

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

04 February 2009

Social science that makes a difference



About this Presentation

Knowledge Systems

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

Social science that makes a difference

Aims and Description of the Study

- To determine the state of the electoral process including voting behaviour among South Africans as well as the ability or preparedness of the IEC to manage all aspects of elections.
- The study had three components:
 - A desktop review of existing literature on elections,
 - A focus group discussion that targeted special groups (such as traditional leaders, the youth, people with disability among others) and
 - A national survey of a representative sample of 4000 (3885 realized) South Africans aged 18 years and above.

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 Post-election tool for further analysis and investigation
- Part of information package for Stakeholders (e.g. observers)

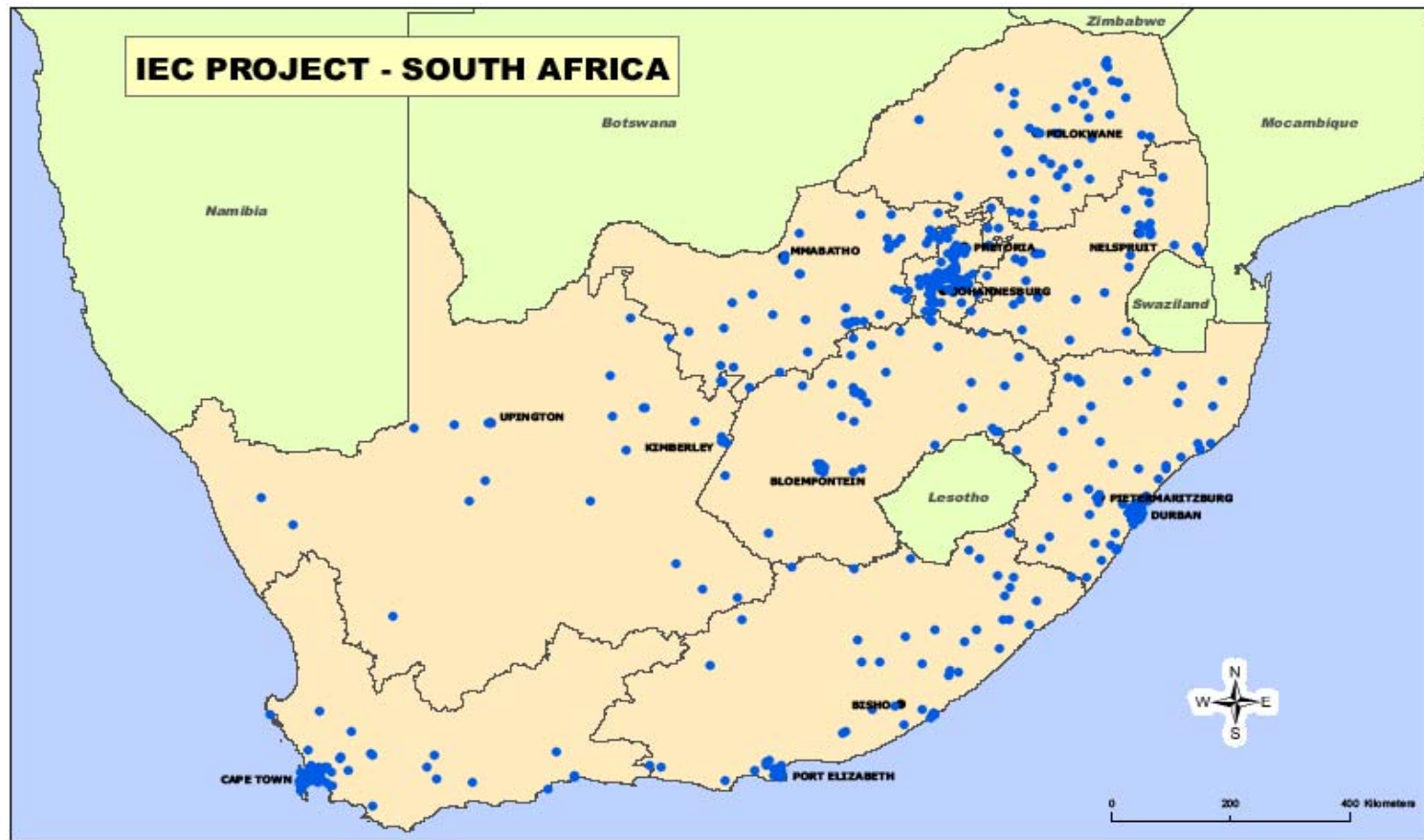
Research Methodology

- A representative sample of 3885 respondents was drawn from 500 Enumeration Areas (EAs) 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.
- Data collection was done by 11 provincial field supervisors and 118 fieldworkers.
- All were trained and supervised by HSRC researchers. Data was captured, cleaned and weighted to the target population.

DATA COLLECTION FIELD TEAM

Province	Number of field supervisors	Number of Fieldworkers
Eastern Cape	1	10
Free State	1	13
Gauteng	2	20
KwaZulu Natal	2	22
Limpopo	1	9
Mpumalanga	1	11
Northern Cape	1	7
North West	1	12
Western Cape	1	14
Total	11	118

Sample Distribution



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

- Overall 97% had Green Bar-Coded IDs
- Those without ID's were mostly from KZN (5%) and NW (5%), within urban informal (4%), traditional (4%) and rural formal areas (5%), among Africans (3%) and 8% of 18-24 year olds
- Majority (96%) of those without ID's intended applying for one

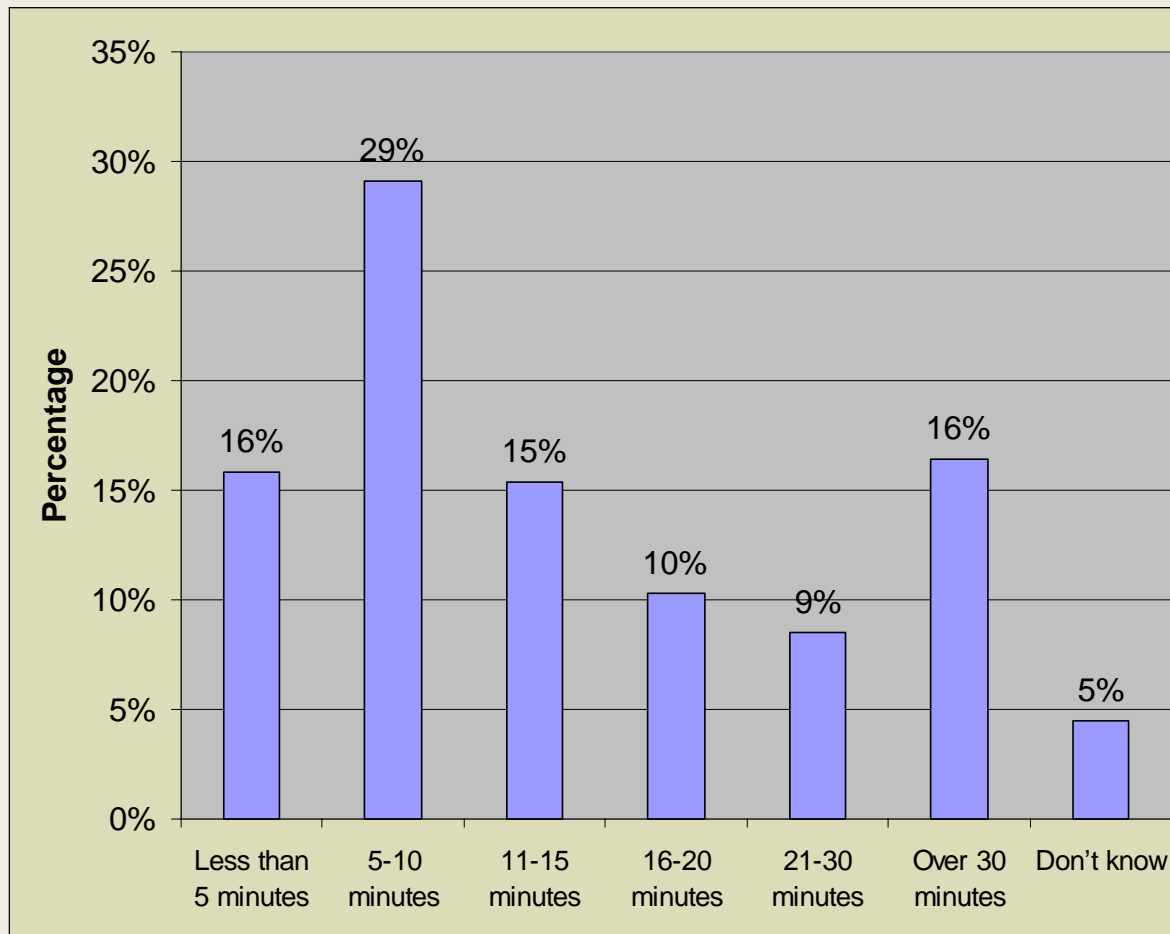
Q11 & Q12-Are you registered as a voter? (N=3885)

- Overall 73% were registered by October 08.
- Highest proportion of registered found in NC (82%) and EC (81%)
- Lowest found in KZN (67%), rural formal (64%), urban informal (66%), Africans (71%) and among males (69%) (compared to 75% of female), 18-24 year olds (22%), secondary/matric level of education (65%) and among those with no income (58%).
- Most registered in 2004 (31%), and 1998 (25%).
- Due to a conscious effort by women to empower themselves- they are actively participating in politics

Q13 & Q15- Did you find it easy to register?

- Overall 97% (N=2809) found it easy to register and were issued with proof of registration.
- Highest proportion of rural formal (6%) did not find it easy to register

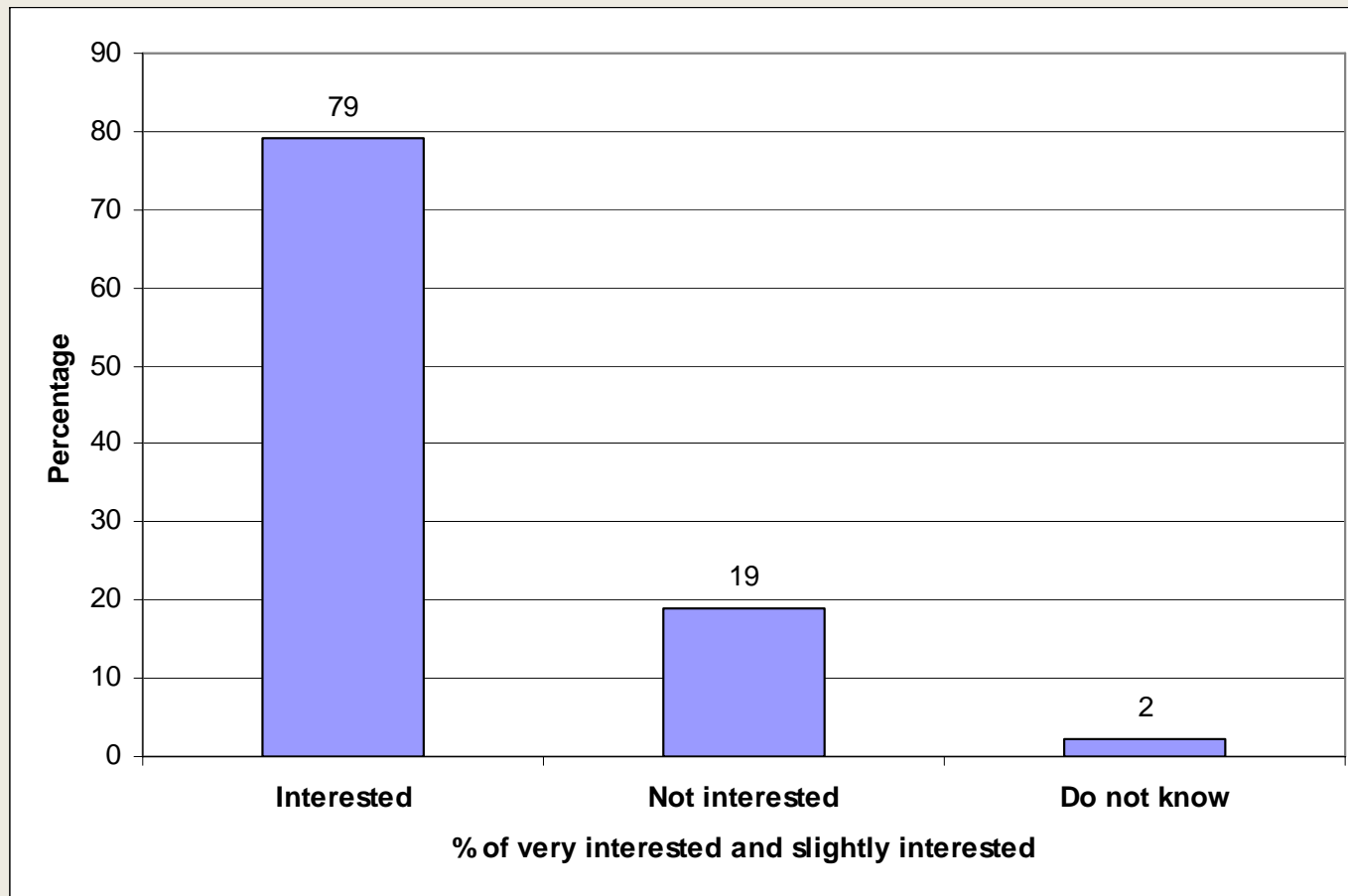
Q17- How long did it take to register?



Q17- Time taken to register

- Shortest time to register of “Less than 5 min” report in WC (29%), urban formal areas (18%), & among Coloureds (26%).
- Longest time to register of “over 30 min” reported in NW- 28%, & Africans (12%).
- Possibly due to large numbers in a given registration point. Africans had highest proportion with no schooling (10%) compared to other races.

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% were interested
- Highest proportions in GT and LP, among Africans, and those aged 45-54 years
- Lowest proportions in KZN and WC, among Indians and Coloureds and youth (18-24 years).

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 increase in age
- White (84%) most likely to vote, while Coloureds were least likely to vote
- Of those who said they would not vote, 48% were simply not interested in voting

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

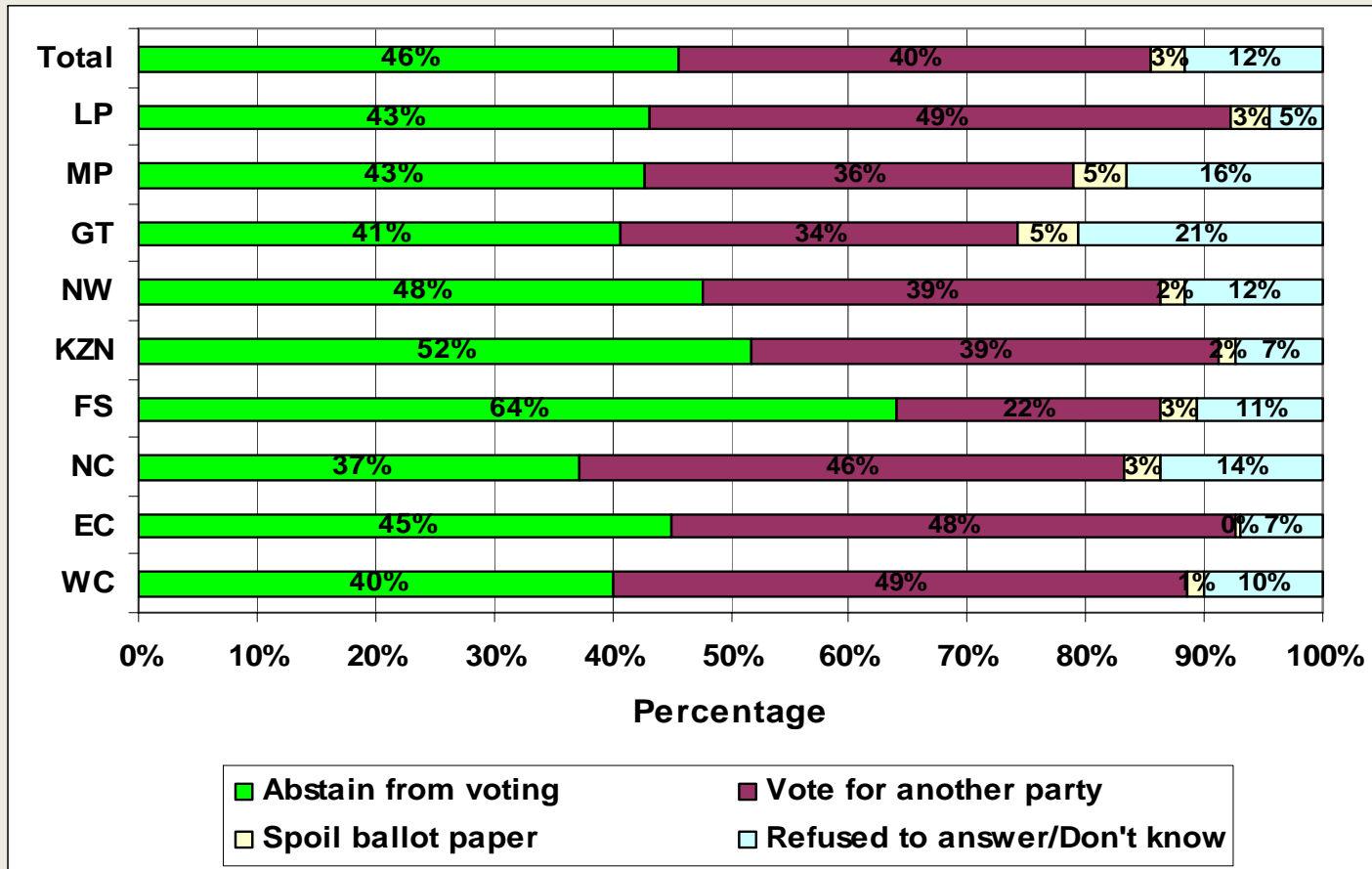
Q65- If the party you voted for did not meet your expectations will you, the next time there is an election (N=3857)

Action to take	Percent
Give that party another chance	41
Vote for another party	30
Not vote at all	19
Wait for an explanation and then decide	5

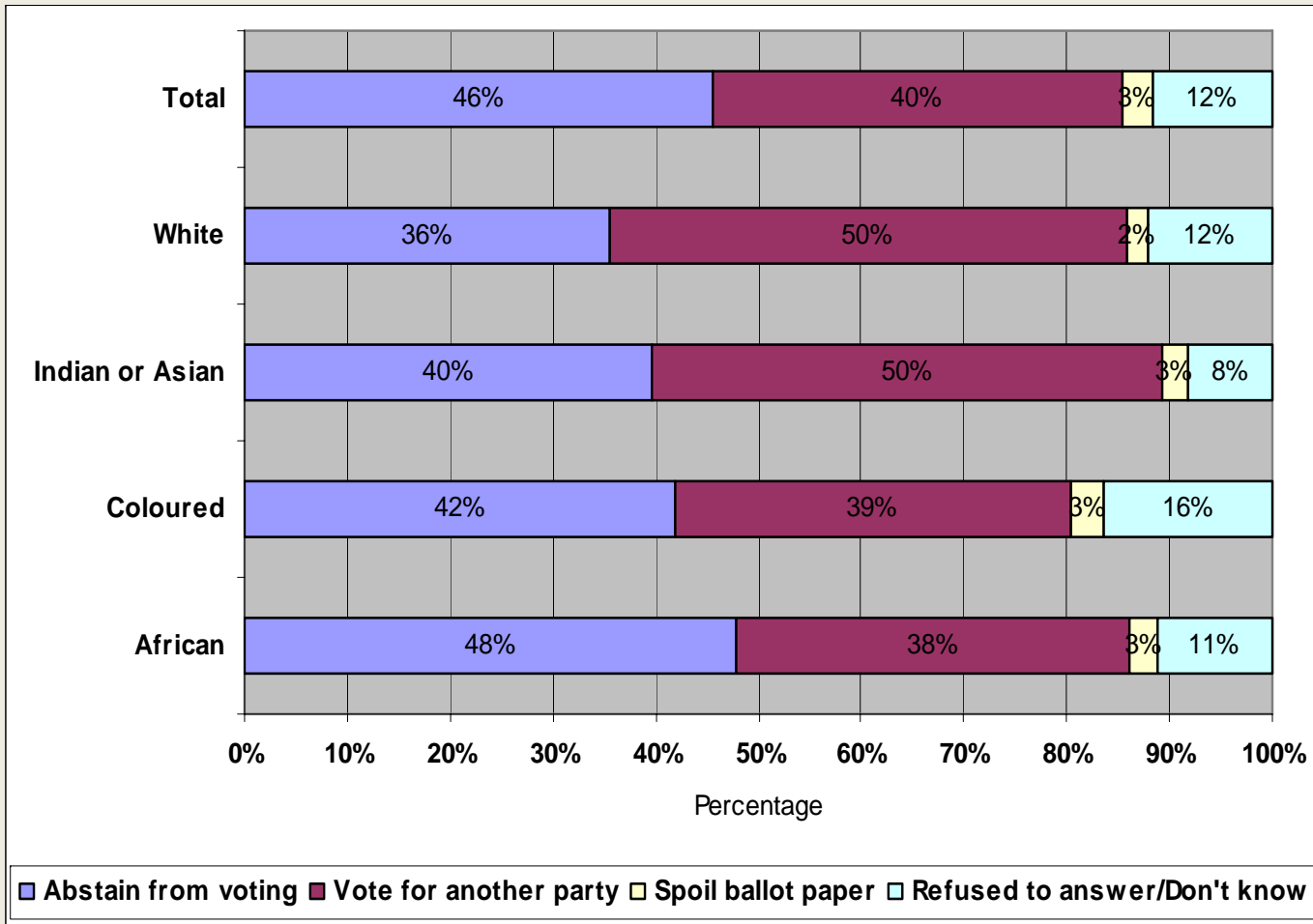
Q65- If the party you voted for did not meet your expectations will you, the next time there is an election

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

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



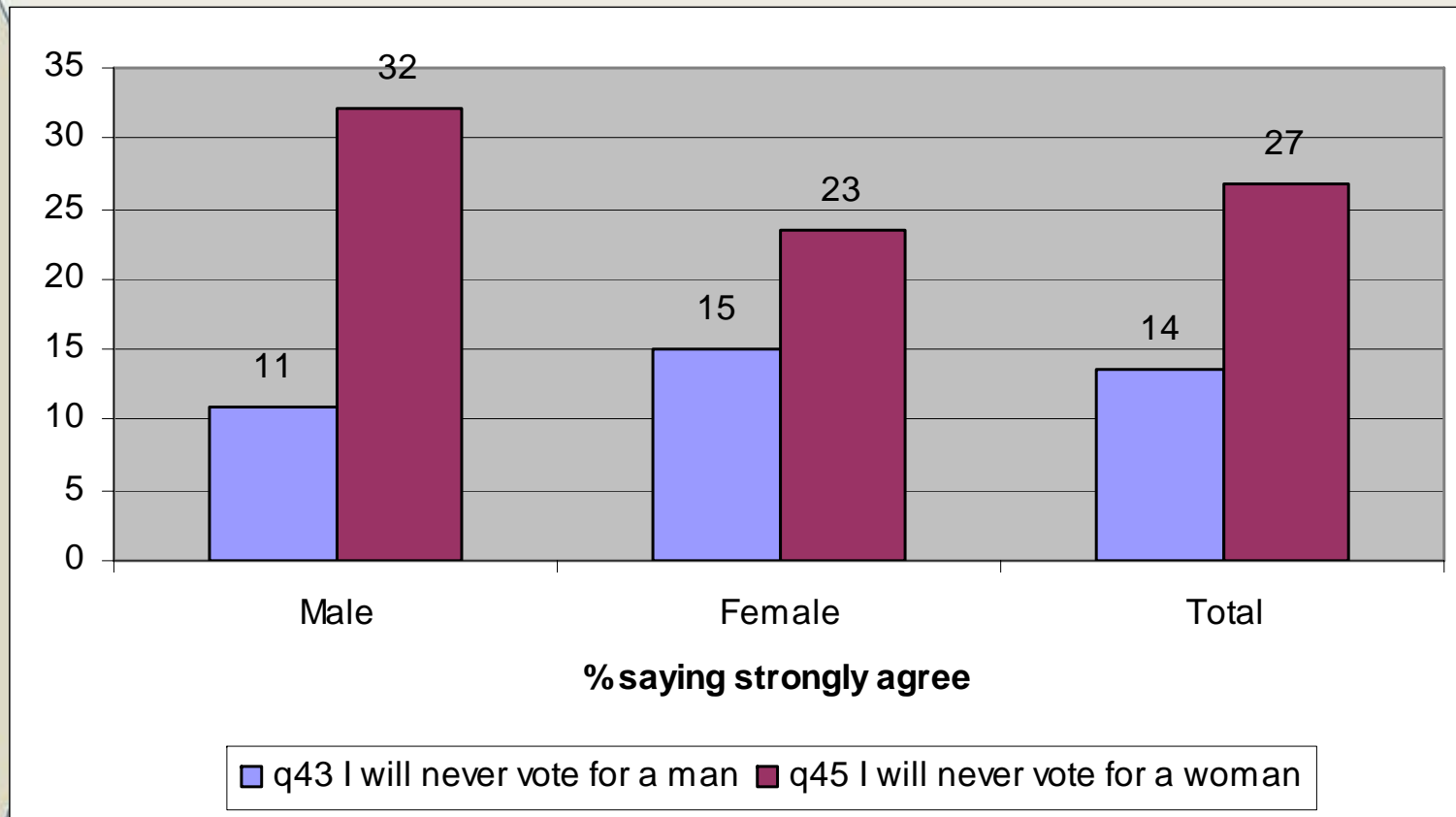
Q66- If you felt that you could not vote for the political party that you normally support, would it be wise to.....? By Race (N=3851)



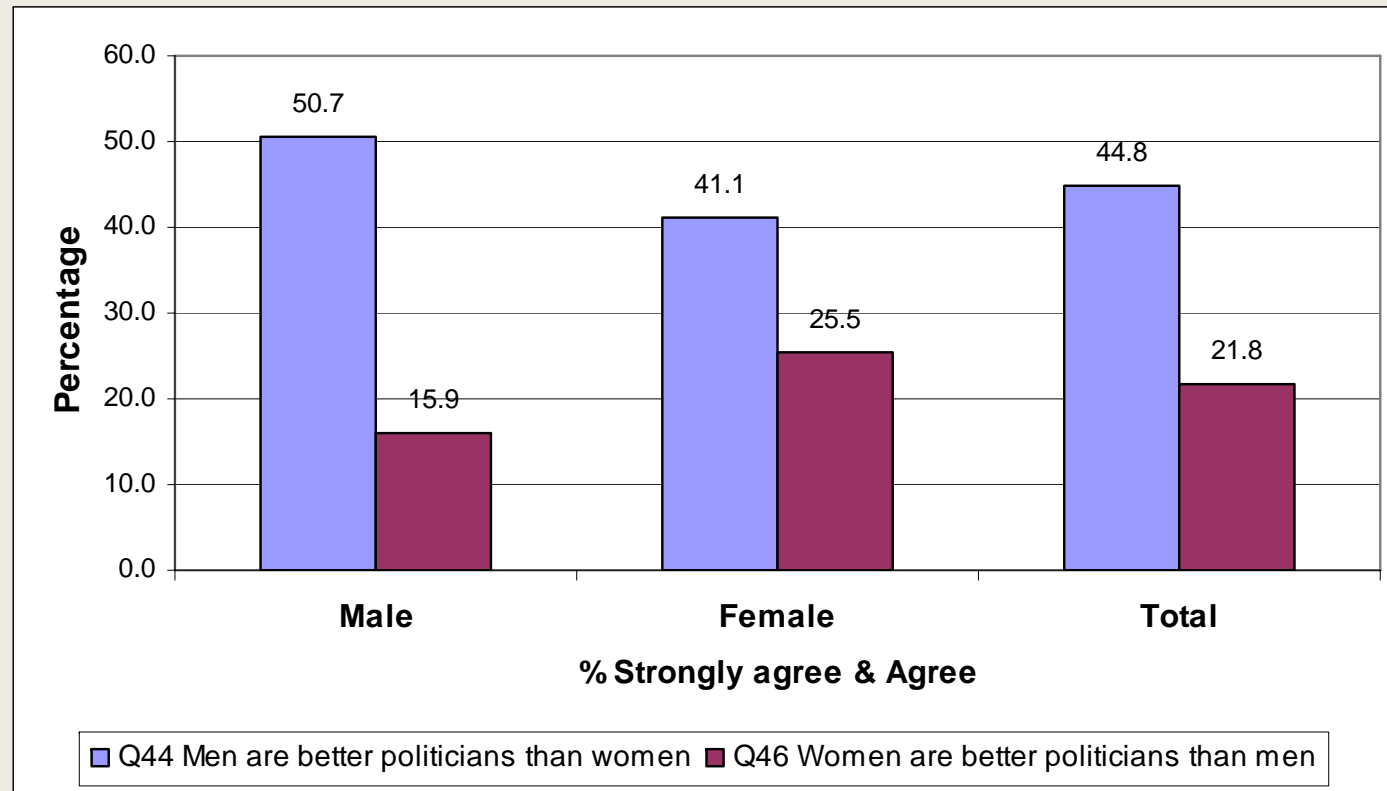
Q33 -Q42 Perceptions on Voting and When it Should Take Place

- Asked why they voted, 75% voted because their vote made a difference while 81% felt it was their duty as citizens to vote
- 68% voted to get quality health, education and other basic services.
- Equality divided over when voting should take place with 32% indicating either a normal working day, public holiday or on a weekend.

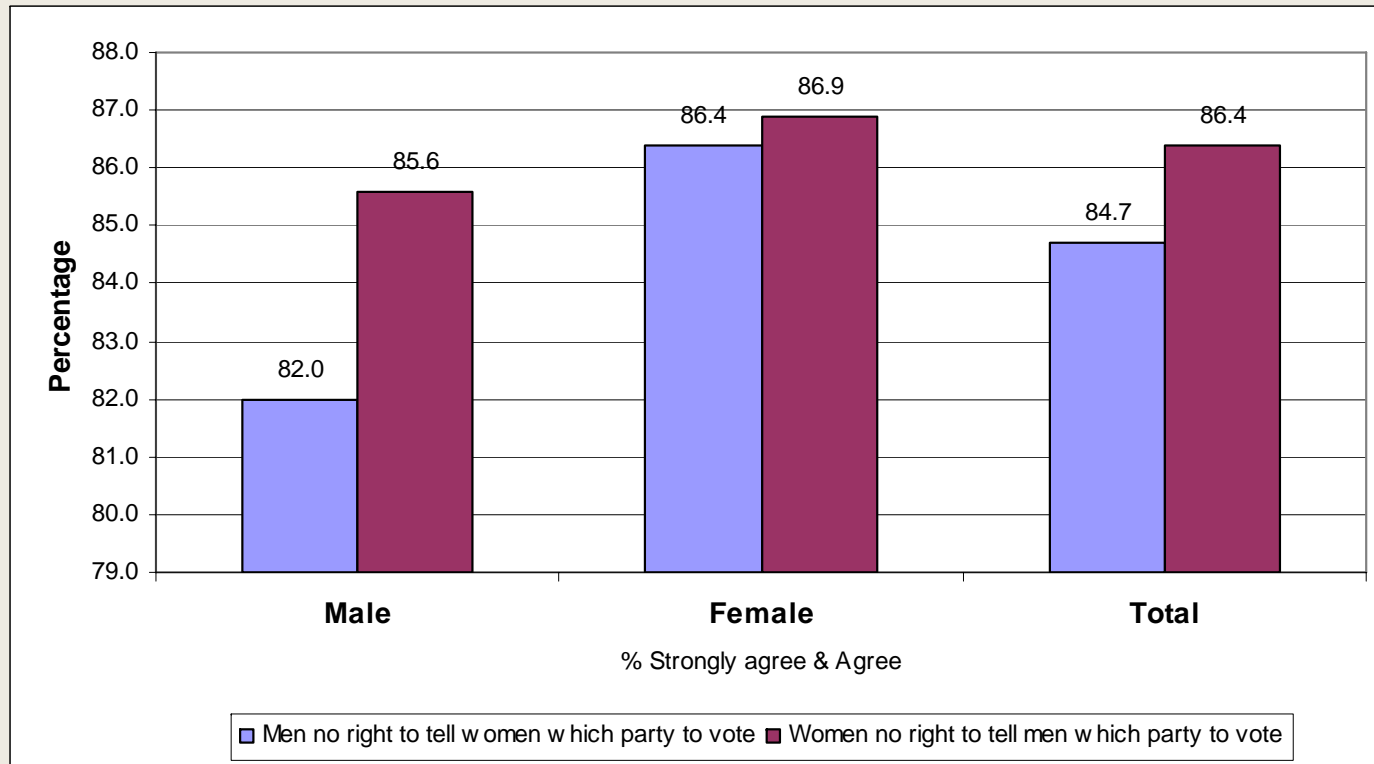
Q43, 45 Would never vote for a man (N=230) or Never for a woman (N=404)



Q44, 46- Men / Women are generally better politicians (N = 1738; N = 844)



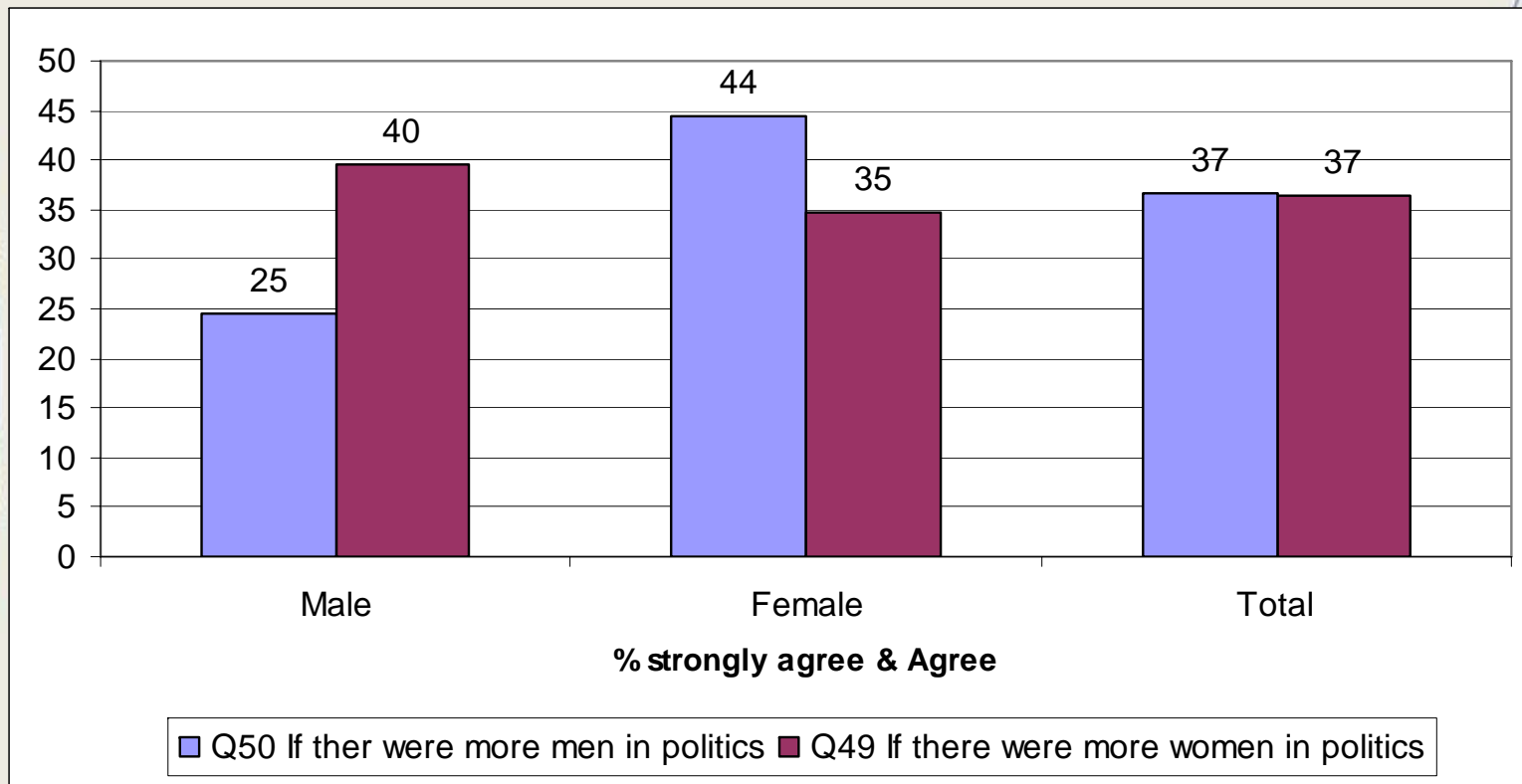
Q47 & Q48-Men / Women telling which party to vote (men tell women, N = 3285; women tell men, N = 3351)



Q49, 50- My needs would be addressed better if there were more men/women in politics..

(N= 1420; N = 1416)

Knowledge Systems

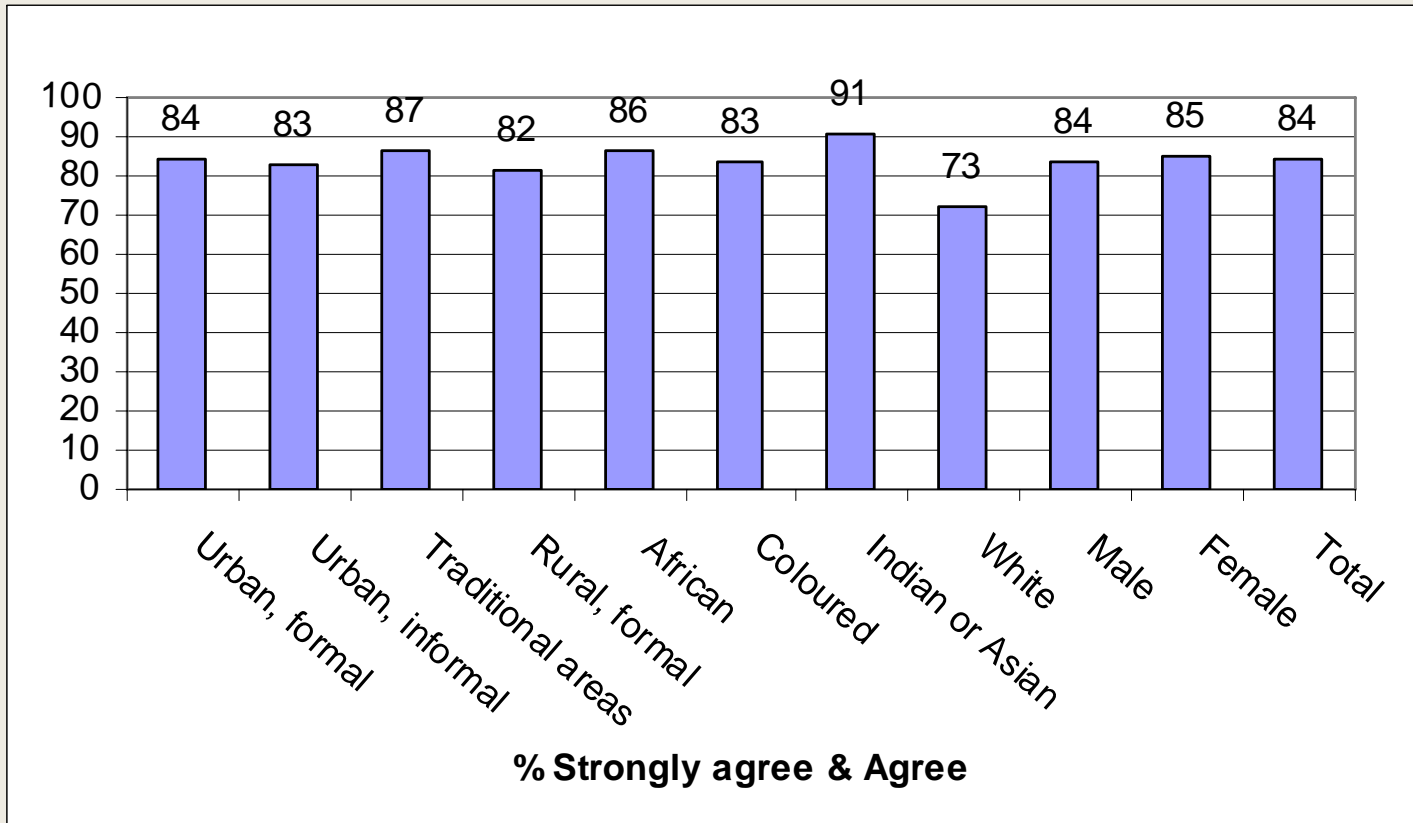


Women and political participation

- More women (54%) than men (37%) agreed that legislation should force parties to have women on their lists
- More women (63%) than men (43%) agreed that quotas for women in political parties should be increased
- More women (69%) than men (55%) agreed that women need to get more involved in politics to solve problems that concern them

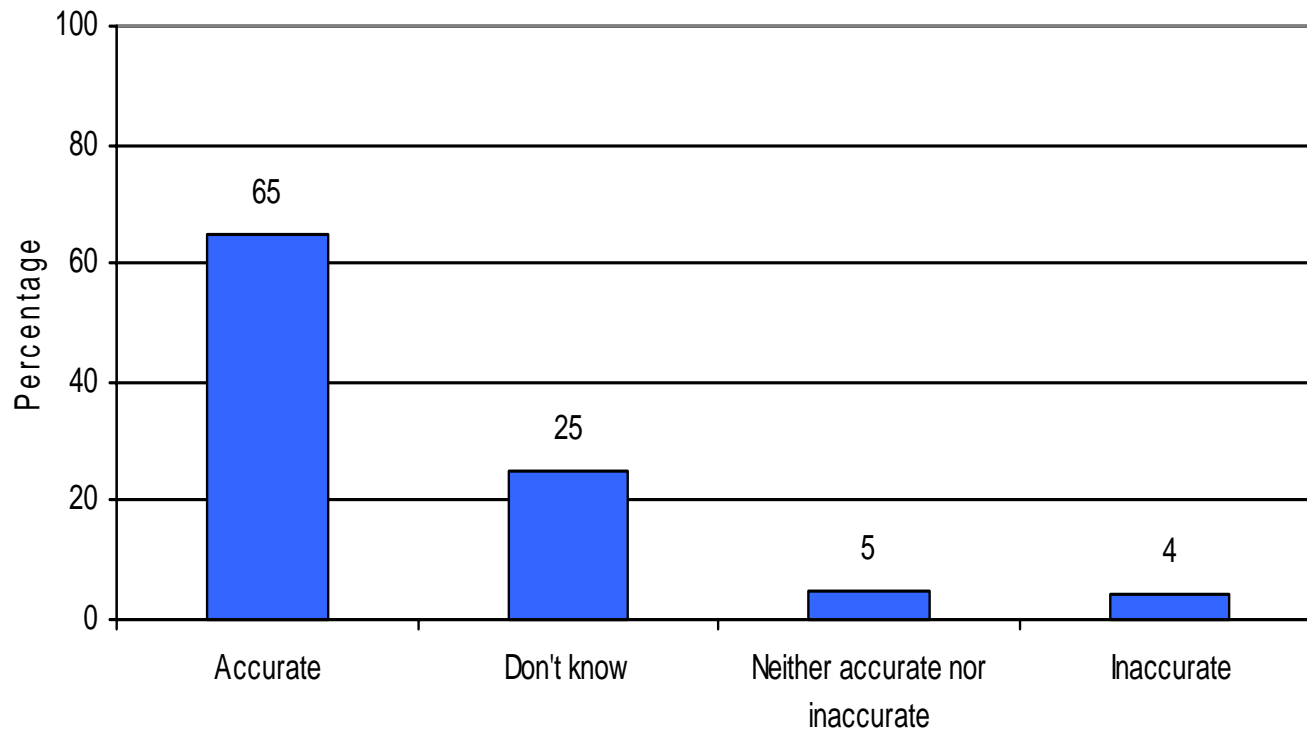
Q59- Schools should play a leading role in educating the youth about elections (N = 1505)

Knowledge Systems



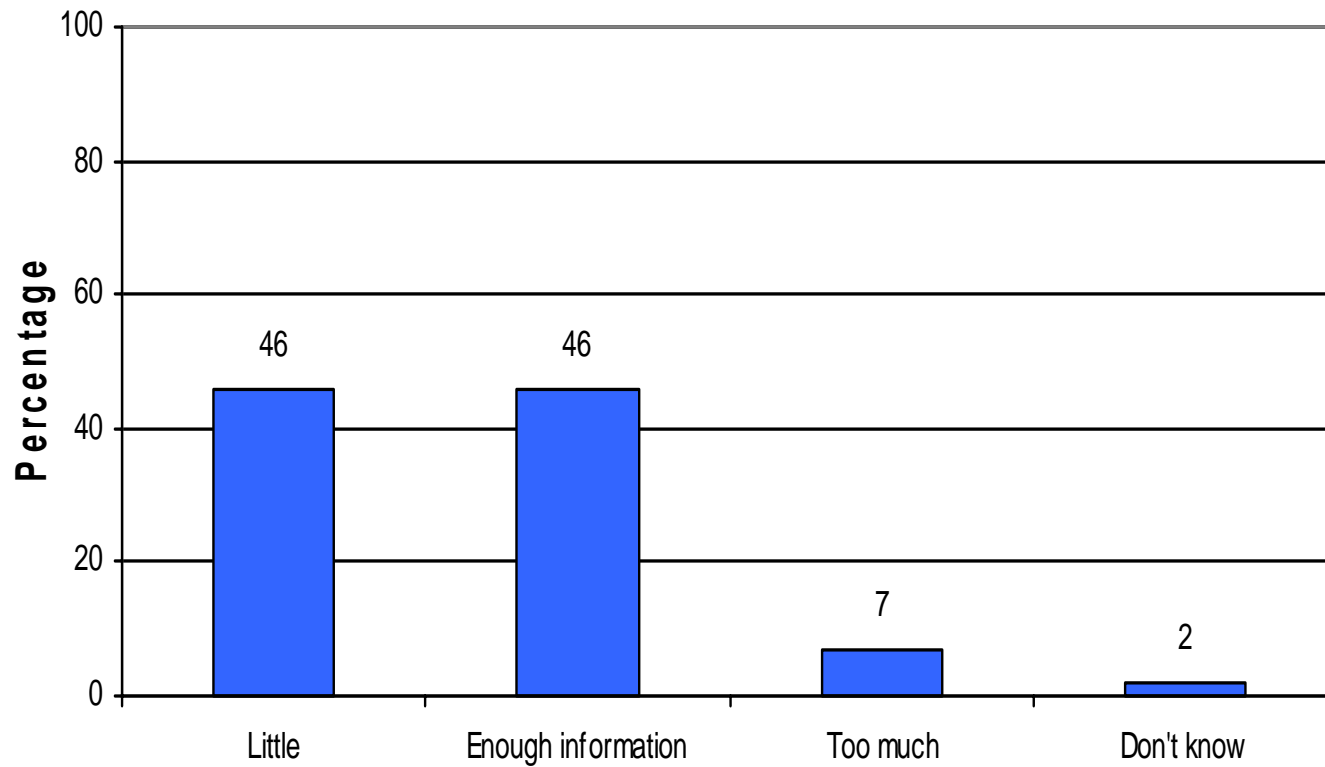
Q67-Accuracy regarding the 2004 counting and reporting of the votes (N=3804)

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



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

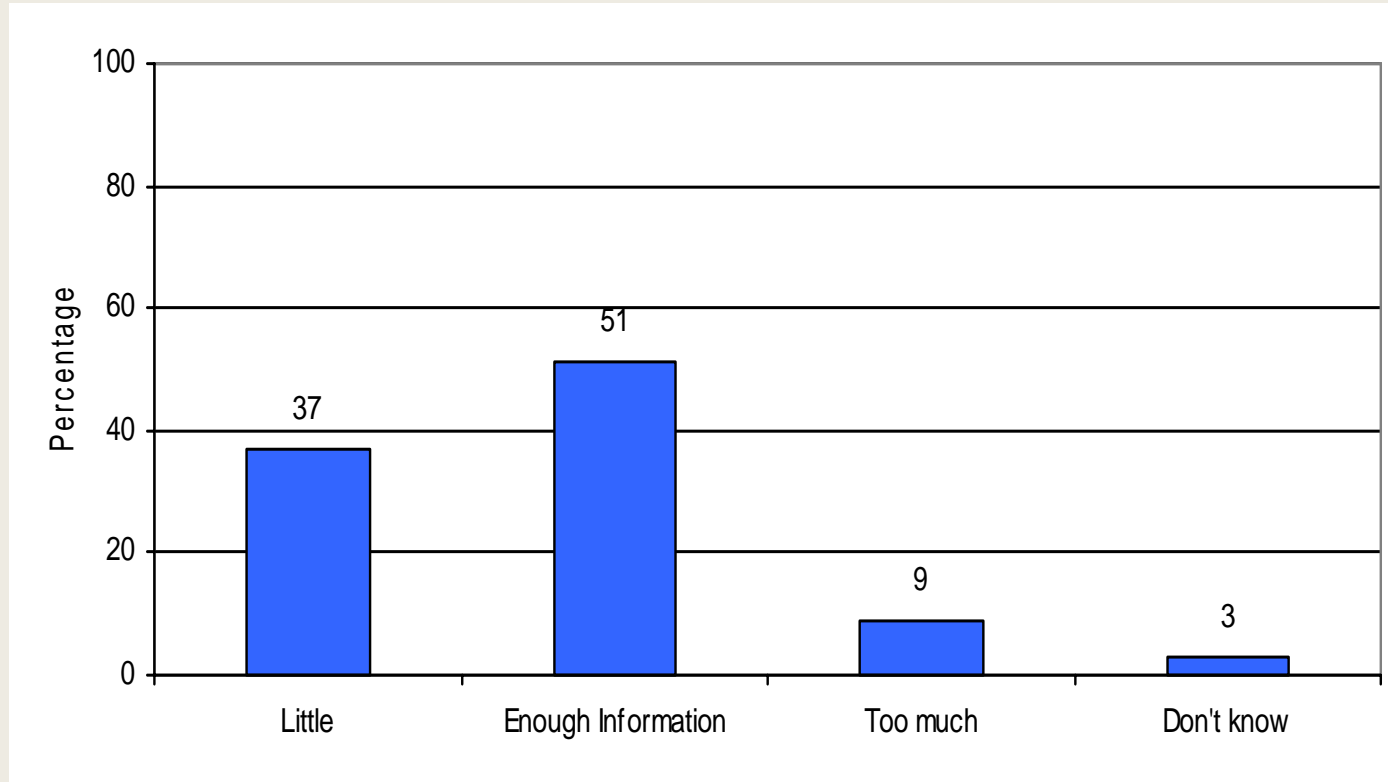
(%Little=Far too little + too little, %Too much=Too much + Far too much)



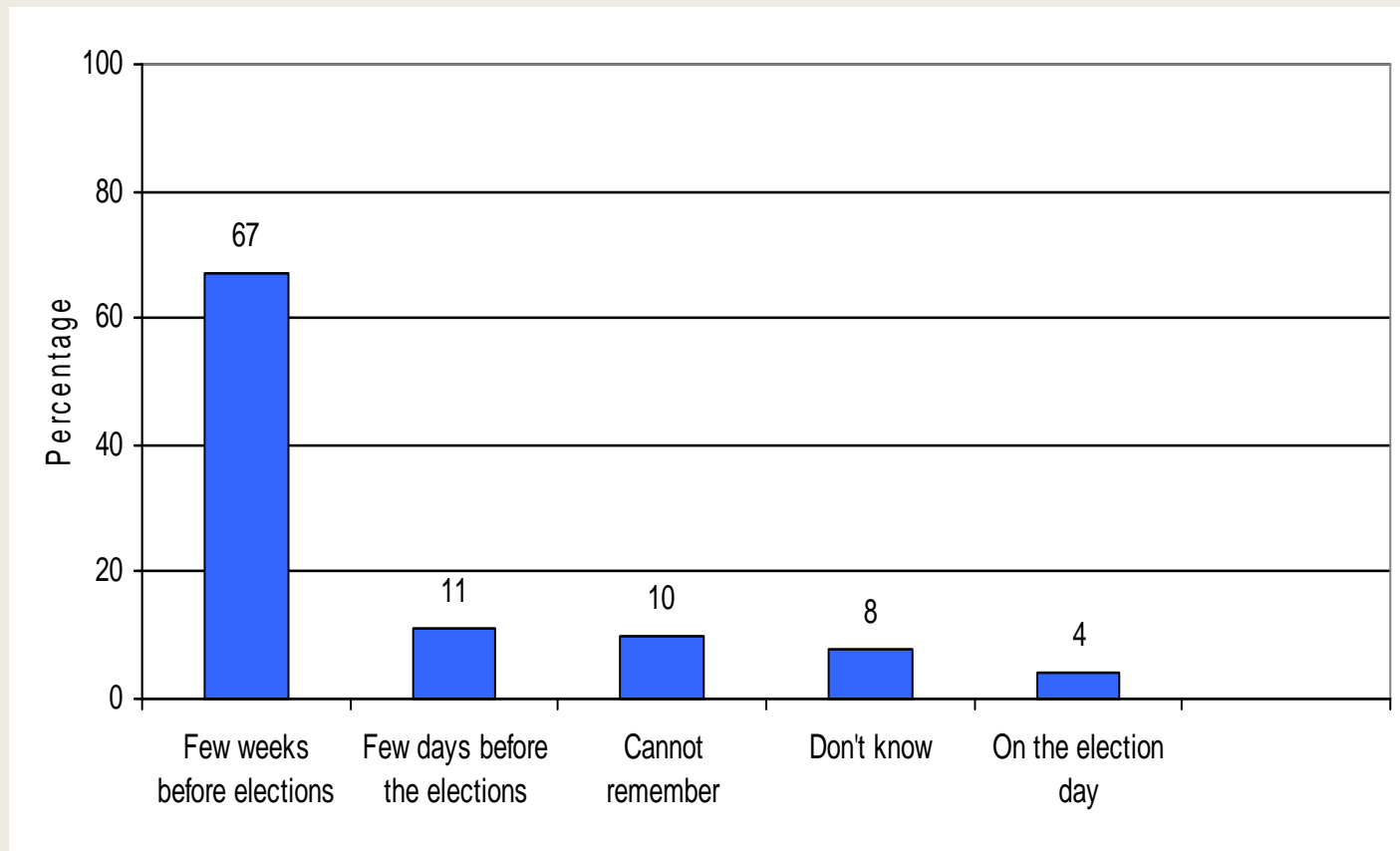
Q72- Level information about how to vote (N=3834)

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

Knowledge Systems

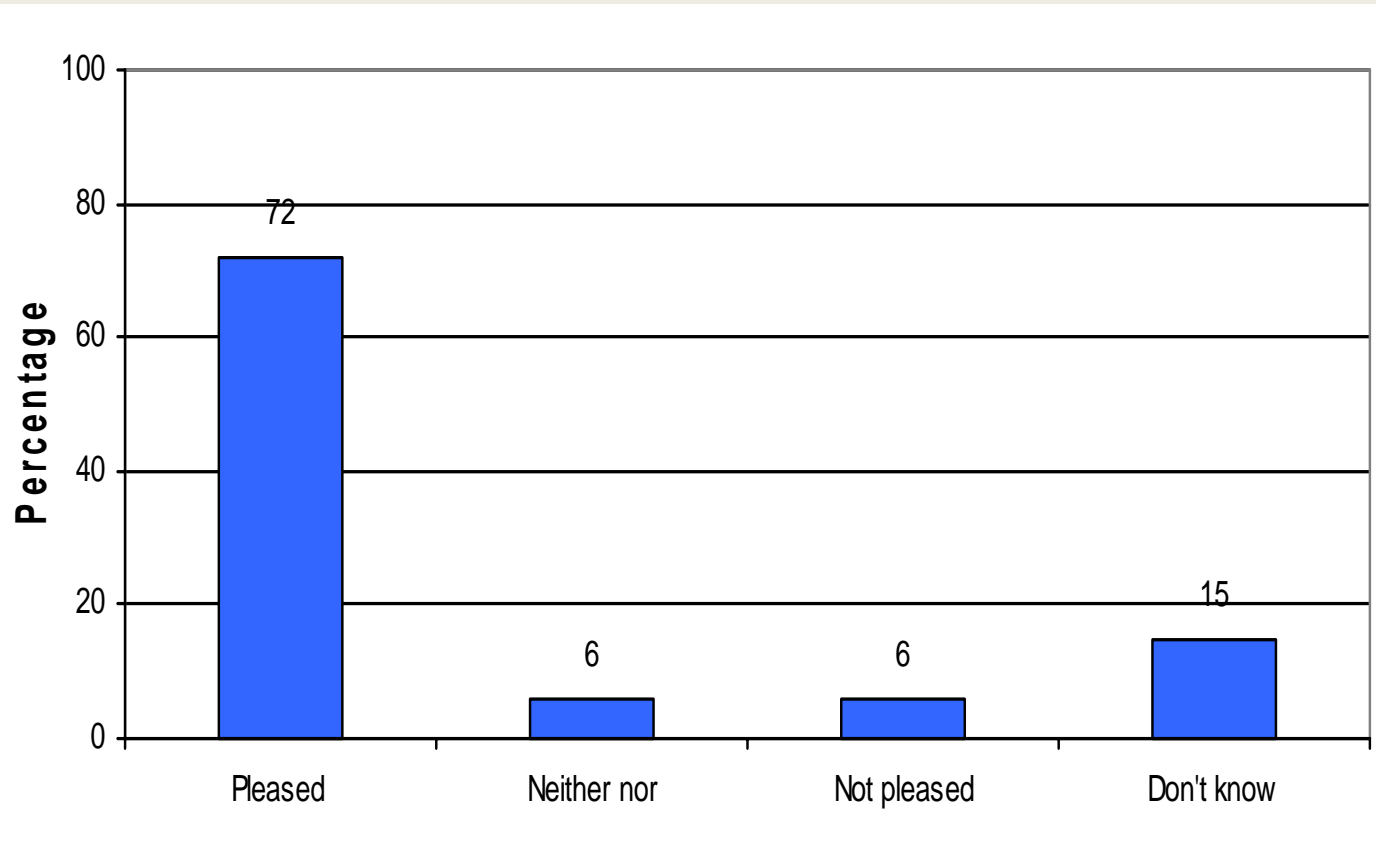


Q71-Timing of information about the last national and provincial by the IEC (N=3834)



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

(% saying very pleased + pleased)



Q82 to Q93-Satisfaction with services of IEC officials

- Overall, slightly over 90% were satisfied with the language used, friendliness, helpfulness, and efficiency IEC officials.
- Those with no schooling were significantly more dissatisfied than those with at least secondary education.
- Coloureds were significantly more dissatisfied than Africans

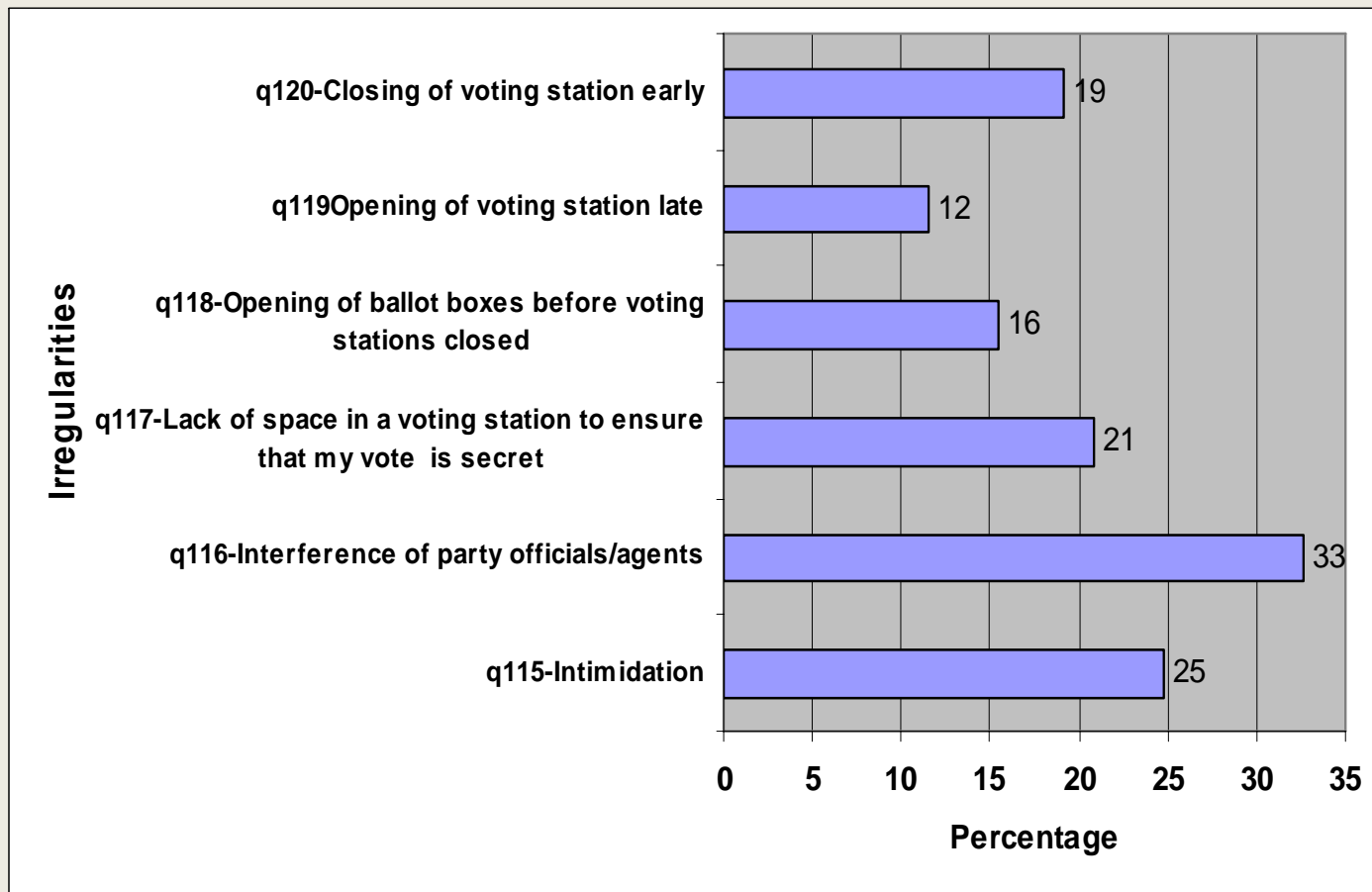
Q106- Awareness of IEC voter education campaigns/programmes?

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%)
Males (60%)	Females (56%)
Whites (69%)	Coloureds (52%)
Total (58%)	Total (42%)

Q107 to Q114-Voter Education

- Only 31% agreed to have received any information from the IEC through its voter education campaigns/ programmes?
- Majority (over 90%) were satisfied with all aspects of IEC voter Education (content, communication style, language, presentation style, materials, channels (85%), media)

Q115 to Q121-Percent of who experience forms of irregularities



NEXT STEP

- Use some of the information obtained from the desktop review and FGD to explain some of the findings of the survey.
- Draw conclusions and make recommendations to the IEC.
- Finalise the reports on the three components of the study and submit to the IEC