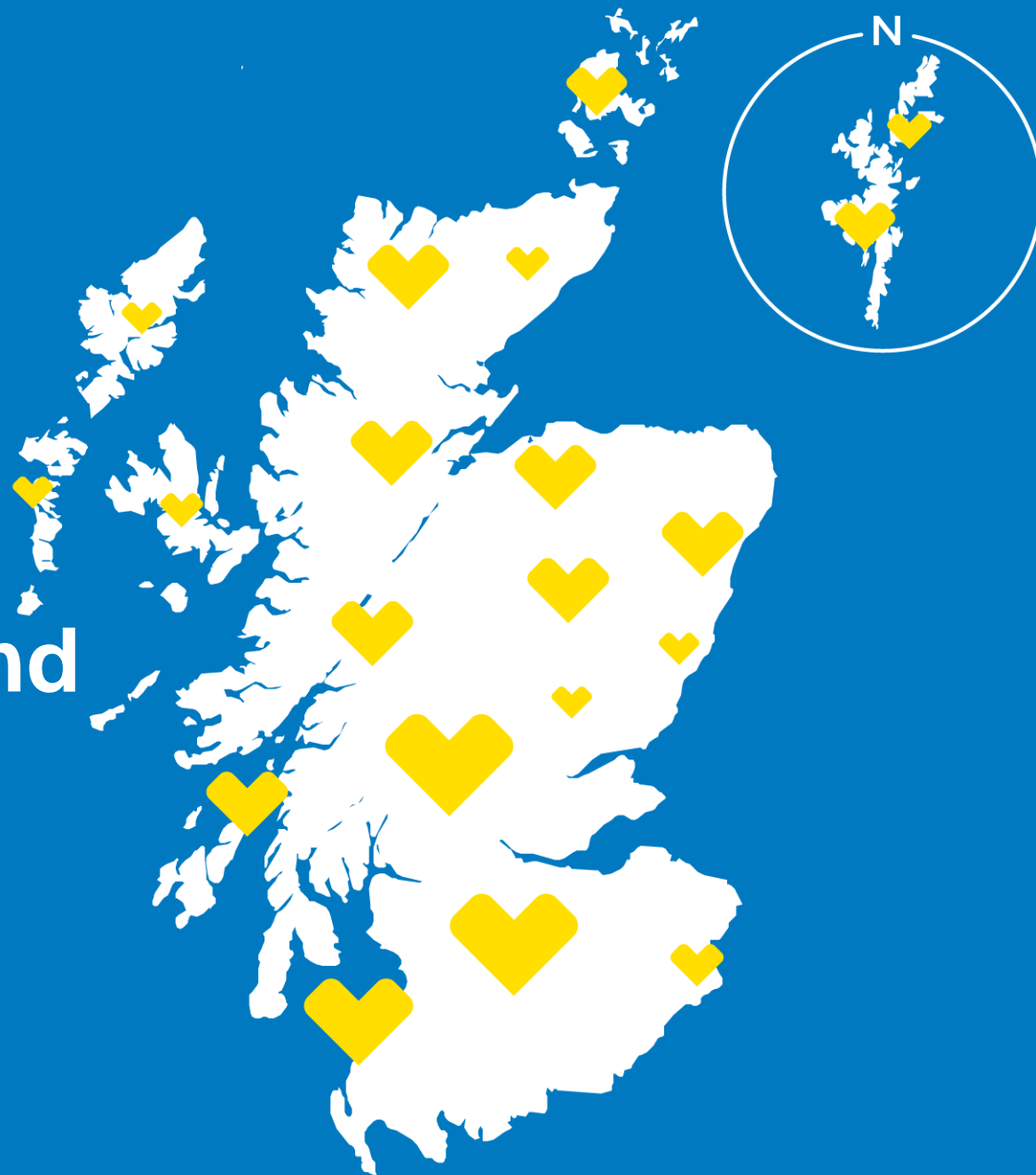




COVID-19: the opportunities and challenges for volunteering in Scotland

Volunteer Scotland AGM
29 October 2020

Debbie Maltman

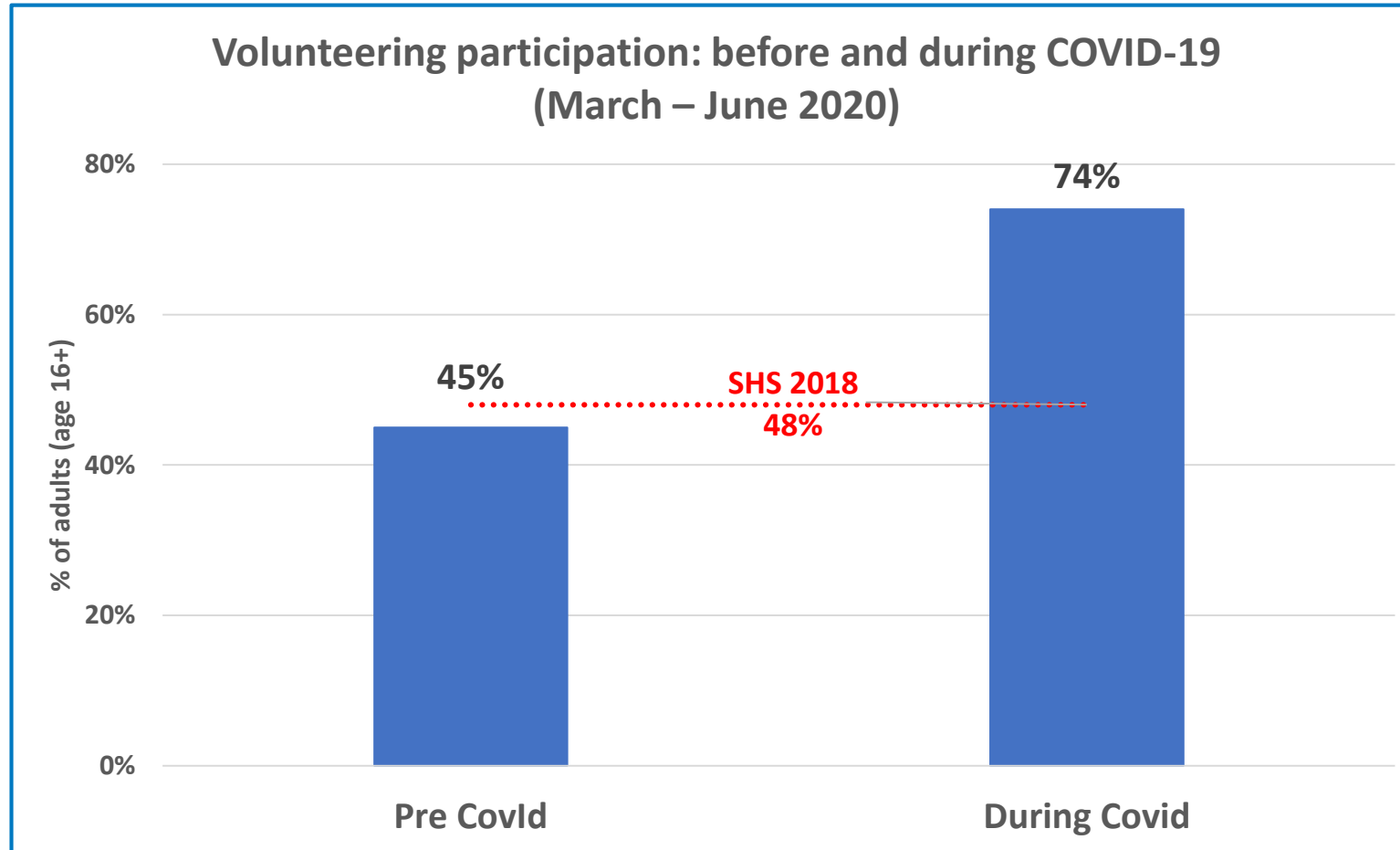


Structure



- Volunteering participation – before, during and after COVID-19
- The community response vs. community need
- Expected volunteering participation after COVID-19

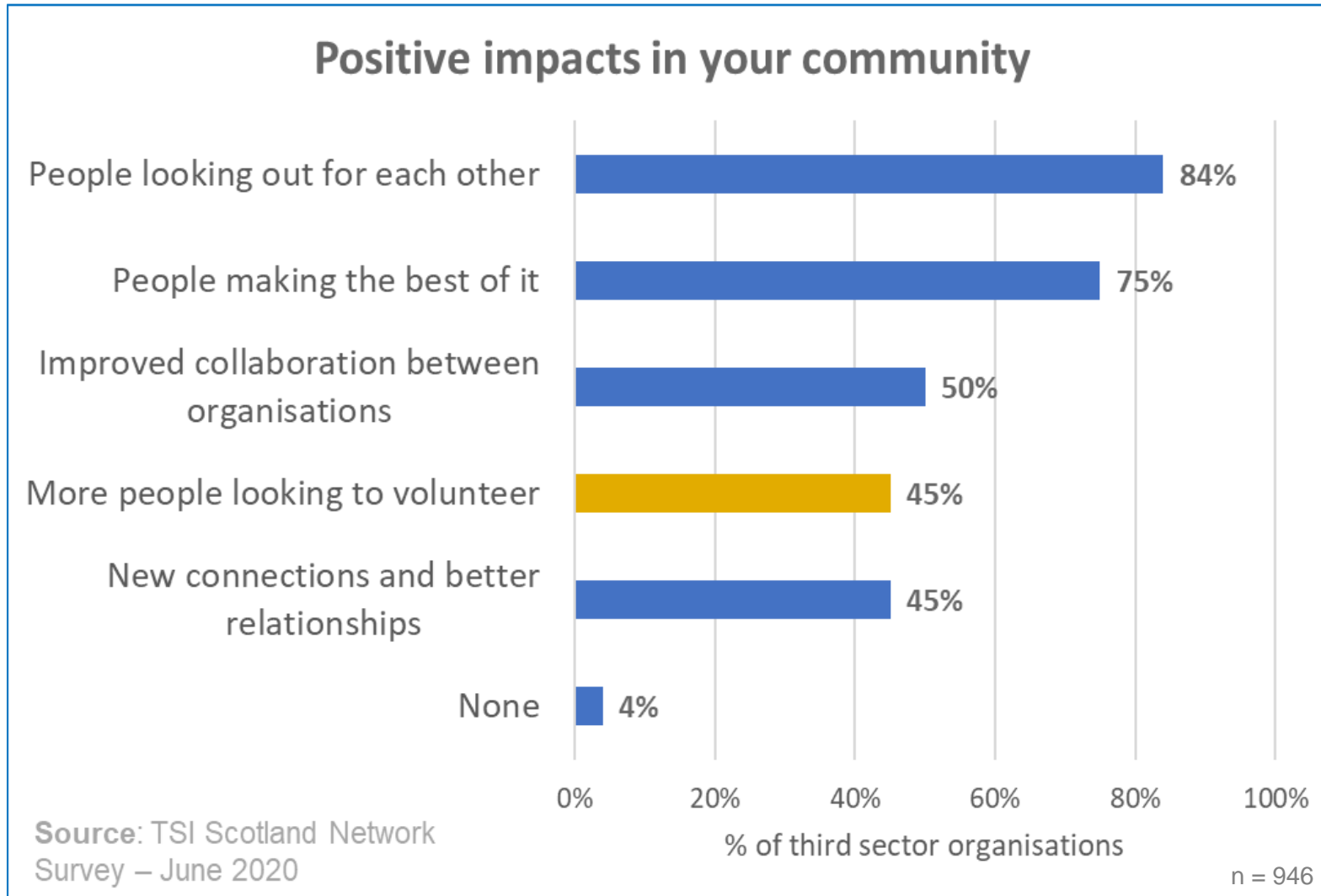
Impact of COVID-19 on total volunteering participation: formal, mutual aid and informal



n = 1,014

- Growth in informal volunteering & mutual aid
- But significant contraction in charities' formal volunteer numbers:
 - 41% decreased
 - 7% have increased
- However, still a 26% growth in volunteer participation from the SHS baseline in 2018

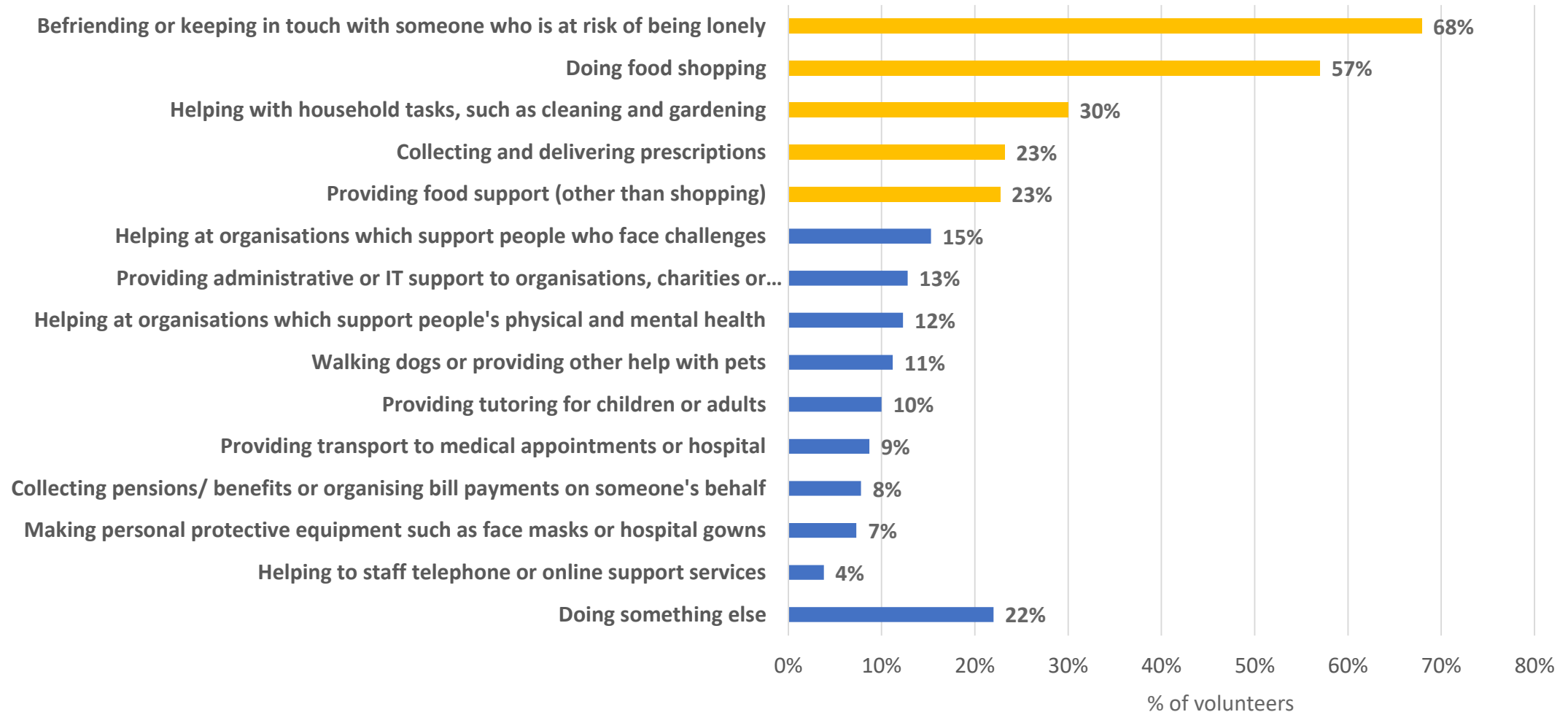
Third sector organisations' assessment of COVID-19 impacts - positive



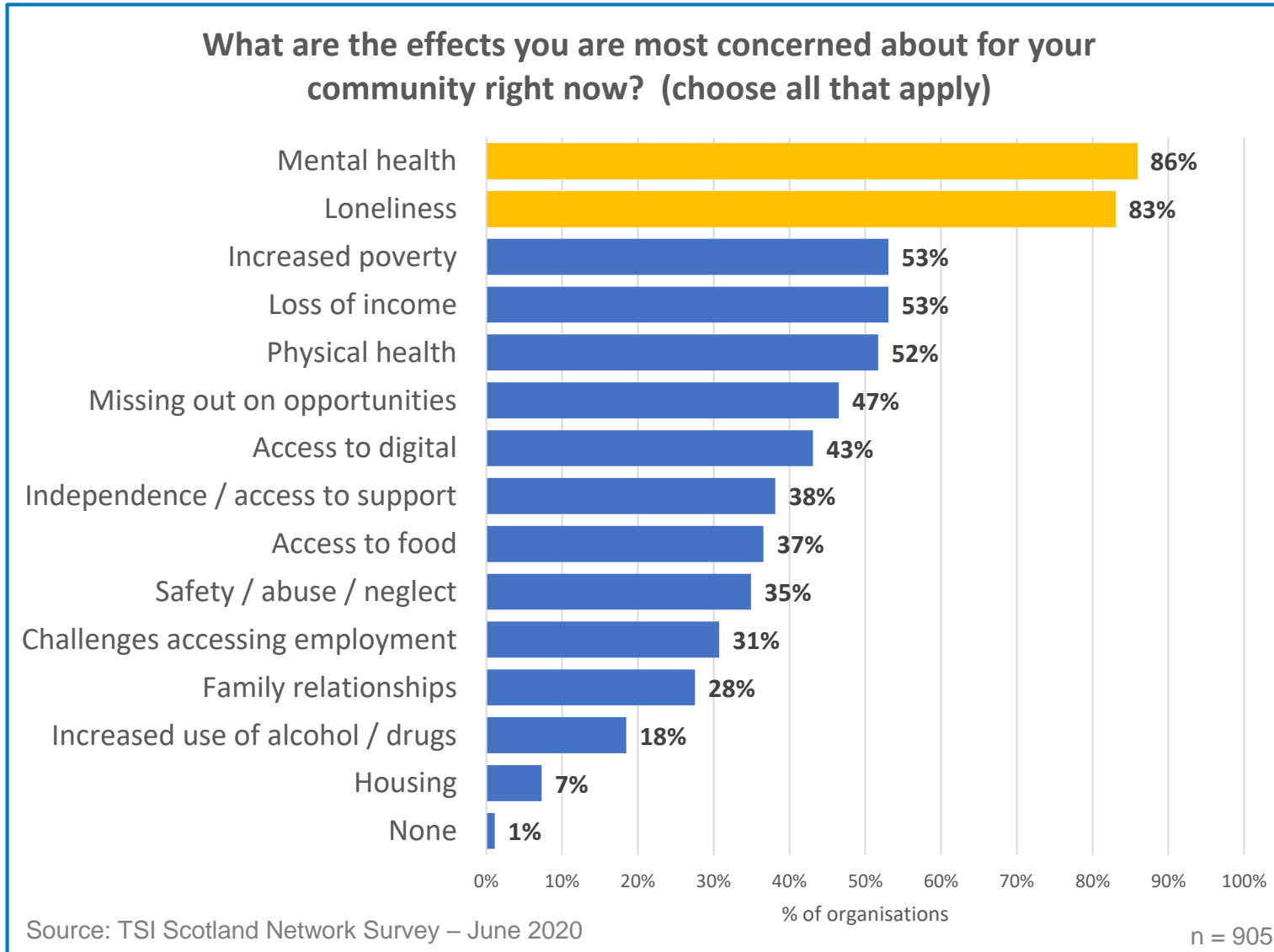
- Incredibly positive community response
- But are these impacts likely to be sustained post-COVID-19?
- **What can we do to capture and embed this community spirit?**

Volunteering activities during COVID-19

(formal, mutual aid and informal)

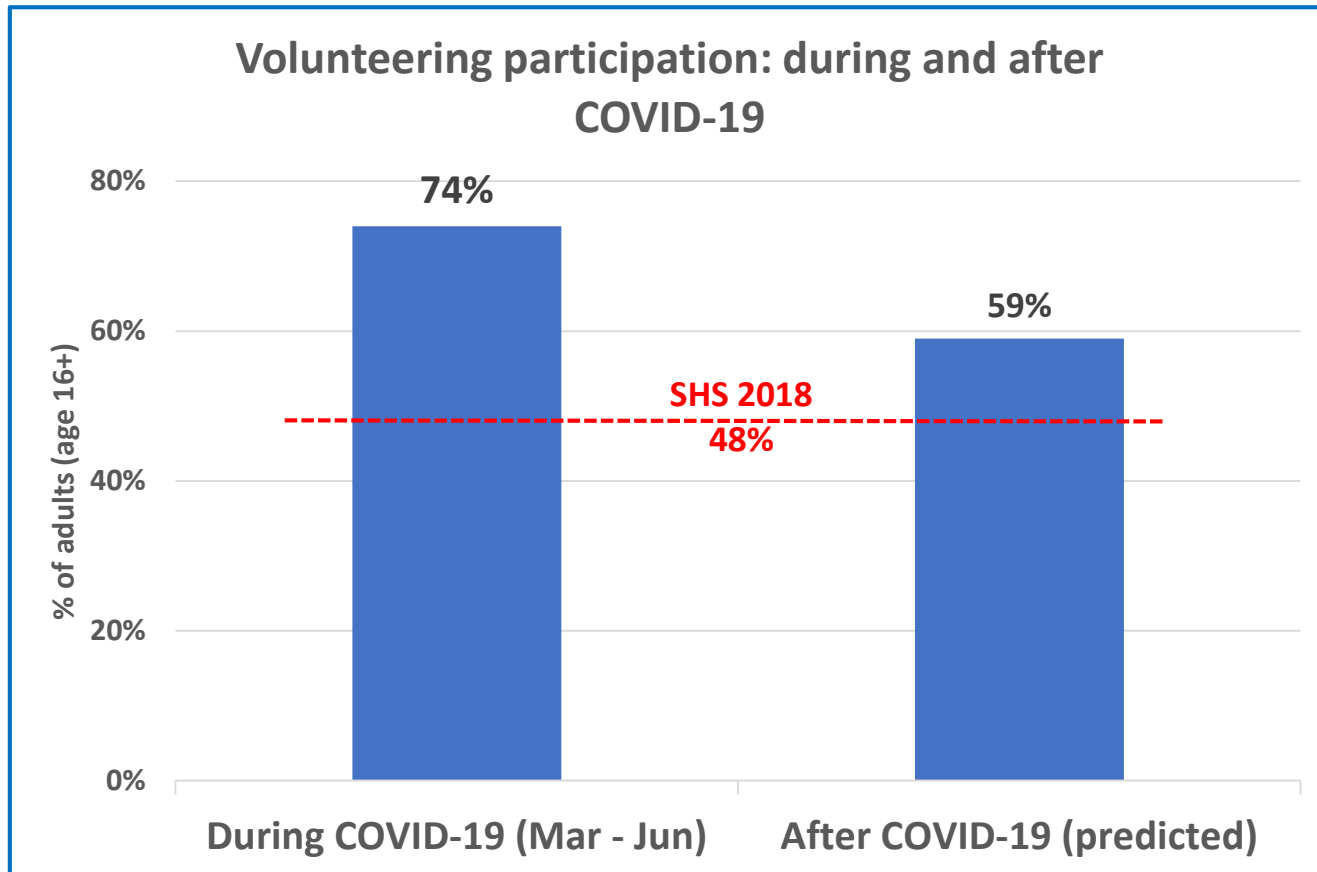


Third sector organisations' assessment of COVID-19 impacts - negative



- Volunteer support focused on the crisis response:
 - Keeping in touch
 - Food provision
 - Household chores, etc.
- But key constraints in supporting longer term and more complex health and wellbeing issues.
- **So, how do we support formal volunteering which is best placed to help address these challenges?**

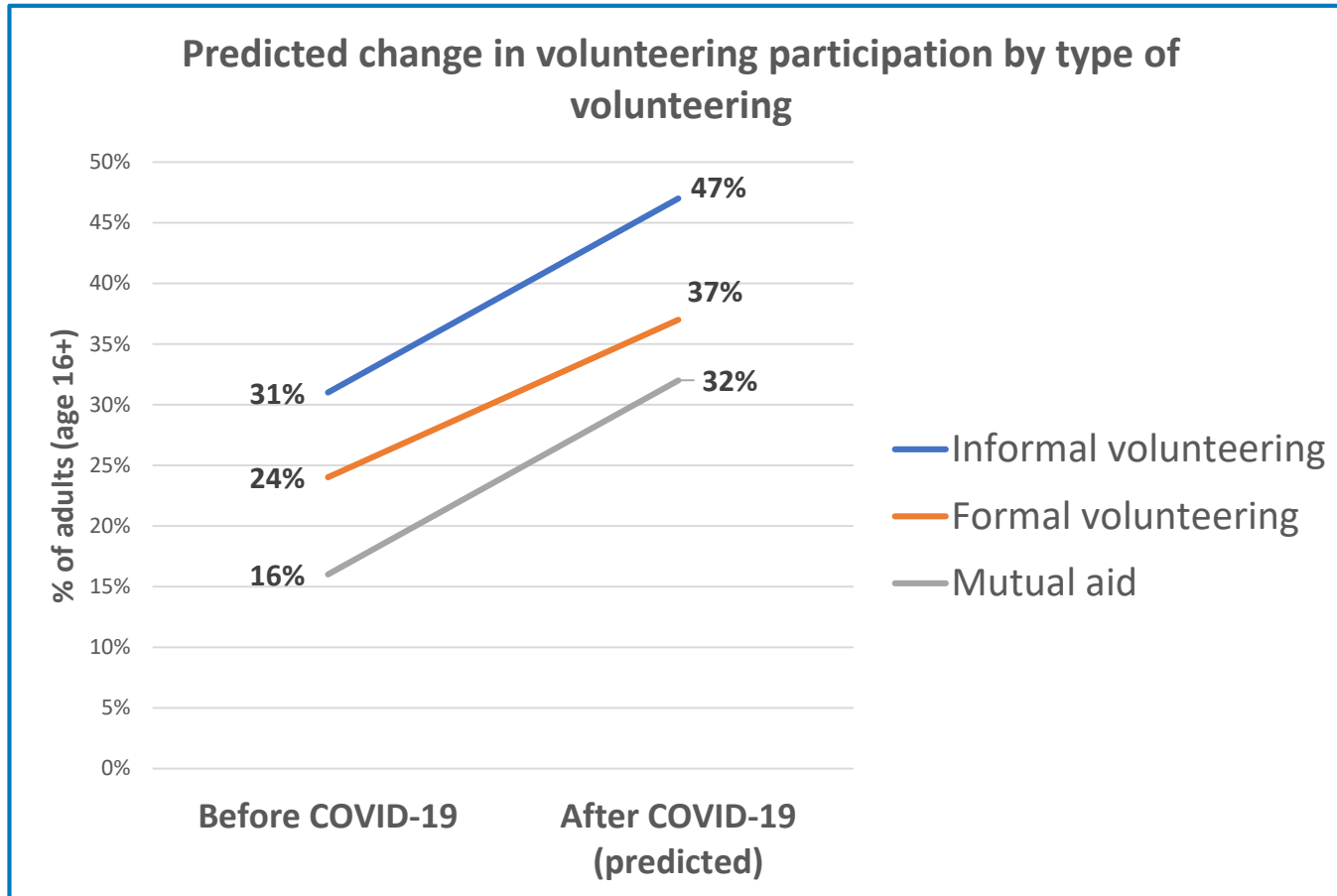
Impact of COVID-19 on future volunteering participation: formal, mutual aid and informal



n = 1,014

- An expected decline in volunteering participation post-COVID-19 to 59%.
- However, this is still 11% higher than pre-COVID-19.
- But, will this willingness to engage be maintained as people return to work?
- **How can we help foster this expressed interest in volunteering?**

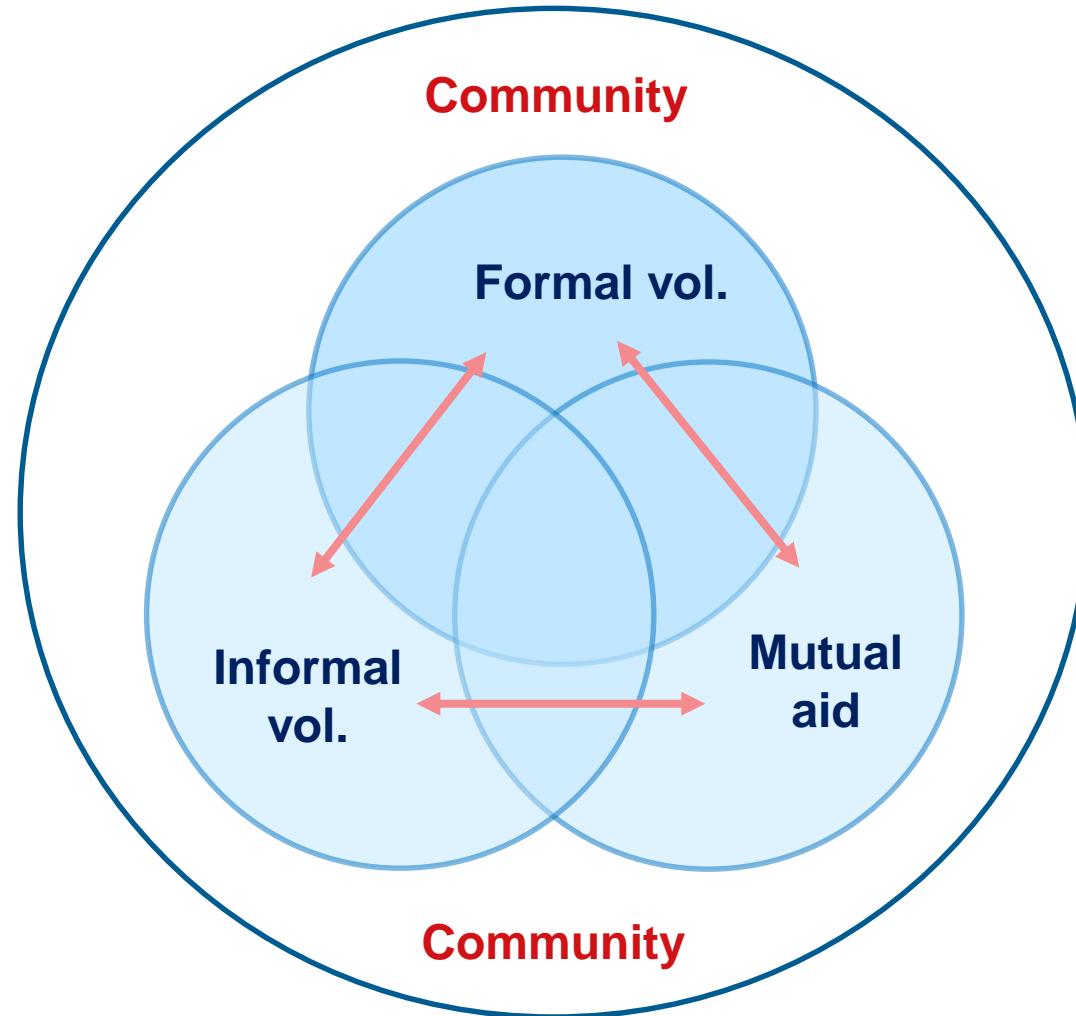
Impact of COVID-19 on volunteering participation: before vs. after COVID-19



n = 1,014

- Good news: participation in all types of volunteering are predicted to increase: formal, informal and mutual aid
- But these are not 'silos' of volunteering in the provision of support, giving and kindness – they are inextricably linked.
- **How do we foster a more integrated volunteering contribution?**

Capitalising on the inter-relationships within volunteering



- Dynamic factors to be considered:
 - Formal VIOs and mutual aid groups learning from each other.
 - Synergies between informal volunteers and mutual aid volunteers.
 - Understanding the relationship between, and motivations of, formal and informal volunteers.
- **Conclusion – COVID-19 has dropped a very large boulder into a very still pond. The challenge is to capitalize on the opportunities and mitigate the adverse impacts of COVID-19.....to achieve a healthier, happier and fairer society in the long term.**