



# Perceptions on gender equality, gender-based violence, lived poverty and basic freedoms

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**Institute for Public Policy Research**

# At a Glance



- Perceptions of gender equality
  - Namibians' support of women in political leadership vs. women's interest in politics
- Perceptions on gender-based violence (GBV) in Namibia
  - Insights on Namibians' experience of GBV, and their perceived reasons for these crimes
- Perceptions of Lived Poverty trace official statistics on poverty decline.
- Perceptions of Basic Freedoms – Namibians feel that they have high levels of personal freedom.

# What is Afrobarometer?



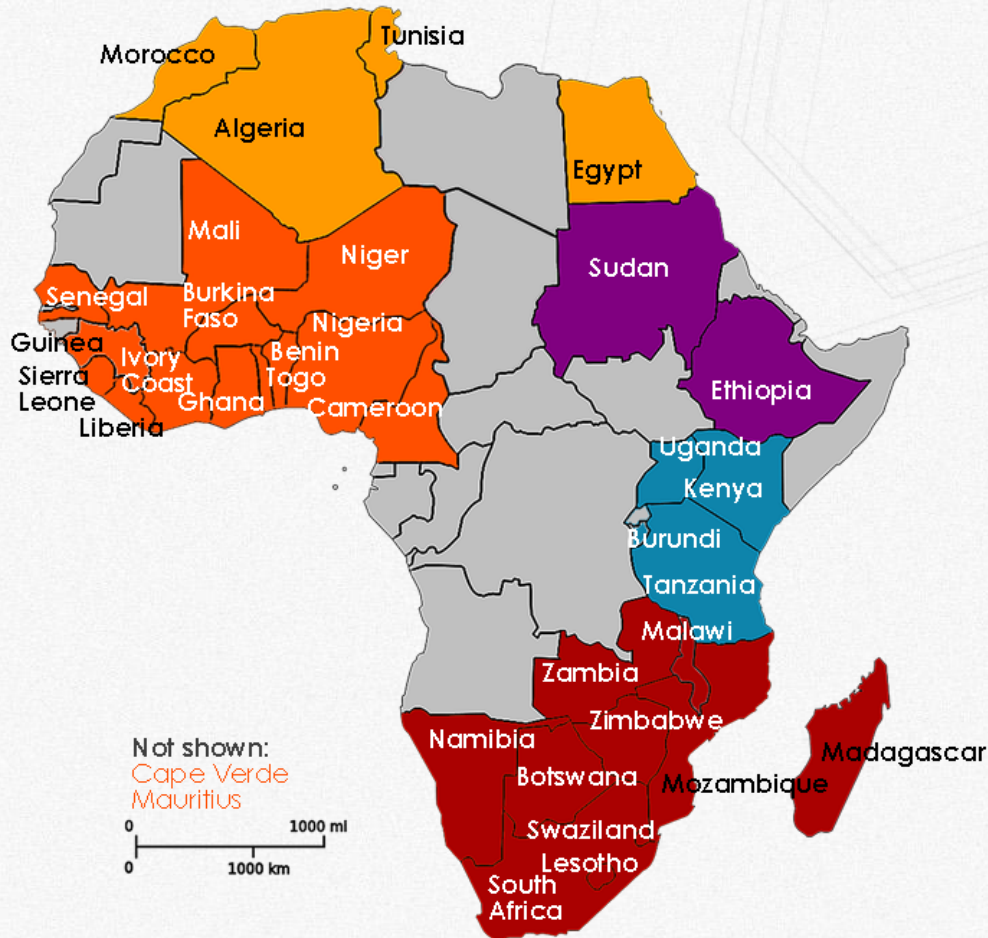
- An African-led, non-partisan survey research project that measures citizen attitudes on democracy and governance, the economy, civil society, and other topics.
- Started in 12 countries in 1999, expanded to 35 African countries in Round 5 (2011-2013).
- **Goal:** To give the public a voice in policymaking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



# Where Afrobarometer works

Face-to-Face Interviews | 35 Countries

Surveys by state, region



# Methodology



- Nationally representative sample of adult citizens
  - ❑ All respondents are *randomly* selected.
  - ❑ Sample is distributed across **all 14 regions** 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 Namibia of 1200 adult citizens yields a **margin of error of +/-3% at a 95% confidence level.**
- Fieldwork for Round 6 in Namibia was conducted between **27 August and 19 September 2014.**

# Survey Demographics



Un-weighted    Weighted

## Gender

Male	50%	50%
Female	50%	50%

## Location

Urban	49%	49%
Rural	51%	51%

## Education

No formal schooling	6%	13%
Primary	22%	21%
Secondary	53%	44%
Post secondary	19%	22%



# Survey Demographics

Province/Region	Un-weighted	Weighted
Zambezi	4%	4%
Erongo	8%	9%
Hardap	4%	4%
!Karas	4%	4%
Kavango West	3%	3%
Kavango East	6%	6%
Khomas	19%	19%
Kunene	4%	4%
Ohangwena	10%	10%
Omaheke	3%	3%
Omusati	11%	10%
Oshana	9%	9%
Oshikoto	8%	8%
Otjozondjupa	7%	7%





# Gender equality

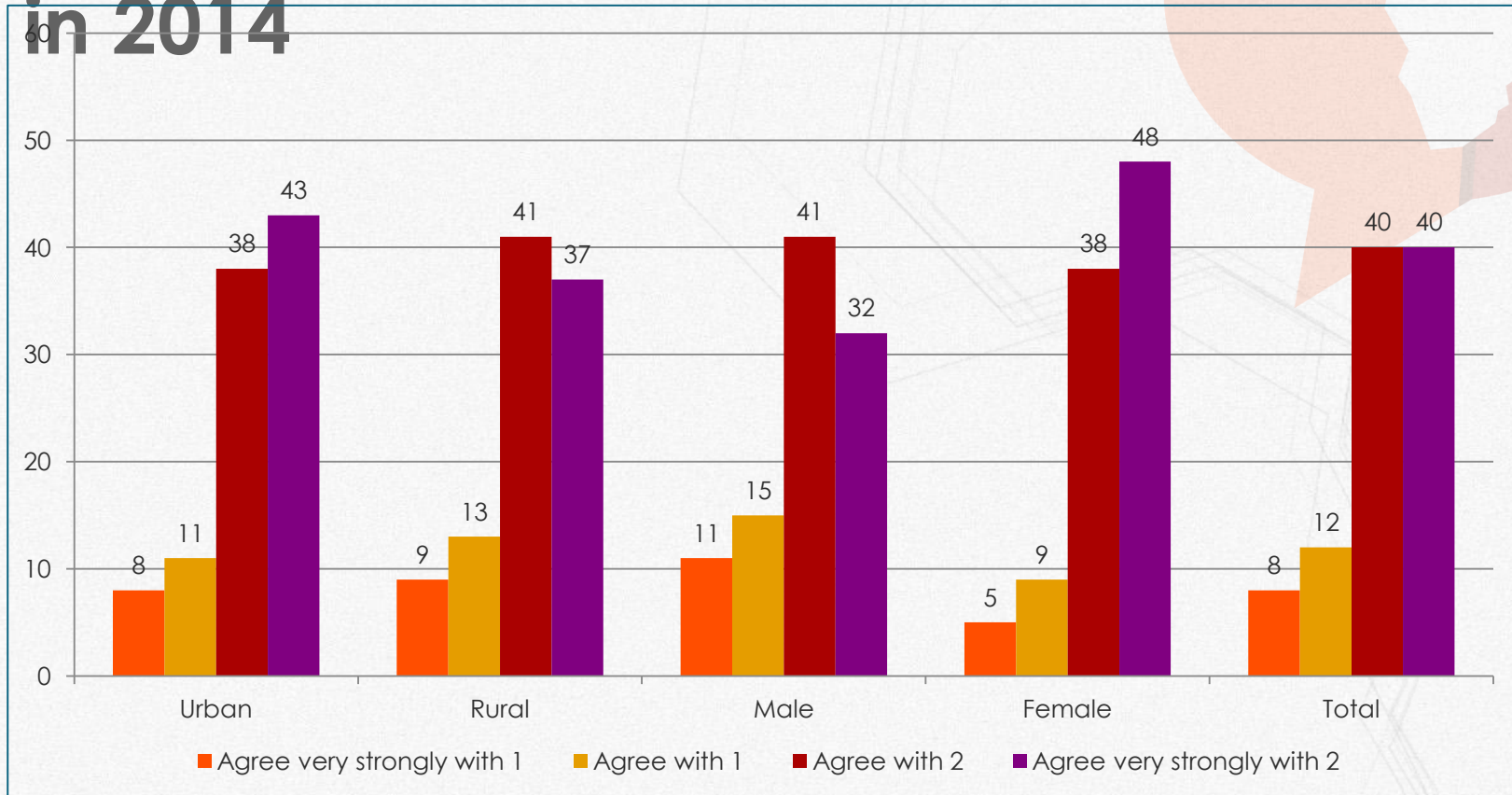


# Key Findings

- The majority of Namibians (80%) believe women should have the same chance of being elected to political office as men.
- The number of Namibians who support women in political leadership grew from 70% in 2012, to 80% in 2014.
- Although women express higher levels of support for women in politics than men do, they continue to show lower levels of interest in politics



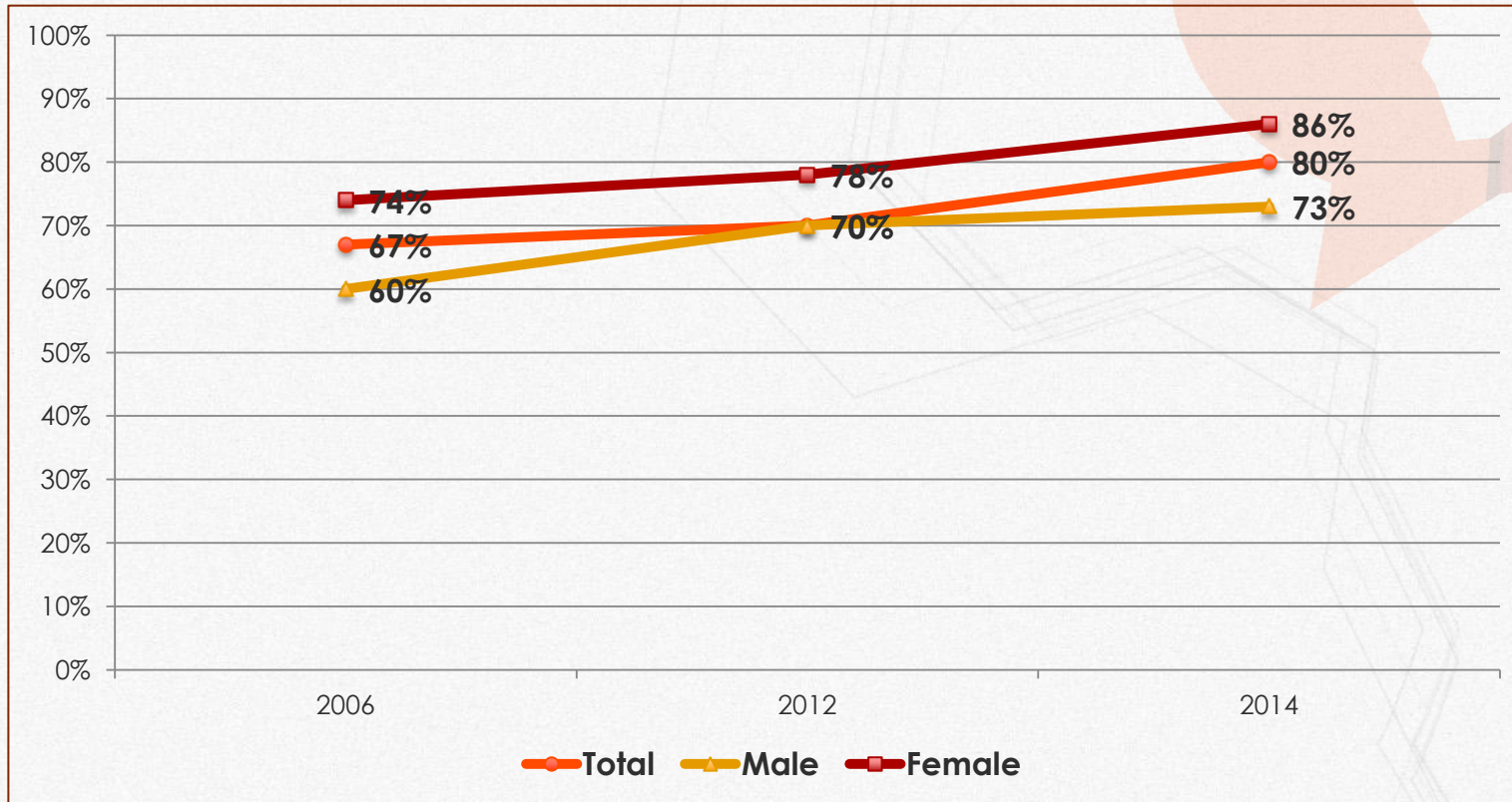
# Namibians' support for women in political leadership in 2014



Respondents were asked: Which of the following statements is closest to your view. Statement 1: Men make better political leaders than women, and should be elected rather than women. Statement 2: Women should have the same chance of being elected to political office as men.



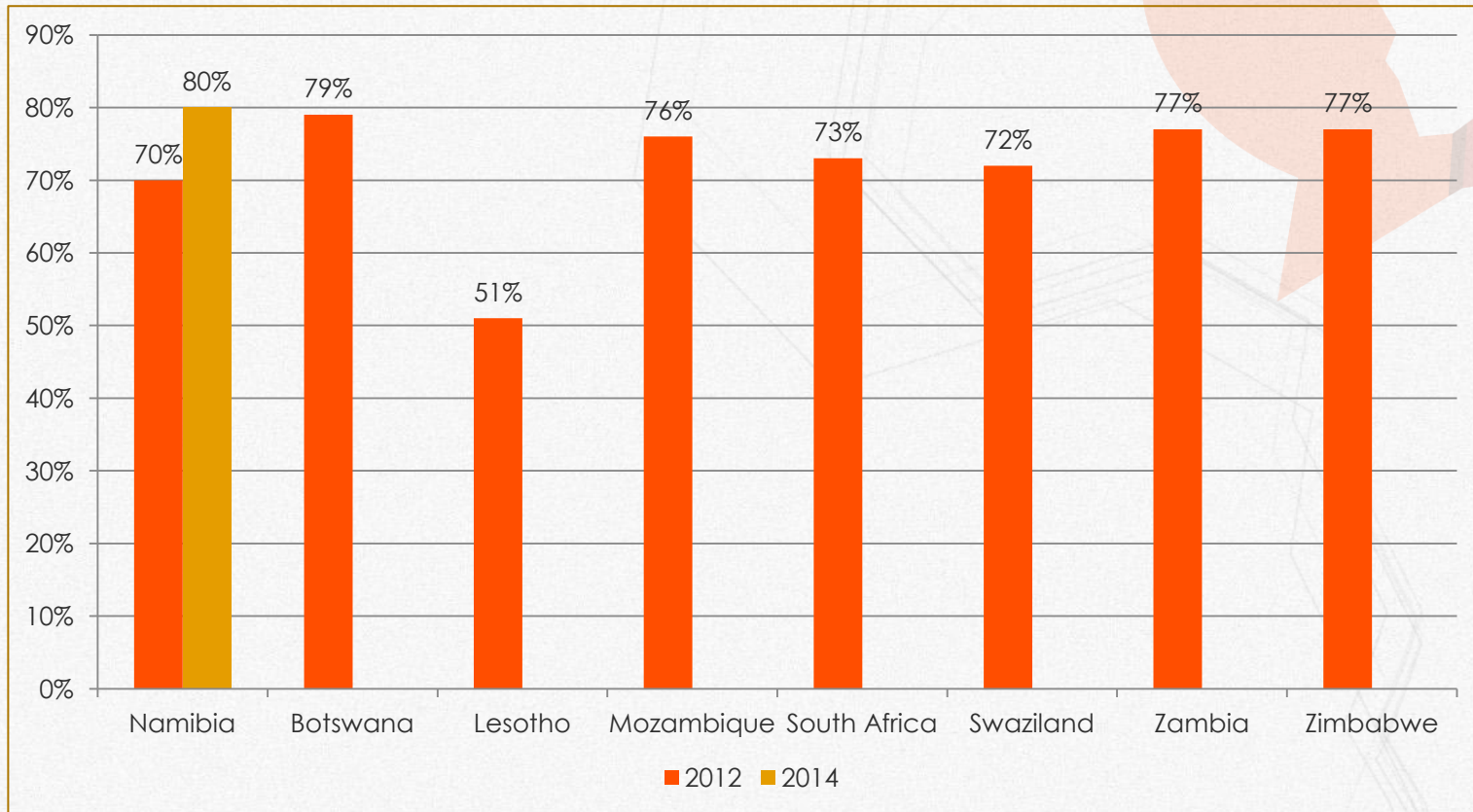
# Changing support for women in political leadership



Respondents were asked: whether women should have the same chance of being elected to political office (vs. beliefs that men make better leaders)



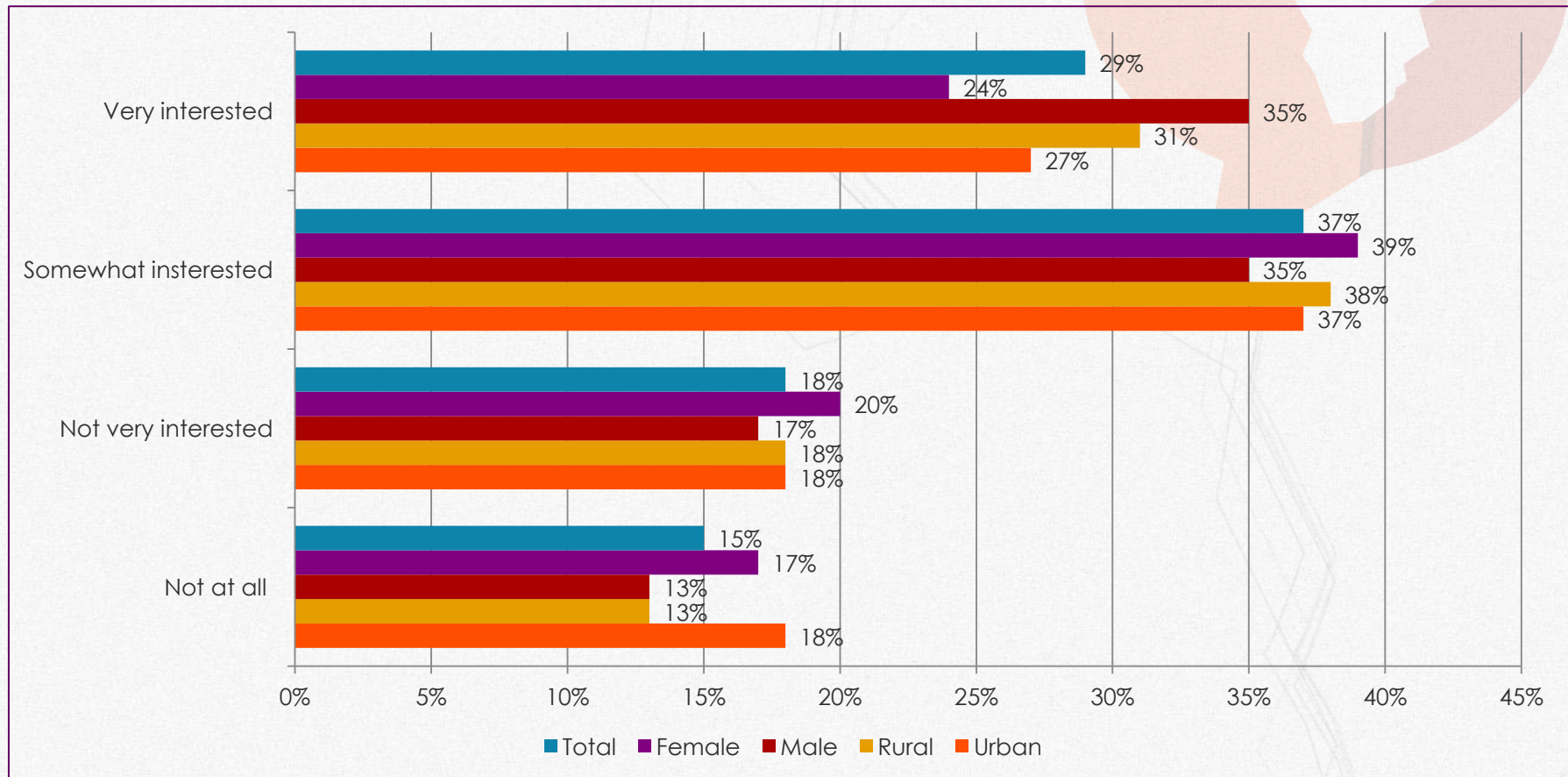
# Regional Support for women in political leadership



Respondents were asked: whether women should have the same chance of being elected to political office (vs. beliefs that men make better leaders)

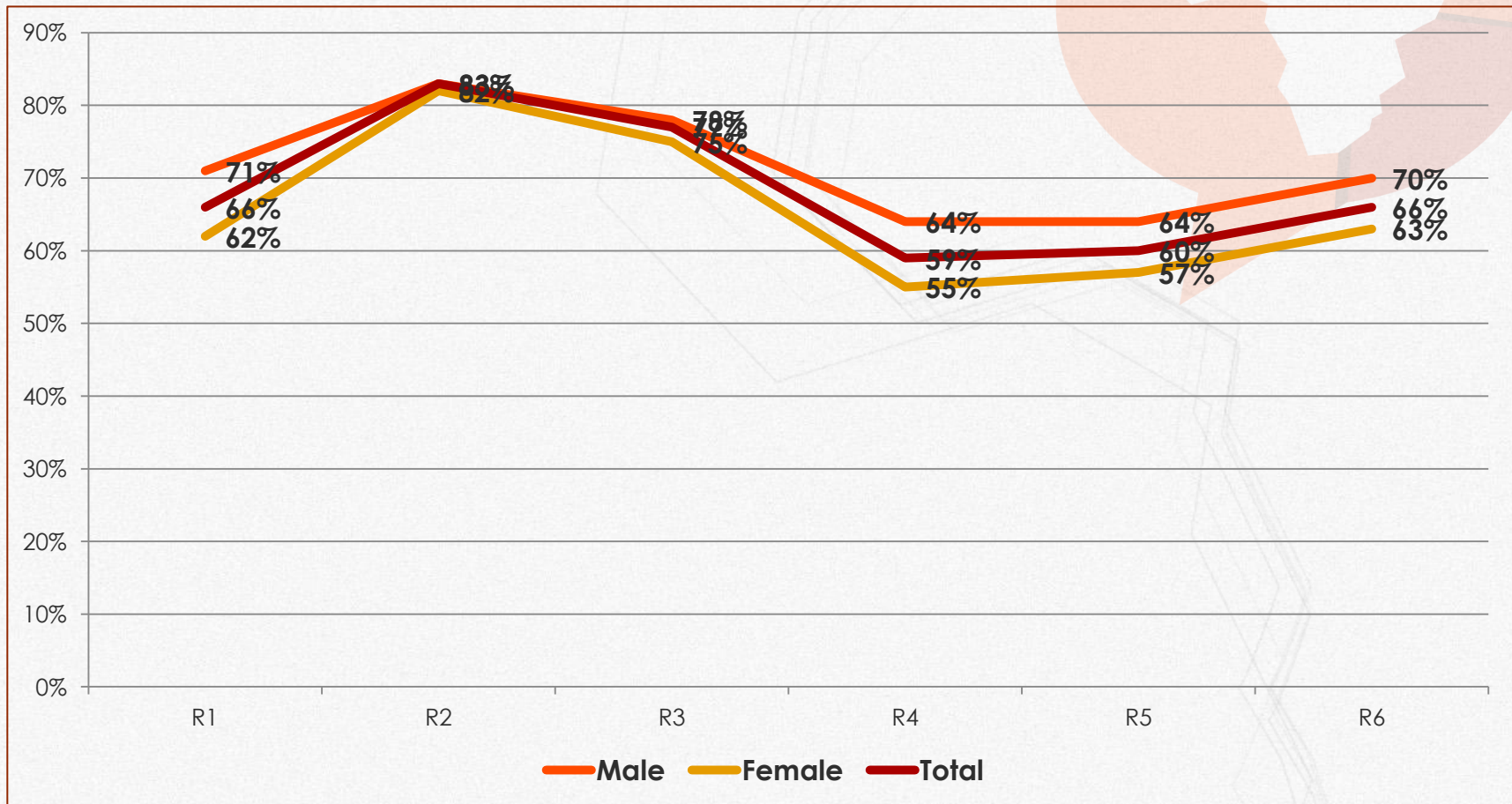


# Are women interested in politics?



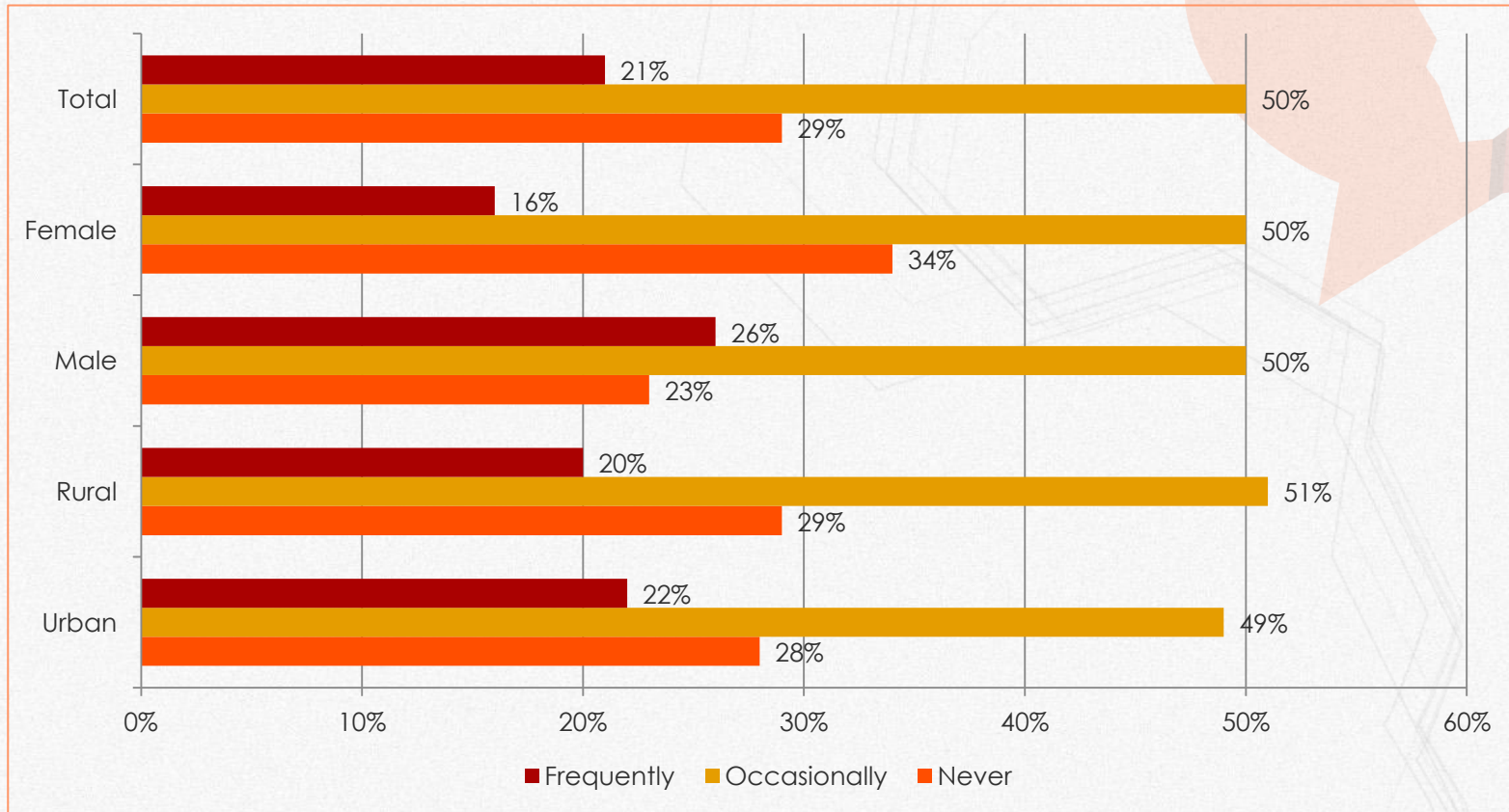
Respondents were asked: how interested they would say they were in public affairs.

# Changing interests in politics



Respondents were asked: How interested would you say you are in public affairs?

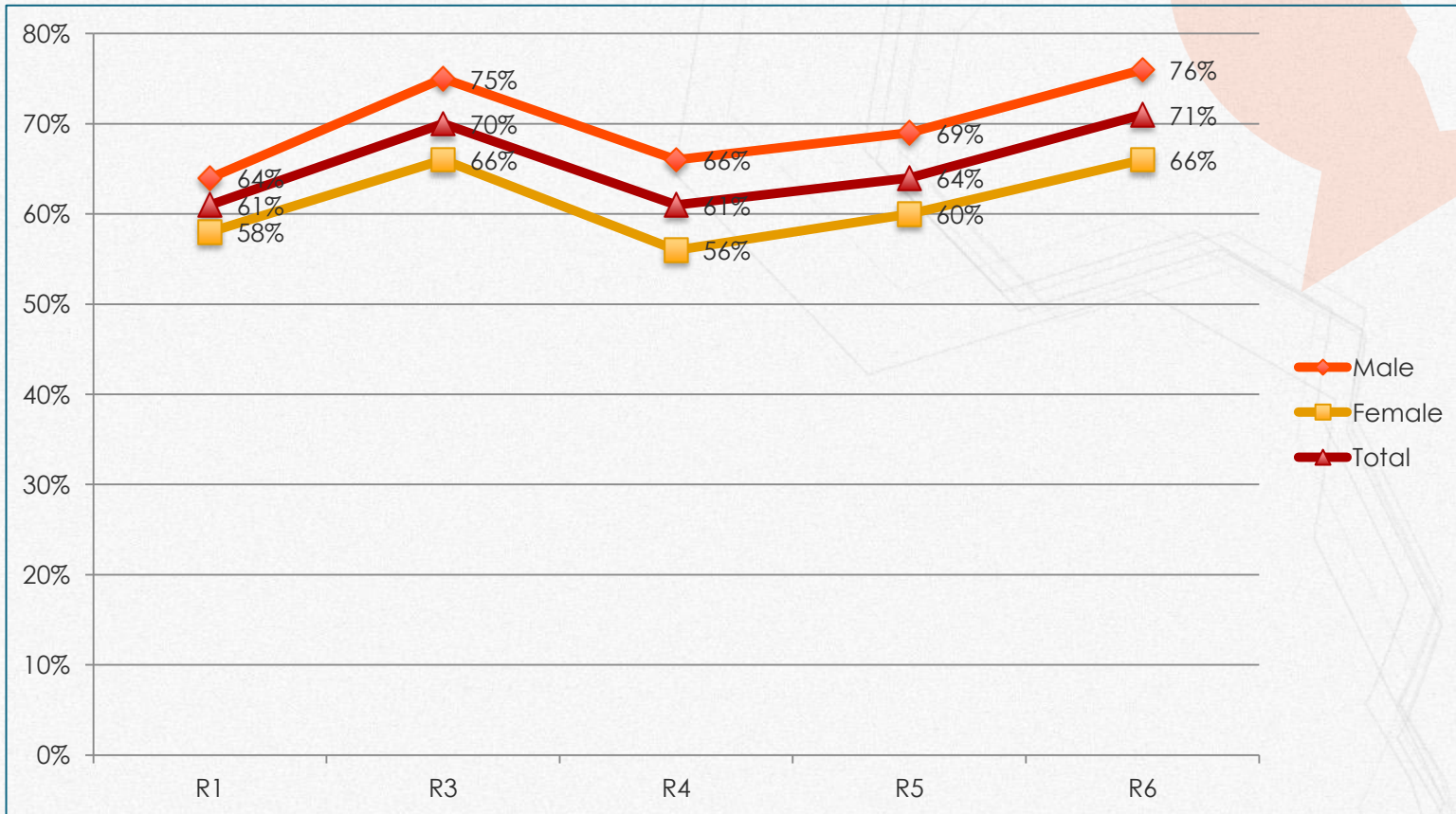
# Do women discuss politics?



Respondents were asked: When you get together with your friends or family, would you say you discuss political matters?



# Changing Trends in the discussion of politics?



Respondents were asked: When you get together with your friends or family, would you say you discuss political matters?







# Gender-based violence

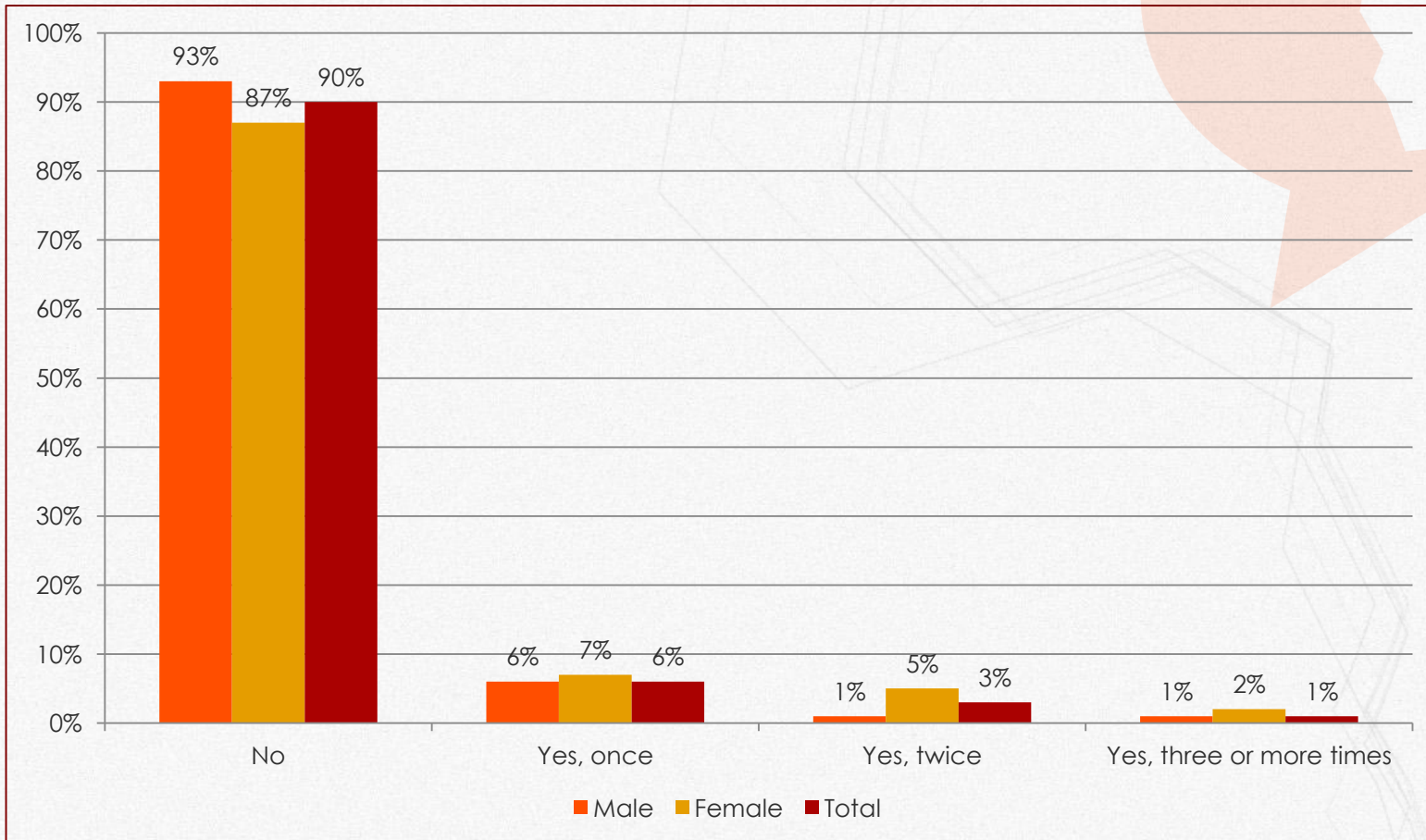


## Key Findings

- 13% of Namibian women, and 7% of men reported that they, or a member of their family had been a victim of gender based violence.
- Namibians felt that in 2014, alcohol abuse contributed most significantly to GBV, followed by unemployment and poverty.
- Culture and tradition were not perceived to be major contributors to GBV in Namibia



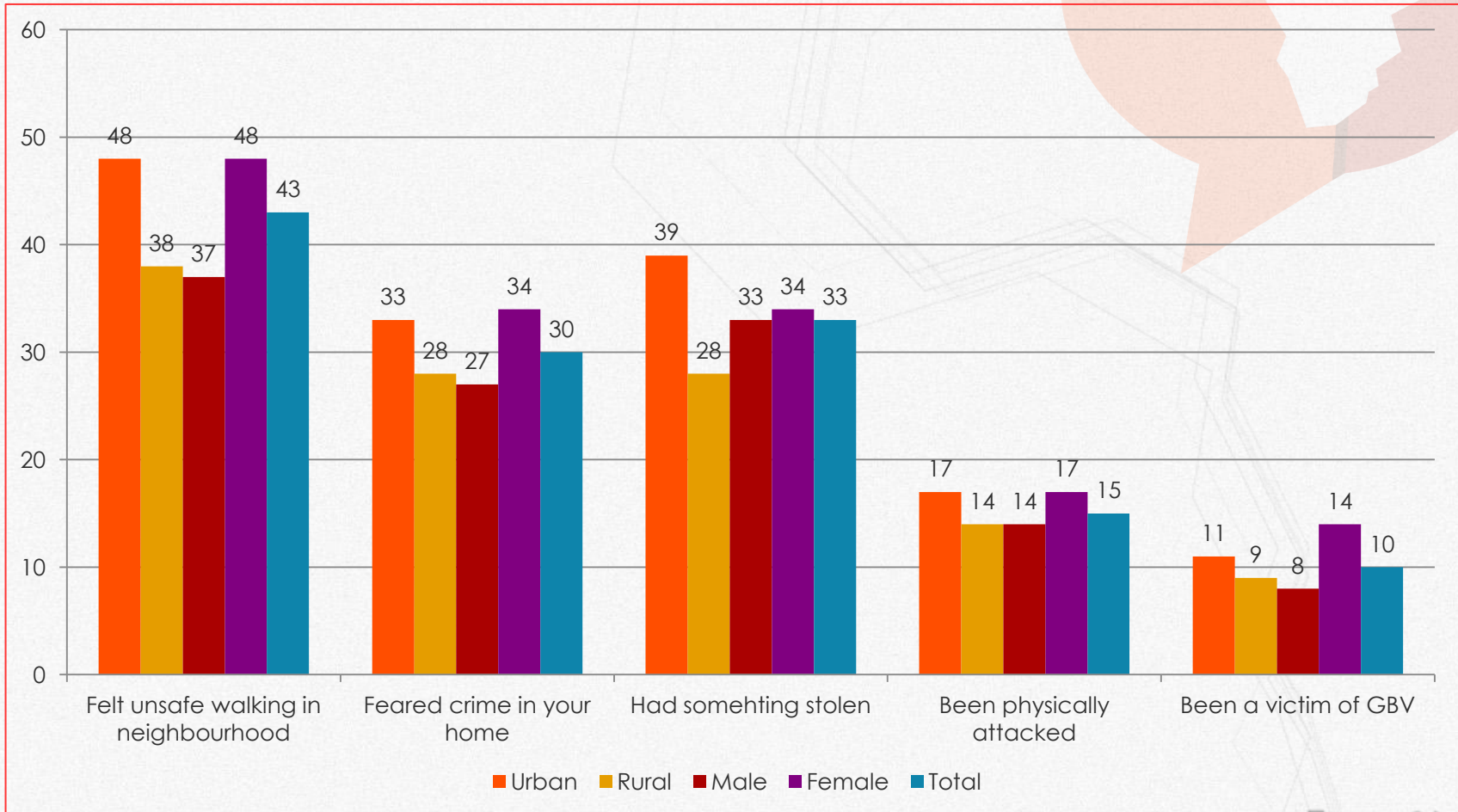
# Prevalence of GBV in 2014



Respondents were asked: Over the past year, how often, if ever, have you or anyone in your family: Been a victim of gender-based violence?

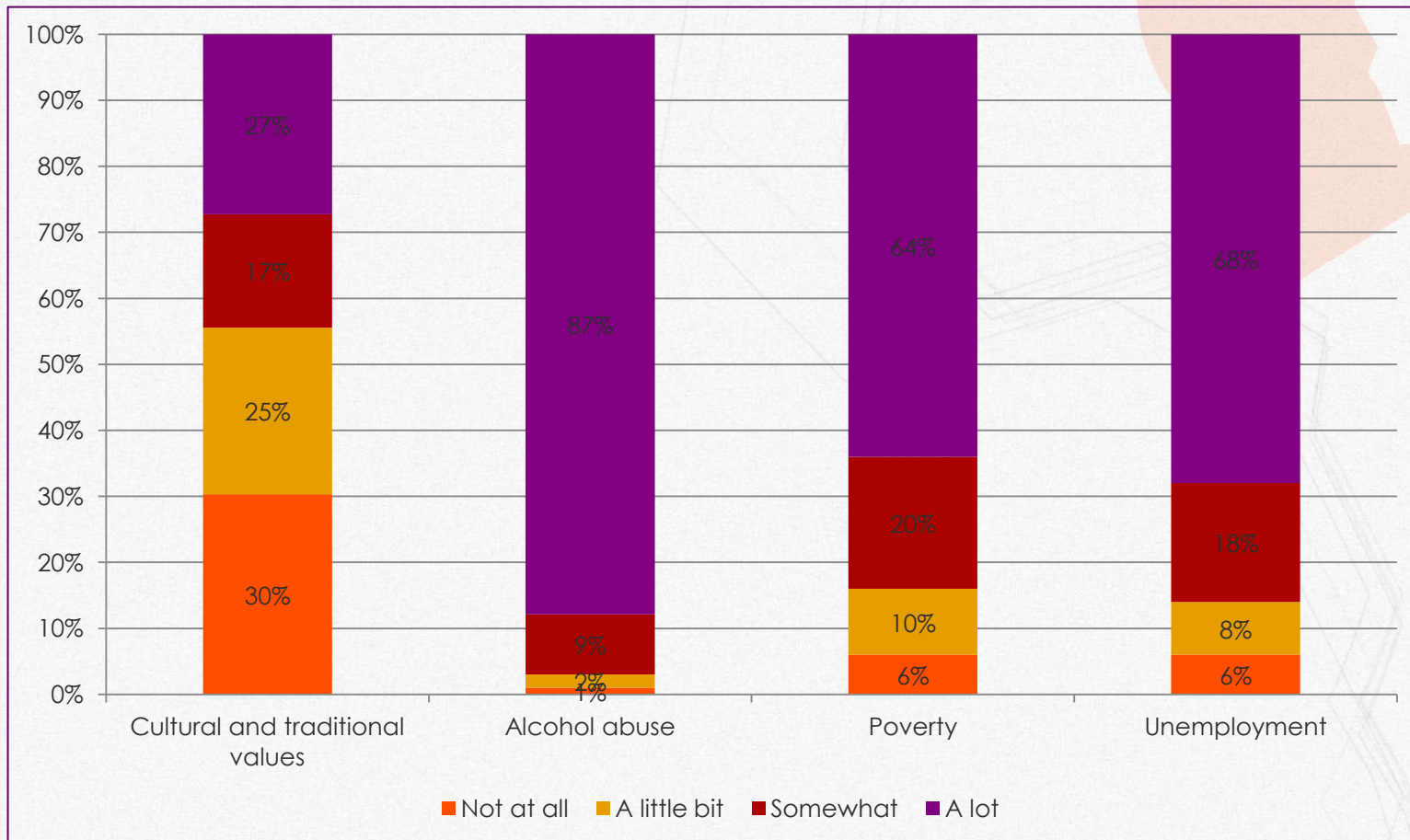


# Fear and/or experience of crime, including GBV



Respondents were asked whether they, or someone in their family feared, or had experienced the above.

# Perceptions on the factors that contribute to GBV



Respondents were asked how much they thought the above factors contributed to GBV in Namibia in 2014.



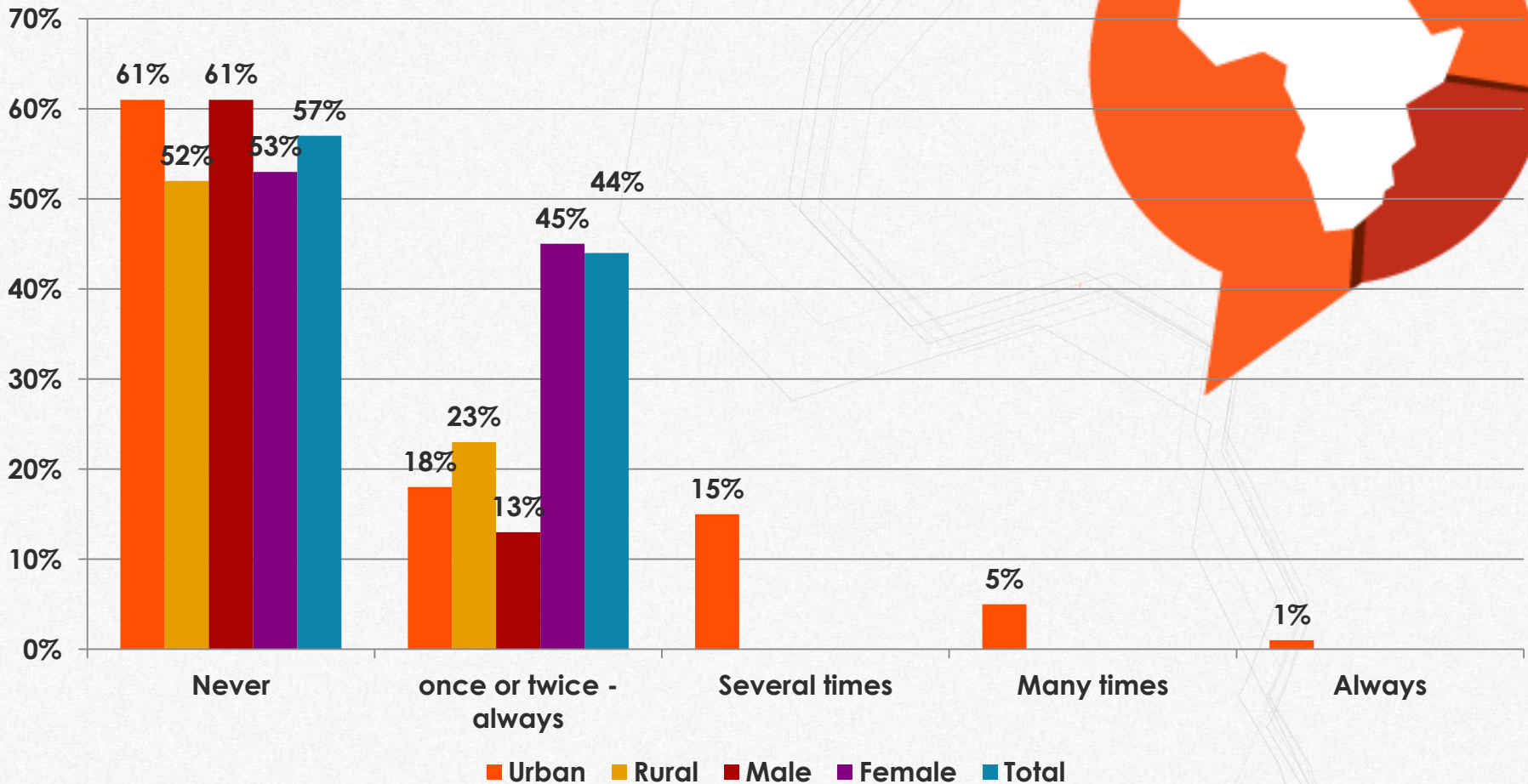


# Lived poverty

# Key findings

- Urban and male respondents were around 9% more likely to never face food shortage in Round 6.
- Namibian respondents were only likely to experience food shortage several times, many times, or always with 21% agreement.
- Kunene, Kavango West, and Ohangwena were the only regions to experience less than half of respondents “never” going without food.
- Only three regions (Zambezi, Erongo, and Hardap) featured more than half of the respondents who “never” experienced a shortage of cash income.
- Over time since 1999, there is evidence of a decline in those reporting shortages in food and cash income. Simultaneously, those reporting “never” have increased over time.

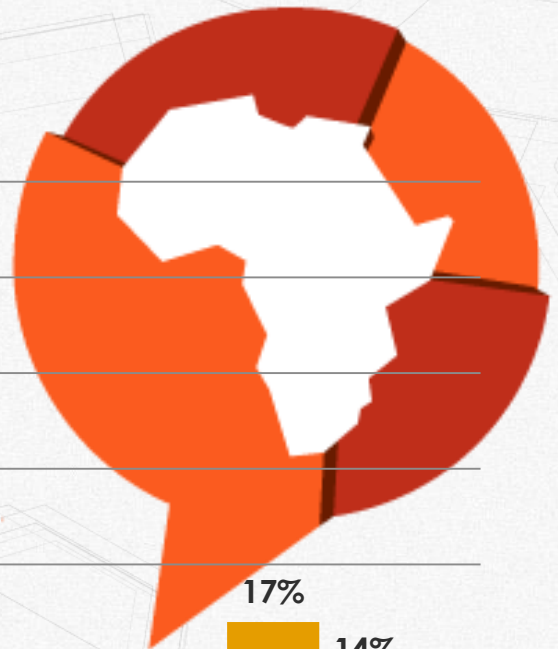
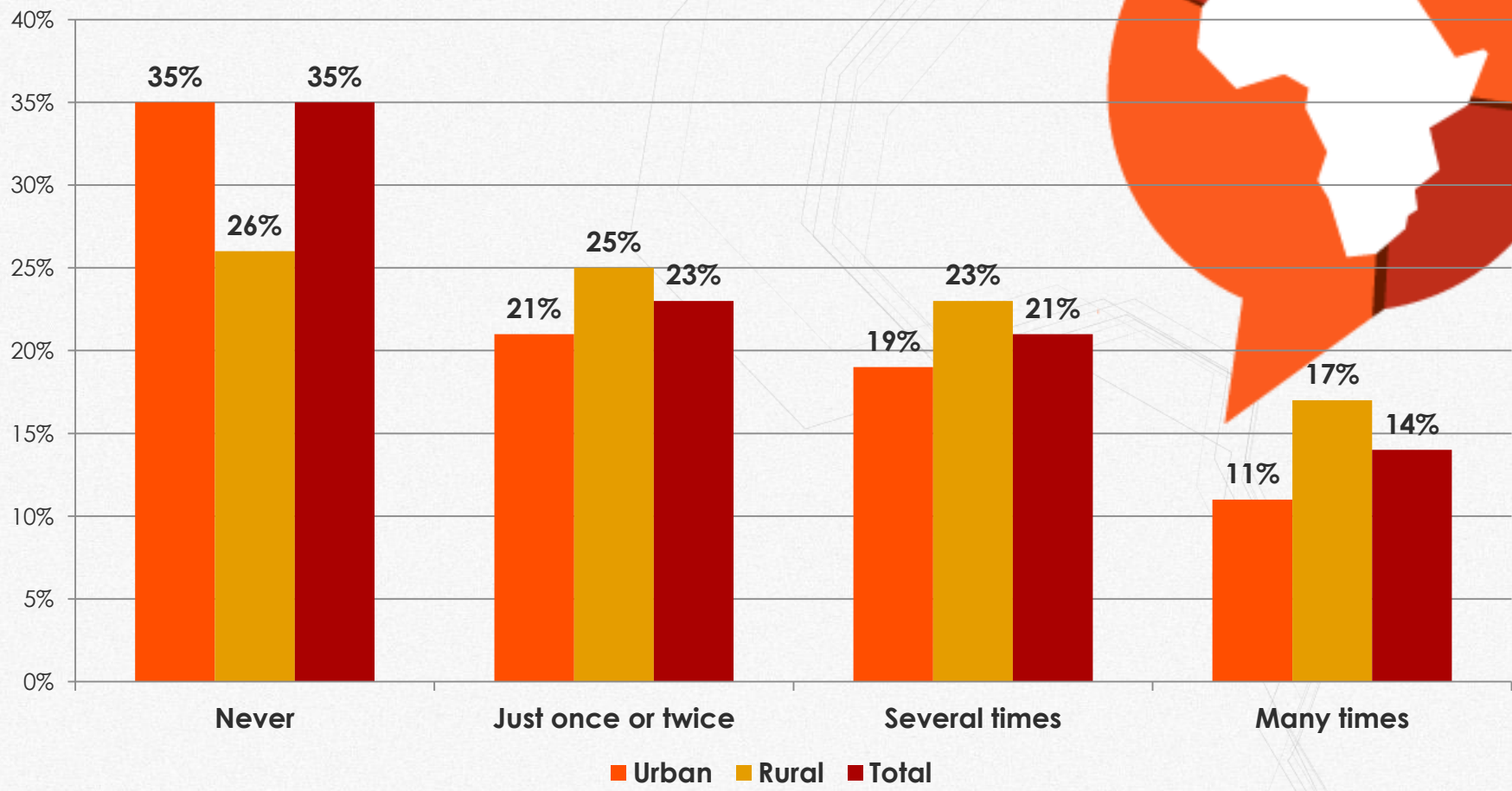
# Gone without food 2014



Respondents were asked: How often have you gone without food?



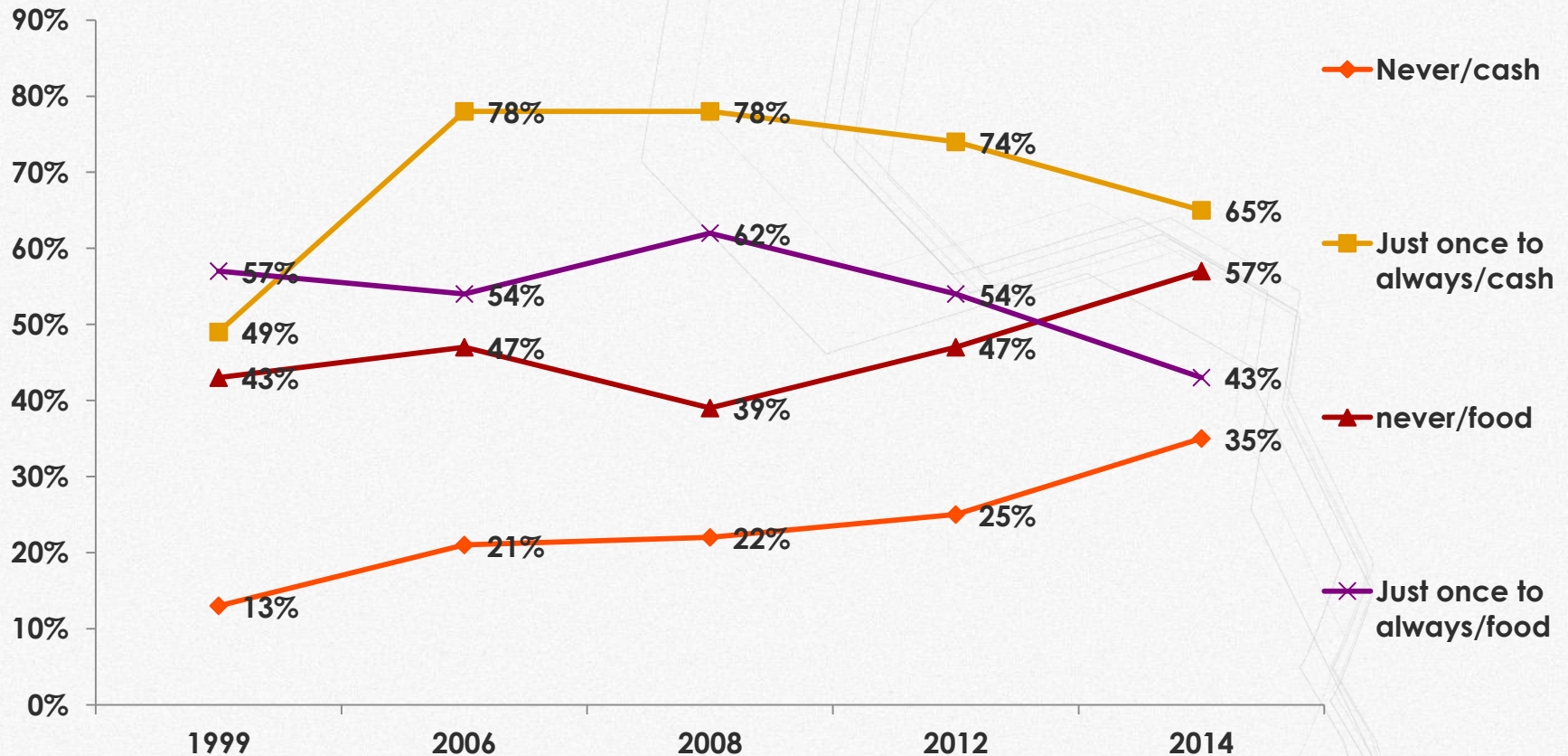
# Gone without cash income 2014?



**Respondents were asked:** How often have you gone without a cash income?



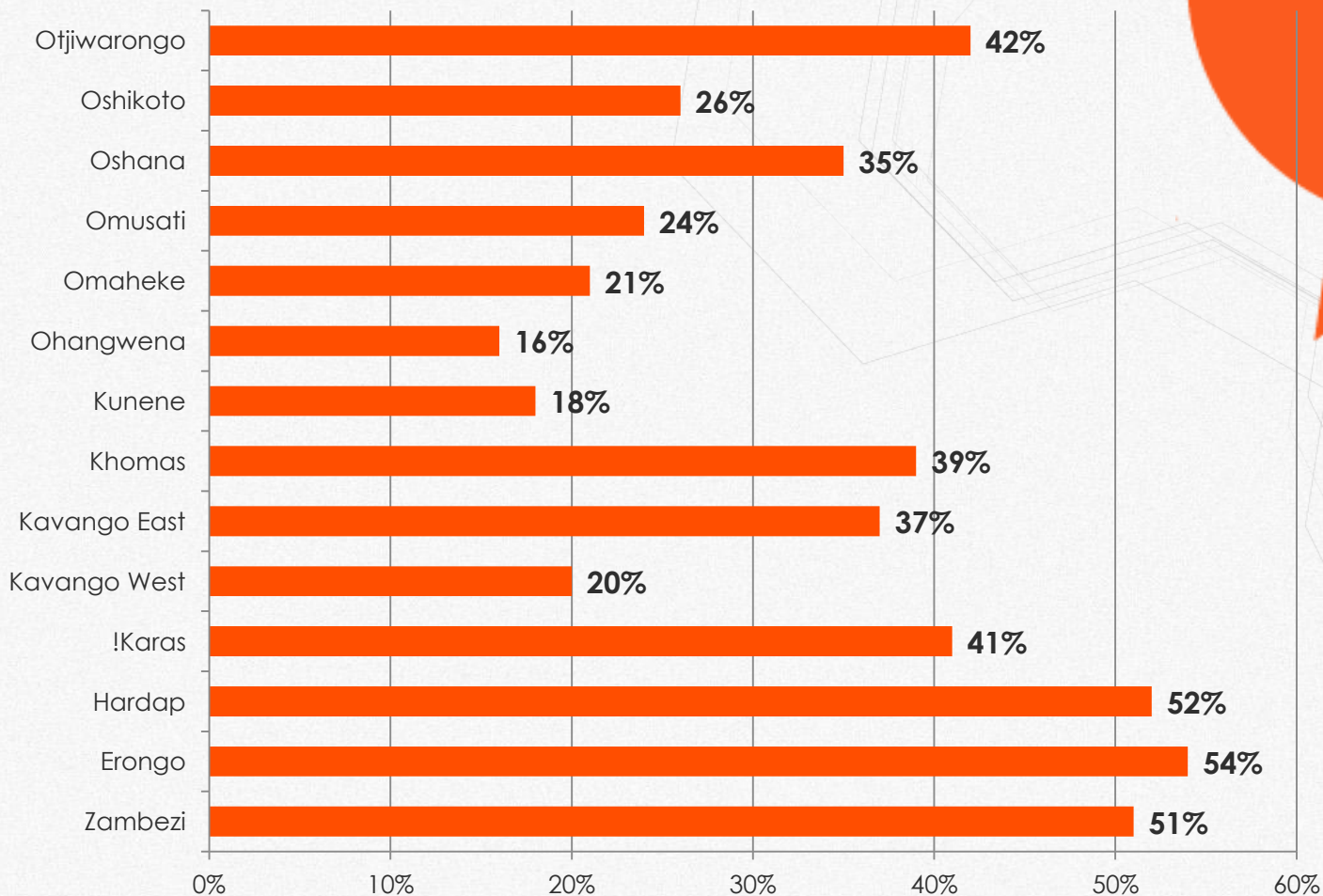
# Changes over time cash and food



Respondents were asked: How often have you gone without food? Cash income?

# Going without a cash income?

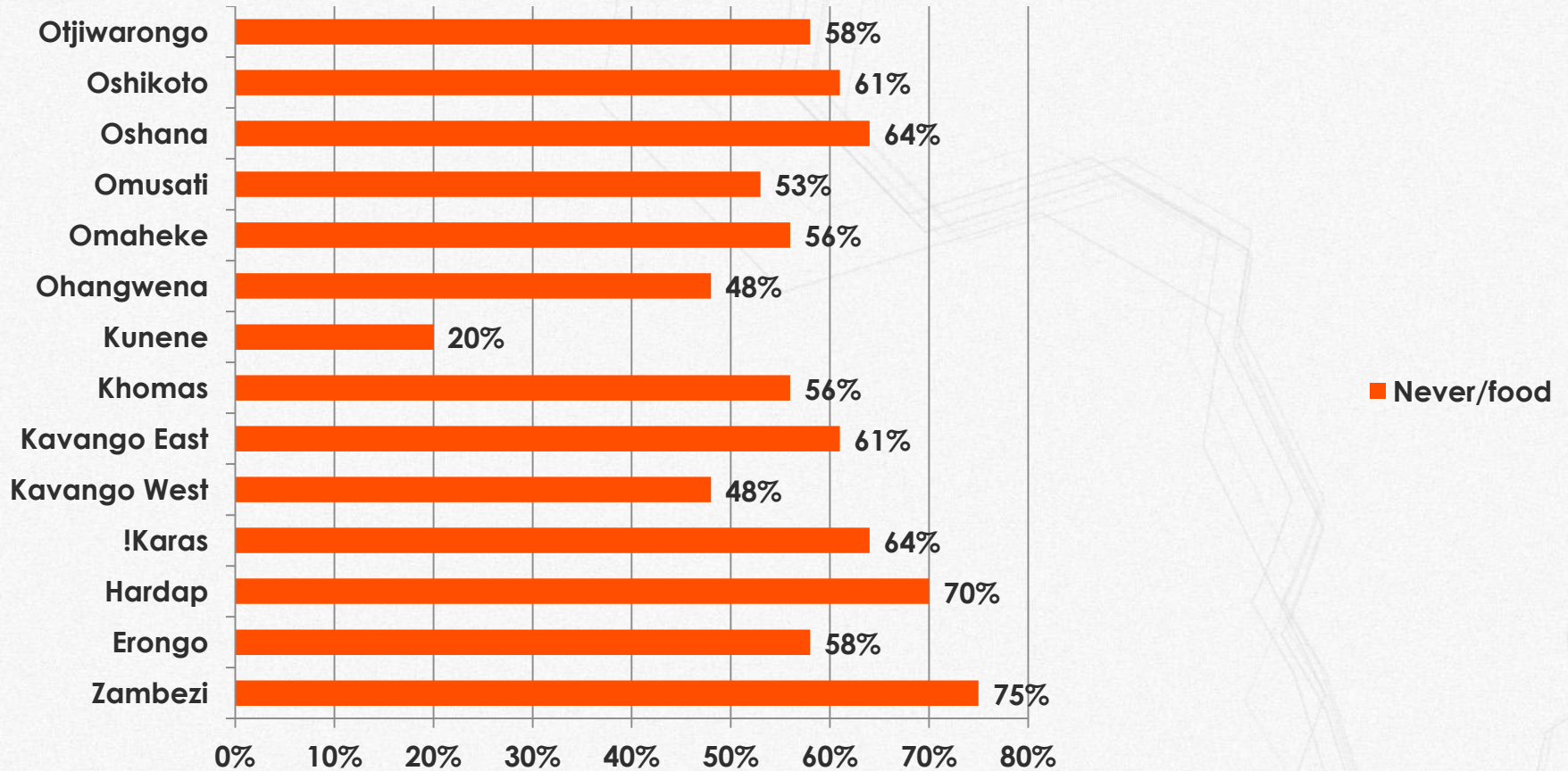
## Never/ cash income



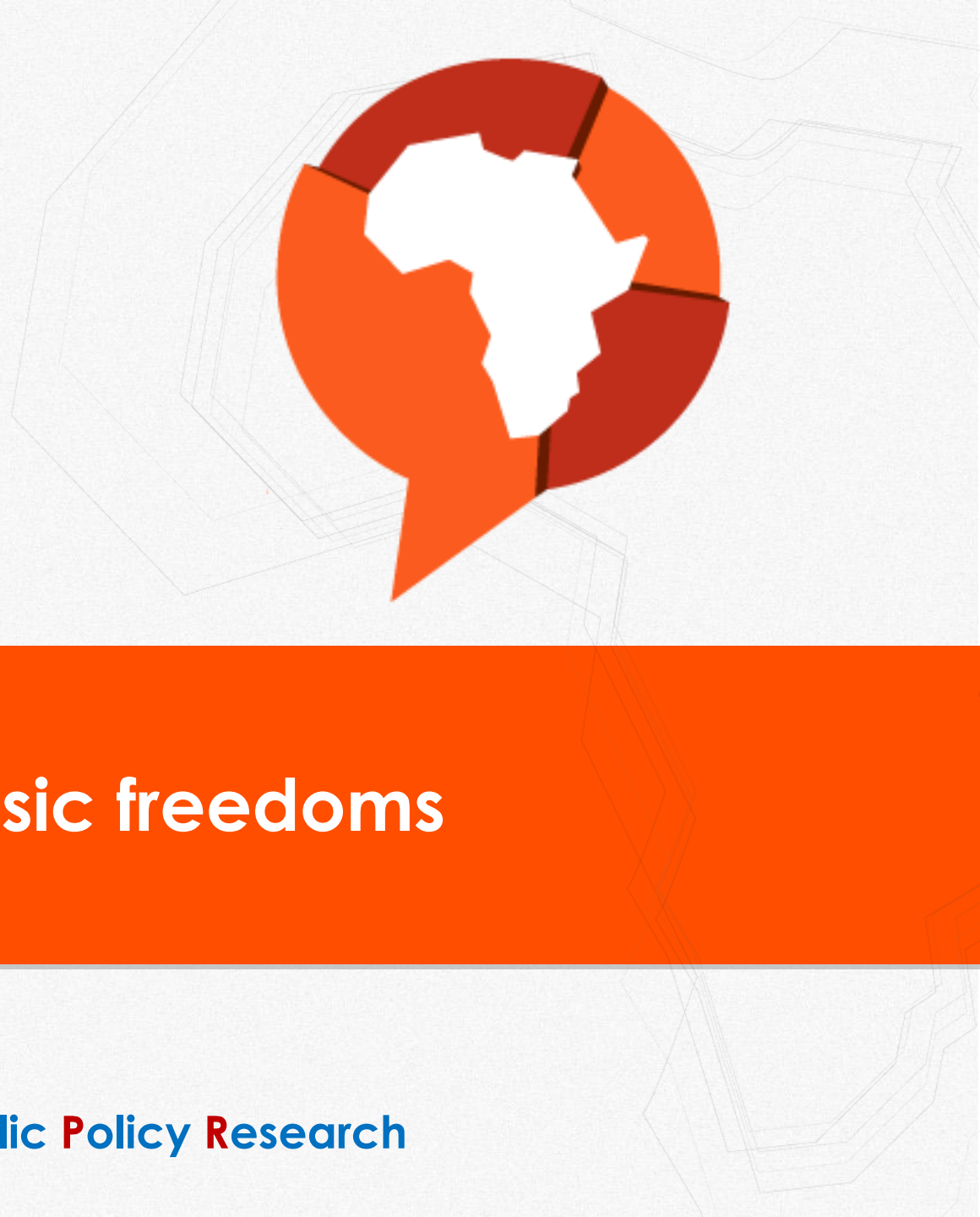
■ Never/ cash income

## How often have you gone without food?

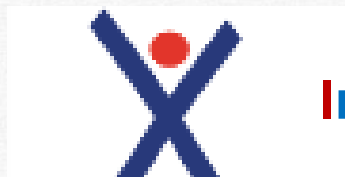
# Regional distribution going without food



Respondents were asked: How often have you gone without food?



# Basic freedoms



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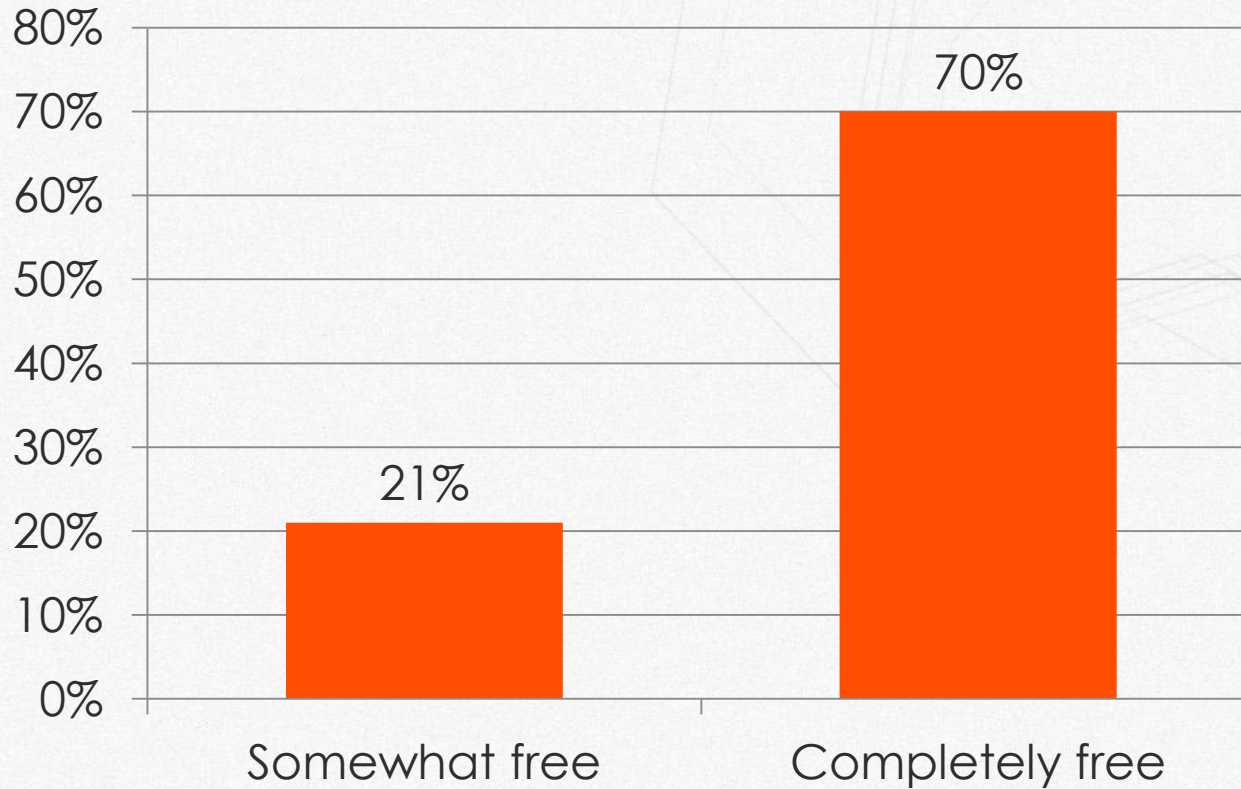
# Key findings



- 91% of respondents expressed that they were somewhat or completely free to say what they wanted.
- 98% of respondents expressed freedom to vote for whom they wanted.
- 95% say they are free to join any political organisation they wanted.

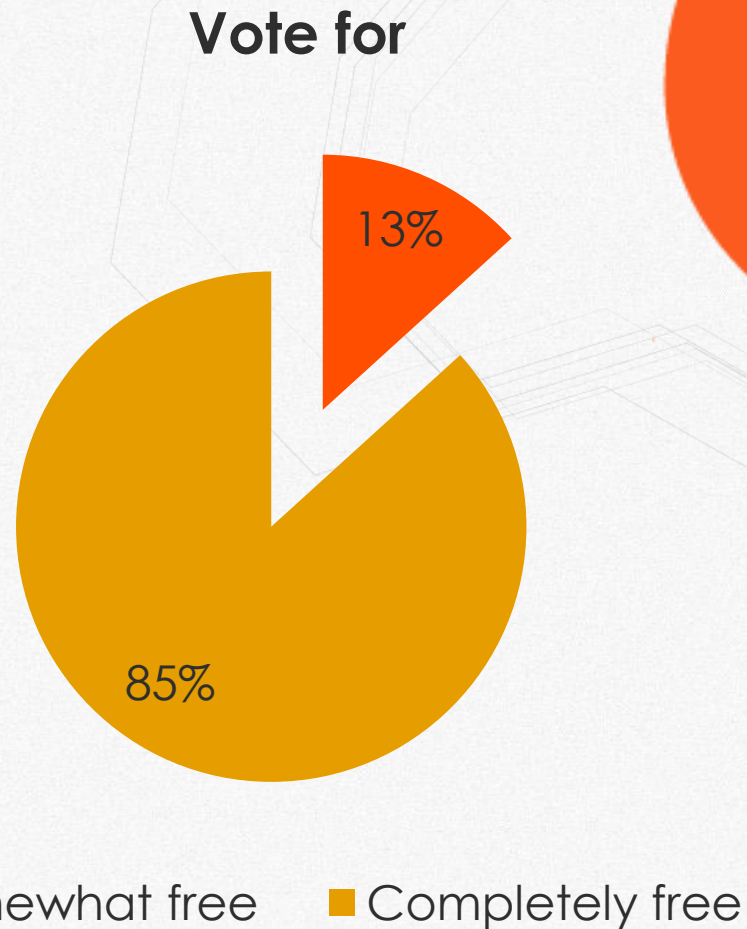
# Freedom to say what you think

## 2014



Respondents were asked: How free are you to say what you think?

## Free to choose who to vote for?

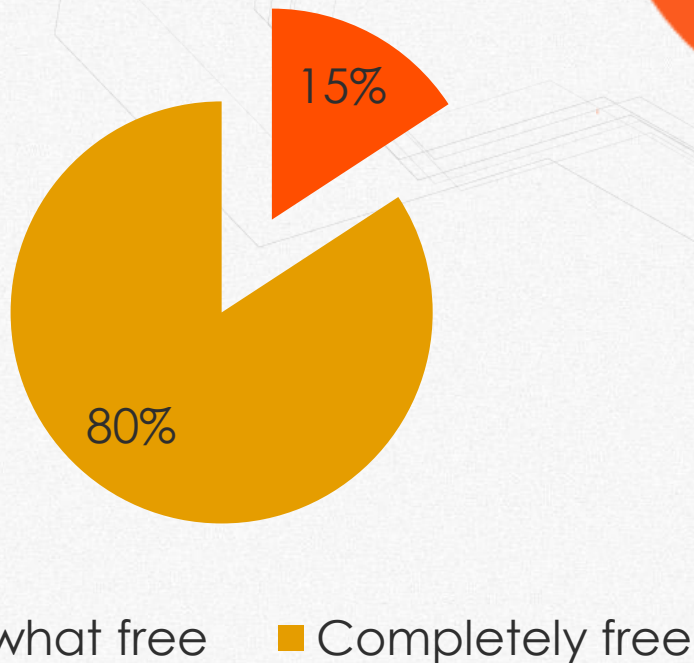


Respondents were asked: How free are you to choose who to vote for?



# Freedom to join any political organisation?

Join any political group?



Respondents were asked: Freedom to join any political organisation?



# Conclusions

# Conclusions



- Both male and female respondents felt that Namibia was ready for the 50-50 gender empowerment.
- Alcohol was seen as the most important contributor to gender based violence.
- The “lived poverty” experience tracked the official poverty results downward.
- Namibian respondents continued to feel that the country experiences high levels of personal freedom.

