



SECURING  
OUR BORDER  
CONTROLLING  
MIGRATION

# View from the streets: public perceptions of migrants in the UK

Chris Attwood  
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"Immigration has  
made Britain a  
stronger country"

**DAILY  
Mirror**

"Time to explode  
the great  
immigration myths"

London  
**Evening  
Standard**  
standard.co.uk

"The NHS hospital  
where 80 per cent  
of babies have  
foreign mothers"

**Daily Mail**

"Migrant flood  
did zilch for UK"

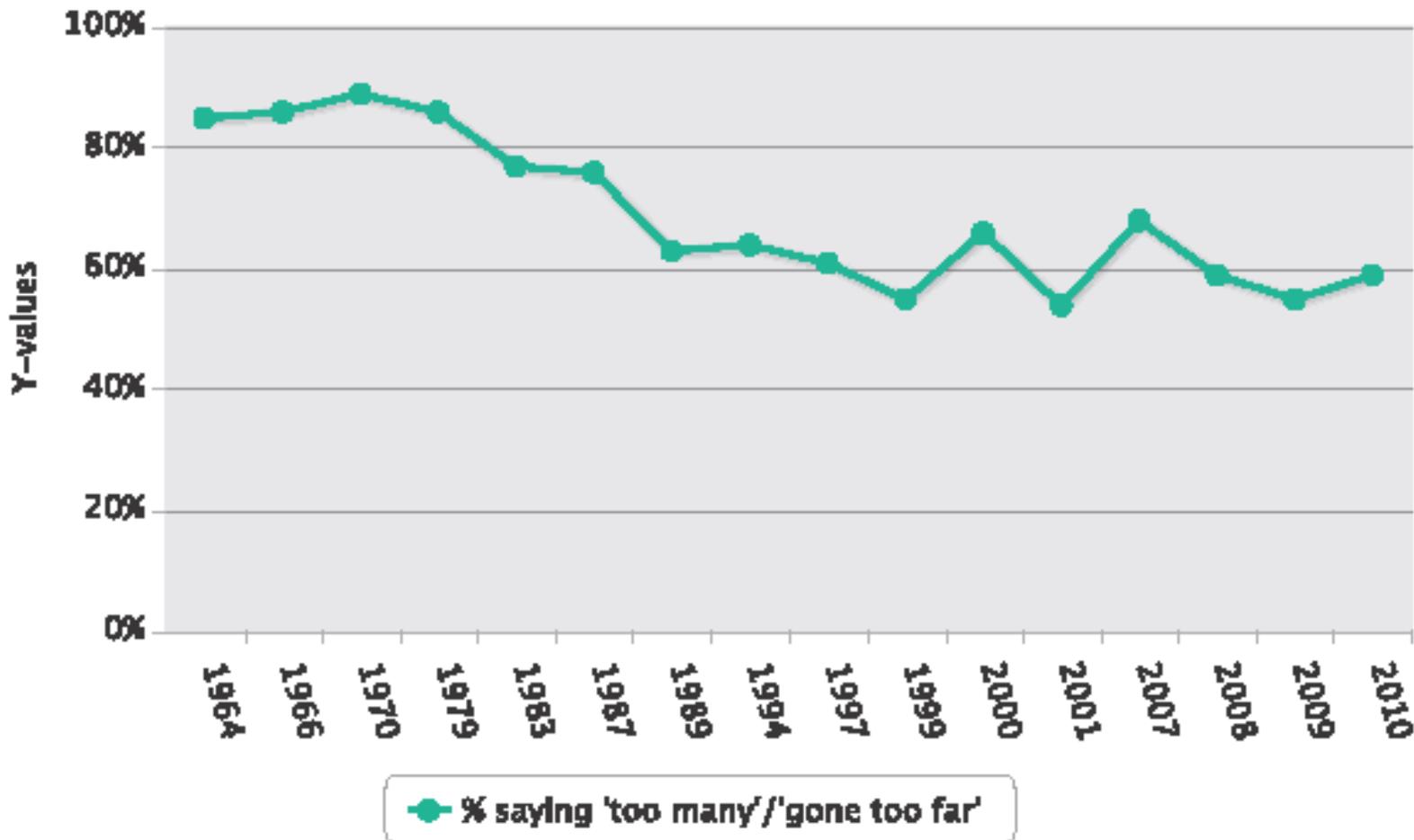
**DAILY  
STAR**

"Mass immigration 'has  
made the UK's poor  
even poorer'"

**Daily Mail**

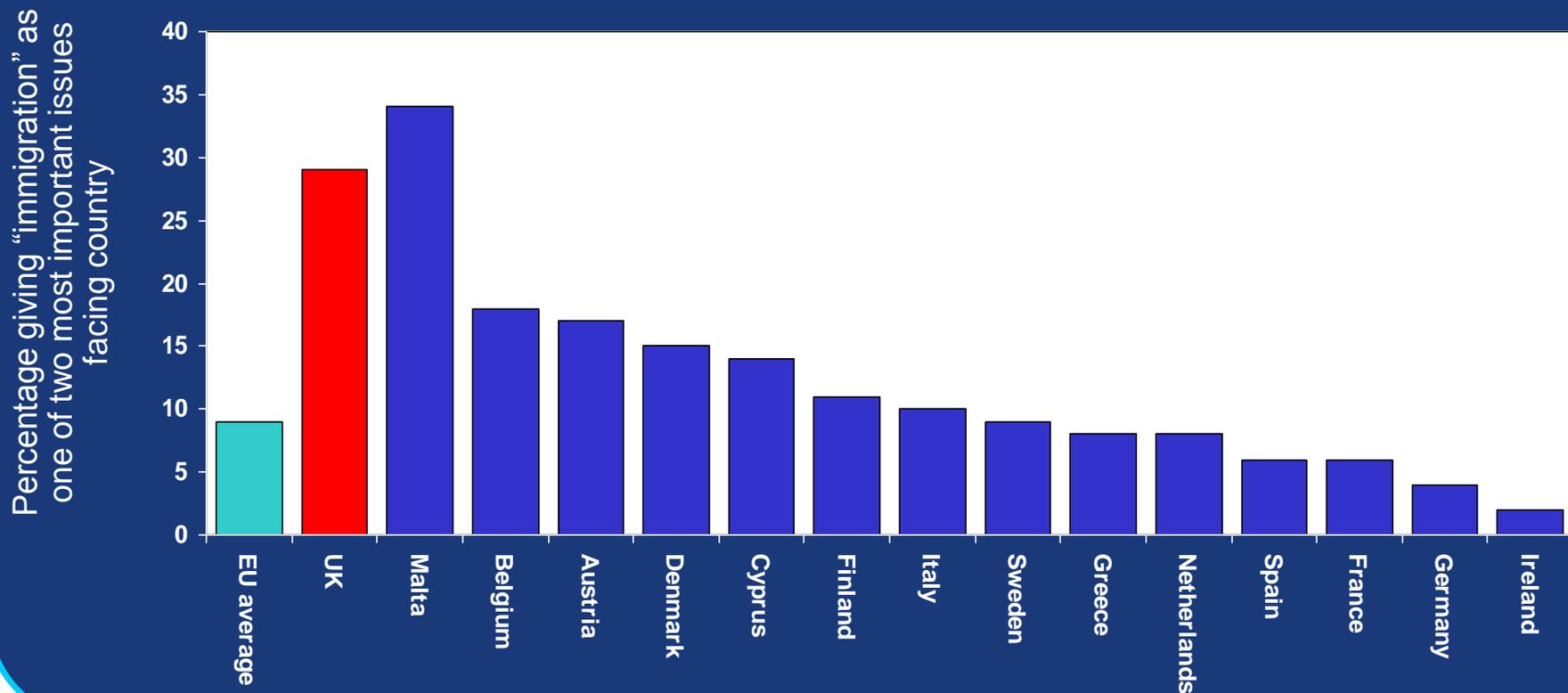
# Negative perceptions of immigration in UK consistently high

Immigration to Britain: too many or 'gone too far'  
Chart provided by [www.migrationobservatory.ox.ac.uk](http://www.migrationobservatory.ox.ac.uk)

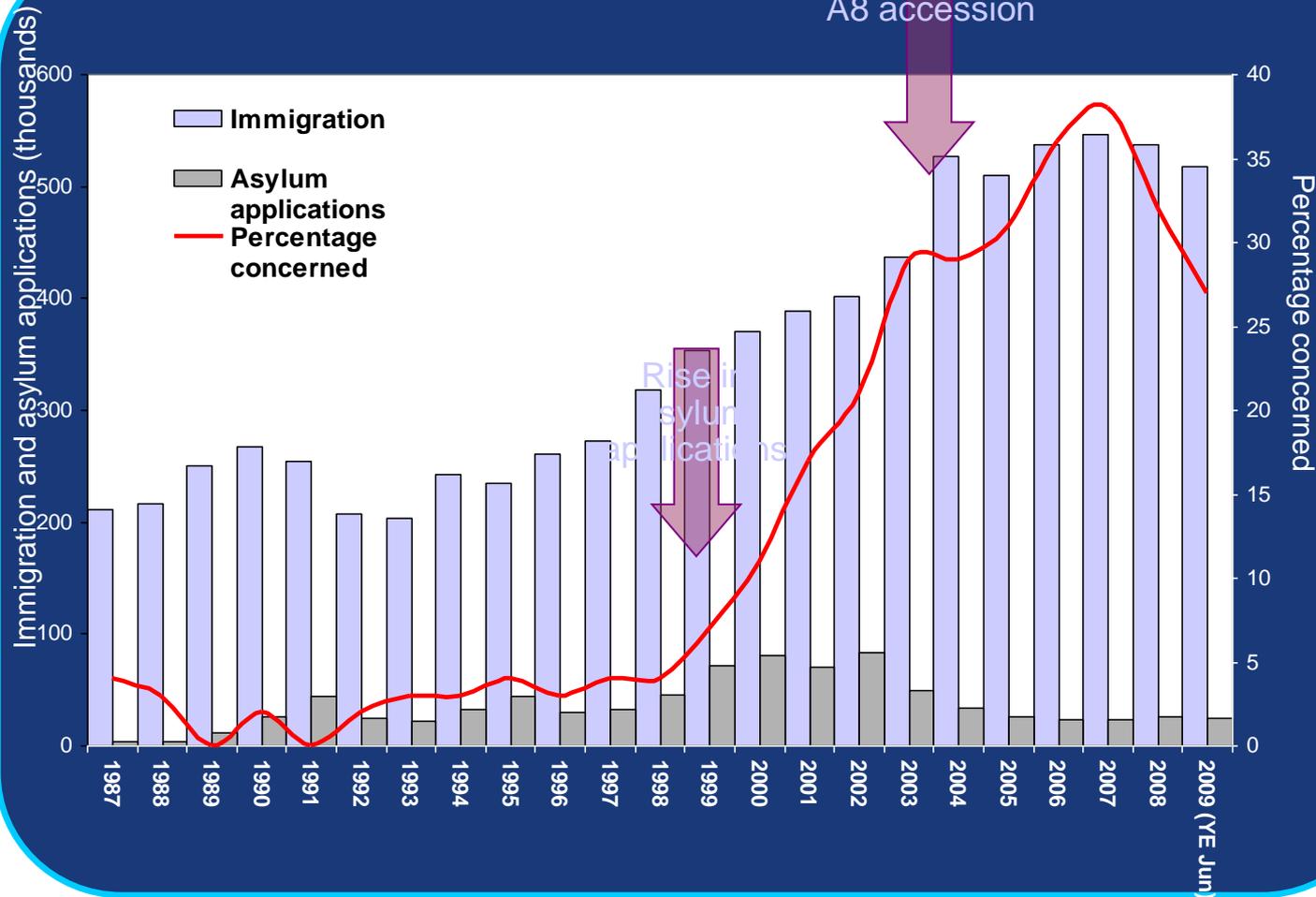


# ... and some of highest levels of concern about immigration in Europe

Concern about immigration across selected European countries, 2009



# Public concern has grown with increasing immigration



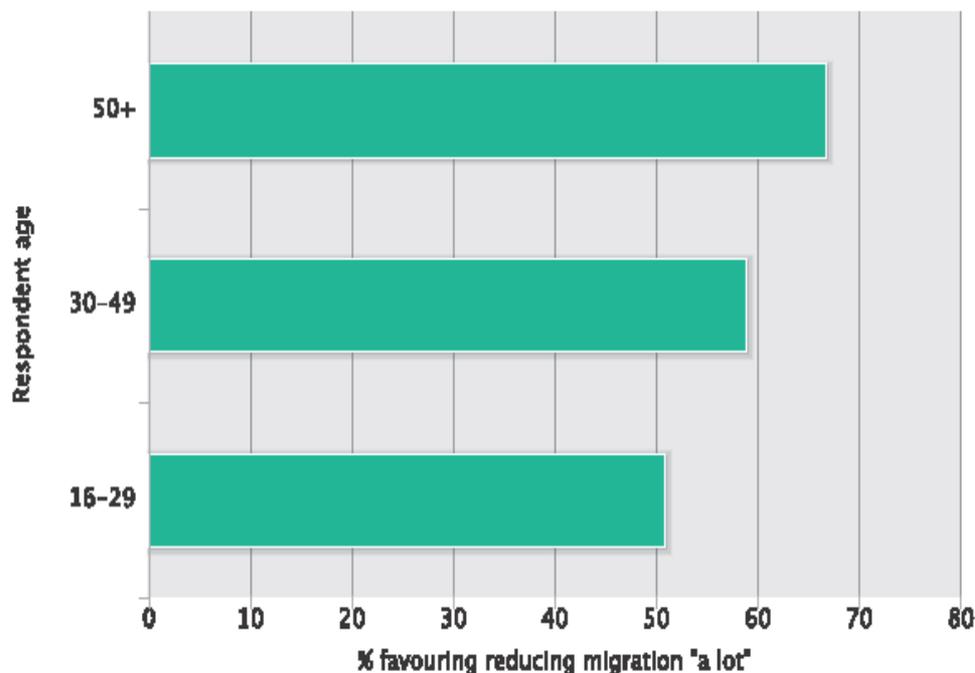
Correlation between rising immigration and public concern over the long term. Short term change can be affected by many things

Sharp rises in concern coincide with rise in asylum applications and A8 accession

In Feb 2011, 75% of people thought immigration was a very or fairly big problem for the UK, an increase from 69% in Aug-Sept 2009.

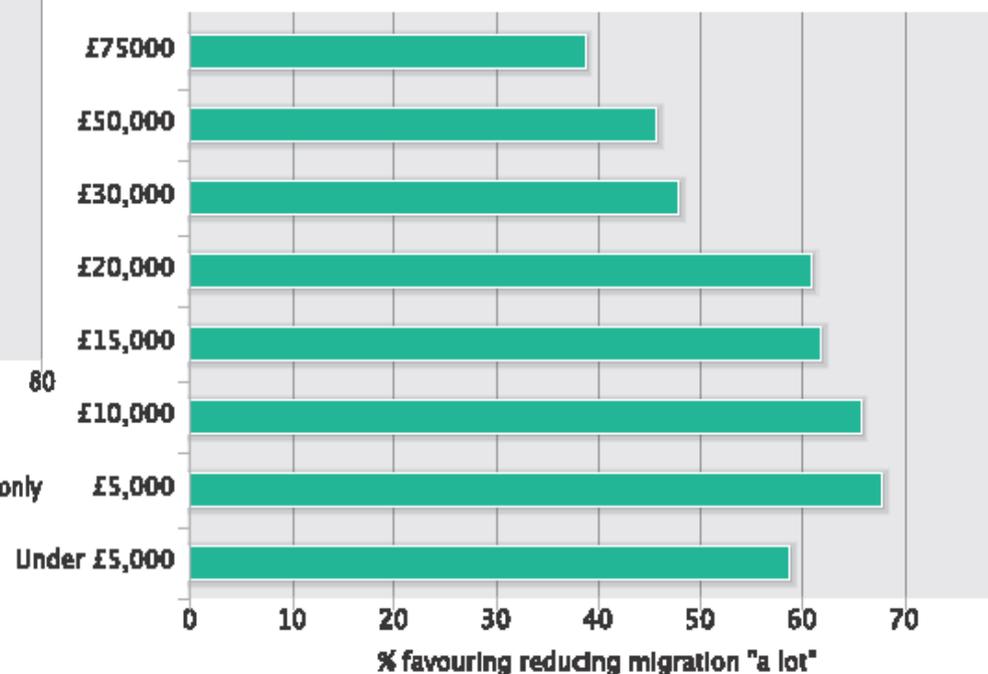
# But the story is more complex ....

Attitudes to Immigration by age group, 2009-10  
Chart provided by [www.migrationobservatory.ox.ac.uk](http://www.migrationobservatory.ox.ac.uk)



Source: 2009-10 Citizenship Survey. UK-Born white respondents only

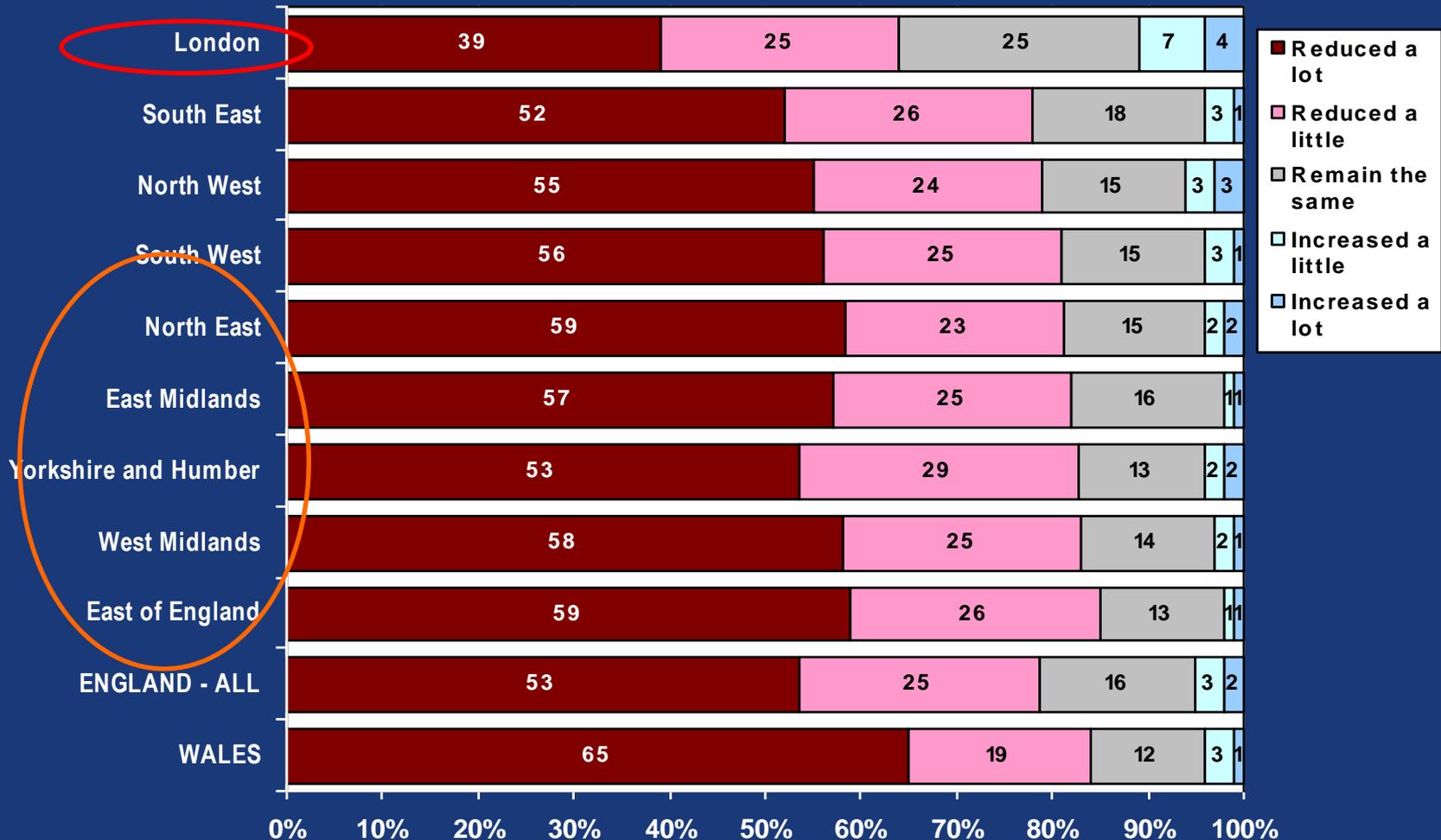
Support for reducing migration 'a lot' by Income, 2009-10  
Chart provided by [www.migrationobservatory.ox.ac.uk](http://www.migrationobservatory.ox.ac.uk)



Source: 2009-10 Citizenship Survey. UK-Born white respondents only

# ... and there's a strong locality effect

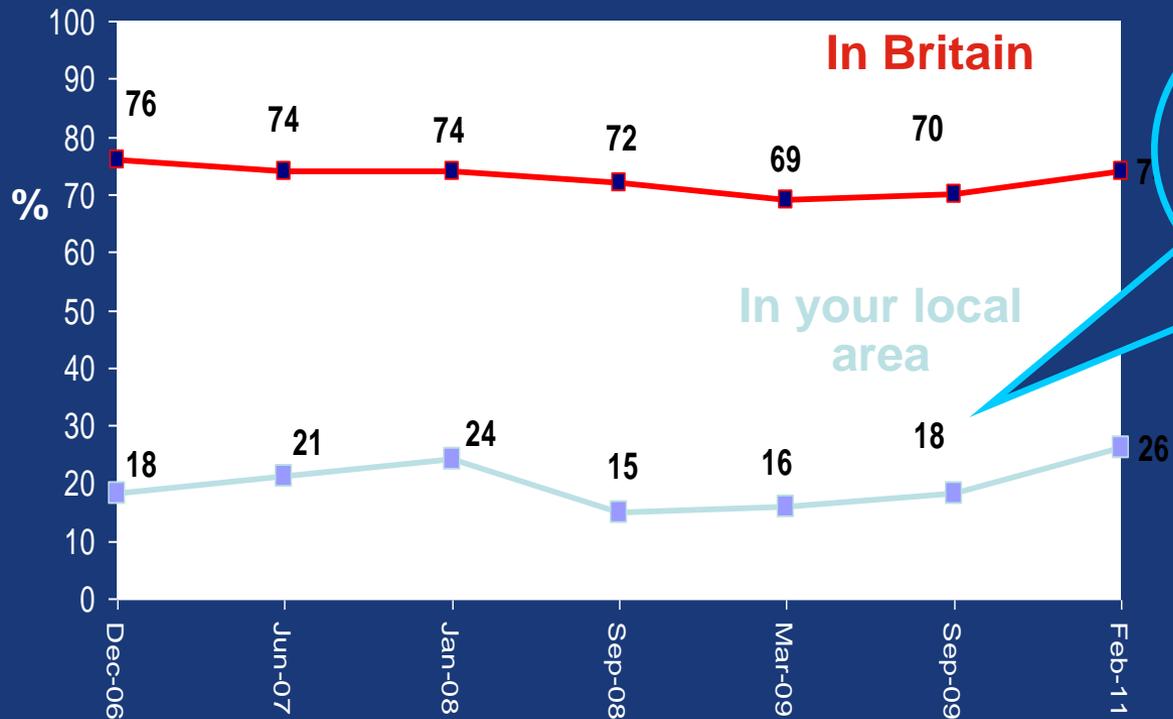
## Do you feel immigration should be ....



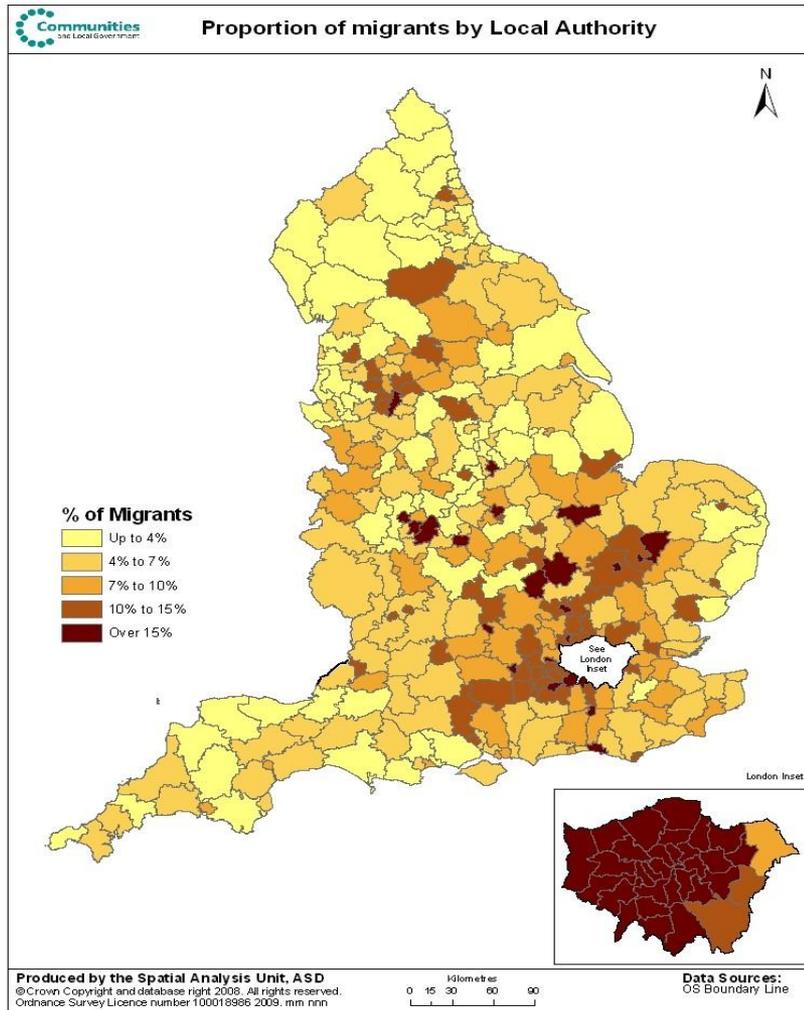
# However, public are less concerned about migration at a local than national level



Percentage believing migration is a problem in Britain and in their local area



# 12.4% of the population in England were born outside the UK, although this varies considerably across local authorities

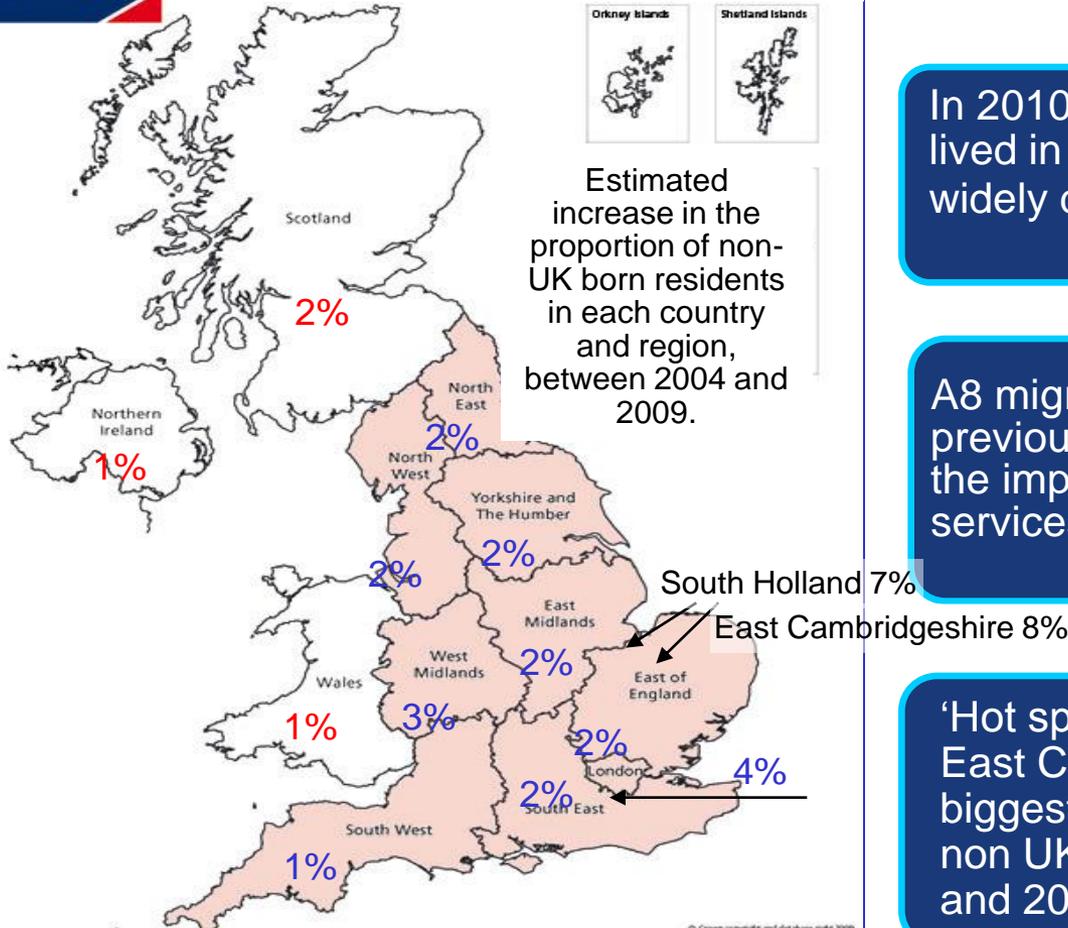


Annual Population Survey data for the year ending June 2009, shows that almost a third (32%) of those born outside the UK lived in just 20 London Local Authorities.

Westminster, Newham and Brent had the highest concentration, with over 50% of their population born abroad

In England as a whole 75% of the foreign born lived in 30% of Local Authorities. Places like West Devon, South Staffordshire, Great Yarmouth and Hartlepool have a very low share of the foreign born in their total population

# A8 migrants work in rural areas with little or no previous experience of migration, potentially causing challenges for local communities



In 2010 23 % of Polish-born population lived in London, but they are also widely dispersed across the UK (ONS)

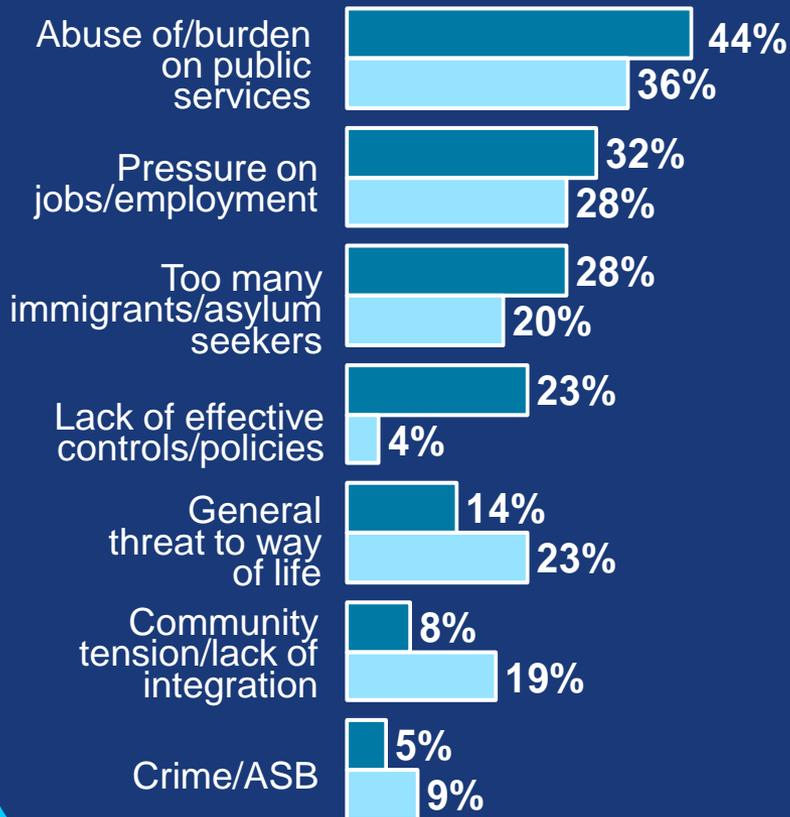
A8 migrants live in areas with little or no previous experience of migration where the impacts on communities and public services can be more strongly felt.

'Hot spots' such as South Holland and East Cambridgeshire saw some of the biggest increases of the proportion of non UK-born residents between 2004 and 2009

# Concerns about impacts of immigration are important at both local and national levels ....



□ National □ Local



Most factors contributing to concern are perceived at national more than local level

Pressure on jobs is felt to be nearly as important at local as at national level

However, perceived threat to way of life and community tension are felt to be more important locally than they are nationally

## .... but public do acknowledge some of the positive impacts of immigration

People are concerned about **pressure on jobs** at a local level

Public are concerned that **immigration is too high** and that the country is 'full'

Many people believe that migrants place a **strain on public services**

Some people believe that **migration threatens British culture**

### But...

There is an acknowledgement that certain sectors are **dependant on migrant labour** and that **migrants fill jobs British workers don't want to do.**

They recognise the **contribution of earlier migrants** and the **need for some continued migration**

The majority still think that **migrants should be able to access these services** after a defined time or subject to certain criteria.

There is an acknowledgement of the **cultural contribution of more established migrant groups.** Migrant groups perceived as more 'similar' and being willing to integrate are more likely to be accepted by public.



## Policy response: limiting net non-EEA migration

UK's Coalition Government committed to **reduce net migration** across routes to fulfil our political commitments, **protect economic growth** and **tackle abuse** in the education sector.

Introduction of an annual limit of 20,700 skilled non-EU migrant workers, restricted to graduate level occupations

New criteria for intra-company transferees, ensuring that longer term workers are specialists or managers

Tier 1 to be restricted to entrepreneurs, investors and 1,000 people of exceptional talent

Tougher entrance criteria for students, limits on work entitlements and closure of the post-study work route

The Government is currently consulting on wider proposals around family and settlement.

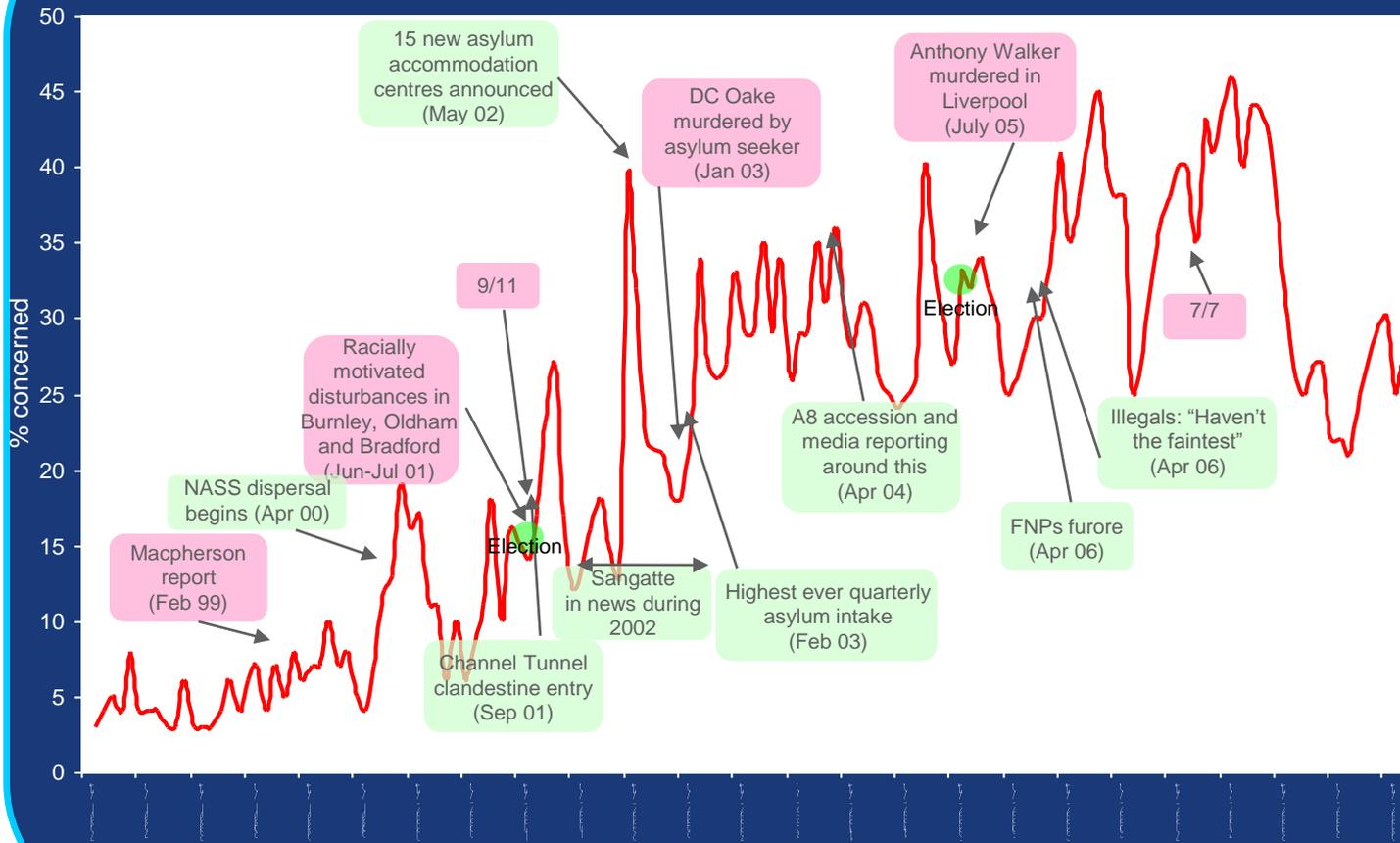


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# Media reporting may also increase concern over the shorter term



News events and media handling also have a great capacity to influence public opinion – usually by increasing rather than decreasing concern

Sometimes public concern spikes because of shocking events, sometimes because of reporting on numbers

