

# Common Cause Public Foundation

Analytical report on the findings of the public opinion poll “CITIZENS’S VIEWS ABOUT THE UPCOMING PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS ON OCTOBER 4, 2020”

## ABOUT COMMON CAUSE PUBLIC FOUNDATION

- The Common Cause Public Foundation is a nonpartisan organization established in March 2019 to monitor elections of various levels in the Kyrgyz Republic, to implement voter and civic education projects, public opinion research, and to promote greater citizen participation in decision making processes.
- Our mission is to facilitate the creation of opportunities for the citizens to influence the quality of decision-making in the country through participation, discourse, and public oversight.
- This public opinion poll is carried out under Voter Education Component of the “Nonpartisan Domestic Election Observation in the Kyrgyz Republic” Project implemented by the Common Cause Public Foundation, with support from USAID.
- The team of Common Cause believes that the findings of the public opinion poll will help inform citizens of the country, media, political parties, civil society institutions and decision-makers about important issues related to the upcoming elections.

# Executive Summary

The public opinion poll on the citizens' views about upcoming parliamentary elections was conducted by Common Cause Public Foundation from August 21 to September 4, 2020 with a goal to understand:

- What do citizens think about the upcoming elections?
- Are they willing to participate in elections?
- How informed are they about elections?
- Which political parties they are likely to vote?
- What do they think about the most commonly discussed problems during elections?

Major findings include:

## General:

- With few weeks left before elections, 94% of the population are aware of the upcoming elections and 74% are planning to participate in the elections. 60% will go to the polls regardless of the epidemiological situation related to Covid-19. 14% will decide depending on the epidemiological situation. 11% of respondents said they will not vote due to health concerns.

# Executive Summary

- 59% of respondents noted high importance of participation in the elections for each citizen of the country.

## Voting Preferences:

More than half of the respondents (58%) don't know which party they'd like to vote for. 14% respondents replied that they're going to vote "None of the above" with highest numbers in Bishkek (27%), Chui oblast (23%), Osh city and Issyk-Kul (17%). Only 15% of respondents (n=184) named the political party they'd like to vote for. Top three political parties include Mekenim Kyrgyzstan (3%), Birimdik and Ata-Meken, 2% respectively.

## What Could Influence A Decision to Vote?

Among top three answers to this question were content of the election platform (31%). 24% did not know the answer. Candidate list was named by 23%.

# Executive Summary

## Citizens' Awareness of Election Procedures

55% of citizens are not aware of the voter list verification process. 51% said they were not informed about election day procedures. 53% respondents suggested they were not informed about specific voting arrangements during pandemic. 50% of citizens are not informed about their voting rights.

## Election Violations

90% of respondents said that they were aware that accepting bribes/vote buying was a crime according to the new changes to the law. 38% assessed the probability of vote buying as high, and 27% - as very high.

57% of respondents know that using the administrative resource is a crime according to the new changes to the law. 33% assessed the probability of the use of the administrative resource during elections as high, and 14% - as very high.

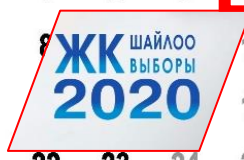


# THE FINDINGS

# Are you planning to take part in the parliamentary elections on October 4, 2020?

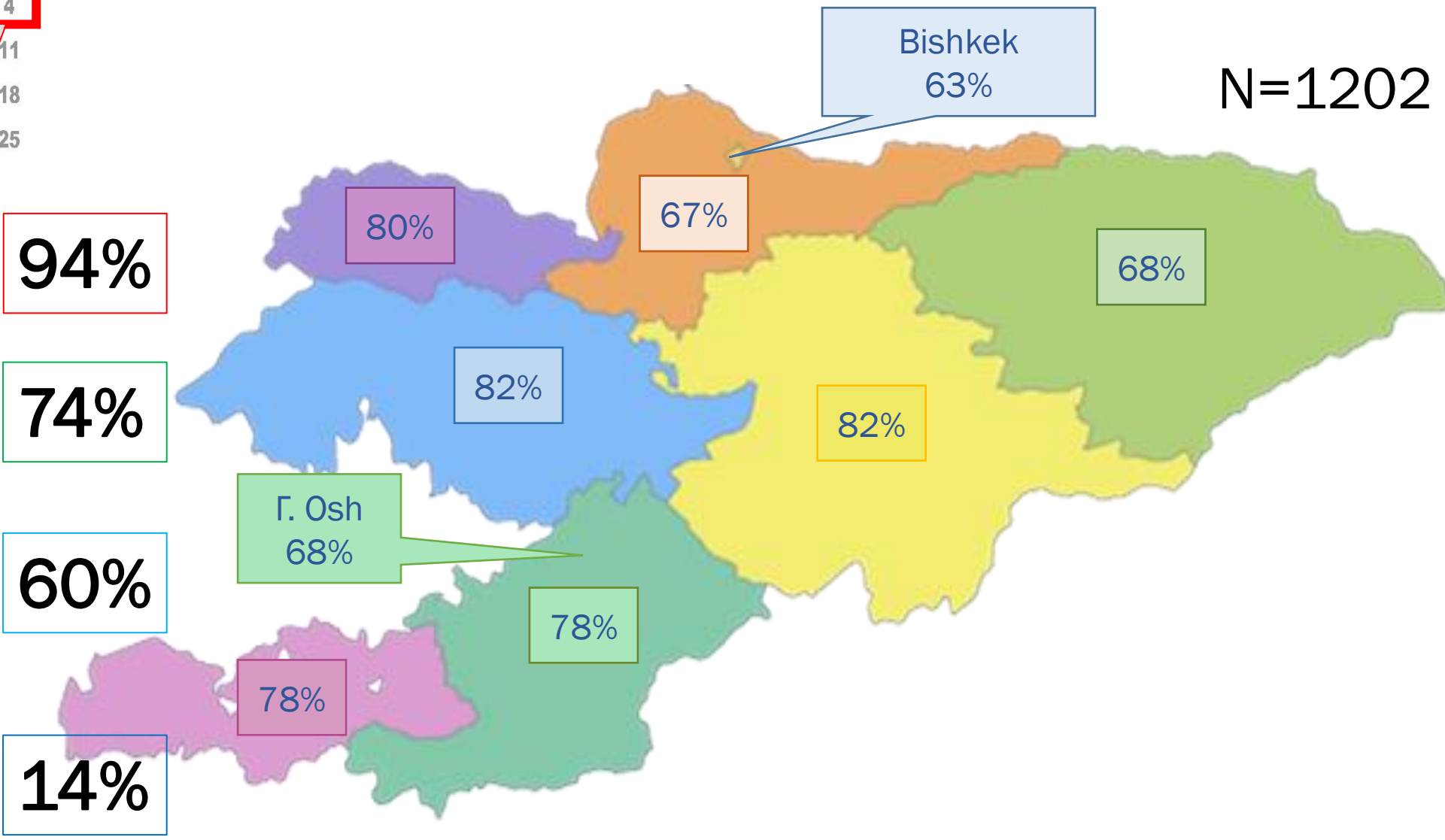
Октябрь 2020

| ПН | ВТ | СР | ЧТ | ПТ | СБ | ВС |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
|    |    |    | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  |
| 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |    |



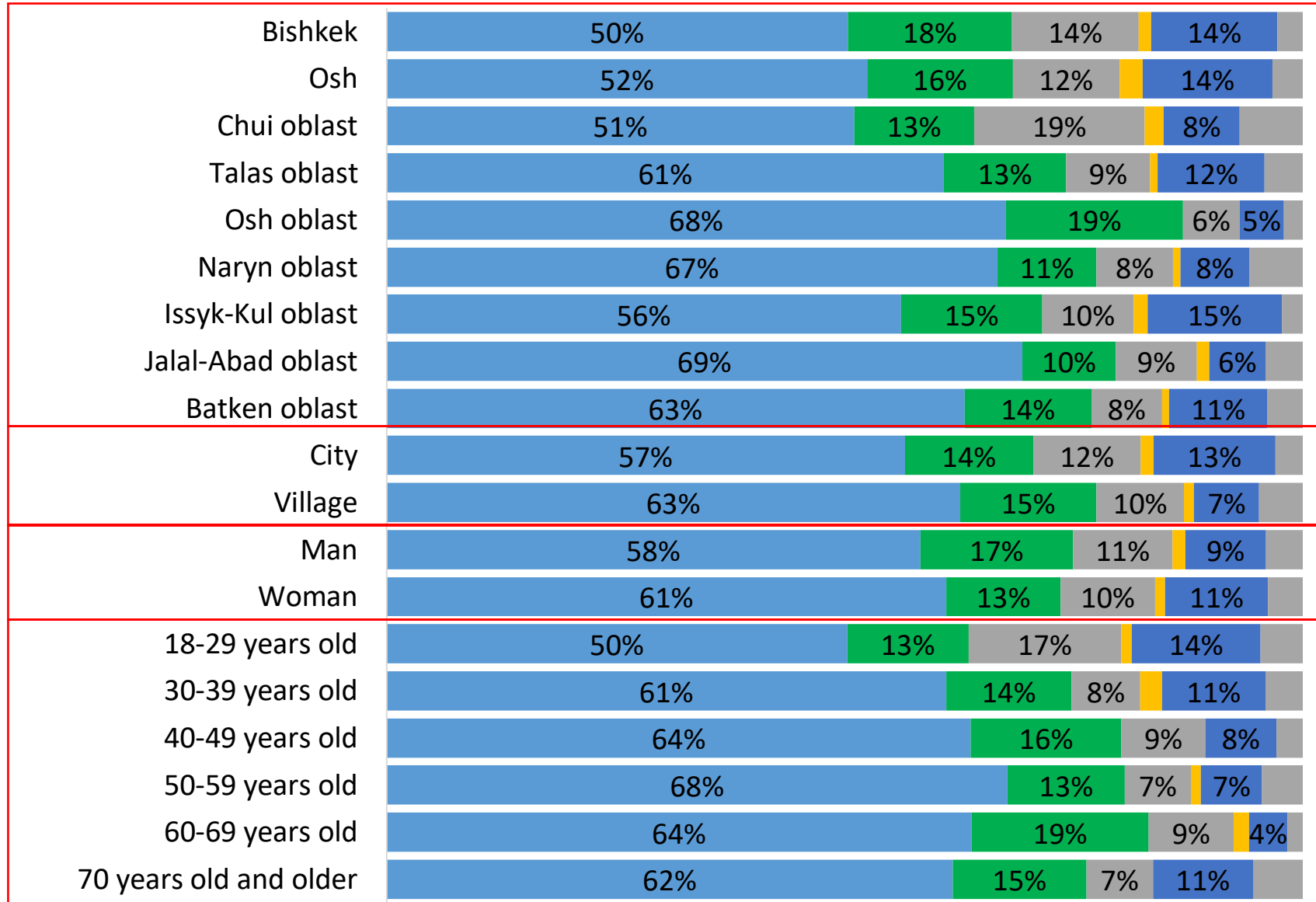
N=1202

- Aware of upcoming elections (n=1134) **94%**
- Planning to vote in the elections (n=838) **74%**
- Will go to the polls regardless of the epidemiological situation (n=718) **60%**
- May go, but it will depend on the epidemiological situation (n=174) **14%**



# Are you planning to take part in the parliamentary elections on October 4, 2020?

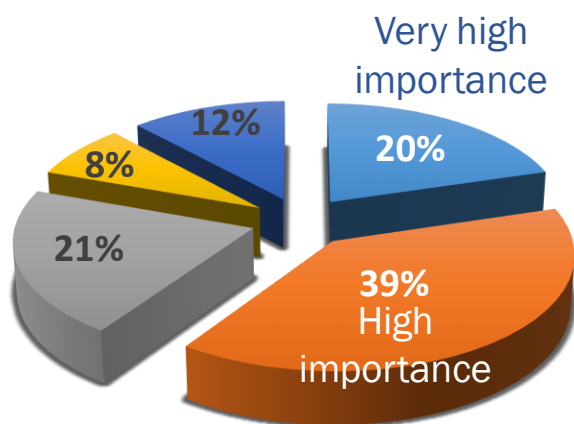
N=1202



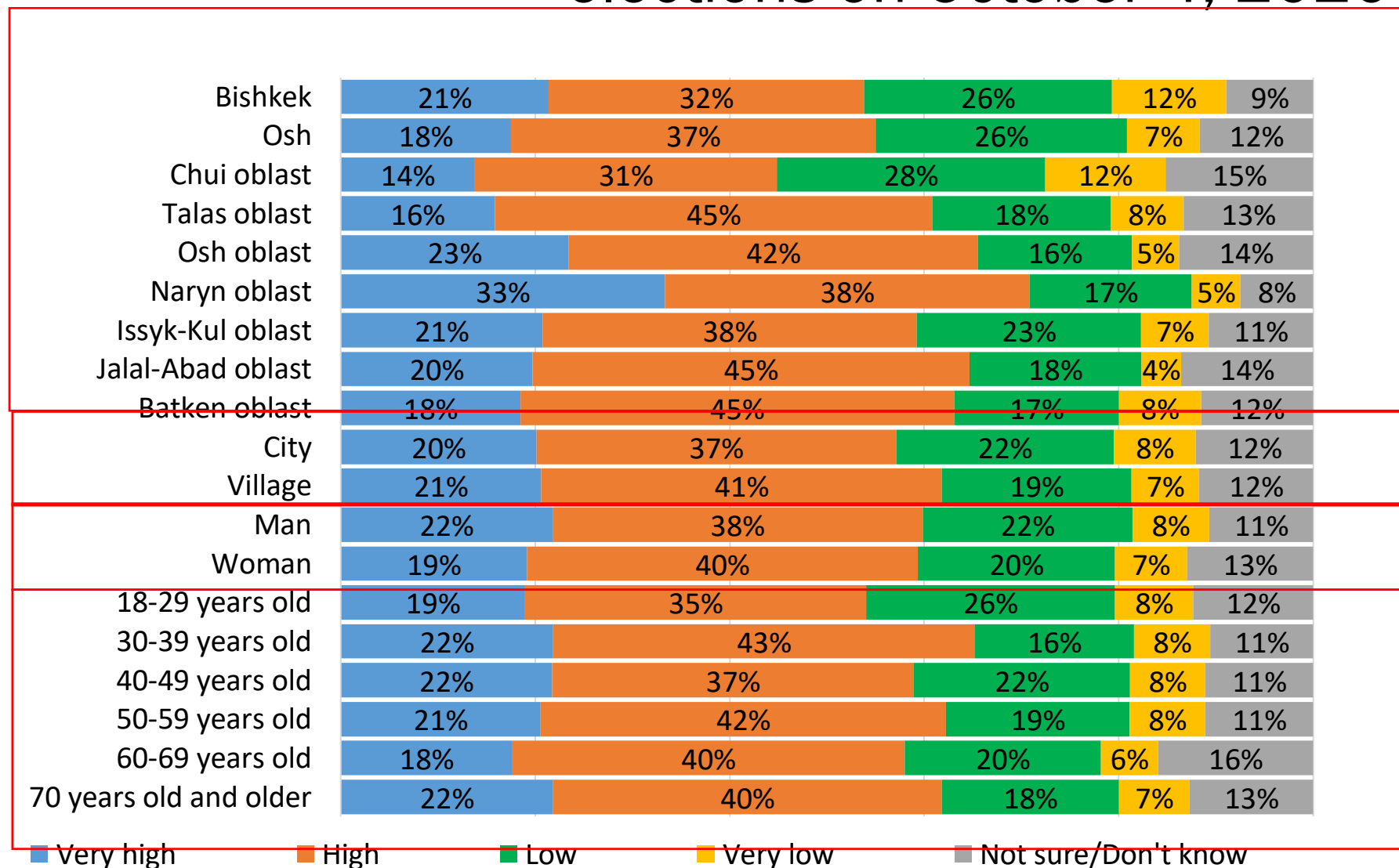
- I will go to the polls regardless of the epidemiological situation
- Maybe I'll go, but it depends on the epidemiological situation.
- I won't go, I worry for my health
- I'm not interested in elections
- No, I don't believe in transparency of election results
- Not sure/Don't know



# How important is a participation in the parliamentary elections on October 4, 2020?

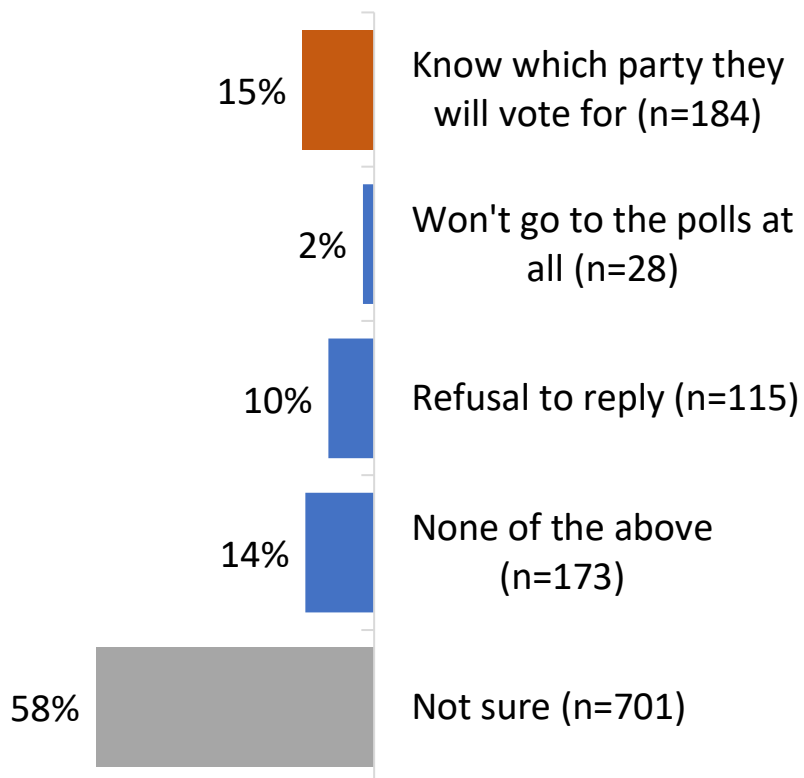


**59%** of respondents note high importance of participation in the elections

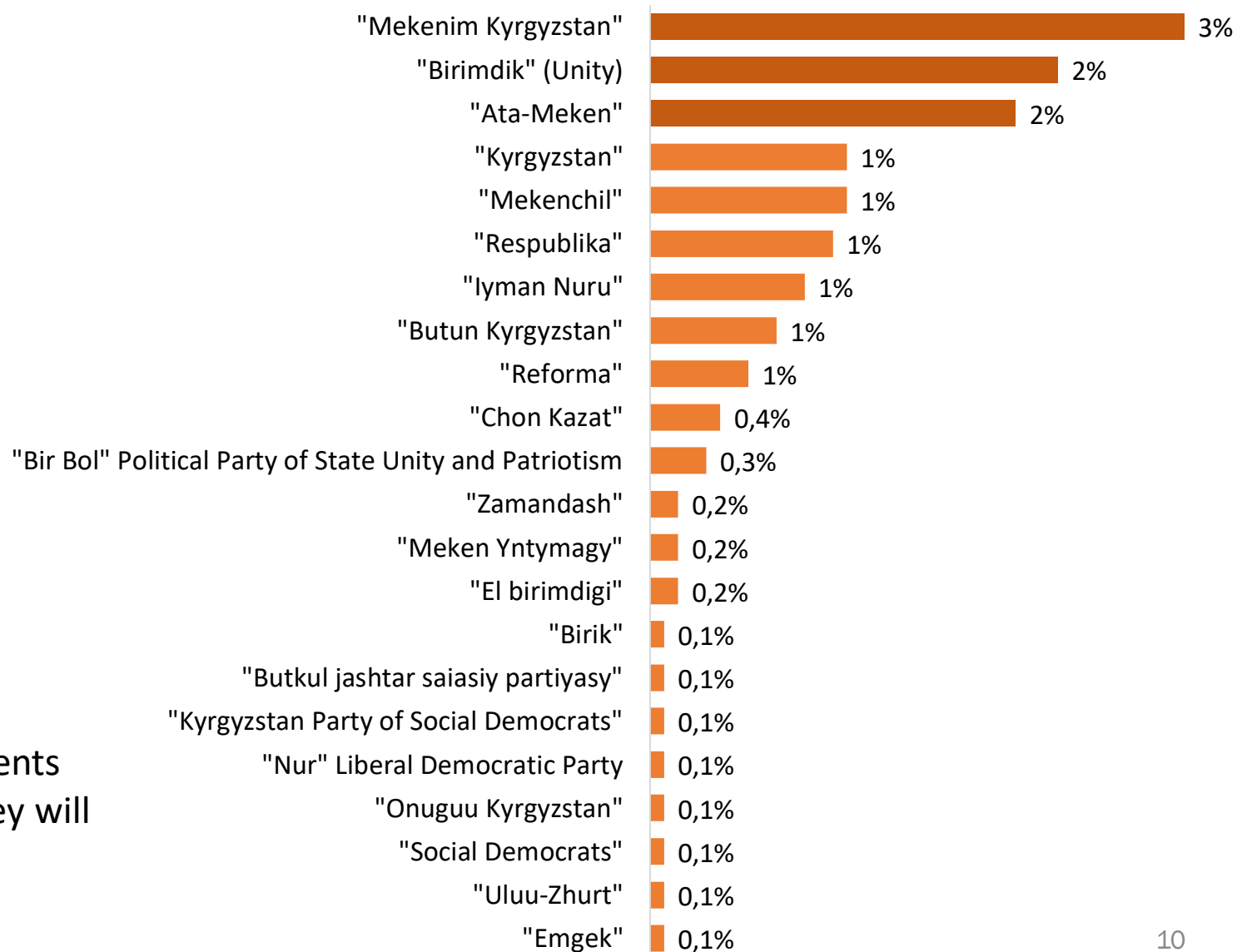


# If parliamentary elections are held tomorrow, which party would you vote for?

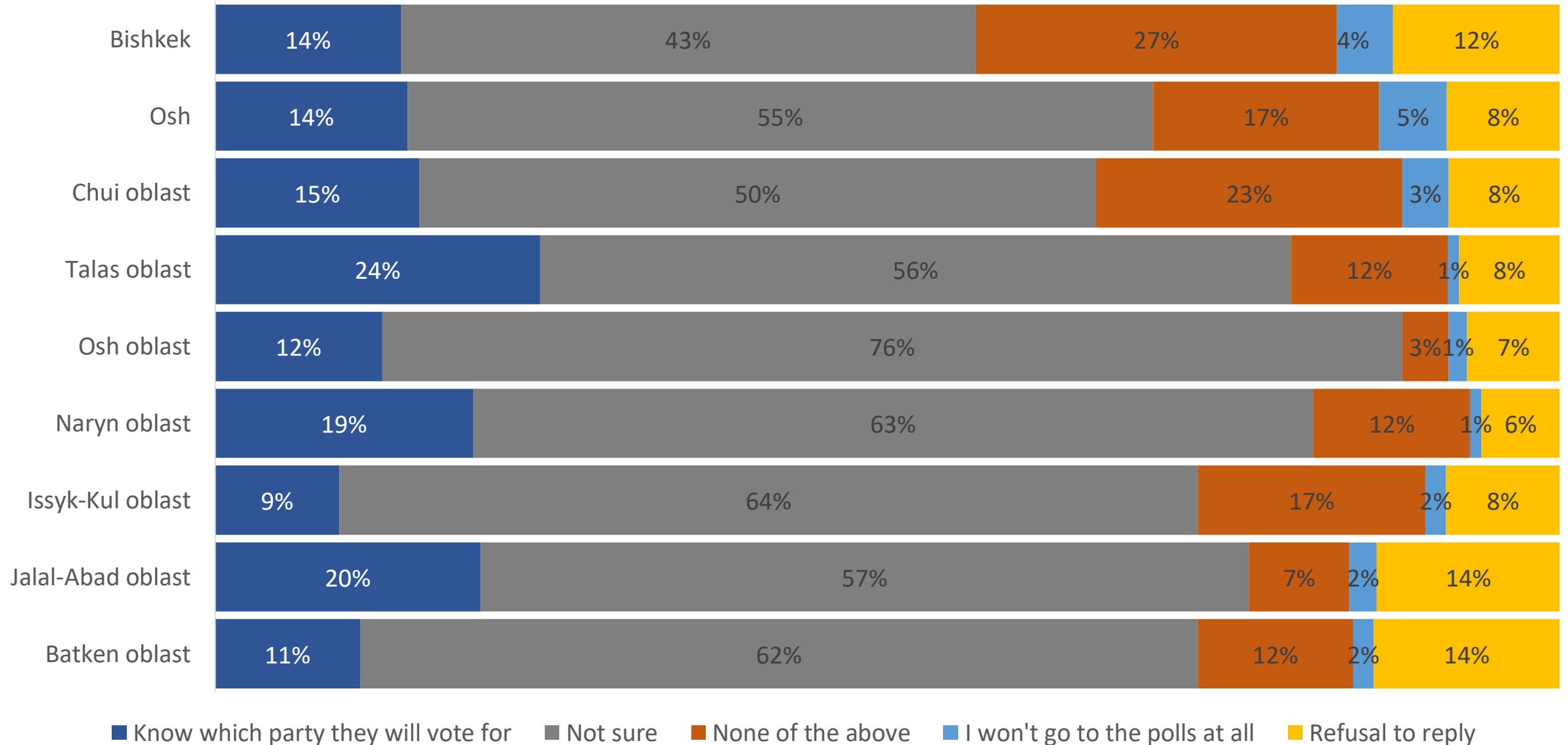
N=184



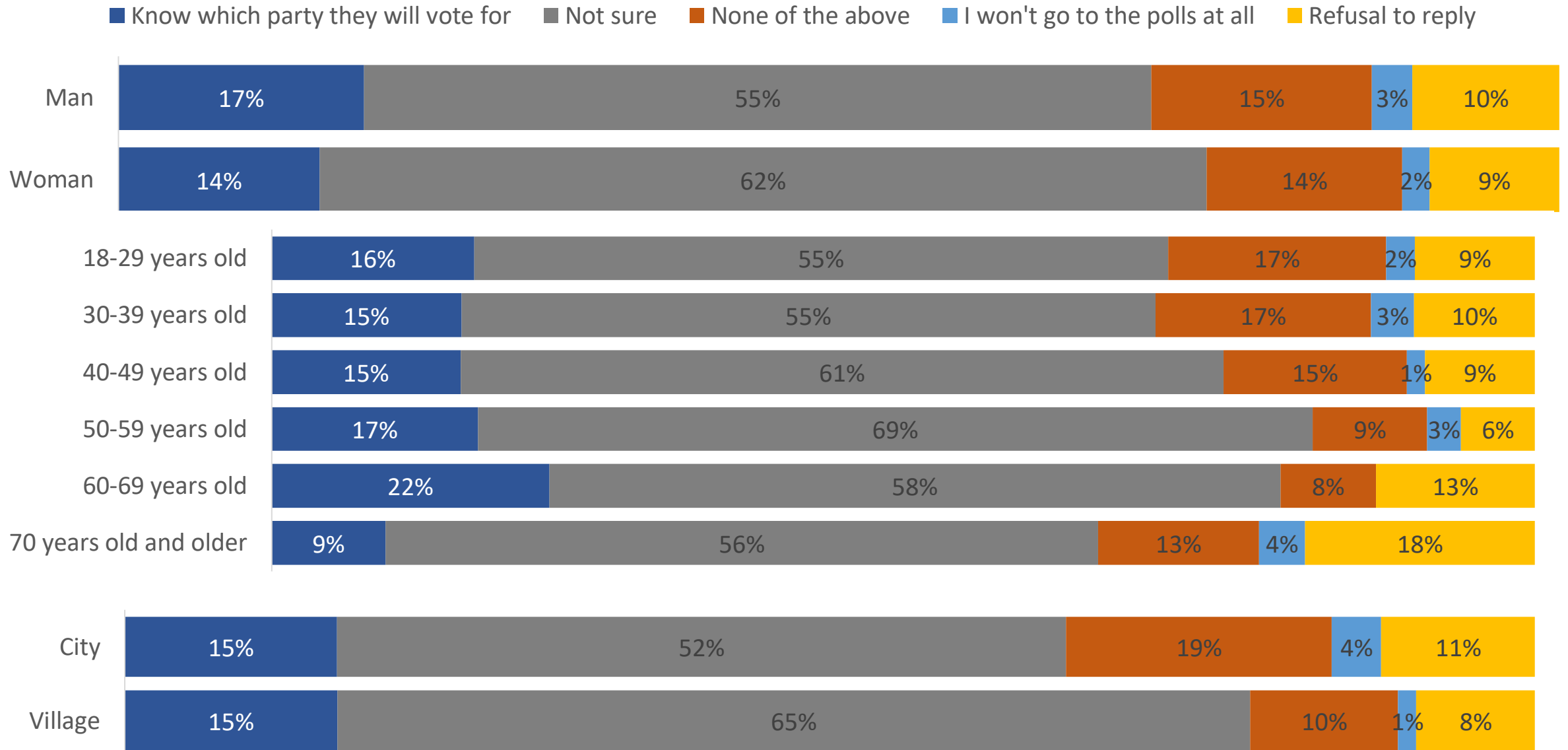
Only 15% of respondents know which party they will vote for



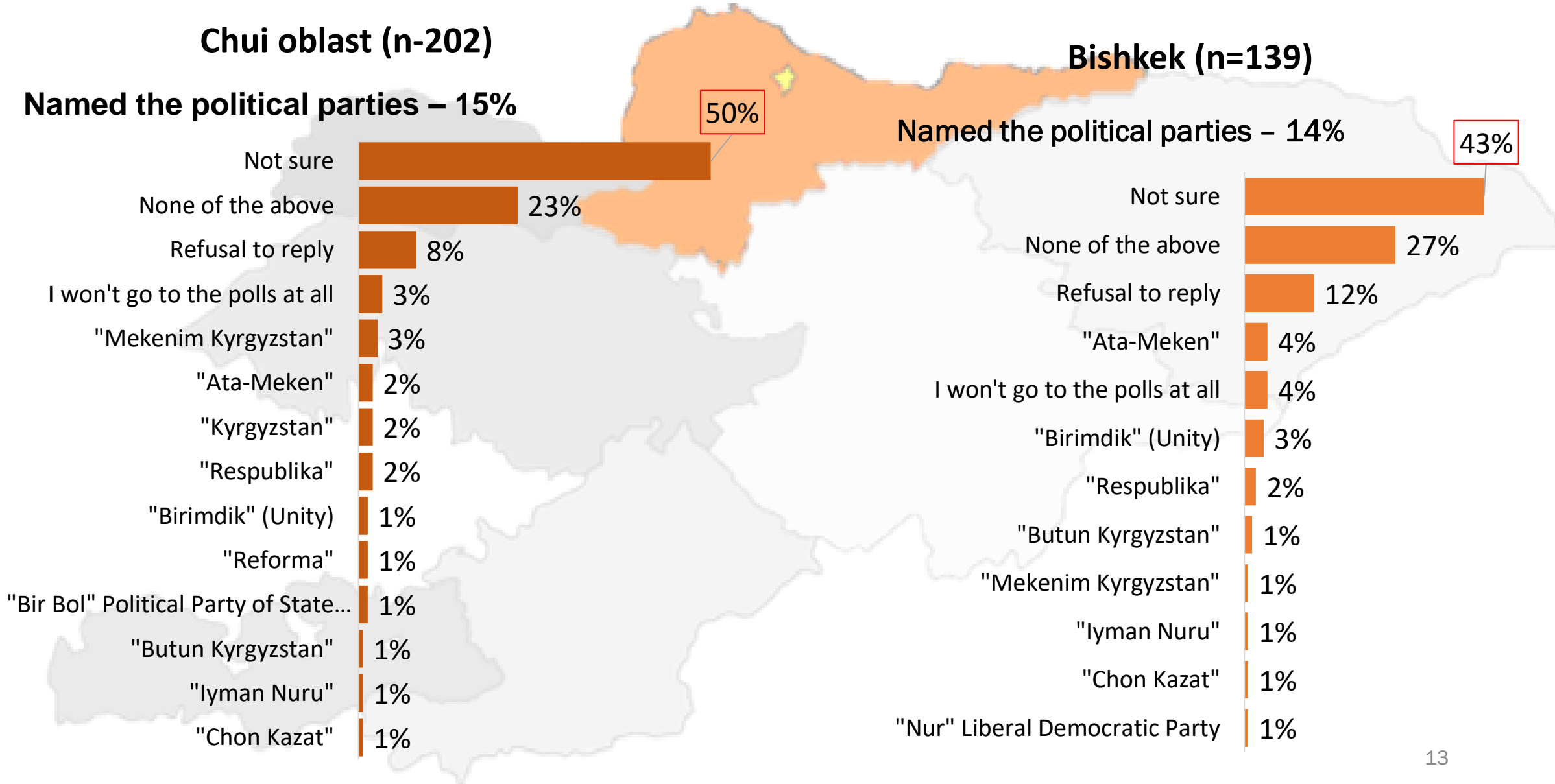
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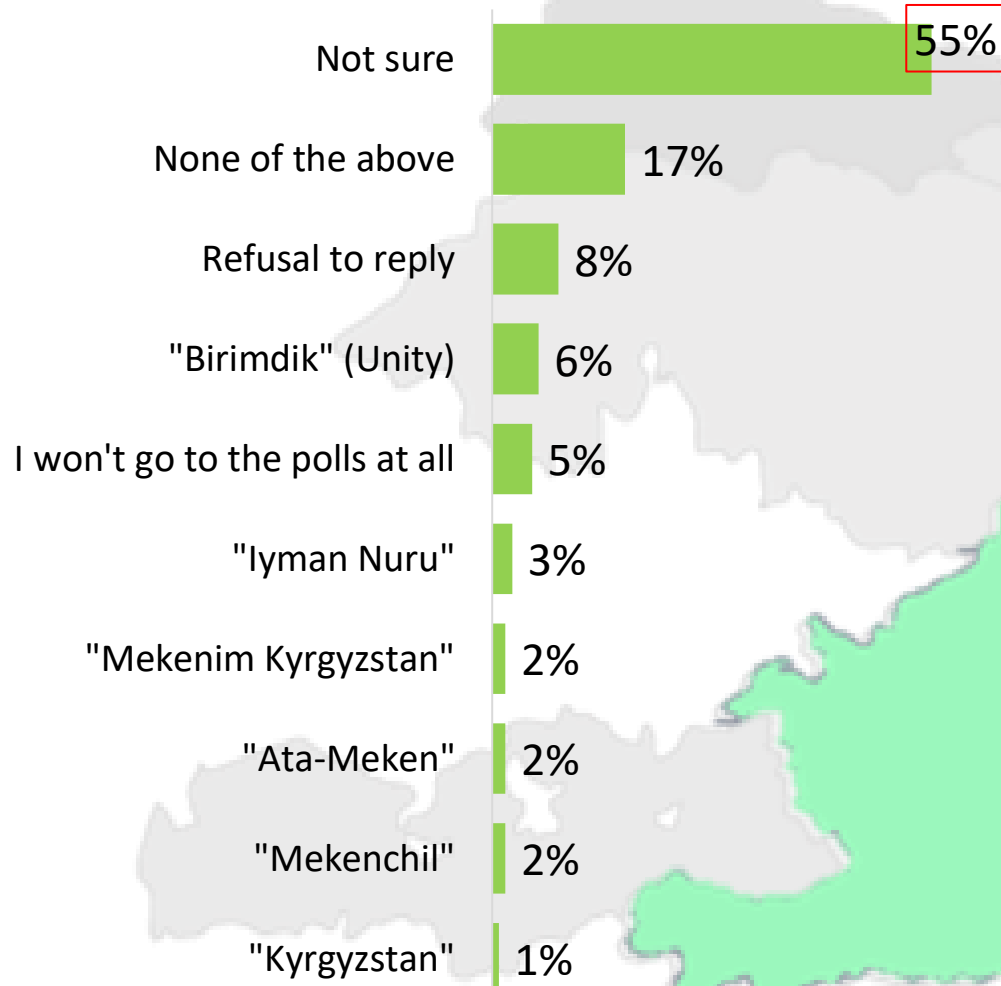
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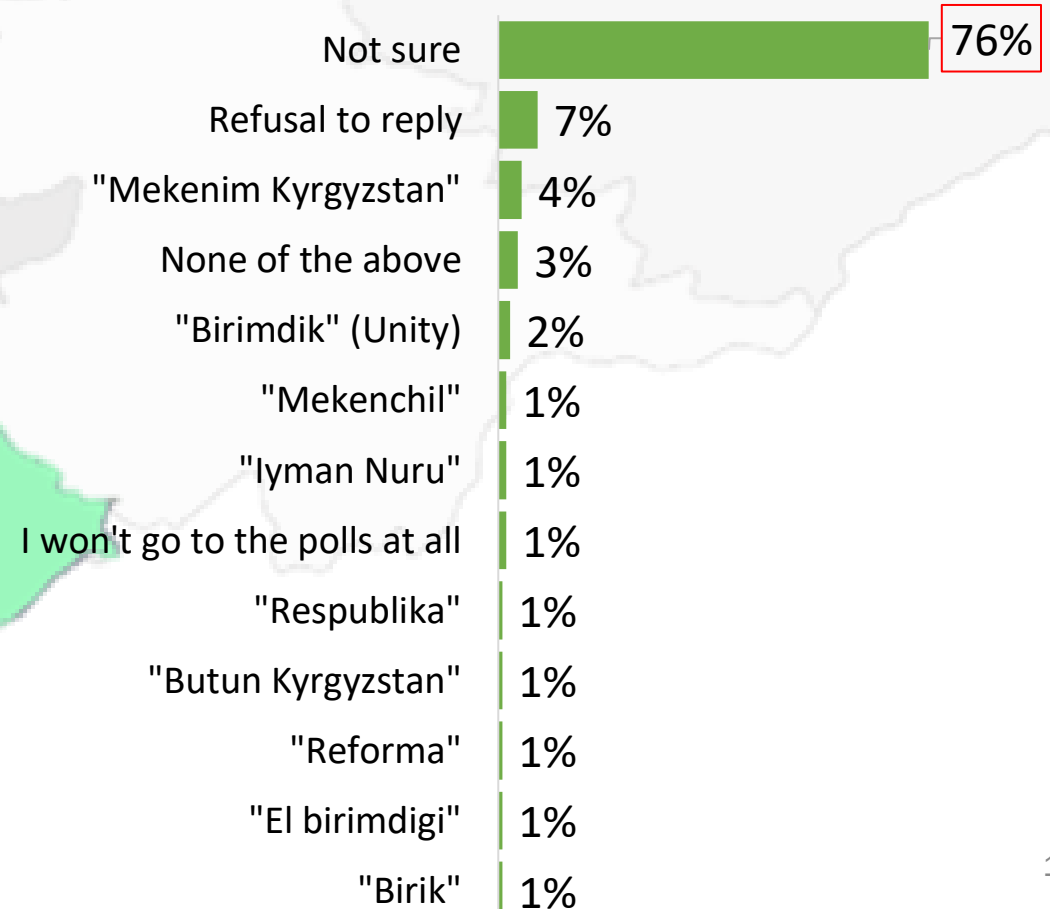
Osh (n=51)

Named the political parties – 14%

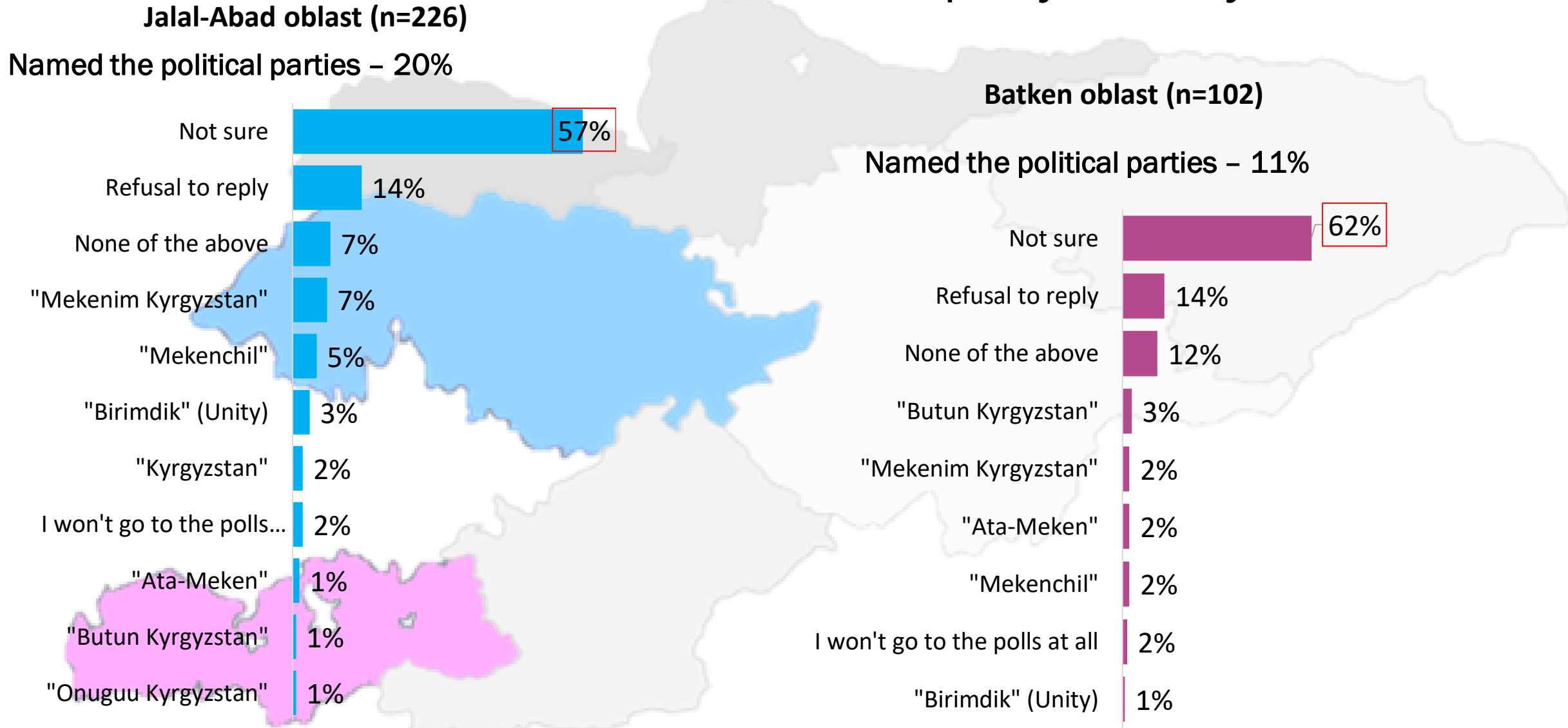


Osh oblast (n=248)

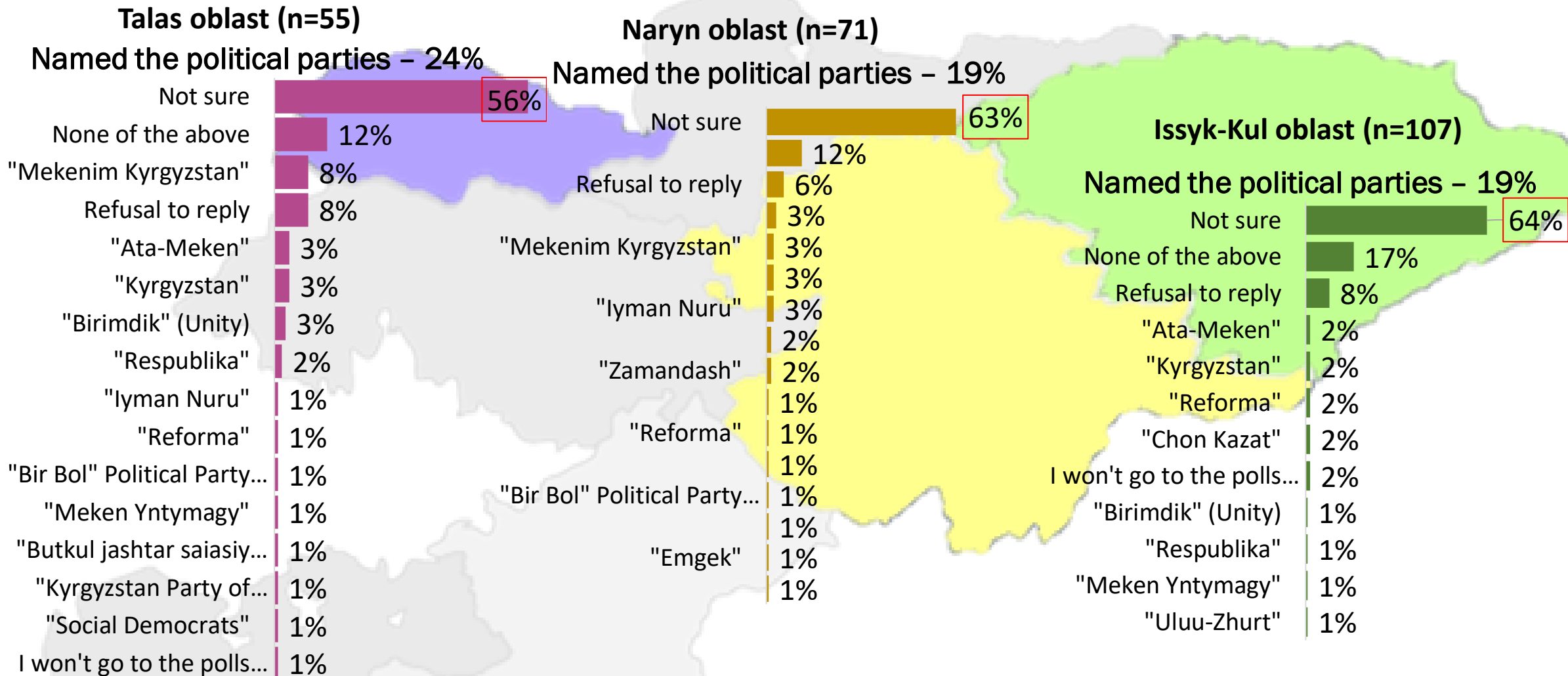
Named the political parties – 12%



# If parliamentary elections are held tomorrow, which party would you vote for?

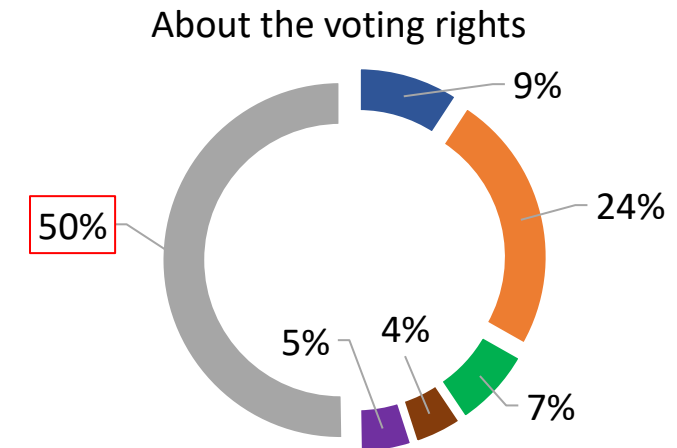
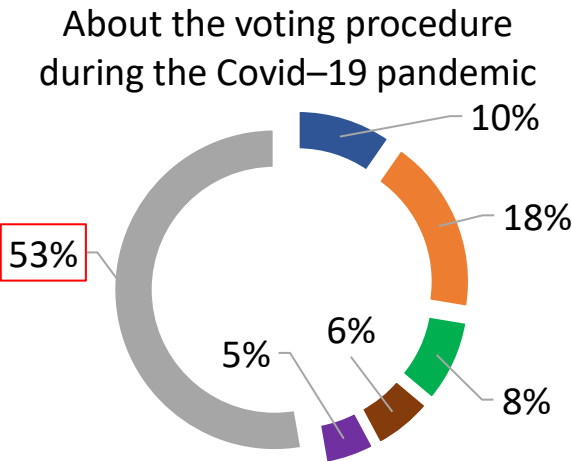
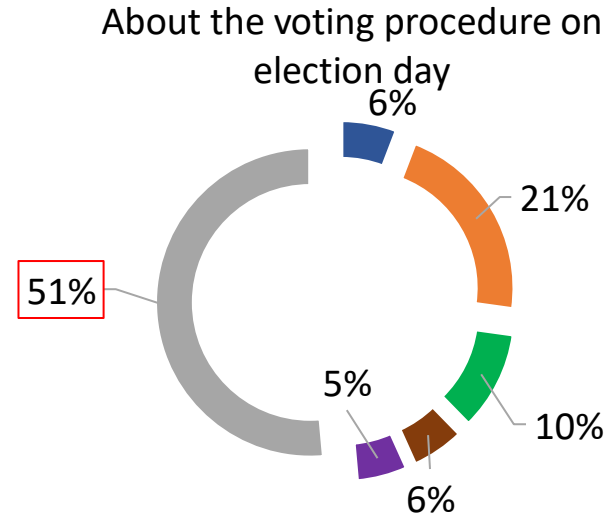
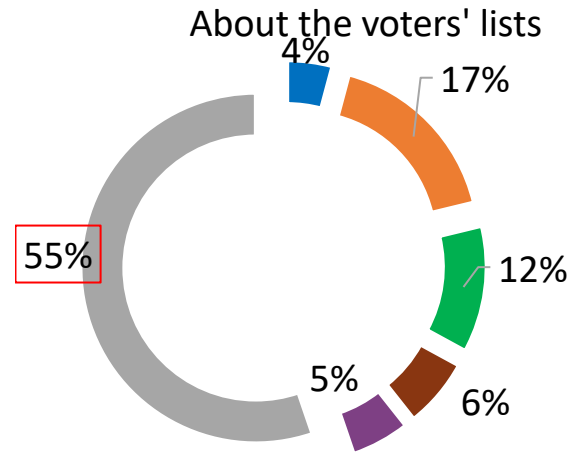


# If parliamentary elections are held tomorrow, which party would you vote for?



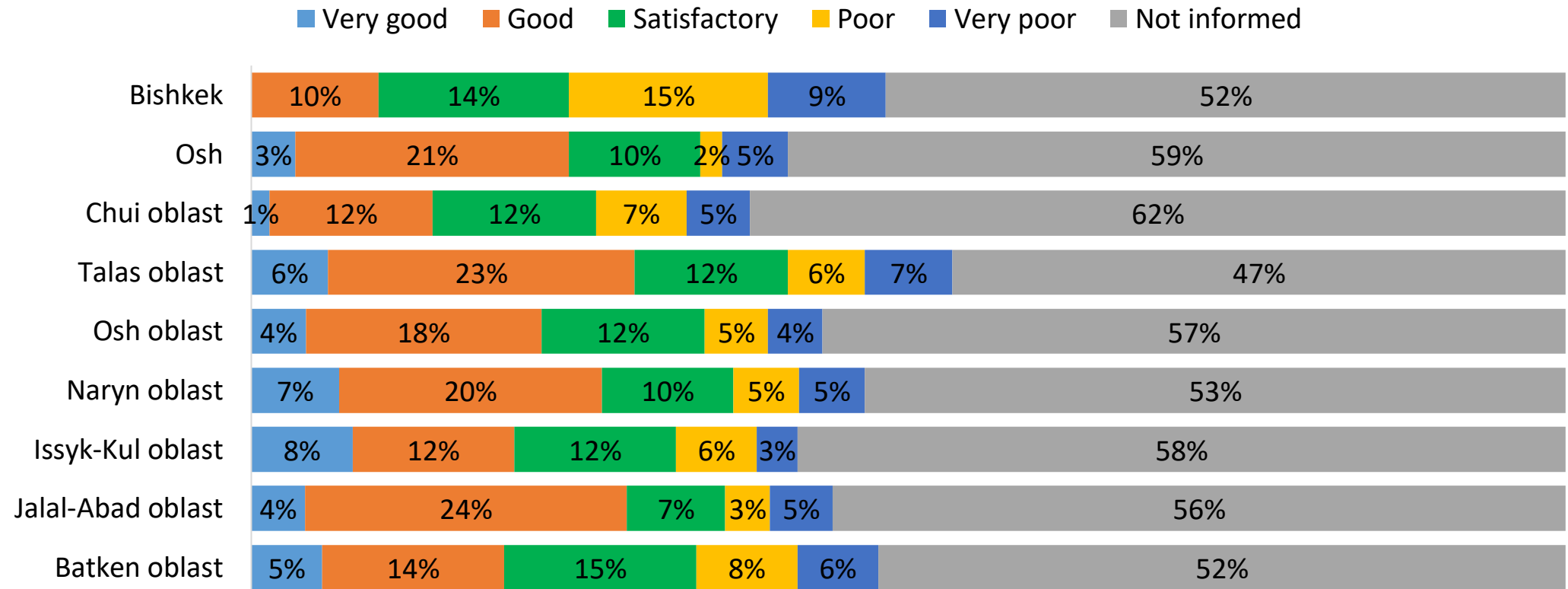


# How well informed are you about the following aspects?

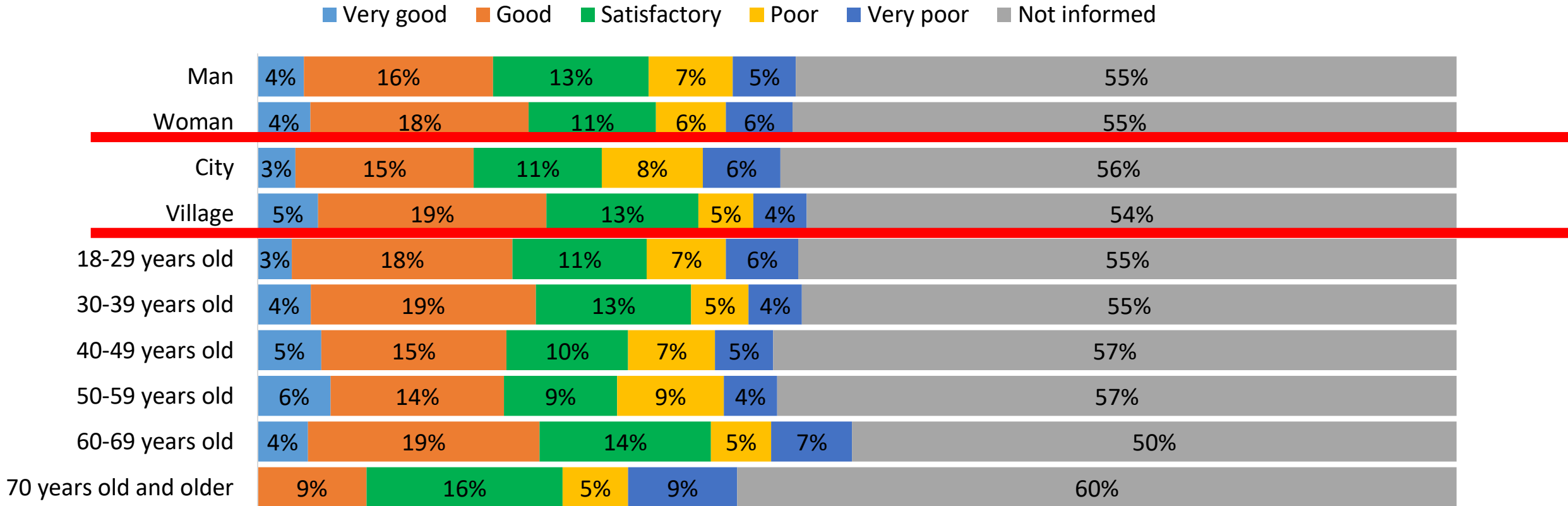


More than 50% of respondents remain uninformed about all the above-mentioned aspects.

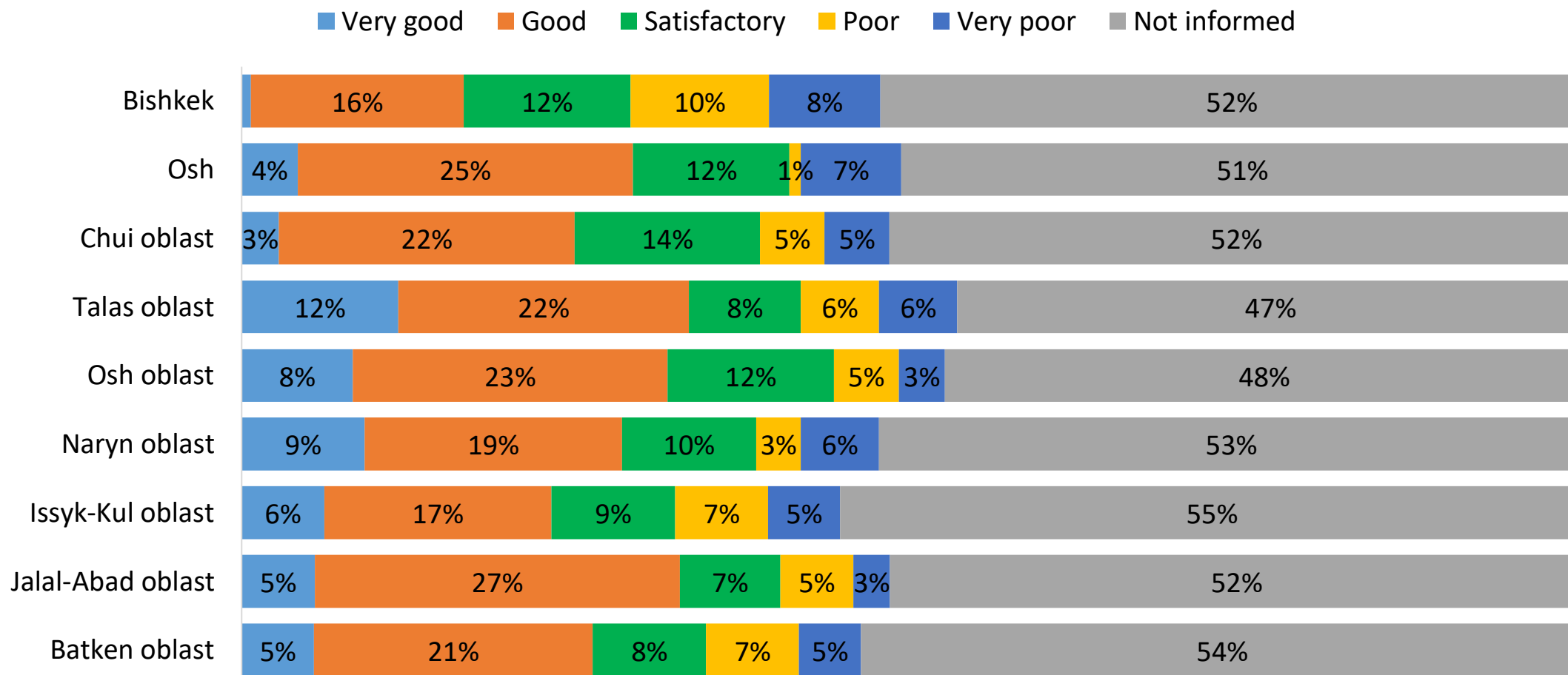
# How well informed are you about how to check your name in the voter list?



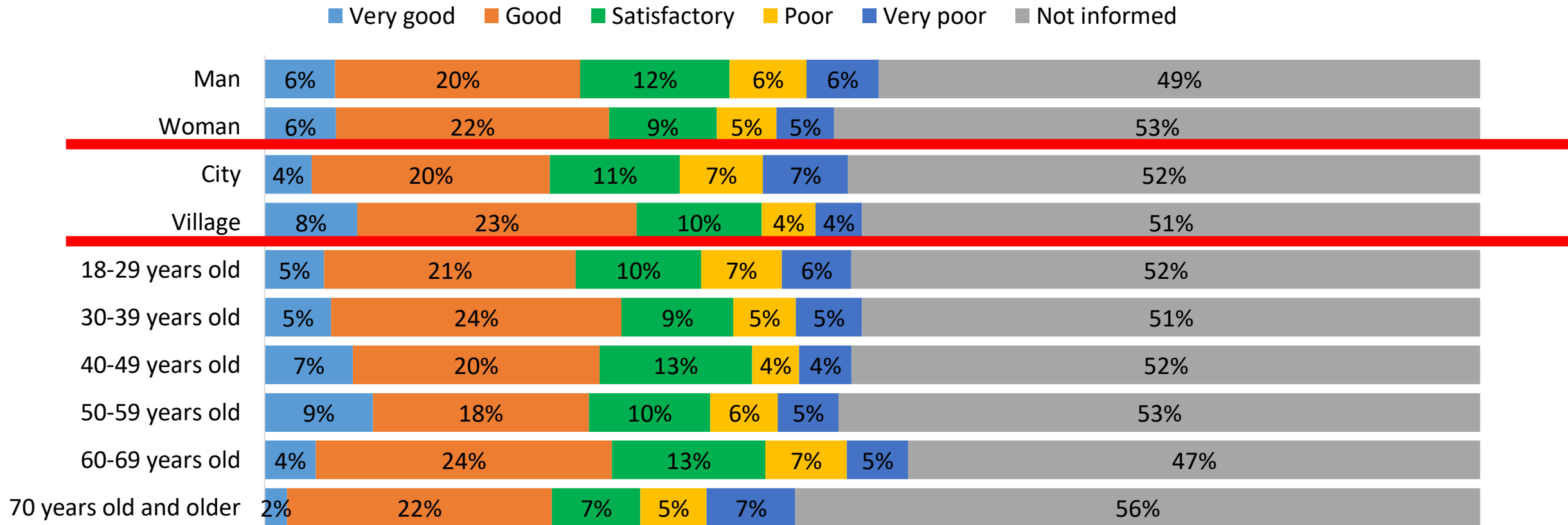
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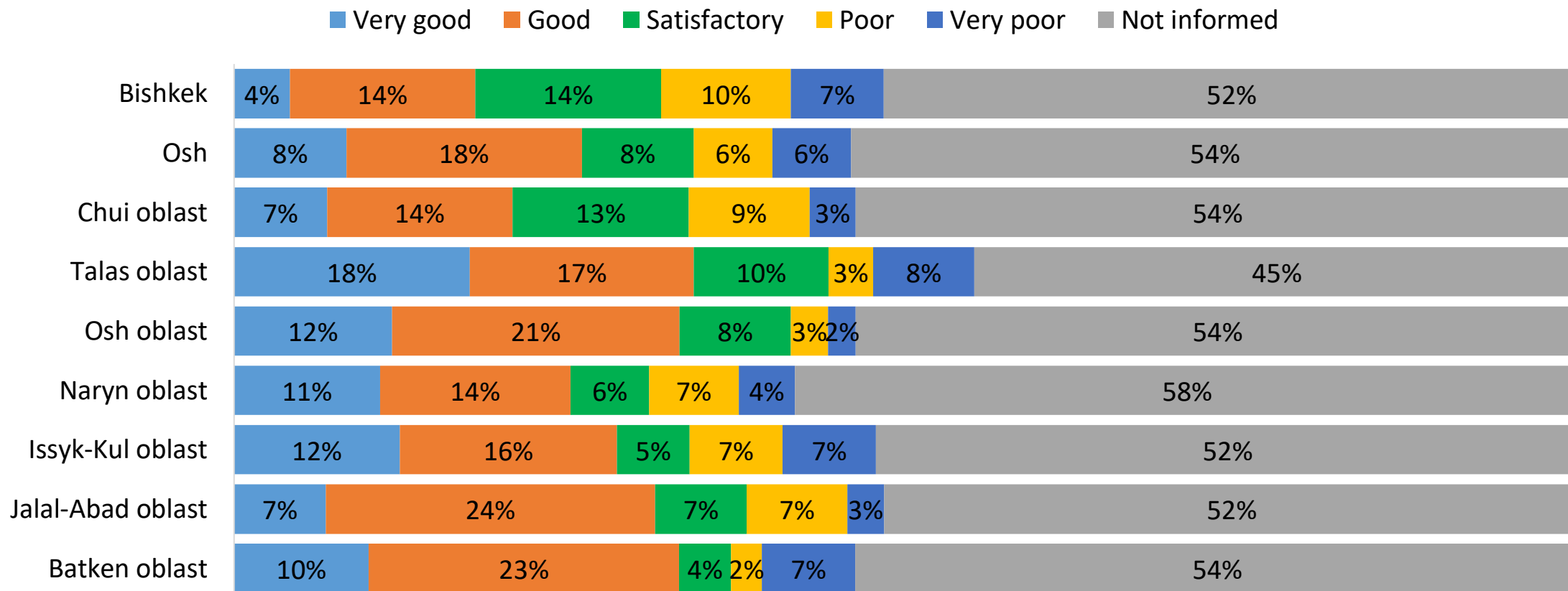
# How well do you feel you have been informed about the voting procedures on Election Day?



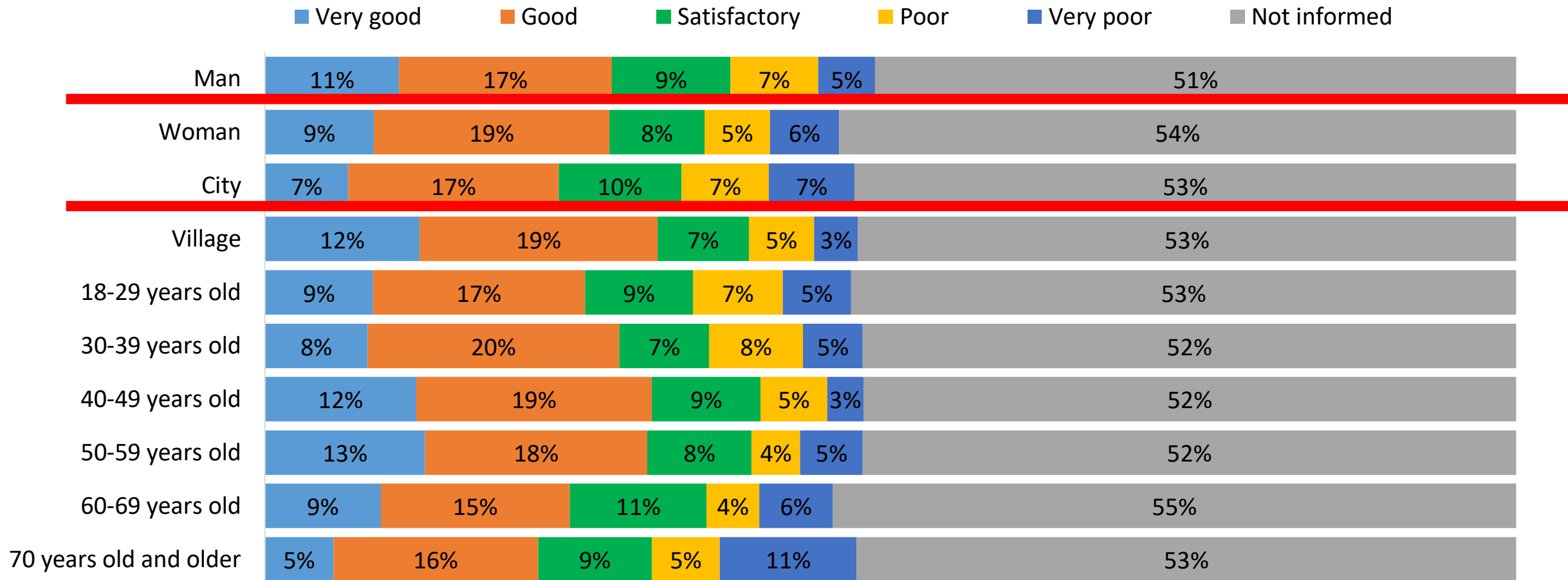
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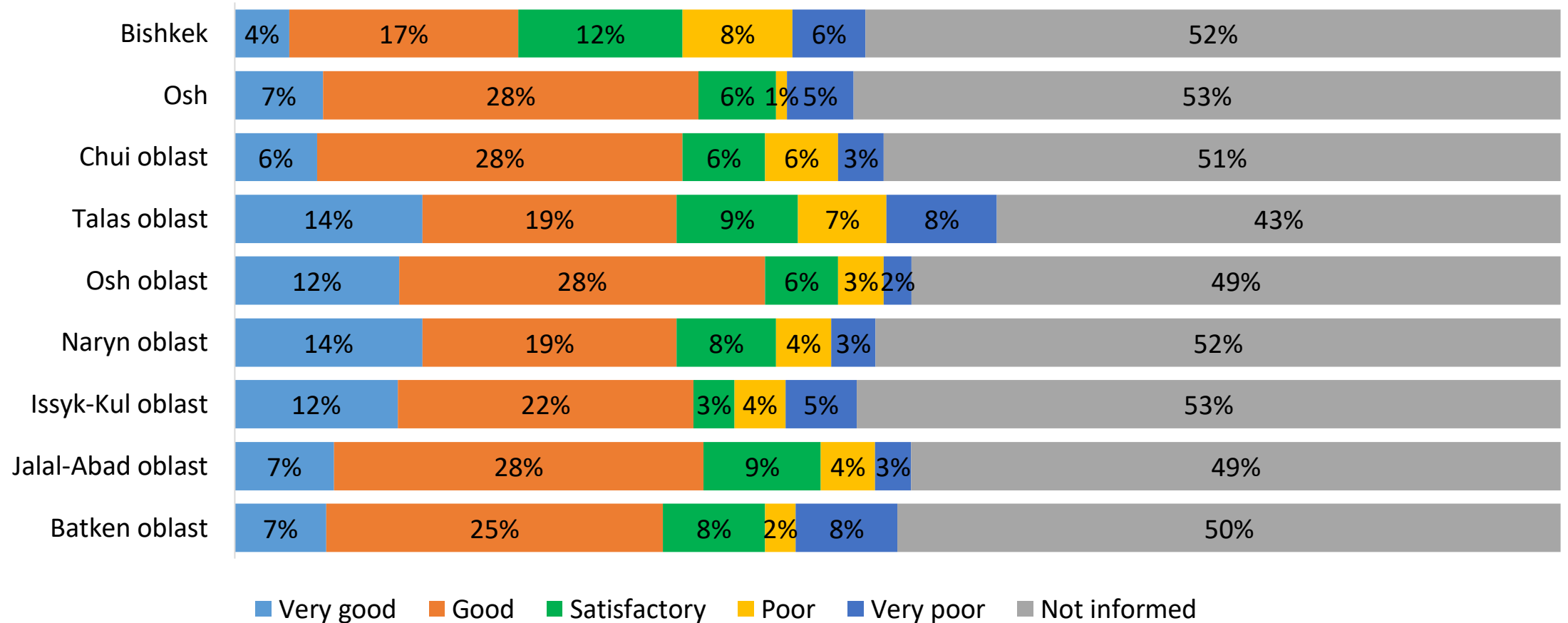
# How well do you feel you have been informed about the voting procedures on Election Day considering COVID-19?



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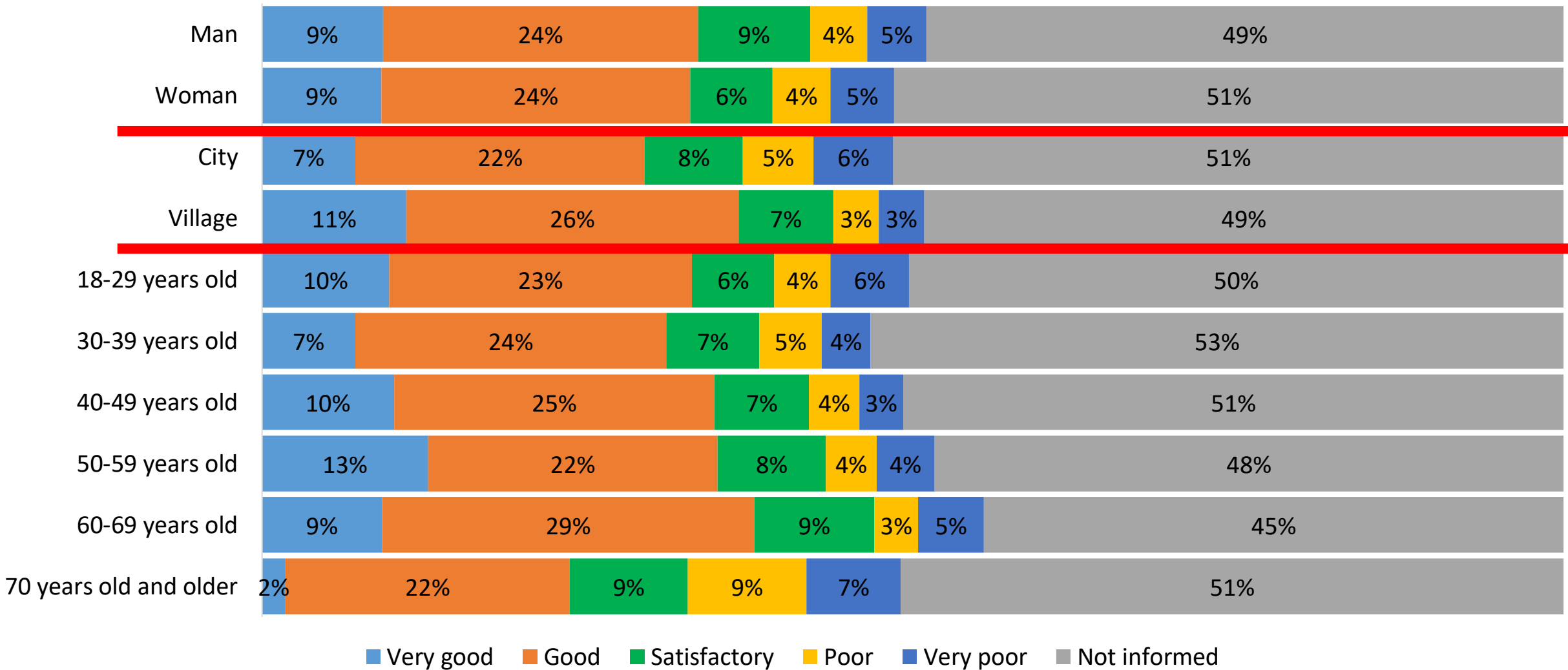
# How well do you feel you have been informed about the voting rights?



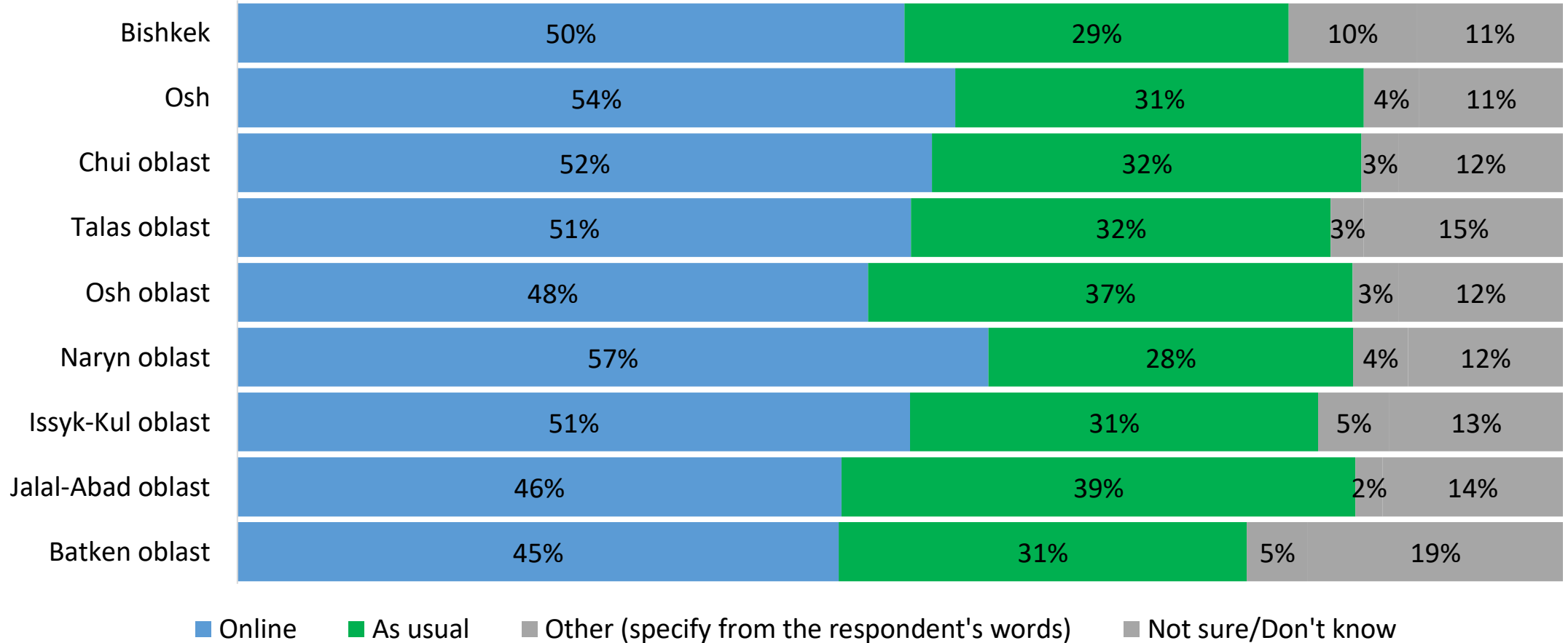
The majority of respondents are NOT informed about their voter's rights. More than 30% of respondents in the oblasts and in the city of Osh noted a rather high assessment of awareness about their rights as a voter.



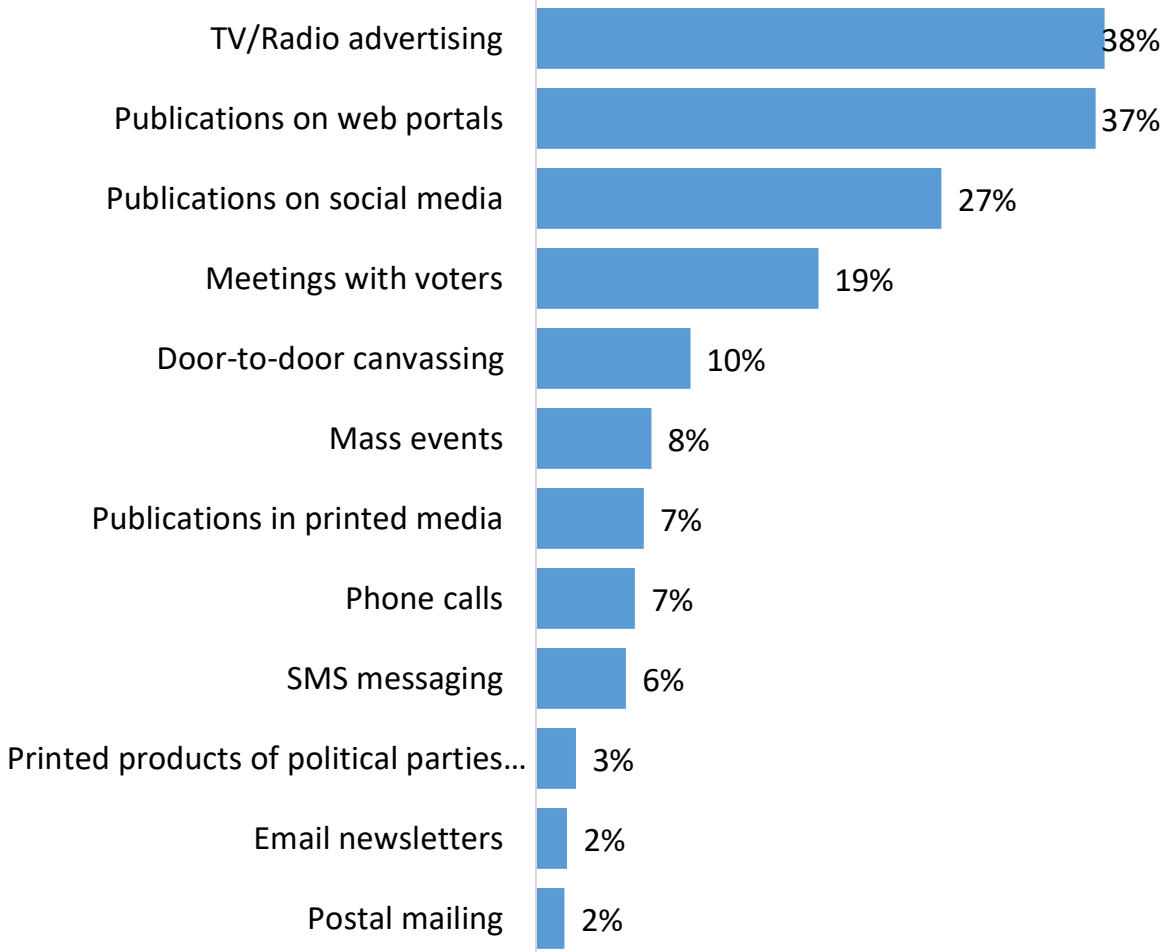
# How well do you feel you have been informed about the voting rights?



# What type of election campaigning in your opinion is the most effective in the context of COVID-19?



# What is most likely to affect your choice of which political party to vote for in the Parliamentary Elections on October 4, 2020?

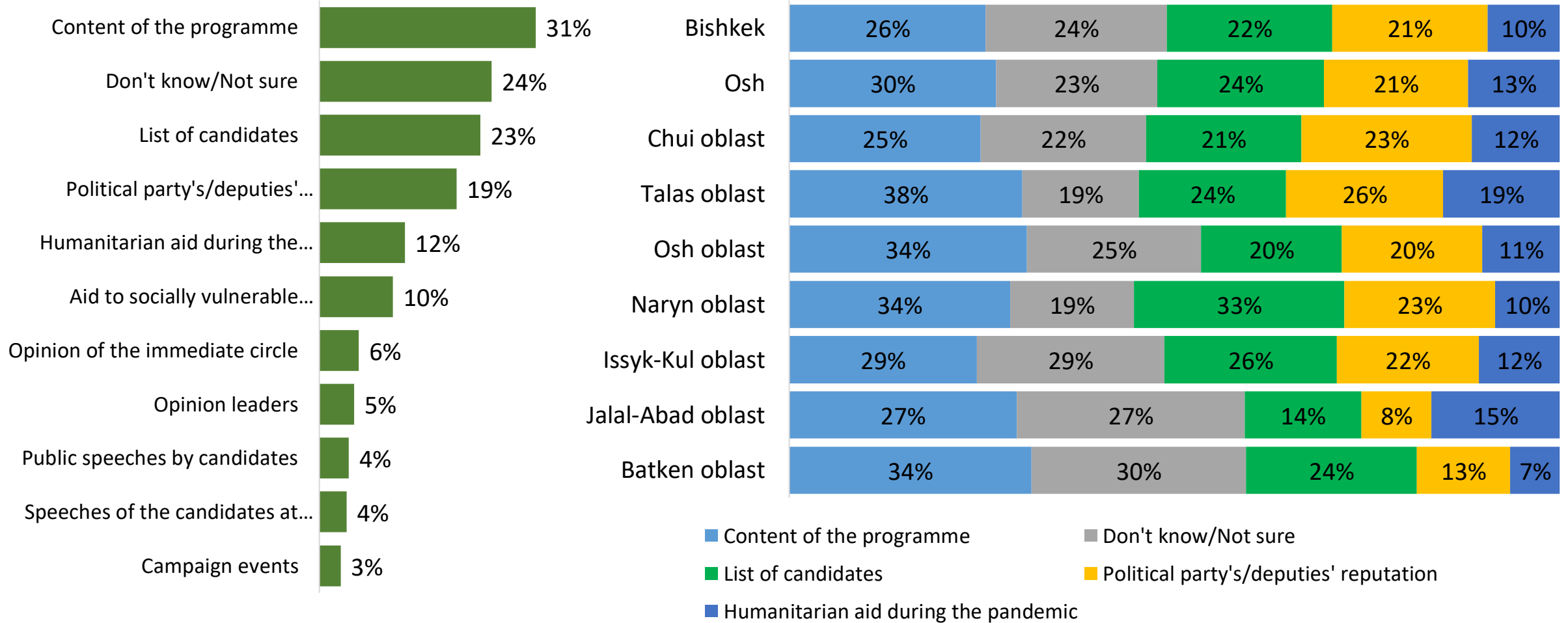


The most effective and preferred methods of election campaigning in the context of Covid-19, as respondents believe, are:

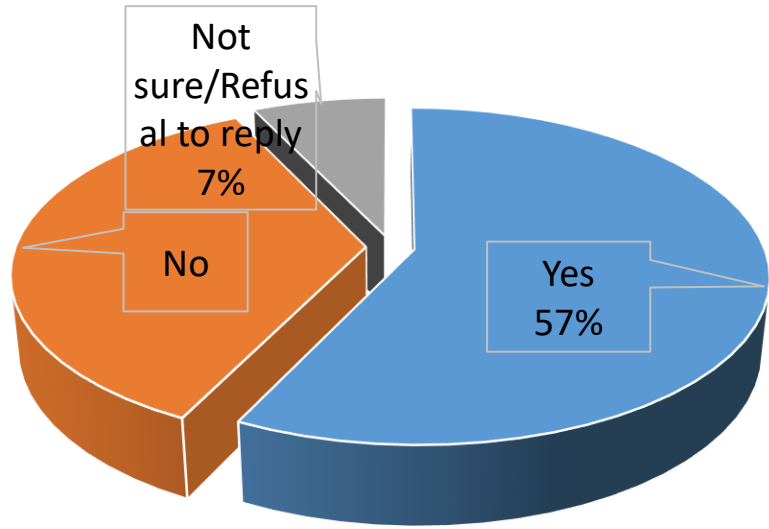
- TV/Radio advertising
- Publications on web portals
- Publications on social media
- Meetings with voters.

This tendency is widespread among all respondents regardless of their place of residence and gender and age differences.

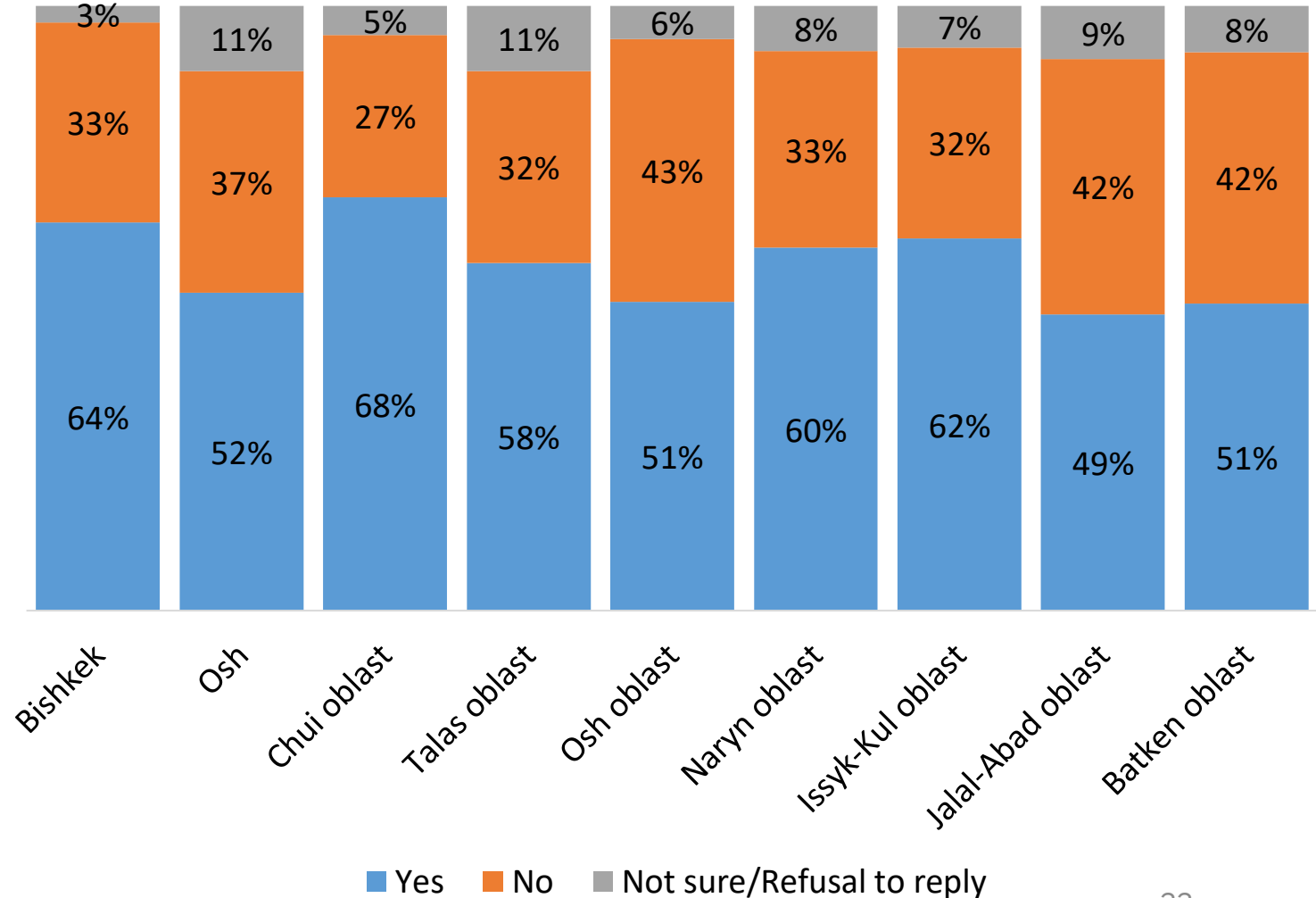
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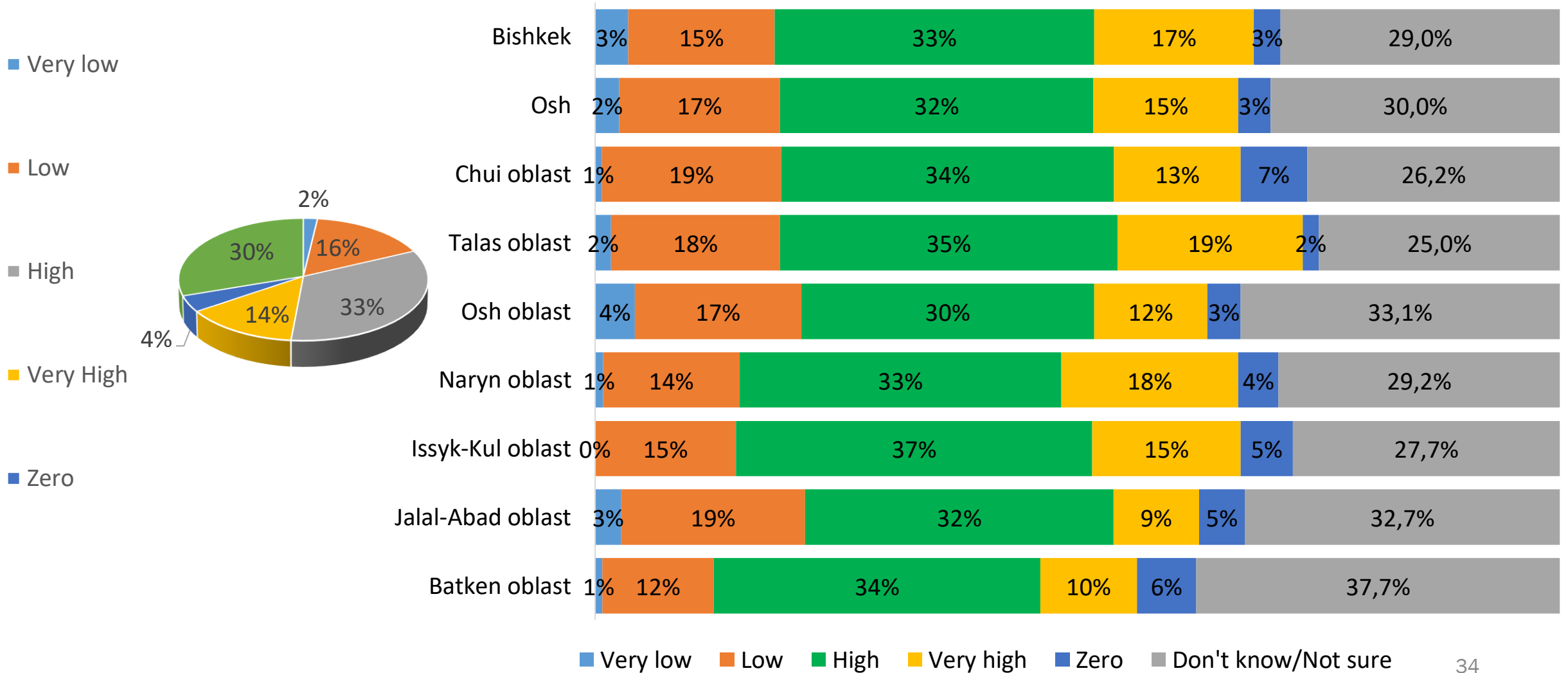
# Are you aware of the fact that using the administrative resource is a crime according to the new changes to the law?



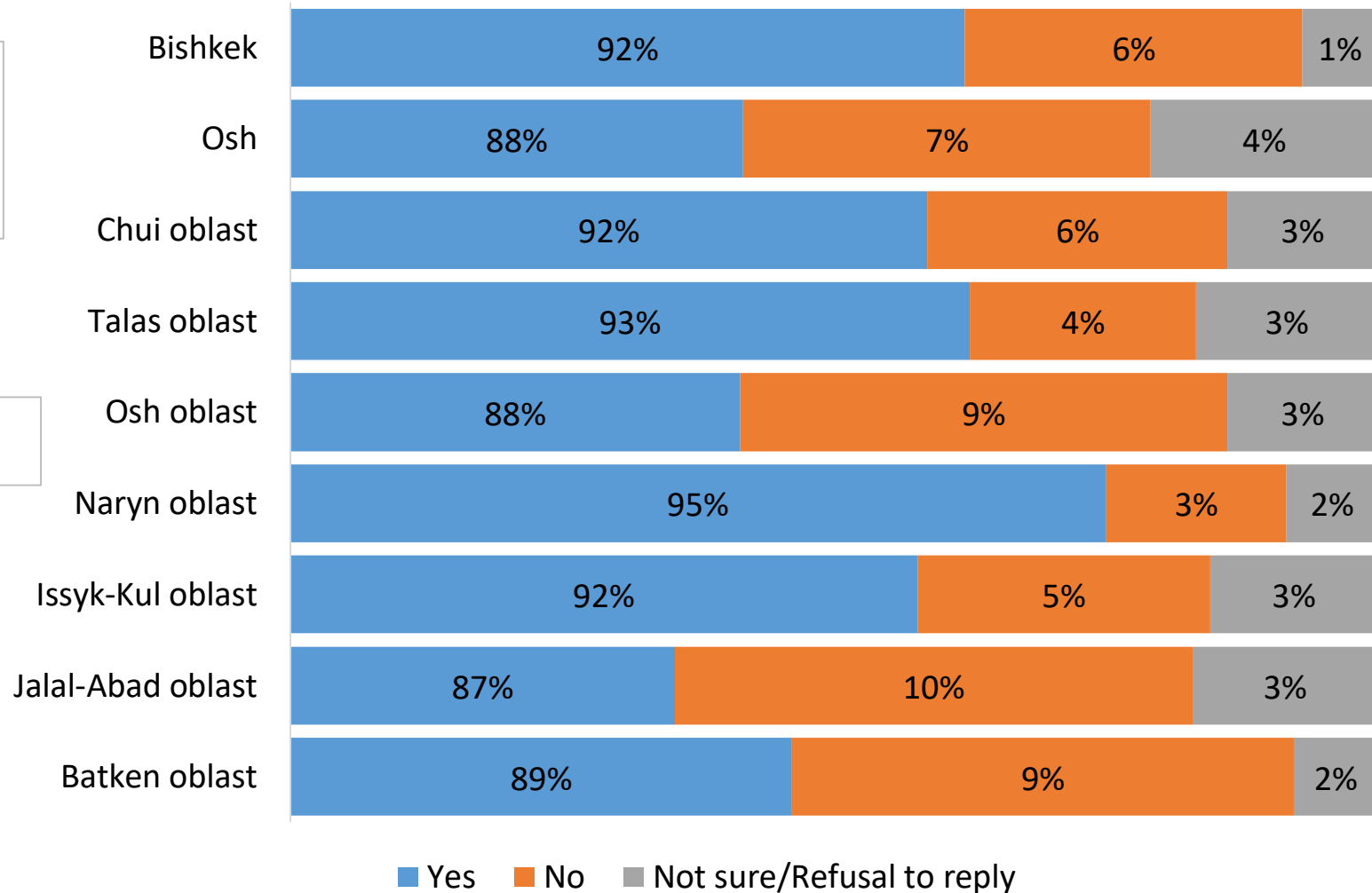
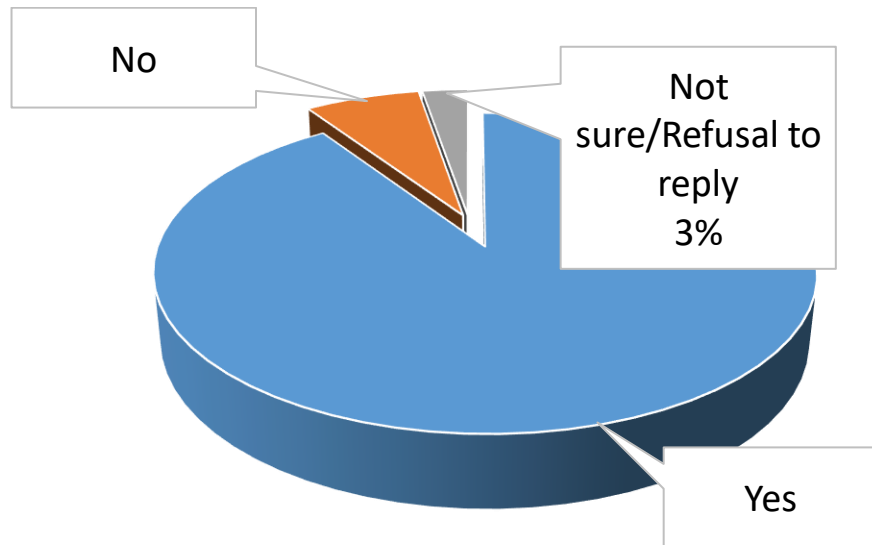
According to the results of the survey, 57% of the population is aware that the use of administrative resources is a violation of law under current legislation. There are no significant differences in terms of sex and age and regional categories.



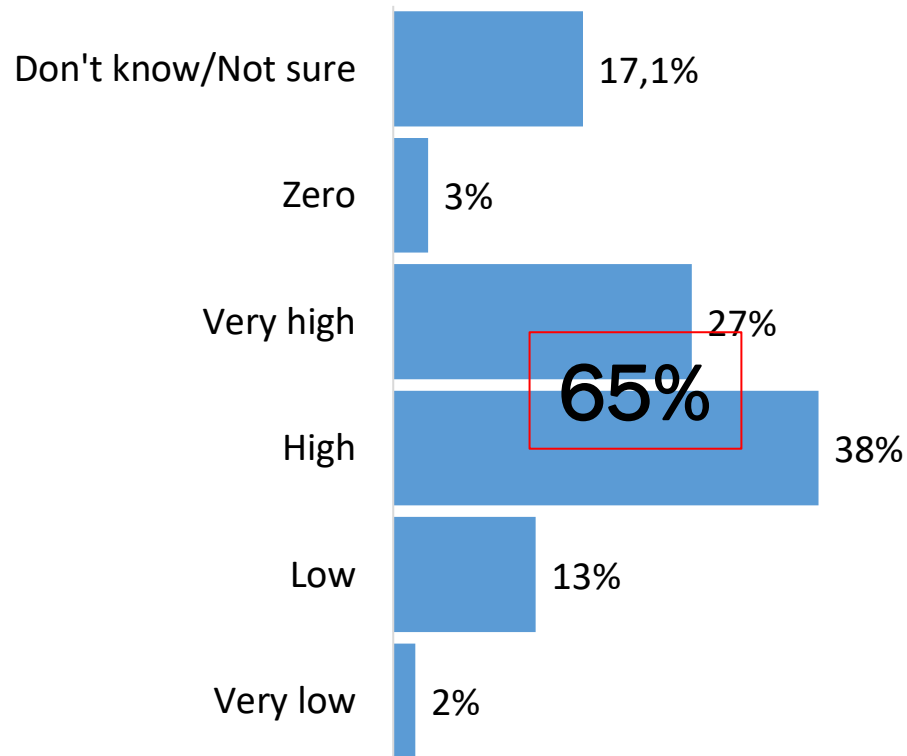
# In your opinion what is the probability of using the administrative resource in the 2020 parliamentary election?



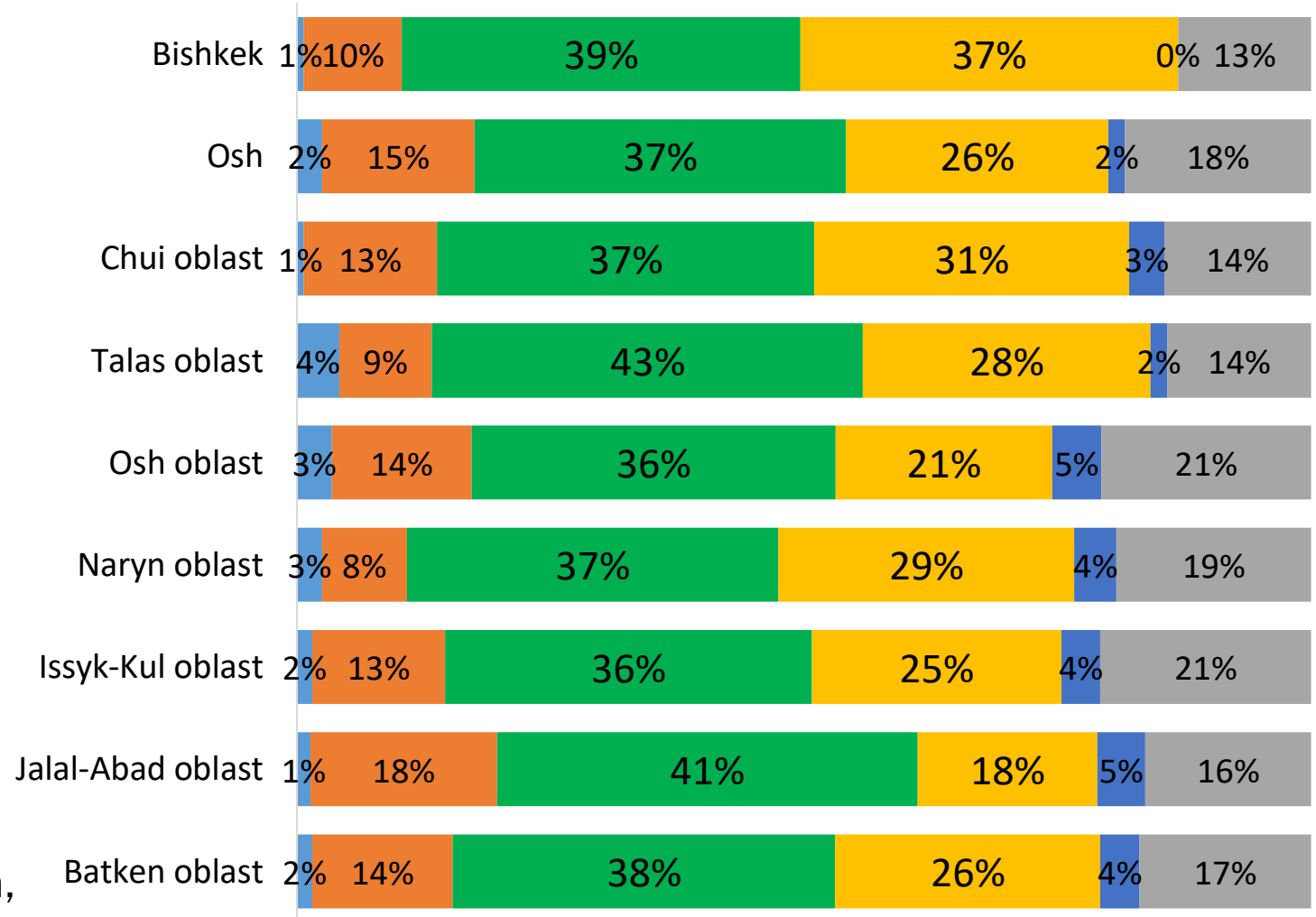
# Are you aware of the fact that accepting bribes/vote buying is a crime according to the new changes to the law?



# In your opinion, what is the probability of vote buying in the 2020 parliamentary elections?



The respondents noted that the probability of using vote-buying in the upcoming Parliamentary Elections is high, as noted by 65% of respondents.



■ Very low ■ Low ■ High ■ Very high ■ Zero ■ Don't know/Not sure



# Sample distribution by strata

|                   | Population over 18 years old | Population percentage | Proportionally weighted | Equal-size sample | Sampling error |
|-------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Bishkek           | 391,833                      | 12%                   | 139                     | 145               | ±8.14          |
| Osh               | 143,377                      | 4%                    | 51                      | 120               | ±8.94          |
| Chui oblast       | 569,370                      | 17%                   | 202                     | 145               | ±8.14          |
| Talas oblast      | 154,959                      | 5%                    | 55                      | 120               | ±8.94          |
| Osh oblast        | 700,891                      | 21%                   | 248                     | 145               | ±8.14          |
| Naryn oblast      | 201,584                      | 6%                    | 71                      | 120               | ±8.94          |
| Issyk-Kul oblast  | 302,845                      | 9%                    | 107                     | 130               | ±8.59          |
| Jalal-Abad oblast | 638,189                      | 19%                   | 226                     | 147               | ±8.14          |
| Batken oblast     | 289,163                      | 9%                    | 102                     | 130               | ±8.59          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>      | <b>3,392,211</b>             | <b>100%</b>           | <b>1,202</b>            | <b>1,202</b>      | <b>2.83</b>    |

# Methodology

- The public opinion poll was conducted from August 21 to September 4. The survey of respondents was conducted through a personal interview method through phone surveying to cell phone numbers of major mobile operators (O!, Megacom, Beeline). The sociological research was conducted in all oblasts of the Kyrgyz Republic.
- In order to conduct the research and make extrapolations of the findings to the entire population, the sample size of 1,202 residents of the Kyrgyz Republic over 18 years old was drawn. The indicated sample size is sufficient and allows drawing conclusions with an accuracy of  $\pm 2.8\%$  at a 95% confidence level at the level of the population. The confidence level shows the probability of a random answer falling into a confidence interval. The confidence interval can be understood as a margin of error, setting the range of a part of the distribution curve on both sides of the selected point where the answers can fall.
- A stratified sample was built to conduct the research. Nine strata were identified, including the cities of Bishkek and Osh. The population of the Kyrgyz Republic over 18 years of age was represented as the population, according to the data of the National Statistical Committee and the Central Election Commission for 2020.
- When distributing the numbers among the strata, preference was given to equal-size/nonproportional distribution of sample. Such sample distribution allowed increasing the otherwise underrepresented number of respondents in strata with a small population size.
- When applying the equal-size sampling, after data collection, a proportional weighting procedure was applied that made it possible to adjust the equal-size sample, which is close to the population, by increasing the weight of underrepresented observations and addressing overrepresentation.

# Random selection of respondents

- Inside each stratum (oblast), a simple random selection of respondents was carried out by generating random numbers. Random numbers were generated in electronic form and assembled into random phone numbers of users of different mobile network operators.
- Interviews were conducted in Kyrgyz, Russian and Uzbek languages.

|  |        |
|--|--------|
| Total generated and processed            | 46,879 |
| Total successfully completed             | 1,202  |
| Unreachable/non-existing numbers         | 43,225 |
| Denied at the beginning of the interview | 1,846  |
| Rejected during the survey               | 547    |
| Line is busy                             | 59     |

# Socio-demographic indicators

|                    |                        |                |
|--------------------|------------------------|----------------|
| Area of residence  | Bishkek                | N=139          |
|                    | Osh                    | N=51           |
|                    | Chui oblast            | N=202          |
|                    | Talas oblast           | N=55           |
|                    | Osh oblast             | N=248          |
|                    | Naryn oblast           | N=71           |
|                    | Issyk-Kul oblast       | N=107          |
|                    | Jalal-Abad oblast      | N=226          |
|                    | Batken oblast          | N=102          |
|                    | <b>Total</b>           | <b>N=1,202</b> |
| Type of settlement | City                   | N=571          |
|                    | Village                | N=631          |
| Sex                | Man                    | N=570          |
|                    | Woman                  | N=632          |
| Age                | 18-29 years old        | N=348          |
|                    | 30-39 years old        | N=293          |
|                    | 40-49 years old        | N=207          |
|                    | 50-59 years old        | N=180          |
|                    | 60-69 years old        | N=119          |
|                    | 70 years old and older | N=55           |

|                                |  |        |
|--------------------------------|--|--------|
| Ethnicity                      | Kyrgyz                                     | N=973  |
|                                | Russian                                    | N=69   |
|                                | Uzbek                                      | N=94   |
|                                | Tajik                                      | N=14   |
|                                | Other                                      | N=44   |
|                                | Refusal to reply                           | N=8    |
|                                | Marital status                             | Single |
| Married                        |  | N=879  |
| Divorced                       |  | N=23   |
| Civil marriage (live together) |  | N=3    |
| Widow(er)                      |  | N=47   |
| Refusal to reply               |  | N=24   |
| Education                      | No education                               | N=8    |
|                                | Primary / Incomplete secondary education   | N=21   |
|                                | Secondary / Vocational secondary education | N=707  |
|                                | Incomplete higher education                | N=65   |
|                                | Higher / Academic degree                   | N=377  |
|                                | Refusal to reply                           | N=24   |

## CONTACT US

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[www.facebook.com/commoncause312](https://www.facebook.com/commoncause312) |  
<https://twitter.com/commoncause312>