

# Kalys Kalaa: Residents' Perceptions of Bishkek Urban Development

October 12, 2023, Life in Kyrgyzstan 2023

**Kasiet Ysmanova, Central Asia Barometer**

**Daria Gavriushchenko, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung Kyrgyzstan**



# Background of the Study

Inspired by Susan Fainstein's concept of Just City, based on a social justice approach to policy-making in urban development.

## Main pillars:

- Diversity
- Democracy
- Equity

Growth in Bishkek that prioritizes social justice





# RESEARCH TOPICS

---

- Residing in Bishkek: Perspectives
- Affordable Housing
- Urban climate and air pollution
- Public transport
- City infrastructure
- Participation in decision-making at the city/district level





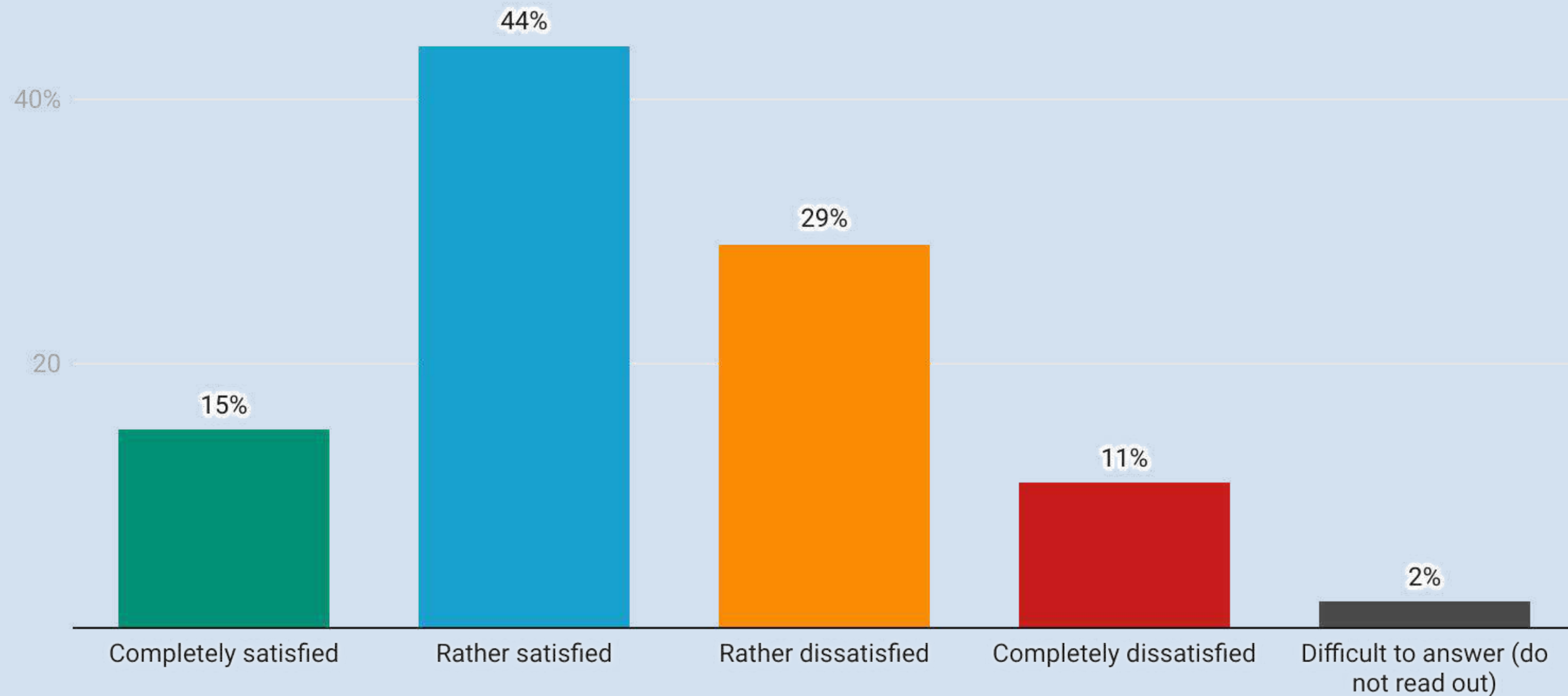
# METHODOLOGY

- **Fieldwork dates:**  
September 19 - October 10, 2022
- **Method:** face-to-face CAPI
- **Sampling method:**  
probability-based sampling
- **Sample:** 404, 18-65 age from all four districts of Bishkek, permanently residing in the city for the last 3 years.
- **Margin of error:** 4.9% at 95% CI

# Residing in Bishkek: Perspectives

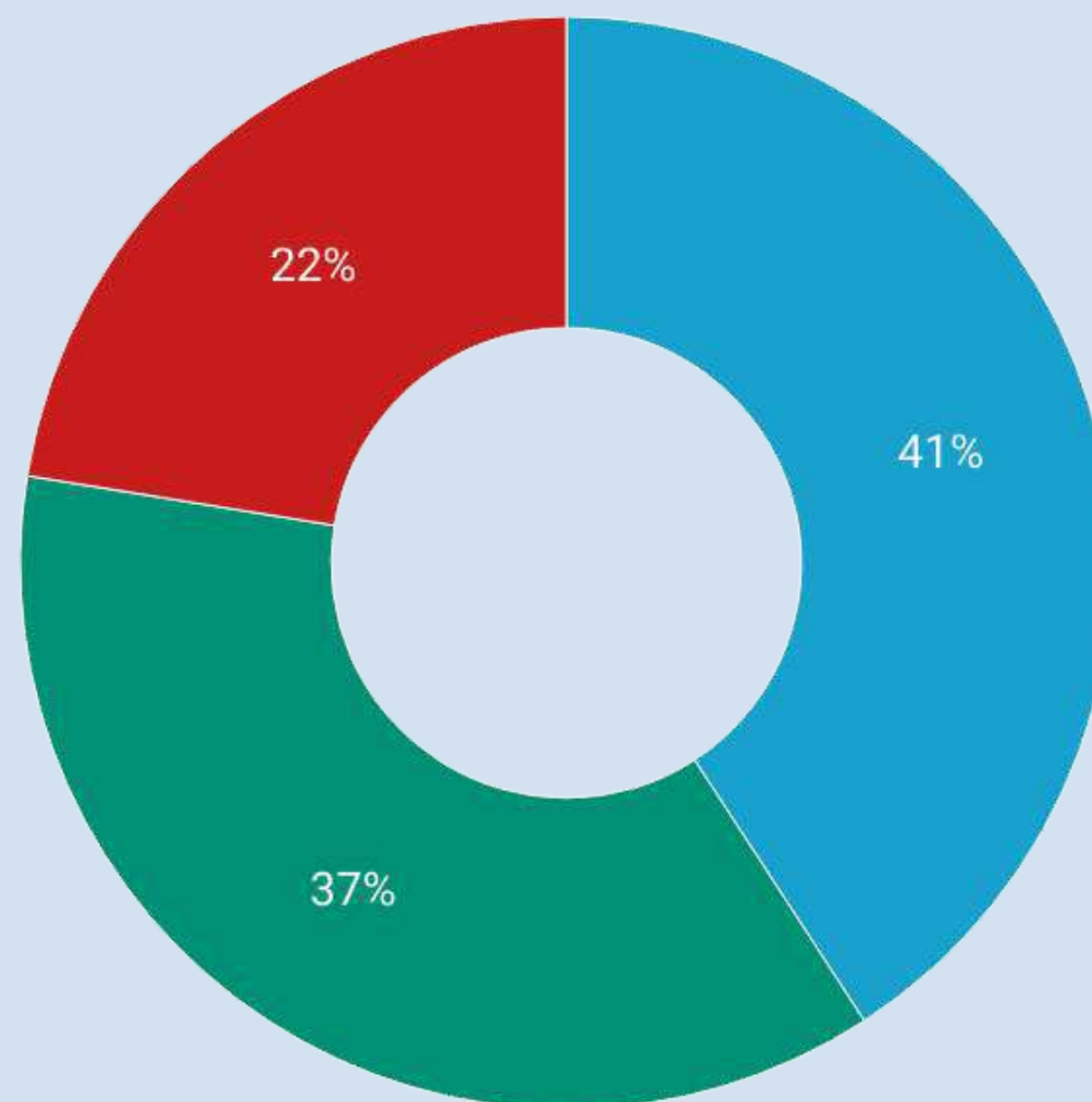
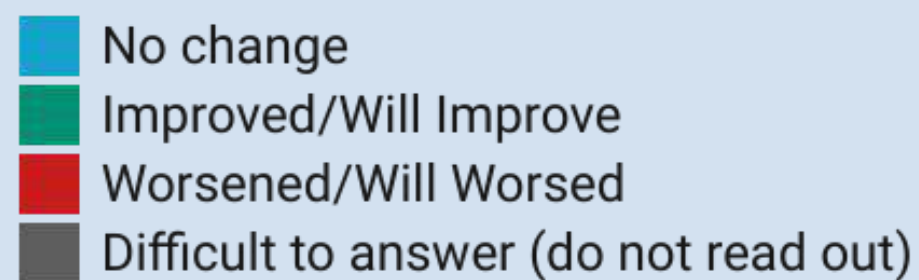


# In general, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the state of affairs in Bishkek?



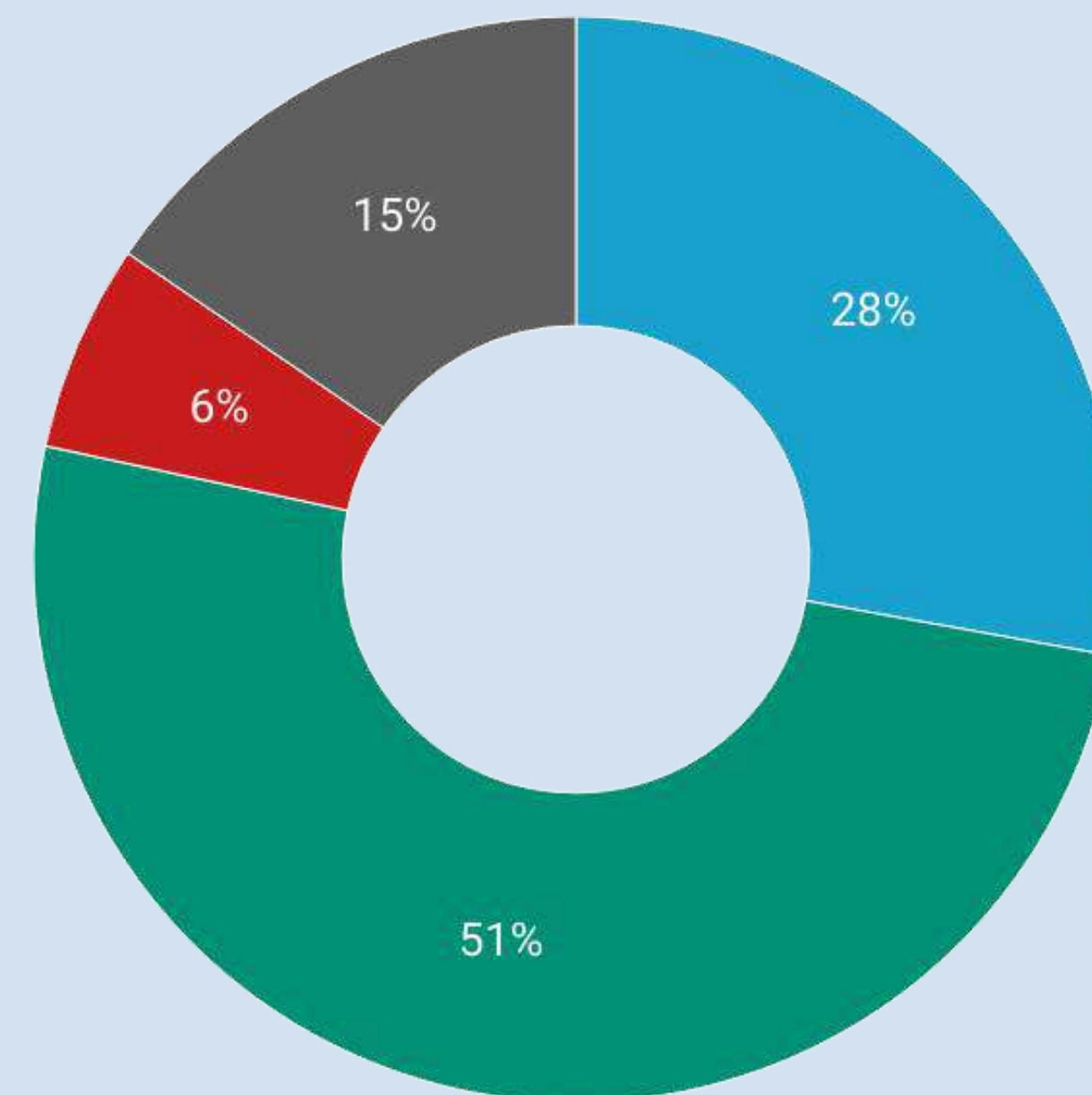


## Past 2 Years



In your opinion, has the situation in Bishkek improved, worsened or remained the same over the past two years?

## Next 2 Years



Do you think that in the next two years the situation in Bishkek will improve, worsen or remain the same?

# What do you see as the main advantages of living in Bishkek?

37%



WORK  
OPPORTUNITIES

24%



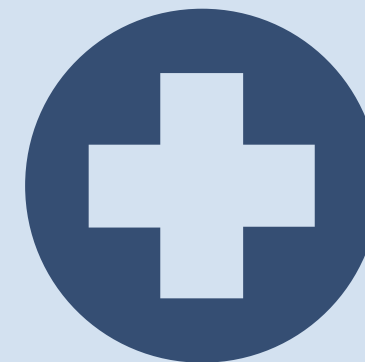
EDUCATION

17%



INFRASTRUCTURE

12%



HEALTHCARE

10%



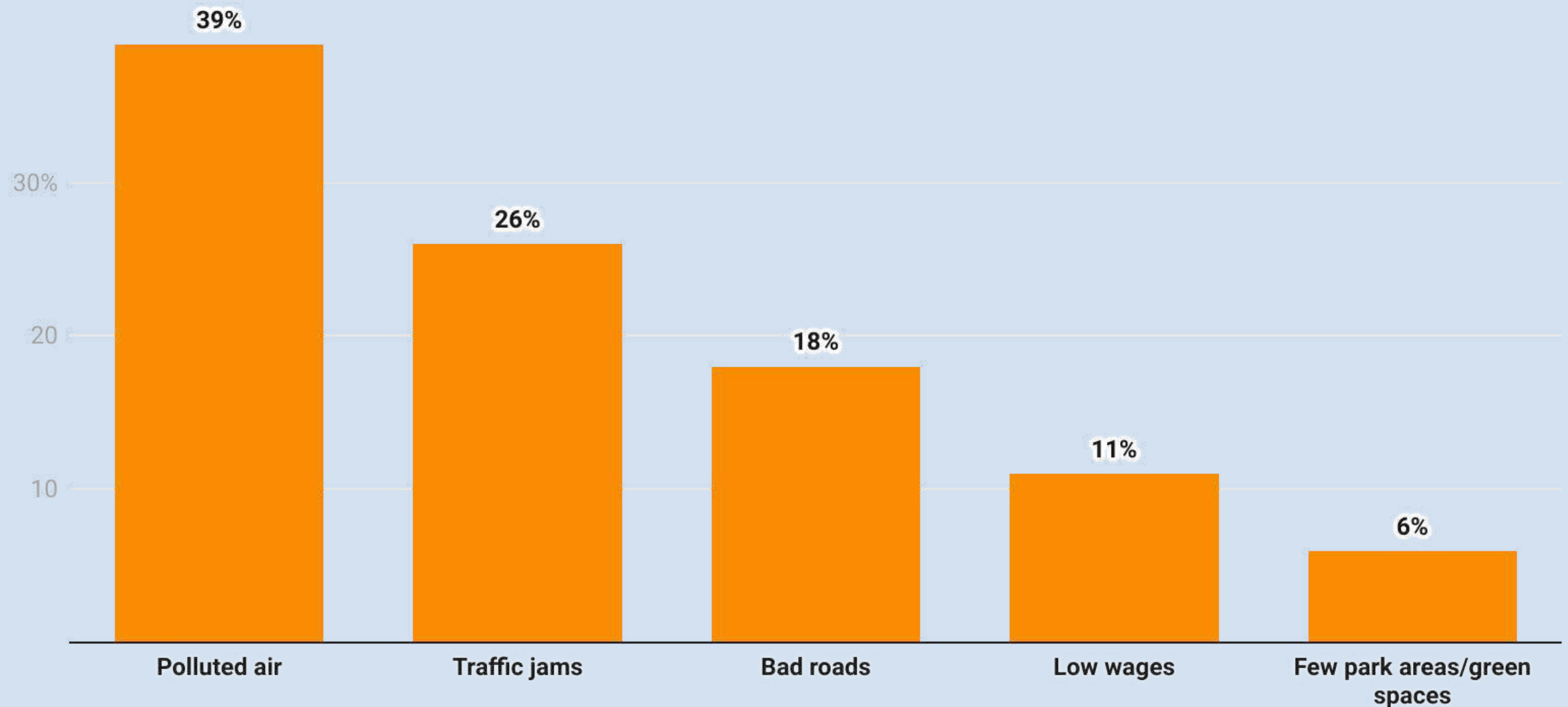
CULTURE





populous  
fruit and vegetables  
in my children's future  
amazing nature  
I have relatives.  
civilisations I am a patriot  
good food supply  
markets, shops  
easy to do business  
it is easier to live here  
the opportunity to go out of town  
housing  
mountainous country  
low prices for mountaineers  
I was born and live here  
the city itself is interesting  
compact city  
lots of construction  
no war  
calmly  
location  
higher wages and pensions  
lots of green spaces  
prospects/more opportunities  
freedom of speech, the government doesn't dominate  
stability  
mobility  
it's the capital international  
cheap internet  
better for the girl's future  
ecology  
social transformation  
good/kind people  
good/warm climate  
more conditions for living  
safety

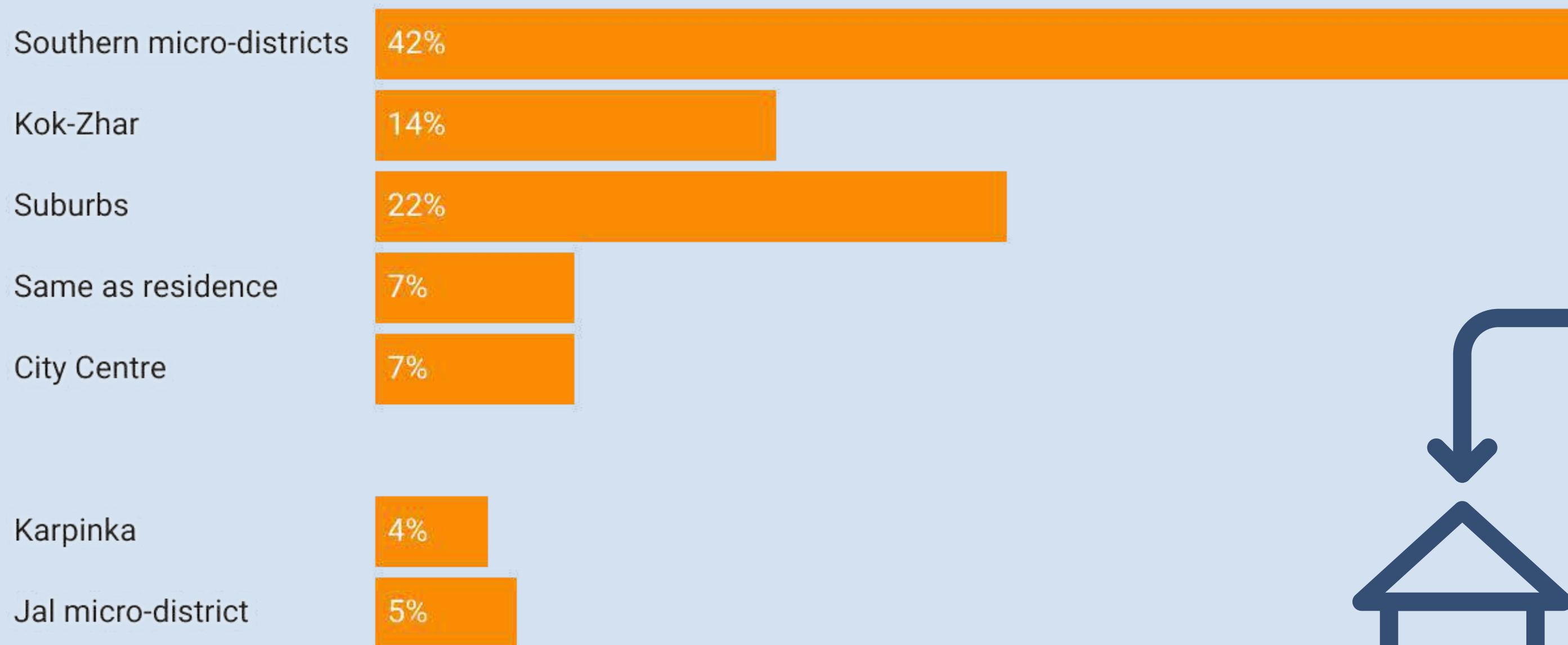
# What do you see as the main disadvantages of living in Bishkek?



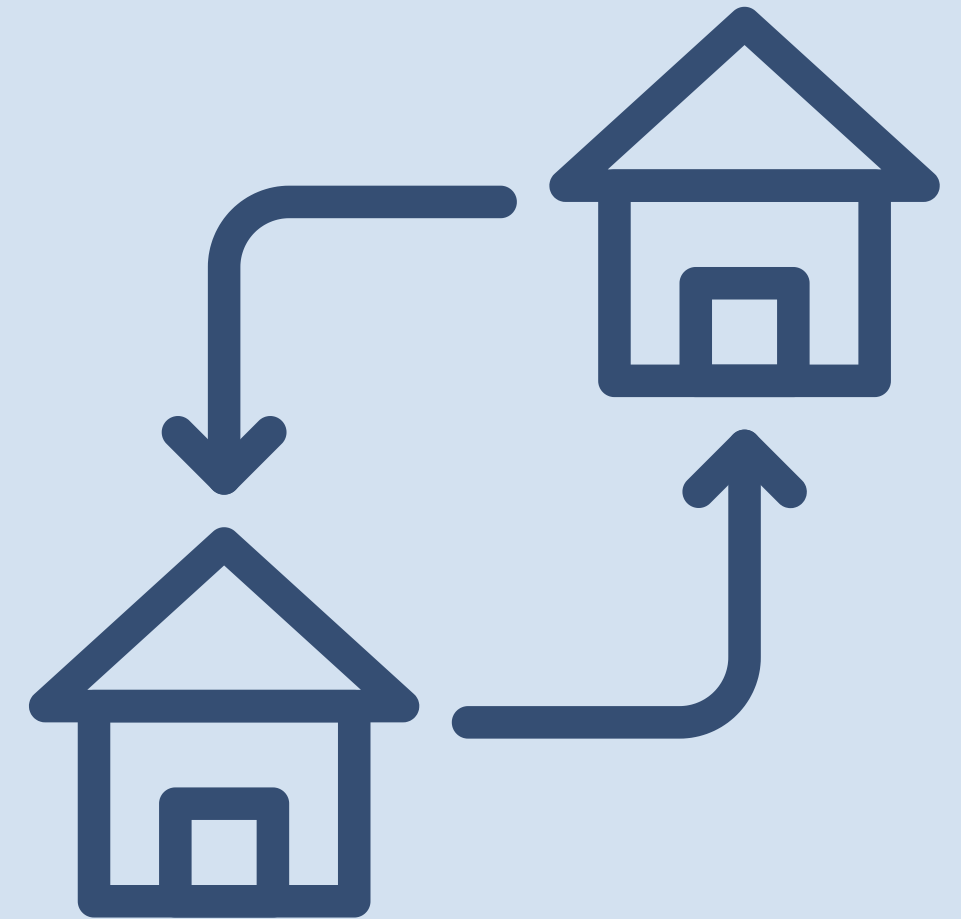


no social support  
lack of jobs noise  
poor infrastructure  
reduction in the number of deputies  
poor public services  
no street lights  
uncultured people  
unorganised irrigation of the city/irrigation system  
everything is bad  
national leadership  
clampdown  
high inflation  
overcrowding  
bad ecology  
parking shortage  
chaotic development with elite buildings  
small town  
unfulfilled promises  
lots of rubbish/landfill  
poor economy  
people's behaviour on the roads, traffic rules/driving culture is not developed  
no development plan for politicians  
public transport problems  
no housing  
indiscriminate parking  
corruption  
everything is old  
traffic jams  
literacy level of population/visitors  
employing acquaintances/coup d'état  
everywhere you have to pay

# Which district of Bishkek would you like to move to if you had such an opportunity?



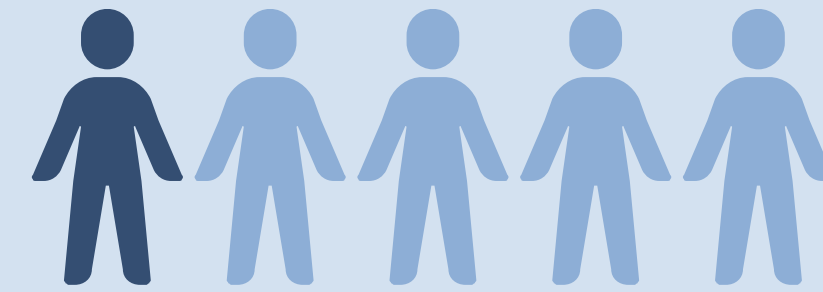
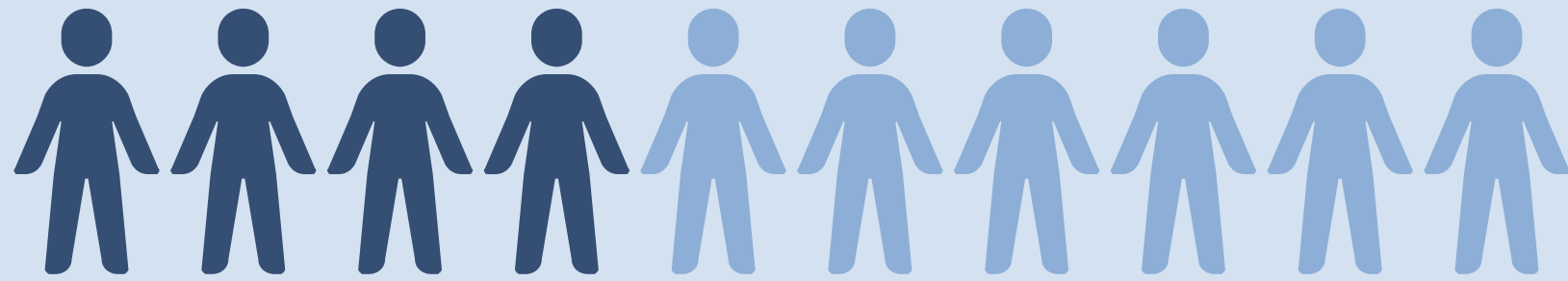
Created with Datawrapper





We need to change housing

We have the financial resources to change housing

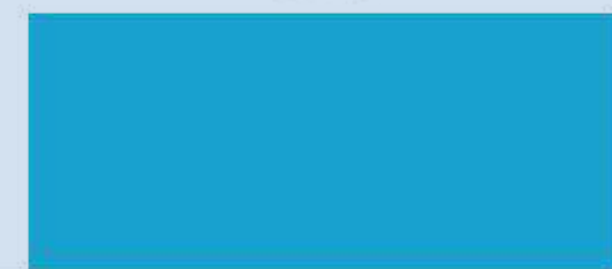


40%

## Where to get the funds?

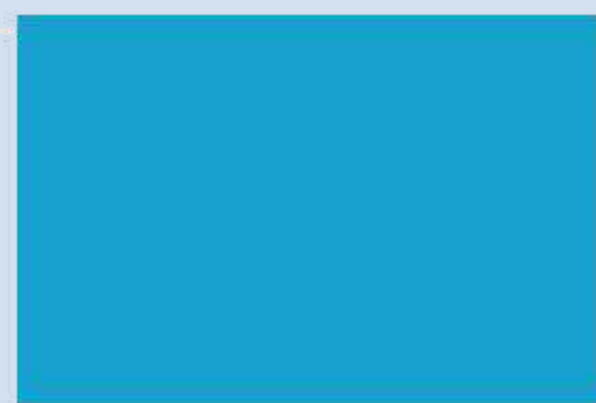
20

14%



Instalment payment in  
construction companies

21%



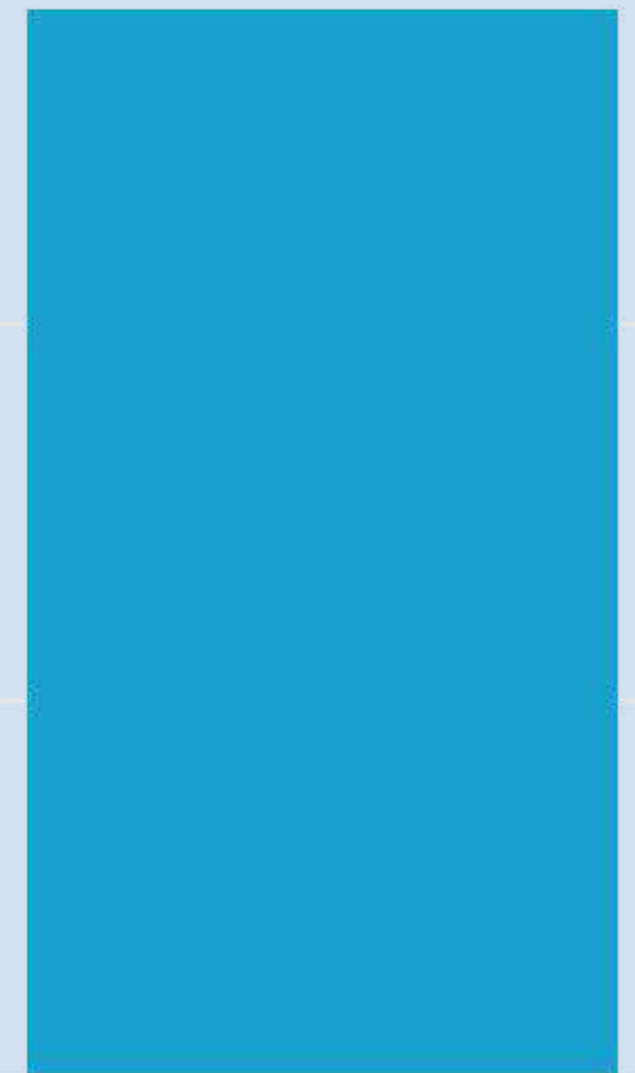
Loan or mortgage

4%



Loans from relatives or  
acquaintances

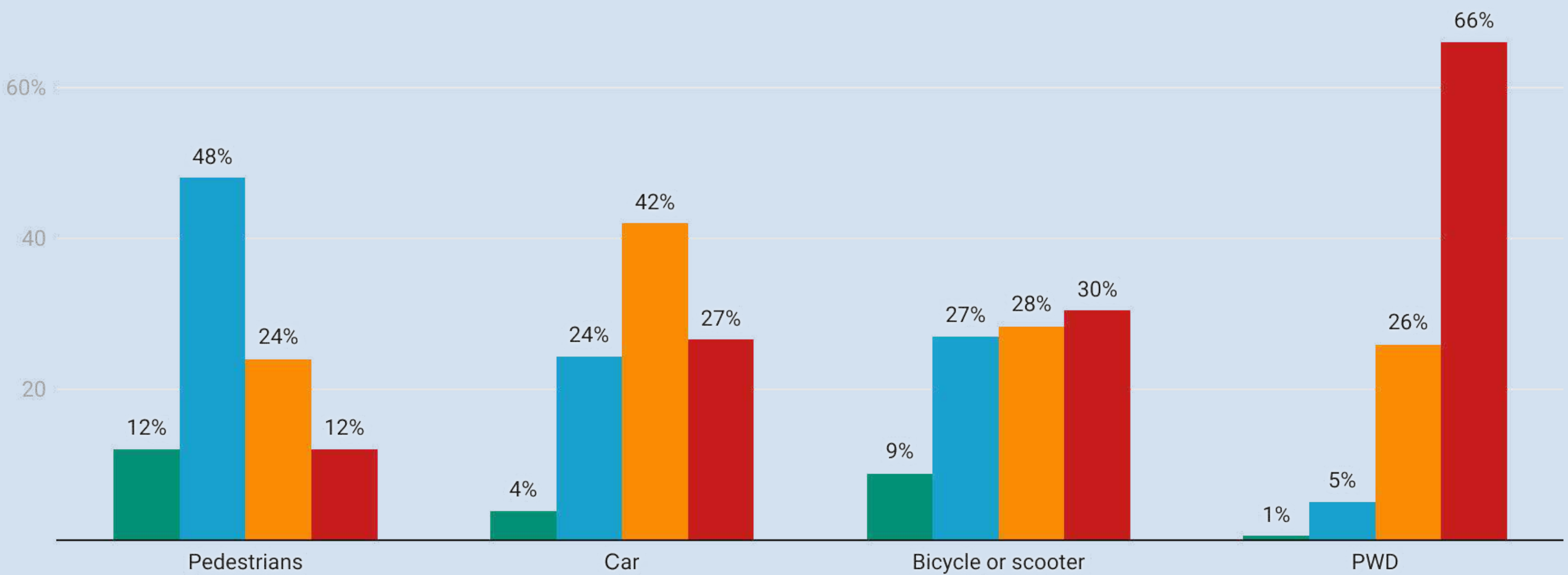
57%

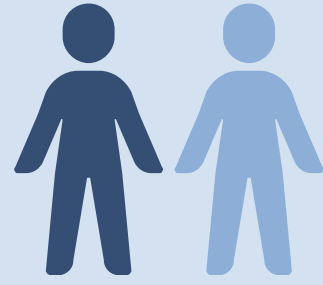


Accumulated funds

# In your opinion, is it comfortable or uncomfortable for pedestrians/cars/bikes & scooters to move around Bishkek today?

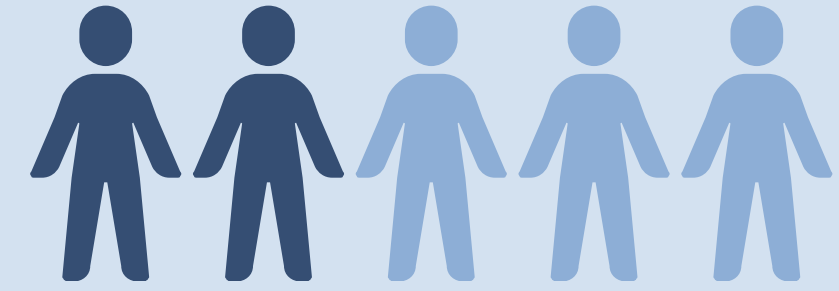
Very comfortable   Rather comfortable   Rather uncomfortable   Not comfortable at all





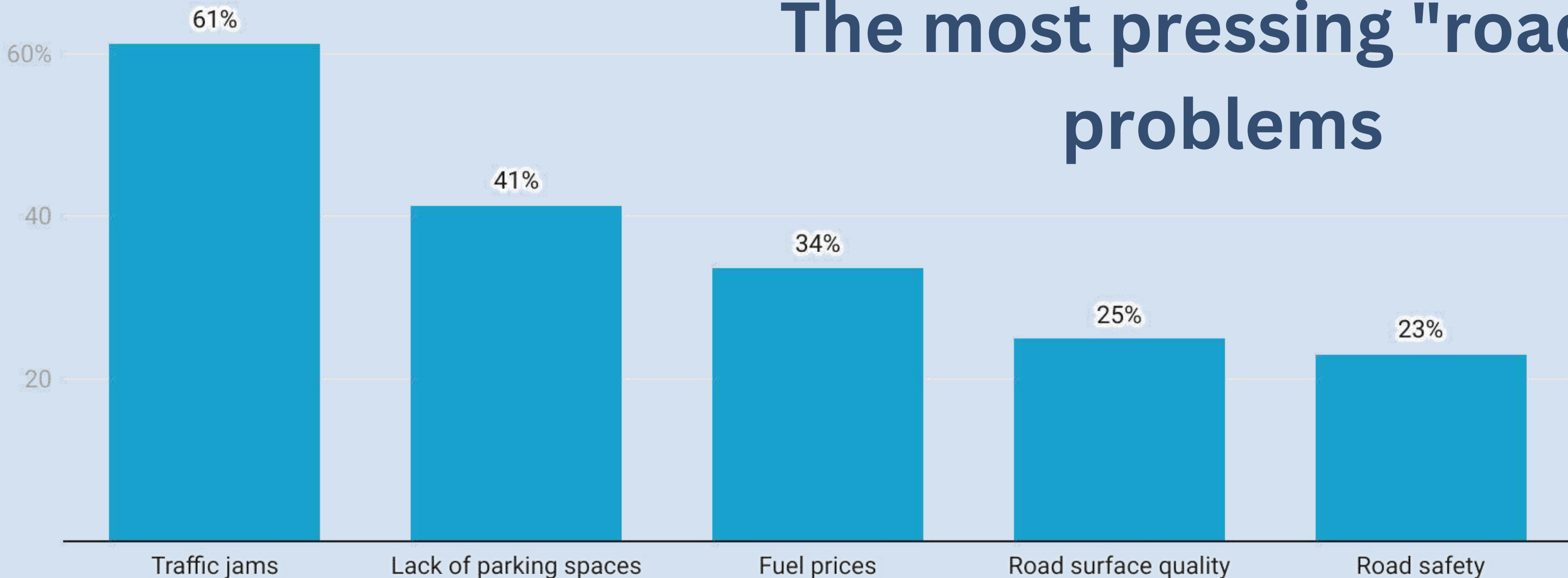
Use public traspont

Say it's in "rather bad" or "very bad condition"



Use public transport every day

## The most pressing "roads" problems



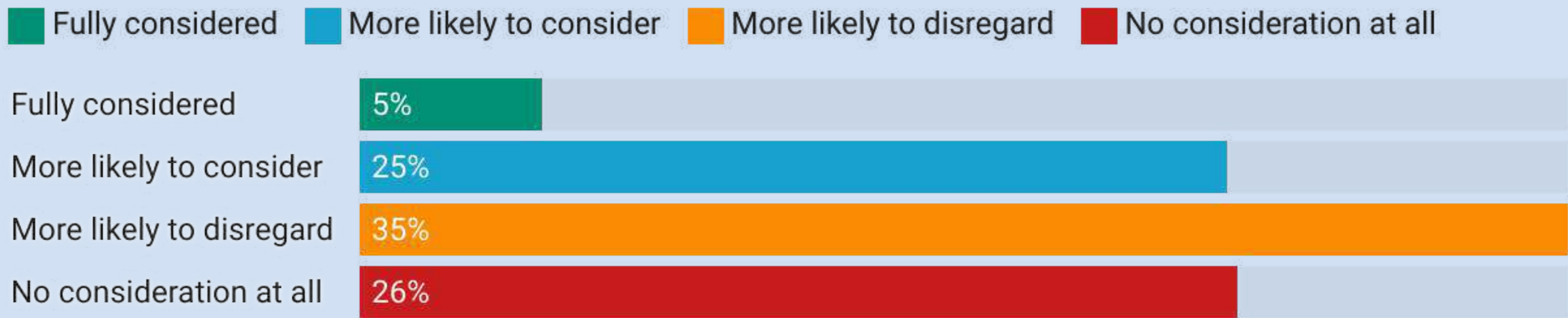
# **PARTICIPATION IN DECISION MAKING AT THE CITY/DISTRICT LEVEL**

An illustration of a diverse group of nine people of various ages and ethnicities standing behind a large white banner. They are all smiling and looking towards the viewer. The background features a stylized cityscape with blue buildings and green hills under a light blue sky. The banner they are holding has the text 'WE ARE FOR CLEAN AIR!' written on it in bold black letters.

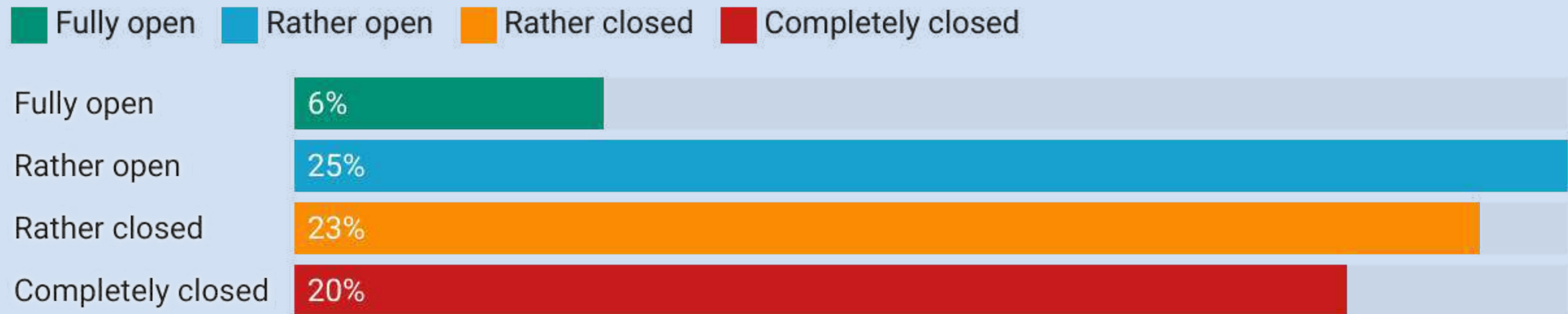
**WE ARE FOR CLEAN AIR!**



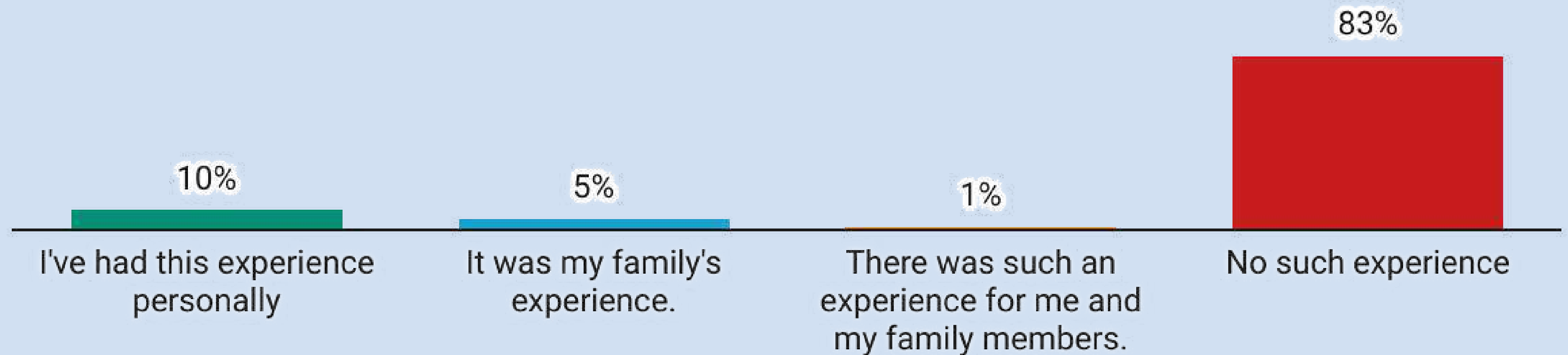
# In your opinion, do the Bishkek authorities consider or do not consider the opinions and desires of citizens when making important decisions for the city?



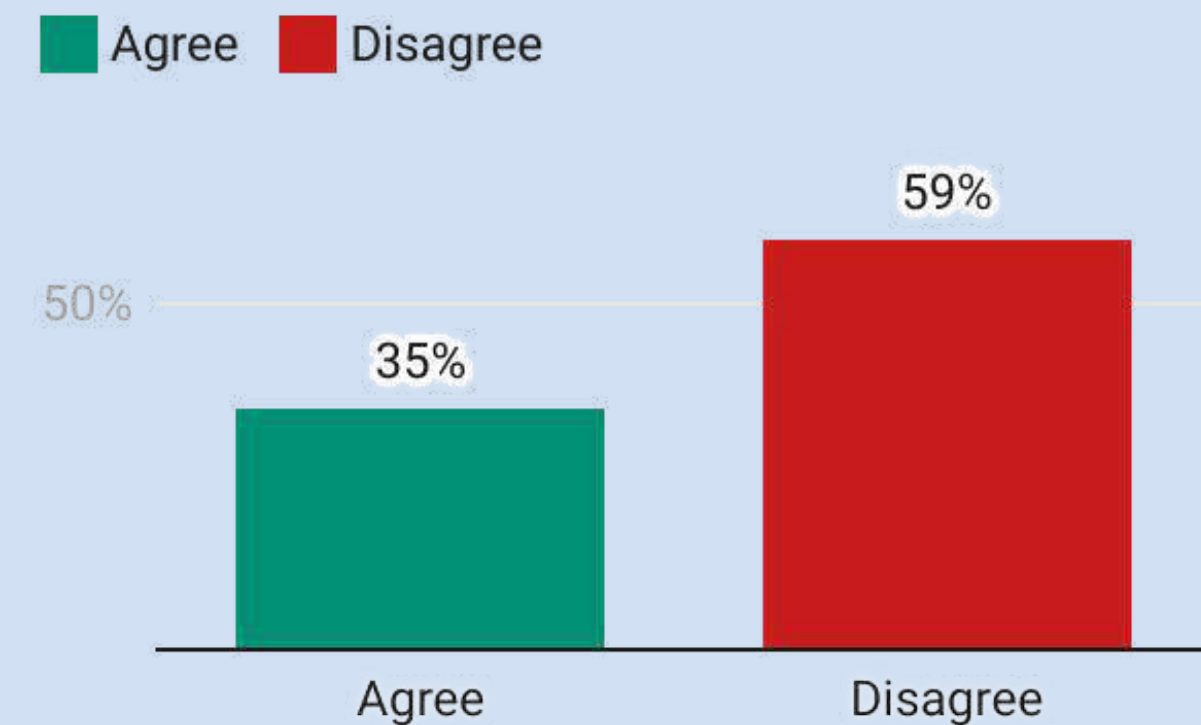
# Do you think that today the administration of your district is open to dialogue with the residents of the district or closed?



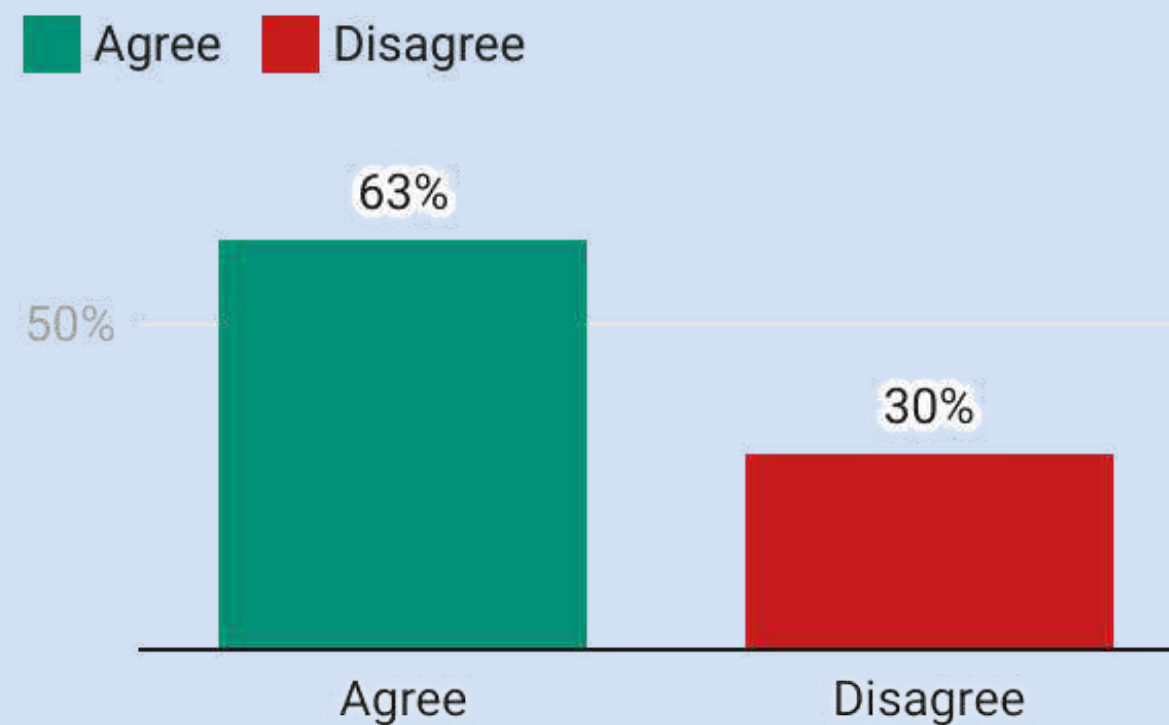
# Over the past year or two, have you or your family had any experience contacting city authorities regarding any issues?



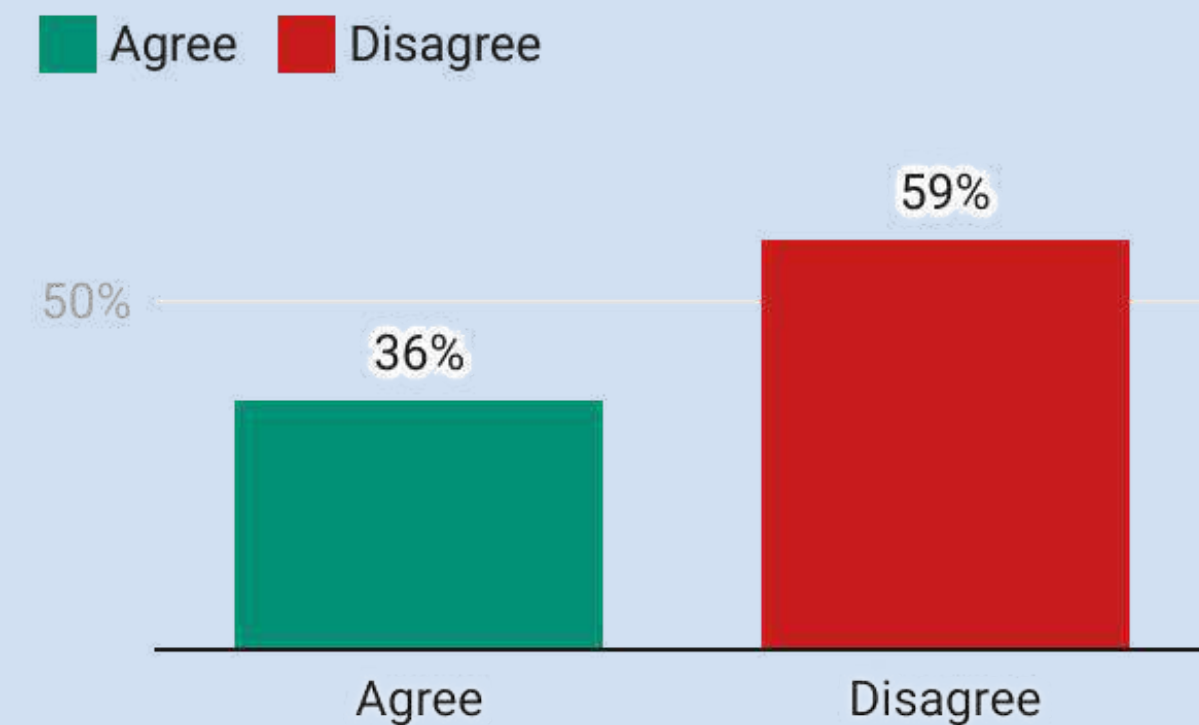
# Do you agree/disagree for the following?



**Increasing utility tariffs to improve the environmental situation**



**Tax on creating comfortable conditions for pedestrians and PWD**



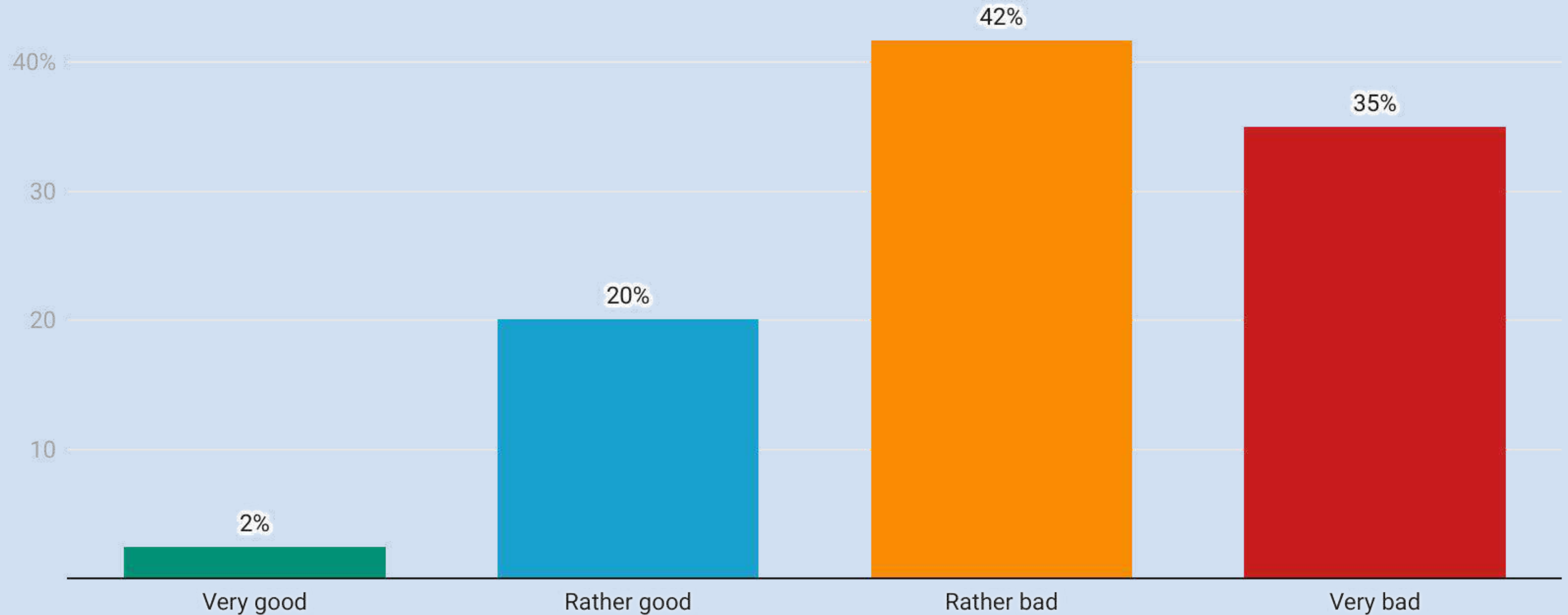
**Increasing fares on public transport to improve the public transport situation**

### 3. ECOLOGICAL SITUATION IN BISHKEK



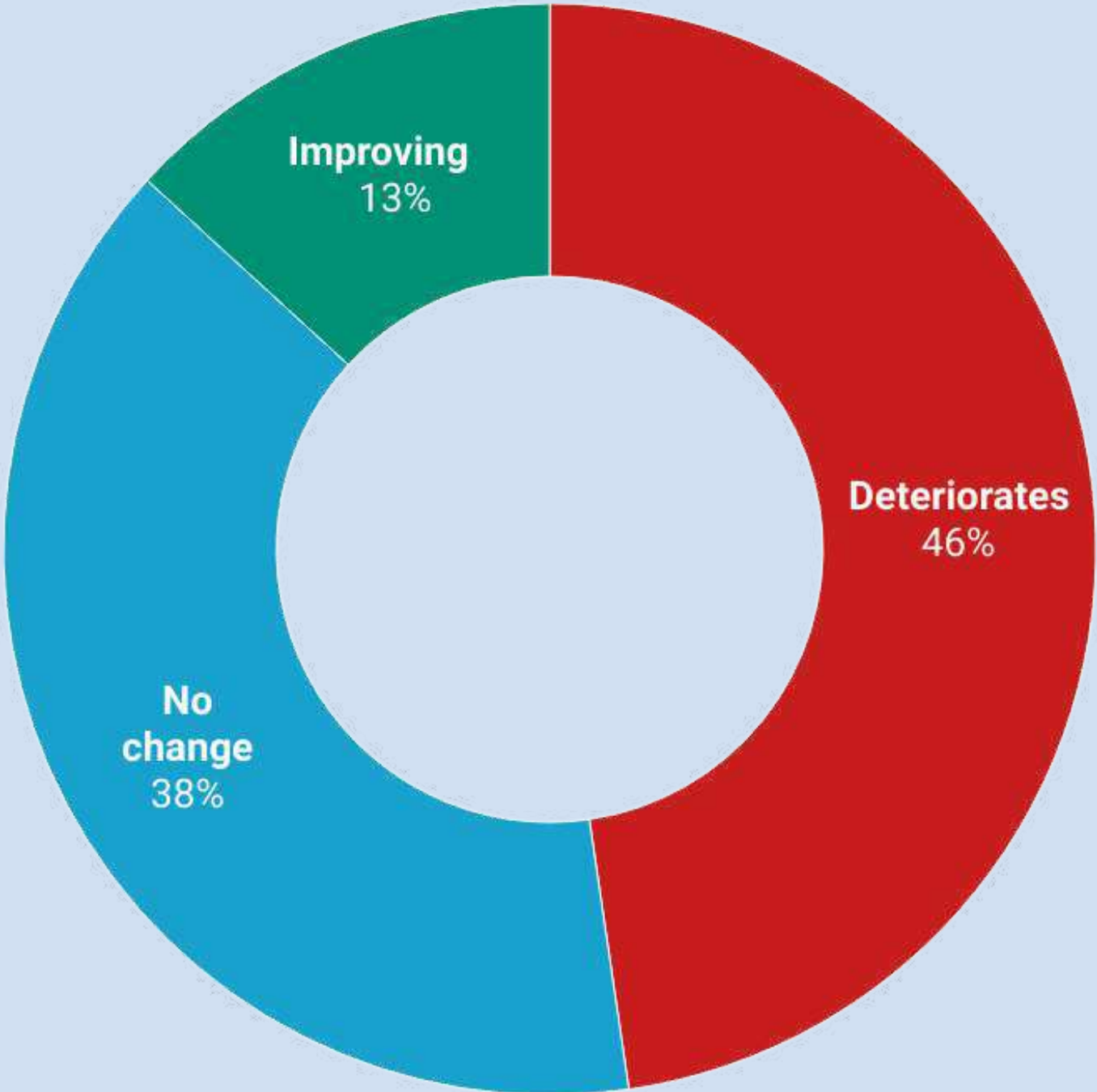


# How do you assess the environmental situation in Bishkek?



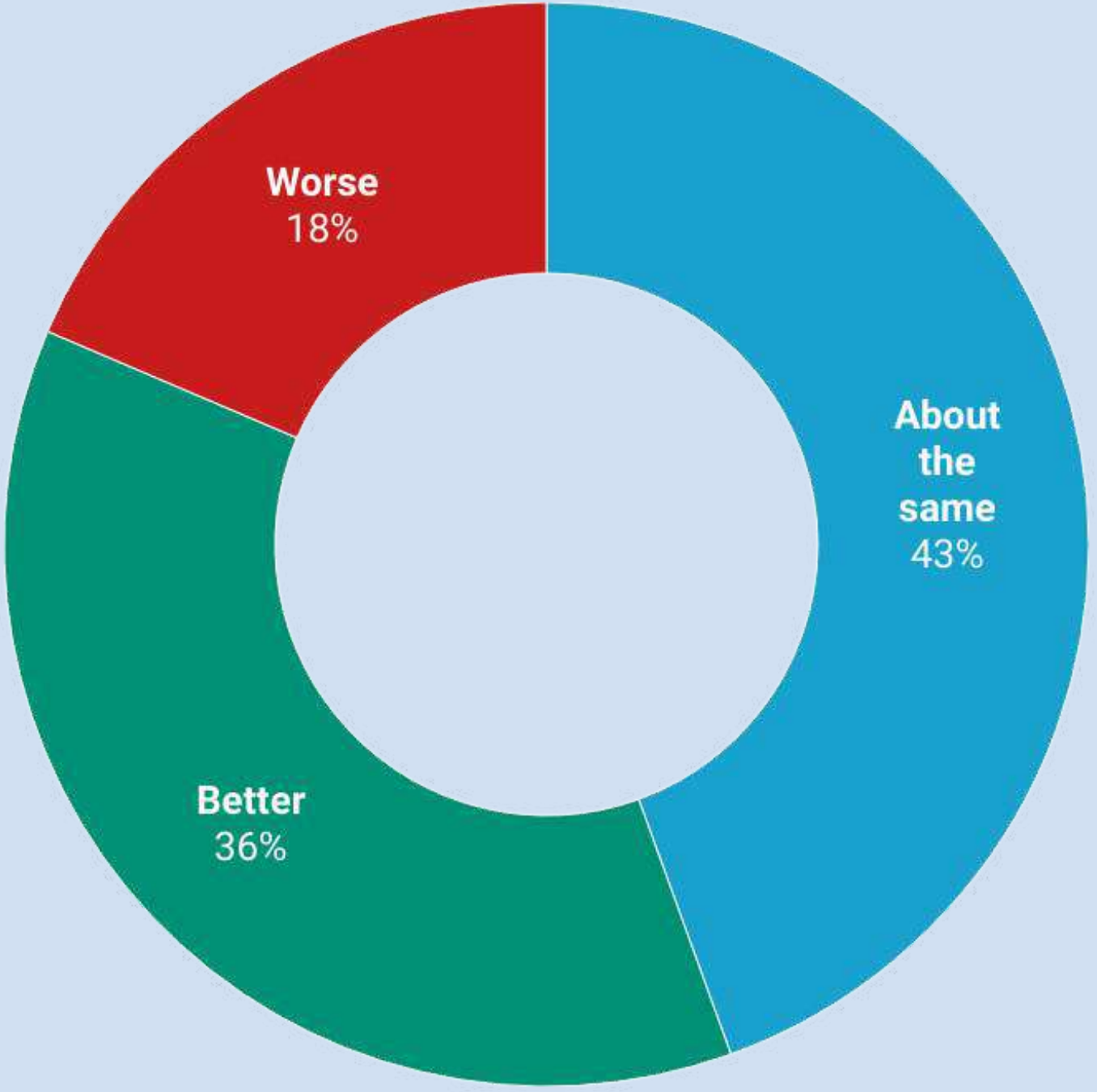
**In your opinion, has the environmental situation in Bishkek improved, worsened, or generally remained the same over the past year or two?**

■ Deteriorates ■ No change ■ Improving

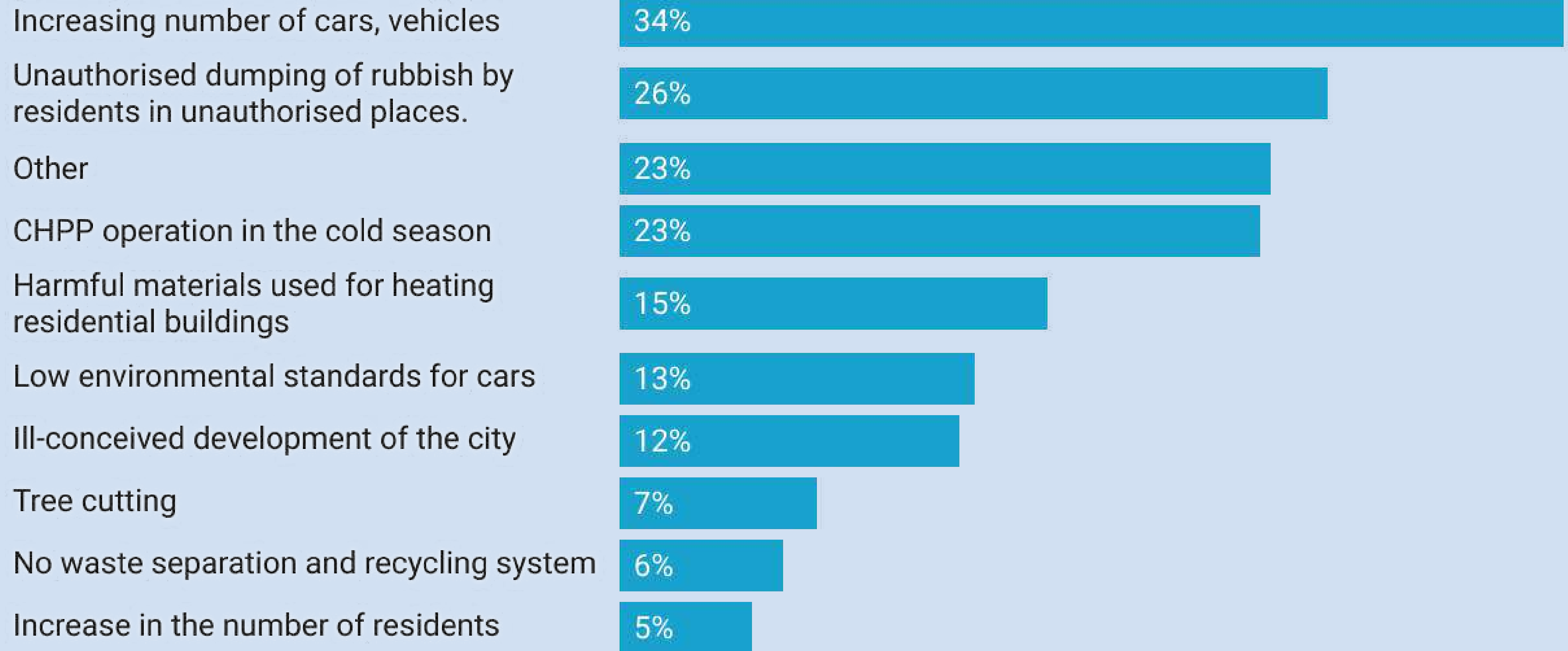


**Do you think the environmental situation in your neighbourhood is better, worse or about the same compared to the situation in other districts?**

■ About the same ■ Better ■ Worse



# What do you think has the greatest negative impact on the environmental situation in your area?



# What about the environmental situation in your area worries you most recently?

Poor air quality

50%

Rubbish, dirt, dumps

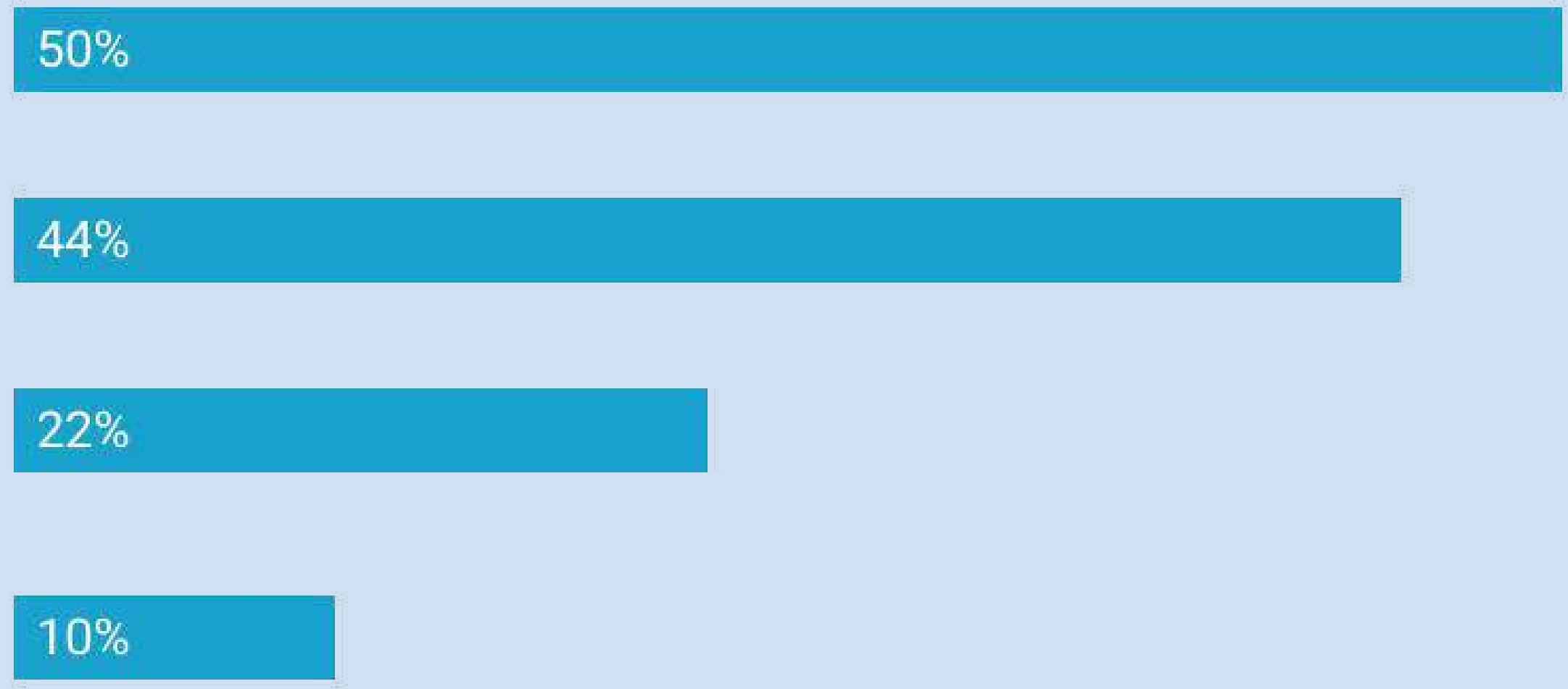
44%

Other

22%

Decrease in the number of green spaces/parks

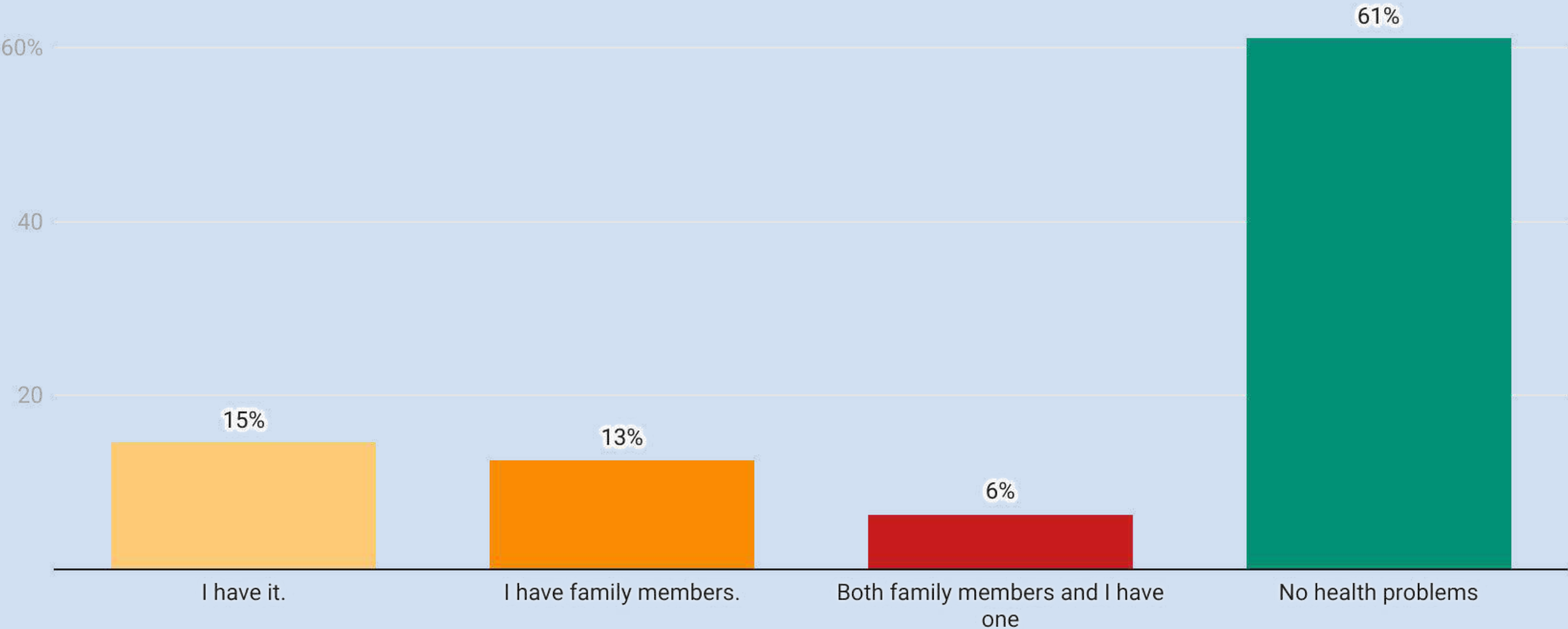
10%





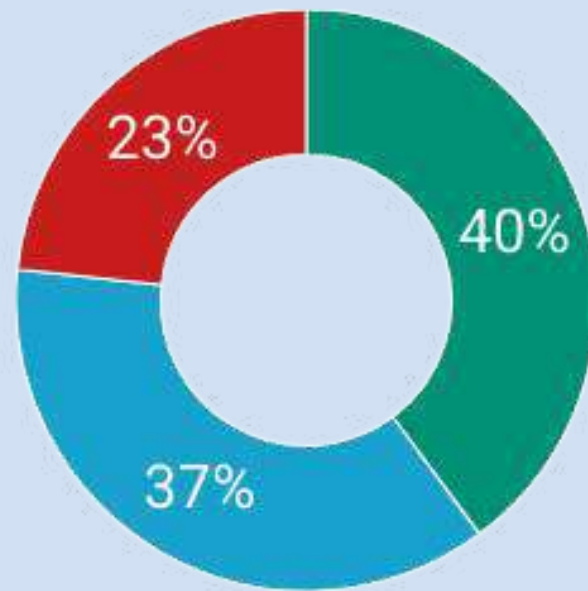
# Do you or your family members have health problems that, in your opinion, began due to the environmental situation in Bishkek?

I have it. I have family members. Both family members and I have one No health problems

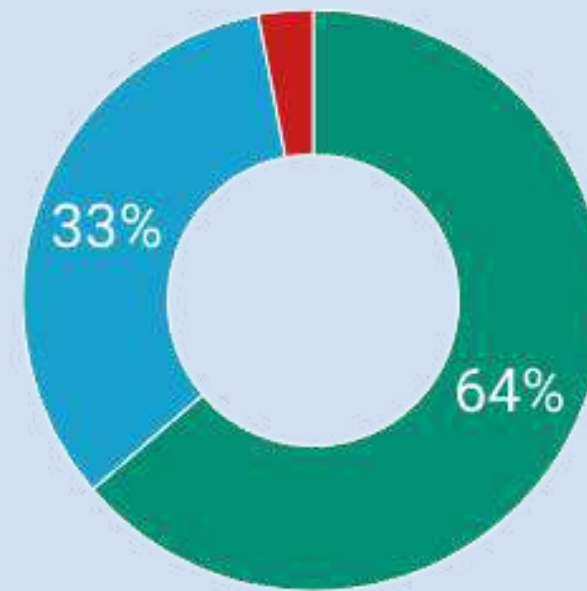


# Do you think the environmental situation in the area where you live is better, worse, or about the same compared to the situation in other areas?

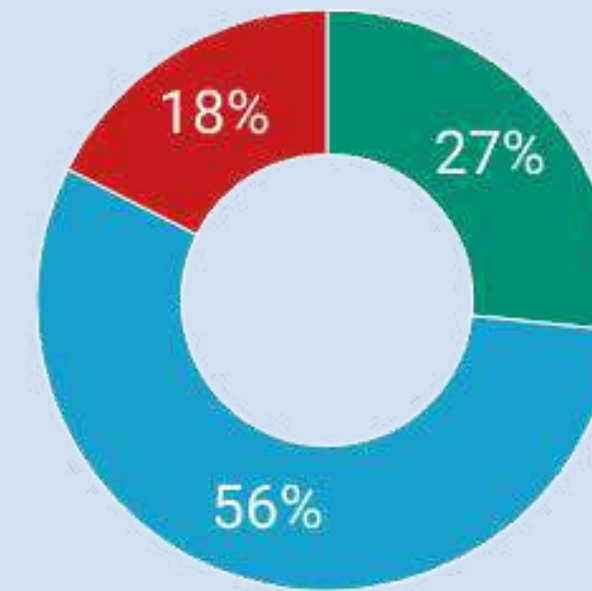
Better  
About the same  
Worse



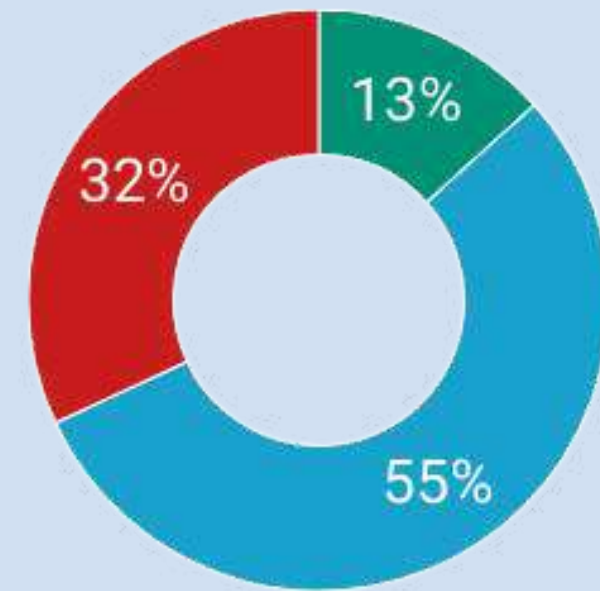
Leninsky



Oktyabrsky



Pervomaisky



Sverdlovskiy





**CONCLUSION**





**[kasiet.ysmanova@ca-barometer.org](mailto:kasiet.ysmanova@ca-barometer.org)**



**[ca-barometer.org](http://ca-barometer.org)**



**[daria.gavriushchenko@fes.kg](mailto:daria.gavriushchenko@fes.kg)**



**<https://kyrgyzstan.fes.de/about-us/fes-kyrgyzstan>**

