

About the project

During the past year YUCOM and the Belgrade Centre for Human Rights conducted a series of seminars on how to fight discrimination. The seminars took place in ten cities throughout Serbia with more than 800 high school students participating. In addition, more than 100 education inspectors and education advisors were trained on how to recognize discrimination in the education system. Two guidebooks were produced, one for students and another for the inspectors and advisers. A large study was conducted examining the views of high school students towards minority groups, and violence and discrimination amongst high school students throughout Serbia. YUCOM continuously offers free legal aid in cases of discrimination in schools.

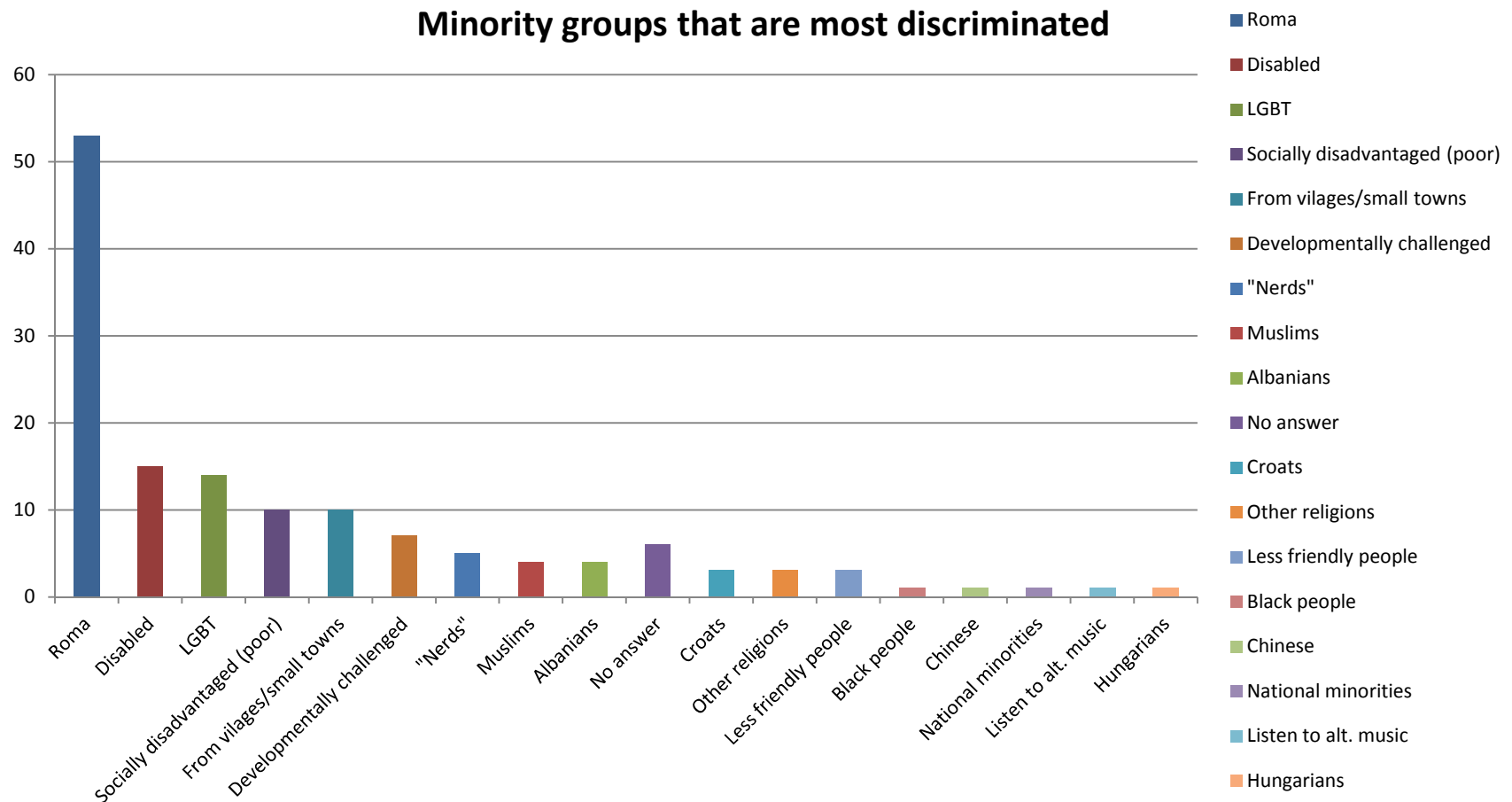
The project was financed by the Delegation of the European Union in Serbia, while support was also provided by the Ministry of Education and Provincial Secretariat for Education of Vojvodina. Co-operation was also established with the Commissioner for Protection of Equality and with the Children's Cultural Centre in Belgrade.

Views of Serbian High School Students about Minority Groups, Violence, and Discrimination

The survey was given to over 800 senior high school students in schools where YUCOM held training sessions about discrimination. Vocational schools and university preparatory schools were equally represented.

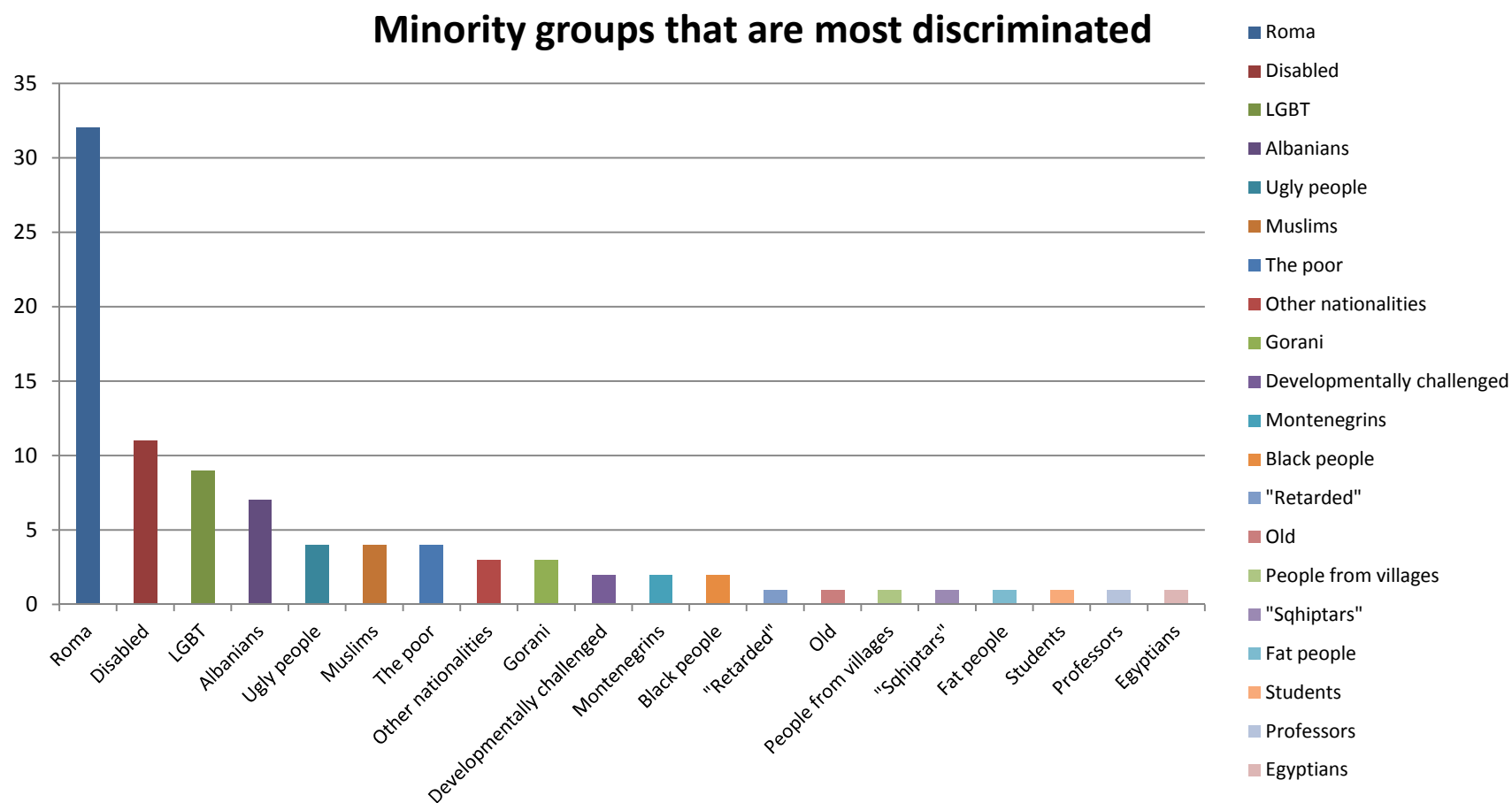
Identifying Discriminated Groups

Southern Serbia(Niš)



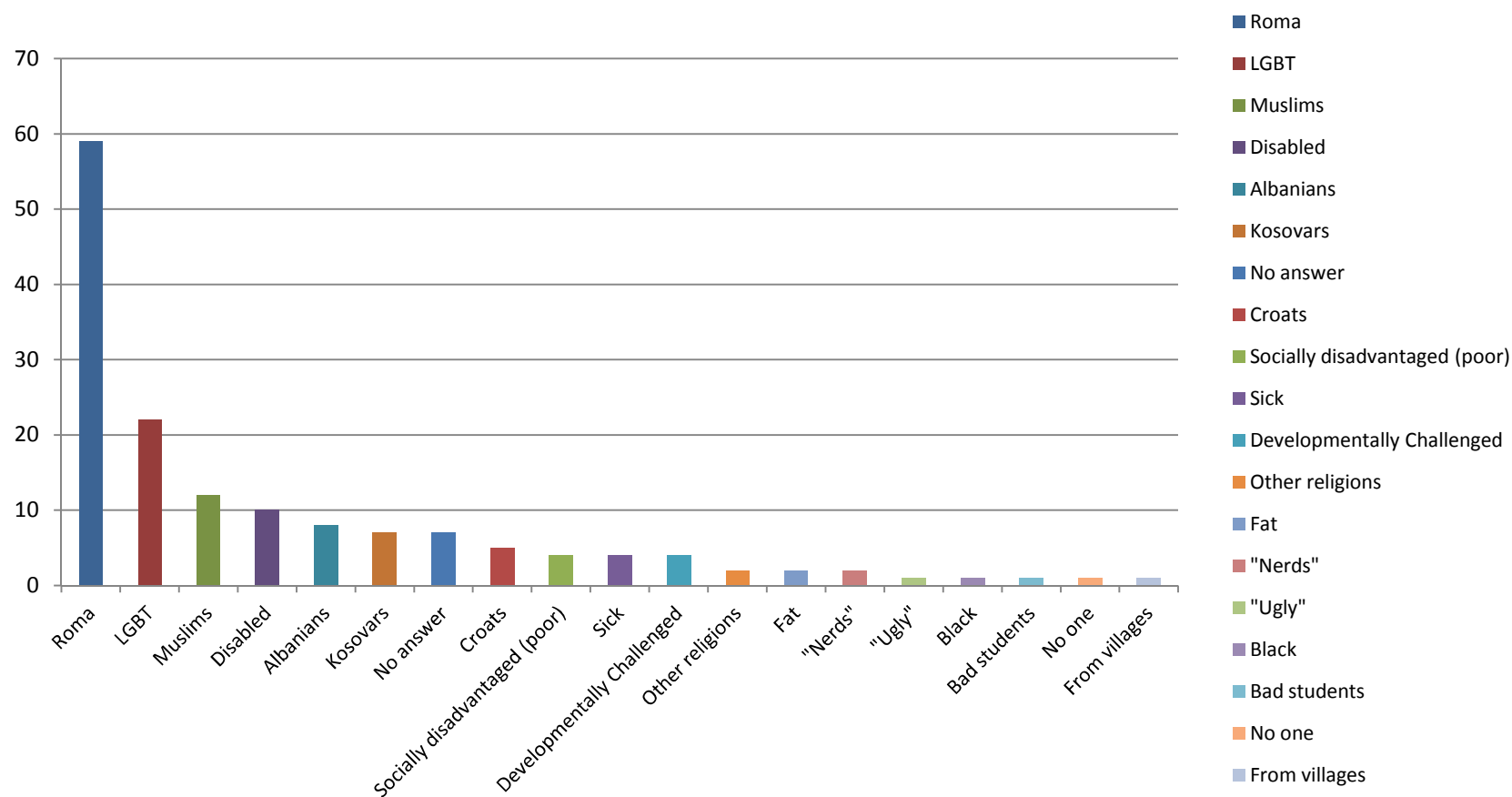
Identifying Discriminated Groups

Šumadija (Jagodina)



Identifying Discriminated Groups Šumadija (Kragujevac)

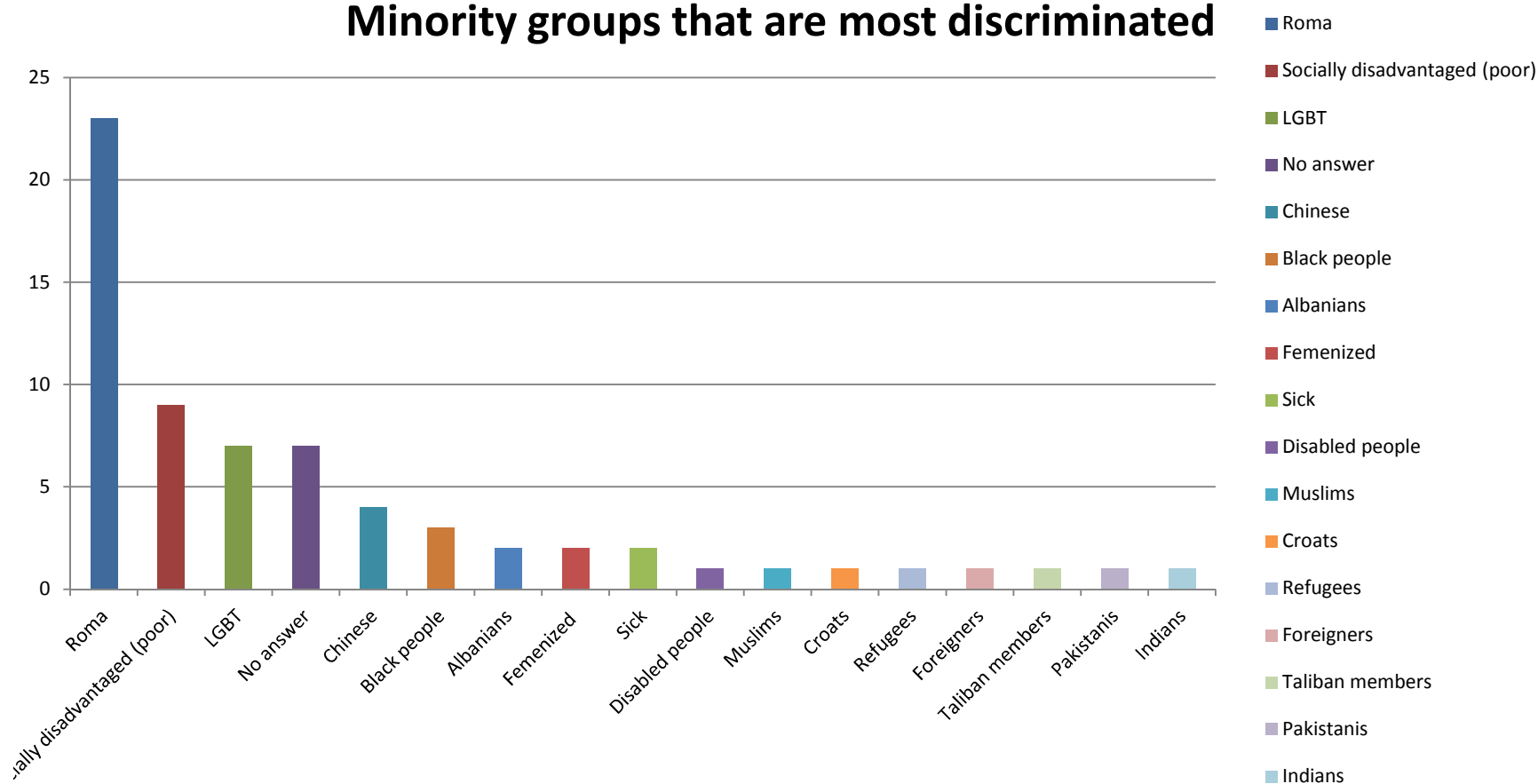
Minority groups that are most discriminated



Identifying Discriminated Groups

Šumadija (Mladenovac)

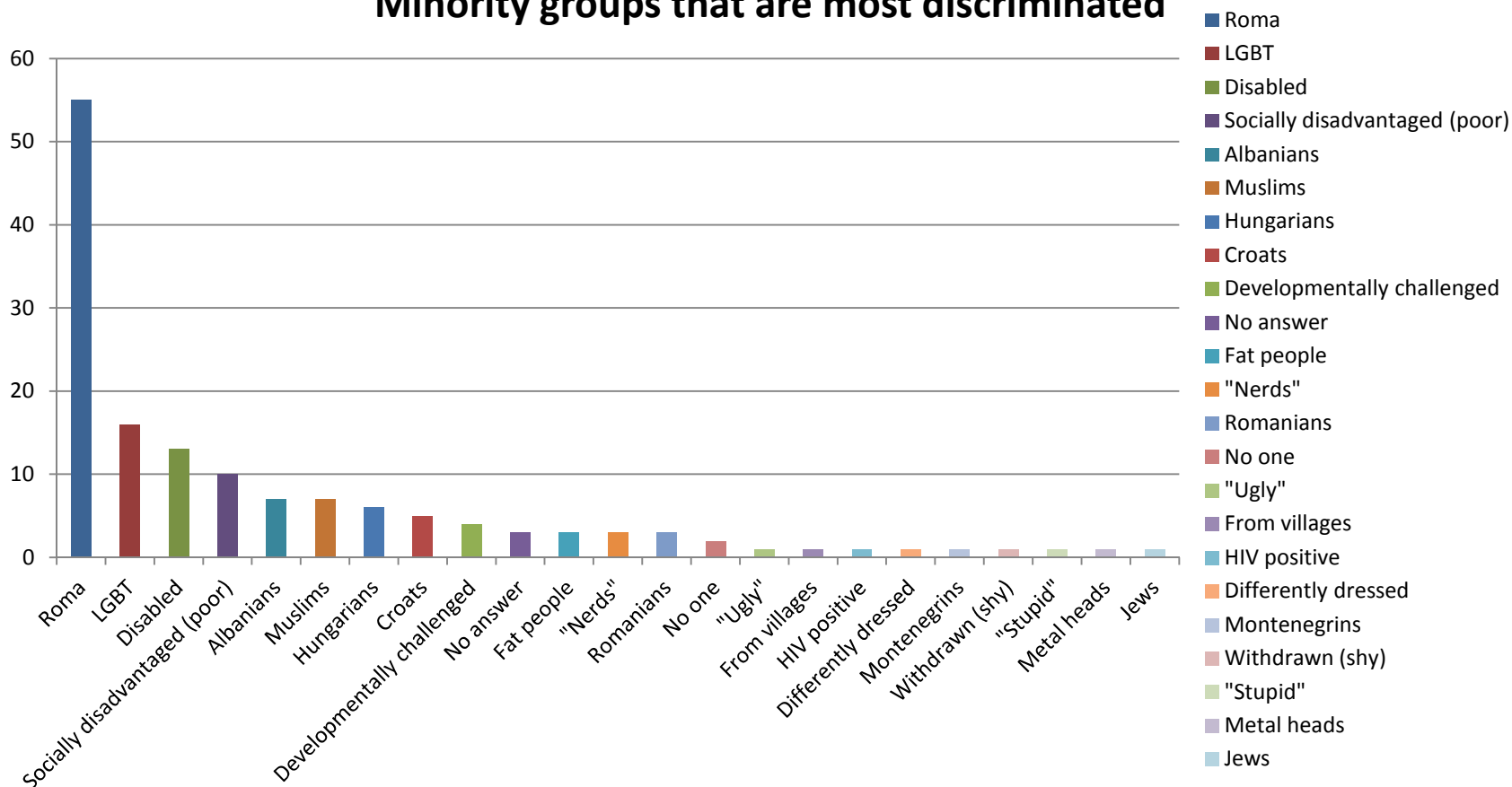
Minority groups that are most discriminated



Identifying Discriminated Groups

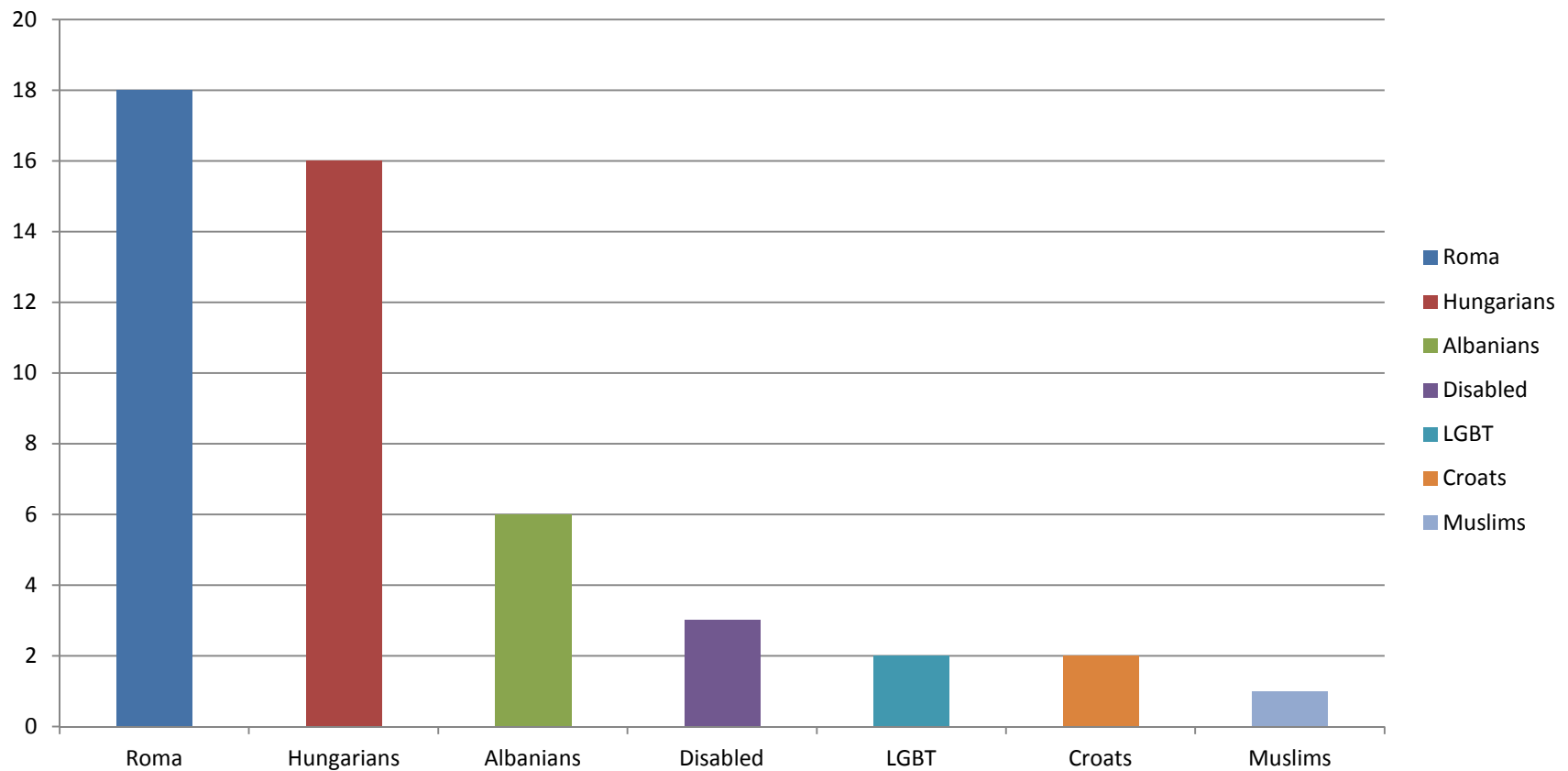
Vojvodina (Pančevo)

Minority groups that are most discriminated

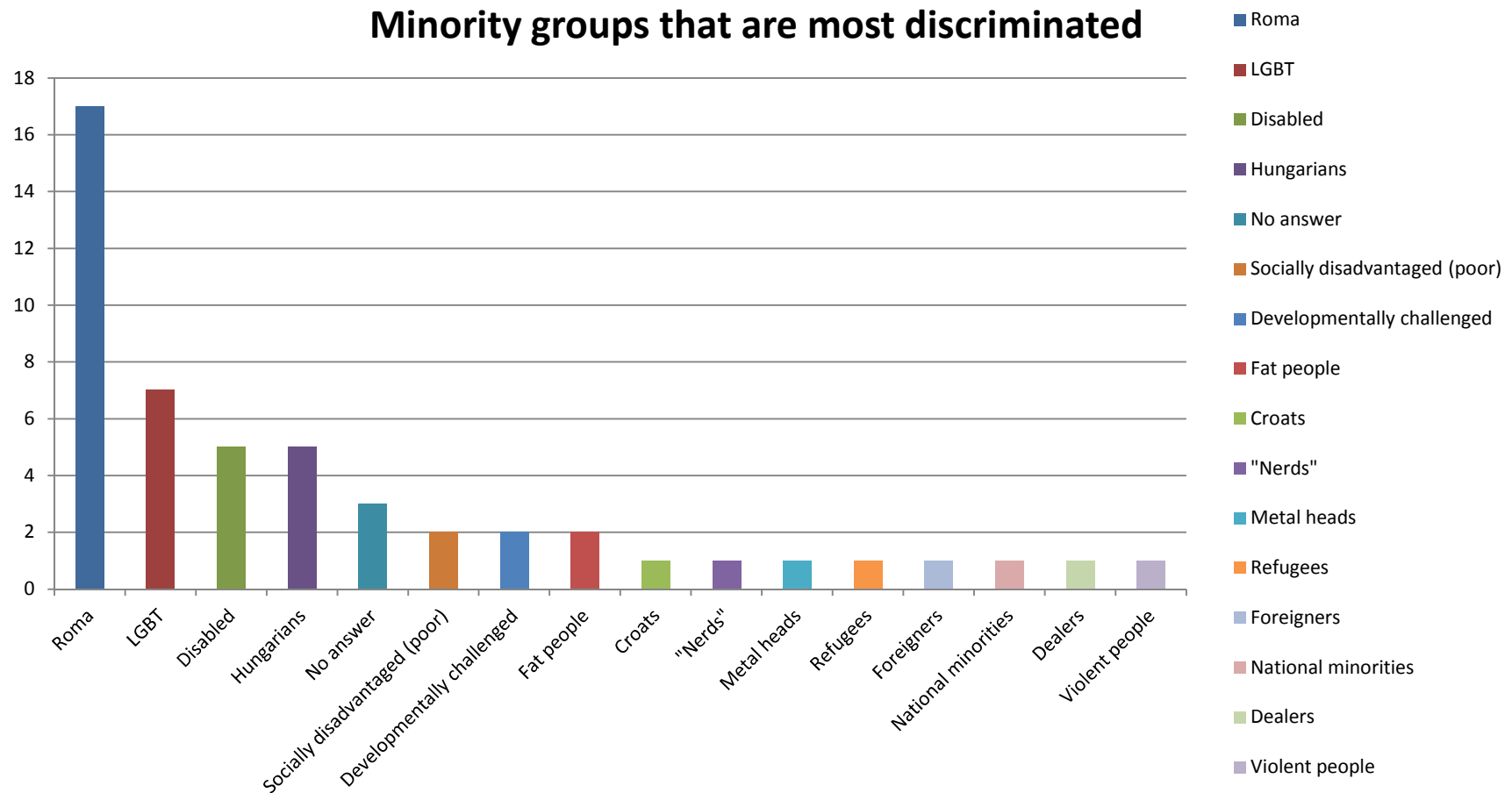


Identifying Discriminated Groups Vojvodina (Sombor)

Minority groups that are most discriminated

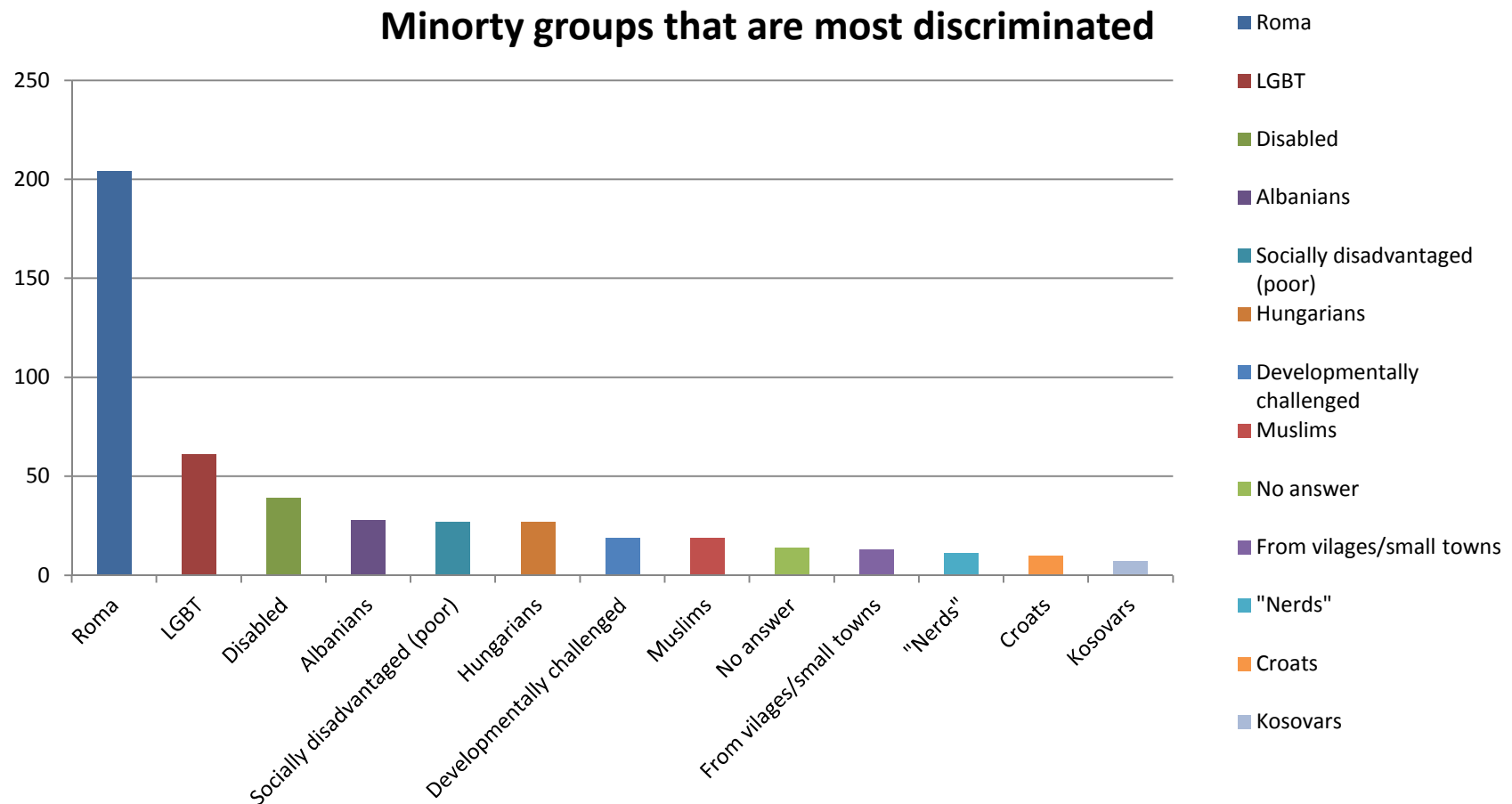


Identifying Discriminated Groups Vojvodina (Subotica)



Identifying Discriminated Groups

All cities together

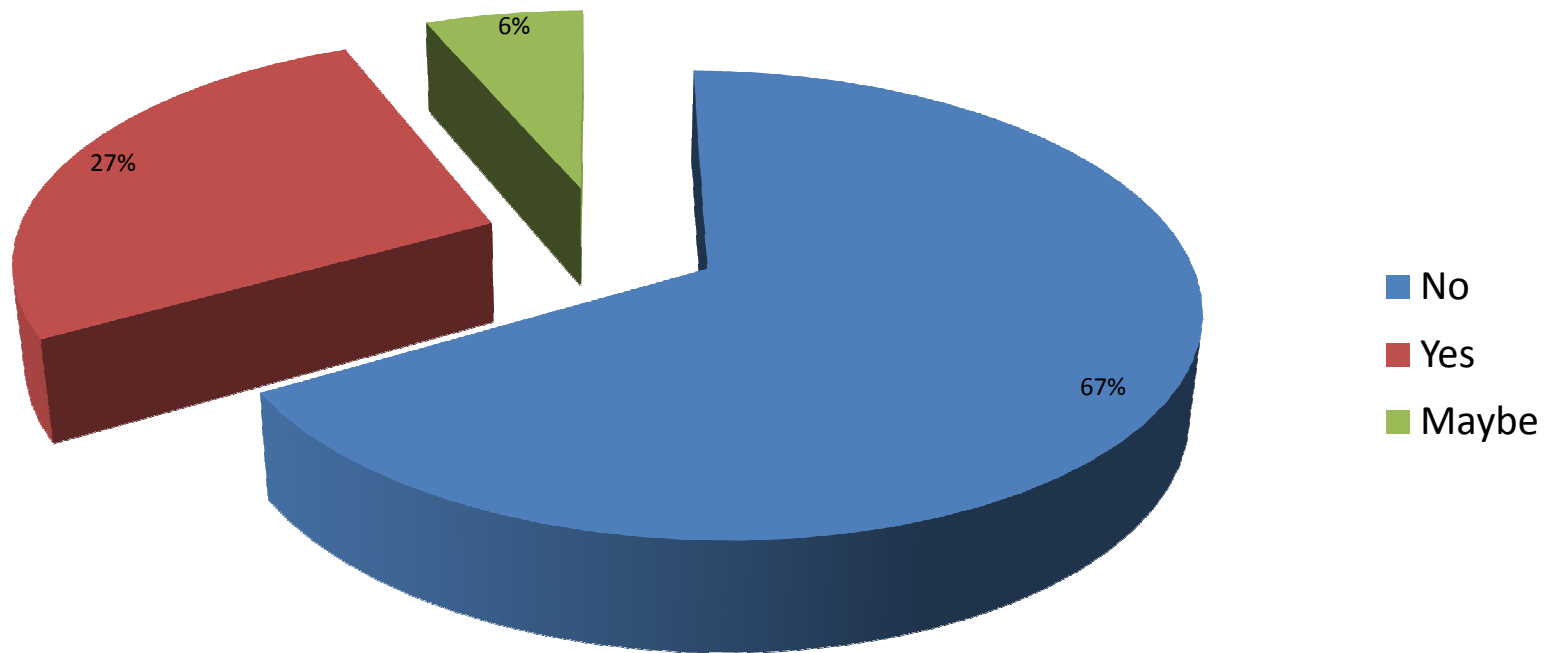


Who is Most Discriminated?

- **Roma** are clearly seen as the most discriminated group. That is how they were identified **in absolutely every school**.
- The second and third place are held by different groups, depending on town and school. The **LGBT** population and **people with disabilities** are most often identified as most discriminated against after the Roma.
- In once case the second place was held by “socially disadvantaged” individuals, i.e. the poor.
- This survey question was open-ended, so the number of answers are not the same between surveys.

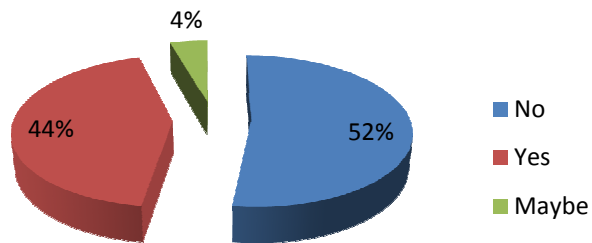
Experiencing Discrimination Southern Serbia (Niš)

Have you ever felt discriminated?

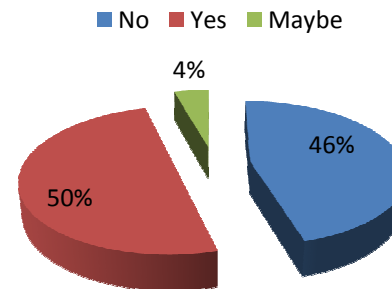


Experiencing Discrimination Šumadija

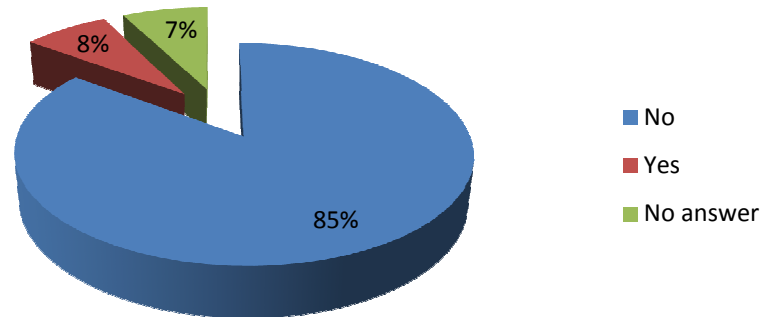
**Have you ever felt discriminated?
(Jagodina)**



**Have you ever felt discriminated?
(Kragujevac)**

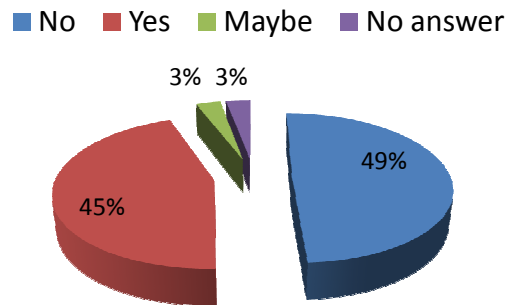


**Have you ever felt discriminated?
(Mladenovac)**

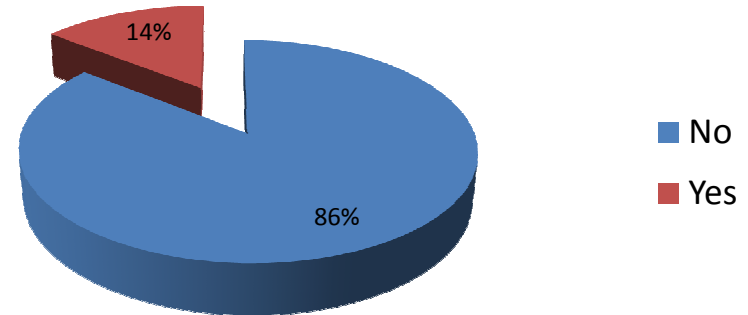


Experiencing Discrimination Vojvodina

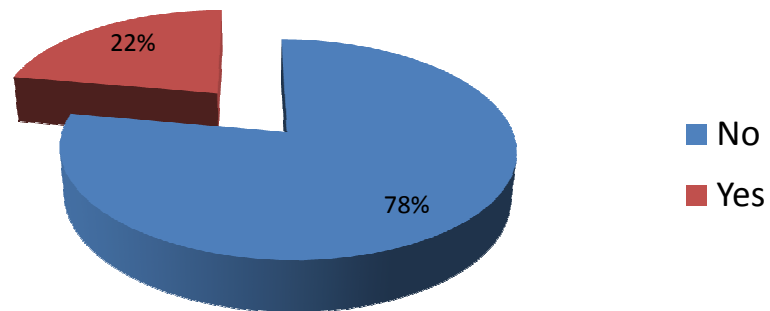
Have you ever felt discriminated?
(Pančevo)



Have you ever felt discriminated?
(Subotica)



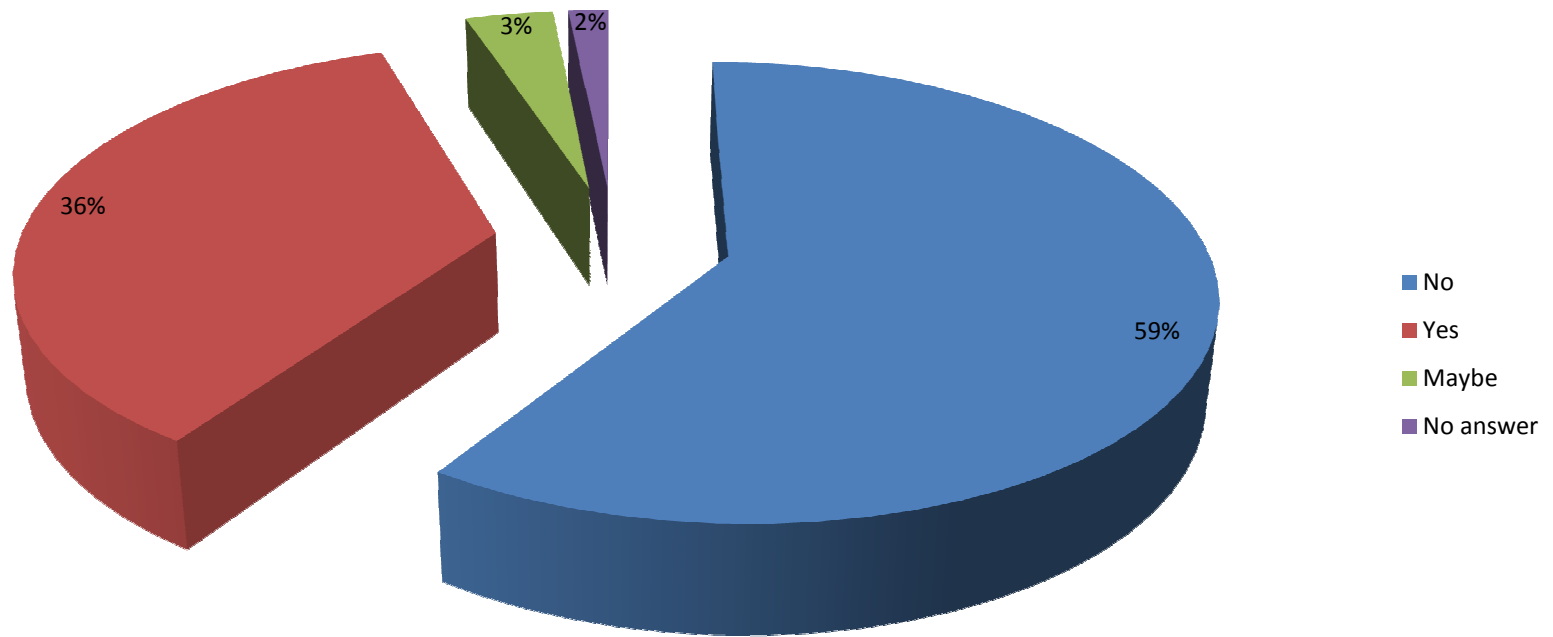
Have you ever felt discriminated?
(Sombor)



Experiencing Discrimination

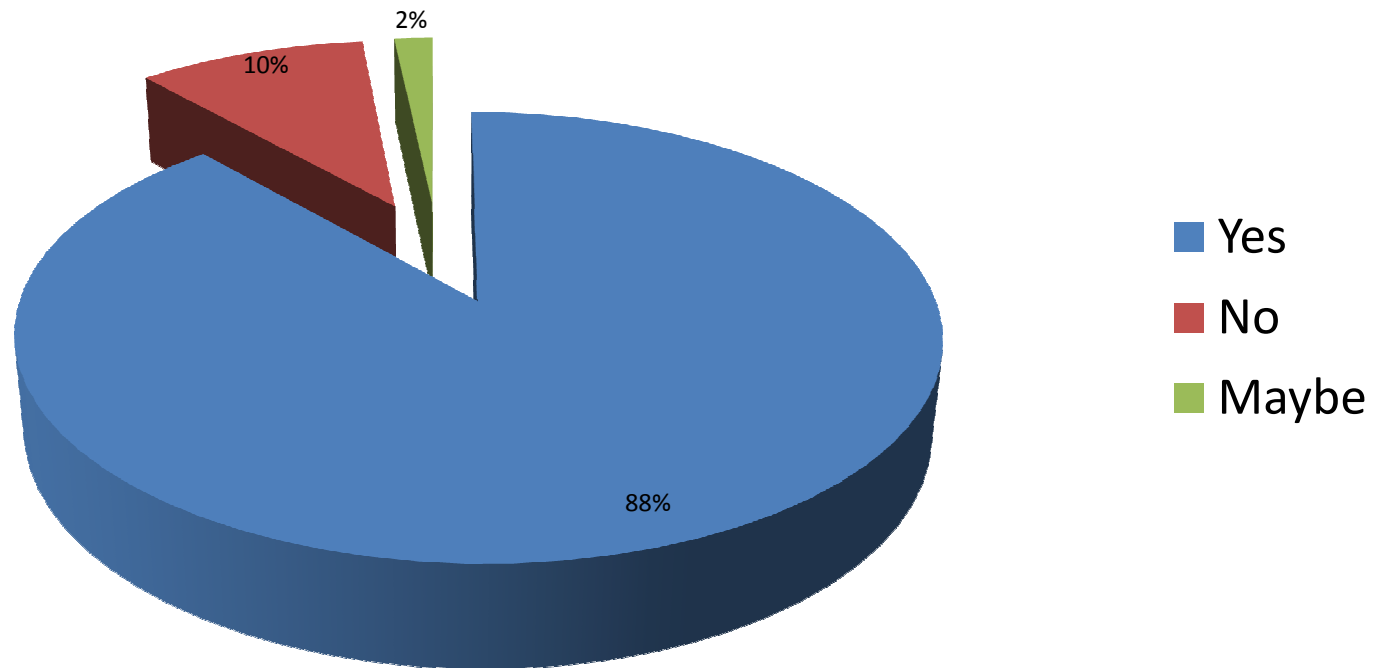
All cities together

Have you ever felt discriminated?



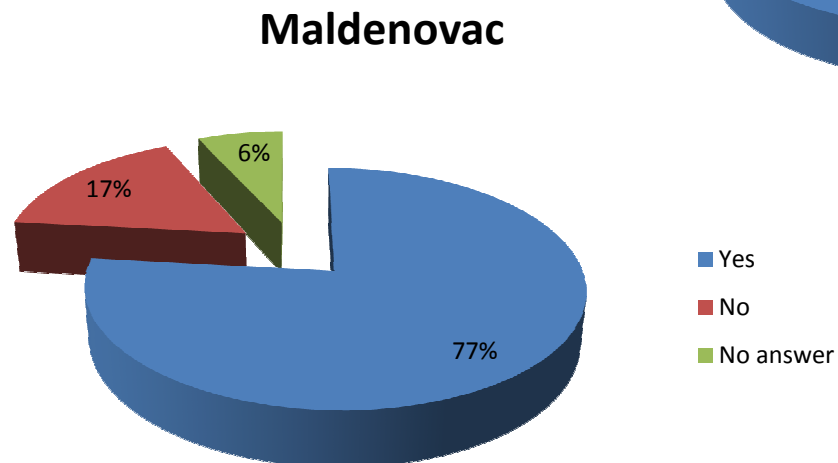
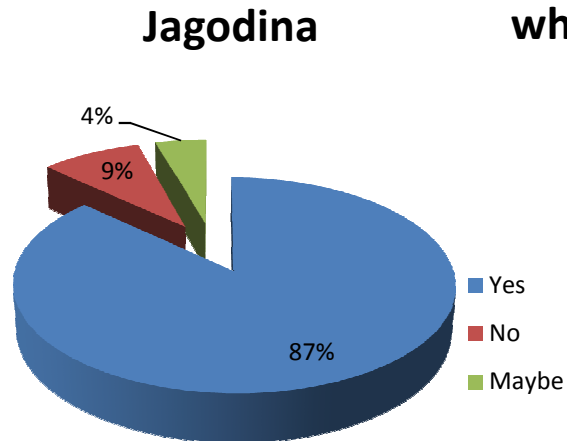
Experiencing Discrimination Southern Serbia (Niš)

**Have you ever found yourself in a situation where another person
has been discriminated?**

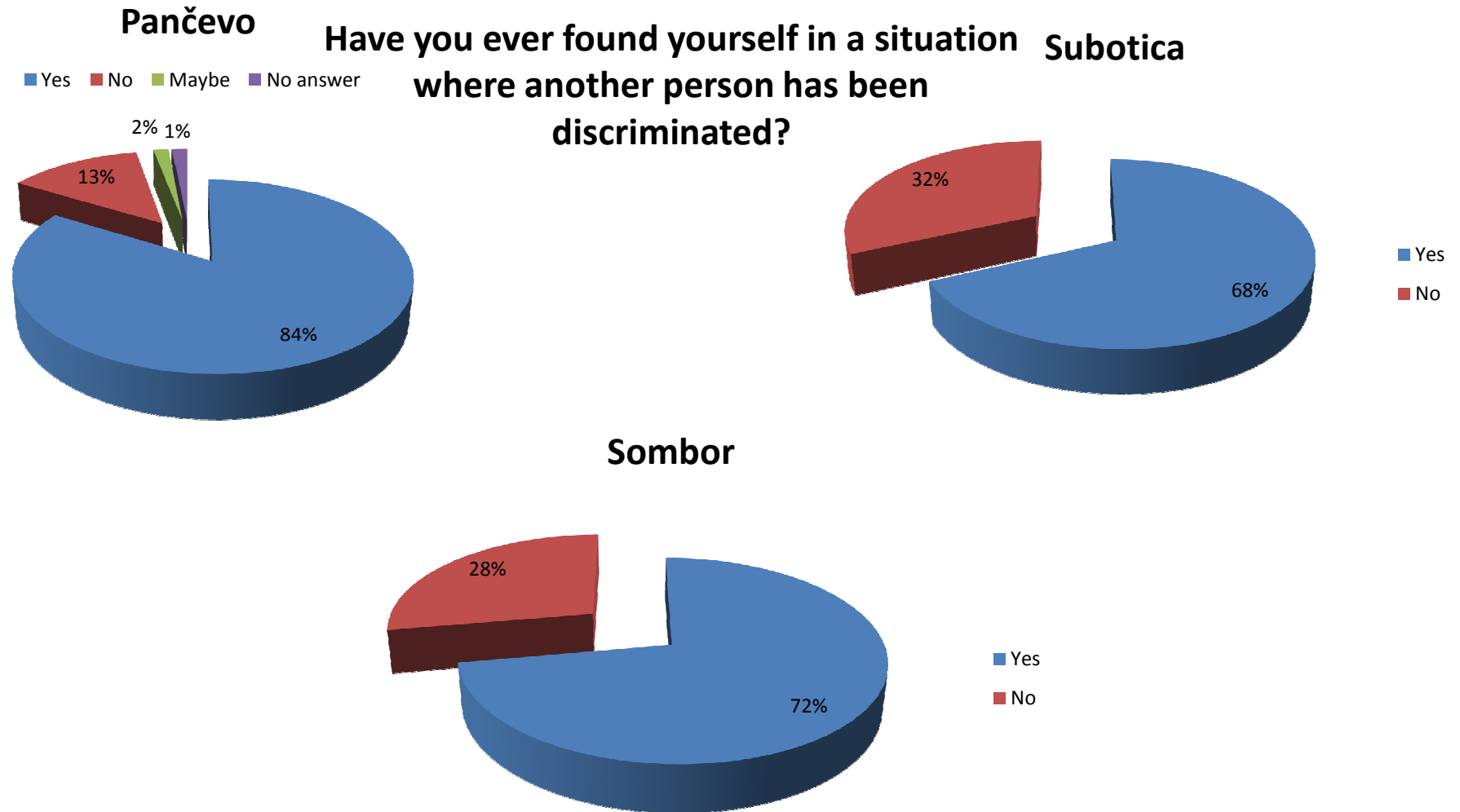


Experiencing Discrimination (Šumadija)

Have you ever found yourself in a situation
where another person has been
discriminated?



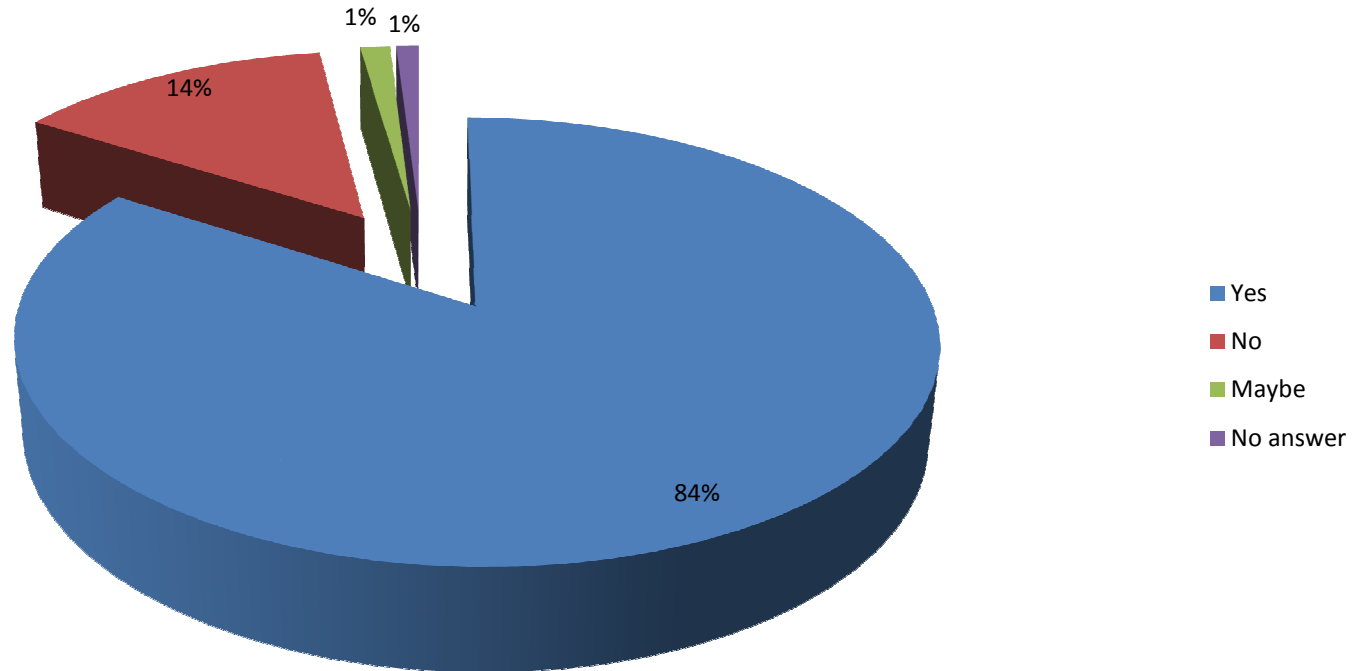
Experiencing Discrimination Vojvodina



Experiencing Discrimination

All cities together

Have you ever found yourself in a situation where another person has been discriminated?



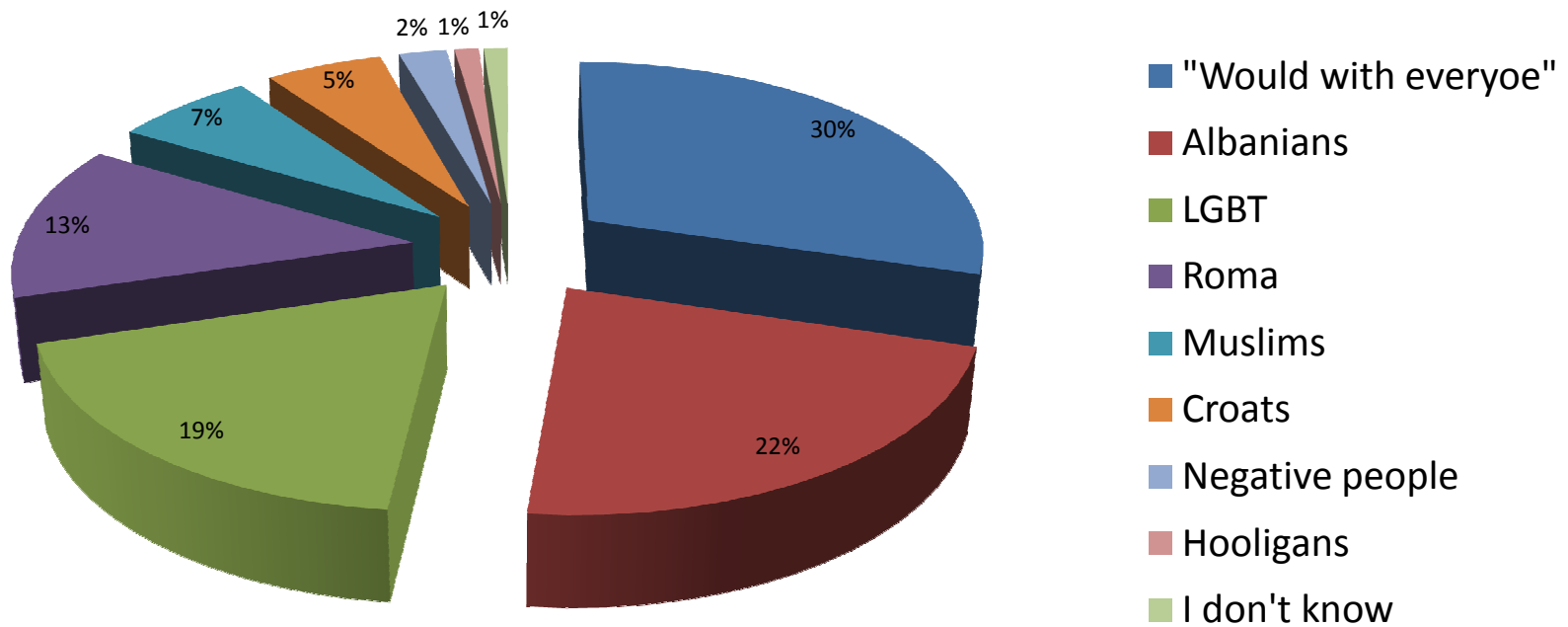
Experiencing Discrimination

- Respondents' views about whether they themselves have been discriminated are divided.
- In **Jagodina** “No” is in a slight majority, in **Kragujevac** “Yes” enjoys a slight majority, while in **Mladenovac** the answer is definitely “No”.
- In **Vojvodina** “No” is clearly the majority answer, except in Pančevo where “No” is the majority answer, but only by a few percentage points.
- Even though the students themselves aren't always sure whether they've experienced discrimination, **virtually all have witnessed discrimination against others.**

We Wouldn't be Friends

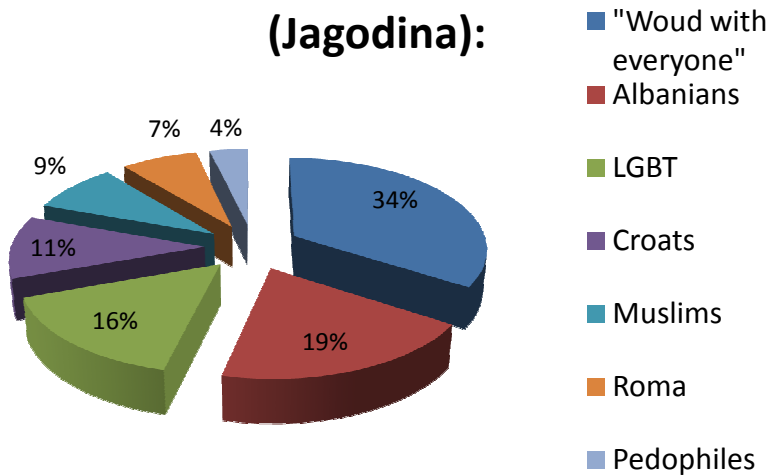
Southern Serbia (Niš)

I wouldn't be friends with:

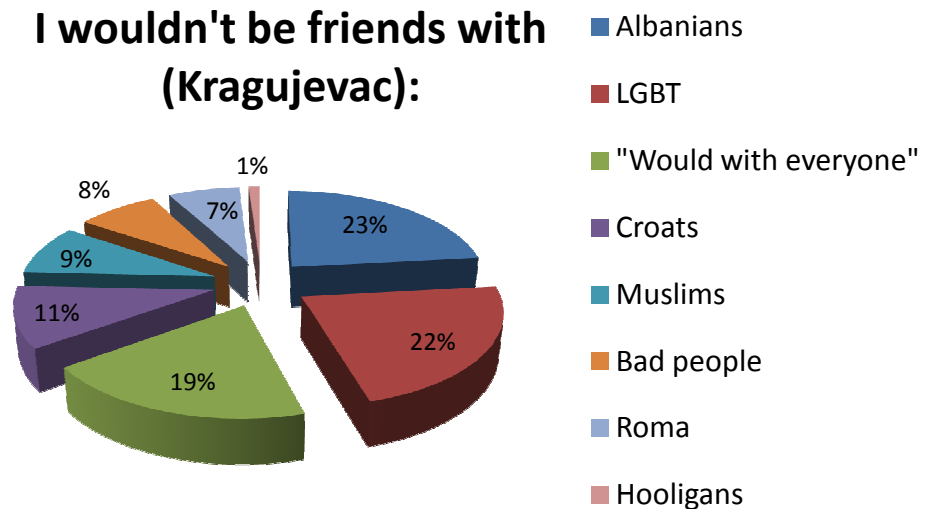


We Wouldn't be Friends Šumadija

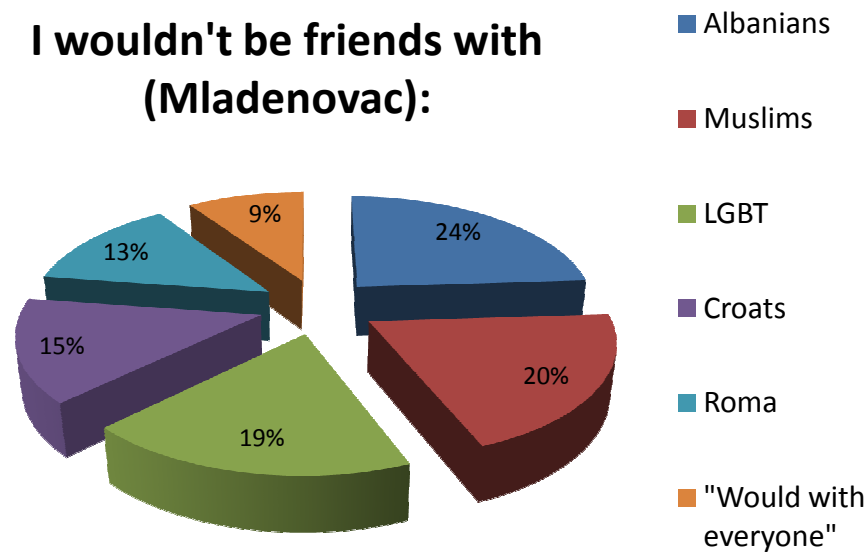
**I wouldn't be friends with
(Jagodina):**



**I wouldn't be friends with
(Kragujevac):**

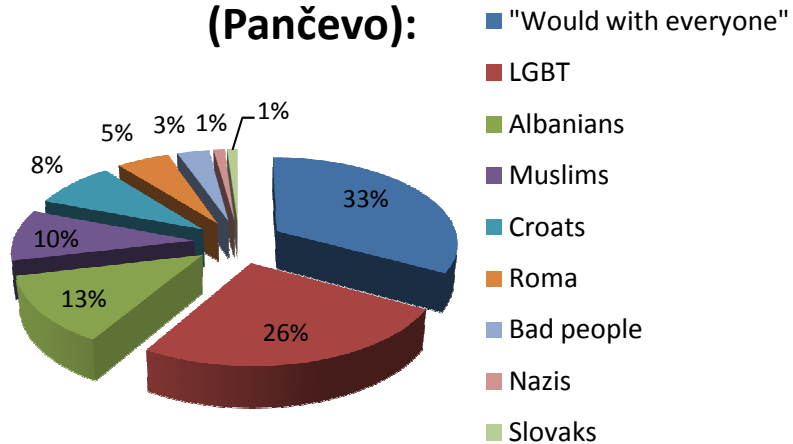


**I wouldn't be friends with
(Mladenovac):**

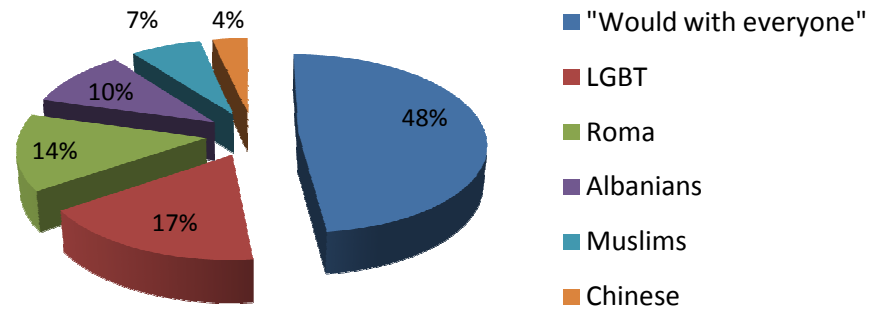


We Wouldn't be Friends Vojvodina

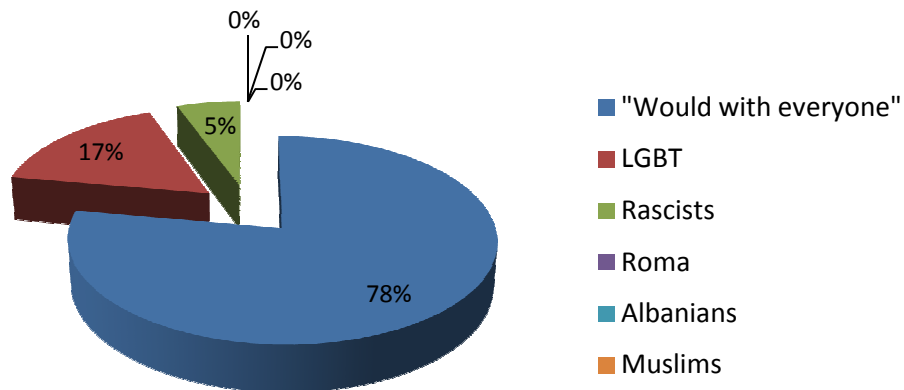
**I wouldn't be friends with
(Pančevo):**



I wouldn't be friends with (Subotica):

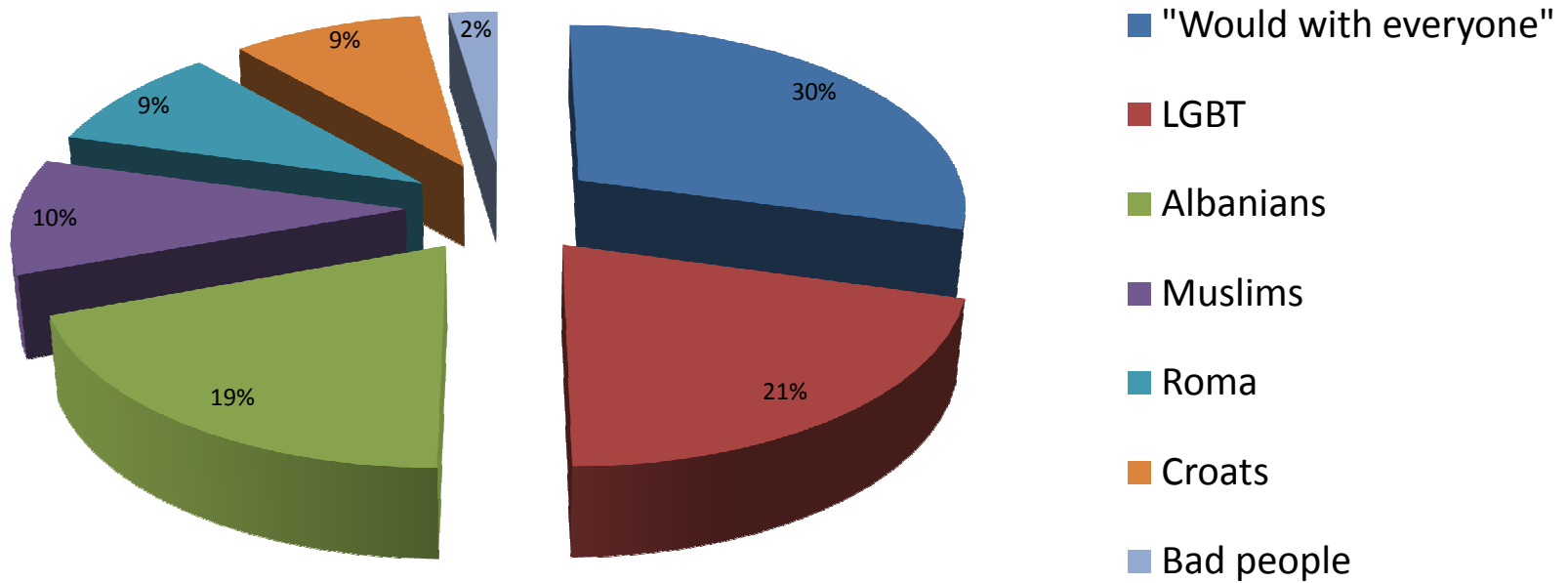


I wouldn't be friends with (Sombor):



We Wouldn't be Friends All cities together

I wouldn't be friends with:



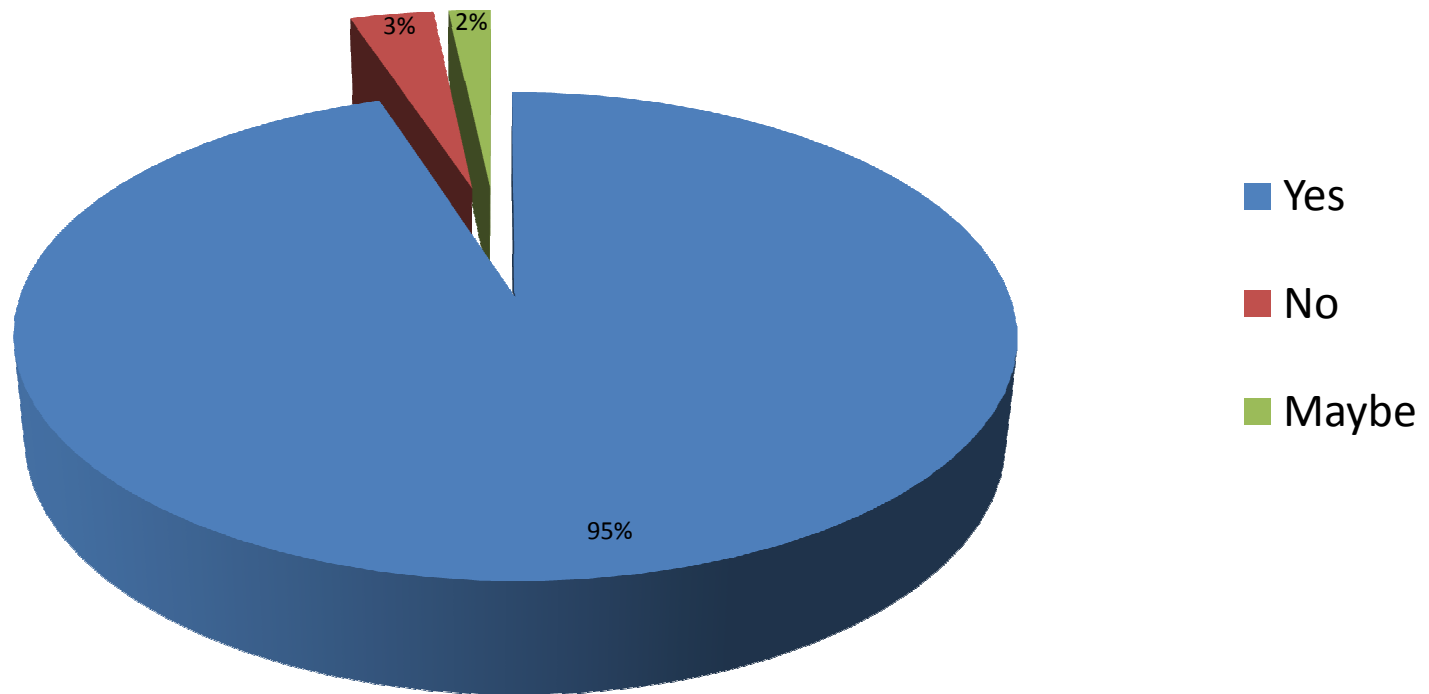
We Wouldn't be Friends

- In **Niš** the **category with the highest plurality of answers is being friends with everyone, at 30%**. However, that means that **70% of respondents do not want to be friends with at least one minority group**. The same relationship appears in the aggregate result.
- In Šumadija **“would with everyone”** is the category with most answers only in Jagodina. On the other hand, in Mladenovac that answer is in last place.
- **Least favoured** friends are **Albanians, Muslims** and members of the **LGBT** population.
- **In Vojvodina** the answer **“would with everyone”** is the **most frequent** answer, especially in Subotica and Sombor.

Link Between Discrimination and Violence

Southern Serbia (Niš)

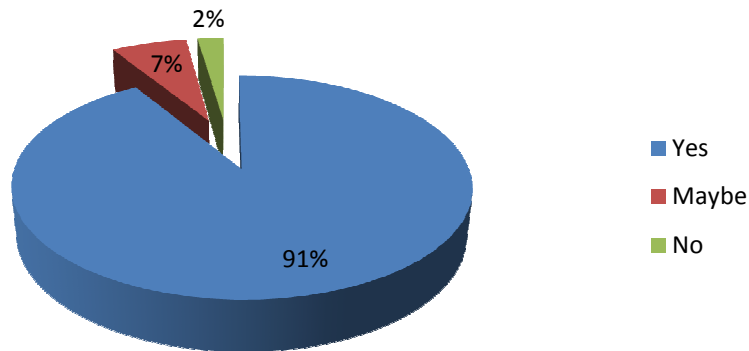
Is there a link between discrimination and violence?



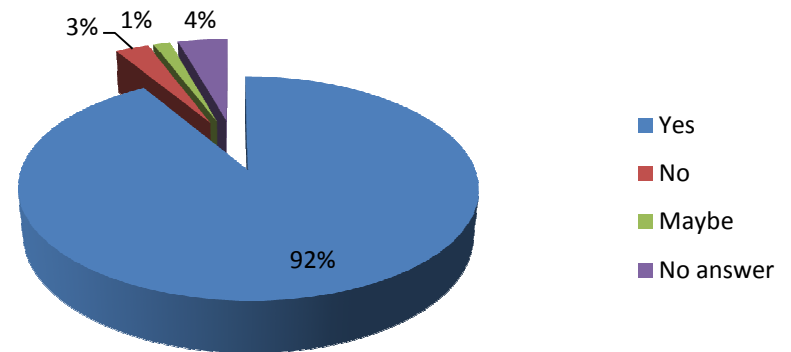
Link Between Discrimination and Violence

Šumadija

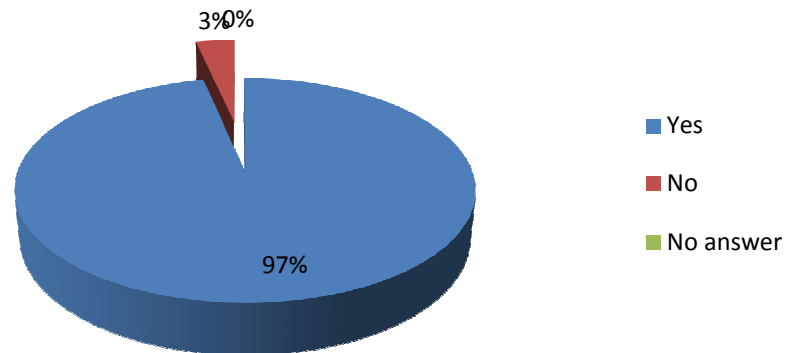
Is there a link between discrimination and violence (Jagodina)?



Is there a link between discrimination and violence (Kragujevac)?

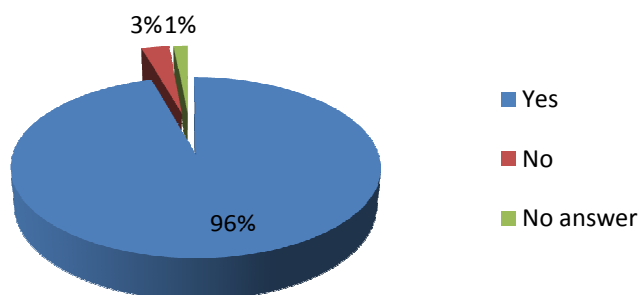


Is there a link between discrimination and violence (Mladenovac)?

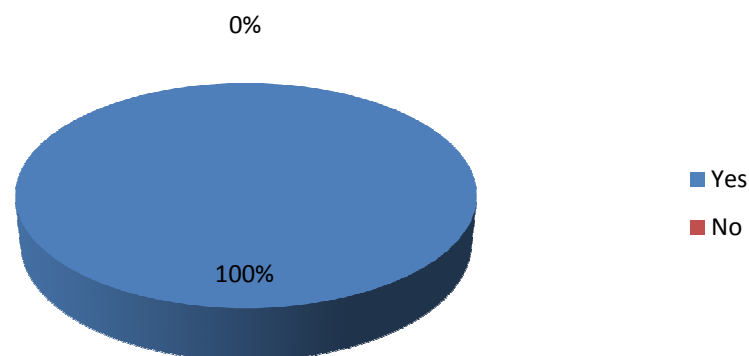


Link Between Discrimination and Violence Vojvodina

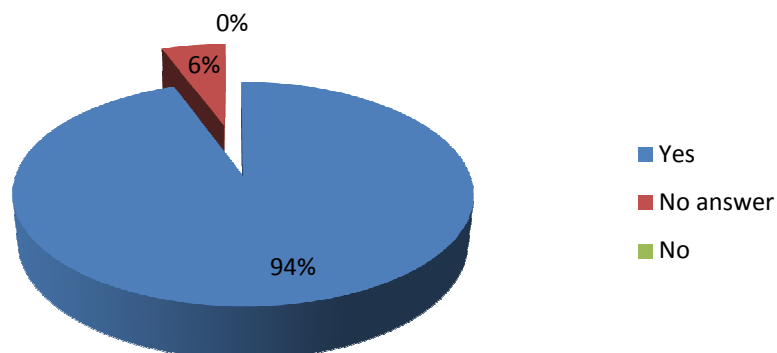
**Is there a link between
discrimination and violence
(Pančevo)?**



**Is there a link between discrimination
and violence (Subotica)?**



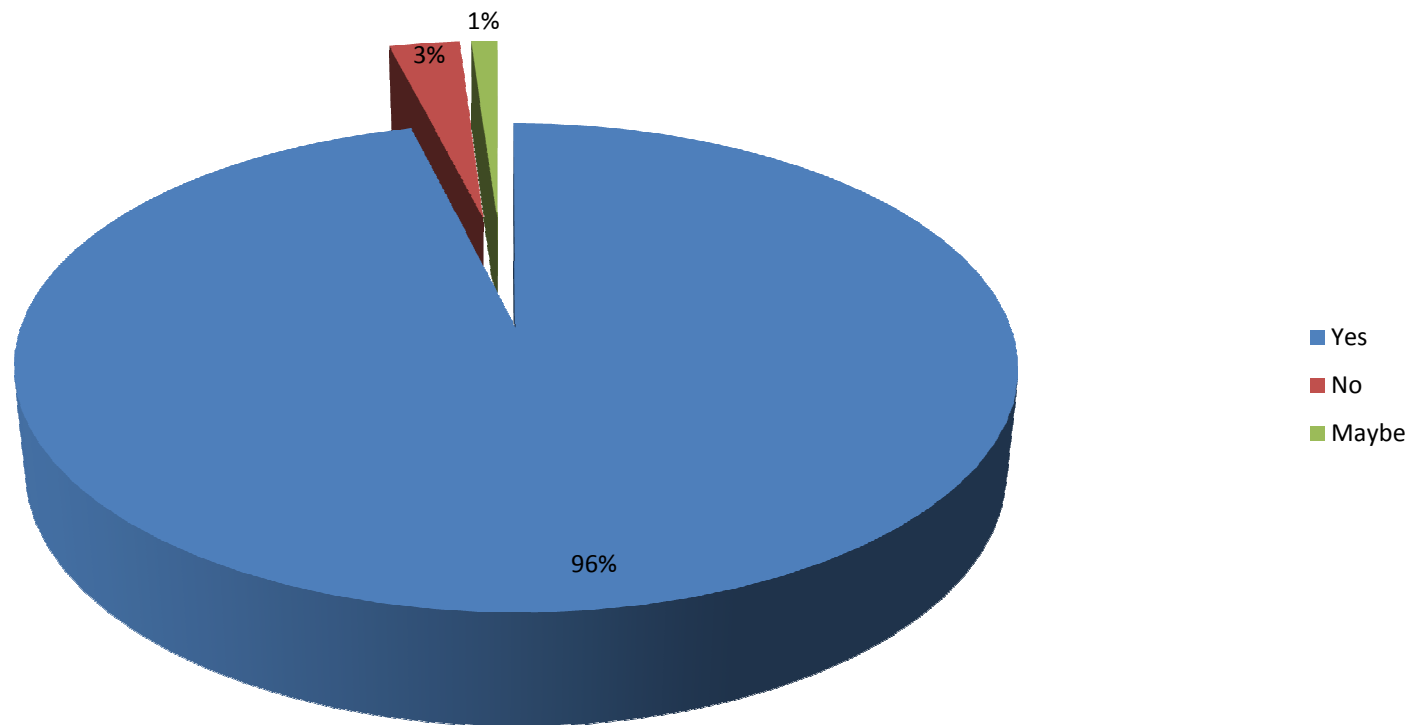
**Is there a link between discrimination
and violence (Sombor)?**



Link Between Discrimination and Violence

All cities together

Is there a link between discrimination and violence?



Link Between Discrimination and Violence

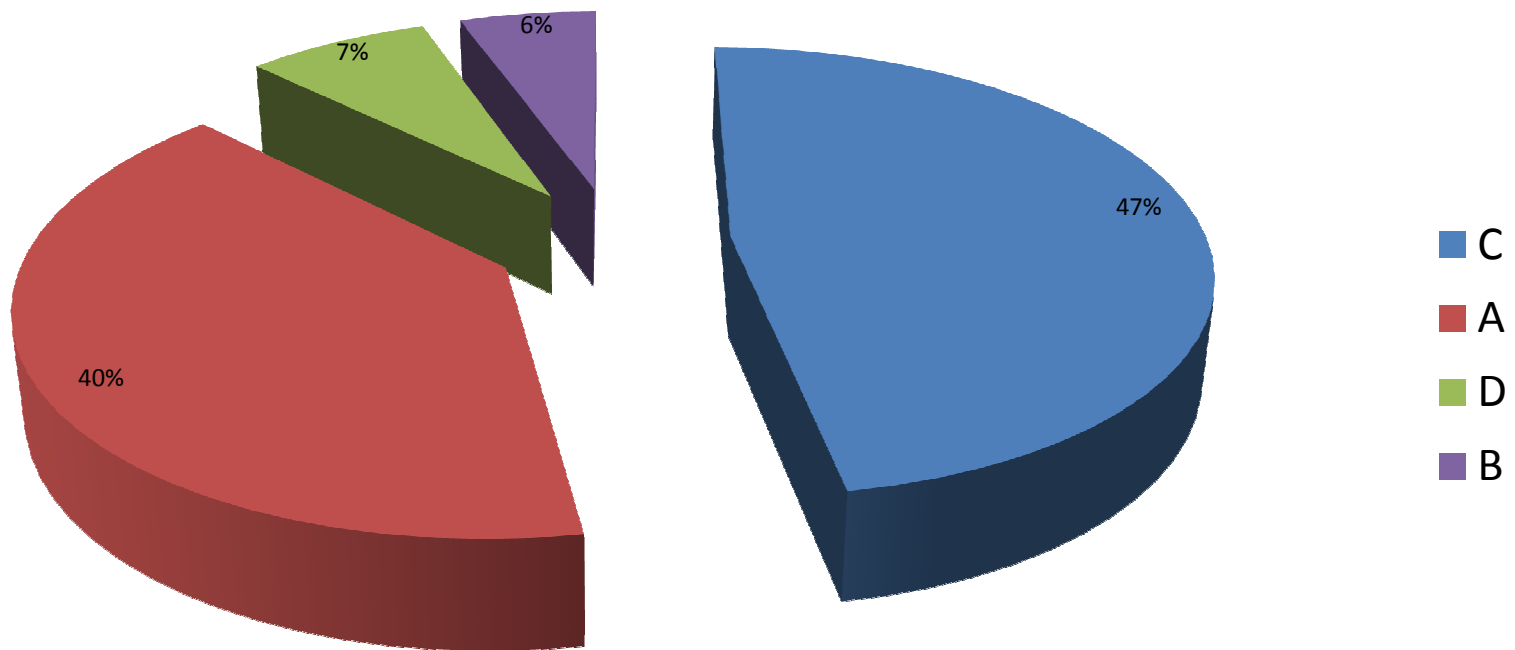
- A large majority of respondents agrees that there is a link between discrimination and violence
- There is no difference in answers between regions

Recognizing Cases of Discrimination

- **A** – A person in a wheelchair cannot access a public institution because there is no ramp
- **B** – A person cannot buy medication because they are unemployed and have no money
- **C** – A Roma and a Serb girl go to a swimming pool, but security does not allow the Roma girl to enter
- **D** – A pensioner has a small pension even though he was employed for 40 years

Recognizing Cases of Discrimination Southern Serbia(Niš)

Answers on recognizing discrimination



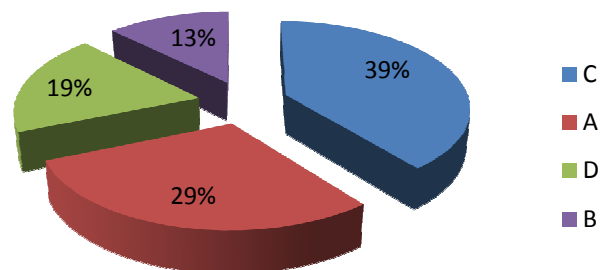
A – Disabled **B** – Not discrimination

C – Based on nationality **D** – Not discrimination

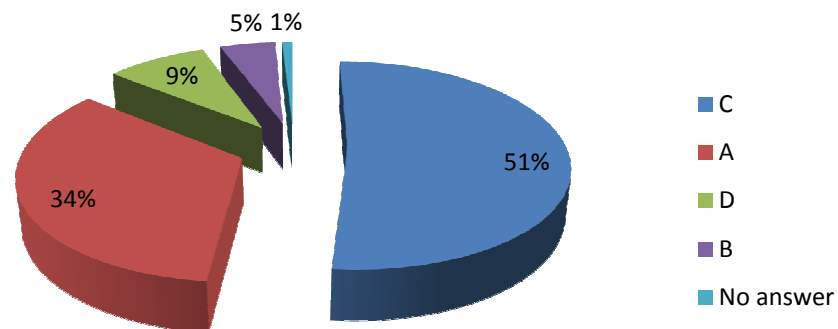
Recognizing Cases of Discrimination

Šumadija

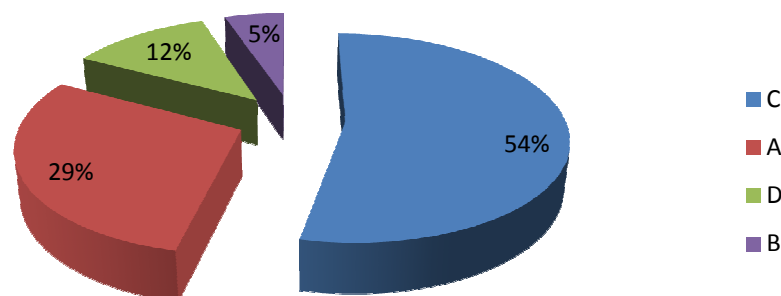
Answers on recognizing discrimination (Jagodina)



Answers on recognizing discrimination (Kragujevac)



Answers on recognizing discrimination (Mladenovac)



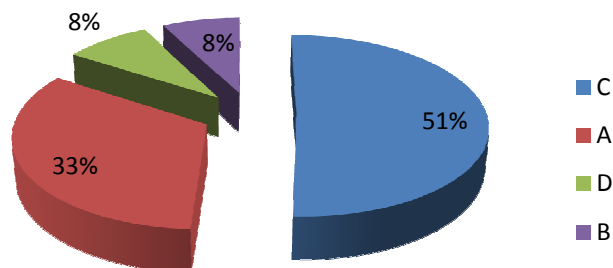
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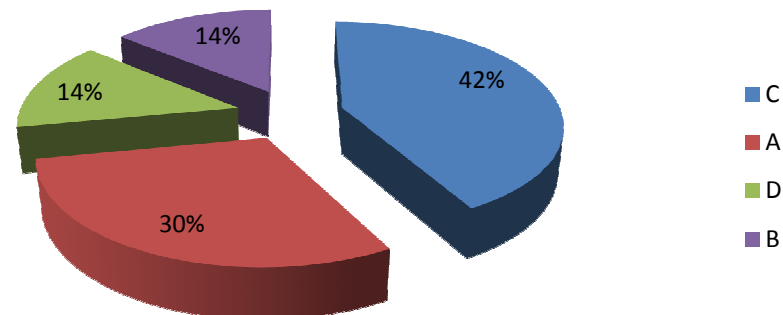
Recognizing Cases of Discrimination

Vojvodina

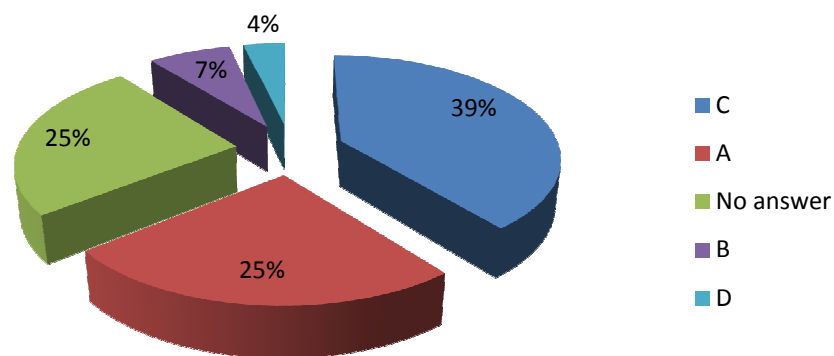
Answers on recognizing discrimination (Pančevo)



Answers on recognizing discrimination (Subotica)



Answers on recognizing discrimination (Sombor)



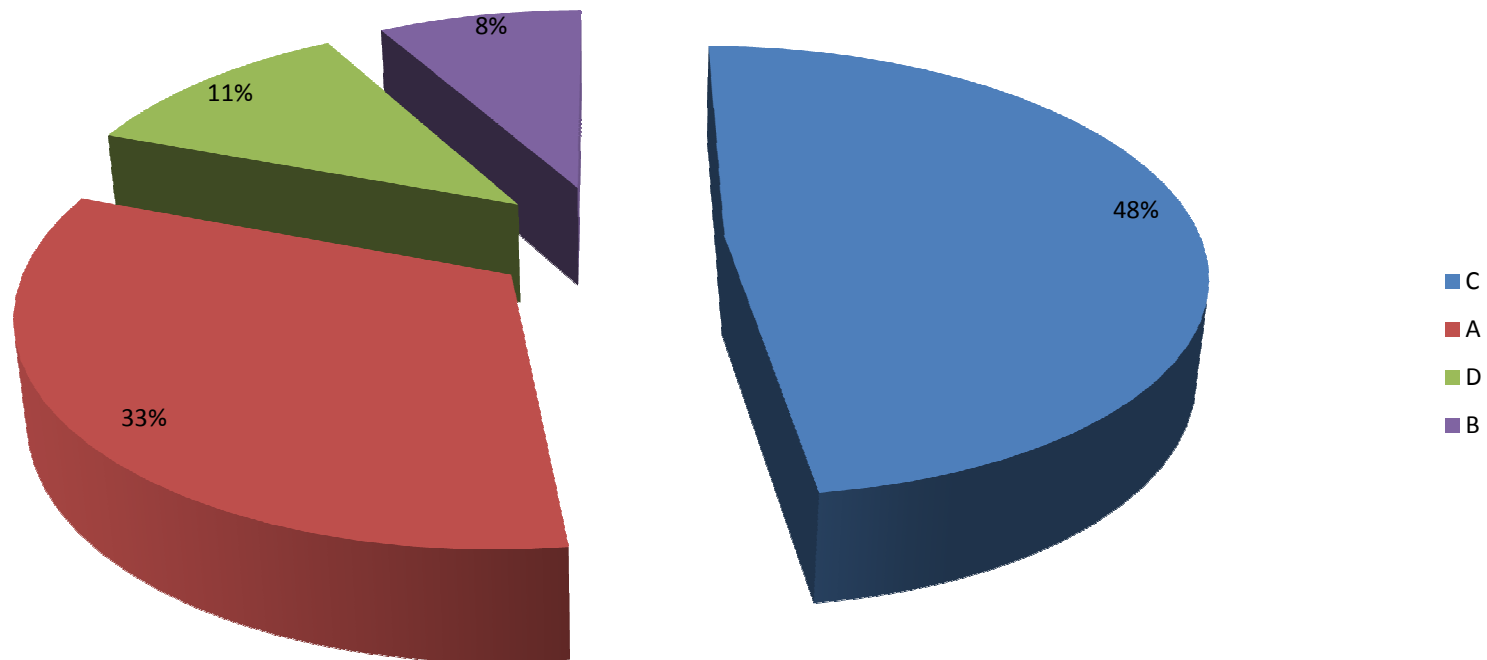
A – Disabled **B** – Not discrimination

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Recognizing Cases of Discrimination

All cities together

Answers on recognizing discrimination



A – Disabled **B** – Not discrimination

C – Based on nationality **D** – Not discrimination

Recognizing Cases of Discrimination

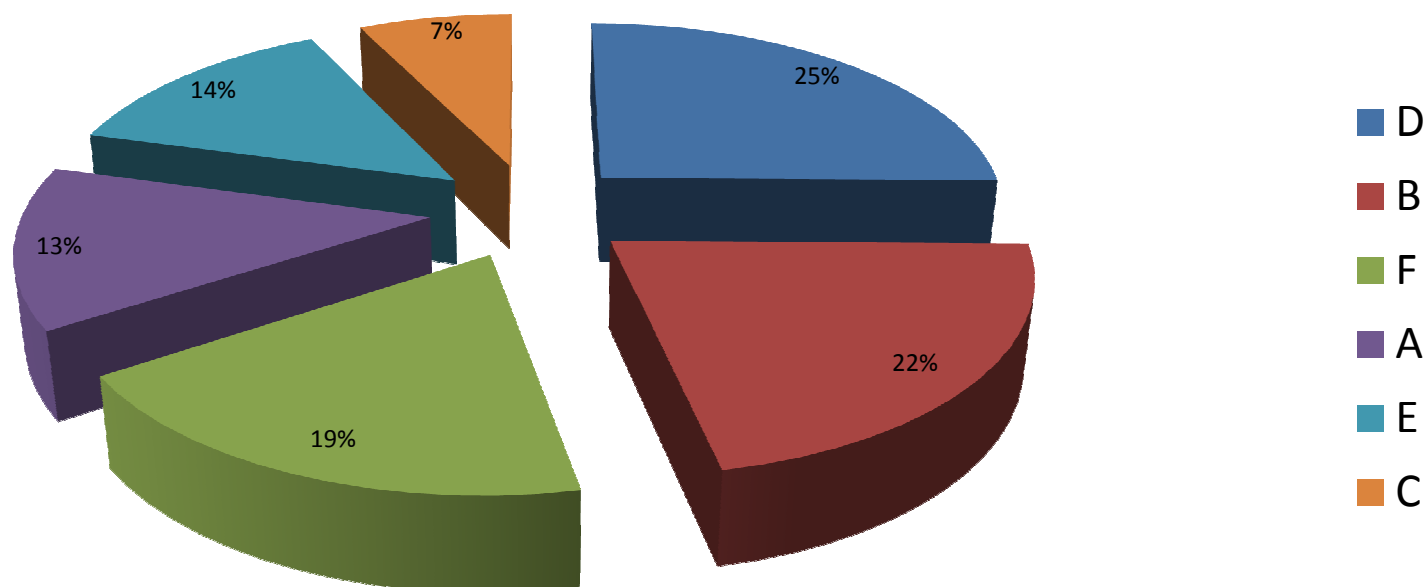
- Respondents could select one or more answers
- **Most recognized discrimination based on national identity**, and a slightly smaller number based on disability
- **Almost 20% of surveyed high school students do not fully understand the meaning of discrimination**, assuming that having to subsist on a low income qualifies as a form of discrimination

Views About the LGBT Population

- **A** – It's a sickness and it should be treated!
- **B** – The state should prevent homosexuality because it negatively affects children
- **C** – It's a fad people choose
- **D** – Nothing against them, but they should remain behind closed doors
- **E** – They are disadvantaged and deserve equal rights except adopting children
- **F** – They are disadvantaged and deserve the same rights as the majority

Views About the LGBT Population Southern Serbia(Niš)

Answers about LGBT rights



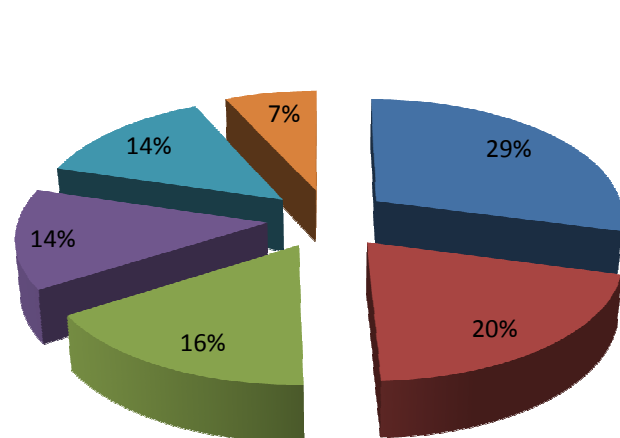
A – Sickness **B** – Harms children **C** – Fad **D** – Behind closed doors **E** – Same rights except adoption **F** – Same rights as majority

Views About the LGBT Population

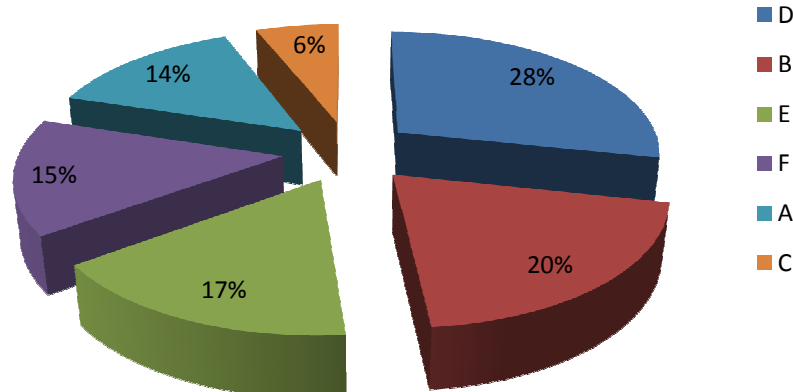
Šumadija

Jagodina

Kragujevac

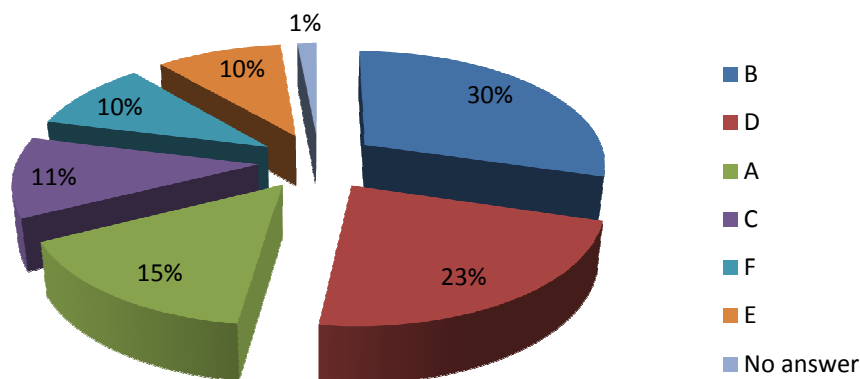


D
B
A
E
F
C



D
B
E
F
A
C

Mladenovac

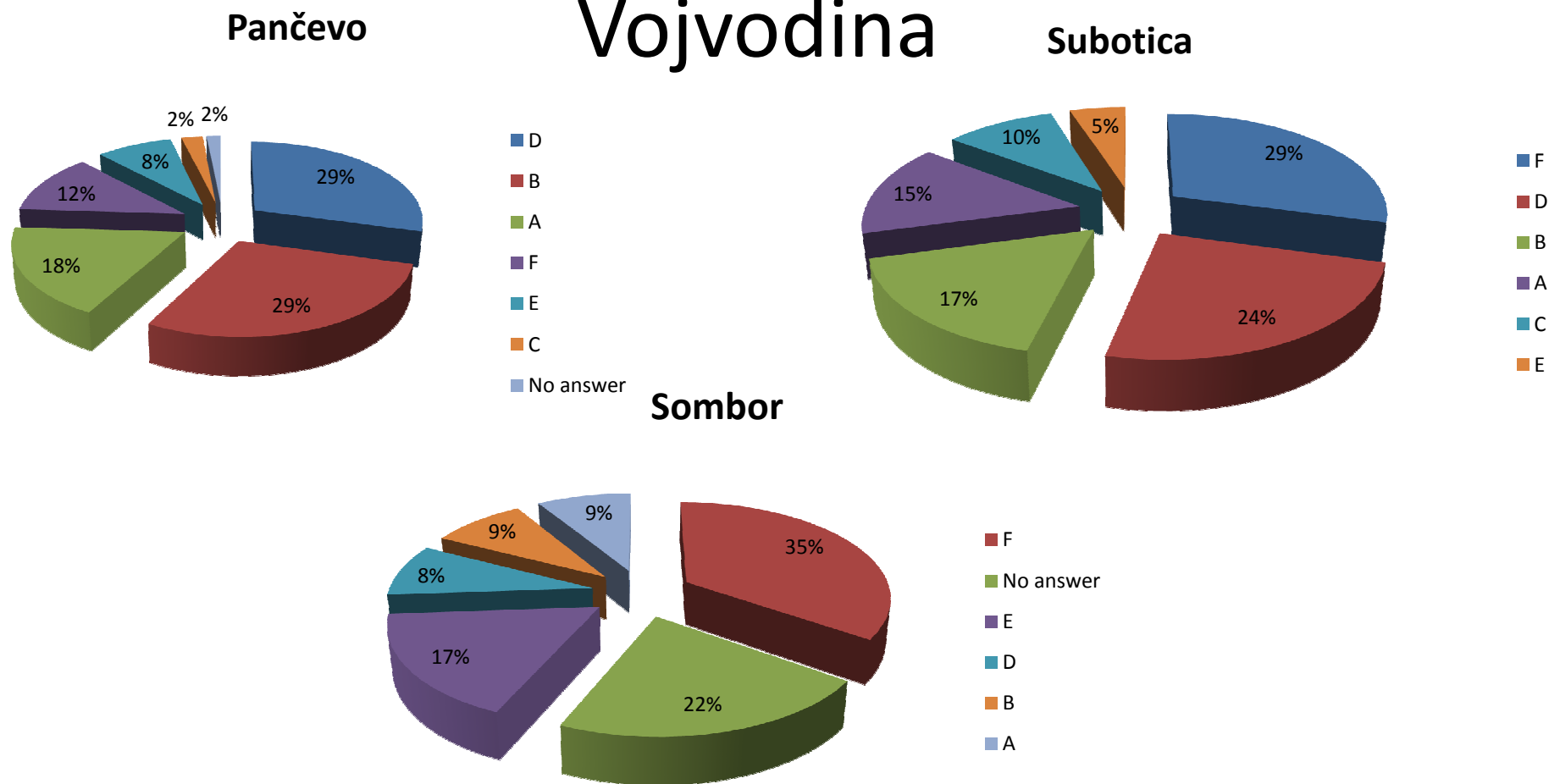


B
D
A
C
F
E
No answer

A – Sickness **B** – Harms children **C** – Fad **D** – Behind closed doors **E** – Same rights except adoption **F** – Same rights as majority

Views About the LGBT Population

Vojvodina

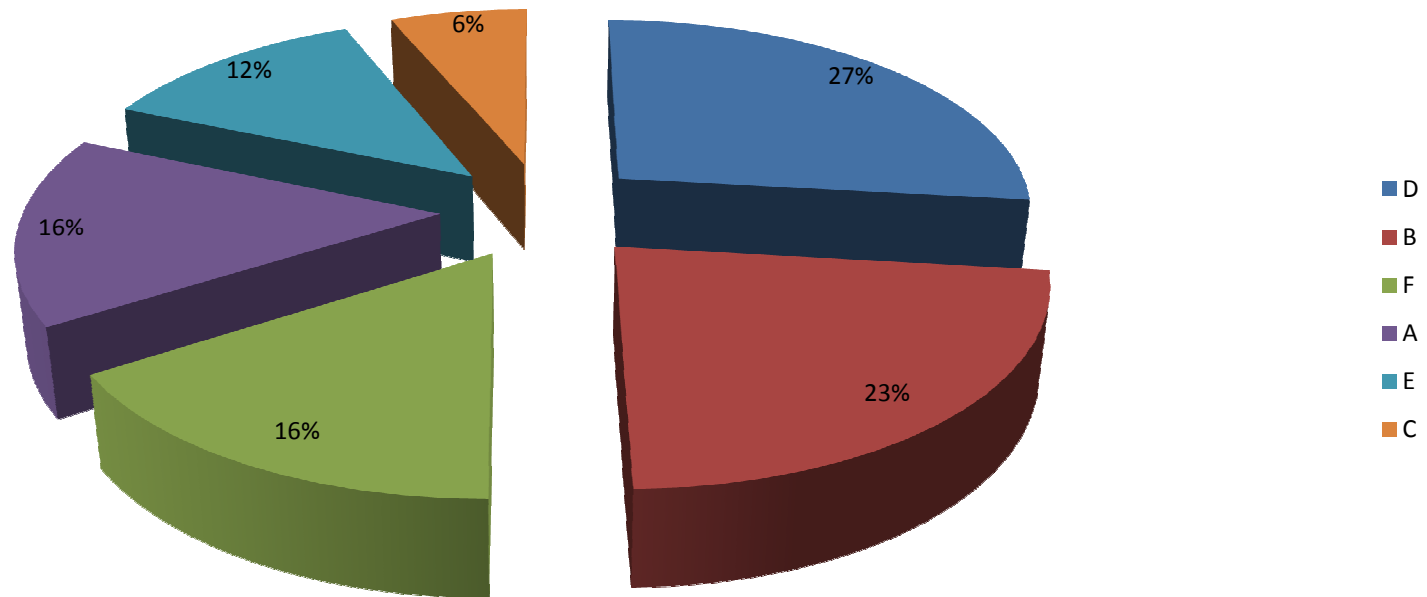


A – Sickness **B** – Harms children **C** – Fad **D** – Behind closed doors **E** – Same rights except adoption **F** – Same rights as majority

Views About the LGBT Population

All cities together

Answers about LGBT rights



A – Sickness **B** – Harms children **C** – Fad **D** – Behind closed doors **E** – Same rights except adoption **F** – Same rights as majority

Views About the LGBT Population

- The **view that homosexuality should be kept “behind closed doors” predominates**, and that it is a phenomenon that should be hidden from children.
- The **concept of „same rights for all“ is not always well understood**: in some surveys students circled „behind closed doors“ and „same rights for all“
- **Vojvodina is definitely the most tolerant region**. In two of three surveyed cities, **„same rights for all“ enjoys a plurality with 30% of the respondents selecting this answer**
- At the national level (all cities together) **only 16%** of the respondents thinks that the **LGBT population should have the same rights as everyone else**, which means that **almost 80% condones some kind of discrimination of LGBT persons**.
- Even though those surveyed did not disclose their gender, it **appears that girls are more tolerant**, „I would be friends with everyone“, in the feminine form, often appeared as an answer to the question “who would you not be friends with?”