



PeaceRep
Peace and Conflict
Resolution Evidence
Platform

Elections and Perceptions of Peace in South Sudan

Public Lecture and Panel Discussion

Senate Hall, Juba University

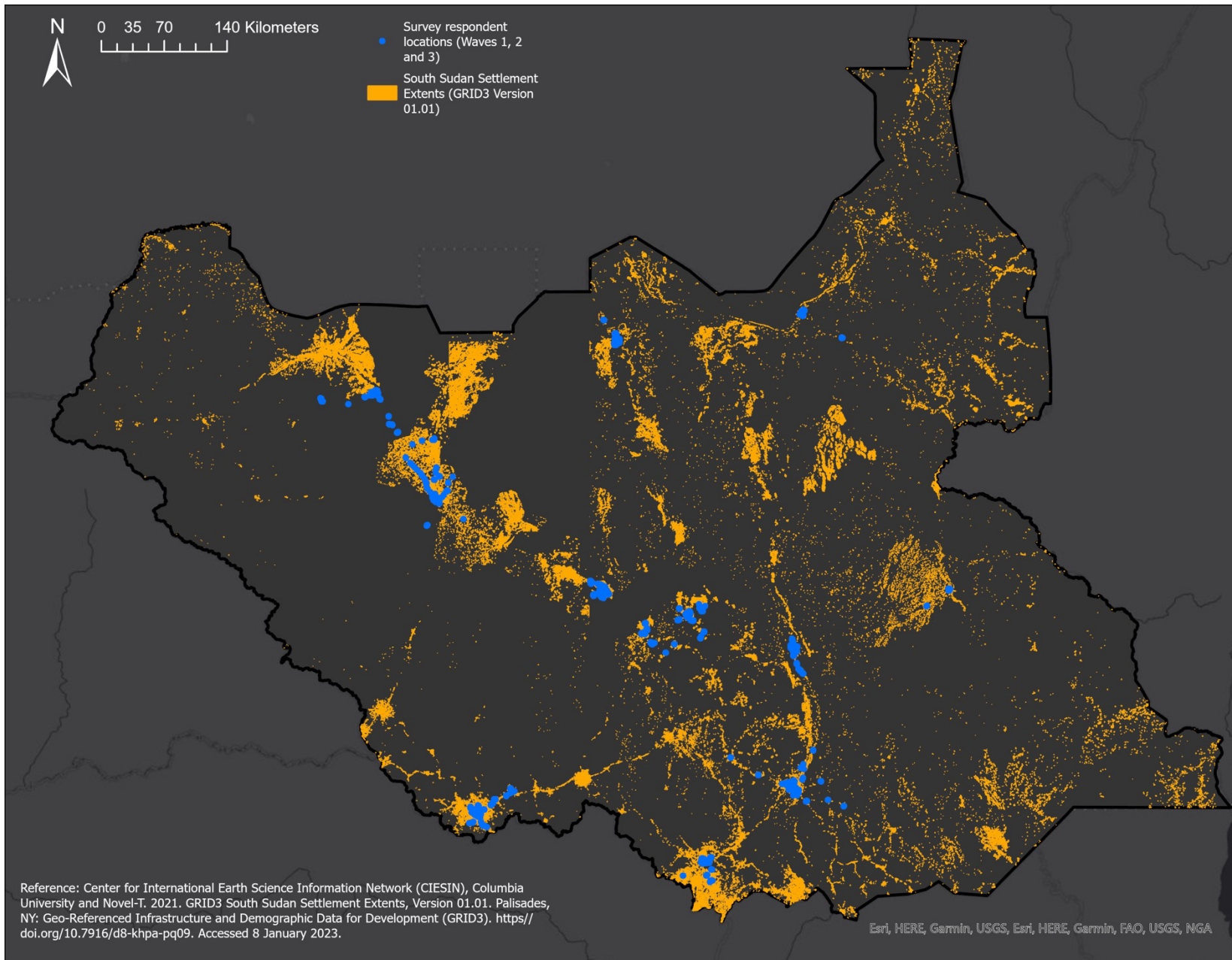
30 August 2023

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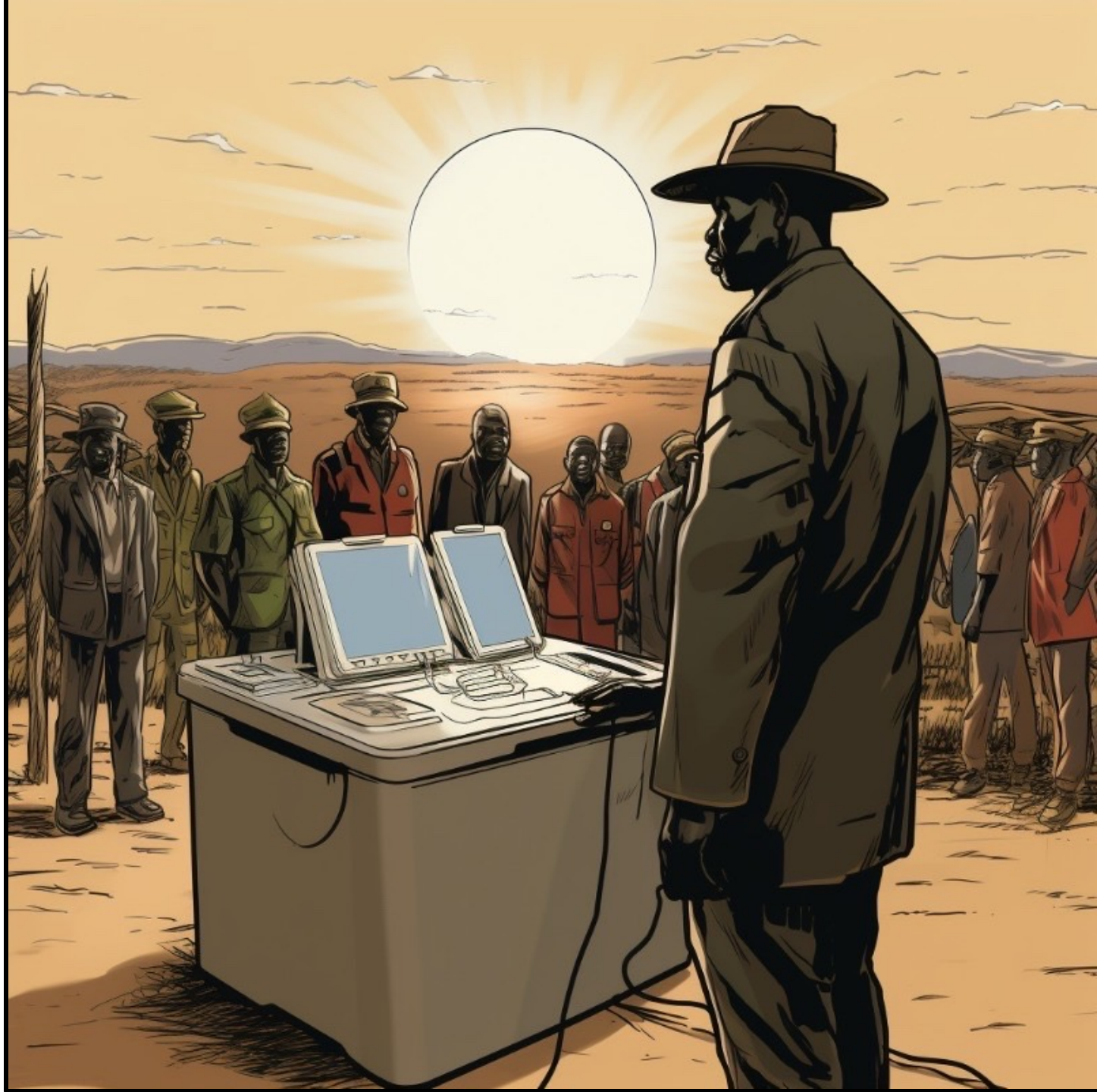


Overview

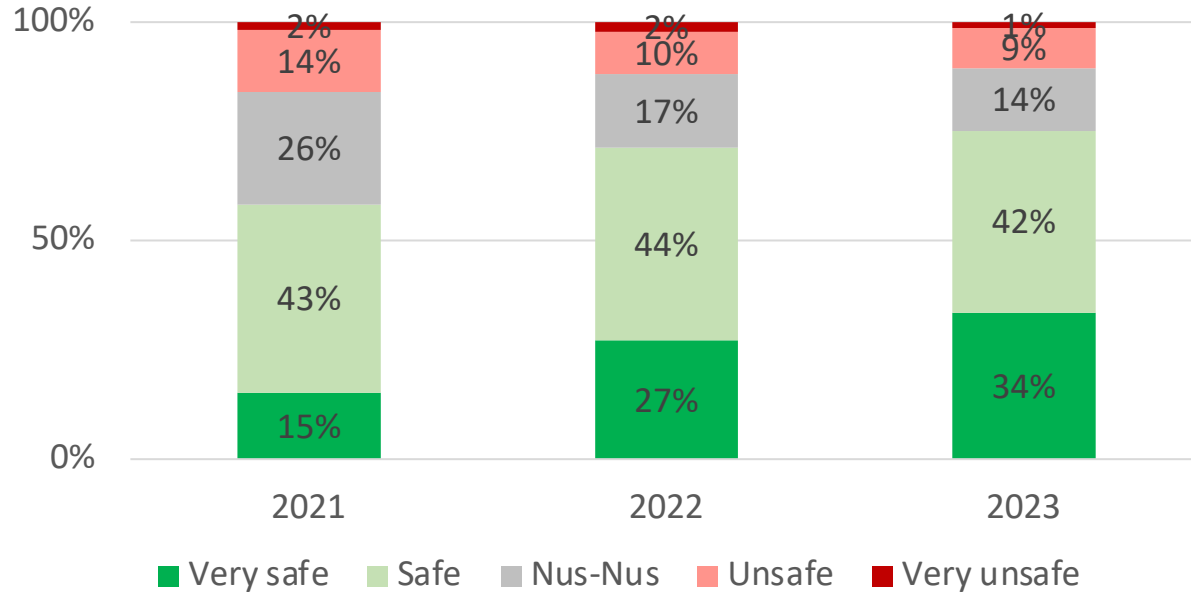
- Objective is to better understand trends in perceptions of peace and how these change over time and across demographic groups.
- Four waves of data collection thus far (Aug-Sep 2021, Feb-Apr 2022, May-Jun 2022, Mar-Apr 2023). Next round in early 2024.
- 13,325 respondents across 15 counties in all 10 states and GPAA.
- Series of briefs and reports published from 2021-22. Another round of reports forthcoming.
- Findings publicly available through interactive dashboard on PeaceRep website.
- Initial funding from USIP and AF/SSS and currently funded by FCDO and FES.



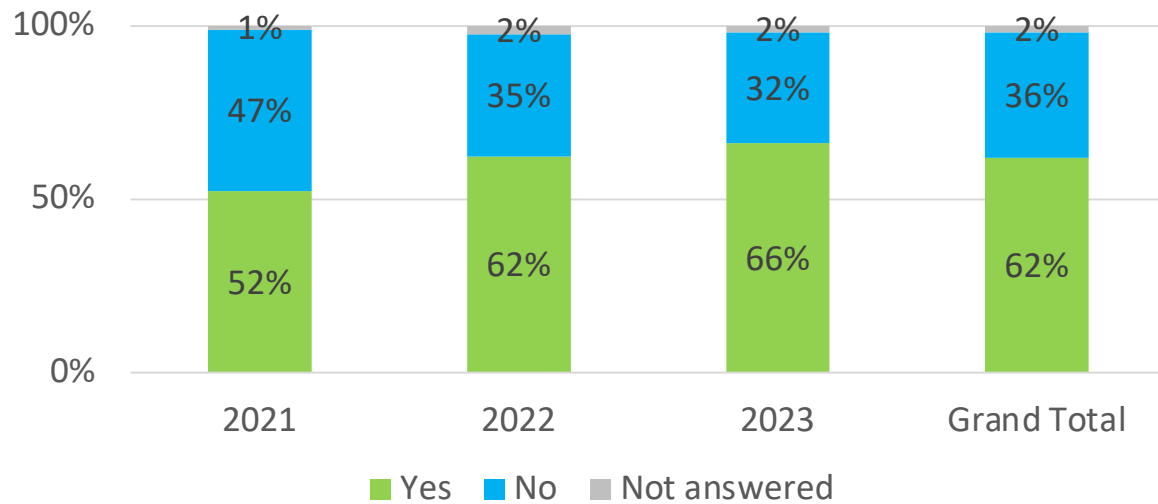
Perceptions of Peace



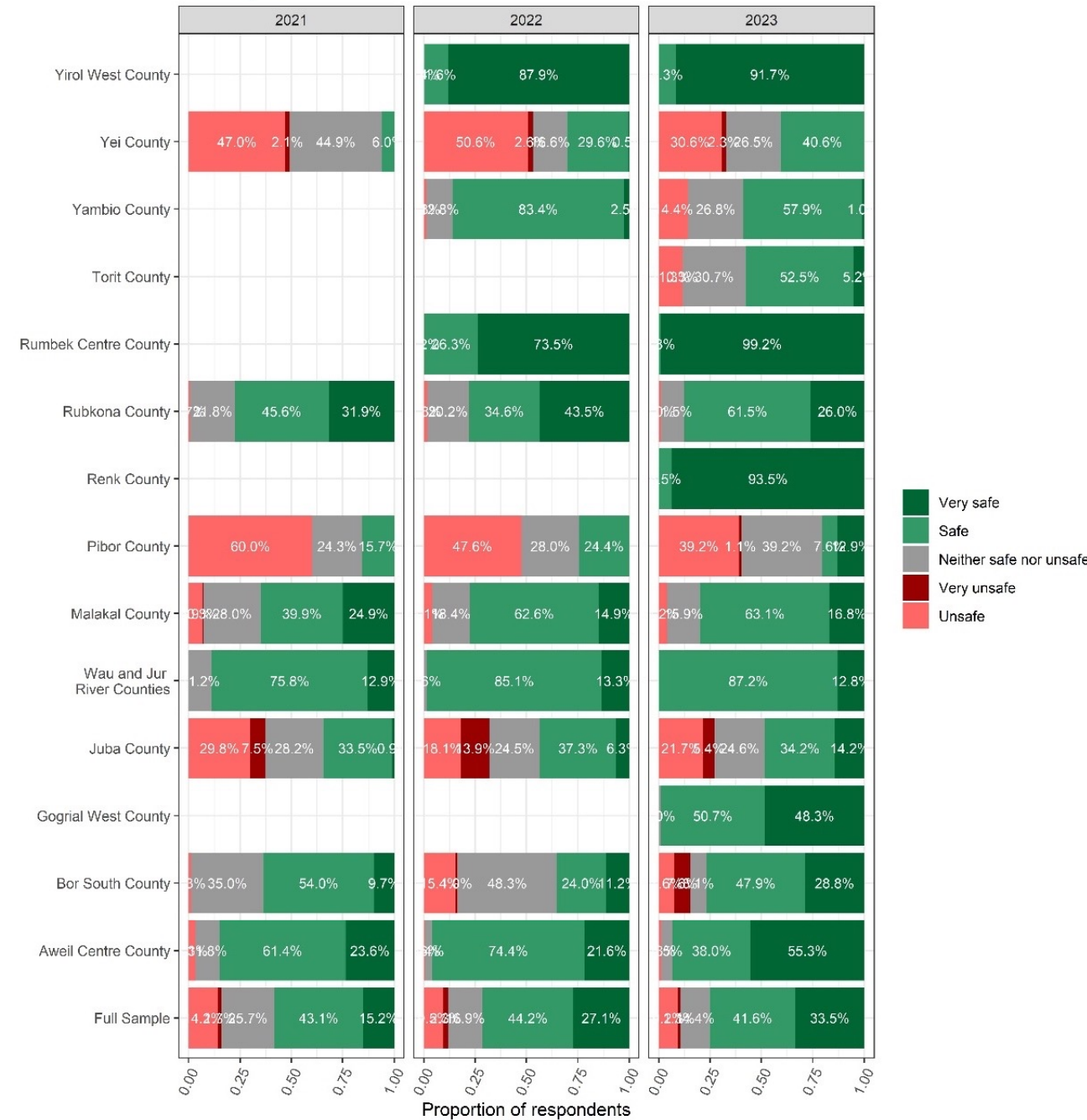
EPI Index (2021-23, n = 13,317)



Is South Sudan at peace? By Year (n = 13,284)



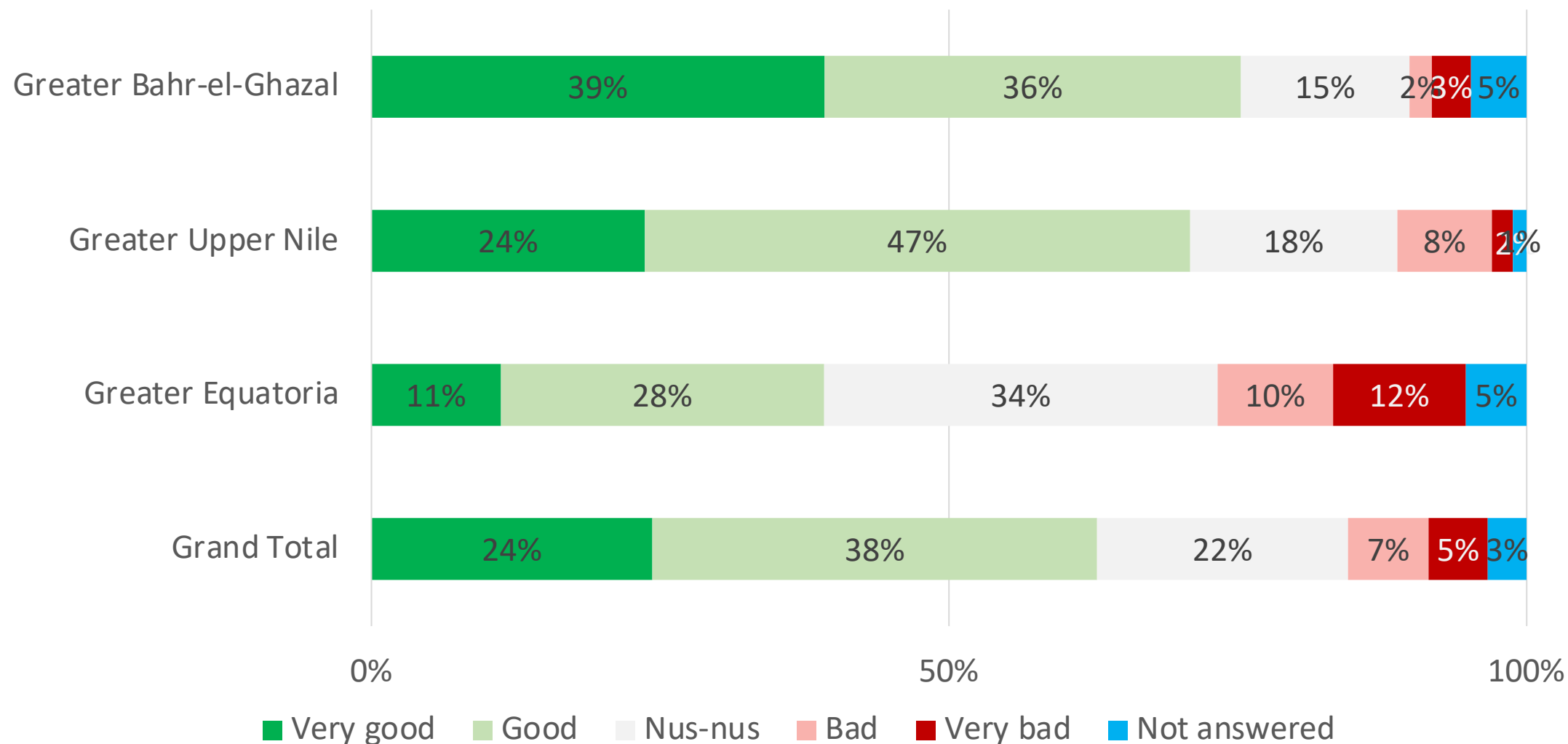
Perceptions of everyday safety by location N = 13,033



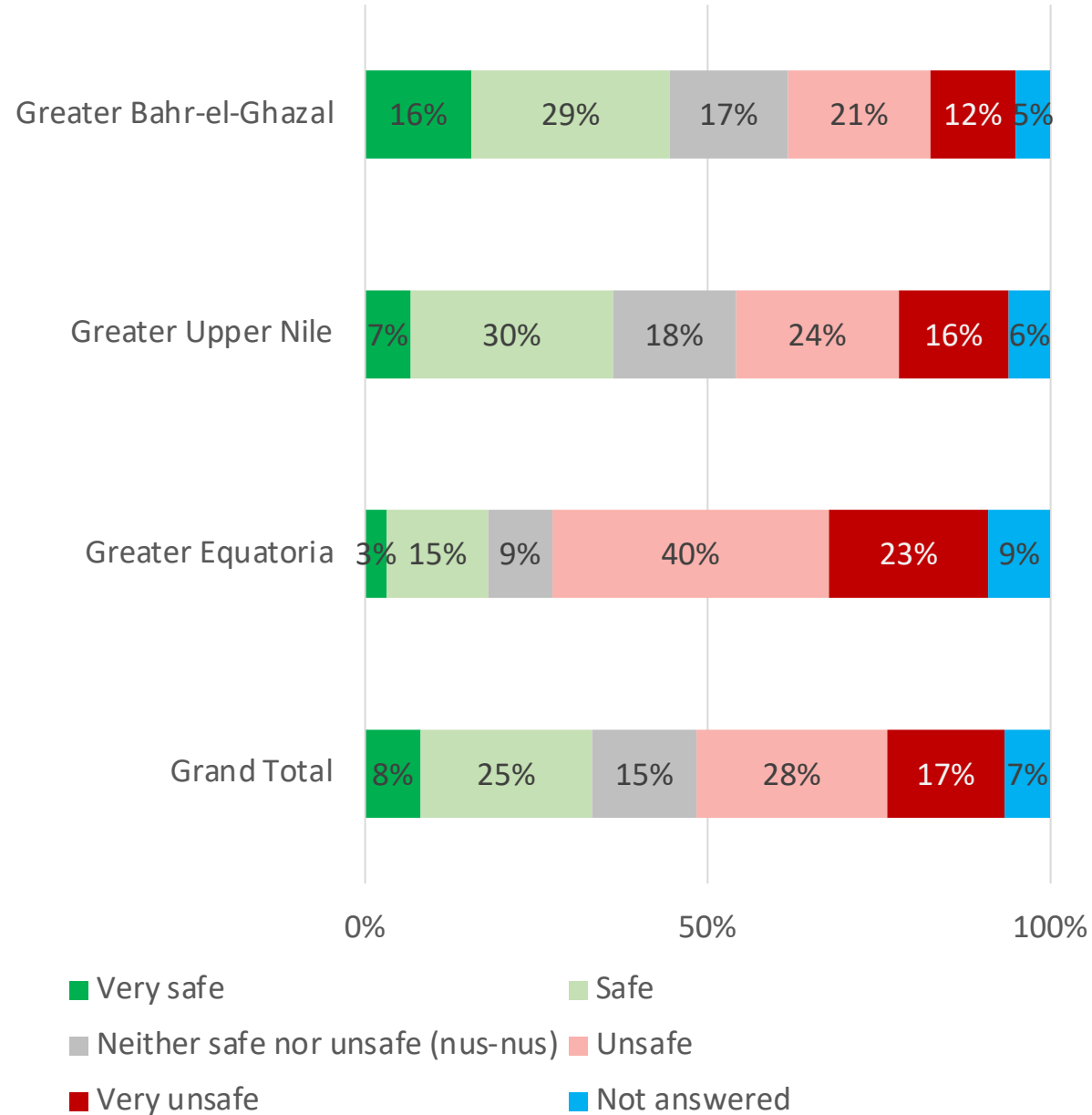


Regional Trends: Prospects for Peace, Civic Space and Marginalization

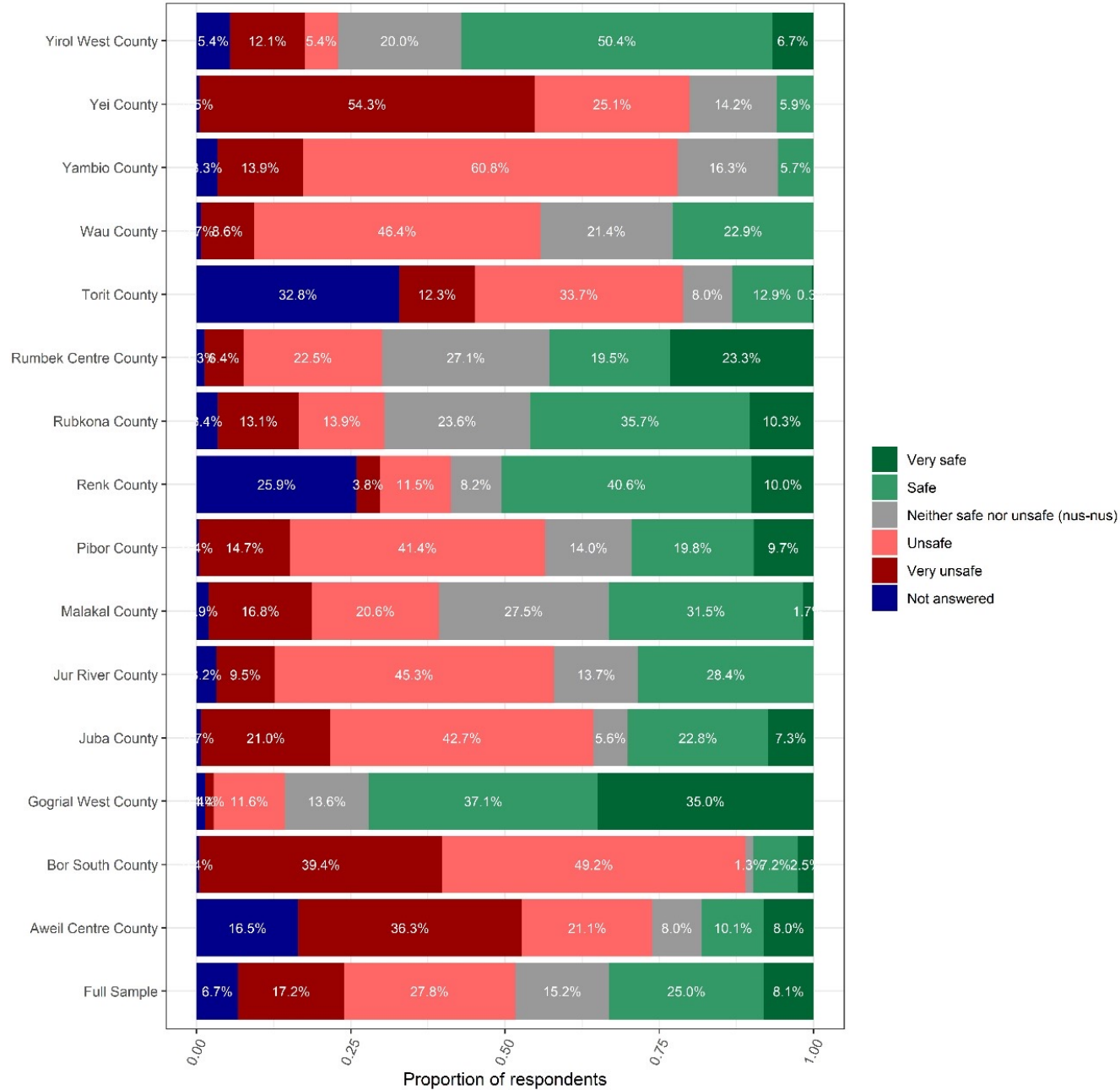
'What are the prospects for peace in South Sudan in the next three years?' By Region (2023, n = 4,482)



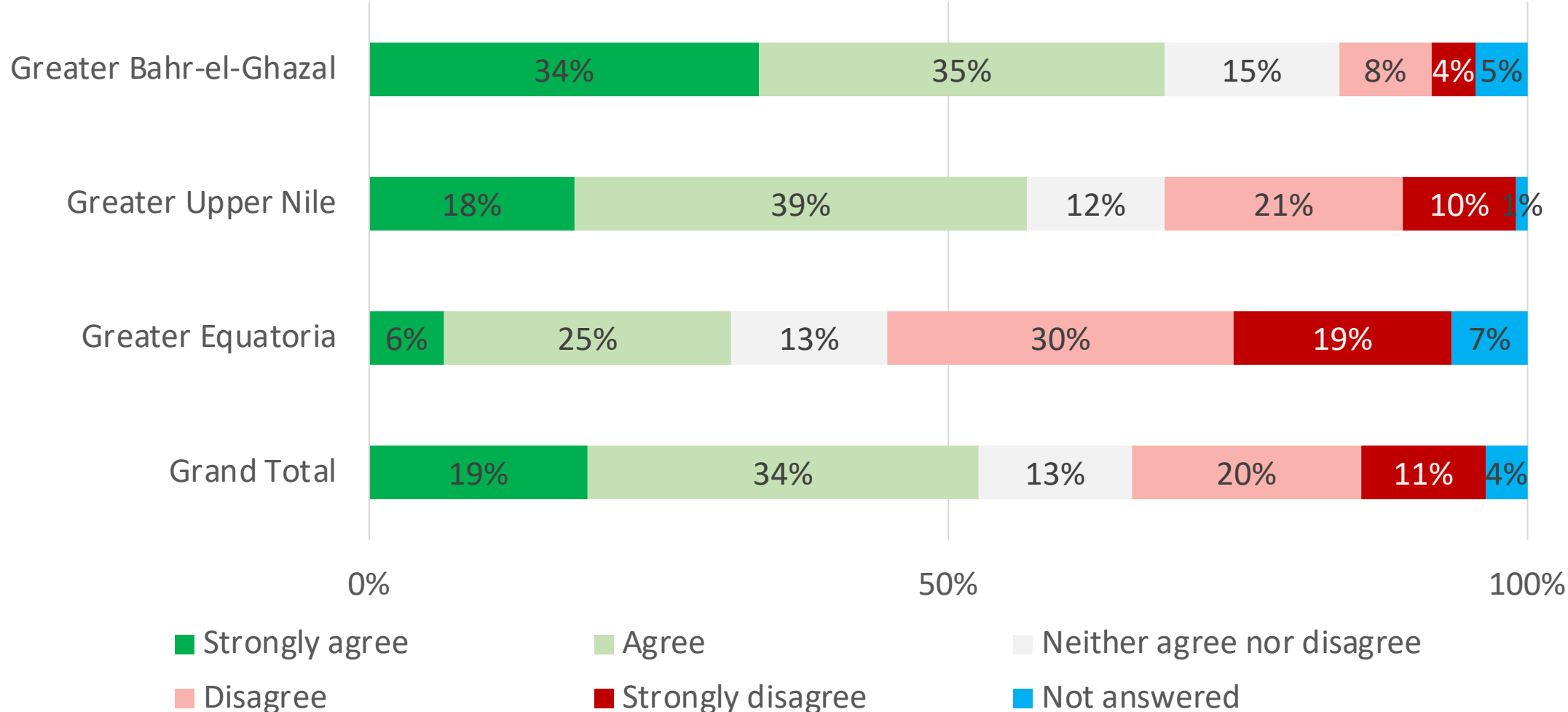
'How safe do you feel speaking publicly on politically sensitive issues?' By Region (2023, n = 4,482)



At present, how safe do you feel speaking publicly on politically sensitive issues? N = 4482; Year = 2023



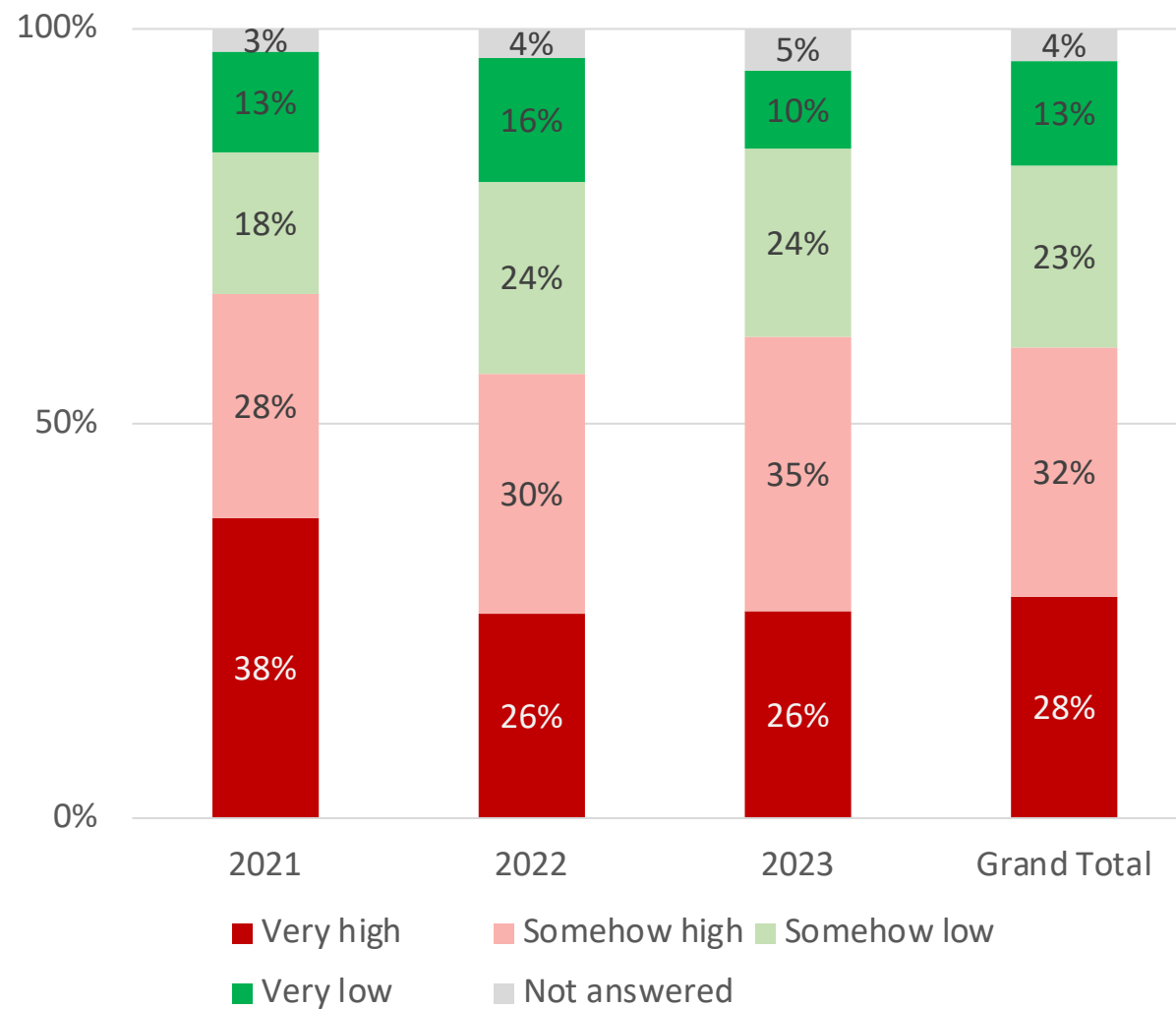
Agree/Disagree: 'The national government cares about my community.'
By Region (2023, n = 4,482)



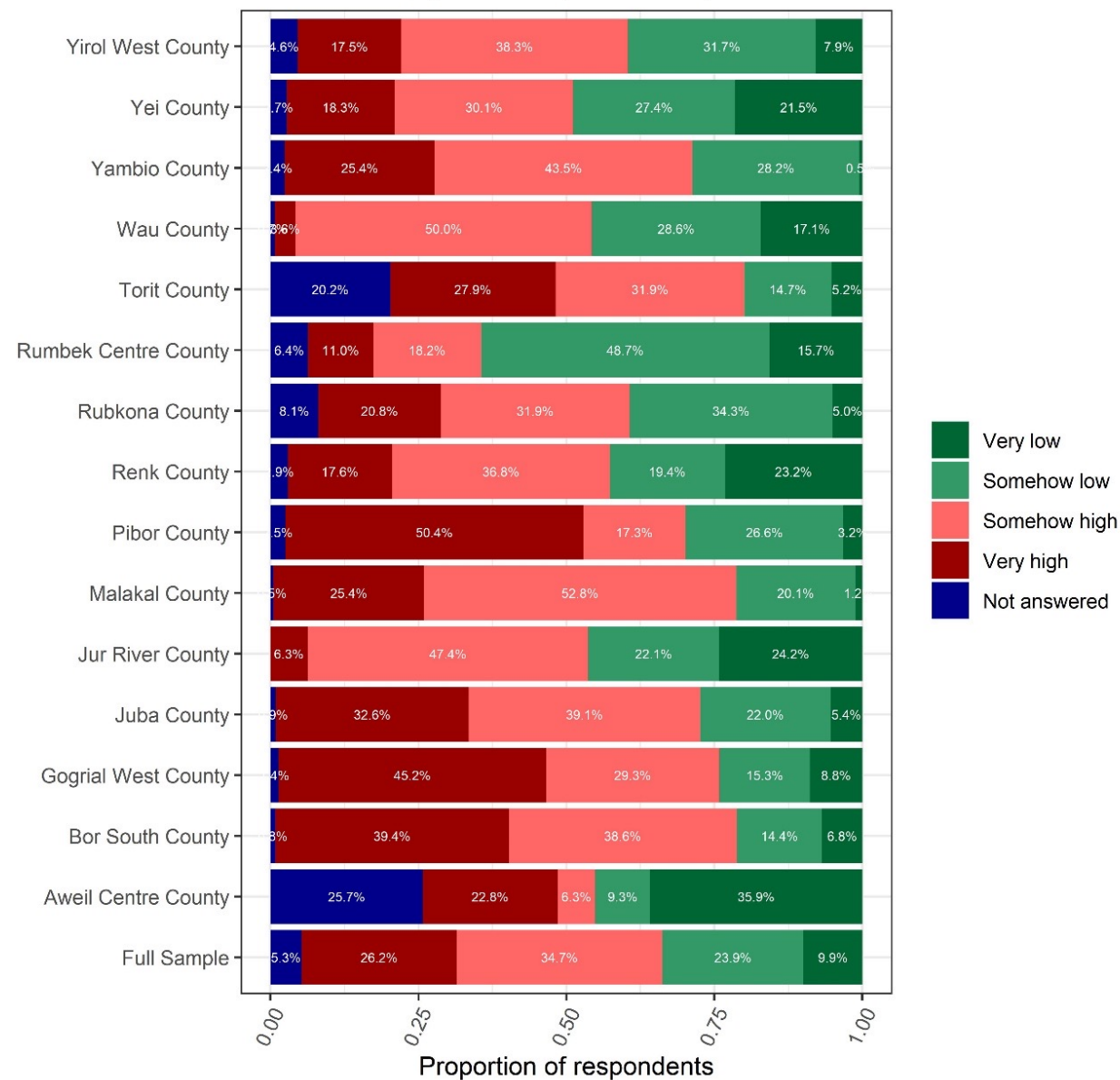


Perceptions of Elections: Risk of Violence, Timing, Voting Behavior and Conditions

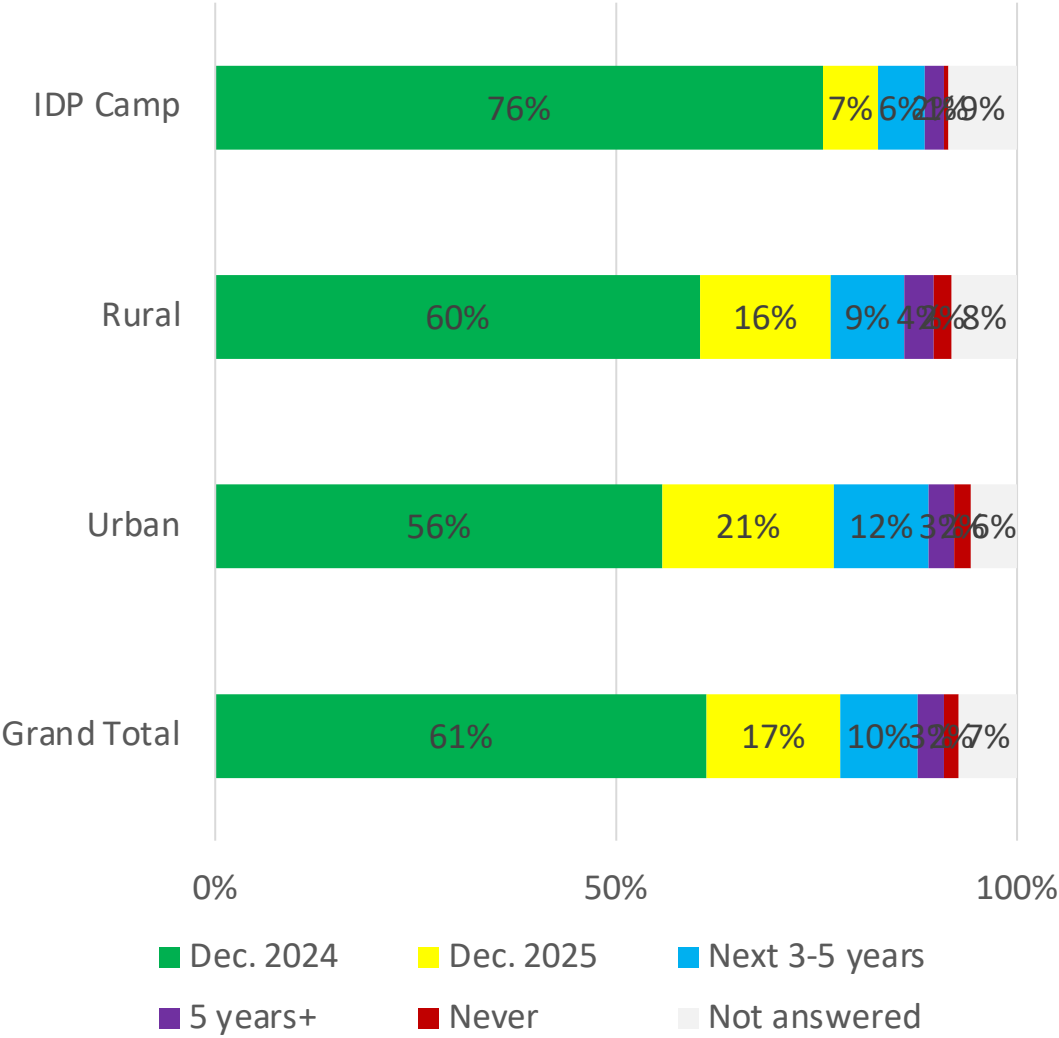
'How would you assess the risk of violence in relation to the elections?' By Year (2021-23, n = 13,317)



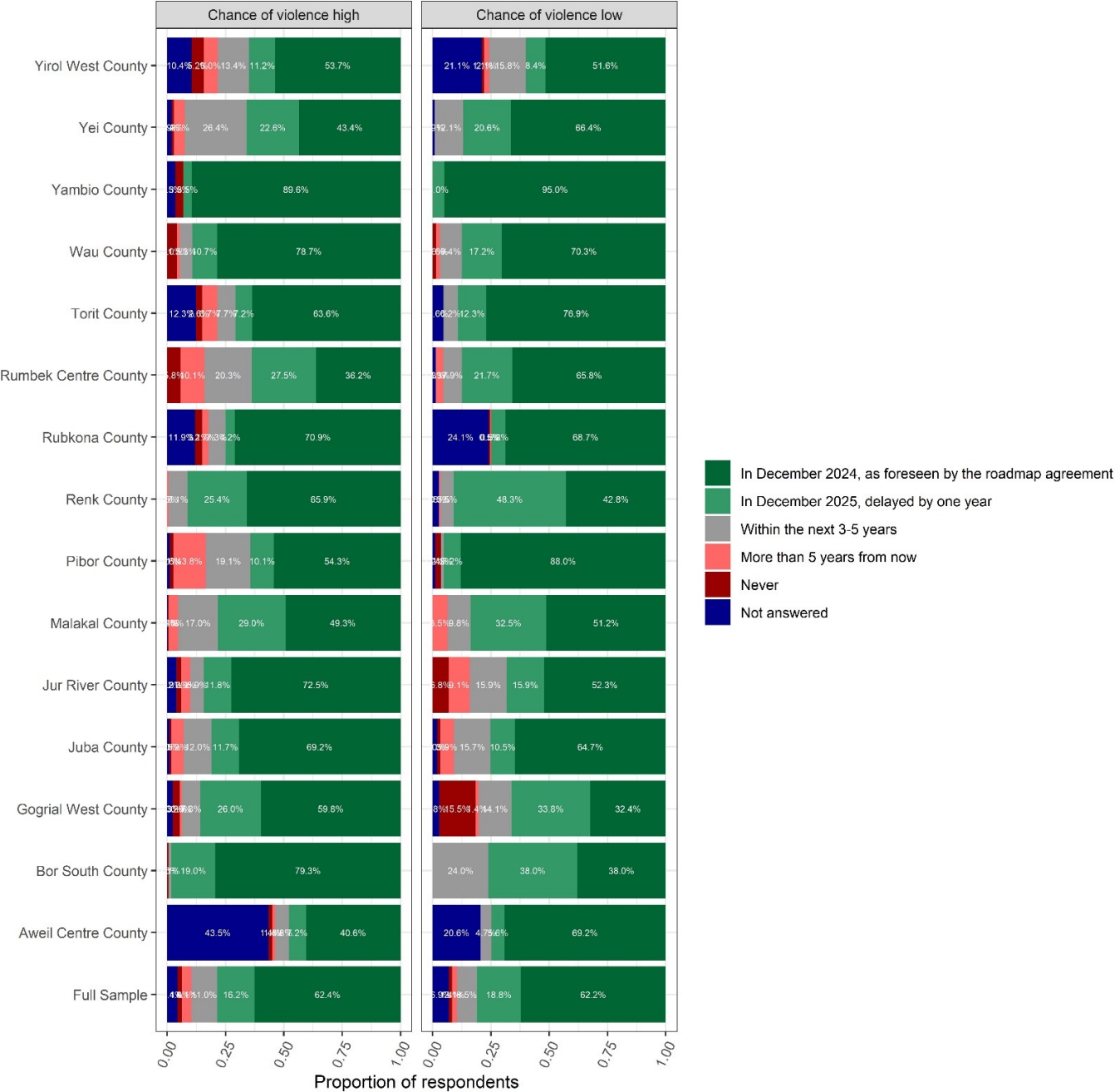
'How would you assess the risk of violence in relation to the elections?' (By location) N = 4482; Year = 2023



When should elections happen? By Environment (2023, n = 4,482)



'When should elections happen?' N = 4246; Year = 2023
(Excludes respondents who did not answer questions about election violence)



Voting Behavior

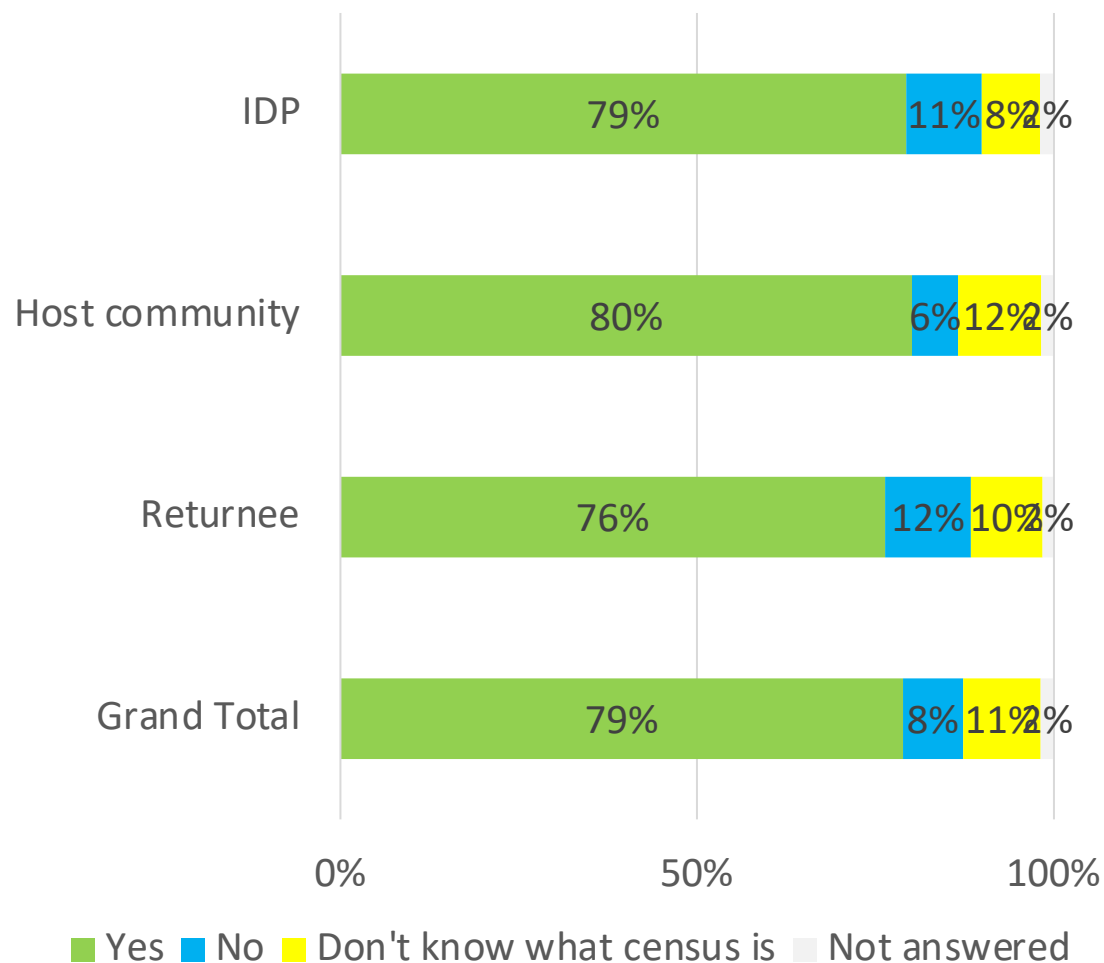
A majority of respondents across locations:

- Feel prepared to vote (90%)
- See voting as an individual choice (84%) (although 38% of these also say everyone in their community should vote the same way)
- Would vote for a political leader from another ethnic group (71%)

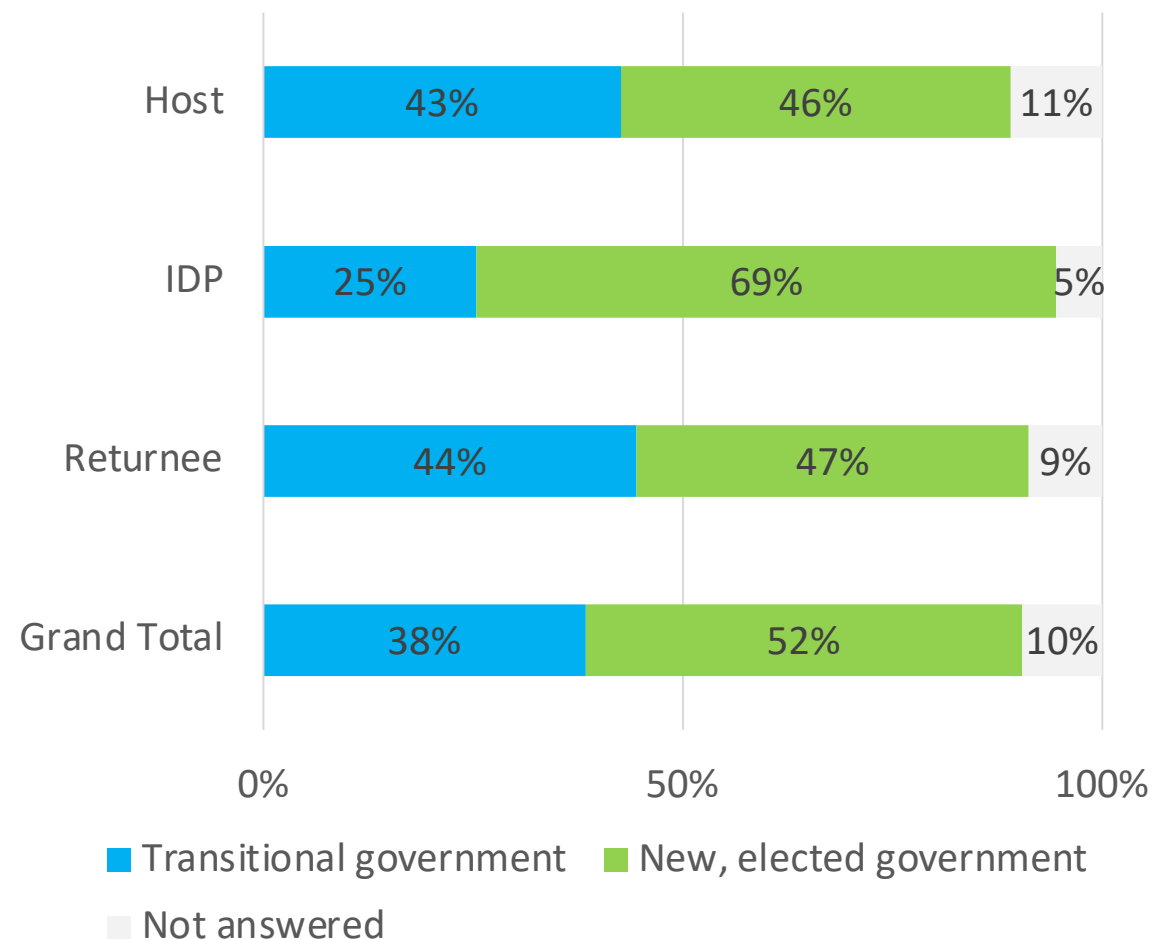
People also have voting experience:

- 84% of respondents who were of age said they voted in 2010 elections (cf. 70% of registered voters in SSD reported by NEC)
- 50% said they have voted in election of traditional leader at some point

Is a census necessary for conducting fair and credible elections? By Displacement status (2023, n = 4,482)



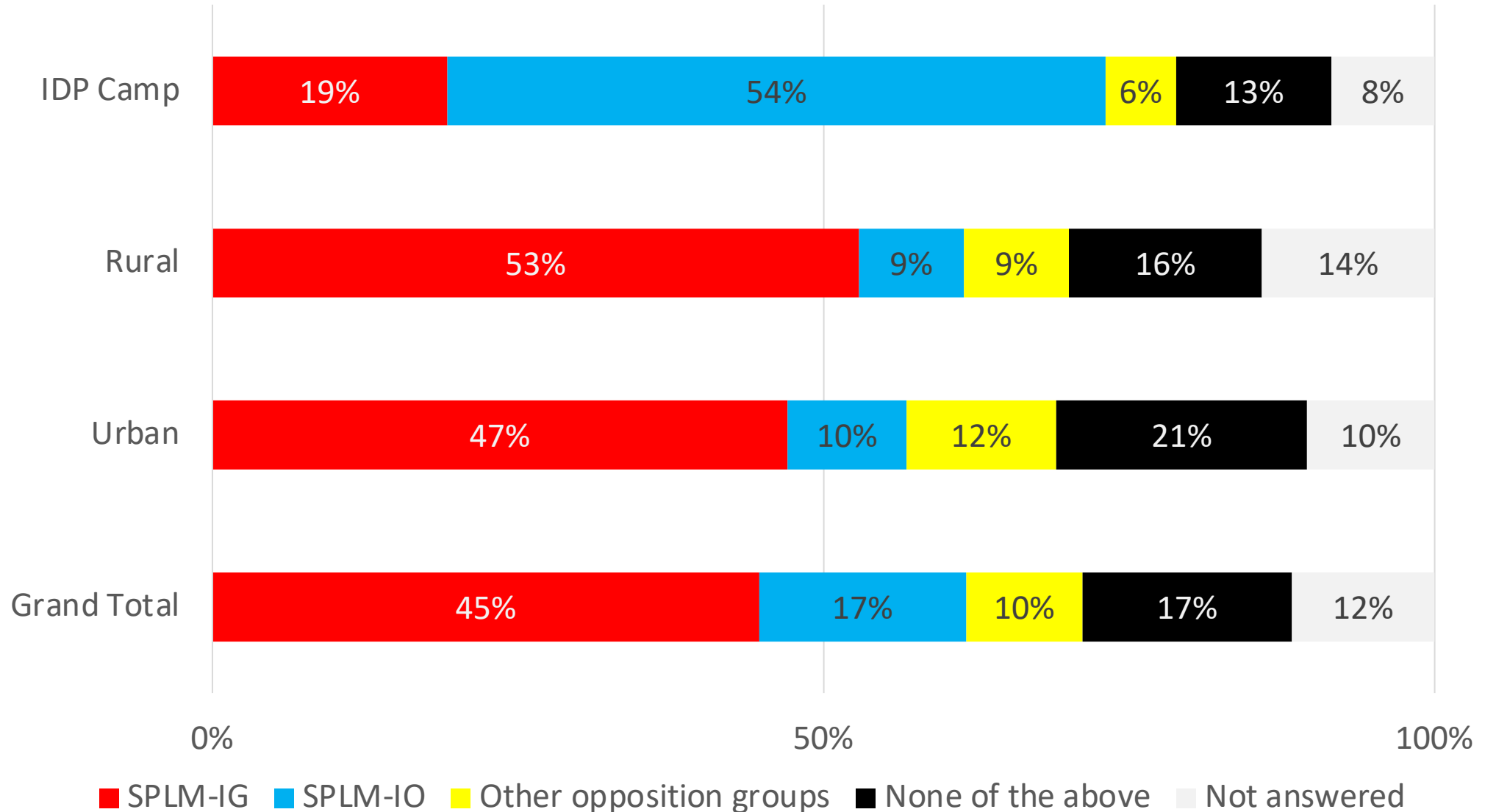
Do you think the enactment of a permanent constitution should be done by the transitional government or by a new, elected government? (2023, n = 4,482)



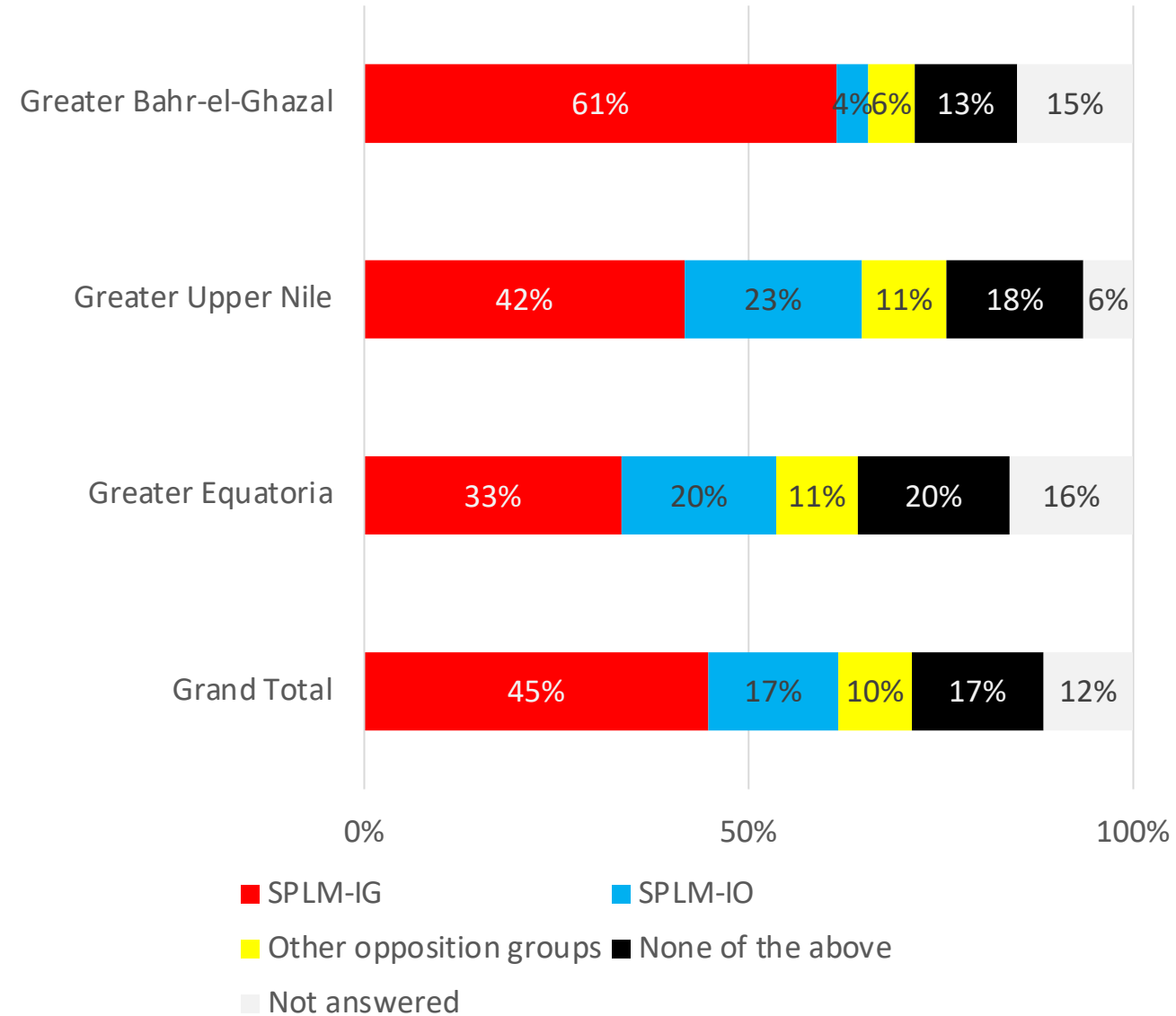
Political Preferences



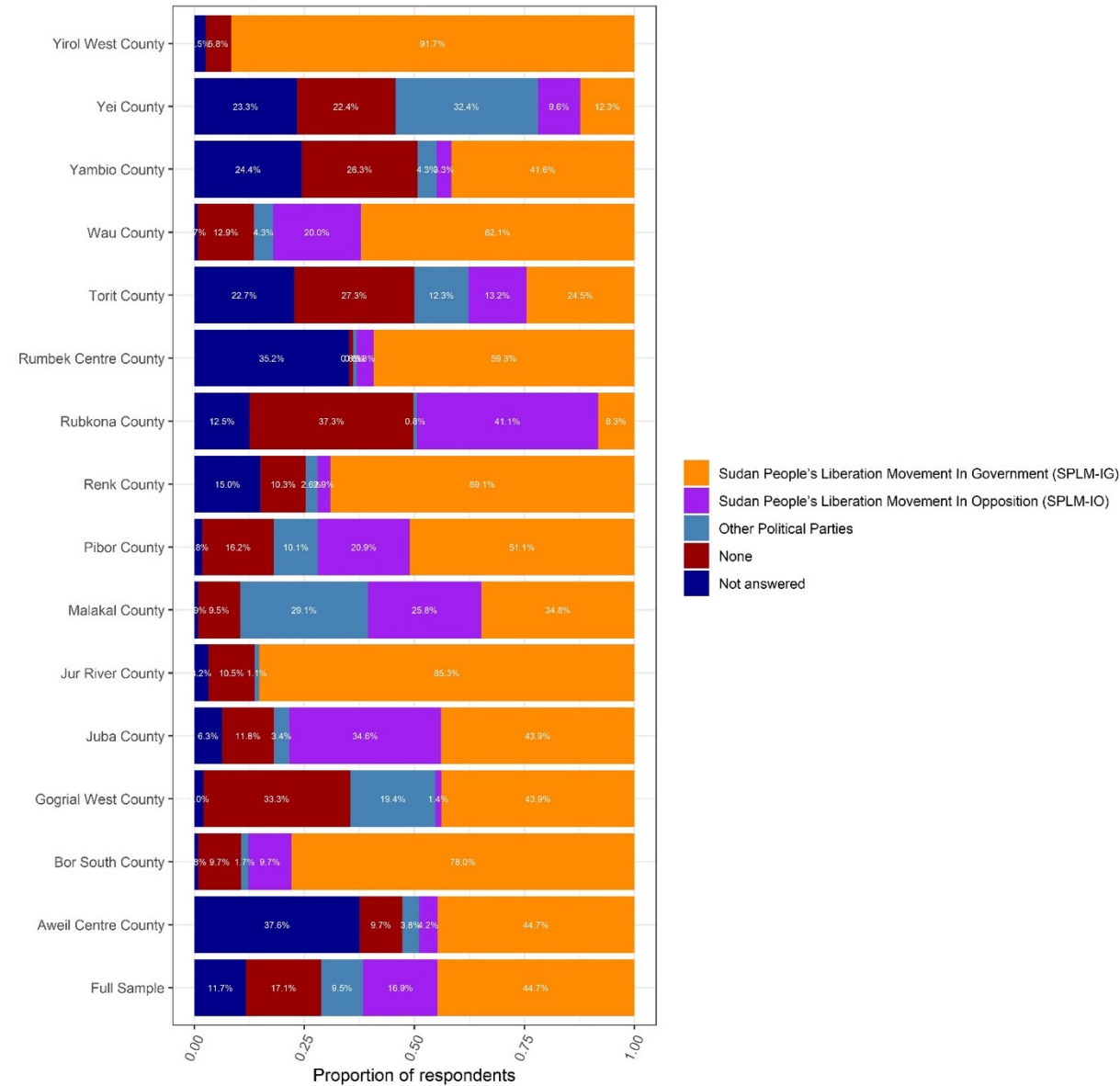
'Which political party do you think has the best vision for South Sudan?' By Environment (2023, n = 4,482)



'Which political party do you think has the best vision for South Sudan?' By Region (2023, n = 4,482)



'Which political party do you think has the best vision for South Sudan?' (By location)
N = 4482; Year = 2023



Conclusions

- Impact of R-ARCSS apparent, but not uniform. Need to better account for subnational concerns.
- People appreciate risk of election violence but still want elections to proceed as planned. Sustaining public confidence is key.
- Civic space is a major concern, but subnational context matters. Invest in expanding space where it exists and creating it where it doesn't.
- People don't trust pop stats and want census, but that would push elections 2-3 years. Proactive political communication is needed. More flexibility with constitutional process.
- SPLM appears to be frontrunner at nat'l level but there is more space at state and local levels. Political diversity can come from the ground up if people allowed to contest fairly.

A group of young people, mostly Black, are standing outdoors in a dusty or sandy area during sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow and long shadows. In the foreground, a young man in a yellow shirt is seen from the back, looking towards the group. To his right, a young woman in a patterned shirt is also looking towards the group. Further right, another young woman in a white patterned shirt is looking towards the group. In the background, there are trees and a few other people, including one person in a red shirt. The overall mood is peaceful and appreciative.

THANK YOU