



Commercial sexual exploitation of children and young people

Attitudes towards the problem in selected
countries of Central and Eastern Europe

Report from quantitative research

Nobody's Children Foundation

2015



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I. OBJECT AND CONTEXT OF THE STUDY

This section of the report is based on: Żurkowska, D. (2015), Komercyjne wykorzystywanie seksualne dzieci i młodzieży. Postawy Polaków wobec zjawiska w latach 2011-2014, Dziecko Krzywdzone, no. X(X).

COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

This report presents the results of **an international research project** carried out by the Nobody's Children Foundation in 6 countries of Central and Eastern Europe within the programme „*Prevention of child sexual abuse and exploitation in Central and Eastern Europe – a comprehensive approach*”. The study explored **social attitudes towards** commercial sexual exploitation of children and young people.

DEFINITION

COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN is defined as **sexual abuse where any form of compensation in cash or in kind is made to the child or a third person(s)**. This definition was developed by the authors of the Declaration and Agenda for Action against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, adopted in 1996 in Stockholm, also by the Polish government.

Commercial sexual exploitation of children is a **contemporary form of slavery** in which children are treated as **sexual and commercial objects**.

The problem takes several forms including: **child prostitution and child pornography, child sex tourism, trafficking of children for sexual purposes, and child marriages** (ECPAT International; FDN, 2012).

COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

DEFINITION: VARIOUS FORMS OF COMMERCIAL EXPLOITATION (in: Włodarczyk, Hamela, 2011)

- **Survival sex** – occurs when children are unable to meet their basic needs (such as food) in any other, socially accepted way.
- **Aspirational prostitution** – occurs when prostitution is a means to achieve a higher economic and social status and is motivated by a desire to belong to a specific group; here sex is often traded for money or for branded or luxury goods.
- **Sponsoring** – providing sexual services in exchange for long-term financial support offered by a „sponsor” (who may pay the rent, tuition fees, etc.)
- **Commercial cybersex** – exchanging pictures and videos (which show the child naked or in underwear), sexual text messages, or sexual chats for payment or other benefits, such as mobile phone top-ups)

THE SCALE OF COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

GLOBAL PROBLEM

Experts note that commercial sexual exploitation of children is a **global problem**. It is constantly changing with the on-going **globalization processes** and the development of new technologies, especially information and communication technologies (ECPAT International; FDN, 2012).

The International Labour Organisation estimates that **each year about 1.2 million children become victims of human trafficking**, mainly for the purposes of commercial sexual exploitation or forced labour. Commercial exploitation of children in child prostitution and child pornography is a major **source of income for organised criminal groups** that often operate on an international scale (FDN, 2012).

However, it is difficult to estimate the scale of commercial exploitation of children on the global level. The main **obstacles** include: the lack of coherent systems of data collection and classification; the diversity of legal systems and solutions which leads to different ways of classifying cases; and the limitations of the official statistics which only include reported or detected cases (Wojtkowska, 2012).

II. RESEARCH OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

- To assess **social attitudes** towards the problem of commercial sexual exploitation of children in selected countries of Central and Eastern Europe.
- To obtain **social perception** of various forms of children and young people's sexual behaviour for commercial purposes, and their **perceived prevalence** on the national level.
- To elicit the respondents' opinions about the existence of **risk groups** that are especially likely to engage in such sexual behaviour.
- To assess the **level of public support for penalizing** various behaviours regarded as forms of commercial sexual exploitation of children and young people.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

To accomplish the research objectives, a **quantitative study** was conducted in 6 countries using the **same research instrument** (questionnaire) within a **limited time frame** (2014-2015). The study was conducted on **nationally representative samples**, which enabled international comparisons of data.

The questionnaire included 6 close-end questions, both single choice and multiple choice. The respondents expressed their views on **various aspects of children's and young people's engagement in commercial sexual behaviours**, such as: social perception of such behaviours and their perceived prevalence in each country; the causes and motivations behind such behaviour; the existence of risk groups – children and young people who are especially susceptible to the problem; and the respondents' support for penalising the provision and use of such services.

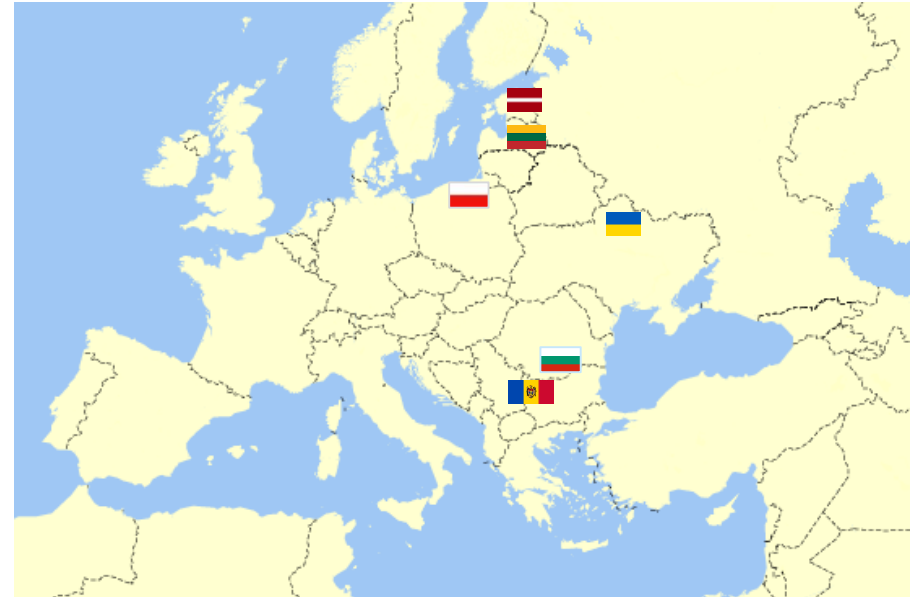
It is planned **to repeat the study in 2019** using the same methodology.

RESEARCH METHODS

The survey was conducted in 6 European countries:
Bulgaria, Lithuania, Latvia, Moldova, Poland, and Ukraine.

In each country the study was conducted on a **nationally representative sample** (except for Bulgaria where the data were weighed to make sure they are representative for the population).

Depending on the local conditions and capacities, the study was conducted using the CAPI, CATI or CAWI methods.



	Bulgaria	Lithuania	Latvia	Moldova	Poland	Ukraine
Sample size	N=611	N=1000	N=1007	N=1015	N=988	N=1039
Time	Mar 2015	Mar 2015	Jan 2015	Mar 2015	Oct-Nov 2014	Jan 2015
Method	CATI	CAWI	CAWI	CAPI	CAPI	CAWI
Research company		RAIT				

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The survey addressed **4 forms of commercial sexual exploitation of children and young people** that were presented to the respondents as brief case descriptions:

OPERATIONALISATION

- **ASPIRATIONAL PROSTITUTION:** *A boy or girl of 16 or 17 has sex with adult partners in exchange for various gifts (e.g, clothes, cosmetics, electronic gadgets, etc.).*
- **SURVIVAL SEX:** *A boy or girl of 16 or 17, living in a poor family, has sex in exchange for means of subsistence, basic needs, education, etc.*
- **SPONSORING:** *A boy or girl of 16 or 17 has sex with one adult partner or sponsor in exchange for regular financial support.*
- **COMMERCIAL CYBERSEX:** *A boy or girl of 16 or 17 shares his/her naked photos online in exchange for payment or other benefits.*

III. RESULTS



BULGARIA



LITHUANIA



LATVIA



MOLDOVA



POLAND

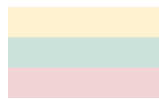


UKRAINE

Detailed results by country



BULGARIA



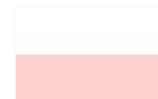
LITWA



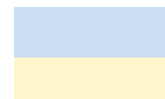
ŁOTWA



MOŁDAWIA



POLSKA



UKRAINA

Detailed results by country:

BULGARIA

BULGARIA: SUMMARY OF RESULTS

In Bulgaria the most negatively perceived form of commercial sexual activity was **cybersex**. **94%** of respondents regarded this behaviour as wrong or very wrong.

Survival sex was perceived as the least reprehensible. Still, the vast majority (**73%**) of respondents considered such behaviour to be wrong or very wrong.

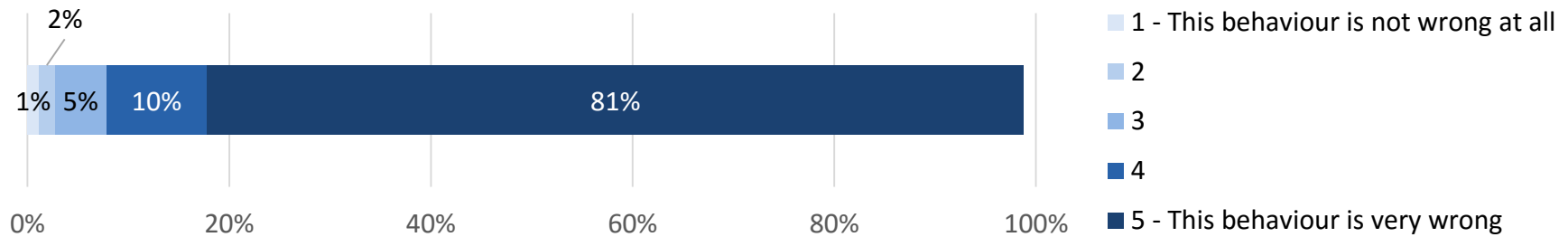
Among the examined forms of commercial sexual exploitation, **aspirational prostitution** was seen as the most prevalent or real problem. **71%** of respondents believed many people in Bulgaria engaged in such behaviour.

71% of the sample thought there were groups of children and young people in Bulgaria who were at higher risk of engaging in sex in exchange for payment or other benefits. According to most respondents, those are **children from pathological or poor families** and **families where parents have no time for their kids**.

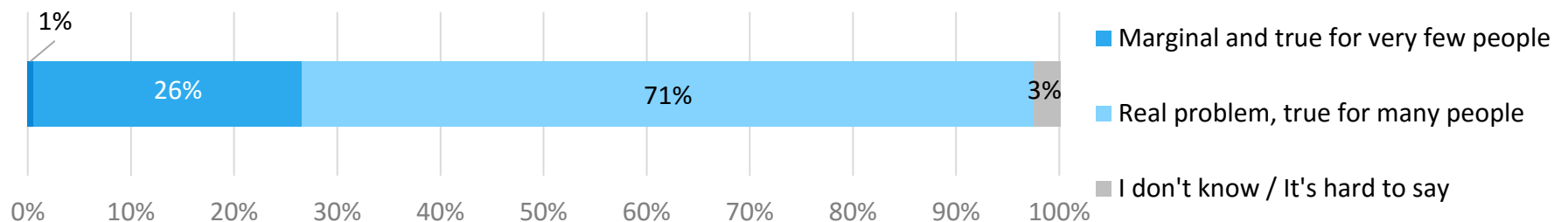
ASPIRATIONAL PROSTITUTION

Description: A boy or girl of 16 or 17 has sex with adult partners in exchange for **various gifts (e.g., clothes, cosmetics, electronic gadgets, etc.)**.

Social perception



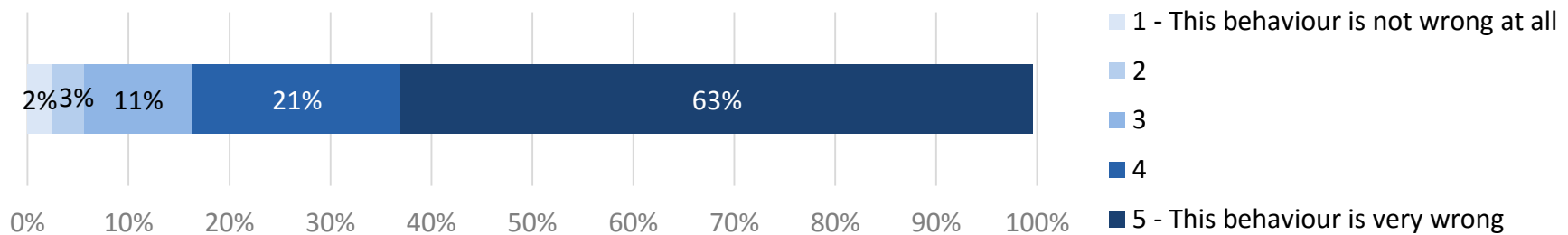
Perceived prevalence



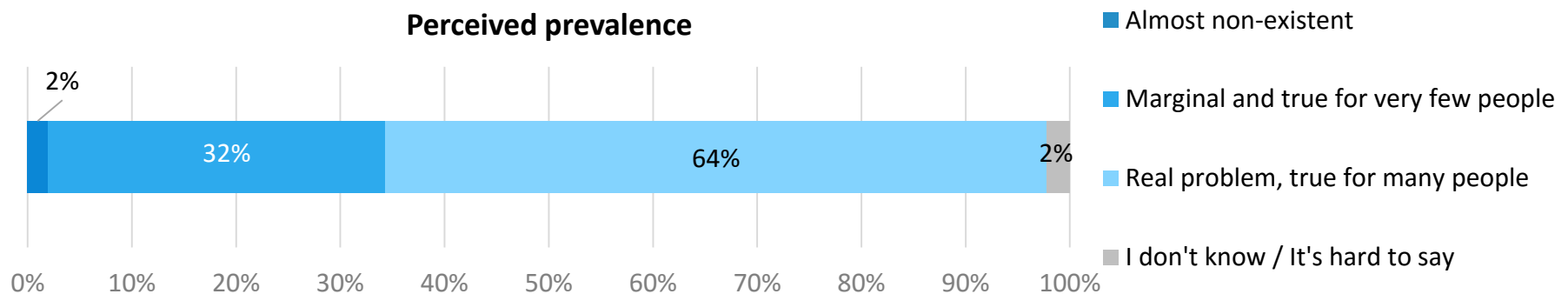
SPONSORING

Description: A boy or girl of 16 or 17 has sex with one adult partner or sponsor in exchange for **regular financial support**.

Social perception



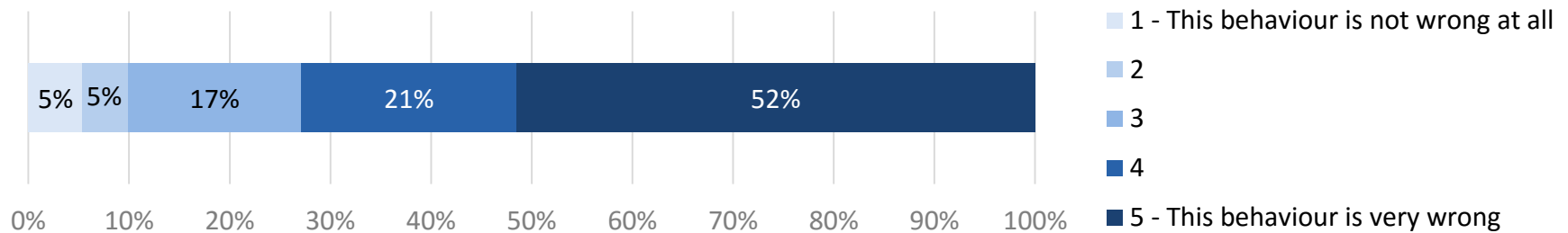
Perceived prevalence



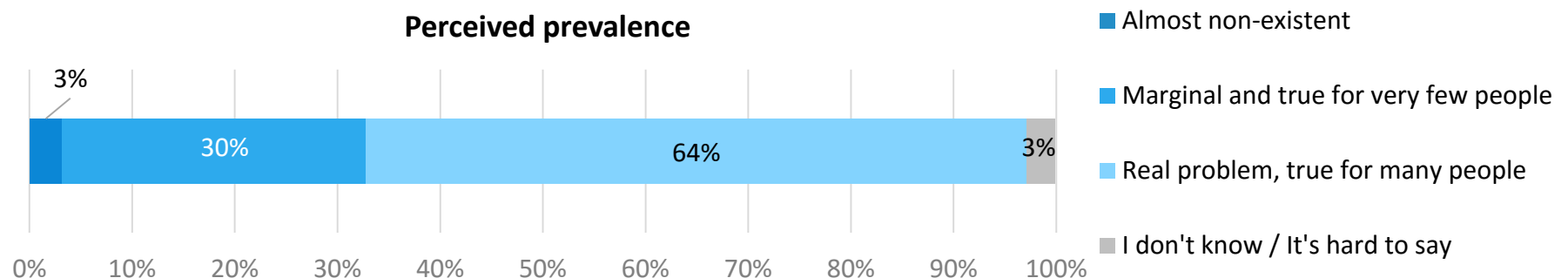
SURVIVAL SEX

Description: A boy or girl of 16 or 17, living in a poor family, has sex in exchange for **means of subsistence, basic needs, education, etc.**

Social perception



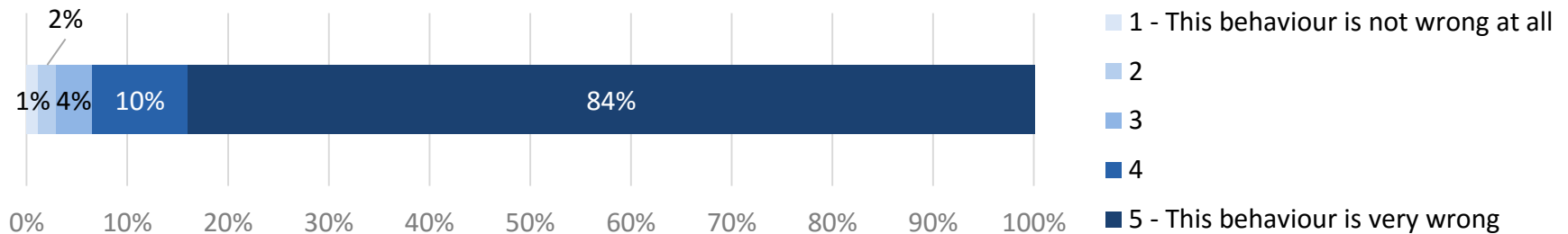
Perceived prevalence



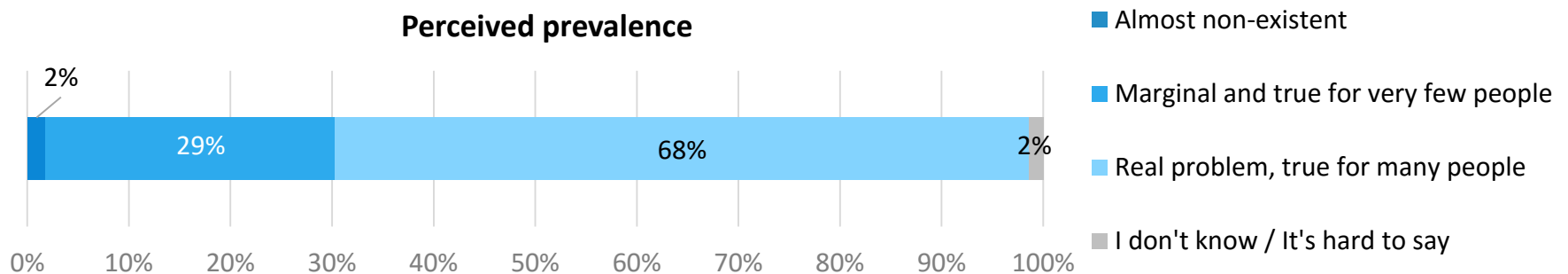
COMMERCIAL CYBERSEX

Description: A boy or girl of 16 or 17 shares his/her **naked photos online** in exchange for payment or other benefits.

Social perception

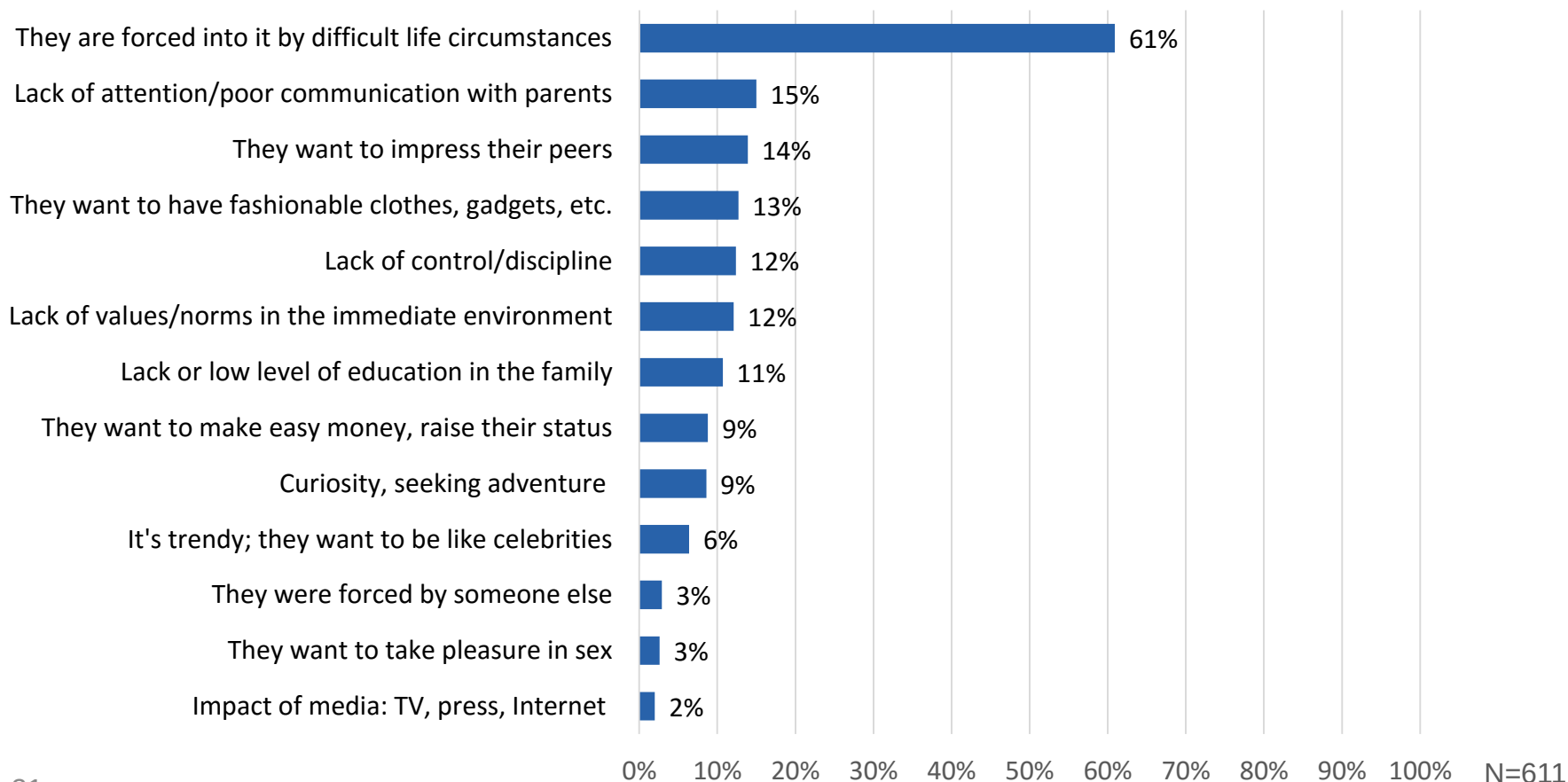


Perceived prevalence



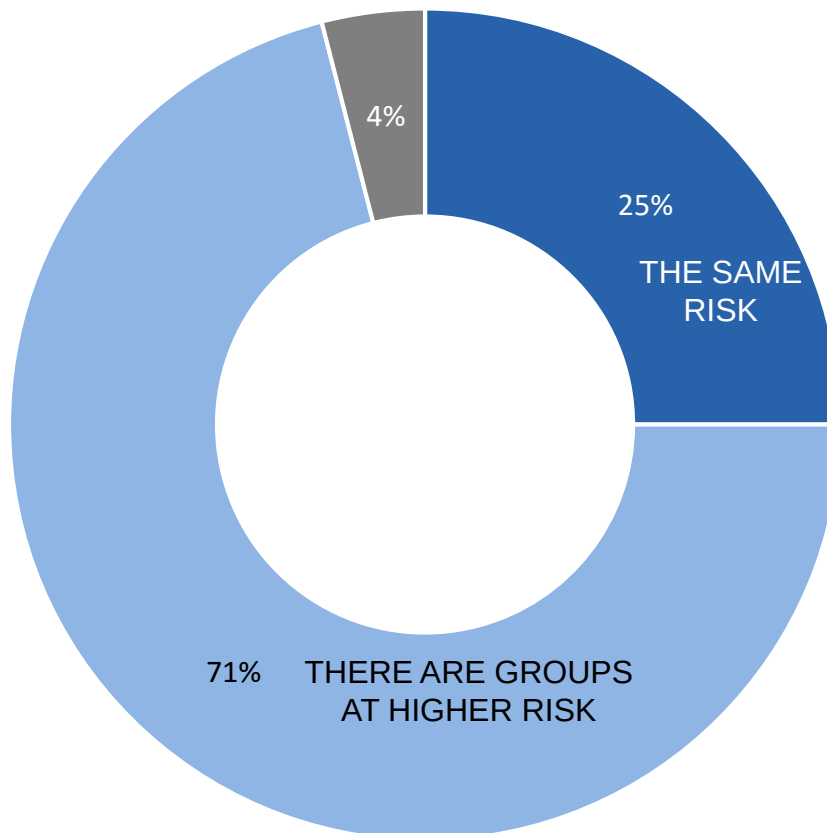
PERCEIVED MOTIVATIONS OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

*Why do you think children and young people under 18 choose to **engage in sexual activity in exchange for payment or other benefits**? (multiple choice question)*



EXISTENCE OF RISK GROUPS

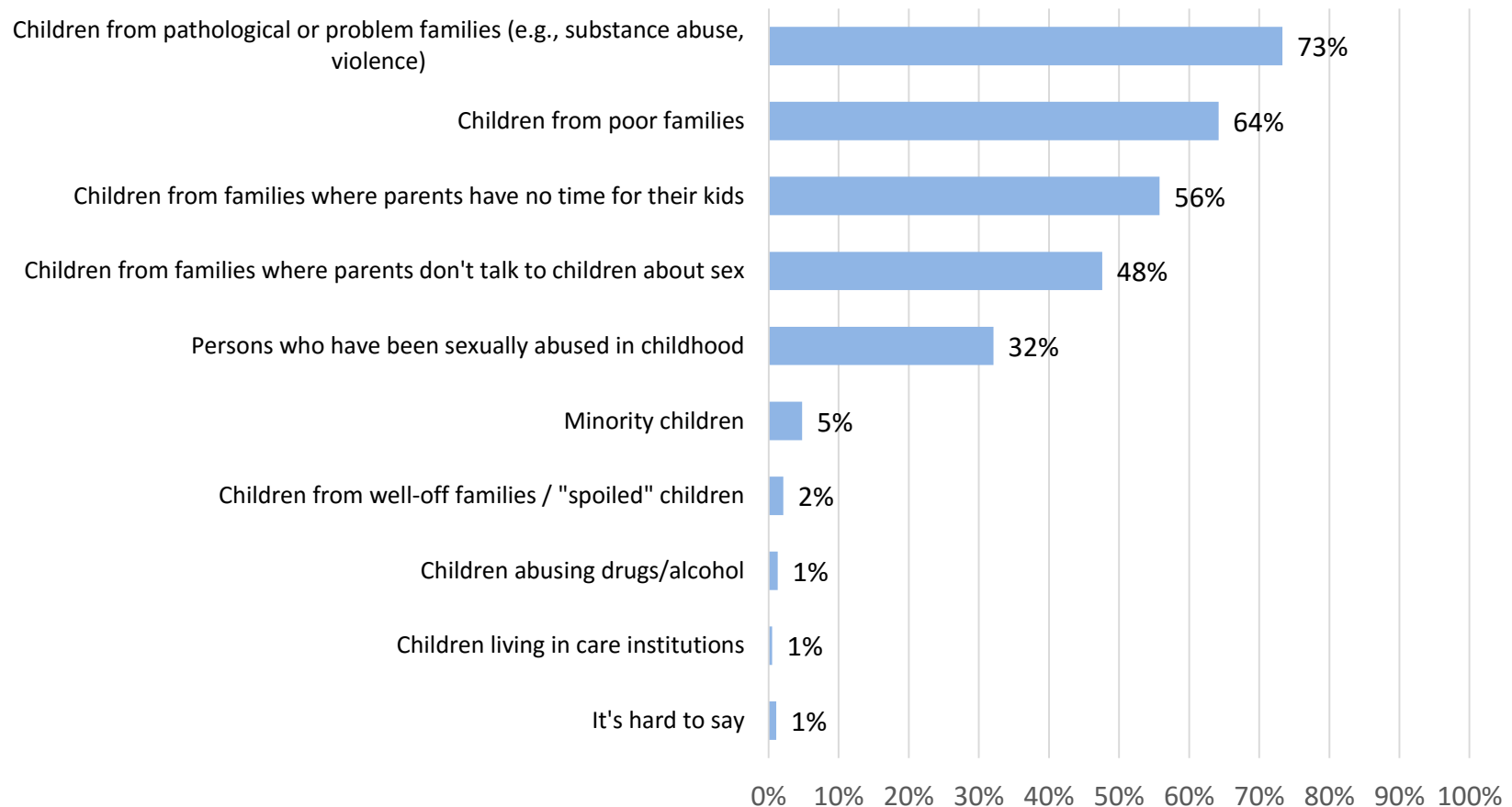
Which of the following statements do you agree with more?



- The risk of engaging in sexual activity in exchange for payment or other benefits is the same among children and young people in all environments/groups.
- In some groups of children and young people there is a higher risk of engaging in sexual activity in exchange for payment or other benefits.
- I don't know / It's hard to say

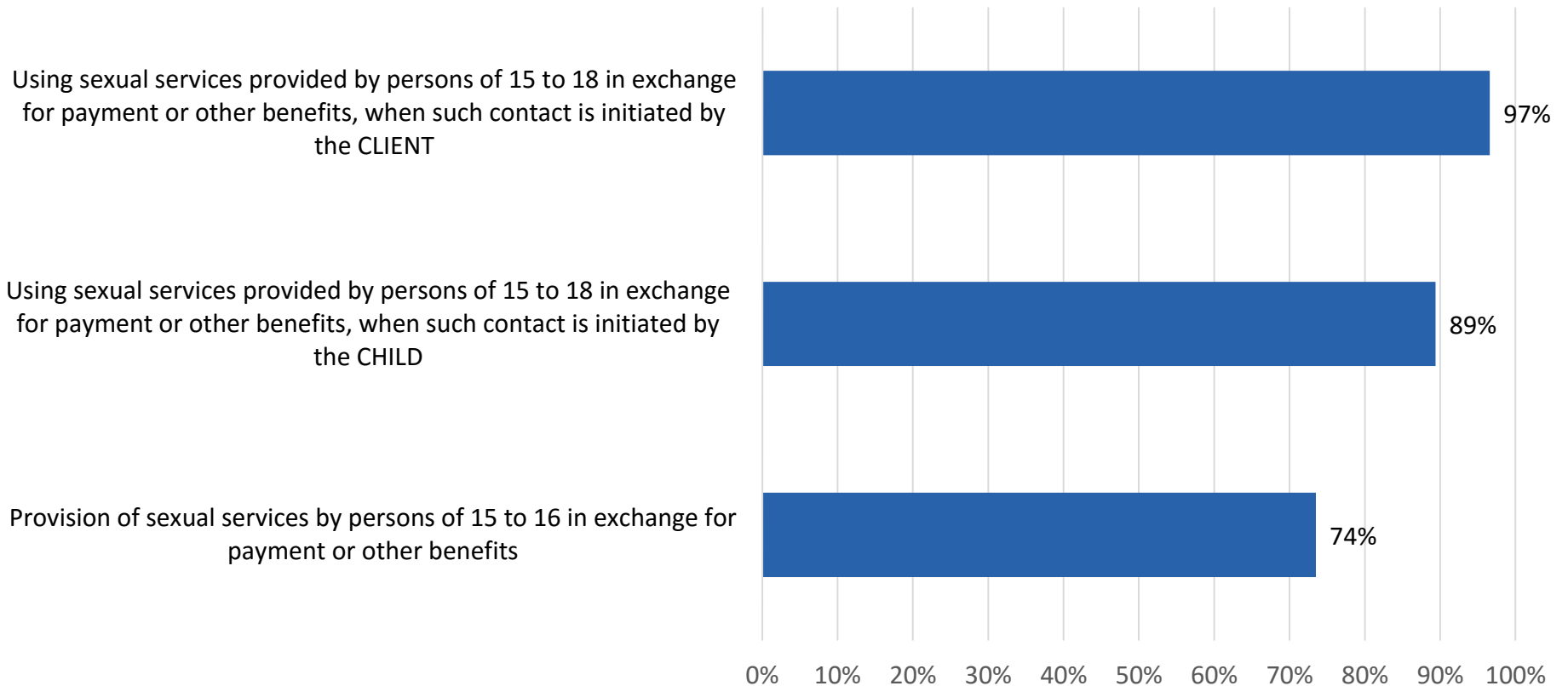
RISK GROUPS

*In your opinion, which groups of children and young people are at higher risk of **engaging in sexual activity in exchange for payment or other benefits**? (multiple choice question)*

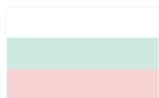


SUPPORT FOR PENALIZING VARIOUS BEHAVIOURS

Do you think the following behaviours **should be punishable**?



N=611



BUŁGARIA



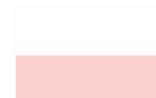
LITHUANIA



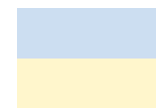
ŁOTWA



MOŁDAWIA



POLSKA



UKRAINA

Detailed results by country:

LITHUANIA

LITHUANIA: SUMMARY OF RESULTS

In Lithuania the most negatively perceived forms of commercial sexual activity were **cybersex** (94% of respondents regarded it as wrong or very wrong) and **aspirational prostitution** (91% of the sample chose one of those answers).

Survival sex was perceived as the least reprehensible. Still, the vast majority (85%) of respondents considered such behaviour to be wrong or very wrong.

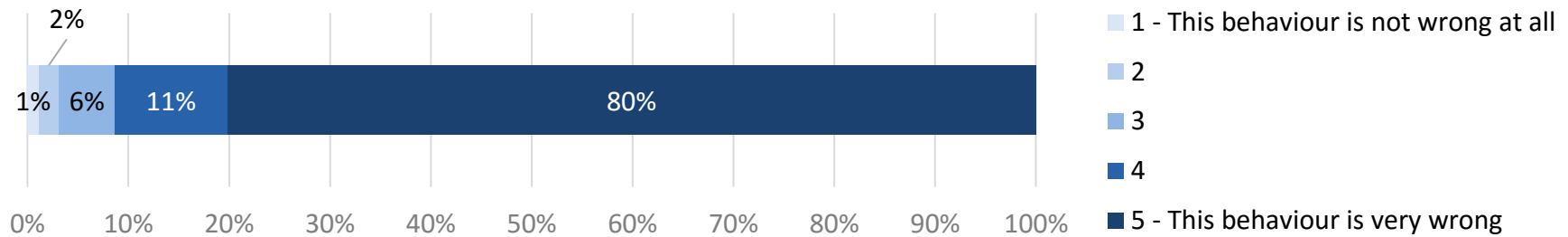
Among the examined forms of commercial sexual exploitation, **aspirational prostitution** was seen as the most prevalent or real problem. 37% of respondents believed many people in Lithuania engaged in such behaviour.

60% of the sample thought there were groups of children and young people who were at higher risk of engaging in sex in exchange for payment or other benefits. According to most respondents, those are **children from pathological or poor families** and **families where parents have no time for their kids**.

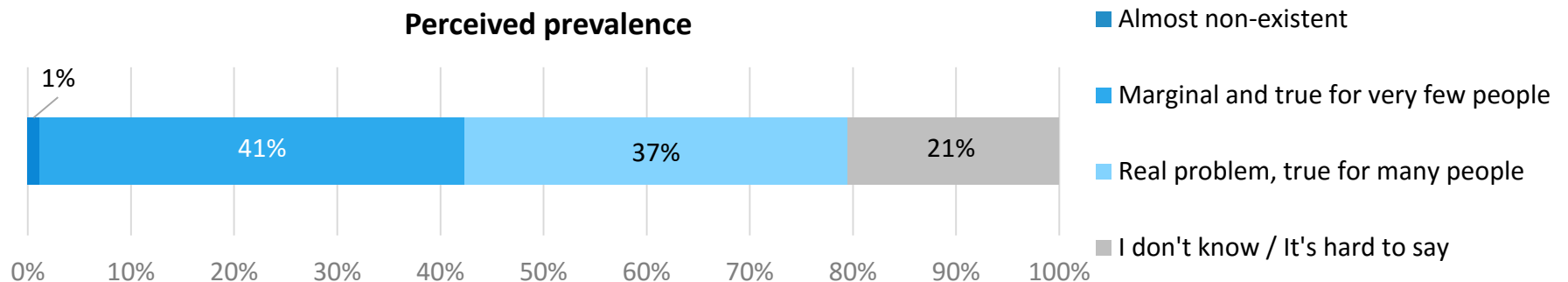
ASPIRATIONAL PROSTITUTION

Description: A boy or girl of 16 or 17 has sex with adult partners in exchange for **various gifts (e.g, clothes, cosmetics, electronic gadgets, etc.)**.

Social perception



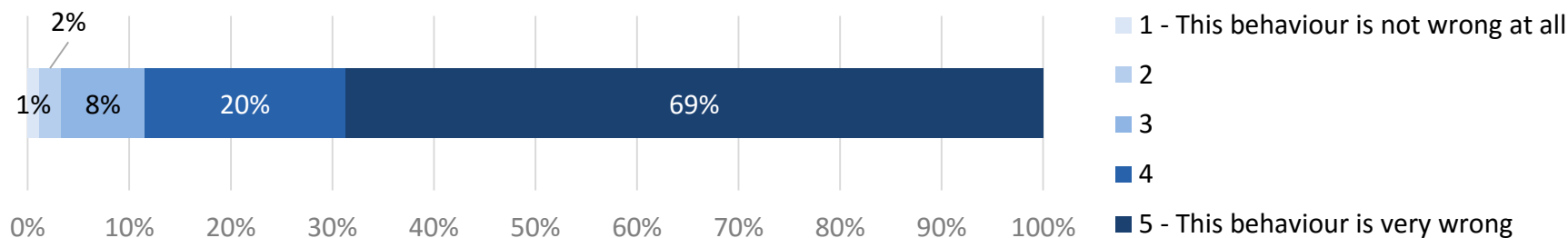
Perceived prevalence



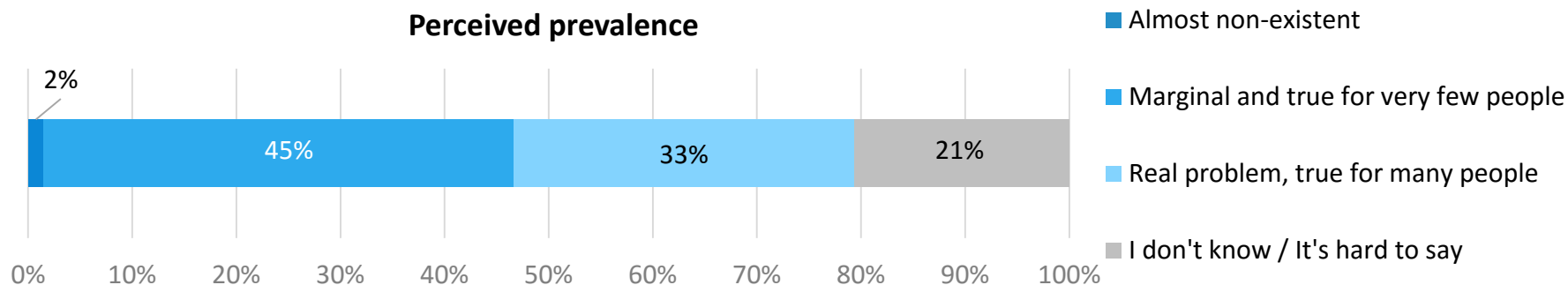
SPONSORING

Description: A boy or girl of 16 or 17 has sex with one adult partner or sponsor in exchange for **regular financial support**.

Social perception



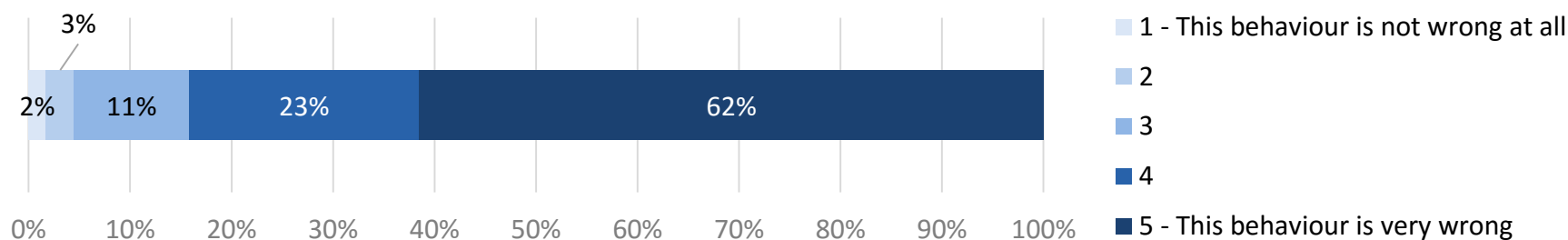
Perceived prevalence



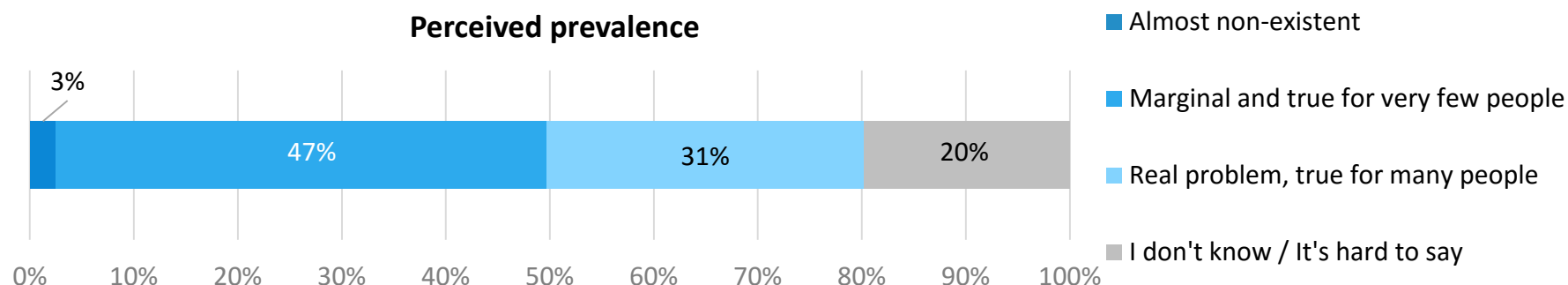
SURVIVAL SEX

Description: A boy or girl of 16 or 17, living in a poor family, has sex in exchange for **means of subsistence, basic needs, education, etc.**

Social perception



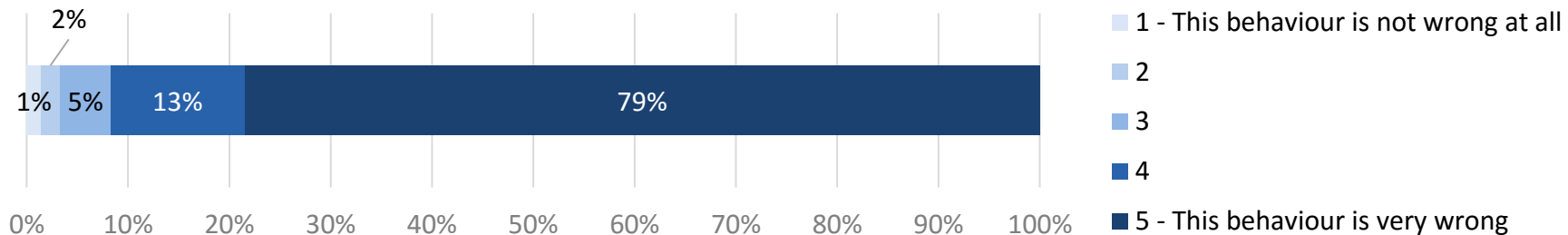
Perceived prevalence



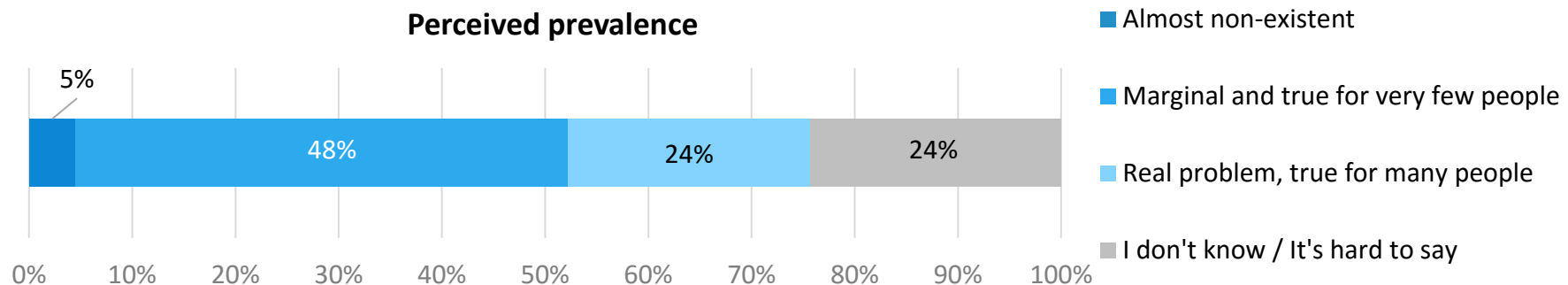
COMMERCIAL CYBERSEX

Description: A boy or girl of 16 or 17 shares his/her **naked photos online** in exchange for payment or other benefits.

Social perception

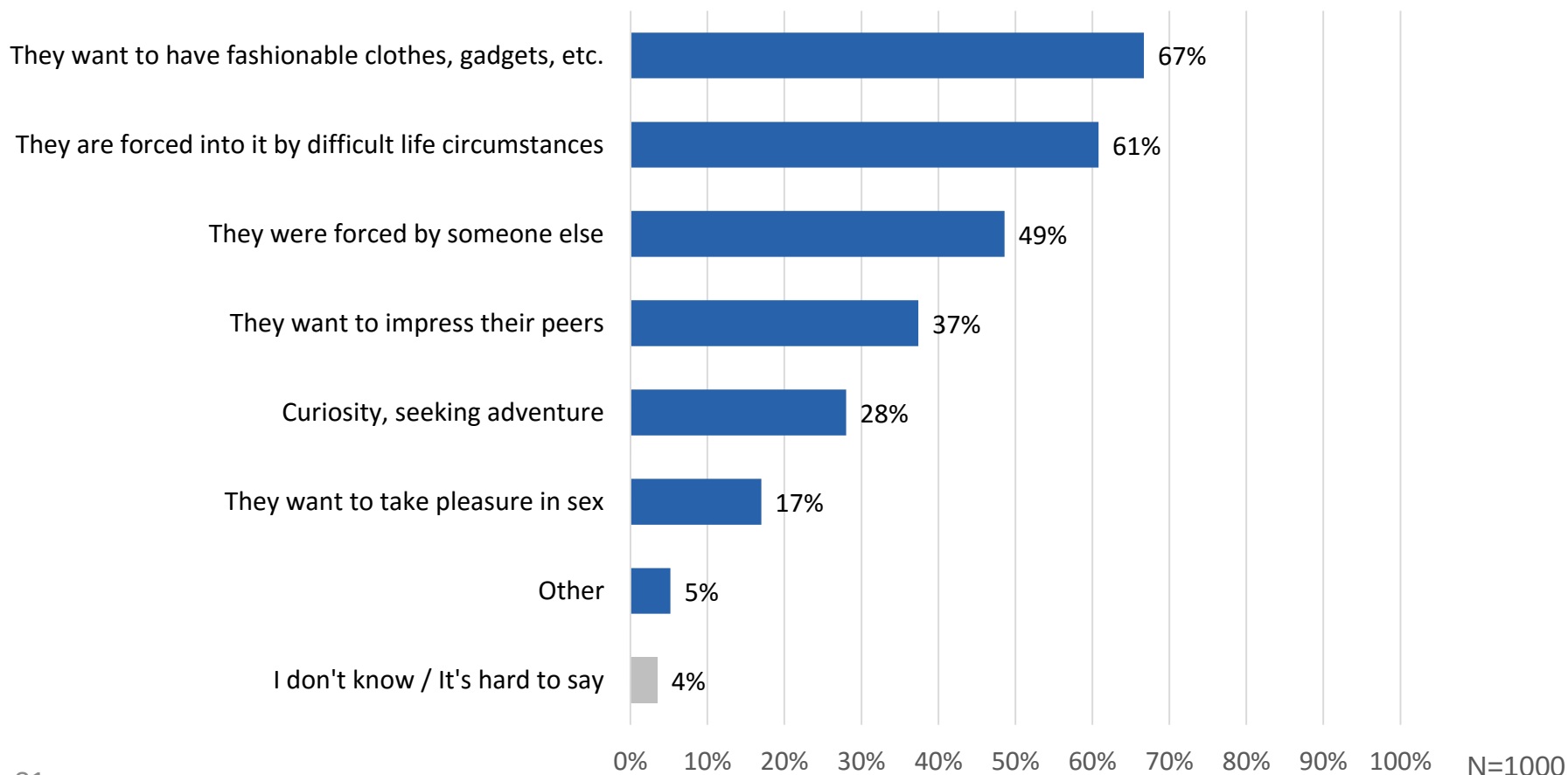


Perceived prevalence



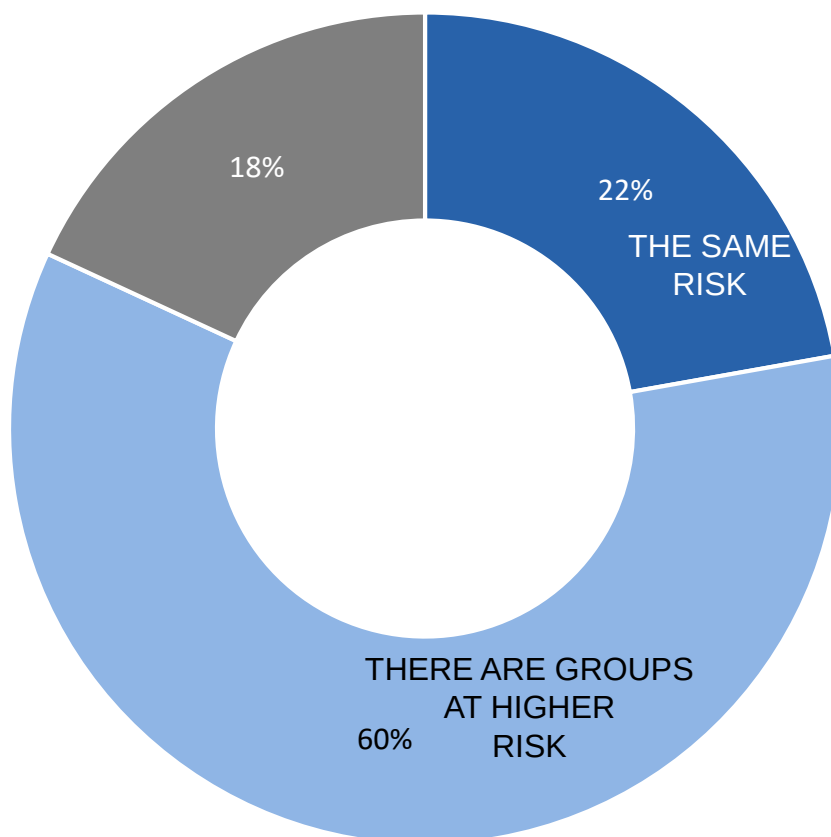
PERCEIVED MOTIVATIONS OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Why do you think children and young people under 18 choose to **engage in sexual activity in exchange for payment or other benefits?** (multiple choice question)



EXISTENCE OF RISK GROUPS

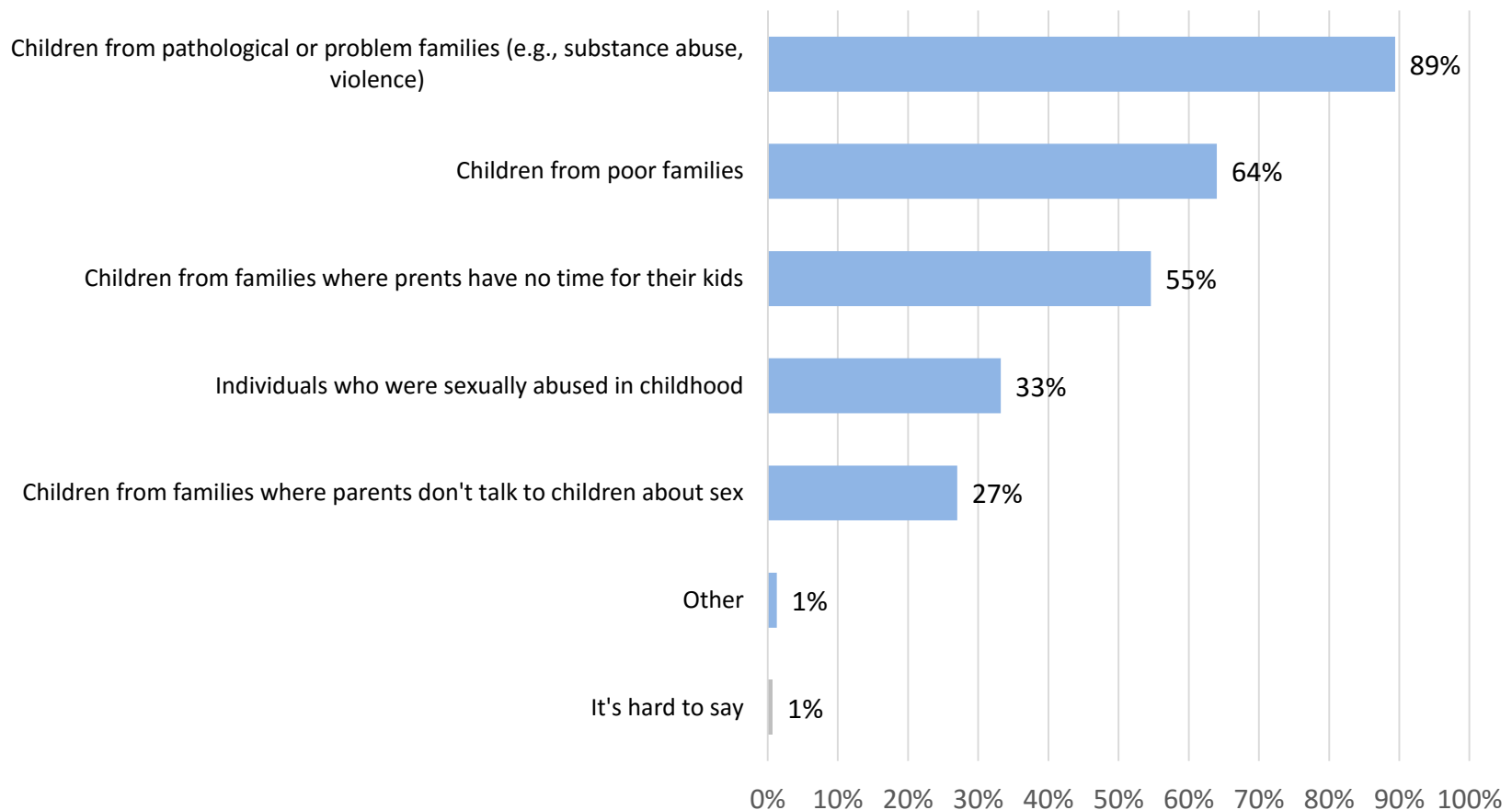
Which of the following statements do you agree with more?



- The risk of engaging in sexual activity in exchange for payment or other benefits is the same among children and young people in all environments/groups.
- In some groups of children and young people there is a higher risk of engaging in sexual activity in exchange for payment or other benefits.
- I don't know / It's hard to say

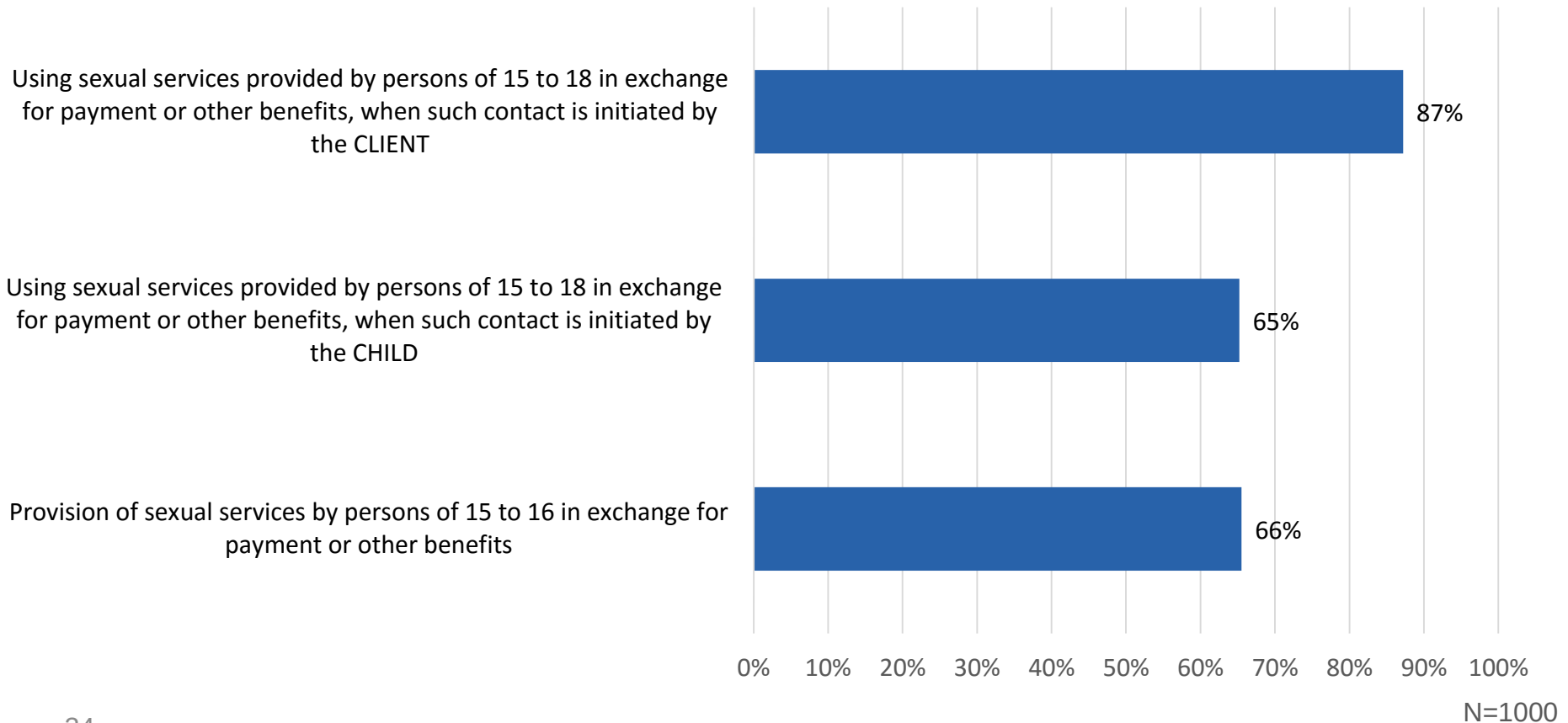
RISK GROUPS

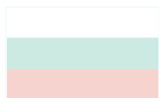
*In your opinion, which groups of children and young people are at higher risk of **engaging in sexual activity in exchange for payment or other benefits**? (multiple choice question)*



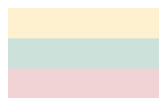
SUPPORT FOR PENALIZING VARIOUS BEHAVIOURS

Do you think the following behaviours **should be punishable**?





BUŁGARIA



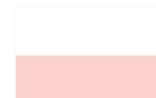
LITWA



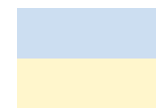
LATVIA



MOŁDAWIA



POLSKA



UKRAINA

Detailed results by country:

LATVIA

LATVIA: SUMMARY OF RESULTS

In Latvia the most negatively perceived form of commercial sexual activity was **cybersex**. **88%** of respondents regarded it as wrong or very wrong.

Sponsoring and survival sex were perceived as the least reprehensible. Still, the vast majority (**80%**) of respondents considered such behaviour to be wrong or very wrong.

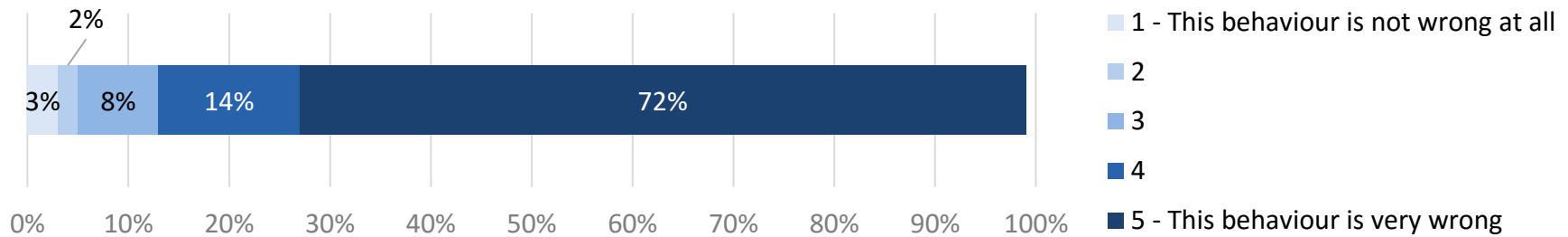
Among the examined forms of commercial sexual exploitation, **aspirational prostitution** was seen as the most prevalent or real problem. **57%** of respondents believed many people in Latvia engaged in such behaviour.

60% of the sample thought there were groups of children and young people who were at higher risk of engaging in sexual activity in exchange for payment or other benefits. According to most respondents, those are **children from pathological families, families where parents have no time for their kids, and poor families**.

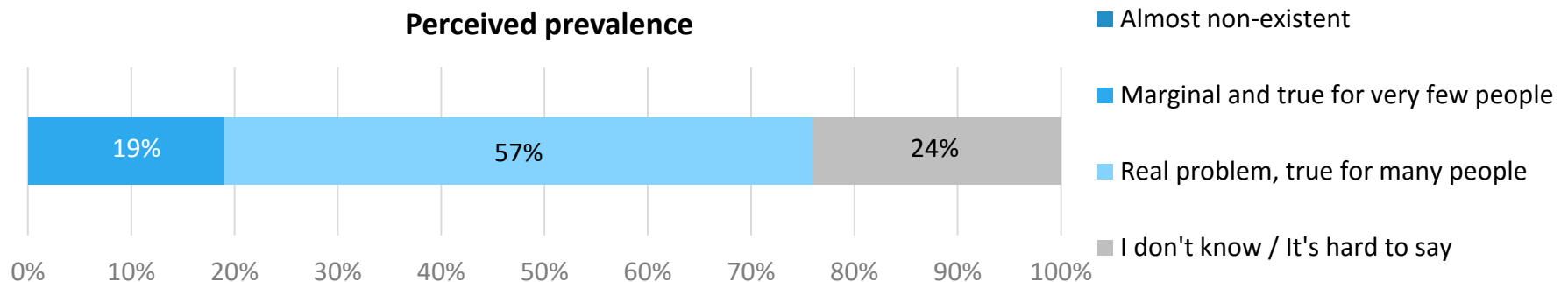
ASPIRATIONAL PROSTITUTION

Description: A boy or girl of 16 or 17 has sex with adult partners in exchange for **various gifts (e.g, clothes, cosmetics, electronic gadgets, etc.)**.

Social perception



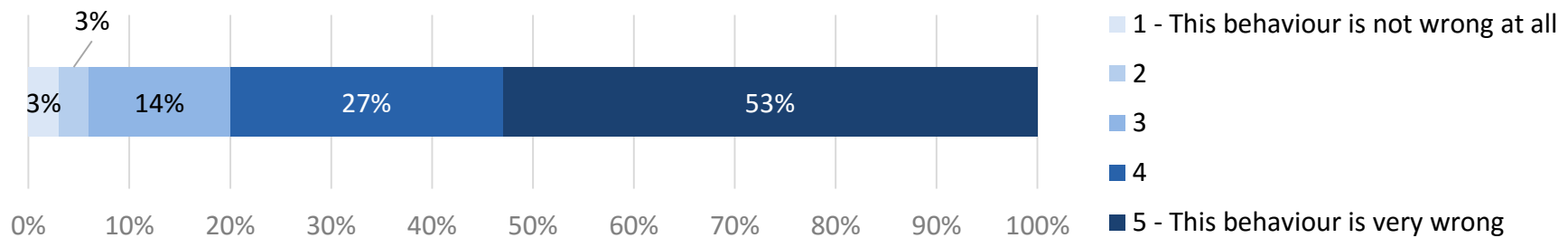
Perceived prevalence



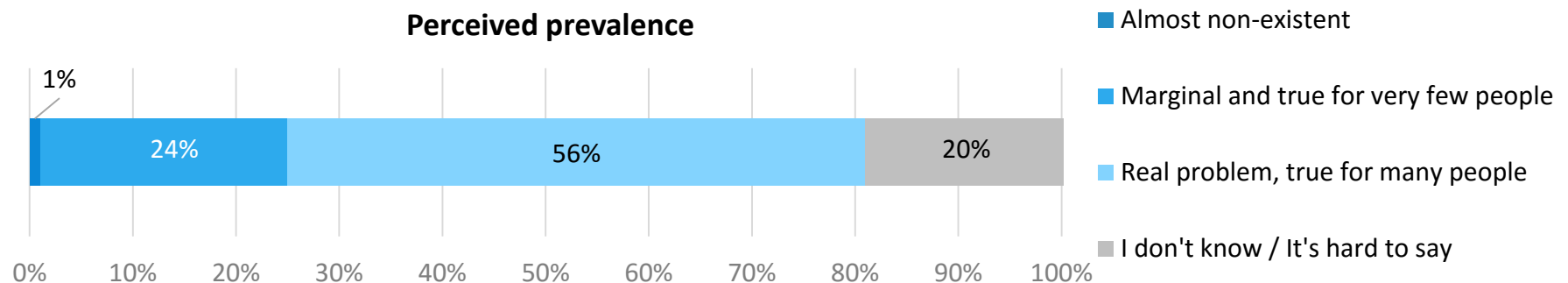
SPONSORING

Description: : A boy or girl of 16 or 17 has sex with one adult partner or sponsor in exchange for **regular financial support**.

Social perception



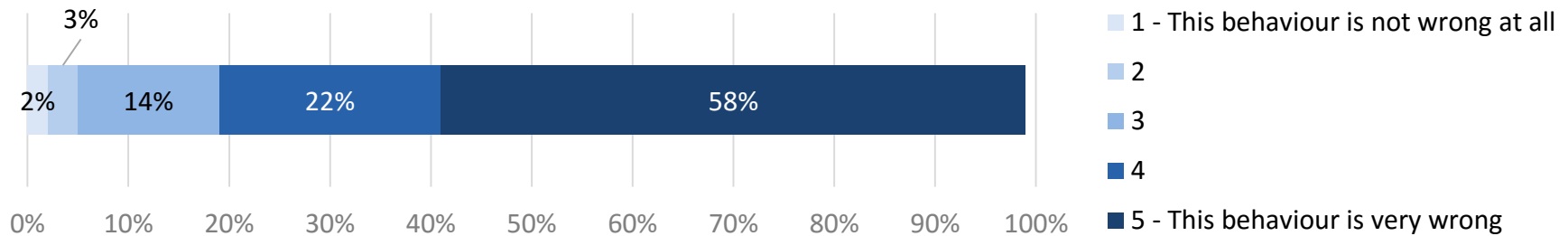
Perceived prevalence



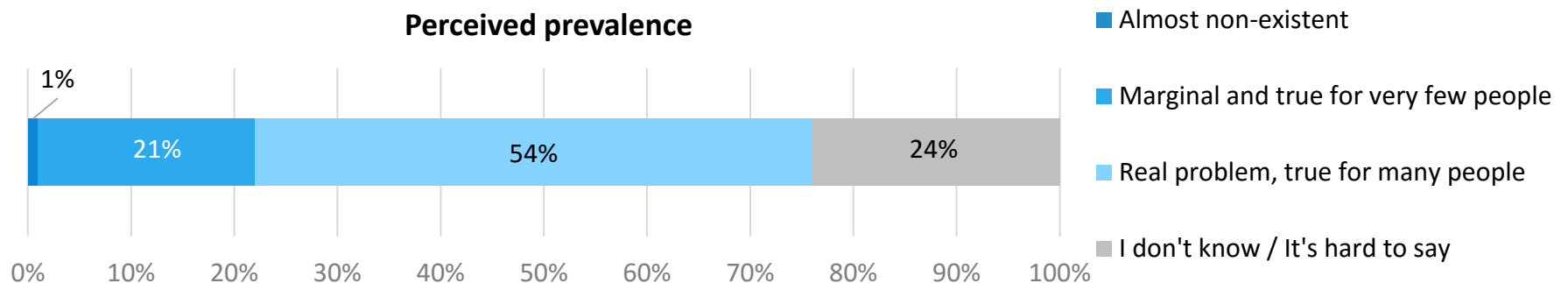
SURVIVAL SEX

Description: A boy or girl of 16 or 17, living in a poor family, has sex in exchange for **means of subsistence, basic needs, education, etc.**

Social perception



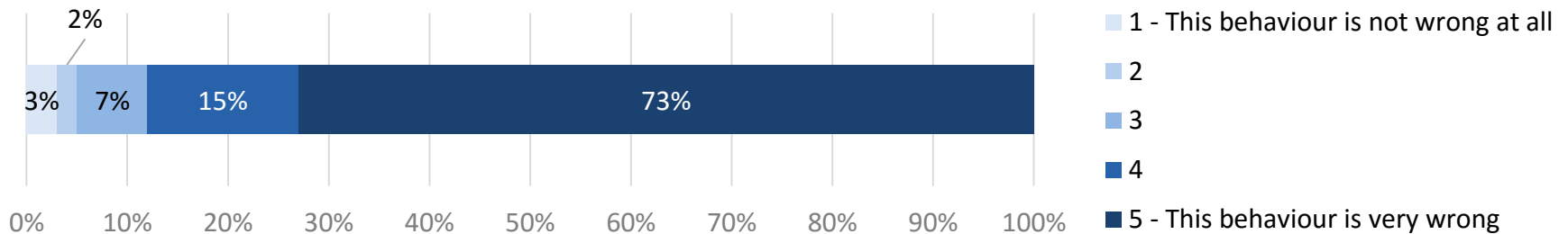
Perceived prevalence



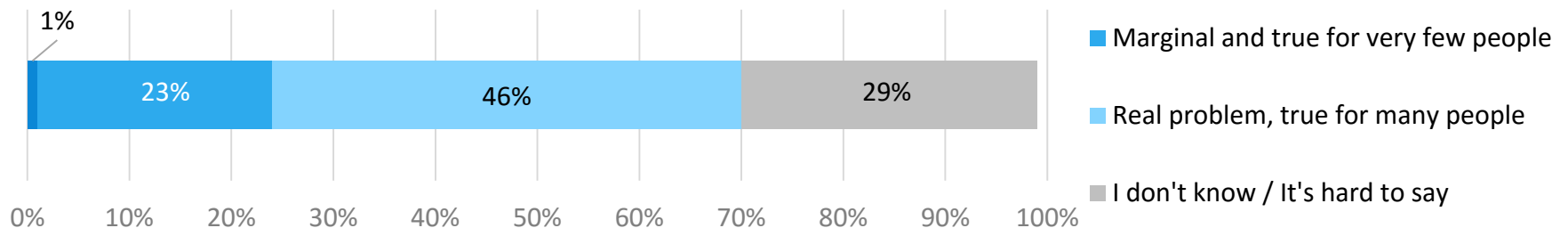
COMMERCIAL CYBERSEX

Description: A boy or girl of 16 or 17 shares his/her **naked photos online** in exchange for payment or other benefits.

Social perception

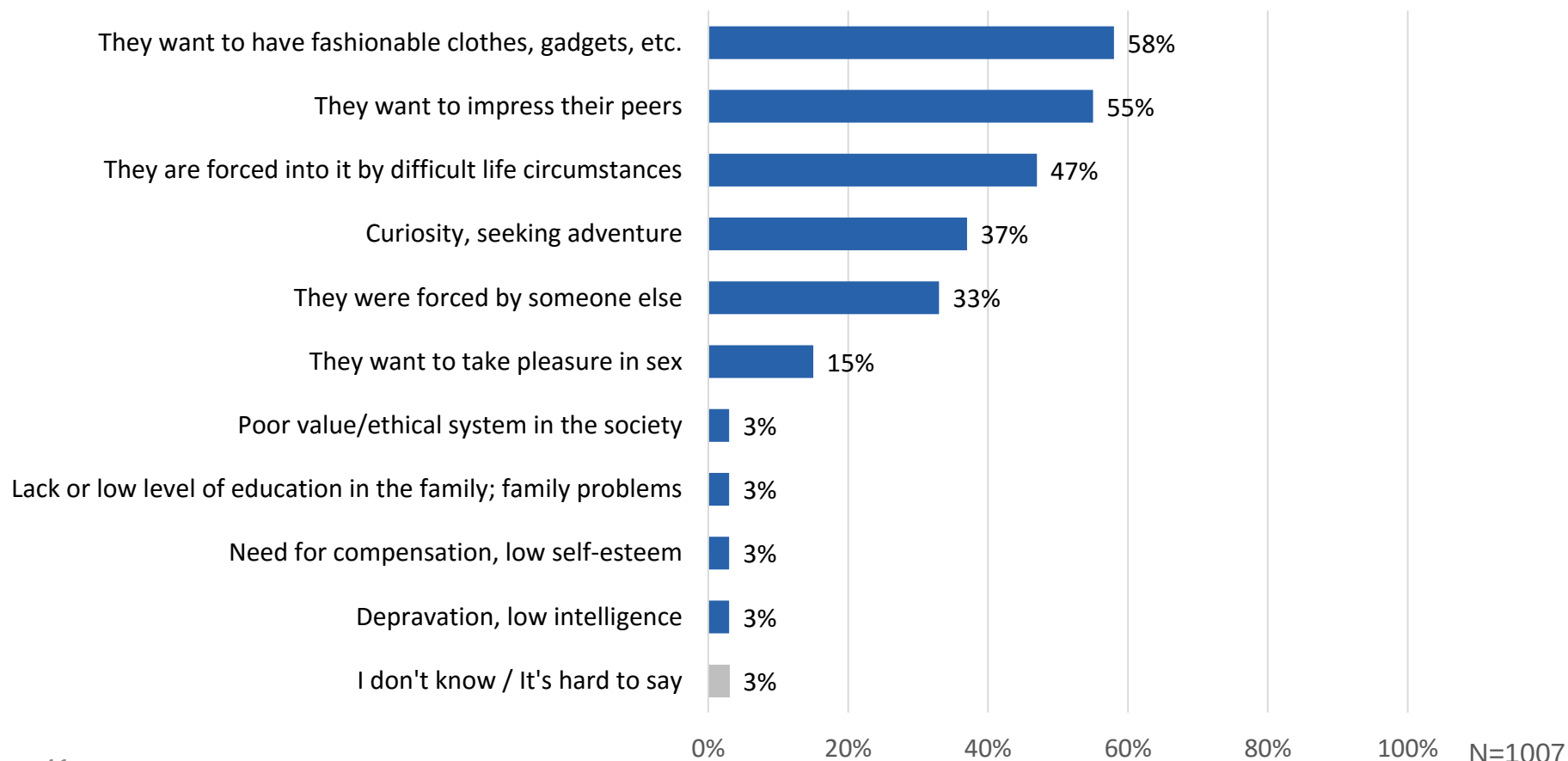


Perceived prevalence



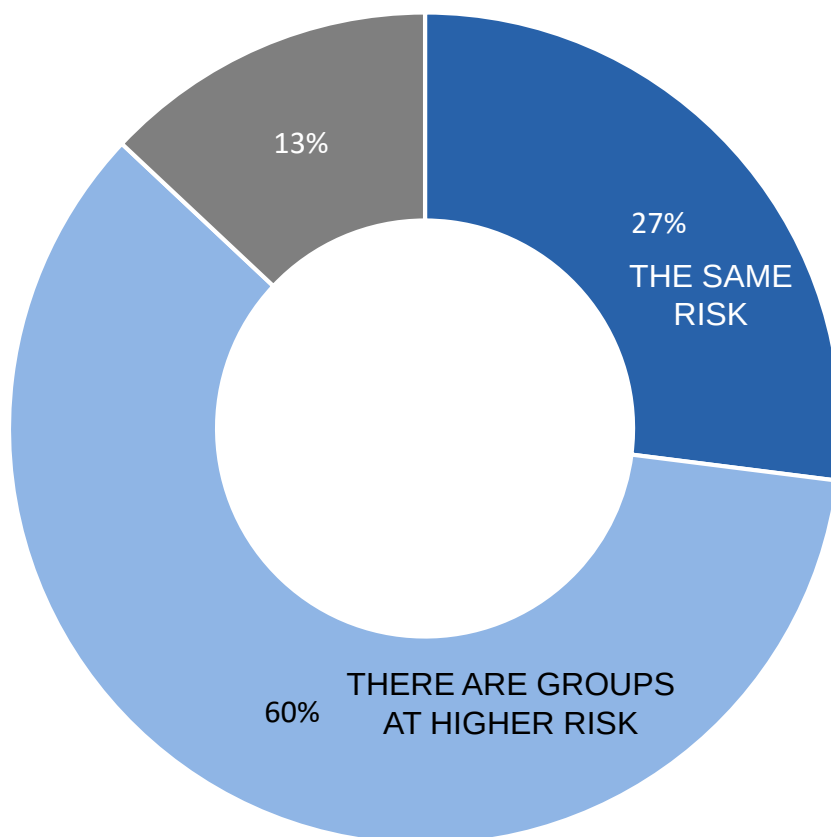
PERCEIVED MOTIVATIONS OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Why do you think children and young people under 18 choose to **engage in sexual activity in exchange for payment or other benefits?** (multiple choice question)



EXISTENCE OF RISK GROUPS

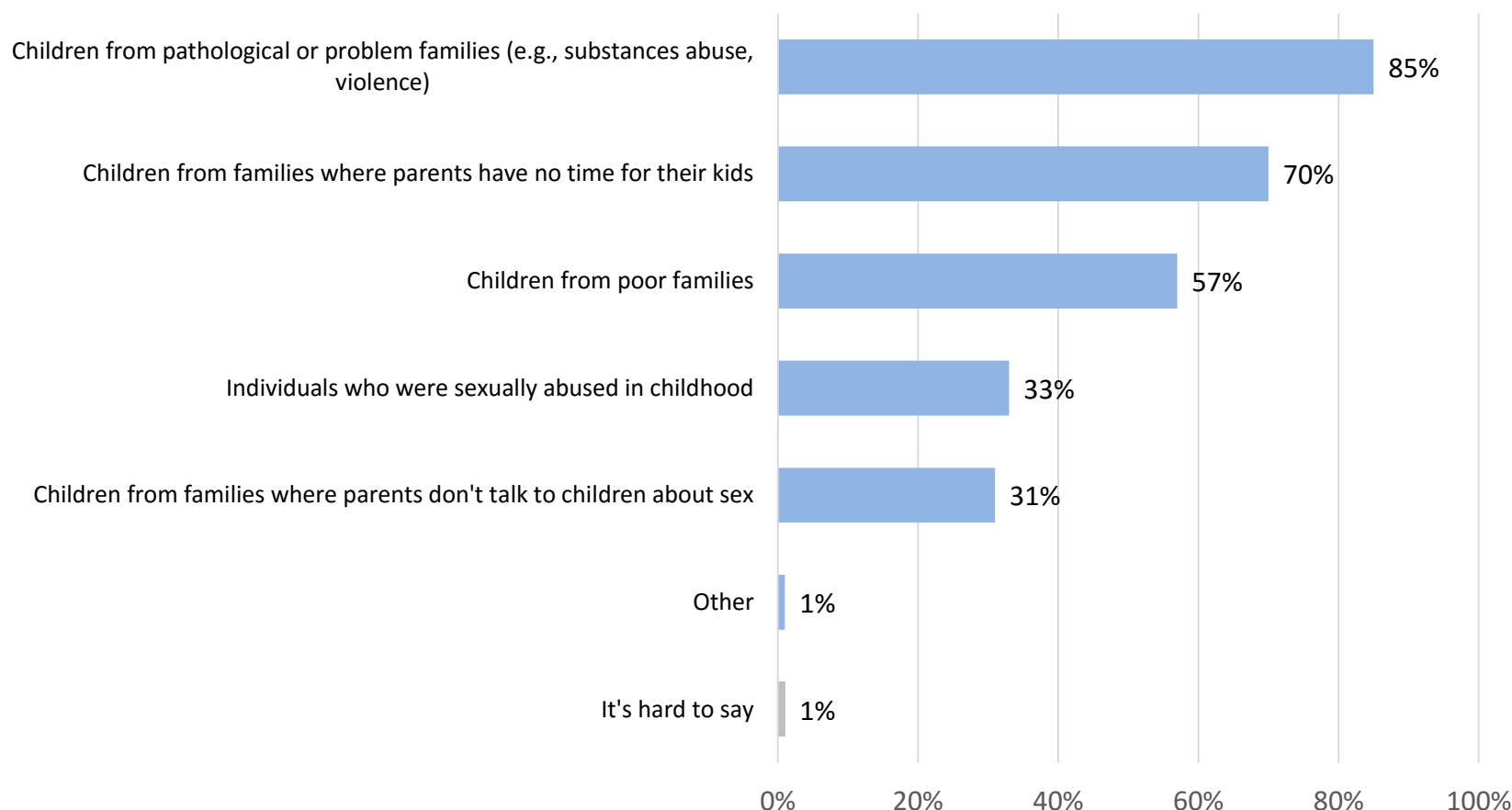
Which of the following statements do you agree with more?



- The risk of engaging in sexual activity in exchange for payment or other benefits is the same among children and young people in all environments/groups.
- In some groups of children and young people there is a higher risk of engaging in sexual activity in exchange for payment or other benefits.
- I don't know / It's hard to say

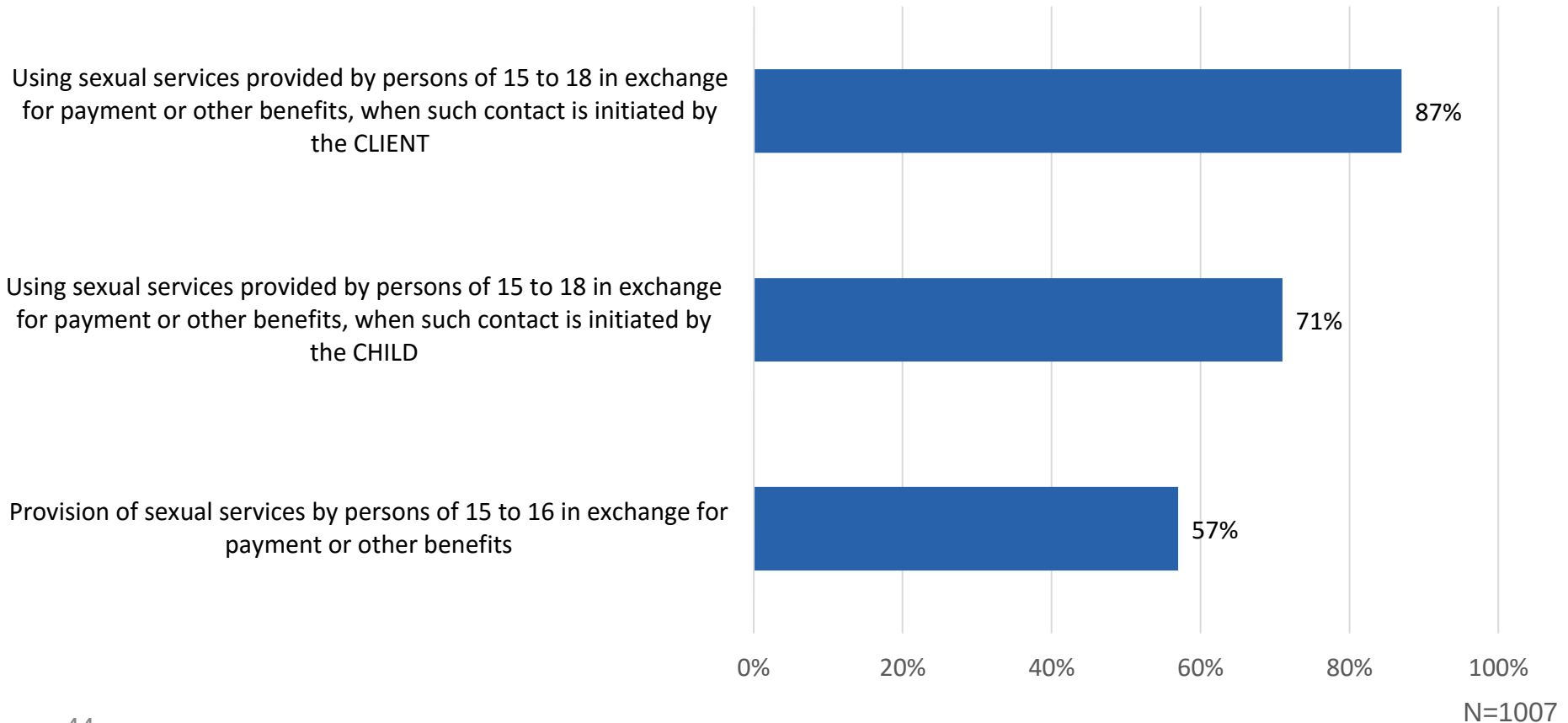
RISK GROUPS

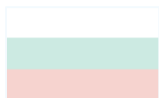
*In your opinion, which groups of children and young people are at higher risk of **engaging in sexual activity in exchange for payment or other benefits**? (multiple choice question)*



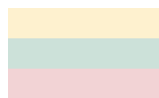
SUPPORT FOR PENALIZING VARIOUS BEHAVIOURS

Do you think the following behaviours **should be punishable**?





BUŁGARIA



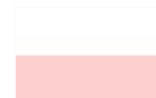
LITWA



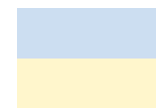
ŁOTWA



MOLDOVA



POLSKA



UKRAINA

Detailed results by country:

MOLDOVA

MOLDOVA: SUMMARY OF RESULTS

In Moldova the most negatively perceived form of commercial sexual activity was **cybersex**. **93%** of respondents regarded it as wrong or very wrong.

It should be emphasized that in Moldova **all forms** of commercial sexual activity were **seen as definitely negative** (i.e., rated as wrong or very wrong) and there were no significant differences in terms of their perceptions: **sponsoring (92%)**, **aspirational prostitution (92%)** and **survival sex (91%)**.

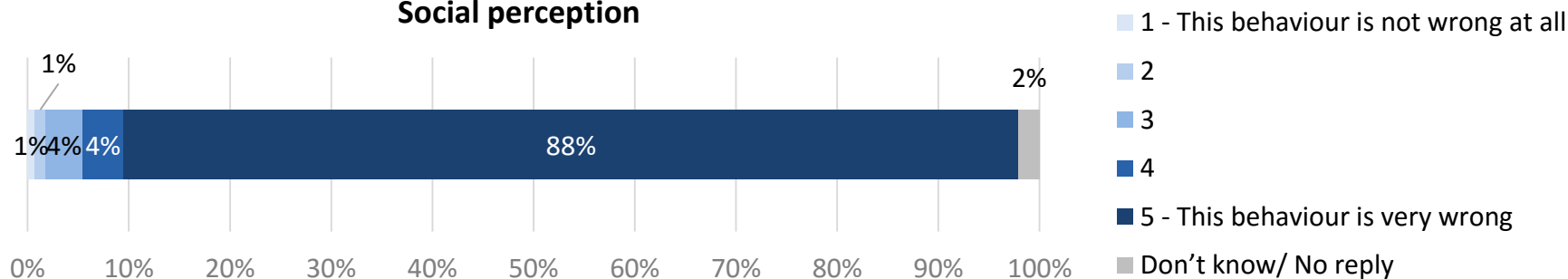
Among the examined forms of commercial sexual exploitation, **sponsoring** and **survival sex** were seen as the most prevalent or real problem. **63%** of respondents believe many people in Moldova engage in such behaviour.

53% of the sample thought there were groups of children and young people who were at higher risk of engaging in sexual activity in exchange for payment or other benefits. According to most respondents, those are **children from pathological and poor families**, and from **families where parents have no time for their kids**.

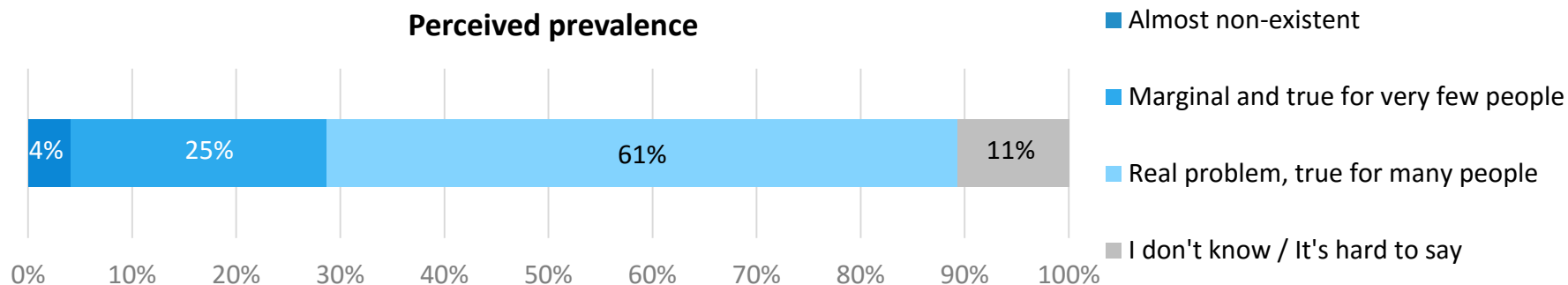
ASPIRATIONAL PROSTITUTION

Description: A boy or girl of 16 or 17 has sex with adult partners in exchange for **various gifts (e.g, clothes, cosmetics, electronic gadgets, etc.)**.

Social perception



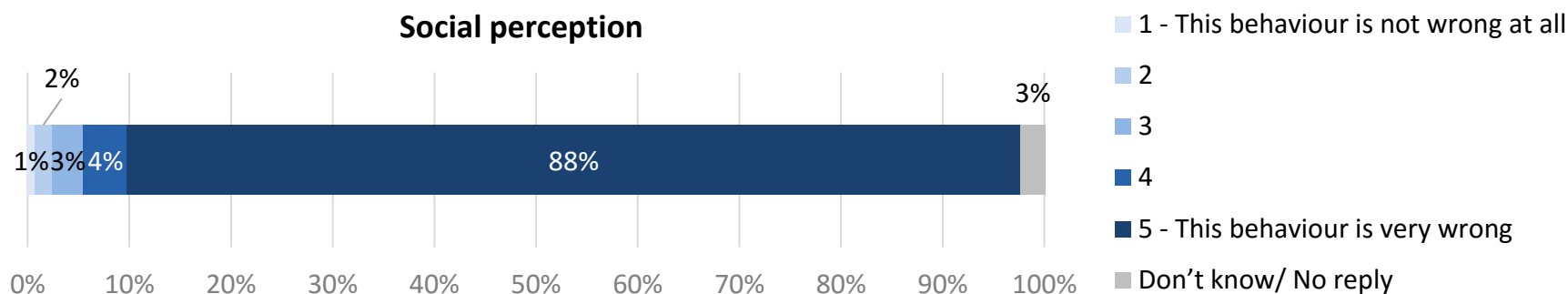
Perceived prevalence



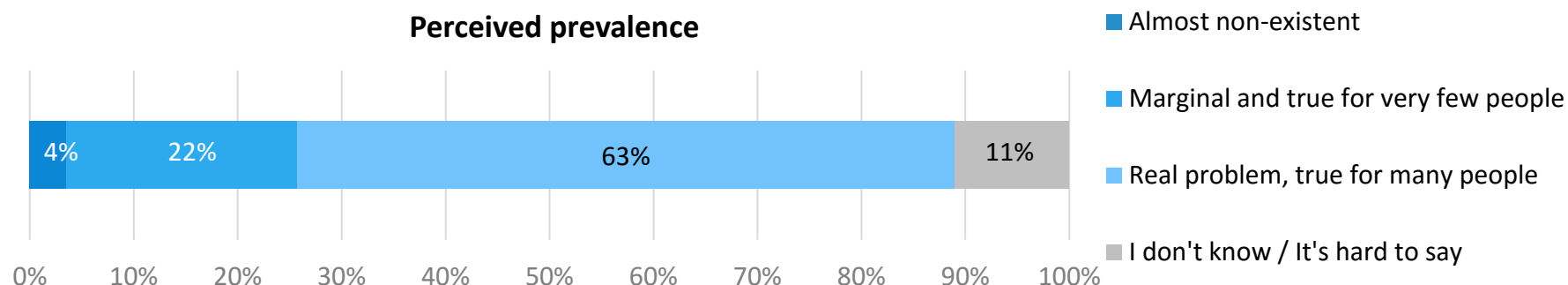
SPONSORING

Description: A boy or girl of 16 or 17 has sex with one adult partner or sponsor in exchange for **regular financial support**.

Social perception



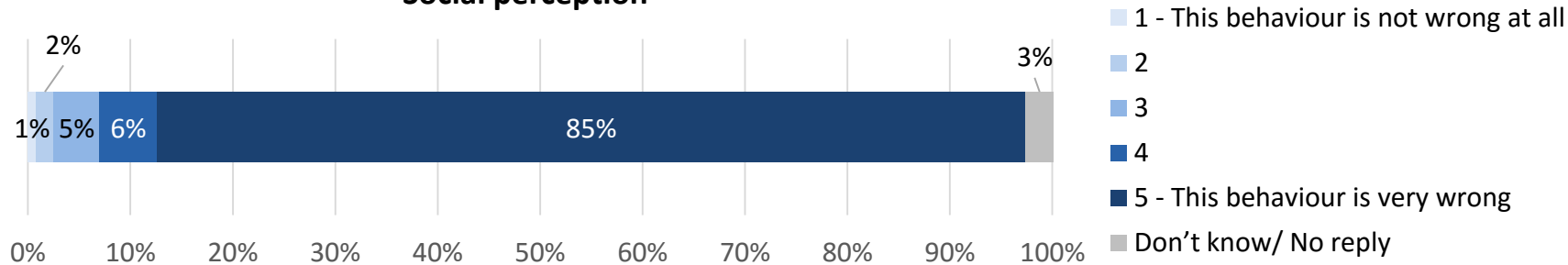
Perceived prevalence



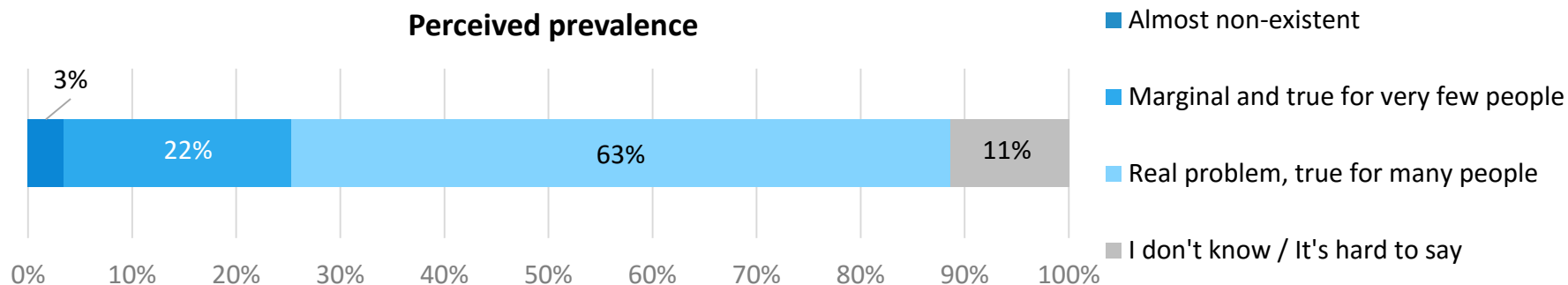
SURVIVAL SEX

Description: A boy or girl of 16 or 17, living in a poor family, has sex in exchange for **means of subsistence, basic needs, education, etc.**

Social perception



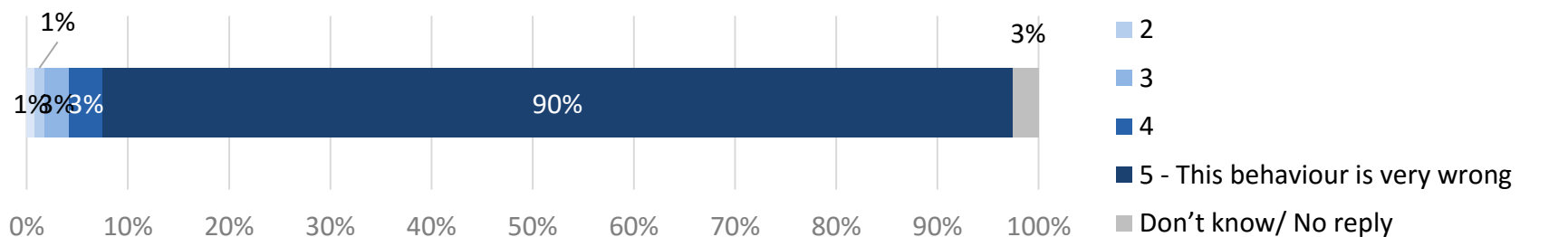
Perceived prevalence



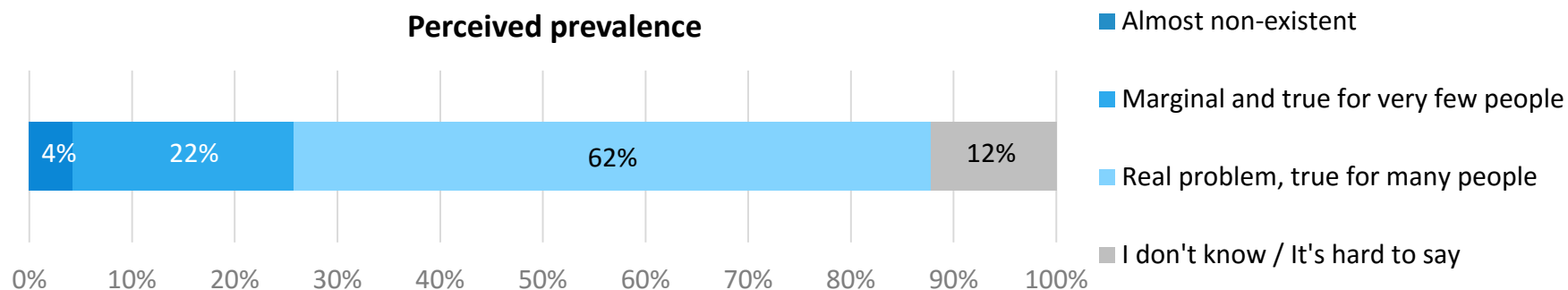
COMMERCIAL CYBERSEX

Description: A boy or girl of 16 or 17 shares his/her **naked photos online** in exchange for payment or other benefits.

Social perception

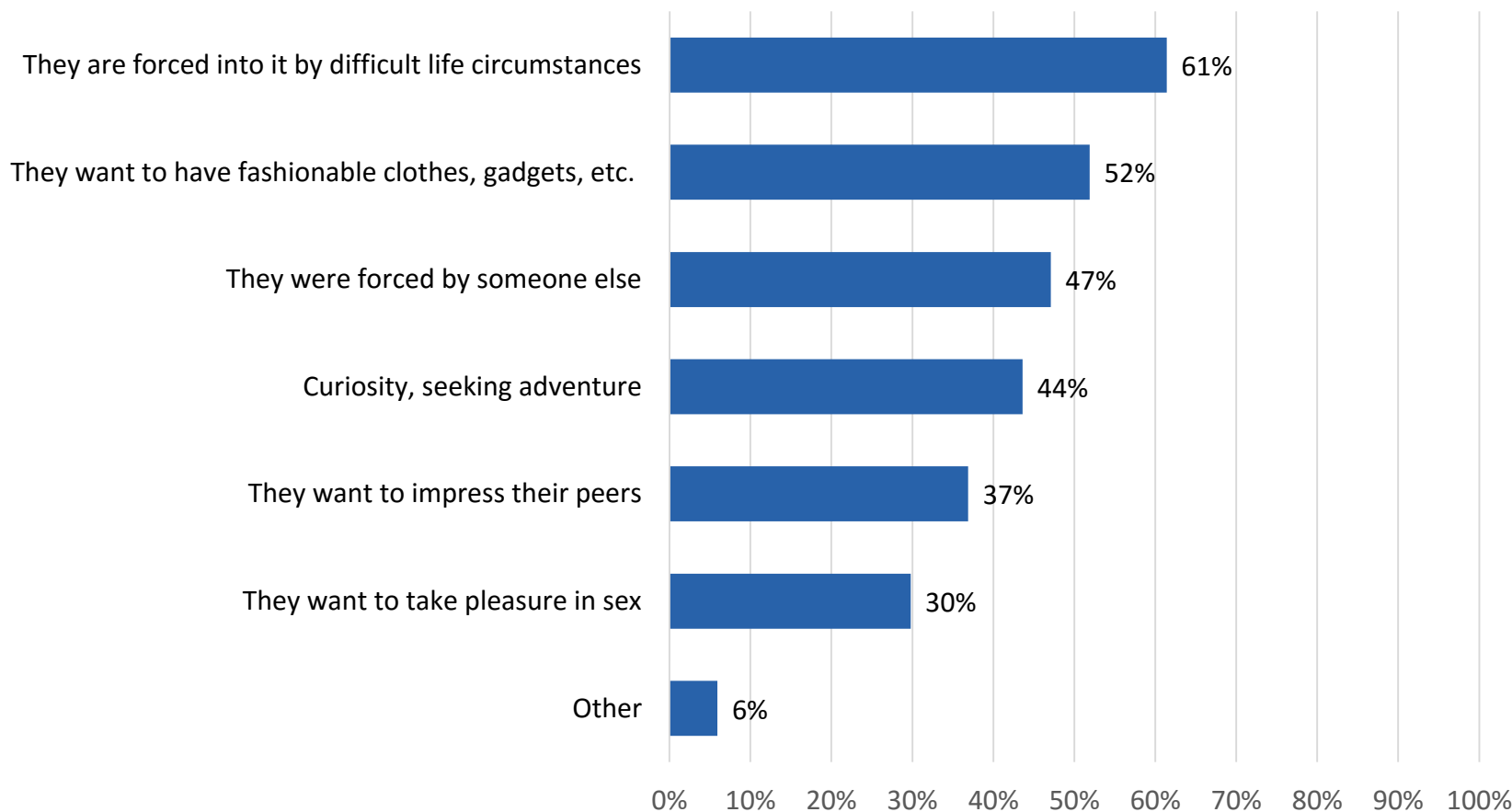


Perceived prevalence



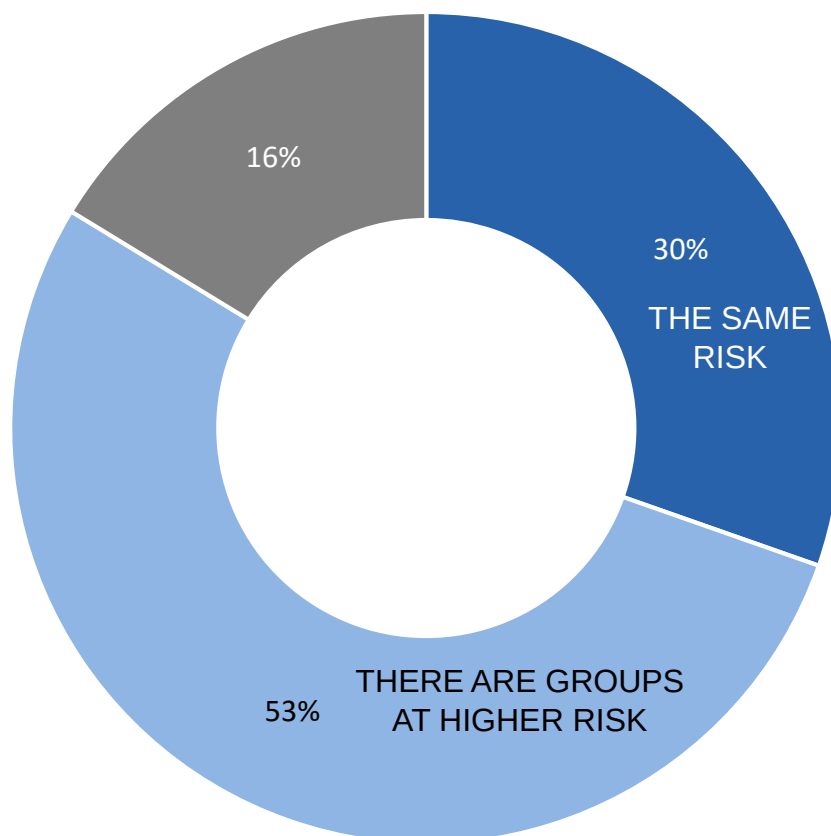
PERCEIVED MOTIVATIONS OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Why do you think children and young people under 18 choose to **engage in sexual activity in exchange for payment or other benefits?** (multiple choice question)



EXISTENCE OF RISK GROUPS

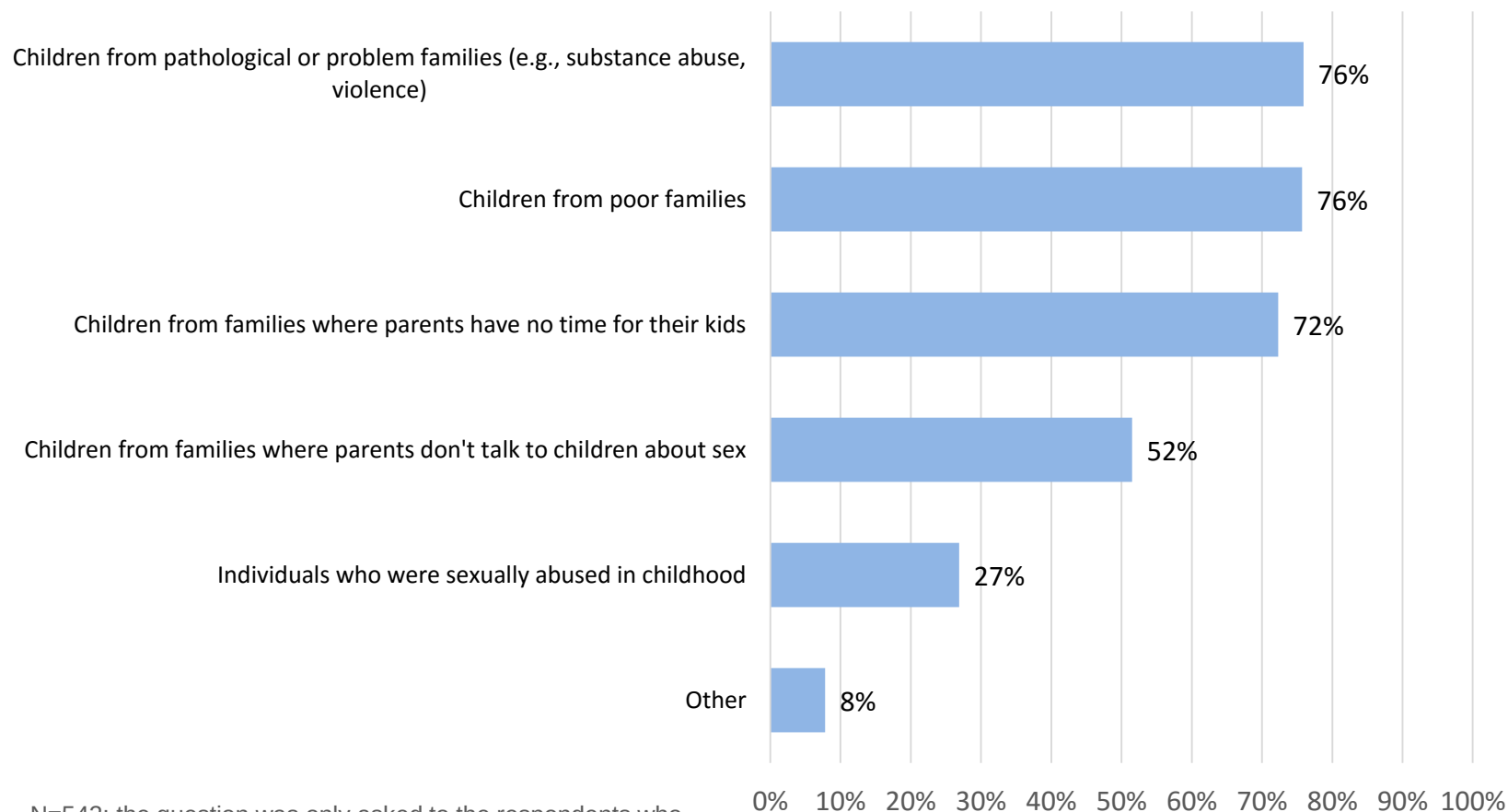
Which of the following statements do you agree with more?



- The risk of engaging in sexual activity in exchange for payment or other benefits is the same among children and young people in all environments/groups.
- In some groups of children and young people there is a higher risk of engaging in sexual activity in exchange for payment or other benefits.
- I don't know / It's hard to say

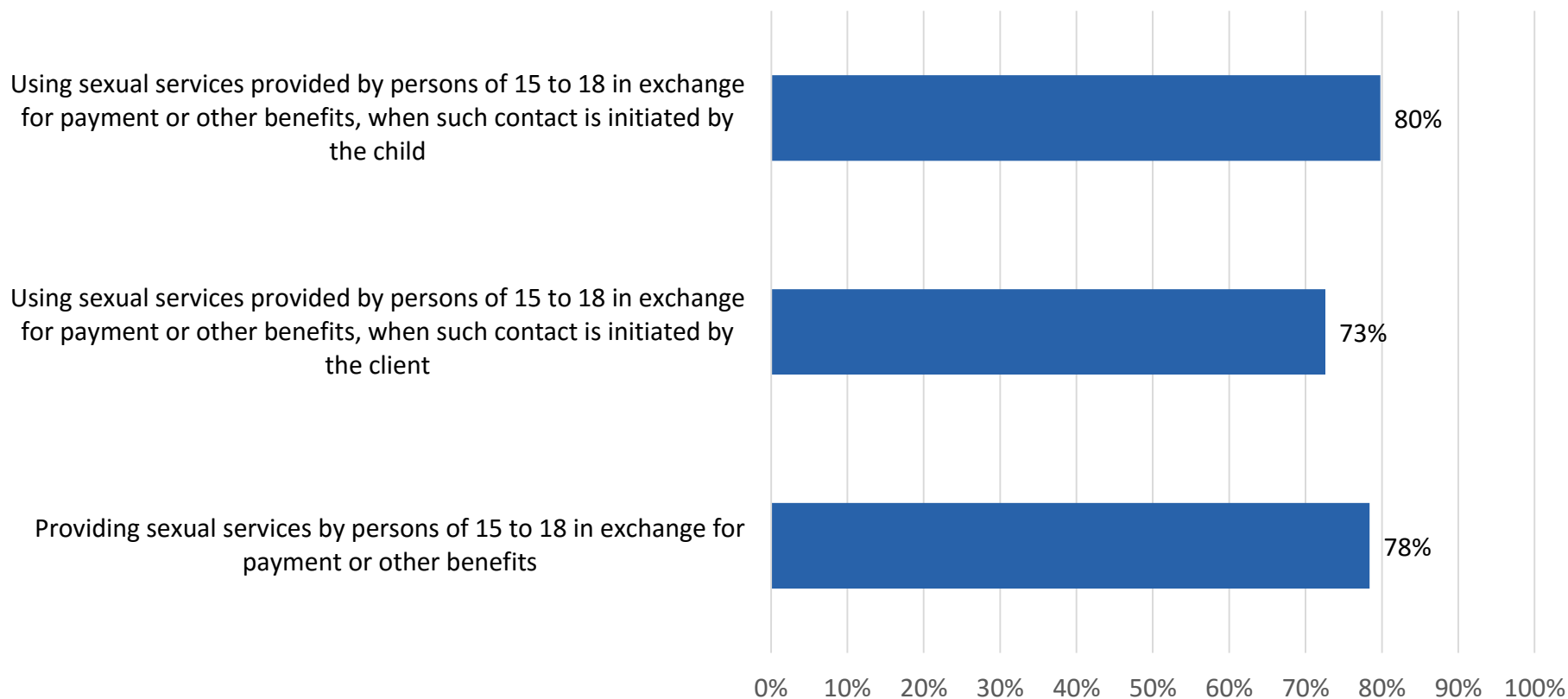
RISK GROUPS

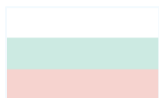
*In your opinion, which groups of children and young people are at higher risk of **engaging in sexual activity in exchange for payment or other benefits**? (multiple choice question)*



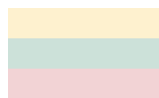
SUPPORT FOR PENALIZING VARIOUS BEHAVIOURS

Do you think the following behaviours **should be punishable**?





BUŁGARIA



LITWA



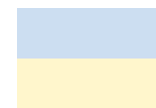
ŁOTWA



MOŁDAWIA



POLAND



UKRAINA

Detailed results by country:

POLAND

POLAND: SUMMARY OF RESULTS

In Poland the most negatively perceived form of commercial sexual activity was **aspirational prostitution**. **91%** of respondents regarded this behaviour as wrong or very wrong.

Survival sex was perceived as the least reprehensible. Still, the vast majority (**85%**) of respondents considered such behaviour to be wrong or very wrong.

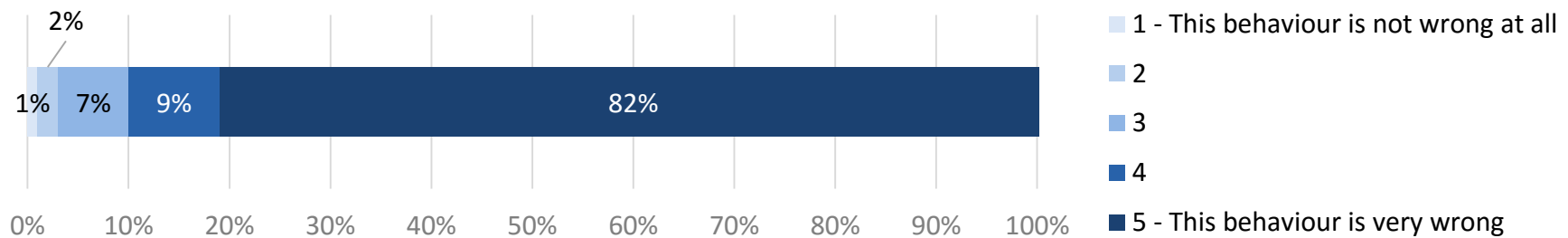
At the same time, **aspirational prostitution** was seen as the most prevalent or real problem among the four forms of commercial sexual exploitation. **56%** of respondents believed many people in Poland engaged in such behaviour.

49% of the sample thought there were groups of children and young people who were at higher risk of engaging in sexual activity in exchange for payment or other benefits. According to most respondents, those are **children from pathological families** and **poor families**.

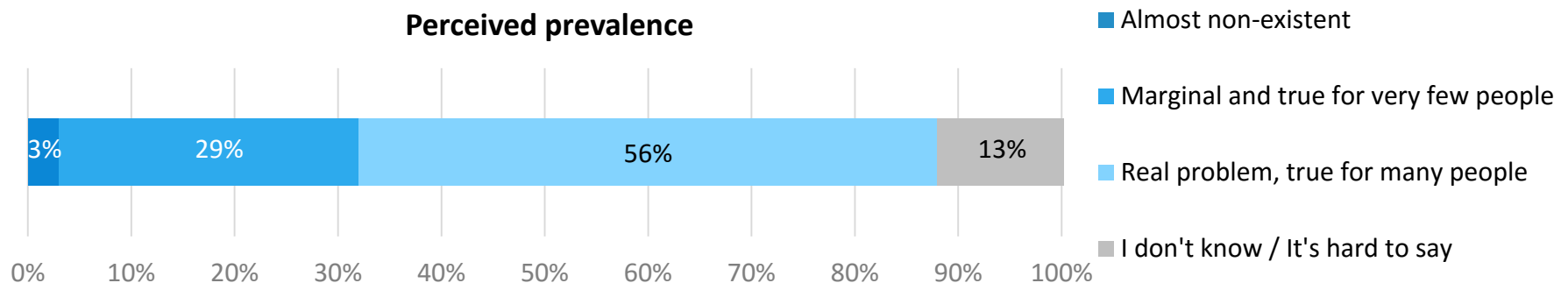
ASPIRATIONAL PROSTITUTION

Description: A boy or girl of 16 or 17 has sex with adult partners in exchange for **various gifts (e.g, clothes, cosmetics, electronic gadgets, etc.)**.

Social perception



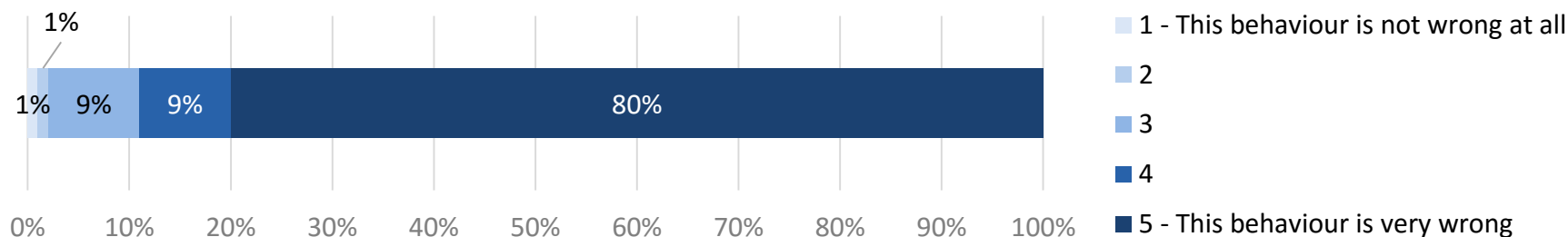
Perceived prevalence



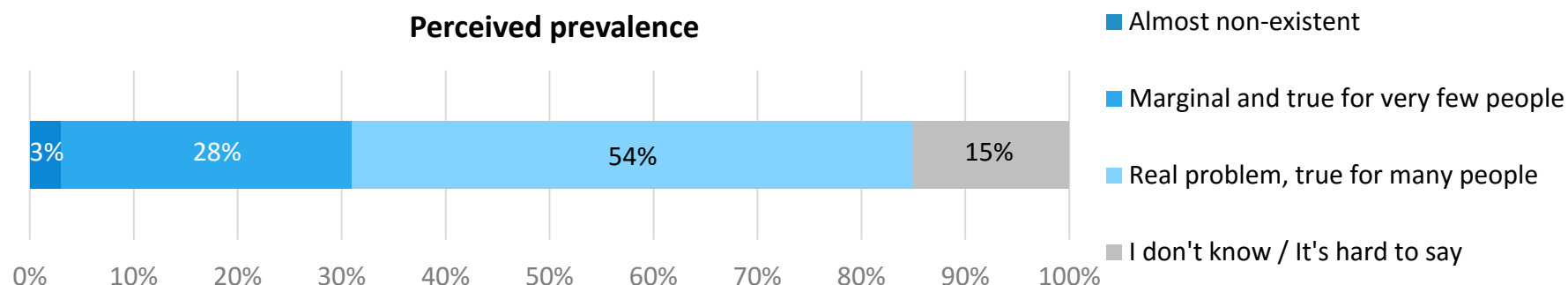
SPONSORING

Description: A boy or girl of 16 or 17 has sex with one adult partner or sponsor in exchange for **regular financial support**.

Social perception



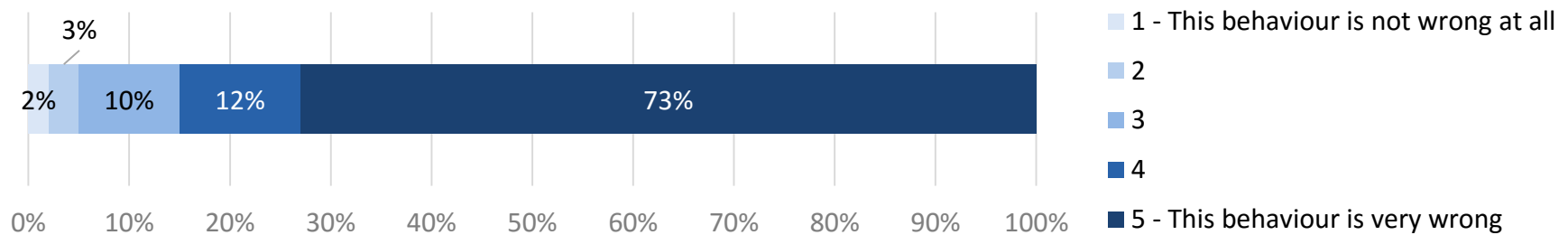
Perceived prevalence



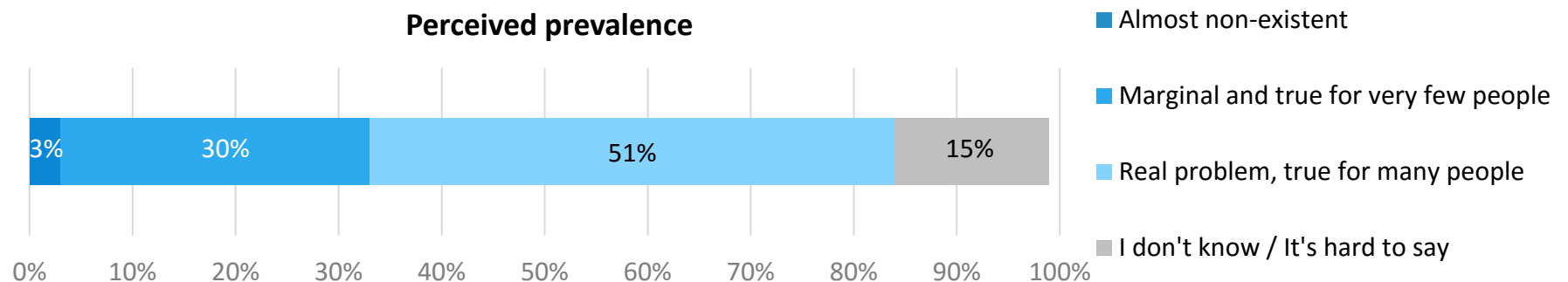
SURVIVAL SEX

Description: A boy or girl of 16 or 17, living in a poor family, has sex in exchange for **means of subsistence, basic needs, education, etc.**

Social perception



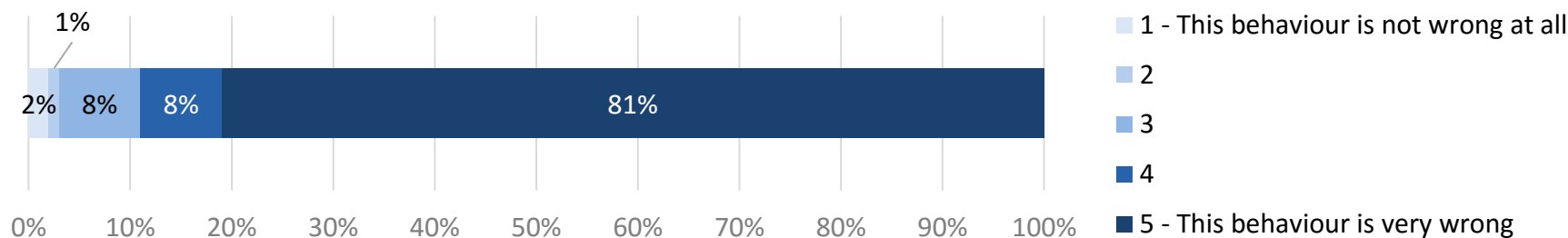
Perceived prevalence



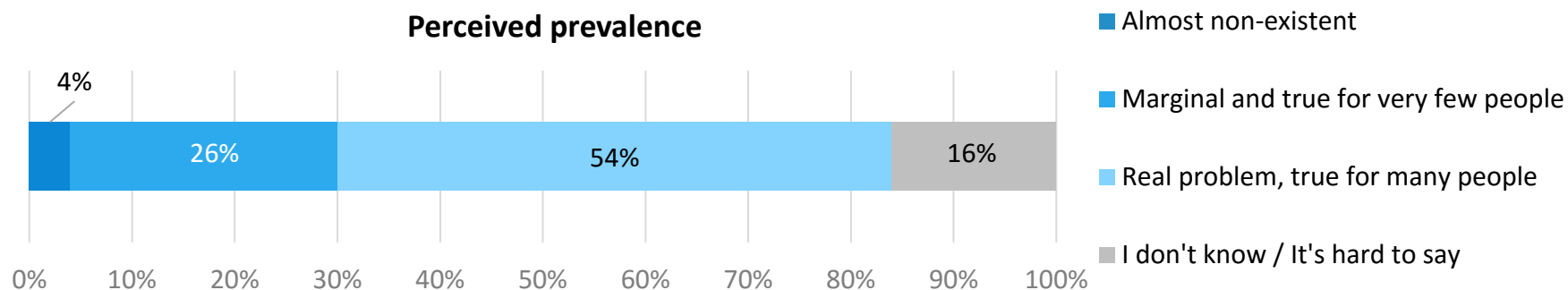
COMMERCIAL CYBERSEX

Description: A boy or girl of 16 or 17 shares his/her **naked photos online** in exchange for payment or other benefits.

Social perception

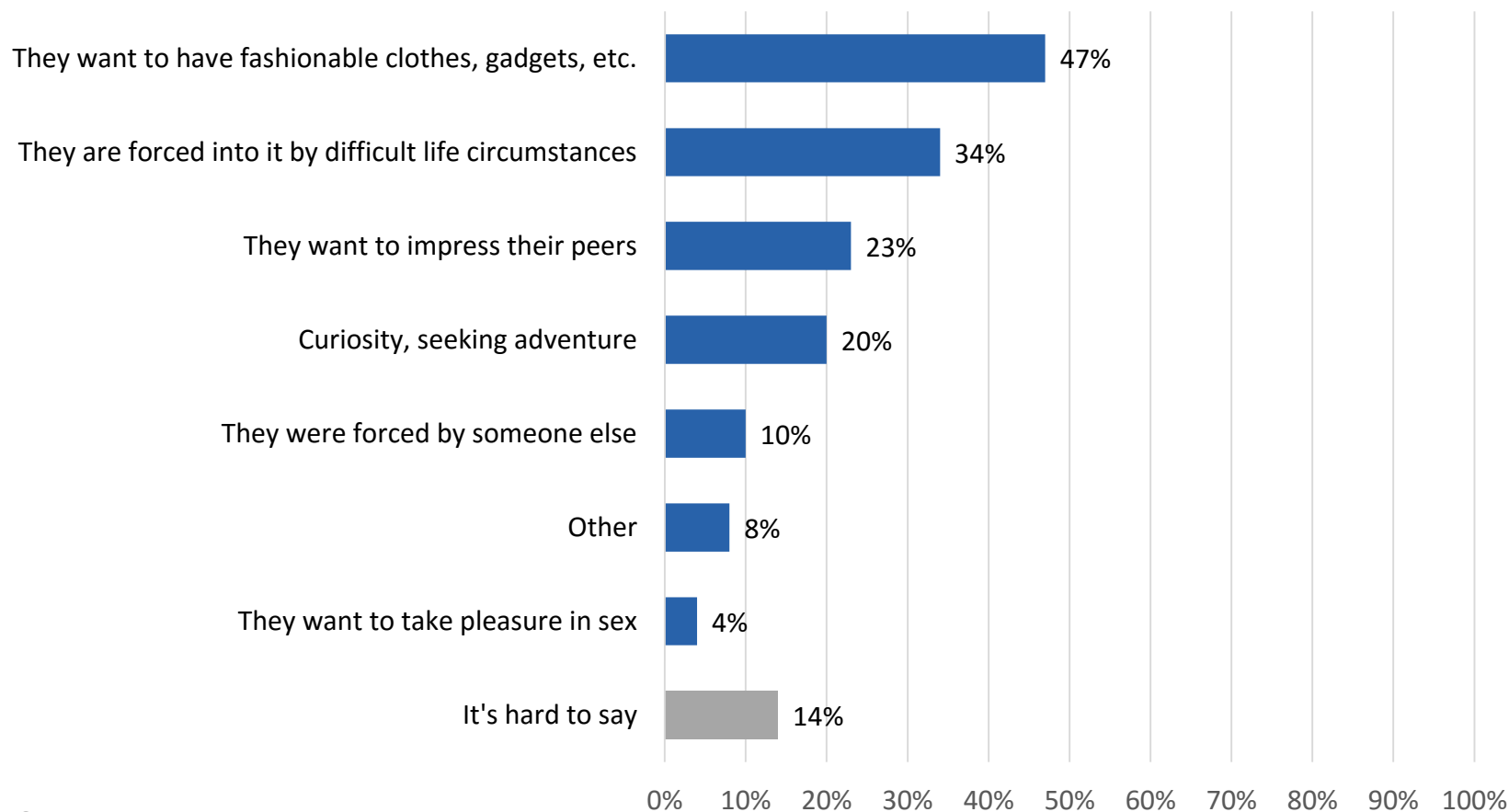


Perceived prevalence



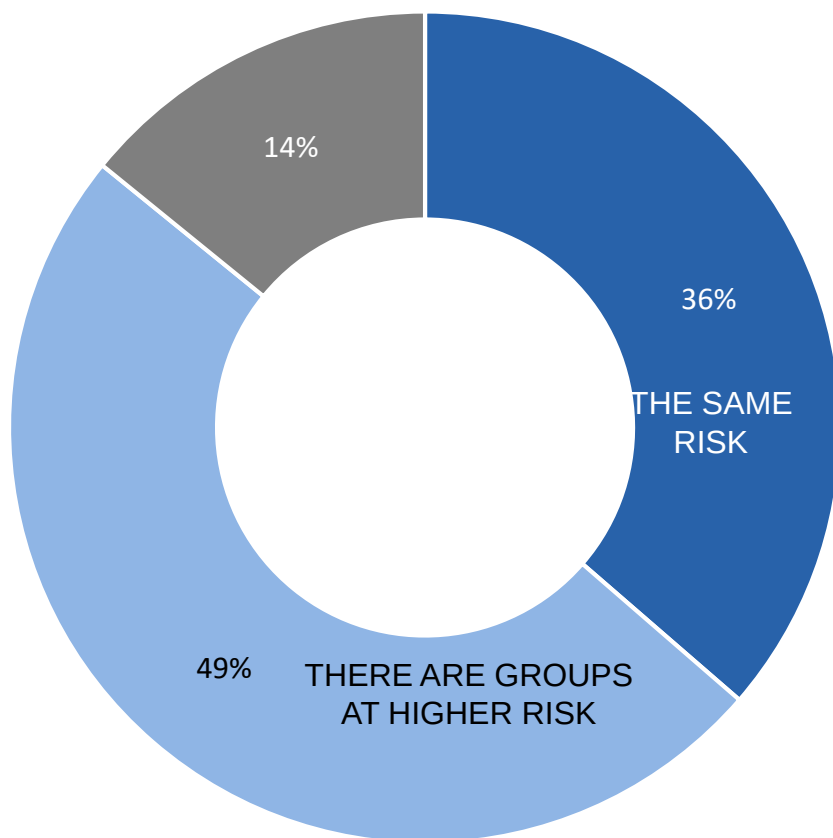
PERCEIVED MOTIVATIONS OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Why do you think children and young people under 18 choose to **engage in sexual activity in exchange for payment or other benefits?** (multiple choice question)



EXISTENCE OF RISK GROUPS

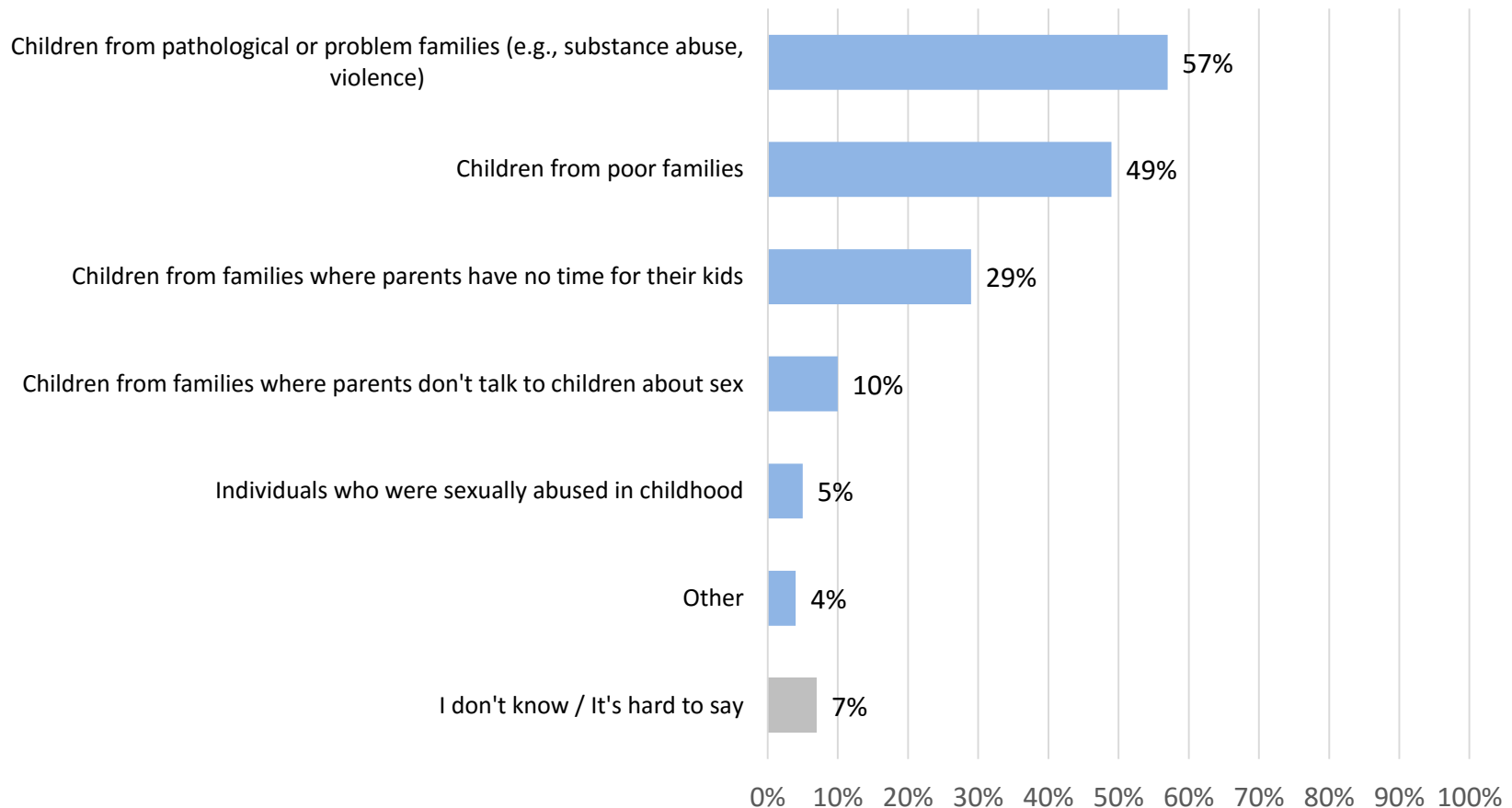
Which of the following statements do you agree with more?



- The risk of engaging in sexual activity in exchange for payment or other benefits is the same among children and young people in all environments/groups.
- In some groups of children and young people there is a higher risk of engaging in sexual activity in exchange for payment or other benefits.
- I don't know / It's hard to say

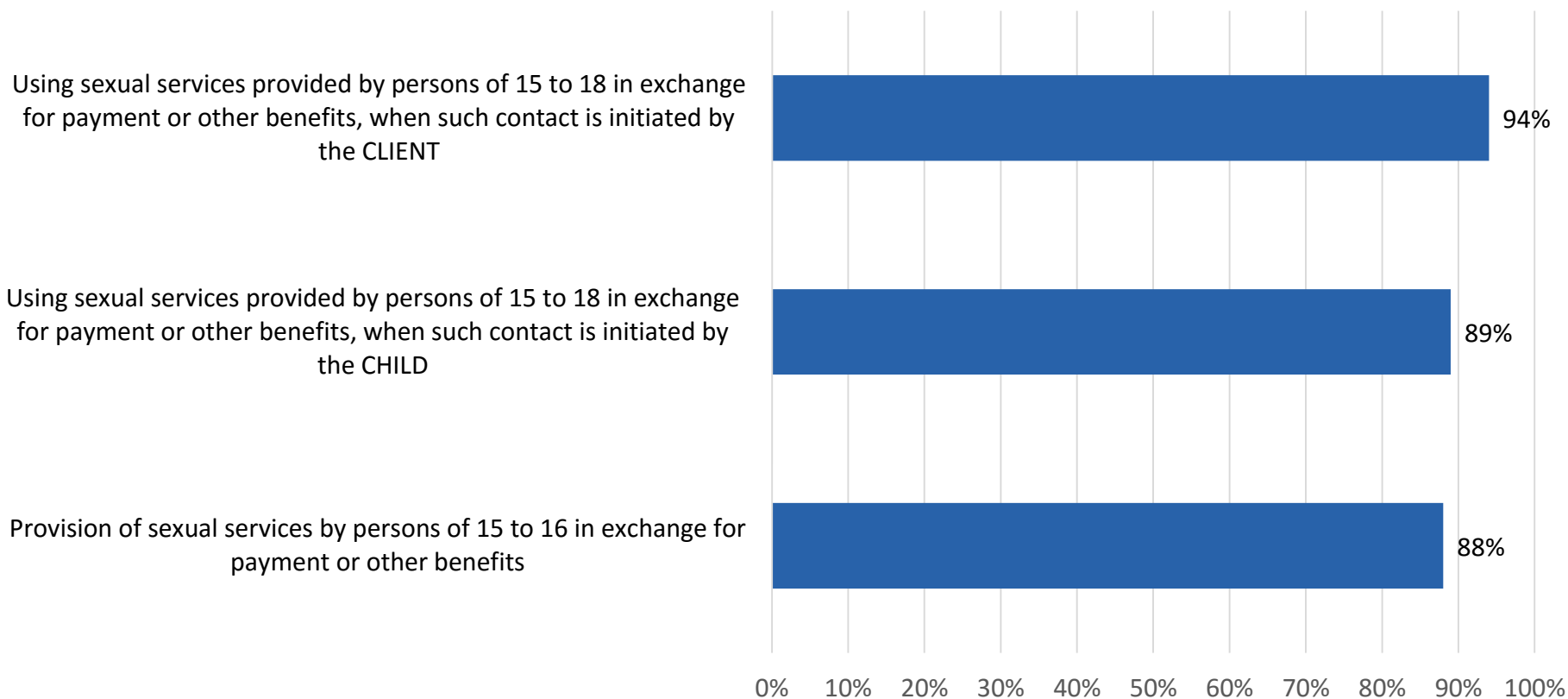
RISK GROUPS

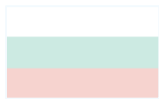
*In your opinion, which groups of children and young people are at higher risk of **engaging in sexual activity in exchange for payment or other benefits**? (multiple choice question)*



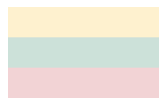
SUPPORT FOR PENALIZING VARIOUS BEHAVIOURS

Do you think the following behaviours **should be punishable**?





BUŁGARIA



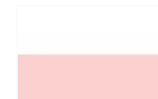
LITWA



ŁOTWA



MOŁDAWIA



POLSKA



UKRAINE

Detailed results by country:

UKRAINE

UKRAINE: SUMMARY OF RESULTS

In Ukraine the most negatively perceived form of commercial sexual activity was **aspirational prostitution**. **84%** of respondents regarded this behaviour as wrong or very wrong.

Survival sex was perceived as the least reprehensible. Still, the majority (**72%**) of respondents considered such behaviour to be wrong or very wrong.

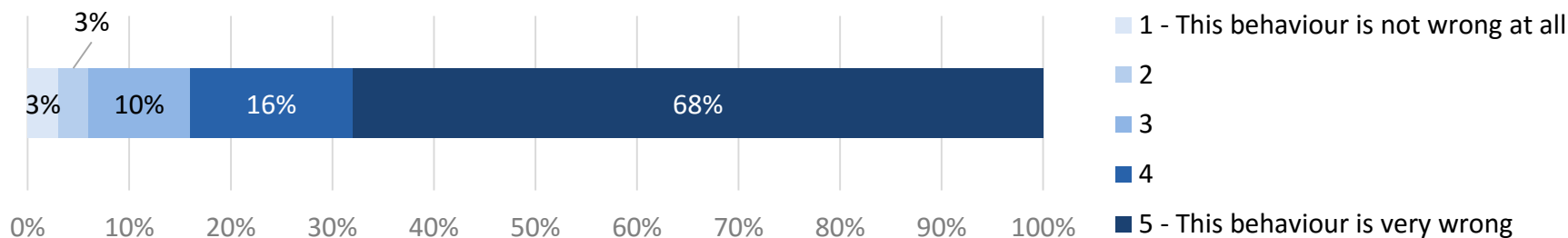
Sponsoring and **aspirational prostitution** were seen as the most prevalent or real problem among the four forms of commercial sexual exploitation. **60%** of respondents believed many people in Ukraine engaged in such behaviour.

60% of the sample thought there were groups of children and young people who were at higher risk of engaging in sexual activity in exchange for payment or other benefits. According to most respondents, those are **children from pathological families**, from **families where parents have no time for their children**, and from **poor families**.

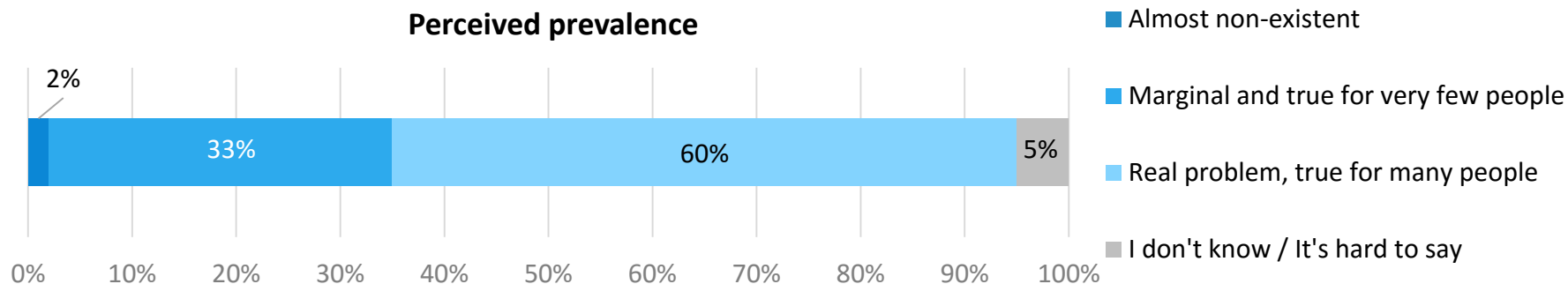
ASPIRATIONAL PROSTITUTION

Description: A boy or girl of 16 or 17 has sex with adult partners in exchange for **various gifts (e.g, clothes, cosmetics, electronic gadgets, etc.)**.

Social perception



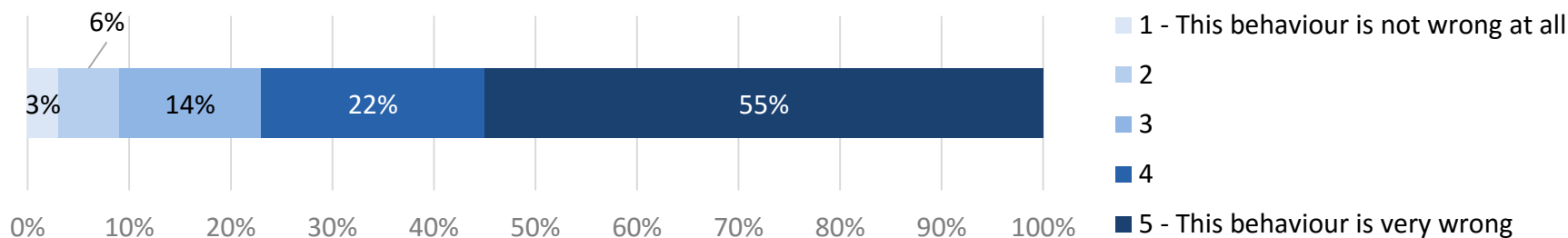
Perceived prevalence



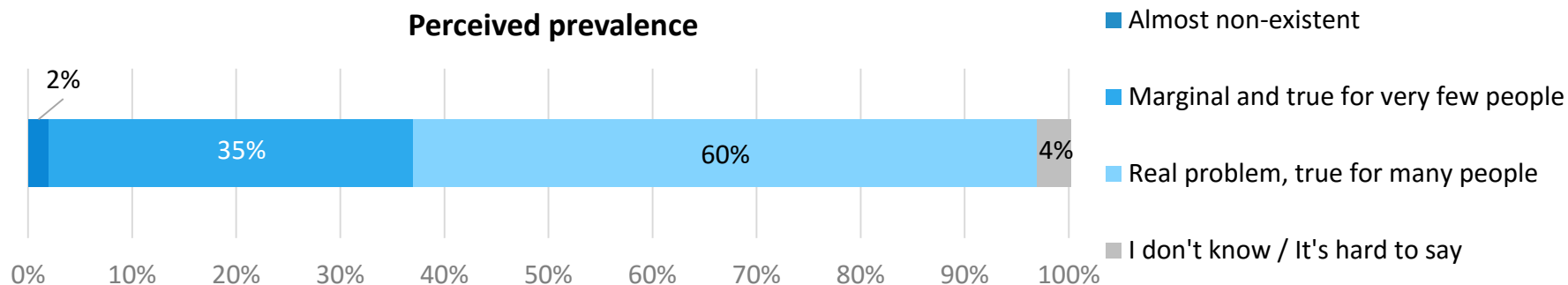
SPONSORING

Description: A boy or girl of 16 or 17 has sex with one adult partner or sponsor in exchange for **regular financial support**.

Social perception



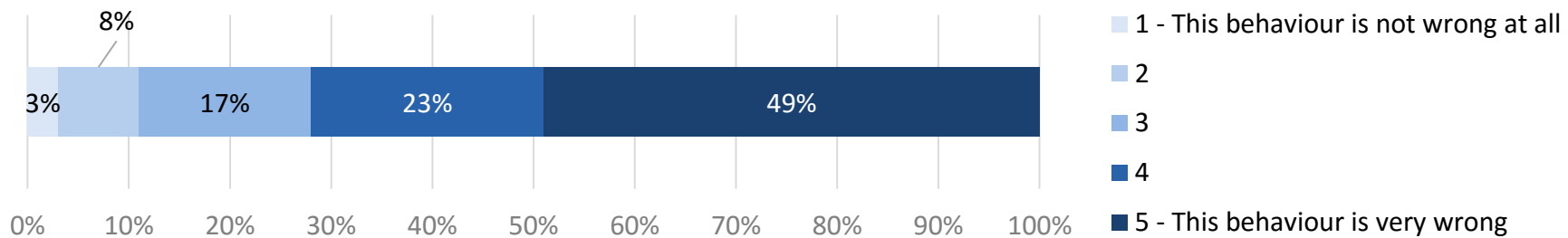
Perceived prevalence



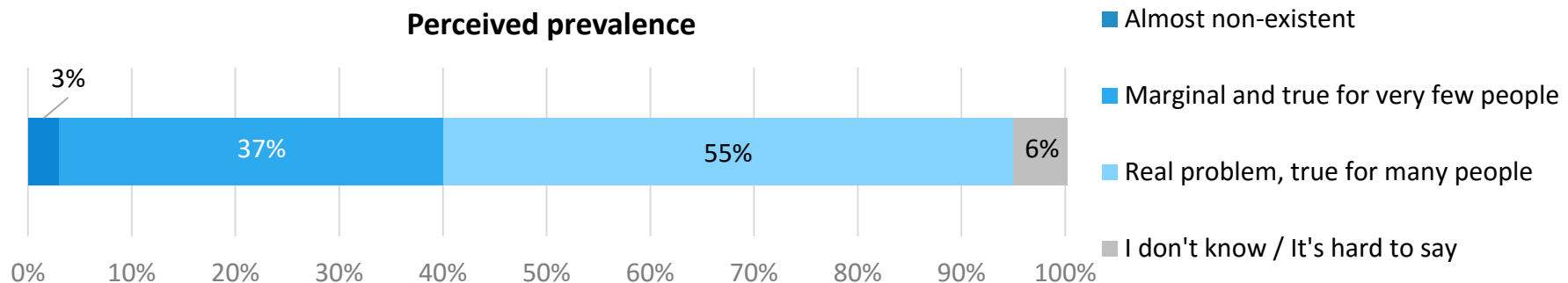
SURVIVAL SEX

Description: A boy or girl of 16 or 17, living in a poor family, has sex in exchange for **means of subsistence, basic needs, education, etc.**

Social perception



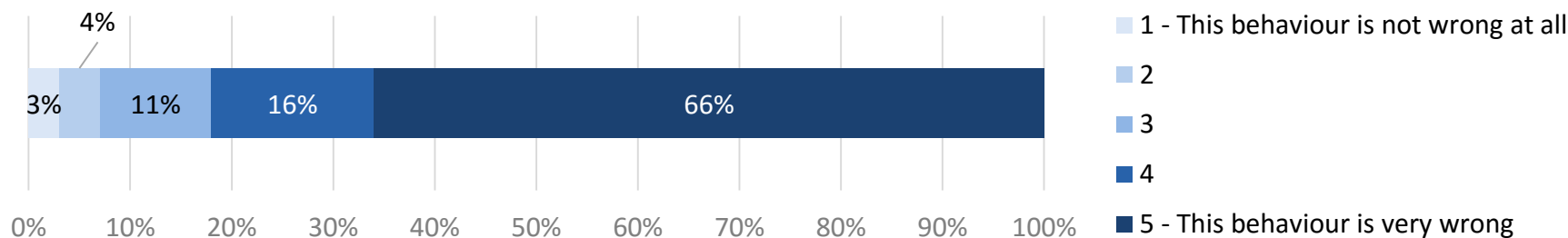
Perceived prevalence



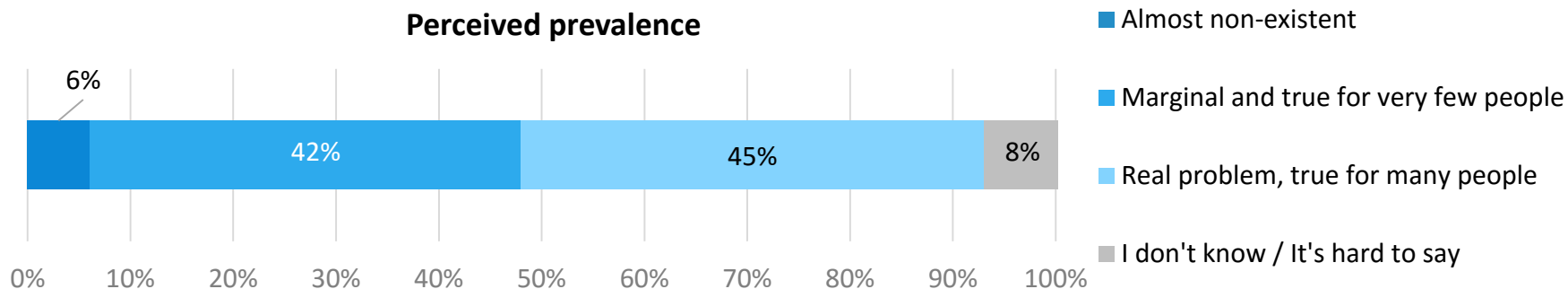
COMMERCIAL CYBERSEX

Description: A boy or girl of 16 or 17 shares his/her **naked photos online** in exchange for payment or other benefits.

Social perception

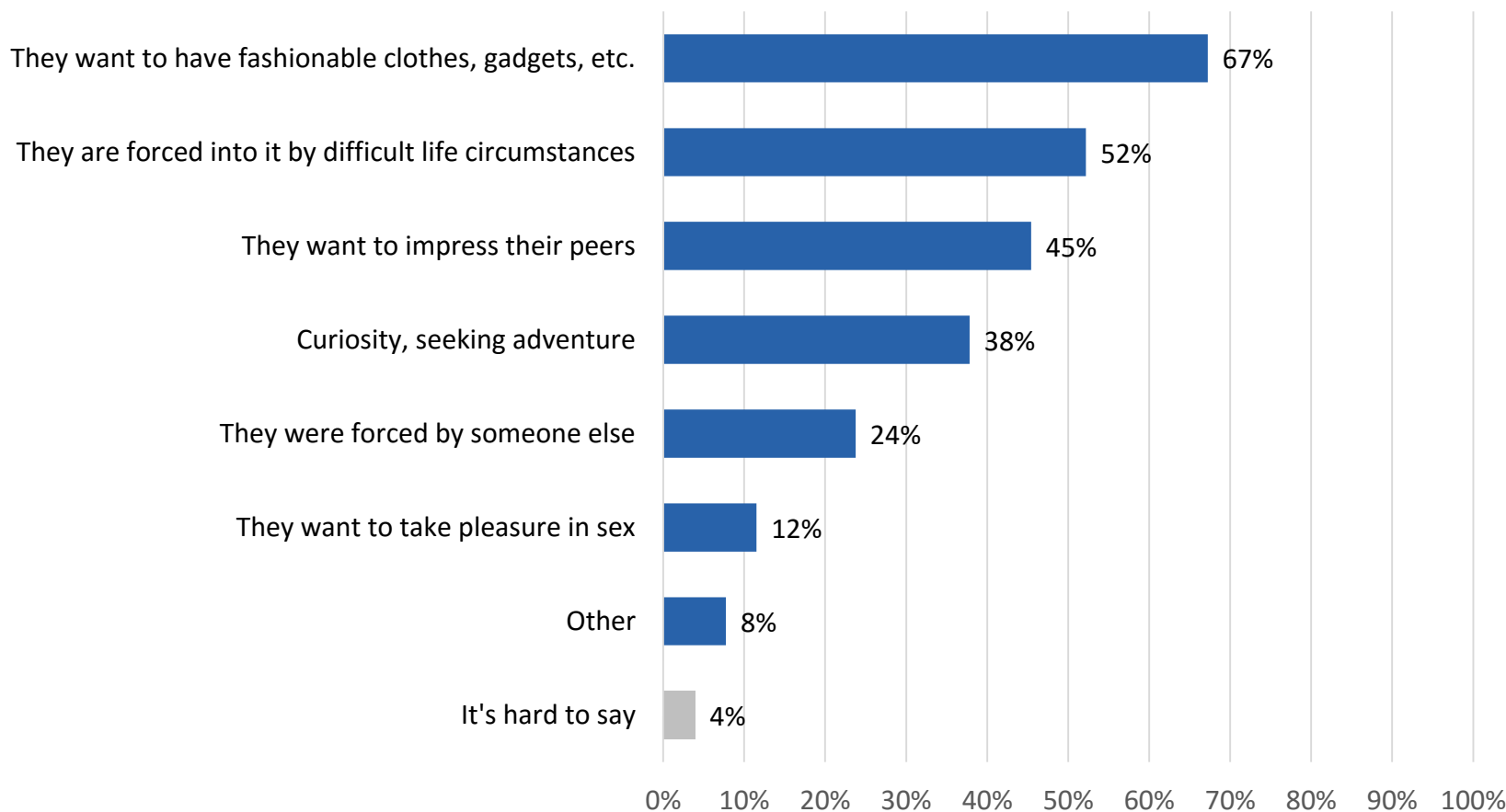


Perceived prevalence



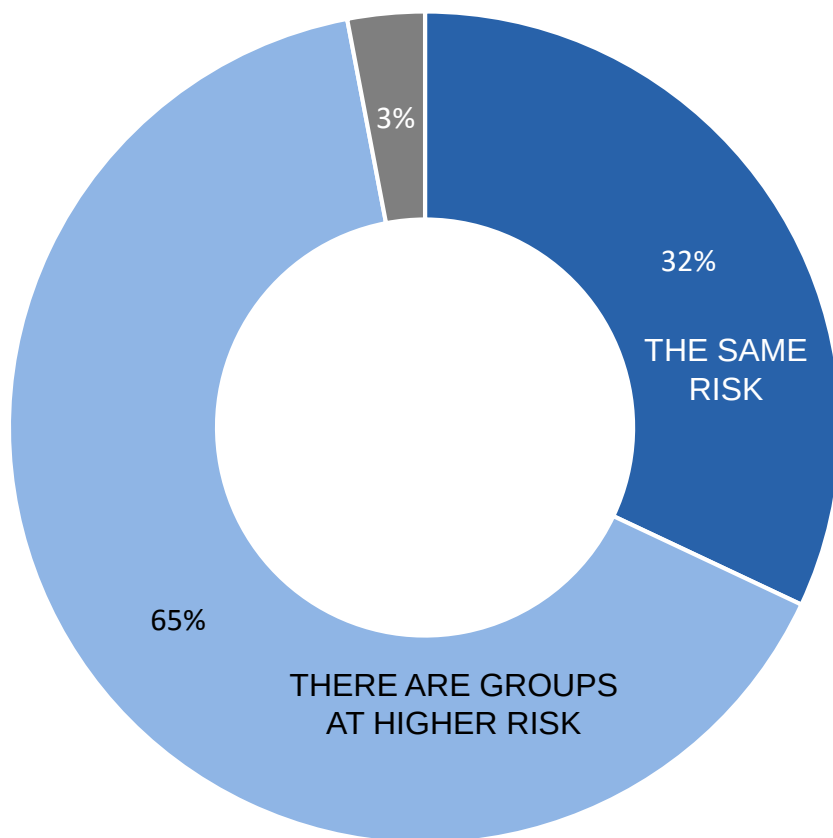
PERCEIVED MOTIVATIONS OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Why do you think children and young people under 18 choose to **engage in sexual activity in exchange for payment or other benefits?** (multiple choice question)



EXISTENCE OF RISK GROUPS

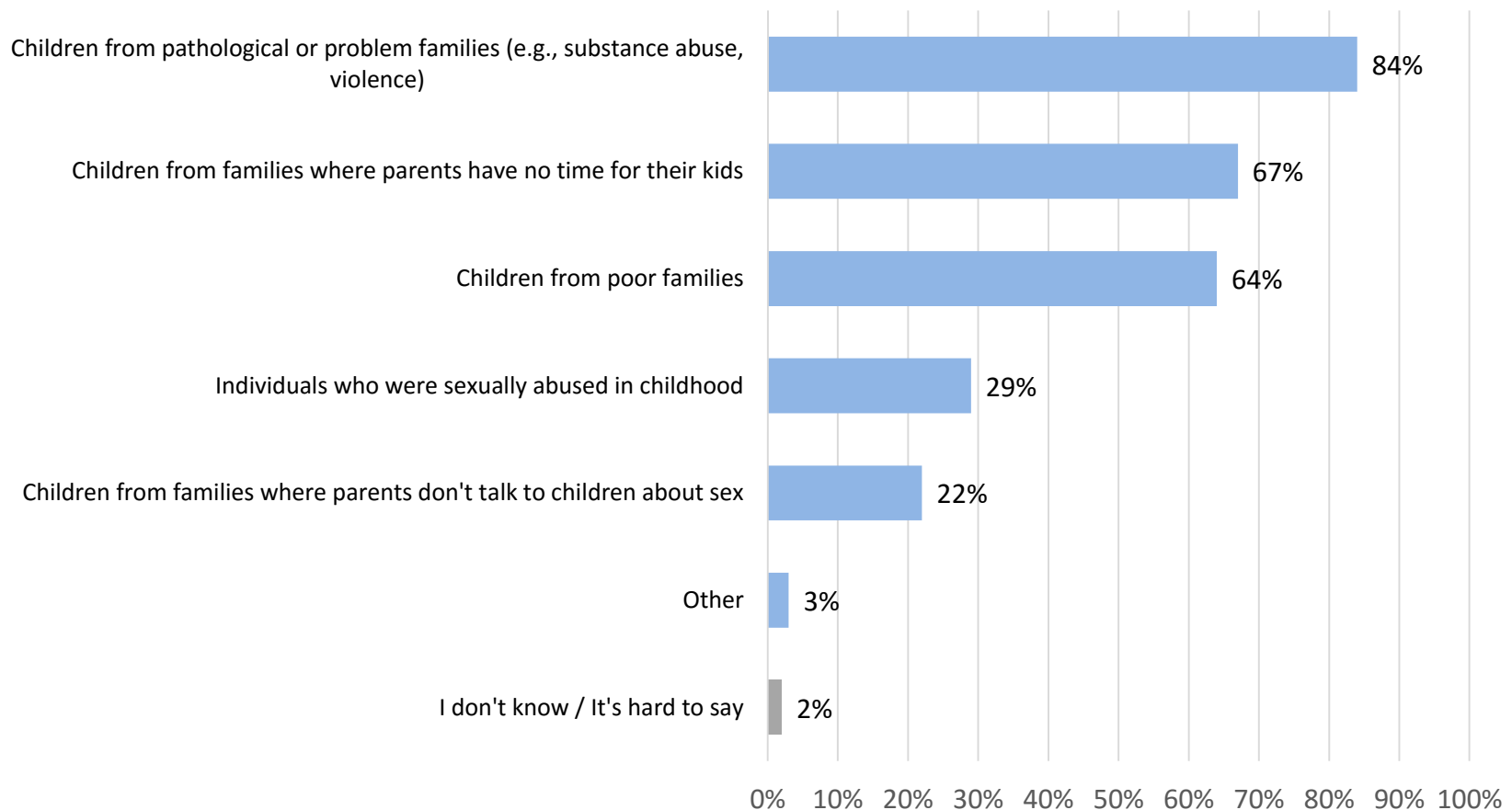
Which of the following statements do you agree with more?



- The risk of engaging in sexual activity in exchange for payment or other benefits is the same among children and young people in all environments/groups.
- In some groups of children and young people there is a higher risk of engaging in sexual activity in exchange for payment or other benefits.
- I don't know / It's hard to say

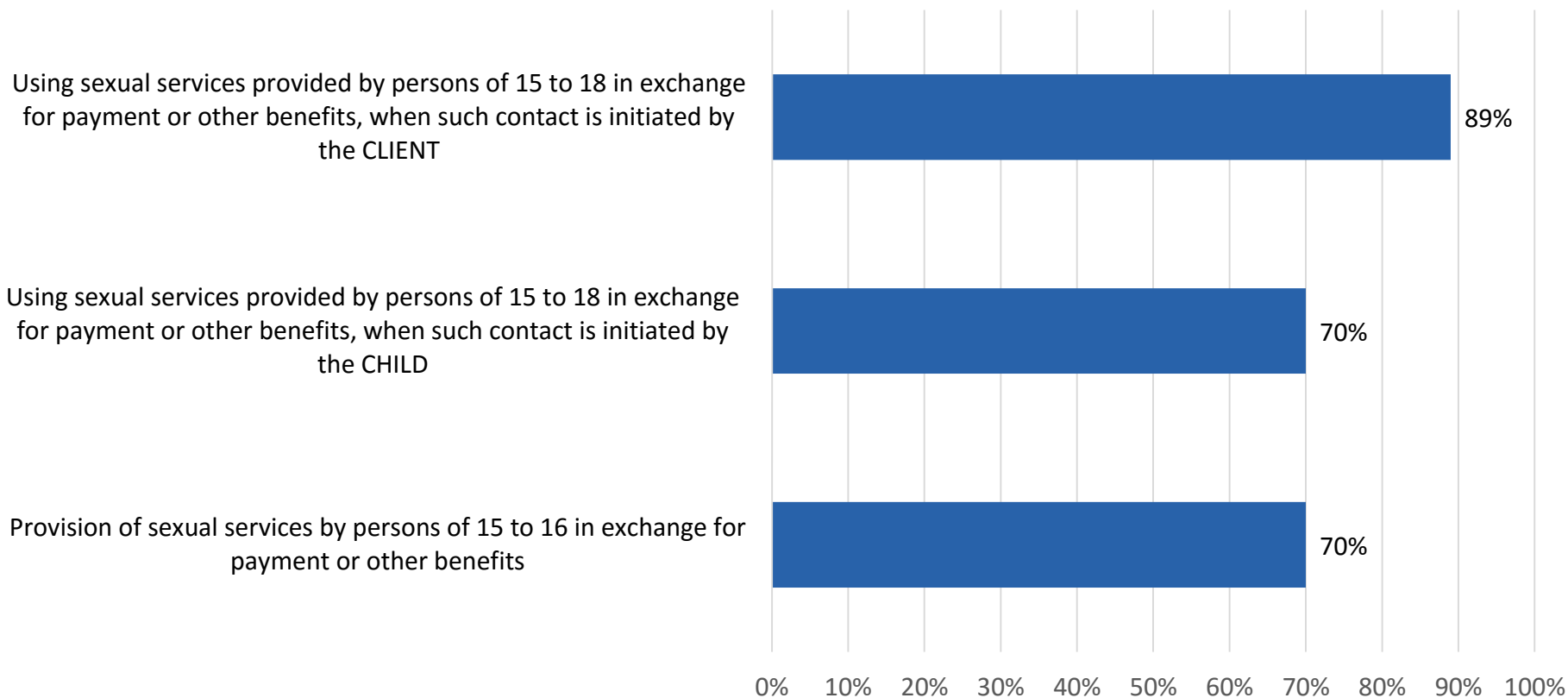
RISK GROUPS

*In your opinion, which groups of children and young people are at higher risk of **engaging in sexual activity in exchange for payment or other benefits**? (multiple choice question)*



SUPPORT FOR PENALIZING BEHAVIOURS

Do you think the following behaviours **should be punishable**?





BULGARIA



LITHUANIA



LATVIA



MOLDOVA



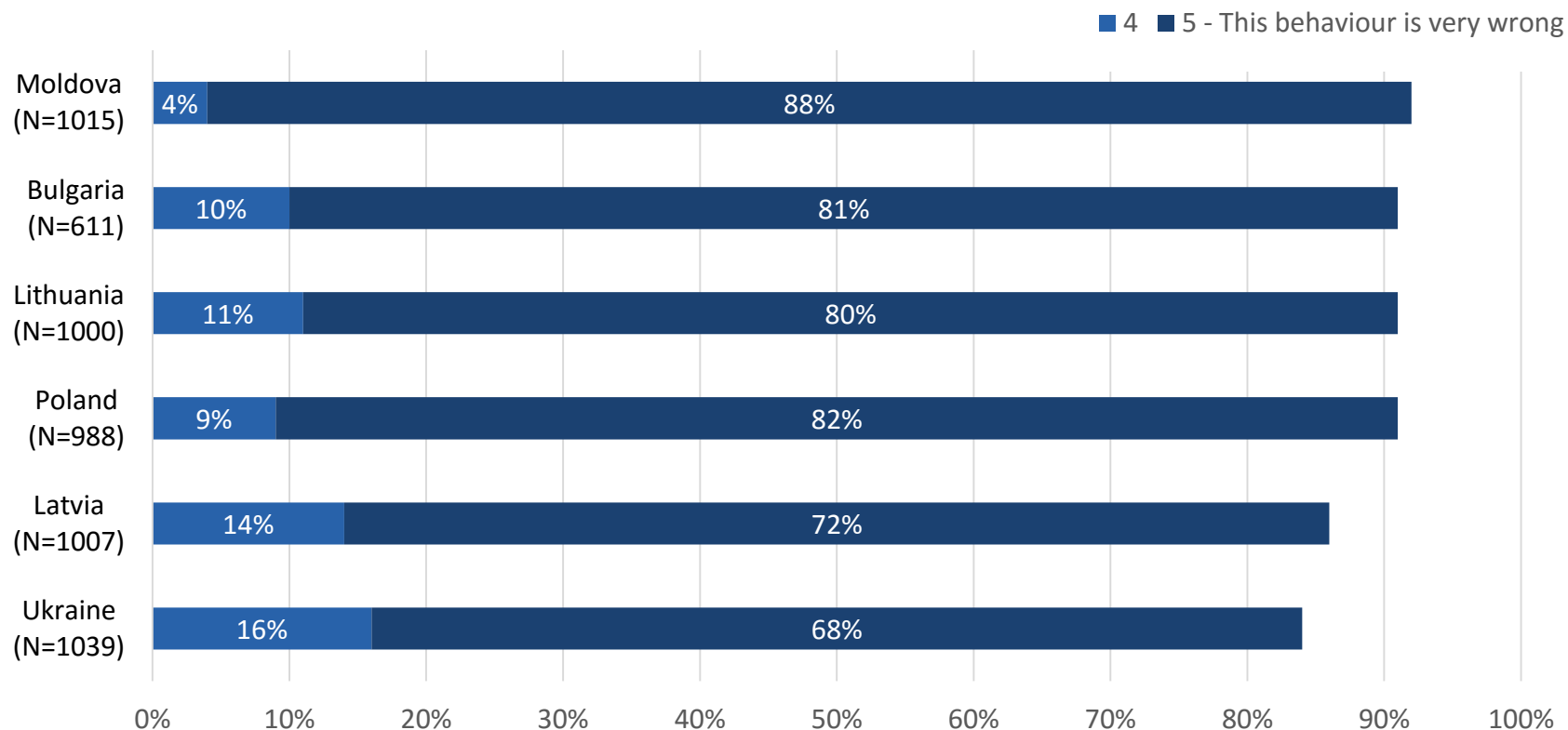
POLAND



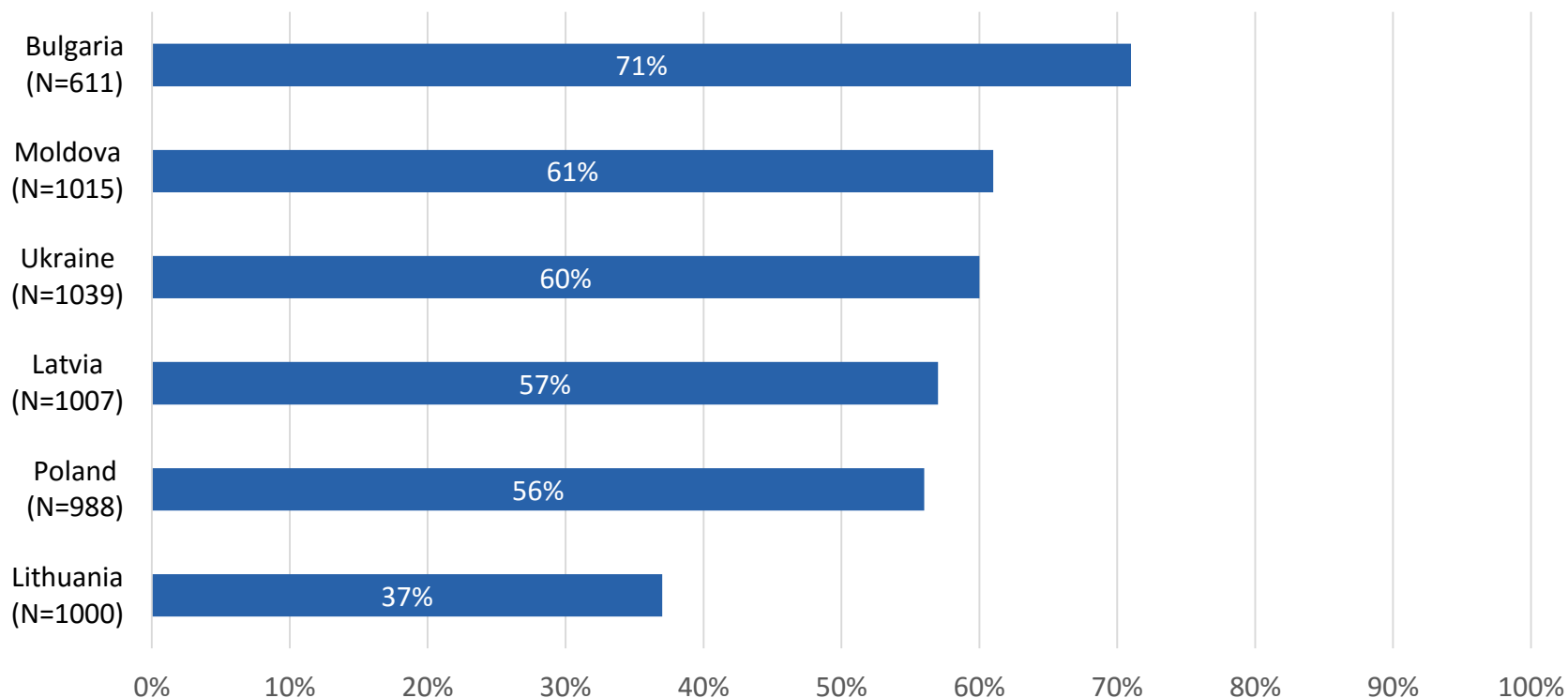
UKRAINE

Inter-country comparison of results

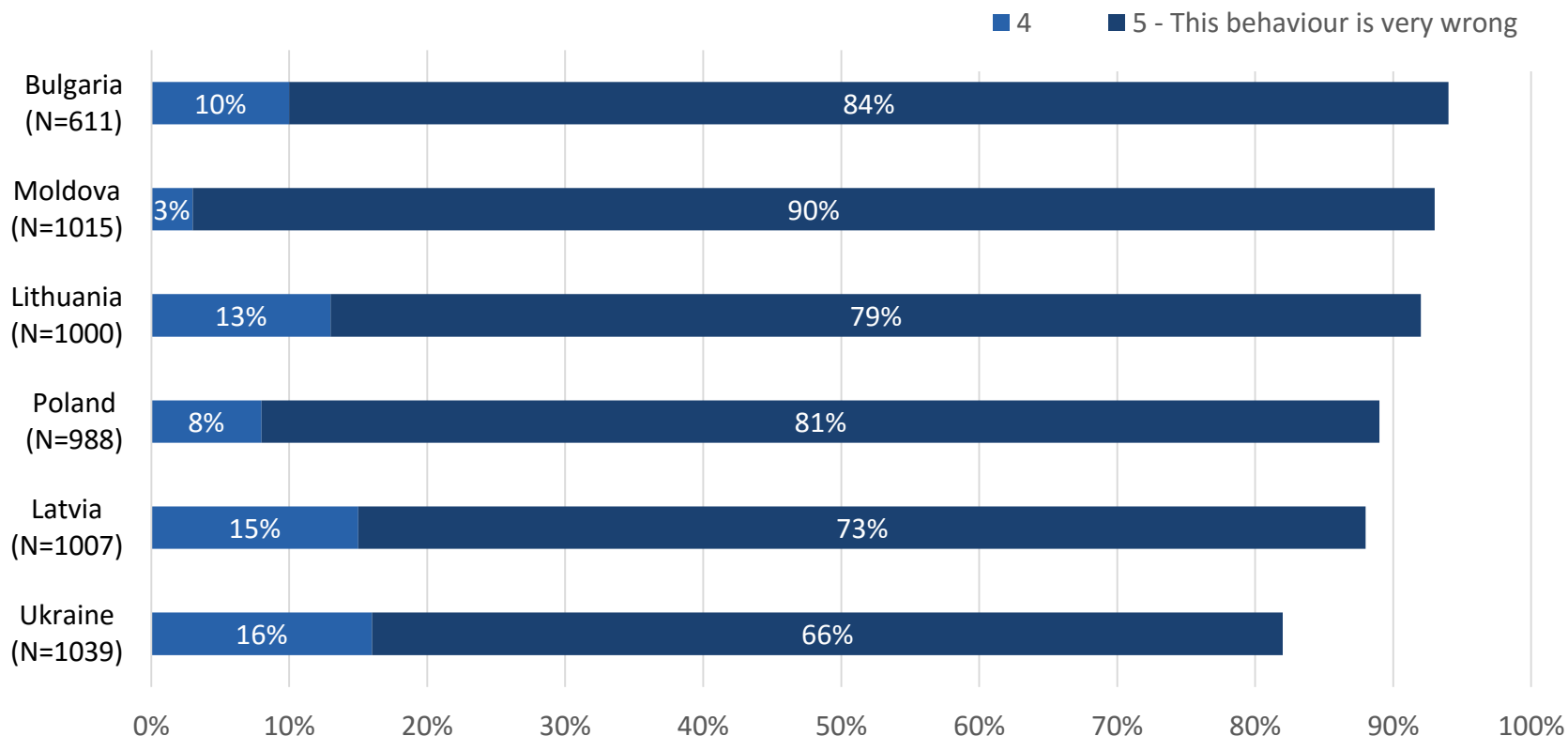
ASPIRATIONAL PROSTITUTION: NEGATIVE SOCIAL PERCEPTION



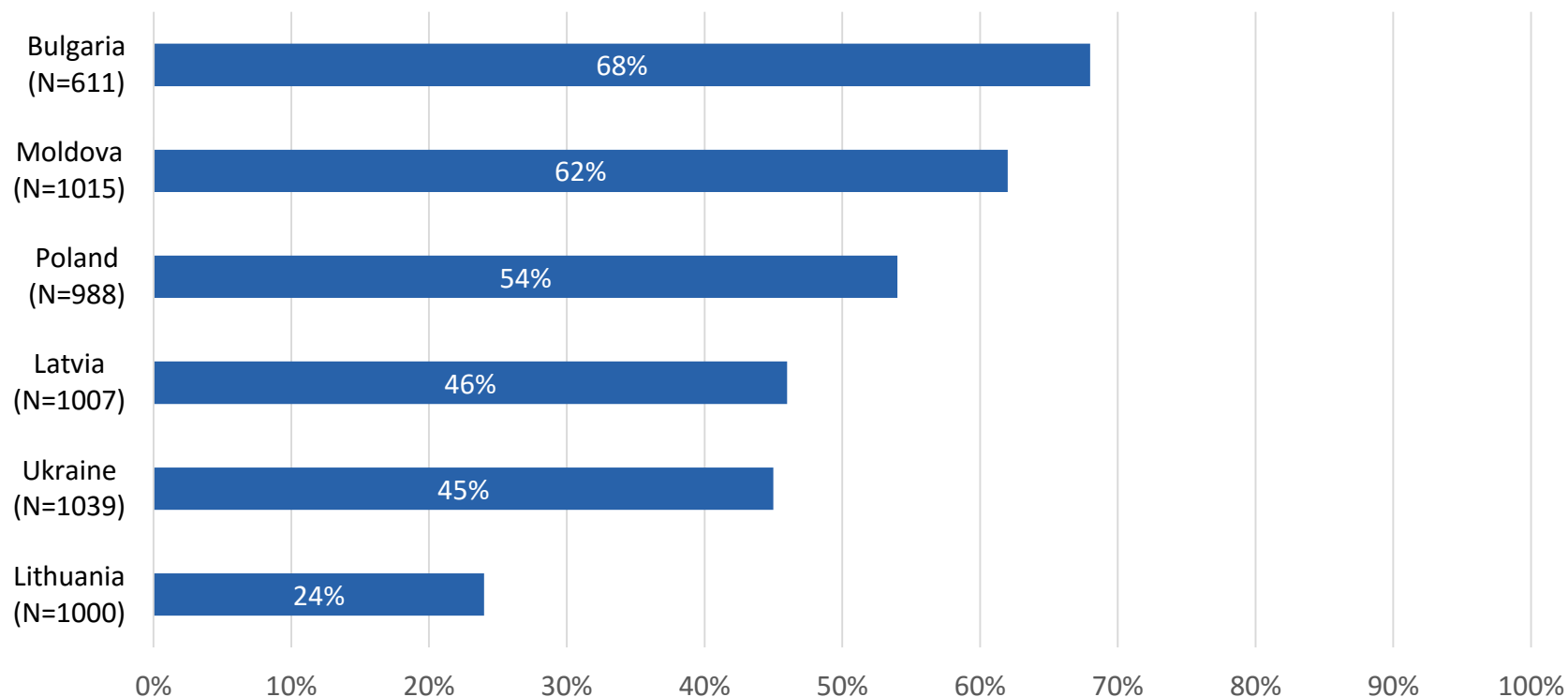
ASPIRATIONAL PROSTITUTION AS A REAL PROBLEM IN THE COUNTRY



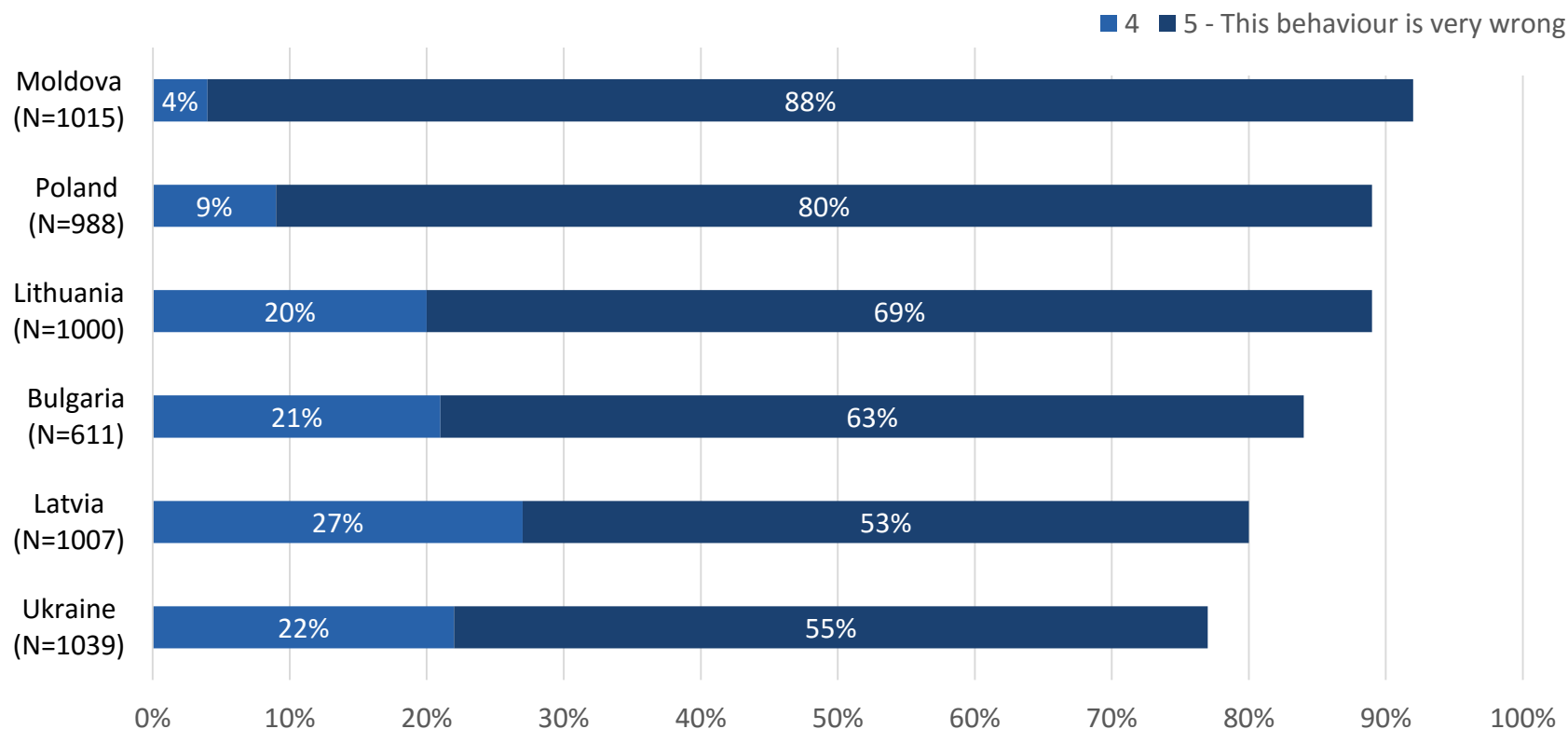
COMMERCIAL CYBERSEX: NEGATIVE SOCIAL PERCEPTION



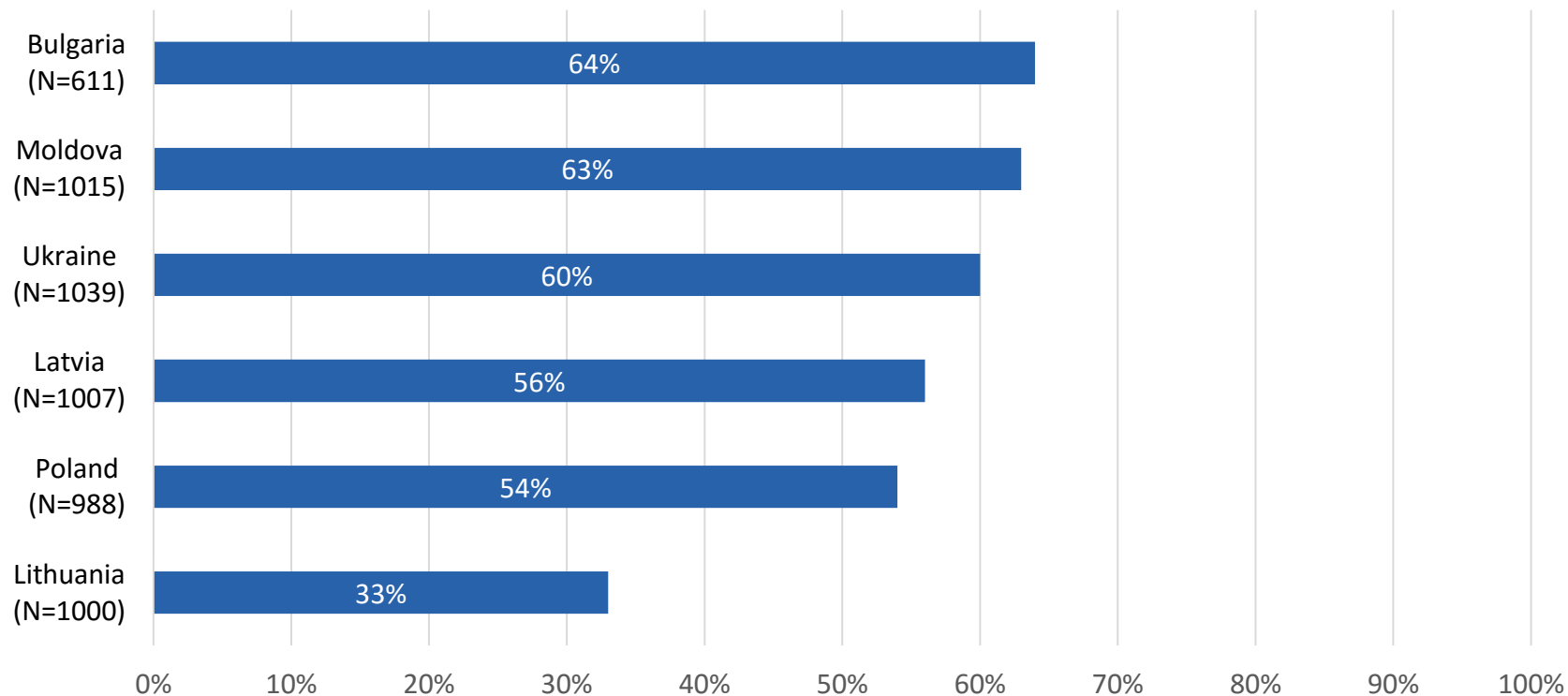
COMMERCIAL CYBERSEX AS A REAL PROBLEM IN THE COUNTRY



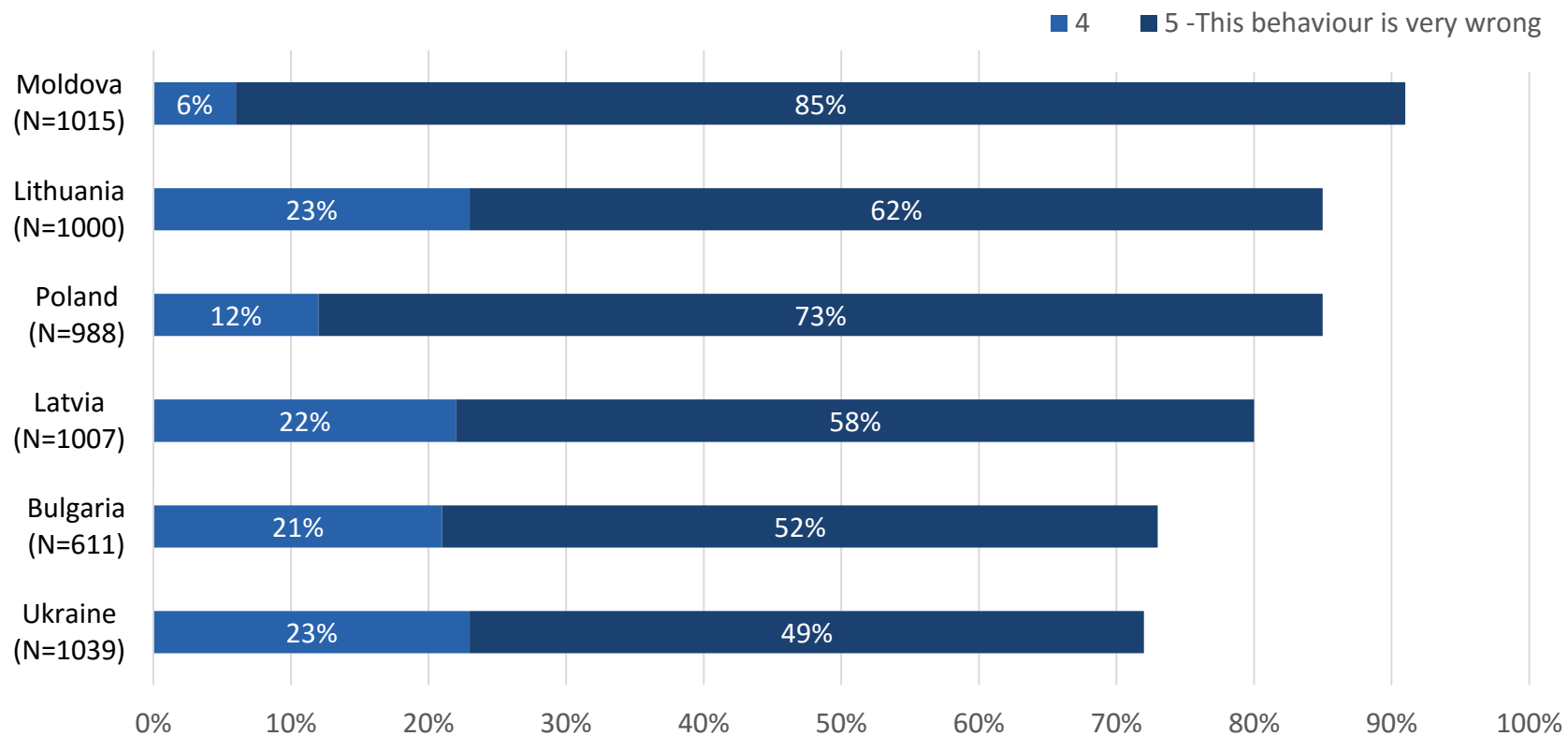
SPONSORING: NEGATIVE SOCIAL PERCEPTION



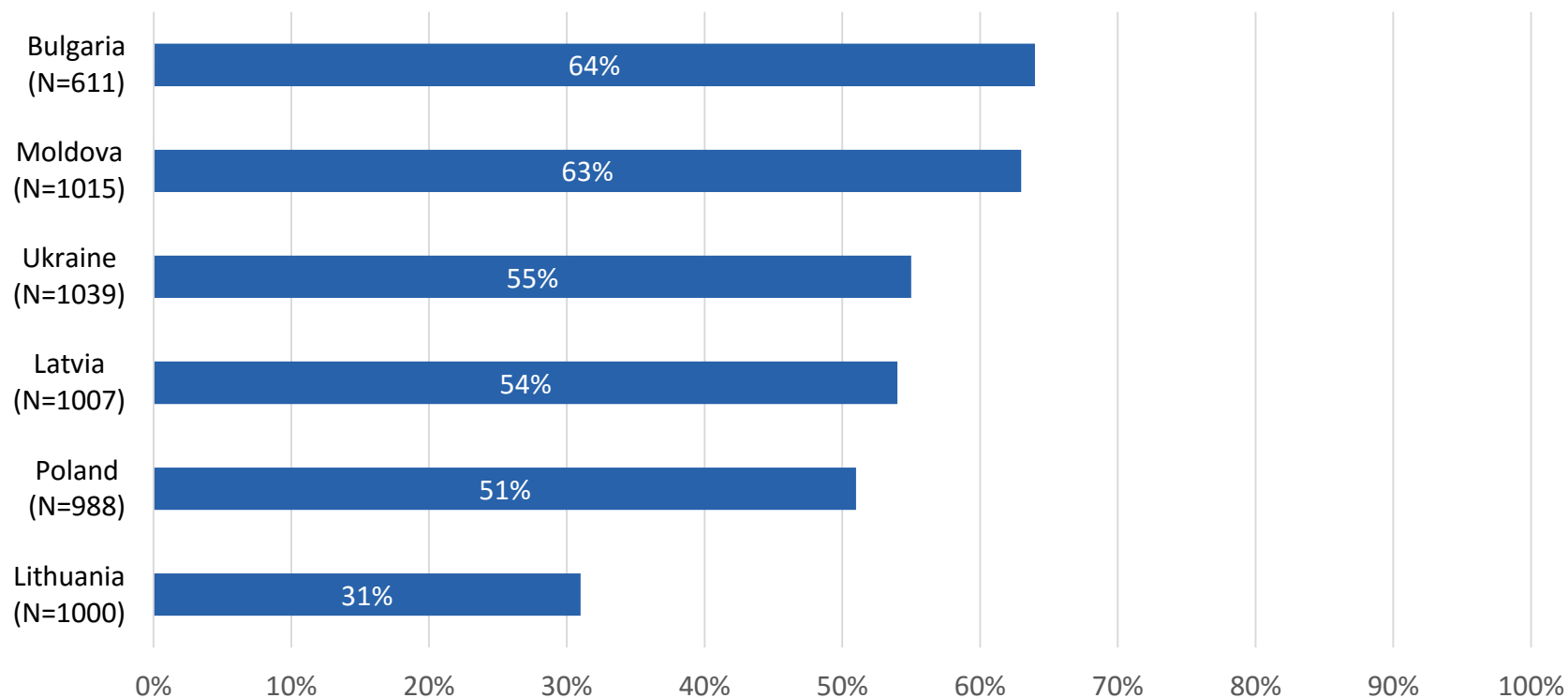
SPONSORING AS A REAL PROBLEM IN THE COUNTRY



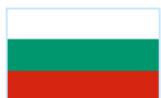
SURVIVAL SEX: NEGATIVE SOCIAL PERCEPTION



SURVIVAL SEX AS A REAL PROBLEM IN THE COUNTRY



PERCEIVED MOTIVATIONS OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE



BULGARIA

They are forced into it by difficult life circumstances (61%)

Lack of attention / poor communication with parents (15%)



MOLDOVA

They are forced into it by difficult life circumstances (61%)

They want to have fashionable clothes, gadgets, etc. (52%)



LITHUANIA

They want to have fashionable clothes, gadgets, etc. (67%)

They are forced into it by difficult life circumstances (61%)



POLAND

They want to have fashionable clothes, gadgets, etc. (47%)

They are forced into it by difficult life circumstances (34%)



LATVIA

They want to have fashionable clothes, gadgets, etc. (58%)

They want to impress their peers (55%)



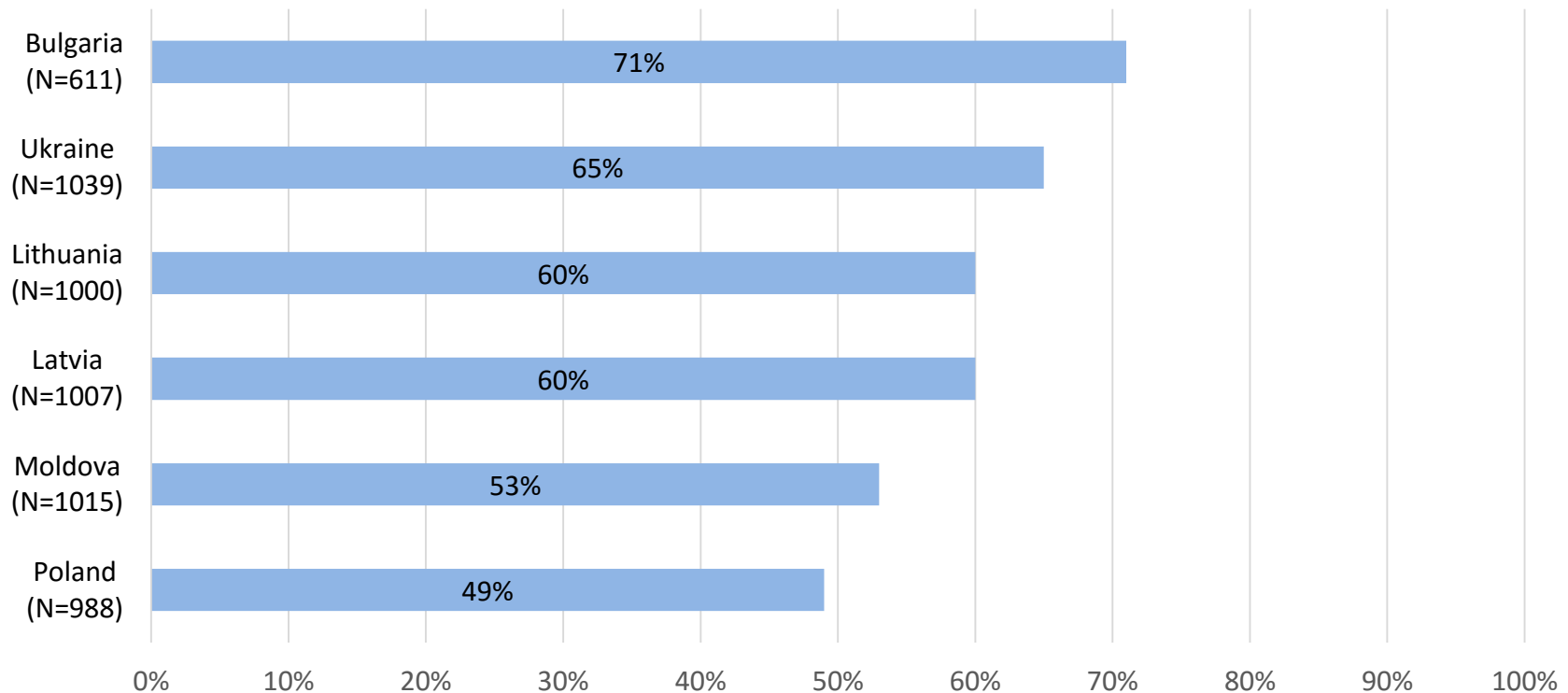
UKRAINE

They want to have fashionable clothes, gadgets, etc. (67%)

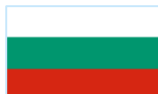
They are forced into it by difficult life circumstances (52%)

EXISTENCE OF RISK GROUPS

In some groups of children and young people there is a higher risk of engaging in sexual activity in exchange for payment or other benefits.



RISK GROUPS



BULGARIA

Children and young people from pathological or problem families (e.g., substance abuse, violence) (73%)

Children and young people from poor families (64%)



LITHUANIA

Children and young people from pathological or problem families (e.g., substance abuse, violence) (89%)

Children and young people from poor families (64%)



LATVIA

Children and young people from pathological or problem families (e.g., substance abuse, violence) (85%)

Children and young people from families where parents have no time for their kids (70%)



MOLDOVA

Children and young people from pathological or problem families (e.g., substance abuse, violence) (76%)

Children and young people from poor families (76%)



POLAND

Children and young people from pathological or problem families (e.g., substance abuse, violence) (57%)

Children and young people from poor families (49%)



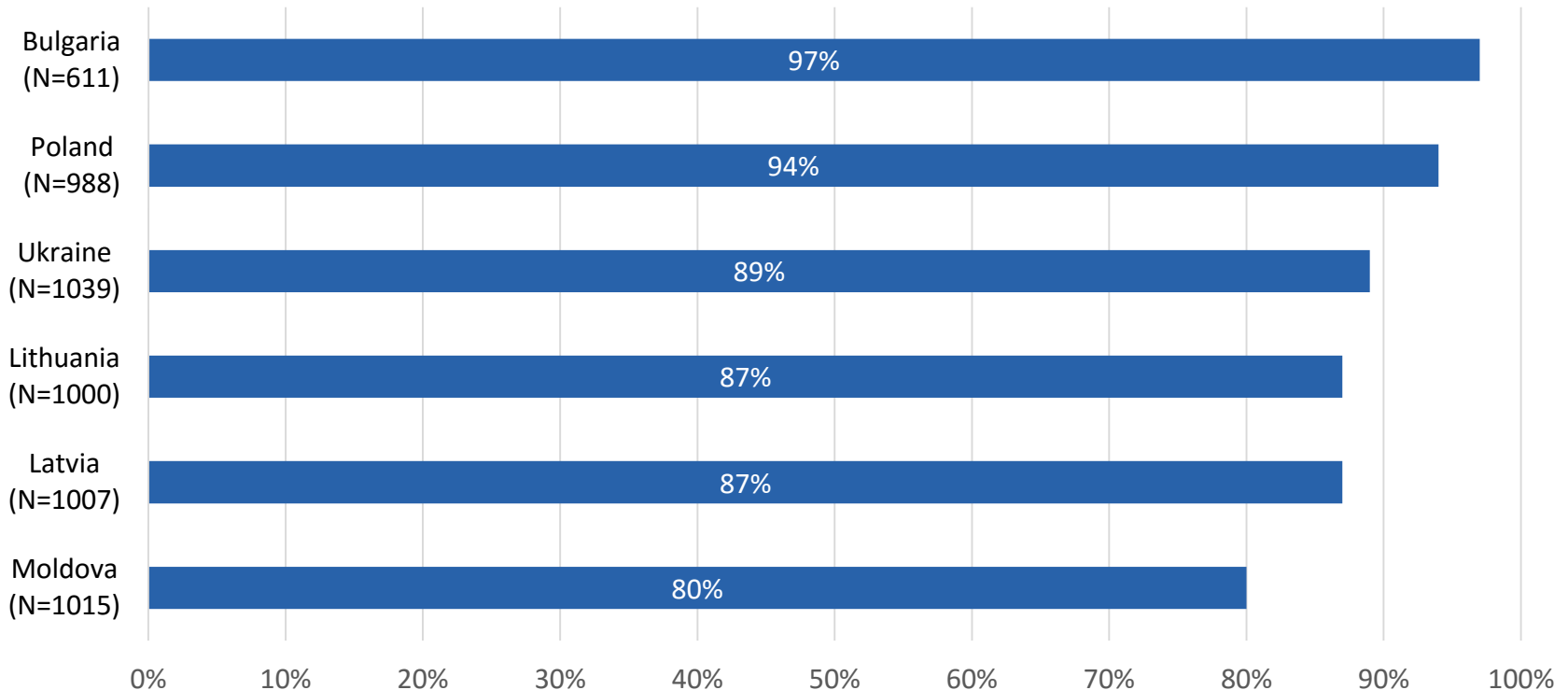
UKRAINE

Children and young people from pathological or problem families (e.g., substance abuse, violence) (84%)

Children and young people from families where parents have no time for their kids (67%)

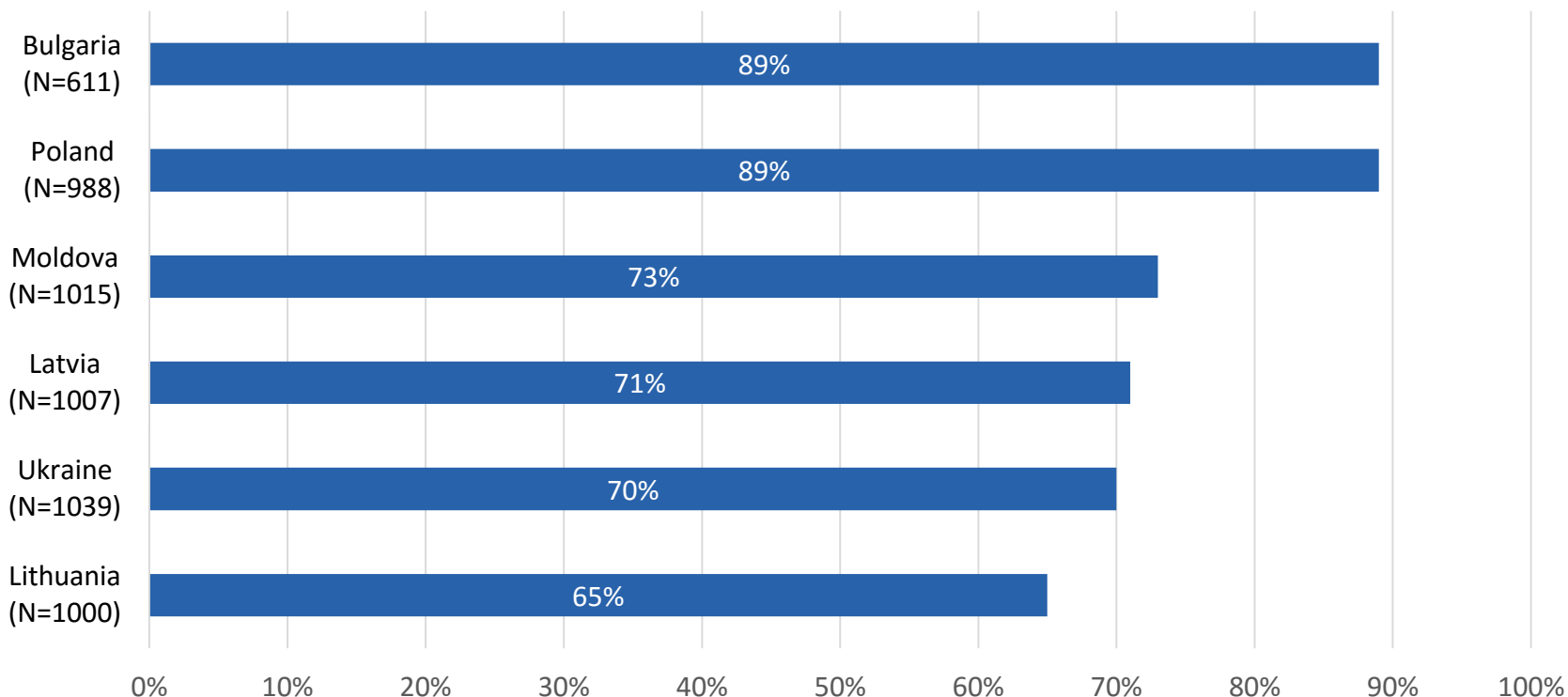
SUPPORT FOR PENALIZING VARIOUS BEHAVIOURS: USING SERVICES (INITIATED BY THE CLIENT)

**Using sexual services provided by persons of 15 to 18 in exchange for payment or other benefits,
when such contact is initiated by the client**



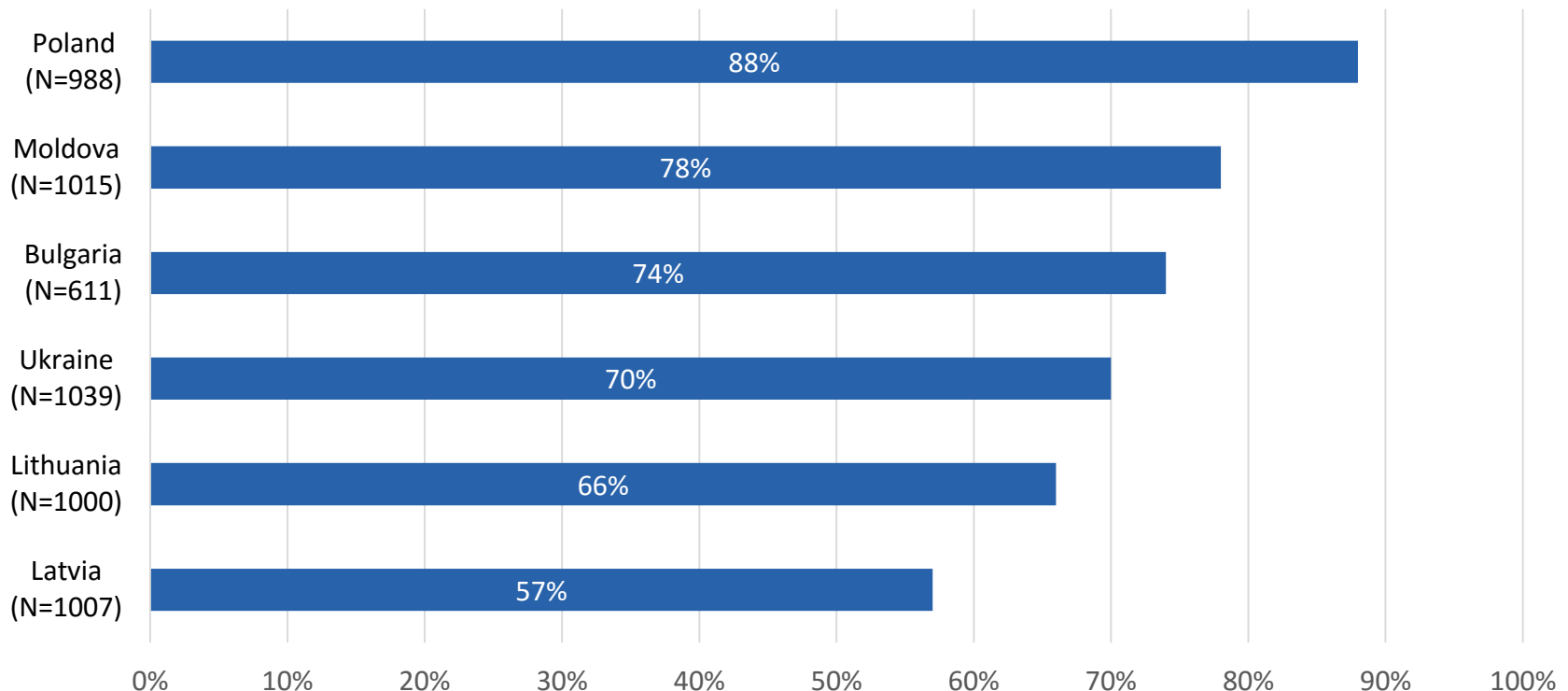
SUPPORT FOR PENALIZING VARIOUS BEHAVIOURS: USING SERVICES (INITIATED BY THE CHILD)

**Using sexual services provided by persons of 15 to 18 in exchange for payment or other benefits,
when such contact is initiated by the client**



SUPPORT FOR PENALIZING VARIOUS BEHAVIOURS: PROVISION OF SERVICES

Provision of sexual services by persons of 15 to 18 in exchange for payment or other benefits



LEGAL CONTEXT IN PROJECT COUNTRIES

LEGAL CONTEXT

- **BULGARIA:** Using sexual services provided by persons of 15 to 18 in exchange for payment or other benefits is not an offence according to the Criminal Code of Bulgaria regardless of whether such contact has been initiated by the client or by the child. However, it may be prosecuted in certain cases, according to an interpretative decision of the Supreme Court. Regarding the specific situation of children, in Bulgaria is applied the so called Act for Combating antisocial behaviours of children minors (8-14) and juveniles (14-18). This act, adopted in the '50s, establishes a system which is parallel to the criminal justice system and correctional measures are adopted in case of antisocial behaviors of children. According to the last available data of the National Statistics Institute, in 2014 "prostitution" is the 4th more often prosecuted antisocial behavior.
- **LITHUANIA:** According to Criminal Code of the Republic of Lithuania using sexual services provided by persons of 15 to 18 in exchange for payment or other in the absence of characteristics of a rape, sexual assault or sexual abuse, shall be punished by community service or by a fine or by restriction of liberty or by arrest or by imprisonment for a term of up to five years regardless if the contact is initiated by client or a child. According to the Code of Administrative Violations an adult person and a minor who is older than 16 providing sexual service shall be punished by a fine of eighty six to one hundred and forty four euros. A person who has provided sexual services shall not be held liable under the Code of Administrative Violations if the person was involved in prostitution being dependent on his financially, subordinate in office or otherwise or was involved in prostitution by using physical or mental coercion or by deceit, or in any manner was involved in prostitution being a minor or (and) suffered from trafficking in human beings and is recognized as a victim in criminal proceedings

LEGAL CONTEXT IN PROJECT COUNTRIES

LEGAL CONTEXT

- **LATVIA:** Using sexual services provided by persons under 18 in exchange for payment or other benefits is punishable with imprisonment regardless of whether such contact has been initiated by the client or by the child.
- **MOLDOVA:** Using sexual services provided by persons of 15 to 18 in exchange for payment or other benefits if the contact is initiated by the child is not punishable.

Using Sexual services provided by persons of 15 to 18 in exchange for payment or other benefits, when such contact is initiated by the client shall be punishable with imprisonment from 3 to 7 years.

Sexual services provided by persons of 15 to 18 in exchange for payment or other benefits are not punishable.

- **POLAND:** Using sexual services provided by persons of 15 to 18 in exchange for payment or other benefits is punishable with imprisonment regardless of whether such contact has been initiated by the client or by the child.
- **UKRAINE:** According to the Criminal Code of Ukraine there is criminal responsibility for “sexual intercourse with a person under the age of puberty” (up to 8 years of imprisonment) and for “defilement of minors” (up to 8 years of imprisonment) regardless of whether such contact has been initiated by the client or by the child. .

IV. SUMMARY

ATTITUDES TOWARDS VARIOUS FORMS OF COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

SOCIAL PERCEPTION AND PERCEIVED PREVALENCE

All the examined forms of commercial sexual exploitation of children and young people received **strong negative perception** in the six CEE countries participating in the project. The Moldovan respondents were the harshest in their negative perception of all forms of commercial sexual exploitation (from 91% to 93%), while in Ukraine the percentages of negative ratings were the lowest (from 72% to 84%). The most negatively judged behaviours were **aspirational prostitution**, **commercial cybersex**, and **sponsoring**. The respondents were relatively more lenient, though still strongly negative, in their perception of **survival sex**.

This tendency can be explained by a **difference in perceived motivations** of children and young people who engage in these forms of commercial sexual activity. While the first three behaviours are seen as guided by motivations related to the **consumptionist lifestyle**, survival sex is largely a means of meeting **basic needs**.

ATTITUDES TOWARDS VARIOUS FORMS OF COMMERCIAL: SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

SOCIAL PERCEPTION AND PERCEIVED PREVALENCE

At the same time, in all the project countries except for Lithuania the majority of respondents perceive these behaviours as a **real problem** affecting many people in their societies. This is especially true for **aspirational prostitution** and less so for **survival sex**.

Bulgaria stands out against the remaining countries with the highest perceived prevalence of all forms of commercial exploitation (from 64% to 71%), whereas in Lithuania the percentages of the „real problem” responses were significantly lower than in other countries (between 24% and 37%).

PERCEIVED MOTIVATIONS OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

PERCEIVED MOTIVATIONS

The project countries do not vary significantly in terms of perceived motivations of children and young people who engage in commercial sexual activity. The most frequently indicated motivations include: **a desire to have fashionable clothes, cosmetics, and gadgets**, which fits into the above mentioned consumptionist lifestyle, and **difficult life circumstances** that force children into such behaviours.

PERCEPTION OF RISK GROUPS

PERCEPTION OF RISK GROUPS

In all six countries the **dominant opinion** is that **there are groups of children and young people** in which the **risk** of engaging in sexual activity in exchange for payment or other benefits is **higher** than in other groups.

The most frequently mentioned risk groups, in all project countries, are: **children and young people from pathological and problem families** (e.g., substance abuse, violence), **children and young people from poor families**, and children and young people from **families where parents have no time for their kids**.

SUPPORT FOR PENALIZING VARIOUS FORMS OF COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

SUPPORT FOR PENALIZATION

In all six CEE countries the vast majority of respondents expressed their support for making different forms of commercial sexual activity involving children **punishable**, with punishments including: imprisonment, fine, community service, and court supervision.

Support for making such behaviours punishable was the strongest with respect to **using sexual services** provided by persons of 15 to 18 in exchange for payment of other benefits, when **such contact is initiated by the client**. The percentage of respondents supporting the opinion that this behaviour should be penalized was the highest in Bulgaria (97%) and the lowest in Moldova (80%).

SUPPORT FOR PENALIZING VARIOUS FORMS OF COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

SUPPORT FOR PENALIZATION

Support for making commercial sexual exploitation punishable was relatively lower, though still very strong, with respect to **using such sexual services when the contact is initiated by the child**. The highest percentage of supporters was found (again) in Bulgaria (89%) and in Poland (89%), while in Lithuania the percentage was significantly lower, that is 65%.

The **provision of commercial sexual services by children** should be punishable according to 88% of the Polish respondents, while in Lithuania this view was supported by 57% of the sample.

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