

# Young people values, hopes and expectations

Faith and religion

Global results report



Madrid, 2023



# Main conclusions (I)



The study highlights the presence of varied religious and moral attitudes among youth, influenced by regional differences. Spirituality often plays an important role in young people's lives, to the point that, once it is part of their lives, its presence increases or at least remains the same as it was five years ago, in very few cases it lessens (15%). Young believers' faith extends beyond religious practices like prayer and attendance at services, influencing their moral viewpoints as well.

On social issues, religious stance is an influential factor. Both believers and atheists generally consider war to be unjustifiable. Concerns about political corruption and environmental problems are common to both groups. Atheists tend to support more liberal social issues, such as the legalization of prostitution or the practice of womb surrogacy, issues believers agree with to a lesser extent.



# Main conclusions (II)



**ATHEISTS AND/OR AGNOSTICS.** There is a higher percentage of men, and they are mainly located in Italy and Spain. Young atheists mostly defend their position from both a psychological and a moral point of view. They mostly consider that belief in God is simply a mental refuge. In countries with a smaller presence of young atheists, such as Kenya and the Philippines, it is common to observe activities related to believers in atheists.

**GOD BELIEVERS.** In contrast to atheists, among believers there is a higher percentage of women, especially in Kenya, the Philippines and Brazil. Common among young believers is the practice of prayer as a form of conversation with God, often through dialogue and meditation, and using their own words and expressions. No clear differences are observed between Catholics and young people who identify with other religions. The only exceptions are found in the figure of the Virgin Mary and in the reading of the Bible.

**CATHOLIC BELIEVERS.** As among believers, there is a higher percentage of women among Catholic believers. There is a special emphasis on Roman Catholics, since Greek Catholics represent a very small percentage of the total number of young Catholics. Catholics recognize that God has revealed himself through his son, Jesus Christ, and agree on the importance of the Bible as a sacred book containing truths revealed by God. Young Catholics recognize the importance of the sacraments, such as Baptism, Confirmation, and Marriage.



**Universe:** young people between 18 and 29 years old.



**Scope:** Argentina, Brazil, Italy, Kenya, Mexico, Philippines, Spain and UK.



**Quotas:** by sex, age and geography according to the distribution of the population in each country.



**Data collection procedure:** computer-assisted online interview (CAWI).



**Sample size:** 4.889 total interviews distributed by country as shown in the table on the right.










**Sampling error:**  $\pm 1,4\%$  ( $n=4.889$ ), for a degree of confidence of 95.5% (two sigmas) and under the worst-case scenario of  $P=Q=0.5$  under the assumption of simple random sampling.



**Interview duration:** 9-10 minutes approximately, 37 questions.

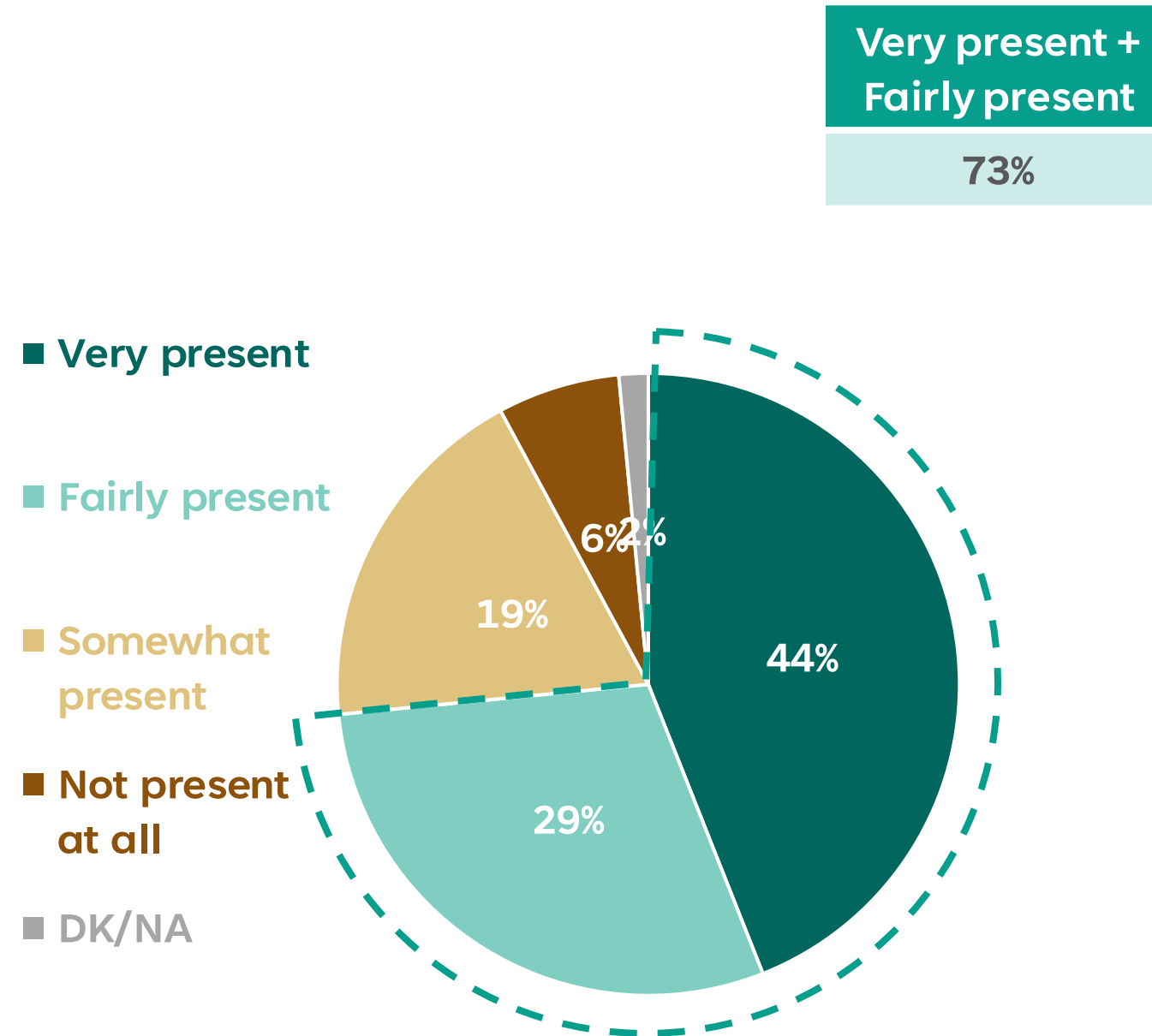


**Fieldwork dates:** from November 16th to December 11th 2023.

Country	Sample
 Argentina	604
 Brazil	600
 Italy	605
 Kenya	670
 Mexico	606
 Philippines	600
 Spain	601
 UK	603
<b>Total</b>	<b>4.889</b>

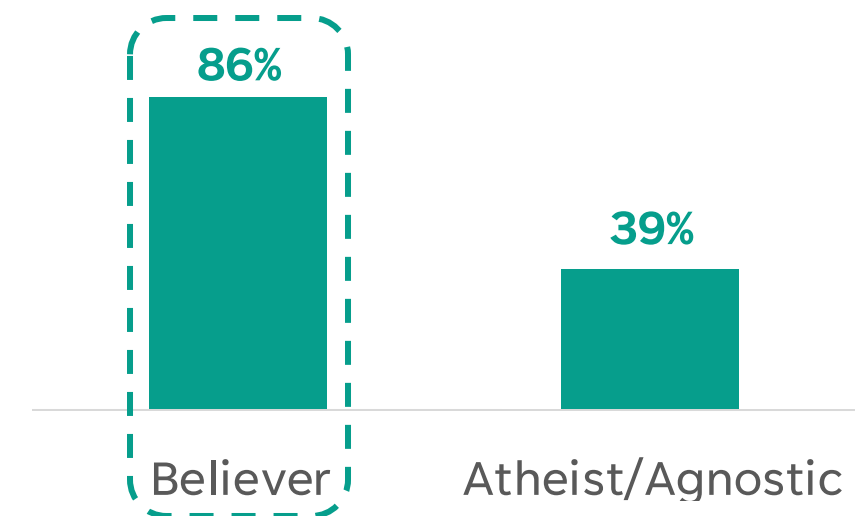
To what extent do you consider that spirituality has been present in your life?

Spirituality seems to be present in the young people's lives, especially among those who consider themselves believers. Meanwhile, among atheists, spirituality does not appear to be a very frequent topic in their lives.



### Very present + Fairly present

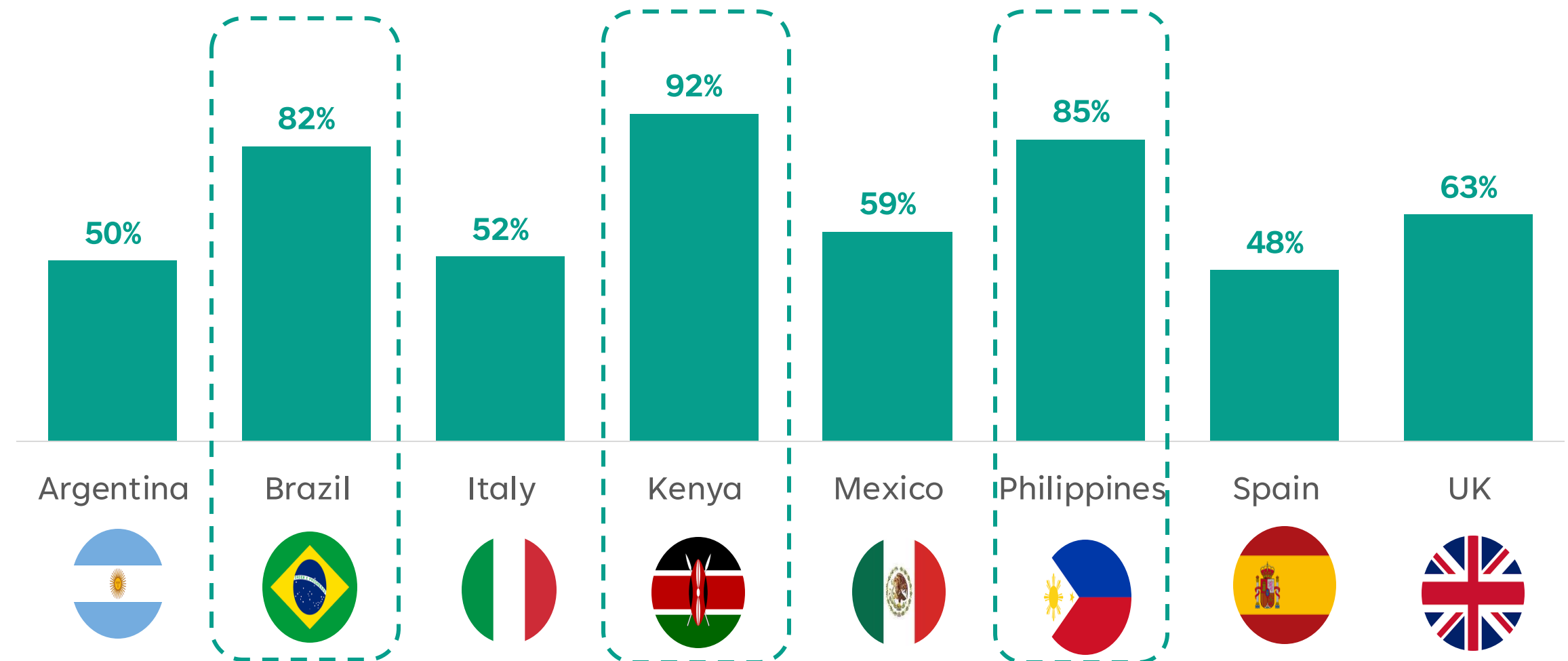
#### By belief



# Spirituality presence

To what extent do you consider that spirituality has been present in your life?

Kenya, the Philippines and Brazil are the countries that stand out, showing a high presence of spirituality among young people, above the overall data. On the other hand, in the rest of the countries analyzed, the presence of spirituality is relatively low, with Spain being the country with the lowest percentage.

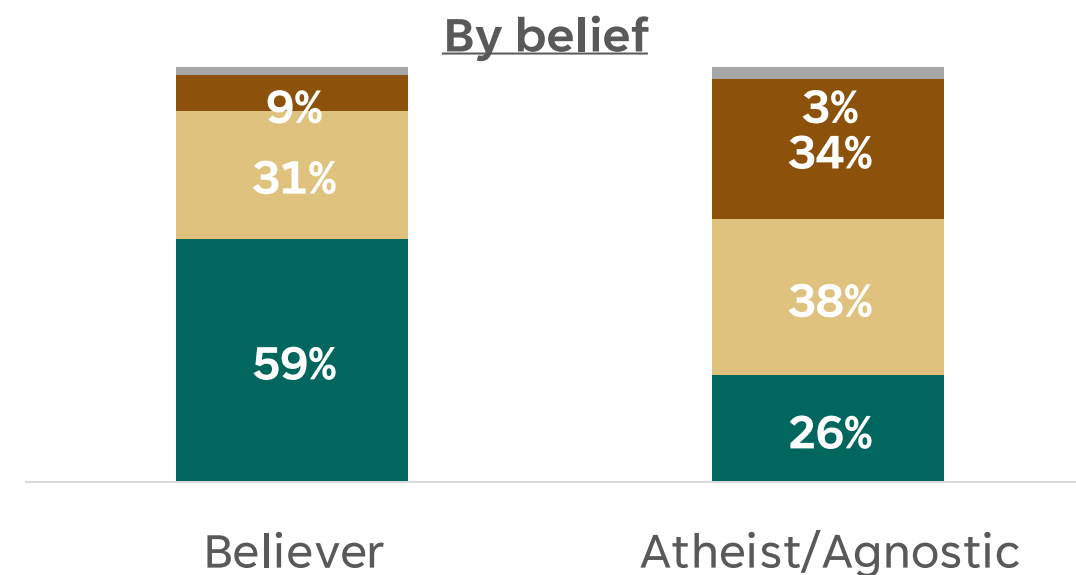
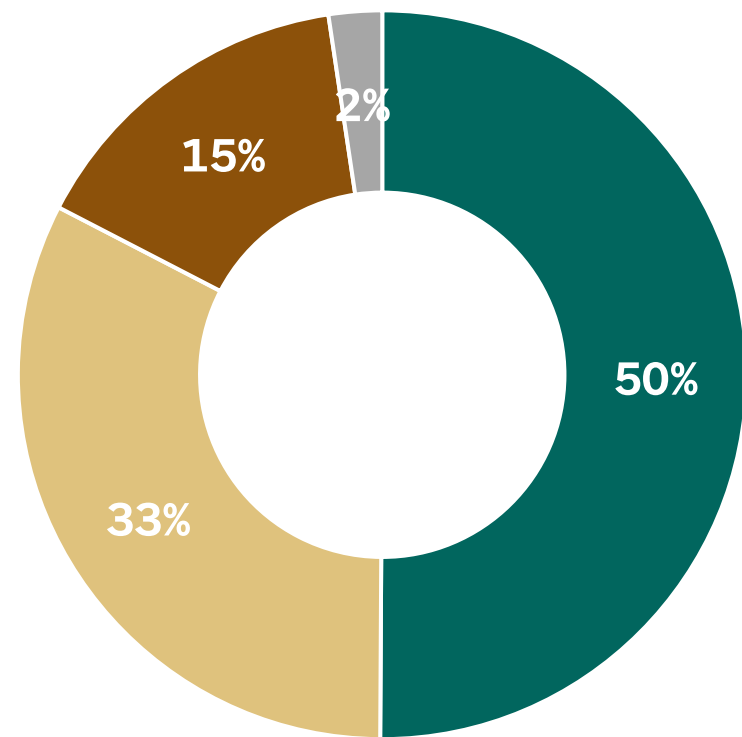




# Spirituality evolution

Compared to 5 years ago, now you believe that spirituality is...

■ More present in your life    
 ■ Equally present in your life    
 ■ Less present in your life    
 ■ DK/NA



Compared to previous years, the presence of spirituality seems to have increased among half of the young people. As in the question on the presence of spirituality, also in the comparison with the past, the same countries stand out (Kenya, Philippines and Brazil) and there is again a significant difference between believers and atheists.

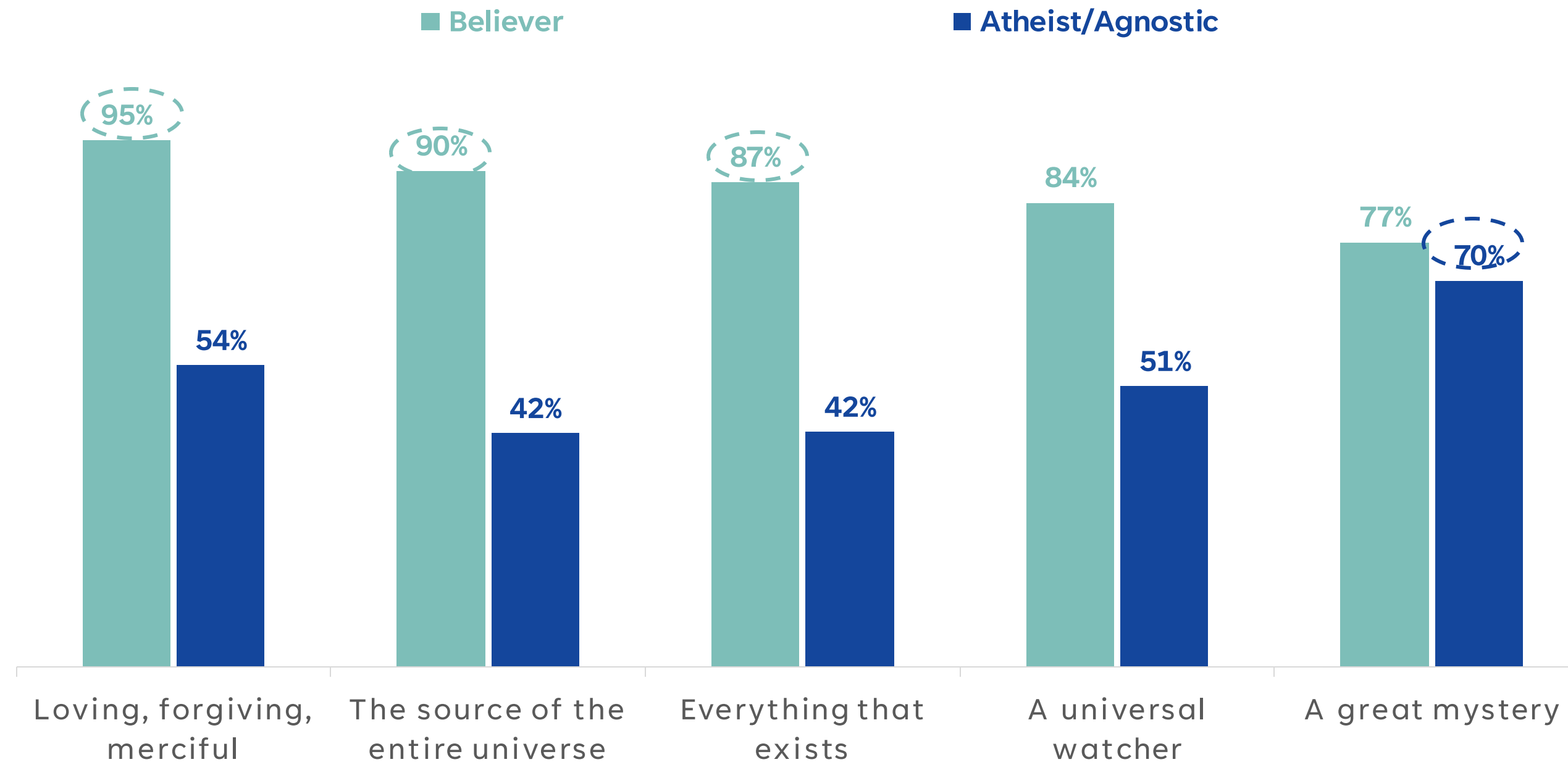
# Image associated with God by belief

Please indicate if you associate God with the following images:

The five most mentioned

% Yes

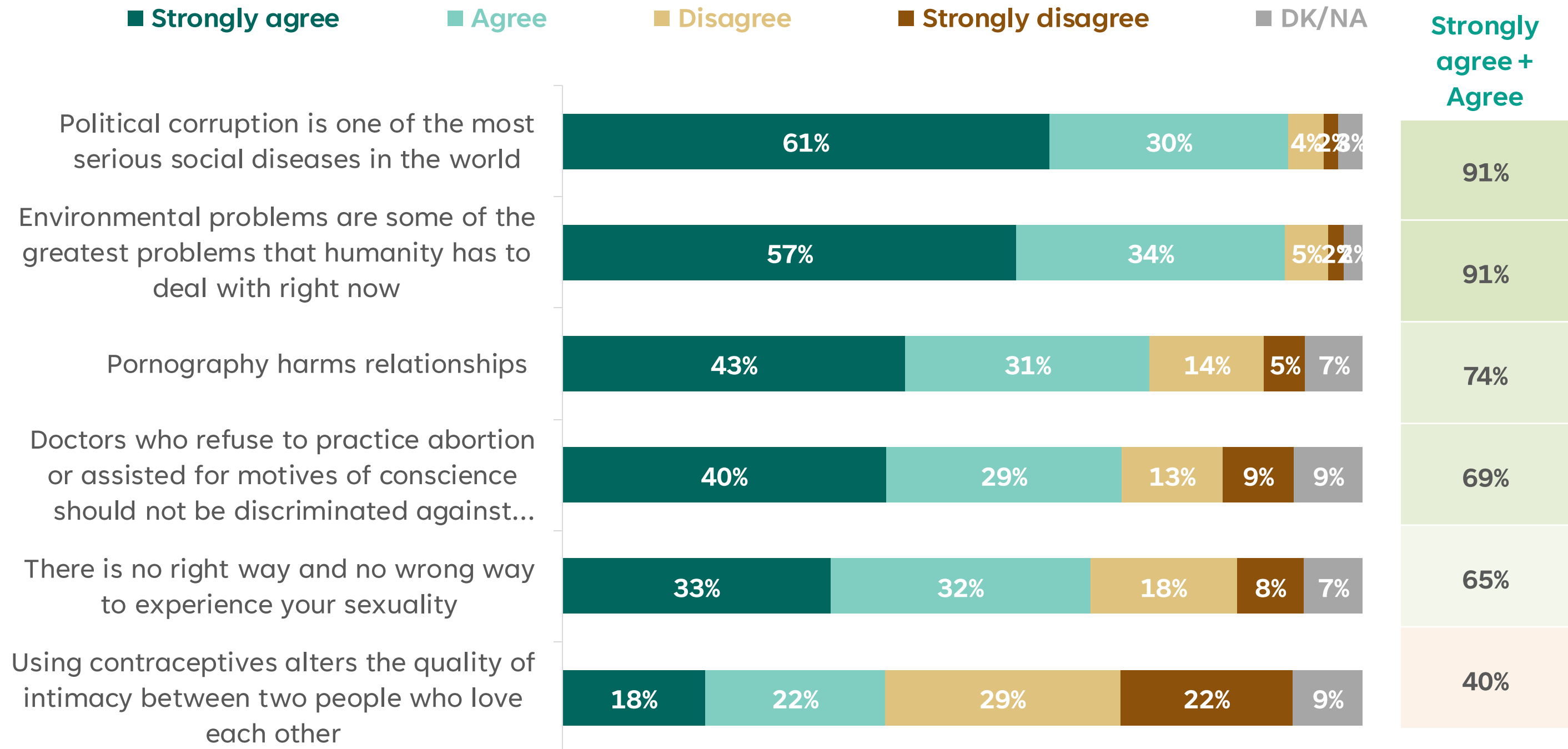
While believers tend to identify God primarily with an image of love, forgiveness and mercy, the source of the universe or all that exists, atheists understand God primarily as a great mystery.





# Social statements

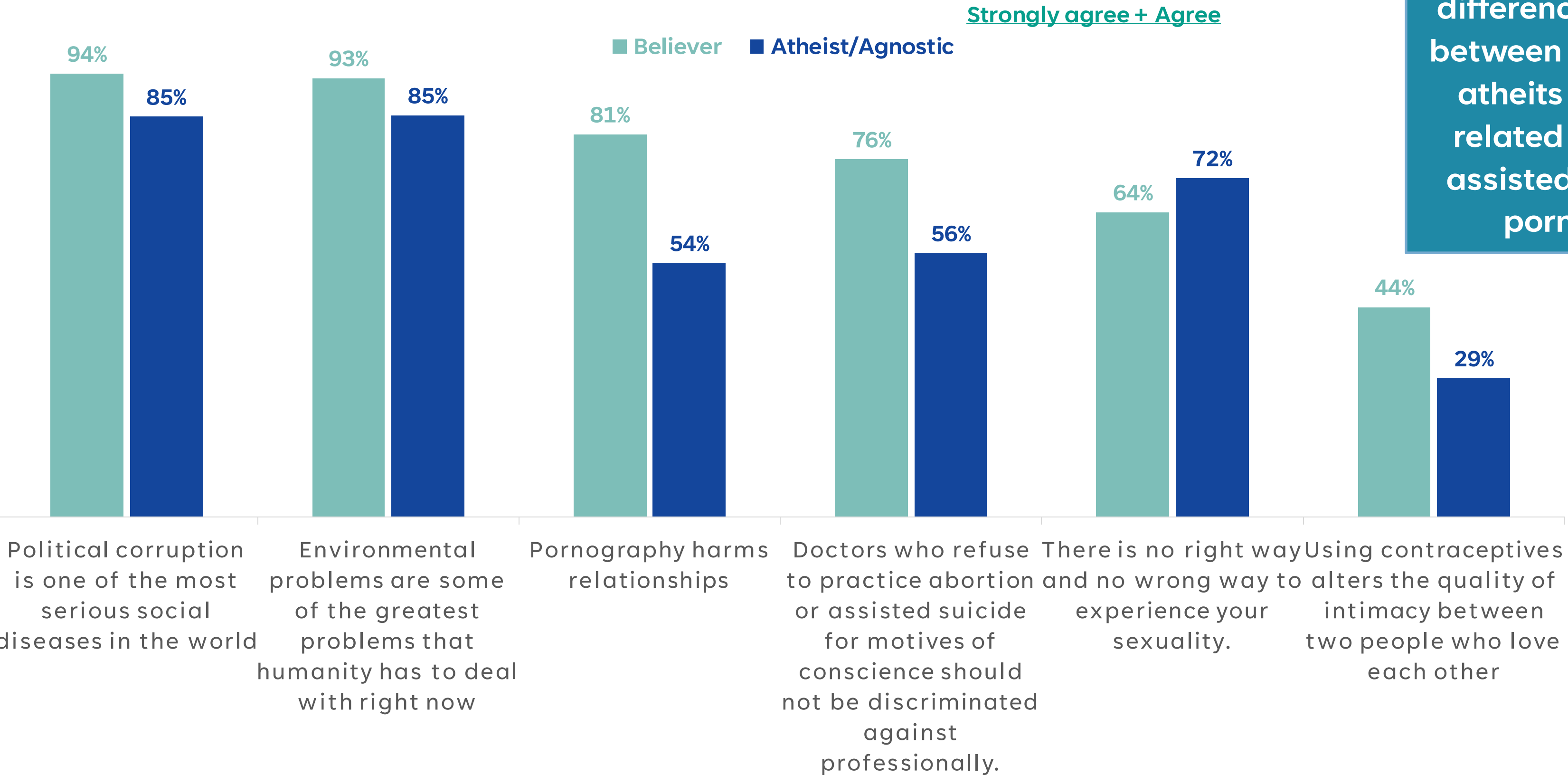
To what extent do you agree with the following social statements?



**Political corruption and environmental issues seem to be the most important concerns for young people.**

# Social statements by belief

To what extent do you agree with the following social statements?



Where there are more differences of opinion between believers and atheists is on issues related to abortion, assisted suicide and pornography

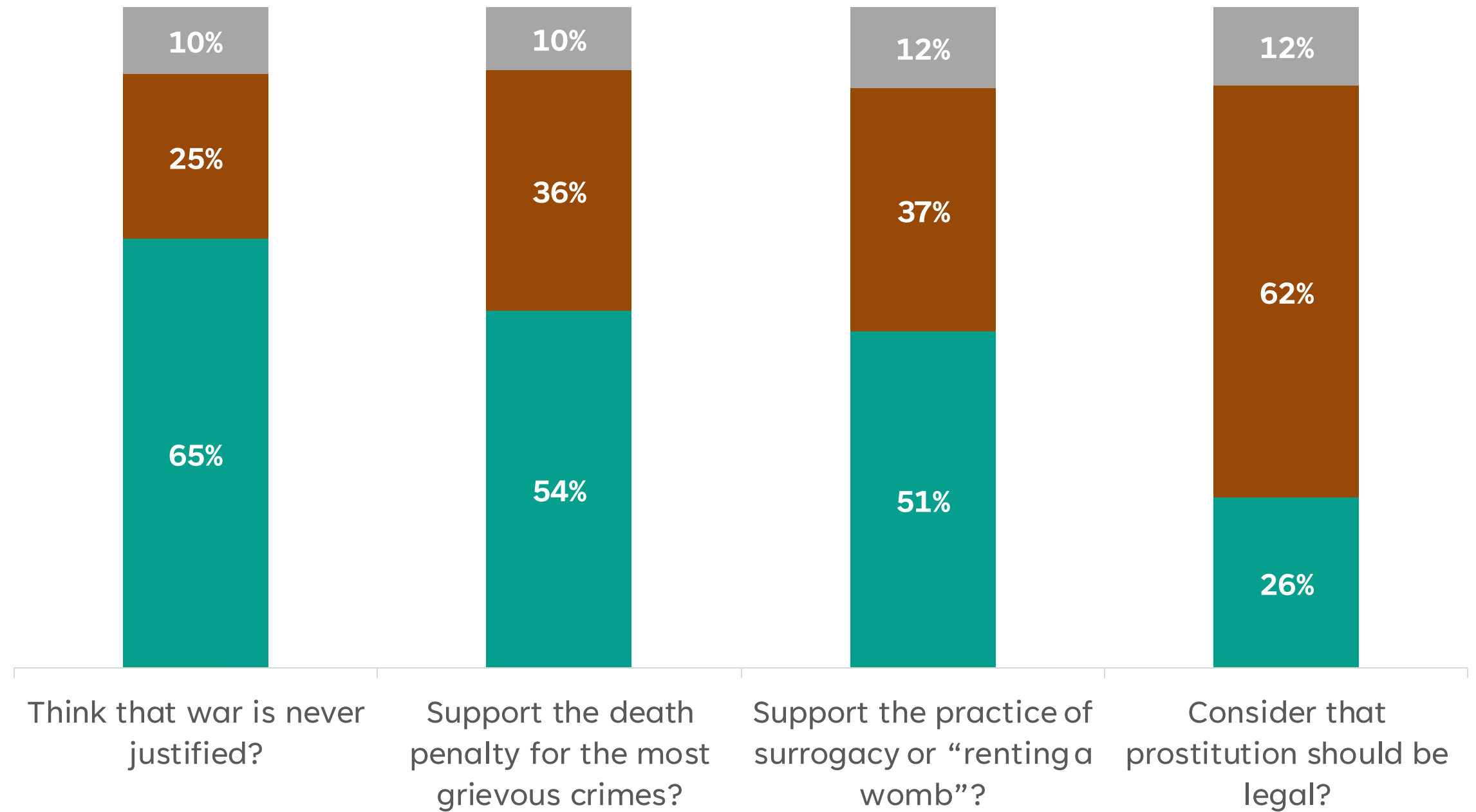
Do you....?

■ Yes

■ No

■ DK/NA

Young people especially agree that war is unjustifiable in any situation.

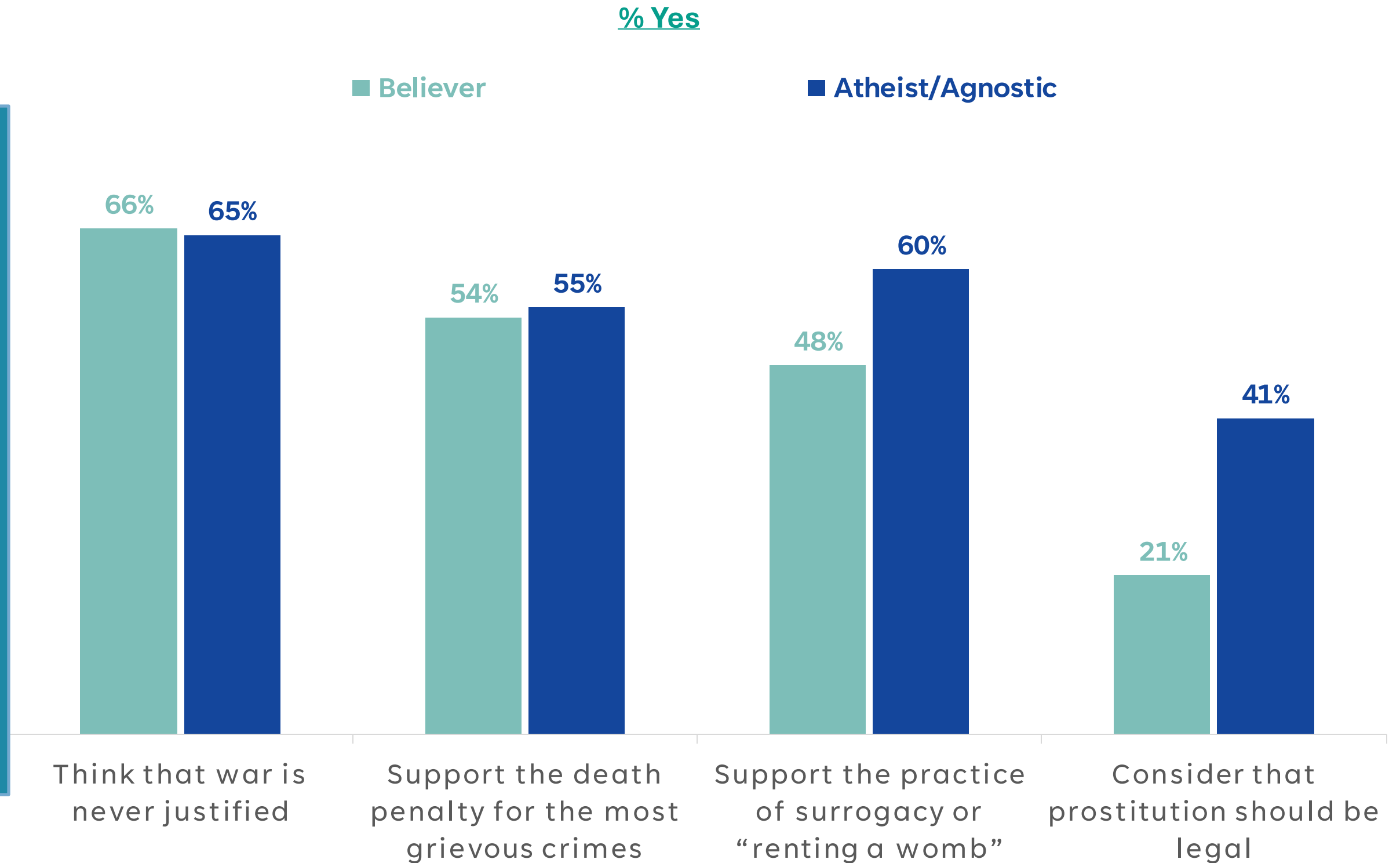


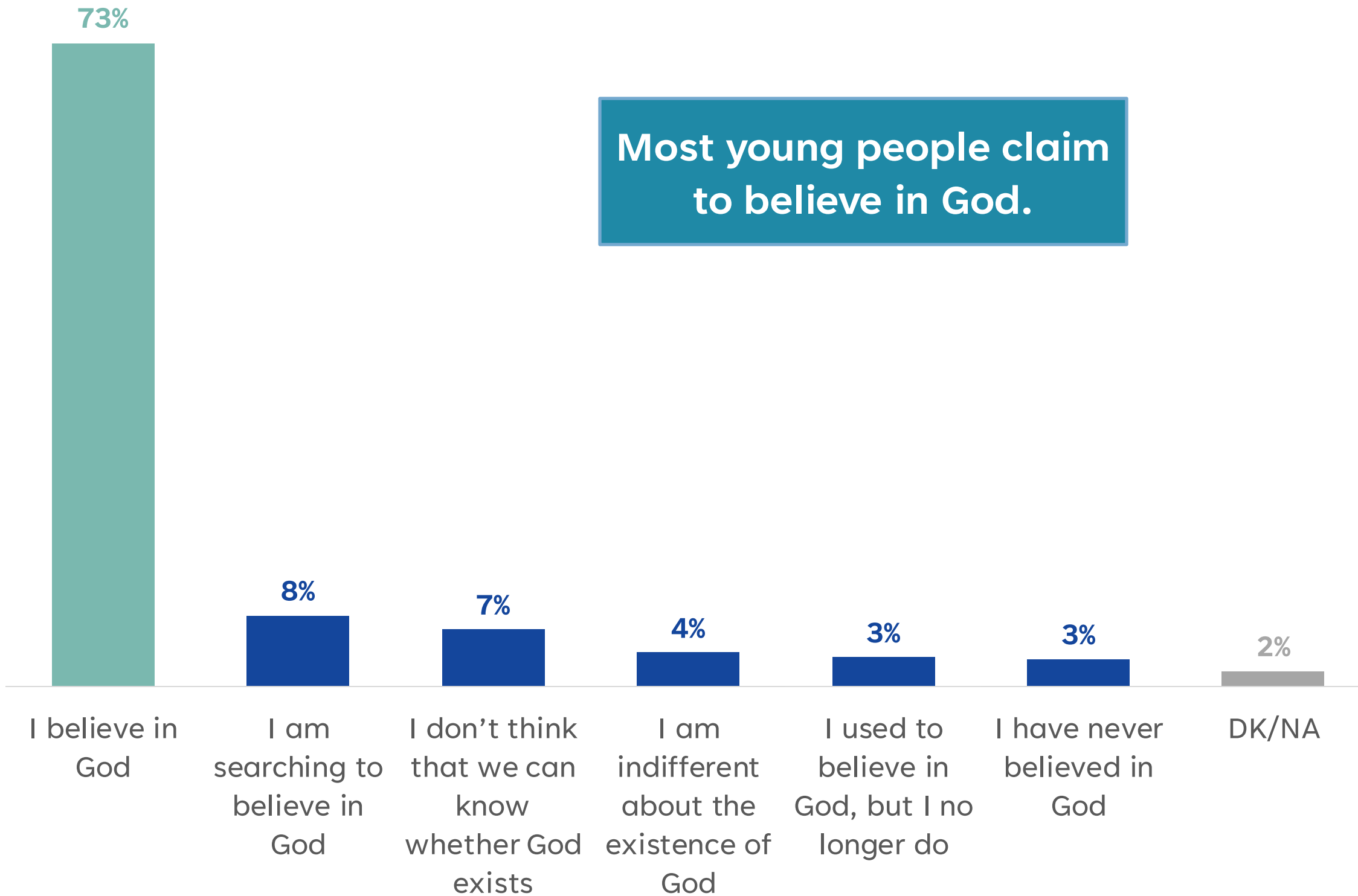


# Social opinions by belief

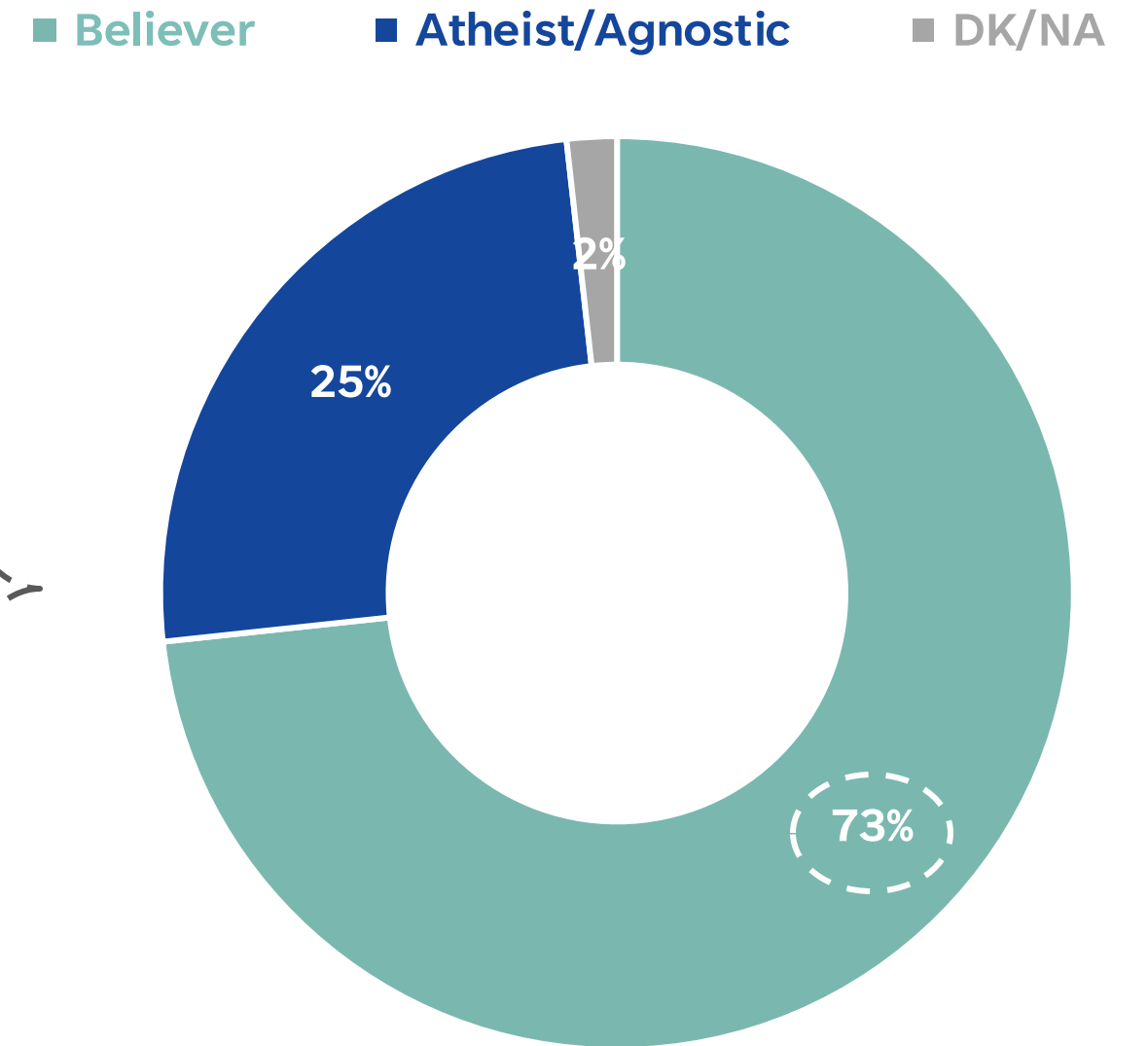
Do you....?

Regarding both the unjustifiability of war and approval of the death penalty in certain serious cases, believers and atheists agree to the same extent. On the other hand, when it comes to issues such as renting a womb or the legalization of prostitution, the degree of support of atheists stands out compared to a lower degree of approval among believers.





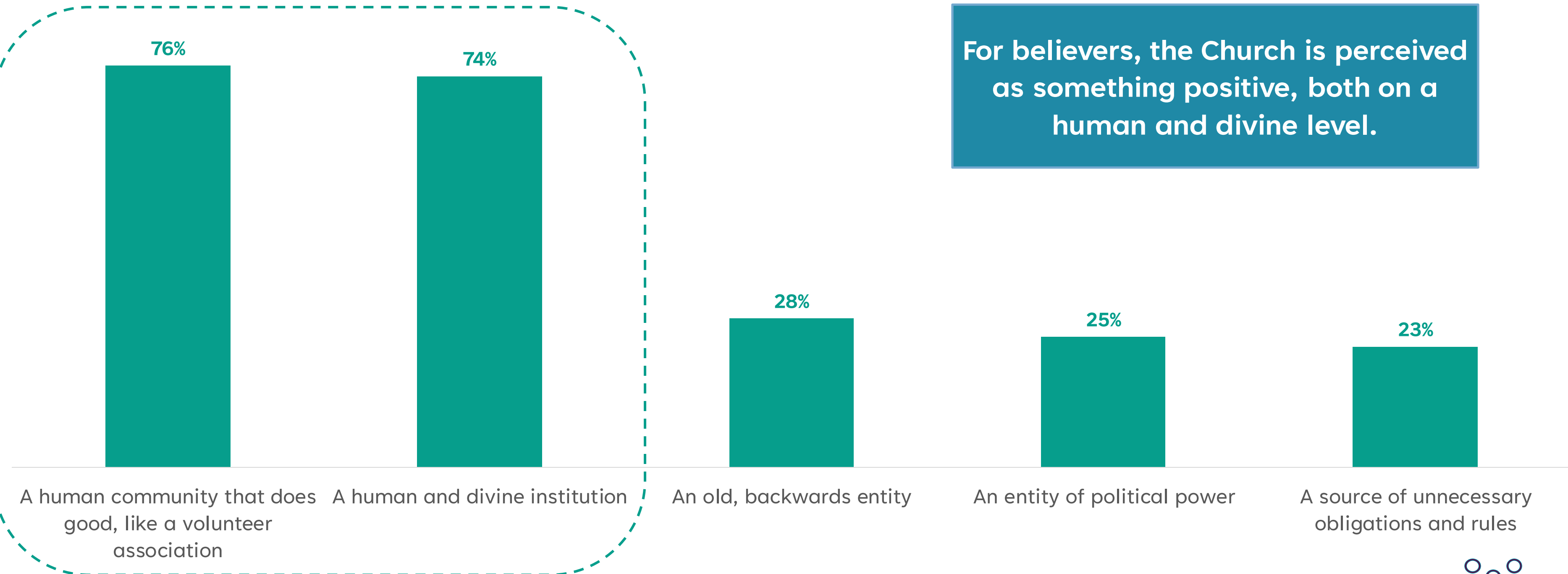
**Most young people claim to believe in God.**



# Church Perception

What is the Church, predominantly for you?

% Yes





# Church Perception by faith tradition

What is the Church, predominantly for you?

% Yes

■ Catholic

■ Non-Catholic

There are no significant differences between Catholics and non-Catholics. Catholics simply mention in greater amounts both the negative and positive aspects of the Church.

