



الباروميتر العربي
ARAB BAROMETER

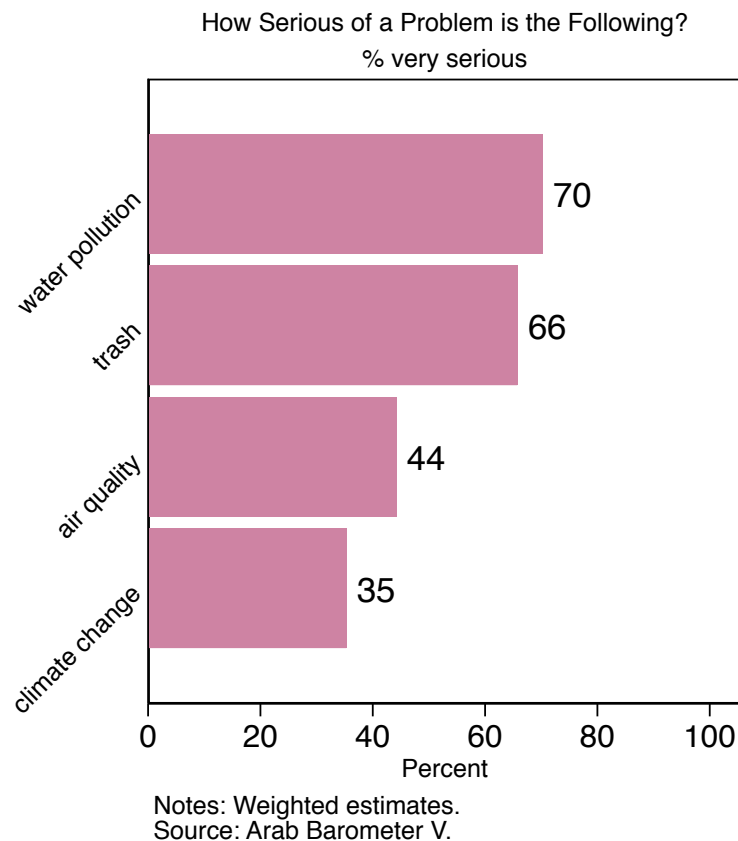
Environmental Issues in the Middle East and North Africa

October 2019



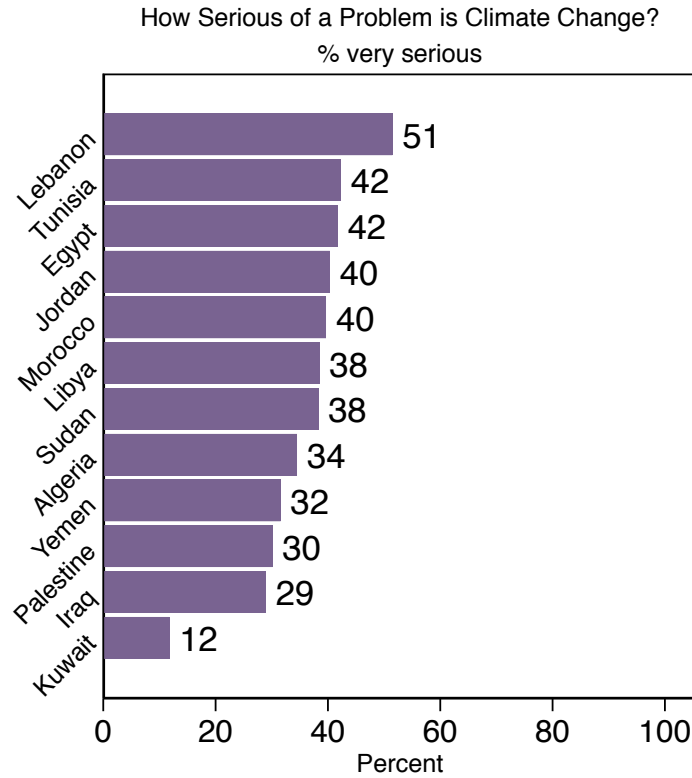
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In Wave 5 of the Arab Barometer, individuals are asked a series of questions about their views on the environment. In particular, survey respondents are asked how seriously they view the problems of climate change, air quality, water pollution, and trash. For each of the four environmental issues, individuals state whether they view the problem as "very serious", "serious", "not serious", or "not all serious". Overall, a majority of respondents are very concerned with water pollution and trash (70 percent and 66 percent, respectively), while relatively fewer respondents are concerned with climate change and air quality (35 percent and 44 percent, respectively).



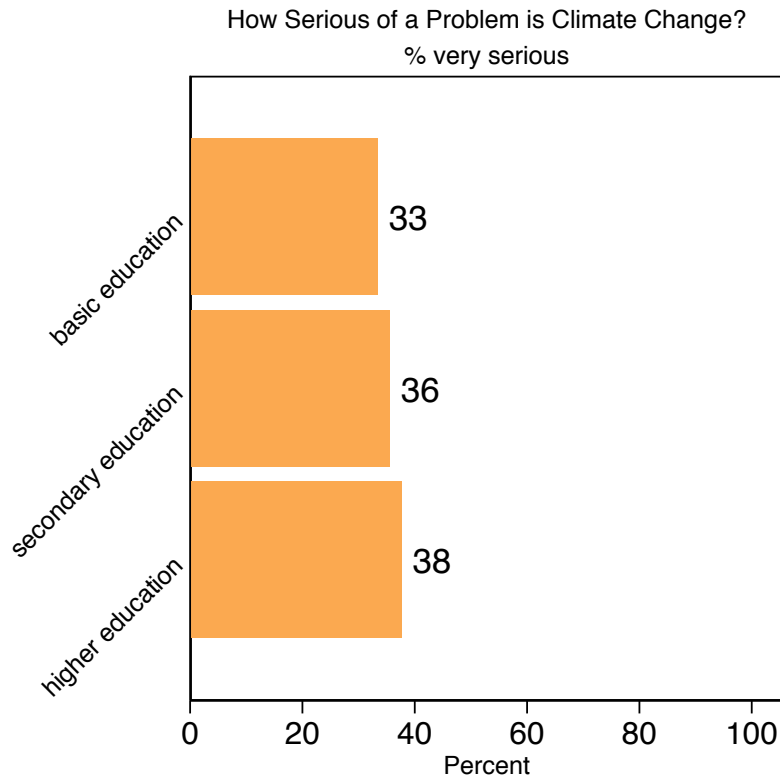
Overall, concerns with environmental issues – climate change, air quality, water pollution, and trash – are greater for individuals with higher levels of education, as compared to individuals with lower levels of education. By contrast, there is little to no variation in environmental views by age category in the Arab Barometer.

Climate Change



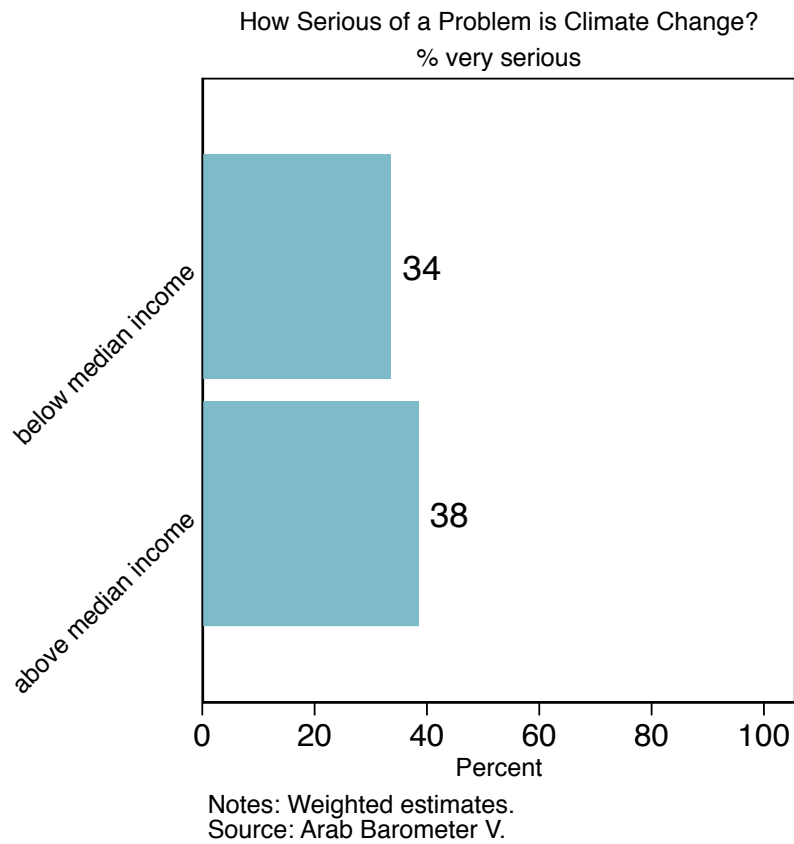
Notes: Weighted estimates.
Source: Arab Barometer V.

Compared to individuals in other countries, those surveyed in Lebanon were most likely to report that climate change is a "very serious" problem. More than half of the survey respondents in Lebanon, 51 percent, say that climate change is a "very serious" problem, more than any other country surveyed. By contrast, only 12 percent of individuals in Kuwait, a major oil producer, believe that climate change is a very serious problem.

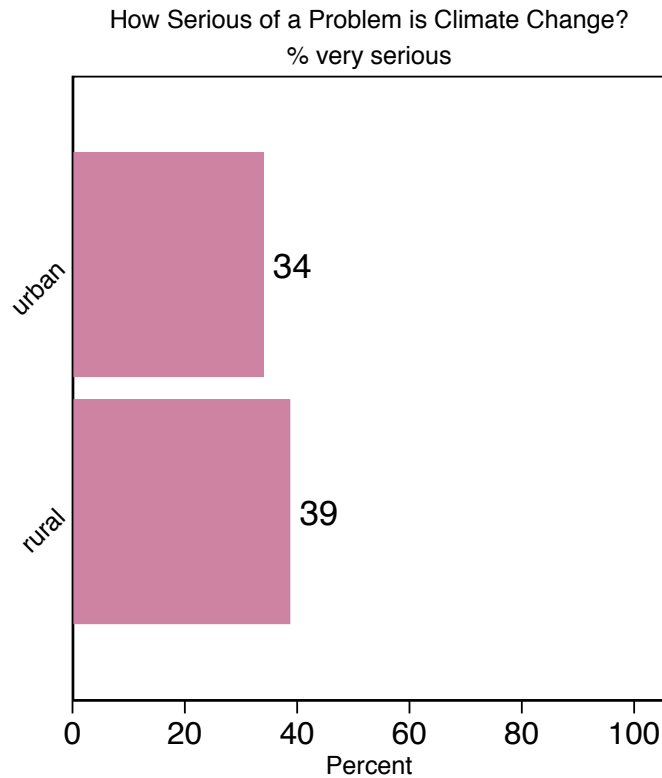


Notes: Weighted estimates.
Source: Arab Barometer V.

Across the region, education is weakly linked with attitudes toward climate change. Individuals with higher levels of education are more likely to view climate change as a "very serious" problem – 38 percent of individuals with secondary or higher education view climate change as highly problematic, as compared to 33 percent of individuals with a basic education.



Similarly, concerns about climate change vary relatively little by income, with 38 percent of individuals with incomes above their country's approximate median view climate change as a "very serious" problem, as compared to 34 percent of individuals with income below the median income within their country.

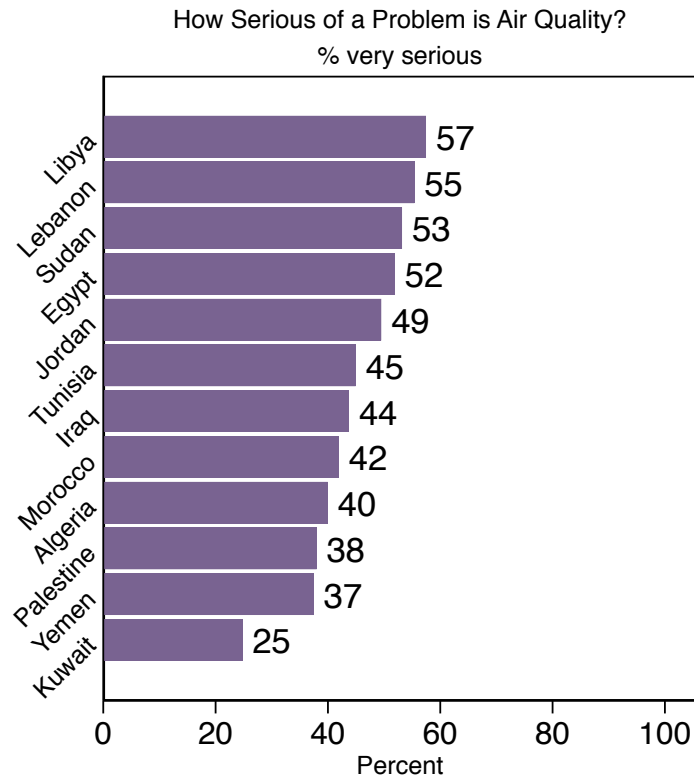


Notes: Weighted estimates.
Source: Arab Barometer V.

Perhaps surprisingly, across the region climate change is viewed as most problematic by individuals living in rural areas and less problematic by individuals living in urban areas. Thirty-nine percent of individuals surveyed in rural areas reported that climate change is a "very serious" problem as compared with 34 percent of individuals in urban areas. By contrast, views on climate change are comparably consistent by age and gender.

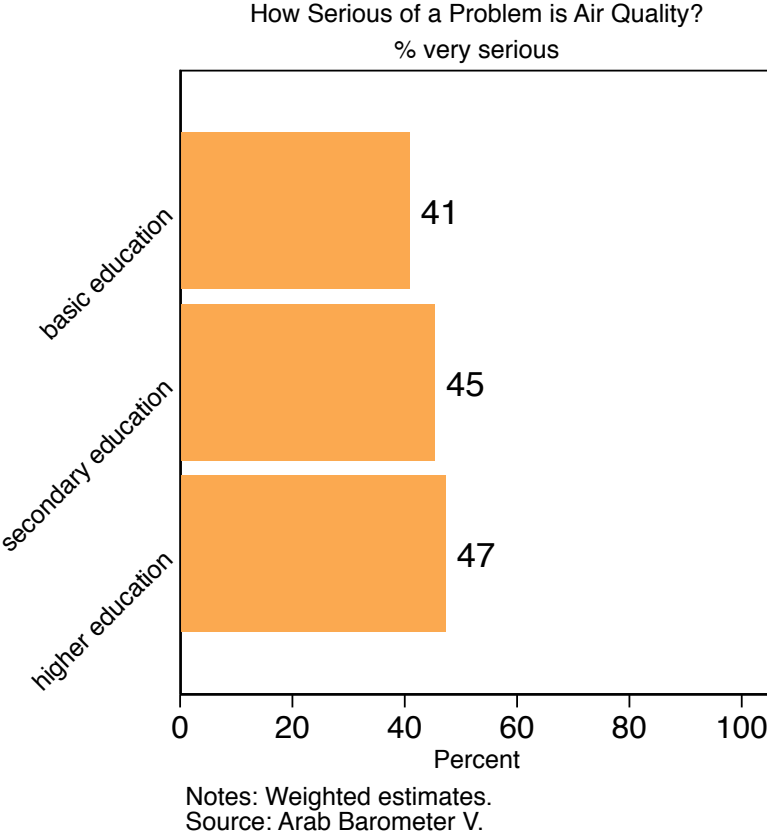
Air Quality

Views of air quality as a "very serious" problem vary by country – from a high of 57 percent of Arab Barometer survey respondents in Libya, to a low of 25 percent of Arab Barometer survey respondents in Kuwait.

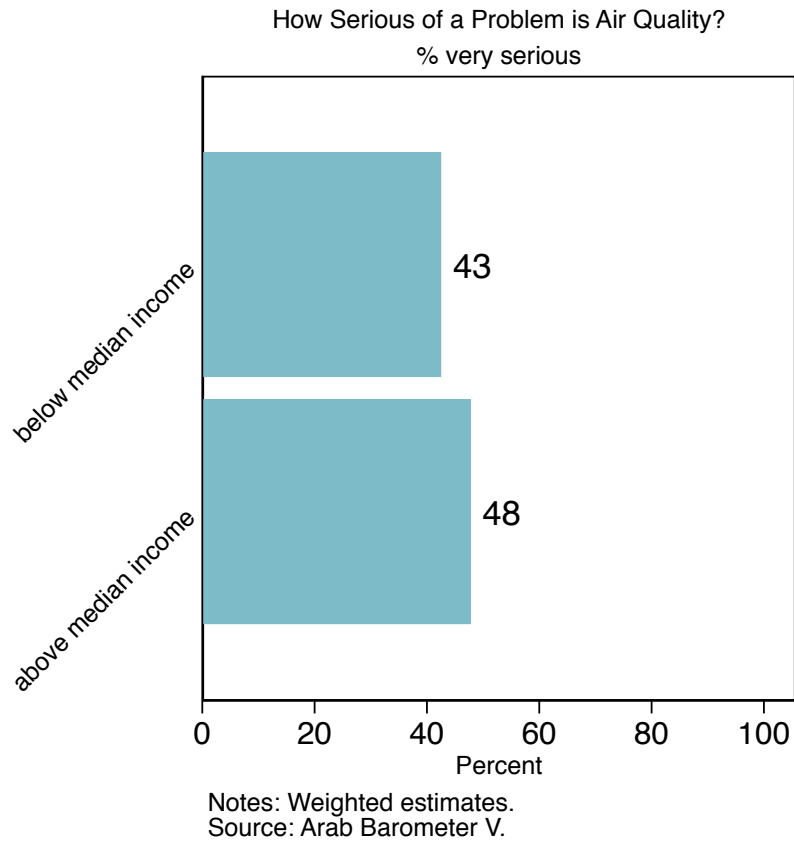


Notes: Weighted estimates.
Source: Arab Barometer V.

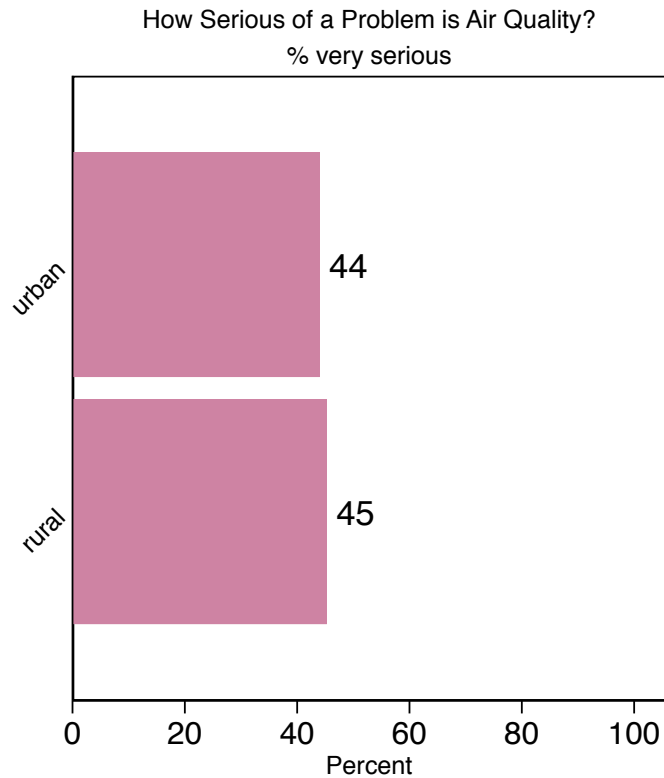
Those with higher levels of education are more likely to report that air quality is a "very serious" problem, as compared to those with lower levels of education.



Forty-seven percent of individuals with higher education view air quality as a "very serious" problem, as compared to 45 percent of individuals with secondary education, and 41 percent of individuals with basic education.



Air quality is viewed as more problematic by individuals with incomes above the median level of income for their country, and less problematic by those with incomes below the median. Forty-eight percent of individuals with incomes above the median view air quality as a "very serious" problem, as compared to 43 percent of individuals with income below the median. Views on air quality as a problem vary by area type as well - 45 percent of individuals in rural areas view air quality as a "very serious" problem, as compared with 44 percent of those in urban areas.

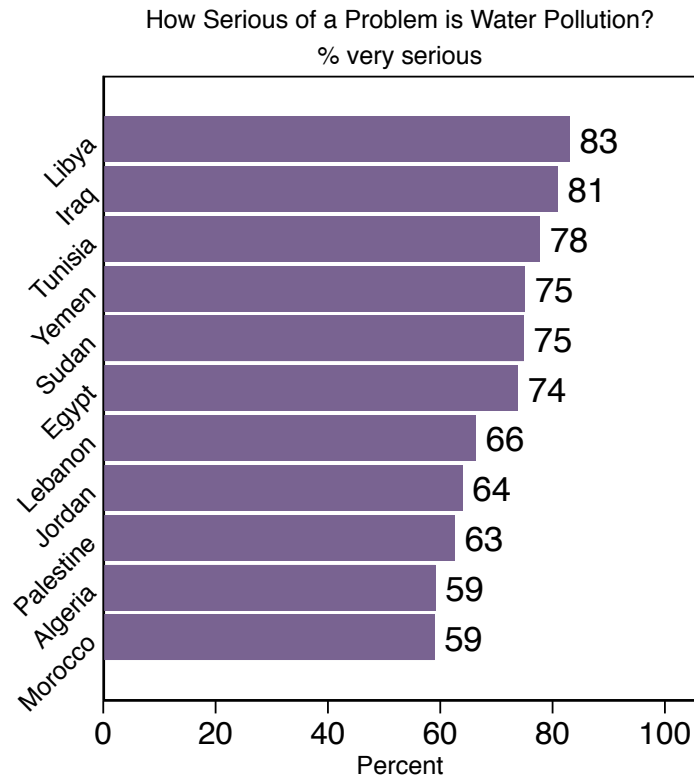


Notes: Weighted estimates.
Source: Arab Barometer V.

In contrast to the variation in air quality concerns by education, income, and urbanicity, survey responses on the seriousness of air quality as a problem are largely consistent by age category, and also by gender.

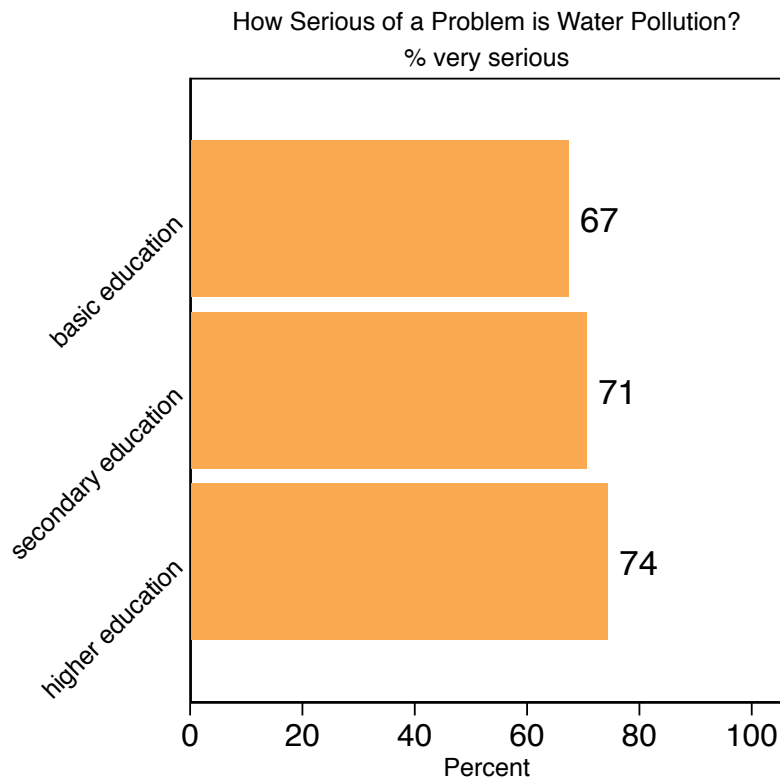
Water Pollution

Water pollution is viewed as most problematic in Libya, with 83 percent of individuals reporting that water pollution is a "very serious" problem, and least problematic in Morocco, where 59 percent report that water pollution is a "very serious" problem.



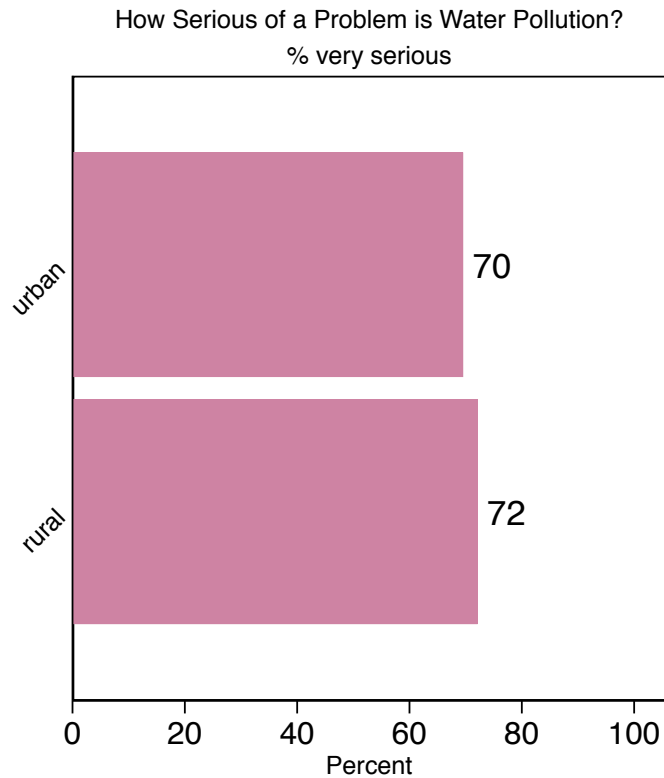
Notes: Weighted estimates.
Source: Arab Barometer V.

Concern with water pollution are greatest among individuals with a higher education as compared to individuals with lower levels of education. Seventy-four percent of individuals with a higher education view water pollution as an important problem, as compared to 71 percent of individuals with a secondary education, and 67 percent of individuals with a basic education.



Notes: Weighted estimates.
Source: Arab Barometer V.

Views on water pollution vary relatively little by place of residence, with 72 percent of individuals in rural areas reporting that water pollution is a "very serious" problem, as compared with 70 percent of individuals in urban areas.

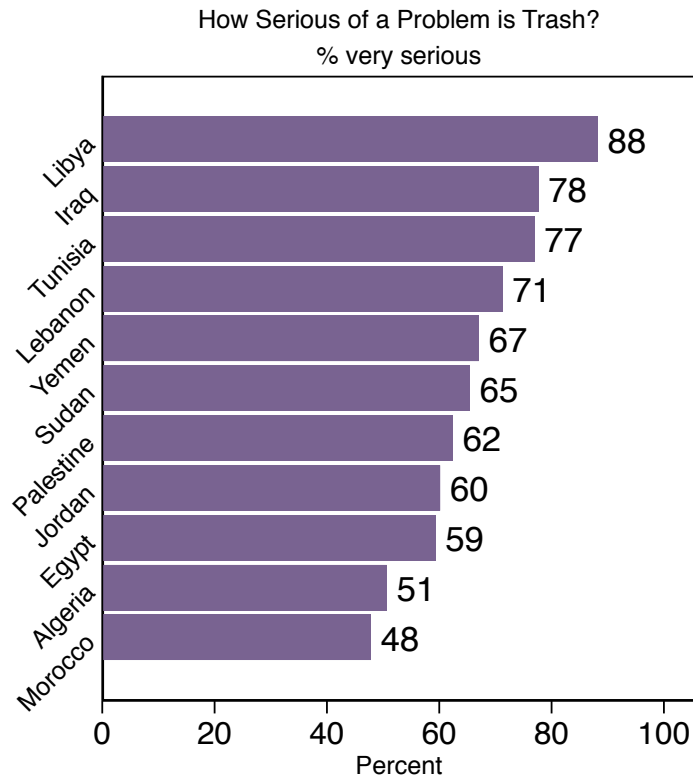


Notes: Weighted estimates.
Source: Arab Barometer V.

In contrast to the variation in views on water pollution by education and area type, views on the extent of water pollution as a problem are relatively consistent across individuals in different age, gender, and income categories.

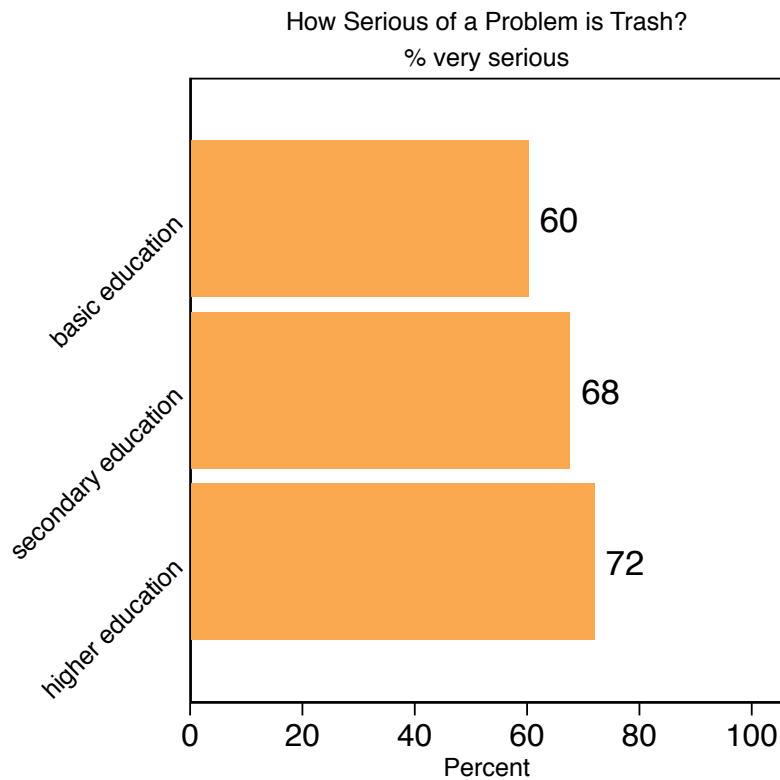
Trash

Eighty-eight percent of individuals in Libya report that trash is a "very serious" problem, a higher percent of individuals than in any other country surveyed by the Arab Barometer. By contrast, citizens are least concerned with trash in Morocco, where only 48 percent view trash as a "very serious" problem.



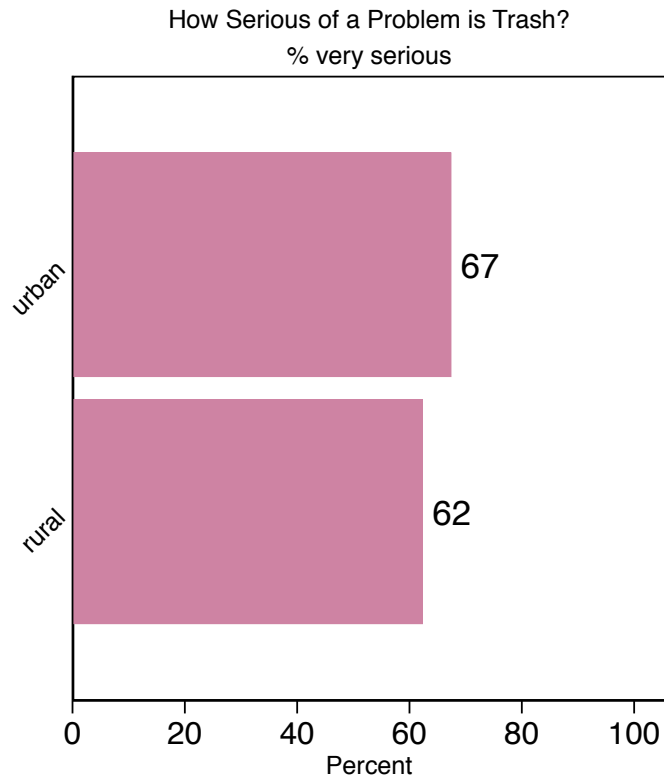
Notes: Weighted estimates.
Source: Arab Barometer V.

Individuals with higher levels of education are more concerned with trash as an important problem, as compared to those with lower levels of education.



Notes: Weighted estimates.
Source: Arab Barometer V.

Trash is considered to be a "very serious" problem by 72 percent of individuals with higher education, 68 percent of individuals with secondary education, and 60 percent of individuals with basic education. Rates of concern with trash as a problem additionally vary somewhat by place of residence - 67 percent of individuals in urban areas report that trash is a "very serious" problem, as compared to 62 percent of individuals in rural areas.



Notes: Weighted estimates.
Source: Arab Barometer V.

Views on trash as an important problem are comparably stable when compared across genders, age categories, and income levels as compared to median country incomes.



About Arab Barometer

The Arab Barometer is a nonpartisan research network that provides insights into the social, political, and economic attitudes and values of ordinary citizens across the Arab world.

We have been conducting rigorous, and nationally representative face-to-face public opinion surveys on probability samples of the adult populations across the Arab world since 2006. The margin of error is ± 3 percent.

The Arab Barometer is the largest repository of publicly available data on the views of men and women in the MENA region. Our findings give a voice to the needs and concerns of Arab publics.



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