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KOSOVO SECURITY BAROMETER

CHALLENGES OF PUBLIC

SAFETY IN KOSOVO

MAY 2020



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The original language of this report is Albanian.

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KEY FINDINGS



Migration of citizens from Kosovo (71 percent), traffic accidents (60 percent) and stray dogs (57 percent) are the highest public safety risks as perceived by respondents.



Respondents in urban areas expressed greater concern regarding traffic accidents than those in rural areas. Respondents in the Peja and Ferizaj regions expressed the highest concern.



Much greater concern regarding stray dogs as high public safety risk was observed among urban respondents (63 percent) compared to those in rural areas (50 percent).



Nearly half of respondents (47 percent) stated that they view the unlawful possession of illegal firearms as a high public safety risk. Respondents in urban areas were more concerned about this phenomenon, whereas in urban areas 51 percent of respondents view the unlawful possession of firearms as a concern to public safety, in rural areas this percentage drops to 42 percent.



In 2019, there was an increase in the perception of homicides as a high risk to public safety (about 40 percent) compared to 2018 (35.6 percent). Respondents in urban areas feel more threatened by homicides than respondents living in rural areas.



The Barometer has recorded an increase in the perception of robberies house and apartment as a public safety concern;



Domestic violence is ranked as the lowest risk perceived by respondents (34 percent), followed by school violence with 35 percent, and sexual harassment with 37 percent.

Respondents in urban areas (40 percent) are much more concerned about this phenomenon than respondents in rural areas (27 percent).



The percentage of respondents who reported feeling safe in their towns/villages is gradually increasing. While in 2018, about 79 percent of respondents reported feeling safe in their town, in 2019, nearly 84 percent of respondents reported feeling safe in their village or town.

The KSB 2019 has recorded that Kosovar respondents feel safer in their homes/ apartments and their neighborhoods (88 percent), compared to the city (83 percent) and Kosovo (61 percent).

In 2019 there was a three percent increase of respondents who reported feeling safe at home, thus marking a positive trend in terms of safety at home. There is also an increase in the number respondents stating they feel safer in their neighborhood, with the percentage of respondents feeling safe at home being the same as that of those feeling safe in their neighborhood (88 percent).

It should be noted that this year there was a high increase in respondents who stated they felt safe in Kosovo. Although in 2018, 52% of respondents stated they felt safe in Kosovo, in 2019, 61% of respondents stated they felt safe in Kosovo.

Recommendations:

- Institutions should be determined to reduce the number of illegal guns in the hands of the private citizen;
- Institutions must work on enhancing public lighting;
- Increasing police presence in neighborhoods;
- Installation of security CCTV in public spaces in all cities of Kosovo;
- Modernizing the Emergency Hotline;
- Security Institutions must enhance their cooperation with citizens through social networks and social media applications to improve public safety;
- The project of capture, neuter, vaccination and release (CNVR) of stray dogs must continue in annual basis;

INTRODUCTION

Security is a key fundamental human right. Feeling safe or unsafe strongly affects the physical and mental health and wellbeing of citizens,¹ and may lead to greater trust/distrust, which affects citizens' socialization and sense of community.² As a result, KCSS has paid particular attention to citizens' perceptions regarding public safety and personal security since 2012 when the Kosovo Security Barometer was first launched

This special edition of the KSB comprises four chapters. The first chapter unfolds citizens' perceptions on national security concerns. The second chapter elaborates citizens' perceptions on public safety. Consequently, the third chapter interrelates citizens' perceptions toward public safety concerns with reality, while examining the reasons that may have influenced these perceptions. Meanwhile, the last chapter offers a range of recommendations, measures to be taken into consideration, in order to improve public safety in Kosovo.

Various elements affect citizens' perceptions regarding public safety. Indisputably, such attitudes are shaped by personal experiences. However, the importance of media and social networks in shaping citizens' opinions cannot be ignored. Perceptions might be correlated with personal characteristics such as age, gender, ethnicity, education and economic status. Therefore, beyond general data analyses, this edition also includes cross-analyses of various public security threats with personal characteristics.



- 1 Stafford, M., Chandola, T., and Marmot, M., 2007, 'Association between fear of crime and mental health and physical functioning', *The American Journal of Public Health*, 97(11), pp.2076-2081
- 2 Healey, J. (2012) *Risk Taking and Personal Safety*. Thirroul, N.S.W.: Spinney Press (Issues in Society). Available at: <http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&AuthType=ip,url,cookie&db=nlebk&AN=473049&site=ehost-live> (Accessed: 19 April 2020)

CITIZENS PERCEPTIONS TOWARD NATIONAL SECURITY THREATS

The 2019 KSB has also measured the perceptions of Kosovo citizens about the main internal security threats. In order to obtain a more meaningful snapshot of what citizens fear, the measurement of perceived threats was achieved by asking respondents both open-ended and closed-ended questions. Through open-ended questions, respondents were asked to write down the risks and threats Kosovo citizens face. However, the answers given by the respondents to the open-ended questions were very similar to those given to the closed-ended questions.

The most frequently mentioned threats, highlighted by the respondents through open-ended questions, were related to the current socio-economic situation and the political situation. In similar manner to last year, unemployment, corruption, Serbia, organized crime, partition of Kosovo, petty crime, and youth flight, were the most frequently mentioned main threats by the respondents. However, the partition of Kosovo and the exchange of territories were not listed as key concerns of the citizens in the answers to closed-ended questions.

In closed-ended questions, the vast majority of respondents listed corruption (91.41 percent), unemployment (90.97 percent) and organized crime (89.3 percent), as the most dangerous internal threats to Kosovo. It is noted that the respondents are troubled by the threat of security by the lack of rule of law, namely lack of results in fighting corruption and organized crime by law enforcement institutions, including the police, the prosecution and the courts. It should be noted that citizens expressed concerns about the migration of Kosovar citizens (86 percent) and environmental pollution (80 percent).³

KSB 2019 has recorded that Kosovar respondents feel safer in their homes/ apartments and their neighborhoods (88 percent), compared to the city (83 percent) and Kosovo (61 percent). In addition to this, in 2019 there was a three percent increase of respondents who reported feeling safe at home, thus marking a positive trend in terms of home safety.⁴

3 For more detailed analysis regarding national security threats read KSB special report on Kosovo-Serbia Dialogue available here http://www.qkss.org/repository/docs/barometri2020-eng_4_256024.pdf

4 Read more about public safety trends [http://www.qkss.org/repository/docs/KSB2018_Public-Safety_eng_final_\(1\)_770443.pdf](http://www.qkss.org/repository/docs/KSB2018_Public-Safety_eng_final_(1)_770443.pdf)

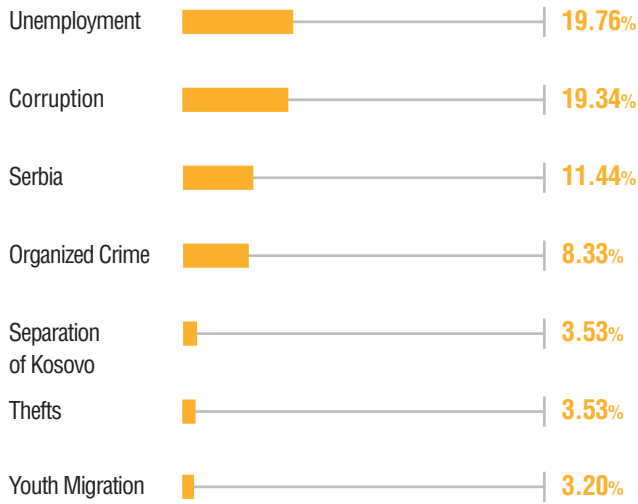


Figure 1. Main Internal Security Threats (open-ended question)

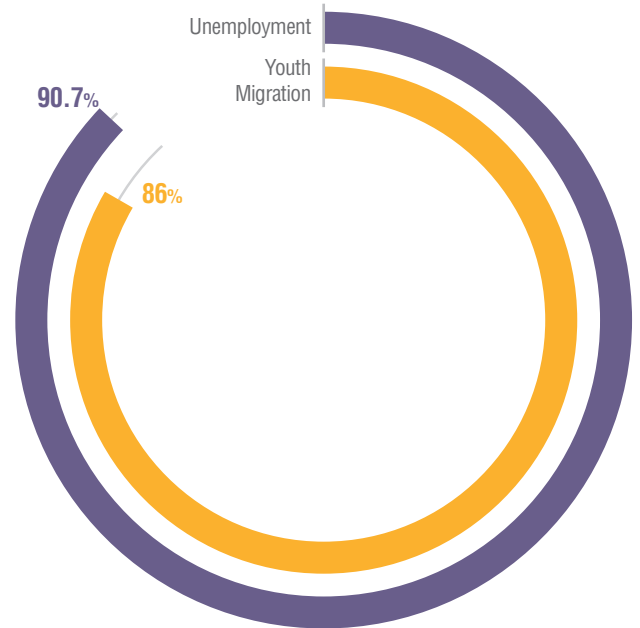


Figure 2. Main Concerns about Economic and Social Security

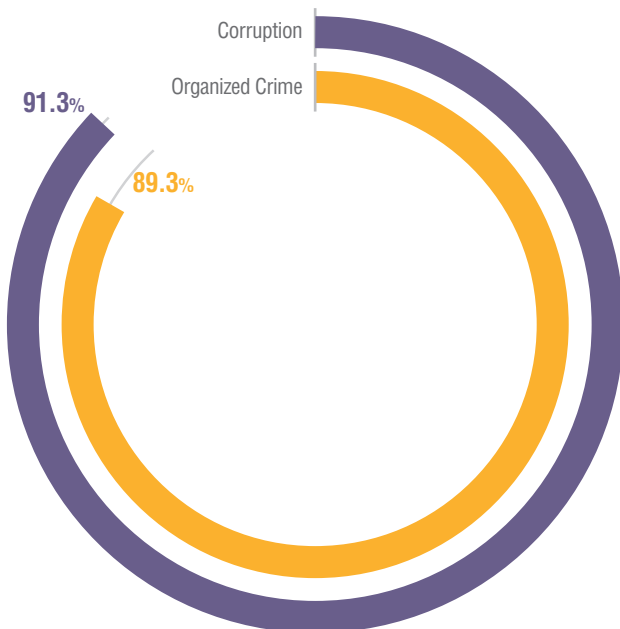


Figure 3. Perceptions of Security Threat by the Lack of Rule of Law

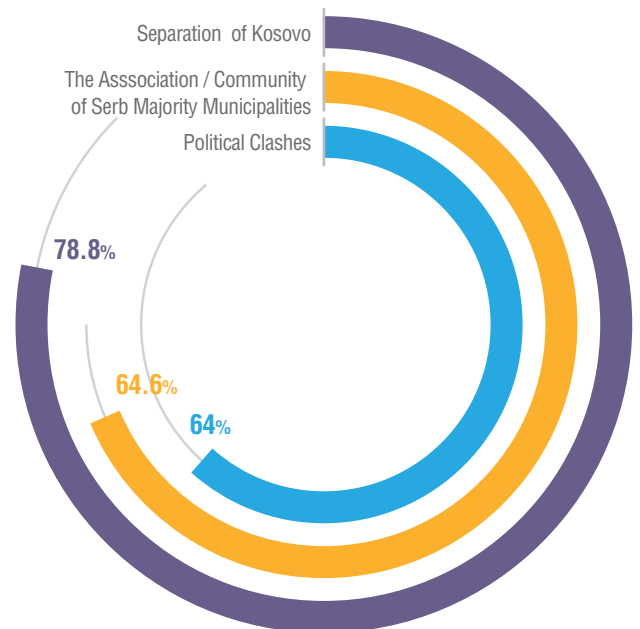


Figure 4. Main Internal National Security Risks in Kosovo (close-ended question)

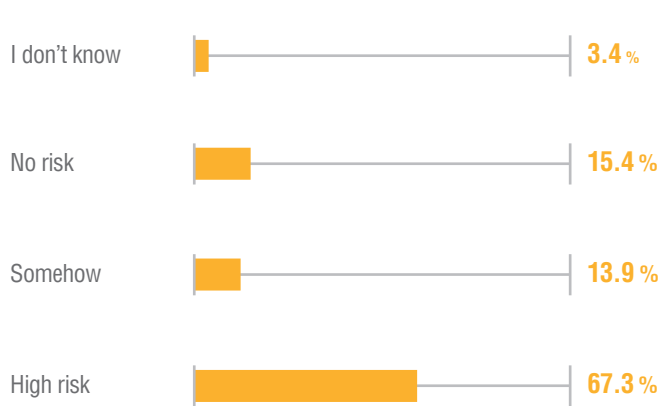


Figure 5. Violence Extremism as Main Public Risk Figure

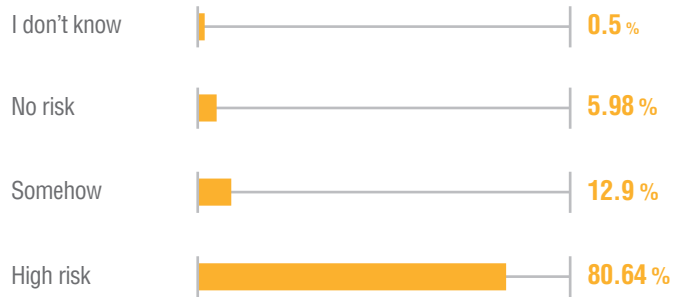


Figure 6. Air Pollution as a Key Concern

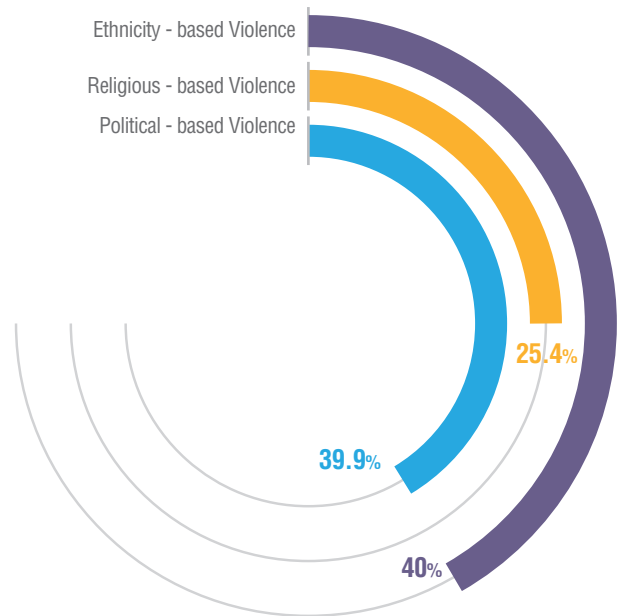


Figure 7. Violent Extremism as an Internal Concern



PUBLIC SAFETY RISKS

Migration of Kosovar citizens (71 percent), traffic accidents (60 percent) and stray dogs (57 percent) are the highest risks perceived by respondents. On the other hand, domestic violence is ranked as the lowest risk perceived by respondents (34 percent), followed by school violence with 35 percent, and sexual harassment with 37 percent.

Most of the respondents (71 percent) view the flight of citizens from leaving the country due to the social and

economic situation as a great risk for Kosovo. In contrast to questions about other risks, for which respondents from urban areas expressed greater concern, respondents in rural areas (75 percent) were significantly more concerned than respondents in urban areas (68 percent) regarding the flight of citizens from the country. It has also been observed that men tend to be more concerned about this phenomenon than women.



Migration of Kosovar citizens

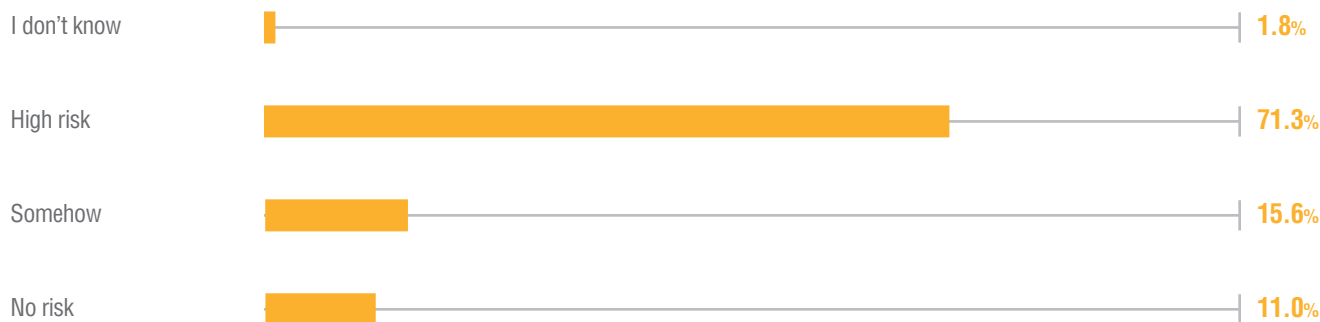


Figure 8. Public Perception of Migration as a High Risk to Public Safety



Figure 9. Public Perception of Migration as a High Risk By Gender

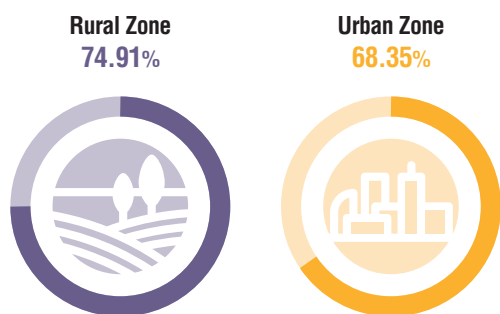


Figure 10. Public Perception of Migration as a High Risk By Area

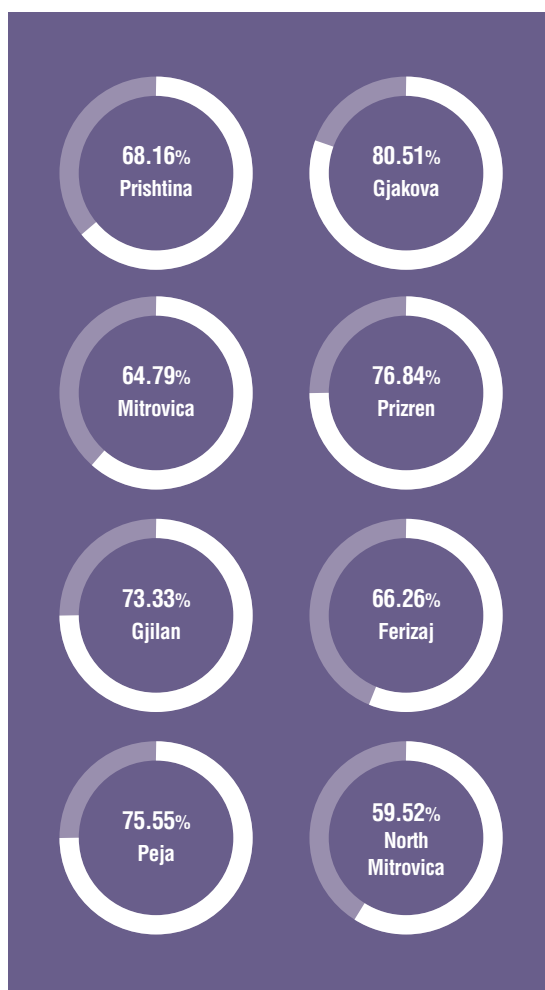


Figure 11 Public Perception of Migration as a High Risk By District

Traffic Accidents

More than half, 60 percent of respondents, stated they view traffic accidents as a high risk to public safety. Respondents in urban areas expressed greater concern

about traffic accidents than those in rural areas. Respondents in the Peja and Ferizaj regions expressed the highest concern (66 percent).

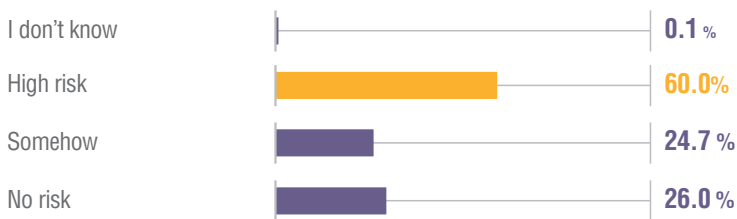


Figure 12. Public Perception of Traffic Accidents as a High Risk to Public Safety



Figure 13. Public Perception of Traffic Accidents as a High Risk By Gender

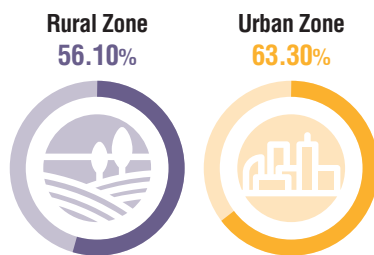


Figure 14. Public Perception of Traffic Accidents as a High Risk By Area

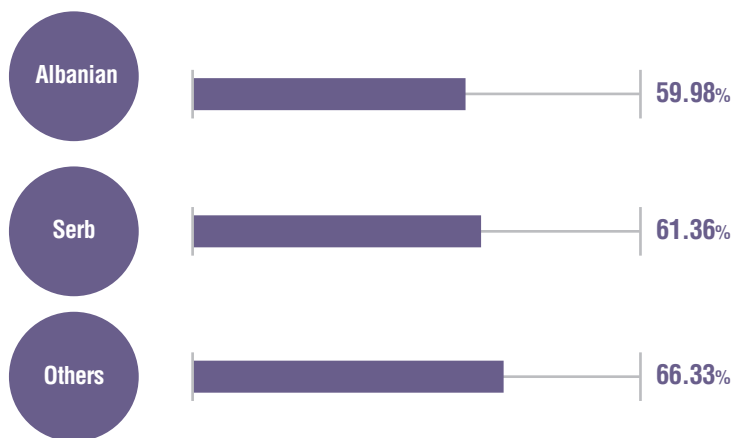


Figure 15. Public Perception of Traffic Accidents as a High Risk By Ethnicity

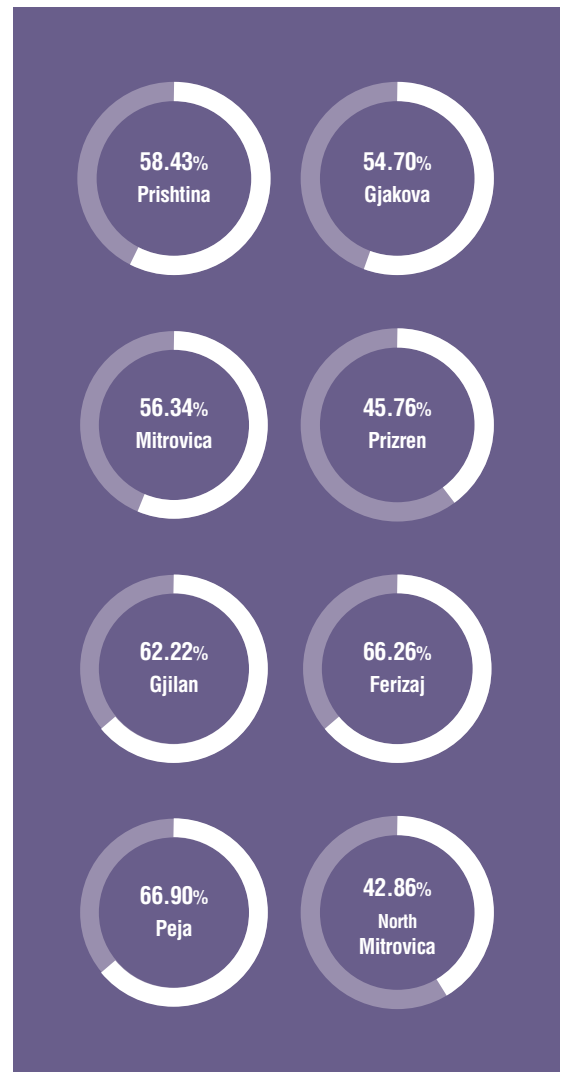


Figure 16. Public Perception of Traffic Accidents as a High Risk By District

Stray Dogs

About 58 percent of respondents view stray dogs as a high risk to public safety in Kosovo. Much greater concern, by 13 percentage points, was observed among urban respondents compared to those in rural areas. The

highest concern was recorded in the Gjilan region (68 percent) and Prishtina (65 percent). Women appear to be more concerned about stray dogs than male respondents.

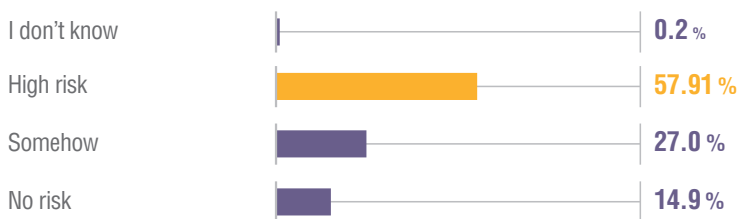


Figure 17. Public Perception of Stray Dogs as a High Risk to Public Safety

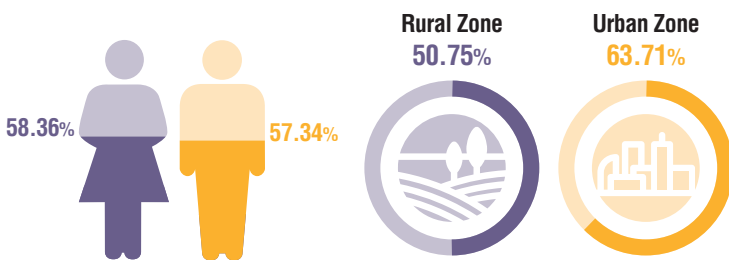


Figure 18. Public Perception of Stray Dogs as a High Risk By Gender

Figure 19. Public Perception of Stray Dogs as a High Risk By Area

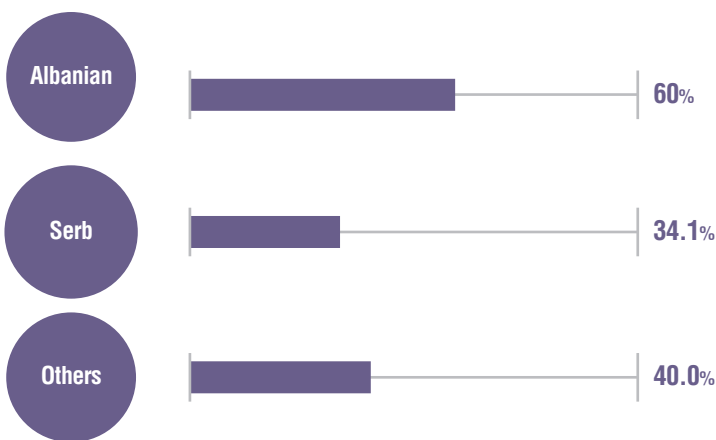


Figure 20. Public Perception of Stray Dogs as a High Risk By Ethnicity

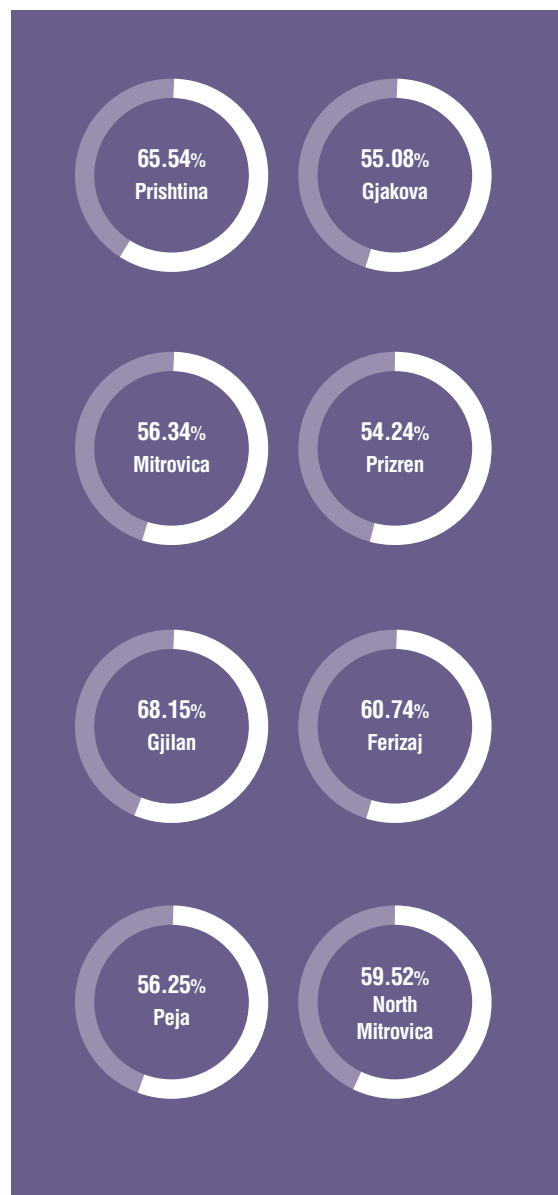


Figure 21. Public Perception of Stray Dogs as a High Risk By District

Natural Disasters

More than half of the respondents, 54 percent, view natural disasters as a high risk to public safety. Kosovo-Albanian respondents (57 percent) were more concerned about natural disasters than Kosovo-Serb (53 percent)

respondents and other minorities (50 percent). The barometer has recorded that female respondents (60 percent) view natural disasters as a much greater concern than male respondents (46 percent).

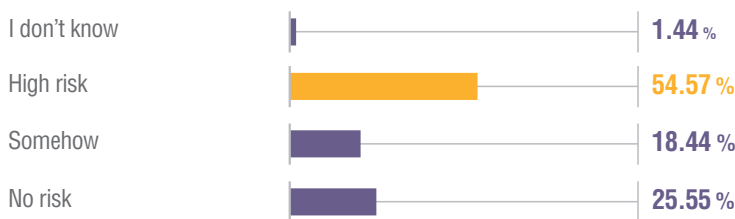


Figure 22. Public Perception of Natural Disasters as a High Risk to Public Safety

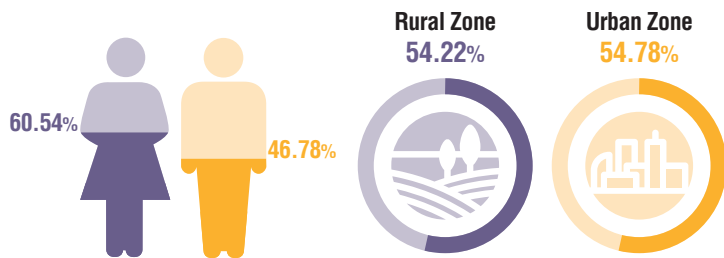


Figure 23. Public Perception of Natural Disasters as a High Risk By Gender

Figure 24. Public Perception of Natural Disasters as a High Risk By Area

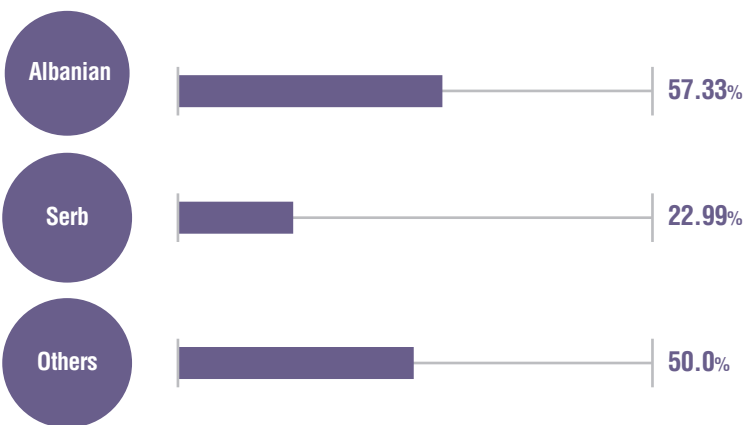


Figure 25. Public Perception of Natural Disasters as a High Risk By Ethnicity

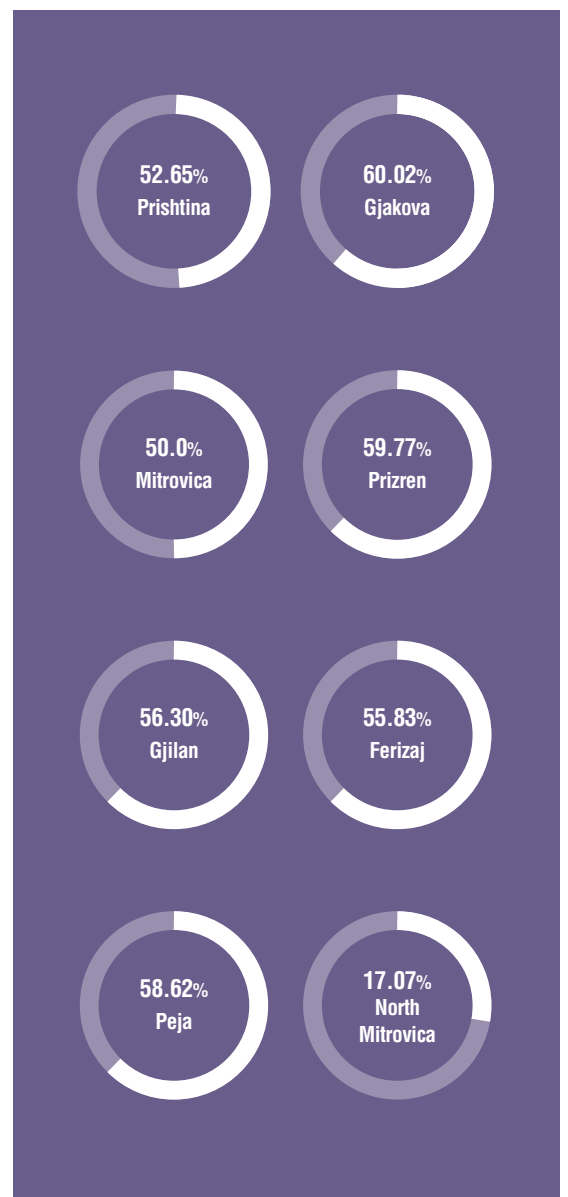


Figure 26. Public Perception of Natural Disasters as a High Risk By District

Robberies of Houses/Apartments

In 2019 citizens feel more threatened by home and apartment burglaries than last year. While in 2018, 53 percent of respondents stated they view burglaries as a high risk, in 2019 that percentage has jumped to 56 percent. Residents of urban areas (57 percent) are slightly more concerned than those in rural areas (55 percent) about this

phenomenon. Respondents in the North Mitrovica region (71 percent), followed by respondents in Prishtina (61 percent), are more concerned about this phenomenon. In a similar manner to previous years, it has been observed that men (57 percent) feel more threatened than women (55 percent) from homes and apartment burglaries.

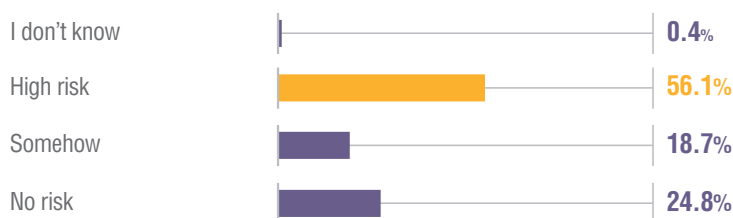


Figure 27. How Threatened do Respondents Feel By Home and Apartment Burglaries

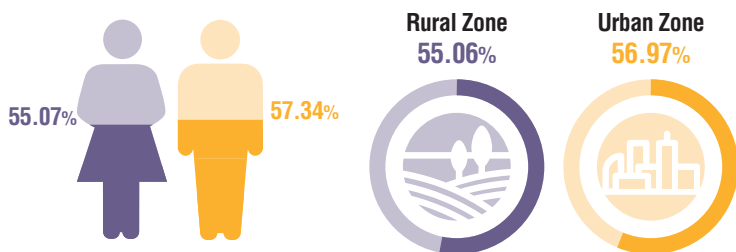


Figure 28. How Threatened Respondents Feel By Home and Apartment Burglaries By Gender

Figure 29. How Threatened Respondents Feel By Home and Apartment Burglaries By Area

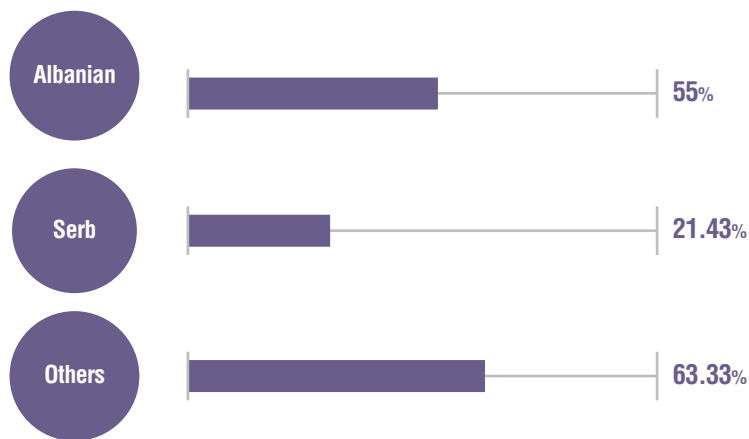


Figure 30. How Threatened Respondents Feel By Home and Apartment Burglaries By Ethnicity

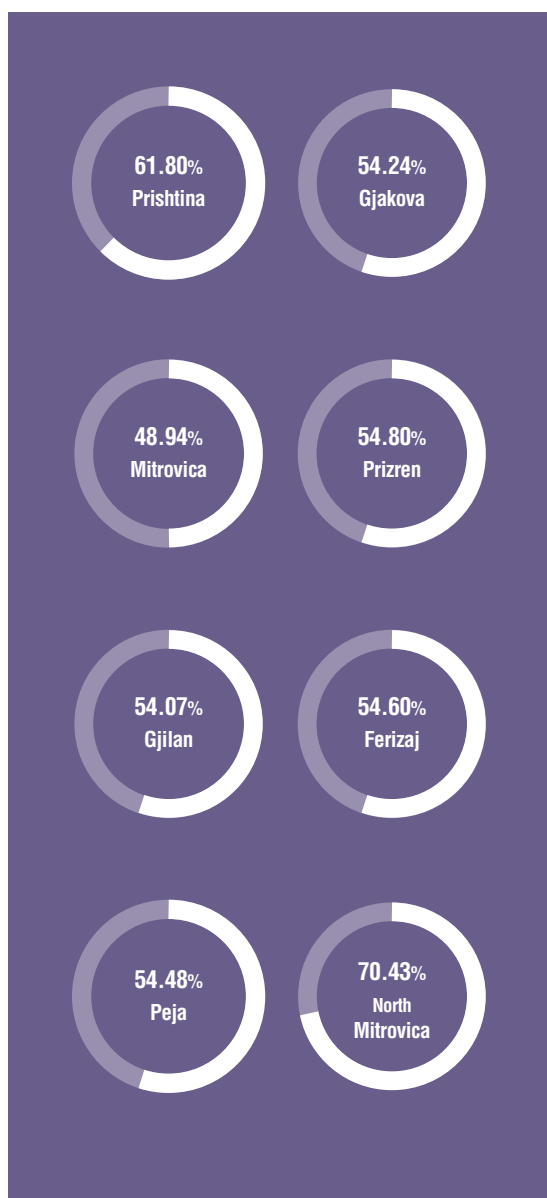


Figure 31. How Threatened Respondents Feel By Home and Apartment Burglaries By District

Unlawful possession of firearms

Unlawful possession of firearms obviously poses a key public safety risk in Kosovo. Nearly half of respondents (47 percent) stated that they view the unlawful possession of firearms as a high risk to public safety. Respondents in urban areas were more concerned about this phenomenon, whereas in rural areas 51 percent of respondents view the unlawful possession of firearms as a concern to public safety, in rural areas this percentage drops to 42 percent. In similar manner to the perception about

homicides, Serb respondents (78 percent), and those living in North Mitrovica (83 percent), perceive the unlawful possession of firearms at a higher risk compared to Albanian respondents and those from other regions. Likewise, it seems that men tend to feel more threatened than women by the unlawful possession of firearms, whereas about 53 percent of men expressed high concern about unlawful gun possession, only 43 percent of women perceive unlawful gun possession as a high threat to public safety.

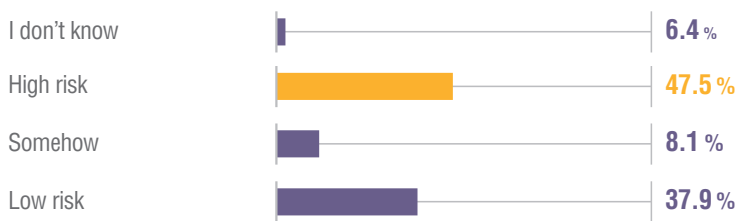


Figure 32. Public Perception of Unlawful Firearm Possession as a High Risk to Public Safety

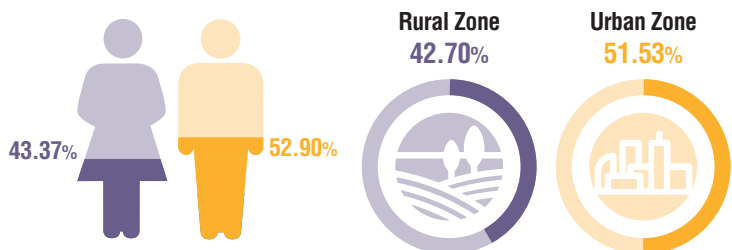


Figure 33. Public Perception of Unlawful Firearm Possession as a High Risk By Gender

Figure 34. Public Perception of Unlawful Firearm Possession as a High Risk By Area

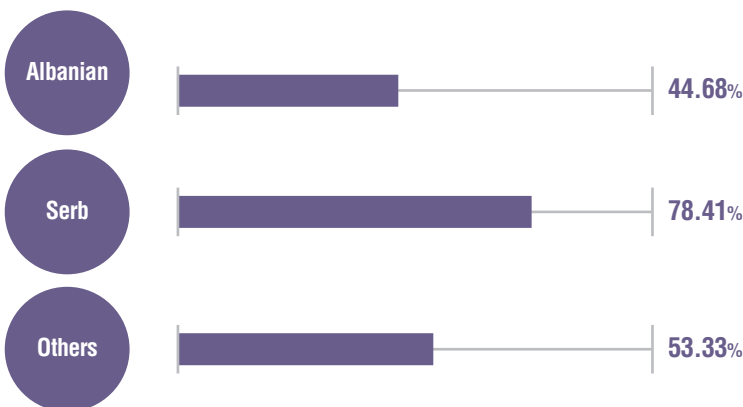


Figure 35. Public Perception of Unlawful Firearm Possession as a High Risk By Ethnicity

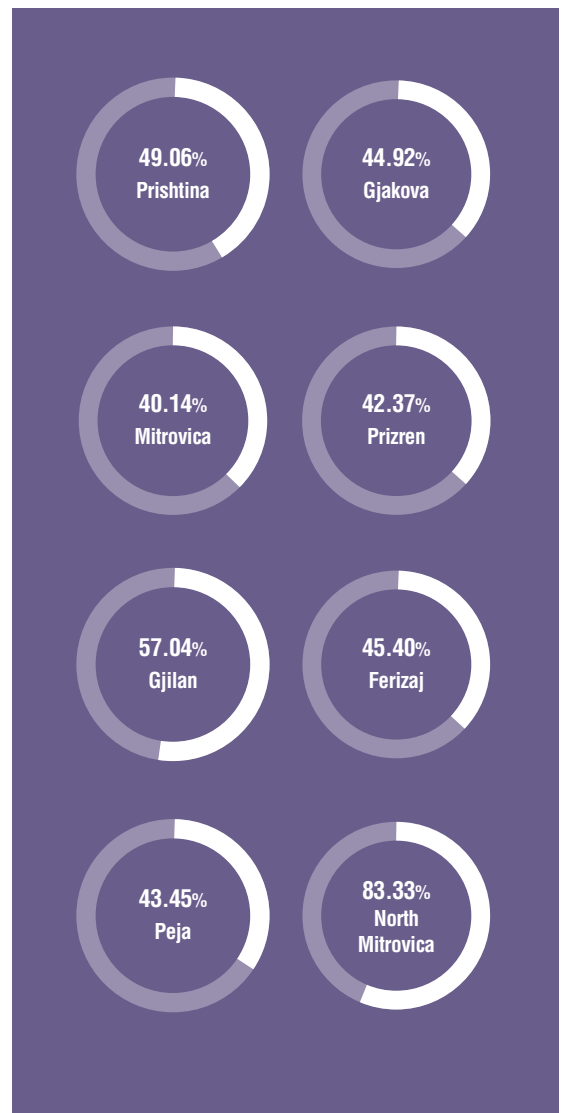


Figure 36. Public Perception of Unlawful Firearm Possession as a High Risk By District

Usury

Nearly half, 45.67 percent of respondents, view usury as a high threat to public safety. The Barometer recorded a large difference in the perceptions of citizens in urban and rural areas regarding this phenomenon. While only 34 percent of respondents in rural areas expressed concern about usury, about half of respondents in urban areas (48.5 percent) expressed their concern about usury as a high threat. In terms of respondents' perceptions based

on Kosovo districts, 56 percent of the respondents in the Gjilan region are concerned about usury, thus ranking Gjilan as the region most concerned by this phenomenon. A difference of 7 percentage points was observed among male and female respondents, i.e., while 42 percent of women view usury as a high threat, half of male respondents expressed high concern about this phenomenon.

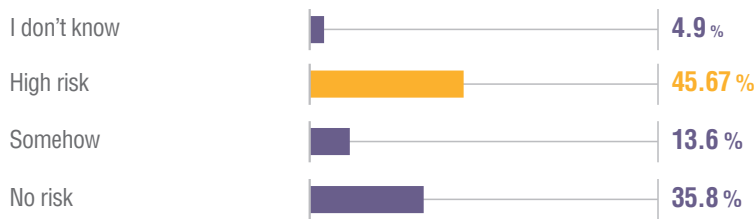


Figure 37. Public Perception of Usuries as a High Risk to Public Safety

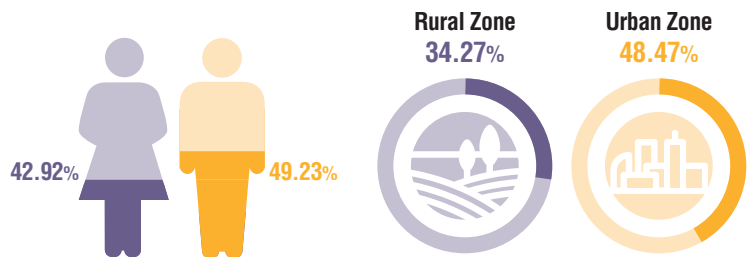


Figure 38. Public Perception of Usuries as a High Risk By Gender

Figure 39. Public Perception of Usuries as a High Risk By Area

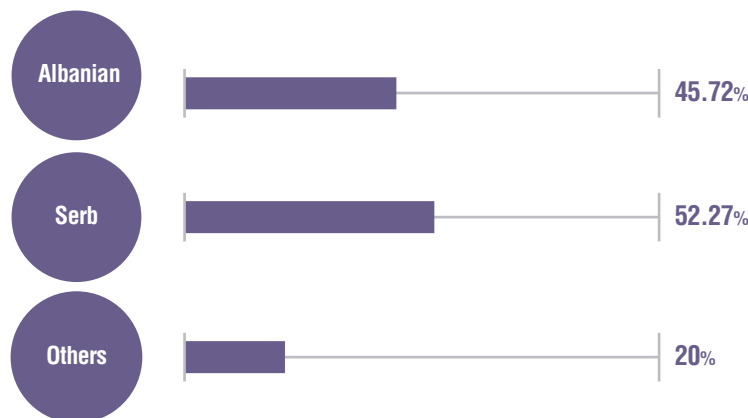


Figure 40. Public Perception of Usuries as a High Risk By Ethnicity

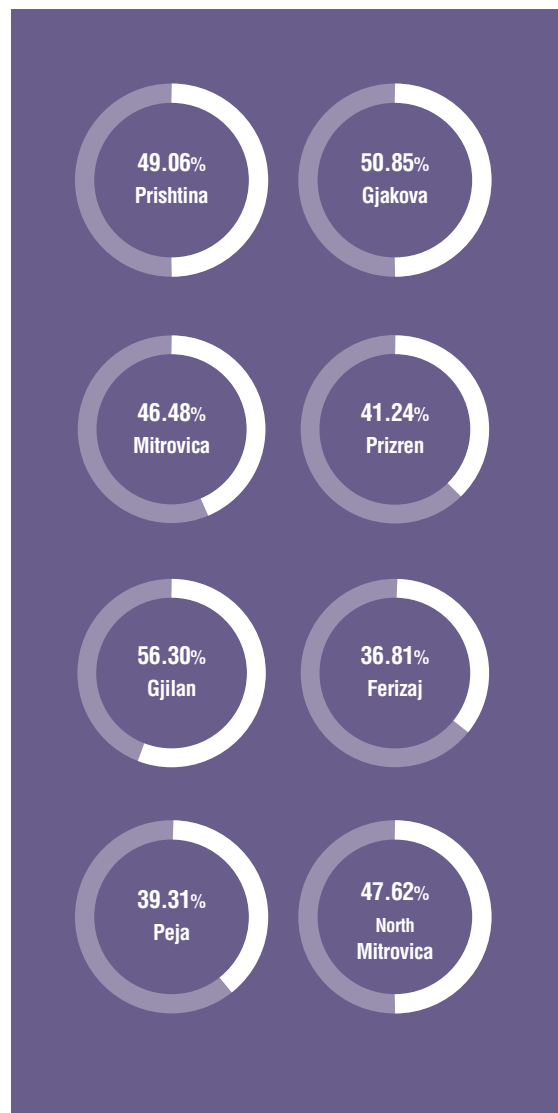


Figure 41. Public Perception of Usuries as a High Risk By District

Homicides

In 2019, there has been an increase in the perception of homicides as a high risk to public safety (about 40 percent) compared to 2018 (35.6 percent). According to the 2019 KSB findings, respondents in urban areas feel more threatened by homicides than respondents living in rural areas. Whereas 44 percent of respondents in urban areas

perceive homicides as a high threat to public safety, 35 percent of respondents in rural areas expressed their concern about this phenomenon. It has also been noted that Serb respondents (65 percent), as well as North Mitrovica respondents (71 percent), are more concerned about homicides than respondents in other regions.

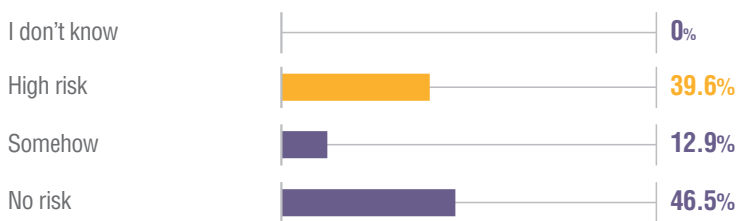


Figure 42. Public Perception of Homicides as a High Risk to Public Safety

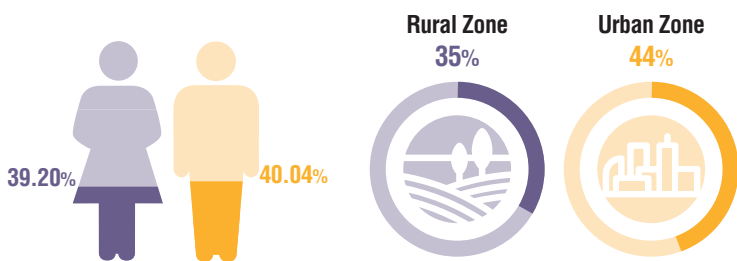


Figure 43. Public Perception of Homicides as a High Risk By Gender

Figure 44. Public Perception of Homicides as a High Risk By Area

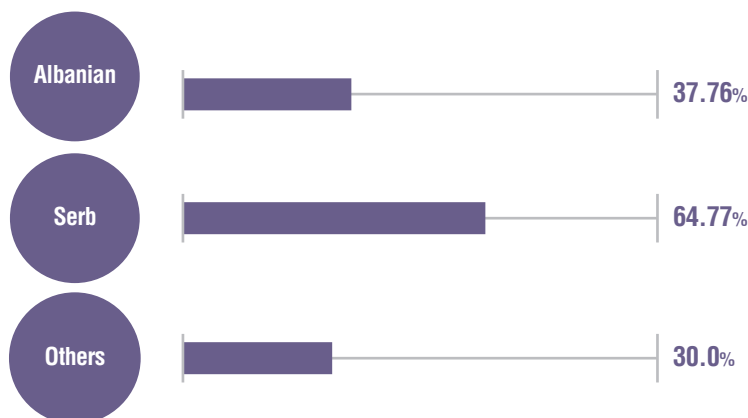


Figure 45. Public Perception of Homicides as a High Risk By Ethnicity

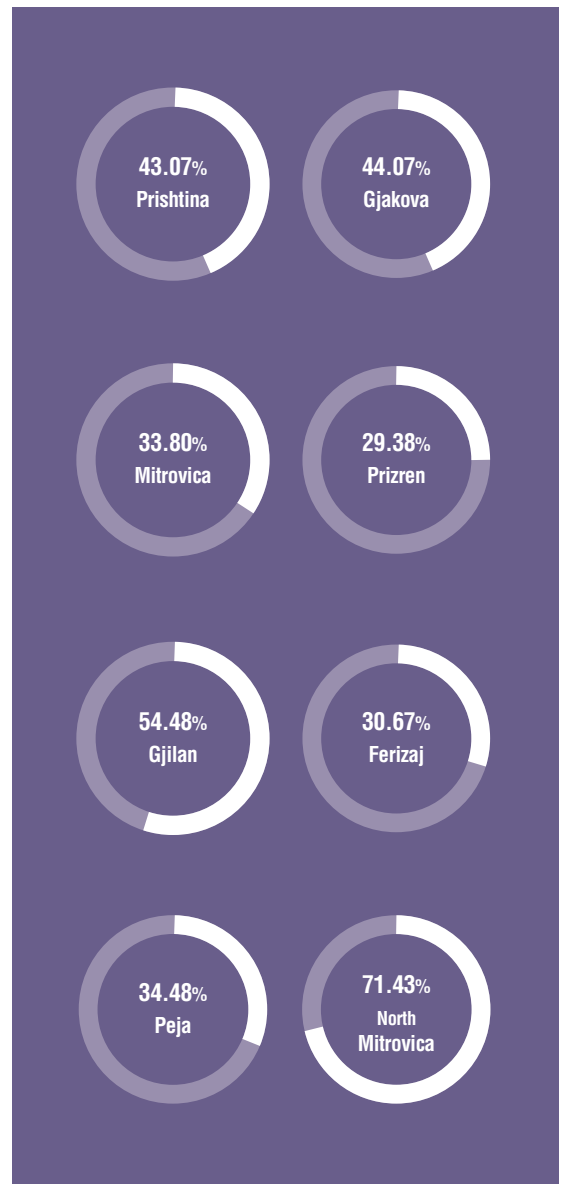


Figure 46. Public Perception of Homicides as a High Risk By District

Sexual harassments

Only 34 percent of respondents stated they view sexual harassment as a high risk to public safety. Serb respondents (58 percent) were more concerned about this phenomenon than Albanian respondents (35 percent) and other non-Serb minorities (36 percent). Although the

majority of victims of sexual harassment in Kosovo are women, the barometer has not recorded a stronger concern among women about this phenomenon. 37 percent of both male and female respondents perceive sexual harassment as a high concern to public safety.

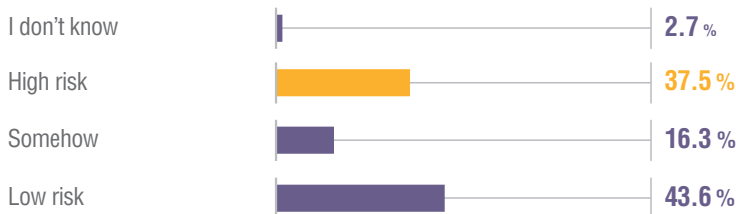


Figure 47. Public Perception of Sexual Harassment as a High Risk to Public Safety

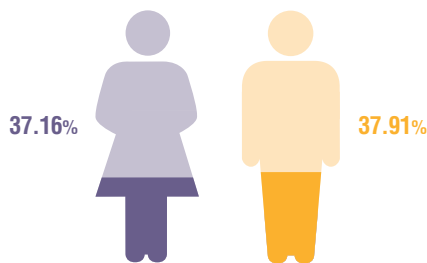


Figure 48. Public Perception of Sexual Harassment as a High Risk By Gender

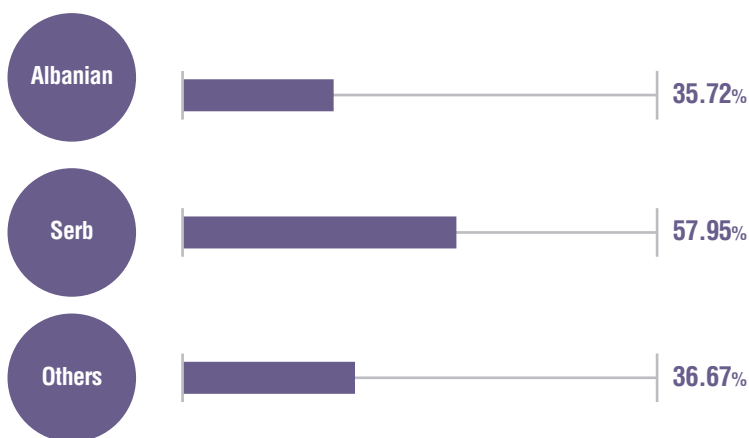


Figure 49. Public Perception of Sexual Harassment as a High Risk By Ethnicity

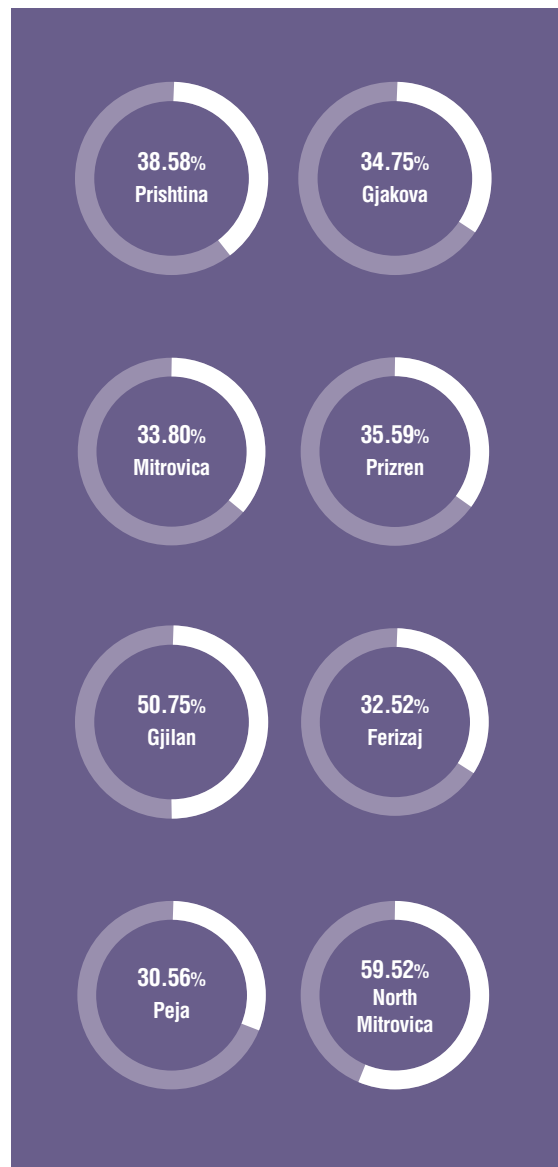


Figure 50. Public Perception of Sexual Harassment as a High Risk By District

Schools Violence

Only 35 percent of respondents view violence in schools as a high risk to public safety. There are significant differences in the answers of respondents from rural and urban areas, i.e., while only 26 percent of rural respondents ex

pressed concern, 42 percent of urban respondents stated that higher school violence poses a high risk to public safety.

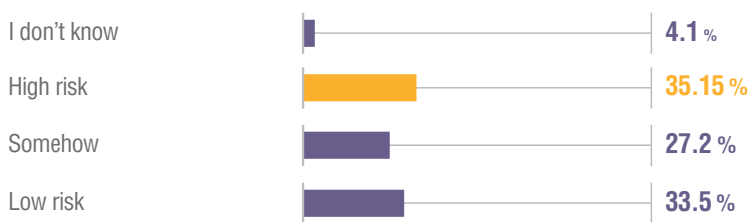


Figure 51. Public Perception of School Violence as a High Risk to Public Safety

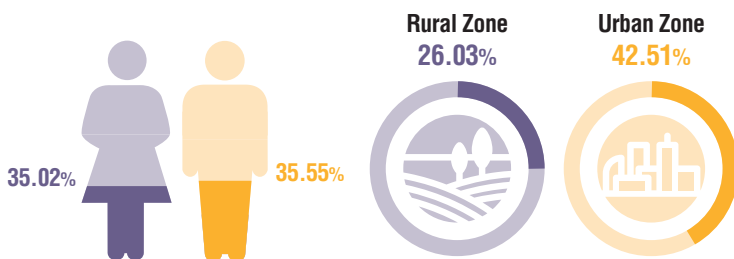


Figure 53. Public Perception of School Violence as a High Risk By Area

Figure 52. Public Perception of School Violence as a High Risk By Gender

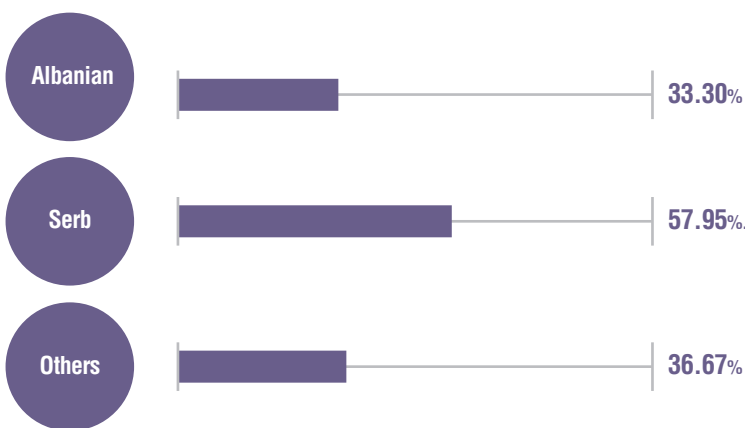


Figure 54. Public Perception of School Violence as a High Risk By Ethnicity

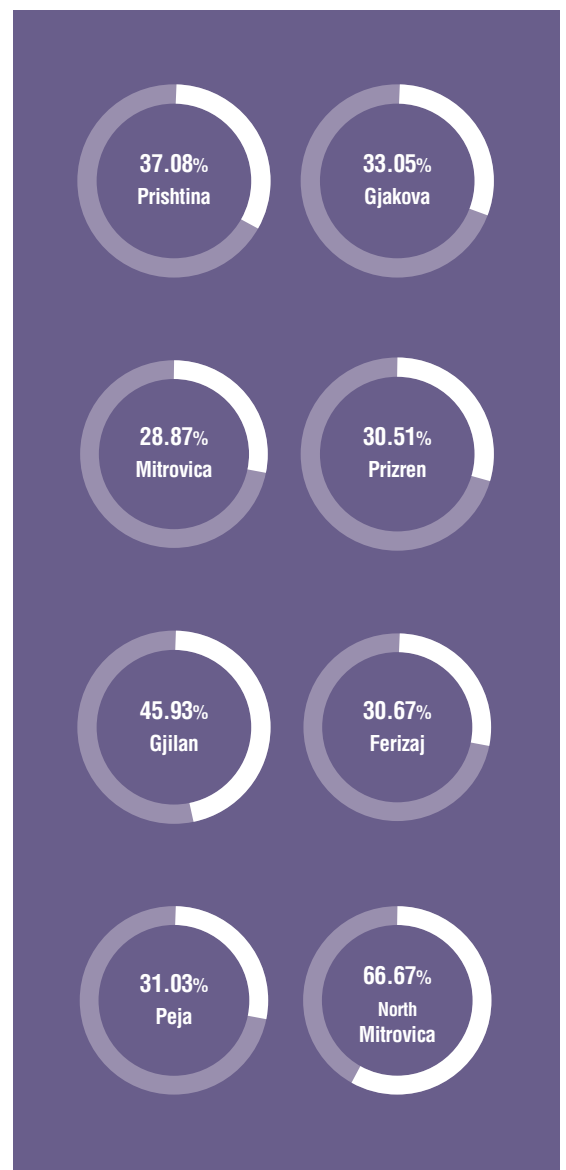


Figure 55. Public Perception of School Violence as a High Risk By District

Domestic Violence

Even though six women were murdered as a result of domestic violence in 2019, only 34 percent of respondents expressed their concern about domestic violence as a high threat to public safety. The barometer recorded that respondents in urban areas (40 percent) are much more concerned about this phenomenon than respondents in rural areas (27 percent). It has been observed that Serb respondents (64 percent), are more concerned about

domestic violence than Albanian respondents as the majority population, only 31 percent of respondents have expressed concern toward domestic violence as a high risk to public safety. Although most victims of domestic violence are women, according to the findings of the 2019 KSB, male respondents perceive domestic violence as a more dangerous phenomenon than female respondents.

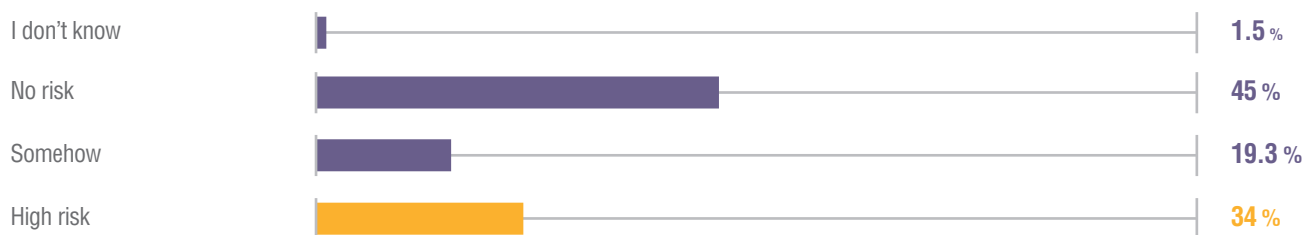


Figure 56. Public Perception of Domestic Violence as a High Risk to Public Safety



5 Read more regarding cases of domestic violence that ended in murder of women in Ahmeti, N. "The sentence of life imprisonment does not stop the murders of women in Kosovo." Radio Free Europe, August 9, 2019. Available at <https://www.evropaelire.org/a/vrasja-e-grave-kosovedhuna-familje/30101307.html>

6 Ibid;



Figure 57. Public Perception of Domestic Violence as a High Risk By Gender

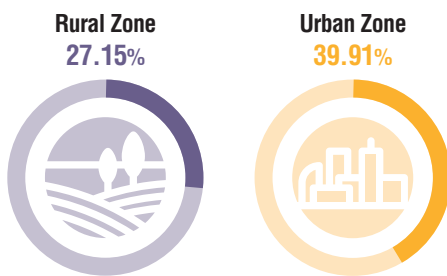


Figure 58. Public Perception of Domestic Violence as a High Risk By Area

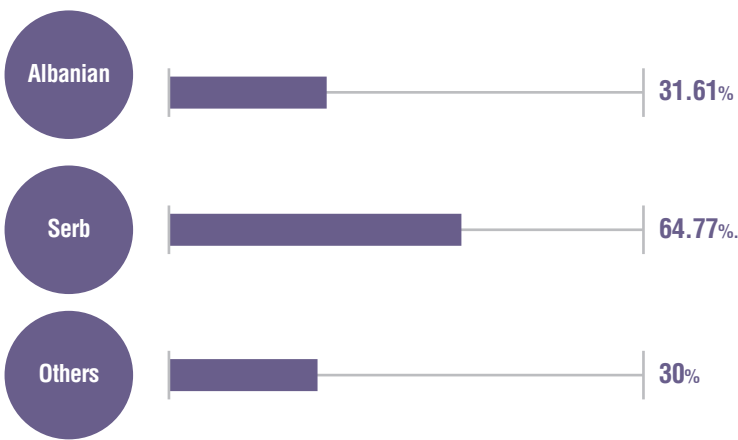


Figure 59. Public Perception of Domestic Violence as a High Risk By Ethnicity

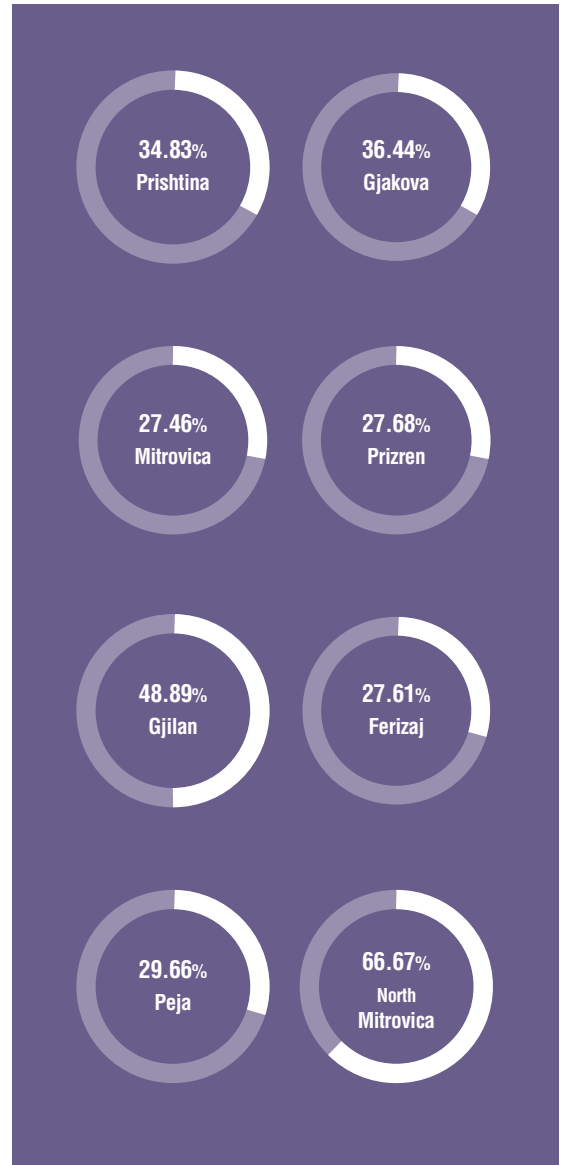


Figure 60. Public Perception of Domestic Violence as a High Risk By District

PERCEPTIONS VERSUS REALITY

Citizens' sense of security/insecurity does not necessarily reflect the real risk from that phenomenon. This is because citizens often feel more threatened by events that appear beyond their control, or intruders who may harm them. This makes it more difficult to prepare for or defend against these phenomena. However, perceived risks should be treated and taken as seriously as real ones when working to improve public safety, to reassure citizens and make them feel safe, as fear of these phenomena affects citizens' behavior, and some people avoid certain public spaces due to fear. This chapter is an analysis of the relation of the previous chapter to citizens' perceptions cross-referenced with KP statistics on the number of reported cases.

It goes without saying that unlawful possession of firearms is the starting point of many criminal phenomena that directly affect citizens' sense of security and insecurity, directly affecting public safety. According to KP data, 1,470 unauthorized firearms and 24,131 rounds of ammunition were confiscated in 2018, while in 2019 there was a decrease, whereby the number of confiscated firearms dropped to 1,439 firearms and 30,438 rounds of ammunition.⁷ From December 2018, the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA) has launched a campaign to legalize small arms and light firearms that Kosovo citizens unlawfully possess. However, only 1,800 people have applied for legalization of firearms,⁸ a very small number compared to the number of unlawful firearms that are supposed to be

in the hands of citizens.⁹ However, it is not surprising that there are such a small number of applications for legalization of firearms and such a large number of unlawful firearms in possession. In 2018, footage was released showing then deputy Prime Minister Dardan Gashi and former Minister Endrit Shala firing automatic firearms, actions justified by former Prime Minister Haradinaj and Fatmir Limaj, under the pretense that "firing guns at family celebrations is a canonical tradition".¹⁰ Such normalization by heads of state normally has an extremely negative impact on citizens, who are incited to commit such violations. Unlawful possession of firearms obviously leads to major public safety threats, such as homicides and burglaries of homes and apartments.

The trend shows an increased perception of homicide as a high risk to public safety. While in 2018, 35 percent of respondents stated they view homicides as a high threat, this year the percentage has increased to 40 percent. On the other hand, KP statistics point to a decrease in the number of homicides. The KP Annual Report showed 34 homicides during 2018, while in 2019 that number dropped to 23.¹¹ Apparently, this increasing trend of perception of homicides as a high risk, seems to be linked to

7 Jashari, F. "For 260 thousand illegal weapons, only 781 requests for legalization." Radio Free Europe, April 30, 2019. Available at <https://www.evropaelire.org/a/arme-pa-leje-legalizim-/29912708.html>

8 Ibid;

9 According to the Ministry of Internal Affairs, about 260,000 illegal weapons are in the possession of citizens. Also, it is estimated that there are close to 50 thousand legal weapons, of which 22 thousand are with the permission of the Republic of Kosovo and 25 thousand other weapons that have been licensed by the former UNMIK administration and are undergoing the legalization process. Read more on Alihajdaraj, D. "Legalizimi i ngadalshëm i armëve pa leje në Kosovë." Radio Evropa e Lire, Mars 10, 2019 <https://www.evropaelire.org/a/legalizimi-i-ngadalshem-i-armeve-pa-leje-kosove/29811195.html>

10 Krasniqi, H. "Dardan Gashi, Endrit Shala, Sami Lushtaku e të tjerët dënohen me gjobë për gjuajtjen me armë në odën e Fatmir Limajt." Betimi për Drejtësi, March 1, 2019 <https://betimiperdrejtesi.com/dardan-gashi-endrit-shala-sami-lushtaku-e-te-tjeret-denohen-me-gjobe-per-gjuajtjen-me-arme-nenoden-e-fatmir-limajt/> and <https://www.koha.net/arberi/72336/pamje-te-reja-tregojne-separa-limajt-gjuhet-edhe-me-automatik/>

11 Kosovo Police Report for 2018 and 2019

numerous media reports of homicides in 2019.¹² In recent years, homicides have also been linked to burglaries of homes, apartments, and bank robberies.

According to KSB findings, there is an increasing trend in the perception of home and apartment burglaries as a high threat to public safety. This year, the Barometer has recorded a three-percentage point increase in the perception of home and apartment burglaries as a high threat, from 53 percent to 56 percent. However, KP data indicate a decrease in the number of thefts, aggravated thefts and robberies during 2019.¹³ Of course, this increase in the perception of burglaries as a high threat when there is a decrease in the number of robberies is related to frequent media coverage of home, apartment and bank robberies, in contrast to citizens' trust toward justice institutions.

According to the Criminal Code of the Republic of Kosovo, persons caught committing predatory theft are sentenced to 3 to 10 years in prison.¹⁴ However, 2019 KSB findings show a decline in citizen's trust toward the Kosovo justice sector, which implies that citizens do not believe that justice institutions can solve cases, including theft. Unfortunately, this lack of trust due to the many unresolved cases has led to self-administered justice - killing of persons caught in the act of criminal offense of theft by persons who were the victims of these thefts or robberies. Often, such cases are reported as self-defense or property protection. In November 2018, a murder took place in the Veternik neighborhood, Prishtina, where the homeowner killed the robber who had broken into his home, leaving

him dead.¹⁵ Also, in August 2019, the homeowner killed the robber who had broken into his home.¹⁶

According to the Article 12 of the Criminal Code, the act committed in necessary self-defense do not constitute a criminal offense.¹⁷ Such defense is at the level which is necessary to overcome the unlawful, real and momentary attack on oneself or another person, provided that the character of the defense is commensurate with the degree of risk posed by the attack.¹⁸ However, it should be noted that in case of exceeding the limits of the necessary defense, the offense then enters the criminal sphere. When it comes to exceeding the limits of the necessary defense, according to Article 172 of the Criminal Code, **"Whoever deprives another person of his or her life, shall be punished by not less than five (5) years of imprisonment"**.¹⁹

Undoubtedly, in a democratic spirit, private property is sacred. In addition, in the Constitution of the Republic of Kosovo, private property is specifically recognized and protected through Article 46, which guarantees the right to own property.²⁰ Similarly, the European Convention on Human Rights, which is essential and unilaterally applicable in Kosovo (although Kosovo has not yet acceded to the Council of Europe), attaches importance to property rights. It should be noted, however, that the right to life transcends any other right and stands as an undeniable primary right, and no right, nor that of property, has more weight than that right.²¹

12 Read more regarding the murder cases that took place during 2019 <https://www.periskopi.com/keto-jane-vrasjet-me-te-renda-qe-ukryen-gjate-ketij-viti-ne-kosove/>

13 According to the Kosovo Police Reports for 2018 and 2019, in 2018 there were 5842 thefts and this number dropped to 4519 in 2019 (down 22.64%). Also, in 2018 there were 4774 serious thefts, a number that fell to 3803 in 2019 (down 20.33%). In robberies there was a decrease in the number of robberies from 297 to 171 in 2019 (42.42%). <https://www.kosovopolice.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Raporti-vjetor-2019-shqip.pdf>

14 Code NO. 06/L-074 Criminal Code of the Republic of Kosovo <https://gzk.rks-gov.net/ActDetail.aspx?ActID=18413>

15 For more read <https://indeksonline.net/vrasje-ne-prishtine-pronari-i-shtepise-qellon-me-arme-hajnin/>

16 <https://infoglobi.com/shtime-pronari-vret-hajnin-qe-i-hyrine-shtepi/> Regarding the judge verdict, read <https://insajderi.com/gjykatamerre-vendimi-per-burrin-qe-vrau-hajnin-ne-shtepi-ne-shtime/>

17 Code NO. 06/L-074 Criminal Code of the Republic of Kosovo <https://gzk.rks-gov.net/ActDetail.aspx?ActID=18413>

18 Ibid;

19 Ibid;

20 Constitution of Republic of Kosovo, Available at <http://www.kryeministri-ks.net/repository/docs/Constitution1Kosovo.pdf>

21 "Universal Declaration of Human Rights". United Nations. <https://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/>

Although in 2018 only 35 percent of respondents saw domestic violence as a high risk to public safety, and in 2019 only 35 percent of respondents expressed high concern over domestic violence as a high threat to public safety, KP reported an increase of about 25 percent of reported cases of domestic violence. While there were 1,540 reported cases of domestic violence in 2018, this number increased to 1,915 in 2019.²² It should be noted that higher numbers of reports do not mean that there is an increase in cases of domestic violence, but this increase in reporting of domestic violence entails a number of reasons. One of the other reasons why there have been fewer reported cases in the past, may be the fact that victims of domestic violence were frightened or threatened to report, however, media coverage of domestic violence cases has encouraged victims to report cases.

According to the Domestic Violence Unit, this increase may have been due to the fact that Police reporting procedures have improved. This may have boosted confidence in the Kosovo Police and ultimately contributed to increas-

ing the reporting rate.²³ It goes without saying that the advocacy initiatives of several women's rights organizations and activists, as well as the ongoing protests, have contributed to the overall raising awareness of victims of domestic violence towards reporting cases.²⁴

During 2018 and 2019, 60 percent of respondents stated they view road traffic accidents as an extremely high risk to public safety in Kosovo. However, although this percentage of the perception remains the same, KP statistics indicate a 2.17 percent increase in the number of road traffic accidents, i.e., this number increased from 15,877 to 16,222.²⁵ However, there is a decrease from 129 in 2018 to 113 in 2019, in the number of deaths in traffic accidents. On the other hand, KP reported an increase of 11.03 percent of the number of issued fines. In parallel, KP in 2019 undertook the "Driving under the influence of alcohol" operational plan, which focused on drunk drivers, against whom fines were imposed and drivers' licenses were confiscated.²⁶

22 Data provided by Kosovo Police. For more regarding the trend of reporting domestic violence, read Morina, D. GENDER BASED VIOLENCE IN KOSOVO A critical Review of Police Response .Prishtinë:ERAC,2019. http://kgscenter.net/site/assets/files/1742/gender_base_violence_eng-1.pdf

23 Ibid;

24 Ibid;

25 Kosovo Police 2019 Report www.kosovopolice.com/ep-content/uploads/2020/02/Raportivjetor-2019-shqip.pdf

26 Read more on "110 gjakovarë mbesin pa patentë shoferi shkaku i Alkoolit". Insajderi. August, 2019 <https://insajderi.com/110-gjakovarembesin-pa-patente-shofere-shkaku-i-alkoolit/>

SECURITY PERIMETER

The security perimeter is one of the most important indicators of the Barometer. Every year respondents are asked how safe they feel in their homes, neighborhoods, villages, and Kosovo in general. KCSS uses this instrument as a

tool for any mapping of the virtual security perimeter as well to identify micro and macro levels where citizens feel insecure, secure and very secure.²⁷

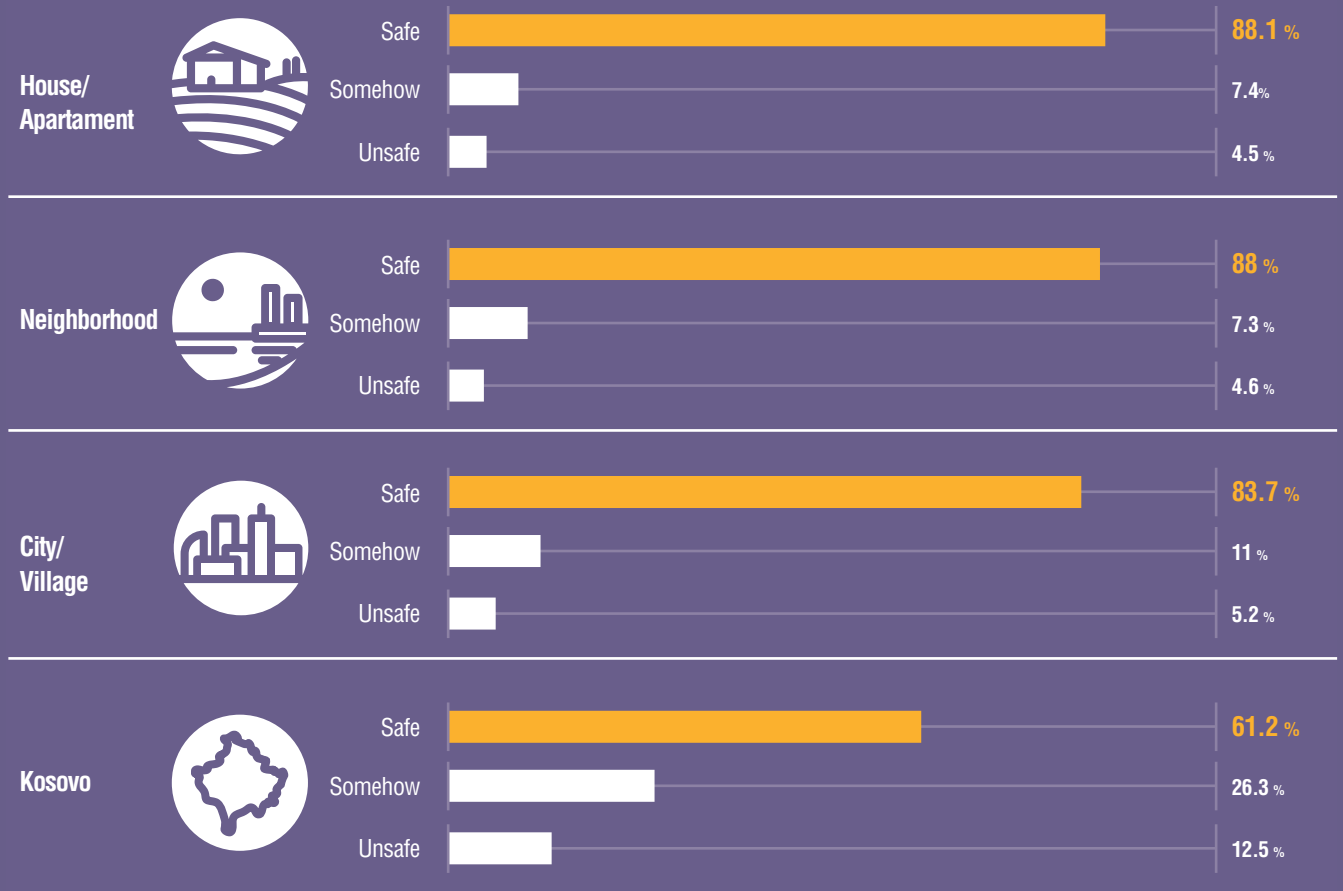


Figure 61. How Safe do Respondents Feel in Their House/Apartment, Neighborhood, City/Village

²⁷ The visual representation of data focuses on percentage of safe rather than unsafe.

In a similar manner to previous years, the Barometer 2019 has recorded that Kosovar citizens feel safer in their homes/apartments and neighborhoods (88 percent), compared to their cities (83 percent) and Kosovo (61 percent).²⁸ In addition, there is a 3-point increase this year among respondents who stated they feel safe in their own

homes, demonstrating a positive trend in feeling safe at home. There is also an increase in the number respondents stating they feel safer in their neighborhood, with the percentage of respondents feeling safe at home being the same as that of those feeling safe in their neighborhood (88 percent).

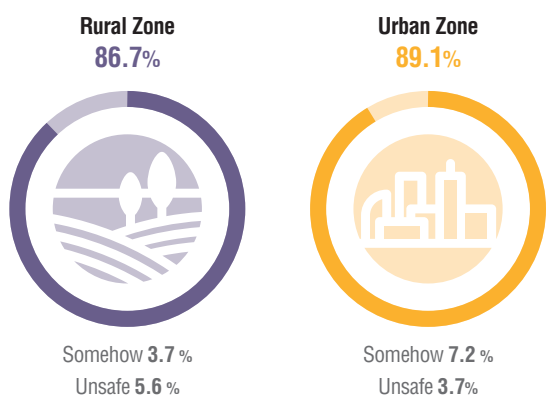


Figure 62. How Safe Respondents Feel in their House/Apartment By Area



Figure 63. How Safe Respondents Feel in their House/Apartment By Ethnicity

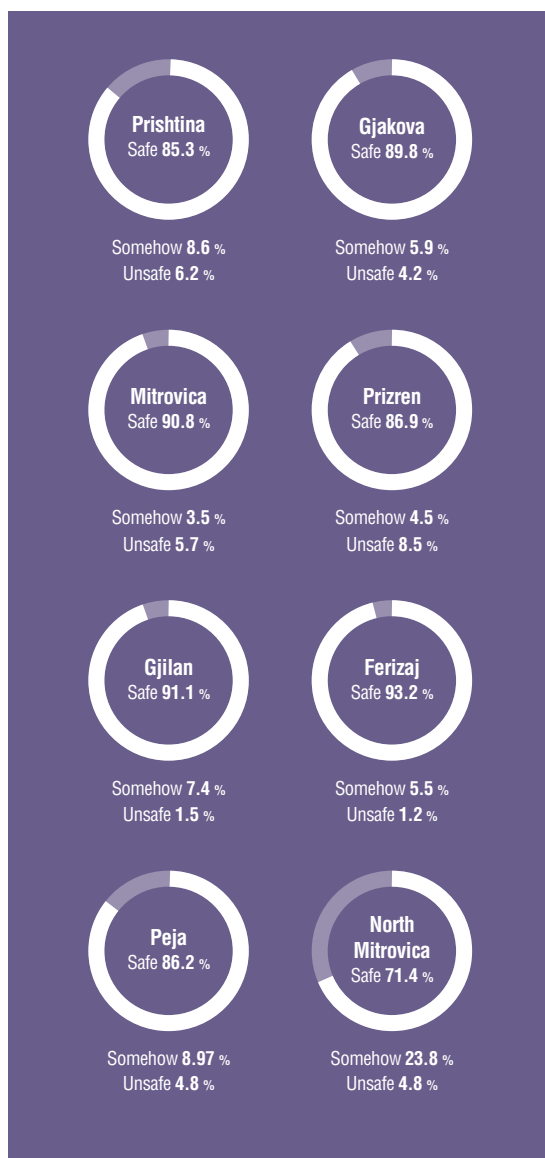


Figure 64. How Safe Respondents Feel in their House/Apartment By District

28 For more Public Safety Trends, read [http://www.qkss.org/repository/docs/KSB2018_Public-Safety_alb_final_\(2\)_486803.pdf](http://www.qkss.org/repository/docs/KSB2018_Public-Safety_alb_final_(2)_486803.pdf)

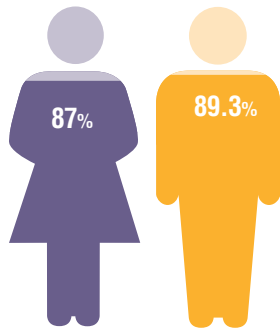


Figure 65. How Safe Respondents Feel in their Neighborhood By Gender

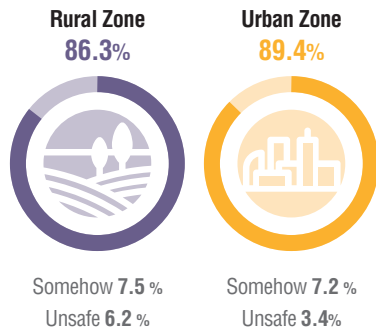


Figure 66. How Safe Respondents Feel in their Neighborhood By Area

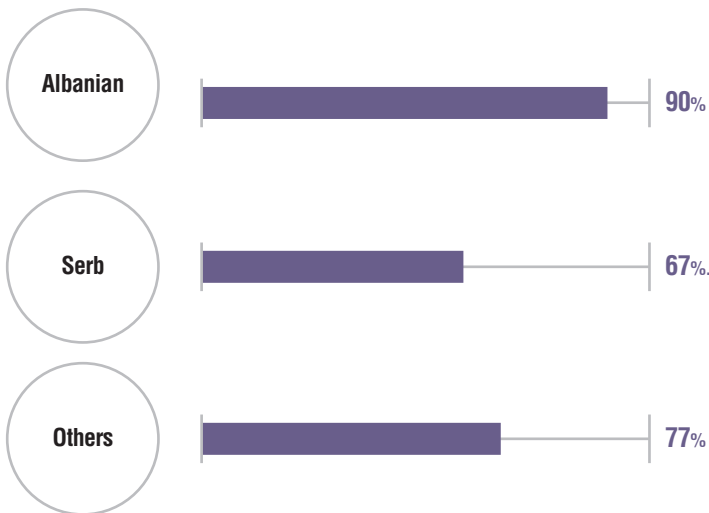


Figure 67. How Safe Respondents Feel in their Neighborhood By Ethnicity

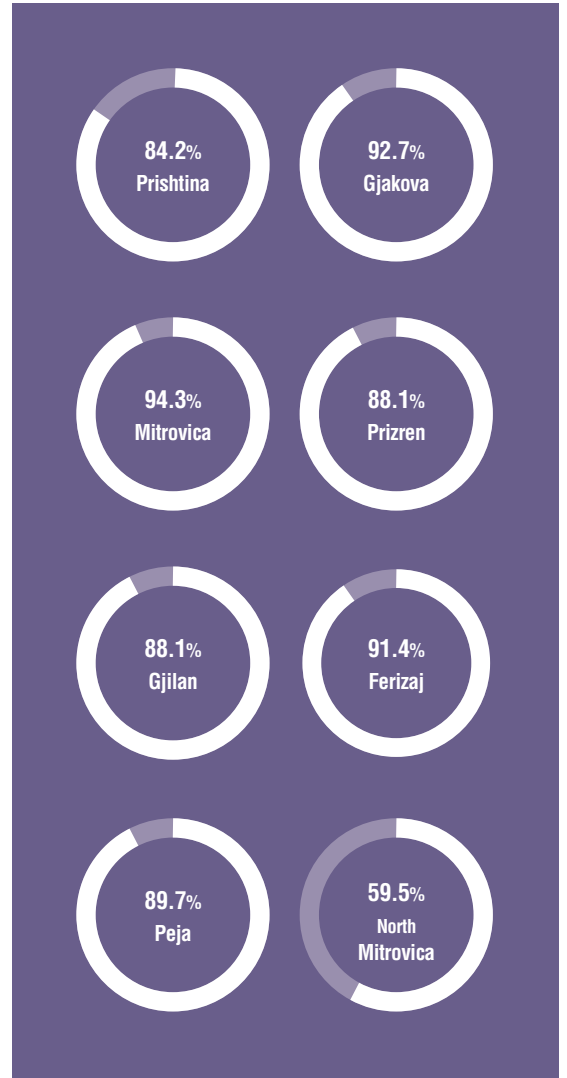


Figure 68. How Safe Respondents Feel in their Neighborhood By District

Throughout the editions of the KSB, it has been observed that the sense of security decreases when respondents are exposed to macro-level environments, such as villages, cities and Kosovo in general. Respondents reported feeling less safe in their villages or towns compared to their homes or neighborhoods. However, the percentage of respondents who reported feeling safe in their towns/villages is gradually increasing. While in 2018, about 79 percent of respondents reported feeling safe in their town, in 2019, nearly 84 percent of respondents reported feeling safe in their village or town.

Most citizens do not view their city/village as dangerous. Moreover, five out of six respondents feel very safe in the town/village where they live. Gjakova, Peja and Mitrovica are listed as cities where the majority stated they feel extremely safe (about 89 percent). Meanwhile, the North Mitrovica region reveals another snapshot, with only half of the respondents stating they feel very safe in their town.

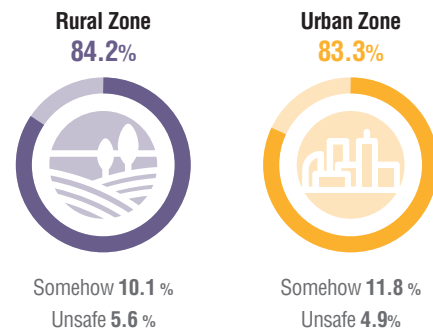


Figure 69. How Safe Respondents Feel in their City/Village By Area

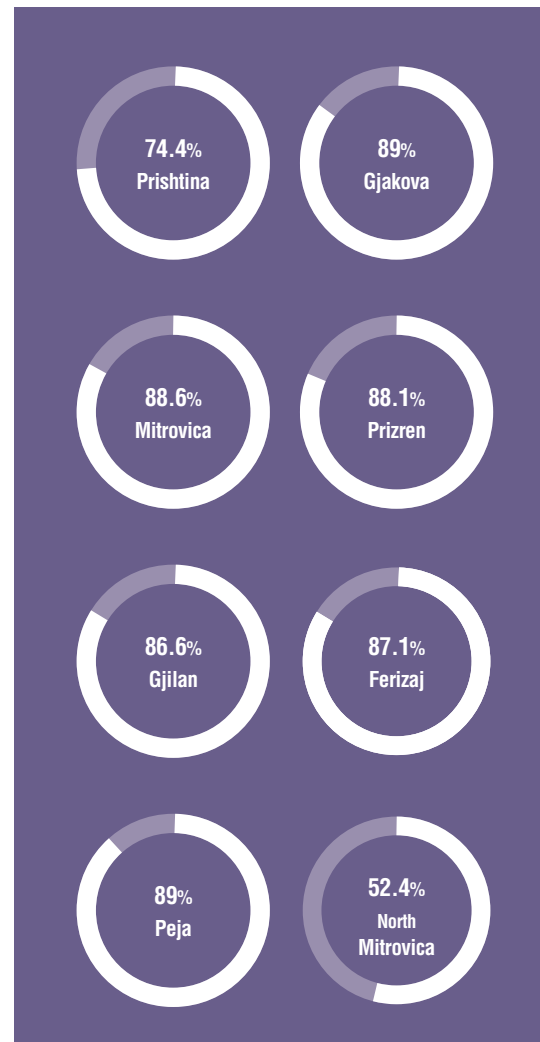


Figure 70. How Safe Respondents Feel in their City/Village By District

Feelings of confusion and insecurity become clear when respondents are asked whether they feel safe or unsafe in Kosovo in general. This is because in the macro-environment, citizens associate their feelings of security and insecurity more with socio-economic phenomena and risks, as well as political instability, which they view as out of

their control. However, it should be noted that this year there was a high increase in respondents who stated they felt safe in Kosovo. Although in 2018, 52% of respondents stated they felt safe in Kosovo, in 2019, 61% of respondents stated they felt safe in Kosovo.

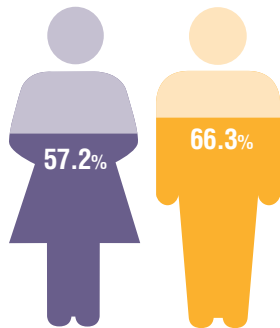


Figure 71. How Safe do Respondents Feel in Kosovo (national level) By Gender

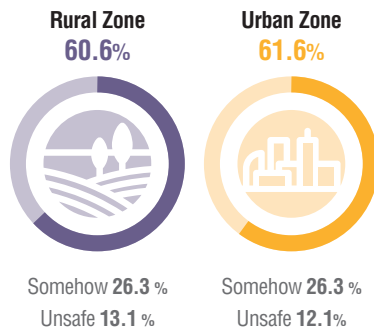


Figure 72. How Safe do Respondents Feel in Kosovo (national level) By Area

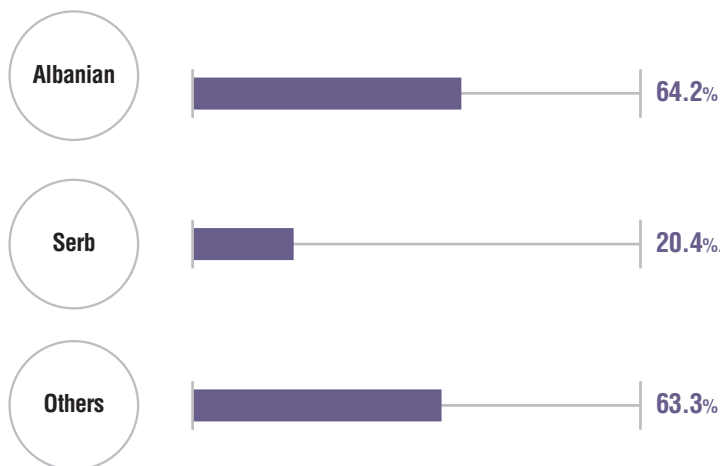


Figure 73. How Safe do Respondents Feel in Kosovo (national level) By Ethnicity

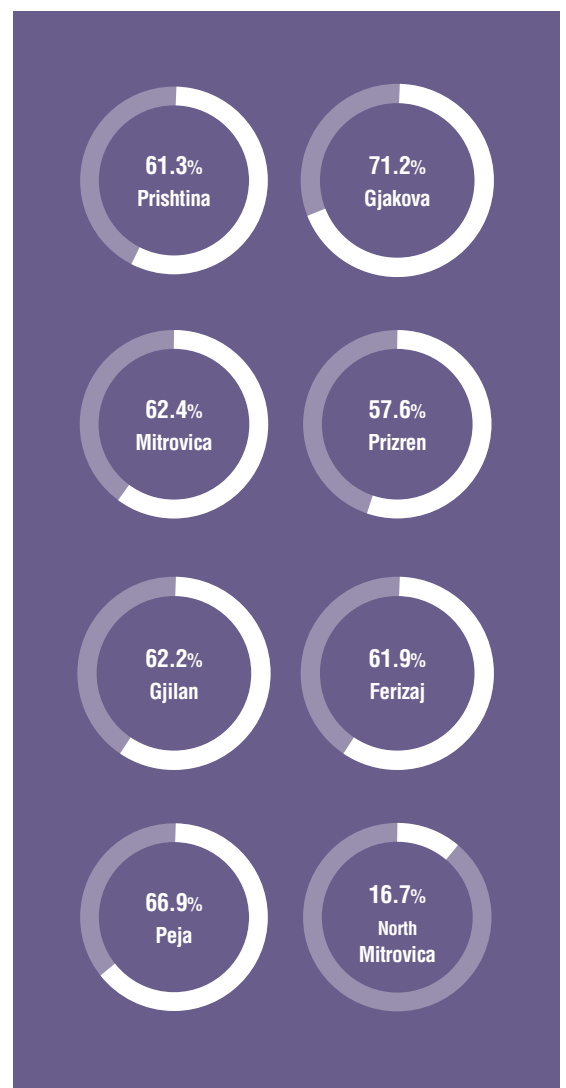


Figure 74. How Safe do Respondents Feel in Kosovo (national level) By District

EXPECTATIONS FROM INSTITUTIONS: RECOMMENDATIONS



Remove the unlawful firearms from the hands of the citizens.

Firearm registration and control is essential, as well as establishing higher control of institutions in the field of illegal firearms with the aim of reducing the number of unlawful firearms. Additionally, more severe penalties should be imposed for illegal firearm possession and when there is evidence of the use of an unlawful firearm. This too would reduce the number of public safety threats that come as a result of unlawful possession of firearms. In addition, firearms must be either handed over or confiscated with the purpose of reducing the number of unlawful possession of firearms.



Increasing police presence in neighborhoods

Citizens have often voiced their concerns that there are no police officers in the streets and neighborhoods, which creates a tolerant environment for minor offenses and crimes of various kinds. KP has the 2017-2021 Community Policing Strategy and Action Plan, which aims for the functionalization of the so-called neighborhood policing. In addition, the strong implementation of the Community Policing Project is extremely important for bringing police officers closer to the neighborhood ²⁹and increase citizen's sense of public safety.



Institutions must work on enhancing public lighting.

The illumination of public spaces affects the increase of citizens' sense of security, since the increase of public lighting reduces the risk of occurrences that affect public safety, and also increases the sense of security with regards to going outside at night, especially for women. Besides the need of lighting all public spaces, authorities should be responsible for the regular maintenance of public lighting equipment.



Installation of security CCTV in public spaces in all cities of Kosovo.

In recent years, there have been many reports of private business and residential building CCTV assisting investigations. Given that there are a large number of traffic accidents every year, "the installation of CCTV, whether at the municipal level or at the regional road, national road and highway level, wherever they are located, will assist the Kosovo Police. First, they help identify issues of persons or vehicles that may be involved in cases, whether criminal

29 Strategy and Action Plan 2017-2021: Community Policing https://www.kosovopolice.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/3._Strategy_and_Action_Plan_2017-2021_-_Community_Policing_.pdf

or even misdemeanor cases. Moreover, even police officials have confirmed that security CCTV would facilitate the work of law enforcement and investigative bodies, as the lack of evidence has led to many unresolved cases.³⁰ However, KP emphasizes that the deployment of security CCTV is not their responsibility, but of local and central government. When it comes to deploying CCTV, the surveillance must be in line with the law Nr. 06/L-082 on Data Protection.³¹ Prior to the installation of security CCTV, the relevant authorities must pledge that the data collected will be stored so as not to infringe on the privacy of citizens or other parties, while the security of this data will be protected from potential attacks or theft. Citizens also need to make sure that this data is not used for anything else.



Modernizing the Emergency Hotline

The Emergency Hotline was established for landlines networks. However, the modernization of 192 is essential for both individual and public safety. Traditional KP Emergency Hotlines, so far, cannot receive photographs, videos, or Skype calls. In various emergency cases, social networks have been operating even when fixed-lines have not worked or have been overloaded. Moreover, the modernization of the emergency lines would enable better collaboration of KP with citizens since they would be able to send photos and video by adding a dimension on how the user can respond to security issues. For example, while most people will call emergency services for help if they witness a serious car accident, many will record accident photos or videos that they can share with emergency services, providing them with a better view of the situation.

30 One such example is the murder of Ilir Zeqiri, where footage from security cameras of private businesses and those in the memorial complex of the Jashari family in Prekaz, Skenderaj, led to the arrest of two people suspected of killing Ilir. Zeqiri. For more read, Jashari, F. "Lack of cameras harming security and investigation", Radio Free Europe, April 22, 2019 <https://www.evropaelire.org/a/mungesa-e-kamerave-ne-dem-te-sigurise-dhehetimeve/29896663.html>

31 According to the law on personal data, recordings in this case can be processed or used for other purposes, only if necessary, to prevent threats to the state and public safety, or to prosecute crimes. " However, camera surveillance and surveillance recordings must be properly protected from unauthorized access and use. For more read LAW NO. 06/L –082 ON PROTECTION OF PERSONAL DATA, <https://gzk.rks-gov.net/ActDocumentDetail.aspx?ActID=18616>



Security Institutions must enhance their cooperation with citizens through social networks and social media applications to improve public safety;

KP has just begun to share information, gather intelligence in collaboration with citizens, collaborate on incident response on their official Facebook page. Moreover, many state bodies in different states have created different applications to contribute to increased public safety. However, this has not yet happened in Kosovo.³²To date, the only initiatives to report and share information about public safety risks have come from citizens themselves through various groups on social media and various applications.³³ Increased use of the Internet has led to increased expectations for authorities to be included in these services and even to provide them directly. Likewise, citizens have high expectations from public security agencies in terms of improving the use of technology to complement the physical presence of emergency personnel. While many citizens seek information on social media, the use of social media applications and communications can increase the flow of information between city authorities and citizens that can help prevent and fight incidents that pose high risk and serious concern toward public safety.



The project of capture, neuter, vaccination and release (CNVR) of stray dogs must continue

In order to control the number and well-being of stray dogs in Kosovo, the KSVL project must continue. In 2018, the KSVL project was implemented where the catch-neuter-vaccinate-return (CNVR) method was applied. However, due to the non-continuation of this project in 2019 and 2020, the situation of stray dogs is back as it was before. This has led to a situation where there are constantly new packs of dogs who are not castrated/sterilized, thus increasing the number of stray dogs. In addition, stray dog breeding makes their life difficult, often being abused by humans, which then poses a risk to public health and safety as well. It goes without saying that the continuation of this program should be performed with full supervision of the process, making sure that the dogs return to the territories where they were taken before the treatment, in order to avoid their fight over territories, which can further affect the safety of citizens.

32 Article <https://www.data.gov/safety/safety-apps> offers a list of Public Safety apps used in U.S

33 The #EcShlirë app is a mobile app to report sexual harassment. The data collected from this application is used to support preventive measures. Read more at <http://www.ecshlire.com/>

METHODOLOGY OF KOSOVO SECURITY BAROMETER 2019

The Kosovo Security Barometer (KSB) is a special program of the Kosovar Centre for Security Studies (KCSS) which was established in September 2012. Its primary focus is to measure the public's trust toward security, justice and central institutions in Kosovo as well as to measure citizens' perception of the internal and external security threats posed to Kosovo.

The KSB is the first and the largest undertaking of this kind designed, implemented, and communicated by a local think tank in Kosovo. The KSB's uniqueness in Kosovo is its political neutrality. As an independent think-tank, KCSS has no political constraints in communicating any of the findings and messages of the survey.

The KSB is a combination of quantitative and qualitative methods that provides objective and credible results. Its data are collected through face-to-face interviews with randomly selected respondents conducted by KCSS field researchers throughout the entire Kosovo. The KSB questionnaire mostly consisted of closed-ended questions in the form of fivepoint Likert Scale, followed by several open-ended questions that allow respondents to provide their thoughts without predefined options.

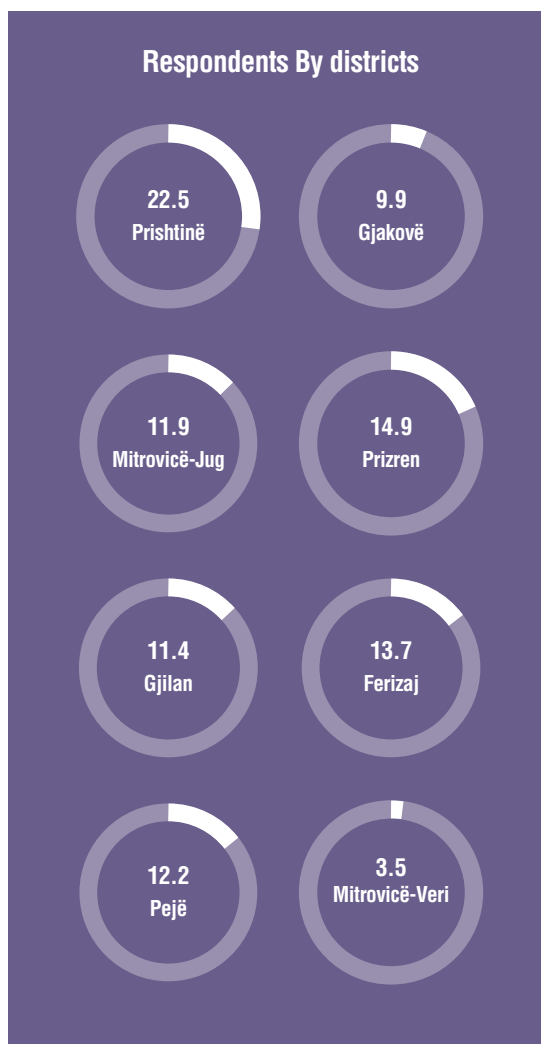
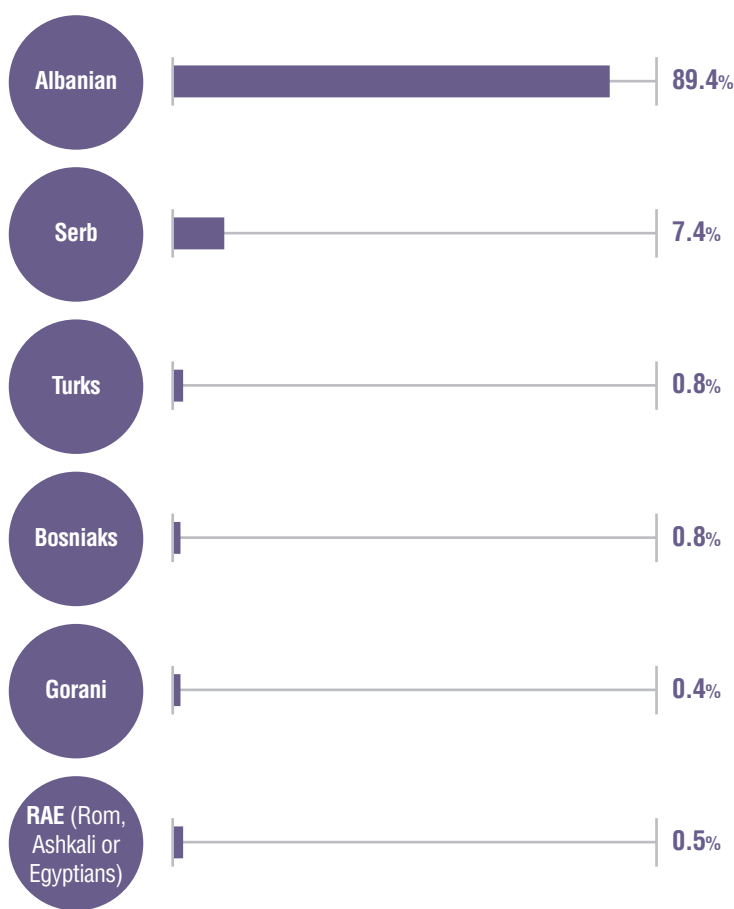
KCSS teams of 29 field researchers conducted the sampling, piloting, and the interviews. The national sample from which the research was drawn featured 1,189 households, following a representative sample of the population above 18 years old in Kosovo. The ethnic background of respondents was 89% Kosovar Albanian, 7.8 % Kosovar Serbs, and 2% others (Turks, Bosnians, Roma, Ashkali, Egyptians, Gorans, Croats, and Montenegrins) mirroring Kosovo's ethnic make-up. The sample frame was based upon telephone code areas, and, as such included the following 8 districts: Ferizaj, Gjakova, Gjilan, Mitrovica South, Mitrovica North, Peja, Prishtina and Prizren.

The first stage of geographical clustering was based on the 2012 Kosovo Census Report. The second stage involved clustering samples by municipal area with a stratified rural/ urban sample as per the number of households. The last stage followed a random sampling method using the nearest 'birthday method.'

Random sampling ensures that each resident in Kosovo has an equal probability of being chosen for an interview. With the sample used for this study, the results of the survey mirror trends in attitudes and perceptions amongst the entire adult population of Kosovo in general. The margin of error is 3 % with a confidence interval of 95 %.

A pilot interview was conducted in the end of September 2018 to test the feasibility of the questionnaire prior to the commencement of fieldwork. The research team subsequently reported that the pilot interview was successful, and no problems were encountered with the pilot instrument. All interviews were conducted from 9th to 16th of

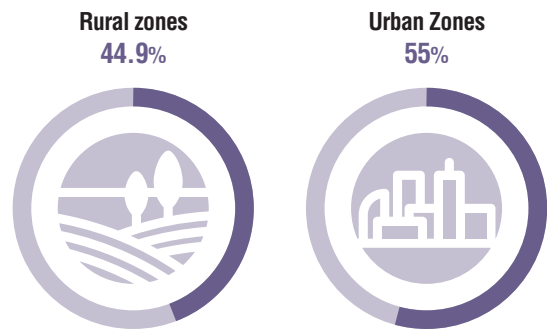
October 2018. Furthermore, data processing and analysis has been completed using the SPSS software. Perceptions presented in this report are a summary of information gathered from respondents and it demonstrates how people perceive the Kosovo institutions.



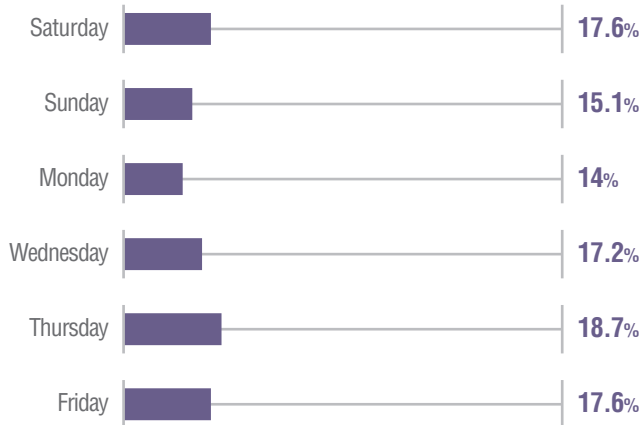
Respondents by gender



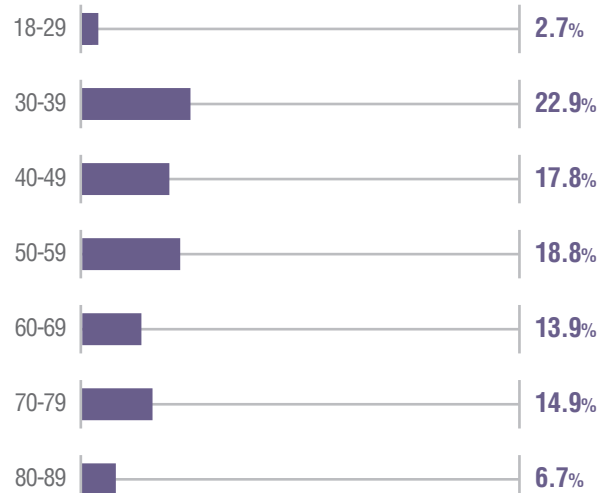
Respondents by zones



Conducted surveys by field research



Age of respondents



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