



# The Results of the 2008 Voter Participation Survey Commissioned by the IEC





# About this Presentation

1. Introduction & Background: About the Survey
2. Objectives of the Survey
3. Research Methodology
4. Key Findings
5. Usefulness/Utility of the survey to IEC



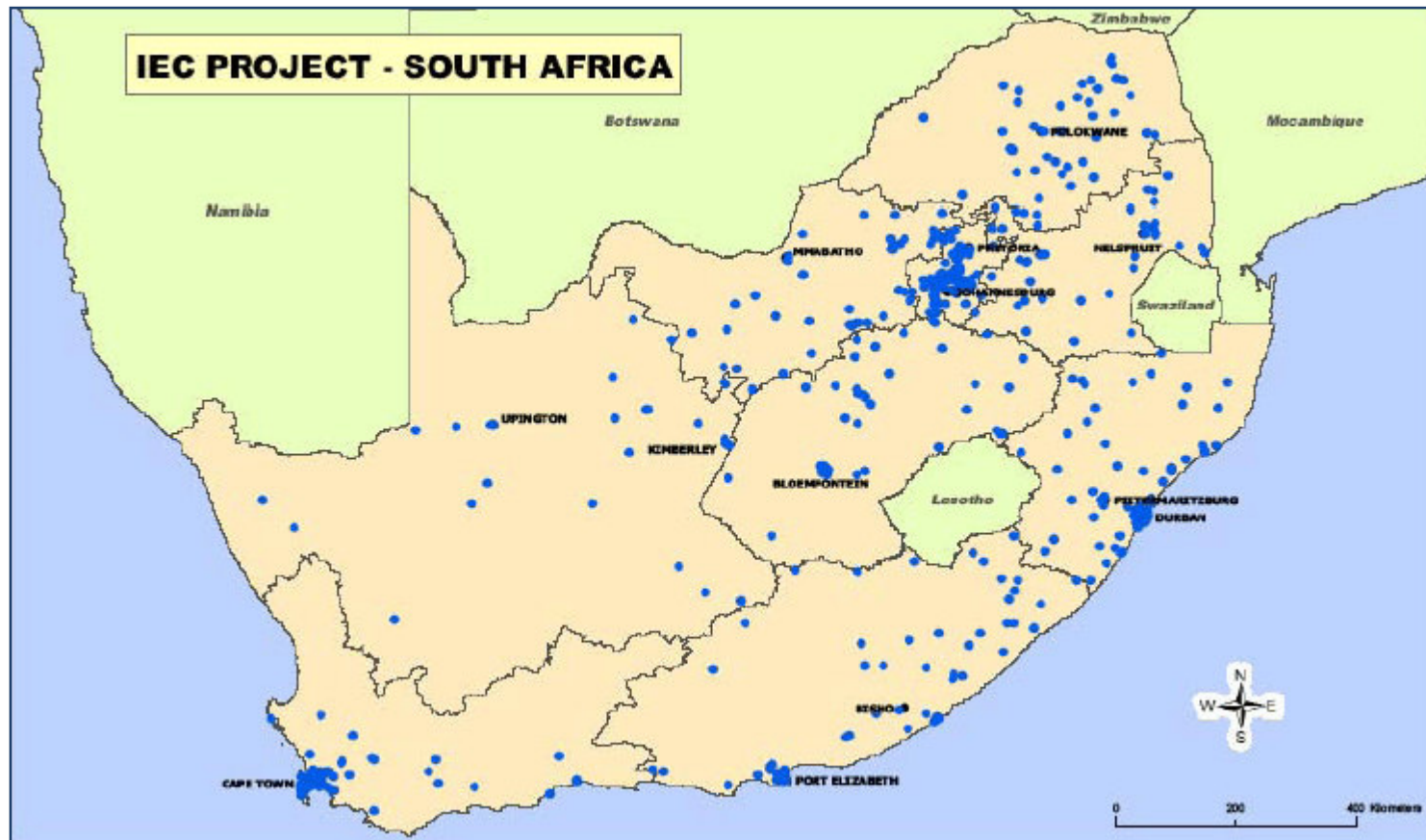
# Research Methodology

- ➔ The aim: to determine the state of the electoral process including voting behaviour among South Africans as well as the IEC ability or preparedness to manage all aspects of the elections.
- ➔ A representative sample of 3885 respondents was drawn from 500 Enumeration Areas (EA's) in South Africa.
- ➔ Using systematic sampling technique, 8 households were selected from each EA. One person aged 18+ was selected from each household.
- ➔ Face-to-face interviews were conducted in the preferred language of the respondent.



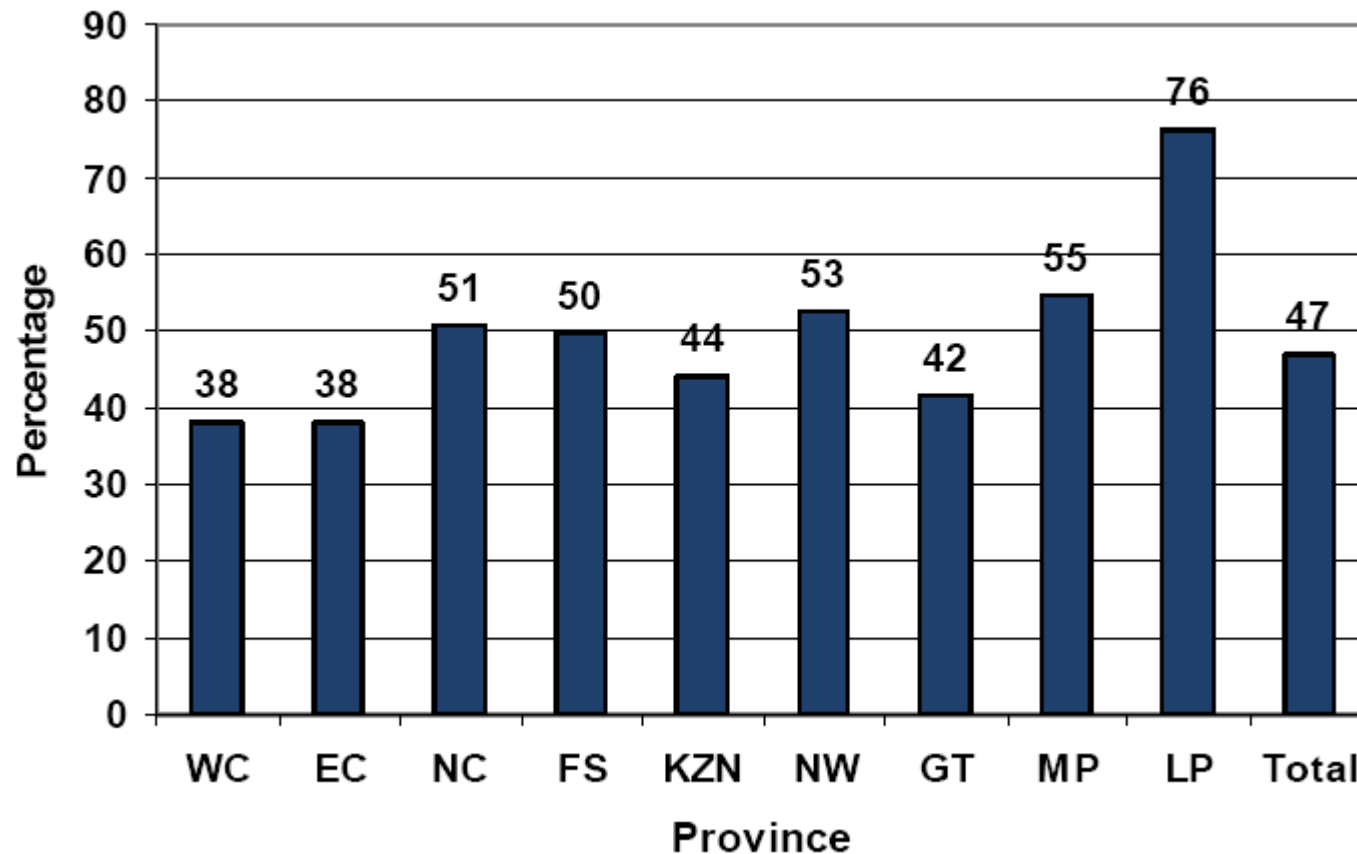
SOUTH AFRICA

# Sample Distribution



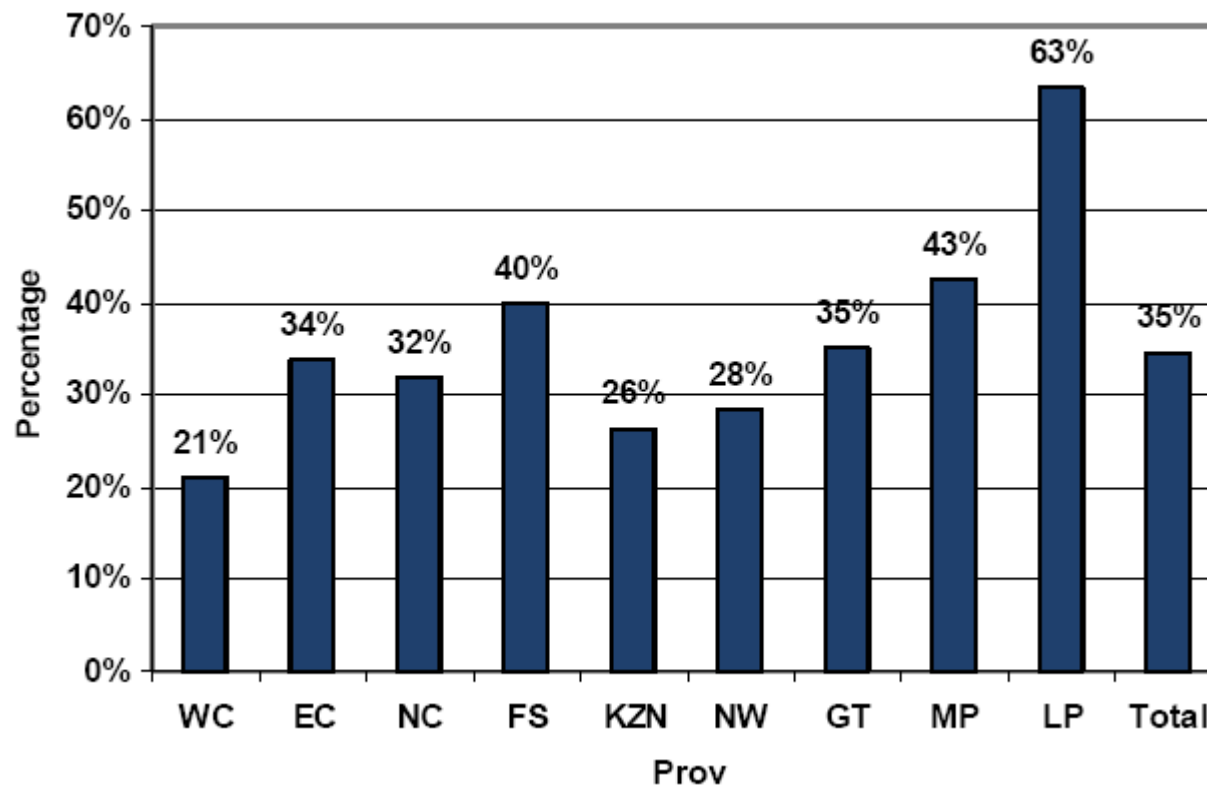


## Q2: Life has improved for most South Africans in the last 5 years (N=1790)





## Q3: Life has improved for the individual respondent in the last 5 years (N=1326)





## Q7&9: Green Bar-Coded ID (N=3878)

- Overall 97% have ID's
- Only 3% (n=94) did not have green bar-coded ID's
- Those without ID's were mostly from KZN (5%) and NW (5%)
- The largest proportion with no ID's were within the urban informal (4%), traditional (4%) and rural formal areas (5%) and among Africans (3%)
- About 8% of 18-24 year olds had no ID but 97% of these intend to apply
- Majority (96%) of those without ID's intend to apply for one



## Q11: Are you registered as a voter? (N=3885)

- Overall 73% are registered
- Highest proportion of registered in NC (82%) and EC (81%)
- Lowest proportion in KZN (67%), rural formal (64%), urban informal (66%), Africans (71%) and among males (69%) compared to 75% of female.
- A conscious effort by women to empower themselves-participate in politics
- Lowest among 18-24 year olds (22%), secondary/matric level of education (65%)
- Lowest among those with no income (58%)





## Q12: When registered? (N=2755)

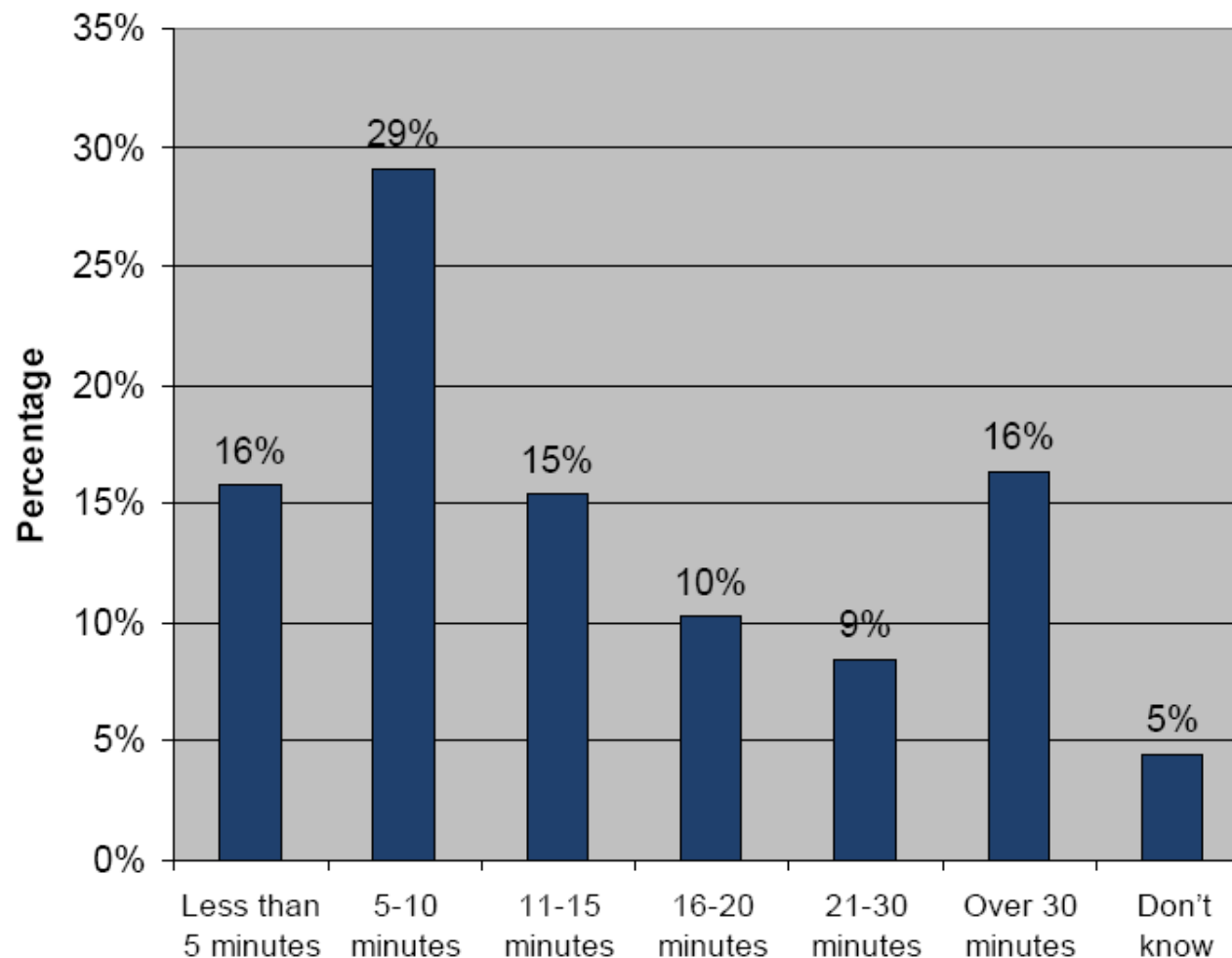
- ➔ In 1998 overall 25%, Highest in EC 40% lowest in GT (15%)
- ➔ In 1999 overall (17%), highest EC (26%)
- ➔ In 2004 overall (31%), highest LP (49%) and FS (47%)
- ➔ Other overall (13%) Highest GT (28%) and KZN (20%)
- ➔ These figure should be compared with actual figures in IEC



## Q13 to Q16: Did you find it easy to register?

- 97% (N=2809) found it easy to register
- 3% not easy or did not know
- Highest proportion of rural formal (6%) did not find it easy to register
- 89% registered in the district they reside
- Lowest in FS (76%) registered in the district they reside
- Highest proportion (13%) of urban formal are not registered in the district where they live
- Lowest proportion (6%) of Coloured are not registered in the district where they live
- 96% issued with proof of registration

## Q17: How long did it take to register?

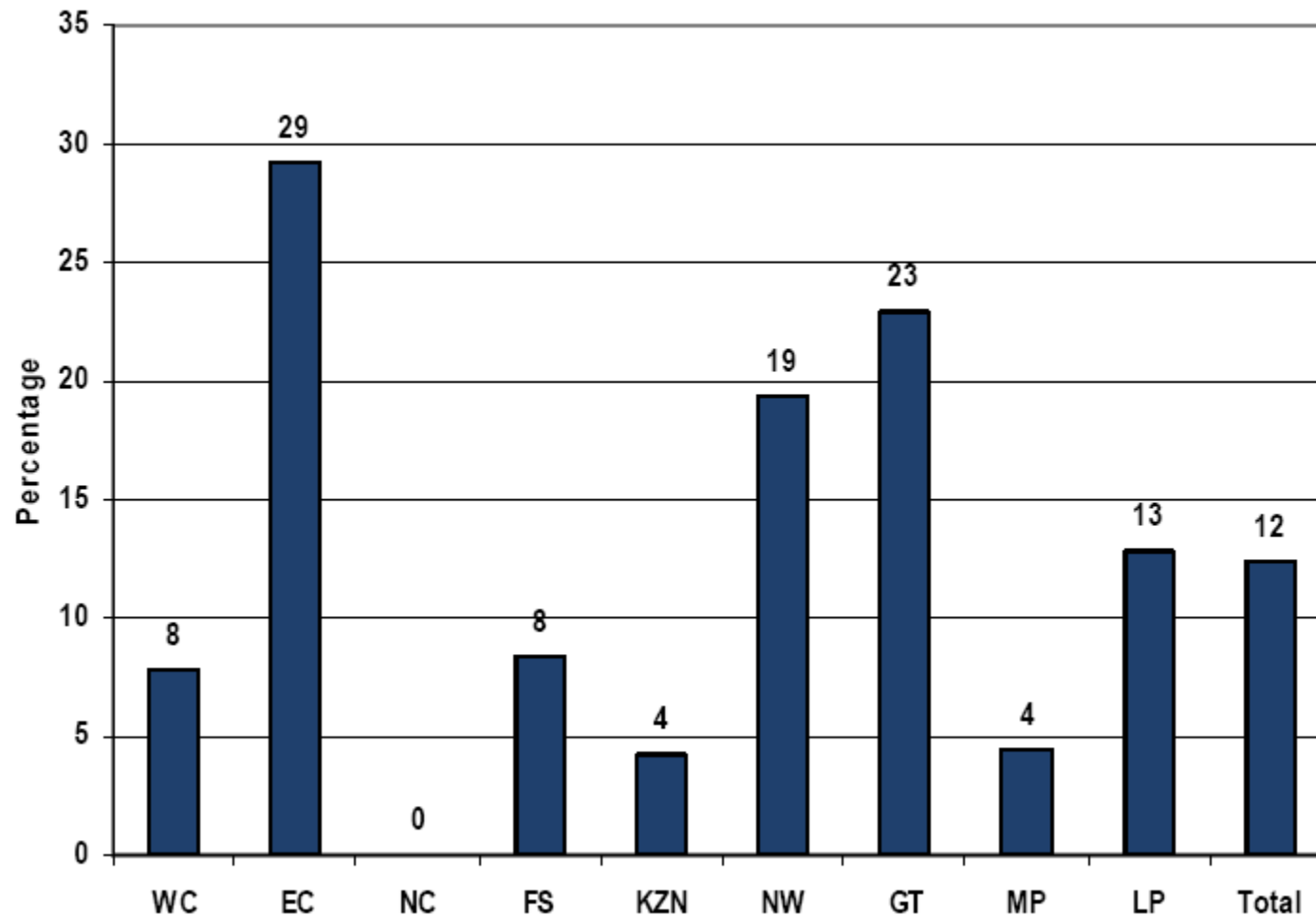




## Q17: Time taken to register

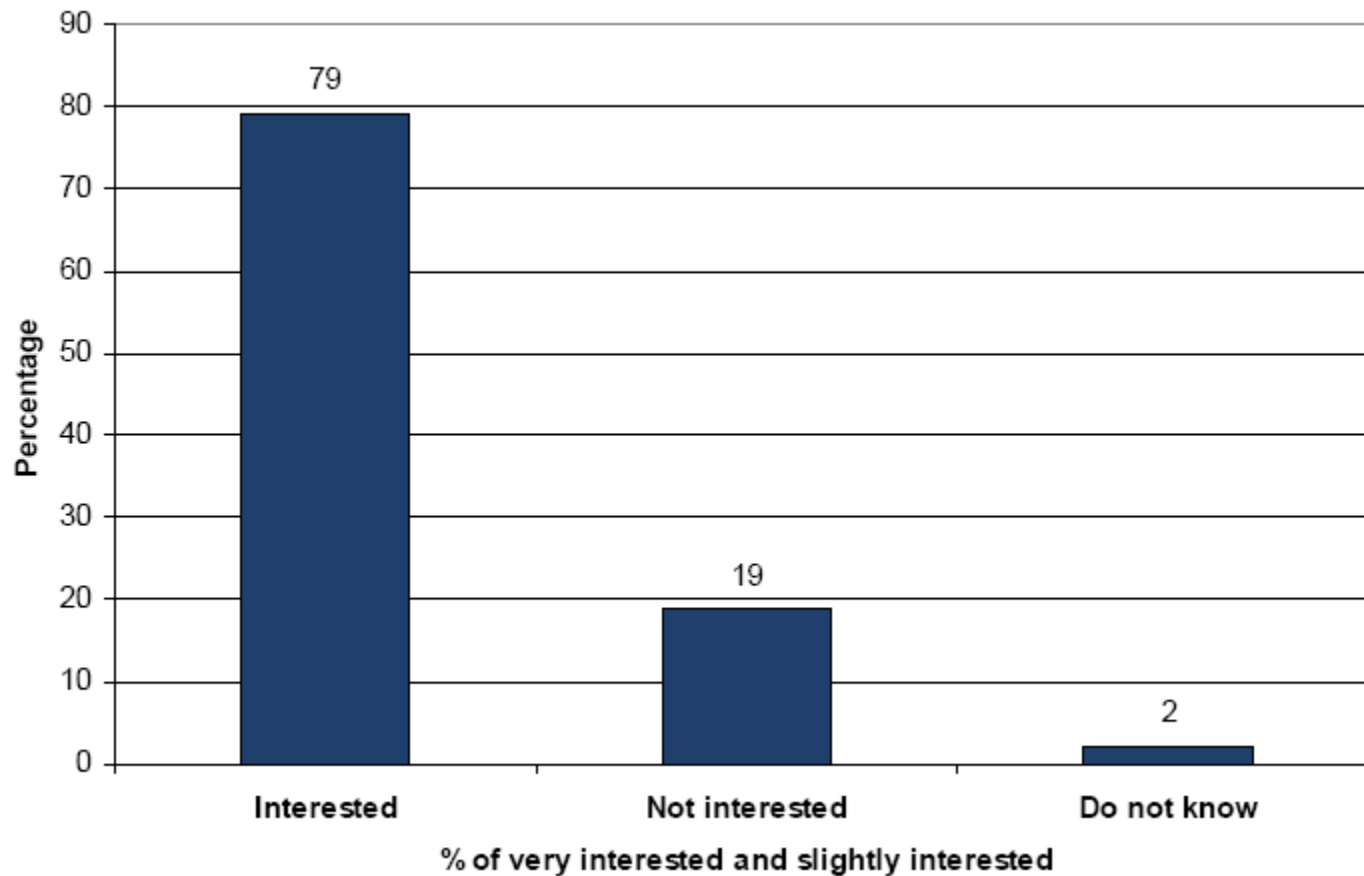
- ➔ Shortest time to register in WC - 29% in less than 5 min
- ➔ Longest time to register in NW 28% FS 23% EC 22% - took over 30 min
- ➔ Registration shortest in the urban formal areas (18%) – less than 5 min
- ➔ Africans (12%) took the longest time to register – over 30 min
- ➔ Possibly due to large numbers in a given registration point. Africans had highest proportion with no schooling (10%) compared to other races.
- ➔ Coloured (26%) took shortest time to register – less than 5 min

## Q20: Moved home to another district in the last 18 months (N=190)





## Q27: How interested are you in the national and provincial elections? (N=3876)







## **Q27: How interested are you in the national and provincial elections?**

- ➔ Overall 79% are interested
- ➔ Highest proportions in GT and LP, among Africans, and those aged 45-54 years
- ➔ Lowest proportions in KZN and WC, among Indians and Coloured and youth (18-24 years)



## **Q26: Voted in 2004 national and provincial elections (N=3871)**

- ➔ About 66% voted in 2004 National & Provincial elections
- ➔ Highest in NW (76%) and EC (72%)
- ➔ Correlates well with the 75-76% voter turnout in 2004 elections.
- ➔ Lowest in KZN (30%) and LP (35%)
- ➔ Majority of those who did not vote were under 18 years at the time (38%), not interested (22%) and did not possess ID to register (12%)

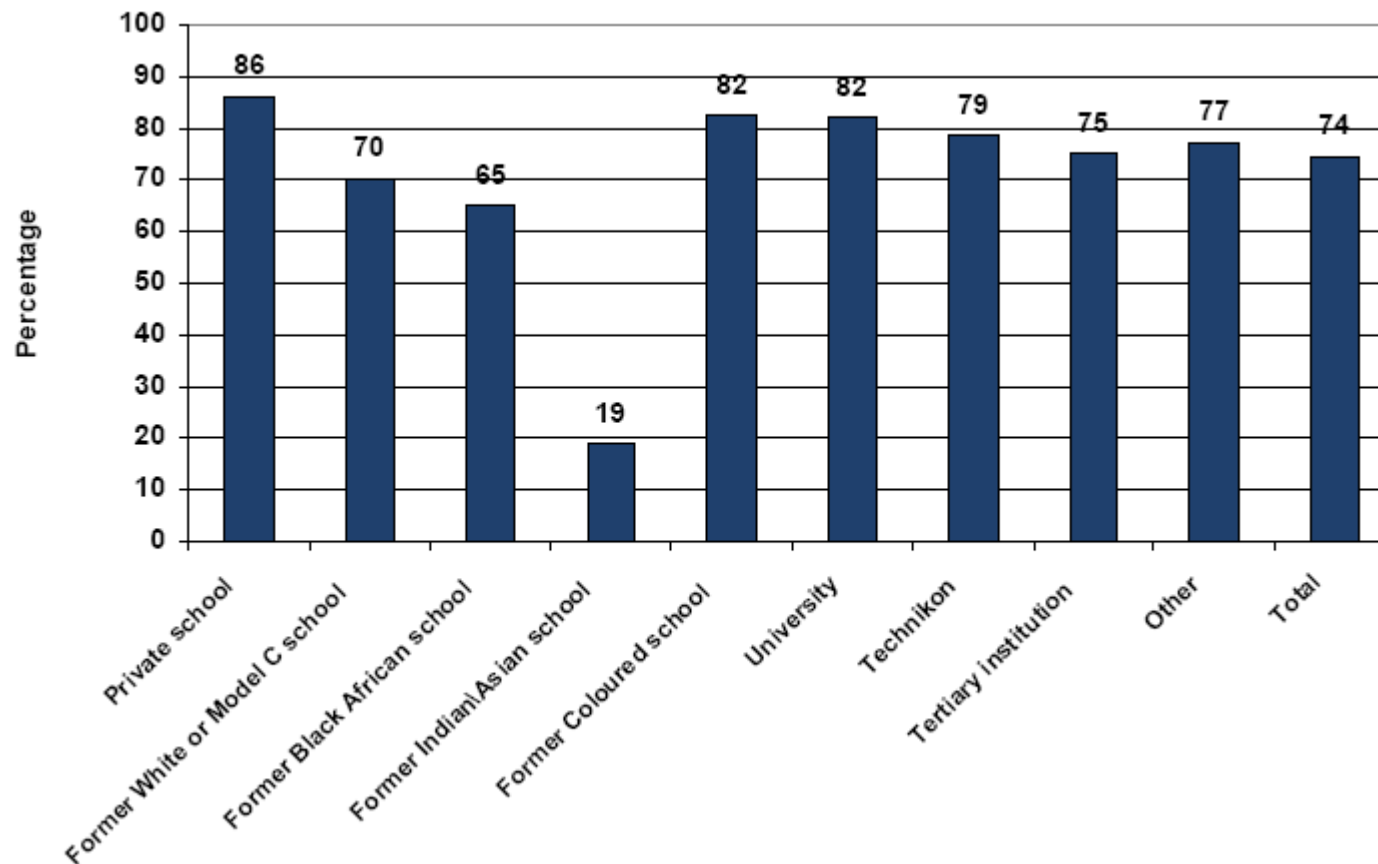


## **Q61: If national and provincial elections were to be held tomorrow, would you vote? (N=3851)**

- ➔ Overall 81% would vote, lowest in NW (73%) and KZN (76%)
- ➔ Likelihood to vote increased with age
- ➔ White (84%) most like to vote, while Coloured were least likely to vote



## Q61: If national and provincial elections were to be held tomorrow, would you vote? (N=480) by type of educational institution





**Q62: If no, what is your main reason for thinking that you would not vote if national and provincial elections were to be held tomorrow? (N=530)**

<b>Reason</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Not interested	248	48
Not registered	69	14
My vote would not make a difference	47	8
Not interested in any of the existing political parties	44	8
Other reasons	122	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>530</b>	<b>100</b>



## Q63: What might encourage you to vote?

Influence my decision to vote	Percent of Cases
If the queues to vote were shorter	30
If I did not have to register	14
If the political parties had tried harder to get my vote	12
If the polling station was closer	13
If there was a political party that I strongly believed in	22
If I was more convinced it was important to vote	13
If I felt that my vote would make a difference in the outcome of the election	28





**Q64: Majority (89%) said they ultimately decide themselves who to vote for**

**Q65: If the party you voted for did not meet your expectations will you, the next time there is an election... (N=3857)**

	Percent
Vote for another party	30
Not vote at all	19
Give that party another chance	41
Wait for an explanation and then decide	5
Other	0
Refused to answer	1
Don't know	4

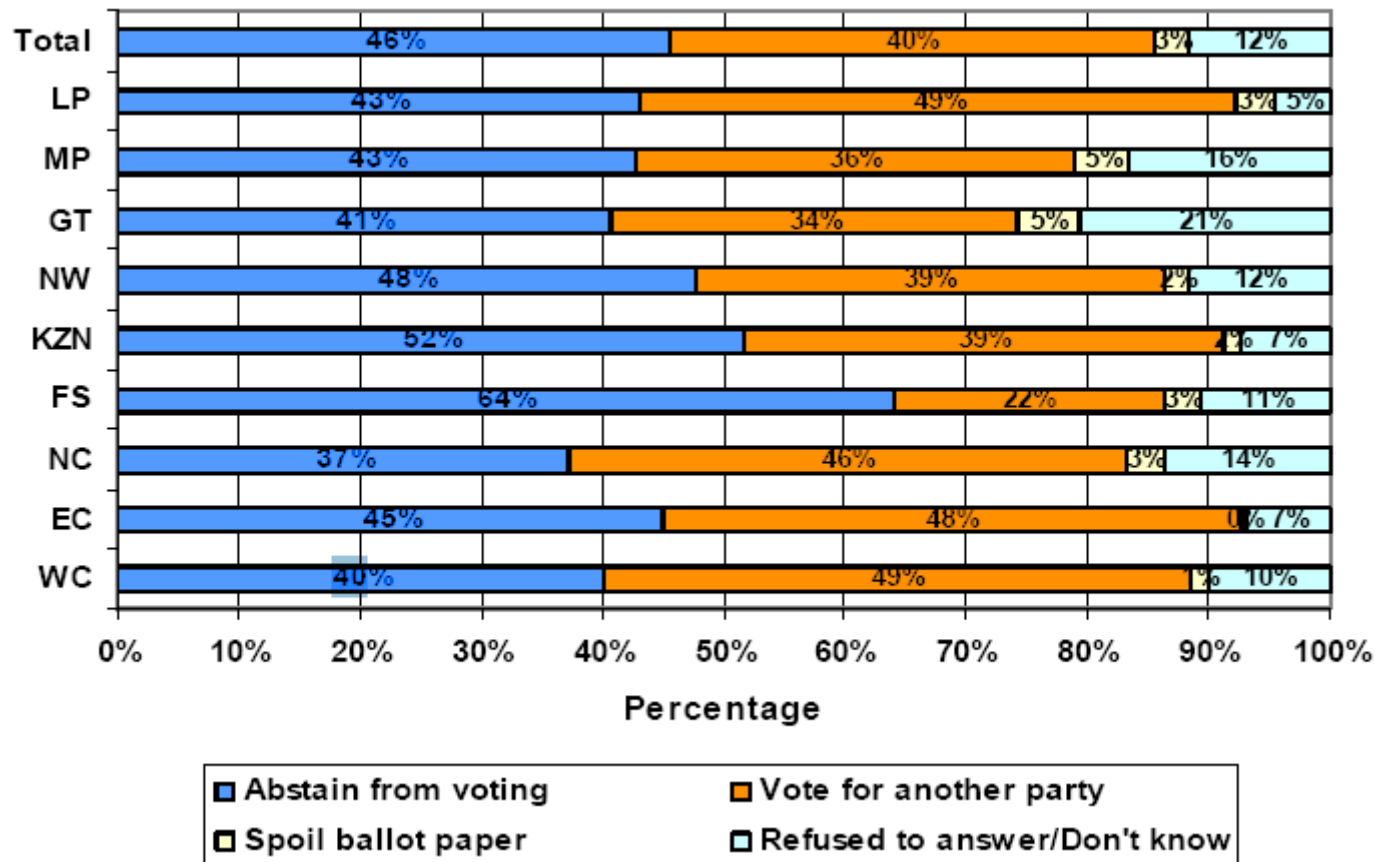


**Q65: If the party you voted for did not meet your expectations will you, the next time there is an election...**

Compared by province:

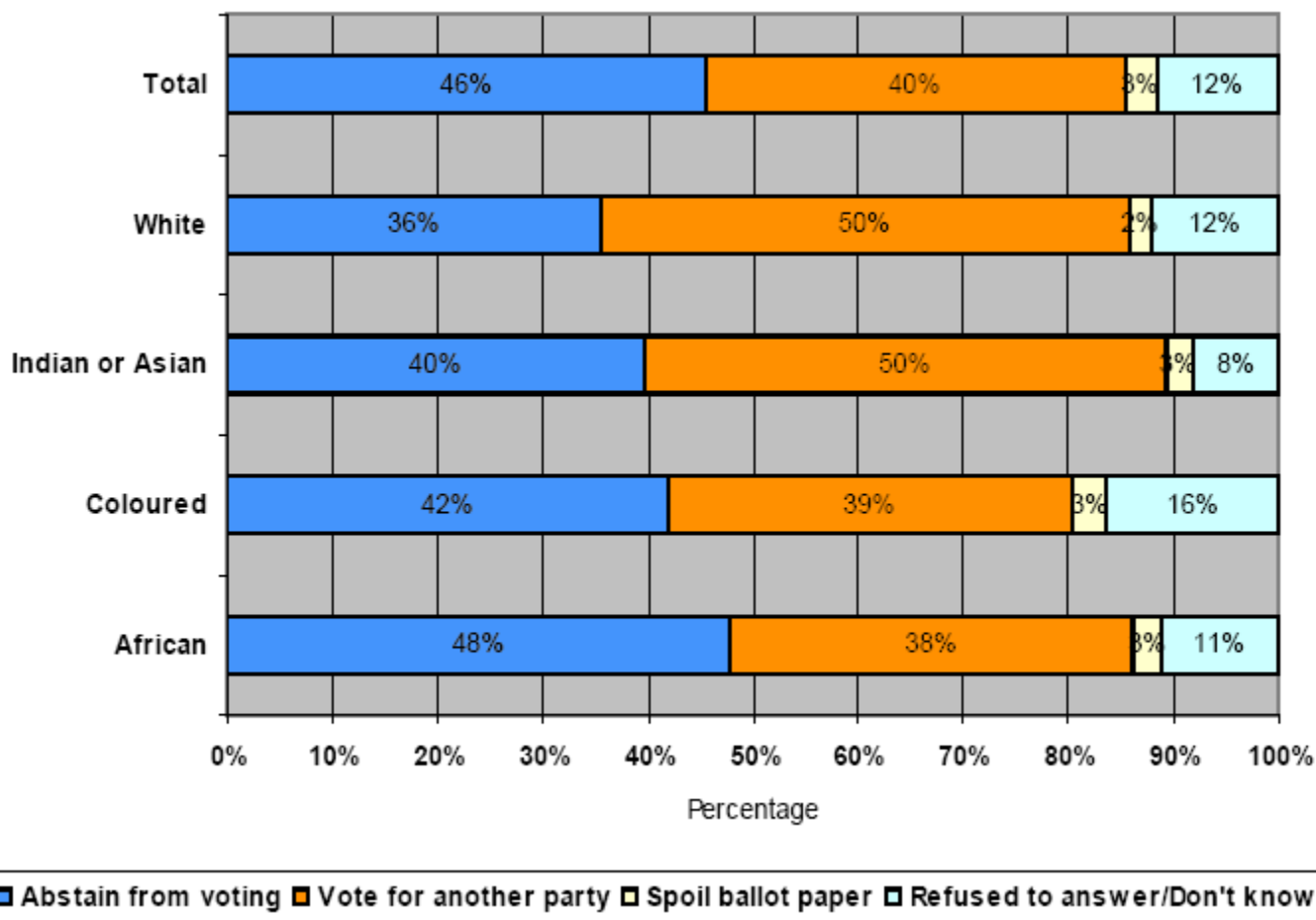
- ➔ Vote for another party - highest in WC (42%)
- ➔ Not vote at all - highest in FS (25%)
- ➔ Give that party another chance - highest FS (47%), GT (46%), MP & LP (46%)

## Q66: If you felt that you could not vote for the political party that you normally support, would it be wise to...? N=3851



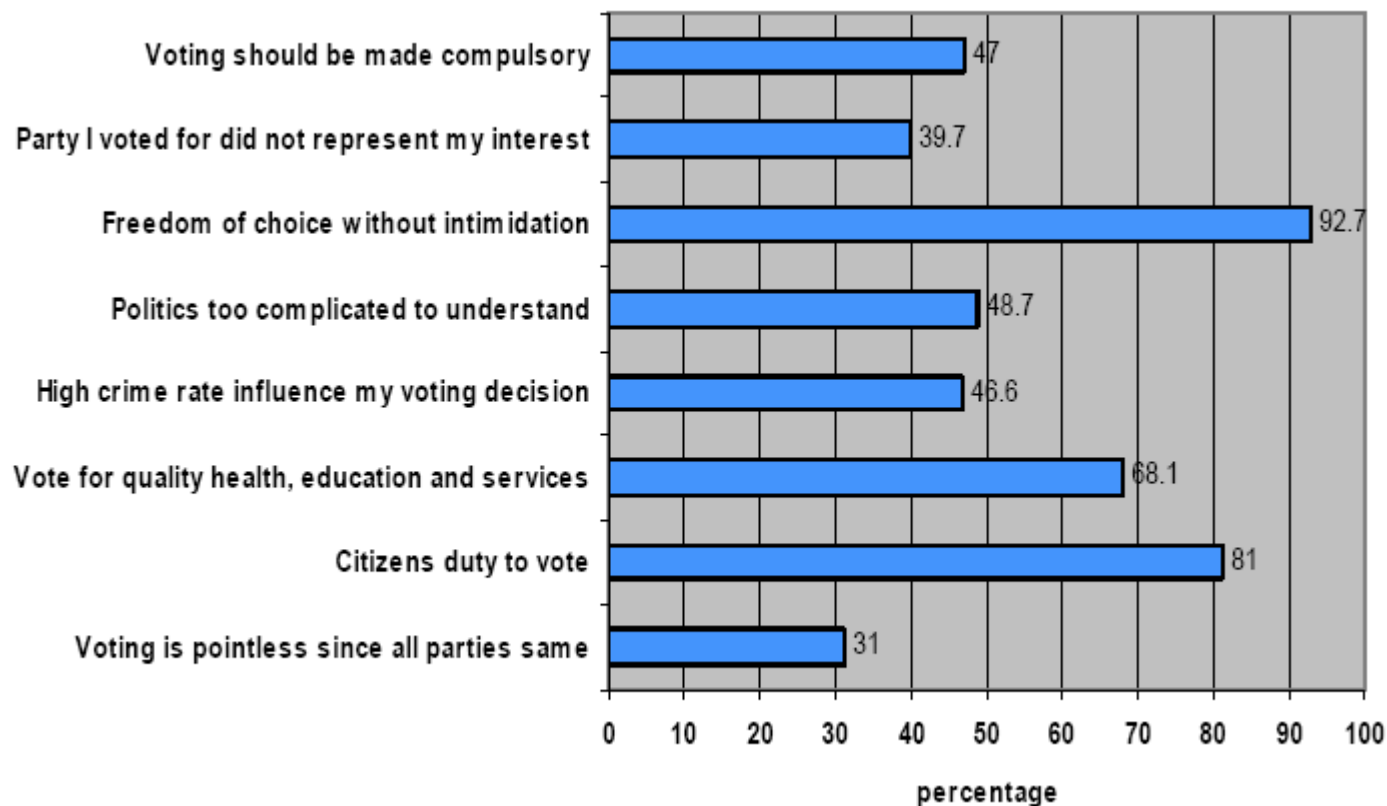


## Q66: If you felt that you could not vote for the political party that you normally support, would it be wise to...? By Race (N=3851)



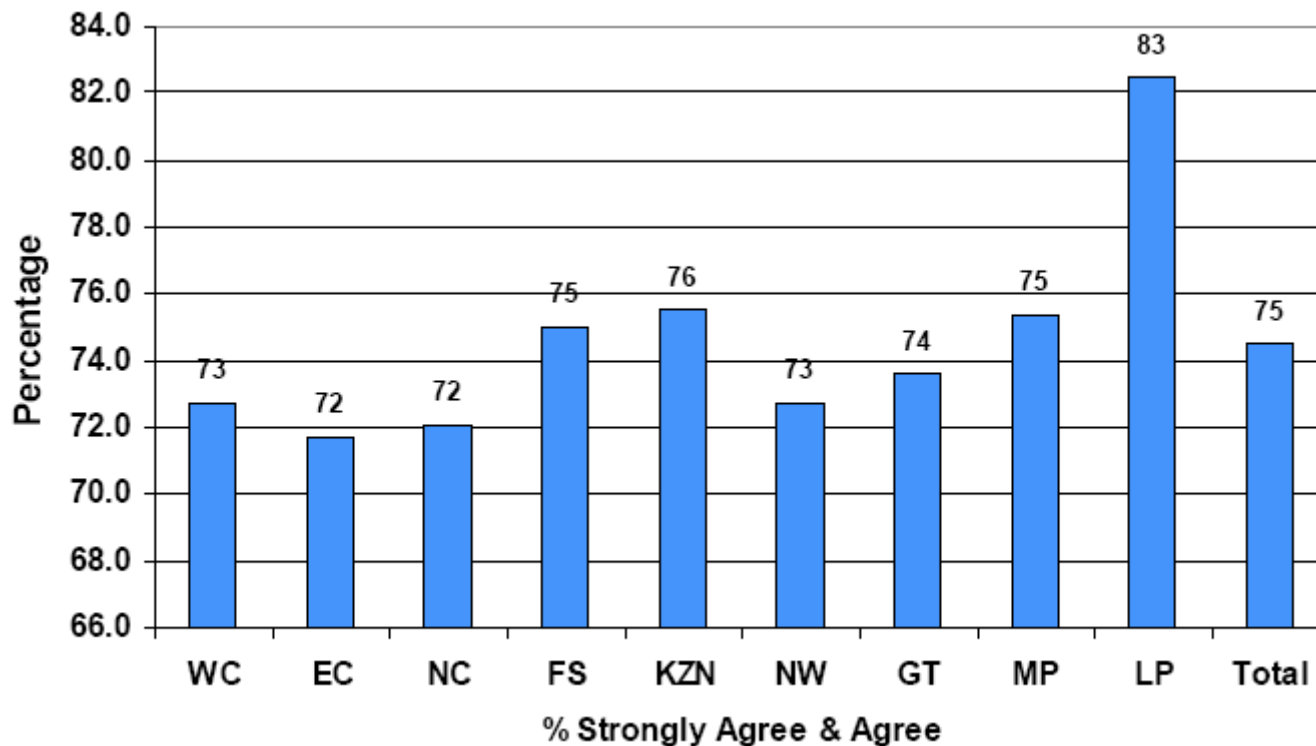


## Q33-41: General perceptions of voting (N=3885) (% Strongly Agree & Agree)





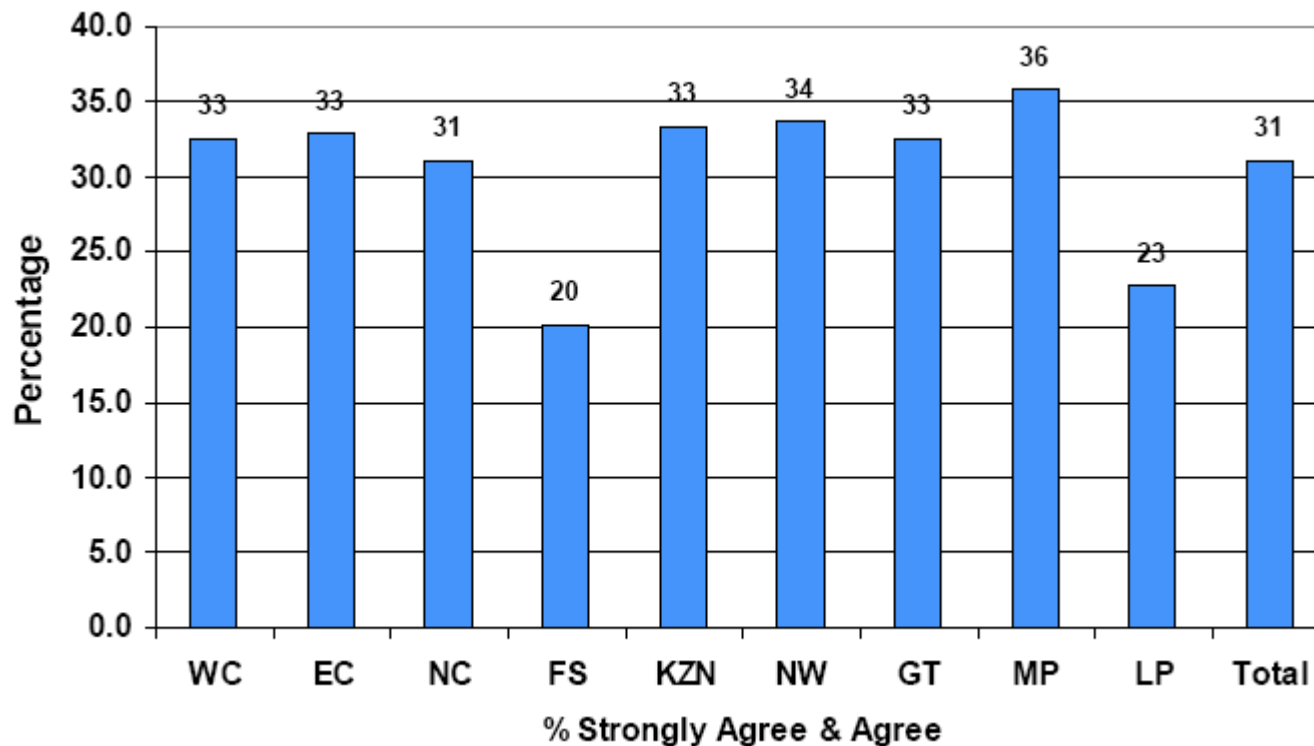
## Q33: I vote because my vote makes a difference (N= 2875)





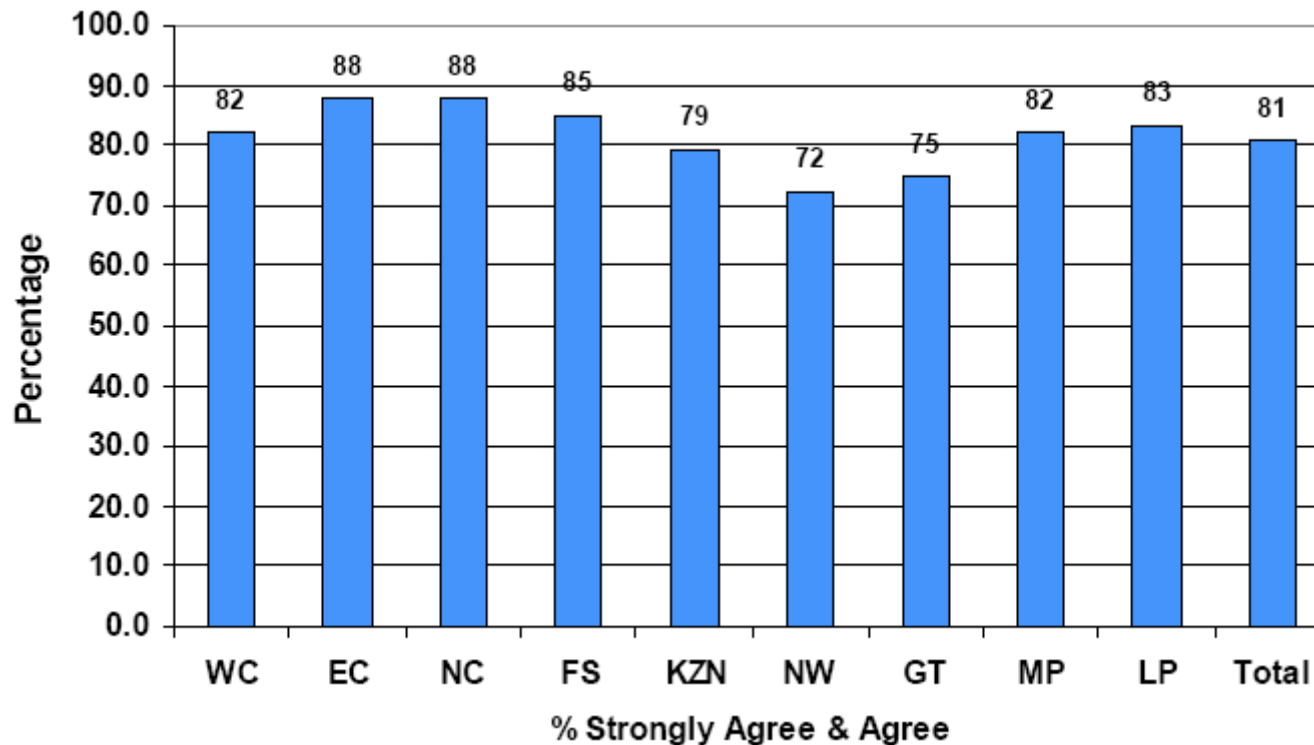


## Q34: After being elected all parties are the same, so voting is pointless (N = 1195)



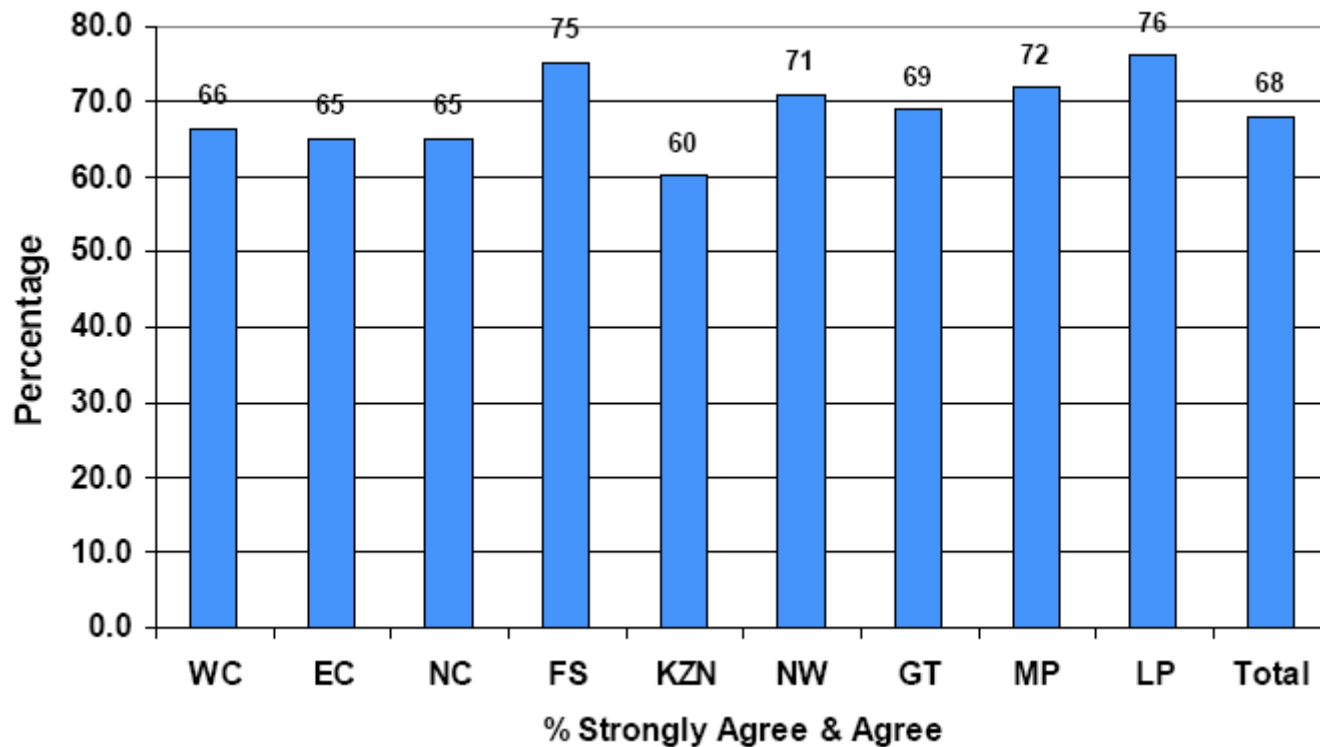


## Q35: It is the duty of all citizens to vote (N = 3122)

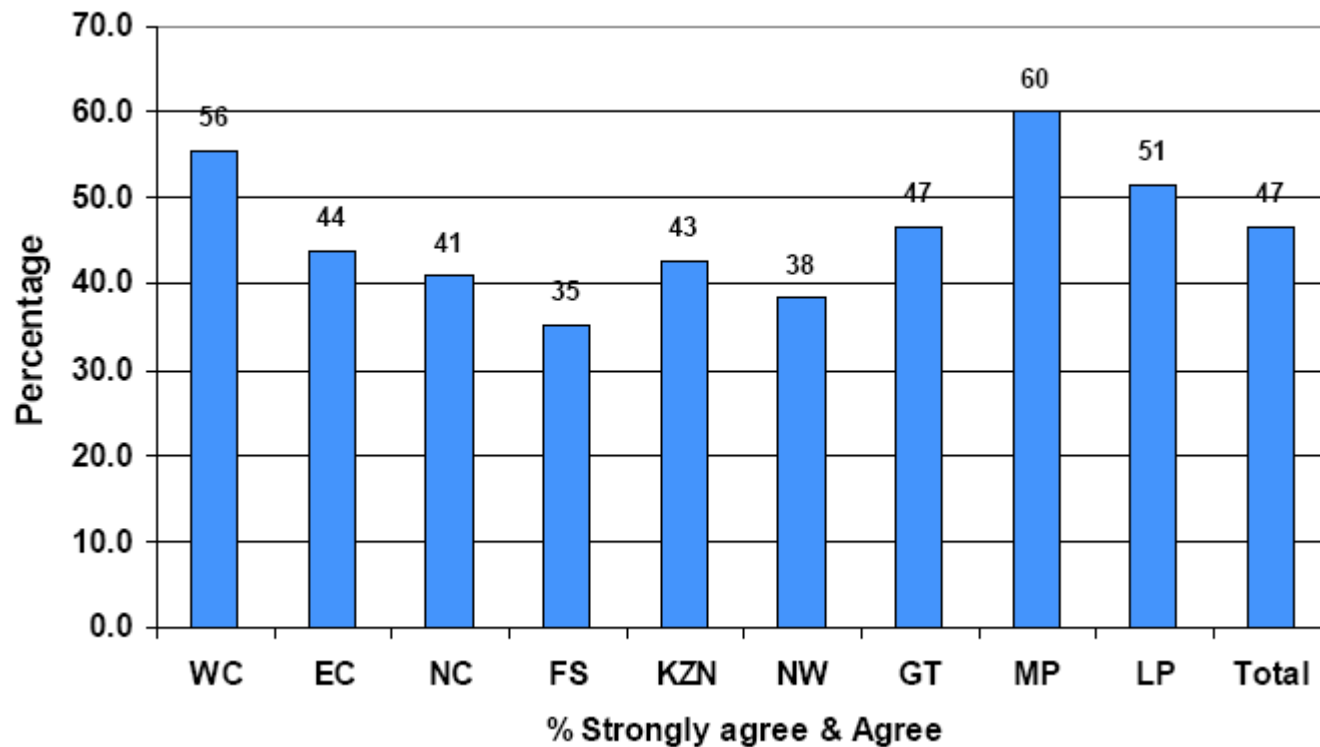




## Q36: My vote will ensure that I get quality health, education and other basic services (N = 2624)

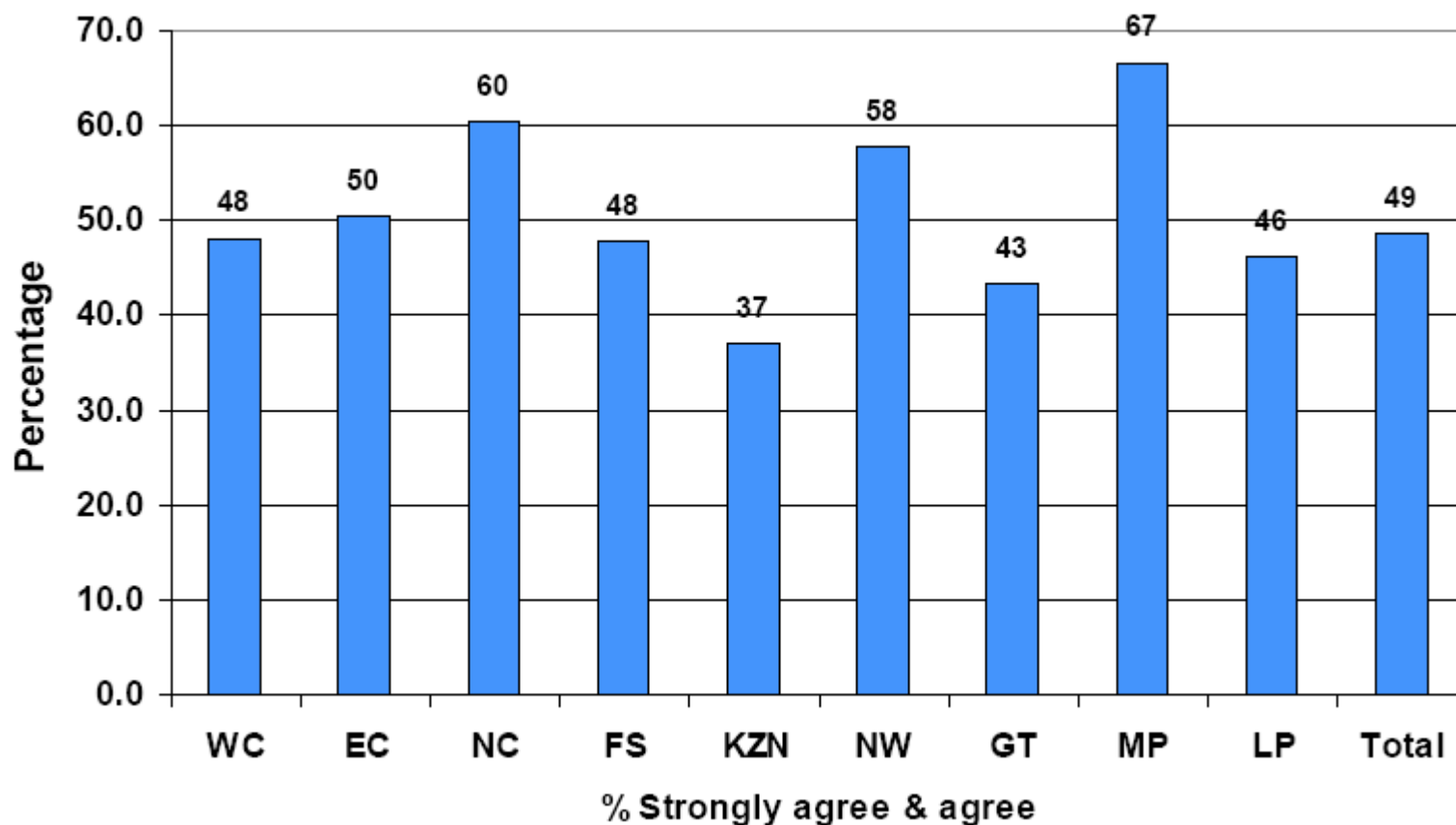


## Q37: High crime rate in my area may influence my decision to vote (N = 1792)



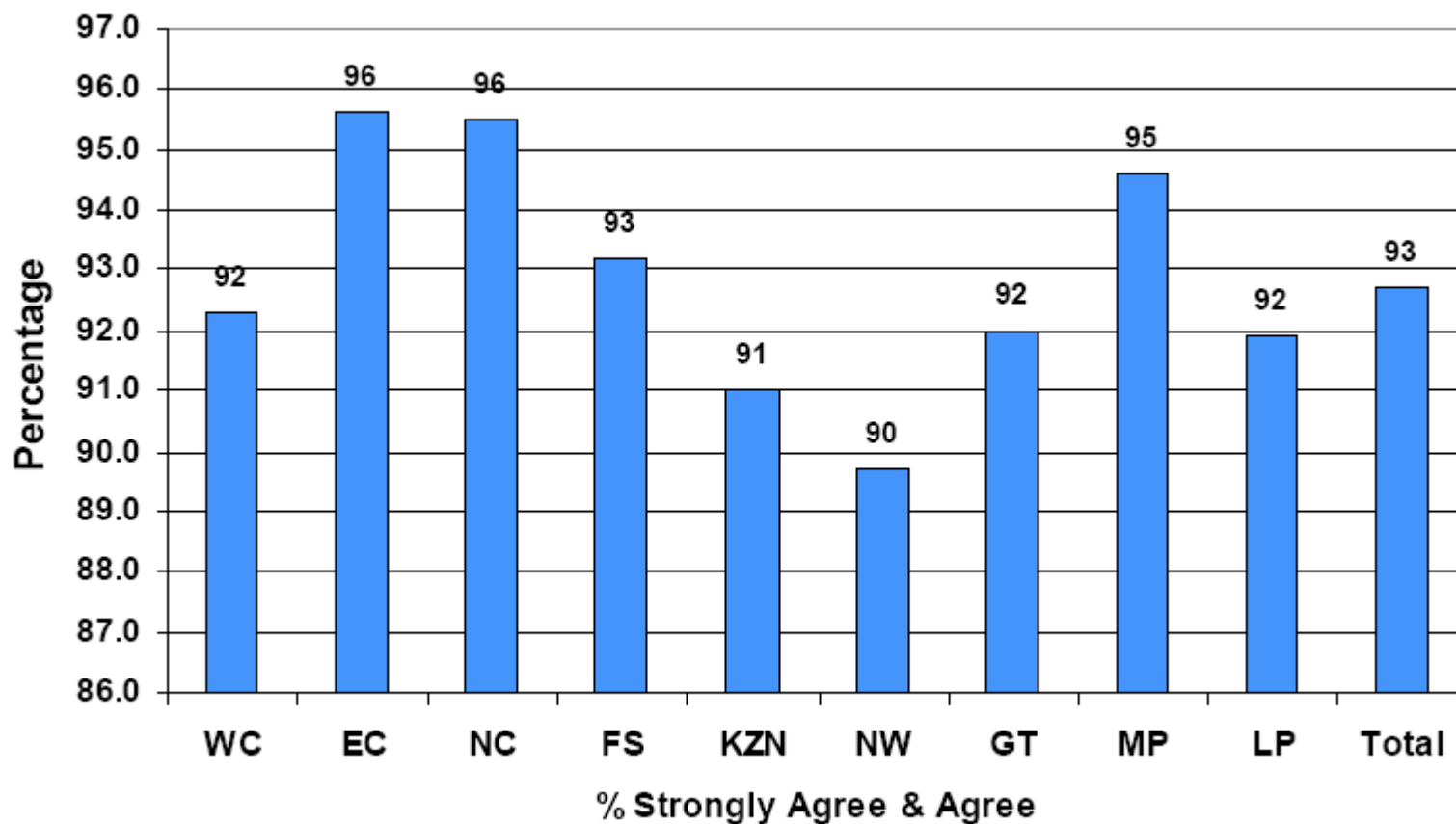


## Q38: Politics is too complicated for me to understand (N = 1873)





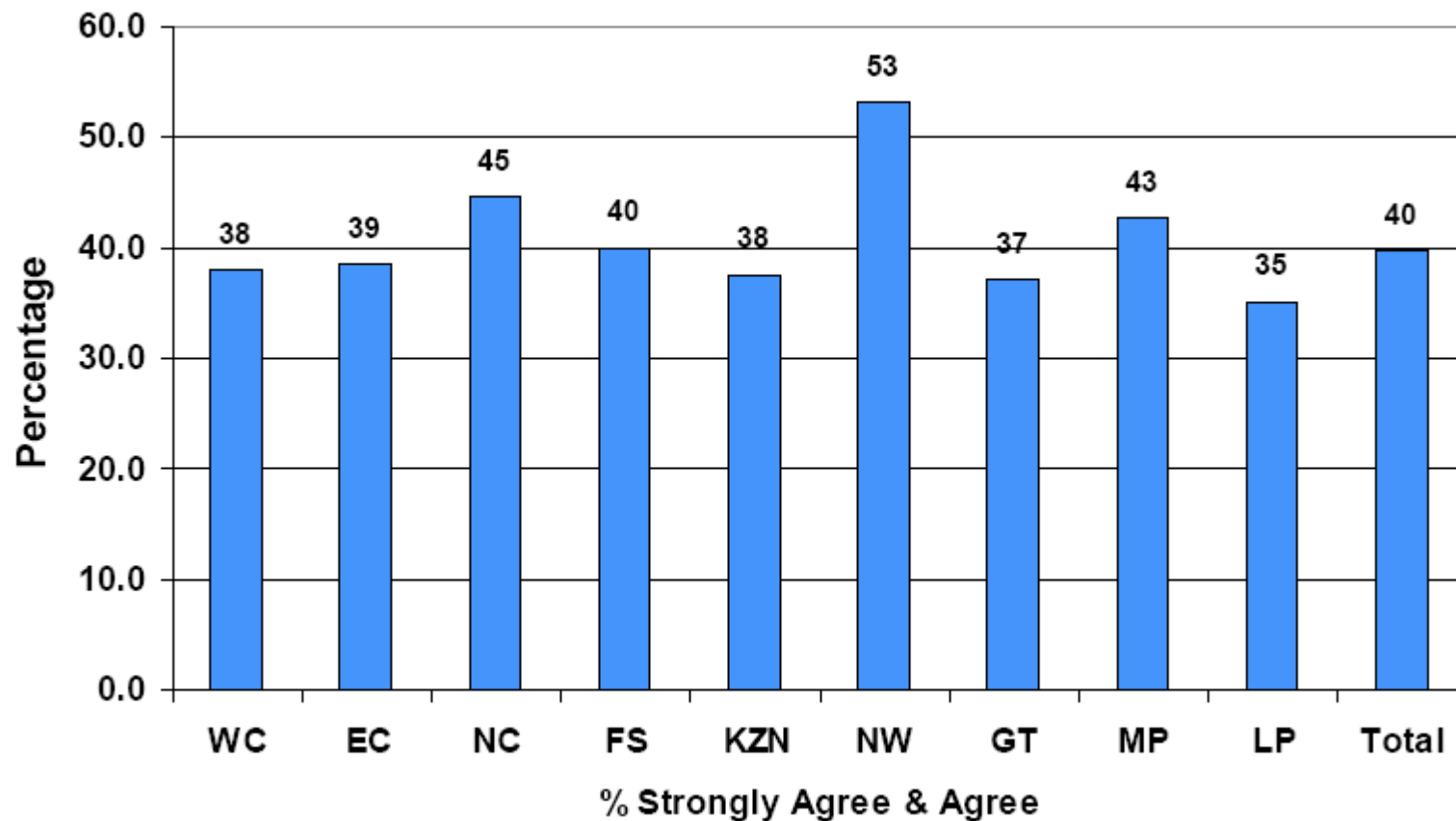
## Q39: Each person can freely choose who to vote for without feeling forced by others (N = 3575)





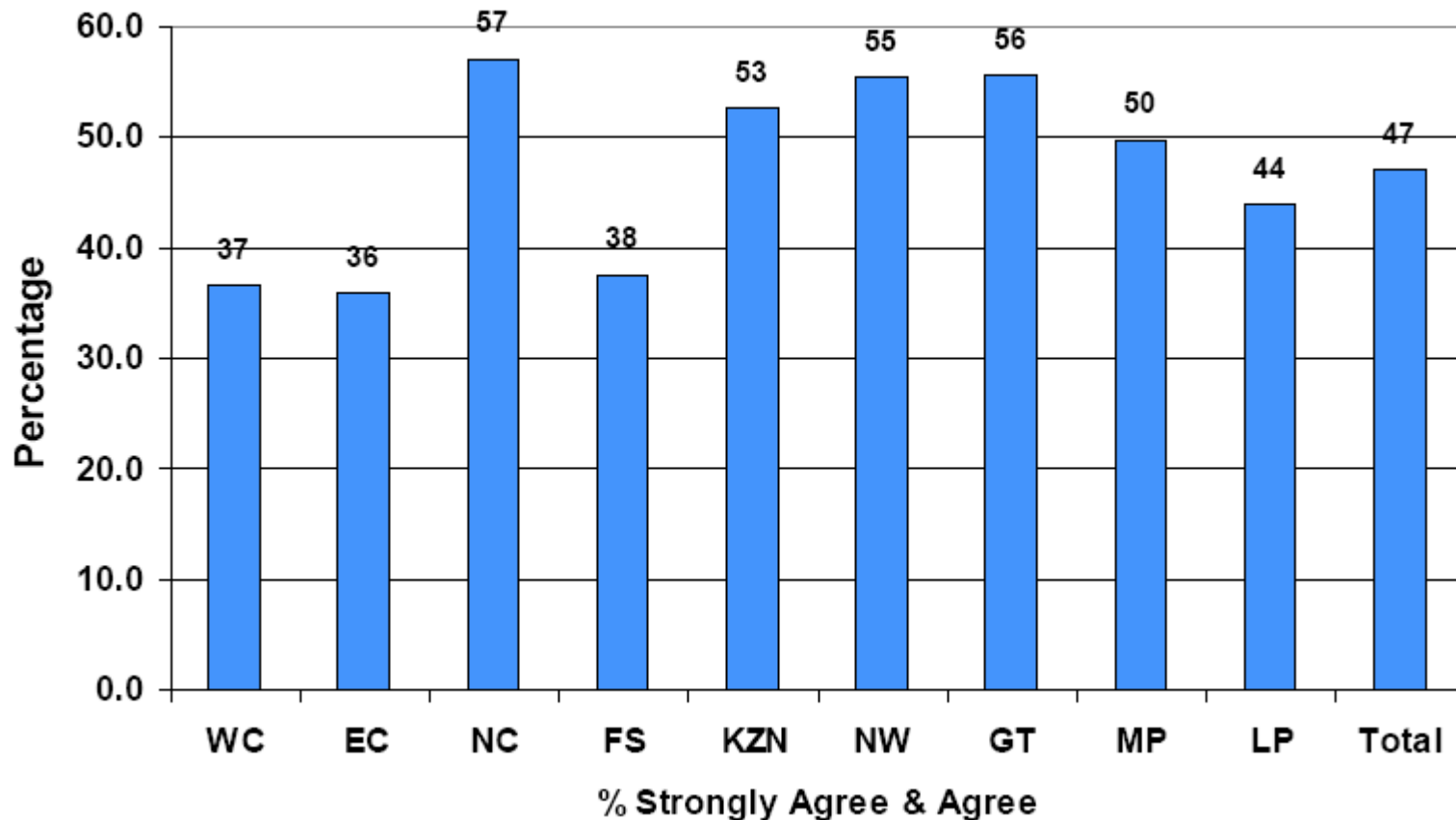


## Q40: The party that I voted for did not protect my interests (N = 1501)





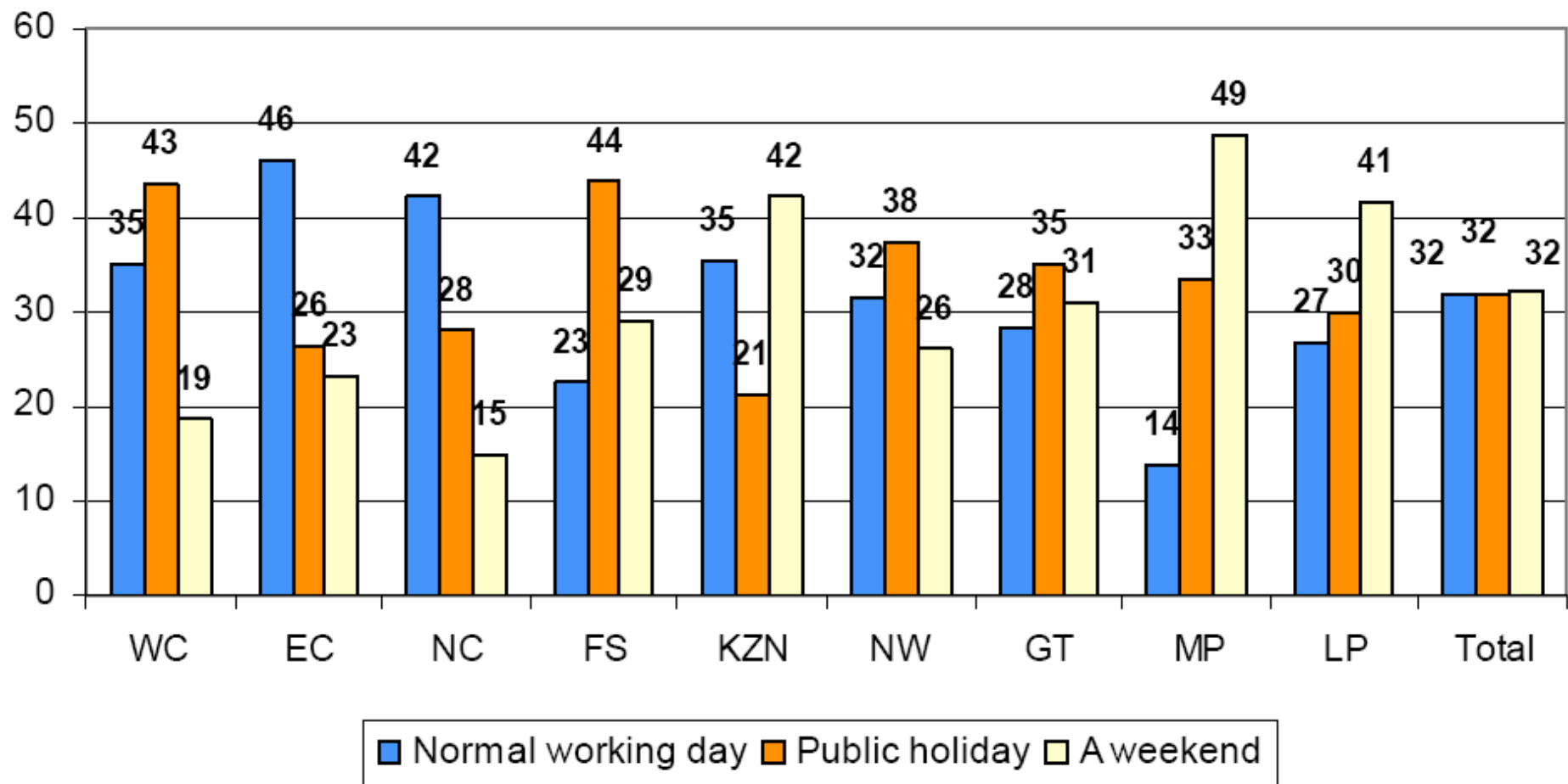
## Q41: Voting should be made compulsory (N = 1801)





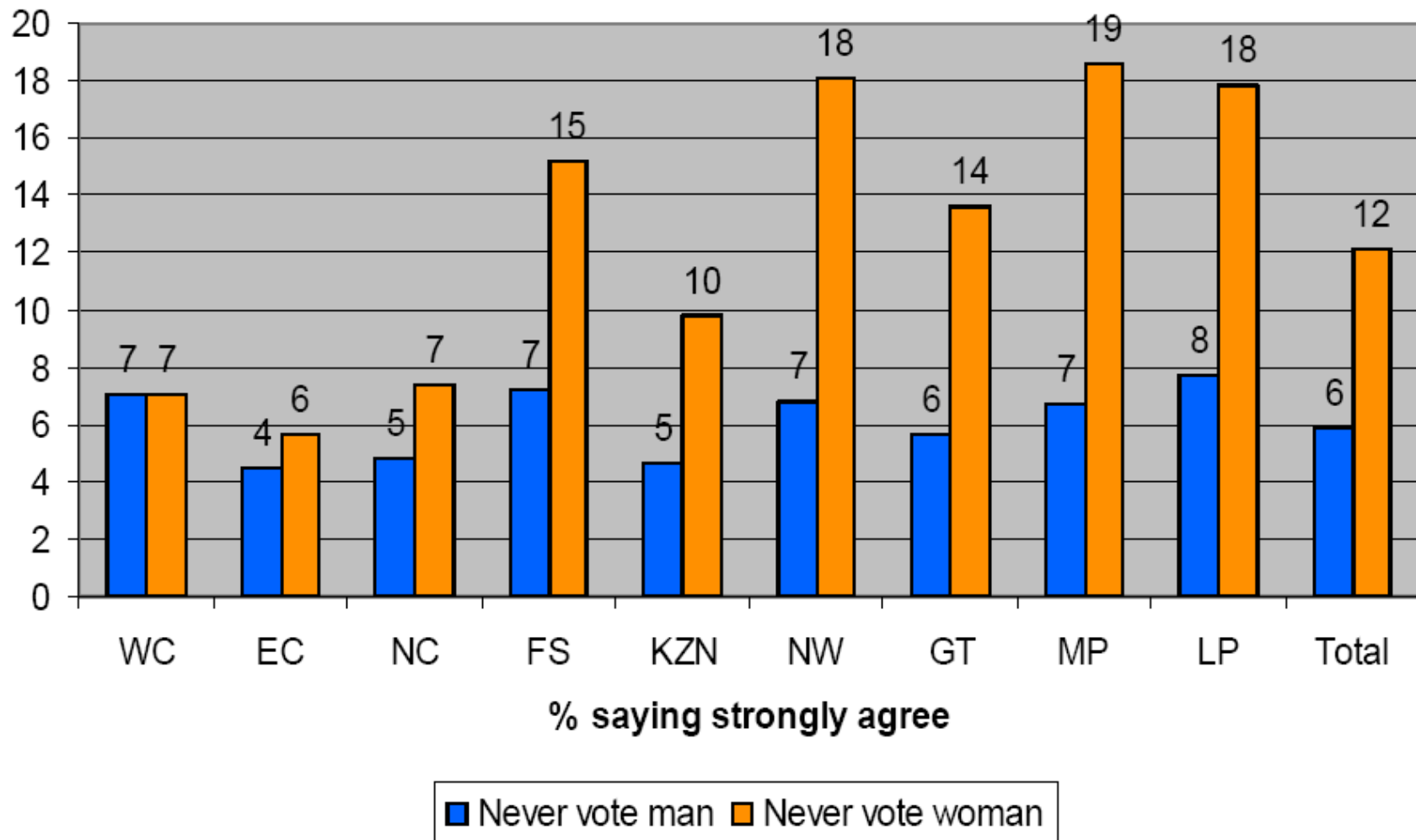
## Q42: When should voting take place?

Normal working day (N = 1132), Public holiday (N = 1299),  
Weekend (N = 1206)



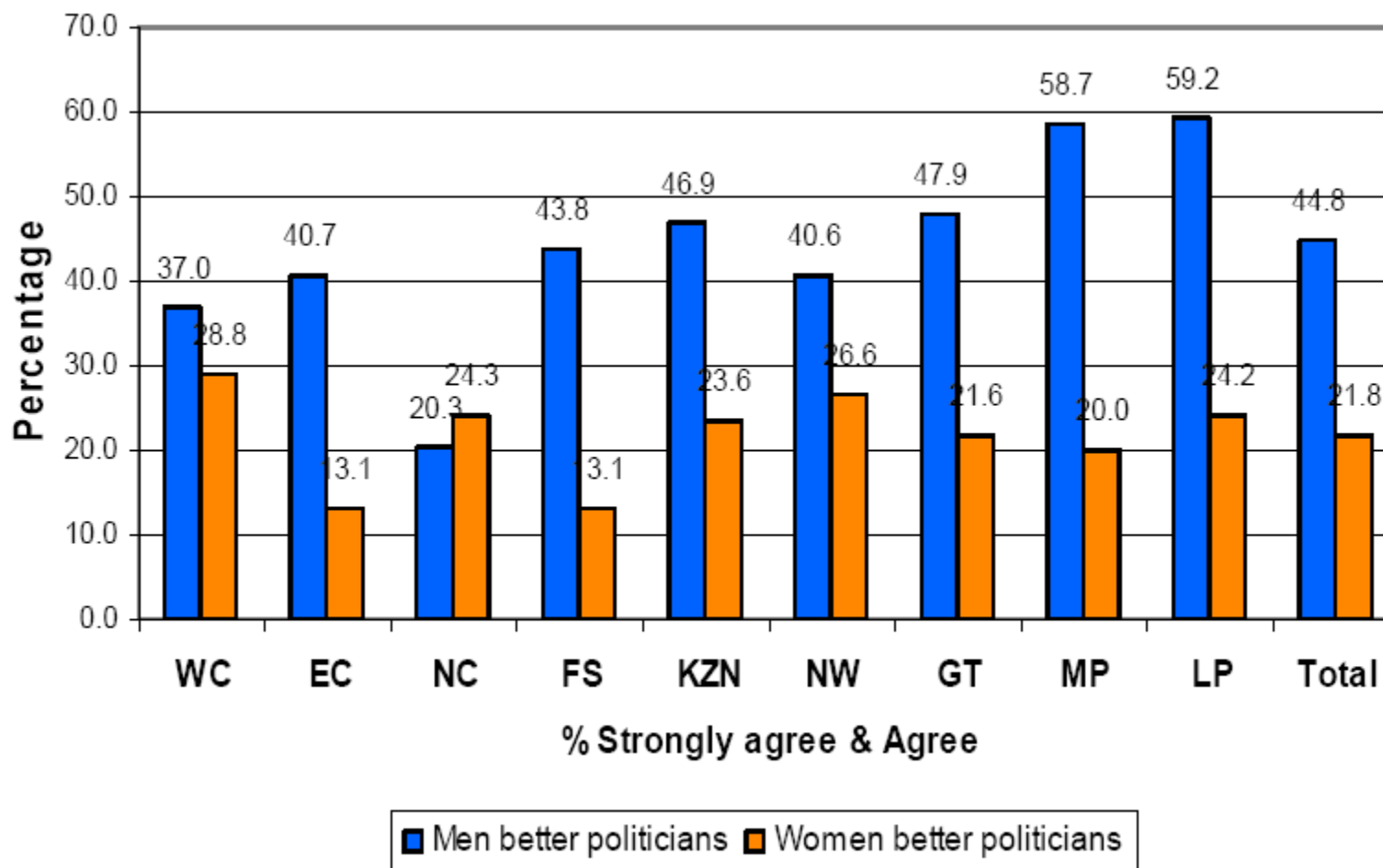


**Q43 & q45: Indicate the extent to which you agree with voting for a man or woman (vote for man, N = 230; vote for woman, N = 404)**

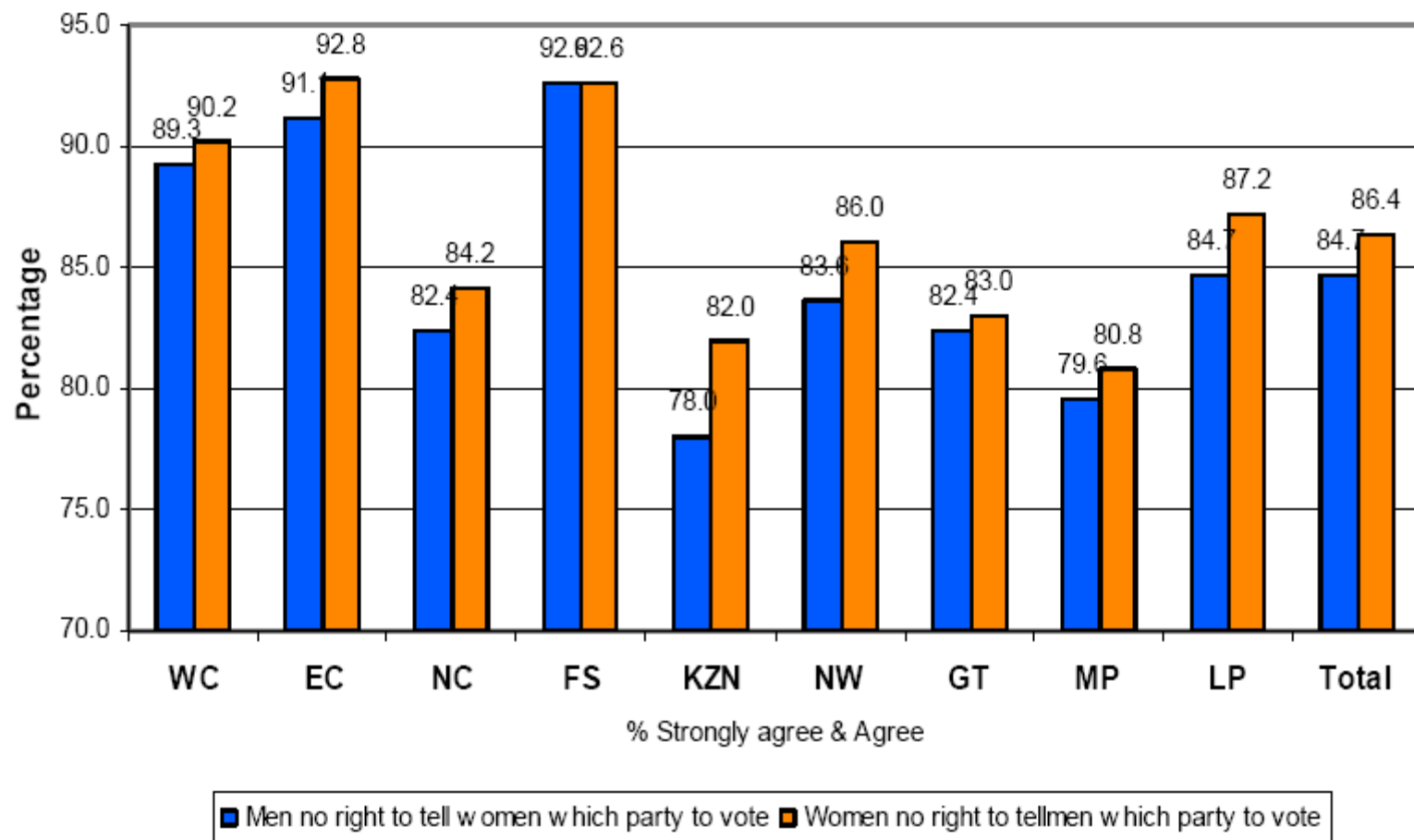


## Q44 & Q46: Men / Women are generally better politicians

(Men, N = 1738; Women, N = 844)



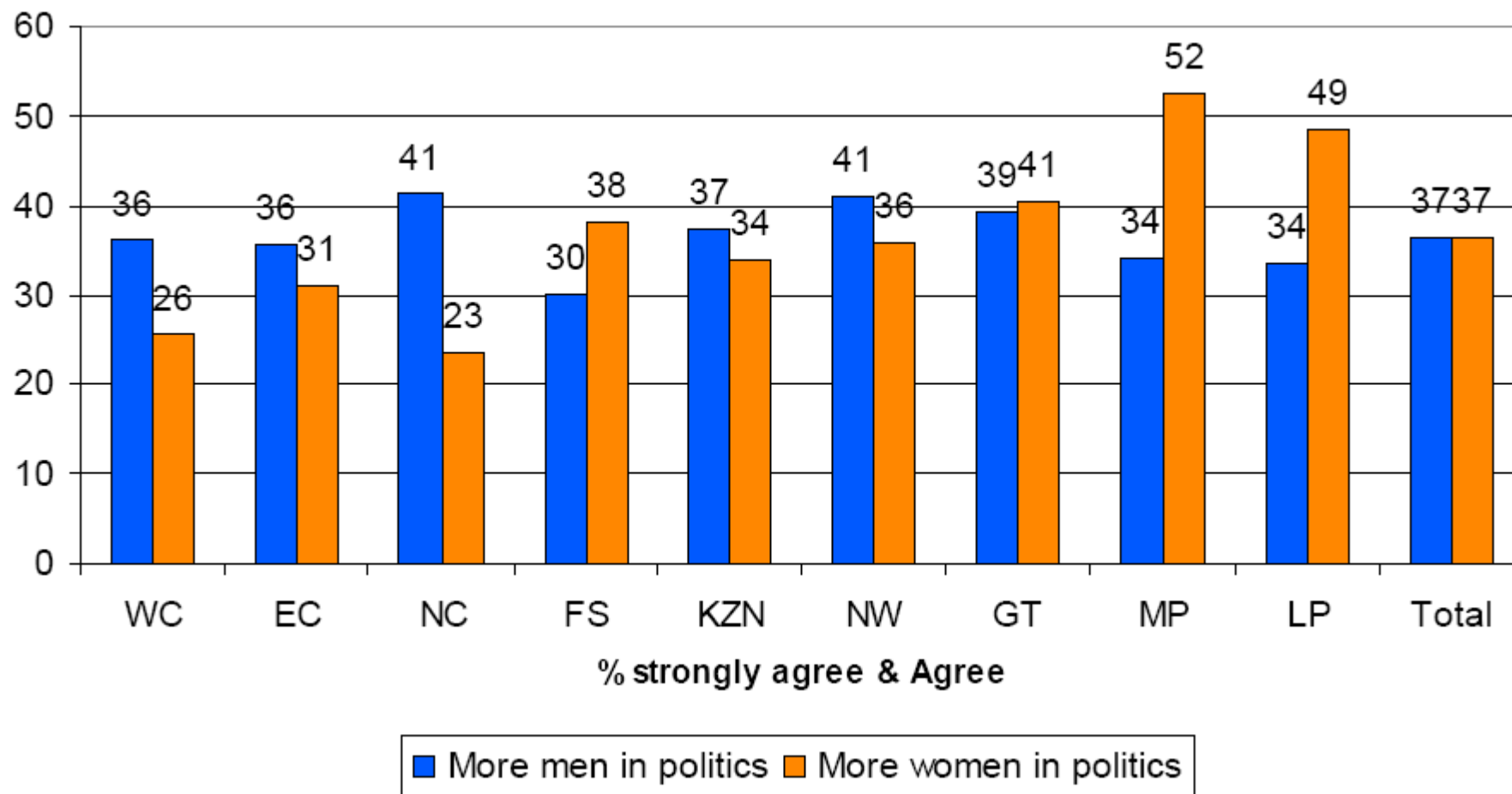
## Q47 & Q48: Men / Women telling which party to vote (men tell women, N = 3285; women tell men, N = 3351)





## Q49 & Q50: My needs would be addressed better if there were...

(more men, N = 1420; more women, N = 1416)



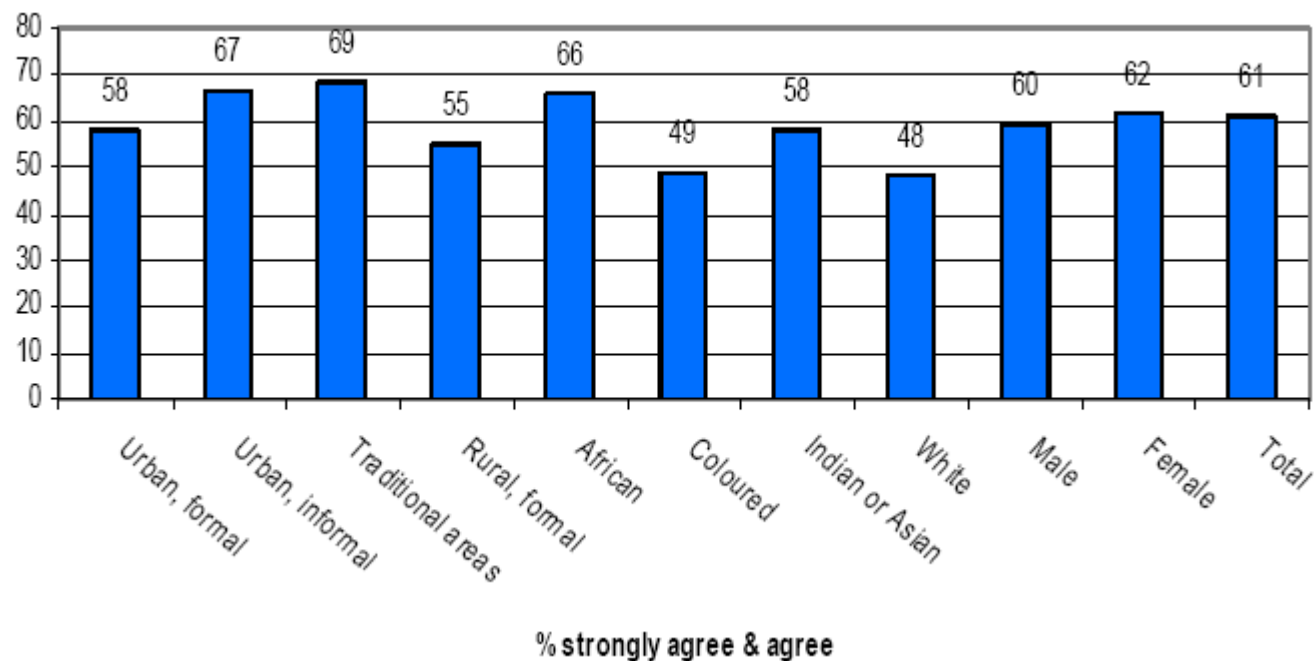


## Women and political participation

- ➔ 47% of the respondents agreed (strongly agree and agree) that legislation should force parties to have women on their lists
- ➔ 55% of the respondents agreed (strongly agree and agree) that quotas for women in political parties should be increased
- ➔ 64% of the respondents agreed (strongly agree and agree) that women need to get more involved in politics to solve problems that concern them

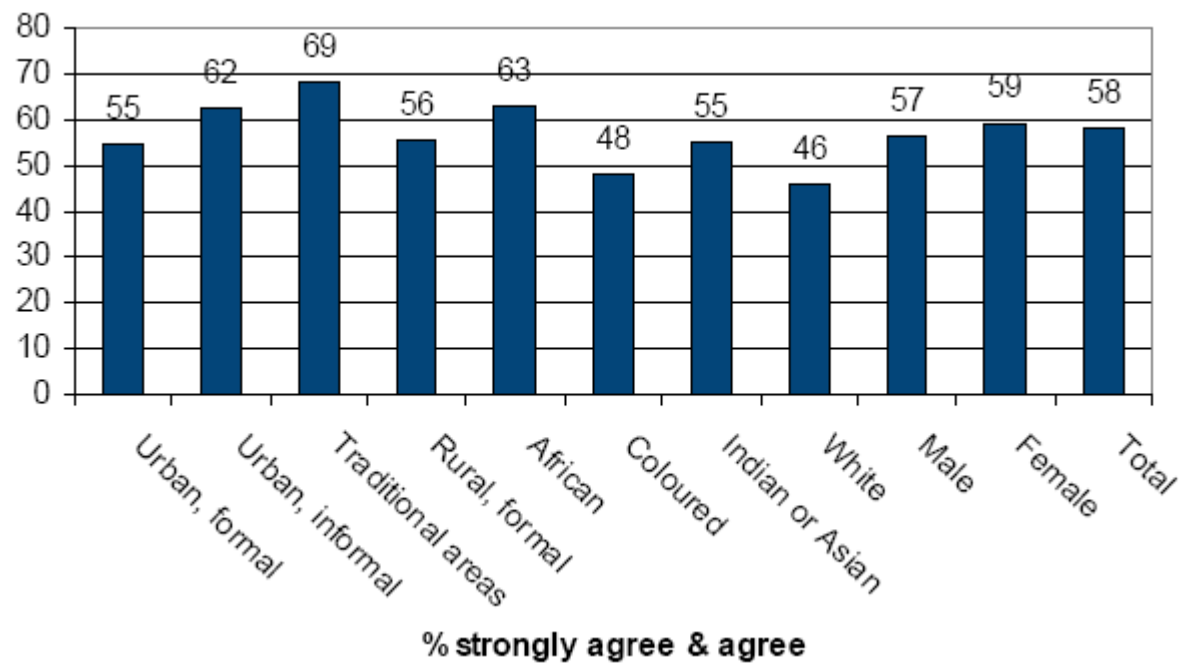


## Q55: Young people are increasingly participating in elections (N = 2260)

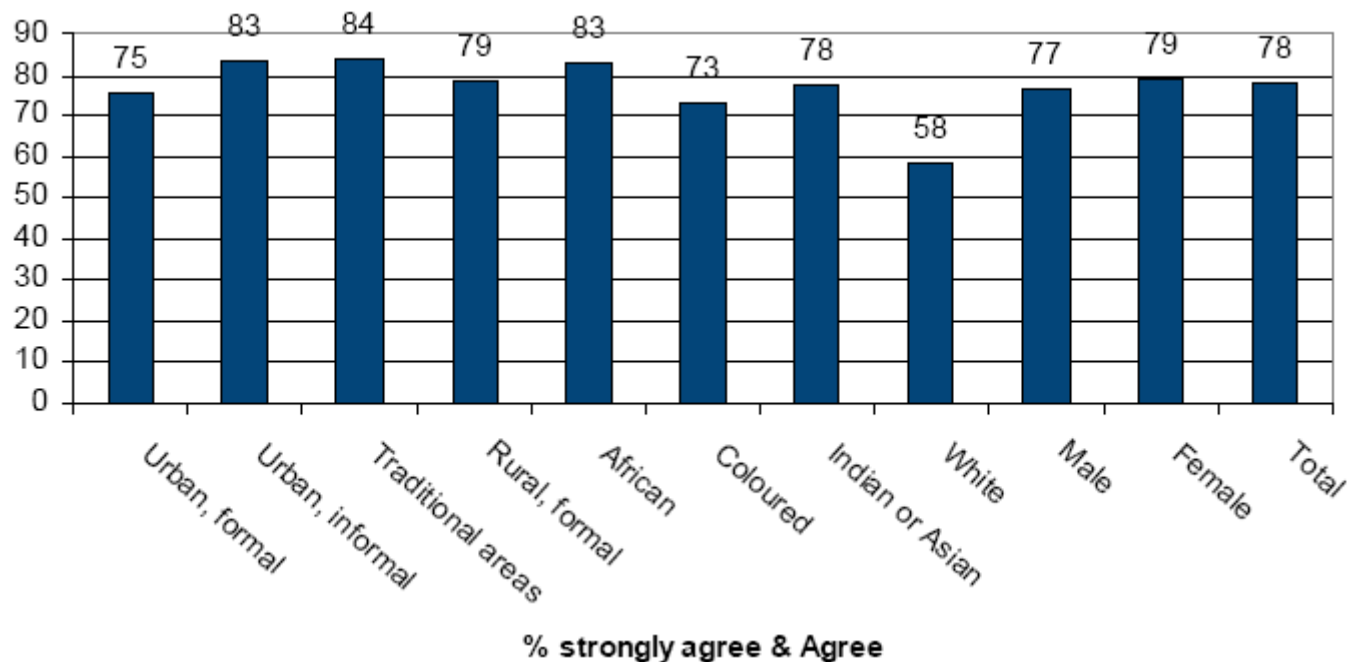




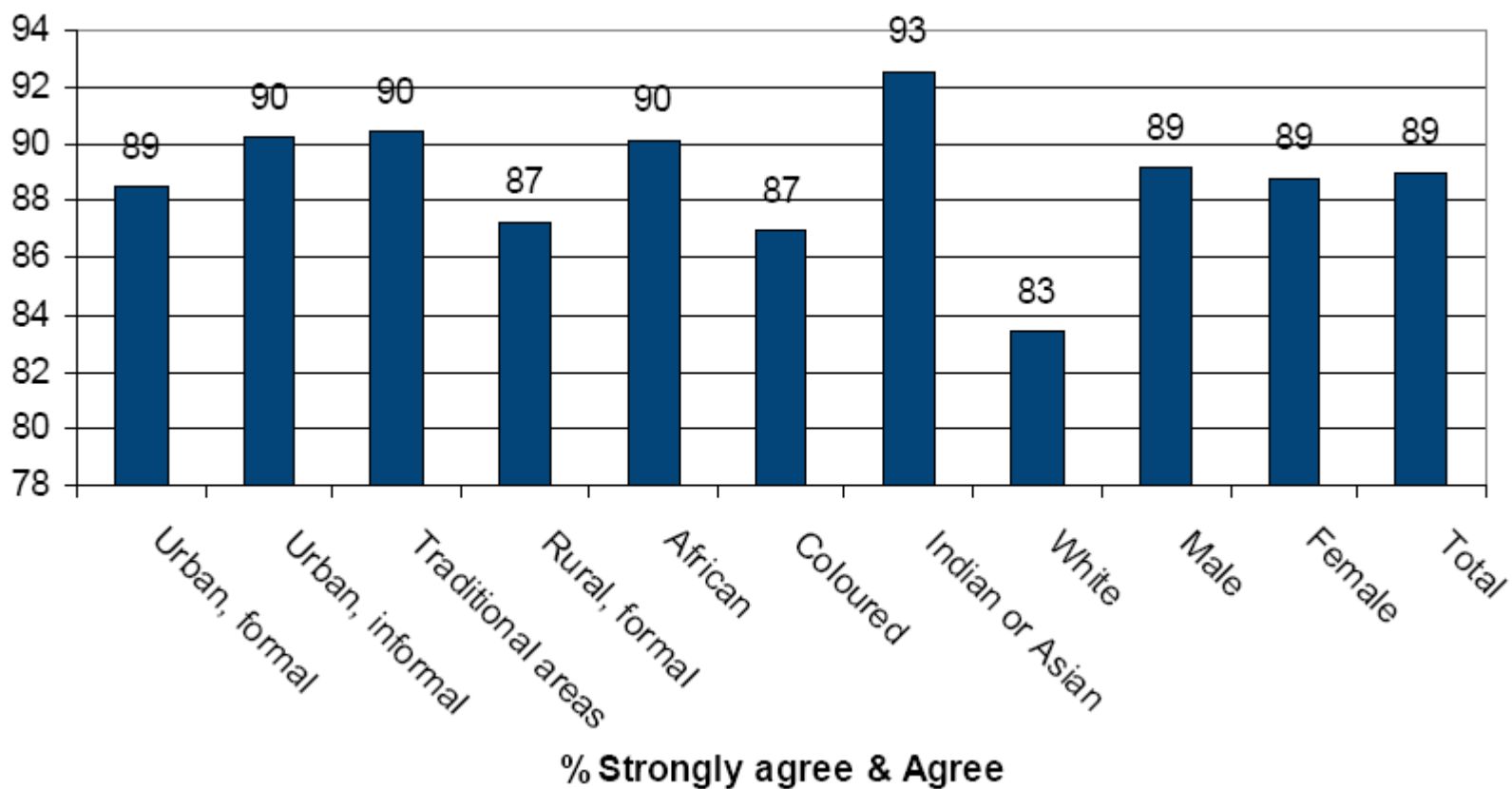
## Q56: Young people are interested in elections (N = 2260)



## Q57: Young people should take the lead in voting (N = 3031)

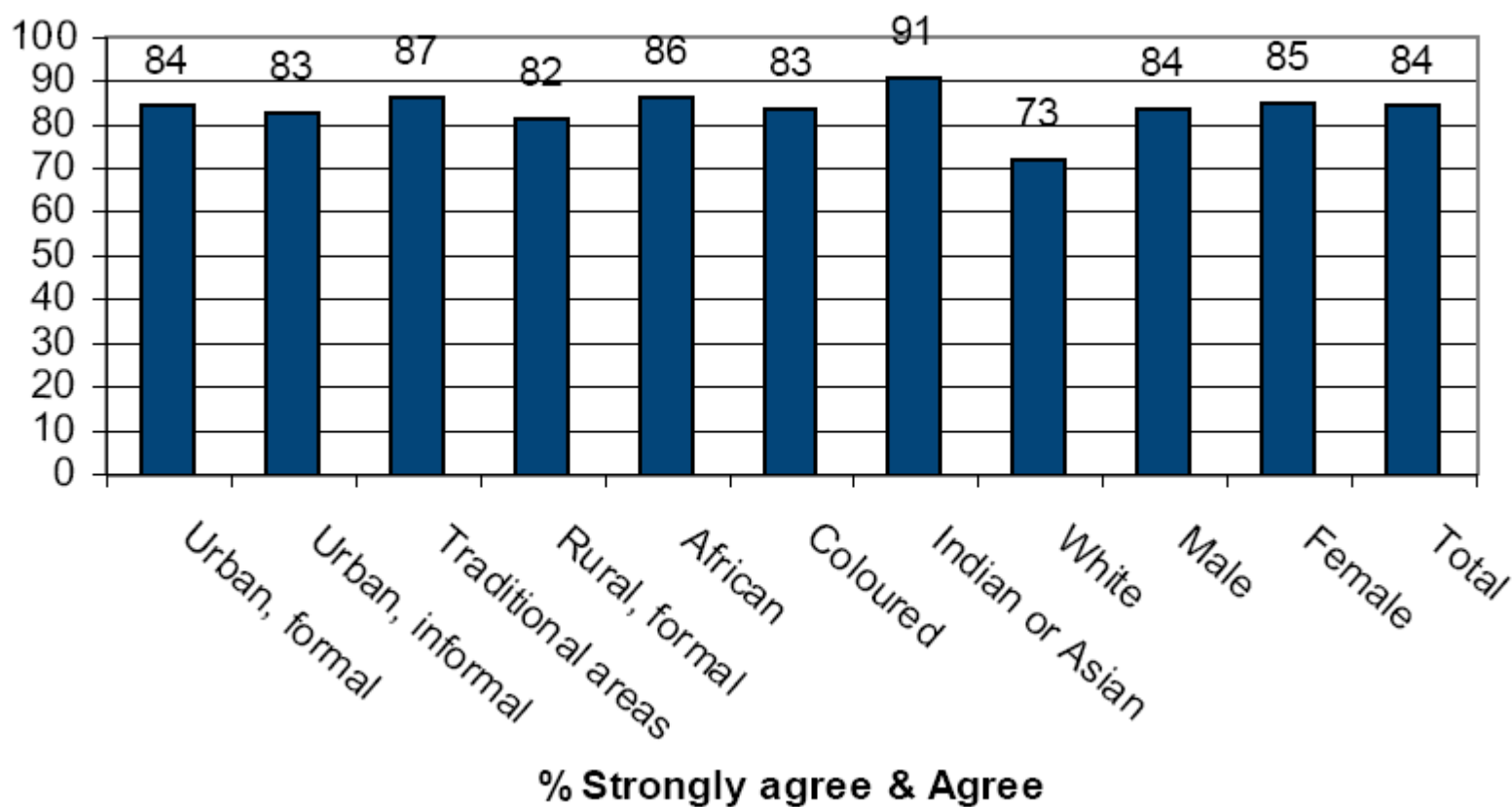


## Q58: Young people should be encouraged to participate in politics (N = 3449)





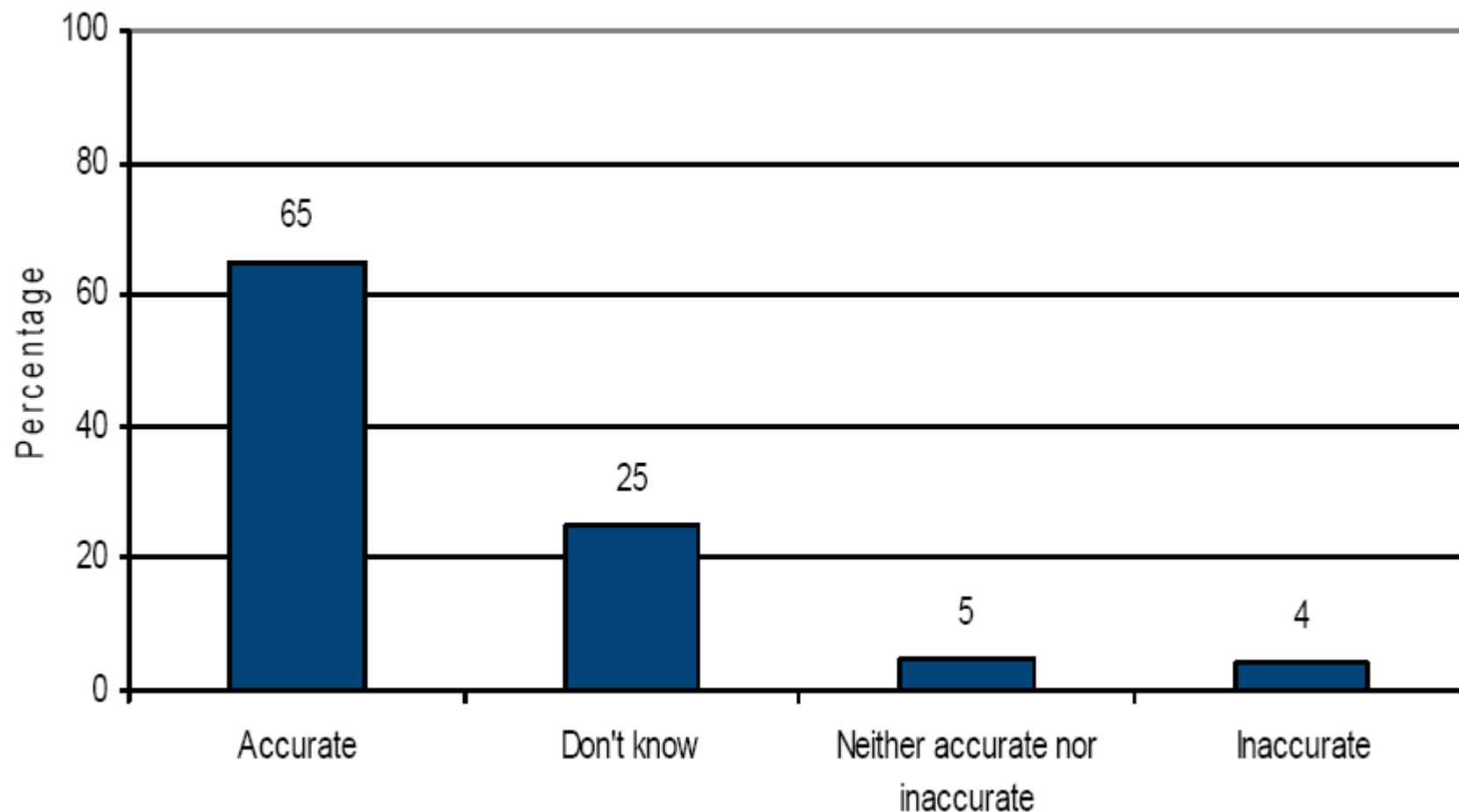
## Q59: Schools should play a leading role in educating the youth about elections (N = 1505)





## Q67: Accuracy regarding the 2004 counting and reporting of the votes (N=3804)

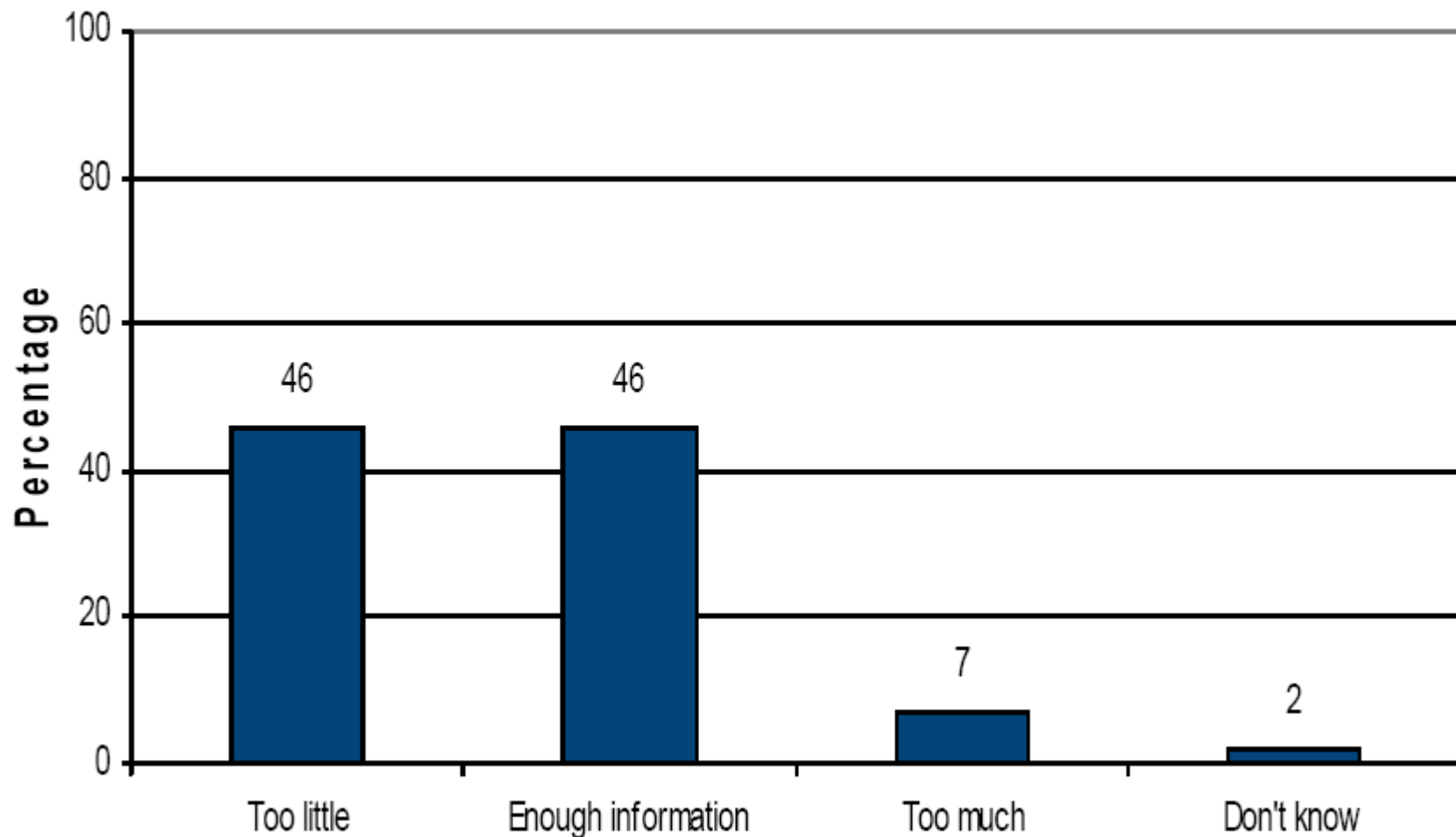
(% accurate=very accurate + Somewhat accurate, % Inaccurate= Somewhat inaccurate + very inaccurate)





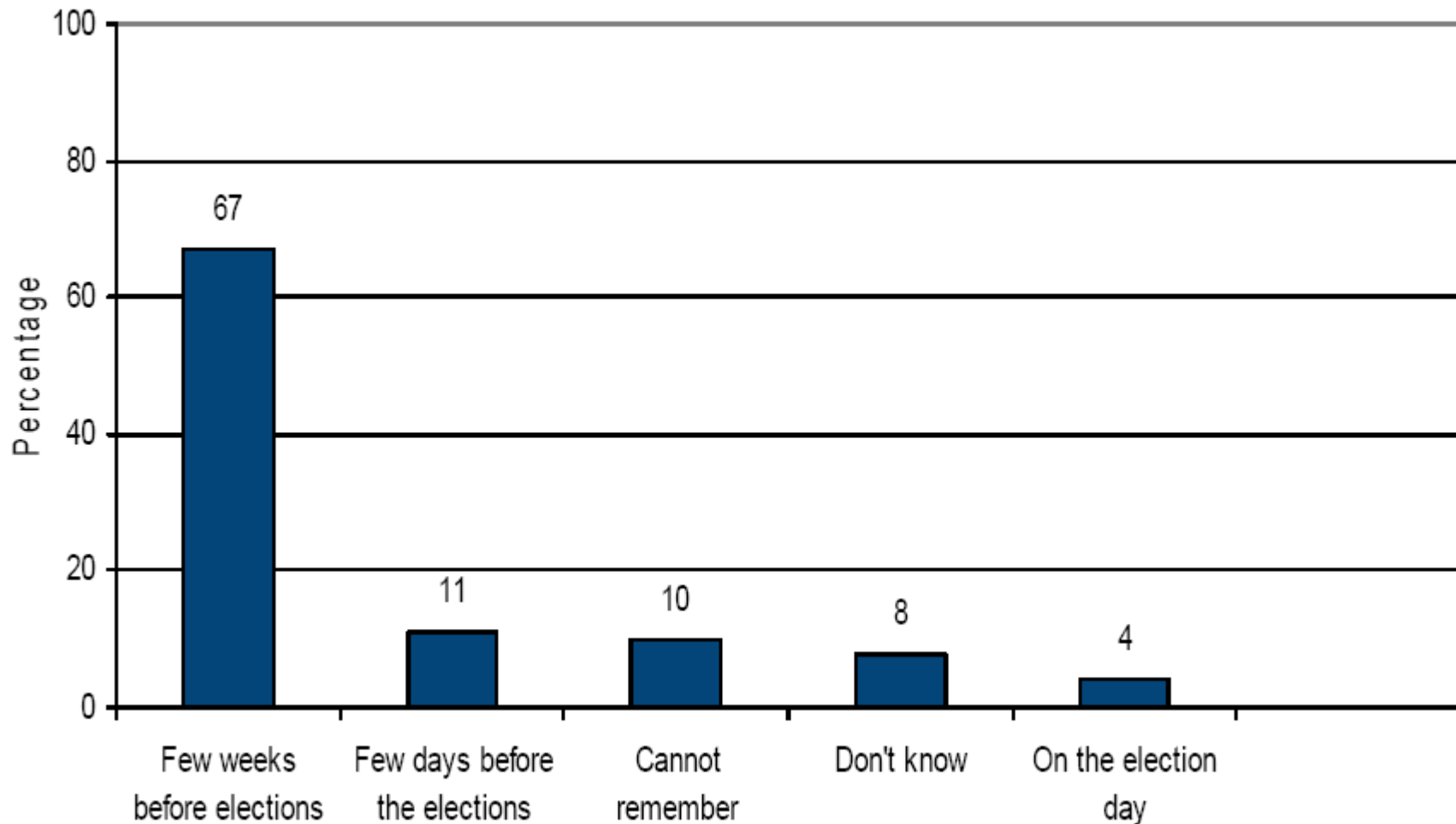
## Q70: Level of information about the services provided by the IEC (N=2753)

(% Little = Far too little + too little, % Too much = Too much + Far too much)





## Q71: Timing of information about the last national and provincial by the IEC (N=3834)

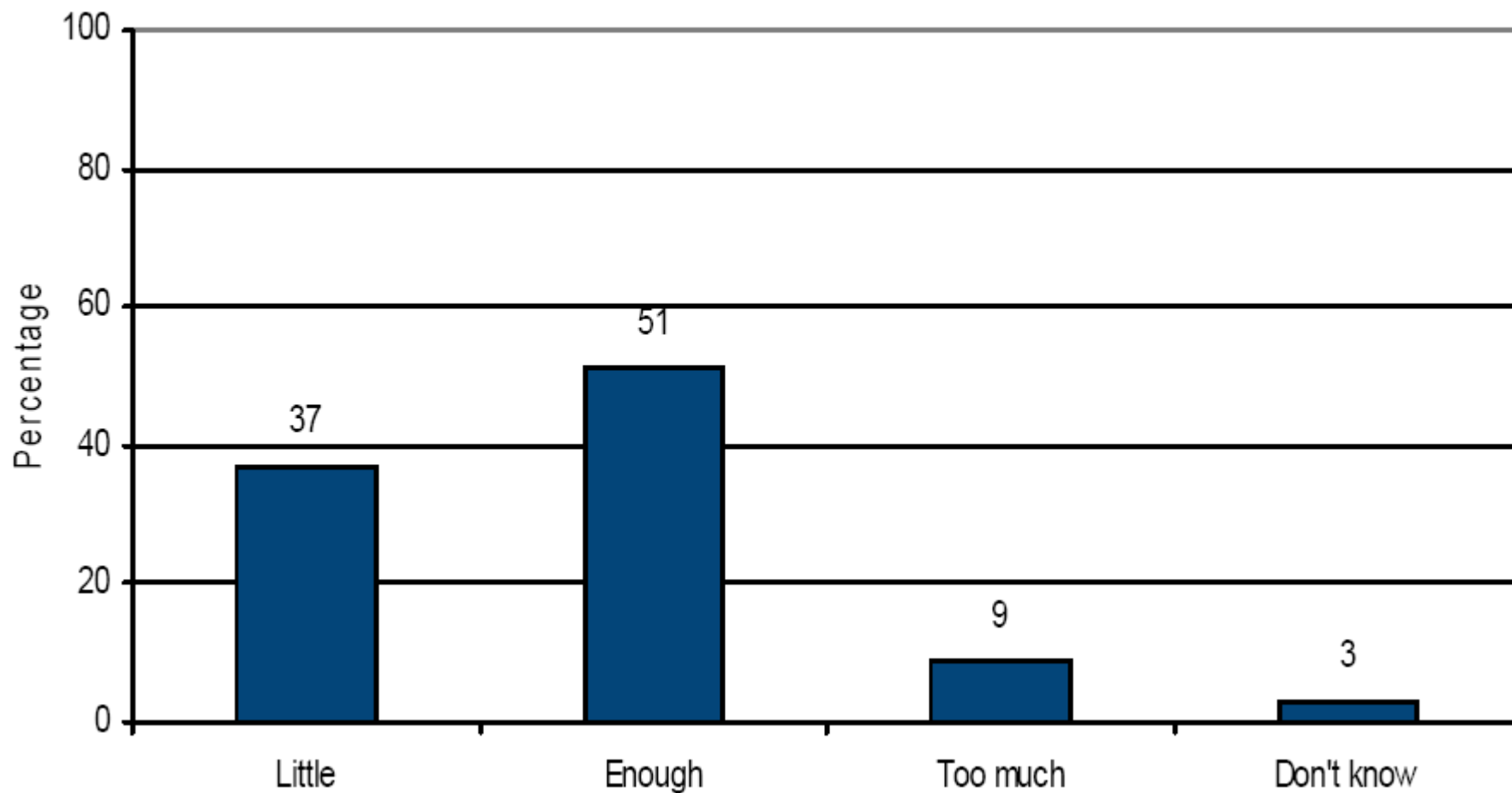






## Q72: Level information about how to vote (N=3834)

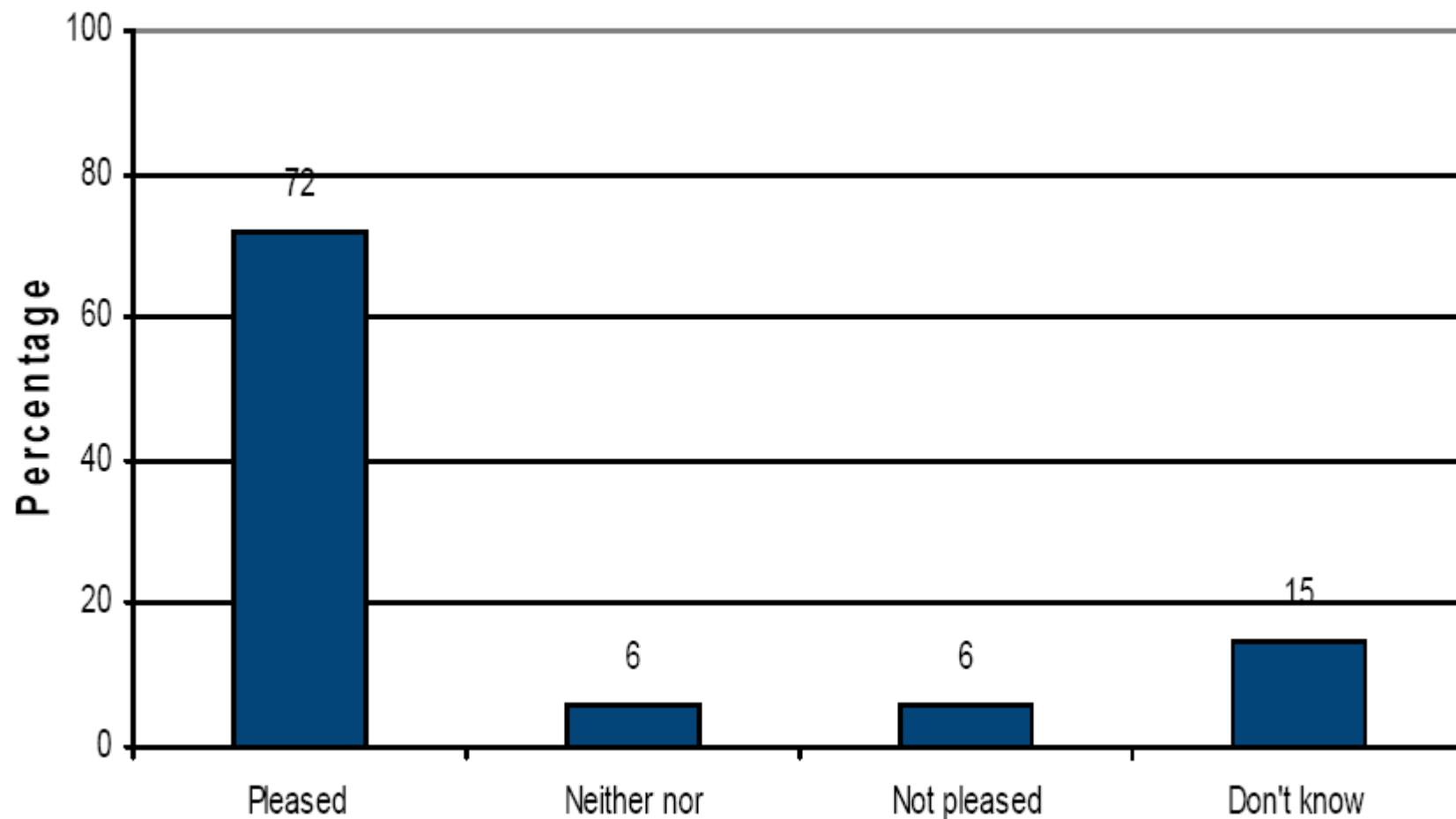
(% Little = Far too little + too little, % Too much = Too much + Far too much)





## Q73: Performance of the IEC during previous elections (N=3834)

(% saying very pleased + pleased)





## **Q75-Q81: Satisfaction with the most recent voting experience**

- ➔ On average over 80% were satisfied
- ➔ Urban formal and urban informal areas were most satisfied
- ➔ Younger respondents appear to be the least satisfied with their most recent voting experience
- ➔ Proportion of those satisfied increased by increase in age
- ➔ Higher proportion of Indians and whites than Africans were satisfied



## Q82 to Q93: Satisfaction with services of IEC officials

- ➔ Overall, the results show that the largest proportion of the respondents are satisfied with the services provided by the IEC officials. For example:
  - 92% were satisfied with the language used
  - 91% with the friendliness
  - 91% with the helpfulness
  - 90% with their efficiency
  - 79% with conflict resolution
  - 78% with absence of irregularities
- ➔ Those with no schooling were significantly more dissatisfied than those with secondary schooling and a degree or post graduate
- ➔ Coloureds are significantly more dissatisfied than Africans



## Q94 to Q104: Satisfaction IEC voting stations

- ➔ The results show overwhelmingly that the largest proportion of respondents are satisfied with the IEC's voting stations
- ➔ KZN is significantly more dissatisfied than WC, EC, NC, FS, GT, MP and LP
- ➔ Young (18 –24 years) respondents are significantly more dissatisfied than the 45 –54 year and 65+ year age group.
- ➔ Those with no schooling is significantly more dissatisfied than those with secondary schooling, grade 12 / matric and a degree or post graduate qualification
- ➔ Coloured respondents is significantly more dissatisfied than Africans



## Q106: Awareness of IEC voter education campaigns/programmes?

Highest proportion saying YES	Lowest proportion saying YES
Gauteng (73%) Limpopo (66%)	WC (42%)
Urban formal (63%)	Rural formal (42%)
35-44 years (68%)	18-24 yrs (44%)
R7501 + (80%)	R751-1500 (48%)
Degree/post graduate (81%)	No schooling (37%)
Male (60%)	Female (56%)
White (69%)	Coloured (52%)
Total (58%)	Total (42%)

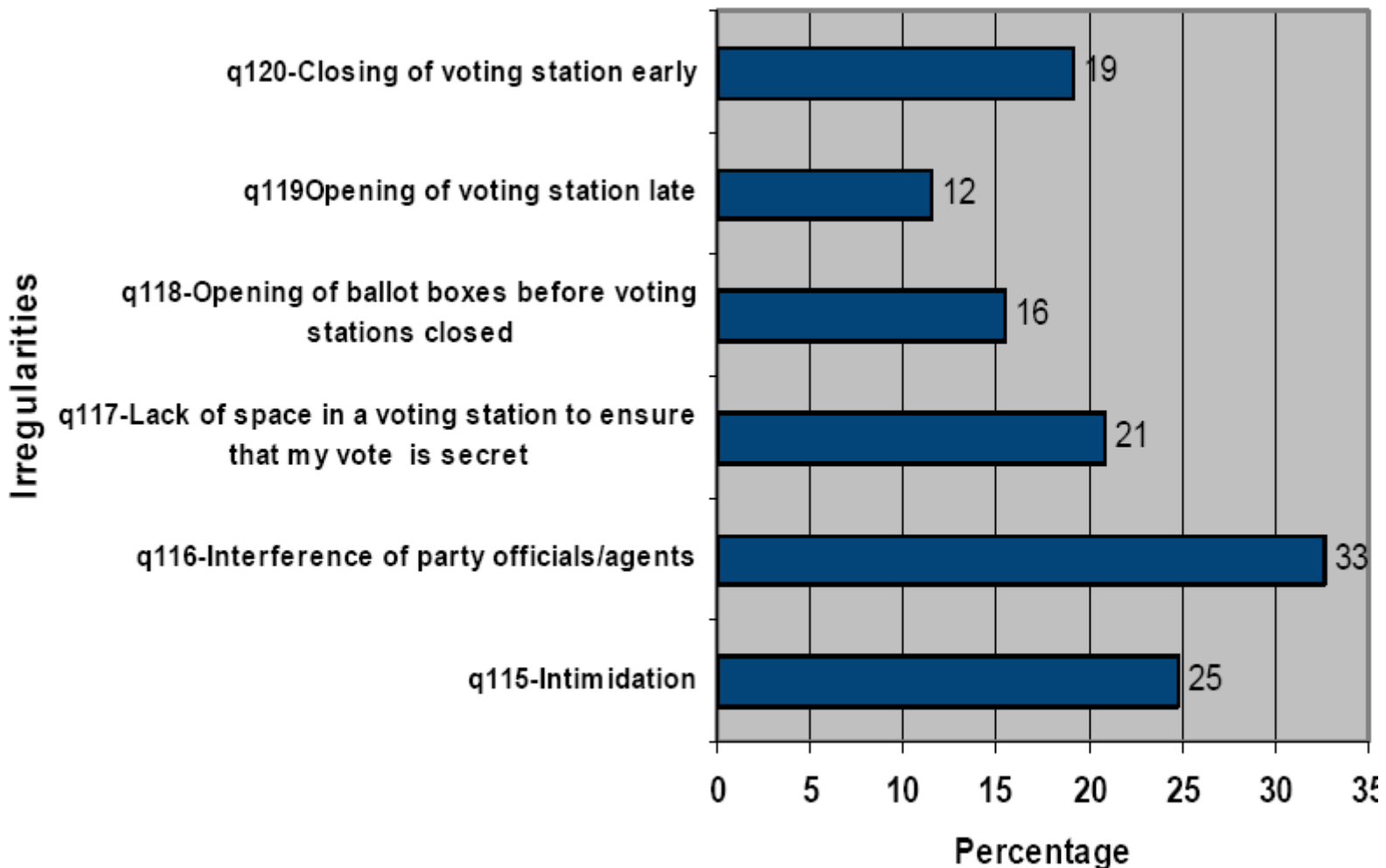


## Q107 to Q114: Voter Education

- ➔ About 89% felt election procedures were free and fair
- ➔ Only 31% agree have received any information from the IEC through its voter education campaigns/programmes?
- ➔ Majority (over 93%) satisfied to very satisfied with all aspects of IEC voter Education except for channel used (85%)



## Q115 to Q121: Percentage who experience forms of irregularities (Very often + Sometimes + Rarely)







## **Q115 to Q121: High prevalence of irregularities**

- ➔ **KZN (23%)**
- ➔ **Urban formal (23%)**
- ➔ **Coloured respondents (20%)**



## Usefulness/ Utility of the Survey to the IEC

- Provides empirical evidence of strengths and weaknesses of the electoral process
- Survey results could be used as supportive / Supplementary information to IEC information and communication campaigns
- Useful tool for supporting official IEC documents, public speeches and planning
- Utility value to internal units/ departments of IEC (e.g. Electoral Ops, Training, CE/VE, etc.)
- Post-election tool for further analysis and investigation
- Part of info pack for observers



SOUTH AFRICA

# Thank you



Electoral Commission of South Africa