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Supportive but Dissatisfied: Ugandans' views on multipartism

Findings from Afrobarometer Round 6 Survey in Uganda

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Social Research and Integrated Business Consultancy

At a glance

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- **Growing support for multiparty politics** since 2000

- **Growing trust in opposition political parties**

- Perceived differences between opposition and the ruling party revolves around **personality, experience and integrity of party leaders** as well as the **economic/ development policies**

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What is Afrobarometer?

- An African-led, non-partisan survey research project that measures citizen attitudes on democracy and governance, the economy, civil society, and other topics.
- Started in 12 countries in 1999, expanded to 35 African countries in Round 5 (2011-2013).
- **Goal:** To give the public a voice in policy-making by providing high-quality public opinion data to policy makers, policy advocates, civil society organizations, academics, news media, donors and investors, and ordinary Africans.
- National Partners in each country conduct the survey. In Uganda, Afrobarometer Round 6 survey was conducted by Hatchile Consult Ltd.

Where Afrobarometer works

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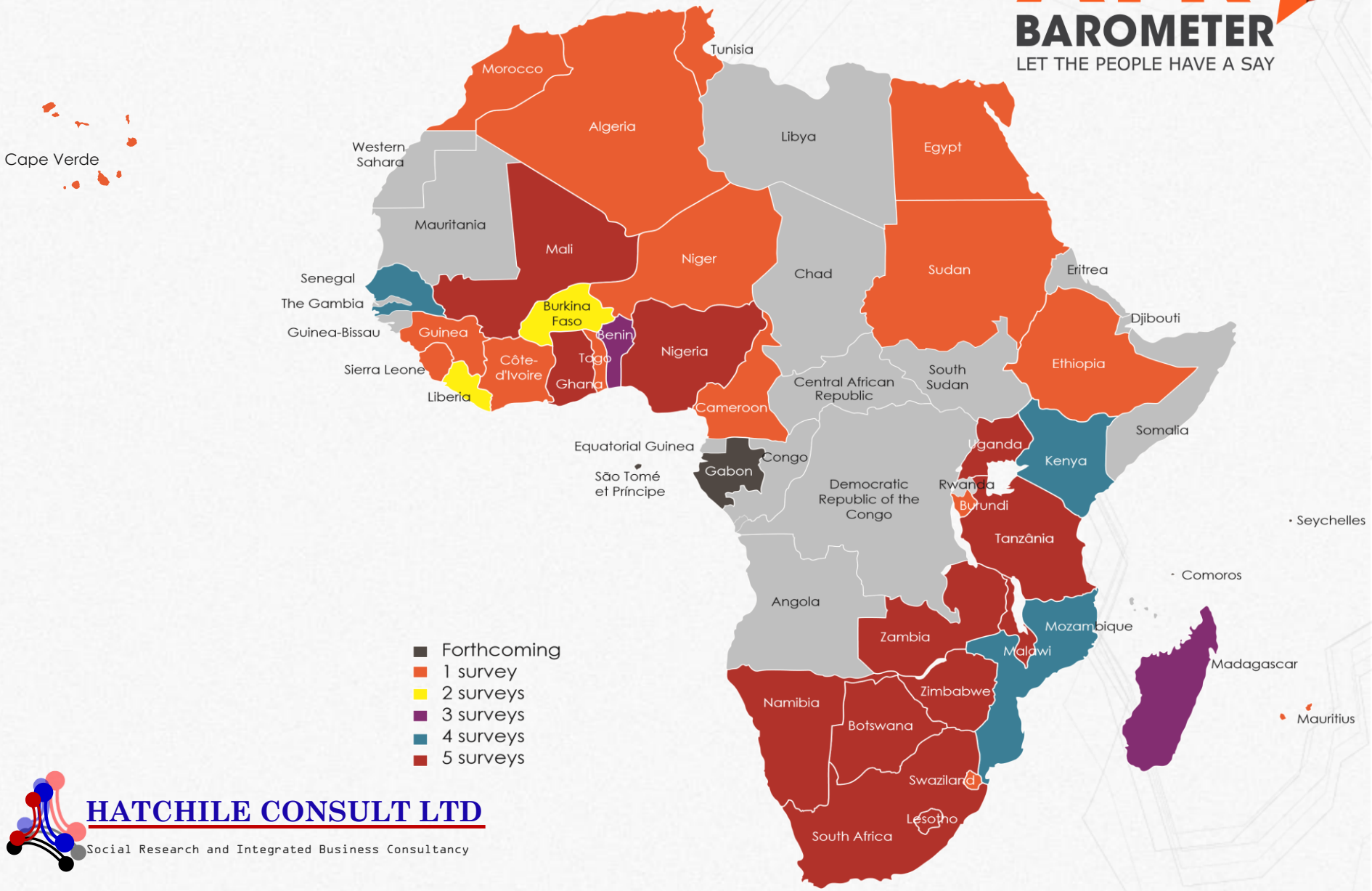

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Methodology

- Nationally representative sample of adult citizens
  - ❑ All respondents are *randomly* selected.
  - ❑ Sample is distributed across 5 regions (Kampala, Central, West, North, and East) and urban/rural areas in proportion to their share in the national population.
  - ❑ Every adult citizen has an *equal* chance of being selected.
- Face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent's choice.
- Standard questionnaire allows comparisons across countries and over time.
- Sample size in Uganda of 2,400 adult citizens yields results with a margin of error of +/-2% at a 95% confidence level.
- Fieldwork for Round 6 in Uganda was conducted May 8-26, 2015.

Funding

Core donors for Afrobarometer Rounds 5 and 6 include:

- Mo Ibrahim Foundation
- Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
- Department for International Development
- United States Agency for International Development
- World Bank
- Institute for Security Studies (South Africa)
- United States Institute of Peace
- Transparency International
- Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
- Duke University China Research Center

Survey coverage

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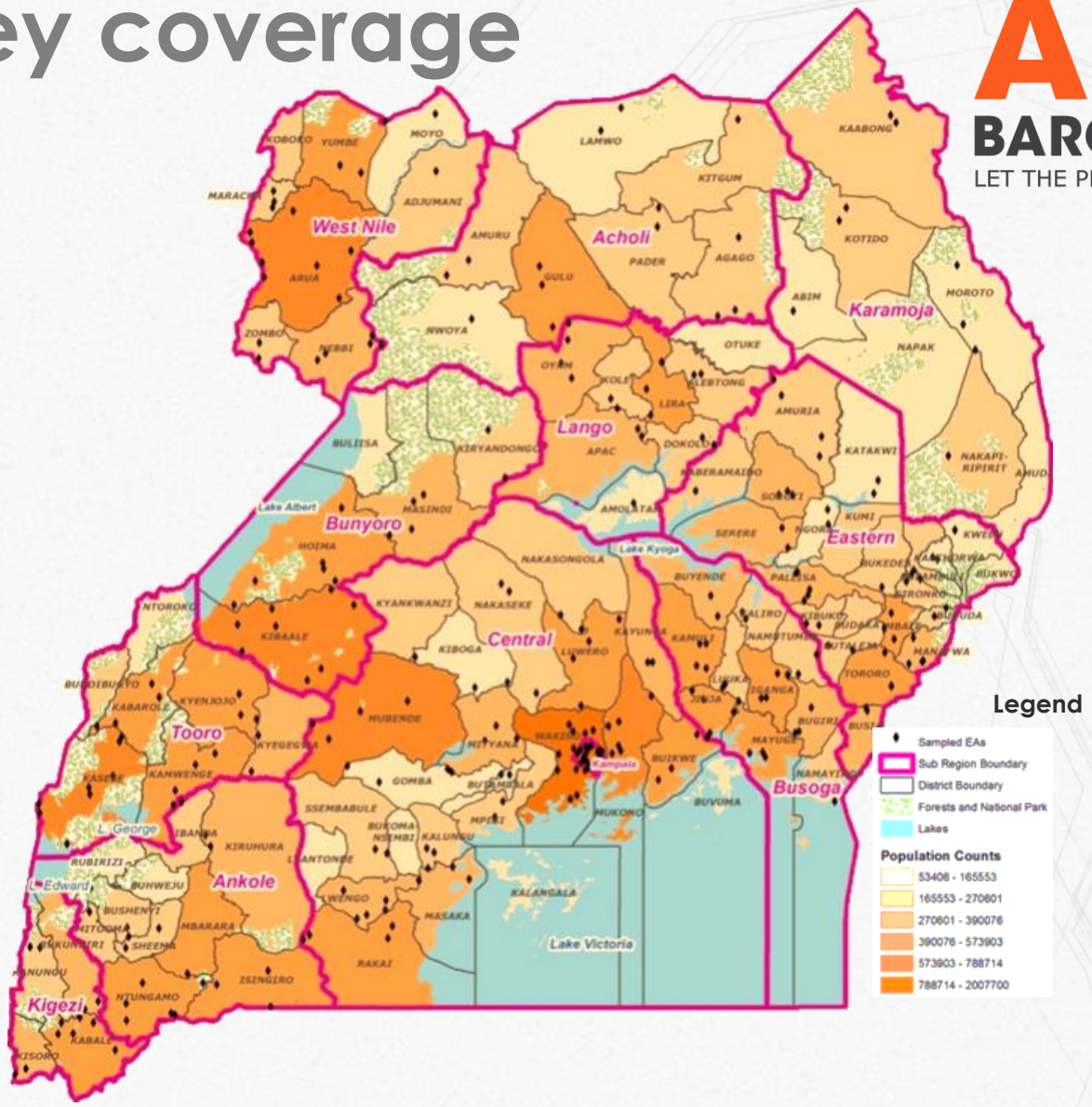

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Survey demographics

Region	%
Central	23
West	26
North	21
East	26
Kampala	4
Residence	
Urban	19
Rural	81
Gender	
Male	50
Female	50

Age	%
18 - 25	27
26 - 35	30
36 - 45	19
46 - 55	11
56 - 65	6
Over 65	5
Educational attainment	
No formal education	16
Primary	43
Secondary	31
Post-secondary	10

NB: Figures do not add to 100% because "Don't know" category is excluded

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Results and Analysis

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Uganda and multiparty politics

SUPPORT FOR MULTIPARTY POLITICS

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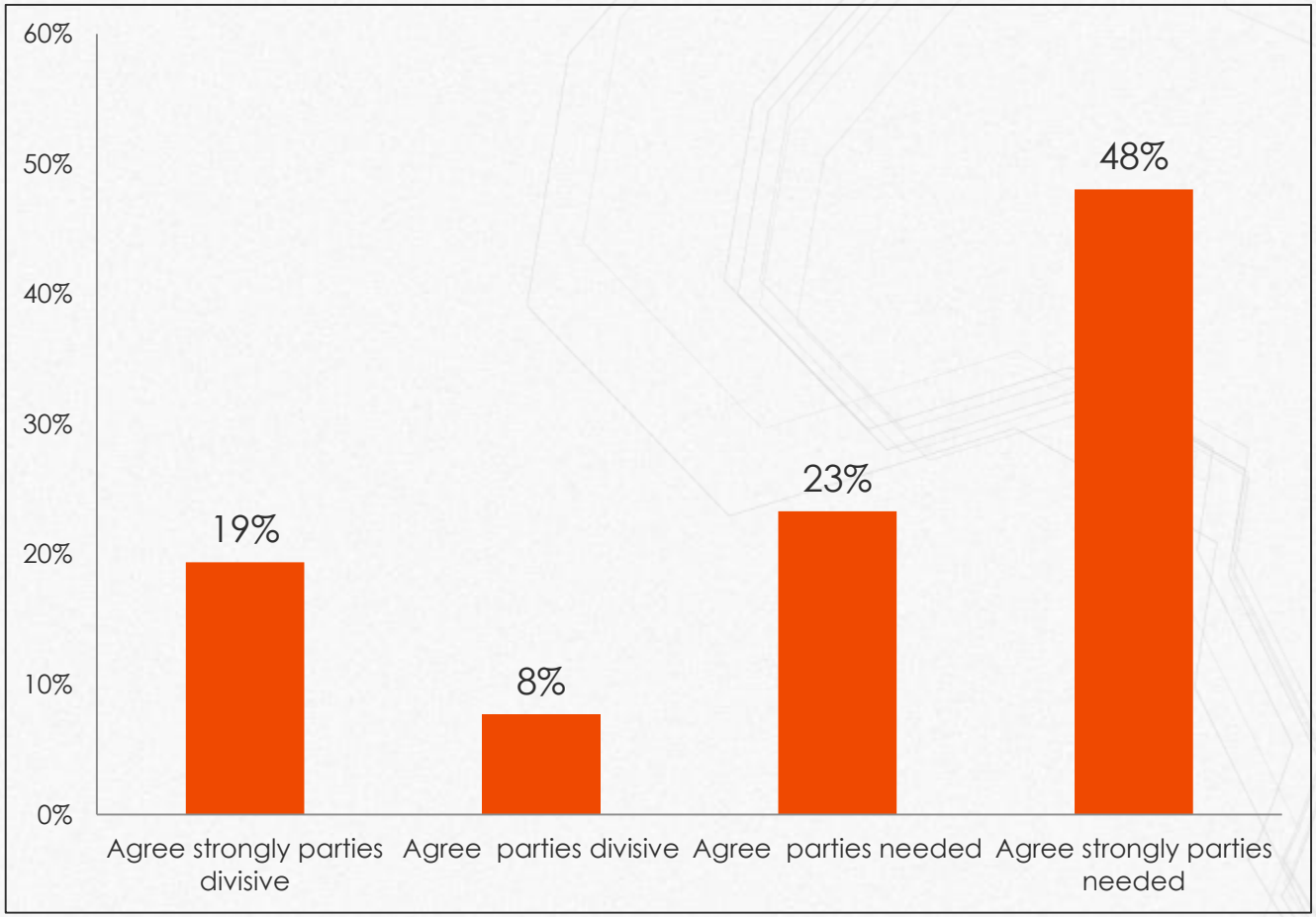
Key findings

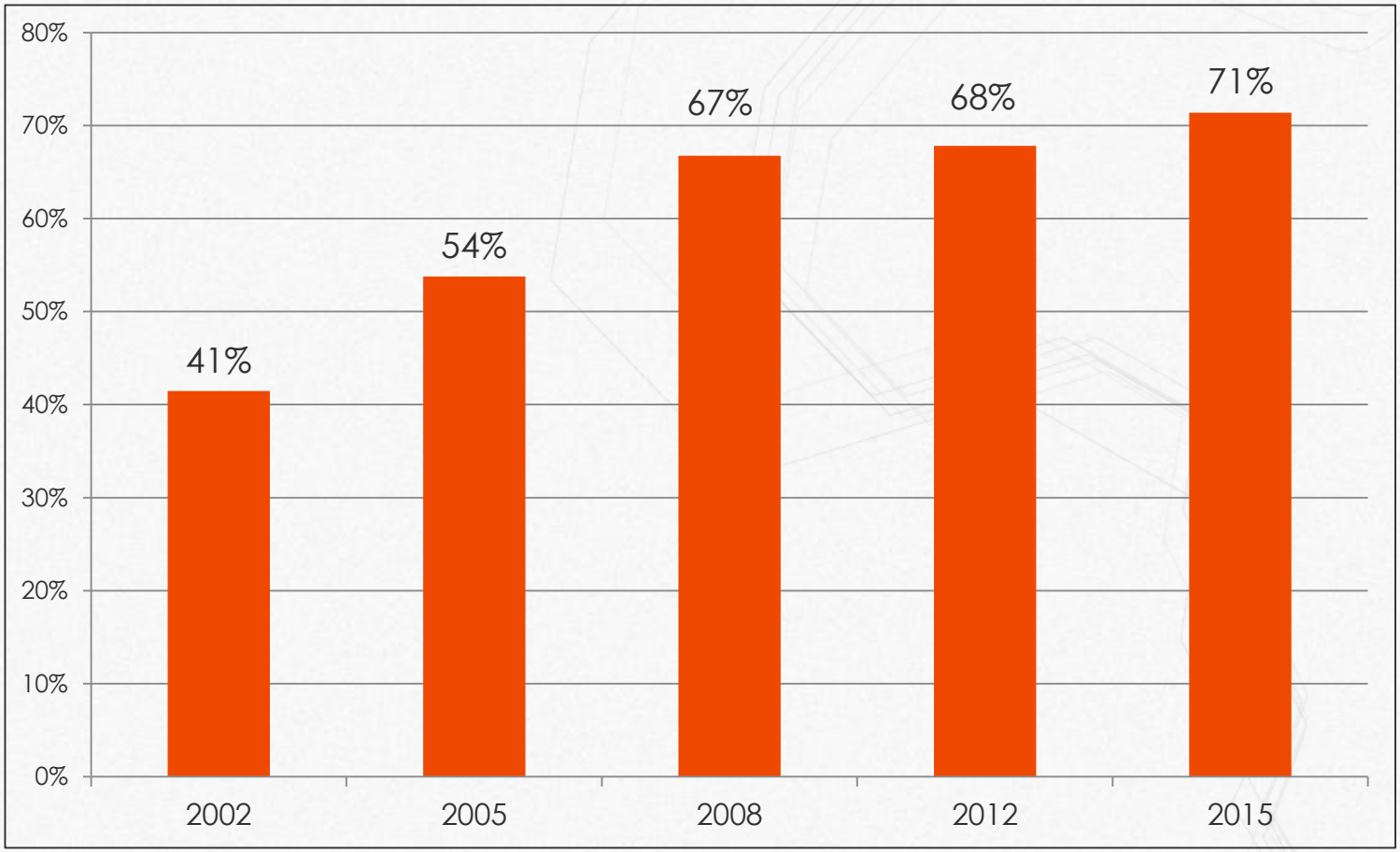
- Seven in ten (71%) adult Ugandans agree that many political parties are necessary to give Ugandans have real choices in who governs them, compared to 41% in 2002
- Trust in opposition parties increased over the last decade and half, from 16% in 2002 to 31% in 2015
- 6 in 10 respondent perceive competition between political parties result in conflict, down from 65% in 2002,
- As few as a third of the respondents say political opposition in Uganda presents a viable alternative vision and plan for the country, down from 41% in 2011
- NRM remains Uganda's dominant political party choice with 65% to 15% for the opposition

Public views on many political parties | 2015



Respondents were asked: *Which of the following statements is closest to your view. Choose Statement 1 or Statement 2. Statement 1:* Political parties create division and confusion; it is therefore unnecessary to have many political parties in Uganda. *Statement 2:* Many political parties are needed to make sure that Ugandans have real choices in who governs them.

Support for multipartism | Uganda | 2002-2015



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Understanding satisfaction with Multipartism

Trust in political parties

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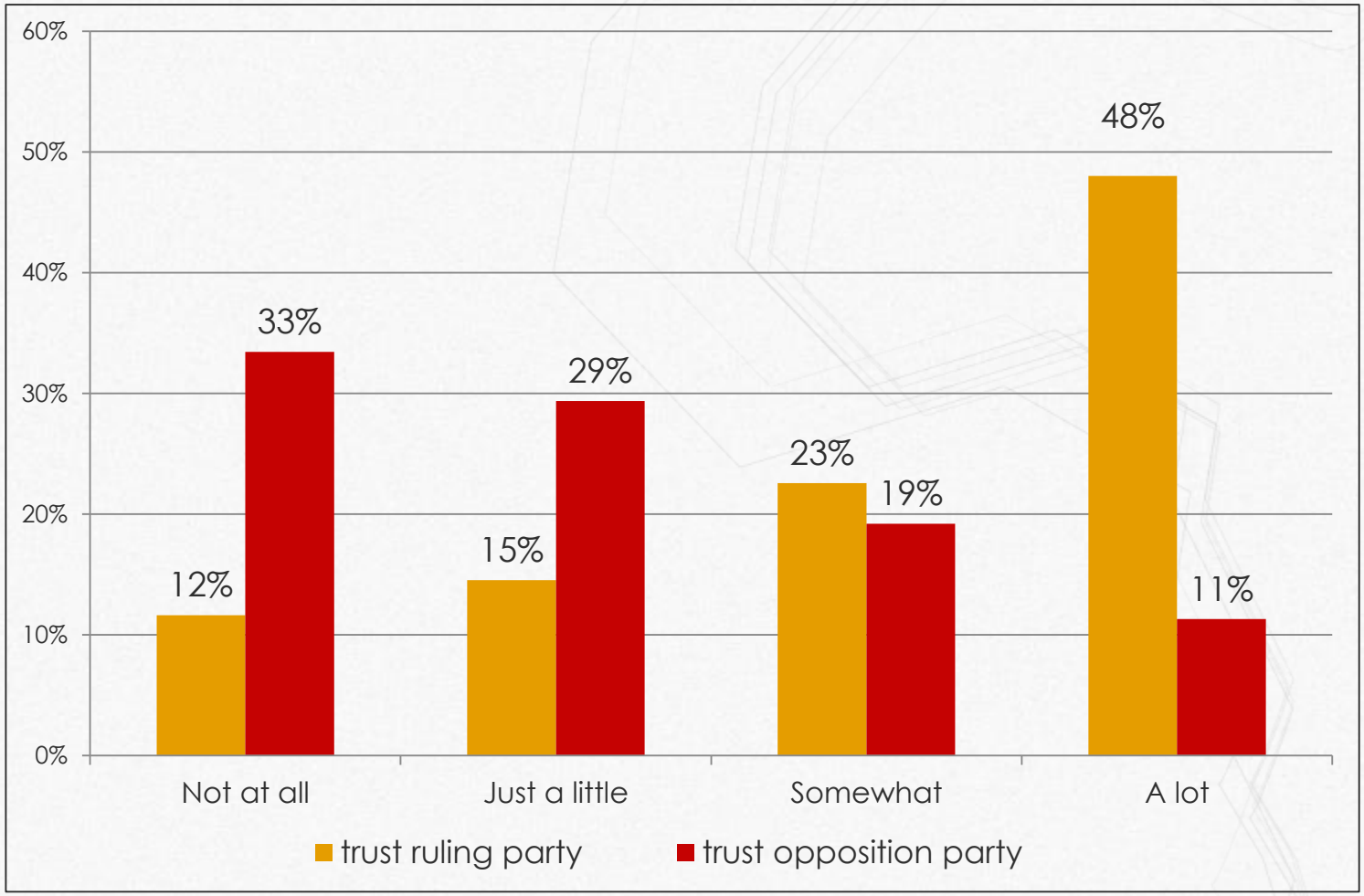
Trust in ruling and opposition political parties | 2015



Respondents were asked: How much do you trust each of the following, or haven't you heard enough about them to say? (a) The Ruling Party, you know the National Resistance Movement (NRM); (b) Opposition Political Parties. (graph shows % who said "trust somewhat" and "Trust a lot").

Trust in political parties by demographics | 2015

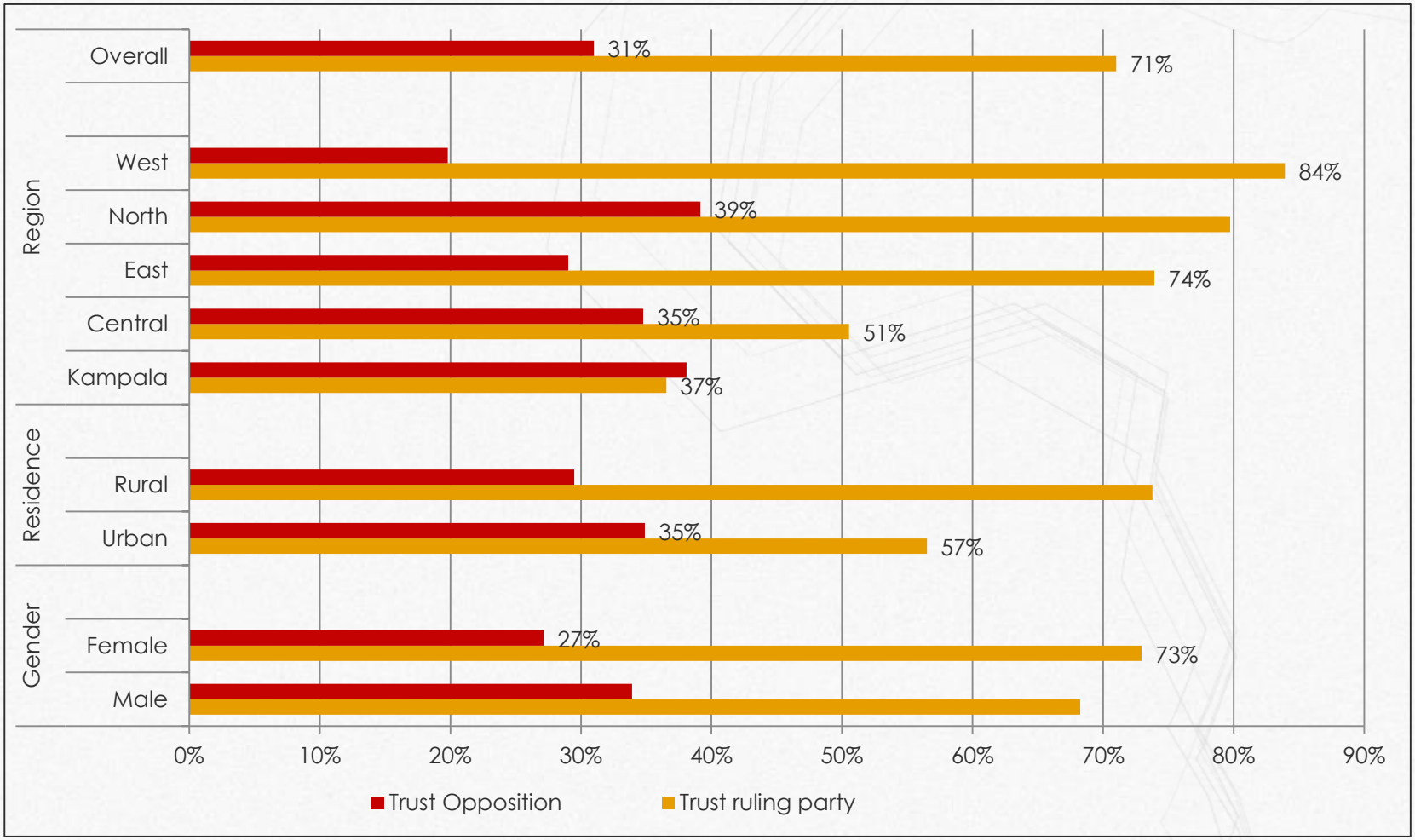
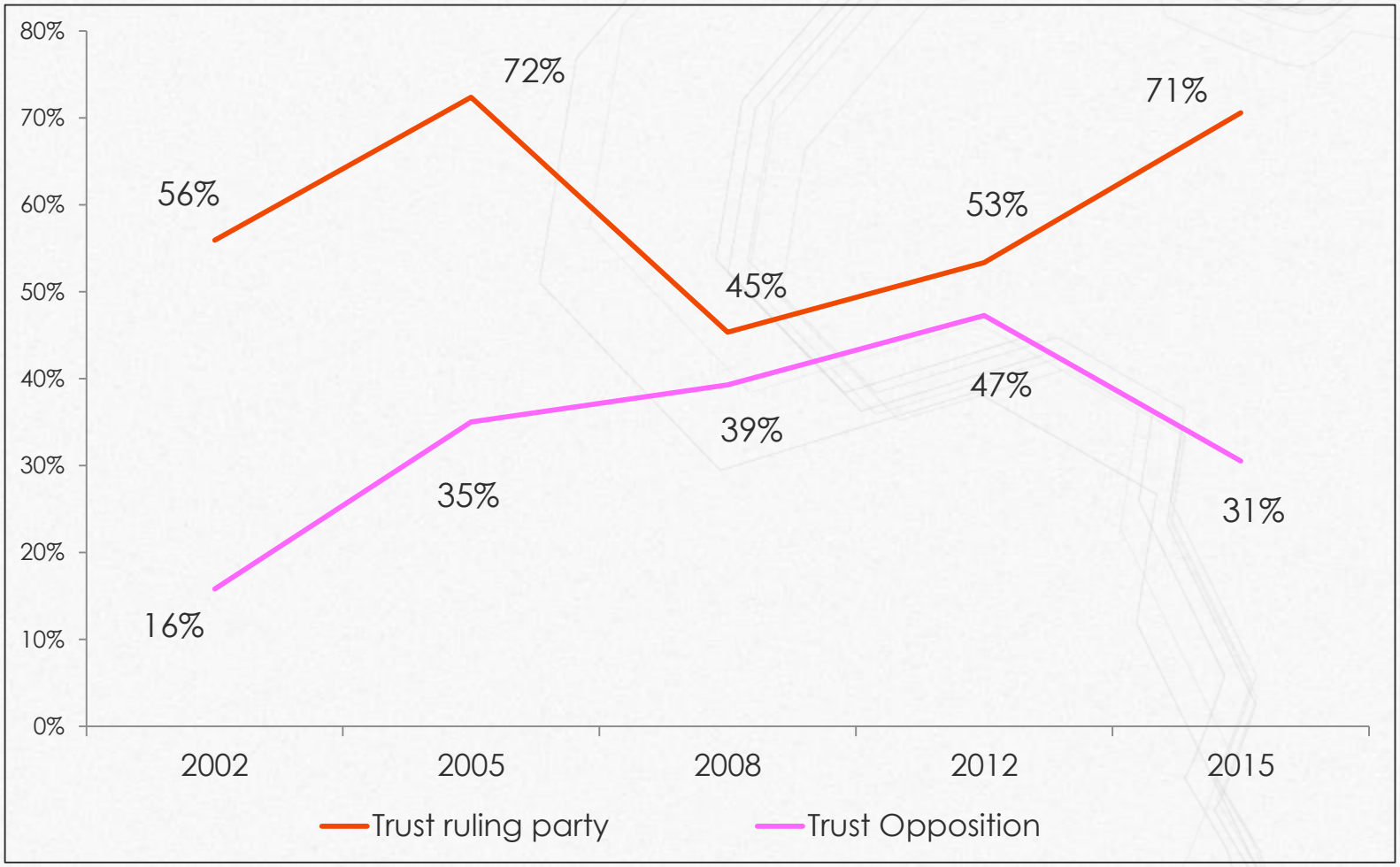


Figure shows: A cross-tabulation of those who trust ruling and opposition political parties and selected demographics (including gender, urban-rural residence and regional location.

Trust in Political Parties | Uganda | 2002-2015



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Views on competition between parties

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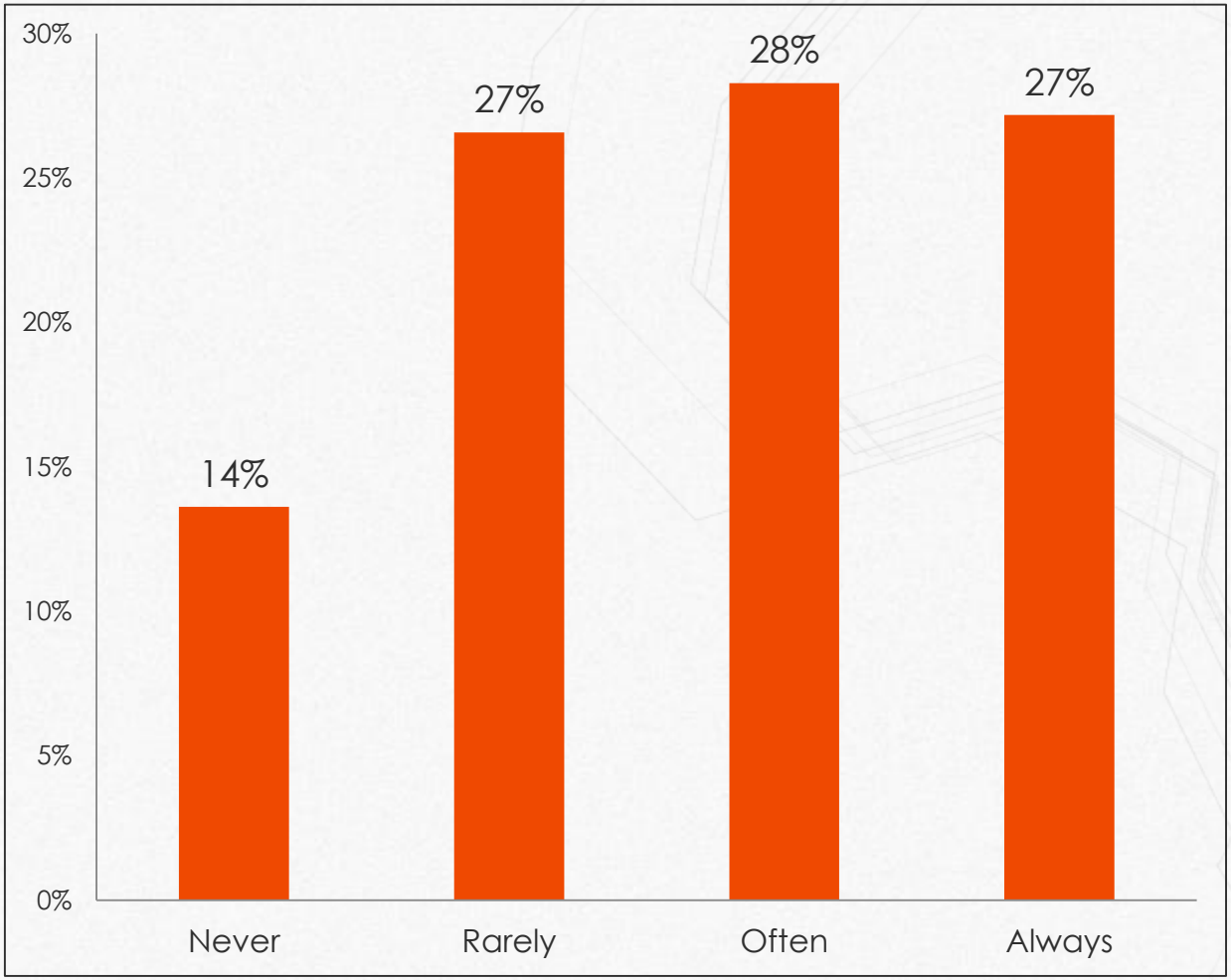
Political party competition as cause of violent conflict | 2015



Respondents were asked: In your opinion, how often, in this country does competition between political parties lead to violent conflict? *(Note: Total more is less than 100% due to "don't know" response which was excluded)*

Political party competition as cause of violent conflict | 2015

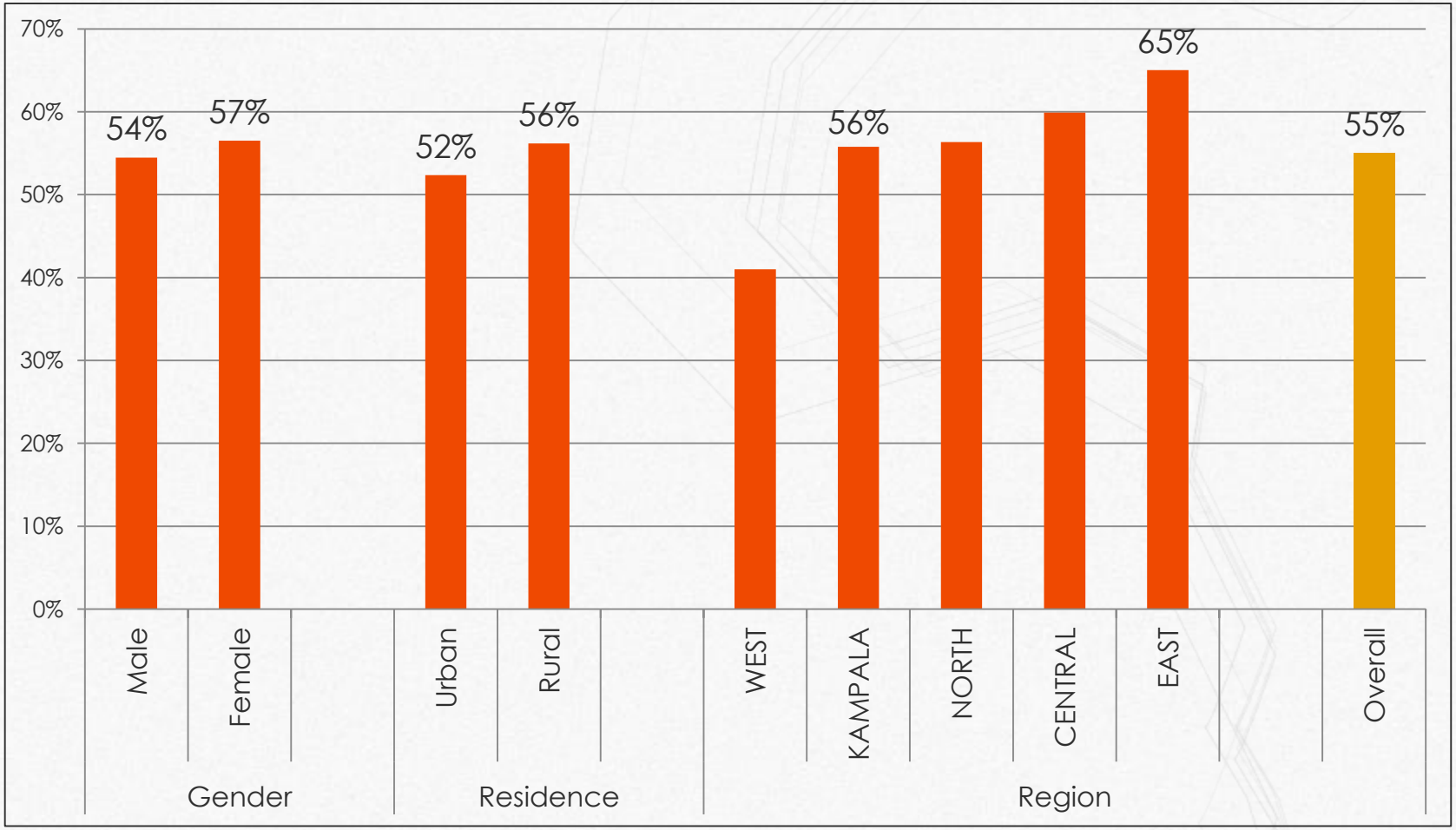


Figure shows: A cross-tabulation of those who think competition between political parties often leads to conflict and selected demographics (including gender, urban-rural residence and regional location (% who say "often" or "always")

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Does the opposition present a viable alternative?

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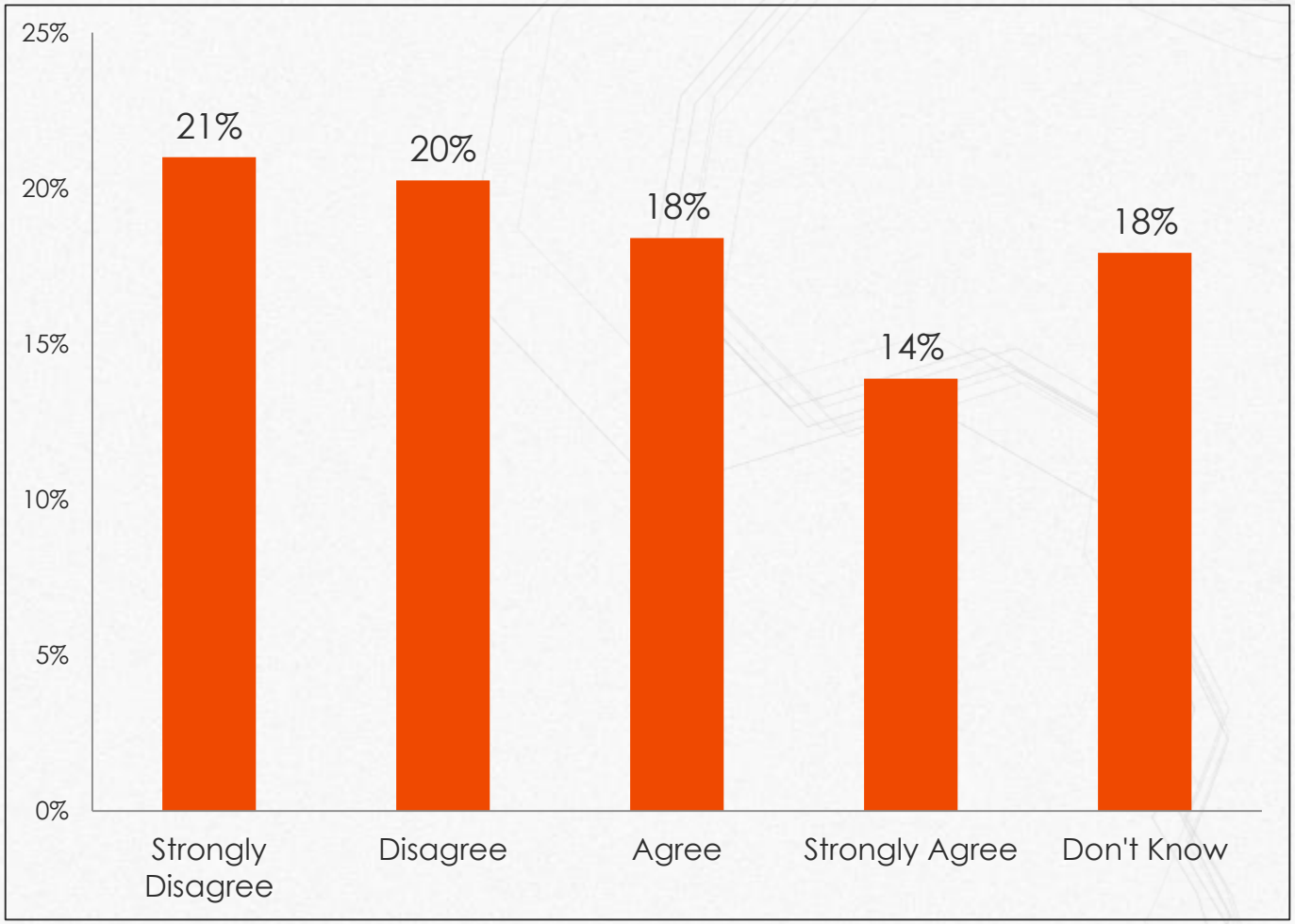
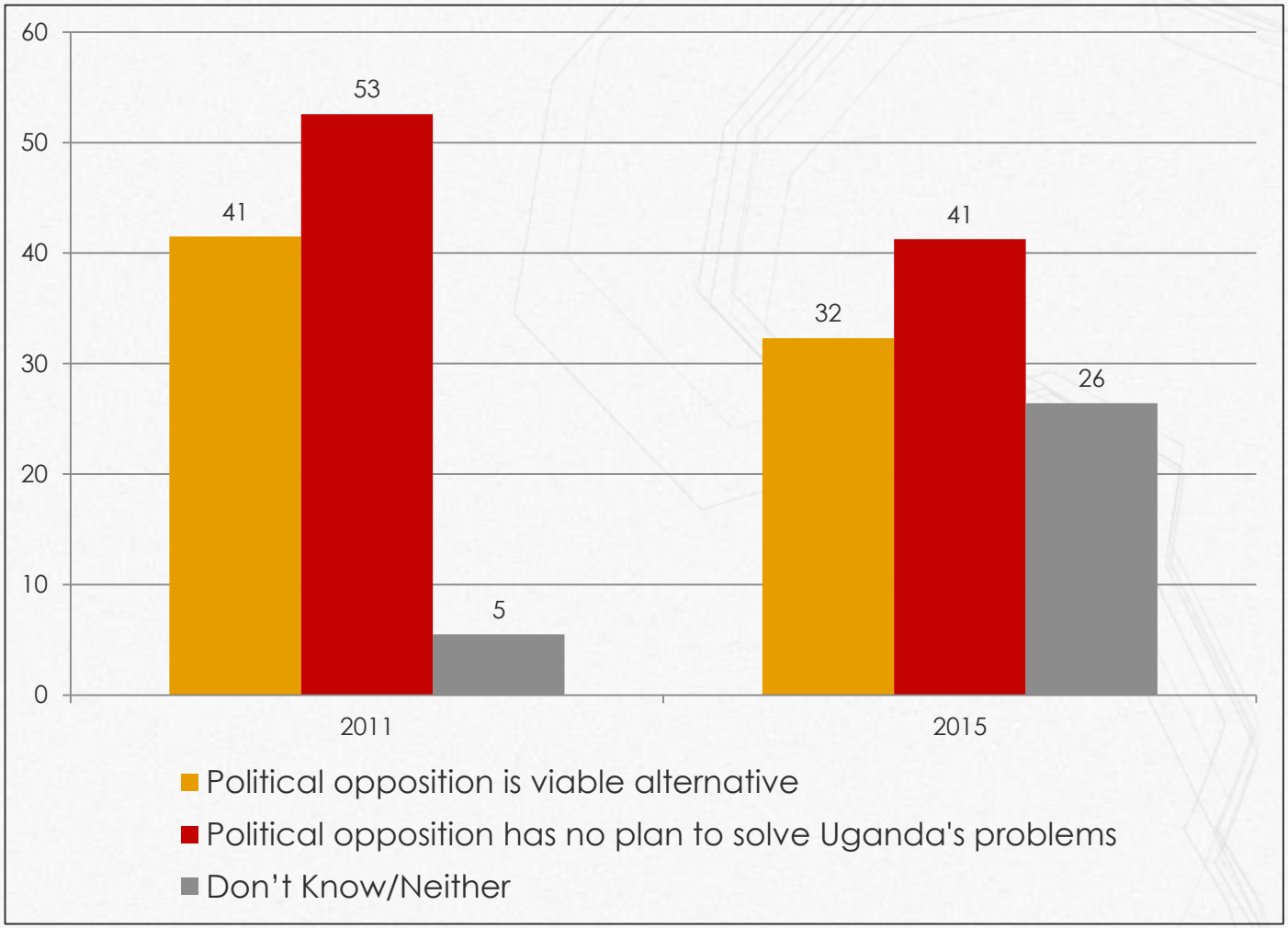
Opposition political parties present viable vision and plan | 2015



Respondents were asked: Please tell me whether you agree or disagree with the following statement: The political opposition in Uganda presents a viable alternative vision and plan for the country . ((excludes "agree with neither")

Opposition political parties present viable vision and plan | 2011- 2015



Respondents were asked: Please tell me whether you agree or disagree with the following statement: The political opposition in Uganda presents a viable alternative vision and plan for the country . (excludes "don't know" and "agree with neither")

Opposition political parties present viable alternative by demographics | 2002-2015

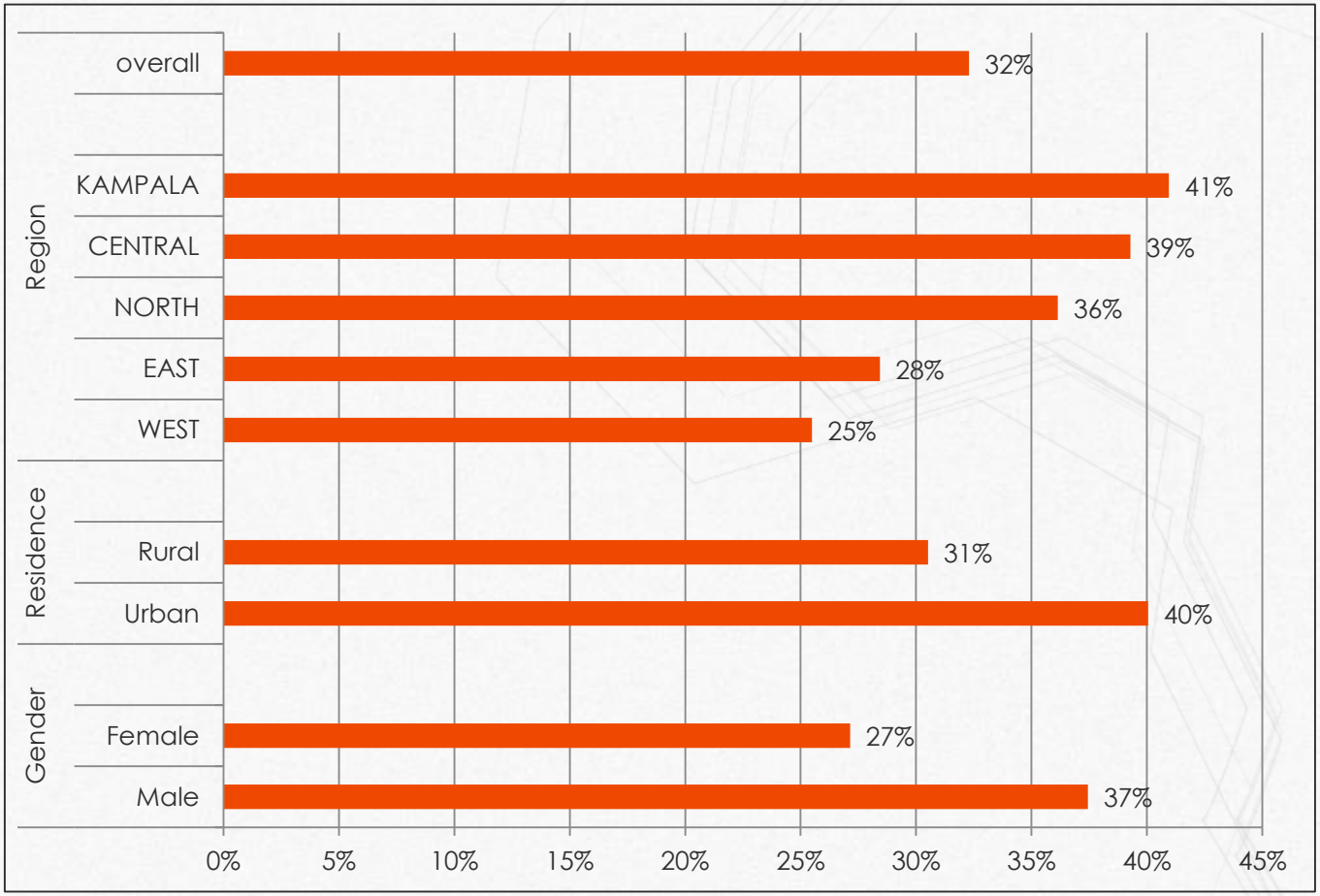


Figure shows: A cross-tabulation of those who think opposition political parties present a viable alternative vision and plan for the country and selected demographics (including gender, urban-rural residence and regional location (% who say "often" or "always")

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Views on opposition and political environment

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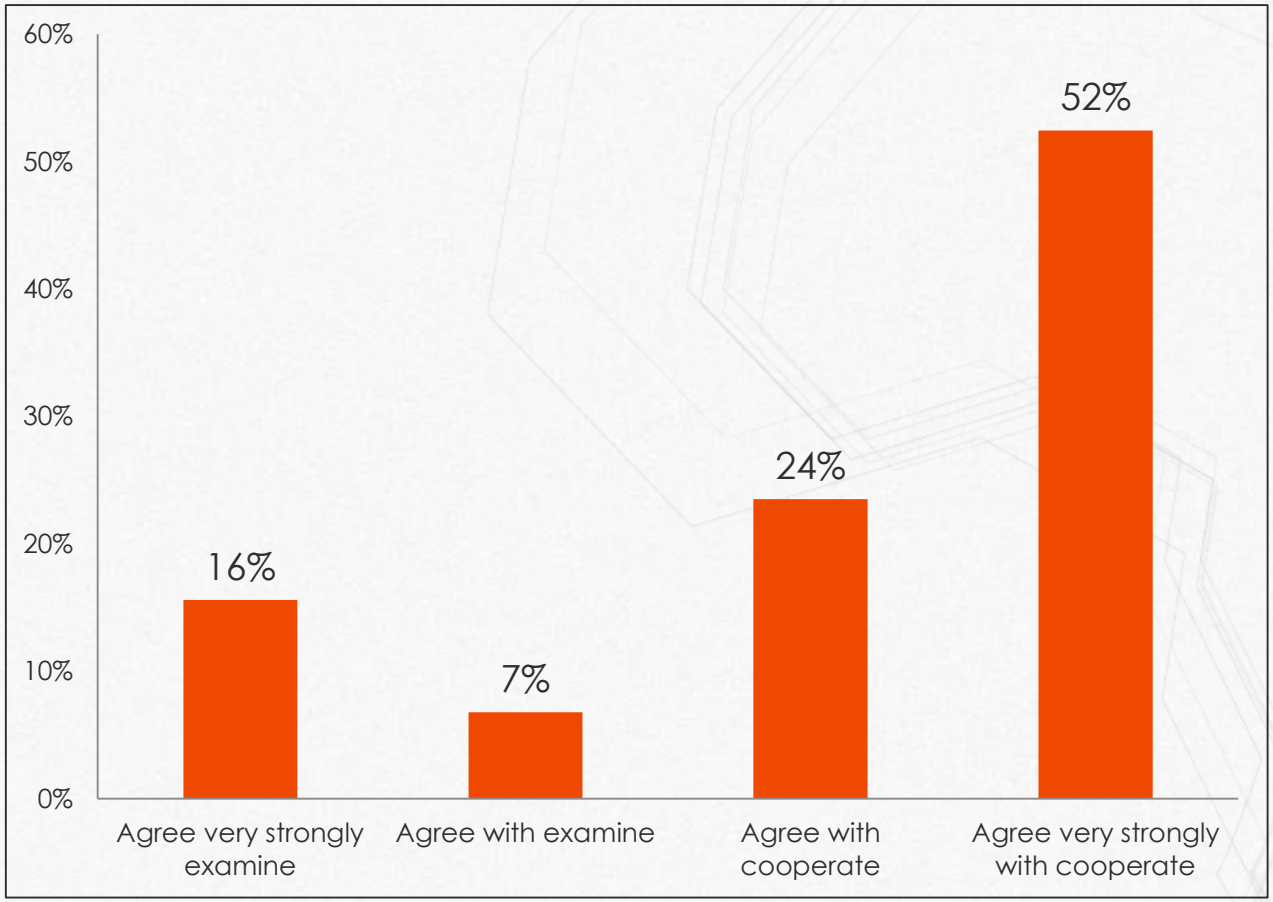
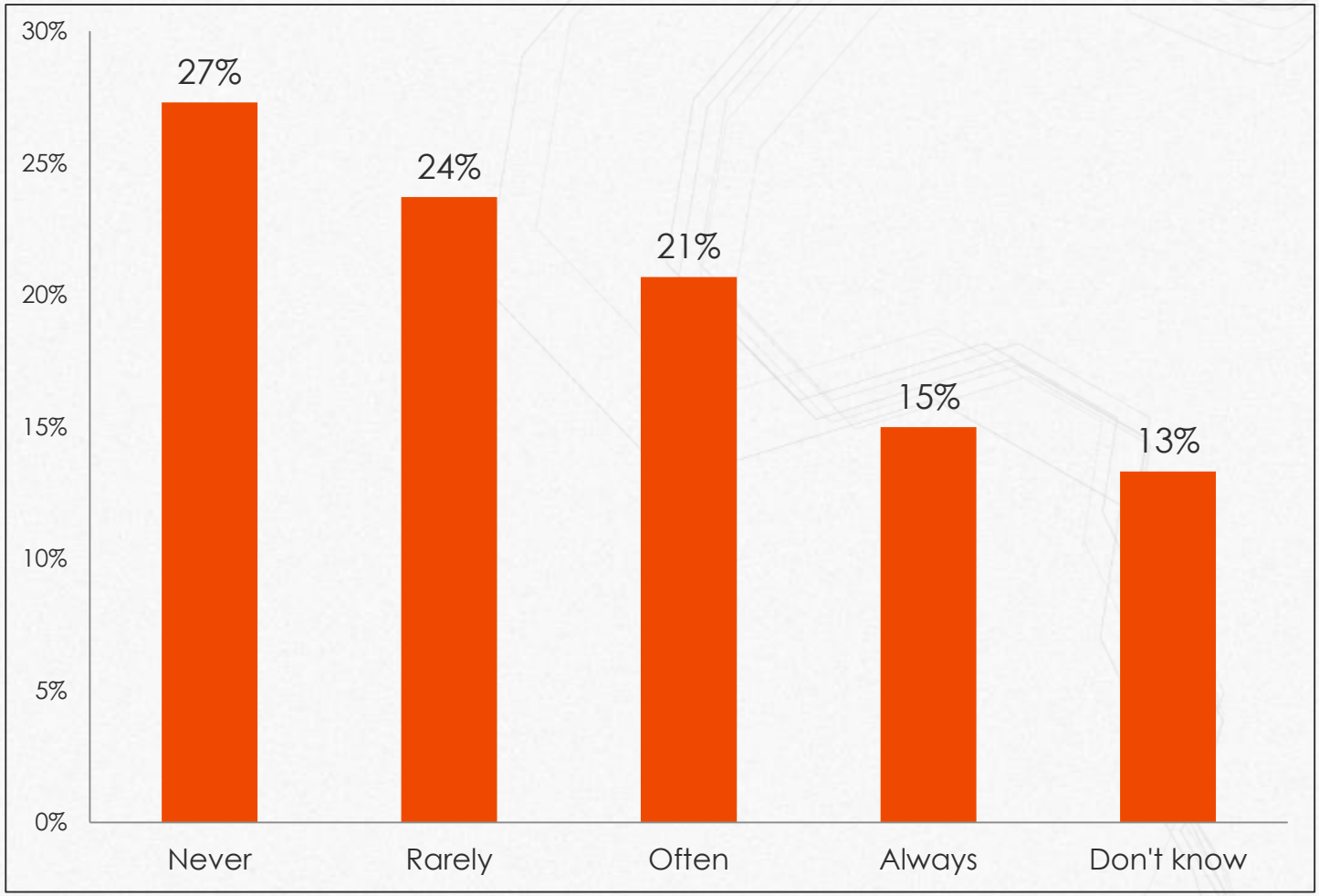
Opposition monitor government vs cooperate | 2015



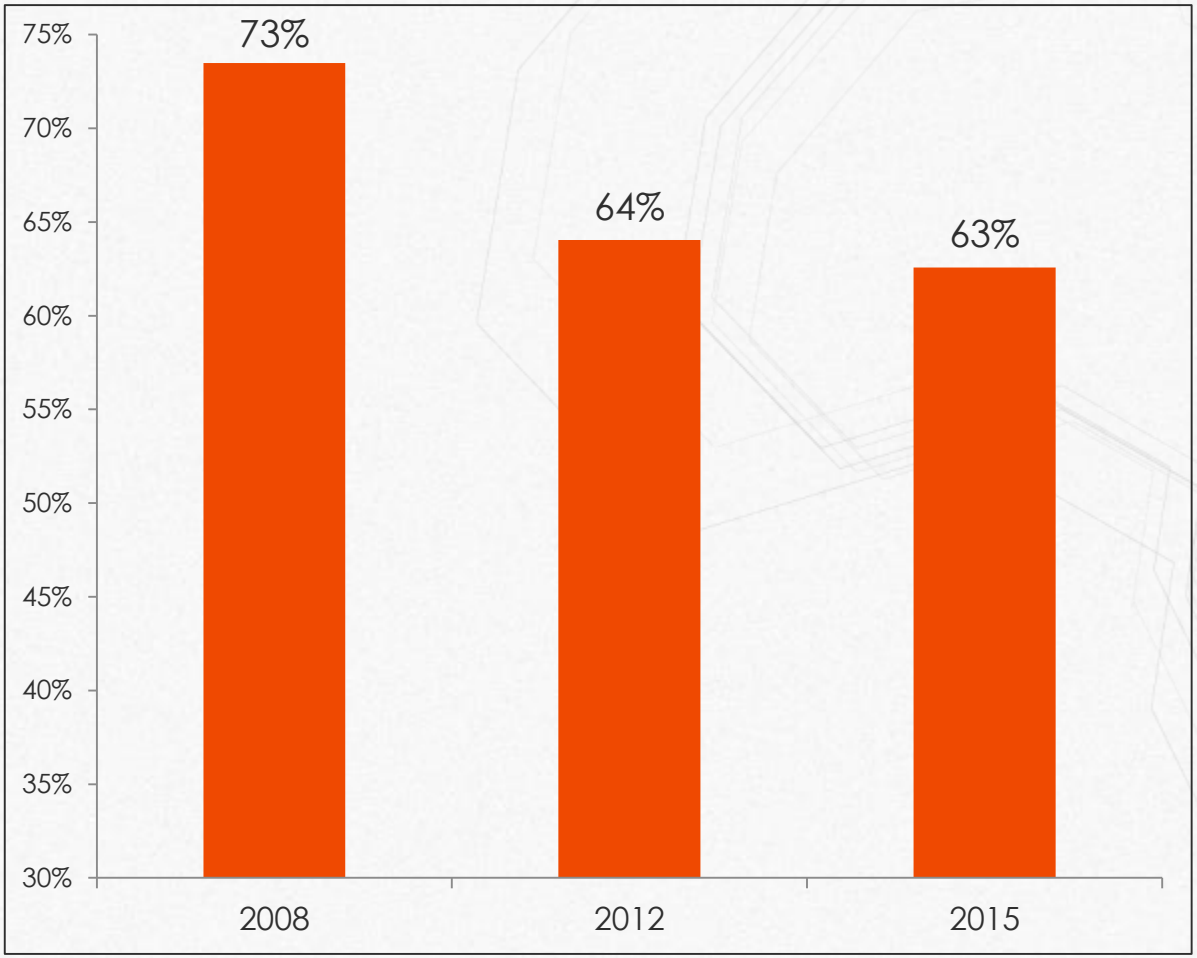
Respondents were asked: *Which of the following statements is closest to your view. Choose Statement 1 or Statement 2. Statement 1:* After losing an election, opposition parties should monitor and criticize the government in order to hold it accountable. *Statement 2:* Once an election is over, opposition parties and politicians should accept defeat and cooperate with government to help it develop the country. ("don't know" and "agree with neither" excluded)

Opposition silenced by Government | 2015



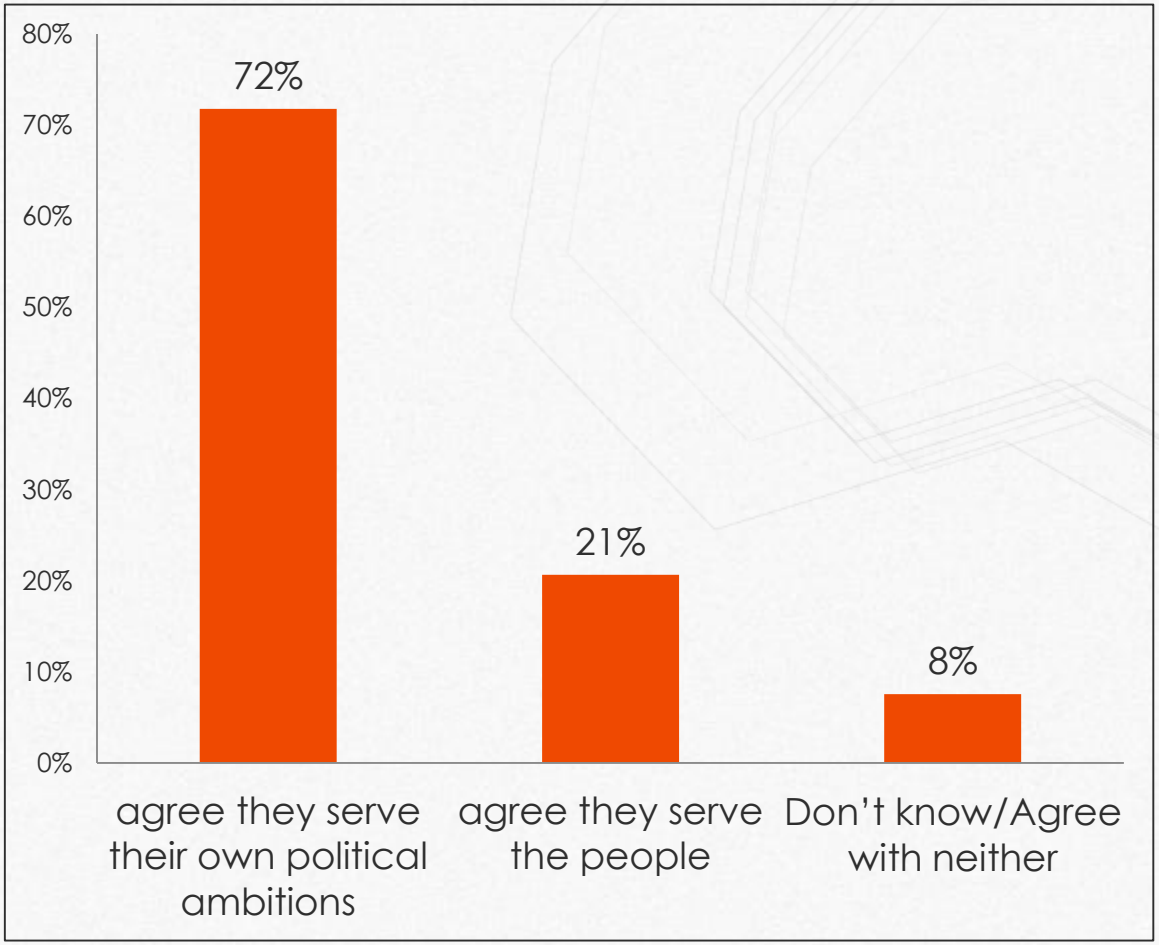
Respondents were asked: In your opinion, how often, in this country are opposition parties or their supporters silenced by the government? (% who say "often" and "always")

Fear political intimidation or violence | 2008 - 2015



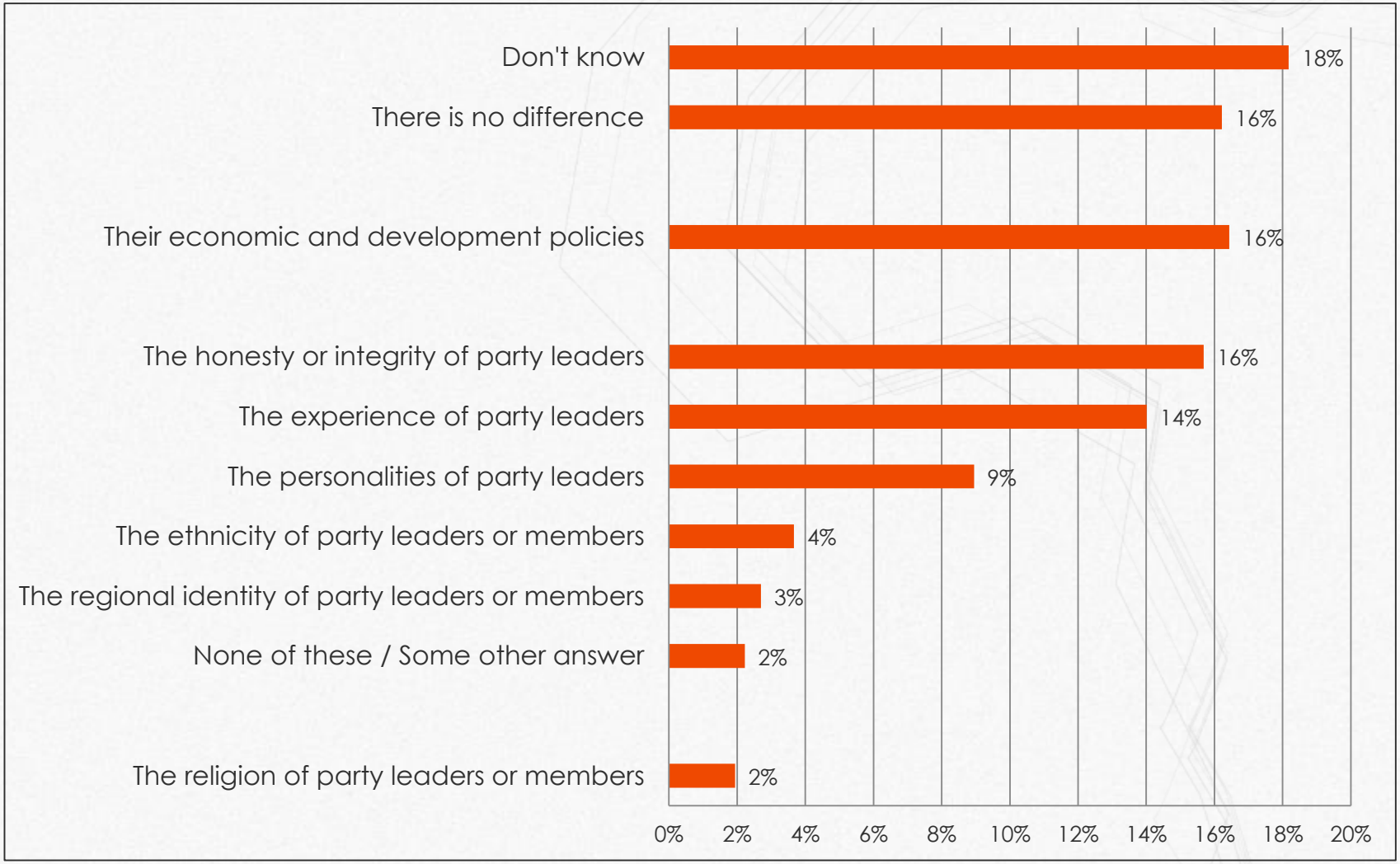
Respondents were asked: During election campaigns in this country, how much do you personally fear becoming a victim of political intimidation or violence? (graph shows % who say "fear a little bit", "fear somewhat" and "fear a lot")

Leaders serve own interests vs serve people | 2015



Respondents were asked: Do you think that leaders of political parties in this country are more concerned with serving the interests of the people, or more concerned with advancing their own political ambitions, or haven't you heard enough to say?[(excludes % who say "don't know" and "agree with neither")

Main difference between ruling and opposition | 2015



Respondents were asked: Which of the following do you see as the most important difference between the ruling party and opposition parties in Uganda?

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Political choice

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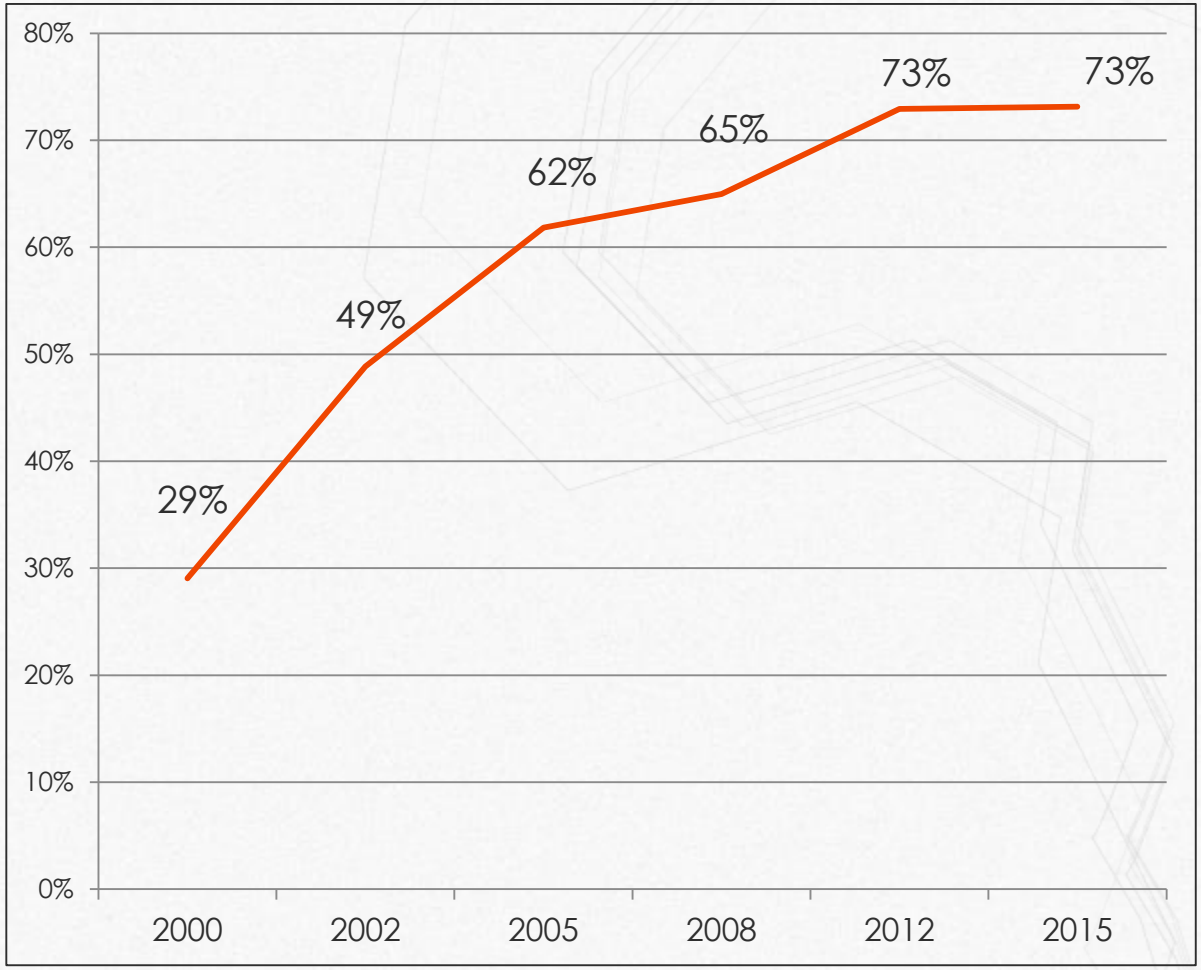
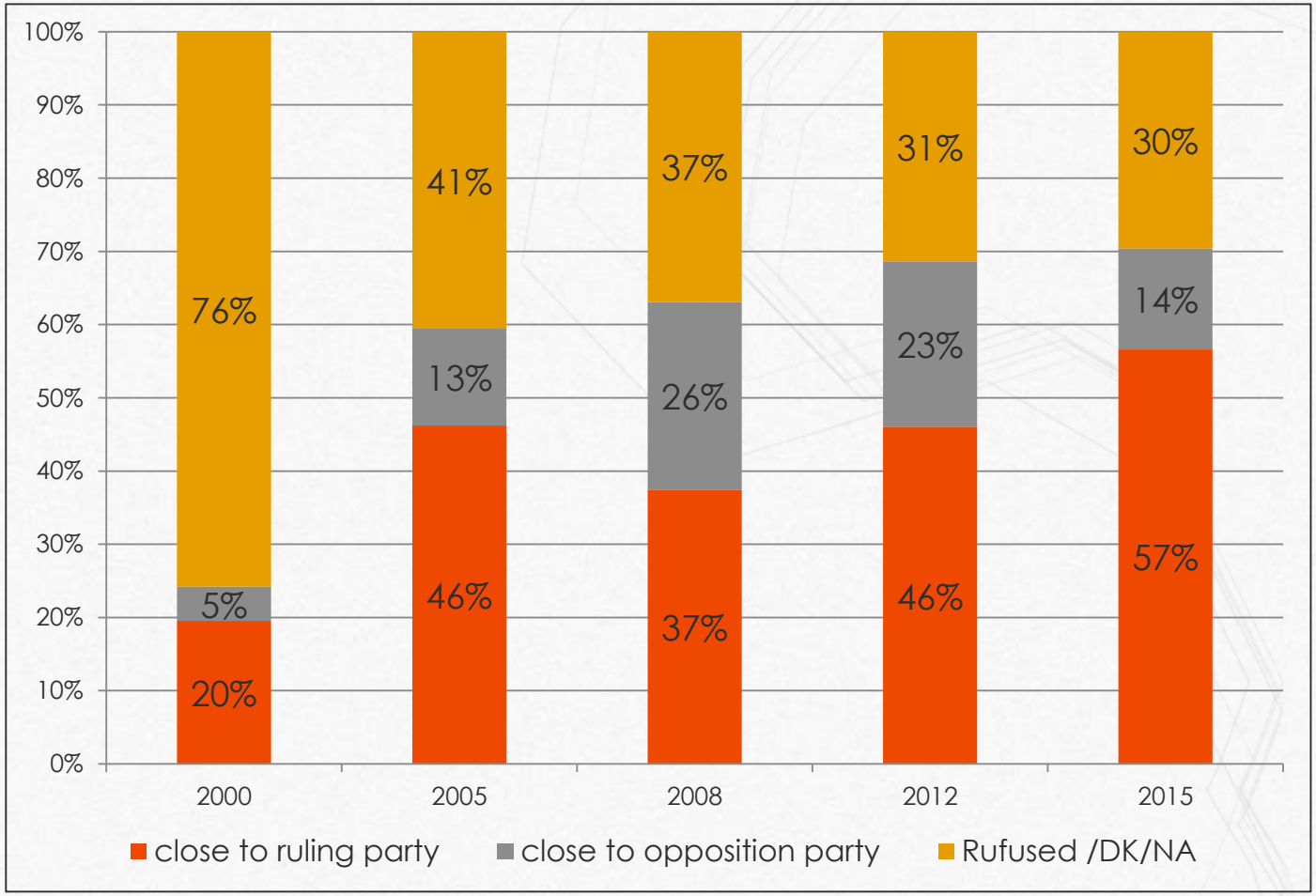
Political party identity | 2000 - 2015



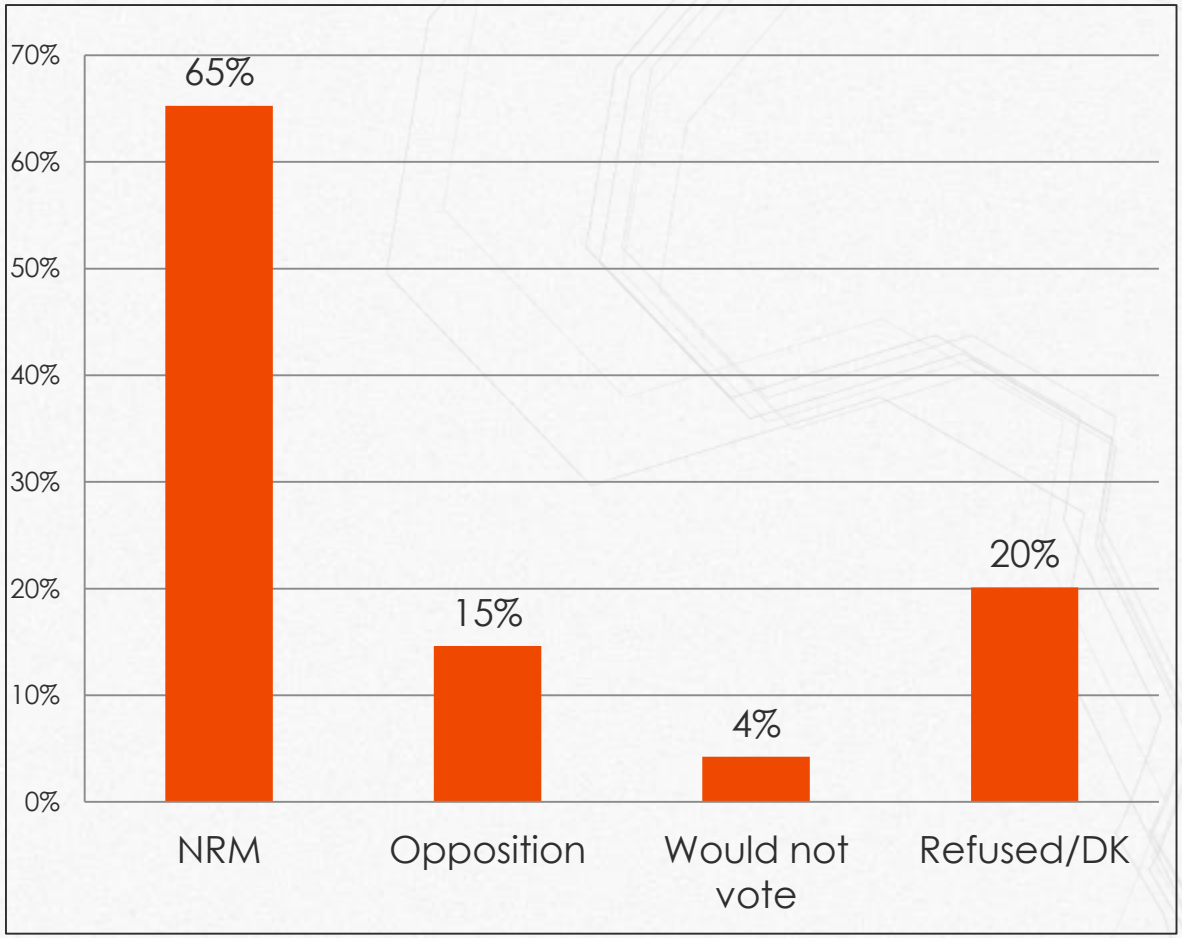
Respondents were asked: Do you feel close to any particular political party? (over-time graph shows *% who answered "yes, feel close to a party")*

Feel close to a political party | 2000 - 2015



Respondents were asked: Do you feel close to any particular political party? Which party is that? (*% aggregated for "Ruling Party" and "Opposition political parties") (figures may add to slightly more than 100% due to rounding)*

Vote Choice | 2015



Respondents were asked: If presidential elections were held tomorrow, which party's candidate would you vote for?
(*% aggregated for "Ruling Party" and "Opposition political parties")*

Vote Choice by Demographics | 2015

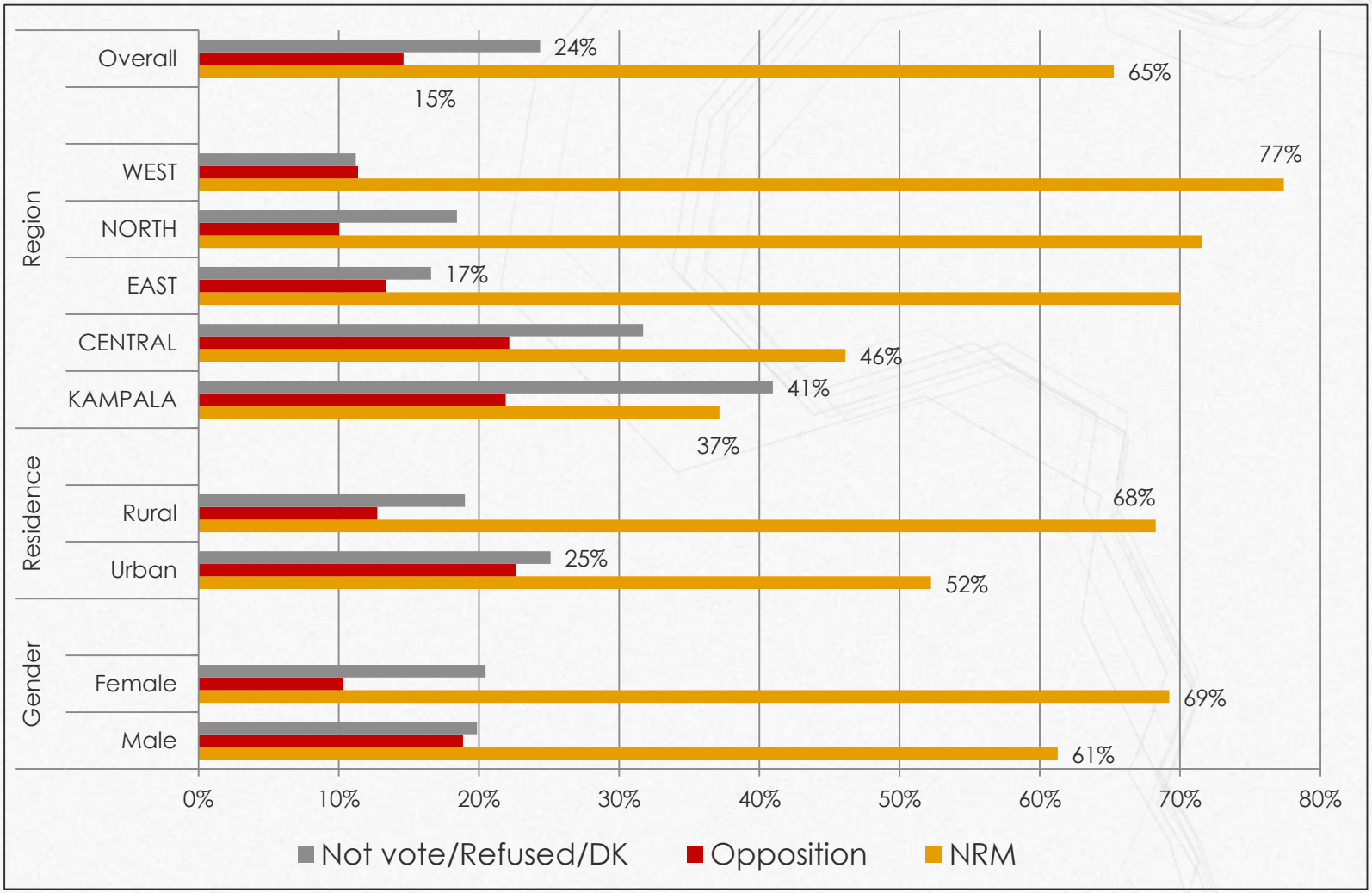


Figure shows: A cross-tabulation of respondent vote choice (if elections were held tomorrow, which party's candidate would you vote for?) and demographics (including gender, urban-rural residence and regional location. (% who say "yes, feel close to a political party")

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Citizen views on multipartism in Uganda

Conclusions

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Citizen views on multipartism in Uganda

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- Since 2005 referendum on return to multiparty politics, Ugandans show increased support for multiparty politics, especially increase in identifying with a political party and trust in opposition political parties
- Despite increased support for multipartism, citizens show dissatisfaction with how multiparty politics works in Uganda, especially regarding competition for political space
- Perceived difference between opposition and ruling party revolves around personal appeal, experience and integrity of party leaders and development policy positions, although one-third see "no difference"
- The ruling party remains strong especially in the West, North, East, among the rural and the female gender

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Thank you

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