



Mauritian identity and tolerance

Findings from the Afrobarometer Round 6 Survey in Mauritius

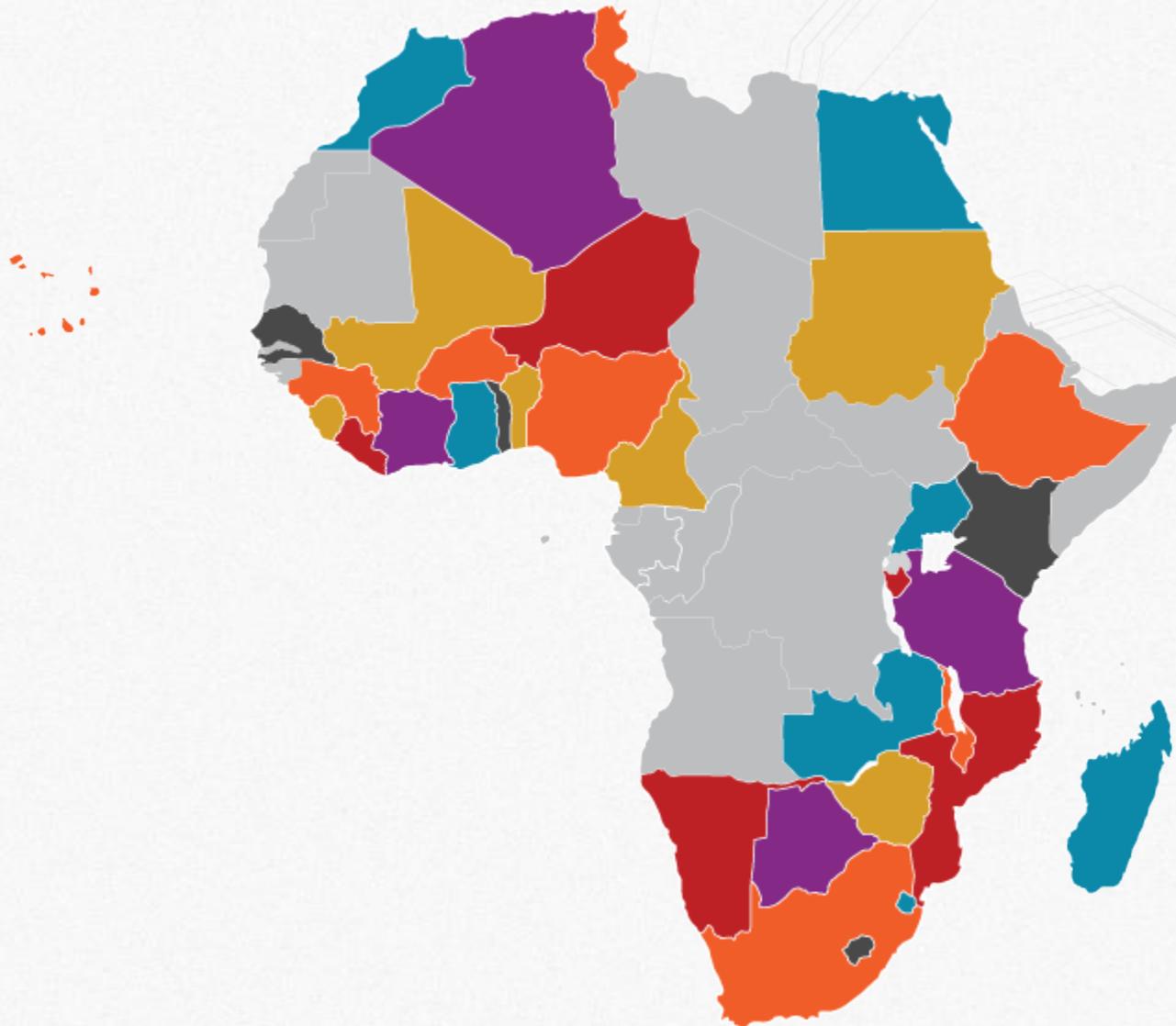
At a Glance

- **A majority of Mauritians feel equally tied to their ethnic and national identity:** 56% feel equally Mauritian and belonging to their ethnic group while almost one quarter (23%) feel only Mauritian.
- **Most Mauritians feel that government treats their ethnic group unfairly:** This feeling is more present among three quarters of Creoles and more than six out of 10 (66%) Muslims.
- **Mauritians are tolerant of religious and ethnic diversity but less of people who have HIV/AIDS and homosexuals:** Almost seven in 10 Mauritians (68%) would not care to have people of different religions or ethnic groups as neighbours. Yet 46% and 51% of respondents would not like to have people with HIV/AIDS and homosexuals as neighbours respectively.

What is Afrobarometer?

- An African-led, non-partisan survey research project that measures citizen attitudes on democracy and governance, the economy, civil society, and other topics.
- Started in 12 countries in 1999, expanded to 35 African countries in Round 5 (2011-2013).
- **Goal:** To give the public a voice in policymaking by providing high-quality public opinion data to policymakers, policy advocates, civil society organizations, academics, news media, donors and investors, and ordinary Africans.
- National Partners in each country conduct the survey. In **Mauritius**, Afrobarometer Round 6 survey was conducted by **StraConsult**.

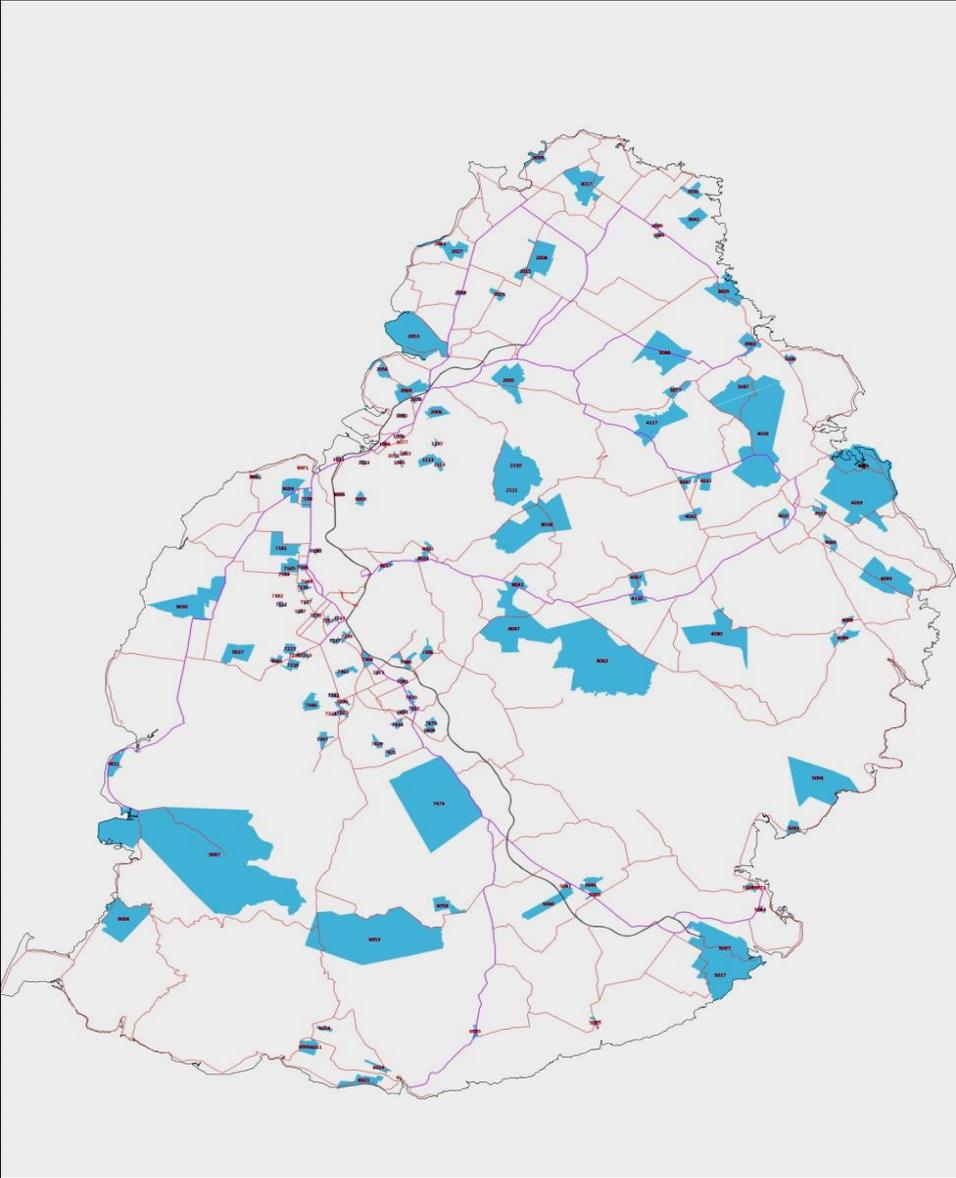
Where Afrobarometer works



Methodology

- Nationally representative sample of adult citizens
 - ❑ All respondents are *randomly* selected.
 - ❑ Sample is distributed across **districts** and urban/rural areas in proportion to their share in the national population.
 - ❑ Every adult citizen has an *equal* chance of being selected.
- Face-to-face interviews In the language of the respondent's choice (**English, French** or **Creole**).
- Standard questionnaire allows comparisons across countries and over time.
- Sample size in **Mauritius** of **1200** adult citizens yields a margin of error of **+/-3%** at a 95% confidence level.
- Fieldwork for Round 6 in **Mauritius** was conducted between **27 June** and **27 July 2014**.

Enumerator Map





FINDINGS



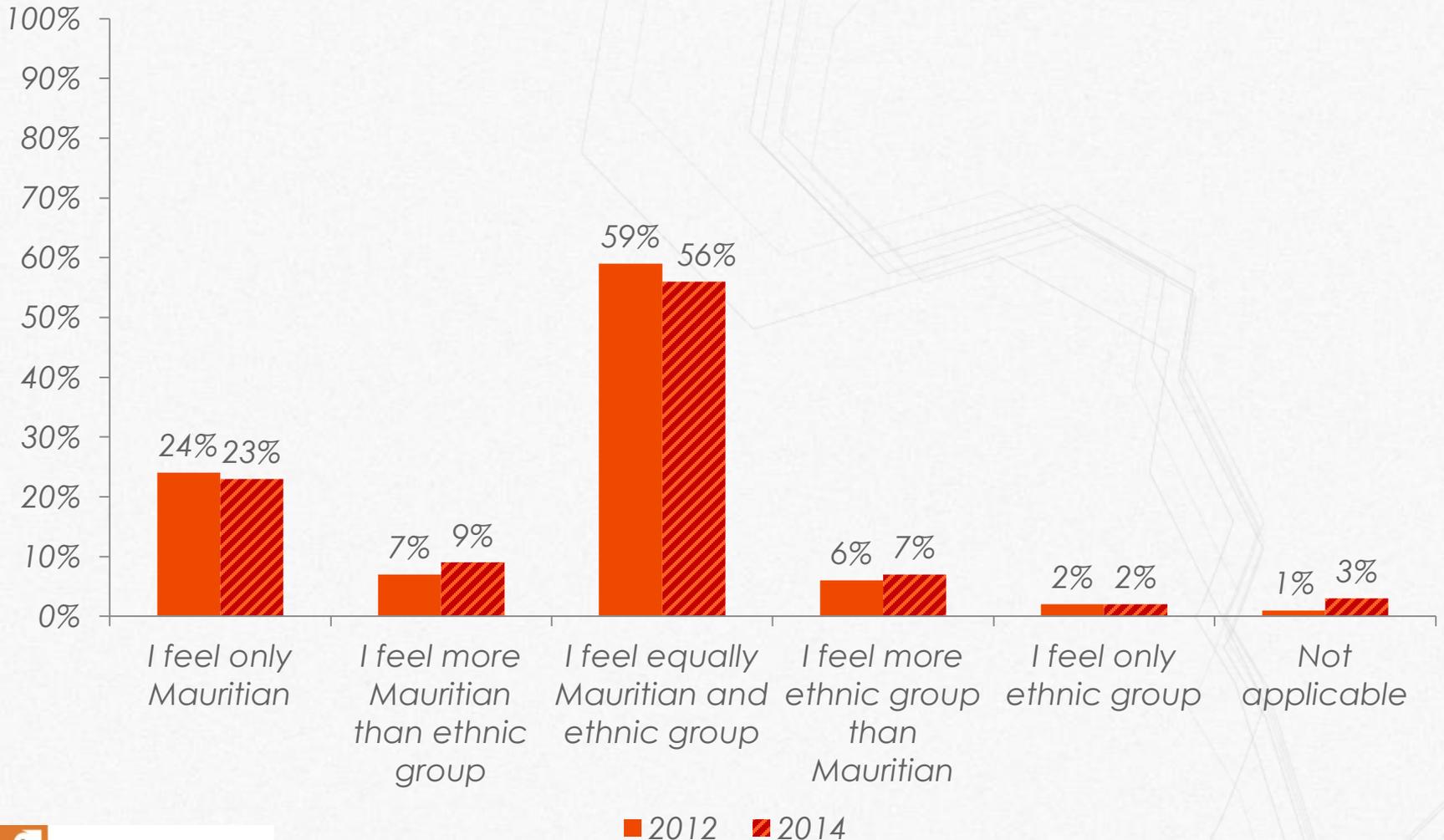
SENSE OF BELONGING TO THE MAURITIAN IDENTITY

Key Findings

- Practically been no change between how Mauritians assumed their identity in 2012 as compared to 2014.
- More than three in 10 (32%) feel only or more Mauritian than belonging to their ethnic group.
- Almost six in 10 (56%) feel equally Mauritian and as belonging to their respective ethnic group.

Sense of Belonging 2012-2014

Q. Let us suppose that you had to choose between being a Mauritian and being a _____ [R's ETHNIC GROUP]. Which of the following statements best expresses your feelings?





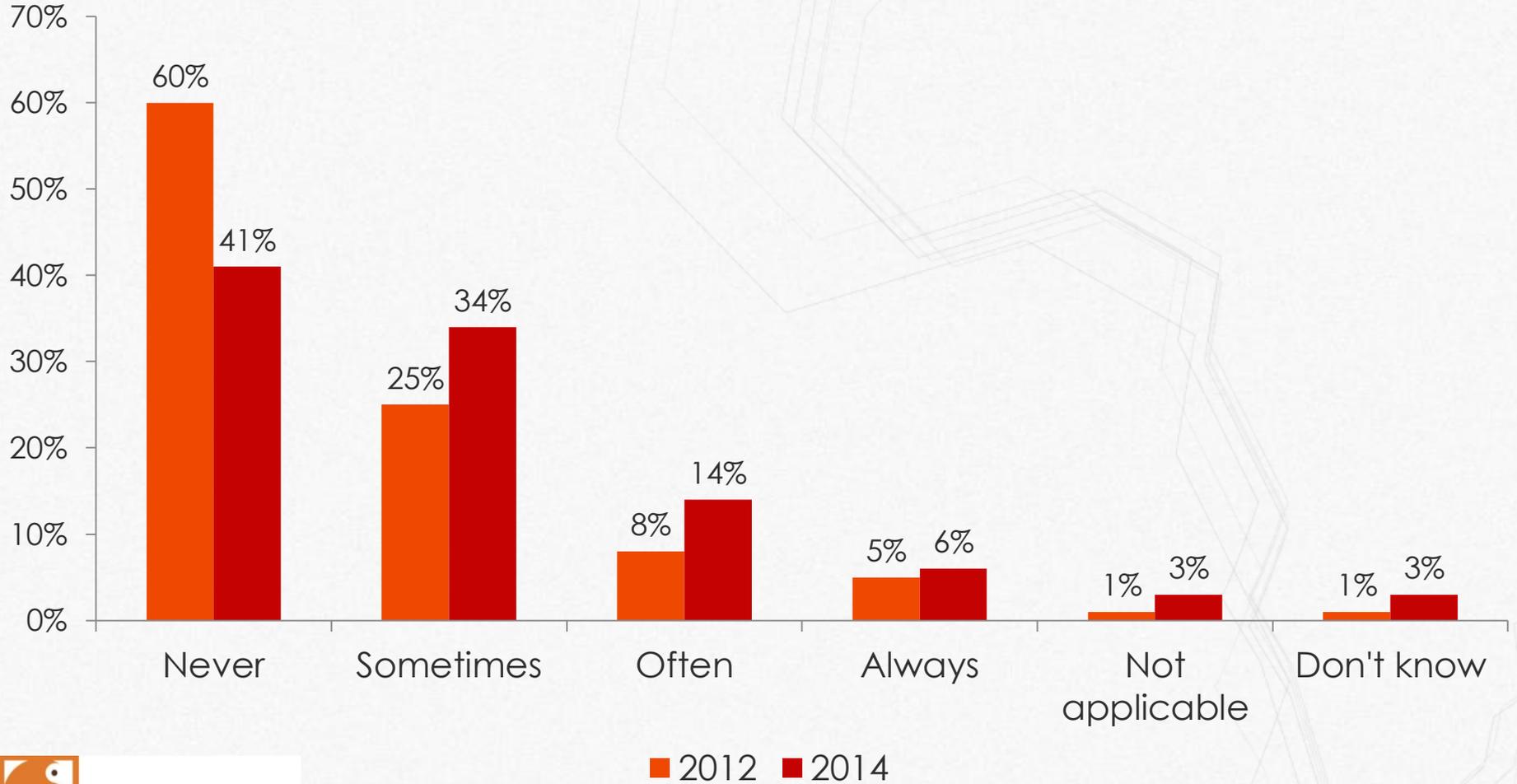
TREATMENT FROM GOVERNMENT BASED ON ETHNIC ORIGIN

Key Findings

- The percentage of respondents who feel they have “never” been unfairly treated dropped from 60% in 2012 to 41% in 2014
- Almost half (54%) of the respondents indicated that they have been unfairly treated by government based on their ethnic origins.
- The majority of Creoles (75%), Tamils (70%) and Muslims (66%) feel that government treats them unfairly sometimes, often or always.

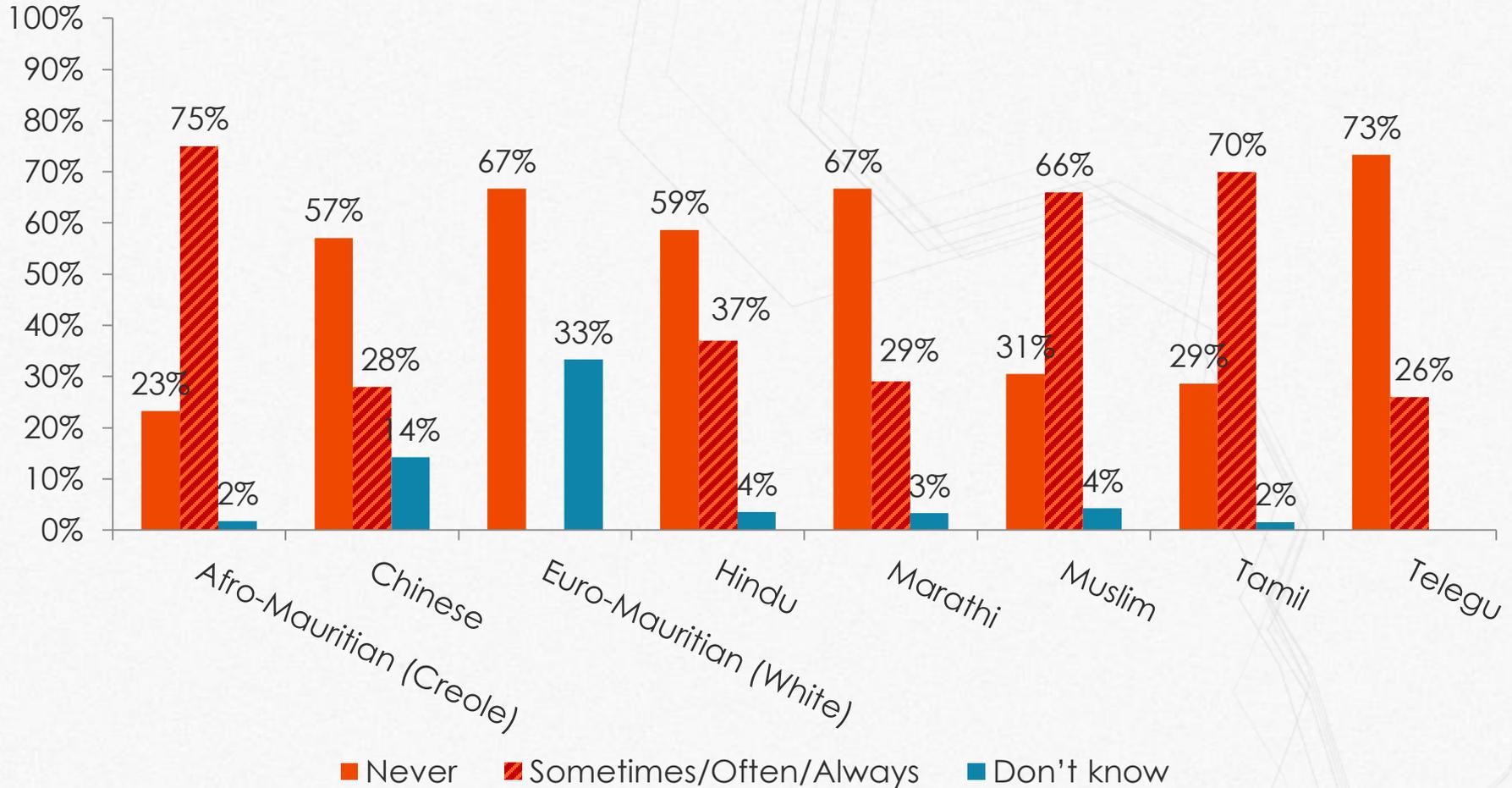
Treatment by Government based on Ethnic belonging 2012-2014

Q. How often, if ever, are _____s [R's Ethnic Group] treated unfairly by the government?



Treatment by Government based on Ethnic 2014

Q. Let us suppose that you had to choose between being a Mauritian and being a _____ [R's ETHNIC GROUP]. Which of the following statements best expresses your feelings?





TOLERANCE TOWARDS OTHERS

Key Findings

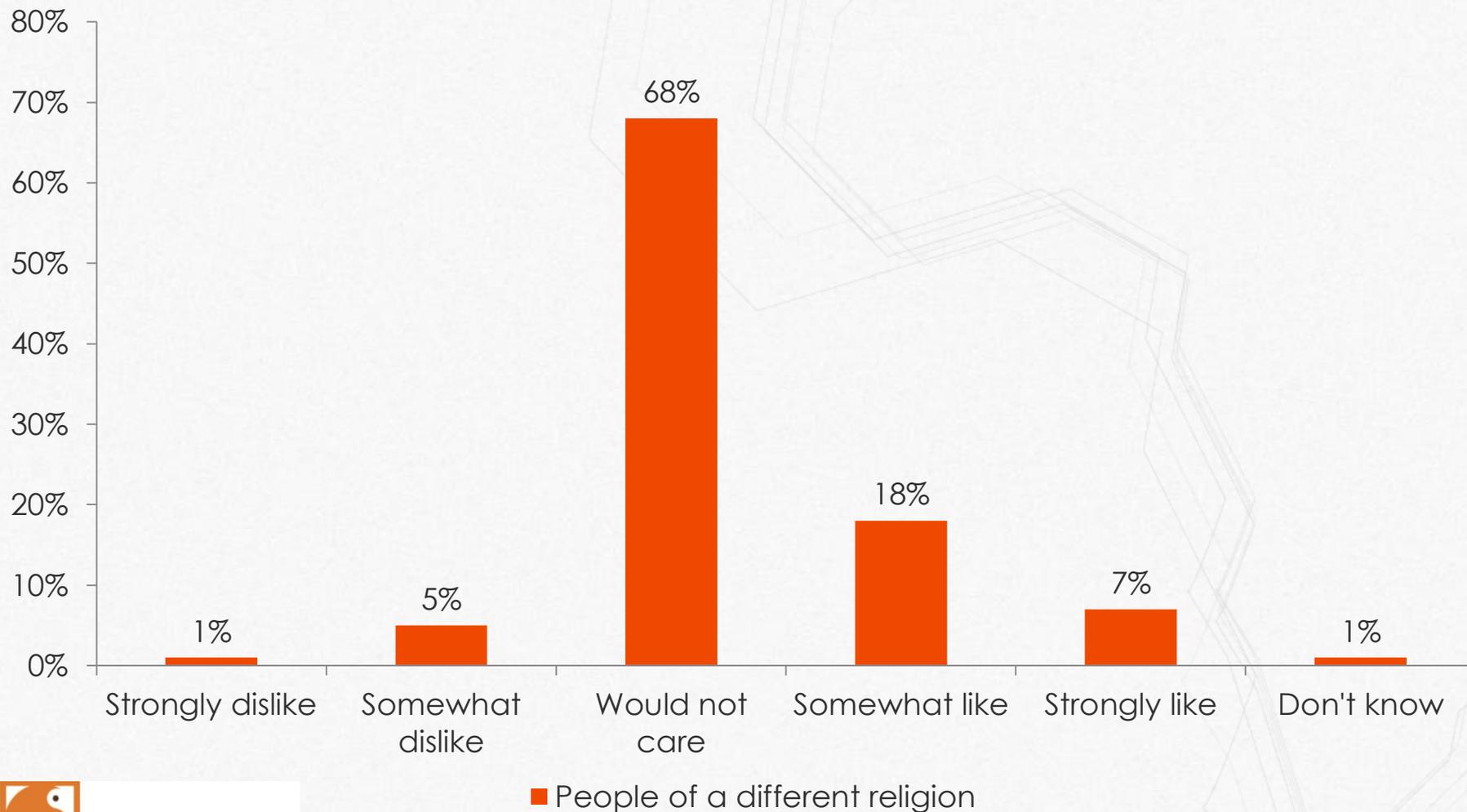
- Almost seven in 10 (68%) Mauritians would not care if someone of a different religion or ethnic group as neighbour.
- A quarter of the respondents stated that they would actually like to live with people of other religions and ethnic group.
- Almost six out of 10 (58%) Mauritians would not care if they had immigrants or foreign workers as neighbours.

Key Findings

- Half of the respondents stated that they would not care if their neighbour has HIV/AIDS
- 46% would dislike living in a neighbourhood alongside people living with HIV/AIDS.
- Almost half (49%) of the respondents would not care or would like to have homosexuals as neighbours.
- The other half (51%) would not like to have them in their neighbourhood.

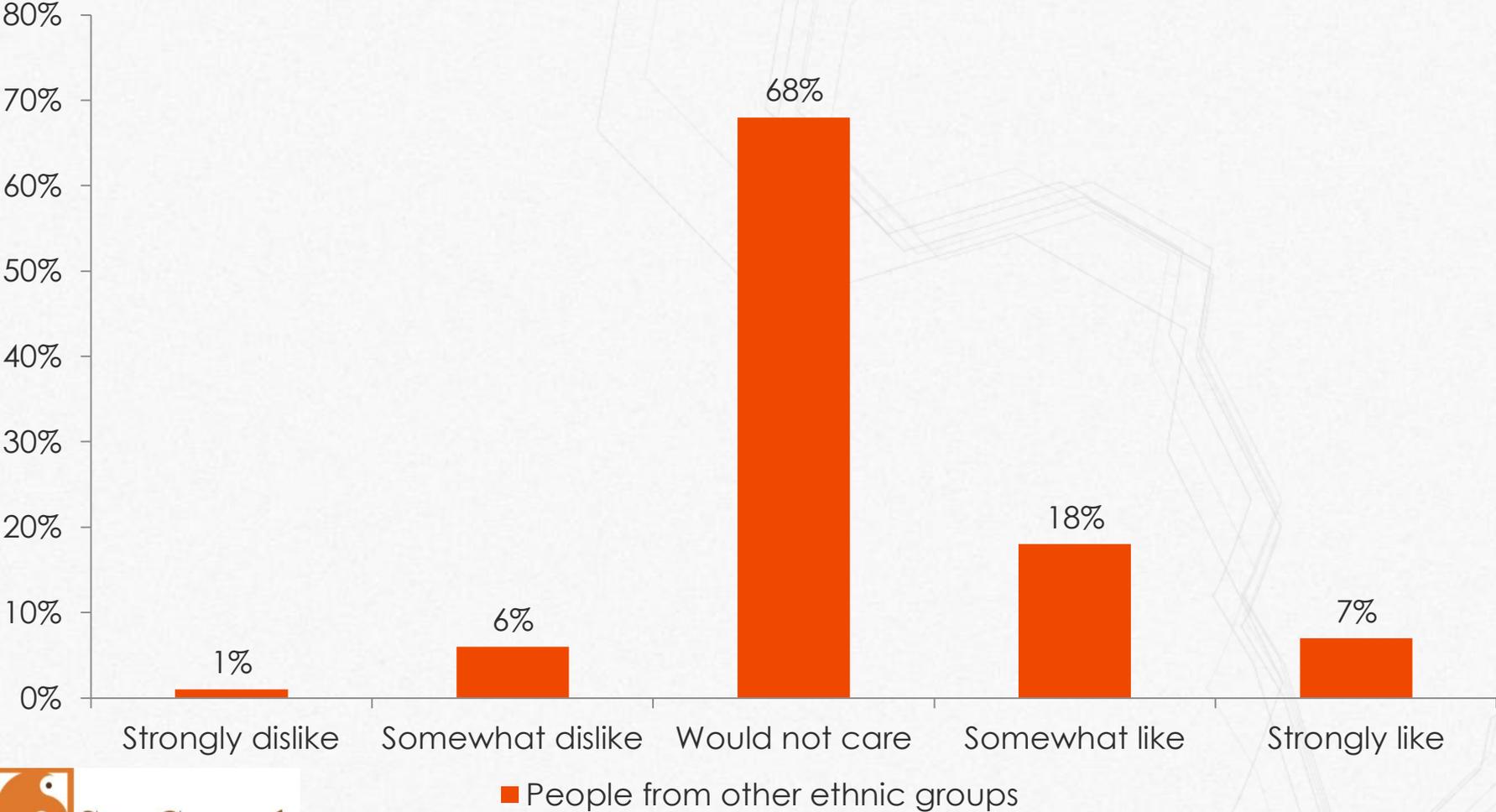
Level of Tolerance: religion in 2014

Q: For each of the following types of people, please tell me whether you would like having people from this group as neighbours, dislike it, or not care: People of a different religion?



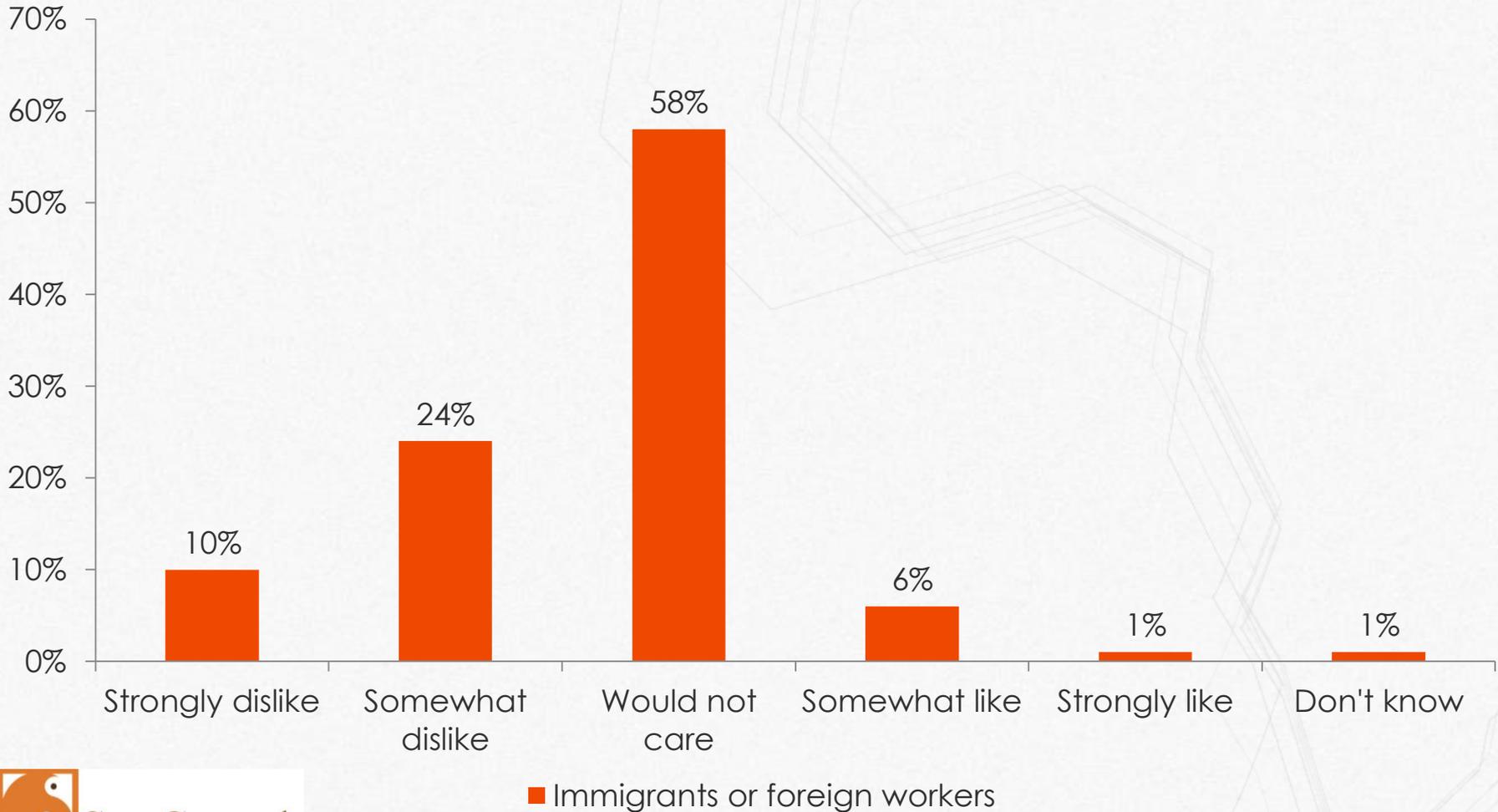
Level of Tolerance: ethnicity in 2014

Q: For each of the following types of people, please tell me whether you would like having people from this group as neighbours, dislike it, or not care: People from other ethnic groups?



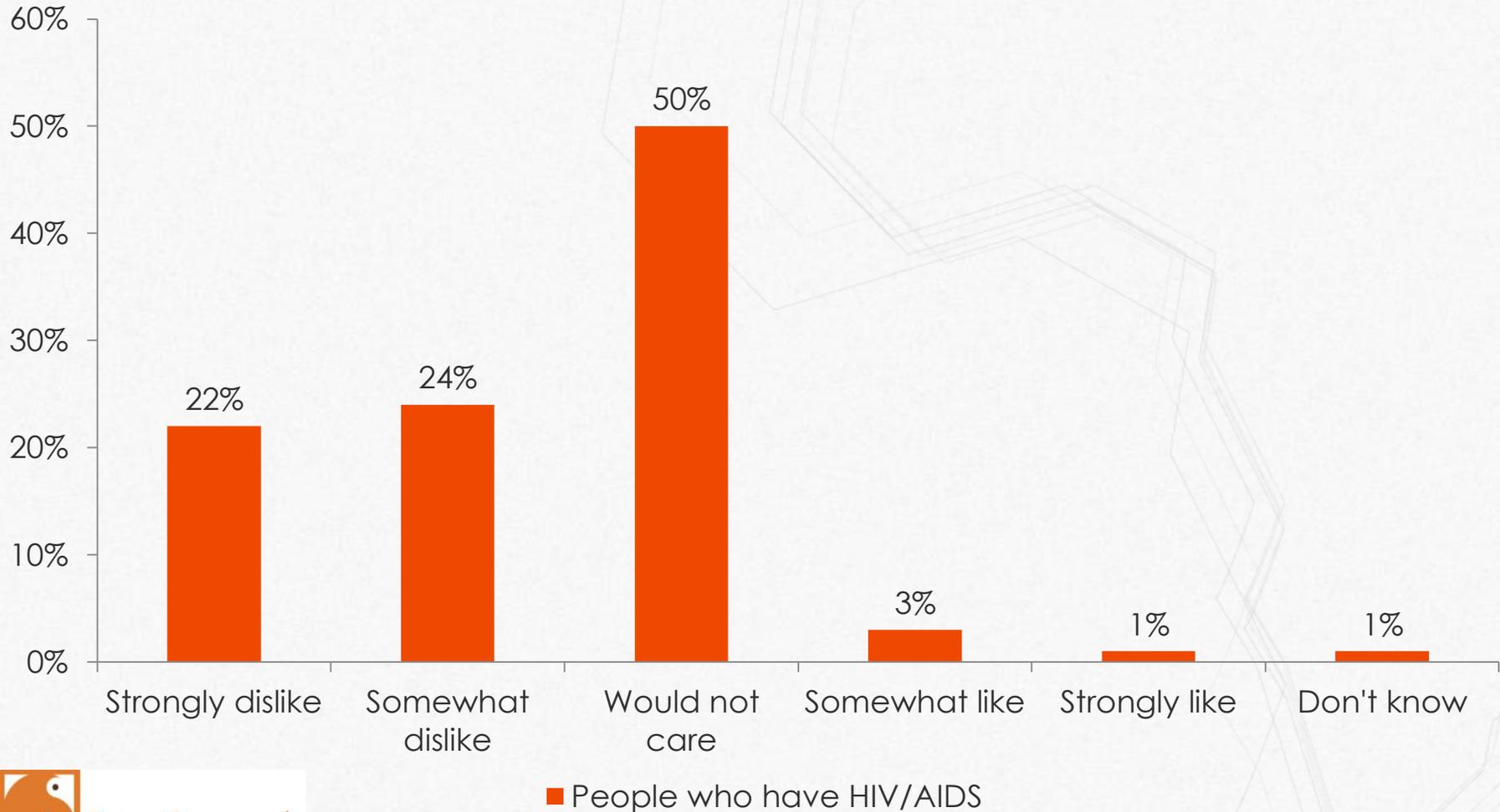
Level of Tolerance: immigrants in 2014

Q: For each of the following types of people, please tell me whether you would like having people from this group as neighbours, dislike it, or not care:
Immigrants or foreign workers?



Level of Tolerance: people with HIV/AIDS in 2014

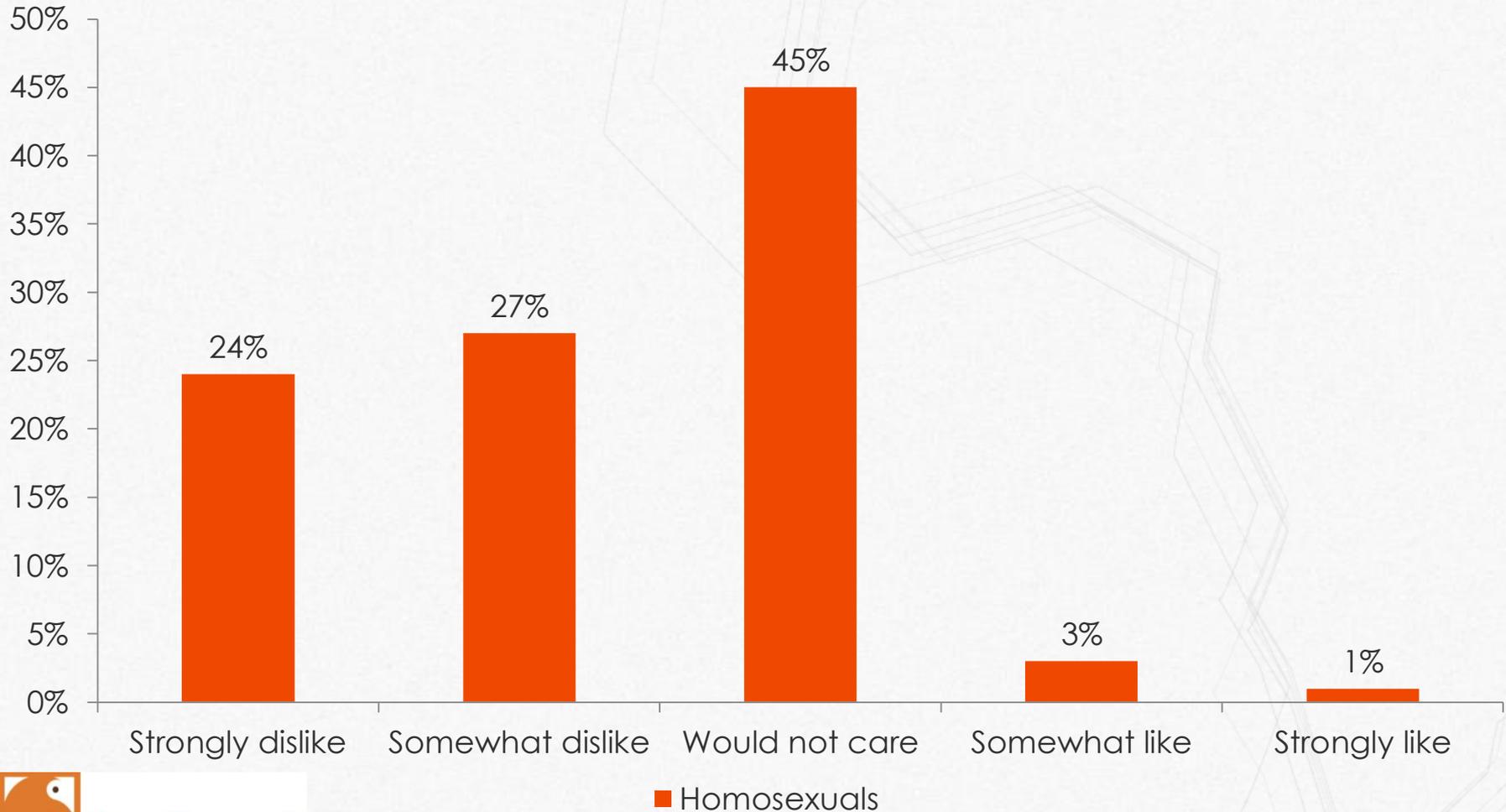
Q: For each of the following types of people, please tell me whether you would like having people from this group as neighbours, dislike it, or not care: People who have HIV/AIDS?



Level of Tolerance: homosexuals in 2014

Q: For each of the following types of people, please tell me whether you would like having people from this group as neighbours, dislike it, or not care:

Homosexuals?





CONCLUSIONS

Major Findings

- A majority of Mauritians have a sense of belonging to their Mauritian identity but also to their ethnic belonging.
- Some Mauritians feel they are treated less fairly by government than others.
- Mauritians have high levels of tolerance for other religious or ethnic groups.
- They are less tolerant towards those who suffer from HIV/AIDS and those who are homosexuals.

Thank you