

Get Abuse in Israel: A study among Jewish women who went through a divorce process in Israel

The study was conducted for:

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**Presented by Prof. Ruth
Halperin-Kaddari**



Information Strategy & Solutions

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Objectives & Methodology

Objectives:

This study examines experiences of divorce proceedings among Jewish women in Israel, aiming to uncover the extent of *get*-abuse by men, as particularly reflected in the husband's power to extort concessions under the threat of refusing to give the *get*.

Methodology:

Telephone survey using a computerized survey system.

Respondents:

National representative sample of Jewish women, aged 30+, who have gone through a divorce procedure.
(Women who are divorced today, married women today who have divorced in the past, women who are separated but have gone through a divorce procedure, and women who are in a divorce procedure these days).

Sample size:

N=320 (representing roughly 200,000 women)

Date of execution:

The third week of May, 2013.

The hidden extortion:

The fear of not getting the *get*

(Rough) estimation of
the number of women:

Every **third** woman reported being subject to threats of *get* refusal
[Among religious and ultra-Orthodox, it is every **second** woman!]

77,000
[17,000]

Every **fourth** woman in divorce is very concerned that her husband
will refuse to give her the *get* unless she makes concessions.

62,000

Every **fifth** woman reported that of all stressful factors affecting the
divorce process, the single one they feared the most was *get*
extortion
[Among religious and ultra-Orthodox, it is every **fourth** woman!]

42,000
[8,000]

Then how come only a third of the women felt the divorce process is
unjust??

Denial, lack of knowledge and false-consciousness: The close connection between *get*-abuse and length of the divorce process

(Rough) estimation of
the number of women:

Almost a **third** of the divorces end in settlements that deviate from the law to the disadvantage of women.

56,000

The longer the divorce process, the higher the rate of concessional settlements: in 40% of the cases of prolonged divorces the final divorce settlements indeed reflected deviation from the law in favor of the men

40,000

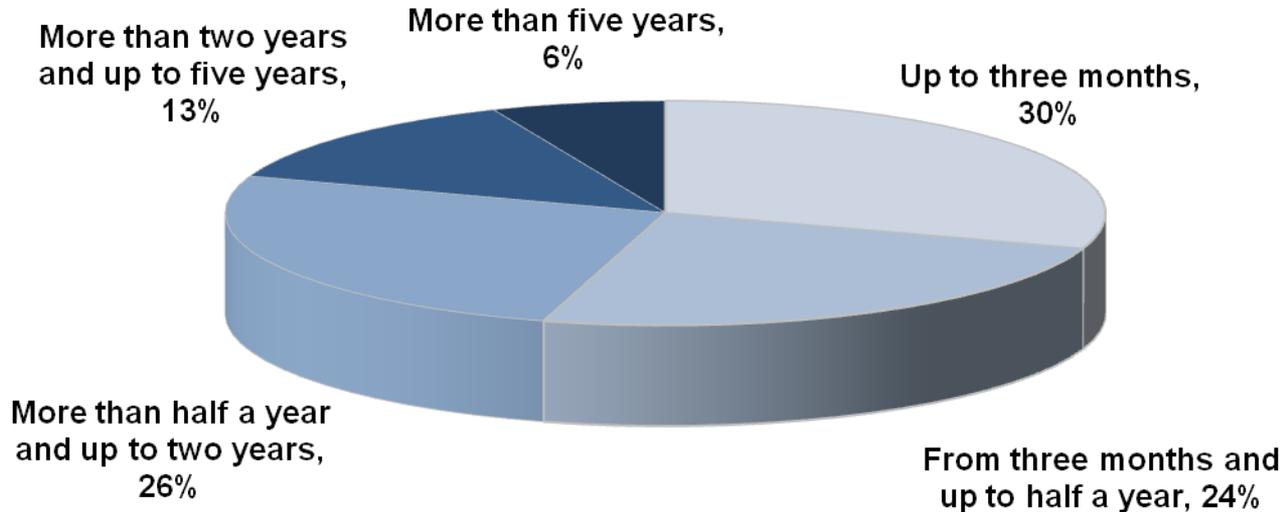
And in case anyone doubted the connection between threats and submission: 70% of the women whose divorce settlements were to their disadvantage, were indeed subject to threats of *get* refusals

Finally, as the level of education decreases, and the level of religiosity increases, the rate of deviation from the law to the detriment of the women increases: every **second** religious and ultra-Orthodox woman has made concessions

18,000

The length of the divorce process

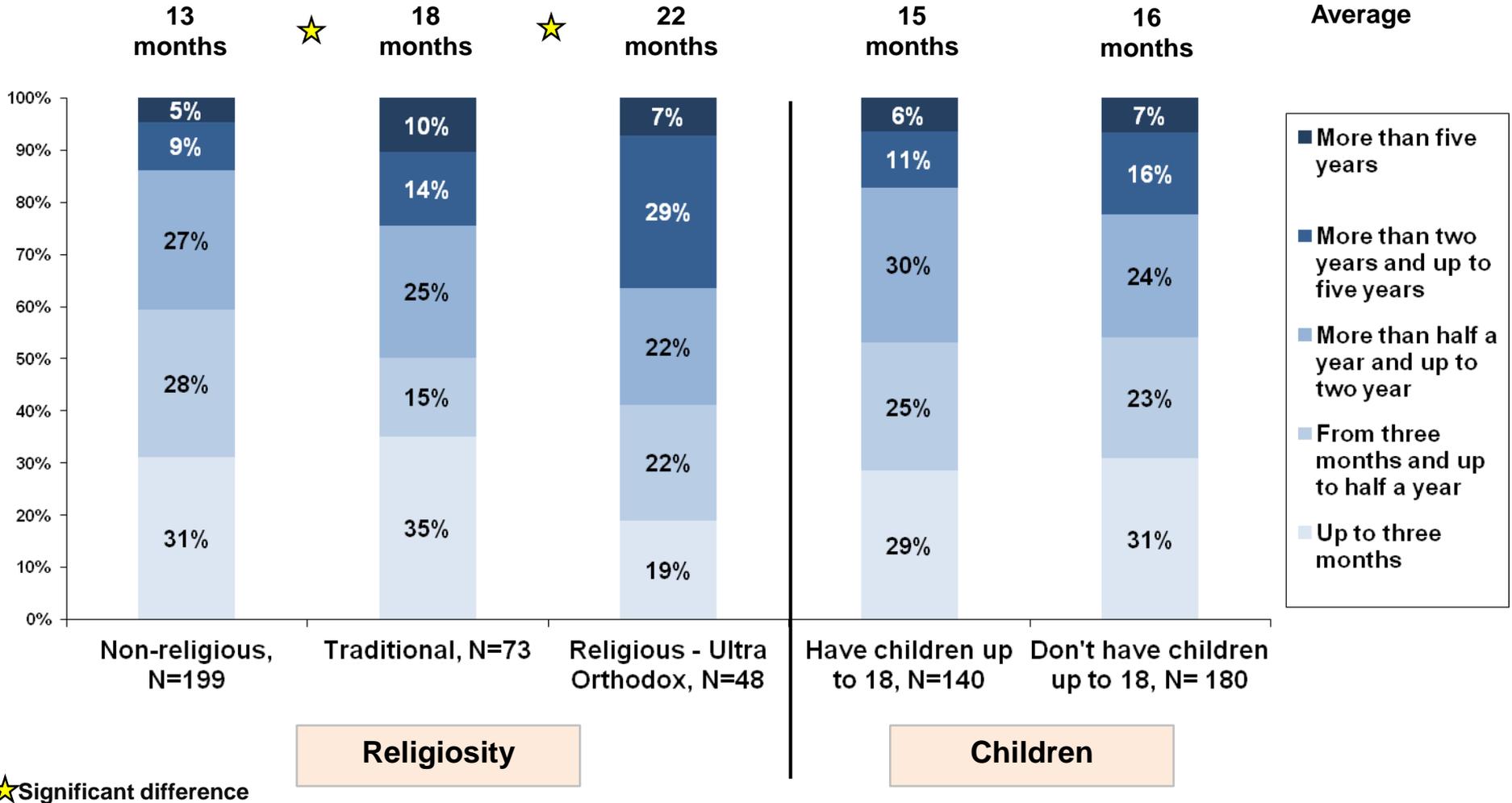
What was the length of the divorce process from the day in which the divorce case was opened and until receiving the divorce?



The average length of the divorce procedure is about a year and 3 months.

The length of the divorce process

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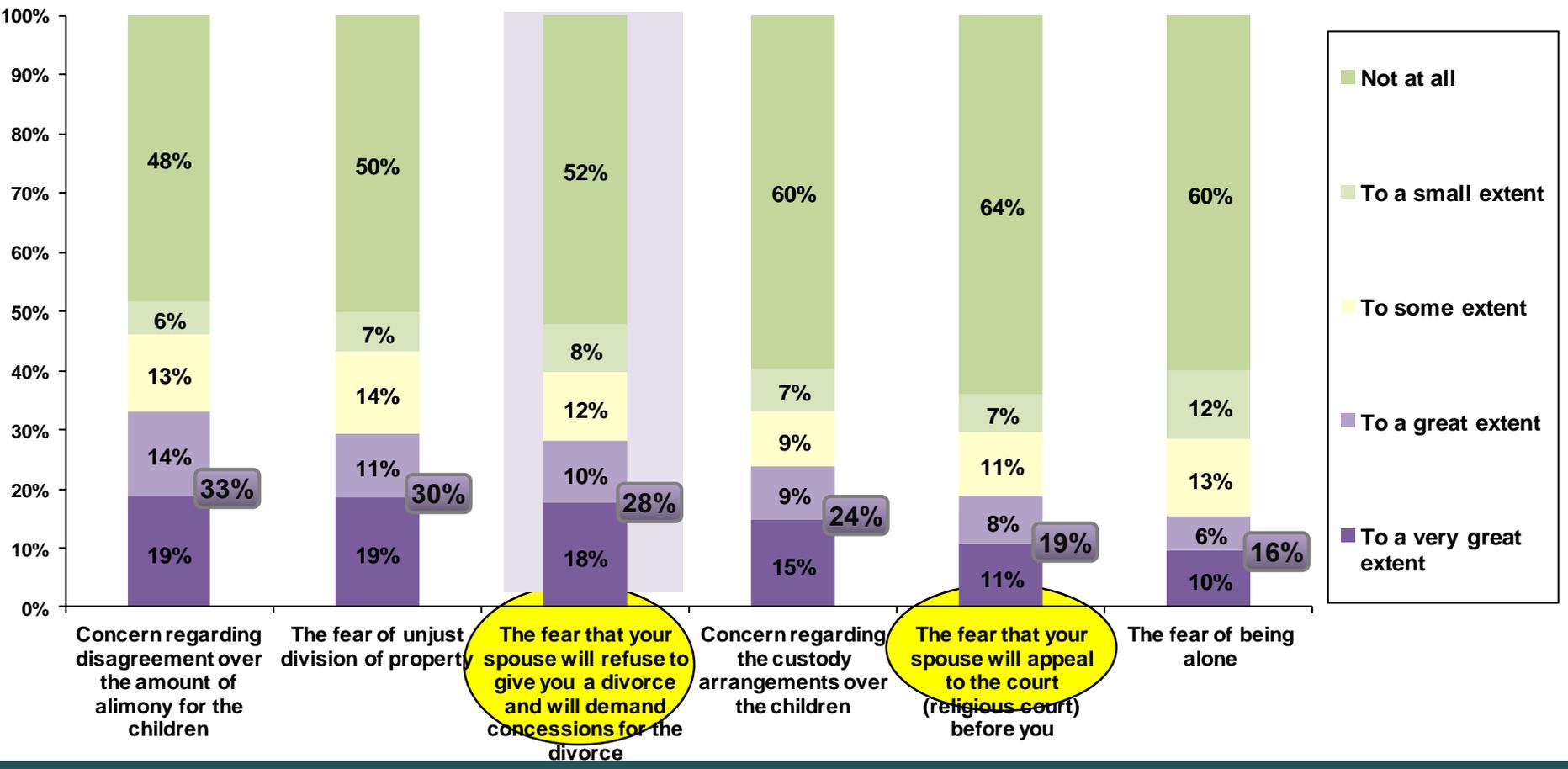


The duration of the divorce procedure increases with the level of religiosity.

No correlation was found between the duration of the divorce and having small children.

Pressure resulting from various factors in the divorce process

For each of the following factors, please indicate to what extent you feel that it has/had negative effect on you, or has/had put pressure on you during the divorce process:

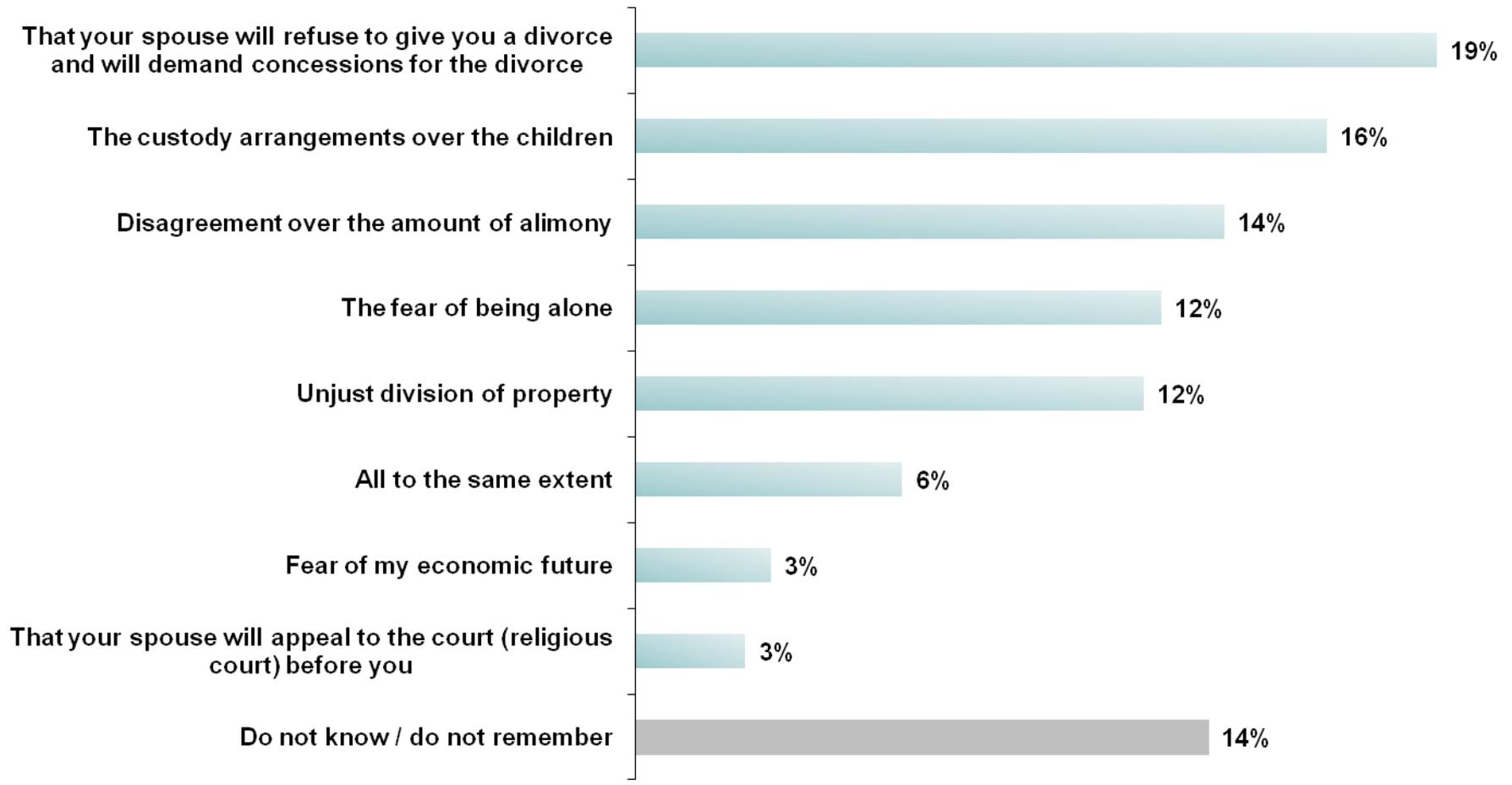


28% of the divorcing women are very concerned that their husband will refuse to give them the get unless they make concessions in return for the get.

(go back to [The hidden extortion](#).)

The most negatively influential pressure factor in the divorce process

Of the following factors, what is the one you fear (feared) the most in the divorce process?

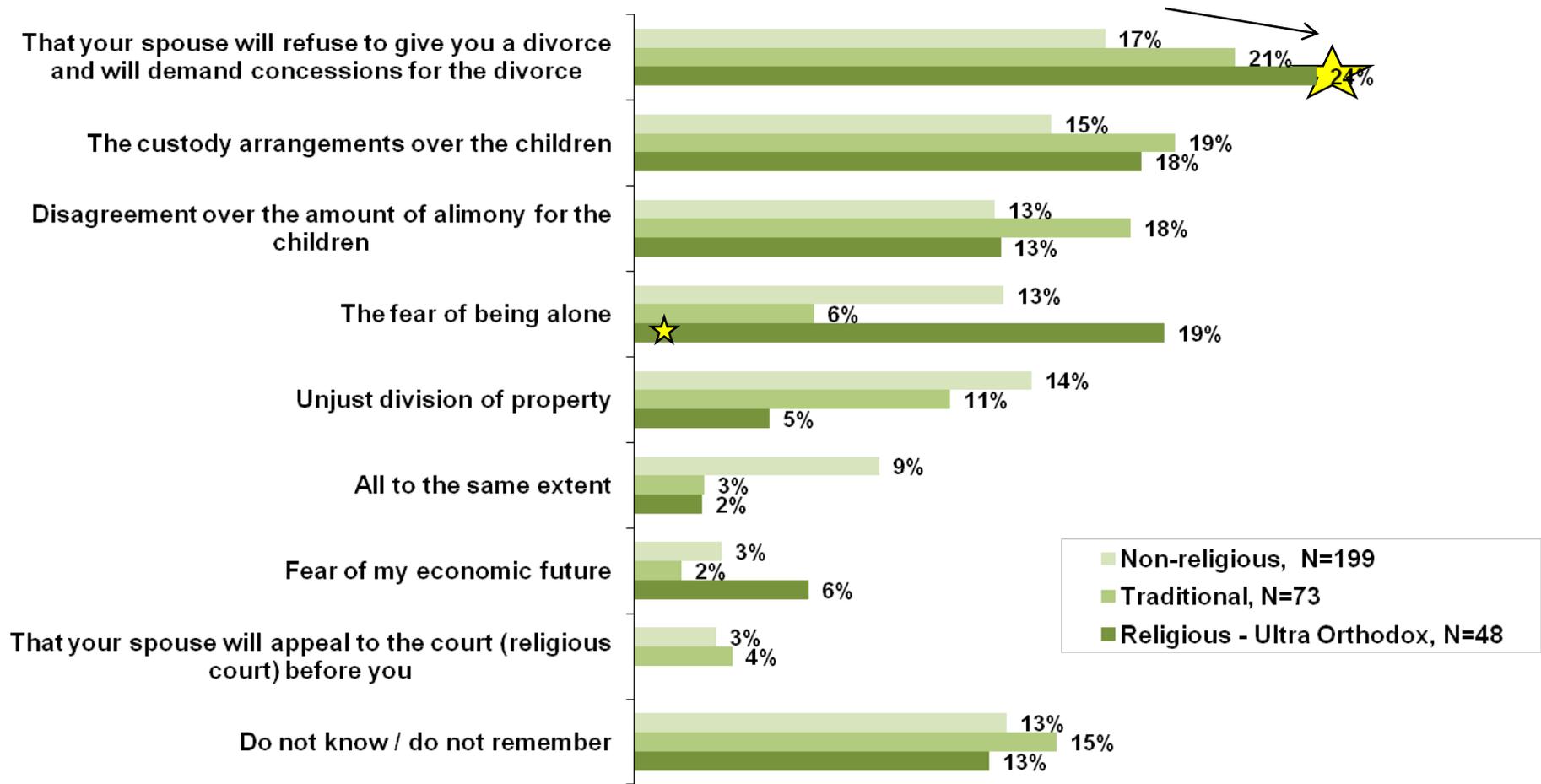


When asked to choose the most negatively influential pressure factor in the divorce proceedings, the concern of not getting the *get* without concessions was mentioned in the highest rate.

(back to [The hidden extortion](#))

The most influential pressure factor in the divorce procedure

Of the following things, what is the thing you fear (feared) the most in the divorce process?



★ Significant difference

The concern of not getting the *get* unless concessions are made increases with the level of religiosity. Religious and ultra-orthodox women mentioned in a relatively high rate the fear of being alone.

(go back to [The hidden extortion](#).)

Threat or implication from the husband that he will refuse to give the *get*

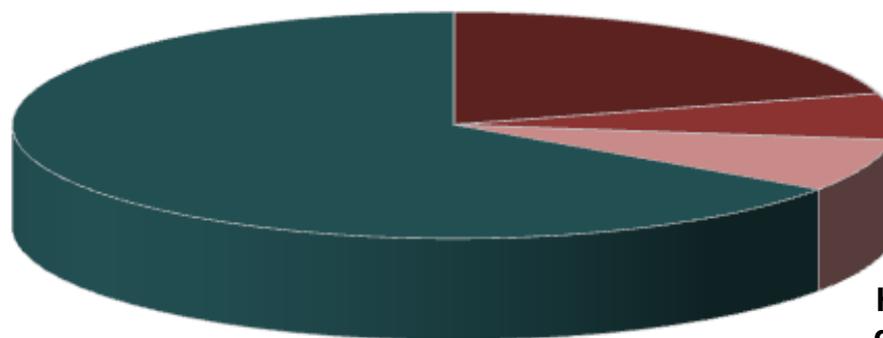
Did your husband (ex-husband) at some point say, threaten or imply that he will refuse to give you *get*?

He did not say, threaten
or imply that he will not
give me a divorce, 64%

He said so explicitly,
21%

He threatened not to
give me a divorce, 7%

He implied he will not
give me a divorce, 8%

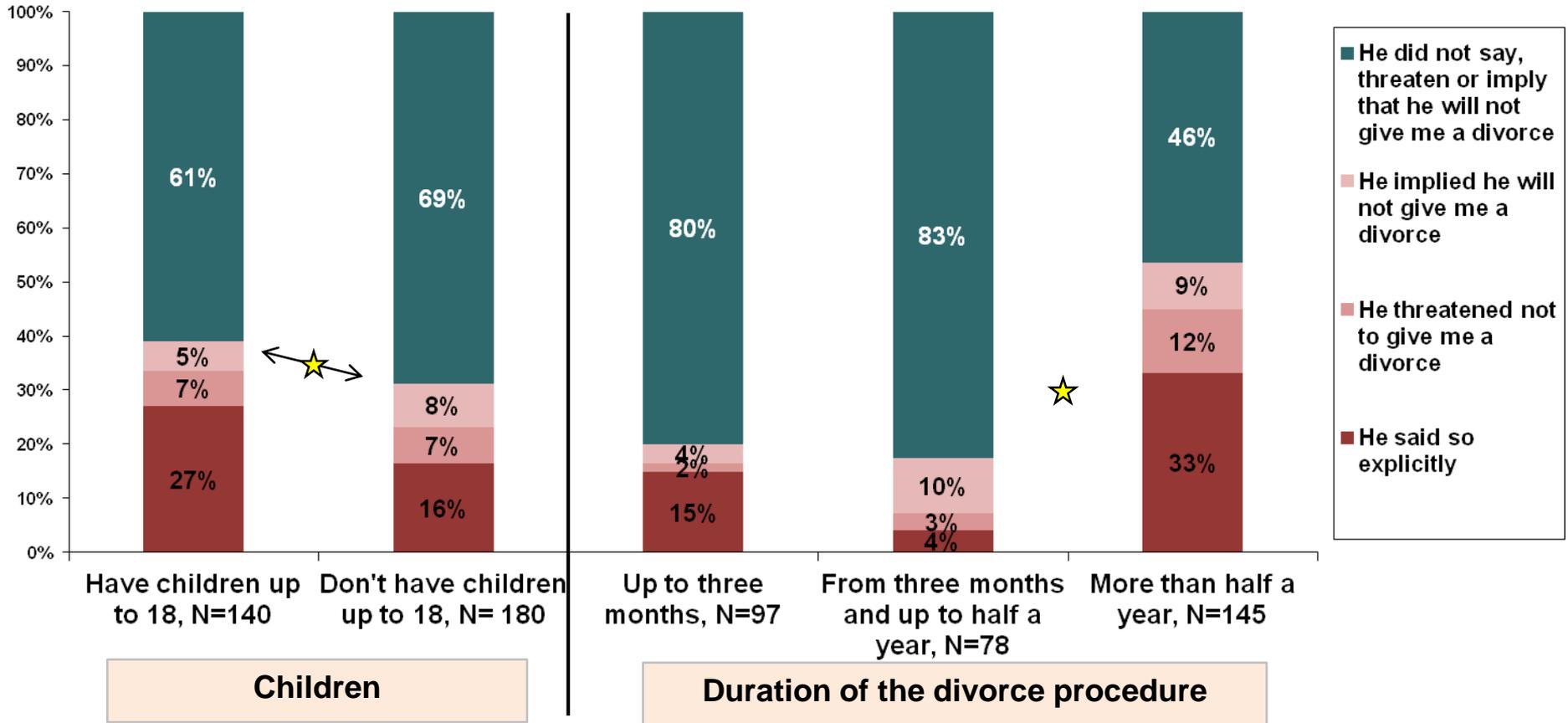


When asked specifically, 36% of the women who went through a divorce proceedings said that their (ex)husband implied, threatened or said explicitly that he would refuse to give them the *get*.

(back to [The hidden extortion](#))

Threat or implication from the husband that he will deny the divorce

Did your husband (ex-husband) at some point say, threaten or imply that he will refuse to give you divorce?



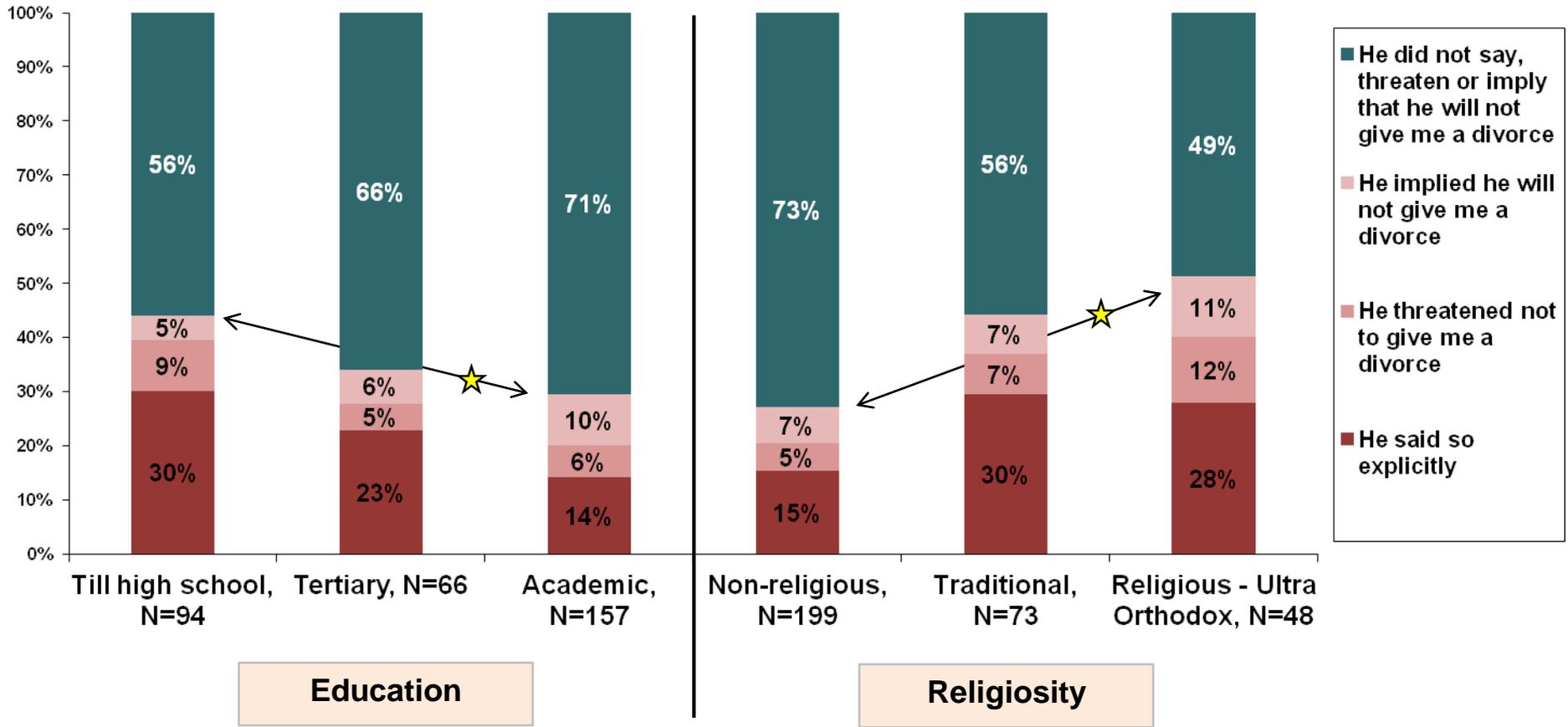
★ Significant difference

The rate of threats to withhold the *get* was much higher in cases of prolonged divorce

(go back to [Denial, lack of knowledge and false-consciousness](#))

Threat or implication from the husband that he will deny the divorce

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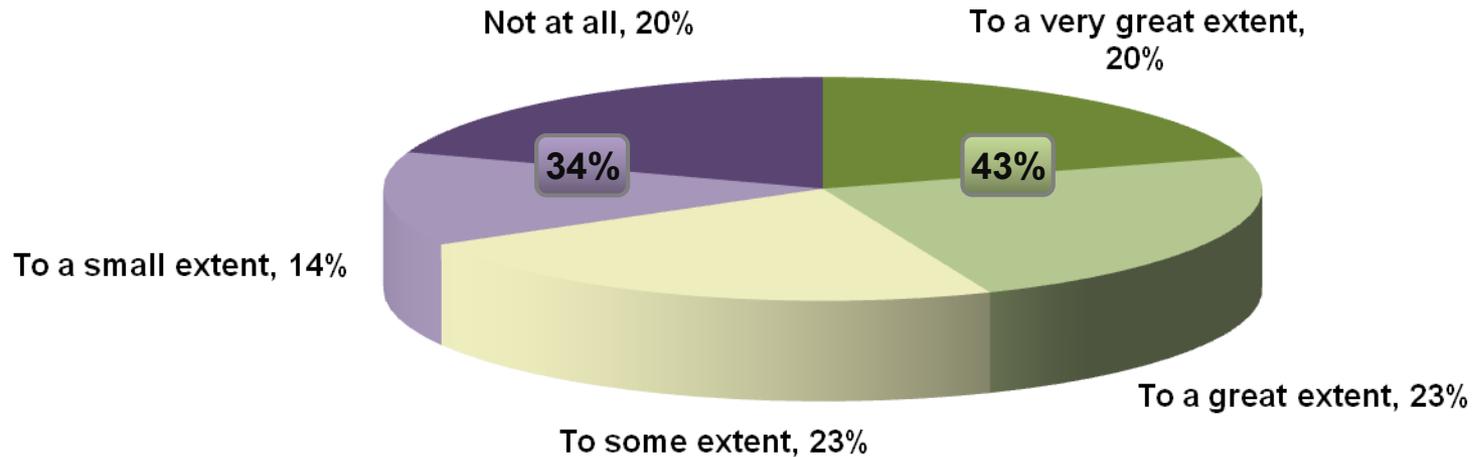


As the level of education decreases and the level of religiosity increases so is the rate of women who were subjected to threats of *get* refusals by their husbands.

(go back to [The hidden extortion](#))

Perception of the equality of the divorce procedure

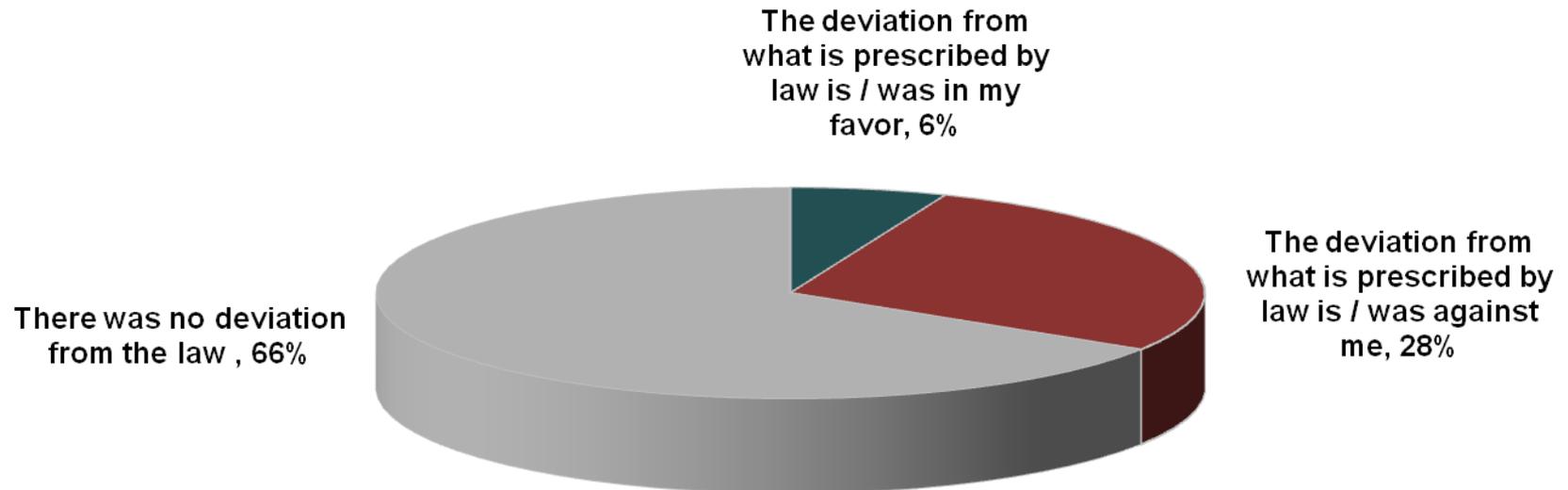
In general, to what extent do you feel that the divorce process that you went through / are going through was an equal process, in which both partners had a similar position of power?



About a third of the women believe that the divorce procedure was not an equal process in which both partners had a similar position of power.

Was there a deviation from the law in the divorce settlement?

According to the Israeli law, when a couple gets divorced each spouse receives half of the family property which includes half of the apartment, of the bank accounts, of the savings plans and the pension. The mother usually receives custody over the children, and the father is obligated to pay child support. In your own case, does/did the divorce settlement, the property settlement or the child support deviate from what is prescribed by law? If so, which of the following is true -

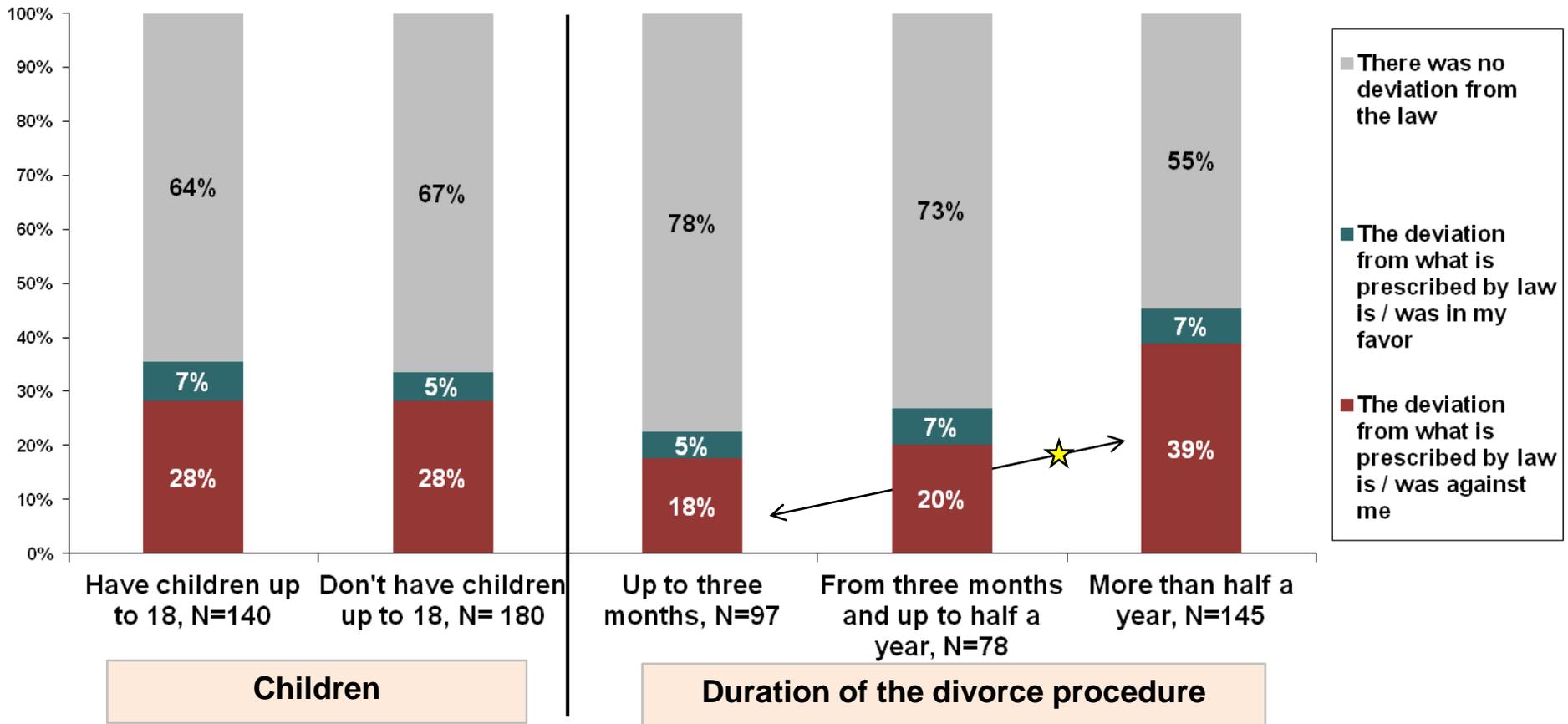


Almost a third of the divorces end in settlements that deviate from the law to the disadvantage of women.

(go [back](#))

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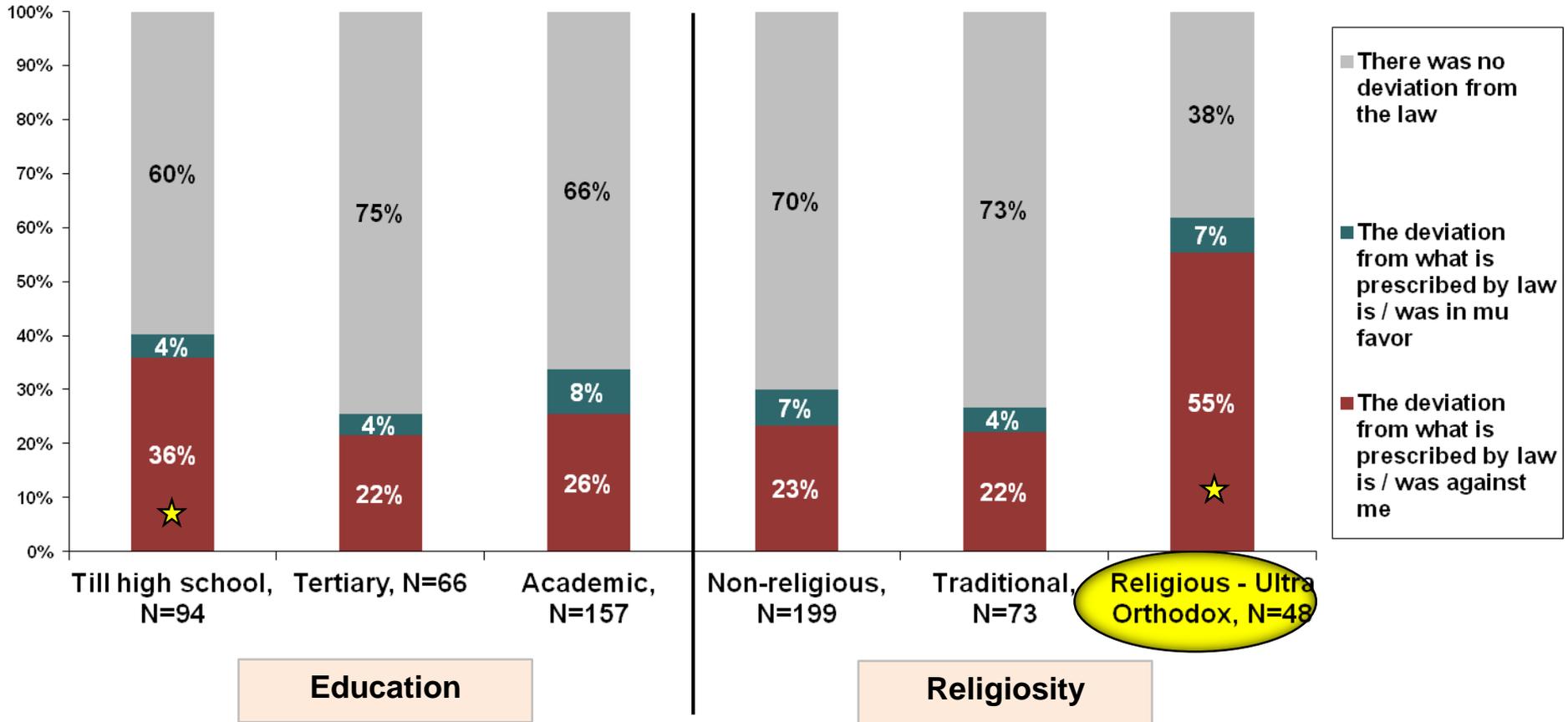


The longer the divorce, the higher the incidence of deviation from the law, to the detriment of the women, implying concessions on her behalf

(go back to [The hidden extortion](#).)

Was there a deviation from the law in the divorce settlement?

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Deviation from the law to their detriment was much higher among women of lower education and especially among religious and ultra-orthodox women