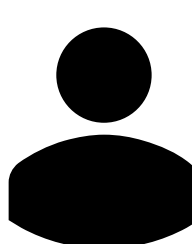



What role should disability play in ventilator triage policy?

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Who should receive the ventilator?

 Patient A
 40% chance of surviving

 Patient B
 40% chance of surviving and has a **disability**

Background

- Scarcity of resources during COVID-19 pandemic
- Institutions had to rapidly develop ethical guidelines
- Centrality of the question of well-being and quality of life
- Balancing fairness and benefit
- Objections to UK guidelines from Disability Community

Research Question:

What are public attitudes about the role that disability should play in triaging policy?

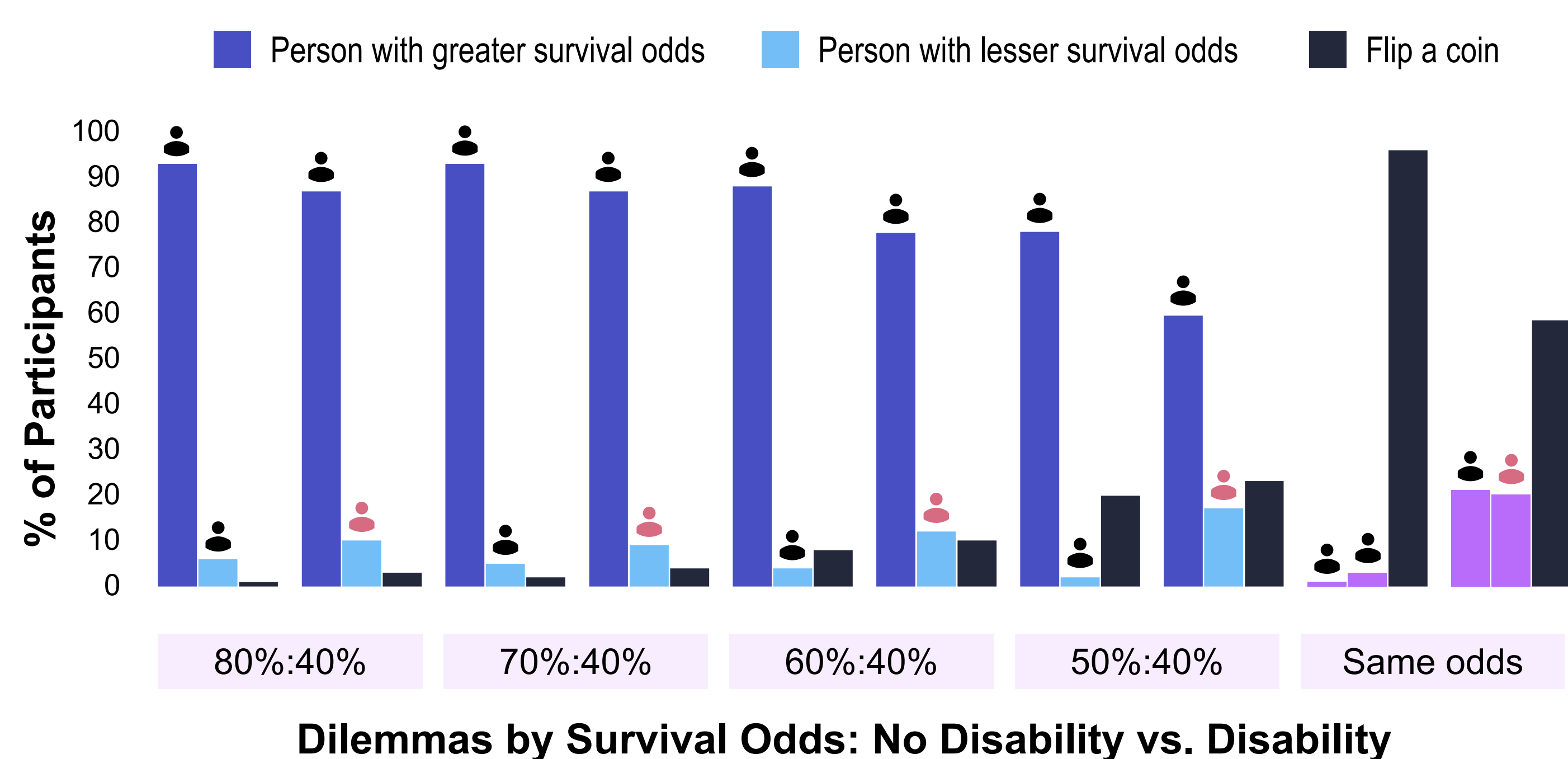
Method



Survey Structure

Part 1	Part 2	Part 3	Part 4
Dilemmas: variation in survival odds	Dilemmas: variation in disability* & survival odds	Prioritisation of patient features	Demographic info and Ableism Scale

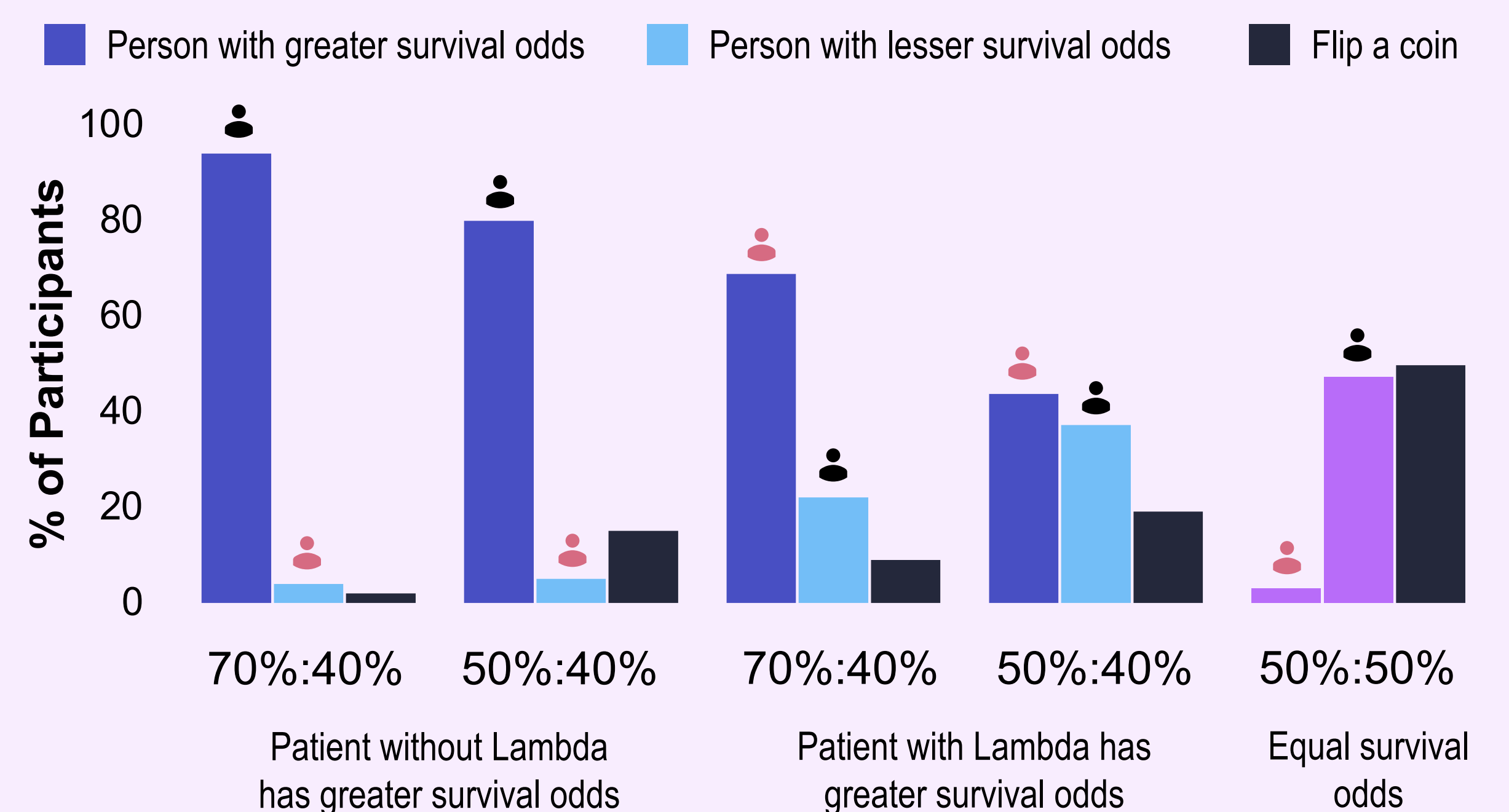
Part 1 Public Opinion: Who Gets the Ventilator?



Findings

1. Participants prioritised those with a better chance of survival, most of the time.

Part 2 Public Opinion: Who Gets the Ventilator?



Part 2 was repeated for three hypothetical disabilities:

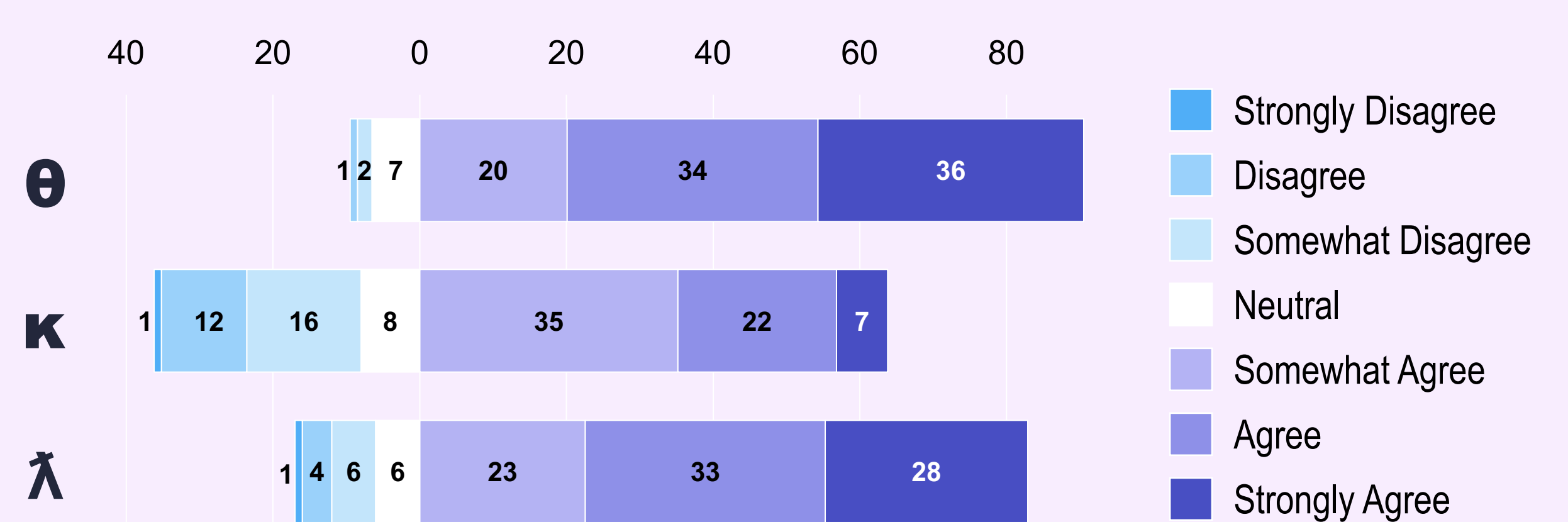
- Θ **Theta**: moderate cognitive deficit
- Κ **Kappa**: wheelchair bound
- Λ **Lambda**: fixed intellectual disability

2. When the difference between survival odds was small or non-existent, it was found that two factors significantly predicted how respondents would allocate:

Type of disability (Theta, Kappa and Lambda)	Assumptions about quality of life
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Meaning, the more respondents thought a disability reduced a person's quality of life, the more likely they were to allocate the ventilator to the non-disabled person even when the disabled person had an equal or better chance of survival.

Responses: Disability 'x' Reduces Quality of Life



Implications

- Participants favour a maximising consequentialist approach
- The data provides a **new perspective**: assumptions about quality of life significantly influence how the public make triage decisions between patients when prospective survival rates are comparable.
- However, assumptions about quality of life may be misguided.
- This may be ethically problematic and lead to discrimination

Future directions:
Larger surveys of broader sample size, and focus groups to look at roots of quality of life assumptions

Significance:
Contributes to discussion that could inform future triage guidelines and policy