



# **CONSERVATISM IN TURKEY**

**FAMILY, RELIGION AND THE WEST**

First Version

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Field Survey:

**Infakto Research Workshop**

Technical Advisers:

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Field Survey Conducted: **December 2005-January 2006**

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# The Field Survey: General Aspects

- The field survey was carried out in the urban and rural residential areas of 15 Turkish provinces between 16 December 2005-6 January 2006.
- The sample was randomly selected and consisted of 1644 persons, representing the adult (18+) population of Turkey.
- All interviews were made face-to-face in the persons' own houses.
- The sample's expected margin of error is  $\pm 2,4$  percent.



# DIMENSIONS OF ANALYSIS

- (A) SELF-PERCEPTIONS OF CONSERVATISM: IN WHAT SITUATIONS AND TO WHAT DEGREE DO WE PERCEIVE OURSELVES AS CONSERVATIVE?
- (B) PUBLIC-POLITICAL DIMENSIONS OF CONSERVATISM: TRADITION VS. INNOVATION  
STATUS QUO VS. CHANGE
  - (B1) Attitudes towards Tradition: Tradition vs. Innovation
  - (B2) Attitudes towards Change: Status Quo vs. Change
- (C) PRIVATE-PERSONAL DIMENSIONS OF CONSERVATISM : FAMILY, RELIGION, SEXUALITY, WOMEN, AND THE WEST
  - (C1) The Holy Family
  - (C2) Attitudes towards Religion: Impact of Religious Beliefs on Personal Decisions
  - (C3) Attitudes towards Sexuality: Reactions to Modern Sexual Choices and Life-Styles
  - (C4) Attitudes towards the Role of Women: Defining the Ideal Woman, Mixing the Headscarf and Modernity
  - (C5) Attitudes towards the West and Westernization: What Kind of Synthesis between "Us" and the "West"?



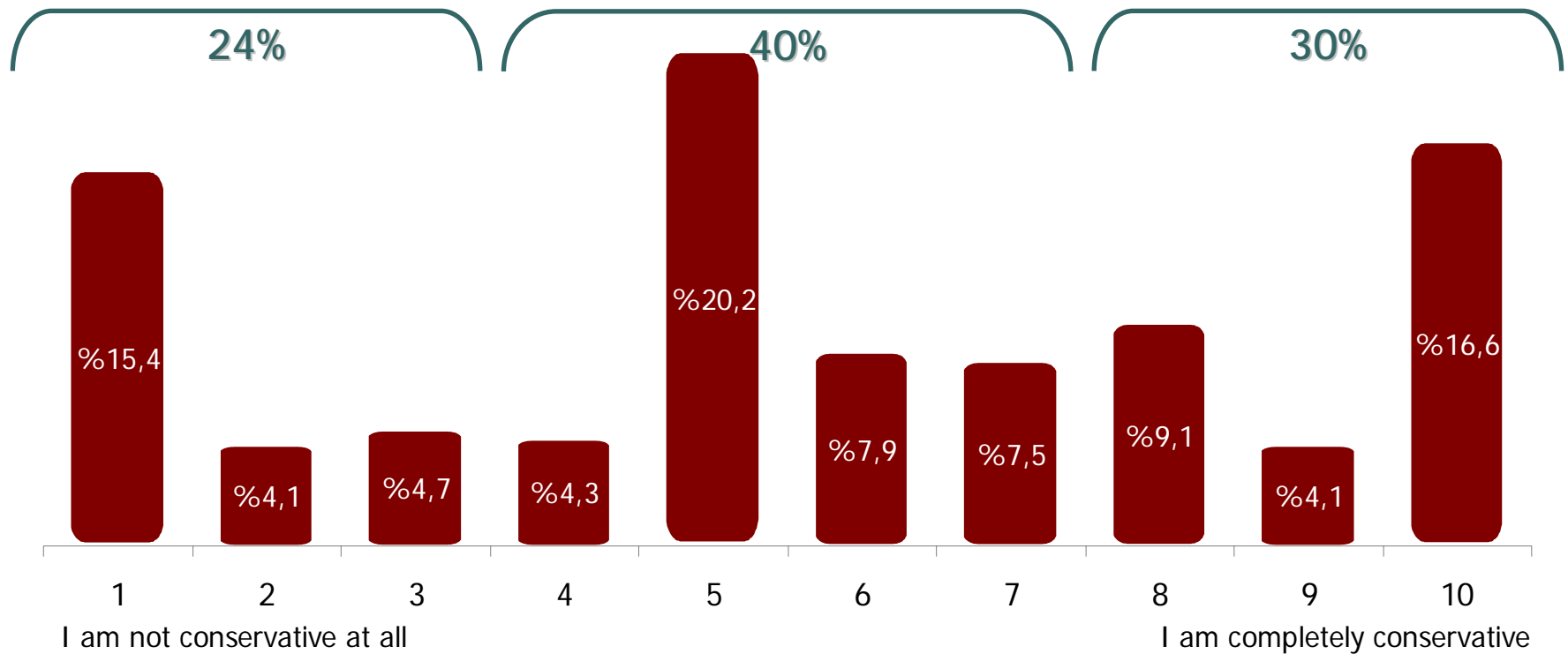
## **(A) SELF-PERCEPTIONS OF CONSERVATISM...**

- How Conservative Do We Perceive Ourselves?
  - What Do We Want to Conserve?
-



# Conservatism in the Public-Political Realm...

**Self-Perceptions of Political Conservatism**  
Percent Distribution

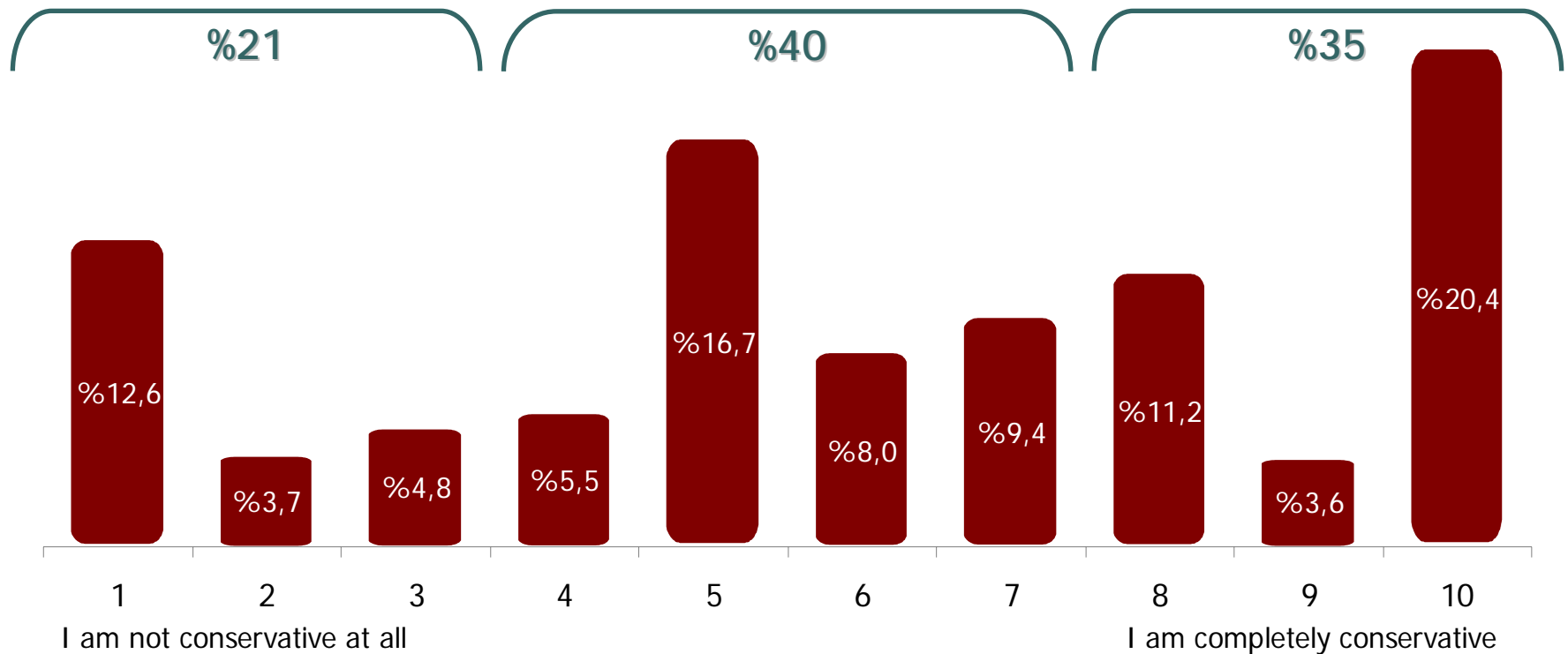


No Answer: %6



# Conservatism in the Private-Personal Realm...

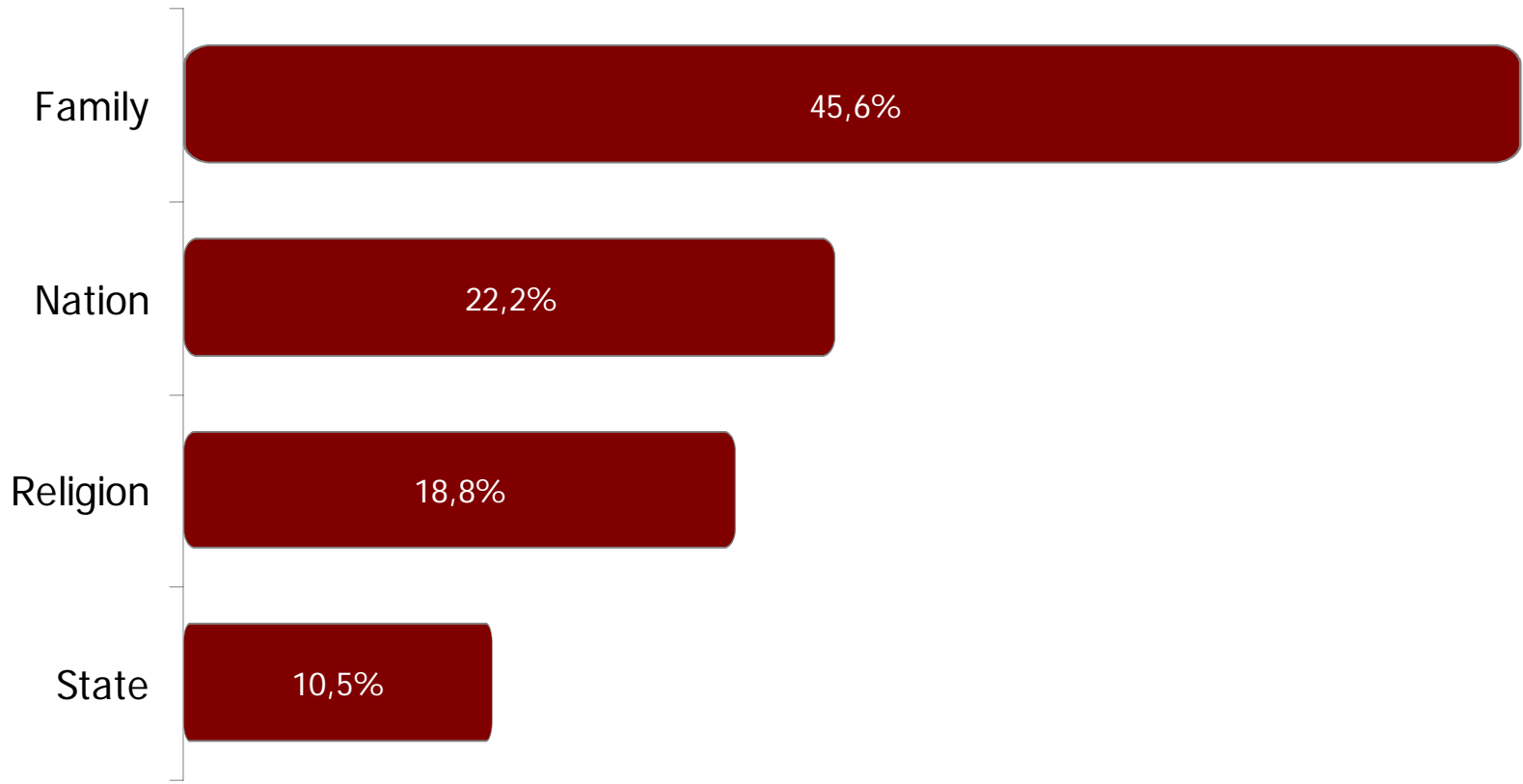
**Self-Perceptions of Conservatism in the Private-Personal Realm**  
Percent Distribution



No Answer: %4

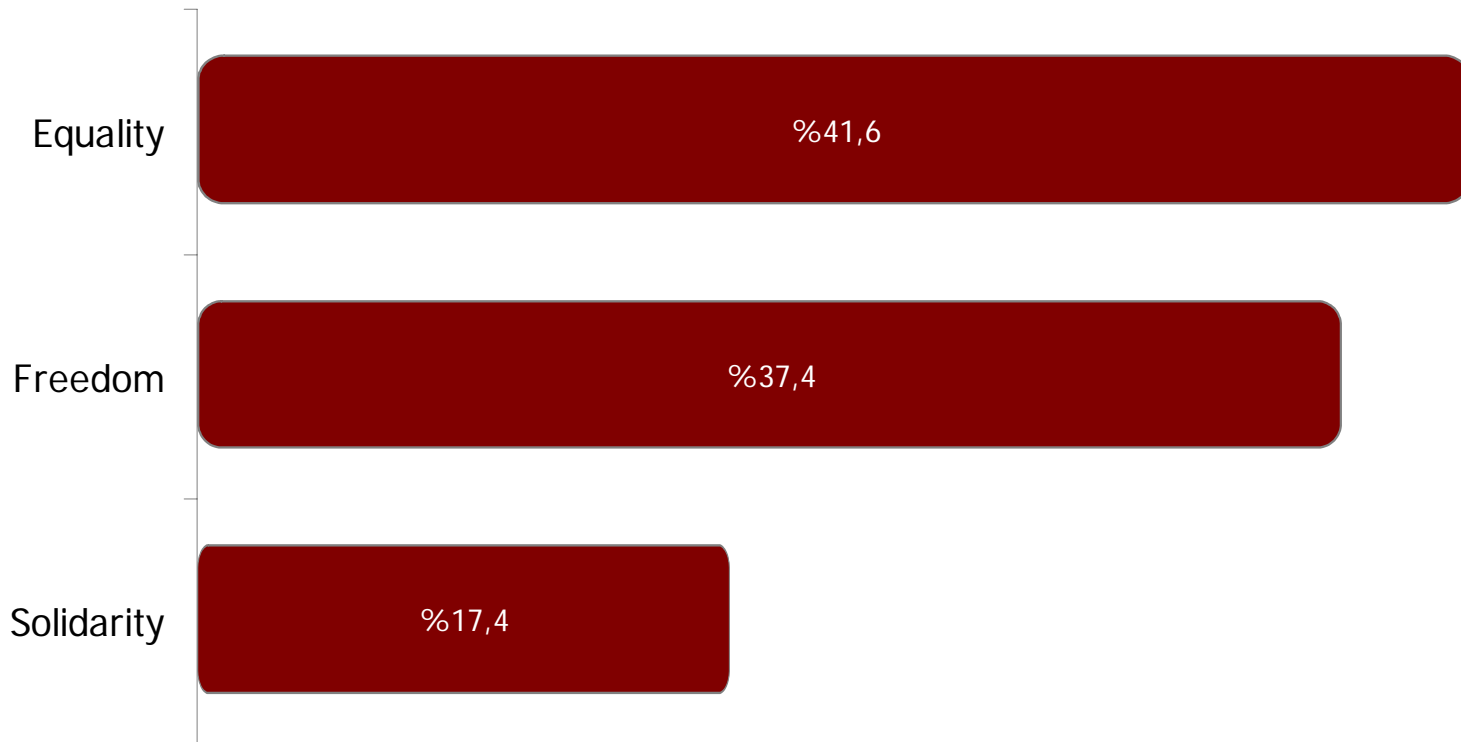


# The Most Important Social Institution We Want to Conserve...



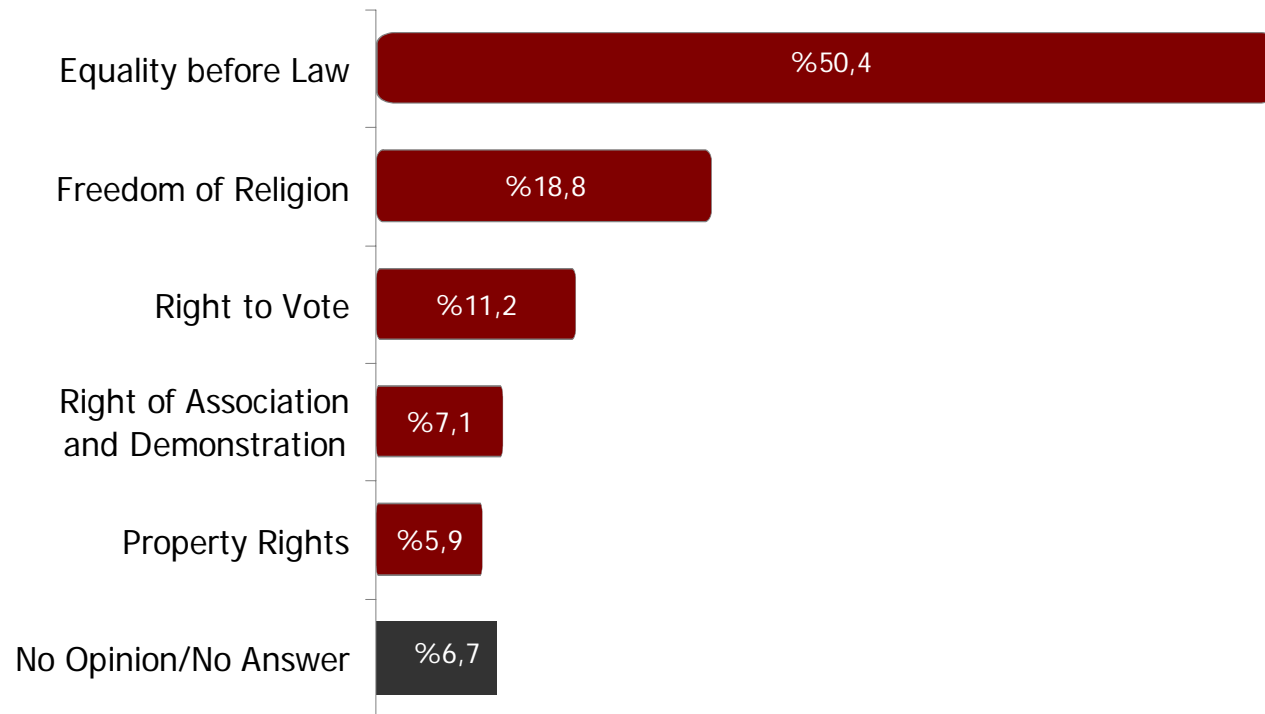


# The Most Important Political Value We Want to Conserve...





# The Most Important Human Right We Want to Conserve...





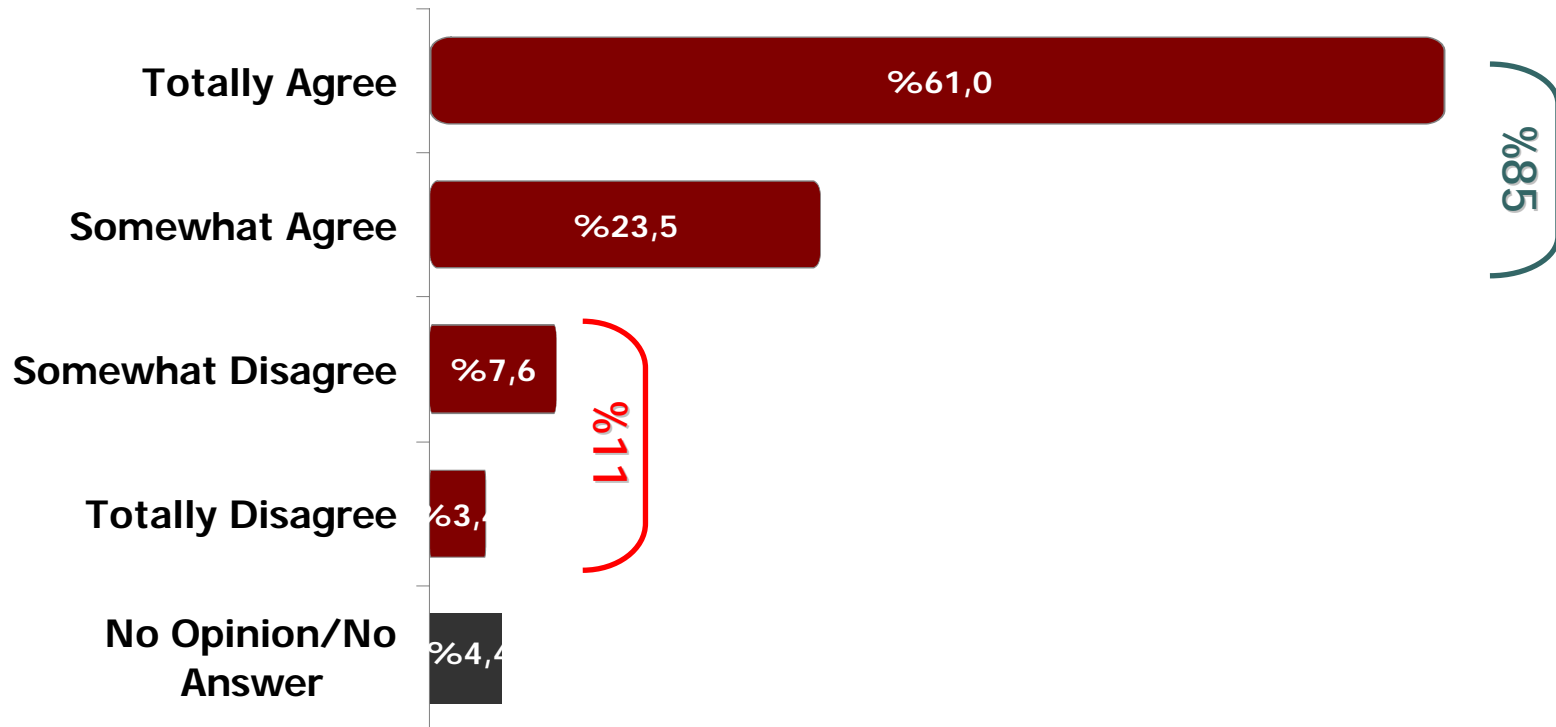
## **(B) THE CHOICE BETWEEN TRADITION AND CHANGE...**

**(B1)** Attitudes towards Tradition: Tradition vs.  
Innovation

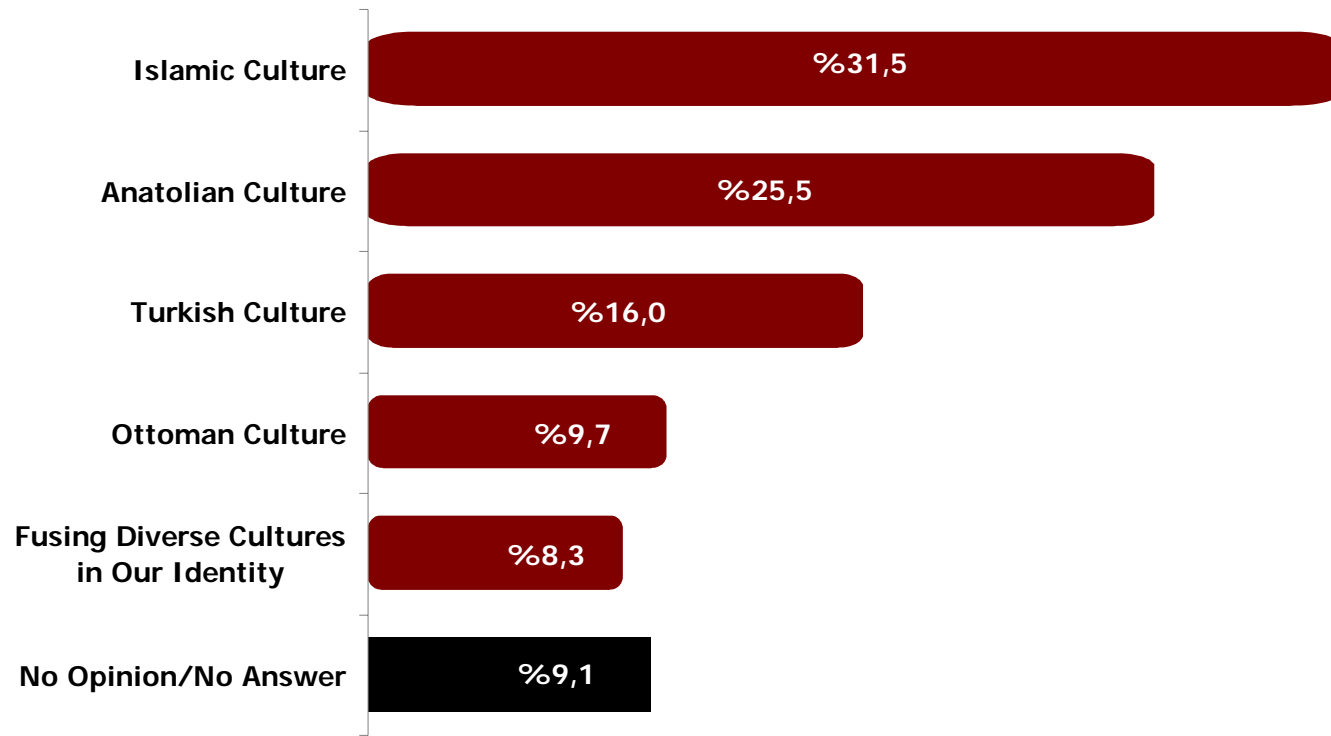
**(B2)** Attitudes towards Change: Status Quo vs.  
Change

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- Do we have common values and traditions that give us our unique identity?

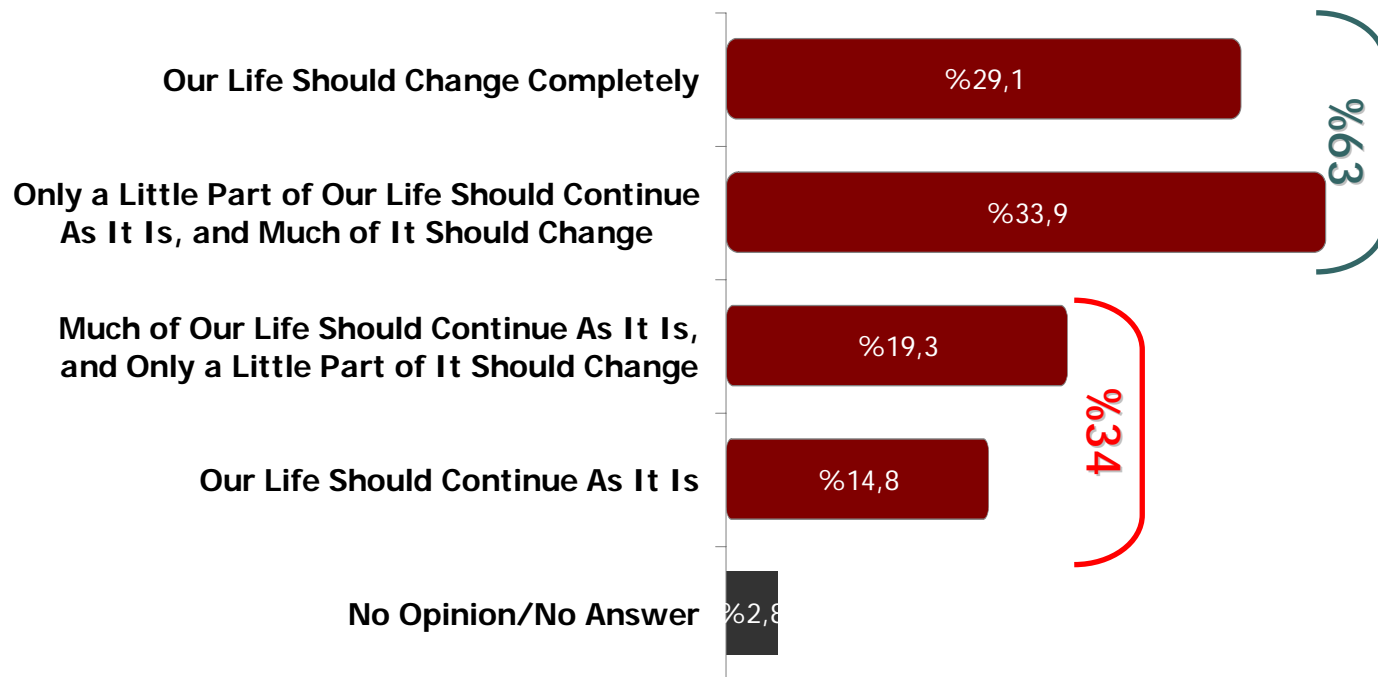


# What aspects of our culture do our traditions come from?

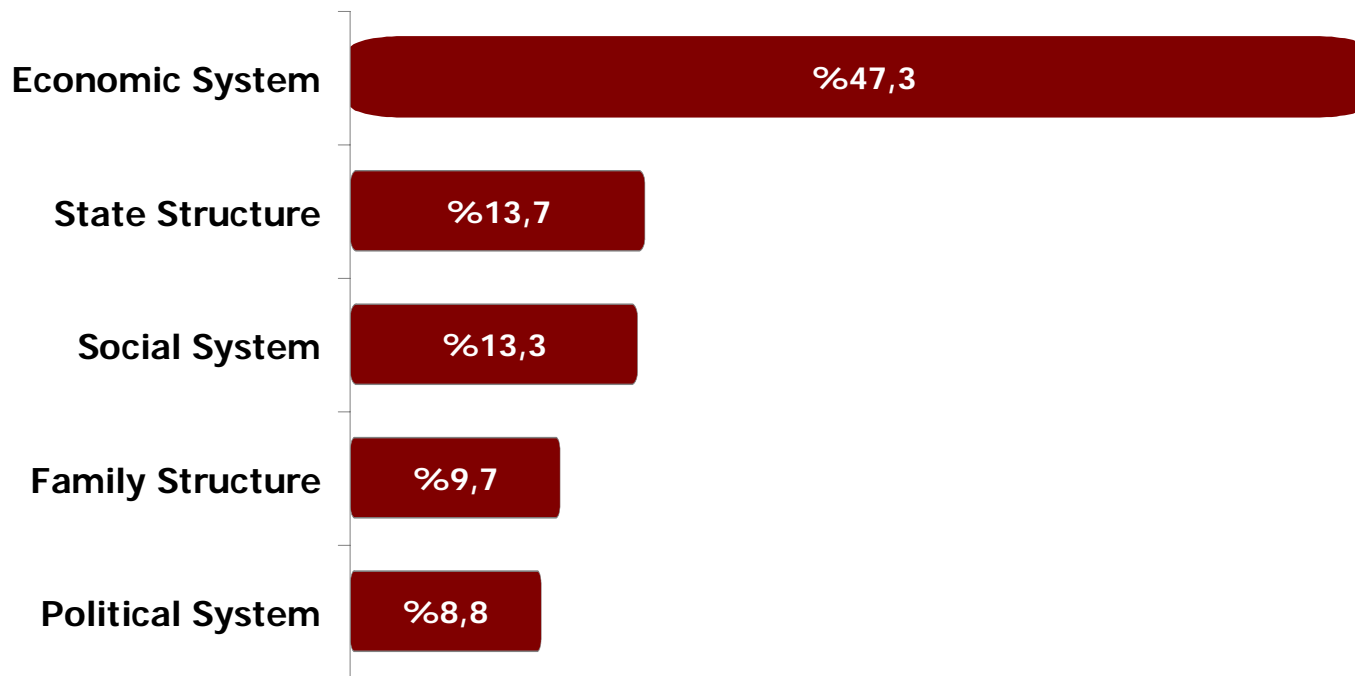




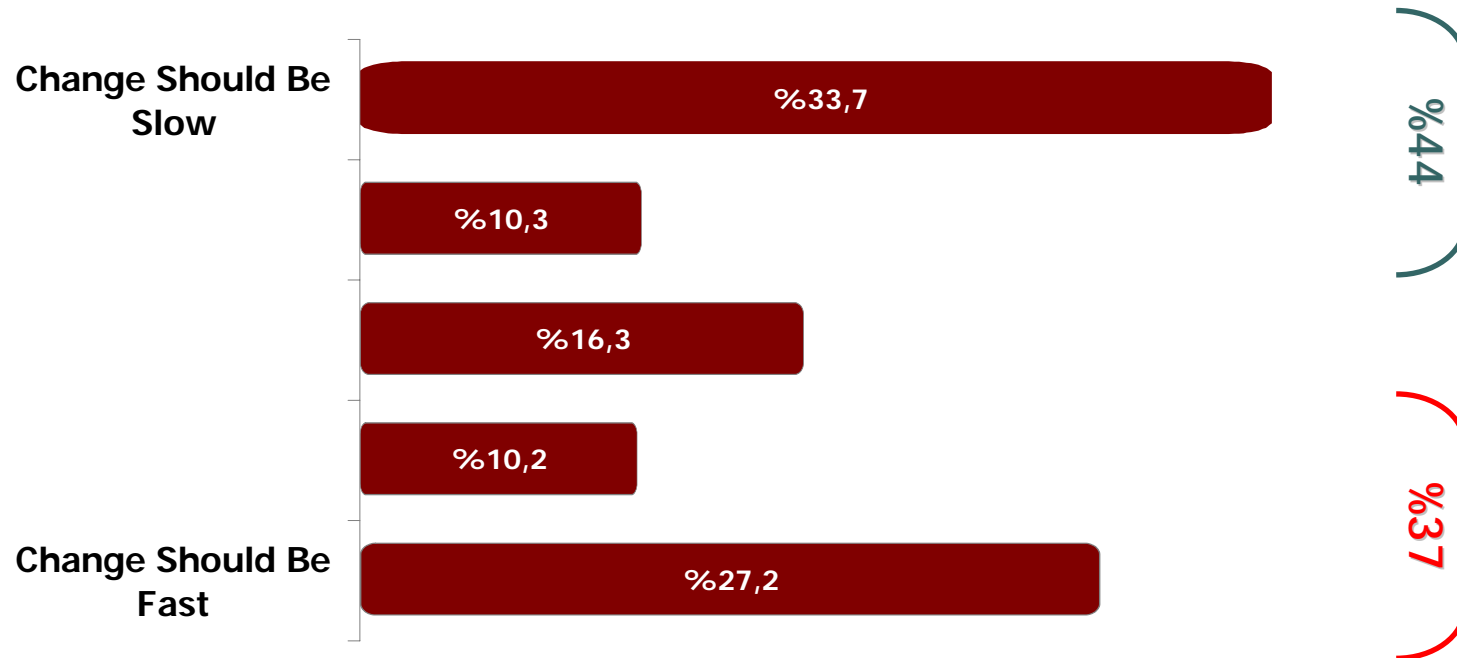
# Should our life change or should it stay as it is?



- What areas of our life would you
- want to change if you had the power
- to do so?

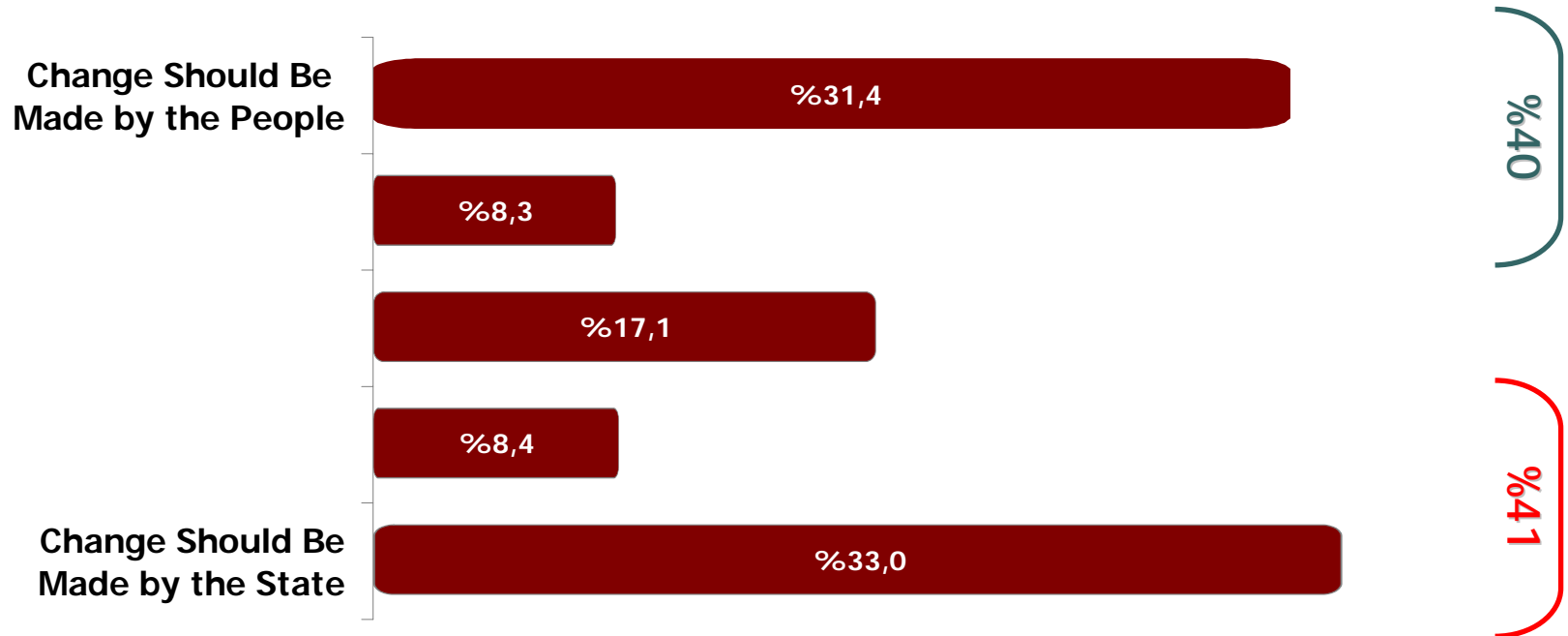


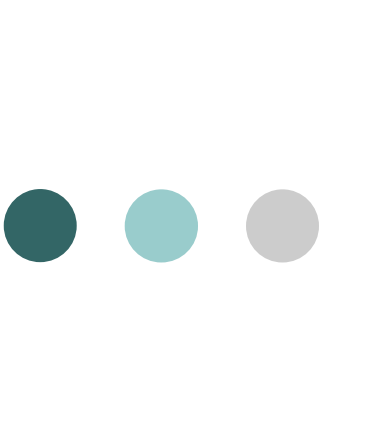
# Should change be fast or slow?



- 
- 
- 

# Should change be made by the people or by the state?





## (C) The Private-Personal Dimensions of Conservatism: Family, Religion, Sexuality, Women, and the West

- (C1) The Holy Family
  - (C2) Attitudes towards Religion: How influential are our religious beliefs in our personal decisions?
  - (C3) Attitudes towards Sexuality: How do we react to modern urban forms of sexuality?
  - (C4) Attitudes towards the position of women in Turkish society: How do we define the “ideal woman”? How do we relate the headscarf, religion and modernity?
  - (C5) Attitudes towards the West and Westernization: What kind of synthesis do we want to construct between our national values and Western values?
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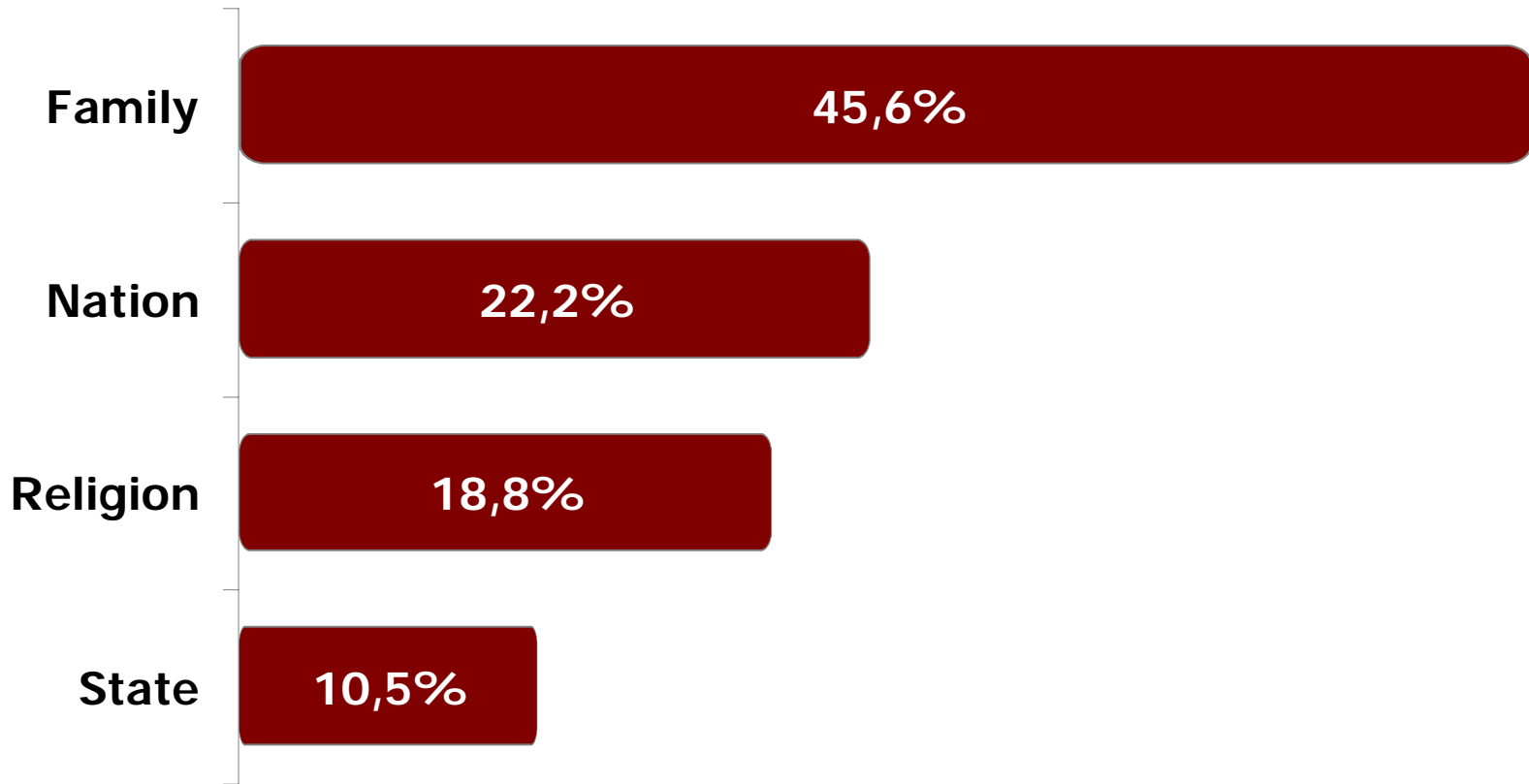


# (C1) The Holy Family

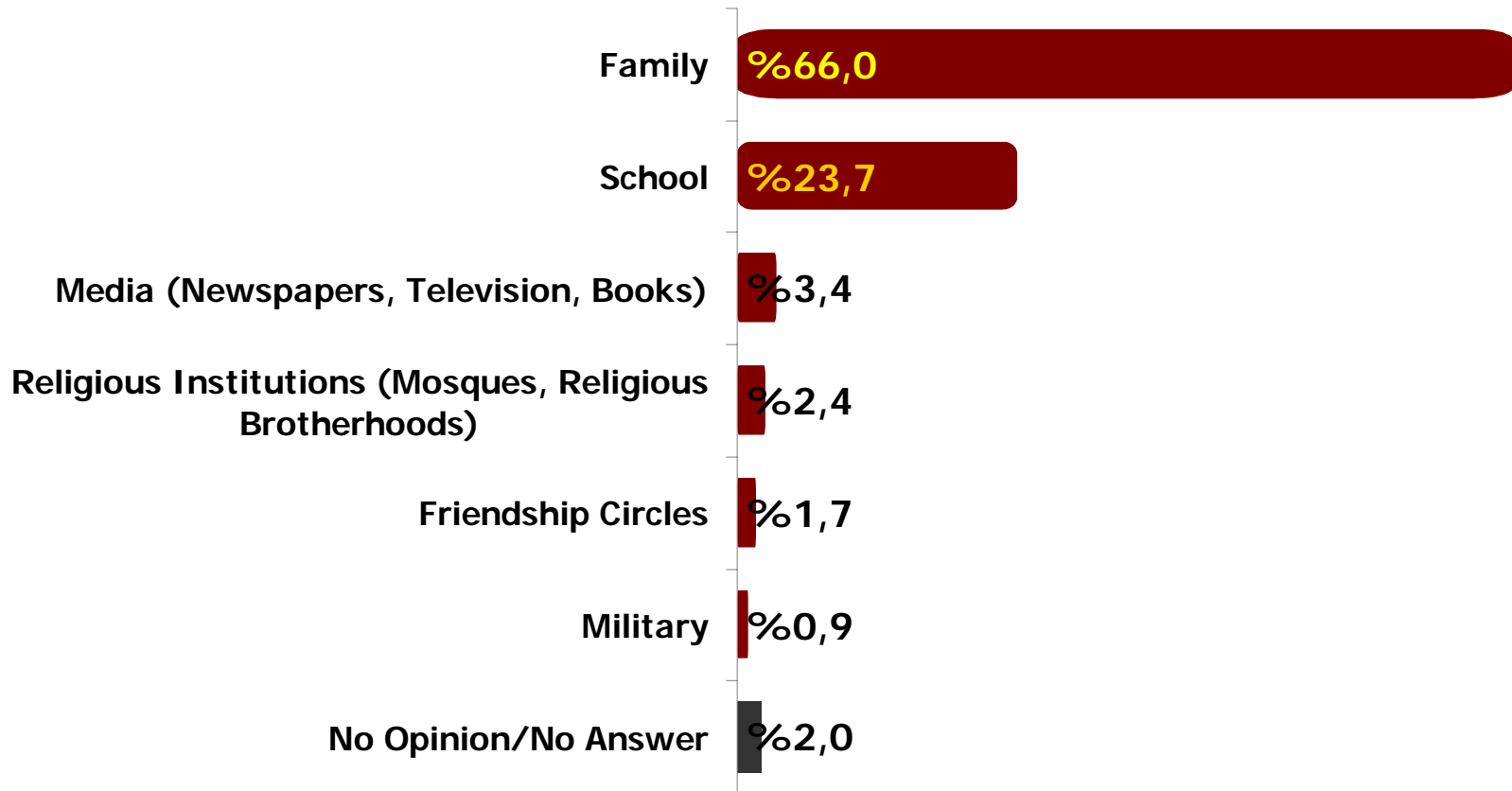




# The Most Important Social Institution We Want to Conserve...

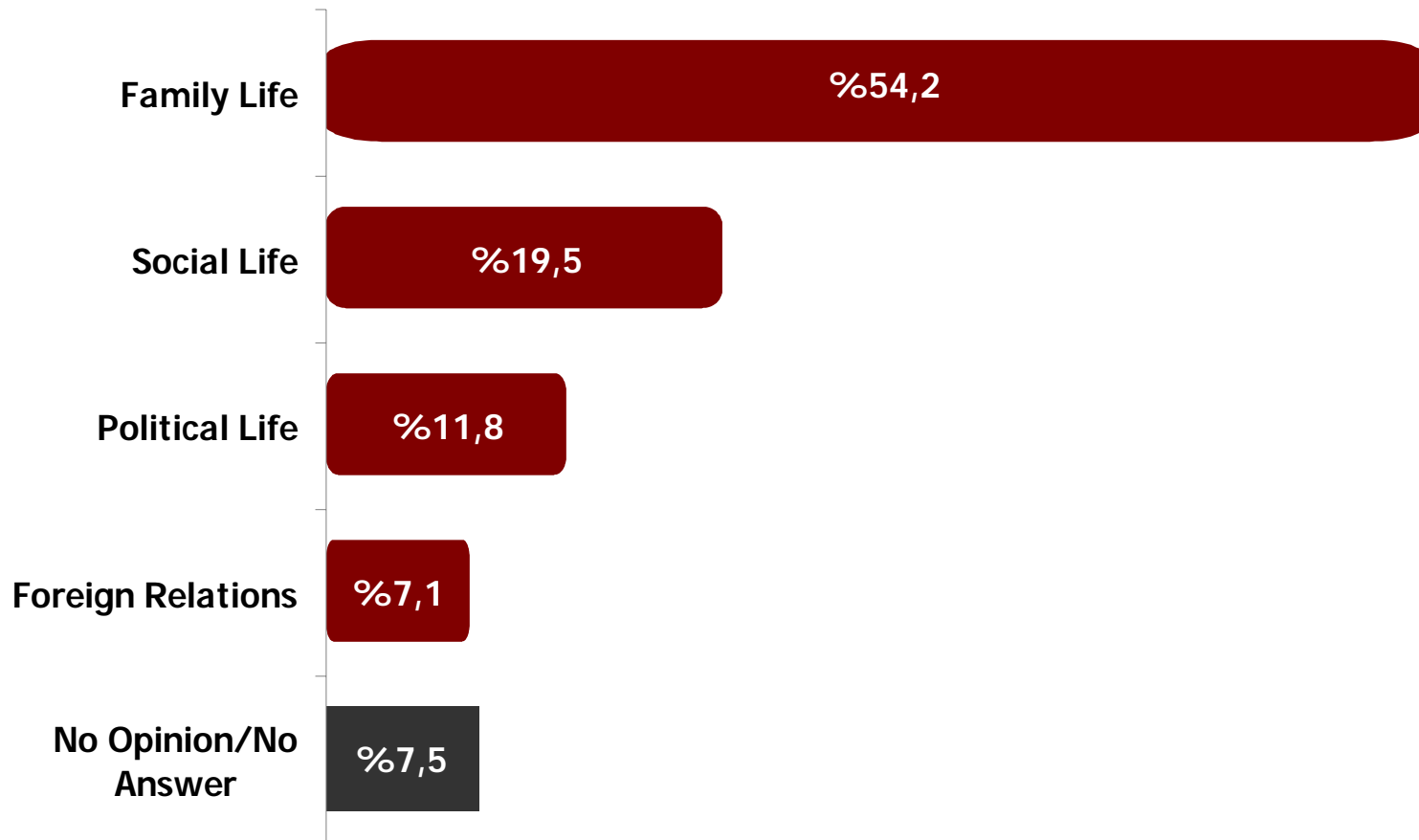


# In what social institutions and situations do we learn our traditions?





# In what areas of our life are our traditions most effective?

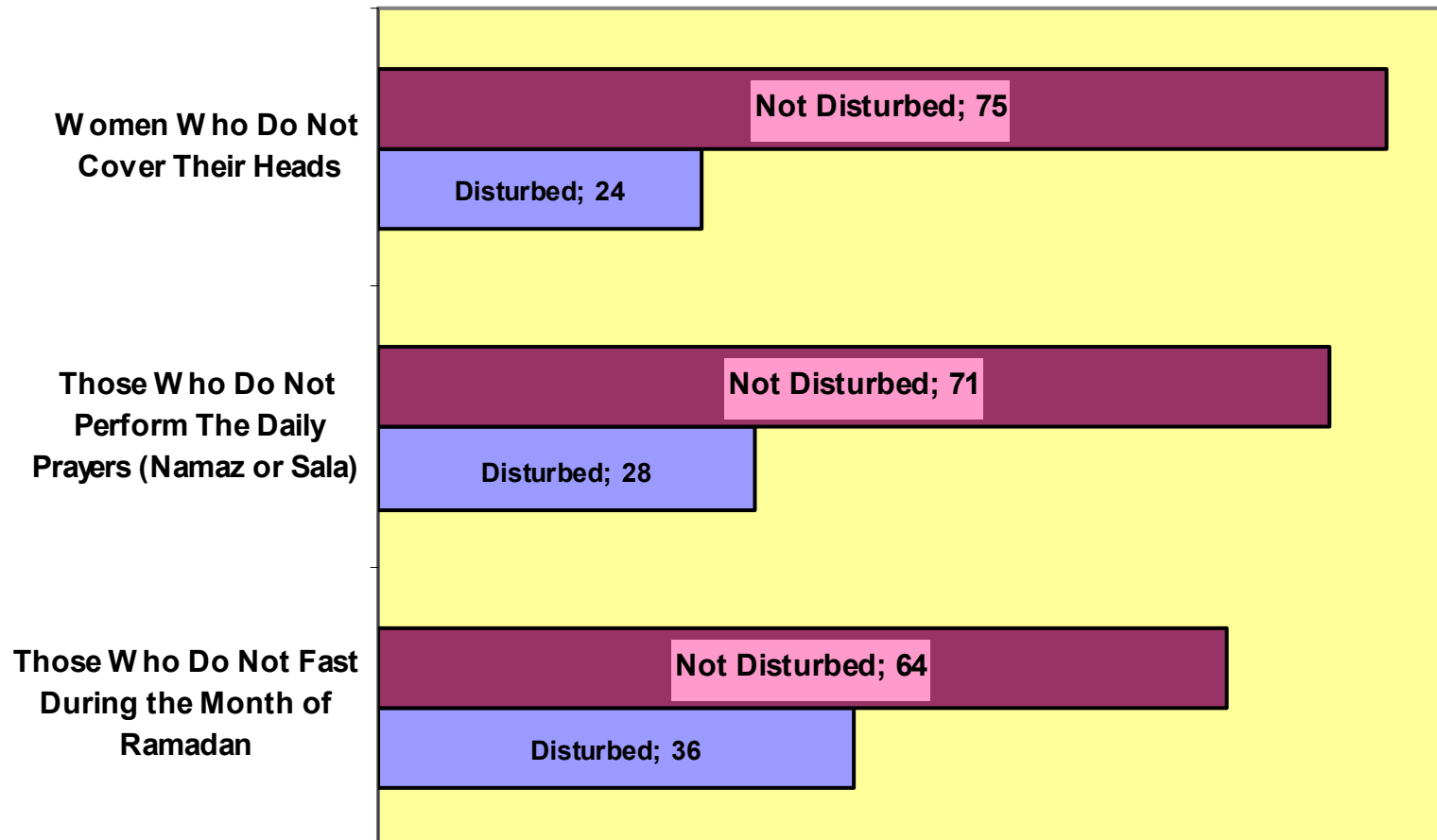




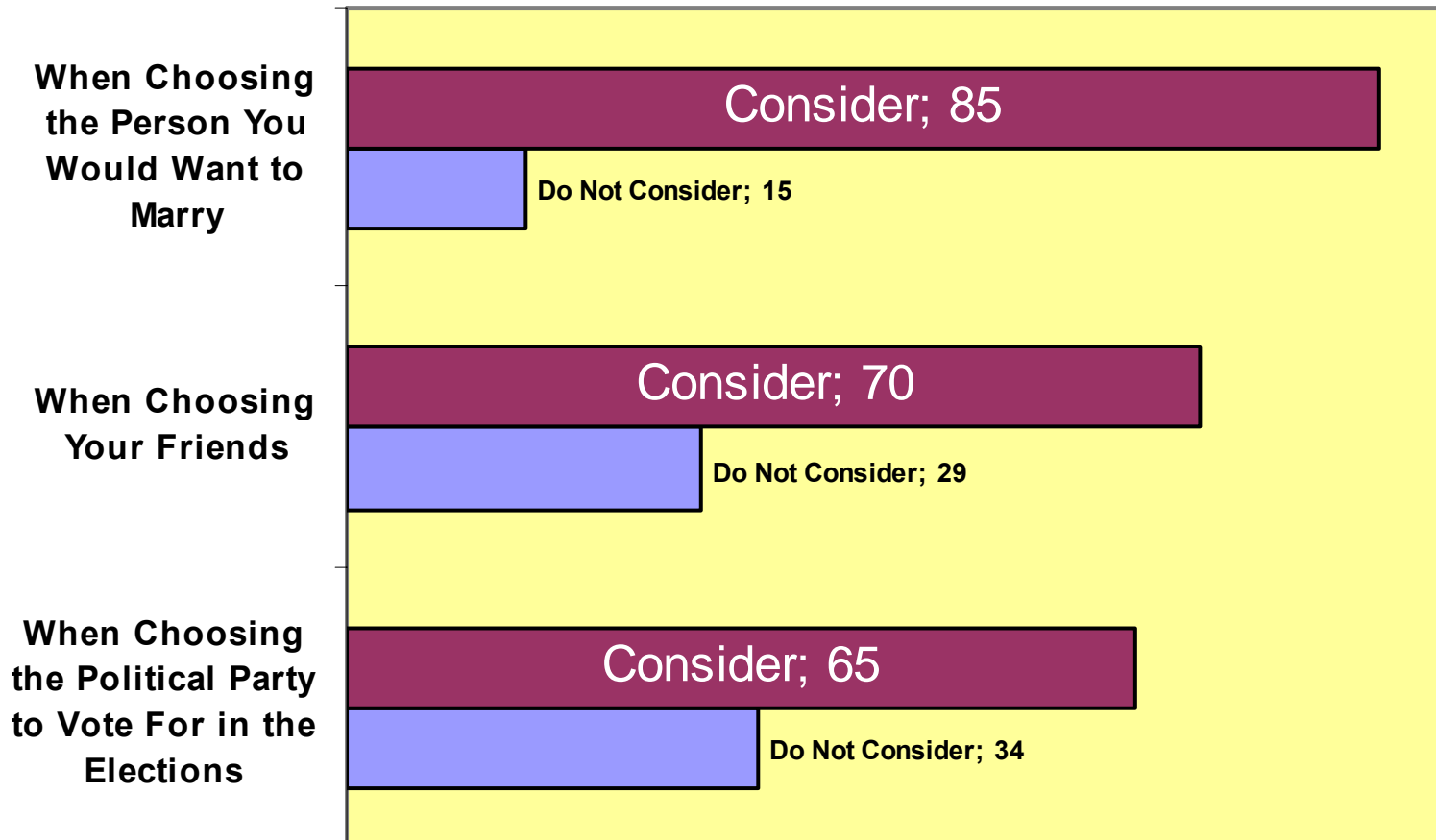
## (C2) Attitudes towards Religion

- How do we react to religious symbols and life-styles in our daily lives?
  - How influential are our religious beliefs in our personal decisions?
-

# Are we disturbed by those who do not obey the rules and rituals of Islam?

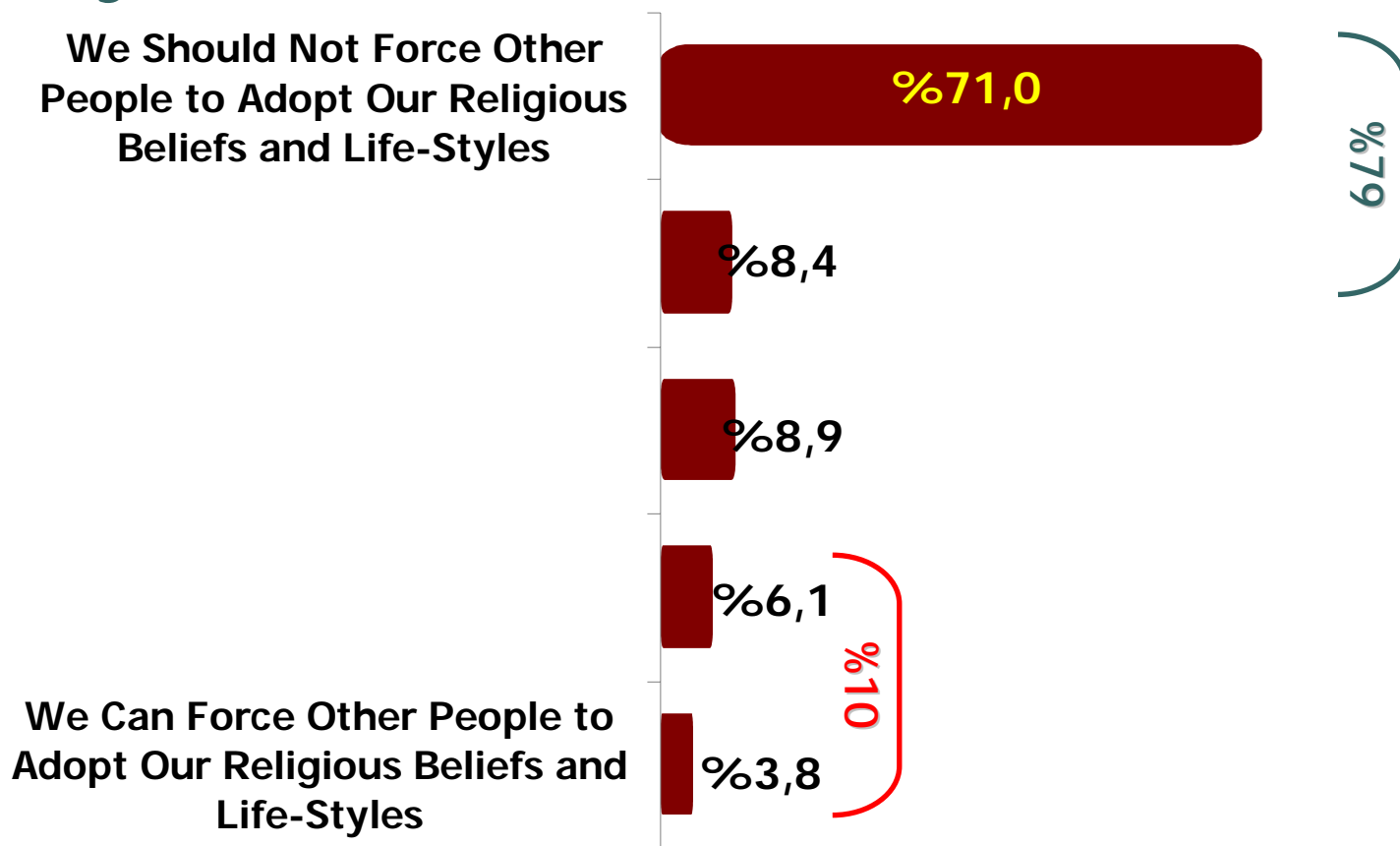


# Do we consider the religious beliefs of other people in our decisions to relate to them?



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# Should we force other people to adopt our religious beliefs and life-styles?

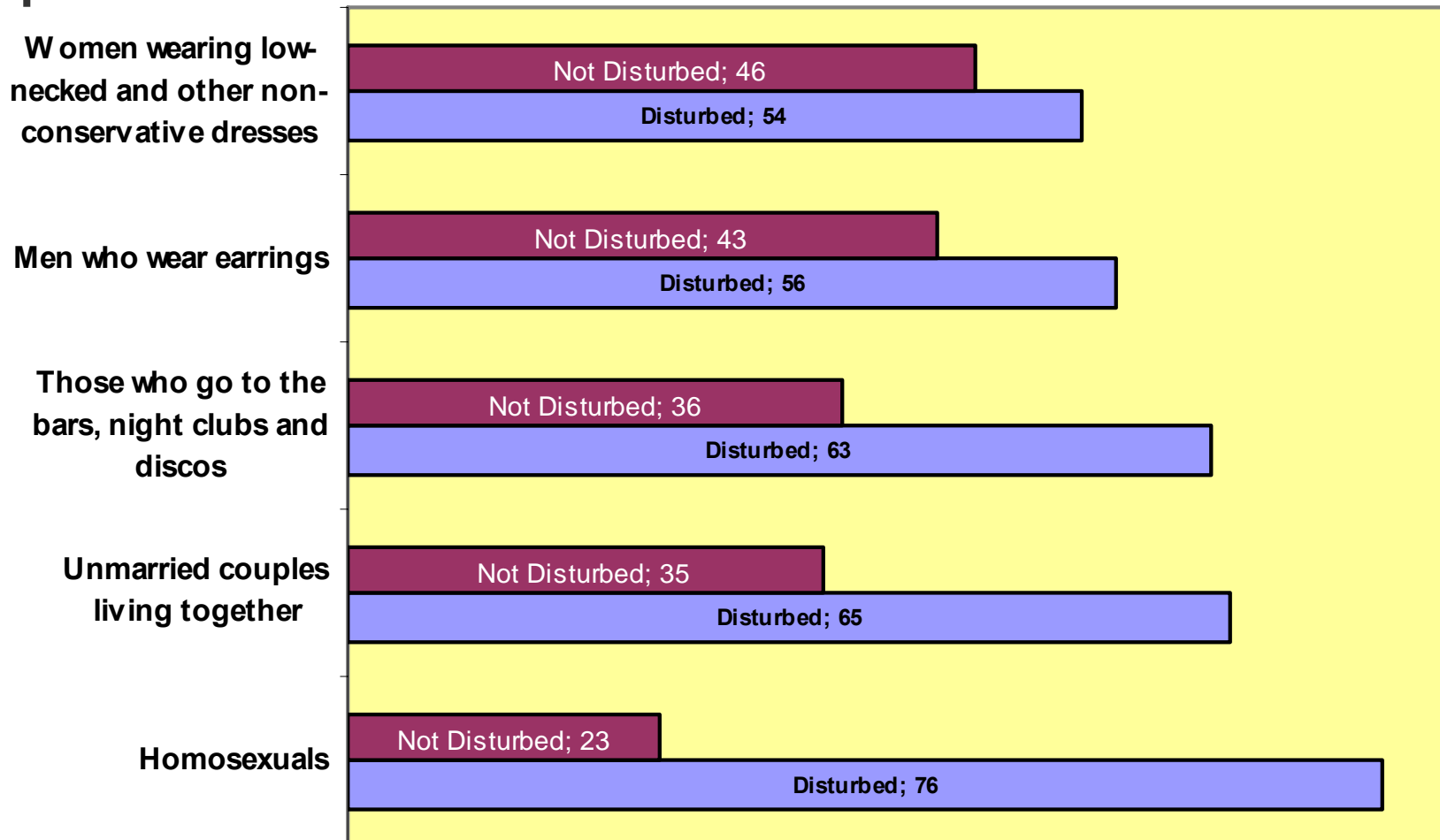




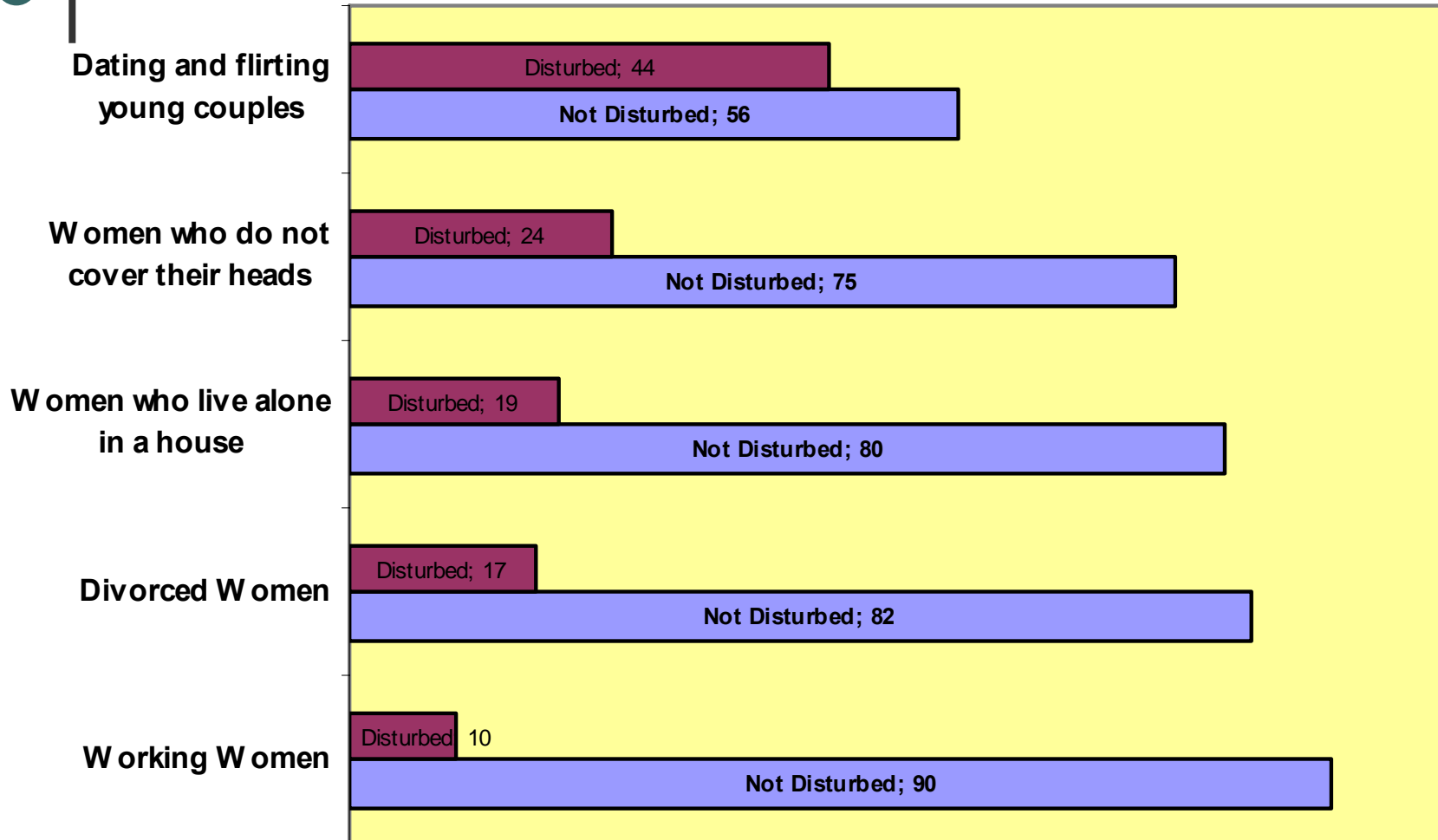
## (C3) Attitudes towards Sexuality

- What types of sexual choices and life-styles disturb us?
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# What types of sexual choices and lifestyles disturb the majority?



# What types of sexual choices and lifestyles do not disturb the majority?

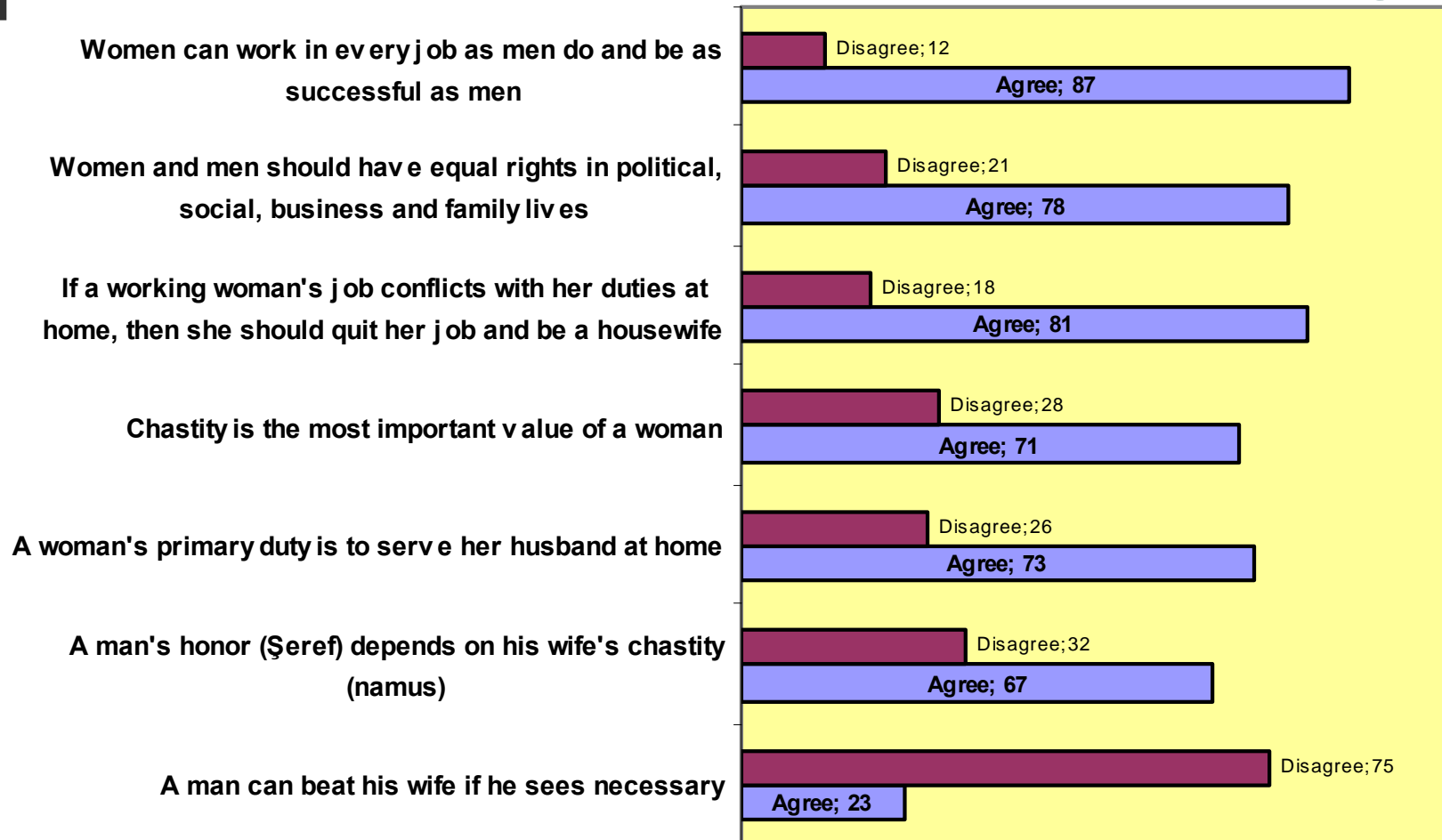




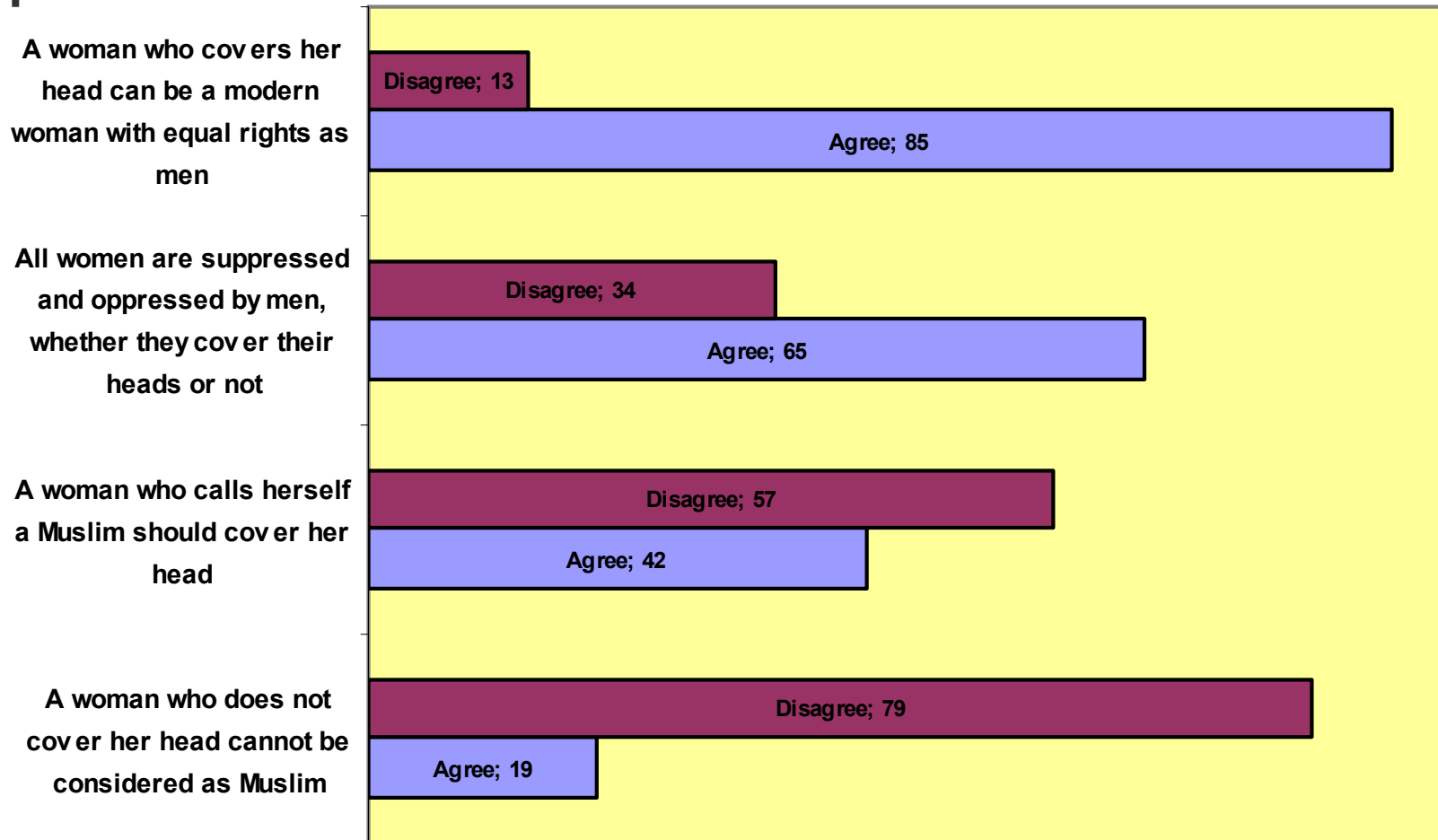
## (C4) Attitudes towards the position of women in society

- The “Ideal Woman”
  - Headscarf, Religion, Modernity
-

# Our "Ideal Woman": Equal, Honorable, Hardworking



# Headscarf, Religion, Modernity: How Do They Relate?

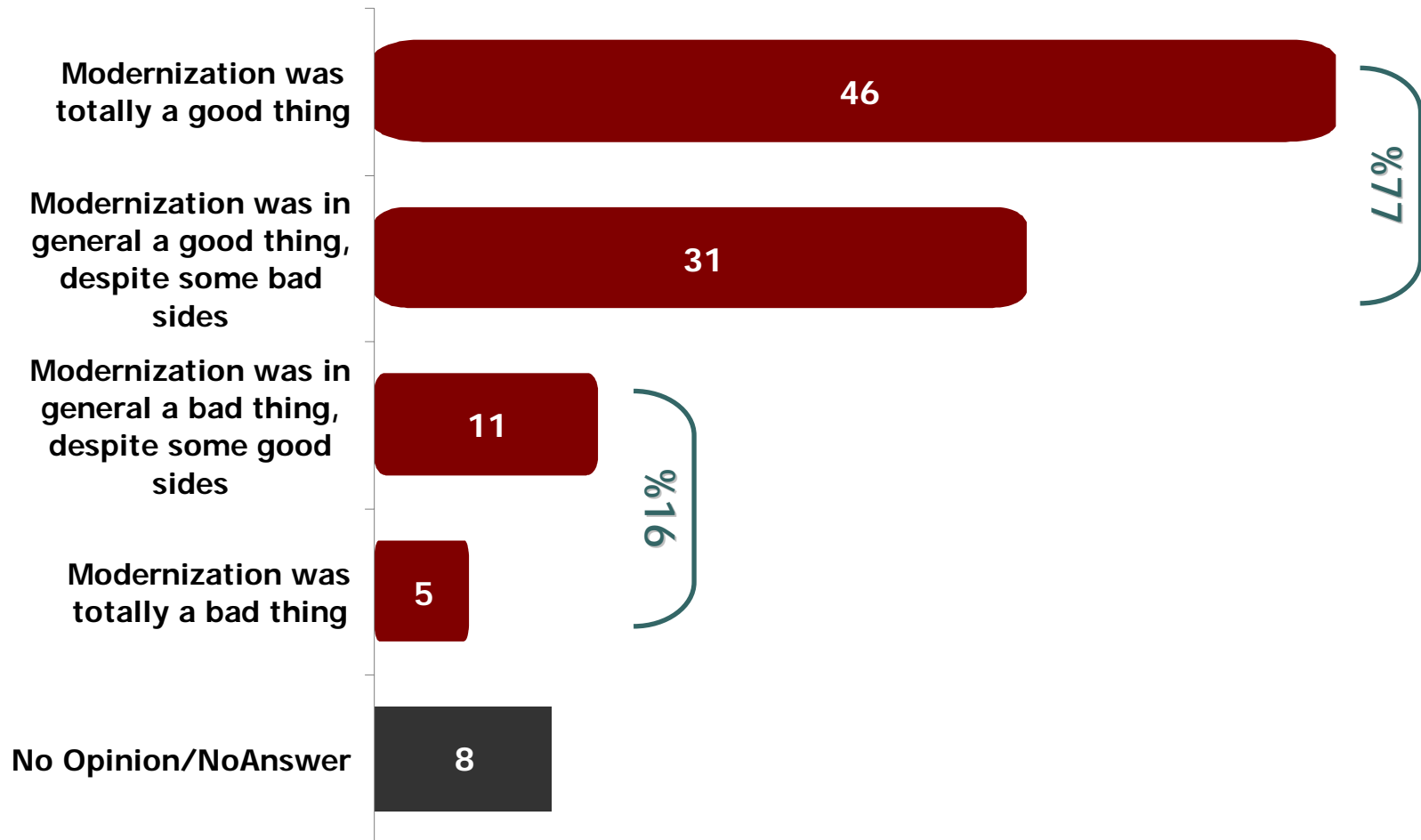




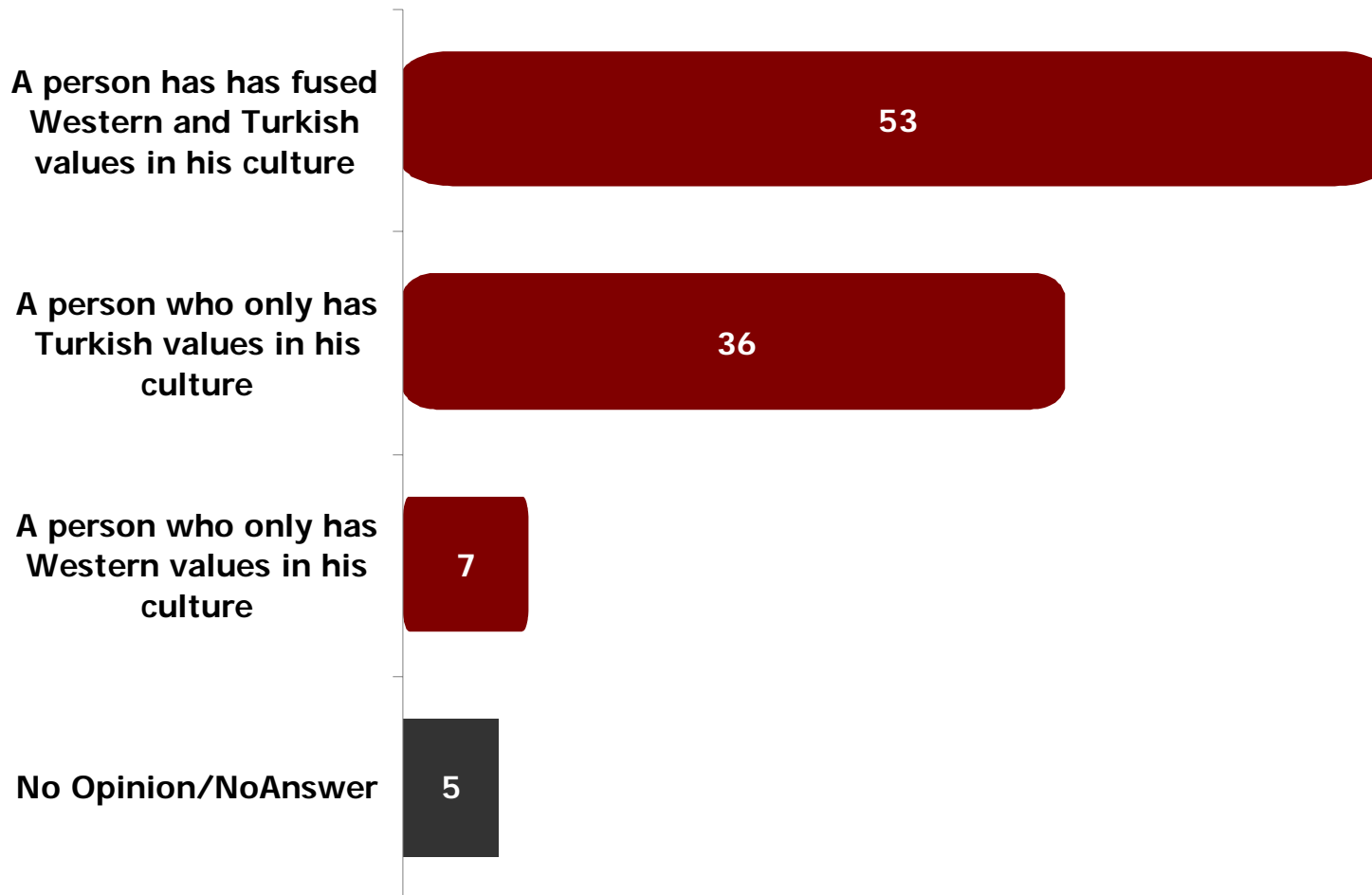
## (C5) Attitudes towards the West and Westernization

- Was Turkish modernization a good thing or a bad thing?
  - How should the national and Western values combine in the culture of an “ideal Turk”?
  - Historical memory and fears from Europe
  - Support for EU membership
-

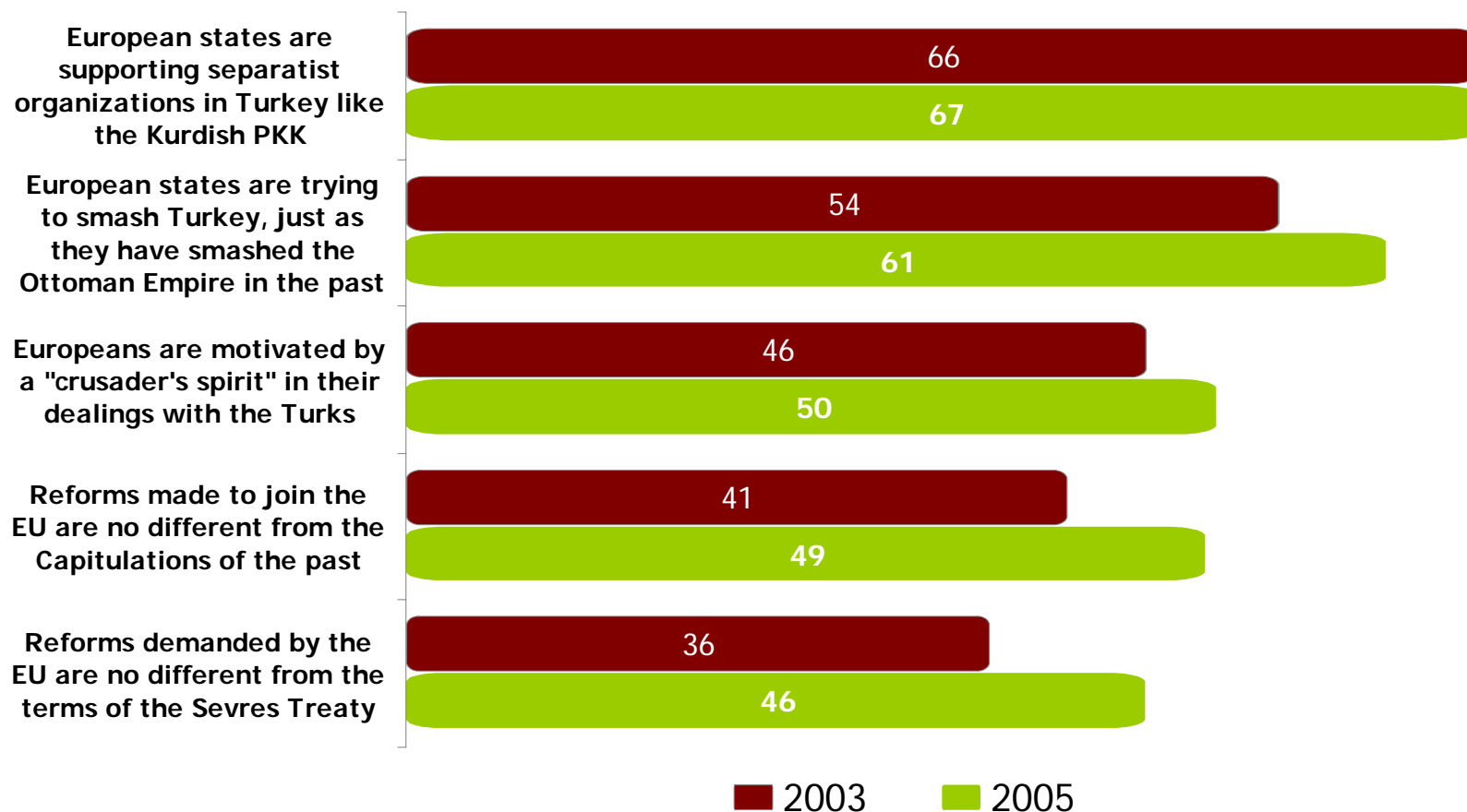
# Was Turkish modernization of the last hundred years (secularization, women's rights, change of the alphabet, abolition of the sultanate and so on) a good thing or a bad thing?



- The “Ideal Turk”:
- How Much Western, How Much
- National?



# Historical Memory and Fears from Europe. Those who tend to agree that...



# YES to the EU!

	<i>TESEV- BOĞAZIÇI MAY 2002</i>	<i>OSI- BOĞAZIÇI November 2003</i>	<i>OSI-BOĞAZIÇI January 2006</i>
<b>TURKEY</b>	64	75	64
<b>AKP (Islamic&amp;Center- Right)</b>	52	71	72
<b>CHP (Kemalist&amp;Center- Left)</b>	83	86	60
<b>DYP (Center-Right)</b>	63	79	54
<b>HADEP-DEHAP-DTP (Kurdish Nationalist)</b>	90	85	93
<b>MHP (Turkish Nationalist)</b>	54	60	47

# NO to the EU!

	<i>TESEV- BOĞAZIÇI MAY 2002</i>	<i>OSI-BOĞAZIÇI November 2003</i>	<i>OSI-BOĞAZIÇI January 2006</i>
<b>TURKEY</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>AKP (Islamic&amp;Center-Right)</b>	42	18	20
<b>CHP (Kemalist&amp;Center-Left)</b>	14	11	37
<b>DYP (Center-Right)</b>	27	15	39
<b>HADEP-DEHAP-DTP (Kurdish Nationalist)</b>	7	5	6
<b>MHP (Turkish Nationalist)</b>	38	37	47