

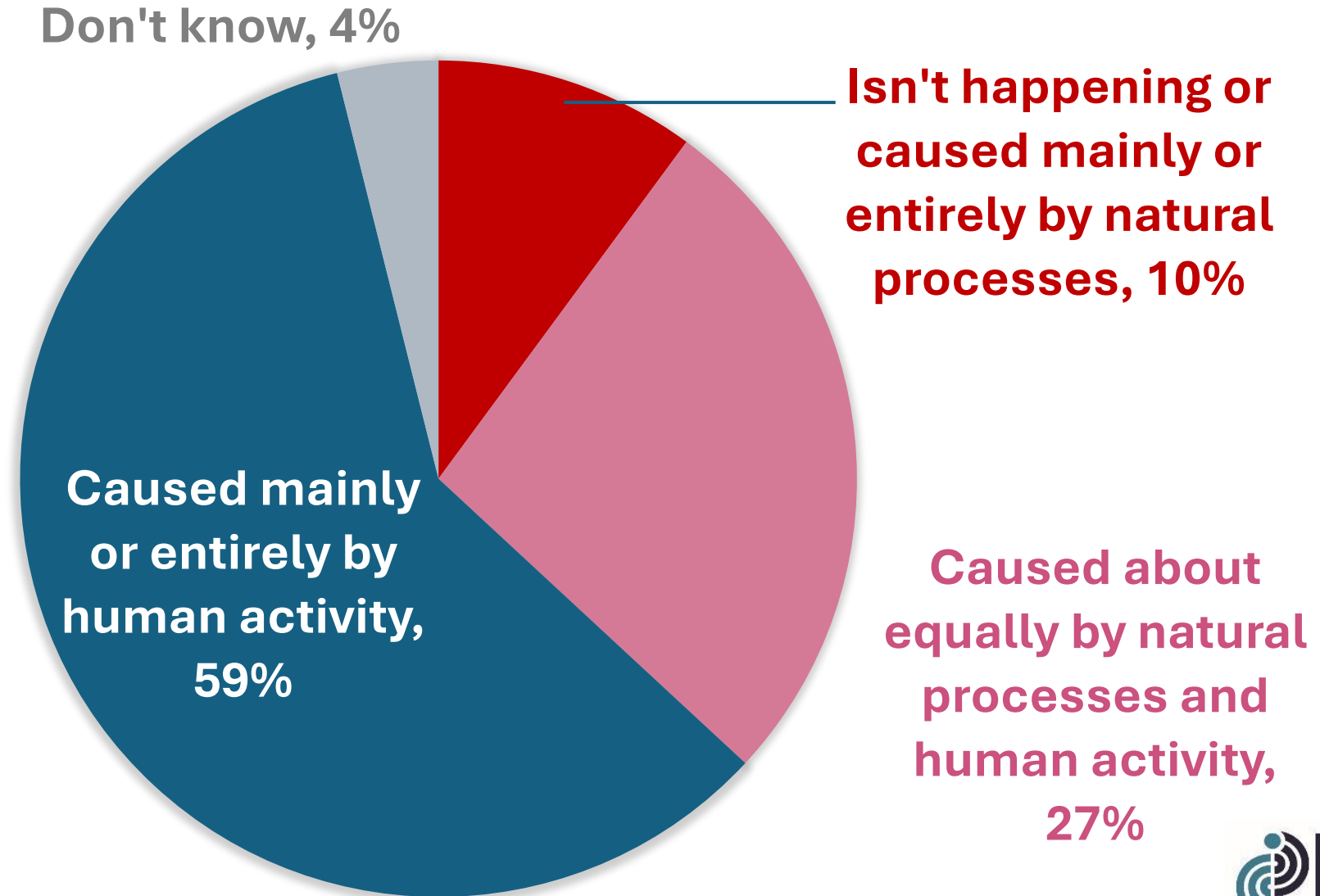
A climate of trust?

Society & climate change
in Northern Ireland

Katy Hayward &
Jonny Hanson

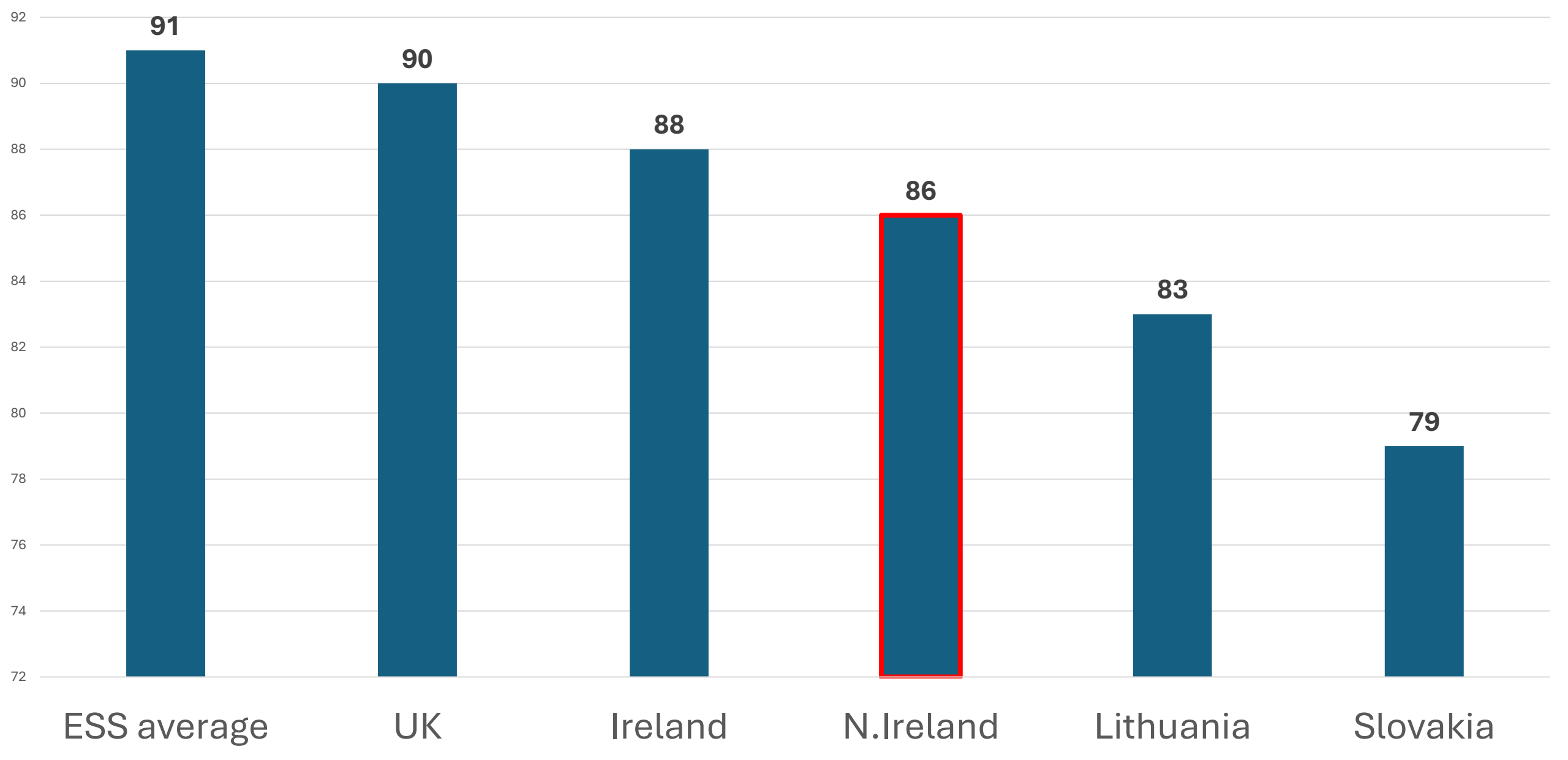
27th May 2025

Do you think climate change is caused by natural processes, human activity or both? (NILT, 2024, %)



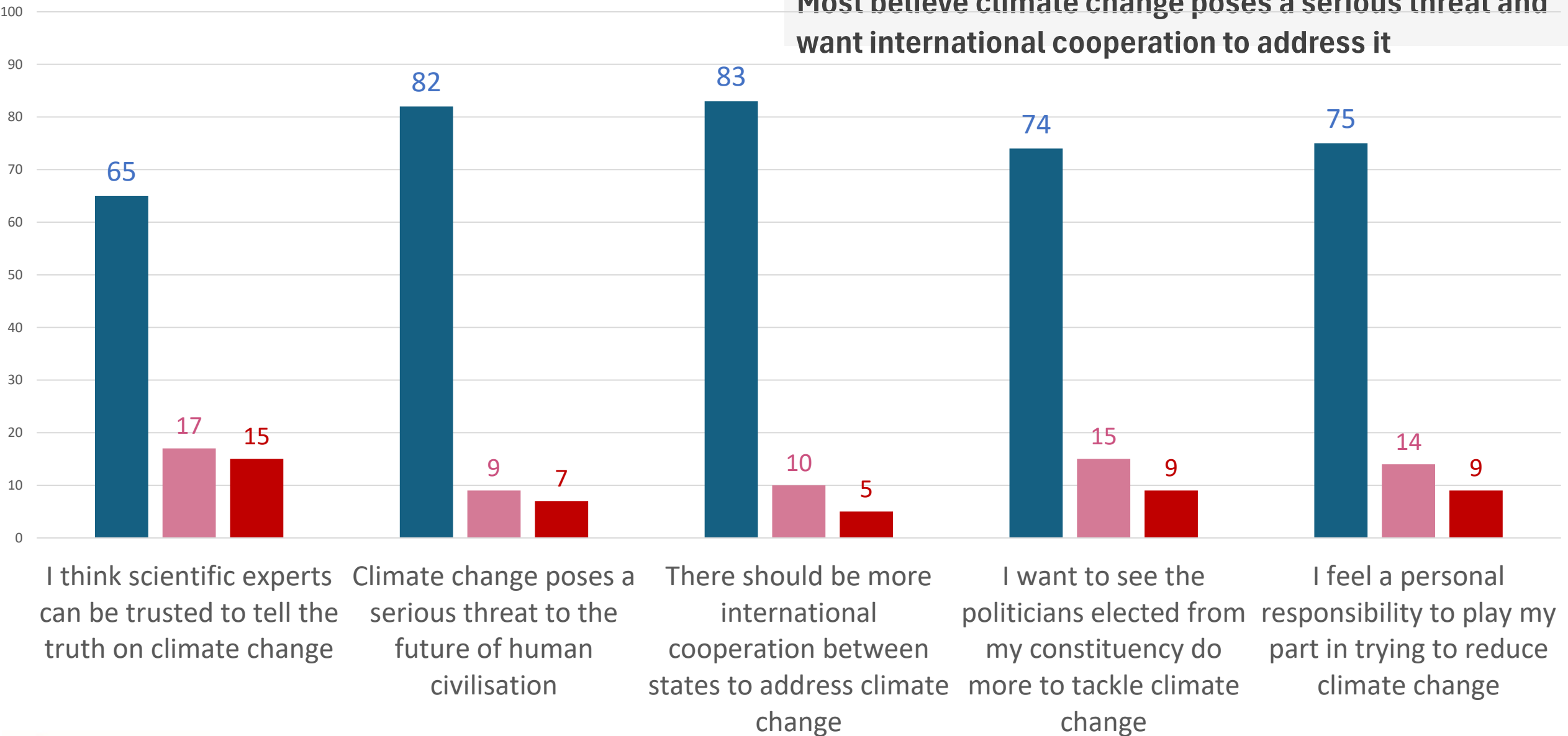
Most see human activity as being the primary cause of climate change.

Percentage believing climate change is caused at least as much by human activity as natural causes? (European Social Survey, 2024; NILT, 2024)

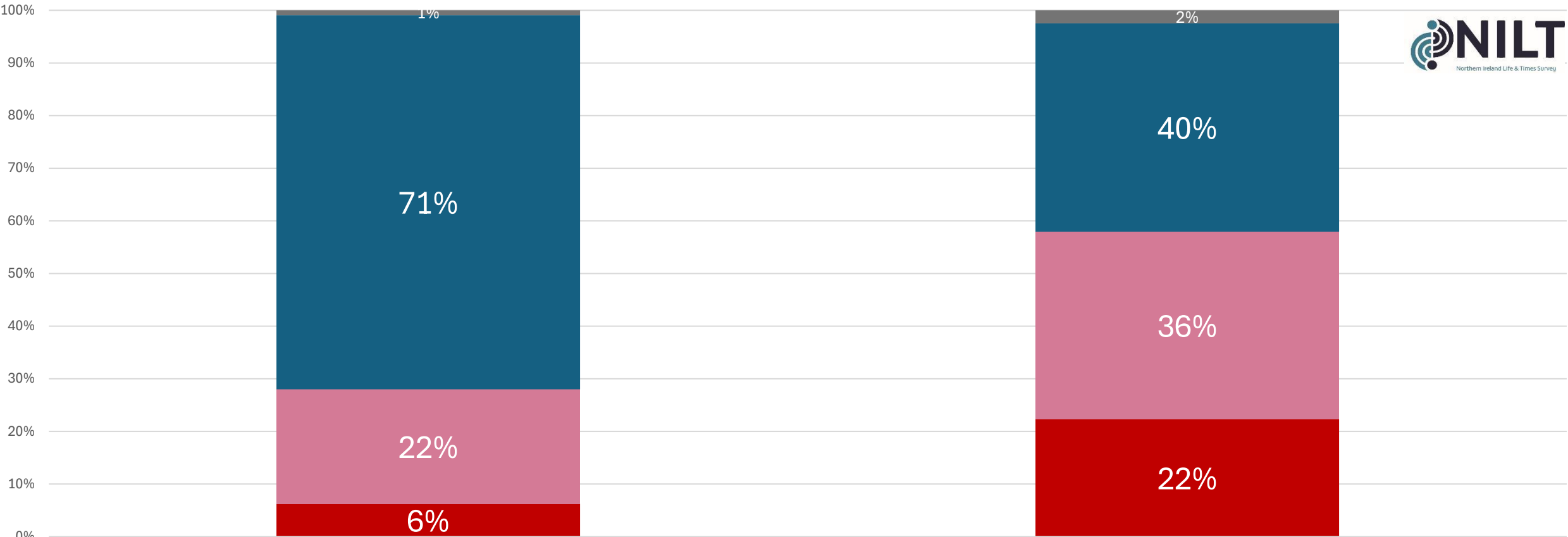


How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements? (NILT, 2024, %)

Most believe climate change poses a serious threat and want international cooperation to address it



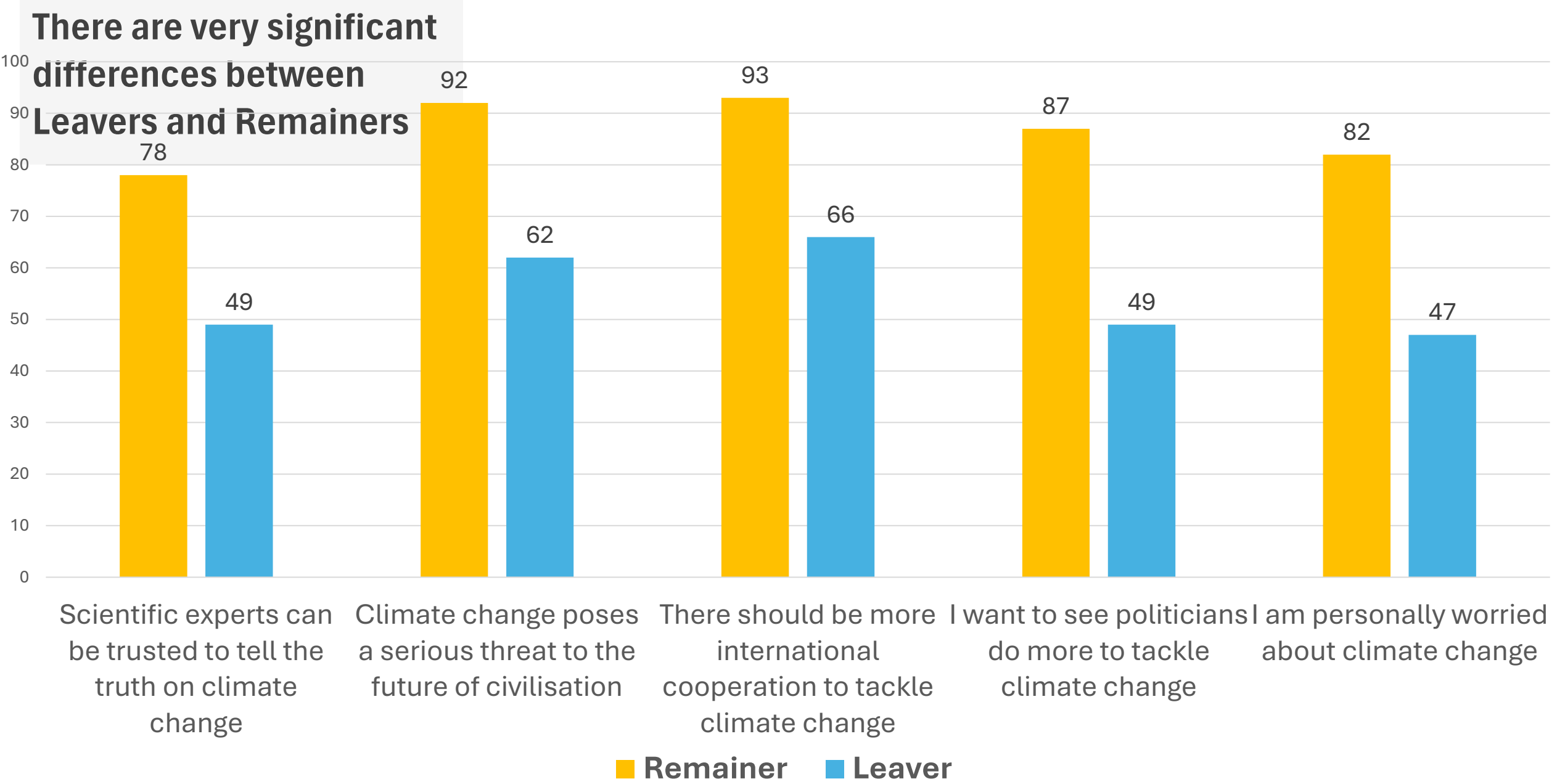
Do you think climate change is caused by natural processes, human activity or both? (NILT, 2024, %) *(Brexit vote)*



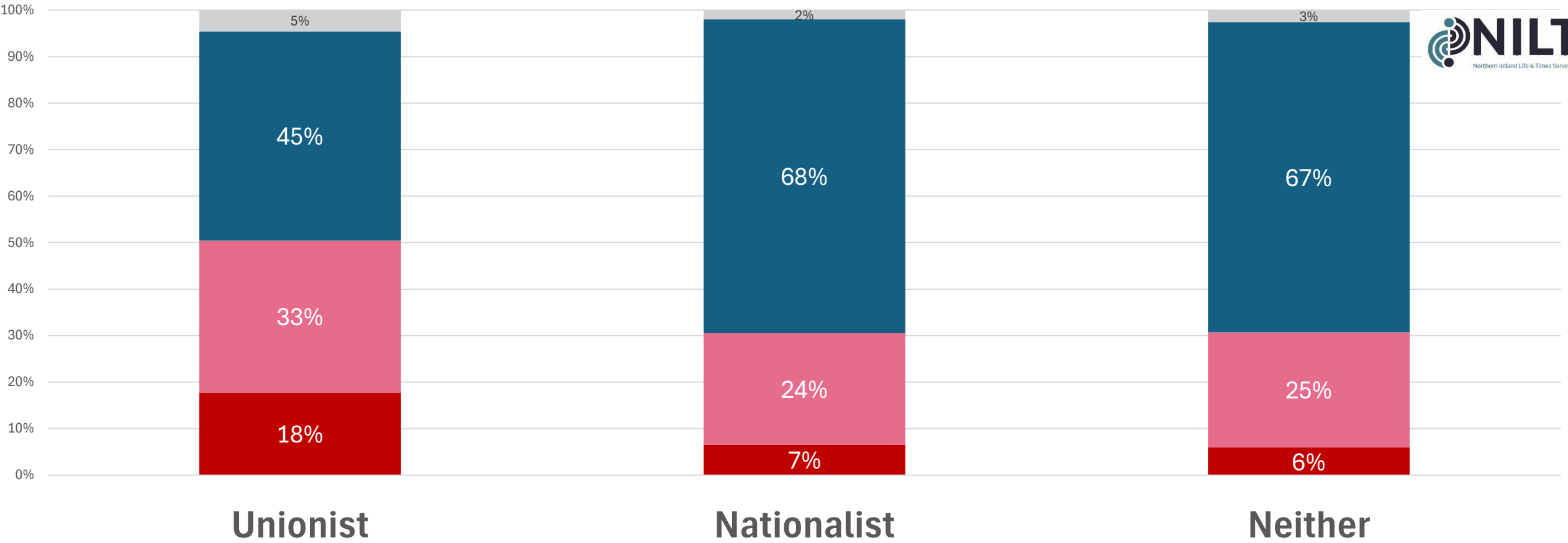
- Don't know
- Caused mainly or entirely by human activity
- Caused equally by natural and human processes
- Isn't happening or caused mainly or entirely by natural processes

Leave-voters are much more likely to be sceptical about the human causes of climate change than Remain-voters

Difference between Brexit Remain and Leave voters (NILT, 2024, %)



Do you think climate change is caused by natural processes, human activity or both? (NILT, 2024, %) *(political affiliation)*



■ Don't know

■ Caused mainly or entirely by human activity

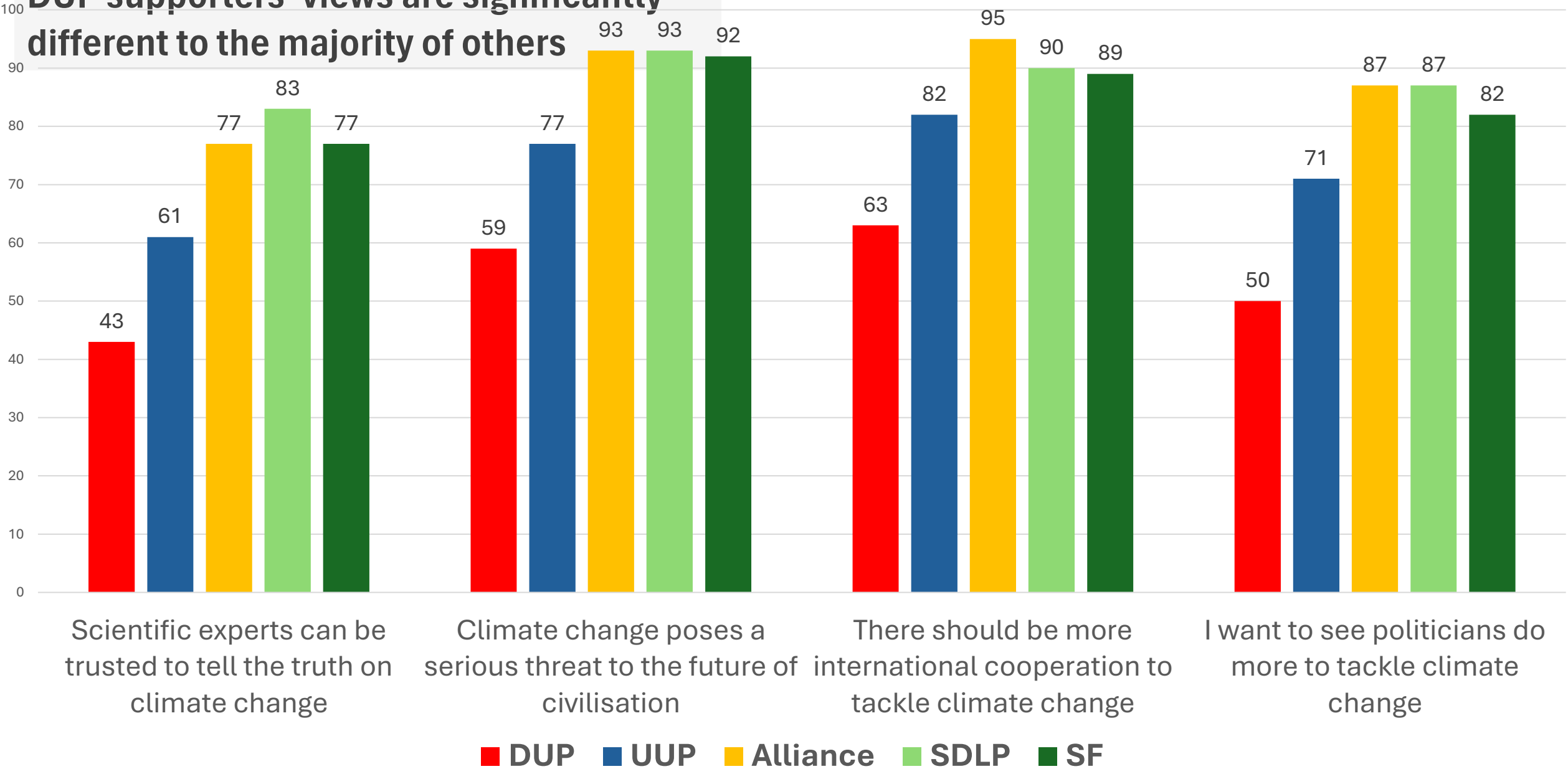
■ Caused equally by natural and human processes

■ Isn't happening or caused mainly or entirely by natural processes

Unionists are more likely to be sceptical about the human causes of climate change than nationalists/others.

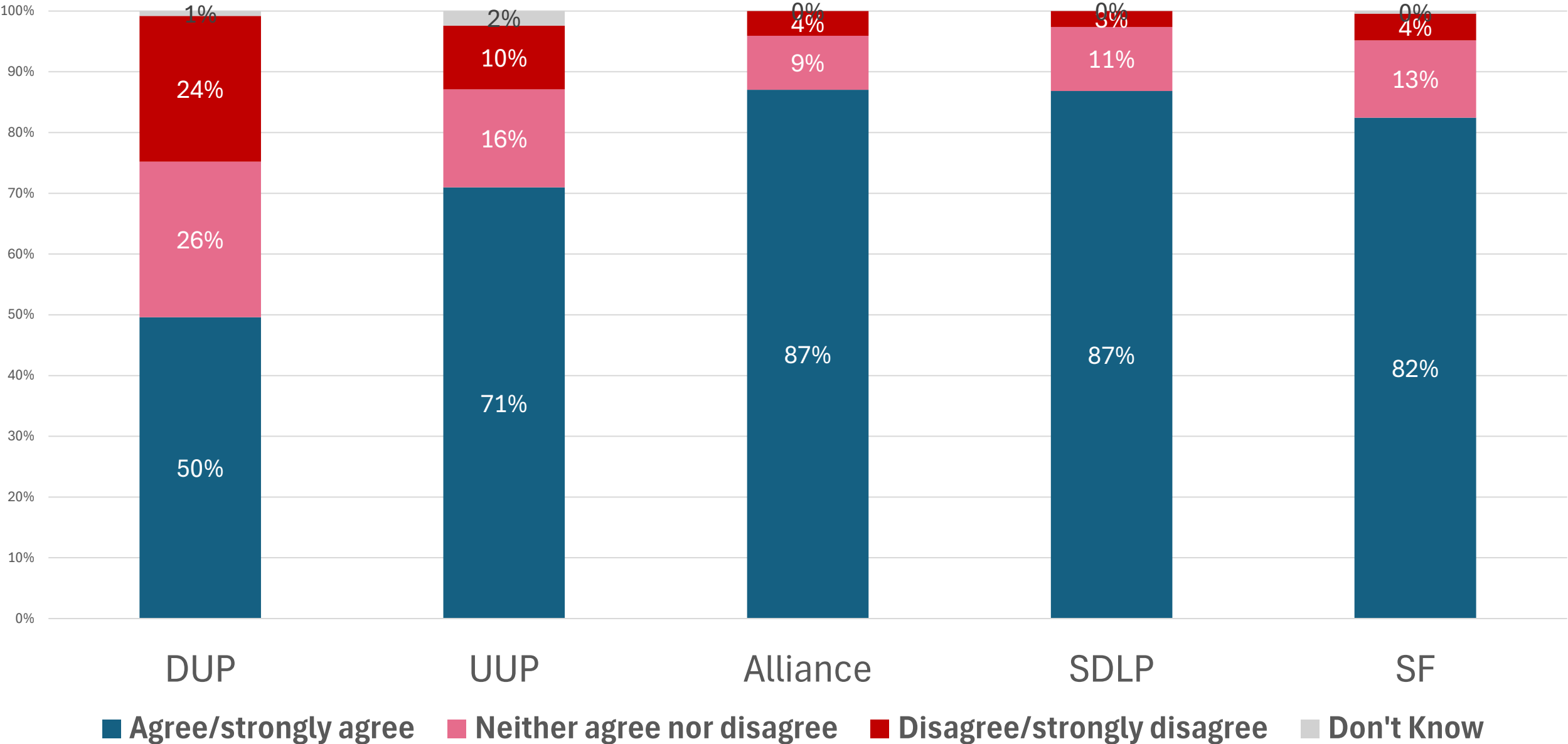
Difference between those supporting different parties (NILT, 2024, %)

DUP supporters' views are significantly different to the majority of others



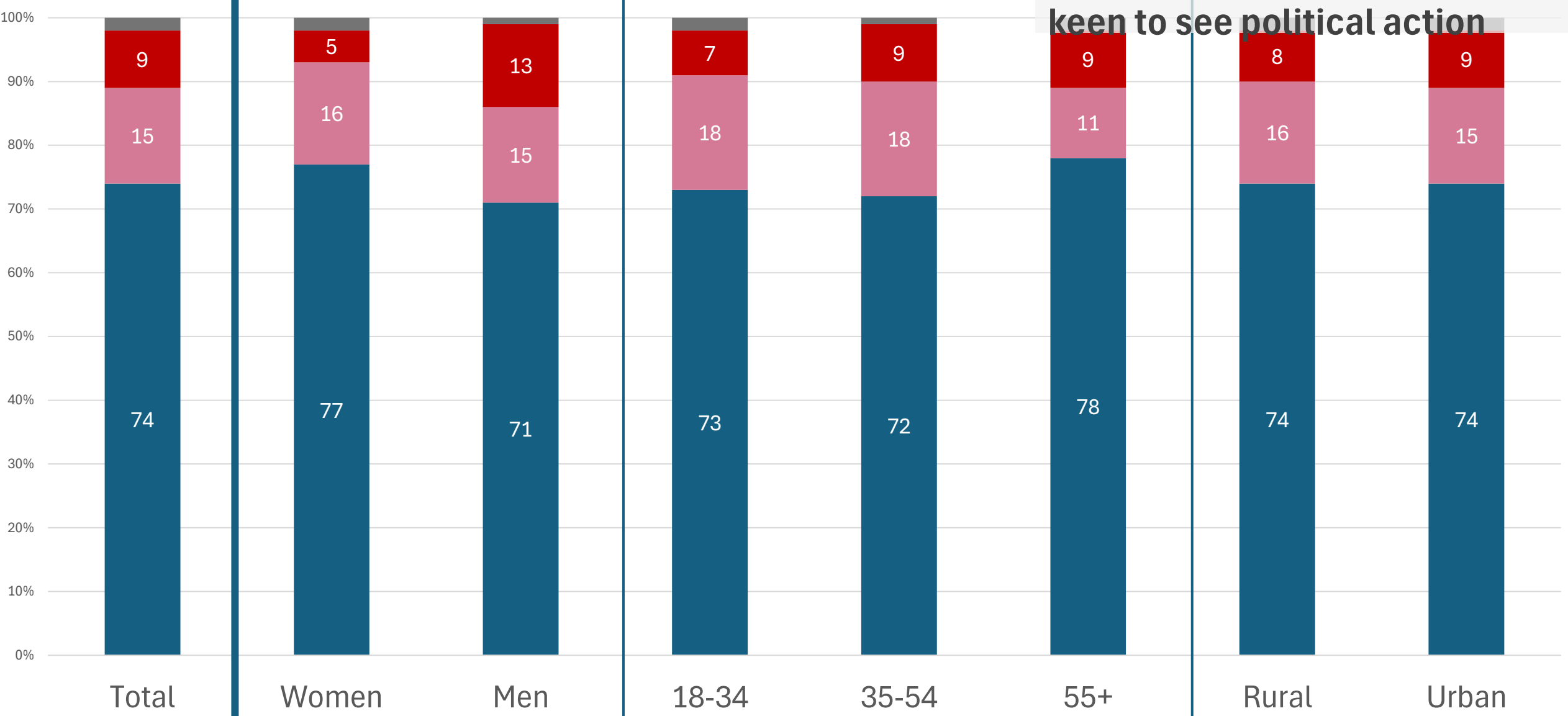
How much do you agree or disagree that you want to see the politicians elected ...do more to tackle climate change? (NILT, 2024, %) (by party supported)

DUP supporters less keen for political action



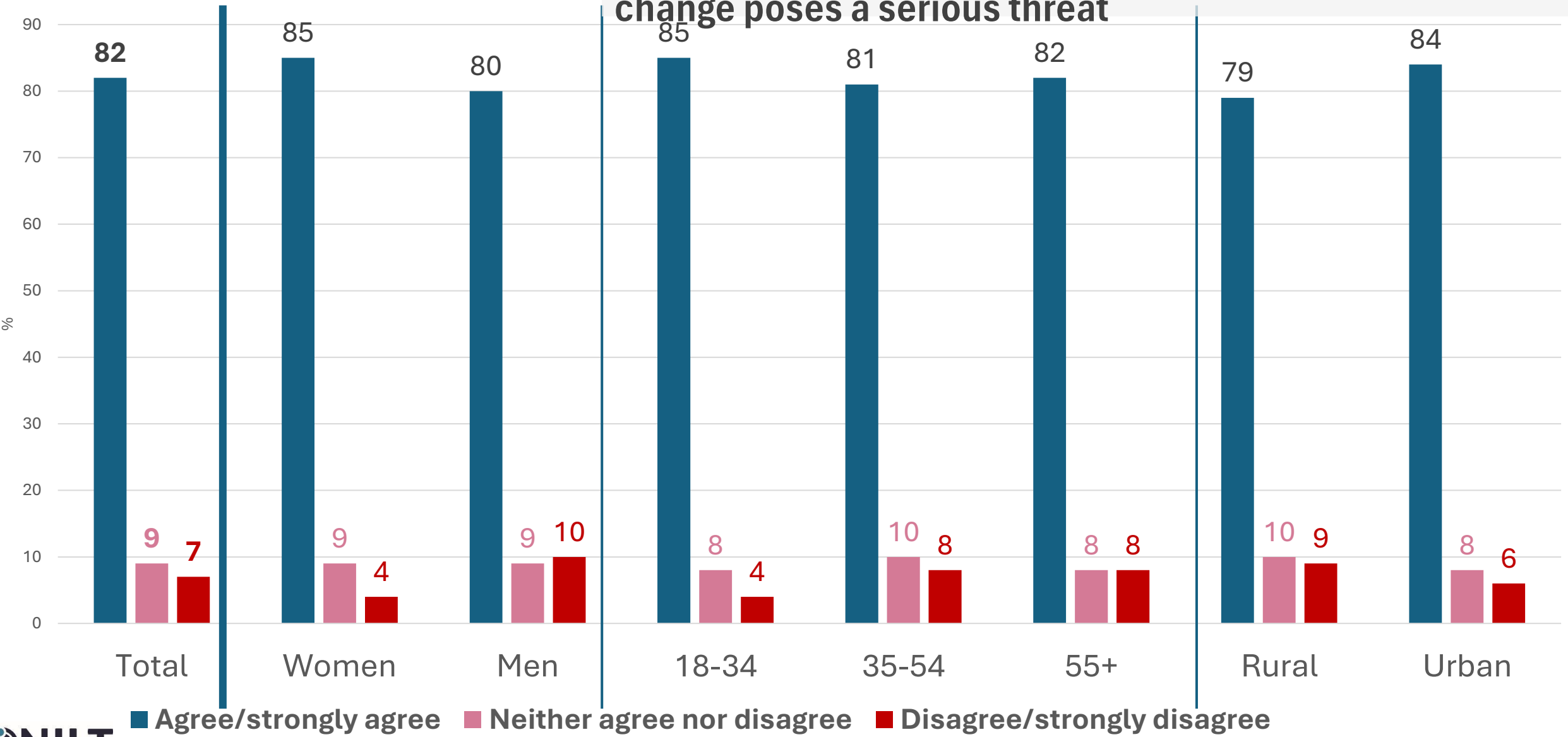
How much do you agree or disagree that you want to see the politicians elected from your constituency do more to tackle climate change? (NILT, 2024, %)

Women, older people are more keen to see political action



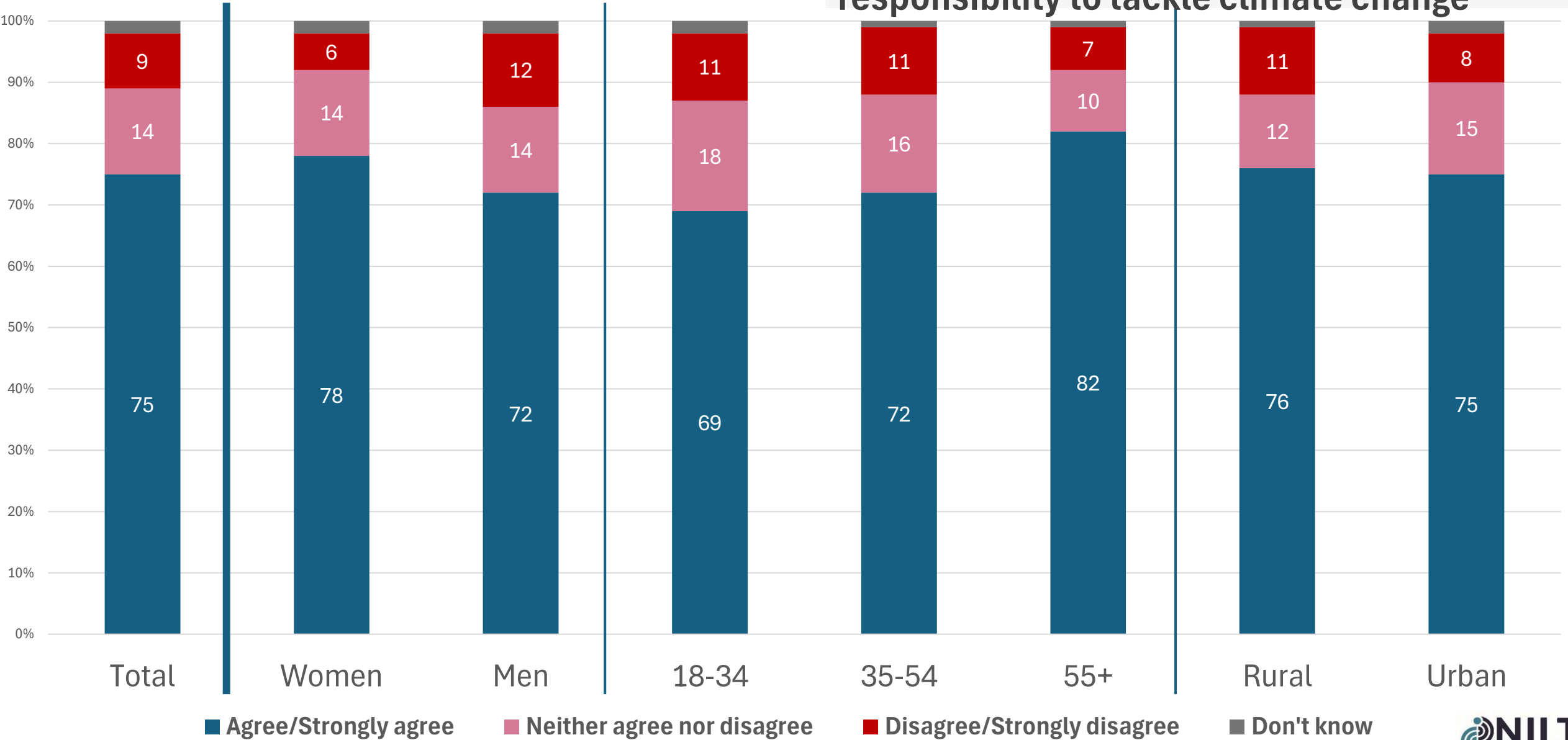
How much do you agree or disagree that climate change poses a serious threat to the future of human civilisation? (NILT, 2024, %)

Rural dwellers and Men are less convinced climate change poses a serious threat



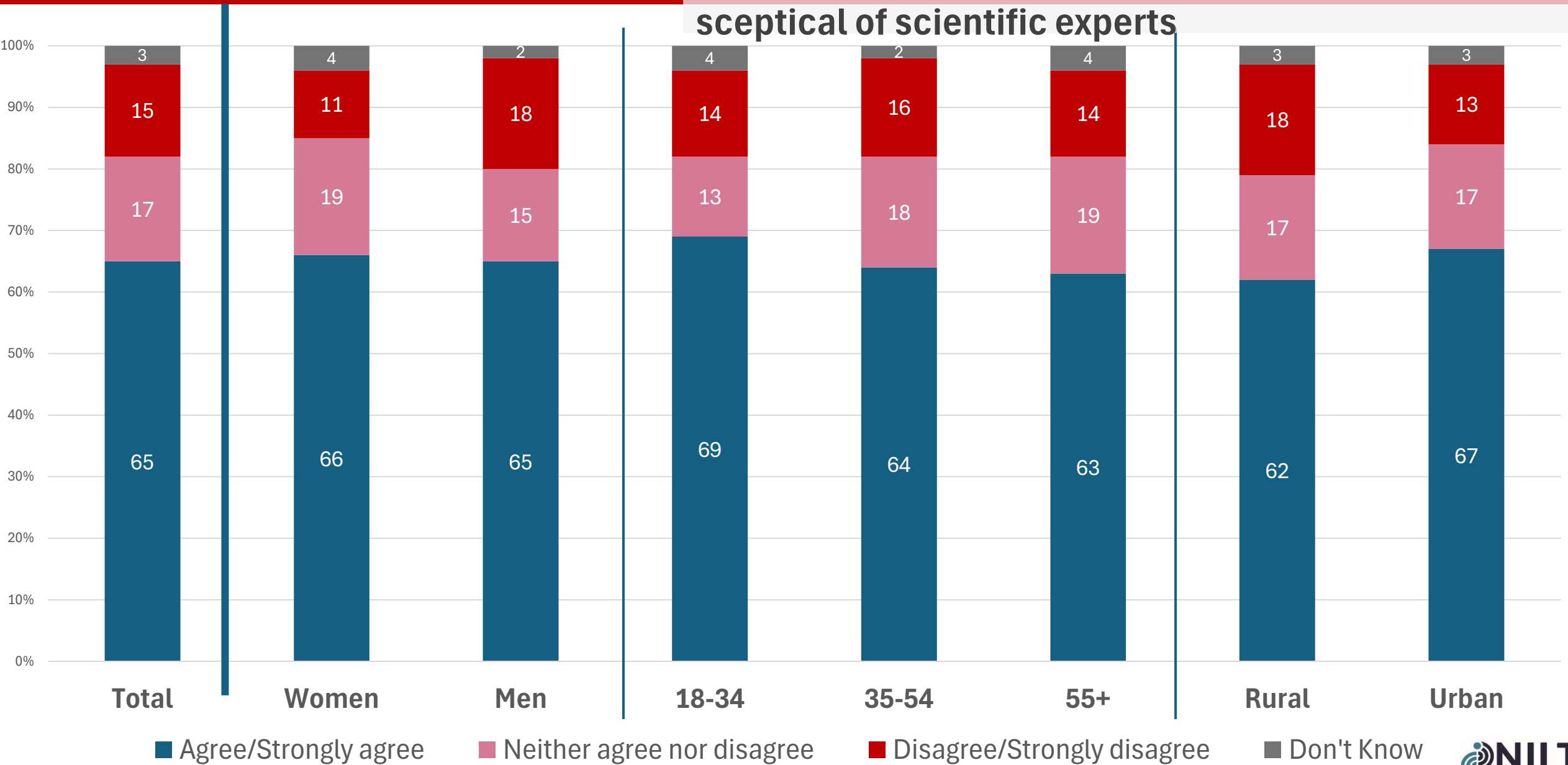
How much do you agree or disagree that you feel a personal responsibility to play your part in trying to reduce climate change? (NILT, 2024, %)

Women & older people feel more personal responsibility to tackle climate change



How much do you agree or disagree that scientific experts can be trusted to tell the truth on climate change? (NILT, 2024, %)

Rural dwellers, older people and men are more sceptical of scientific experts



Summary

- Northern Ireland is one of the most **climate-sceptical** regions in Europe
- **Yet a clear majority** of respondents (8 out of 10) believe that climate change poses a serious threat to the future of human civilisation and want to see states cooperate internationally to address it.
- **Brexit:** Leave voters are far more likely than Remain voters to be sceptical about climate change and far less likely to feel concerned about it or to wish to see action to address it.
- **Party:** DUP supporters' views on climate change are significantly different to those of other Executive parties in Northern Ireland, being far more sceptical of climate change and less concerned to see action to tackle it.
- **Gender:** men personally less worried, less keen to see political action, and less likely to feel a sense of personal responsibility to address it than women.
- **Rural/Urban:** rural dwellers less likely to trust scientific experts on the topic and less convinced it poses a serious threat.
- **Age:** Younger people (18-34 years) are more trusting of scientific experts but less likely to feel a sense of personal responsibility or enthusiasm for political action to address climate change