



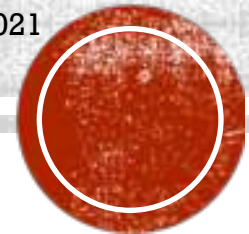
# SierraPoll

QUALITY DECISIONS REQUIRE QUALITY DATA

## CIVIC (DIGITAL) RIGHTS IN COVID-19

A survey of citizens' perceptions  
across Sierra Leone

Conducted May 2021



# 3 BIG CONCEPTS TO KEEP AT THE BACK OF OUR MINDS

- **Safeguarding digital rights and responsibilities:** the **right** and **freedom** to use digital technology in an **acceptable and appropriate** manner. You also have the right to privacy and the freedom of expression.
- **Promoting digital citizenship:** having an identity on the Internet. Being a digital citizen means that you are part of a digital community and therefore, you can claim rights and have an obligation to respect the rights of others.
- **Preventing digital bullying/ digital terrorism:** ranging from small to large scale **cyber**-attacks on banking, defense and identify theft/ personal information.



# THE PURPOSE OF THIS EDITION OF SIERRAPOLL

- To test the willingness of Sierra Leoneans to use tech applications to fight COVID.
- To test the pulse of the public on the need for a law governing social media.
  - i.e. whether a law on social media threatens civic rights and individual protections.
- To assess levels of awareness on the new cybercrime bill.
- To fill a crucial data gap for policy makers and activists on citizens' views on tech as a tool for good governance and protection of rights
- **NOTE:** This poll does not specially ask about any of the provisions of the Cybercrime bill.



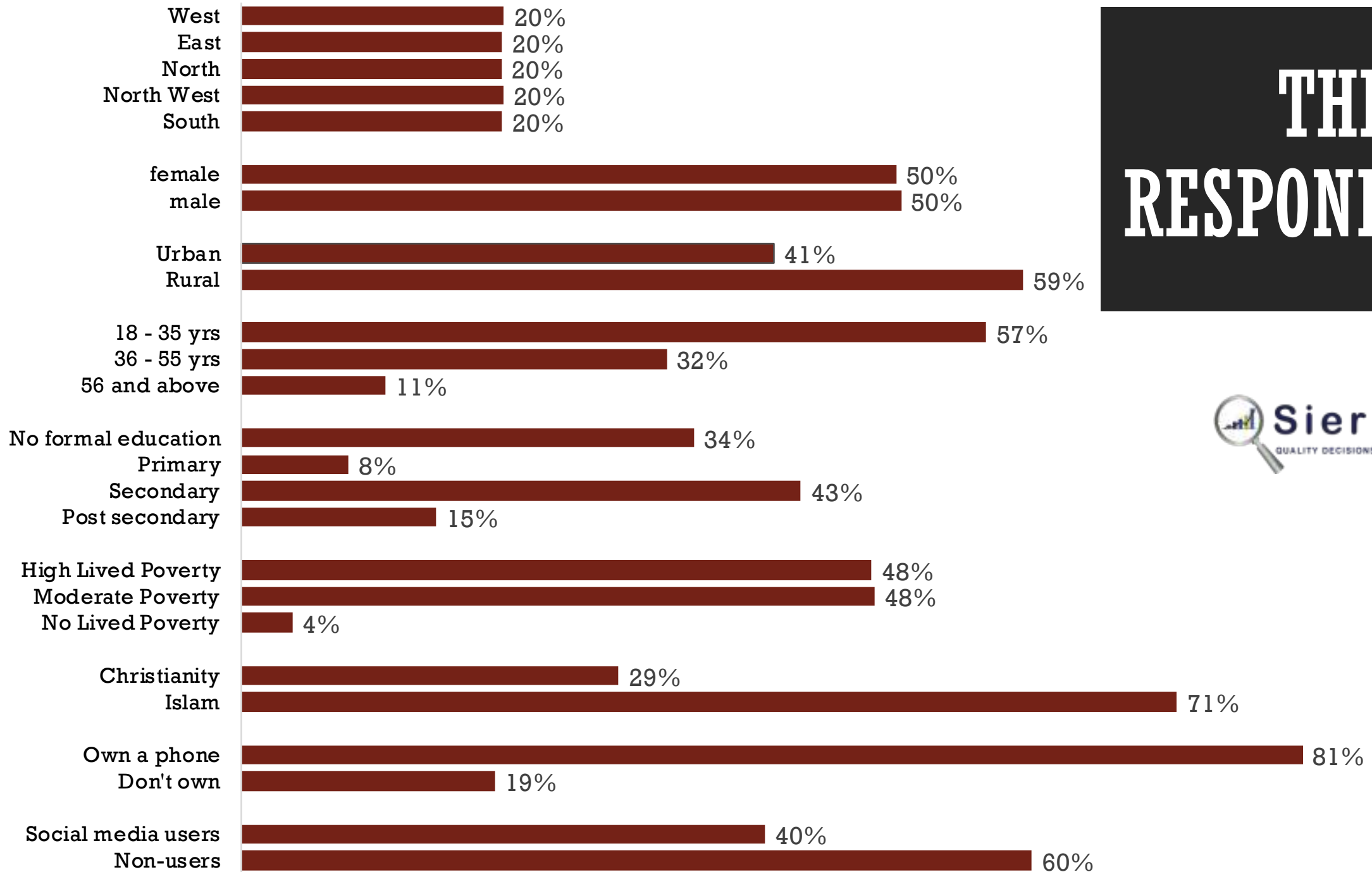




# SIERRAPOLL METHOD

- ❖ Boots on the ground
- ❖ EDC – with GPS
- ❖ 1,936 randomly sampled respondents across Sierra Leone
- ❖ 50/50 gender split amongst respondents
- ❖ 59% rural / 41% urban
- ❖ Margin of error +/-5%
- ❖ Data collected May 2021

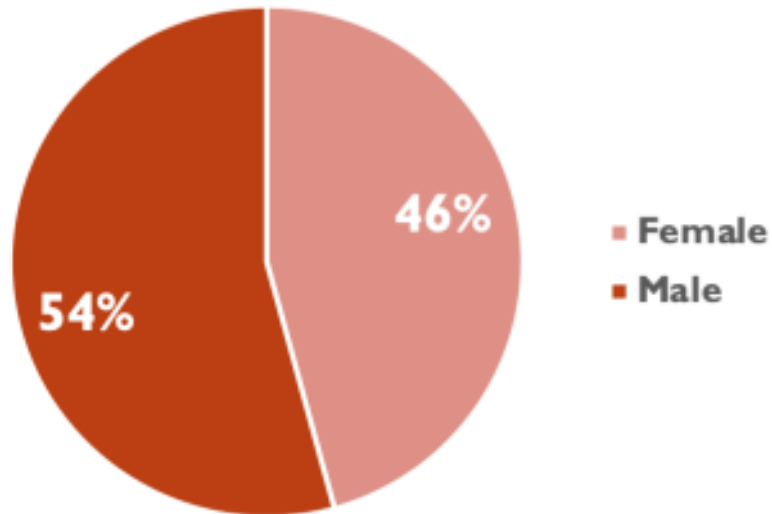
# THE RESPONDENTS



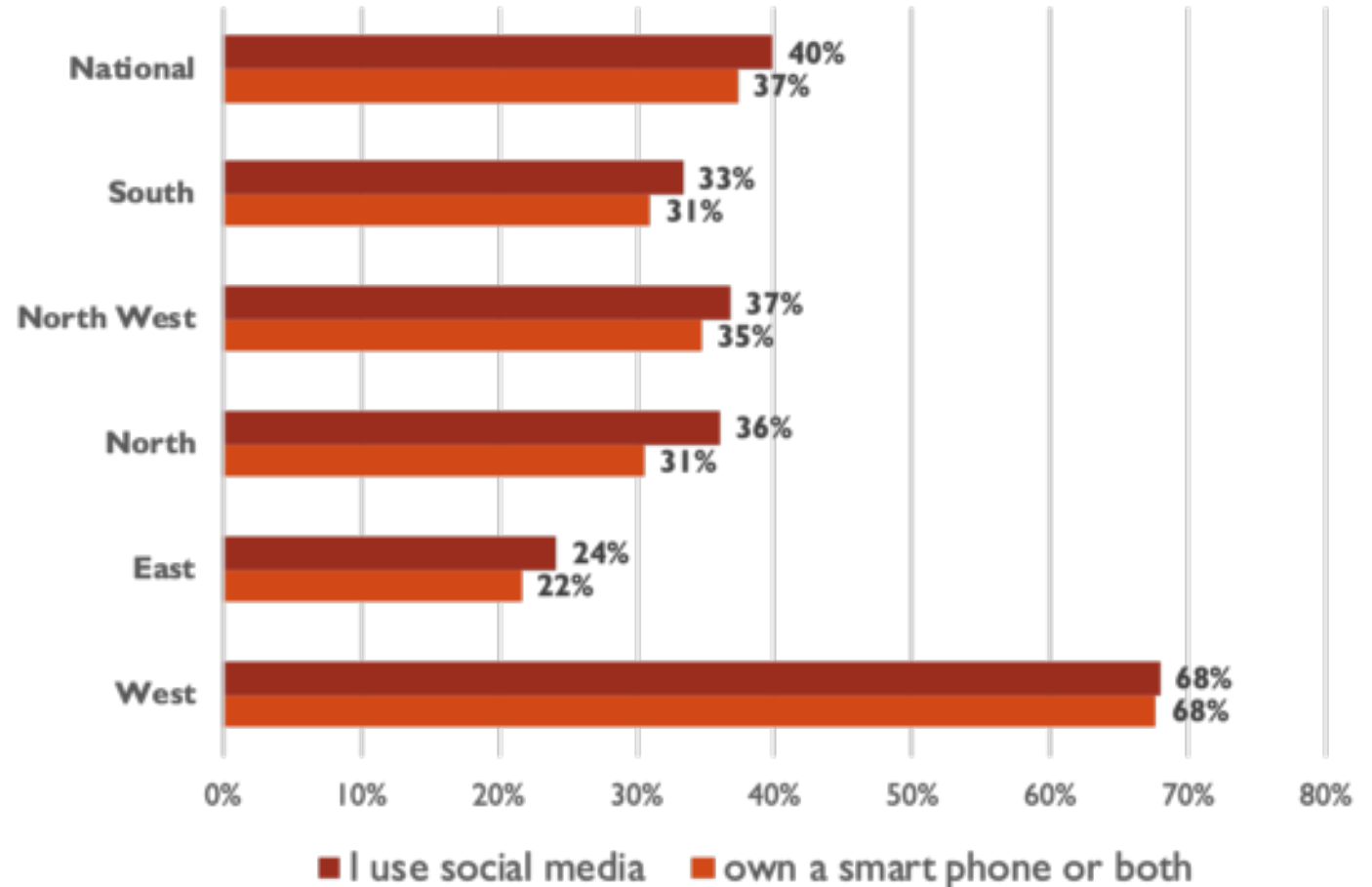


# SI - ACCESS AND USE OF CELLPHONE

Q1: Do you own a phone?



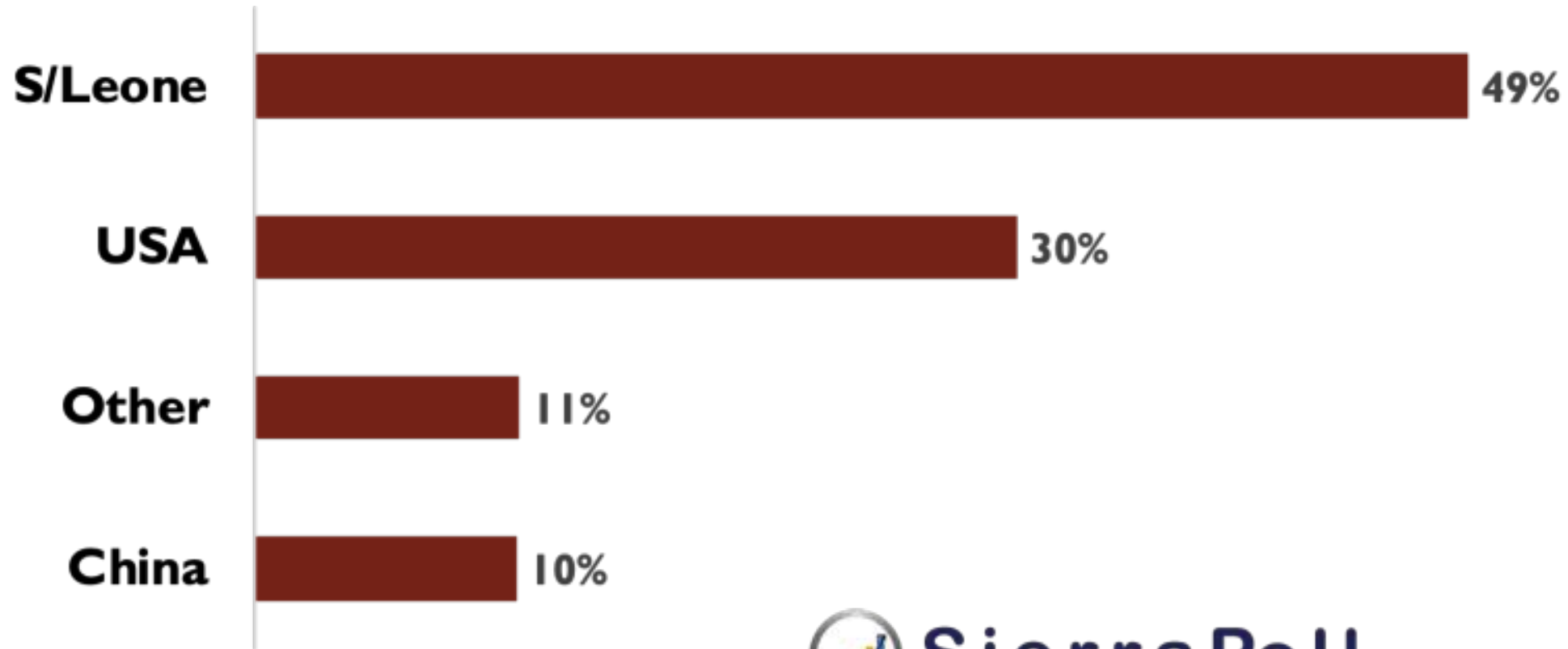
Use of smart phone and social media



# SL - Willingness to use COVID App

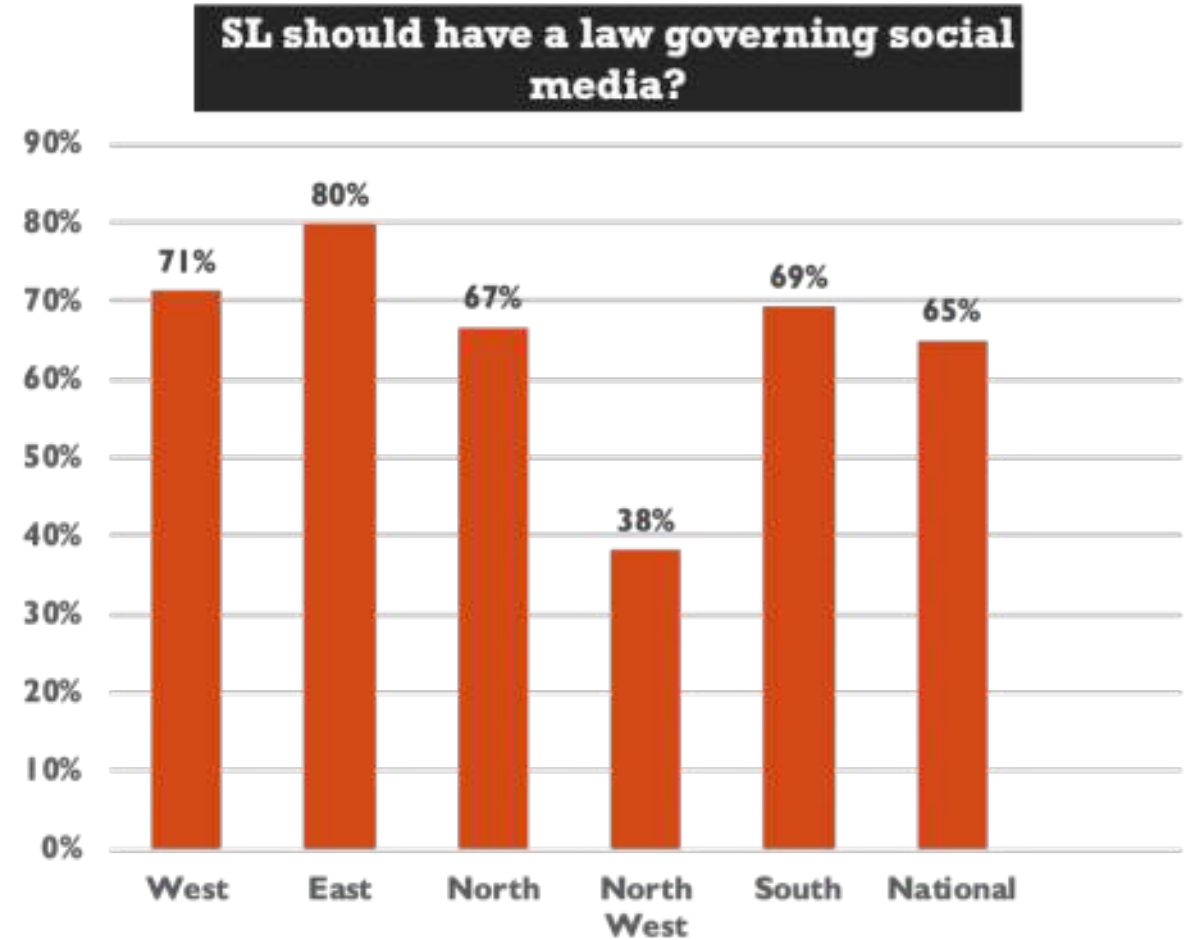
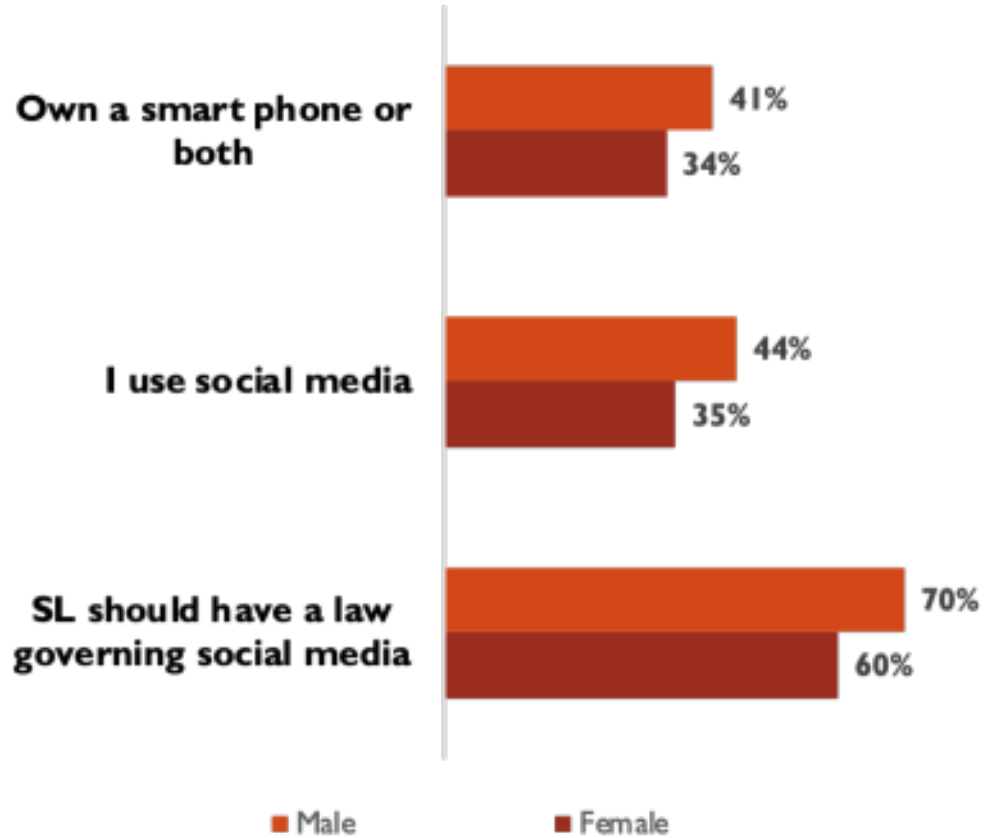


# SL - MOST TRUSTED COUNTRIES TO PRODUCE COVID APP

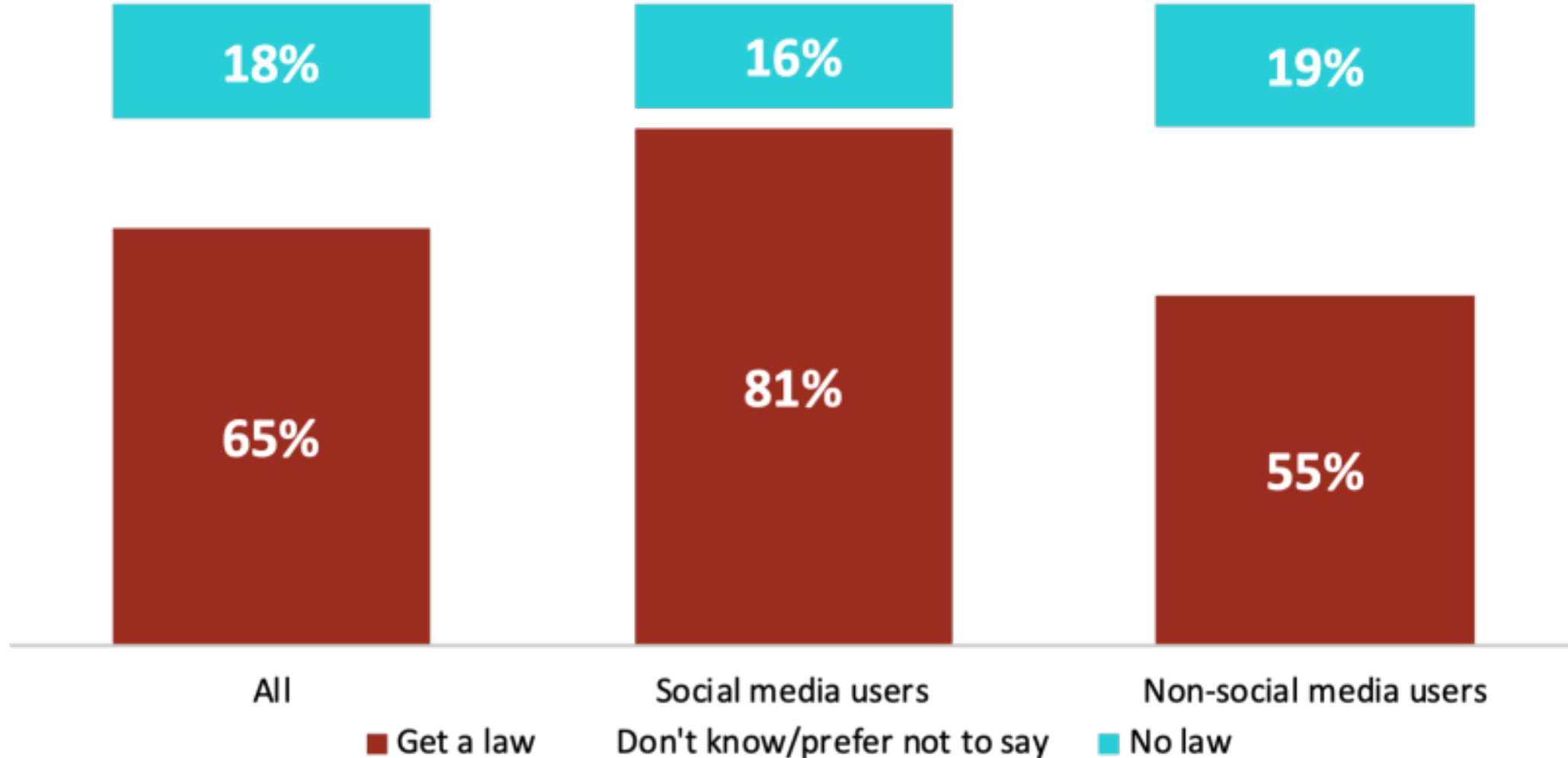




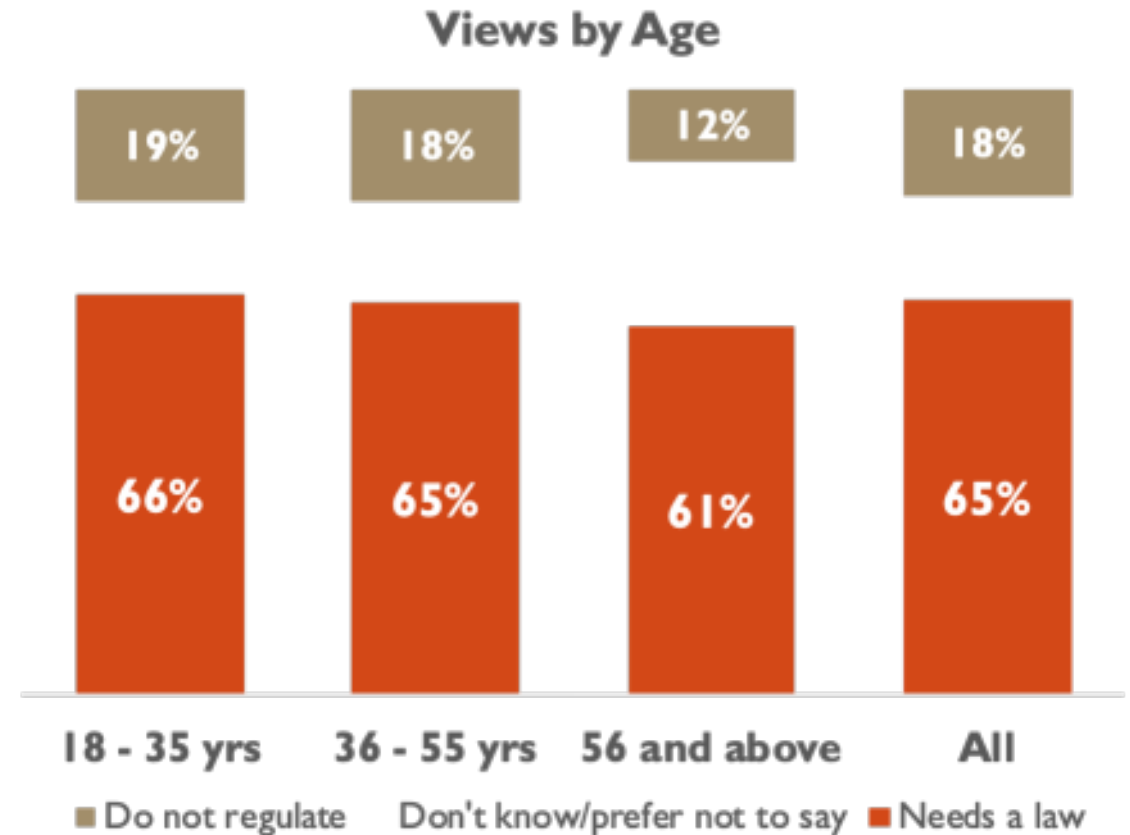
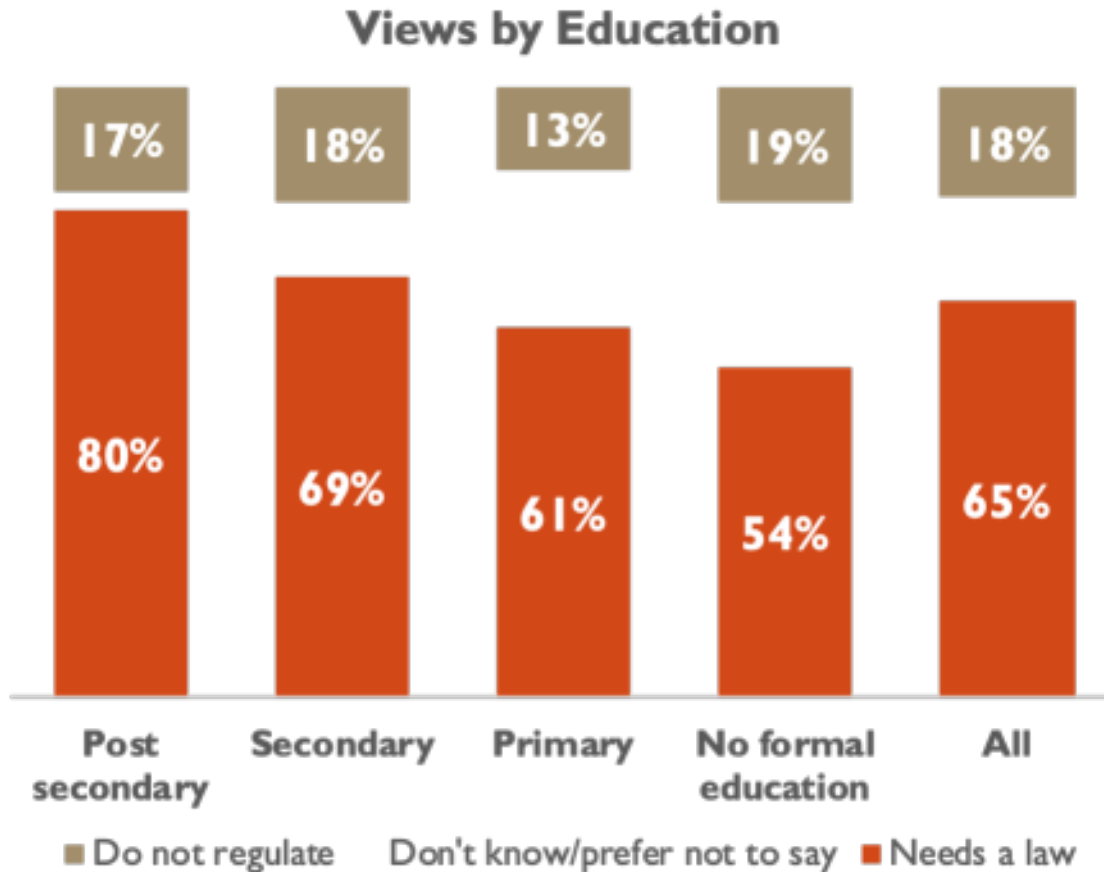
# SL - APPETITE FOR A LAW ON SOCIAL MEDIA.



# SL - APPETITE FOR A LAW GOVERNING SOCIAL MEDIA CONT.



# SL - APPETITE FOR A SOCIAL MEDIA LAW – EDU & AGE.

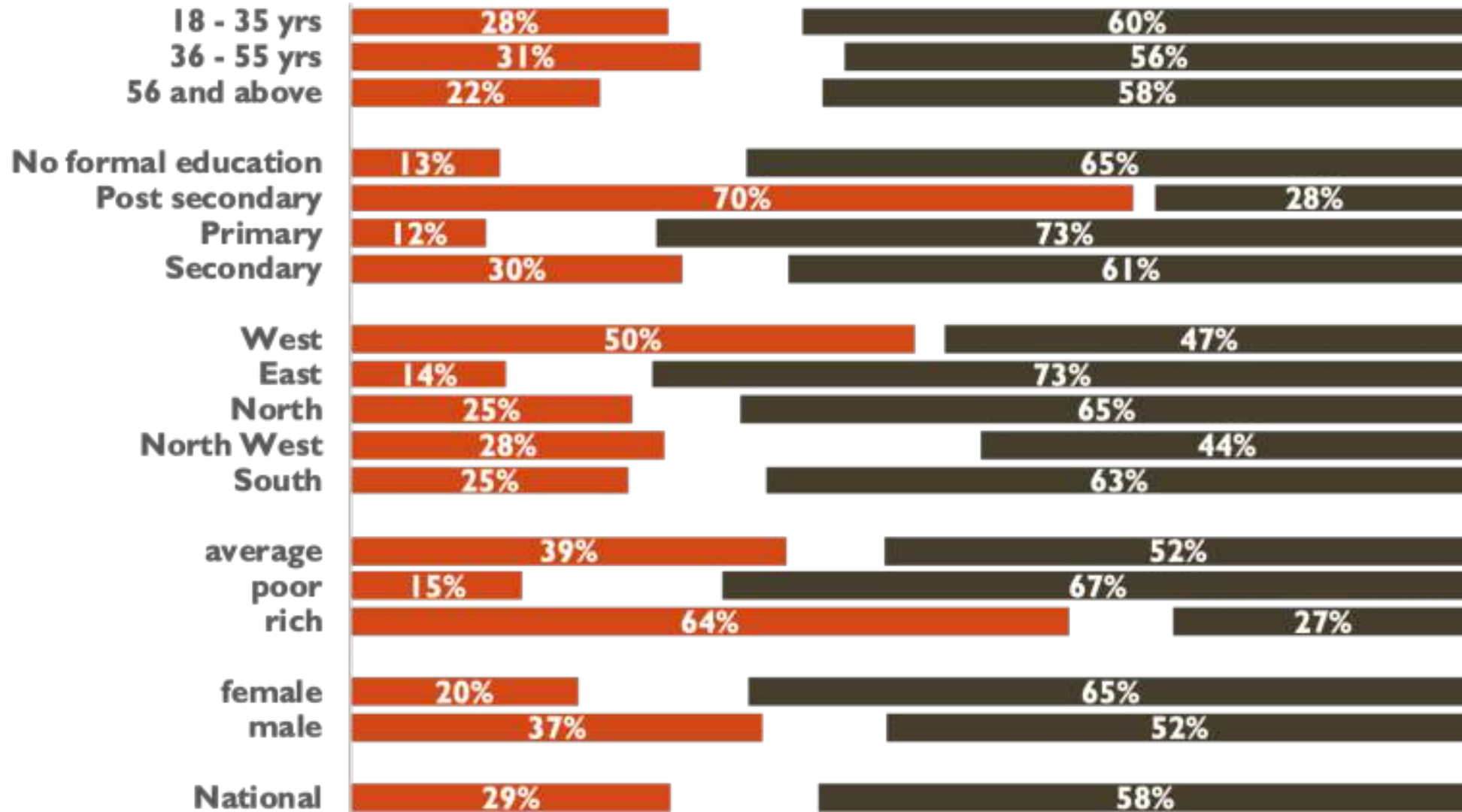


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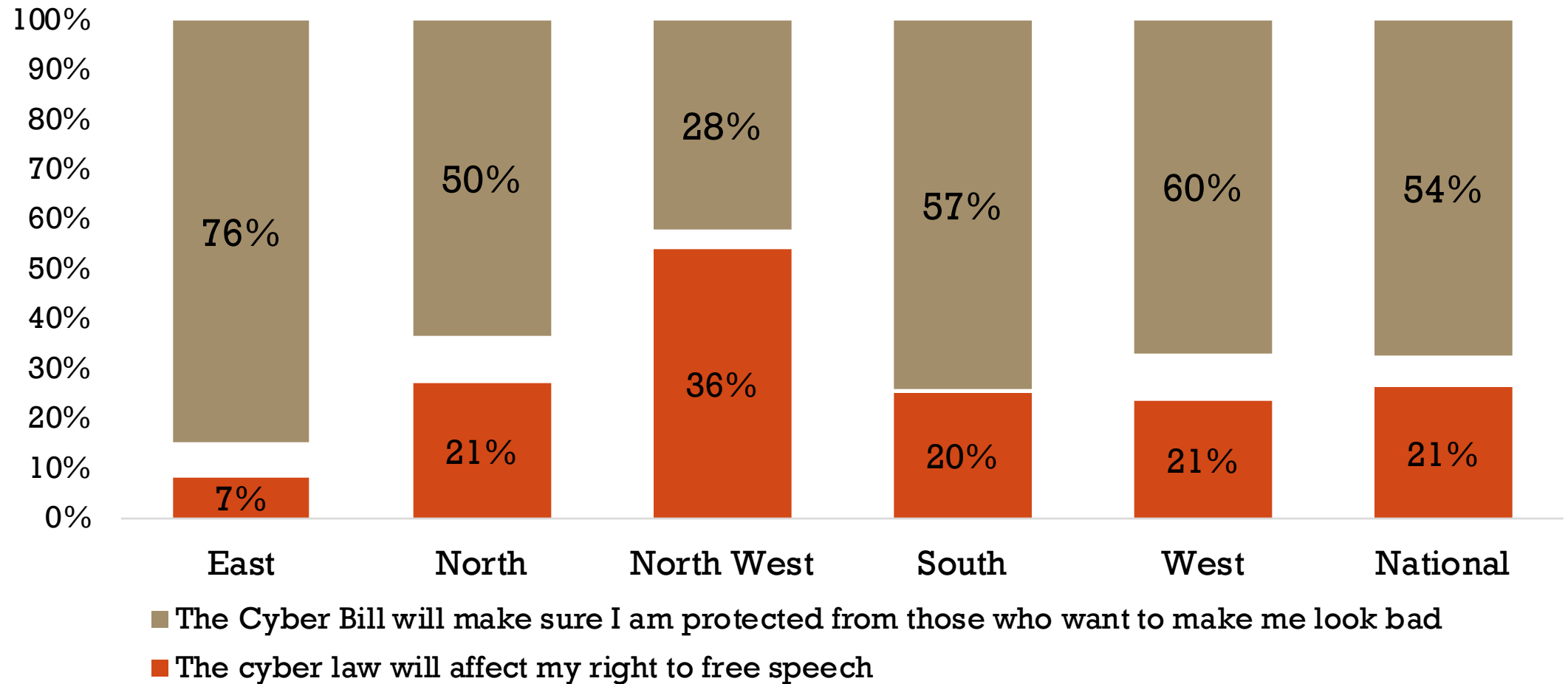
QUALITY DECISIONS REQUIRE QUALITY DATA



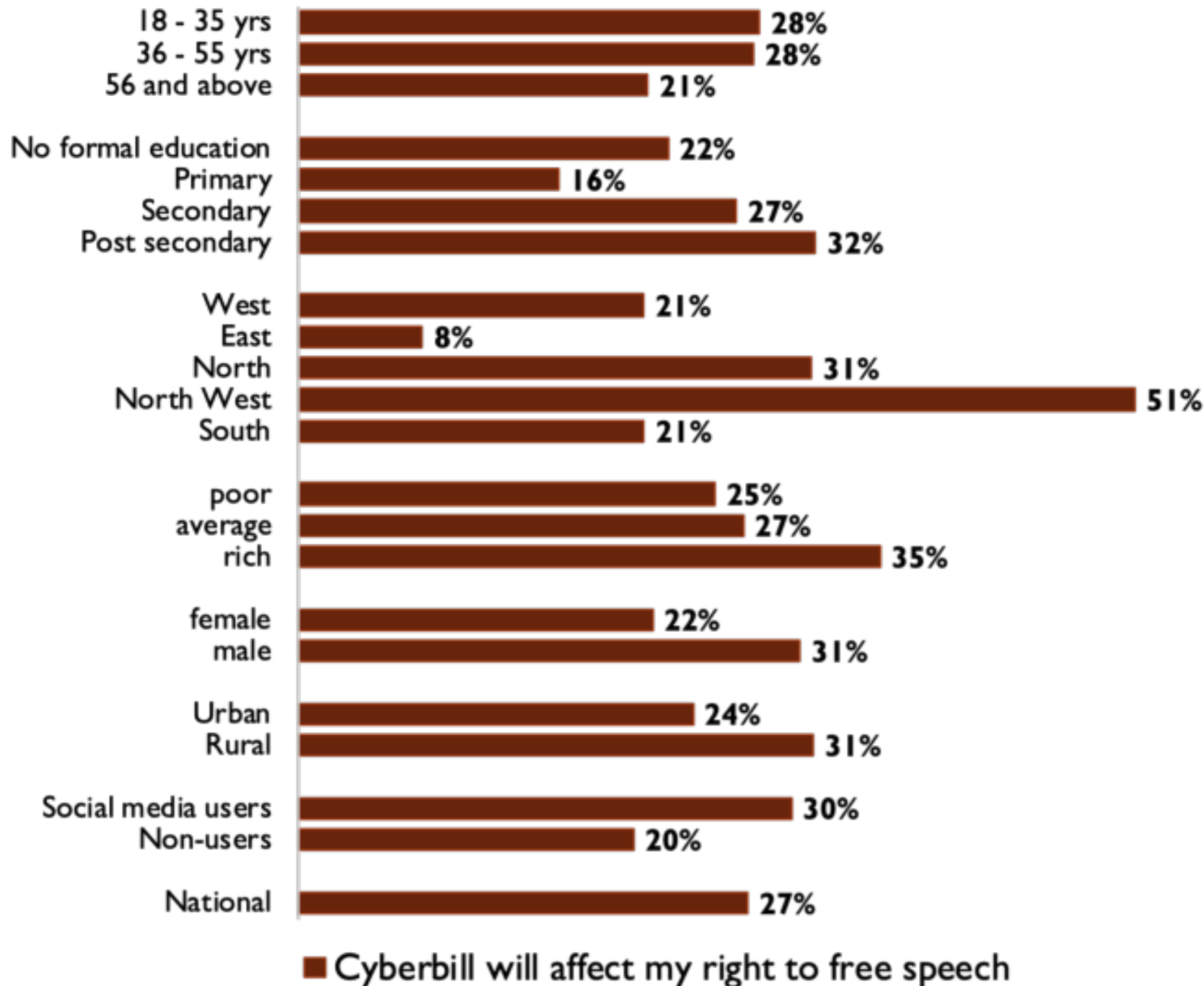
# KNOWLEDGE OF THE CYBERCRIME BILL



# SL - 54% (ALL RESPONDENTS) BELIEVE A CYBERBILL WILL PROTECT THEM



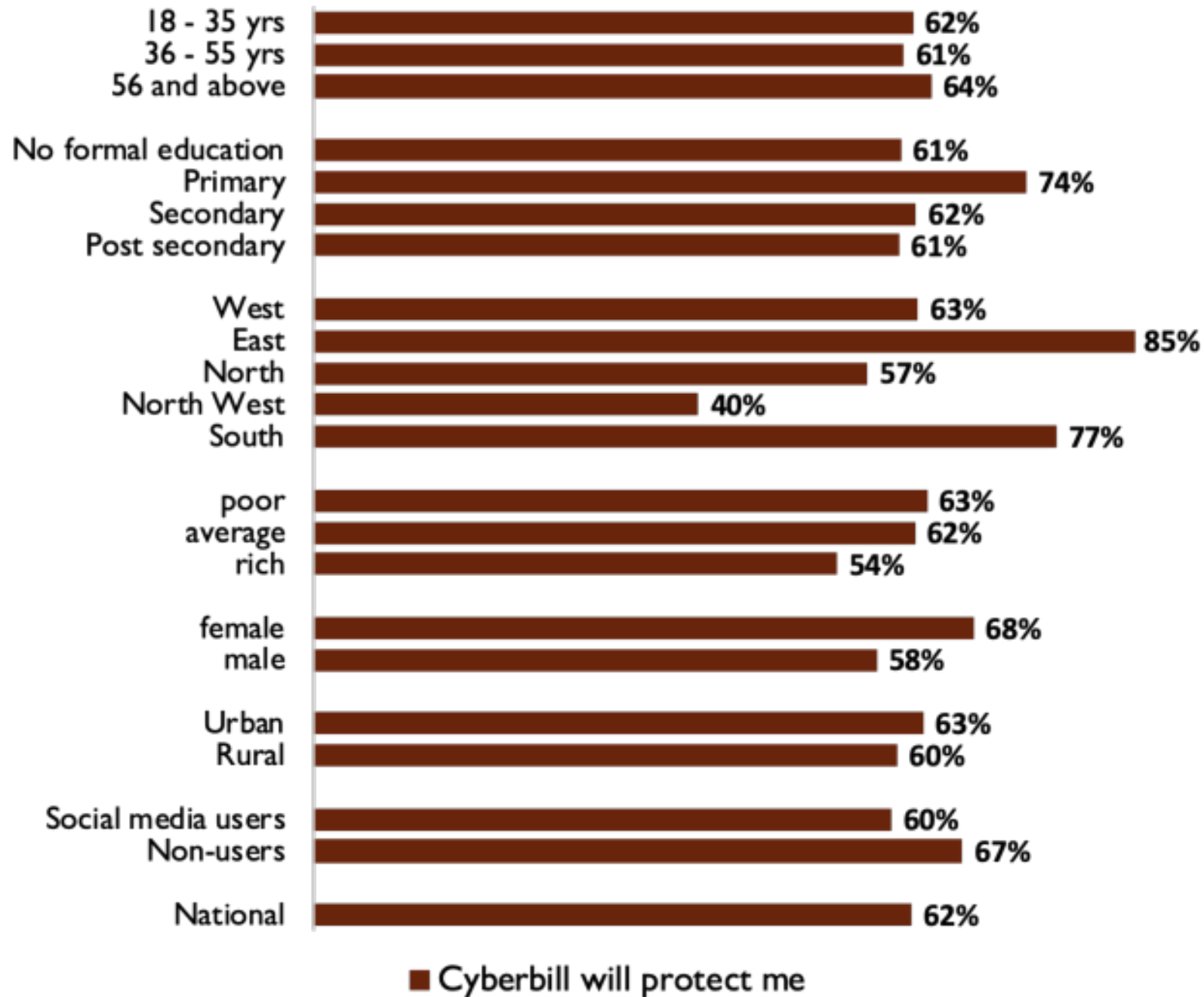




# PERCEPTIONS OF PEOPLE WHO KNOW ABOUT THE BILL:

## CYBER BILL & RIGHT TO FREE SPEECH





# PERCEPTIONS OF PEOPLE WHO KNOW ABOUT THE BILL:

## CYBER BILL AND INDIVIDUAL PROTECTION



# RECOMMENDED POLLS/STUDIES

- Poll on the specific provisions of the cybercrime bill, especially areas contested by activists and opposition leaders.
  - Is it harsh?
  - Is it open to abuse?
  - What are the implications for civil liberties and access to information?
- When passed into law, we need baseline on Cybercrimes in Sierra Leone to measure the efficacy of the law over time.
  - Is it shrinking civic space and digital rights?
  - Is it contributing to stability?
  - Is it contributing development and inclusion?
- Knowledge, attitudes and practices that may hinder digital rights.







## CONTACT:

SierraPoll is a professional public polling unit at the Institute for Governance Reform (IGR). We provide real-time public opinion, analytics and advisories based on rigorous scientific polling methods. The market for SierraPoll's services is both the public and private sector, with a strong interest in offering services to the substantial non-profit sector operating within Sierra Leone.

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