



# EDUCATION & SKILLS

# Is Higher Education Good for You?

#LSEBeveridge #LSEFestival

Join in with the event at [Pollev.com/lsefestival](https://pollev.com/lsefestival)

## Professor Paul Dolan

Professor of Behavioural Science, LSE  
Head, Department of Psychological and Behavioural Science, LSE

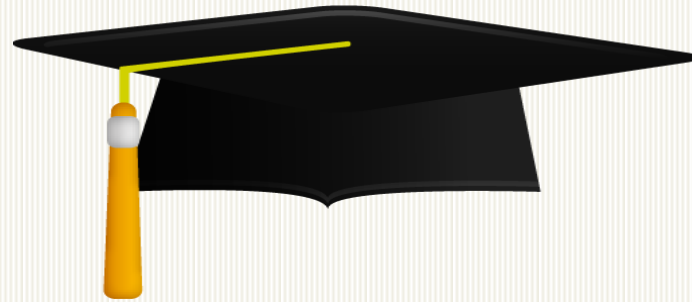
## Lord Willetts

Executive Chair, Resolution Foundation

## Chair: Professor Julia Black

Pro Director, LSE

DAVID WILLETTS



A UNIVERSITY  
EDUCATION

February 2018

# Challenging the Edusceptics – the benefits of higher education



<b>Individual non-economic benefits</b>	<b>Individual economic benefits</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• less likely to smoke, to drink excessively, to be obese;</li><li>• better general health;</li><li>• longer life expectancy;</li><li>• more likely to engage in preventative care;</li><li>• better mental health;</li><li>• greater life satisfaction.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• higher earnings;</li><li>• less exposure to unemployment;</li><li>• increased employability and skills development.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• lower propensity to commit non-violent crime;</li><li>• greater propensity to vote;</li><li>• to volunteer;</li><li>• to trust and tolerate others;</li><li>• more dynamic cities.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• more tax receipts;</li><li>• increased exporting;</li><li>• improved productivity.</li></ul>
<b>Wider non-economic benefits</b>	<b>Wider economic benefits</b>

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# The Narrative Trap

We are expected to:

1. Reach for ever more wealth, success and education
2. View higher education as the route to a good life
3. Adopt the values of those with more education etc.

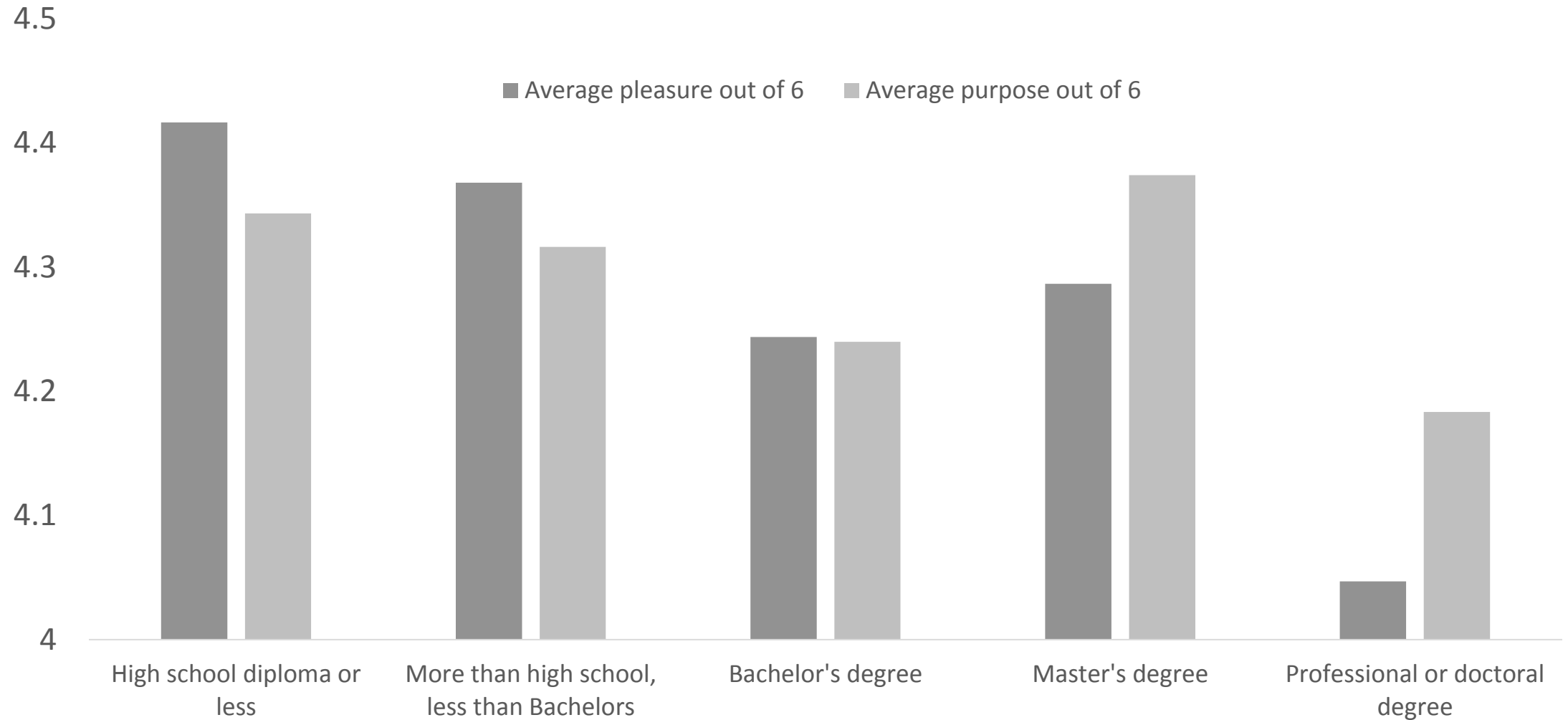
We must instead place greater value on:

1. A “just enough” approach rather than “more please”
2. Skills training and those who do not go into higher education
3. Diversity in what and how we teach; and when and to whom

# Is higher education good for you?

- 87% of first year students find it difficult to cope with social and academic pressures
- 44% of students at Oxford reported that they felt stressed all or most of the time
- 40% of students reading English at Cambridge had been diagnosed with depression
- 18% of students at London Metropolitan University drop out in their first year
- 10% drop out rate amongst least advantaged
- “Lost happiness is lost forever”

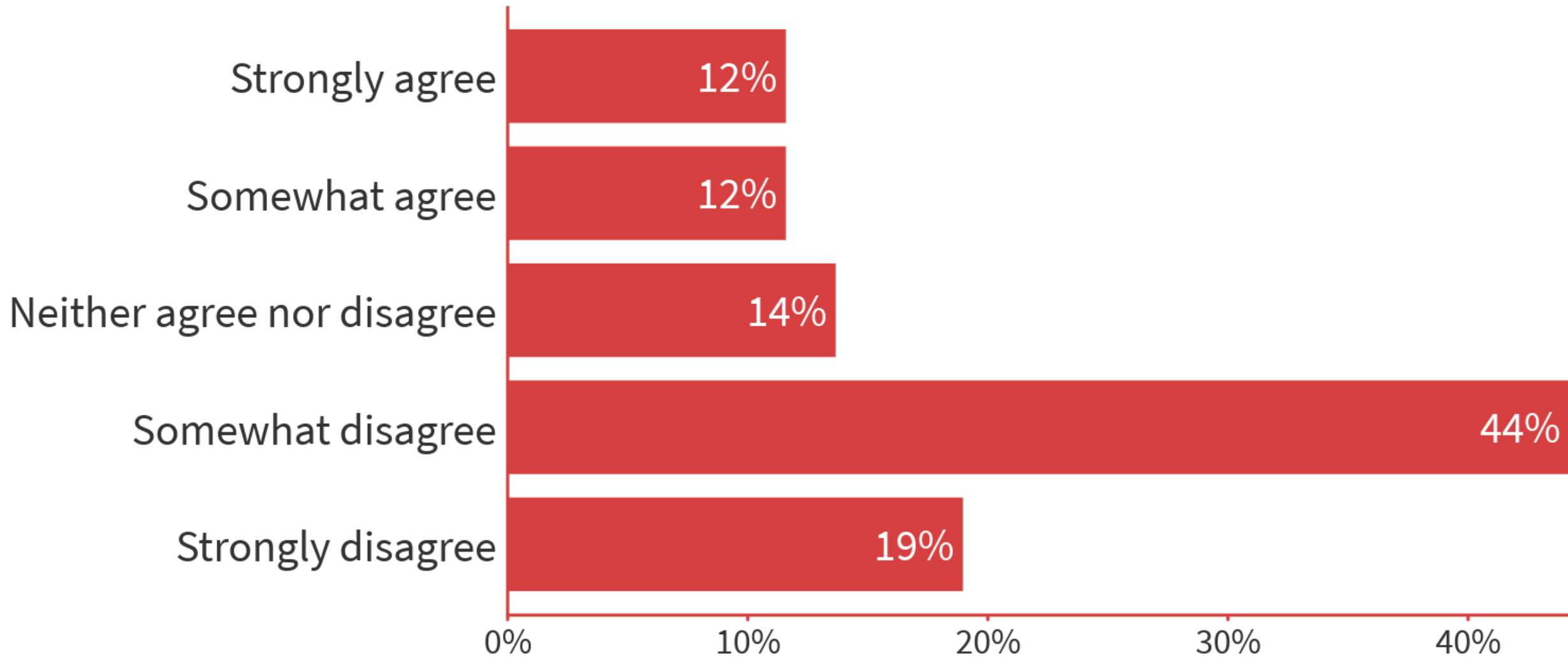
# Is higher education good for?





# University education should be expanded from the current levels, for example to 80% of 18-21 year olds

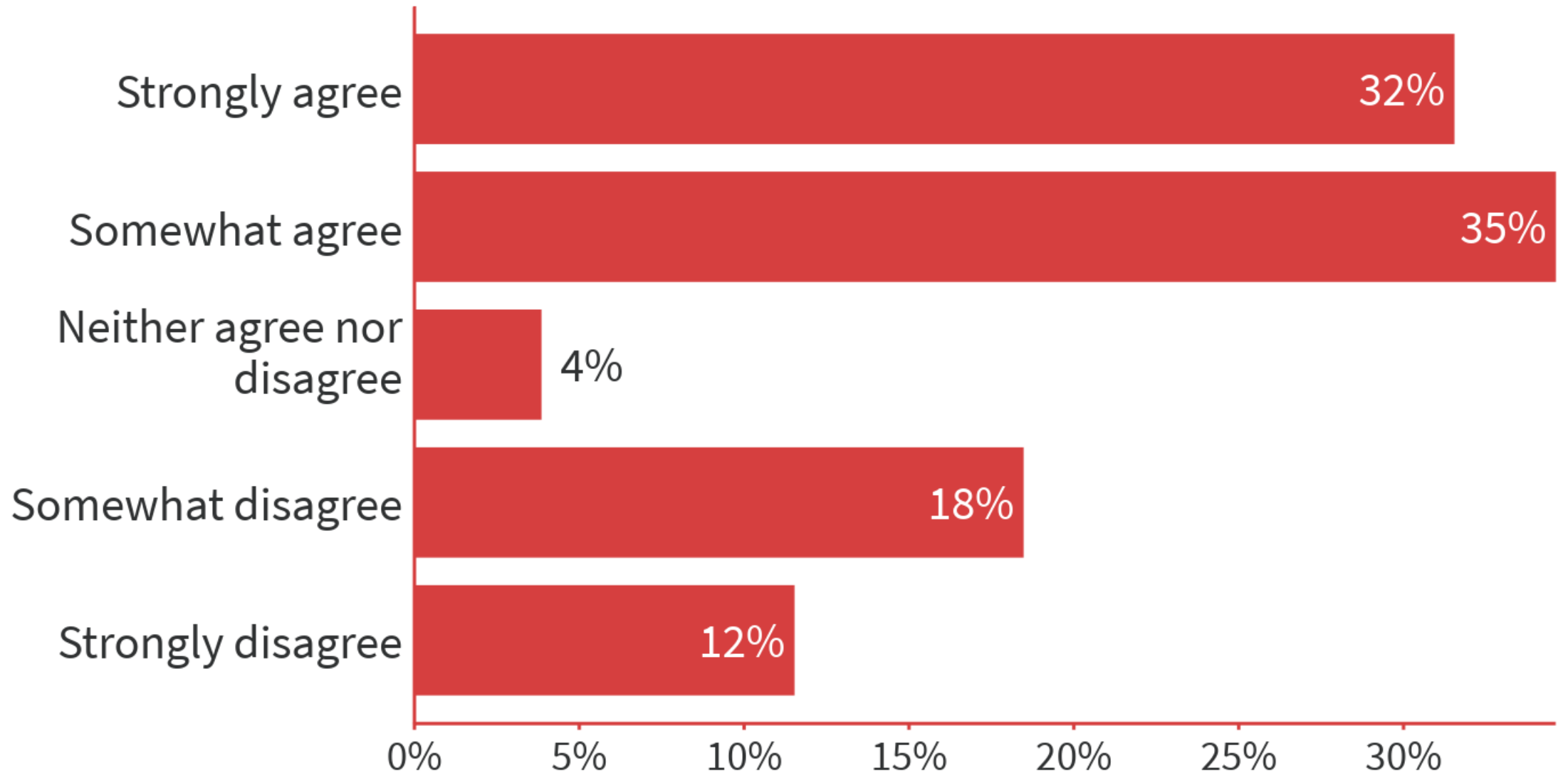
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# Higher education should be publicly funded



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