



British Embassy  
Tbilisi



# TAKING GEORGIANS' PULSE

## KEY FINDINGS FROM DECEMBER 2021 TELEPHONE SURVEY

CARRIED OUT FOR NDI BY CRRC GEORGIA

Research is funded by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland through the foreign, commonwealth and development office's good governance fund.



## RESEARCH GOALS

- To foster the development of more responsive policies and governance;
- To help stakeholders diagnose and address top national concerns and priorities;
- To help stakeholders identify impact of the pandemic on various policy areas.

## ABOUT THE POLL

- ❖ Fieldwork dates: December 7-13, 2021
- ❖ 2,099 completed interviews (22% response rate, according to AAPOR standards)
- ❖ The average margin of error is +/- 1.4%
- ❖ **Note: the margin of error is different for every response**
- ❖ **Shift from face-to-face to telephone method might affect a change on historical slides.**

## SAMPLE

- ❖ All interviews were conducted via **mobile phone interview** method
- ❖ Simple random sampling method was used. Respondents were selected using the **random-digit-dial method**
- ❖ Interviews were conducted in Georgian, Azerbaijani, Armenian and Russian languages
- ❖ The poll is representative of entire Georgian population (excluding the occupied territories)
- ❖ In addition, the poll is representative of the capital, urban and rural settlements

### Quality control

- ❖ All interviewers receive special training
- ❖ CRRC central office coordinators conduct quality control interviews.

## Face to face survey



- ❑ Ability to ask more questions (60-80);
- ❑ Interviews take longer (30-60 min);
- ❑ You can ask longer questions, provide definitions;
- ❑ You can show cards with answer options.

## Telephone survey



- ❑ Number of questions limited (20-30);
- ❑ Shorter duration (10-20 min);
- ❑ Questions are shorter and simpler, than during face to face interviews;
- ❑ You can't use show cards with answer options. This means that answer options should be shorter, or interviewer should correspond answers.

## Face to face survey



- ❑ Interviewer sees respondent and can observe respondent's non-verbal behavior, whether he/she understand the question or not;
- ❑ Interviewer is in the same space with respondent and can better manage the situation;
- ❑ Certain group of busy people are harder to reach this way;
- ❑ Due to the sampling method, margin of error is higher than during telephone surveys;
- ❑ More expensive;
- ❑ Longer fieldwork.

## Telephone survey



- ❑ Chances are higher that respondent can't understand the question and interviewer won't notice it;
- ❑ Interviewer has no way of knowing in what kind of environment the respondent is;
- ❑ Easier to approach some respondents, e.g. men or people who are often out of home;
- ❑ Due to the sampling method, margin of error is lower than during face to face interviews;
- ❑ Cheaper;
- ❑ Shorter fieldwork.

# KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Georgians see insufficient progress on the top national issues of concern and think the situation regarding poverty, crime, territorial integrity, and education has gotten worse in the last 10 years. Public concerns are consistent across political affiliation, signaling opportunities for political parties to work together to address the common needs of Georgia's citizens.
- New poll finds that a majority of Georgians do not think anyone - neither government or opposition parties - is acting in their best interest.
- Georgians also remain skeptical of the newly elected parliament's willingness to address their concerns. More than half of the population (53 percent) does not believe parliament is passing legislation on issues that matter to them, while 52 percent do not believe an MP will take action if citizens tell him/her about problems in their district. Only a third believes that parliament regularly communicates with the public.

# KEY TAKEAWAYS

- In light of extreme political polarization, Georgians are supportive of a wide cross-party collaboration. 80 percent agree that their favorite political party should cooperate with all other political parties in the parliament, even if the views of some parties might be unacceptable to them. This perception is consistent across political affiliation.
- A majority of Georgians believe that domestic actors are best placed to facilitate mediation between the opposition and the government. A plurality (34%) thinks Georgian political parties themselves would make best facilitators during negotiations, while 11 percent find the president as a suitable moderator. Eighteen percent would look to the international community, believing western partners are needed for negotiations.
- Although living in a democratic state remains important for the majority (92 percent), only 39 percent believe Georgia meets this criteria. Further, a plurality of Georgians think Georgia is no longer a beacon of democracy (34 percent), while 25 percent says Georgia has never been a good example of democracy to begin with. Only 23 percent of citizens agree that Georgia is a good example of democracy for the neighboring states.

# KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Finally, as Covid-19 continues to dominate the lives of citizens across the world, Georgians praise the Government for doing a good job handling the Covid pandemic (50 percent).
- What remains alarming is the high level of vaccine hesitancy - 42 percent said they would not get vaccinated; 29 percent said they are already vaccinated, 25 percent said they intend to receive a vaccine.
- Among those who are hesitant, the main reasons are concerns about the quality of the vaccine (38 percent) and possible side effects for those with pre-existing health conditions (20 percent). 34 percent of vaccinated individuals say they will not get a booster, or are undecided about it.



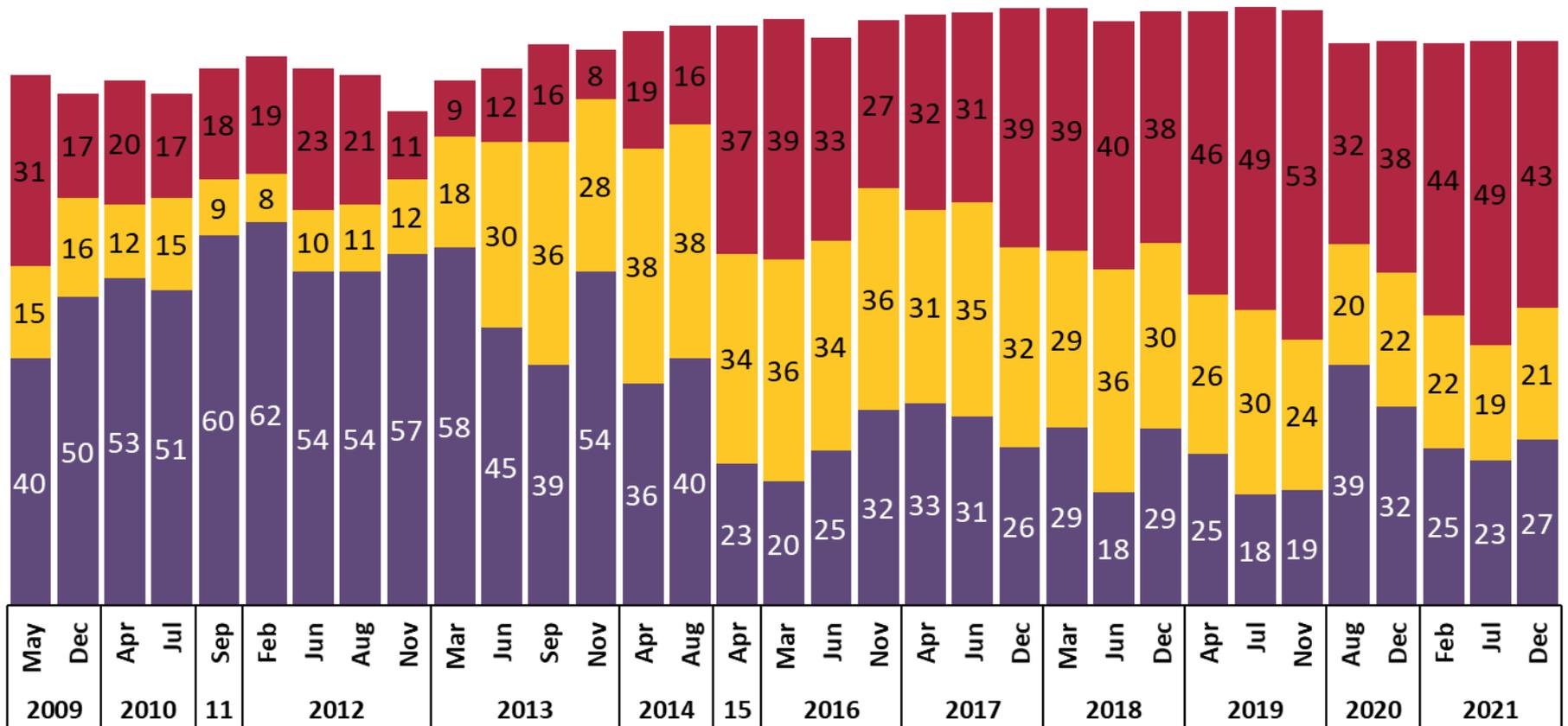
# COUNTRY DIRECTION & NATIONAL PRIORITIES

CHAPTER I

# Plurality say Georgia going in the wrong direction

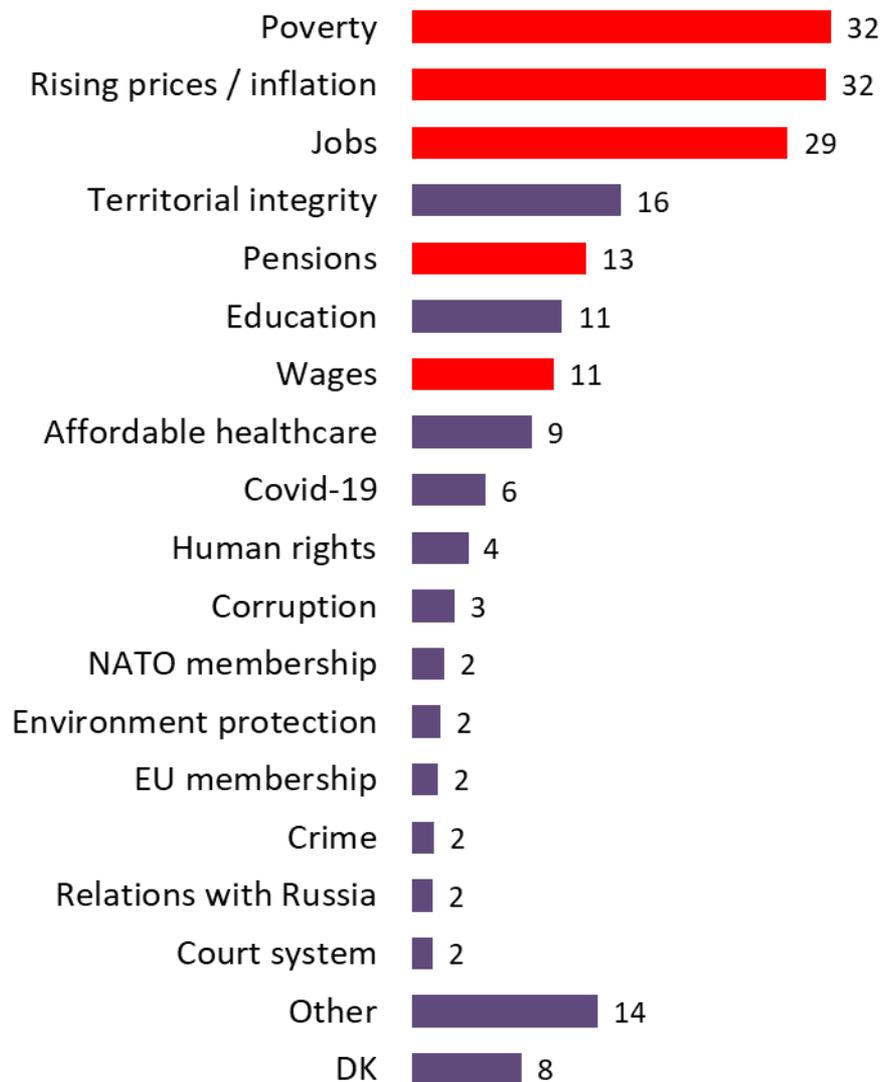
There are different opinions regarding the direction in which Georgia is going. Which one do you agree with? (q4)

■ Georgia is going in the right direction ■ Georgia is not changing at all ■ Georgia is going in the wrong direction



# Economic insecurity remains a top concern across Georgia

What are the most important national level issues facing you and your family? Please name up to three. (q5)

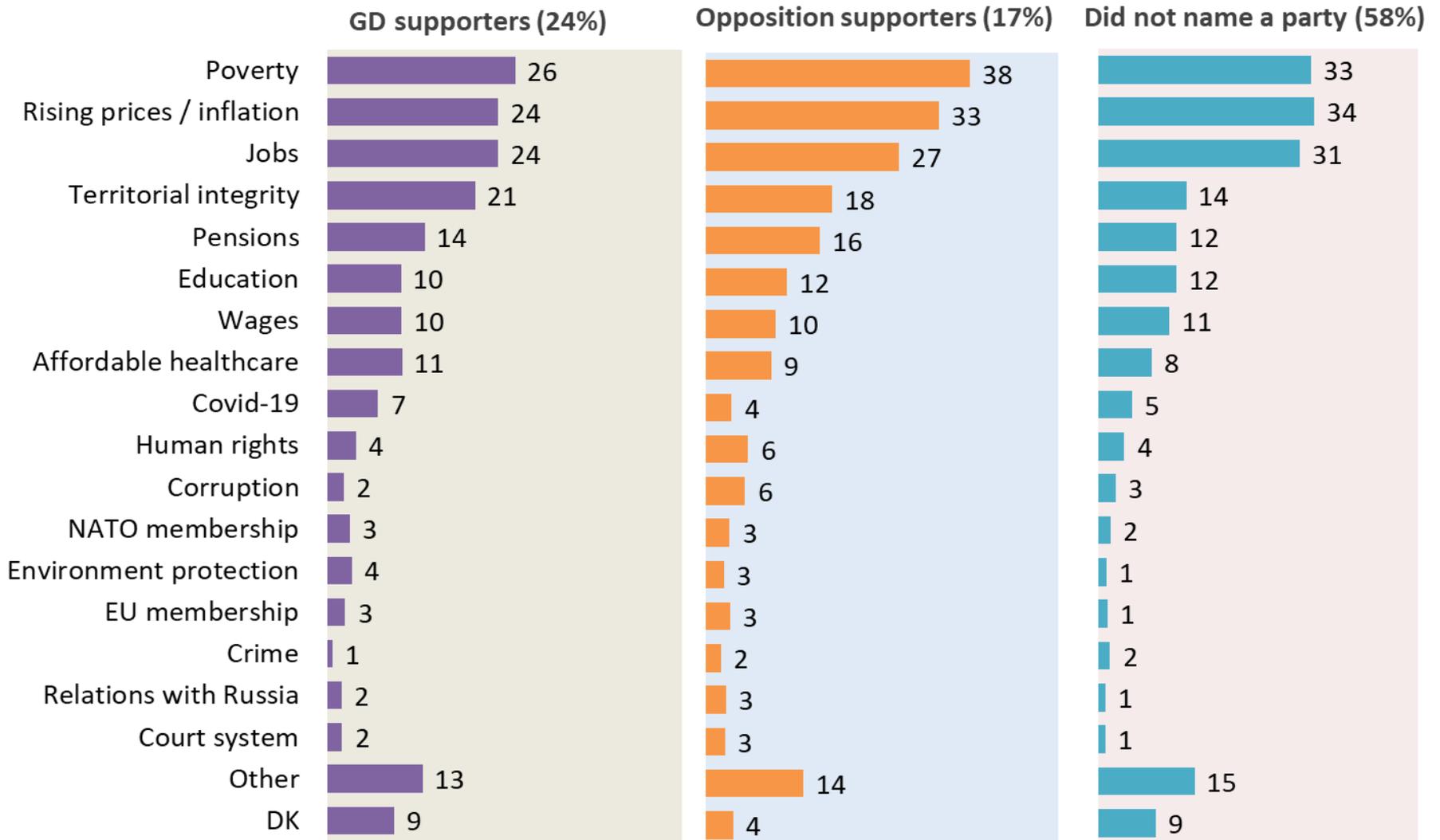


Georgians remain concerned about poverty and the state of the economy. Since 2009, top national issues remain the same.

Those who named other, mostly named 'Religion', 'Economy', 'Culture, values' and 'Political situation' as biggest issues.

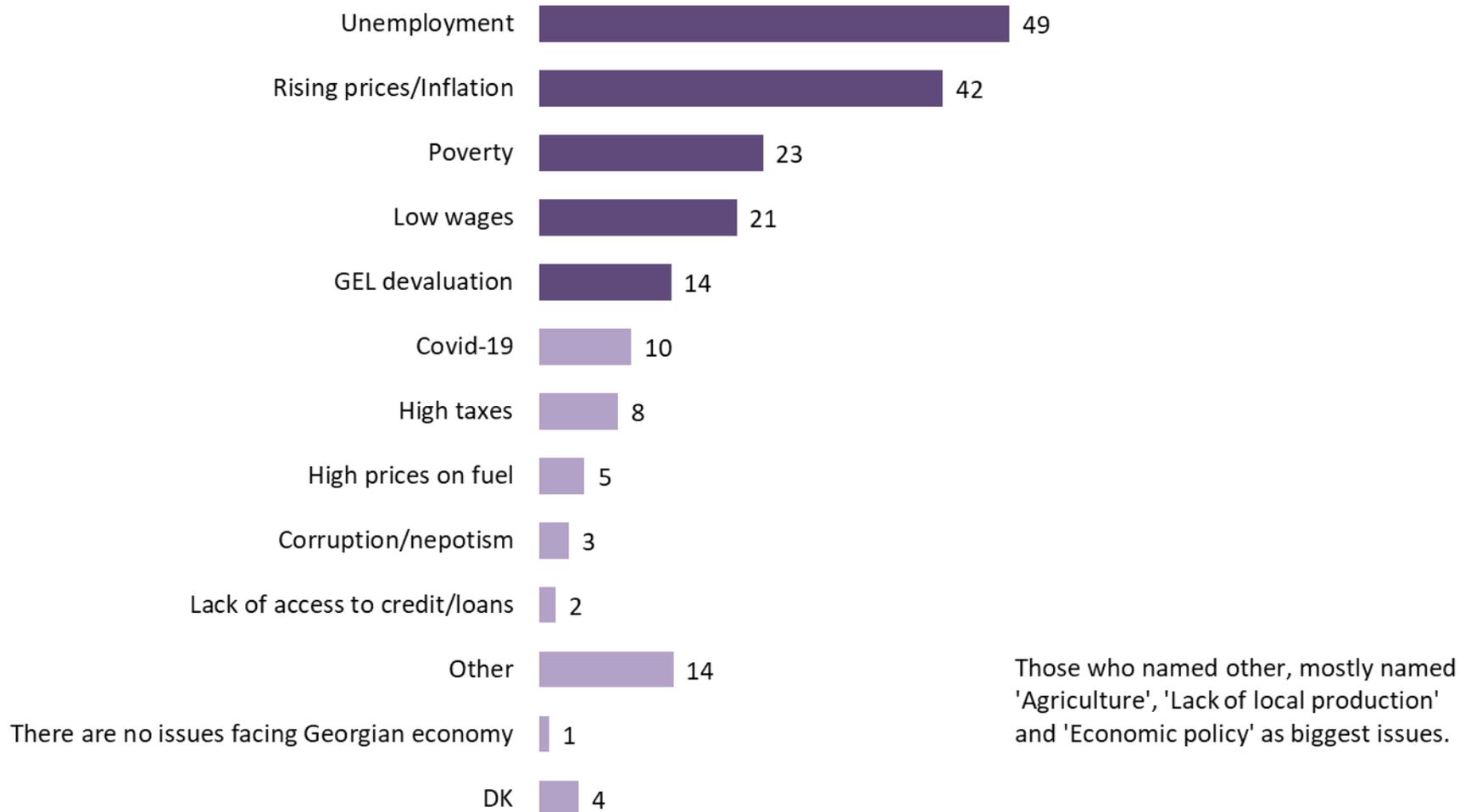
# Public concerns are consistent across political affiliation

What are the most important national level issues facing you and your family? Please name up to three. (q5 X Party closest to you)



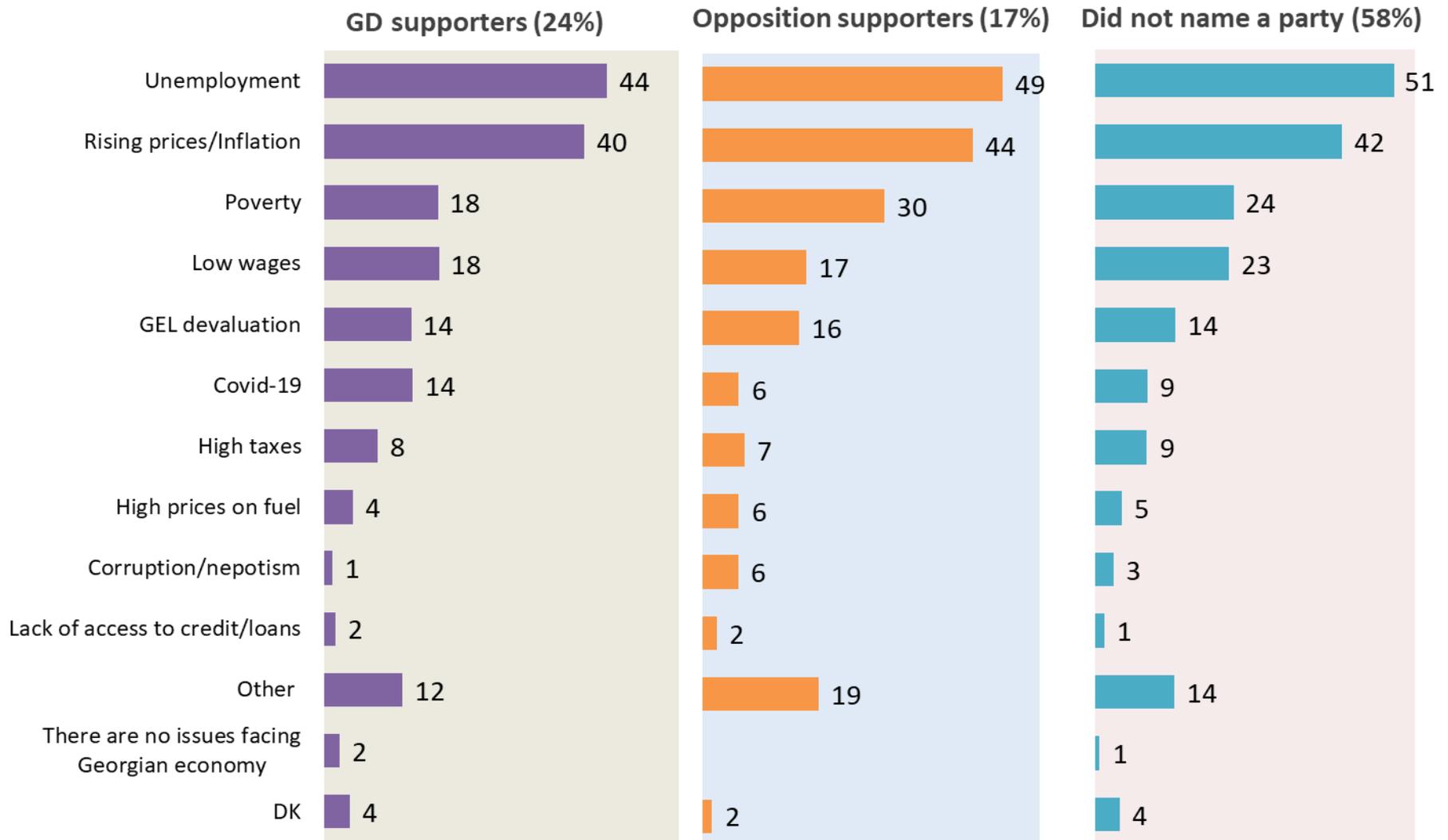
# Unemployment and rising prices top economic concerns across the country

What is the biggest issue facing the Georgian economy today? Up to three answers. (q6)



# Economic concerns are consistent across political affiliation

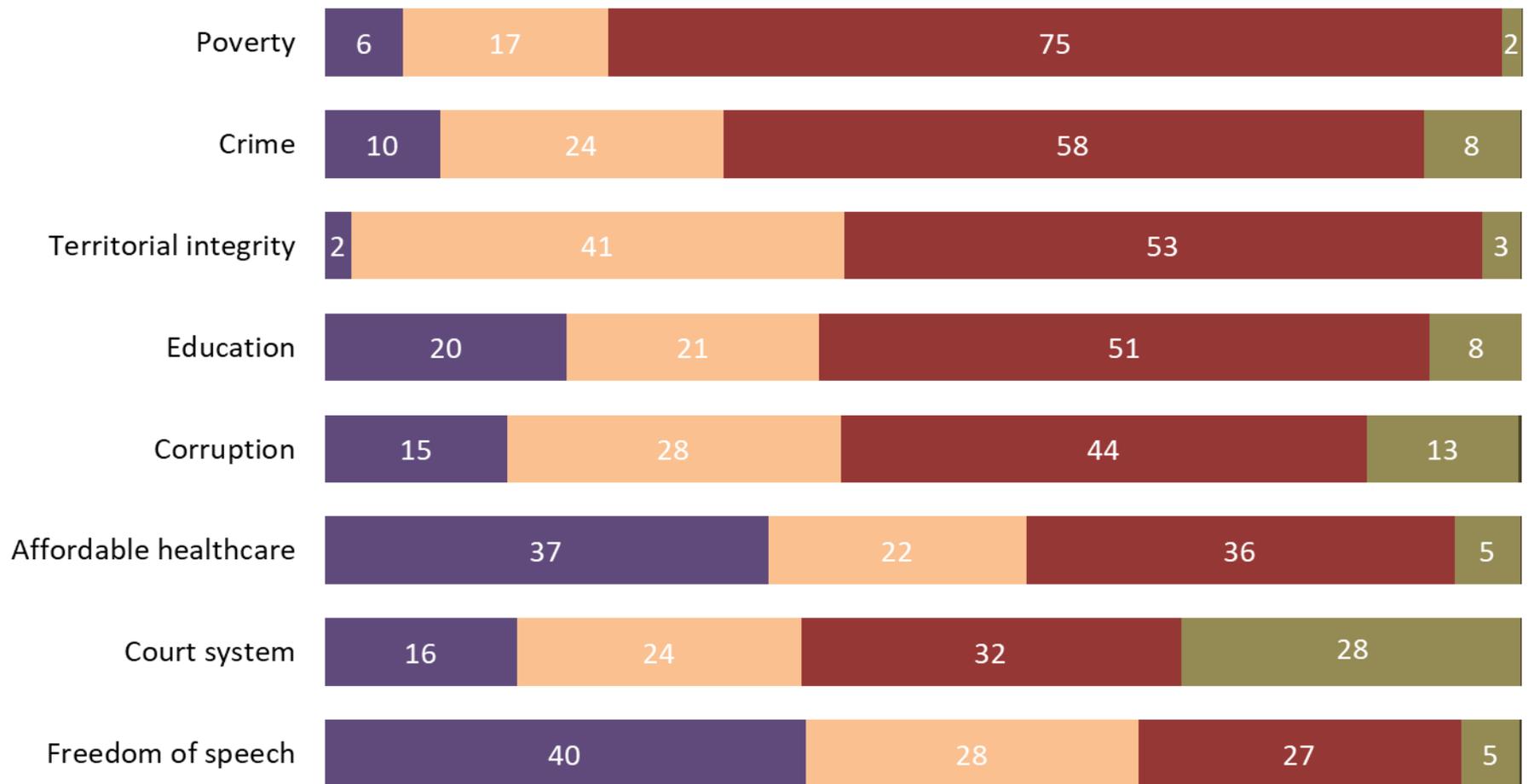
What is the biggest issue facing the Georgian economy today? Up to three answers. (q6 X Party closest to you)



# Georgians see insufficient progress on top national issues

For each issue, how do you think the situation has changed in Georgia in the last 10 years? Has it gotten worse, stayed the same or gotten better? (q7)

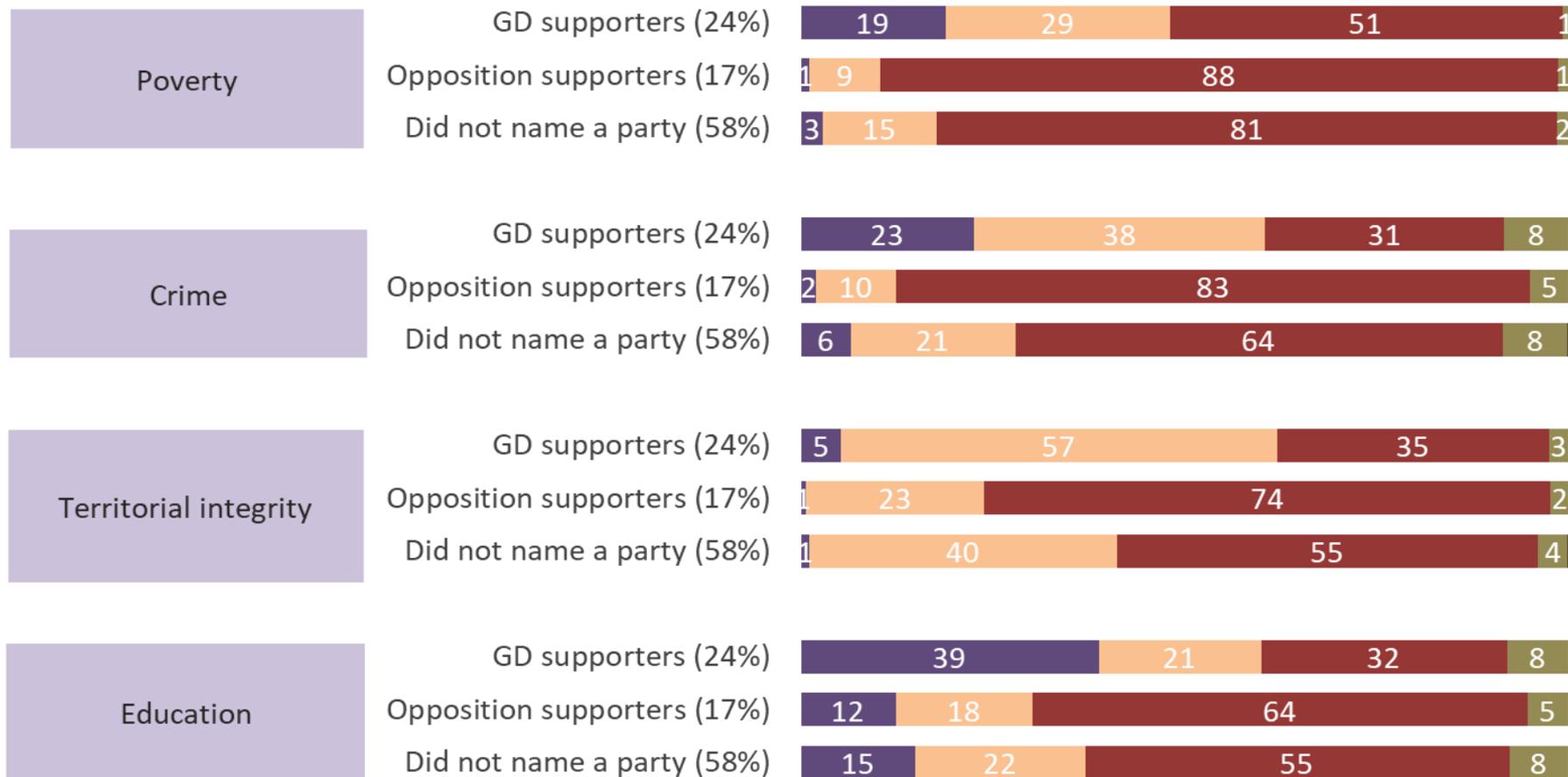
■ Better ■ Same ■ Worse ■ DK ■ RA



# Perception of poverty getting worse, visible even among the ruling party supporters

For each issue, how do you think the situation has changed in Georgia in the last 10 years? Has it gotten worse, stayed the same or gotten better? (q7 X Party closest to you) Part 1

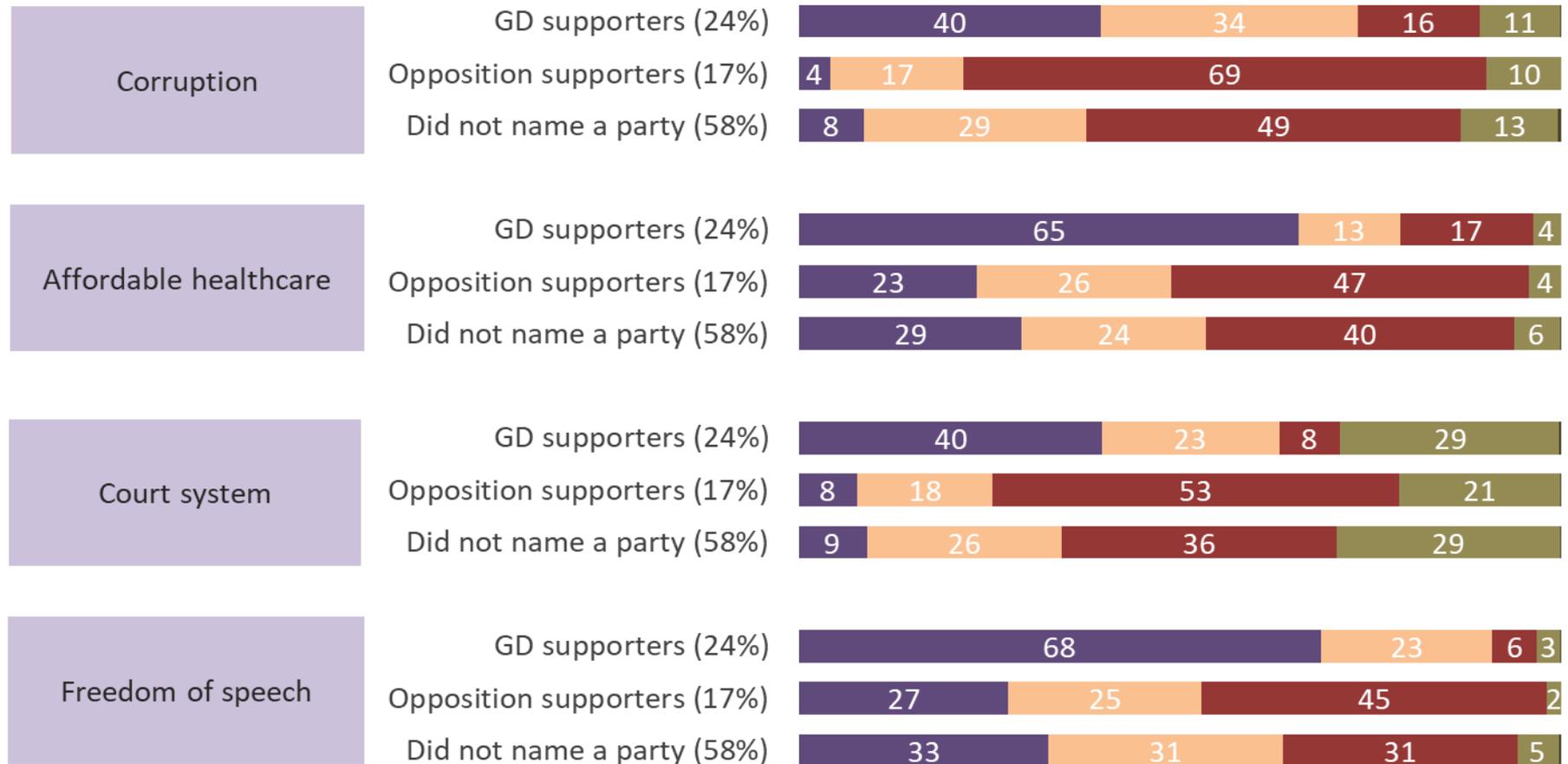
■ Better ■ Same ■ Worse ■ DK ■ RA



# Views on national issues influenced by political sympathies

For each issue, how do you think the situation has changed in Georgia in the last 10 years? Has it gotten worse, stayed the same or gotten better? (q7 X Party closest to you) Part 2

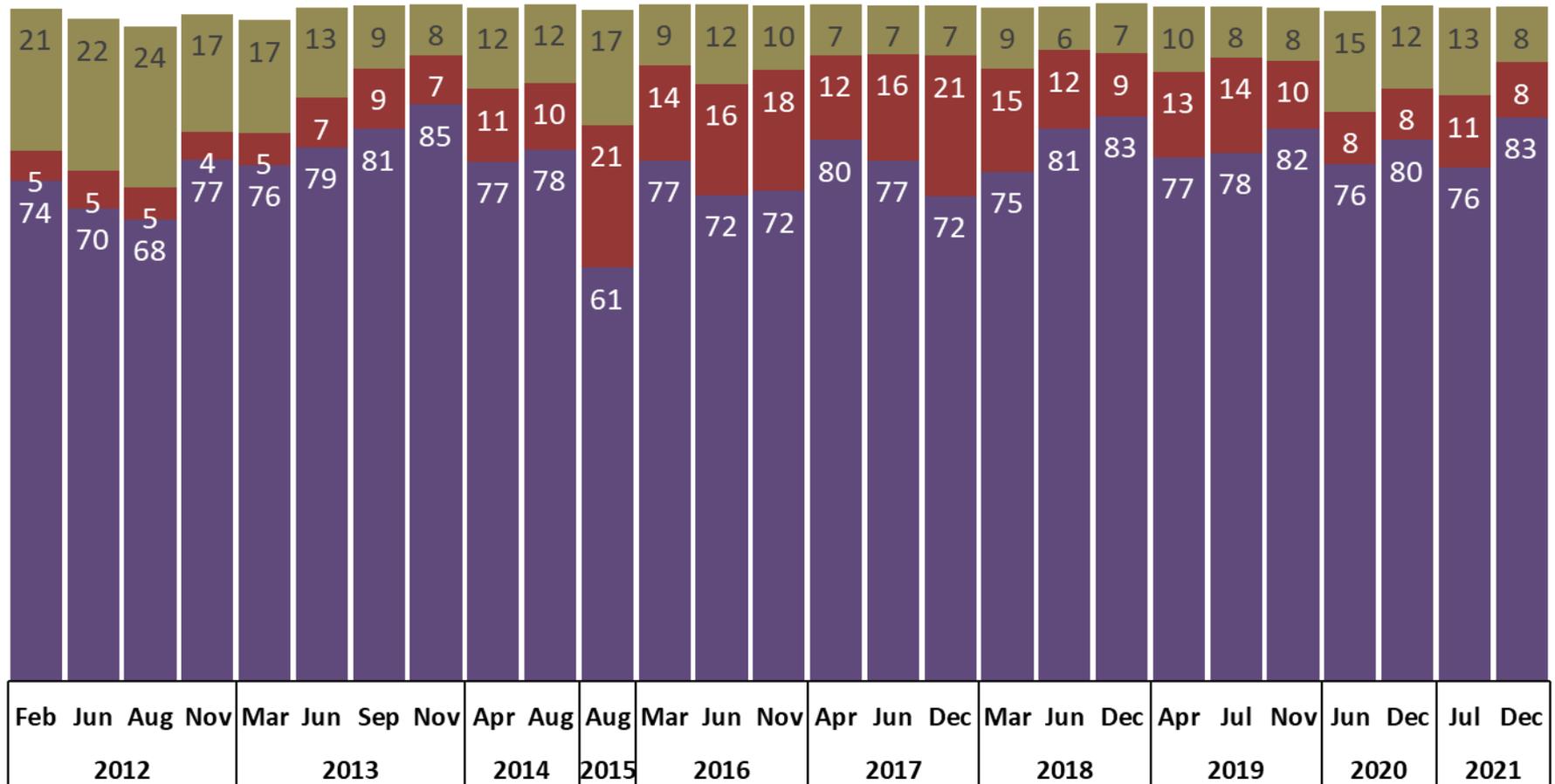
■ Better ■ Same ■ Worse ■ DK ■ RA



# Georgians continue to demonstrate resilient support for EU membership

Do you approve or disapprove of Georgian government's stated goal to join the EU? (q27)

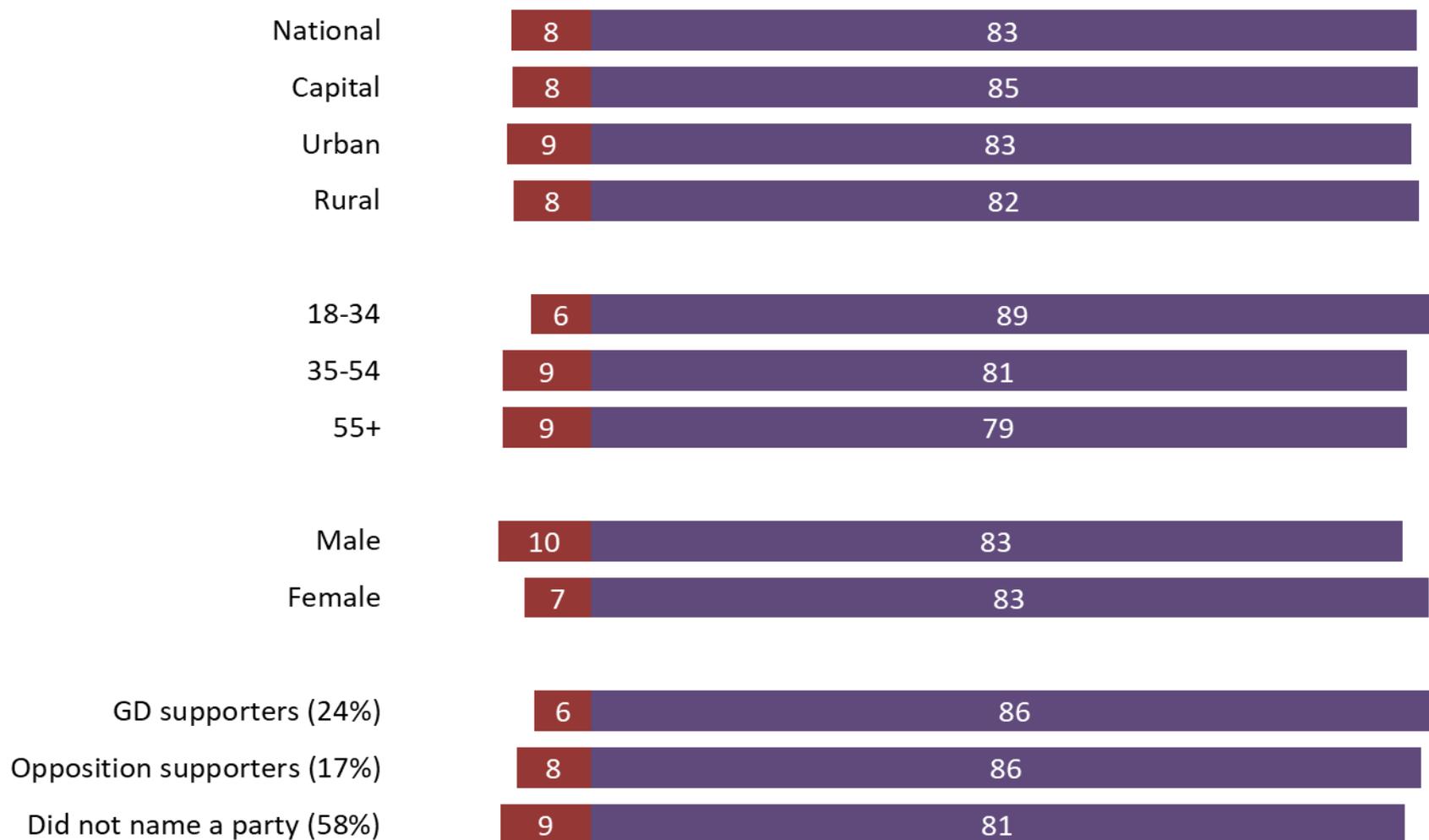
■ Approve ■ Disapprove ■ DK



# Public support for EU consistent across political affiliation

Do you approve or disapprove of the Georgian government's stated goal to join the EU?  
(q27 X Settlement, Age, Gender, Party closest to you)

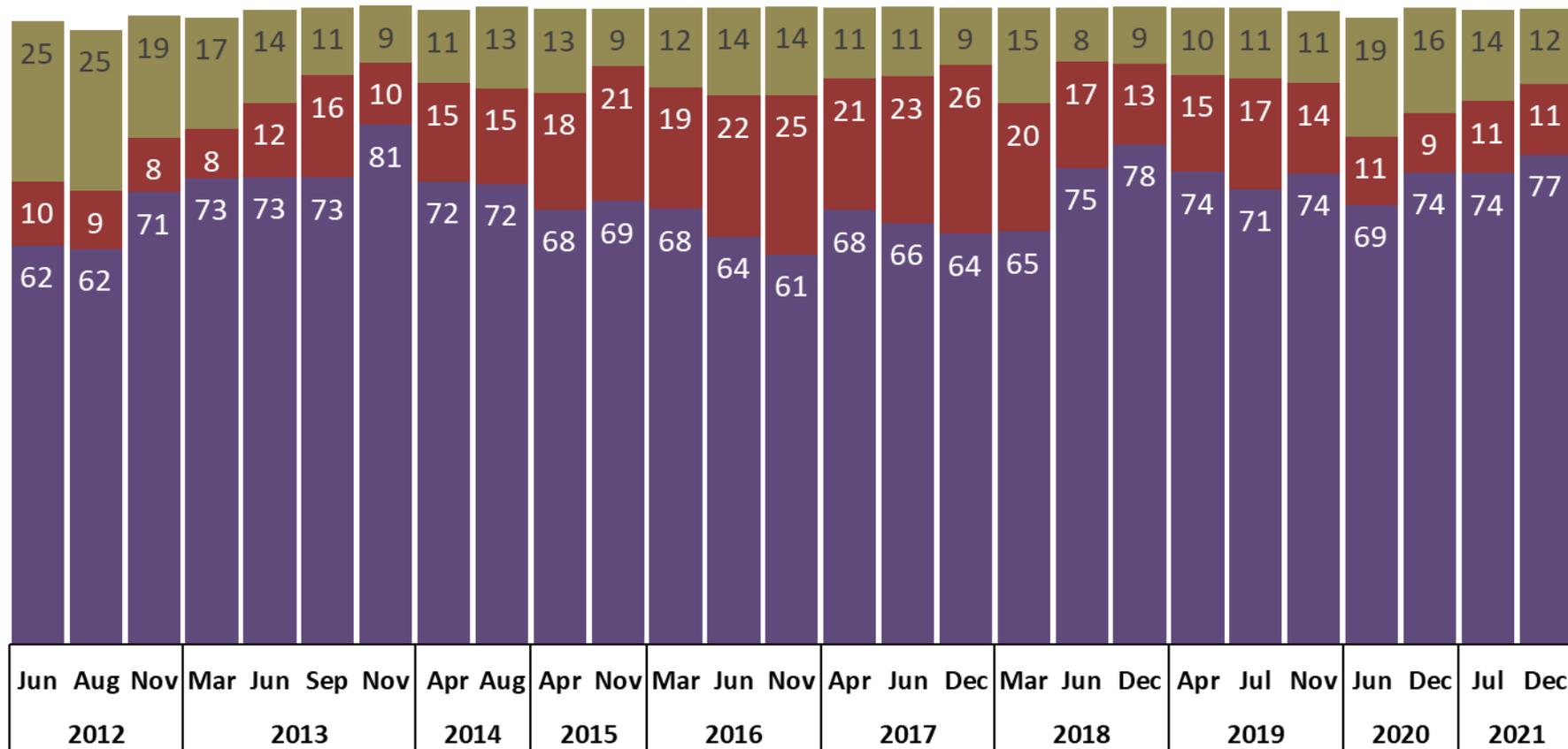
■ Disapprove ■ Approve



# Georgians continue to demonstrate resilient support for NATO membership

Do you approve or disapprove of Georgian government's stated goal to join the NATO? (q28)

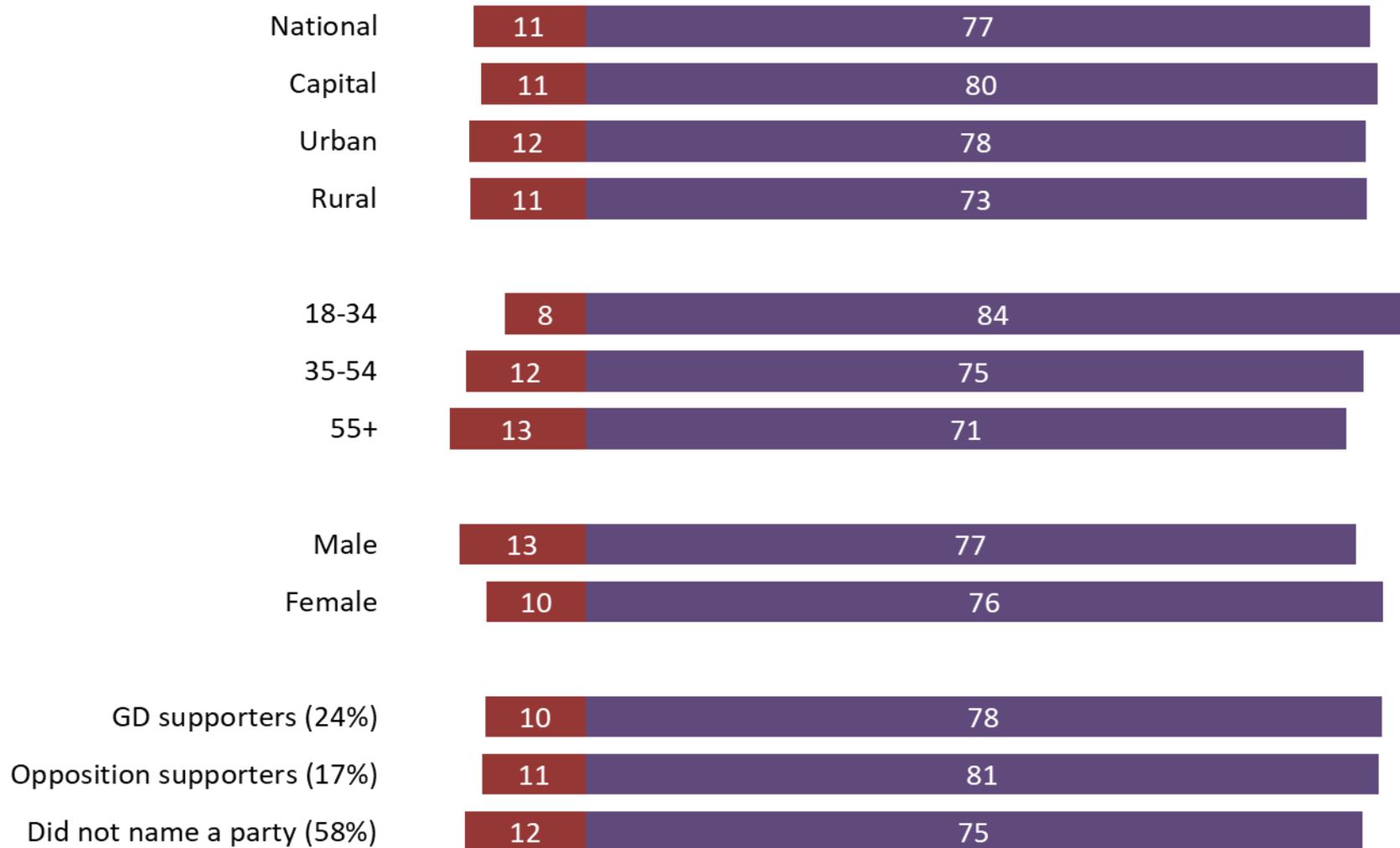
■ Approve ■ Disapprove ■ DK



# Public support for NATO consistent across political affiliation

Do you approve or disapprove of Georgian government's stated goal to join the NATO?  
(q28 X Settlement, Age, Gender, Party closest to you)

■ Disapprove ■ Approve





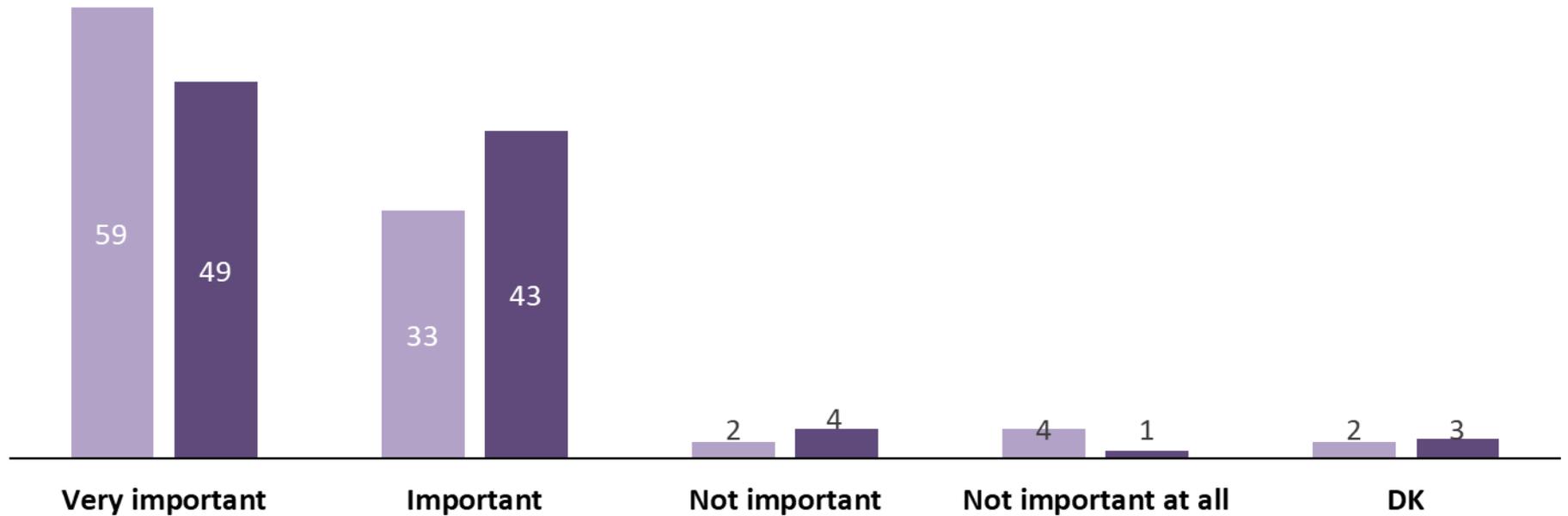
# STATE OF DEMOCRACY

## CHAPTER 11

# Democracy remains important for Georgians

Overall, how important or unimportant is it for you to live in a democratic country? (q8)

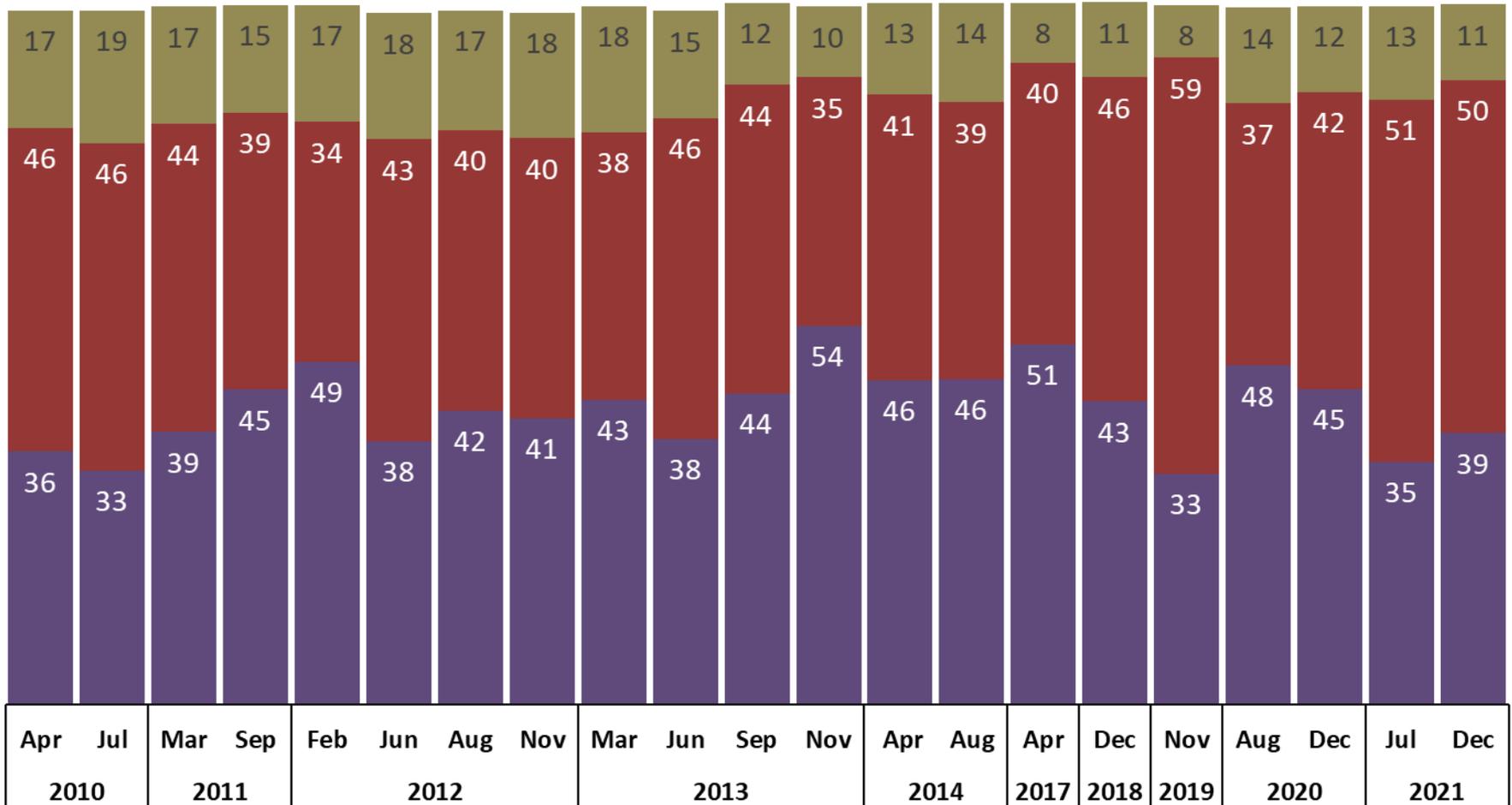
■ December 2018 ■ December 2021



# Every second citizen says Georgia not a democracy

In your opinion, is Georgia a democracy now? (q9)

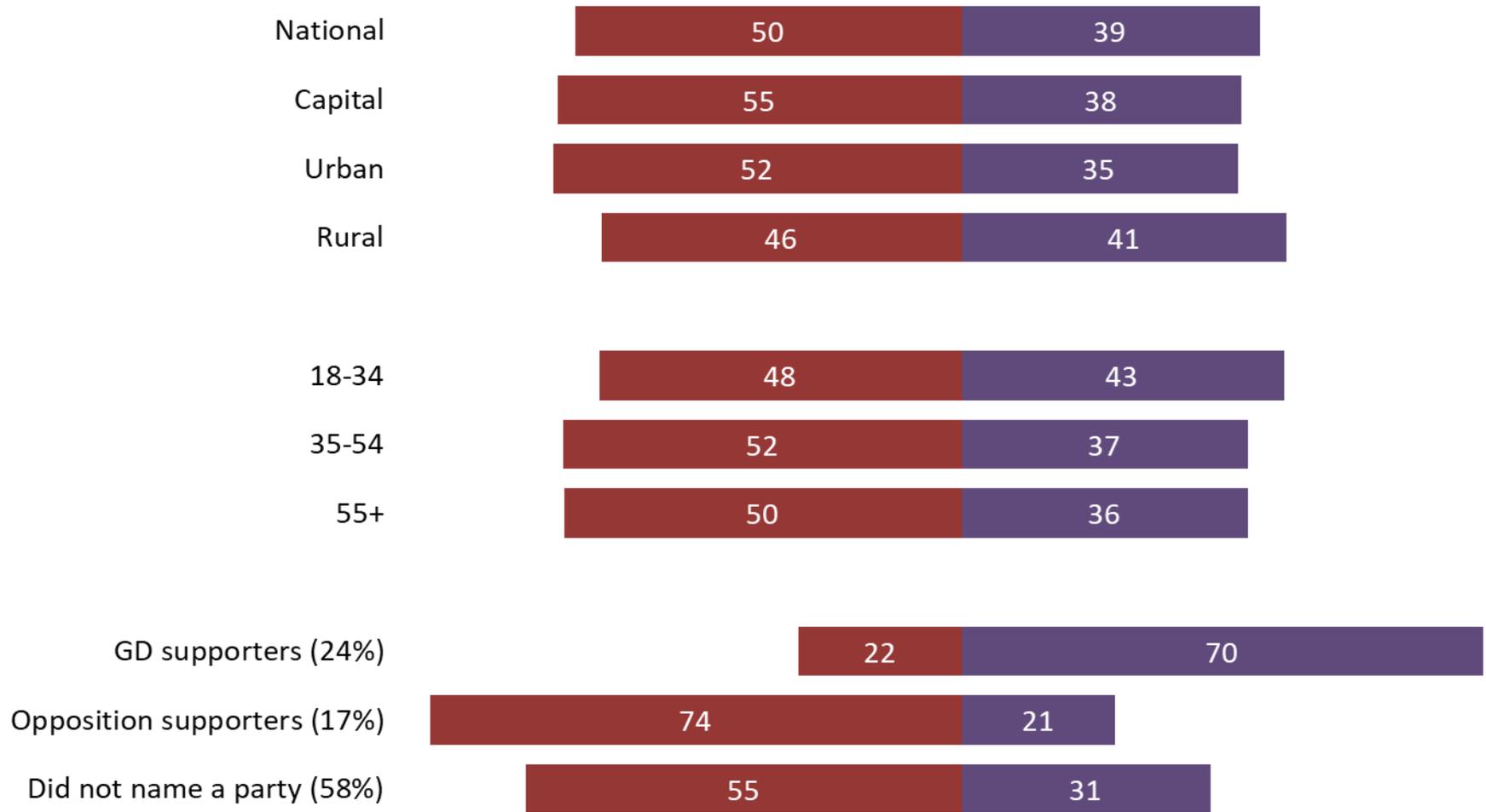
■ Yes ■ No ■ DK



# Ruling party supporters say Georgia a democracy, but others disagree

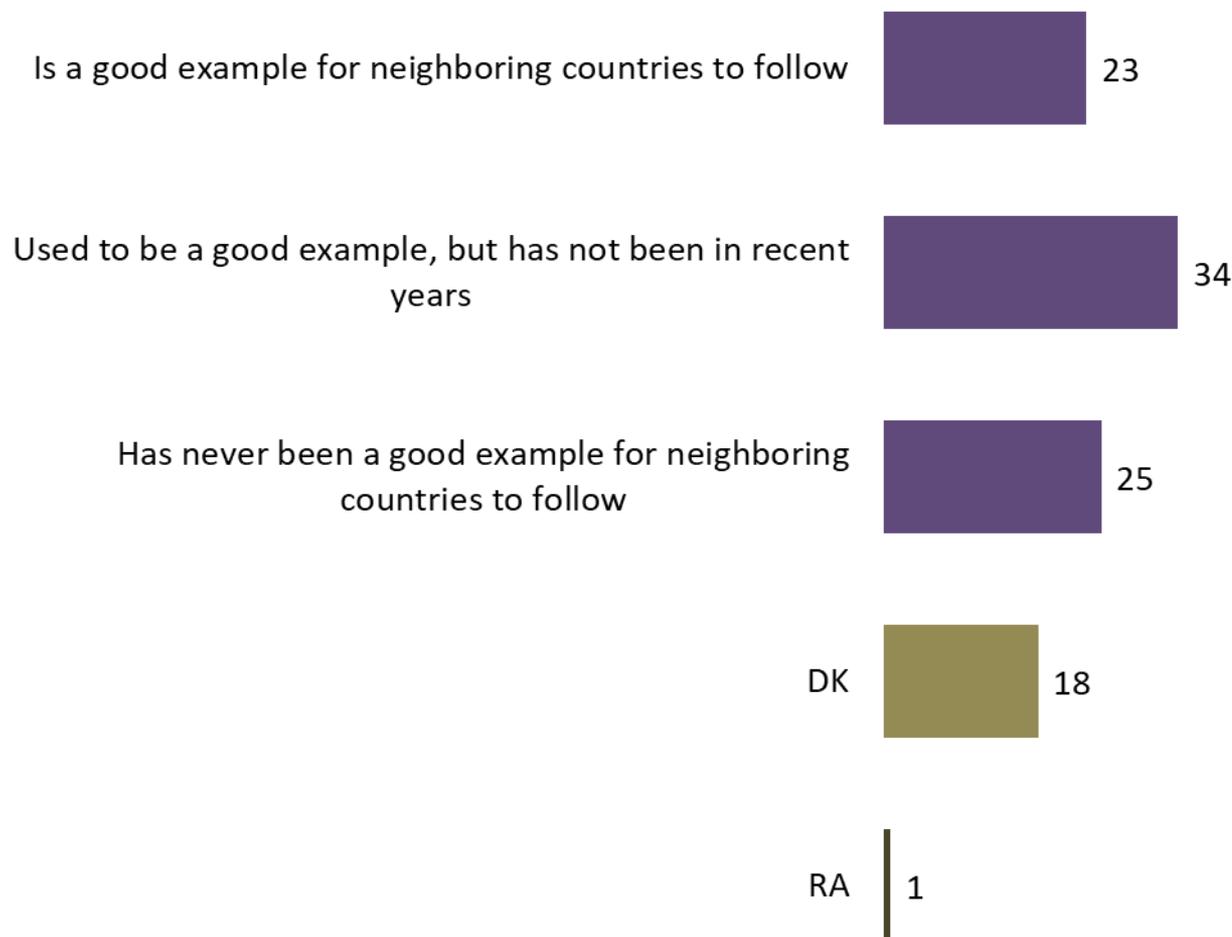
In your opinion, is Georgia a democracy now? (q9 X Settlement, Age, Party closest to you)

■ No ■ Yes



# Majority say Georgia not a good example of democracy for neighbours

Which statement comes closest to your view? Democracy in Georgia ... (q10)

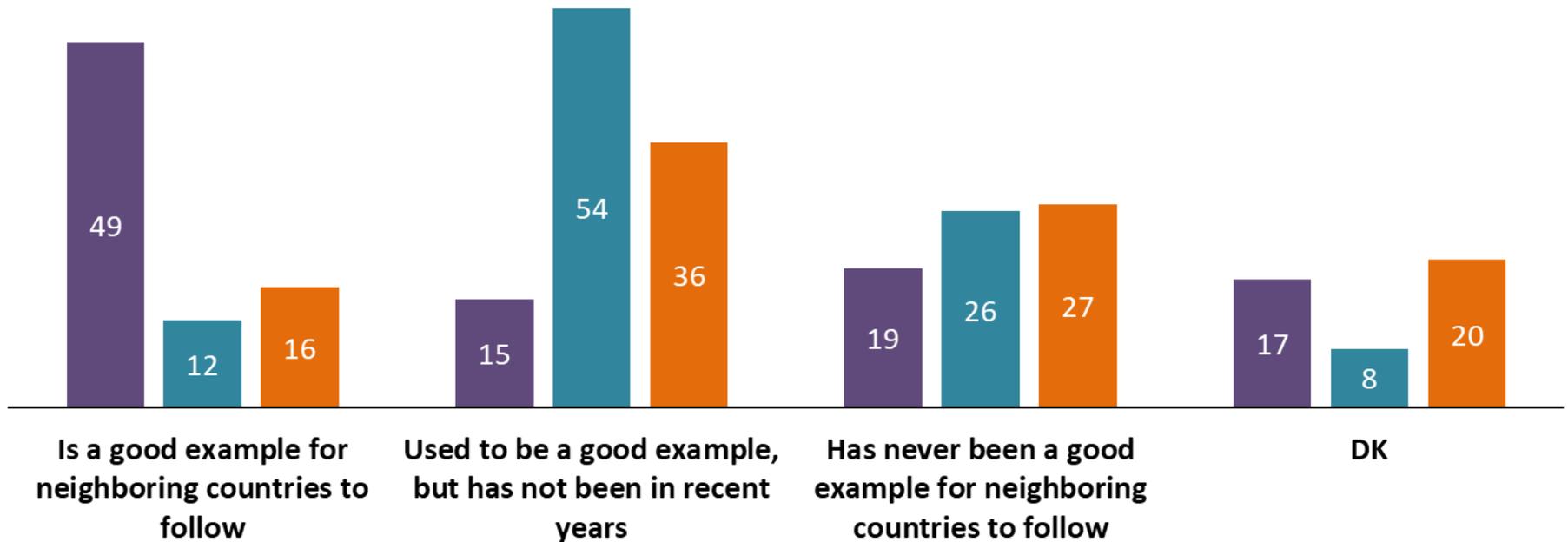


Answers across demographics (age, gender, geography) were fairly consistent, except for party affiliations.

# Opposing views on Georgian democracy

Which statement comes closest to your view? Democracy in Georgia ... (q10 X Party closest to you)

■ GD supporters (24%) ■ Opposition supporters (17%) ■ Did not name a party (58%)



# Majority do not think anyone is acting in their best interest

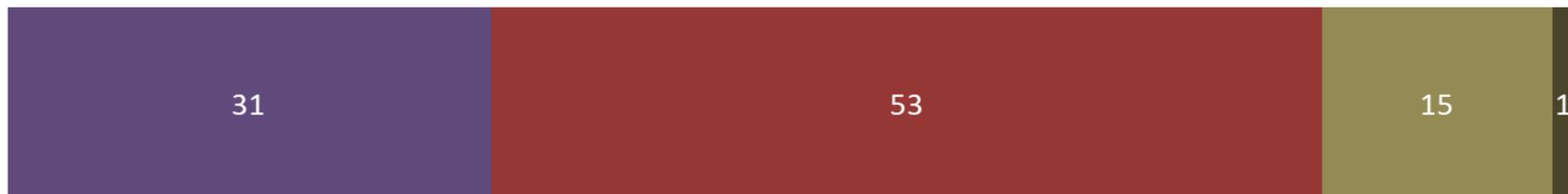
Do you agree or disagree with the following statements? (q25)

■ Agree ■ Disagree ■ DK ■ RA

Ruling party Georgian Dream is acting in the best interests of the country and Georgian people



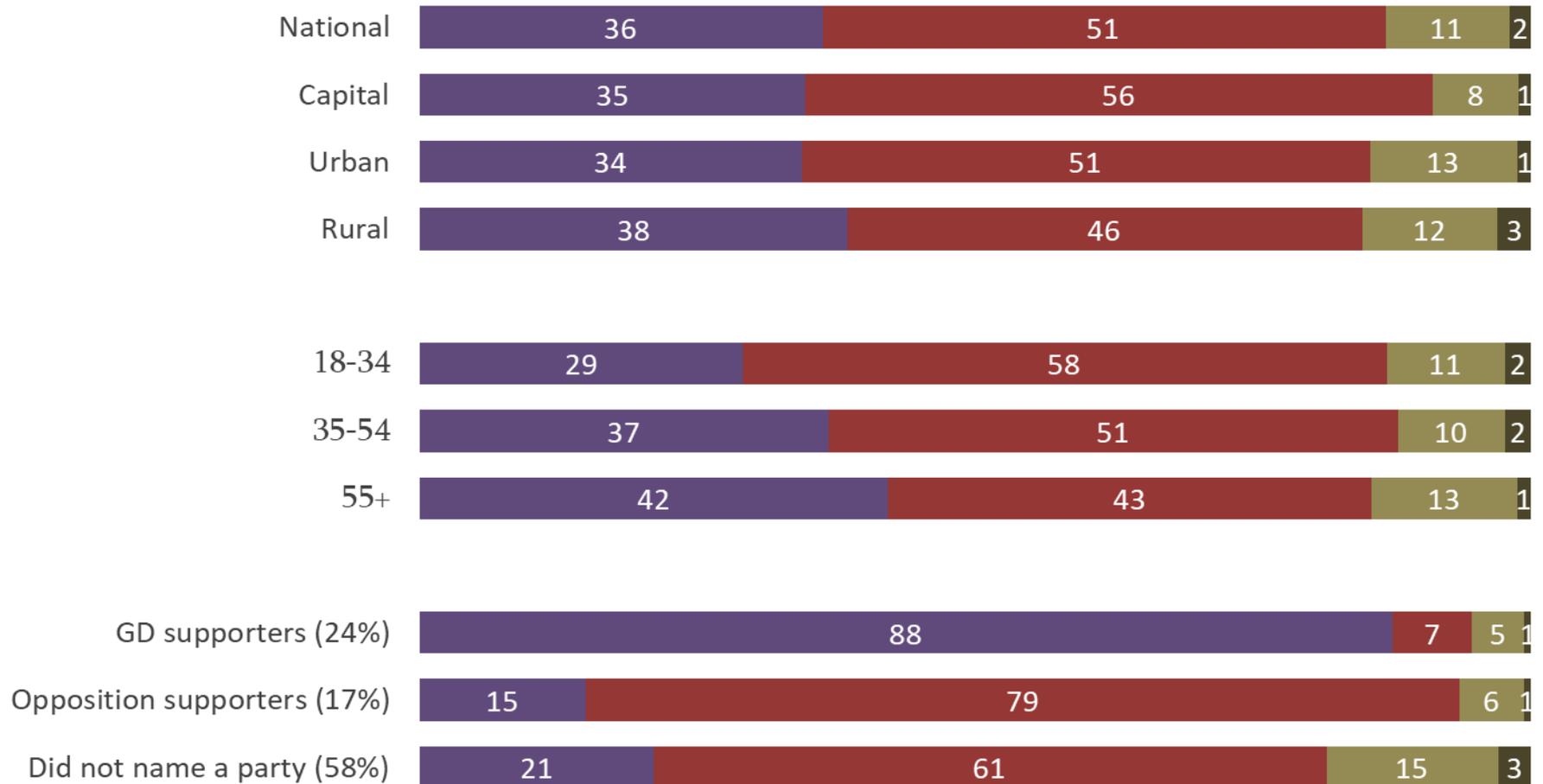
Elected opposition parties in the parliament and the local government act according to the best interests of the country and Georgian people



# Majority do not think the ruling party is acting in their best interest

Do you agree or disagree with the following statements? Ruling party Georgian Dream is acting in the best interests of the country and Georgian people (q25\_2 X Settlement, Age, Party closest to you)

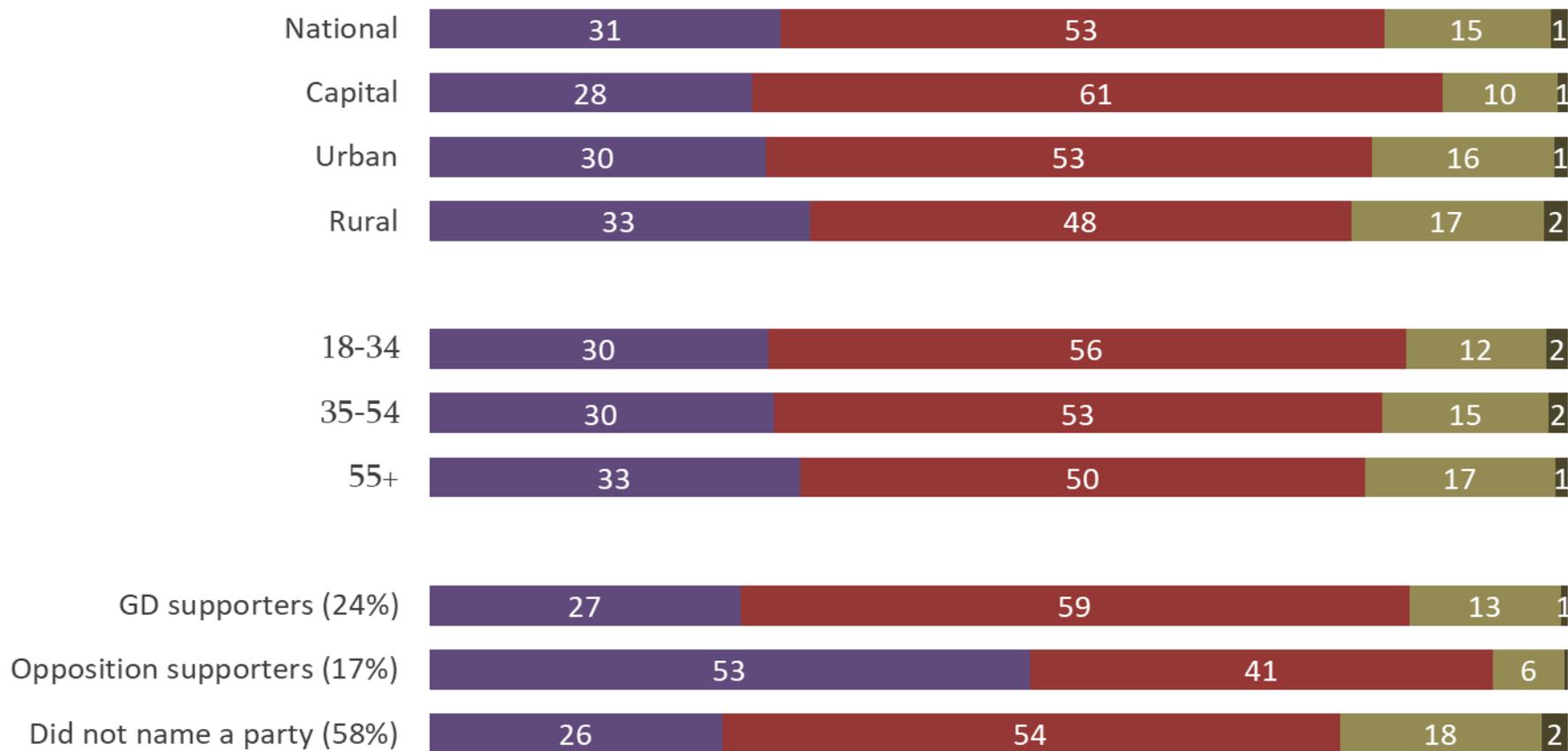
■ Agree ■ Disagree ■ DK ■ RA



# Majority do not think elected opposition parties are acting in their best interest

Do you agree or disagree with the following statements? Elected opposition parties in the parliament and the local government act according to the interests of the country and Georgian people (q25\_1 X Settlement, Age, Party closest to you)

■ Agree ■ Disagree ■ DK ■ RA

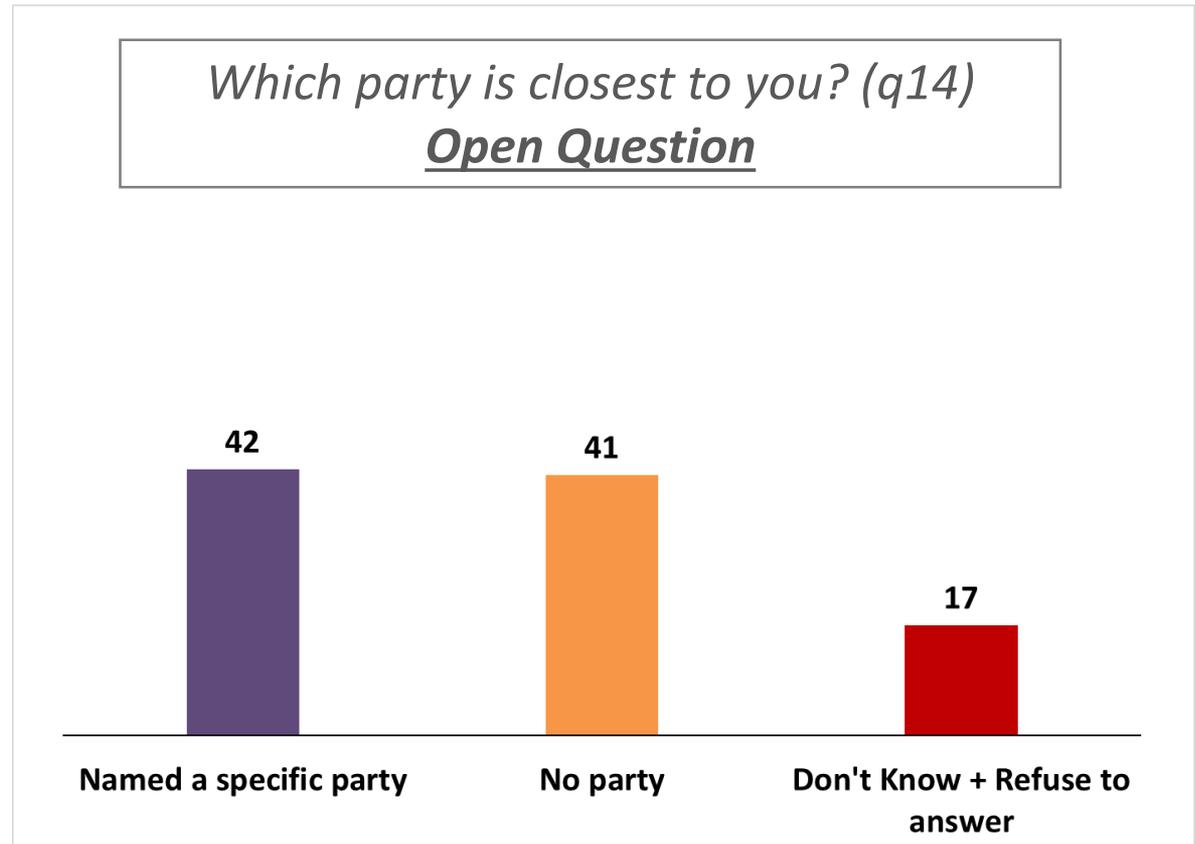


Majority of Georgians do not know or do not say which party is closest to them. Only 42% of citizens named a political party closest to them.



*Majority of citizens remain politically undecided.*

*Declared support for individual parties are so low that they cannot be taken as a guide to the outcome of future elections.*



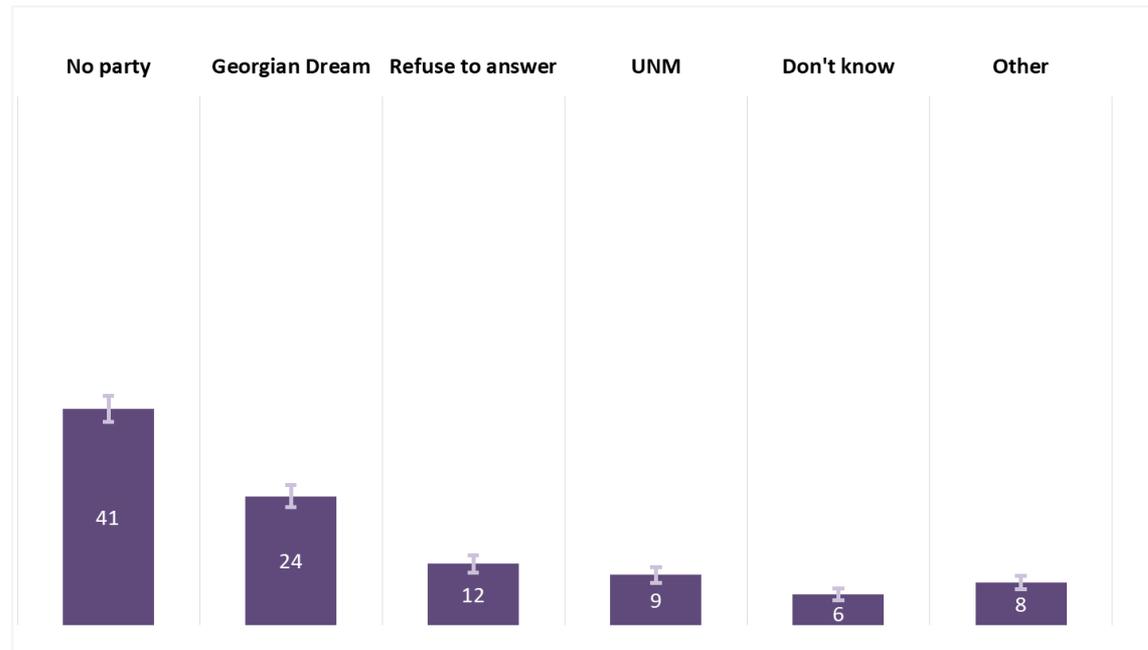
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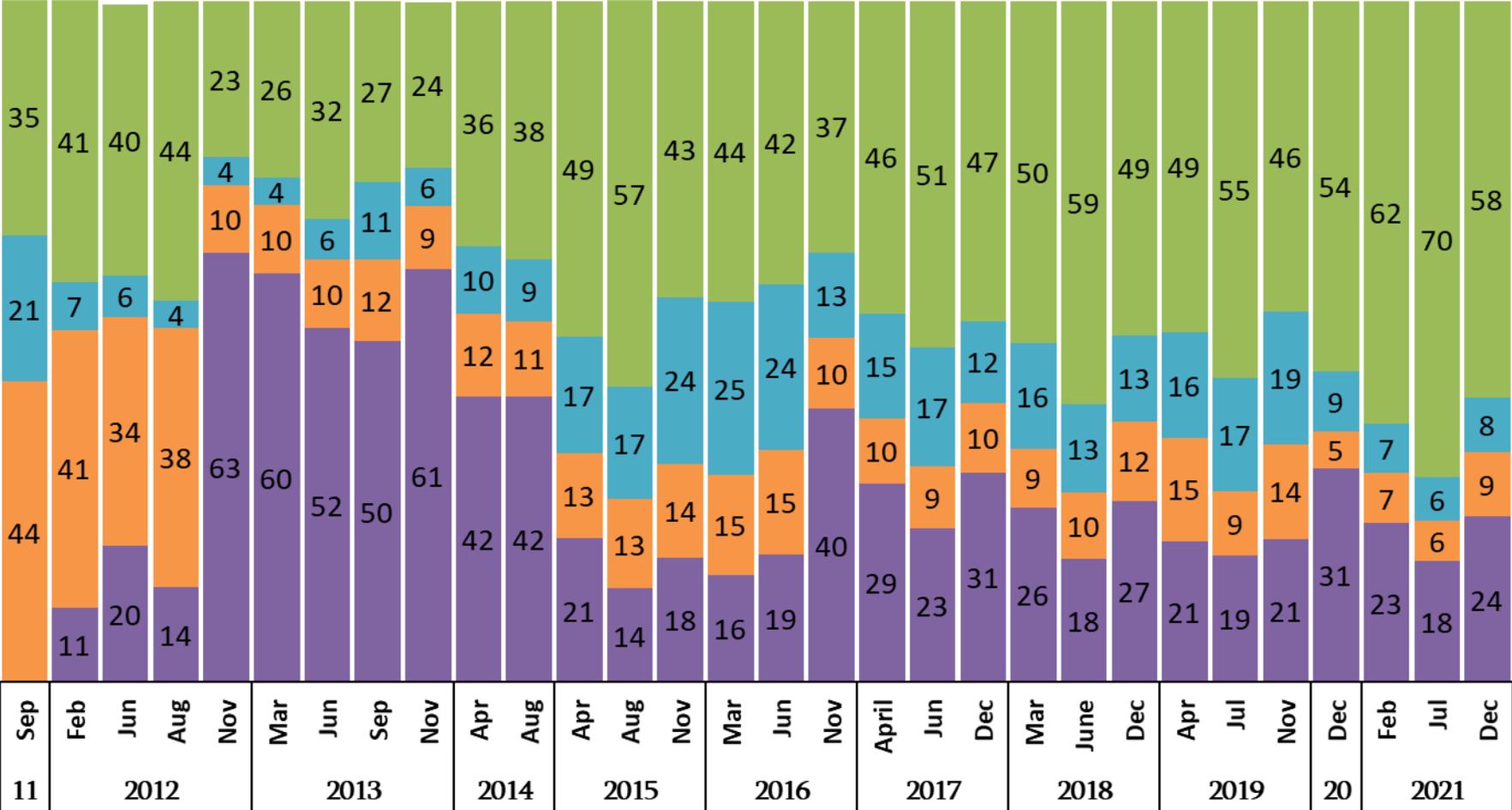
Which party is closest to you? (q14) Open Question  
**Whole Sample**



# Majority of citizens remain politically undecided

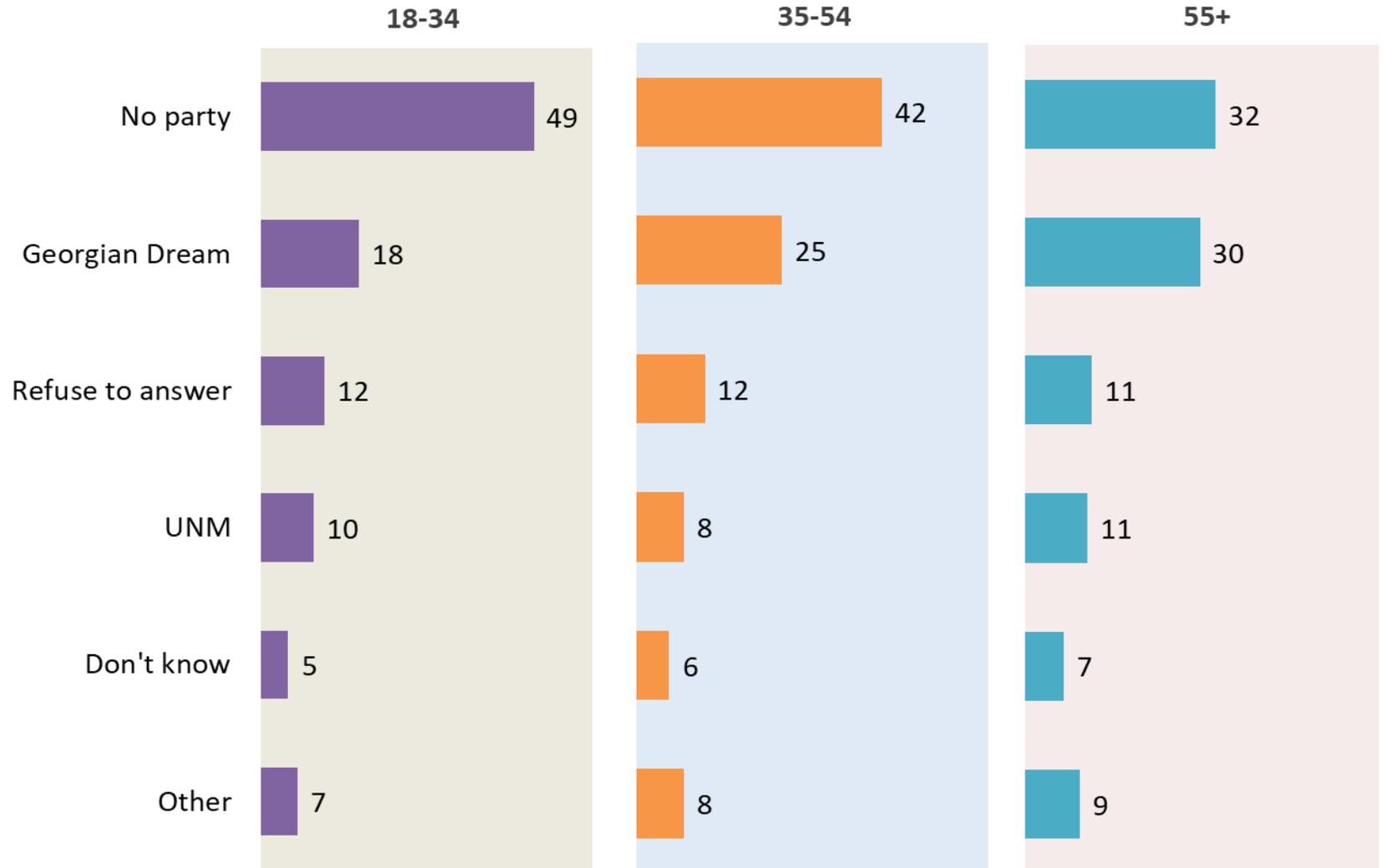
Which party is closest to you? (q14)

■ Georgian Dream 
 ■ UNM 
 ■ Other 
 ■ No Party+DK+RA



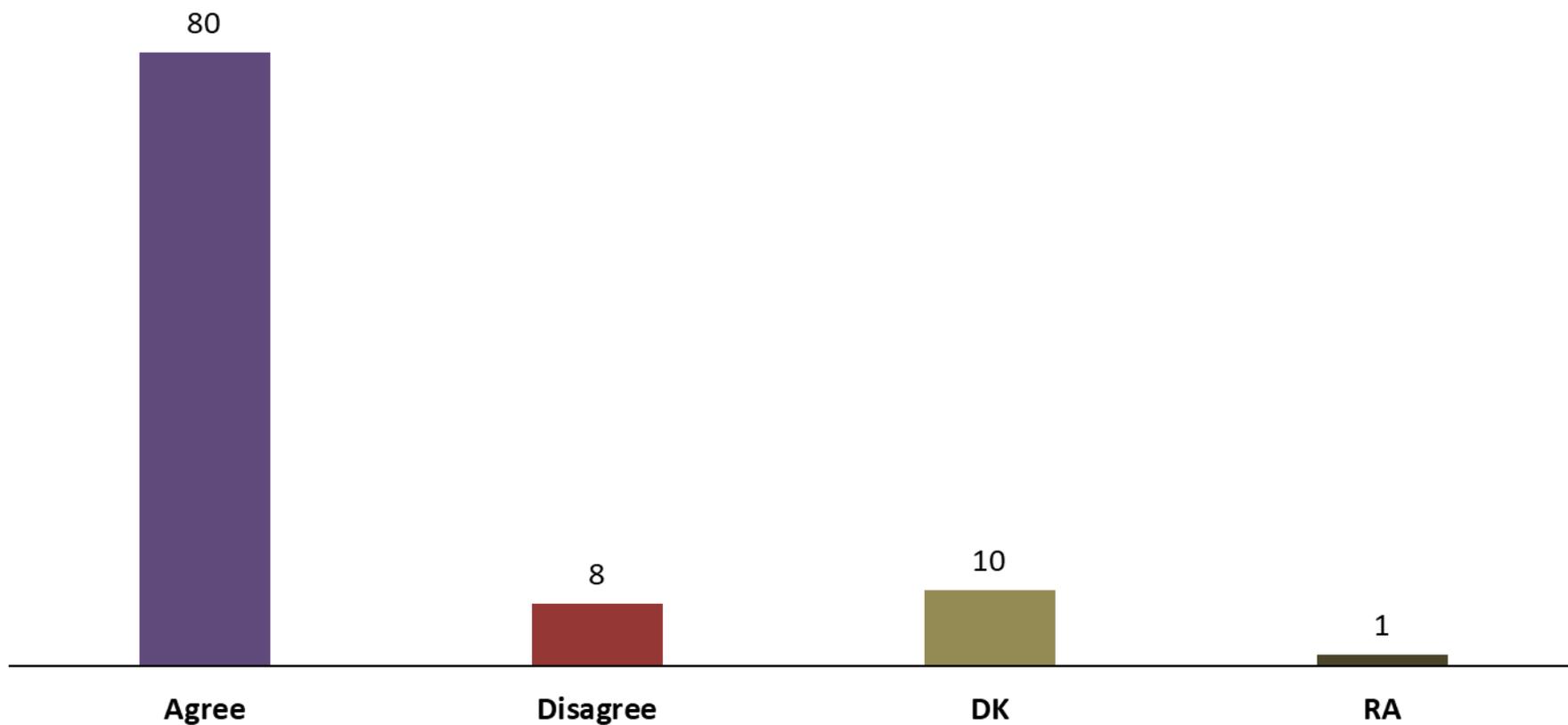
# Younger demographic mostly undecided

Which party is closest to you? (q14 X Age)



# Georgians support cross-party collaboration

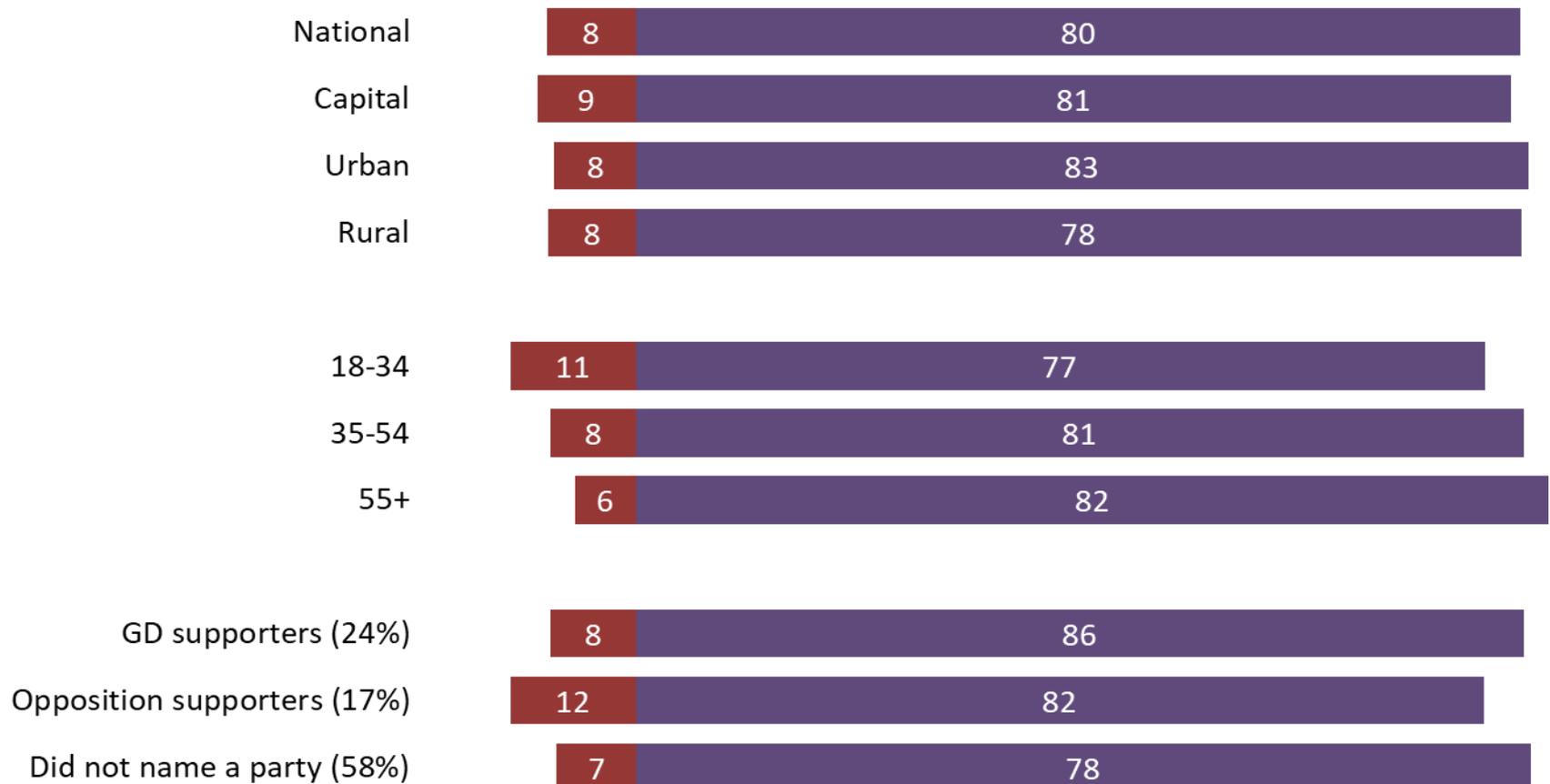
Imagine there is a political party which you like more than others. Do you agree or disagree with the statement that your favorite political party should cooperate with all other political parties in the parliament, even if the actions/views of some parties might be unacceptable to you? (q24)



# Support for cross-party collaboration is consistent across political affiliation

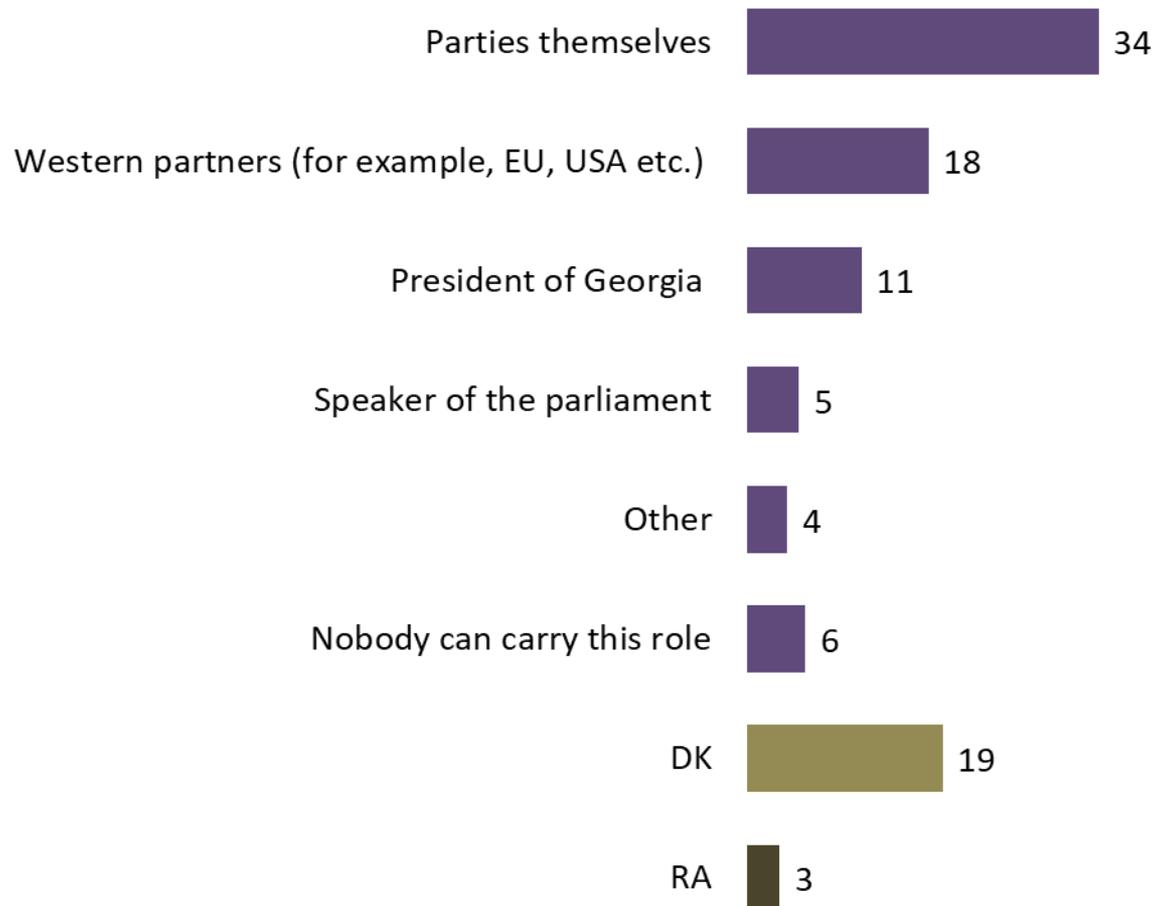
Imagine there is a political party which you like more than others. Do you agree or disagree with the statement that your favorite political party should cooperate with all other political parties in the parliament, even if the actions/views of some parties might be unacceptable to you? (q24 X Settlement, Age, Party closest to you)

■ Disagree ■ Agree



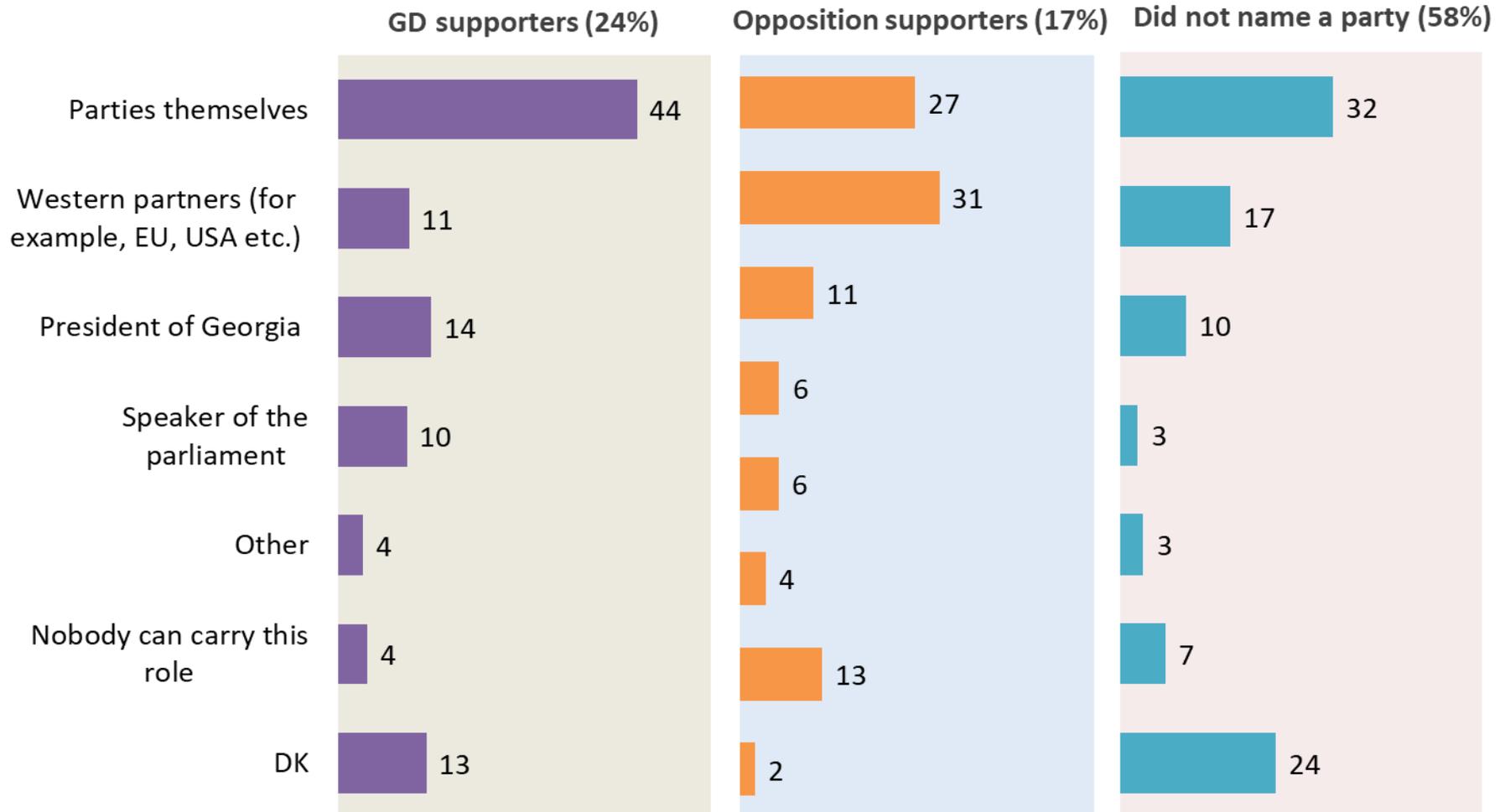
# Majority look inside of the country for a source of facilitation between the opposition and the government

At the moment, opposition parties and the ruling party have difficulty having a dialogue and agreeing on numerous issues. In your opinion, who would make the best moderator and facilitator in this process? (q26)



# Majority look inside of the country for a source of facilitation between the opposition and the government

At the moment, opposition parties and the ruling party have difficulty having a dialogue and agreeing on numerous issues. In your opinion, who would make the best moderator and facilitator in this process? (q26 X Party closest to you)





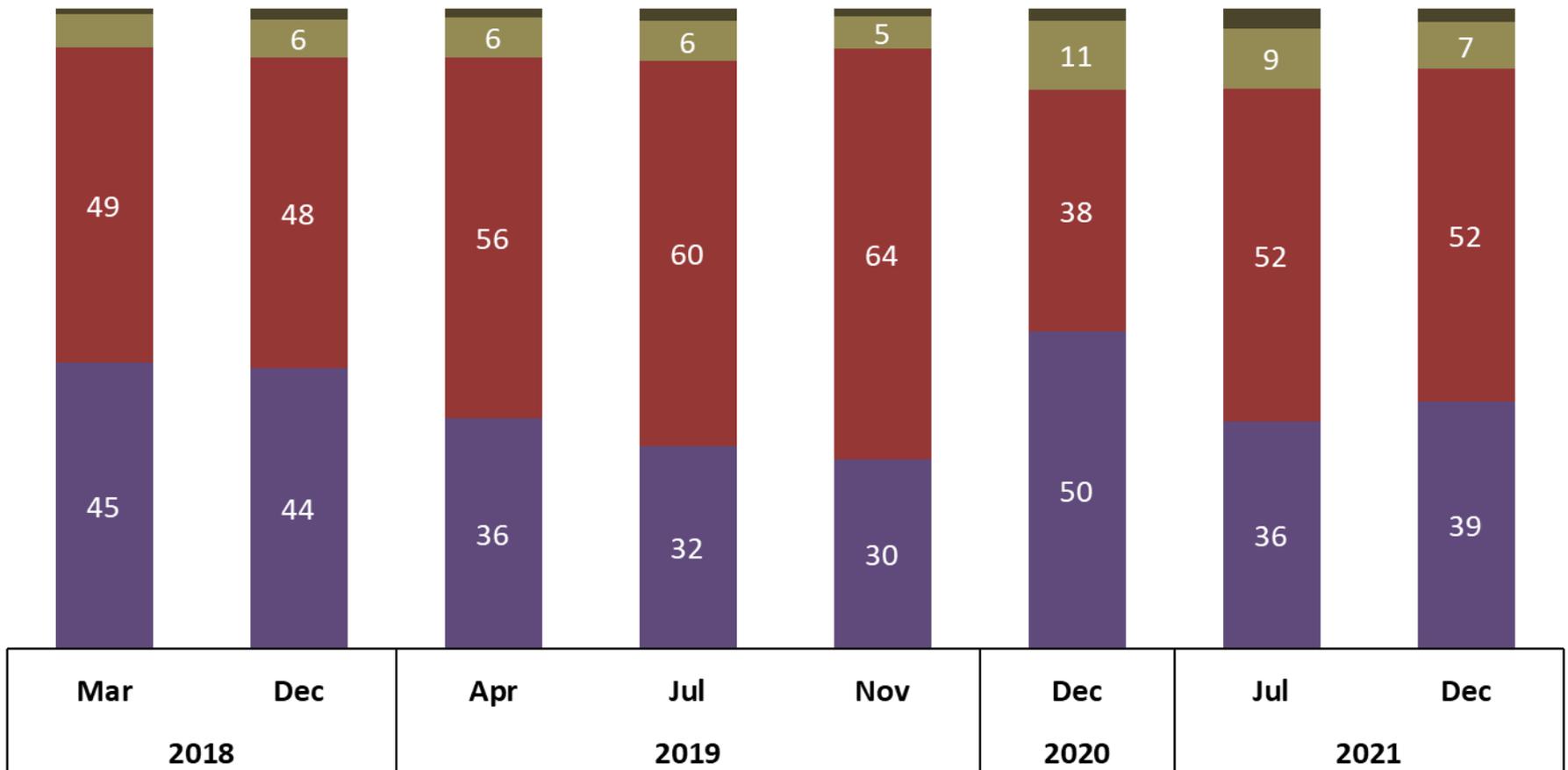
# PERFORMANCE OF INSTITUTIONS AND LEADERS

CHAPTER III

# Majority not satisfied with the government

Please, tell me, how would you rate the performance of the current government? (q11)

■ Good ■ Bad ■ DK ■ RA



# Plurality not satisfied with institutions and leaders

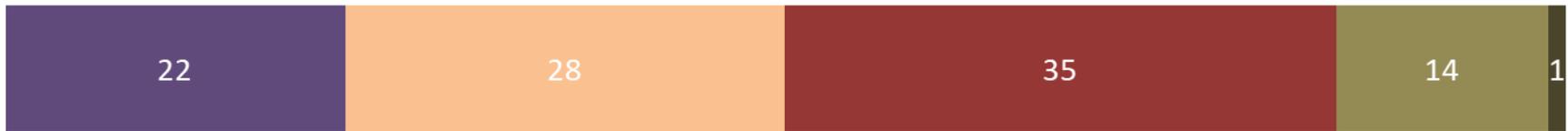
Please tell me, how would you rate the performance of the following institutions? (q12)

■ Good ■ Average ■ Bad ■ DK ■ RA

Prime minister Irakli Gharibashvili



Central Election Commission (CEC)



President Salome Zourabichvili



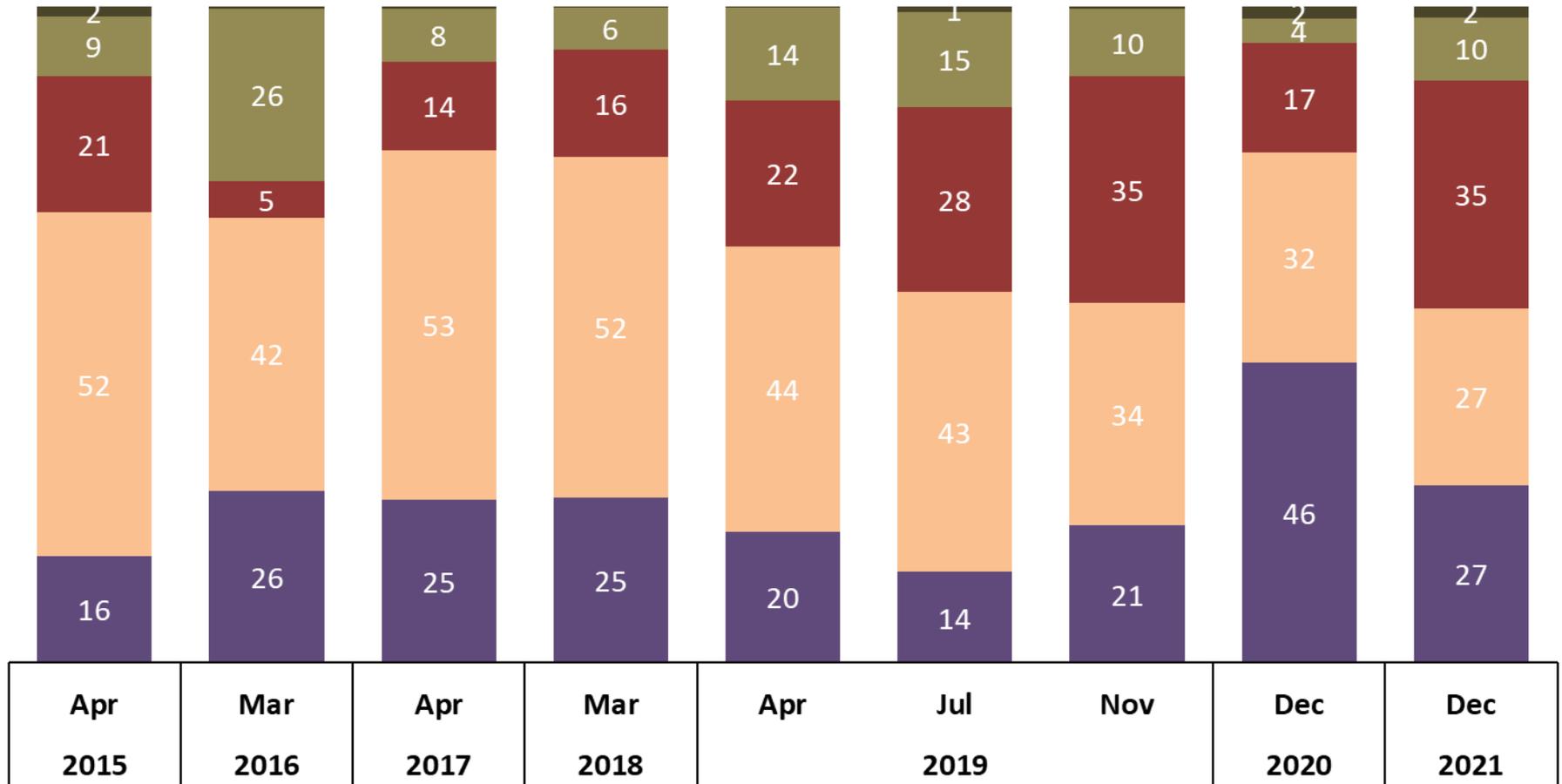
The Parliament



# Assessment of PM's performance worsened

Please, tell me, how would you rate the performance of the prime minister? (q12\_3)

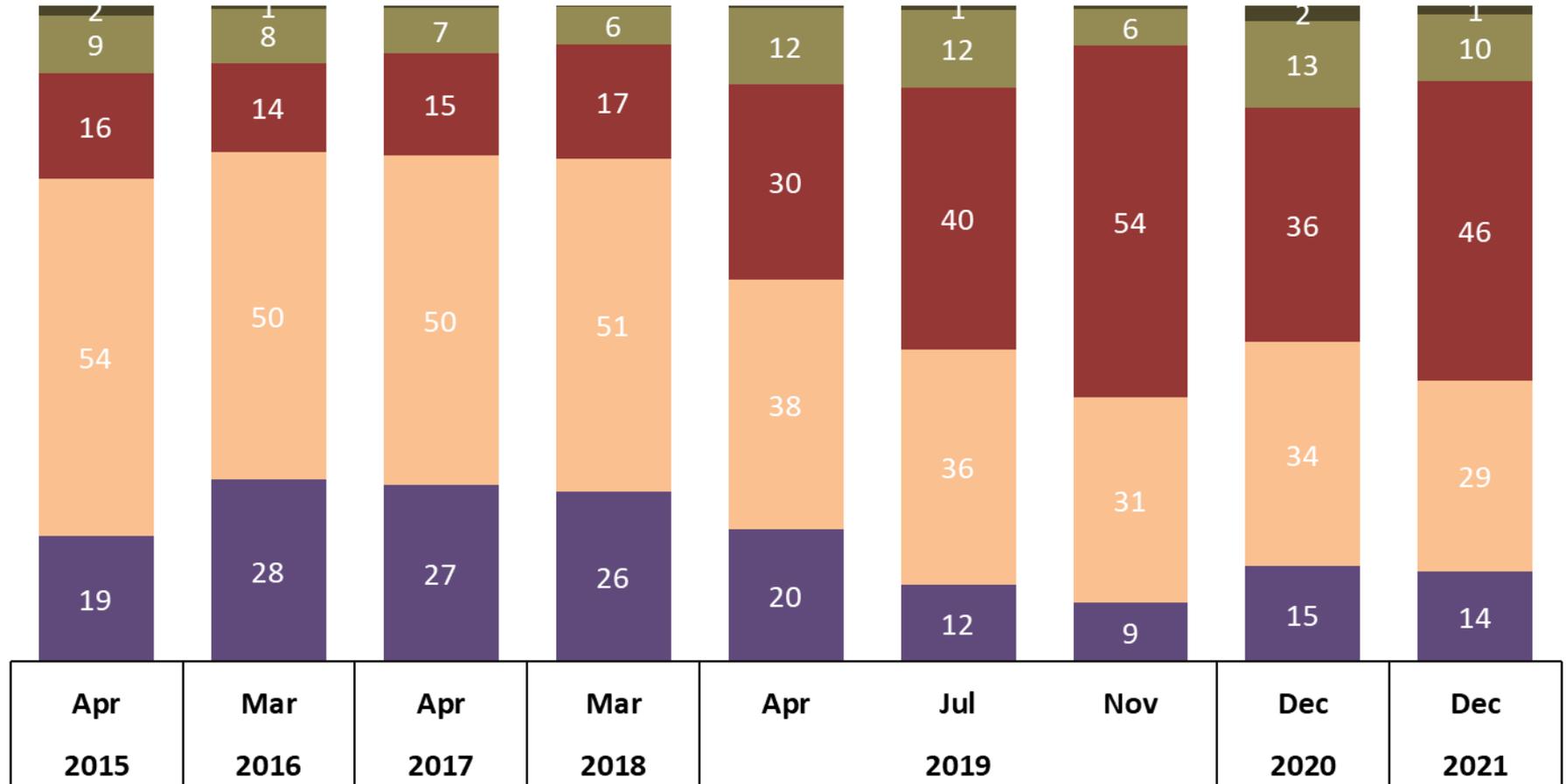
■ Good ■ Average ■ Bad ■ DK ■ RA



# Assessment of President's performance worsened

Please, tell me, how would you rate the performance of the president? (q12\_2)

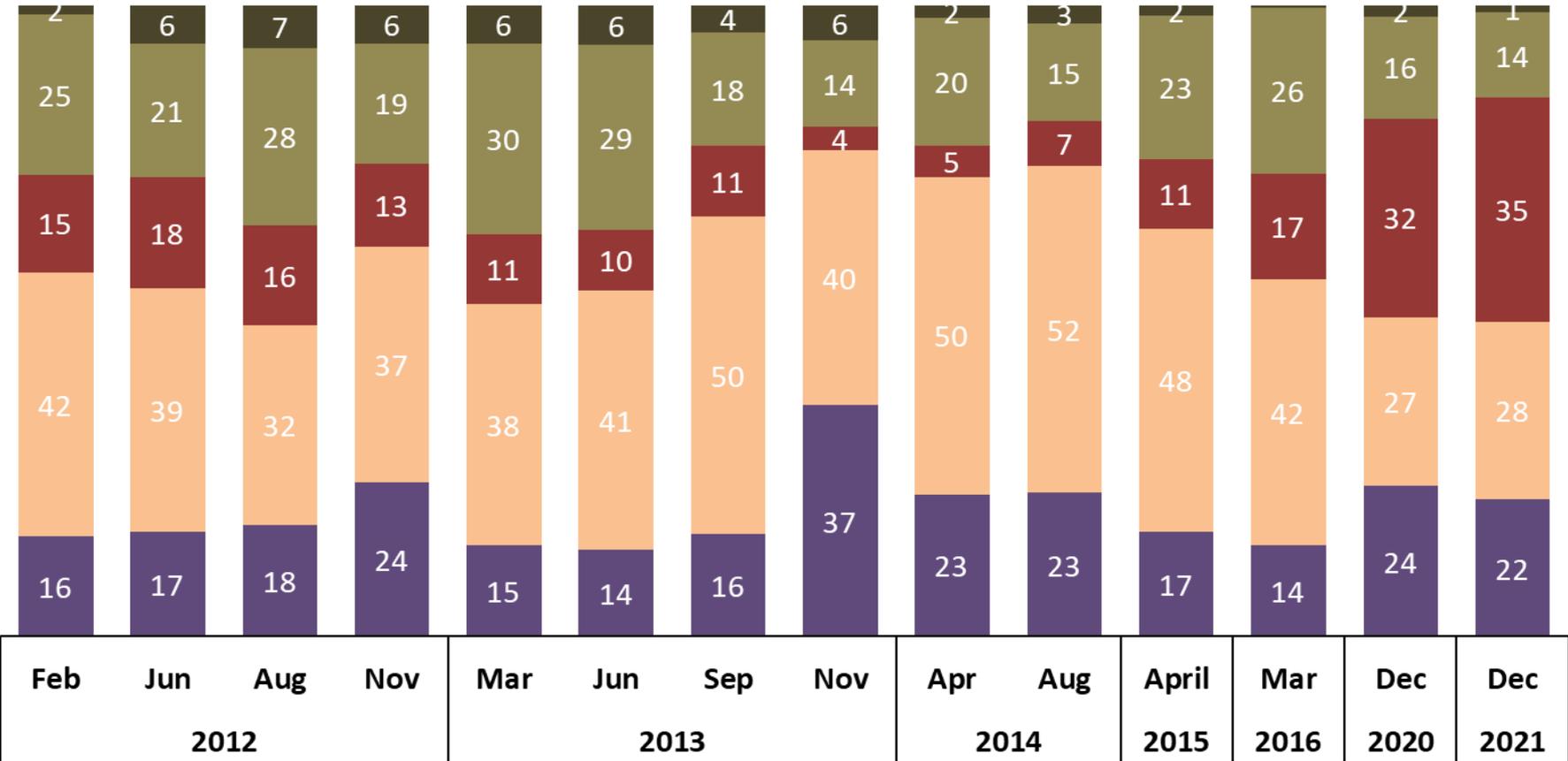
■ Good ■ Average ■ Bad ■ DK ■ RA



# Negative assessment of CEC's performance tripled in the last six years

Please, tell me, how would you rate the performance of Central Election Commission (CEC)? (q12\_4)

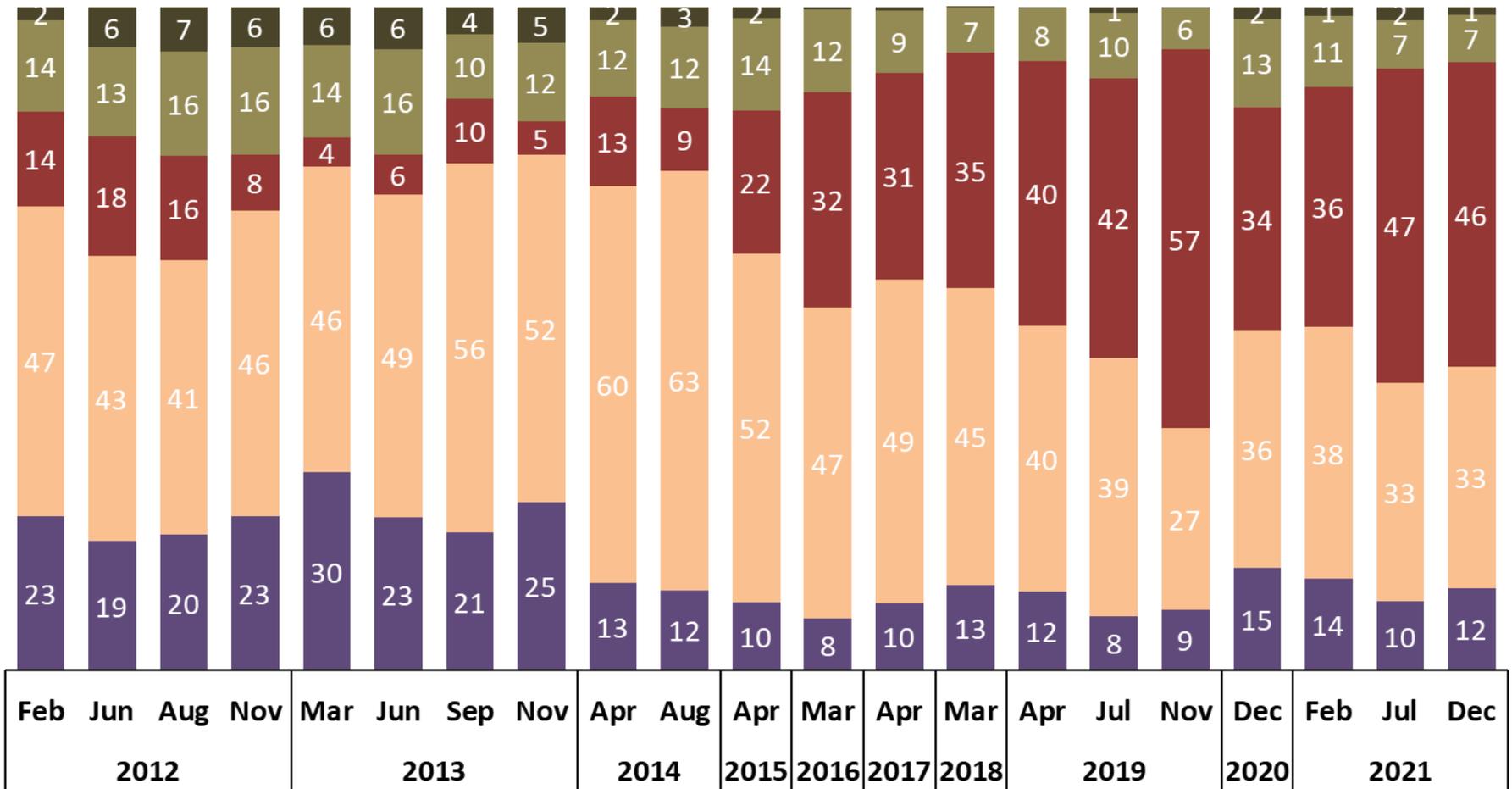
■ Good ■ Average ■ Bad ■ DK ■ RA



# Positive assessment of parliament remains low

Please, tell me, how would you rate the performance of the parliament? (q12\_1)

■ Good ■ Average ■ Bad ■ DK ■ RA



# Georgians remain sceptical of the parliament's willingness to address their concerns

Please, tell me, how much do you agree or disagree with the following statements? (q13)

■ Agree ■ Disagree ■ DK ■ RA

Parliament is passing legislation on issues that matter to me



Parliament is effectively overseeing the actions of the government (ministries)



If I tell the member of the Parliament about issues in my community, he/she will take action to help solve the problem

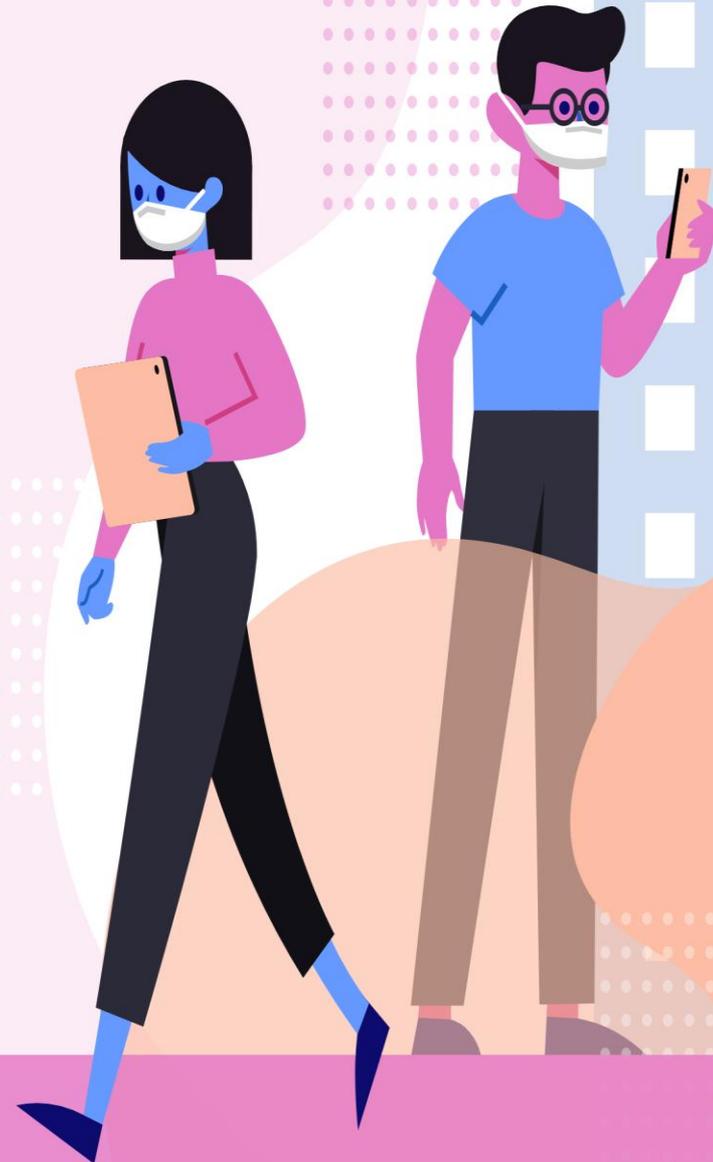


Parliament communicates regularly with citizens



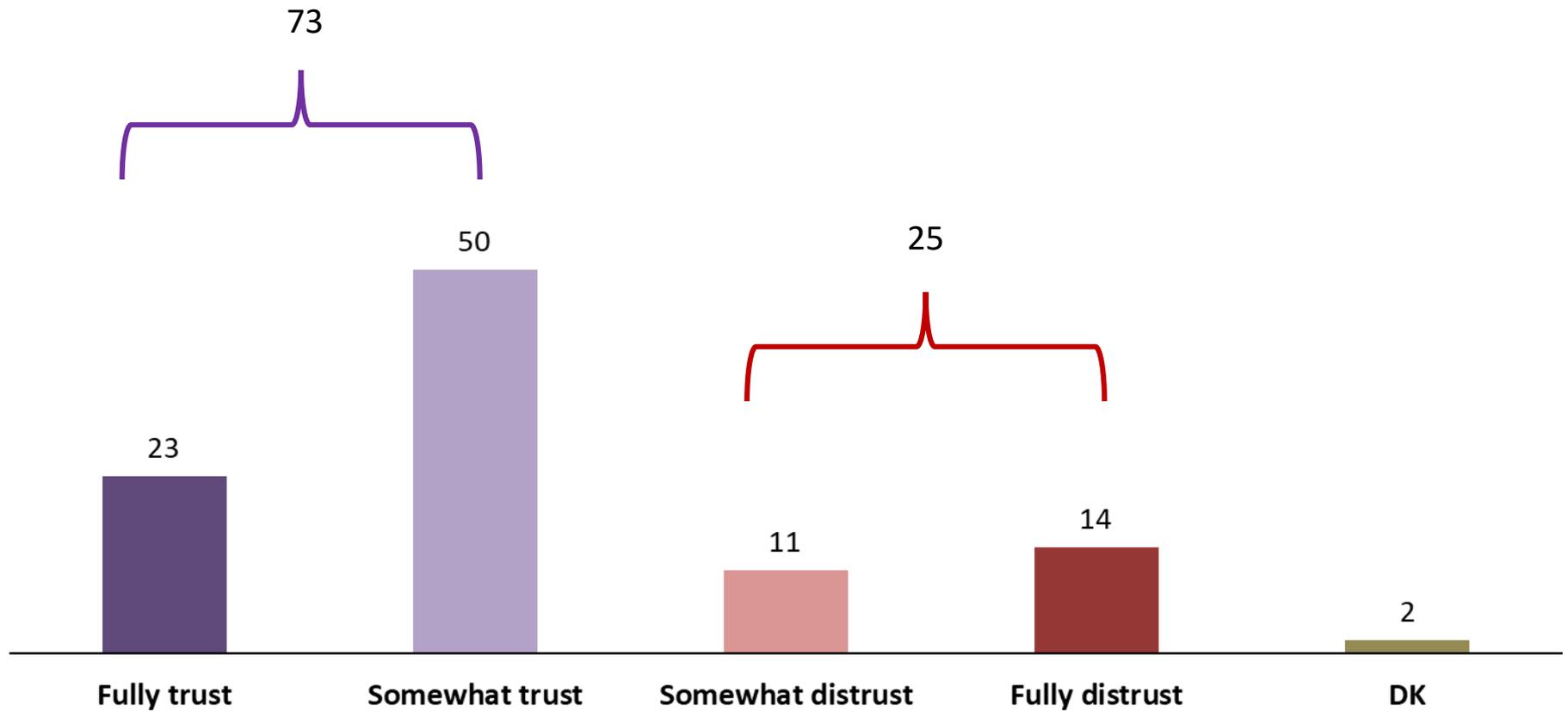
Chapter IV

# State of the Pandemic



# Majority trust the healthcare system

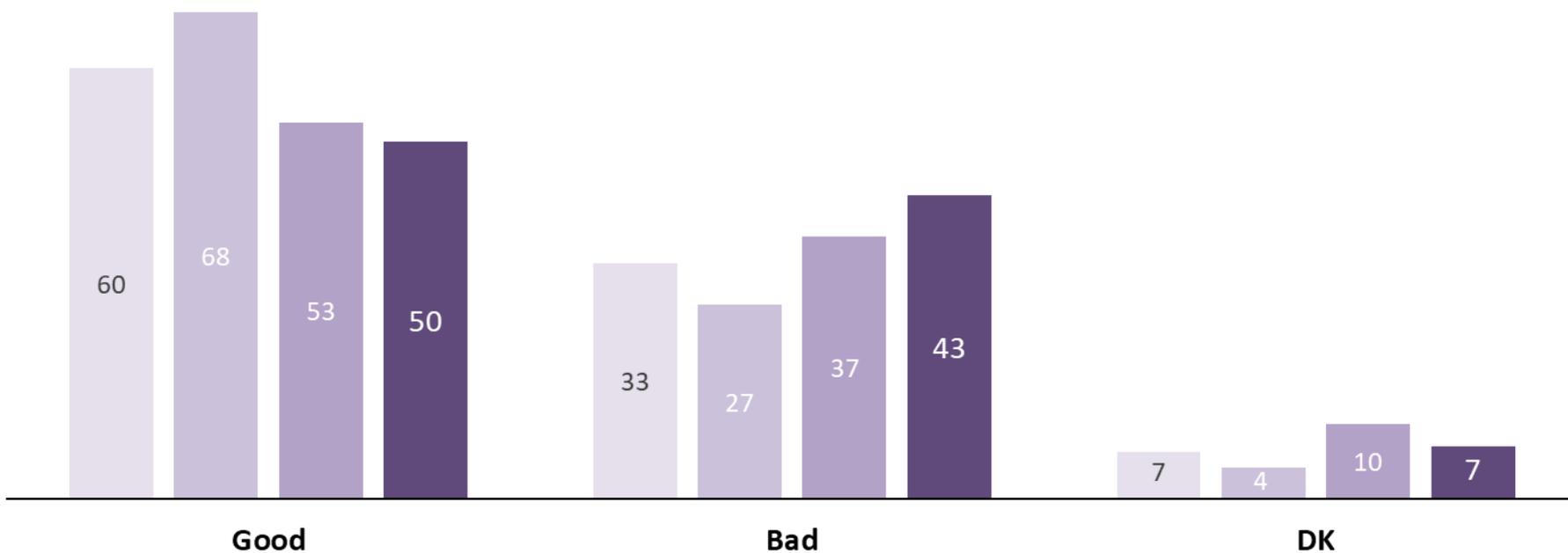
Generally speaking, to what extent do you trust or distrust the healthcare system in Georgia? (q16)



# Half praise the Government for handling the Covid pandemic well

Overall, how would you rate the government's handling of Covid-19 pandemic? (q17)

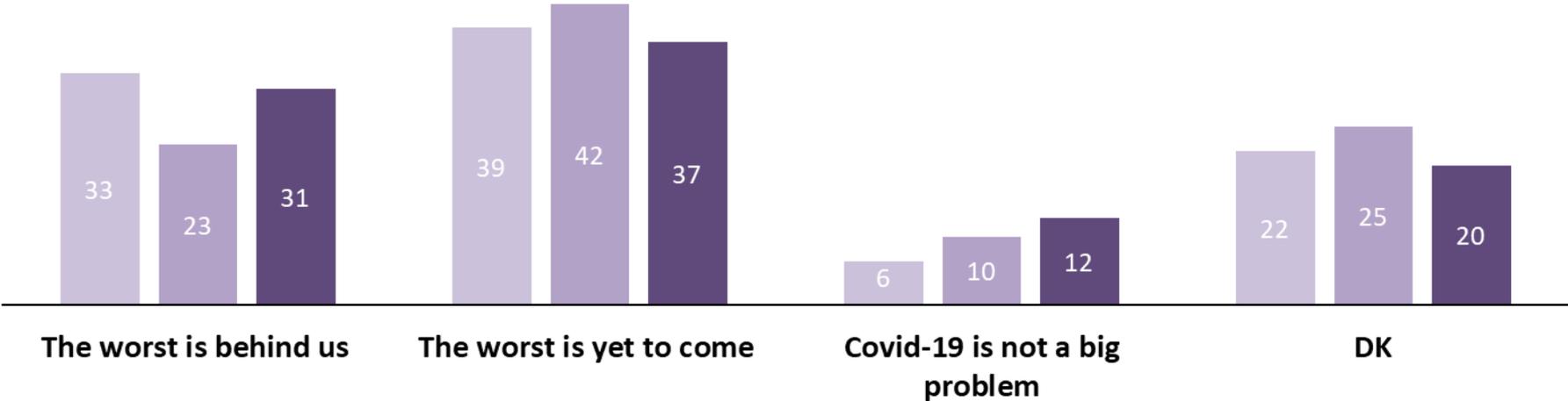
December 2020 February 2021 July 2021 December 2021



# Plurality say the worst is yet to come

Which of the following best describes your feelings about Covid-19 pandemic in Georgia? (q18)

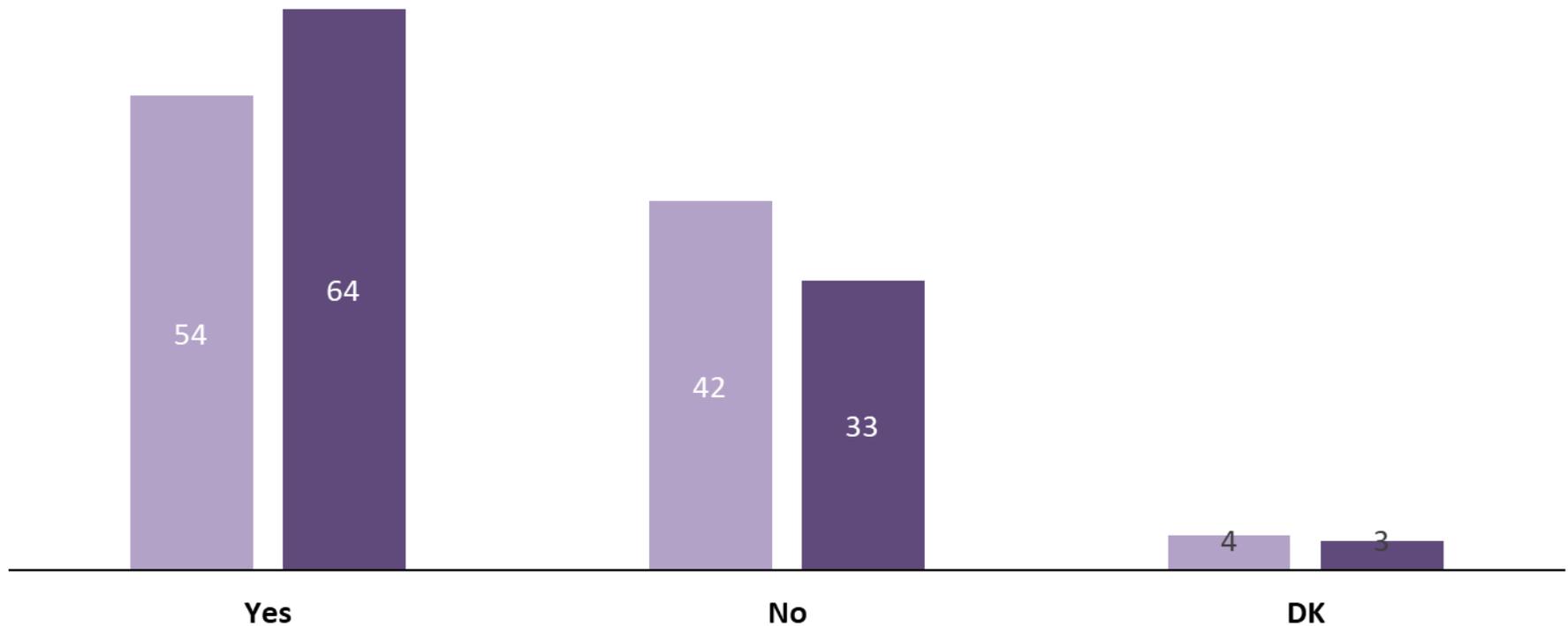
December 2020 July 2021 December 2021



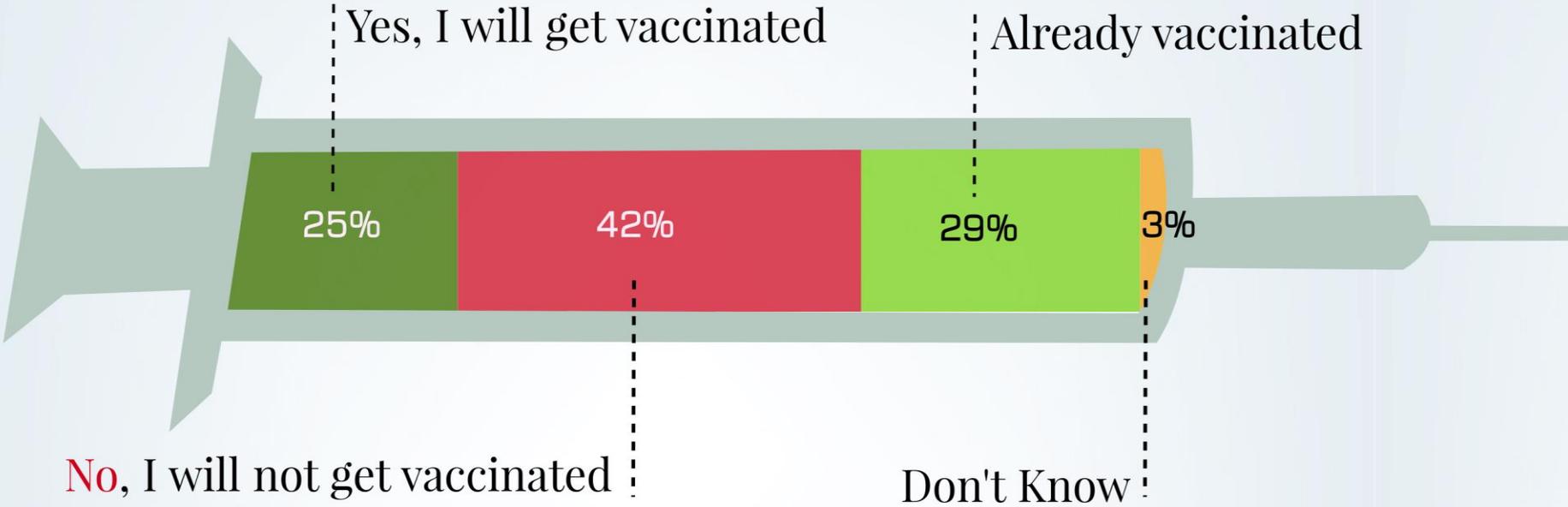
# Majority is confident that they have enough information about the vaccination

Do you feel you have enough information about the Covid-19 vaccination process? (q19)

■ July 2021 ■ December 2021



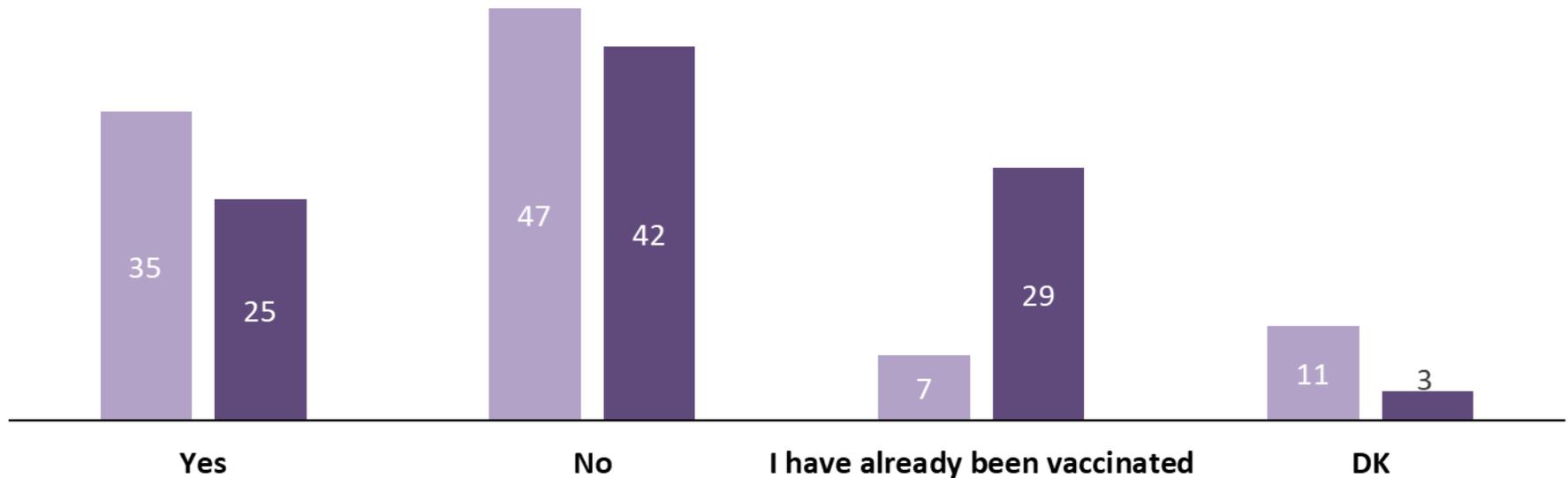
# VACCINE HESITANCY REMAINS HIGH



# 42 percent against vaccination

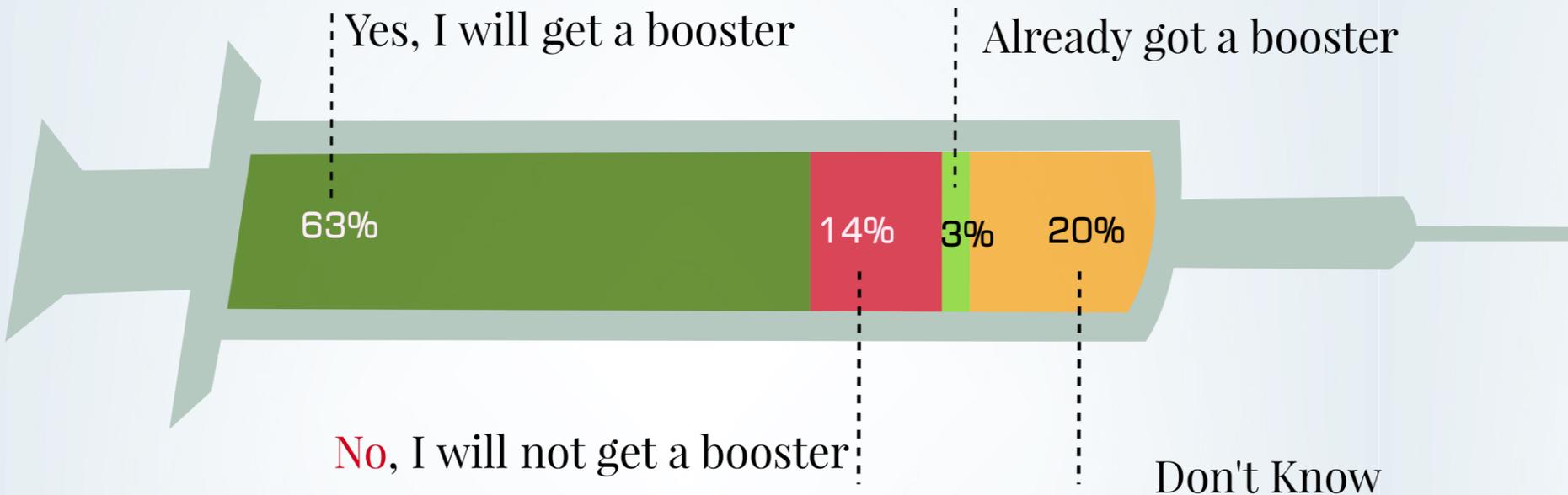
Would you or would you not get vaccinated against Covid-19? (q20)

■ July 2021 ■ December 2021



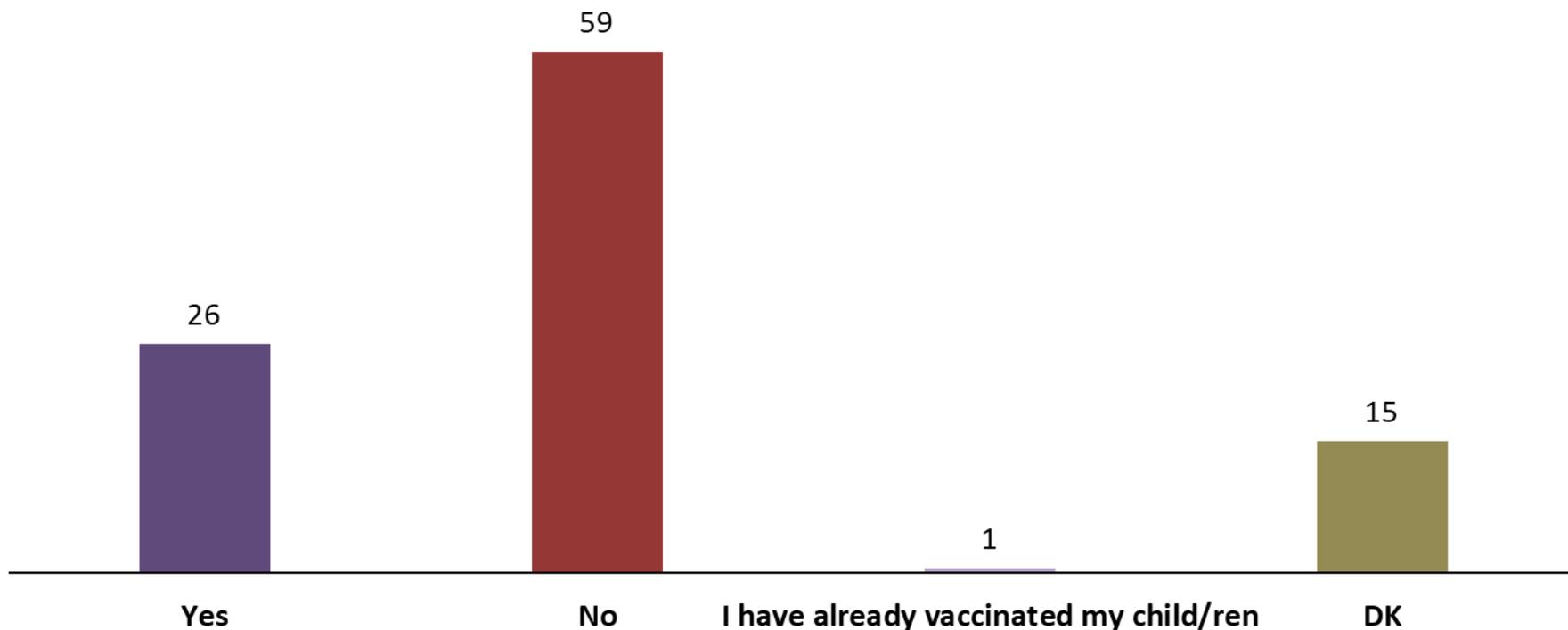
# A THIRD OF VACCINATED CITIZENS NOT PLANNING TO GET A BOOSTER, OR UNDECIDED ABOUT IT

of the 54% who is already vaccinated or would get vaccinated



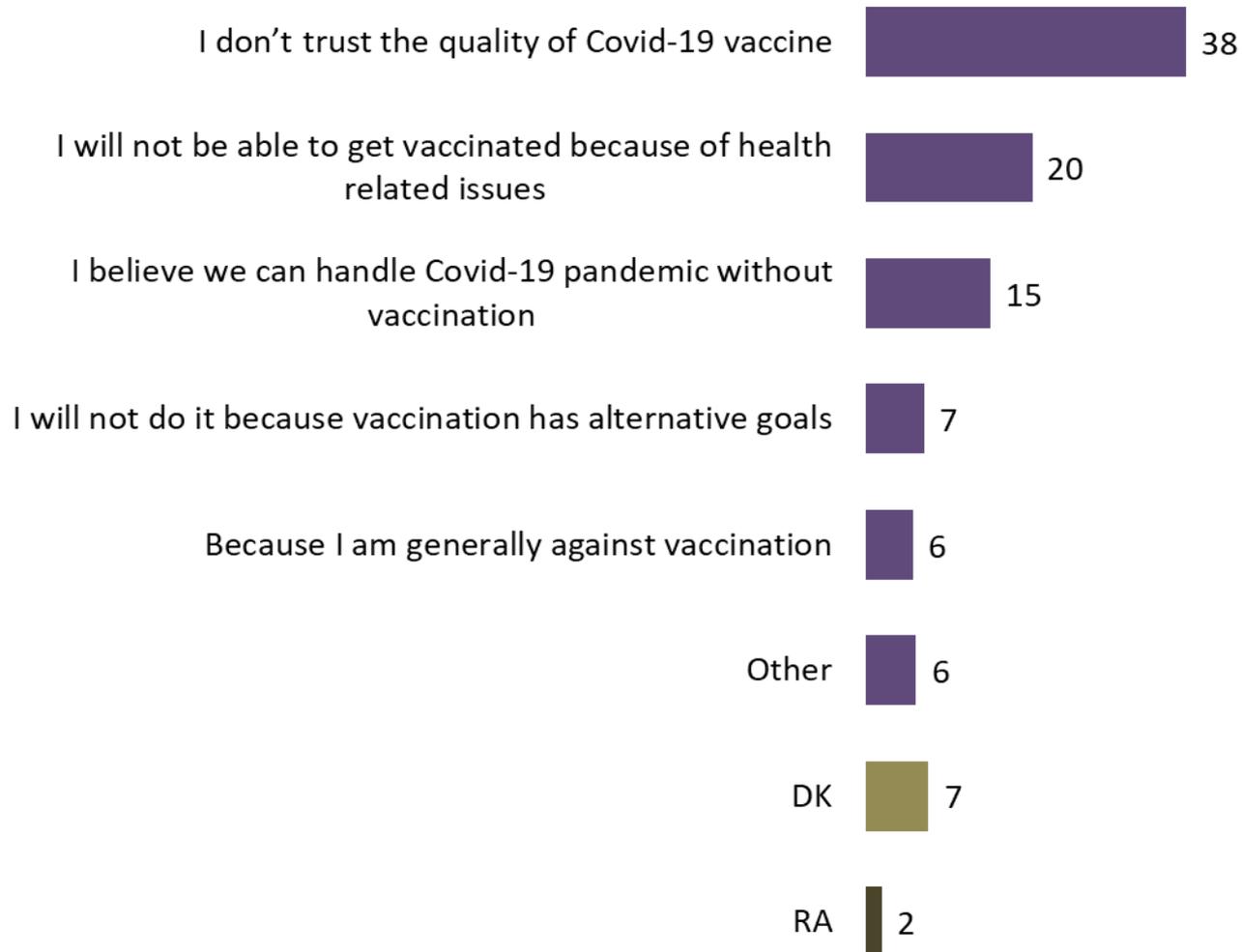
# Majority against vaccinating kids

Vaccination age against Covid-19 has been lowered to 12 in Georgia. Would you vaccinate your child against Covid-19 or not? (q23)



# Concerns about the quality of the vaccine dominates

If not, why would not you get vaccinated? (q22) - of the 46% who did not say they would get vaccinated



Research is funded by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland through the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office's Good Governance Fund.

## NDI-CRRC POLLS AVAILABLE AT:

- [WWW.NDI.ORG/GEORGIA-POLLS](http://WWW.NDI.ORG/GEORGIA-POLLS)
- [WW.CAUCASUSBAROMETER.ORG](http://WW.CAUCASUSBAROMETER.ORG)