# Survey of 10 Municipalities in Bulgaria

February 2022

CENTER FOR INSIGHTS IN SURVEY RESEARCH

A PROJECT OF THE INTERNATIONAL REPUBLICAN INSTITUTE

# Detailed Methodology

- The survey was conducted on behalf of the International Republican Institute's Center for Insights in Survey Research by research and consulting company ESTAT Ltd.
- Data was collected between February 15 – February 28, 2022 through CAPI administered face-to-face interviews.
- The sample consisted of n=2,200 adults, aged 18 and older.
- The overall distribution of the sample included ten municipalities across Bulgaria: Vratsa (n=200), Pernik (n=200), Burgas (n=200), Kardhzali (n=200), Razgrad (n=200), Stara Zagora (n=200), Blagoevgrad (n=200), Ruse (n=200), Veliko Tarnovo (n=200) and the capital Sofia with n=400 adults.
- The sample in each municipality was structured in a way to fully represent the official distribution for 2020, provided by the National Statistical Institute since no official data for 2021 was published at the time. Settlements and districts were the Primary sampling units (PSU), each PSU within the municipality has been selected randomly but at the same time using Probability Proportional to Size (PPS) sampling. PPS stratification by urban/rural was applied too and represented the distribution per municipality for 2020.
- After all sampling points within each municipality have been selected, a starting point within the sampling point (area) has been randomly selected. The selection of households was based on a random route method. In urban areas, every 3rd house was selected. In rural areas, every 5th house or block of flats and if a block of flats, every 5th apartment from only one entrance.
- The participants in the study were selected within each household using the Kish grid method.
- The achieved sample was weighted for gender and type of settlement for each municipality.
- The overall response rate was 57 percent.
- The margin of error for the mid-range full sample does not exceed ±6.9 points for each municipality except Sofia where the margin of error does not exceed ±4.9 points. The confidence level is 95%.
- Charts and graphs may not add up to 100 percent due to rounding.
- A subset of questions have been included in this comparative PowerPoint. The complete list of questions are included in each municipality-specific PowerPoint

# Comparisons Among 10 Municipalities

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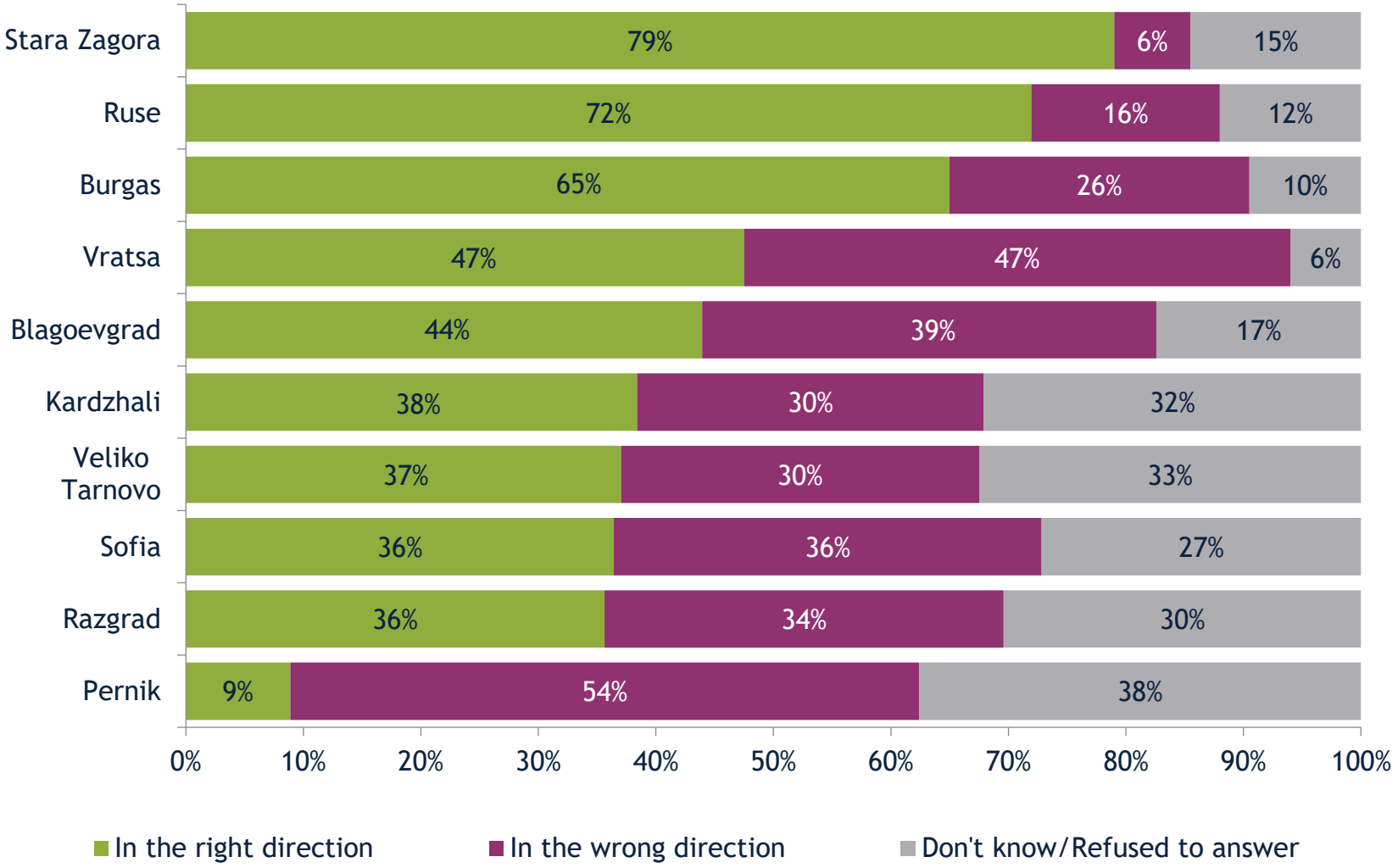
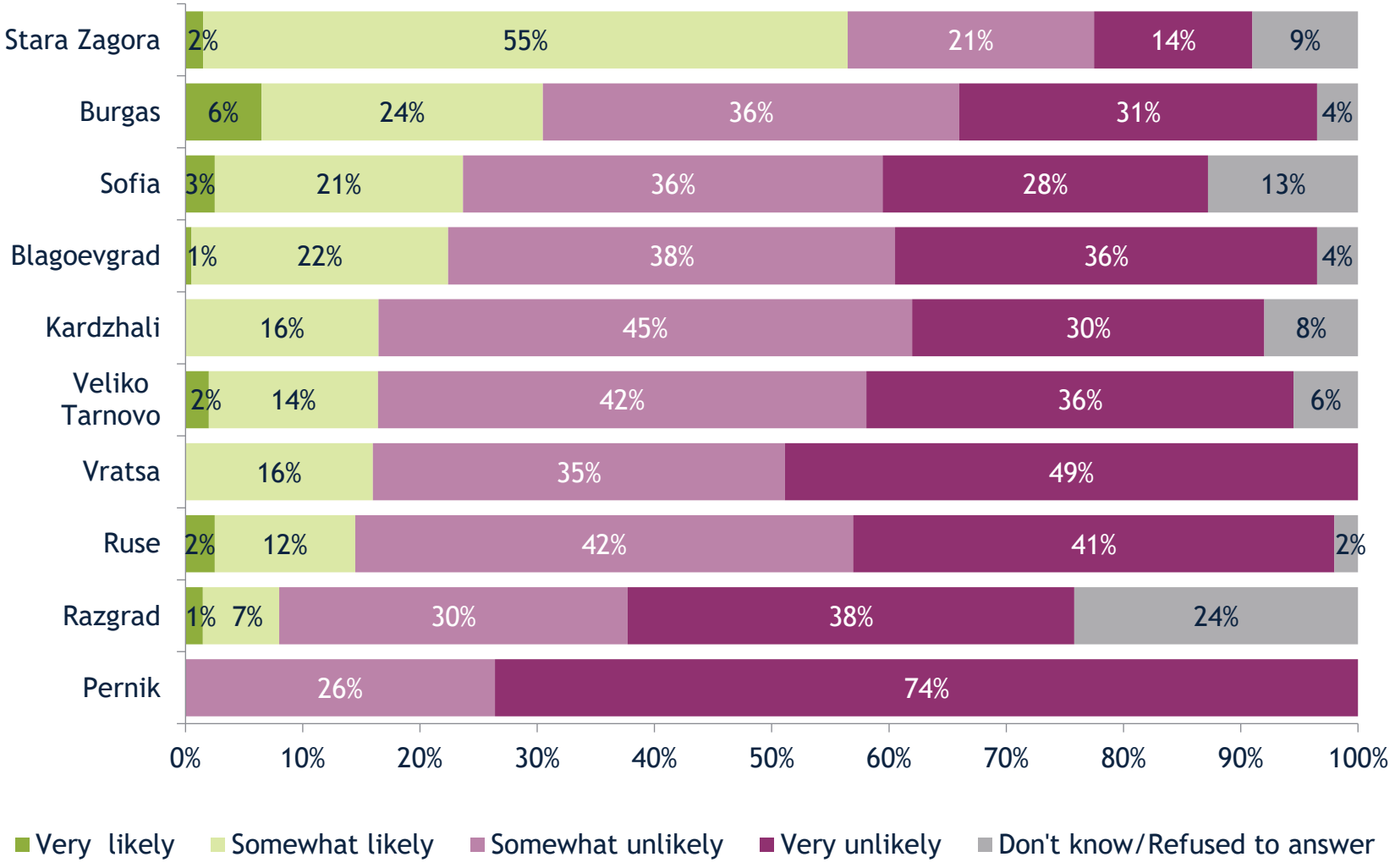
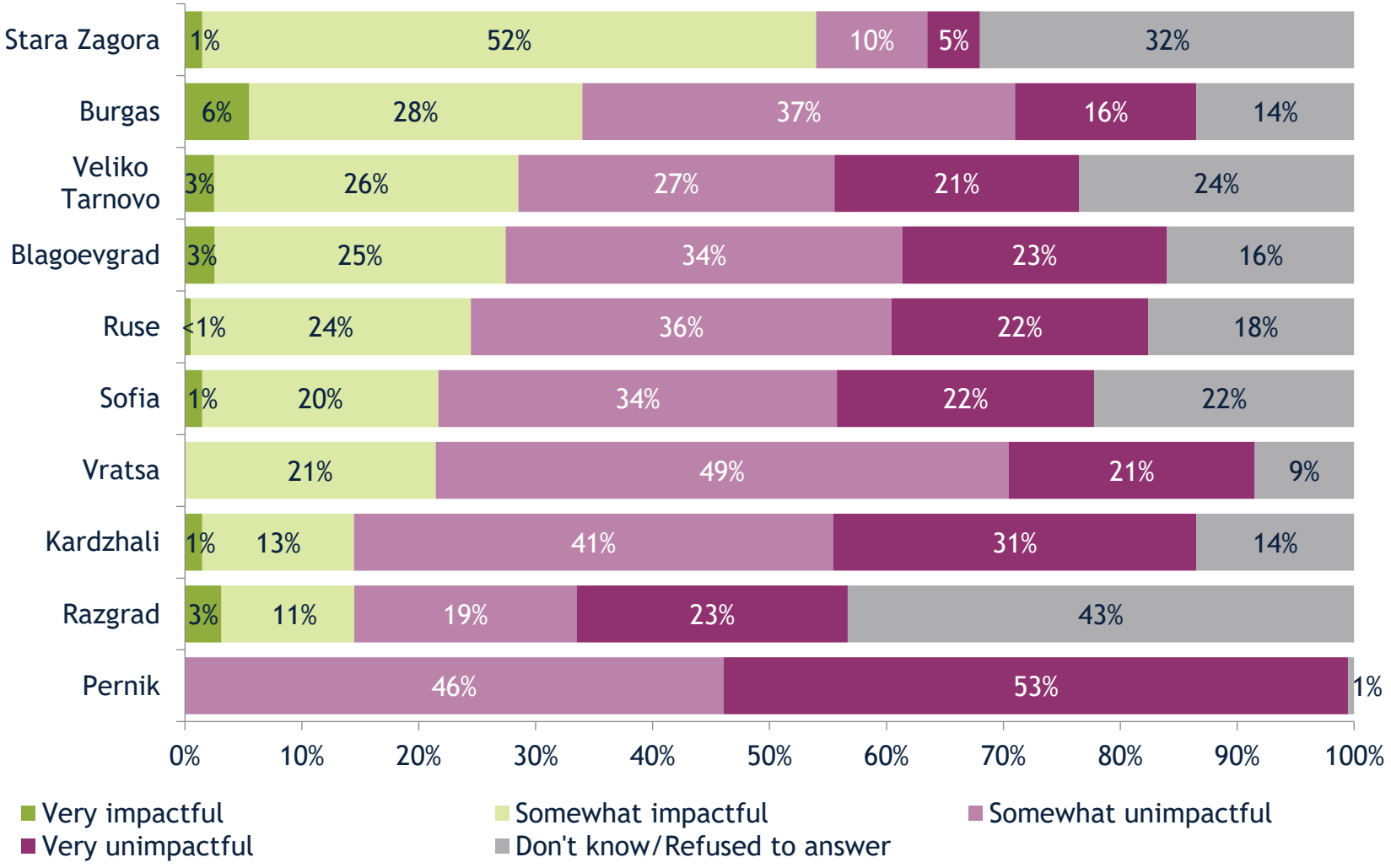
## In general, would you say that our country is heading in the right direction or the wrong direction?



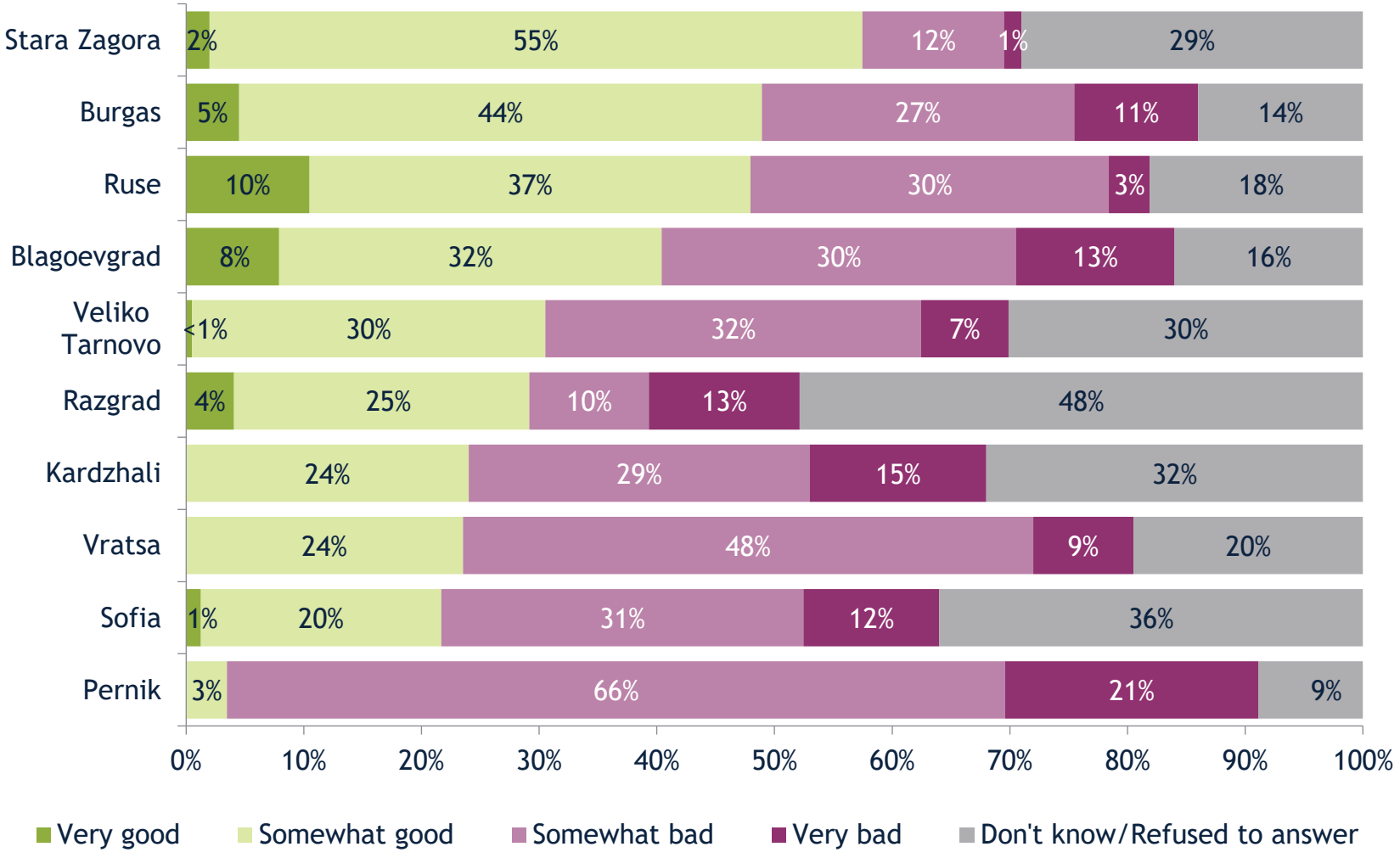
# How likely or unlikely are ordinary people able to influence decisions made in your municipality



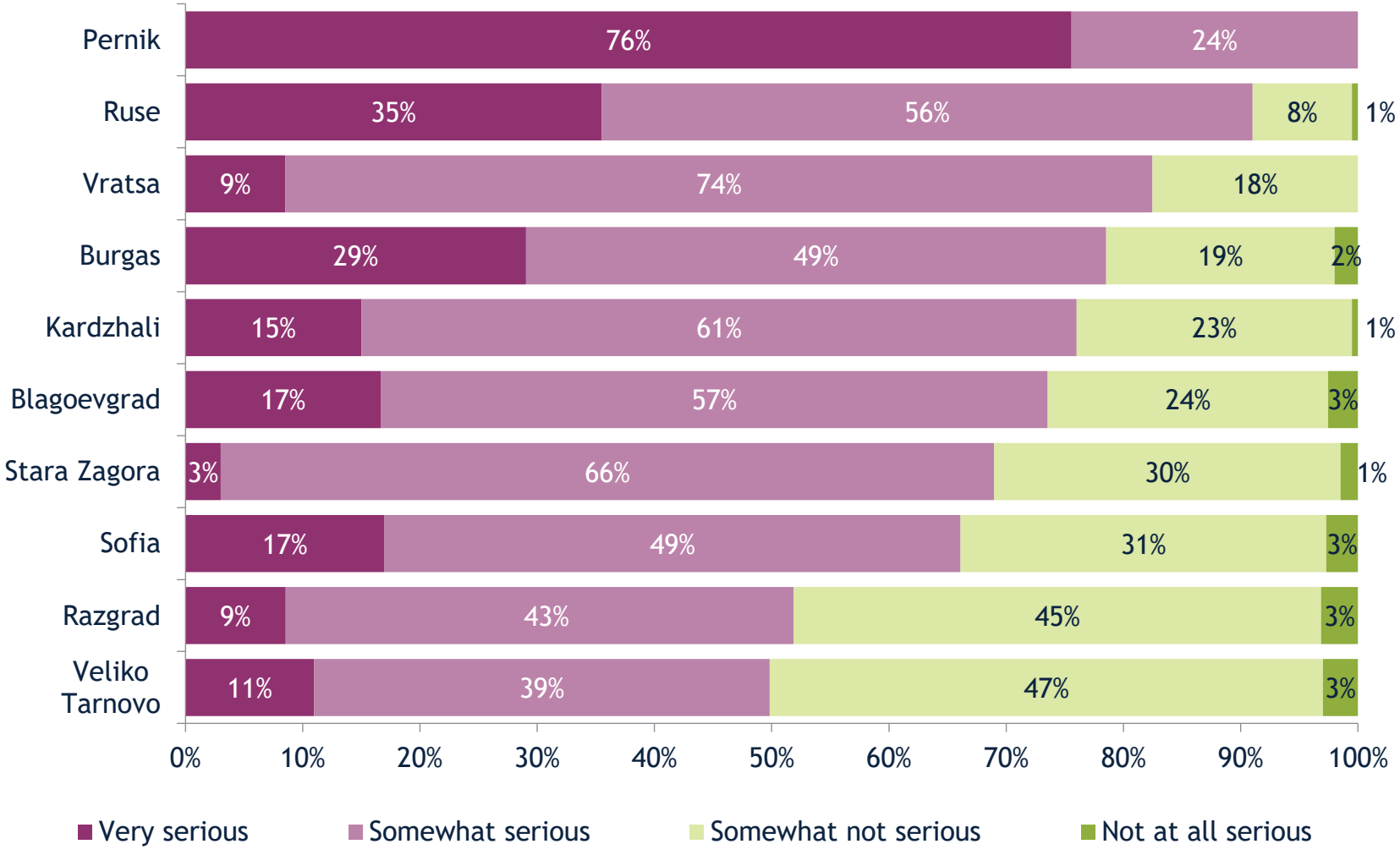
# To what extent do civil society organizations (CSOs) impact municipal government policy in your municipality?



## How would you rate the performance of the municipal government in communicating with the public about the projects they are working on?



## Do you believe that corruption in your municipality is a serious problem or not?

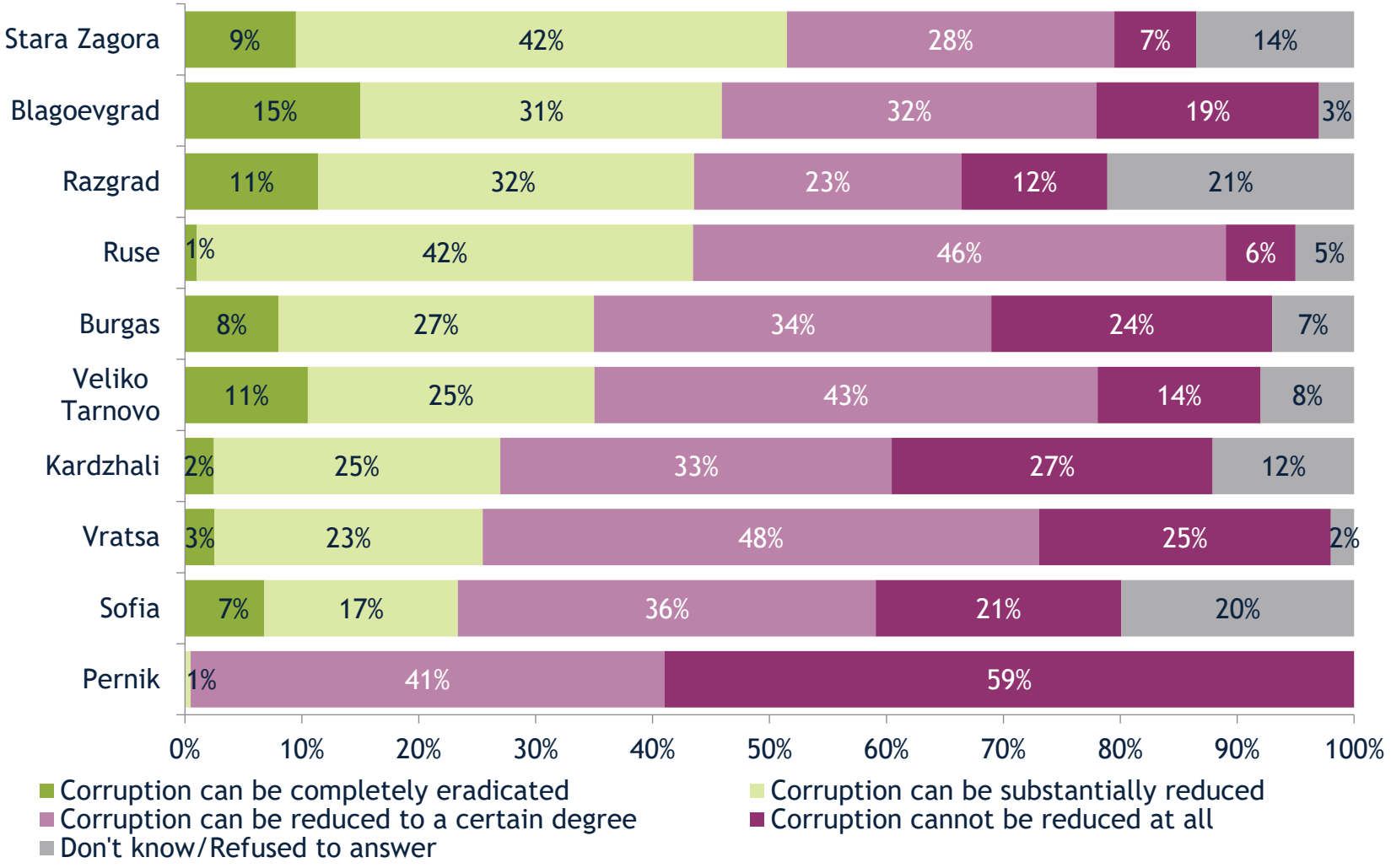


## In your experience, what type of corruption is most common in our municipality?

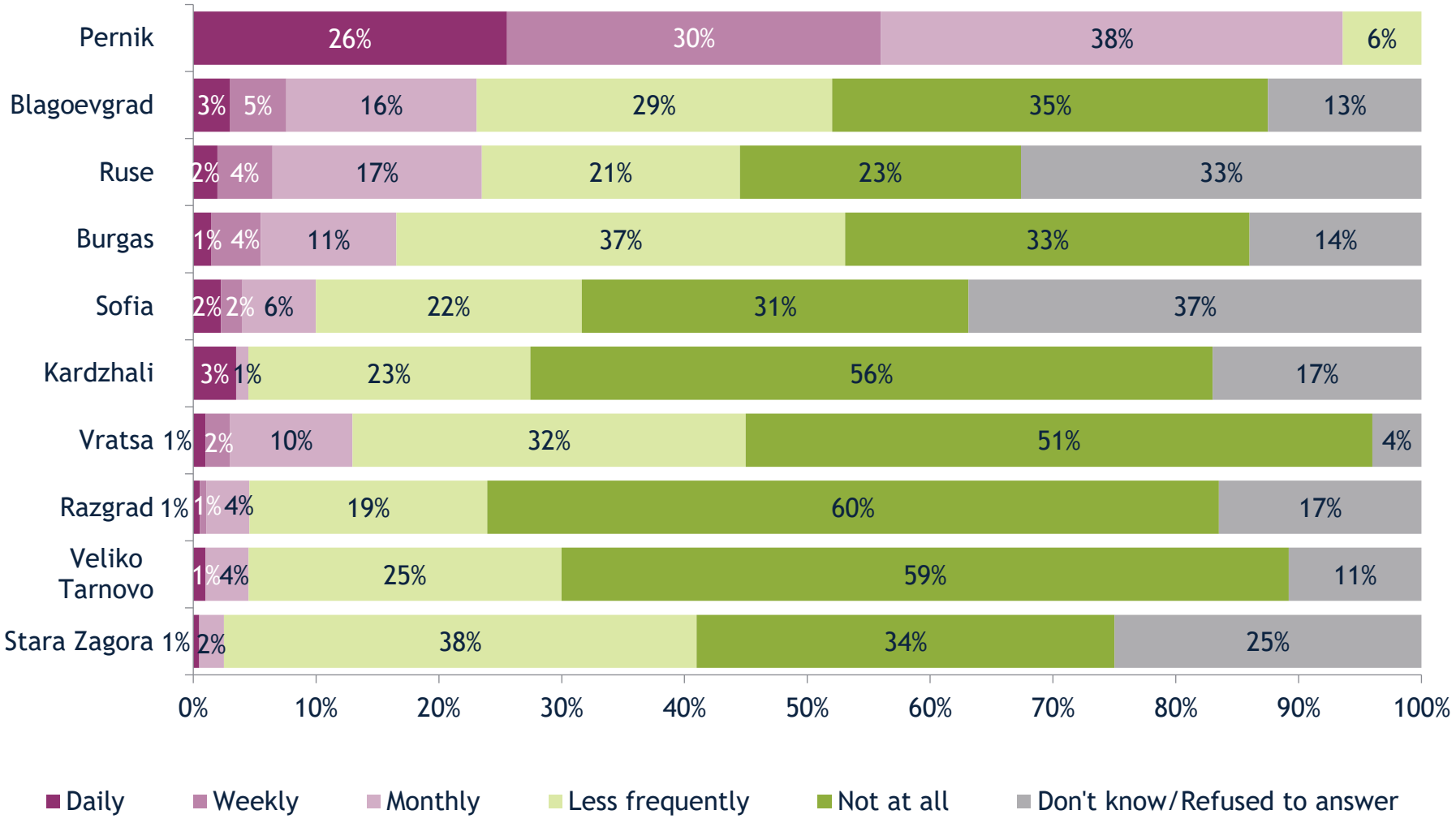
(Top three most common types across each municipality)

| Municipality | Most common | Second most common | Third most common |
|---|---|---|---|
| Blagoevgrad | Making decisions based on connections as opposed to merit (26%) | Acting in self-interest instead of interest of citizens (24%) | Stealing or deliberately mismanaging funds (17%) |
| Burgas | Acting in self-interest instead of interest of citizens (21%) | Failure to investigate or prosecute wrongdoing (18%) | Soliciting bribes or gifts (18%) |
| Veliko Tarnovo | Making decisions based on connections as opposed to merit (29%) | Acting in self-interest instead of interest of citizens (20%) | Soliciting bribes or gifts (12%) |
| Vratsa | Failure to investigate or prosecute wrongdoing (21%) | Acting in self-interest instead of interest of citizens (20%) | Stealing or deliberately mismanaging funds (19%) |
| Kardzhali | Acting in self-interest instead of interest of citizens (26%) | Stealing or deliberately mismanaging funds (20%) | Making decisions based on connections as opposed to merit (19%) |
| Pernik | Making decisions based on connections as opposed to merit (70%) | Acting in self-interest instead of interest of citizens (15%) | Failure to investigate or prosecute wrongdoing (10%) |
| Razgrad | Soliciting bribes or gifts (22%) | Making decisions based on connections as opposed to merit (15%) | Acting in self-interest instead of interest of citizens (12%) |
| Ruse | Soliciting bribes or gifts (20%) | Making decisions based on connections as opposed to merit (19%) | Acting in self-interest instead of interest of citizens (12%) |
| Sofia | Acting in self-interest instead of interest of citizens (24%) | Making decisions based on connections as opposed to merit (15%) | Failure to investigate or prosecute wrongdoing (12%) |
| Stara Zagora | Acting in self-interest instead of interest of citizens (17%) | Making decisions based on connections as opposed to merit (16%) | Failure to investigate or prosecute wrongdoing (11%) |

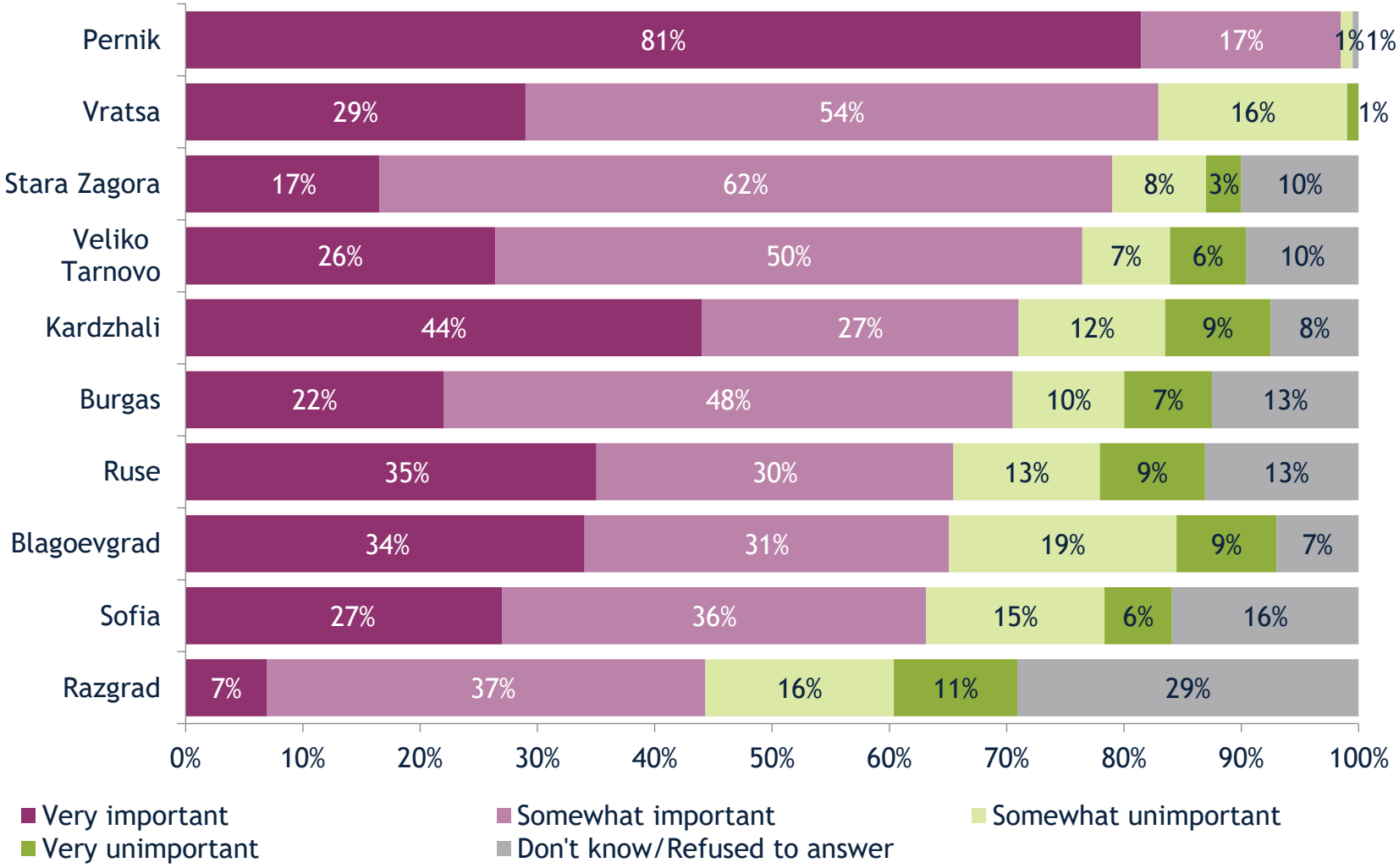
# To what extent do you think corruption can be reduced in your municipality?



# In the past two years, how often, if at all, have you witnessed or experienced corruption?

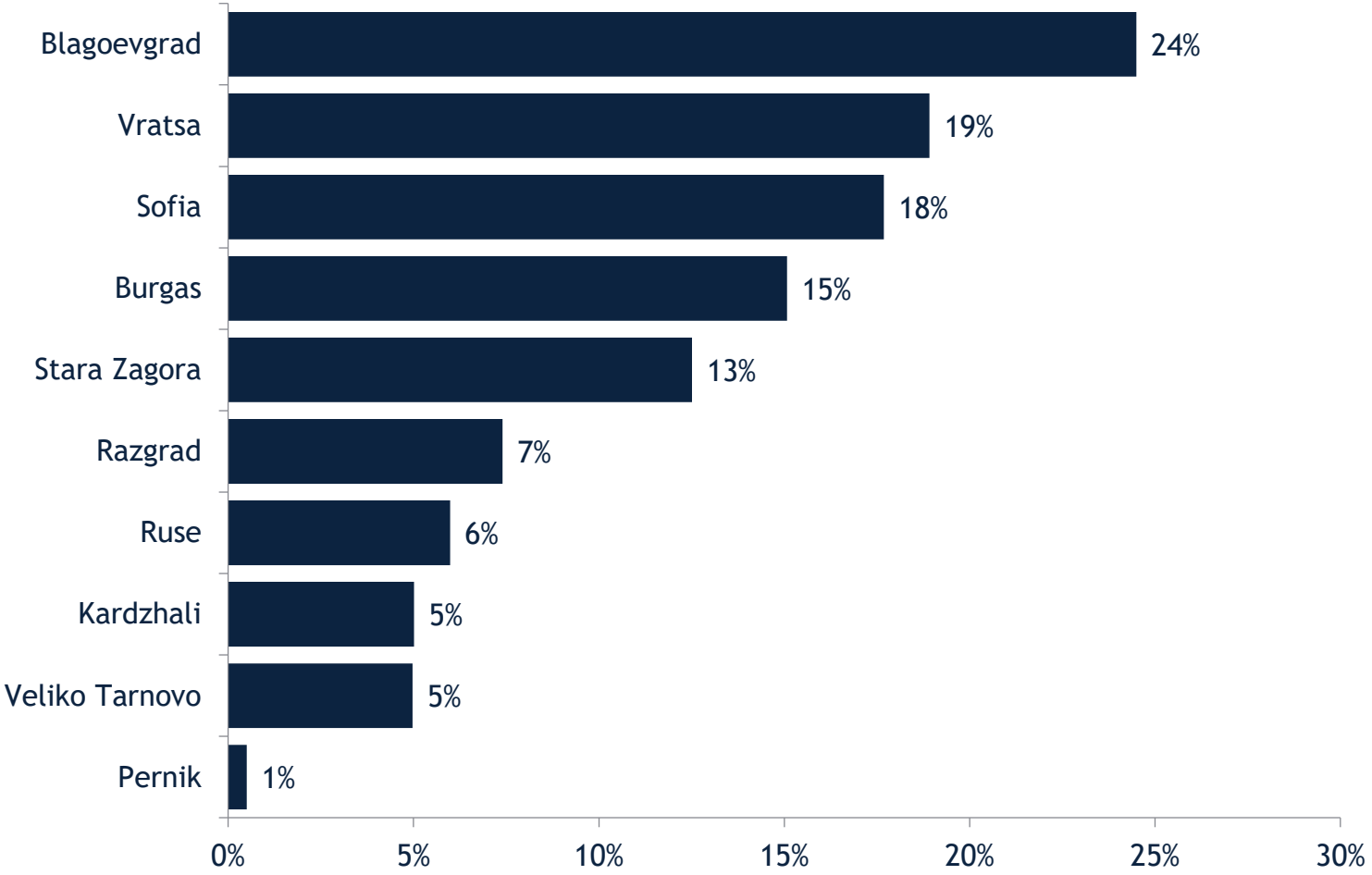


## In your dealings with the municipal government, how important are personal contacts and relationships to get things done?

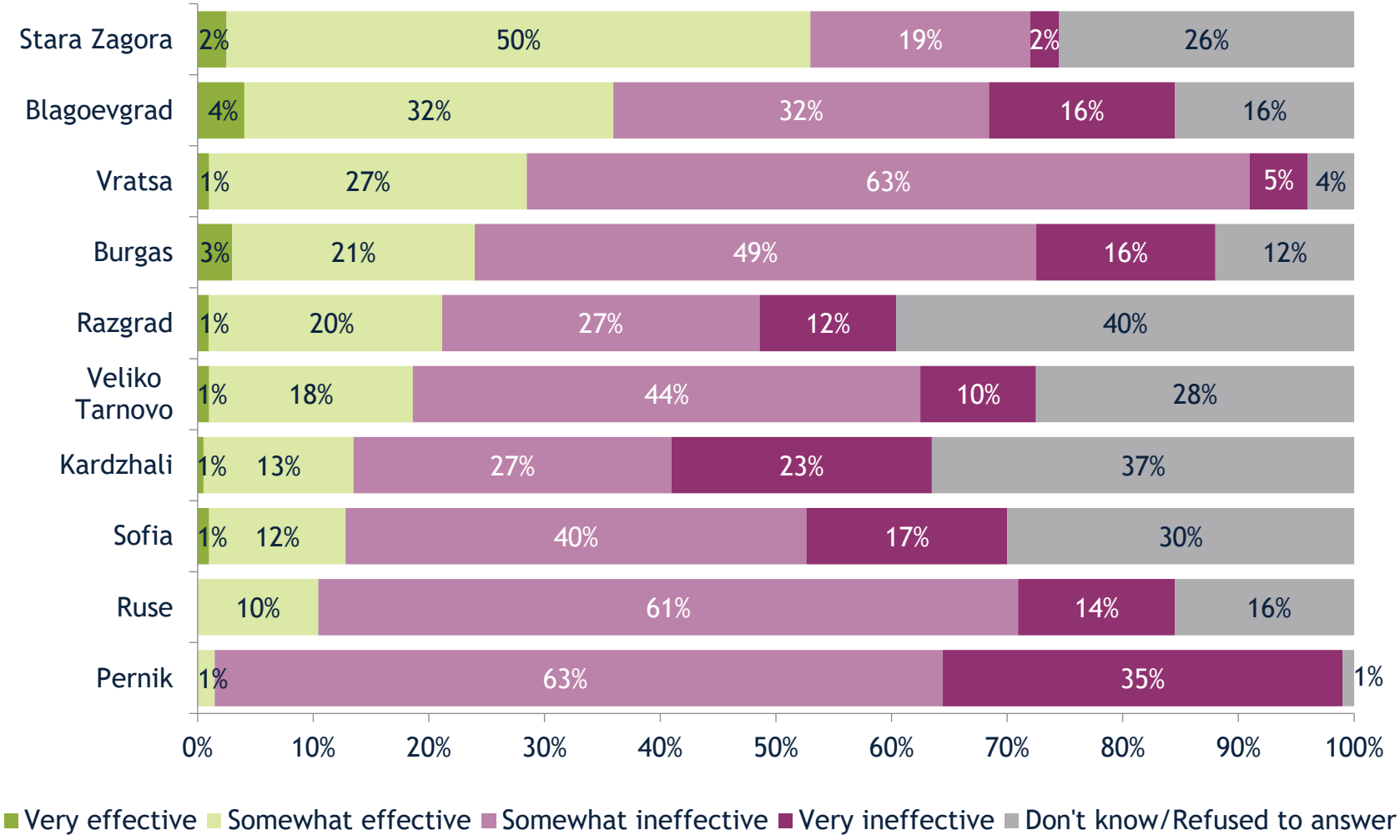


## Are you aware of any anti-corruption initiatives by the local authorities?

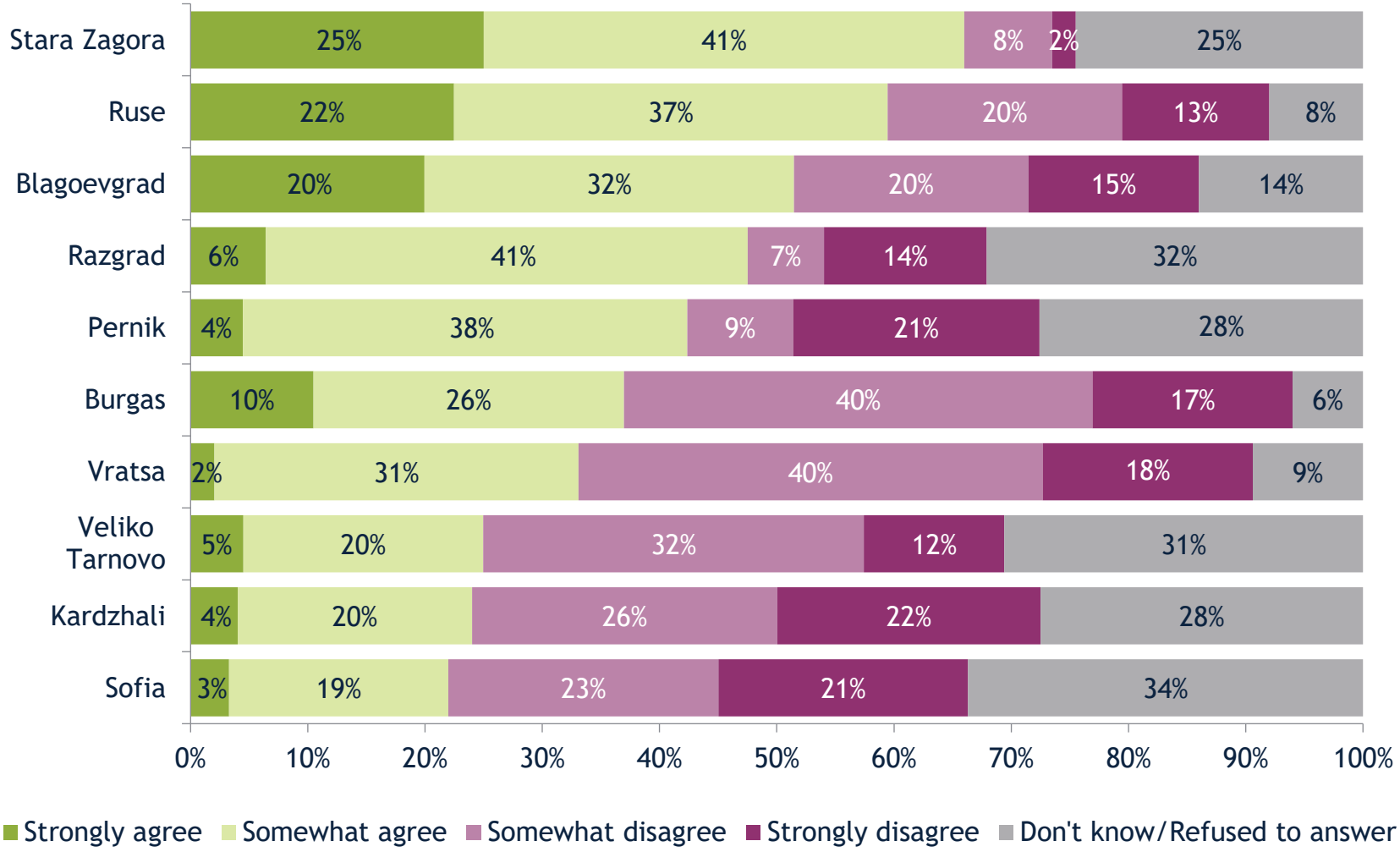
(Only “Yes” responses displayed)



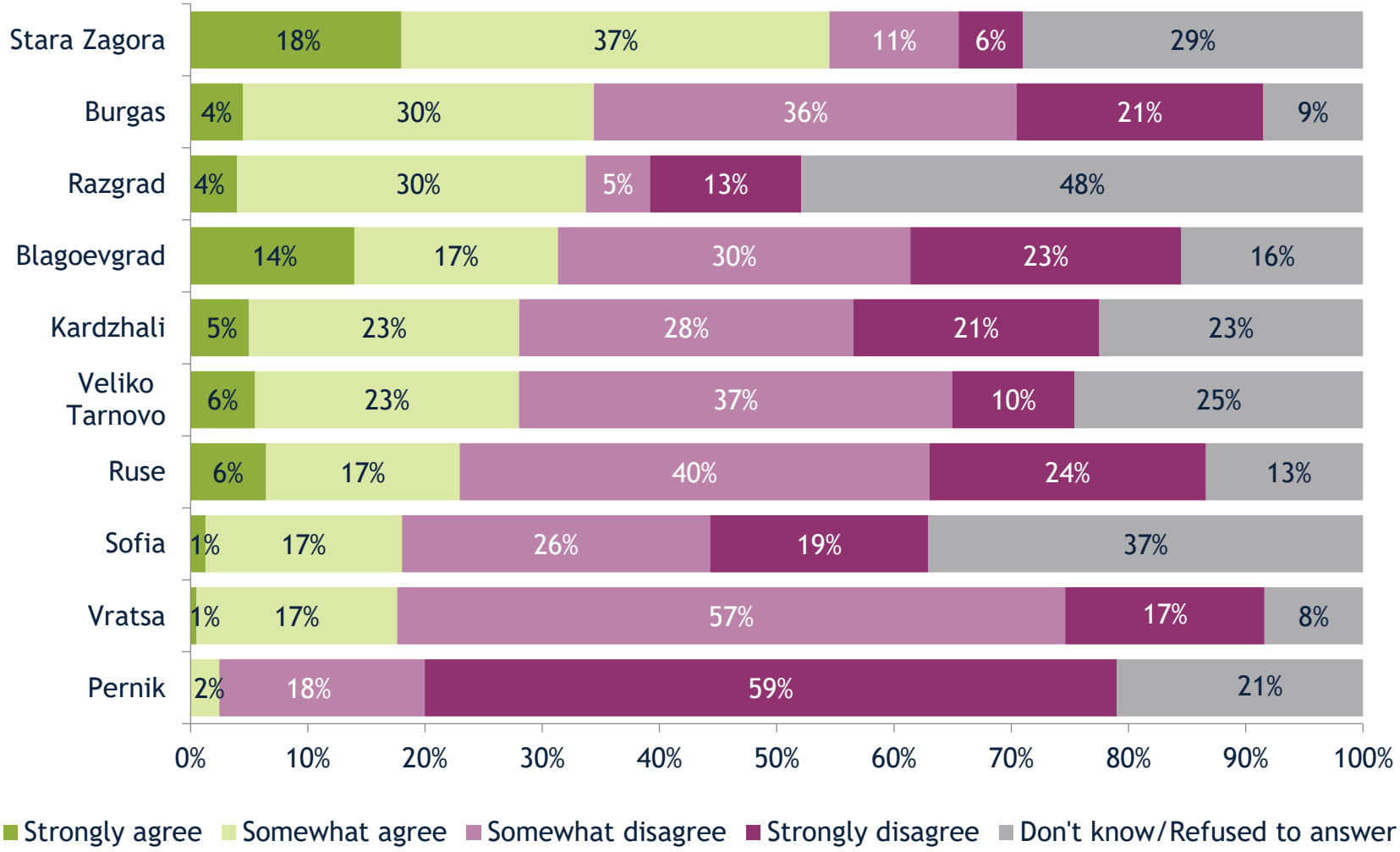
# How effective or ineffective are the local authorities in addressing corruption?



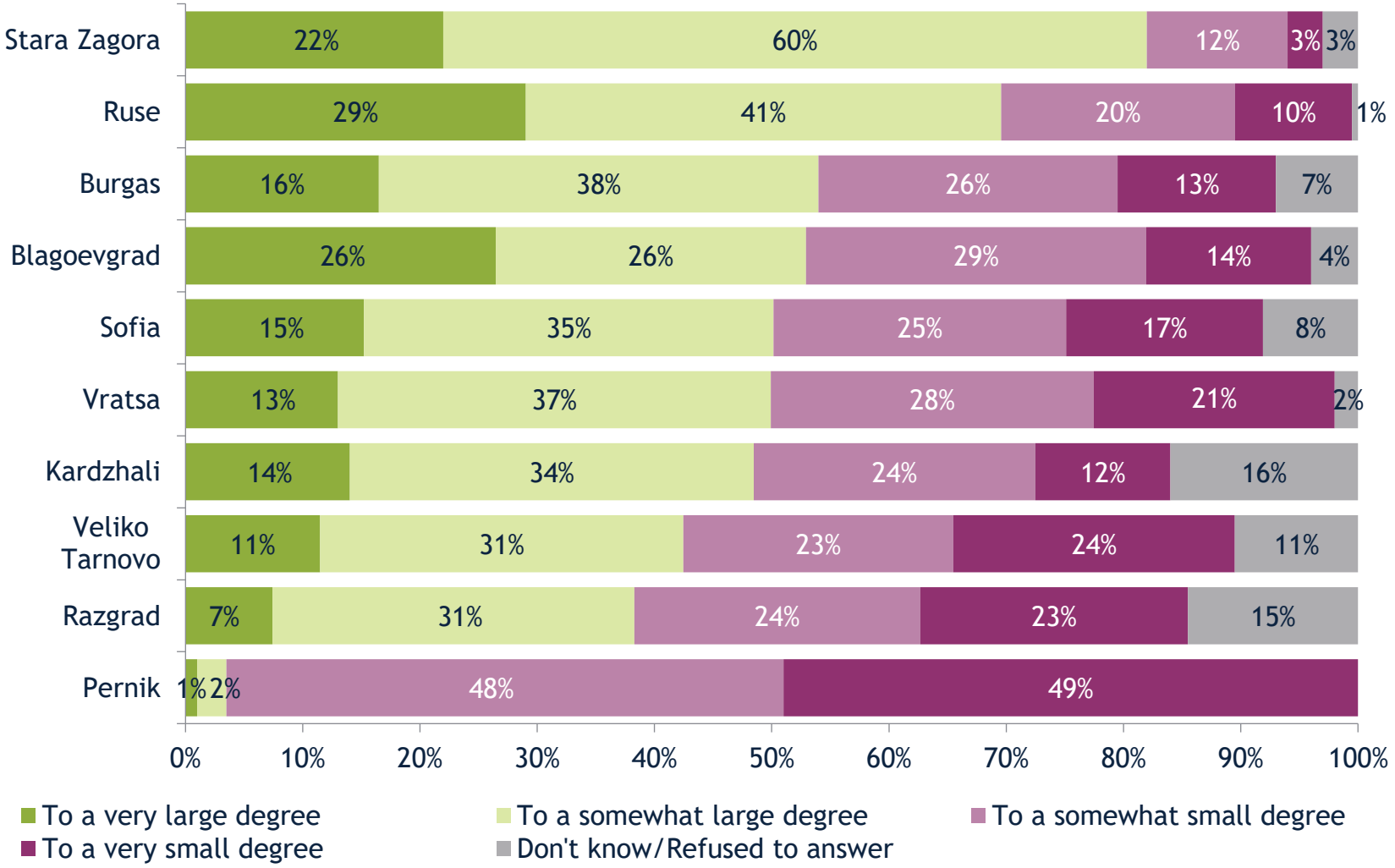
## Based on your experience, please tell me if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree with the statement: “The mayor has a sincere desire and will to combat corruption in your municipality”



## Based on your experience, please tell me if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree with the statement: "The municipal council has a sincere desire and will to combat corruption in your municipality"

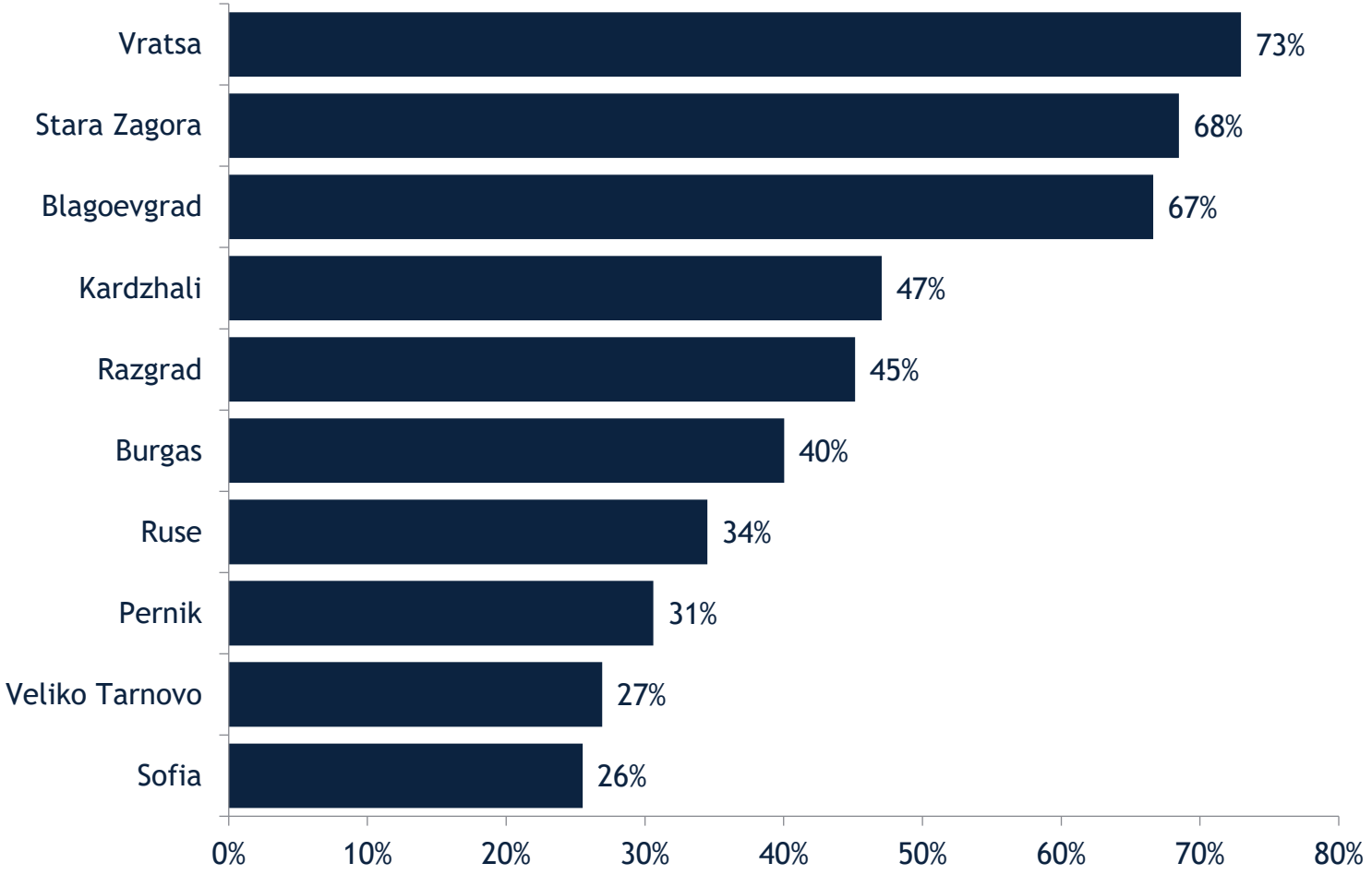


## To what degree, if at all, is it the responsibility of citizens to address corruption?

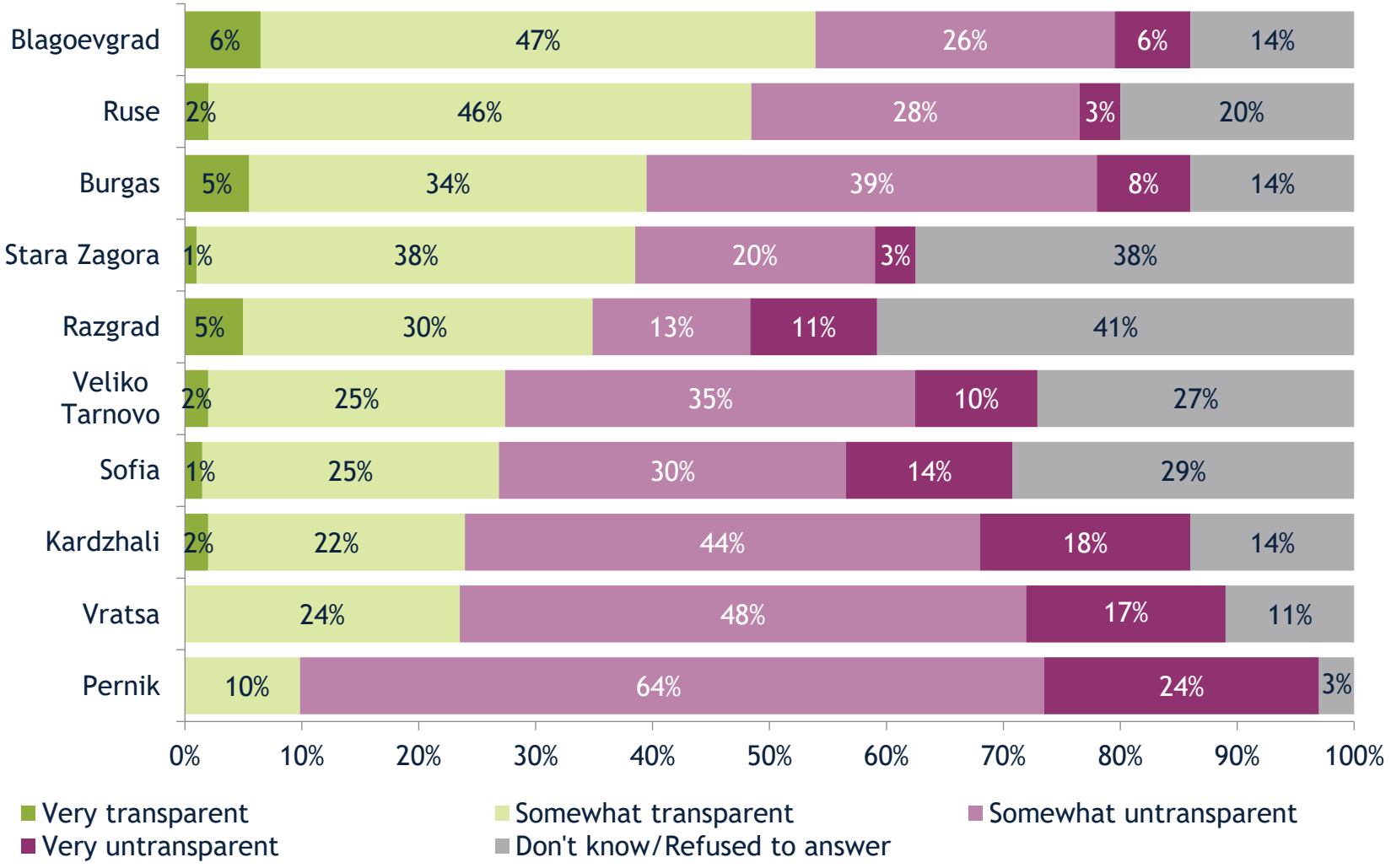


# Do you know where to report a corrupt act of an official?

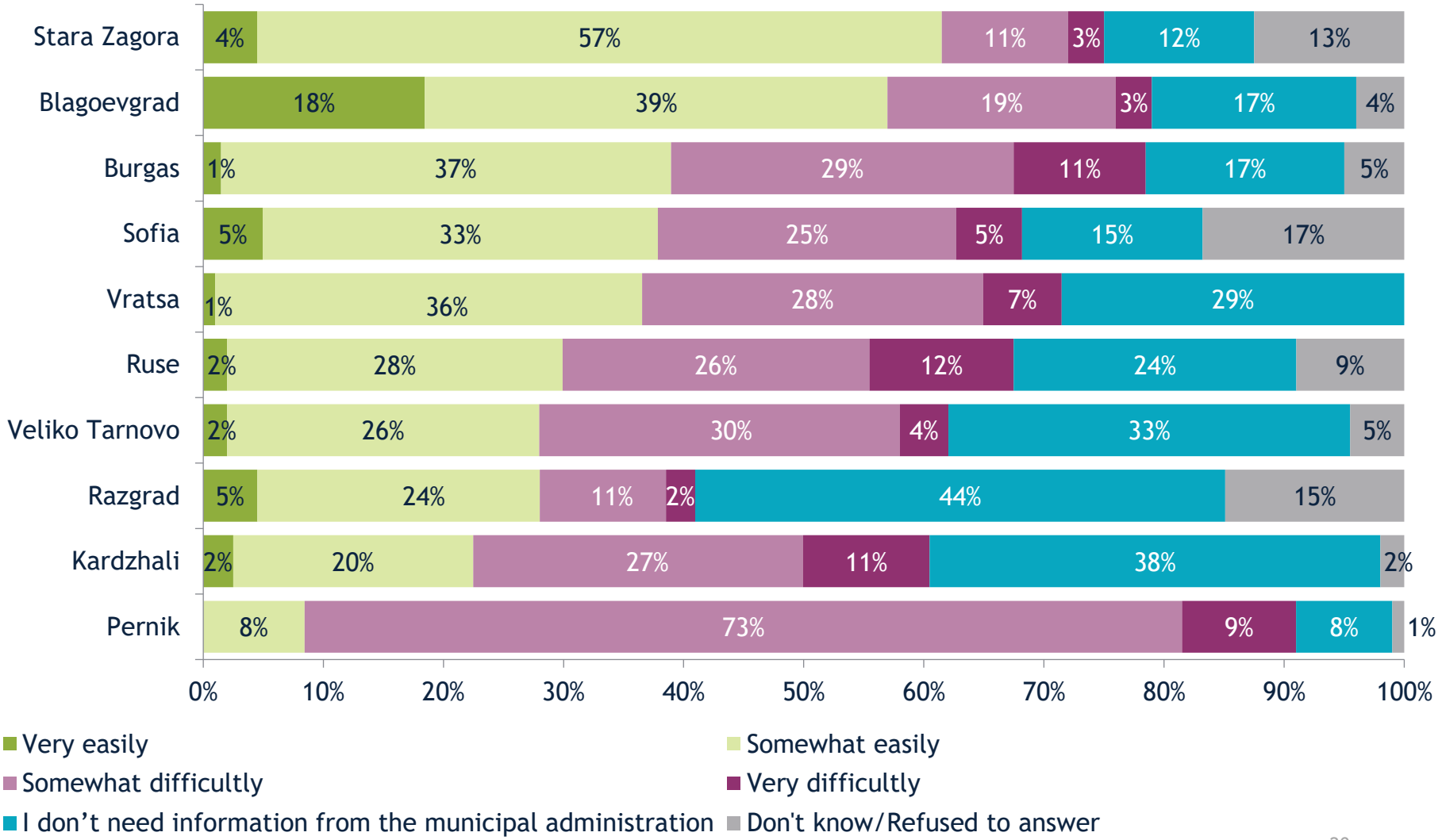
(Only “Yes” responses displayed)



# How transparent or untransparent is the work of the mayor and the municipal administration?

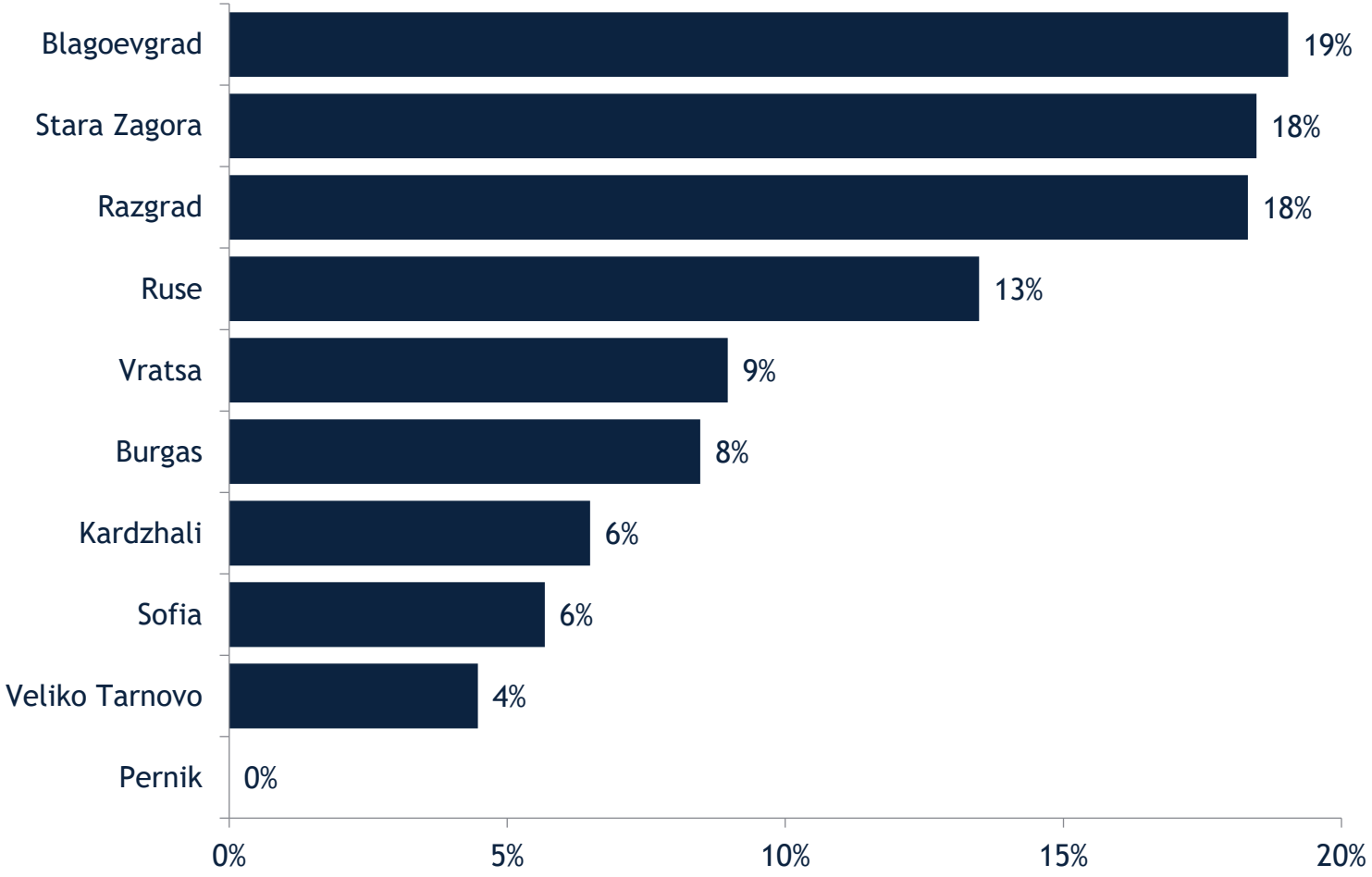


# Do you find the information you need from the municipal administration easily or not?



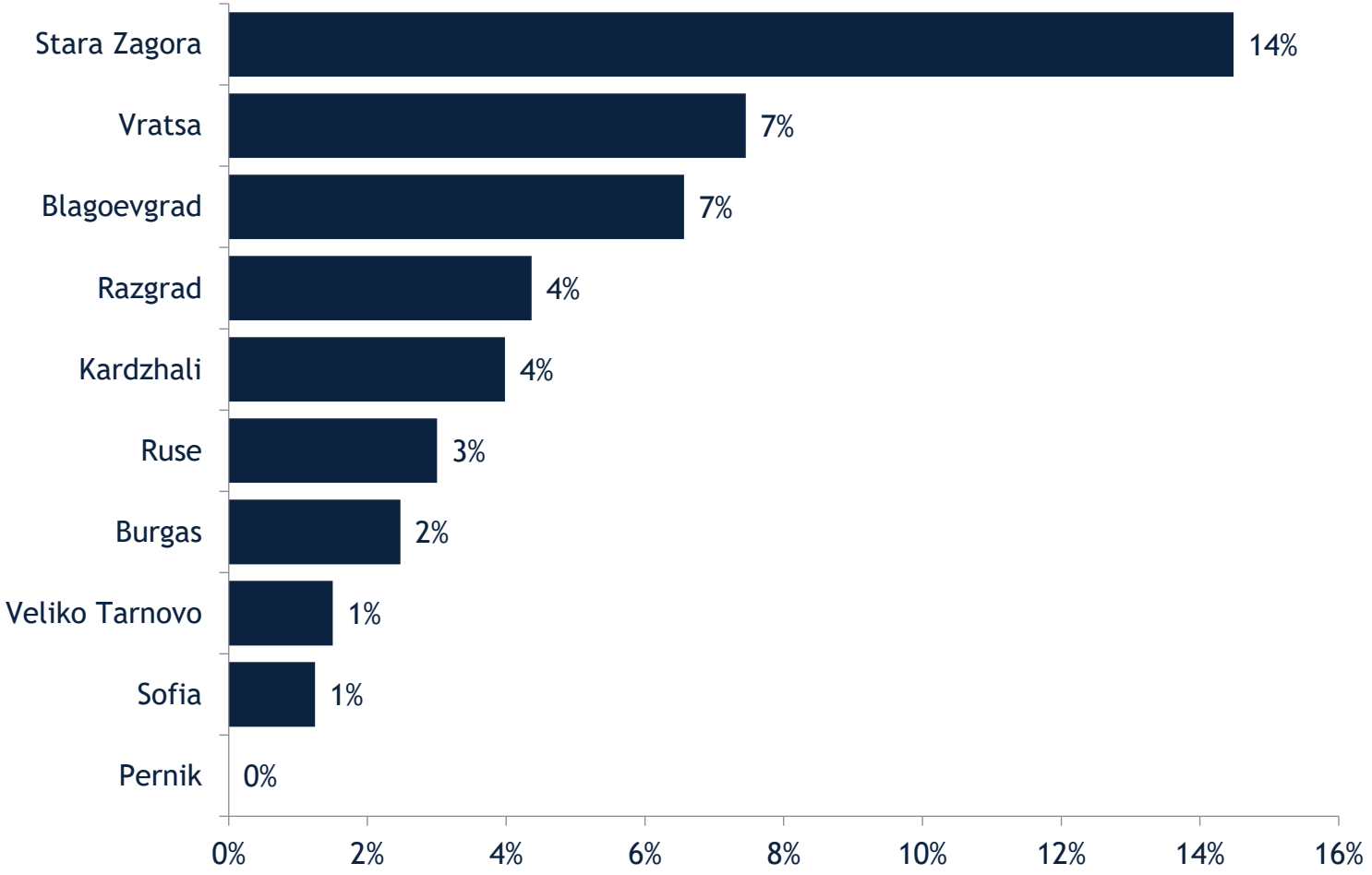
## Are you aware of when municipal government public consultation meetings take place?

(Only “Yes” responses displayed)

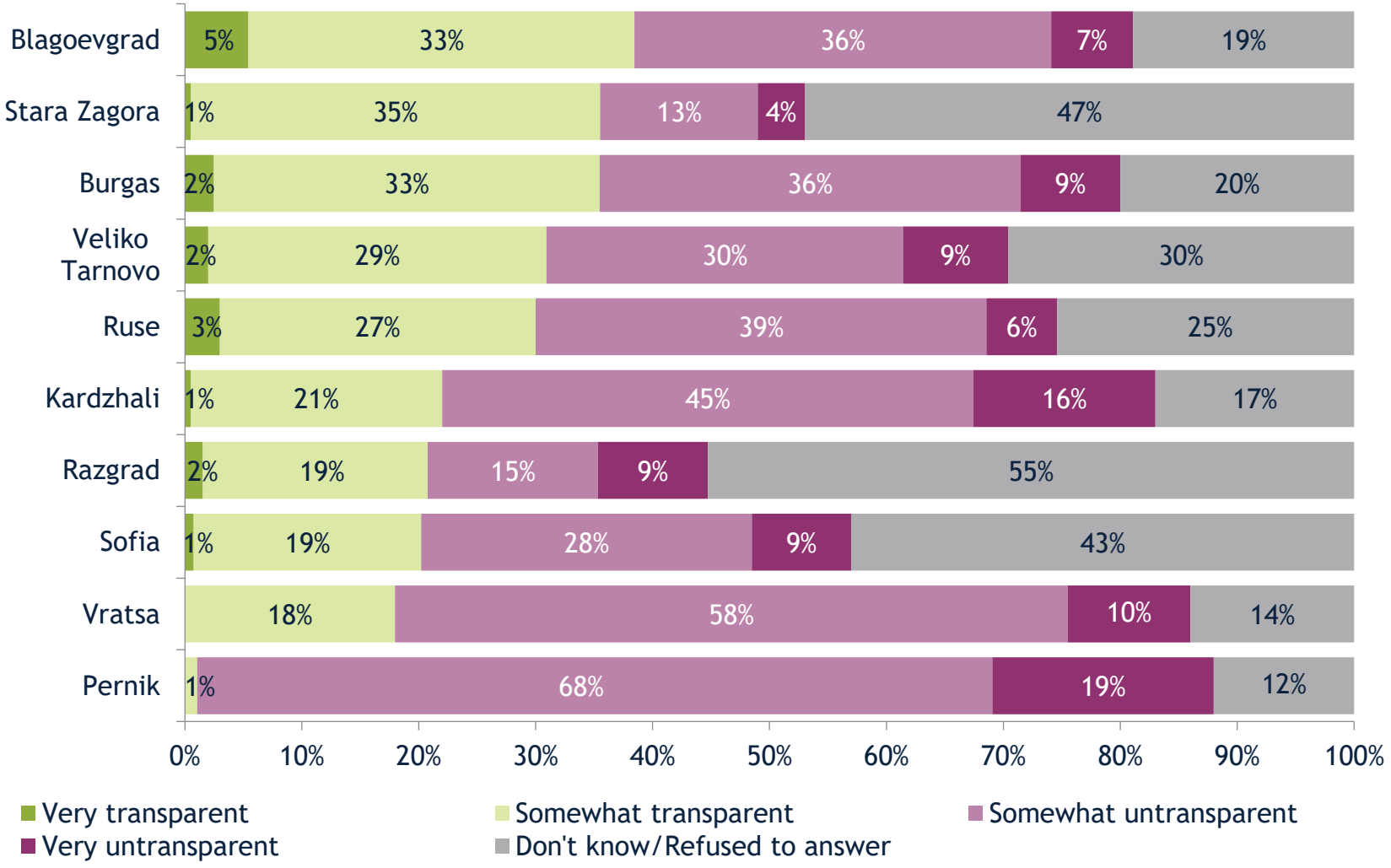


## Have you ever attended a municipal government public consultation meeting?

(Only “Yes” responses displayed)

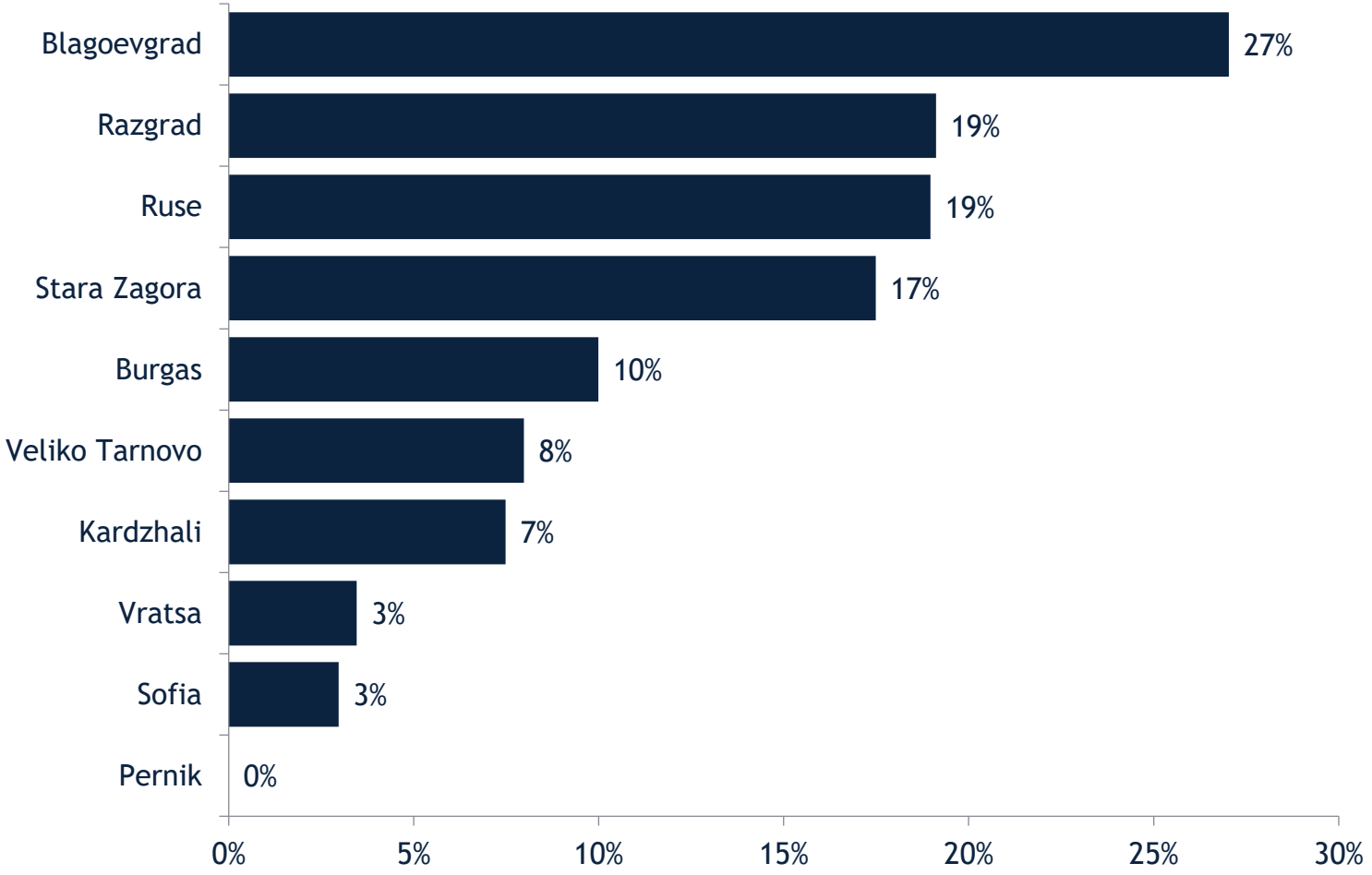


# How transparent or untransparent is the work of the municipal council?



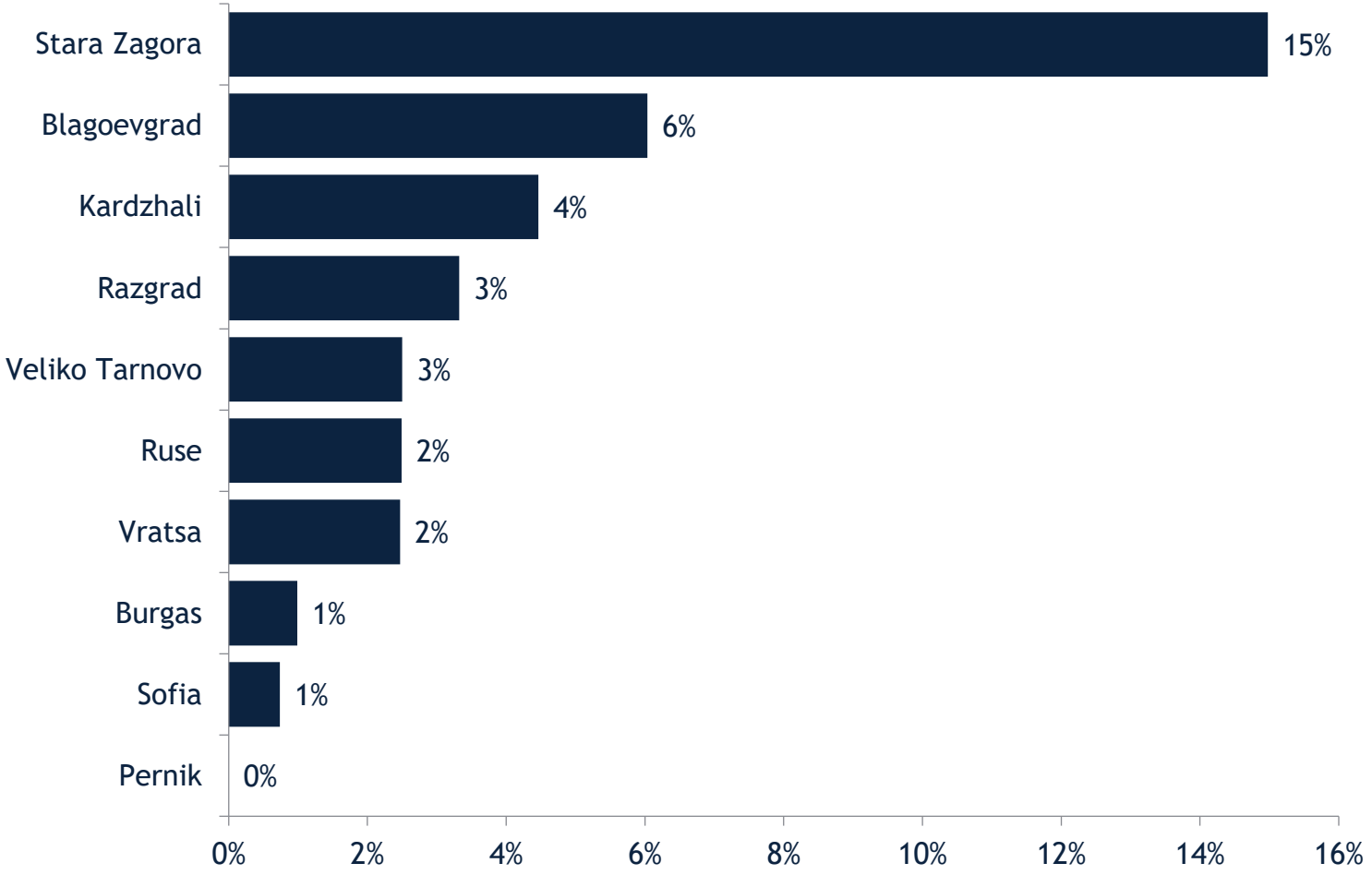
# Are you aware of when municipal council meetings take place?

(Only “Yes” responses displayed)

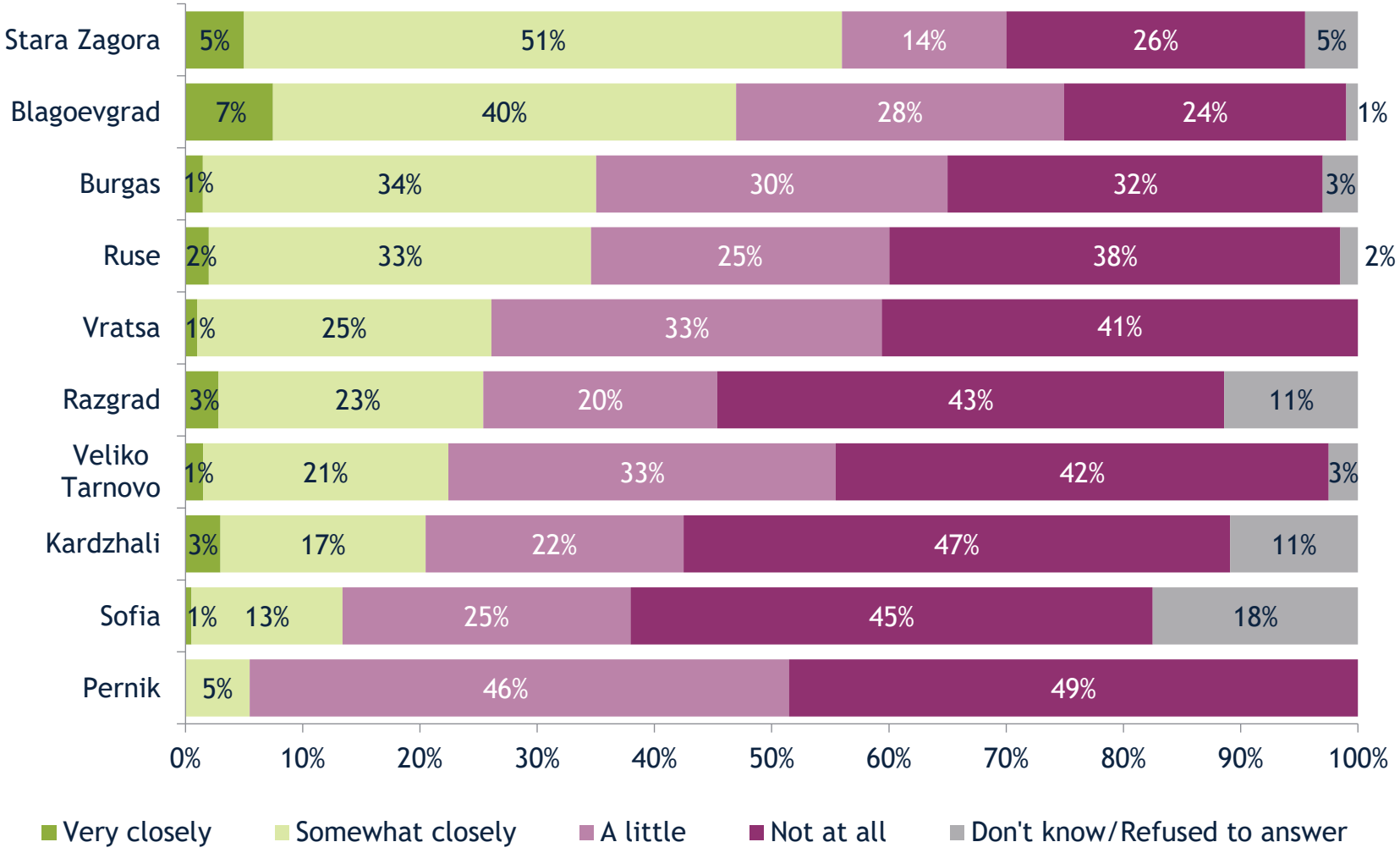


# Have you attended any municipal council meetings?

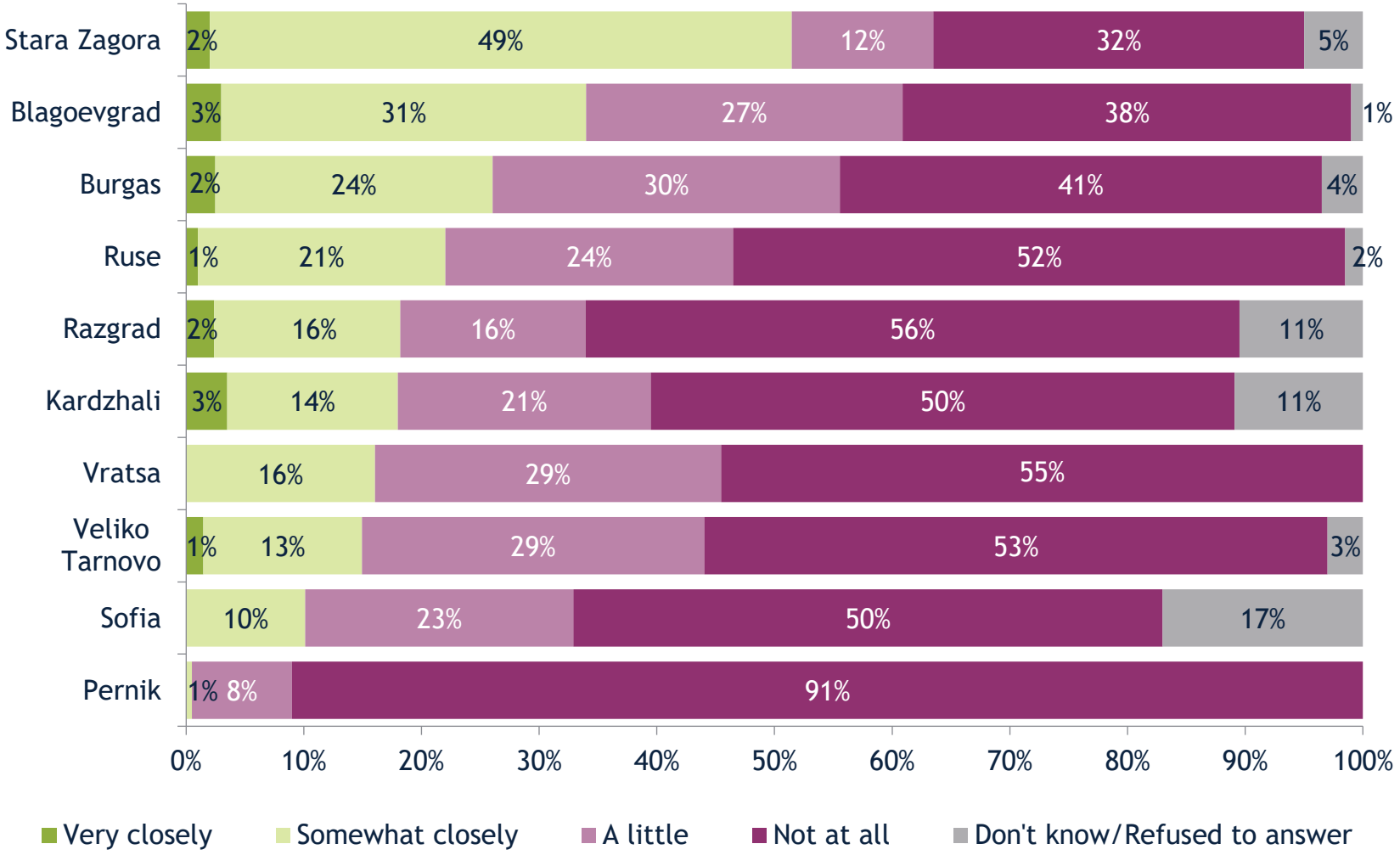
(Only “Yes” responses displayed)



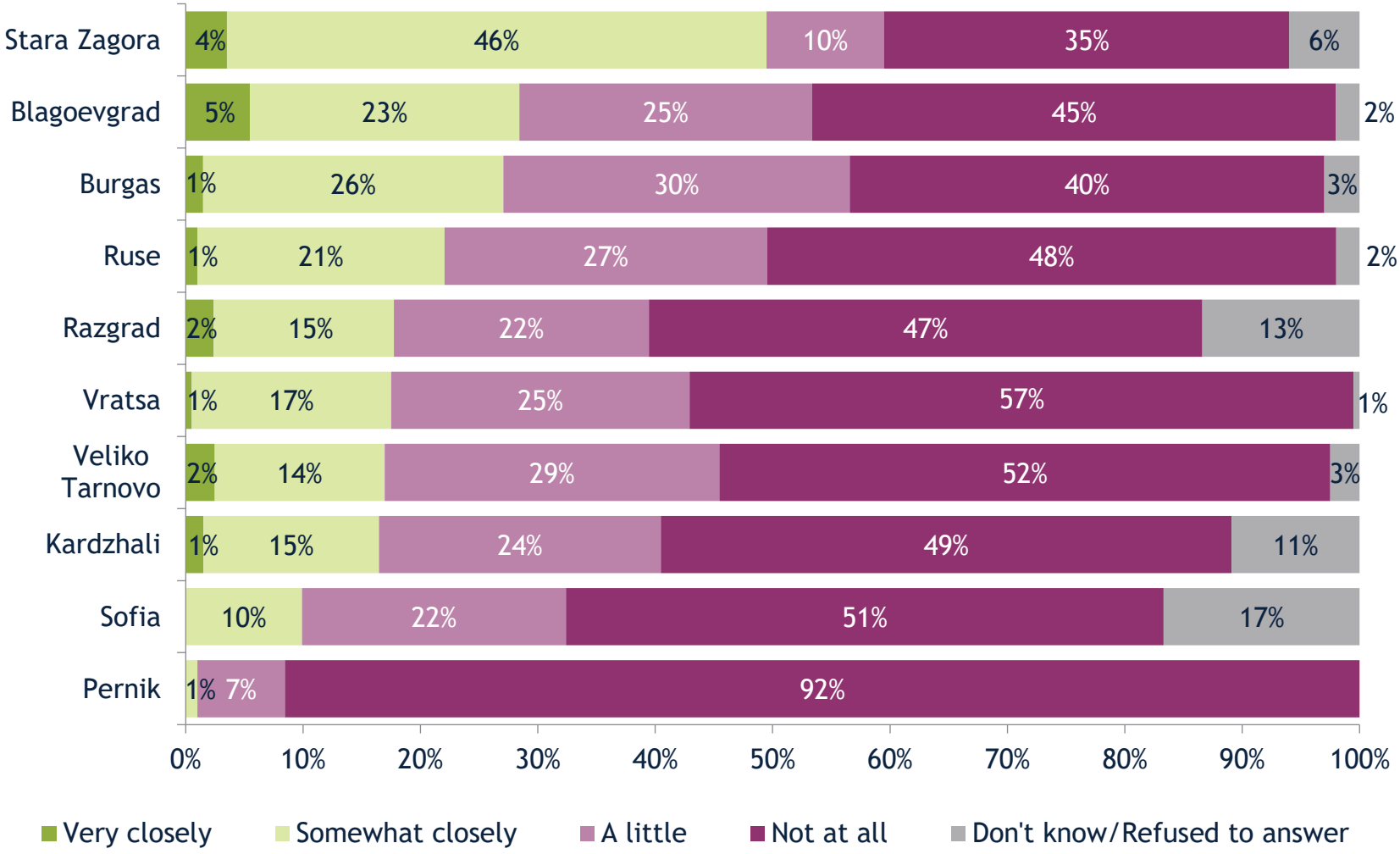
# How closely do you follow the decisions and actions taken by the mayor?



# How closely do you follow the decisions and actions taken by the municipal administration?

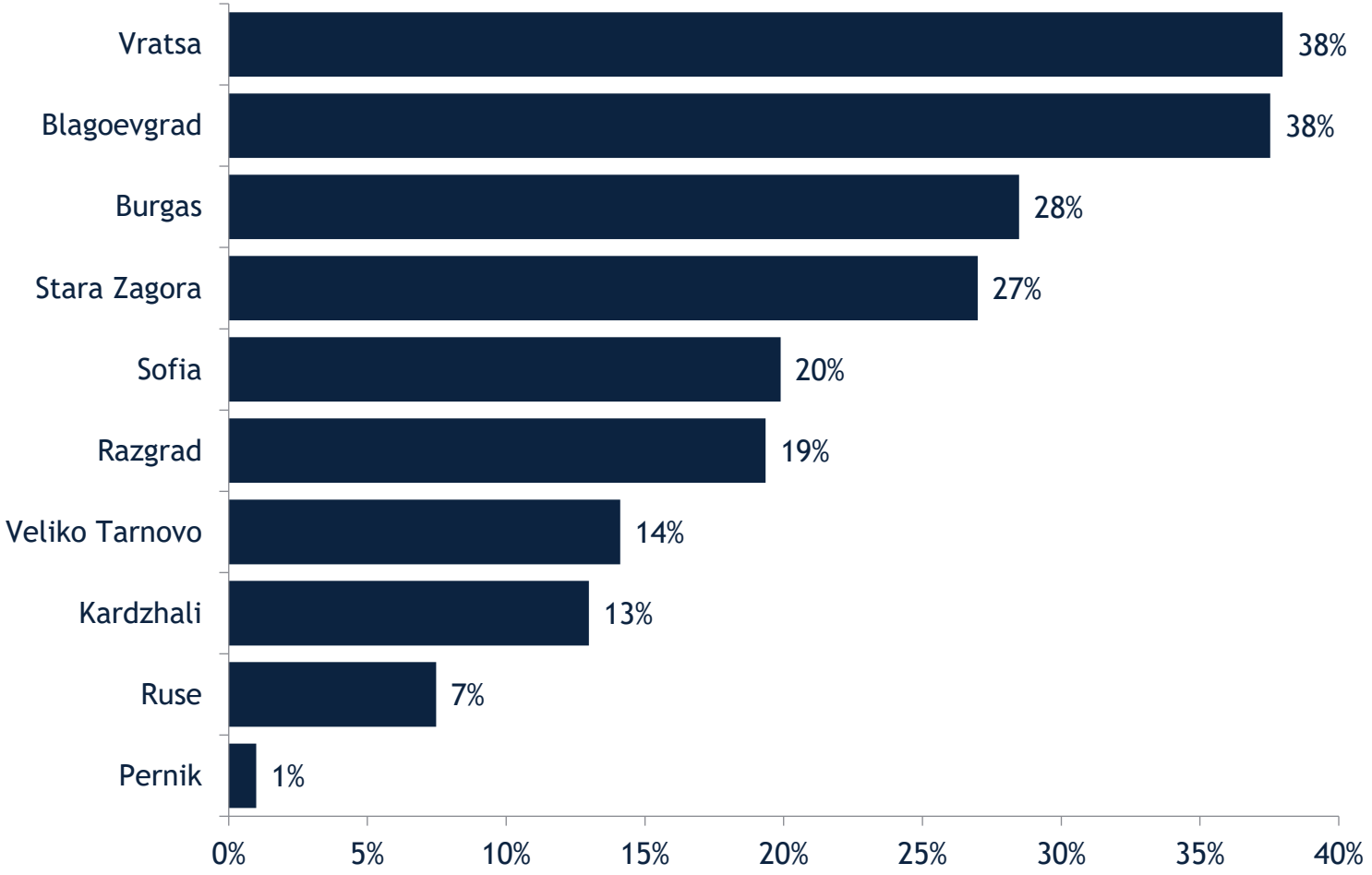


# How closely do you follow the decisions and actions taken by the municipal council?

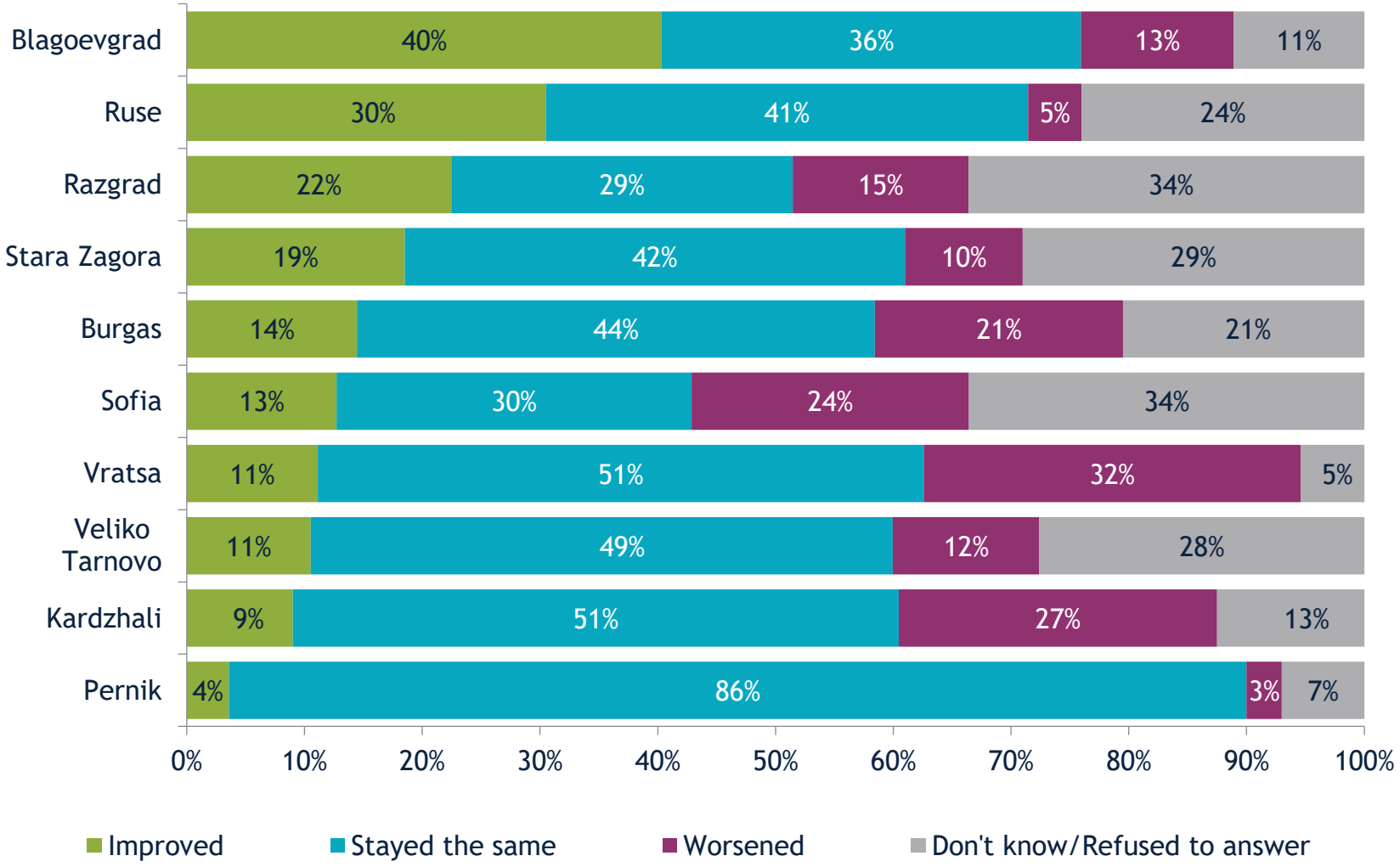


## Are you aware of any local NGOs, which means a local group that forms around a common goal and is not associated with the government, that work for more transparency in the municipal administration and the council?

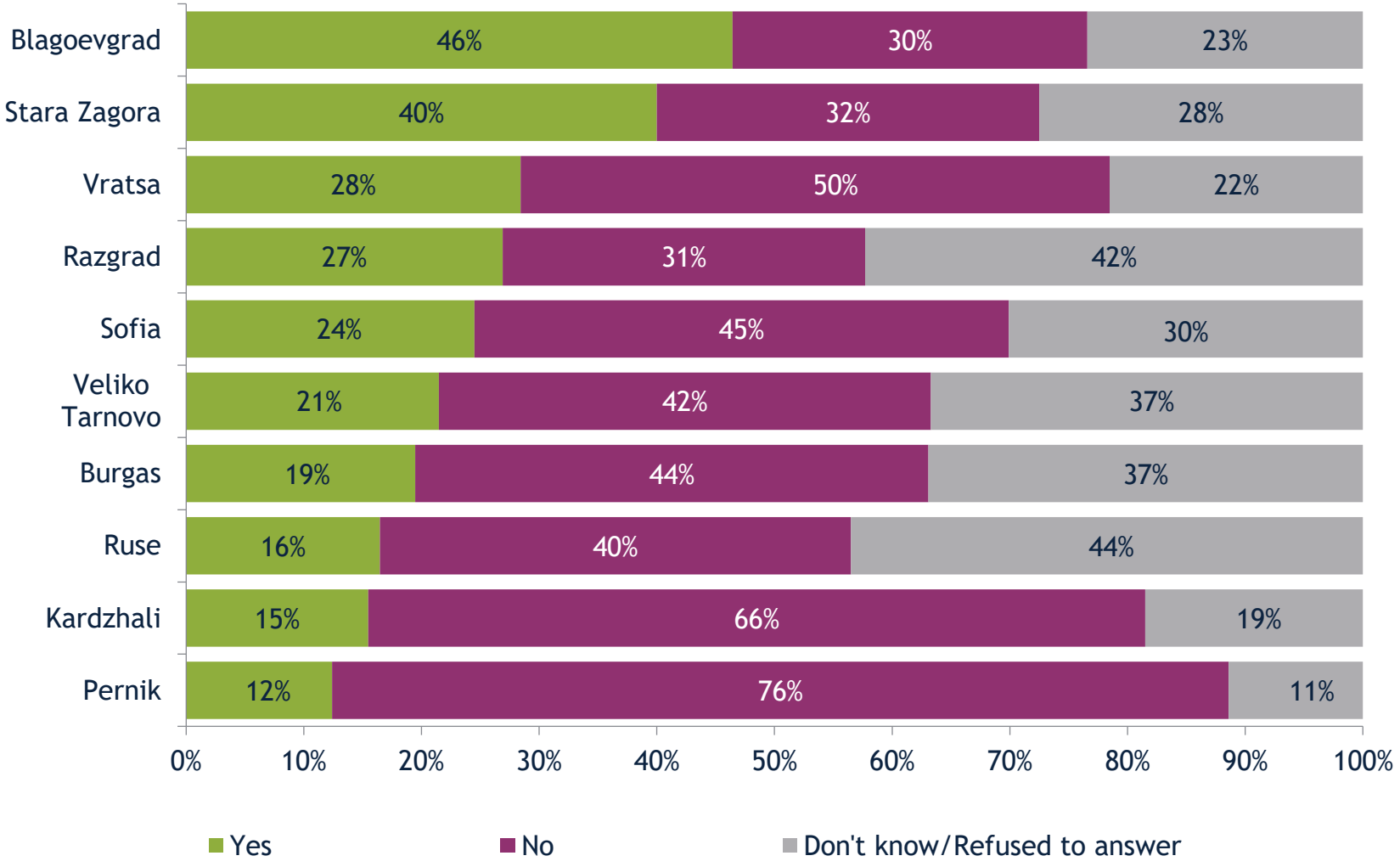
(Only “Yes” responses displayed)



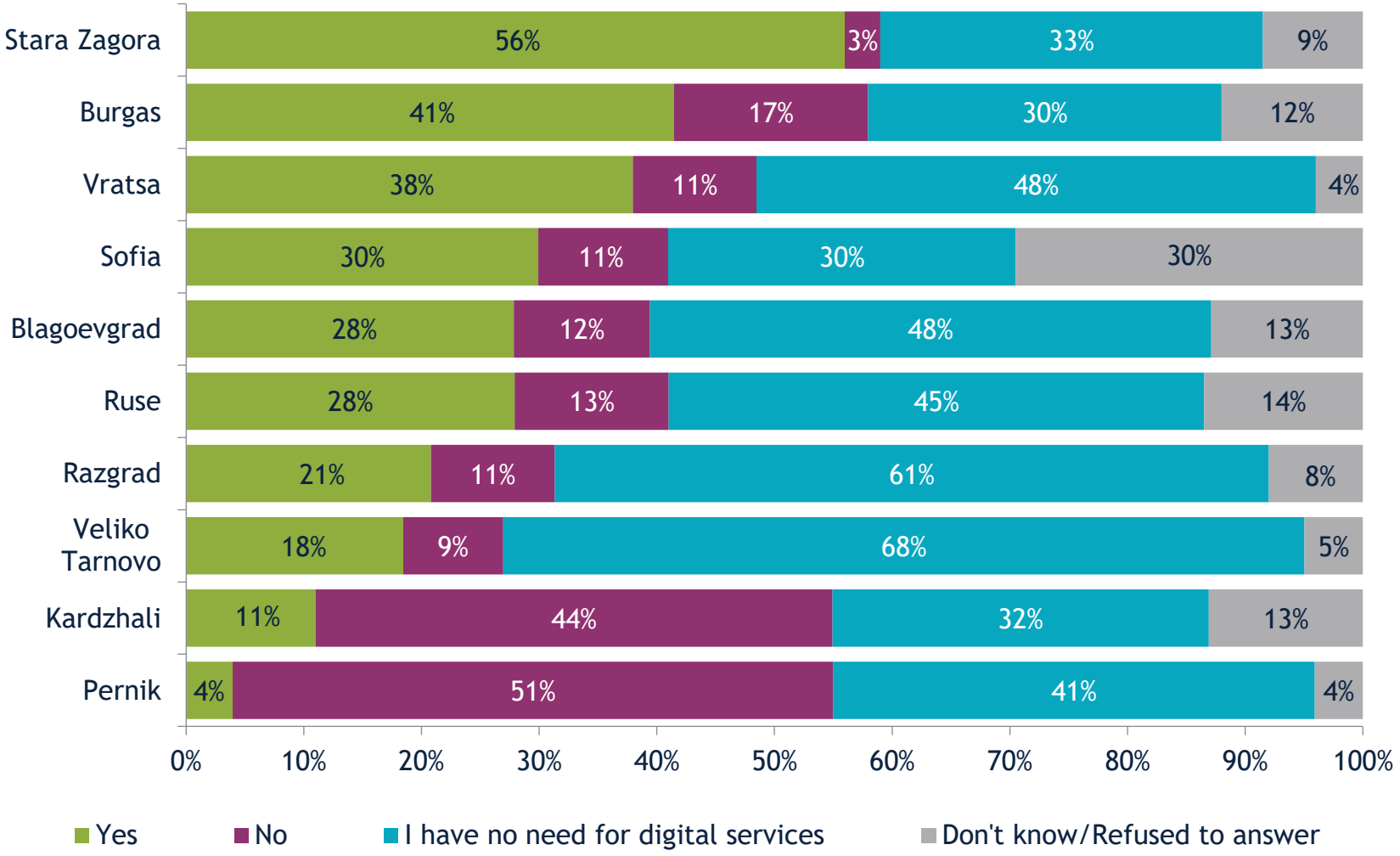
## Do you think municipal transparency has improved or worsened, or stayed the same over the last 10 years?



# Do you see political will for improvement of municipal transparency?

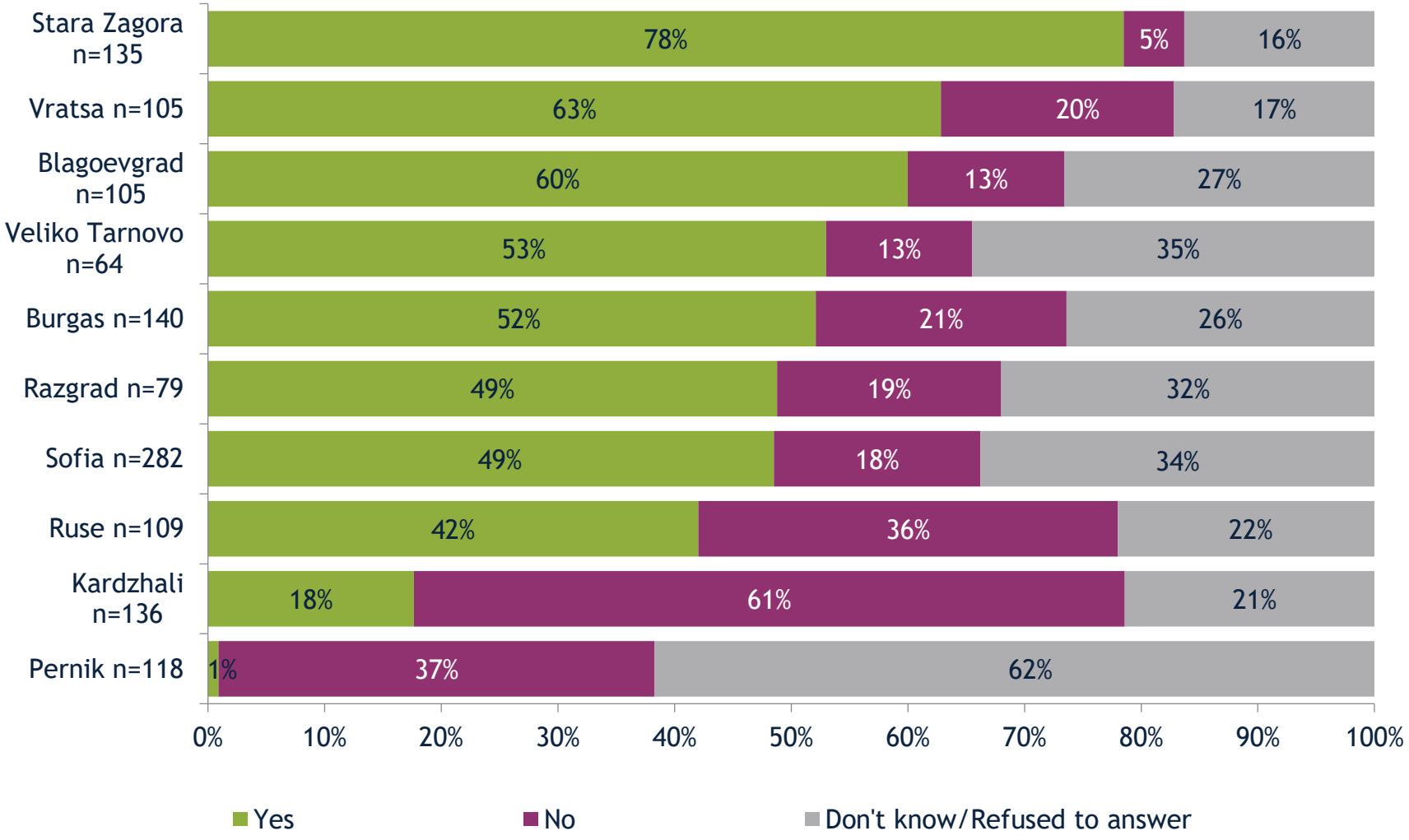


# Are you satisfied with the level of digital services offered by your municipality?

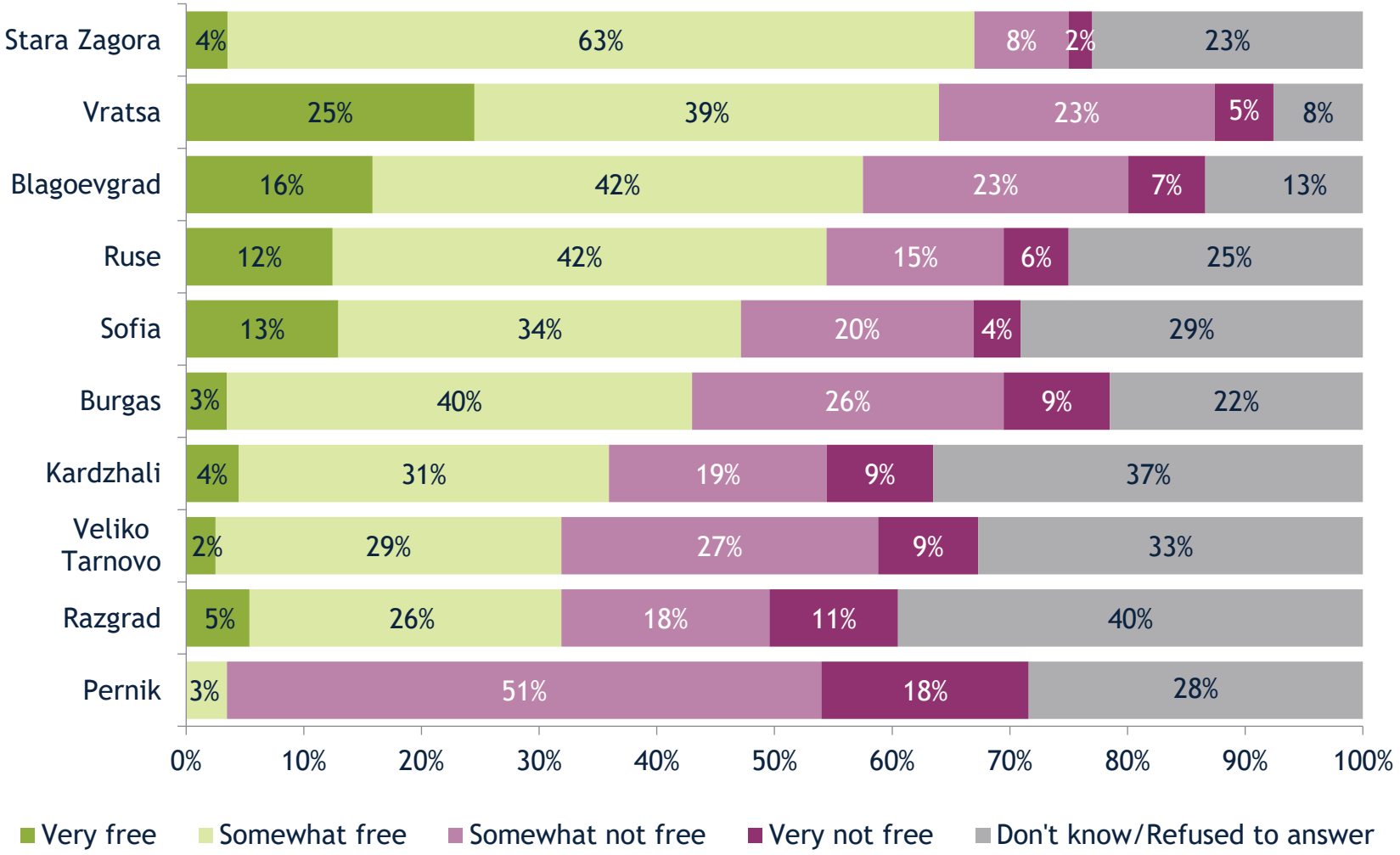


## Do you think efforts are made to improve the digital services offered by your municipality?

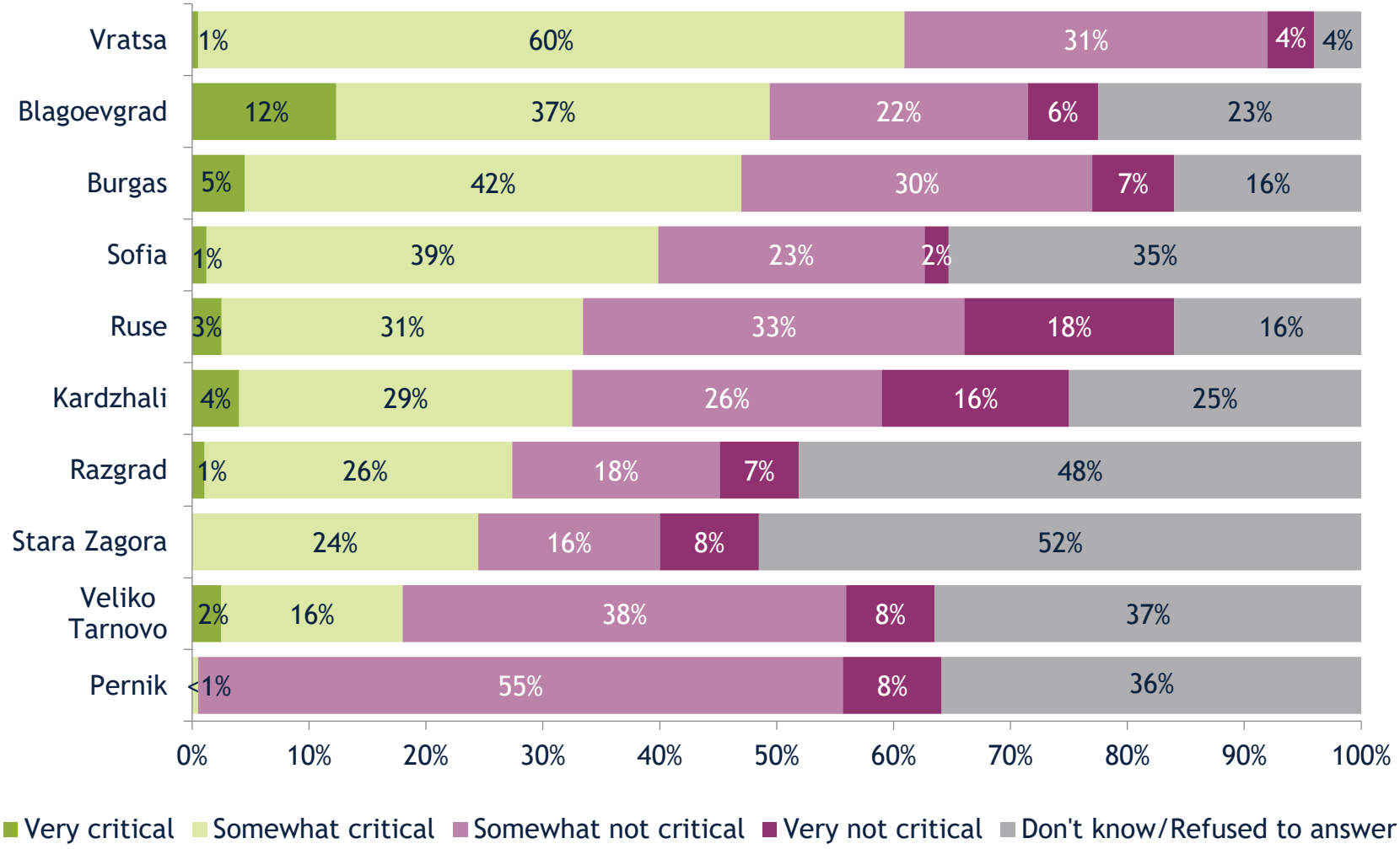
(Among all respondents except for those who stated they have no need for digital services)



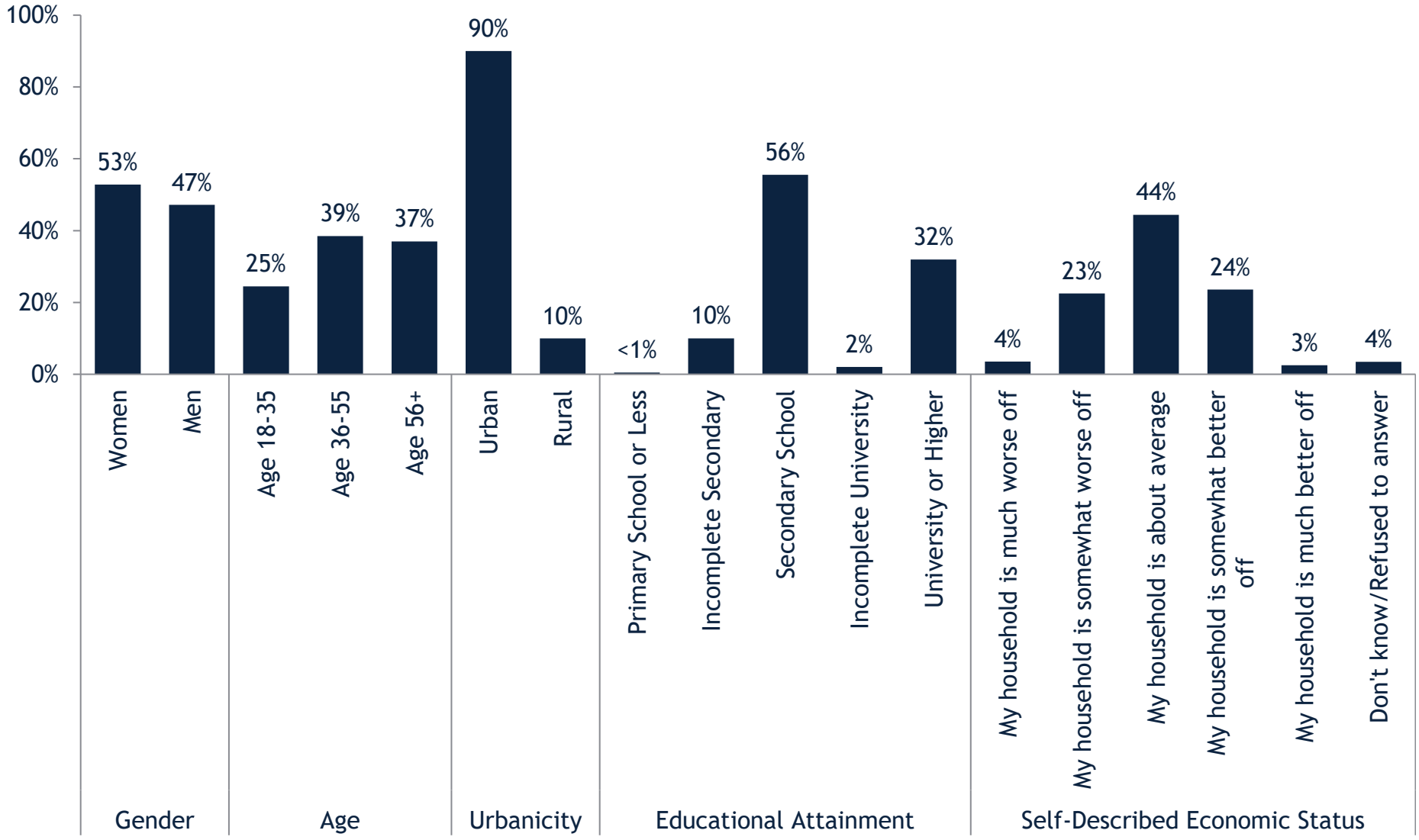
## Are the media in your municipality free to independently cover any issue or not?



# Do you perceive local and regional media as critical or not critical of the municipal administration and the council?



# Demographics



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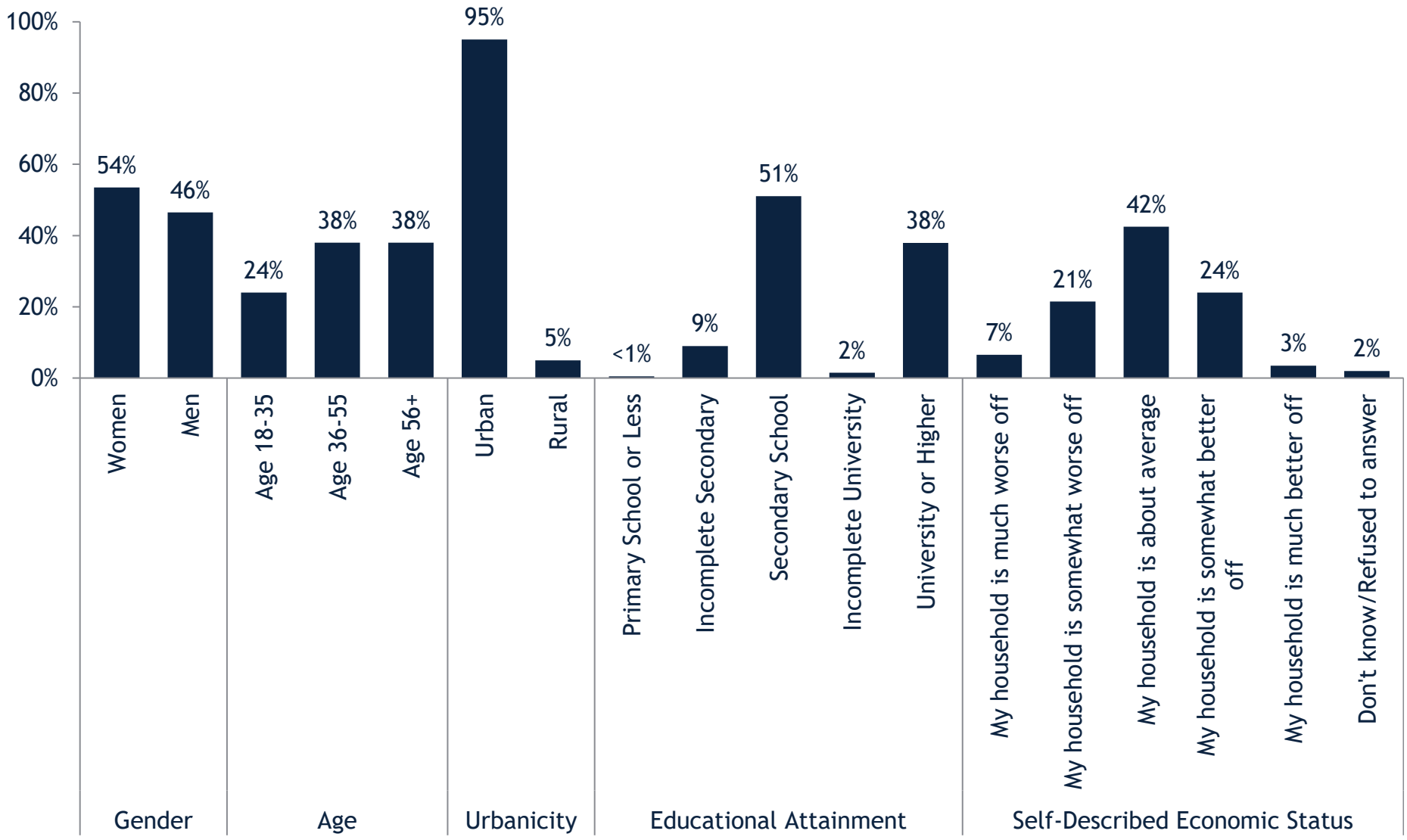

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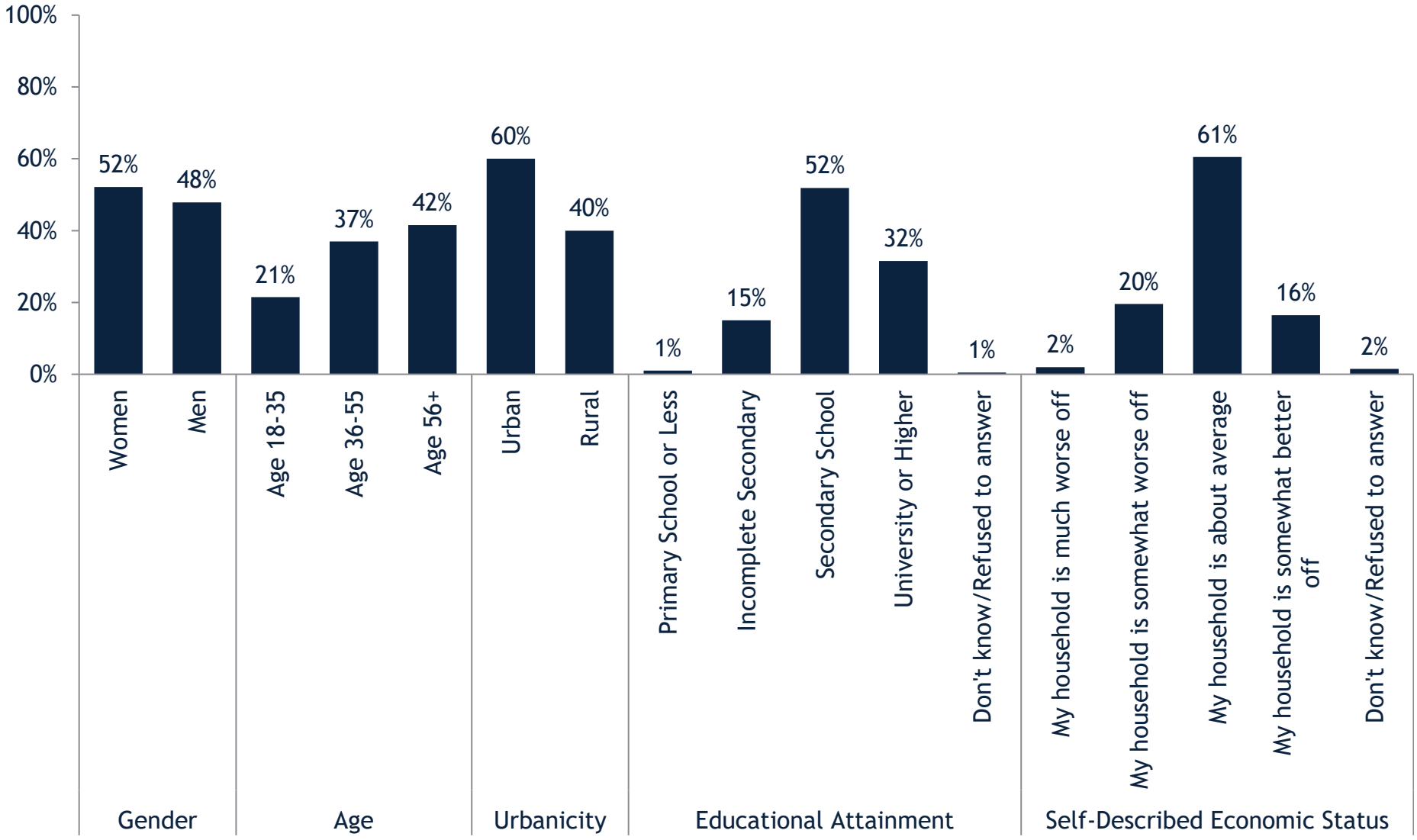

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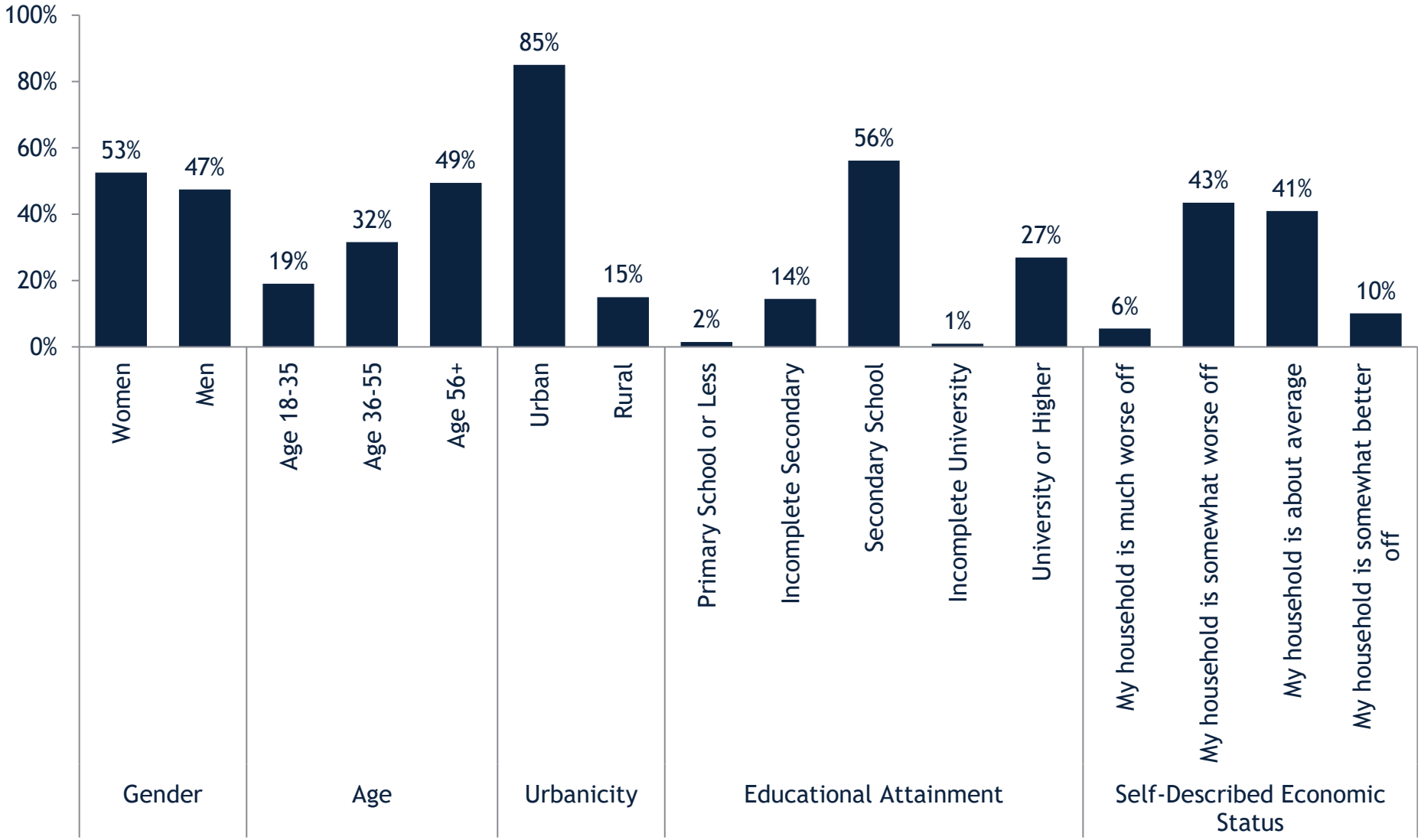

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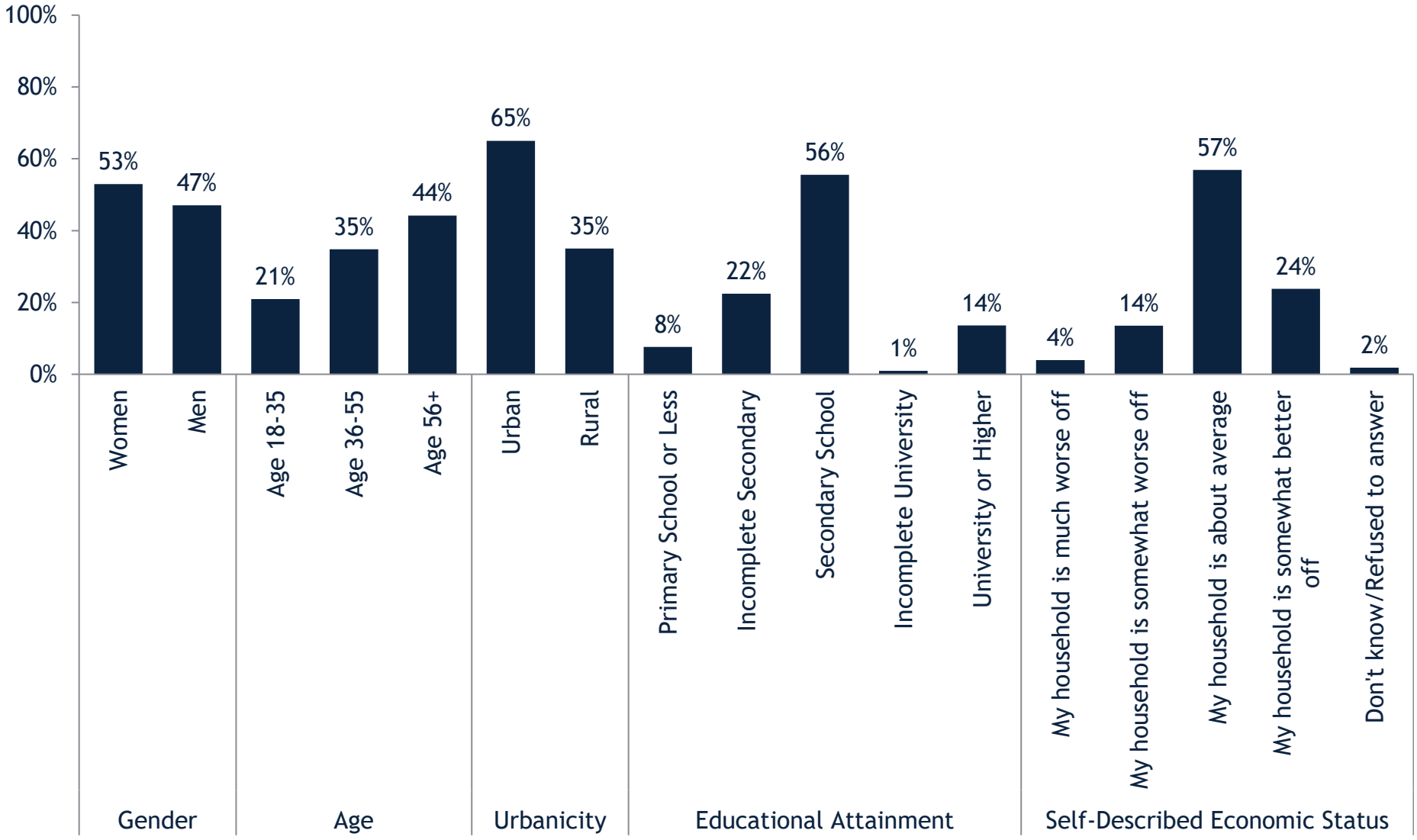

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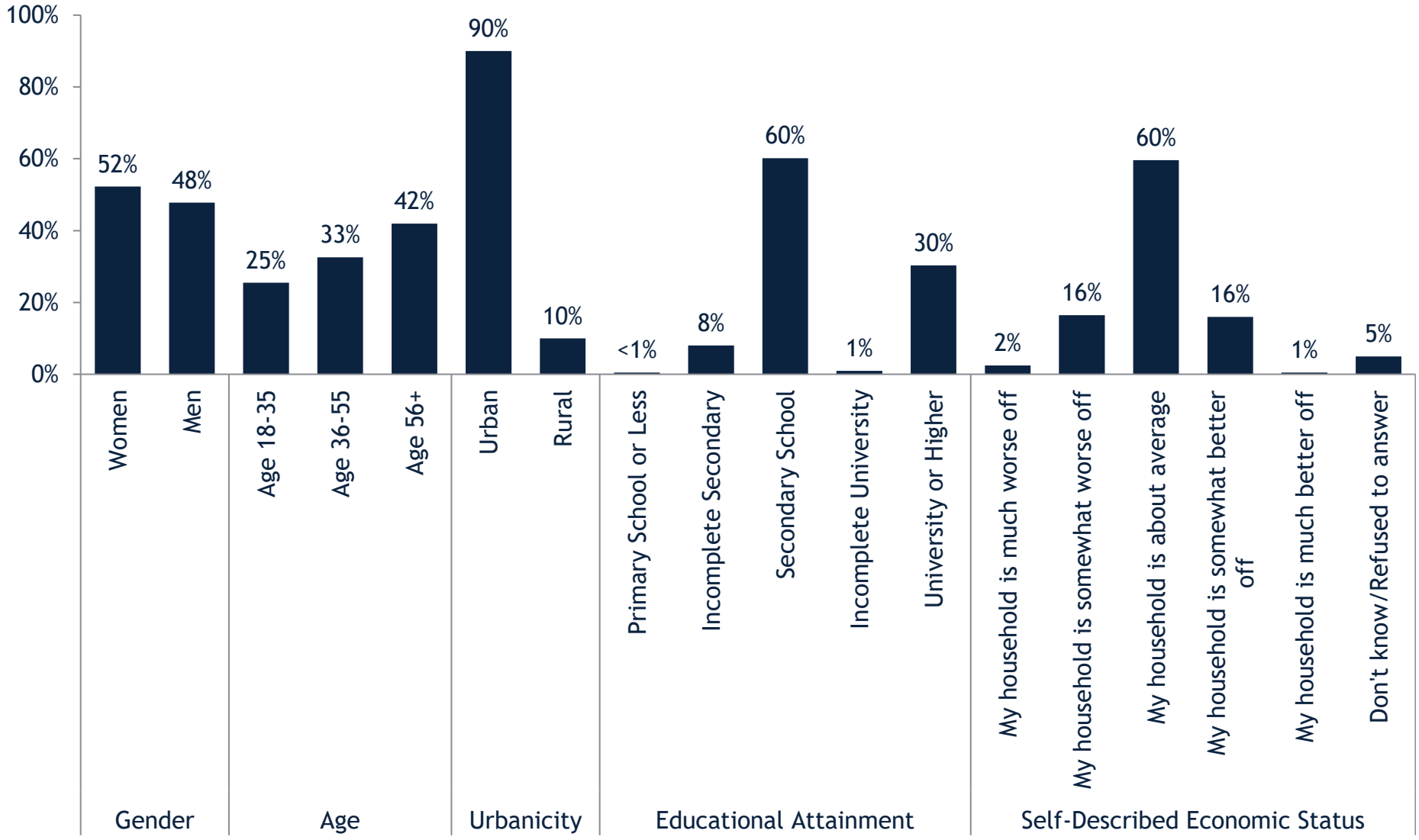

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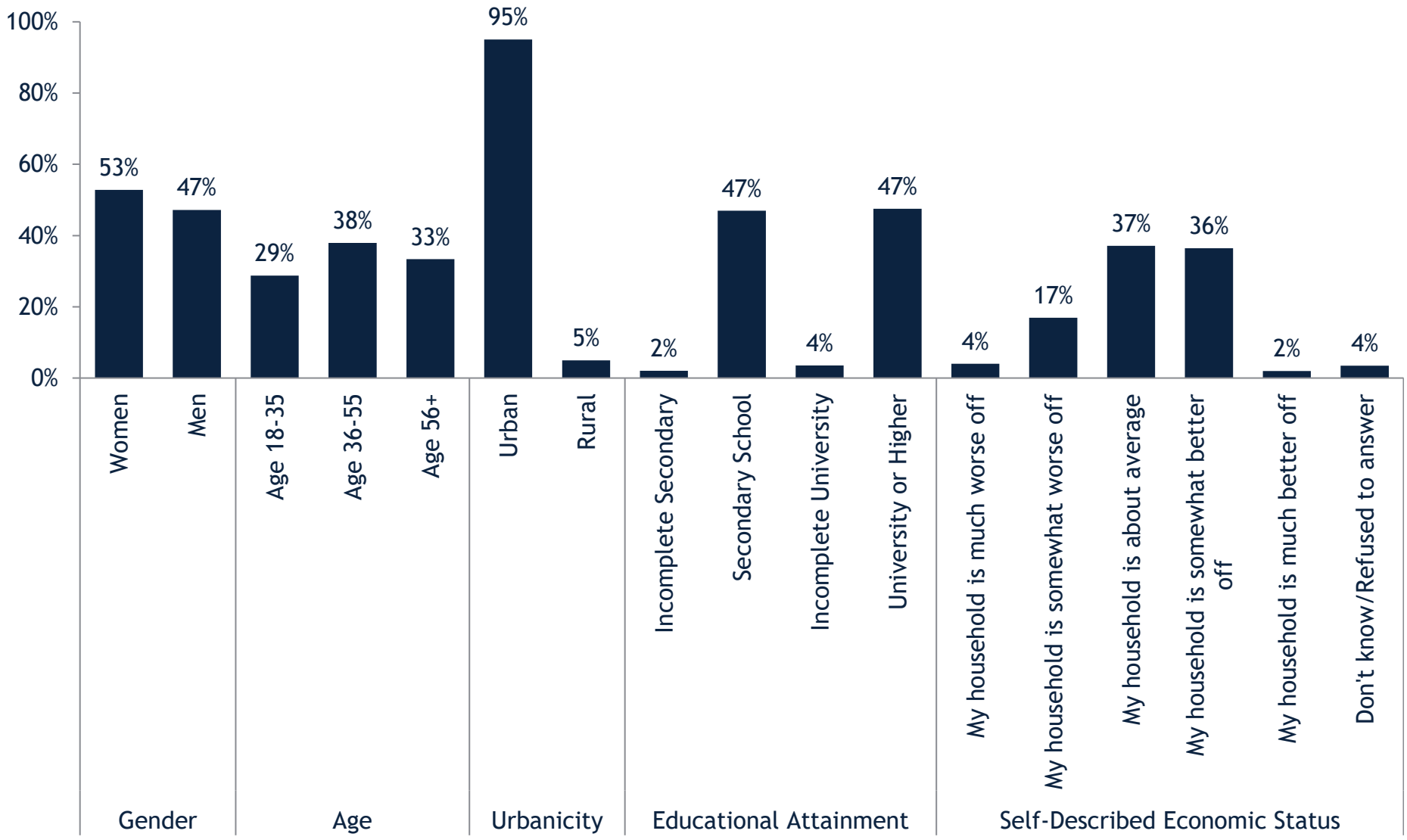

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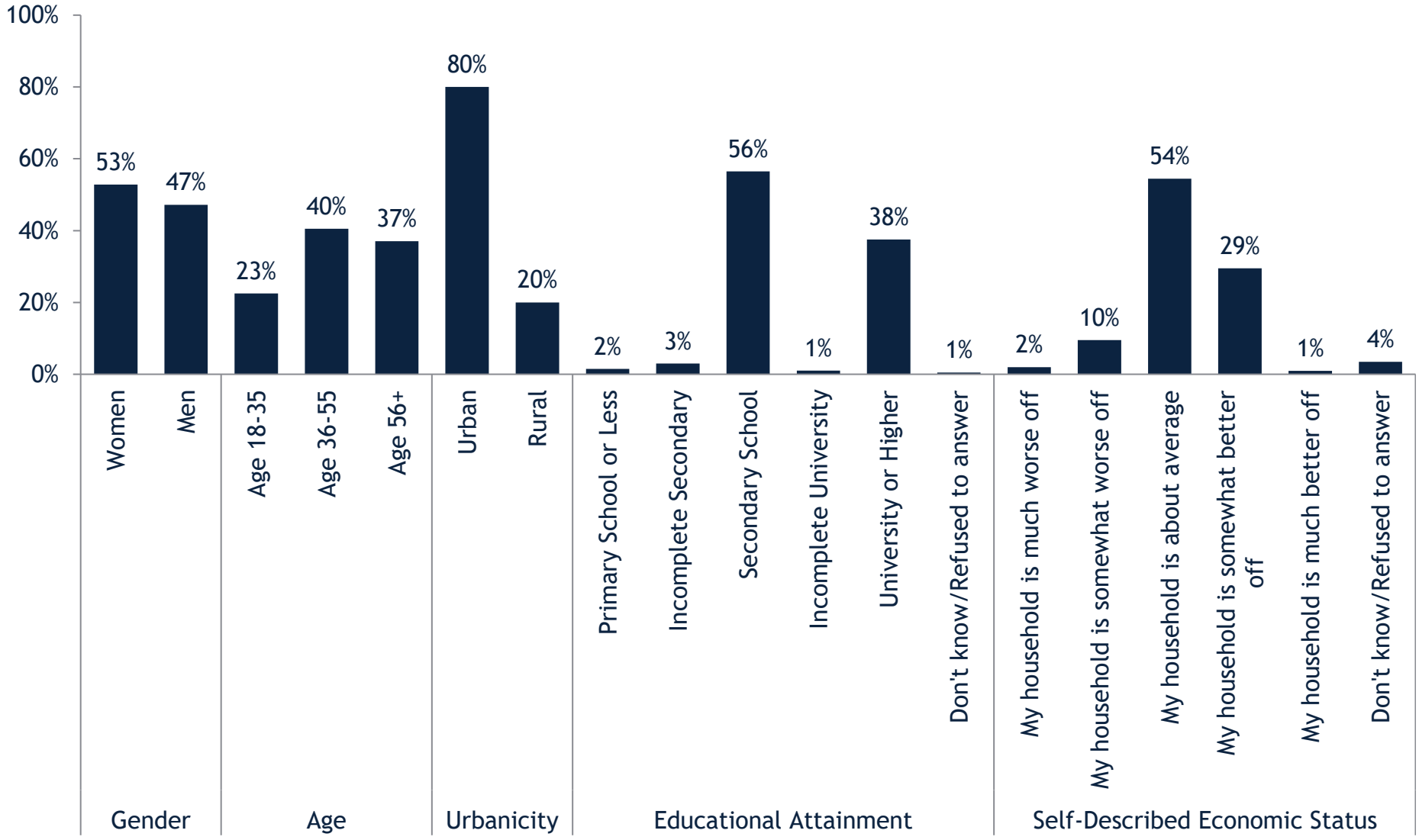

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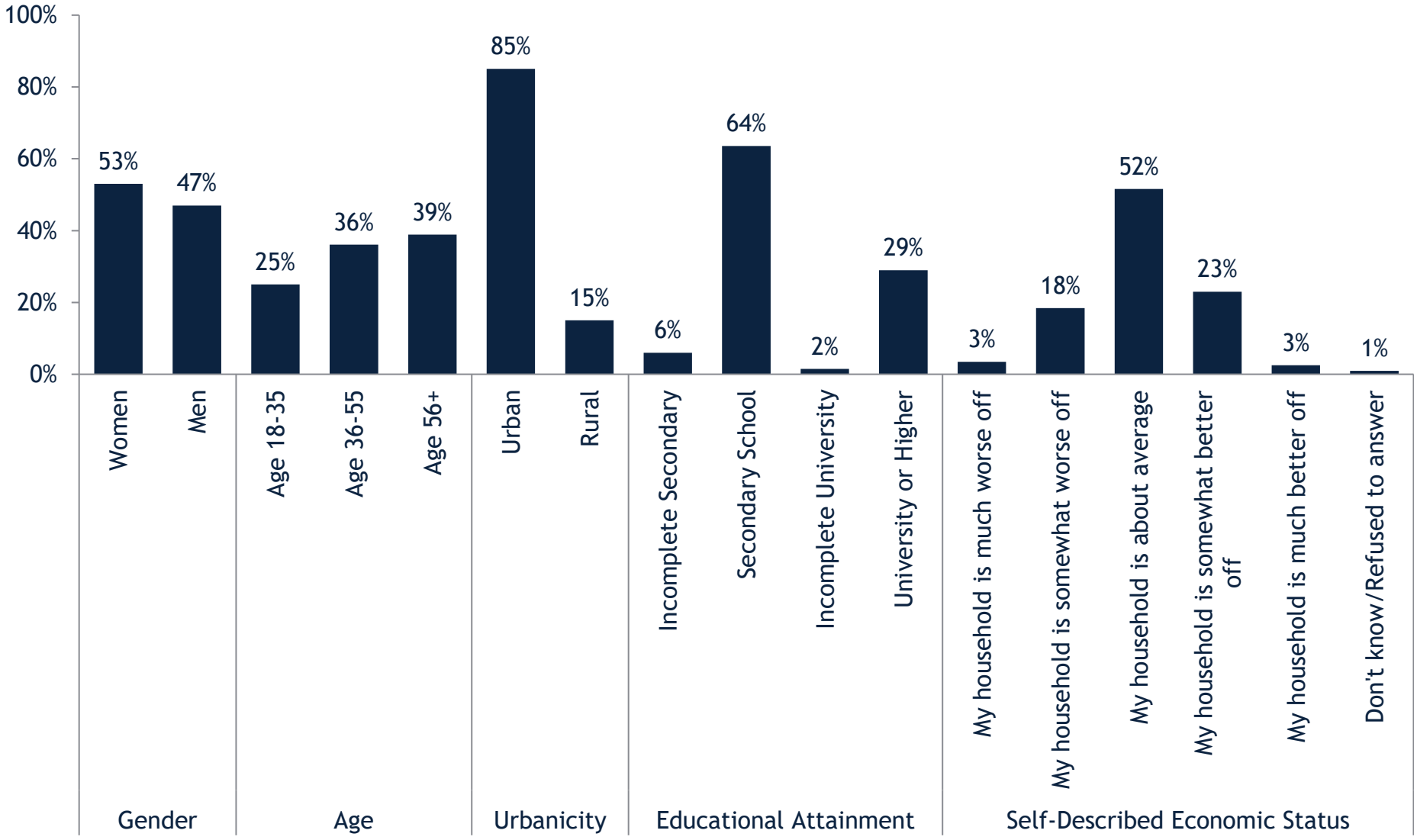

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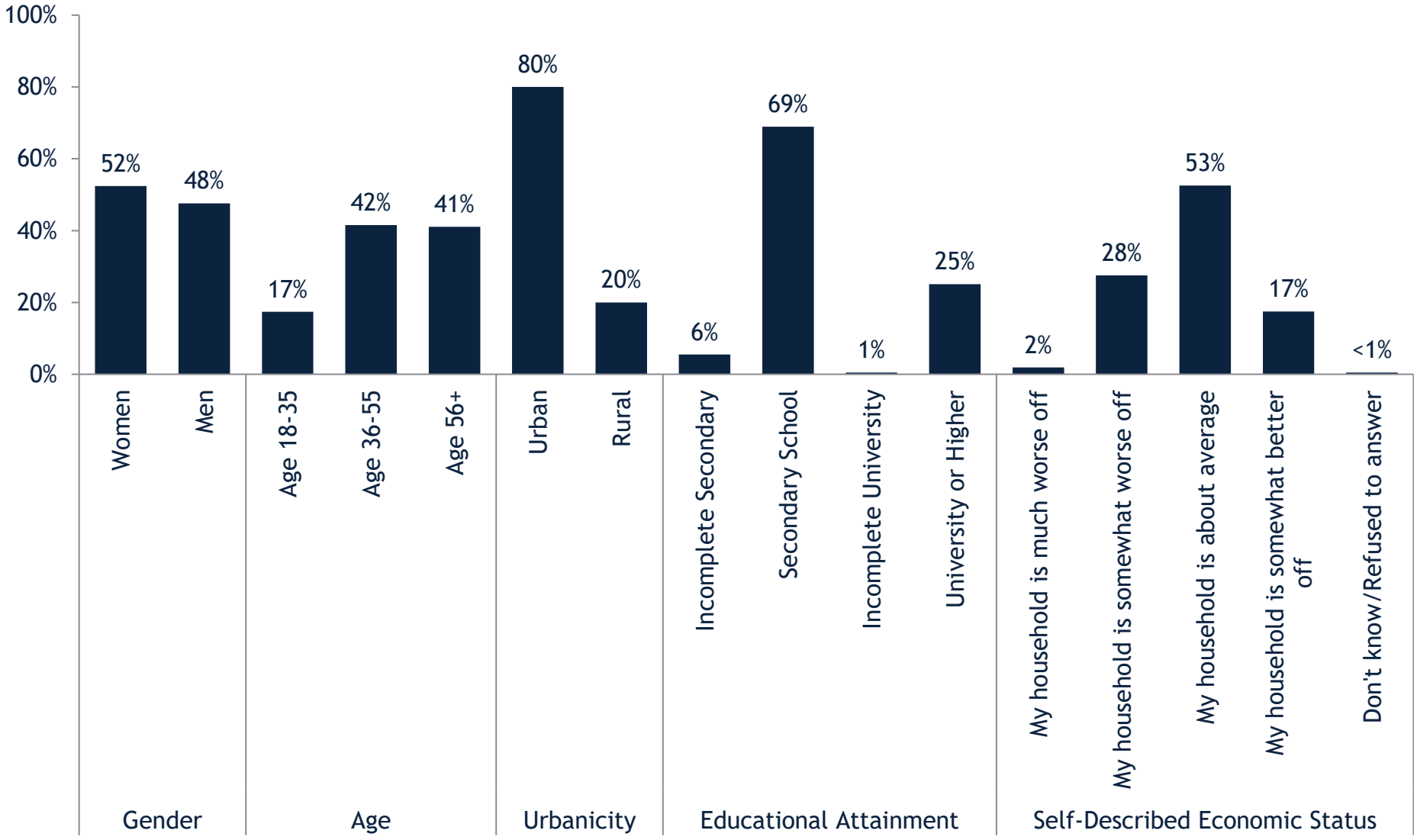

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