2026 Student Opinion Survey

Anna Kapil & Dr. Terence Wood

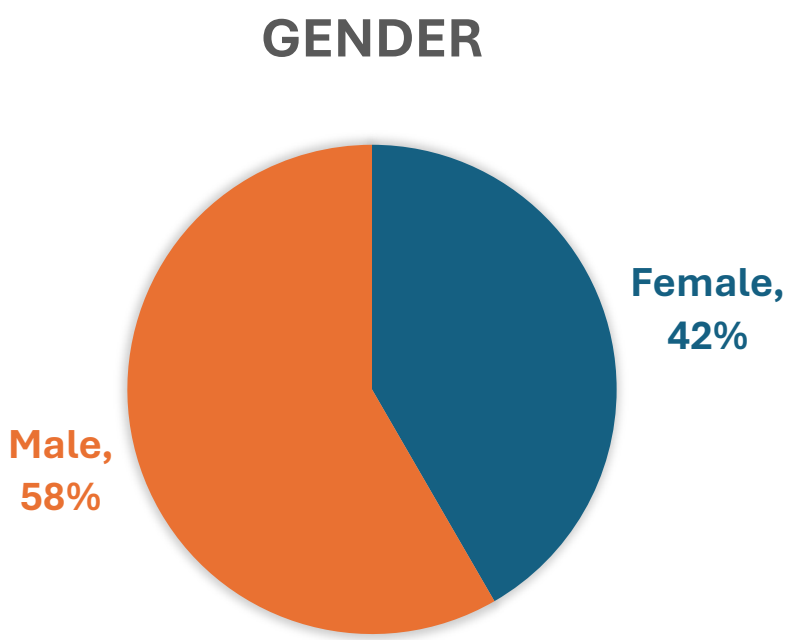
Acknowledgement

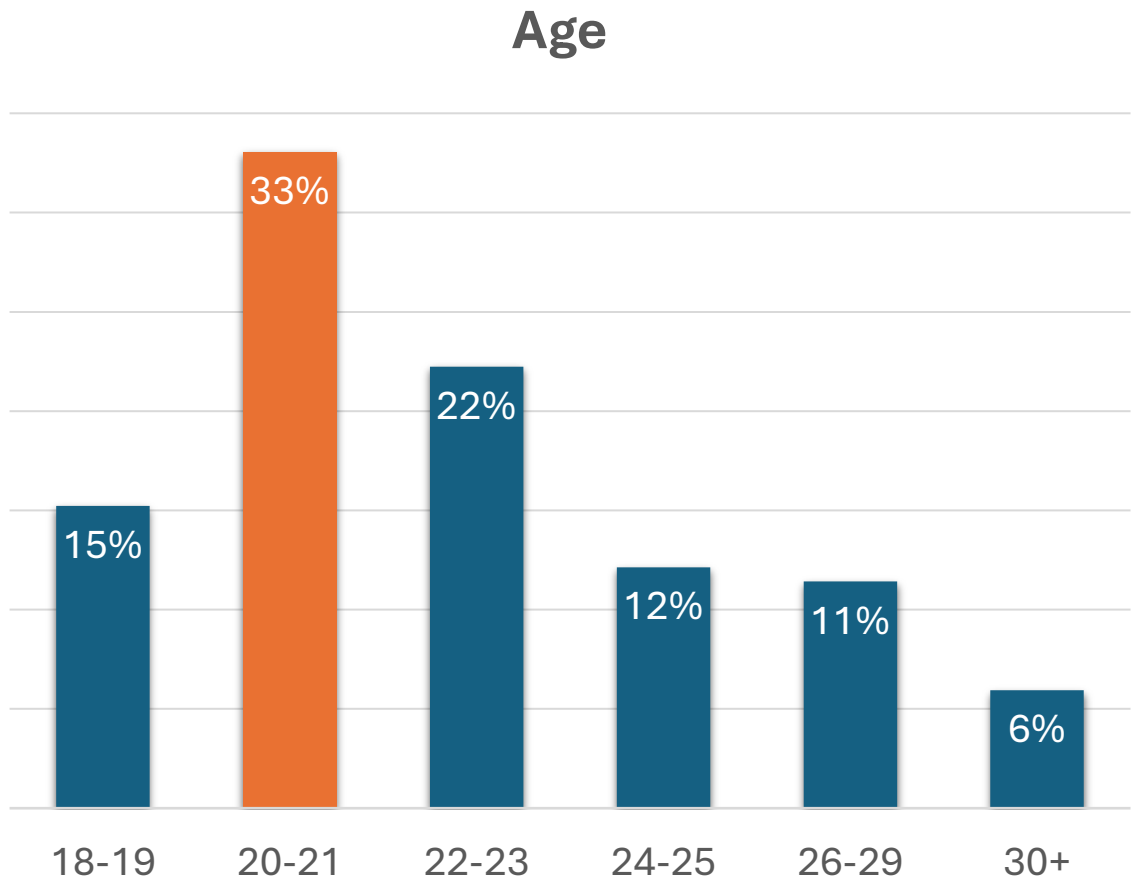
- ANU-UPNG Partnership
- UPNG VC Prof. Findlay and Deans of SNPS, SOL and SHSS and their respective Chairs of SRPC
- ANU Colleagues; Dr. Terence Wood, Prof. Howes, Dr. Ryan Edwards and Finn Clarke.
- UPNG Colleagues; Ms. Minetta Kakarere, Mr. Daniel Ayius, Ms. Dorothy Kaupa, Mr. Pokawin, Ms. Vagi Bino and SBPP Admin Team

Introduction

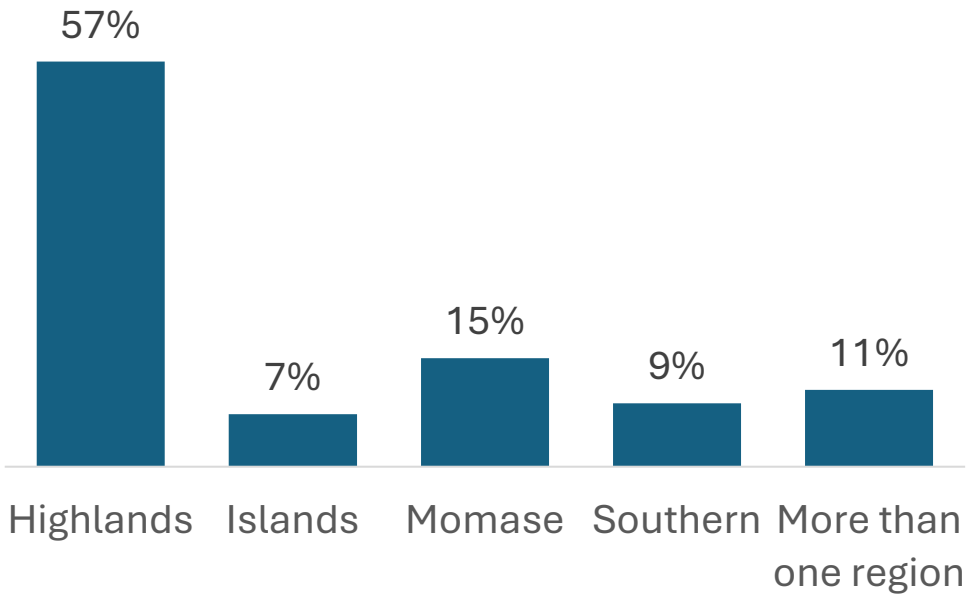
- Public opinion surveys though important are quite expensive to carry out.
- This is the third annual student opinion survey, first to include all the schools in the UPNG main campus.
- A total of 848 students were surveyed in the second semester of this academic year.
- The survey covered various themes from social to economical and political questions.
- This is just an opinion survey, and we are interested to gauze students' opinions on some of the issues that are currently affecting PNG.
- Some of the themes' results are presented here, rest will be published as blogs.

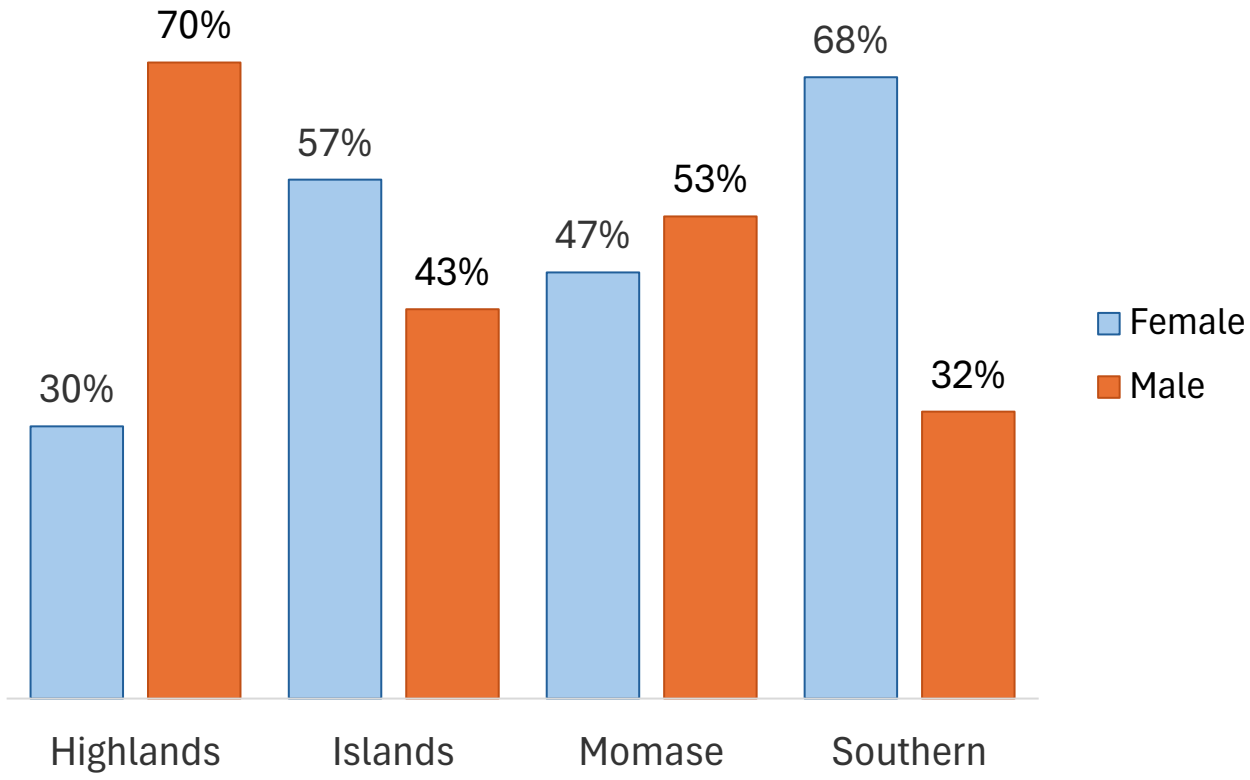
Student Demography



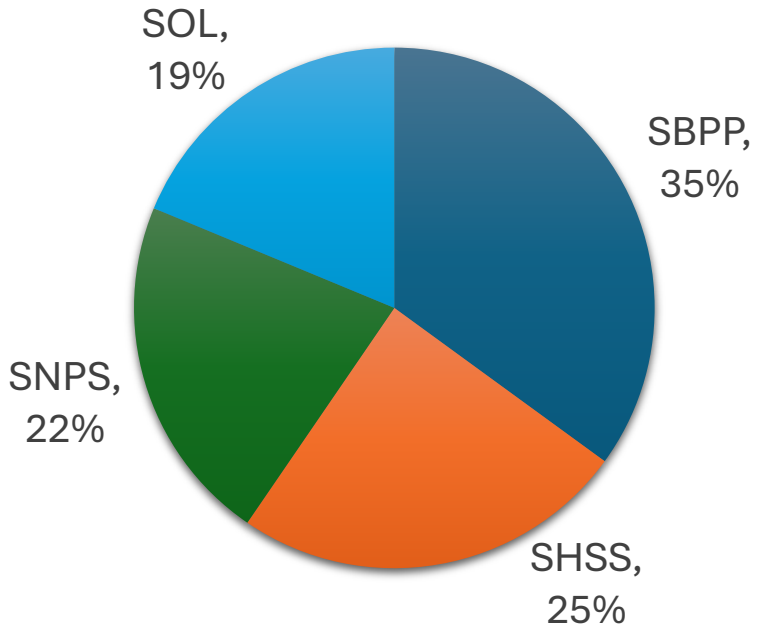


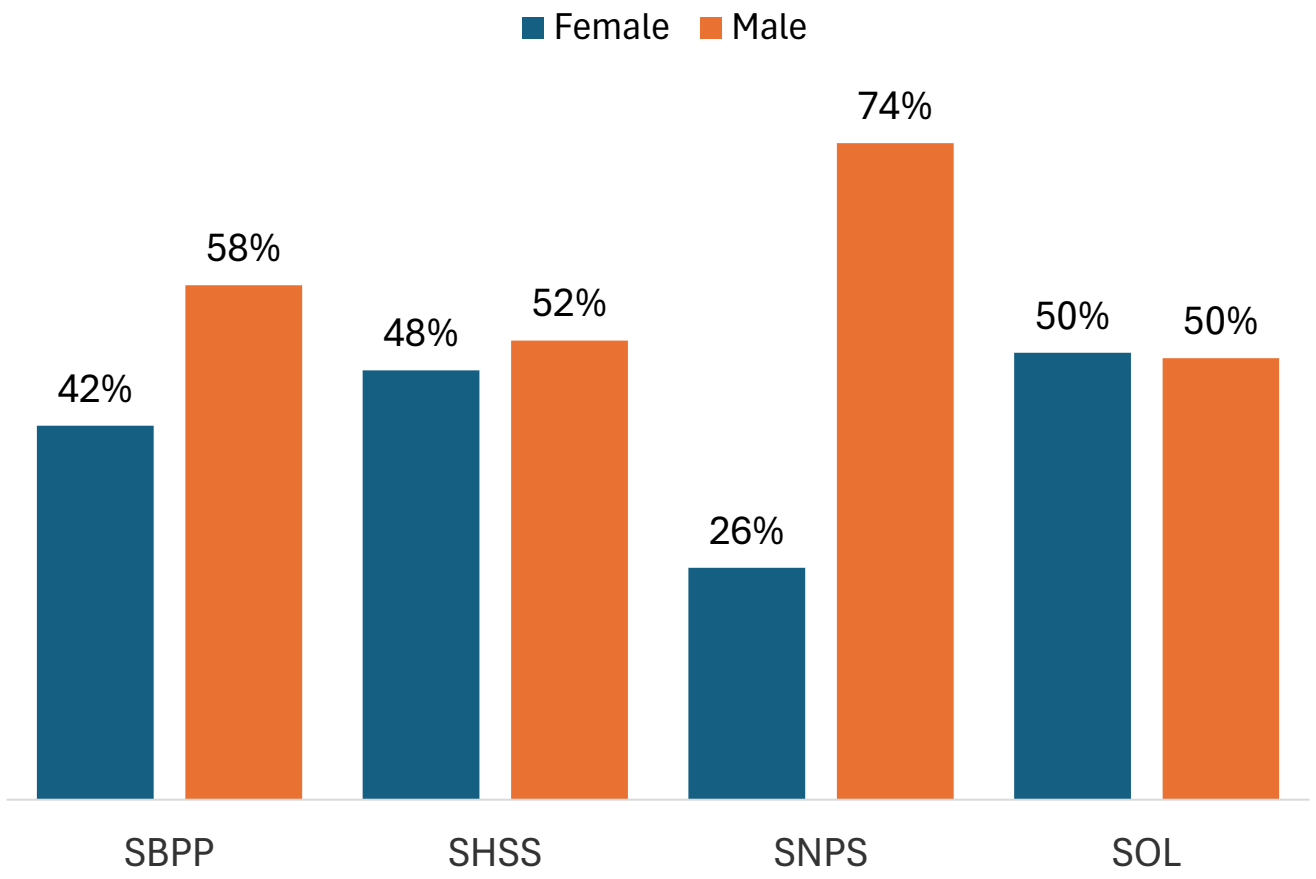
Home Region


57%
7%
15%
9%
11%
Highlands
Islands
Momase
Southern
More than one region


30%
70%
57%
43%
47%
53%
68%
32%
Highlands
Islands
Momase
Southern
Female
Male

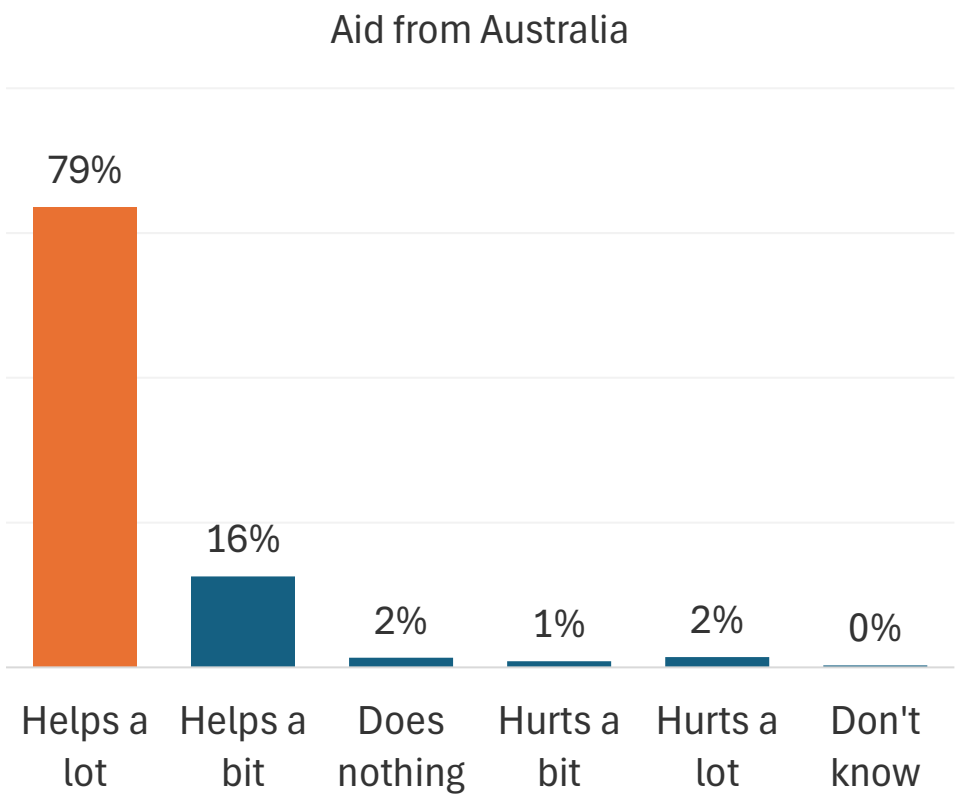
School Sample

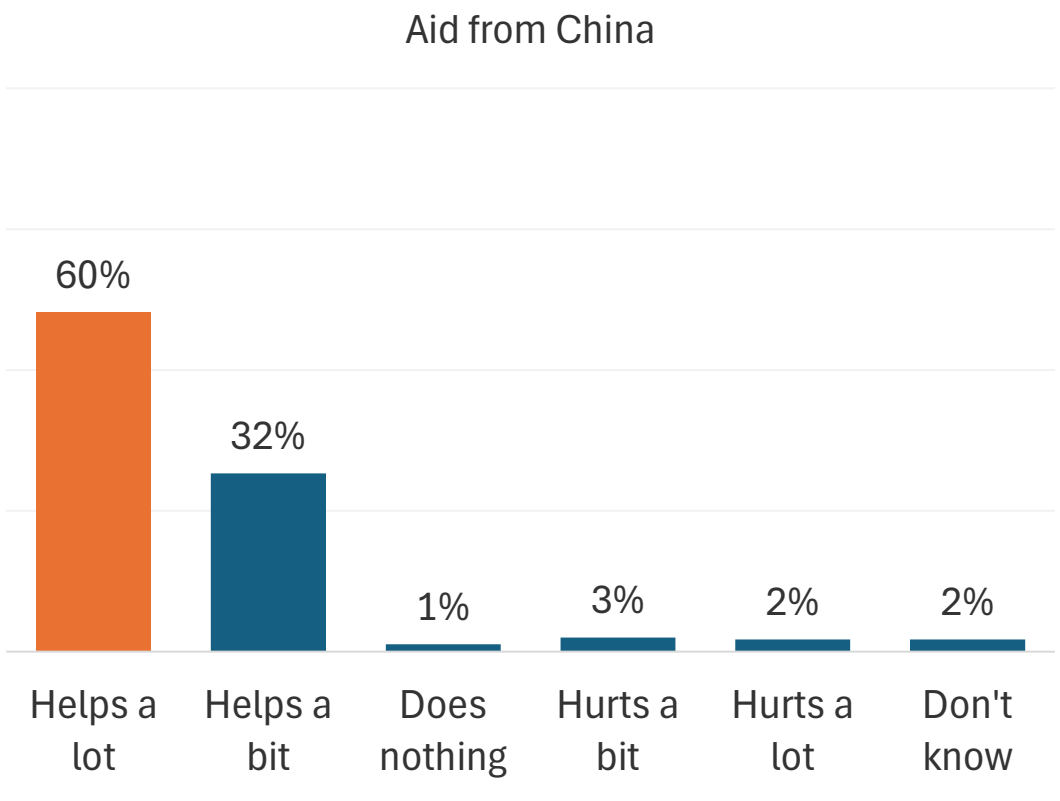




Does Aid Help or Harm PNG?

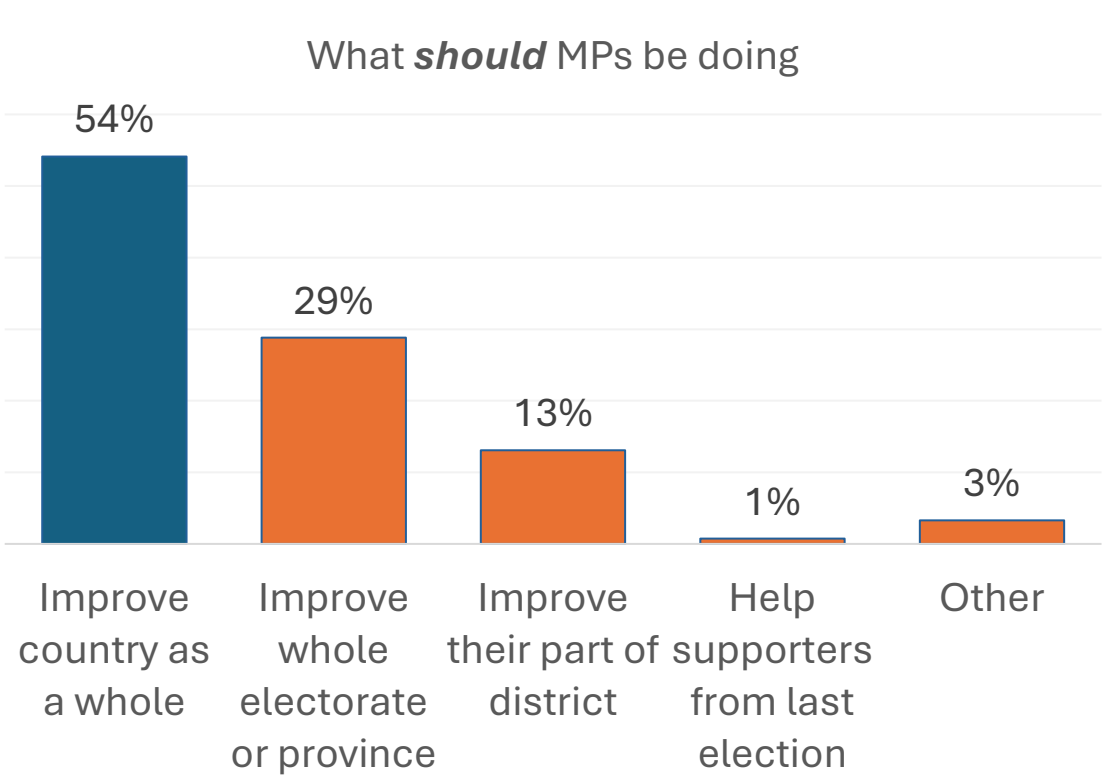
- Australia and China are PNG's biggest ODA partners.
- Between 2008-2024 51% of PNG's ODA came from Australia vs. 10% from China (ADB at 16%) as per the Lowy Pacific Aid Map.
- Whether foreign aid is good for development or harmful has been an ongoing debate (Sachs Vs. Easterly, Moyo)

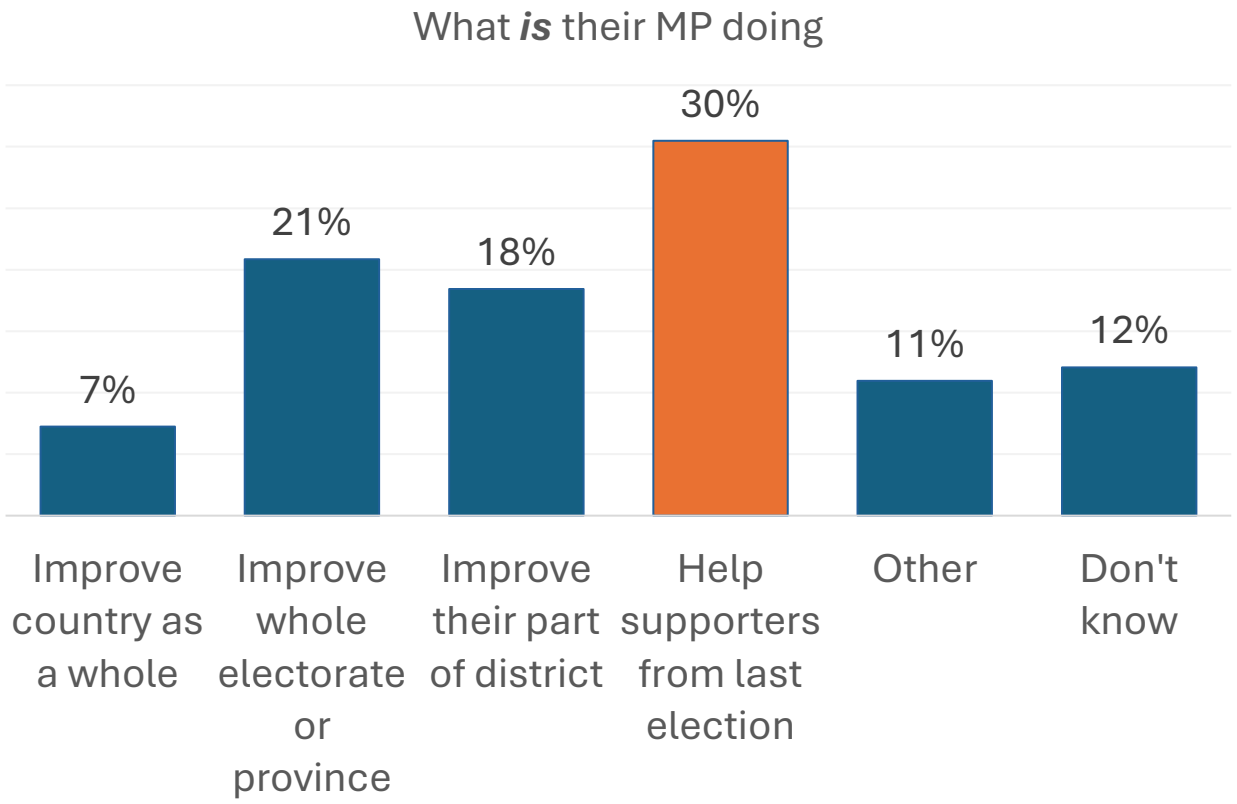




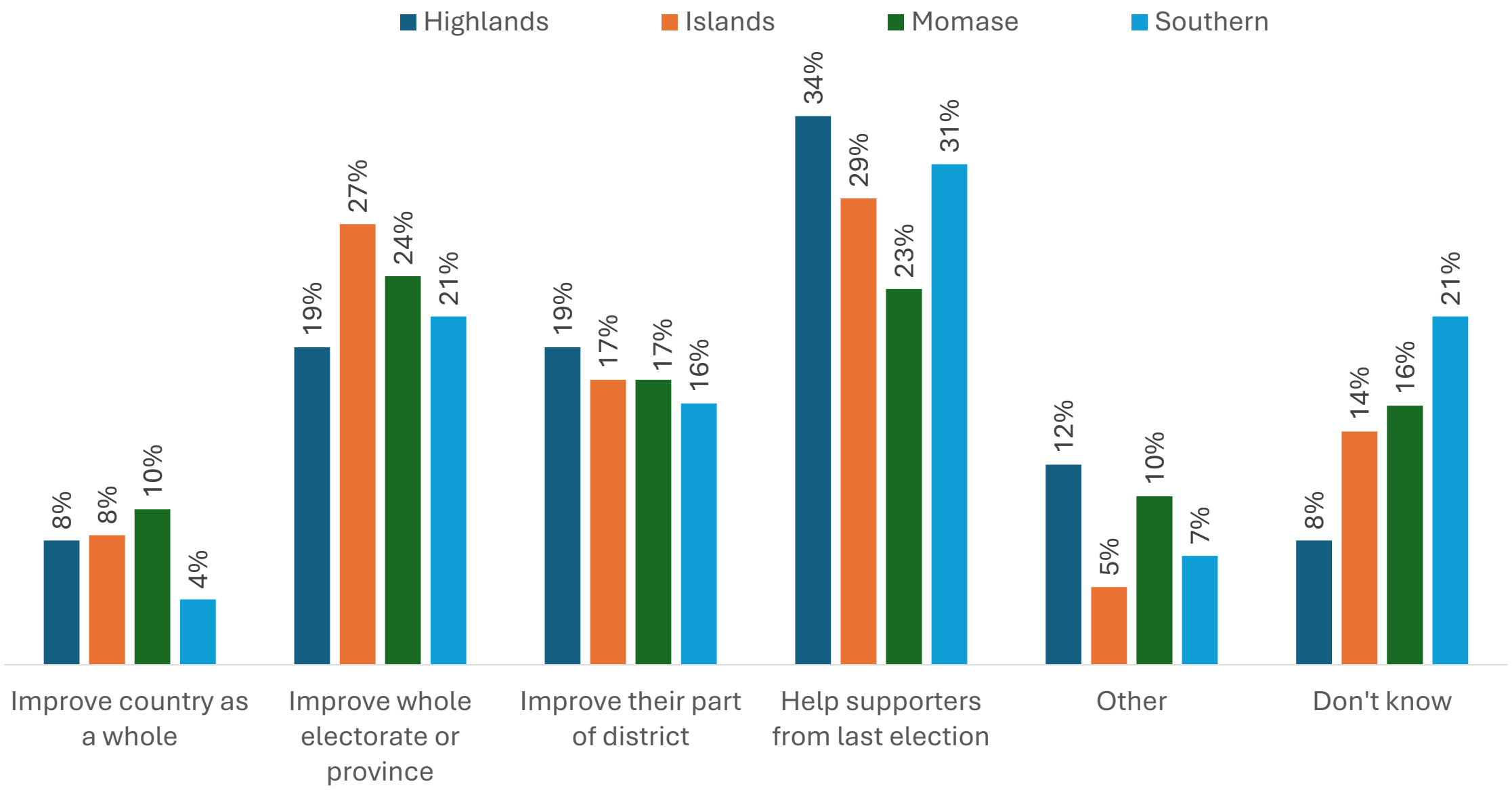
Politics

- PNG politics is described as hyper-politics.
- 54% of the students thought their MPs job is to improve the country while 29% believe they should improve their electorate or province.
- However, most students (30%) think their MPs are helping their supporters from last election.



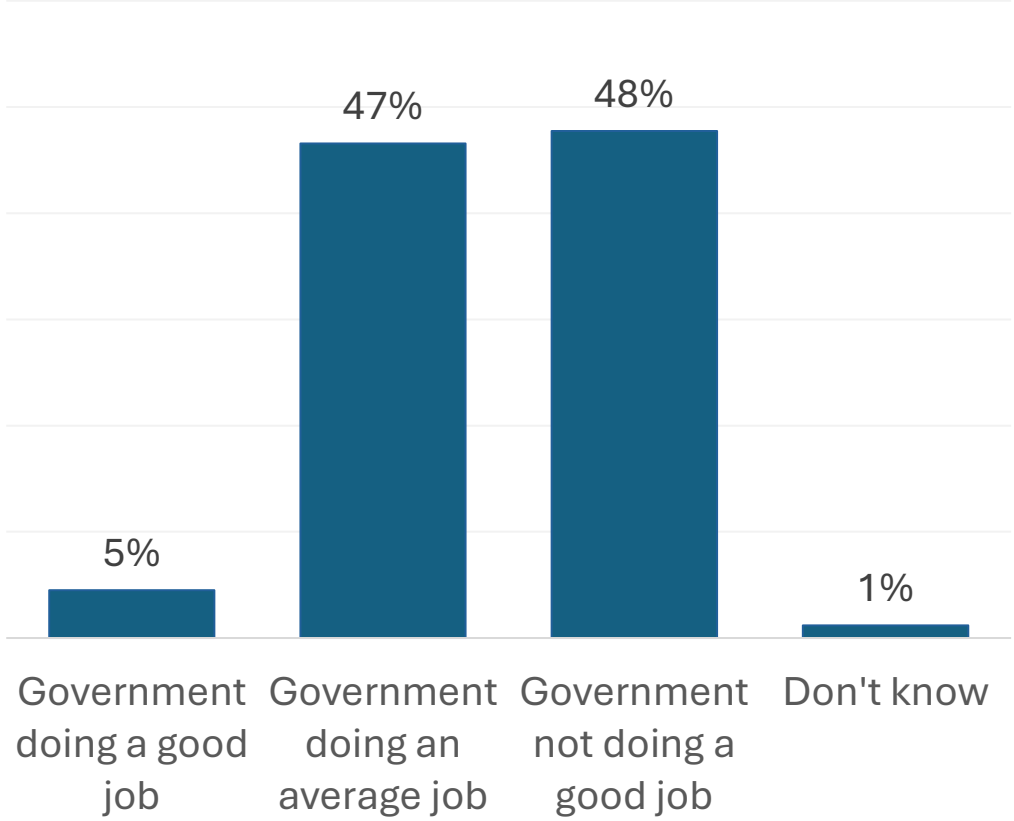


What MPs are doing by region

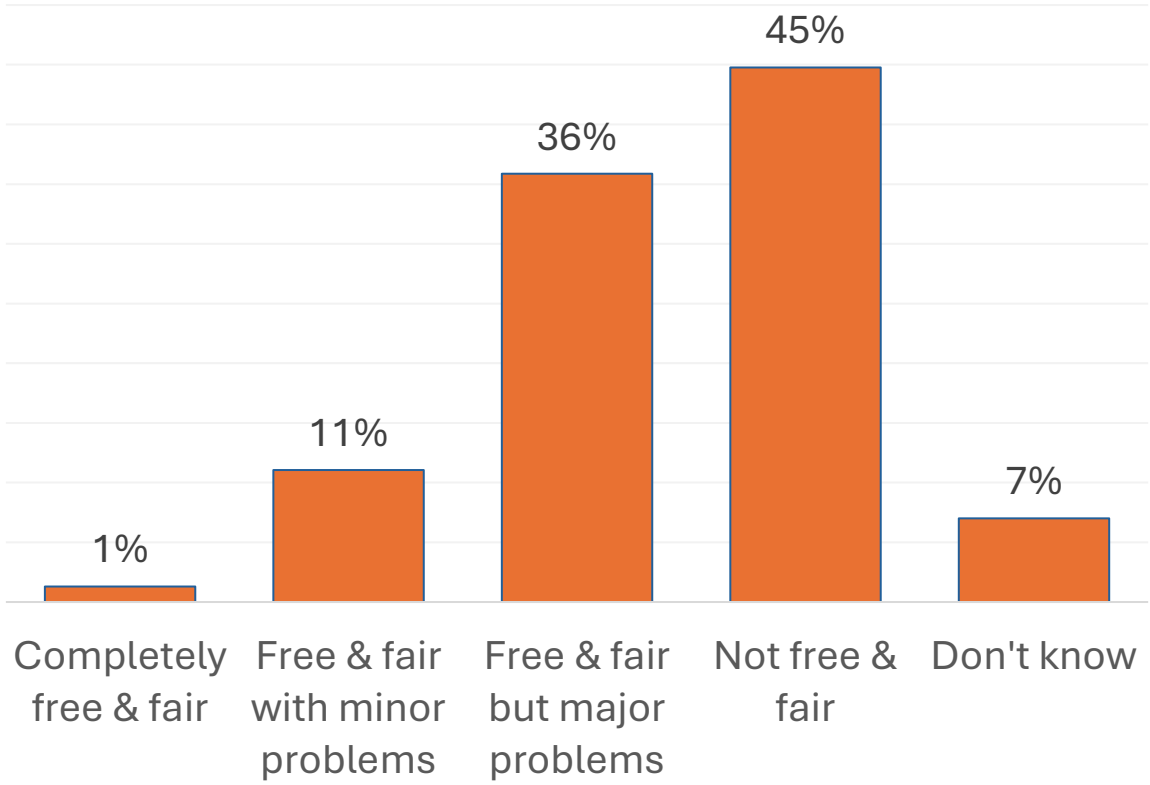


Most students think the government is either doing an average job or not doing a good job at all

Do you think the government is doing a good job of governing the country?

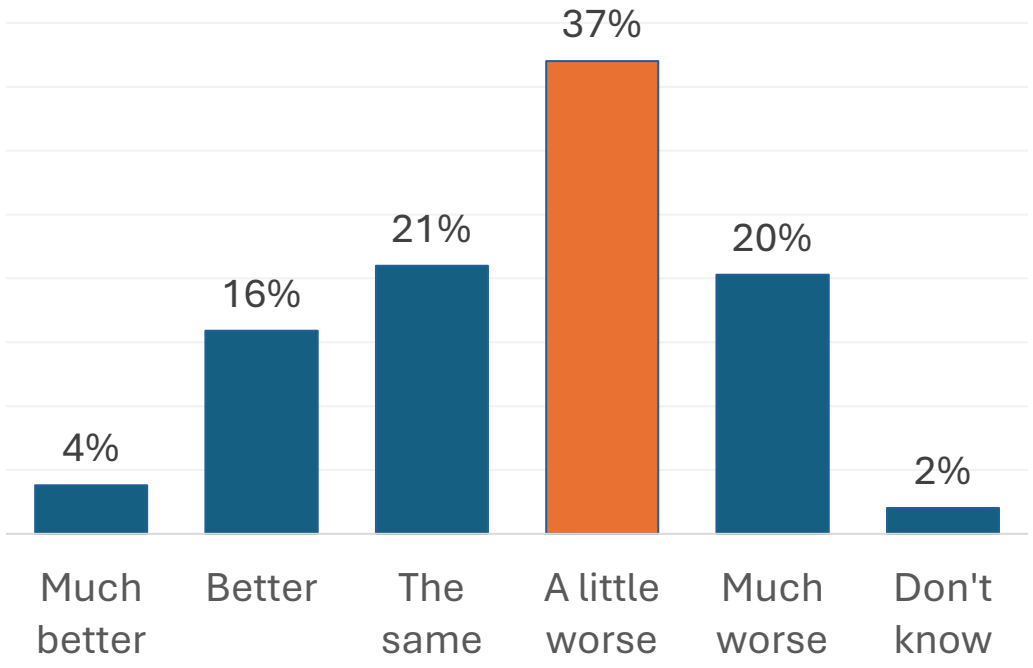


What do you think of 2027 General election?

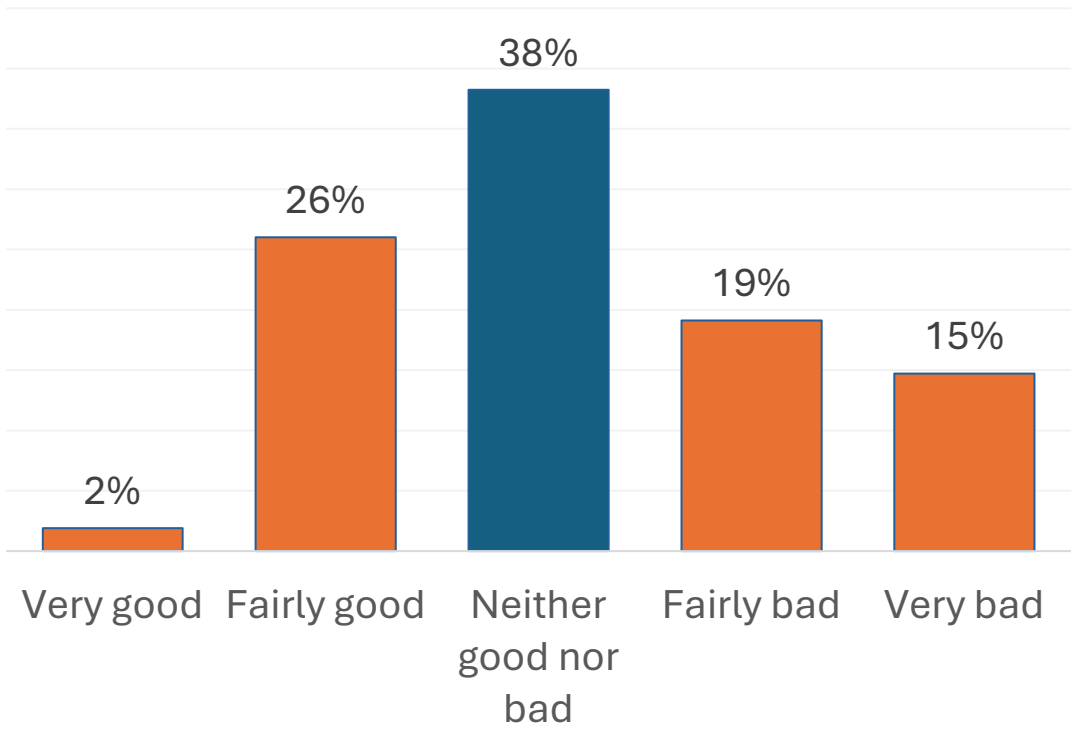


Life Circumstances

How would you describe the change in the economic condition of your family over the last few years?

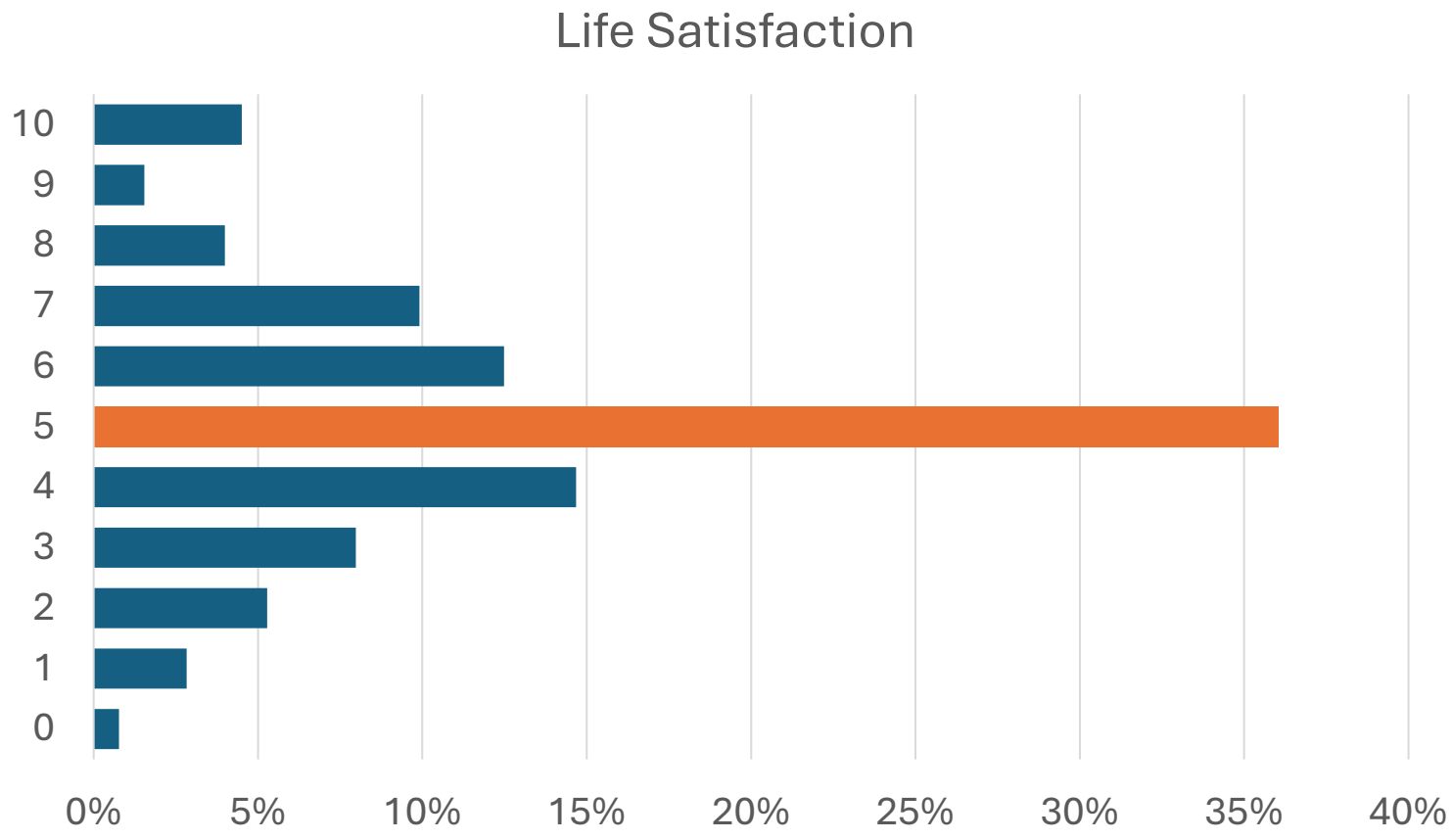


How would you describe your own present economic living conditions?



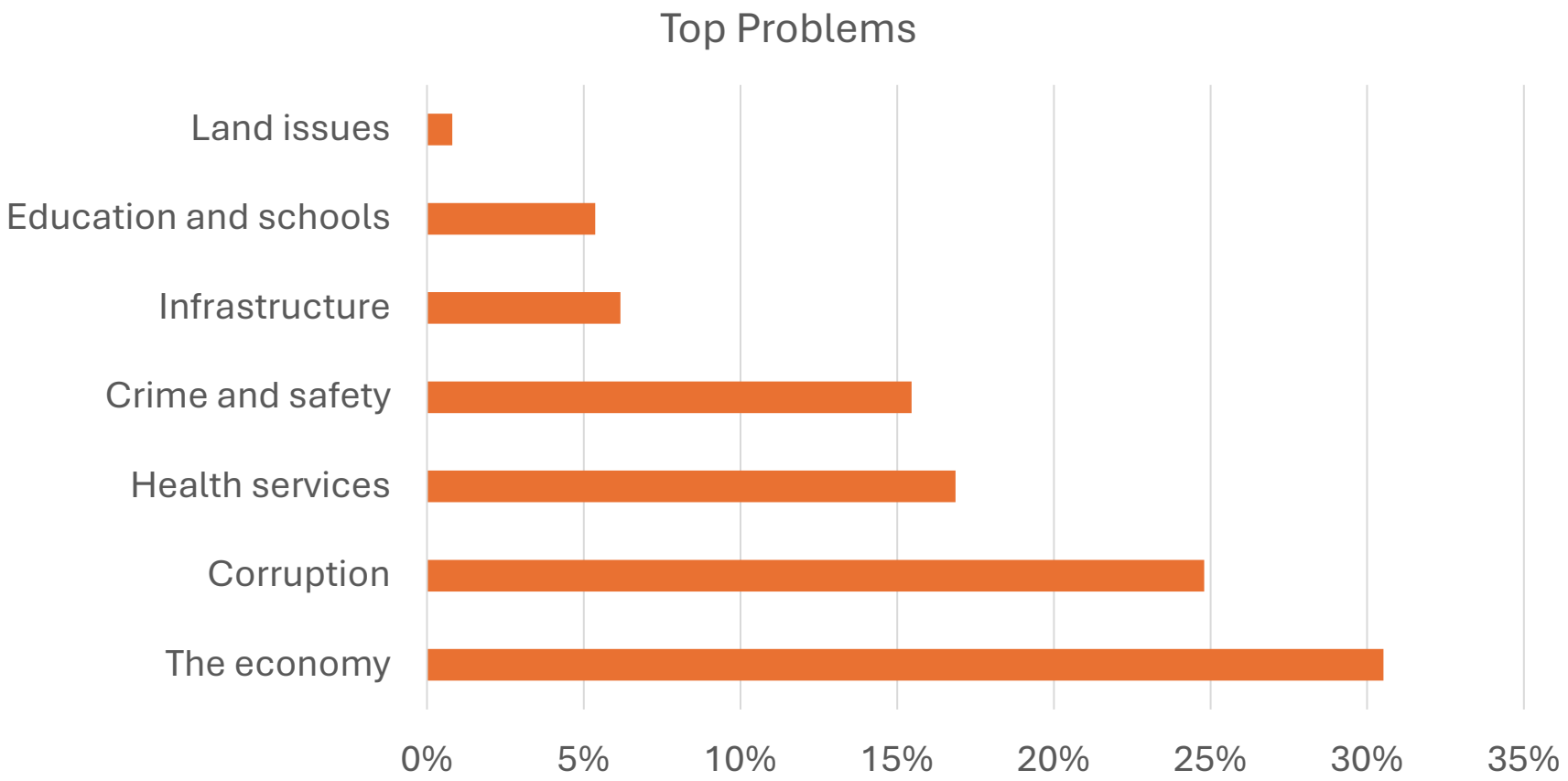
Life Satisfaction

- The survey asked the exact question that Gallup World Poll asks, and UN uses the findings on the World Happiness report.
- Students were asked to rate themselves on a scale from 0-10 on how they feel about their life at present.
- 0 represents the worst possible life while 10 is the best possible life at present.
- Most students rated 5 while the average score is about 5.11. This is similar to the Asian region's average of 5.3 and higher than Africa's 4.44.

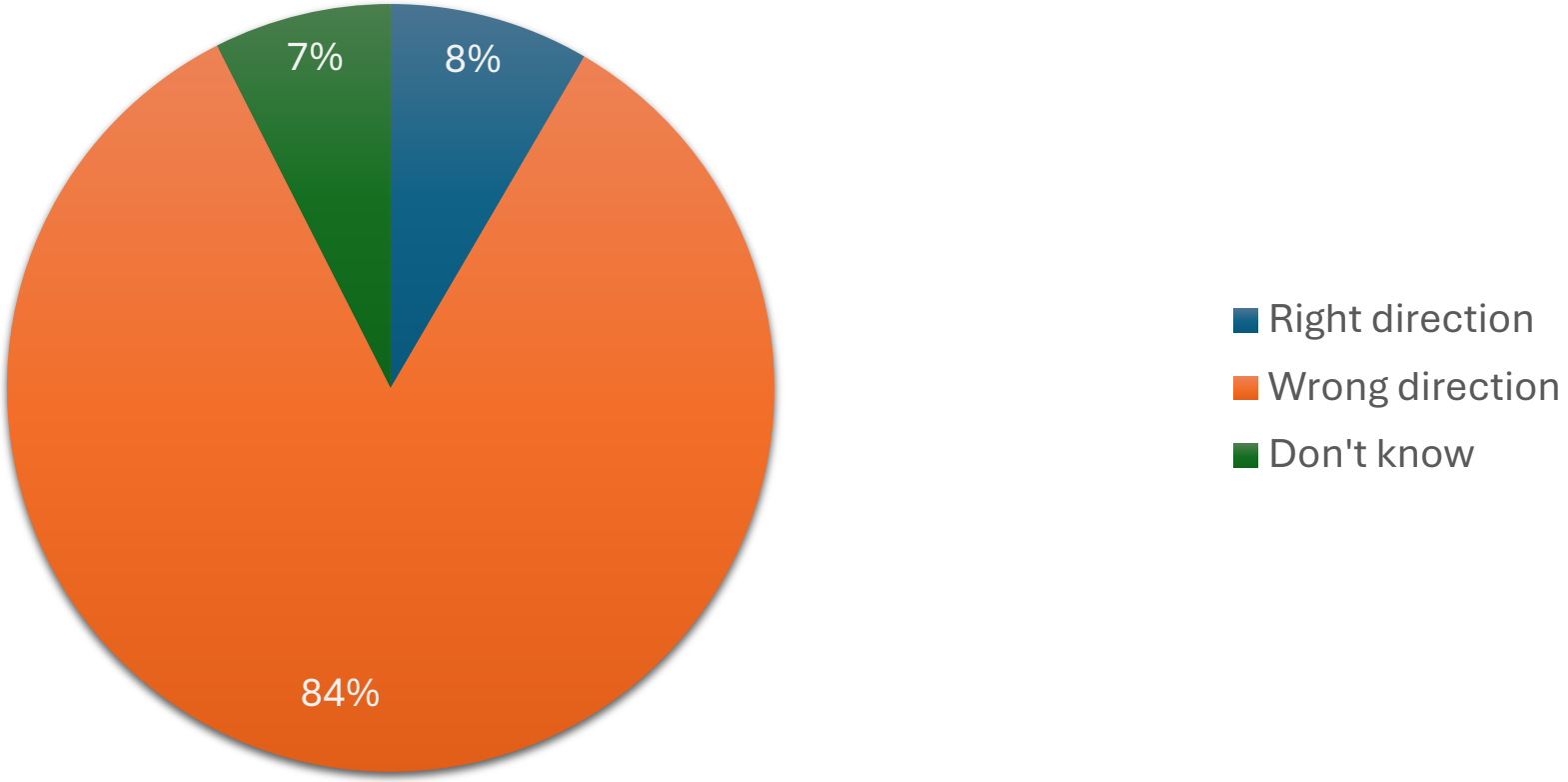


Prompt: "Please imagine a ladder, with steps numbered from 0 at the bottom to 10 at the top. The top of the ladder represents the best possible life for you, and the bottom of the ladder represents the worst possible life for you. On which step of the ladder would you say you personally feel you stand at this time?"

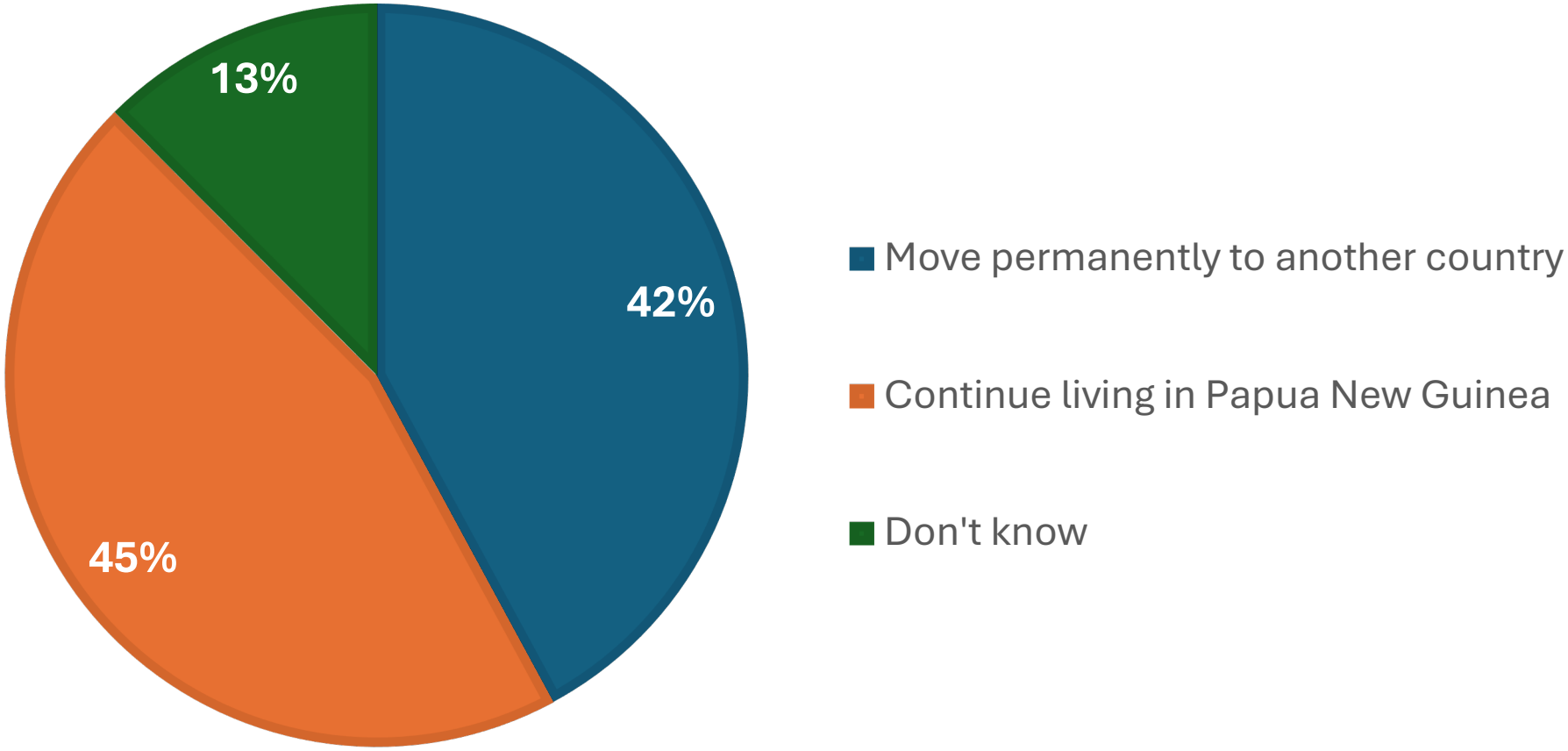
Economic problems remains the top national problems over the three annual surveys.



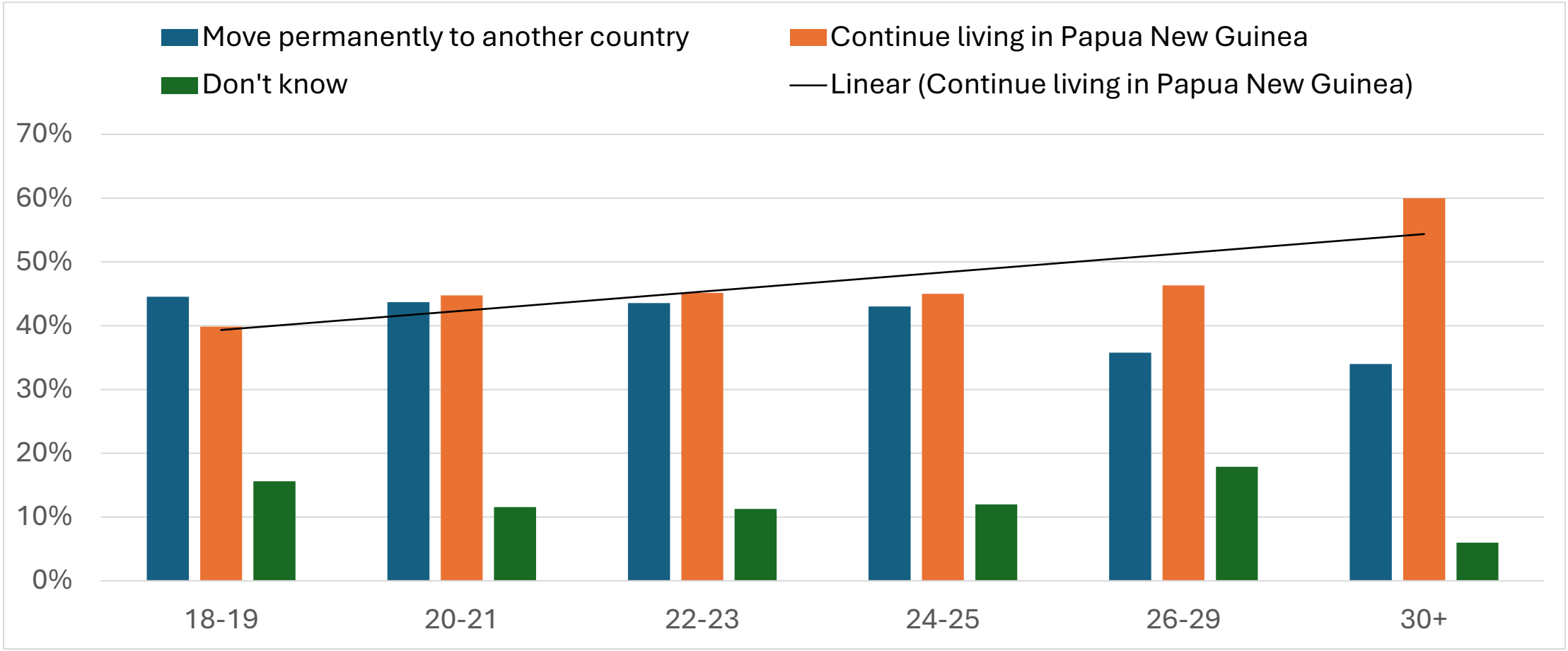
What direction do you think the country is heading?



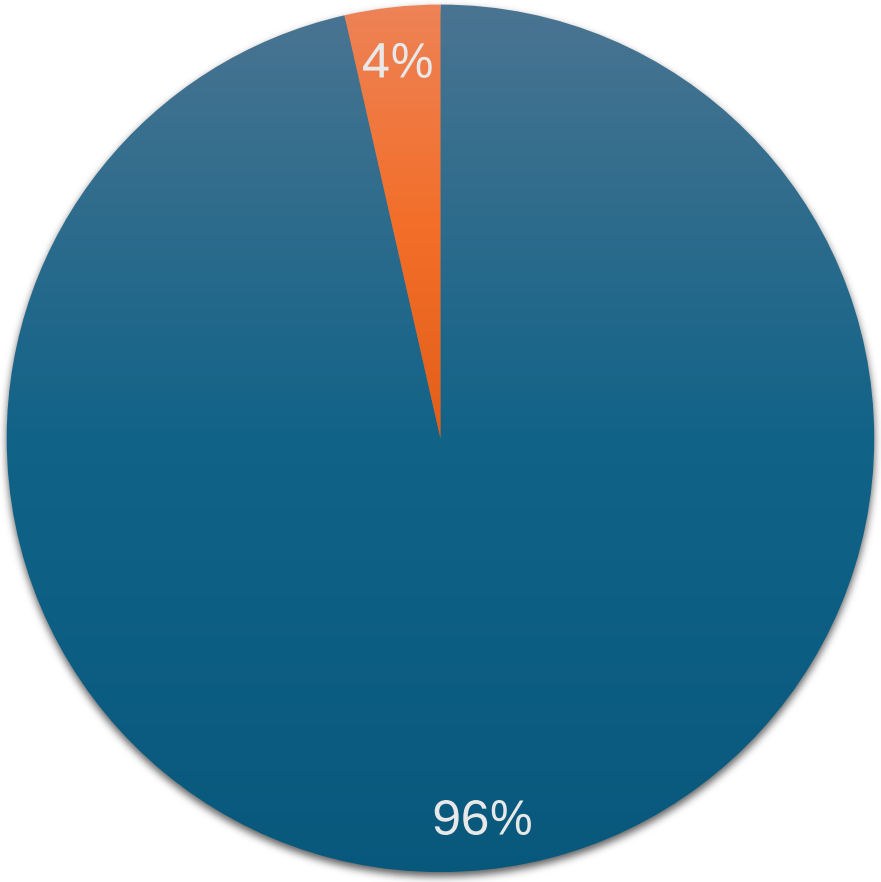
Migration- Permanent

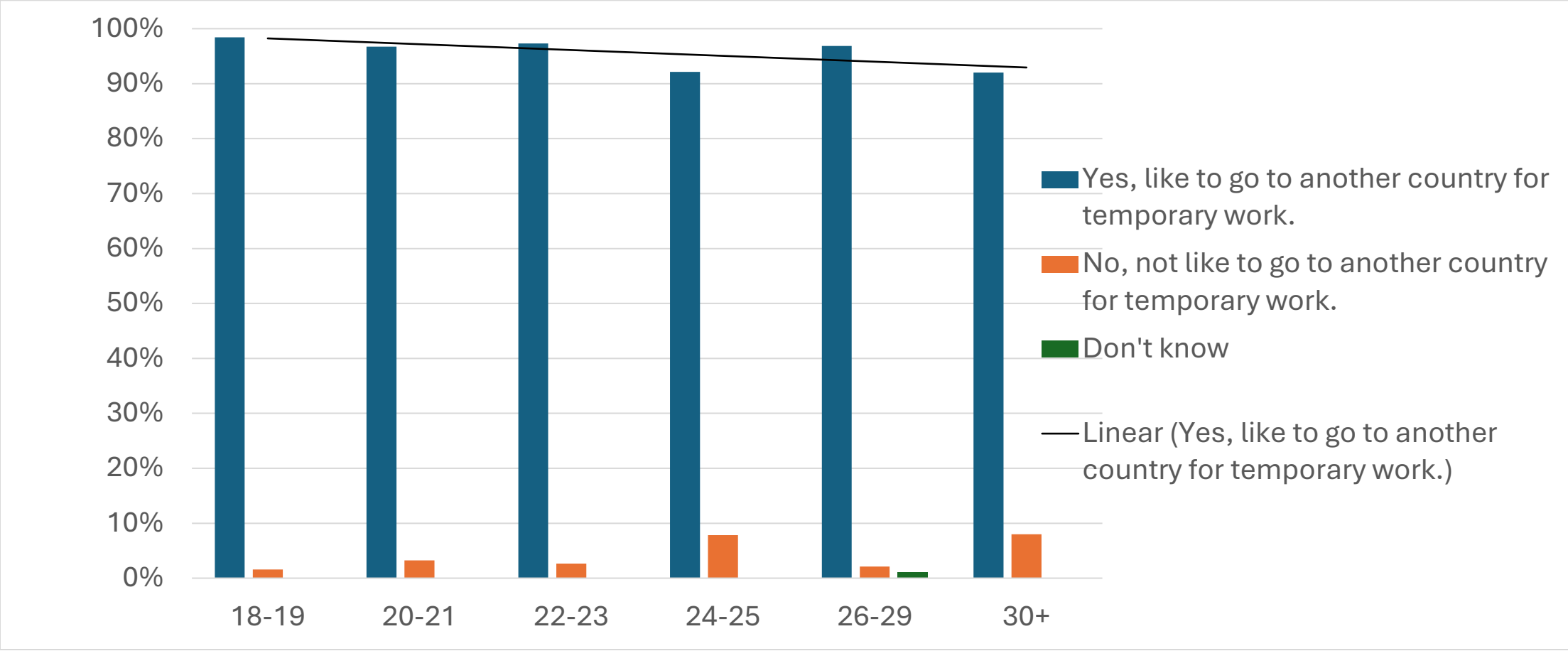


There is a slight upward trend for citizens to continue living in PNG, the older they get.

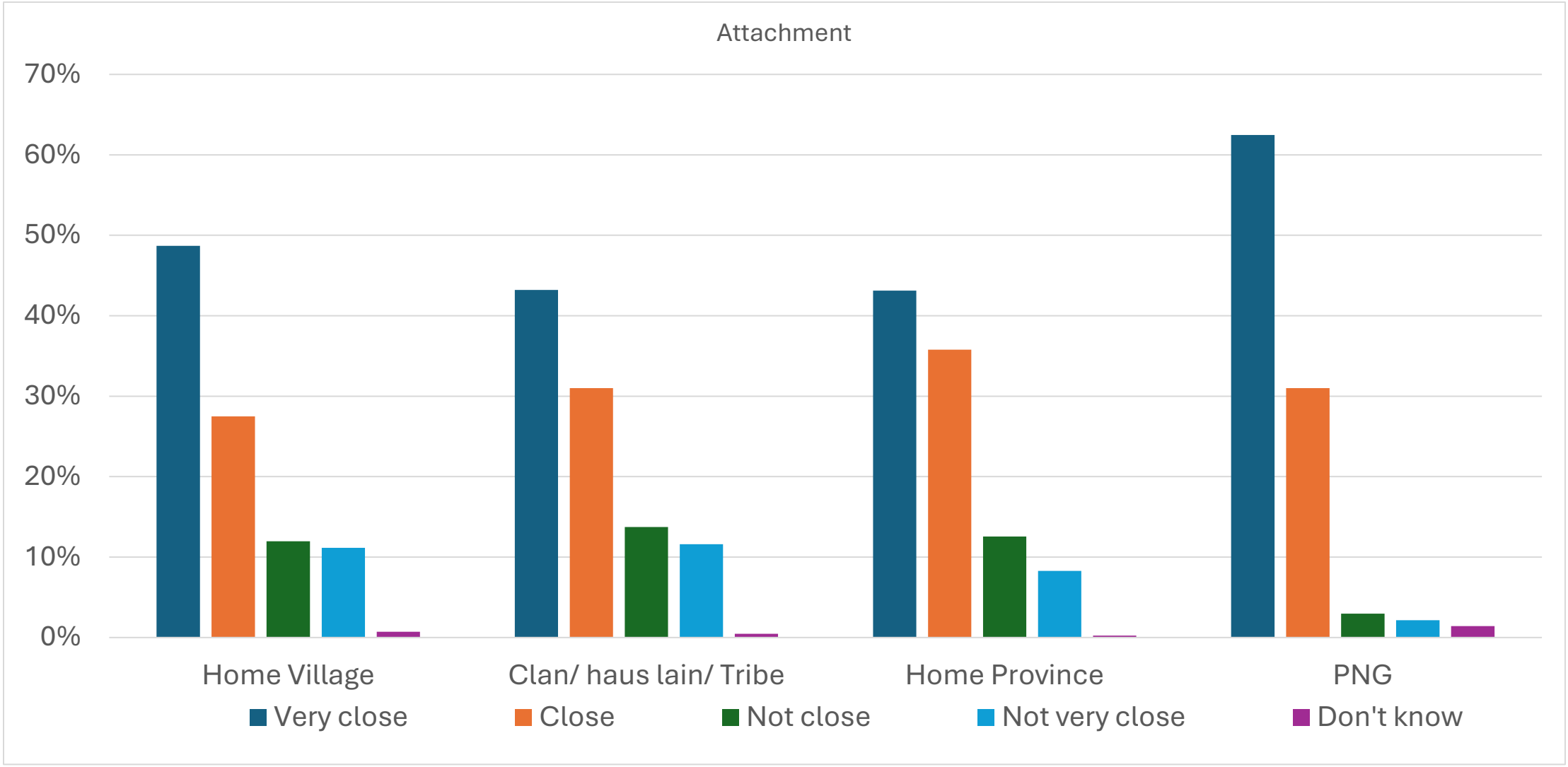


Migration: Temporary

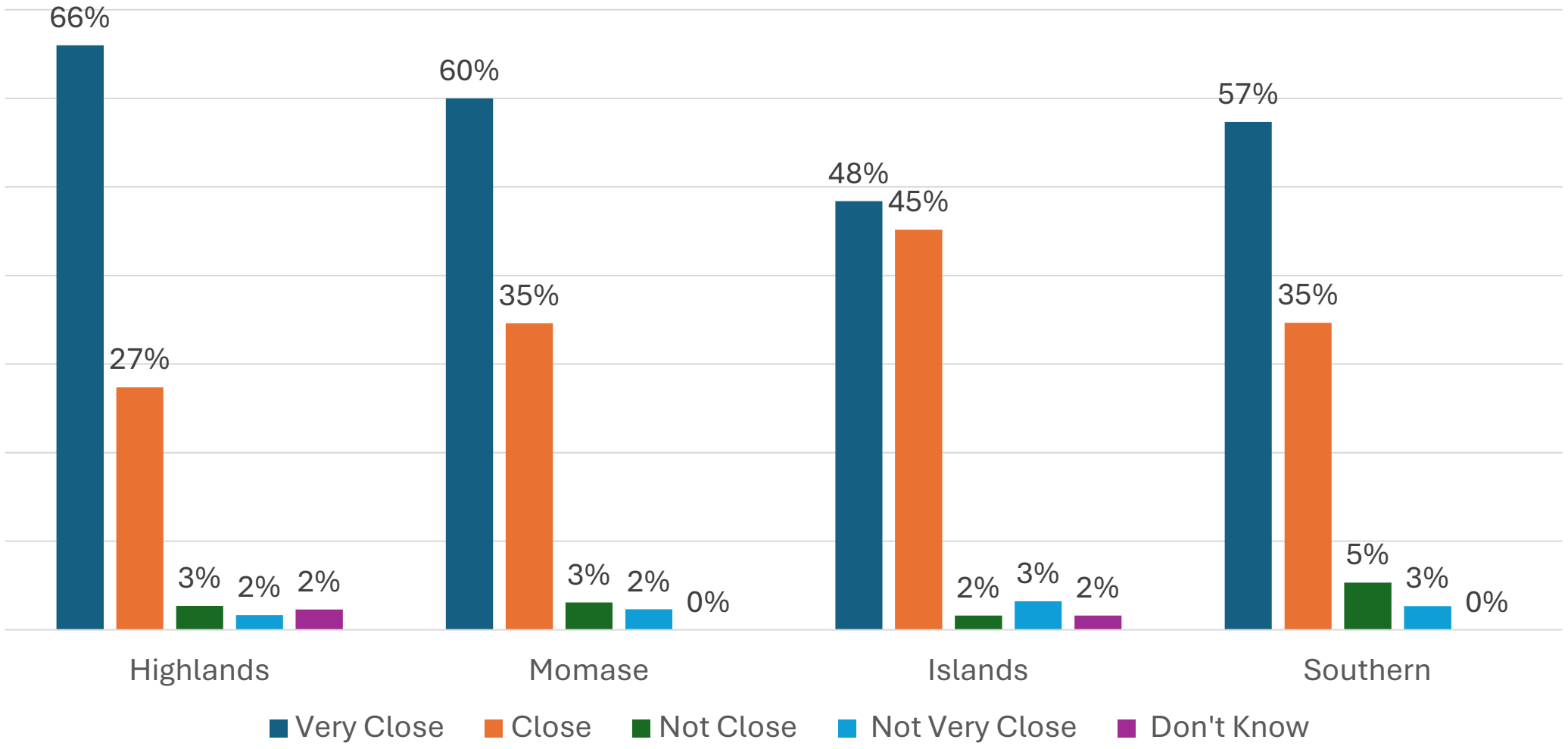



100%
90%
80%
70%
60%
50%
40%
30%
20%
10%
0%
18-19
20-21
22-23
24-25
26-29
30+
Yes, like to go to another country for temporary work.
No, not like to go to another country for temporary work.
Don't know
Linear (Yes, like to go to another country for temporary work.)

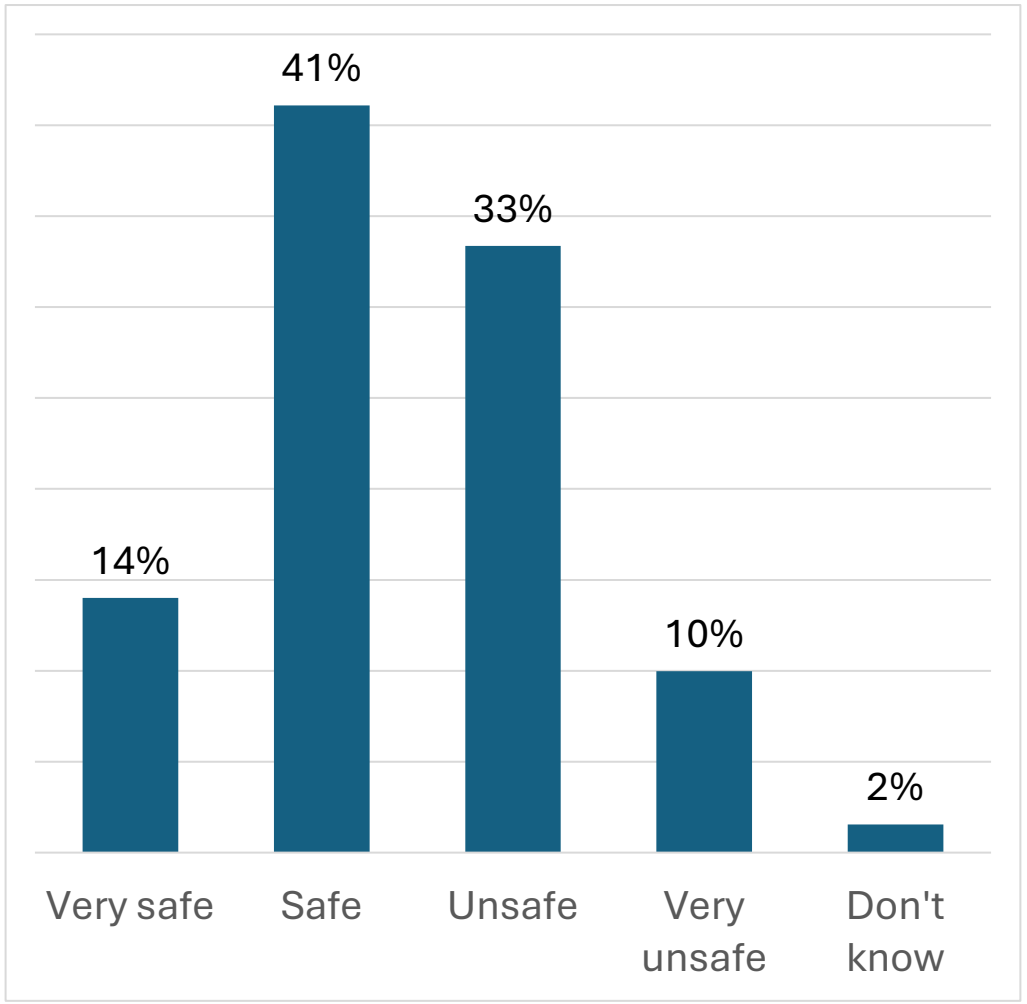
Students Attachment

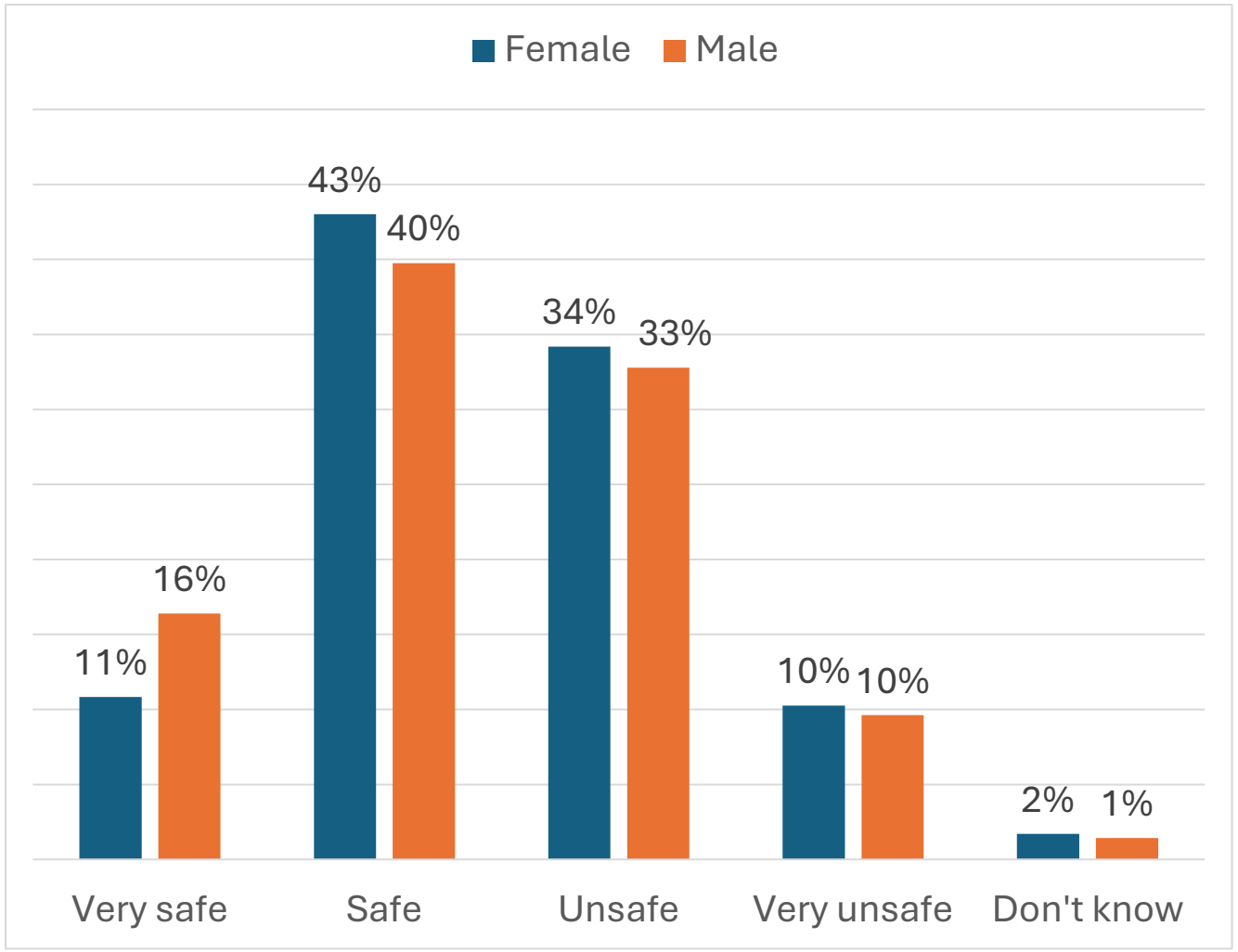


Country Attachment by Region

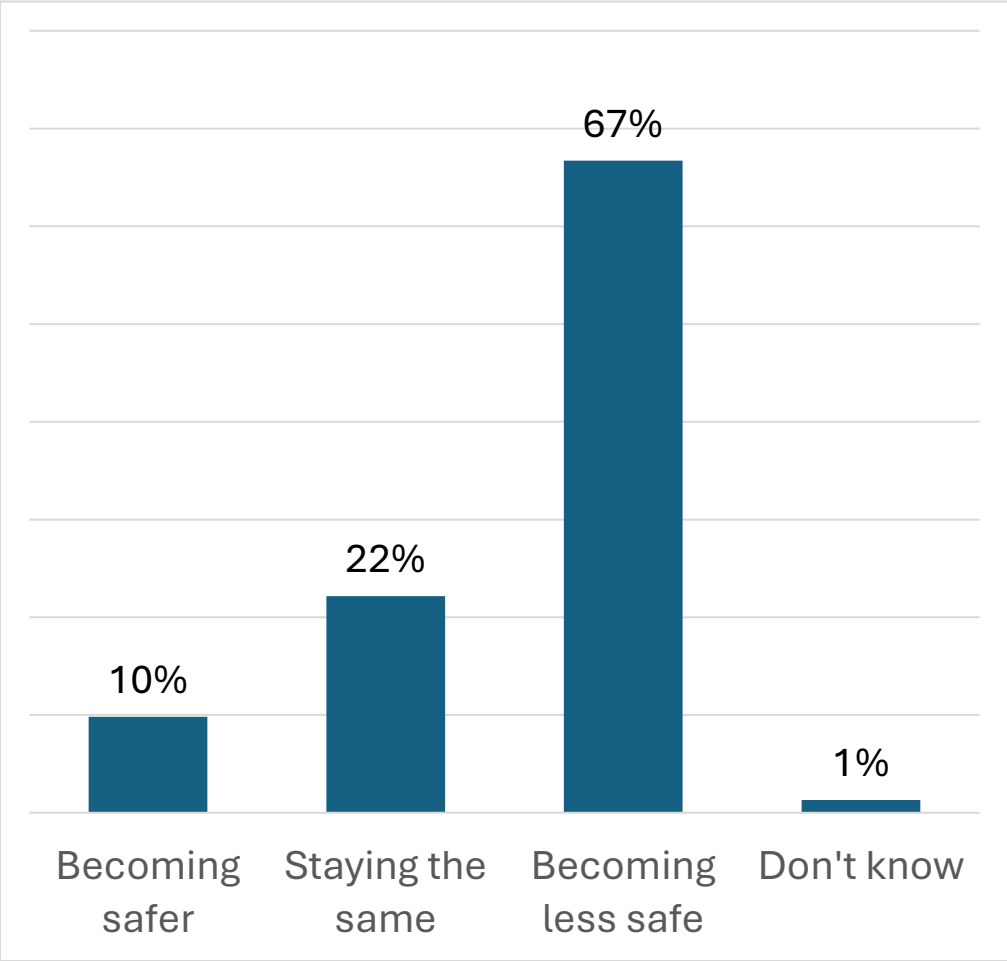


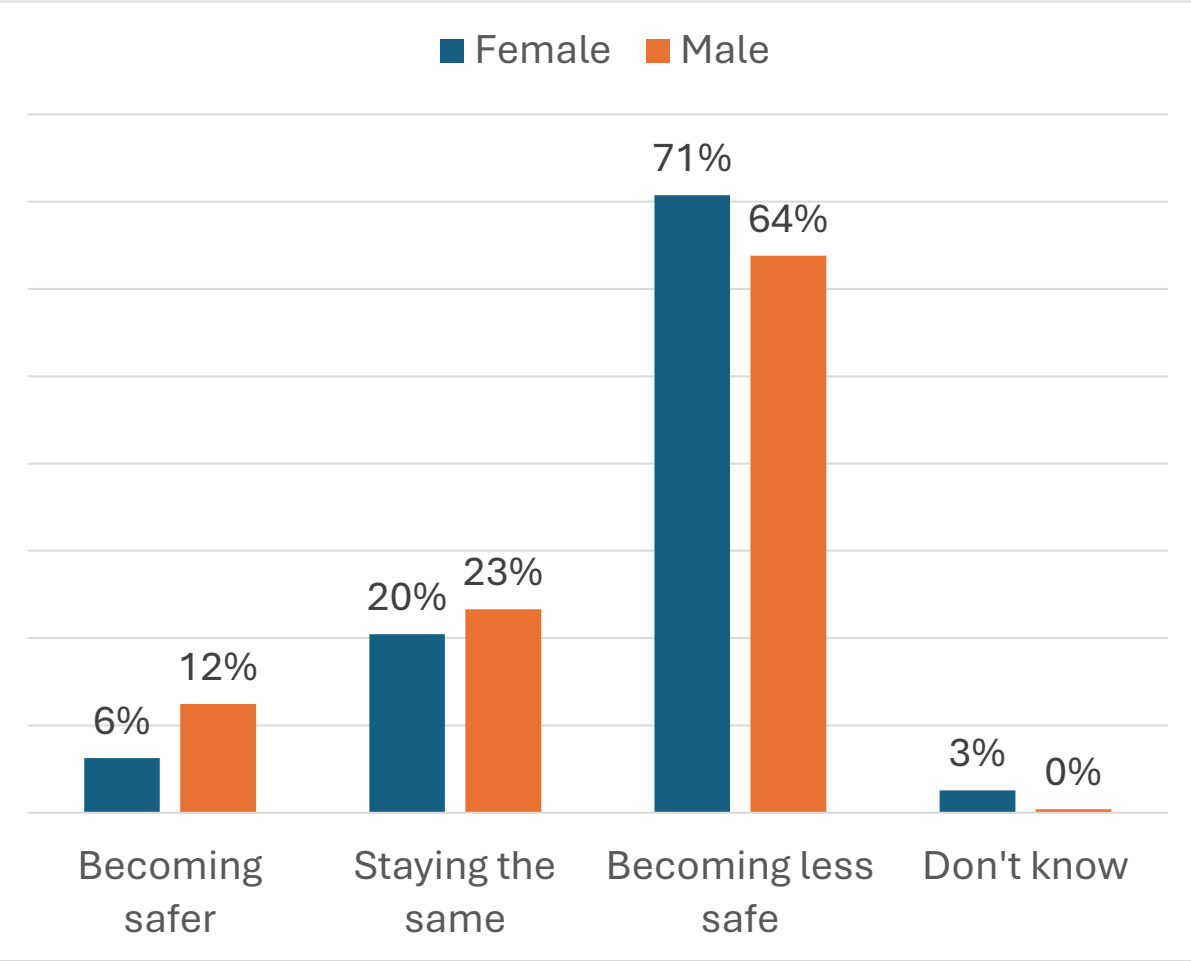
Safety: How safe do you feel in the community where you live?



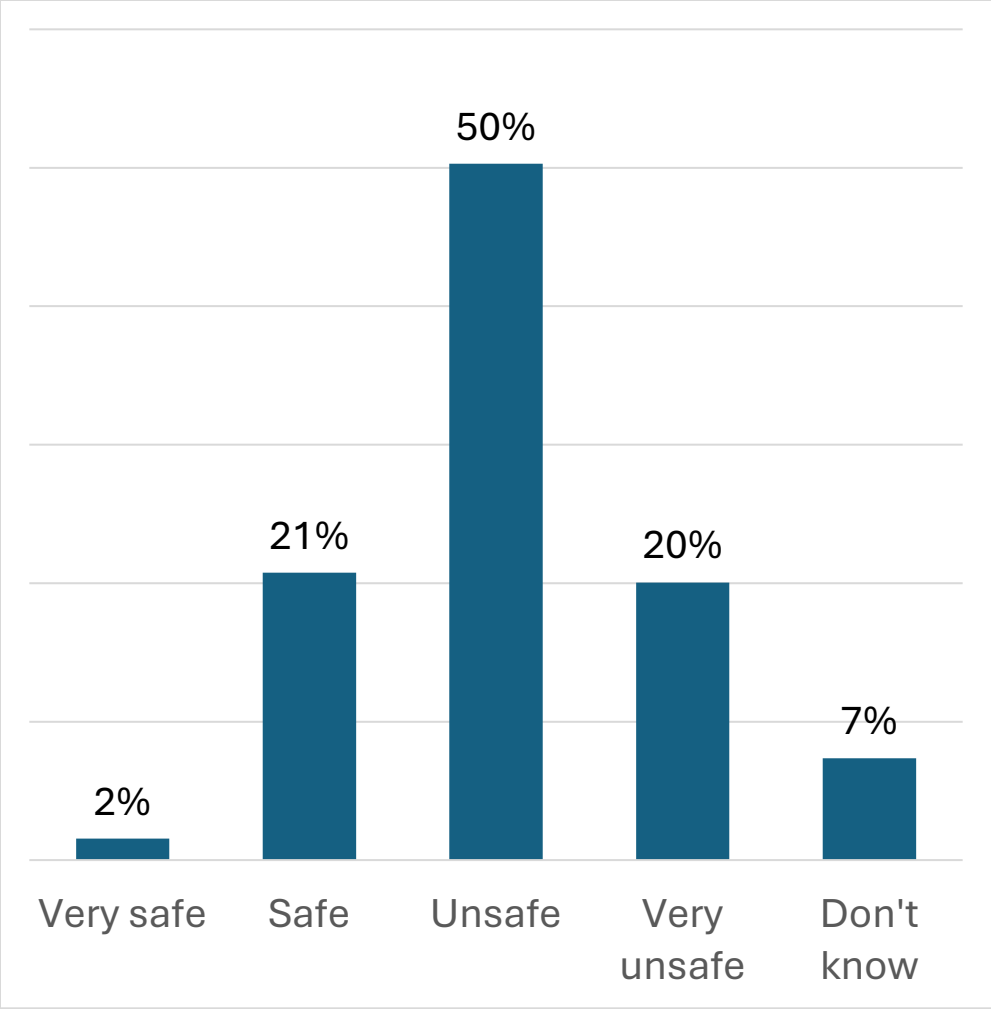


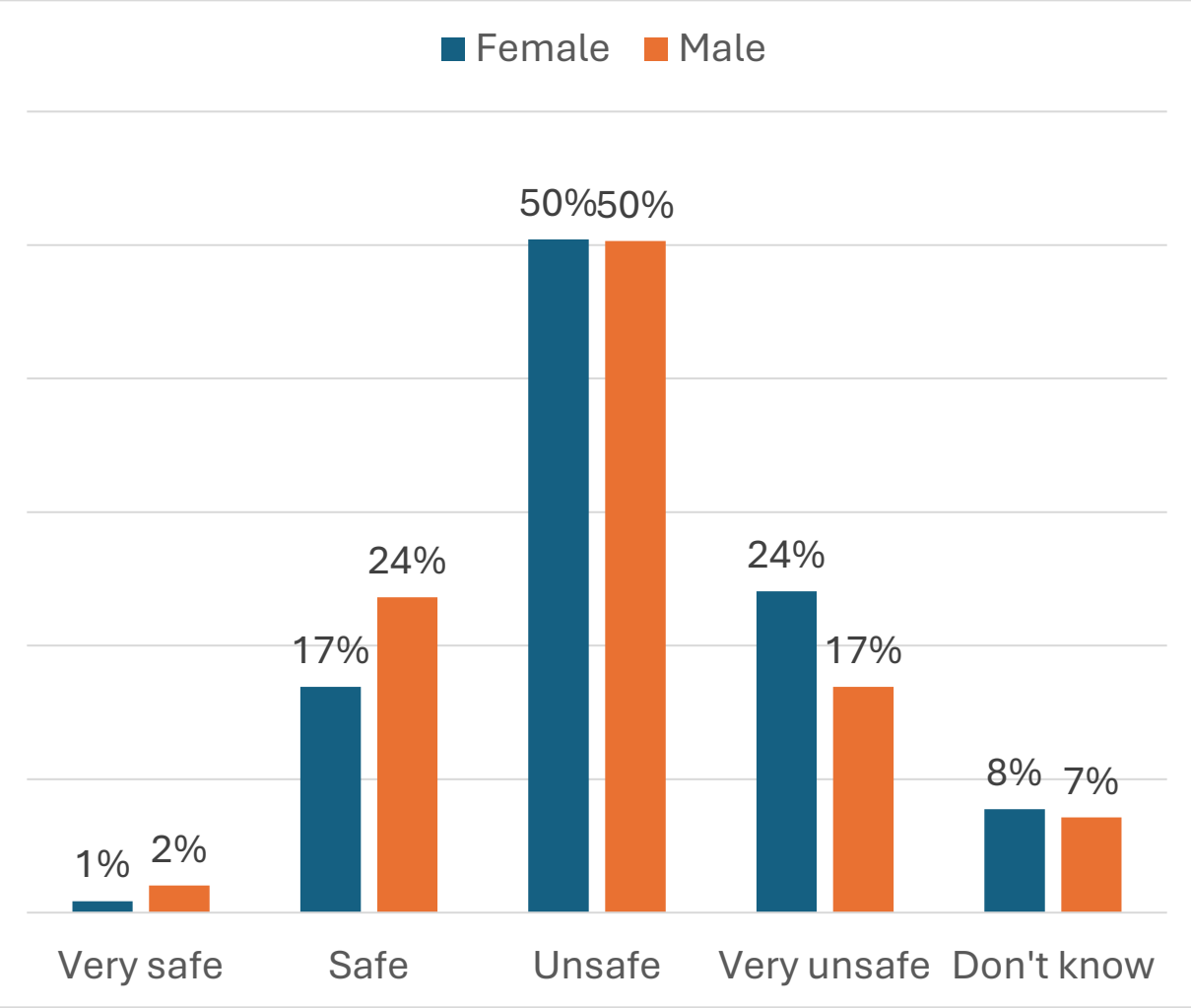
Do you think your community is:





How safe do you think the rest of PNG is?





Conclusions

- The third annual student opinion survey covered all four schools in the main UPNG campus for the first time.
- There are more predominantly male students enrolled in the SNPS.
- The findings of the same questions are similar over the last three years.
- Most students feel that their family's economic conditions have not improved and is getting worse. They feel neutral about their life satisfaction and happiness.
- Though majority of students think the government is not doing a good job and the country is headed in the wrong direction, they still prefer temporary migration over permanent.
- The older a Papua New Guinean get, the more likely they prefer to continue living and working in PNG.
- This may be because most students are attached to their land and feel close or even very close to their villages and country PNG.
- Equal proportion of surveyed male and female students perceived the rest of PNG is unsafe while most feel safe in their own communities.

Thank you!

Questions and Comments?.....