



SOUTH AFRICA



**HSRC**  
Human Sciences  
Research Council

# ELECTION INDICATORS REPORT

# 2021

# EASTERN CAPE



*Report Prepared for*

**Electoral Commission of South Africa (IEC)  
National Office**

Election House, Riverside Office Park,  
1303 Heuwel Avenue, Centurion

*By*

**Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC)**

Developmental, Capable and Ethical State (DCES)  
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This report is the first in a developed ‘Elections Indicators Report’ series, which is the culmination of a five-year project that builds on the longstanding research partnership between the Commission and the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC)



**Simon Mamabolo**  
Chief Electoral Officer  
Electoral Commission of South Africa

The Electoral Commission conducts research and supports researchers in the area of electoral democracy and politics. The research products or reports influence the planning and electoral projects continuously. It is therefore that from time to time, we all have a duty to pause and reflect on our work with a view to enhancing what we are doing well and changing course wherever we need to. To this effect, the Electoral Commission of South Africa (IEC) has published an important tool to enable such reflection: The Elections Indicators Report. We believe this report will contribute to the necessary, collective effort of all in our country to deepen and grow our electoral democracy.

This report is the first in a developed ‘Elections Indicators Report’ series, which is the culmination of a five-year project that builds on the longstanding research partnership between the Commission and the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC). The Commission prides itself on being an evidence-based election management body that places a strong emphasis on high-quality research to inform its operational planning. This new series is a reflection of this commitment.

The project focuses on obtaining an understanding of the views, preferences, evaluative and behavioural

predispositions of the South African voting public on election days, the young and the old: rural and urban with gender sensitivity and spread.

Apart from a national report, nine provincial reports have been prepared to better understand sub-national variation in trends and how these compare to the national picture. This report on Eastern Cape contains key indicators which are important guidelines upon which the Commission will base its work in the fulfilment of its constitutional obligation to deliver quality, free and fair elections. The report is useful to political parties and election contestants to influence and direct their campaigns. The report is equally useful for researchers and opinion makers in the political environment.

The four main sources for this report, and for those that will follow in the series, are:

- ***The IEC Voter Participation Surveys.***
- ***The IEC Election Satisfaction Surveys.***
- ***The HSRC South African Social Attitudes Survey (SASAS) series.***
- ***The IEC statistics on voter registration and electoral results.***

This first Elections Indicators Report is produced soon after the publication of a global report by the Electoral Integrity Project on electoral democracy and electoral integrity, which strongly affirmed the work of the Electoral Commission. According to the Electoral Integrity Global Report 2019-2021 assessment, which provides an update on the quality of elections around the world, South Africa has the 2nd highest electoral integrity in Africa. Election management is regarded as one of the best ways in which electoral integrity can be advanced, and these findings are a powerful tribute to the quality of the work done by the Commission.

The Commission is greatly encouraged by the finding, contained in this Elections Indicators Report, that the Commission continues to be one of the most trusted institutions in South Africa. However, we remain concerned at the overall decline in levels of trust. We note that, when trust in other social and political institutions diminishes, confidence in the Electoral Commission is influenced by how people feel about the performance of those they have elected to political structures and who lead government. If satisfaction with political parties and government declines, institutional trust will follow the downward trend and faith in democratic elections will be undermined.

The Commission is pleased that the focus of the Elections Indicators Report goes beyond the dynamics of the election day. Importantly, it includes a range of measures from the pre-election period that provides a sense of the pre-electoral mood, to views and experiences of registration procedures, the campaign period, and the immediate aftermath following the election day.

South Africans love and are loyal to our country, with many stating that they would rather be citizens of South Africa than of any other nation in the world. What should concern all of us is that, despite this national pride, the number of citizens unhappy with the functioning of democracy exceeds those who are satisfied with our democracy. This dissatisfaction is driven by widespread discontent with government

performance. This is reflected particularly in the findings on the evaluations of the performance of local municipalities. The report shows that South Africans are generally unhappy with, among others, the services offered by municipalities.

It is concerning that many South Africans have concerns about the effectiveness of their vote. The Elections Indicators Report shows that in 2021 less than half of South Africans believe in the power of the vote and that the votes cast on election day makes a difference. Similarly, many South Africans voice concern about the degree to which elected representatives are responsive to their needs. However, 61% of South Africans believe in the duty to vote nationally, and this tendency remains common to most provinces. The Electoral Commission pledges to continue sustained efforts to encourage all eligible voters to join the 26.2-million who are registered on the voters roll.

While we continue to identify further opportunities for improvement, we are pleased to note that voters in this province found the registration process easy and that our voter education campaigns were effective. Voters also had good experiences at voting stations and were generally happy with the quality of services rendered by the Commission's officials. Almost all in the province expressed faith in the arrangements at voting stations to ensure the secrecy of their vote. The vast majority were also happy with the ballot paper used.

These are important foundations on which we will build and strive to improve.

This report contains vital information that is important, not only for the Electoral Commission, but for all in South Africa. Accordingly, the Commission invites South Africans to read the report and to use it, as we will, to guide our efforts to strengthen our democracy.

The Commission expresses its gratitude to the HRSC for an excellent body of work and to South Africans for participating in the surveys.

**Simon Mamabolo**

**Chief Electoral Officer  
Electoral Commission of South Africa**

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This report represents the first in a newly developed Election Indicators Report series, which is the culmination of a two-year data curation project. It builds on a longstanding research partnership between the Electoral Commission of South Africa and the Human Sciences Research Council, focusing on understanding the views, preferences, evaluative and behavioural predispositions of the South African adult public as well as the voting public on Election Days.

This study report was prepared by a Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) team led by Benjamin Roberts, Jarè Struwig, Steven L. Gordon, and also comprising Samela Mtyingizane, Joleen Steyn-Kotze, Ngqapheli Mchunu, Thobeka Zondi, Kombi Sausi and Mercy Ngungu.

The work was carried out under the general direction of Narnia Bohler-Muller, the Divisional Executive of the HSRC's Developmental, Capable and Ethical State (DCES) Research Programme.

The team would like to acknowledge the generous support of the managing team at the Electoral Commission of South Africa. Special mention needs to be made of Shameme Manjoo and her successor, Moagisi Sibanda, as well as Dr Thabo Rapoo for their guidance, advice, support and input throughout the study. Electoral Commissioner, Dr Nomsa Masuku, is also to be thanked for her insight. The comments received from various members of the Commission's executive leadership at different stages of the research process are also gratefully acknowledged, in particular Mr Mawethu Mosery.

We would like to express our profound appreciation to the thousands of South Africans who have generously given their time to participate in the Voter Participation Survey and Election Satisfaction Survey series since the late 1990s. The opinions, preferences and experiences that were shared with our interviewing teams has made, and continues to make, and invaluable contribution to electoral planning and management in the country, as well as our understanding of the Electorate and how it is changing over time. The HSRC's provincial supervisors and data collectors were instrumental in ensuring that high quality information was collected.

A debt of gratitude is also due to the HSRC's administrative team, consisting of Busisiwe Mamba, Koshen Govender, Deshanie Reddy and Tanya Shanker, as well as to Keneilwe Dikobe of the Commission, for all their assistance.

**Dr Benjamin Roberts and Jarè Struwig**  
**South African Social Attitudes Survey (SASAS) Coordinators**  
**Human Sciences Research Council**





# CONTENTS

<b>FOREWORD</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>1 ASSESSING ELECTORAL INTEGRITY IN SOUTH AFRICA</b>	<b>9</b>
1.1 Introducing the report series	9
1.2 Conceptual framework	10
1.3 Guide to indicators and their interpretation	13
<b>2 PRE-ELECTION PHASE</b>	<b>15</b>
2.1 Support for the political system	15
2.1.1 National Pride	15
2.1.2 Demand for democracy: Support for democratic ideals	16
2.1.3 Supply of democracy: Satisfaction with the functioning of democracy	17
2.1.4 Supply of democracy: Country going in the right direction	18
2.1.5 Supply of democracy: Evaluation of performance against democratic ideals	19
2.1.6 Satisfaction with municipal performance	20
2.2. Public trust in political and social institutions	21
2.2.1. Trust in the Electoral Commission	21
2.2.2 Trust in National Government	22
2.2.3 Trust in Provincial Government	23
2.2.4 Trust in Local Government	24
2.2.5 Trust in Parliament	25
2.2.6 Trust in Courts	26
2.2.7 Trust in Political Parties	27
2.2.8 Trust in Traditional Authorities/Leaders	28
2.2.9 Confidence in Political Leaders	29
2.2.10 Trust in Religious Institutions	30

# CONTENTS CONTINUED



2.3	Electoral predispositions: Psychological involvement in electoral politics	31
2.3.1	Political interest	31
2.3.2	Politics easy to understand	32
2.3.3	Belief in the power of one's vote	33
2.3.4	Views on the conduct of politicians and its effect on the meaning of voting	34
2.3.5	Duty to vote	35
2.3.6	Voting intention	36
2.3.7	Administrative barriers leading to non-voting behaviour	37
2.3.8	Voter registration patterns	38
2.3.9	Ease of registration	39
2.3.10	Duration of registration process	40
<b>3</b>	<b>CAMPAIGN PERIOD</b>	<b>42</b>
3.1.	Campaign integrity	42
3.1.1	Political party tolerance during campaigning	44
3.2	Voter education	45
3.2.1	Sources of information on voting	45
3.2.2	Preferred source of information on voting	46
3.2.3	Demand for information on voting	47
3.2.4	Number of Civic and Democracy Education (CDE) events	48
3.2.5	Perceived effectiveness of voter education campaigns	49
<b>4</b>	<b>ELECTION DAY</b>	<b>51</b>
4.1	Voting station evaluations	51
4.1.1	Time to get to voting station	51
4.1.2	Queuing time at voting stations	52
4.1.3	Safety and security	53



4.1.4	Accessibility of voting station to persons with disabilities/the elderly	54
4.1.5	Quality of service rendered by IEC officials	55
4.2	Voting procedure	56
4.2.1	Assessment of electoral procedures	56
4.2.2	Assessment of procedural accommodation of the elderly	57
4.2.3	Assessment of procedural accommodation of persons with disabilities	58
4.2.4	Assessment of procedural accommodation of blind and visually impaired voters	59
4.2.5	Assessing the secrecy of the vote at voting stations	60
4.2.6	Ballot paper usability and satisfaction	61
4.3	Coercion	62
4.4	Election turnout	63
4.4.1	Total votes cast, valid votes and spoilt votes in National and Provincial Elections (national vote)	63
4.4.2	Total votes cast, valid votes and spoilt votes in Local Government Elections (provincial summary, ward plus proportional representation votes)	64
4.4.3	Spoilt ballots	65
4.4.4	Turnout in National and Provincial Elections as a percentage of registered voters	66
4.4.5	Turnout in Local Government Elections as a percentage of registered voters	67
<b>5</b>	<b>POST-ELECTION</b>	<b>69</b>
5.1	Evaluation of the elections as free and fair	69
5.2	Vote count	70
<b>6</b>	<b>ELECTORAL REFORM</b>	<b>72</b>
6.1	Electoral outcomes - best possible government	72
6.2	Electronic voting	73
6.2.1	Perceived effectiveness of electronic voting	73
6.2.2	Concerns of possible fraud associated with electronic voting	74
	<b>REFERENCES</b>	<b>75</b>



**PART**

**A**

**ASSESSING  
ELECTORAL INTEGRITY IN  
SOUTH AFRICA**

## 1.1 Introducing the report series

Elections in South Africa follow a five-year cycle, with national/provincial elections held together and municipal/local government elections held two years later. The Electoral Commission of South Africa has been involved in all South African elections and have successfully managed six national/provincial elections (1994, 1999, 2004, 2009, 2014 and 2019) and six municipal/local government elections (1995, 2000, 2006, 2011, 2016 and 2021). According to the South African Constitution (Act 108 of 1996) and the Electoral Commission Act (1996), the central roles of the Electoral Commission of South Africa (IEC) is to strengthen constitutional democracy and promote democratic electoral processes in the country. An important element of this mandate is to encourage voter participation. To this end, the Commission places great focus on increasing voter registration and turnout by investing in civic education and outreach programmes to encourage citizens to register and ultimately vote.

Since the late 1990s, the Electoral Commission of South Africa has partnered with the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC), a statutory research institute, to undertake a programme of electoral research. This focuses on generating survey-based as well as qualitative insight to inform operational planning and outreach. In order to better understand the Electorate and maximise the reach and impact of outreach efforts, the Electoral Commission follows a specific framework of survey-based research on electoral matters. This framework of surveying includes a pre-election survey, the Voter Participation Survey (VPS), and an Election Day survey, the Election Satisfaction Survey (ESS). Both surveys are nationally representative series which have been conducted in a similar format for national and provincial, as well as municipal elections for more than a decade. Additional ad hoc research studies have been conducted, focusing on internal surveying of electoral staff on issues such as gender mainstreaming and the institutional vision, as well as research into ballot paper design, usability and spoiling.

This partnership between the Electoral Commission and the HSRC has generated datasets that relate to

the socio-political dynamics of voter turnout, voter behaviour and voter participation in South Africa. A challenge associated with these longitudinal projects is that voluminous amounts of data are generated, but are often treated as stand-alone projects and not merged to form longitudinal data series that can be used to readily identify trends and emerging patterns, as well as benchmark performance. Another challenge pertains to the risk that the technology used to analyse, manage and store data is at high risk of becoming obsolete over time, rendering existing data unusable.

In order to address these challenges, the Electoral Commission contracted the HSRC to undertake a project entitled: *Trends in Voter Participation and Election Satisfaction in South Africa: Curating, Mining and Analysing Successive Electoral Commission Surveys conducted by the HSRC*. The project entailed locating data from previous rounds of the Voter Participation Survey and Election Satisfaction Survey and analysing them in order to provide a longitudinal perspective of changing electoral attitudes, experiences and behaviour, as well as democratic values in South Africa. A secondary objective of this project is to embark on a data curation exercise in order to preserve the Electoral Commission datasets for future use. This will ensure that these datasets do not become obsolete and will also enable the Commission to grant data access to external researchers or stakeholders.

This report is the output of the first objective and the result of the tracing, combining and of mining Voter Participation Surveys (VPS) as well as Election Satisfaction Surveys (ESS) and analysing the combined datasets in order to give a longitudinal perspective of changing democratic values and behaviour in South Africa. Select indicators are presented in this volume, which represent the first in a planned statistical publication series on electoral indicators. Our hope is to produce a series that will serve as a key reference for those interested in gaining insight into emerging trends on key aspects of electoral performance and voter predispositions.

## 1.2 Conceptual framework

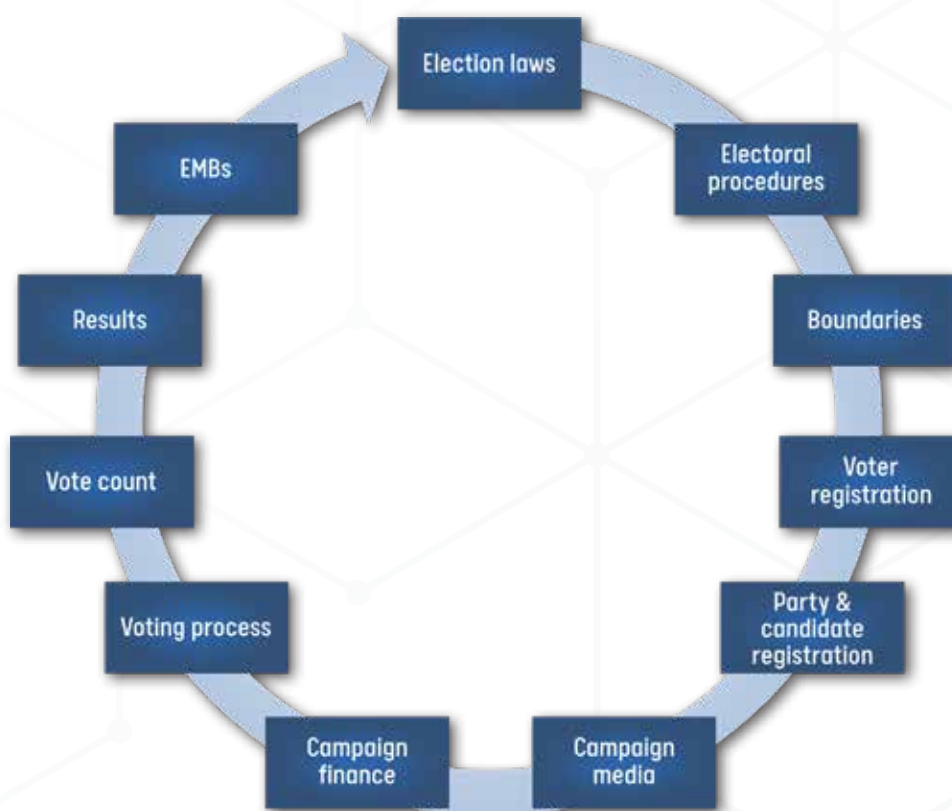
In planning this report series, we drew on three strands of the conceptual literature relating to models of political support, electoral integrity and election management. We briefly outline some of the ideas and components of these models, particularly those that had an influence on the decisions regarding the structure, content and scope of what ultimately appears in the reports.

### Electoral integrity

The last decade has witnessed a rapid growth in interest in the concept of ‘electoral integrity’, and an associated demand for policy-relevant research evaluating different election management structures

and processes – with the aim of measuring and assessing the quality of elections over time (Norris et al., 2013). This priority has emanated, in part, from a range of challenges facing ongoing efforts to deepen and consolidate liberal democracies around the world. This includes claims of democratic ‘deficits’, ‘recession’ and ‘reversals’, a rise in authoritarian populism, instances of electoral malpractice, and declining patterns of electoral participation (LeDuc et al., 2002; Plattner, 2015; Diamond, 2015, 2020; Levitsky & Way, 2015; Foa & Mounk, 2016). This agenda is founded on a recognition that elections serve as the lifeblood of liberal democracy, by promoting policy debate, electing representatives, and determining the composition of legislatures.

Figure 1: The electoral cycle used to guide the Electoral Integrity Project’s Perceptions of Electoral Integrity (PEI) research



Source: Electoral Integrity Project, Perceptions of Electoral Integrity (PEI) (Norris et al. 2014)

Electoral integrity can be understood in different ways. Some have tended to conceptualise it negatively by focusing on problems experienced in specific electoral contests, such as manipulation, fraud and malpractice (Schedler, 2002, 2013; Birch, 2010, 2011). Other accounts have adopted a positive approach to understanding integrity by concentrating more on whether elections are free and fair, credible,

competitive and democratic in character (Elklit & Reynolds, 2005; Munck, 2009; Norris, 2017). The Electoral Integrity Project (EIP, established 2012)<sup>1</sup> has argued for a definitional approach that draws on a positive, human rights framing of electoral integrity, which may be understood as the degree to which any given election meets “international conventions and global norms governing the appropriate conduct

1 More details on the EIP can be found at: <https://www.electoralintegrityproject.com>

of elections, applying universally to all countries worldwide throughout the electoral cycle” (Norris, 2013: 564; 2014, 2017, 2019). Accordingly, election integrity is achieved when electoral procedures meet established norms and standards at each of the different stages in the full election cycle. The latter covers the pre-election period, the campaigning phase, the election day itself, as well as the immediate post-election period.

It is this positive perspective and broader periodisation of the electoral cycle that are of significance for the present report series. The examination of election-related indicators in the South African case extends beyond measures that exclusively focus on the dynamics of election day itself. We also include a range of measures on the pre-election period in particular, to provide a sense of the pre-electoral mood, views and experiences of registration procedures, the campaign period, and the immediate aftermath of the election.

### Election management and popular confidence in the electoral process

Measuring and monitoring levels of public confidence in electoral processes are central to determining the integrity of elections. The legitimacy of the electoral process is widely considered as essential for the establishment, sustainability and consolidation of well-functioning democracies (Goodwin-Gill, 1998; Elklit & Reynolds, 2005). Research has suggested that in country contexts where the bonds on trust have eroded and citizens express doubt that elections are free and fair, the consequence may be diminishing turnout levels among voters and even public protest action as an extreme response to such discontent (Bratton & van de Walle, 1997; Elklit & Reynolds, 2002; Schedler, 2006; Birch, 2008).

This leads us to the salient institutional role of Election Management Bodies (EMBs) in administering elections and promoting voter education (Maphunye, 2019). The quality of elections and the way they are delivered by EMBs are thought to influence confidence in the electoral process and, by extension, processes of democratic consolidation (James et al., 2019). From an organisational perspective, election management is regarded as one of the ways in which electoral integrity can be advanced. This is based on an understanding that the institutional design features of an EMB will indelibly shape electoral performance and outcomes (Figure 2).

Figure 2: Envisaged causal linkages between EMB design, performance and outcomes



Source: James et al. (2019), p.302

Before the turn of the century, many well-established survey infrastructures did not include indicators examining perceptions of the legitimacy and procedural fairness of elections. This has begun to change, with many comparative and national surveys starting to routinely include at least some measures to gauge popular legitimacy. In the South African case, the Electoral Commission has since its inception been concerned about the public voice and evaluations of different aspects of electoral administration. The indicators presented in the report draw from commissioned survey research by the EMB, and touch on various aspects of public confidence in electoral

processes and assessments of preparations and performance in relation to elections in the country. While measurement tools have been developed in recent years that draw on expert opinion on electoral design, readiness and outcomes, some in conjunction with public opinion research, the focus of our report series is on the voices of the adult public, and voters, more specifically on election day assessments. This does not preclude these views being compared at a later stage with expert opinion using common indicators, but for the present we limit ourselves to better understanding popular confidence in electoral processes.



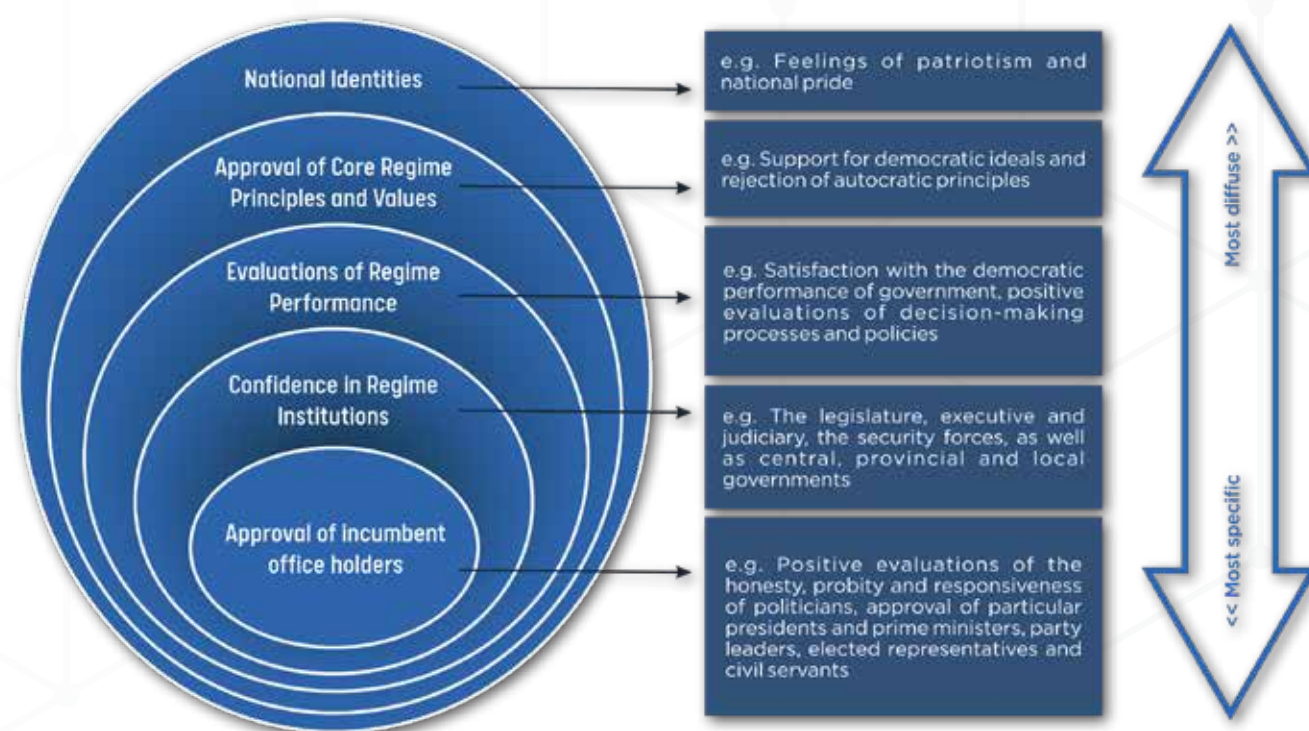
## Political support

To adequately capture political system support and general regime approval among the public, we make use of a conceptual framework developed by Norris (2011) that draws primarily on the work of David Easton (1975). Accordingly, indicators of political support are clustered into a multi-dimensional framework consisting of five components, ranging from the most generalised to the most specific. These components are: (i) national identities; (ii) approval of regime principles and values; (iii) evaluations of regime performance; (iv) confidence in regime institutions; and (v) approval of incumbent office-holders. Figure 3 depicts how these components are structured, moving from the most diffuse towards the most specific.

The first component identified by Norris, namely national identities, represents the most general set of attitudes towards belonging or attachment to the state. Common survey-based measures

and indicators for this dimension include national pride, patriotism and feelings of national identity. The second dimension of support - approval of regime principles and values - addresses support for fundamental democratic principles and values. The third dimension is evaluations of regime performance and is conceived as the views of citizens towards the democratic performance of the government, as well as assessments of decision-making processes, policies and policy outcomes. Fourthly, confidence in regime institutions refers to trust in public sector institutions. Norris (2011) views the following as public institutions: the government legislature, the executive, the judiciary and courts, the security forces, the different tiers of government (national, provincial, local), and the civil service, in addition to political parties. The press and trade unions can also be included here. The last level of support is the approval of incumbent office-holders, which entails public attitudes towards the president, ministers, party leaders and elected representatives.

**Figure 3: Conceptual overview of indicators of political system support**



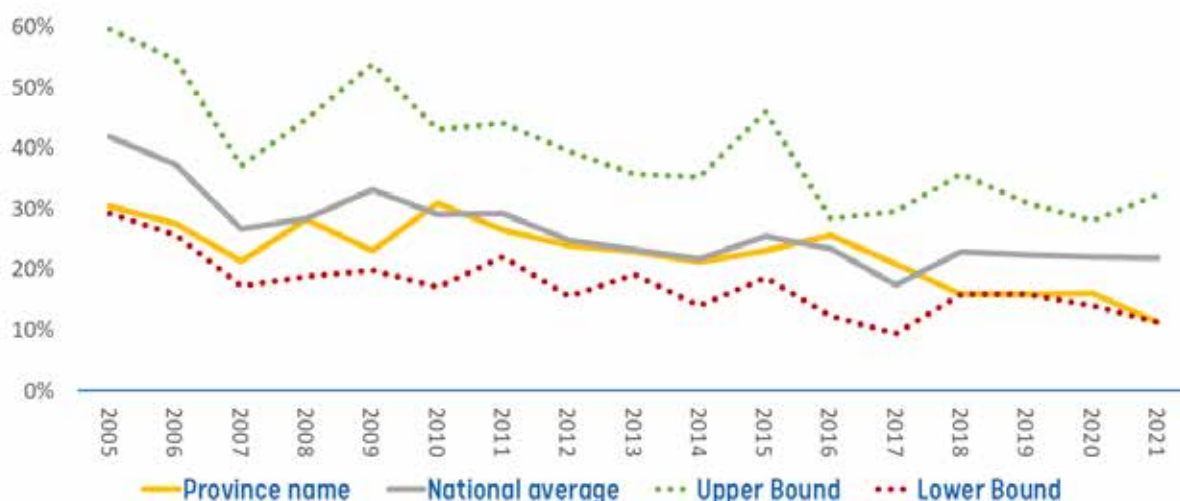
Source: Norris (2011:24) Democratic Deficit: Critical Citizens Revisited

## 1.3 Guide to indicators and their interpretation

The set of electoral indicators that presented in this report have been presented using a particular visual format that requires a brief explanation.

### Trends in province of focus compared to national trends

In the example graph below, the trend line corresponding to the province of focus in the report is highlighted in a bold yellow colour. For comparative purposes, the national average on the indicator is presented in a dark grey colour. This is important for determining whether the province fares better or worse in any given survey year than the average for the country. This allows for quick inferences to be drawn on provincial performance in this specific area of evaluation.



### Determining performance in province of focus relative to other provinces

Displaying the trends of each of the nine provinces as well as the national average over multiple survey years on a single graph would be impractical, since many of the lines would intersect, making it difficult to interpret. However, it is crucially important that we understand how the province of focus fares relative to other provinces, as well as the relative spread in provincial responses to the indicator in question. As such, we have inserted two additional lines in the graph, as follows:

- **Upper bound:** This is the highest provincial value on the measure in the specified survey year. Due to fluctuations in public evaluations, it should be noted that the highest value in each year will not necessarily correspond to the same province over time.
- **Lower bound:** This is the lowest provincial value on the measure in the specified survey year. Again, it is important to note that the lowest value in each year will not necessarily correspond to the same province over time, due

to variations in assessment among the public over time.

### Table of statistics

For those wanting the exact numbers associated with each data point in the graph, we have provided a table of statistics. This displays the provincial average, the national average, and the upper and lower bound figures. In addition, the province's rank position in each survey year is provided, with one indicating that the province has the highest value of all nine provinces, and nine the lowest relative value.

### Data sources

Four principal sources have been used: the IEC Voter Participation Survey (VPS) series, which is representative of citizens aged 16 years and older; the IEC Election Satisfaction Survey (ESS) series, which is a representative sample of the voting public on Election Day; the HSRC South African Social Attitudes Survey (SASAS) series, which is representative of the adult public older than 15 years; and official IEC statistics on registration and electoral results.





**PART**

**B**

**PRE-ELECTION  
PHASE**

## 2. PRE-ELECTION PHASE

### 2.1 Support for the political system

#### 2.1.1 National Pride

##### GOAL

To determine the general sense of belonging or attachment to the nation-state. This relates to general bonds of political support, as expressed through feelings of national pride. It underpins the priority of promoting social cohesion and national identity in the country

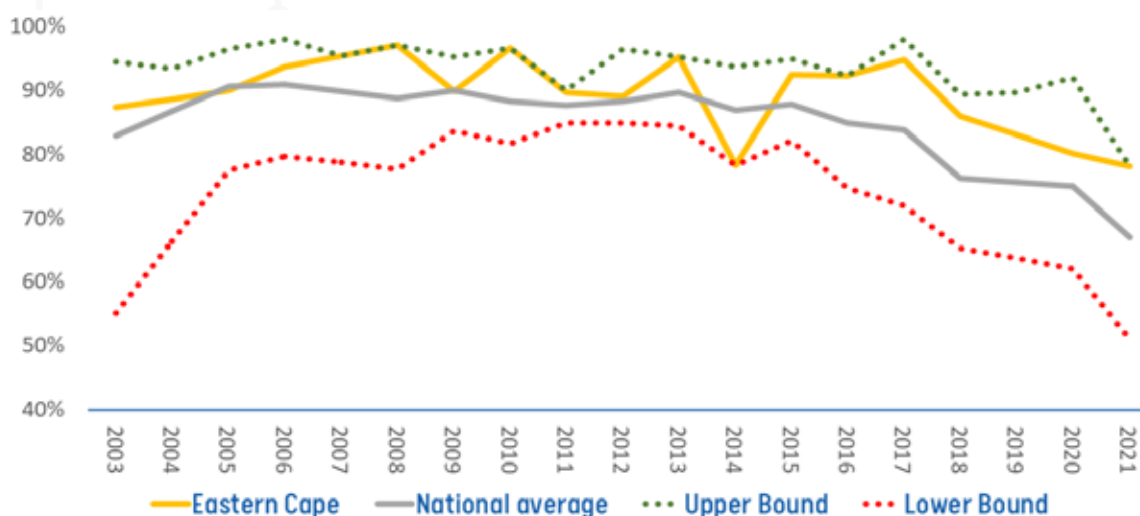
##### QUESTION

How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement? "I would rather be a citizen of South Africa than of any other country in the world." (% agree/strongly agree)

##### ANALYSIS

Most Eastern Cape residents exhibit a strong sense of pride in the country. More than four fifths (89%) agreed that they would rather be citizens of South Africa than any other nation. Between 2005 and 2008, there was an upward trend in national pride, increasing from 90% in 2005 to 97% in 2008. Between 2009 and 2017, a fluctuating trend was evident, with a major decline in 2014. National pride in the Eastern Cape ranked the lowest of all provinces in 2014. Since 2017, there has been a steady decline in pride, falling from 95% in 2017 to 78% in 2021. Regardless of the fluctuations over the 2003-2021 period, the province still ranked highest in the country overall.

**NATIONAL PRIDE: "I would rather be a citizen of South Africa than of any other country in the world", 2003-2021 (% agreeing)**



%	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Average
Eastern Cape	87	...	90	94	...	97	90	97	90	89	95	78	92	92	95	86	...	80	78	89
National Avg.	83	...	91	91	...	89	90	88	88	88	90	87	88	85	84	76	...	75	67	85
Upper Bound	94	...	96	98	...	97	95	97	90	96	95	94	95	92	98	89	...	92	78	89
Lower Bound	55	...	77	80	...	78	84	82	85	85	84	78	82	75	72	65	...	62	51	76
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	5	...	7	2	...	1	6	1	2	6	1	9	3	1	3	3	...	4	1	1

Data Source: HSRC South African Social Attitudes Survey (SASAS), 2003-2021

## 2.1.2 Demand for democracy: Support for democratic ideals

### GOAL

Evaluation of the importance of elements of democracy. This provides a sense of the demand for democracy by examining the salience attached to democratic ideals

### QUESTION

For each of six components of democracy, respondents were asked to indicate the extent to which they believed each were important (mean score, 0-10 importance scale, where 0=not important and 10=very important)

...that elections are free and fair?

...that politicians listen to people before making decisions?

...that ruling parties are punished in elections when they have done a bad job?

...that citizens are able to take part in peaceful and legal protest action to express their dissatisfaction?

...that everyone is free to express their political views openly, even if they are extreme?

...that opposition parties are free to criticise the government?

### ANALYSIS

In the Eastern Cape, the importance attached to all six democratic ideals was highest in the year 2013. This was followed by a distinct annual decline in the importance attached to all six ideals, to the extent that all ideals ranked significantly low by 2021. Ideal 5 and 6 ranked lowest in 2021, although there remains an overall drop in the value attached to these ideals between 2013 and 2021. The downward trends in ratings of all ideals over the period is mirroring the annual decline in national averages.

This means that this pattern of change is not limited to the Eastern Cape, nationally we also see a steady decline in the extent to which the public believes these democratic ideals to be important.

#### DEMAND FOR DEMOCRACY: Importance attached to different democratic values or ideals, 2013-2021 (mean scores based on a 0-10 importance scale)

Mean score, 0-10 scale	Ideal 1 Free and Fair Elections				Ideal 2 Elected Listen to the Public				Ideal 3 Electoral Accountability			
	2013	2016	2018	2021	2013	2016	2018	2021	2013	2016	2018	2021
Eastern Cape	8.7	8.3	6.7	6.6	8.7	8.1	6.8	5.8	8.5	8.2	6.6	5.4
National Avg.	8.2	8.1	7.2	6.7	7.4	7.5	7.0	6.4	7.4	7.4	6.9	6.4
Upper Bound	8.8	8.7	8.0	7.4	8.7	8.2	7.6	7.4	8.5	8.4	7.5	7.6
Lower Bound	7.3	6.7	5.5	5.6	6.5	5.4	4.5	5.0	6.5	5.5	5.3	5.0
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	3	2	7	5	1	2	7	6	1	2	6	7

Mean score, 0-10 scale	Ideal 4 Participation in Protest				Ideal 5 Freedom of Expression				Ideal 6 Viable Opposition			
	2013	2016	2018	2021	2013	2016	2018	2021	2013	2016	2018	2021
Eastern Cape	8.5	8.0	6.5	5.8	8.4	8.1	6.6	7.1	7.9	7.8	6.6	5.2
National Avg.	7.6	7.5	6.9	6.4	7.8	7.6	6.9	7.5	7.0	7.4	6.8	6.4
Upper Bound	8.5	8.2	7.5	7.6	8.8	8.2	7.5	8.4	7.9	8.6	7.6	7.4
Lower Bound	6.7	6.5	5.9	5.1	7.1	6.5	5.6	6.1	6.1	5.6	5.6	5.2
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	1	2	7	5	2	2	7	9	2	4	6	9

Data Source: IEC Voter Participation Survey (VPS) 2013-2021

## 2.1.3 Supply of democracy: Satisfaction with the functioning of democracy

### GOAL

Determine support for the way the country's political system is functioning

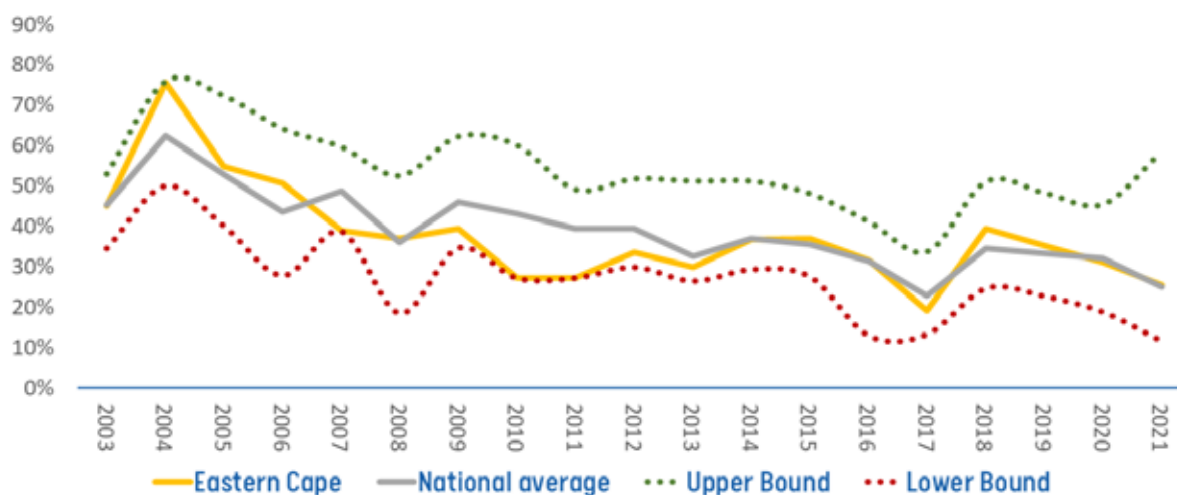
### QUESTION

How satisfied are you with the way democracy is working in South Africa? (% satisfied / very satisfied)

### ANALYSIS

Satisfaction with the functioning of democracy amongst Eastern Cape residents was at its highest in 2004, reaching a peak of 76%. However, this favourable upswing was short-lived. Throughout the 2005-2018 period, there was a general decline in satisfaction with functioning of democracy, despite infrequent and modest recoveries. Satisfaction with democracy in the province was at its lowest in 2017, when only 19% of adults were satisfied. Satisfaction with democracy rebounded to 40% in 2018, but then progressively declined over subsequent years to 26% in 2021. The provincial average for the full 2003-2021 period is 38%, this is one percentage point higher than the national average of 39%. In 2021, there was a 47-percentage point disparity between the lower and upper bounds, indicated an unprecedented level of variation in provincial satisfaction levels. The Eastern Cape nationally ranked second to last in satisfaction with the functioning of democracy in the country.

**SUPPLY OF DEMOCRACY: Satisfaction with the way democracy is working in South Africa, 2003-21 (%)**



%	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Average
Eastern Cape	45	76	55	51	39	37	39	27	27	33	30	37	37	32	19	40	...	31	26	38
National Avg.	45	62	53	44	49	36	46	43	39	39	33	37	36	31	23	35	...	32	25	39
Upper Bound	53	76	72	64	60	52	62	60	49	52	51	51	48	41	34	51	...	45	58	51
Lower Bound	35	50	40	28	39	18	35	27	27	30	26	29	28	13	13	25	...	19	12	34
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	6	1	4	4	9	4	6	9	9	8	5	4	4	6	8	3	...	6	4	7

Data Source: HSRC South African Social Attitudes Survey (SASAS), 2003-2021

## 2.1.4 Supply of democracy: Country going in the right direction

### GOAL

Determine support for the country's current trajectory

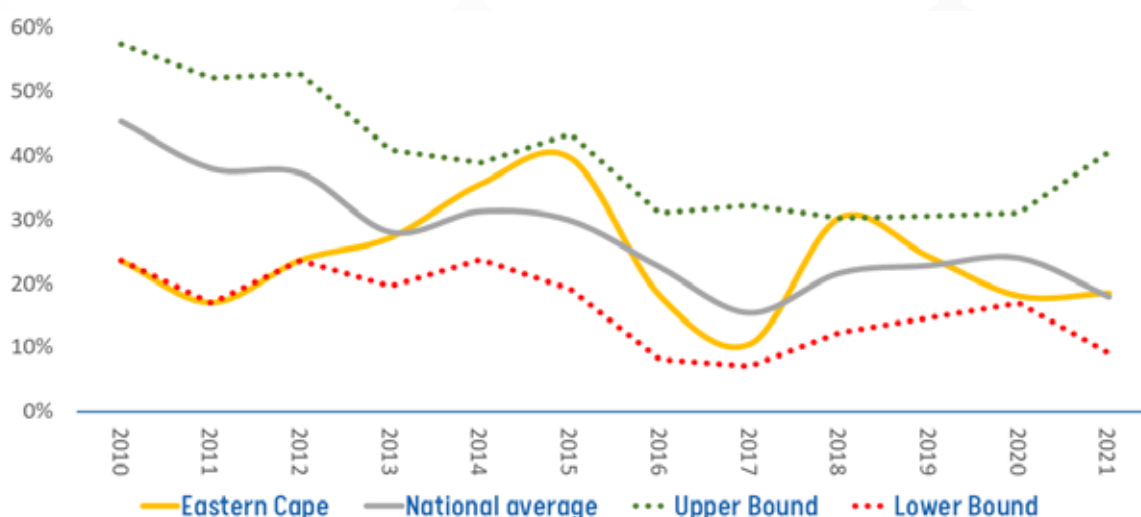
### QUESTION

Generally speaking, do you think that things in this country are going in the right direction or going in the wrong direction? (% right direction)

### ANALYSIS

In 2010, only about a quarter (24%) of Eastern Cape adult residents believed that the country was heading in the right direction. This declined to 17% in 2011 but was followed by an upswing ranging between 24%-40% in 2012 to 2015. The belief that the country is going in the right direction was at its highest in 2015 and at its lowest in 2017 at a meagre 10%. There was a distinct recovery the following year reaching 30%, but this was short-lived. Public confidence again showed a decline in 2020 to 18% before accumulating a five percentage point recovery in 2021 to 23%. On average, across the period, the Eastern Cape ranks seventh out of the nine provinces, meaning that the province can be categorised as among those least optimistic.

**COUNTRY GOING IN RIGHT DIRECTION: Percentage who believe the country is going in the right direction, 2010-2021 (%)**



%	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Average
Eastern Cape	24	17	24	27	36	40	18	10	30	...	18	23	22
National Avg.	45	38	37	28	31	30	23	15	22	...	24	18	28
Upper Bound	57	52	53	41	39	43	31	32	30	...	31	33	37
Lower Bound	24	17	24	20	24	19	8	7	12	...	17	8	22
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	9	9	9	5	3	2	6	7	1	...	8	3	7

Data Source: HSRC South African Social Attitudes Survey (SASAS), 2010-2021



## 2.1.5 Supply of democracy: Evaluation of performance against democratic ideals

### GOAL

Evaluation of elements of democracy. This provides a sense of perceived effectiveness in relation to the progressive realisation of democratic ideals

### QUESTION

For each of the six components of democracy, respondents were asked to indicate the extent to which they believed each applied to South Africa today (mean score, 0-10 applicability scale, where 0=does not apply at all; 10=applies completely)

...Elections in South Africa are free and fair.

...Politicians in South Africa listen to people before making decisions.

...Ruling parties in South Africa are punished in elections when they have done a bad job.

...Citizens in South Africa are able to take part in peaceful and legal protest action to express their dissatisfaction.

...In South Africa, everyone is free to express their political views openly, even if they are extreme.

...Opposition parties in South Africa are free to criticise the government.

### ANALYSIS

'Free and fair elections' in the province was highly rated in 2013, but this was followed by a steady annual decline until it was at its lowest in 2021. This downward trend mirrors the national decline in the degree to which people believed this ideal applies in the country. The evaluation of "viable opposition" also followed a similar declining trend between 2013 and 2021. Both the extent to which the "elected listen to the public" and the supply of "electoral accountability" were evaluated in a harsh light, both in the province and nationally. For 'participation in protest', an increase in evaluation is notable from 2013 to 2016, followed by a decline in 2018 and 2021. The provincial trend is comparable to the nation picture. Throughout the period, Eastern Cape adults have tended to provide below-average evaluations of the supply of "freedom of expression". A steady decline is evident in the evaluation of this ideal both provincially and nationally, with 2021 representing a relative low point.

#### SUPPLY OF DEMOCRACY: Evaluations of different democratic values or ideals, 2013-2021 (mean scores based on a 0-10 scale)

	Ideal 1 Free and Fair Elections				Ideal 2 Elected Listen to the Public				Ideal 3 Electoral Accountability			
	2013	2016	2018	2021	2013	2016	2018	2021	2013	2016	2018	2021
Mean score, 0-10 scale												
Eastern Cape	7.8	7.5	6.7	5.9	3.4	4.6	4.1	4.7	3.5	4.7	4.5	3.9
National Avg.	7.3	7.3	6.6	5.7	4.6	4.5	4.2	4.0	4.4	4.5	4.5	4.0
Upper Bound	7.8	8.0	7.2	6.7	5.3	5.2	5.2	4.8	5.5	5.2	5.3	5.0
Lower Bound	6.2	6.5	5.1	5.1	3.4	4.1	2.8	3.2	3.4	3.7	3.3	3.5
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	1	2	5	3	9	5	5	2	8	4	5	7

	Ideal 4 Participation in Protest				Ideal 5 Freedom of Expression				Ideal 6 Viable Opposition			
	2013	2016	2018	2021	2013	2016	2018	2021	2013	2016	2018	2021
Mean score, 0-10 scale												
Eastern Cape	5.5	6.1	5.6	4.9	5.5	6.1	5.9	5.3	6.8	6.2	5.9	4.8
National Avg.	6.1	6.4	6.0	5.8	6.2	6.6	6.1	5.7	6.3	6.8	6.5	6.1
Upper Bound	6.8	7.3	6.5	6.5	6.7	7.7	6.6	6.6	6.8	7.8	6.9	6.9
Lower Bound	5.2	5.2	4.6	4.9	5.5	5.6	5.0	5.3	5.8	5.6	5.9	4.8
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	8	7	8	8	9	7	7	9	1	8	8	9

Data Source: IEC Voter Participation Survey (VPS) 2013-2021

## 2.1.6 Satisfaction with municipal performance

### GOAL

Determine levels of satisfaction with municipal performance

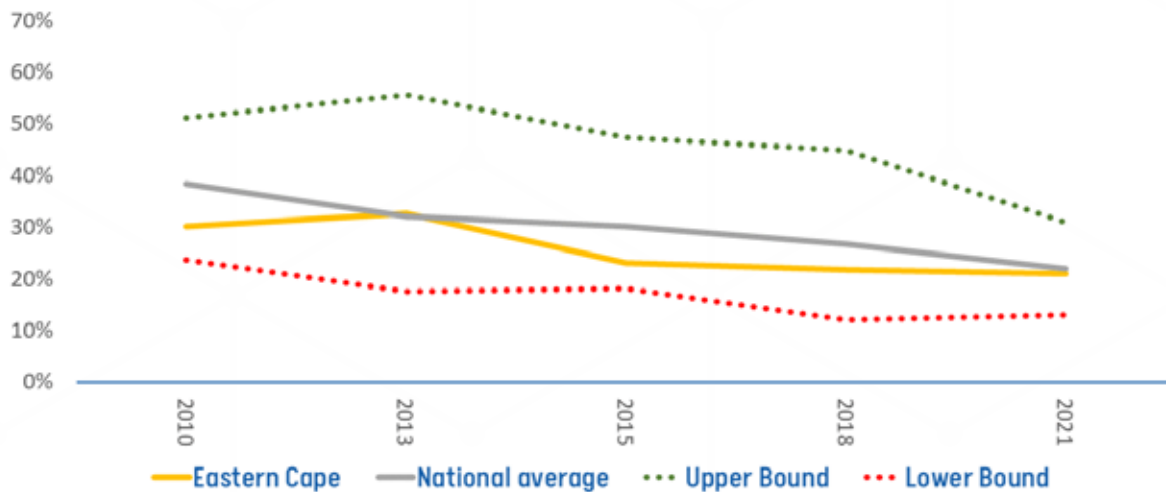
### QUESTION

How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the way your municipality is performing its job at present? (% satisfied / very satisfied)

### ANALYSIS

In 2010, 30% of adults in the Eastern Cape were satisfied with municipal performance, a figure that was well below the national average. By 2013, this share increased three percentage points to 33%, putting it slightly above the national average of 32%. In 2015, 2018 and 2021 residents became more critical of their municipal performance, with satisfaction levels falling appreciably to 23% then 22% and 21% respectively. In comparison with other provinces, the Eastern Cape is ranked 7th in satisfaction with municipal performance on average over the 2010-2021 period. Amongst provincial residents, levels of satisfaction with municipal performance were relatively low, and became worse over time. Although the satisfaction levels in the Eastern Cape remained virtually unsatisfactory in 2018 and 2021, the provincial ranking improved from seventh to second highest. This is a reflection of the larger declines in satisfaction that occurred in other provinces during this period.

**MUNICIPAL SATISFACTION: Satisfaction with the municipal performance, 2010-2021 (%)**



%	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Average
Eastern Cape	30	...	...	33	...	23	...	...	22	...	...	21	26
National Avg.	38	...	...	32	...	30	...	...	27	...	...	22	30
Upper Bound	51	...	...	56	...	47	...	...	45	...	...	31	43
Lower Bound	24	...	...	18	...	18	...	...	12	...	...	13	19
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	8	...	...	5	...	8	...	...	7	...	...	2	7

Data Source: IEC Voter Participation Survey (VPS) 2010-2021



## 2.2. Public trust in political and social institutions

### 2.2.1. Trust in the Electoral Commission

#### GOAL

Public confidence in the Electoral Commission

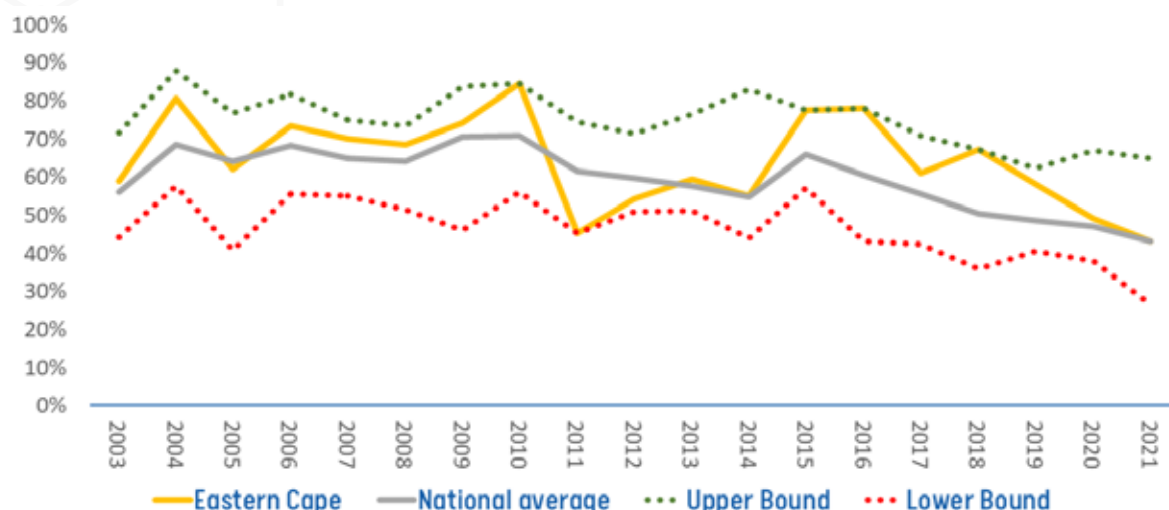
#### QUESTION

To what extent do you trust or distrust the Electoral Commission? (% trust / strongly trust)

#### ANALYSIS

In 2004 81% of adults trusted South African Electoral Commission, this share is 21% higher than the previous year. Over the 2005-2009 period trust in the commission fluctuated between the 62% and 74% range. It was at its highest (85%) in 2010. That was a relatively high period of trust followed by an immediate decline in 2011 falling to 45%, and this was the lowest level of trust during the entire period (2003-2021) even falling far below the national average. A recovery was noticeable in 2012-2013, it was at 54% to 59% before declining to 55% in 2014. In 2015 and 2016 trust in the commission recovered significantly to 78% ranking highest in the country. This high level of trust in the commission is not evident the following years, a sharp decline evident in 2020 and 2021 at 49% and 43% consecutively, this reduced level of trust is partly comparable with 2011.

**CONFIDENCE IN THE COMMISSION: Proportion of the public who trust or strongly trust the Electoral Commission, 2003-2021 (%)**



%	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Average
Eastern Cape	59	81	62	73	70	69	74	85	45	54	59	55	78	78	61	67	...	58	49	64
National Avg.	56	69	64	68	65	64	71	71	61	60	58	55	66	60	55	50	...	47	43	60
Upper Bound	72	88	77	82	80	70	84	82	75	69	77	62	76	67	71	67	...	67	63	72
Lower Bound	44	58	41	55	53	51	46	56	45	51	51	44	57	45	51	36	...	38	27	54
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	4	3	6	3	4	4	3	1	9	7	4	5	1	1	2	1	...	3	3	3

Data Source: HSRC South African Social Attitudes Survey (SASAS), 2003-2021

## 2.2.2 Trust in National Government

### GOAL

Public confidence in National Government

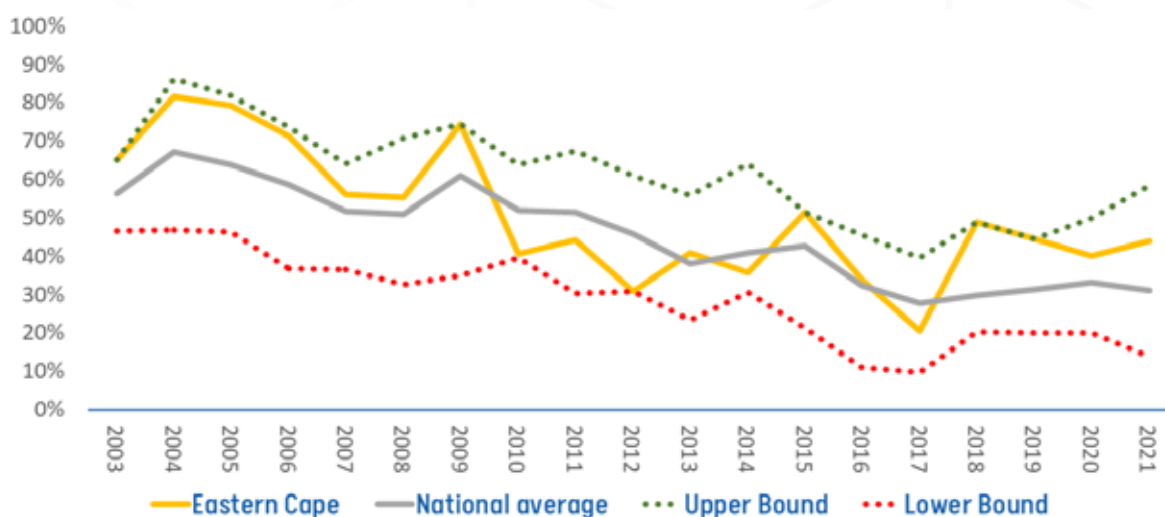
### QUESTION

To what extent do you trust or distrust National Government? (% trust / strongly trust)

### ANALYSIS

Confidence in the national government was at its highest at 82% among Eastern Cape adults in 2004 followed by a four-year period where trust declined reaching 55% in 2008. Trust in the national government recovered in 2009, increasing to 74% when the ANC won national elections and Jacob Zuma was sworn in as president. This peak however was short-lived and was followed by a fluctuation and a decline in confidence over a seven-year period with its highest at 51% in 2015 and lowest at 20% in 2017. Almost half (49%) of the Eastern Cape adults regained confidence in national government in the 2018 survey round, however, the confidence lost over the years was not regained but declined once again 2019 to 30%. In 2021 provincial confidence had somewhat recovered, reaching 44% in that survey round. Nationally the province ranked 3rd over the 2003-2021 period with residents displaying the highest levels of trust in 2003, 2009, 2015, 2018 and 2019 when compared to other provinces.

**CONFIDENCE IN NATIONAL GOVERNMENT: Proportion of the public who trust or strongly trust National Government, 2003-2021 (%)**



%	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Average
Eastern Cape	65	82	79	71	56	55	74	41	44	31	41	36	51	34	20	49	...	40	44	51
National Avg.	56	67	64	59	52	51	61	52	51	46	38	41	43	32	28	30	...	33	31	46
Upper Bound	65	86	82	74	64	71	73	64	67	61	56	64	51	45	40	49	...	50	58	57
Lower Bound	46	47	46	37	37	33	35	40	30	31	23	30	21	11	10	20	...	20	14	32
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	1	2	2	3	6	5	1	8	7	9	4	6	1	4	8	1	...	3	3	3

Data Source: HSRC South African Social Attitudes Survey (SASAS), 2003-2021

## 2.2.3 Trust in Provincial Government

### GOAL

Public confidence in provincial government

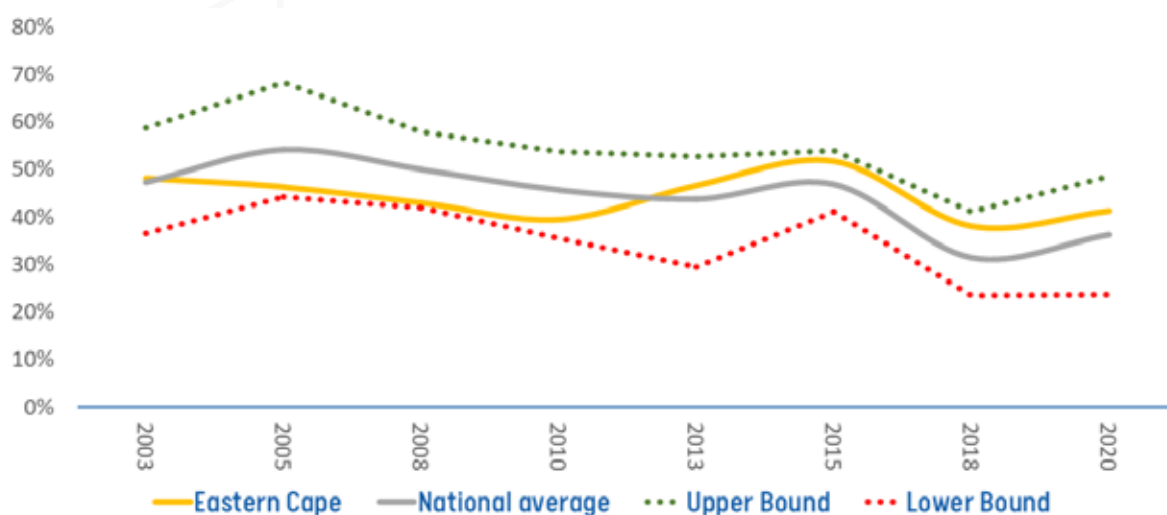
### QUESTION

To what extent do you trust or distrust provincial government? (% trust / strongly trust)

### ANALYSIS

In 2003 almost half (48%) of Eastern Cape adults had confidence in their provincial government. This was followed by a period of declining levels of trust (2005-2010) reflecting the national trend. Trust declined from 46% in 2005 to 39% in 2010. There was a steady improvement in trust in the Eastern Cape between 2013 and 2015 from 47% to 52%. The lowest levels of trust were evident in 2018 when only 38% of adults expressed confidence in the provincial government before recovering to 44% in 2020. For most of the period under assessment, there was relatively little interprovincial variation. Provincial dissimilarities were more pronounced in the early to mid-2000s than the rest of the period. Over the 2003-2020 period the Eastern Cape ranked sixth of the nine provinces when evaluating confidence in provincial government.

**CONFIDENCE IN PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT: Proportion of the public who trust or strongly trust provincial government, 2003-2021 (%)**



%	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Average
Eastern Cape	48	...	46	...	...	43	...	39	...	...	47	...	52	...	...	38	...	44	...	36
National Avg.	47	...	54	...	...	50	...	46	...	...	44	...	47	...	...	31	...	36	...	44
Upper Bound	59	...	68	...	...	58	...	54	...	...	53	...	54	...	...	41	...	49	...	51
Lower Bound	37	...	44	...	...	42	...	36	...	...	29	...	41	...	...	23	...	24	...	37
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	6	...	8	...	...	8	...	8	...	...	4	...	2	...	...	3	...	4	...	6

Data Source: HSRC South African Social Attitudes Survey (SASAS), 2003-2021

## 2.2.4 Trust in Local Government

### GOAL

Public confidence in provincial government

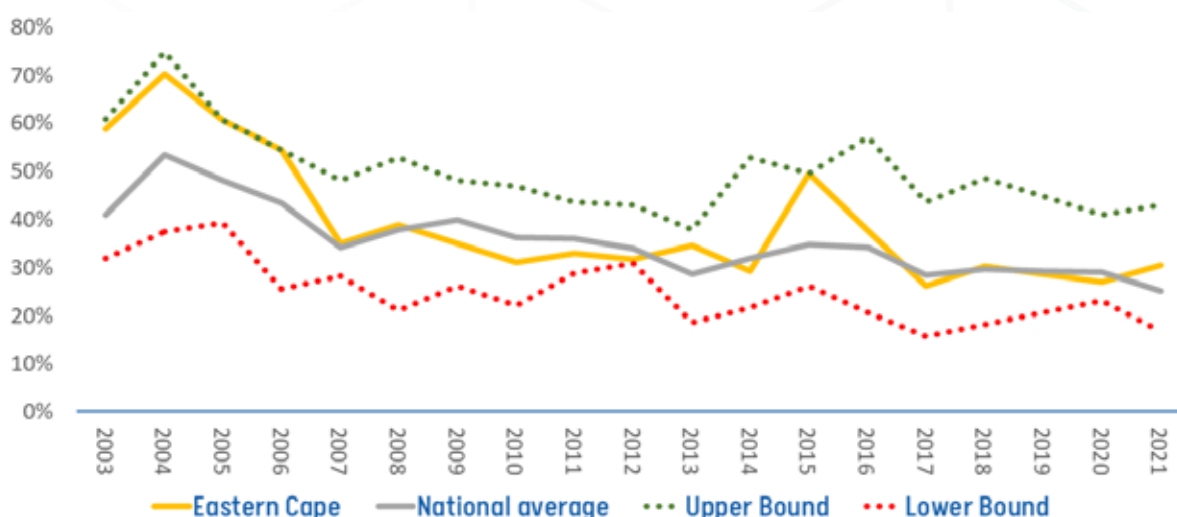
### QUESTION

To what extent do you trust or distrust local government? (% trust / strongly trust)

### ANALYSIS

Confidence in local government in the Eastern Cape was at its highest at 70% in 2004, this is an increase from 59% of the previous year. This was followed by a steady decrease from 61% to 55% between 2005 and 2006 reflecting the national average trend. Trust was still relatively low from 2007 to 2021, falling within the 27%-39% range. The year 2015 was an exception with trust in local government at 50%. With regards to provincial rankings, from 2003 to 2007 Eastern Cape adult residents were a lot more confident in their local government when compared to most provinces. The province ranked high at either first, second or third place in that five-year period. Higher levels of confidence were also reflected in 2015, 2016 and 2021 ranking either first, second or third nationally. From a provincial comparison perspective, trust in this democratic institution indicated a positive level confidence in local government as the province ranked third nationally.

**CONFIDENCE IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT: Proportion of the public who trust or strongly trust local government, 2003-2021 (%)**



%	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Average
Eastern Cape	59	70	61	55	35	39	35	31	33	32	35	29	50	38	26	30	...	27	30	39
National Avg.	41	53	48	43	34	38	40	36	36	34	29	32	35	34	28	30	...	29	25	36
Upper Bound	61	75	61	55	48	53	48	47	44	43	38	53	50	57	44	49	...	41	43	44
Lower Bound	32	37	39	26	28	21	26	22	29	31	19	22	26	21	18	18	...	27	17	30
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	2	2	1	1	3	5	6	7	8	8	4	5	1	2	6	4	...	4	3	3

Data Source: HSRC South African Social Attitudes Survey (SASAS), 2003-2021

## 2.2.5 Trust in Parliament

### GOAL

Public confidence in parliament

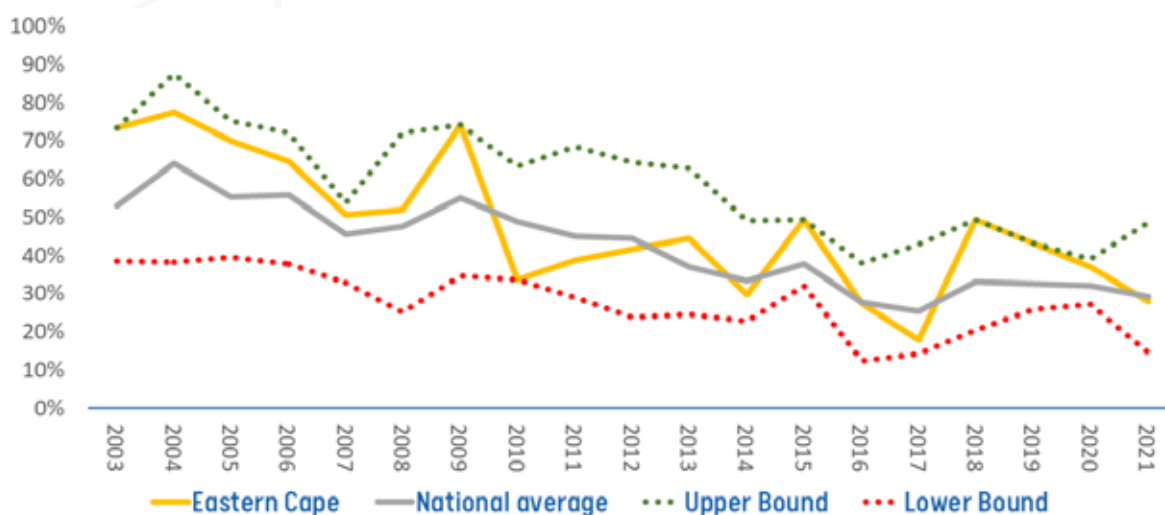
### QUESTION

To what extent do you trust or distrust parliament? (% trust / strongly trust)

### ANALYSIS

In 2003 Eastern Cape ranked highest in level of trust in parliament in contrast to other provinces. During the 2004-2008 period the level of trust began deteriorating in the province, trust declined ranging from a maximum of 78% to 51% in that period. In 2009 provincial residents showed the highest level of confidence in parliament with 74% being optimistic. As of 2010 to 2021 confidence was lost with trends fluctuating between a minimum of 18% and a maximum of 49% during this period. Provincial differences were more distinct in the 2003-2009 period than what was observed between 2010 and 2020, though the provincial differences in trust increased again in 2021. Studying the comparative position of the Eastern Cape over the full period, the position was the province's was very unstable. Eastern Cape residents were in the top three of all provinces during the period 2003-2021 but was ranked sixth in 2021.

**CONFIDENCE IN PARLIAMENT: Proportion of the public who trust or strongly trust parliament, 2003-2021 (%)**



%	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Average
Eastern Cape	73	78	70	64	51	52	74	34	39	42	45	30	49	27	18	49	...	37	28	47
National Avg.	53	64	55	56	46	48	55	49	45	44	37	33	38	28	25	33	...	49	29	42
Upper Bound	73	88	75	72	54	72	74	59	68	64	63	49	49	38	43	49	...	39	49	54
Lower Bound	38	38	39	38	33	39	35	34	29	24	24	23	32	12	14	21	...	27	14	30
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	1	3	3	2	4	6	1	9	6	7	4	6	1	5	8	1	...	3	6	3

Data Source: HSRC South African Social Attitudes Survey (SASAS), 2003-2021

## 2.2.6 Trust in Courts

### GOAL

Public confidence in the courts

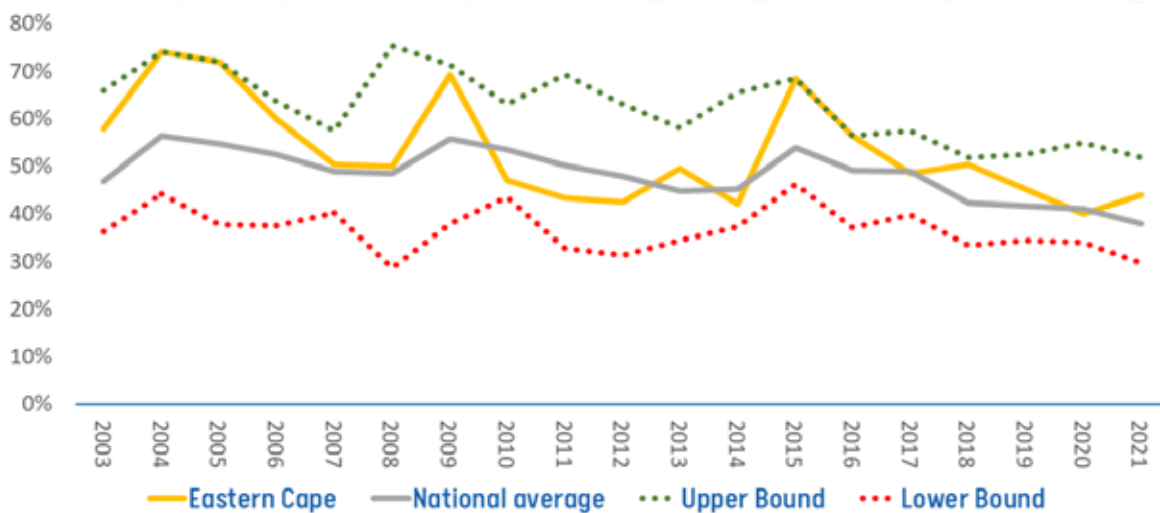
### QUESTION

To what extent do you trust or distrust the courts? (% trust / strongly trust)

### ANALYSIS

Beginning of the survey period Eastern Cape adult residents were fairly happy with the performance of courts steadily ranking either second or first amongst the nine provinces in trust between years 2003-2006, the province was steadily trending above the national average in this period. Rankings were notably high however the proportions of people that expressed trust in courts was decreasing from 74% to 50% between 2004 and 2008. A recovery to 69% is noticeable in 2009 with the province that year ranking second before dropping to the eighth position the following year, then seventh to eighth again in 2011 and 2012 respectively. This is evidence of a very unstable trust in this institution. In 2013 a modest recovery in trust is evident as half of the population (50%) voiced trust in courts ranking fourth that year before ranking lower again at seventh the following year (2014) with 42% being satisfied with courts performances. In the year 2015 68% of adults displayed the highest levels confidence in courts before another downward trend that is evident as of 2016 until 2021.

**CONFIDENCE IN COURTS: Proportion of the public who trust or strongly trust the courts, 2003-2021 (%)**



%	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Average
Eastern Cape	58	74	72	60	50	50	69	47	43	43	50	42	68	56	49	50	...	40	44	53
National Avg.	47	56	55	52	49	49	56	54	50	48	45	45	54	49	49	42	...	41	38	48
Upper Bound	66	74	72	59	57	75	71	63	69	63	58	66	68	56	58	52	...	55	52	57
Lower Bound	36	44	38	37	40	29	38	47	33	31	34	37	46	37	40	33	...	34	30	43
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	2	1	1	2	4	5	2	8	7	8	4	7	1	1	5	2	...	3	4	2

Data Source: HSRC South African Social Attitudes Survey (SASAS), 2003-2021



## 2.2.7 Trust in Political Parties

### GOAL

Public confidence in political parties

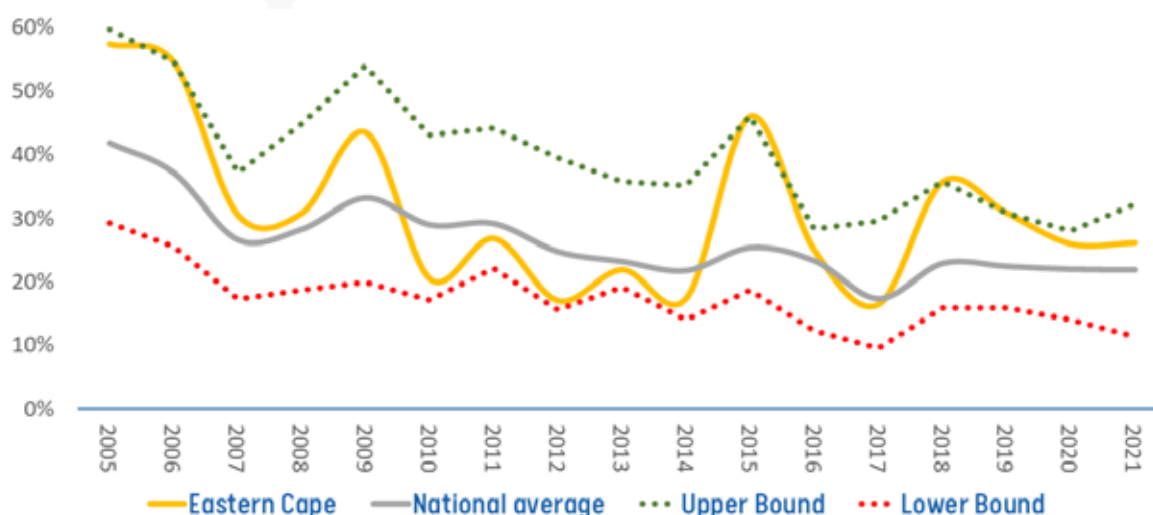
### QUESTION

To what extent do you trust or distrust political parties? (% trust / strongly trust)

### ANALYSIS

Political parties are the least trusted when compared to other organisations/institutes (e.g., courts), three spheres of government, parliament etc. averaging at 31% nationally. People in the Eastern Cape were most trusting of political parties in 2005 with 57% expressing confidence, this level of trust however declined and was never recovered again. This was followed by a steady decline the following three years (2006-2008) reaching 31% in 2008. In 2009 there was a 12% recovery, therefore 43% of adults regained their confidence but this was short lived as it declined fluctuating between the 43% and 17% range until 2014. Trust was partly recovered again in 2015 reaching 46%, this was followed by fluctuations that showed diminished levels of trust towards this institution.

**CONFIDENCE IN POLITICAL PARTIES: Proportion of the public who trust or strongly trust political parties, 2005-2021 (%)**



%	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Average
Eastern Cape	57	55	31	31	43	20	27	17	22	17	46	25	16	36	...	26	26	31
National Avg.	42	37	27	28	33	29	29	25	23	22	25	23	17	23	...	22	22	27
Upper Bound	60	52	37	45	54	43	44	39	36	35	46	28	30	36	...	28	26	37
Lower Bound	29	26	17	19	20	17	22	16	19	14	13	15	9	16	...	14	22	21
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	3	1	2	4	2	7	5	8	4	8	1	5	5	1	...	3	4	3

Data Source: HSRC South African Social Attitudes Survey (SASAS), 2005-2021



## 2.2.8 Trust in Traditional Authorities/Leaders

### GOAL

Public confidence in traditional authorities/leaders

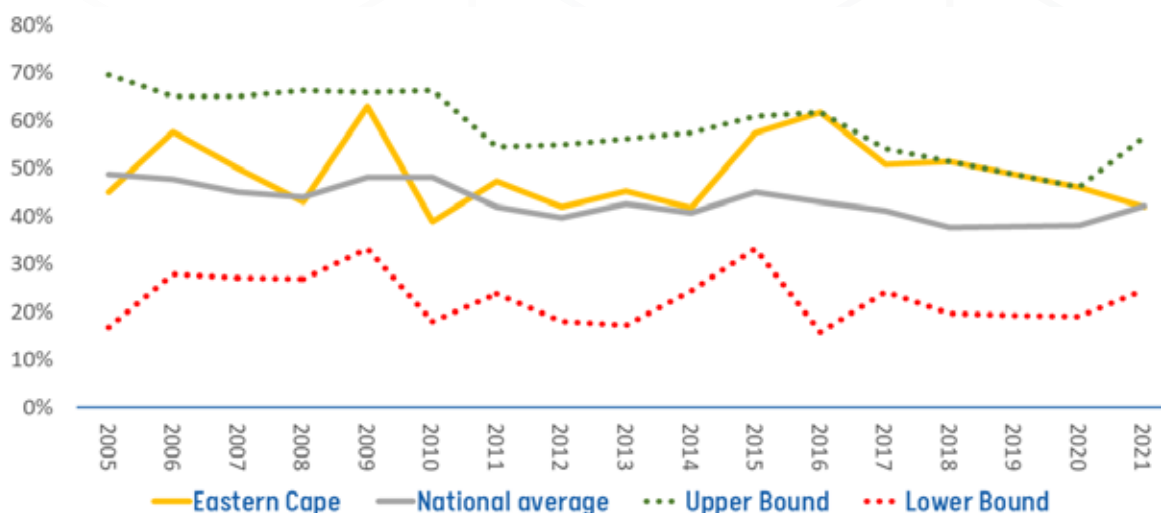
### QUESTION

To what extent do you trust or distrust traditional authorities/leaders? (% trust / strongly trust)

### ANALYSIS

In the Eastern Cape, confidence in traditional authorities has been fairly unstable for half a decade (2005-2010) fluctuating below and above the national average trend. During the complete period (2003-2021) trust was at a national average of 49% and had been below national average trends in 2005, 2008 and 2010. In the next four years (2011-2014) trust in this institution steadied slightly between a 42% to 47% range trending close to national averages. As of 2015-2021 Eastern Cape residents became more trusting with levels of trust trending steadily far above national averages, this province ranked higher either being second or first in these years with the exception of 2021 where ranking was fourth. There is an instability in trust within the province throughout the 2005-2021 period, the province is amongst the most trusting of traditional authorities ranking third highest.

**CONFIDENCE IN TRADITIONAL AUTHORITIES/LEADERS: Proportion of the public who trust or strongly trust traditional authorities/leaders, 2005-2021 (%)**



%	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Average
Eastern Cape	45	58	50	43	63	39	47	42	45	42	57	62	51	51	...	46	42	49
National Avg.	49	48	45	44	48	48	42	40	42	41	45	43	41	38	...	38	42	43
Upper Bound	70	65	65	66	66	66	55	55	56	57	61	62	54	51	...	46	57	55
Lower Bound	17	28	28	27	33	18	24	18	17	24	33	16	24	20	...	19	25	27
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	6	2	2	6	2	6	4	4	5	6	2	1	2	1	...	1	4	3

Data Source: HSRC South African Social Attitudes Survey (SASAS), 2005-2021

## 2.2.9 Confidence in Political Leaders

### GOAL

Determine support for the country's political leadership

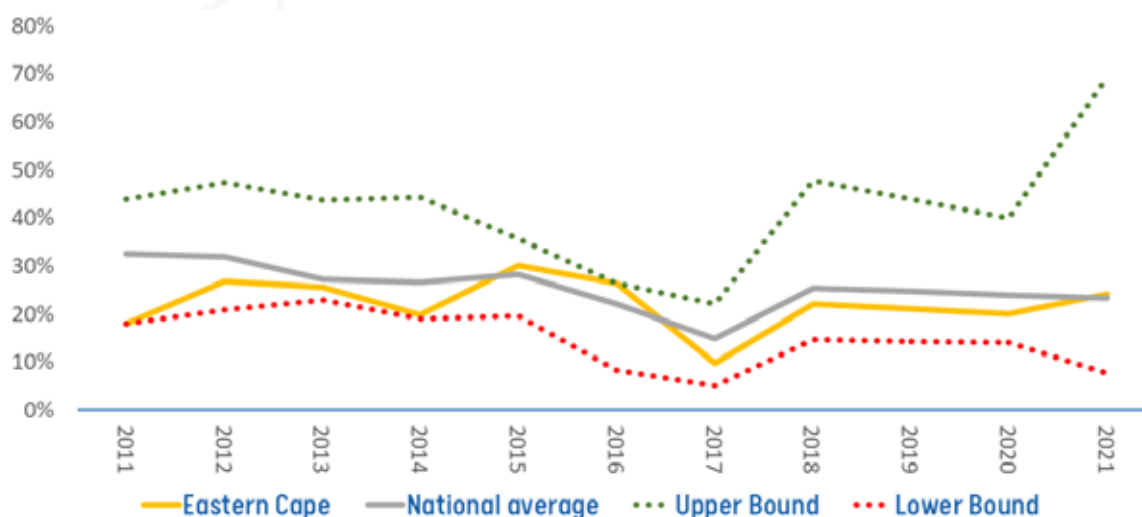
### QUESTION

How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the current political leaders in South Africa? (% satisfied / very satisfied)

### ANALYSIS

Eastern Cape adults, on the whole, are not satisfied with existing political leadership. Only 24% of provincial residents expressed confidence in political leaders in 2021. There has been very low and unstable levels of satisfaction during the 2011 to 2021 period. Satisfaction with leaders reached to its lowest point in 2017, the proportion of the provincial population who were satisfied with political leaders was 10% in that survey round. Overall, Eastern Cape residents are sceptical of existing political leadership with trends constantly falling below national averages with the exception of the year 2015, 2016 and 2021. It is only in 2016 that the Eastern Cape ranked highest in trust in contrast to other provinces, however, the overall national average ranking of the Eastern Cape is second to last reflecting poor levels of trust.

**CONFIDENCE IN POLITICAL LEADERS: Proportion of the public who are satisfied or very satisfied with political leaders, 2011-2021 (%)**



%	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Average
Eastern Cape	18	27	26	20	30	26	10	22	...	20	24	22
National Avg.	33	32	27	27	28	22	15	25	...	24	23	26
Upper Bound	44	47	44	44	36	26	22	48	...	40	69	39
Lower Bound	18	21	23	19	20	8	5	15	...	14	8	20
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	9	7	6	8	5	1	7	4	...	6	3	7

Data Source: HSRC South African Social Attitudes Survey (SASAS), 2011-2021

## 2.2.10 Trust in Religious Institutions

### GOAL

Public confidence in religious institutions

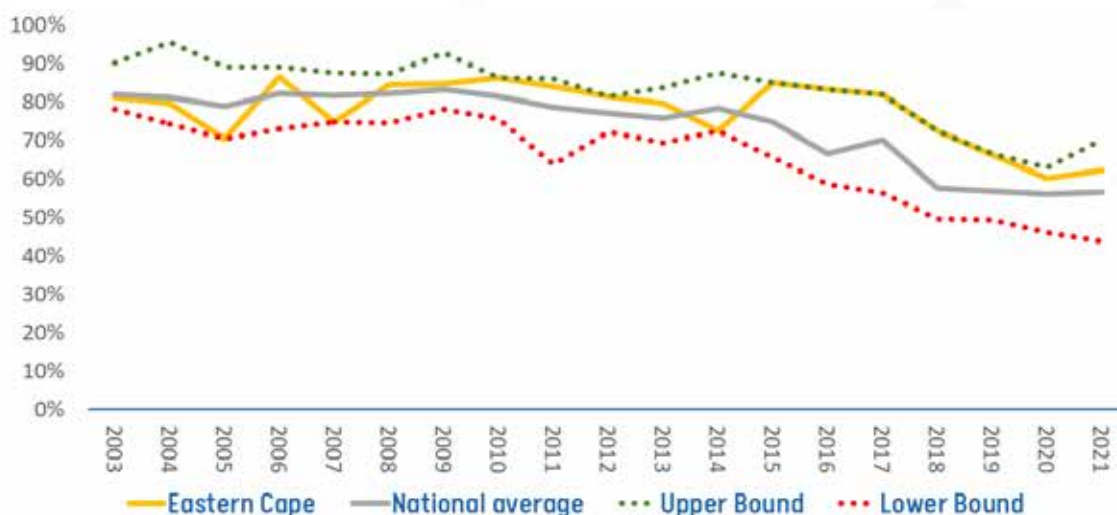
### QUESTION

To what extent do you trust or distrust religious institutions? (% trust / strongly trust)

### ANALYSIS

In comparison to other institutions trust in religious organisation has been relatively high from 2003-2021 ranging between a minimum of 60% and 87% in the province. Trust had always been relatively high until 2018, after this period it fell below the 70% range. For instance, in 2019 and 2020 the decline reaches 66% then 60% respectively before increasing by two percentage points to 62% in 2021. For most of the 2003-2021 period, Eastern Cape residents were more trusting than the national average only occasionally falling below the national trend (such as in 2005 as well as 2007 and 2014). Overall, provincial residents have great confidence in religious institutions and rank the highest in trust amongst the nine provinces.

**CONFIDENCE IN RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS: Proportion of the public who trust or strongly trust religious organisations, 2003-2021 (%)**



%	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Average
Eastern Cape	81	80	70	87	75	84	85	86	84	81	80	72	85	83	82	72	...	60	62	78
National Avg.	82	81	79	82	82	82	83	81	79	77	76	78	75	66	70	58	...	56	56	74
Upper Bound	90	93	89	89	88	87	93	86	86	81	84	87	85	78	79	72	...	63	70	78
Lower Bound	78	74	70	73	75	74	78	75	64	72	69	72	66	58	56	50	...	46	44	71
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	6	6	9	3	9	3	5	1	4	1	4	9	1	1	1	1	...	4	5	1

Data Source: HSRC South African Social Attitudes Survey (SASAS), 2003-2021

## 2.3 Electoral predispositions: Psychological involvement in electoral politics

### 2.3.1 Political interest

#### GOAL

Determine public interest in South African electoral politics

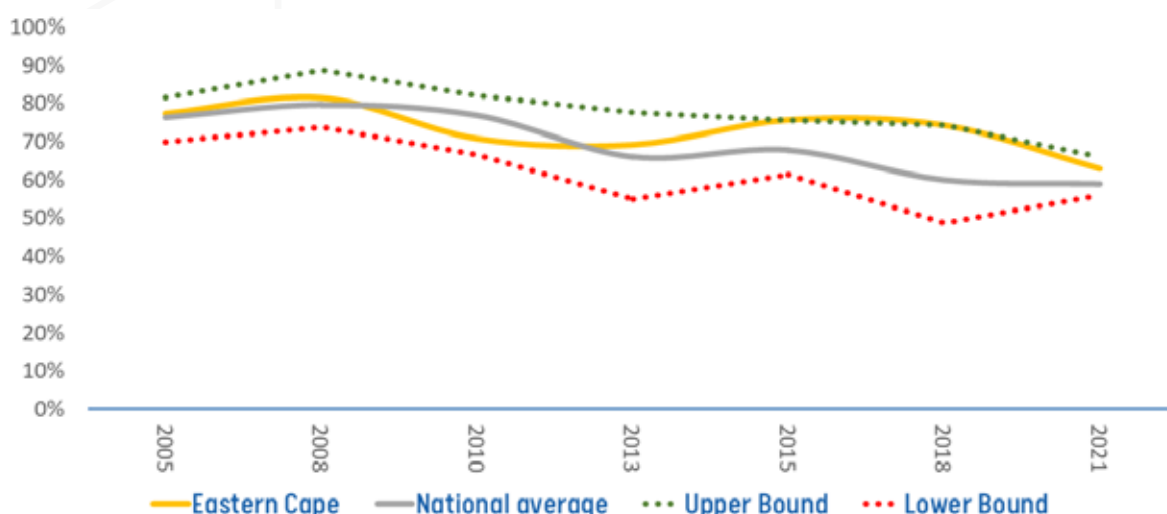
#### QUESTION

In general, how interested are you in government elections? (% very or quite interested)

#### ANALYSIS

A majority (73%) of adult citizens in the Eastern Cape province voiced interest in elections, this ranked them second out of the nine provinces on this indicator. In 2005 and 2008 Eastern Cape residents displayed the highest levels of interest with numbers growing from 77% to 81% respectively hence ranking third nationally. This was followed by a steady decline in interest in 2010 and 2013 (71% to 69%) ranking from seventh to fifth when compared to other provinces. The general level of interest improved in 2015 rising to 76% followed by a 2% decline in 2018, this however was higher than the national average trend. In the years 2015 and 2018, the Eastern Cape ranked the highest nationally before dropping to second place in 2021 matching the national average.

**POLITICAL INTEREST: Proportion of the public who was either very or quite interested in government elections, 2005-2021 (%)**



	2005	2008	2010	2013	2015	2018	2021	Average
Eastern Cape	77	81	71	69	76	74	63	73
National Avg.	76	80	77	66	68	60	59	69
Upper Bound	82	89	82	78	76	74	66	74
Lower Bound	70	74	67	55	61	49	56	76
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	3	3	7	5	1	1	2	2

Data Source: IEC Voter Participation Survey (VPS), 2005-2021

## 2.3.2 Politics easy to understand

### GOAL

Determine how easy the public finds it to understand politics in the country. This relates to the concept of internal political efficacy, which addresses the belief that one can understand politics and therefore participate in politics

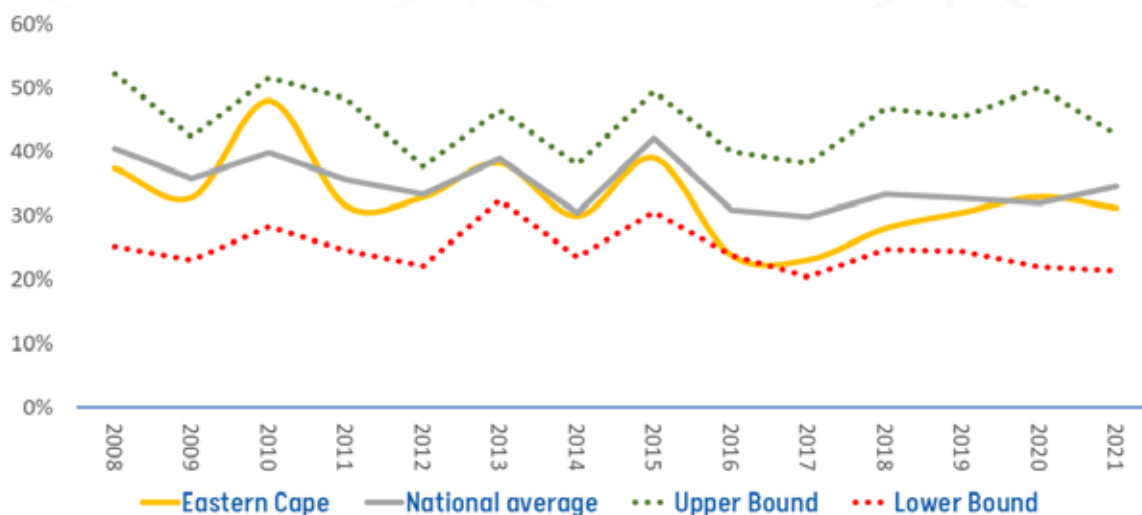
### QUESTION

How often does politics seem so complicated that you cannot really understand what is going on? (% never or seldom)

### ANALYSIS

A significant share of Eastern Cape residents find politics generally difficult to understand. In 2021 slightly less than half (48%) of the adult population in the province considered politics easy to understand. The provincial population in understanding of politics tend to be below the national averages except for the year 2010, 2015, 2020 and 2021. Levels of interprovincial variance observed on this indicator averaged 23 percentage points between 2008 and 2011, narrowing to 16 percentage points between 2012 and 2017. Of all nine provinces, the Eastern Cape ranked sixth for the period 2008-2021. However, in the recent survey round (2021) the province displayed levels of interest and understanding that were higher than all other provincial populations.

**INTERNAL POLITICAL EFFICACY: Proportion of the public who think that politics is relatively easy to understand, 2008-2021 (%)**



%	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Average
Eastern Cape	37	33	48	32	33	38	30	39	24	23	28	...	33	31	33
National Avg.	41	36	40	36	33	39	30	42	31	30	33	...	32	35	35
Upper Bound	52	42	52	48	38	46	38	49	40	38	47	...	50	51	40
Lower Bound	25	23	28	24	22	32	23	31	24	20	25	...	22	23	30
Rank (1-high; 9-low)	7	7	2	7	5	4	5	5	9	6	8	...	4	1	6

Data Source: HSRC South African Social Attitudes Survey (SASAS), 2008-2021



### 2.3.3 Belief in the power of one's vote

#### GOAL

Determine internal political efficacy

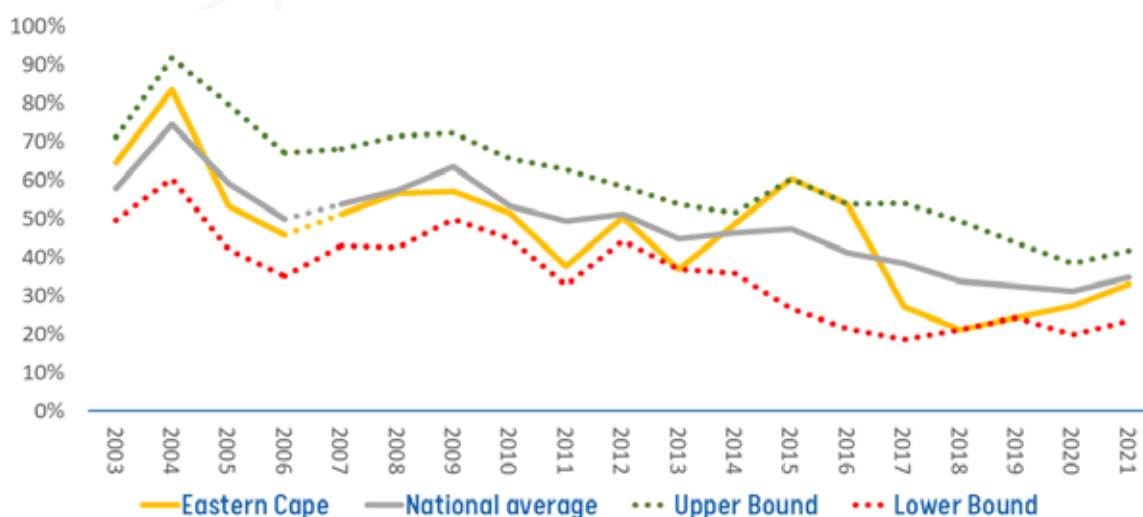
#### QUESTION

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about voting: I vote because my vote makes a difference? (% agree or strongly agree)

#### ANALYSIS

In 2004 Eastern Cape adults were confident in their power to change the status quo by using their right to vote with 83% believing their vote can make a difference. This level of confidence declined in the following years and was never recovered. After 2004 there had been significant changes in public faith in the power of their vote. Notable is a recovery in 2015 (more than a decade since 2004) with 60% of adults being optimistic and inclined to believe their vote can make a difference. The year 2015 was followed by a decline and with the provincial tended to trend below national average for the period 2017-2021. Throughout the full period it is only in 2003, 2004, 2014, 2015 and 2016 that public confidence in the Eastern Cape was trending above national averages. During these years the province was likely to rank first, second, third or fourth.

**INTERNAL POLITICAL EFFICACY: Proportion of the public who disagreed with the statement: "whether or not I vote makes no difference", 2003-2021 (%)**



%	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Average
Eastern Cape	64	83	53	46	51	56	57	51	37	50	37	48	60	54	27	21	...	27	33	46
National Avg.	58	74	59	50	54	57	63	53	49	51	45	46	47	41	38	34	...	31	35	48
Upper Bound	71	92	80	67	68	71	72	65	63	58	54	51	60	54	54	49	...	38	42	58
Lower Bound	50	60	42	35	43	42	50	45	33	44	37	36	26	21	19	21	...	20	23	43
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	2	3	7	7	6	6	7	5	7	7	9	4	1	1	8	9	...	6	7	6

Data Source: HSRC South African Social Attitudes Survey (SASAS), 2003-2021

## 2.3.4 Views on the conduct of politicians and its effect on the meaning of voting

### GOAL

Determine external political efficacy

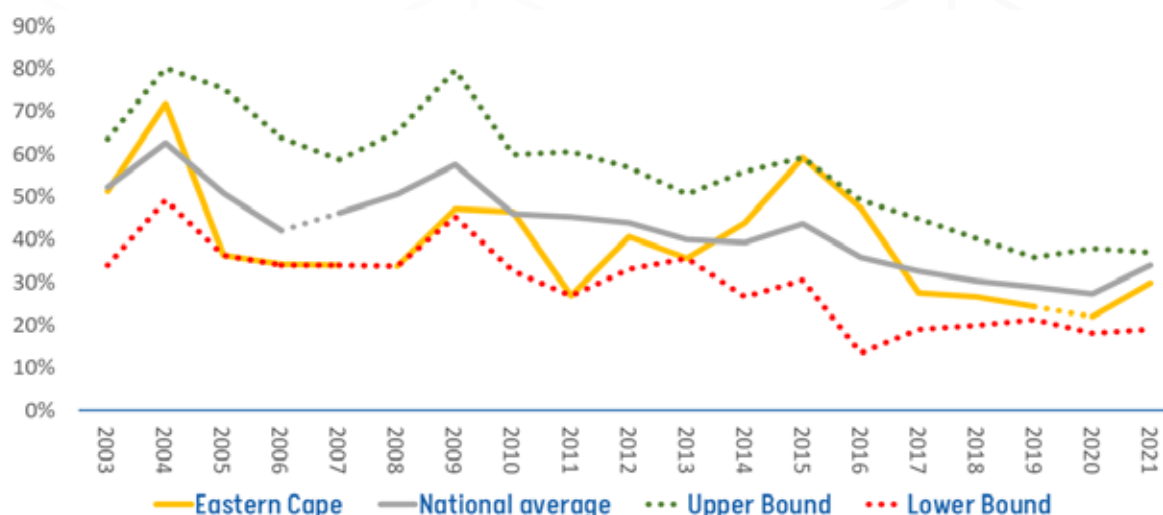
### QUESTION

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about voting: Voting is meaningless because no politician can be trusted? (% disagree or strongly disagree)

### ANALYSIS

Nearly three-quarters (72%) of the Eastern Cape population disagreed that voting was worthless because politicians were unreliable in 2004. Disagreement levels fell below the national average in 2005 but showed a stable (albeit uneven) trend between 2005 and 2008. Provincial disagreement with the statement increased in 2009 before declining again in 2011. Levels of interprovincial variation were quite high between 2003 and 2011, and the Eastern Cape rank was seventh over this period. Another rebound was observed in 2012, 2014 and 2015, an increase of 32 percentage points since 2011. Following this period, the share who disagreed decreased and reached its lowest level in 2020 when only 22% disagreed with the statement. In the last survey round, we can see an increase in disagreement of 8 percentage points.

**EXTERNAL POLITICAL EFFICACY: Proportion of the public who disagreed with the statement: "voting is meaningless because no politician can be trusted", 2003-2021 (%)**



%	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Average
Eastern Cape	51	72	36	34	34	34	47	47	27	41	36	44	59	47	27	27	...	22	30	39
National Avg.	52	63	51	42	46	51	57	46	45	44	40	39	44	36	33	30	...	27	34	43
Upper Bound	64	80	75	64	59	65	80	60	60	57	51	56	59	49	45	40	...	38	37	51
Lower Bound	34	49	36	34	34	34	45	32	27	33	36	27	30	13	19	20	...	18	19	39
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	9	4	6	4	3	1	6	6	1	4	4	1	2	3	1	5	...	4	9	3

Data Source: HSRC South African Social Attitudes Survey (SASAS), 2003-2021

## 2.3.5 Duty to vote

### GOAL

Determine public allegiance in participation in elections

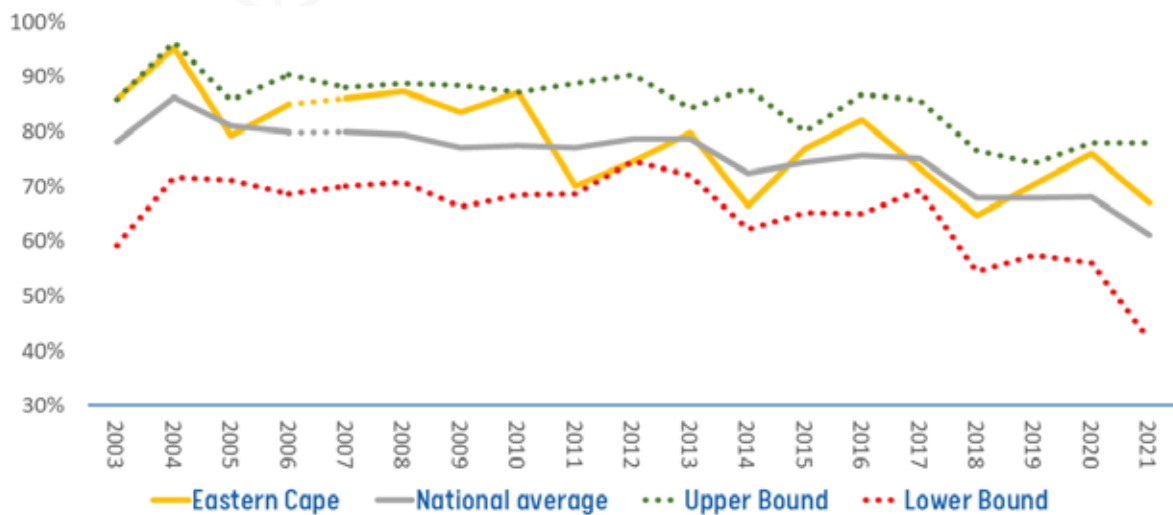
### QUESTION

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about voting?: It is the duty of all citizens to vote. (% agree or strongly agree)

### ANALYSIS

In 2003 and 2010 the Eastern Cape ranked highest of the nine provinces in terms of whether the provincial populace thought it was the duty of all South Africans to vote. Throughout the period (2003-2020) positive attitudes were relatively high and stable. Agreement with this statement was, on average, 79% of Eastern Cape residents for the period 2003-2021. This is three percentage points higher than the national average. Annually, support had been trending above the national average (with the exception of the year 2005, 2011, 2012, 2014, 2017 and 2018). During these years the Eastern Cape would either rank seventh, eighth or last.

**DUTY TO VOTE: Proportion of the public who agreed with the statement: "it is the duty of all citizens to vote", 2003-2021 (%)**



%	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Average
Eastern Cape	86	95	79	85	86	87	84	87	70	75	80	66	77	82	73	65	...	76	67	79
National Avg.	78	86	81	80	80	80	77	77	77	79	79	72	74	76	75	68	...	68	61	76
Upper Bound	86	96	86	90	88	89	88	87	89	90	84	88	80	87	86	76	...	78	78	81
Lower Bound	59	72	71	69	70	71	66	68	69	75	72	62	65	65	69	54	...	56	42	70
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	1	3	7	4	3	2	4	1	8	9	4	8	3	4	7	7	...	2	3	3

Data Source: HSRC South African Social Attitudes Survey (SASAS), 2003-2021

## 2.3.6 Voting intention

### GOAL

Evaluate the voting intention of the general population

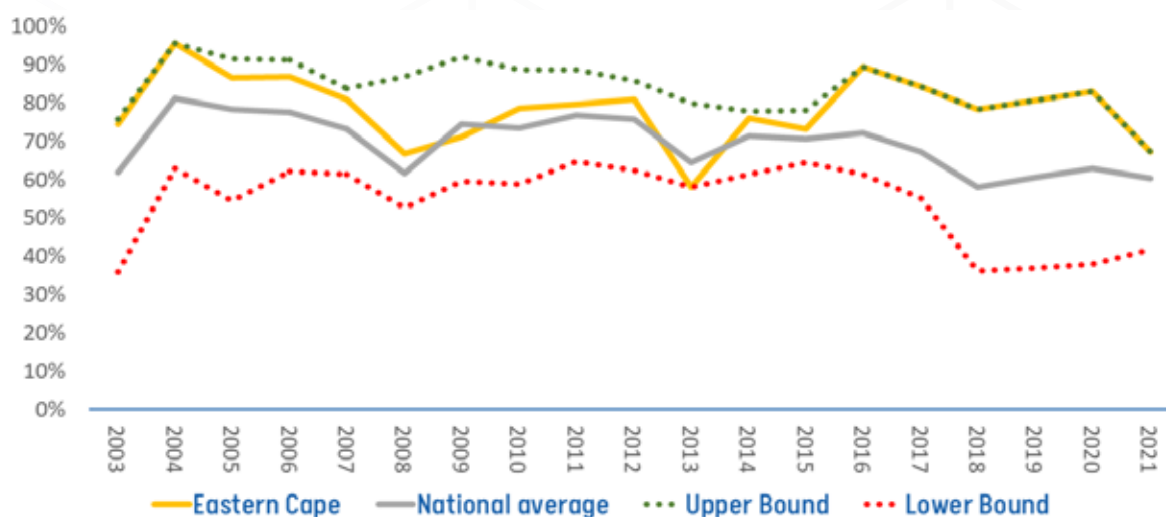
### QUESTION

If a government election was held tomorrow, would you vote? (% who would vote)

### ANALYSIS

From 2003-2021 the proportion of adults who believed they would vote if elections were held tomorrow were relatively high at 79% ranking the province first of the nine. Almost two-thirds of provincial residents (67%) in 2021 said that they would vote if hypothetically elections were held tomorrow, this was seven percentage points higher than the national average. The year 2021 had the second lowest number of adults who would vote after 2015 which had a maximum of 58%. It was in two survey rounds that the provincial trend was higher than the national average trend and the exception to this trend was 2009 and 2013. In these two years the province would either rank seventh or eighth out of the nine provinces. When comparing Eastern Cape with other provinces it ranked highest in desire to vote in 2004, 2008 and 2016-2021.

**VOTING INTENTION: Proportion of the public who would vote if a government election was held tomorrow, 2003-2021 (%)**



%	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Average
Eastern Cape	74	96	87	87	81	67	71	79	80	81	58	76	73	89	84	78	...	83	67	79
National Avg.	62	81	78	77	73	62	74	74	77	76	64	71	71	72	67	58	...	63	60	70
Upper Bound	76	96	92	91	84	87	92	89	87	86	80	78	78	89	84	68	...	83	67	79
Lower Bound	36	63	54	62	61	53	60	59	65	62	58	61	64	61	55	36	...	38	42	61
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	2	1	3	2	2	1	7	4	4	4	8	3	3	1	1	1	...	1	1	1

Data Source: HSRC South African Social Attitudes Survey (SASAS), 2003-2021

## 2.3.7 Administrative barriers leading to non-voting behaviour

### GOAL

Examining the share planning to abstain in elections due to administrative barriers

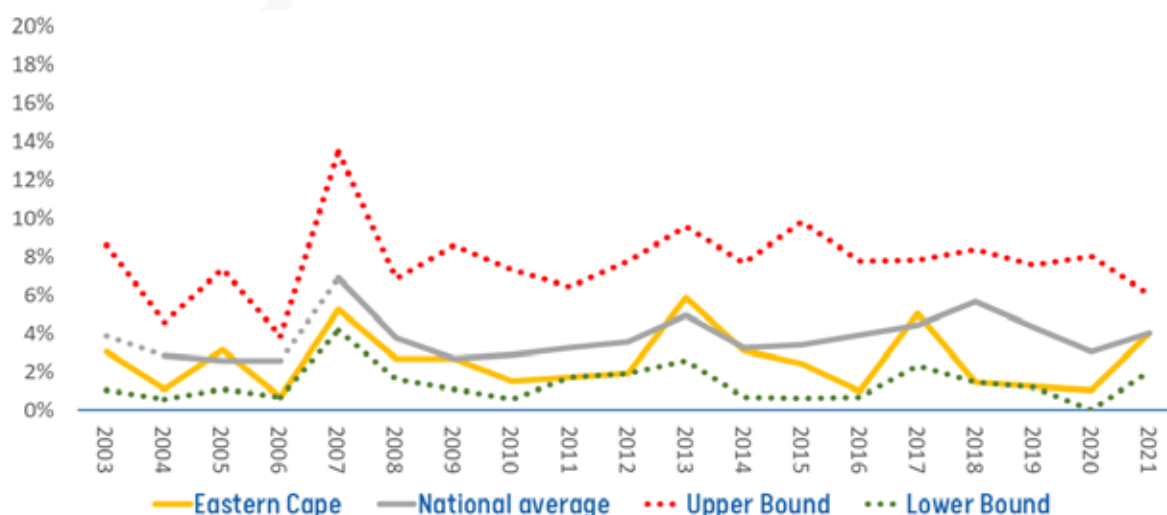
### QUESTION

What is your main reason for thinking that you would not vote if an election were held tomorrow? (% mentioning administrative barriers, averaged across voting age population)

### ANALYSIS

Planned abstention due to administrative barriers accounts for a small average share of 4% the in Eastern Cape. Administrative barriers include not being registered to vote, not being in possession of necessary documents, and the voting station being too far away from one's place of residence. For almost two decades (2003-2021) only 1%-5% of citizens eligible to vote cited administrative barriers as the main reason that they would not vote in a hypothetical election. Overall, the proportion of the population who give this reason for not voting remains quite small. Over the full period, the provincial ranking of the Eastern Cape was second. When compared to other provinces, the Eastern Cape was second most likely to cite administration as a barrier to participating in elections.

**ADMINISTRATIVE BARRIERS: Proportion of the public who would not vote due to administrative barriers if government elections were held tomorrow, 2003-2021 (%)**



%	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Average
Eastern Cape	3	1	3	1	5	3	3	2	...	2	6	3	2	1	5	1	...	1	5	4
National Avg.	4	3	3	3	7	4	3	3	...	4	5	3	3	4	4	6	...	3	4	4
Upper Bound	1	1	1	1	4	2	1	1	...	2	3	1	1	1	2	1	...	8	6	5
Lower Bound	9	5	7	4	13	7	9	7	...	8	10	8	10	8	8	8	...	0	2	3
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	7	7	4	9	5	6	4	7	...	9	4	5	5	7	5	9	...	3	4	2

Data Source: HSRC South African Social Attitudes Survey (SASAS), 2003-2021



## 2.3.8 Voter registration patterns

### GOAL

Ensure that eligible voters are registered

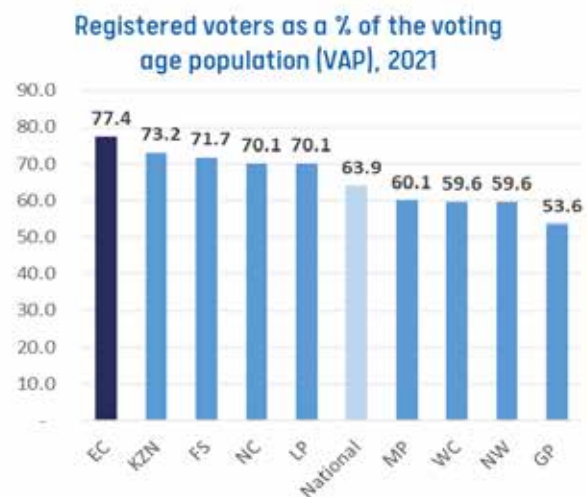
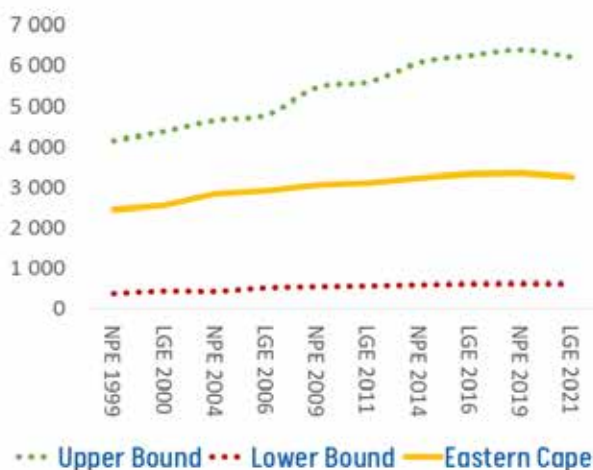
### QUESTION

Number of South Africans that are registered to vote in National and Provincial Elections (NPE) and Local Government Elections (LGE); percentage of voting age population that is registered

### ANALYSIS

In the ten government elections held between 1999 and 2019, voter registration patterns in the Eastern Cape are similar to the national average. The number of registered voters grew from 2.5 million at the beginning of the period to 3.4 million at the end. With each successive election the number of citizens that are registered to vote had increased. The number of registered voters in the province fell between 2019 and 2021, declining about a hundred thousand during this period. As of the year 2021 the proportion of South African adults in the Eastern Cape that are of voting age and are registered to vote is 77%. This figure is fourteen percentage points above the national average of 64% and the province has the highest registration rate in the country.

**REGISTRATION PATTERNS: Number of registered voters, 1999-2021 (in thousands), and percentage of the voting age population that was registered in 2021**



	1999	2000	2004	2006	2009	2011	2014	2016	2019	2021	2021 as a % of voting age population
Eastern Cape	2 455	2 550	2 849	2 908	3 057	3 112	3 240	3 338	3 363	3 253	77,4
National Avg.	18 173	18 478	20 675	21 055	23 182	23 654	25 383	26 333	26 750	26 205	63,9
Upper Bound	4 154	4 373	4 651	4 786	5 462	5 593	6 064	6 235	6 381	6 196	77,4
Lower Bound	377	443	434	529	555	572	601	621	626	623	53,6

Data Source: Electoral Commission of South Africa (IEC) official registration statistics, 1999-2021

## 2.3.9 Ease of registration

### GOAL

Ease of registration

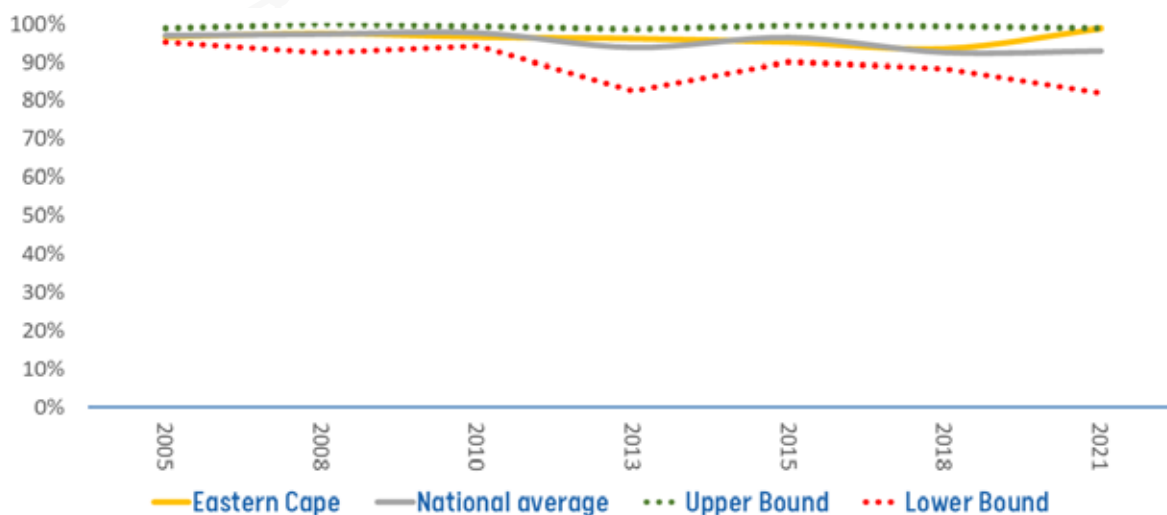
### QUESTION

How easy or difficult did you find it to register as a voter? (% easy or very easy)

### ANALYSIS

There is almost unanimous agreement amongst adult citizens that the voting registration process is easy. On average it is 96% of registered voters in the Eastern Cape as well as outside the province that found the process easy and 99% thought it was easy in 2021. Over the period this number ranged between impressive average values of 94% and 99%. Despite these fluctuations, the view that the registration process was straightforward was widespread, and commonly observed across provinces. Taking the period 2005-2021 as a whole, the Eastern Cape ranks fourth when compared to the nine other provinces. However, the province was ranked first, obtaining a percentage six points above the national level.

**EASE OF REGISTRATION: Perceived ease of the registration process, 2005-2021 (% finding it 'easy' or 'very easy')**



	2005	2008	2010	2013	2015	2018	2021	Average
Eastern Cape	97	98	97	96	95	94	99	96
National Avg.	97	97	98	94	97	93	93	96
Upper Bound	99	100	99	99	100	99	99	97
Lower Bound	95	92	94	82	90	88	82	94
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	6	4	7	6	6	5	1	4

Data Source: IEC Voter Participation Survey (VPS) 2005-2021

## 2.3.10 Duration of registration process

### GOAL

Determine the time taken to register as a voter

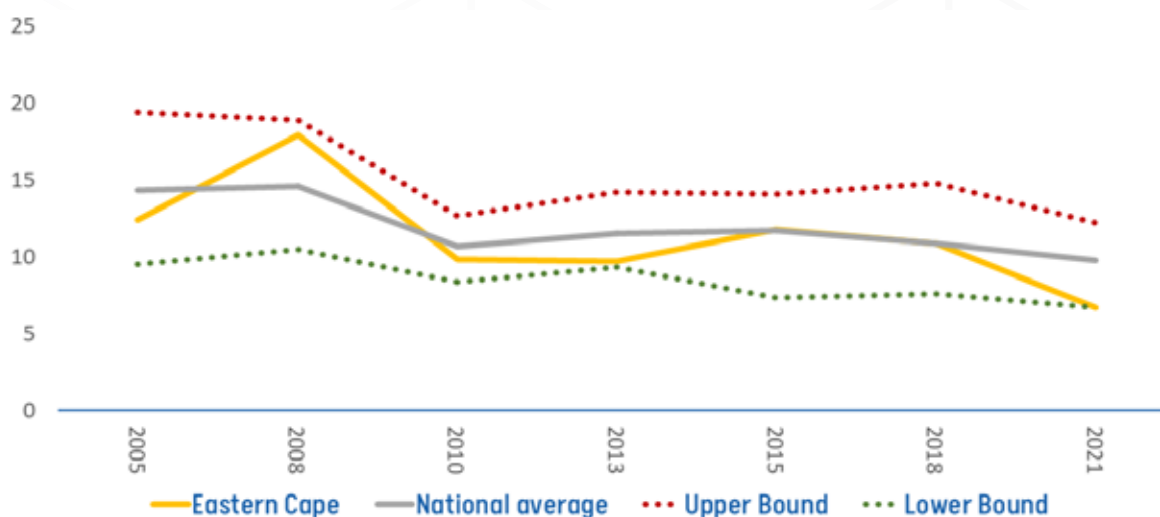
### QUESTION

How many minutes did it take you to register to vote? (average number of minutes)

### ANALYSIS

In 2005 residents reported 12 min as the average time to register to vote, before increasing to 21 minutes in 2008. This was the highest reported time throughout the period under review. Between 2010 and 2018 reported time was fairly stable ranging 10-12 minutes on average. Time had significantly declined in 2021 with 7 minutes being the shortest reported average time. Total average registration time throughout the period under review was 11 minutes, and this duration is one minute less than the overall national average. This result is consistent with the national trend that administrative barriers do not prevent voters from participating in government elections in South Africa. Based on this evaluation of registration time, it would appear that the process had been easy and duration decreasing as years pass.

**TIME TAKEN TO REGISTER: Average number of minutes that it took citizens to register to vote, 2005-2021**



	2005	2008	2010	2013	2015	2018	2021	Average
Eastern Cape	12	18	10	10	12	11	7	11
National Avg.	14	15	11	11	12	11	10	12
Upper Bound	19	19	13	14	14	15	12	14
Lower Bound	10	12	9	10	7	8	16	10
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	2	3	2	2	2	2	1	2

Data Source: IEC Voter Participation Survey (VPS) 2005-2021



**PART**

**C**

**CAMPAIGN  
PERIOD**

# 3. CAMPAIGN PERIOD

## 3.1. Campaign integrity

### GOAL

Determine public views on the integrity of aspects of the election campaign period

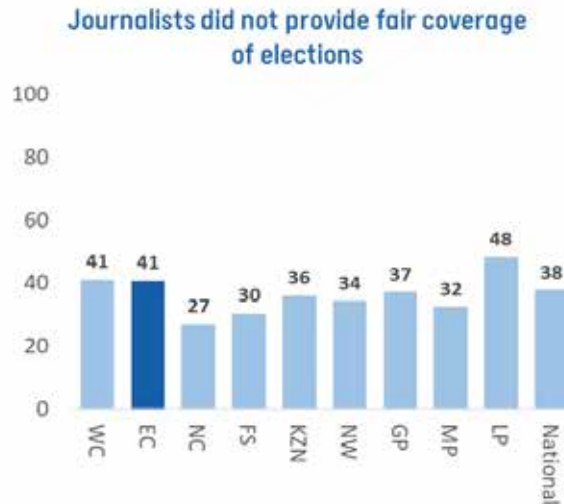
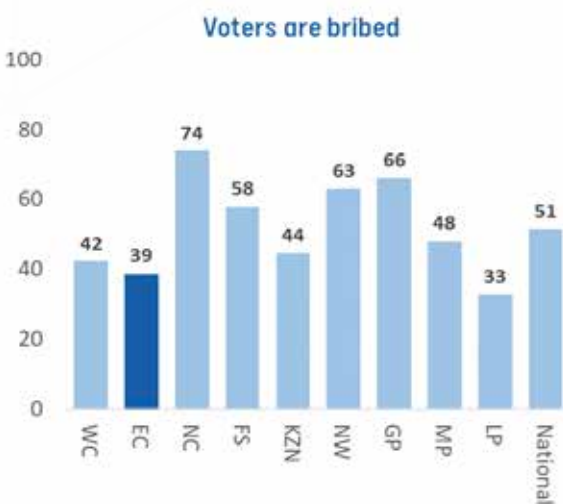
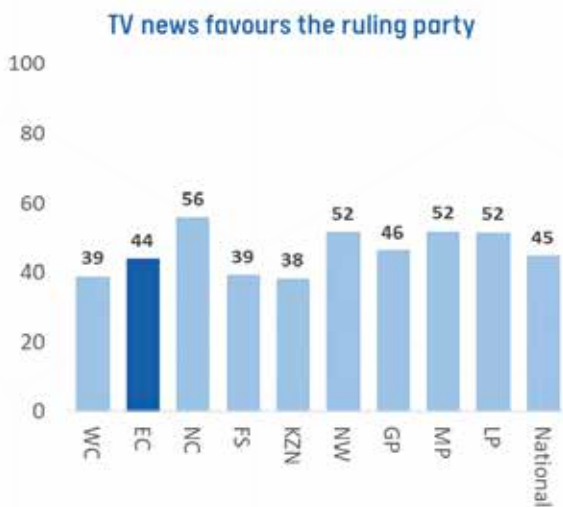
### QUESTION

In your view, how often do the following six things occur in this country's elections. Respondent is then a read a list of six statements (%% very or fairly often)

### ANALYSIS

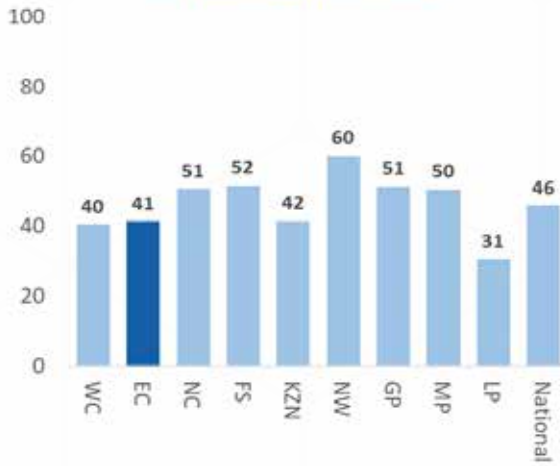
People in the Eastern Cape displayed a fairly high level of scepticism with regard the integrity of the electoral campaigning period. More two-fifths of the adult population (44%) believed that TV news favoured the ruling party while 41% thought that journalists did not provide fair coverage of elections. Corruption concerns were also evident, with 39% of the provincial public stating that people were receiving cash, gifts or services in exchange for their vote. More than two-fifths (41%) of adults in the province thought wealthy elites were influencing elections and 39% said that voters were being bribed. A third (32%) of citizens in the country felt that voters are not being offered a genuine choice at the ballot box.

**CAMPAIGN INTEGRITY: Percentage saying different electoral occurrences happen very or fairly often in the country, 2021 (%)**





Rich people buy elections



Voters are not offered a genuine choice at the ballot box



	TV news favours the ruling party	Some people received cash, gifts or services for their vote	Voters are bribed	Journalists did <u>not</u> provide fair coverage	Rich people buy elections	Voters are <u>not</u> offered a genuine choice
Eastern Cape	44	39	39	41	41	32
National Avg.	45	53	51	38	46	26
Upper Bound	56	67	74	48	60	39
Lower Bound	38	39	33	27	31	12
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	6	9	8	3	7	2

Data Source: IEC Voter Participation Survey (VPS) 2021

### 3.1.1 Political party tolerance during campaigning

#### GOAL

Establish whether the voting public felt that political parties and candidates demonstrated tolerance during the campaign period

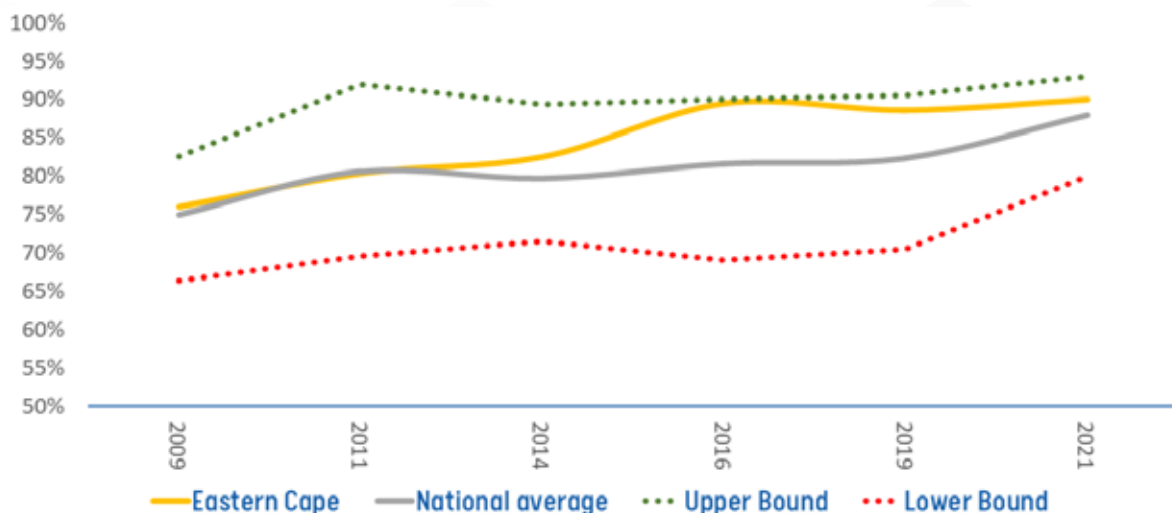
#### QUESTION

Do you think that political parties/independent candidates were tolerant of one another during campaigns for these elections? (% very / somewhat tolerant)

#### ANALYSIS

More than three-quarters (76%) of voters in the Eastern Cape indicated that political parties and independent candidates demonstrated general tolerance during the campaigning period ahead of elections in 2009. This positive assessment of party and candidate conduct is reflected in subsequent electoral contexts in subsequent survey rounds. Evaluations on this indicator increased by 14 percentage points between 2009 and 2021. Quite low interprovincial variations were noted on this measure for this period, and the average difference between the upper and lower bounds was 9 percentage points. Voters in the province generally scored above the national average for the period 2014-2021 and was ranked second for the full period.

**POLITICAL PARTY TOLERANCE: Percentage of voters that believed political parties / independent candidates displayed tolerance during the campaigning period, 2009-2021 (% tolerant)**



	2009	2011	2014	2016	2019	2021	Average
Eastern Cape	76	80	82	90	89	90	85
National Avg.	75	81	80	82	82	88	81
Upper Bound	83	92	89	90	91	93	86
Lower Bound	66	70	71	69	70	80	77
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	4	5	3	2	2	4	2

Data Source: IEC Election Satisfaction Survey (VPS) 2009-2021

## 3.2 Voter education

### 3.2.1 Sources of information on voting

#### GOAL

Determine the main voting information sources used by the public

#### QUESTION

Where do you usually get information about voting? (Multiple response - percentage mentioning each information source)

#### ANALYSIS

In accessing information about voting, the pattern observed among the voting age public over the period 2008-2021 varies by year. Broadcast media was the most popular source of information in the Eastern Cape, with 48% relying on television and 39% on radio. In terms of provincial ranking, the public in the Eastern Cape on average are the fourth most likely to use radio and the fifth most likely use television as information sources when compared to all other provinces. Print media such as newspapers was used by 23% of adults while 20% used posters as source of information. Informal social networks are mentioned by 11%. Despite its contemporary popularity, social media was mentioned by only a small proportion (2%) in the Eastern Cape. Social media is the least likely source of information ranking ninth when compared to other provinces.

**VOTING INFORMATION SOURCES: Percentage of voting age public that used different information sources about voting, 2008-2021 (% mentioning each source)**

	2008	2010	2013	2015	2018	2021	Total
<b>Television</b>							
Eastern Cape	43%	37%	53%	44%	66%	48%	48%
National Average	47%	50%	43%	48%	57%	59%	59%
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	7	9	2	5	2	7	5
<b>Radio</b>							
Eastern Cape	27%	39%	35%	35%	62%	39%	39%
National Average	39%	36%	30%	30%	39%	33%	35%
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	9	3	5	5	1	2	4
<b>Newspaper</b>							
Eastern Cape	19%	10%	23%	23%	41%	22%	23%
National Average	34%	31%	24%	24%	29%	23%	27%
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	9	9	7	7	2	4	8
<b>Poster</b>							
Eastern Cape	8%	10%	27%	27%	32%	17%	20%
National Average	19%	24%	22%	22%	22%	17%	21%
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	9	9	4	4	2	4	5
<b>Informal social networks</b>							
Eastern Cape	4%	11%	12%	12%	21%	6%	11%
National Average	12%	15%	12%	12%	16%	8%	12%
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	9	7	5	5	3	6	5
<b>Social media</b>							
Eastern Cape	0%	1%	1%	2%	5%	2%	2%
National Average	2%	2%	2%	6%	4%	7%	4%
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	9	6	6	9	5	7	9

Data Source: IEC Voter Participation Survey (VPS) 2008-2021

## 3.2.2 Preferred source of information on voting

### GOAL

Determine the preferred sources of information on voting

### QUESTION

What would be your preferred channel to get information on voting? (Single response)

### ANALYSIS

The Demand for TV in the Eastern Cape was highest at total average of 55% when compared to other sources of information and this higher than the national total average of 57%. The demand on each survey round is equivalent or higher than national averages except for 2010 where TV was preferred by 42% falling below the 57% national average. 2010 had the lowest demand for TV and highest in 2018. Radio was second most preferred by a total provincial average of 19% which is four percentage points higher than the national average, the Eastern Cape ranked third nationally. Posters were a third preference although ranking second to last nationally, they were preferred by 5% in contrast to the 6% total national average. Newspapers and Informal social networks were preferred by 4% with newspapers ranking lowest and Informal social networks sixth. Newspapers have a total national average of 6% and 3% for social networks. Social media was the least preferred source of information with a total of 2% provincially and 3% nationally.

#### PREFERRED INFORMATION SOURCE: Most preferred source of information about voting among the voting age public, 2008-2021 (%)

	2008	2010	2013	2015	2018	2021	Total
<b>Television</b>							
Eastern Cape	57%	42%	63%	60%	62%	55%	55%
National Average	57%	57%	58%	60%	53%	55%	57%
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	3	4	9	1	9	7	7
<b>Radio</b>							
Eastern Cape	23%	32%	9%	14%	19%	16%	19%
National Average	21%	15%	13%	12%	15%	14%	15%
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	4	1	8	4	3	6	3
<b>Newspaper</b>							
Eastern Cape	5%	3%	3%	5%	4%	4%	4%
National Average	8%	7%	6%	5%	5%	6%	6%
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	8	8	9	3	5	6	9
<b>Poster</b>							
Eastern Cape	1%	5%	11%	3%	3%	6%	5%
National Average	3%	7%	8%	5%	8%	5%	6%
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	8	4	1	6	7	2	7
<b>Informal social networks</b>							
Eastern Cape	2%	2%	4%	5%	5%	3%	3%
National Average	5%	4%	15%	14%	25%	8%	10%
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	1%	0%	0%	1%	0%	1%	2%
<b>Social media</b>							
Eastern Cape	0%	4%	2%	2%	2%	3%	2%
National Average	1%	1%	2%	4%	5%	8%	3%
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	7	1	6	7	7	7	8

Data Source: IEC Voter Participation Survey (VPS) 2008-2021

### 3.2.3 Demand for information on voting

#### GOAL

Establish demand for more information on voting

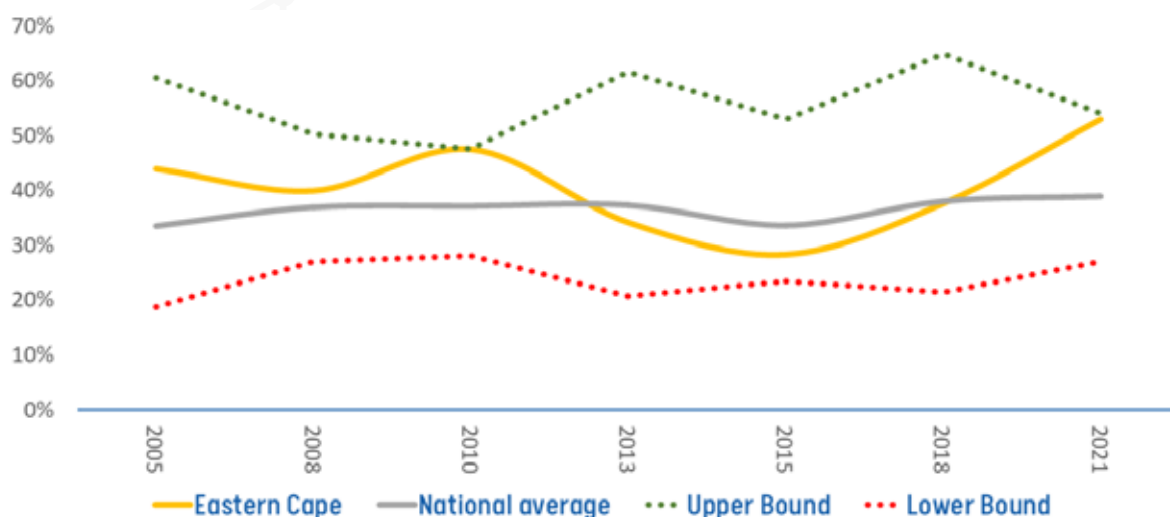
#### QUESTION

Do you think you have too little or too much information on how to vote? (% Too little / far too little information)

#### ANALYSIS

Among the voting age public in the Eastern Cape, slightly more than two fifths (44%) expressed a desire for more information on voting in 2005. This subsequently declined to 40% in 2008 before increasing by eight percentage points in 2010. It once again declined to a 28%-38% range in the 2013-2018 survey rounds. In 2021 survey round the expressed desire for more information increased tremendously reaching 53%. Relative to other provinces, the Eastern Cape ranked second highest in demand for information. Therefore, in coming years, the Commission will have to focus its civic and democracy education (CDE) efforts on responding to this demand for electoral information in this province.

**DEMAND FOR VOTING INFORMATION: Reported demand for more information on voting, 2005-2021 [% stating that they receive 'too little' or 'far too little' voting information]**



	2005	2008	2010	2013	2015	2018	2021	Average
Eastern Cape	44	40	48	34	28	38	53	41
National Avg.	34	37	37	37	34	38	39	37
Upper Bound	61	50	48	62	53	65	54	51
Lower Bound	19	27	28	21	23	21	27	31
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	3	5	1	6	8	4	2	3

Data Source: IEC Voter Participation Survey (VPS) 2005-2021

### 3.2.4 Number of Civic and Democracy Education (CDE) events

#### GOAL

To determine the number of CDE events per 100, 000 of the voting age population

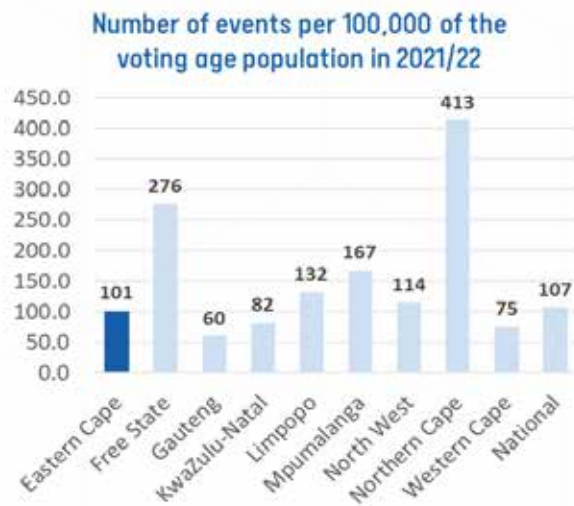
#### QUESTION

How many CDE events were offered in each province in 2019/2020-2021/2022

#### ANALYSIS

In 2018/19 11022 of 82 388 events were held in the Eastern Cape, of the 30 726 events that were held in 2019/20 4175 were in this province. In 2020/21 the IEC hosted the fewest number of events nationally (13 036) and of these 1132 were in the Eastern Cape province. In 2021/22 there were 42 797 events and 4182 were hosted in this province. When comparing the reach of these events the size of the voting age population (VAP) per province is taken into account. In 2018/19 the Eastern had 280.5 events per 100,000 of the voting age population, higher than the national average of 217.7. In 2019/2020 the Eastern Cape had a ratio of 101, this is far above the national average of 78.6. In 2020/2021 the province had a significantly low ratio of 27,2 falling below the national average of 32.8. In 2021/2022 the province had a ration of 101,5. Consideration should be given to increasing the number of events in the Eastern Cape to ensure that reach and impact is achieved more uniformly across the nine provinces.

**NUMBER OF CDE EVENTS: Absolute number of CDE events, and number of events per 100,000 of the voting age population for the 2021/2022 year**



	Number of CDE events				Number of events per 100,000 of the voting age population (VAP)			
	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Eastern Cape	11022	4175	1132	4182	280.5	101.2	27.2	101.5
Free State	5768	2262	1497	5368	297.7	118.7	76.9	276.0
Gauteng	11272	5774	2714	6856	107.4	52.8	24.2	59.9
KwaZulu-Natal	15275	4108	2218	5963	212.5	57.6	30.7	81.8
Limpopo	9179	3719	2068	4726	263.2	101.2	58.1	132.3
Mpumalanga	9232	2336	294	5213	323.0	78.4	9.6	167.4
North West	6114	3000	1716	3119	769.3	113.6	63.3	113.8
Northern Cape	6142	2343	1022	3546	240.8	280.5	119.7	413.4
Western Cape	8383	3009	375	3824	182.1	62.0	7.5	75.4
<b>National</b>	<b>82 388</b>	<b>30 726</b>	<b>13 036</b>	<b>42 797</b>	<b>217.7</b>	<b>78.6</b>	<b>32.8</b>	<b>106.6</b>

Data Source: Electoral Commission of South Africa (IEC) official statistics 2019-2022



### 3.2.5 Perceived effectiveness of voter education campaigns

#### GOAL

Appraising the effectiveness of voter education campaigns

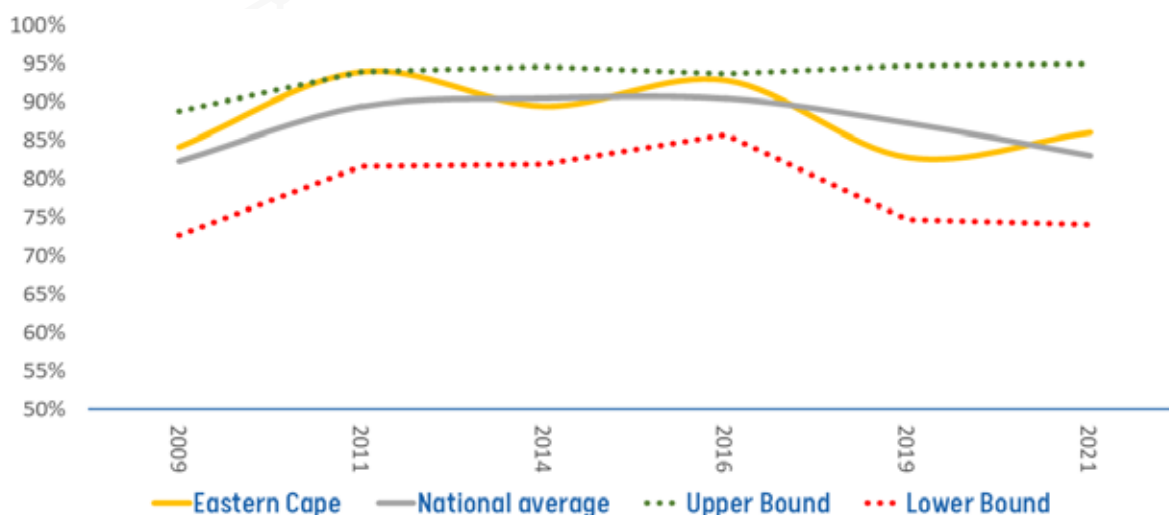
#### QUESTION

How effective was the IEC’s voter education campaign for these elections? (% very effective, somewhat effective).

#### ANALYSIS

In 2009 84% of voters in the Eastern Cape believed that the Commission’s voter education campaigns were effective. Attitudes on this indicator improved in 2011, reaching 94% in the province. Similar views were of perceived effectiveness were expressed by 89% in 2014, 93% in 2016, 83% in 2019 and 86% in 2021. Some interprovincial variations were noted, especially in 2019 when the disparity between the upper and lower bounds was twenty percentage points. Of all nine provinces, Eastern Cape residents ranked third in terms of positive evaluations of education campaigns. Between 2009-2021, 88% of voters in the province thought that the IEC’s voter education campaign for elections are effective.

**CAMPAIGN EFFECTIVENESS: Percentage of voters who thought that the IEC’s voter education campaign for elections was effective, 2009-2021 (% effective)**



	2009	2011	2014	2016	2019	2021	Average
Eastern Cape	84	94	89	93	83	86	88
National Avg.	82	89	91	90	87	83	87
Upper Bound	89	94	95	94	95	95	91
Lower Bound	73	82	82	86	75	74	85
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	6	1	7	3	8	5	3

Data Source: IEC Election Satisfaction Survey (ESS) 2009-2021

**PART**

**D**



**ELECTION DAY**

## 4. ELECTION DAY

### 4.1 Voting station evaluations

#### 4.1.1 Time to get to voting station

##### GOAL

Determining the average time taken to get to voting stations

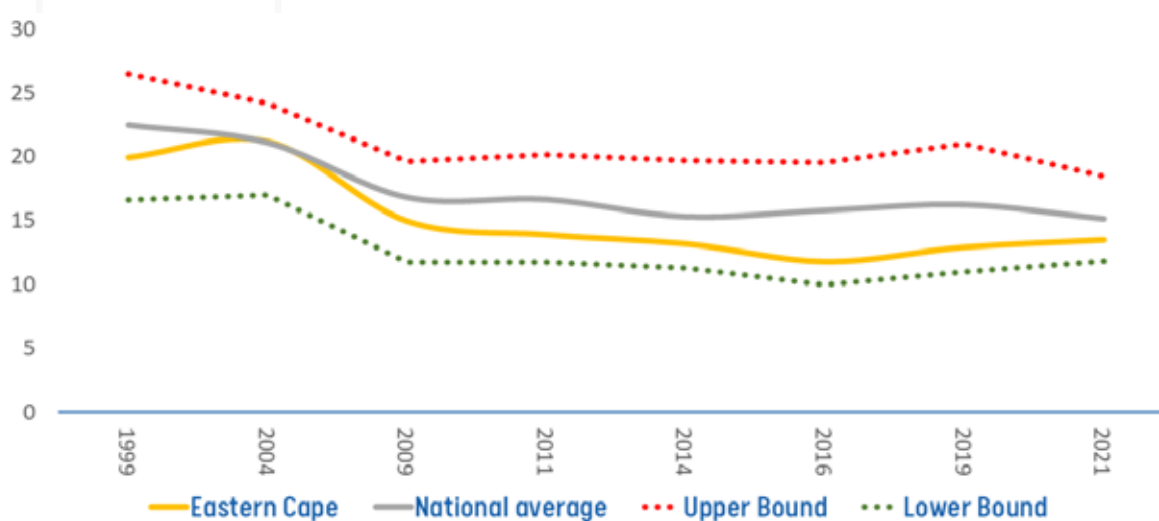
##### QUESTION

How long did it take you to get to the voting station? (average number of minutes)

##### ANALYSIS

Over the 1999-2021 period, the average time it took for voters in the Eastern Cape to get to their voting station was 16 minutes. The time it took to get to a voting station in the province decreased over the various survey rounds. In 1999-2004 it took 20-24 minutes to get to a voting station and 2009-2021 it took 12-15 minutes. There disparity between the upper and lower provincial bounds across the different survey rounds under discussion varied in a narrow range between 7 and 10 minutes. Out of all nine provinces the Eastern Cape ranked second, and this demonstrated that voters in this province tend to have a short distance to travel to their voting station.

**TIME TO GET TO THE VOTING STATION: Average number of minutes that it took citizens to get to the voting station, 1999-2021**



	1999	2000	2004	2009	2011	2014	2016	2019	2021	Average
Eastern Cape	20	24	21	15	14	13	12	13	13	16
National Avg.	22	21	21	17	17	15	16	16	15	18
Upper Bound	27	24	24	20	20	20	20	11	10	10
Lower Bound	17	16	17	12	12	11	10	11	12	15
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	3	8	4	2	2	2	2	2	3	2

Data Source: IEC Election Satisfaction Survey (ESS) 1999-2021

## 4.1.2 Queuing time at voting stations

### GOAL

Determining the average queuing time at voting stations

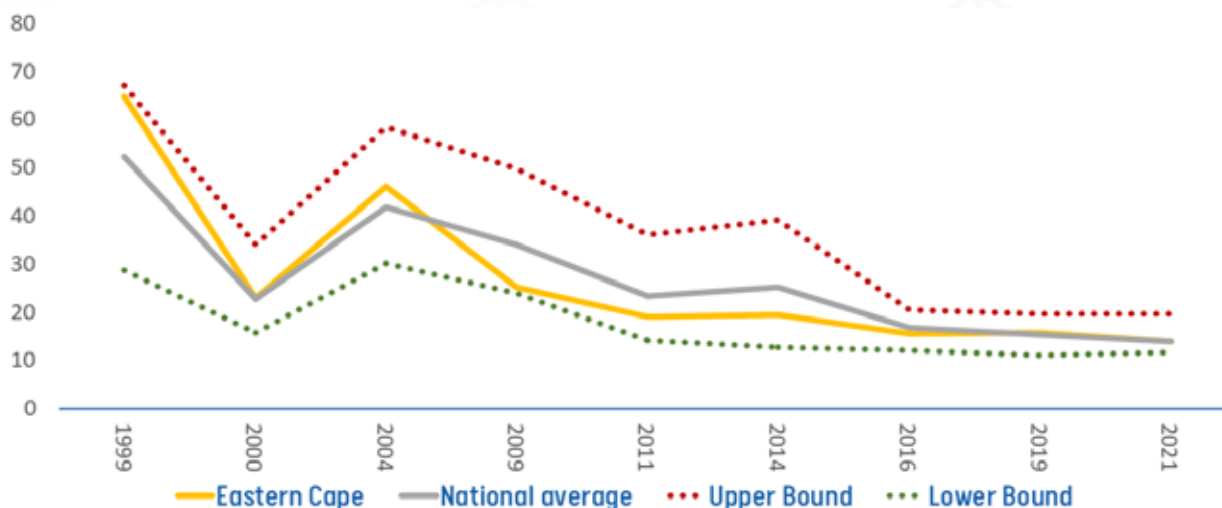
### QUESTION

How long did you queue before voting? (average number of minutes)

### ANALYSIS

Over the 1999-2004 period the average voter would queue for 23-65 minutes in the Eastern Cape. Duration spent on queues improved from 2009-2014; it took 19-25 minutes for a citizen to vote. This once again improved further reaching 14-16 minutes in the 2016-2021 period. Between 1999 and 2021, the average length of time voters spent queuing in the Eastern Cape was 27 minutes, this was two minutes higher than the national average. Considerable interprovincial variation was observed on this measure during much of the 1999-2019 period. This discrepancy was much smaller in the 2021 period (8-minute difference), suggesting that interprovincial variation fell in the more recent survey rounds. The Western Cape was ranked sixth out of all nine provinces in 2021 and seventh for the full period..

**TIME TAKEN TO QUEUE: Average number of minutes that it took citizens to queue, 1999-2021**



	1999	2000	2004	2009	2011	2014	2016	2019	2021	Average
Eastern Cape	65	23	46	25	19	19	16	16	14	27
National Avg.	52	23	42	34	23	23	25	17	15	27
Upper Bound	67	34	58	50	36	36	39	20	19	20
Lower Bound	29	16	25	24	14	14	13	12	11	12
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	8	5	7	2	3	4	5	7	6	7

Data Source: IEC Election Satisfaction Survey (ESS) 1999-2021

### 4.1.3 Safety and security

#### GOAL

Determine the perceived effectiveness of safety and security measures at voting stations

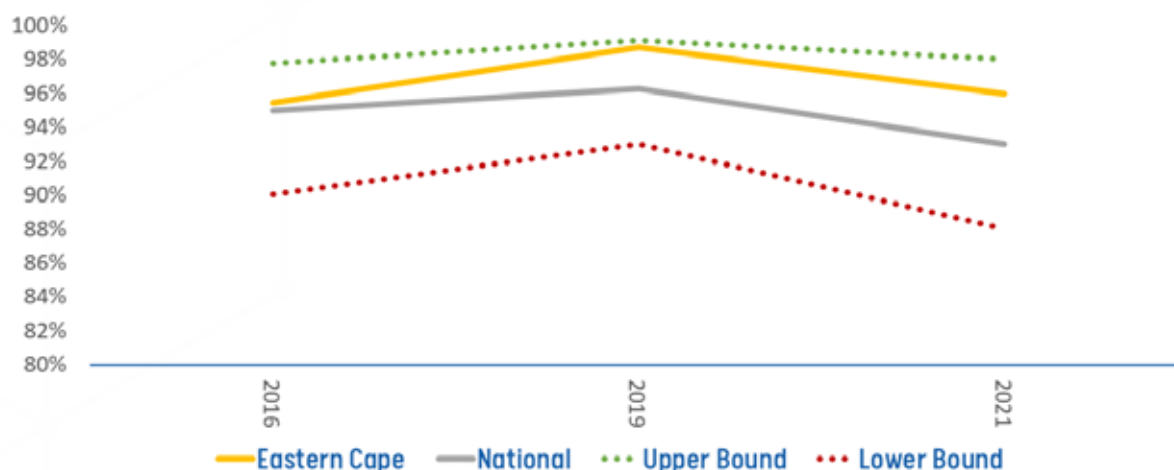
#### QUESTION

How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the safety and security provided at the voting station? (% satisfied / very satisfied)

#### ANALYSIS

On average, voters appear to be satisfied with the safety and security provided at voting stations. In 2016, 95% of voters in the Eastern Cape expressed satisfaction with the safety and security at their voting stations. Satisfaction increased to 99% in 2019 but decrease slightly to 96% in 2021. Although high satisfaction levels were evident across all provinces, voters in the province were found to consistently score the safety and security measures of the Election Commission at a level above the national average. Satisfaction with safety and security evidently is very high in the province and Eastern Cape voters ranked third highest in the country on this issue.

**SAFETY AND SECURITY AT VOTING STATION: Satisfaction with the safety and security at the voting station, 2016-2021 (%)**



	2016	2019	2021	Average
Eastern Cape	95	99	96	97
National Avg.	95	96	93	95
Upper Bound	98	99	98	98
Lower Bound	90	93	88	92
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	5	3	3	3

Data Source: IEC Election Satisfaction Survey (ESS) 2016-2021

## 4.1.4 Accessibility of voting station to persons with disabilities/the elderly

### GOAL

Determine accessibility of voter stations to persons with disabilities and/or the elderly

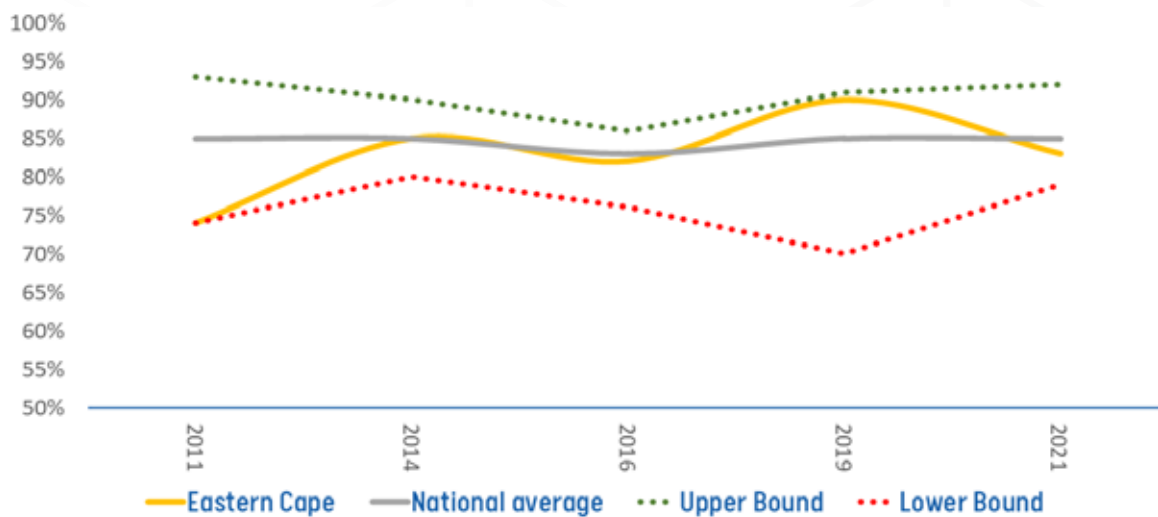
### QUESTION

How easily accessible was the voting station to persons with disabilities or the elderly? (% accessible / very accessible)

### ANALYSIS

The proportion of Cape Eastern voters who felt that voting stations were accessible to persons with disabilities and or the elderly was high in all survey rounds. We can observe a gradually increase in satisfaction on this issue between 2011-2019, growing from 74% at the beginning of the period to 90% at the end. There was a decline in satisfaction in 2021, only 83% of voters in the Eastern Cape were satisfied with the accessibility provided to the disabled and elderly. Although satisfaction with accessibility was very high in the province, the Eastern Cape only ranked sixth in 2021 and eighth of the nine provinces for the 2009-2021 period. Fairly low interprovincial variations were noted on this measure for this period with the exception of 2019. In that survey round there was a 21-percentage point difference between the upper and lower bounds.

ACCESSIBILITY OF VOTING STATIONS FOR THE DISABLED/ELDERLY: Satisfaction with the quality, 2011-2021



	2011	2014	2016	2019	2021	Average
Eastern Cape	74	85	82	90	83	83
National Avg.	85	85	83	85	85	85
Upper Bound	93	90	86	91	92	89
Lower Bound	74	80	76	70	79	77
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	9	6	4	2	6	8

Data Source: IEC Election Satisfaction Survey (ESS) 2011-2021



## 4.1.5 Quality of service rendered by IEC officials

### GOAL

Determine the perceived quality of service rendered by IEC officials at voting stations

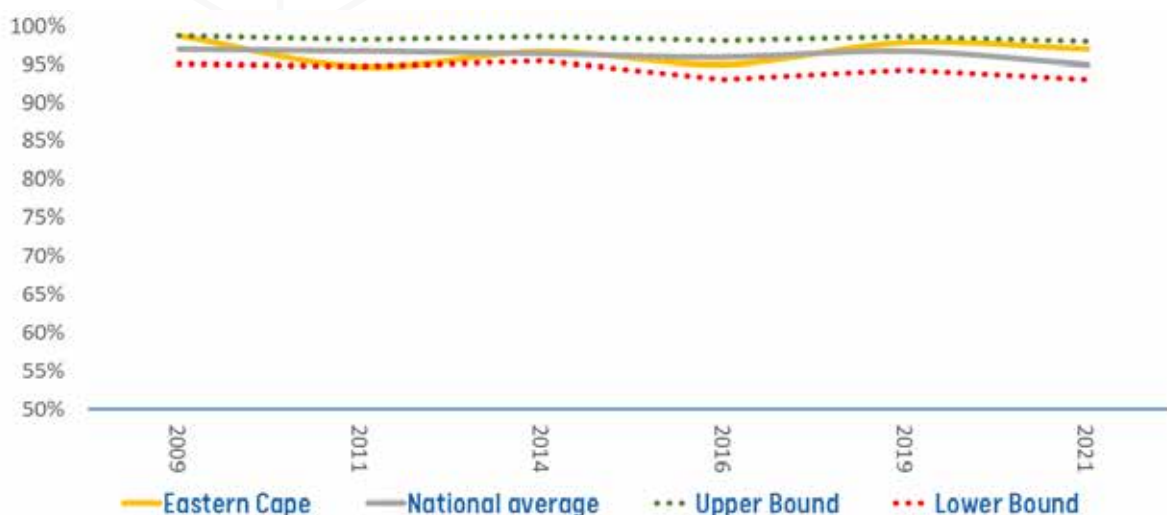
### QUESTION

Are you satisfied with the quality of service that the IEC officials provided to voters? (% satisfied / very satisfied)

### ANALYSIS

Among voters, high levels of satisfaction were recorded in all survey rounds regarding the quality of services provided by IEC officials to voters on Election Day. In the Eastern Cape, satisfaction levels fluctuated in a very narrow band between 95% and 99%, mirroring the national averages. On aggregate, only a 3 to 5-percentage point deviation was detected between the upper and lower bounds in any given year during the 2009-2021 period. This is largely a reflection of the high satisfaction levels recorded across all provinces over time. Despite the positive assessment observed in the graph, the Eastern Cape ranked fifth relative to other provinces.

**QUALITY OF IEC SERVICE: Satisfaction with quality of service rendered by IEC officials, 2009-2021 (%)**



	2009	2011	2014	2016	2019	2021	Average
Eastern Cape	99	95	97	95	98	97	97
National Avg.	97	97	96	96	97	95	96
Upper Bound	99	98	99	98	99	98	98
Lower Bound	95	95	95	93	94	93	95
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	1	9	7	8	3	3	5

Data Source: IEC Election Satisfaction Survey (ESS) 2009-2021

## 4.2 Voting procedure

### 4.2.1 Assessment of electoral procedures

#### GOAL

Assessing how the voting procedure was perceived

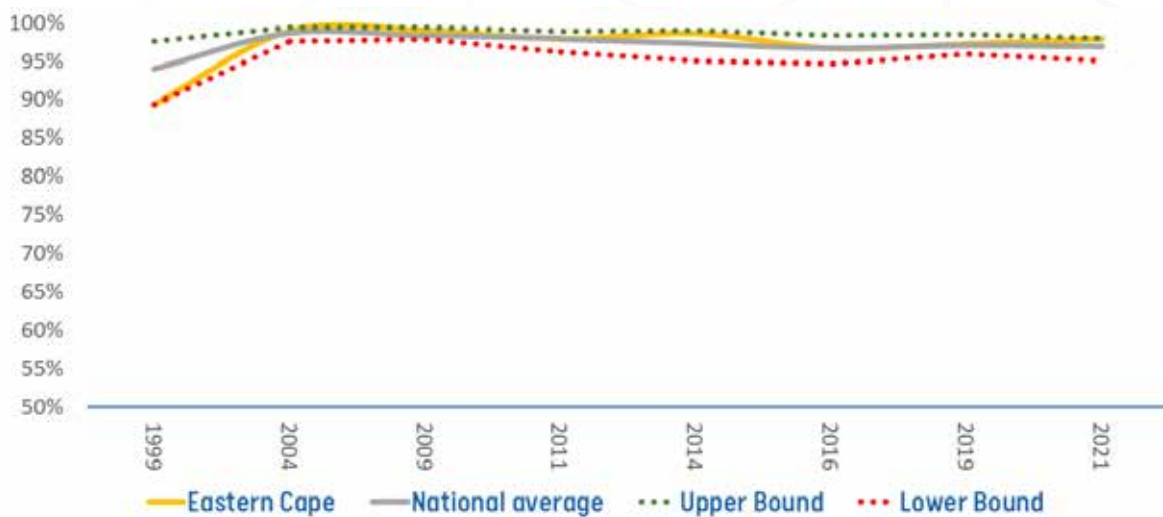
#### QUESTION

Was the voting procedure inside the voting station easy or difficult to understand? (% easy / very easy to understand)

#### ANALYSIS

When examining public experience of voting procedures in the Eastern Cape between 1999 and 2021, a largely positive picture emerges. Overall, the vast majority (97%) of voters in the province found the voting procedures inside the voting station easy to understand. There is a broadly comparable trend of national and provincial results with a large majority indicating that the voting procedures were “easy” ranging between 89%-99% provincially and 94%-97% nationally. There have only been modest interprovincial variations on this measure over time. The province was placed first out of the nine provinces in 2021 and ranked seventh for the full period.

**ELECTORAL PROCEDURAL ASSESSMENT: Proportion of voters who believed that the voting procedure inside the voting station was easy to understand, 1999-2021 (% easy / very easy to understand)**



	1999	2000	2004	2009	2011	2014	2016	2019	2021	Average
Eastern Cape	89	93	99	99	98	99	97	97	98	97
National Avg.	94	94	99	98	98	97	97	97	97	97
Upper Bound	98	98	99	99	99	99	98	99	98	98
Lower Bound	89	92	98	98	96	95	95	96	95	96
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	9	7	3	2	5	4	5	5	1	7

Data Source: IEC Election Satisfaction Survey (ESS) 1999-2021

## 4.2.2 Assessment of procedural accommodation of the elderly

### GOAL

Assessing whether the voting procedure accommodated the elderly

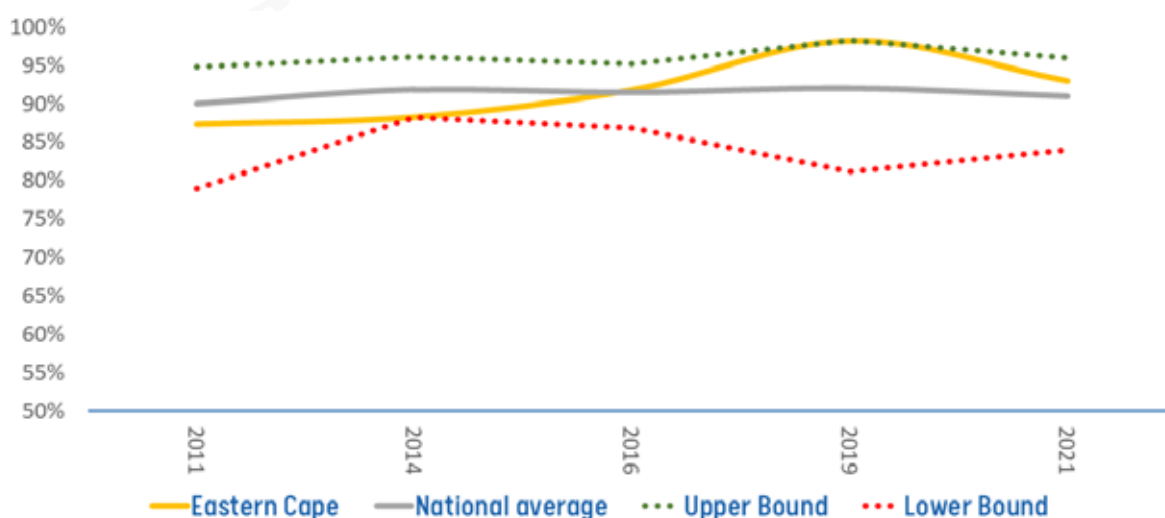
### QUESTION

To what extent did the voting procedure at this voting station consider the needs of the elderly? (% to a great / some extent)

### ANALYSIS

In 2019, 98% of voters in the Eastern Cape thought that voting stations accommodated the needs of the elderly. These results were higher than what was observed in previous survey rounds. There was an increase in the proportion of voters who thought that the voting procedures at their voting station considered the needs of the elderly in 2011 until 2019 from 87% to 98% before declining to 93% in 2021. There has only been modest variation between provinces in the share believing that the needs of the elderly had been accommodated. This largely a reflection of negligible differences in evaluation between provinces. In 2019 the Eastern Cape ranked highest out of the nine provinces and lowest in 2014, during the 2021 elections, the province ranked third.

#### ELDERLY PROCEDURAL ACCOMMODATION: Percentage of voters who thought that the voting procedure at the voting station considered the needs of the elderly, 2011-2021 (% to a great/ some extent)



	2011	2014	2016	2019	2021	Average
Eastern Cape	87	88	92	98	93	92
National Avg.	90	92	91	92	91	91
Upper Bound	95	96	95	98	96	94
Lower Bound	79	88	87	81	84	88
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	7	9	5	1	3	4

Data Source: IEC Election Satisfaction Survey (ESS) 2011-2021

## 4.2.3 Assessment of procedural accommodation of persons with disabilities

### GOAL

Assessing whether the voting procedure accommodated the needs of persons with disabilities

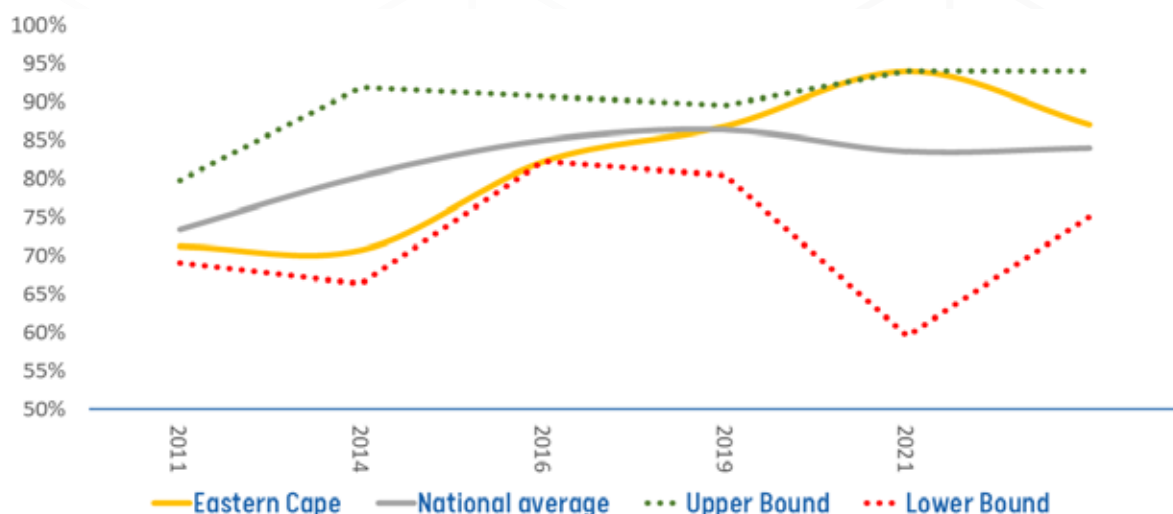
### QUESTION

To what extent did the voting procedure at this voting station consider the needs of persons with disabilities? (% to a great / some extent)

### ANALYSIS

A majority (71%) of voters in the Eastern Cape in general said that the voting stations accommodated the needs of persons with disabilities in 2009. The proportion giving this answer increased to 82% by the time of the next round of surveying in 2014. We can observe further improvements in satisfaction levels during the 2016-2019 period with voters becoming more contented with the procedural arrangements made at voting station for persons with disabilities. There was a short-lived decline in 2021 on this indicator and was 87% in that survey round. On average, 82% of voters thought that procedures at the voting station considered the needs of this group over the full 2009-2021 period. The rank of the Eastern Cape has fluctuated over the last decade but was sixth for the full period.

#### PROCEDURAL ACCOMMODATION OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES: Percentage of voters who thought that the voting procedure at the voting station considered the needs of persons with disabilities, 2009-2021 (% to a great/ some extent)



	2009	2011	2014	2016	2019	2021	Average
Eastern Cape	71	71	82	87	94	87	82
National Avg.	73	80	85	86	84	84	82
Upper Bound	80	92	91	90	94	94	85
Lower Bound	69	66	82	80	59	75	76
Rank (1-high; 9-low)	5	8	9	4	1	3	6

Data Source: IEC Voter Participation Survey (VPS) 2009-2021

## 4.2.4 Assessment of procedural accommodation of blind and visually impaired voters

### GOAL

Assessing whether the voting procedure accommodated the needs of visually impaired voters

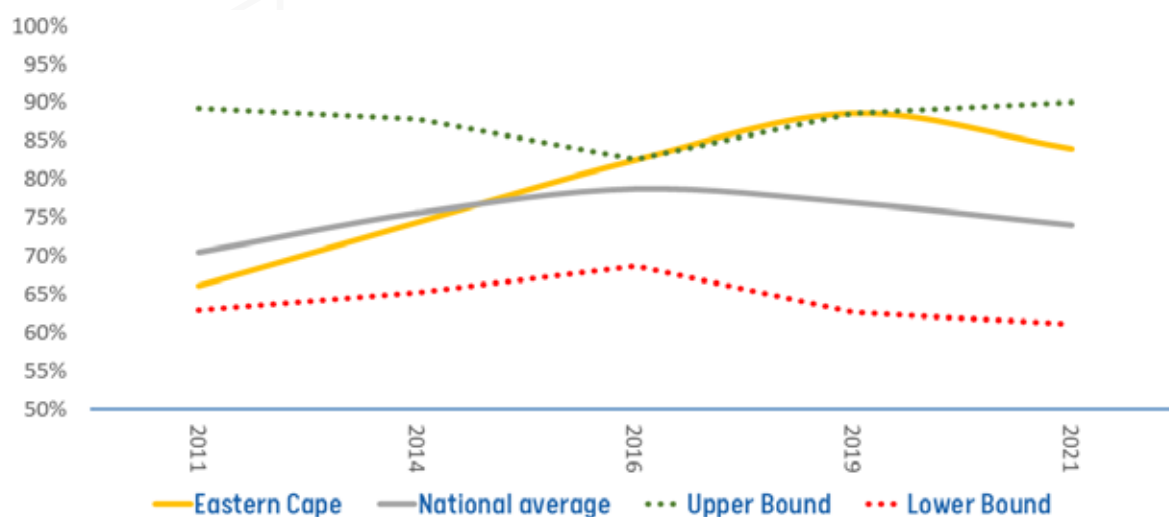
### QUESTION

To what extent did the voting procedure at this voting station consider the needs of the partially-sighted or blind? (% to a great / some extent)

### ANALYSIS

In 2011, 66% of voters in the Eastern Cape believed that the voting stations had put in place procedures that considered the needs of blind and visually impaired people. There was a steady increase in how voters evaluated the Commission on this issue between 2011 and 2019. Satisfaction increased in 2014, 2016 and 2019 from 74%, 83% and then 89% respectively. In the 2021 survey round 84% of adults positively evaluated the accommodation of the visually challenged in voting stations. Out of the nine provinces, the Eastern Cape ranked either first or second in 2016, 2019 and 2021. This was a significant improvement as the province ranked eighth and sixth in 2011 and 2014 respectively.

**PROCEDURAL ACCOMMODATION OF BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED VOTERS: Percentage of voters who thought that the voting procedures at the voting station considered the needs of partially sighted or blind voters, 2011-2021 (% to a great/ some extent)**



	2011	2014	2016	2019	2021	Average
Eastern Cape	66	74	83	89	84	79
National Avg.	70	76	79	77	74	75
Upper Bound	89	88	83	89	90	83
Lower Bound	63	65	69	63	61	65
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	8	6	1	1	2	4

Data Source: IEC Election Satisfaction Survey (ESS) 2011-2021

## 4.2.5 Assessing the secrecy of the vote at voting stations

### GOAL

Assessing whether voters were satisfied that the voting station procedures ensured the secrecy of their vote

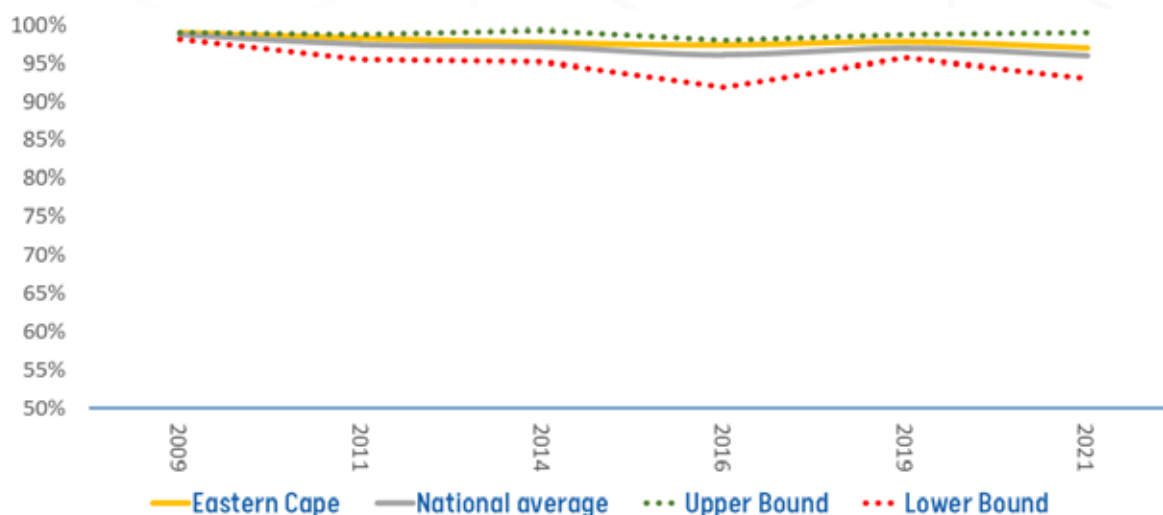
### QUESTION

Are you satisfied that your vote in this voting station was secret? (% very satisfied/satisfied)

### ANALYSIS

In 2021, 97% of the voters in Eastern Cape had faith in the arrangements made by voting stations to ensure the secrecy of their vote. This finding is comparable to previous survey rounds, and only nominal differences were observed in the province over the 2009-2021 period. Notwithstanding these observed variations, the level of difference by year within the province is marginal, and these changes should not be a cause for concern. The average share of voters in the province who were pleased with the secrecy of the vote during the period 2009-2021 was 98%. Overall, voters were therefore relatively satisfied with how the voting stations are performing in relation to ensuring the secrecy of votes cast. The ranking of Eastern Cape relative to other provinces has fluctuated over time, it ranked second highest over the period

**SATISFIED WITH SECRECY OF VOTE: Percentage of voters who were satisfied with the measures to ensure the secrecy of their vote at their voting station, 2009-2021 (%)**



	2009	2011	2014	2016	2019	2021	Average
Eastern Cape	99	98	98	97	98	97	98
National Avg.	99	97	97	96	97	96	97
Upper Bound	99	99	99	98	99	99	98
Lower Bound	98	96	95	92	96	93	96
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	1	2	4	2	4	2	2

Data Source: IEC Election Satisfaction Survey (ESS) 2009-2021



## 4.2.6. Ballot paper usability and satisfaction

### GOAL

Overall satisfaction with ballot paper used in the 2019 national and provincial elections

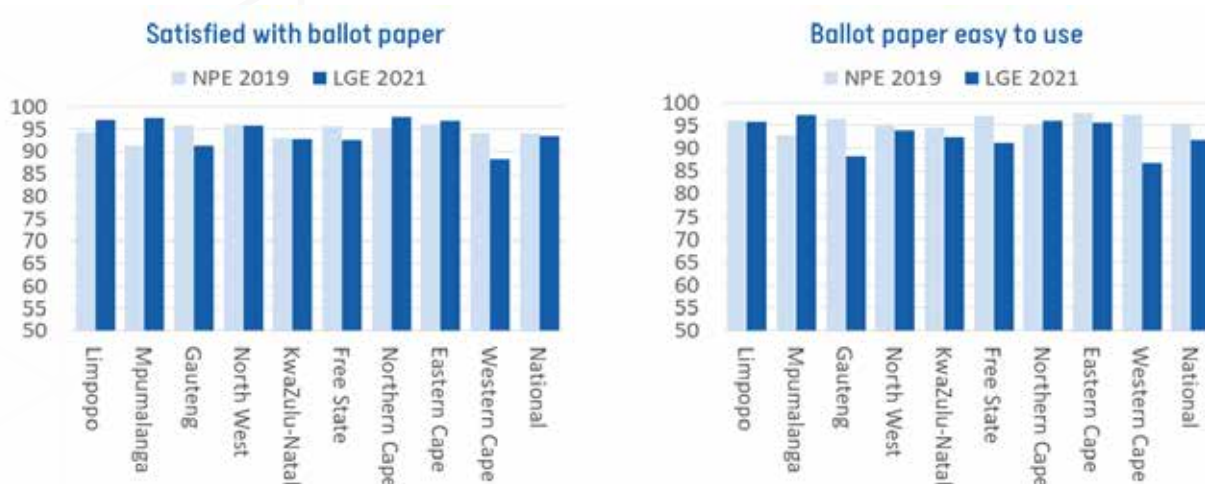
### QUESTION

How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the ballot papers used in this election? (% very satisfied / satisfied)  
How easy or difficult was it to find your party of choice on the ballot papers? (% very satisfied / satisfied)

### ANALYSIS

In 2019 it is 96% of voters in the Eastern Cape that voiced satisfaction with the ballot paper used in the national and provincial elections. In 2021 this proportion increase by one percentage point to 97%. Almost all voters (98%) in 2019 were satisfied with the usability of the ballot and little change was noted when this question was asked against in 2021. In 2021 evaluation of usability declined reaching 96%. The overall satisfaction with the ballot and its usability in the province has been above the national averages for both survey rounds. This demonstrates that voters in the Eastern Cape were fairly pleased with this part of the election process.

**BALLOT PAPER SATISFACTION: Percentage of voters who were satisfied with the overall design of ballot papers and their usability, 2019-2021 (%)**



	Overall satisfaction with ballot paper		Ballot paper usability	
	2019	2021	2019	2021
Eastern Cape	96	97	98	96
National Avg.	94	93	95	92
Upper Bound	96	98	98	97
Lower Bound	94	97	96	87
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	1	1	1	2

Data Source: IEC Election Satisfaction Survey (ESS) 2019-2021

## 4.3 Coercion

### GOAL

Determining experiences of political coercion at the voting station

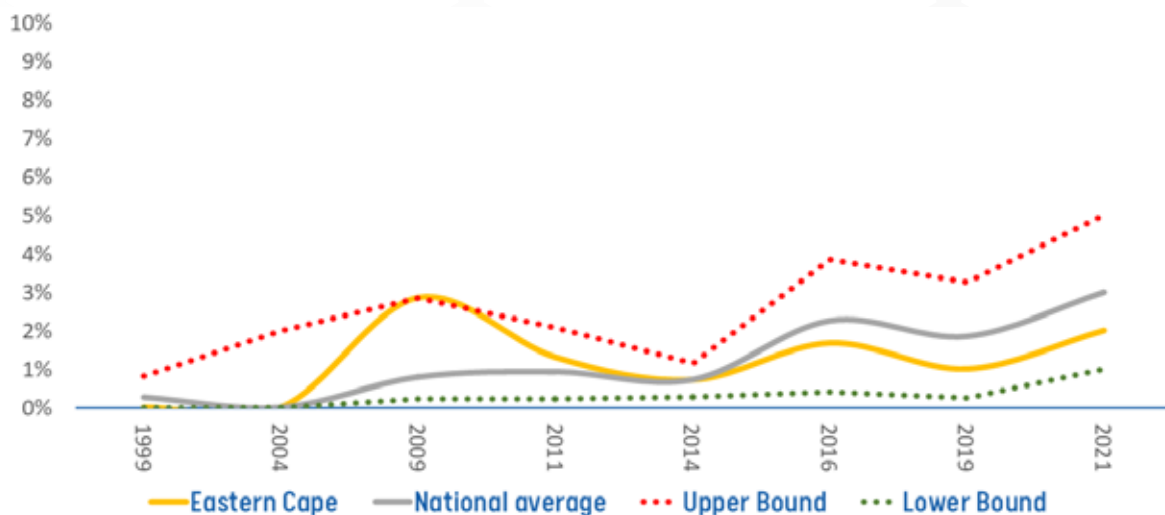
### QUESTION

Did anyone try to force you to vote for a certain political party or independent candidate at the voting station (while outside or inside)?

### ANALYSIS

Overall, it is evident that political coercion at the voting station is not a common occurrence. Although it remains rare, there is evidence of a slightly increasing trend of coercion at voting stations since 2011 ranging between 1% and 3%. Fairly low interprovincial variations were noted on this measure for 1999-2014 period but seem to increase in the latter part of the period. On this indicator, the Eastern Cape ranks fourth when compared to other parts of the country. Political coercion at voting stations in this province appears to be somewhat evident than in other provinces in 2021. Self-reported incidents nonetheless are still low, and these numbers should not be major cause of concern.

**POLITICAL COERCION: Proportion of voters who said that they had experienced political coercion at the voting station (outside or inside), 1999-2021 (% experienced)**



	1999	2000	2004	2009	2011	2014	2016	2019	2021	Average
Eastern Cape	0	1	0	...	3	1	1	...	2	1
National Avg.	0	1	0	1	1	1	2	2	3	1
Upper Bound	1	4	2	3	2	1	4	3	5	2
Lower Bound	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	6	3	2	...	1	2	4	...	7	6

Data Source: IEC Election Satisfaction Survey (ESS) 1999-2021

## 4.4 Election turnout

### 4.4.1. Total votes cast, valid votes and spoilt votes in National and Provincial Elections (national vote)

	EC	FS	GP	KZN	MP	NC	LP	NW	WC	Out of country	Total
<b>1999 National Election</b>											
Total votes cast	2 222 394	1 115 326	3 744 958	3 011 732	1 157 229	335 177	1 691 609	1 333 858	1 616 179	...	16 228 462
Valid votes	2 188 184	1 094 776	3 704 449	2 958 963	1 132 517	327 950	1 660 849	1 307 532	1 601 922	...	15 977 142
Spoilt votes	34 210	20 550	40 509	52 769	24 712	7 227	30 760	26 326	14 257	...	251 320
% spoilt	1.5	1.8	1.1	1.8	2.1	2.2	1.8	2.0	0.9	...	1.5
<b>2004 National Election</b>											
Total votes cast	2 310 226	1 042 120	3 553 098	2 807 885	1 157 963	329 707	1 686 757	1 353 963	1 621 839	...	15 863 558
Valid votes	2 277 391	1 022 044	3 504 363	2 765 203	1 134 092	323 201	1 657 596	1 323 761	1 605 020	...	15 612 671
Spoilt votes	32 835	20 076	48 735	42 682	23 871	6 506	29 161	30 202	16 819	...	250 887
% spoilt	1.4	1.9	1.4	1.5	2.1	2.0	1.7	2.2	1.0	...	1.6
<b>2009 National Election</b>											
Total votes cast	2 344 098	1 069 127	4 391 699	3 574 326	1 363 836	421 490	1 570 592	1 135 701	2 049 097	...	17 919 966
Valid votes	2 309 643	1 051 858	4 345 613	3 527 234	1 343 253	414 502	1 547 636	1 113 411	2 027 579	...	17 680 729
Spoilt votes	34 455	17 269	46 086	47 092	20 583	6 988	22 956	22 290	21 518	...	239 237
% spoilt	1.5	1.6	1.0	1.3	1.5	1.7	1.5	2.0	1.1	...	1.3
<b>2014 National Election</b>											
Total votes cast	2 278 555	1 051 027	4 638 981	3 935 771	1 408 269	443 714	1 543 986	1 147 786	2 188 236	18 446	18 654 771
Valid votes	2 243 497	1 034 337	4 592 219	3 874 833	1 385 407	436 065	1 523 169	1 126 691	2 168 147	18 132	18 402 497
Spoilt votes	35 058	16 690	46 762	60 938	22 862	7 649	20 817	21 095	20 089	314	252 274
% spoilt	1.5	1.6	1.0	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.3	1.8	0.9	1.7	1.4
<b>2019 National Election</b>											
Total votes cast	2 052 818	919 549	4 580 285	3 715 985	1 290 908	417 248	1 530 837	1 012 250	2 133 062	19 909	17 672 851
Valid votes	2 020 527	907 212	4 537 402	3 652 577	1 271 979	410 842	1 510 568	994 220	2 112 170	19 882	17 437 379
Spoilt votes	32 291	12 337	42 883	63 408	18 929	6 406	20 269	18 030	20 892	27	235 472
% spoilt	1.6	1.3	0.9	1.7	1.5	1.5	1.3	1.8	1.0	0.1	1.3

Data Source: Electoral Commission of South Africa (IEC) official election results, national and provincial elections 1999-2019

#### 4.4.2 Total votes cast, valid votes and spoilt votes in Local Government Elections (provincial summary, ward plus proportional representation votes)

	EC	FS	GP	KZN	MP	NC	LP	NW	WC	Total
<b>2000 Local Government Elections</b>										
Total votes cast	2 782 038	1 203 821	3 779 947	3 258 711	1 260 857	507 471	1 475 846	1 125 276	2 240 990	17 634 957
Valid votes	2 713 773	1 176 898	3 710 595	3 188 189	1 224 228	493 674	1 444 308	1 094 270	2 209 911	17 255 846
Spoilt votes	68 265	26 923	69 352	70 522	36 629	13 797	31 538	31 006	31 079	379 111
% spoilt	2,5	2,2	1,8	2,2	2,9	2,7	2,1	2,8	1,4	2,1
<b>2006 Local Government Elections</b>										
Total votes cast	3 237 836	1 245 605	4 035 819	3 945 826	1 432 103	558 645	1 920 089	1 419 621	2 352 316	20 147 860
Valid votes	3 159 626	1 213 162	3 971 580	3 867 456	1 393 452	545 594	1 883 661	1 374 183	2 313 646	19 722 360
Spoilt votes	78 210	32 443	64 239	78 370	38 651	13 051	36 428	45 438	38 670	425 500
% spoilt	2,4	2,6	1,6	2,0	2,7	2,3	1,9	3,2	1,6	2,1
<b>2011 Local Government Elections</b>										
Total votes cast	3 600 649	1 528 612	6 214 394	5 707 689	1 914 850	724 878	2 337 728	1 677 863	3 475 194	27 181 857
Valid votes	3 517 267	1 500 732	6 127 020	5 607 192	1 880 599	711 431	2 293 052	1 637 592	3 436 613	26 711 498
Spoilt votes	83 382	27 880	87 374	100 497	34 251	13 447	44 676	40 271	38 581	470 359
% spoilt	2,3	1,8	1,4	1,8	1,8	1,9	1,9	2,4	1,1	1,7
<b>2016 Local Government Elections</b>										
Total votes cast	3 748 448	1 649 073	7 196 467	6 622 974	2 149 917	758 390	2 565 627	1 823 458	3 881 005	30 395 359
Valid votes	3 667 247	1 616 890	7 095 642	6 487 321	2 114 364	746 162	2 525 600	1 780 478	3 829 967	29 863 671
Spoilt votes	81 201	32 183	100 825	135 653	35 553	12 228	40 027	42 980	51 038	531 688
% spoilt	2,2	2,0	1,4	2,0	1,7	1,6	1,6	2,4	1,3	1,7
<b>2021 Local Government Elections</b>										
Total votes cast	3 017 803	1 278 484	5 385 382	5 224 937	1 615 109	663 326	2 288 999	1 404 152	3 015 332	23 893 524
Valid votes	2 951 848	1 254 836	5 311 565	5 118 308	1 583 282	650 123	2 247 577	1 369 308	2 981 077	23 467 924
Spoilt votes	65 955	23 648	73 817	106 629	31 827	13 203	41 422	34 844	34 255	425 600
% spoilt	2,2	1,8	1,4	2,0	2,0	2,0	1,8	2,5	1,1	1,8

Data Source: Electoral Commission of South Africa (IEC) official election results, local government elections 2000-2021

### 4.4.3 Spoilt ballots

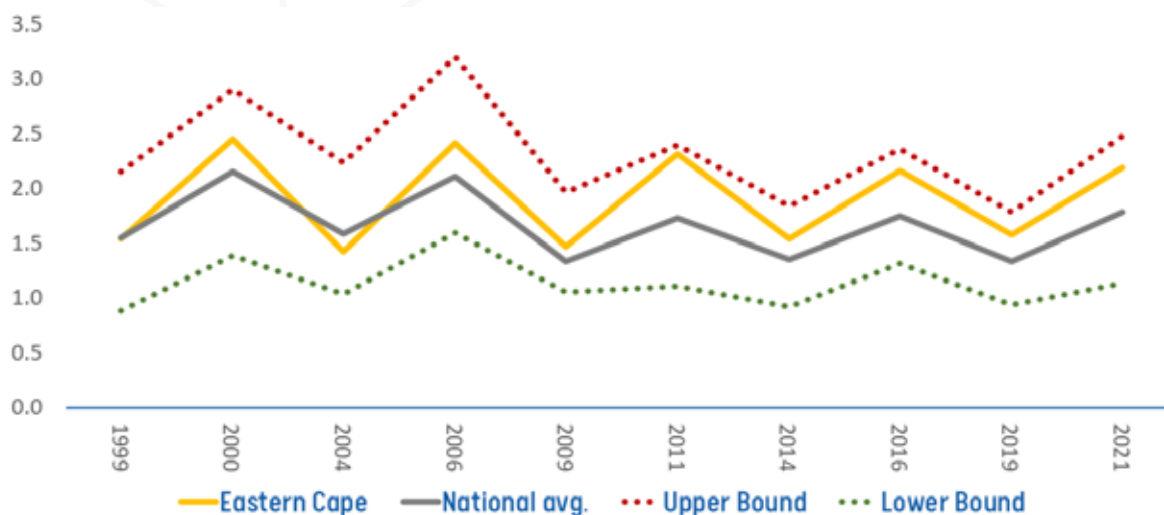
#### GOAL

Determining the share of total votes cast that were spoilt by voters

#### ANALYSIS

Of the total votes cast in National and Provincial Elections as well as Local Government Elections conducted between 1999 and 2019, the percentage of ballots that were spoilt in the Eastern Cape averaged 1.9%. In all election years, the provincial figures of spoiling exceeded the national average with the exception of 2004. The Eastern Cape ranked fifth nationally when considering the number of spoilt ballots that had been cast. Spoiling may reflect unintentional error in filling in ballot papers on Election Day, as well as a form of deliberate electoral protest. Understanding the character of spoiling will be important in future in ensuring that unintentional spoiling is addressed through improved ballot paper design and balloting education activities.

**SPOILT BALLOTS: Percentage of total votes cast that were spoilt by voters on Election Day in National and Provincial Elections and Local Government Elections, 1999-2021 (%)**



	1999	2000	2004	2006	2009	2011	2014	2016	2019	2021	Average
Eastern Cape	1.5	2.5	1.4	2.4	1.5	2.3	1.5	2.2	1.6	2.2	1.9
National Avg.	1.5	2.1	1.6	2.1	1.3	1.7	1.4	1.7	1.3	1.8	1.7
Upper Bound	2.2	2.9	2.2	3.2	2.0	2.4	1.8	2.4	1.8	2.5	2.3
Lower Bound	0.9	1.4	1.0	1.6	1.0	1.1	0.9	1.3	0.9	1.1	1.1
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	7	6	3	6	5	8	4	8	7	1	5

Data Source: Electoral Commission of South Africa (IEC) official election results, 1999-2021

## 4.4.4 Turnout in National and Provincial Elections as a percentage of registered voters

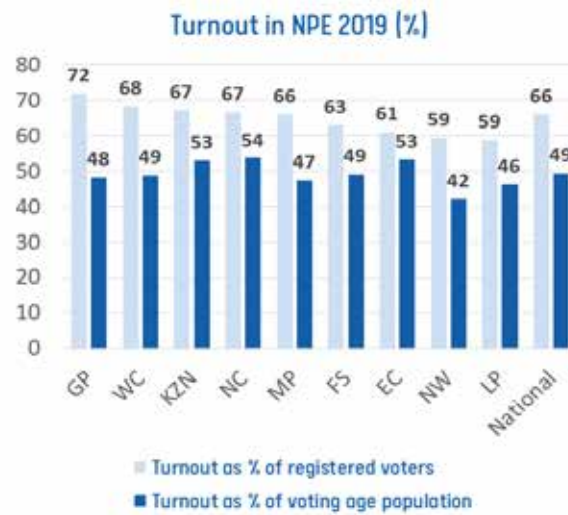
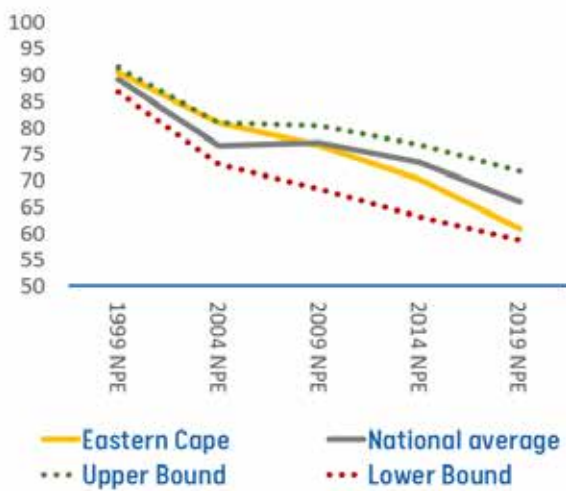
### GOAL

Determining electoral turnout as a percentage of registered voters

### ANALYSIS

Turnout in National and Provincial Elections in the Eastern Cape between 1999 and 2019 depreciated over time. In 1999, it was at 91%, but declined in each survey round until it was at 61% in 2019. Compared to other provinces, the Eastern Cape ranks third lowest on over the five elections. Another factor to consider is that these turnout statistics are expressed as a percentage of registered voters. The figures would be lower if one looks at turnout as a percentage of the voting age population. For instance, in the 2019 Election, turnout in the province was 53% of the voting age population, which is moderately lower than the 61% of registered voters in the province that turned out.

**ELECTORAL TURNOUT: Percentage of registered voters that turned out to cast their vote on Election Day in National and Provincial Elections, 1999-2019 (%)**



	1999	2004	2009	2014	2019	Average
Eastern Cape	91	81	77	70	61	76
National Avg.	89	77	77	73	66	77
Upper Bound	92	81	80	77	72	79
Lower Bound	87	73	69	63	59	72
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	4	1	6	7	7	7

Data Source: Electoral Commission of South Africa (IEC) official election results, 1999-2019



## 4.4.5 Turnout in Local Government Elections as a percentage of registered voters

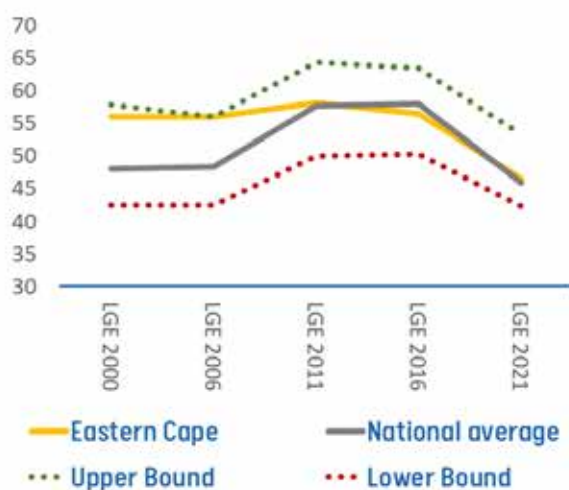
### GOAL

Determining electoral turnout as a percentage of registered voters

### ANALYSIS

Turnout in local government elections in the Eastern Cape between 2000 and 2016 remained quite stable falling within a 56%-58% range. Turnout of registered voters in the province in the 2021 Local Government Election reduced by almost ten percentage points to 47%. Fairly moderate interprovincial variations were noted on this measure for the full period and the average difference between the upper and lower bounds was 11 percentage points. Compared to other provinces, turnout in the Eastern Cape ranks third highest over the five elections. Another factor to consider is that these turnout statistics are expressed as a percentage of registered voters. The figures are lower if one looks at turnout as a percentage of the voting age population (37% in Eastern Cape in 2021).

**ELECTORAL TURNOUT: Percentage of registered voters that turned out to cast their vote on Election Day in Local Government Elections, 2000-2021 (%)**



	2000	2006	2011	2016	2021	Average
Eastern Cape	56	56	58	56	47	55
National Avg.	48	48	58	58	46	52
Upper Bound	58	56	64	63	53	58
Lower Bound	42	42	50	50	42	46
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	3	1	4	5	4	3

Data Source: Electoral Commission of South Africa (IEC) official election results, 2000-2021



**PART**

**E**

**POST-ELECTION**

# 5. POST-ELECTION

## 5.1. Evaluation of the elections as free and fair

### GOAL

Determine the extent to which voters rate the elections as free and fair

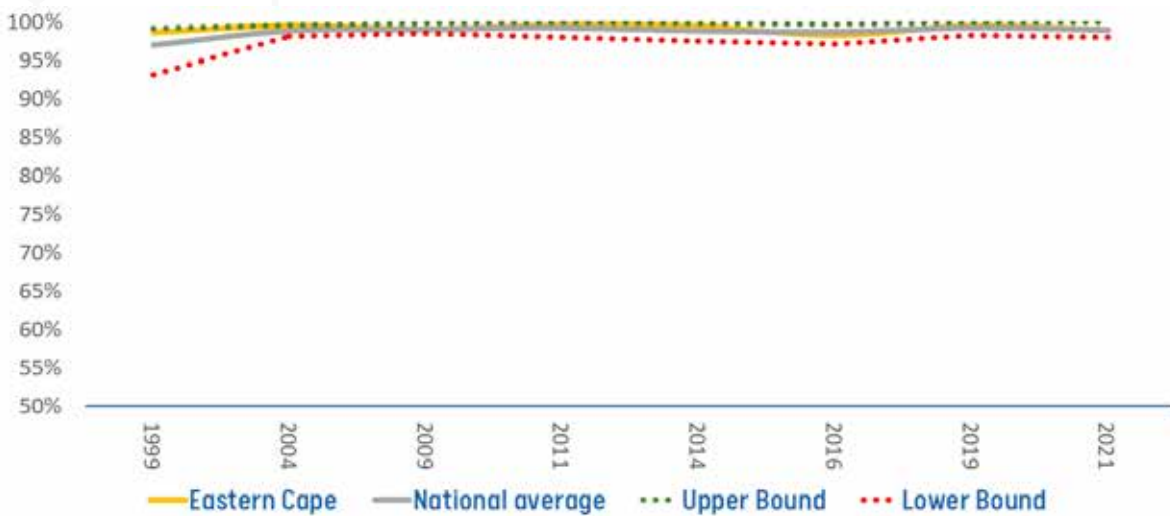
### QUESTION

Do you think that the election procedures were free and fair? (% yes)

### ANALYSIS

Looking at elections survey results on the free and fair question, in the years 2004, 2011, and 2019 all voters in the Eastern Cape (100%) felt that the election procedures were free and fair. This was a resolutely positive result and is consistent with every other year in the nine years (2004-2021) survey period. On average over the full survey period, the share of voters in the province who thought that the voting procedures were both free and fair was 99%. The rank of the Eastern Cape relative to other provinces has generally been high resulting in an overall rank of second highest over the full period.

**PERCEPTIONS OF ELECTION FREENESS AND FAIRNESS: Proportion of voters who thought that the voting procedures were free and fair, 1999-2021 (% yes)**



	1999	2000	2004	2009	2011	2014	2016	2019	2021	Average
Eastern Cape	99	96	100	99	100	99	98	100	99	99
National Avg.	97	96	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	98
Upper Bound	99	99	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	99
Lower Bound	93	89	98	98	98	98	97	98	98	97
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	2	8	1	6	4	2	7	4	3	2

Data Source: IEC Election Satisfaction Survey (ESS) 1999-2021

## 5.2 Vote count

### GOAL

Assess confidence in the accuracy of the vote count

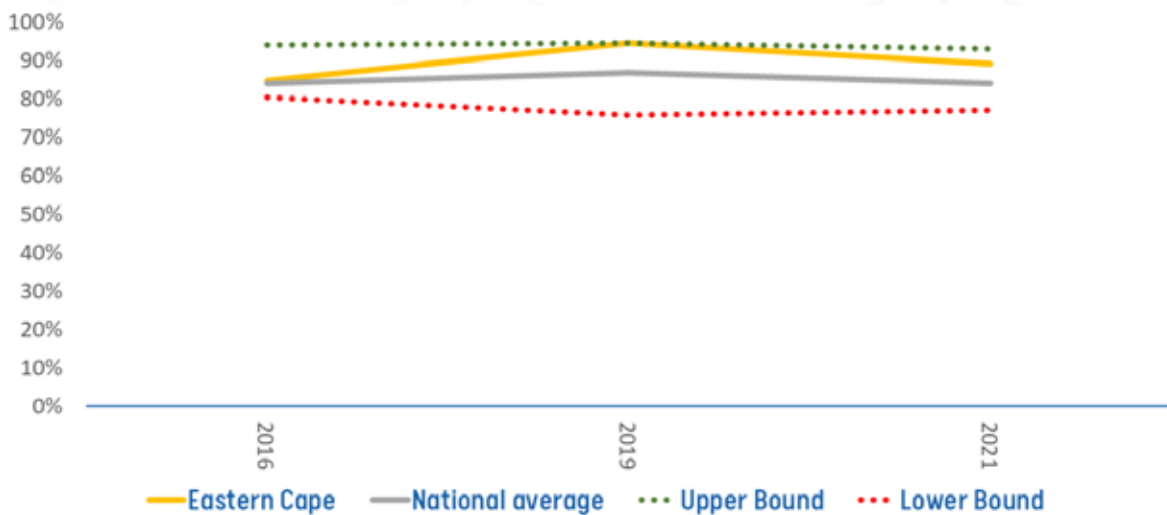
### QUESTION

How confident are you that your vote will be accurately counted? (% completely confident / very confident)

### ANALYSIS

In the 2019 national and provincial elections, a majority (94%) of voters in the Eastern Cape believed that their vote would be accurately counted. This is an encouraging finding that speaks to confidence in electoral staff in performing this duty, and this is nine percentage points higher than the 2016 survey results and five percentage points higher than the 2021 results. During the 2016-2021 period, the average proportion of voters in the province who had confidence in the count was 84%. Fairly moderate interprovincial variations were noted on this measure for the full period and the average difference between the upper and lower bounds was 15 percentage points. In comparison with other provinces, Eastern Cape voters ranked second highest on average for the three elections.

**CONFIDENCE IN THE ACCURACY OF THE VOTE COUNT: Proportion of voters who thought that the vote would be accurately counted, 2016-2021 (%)**



	2016	2019	2021	Average
Eastern Cape	85	94	89	84
National Avg.	84	87	84	87
Upper Bound	94	94	83	84
Lower Bound	80	76	77	85
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	3	1	4	2

Data Source: IEC Election Satisfaction Survey (ESS) 2016-2021



**PART**

**F**

**ELECTORAL  
REFORM**

# 6. ELECTORAL REFORM

## 6.1. Electoral outcomes - best possible government

### GOAL

Overall satisfaction with the electoral system and support for electoral reform

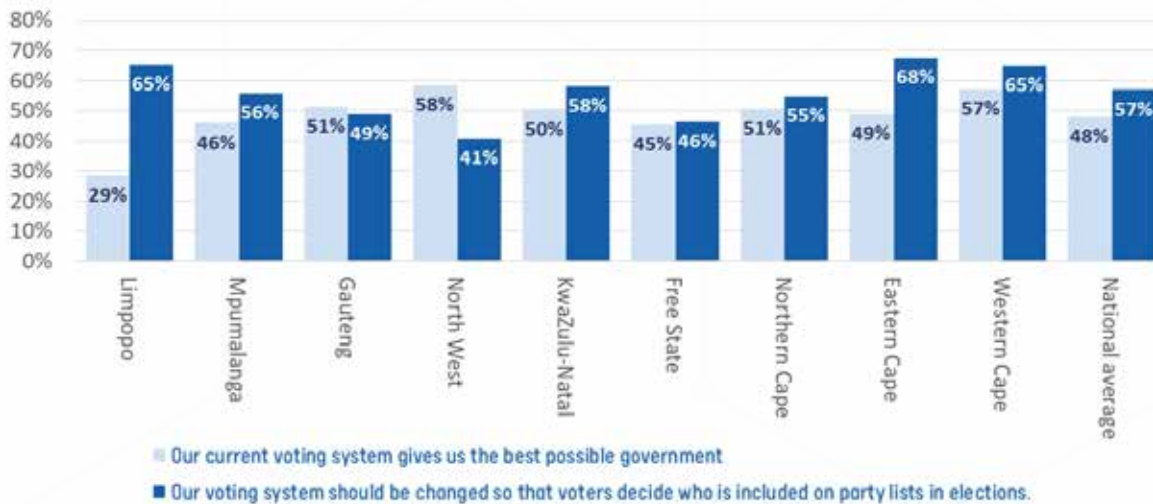
### QUESTION

Our current voting system gives us the best possible government. (% strongly agree/agree)  
 Our voting system should be changed so that voters decide who is included on party lists in elections. (% strongly agree/ agree)

### ANALYSIS

In 2019, 68% of citizens in the Eastern Cape believed that they should have more say over who is included on party lists. This figure differs substantively from the national average of 57%. This demonstrated a degree of uncertainty in the province about whether the current electoral system is functioning in accordance with expectations of democracy. Almost half (49%) of provincial residents believed that the current electoral system provides best possible government meaning that slightly more than half (51%) hold the opposite view. Relative to other provinces the Eastern Cape ranks highest and citizens are most likely to think they should have more say over who is included on party lists in elections. This suggests significant levels for support for this type of reform in the province, and perhaps reflects a demand for greater levels of accountability from political leaders.

**SATISFACTION WITH THE ELECTORAL SYSTEM: Percentage of citizens who agree that the voting system provides the best possible government, and believe that the system should be reformed to allow greater voter influence on party list candidates, 2019 (%)**



	Current electoral system provides the best possible government 2019	Voting system should be change so voters decide on party list candidates 2019
Eastern Cape	49	68
National Avg.	48	57
Upper Bound	58	68
Lower Bound	59	41
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	6	1

Data Source: IEC Voter Participation Survey (VPS) 2019



## 6.2. Electronic voting

### 6.2.1. Perceived effectiveness of electronic voting

#### GOAL

Evaluation of the perceived effectiveness of electronic voting

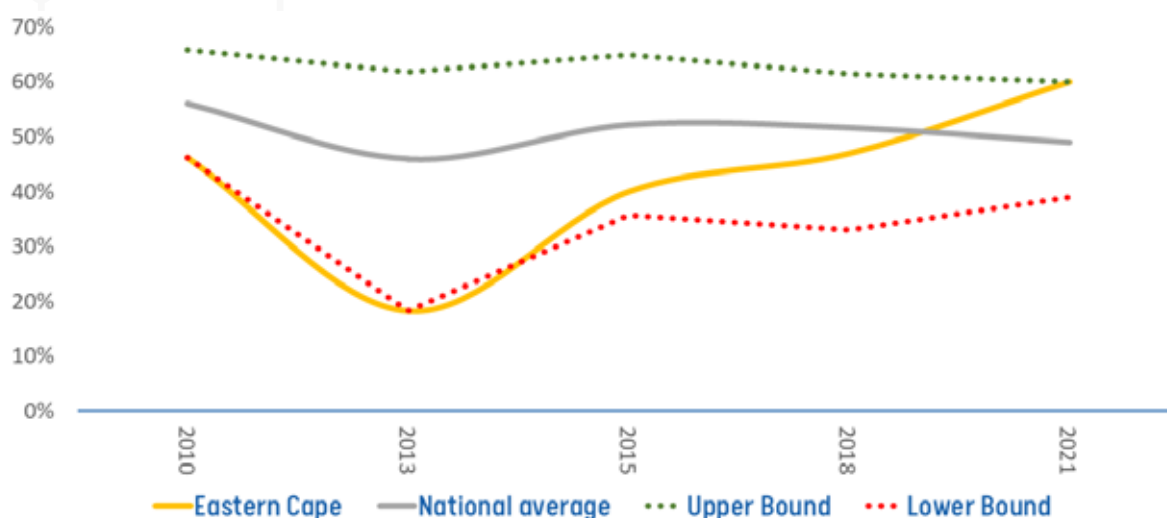
#### QUESTION

Electronic voting will make voting easier and more effective. (% strongly agree/agree)

#### ANALYSIS

In 2010, almost half (46%) of adults in the Eastern Cape thought that electronic voting would be easier and more effective than the present system of paper ballots. There is noticeable variation in views across the 2013, 2015 and 2018 survey rounds with proportions ranging from 18%-47%. In 2021 three-fifths (60%) of adults believed that electronic voting would make things easier. Reviewing the data, it is apparent that residents have become most likely to favour electronic voting since the 2010 survey round. Relative to other provinces, the position of the Eastern Cape has been rather low over time and the province has ranked ninth across the full period. Despite changing public attitudes, it is evident that Eastern Cape residents compared to those from other provinces would be quite sceptical if the Election Commission decided to introduce an electronic voting system.

**EASE AND EFFECTIVENESS OF ELECTRONIC VOTING: Proportion of adult citizens who thought that electronic voting would make the system more efficient, 2010-2021 (% agreeing)**



	2010	2013	2015	2018	2021	Average
Eastern Cape	46	18	40	47	60	38
National Avg.	56	46	52	52	49	51
Upper Bound	66	62	65	62	60	59
Lower Bound	46	18	36	33	39	38
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	9	9	7	5	1	9

Data Source: IEC Voter Participation Survey (VPS) 2010-2021

## 6.2.2 Concerns of possible fraud associated with electronic voting

### GOAL

Assess concern over possible fraud associated with electronic voting

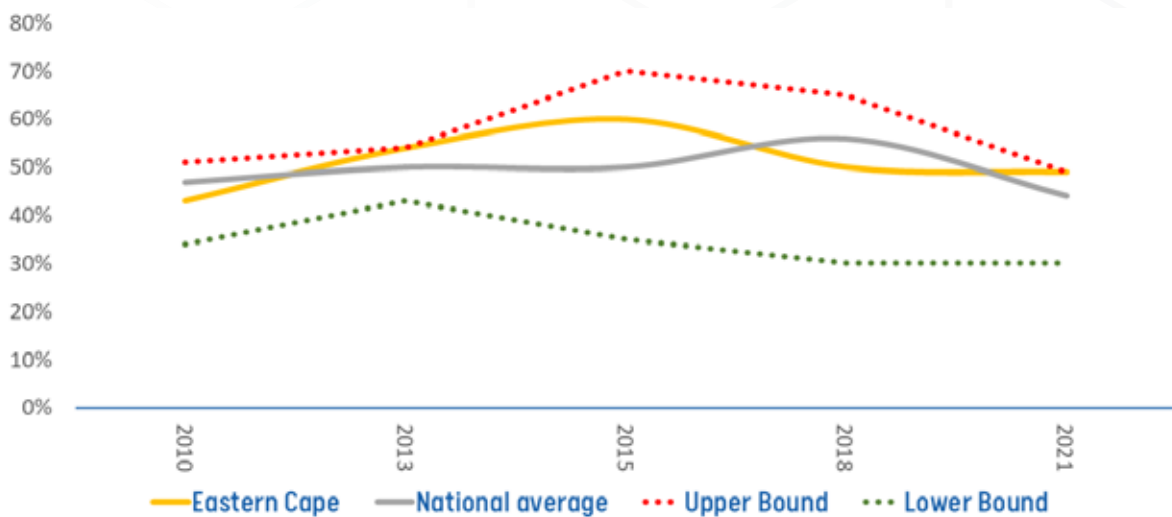
### QUESTION

Electronic voting will introduce more electoral fraud. (% strongly agree/ agree)

### ANALYSIS

Provincially fears of voter fraud in an electronic voting system have increased from 43% in 2010 to 60% in 2015. Half of all adult citizens in the Eastern Cape believed that an electronic voting system would introduce more fraud to the current electoral system in 2018. This was six percentage points higher than the national average in that survey round. In 2021 the proportion who held this belief had declined by one percentage point to 49%. These fluctuations indicate that residents in the province are quite sceptical about potential negative consequences associated with electronic voting. Compared with other provinces, the Eastern Cape ranked fourth over the full period. The Electoral Commission needs to convince a considerable share of citizens in the Eastern Cape about the safety of any e-voting system that is considered for introduction in future elections.

**ELECTRONIC VOTING AND CONCERN OVER FRAUD: Share of adult citizens who believe that electronic voting would introduce more fraud into the election system, 2010-2021 (% agreeing)**



	2010	2013	2015	2018	2021	Average
Eastern Cape	43	54	60	50	49	52
National Avg.	47	50	50	56	44	51
Upper Bound	51	54	70	65	49	54
Lower Bound	34	43	35	30	30	37
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	6	1	2	5	1	4

Data Source: IEC Voter Participation Survey (VPS) 2010-2021

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