

# Crisis in Iraq: A View from the Ground

Alicia Boyd & Nina Sabarre



D<sup>3</sup> Systems, Inc.



Over the past year, the Sunni militant movement known as the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Da'esh) has taken control of territory in Iraq and Syria in an attempt to establish a transnational caliphate. In June 2014, ISIL seized an opportunity provided by the Iraqi Army's disintegration to take over Mosul and other areas of northern Iraq. This poster uses survey data from July 2012 to May 2014 to investigate how the divided political climate in Iraq set the stage for ISIL.

## Iraq Futures Survey

- Series of nine nationally representative, face-to-face surveys from July 2012 to May 2014 commissioned by D3, in cooperation with KA Iraq and KA Belgium
- Target population: Iraqis age 18+
- Multi-stage cluster probability sample of 2,200 respondents each wave (total sample: n=19,800)
- Questionnaire topics included: general outlook, security, financial status, perceptions of current events, opinions of leaders and foreign governments, views of the government, and voting behavior
- MOE: 2.1%, Complex MOE: 3.4% at p=.5, 95% CI

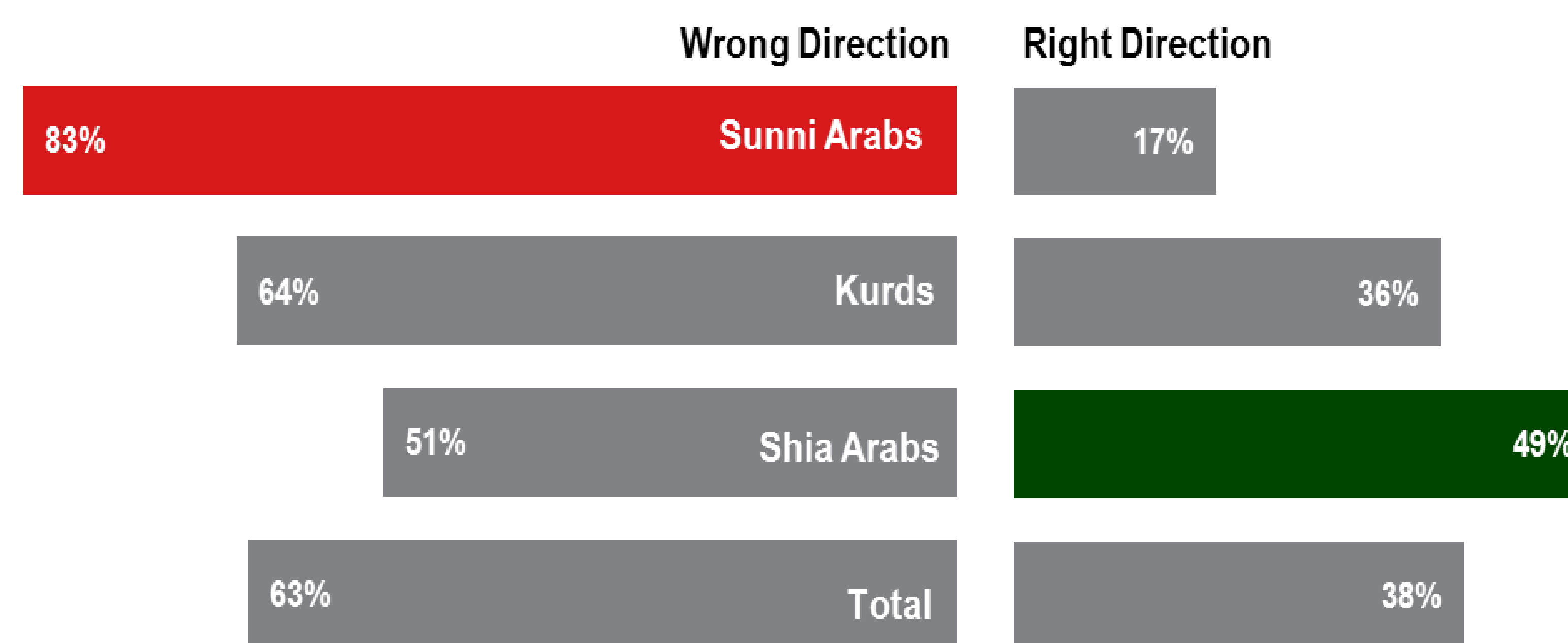
## Sample Composition

	Sample	Population
<b>Gender</b>		
Male	50%	50%
Female	50%	50%
<b>Age</b>		
18-24	23%	27%
25-34	25%	29%
35-44	20%	20%
45-54	17%	12%
55+	15%	13%
<b>Education</b>		
Illiterate	15%	12%
Can Read & Write	17%	17%
Completed Primary	29%	22%
Completed Secondary	26%	32%
Completed Higher	14%	17%
<b>Ethnicity</b>		
Shia Arab	45%	
Sunni Arab	28%	
Kurd	19%	
Other	5%	

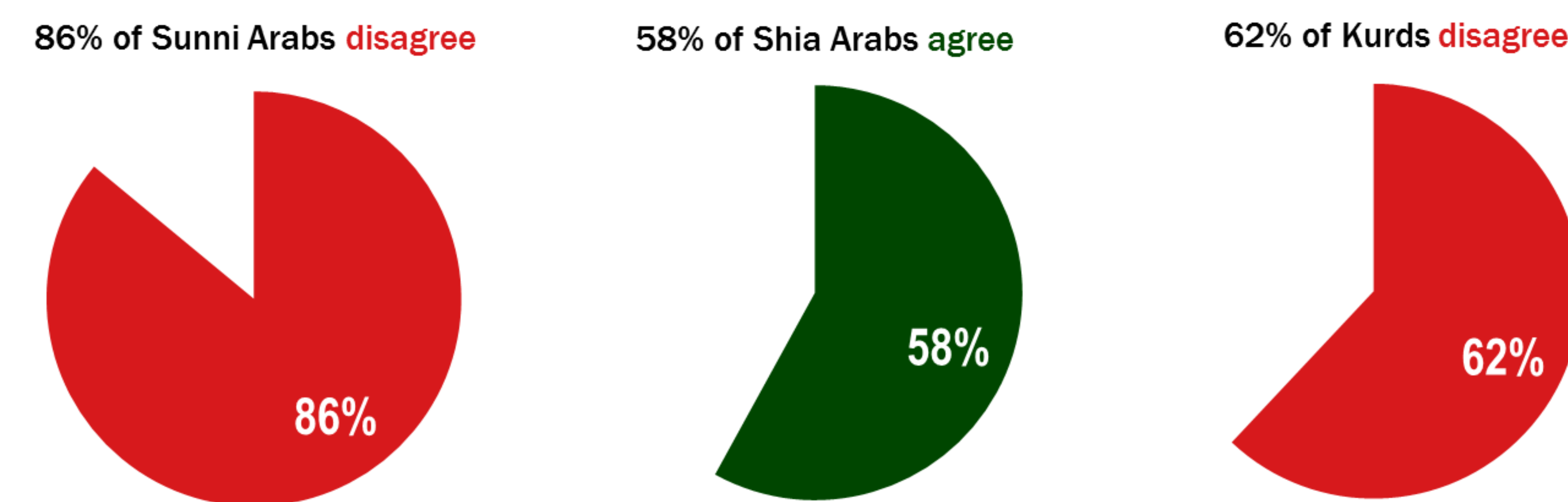
Population statistics for gender and age come from the 2010 Iraq Census estimates. Education data come from UN ESWCA estimates in 2000.

## Key Findings

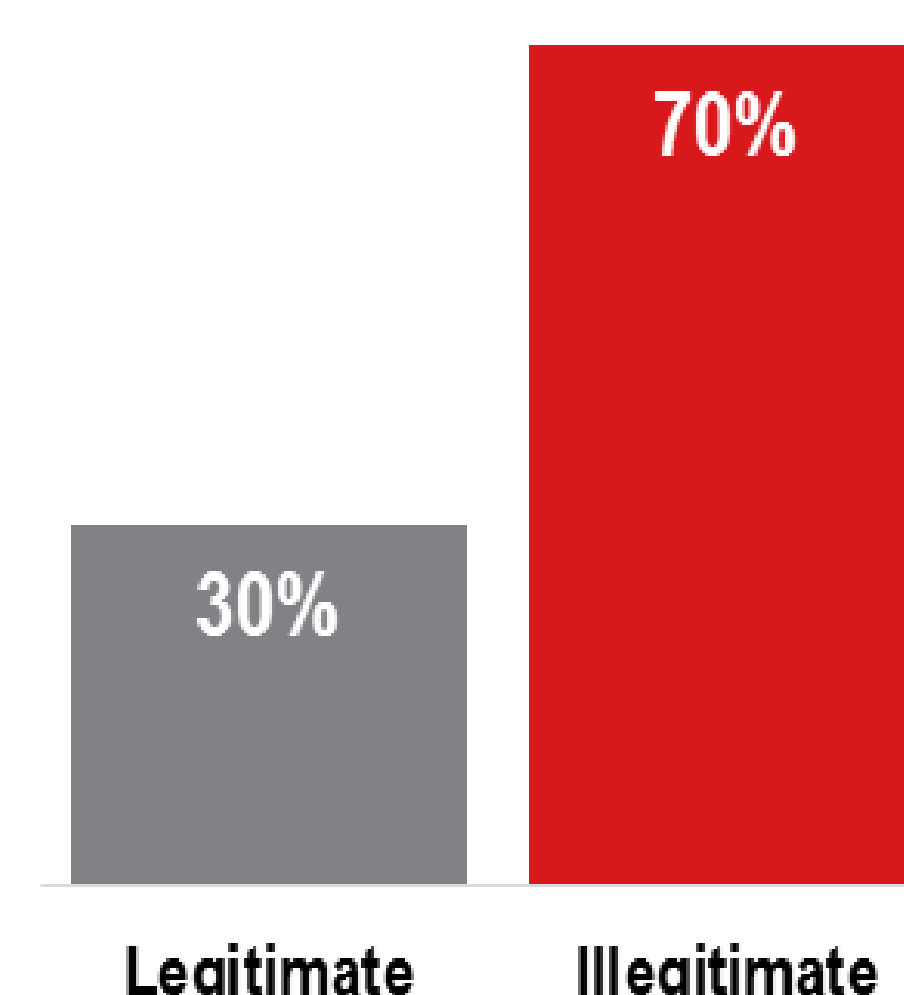
In May 2014, Sunni Arabs were much more likely than Shia Arabs and Kurds to say that things in Iraq were headed in the **wrong direction**.



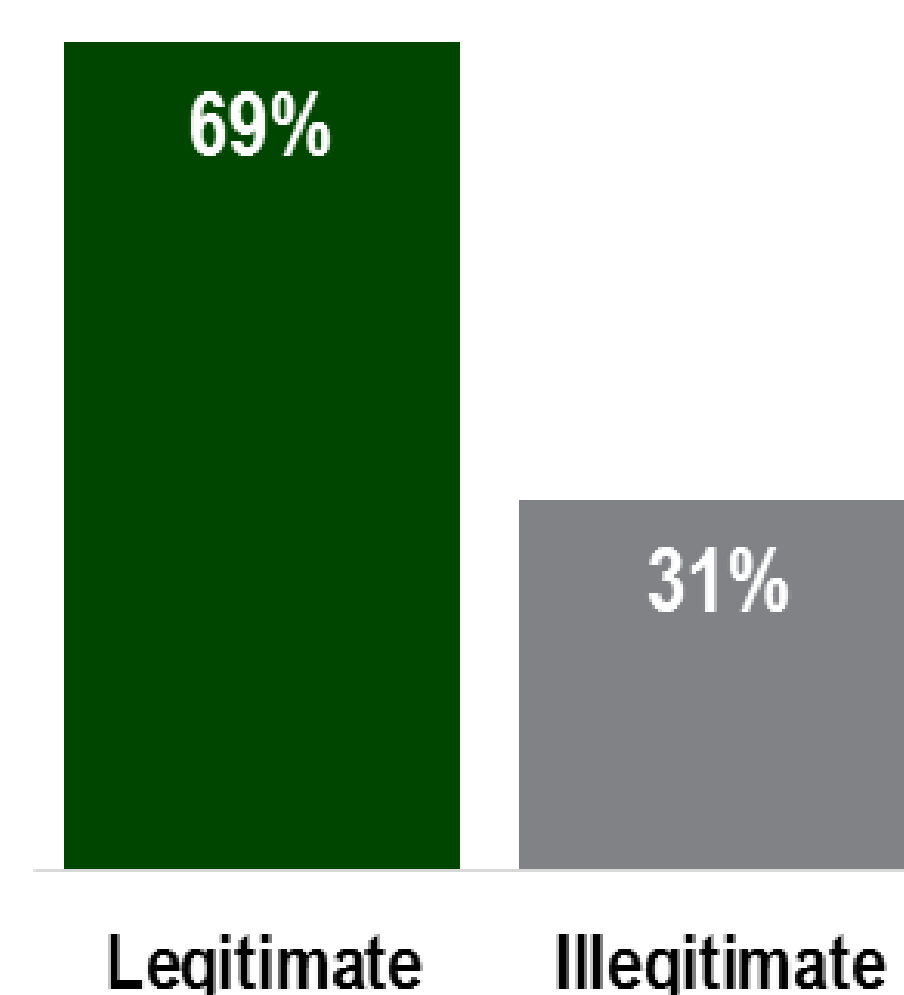
When asked if the Iraqi Security Forces are doing a good job providing security...



Seven in ten **Sunni Arabs** consider decisions made by the Iraqi government **illegitimate**.



Seven in ten **Shia Arabs** consider decisions made by the Iraqi government **legitimate**.

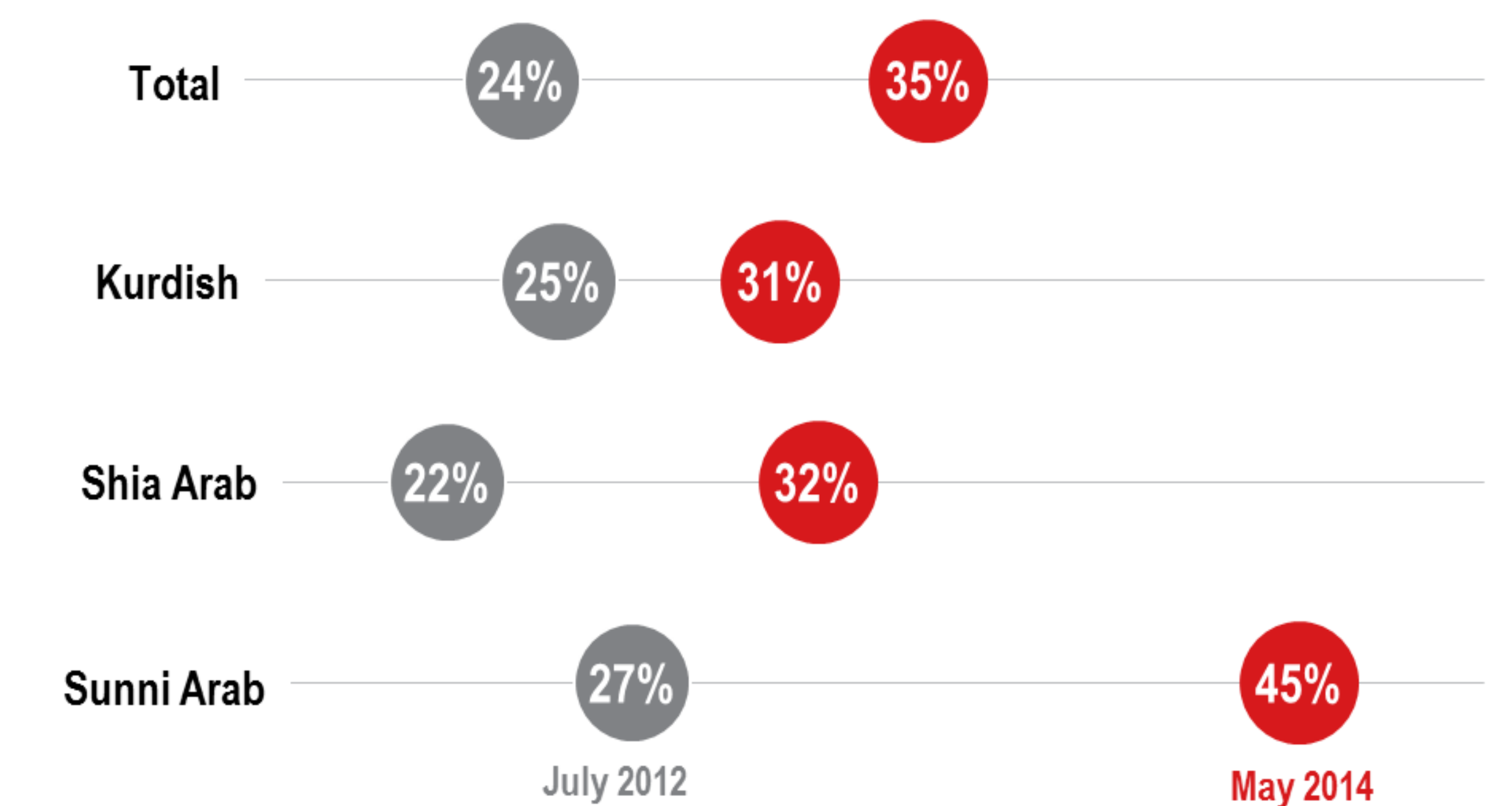


## Top Problems Facing Families:

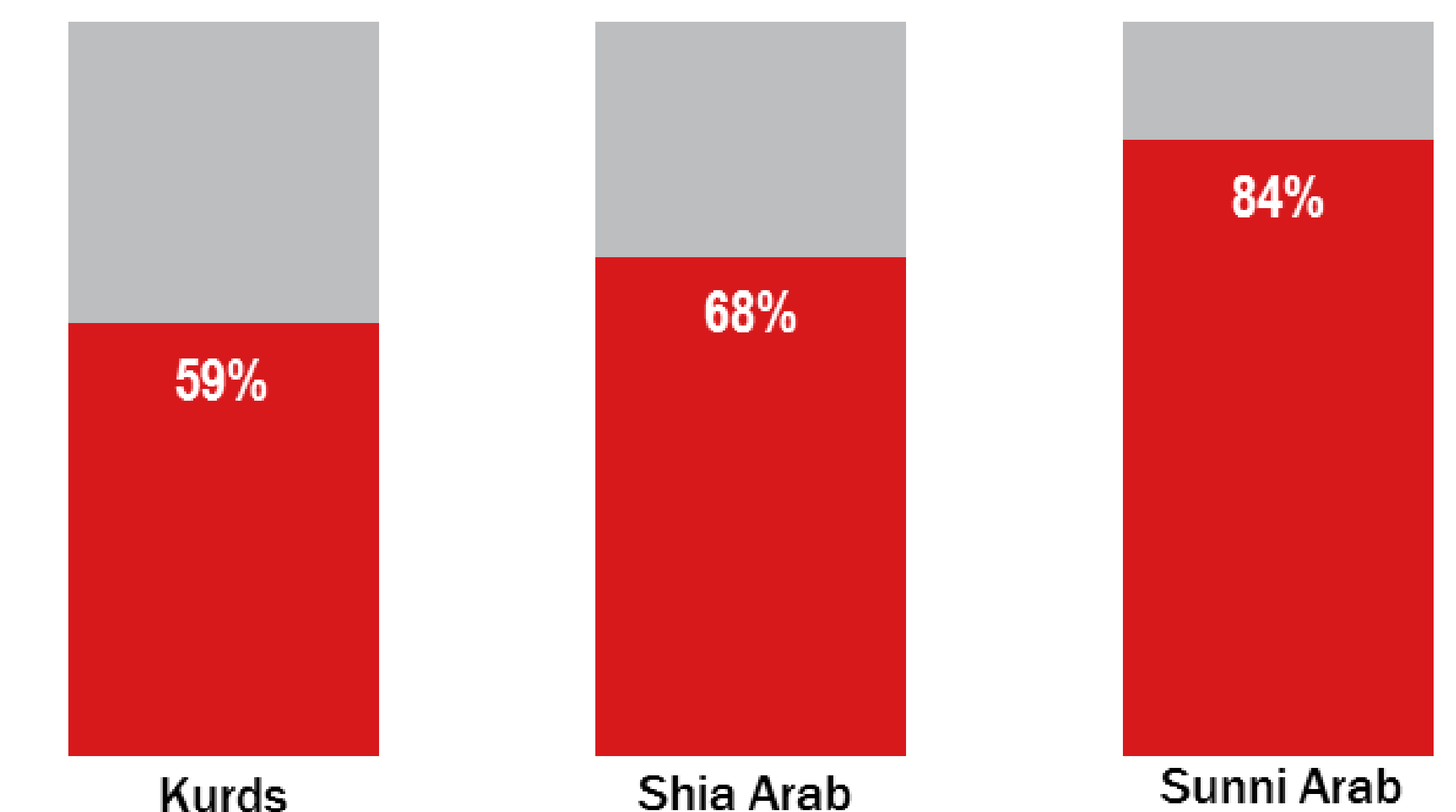
- 45% Public Services
  - 43% Economy
  - 28% Governance
  - 27% Security
  - 20% Social (total of two mentions)
- Kurds are most likely to mention issues regarding the economy (59%).
- Sunni Arabs are most likely to mention issues regarding security (41%).

## Expectations

From July 2012 to May 2014, Iraqis in all ethno-sectarian groups increasingly expected their financial status to get worse over the next year.



In January 2014, the majority of Iraqis expected corruption to **get worse or stay the same** over the next year.



## Now What?

The Iraq Futures data show that the dissatisfaction of the Sunni Arab population presented an opportunity that ISIL leveraged to consolidate its presence in Iraq. The data also show that, in spite of divisions between ethno-sectarian groups, Iraqis do share common concerns. In order to remedy the conditions that fostered ISIL's rise, the Iraqi government must avoid exclusive, sectarian policies and focus on good governance through economic growth and the reduction of corruption.