

Taking action on the cost of living crisis in Wales

@BevanFoundation

@steffheavans

About the Bevan Foundation

We are Wales' most influential think tank. We develop lasting solutions to poverty and inequality.



Agenda



- The cost of living crisis in Wales
- Impact on health
- Support for households
- Impact on policy and practice

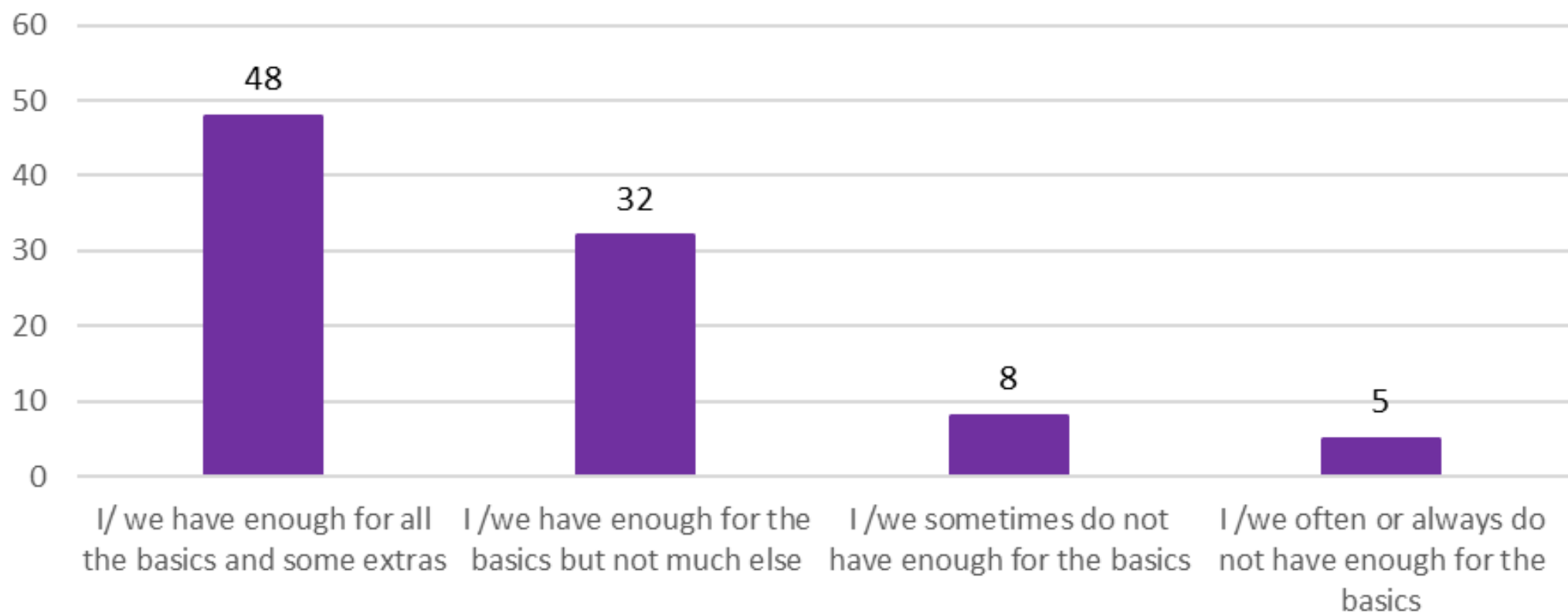


The cost of living crisis in Wales

Our evidence base

- Bevan Foundation have commissioned YouGov to undertake a series of survey on our behalf
- The latest survey took place on July 4th to 7th
- Sample size of 1,112 people aged 16+

Statement that best describes how Welsh households are managing their finances, July 2022 (%)

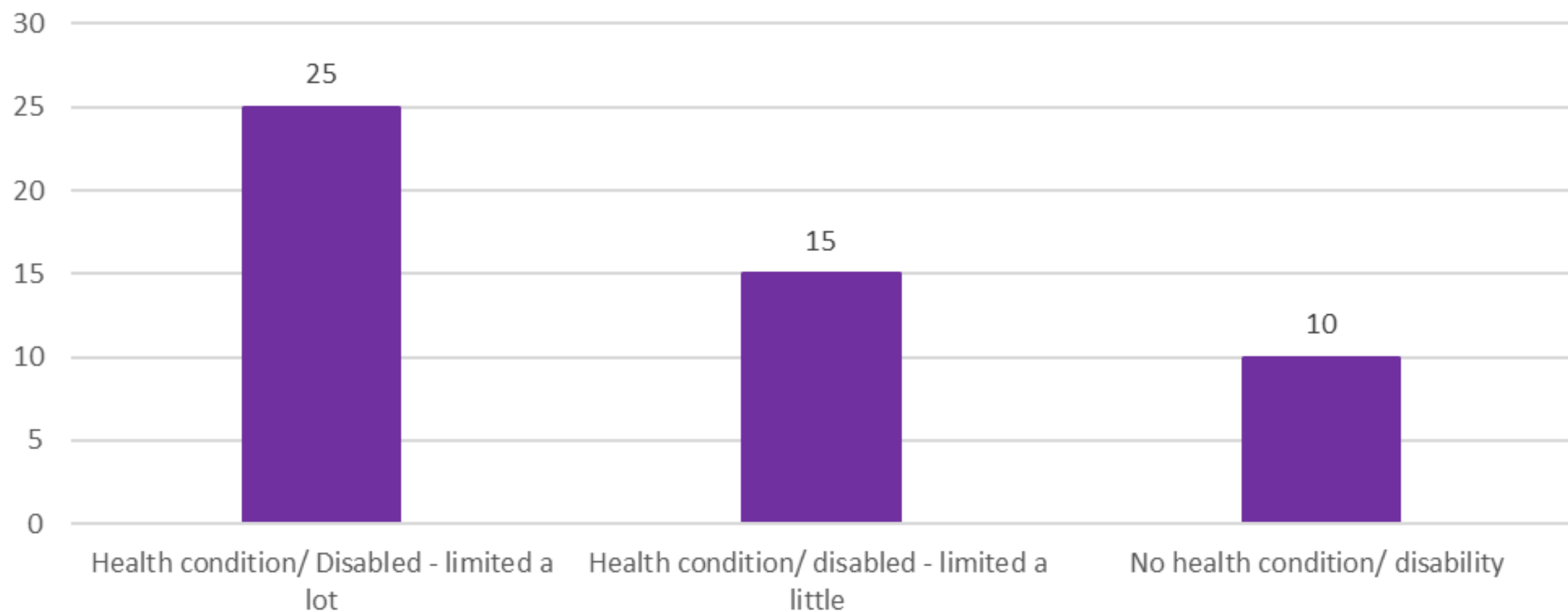


Who is most affected?

Some groups are feeling the pinch more than others:

- Households that are on benefits
- Renters
- Lone parent households
- Households with children
- Disabled people – limited a lot

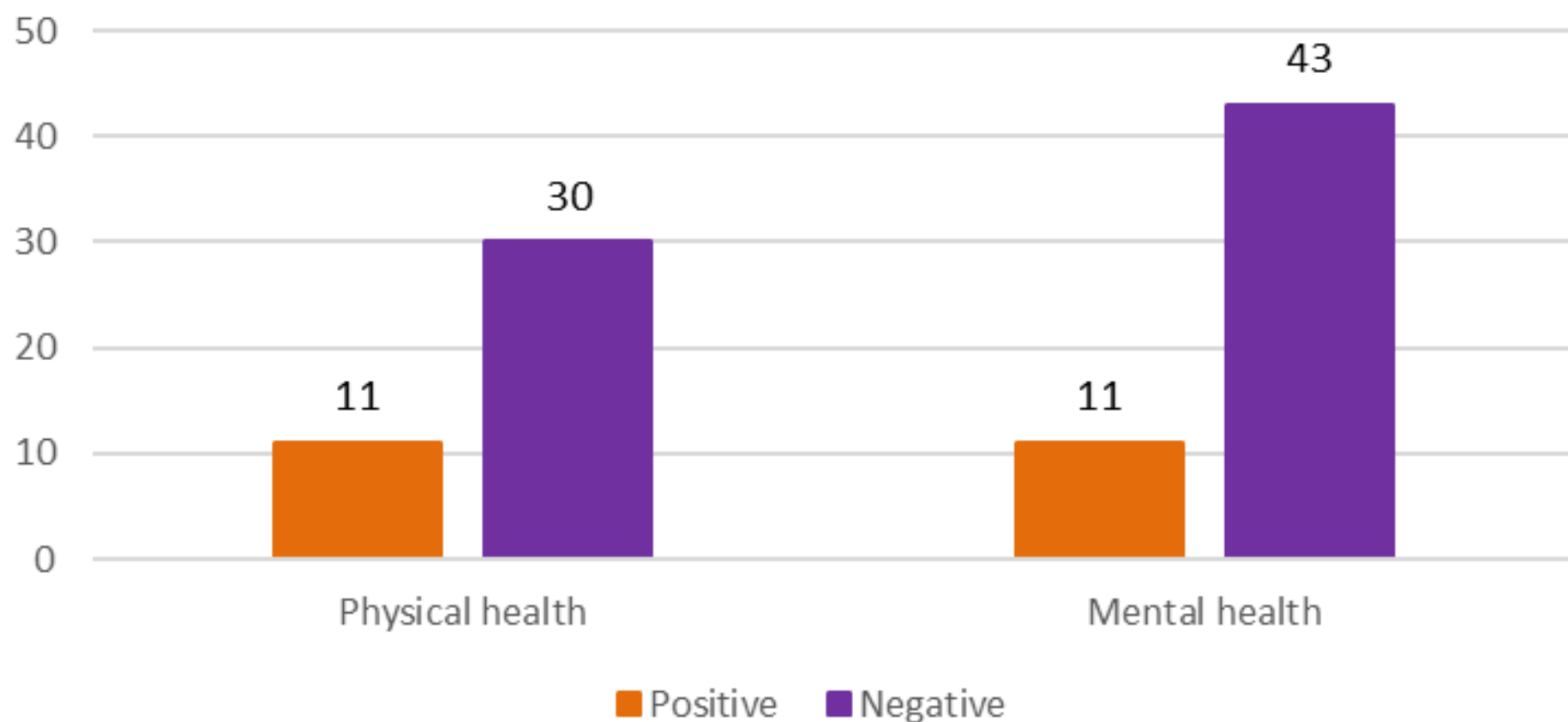
Sometimes or always don't have enough for all the basics by
health/ disability status, July 2022 (%)



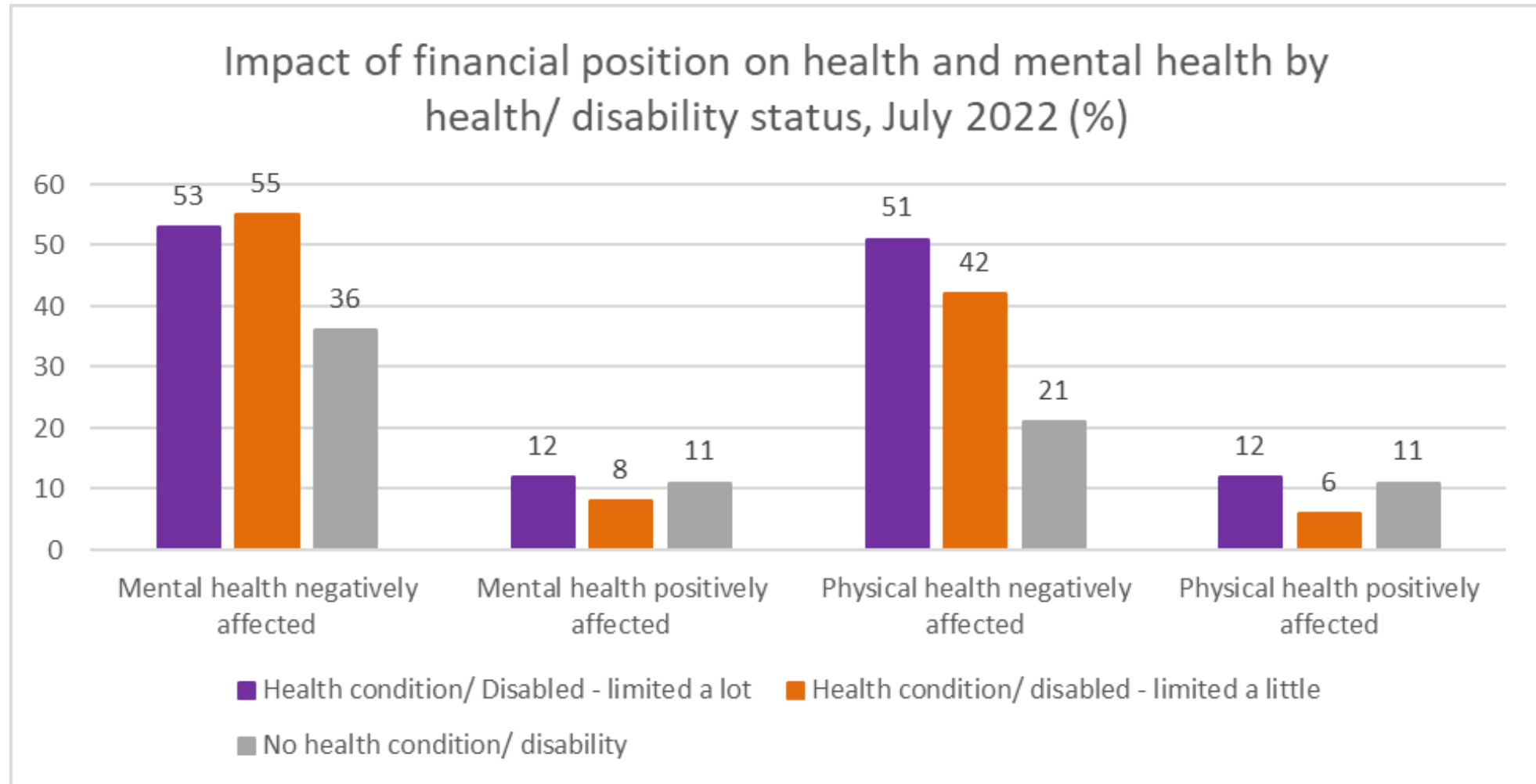


Impact on health

Impact of financial position on physical and mental health (%)



Physical and mental health in July 2022



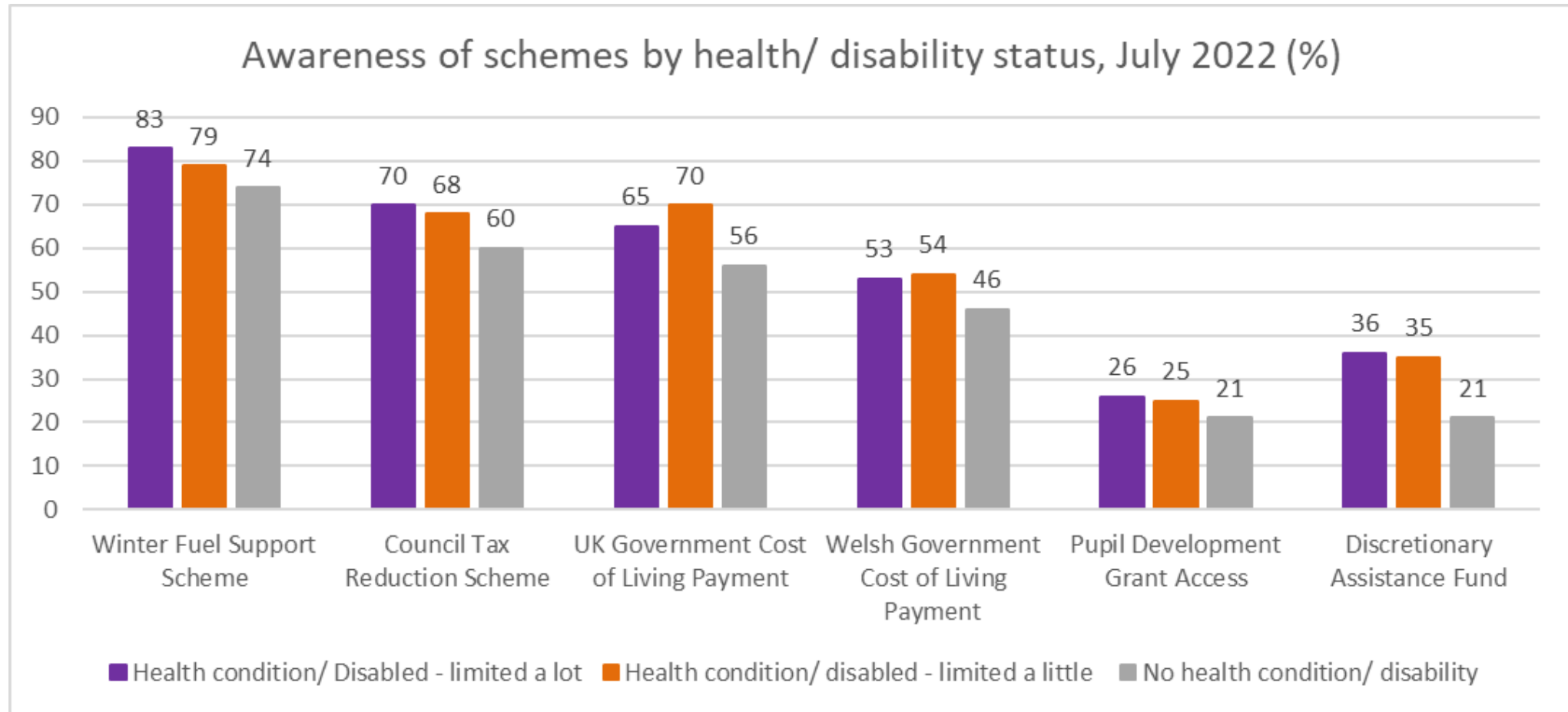


Support for households

Support for households

- UK, Welsh and local governments have put in place a number of schemes to support households through the cost-of-living crisis and to top up the social security system
- Long running concerns about awareness and take up
- We wanted to see how aware people were of the support on offer
- We asked people about 6 real support schemes and one fictitious decoy scheme to measure awareness
- 14% claimed to be aware of our decoy scheme

How aware are disabled people/ people with health conditions of the support available?



Are people getting confused?

- May 2022 the Welsh Government announced that 330,000 households had received money through its Cost-of-Living payment, approximately 24 per cent of all Welsh households
- Only 8% claimed that they had received support via scheme through our survey



Impact on policy and practice

The impact of the crisis

- People are finding life very difficult this winter
- The community will need to step in to provide even greater support to people that are struggling to feed their families or heat their home
- Arrears and debt are likely to increase – impact on people's ability to access essential goods, services and equipment
- Both direct and indirect impact on people's health

The impact of the crisis

- The impact of rising costs on your own cost base
- The impact of rising costs on people's ability to give
- The impact of the crisis on your own staff/ volunteers
- Pressure on other public services
- Challenges are unlikely to disappear overnight – inflation forecast to remain high next year



Diolch/ Thank you

Find out more at: www.bevanfoundation.org