



ELECTION INDICATORS REPORT

2021

NORTHERN 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)
Research Programme



SOUTH AFRICA

ELECTION INDICATORS REPORT

NORTHERN CAPE

2021

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) Research Programme





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

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

FOREWORD	2
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	4
1. ASSESSING ELECTORAL INTEGRITY IN SOUTH AFRICA	9
1.1 Introducing the report series	9
1.2 Conceptual framework	10
1.3 Guide to indicators and their interpretation	13
2. PRE-ELECTION PHASE	15
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



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	Planned abstention due to administrative barriers	37
2.3.8	Voter registration patterns	38
2.3.9	Perceived ease of the registration process	39
2.3.10	Duration of registration process	40
3.	CAMPAIGN PERIOD	42
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
4.	ELECTION DAY	51
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
5.	POST-ELECTION	69
5.1.	Evaluation of the elections as free and fair	69
5.2	Vote count	70
6.	ELECTORAL REFORM	72
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
	REFERENCES	75



PART

A

IEC
SOUTH AFRICA

ASSESSING ELECTORAL INTEGRITY IN SOUTH AFRICA

1. 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 has 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) are 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 mining of 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

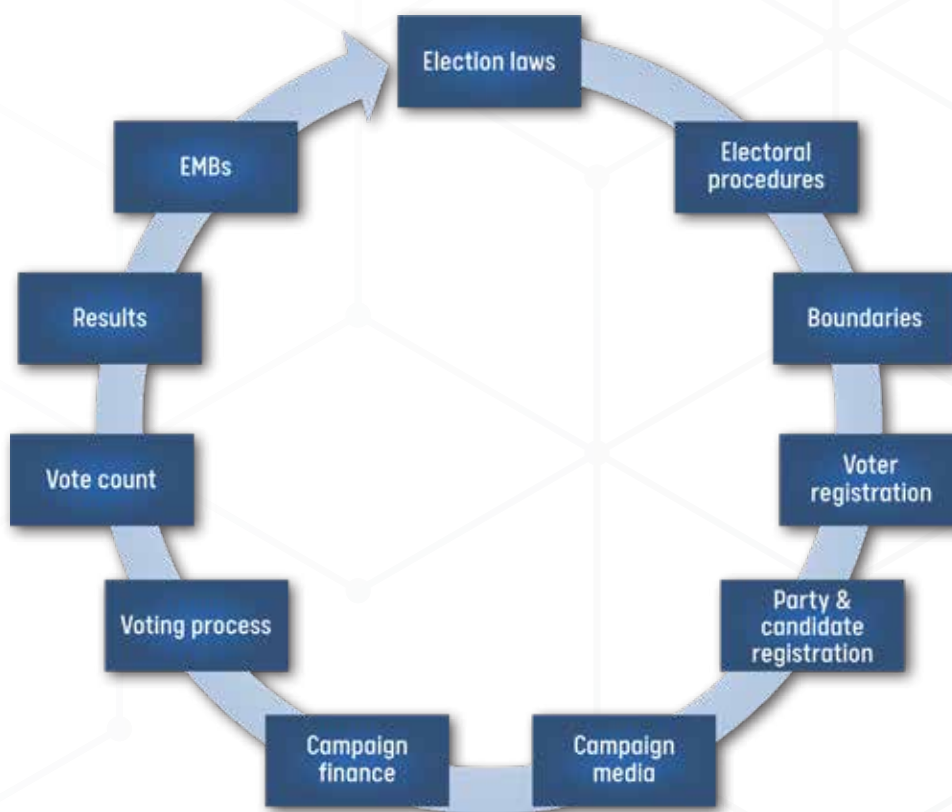
In planning this report series, we drew on three strands of the conceptual literature relating to models of political support, electoral integrity and election management. We briefly outline some of the ideas and components of these models, particularly those that had an influence on the decisions regarding 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)¹ 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 of 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.

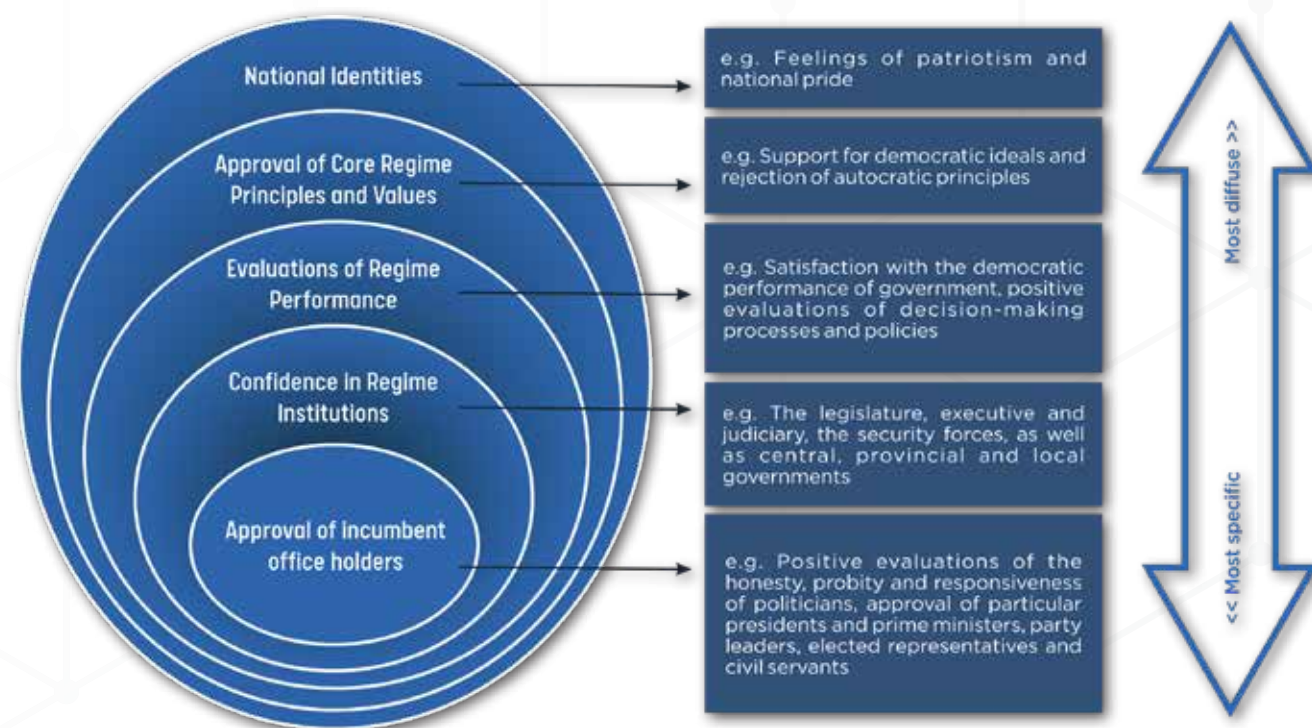
Political support

In order 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. Error! Reference source not found. 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



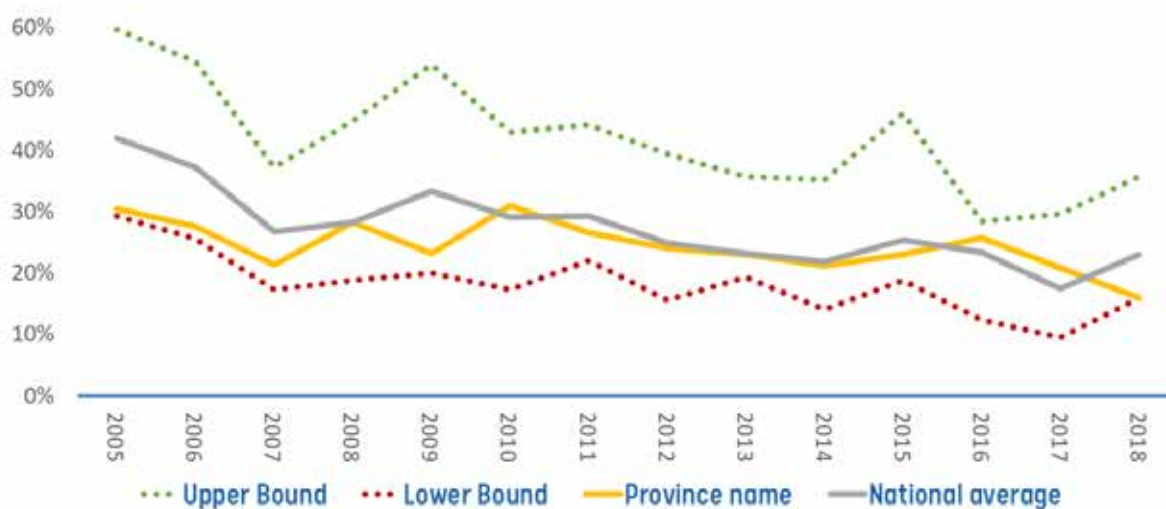
Source: Norris (2011:24) Democratic Deficit: Critical Citizens Revisited

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

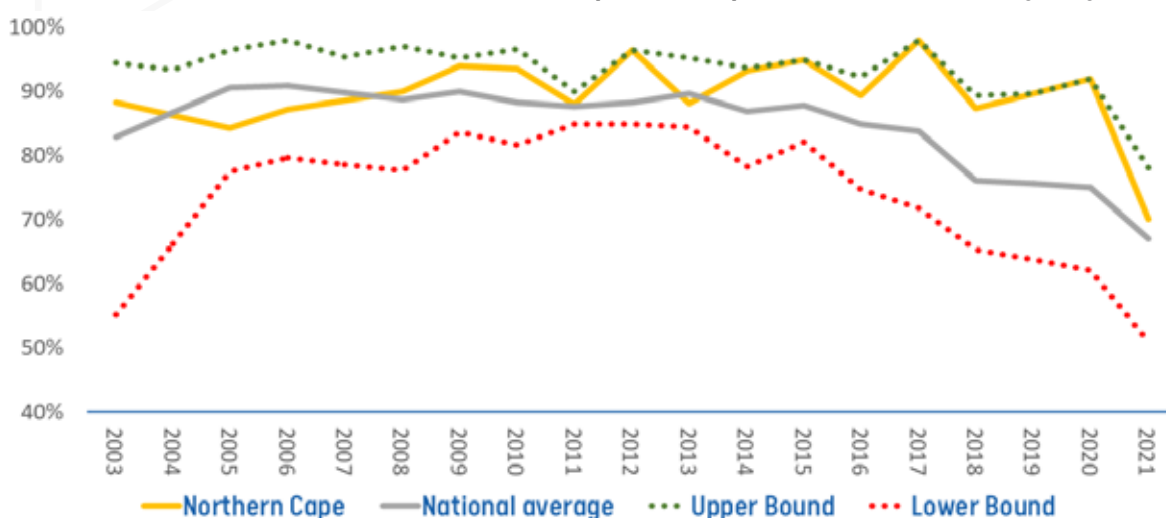
QUESTION

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

As is the case nationally, Northern Cape residents are generally loyal to their country and exhibit relatively high levels of attachment to the state. Between 2003 and 2020, between 88% and 92% of the Northern Cape populace on average agreed that they would rather be a citizen of the country than any other nation. In line with the national trend, pride in the province dropped in 2021, falling from 92% in 2020 to 70% in 2021. Although this is in line with the national trend, the stark decline is concerning. Despite this decline, the Northern Cape remains resolutely proud (89%) and remains above the national average. The position of the Northern Cape, relative to other provinces has varied over time. For most SASAS rounds it was in one of the top three positions and was only below the national average in 2004 to 2007 and in 2013. Overall, this province ranked first, implying a general sense of belonging or attachment to the nation-state.

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
Northern Cape	88	...	84	87	...	90	94	94	88	96	88	93	95	89	98	87	...	92	70	89
National Avg..	83	...	91	91	...	89	90	88	88	88	90	87	88	85	84	76	...	75	67	84
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)	3	...	8	8	...	6	2	2	6	1	7	2	1	5	1	2	...	1	4	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 the six components of democracy, respondents were asked to indicate the extent to which they believed each were as 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 Northern Cape, the importance attached to the six dimensions of democratic ideals remained high, with average scores ranging between 5.4 and 8.7 on a 0-10 scale. The highest rated ideal has consistently been 'free and fair elections', followed by 'freedom of expression'. Over the 2013 to 2018 period, there has been a decline in the importance attached to all six ideals, with the largest drop evident for 'free and fair elections' and 'viable opposition'. The observed trends are similar to the national average in terms of relative ranking of ideals and the scale of decline over the five years. Despite the modest decline in importance ratings, the provincial ranking for Northern Cape has dropped from highest in all instances to the bottom three between 2016 and 2018.

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
Northern Cape	8.5	8.7	6.7	6.5	7.4	8.2	6.8	6.0	7.3	8.4	6.4	5.7
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)	4	1	8	6	5	1	6	5	5	1	7	5

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
Northern Cape	7.7	8.2	6.3	5.4	8.2	8.2	6.6	7.5	7.8	8.6	6.2	6.1
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)	5	1	8	8	3	1	8	7	4	1	7	5

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

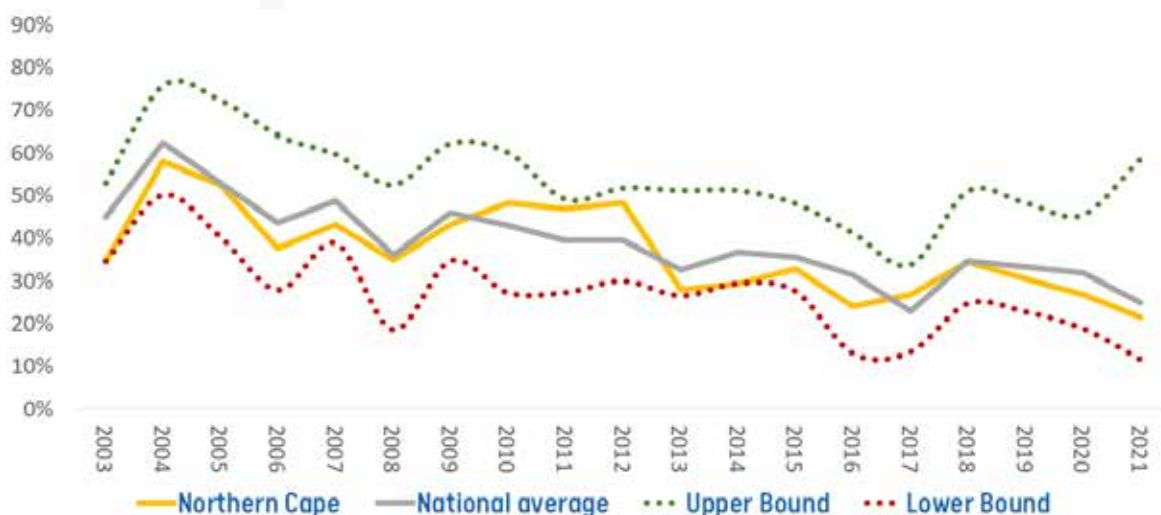
QUESTION

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

ANALYSIS

There has been a general decline in satisfaction with the functioning of democracy among Northern Cape residents since 2004, largely mirroring the national trend. There was a favourable upswing in satisfaction during the 2010 to 2012 period, but this development was relatively short-lived, and after 2012 barely a third was satisfied with the functioning of democracy. In 2021 satisfaction levels reached its lowest point, with only a fifth (21%) of residents of the Northern Cape satisfied with how democracy is working. Overall, Northern Cape residents tend to be fairly critical of the way democracy is working, ranking in the bottom half for most years during this period and ranking sixth on average.

SUPPLY OF DEMOCRACY: Satisfaction with the way democracy is working in South Africa, 2003-2021 (%)



%	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Average
Northern Cape	35	58	52	38	43	35	43	48	47	48	28	29	33	24	27	34	...	27	21	37
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)	9	6	6	8	7	5	5	4	2	3	7	9	6	7	3	6	...	8	7	6

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

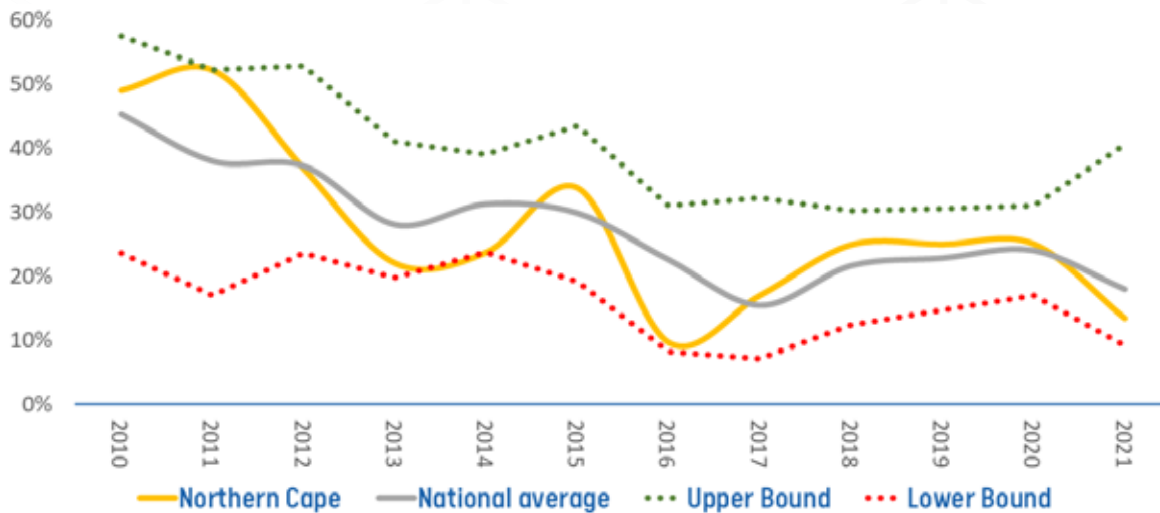
QUESTION

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 late 2010, about half (49%) of the adult population of the Northern Cape thought that the nation was heading in the right direction. Despite fluctuations in this outlook in recent years, there has been a sustained general downward pattern during the decade, reaching the lowest points in 2016 (10%) and 2021 (13%). Although the trend in the province reflects the national tendency of reduced confidence in the country's direction, the province did display a relatively high level of variation during the period, from 49% stating the country is moving in the right direction in 2010 to only 13% in 2021. In 2011 the province was ranked first on this indicator while in 2021 the Northern Cape was positioned eighth. On average, the province ranks fifth out of all provinces.

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
Northern Cape	49	52	37	22	24	34	10	17	25	...	25	13	28
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	41	37
Lower Bound	24	17	24	20	24	19	8	7	12	...	17	9	22
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	5	1	5	8	9	4	8	3	4	...	4	8	5

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

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 chosen dimensions of democracy, respondents assessed the extent to which they believed each ideal applies to South African democracy in practice (mean score, 0-10 applicability scale, where 0=does not apply at all; 10=applies completely).

ANALYSIS

In the Northern Cape, the evaluation of the six dimensions of democracy varied, with average scores ranging between 4.1 and 7.8 on a 0-10 scale. On average, from 2013 to 2021, 'free and fair elections', the belief that our democracy offers 'viable opposition', 'participation in protests' and 'elected listen to the public' received higher scores (lower rankings) whilst 'electoral accountability' (parties punished during elections for poor performance) and 'freedom of expression' received much lower scores (higher rankings) in this province. Comparing the 2013 to 2021 period, evaluations of all the ideals, but Ideal 3 (electoral accountability), decreased. This declining trend is in line with what was found nationally. In terms of provincial ranking, the Northern Cape generally ranked in the bottom half in 2021 – the only exception being Ideal 3 - implying some disillusionment with certain aspects of democracy. Most concerning is the finding that the Northern Cape ranked very low on Ideal 1 (Free and Fair elections) during the entire period.

SUPPLY OF DEMOCRACY: Evaluations of different democratic values or ideals, 2003-2021 (mean scores based on a 0-10 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
Northern Cape	6,8	7,1	6,3	5,5	4,3	5,2	4,5	4,1	4,1	5,2	4,5	4,8
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)	7	7	7	8	5	1	4	6	6	1	6	2

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
Northern Cape	6,0	7,3	5,8	5,7	6,4	7,7	6,3	5,4	6,6	7,8	6,1	5,5
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)	5	1	6	5	3	1	5	5	4	1	7	7

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

2.1.6 Satisfaction with municipal performance

GOAL

Determine levels of satisfaction with municipal performance

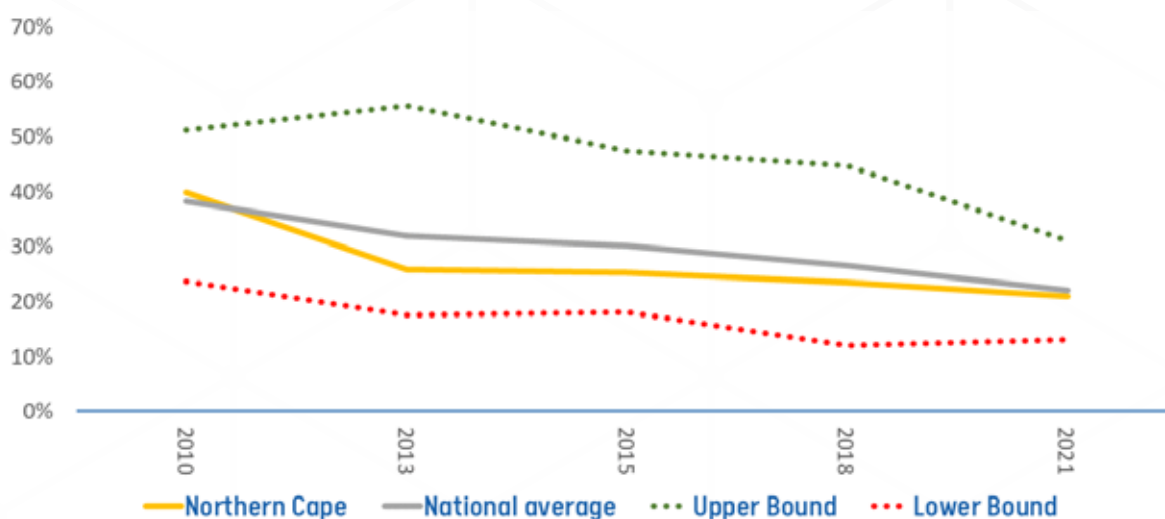
QUESTION

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

ANALYSIS

In 2010 there was general discontentment with the performance of municipalities among the Northern Cape public, with only 40% being satisfied with performance. Since then, satisfaction has further declined with the share satisfied with municipal functioning falling from 40% to 26% in 2013, 25% in 2015, 24% in 2018 and 21% in 2021. Only about a fifth of the provincial public was therefore satisfied with the performance of their municipal government in 2021. Except for 2010, Northern Cape figures were moderately lower than the South African national average and compared to other provinces, the Northern Cape ranked fifth overall. These results suggest that the Northern Cape residents are generally as critical of municipal government as the average South African.

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



%	2010	2013	2015	2018	2021	Average
Northern Cape	40	26	25	24	21	27
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)	4	6	7	5	2	5

Data Source: IEC Voter Participation Survey (VPS) 2010, 2013, 2015, 2018, 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

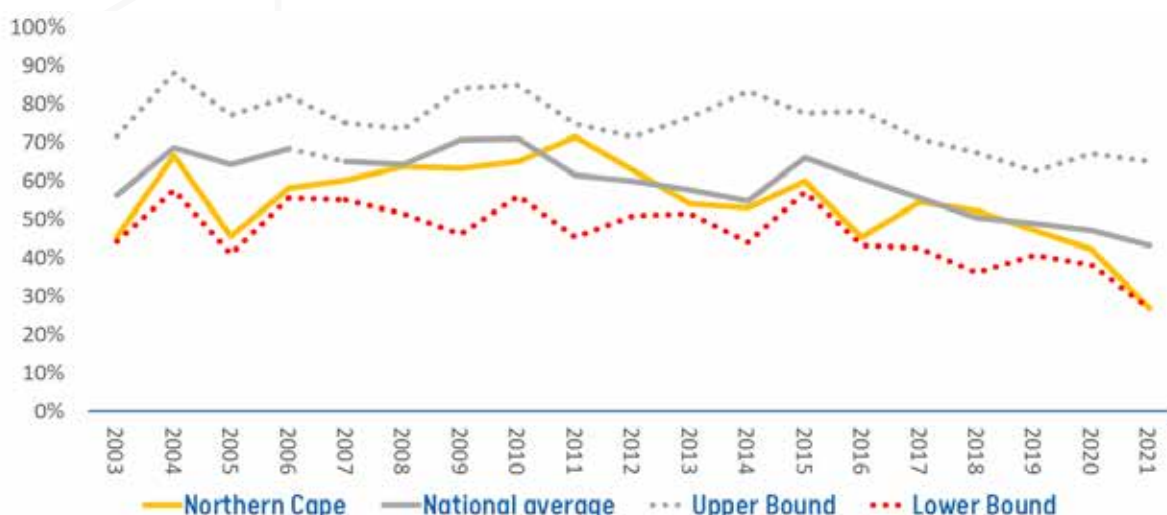
QUESTION

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

ANALYSIS

Public confidence in the Election Commission was low in the Northern Cape in 2003 when less than half (45%) of the public expressed trust in the Commission. Confidence in the Commission increased to a high of 71% in 2011, before starting to decline to its nadir in 2021, when only 27% of the provincial population had confidence in this important institution. Across the full period, the Northern Cape scored below average in the trust ratings and ranked seventh overall. Given this, the Electoral Commission should consider focusing on the Northern Cape to instil more confidence in the Commission. Despite these negative evaluations, it must be mentioned that the Commission remains one of the most trusted political institutions in the country.

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
Northern Cape	45	66	46	58	60	64	63	65	71	63	54	53	60	45	54	52	...	42	27	54
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	75	73	84	85	75	71	77	83	78	78	71	67	...	67	65	72
Lower Bound	44	58	41	55	55	51	46	56	45	51	51	44	57	43	42	36	...	38	27	53
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	8	6	8	8	7	7	7	6	2	4	6	7	7	8	5	4	...	8	9	7

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

2.2.2 Trust in National Government

GOAL

Public confidence in national government

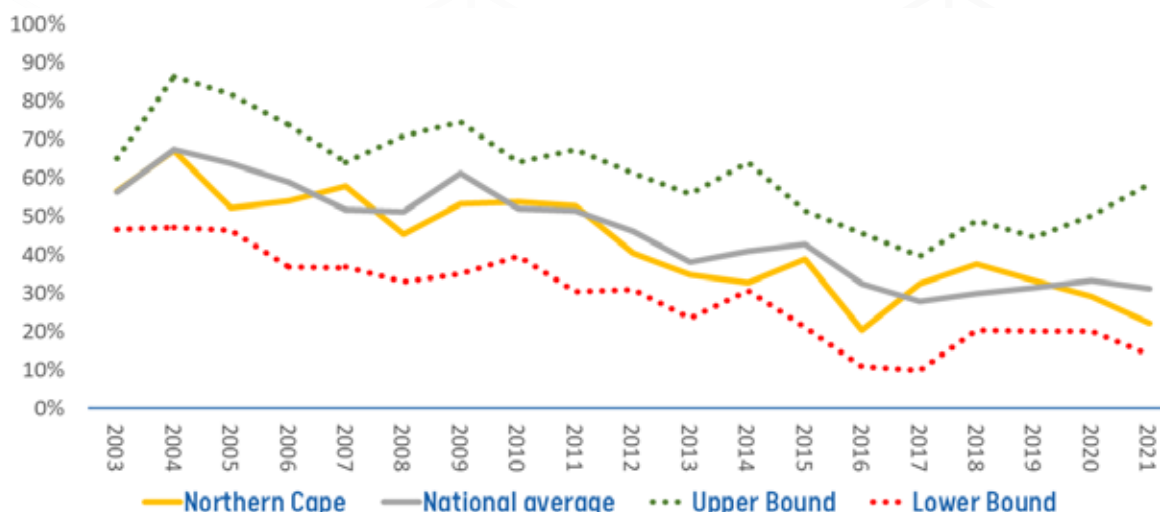
QUESTION

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

ANALYSIS

At the beginning of the period, the Northern Cape had relatively moderate levels of trust in national government. With the exception of 2008, trust levels between 2003 and 2011 were above the 50% mark. Since 2012 there has been a significant decline on this indicator and only 20% of the Northern Cape public trusted the government in 2016. This represented a decline of more than 33 percentage points since 2011. An improvement in trust was observed in 2017 and 2018, but thereafter trust deteriorated to 22% in 2021. It is clear that trust in national government has been declining over the period. In terms of provincial ranking, this province ranks seventh in trusting national government and has for the most part scored below the national average on this indicator.

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
Northern Cape	57	67	52	54	58	45	53	54	53	40	35	33	39	20	32	37	...	29	22	43
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	56
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)	6	6	8	6	4	7	7	5	6	7	6	8	8	8	3	3	...	8	8	7

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

2.2.3 Trust in Provincial Government

GOAL

Public confidence in provincial government

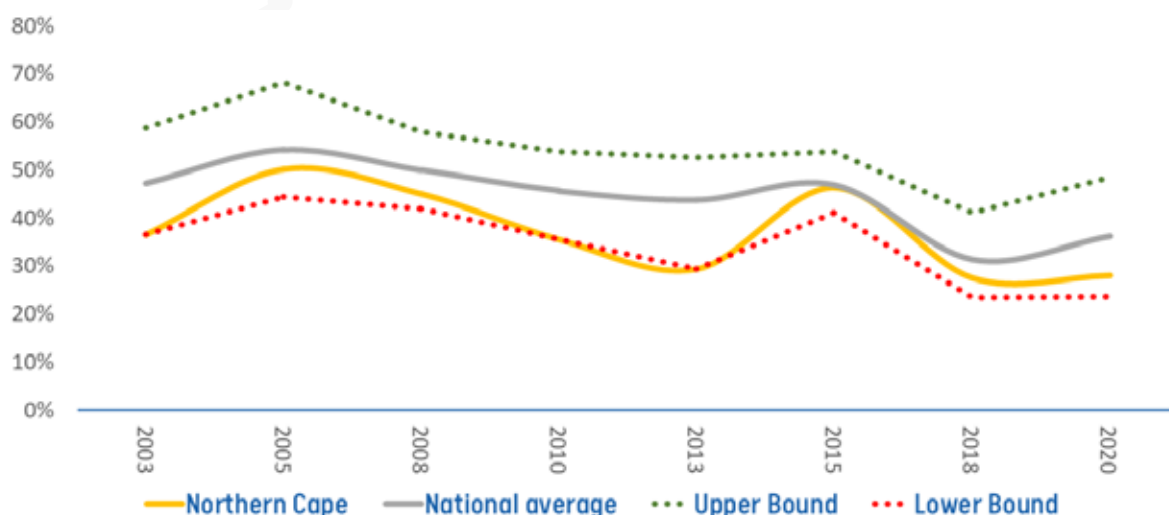
QUESTION

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

ANALYSIS

Northern Cape residents were generally unhappy with the performance of their provincial government, averaging 37% across the 2003 to 2021 period. In 2020 barely more than a quarter (28%) trusted this institution. For most of the period under assessment, Northern Cape trust scores were below the national average and ranked lowest on this indicator in 2003, 2010 and 2013. Overall, the Northern Cape province ranked ninth on this indicator, implying that over this period the Northern Cape had the lowest trust in provincial government when compared to all other provinces. This sphere of government is therefore generally considered as untrustworthy among Northern Cape residents.

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



%	2003	2005	2008	2010	2013	2015	2018	2020	Average
Northern Cape	37	50	45	36	29	46	28	28	37
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)	9	6	7	9	9	5	6	7	9

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

2.2.4 Trust in Local Government

GOAL

Public confidence in local government

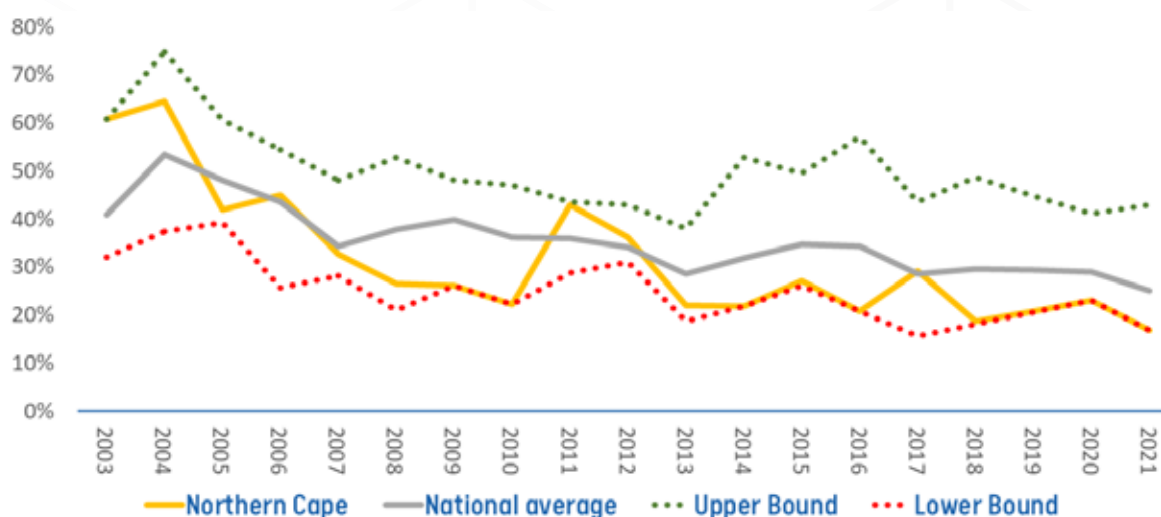
QUESTION

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

ANALYSIS

In the Northern Cape, trust in local government is lower than other spheres of government and averages 32% over the 2003 to 2021 period. A large decline in confidence in local government occurred between 2004 and 2010. During this period, the level of public confidence in this important institution fell by more than 40 percentage points. Confidence in local government recovered briefly in 2011, but plummeted again soon after. Confidence reached its lowest point in 2021 when only 17% of the province trusted this institution. For the bulk of the period under consideration, but especially since 2013, Northern Cape residents were below the national average in terms of trust in local government. This is reflected in the provincial ranking of the Northern Cape which was seventh on average.

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
Northern Cape	61	65	42	45	33	26	26	22	43	36	22	22	27	21	29	19	...	23	17	32
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	16	18	...	23	17	30
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	1	3	8	4	6	7	9	9	2	4	8	9	7	9	4	8	...	8	9	7

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

2.2.5 Trust in Parliament

GOAL

Public confidence in parliament

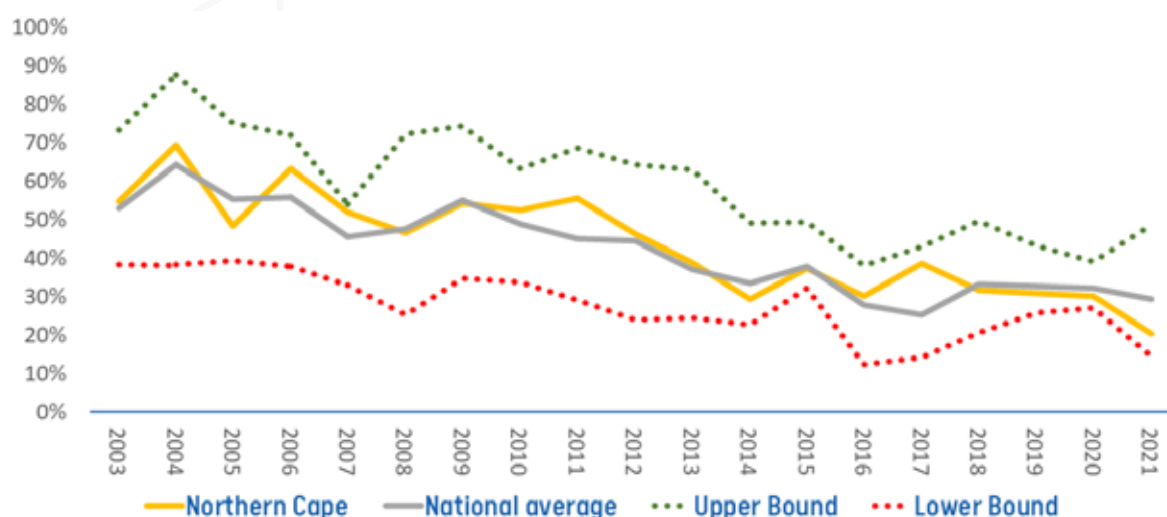
QUESTION

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

ANALYSIS

The data for Northern Cape reveals that trust in parliament has varied over the 2003 to 2021 period, with particular up and downswings evident up to 2006?. After an upswing in 2006, trust in this institution has steadily been deteriorating. Since 2006, the level of confidence in national parliament dropped by 43 percentage points (from 63% to 20%). In 2021 only 20% of Northern Cape residents indicated that they trust parliament. In terms of provincial differences in trust levels, the Northern Cape was ranked sixth out of the nine provinces on average across the 2003 to 2021 period, with an average of 44% trust in parliament. It is therefore clear that parliament is not trusted in the Northern Cape and that this trust has been deteriorating rapidly since 2003?. This pattern imitates the national picture of increasing distrust in parliament.

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
Northern Cape	55	69	48	63	52	47	54	52	55	46	39	29	37	30	38	32	...	30	20	44
National Avg..	53	64	55	56	46	48	55	49	45	44	37	33	38	28	25	33	...	32	29	42
Upper Bound	73	88	75	72	54	72	74	63	68	64	63	49	49	38	43	49	...	39	49	54
Lower Bound	38	38	39	38	33	25	35	34	29	24	24	23	32	12	14	21	...	27	14	30
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	4	6	7	4	2	7	5	4	4	6	5	7	4	4	2	5	...	6	8	6

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

2.2.6 Trust in Courts

GOAL

Public confidence in the courts

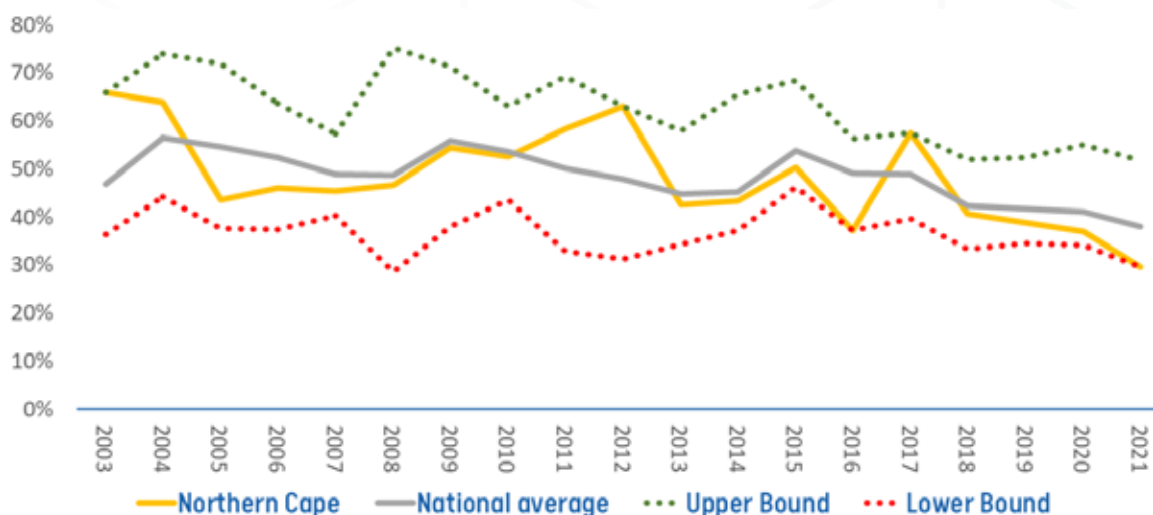
QUESTION

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

ANALYSIS

Over the 2003 to 2010 period, trust in the courts varied substantially in the Northern Cape. At the beginning of the period under examination, 66% of Northern Cape residents trusted the courts and the province was ranked first, implying the highest trust in juridical courts. Between 2004 and 2005, trust in courts fell by 20 percentage points to a low of 44% in 2005. From 2005 to 2012 there was a general increase in trust with trust levels improving by 19 percentage points (from 44% to 63%). This trend was however reversed after 2012 and in 2016 trust in courts was as low as 37%. In 2017 trust increased again to 58% after which it declined again to its lowest point in 2021, when less than a third (30%) of Northern Cape residents trusted courts. Over the full period, the average trust score for courts in the province was 48% and the overall provincial ranking of the Northern Cape was fifth over the full period.

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
Northern Cape	66	64	44	46	45	47	54	53	58	63	43	43	50	37	58	41	...	37	30	48
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	64	57	75	71	63	69	63	58	66	68	56	58	52	...	55	52	57
Lower Bound	36	44	38	37	40	29	38	44	33	31	34	37	46	37	40	33	...	34	30	43
Rank (1-high; 9-low)	1	4	8	7	8	6	5	4	3	1	6	6	6	9	1	6	...	6	9	5

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

2.2.7 Trust in Political Parties

GOAL

Public confidence in political parties

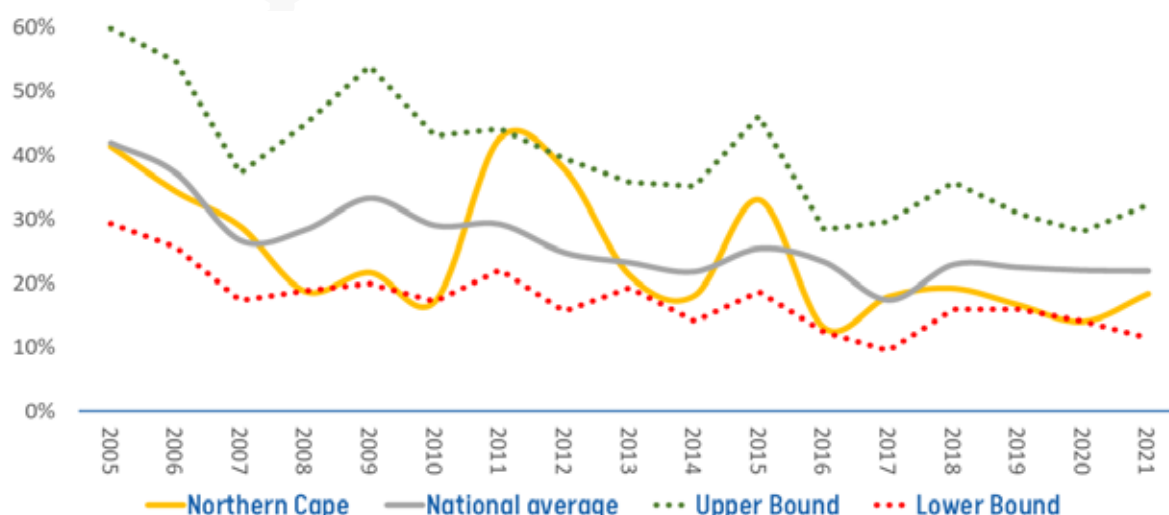
QUESTION

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

ANALYSIS

In 2005, two-fifths (41%) of the Northern Cape public trusted political parties. The data for the province revealed that trust in political parties declined to a low of 17% in 2010. There was an upswing in the 2011 period to a high of 43% before a second decline was witnessed to a low of 18% in 2014. Trust recovered to 33% in 2015, but then fell to an all-time low of 13% in 2016. Since then, trust in political parties have remained below 20% with the provincial average over the period at 24%. In terms of provincial ranking, the Northern Cape on average ranked sixth on this indicator and was ranked as the province least trusting of political parties in 2008, 2010 and 2020.

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
Northern Cape	41	34	29	19	22	17	43	38	21	18	33	13	18	19	...	14	18	24
National Avg..	42	37	27	28	33	29	29	25	23	22	25	23	17	23	...	22	22	27
Upper Bound	60	55	37	45	54	43	44	39	36	35	46	28	30	36	...	28	32	37
Lower Bound	29	26	17	19	20	17	22	16	19	14	19	12	9	16	...	14	11	21
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	5	5	5	9	8	9	2	2	6	7	2	8	3	6	...	9	6	6

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

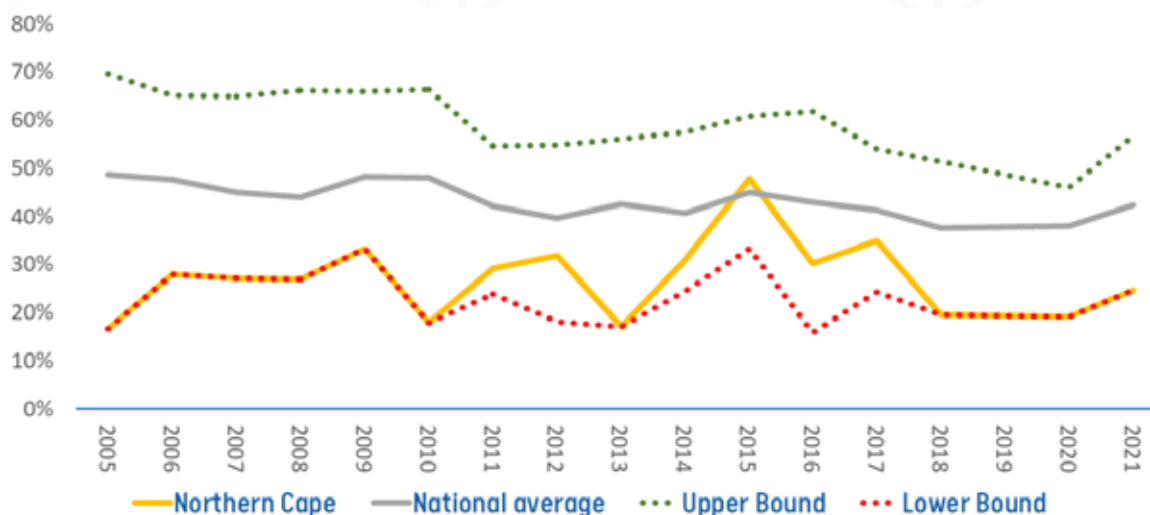
QUESTION

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

ANALYSIS

Data from the Northern Cape reveals that faith in traditional authorities is low. Between 2005 and 2010, in 2013 and between 2018 and 2021, the Northern Cape rated lowest on this indicator. In 2015 trust in traditional authorities/leaders increased and this was the only year that trust in this province was higher than the national average. In terms of provincial ranking, on aggregate, the Northern Cape ranked lowest (ninth). From the results it is clear that residents from the Northern Cape have very low levels of trust in traditional authorities/leaders.

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
Northern Cape	17	28	27	27	33	18	29	32	17	31	48	30	35	20	...	19	25	27
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	27	27	33	18	24	18	17	24	33	16	24	20	...	19	25	27
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	9	9	9	9	9	9	8	7	9	7	4	8	6	9	...	9	9	9

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

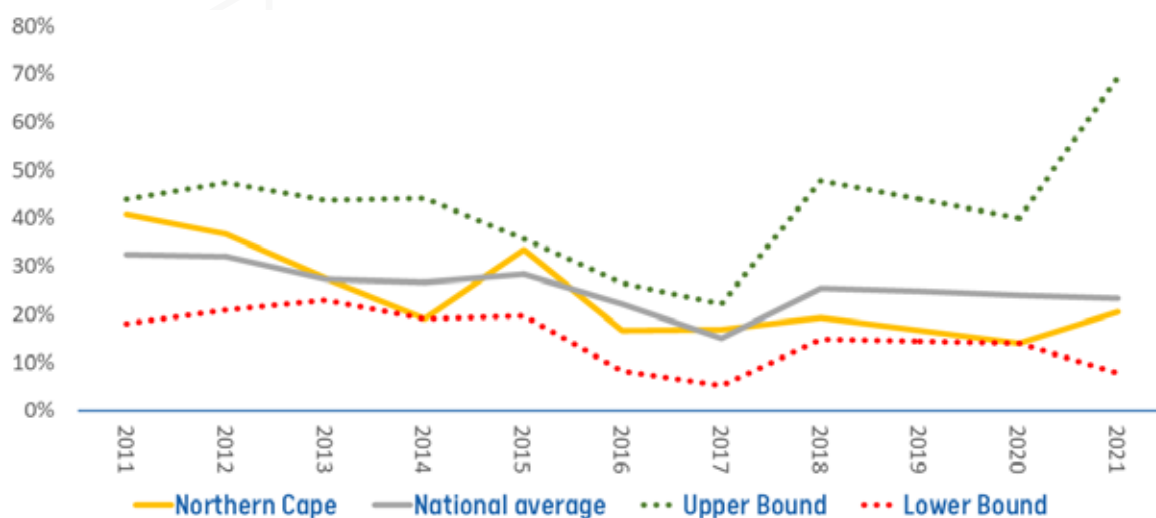
QUESTION

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

ANALYSIS

Confidence in political leaders was fairly low at the start of the period, with 41% of the Northern Cape population trusting political leaders in 2011. Between 2011 and 2014 trust diminished further to 19% in 2014, after which it increased to 33% in 2015. This increase in satisfaction was short-lived, and satisfaction declined and reached its lowest point in 2020 with only 14% of the provincial population satisfied with political leaders. Trust has slightly recovered since then and trust in political leaders in the Northern Cape was at 20% in 2021. Over the period, the average trust score for the Northern Cape is 24%. Compared to other provinces, the Northern Cape ranked fifth on aggregate with trust in political leaders, being lower than the national average from 2018 onwards.

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
Northern Cape	41	37	28	19	33	17	17	19	...	14	20	24
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)	2	4	4	9	3	7	5	6	...	8	4	5

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

2.2.10 Trust in Religious Institutions

GOAL

Public confidence in religious institutions

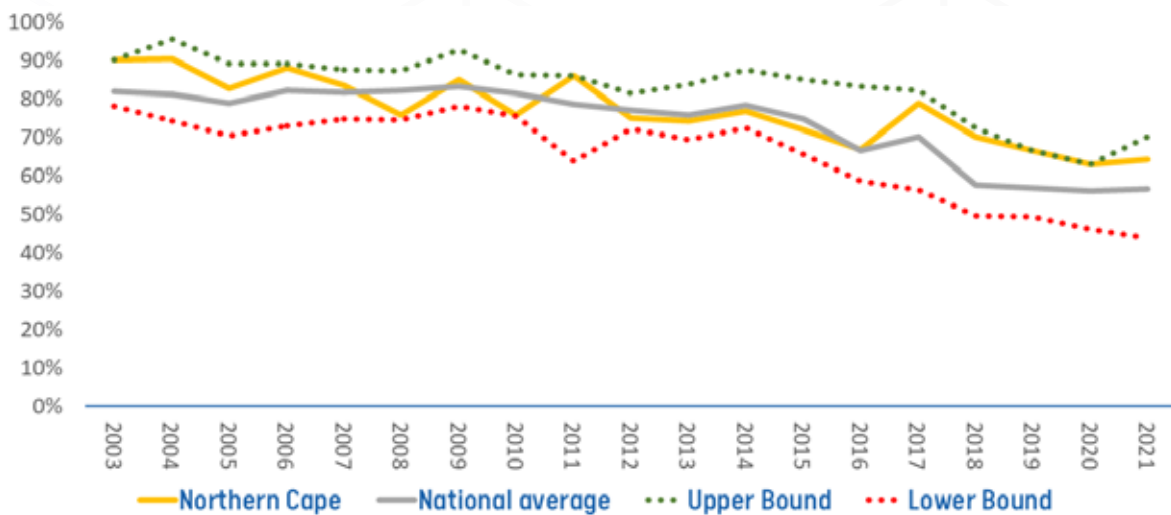
QUESTION

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

ANALYSIS

Northern Cape residents were fairly trusting of religious institutions for most of the period under deliberation. Between 2003 and 2007, as well as in 2009 and 2011, trust in religious institutions remained above the 70% mark. In 2016, trust in religious institutions dropped to 67%. After 2016, trust in religious institutions in the Northern Cape has consistently been above the national average and in terms of provincial ranking, the Northern Cape on average ranked third. A general observation worth mentioning is that disgruntlement with political institutions (especially since 2008) seems to have spilled over to other socio-cultural institutions and has even impacted religious institutions, which have historically been highly trusted institutions.

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
Northern Cape	90	90	83	88	83	76	85	76	86	75	74	77	72	67	79	70	...	63	64	77
National Avg..	82	81	79	82	82	82	83	81	79	77	76	78	75	66	70	58	...	56	56	74
Upper Bound	90	96	89	89	88	87	93	86	86	81	84	87	85	83	82	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)	1	3	5	2	5	8	4	8	1	7	8	6	6	5	3	2	...	1	4	3

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

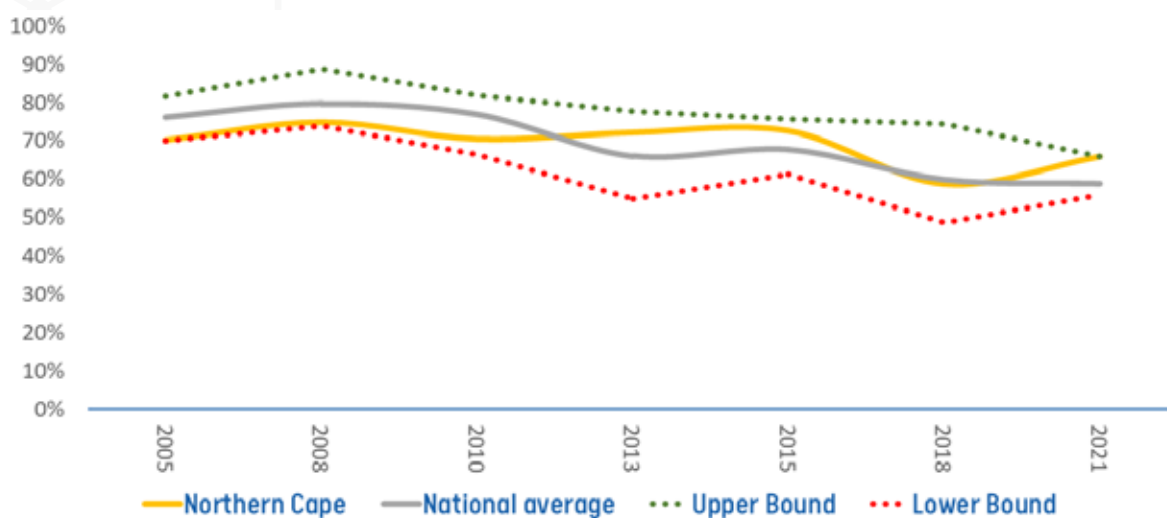
QUESTION

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

ANALYSIS

It is apparent that a significant majority (70%) of Northern Cape residents reported an interest in elections in 2005. Looking at how levels of interest changed over time, we find that this picture has remained relatively stable between 2005 and 2015. Interest in government elections, however, declined in 2018 when a deterioration of fourteen percentage points was observed. In 2021 the level of interest increased to two-thirds. Up to 2010 the provincial average was below the national average, but since 2013 generally remained above the national average. The national and the provincial averages for the 2005 to 2021 period are similar. The provincial ranking of the Northern Cape on this indicator is fifth.

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
Northern Cape	70	75	71	72	73	59	66	69
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	67
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	8	7	8	4	2	6	1	5

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

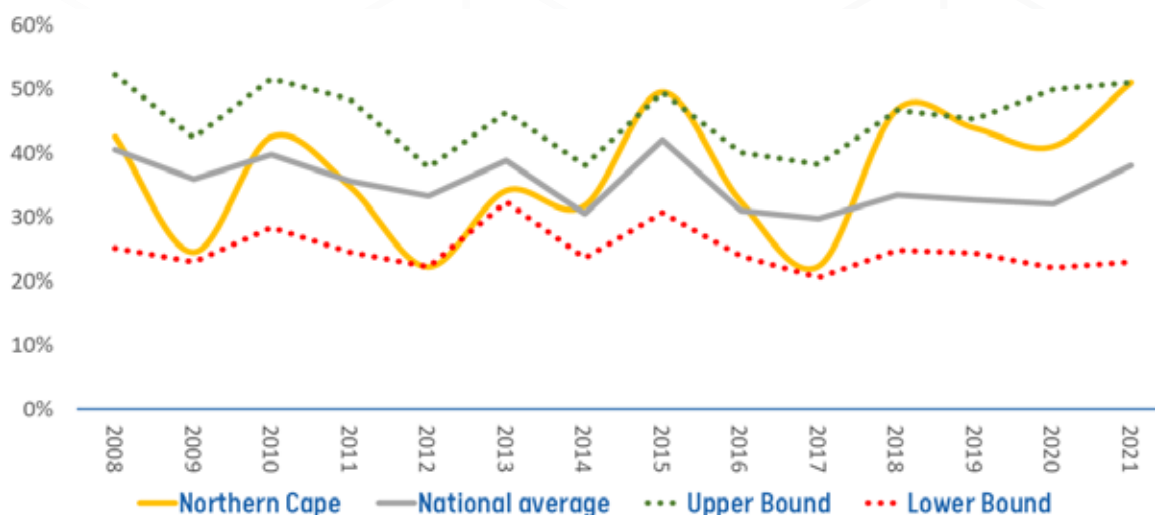
QUESTION

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

ANALYSIS

Northern Cape residents generally think that politics is difficult to understand. From the graph below it is clear that at best, 51% of the voters indicated that politics is easy to understand and on average two-fifths (37%) of the provincial populace thinks that politics is easy to understand. Over the period, this indicator varied, but since 2018 the Northern Cape generally scored above the national average, indicating a relative higher understanding of politics than other provinces. The provincial ranking of the Northern Cape was third highest on average over the full period. The Northern Cape residents therefore find politics difficult to understand, but relative to other provinces find it less complicated.

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
Northern Cape	43	24	43	35	22	34	32	49	32	22	47	...	41	51	37
National Avg..	41	36	40	36	33	39	30	42	31	30	33	...	32	38	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)	4	8	5	6	9	6	3	1	4	8	1	...	2	1	3

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

2.3.3 Belief in the power of one's vote

GOAL

Determine internal political efficacy

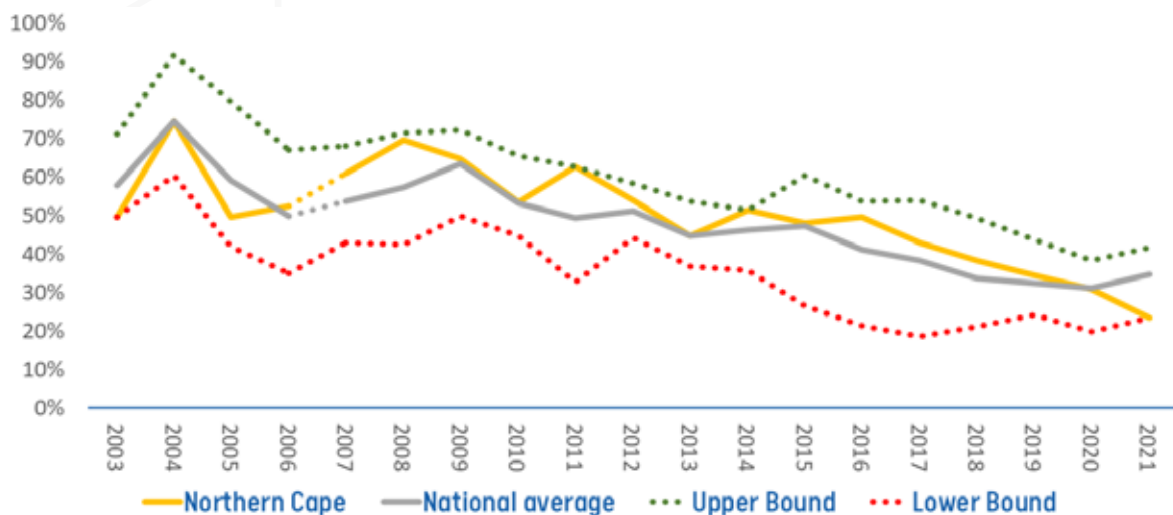
QUESTION

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

ANALYSIS

In 2004, three-quarters of the Northern Cape residents believed in the power of their vote but since then this belief has dropped to the extent that in 2021, less than a quarter (23%) felt their vote makes a difference. In 2004, 2006 to 2008, 2011, 2014 and 2016 there were upswings in the belief that voting makes a difference, but in general the trend has been downwards. Since 2016, a sustained downward trend is noticed and between 2016 to 2021, the belief in the power of voting has decreased by 27% (from 50% to 23%). Despite this, the average of the Northern Cape remains above the national average and the province is ranked third highest in believing a vote makes a difference. The sustained downward trend since 2016 is, however, something that should be monitored closely.

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	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Average
Northern Cape	50	75	49	52	69	65	53	63	54	45	51	48	50	43	38	...	31	23	50
National Avg..	58	74	59	50	57	63	53	49	51	45	46	47	41	38	34	...	31	35	48
Upper Bound	71	92	80	67	71	72	65	63	58	54	51	60	54	54	49	...	38	42	58
Lower Bound	50	60	42	35	42	50	45	33	44	37	36	26	21	19	21	...	20	23	43
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	8	5	8	4	2	5	4	1	3	6	1	4	3	3	4	...	4	9	3

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

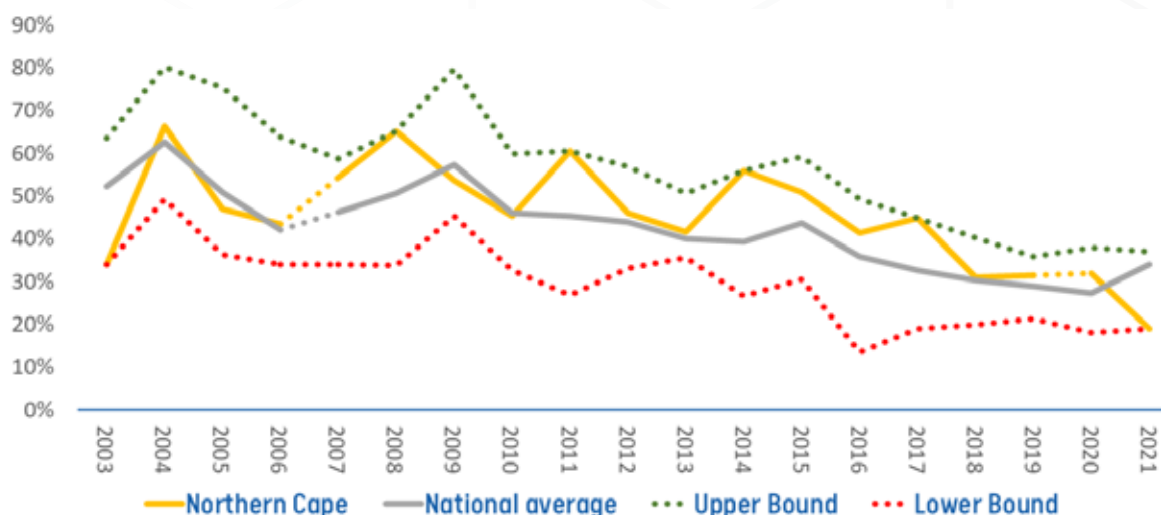
QUESTION

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

ANALYSIS

External political efficacy refers to feelings of confidence or trust in the responsiveness of the political system. One of the properties of the political system that is of interest is the perceived responsiveness of political representatives to the Electorate and its bearing on the value of voting. Over the 2003 to 2021 period, only 45% on average displayed a sense of external political efficacy, rejecting the idea that voting had been rendered meaningless because of the conduct of politicians. In 2003, a third (34%) of the adult population in the Northern Cape expressed a sense of external efficacy. This fluctuated over the next few years, rising significantly in 2004, 2008, 2011 and 2014. Despite these fluctuations, the overall period marked a steady erosion in efficacy, declining from 66% in 2004 to 19% in 2021. Despite these declines, the Northern Cape mostly scored above the national average and ranked third overall on this indicator.

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	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Average
Northern Cape	34	66	47	43	65	54	45	60	46	42	56	51	41	45	31	...	32	19	45
National Avg..	52	63	51	42	51	57	46	45	44	40	39	44	36	33	30	...	27	34	43
Upper Bound	64	80	75	64	65	80	60	60	57	51	56	59	49	45	40	...	38	37	51
Lower Bound	34	49	36	34	34	45	32	27	33	36	27	30	13	19	20	...	18	19	39
Rank (1-high; 9-low)	9	4	6	4	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 the public belief in the civic duty to participate in elections

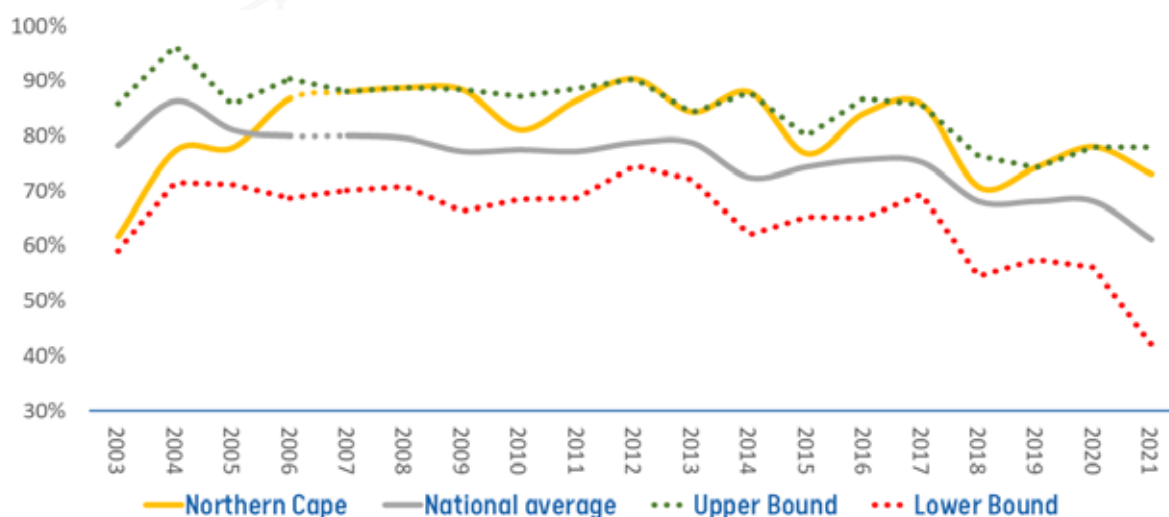
QUESTION

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

ANALYSIS

The belief in the duty to vote among the Northern Cape public remains robust. Except for 2003 to 2005, the provincial population was more positive on this metric than the national average. Between 2007 and 2017 more than 80% of people in the Northern Cape agreed it was the duty of all citizens to vote (the only exception being 2015 when the average was slightly lower than 80%). Since 2018 the belief in the duty to vote has declined, but the Northern Cape still remains the province with the highest average over the period (81%) and also ranked highest in the observed level of duty to vote over the full period. In the Northern Cape there is, therefore, a robust belief in the duty to vote relative to other provinces.

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

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

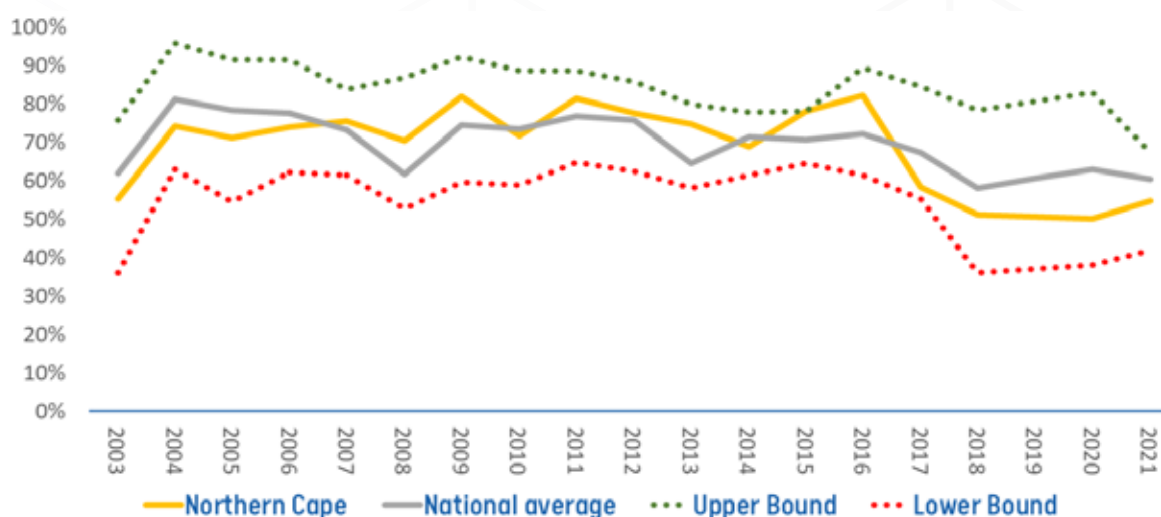
QUESTION

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

ANALYSIS

In each round of the SASAS survey between 2003 and 2021, respondents were asked whether they would vote if a government election was held tomorrow. In late 2021, 55% of the Northern Cape public stated that they would turn out to vote if such elections were called tomorrow. This is an increase of five percentage points from 2020, when the lowest intention to vote was recorded. Although this is a positive increase, it is the third lowest expressed intent recorded over the period. On aggregate, since 2016 intention to vote has decreased substantively and although it is in line with the national trend, special efforts should be made to encourage voting in the Northern Cape. Over the full 2003 to 2021 period, the province was ranked fifth out of nine provinces.

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
Northern Cape	55	74	71	74	76	70	82	72	82	78	75	69	78	82	58	51	...	50	55	68
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	78	...	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)	8	7	8	7	5	2	3	7	3	5	2	8	1	2	8	7	...	7	8	5

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

2.3.7 Planned abstention due to administrative barriers

GOAL

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

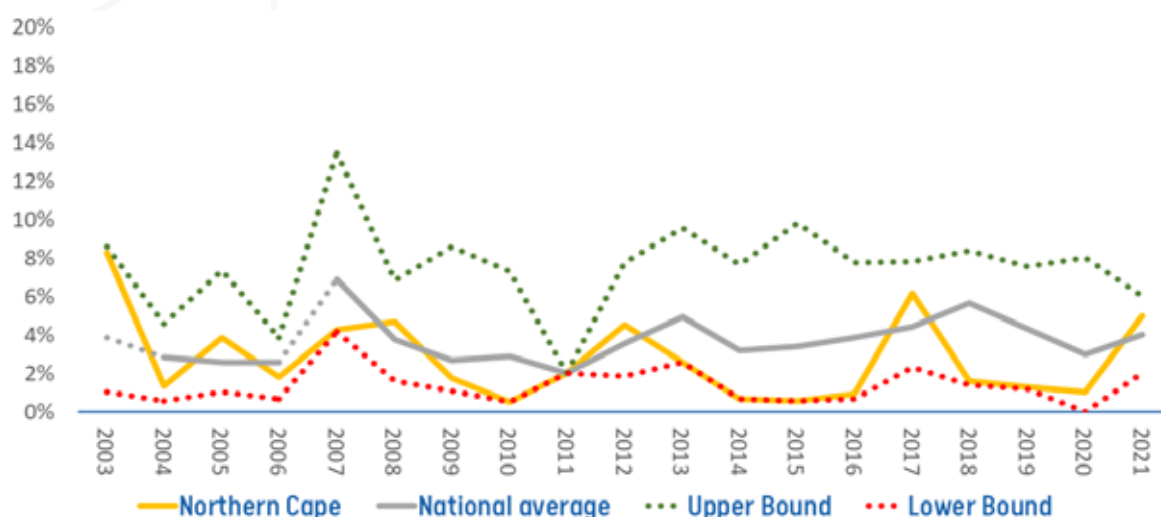
QUESTION

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

ANALYSIS

Administrative barriers account for a small share of voting abstention in the Northern 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. In 2021, only five percent of eligible adults in the province cited administrative factors as the main reason that they would not vote if an election was to be held tomorrow. Reviewing how these results changed in the province over the 2003 to 2021 period, it is apparent that administrative barriers were more likely to be cited as reasons for abstention in 2003, 2008, 2012, 2017 and 2021 and these were also the years that the Northern Cape average was above the national average. Despite this, the share that claimed administrative barriers prevented them from voting remains nominal in general and the provincial ranking is fourth on average over the full period.

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	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Average
Northern Cape	8	1	4	2	4	5	2	1	5	3	1	1	1	6	2	...	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	9	5	7	4	13	7	9	7	8	10	8	10	8	8	8	...	8	6	5
Lower Bound	1	1	1	1	4	2	1	1	2	3	1	1	1	2	1	...	0	2	3
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	2	6	2	7	8	4	8	9	3	8	9	9	8	2	8	...	3	3	4

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

2.3.8 Voter registration patterns

GOAL

Ensure that eligible voters are registered

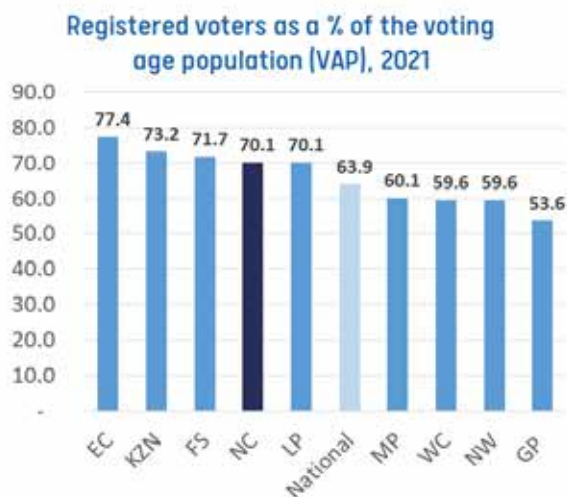
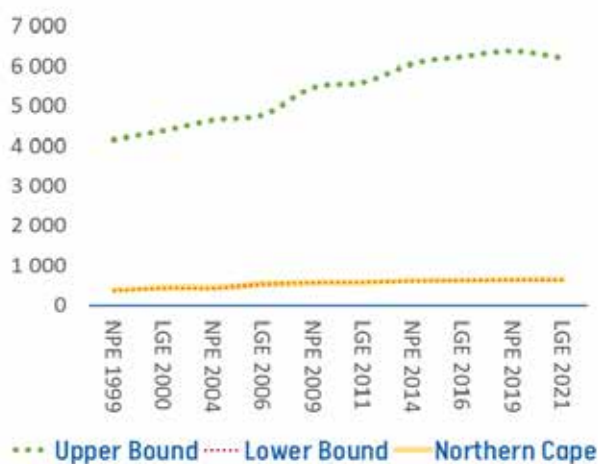
QUESTION

Number of South Africans that are registered to vote in National and Provincial Elections; percentage of voting age population that is registered

ANALYSIS

In 1999, 377 173 eligible voters were registered to vote in the National and Provincial Elections in the Northern Cape. Over successive elections, through sustained efforts by the Commission, an additional 250 000 voters were added to the provincial voter's roll between 1999 and 2021. The Northern Cape consistently has the lowest number of registered voters and therefore rates lowest on this indicator. This is to be expected, given that the Northern Cape is the least densely populated province. Considering registered voters as a share of the voting age population (VAP) in the province, it is evident that 70.1 % of voters are registered, which is 6.2 percentage points higher than the national average (63.9%). The provincial figure is fourth highest, only lower than the Eastern Cape, KwaZulu Natal and Free State. Despite the province's figure being relatively high, voter registration drives in the province remain critical and young, first-time voters should particularly be encouraged to register.

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
Northern Cape	377	443	434	529	555	572	601	621	626	623	70.1
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 Perceived Ease of the registration process

GOAL

Ease of registration

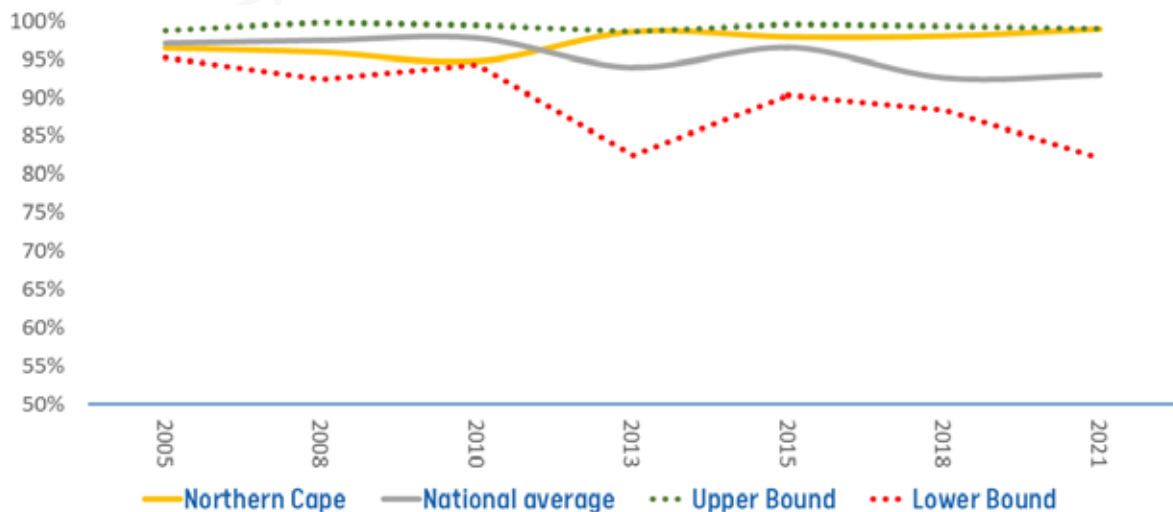
QUESTION

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

ANALYSIS

For most of the period under review, there was near universal agreement among registered voters in the Northern Cape that the voting registration process was easy. Northern Cape ranked among the top two provinces regarding the share evaluating the process as easy. However, in 2010 there was a mild decline in the proportion reporting that the process was easy, resulting in the province being ranked second lowest on this indicator. Since then, the proportion of registered voters finding the process easy varied between 98% and 99% which was consistently above the national average. Despite some fluctuation, the view that the registration process is straightforward is widespread and commonly observed across all provinces.

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
Northern Cape	96	96	95	99	98	98	99	97
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)	7	7	8	1	4	2	1	2

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

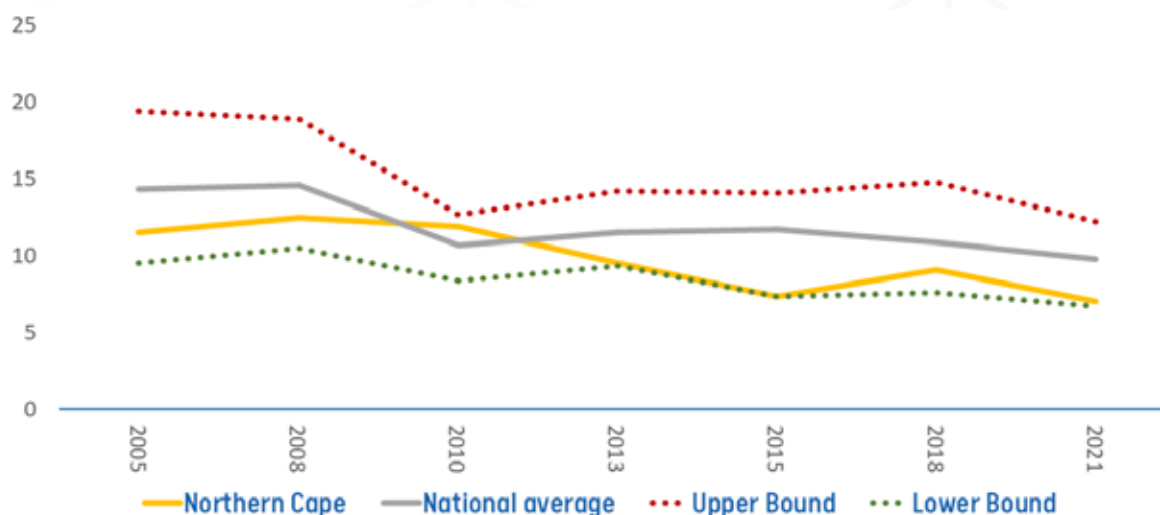
QUESTION

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

ANALYSIS

The average length of time to register in the Northern Cape is short, averaging ten minutes. The mean time was stable over the 2005 to 2013 period, as well as in 2018, but dropped in 2015 and 2021 to only seven minutes. In terms of the provincial ranking, the Northern Cape ranked first on this indicator, indicating that it is the province where the voter registration takes the shortest amount of time. Based on this evaluation and on the ease of voting indicator, it would appear that the voter registration process is fast and easy. This result is consistent with the general finding that administratively the IEC is doing a very good job and administrative barriers generally do not prevent voters from participating in government elections in South Africa.

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
Northern Cape	11	12	12	10	7	9	7	10
National Avg..	14	15	11	11	12	11	10	12
Upper Bound	19	19	13	14	14	15	12	14
Lower Bound	10	10	8	9	7	8	7	10
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	2	2	4	1	1	1	2	1

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

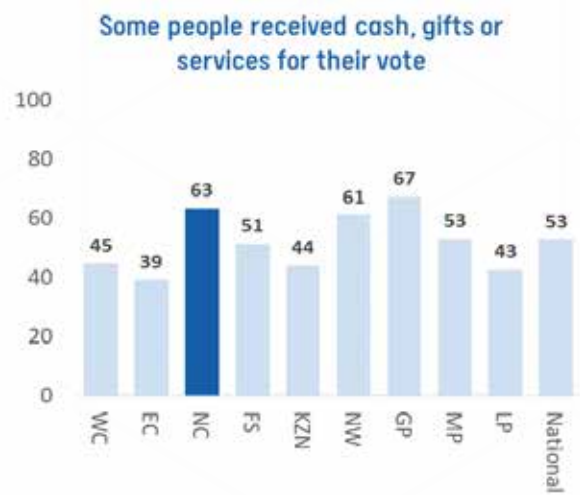
QUESTION

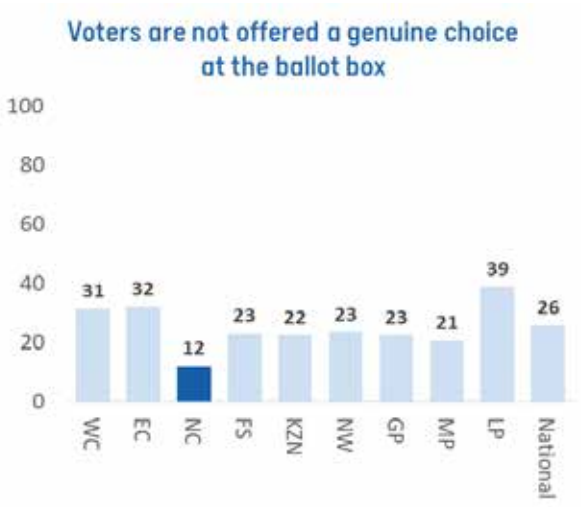
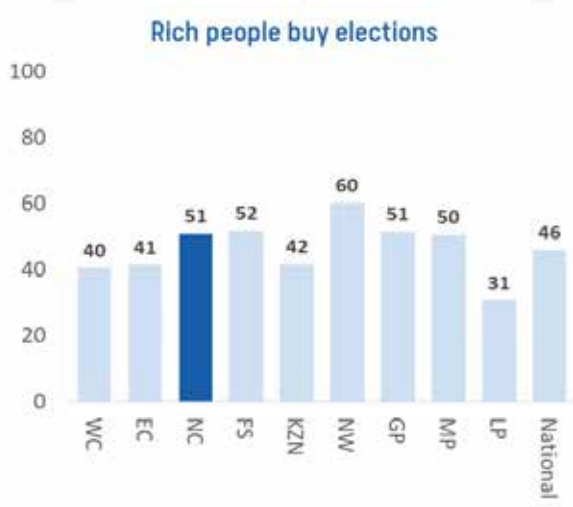
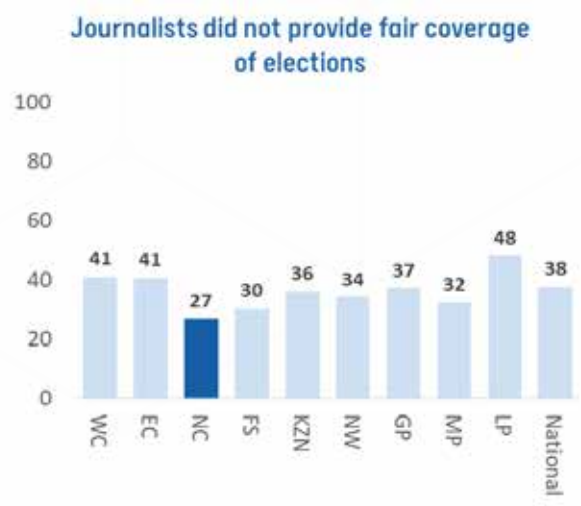
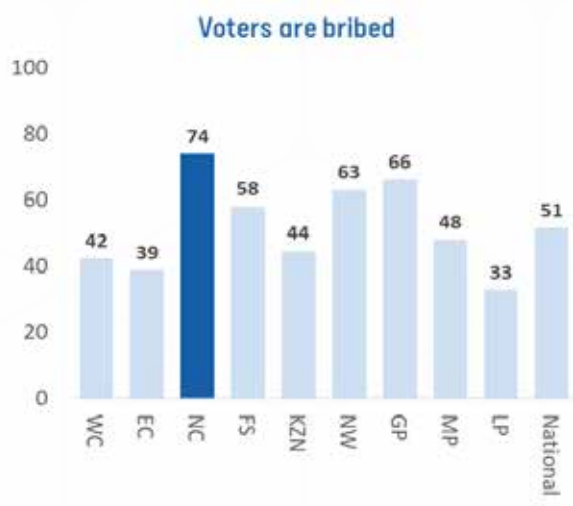
In your view, how often do the following things occur in this country's elections? (i) TV news favours the ruling party; (ii) some people received cash, gifts or services in exchange for their vote; (iii) voters are bribed; (iv) journalists did not provide fair coverage of elections; (v) rich people buy elections; (v) voters are not offered a genuine choice at the ballot box. (% very / fairly often)

ANALYSIS

In 2021, people in the Northern Cape displayed high levels of cynicism regarding the integrity of electoral campaigns. Almost three-quarters (74%) of the provincial public felt that voters are bribed and 63% believed that people were receiving cash, gifts or services in exchange for their votes. More than half (56%) of the adult population believed that TV news favoured the ruling party and rich people buy elections (51%). More than a quarter (27%) stated journalists do not provide fair coverage of elections. Relative to other provinces, the Northern Cape rates extreme on these statements, implying that Northern Cape voters tend to dispute the integrity of voting campaigns.

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





	TV news favours the ruling party	Some people received cash, gifts or services for their vote	Voters are bribed	Journalists did not provide fair coverage	Rich people buy elections	Voters are not offered a genuine choice
Northern Cape	56	63	74	27	51	12
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)	1	2	1	9	3	9

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

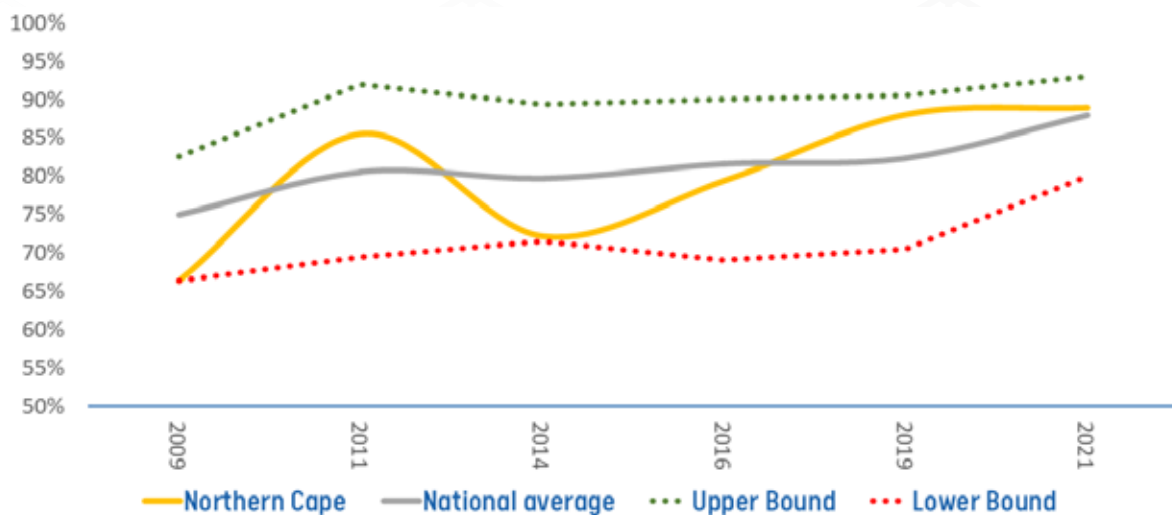
QUESTION

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

ANALYSIS

In 2009, 66% of voters in the Northern Cape indicated that political parties and independent candidates demonstrated general tolerance during the campaigning period ahead of elections. The assessment of party and candidate conduct increased in subsequent survey rounds, ranging between 72% and 89% over this period, with an average of 80% over the five elections surveyed. Voters in the Northern Cape therefore believe that political party tolerance has increased, which is reflected in the relative ranking of the province (ninth in 2009 and fifth in 2021). The overall ranking of the Northern Cape on the indicator is fifth.

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
Northern Cape	66	86	72	79	88	89	80
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)	9	3	7	5	3	5	5

Data Source: IEC Election Participation 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 over the 2008 to 2021 period, the pattern observed among the voting age public is broadly consistent. Broadcast media remains the most popular source of information in the Northern Cape, with 43% relying on television and 24% on radio in 2021. Newspapers were used by 19%, while posters were only mentioned by a tenth of the Northern Cape public. Informal social networks are an important source of information with 35% using this source in 2018 and 15% in 2021. Notwithstanding its popularity in the contemporary discourse, social media was cited by only six percent as a source of information in 2021. Taken together, and relative to other provinces it is clear that informal social networks are popular sources of information in the Northern Cape.

	2008	2010	2013	2015	2018	2021	National average
Television							
Northern Cape	49%	48%	42%	57%	54%	43%	49%
National Avg..	47%	50%	43%	48%	57%	59%	51%
Upper Bound	58%	68%	57%	62%	68%	74%	58%
Lower Bound	36%	37%	31%	20%	34%	43%	40%
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	2	5	5	2	7	9	4
Radio							
Northern Cape	40%	27%	31%	31%	29%	24%	30%
National Avg..	39%	36%	30%	30%	39%	33%	35%
Upper Bound	45%	50%	52%	52%	62%	46%	44%
Lower Bound	27%	23%	15%	15%	14%	24%	27%
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	6	8	6	6	8	8	6
Newspaper							
Northern Cape	44%	27%	26%	26%	22%	19%	27%
National Avg..	34%	31%	24%	24%	29%	23%	27%
Upper Bound	45%	51%	36%	36%	42%	27%	38%
Lower Bound	19%	10%	14%	14%	11%	13%	17%
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	2	7	5	5	7	7	4
Poster							
Northern Cape	26%	24%	29%	29%	23%	10%	23%
National Avg..	19%	24%	22%	22%	22%	17%	21%
Upper Bound	30%	37%	33%	33%	36%	46%	30%
Lower Bound	8%	10%	11%	11%	5%	8%	16%
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	3	6	3	3	5	8	3
Informal social networks							
Northern Cape	15%	12%	23%	23%	35%	15%	20%
National Avg..	12%	15%	12%	12%	16%	8%	12%
Upper Bound	19%	24%	24%	24%	35%	17%	20%
Lower Bound	4%	8%	3%	3%	5%	3%	10%
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	3	6	2	2	1	2	1
Social media							
Northern Cape	2%	1%	2%	13%	5%	6%	5%
National Avg..	2%	2%	2%	6%	4%	7%	4%
Upper Bound	4%	4%	4%	13%	7%	13%	5%
Lower Bound	0%	0%	0%	2%	2%	2%	2%
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	2	7	3	1	4	3	2

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 about voting? (Single response)

ANALYSIS

In 2021, when asked about a preferred channel to obtain electoral information, 45% of the Northern Cape public opted for television. Television was also the most popular source nationally. Radio was also found to be a less popular preferred channel in the province. Considering the 2008 to 2021 period as a whole, posters and newspapers were preferred by three percent and six percent respectively, while informal social networks were mentioned as a preferred source of voting information by nine percent. Social media was mentioned by only five percent from 2008 to 2021. Although social media represents a positive change over time (from 2% in 2008 to 4% in 2021), social media was not a popular information platform in the province.

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

	2008	2010	2013	2015	2018	2021	Total
Television							
Northern Cape	61%	60%	43%	69%	38%	45%	53%
National Avg..	57%	57%	58%	60%	53%	55%	57%
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	3	4	9	1	9	7	7
Radio							
Northern Cape	4%	6%	21%	14%	6%	24%	13%
National Avg..	21%	15%	13%	12%	15%	14%	15%
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	9	7	1	4	9	1	7
Newspaper							
Northern Cape	11%	6%	3%	2%	9%	5%	6%
National Avg..	8%	7%	6%	5%	5%	6%	6%
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	1	6	8	8	2	5	4
Poster							
Northern Cape	4%	6%	6%	0%	2%	2%	3%
National Avg..	3%	7%	8%	5%	8%	5%	6%
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	3	3	6	9	8	8	9
Informal social networks							
Northern Cape	5%	3%	11%	2%	25%	8%	9%
National Avg..	2%	2%	4%	5%	5%	3%	3%
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	1	3	2	7	1	1	1
Social media							
Northern Cape	2%	1%	3%	10%	11%	4%	5%
National Avg..	1%	1%	2%	4%	5%	8%	3%
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	2	4	3	1	2	4	1

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

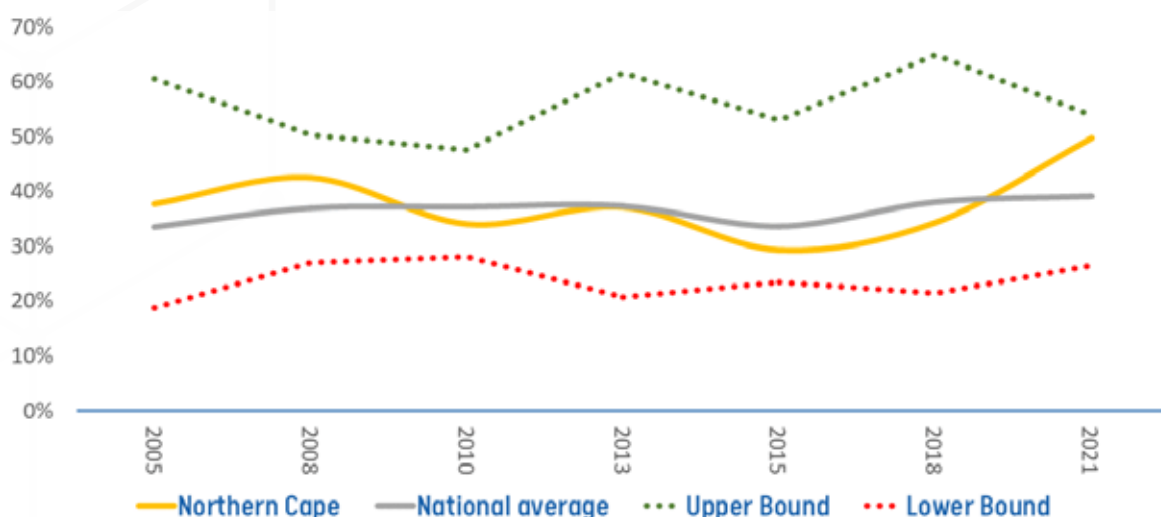
QUESTION

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

ANALYSIS

Among the voting age public in the Northern Cape, 38% expressed a desire for more information on voting in 2005. This figure increased to 43% in 2008, after which it dropped again to range between 29% to 37% in the 2010, 2013, 2015 and 2018 survey rounds. In 2021, this figure rose to a high of 50%, representing an increase in demand for information. This suggests a growth in demand for electoral information in the province. Except for 2021, the demand for information in the Northern Cape approximated the national average but in 2021, the demand for information in the Northern Cape was significantly higher than the national average. The Commission should therefore intensify its civic and democracy education (CDE) efforts to respond to the increase in demand for electoral information in this province. Overall, the Northern Cape ranked fourth on this indicator.

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
Northern Cape	38	43	34	37	29	34	50	38
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)	4	4	5	5	7	6	3	4

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

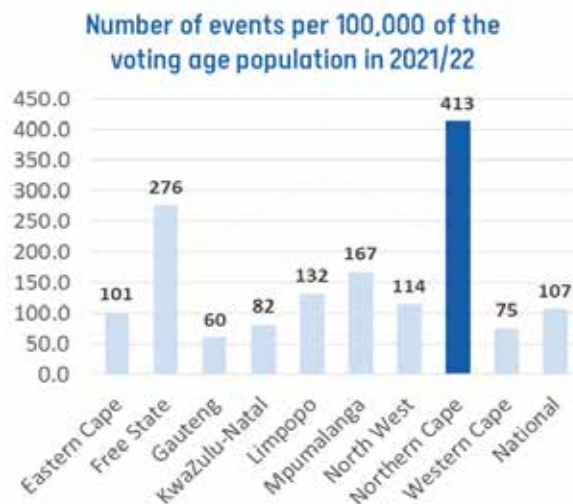
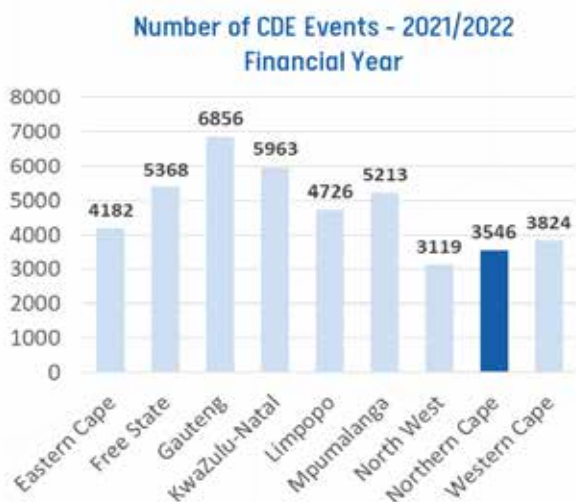
QUESTION

How many CDE events were offered in each province in 2021/2022?

ANALYSIS

More than 40,000 civic and democracy education (CDE) events were held during the 2021/2022 financial year. In comparing the reach of these events across the country, it is advisable to consider the size of the voting age population (VAP) per province. Nationally, 107 events per 100,000 of the VAP were recorded in the 2021/2022 financial year. Of all the provinces, the Northern Cape had the highest number of events at 413 per 100,000 VAP. Due to economies of scale, the ratio is more likely to be higher in smaller provinces, but the population size of a province is a variable that needs to be considered when planning CDE events. More specifically, consideration should be given to retaining the number of events in less densely populated provinces (such as Mpumalanga) and increase them in more densely populated areas (like KwaZulu Natal). This will ensure that reach and impact are achieved more uniformly across 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
National	82 388	30 726	13 036	42 797	217.7	78.6	32.8	106.6

Data Source: IEC official statistics, 2018/19 to 2021/22 financial years

3.2.5 Perceived effectiveness of voter education campaigns

GOAL

Appraising the effectiveness of voter education campaigns

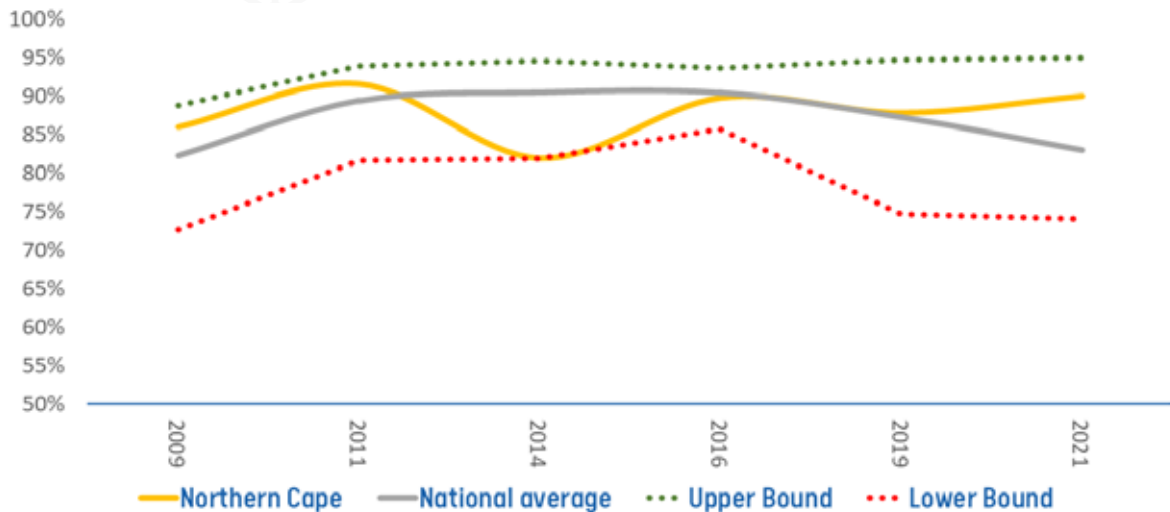
QUESTION

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

ANALYSIS

In 2009 nearly all voters (86%) in the Northern Cape believed that the Commission's voter education campaigns were effective. Attitudes on this indicator have improved over time and in 2021 nine out of 10 (90%) of Northern Cape residents were satisfied with the voter education campaigns of the IEC. Similar views were expressed in the interim period. The rank position of Northern Cape relative to other provinces has varied over time with Northern Cape ranking fourth overall across the full period, implying high levels of satisfaction with the IEC's voter education campaigns.

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
Northern Cape	86	92	82	90	88	90	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)	2	3	9	6	5	2	4

Data Source: IEC Voter Participation Survey (VPS) 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

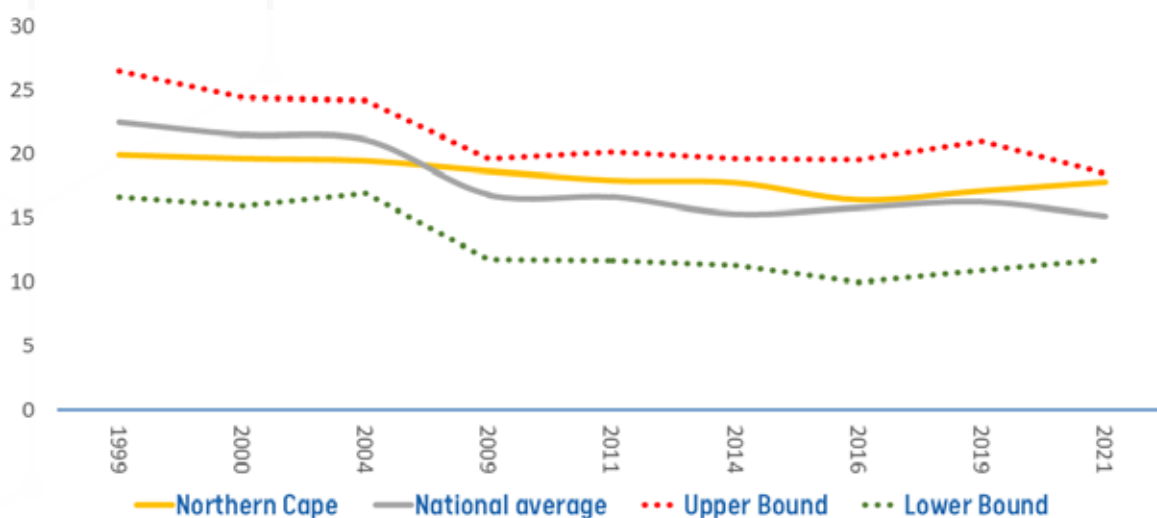
QUESTION

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

ANALYSIS

Over the 1999 to 2021 period, the average time it took for voters in the Northern Cape to get to their voting station was 18 minutes, similar to the national average. The time taken to reach one's voting station in the province has remained fairly stable over time and slightly above the national average since 2009. The province rates sixth on this indicator overall. These results are not surprising and expected, given that the Northern Cape is geographically the largest province in South Africa which poses challenges in terms of distances to voting stations.

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
Northern Cape	20	20	19	19	18	18	16	17	18	18
National Avg..	22	21	21	17	17	15	16	16	15	18
Upper Bound	27	24	24	20	20	20	20	21	18	21
Lower Bound	17	16	17	12	12	11	10	11	12	15
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	2	3	3	7	6	8	5	8	8	6

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

4.1.2 Queuing time at voting stations

GOAL

Determining the average queuing time at voting stations

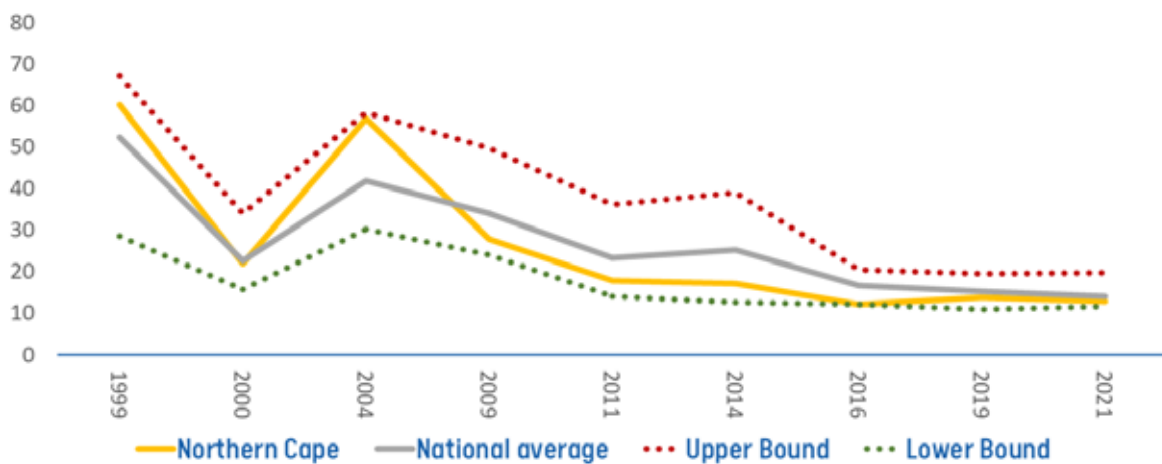
QUESTION

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

ANALYSIS

Between 1999 and 2021, the average length of time voters spent queuing in the Northern Cape was 27 minutes, which is also the same as the national average. The average queuing time in Northern Cape has significantly declined over time. In 1999 the average reported queuing time was an hour and in 2004 it was 57 minutes. Since then the queuing time has declined, averaging 13 minutes from 2016 to 2021. The provincial ranking on this indicator is fifth. The sustained downward average queuing time and the below average queuing time are impressive and the Electoral Commission should be commended for these efforts.

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
Northern Cape	60	22	57	28	18	17	12	14	13	27
National Avg..	52	23	42	34	23	25	17	15	14	27
Upper Bound	67	34	58	50	36	39	20	19	20	31
Lower Bound	29	16	30	24	14	13	12	11	12	19
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	7	4	8	4	2	3	1	6	5	5

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

4.1.3 Safety and security

GOAL

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

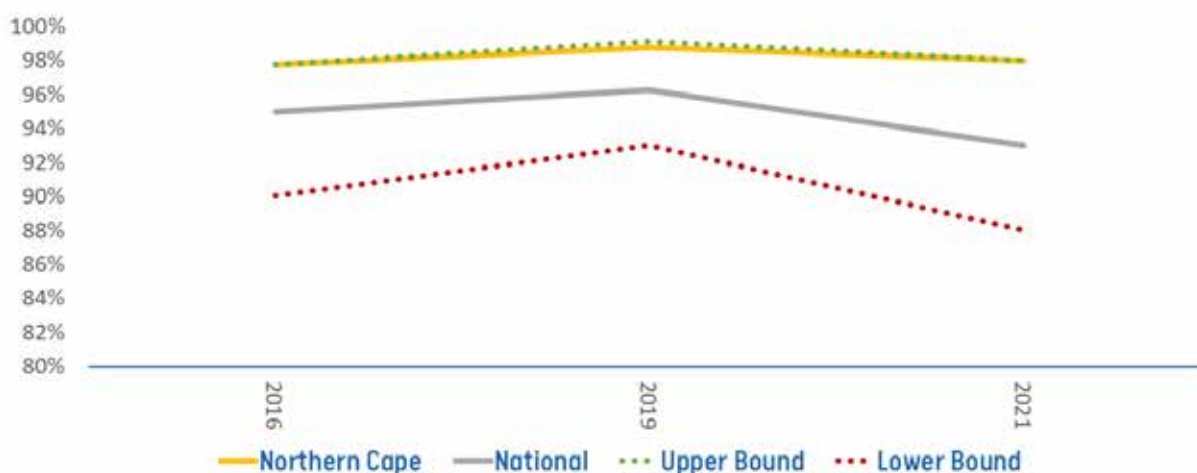
QUESTION

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

ANALYSIS

On average, voters appear broadly satisfied with the safety and security provided at voting stations. Northern Cape voters in particular seem very satisfied with this aspect of voting. In 2016, 98% of voters in the Northern Cape expressed satisfaction with the safety and security at their voting stations. The share reporting a positive assessment increased to 99% in 2019 and was 98% in 2021. Relative to other provinces, the Northern Cape ranked highest on this indicator. These comparative findings confirm that the Northern Cape is the province where voters are most happy with safety and security provided at voting stations.

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



	2016	2019	2021	Average
Northern Cape	98	99	98	98
National Avg..	95	96	93	95
Upper Bound	98	99	98	98
Lower Bound	90	93	88	92
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	1	2	1	1

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

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

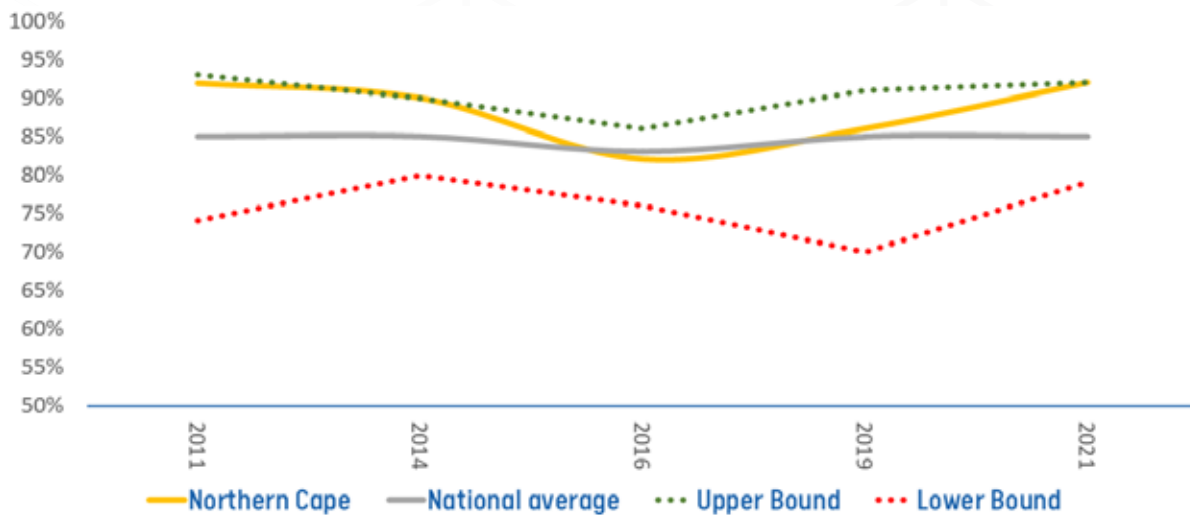
QUESTION

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

ANALYSIS

In 2009, barely three-quarters (71%) of voters in the Northern Cape felt that voting stations were accessible to persons with disabilities and or the elderly. In that year, the Northern Cape was ranked sixth on this indicator. In subsequent rounds, the proportion of Northern Cape voters satisfied with this aspect has substantially increased. In 2021, almost all voters (92%) said that the voting station they visited was easily accessible for special groups (such as persons with disabilities or the elderly). Despite fluctuations on this measure over time, Northern Cape residents are overwhelmingly happy with the accessibility of voting stations to persons with disabilities and the elderly and accordingly this province rates the highest on this indicator.

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



	2011	2014	2016	2019	2021	Average
Northern Cape	92	90	82	86	92	88
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)	3	1	4	6	1	2

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

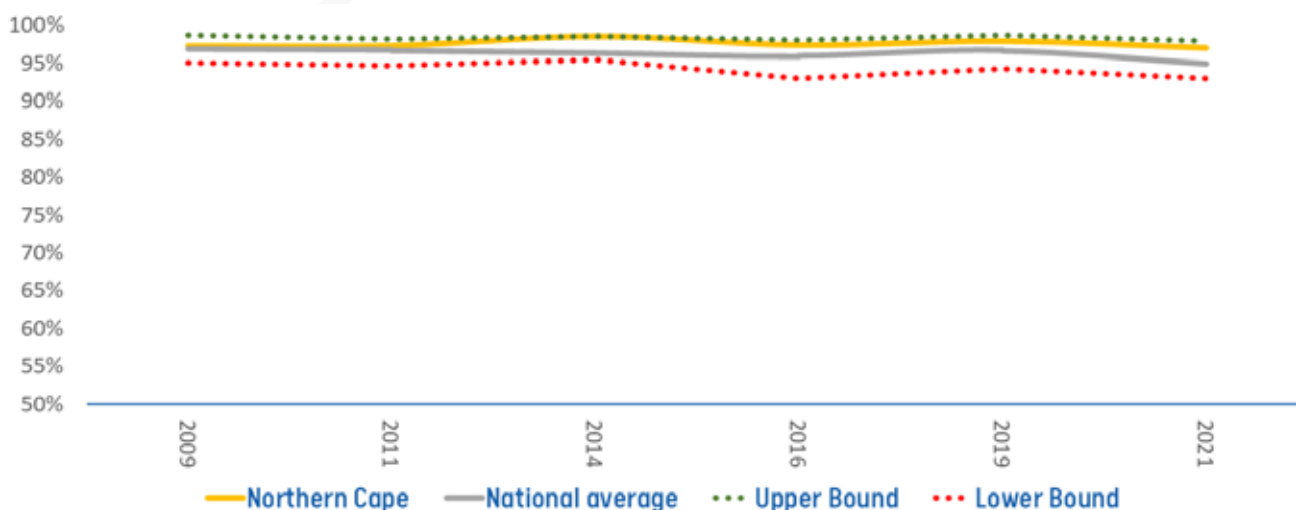
QUESTION

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

ANALYSIS

Among voters, almost universal satisfaction was recorded regarding the quality of services provided by the Election Commission to voters on Election Day. Across six successive elections held between 2009 and 2021, the satisfaction rate at the national level was 96%. In the Northern Cape, satisfaction levels fluctuated in a very narrow band between 99% and 97%. This constitutes a very positive assessment, also mirrored in the finding that the Northern Cape ranked second highest on this indicator relative to other provinces over the whole 2009 to 2021 period. However, given that the upper bound and lower bounds operate in a very narrow band, differences among provinces are unlikely to be statistically significant.

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



	2009	2011	2014	2016	2019	2021	Average
Northern Cape	97	97	99	97	98	97	98
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)	5	2	1	2	2	3	2

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

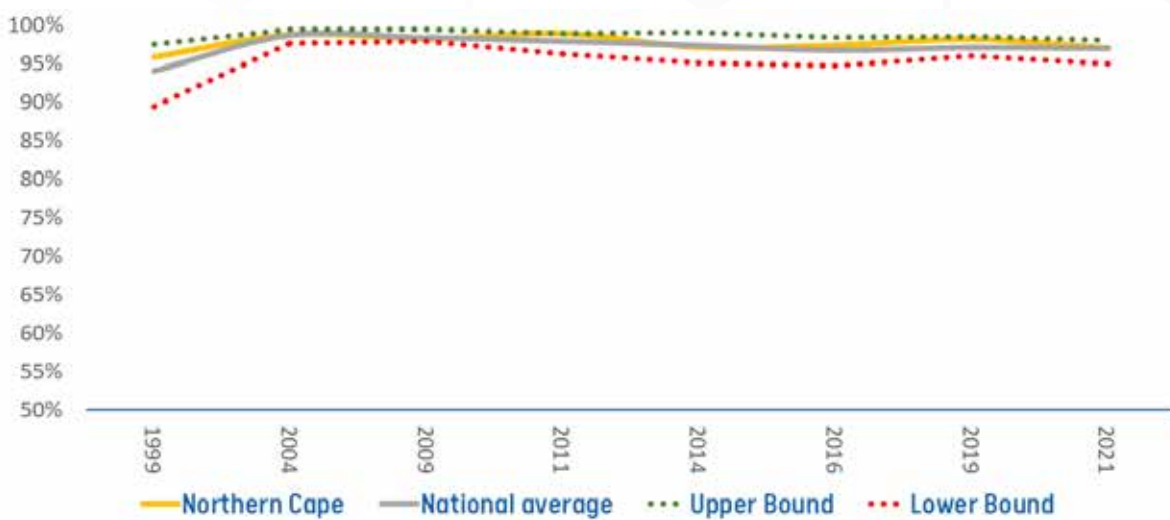
QUESTION

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

ANALYSIS

When examining public opinion on the user experience of voting procedures in the Northern Cape between 1999 and 2021, a largely positive picture emerges. Over this period, the vast majority (98%) of voters in the province found the voting procedures inside the voting station easy to understand. We find a broadly consistent pattern of results across National and Provincial, as well as Local Government elections, with the share indicating that the voting procedures were “easy”, ranging between 96% and 99%. On aggregate, the Northern Cape ranked second highest on this indicator but provincial ranking on this indicator should be interpreted with caution since these differences are so small, they might not be statistically significant.

ELECTORAL PROCEDURAL ASSESSMENT: Proportion of voters who believed that the voting procedures 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
Northern Cape	96	97	99	98	99	97	97	98	97	98
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)	2	2	7	5	1	7	2	2	4	2

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

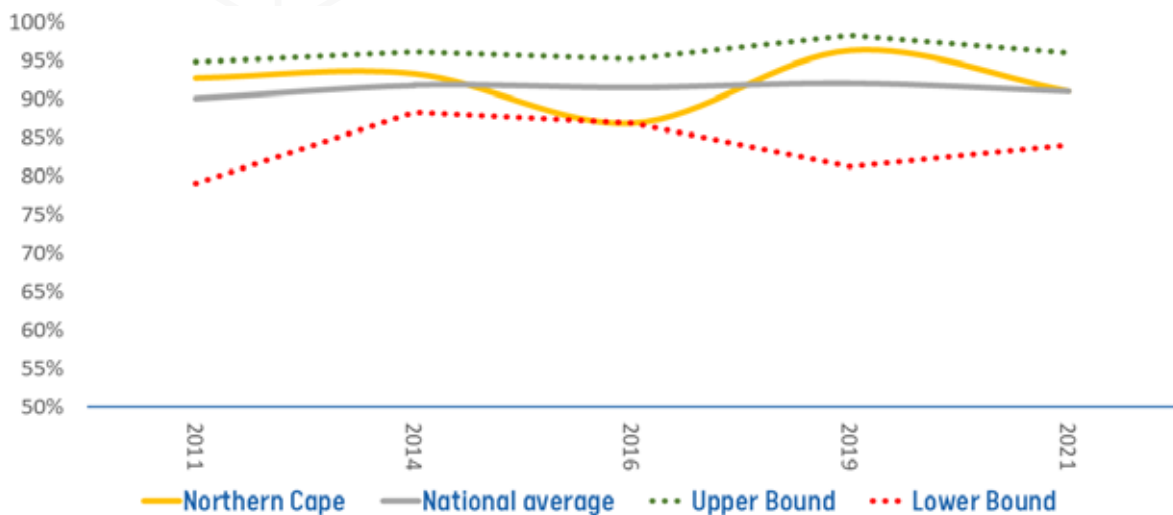
QUESTION

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

ANALYSIS

In 2021, 91% of voters in the Northern Cape thought that voting stations accommodated the needs of the elderly and on aggregate over the 2011 to 2021 period, 92% of voters in the province felt this way. This suggests that voters were suitably convinced that the procedures in place at voting stations addressed the needs of this special group. The share believing that the needs of the elderly are accommodated has fluctuated over time (87%-96% range) and the provincial rank position of the Northern Cape on this indicator has varied but overall the province is ranked third on this indicator.

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



	2011	2014	2016	2019	2021	Average
Northern Cape	93	93	87	96	91	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)	4	3	9	3	4	3

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

4.2.3 Assessment of procedural accommodation of persons with disabilities

GOAL

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

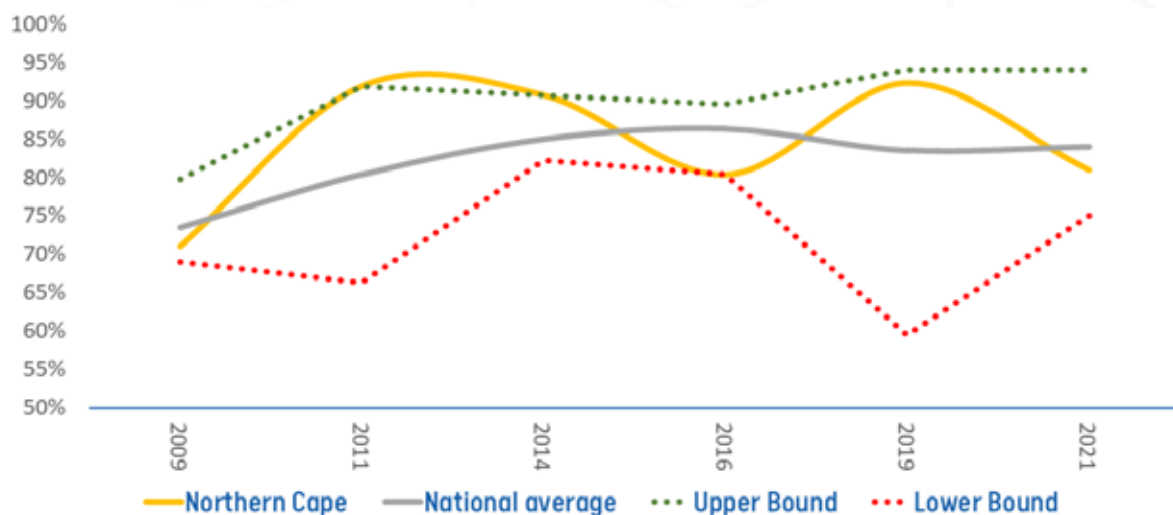
QUESTION

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

ANALYSIS

In 2021, 81% of voters in the Northern Cape said that the voting stations accommodated the needs of persons with disabilities. Over the 2009 to 2021 period, this indicator has varied significantly. For instance, in 2011 the Northern Cape was highest ranked as a province but in 2016 it ranked lowest. On average, 85% of voters thought that procedures at the voting station considered the needs of this group over the whole 2009 to 2021 period. The overall rank position of the Northern Cape was second when compared to other provinces. This shows that voters in the province were content with the procedural arrangements made at voting stations for persons with disabilities. Despite this, continuous efforts should be made to showcase procedures that are in place to cater for the needs of the disabled in order to sustain positive perceptions in this regard.

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
Northern Cape	71	92	91	80	92	81	85
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)	6	1	1	9	2	7	2

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

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

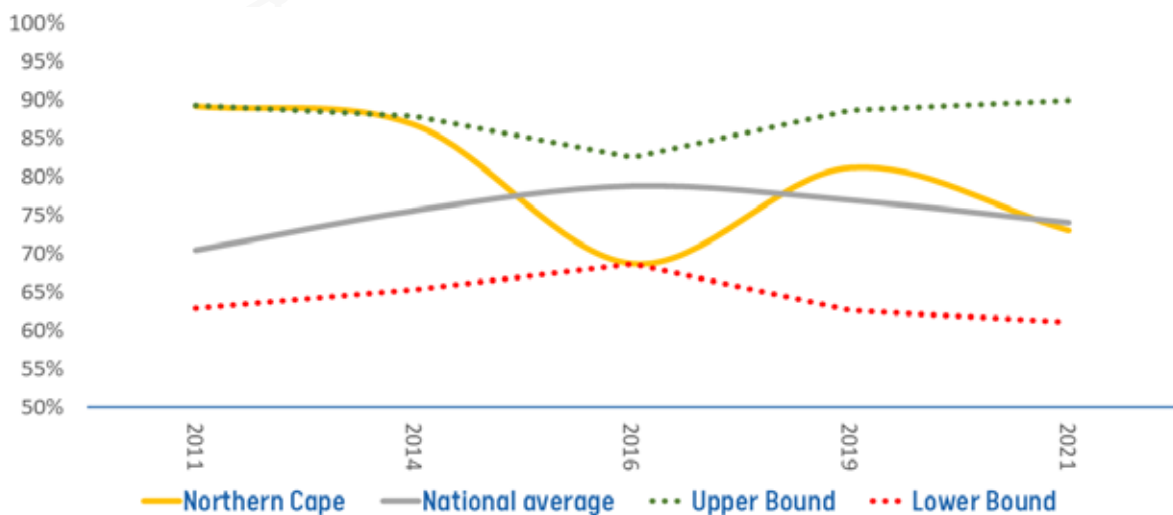
QUESTION

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 2021, 73% of voters in the Northern Cape believed that their voting station had put in place procedures that considered the needs of blind and visually impaired people. Over the 2011 to 2021 period, an average of 80% of voters in the province expressed the view that the voting procedures accommodated the special needs of blind and visually impaired people. A noticeable drop in satisfaction was noted in 2016. Despite this drop, voters were relatively satisfied with how voting stations are performing in relation to this issue and as such the Northern Cape ranked second highest relative to other provinces.

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
Northern Cape	89	87	69	81	73	80
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)	1	2	9	4	7	2

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

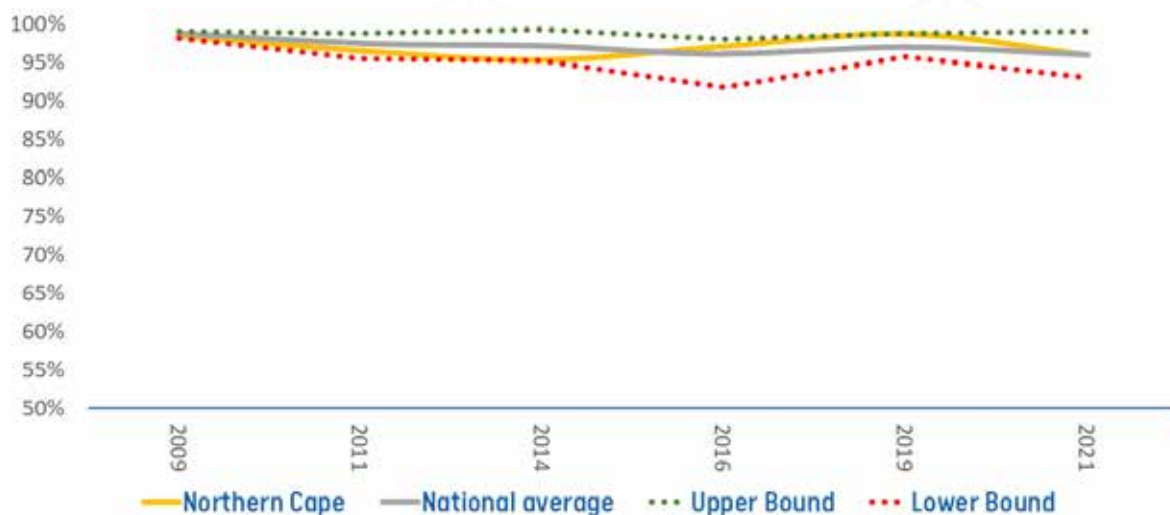
QUESTION

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

ANALYSIS

In 2021, 96% of the voters in Northern 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 to 2021 period. The share of voters in the province who was content with the secrecy of the vote during the full period (2009-2021) was 97%. Overall the province was ranked fourth on this indicator and in 2021 was ranked fifth. The provincial ranking has varied over time but the level of difference between provinces is marginal, and the changes in rank position should be interpreted with caution.

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
Northern Cape	99	97	95	97	99	96	97
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)	7	7	8	3	1	5	4

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

4.2.6. Ballot paper usability and satisfaction

GOAL

Overall satisfaction with ballot papers used in the 2021 local government elections

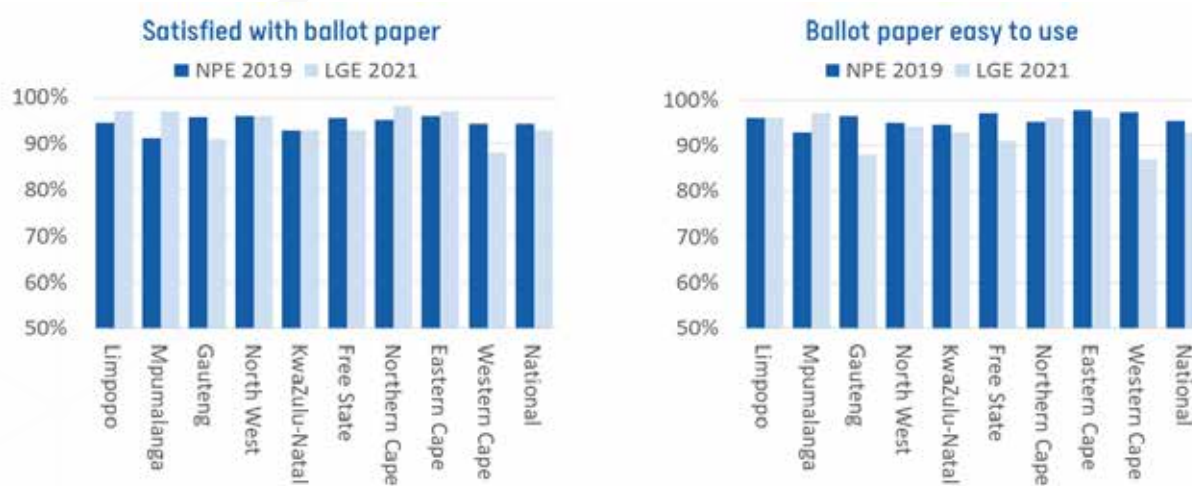
QUESTION

How satisfied or dissatisfied were you with the ballot papers used in the 2021 local government elections? (%very satisfied / satisfied)
How easy or difficult was it to find your party of choice on the ballot papers? (%very satisfied / satisfied)

ANALYSIS

In 2021, the majority (98%) of voters in the Northern Cape expressed satisfaction with the ballot papers used in the elections and as a province ranked highest in being satisfied with the ballot papers. Reinforcing this message, is the finding that 96% of voters in the province said that they found the ballot easy to use. Relative to other provinces, the Northern Cape ranked second on usability of ballot papers. Voters were therefore overall very satisfied with the ballot papers used in the local government elections in 2021 in South Africa.

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
Northern Cape	95	98	95	96
National Avg..	94	93	95	93
Upper Bound	96	98	98	97
Lower Bound	91	88	93	87
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	5	1	6	2

Data Source: IEC Election Satisfaction Survey (ESS) 1999-2019

4.3 Coercion

GOAL

Determining experiences of political coercion at the voting station

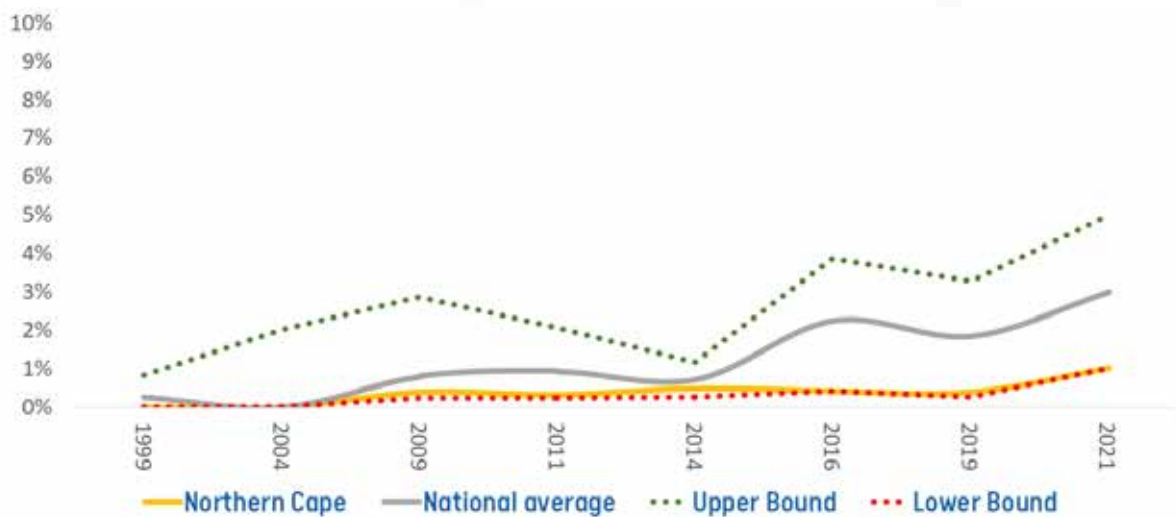
QUESTION

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 is not a common occurrence in South Africa. Although it remains rare, there is evidence that there has been a slight increase in coercion at the national level since 2014. However, at the provincial level, coercion seems to be a very uncommon occurrence in the Northern Cape. Despite the recent increase in 2021 to one percent, over the full 1999 to 2021 period, the Northern Cape ranked lowest on this indicator. During this period, on average, less than one percent of voters in the Northern Cape reported being coerced. Political coercion at voting stations in the Northern Cape therefore appears to be a very rare occurrence.

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
Northern Cape	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
National Avg..	0	1	0	1	1	1	2	2	1	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	5	2	5	8	7	9	8	9	9

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
1999 National Election											
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
2004 National Election											
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
2009 National Election											
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
2014 National Election											
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
2019 National Election											
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
2000 Local Government Elections										
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
2006 Local Government Elections										
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
2011 Local Government Elections										
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
2016 Local Government Elections										
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
2021 Local Government Elections										
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

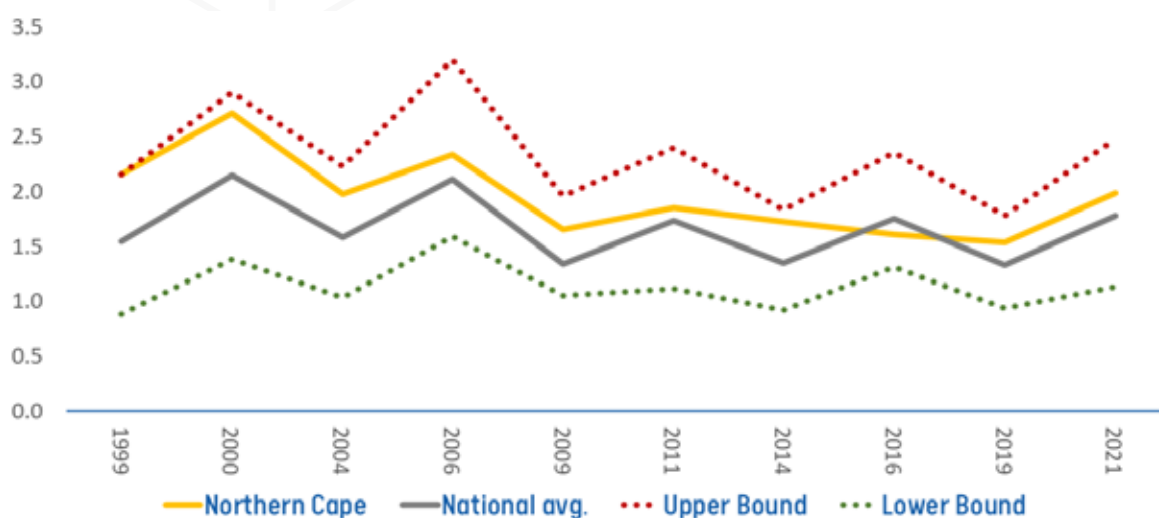
GOAL

Determining the share of total votes cast spoilt by voters

ANALYSIS

Of the total votes cast in National and Provincial Elections (as well as Local Government Elections) conducted between 1999 and 2021, the percentage of ballots that were spoilt in the Northern Cape averaged two percent on aggregate. This ranged between 1.5% and 2.7% across the full period. In 1999, the Northern Cape exhibited the highest level of spoiling of all provinces (2.2%) and with the exception of 2016, exhibited an above-average level of spoiling. The province ranked third highest with regards to this issue. This type of 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 in the Northern Cape is therefore important and the province would benefit from voter education in terms of spoilt ballots.

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
Northern Cape	2.2	2.7	2.0	2.3	1.7	1.9	1.7	1.6	1.5	2.0	2.0
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)	1	3	3	5	2	4	2	6	4	4	3

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

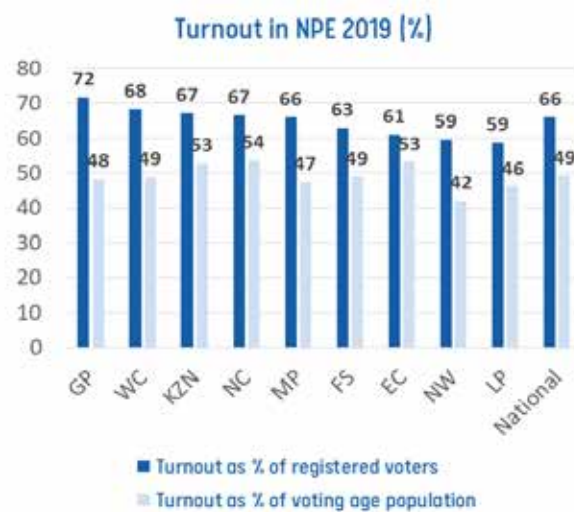
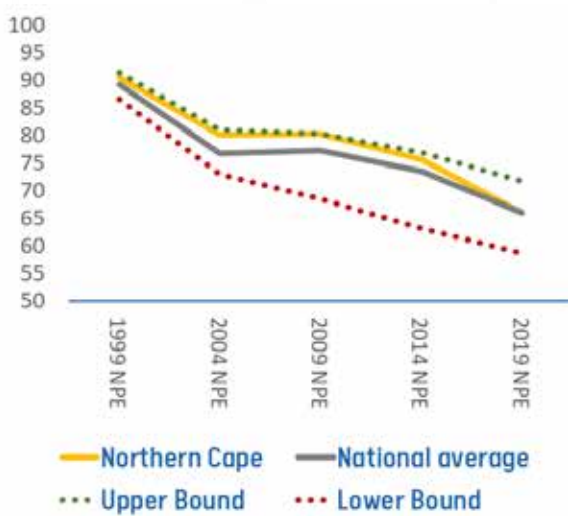
GOAL

Determining electoral turnout as a percentage of registered voters

ANALYSIS

Turnout in National and Provincial Elections in the Northern Cape between 1999 and 2021 has fluctuated over time, but the turnout statistics in the province have always remained above the national average. In 2011, it stood at a high of 63% of all registered voters, but has decreased to 53% in 2021. Despite this decrease, the Northern Cape remains the province with the highest overall turnout statistics at 58% on average. Even when considering turnout as a percentage of the voting age public, the Northern Cape remains the province with the highest turnout statistics at 39%.

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



	1999	2000	2004	2006	2009	2011	2014	2016	2019	2021	Average
Northern Cape	...	58	...	54	...	63	...	61	...	53	58
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)	...	2	...	2	...	2	...	3	...	1	1

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

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

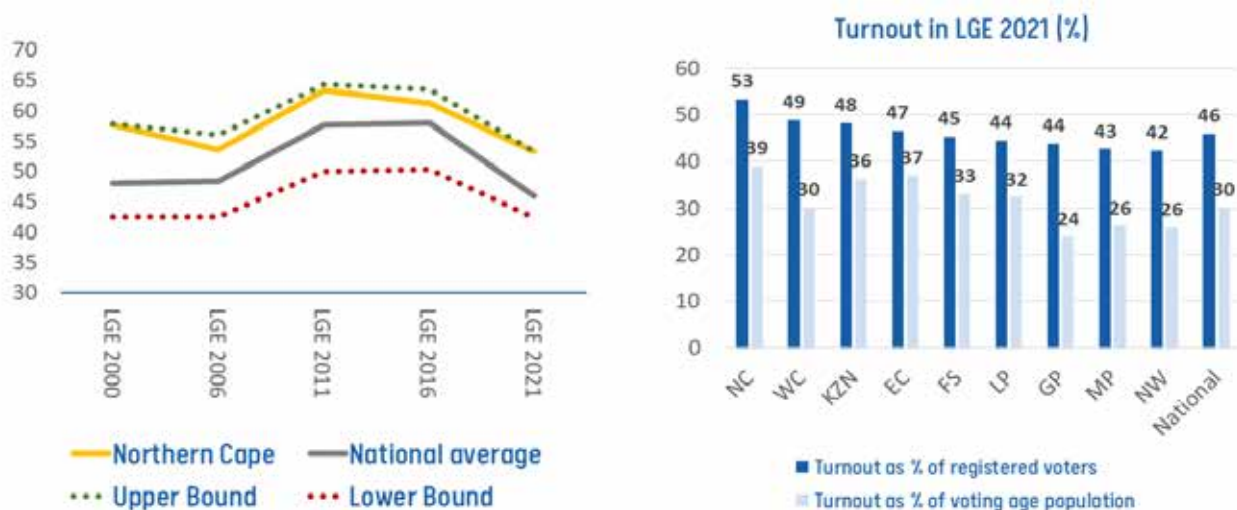
GOAL

Determining electoral turnout as a percentage of registered voters

ANALYSIS

Between 2000 and 2011, turnout in local government elections in the Northern Cape displayed an increasing tendency, rising from 45% in 2000 to 56% in 2011. The observed changes between 2000 and 2011 meant that the ranking of turnout in the province relative to the other eight increased from seventh highest in 2000 to fifth in 2011. Turnout remained stable at 56% in the 2016 Local Government Election. Despite this, the turnout of registered voters in the province in the 2021 Election fell to 53%. The pattern of turnout in the province largely mirrors trends nationally, with 53% of all registered voters turning out in 2021. These figures would be even lower if one looks at turnout as a percentage of the voting age population. Compared to other provinces, turnout in the Northern Cape ranks first during 2021.

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



	1999	2000	2004	2006	2009	2011	2014	2016	2019	2021	Average
Northern Cape	...	45	...	46	...	56	...	56	...	53	49
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)	...	7	...	6	...	5	...	7	...	8	6

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



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

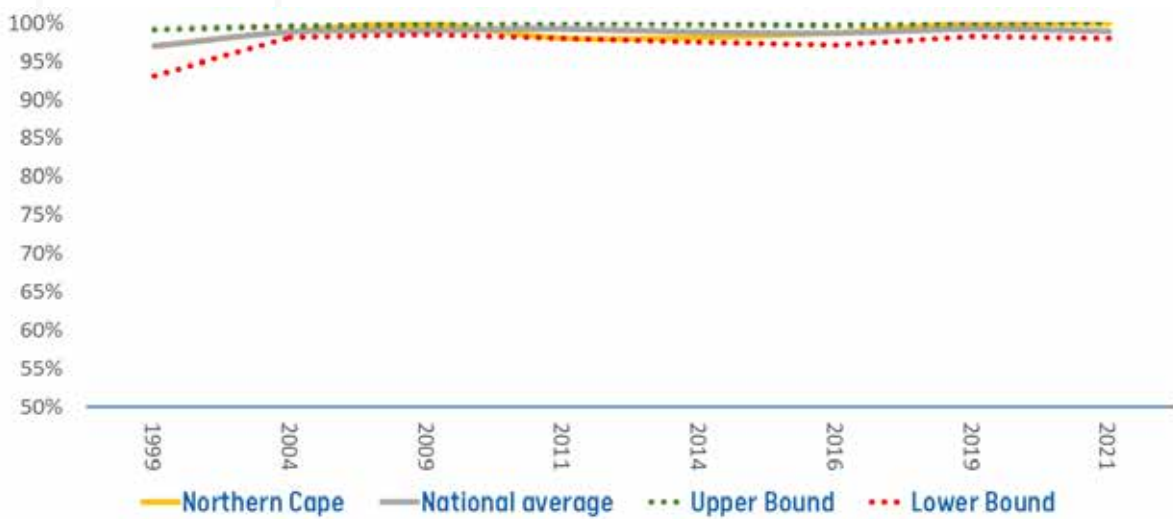
QUESTION

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

ANALYSIS

Looking at the 2021 elections survey results, an overwhelming majority of voters in the Northern Cape (100%) felt that the election procedures were free and fair. This was a resolutely positive result and is consistent with previous survey rounds. On average over the 1999 to 2021 period, the share of voters in the province who thought that the voting procedures were both free and fair was 99%. It is clear that voters were satisfied with the election procedures in the context of the nine elections being considered. The overall rank of the Northern Cape relative to other provinces is third. Given that the levels of satisfaction among voters are high in all provinces, these rank differences reflect subtle percentage point changes rather than sizeable shifts in perspective.

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



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

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

5.2 Vote count

GOAL

Assess confidence in the accuracy of the vote count

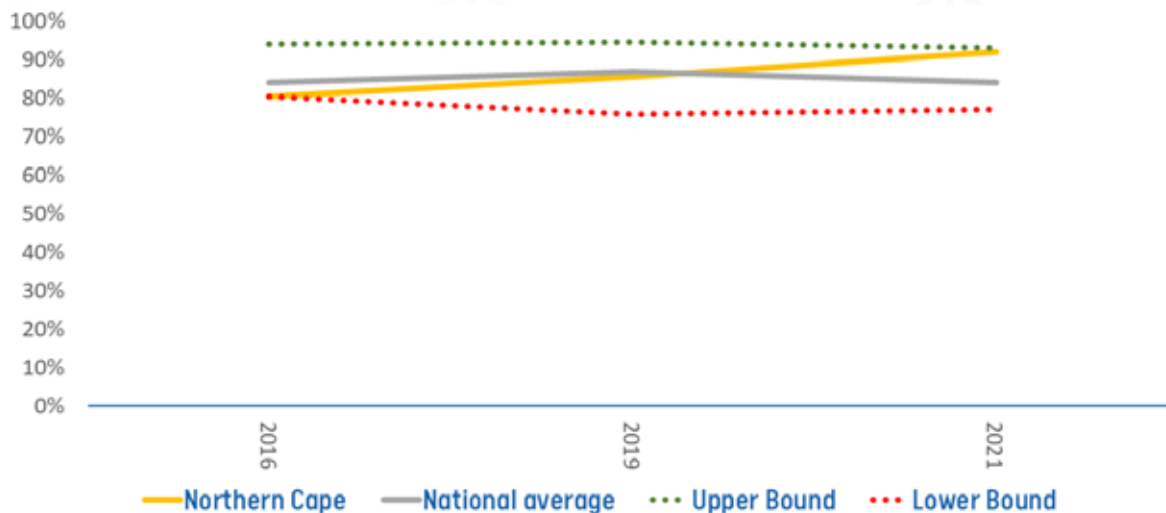
QUESTION

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

ANALYSIS

In the 2021 local government elections, an overwhelming majority of voters in the Northern Cape (92%) believed that their vote would be accurately counted. During the 2016 to 2021 period, the average proportion of voters in the province who had confidence in the count has increased year on year. This is an encouraging finding that speaks to increased voter confidence in electoral staff in performing this duty. The provincial average for confidence in vote counting is 86%, virtually equivalent to the national average (85%). In comparison with other provinces, voters in the Northern Cape ranked fourth on average over the period.

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
Northern Cape	80	85	92	86
National Avg..	84	87	84	85
Upper Bound	94	94	93	91
Lower Bound	80	76	77	79
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	9	6	3	4

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

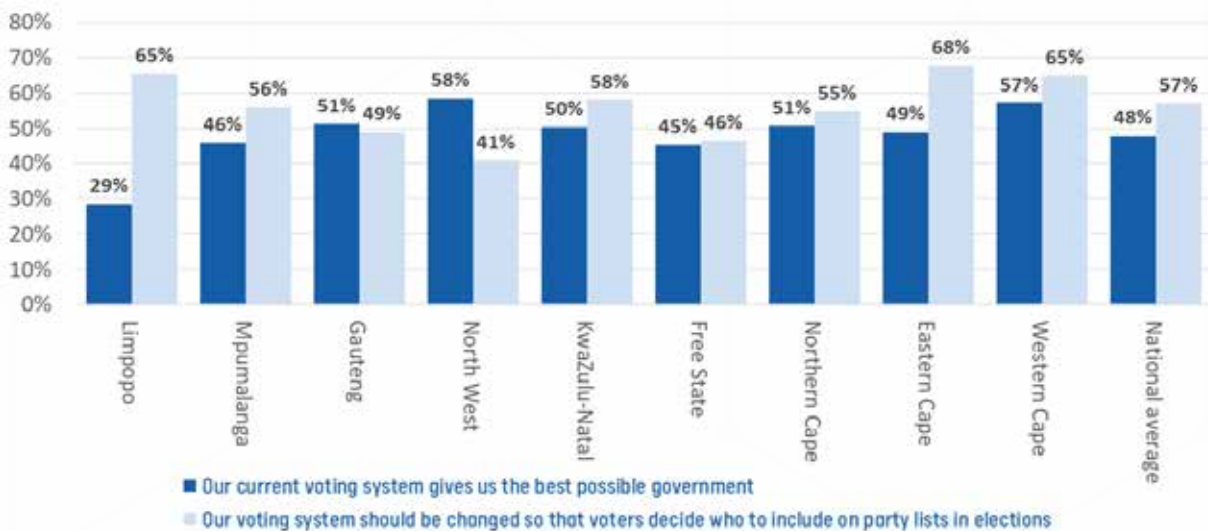
QUESTION

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

ANALYSIS

In 2019, citizens in the Northern Cape were generally divided over whether the voting system delivers the best possible government. Half (51%) stated that the current system gives the best possible government - demonstrating a degree of ambivalence in the province about whether the electoral system is functioning in accordance with expectations of democracy. Furthermore, more than half (55%) of citizens in the Northern Cape also thought that they should have more say over who to include on party lists in elections. This suggests moderate levels of support for this type of reform in the country, and perhaps reflects a demand for greater levels of accountability. Relative to other provinces, the Northern Cape was ranked fourth on the first indicator and sixth on the second.

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, 2018 [%]



	Current electoral system provides the best possible government 2019	Voting system should be changed so voters decide on party list candidates 2019
Northern Cape	51	55
National Avg..	48	57
Upper Bound	58	68
Lower Bound	59	41
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	4	6

Data Source: IEC Voter Participation Survey (VPS) 2018

6.2. Electronic voting

6.2.1. Perceived effectiveness of electronic voting

GOAL

Evaluation of the perceived effectiveness of electronic voting

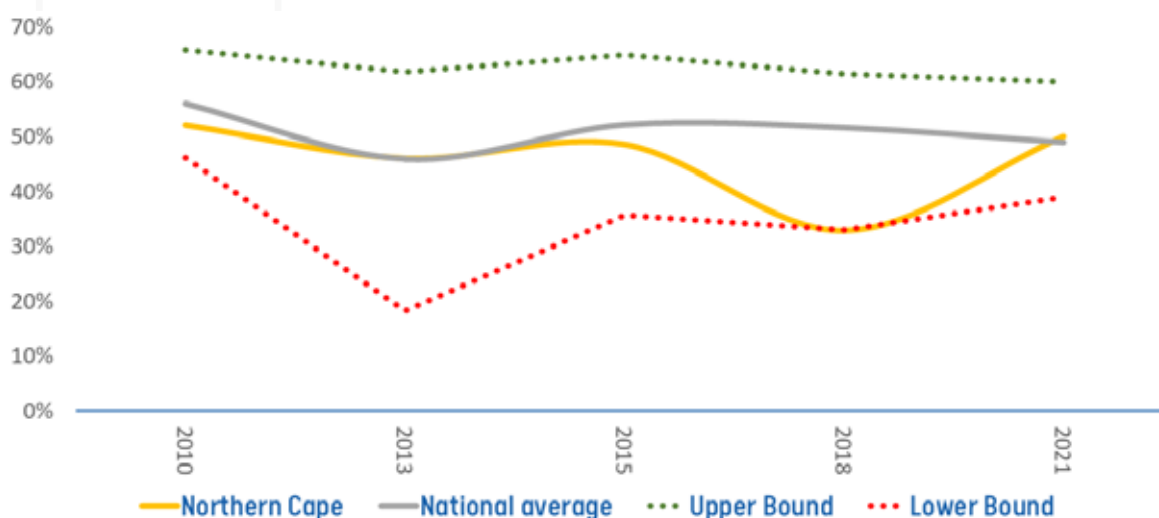
QUESTION

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

ANALYSIS

In 2021, half of the citizens in the Northern Cape thought that electronic voting would be easier and more effective than the present system of paper ballots. This suggests the provincial public remains divided on the issue of electronic voting. There has been a modest change in view across successive survey rounds with residents being particularly sceptical of electronic voting in 2018, when only a third believed electronic voting would make the system more efficient. On average across the 2010 to 2021 period, 45% of citizens in the province thought that electronic voting would make voting easier and more effective. Relative to other provinces, the rank position of the Northern Cape was eighth overall, suggesting that the Northern Cape residents, compared to other provinces, are not overly convinced of the ease and effectiveness of electronic voting.

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
Northern Cape	52	46	49	33	50	45
National Avg..	56	46	52	56	49	51
Upper Bound	66	62	65	62	60	59
Lower Bound	46	18	36	33	39	38
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	7	7	5	9	5	8

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

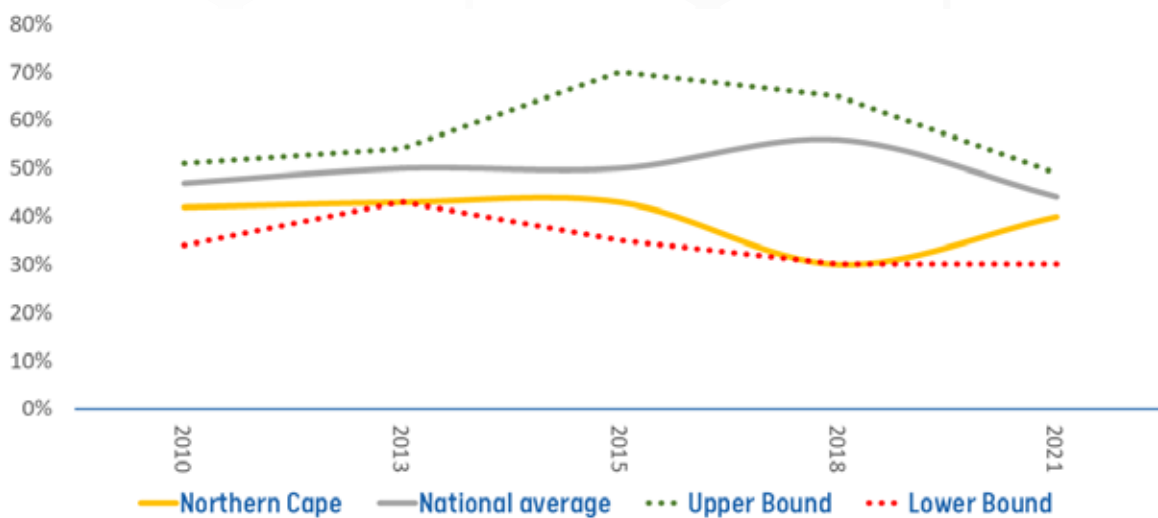
QUESTION

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

ANALYSIS

In 2010, 42% of adult citizens in the Northern Cape believed that an electronic voting system would introduce more fraud relative to the current electoral system. This indicates that the provincial public in the Northern Cape is quite concerned about potential negative consequences associated with electronic voting. Fears of voter fraud in an electronic voting system have remained fairly steady since 2010, suggesting enduring levels of concern about this issue. These levels of concern was, however, lower than the national average in all years and in 2013 and in 2018 the Northern Cape recoded the lowest level of concern across all provinces. Over the period 2010 to 2021, the average level of concern recorded is 39% and compared with other provinces, the Northern Cape ranked eighth. These findings suggest that Northern Cape residents are generally less concerned than other provinces about the security of an electronic voting system.

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
Northern Cape	42	43	43	30	40	39
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)	8	9	7	9	6	8

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

REFERENCES

- Birch, S. (2008). Electoral institutions and popular confidence in electoral processes: A cross-national analysis. *Electoral studies*, 27(2), 305-320.
- Birch, S. (2010). Perceptions of electoral fairness and voter turnout. *Comparative political studies*, 43(12), 1601-1622.
- Birch, S. (2011). *Electoral malpractice*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Bratton, M., & Van de Walle, N. (1997). *Democratic experiments in Africa: Regime transitions in comparative perspective*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Diamond, L. (2015). Facing up to the democratic recession. *Journal of Democracy*, 26(1), 141-155.
- Elklit, J., & Reynolds, A. (2002). The impact of election administration on the legitimacy of emerging democracies: A new comparative politics research agenda. *Commonwealth and Comparative Politics*, 40(2), 86-119.
- Elklit, J., & Reynolds, A. (2005). A framework for the systematic study of election quality. *Democratization*, 12(2), 147-162.
- Foa, R. S., & Mounk, Y. (2016). The danger of deconsolidation: The democratic disconnect. *Journal of democracy*, 27(3), 5-17.
- Fortin-Rittberger, J., Harfst, P., & Dingler, S. C. (2017). The costs of electoral fraud: establishing the link between electoral integrity, winning an election, and satisfaction with democracy. *Journal of elections, public opinion and parties*, 27(3), 350-368.
- Frank, R. W., & i Coma, F. M. (2017). How election dynamics shape perceptions of electoral integrity. *Electoral Studies*, 48, 153-165.
- James, T. S., Garnett, H. A., Loeber, L., & Van Ham, C. (2019). Electoral management and the organisational determinants of electoral integrity: Introduction.
- Kerr, N. N. (2018). Election-day experiences and evaluations of electoral integrity in unconsolidated democracies: evidence from Nigeria. *Political Studies*, 66(3), 667-686.
- LeDuc, M. L., Niemi, R. G., & Norris, P. (eds.) (2002). *Comparing democracies 2: new challenges in the study of elections and voting* (Vol. 2). London: Sage.
- Levitsky, S., & Way, L. (2015). The myth of democratic recession. *Journal of Democracy*, 26(1), 45-58.
- Maphunye, K. (2019) Credible but flawed: The management of the elections. In Schulz-Herzenberg, C. & Southall, R. (eds.) *Election 2019: Change and stability in South Africa's democracy*. Johannesburg: Jacana.
- McAllister, I., & White, S. (2015). Electoral integrity and support for democracy in Belarus, Russia, and Ukraine. *Journal of Elections, Public Opinion & Parties*, 25(1), 78-96.
- Norris, P. (2011). *Democratic deficit: Critical citizens revisited*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

REFERENCES CONTINUED

- Norris, P. (2013). The new research agenda studying electoral integrity. *Electoral Studies*, 32(4), 563-575.
- Norris, P., Frank, R. W., & i Coma, F. M. (2013). Assessing the quality of elections. *Journal of Democracy*, 24(4), 124-135.
- Norris, P. (2014). *Why electoral integrity matters*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Norris, P. (2017). *Strengthening electoral integrity*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Norris, P. (2017). *Electoral integrity*. In Fisher, J., Fieldhouse, E., Franklin, M. N., Gibson, R., Cantijoch, M., & Wlezien, C. (eds.) *The Routledge handbook of elections, voting behavior and public opinion*. Routledge.
- Norris, P., Frank, R. W., & i Coma, F. M. (2014). Measuring electoral integrity around the world: A new dataset. *PS: Political Science & Politics*, 47(4), 789-798.
- Norris, P., Frank, R. W., & i Coma, F. M. (Eds.). (2014). *Advancing electoral integrity*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Norris, P., Garnett, H. A., & Grömping, M. (2020). The paranoid style of American elections: explaining perceptions of electoral integrity in an age of populism. *Journal of Elections, Public Opinion and Parties*, 30(1), 105-125.
- Plattner, M. F. (2015). Is democracy in decline? *Journal of Democracy*, 26(1), 5-10.
- Schedler, A. (2002). Elections without democracy: The menu of manipulation. *Journal of democracy*, 13(2), 36-50.
- Schedler, A. (Ed.). (2006). *Electoral authoritarianism: The dynamics of unfree competition*. Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner Publishers.
- Van Ham, C. (2015). Getting elections right? Measuring electoral integrity. *Democratization*, 22(4), 714-737.



