

Key Results of the Afrobarometer Round 5 Survey in South Africa

June 21, 2012



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Purpose and Goal

- The Afrobarometer (AB) is a comparative series of public opinion surveys that measure public attitudes toward democracy, governance, the economy, leadership, identity, and other related issues.
- The AB is an independent, non-partisan, African-based network that is supported by the Department for International Development (DfID), the Mo Ibrahim Foundation, the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA), and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).
- **Purpose:** to measure popular perspectives on the social, political, and economic environments in each country where it is implemented and across Africa.
- **Goal:** to give the public a *voice* in policy making processes by providing high-quality public opinion data to policy-makers, advocates, academics, media, donors, and ordinary Africans.

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Survey Methodology

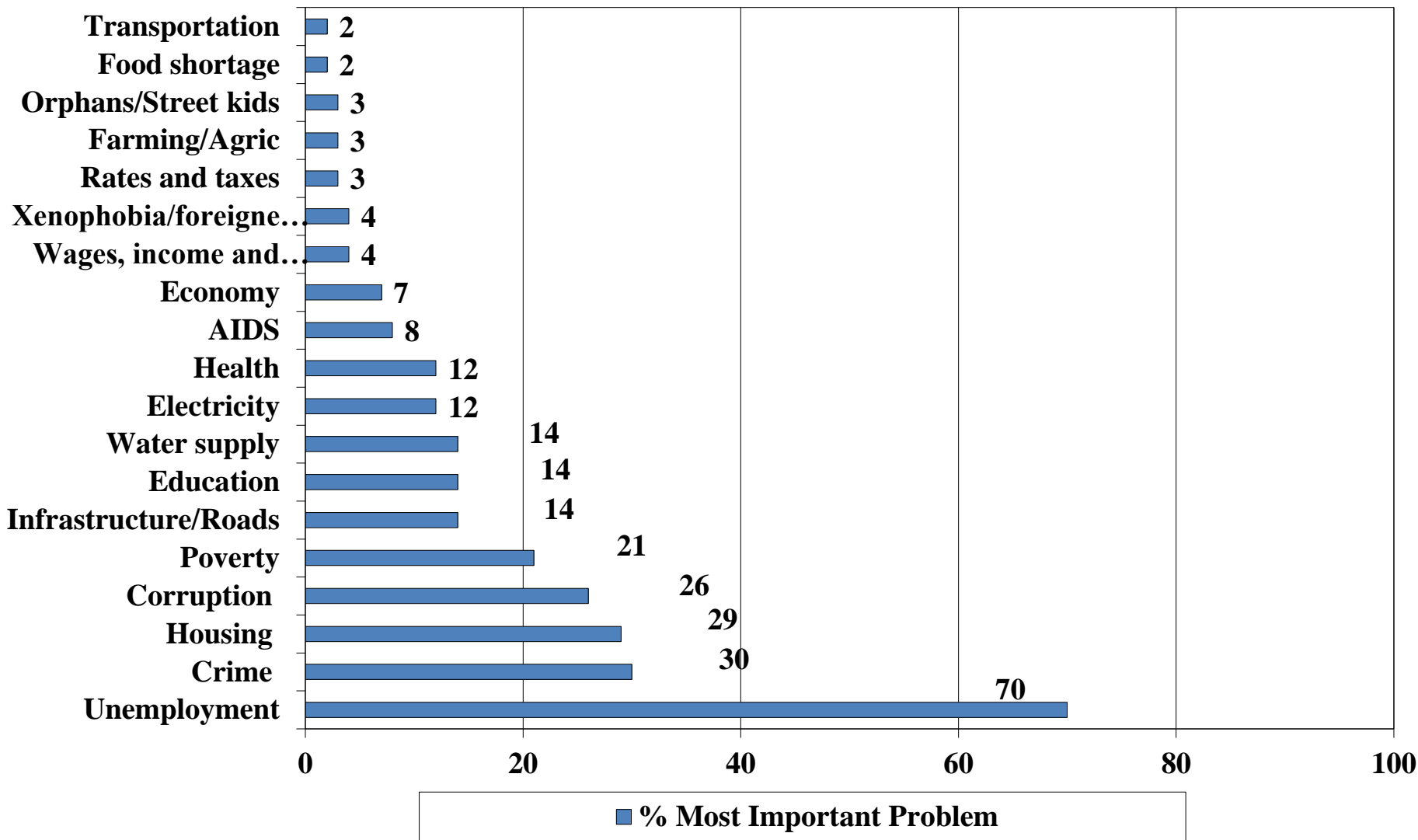
- The Afrobarometer is a comparative series of public attitude surveys, covering up to 35 African countries in Round 5 (2011-2013).
- It measures public attitudes on democracy and its alternatives, evaluations of the quality of governance and economic performance.
- Field work for Round Five was conducted in South Africa between October and November in 2011.
- The survey interviewed 2400 adult South African citizens proportionate to the South African population (based on 2011 projections of the 2001 Census); A sample of this size yields results with a margin of error of +/- 2% at a 95% confidence level.
- Afrobarometer's work in South Africa is coordinated by the Institute for Democracy in South Africa (Idasa) and field work was carried out by Citizens Surveys, Ltd.

Key Findings of R5 South Africa

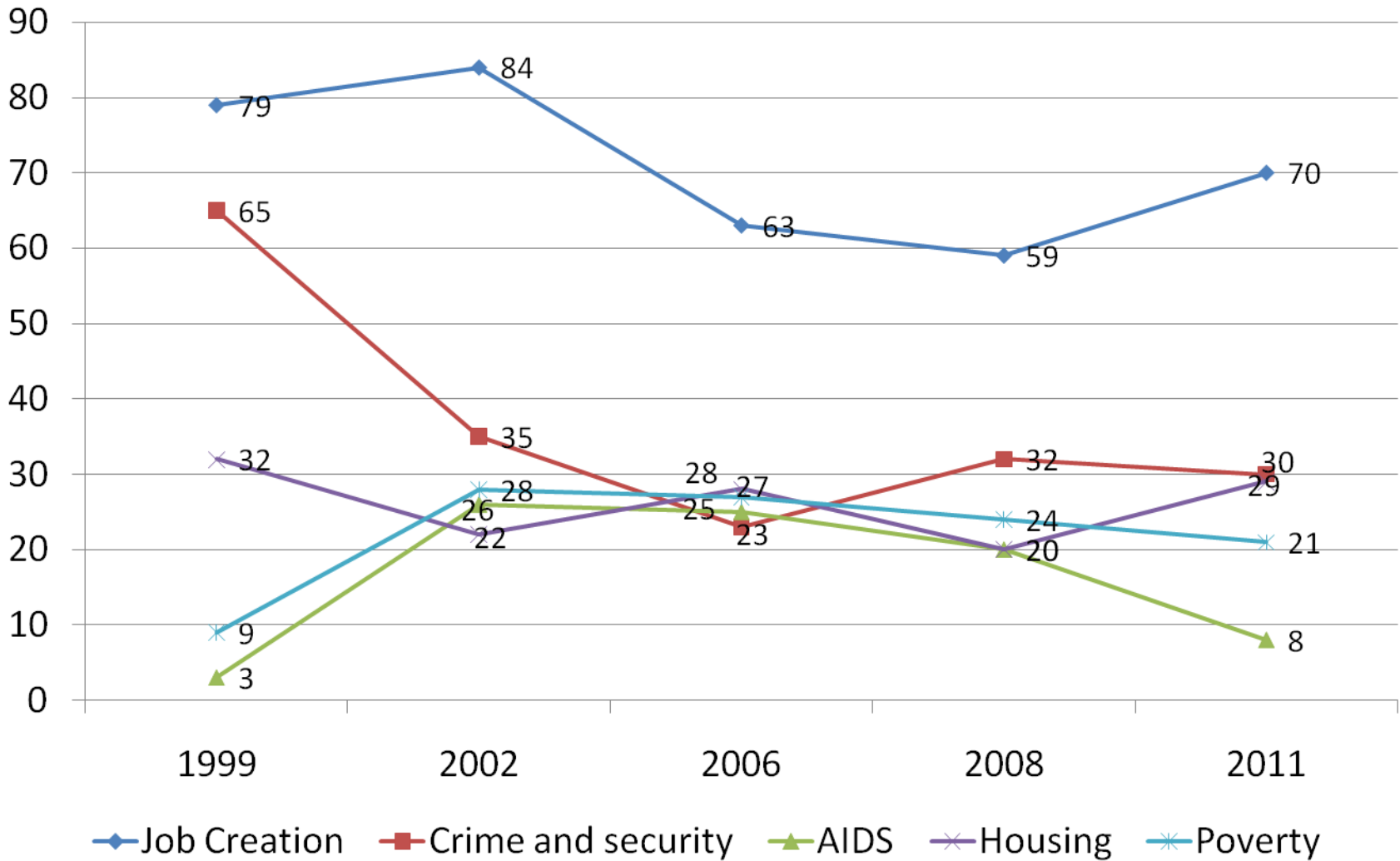
- A. **The Public Agenda:** South Africans no longer perceive HIV/AIDs as a top 5 problem, but corruption has catapulted into the number 4 position.
- B. **Corruption:** Perceptions of corruption in all government officials but tax collectors have risen since 2008.
- C. **Job approval:** A majority of South Africans approve of the job of the President, their provincial premier, and their MPs, while most are unsatisfied with the performance of their local MPs.
- D. **Media freedom:** Since 2008 South Africans have shifted substantially in their views on media freedom.
- E. **Protest:** From 2000 to 2011, South Africans have become more likely to say they would never protest and there was a decline in the percent of South Africans who say they have attended a protest in the last year.
- F. **Support for Democracy:** South Africans remain positive that their country is a democracy, albeit with minor problems.
- G. **Partisanship and National Identity:** voter identification with political parties is relatively stable and the survey found continued widespread pride in South African citizenship across all race groups.

A) The Public Agenda – Perceptions of the Most Important Problems Facing South Africa

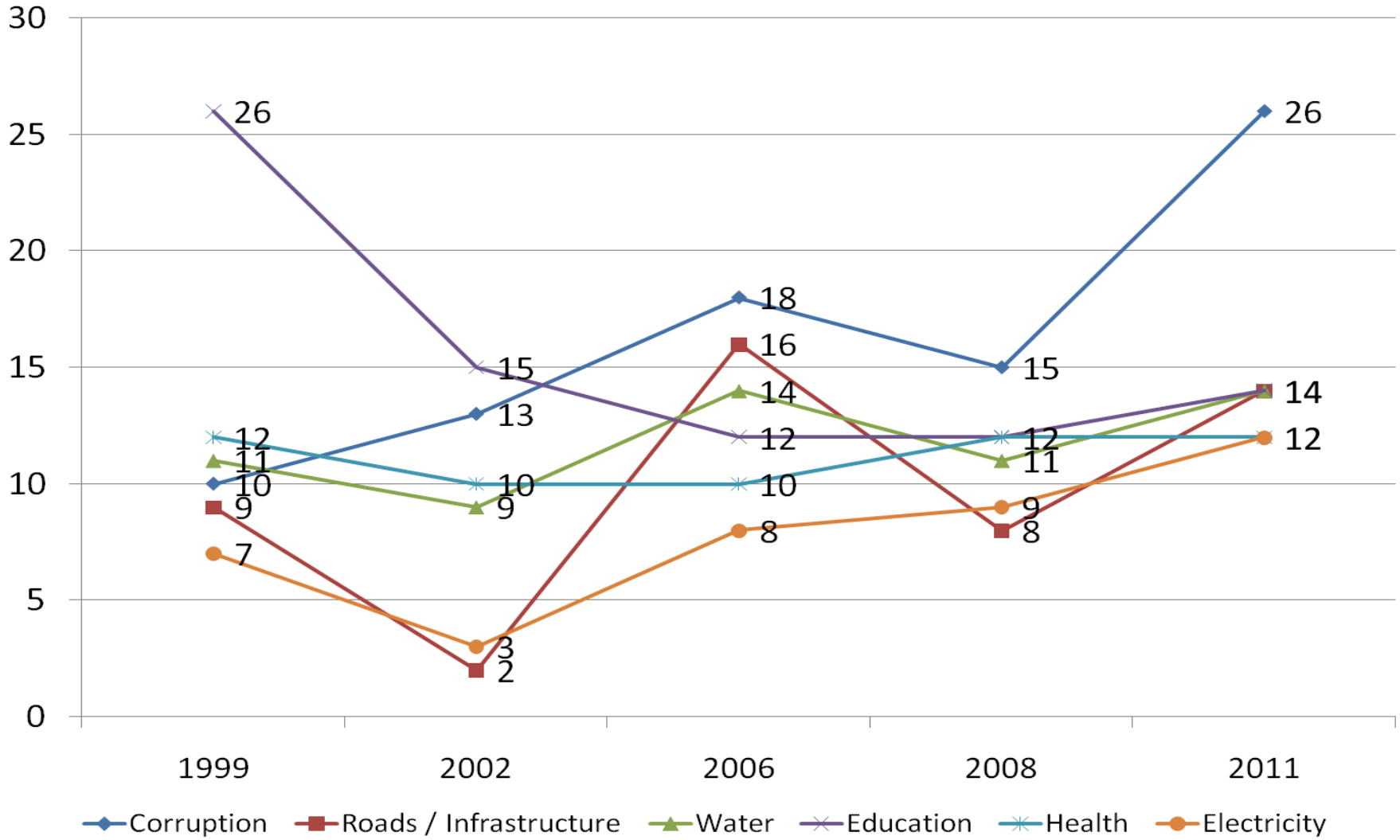
- What are the most important problems facing this country that government ought to address?



A) South Africans' Public Agenda Over Time (The "Big Five" Most Important Problems)



A) South Africans' Public Agenda Over Time (Other Problems)

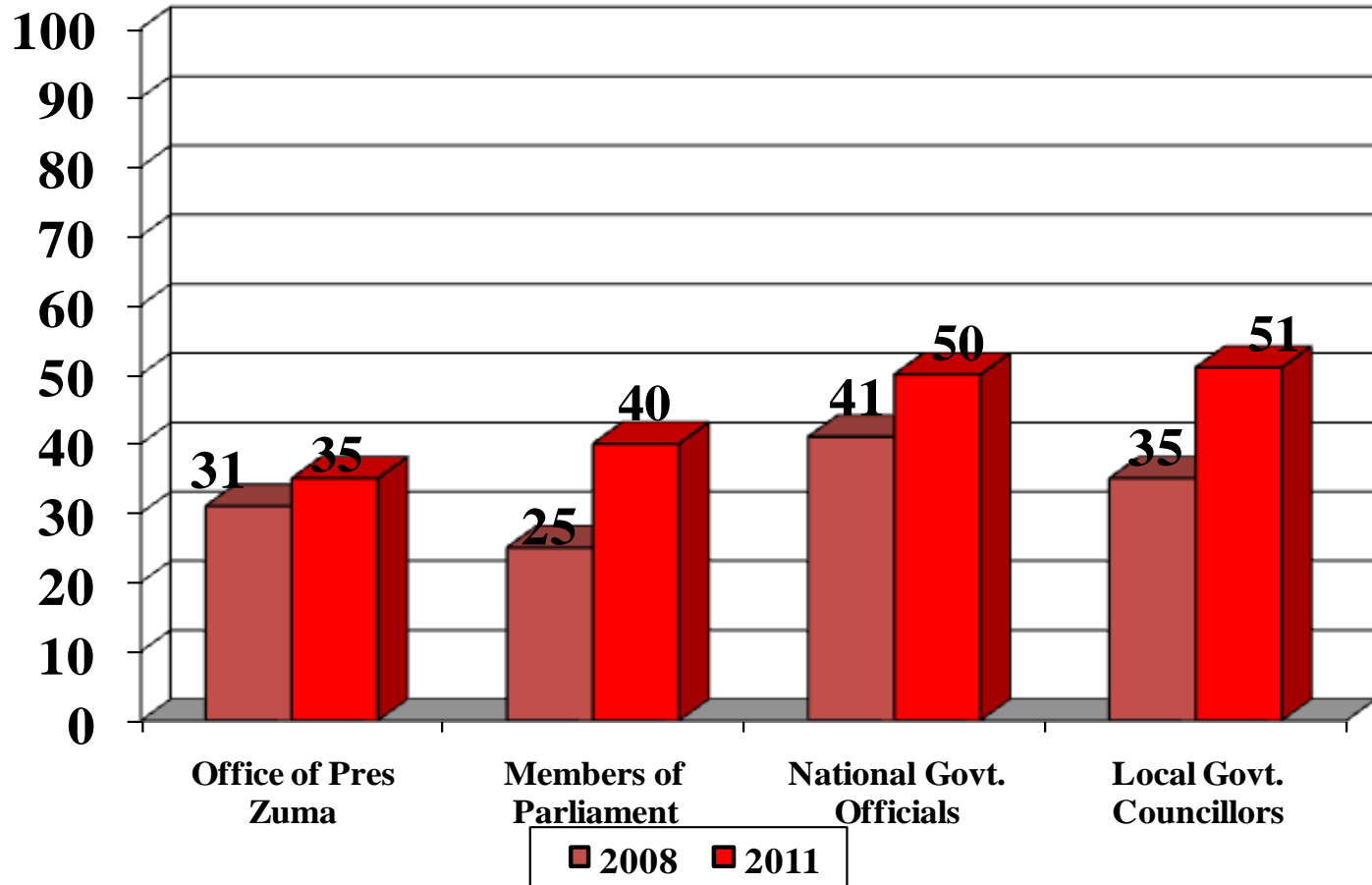


R5 Key Findings: A) The Public Agenda

- Just as in Round 4, unemployment and crime remain the most important problems for South Africans.
- HIV/AIDS has dropped out of the top 5 problems – from 20% in Round 4 (2008) to 8% in Round 5 (2011).
- For the first time, South Africans perceive corruption as one of the top 5 problems – rising from 15% in Round 4 (2008) to 26% in Round 5 (2011).

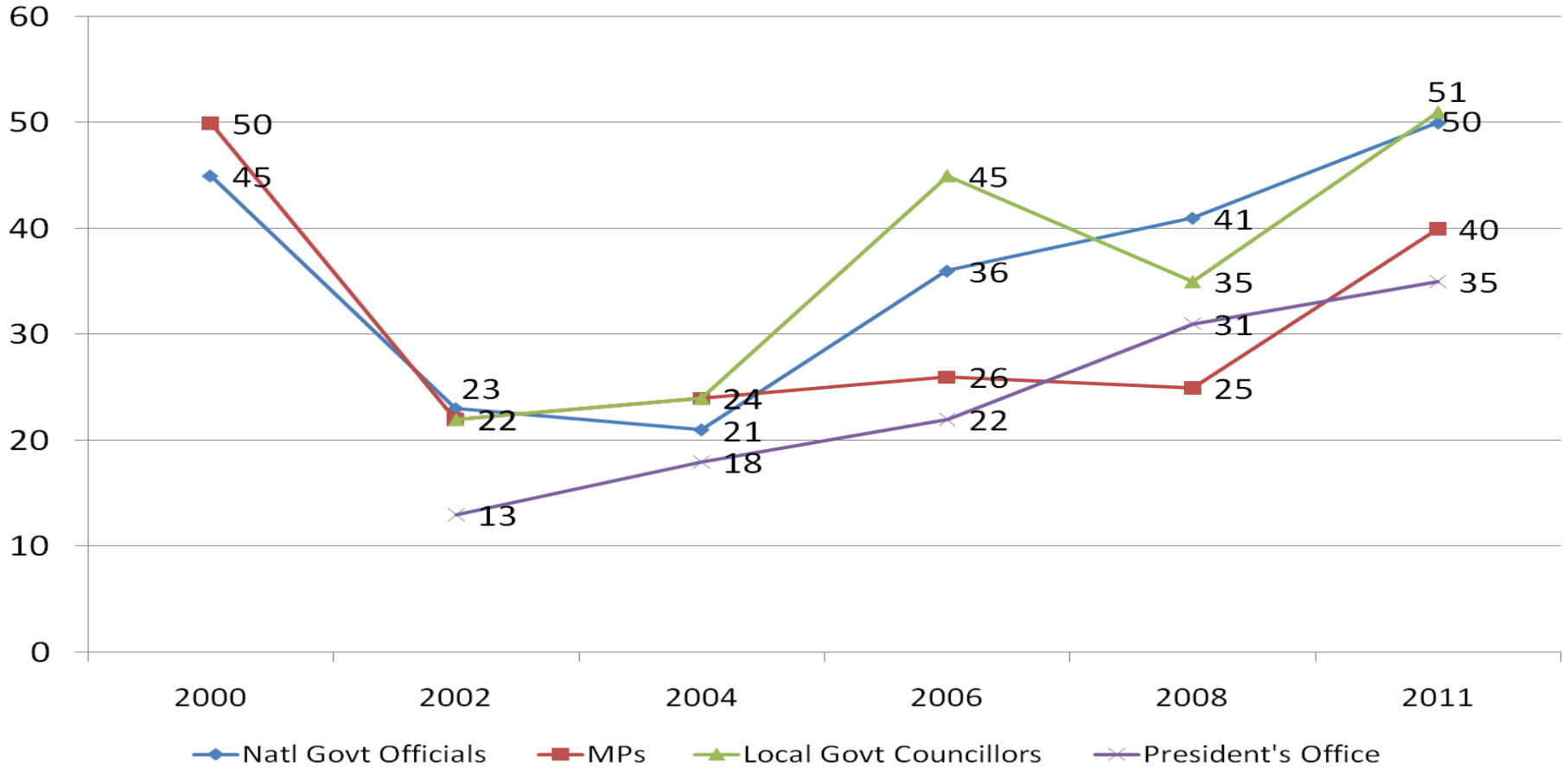
B) Perceptions of Government Corruption

B) Perceptions of Government Corruption (2008-2011)
(% “all of them”+ % “most of them”)



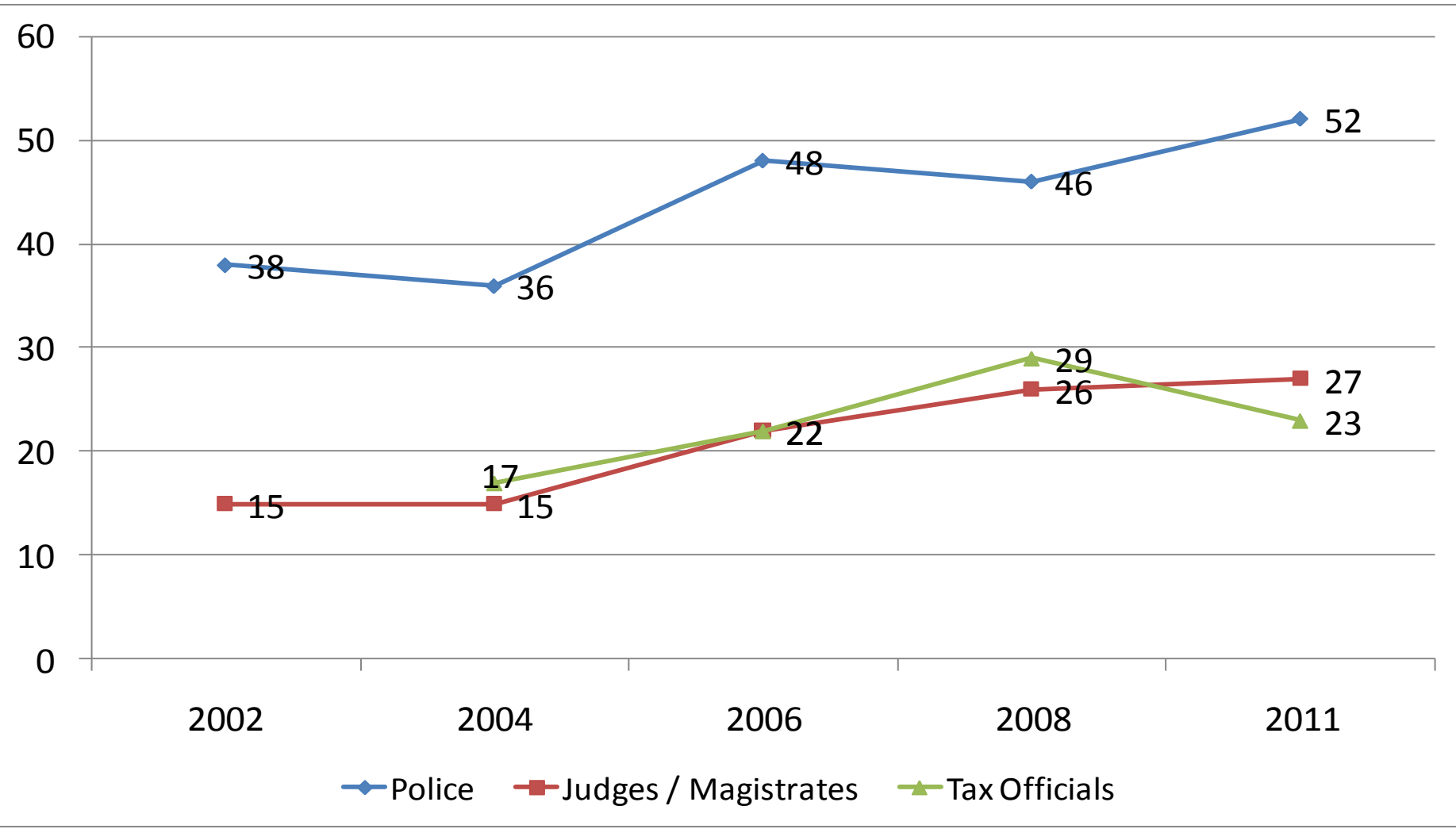
Figures represent proportion of respondents who perceive the government officials/state institutions as corruption.

B) Perceptions of Government Corruption Over Time



(% “all of them” and % “most of them”)

B) Perceptions of State Corruption Over Time (% “all of them” and “most of them”)

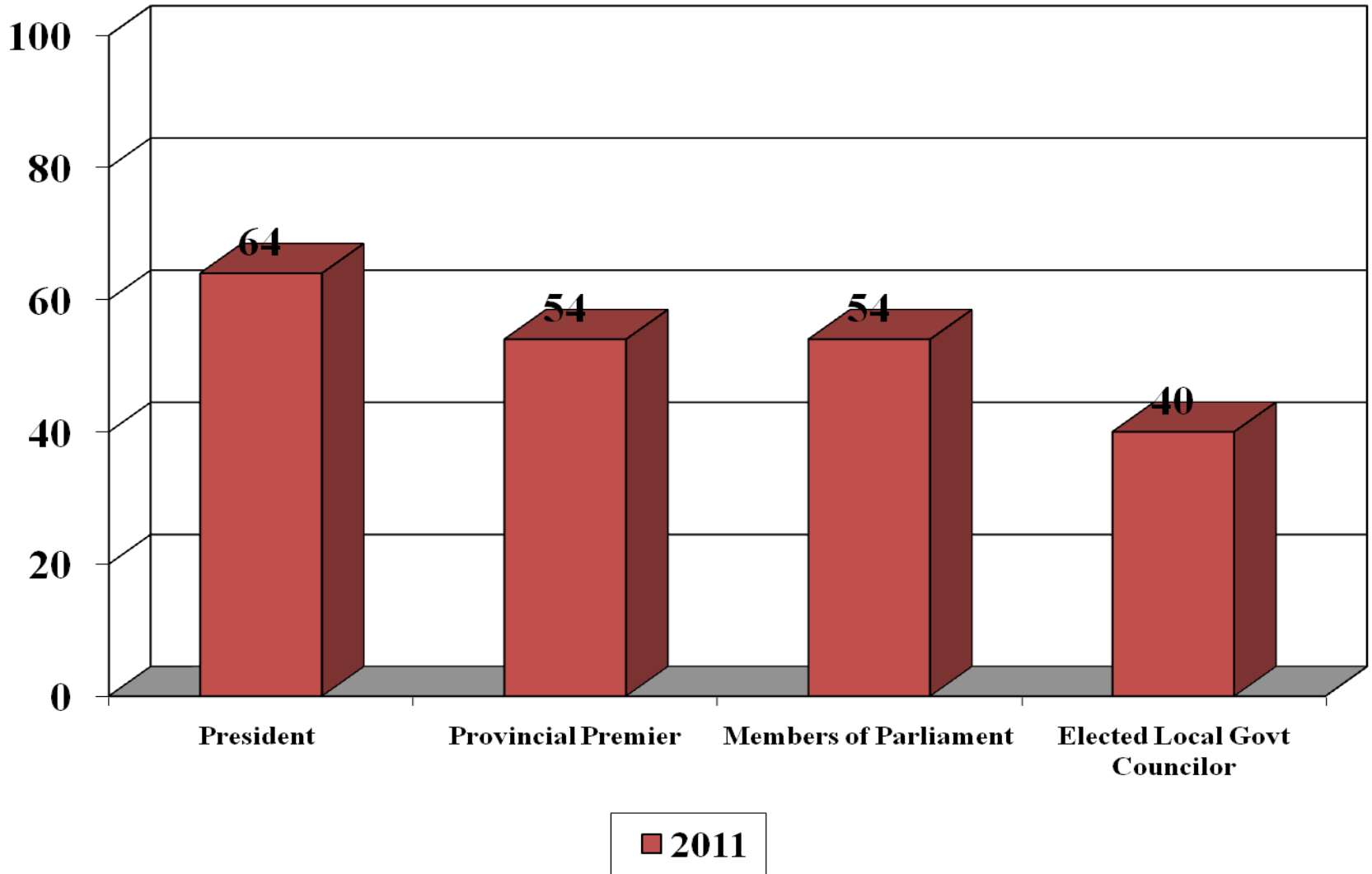


R5 Key Findings: B) Corruption

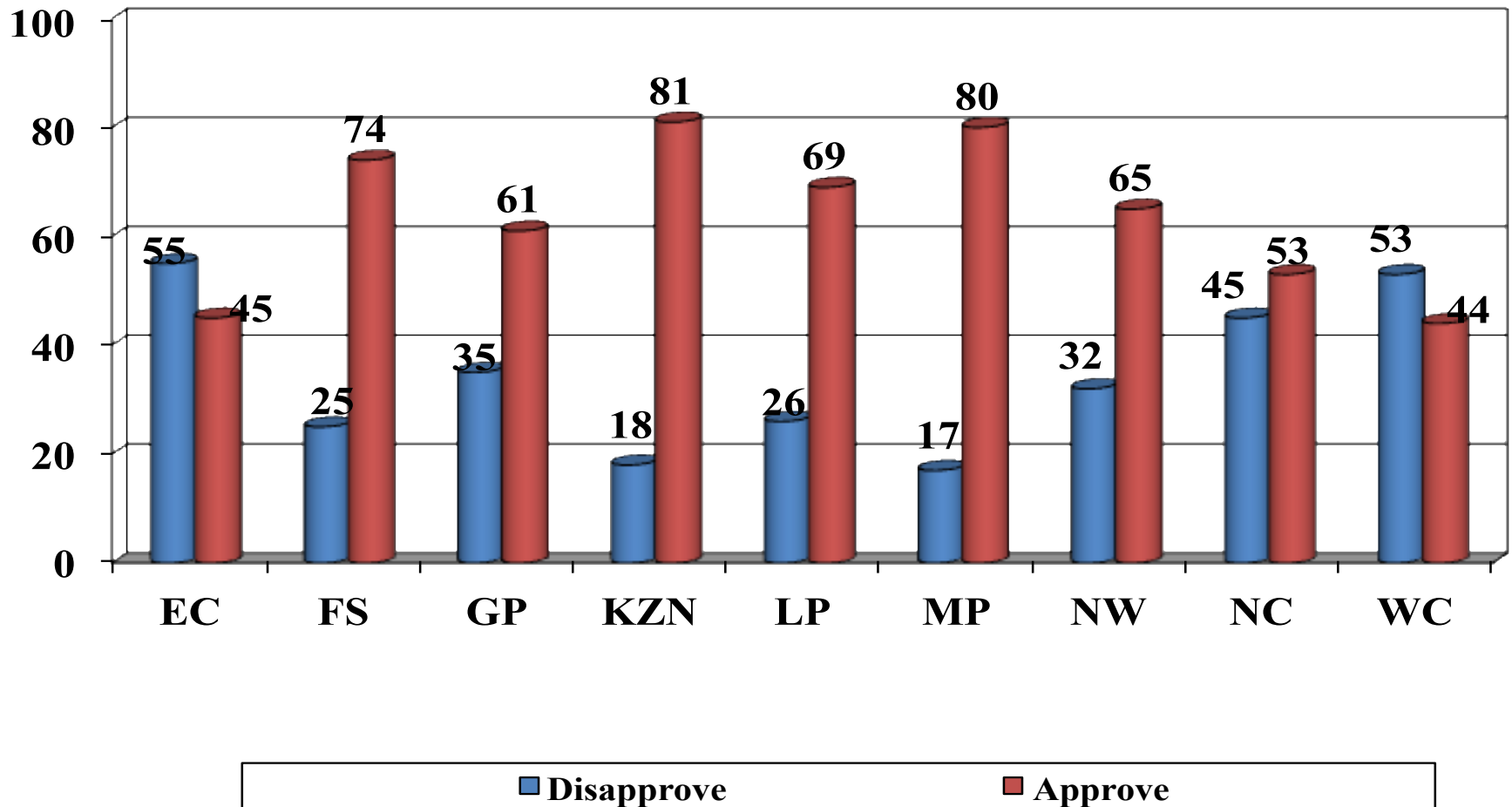
- Perceptions of government corruption toward the office of the president, MPs, national officials, and local government councilors have all risen since 2008.
- A majority of citizens – 51% - view local government councilors as corrupt (compared with 35% in 2008).
- 35% of South Africans perceive the office of the president as corrupt (compared to 31% in 2008).
- A majority of citizens -52% - view the police as corrupt (compared to 46% in 2008).
- 23% of South Africans view their tax officials as corrupt – down from 29% in 2008. Tax officials are the only government officials perceived to be less corrupt in 2011 than in 2008.

C) Job Approval of Elected Leaders

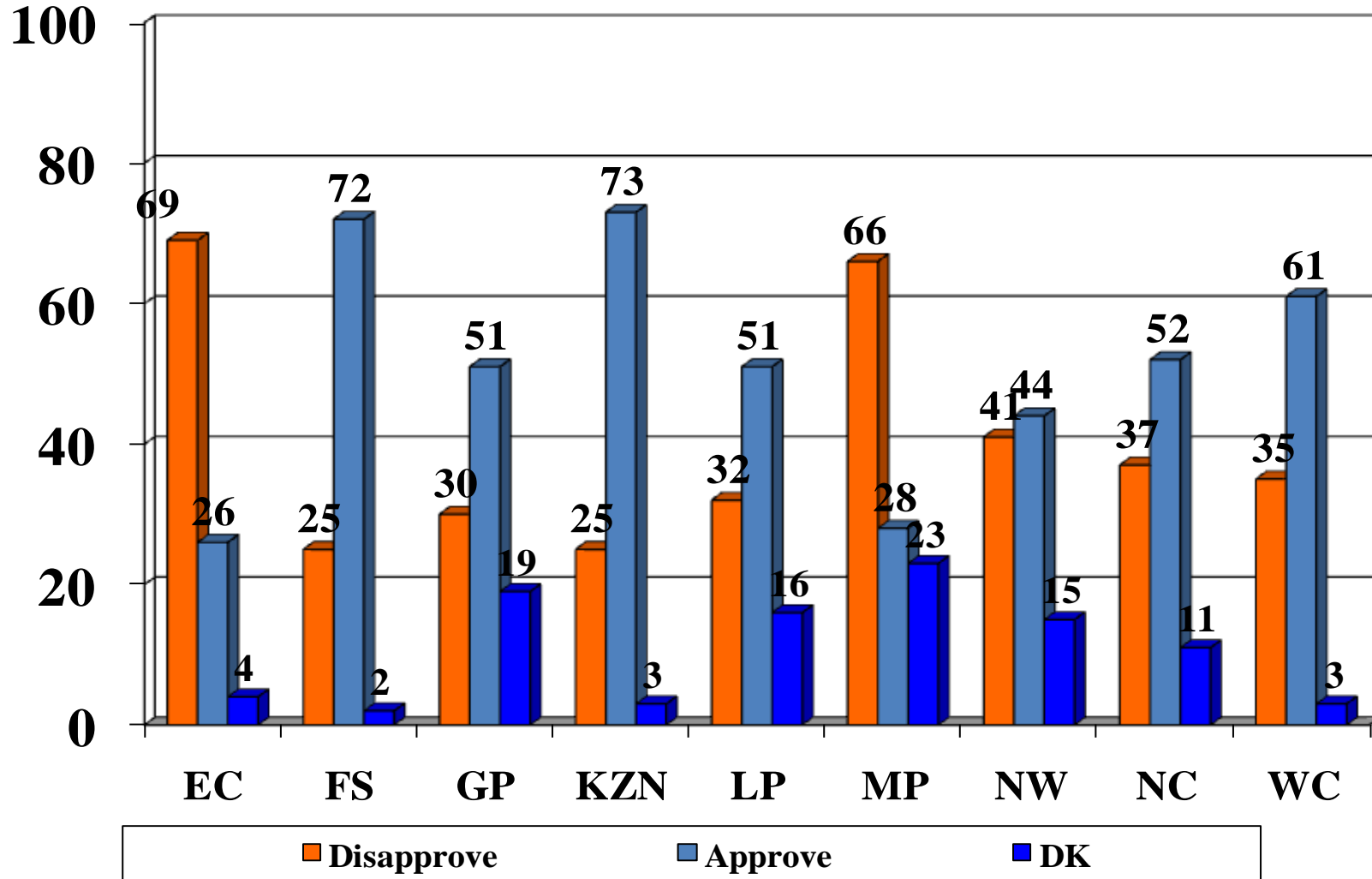
C) Job Approval of Elected Leaders (2011) % Approve / Strongly Approve



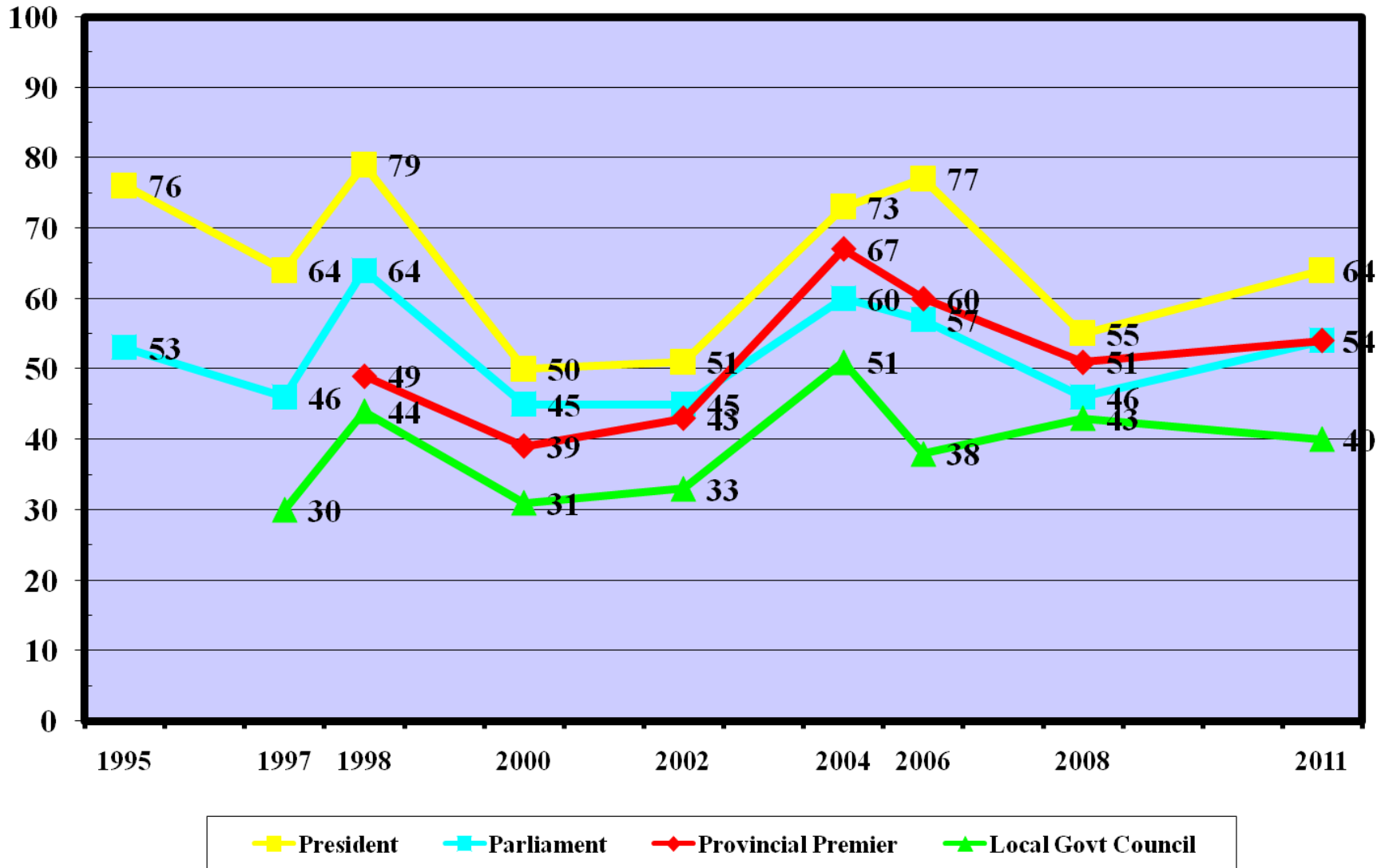
Presidential Approval by Province-2011



C) Job Approval of Provincial Premiers by Province (2011)



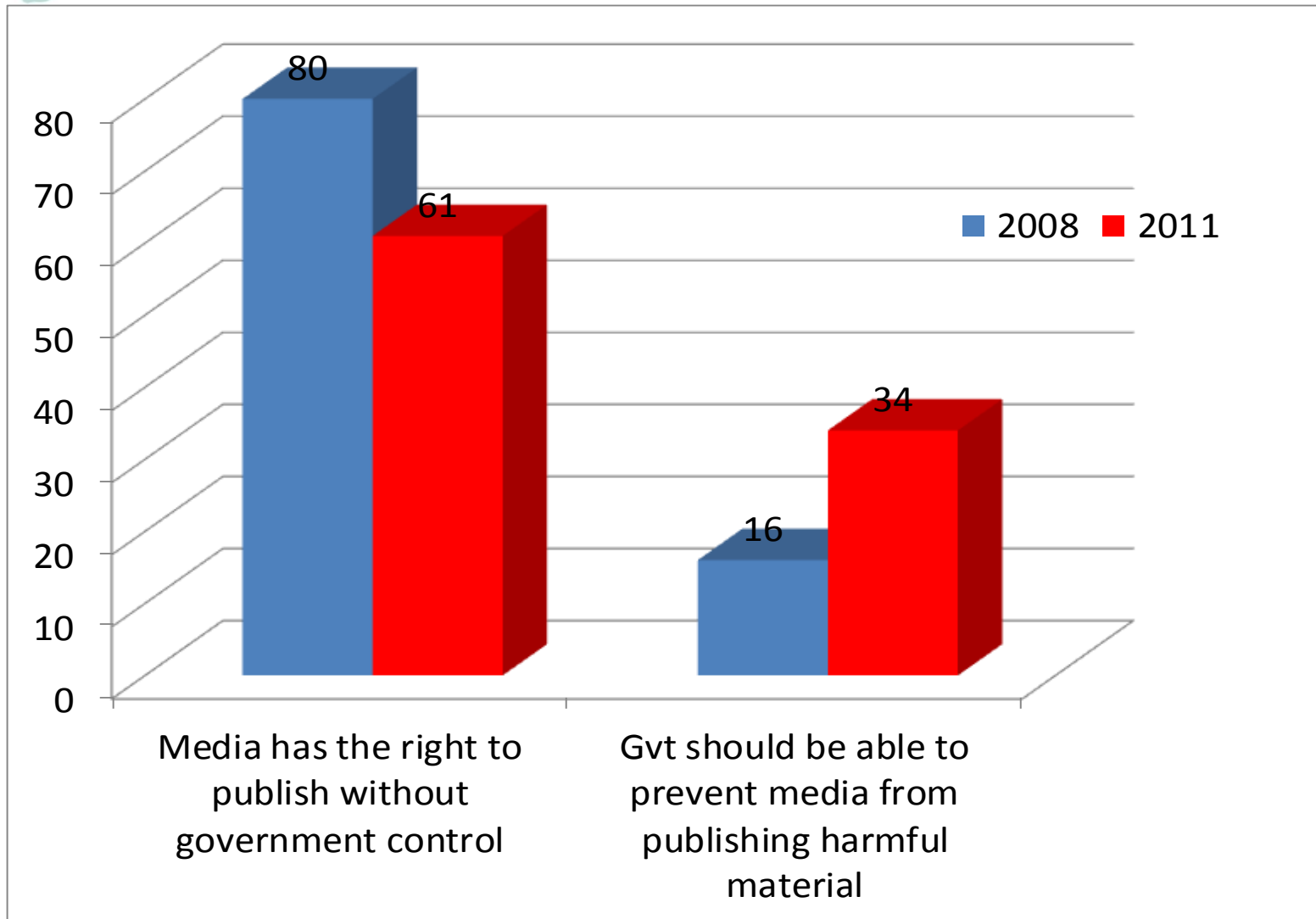
C) Job Approval of Elected Leaders Over Time



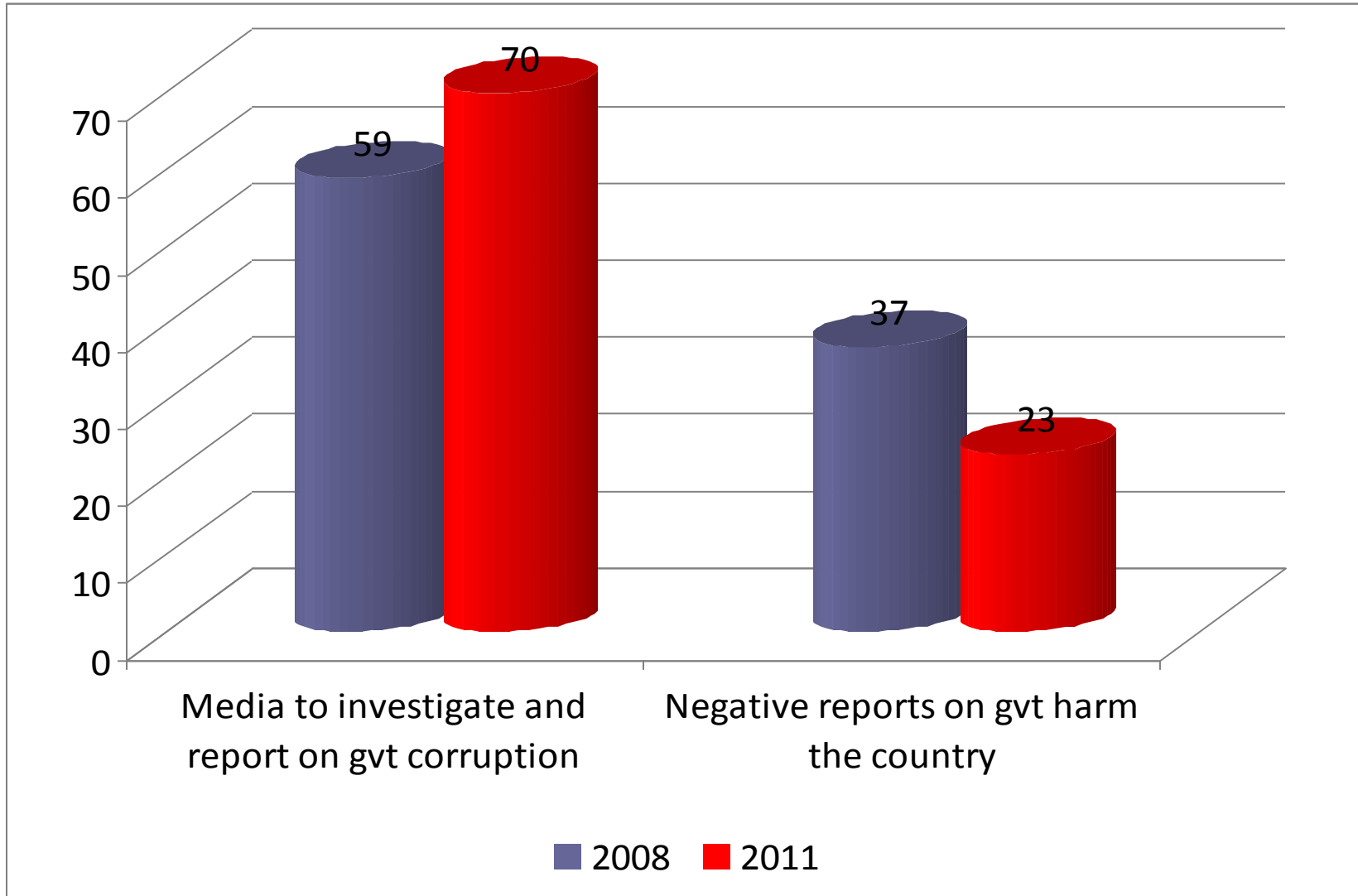
R5 Key Findings: C) Job Approval

- 64% of South Africans approve of President Zuma's performance over the last 12 months compared with 55% in 2008.
- Citizens from Kwazulu Natal (81%), Mpumalanga (80%), and Free State (74%) expressed the highest approval ratings of President Zuma while citizens from Eastern Cape (55%), Western Cape (53%), and Northern Cape (45%) expressed the highest disapproval ratings.
- Citizens from Kwazulu Natal (73%), Free State (72%), and Western Cape (61%) expressed the highest approval ratings of their Provincial Premiers while citizens of Eastern Cape (69%), Mpumalanga (66%), and North West (41%) expressed the highest disapproval ratings.
- Since 2008 approval ratings of the President, MPs, and Provincial Premiers has improved while the approval ratings of local government councilors has declined.

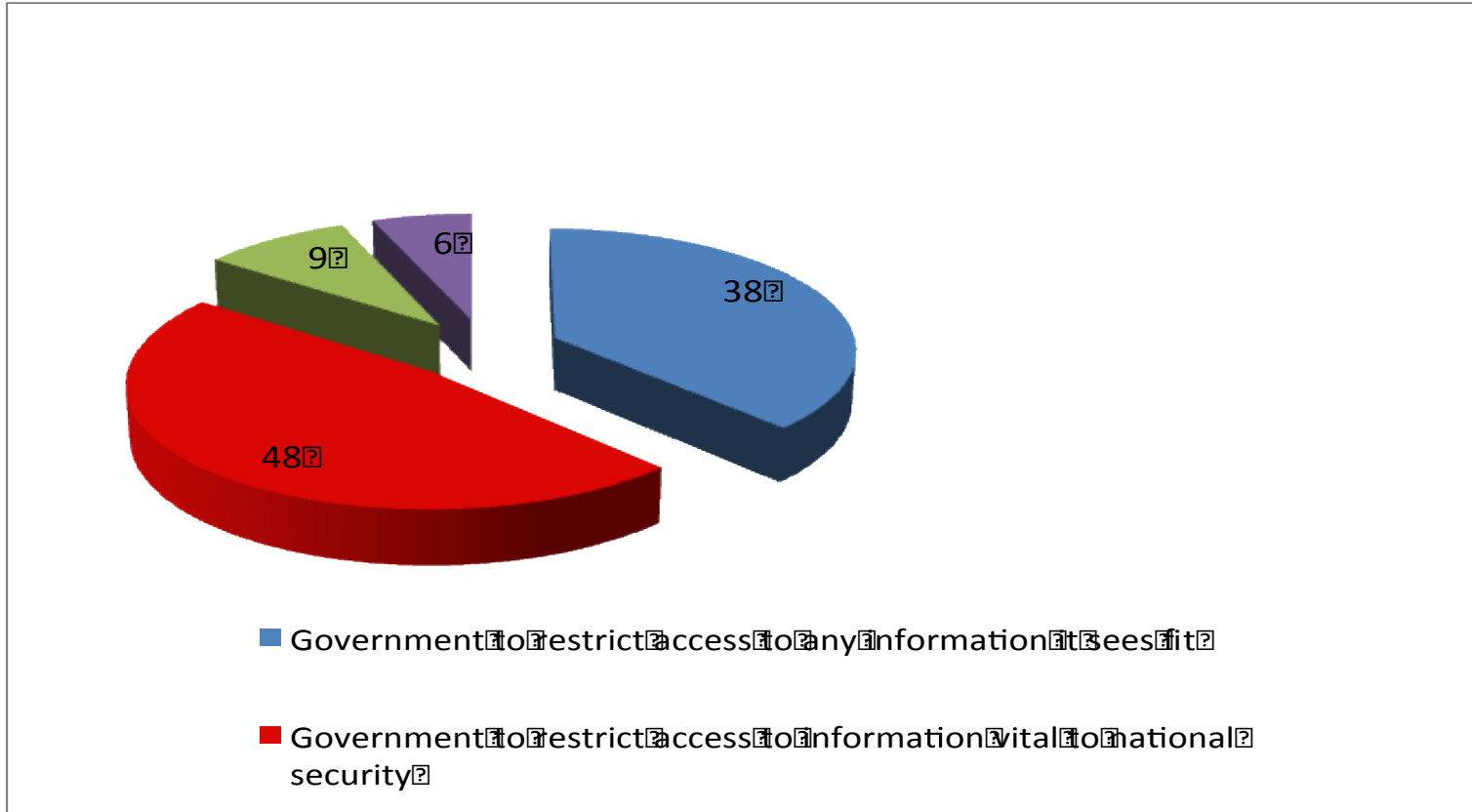
D) Perceptions of the Media



D) Media freedom



D) Opinion on Protection of Information Bill



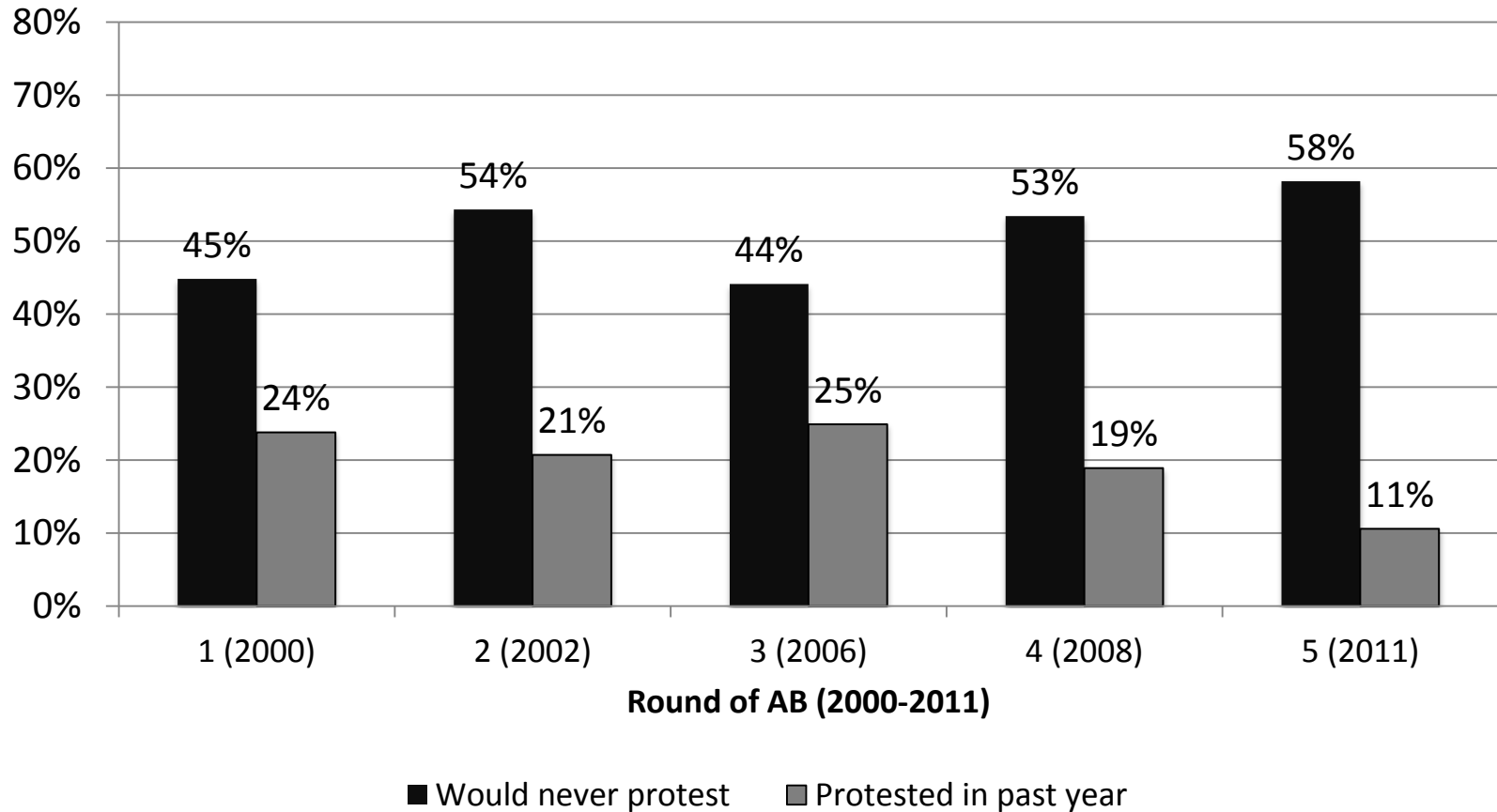
How often in this country does:	Always	Often	Rarely	Never	Don' t know
The news media abuse its freedoms by printing or saying things it knows are not true	13	28	33	21	5

R5 Key Findings: D) Media

- Compared to 2008, a higher proportion of South Africans believe that the government should be able to prevent the media from publishing harmful material (16% in 2008 to 34% in 2011).
- Compared to 2008, fewer South Africans believe that the media has the right to publish without government control (from 80% in 2008 to 61% in 2011).
- A higher percentage of South Africans believe that the media should investigate and report on government corruption (from 59% in 2008 to 70% in 2011).
- 38% of South Africans believe the government should be able to restrict access to any information it sees fit.

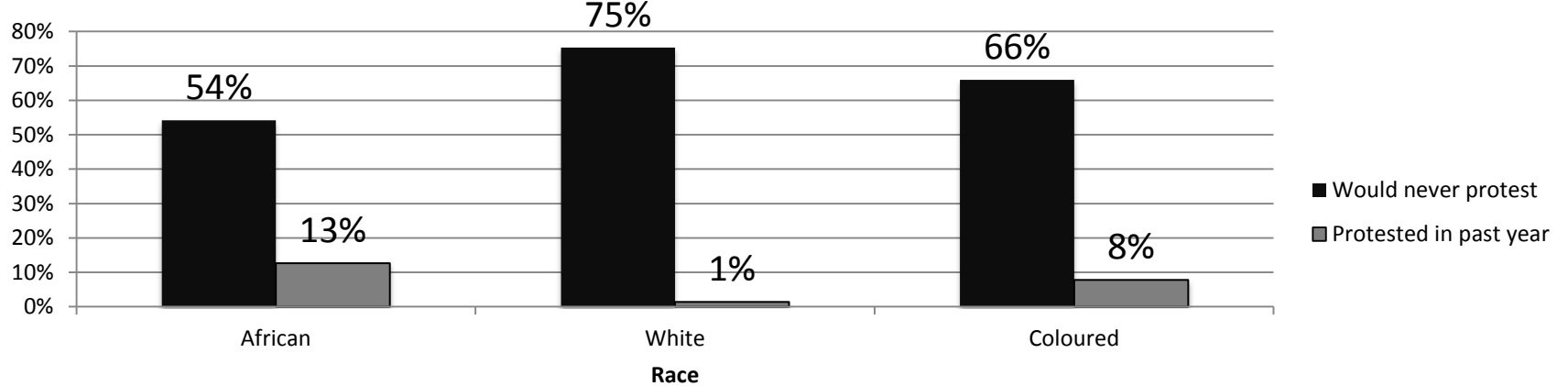
E) Attitudes Toward Protest

E) Protest Trends in South Africa Over Time

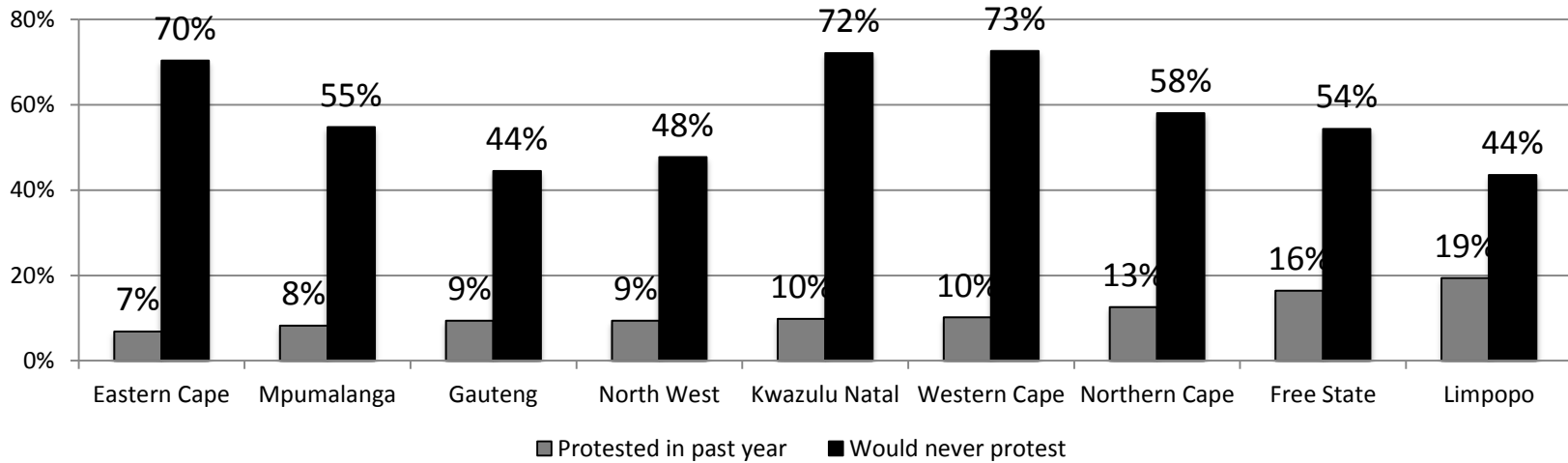


E) Characteristics of Protestors

Protest Attendance by Race



Protest Attendance By Province



E) Popular Attitudes on Protesting? Is it right or wrong?

	Not wrong at all	Wrong but understandable	Wrong and punishable	DK
Refusing to pay for government services, i.e. water, electricity	7	48	40	5
Refusing to pay income tax	6	36	52	6
Attending a non-violent demonstration or protest march	45	27	22	6
Using force or violence during a protest	4	20	71	6

E) Political Participation and Protest

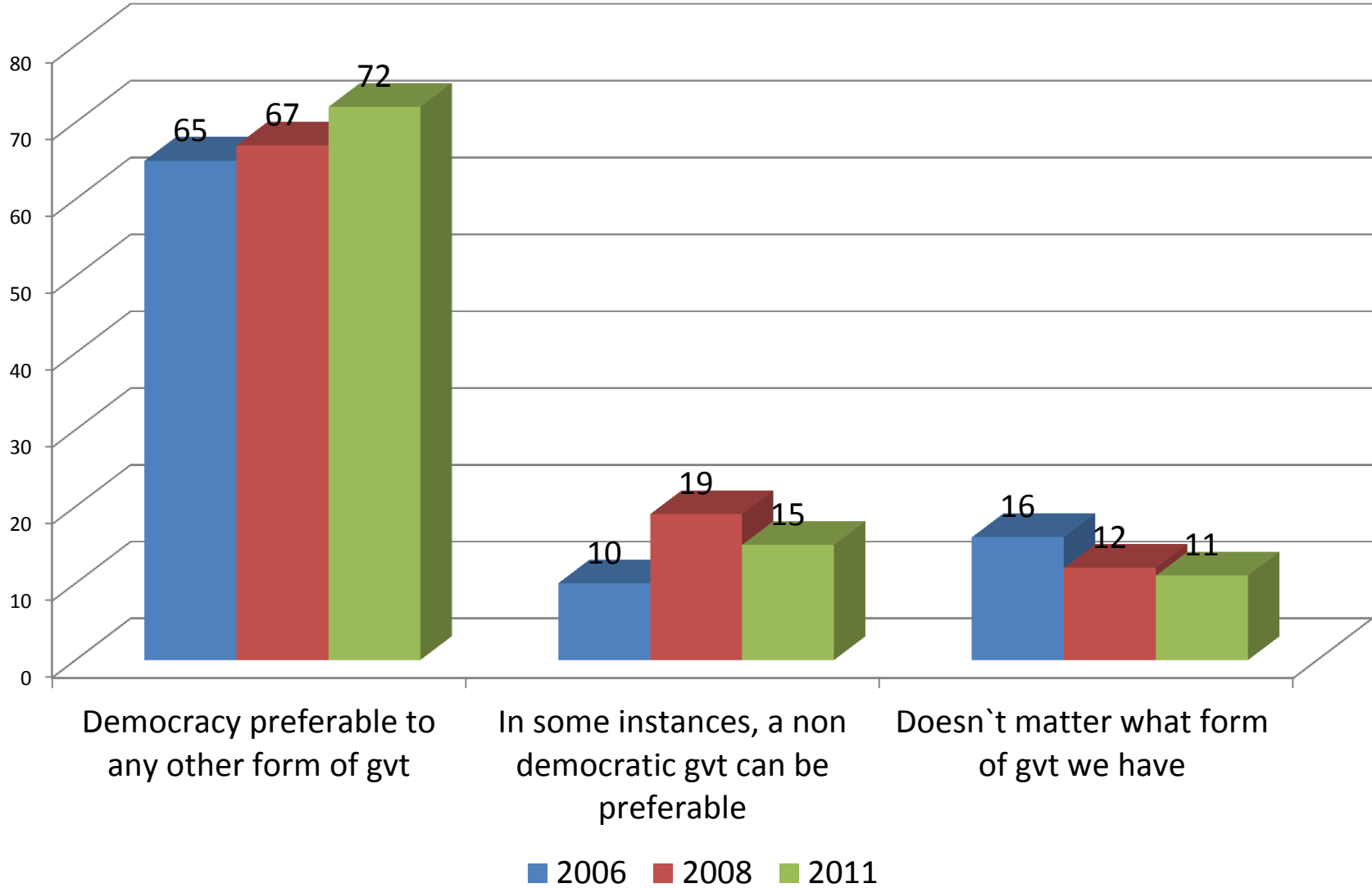
Participation/ Protest	Would never do this	Would if had the chance	Have done once or twice	Several times	Often	DK
Attend a community meeting	19	23	26	25	7	0
Get together with others to raise an issue	27	30	20	18	5	0
Contact a government department to raise an issue	36	47	8	7	2	1
Contact media to complain about an issue	46	46	5	2	1	1
Refusing to pay for government services, i.e. water, electricity	71	21	3	2	1	2
Refusing to pay govt tax or fee	77	16	2	2	1	2
Attend a demonstration or protest march	58	29	6	4	1	2
Go on strike for salary hike or better working conditions	58	29	4	3	1	4
Use force or violence for a political cause	82	12	2	1	0	2

R5 Key Findings: E) Protest

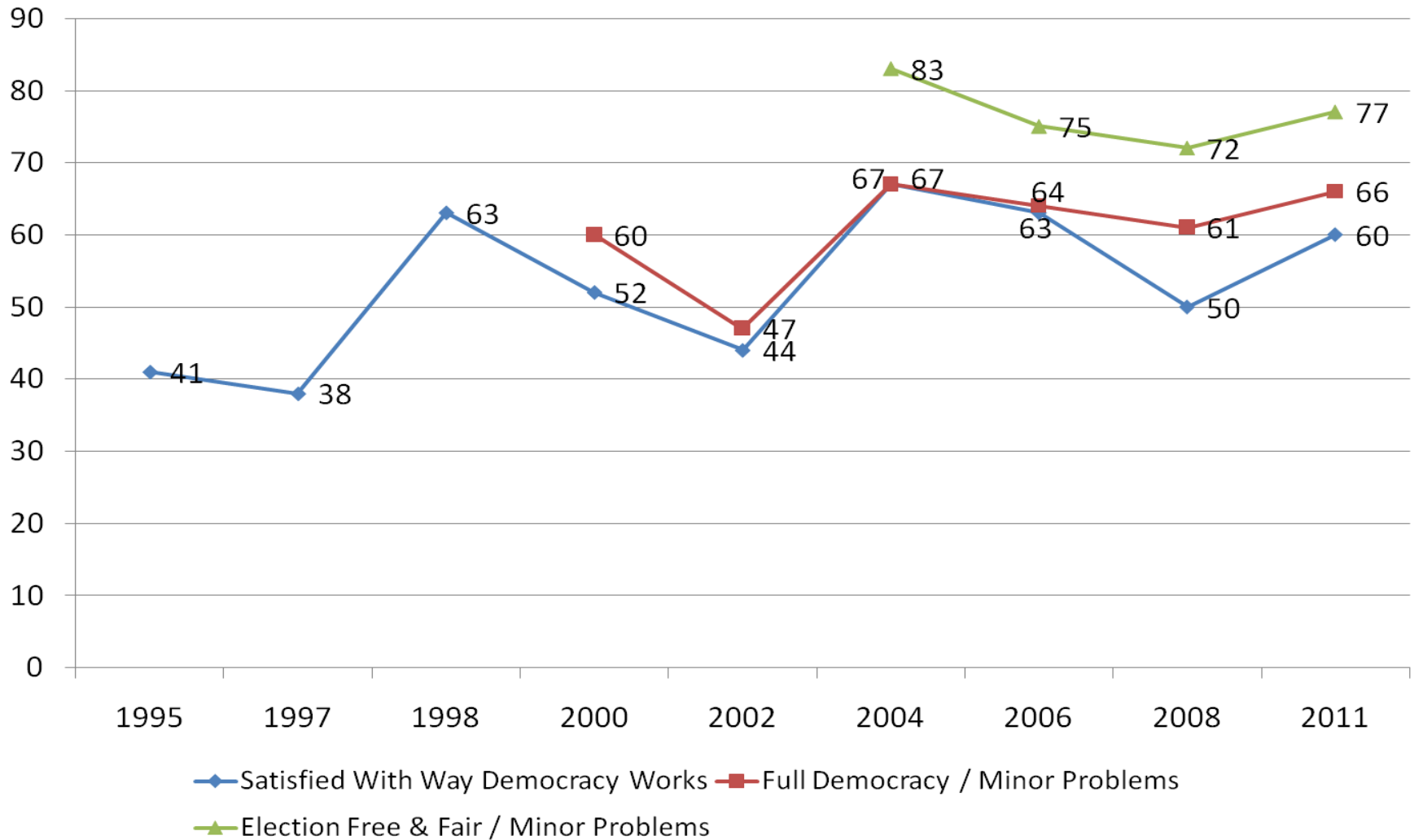
- From 2000 to 2011, South Africans have become more likely to say would never protest and there was a decline in the % of South Africans who reported that they attended a protest in the last year.
- Race and province are powerful predictors of having protested in the last year. Whites (75%) and Coloureds (66%) are more likely to say they would never attend a demonstration or protest than Blacks/Africans (54%). In addition, Blacks (13%) reported much higher rates of attending a demonstration or protest march over the past year than their White (1%) or Coloured (8%) counterparts.
- Nearly half of South Africans (49%) believe that attending a non-violent demonstration is “wrong but understandable” (27%) or wrong and punishable (22%).

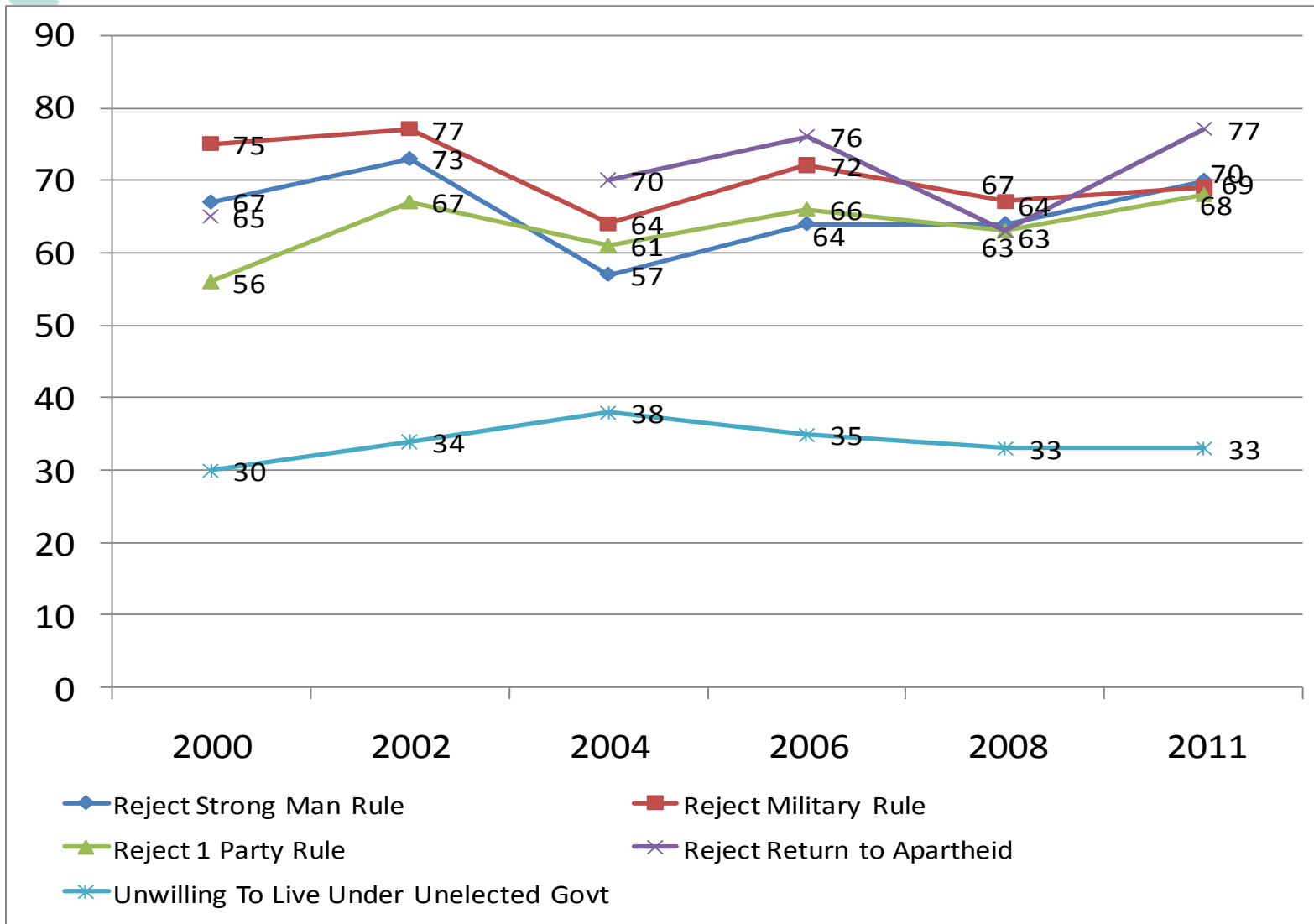
F) Support for Democracy

F) Demand for Democracy Over Time



F) Supply of Democracy Over Time

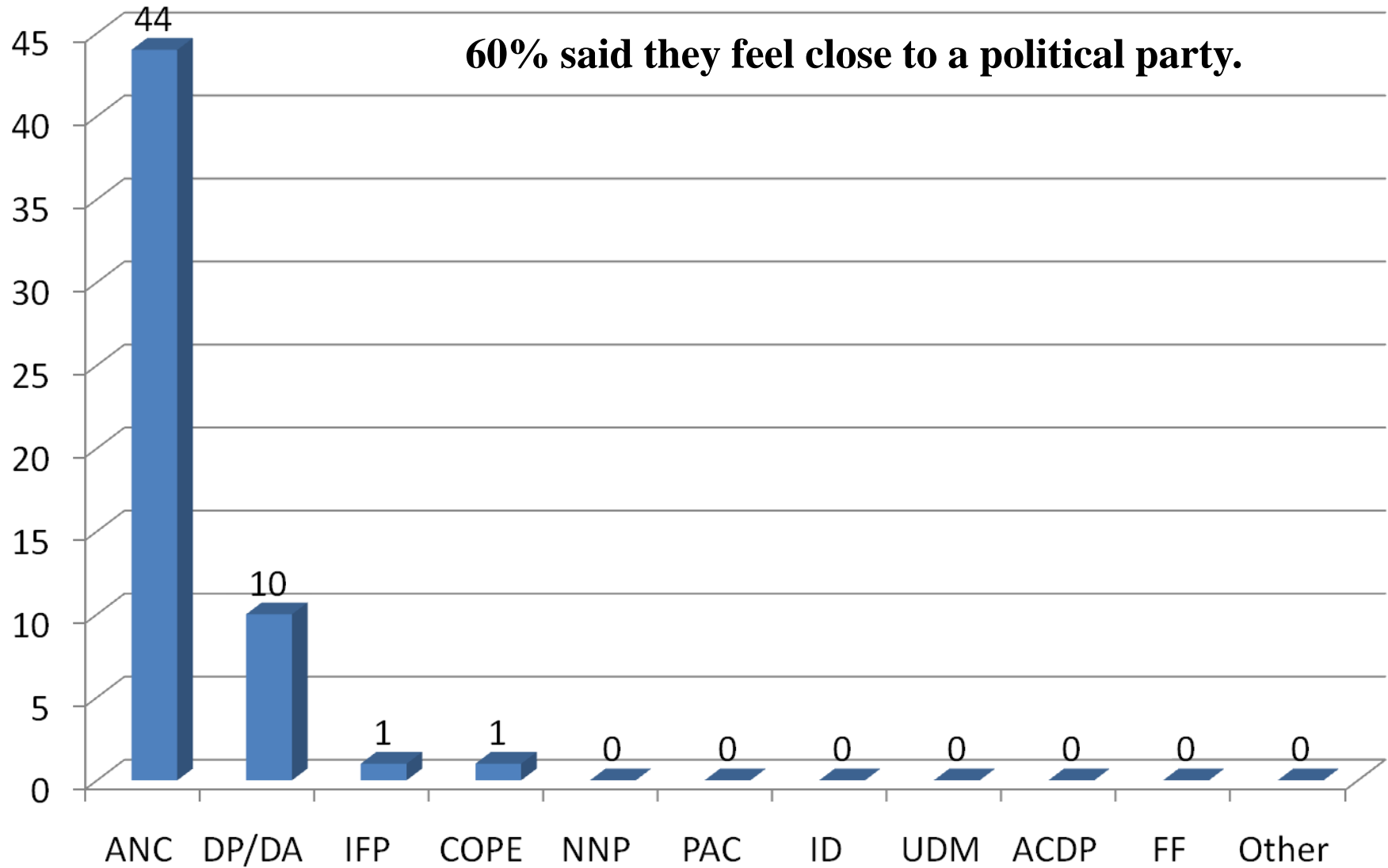




R5 Key Findings: F) Support for Democracy

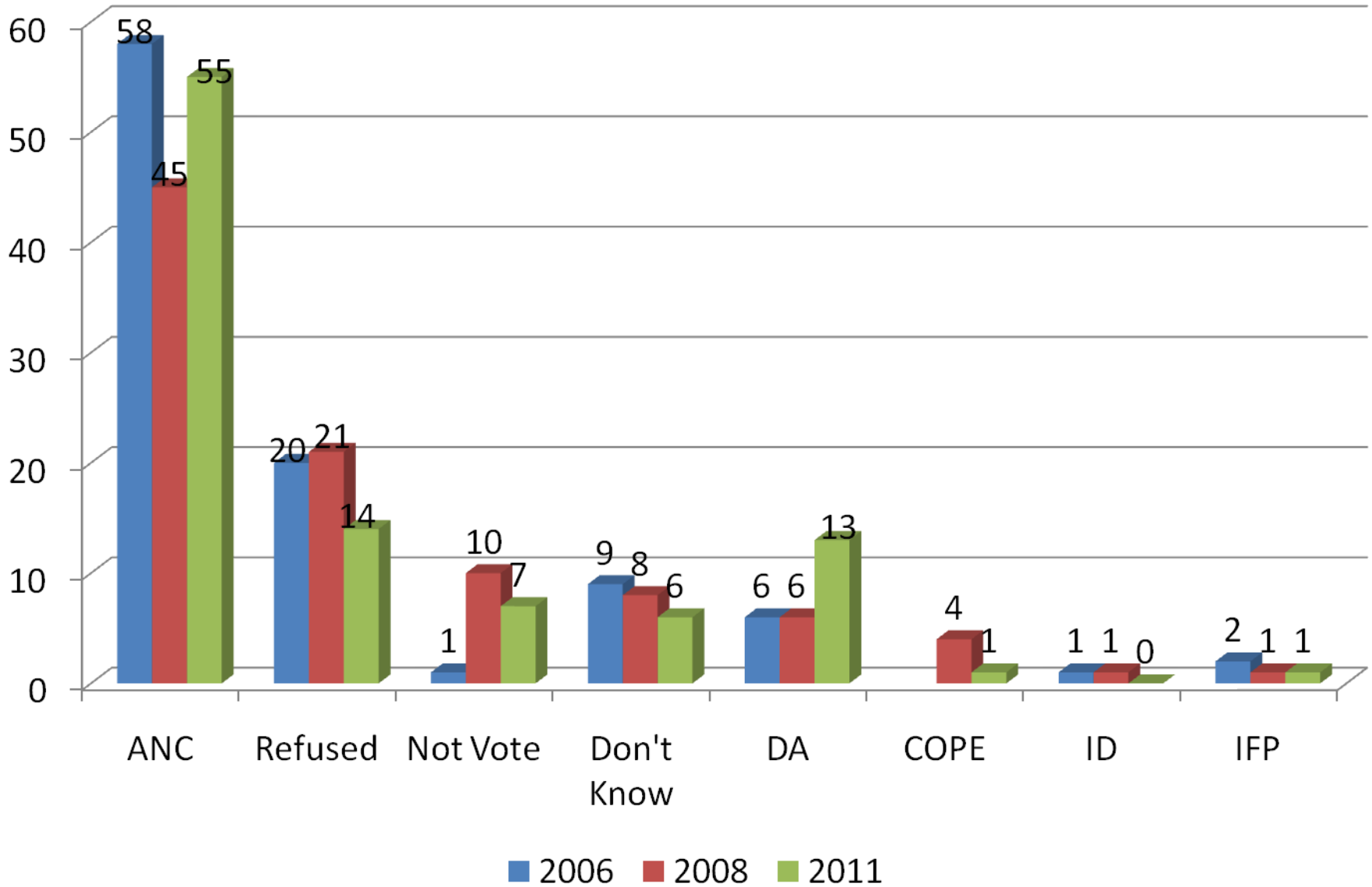
- There is a sustained demand for democracy among South Africans – strong majorities continue to reject a move to authoritarian rule.
- South Africans are relatively satisfied with democracy – 66% said the country is fully or largely democratic, up from 61% in 2008. 77% felt that the last national election was completely free and fair or free and fair with minor problems.
- There has been an increased in perceived freedoms – 69% said that they feel completely free to vote as they please. 64% felt “completely free” to join any political organization. A weak majority (52%) said they felt completely free to say what they think.

G) Partisanship and National Identity

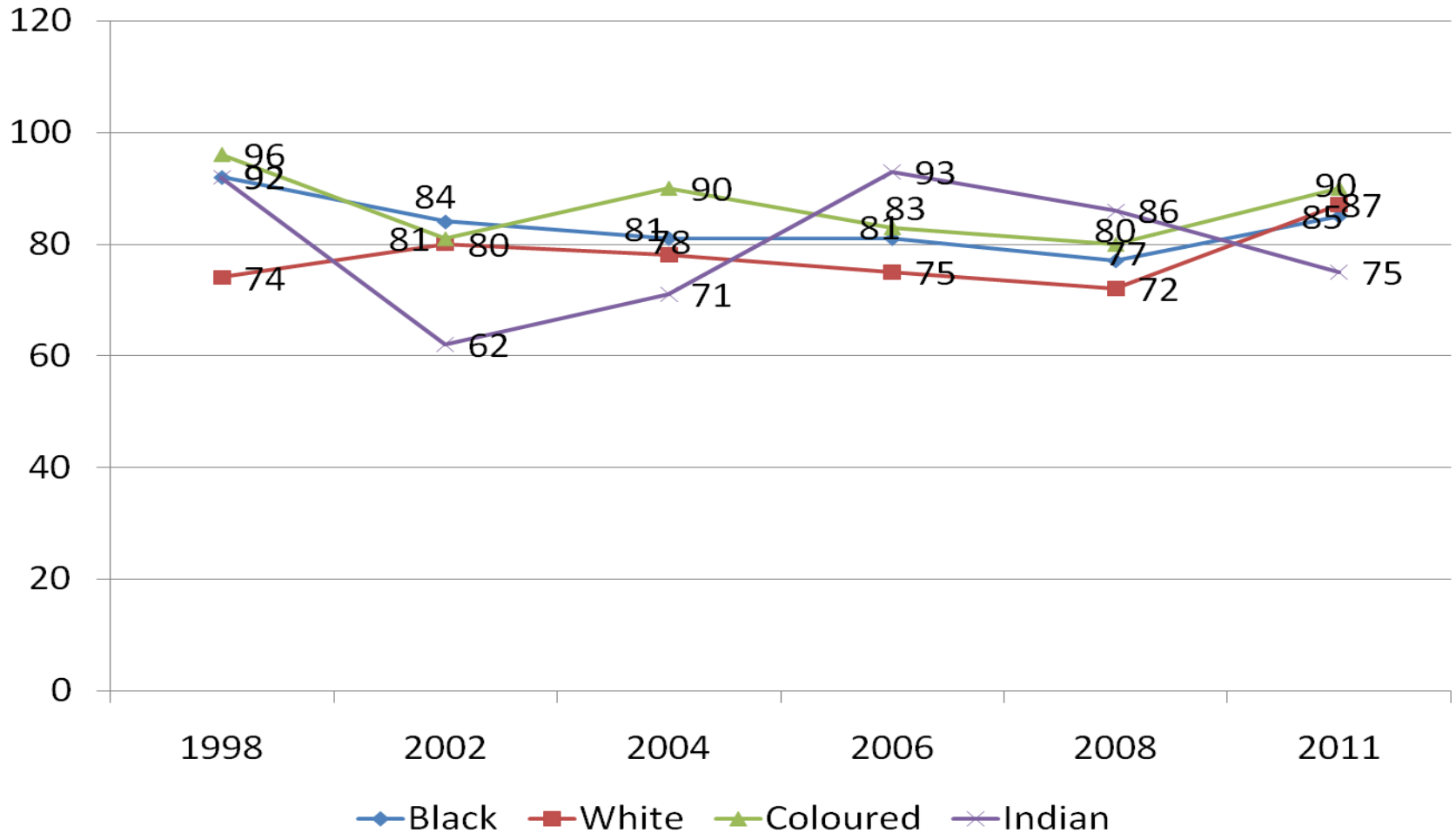


G) Partisan Identification (of those who feel close) Which Party? 2000-2011

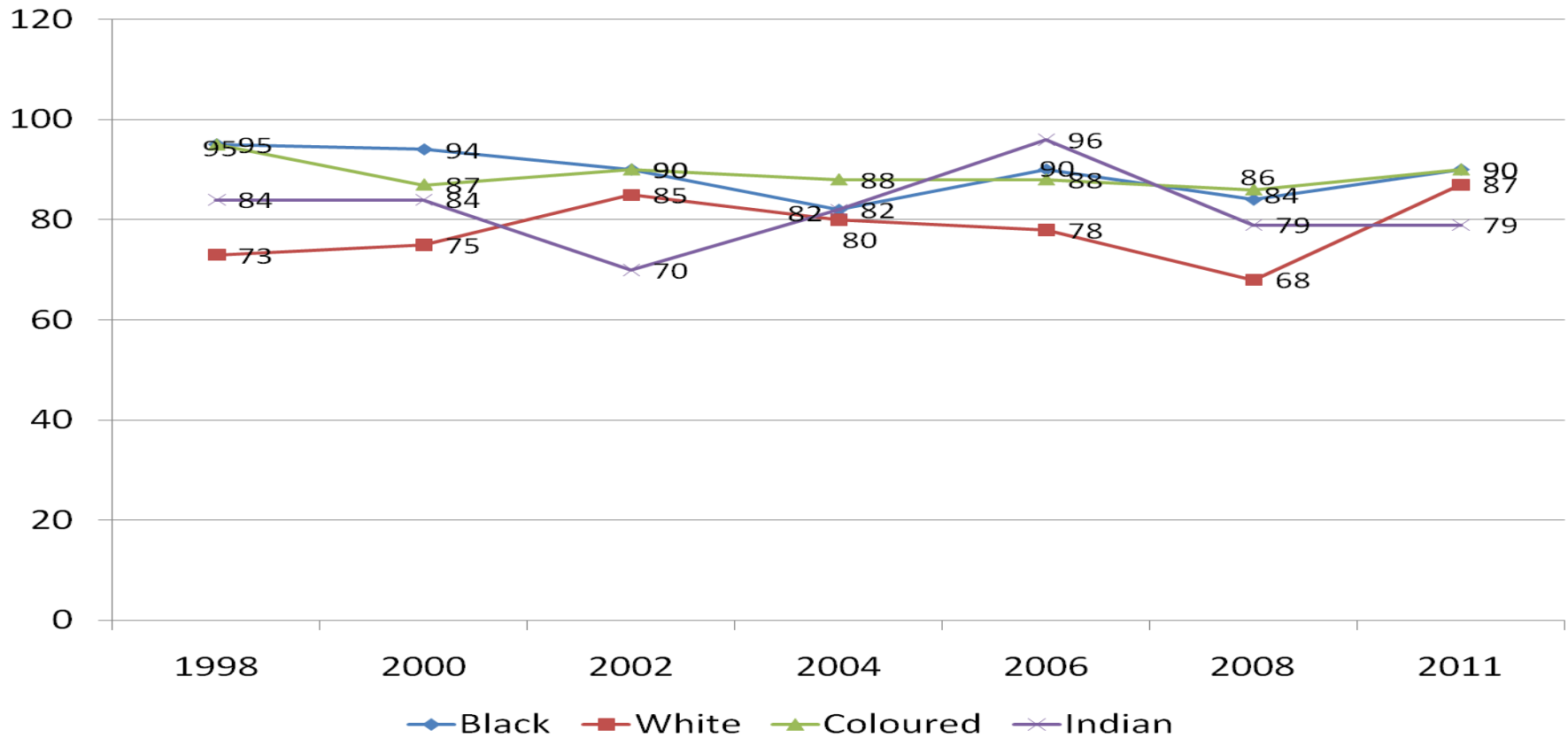
	2000	2002	2004	2006	2008	2011
ANC	33	41	47	52	43	44
DP/DA	3	4	2	3	4	10
NNP	2	3	1		0	0
IFP	2	3	1	1	1	1
PAC	1	1	1	1	0	0
ID			0	1	1	0
UDM	1	2	1	0	1	0
ACDP	1	1	0	0	0	0
FF	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	1	2	1	2	0	0
COPE					2	1



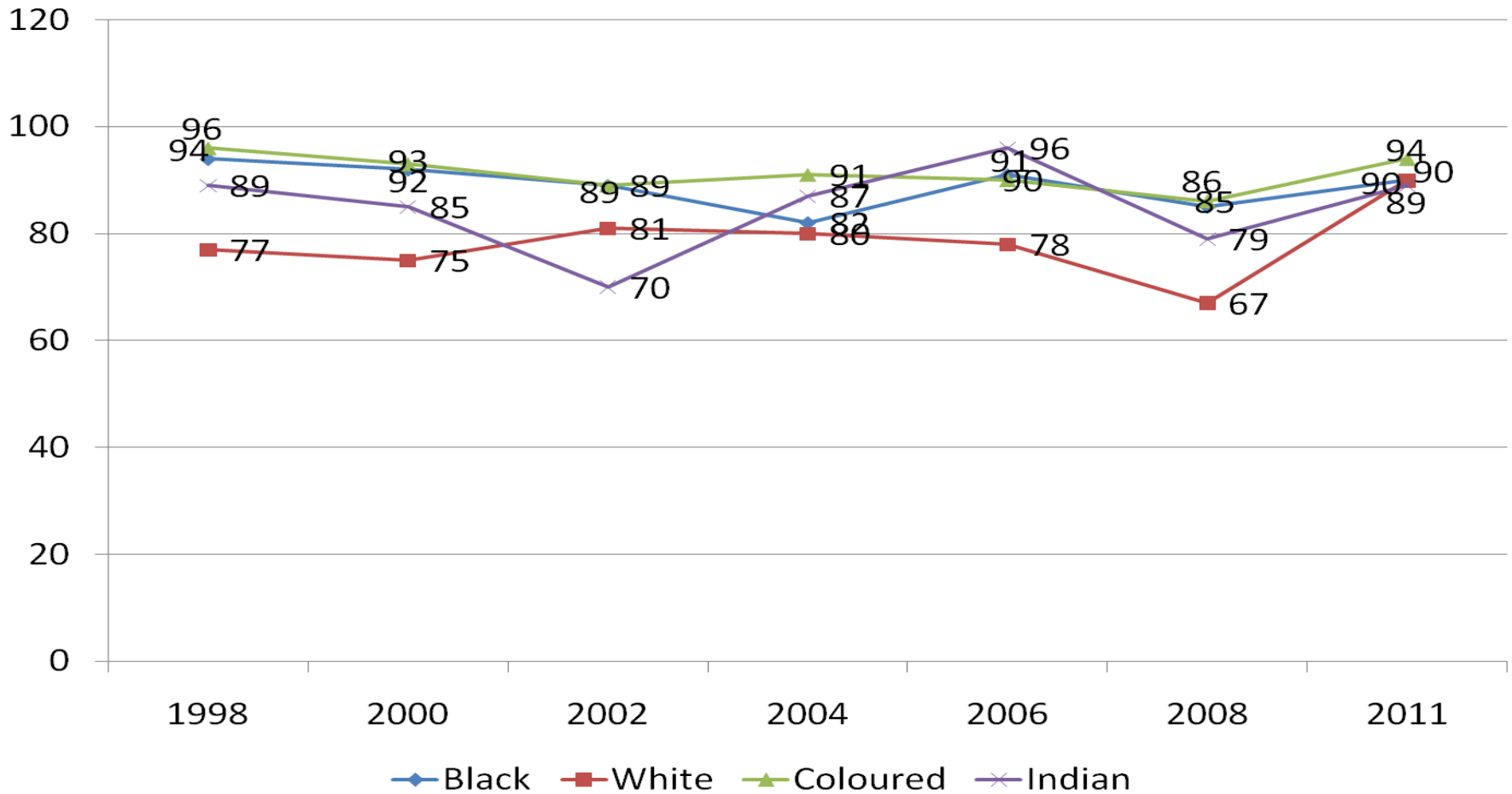
G) People Should Think of Themselves as SA's First (Over Time)



G) Proud to be Called A South African Over Time



G) Want Children to Think of Themselves as SA Over Time



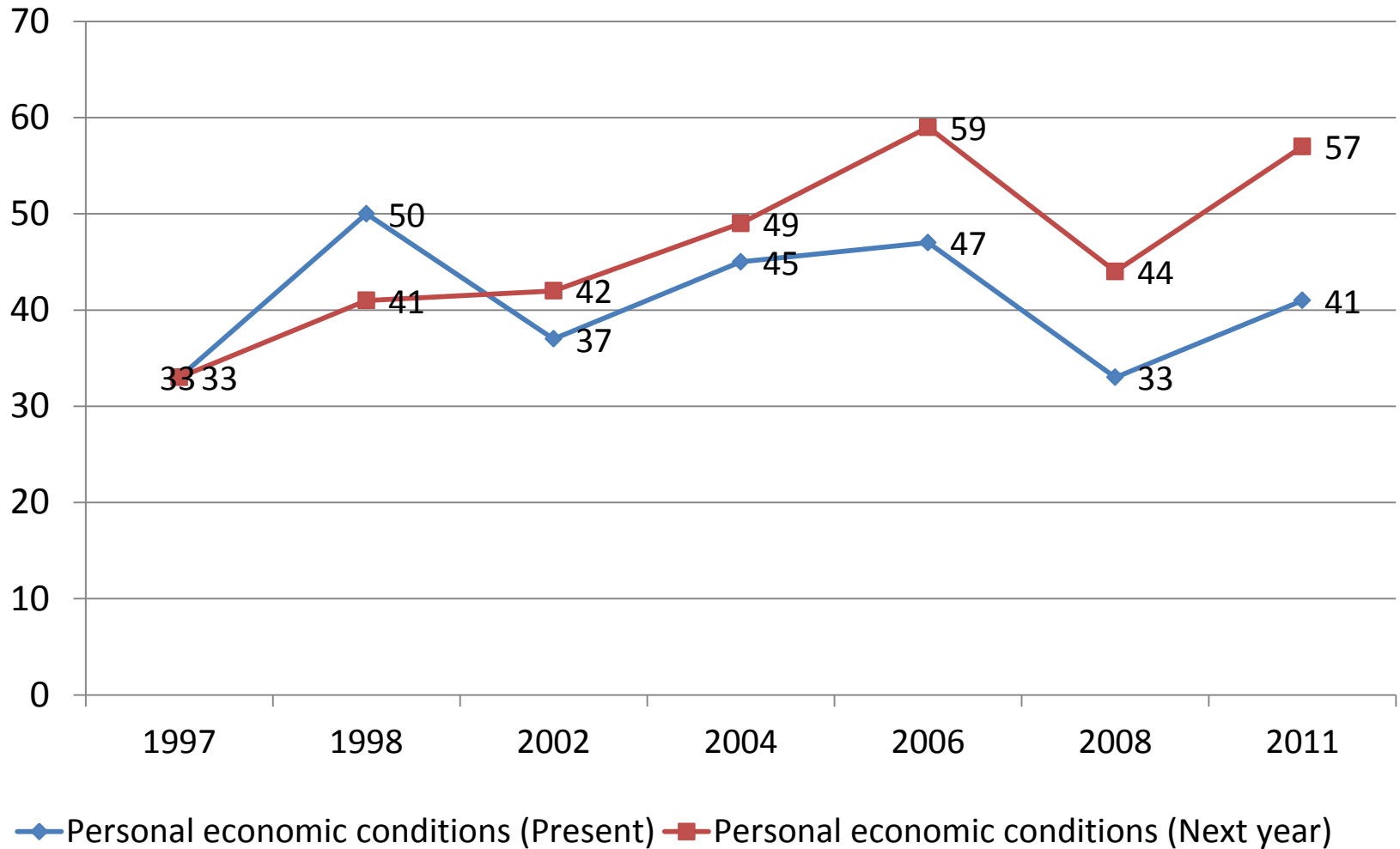
R5 Key Findings: G) Partisanship and National Identity

- Voter identification with political parties is stable – 60% indicated that they felt close to a party. Of those 60% - 44% said they feel close to the ANC – similar to the 43% who felt close in 2008.
- 55% of respondents chose the ANC as the party they would vote for if a presidential election were held the next day. 13% indicated that they would vote for the Democratic Alliance (DA).
- Wide majorities indicated that they thought of themselves as South African first and indicated that they wanted their children to think of themselves as South African. There is substantial pride in South African citizenship across all race groups.

In addition to the key findings, the survey measures popular perspectives on the following other themes:

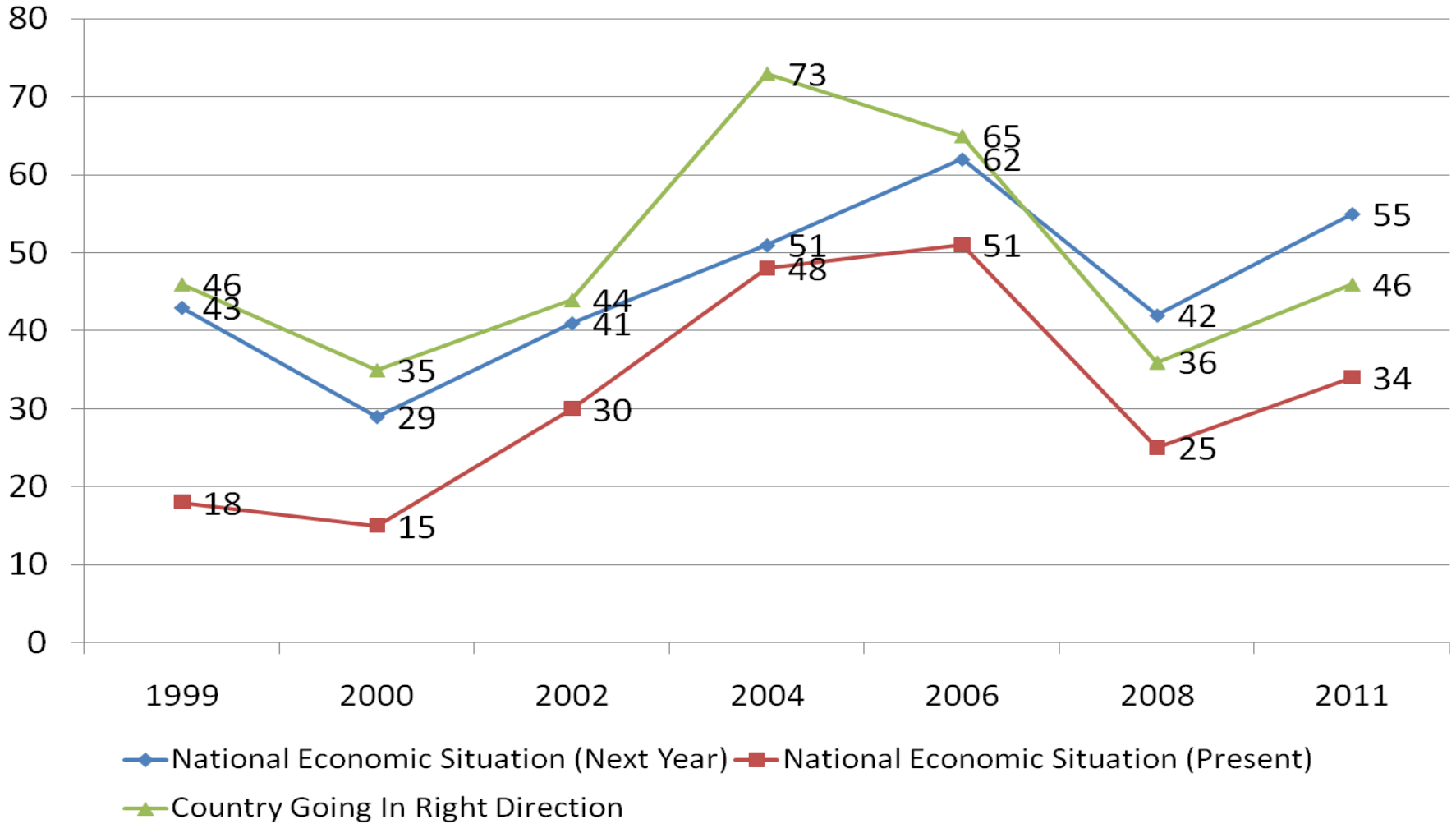
- Economic evaluations and perceptions of poverty
- Evaluation of government performance
- Trust in government institutions
- “Democratic norms” (limits to presidential power, freedom of speech, etc)
- Political violence and intimidation
- Xenophobia

Personal Economic Evaluations Over Time (% good + % very good)

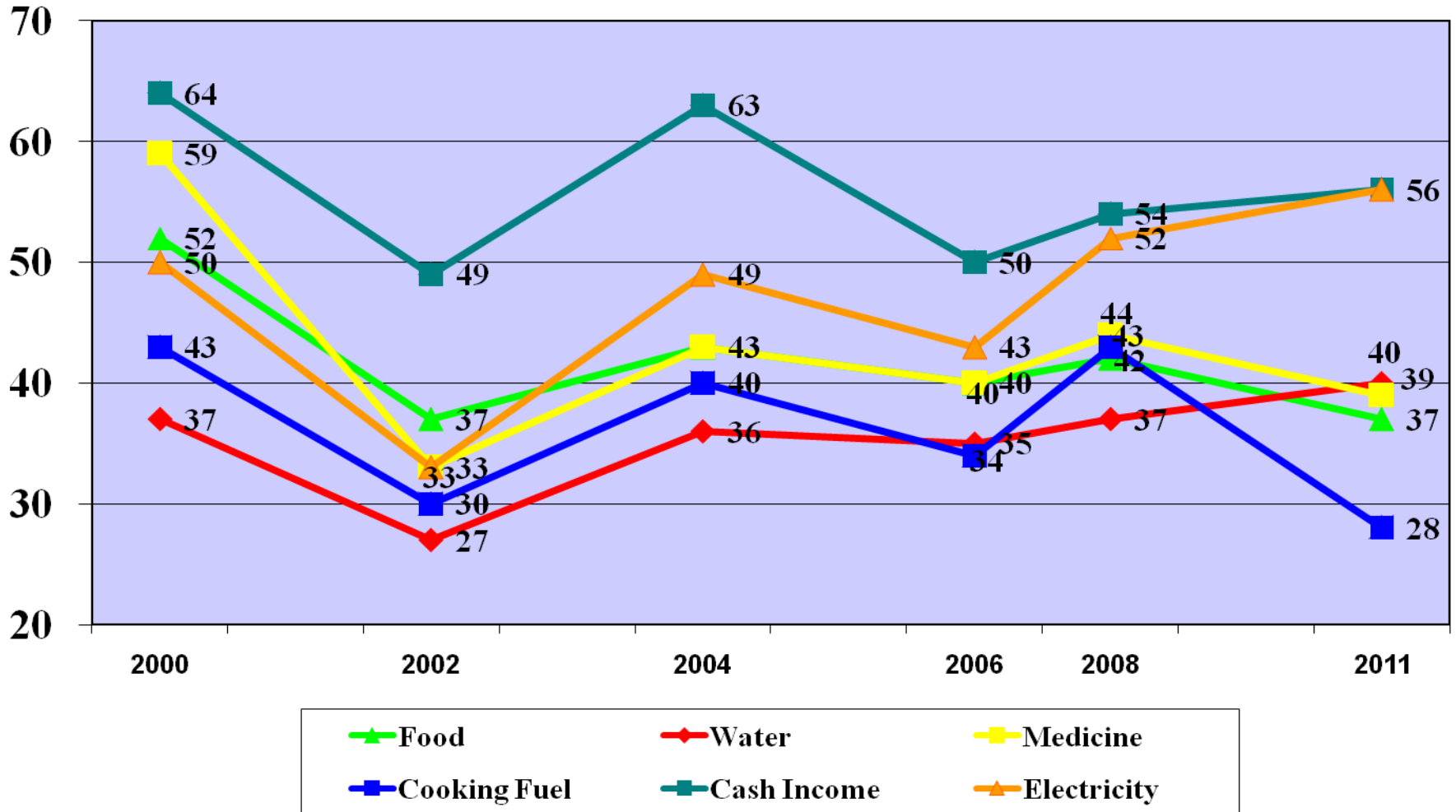


National Economic Evaluations Over Time

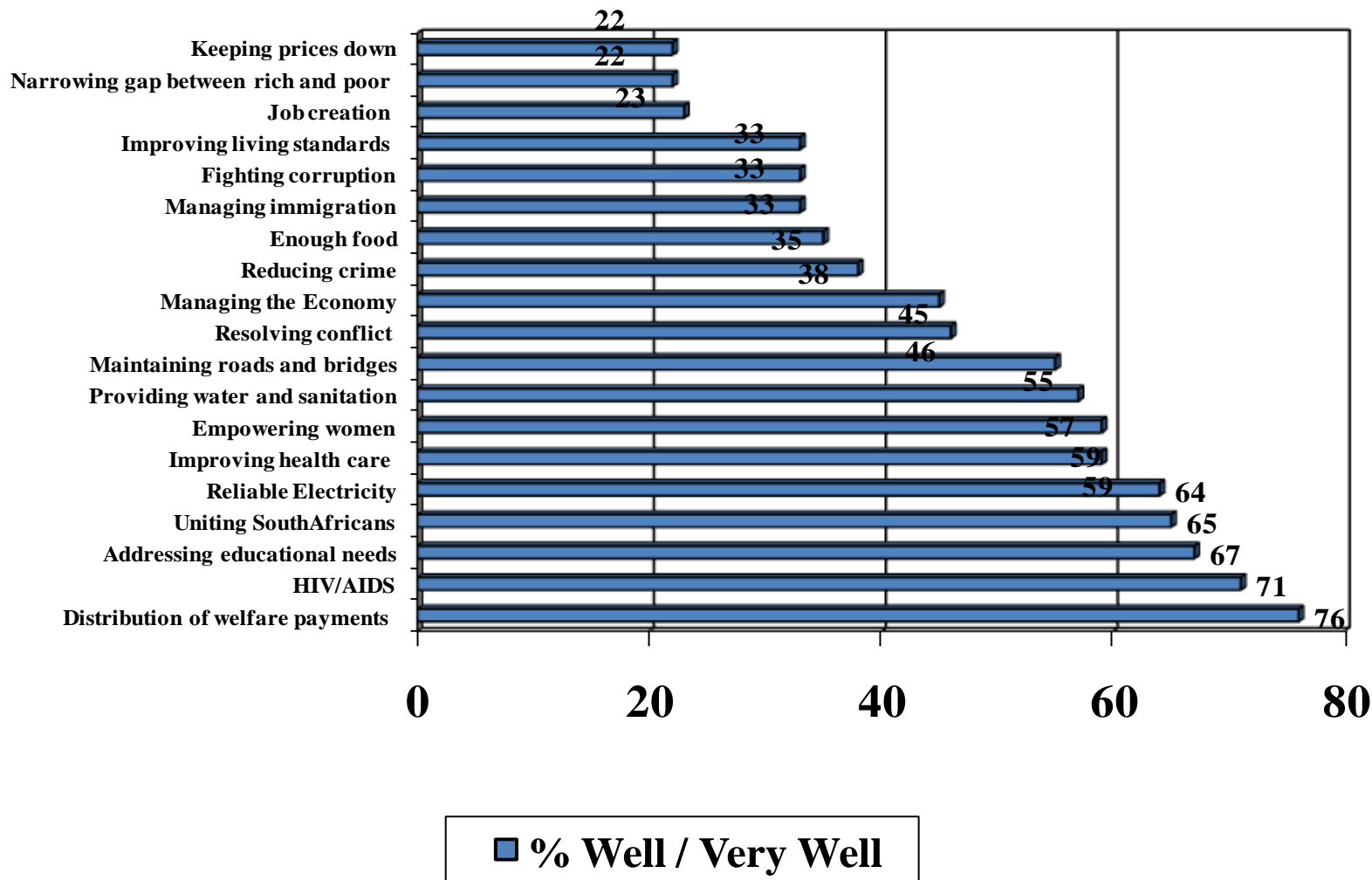
(% good+very good) + (better + much better)



Lived Poverty in South Africa Over Time (At Least One Shortage in Past Year)



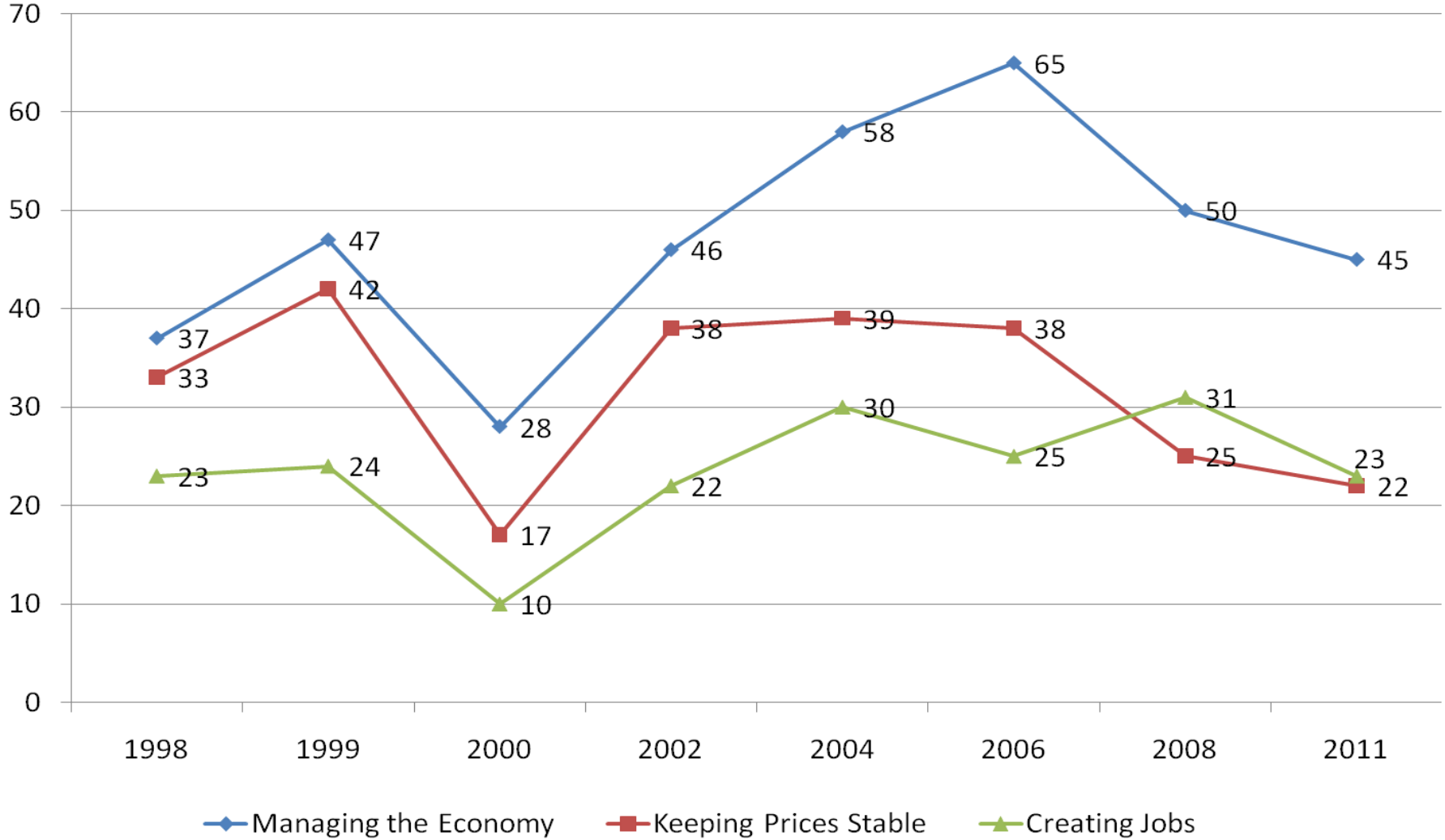
Rating Government Policy Performance (2011)



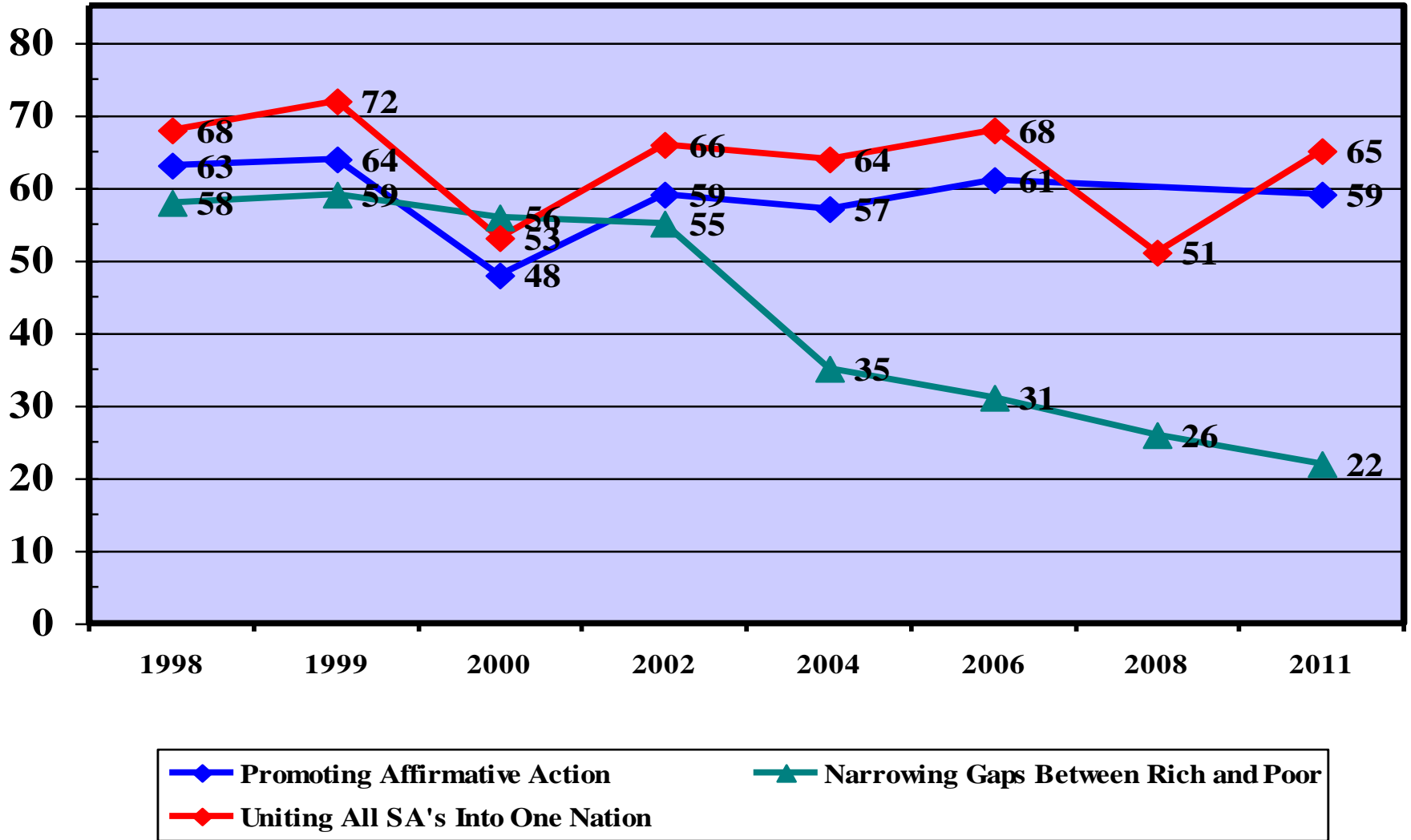
Evaluations of Government Performance

Macro-Economic Management

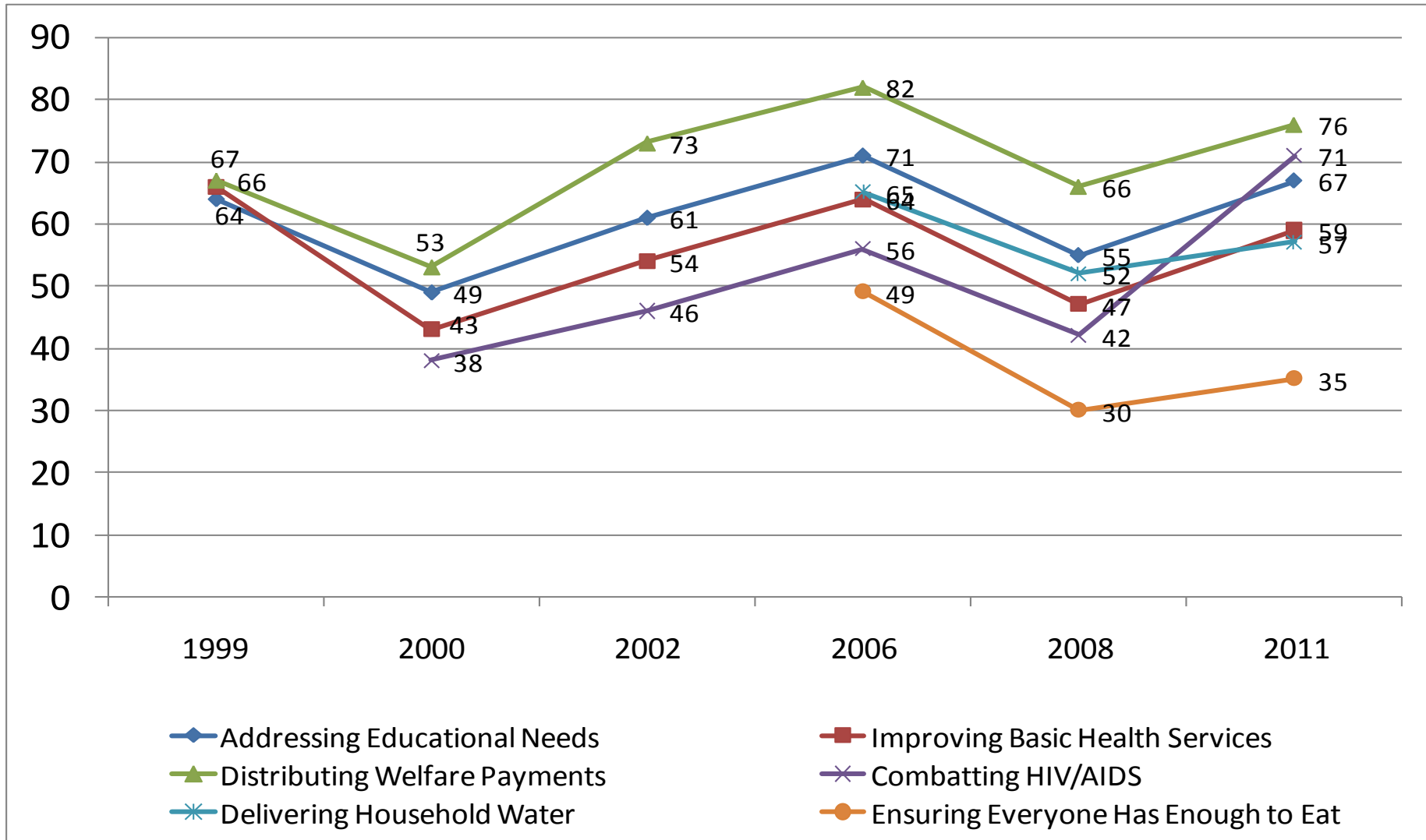
(% well + %very well)



**Evaluations of Government Performance
Equality, Redistribution, and Nation Building.
(% well + % very well)**

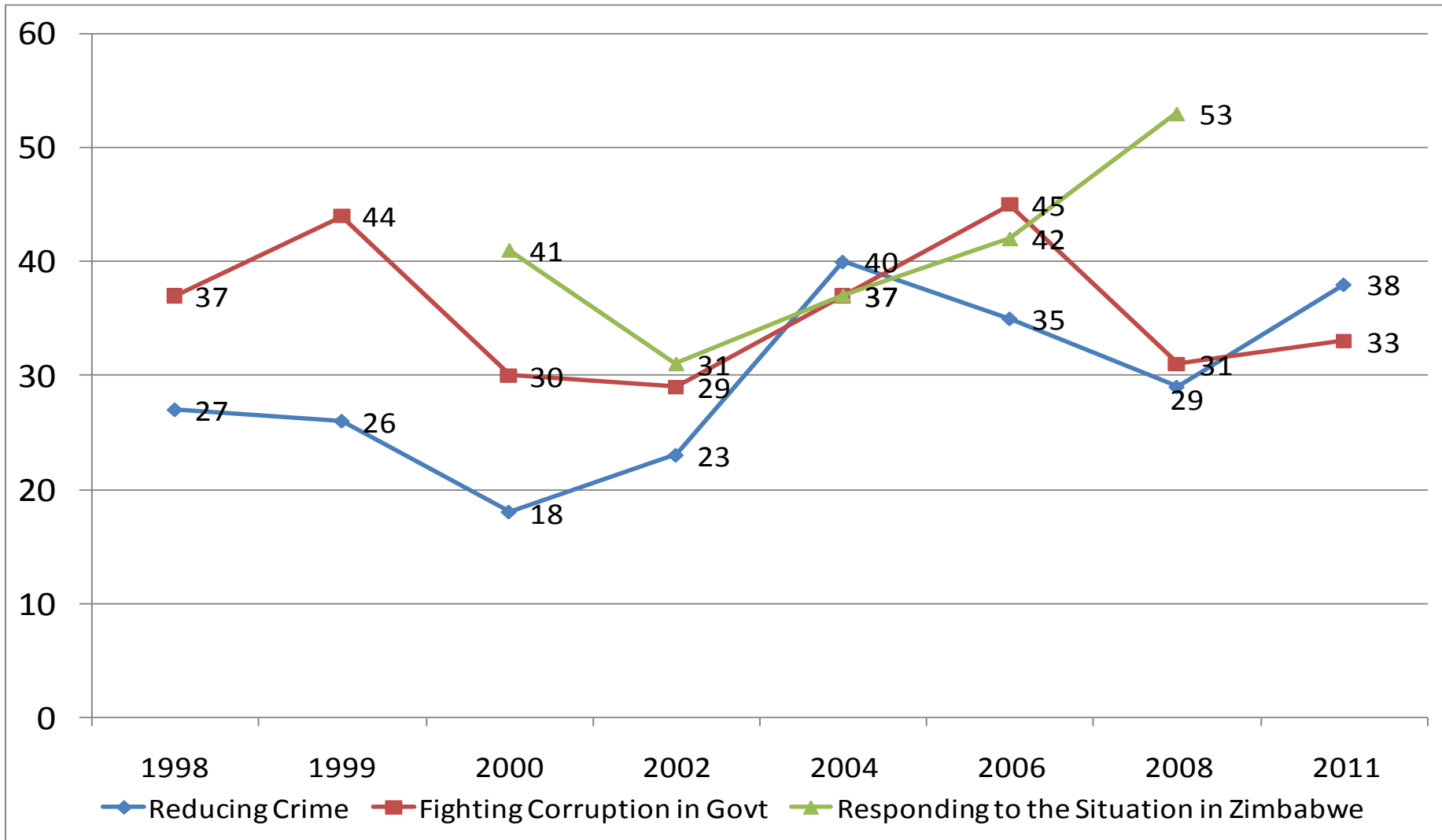


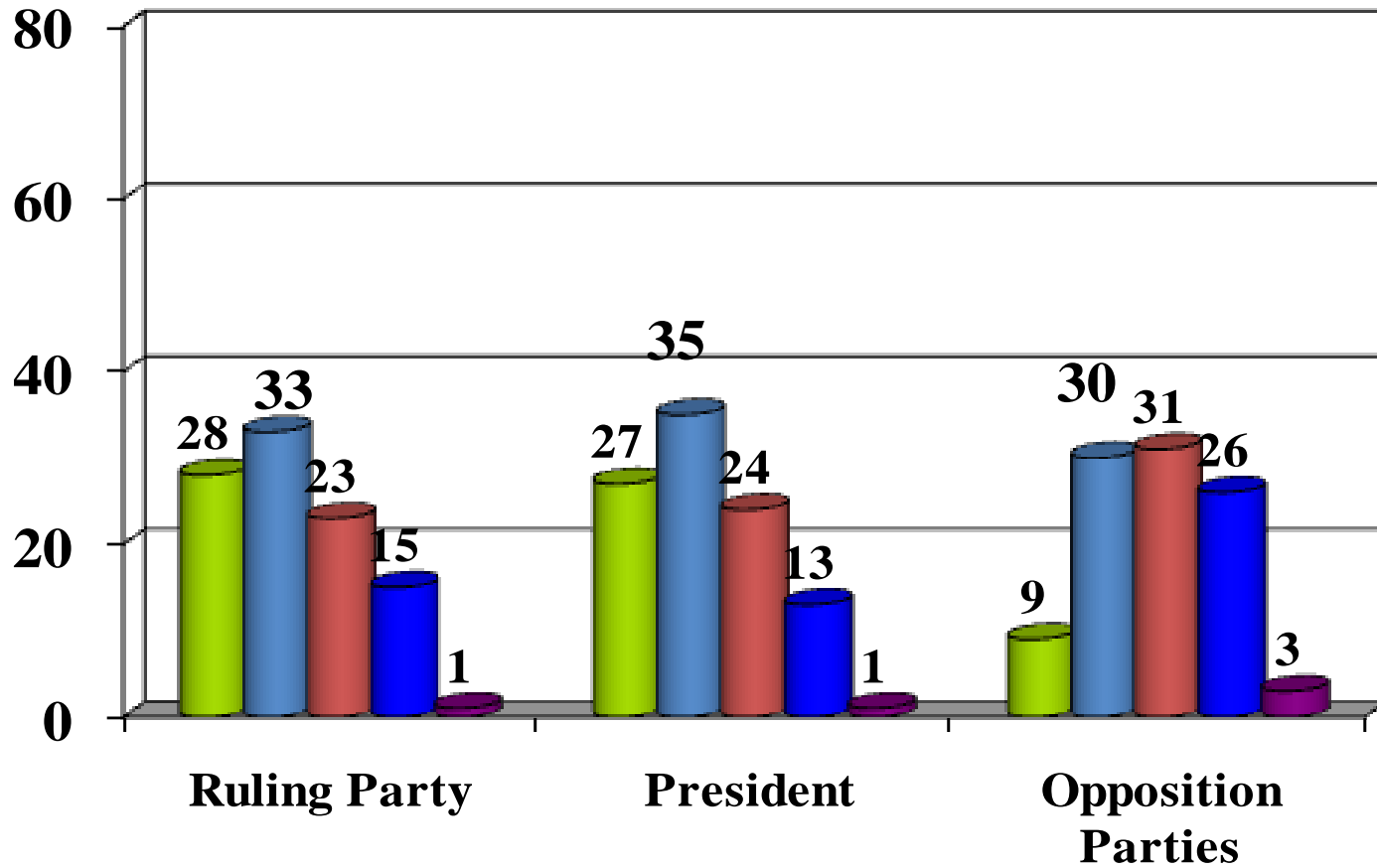
Evaluations of Government Performance Welfare and Development



Evaluations of Government Performance

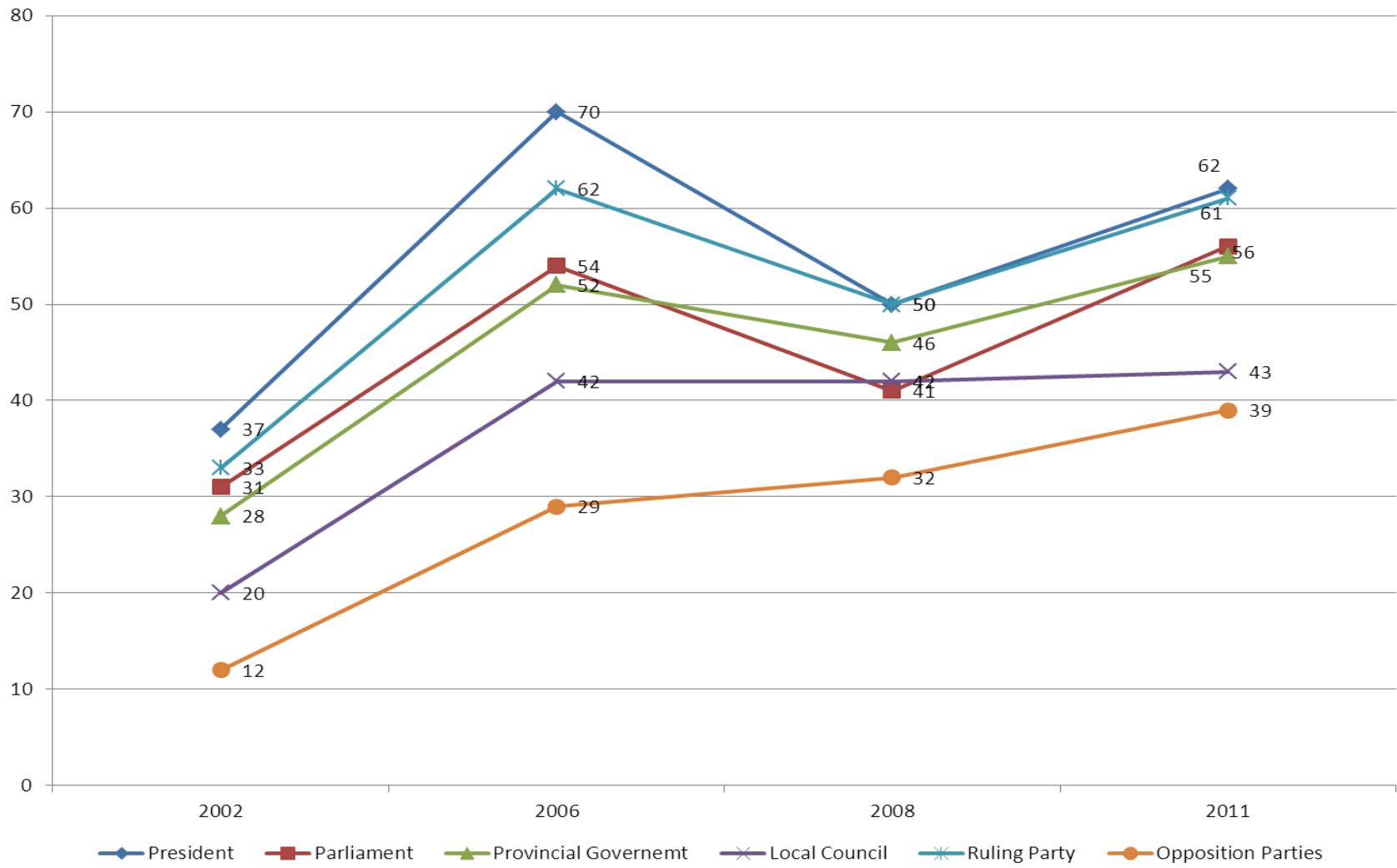
Political Governance



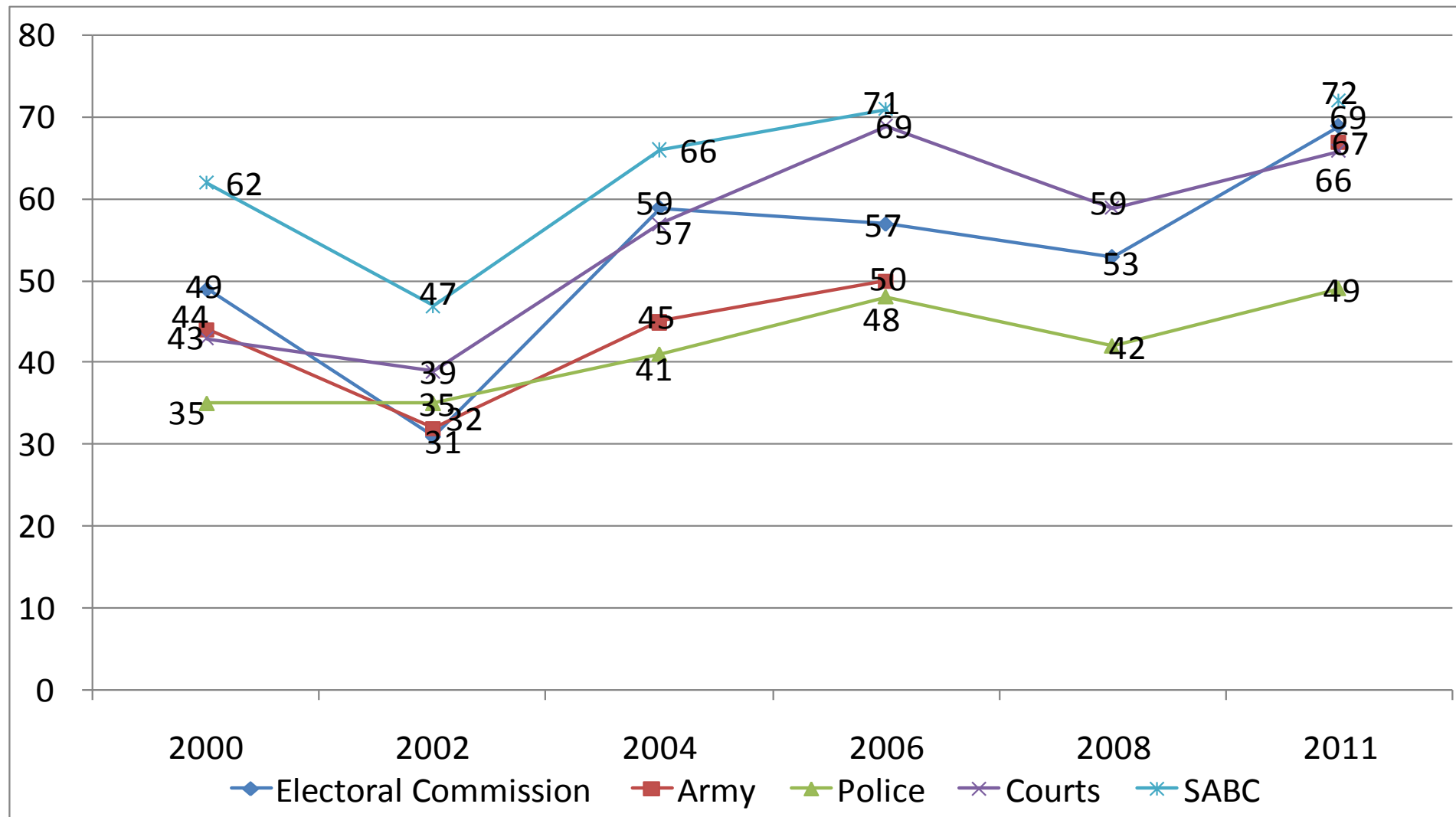


A lot
 Somewhat
 A little
 Not at all
 Don't know

Trust In Political Institutions Over Time: (% for somewhat + a lot)

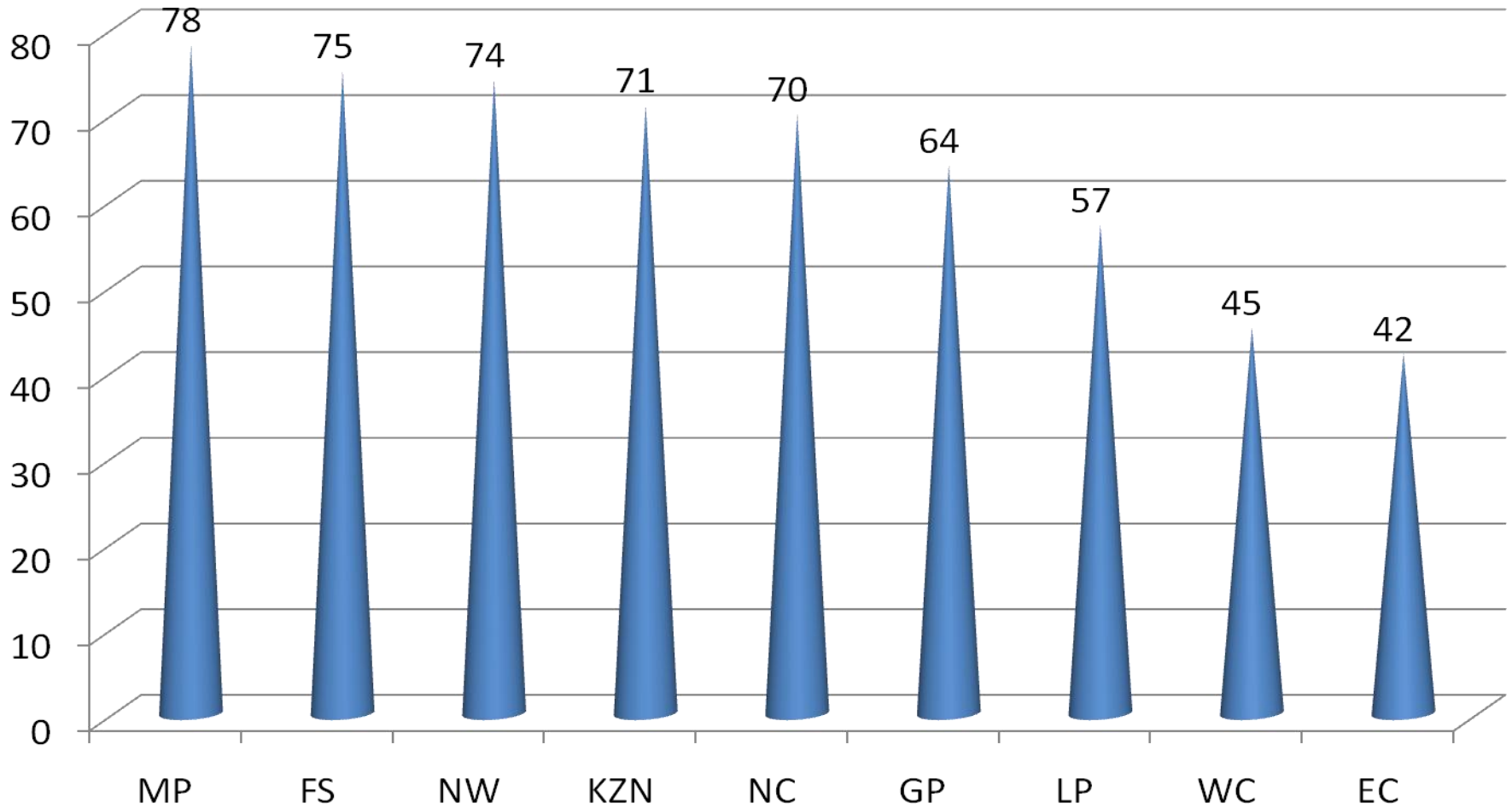


South Africans' Trust In State Institutions (2006-2011): % for A lot/Somewhat

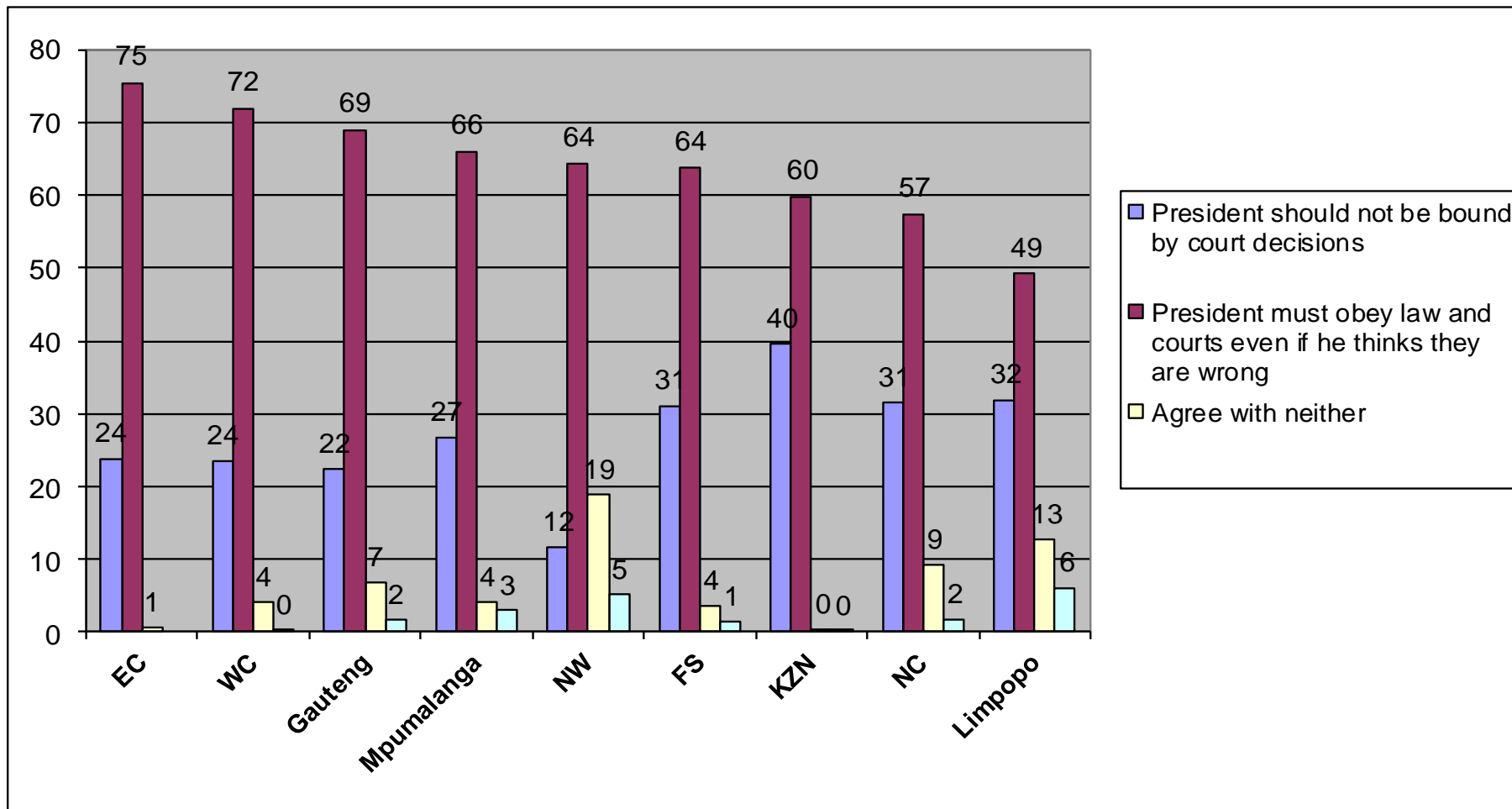


Trust in President Zuma (by Province)

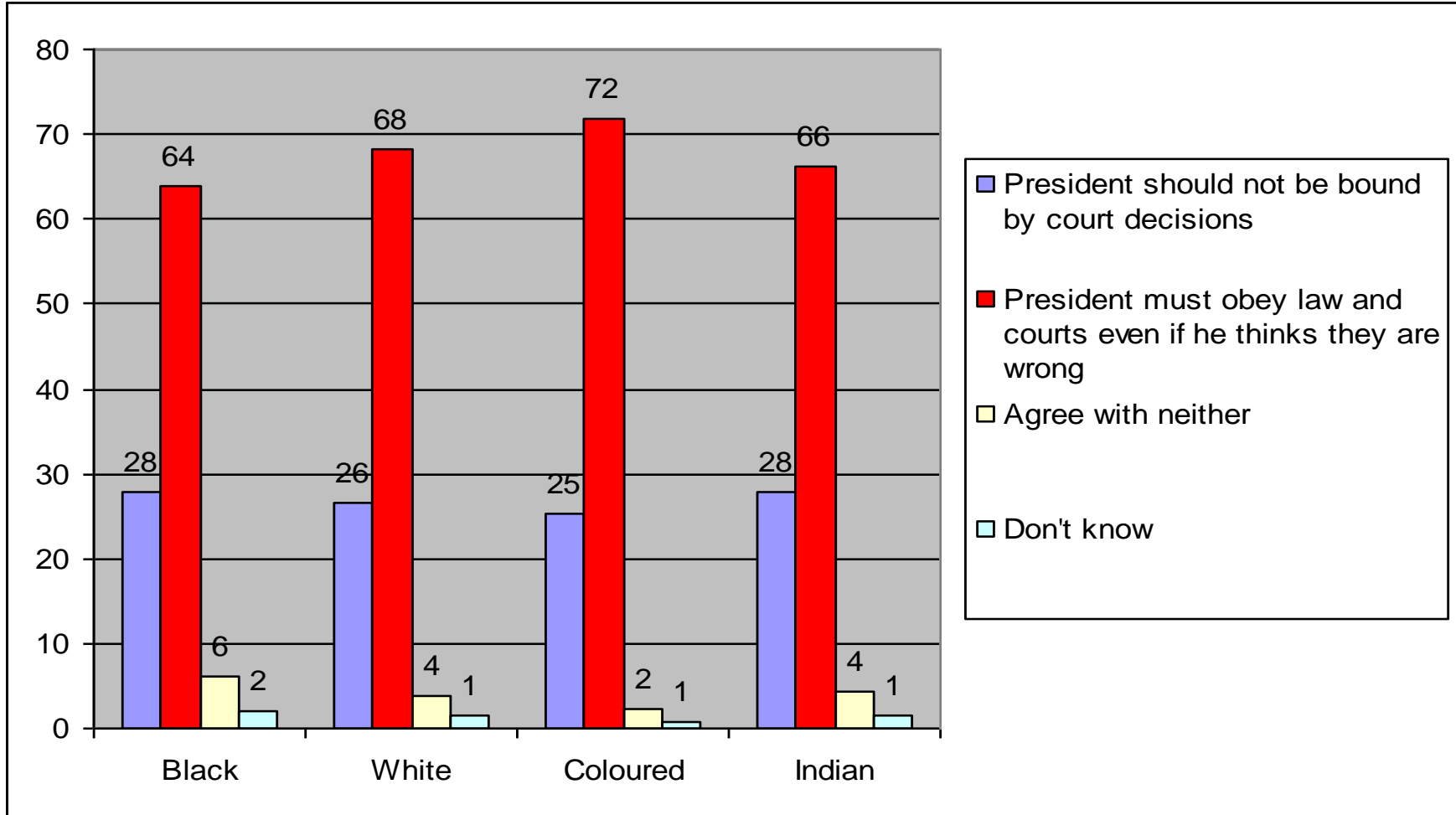
% Somewhat/A lot



President should be bound to court decisions by province

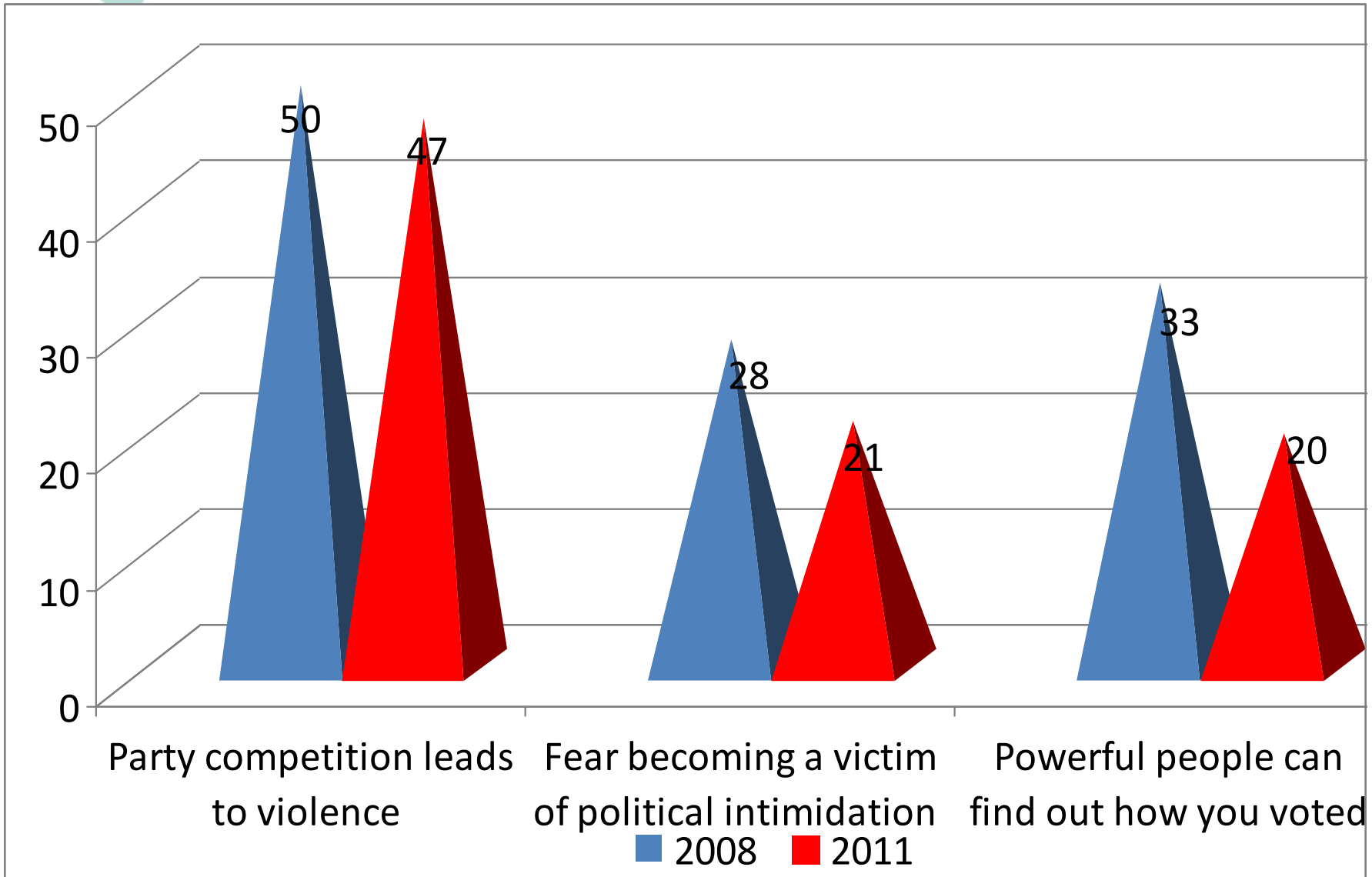


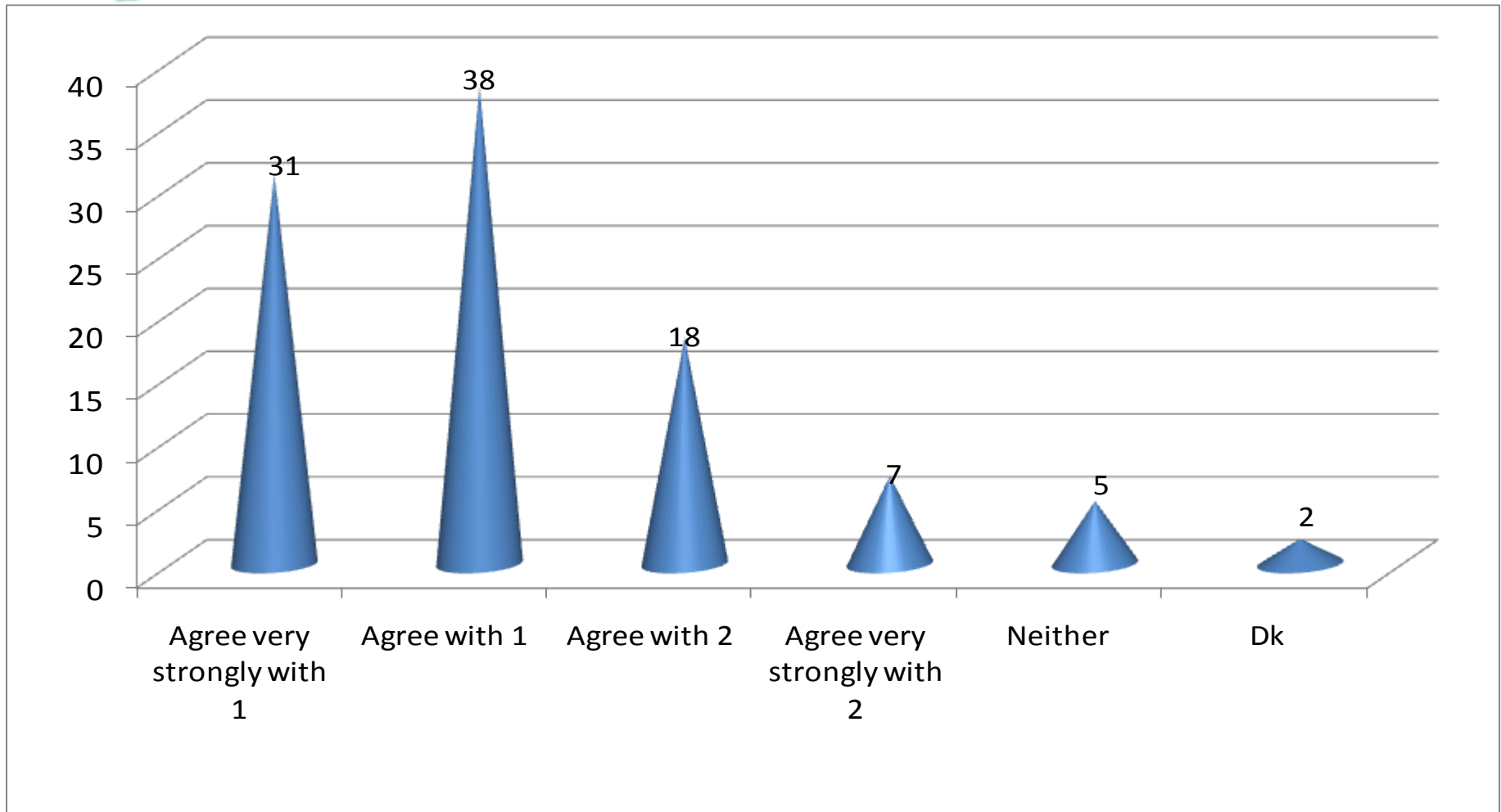
President should be bound to court decisions (by race)



Freedom of Speech, Association, and Voting

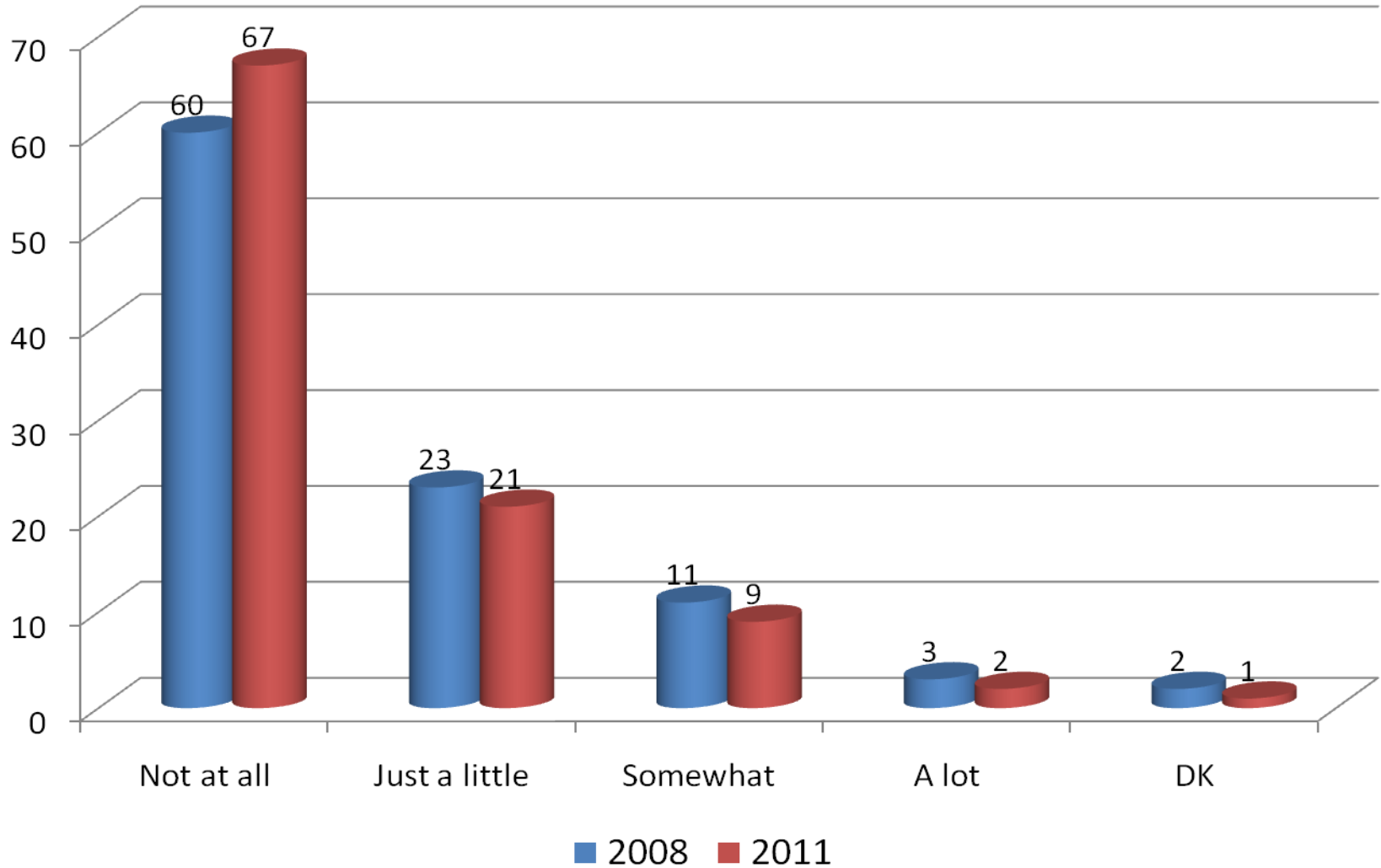
	Free to say what you think		Free to join any political organization		Free to vote without feeling pressure	
	2008	2011	2008	2011	2008	2011
Not at all free	9%	4%	7%	3%	8%	3%
Not very free	13%	12%	11%	9%	8%	6%
Somewhat free	28%	31%	20%	23%	21%	21%
Completely free	48%	52%	60%	64%	61%	69%
Don't know	1%	1%	2%	1%	2%	1%



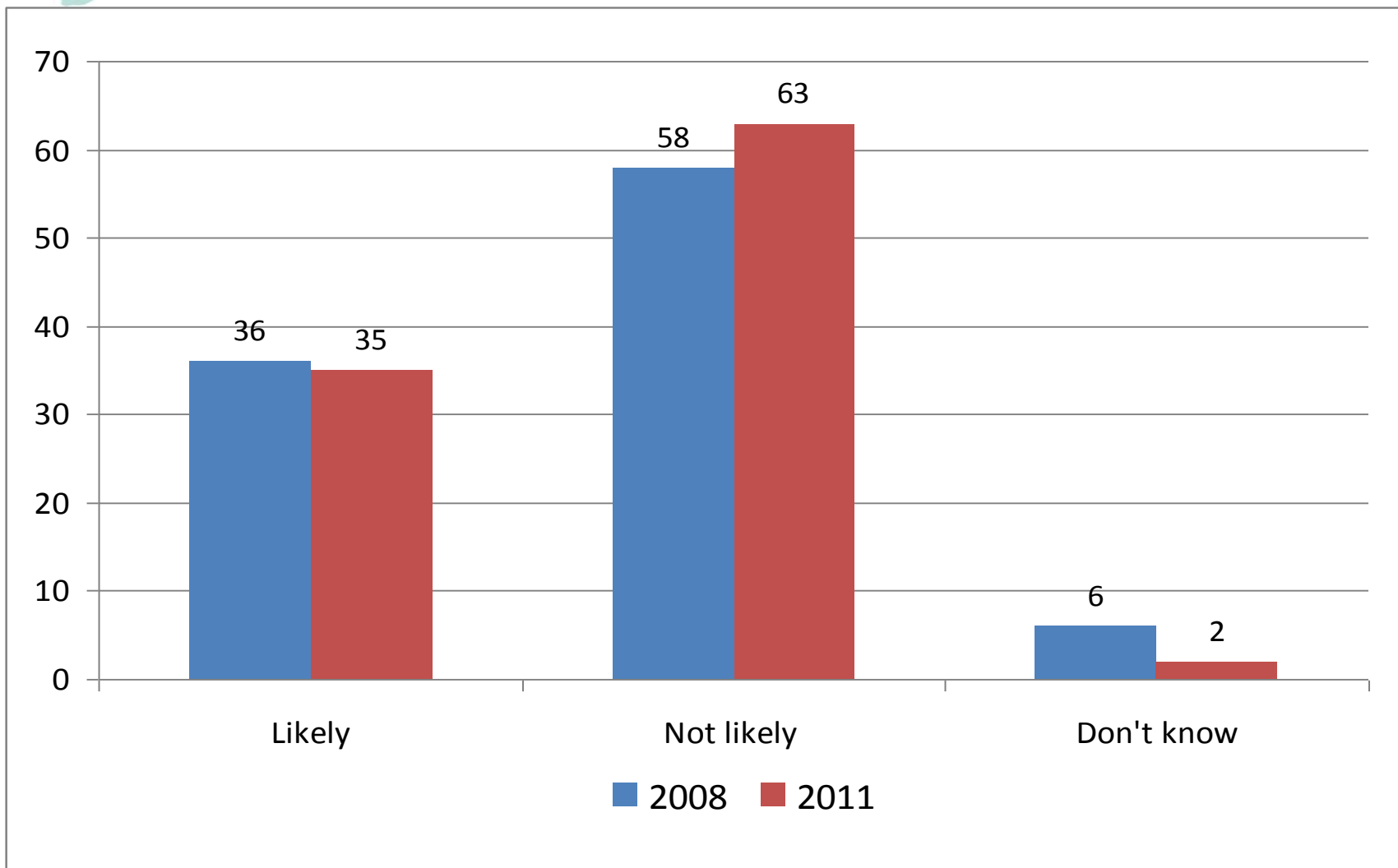


Statement 1: The use of violence is never justified in South Africa

Statement 2: In this country, it is sometimes necessary to use violence in support of a just cause



How much do you trust foreigners living here in South Africa?



How likely is it that you would take part in action to prevent people who have come here from other countries in Africa from operating a business in your area.

Also Available:

- Local government performance
- Interaction between citizens and leaders
- Role of parliamentarians
- Role of traditional leaders
- Ethnic identities
- Gender issues

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