Climate Opinion Research Exchange

Heat is increasingly taking Europeans' Sleep

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This study's key goal was to understand Europeans attitudes towards cooling, in light of the extreme heat Europeans experienced over the summer.

To understand these issues, the study interviewed 2000 respondents in, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, and the UK.

This results in an overall margin of error of ±2.2% at the national level.

The data analysis presented in this deck consists of frequencies (presenting the overall picture) and crosstabulations (breakdowns of the data).

Crosstabs are provided by:

- Age
- Gender
- Partisanship (any party with less than 100 respondents is not presented)

It is important to keep in mind that margins of error are higher for subgroups than at the national level.

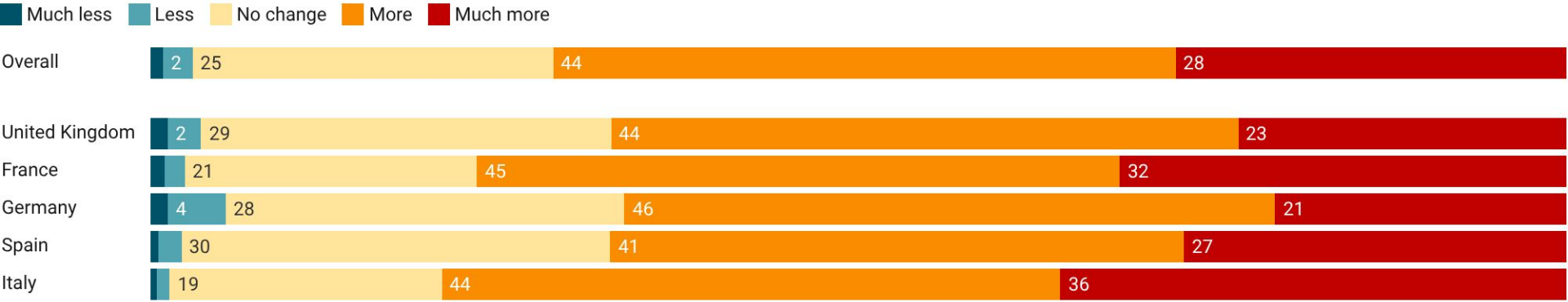
Background and methodology

- Increased disruption from heat is widely reported, with this perception common across the political spectrum and more frequent among young people and women. Less disruption is reported rarely.
- Difficulty sleeping is a top issue associated with heat disruptions in everyday life.
- The public prioritize older people's health, hospitals, and greenery as focus areas/solutions.
- The issues covered in this survey do have politically polarized and politically coded views, but broadly speaking majorities believe heat is disruptive regardless of partisanship.
- The public has broadly favorable views of heat pumps, though moderate awareness.
- Large majorities favor installation of air conditioning in most public buildings.

Key findings

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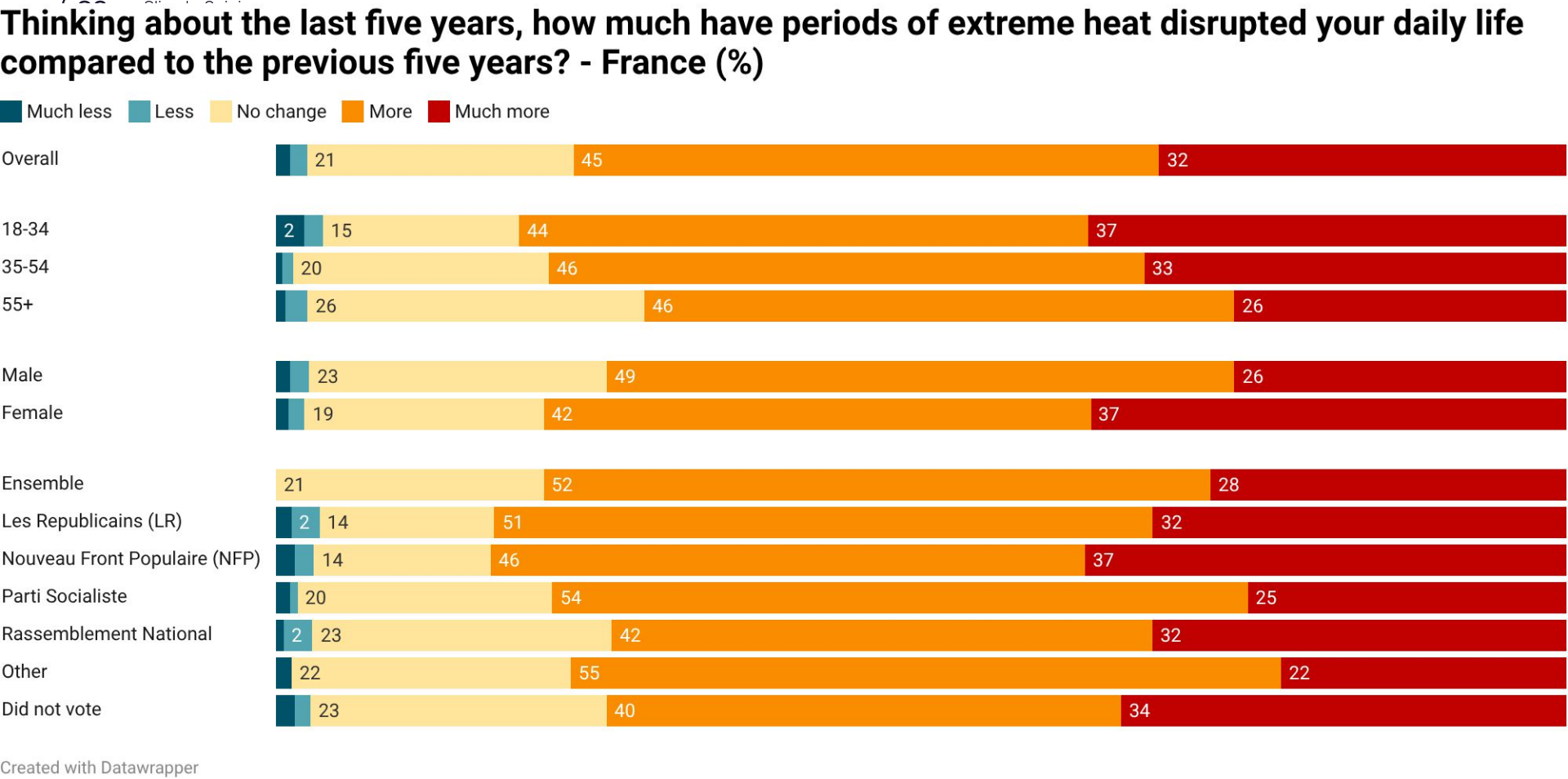
Thinking about the last five years, how much have periods of extreme heat disrupted your daily life compared to the previous five years? (%)



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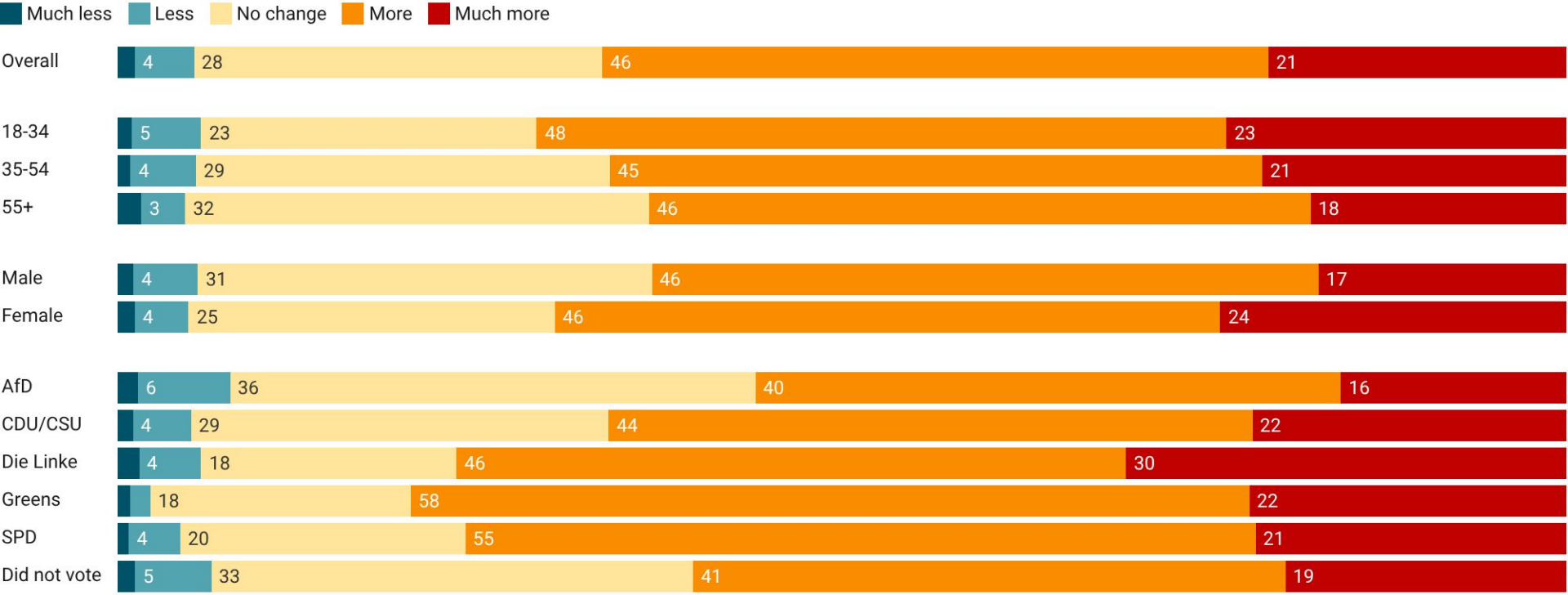
Clear majorities across all countries have experienced more heat disruptions than in the five years prior. Extremely few believe it has become less disruptive. This belief is particularly acute in France and Italy where 77% and 80% respectively report increased heat disruption.

In France, young people, women, NFP, and LR voters have been slightly more affected, while older people, men, and RN voters report slightly less disruption. Yet, still large majorities report disruption.



In Germany, younger people, women, and left wing supporters report greater disruption, though majorities of AFD voters report disruption.

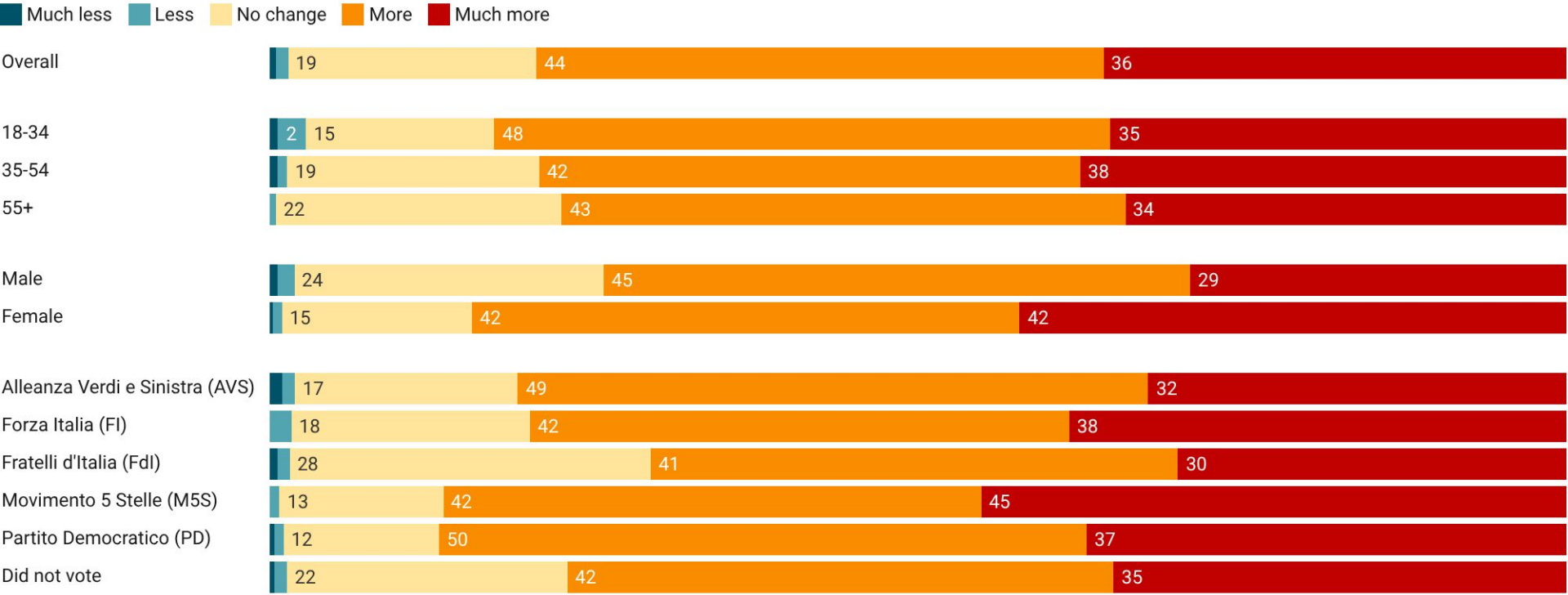
Thinking about the last five years, how much have periods of extreme heat disrupted your daily life compared to the previous five years? - Germany (%)



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In Italy, young people, women, and people on the left report greater levels of disruption, though a majority of FdI voters report disruption.

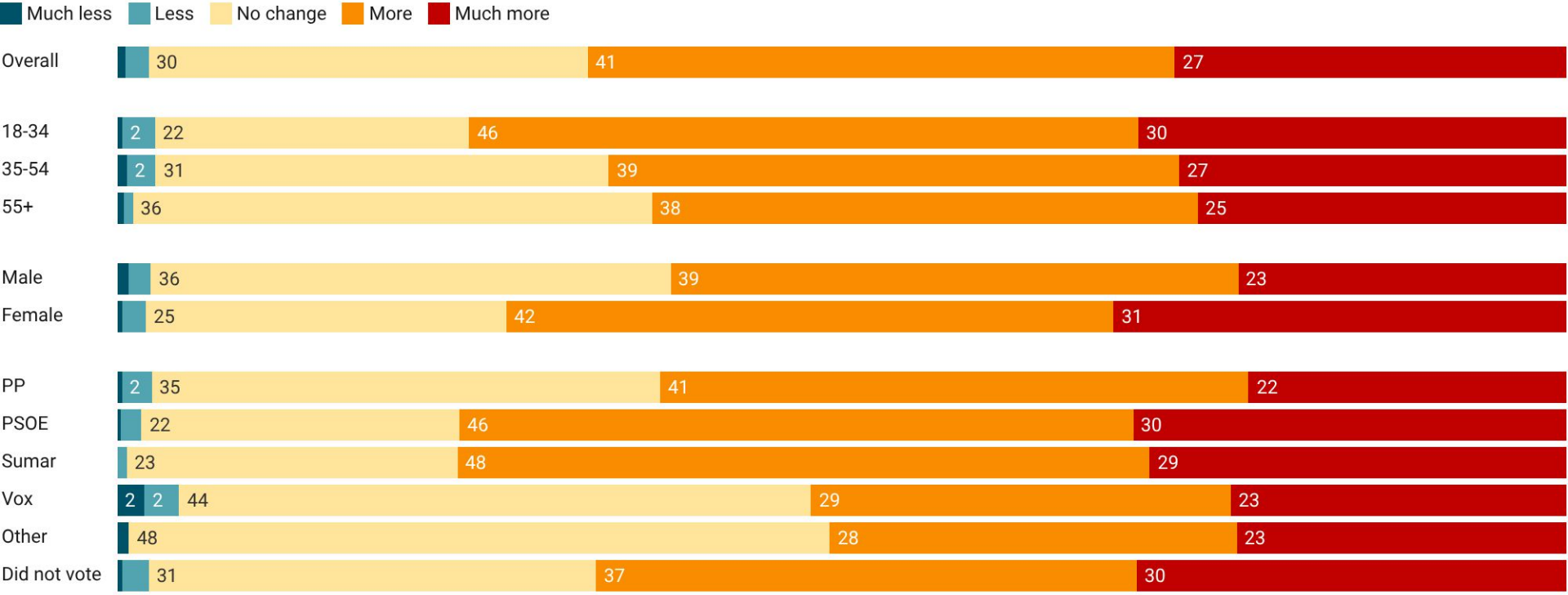
Thinking about the last five years, how much have periods of extreme heat disrupted your daily life compared to the previous five years? - Italy (%)



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Younger people, women, and those on the left report disruption more often. Still half of Vox voters report disruption.

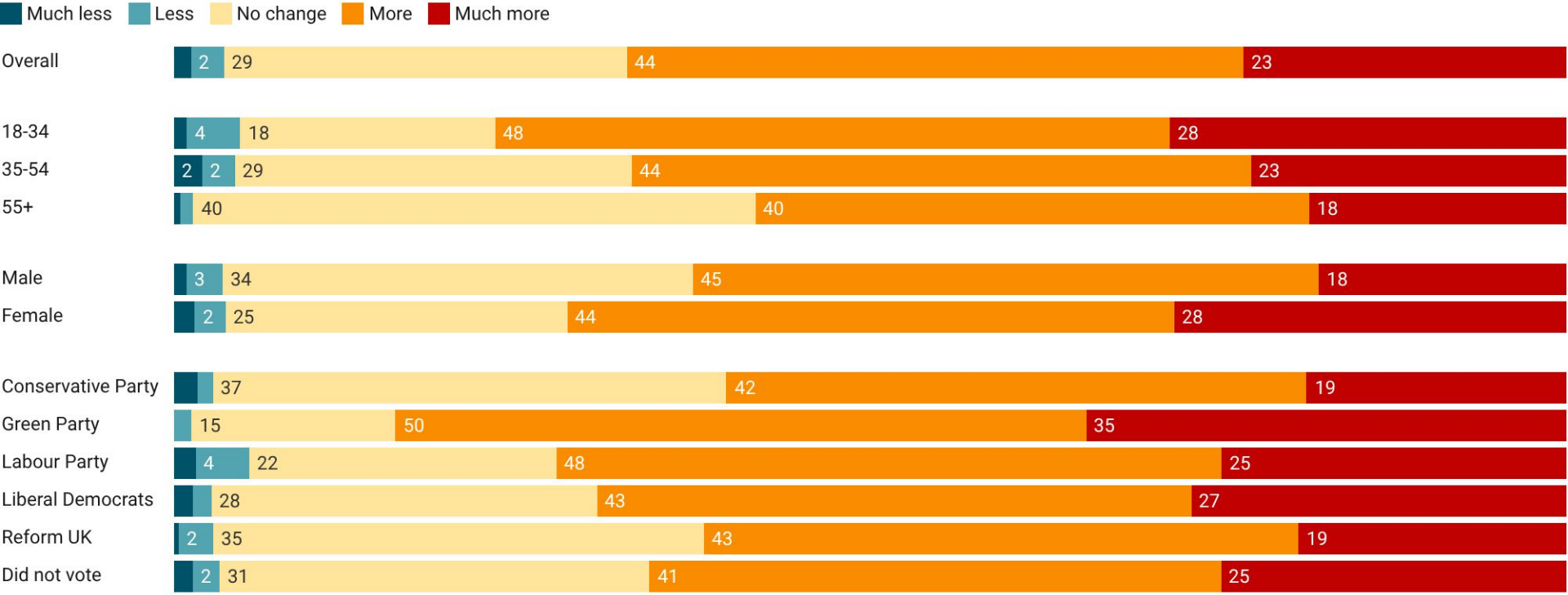
Thinking about the last five years, how much have periods of extreme heat disrupted your daily life compared to the previous five years? - Spain (%)



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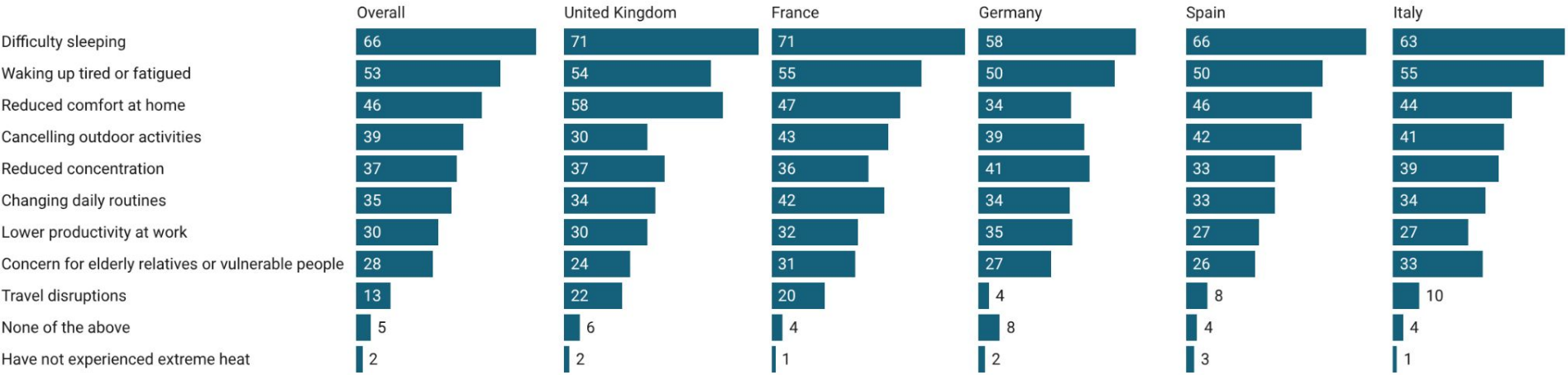
Young people, women, and people on the left of the political spectrum have noticed more issues than others.

Thinking about the last five years, how much have periods of extreme heat disrupted your daily life compared to the previous five years? - United Kingdom (%)



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Have you personally experienced any of the following during periods of extreme heat? (%)

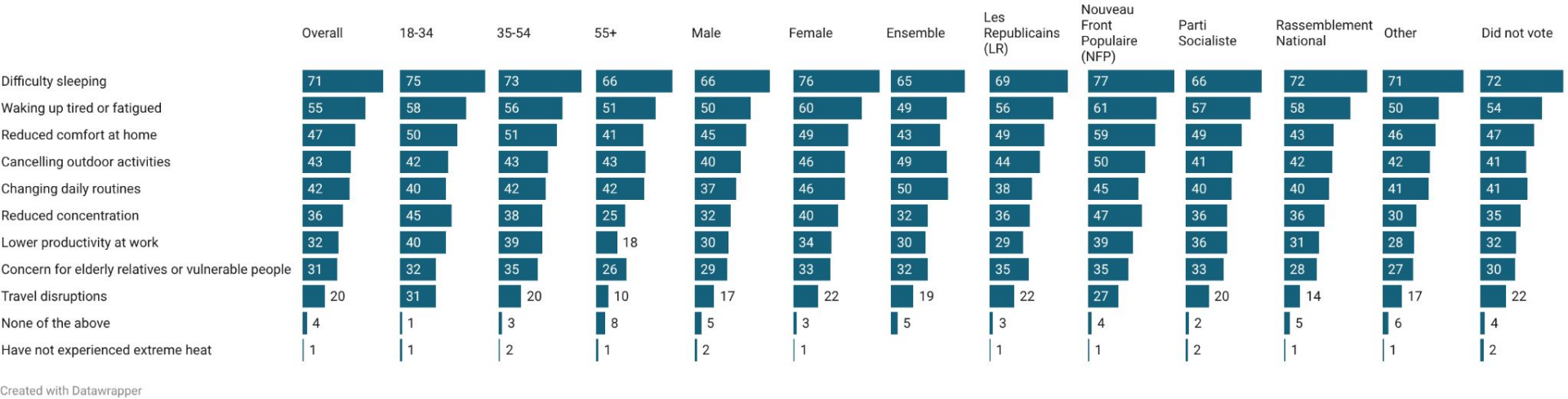


Sleep related issues are top of mind among Europeans surveyed. Extremely few report a lack of heat disruptions in their life.

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Have you personally experienced any of the following during periods of extreme heat? - France (%)

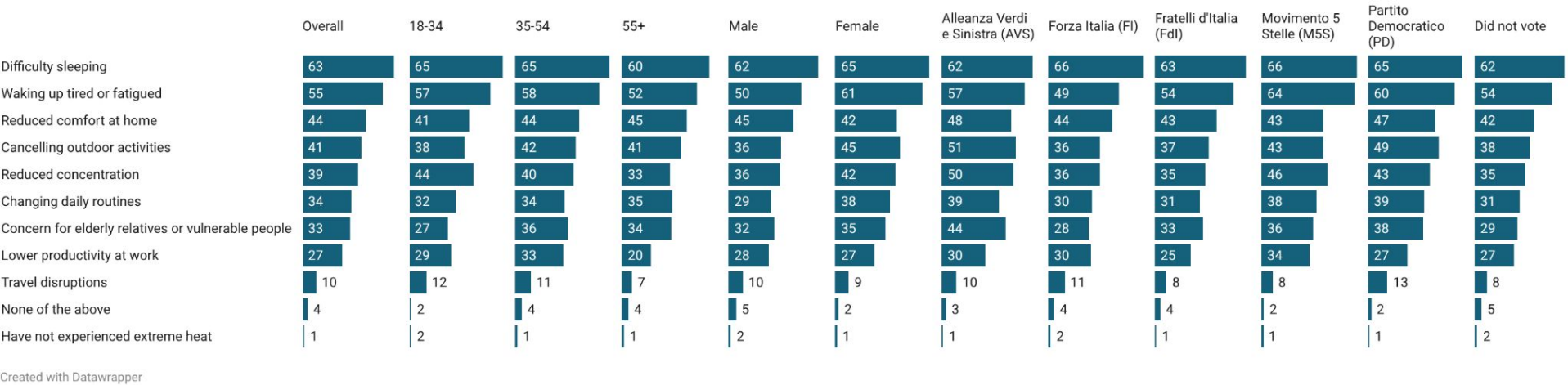


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As with disruption, there are relatively more reported among younger people and women. Socialist and ensemble supporters report relatively few disruptions.

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Have you personally experienced any of the following during periods of extreme heat? - Italy (%)

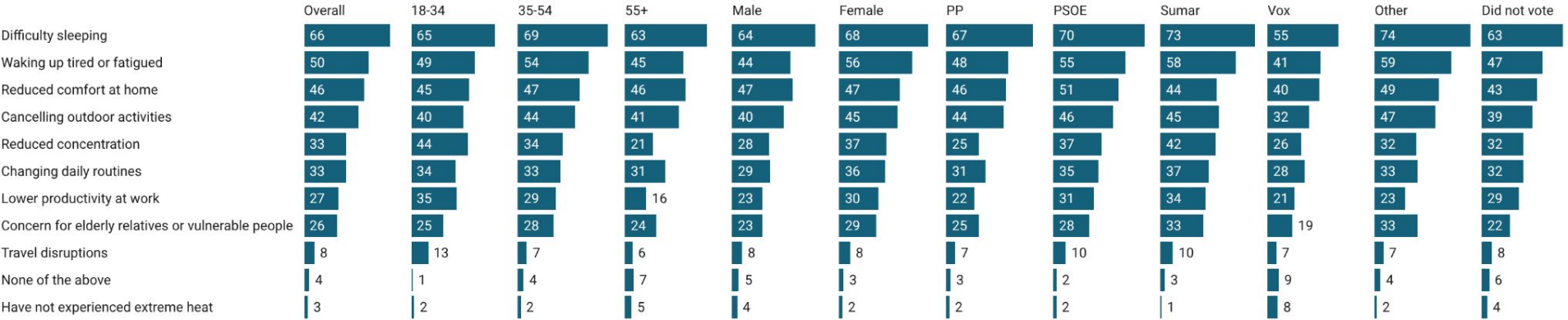


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The types of disruptions people report are relatively similar across groups.

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Have you personally experienced any of the following during periods of extreme heat? - Spain (%)

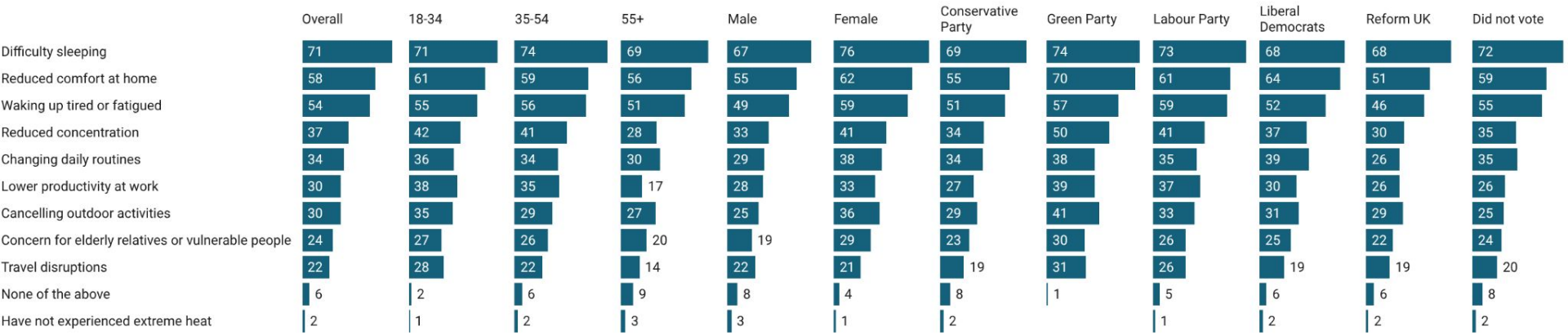


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Sumare supporters tend to report relatively more difficulty sleeping, while Vox supporters report this less often.

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Have you personally experienced any of the following during periods of extreme heat? - United Kingdom (%)

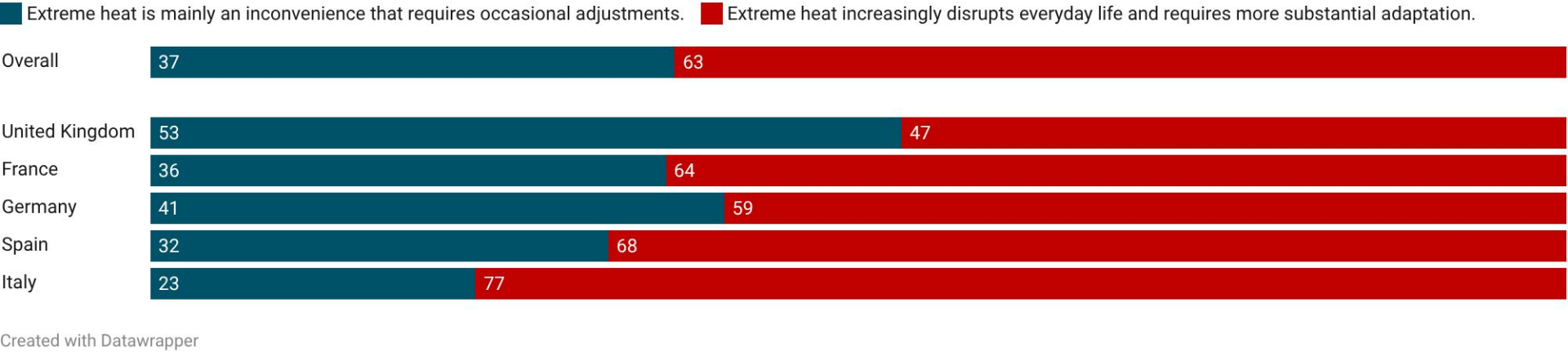


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Women report issues more than men, as do supporters of left leaning parties.

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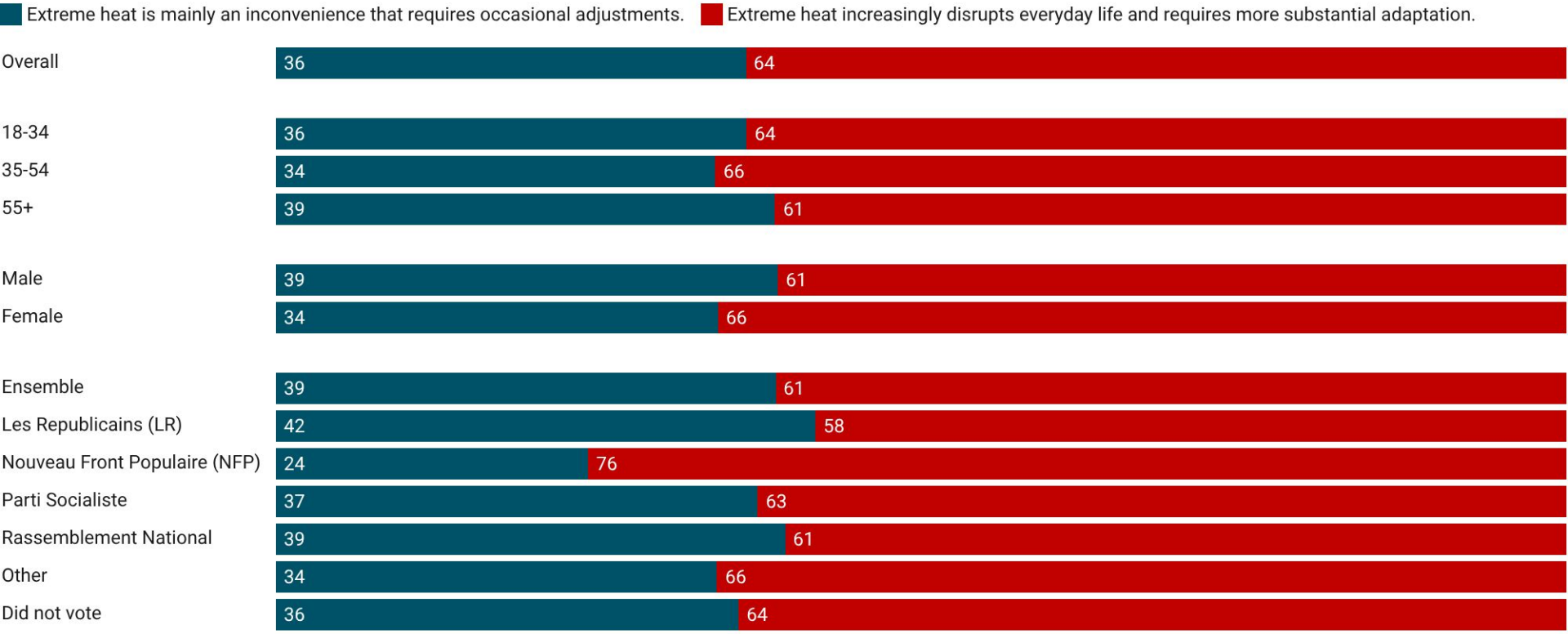
Which statement comes closest to your experience? (%)



Approximately two thirds of those surveyed report that extreme heat increasingly disrupts everyday life and requires substantial adaptation. This attitude is most prevalent in Italy, where 77% report it is an issue and least prevalent in the UK where approximately half the public(47%) report the same.

NFP supporters report extreme heat disrupts life at relatively high rates as do women.

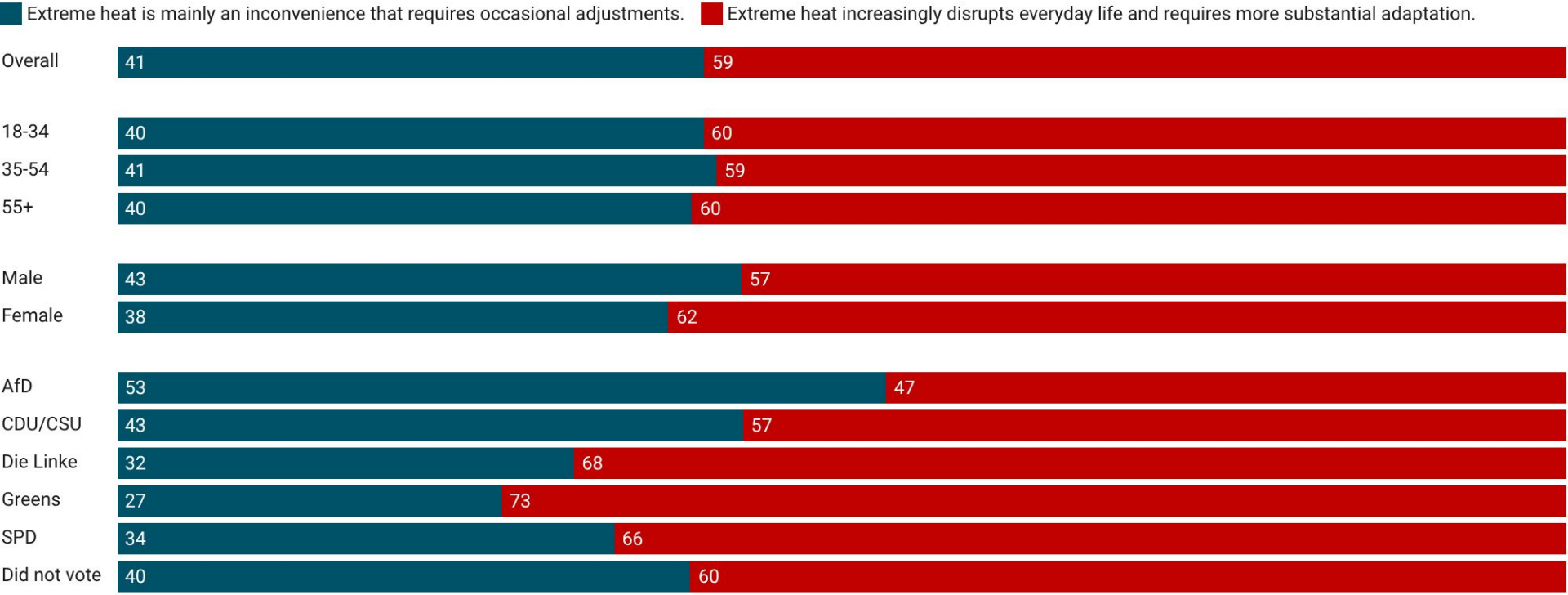
Which statement comes closest to your experience? - France (%)



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Women and left leaning party supporters believe extreme heat increasingly disrupts life more often.

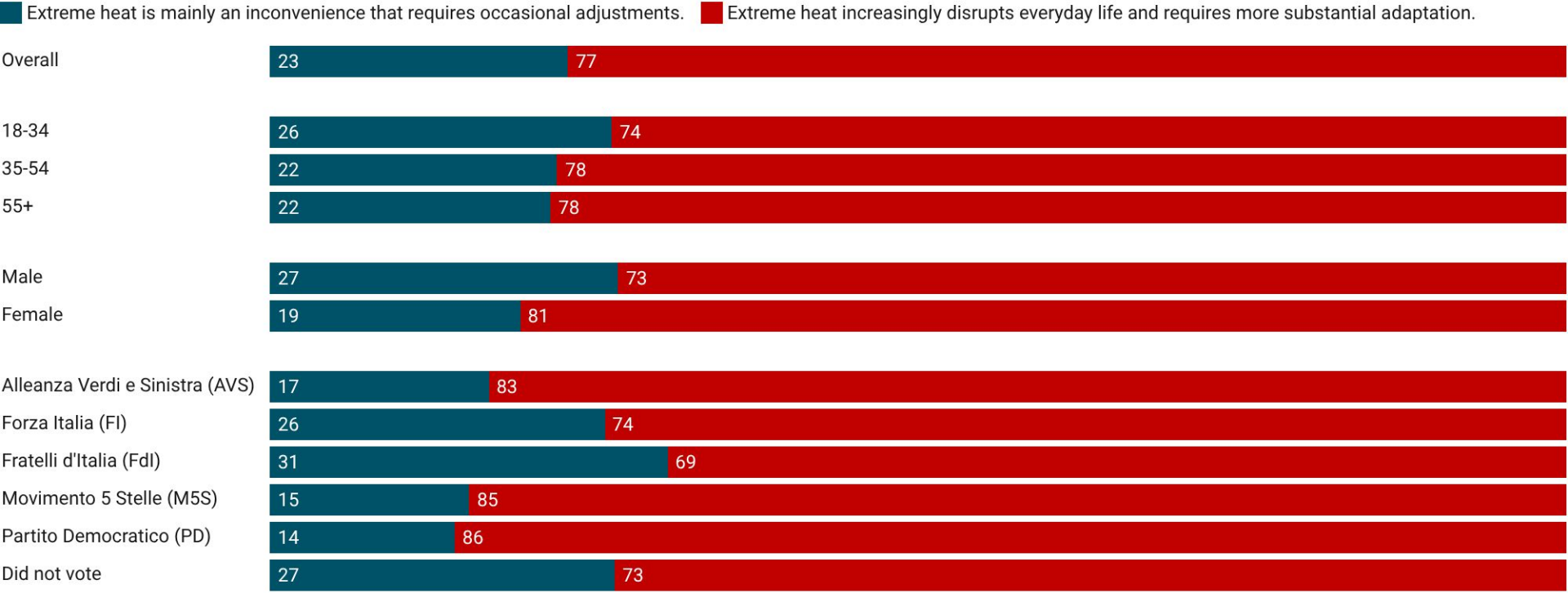
Which statement comes closest to your experience? - Germany (%)



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Women and left wing party supports are more likely to believe extreme heat increasingly disrupts life.

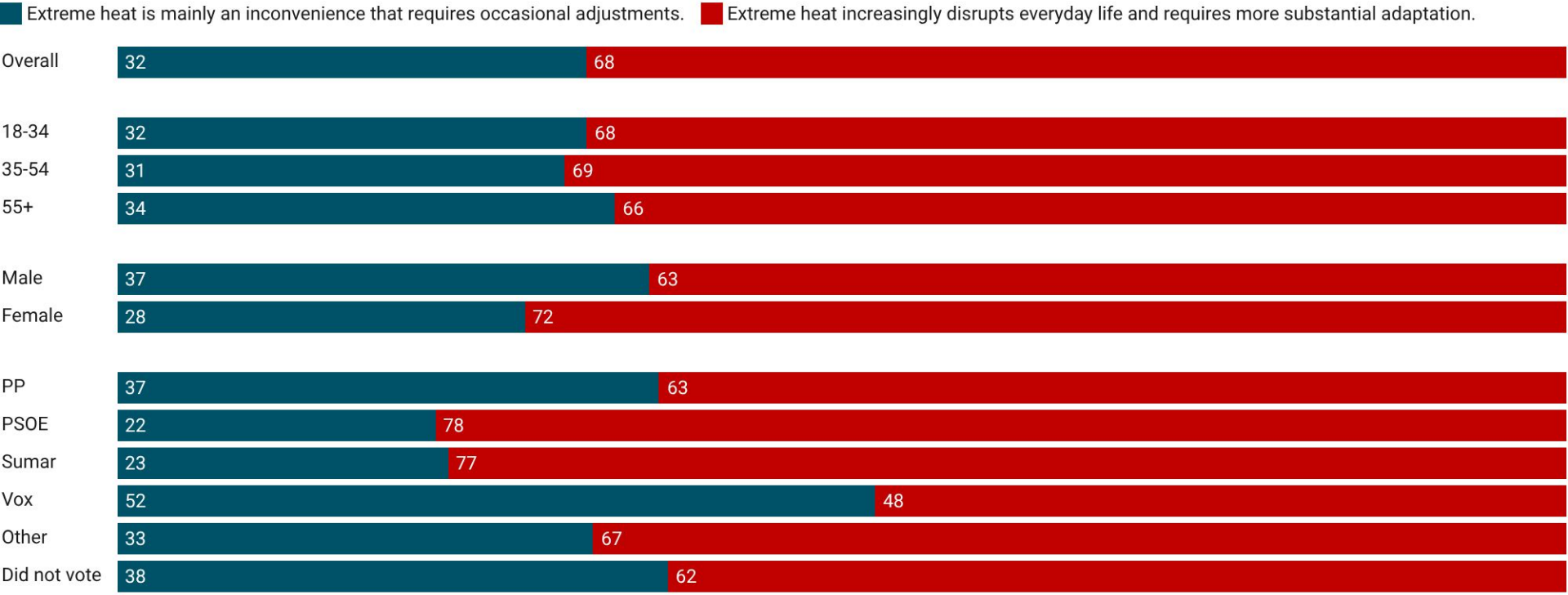
Which statement comes closest to your experience? - Italy (%)



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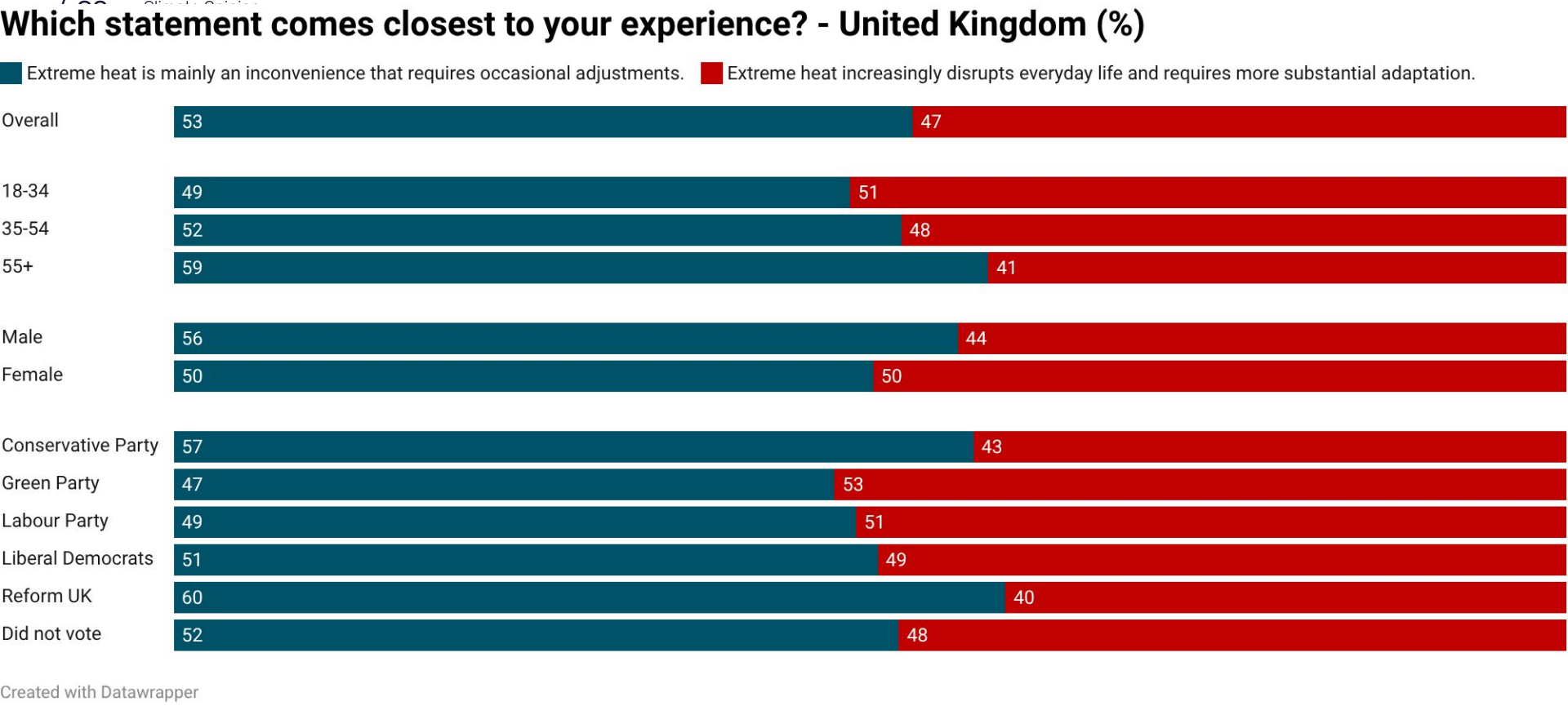
Women and left leaning party supporters are more likely to believe extreme heat increasingly disrupts life.

Which statement comes closest to your experience? - Spain (%)

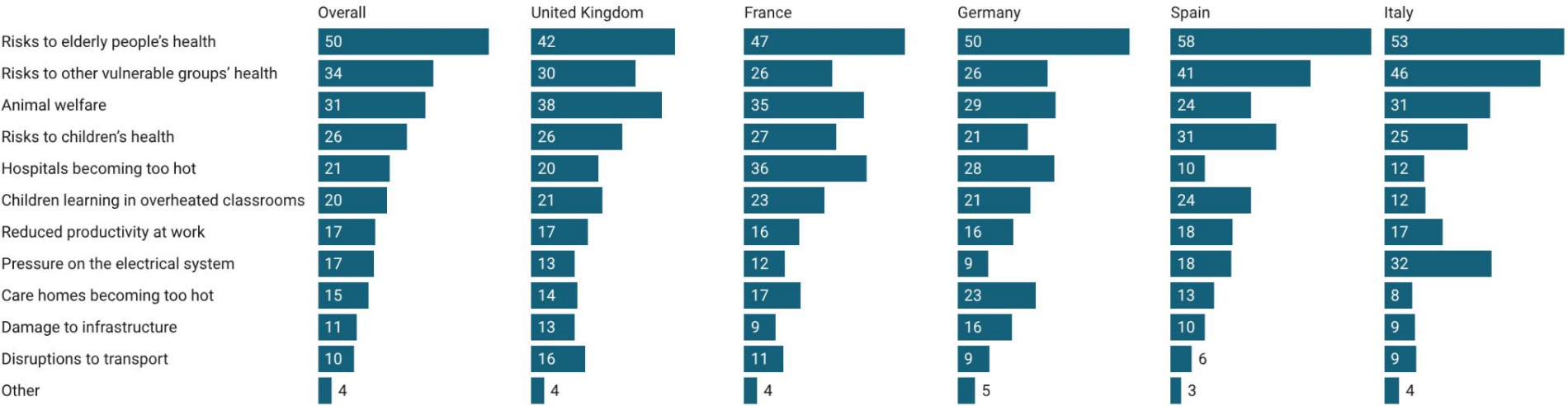


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Young people, women, and left leaning party supporters are more likely to believe extreme heat increasingly disrupts life.



Which consequences of prolonged extreme heat concern you most? (%)



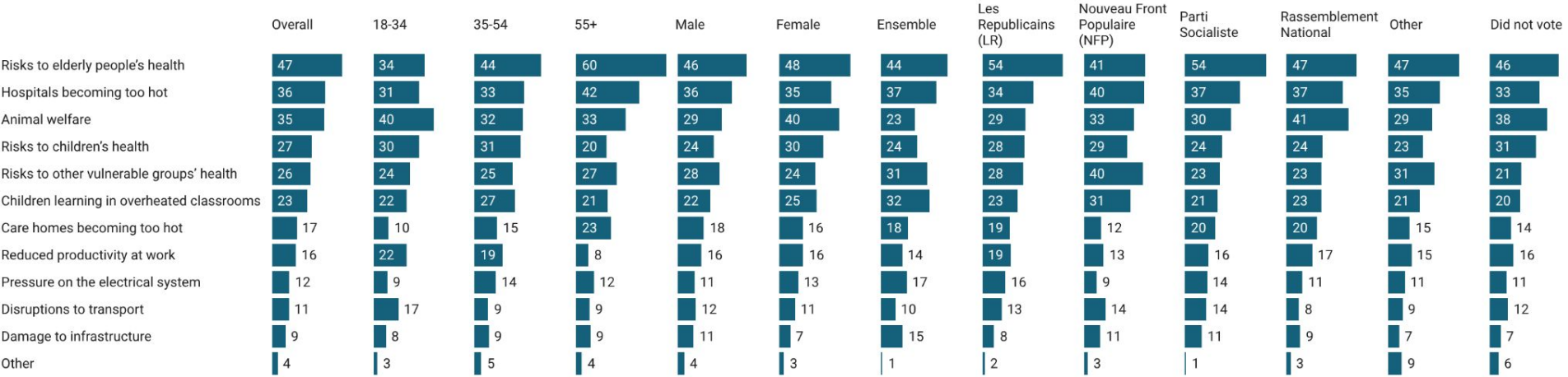
The public is most concerned by elderly people's vulnerability to extreme heat, followed by a concern for other vulnerable groups. Risks to Animals and children are next most commonly cited. Disruptions to transport and infrastructure are less commonly cited. While these concerns are less commonly cited, lower levels of awareness could be at play in the responses to this question.

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Animal welfare is a relatively larger concern among young people, and older people's health among people 35+. Women are also more concerned about animal welfare. Ensemble and NFP supporters worry at relatively high rates about risks to vulnerable groups health and children learning in classrooms.

Which consequences of prolonged extreme heat concern you most? - France (%)

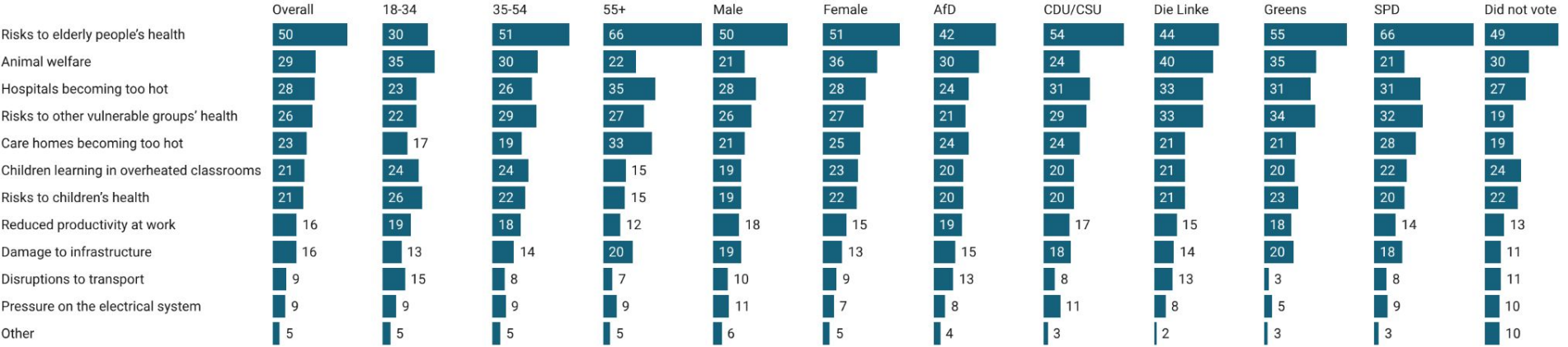


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Animal welfare is a relatively larger concern among young people, and older people's health among people 35+. Center left voters have more concern for older people's health.

Which consequences of prolonged extreme heat concern you most? - Germany (%)

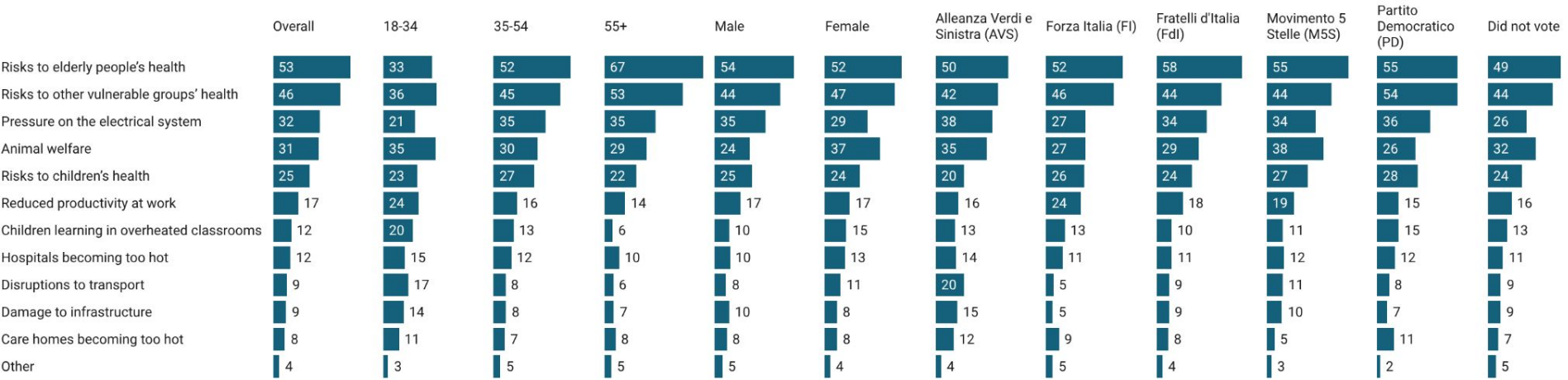


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Animal welfare is a relatively larger concern among young people, and older people's health among people 35+.

Which consequences of prolonged extreme heat concern you most? - Italy (%)

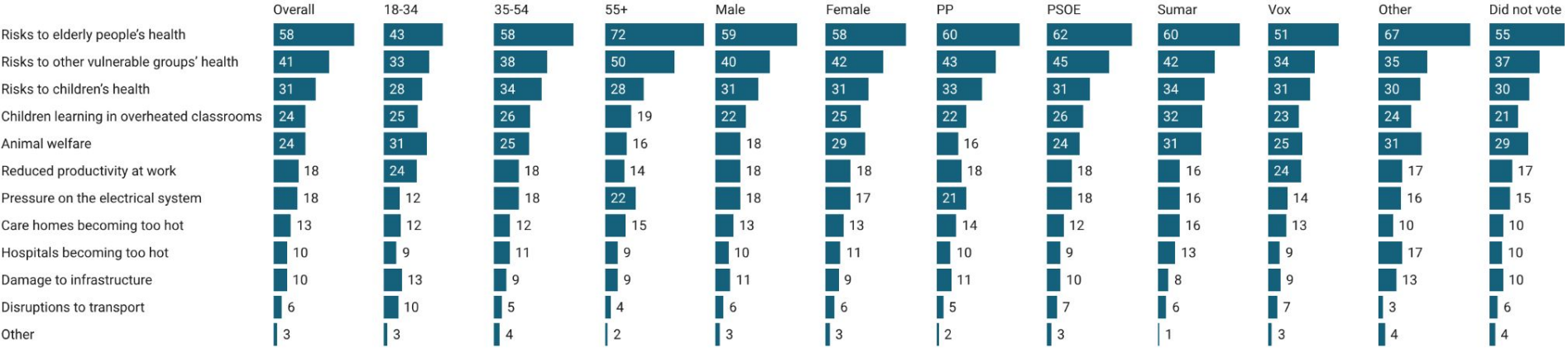


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Animal welfare is a relatively larger concern among young people, and older people's health among people 35+. Center left voters report more concern for older people's health relative to the right.

Which consequences of prolonged extreme heat concern you most? - Spain (%)

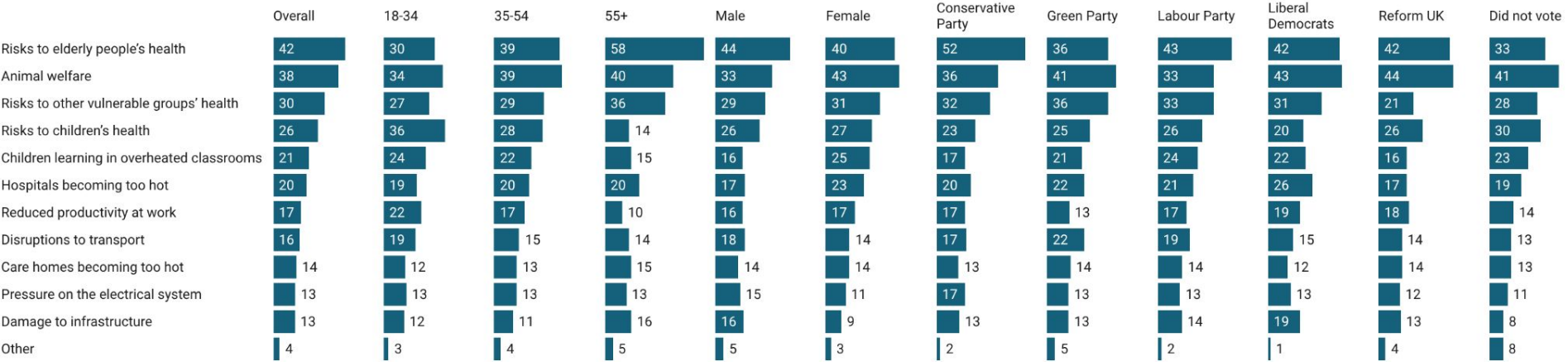


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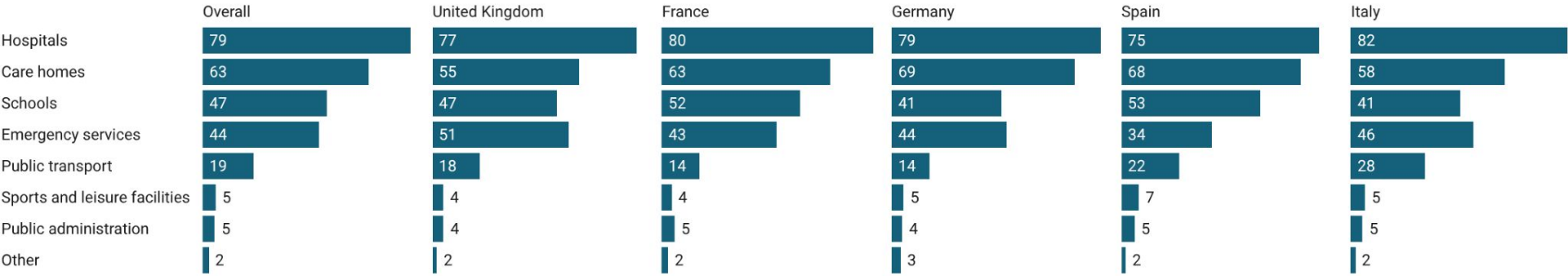
Risks to children's health is relatively important to young people, while older people are more concerned with elderly people's health. The latter concern is particularly prominent among conservative party supporters.

Which consequences of prolonged extreme heat concern you most? - United Kingdom (%)



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Which of the following public services or facilities should be given the highest priority for protection during periods of extreme heat? (%)



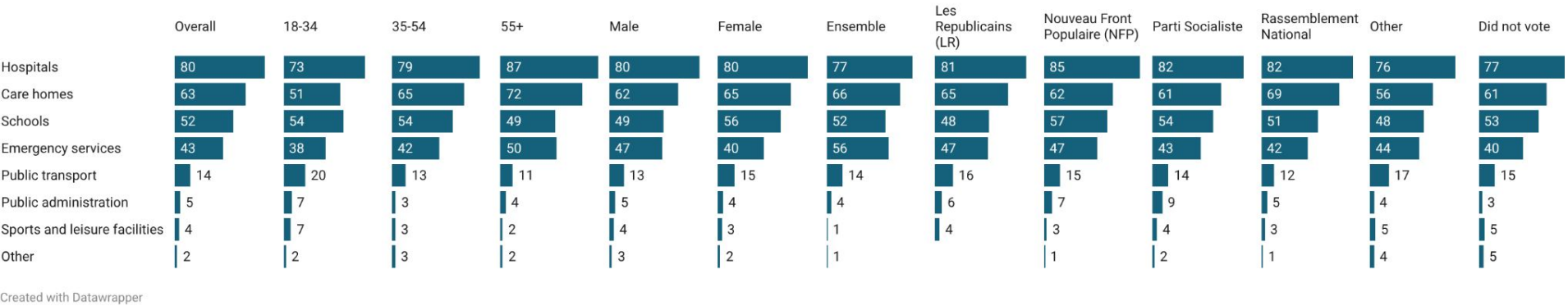
Hospitals and care homes are the services people prioritize most for protection during extreme heat.

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There is relatively little divergence in attitudes on this issue.

Which of the following public services or facilities should be given the highest priority for protection during periods of extreme heat? - France (%)



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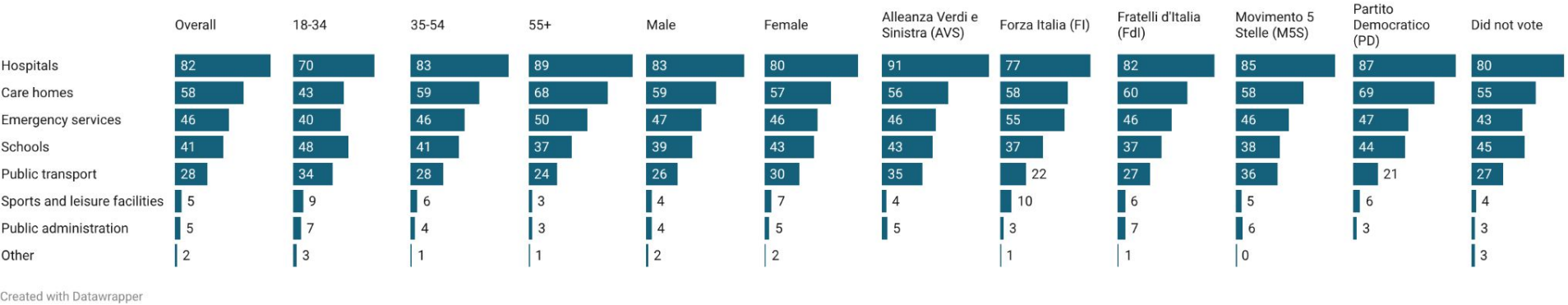
Which of the following public services or facilities should be given the highest priority for protection during periods of extreme heat? - Germany (%)



There is relatively little divergence in attitudes on this issue, though young people name hospitals less often. Die Linke and AfD supporters are less likely to name hospitals.

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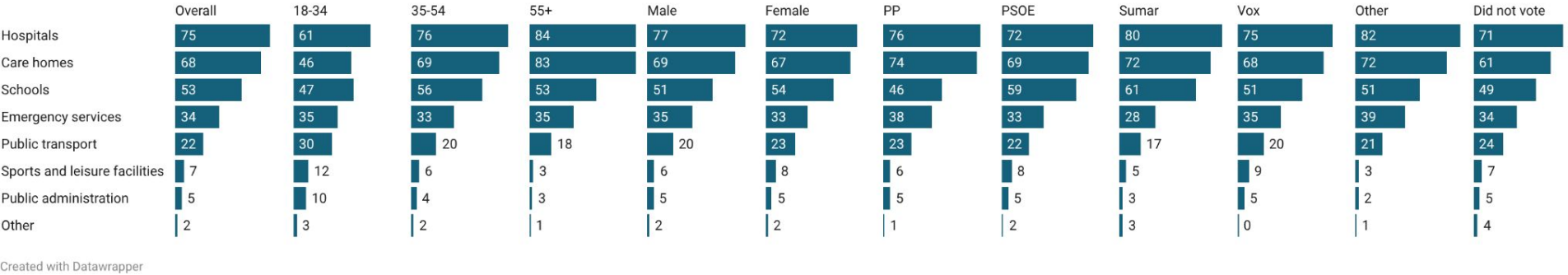
Which of the following public services or facilities should be given the highest priority for protection during periods of extreme heat? - Italy (%)



There is relatively little divergence in attitudes on this issue, though young people are less likely to name hospitals as are FI supporters.

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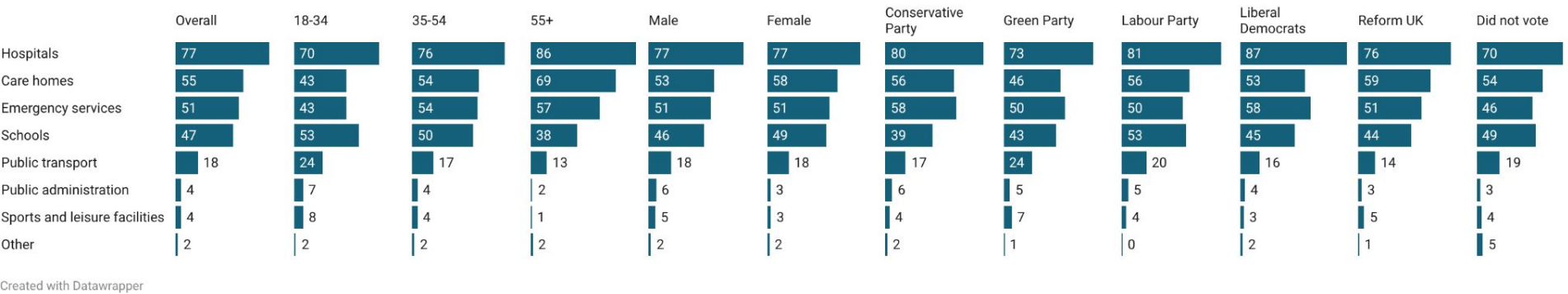
Which of the following public services or facilities should be given the highest priority for protection during periods of extreme heat? - Spain (%)



There is relatively little divergence in attitudes on this issue, though young people name hospitals slightly less often.

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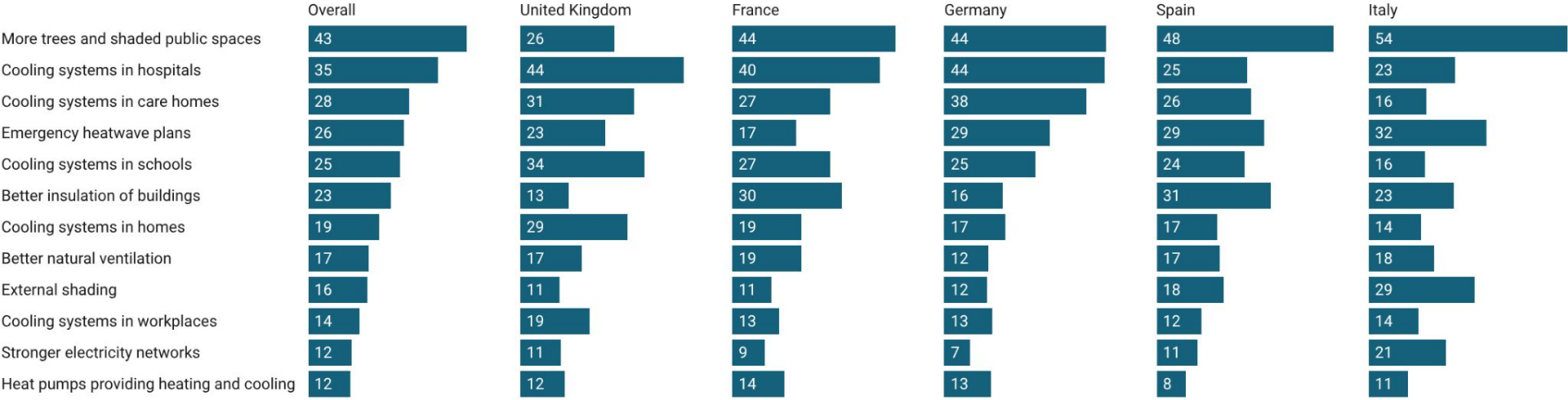
Which of the following public services or facilities should be given the highest priority for protection during periods of extreme heat? - United Kingdom (%)



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There is relatively little divergence in attitudes on this issue, though young people name hospitals less often as do Green and Reform UK supporters.

Which measures should governments prioritise to help people cope with extreme heat? (%)

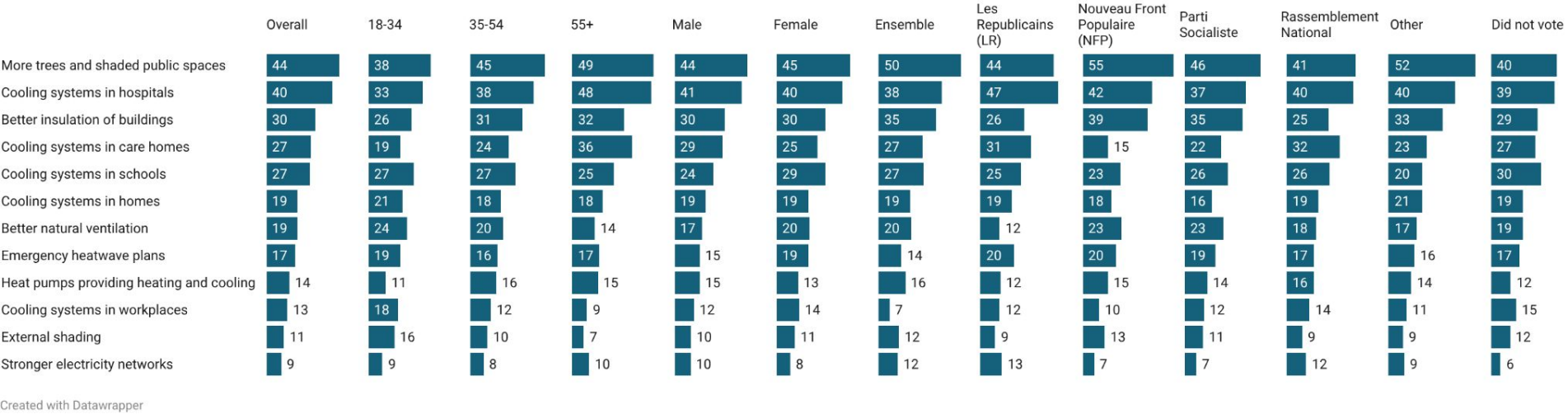


More trees and shaded public spaces are the most common measures the public prefers on the whole. In Germany, France, and the United Kingdom cooling systems in hospitals receive similar levels of support. Emergency heat wave plans are relatively prominent in Spain and Italy. Outside Italy, cooling systems in care homes are also prioritized.

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Which measures should governments prioritise to help people cope with extreme heat? - France (%)

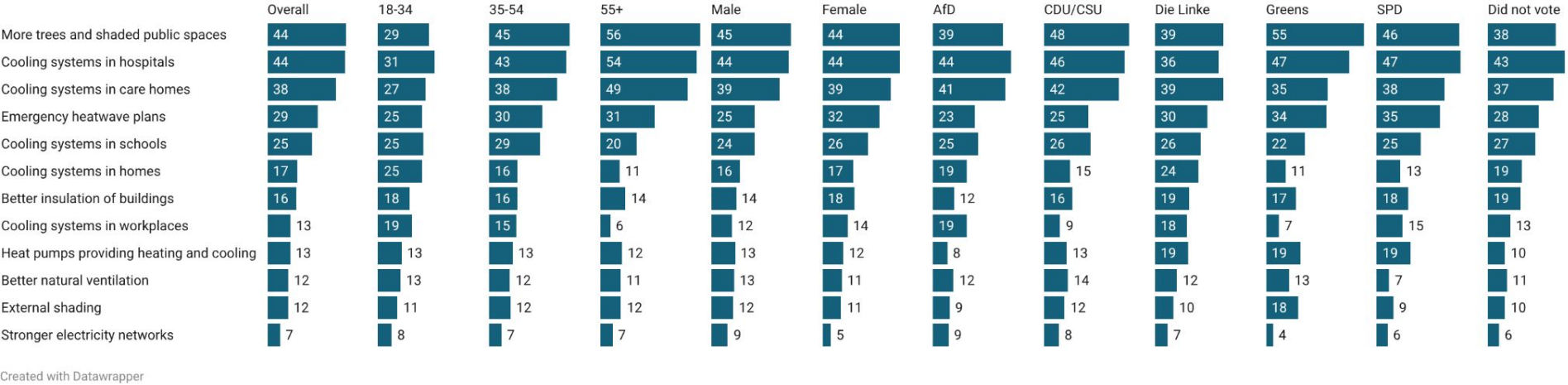


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There is relatively little divergence in attitudes on this issue, though NFP supporters want more measures taken, and young people relatively fewer compared to older people.

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Which measures should governments prioritise to help people cope with extreme heat? - Germany (%)

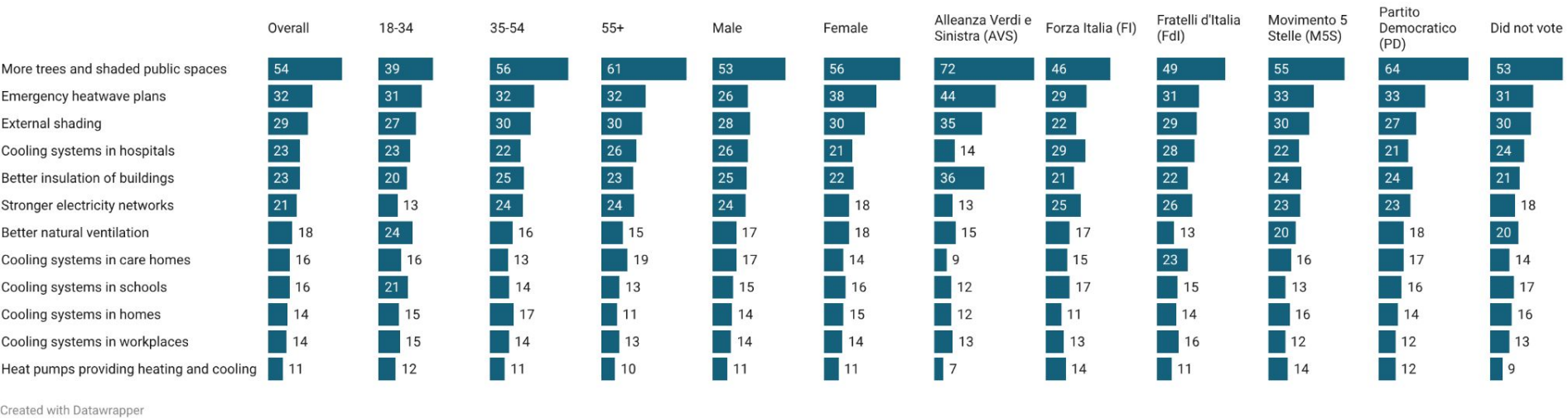


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Young people name relatively few measures, while center parties tend to name more.

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Which measures should governments prioritise to help people cope with extreme heat? - Italy (%)

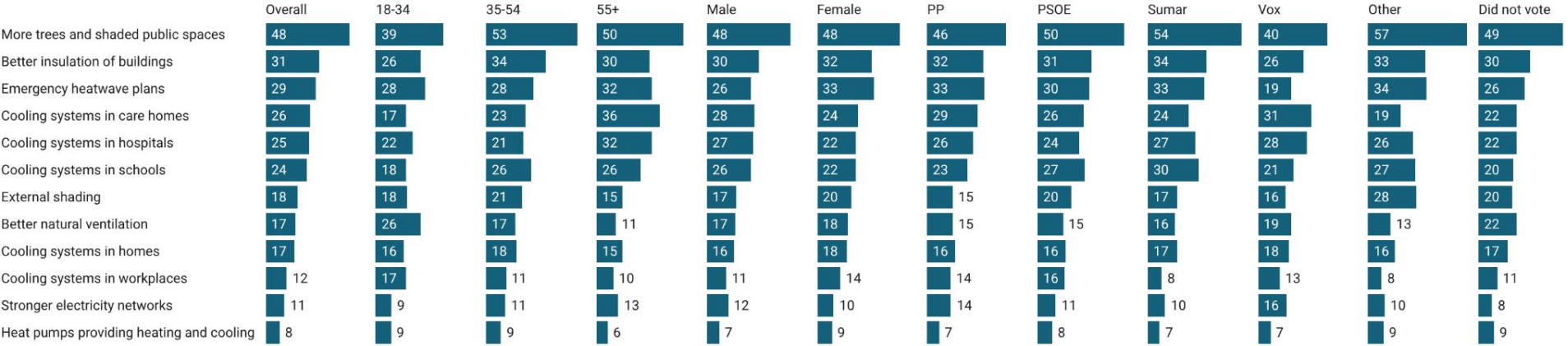


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Young people name relatively few measures, while left parties tend to name more.

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Which measures should governments prioritise to help people cope with extreme heat? - Spain (%)

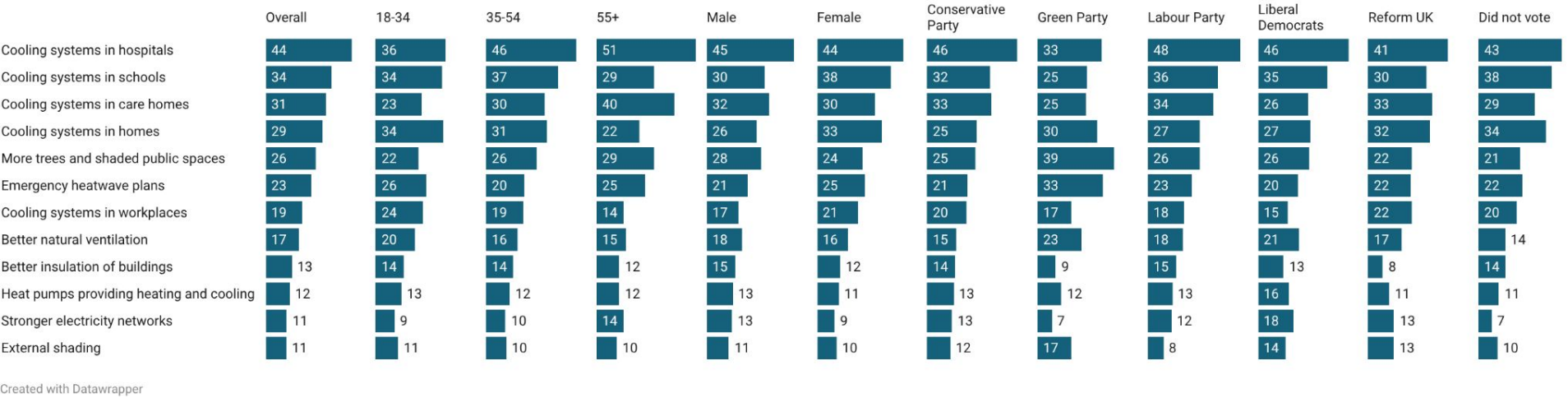


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Young people name relatively few measures, as do Vox supporters.

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Which measures should governments prioritise to help people cope with extreme heat? - United Kingdom (%)

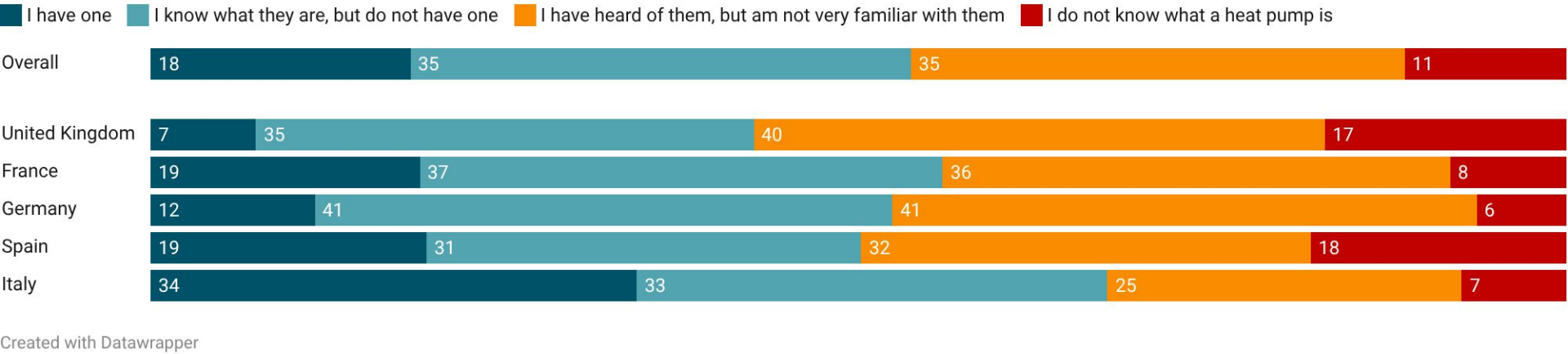


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Young people name relatively few measures. Parties in the center name relatively more parties.

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How would you describe your familiarity with heat pumps? (%)

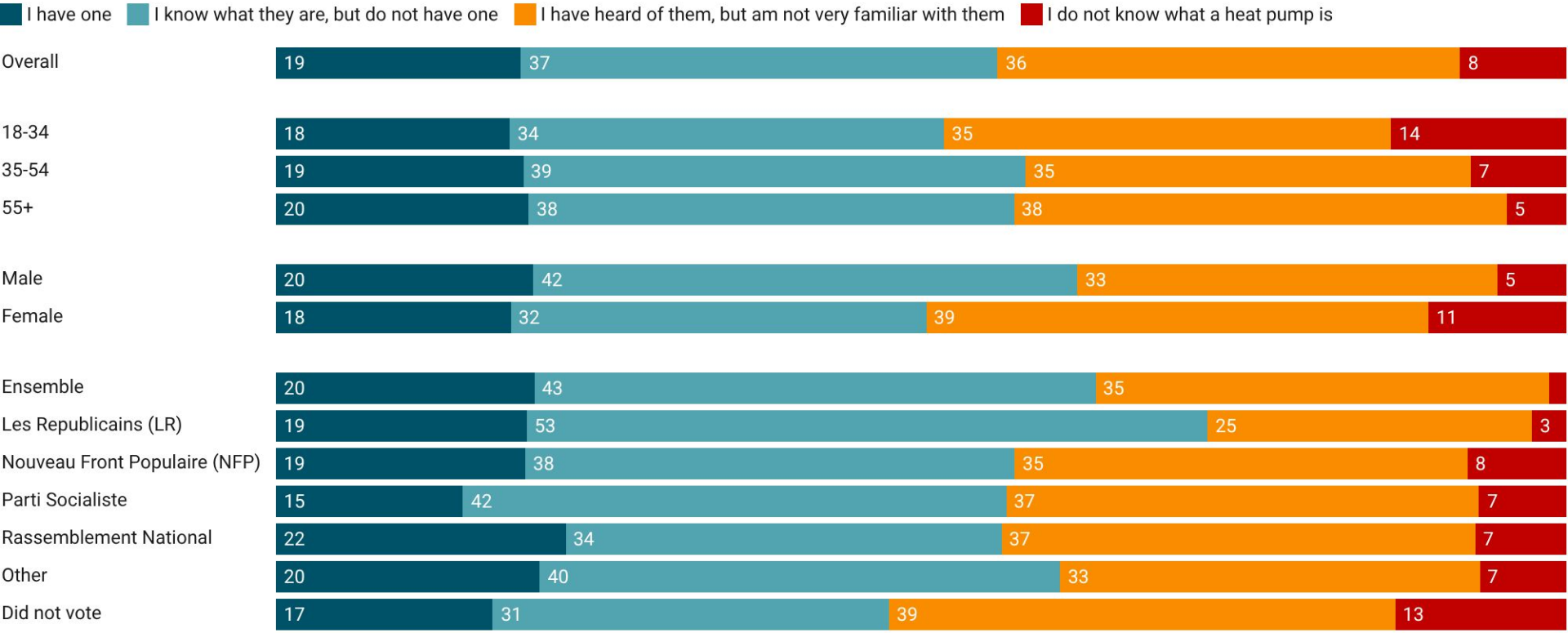


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Between 7 and 19% of the public reports owning a heat pump, excluding Italy, where air conditioners are considered heat pumps. Approximately a third of the public knows what heat pumps are, another third is not very familiar with them, and relatively small shares do not know what they are.

Men and Les Republicains supporters report higher levels of awareness.

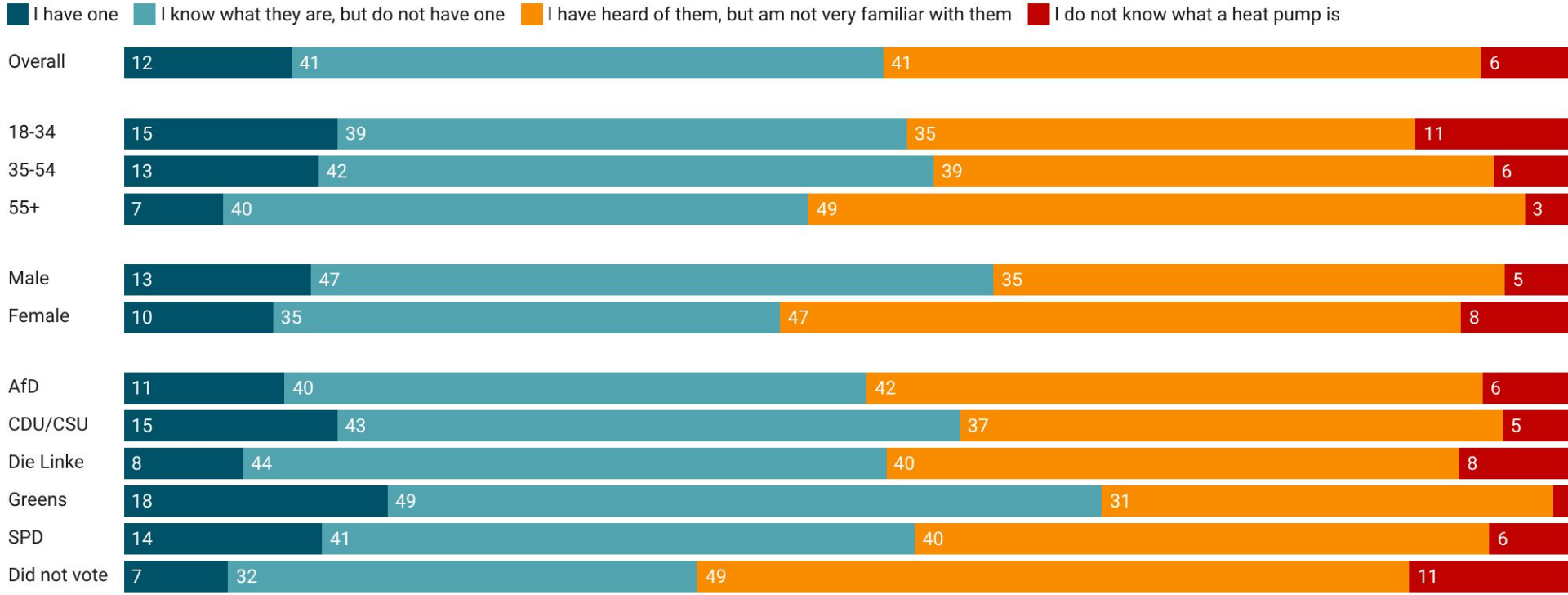
How would you describe your familiarity with heat pumps? - France (%)



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Green party supporters and men are relatively more likely to report awareness.

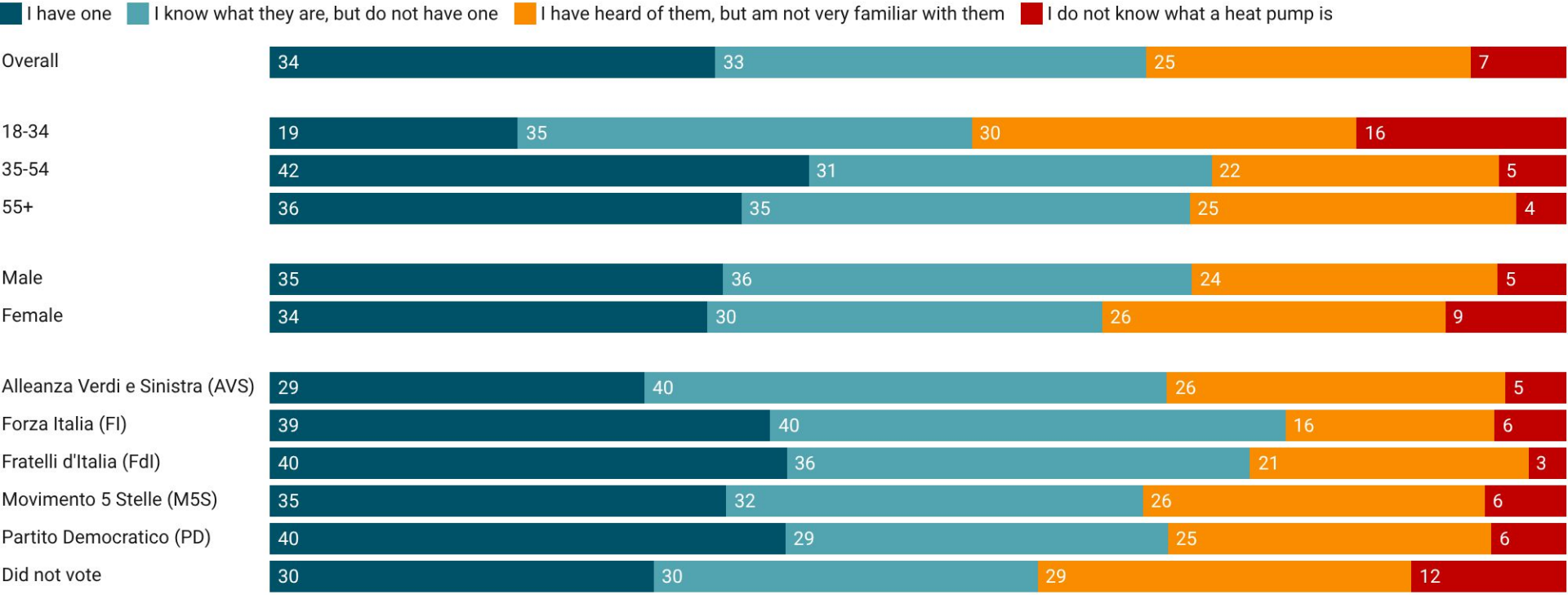
How would you describe your familiarity with heat pumps? - Germany (%)



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Young people are less likely to report awareness.

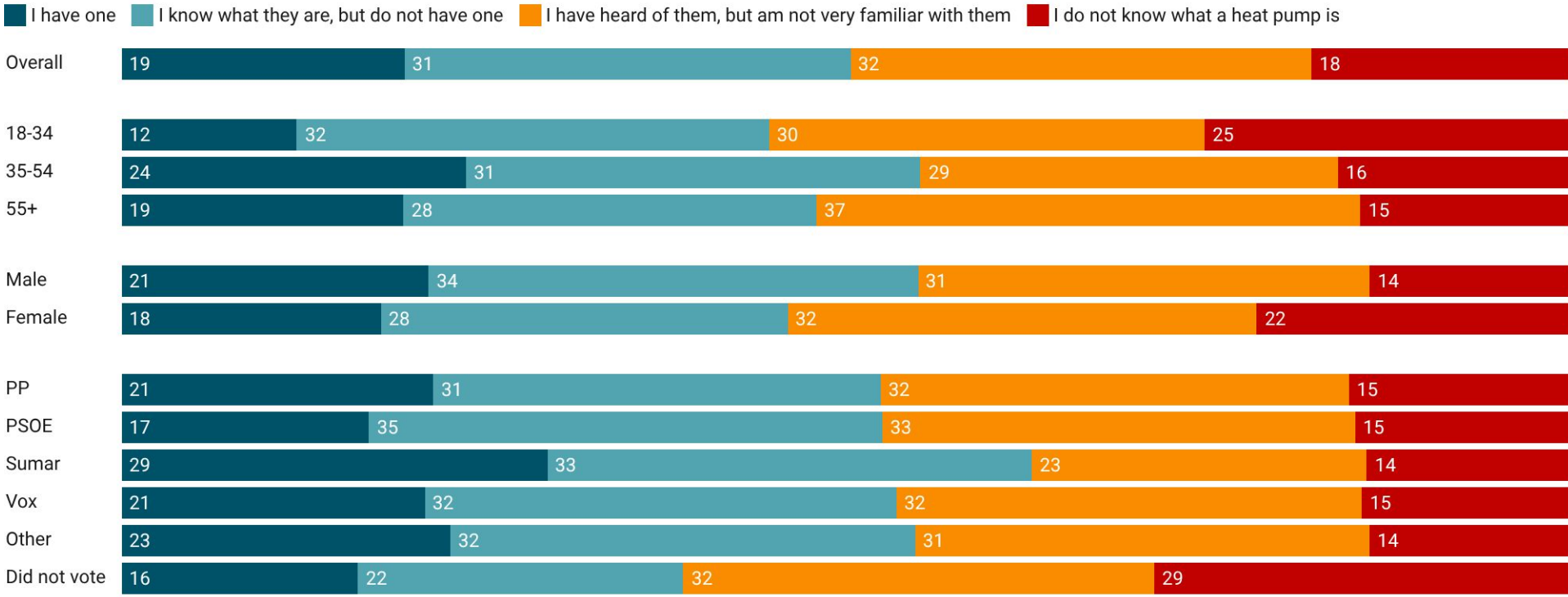
How would you describe your familiarity with heat pumps? - Italy (%)



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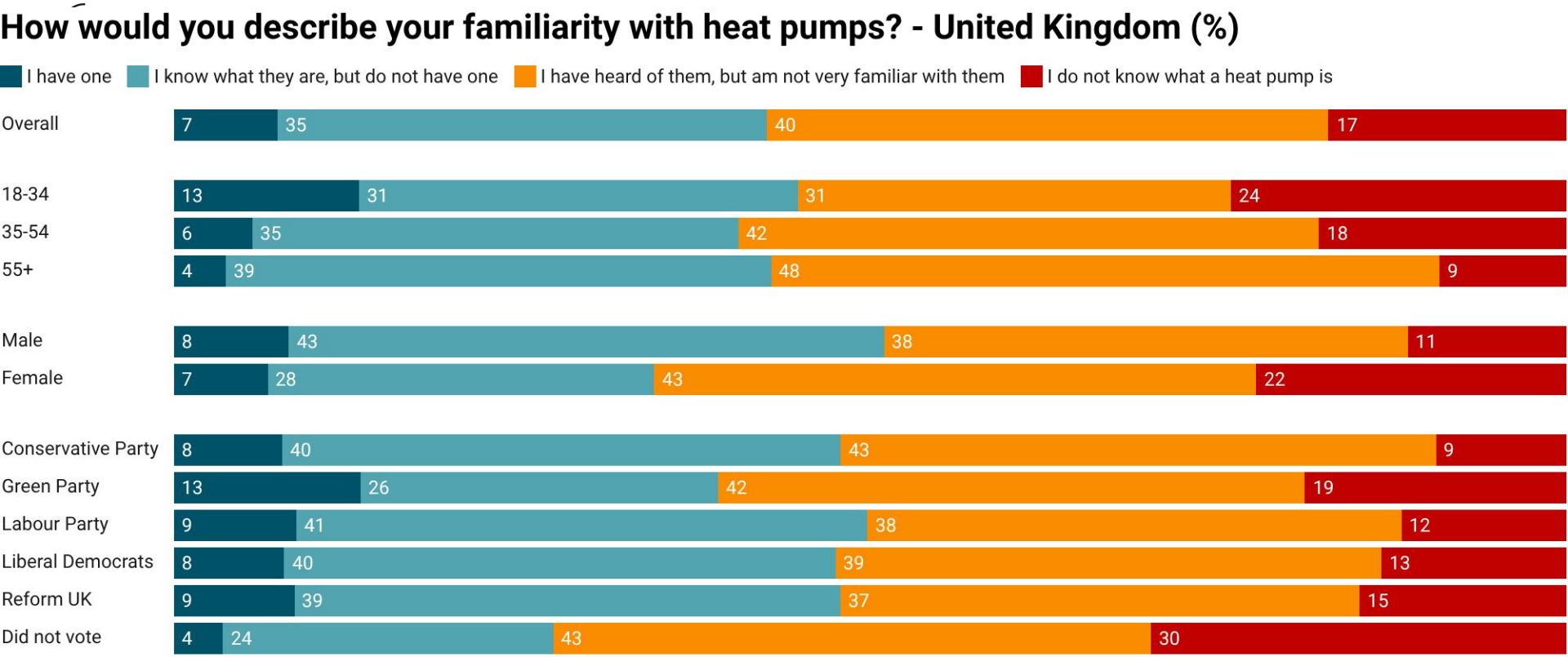
Young people are less likely to report awareness. Men report higher levels of awareness as do Sumar supporters.

How would you describe your familiarity with heat pumps? - Spain (%)



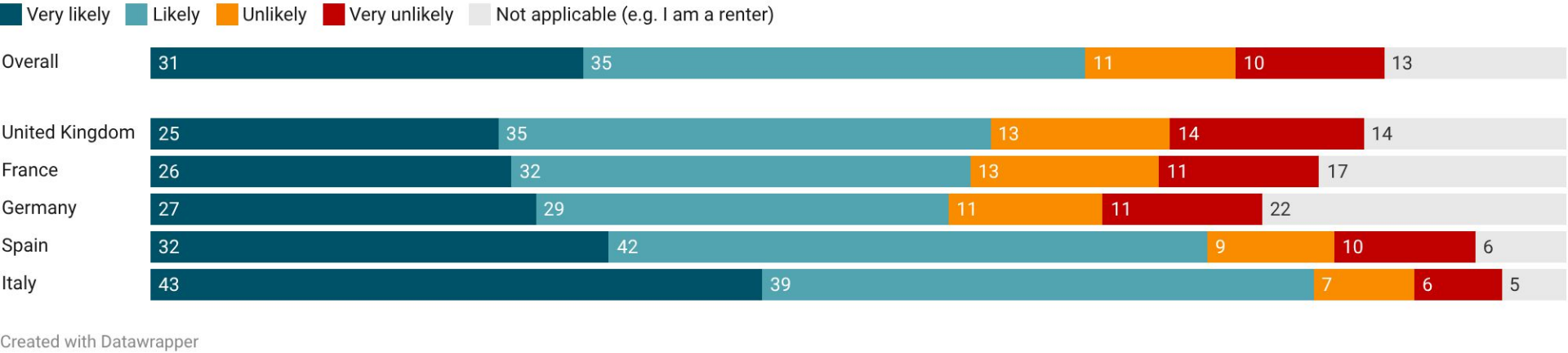
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Men report higher levels of awareness.



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Imagine that heat pumps cost the same amount as alternatives. How likely or unlikely would you be to install one in your own home, when you needed a new heating device? (%)

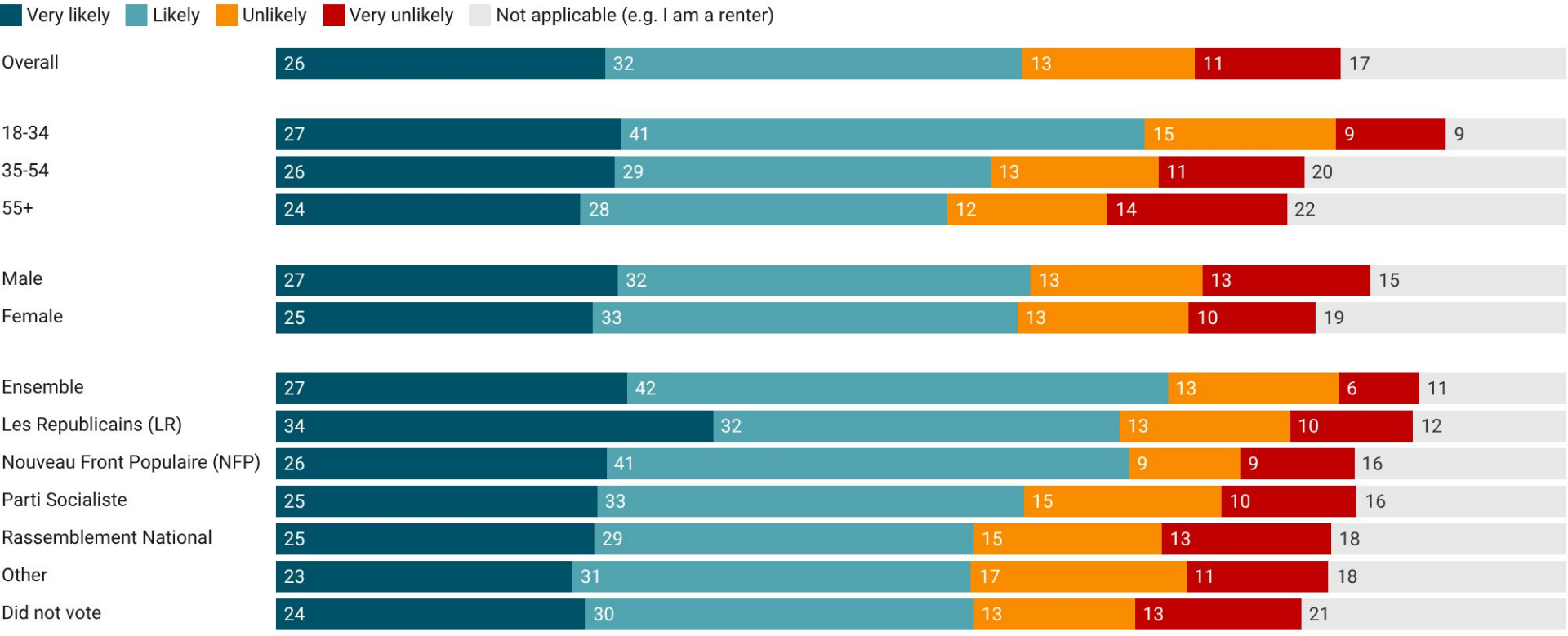


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After explaining what a heat pump was to the public, they report relatively high levels of interest in replacing their current heating system with a heat pump, once a new one is needed.

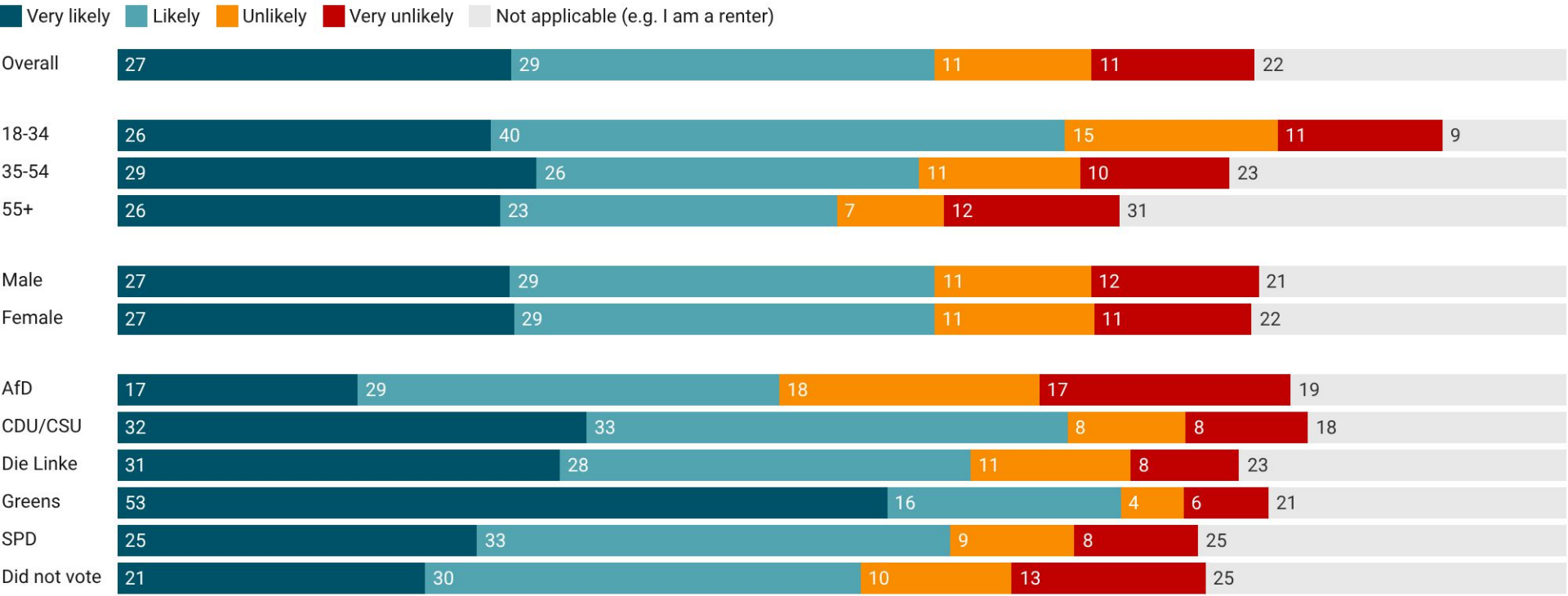
Les Republicains report higher willingness to install heat pumps.

Imagine that heat pumps cost the same amount as alternatives. How likely or unlikely would you be to install one in your own home, when you needed a new heating device? - France (%)



Created with Datawrapper

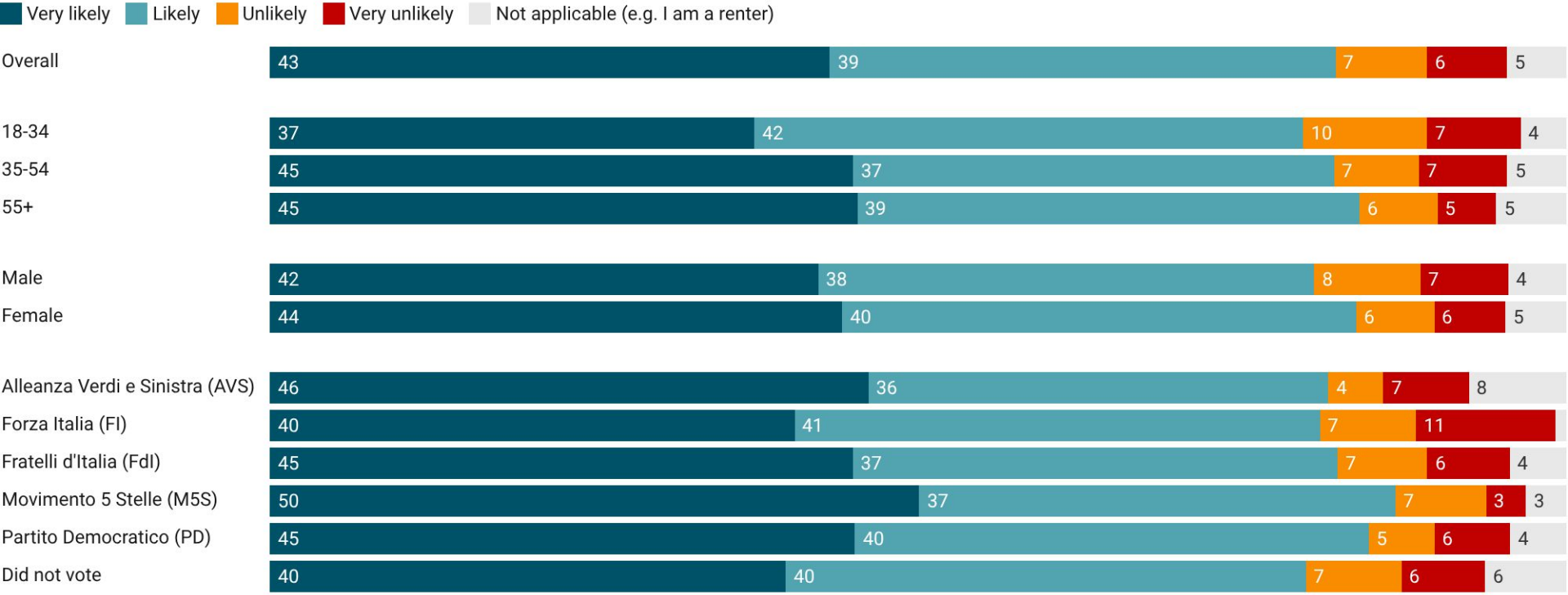
Imagine that heat pumps cost the same amount as alternatives. How likely or unlikely would you be to install one in your own home, when you needed a new heating device? - Germany (%)



Created with Datawrapper

Young people report slightly lower willingness to install a heat pump.

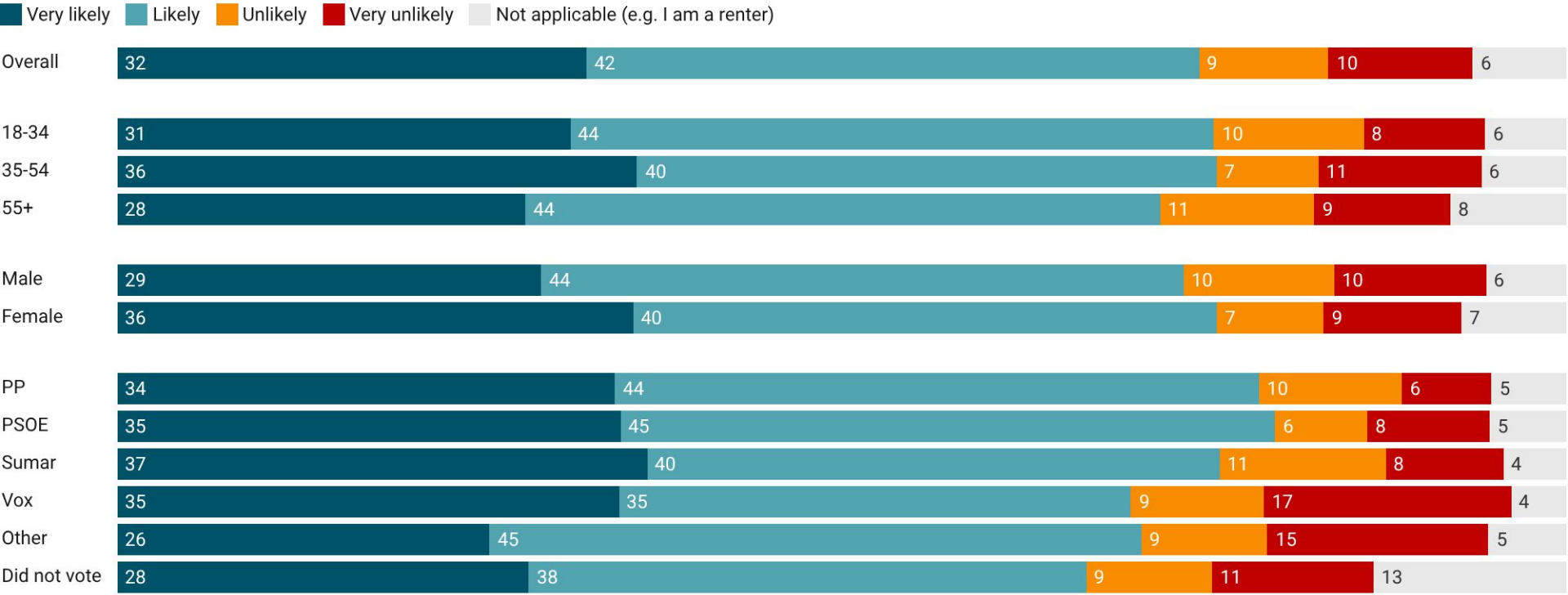
Imagine that heat pumps cost the same amount as alternatives. How likely or unlikely would you be to install one in your own home, when you needed a new heating device? - Italy (%)



Created with Datawrapper

Attitudes are relatively similar across groups in Spain.

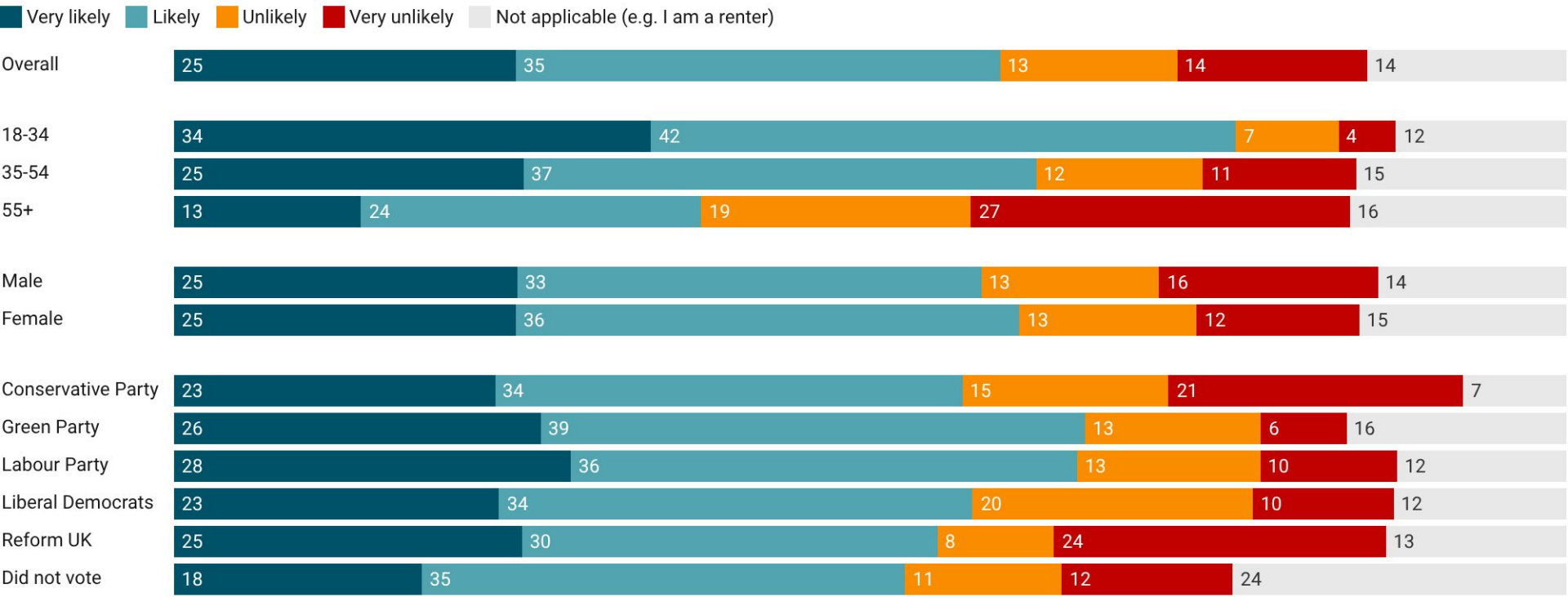
Imagine that heat pumps cost the same amount as alternatives. How likely or unlikely would you be to install one in your own home, when you needed a new heating device? - Spain (%)



Created with Datawrapper

Younger age groups report higher willingness to install heat pumps, while older people are more actively opposed.

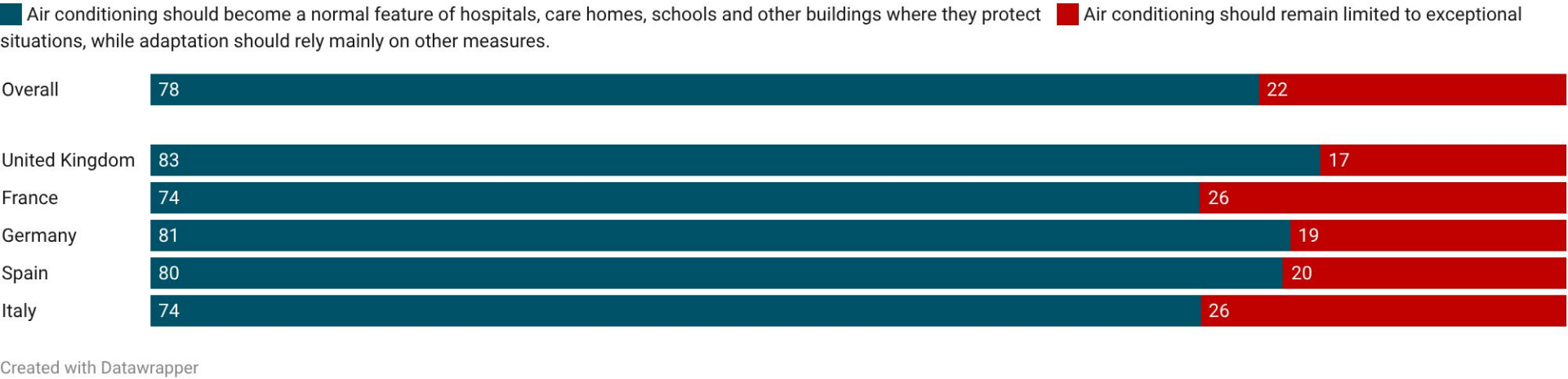
Imagine that heat pumps cost the same amount as alternatives. How likely or unlikely would you be to install one in your own home, when you needed a new heating device? - United Kingdom (%)



Created with Datawrapper

Climate Opinion Research Exchange

Thinking specifically about air conditioning, which statement comes closest to your own view? (%)



Three quarters to four in five believe that air conditioning should become a normal feature of hospitals, care homes, schools, and other buildings.

Older people tend towards believing that air conditioning should be normal, as do RN supporters.

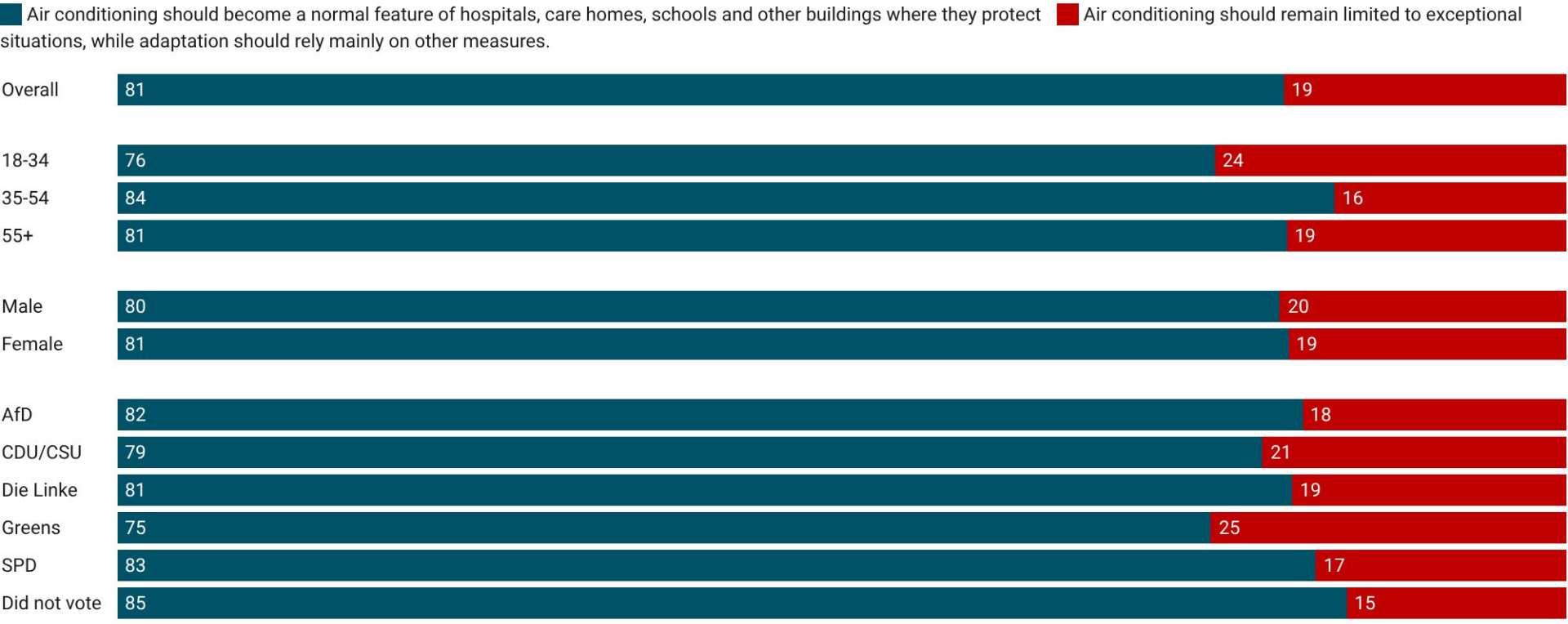
Thinking specifically about air conditioning, which statement comes closest to your own view? - France (%)



Created with Datawrapper

Greens are least supportive of air conditioning. Older people are more supportive, relatively speaking.

Thinking specifically about air conditioning, which statement comes closest to your own view? - Germany (%)



Created with Datawrapper

FdI and 5 star supporters are most supportive of air conditioning.

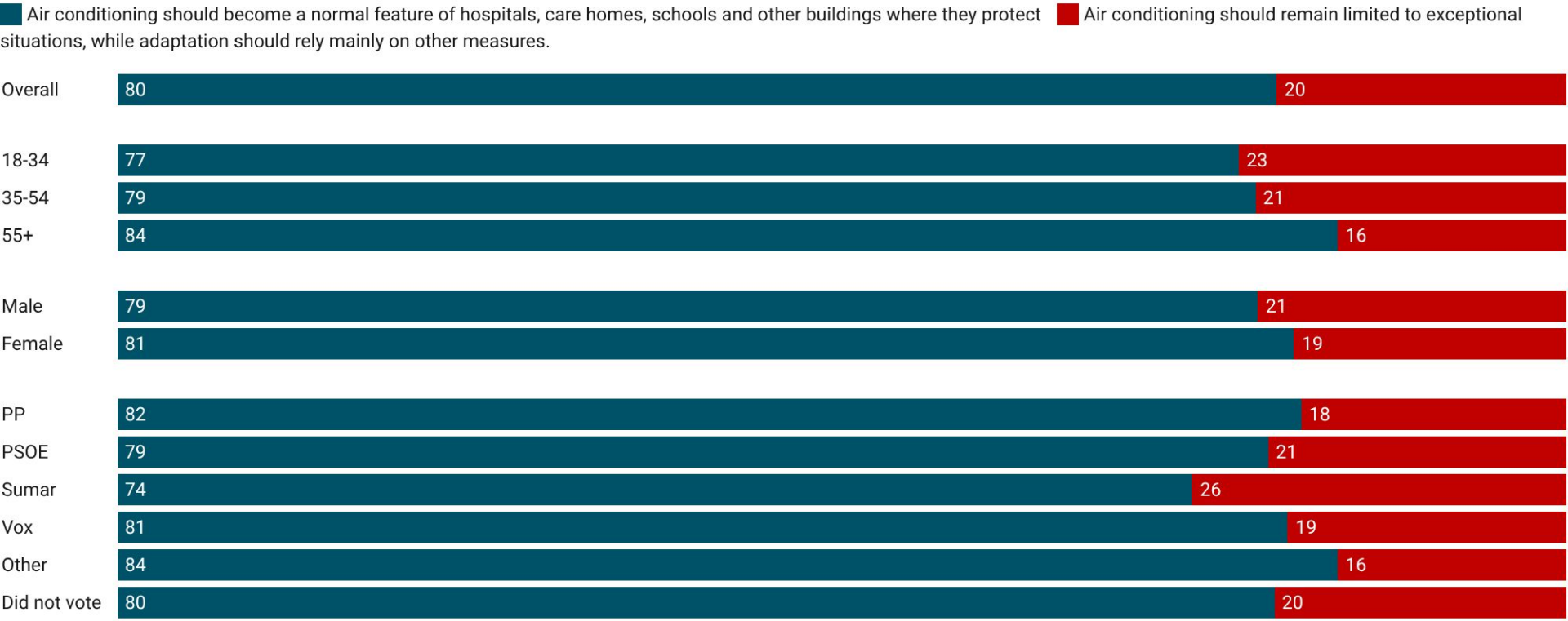
Thinking specifically about air conditioning, which statement comes closest to your own view? - Italy (%)



Created with Datawrapper

Older people tend to support air conditioning more, while Sumar supporters are relatively less supportive.

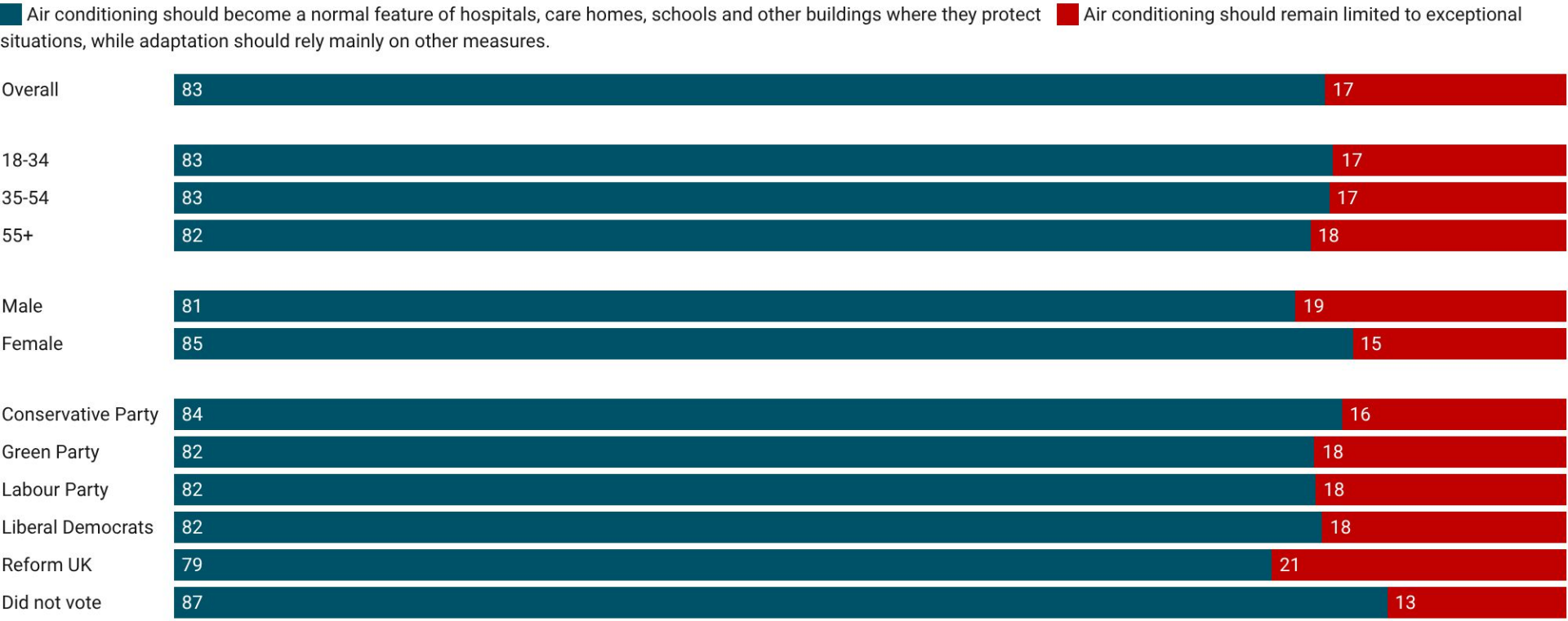
Thinking specifically about air conditioning, which statement comes closest to your own view? - Spain (%)



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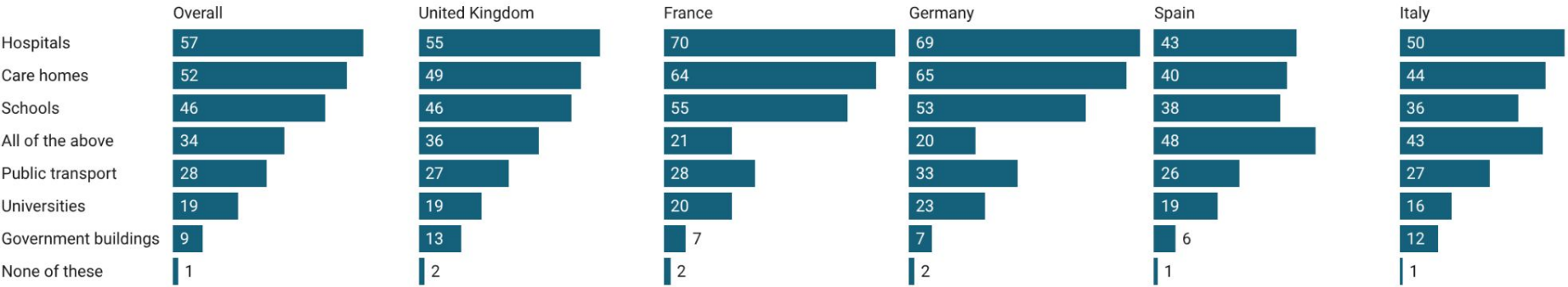
Attitude do not vary substantially across parties on this issue.

Thinking specifically about air conditioning, which statement comes closest to your own view? - United Kingdom (%)



Created with Datawrapper

Which public buildings should have air conditioning? (%)

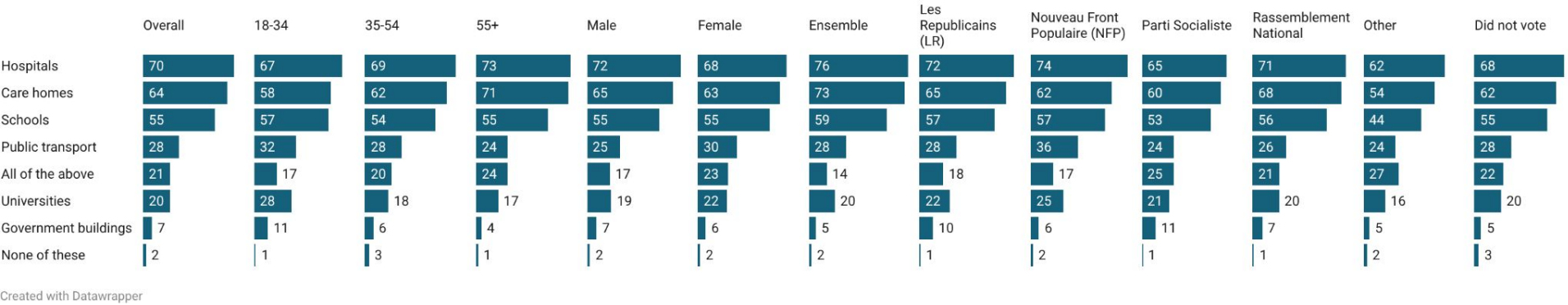


A third of the public surveyed believes that all buildings asked about should have air conditioning. Relatively few mention government buildings or universities as needing air conditioning. Extremely few think none of these buildings should have air conditioning.

Created with Datawrapper

Climate Opinion Research Exchange

Which public buildings should have air conditioning? - France (%)

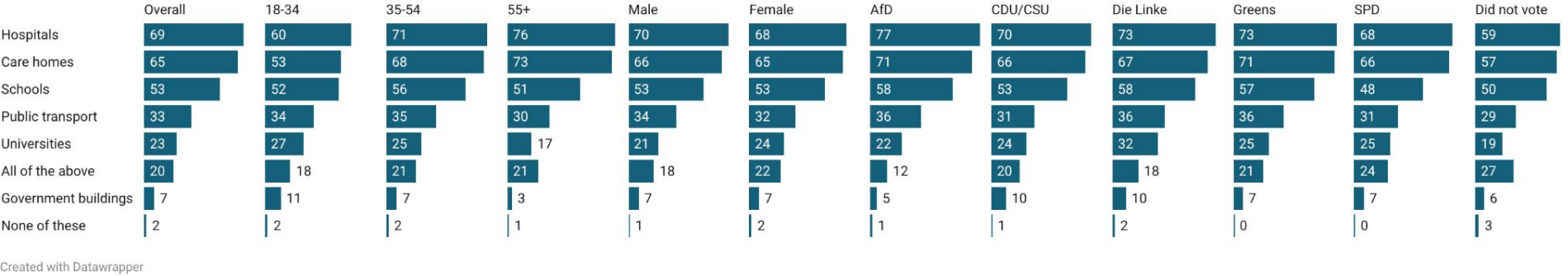


Created with Datawrapper

There is relatively little variation in attitudes across groups.

Climate Opinion Research Exchange

Which public buildings should have air conditioning? - Germany (%)

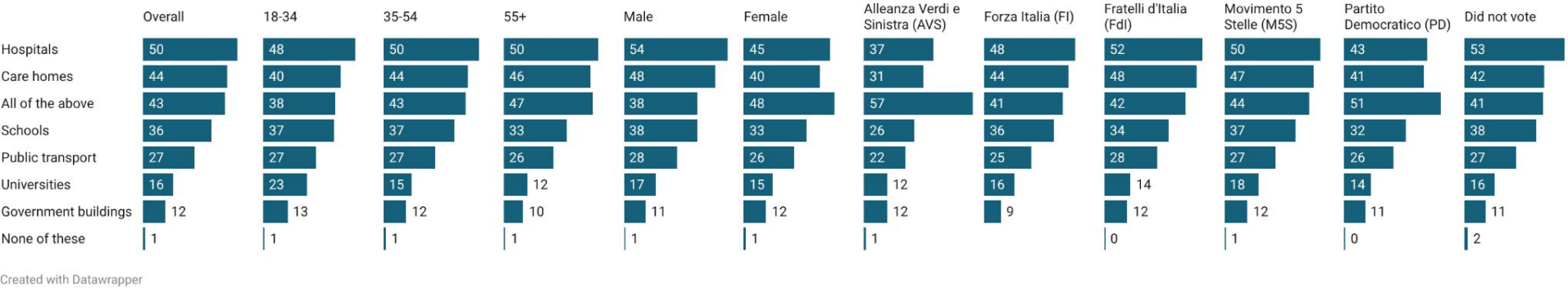


Created with Datawrapper

There is relatively little variation in attitudes across groups, though young people prioritize fewer buildings.

Climate Opinion Research Exchange

Which public buildings should have air conditioning? - Italy (%)



There is relatively little variation in attitudes across groups, though green party supporters report supporters report higher levels of belief that all buildings should have air conditioning.

Climate Opinion Research Exchange

Which public buildings should have air conditioning? - Spain (%)

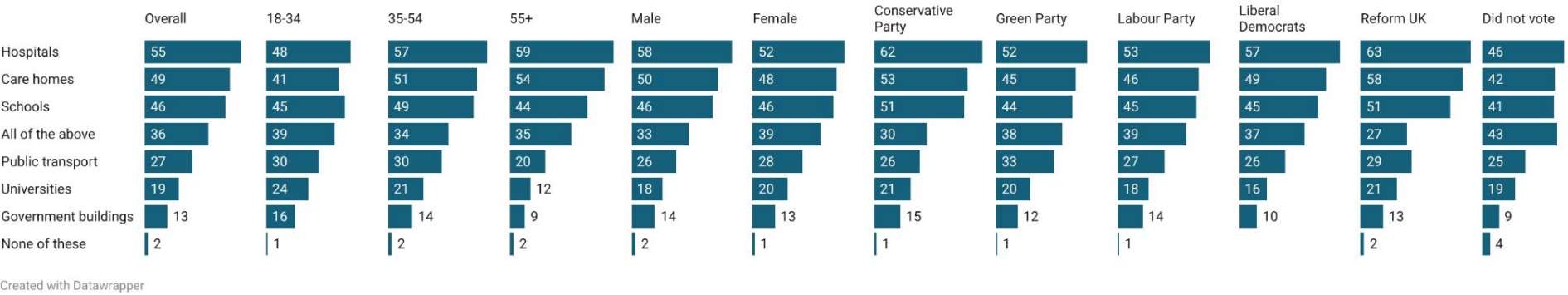


Created with Datawrapper

Vox supporters are slightly less supportive relative to others.

Climate Opinion Research Exchange

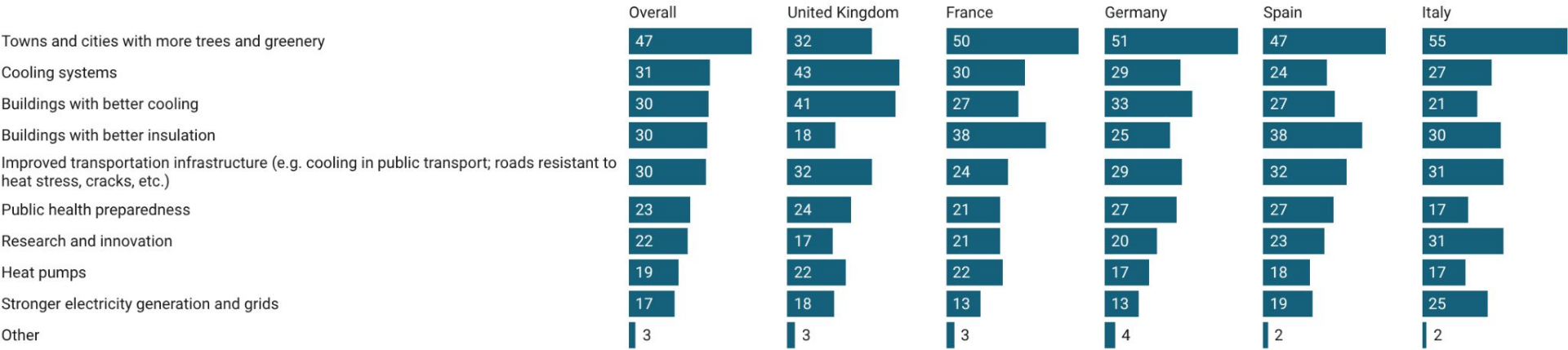
Which public buildings should have air conditioning? - United Kingdom (%)



Created with Datawrapper

Right wing parties tend to be more supportive of air conditioning in hospitals, while left wing parties report all of the above more often.

In the long term, what should Europe invest in most to maintain quality of life during hotter summers? (%)

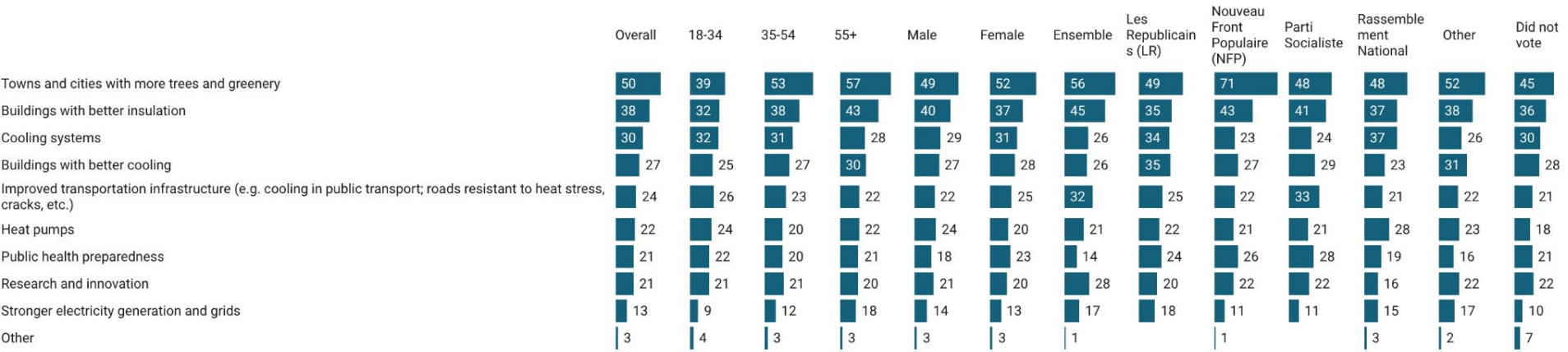


The public leans towards more trees and greenery as being important for quality of life during hotter summers. In the UK, the public believes that cooling systems and buildings with better cooling are relatively more important. In France, buildings with better insulation are preferred.

Created with Datawrapper

Climate Opinion Research Exchange

In the long term, what should Europe invest in most to maintain quality of life during hotter summers? - France (%)

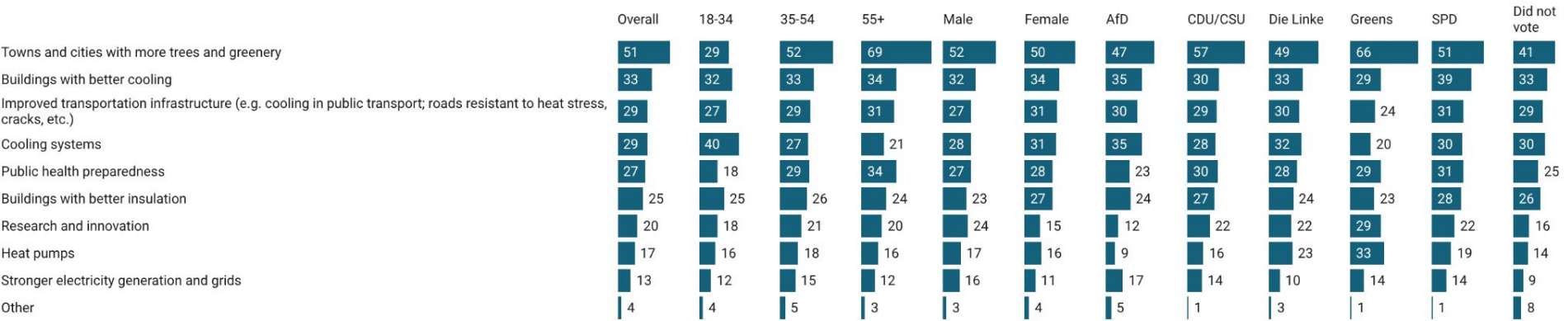


Created with Datawrapper

NFP supporters are particularly favorable towards trees and greenery.

Climate Opinion Research Exchange

In the long term, what should Europe invest in most to maintain quality of life during hotter summers? - Germany (%)

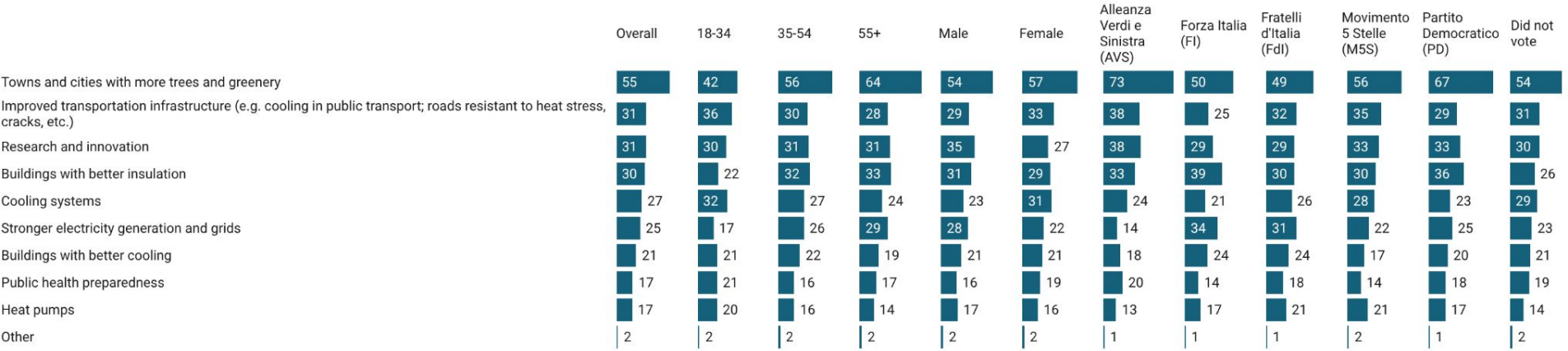


Created with Datawrapper

Older people are particularly favorable to greenery and trees.

Climate Opinion Research Exchange

In the long term, what should Europe invest in most to maintain quality of life during hotter summers? - Italy (%)

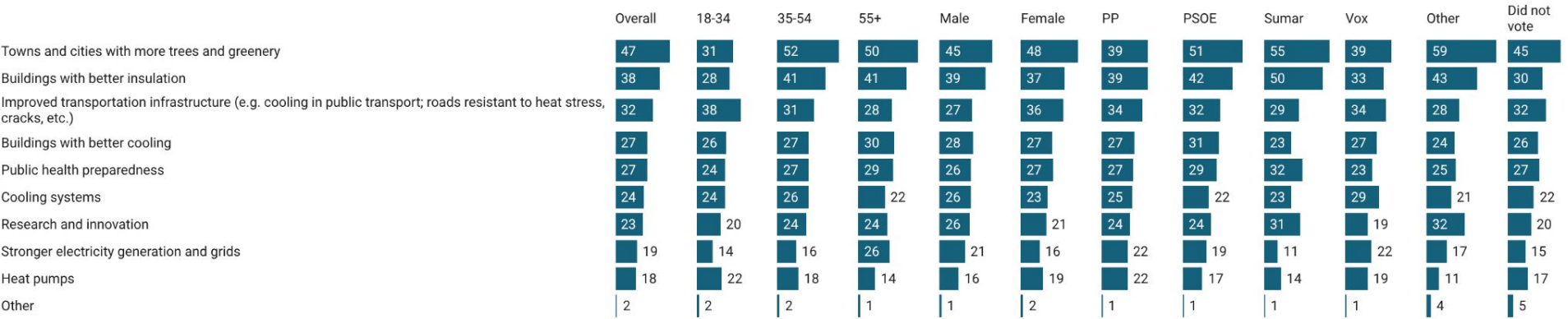


Created with Datawrapper

The left tends to favor trees and greenery at higher rates.

Climate Opinion Research Exchange

In the long term, what should Europe invest in most to maintain quality of life during hotter summers? - Spain (%)

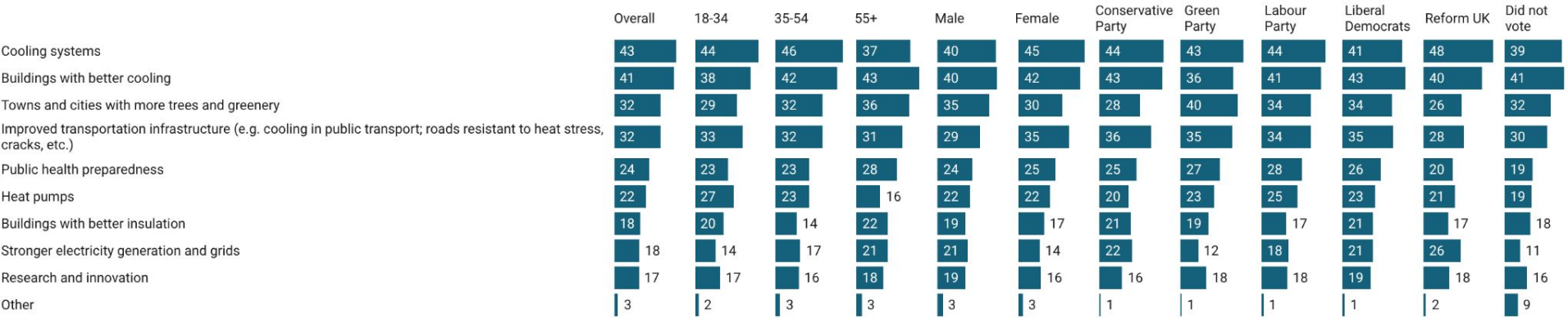


Created with Datawrapper

Young people name improved infrastructure relatively more often and trees and greenery less often. Vox supporters report lower levels of greenery support.

Climate Opinion Research Exchange

In the long term, what should Europe invest in most to maintain quality of life during hotter summers? - United Kingdom (%)



Created with Datawrapper

There is relatively little division across the different groups, though greens are particularly supportive of greenery and trees relative to other parties.

Climate Opinion Research Exchange

- Increased disruption from heat is widely reported, with this perception common across the political spectrum and more frequent among young people and women. Less disruption is reported rarely.
- Difficulty sleeping is a top issue associated with heat disruptions in everyday life.
- Public prioritize older people's health, hospitals, and greenery as focus areas/solutions.
- The issues covered in this survey do have politically polarized and politically coded views, but broadly speaking majorities believe heat is disruptive regardless of partisanship.
- The public has broadly favorable views of heat pumps, though moderate awareness.
- Large majorities favor installation of air conditioning in most public buildings and the public tends to have favorable views of the technology writ large.
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Conclusions