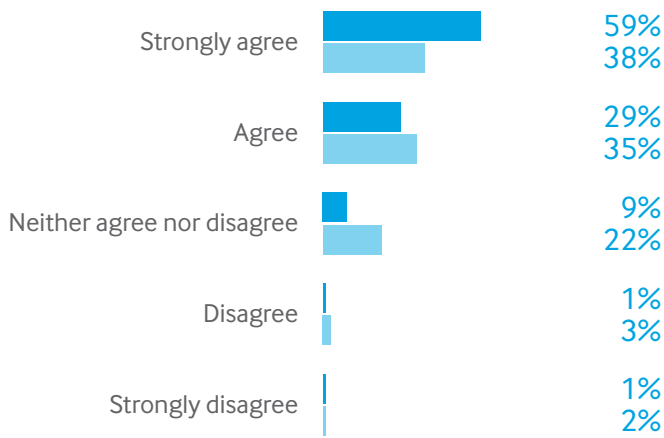


26% agreed

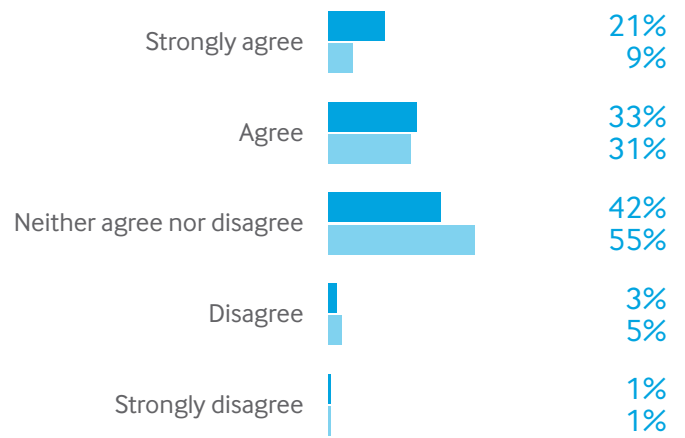
Nearly a third believe these disorders are more stigmatised than any other long term health problem.

Dark Blue Answers from those diagnosed with a neurological condition
Light Blue Answers from those without a neurological condition or not wishing to say

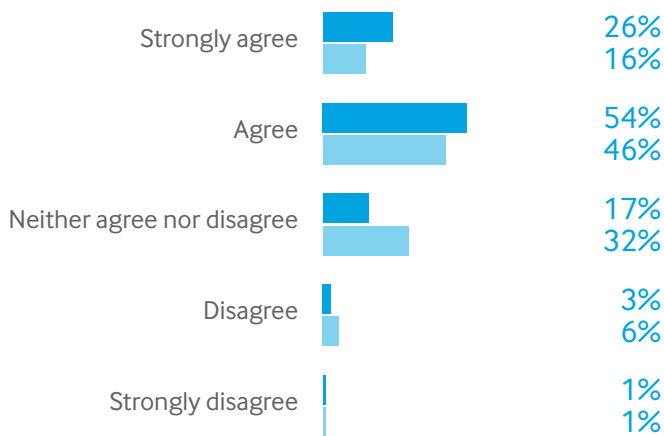
It isn't right to 'write off' those with neurological problems



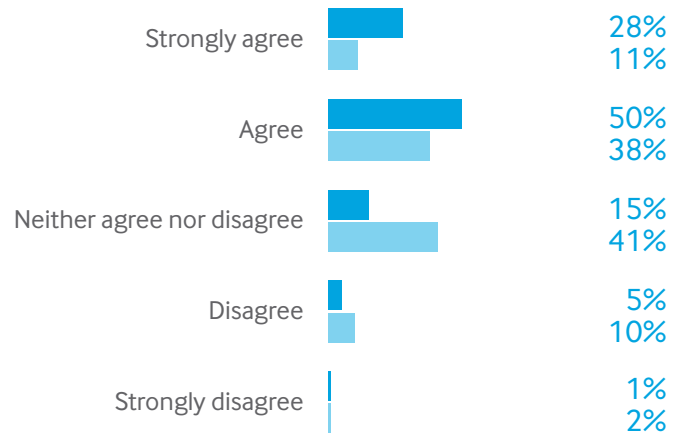
People with neurological conditions may suffer more pain than other conditions



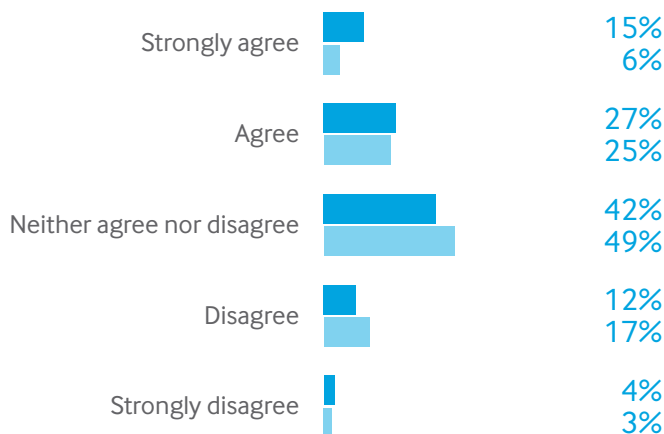
People can be scared or embarrassed to talk to people with neurological conditions in public



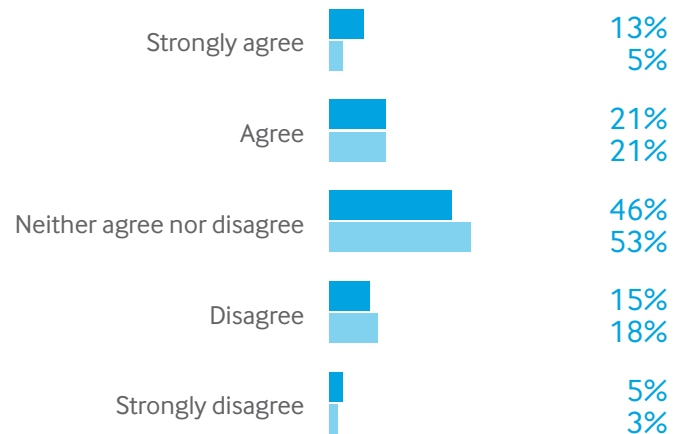
There is still public stigma of having a neurological condition



There is more stigma surrounding neurological conditions than any other disease or long term condition



People with neurological conditions are more stigmatised than those with mental health problems



CARE

Treatment, care & critical areas for the future

On a positive note, the vast majority of the public agree that we shouldn't 'write off' people with neurological disorders and that treatment & care is improving.



A close-up photograph of two hands clasped together in a supportive grip. The hand on the left is wearing a grey, ribbed sweater cuff. The background is a soft, out-of-focus landscape with warm, golden light, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The overall mood is one of care and support.

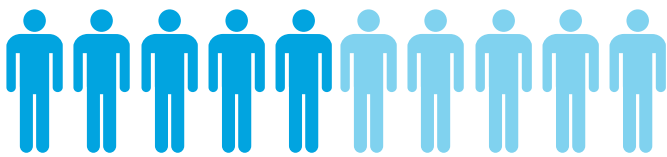
But the public believes more investment in NHS services, a national awareness campaign, technological innovation and 'excellent' charity services can all help to improve the lives of patients.

Nearly three quarters of the public think it isn't right to 'write off' people with neurological disorders



73%

Half agree that healthcare professionals in hospitals and in the community are working together to improve the quality of life of people with neurological disorders



50%

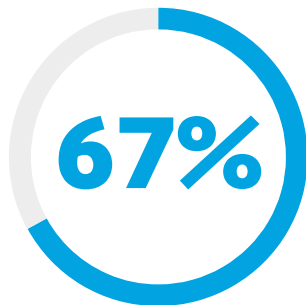


58% agree that NHS and local authorities should put greater funding into treatment & care

74% agree that a national awareness campaign is needed to educate everyone about different conditions and their symptoms, treatment & care



of the public agree that **technology is improving** the lives of people with neurological disorders



think that people with neurological disorders can now live more **independent lives than 30 years ago**



think public awareness of this area is **improving**



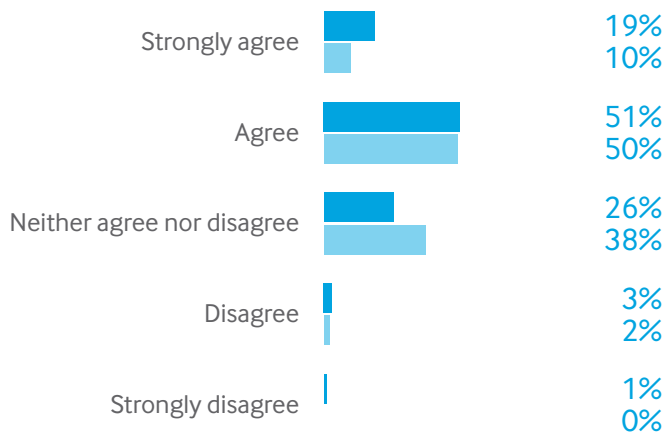
think that treatment & care is **improving**

52% agree that the charity sector can provide excellent specialist care and support for people with neurological disorders in different settings

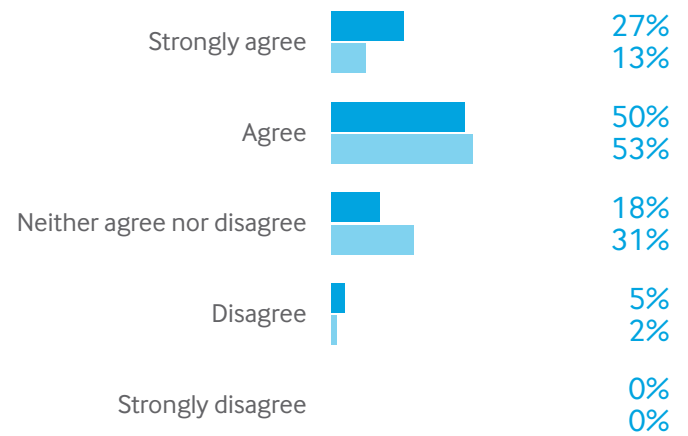


Dark Blue Answers from those diagnosed with a neurological condition
Light Blue Answers from those without a neurological condition or not wishing to say

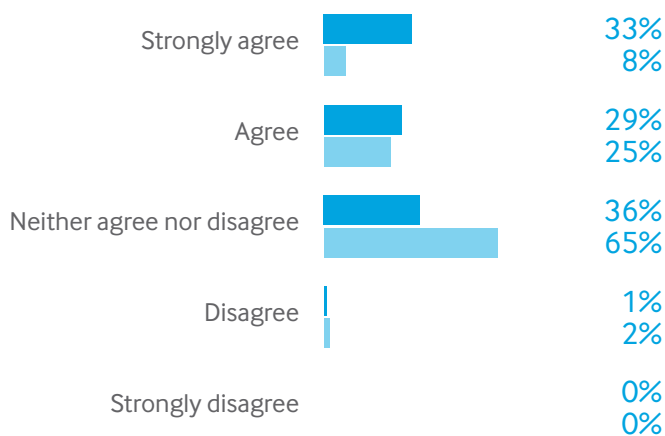
Technology is improving the lives of people with neurological conditions



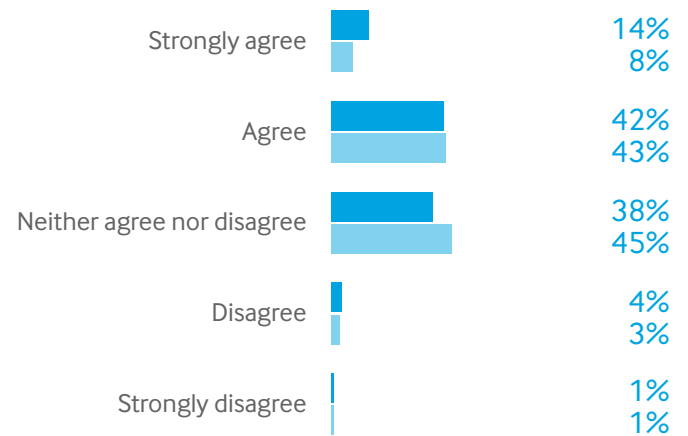
People with neurological problems are able to live more independent lives than 30 years ago



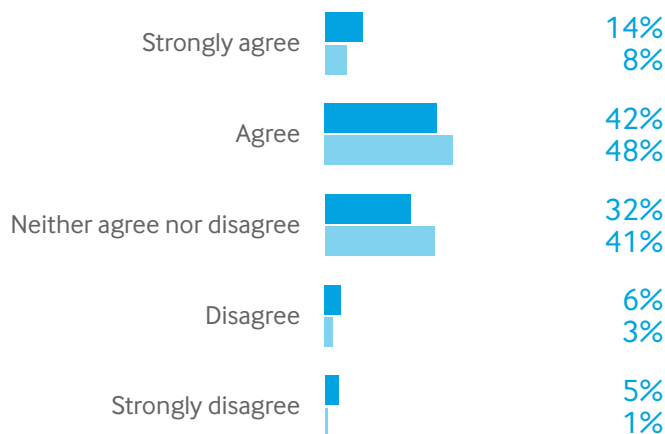
Neurological services in the UK are fragmented



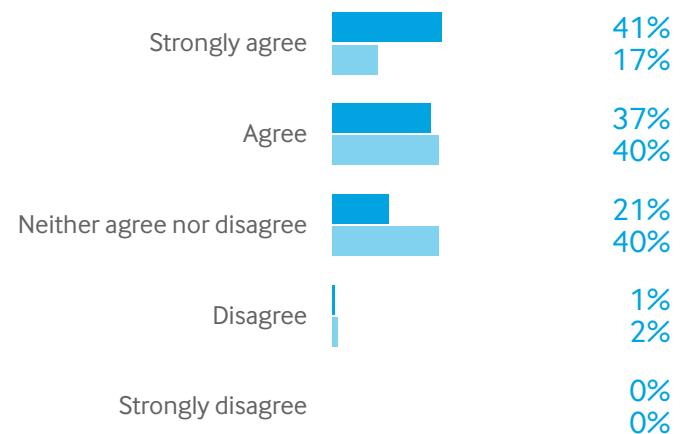
The charity sector can provide excellent specialist care and support at home, in a residential or community setting



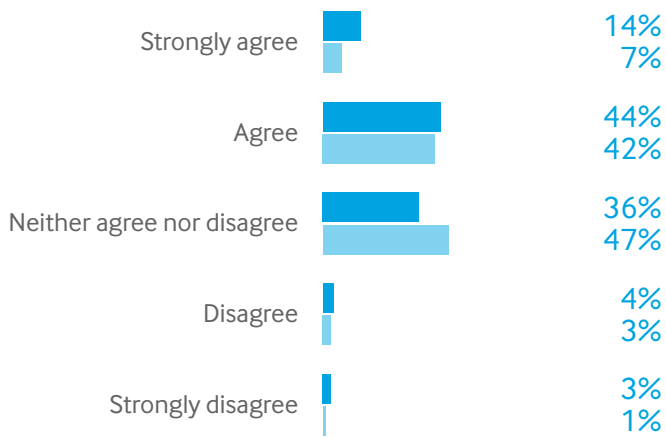
Treatment & care for people with neurological conditions is improving



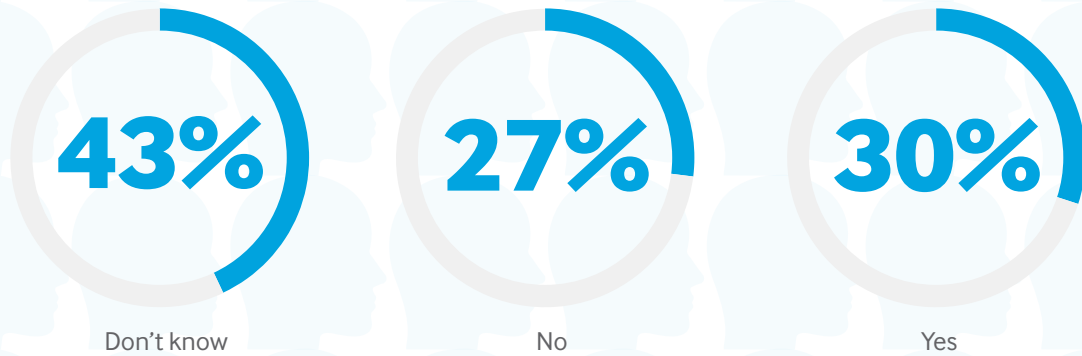
NHS & local authorities should put greater funding into treatment & care for people with neurological disorders



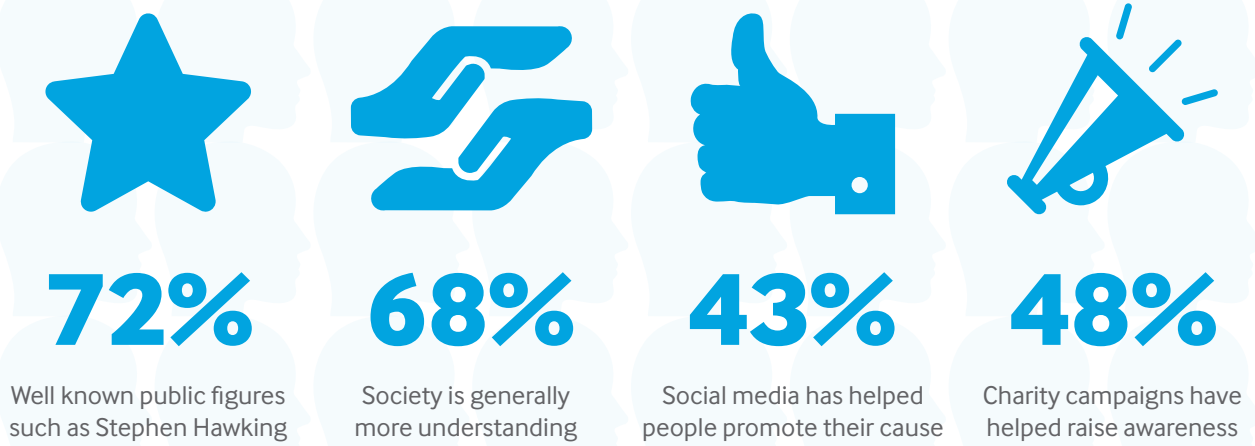
Health professionals work together to improve the quality of life of people with neurological problems



Do you think the general public's knowledge and perceptions of neurological conditions are improving?

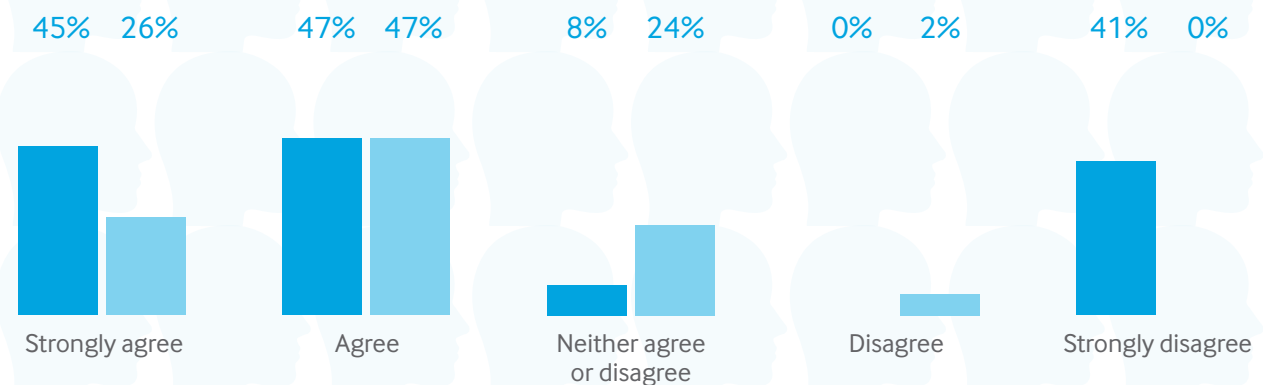


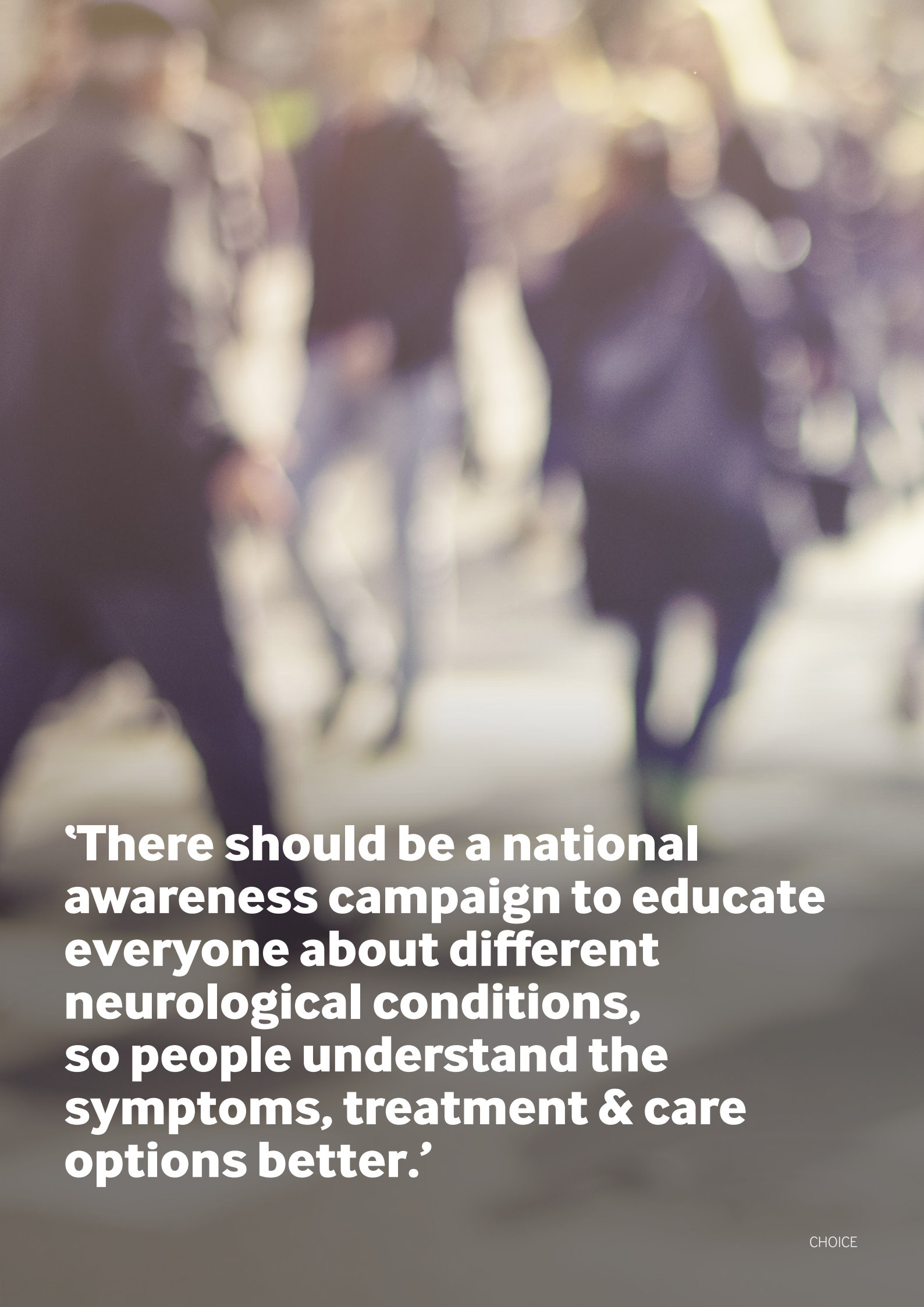
Why do you think the general public's knowledge and perceptions of neurological conditions are improving?



To what extent do you agree with the following statement?

'There should be a national awareness campaign to educate everyone about different neurological conditions, so people understand the symptoms, treatment & care options better'





‘There should be a national awareness campaign to educate everyone about different neurological conditions, so people understand the symptoms, treatment & care options better.’

Sue Ryder

Survey conducted online among 2,000 UK adult residents aged 18+ years by OnePoll
Nationally representative sample
19 questions