

Malawi AB R5 Survey Results

First Release: 4 September 2012



Centre for Social
Research



www.afrobarometer.org



What is the Afrobarometer



- The Afrobarometer (AB) is a comparative series of public opinion surveys that measure public attitudes toward democracy, governance, the economy, leadership, identity, and other related issues
- AB is an independent, non-partisan, African-based network of researchers
- AB R1 was in 1999-2001 covering 12 countries and R5 covers up to 35 countries during 2011-2012. Malawi has been in all five rounds.
- **Purpose:** To measure popular perspectives on the social, political, and economic environments in survey country and across Africa.
- **Goal:** To give the public a *voice* in policy making processes by providing high-quality public opinion data to policy-makers, policy advocates and CSOs, academics, the media, donors and investors, and ordinary Africans

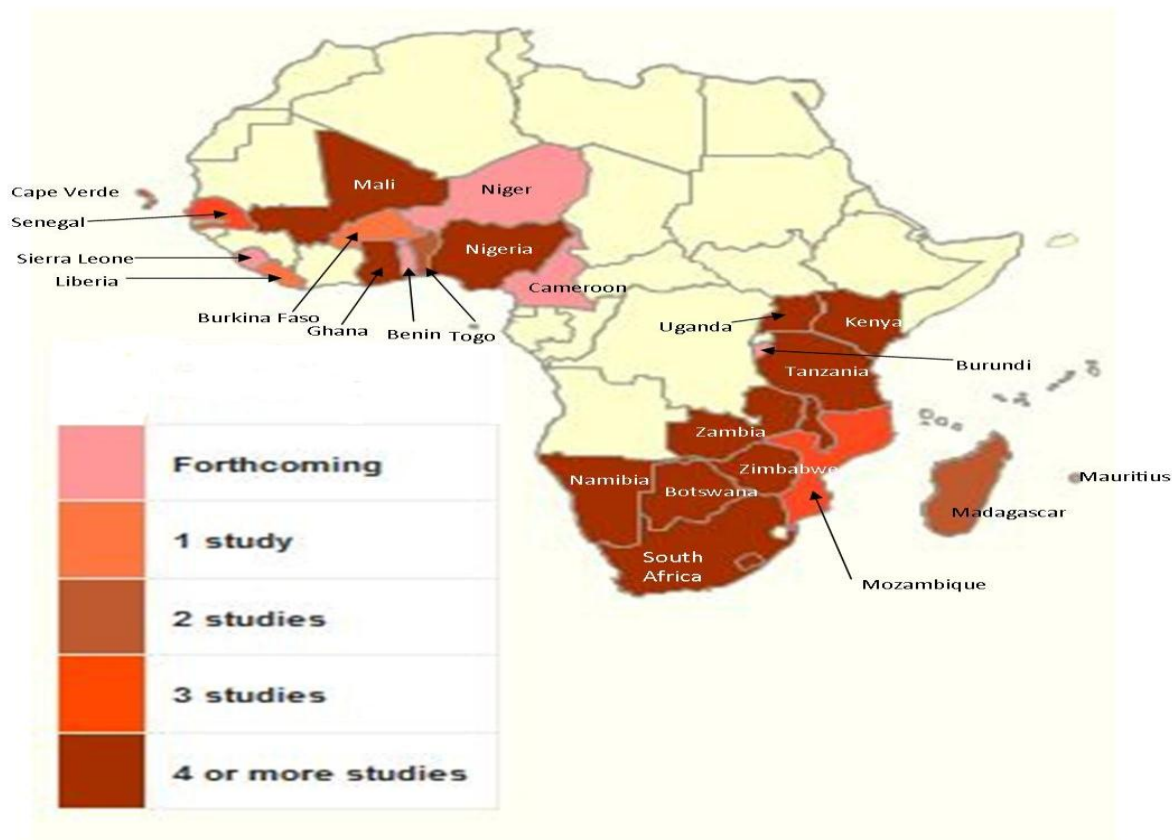


Country Coverage: 1999-2012



- Round 1, 1999-2001, 12 countries
 - Southern Africa: Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia, Zimbabwe
 - West Africa: Ghana, Mali, Nigeria
 - East Africa: Tanzania, Uganda
- Round 2, 2002-2003, 16 countries (added Cape Verde, Kenya, Mozambique, Senegal)
- Round 3, 2005-2006, 18 countries (added Benin, Madagascar)
- Round 4, 2008-2009, 20 countries (added Burkina Faso, Liberia)
- Round 5, 2011-2012, 35 countries (See Map)

AB Coverage 1999-2012





Who is the Afrobarometer?

- An African-led Network of survey researchers and analysts:
 - **National Partner** (NP) in each country for survey implementation
 - Centre for Social Research (CSR) at CC of UNIMA is Malawi NP
- Four **Core Partners** for network technical support and management:
 - Center for Democratic Development (**CDD**), Ghana
 - Institute for Democracy in South Africa (**Idasa**), South Africa
 - Institute for Development Studies (**IDS**), University of Nairobi, Kenya
 - Institute for Empirical Research in Political Economy (**IREEP**), Benin
- Two **Support Units** for capacity building and quality assurance
 - Michigan State University
 - University of Cape Town
- Round 5 **Core Funders**: DFID, SIDA, USAID & the Mo Ibrahim Foundation

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Survey Methodology



- Nationally representative sample of adult citizens
 - Respondents randomly selected with every adult citizen having an equal chance of being selected
 - Equal number of men and women
- Face-to-face interviews in either Chichewa or Chitumbuka
- Standard instrument across all countries for comparability
- Malawi R5 survey interviewed 2407 adult Malawian citizens;
 - Yielding results with a margin of error of +/- 2% @ 95% confidence level
- Field work for Round Five was conducted in Malawi between 4 June and 1 July 2012



Afrobarometer Round 5 Malawi Survey Results, August 2012

**TOPIC 1:
ATTITUDES ON CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS**

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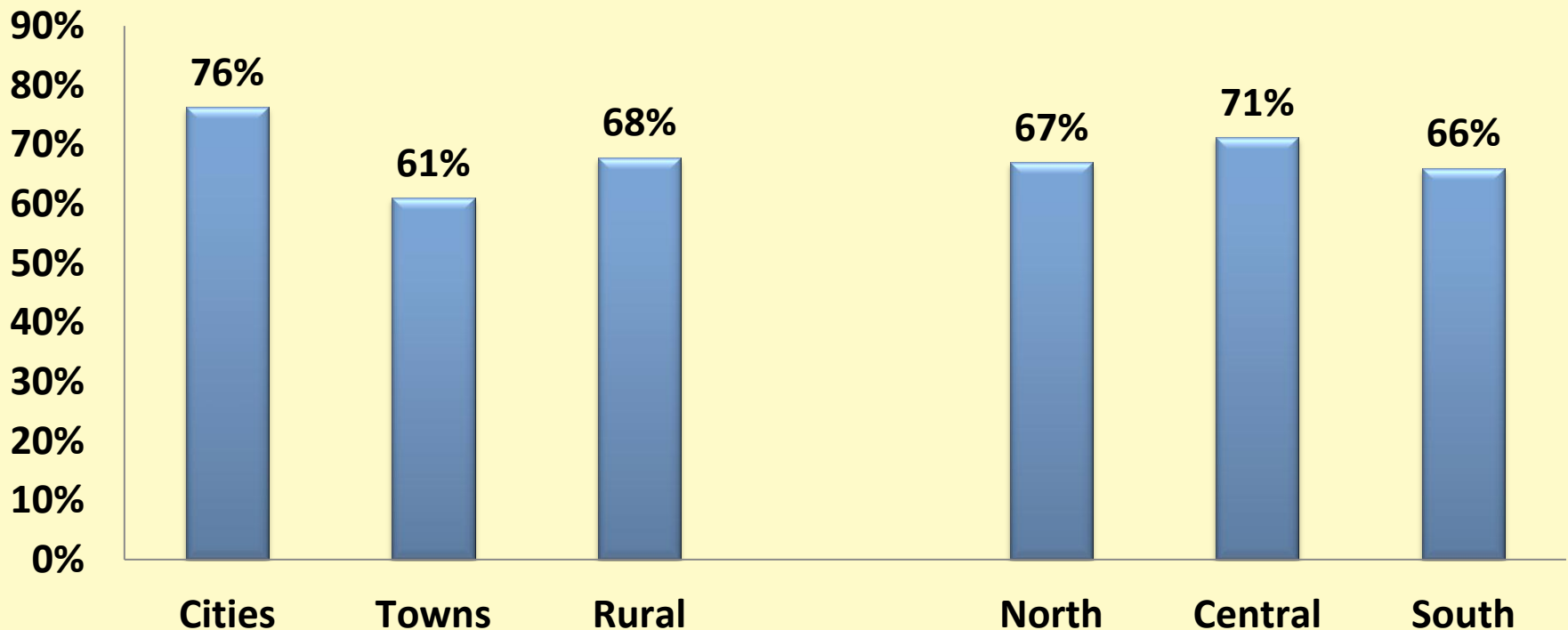
Key Findings



- Many Malawians agree that “Development NGOs provide services that cannot be provided by any other agency” (60%)
- Many Malawians consider CSOs to be effective (68%)
- Over half don’t agree that “human rights and governance NGOs work for the opposition” (51%) but 35% agree
- Over 4/10 Malawians agree that CSOs work for the interests of donors and not Malawian people (42% vs 30% that don’t)
- Over 2/3 never contacted an CSO official over the past year
- There are other mixed perceptions on CSOs & their officials
 - 19% think no official is corrupt but 18% think most or all are
 - Some trust CSOs ‘a lot’ (38 %) while others do ‘not at all’ (16%)
 - A minority mentioned that CSOs should be responsible for making MPs or Presidents do their job (2% & 4%, respectively)



Malawians who never consulted CSO officials over the previous year

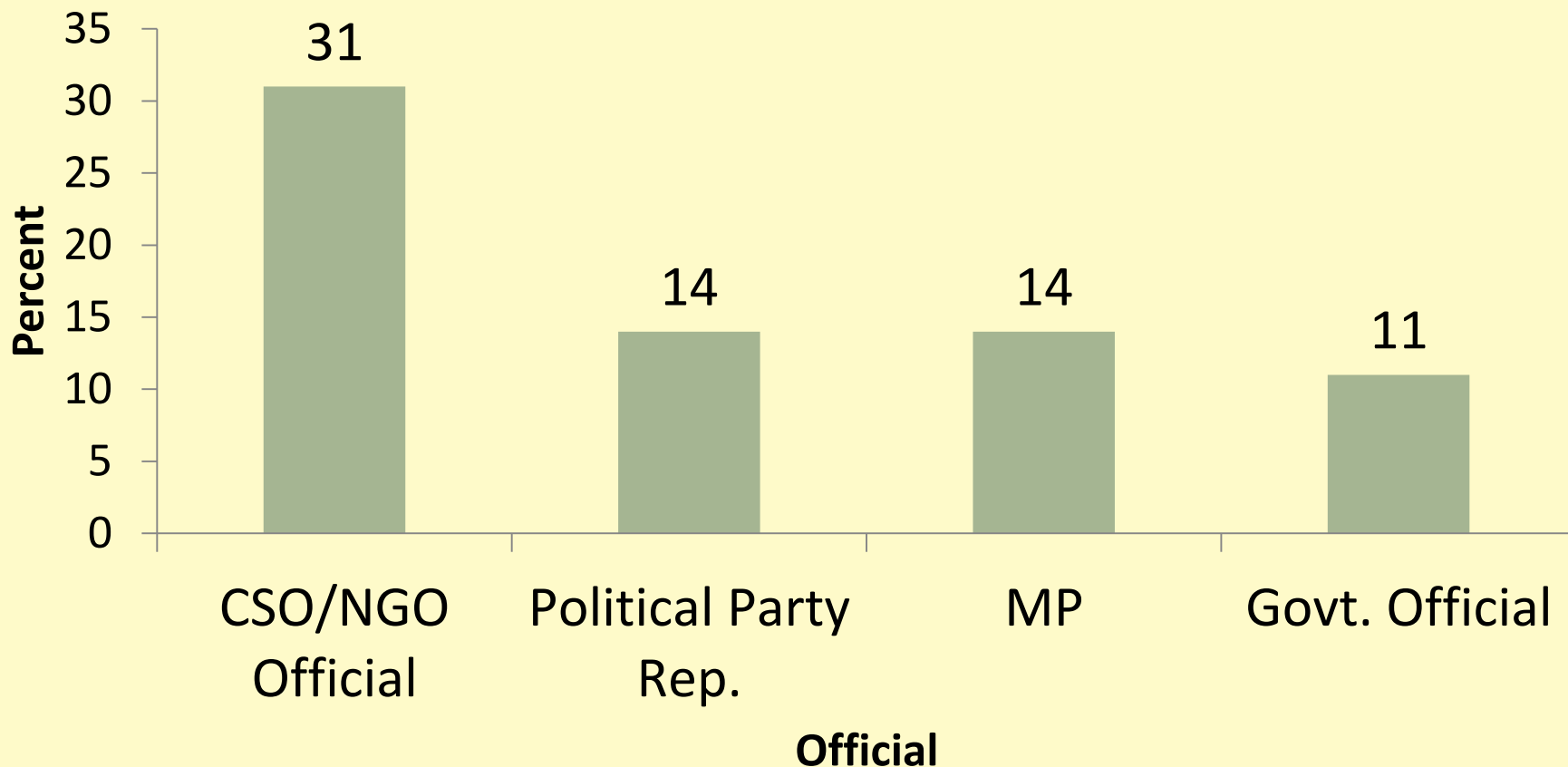


“During the past year, how often have you contacted an official of a civil society organisation such as church-based NGO or CBO about some important problem or to give them your views?”

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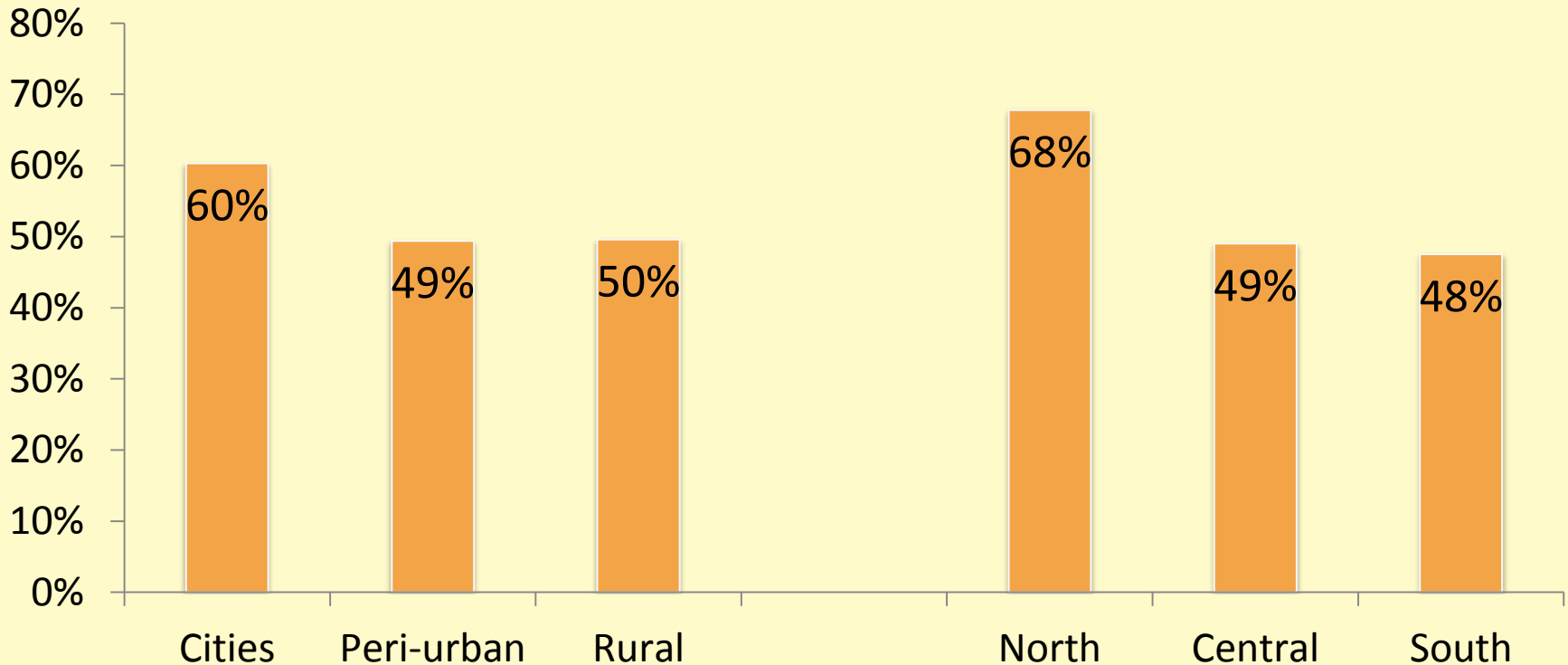
Citizens' local contacts with various officials in the previous year



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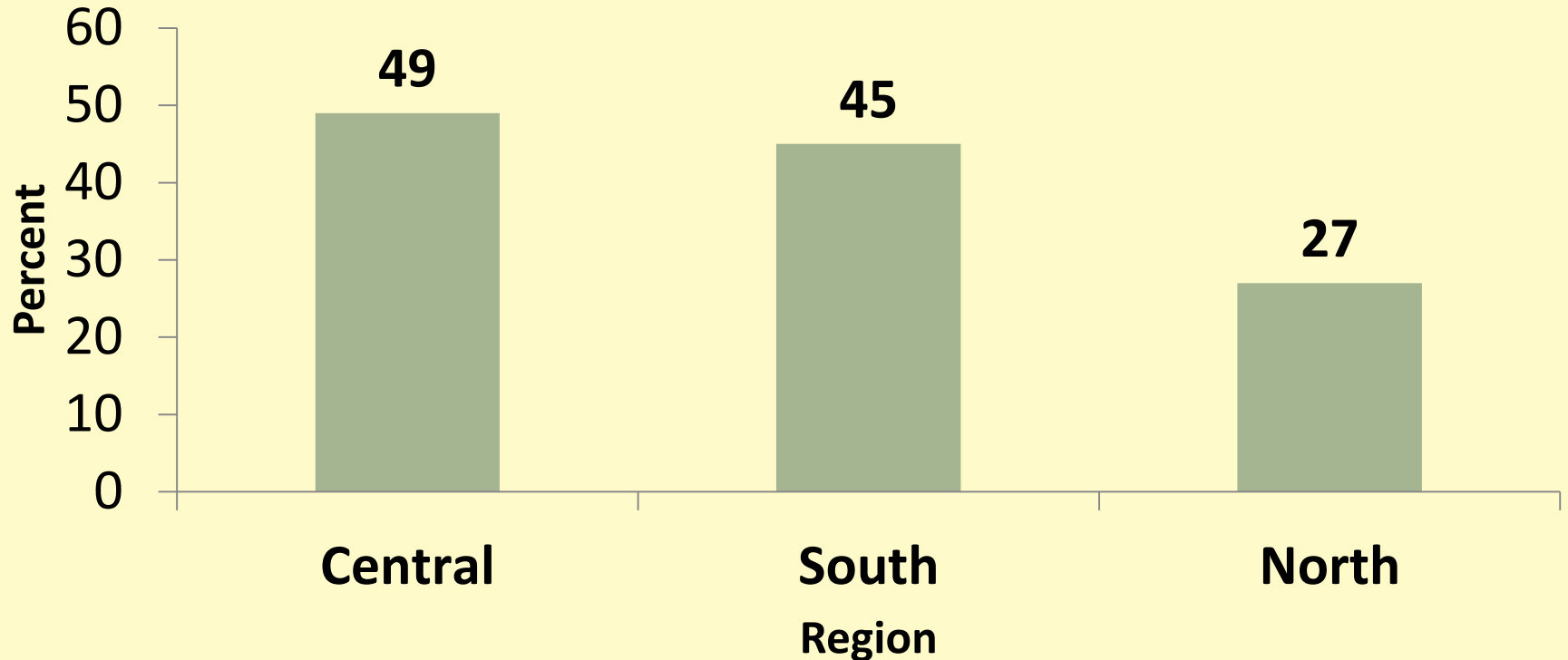
Proportion of Malawians who think NGOs/CSOs do not work in the interest of opposition parties



*Please tell me whether you disagree or agree with the statement that ...
Human rights and governance NGOs in Malawi work in the interests of
opposition parties*



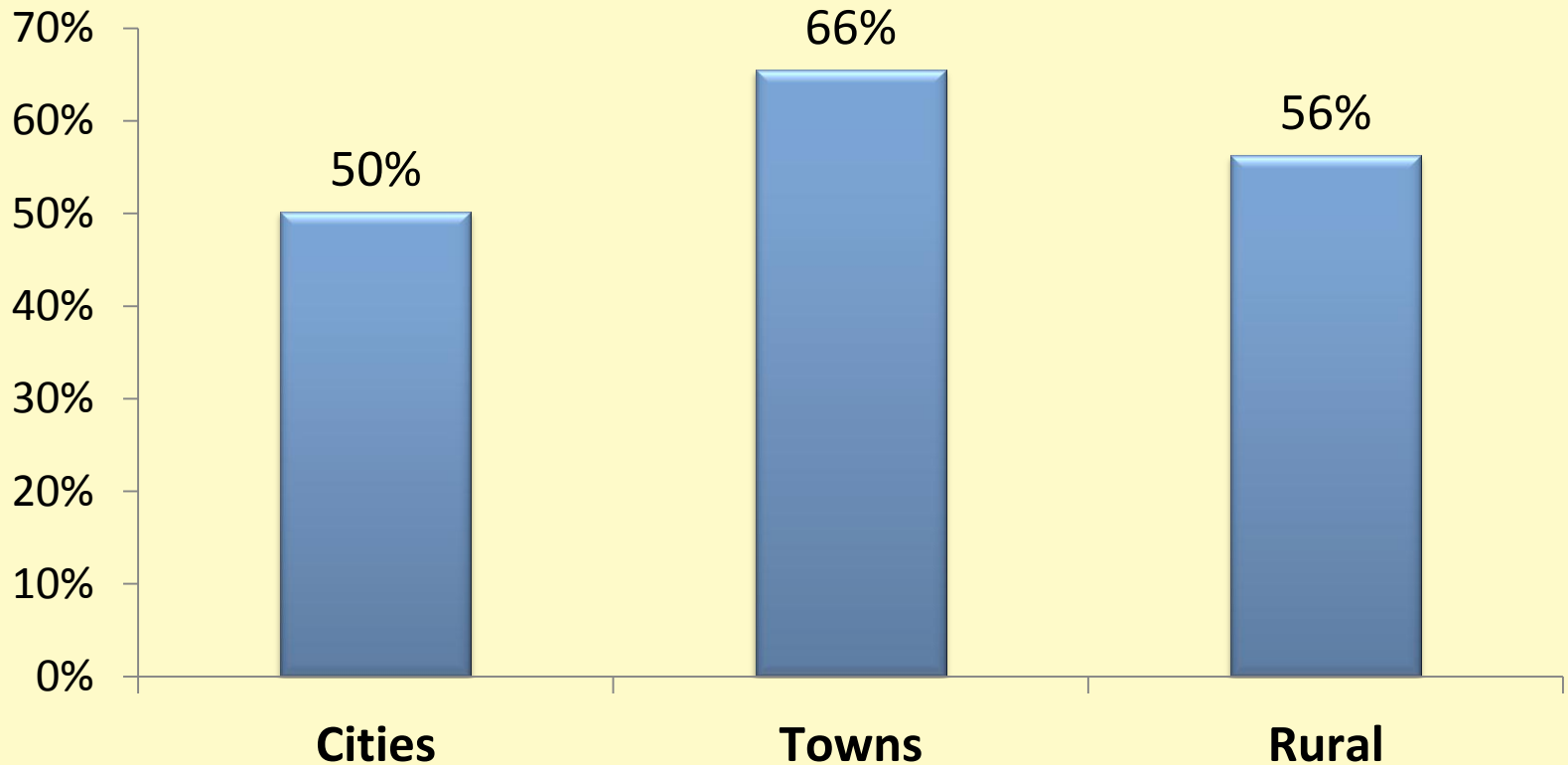
Malawians who think NGOs work in the interest of donors (by region)



Please tell me whether you disagree or agree with the statement that ... CSOs in Malawi work for the interest of their respective donors and not in the interests of people of Malawi



Citizens who think that NGOs provide services that cannot be provided by any other agency



“Please tell me whether you disagree or agree with the statement that ... Development and relief NGOs provide services that cannot be provided by any other agency”

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TOPIC 2: WOMEN, CHILDREN, PWDS AND GAY RIGHTS

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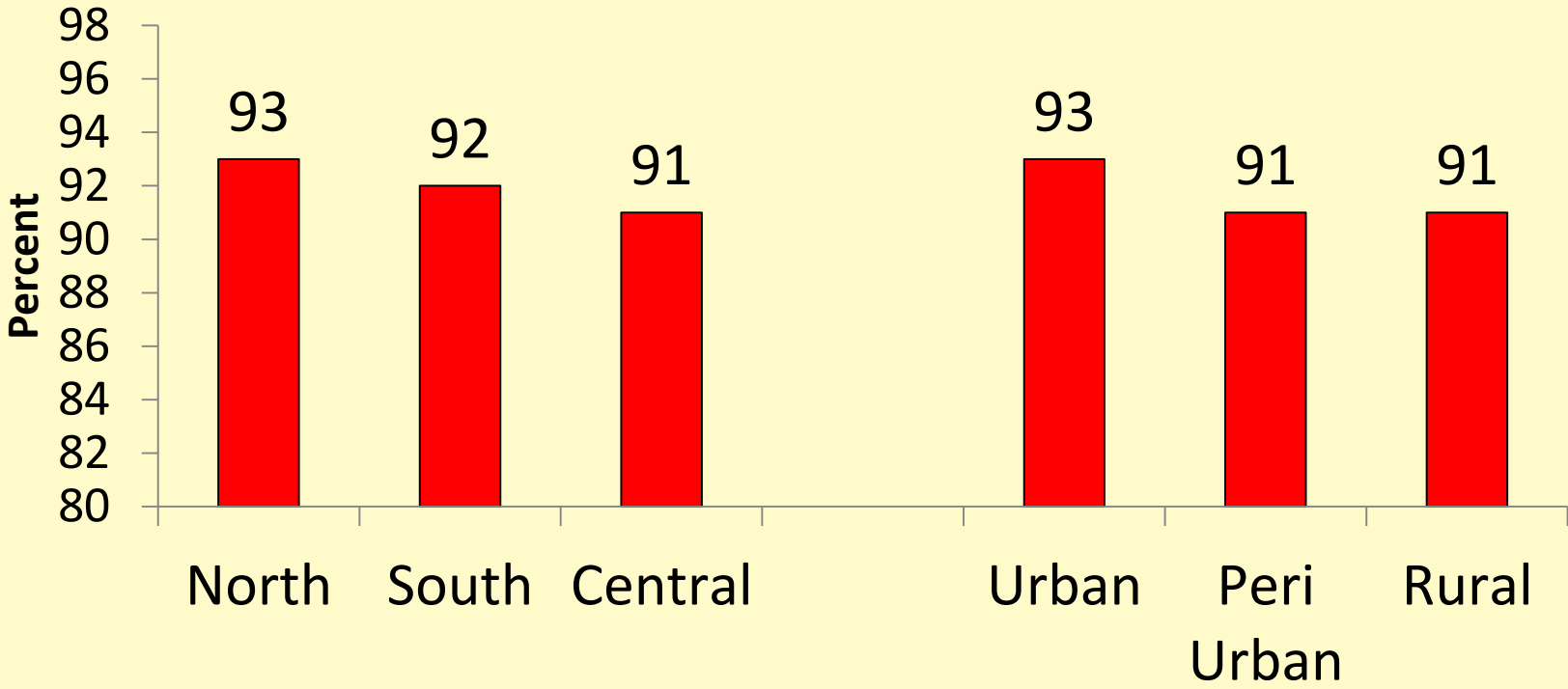
Key Findings - women



- More than 9/10 Malawians (91%) disagree with the proposition that sometimes husbands have the right to beat their wives
- More than 7/10 people (71%) state that the present government treats women well
- At least 6/10 Malawians think that women are rarely or never treated unequally by chiefs (69%), police/courts (68%) and employers (60%)
- According to Malawians, there has been an improvement regarding physical violence (61%) and sexual violence (64%) against women compared to 12 months ago



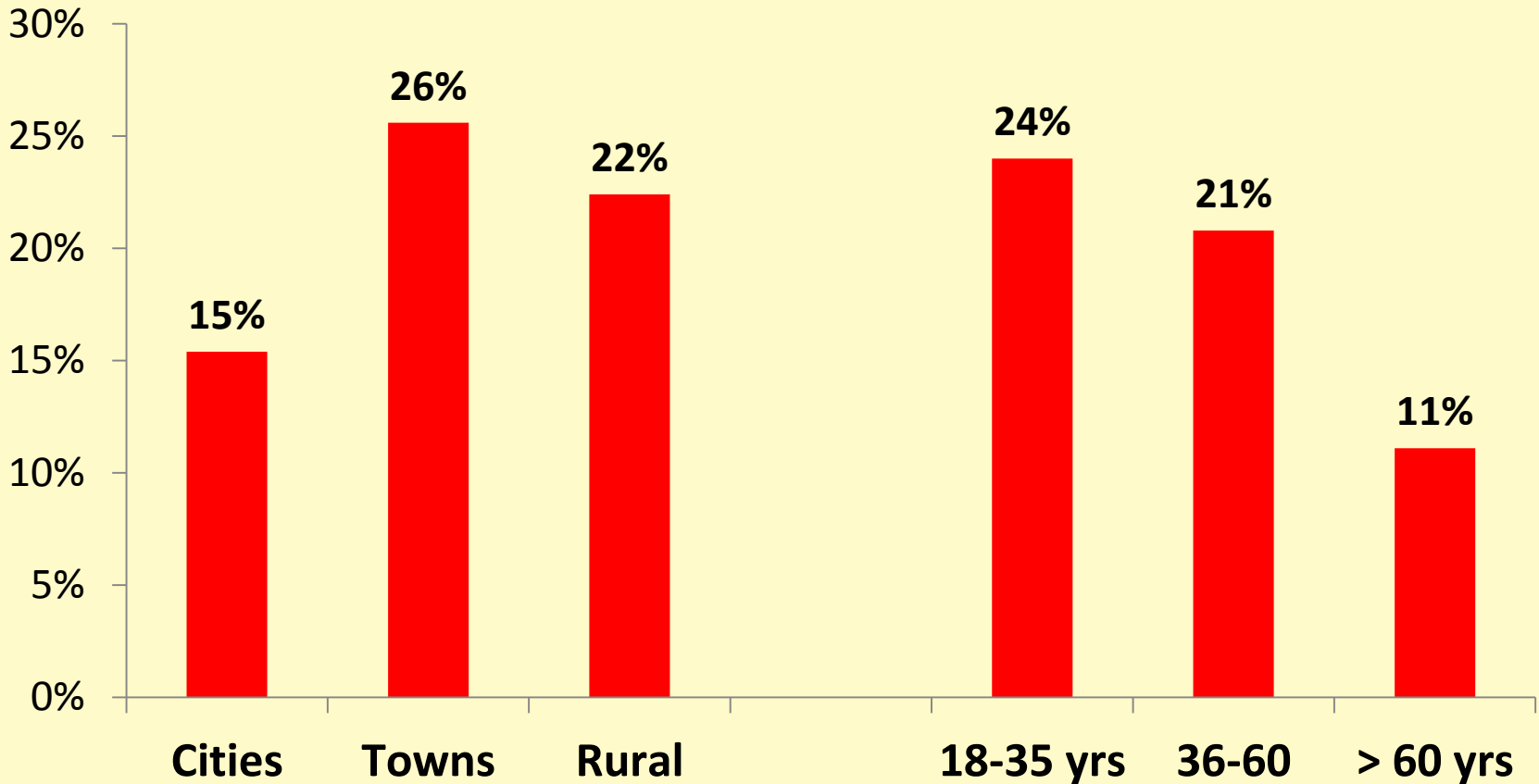
Malawians who disagree that husbands sometimes have the right to beat their wives



*Do you agree or disagree with the following statement :
Sometimes husbands have the right to beat their wives*

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Malawians that think sexual violence against women has worsened in the last 12 months



Looking back, how do you rate the incidence of sexual violence against women compared to twelve months ago?

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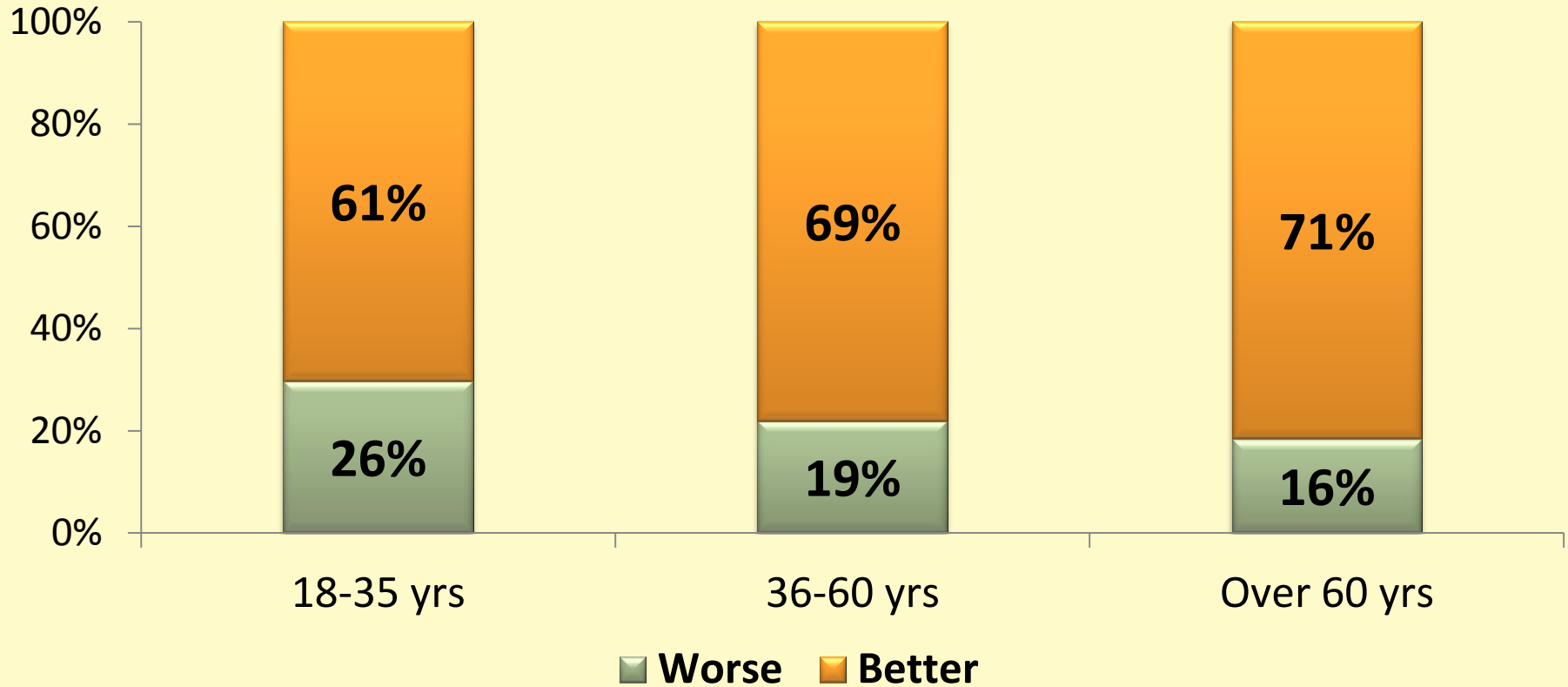
Key Findings - children



- Physical punishment of children is not widespread and the majority of Malawians do not approve of it
- Over 8/10 said children in their family (81%) never experienced physical punishment at home while close to 7/10 said they never at school (69%)
- Over 6/10 disagree with the propositions that sometimes parents (63%) or teachers (66%) have the right to beat children for the purpose of disciplining them
- Over 6/10 Malawians think that there has been an improvement regarding physical violence (61%) and sexual violence (65%) against children compared to 12 months ago



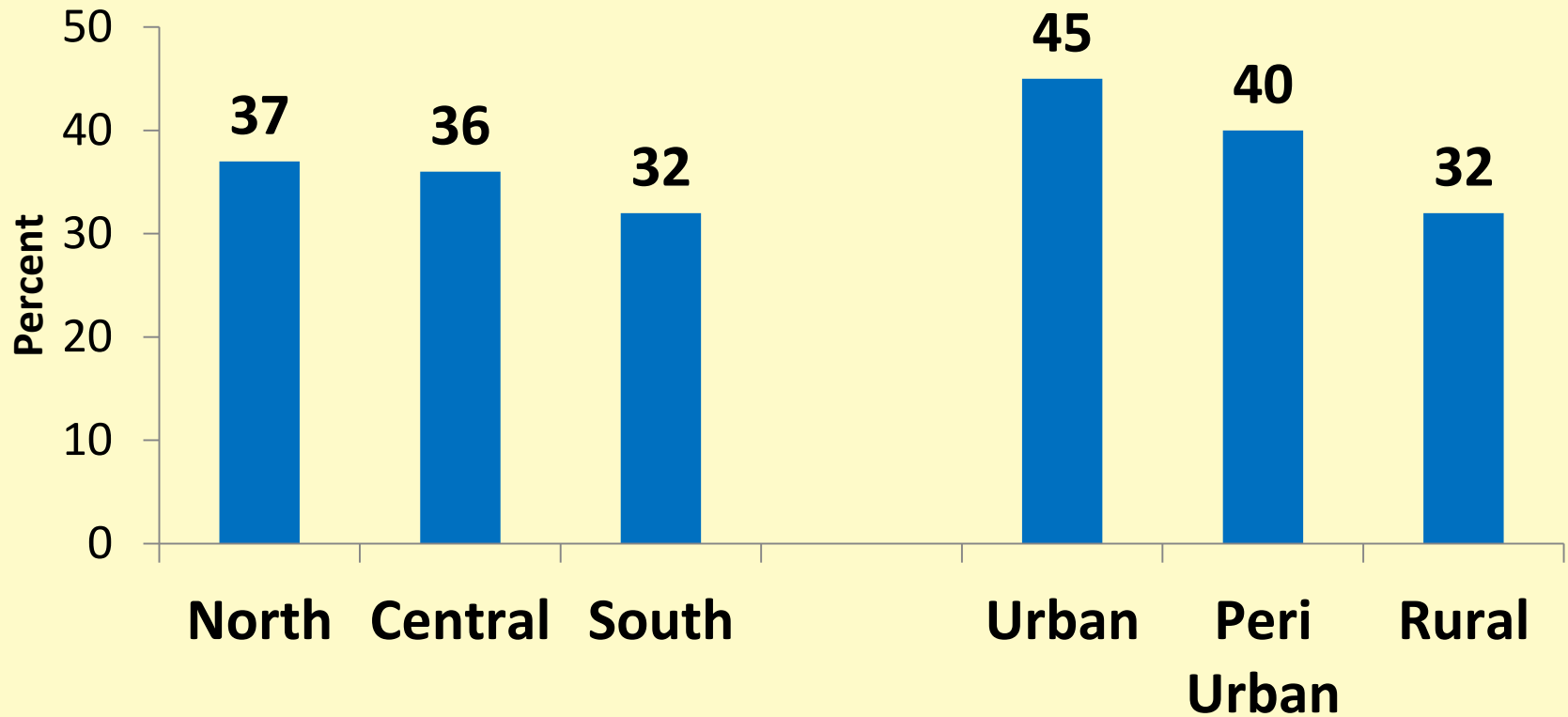
Rating of incidence of sexual violence against children over a 12-month period



Looking back, how do you rate the incidence of sexual violence against children compared to twelve months ago?



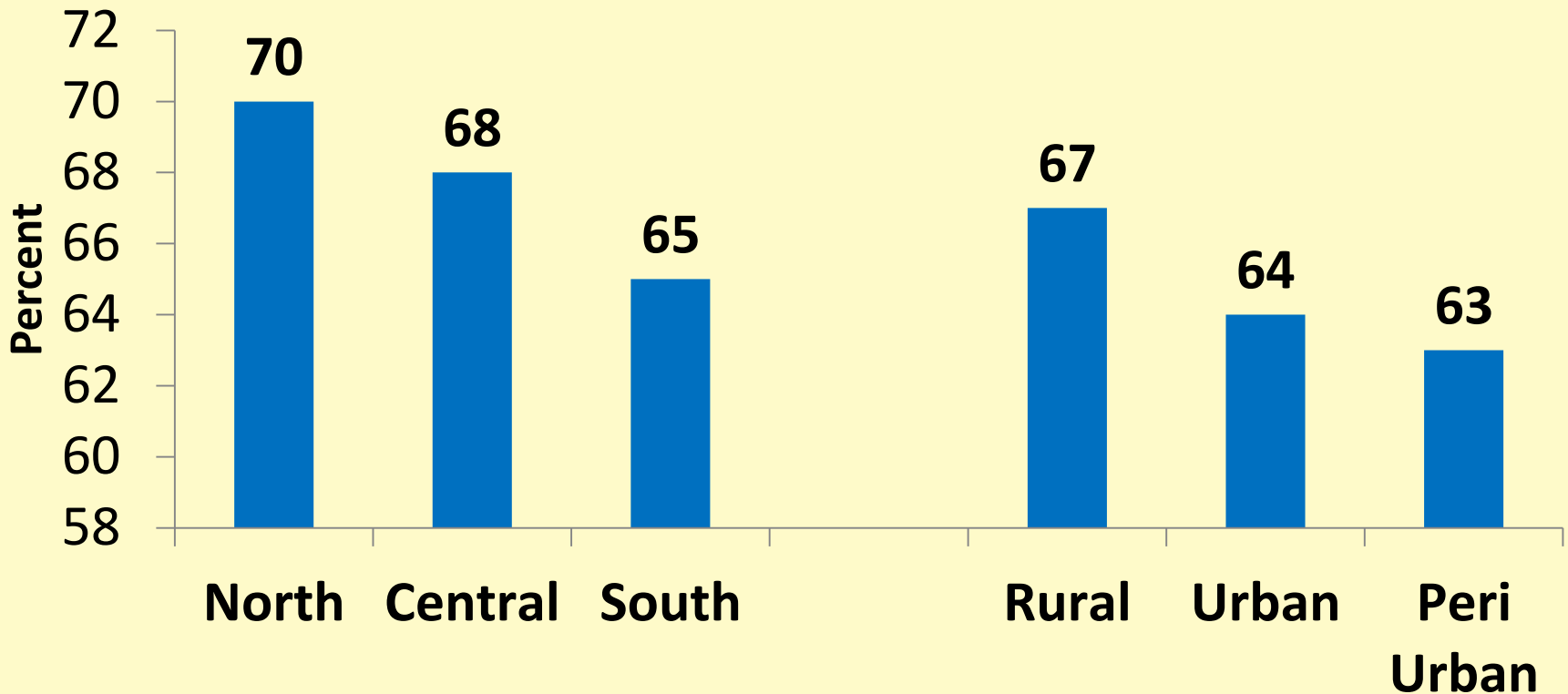
Malawians who think parents have the right to beat their children as a form of discipline (by region and locality)



Do you agree or disagree with the following statement : Sometimes parents have the right to beat their children for the purpose of disciplining them.



Malawians who think teachers have NO right to use corporal punishment to discipline students



Do you agree or disagree with the following statement : Sometimes teachers have the right to beat pupils for the purpose of disciplining them.



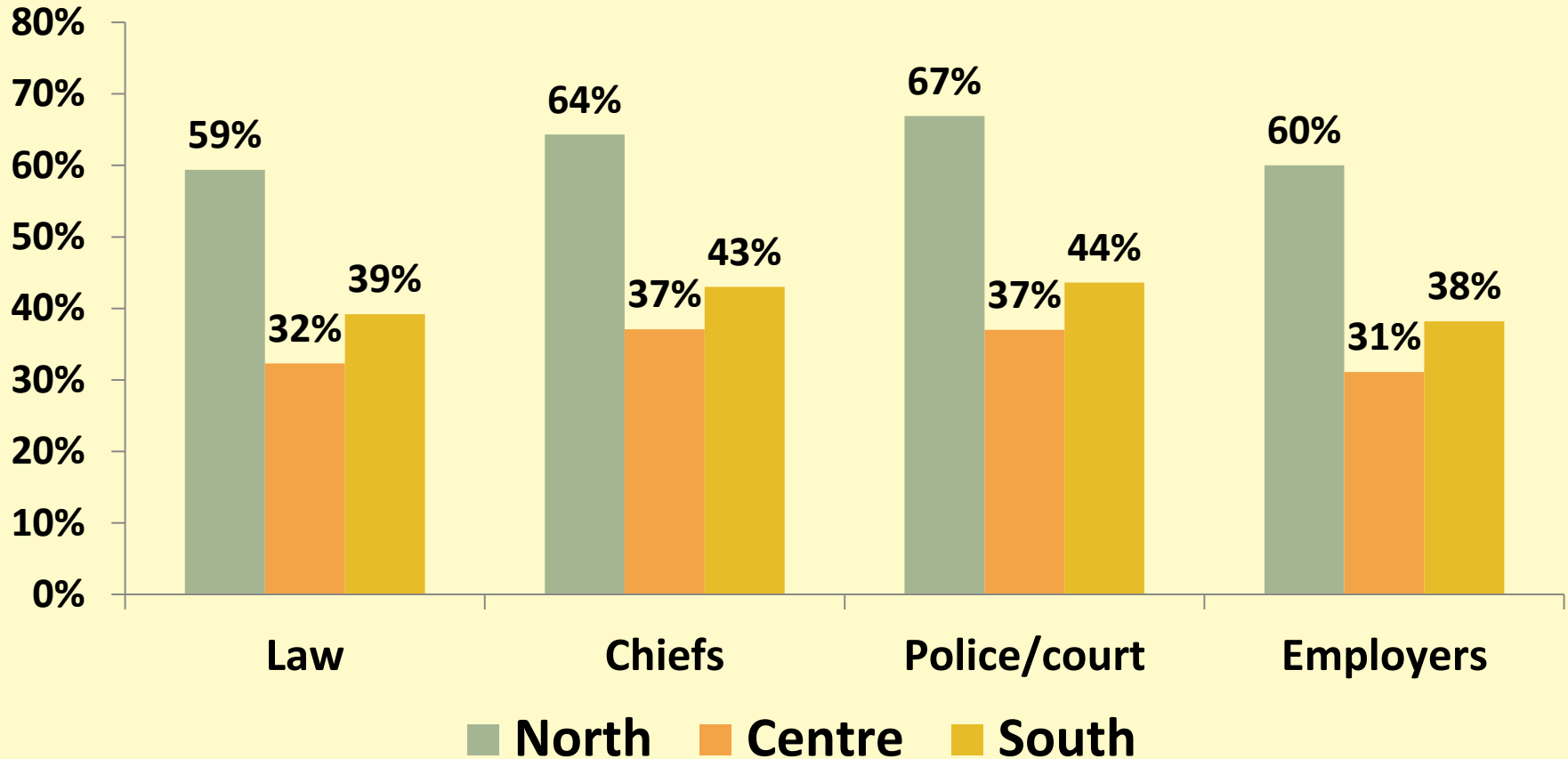
Key Findings - PWDs



- More than 9/10 Malawians (94%) agree with the proposition that People With Disabilities (PWDs) should have equal rights and receive the same treatment as other people do
- More than 6/10 Malawians (62%) state that the present government treats PWDs well
- Majority of Malawians think that PWDs are rarely or never treated unequally by various institutions
 - **72% said by police/courts, 71% by traditional leaders (71%), 67% under the law and 67% by employers**



Malawians who think that PWDs are NEVER treated unequally



In your opinion, how often, in this country are people with disabilities treated unequally under the law, by traditional leaders, police and courts and employers?

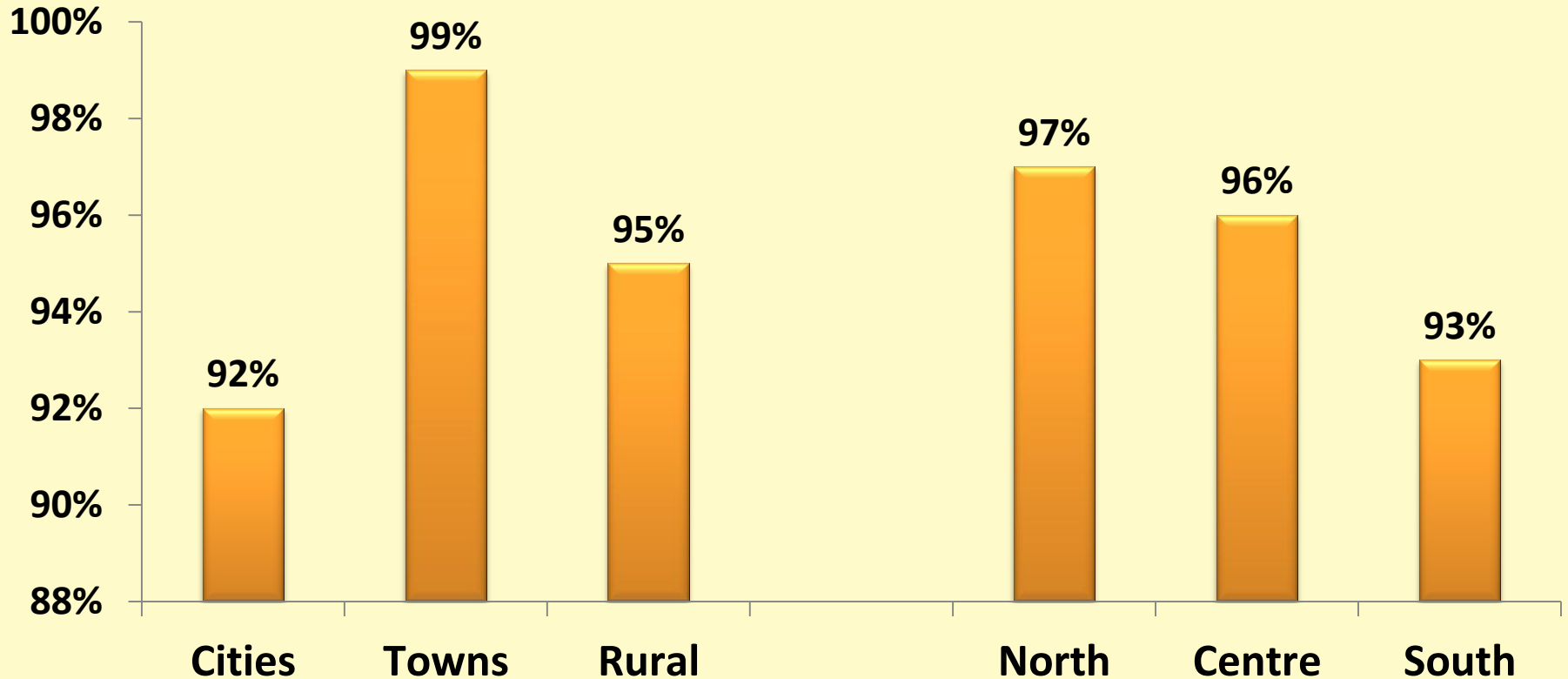


Key Findings – LGBT rights

- More than 9/10 Malawians (94%) disagree with the proposition that people practicing same sex marriage or relationship (SSMR) have the right to do so
- Disapproval of SSMR is above 90% across the country whether by location, region or sex
- Highest disapproval rate is in peri-urban areas (99%) and lowest in cities (92%)
- Disapproval rates for SSMR are almost identical among men (94%) and women (95%)
- Members of major political parties are conservative with PP's the most (99%) and DPP's the least (92%)



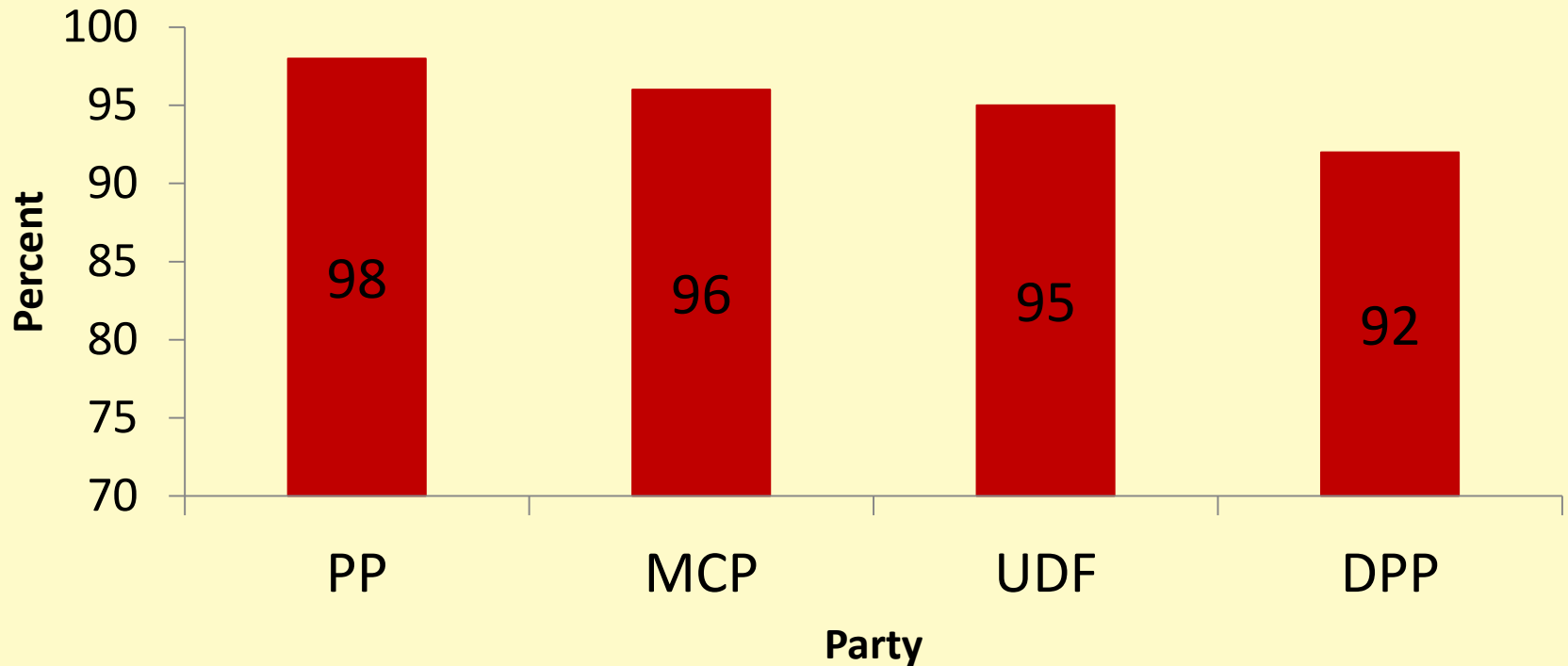
Malawians who disagree that people practicing SSMR have the right to do so



Please tell me whether you disagree or agree: People practicing same sex marriage or relationships have the right to do so, after all issues of sexual relationships are private?



Disapproval of SSMR by Partisan identity* (2012)



Partisan identity is measured by the question: “Do you feel close to any particular political party? [If yes], Which party is that? “



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TOPIC 3:

PARTY POLITICS:

**POLITICAL PARTY SUPPORT, VOTING INTENTION, &
CROSSING THE FLOOR**

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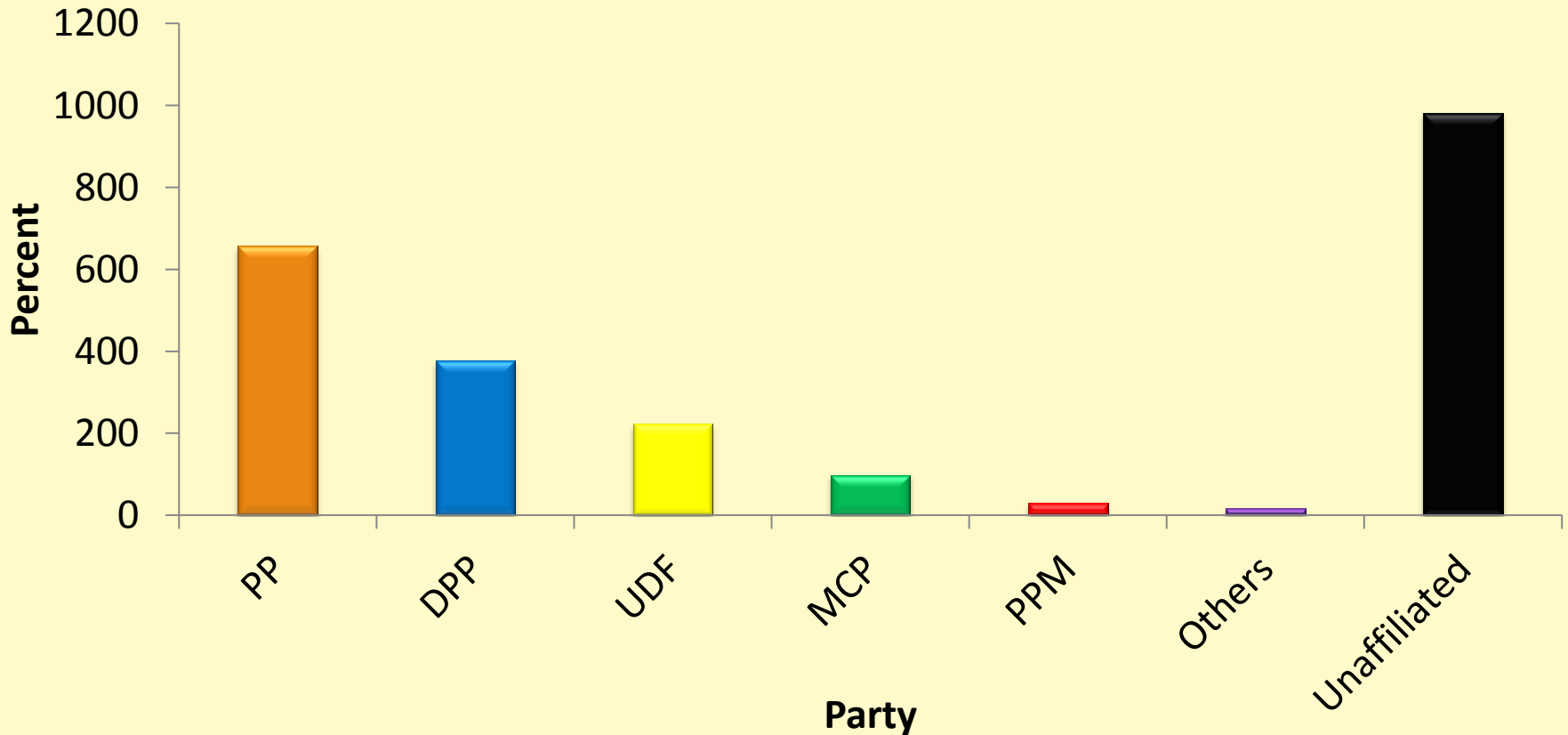
Key Findings



- Three in five Malawians said they are close to a political party; a decline of 21% between 1999 and 2012
- PP was the most supported party (27%) in 2012, followed by DPP (17%)
- Slightly under half (46%) would vote for a PP presidential candidate if elections were held mid 2012
- In terms of trust in institutions, 6 in 10 Malawians trust the ruling party while 46% trust the opposition
- 3 in 4 Malawians say MPs should seek fresh mandate if they leave their parties. This is regardless of party affiliations of the respondents



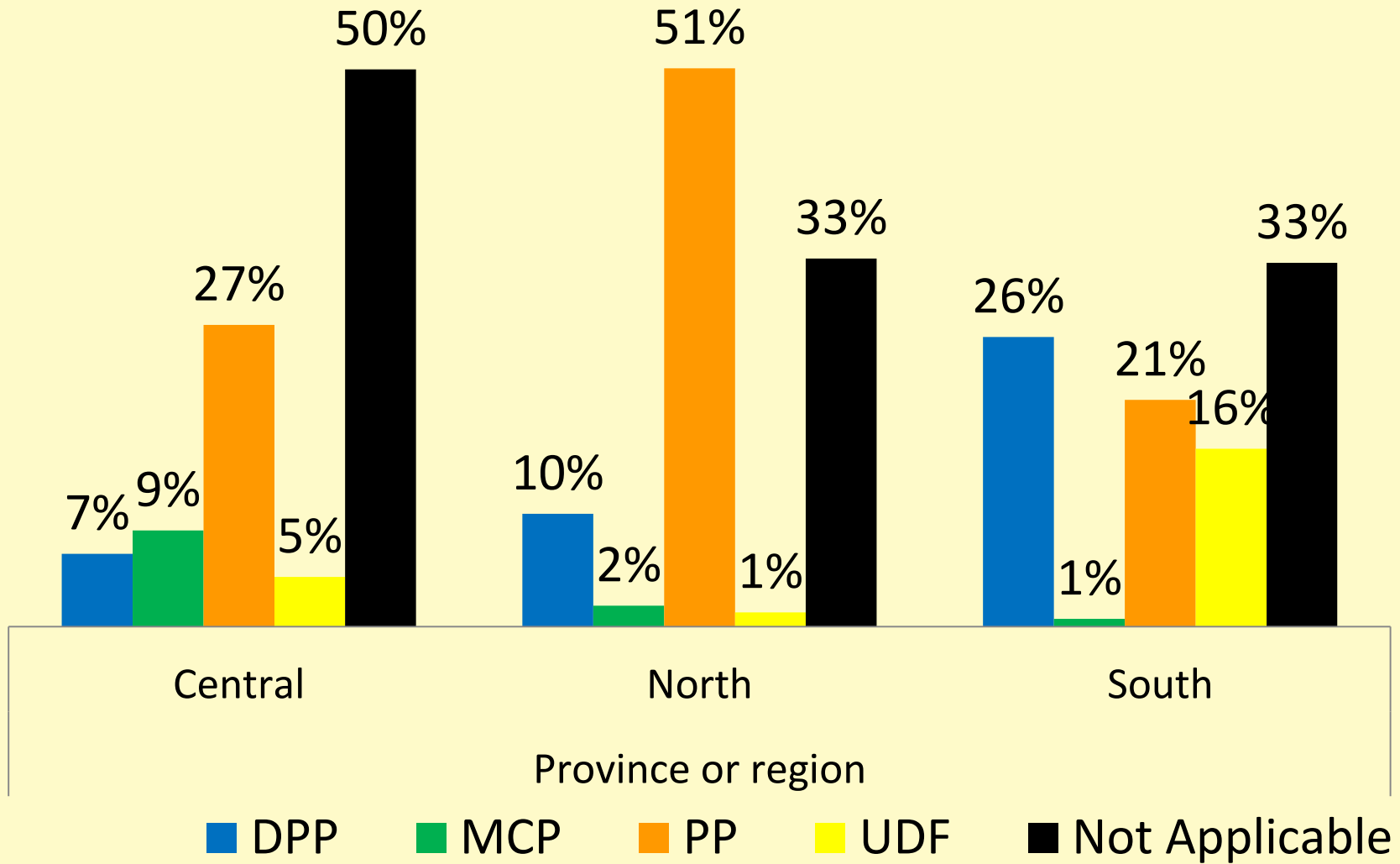
Partisan Identification, 2012



Do you feel close to a political party? [if yes], Which party is that?

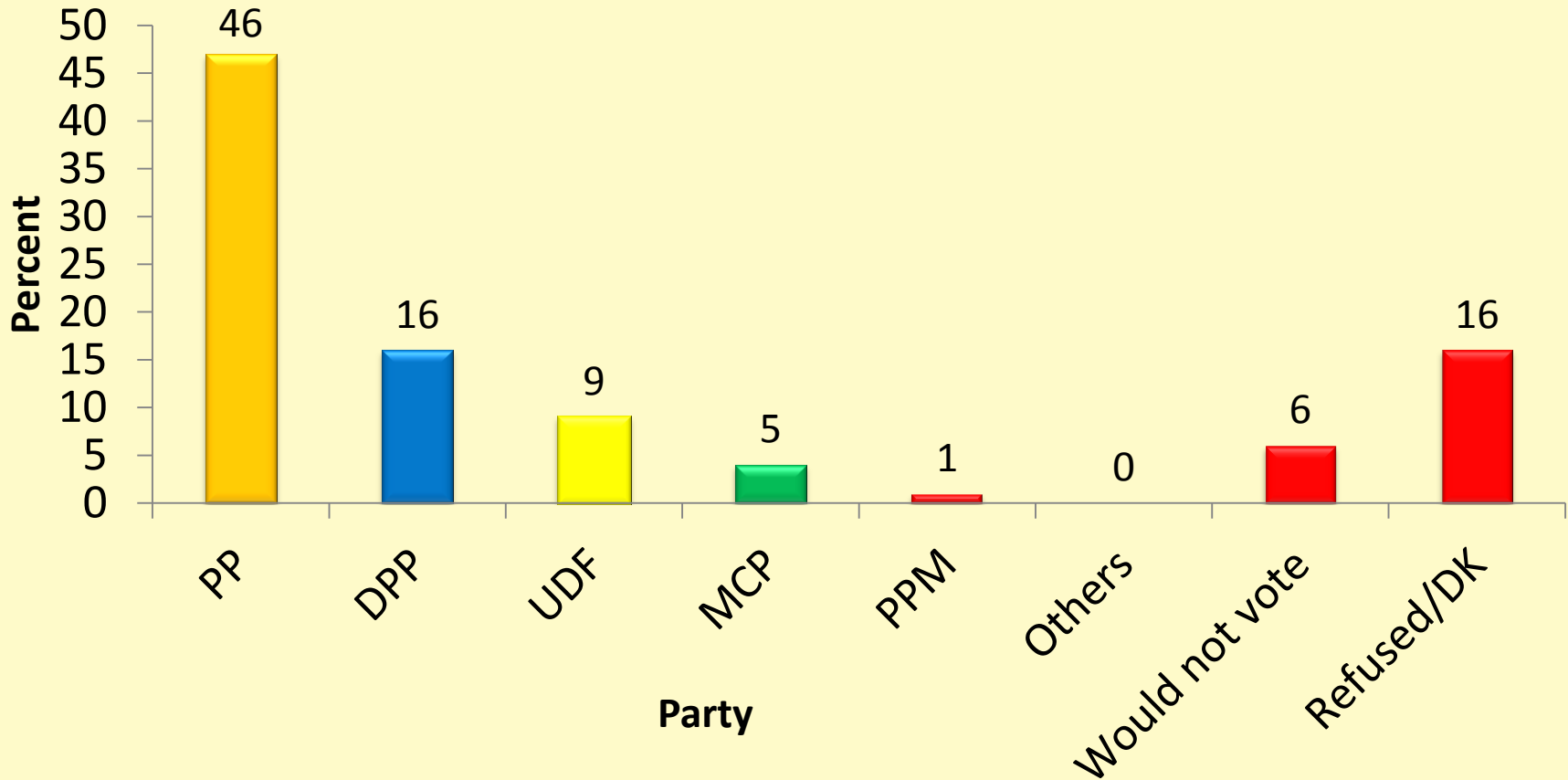


Party Identification by region





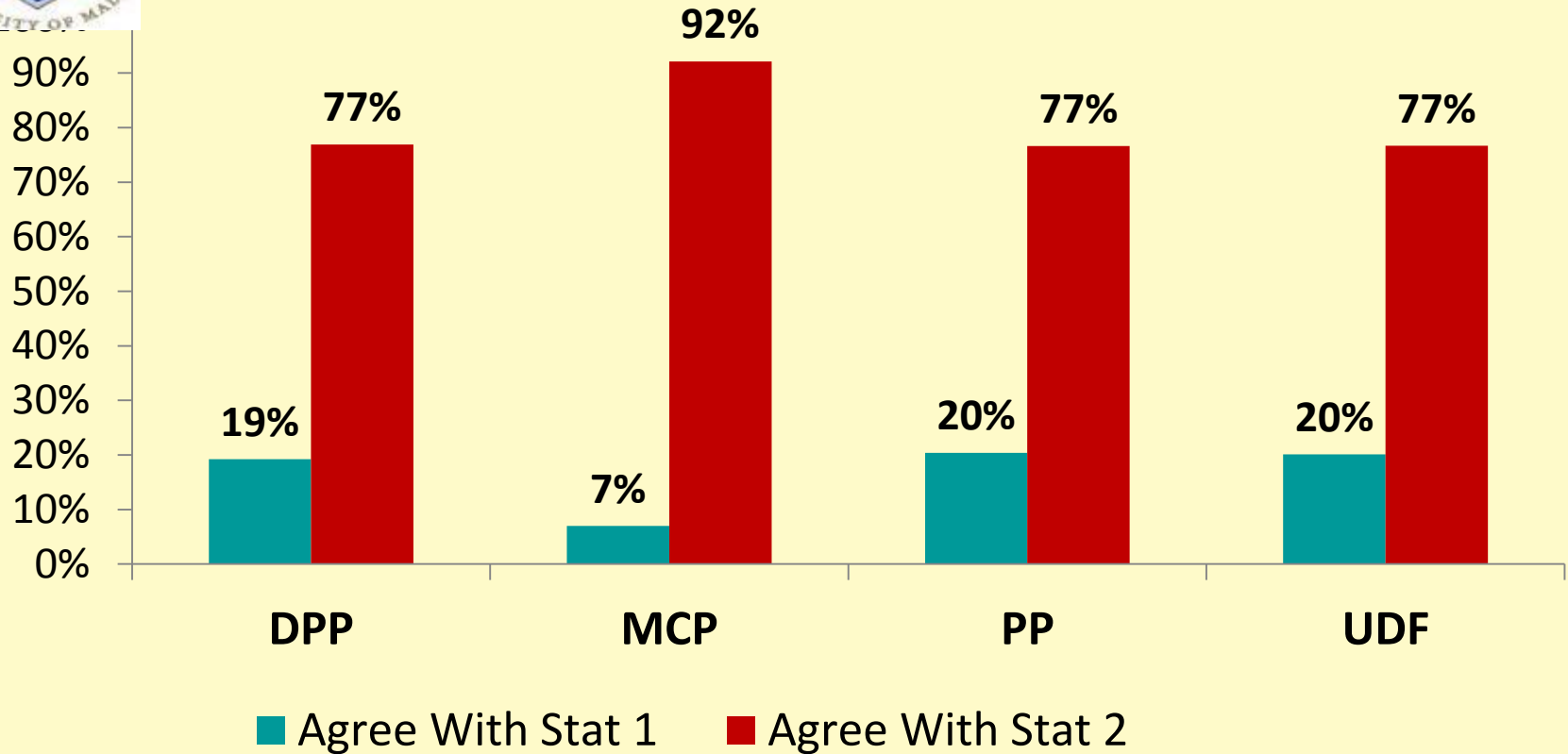
Voting Intentions – 2012



If a presidential election were held tomorrow, which party's candidate would you vote for?



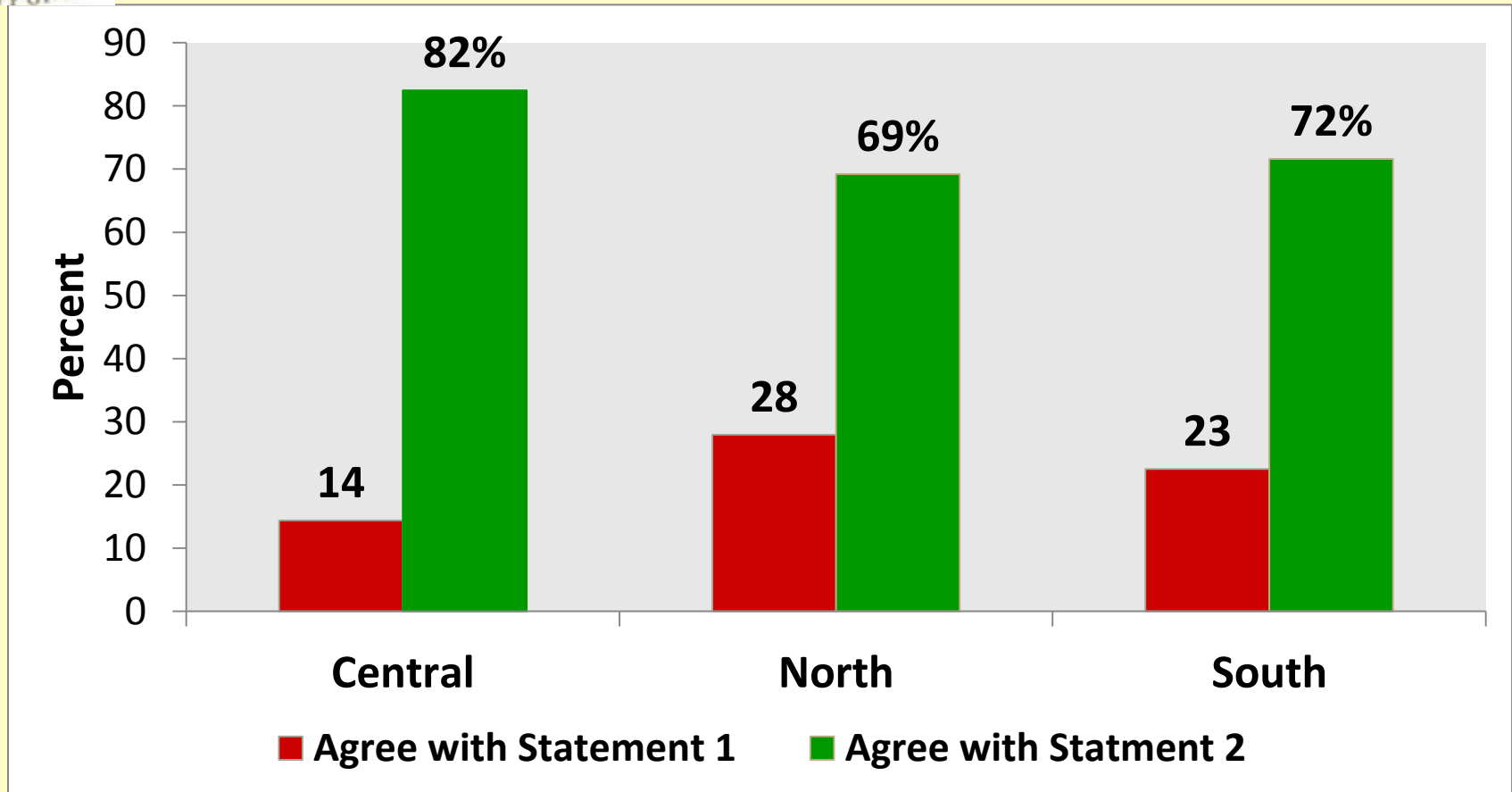
Floor Crossing & Party Affiliation



Statement 1: MPs that wish to leave their parties and join new ones should be allowed to do so without going through a by-election

Statement 2: MPs who decide to leave their parties and join new ones should seek a fresh mandate from their constituents in a by-elections

On Crossing the floor & Region



Statement 1: MPs that wish to leave their parties and join new ones should be allowed to do so without going through a bye-elections

Statement 2: MPs who decide to leave their parties and join new ones should seek a fresh mandate from their constituents in a bye-elections



Summary / Conclusion

- Malawians view CSOs as being important gap fillers in development and relief work where they are considered effective
- CSOs are generally not consulted and they are rarely, if at all, considered as responsible for holding politicians accountable
- Some CSOs are considered to be serving interests that are different from those of Malawians
- Most of the perceptions vary by residence and sex



Summary / Conclusion (contd.)



- Physical and sexual violence against women and children is generally not acceptable by the majority of Malawians
- Physical punishment of children for disciplining is apparently more acceptable than the same for wives
- In general, people perceive violence against women and children to have declined over the 12 months
- People with disabilities are said to be treated equally by major institutions although there are some differences
- Malawians of different backgrounds and residence overwhelmingly disapprove of gay marriages and relationships



Summary / Conclusion (contd.)



- The majority of Malawians want MPs who wish to switch parties to seek fresh mandate through bye elections
- There has been some shifts in political party support between 2008 and 2012
 - The death of the DPP President and ascendency to power of the PP President is one reason
 - From being non-existent in 2009, PP has the most support
- Only 4 out of so many get partisan support
- However, no party is ‘miles’ ahead in 2012
 - There is room for manoeuvre between now and 2014 as there are many undecided ‘voters’ up for grabs



For more information and publications, please contact **Maxton Tsoka** (mtsoka@cc.ac.mw) or **Boniface Dulani** (dulanibo@msu.edu) and visit the Afrobarometer website at: www.afrobarometer.org