

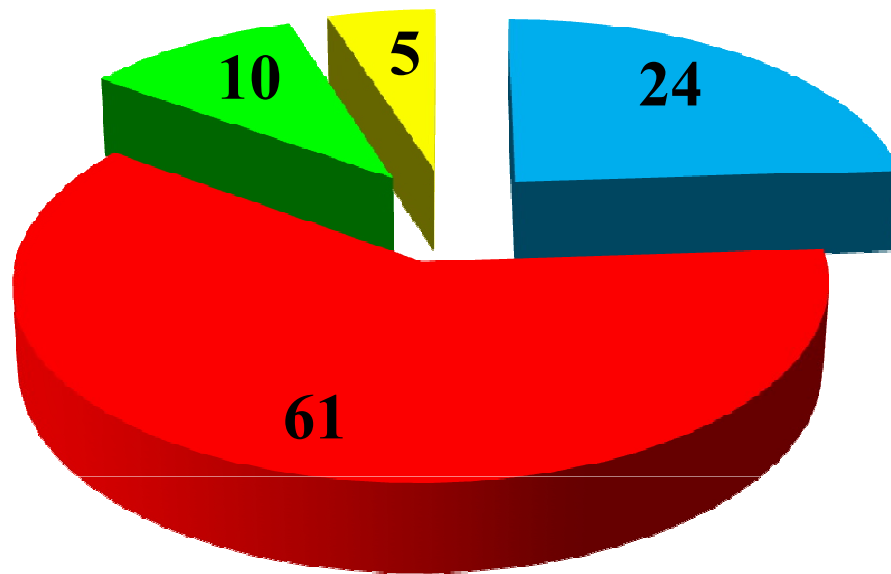


## ***Summary of the research “Perception of Violence in Sports”***

*This research is made possible by the support of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) under the “Civil Society Advocacy Initiative” program, implemented by the Institute for Sustainable Communities. The opinions expressed herein are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of ISC, USAID or the United States Government.*

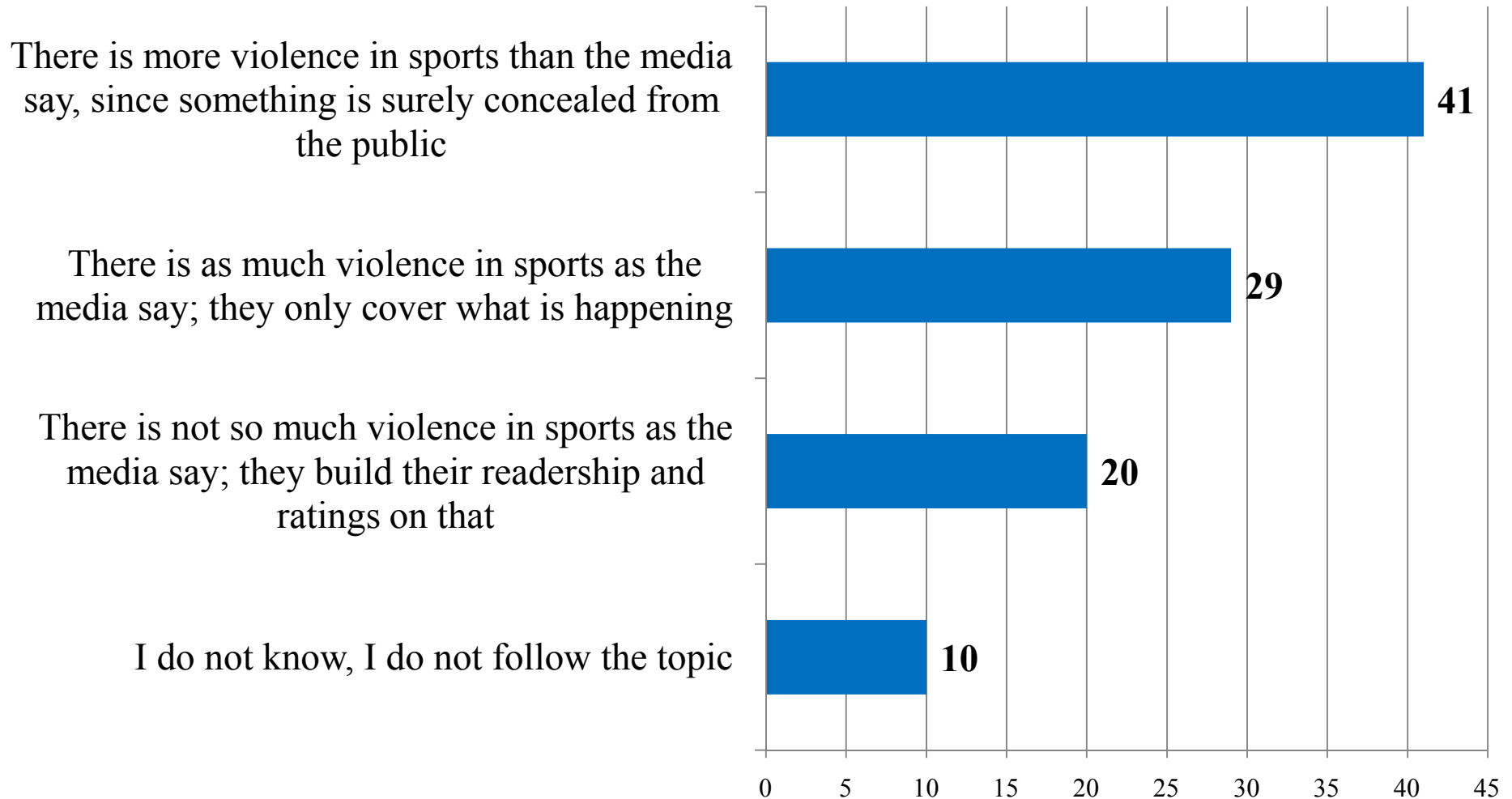
*The research is part of a larger project “Serbia without violence” implemented by the New Policy Center through the financial support of USAID, ISC, OSCE and Norwegian Embassy*

# Is violence in sports a serious social problem and to what extent?

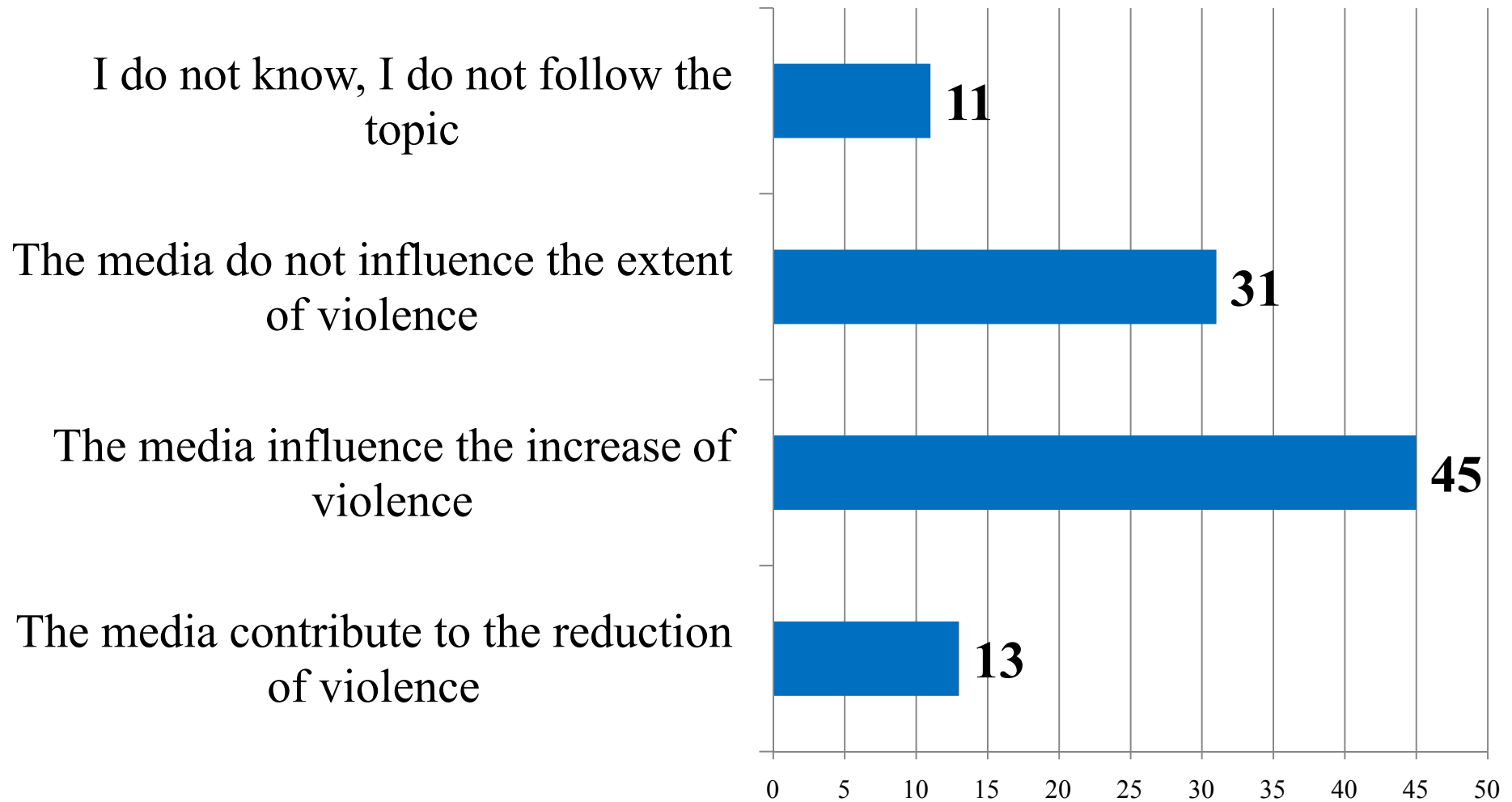


- This is one of the biggest social problems
- This is a problem, but neither smaller nor bigger than others
- I think it is exaggerated and not a problem as much as it is talked about
- I do not know, I do not follow the topic

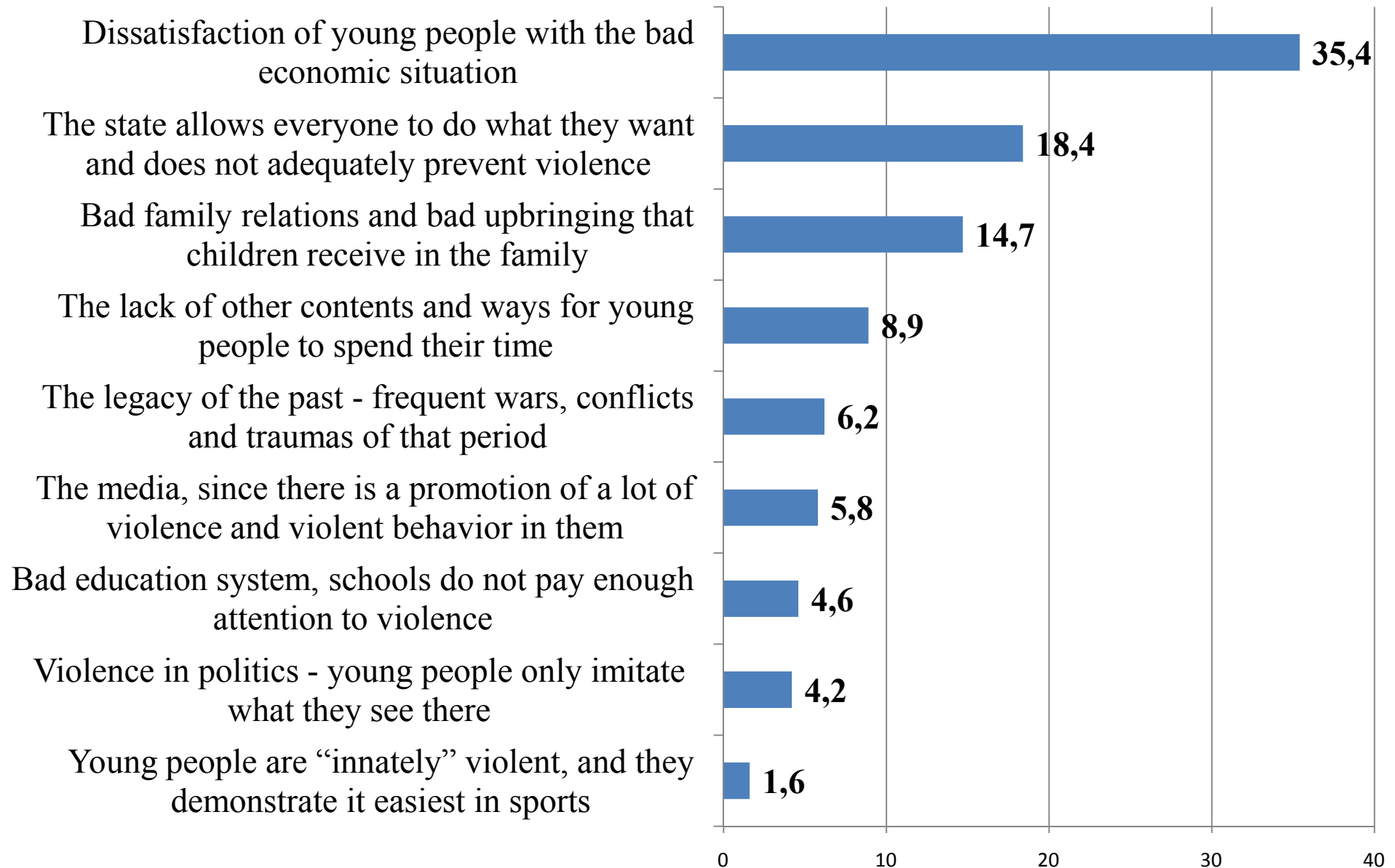
# To what extent is violence in sports present in the society in relation to how much this topic appears in the media?



# How do the media influence the spreading of violence at stadiums?



# The main cause of violence in sports



# Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

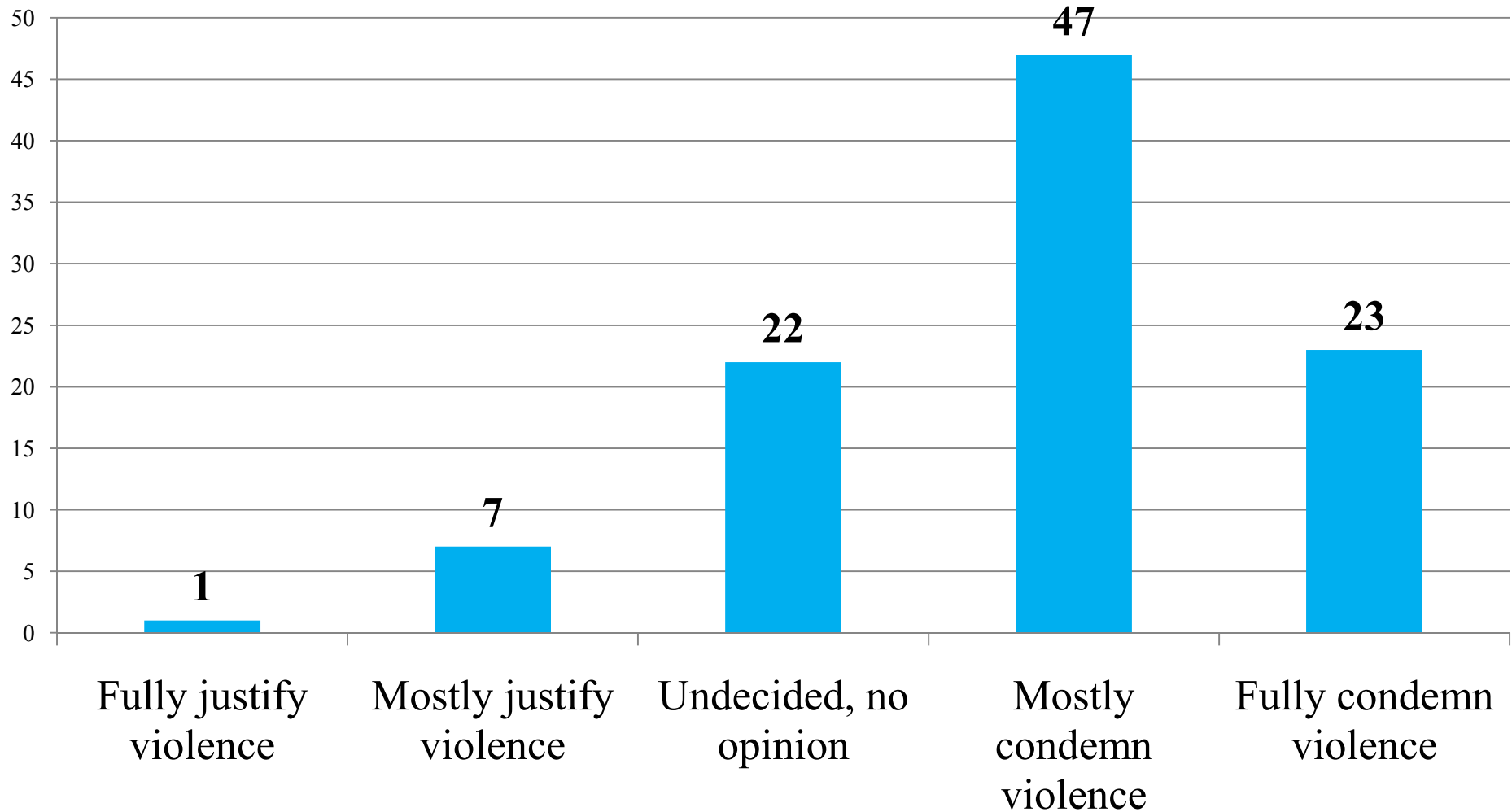
	Agree	Disagree	Undecided, no opinion	Total
Some politicians and parties support the fans, since they need them for their interests	67	11	22	100
Fans have strong connections to criminals who support and finance them	63	10	27	100
Fans would not behave like this if they had no support of the managements of clubs	55	22	23	100

# Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

		Disagree	Undecided, no opinion	Agree	Total
1	Young people justifiably express their dissatisfactions by the violence in the stadiums	64	19	17	100
2	Violence in sport is everywhere in the world and we should not need to worry too much about it	63	21	16	100
3	Curses and threats of fans at matches are normal and do not threaten anyone	49	28	23	100
4	Fans should not be arrested and punished for chanting at matches	38	33	29	100
5	Violence at sporting events should be punished harshly	8	12	80	100
6	The police should react tougher to the fans who do not respect the order	13	14	73	100
7	The matches in front of the audience should be banned, the violence always occurs then	59	24	17	100
8	What happens in the stadiums (fights) is the image of the society and it does not surprise me	14	20	66	100



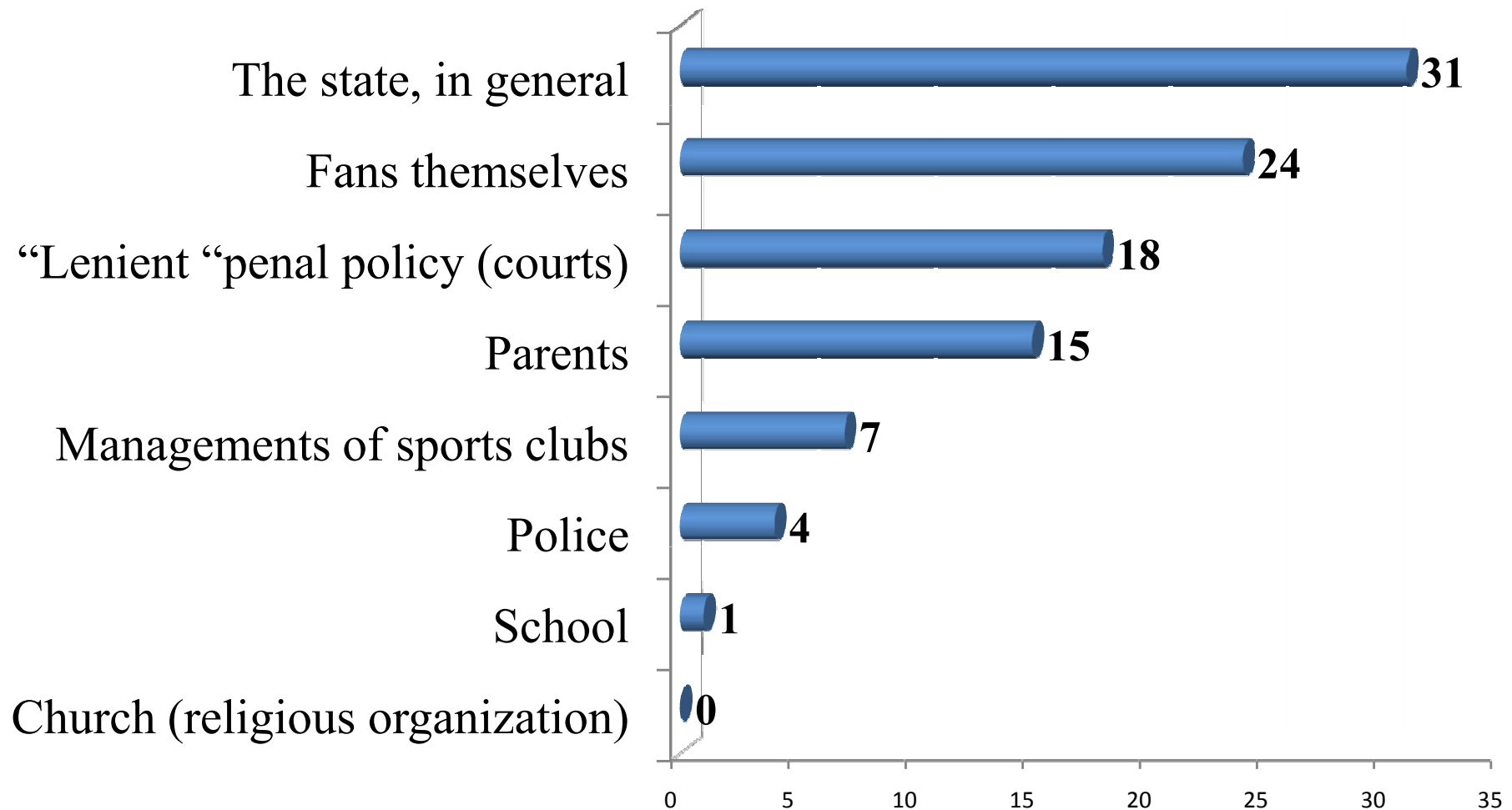
# Tolerance (justification) index of violence in sports



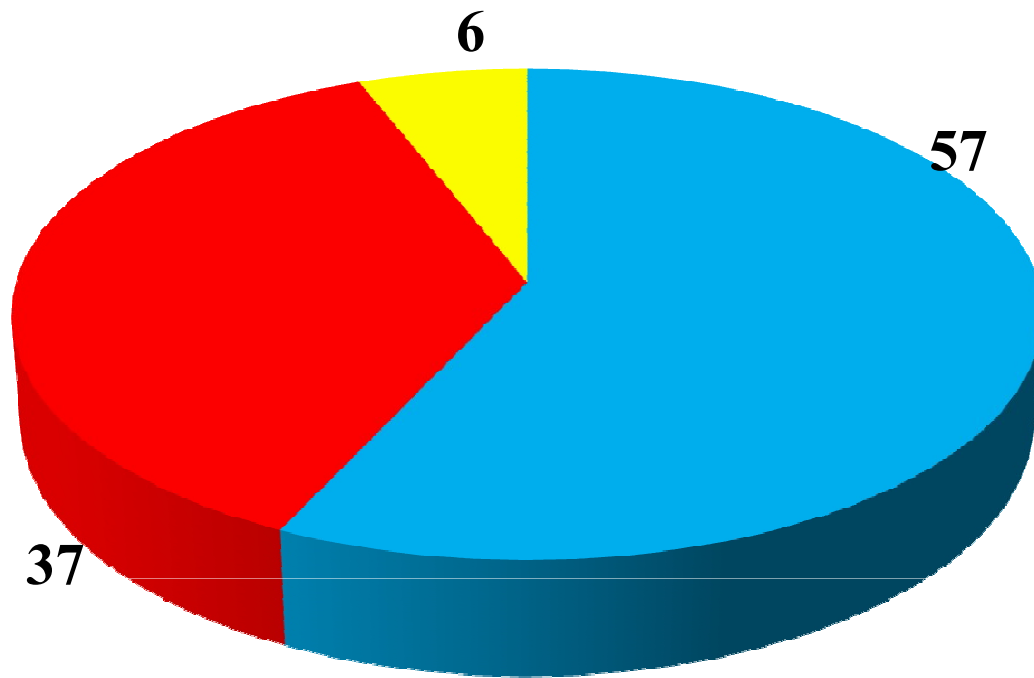
## How responsible for the violent behavior of fans are .. (%)

	Very responsible	Somewhat responsible	Not at all responsible	Total
Fans themselves	81	17	2	100
The state	76	21	3	100
Lenient penal policy (courts)	73	23	4	100
Parents	56	32	12	100
Police	54	33	13	100
Managements of sports clubs	53	40	7	100
School	34	43	23	100
Church (religious organization)	10	21	69	100

# Who do you think is the most responsible for the behavior of the fans? (%)

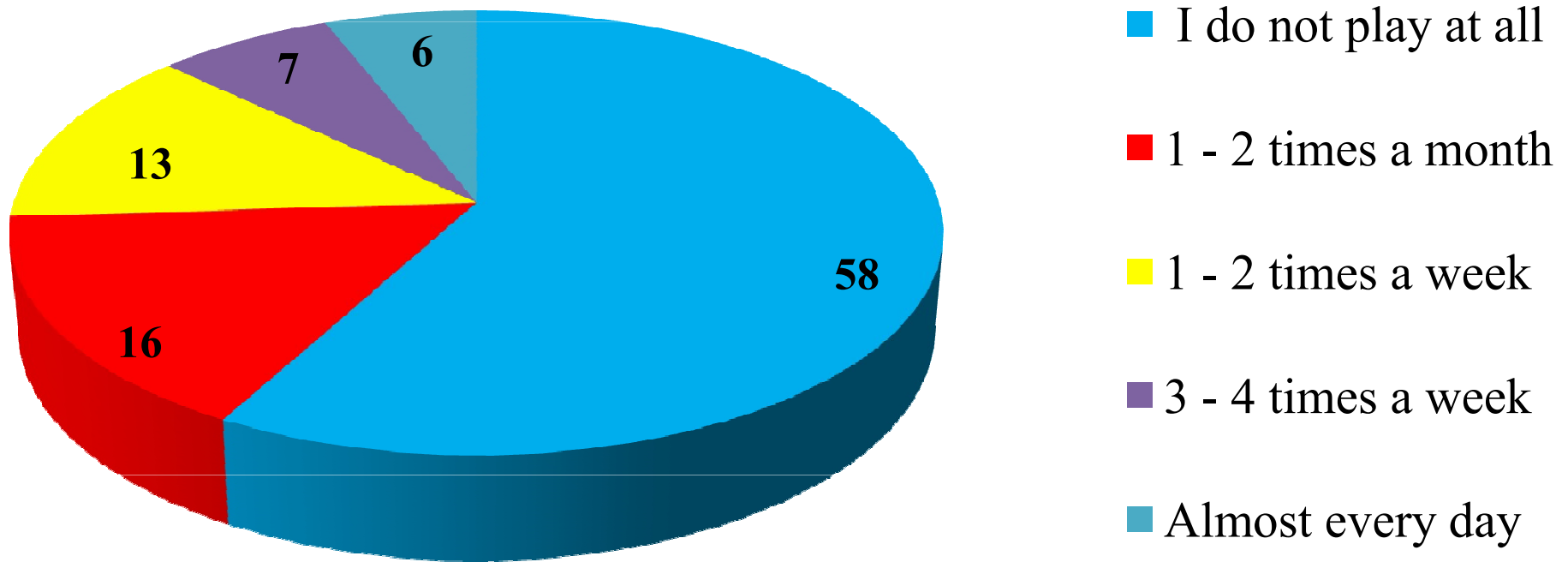


# Should violence in sports be prevented by punishing the offenders or by education?

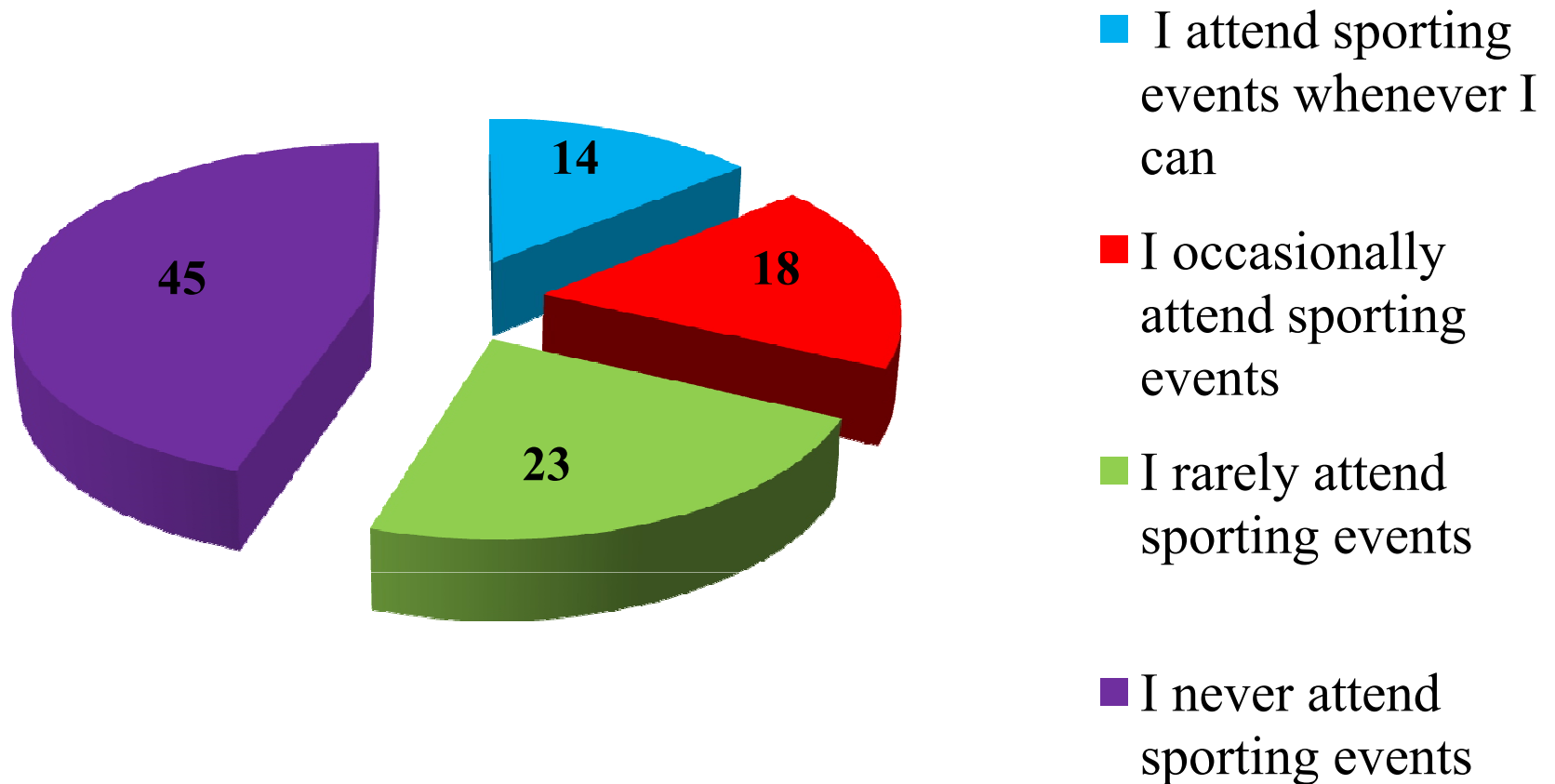


- Punishing the offenders, after that no one would attempt violence
- By education and conversation with young people
- I do not know, I do not have an opinion on it

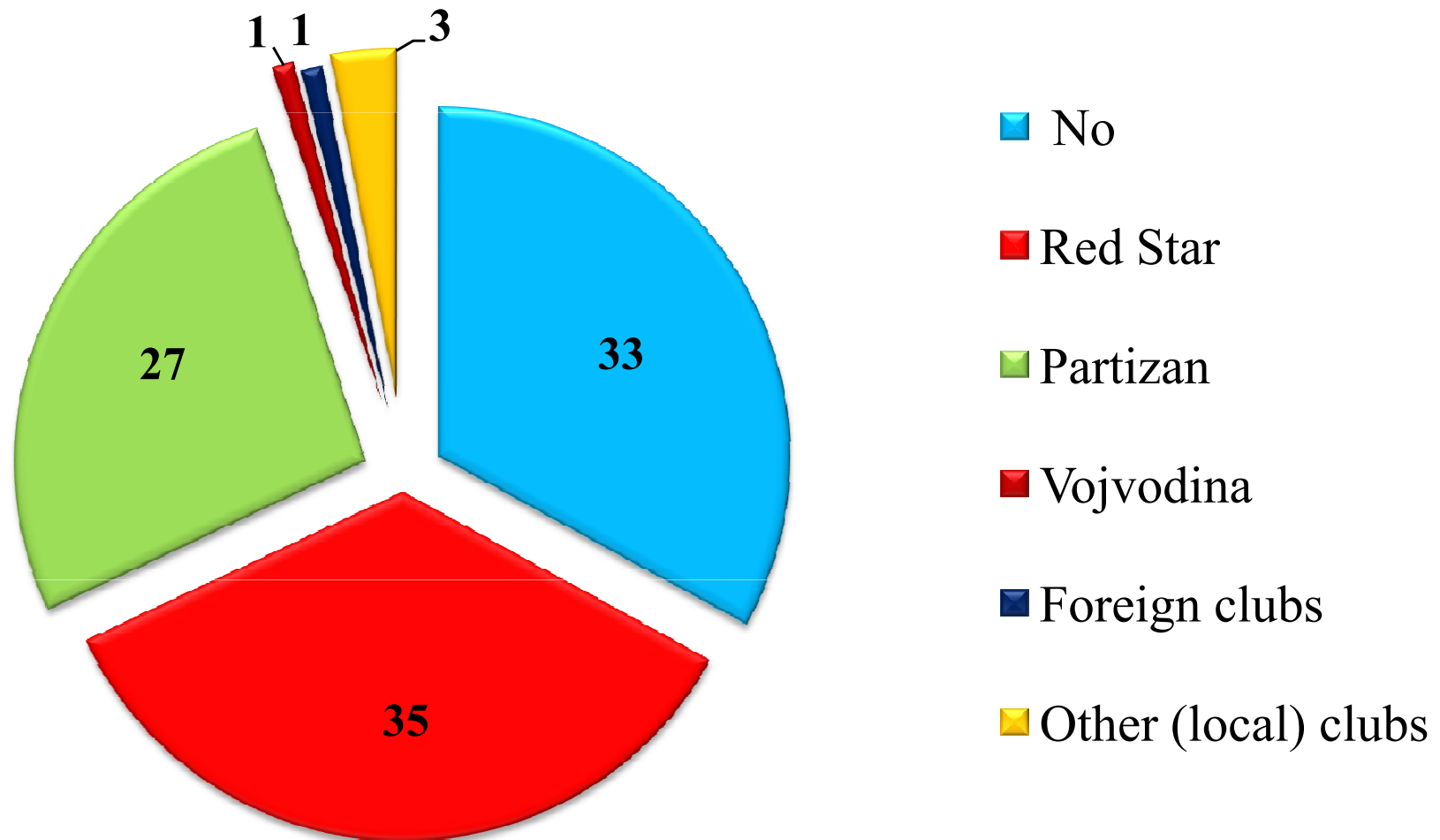
# Do you play sports and how often? (In %)



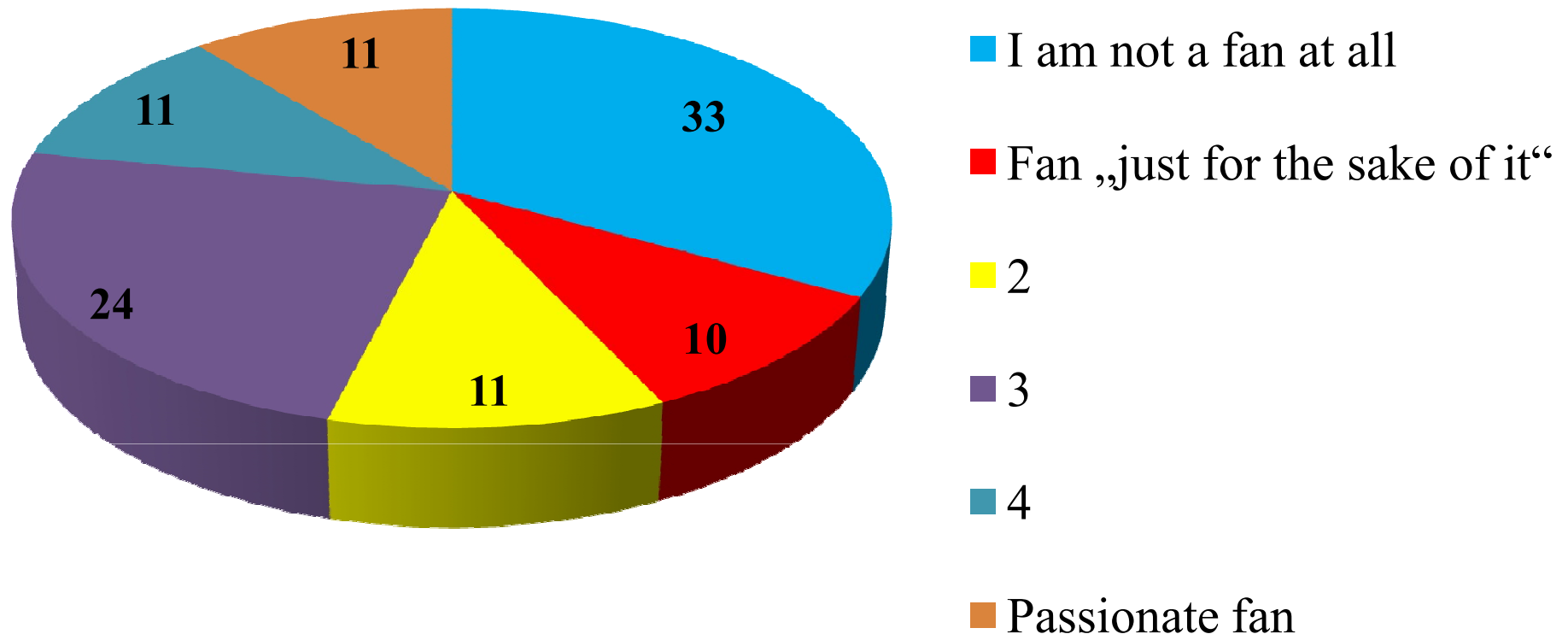
# Attitude toward sporting events (in %)



# Do you cheer for any sports club? (In %)

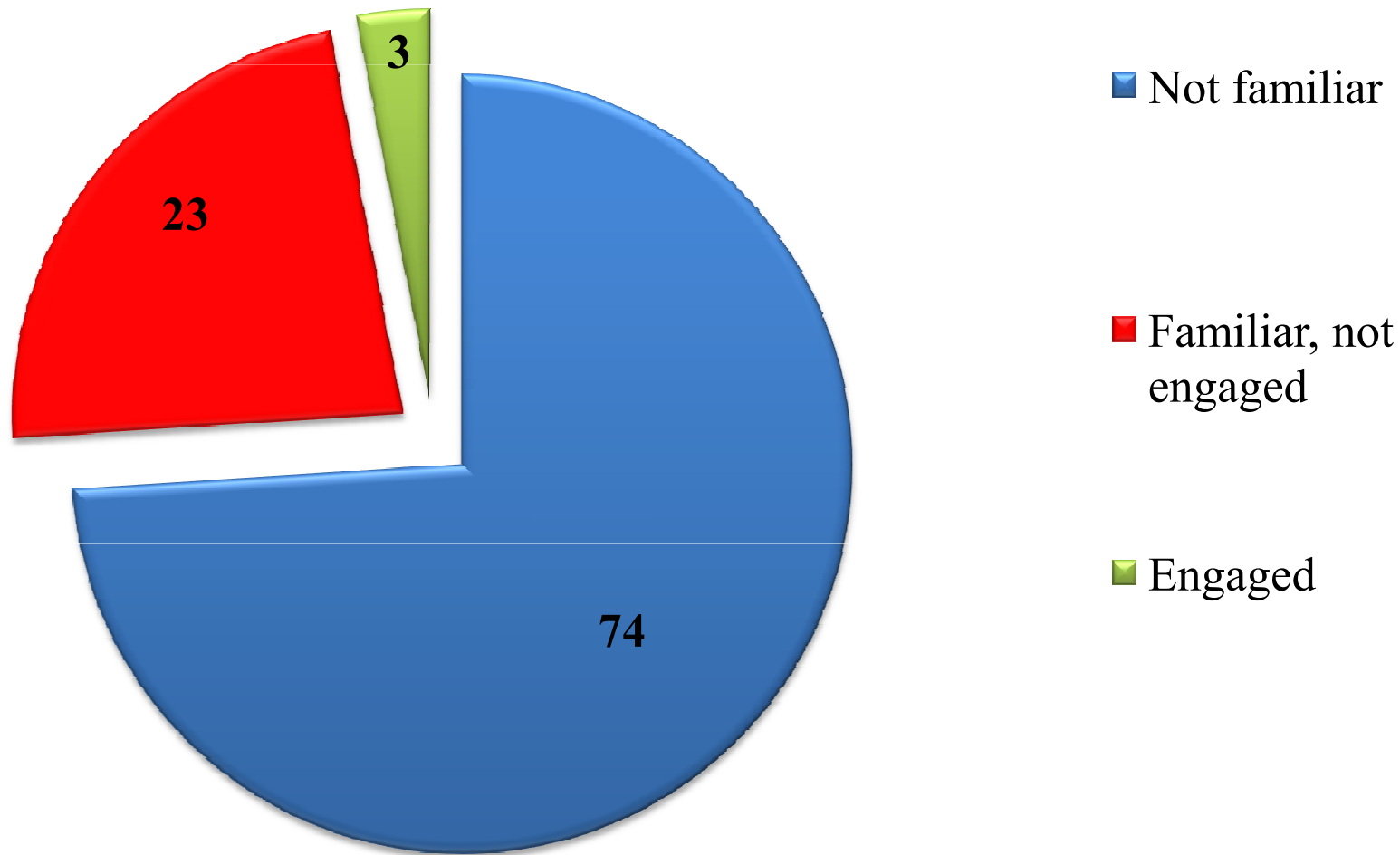


# Degree of subjects' attachment to clubs they cheer for (in %)

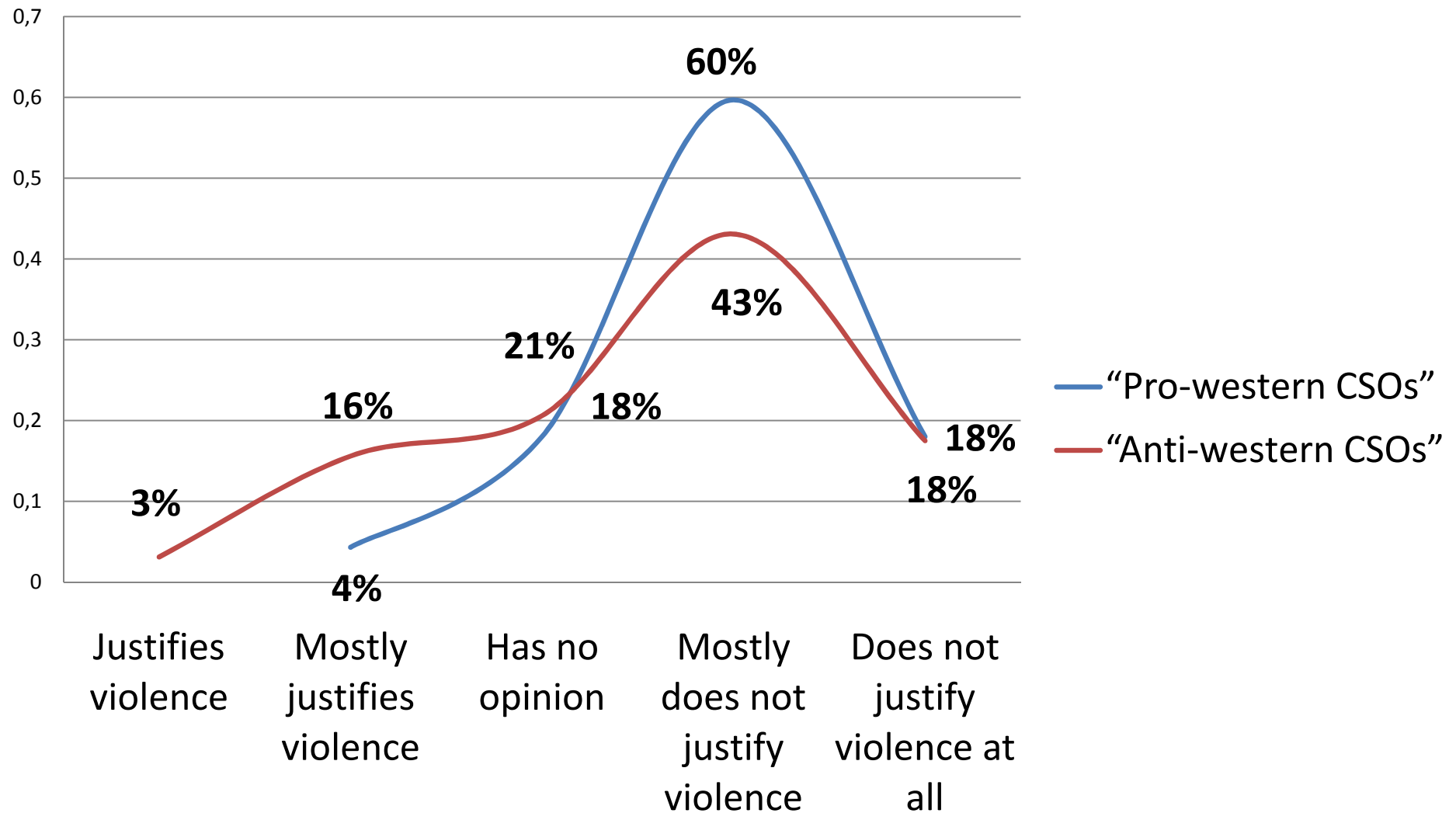




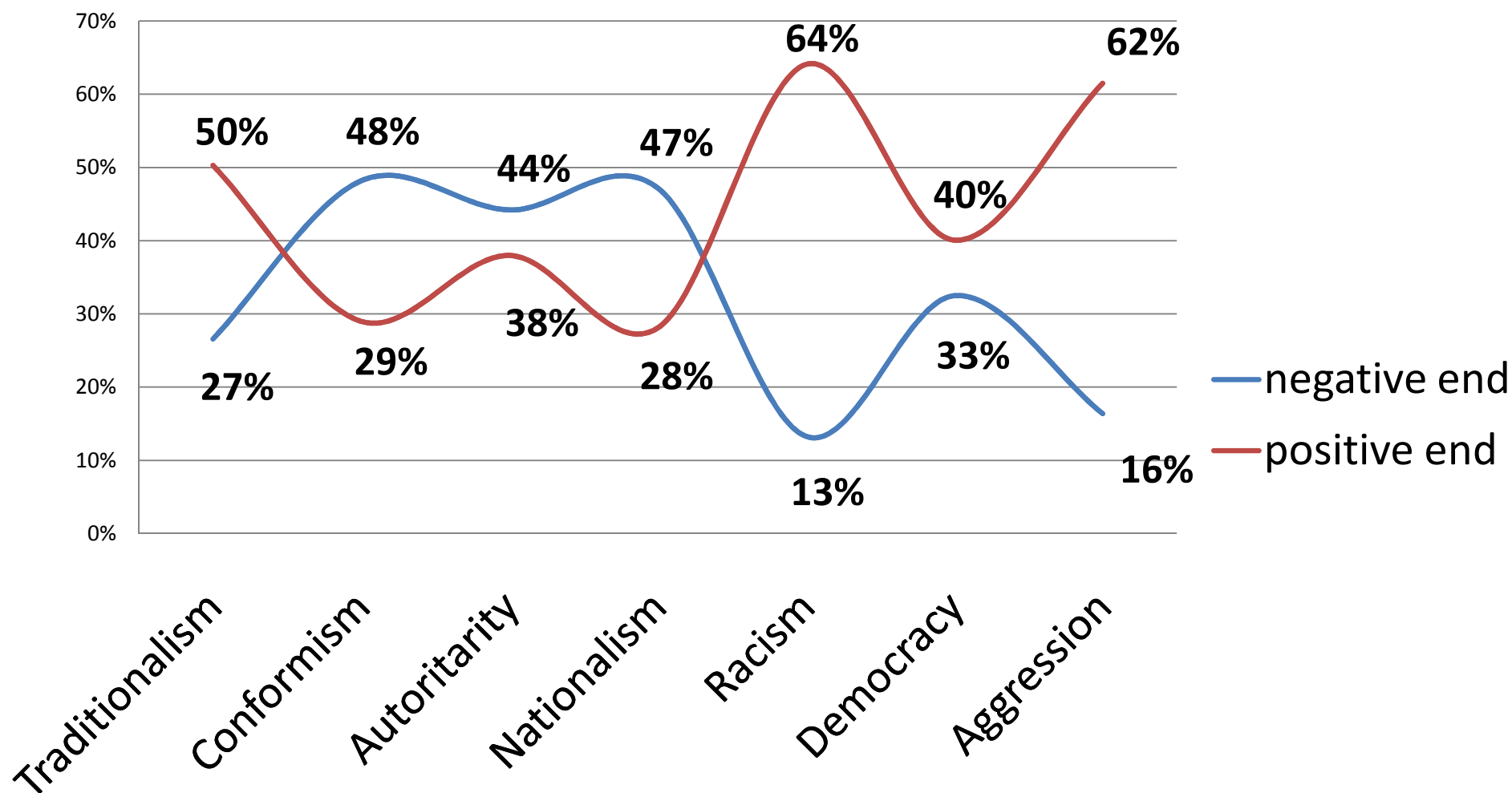
# Are you engaged in activities of fan groups? (In %)



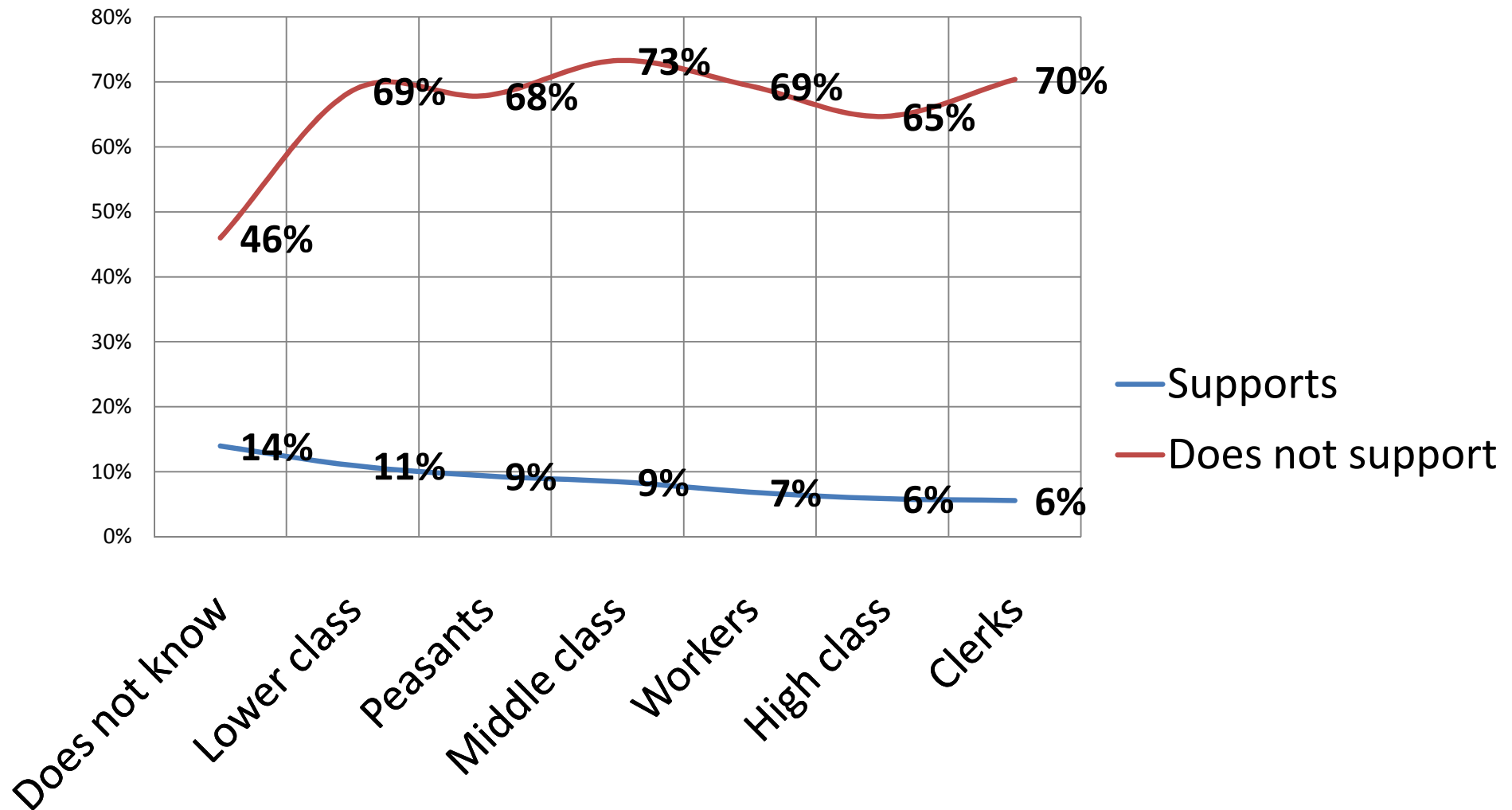
# Support to different types of civil society organizations, and tolerance index.



# Respondents' value bases



# Class-related self-identification and attitude towards violence in sports



# Party preferences and attitude towards violence in sports

	Justifies	Mainly justifies	Does not know	Mainly does not justify	Does not justify at all
No party	2	6	22	47	23
DS		5	24	42	29
DSS			40	36	24
LDP		13	23	32	32
SNS		9	18	53	19
SRS		14	19	51	16
SPS		20	15	45	20

## **Focus groups - Civil society organizations**

- Civil society organization perceives their role in direct activities on prevention of violence in sports as very limited. Nevertheless, there are several different ways how to make an influence for activities of this segment of society.
- Through various projects for education and informal education.
- Civil society organizations are able and ought to pressure state institutions.
- CSO's are able to engage in differentiation of cheering for sport clubs in the affirmative sense from aggressive cheering which contains violence.

# Focus groups-Media

- Media representatives see their place and role with regards to fan violence in the following aspects:
- Objective coverage of this subject
- Media should have a value attitude
- Media should avoid any kind of sensationalism regarding this subject
- Media should not pay too much attention to the subject itself, and they should be mainly concentrating on causes of violence

# Focus groups-Fans

- Fans deem that the subject of fan violence is exaggerated in domestic public
- They insist on differentiation of „true“ and sincere fans or supporters of clubs from fans-hooligans
- They justify violence in a form of spontaneous „traditional“ fan fights
- They are distinct opponents of the systems in every respect
- As for the causes for violence in sports, they perceive it in several dimensions: Violence and fan fights are a result of emotional bursts and for the most part an instrument in hands of organized groups. Violence among fans is also an integral part of „communication and hierarchy within a group, a reaction to the behavior of the police; Bad economic situation and discontent in other aspects of life
- They are aware of social rejection of the phenomenon, but they also deem that one of integral parts of fan rituals would be lost by full elimination of fights.



# In-depth interviews

- Interviews with representatives of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Ministry of Youth and Sport, Court and Prosecutor's Office were carried out and Ministry of Justice refused to participate in the research.
- All interviewees had a common opinion that the existing legislative framework is relatively good, but that it requires continuous improvement and preventive measures
- All interviewees agree that responsibility of clubs, sport associations and sport event organizers should be increased in the future.