



Social Mobility 2009

The Sutton Trust

Ipsos MORI

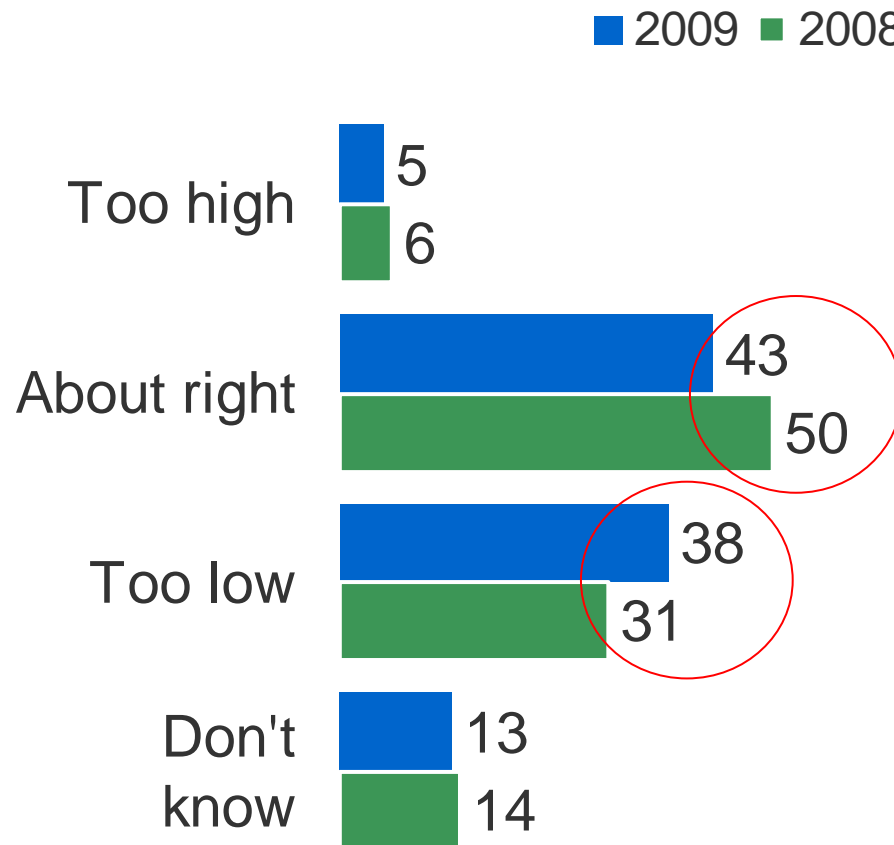


Key findings

- In summer 2009, the Sutton Trust repeated a survey of the general public on perceptions of the scope for, and the factors influencing or limiting, social mobility in Great Britain.
- Overall, **the British general public are increasingly pessimistic about social mobility opportunities**. Only respondents in social class AB buck this trend to any degree.
- There has been a significant fall in the number of people who say that opportunities for social mobility are ‘about right’ and a corresponding increase in the number who say opportunities are ‘too low’.
- Fewer members of the public say that opportunities for social mobility now are higher than, or about the same as, they were in the past; more (but not a majority) believe that opportunities for social mobility now are lower than in the past.
- In line with this, the proportion who agree that *people have equal opportunities to get ahead* has fallen markedly; nearly half of us now **disagree** with this statement.
- As in 2008, seven in ten members of the public **agree** that parents’ income plays too large a part in children’s chances of doing well and getting on in life; black and minority ethnic (BME) parents are more likely than average to think this.
- The majority of the public **agree** that *the recession will limit opportunities for upward social mobility*.

Fewer believe that opportunities for social mobility are 'about right', more that they are 'too low'

In general would you say that opportunities for social mobility in Britain are too high, about right or too low?

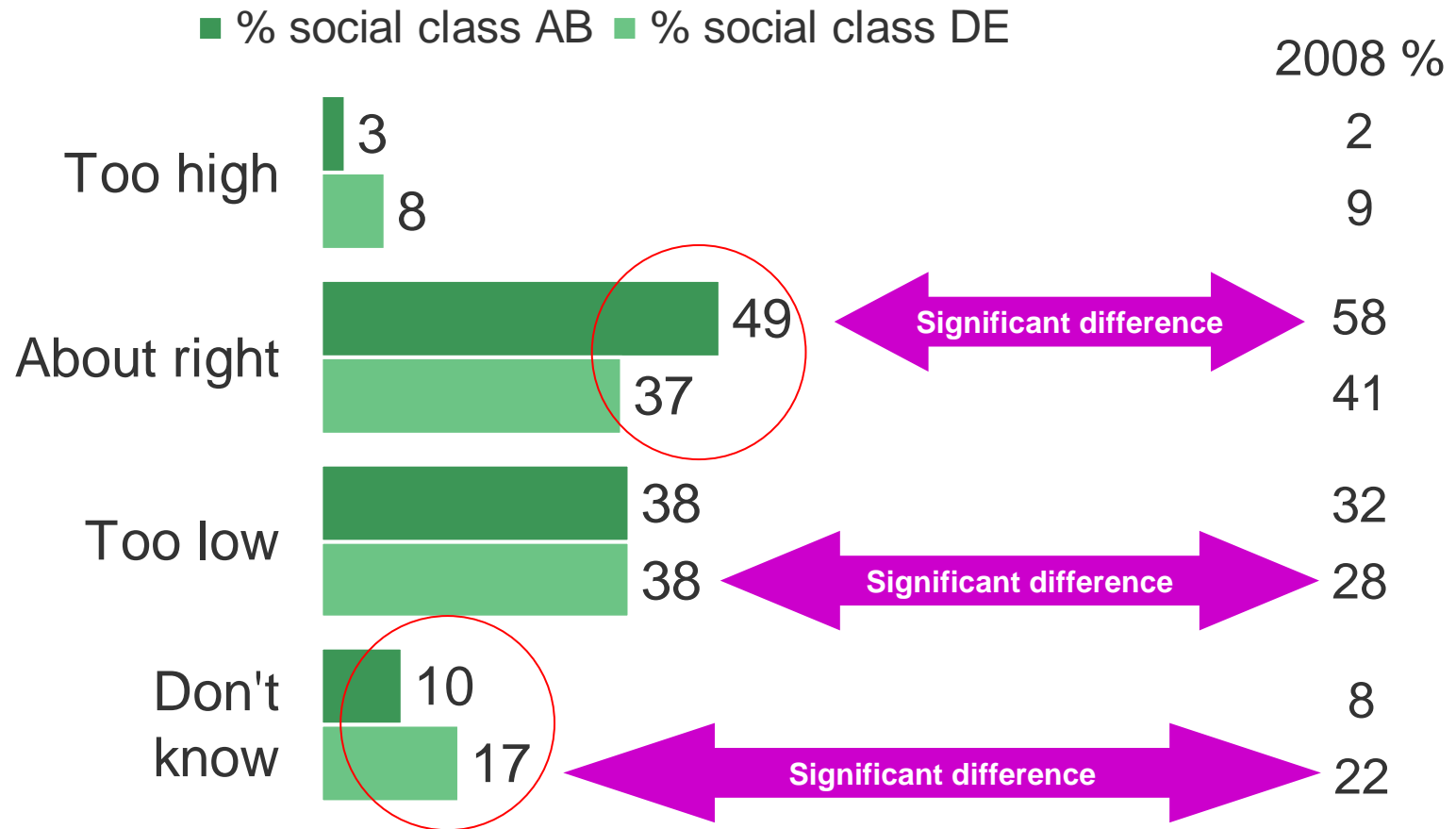


Statistically significant difference

Base: 2,048 British adults, Ipsos MORI Public Affairs Monitor; fieldwork 16-21 July 2009
Base: 2,060 British adults, Ipsos MORI Public Affairs Monitor; fieldwork 15-20 May 2008

Perceptions still vary by social class ... but the differences are narrowing or have disappeared entirely

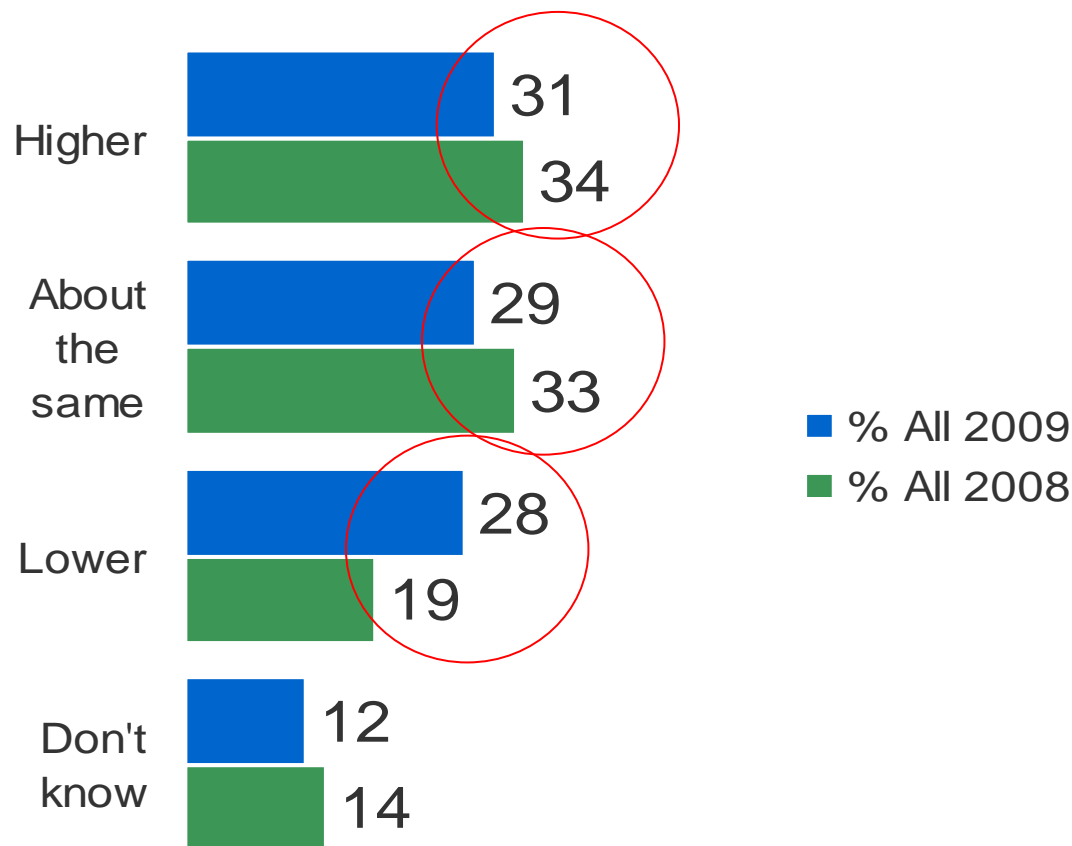
In general would you say that opportunities for social mobility in Britain are too high, about right or too low?



Base: 2,048 British adults, Ipsos MORI Public Affairs Monitor; fieldwork 16-21 July 2009

More people believe that opportunities for social mobility are LOWER now than in the past

In general would you say that opportunities for social mobility in Britain NOW are higher, about the same or lower than they were IN THE PAST?

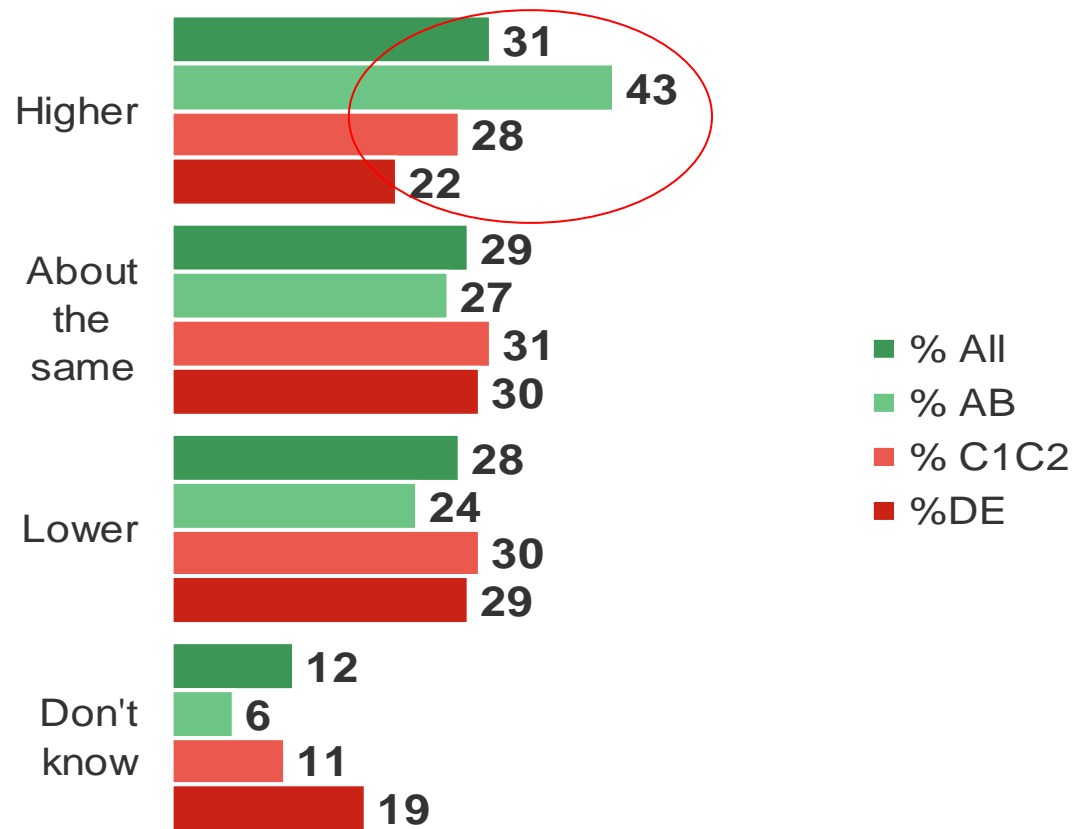


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ABs remain more likely than other social classes to say society has become more open

In general would you say that opportunities for social mobility in Britain NOW are higher, about the same or lower than they were IN THE PAST?

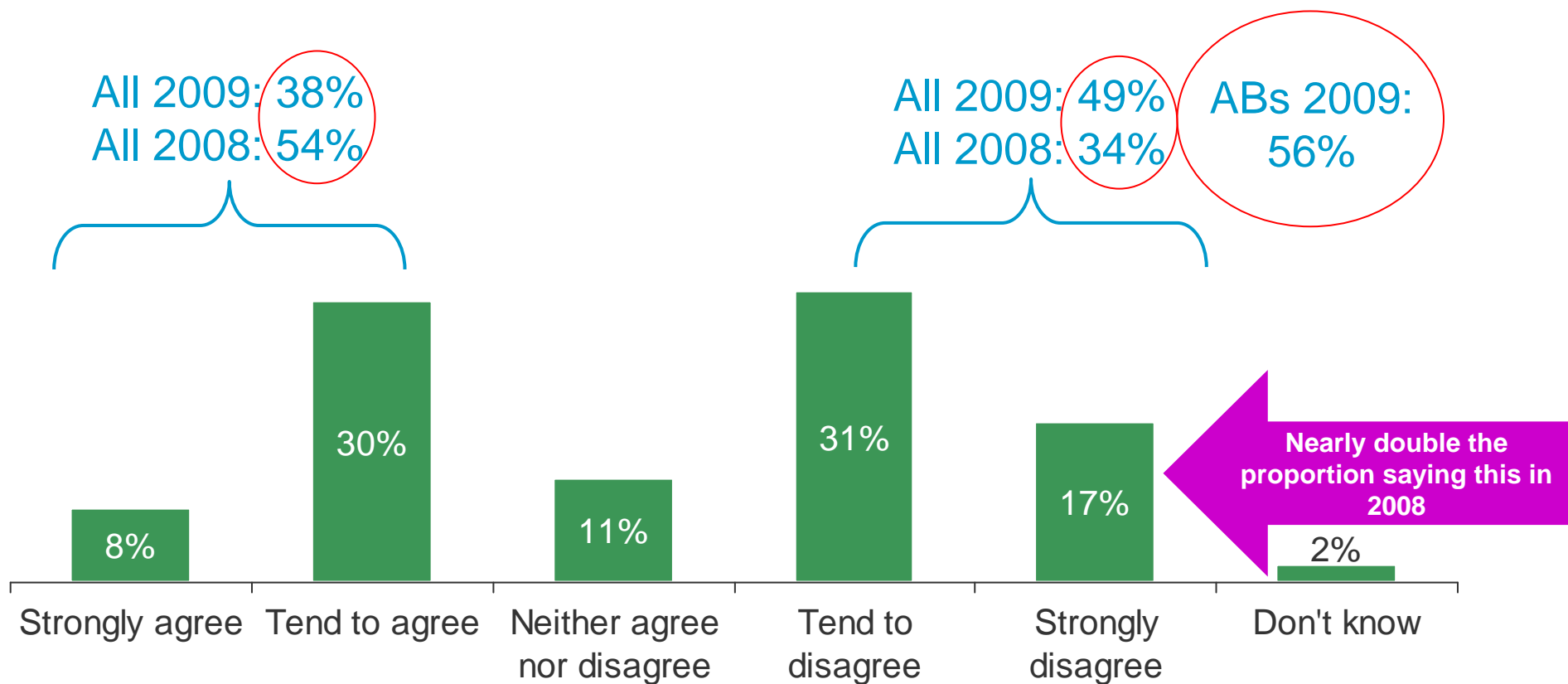


- The same proportion of ABs as in 2008 believes that opportunities for social mobility are higher now than in the past
- Fewer C1C2s than in 2008 say that opportunities now are higher than they were in the past (-6 percentage points), and more say they are lower (+10 percentage points)
- The proportion of DEs saying that opportunities are lower now than in the past has increased significantly (+11 percentage points)

Base: 2,060 British adults, Ipsos MORI Public Affairs Monitor; fieldwork 15-20 May 2008

Under four in ten now agree that people have equal opportunities to get ahead

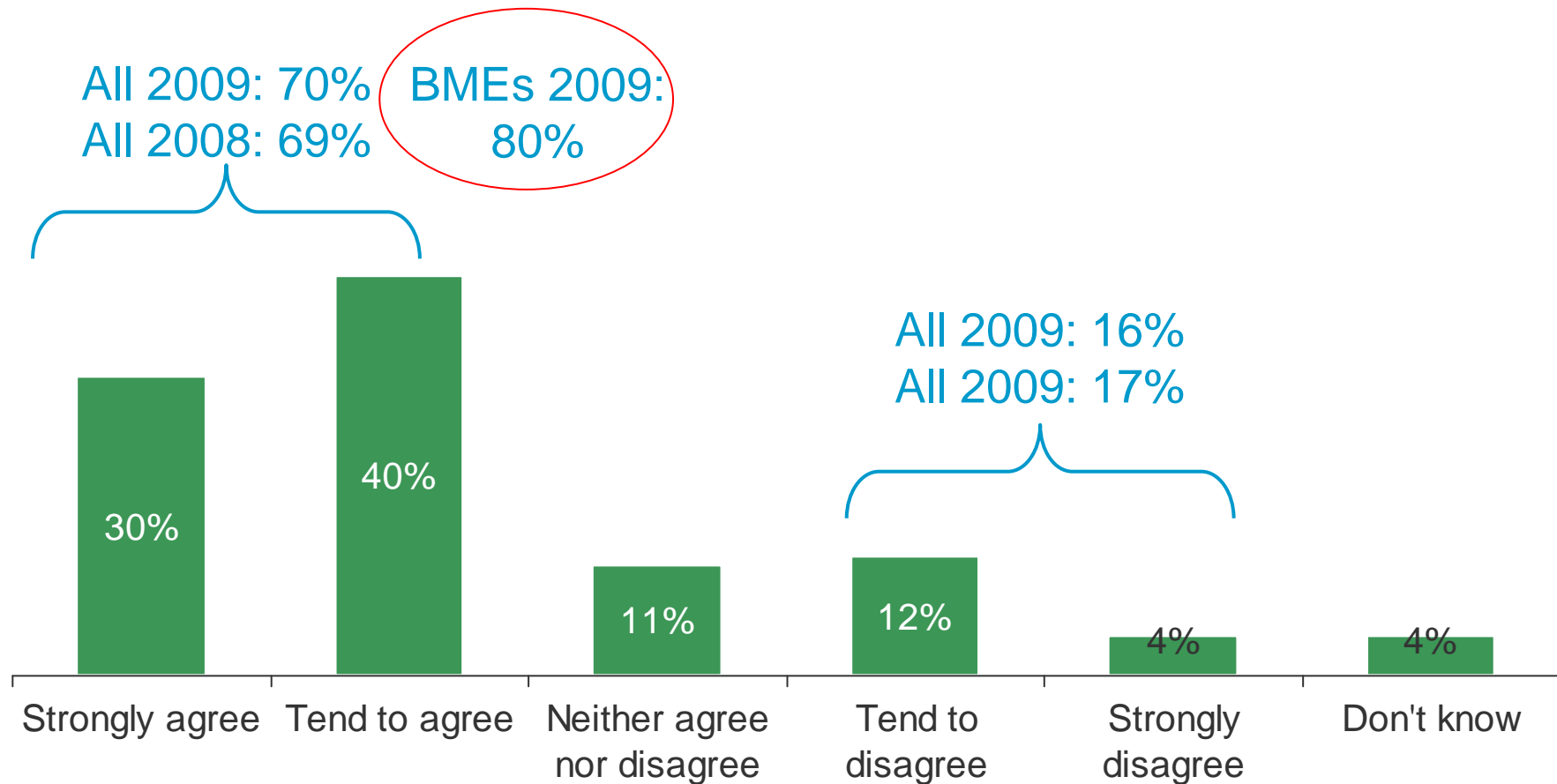
To what extent do you agree/disagree that people have equal opportunities to get ahead?



Base: 2,048 British adults, Ipsos MORI Public Affairs Monitor; fieldwork 16-21 July 2009
Base: 2,060 British adults, Ipsos MORI Public Affairs Monitor; fieldwork 15-20 May 2008 and
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As in 2009, 7 in 10 believe that parents' income plays too big a part in children's life chances ...

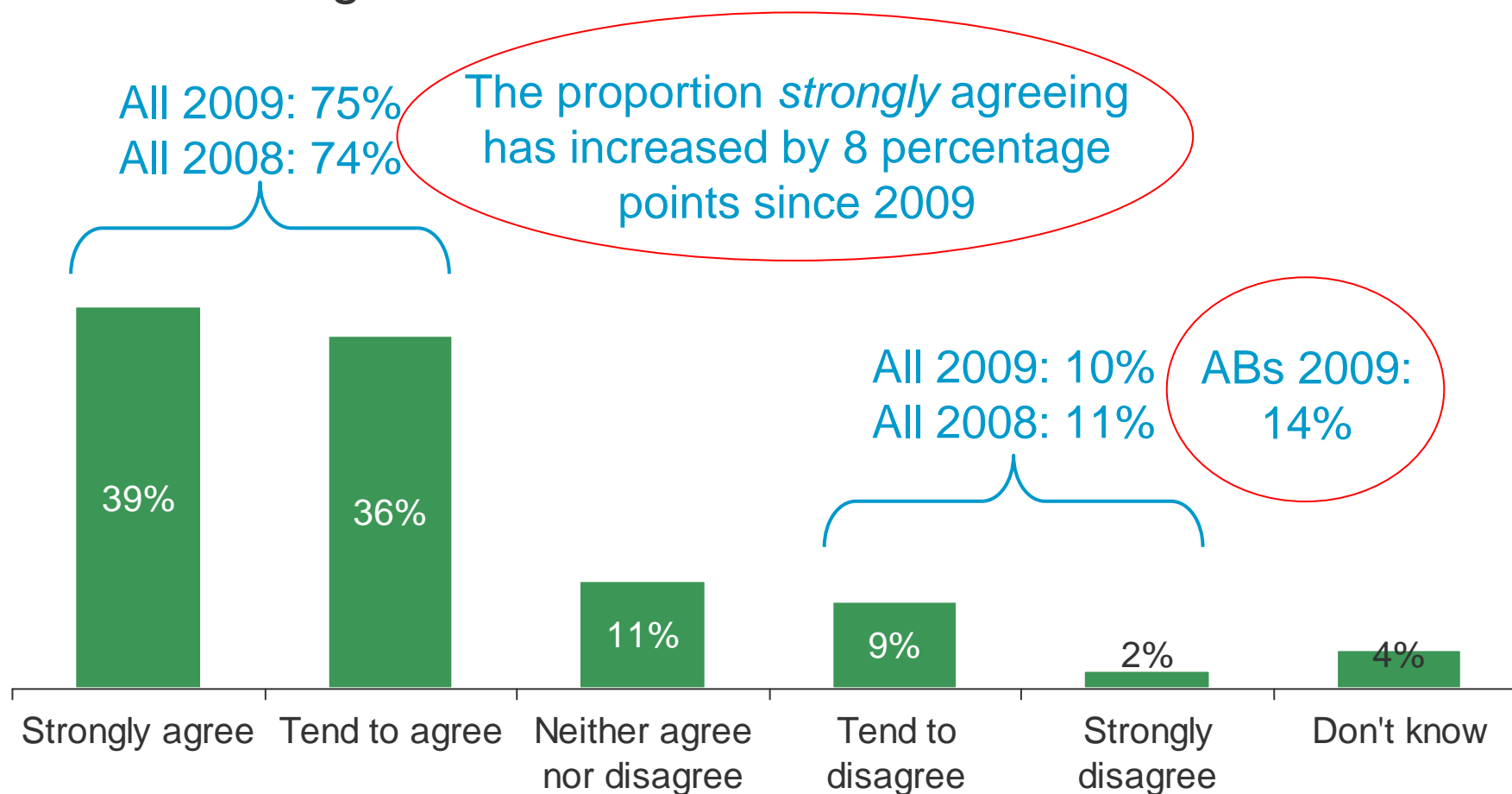
To what extent do you agree/disagree that parents' income plays too big a part in children's chances of doing well and getting on in life?



Base: 2,048 British adults, Ipsos MORI Public Affairs Monitor; fieldwork 16-21 July 2009
Base: 2,060 British adults, Ipsos MORI Public Affairs Monitor; fieldwork 15-20 May 2008

... and three-quarters of us continue to say that differences in income in Britain are too large

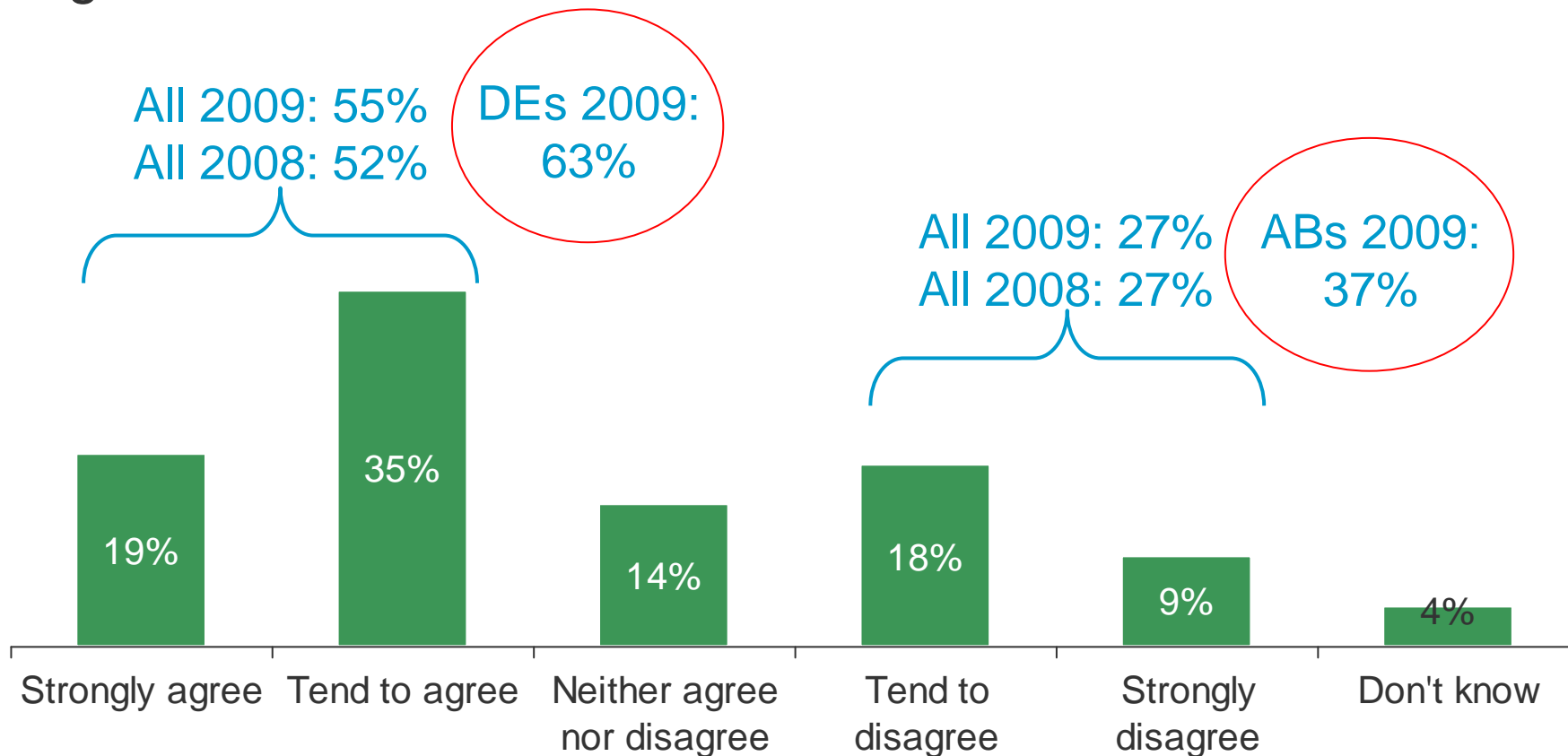
To what extent do you agree/disagree that differences in income in Britain are too large?



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Even so, only just over half agree that Government has a responsibility to reduce income differences

To what extent do you agree/disagree that it is the responsibility of the Government to reduce the differences in income between people with high incomes and those with low incomes?

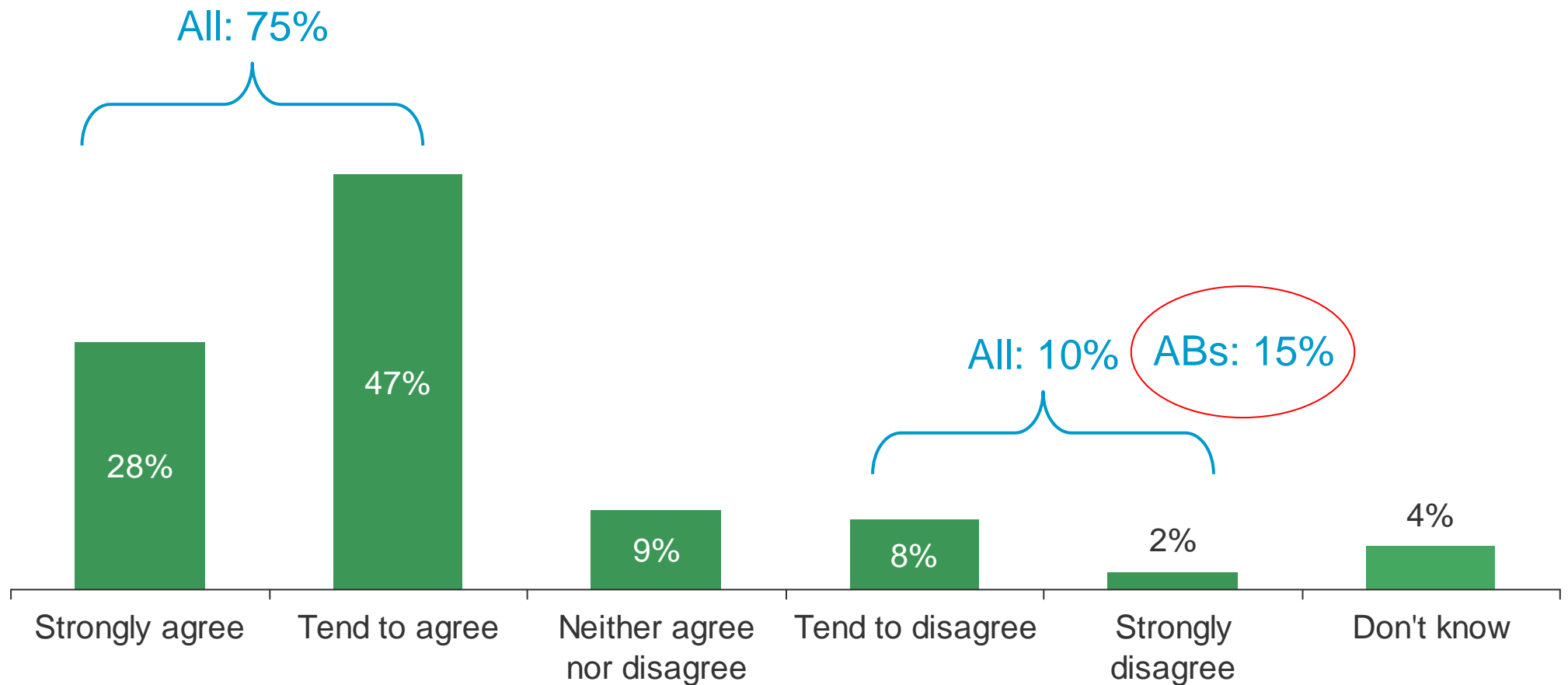


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Base: 2,060 British adults, Ipsos MORI Public Affairs Monitor; fieldwork 15-20 May 2008

Three quarters believe the recession will limit opportunities for social mobility

To what extent do you agree/disagree that the recession will limit opportunities for upward social mobility?



Base: 2,048 British adults, Ipsos MORI Public Affairs Monitor; fieldwork 16-21 July 2009

- 2,048 interviews were conducted with members of the British general public face-to-face, in-home using the Ipsos MORI Public Affairs Monitor (an Omnibus study).
- Fieldwork was conducted 16-21 July 2009.
- At the analysis stage, the data were weighted to reflect the known national profile.

- The 2009 survey was a partial repeat of questions first posed in 2008, also using the Ipsos MORI Public Affairs Monitor.
- At that time, 2,060 respondents were interviewed; fieldwork was conducted 15-20 May 2008.

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