

PERCEPTIONS OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRUST IN SECURITY AND JUSTICE INSTITUTIONS: SOCIO-ECONOMIC INFLUENCES IN SERBIA



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The data presented in the report derive from the Western Balkans Security Barometer (WBSB) survey. WBSB is a new regional initiative launched by KCSS in 2020, implemented in cooperation with the Belgrade Centre for Security Policy (BCSP) in Serbia and Center for the Study of Democracy and Governance (CSDG) in Albania, supported by the National Endowment for Democracy (NED). WBSB serves as an instrument to measure public perceptions in Albania, Kosovo and Serbia on different security-related issues. The findings demonstrate how citizens perceive or are informed about the issues presented in this report. As such, the views presented in this report do not necessarily represent the views of the KCSS, BCSP, CSDG or NED.

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AND TRUST IN SECURITY AND
JUSTICE INSTITUTIONS:
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Belgrade Centre for Security Policy conducts public opinion surveys regarding different security questions on an annual basis. This report analyses public perceptions of national and personal safety and trust in institutions involved in security issues. Data includes responses to the public opinion survey from October 2022. Therefore, readers must consider the time gap between the public poll and publication.

Among the security and justice institutions, citizens mostly trust firefighters. This is followed by the army, and then the police. Prosecution and courts are the least trusted institutions. Overall, trust is higher than in 2020, but trust distribution among the institutions stayed similar. Only around one-third of the respondents trust the prosecution, courts, Security-Intelligence agency and customs. Over one-half of the respondents trust the police, while around three-quarters of the respondents trust the firefighters and the Serbian Army. Trust is higher among women, contrary to 2020 when men trusted these institutions more than women. Similar to 2020, respondents from less populated areas trust security and justice institutions more.

Furthermore, those aged 65+ have the highest trust, while those aged 30 to 39 have the least trust in security and justice institutions. Highly educated citizens trust the least, while those who completed elementary school the most. Citizens from Vojvodina have the most belief in most of the institutions (5 of 7). Those who are unemployed and do not look for a job (retired and housewives) trust the most, while those whose household income is highest trust more to firefighters and security agency.

As the highest risk to national safety in Serbia, citizens perceive economic and energy crises, inflation, organized crime and illicit drug trafficking. Those from South-Eastern Serbia perceive the highest risks from organized crime, corruption, COVID-19, extremism and terrorism, inflation and emigration, while those from Western Serbia and Šumadija perceive risks from climate change and natural disasters, fake news, cyber attacks, armed conflicts in the region and air, soil and water pollution. Belgrade region perceives the highest threats from inflation and unemployment. Those aged 39-50 perceive threats from cyber attacks higher than other age categories. 49-50 perceive risk from unemployment higher than the others, while those aged +65 perceive COVID19- threat as higher than younger categories. The respondents from the countryside perceive war conflicts as higher threats than the ones from cities, while cities perceive risks to ecological safety. Highly educated people perceive national threats more than those who completed elementary or high school. Part-time employees perceived a higher threat from unemployment, while those with the lowest income per household perceived various risks significantly more than the others.

In general, citizens feel most safe at home (same as in 2020), while they are less secure on the Internet. Men feel more safe in their neighbourhoods and places of living. Respondents from Vojvodina perceive the most safe in any environment, except on the Internet, where those from Belgrade feel safer. Respondents from the countryside and towns feel more safe than those from cities. In Serbia (in general), the oldest (65+) feel the most secure, while on the Internet those younger feel more secure (18-29 and 30-39 years old). Those who completed elementary school feel the most safe in any environment except on the Internet. Respondents who are students mostly feel the safest. Citizens with the highest household incomes feel safer at home and on the Internet.

Finally, citizens mostly perceive traffic accidents, thefts and drug addiction as a threat to their personal safety. Women perceive more significant threats to personal safety from rape and sexual harassment, gender discrimination and street harassment. Those who live in cities perceive higher threats from various acts, while countrysides also perceive higher risks from

thefts, homicides, illegal arms possession, and human trafficking. The middle-aged respondents perceive the heightened threats from school violence, rape and sexual harassment, gender discrimination, and cyber violence. Highly educated citizens perceive higher risks than those who are not educated at the same level, while students perceive risks from rape and sexual harassment and cyber violence more than those who are unemployed or employed. Those respondents whose household income is the lowest perceive higher threats to personal safety on multiple levels.

Differences within both trust in security and justice institutions and perceived public safety highly depend on the respondents' socio-economic characteristics. This is crucial for citizens from different regions, ages, educational backgrounds, and socio-economic statuses. Therefore, social policies should target specific groups of people to secure equality and safety for everyone.

INTRODUCTION

This analysis is based on the public opinion survey conducted in Serbia in 2022. The research objectives were to investigate citizens' perceptions of public safety and trust in security and justice institutions in Serbia. Public safety perceptions were divided into questions on national safety and personal safety. National safety is analyzed using a set of questions (seventeen in sum) on risks such as criminal activities (e.g. organized crime or illicit drugs trade), economic issues (inflation, economic crisis, energy crisis) or health-related issues (e.g. COVID-19 pandemic). Personal safety is studied through the respondents' environment – how secure they feel in their home, in their settlement, in their city-countryside, in Serbia in general, and on the Internet. In addition, personal safety is analyzed through questions (eleven in sum) on the threats from criminal activities (theft, illicit arms possession, drug abuse etc.).

The report is structured to present methodology and findings on the trust in security and justice institutions, and then perceptions of national and personal safety risks. The results are presented using graphic figures and text. The perceptions and demographical(socio-economic characteristics) differences are analyzed using a statistical test. To compare the trends of trust in institutions and perceptions of public safety, the report also presents results from the public opinion survey conducted by the Belgrade Centre for Security Policy in 2020, applying the same methodology and based on a sample that allows a comparative analysis. The reports of the data from 2020 are entitled "Serbia citizens' trust towards security and justice institutions"¹ and "Public perceptions towards public safety, internal and external threats – Serbian citizens' perspective"².

Since the data of this study includes responses to the public opinion survey from October 2022, readers must consider the time gap between the public poll results and current public safety in Serbia. At the beginning of May 2023, two multiple shootings in Serbia disturbed the public widely and produced mass protests "Serbia against the violence". Therefore, it may be assumed that results would be somehow different if public polling had been conducted after these incidents. This might reflect in lower trust in institutions (for example, in the police or prosecution), higher perceptions of risks to national safety (from illicit arms possession), higher fear of crime (for example, the threat of homicide, school violence etc.), or lower perception of safety in public space.

METHODOLOGY

The analysis below is based on data collected from the survey, which is part of the regional project titled Western Balkans Security Barometer (WBSB), led by Kosovar Centre for Security Studies (KCSS), in partnership with Belgrade Centre for Security Policy (BCSP) from Serbia and the Centre for the Study of Democracy and Governance (CSDG) from Albania.³ Similar surveys were conducted in Albania and Kosovo on various public perceptions and national and international issues.¹

The survey was conducted in person, through face-to-face interviews on the territory of Serbia, with randomly selected respondents. It is undertaken between October 3rd and October 17th, 2022, on a representative sample of 1,020 respondents. The questionnaire for the survey primarily consisted of closed-ended questions in the form of a five-point Likert Scale, followed by several open-ended questions without pre-defined options (uncaptured by the current report). The margin of error is 3.1 percent with a confidence interval of 95 percent.

The analytical strategy is based on quantitative methods, using descriptive statistics and the Kruskal-Wallis test, a non-parametric method. The analysis is performed in R programming language, while the visualization of the results is provided in Excel (Microsoft Office). The statistical test results are shown in the appendices at the end of the report (see: Appendix A for the trust in institutions, Appendix B for national safety perceptions, Appendix C for personal safety perceptions, Appendix D for personal threat perceptions). The responses of the Likert Scale are summed so that trust and perceptions are presented narrowly. This is done in the text when explaining how much citizens trust the institutions (by summing answers trust and fully trust), how much they perceive some risk or threat (serious threat and very serious threat), or how secure they feel (mostly safe and very safe).

Demographical characteristics of the respondents

There were 1020 responses to the survey, of which 498 were women and 522 were men (see Appendix 1). The survey is conducted in all the regions in Serbia: 477 from Vojvodina, 269 from Central and Western Serbia, 248 from Belgrade, and 226 from South-eastern Serbia. 608 of the respondents were from urban (city), while 412 were from rural (country/village) environments. Of those 608 urban residents, 159 were from (smaller) towns, while 449 were from bigger cities. The mean age of the respondents is 45.47, while the median is 45, with a minimum of 18 and a maximum of 85 years old. Most respondents are educated at the high school level (about 65%), 24% completed higher education, and around 10% attended only compulsory - elementary school.

1 To see other reports: <https://securitybarometer.qkss.org/publikime>.

TRUST IN SECURITY AND JUSTICE INSTITUTIONS

Public safety perceptions depend on people's trust in institutions: how well they function and how much independent they are from external political or governed by the rule of law and democratic principles. This trust is crucial for the institutions directly involved in citizens' safety, such as the law enforcement and criminal justice, since it supports their legitimacy. Figure 1 shows that citizens mostly believe in firefighters, with the highest mean score (4.23 out of 5). This is followed by the Army (3.88), the Emergency Management sector² (3.57) and the police (3.46). Security-Intelligence agency scores 3.16, while customs scores 3.08. The lowest scores are for the prosecution (2.91) and courts (2.98). In general, trust in security and justice institutions is higher³ when compared with the results from the 2020 survey, when the fire service scored 3.98, the army 3.58, the police 2.71, the Security-intelligence agency 2.68, customs 2.66, and the courts and prosecution both 2.44.⁴ It may be assumed that these changes happened after the COVID-19 crisis when many institutions were under scrutiny. There were public protests and riots in Serbia by those unsatisfied with the authorities' response to pandemics.⁵ However, further analysis is needed to address this change.

FIGURE 1 MEAN SCORES OF THE 2022 RESPONDENTS' TRUST IN INSTITUTIONS

TRUST IN SECURITY AND JUSTICE INSTITUTIONS	Emergency mangement sector	3.572	
	Custom	3.083	
	Security Intelligence Agency	3.115	
	Prosecutors	2.905	
	Courts	2.975	
	Firefighters	4.233	
	Police	3.458	
	Army	3.881	

Figure 2 shows that more than 80% of the respondents trust firefighters (trust and fully trust 82.8% in sum, while it was 65.3% in 2020). 72.6% trust the Serbian Army (58.3% in 2020), while 53.7% trust the police (30.2% in 2020). Prosecution (34.3%) and courts (37.2%) are the least trusted. On the other hand, 34.8% of the respondents trusted both prosecution and courts in 2020, suggesting that these measures are the only ones without a substantial change after two years. Many citizens didn't respond to the question of how much they trust the Security-Intelligence agency (10.1%), which also has low overall trust (37.8% in sum). This is followed by the 39% of respondents trust the customs (6.9% without response).

² Firefighters are effectively part of the Emergency Management sector (EMS). It may be assumed that not all the respondents were familiar with it. Therefore, EMS is excluded from further analysis.

³ The observed increase in trust is limited and further data analysis should be performed to confirm the increase on a statistically significant level. However, this report was limited to do so.

FIGURE 2 TRUST IN SECURITY AND JUSTICE INSTITUTIONS BY 2022 RESPONSES

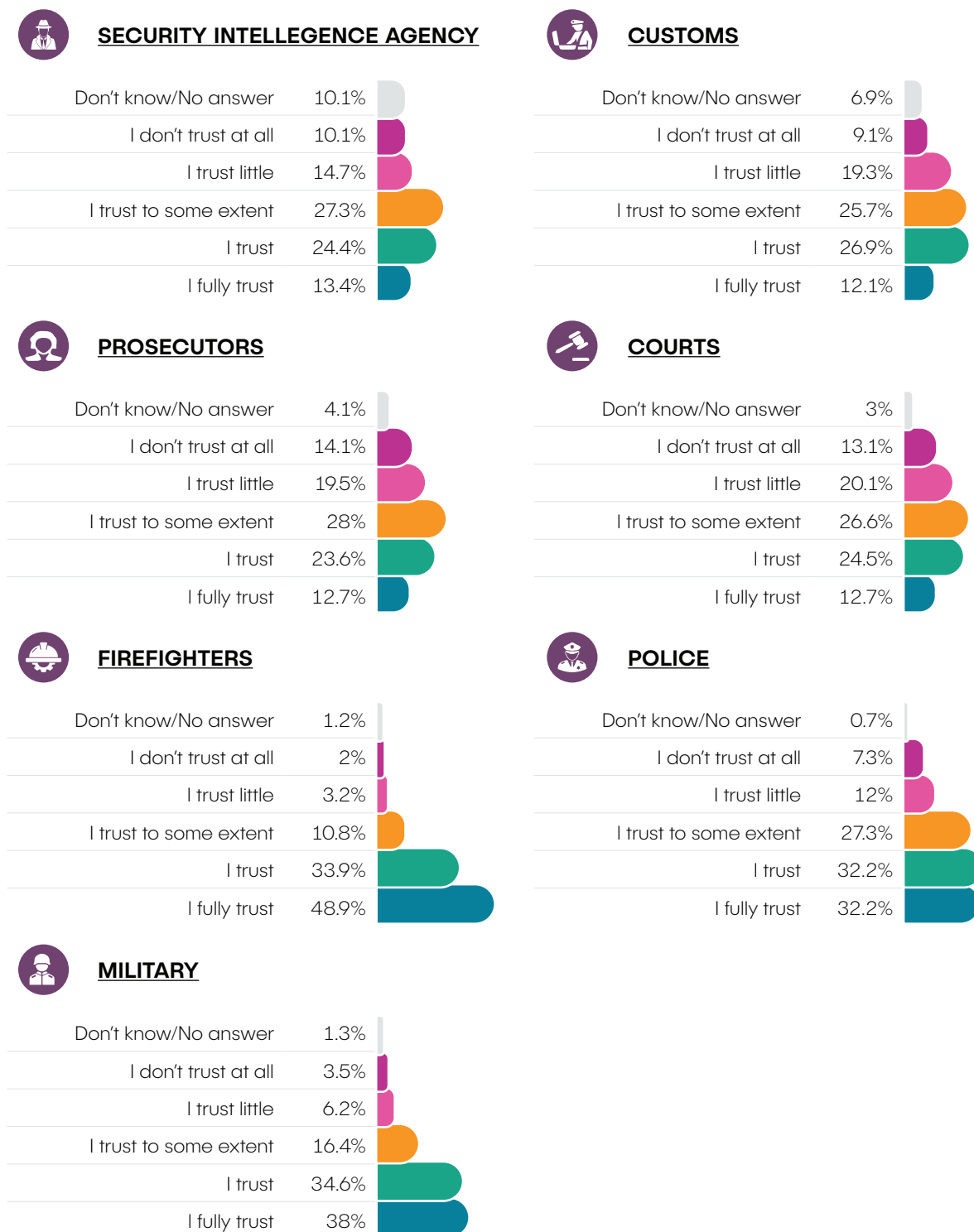


TABLE 1 TRUST IN SECURITY AND JUSTICE INSTITUTIONS CONSIDERING DEMOGRAPHICAL CHARACTERISTICS.

Trust in:	Gender	Regions	Type of settlement	Age	Household members	Education	Employment	Household income
Army	Women	South-eastern Serbia	Countryside	65+	1	Elementary school	Unemployed - retired, housewives	
Police	Women	Vojvodina		65+		Elementary school	Unemployed - retired, housewives	
Firefighters		Vojvodina		65+	2	Elementary school	Unemployed - retired, housewives	More than 99.000 RSD
Courts	Women	Western Serbia and Šumadija	Veći grad	65+		Elementary school	Unemployed - retired, housewives	
Prosecutors	Women	Vojvodina	Veći grad	65+		Elementary school	Unemployed - retired, housewives	
Security-Intelligence agency		Vojvodina		65+		Elementary school	Unemployed - retired, housewives	More than 99.000 RSD
Customs	Women	Vojvodina	Veći grad	65+		Elementary school	Unemployed - retired, housewife	

Note 1. Shows the groups with the highest trust within demographical variables with significant differences.

Trust in Serbian Army

Trust in **the Serbian Army** significantly differs between genders, regions, types of settlement, age categories, education level, employment status, and household members. Women trust the Serbian Army slightly more than men (Figure 3). In sum, 74% of women respondents trust and fully trust the Army compared to 71% of men respondents. This is the opposite of the 2020 survey findings, when the proportion of males who trusted the Military was 60.6%, while females were 56%. The respondents from South-eastern Serbia trust the Army the most (71.7% in sum), while the respondents from the region the Western Serbia and Šumadija have the least trust in the Army (66.5%). This is followed by the regions of Belgrade (70.7%) and Vojvodina (73.3%) which has a higher proportion of respondents without an answer (3.5%). These results do not follow those from 2020, when 60% of respondents trusted the Army from South-eastern Serbia, while those from Western Serbia and Šumadija were 65.6%. Also, Belgrade trusted the Army more (57.1%) than Vojvodina (50.5%). The respondents from smaller places trust the Serbian Army more than those from the bigger settlements (Figure 5). Residents of the countryside trust and fully trust in the Army in 76.8% of cases, while the percentage of respondents from towns is at 74.4%, and those from cities at 68.2%. This is similar to the results from 2020, although there are small differences (respondents from suburban environments had slightly higher trust than those

from rural).

The oldest respondents trust the Army the most, while those between 30 and 39 trust the least (Figure 6). Although differently categorized, results are similar compared to the 2020 survey when 60.9% of the respondents aged 36+ trusted the Army, while 51.6% of those aged 18 to 35. The respondents who completed elementary school have the highest trust in the Serbian Army (92,5% in sum of trust and fully trust). Trust is lower with the upper levels of education. Those who completed high school trust 71,1% in sum, while 64.7% of highly educated citizens trust the Army. Part-time employed and unemployed people have the least trust in the Army. Full-time employees and students have almost the same, while housewives and retired respondents have the highest trust in the Serbian Army.

FIGURE 3 TRUST IN THE SERBIAN ARMY BY GENDER OF THE RESPONDENTS

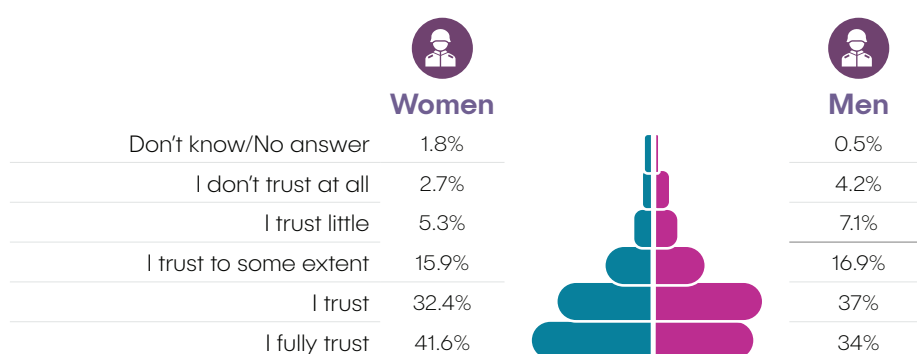


FIGURE 4 TRUST IN SERBIAN ARMY BY THE REGION OF THE RESPONDENTS

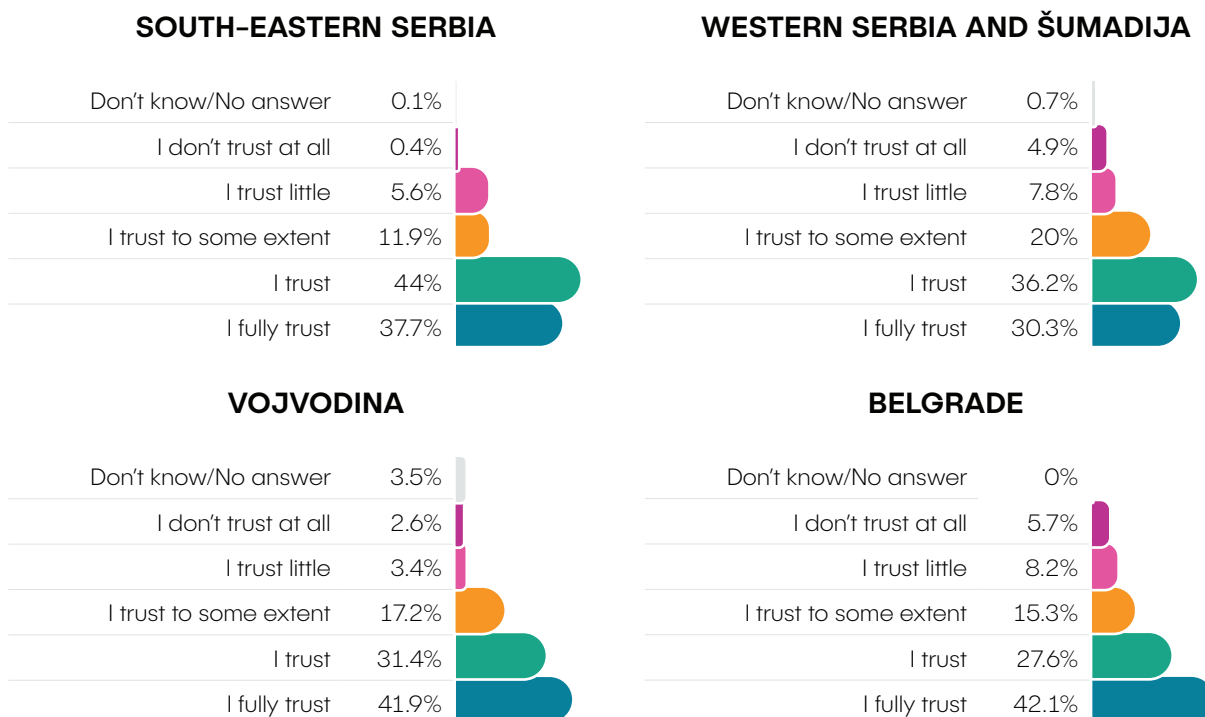
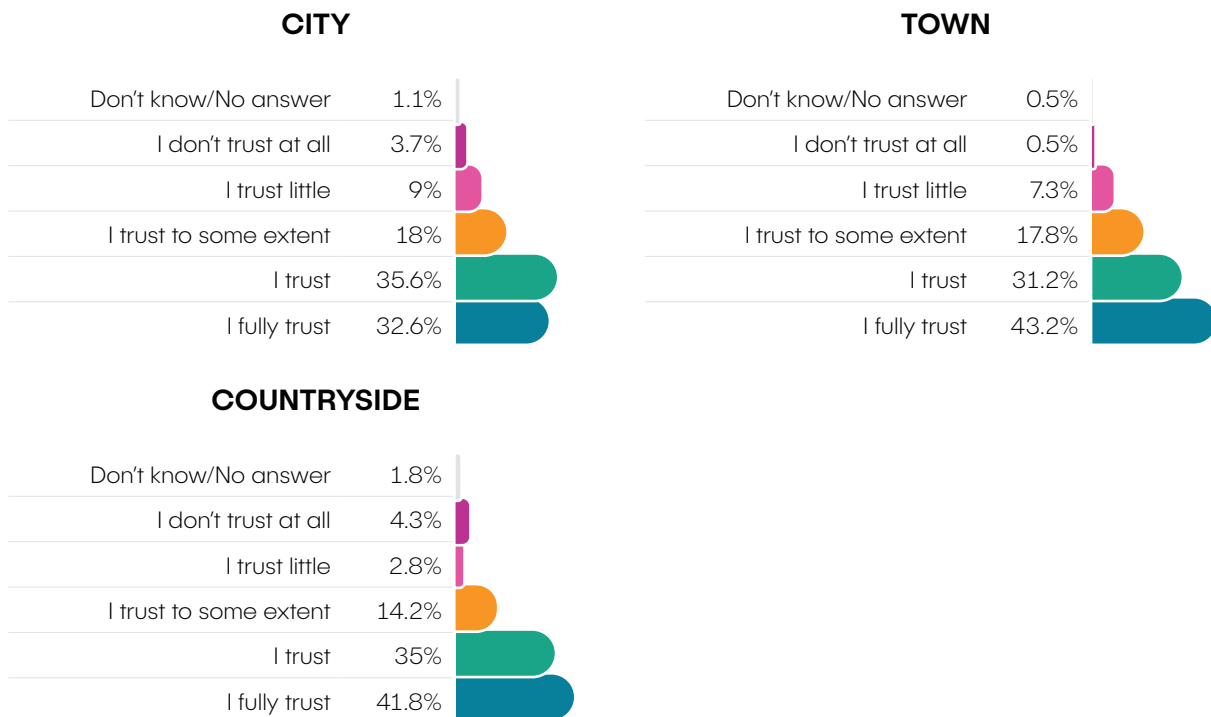
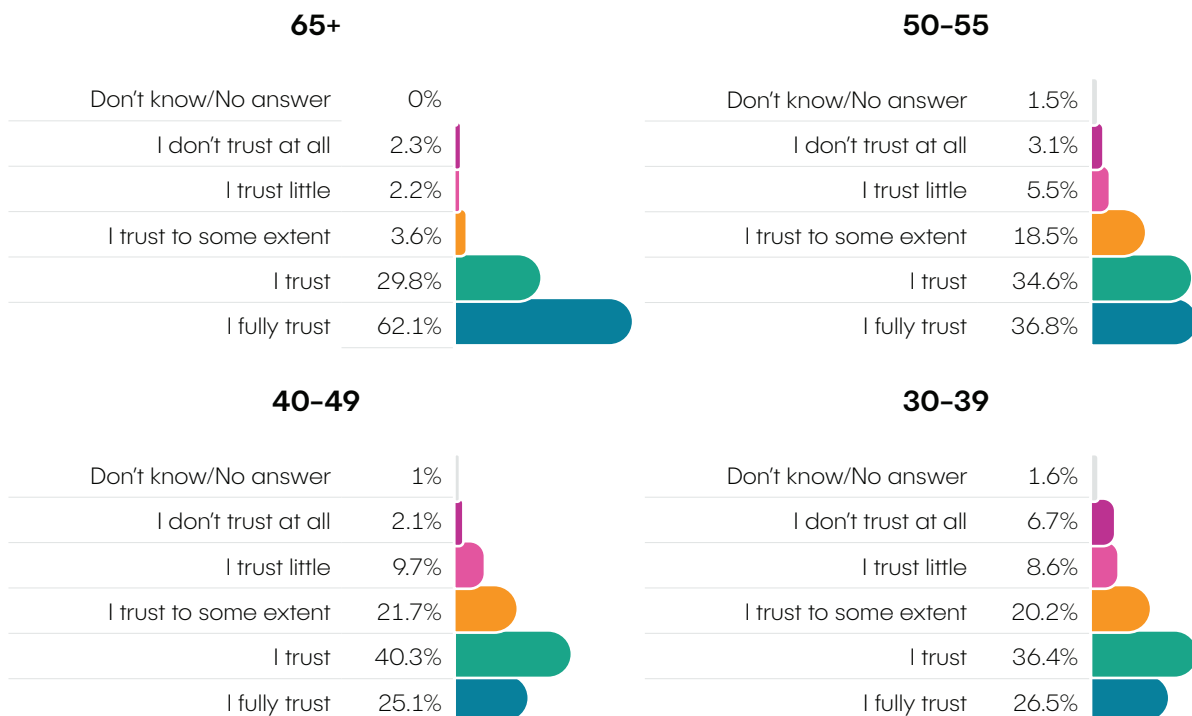


FIGURE 5 TRUST IN SERBIAN ARMY BY THE TYPE OF SETTLEMENT OF THE RESPONDENTS**FIGURE 6** TRUST IN SERBIAN ARMY BY THE AGE CATEGORIES OF THE RESPONDENTS

18-29

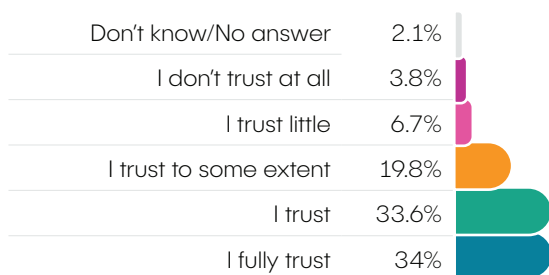
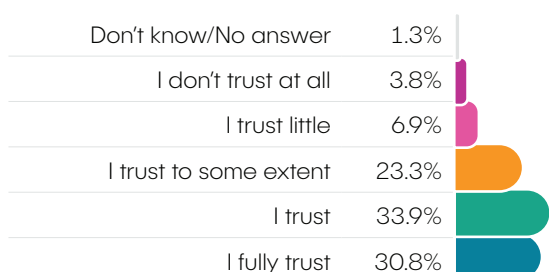
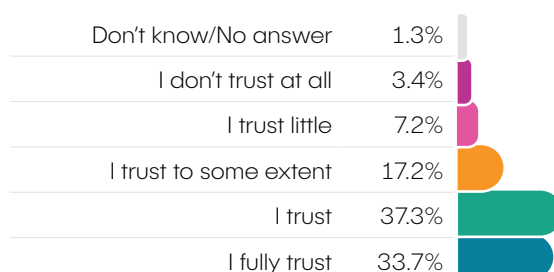


FIGURE 7 TRUST IN SERBIAN ARMY BY THE EDUCATION OF THE RESPONDENTS

HIGHER EDUCATION



HIGH SCHOOL



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

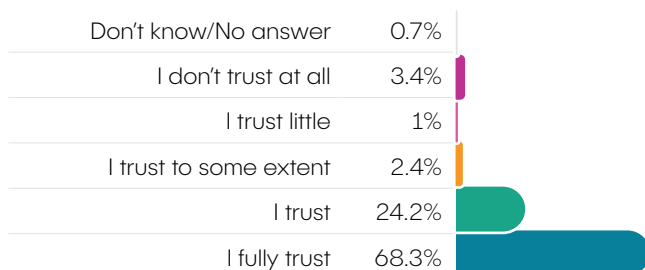
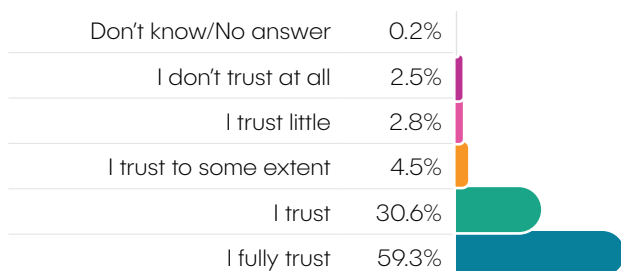
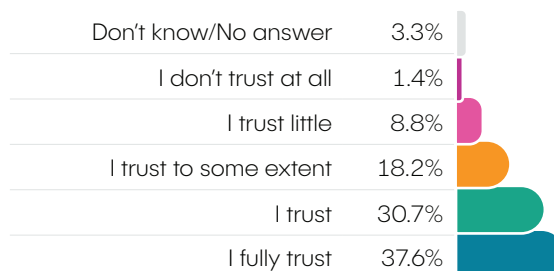


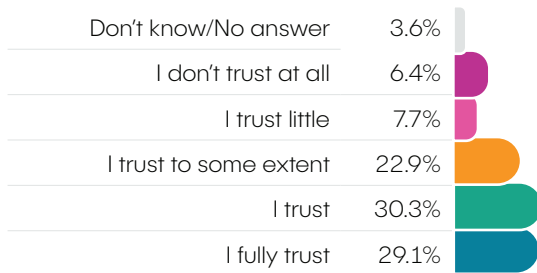
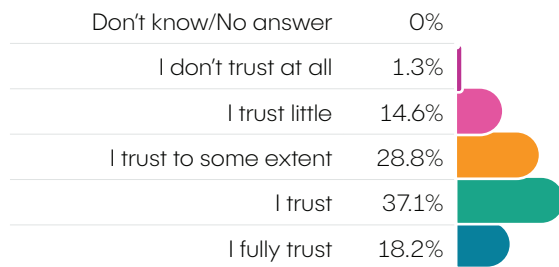
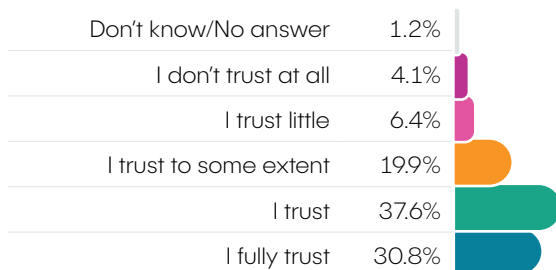
FIGURE 8 TRUST IN SERBIAN ARMY BY THE EMPLOYMENT OF THE RESPONDENTS

HOUSEWIFE, RETIRED



STUDENT



UNEMPLOYER**PART-TIME****FULL-TIME**

Trust in the police

Trust in **the police** is significantly different considering genders, regions, age categories, education level and employment status. In 2022, women trusted the police (59.6%) more than men (51.5%), while in 2020, men trusted in 36.1% of cases and women in 24.6%. In 2022, trust in the police was highest among the participants from Vojvodina (64.3%), while in 2020, it was in Western Serbia and Šumadija (38.2%). Trust among those from Belgrade was the lowest in 2022 (47.9%), while in 2020, it was in Vojvodina (22.2%). As for the trust in the army, the oldest category of the respondents trust the police the most (82.4%), while this trust is more equal among the younger respondents, similar to the findings from 2020. More than three-quarters of those who completed elementary school only trust in the police (77.5%). On the other hand, those who completed high school (54.1%) and higher education (36.4%) have lower trust. Trust is highest among those who are unemployed and do not look for a job (retired or housewives)– 77.7%, while it is the lowest among part-time employees (35.4%).

FIGURE 9 TRUST IN THE POLICE BY GENDERS

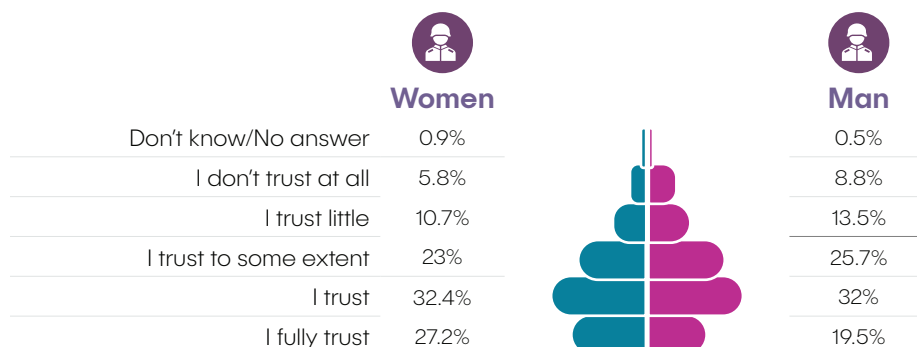
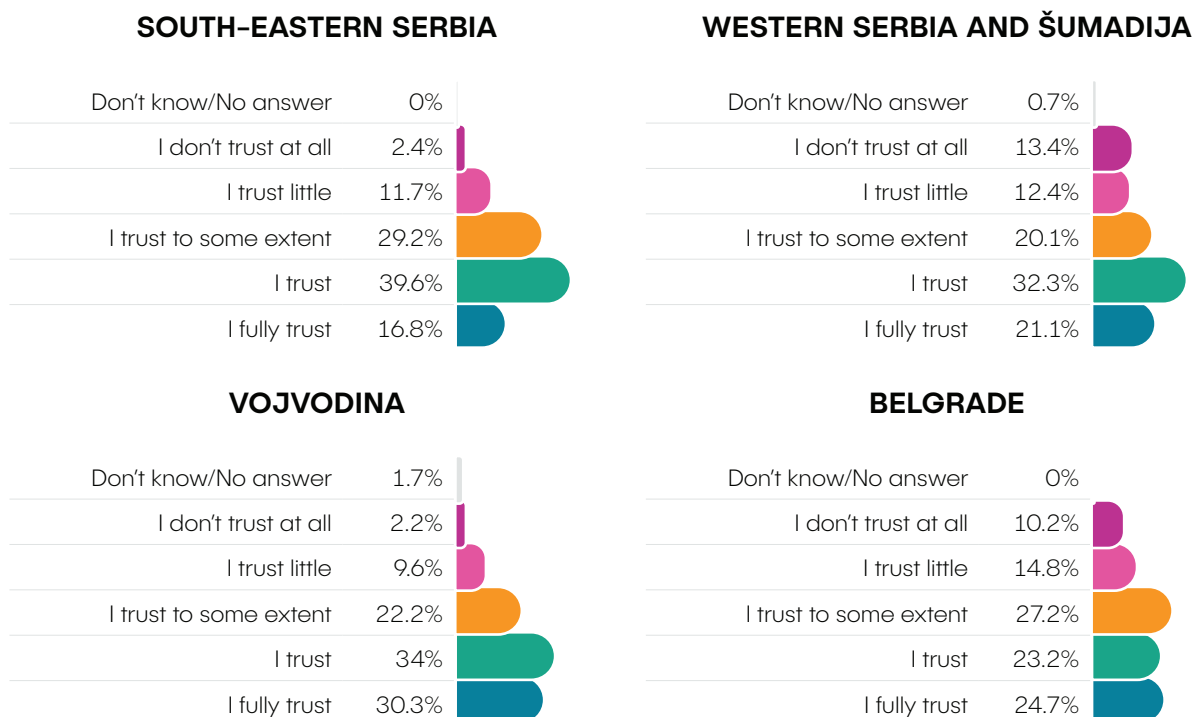
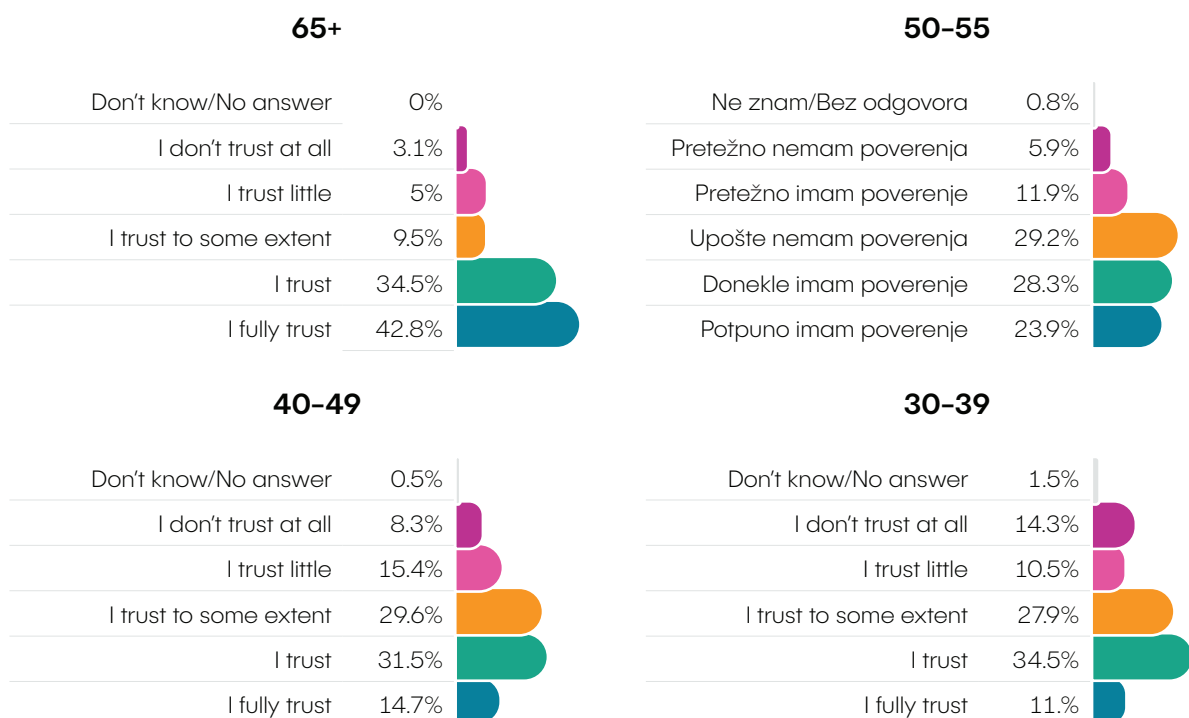
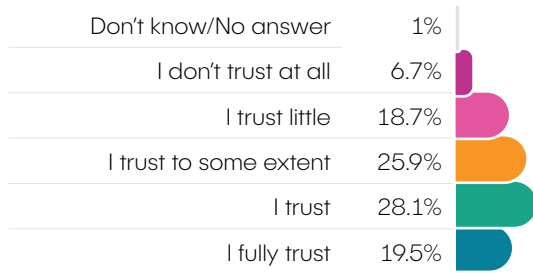
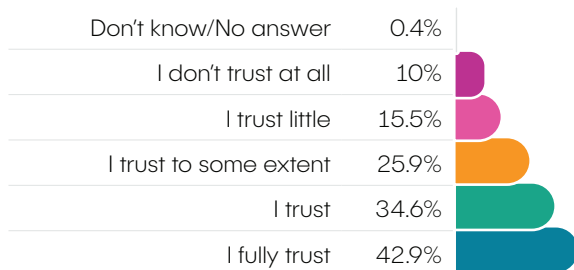
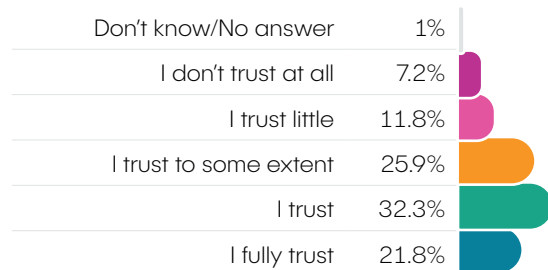
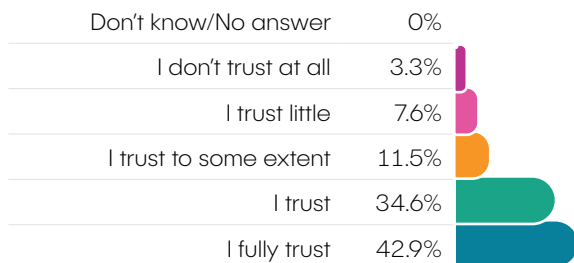
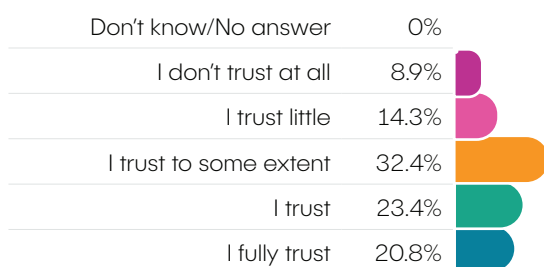
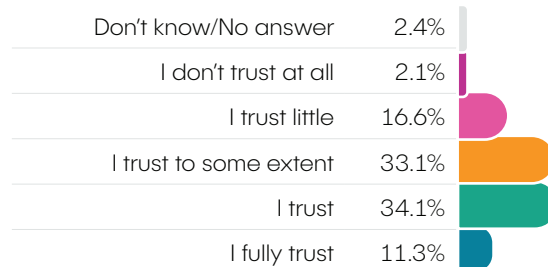
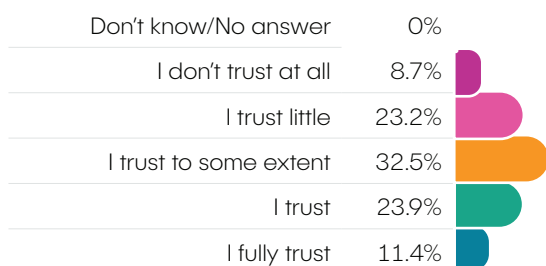


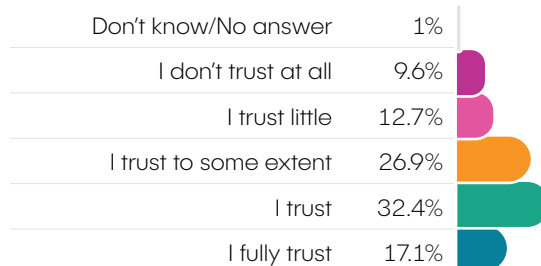
FIGURE 10 TRUST IN THE POLICE BY THE REGION OF THE RESPONDENTS**FIGURE 11** TRUST IN THE POLICE BY AGE CATEGORIES OF THE RESPONDENTS

18-29**FIGURE 12** TRUST IN THE POLICE BY THE EDUCATION OF THE RESPONDENTS**HIGHER EDUCATION****HIGH SCHOOL****ELEMENTARY SCHOOL****FIGURE 13** TRUST IN THE POLICE BY THE TYPE OF EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF THE RESPONDENTS**HOUSEWIFE, RETIRED****STUDENT**

UNEMPLOYER



PART-TIME



FULL-TIME

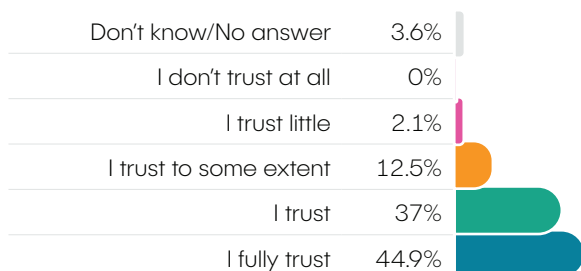


Trust in firefighters

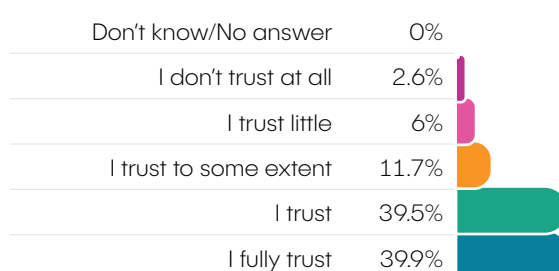
Regarding **firefighters**, there is a significant difference in trust considering regions, age categories, household members, education, employment and household income. Respondents from the Vojvodina region have the highest trust in firefighters (89.8%), while other regions are more equal, having around 80% of those who trust. In 2020, on the other hand, Western Serbia and Šumadija had the highest trust (%88.7). Respondents living with 3 household members have the least trust in firefighters (75.4%), while those living with less or more have trust higher than 80%. Trust in firefighters is slightly higher among those with more than 99.000 rsd of monthly household income and those who choose not to answer or do not know it.

FIGURE 14 TRUST IN FIREFIGHTERS BY THE REGION OF THE RESPONDENTS

SOUTH-EASTERN SERBIA



WESTERN SERBIA AND ŠUMADIJA



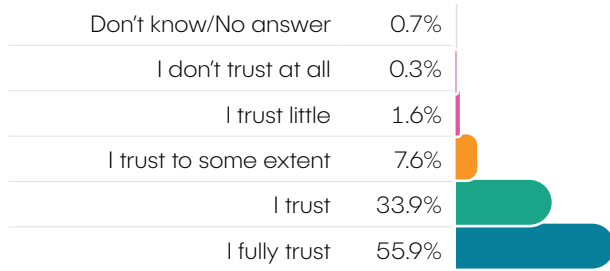
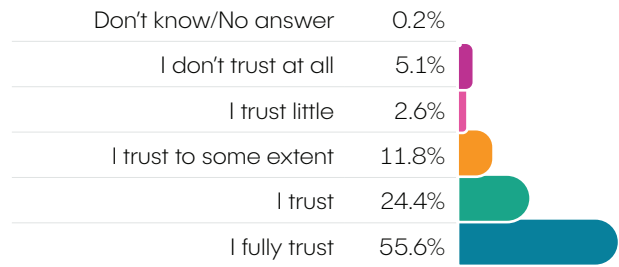
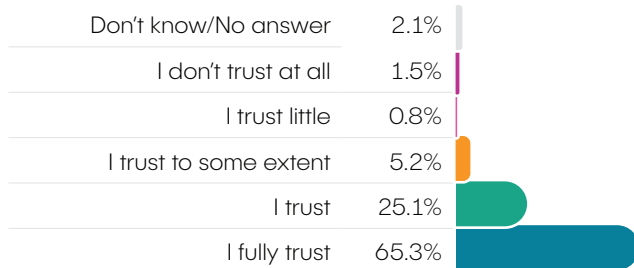
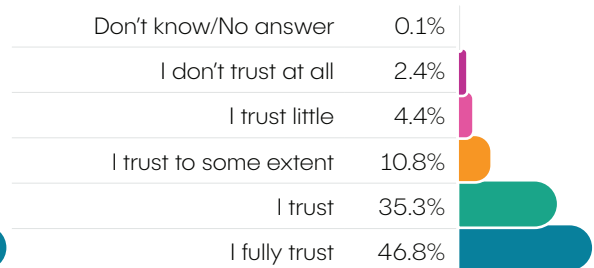
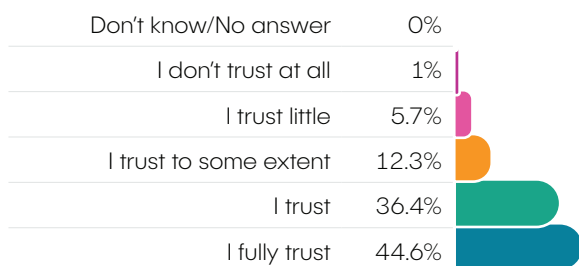
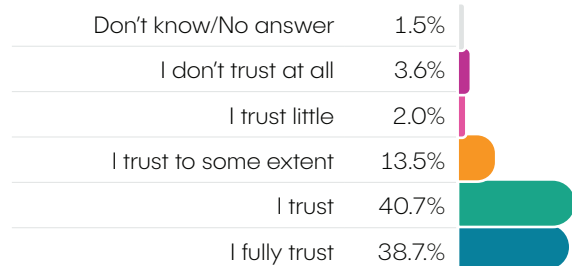
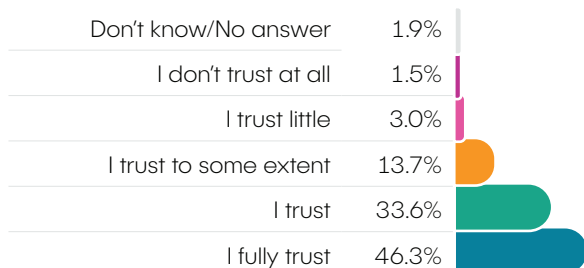
VOJVODINA**BELGRADE****FIGURE 15** TRUST IN THE FIREFIGHTERS BY THE AGE OF THE RESPONDENTS**65+****50-55****40-49****30-39****18-29**

FIGURE 16 TRUST IN THE FIREFIGHTERS BY THE TYPE OF EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF THE RESPONDENTS

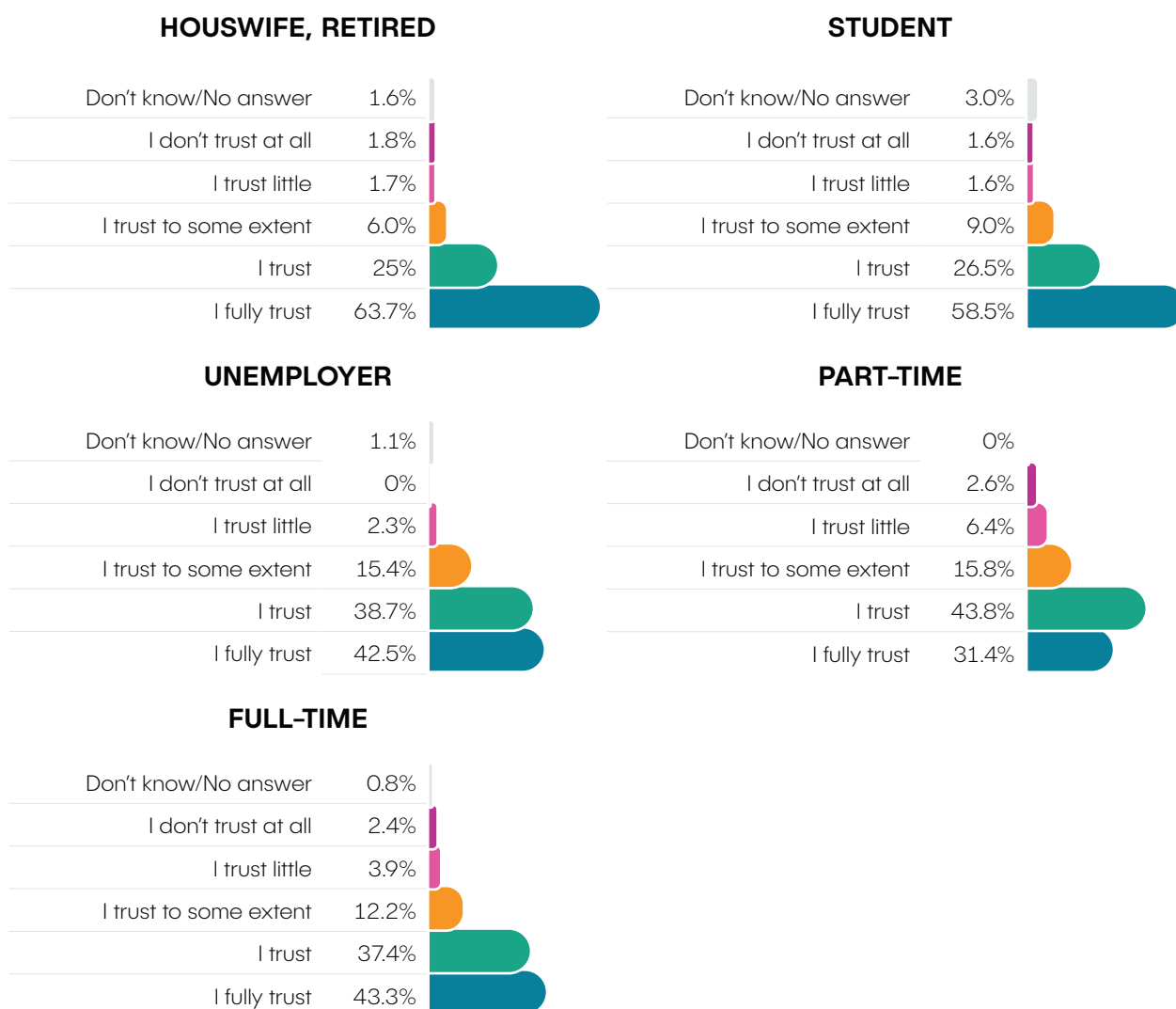
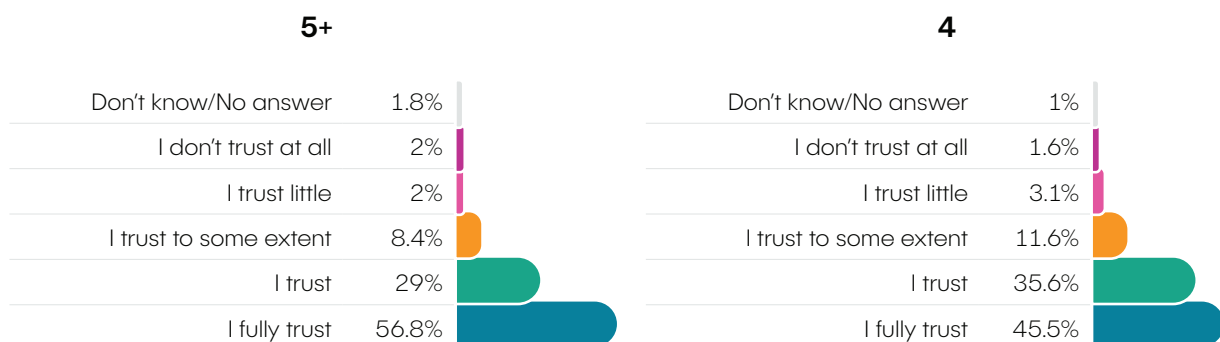


FIGURE 17 TRUST IN FIREFIGHTERS BY THE HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS OF THE RESPONDENTS



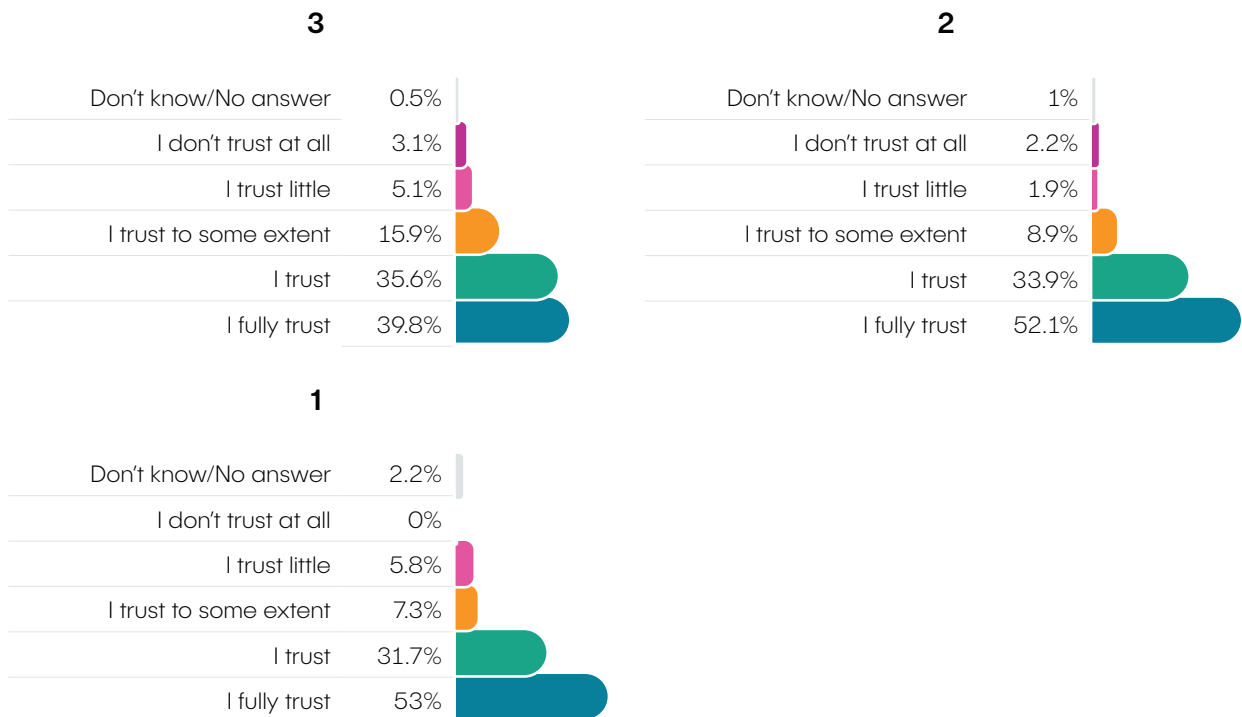
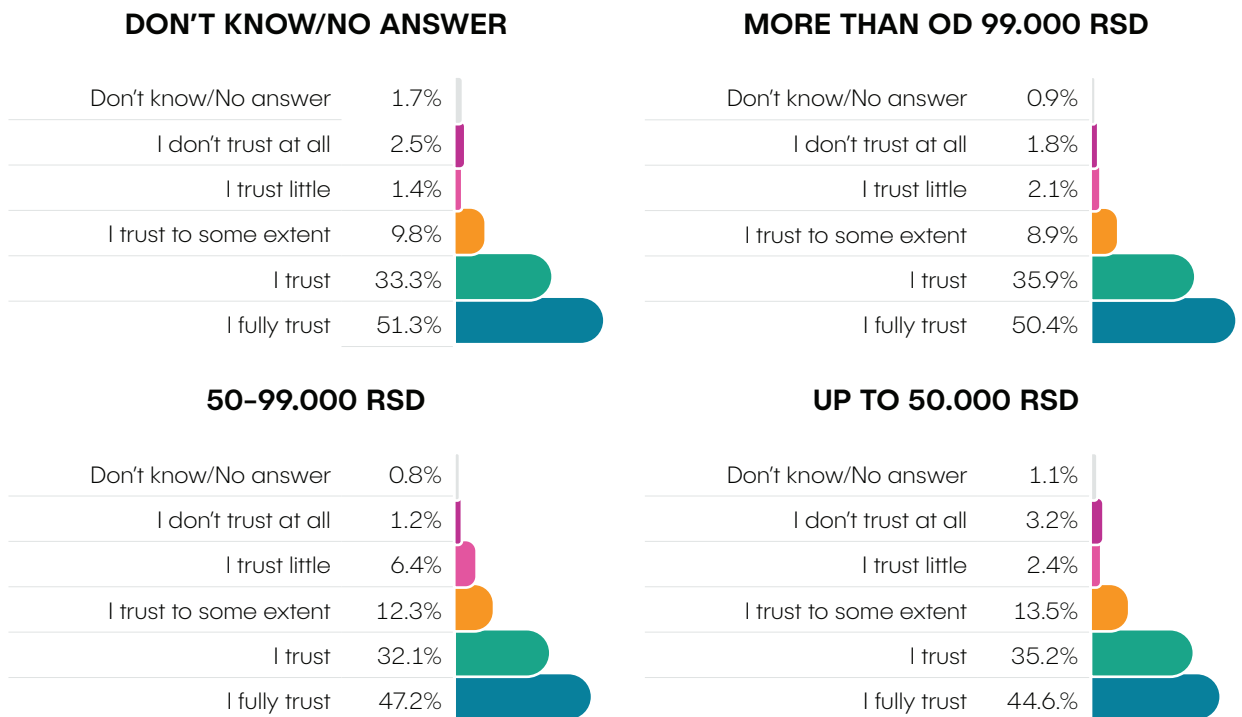


FIGURE 18 TRUST IN FIREFIGHTERS BY THE HOUSEHOLD INCOME OF THE RESPONDENTS.



Trust in courts

Considering trust in **courts**, there is a difference among the respondents from different regions, types of settlement, genders, age categories, education and employment. Trust in courts is the lowest in South-eastern Serbia (26,9%) and Belgrade (28,4%), while it is higher in Western Serbia and Šumadija (46,1%) and Vojvodina (44,1%). This is opposite from the findings in 2020, when Vojvodina had the lowest trust, with only 11.9% of the respondents who trusted the courts. South-eastern Serbia had 15,9%, Belgrade 22,3%, while Western Serbia and Šumadija again had the highest trust – 27,7% of those who trusted the courts. Trust in courts is lowest among those from rural environments (33.1%), while it rises in towns (35.6%) and cities (41.8%). Trust in courts is highest among those respondents aged 65+ years (54.3%), while it is the lowest among those aged 40 to 49 (26.3%). The trust is substantially higher among those who completed elementary school only (57.7%) than those who completed high school (34.2%) or higher education (32.7%). Finally, trust is higher among retired or housewives (51.7%), while the lowest for part-time workers (26.7%).

FIGURE 19 TRUST IN COURTS BY THE REGION OF THE RESPONDENTS

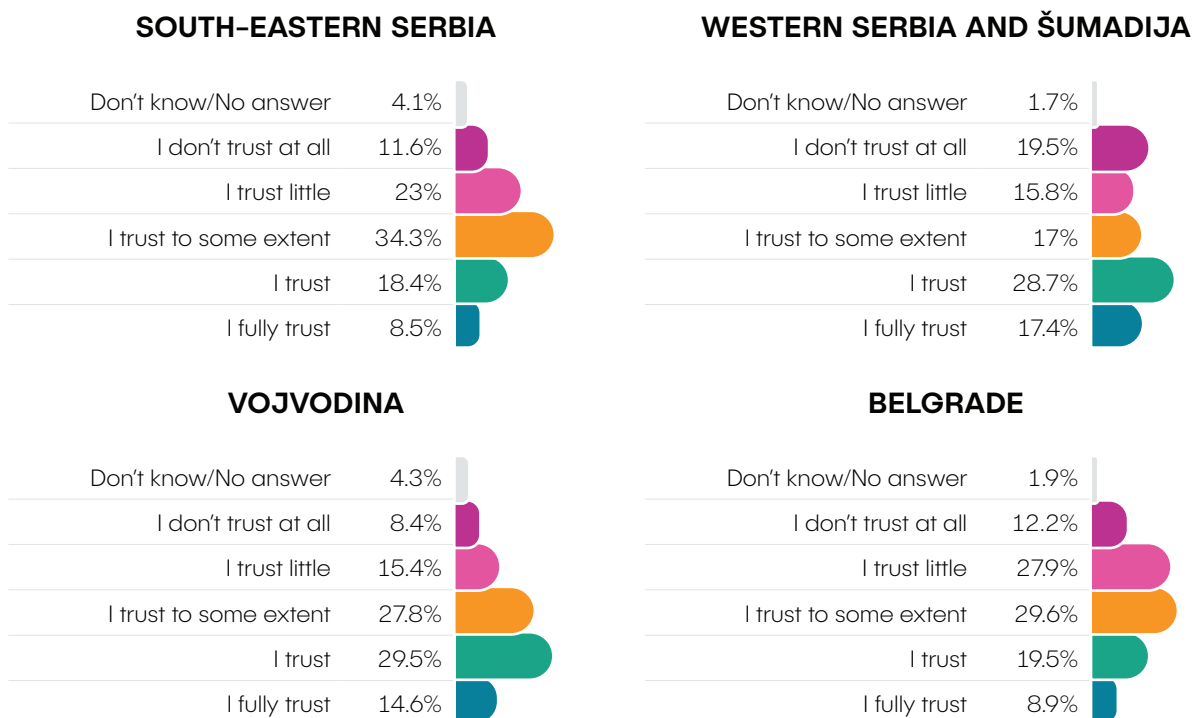
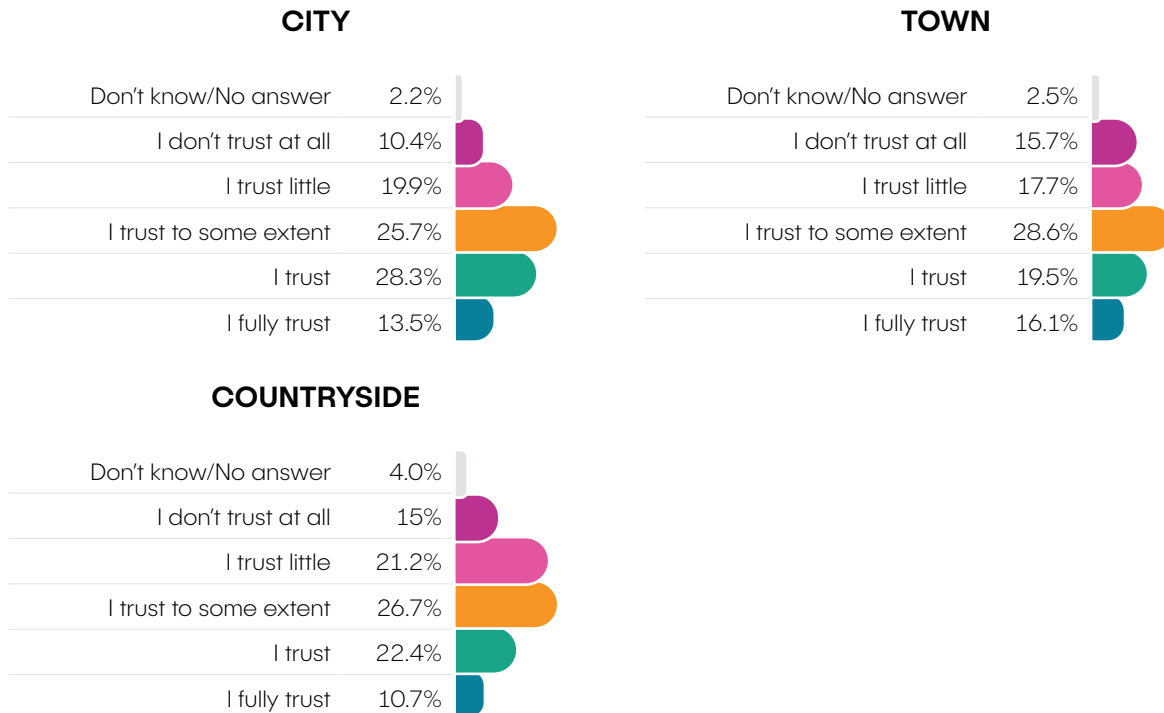
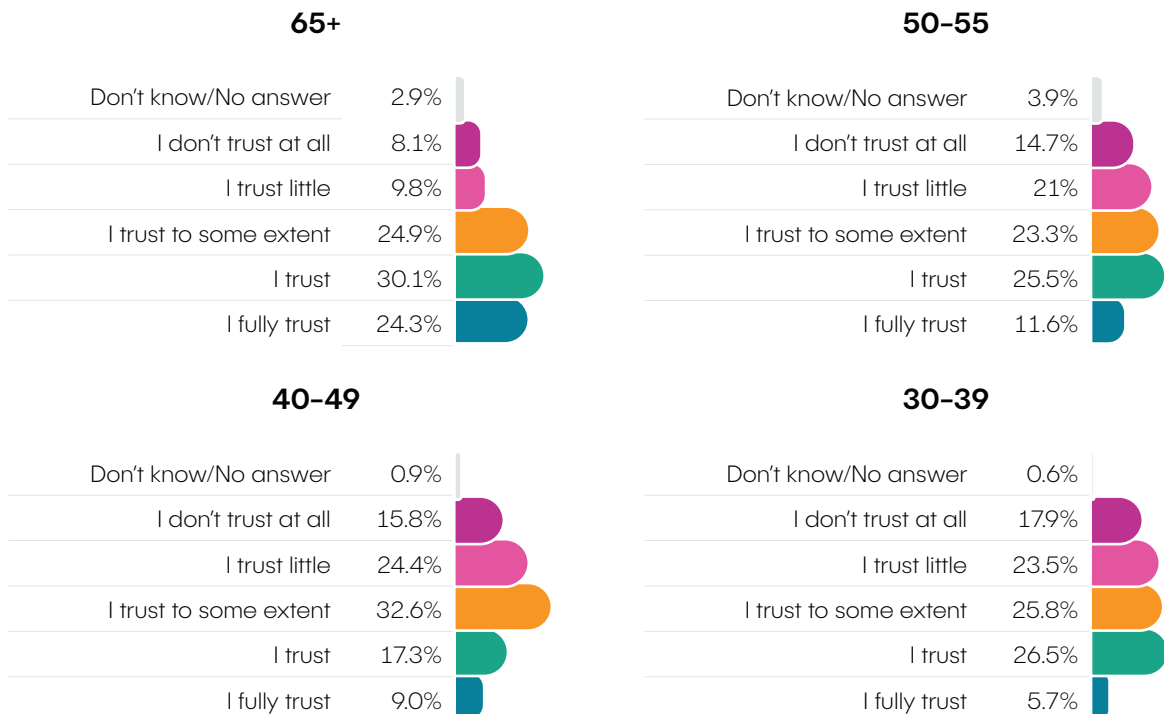


FIGURE 20 TRUST IN COURTS BY THE TYPE OF SETTLEMENTS OF THE RESPONDENTS**FIGURE 21** TRUST IN COURTS BY THE AGE OF THE RESPONDENTS

18-29

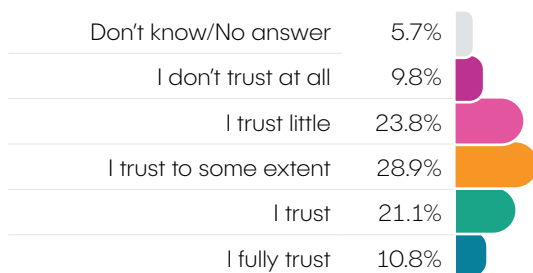
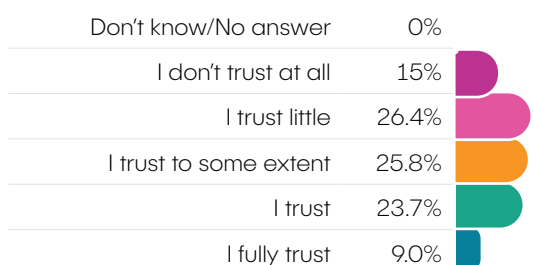
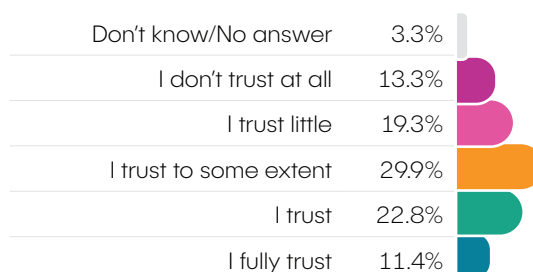


FIGURE 22 TRUST IN COURTS BY THE EDUCATION OF THE RESPONDENTS

HIGHER EDUCATION



HIGH SCHOOL



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

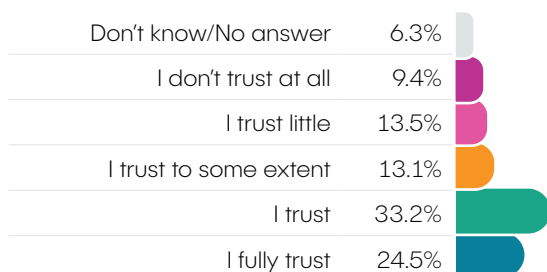
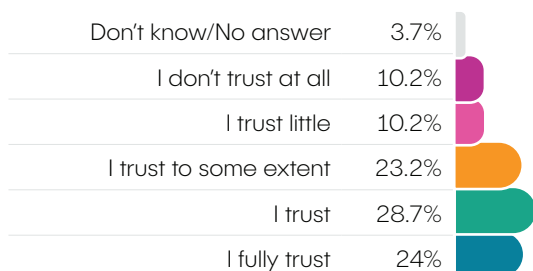
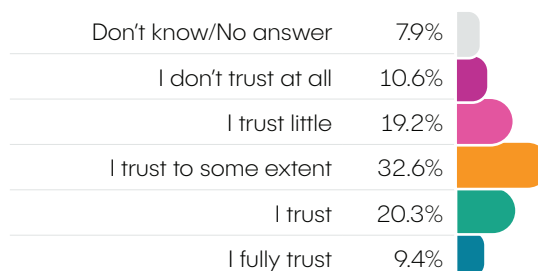


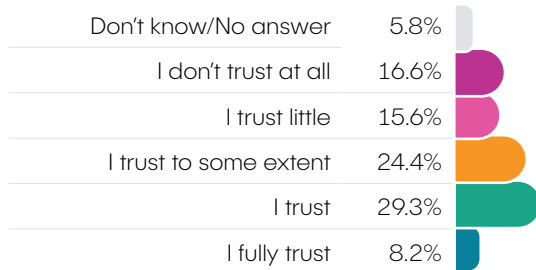
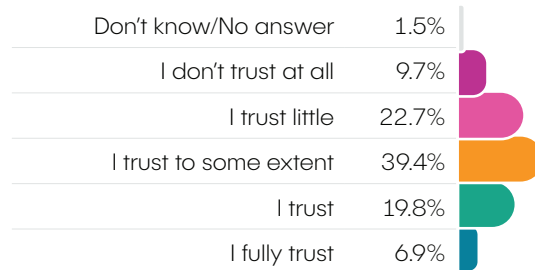
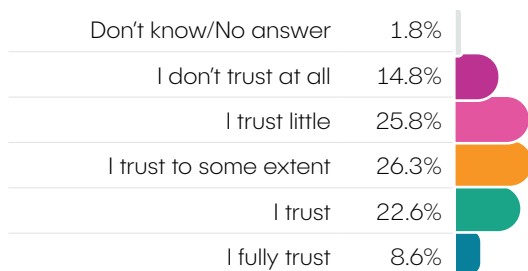
FIGURE 23 TRUST IN COURTS BY THE EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF THE RESPONDENTS

HOUSEWIFE, RETIRED



STUDENT



UNEMPLOYER**PART-TIME****FULL-TIME**

Trust in prosecution

Considering trust in **prosecution**, there is a difference among the respondents from different regions, types of settlement, genders, age categories, education and employment. Trust in prosecution is again higher among women (38,7%) than men (29,5%). In 2020, men trusted in 24,3% of the cases, while women did in 16,6%. Respondents from South-eastern Serbia trust the prosecution the least – 26.9%, while those from Western Serbia and Šumadija trust the most (46.1%), similar to the 2020's pattern. The older categories of respondents trust the prosecution more than the younger ones. Respondents who completed elementary school have higher trust in prosecution (37.7%) than those who completed high school (34.2%) and higher education (32.7%). Those from rural places have the least trust (33.1%), while those from the cities have the highest trust in prosecution (41.8%).

FIGURE 24 TRUST IN PROSECUTION BY GENDERS

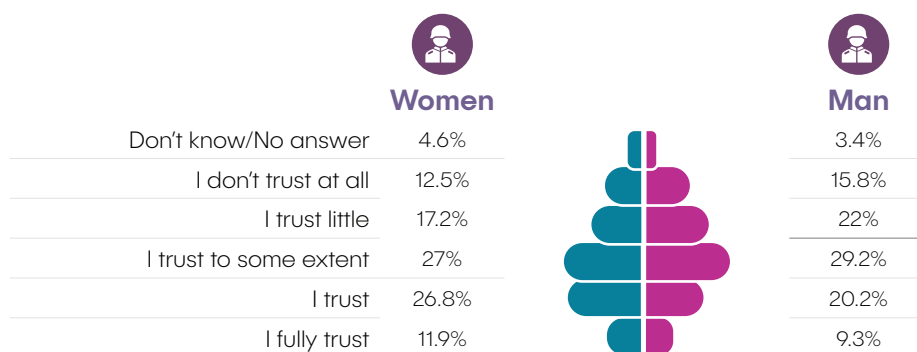
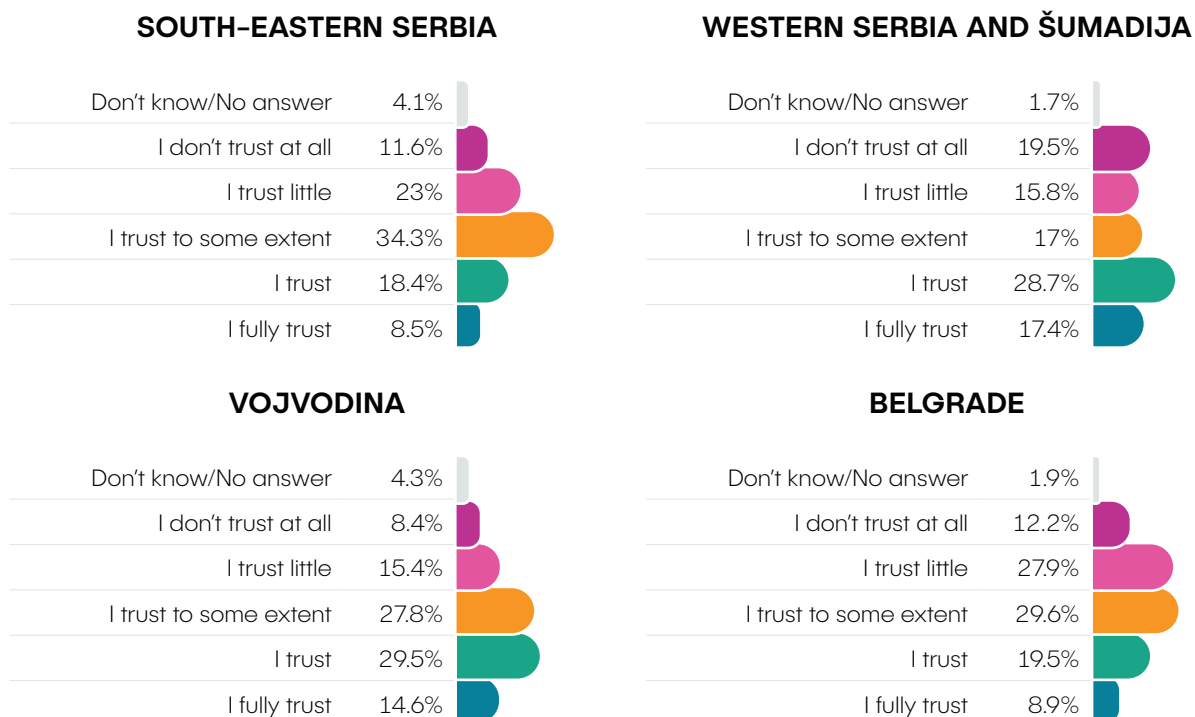
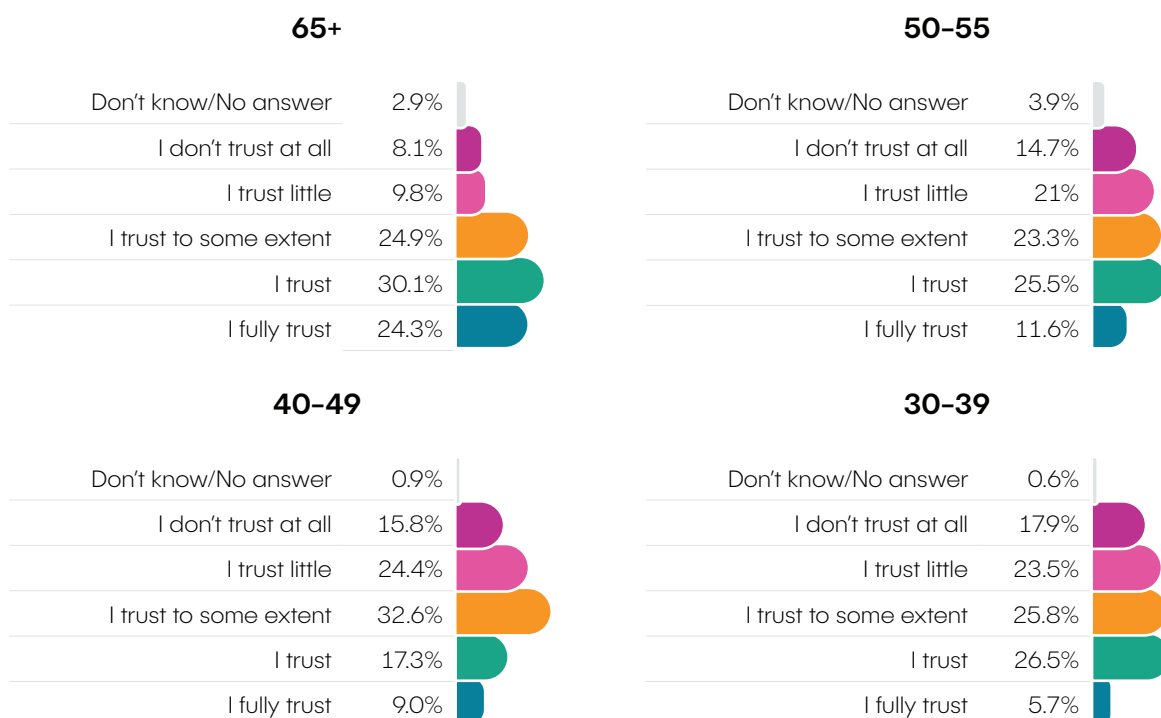


FIGURE 25 TRUST IN PROSECUTION BY THE REGION OF THE RESPONDENTS**FIGURE 26** TRUST IN PROSECUTION BY THE AGE OF THE RESPONDENTS

18-29

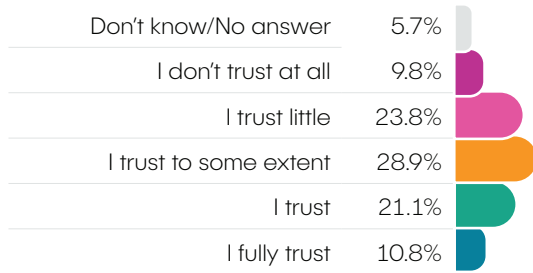
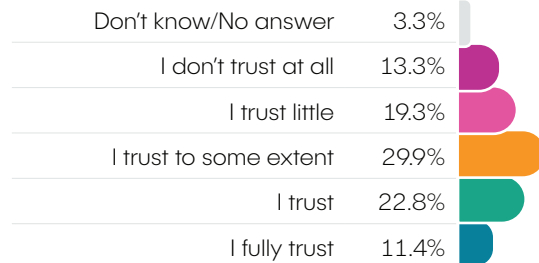


FIGURE 27 TRUST IN PROSECUTION AND EDUCATION OF THE RESPONDENTS

HIGHER EDUCATION



HIGH SCHOOL



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

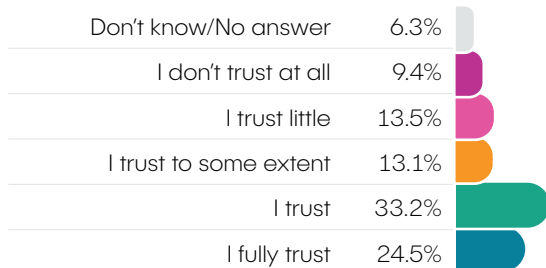
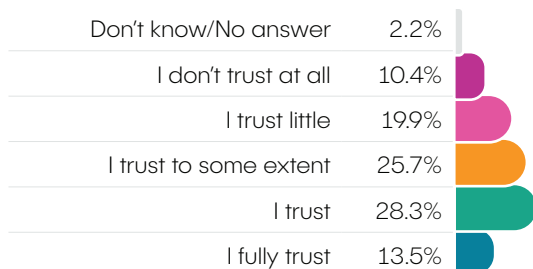
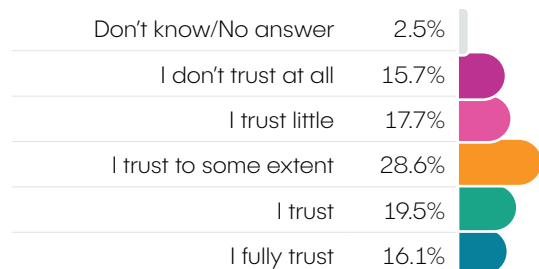


FIGURE 28 TRUST IN PROSECUTION AND TYPE OF SETTLEMENT OF THE RESPONDENTS

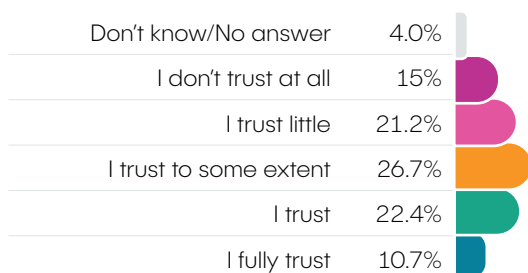
CITY



TOWN



COUNTRYSIDE

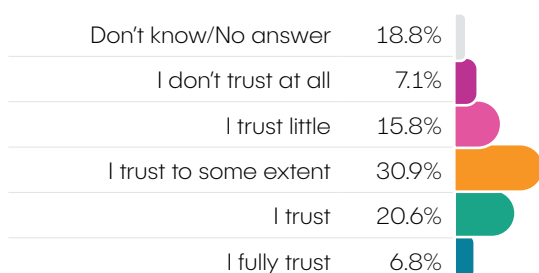


Trust in the Security-Intelligence agency

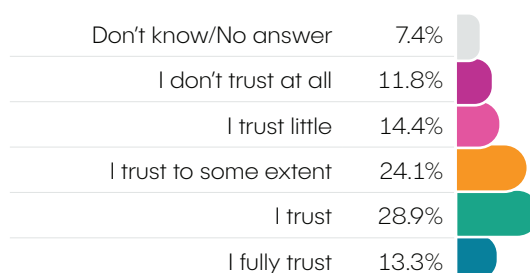
Trust in the **Security-Intelligence agency** is significantly different between regions, age categories, education, employment status and household income. Respondents from South-eastern Serbia have the least trust (26.4%), while those from Vojvodina have the highest trust (34.5%), contrary to 2020, when they had the least. Again, the oldest category of the respondents (65+ years old) have the highest trust in the Security-Intelligence agency (34.8%), while those 40 to 49 years old have the least (27.6%). Those who completed elementary school only have the highest trust (54.4%), while highly educated have the least (31.8%). Same as in other institutions, housewives and retired have the highest trust, while students and part-time have the least.

FIGURE 29 TRUST IN SECURITY-INTELLIGENCE AGENCY BY THE REGION OF THE RESPONDENTS

SOUTH-EASTERN SERBIA



WESTERN SERBIA AND ŠUMADIJA



VOJVODINA



BELGRADE

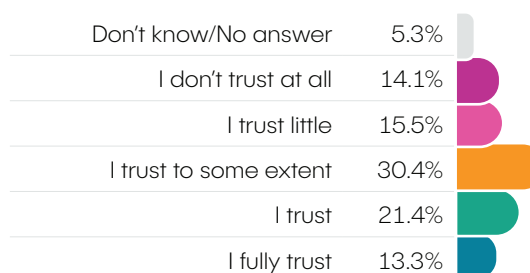
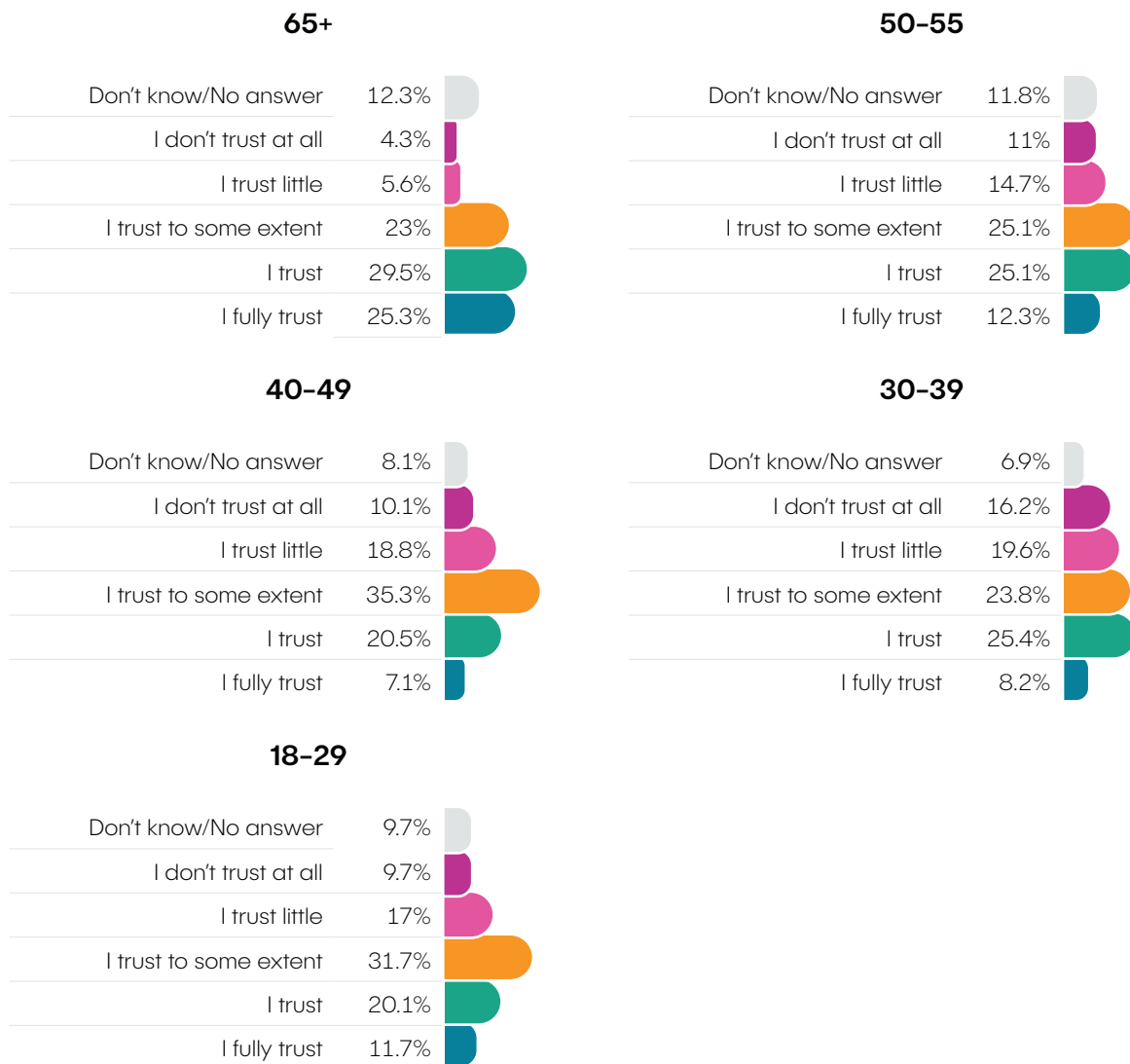
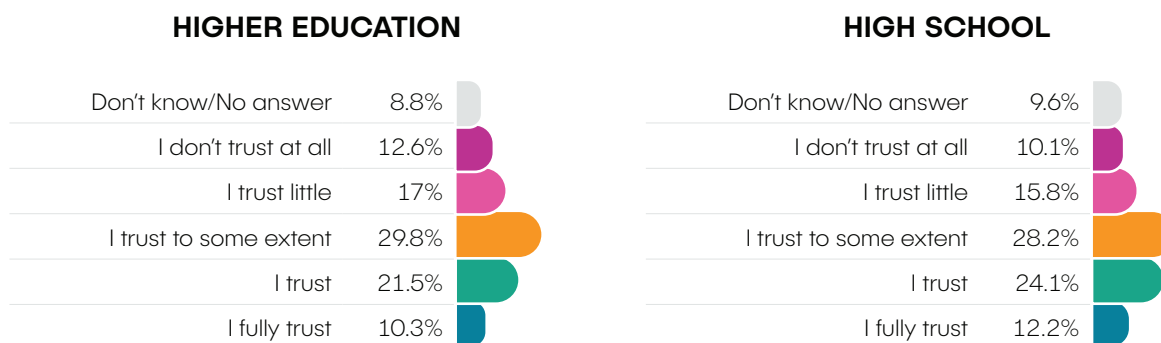


FIGURE 30 TRUST IN SECURITY-INTELLIGENCE AGENCY BY THE AGE OF THE RESPONDENTS**FIGURE 31** TRUST IN SECURITY-INTELLIGENCE AGENCY BY THE EDUCATION OF THE RESPONDENTS

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

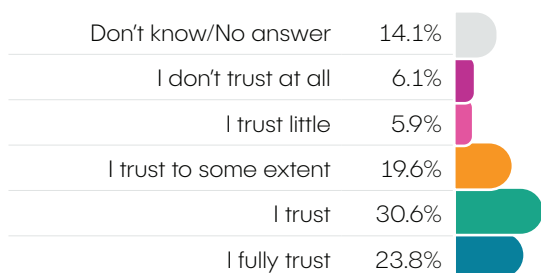
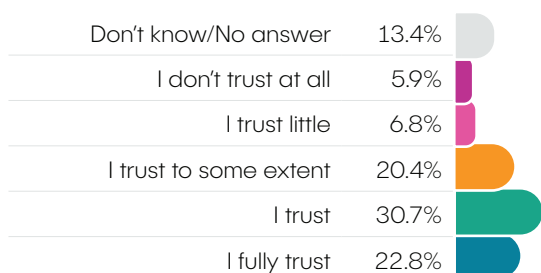
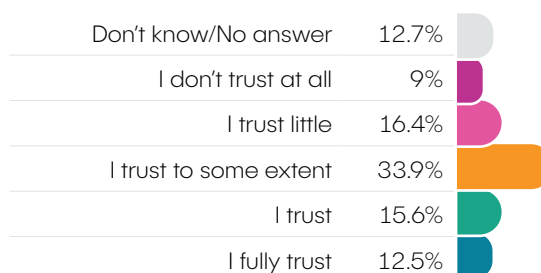


FIGURE 32 TRUST IN SECURITY-INTELLIGENCE AGENCY BY THE EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF THE RESPONDENTS

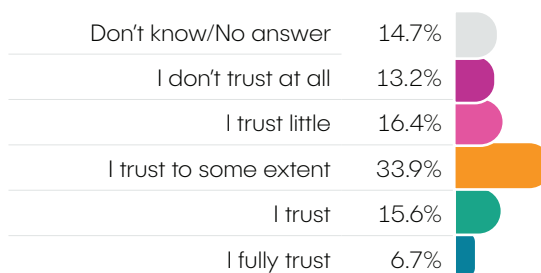
HOUSEWIFE, RETIRED



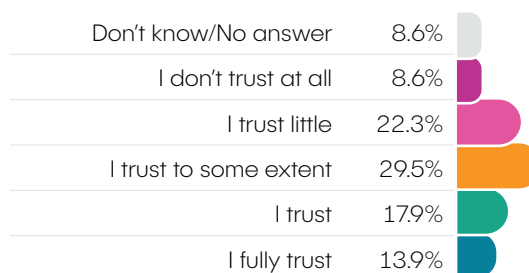
STUDENT



UNEMPLOYER



PART-TIME



FULL-TIME

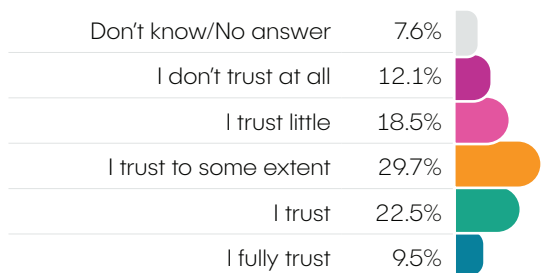
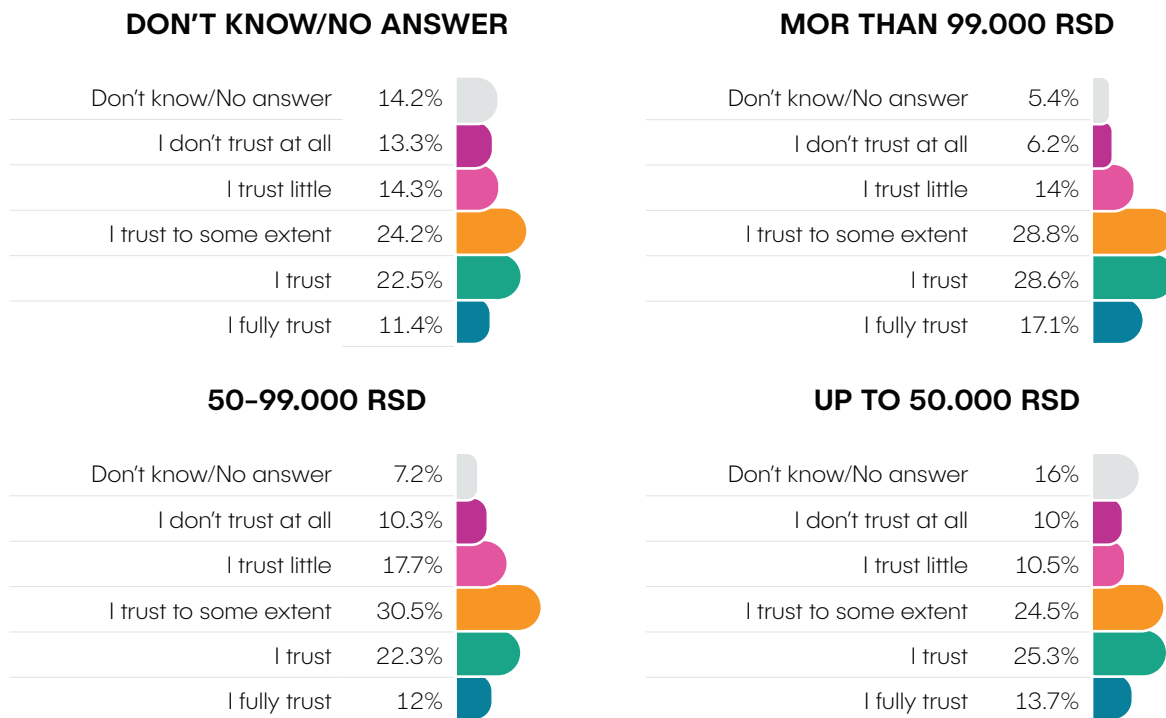


FIGURE 33 TRUST IN SECURITY-INTELLIGENCE AGENCY BY THE HOUSEHOLD INCOME OF THE RESPONDENTS.

Trust in the customs

Trust in **customs significantly differs** between genders, regions, types of settlement, age categories, education levels and employment status. Slightly more women have trust in customs – 42.4%, while 35.3% of men, contrary to 2020, when more men had trust. More than half of the oldest respondents have trust in customs (54.3%), while less than 40% from other categories trust them. Only 23.8% of respondents from South-eastern Serbia trusts the customs (lowest also in 2020), while 48% of respondents from Vojvodina trust. 33.8% of rural respondents trust the customs, while around 40% from towns and cities do it. This is more equal than found in 2020, when a proportion of respondents who trusted from suburban areas (34.3%) was higher than rural (23.6%) and urban (21%).

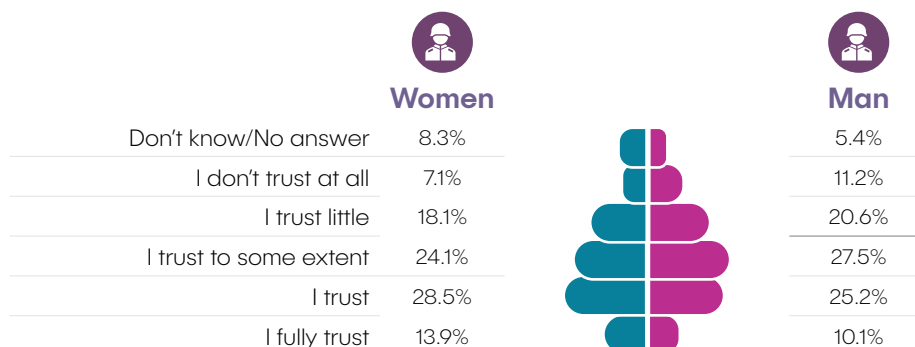
FIGURE 34 TRUST IN CUSTOMS BY GENDERS OF THE RESPONDENTS

FIGURE 35 TRUST IN CUSTOMS BY AGE OF THE RESPONDENTS

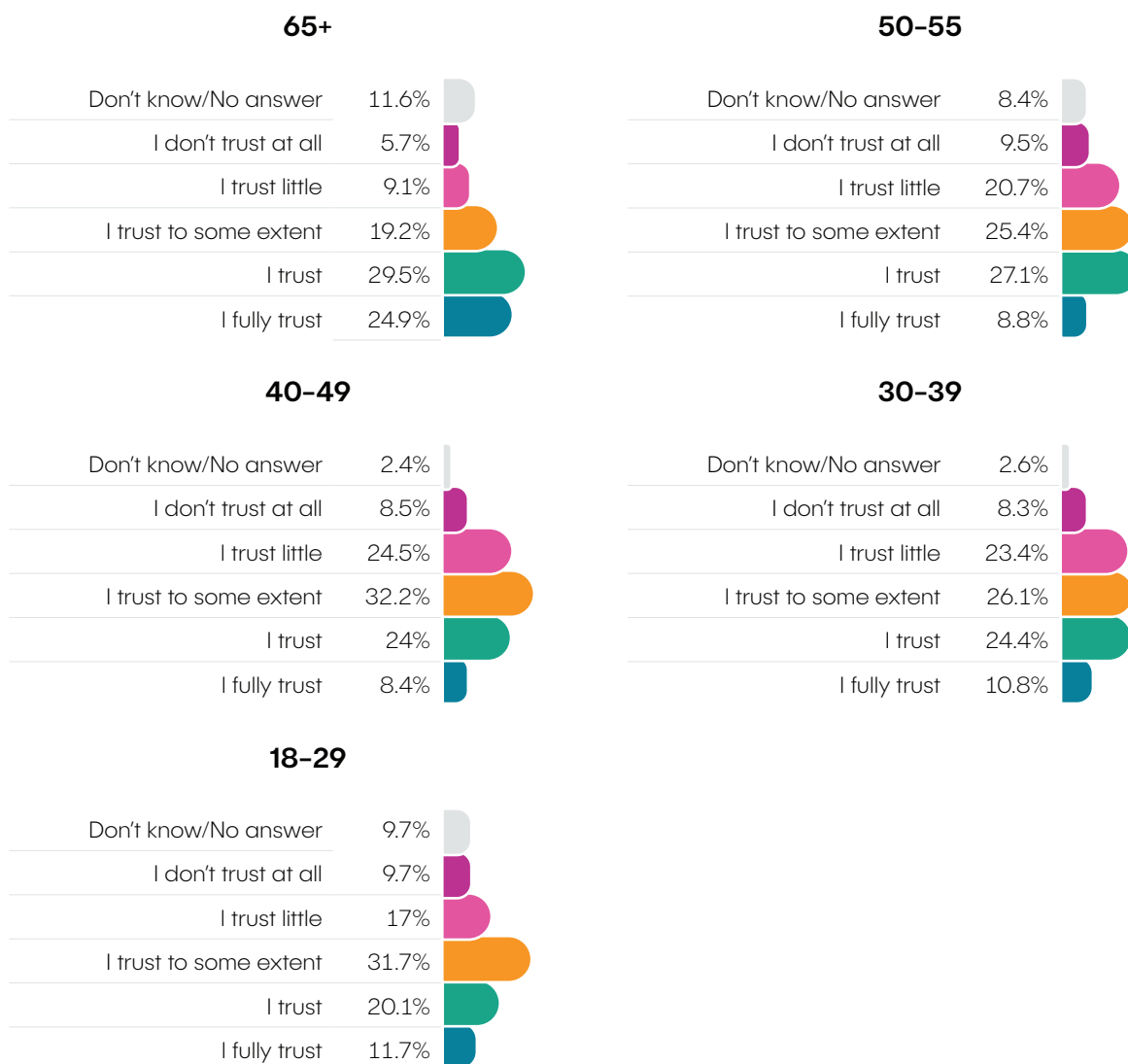
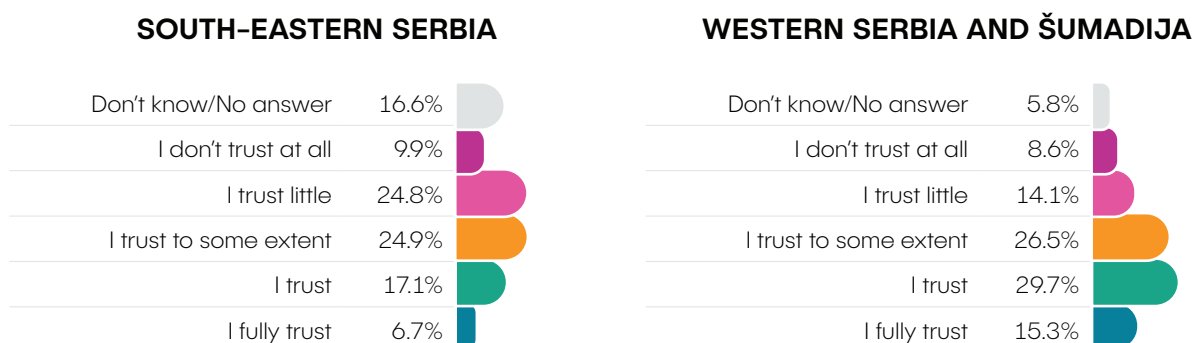


FIGURE 36 TRUST IN CUSTOMS BY REGION OF THE RESPONDENTS



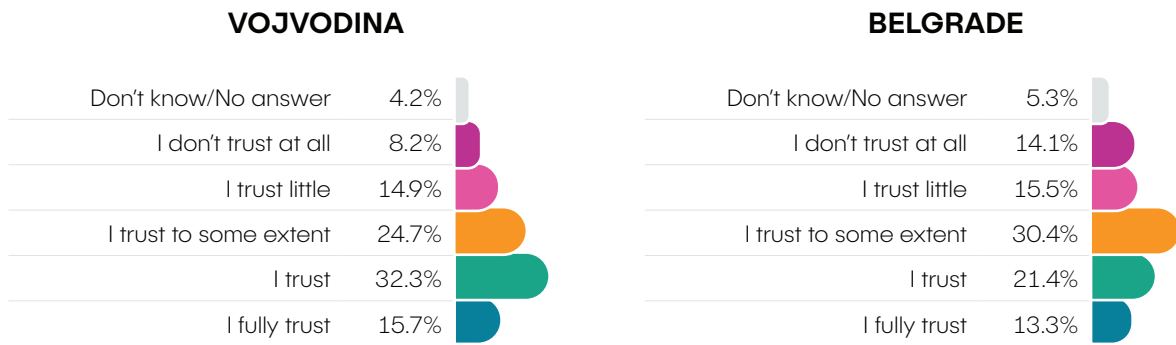


FIGURE 37 TRUST IN CUSTOMS BY REGION OF THE RESPONDENTS

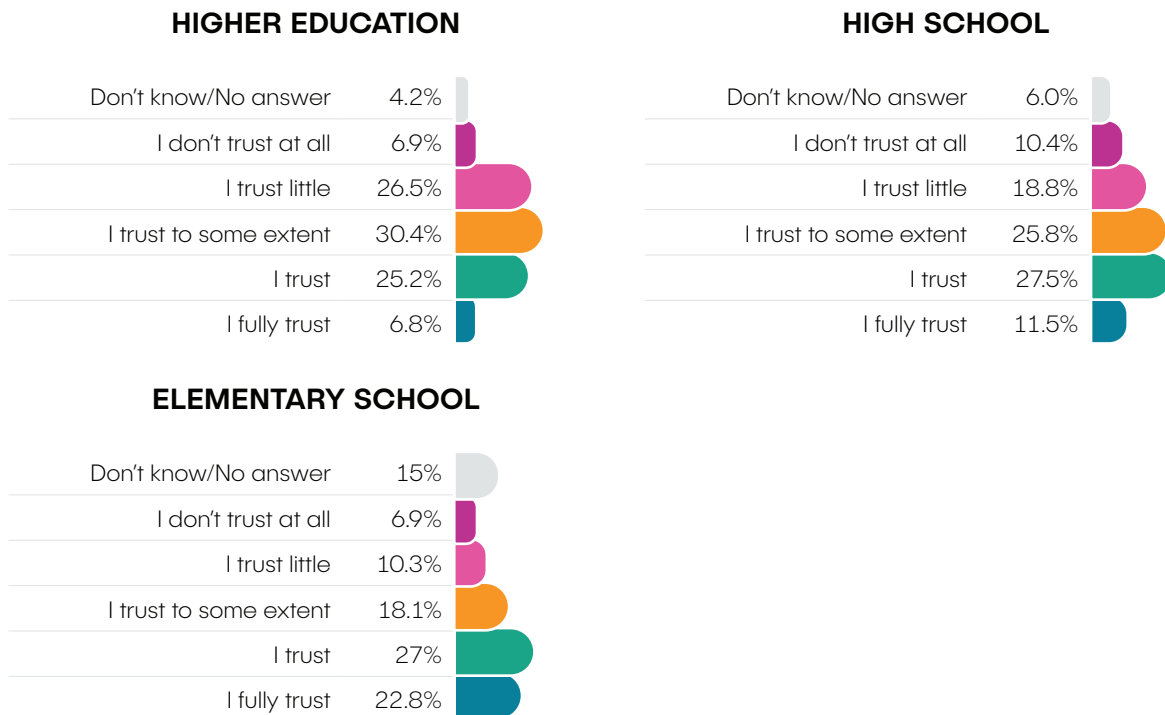
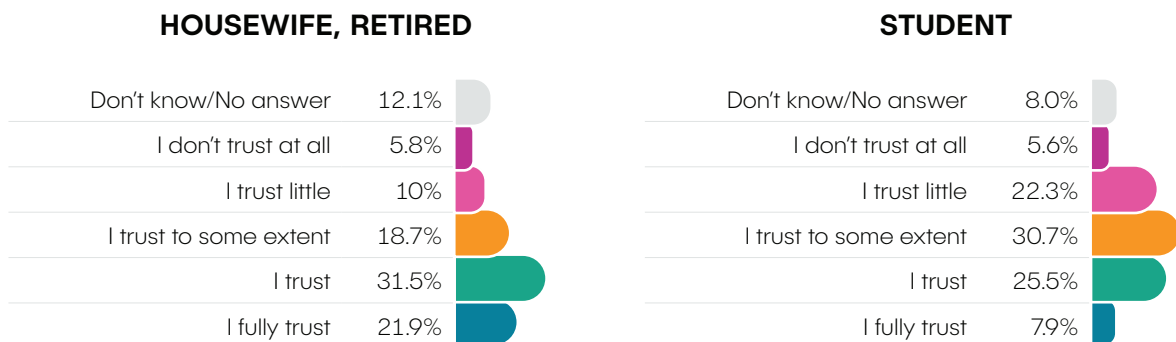


FIGURE 38 TRUST IN CUSTOMS BY EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF THE RESPONDENTS



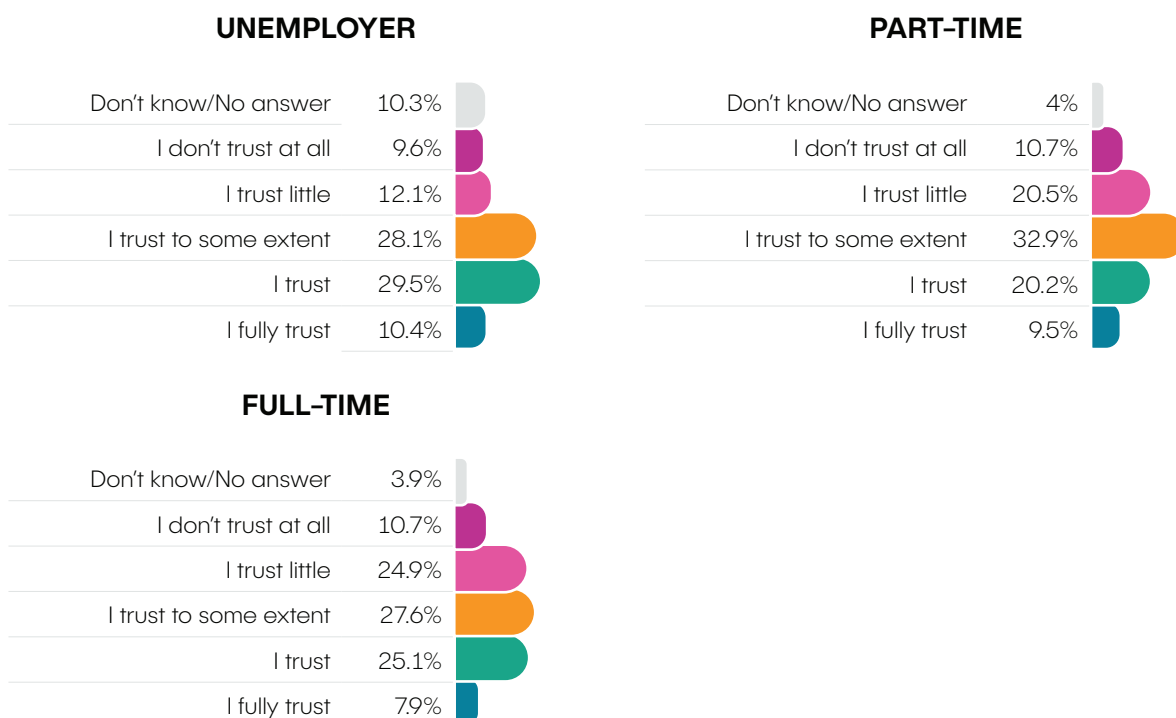
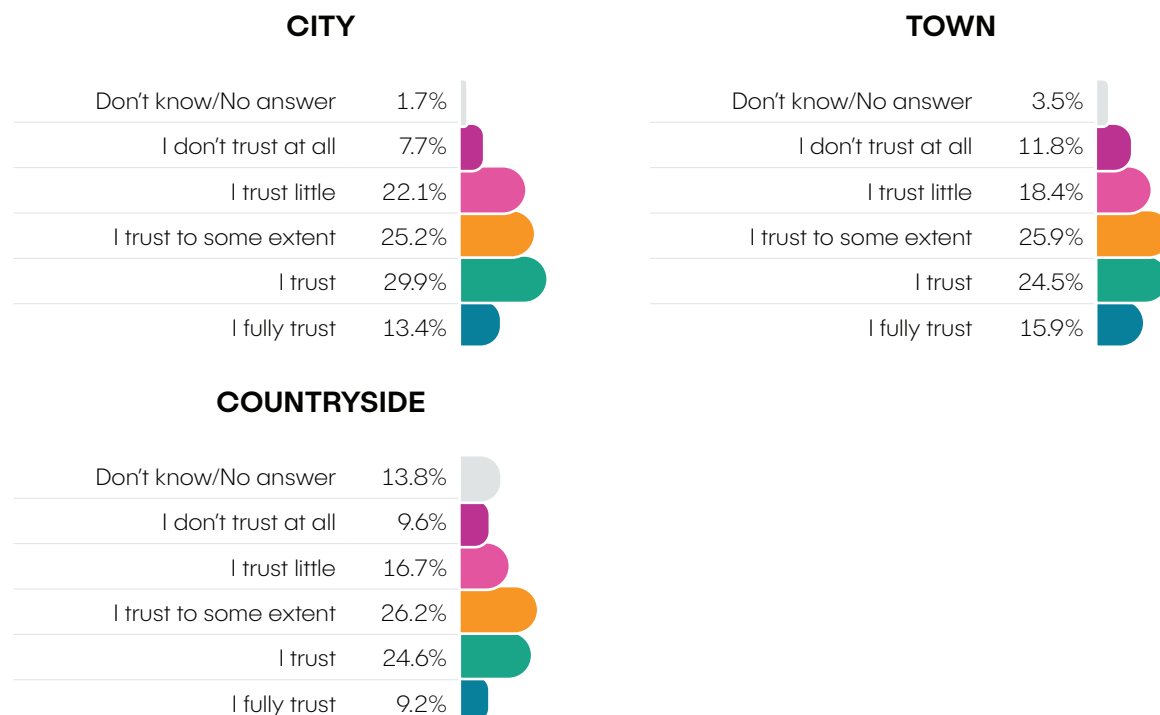


FIGURE 39 TRUST IN CUSTOMS BY THE TYPE OF SETTLEMENTS OF THE RESPONDENTS



PUBLIC SAFETY PERCEPTIONS

Citizens' perceptions of public safety are studied through perceptions of national safety and perceptions of personal safety. These perceptions can be vastly different from actual crime figures. Therefore, it may be valuable to collect information regarding public perception of criminal risks and threats, besides crime statistics, when answering crime and safety issues within communities.⁶ It has also been noted that citizen perception of the work and effectiveness of institutions and public safety agencies can help policymakers to redistribute their resources, as these may often be limited.⁷

National safety perceptions

Respondents generally perceived the high risk from economy-related issues and criminal activities. They perceived most increased economic threats from inflation (83%), economic crisis (82.8%), and energetic crisis (82.1%). These are expected to be highly ranked due to the ongoing energy crisis and inflation in Europe. Starting with the pandemic of COVID-19, these have been amplified by the war in Ukraine. However, respondents do not perceive war in Ukraine as a high risk to national safety (63.3%). The most increased criminal risks were perceived from organized crime (82.2%) and illicit drug trafficking (80.5%). The significant threats are perceived from the pollution of air, water and soil (ecological safety) - 73.8%, while 72.2% of the respondents perceive the risk from illicit arms trafficking and 67.5% from corruption.

These are also expected to be ranked among the higher risks as organized criminal activities and endemic corruption have been major issues and threats in Western Balkans societies since the end of the conflicts in the 1990s and political changes.⁸ The lowest risks are perceived from COVID-19 pandemics (42.7%) and cyber attacks⁴ (45.9%). The results are more or less similar to the ones found in 2020, when citizens perceived risk from organized crime as the highest, followed by emigration, unemployment and corruption.

4 Attacks on the Internet by the individuals, organizations or states for gaining profit, power or influence.

FIGURE 40 PERCEIVED NATIONAL SAFETY RISKS**POLLUTION**

Don't know/No answer 1%

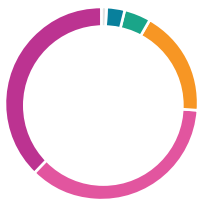
Not a threat at all 3.1%

Small threat 4.3%

Somehow threat 17.8%

Serious threat 36.1%

Very serious threat 37.7%

**ENERGETIC CRISIS**

Don't know/No answer 0.5%

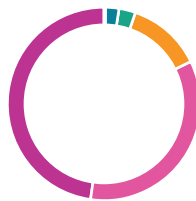
Not a threat at all 2.1%

Small threat 2.9%

Somehow threat 12.3%

Serious threat 34.5%

Very serious threat 47.6%

**INFLATION**

Don't know/No answer 0.7%

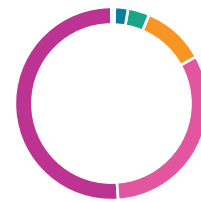
Not a threat at all 2.3%

Small threat 3.5%

Somehow threat 10.5%

Serious threat 32%

Very serious threat 51%

**ARMED CONFLICT IN REGION**

Don't know/No answer 1.4%

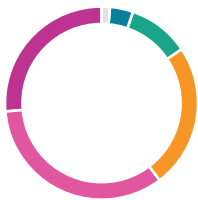
Not a threat at all 4.1%

Small threat 10.3%

Somehow threat 24%

Serious threat 34%

Very serious threat 26.3%

**WAR IN UKRAINE**

Don't know/No answer 2.3%

Not a threat at all 4.4%

Small threat 8.2%

Somehow threat 21.8%

Serious threat 34.4%

Very serious threat 28.9%

**CYBER ATTACKS**

Don't know/No answer 6.7%

Not a threat at all 5.2%

Small threat 15.8%

Somehow threat 26.4%

Serious threat 29%

Very serious threat 16.9%

**FAKE NEWS**

Don't know/No answer 2.7%

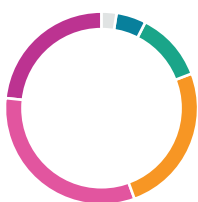
Not a threat at all 5%

Small threat 11.5%

Somehow threat 25.5%

Serious threat 32.1%

Very serious threat 23.2%

**CLIMATE CHANGE AND
NATURAL DISASTERS**

Don't know/No answer 2.3%

Not a threat at all 4.1%

Small threat 8.7%

Somehow threat 24.9%

Serious threat 33.9%

Very serious threat 26.1%

**EKONOMIC CRISIS**

Don't know/No answer 0.5%

Not a threat at all 1.7%

Small threat 3.5%

Somehow threat 11.4%

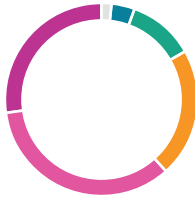
Serious threat 34.1%

Very serious threat 48.7%



EMIGRATION FROM SERBIA

Don't know/No answer 1.8%
 Not a threat at all 3.8%
 Small threat 11.2%
 Somehow threat 21.5%
 Serious threat 34.6%
 Very serious threat 27%

**VIOLENT EXTERMINISM AND TERRORISM**

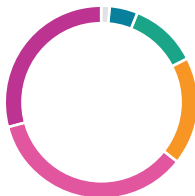
Don't know/No answer 4.4%
 Not a threat at all 6.6%
 Small threat 41%
 Somehow threat 11.7%
 Serious threat 18.3%
 Very serious threat 28.8%

**COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

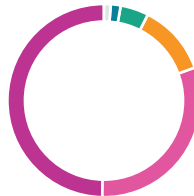
Don't know/No answer 2.5%
 Not a threat at all 11.4%
 Small threat 18%
 Somehow threat 25.2%
 Serious threat 26.8%
 Very serious threat 15.9%

**UNEMPLOYMENT**

Don't know/No answer 1.5%
 Not a threat at all 4.7%
 Small threat 11.3%
 Somehow threat 18.3%
 Serious threat 35.3%
 Very serious threat 28.9%

**ILLCIT DRUGS TAFFICKING**

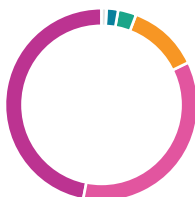
Don't know/No answer 1.2%
 Not a threat at all 1.8%
 Small threat 4.6%
 Somehow threat 11.9%
 Serious threat 30.8%
 Very serious threat 49.7%

**ILLCIT ARMS TAFFICKING**

Don't know/No answer 3.3%
 Not a threat at all 3.6%
 Small threat 6%
 Somehow threat 14.9%
 Serious threat 30.5%
 Very serious threat 41.7%

**ORGANIZED CRIME**

Don't know/No answer 1.1%
 Not a threat at all 1.8%
 Small threat 3%
 Somehow threat 12%
 Serious threat 35.4%
 Very serious threat 46.7%

**CORRUPTION**

Don't know/No answer 1.8%
 Not a threat at all 5%
 Small threat 7.4%
 Somehow threat 18.3%
 Serious threat 39%
 Very serious threat 28.5%



Table 2 shows no statistically significant differences among national risk perceptions considering the gender of the respondents. Those from South-Eastern Serbia perceive the highest risks from organized crime, corruption, COVID-19, extremism and terrorism, inflation and emigration (figures below). In contrast, those from Western Serbia and Šumadija perceive threats from climate change and natural disasters, fake news, cyber attacks, armed conflicts in the region and air, soil and water pollution. Belgrade region perceives the highest threats from inflation and unemployment (Figure 46). Those aged 30-39 perceive threats from cyber attacks higher than other age categories. 40-49 perceive more risk from unemployment, while those aged 65+ perceive COVID-19 threat as higher than younger categories. The respondents from the countryside perceive war in Ukraine, armed conflict in the region and fake news as higher threats than the rest, while cities perceive risks for ecological safety and fake news.

Respondents living alone perceive higher risks from COVID-19, cyber-attacks and armed conflict in the region than those living with household members. Highly educated people perceive risks (corruption, organized crime, unemployment, emigration, fake news, cyber-attacks, pollution) more than those who completed only elementary school (COVID-19 and organized crime) or high school (see figures 43, 45, 47, 49, 52). Part-time employees perceived a higher risk of unemployment. Those with the lowest income per household perceived higher threats significantly more than the others (unemployment, COVID-19, climate change and natural disaster, fake news, cyber-attacks, the war in Ukraine, armed conflict in the region, inflation and pollution).

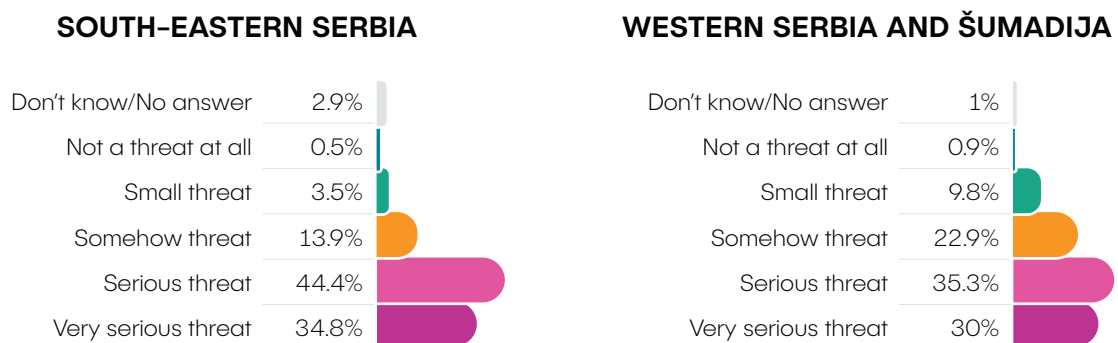
TABLE 2 NATIONAL RISK PERCEPTIONS BY DEMOGRAPHICAL CHARACTERISTICS

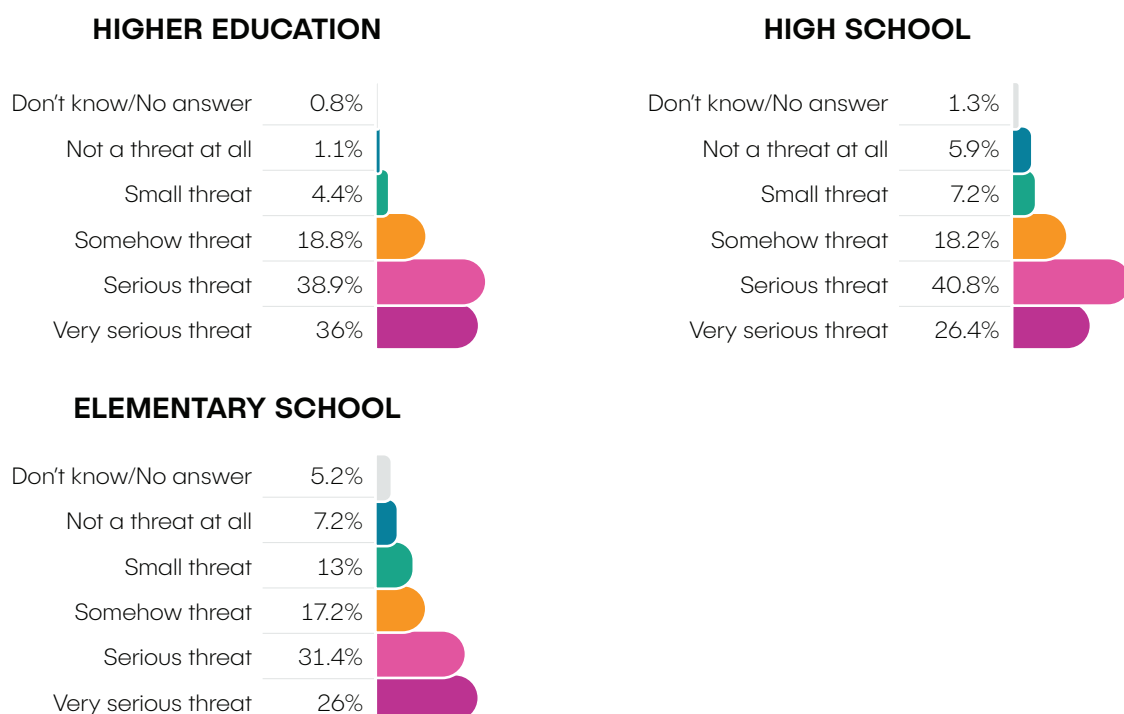
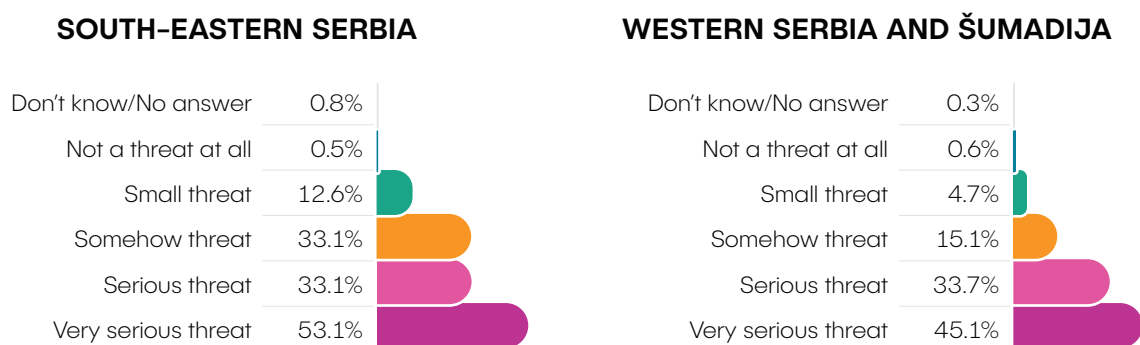
Perceived risk from:	Gender	Regions	Type of settlement	Age	Household members	Education	Employment	Household income
Corruption		South-eastern Serbia				Higher education		
Organized crime		South-eastern Serbia				Elementary school and Higher education		
Illicit arms trafficking								
Illicit drugs trafficking								Up to 50.000 rsd
Unemployment		Belgrade		40-49		Higher education	Part-time and honorary	Up to 50.000 rsd
COVID-19 pandemic		South-eastern Serbia		65+	1	Elementary school	Unemployed - retired, housewives	
Violent extremism and terrorism		South-eastern Serbia						
Emigration from Serbia		South-eastern Serbia				Higher education		

Economic crisis							Up to 50.000 rsd
Climate change and natural disasters	Western Serbia and Šumadija					Students	Up to 50.000 rsd
Fake news	Western Serbia and Šumadija	City and countryside				Higher education	Up to 50.000 rsd
Cyber attacks	Western Serbia and Šumadija		30-39	1		Higher education	Up to 50.000 rsd
War in Ukraine		Countryside					Up to 50.000 rsd
Armed conflict in region	Western Serbia and Šumadija	Countryside		1			Up to 50.000 rsd
Inflation	Belgrade and South-eastern Serbia						Up to 50.000 rsd
Energetic crisis							
Ecological safety (air, soil, water pollution)	Western Serbia and Šumadija	City				Higher education	Up to 50.000 rsd

Note 2. Shows groups of the respondents who perceive the highest risks within demographical variables with significant differences.

FIGURE 41 PERCEIVED CORRUPTION RISK BY THE REGION OF THE RESPONDENTS



**FIGURE 42** PERCEIVED CORRUPTION RISK BY THE EDUCATION OF THE RESPONDENTS**FIGURE 43** PERCEIVED ORGANIZED CRIME RISKS BY REGION OF THE RESPONDENTS

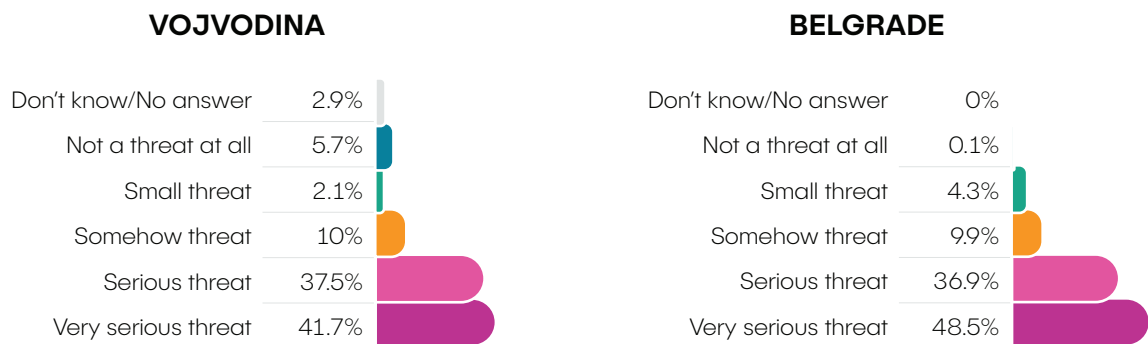


FIGURE 44 PERCEIVED ORGANIZED CRIME RISKS BY EDUCATION OF THE RESPONDENTS

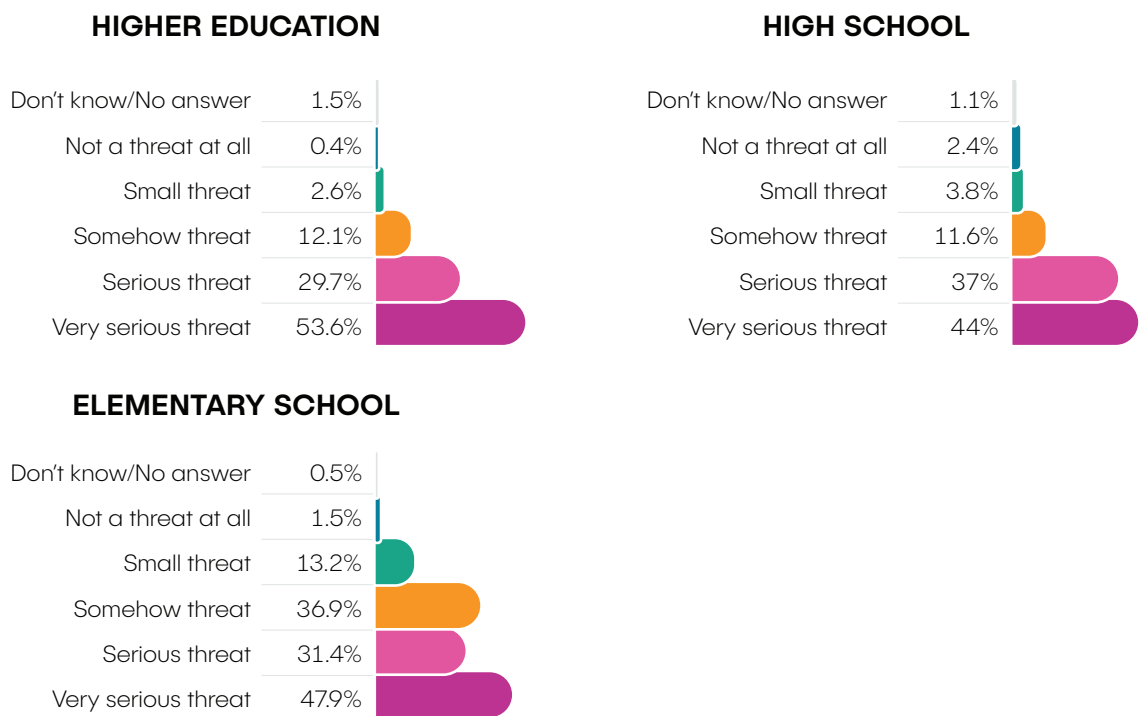
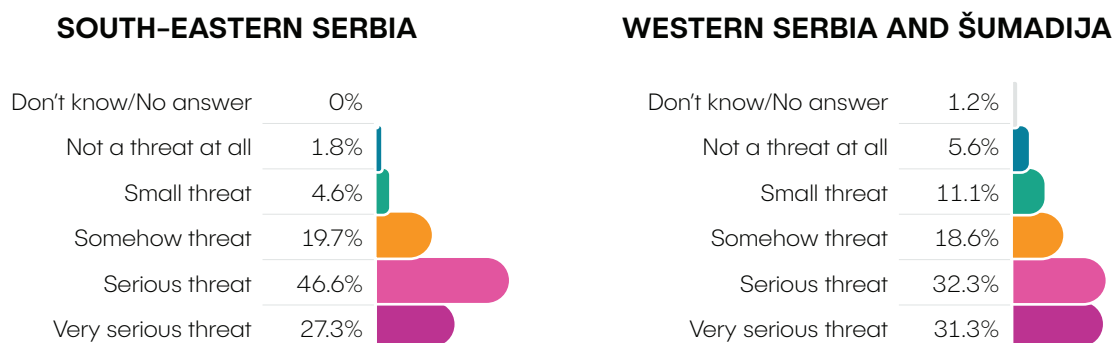
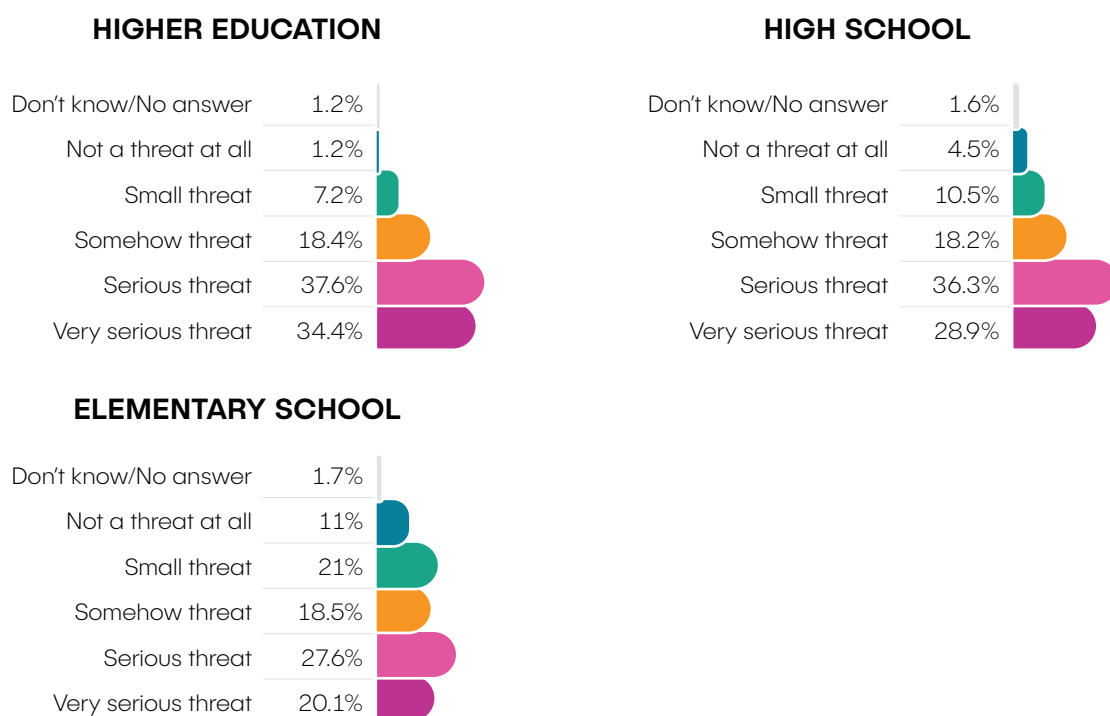
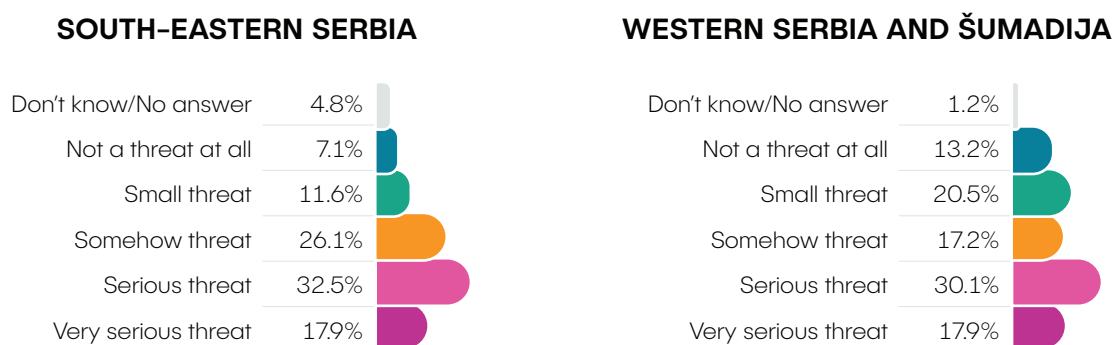
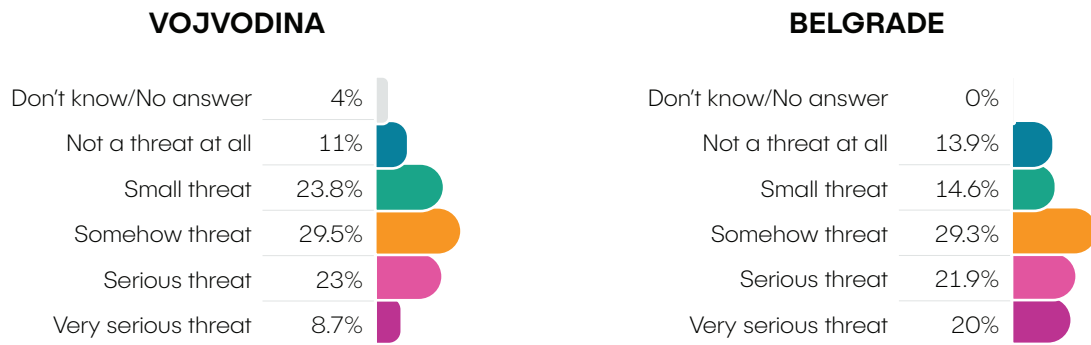
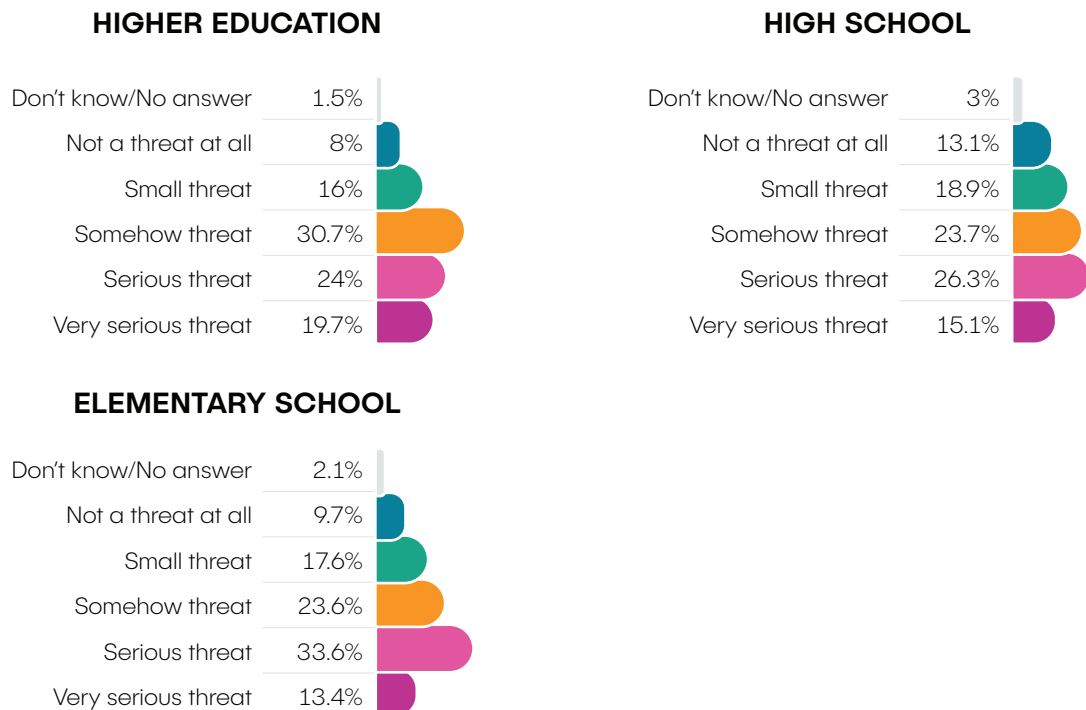
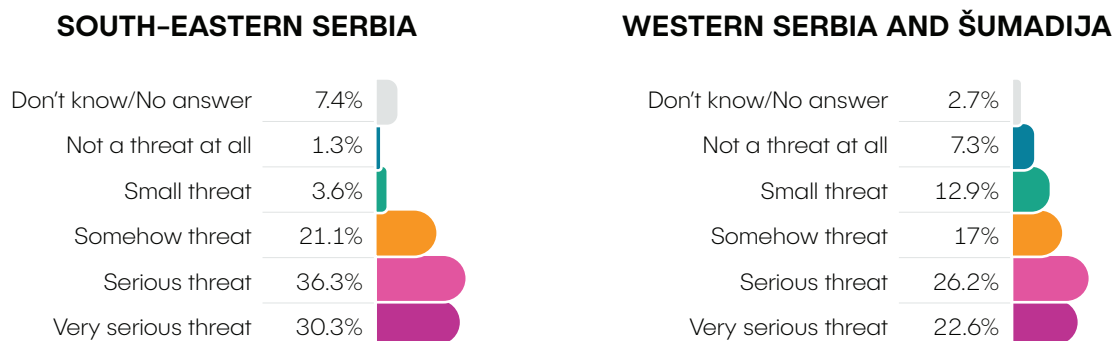


FIGURE 45 UNEMPLOYMENT RISK BY THE REGION OF THE RESPONDENTS



**FIGURE 46** UNEMPLOYMENT RISK BY EDUCATION OF THE RESPONDENTS**SLIKA 47** PERCIPIRANI RIZIK OD PANDEMIJE COVID-19 PO REGIONIMA.

**FIGURE 48** PERCEIVED COVID-19 RISK BY THE EDUCATION OF THE RESPONDENTS**FIGURE 49** PERCEIVED VIOLENT EXTREMISM AND TERRORISM RISK BY THE REGION OF THE RESPONDENTS

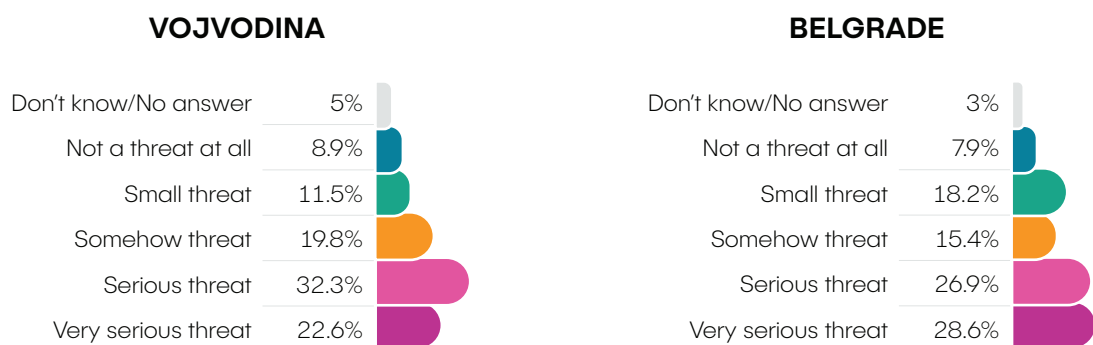


FIGURE 50 EMIGRATION FROM SERBIA RISK PERCEPTION BY REGION OF THE RESPONDENTS

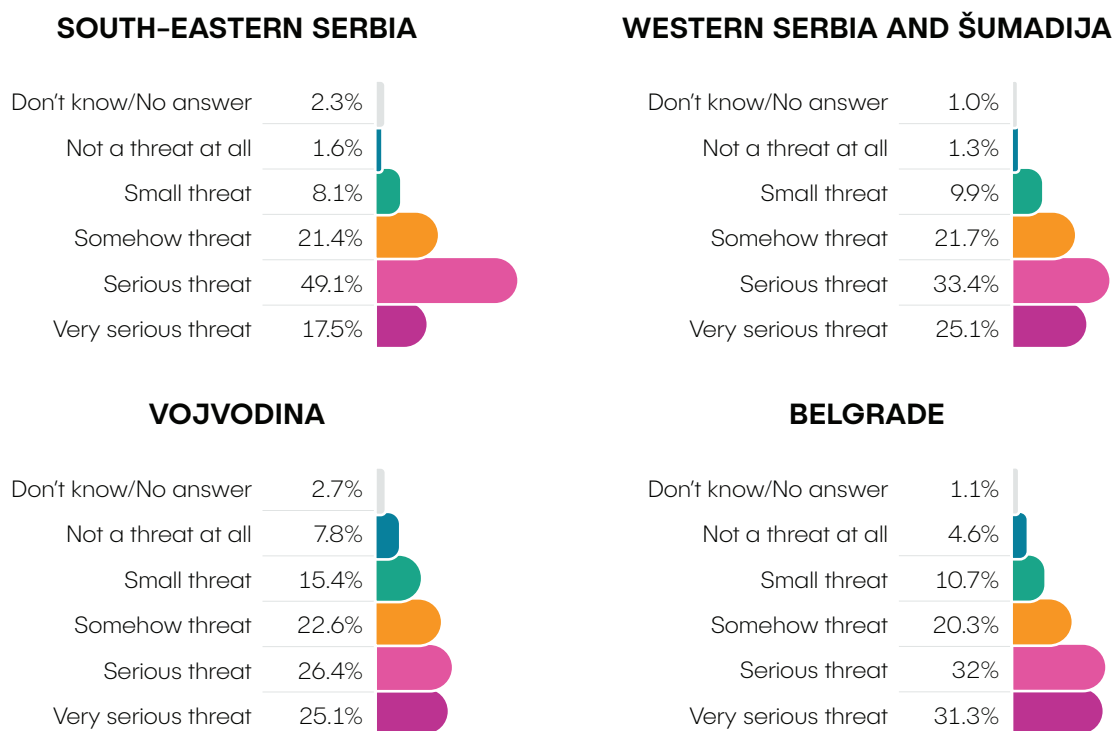


FIGURE 51 EMIGRATION FROM SERBIA RISK PERCEPTION BY EDUCATION



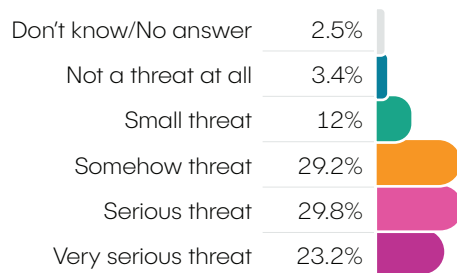
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

FIGURE 52 PERCEIVED CLIMATE CHANGE AND NATURAL DISASTERS RISK BY REGION OF THE RESPONDENTS

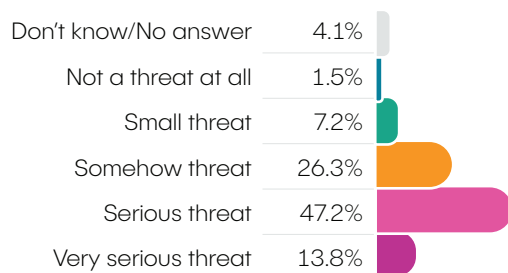
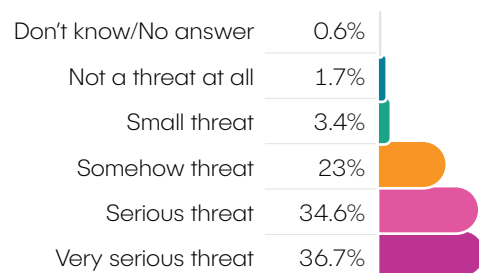
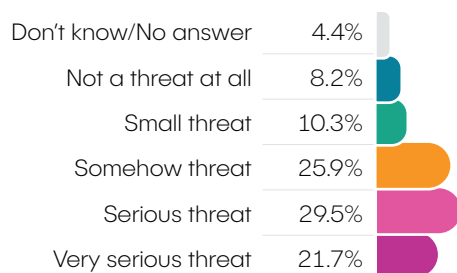
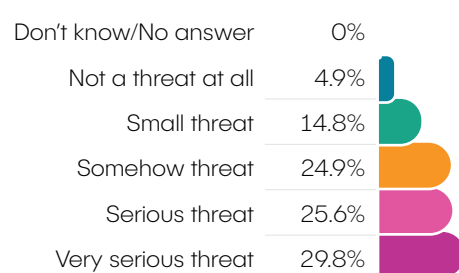
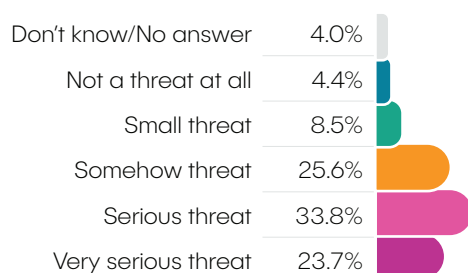
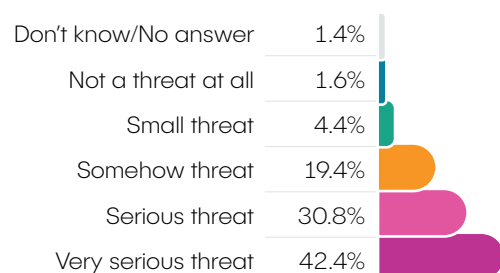
SOUTH-EASTERN SERBIA**WESTERN SERBIA AND ŠUMADIJA****VOJVODINA****BELGRADE**

FIGURE 53 PERCEIVED CLIMATE CHANGE AND NATURAL DISASTERS RISK BY EMPLOYMENT OF THE RESPONDENTS

HOUSEWIFE, RETIRED**STUDENT**

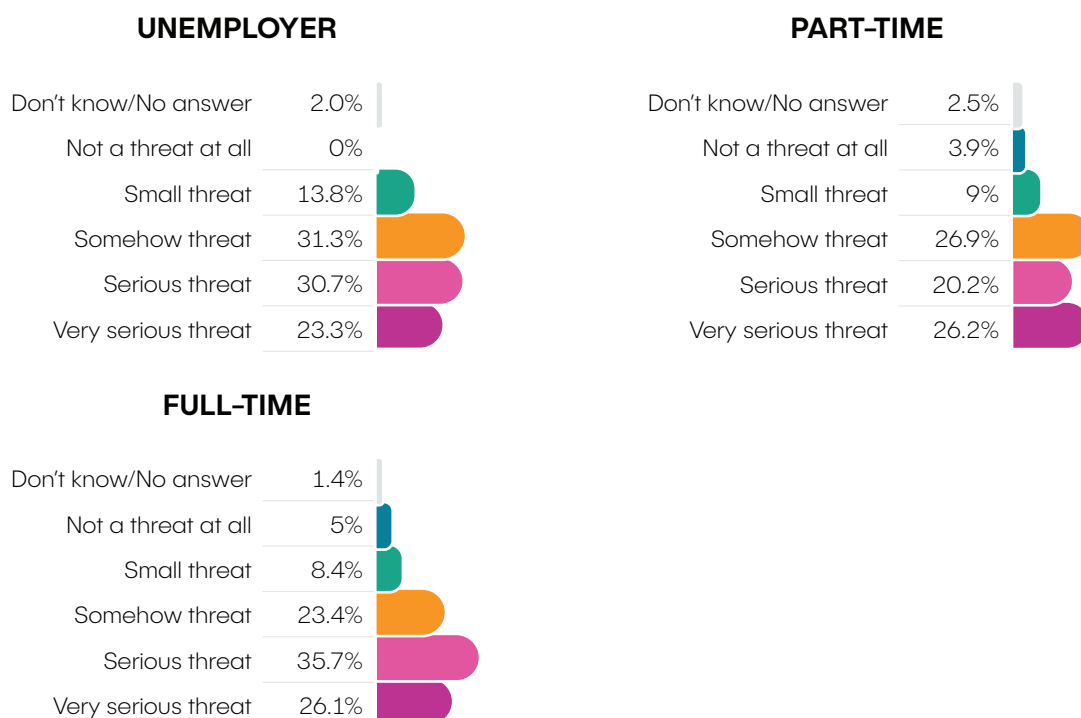


FIGURE 54 PERCEIVED CLIMATE CHANGE AND NATURAL DISASTERS RISK BY HOUSEHOLD INCOME OF THE RESPONDENTS

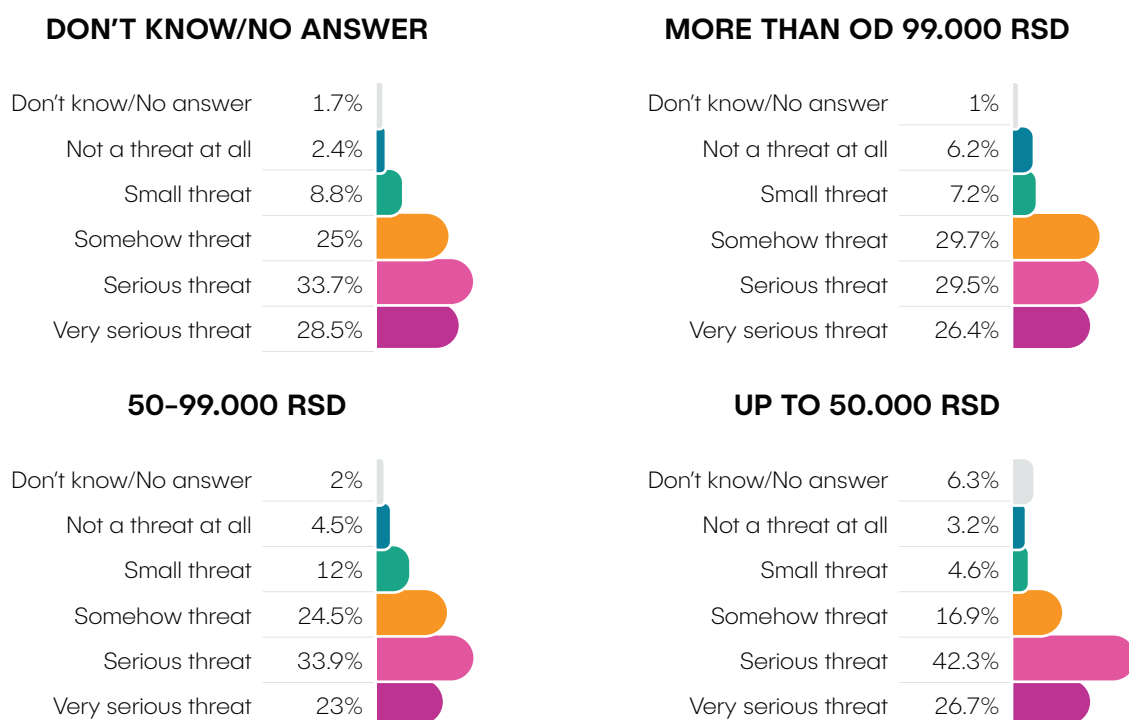
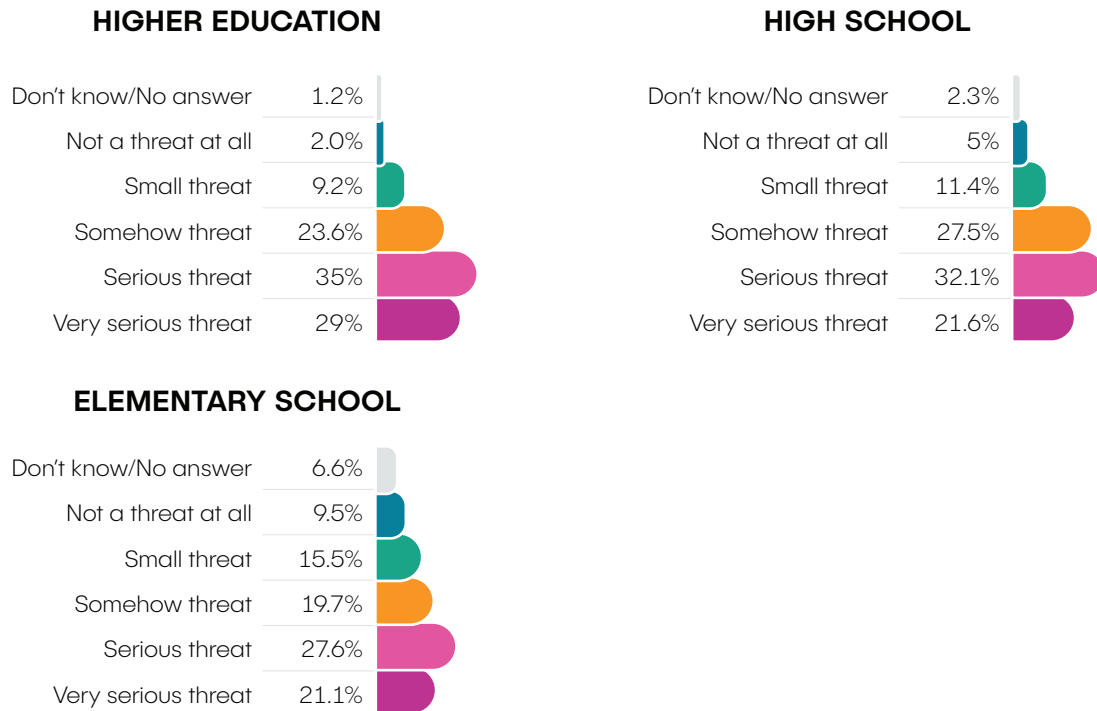
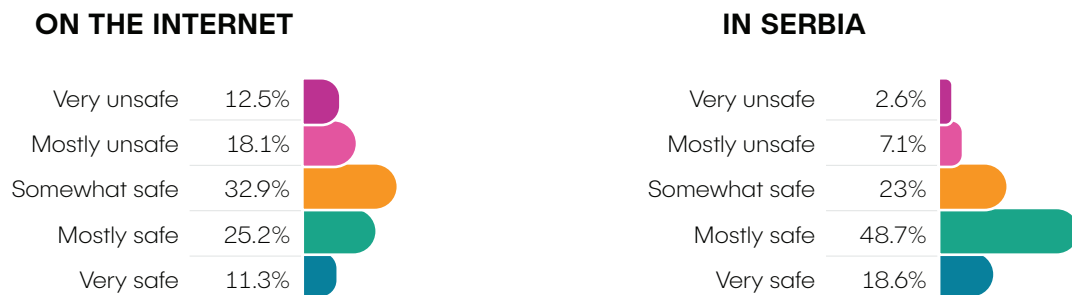


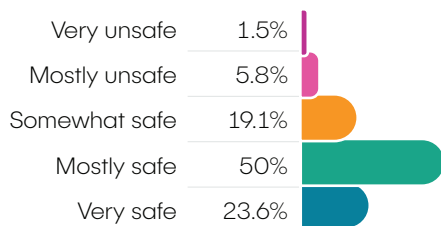
FIGURE 55 PERCEIVED FAKE NEWS RISK BY EDUCATION OF THE RESPONDENTS

Personal safety perceptions

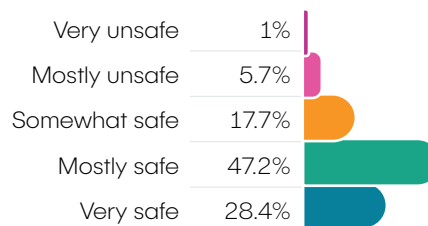
Personal safety is studied through the type of environment and type of threat. Firstly, the personal safety of the respondents is measured depending on the different types of environments: their home, their settlement, their countryside/city, Serbia in general, and on the Internet. Generally, results suggest that people feel more secure in their familiar environments. Most citizens feel safe at home (mostly safe and very safe 81.9%). They feel the least secure on the Internet (only 36.5% of the respondents). This is followed by safety in their neighbourhood (75.6%), their village/city(73.6%), and Serbia (67.5%). The results are similar to the findings from the 2020, when they felt the most secure in their home and then in their neighbourhood.

FIGURE 56 PERCEIVED PERSONAL SAFETY OF THE RESPONDENTS BY THE TYPE OF ENVIRONMENT

YOUR VILLAGE/CITY



YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD



YOUR HOME

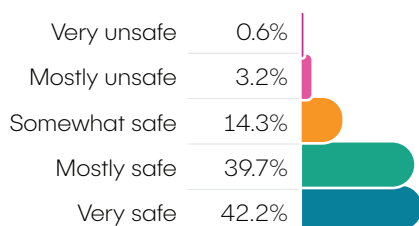


TABLE 3 PERCEIVED PERSONAL SAFETY BY DEMOGRAPHICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE RESPONDENTS.

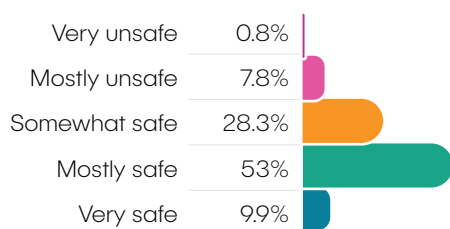
Perceived personal safety:	Gender	Regions	Type of settlement	Age	Household members	Education	Employment	Household income
At home		Vojvodina			2	Elementary and High school	Students	More than 99.000 rsd
In the neighbourhood	Men	Vojvodina	Countryside and towns			Elementary school	Students	50.001-99.000 rsd and Don't know/No answer
In the countryside/city	Men	Vojvodina	Countryside and towns			Elementary school	Students	Don't know/No answer
In Serbia		Vojvodina	Countryside	65+	2	Elementary education		Don't know/No answer
On the Internet		Beograd	Town	18-29 and 30-39		High school and Higher education	Students	More than 99.000 rsd

Note 3. Shows groups whose respondents perceive most safely within demographical variables with significant differences.

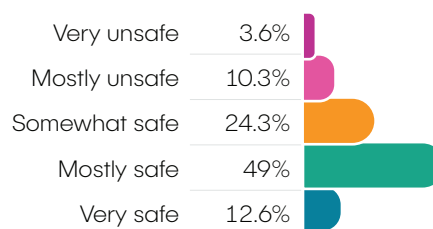
Tabela 3 pokazuje da se muškarci osećaju bezbednije u svojim naseljima i mestima stanovanja (selo ili grad) u odnosu na žene (vidi Dodatak C). Ispitanici iz Vojvodine najbezbednije se osećaju u svakoj vrsti okruženja (Slika 57 prikazuje osećanje bezbednosti u Srbiji) osim na internetu gde se bezbednije osećaju Beograđani. Ispitanici iz sela i manjih gradova (vidi Sliku 58) osećaju se bezbednije od onih iz većih gradova u bilo kom okruženju, osim kod kuće (nema značajne razlike). Kod kuće, u naselju, selu ili gradu nema bitnih razlika u odnosu na starost ispitanika, osim što se u Srbiji (uopšteno) najbezbednije osećaju najstariji građani (65+), dok se na internetu bezbednije osećaju mlađi (starosne grupe 18-29 i 30-39 godina – vidi Sliku 59). Ispitanici koji su završili osnovnu školu osećaju se najbezbednije u svakom okruženju osim na internetu gde se bezbednije osećaju oni sa srednjim i visokim obrazovanjem. Ispitanici koji su studenti osećaju se najbezbednije u svakom okruženju, osim u Srbiji (uopšteno) – nema razlike. Percepcija lične bezbednosti se takođe razlikuje u zavisnosti od prihoda domaćinstva ispitanika. Ispitanici sa prihodima domaćinstva većim od 99.000 RSD osećaju se bezbednije kod kuće i na internetu. S druge strane, oni sa prihodima domaćinstva u iznosu od 50.001 do 99.000 RSD osećaju veću bezbednost u svom naselju.

FIGURE 57 PERSONAL SAFETY BY THE REGION OF THE RESPONDENTS

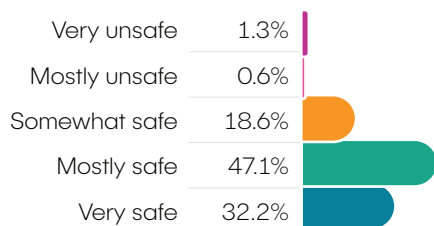
SOUTH-EASTERN SERBIA



WESTERN SERBIA AND ŠUMADIJA



VOJVODINA



BELGRADE

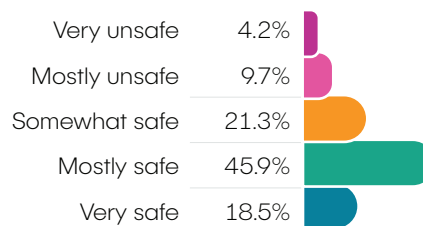
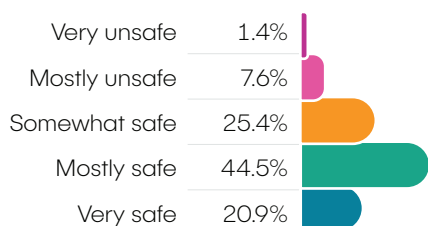
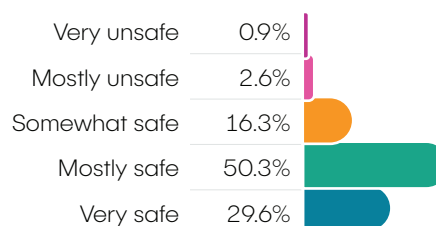


FIGURE 58 PERSONAL SAFETY IN THE LIVING PLACE BY TYPE OF SETTLEMENT OF THE RESPONDENTS

CITY



TOWN



CONTYSIDE

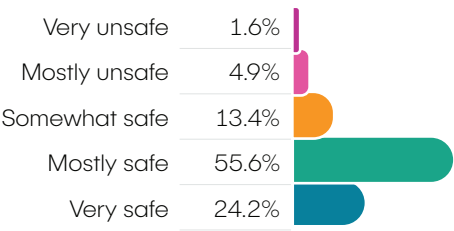
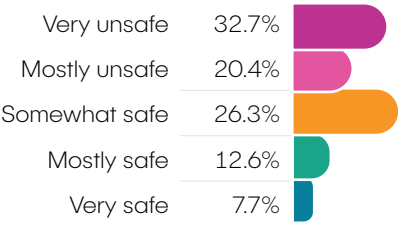
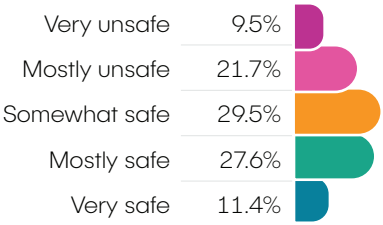


FIGURE 59 PERSONAL SAFETY ON THE INTERNET BY AGE OF THE RESPONDENTS

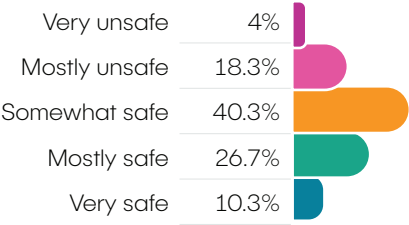
65+



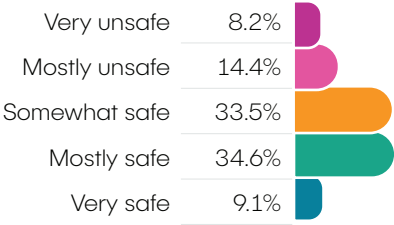
50-55



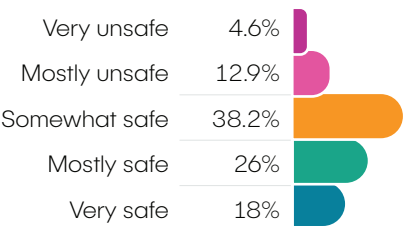
40-49



30-39



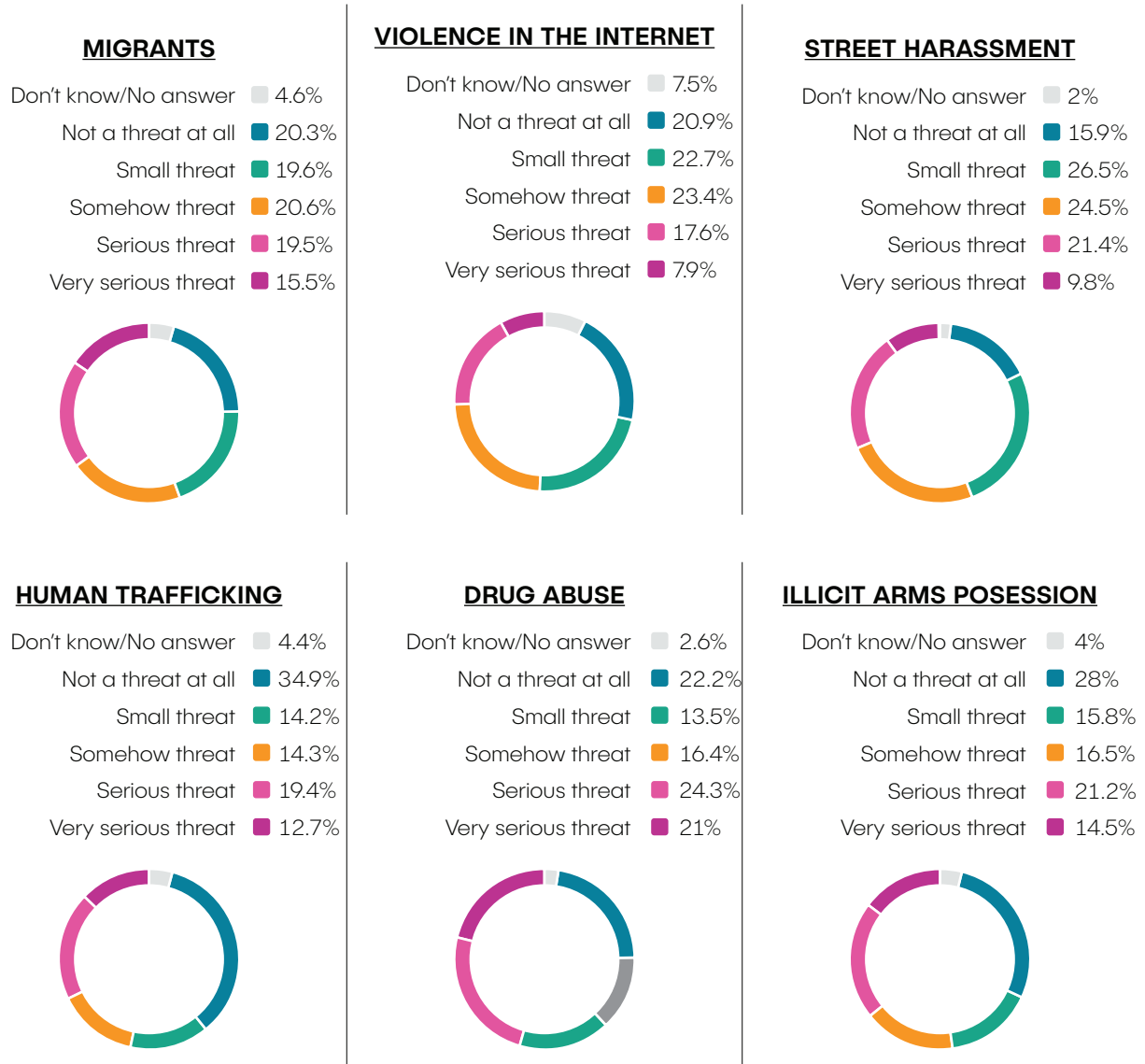
18-29



Personal threats perception

Regarding personal safety, people perceive drug abuse (45.3%) and traffic accidents as the highest threat (44.1%). This is closely followed by theft (42.9%). The lowest threats are perceived from gender discrimination (23.3%), violence on the Internet (25.5%), school violence (26.6%), domestic violence (26.9%) and rape and sexual harassment (26.9%). On the other hand, sexual violence (41.5%) and domestic abuse (32.6%) were perceived as higher threats in 2020 – this may be due to movement restrictions and stay-at-home orders since previous research has found that these types of violence raised in the pandemics.⁹ The distribution of the threats in 2022 is more or less similar to those from 2020 when traffic accident risk was also perceived as the highest threat. However, there are some differences. School violence was also highly ranked as a threat in 2020 but not in 2022. It would be interesting to measure this threat after the mass shooting in the elementary school in Belgrade in May 2023.¹⁰ In that regard, illegal arms possession (abuse of firearms in 2020) has similar results in both surveys.

FIGURE 60 PERSONAL SAFETY RISK PERCEPTIONS



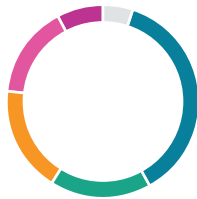
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Don't know/No answer 1.4%
Not a threat at all 43.2%
Small threat 14.9%
Somehow threat 11.6%
Serious threat 15.6%
Very serious threat 11.3%



GENDER DISCRIMINATION

Don't know/No answer 5.1%
Not a threat at all 36.9%
Small threat 17%
Somehow threat 17.8%
Serious threat 15.6%
Very serious threat 7.7%



SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND RAPE

Don't know/No answer 3.2%
Not a threat at all 35.2%
Small threat 18.3%
Somehow threat 16.3%
Serious threat 17.2%
Very serious threat 9.7%



HOMICIDE

Don't know/No answer 4%
Not a threat at all 29.1%
Small threat 19.7%
Somehow threat 15%
Serious threat 20.2%
Very serious threat 12.1%



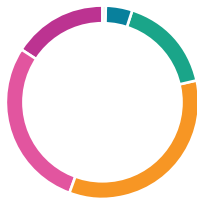
SCHOOL VIOLENCE

Don't know/No answer 2.8%
Not a threat at all 30.6%
Small threat 19.8%
Somehow threat 20.2%
Serious threat 16%
Very serious threat 10.6%



TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS

Don't know/No answer 0.7%
Not a threat at all 4.3%
Small threat 16.4%
Somehow threat 34.3%
Serious threat 28.5%
Very serious threat 15.6%



THEFT

Don't know/No answer 1.3%
Not a threat at all 9.8%
Small threat 19.1%
Somehow threat 27%
Serious threat 30.4%
Very serious threat 12.5%



TABLE 4 PERCEIVED FEAR OF CRIME BY DEMOGRAPHICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE RESPONDENTS

Perceived fear of:	Gender	Regions	Type of settlement	Age	Household members	Education	Employment	Household income
Theft		Šumadija i Zapadna Srbija, Beograd	Countryside and City			Higher education		Up to 50.000 rsd
Traffic accidents		Beograd	City		1	Higher education		Up to 50.000 rsd
School violence			City	30-39 and 40-49	3 and 5+	Higher education		Don't know/ No answer
Homicide		Južna i Istočna Srbija	Countryside and Cities			Higher education		Up to 50.000 rsd
Rape and sexual harassment	Women	Beograd	City	30-39	3	Higher education	Students	Up to 50.000 rsd
Gender discrimination	Women	Beograd	City	40-49 and 30-39		Higher education		Up to 50.000 rsd
Domestic violence			City					Don't know/ No answer
Illegal arms possession			Countryside and City			Higher education and High school		Up to 50.000 rsd
Drug addiction			Countryside					Up to 50.000 rsd
Human trafficking		Južna i Istočna Srbija	Countryside and City			Higher education		Up to 50.000 rsd
Street harassment	Women	Beograd	City			Higher education		Up to 50.000 rsd
Violence on the Internet		Šumadija i Zapadna Srbija	Countryside	40-49, 18-29, 30-39		Higher education	Students	Up to 50.000 rsd
Migrants smuggling		Beograd i Vojvodina	City			Higher education		

Note 4. Shows groups who perceive the highest threats within demographical variables with significant differences.

Women perceive greater risks to personal safety from rape and sexual harassment (30.9%), gender discrimination (28.7%, figure 61) and street harassment (34.7%) than men (22.7%, 17.4%, 27.3%, respectively). The respondents from the Belgrade **region** perceive threats from theft (same as in Western Serbia and Šumadija), traffic accidents, rape and sexual harassment, gender discrimination, street harassment and migrant smuggling as higher threats than other regions. Those from Western Serbia and Šumadija perceive higher threats from theft (similar with Belgrade) and cyberviolence. Personal safety risks are highly dependent upon the **type**

of settlement citizens live in. Those who live in **cities** perceive higher threats from theft, traffic accidents, school violence, homicide, rape and sexual harassment, gender discrimination, domestic violence, illegal arms possession, human trafficking, street harassment and migrant smuggling. **Countrysides** share perceptions regarding thefts, homicides, illegal arms possession, and human trafficking, while drug addiction (figure 62) and cyberviolence are identified as the highest threats in countrysides only.

The middle-**aged** respondents (30–39 and 40–49 years old) perceive the highest threats from school violence, rape and sexual harassment, gender discrimination, and cyber violence (also perceived from 18 to 29 years old). Those who live in **households** of three **members** perceive higher threats from school violence (similar for 5+ members, Figure 63), rape and sexual harassment, while those who live alone perceive higher threats from traffic accidents more than the rest of the respondents. **Highly educated** citizens perceive higher risks than those who are not educated at the same level. This is the same for multiple threats (see Table 4). Regarding **employment** status, students perceive risks from rape and sexual harassment and cyber violence more than those who are unemployed or employed. Those respondents whose household income is lowest (up to 50.000 rsd), perceive higher threats to personal safety on multiple levels (see Table 4).

FIGURE 61 PERSONAL SAFETY THREATS FROM GENDER DISCRIMINATION

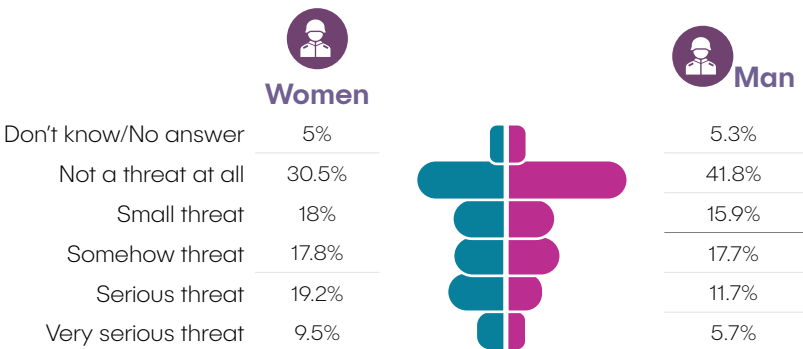
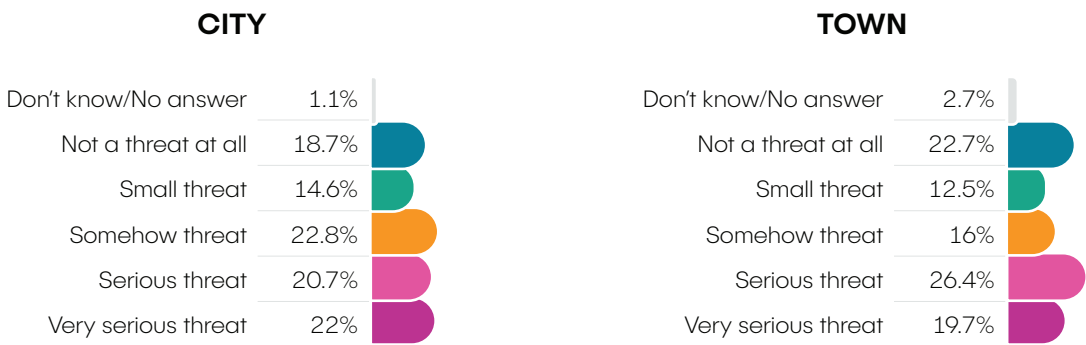
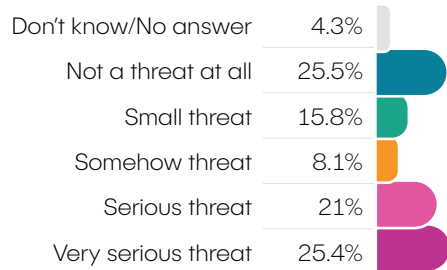


FIGURE 62 PERSONAL SAFETY THREATS FROM DRUG ABUSE BY SETTLEMENTS



CONTYSIDE**FIGURE 63 PERSONAL PERCEPTIONS OF SCHOOL VIOLENCE AND HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS**

CONCLUSIONS AND POLICIES TO IMPROVE SAFETY AND TRUST

Regarding regions, citizens from Vojvodina trusted the institutions the most (five out of seven institutions trusted most in Vojvodina). They also perceive the most safe in any environment, except on the Internet, where those from Belgrade feel safer.

Small towns and the countrysides have more trust in institutions and feel safer than those from bigger cities who perceive more threats to personal safety. Considering national safety, those from the countryside perceive war conflicts as higher threats, while those from cities perceive risks to ecological safety as higher.

Although women trust the institutions more than men (five out of seven institutions), men feel more safe in their neighbourhoods and places of living. Women perceive more significant threats to personal safety from rape and sexual harassment, gender discrimination and street harassment.

Citizens aged 65+ have the highest trust in institutions. They feel the most secure in Serbia (in general) and perceive the COVID-19 threat as higher than the younger categories. Those aged 30 to 39 have the least trust in security and justice institutions. The online setting makes those younger feel more secure (18-29 and 30-39 years old).

Highly educated citizens trust institutions the least and perceive national and personal threats more than those who completed elementary or high school. On the other hand, citizens who completed elementary school feel the most safe in any environment except on the Internet.

Citizens with the highest incomes trust institutions the most. They feel safer at home and on the Internet. On the other hand, those respondents whose household income is the lowest perceive national and personal threats significantly higher than the others.

Considering employment, institutions have the highest trust among retired and housewives. Part-time employees perceived a higher threat from unemployment. Students feel the safest in any environment but perceive higher threats from rape and sexual harassment and cyber violence.

Recommendations on gender equality and safety:

- Women's safety should be improved in public spaces to avoid street (sexual) harassment – for example, to enforce laws against every report (criminal law or misdemeanour offences)¹¹;
- Men should be educated more on gender-related issues and sexual harassment (e.g. public campaigns in mass media;

Recommendations regarding safety on the Internet through educational campaigns:

- For elders (65+ years) – education about the Internet, in general, and safety on the Internet: through mass media, TV campaigns, and target programs in societies for the retired ones or in homes for the elderly¹²;
- Improving online safety of those outside the Belgrade region, those from the countryside¹³ and those with only elementary education.

Recommendations for public and urban safety:

- Ecological safety measures should be improved in bigger cities and within regions of Belgrade and Western Serbia and Šumadija.¹⁴
- Improve students and youth safety in public spaces: by enforcing laws against street and sexual harassment; through community policing with equal benefits for all categories, but mostly for the vulnerable (youth, women, minorities or poor); using public campaigns¹⁵.

ANNEX

TABLE 5 DEMOGRAPHICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE RESPONDENTS

RESPONDENT CHARACTERISTICS	Number	%
GENDER (n=1020)		
Man	522	51.17647
Women	498	48.82353
REGION		
Beograd	248	24.31373
Western Serbia and Šumadija	277	27.15686
Vojvodina	269	26.37255
South-eastern Serbia	226	22.15686
TYPE OF SETTLEMENT		
Countryside	412	40.39216
Town	159	15.58824
City	449	44.01961
AGE (in years)		
Min	18	
Median	45	
Mean	45.47	
Max	85	
18-29	201	19.70588
30-39	197	19.31373
40-49	197	19.31373
50-65	289	28.33333
65+	139	13.62745
HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS		
Min	1	
Median	4	
Mean	3.514	
Max	12	
1	62	
2	212	
3	215	
4	301	
5+	230	

EDUCATION

Elementary school	108	10.58824
High school	667	65.39216
Higher education	245	24.01961

EMPLOYMENT

Full-time	582	57.05882
Part-time	77	7.54902
Looking for job	89	8.72549
Unemployed (students)	65	6.372549
Unemployed (housekeepers and retirees)	207	20.29412

INCOME PER HOUSEHOLD

Less than 21.000	11	
21.001-50.000	112	
50.001-78.000	136	
78.001-99.000	159	
99.001-114.000	211	
114.001-166.000	98	
166.000+	80	

NATIONALITY

Serbian	983	
Montenegrin	6	
Croatian	8	
Muslim/Bosnian	5	
Other	11	
Neutral	7	

RELIGION

Ortodox Christian	966	
Catholic Christian	20	
Protestant Christian	1	
Muslim/Bosnian	5	
Agnostic/Ateist	20	
Other	3	

Appendix A

After performing the Kruskal-Wallis test, a significant difference was found between trust in:

- **Serbian Army** – among genders ($\chi^2(1) = 5.2848$, $p < 0.05$), regions ($\chi^2(3) = 14.57$, $p < 0.05$), type of settlement ($\chi^2(2) = 12.382$, $p = 0.01$), age categories ($\chi^2(4) = 65.122$, $p < 0.01$), an education level ($\chi^2(2) = 52.046$, $p < 0.001$), employment status ($\chi^2(4) = 73.24$, $p < 0.01$), household members ($\chi^2(4) = 12.643$, $p < 0.01$);
- **police** among genders ($\chi^2(1) = 12.211$, $p < 0.01$), regions ($\chi^2(3) = 21.283$, $p < 0.01$), age categories ($\chi^2(4) = 71.208$, $p < 0.01$), education level ($\chi^2(2) = 33.544$, $p < 0.01$), employment status ($\chi^2(4) = 78.898$, $p < 0.01$);
- **firefighters** among the regions ($\chi^2(3) = 23.201$, $p < 0.01$), age categories ($\chi^2(4) = 23.401$, $p < 0.01$), household members ($\chi^2(4) = 14.518$, $p < 0.01$), education ($\chi^2(2) = 12.084$, $p < 0.01$), employment ($\chi^2(4) = 32.963$, $p < 0.01$), household income ($\chi^2(16) = 38.248$, $p < 0.01$);
- **courts** among the respondents from different regions ($\chi^2(3) = 14.167$, $p < 0.01$), type of settlement ($\chi^2(2) = 8.6109$, $p < 0.01$), genders ($\chi^2(1) = 4.8142$, $p < 0.01$), age categories ($\chi^2(4) = 30.709$, $p < 0.01$), education ($\chi^2(2) = 13.232$, $p < 0.01$), employment ($\chi^2(4) = 31.063$, $p < 0.01$);
- **prosecution** among the respondents from different regions ($\chi^2(3) = 26.085$, $p < 0.01$), type of settlement ($\chi^2(2) = 10.236$, $p < 0.01$), genders ($\chi^2(1) = 8.6709$, $p < 0.01$), age categories ($\chi^2(4) = 32.587$, $p < 0.01$), education ($\chi^2(2) = 16.963$, $p < 0.01$), employment ($\chi^2(4) = 31.807$, $p < 0.01$);
- **Security-Intelligence agency** among regions ($\chi^2(3) = 14.304$, $p < 0.01$), age categories ($\chi^2(4) = 22.853$, $p < 0.01$), an education level ($\chi^2(2) = 9.1978$, $p < 0.01$), employment status ($\chi^2(4) = 20.102$, $p < 0.01$) and household income ($\chi^2(16) = 41.906$, $p < 0.01$);
- **customs** among genders ($\chi^2(1) = 5.855$, $p < 0.01$), regions ($\chi^2(3) = 42.484$, $p < 0.01$), type of settlement ($\chi^2(2) = 16.648$, $p < 0.01$), age categories ($\chi^2(4) = 15.742$, $p < 0.01$), education level ($\chi^2(2) = 33.544$, $p < 0.01$), employment status ($\chi^2(4) = 18.14$, $p < 0.01$).

Appendix B

There are statistically significant differences among the perceived::

- **corruption** risk and region of the respondents (Figure 8, $\chi^2(3) = 31.006$, $p < 0.001$), education ($\chi^2(4) = 15.711$, $p < 0.01$);
- **organized crime** risk between respondents considering region ($\chi^2(3) = 9.79$, $p < 0.05$) and education ($\chi^2(2) = 6.1266$, $p < 0.01$);
- **unemployment** risk significantly varies among the respondents' region ($\chi^2(3) = 22.418$, $p < 0.01$), age ($\chi^2(4) = 13.104$, $p < 0.01$), education ($\chi^2(2) = 21.056$, $p < 0.01$), employment ($\chi^2(4) = 9.49$, $p < 0.05$), and household income ($\chi^2(16) = 26.329$, $p < 0.01$);
- **COVID-19** risk of respondents considering region ($\chi^2(3) = 23.903$, $p < 0.01$), age ($\chi^2(4) = 21.347$, $p < 0.01$), household members ($\chi^2(4) = 9.7042$, $p < 0.05$), education ($\chi^2(2) = 7.2496$, $p < 0.05$), employment ($\chi^2(4) = 13.088$, $p < 0.05$), and household income ($\chi^2(16) = 55.143$, $p < 0.01$);

- **extremism and terrorism** risk is significantly different between respondents considering only the region (x2 (3) 13.153, $p < 0.05$);
- **emigration from Serbia**, there are statistically significant differences among the regions (x2 (3) 16.234, $p < 0.05$) and education (x2 (2) 9.653, $p < 0.05$);
- **climate change and natural disasters** and regions (x2 (3) 43.431, $p < 0.001$), employment (x2 (4) 10.888, $p < 0.05$), household income (x2 (16) 33.387, $p < 0.05$);
- **fake news** and regions (x2 (3) 52.208, $p < 0.001$), type of settlement (x2 (2) 9.3046, $p < 0.05$), education (x2 (2) 14.281, $p < 0.05$), household income (x2 (16) 39.427, $p < 0.05$);
- **cyberattacks** and regions (x2 (3) 44.434, $p < 0.001$), age (x2 (4) 17.398, $p < 0.05$), household members (x2 (4) 9.6773, $p < 0.05$), education (x2 (2) 18.177, $p < 0.05$), household income (x2 (16) 40.924, $p < 0.05$);
- **war in Ukraine** risk and respondents' type of settlement (x2 (2) 6.1475, $p < 0.05$) and household income (x2 (16) 33.473, $p < 0.05$);
- **armed conflicts in the region** risk and respondents' region (x2 (3) 9.3028, $p < 0.05$), type of settlement (x2 (2) 8.1213, $p < 0.05$), household members (x2 (4) 12.95, $p < 0.05$), household income (x2 (16) 54.045, $p < 0.01$);
- **inflation** risk and respondents' region (x2 (3) 8.5287, $p < 0.05$), household income (x2 (16) 36.984, $p < 0.05$);
- **ecological safety** risk and respondents' region (x2 (3) 17.297, $p < 0.05$), type of settlement (x2 (2) 11.209, $p < 0.05$), education (x2 (2) 7.4498, $p < 0.05$), household income (x2 (16) 28.458, $p < 0.05$);

illicit arms trafficking, illicit drugs trafficking, economic and energy crisis risk between respondents considering any independent variable.

Appendix C

Personal safety is significantly different:

- **at home** among regions (x2 (4) 57.121, $df = 3$, $p < 0.001$), age (x2 (4) 10.122, $p < 0.05$), household members (x2 (4) 9.8264, $p < 0.05$), education (x2 (2) 8.2781, $p < 0.05$), employment (x2 (4) 14.941, $p < 0.05$), household income (x2 (16) 57.028, $p < 0.001$);
- **in the neighbourhood** among regions (x2 (3) 22.09, $p < 0.001$), type of settlement (x2 (2) 8.0659, $p < 0.01$), gender (x2 (1) 4.985, $p < 0.05$), education (x2 (2) 13.258, $p < 0.05$), employment (x2 (4) 10.967, $p < 0.05$), household income (x2 (16) 31.416, $p < 0.05$);
- **in the countryside/city** among regions (x2 (3) 24.915, $p < 0.001$), type of settlement (x2 (2) 17.302, $df = 2$, $p < 0.05$), gender (x2 (4) 5.5567, $df = 1$, $p < 0.05$), education (x2 (2) 19.904, $p < 0.001$), employment (x2 (4) 15.149, $p < 0.05$), household income (x2 (16) 34.845, $p < 0.05$);
- **in Serbia** among regions (x2 (3) 59.146, $p < 0.001$), type of settlement (x2 (2) 6.8777, $p < 0.05$), age (x2 (4) 9.4614, $p = 0.05$), household members (x2 (4) 12.577, $p < 0.05$), education (x2 (2) 19.318, $p < 0.001$), household income (x2 (16) 32.165, $df = 16$, $p < 0.05$);
- **on the Internet** among regions (x2 (3) 12.399, $p < 0.05$), type of settlement (x2 (2) 15.487, $p < 0.05$), age (x2 (4) 60.548, $p < 0.001$), education (x2 (2) 16.425, $df = 2$, $p < 0.05$), employment (x2 (4) 53.182, $p < 0.001$), household income (x2 (16) 50.452, $p < 0.001$).

Appendix D

There is a statistically significant difference between perceived personal threats from:

- **theft** and respondents' regions (χ^2 (3) 10.141, $p < 0.05$), type of settlement (χ^2 (2) 8.0533, $df = 2$, $p < 0.05$), education (χ^2 (2) 7.9838, $df = 2$, $p < 0.05$), household income (χ^2 (16) 63.569, $df = 16$, $p < 0.001$);
- **traffic accidents** and regions (χ^2 (3) =8.4427, $p < 0.05$), type of settlement (χ^2 (2)=13.385, $p < 0.05$), household members (χ^2 (4)=9.9334, $p < 0.05$), education (χ^2 (2)=12.036, $p < 0.05$), household income (χ^2 (16)=34.412, $p < 0.05$);
- **school violence** and type of settlement (χ^2 (2) 14.737, $p < 0.05$), age (χ^2 (4) 13.001, $p < 0.05$), household members (χ^2 (4)=14.001, $p < 0.05$), education (χ^2 (4)=9.6394, $p < 0.05$), household income (χ^2 (4)=32.231, $p < 0.05$);
- **homicide** and regions (χ^2 (3) 15.645, $p < 0.05$), type of settlement (χ^2 (2) 15.336, $p < 0.05$), education (χ^2 (2)=10.699, $p < 0.05$), household income (χ^2 (16)=71.867, $p < 0.001$);
- **rape** and regions (χ^2 (3) 26.504, $p < 0.001$), type of settlement χ^2 (2)=21.899, $p < 0.001$), gender (χ^2 (1) 20.113, $p < 0.001$), age (χ^2 (4) 16.043, $p < 0.05$), household member (χ^2 (4)=13.247, $p < 0.01$), education (χ^2 (2)=12.641, $p < 0.05$), employment (χ^2 (4) =10.562, $p < 0.05$), household income (χ^2 (16)=47.721, $p < 0.001$);
- **gender discrimination** and regions (χ^2 (3)= 35.8, $p < 0.001$), type of settlement (χ^2 (4)=14.022, $p < 0.05$), gender (χ^2 (1)=21.45, $p < 0.001$), age (χ^2 (4)=12.172, $p < 0.05$), education (χ^2 (2)=15.33, $p < 0.05$), household income (χ^2 (16)=44.746, $p < 0.05$);
- **domestic violence** and type of settlement (χ^2 (2)=24.78, $p < 0.001$) and household income (χ^2 (16)=36.552, $p < 0.05$);
- **illegal arms** possession and type of settlement (χ^2 (2)=12.227, $p < 0.05$), education (χ^2 (2)=11.111, $p < 0.05$), household income (χ^2 (16)=57.997, $p < 0.001$);
- **drug addiction** and type of settlement (χ^2 (2)=14.365, $p < 0.05$), household income (χ^2 (16) 60.936, $p < 0.001$);
- **human trafficking** and regions (χ^2 (3) =22.696, $p < 0.001$), type of settlement (χ^2 (2)=16.681, $p < 0.01$), education (χ^2 (2)=9.3995, $p < 0.05$), household income (χ^2 (16)=58.241, $p < 0.001$);
- **street harassment** and regions (χ^2 (3) 21.596, $p < 0.001$), type of settlement (χ^2 (2) 33.571, $p < 0.001$), gender (χ^2 (1) 6.9654, $p < 0.01$), education (χ^2 (2) 10.878, $p < 0.05$), household income (χ^2 (16)+32, $p < 0.01$);
- **cyberviolence** and regions (χ^2 (3)=31.979, $p < 0.001$), type of settlement (χ^2 (2)=8.6478, $p < 0.05$), age (χ^2 (4)=37.813, $p < 0.001$), education (χ^2 (2)=31.96, $p < 0.001$), employment (χ^2 (4)=33.071, $p < 0.001$), household income (χ^2 (16)=33.776, $p < 0.05$);
- **migrants smuggling** and regions (χ^2 (3) 30.582, $p < 0.001$), type of settlement (χ^2 (2) 35.449, $p < 0.001$), education (χ^2 (2)=18.258, $p < 0.05$).

ENDNOTES

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[prevent-sexism-and-sexual-harassment](#)

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