

**EAST TIMOR
NATIONAL SURVEY
OF
VOTER KNOWLEDGE
(PRELIMINARY FINDINGS)**

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FOREWORD

This report presents the findings of the first ever random nationwide survey to assess East Timorese political opinions and knowledge. Conducted in February and March 2001, and sponsored by The Asia Foundation, the survey sought to gather essential information about the views and knowledge of the electorate in a critical year for East Timor's political development.

The survey results are intended as a resource for all, but particularly as a guide for policymakers and practitioners to better target election support programs in East Timor in 2001. It is also intended to serve as a baseline from which any organization can measure the success of specific projects and assess the progress of democratization over time.

The survey involved 1,558 in-person interviews of potential voters in a total of 392 *Aldeia* in 196 villages in all the 13 districts of East Timor. It addresses critical issues related to the national mood; voter and civic education issues; access to media; language use and preference; and demographics. The methodology of the study is explained overleaf, following a summary of the survey's most important findings. The report also contains recommendations for voter and civic education initiatives.

To conduct the survey, The Asia Foundation partnered with and trained the NGO Forum's *Kelompok Kerja Pendidikan Pemilih* (KKPP-Voter Education Working Group), without whose substantial involvement this project would not have been possible. Some 69 KKPP members representing 21 NGOs carried out the field work and data entry over a month-long period. The dedication and commitment to non-partisanship of these individuals was commendable. The international survey research firm, AC Nielsen, also played an invaluable role, by working together with The Asia Foundation and the KKPP to design the questionnaire and train the staff who carried out the field work, as well as conducting the data compilation. The Asia Foundation would like to express thanks to USAID for its financial support for this project.

This is the fourth in a series of democracy surveys sponsored by The Asia Foundation in Asia. The first was a national voter education survey conducted in Indonesia in advance of the 1999 elections. The second was a follow up survey in Indonesia in August 1999, and the third was carried out in Cambodia in 2000.

The Asia Foundation, currently involved in East Timor in election support programs focusing on voter education, domestic election monitoring, media development and the constitutional development process, welcomes comments on this report.

The Asia Foundation
Dili
May 2001

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

NATIONAL MOOD

- 75% of East Timorese feel that the country is heading in the right direction.
- Pessimism about the country's direction is slightly stronger among younger respondents and concentrated mainly in Dili and Baucau and in areas of recent conflict (Viqueque, in particular).
- To 63% of East Timorese who say that the country is headed in the right direction, the calmer situation and the end to violence are strong indicators that the country is headed in the right direction. Economic recovery was the second most popular reason, but cited by far fewer respondents.
- Women are considerably more likely than men to refer to the problem of violence. Younger East Timorese, too, are far more likely to refer to violence than older East Timorese.
- Among the 12% of East Timorese saying the country is headed in the wrong direction, the main reason cited is riots and violence, followed closely by economic problems, high prices and unemployment.
- 26% of all respondents say that nothing has improved in the country. For others, improvements include greater freedom, the transitional government and preparations for independence, and improved security.
- When asked about problems in the country, violence and political conflict dominated the answers, and were regarded by 29% of respondents as the two biggest problems facing East Timor.
- 60% of East Timorese, and younger East Timorese in particular, disagree with the statement that the government does not care about them.

CIVIC EDUCATION

- 54% of those polled are interested in politics. Men, younger East Timorese and those with higher levels of education are more interested in politics.
- There is little clear understanding of the meaning or implications of democracy. 36% understand democracy as freedom of speech. 11% of respondents defined democracy in cautionary terms. No-one equated democracy with elections.
- A majority of East Timorese view the government in paternalistic terms. Those in the east more strongly assert that the government and people are equals.
- Tolerance for free expression appears to wane in the context of political party campaigning. While 81% of East Timorese say that they feel free to express their opinions, only a slim majority, 53%, support all political parties holding meetings in their areas.
- There is less tolerance for political party activity in Dili and Baucau.
- 64% of those who consider political party competition a bad thing are concerned about the potential for violence and riots.
- A large majority of East Timorese support the idea that women should be as active as men in positions of political leadership. Young East Timorese are less likely to hold this opinion, and women are no more likely to be stronger proponents than men of equal participation in political leadership.
- Over half the population, 56%, do not know anything about East Timor's constitution.

VOTER EDUCATION

- 32% of eligible voters in East Timor have not heard about Civil Registration. Those East Timorese without access to media and in the more remote east and west of the country are least aware.
- While 75% of eligible voters have heard that there will be an election this year, only 30% know that the election is scheduled for August 30.
- Only 5% of eligible voters correctly stated that the election will be for a Constituent Assembly. 61% think the upcoming election is for the presidency.
- 94% of respondents said that they would vote. This does not guarantee a large turnout, though, since a majority believe the election to be for something other than the Constituent Assembly.
- Only a slim majority, 52%, said that voting in the 2001 election will make a difference. Men and better educated East Timorese are more confident of the impact of voting.
- There is a lack of knowledge about the political parties that currently exist.
- Riots and political party-related violence are the two most prominent concerns expressed in relation to the electoral process.
- 56% of respondents indicated that the presence of election observers would increase their confidence that the election will be free and fair.
- While a majority of respondents expressed a preference for both East Timorese and foreign election observers, only 7% specifically expressed a preference for foreign observer.

MEDIA -- SUMMARY

- Radio is the most widely accessed medium in East Timor.
- Despite 34% illiteracy nationwide, more East Timorese are reading either newspapers or magazines and newsletters than are watching television.
- Younger and better educated East Timorese are listening to radio and watching television more often than those who are older and less educated.
- The eastern four districts of East Timor have particularly low levels of radio listenership.
- Radio UNTAET is clearly the most popular radio station in the country and is popular across all major demographic categories.
- Television viewership and VCD ownership is heavily concentrated in Dili.
- The peak time for watching television and listening to radio is 17:00 - 21:00.
- *Suara Timor Lorosa'e* (STL) is the most widely read newspaper in East Timor, with 72% of those who read a newspaper saying that they read STL most often.
- While *Tais Timor* is the most widely read periodical, East Timorese publications with much smaller print runs are more widely read in four districts.
- Tetum is the most widely spoken and understood language by those accessing media in East Timor.
- Indonesian is a practical language for use in media.

Language

- The survey data confirm the strength of Tetum as a practical and preferred language. More East Timorese understand Tetum (91%) than any other language and can read and write Tetum (58%) than any other language.
- Tetum was overwhelmingly selected, by 80% of respondents, as the language of choice for election related information. Local languages were the second most popular choice at 17%, substantially more popular than Indonesian (3%).
- The use of local languages is strong and widespread: A majority of East Timorese (57%) identify a local language, other than Tetum, as their mother tongue. The remaining 43% cite Tetum. However, while 83% understand at least one local language, only 16% of East Timorese can read and write a local language.
- Portuguese is the only language that has a strong gender bias. While 21% of men can speak Portuguese and 19% can read Portuguese, this can only be said of 12% and 8% of women, respectively.
- Age is a significant determinant of language ability, with younger East Timorese relatively more proficient in Tetum, Indonesian and English and older East Timorese relatively more proficient in Portuguese.

CIVIC EDUCATION -- RECOMMENDATIONS

Target Group: All voters

Emphasis:

- Fundamental Concepts of Democracy. Few East Timorese know anything about democracy and none polled equate democracy with elections. 40% of respondents revealed basic knowledge of rights but there are limits to the support of rights of others (especially in regard to political party campaigning).
- Representative and Accountable Government. With the country's first democratic election approaching, a majority of East Timorese still view the government in paternalistic or authoritarian terms.
- The Benefits of Political Party Competition. Approximately half of the East Timorese polled are wary of political party competition.
- East Timor's Constitution. Few respondents know that a process is underway to draft East Timor's constitution -- one of the most important steps of which is the upcoming election.

Media:

- Radio is the most effective medium to use (particularly between 17:00 and 21:00).
- There should also be a concentrated effort to educate and engage *Chefes de Suco* and to encourage public discussions at the village level.

VOTER EDUCATION -- RECOMMENDATIONS

Target Group: All voters

Emphasis:

- Civil Registration. Public knowledge about civil registration is an immediate priority given the fact that one-third of respondents are unaware of the civil registration and that the deadline for eligible voters to register is June 24.
- Who will organize the election. Voters also need information about who is organizing the election (given the recent creation of the Independent Electoral Commission).
- The purpose of the upcoming election. Only 5% of respondents know the answer.
- Information on the parties who register and why political party campaigning is beneficial. There is little knowledge nationwide of the political parties that currently exist and little tolerance for competition between them.

Media:

- Radio is the most effective medium to use (particularly between 17:00 and 21:00).
- There should also be a concentrated effort to educate and engage *Chefes de Suco* and to encourage public discussions at the village level.
- Information on Civil Registration and the election is critically needed in the more

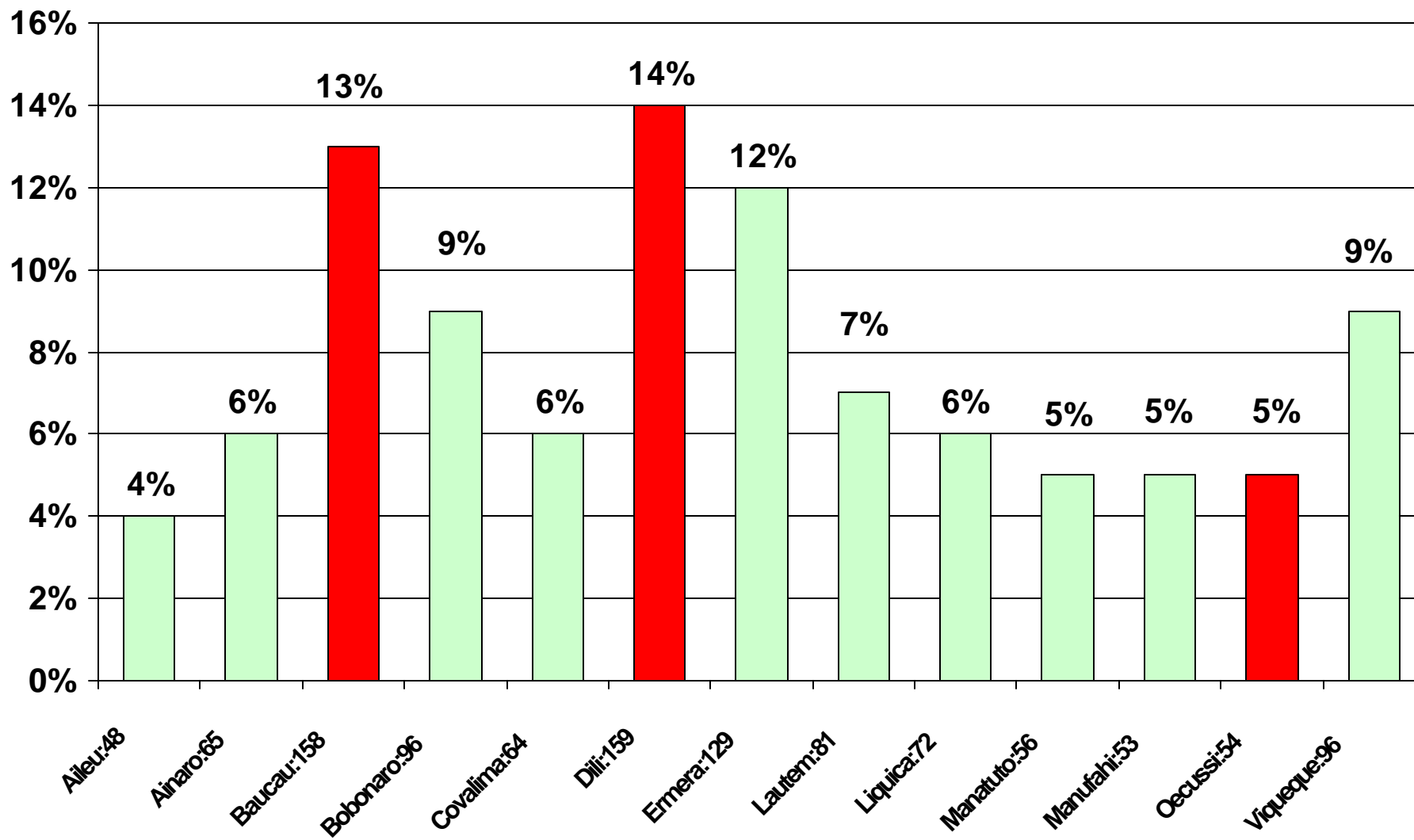
METHODOLOGY

Methodology

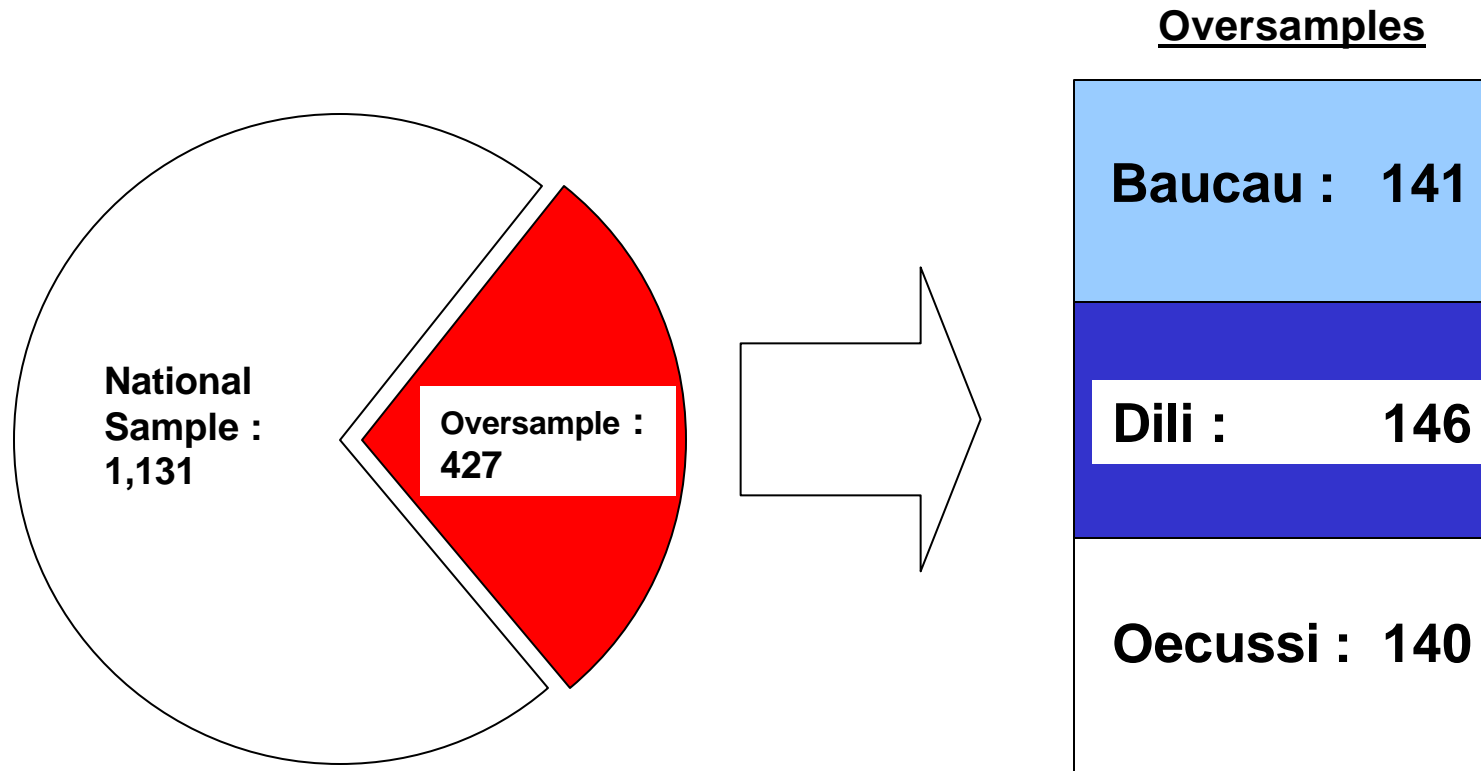
- The research was conducted in two phases:
 - Phase 1: Informal focus group discussion among participants from NGO forum in Dili, (date) 2001.
 - Phase 2: Quantitative -- national survey, 1,558 in-person interviews, potential voters in every district in East Timor, (date) 2001
- Fieldwork was conducted by NGO Forum, East Timor.
- Because the sample is truly national and random, the survey results represent all parts of the population in their correct proportions. Demographically, the poll results are either identical or close to the real population.
- As a result, the survey findings closely reflect the public in terms of gender, religion, urban-rural balance, education, and age. The findings regarding public opinion are thus likely to be representative as well, within the survey's margin of error.
- This makes the survey different from polls published in East Timor. Those surveys are usually limited to urban areas -- ignoring the rural majority --- and often unrepresentative in terms of sex, schooling, or age. Their results consequently may well be far from reflecting what a full sample of the entire nation would reveal.

The National Sample

1,131 interviews
by district



National Sample and Oversamples



Sampling Methodology

- The basic sampling method used for the national representative sample (of 1,131 potential voters) was multi-stage random sampling with the following stages:
 - Stage 1 : Selection of *Suco* (village-sized urban and rural administrative units) with probability proportionate to population.
 - Stage 2 : Random selection of *Aldeia* (neighborhood administrative units) by interval method.
 - Stage 3 : Random selection of households, by interval method.
 - Stage 4 : Selection of respondent by Kish Grid.
- *Suco* were selected by statisticians using a Master Frame of all *Suco* provided by the Civil Registry in Dili.
- 8 respondents were selected in each *Suco*; 4 in each of two randomly selected *Aldeia*.
- KKPP interviewers in the field prepared lists of *Aldeia* using information received from the *Chefes de Suco*. *Aldeia* for inclusion in the study were selected using random-number tables.
- Households in each *Aldeia* were then mapped and listed, and respondent households were then selected by using an interval of 1 in 5 households. A random start-point household was pre-selected by the statisticians

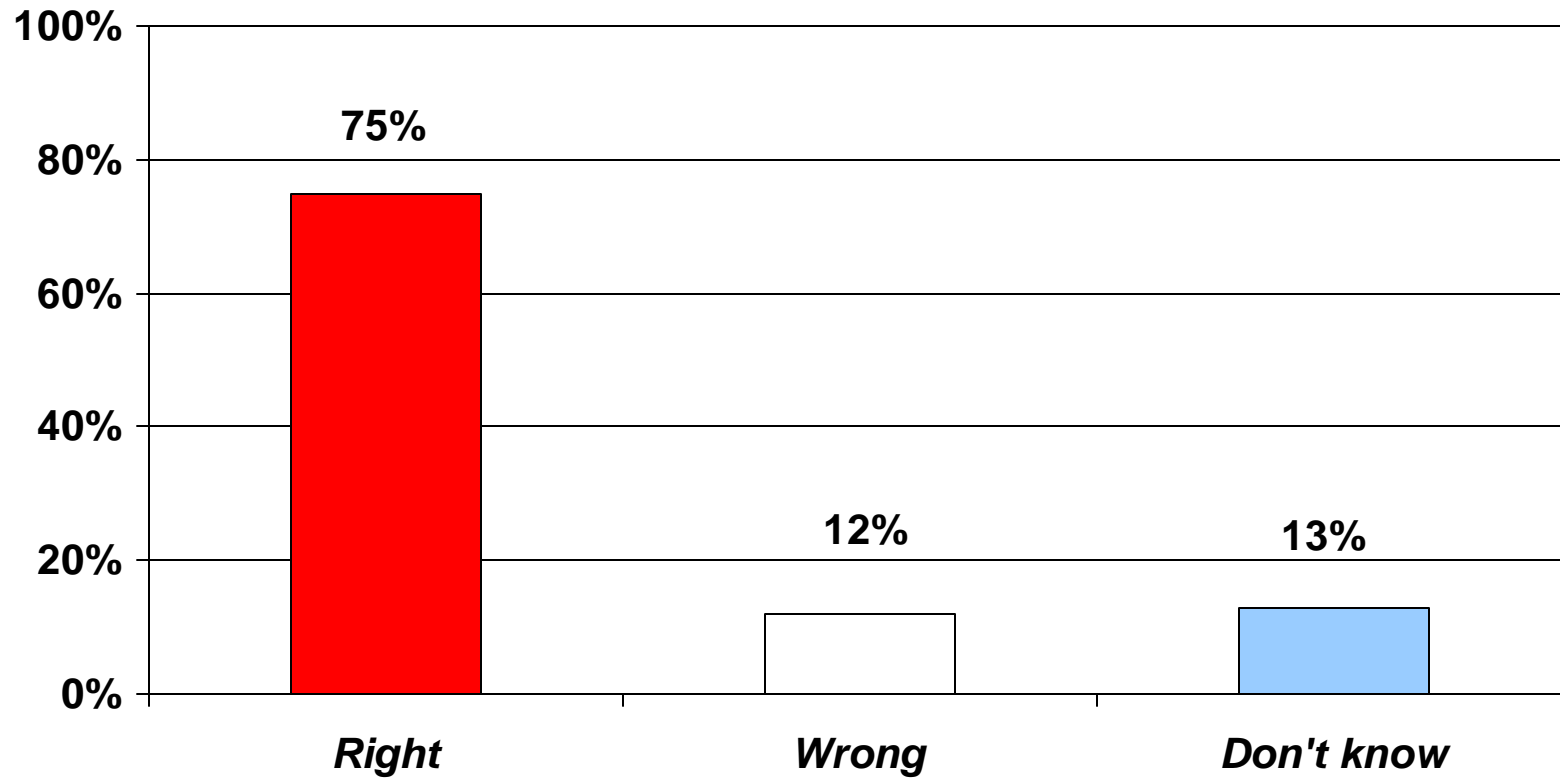
Part 1:
National Mood

NATIONAL MOOD -- SUMMARY

- 75% of East Timorese feel that the country is heading in the right direction.
- Pessimism about the country's direction is slightly stronger among younger respondents and concentrated mainly in Dili and Baucau and in areas of recent conflict (Viqueque, in particular).
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- When asked about problems in the country, violence and political conflict dominated the answers, and were regarded by 29% of respondents as the two biggest problems facing East Timor.
- 60% of East Timorese, and younger East Timorese in particular, disagree with the statement that the government does not care about them.

Direction of the Country

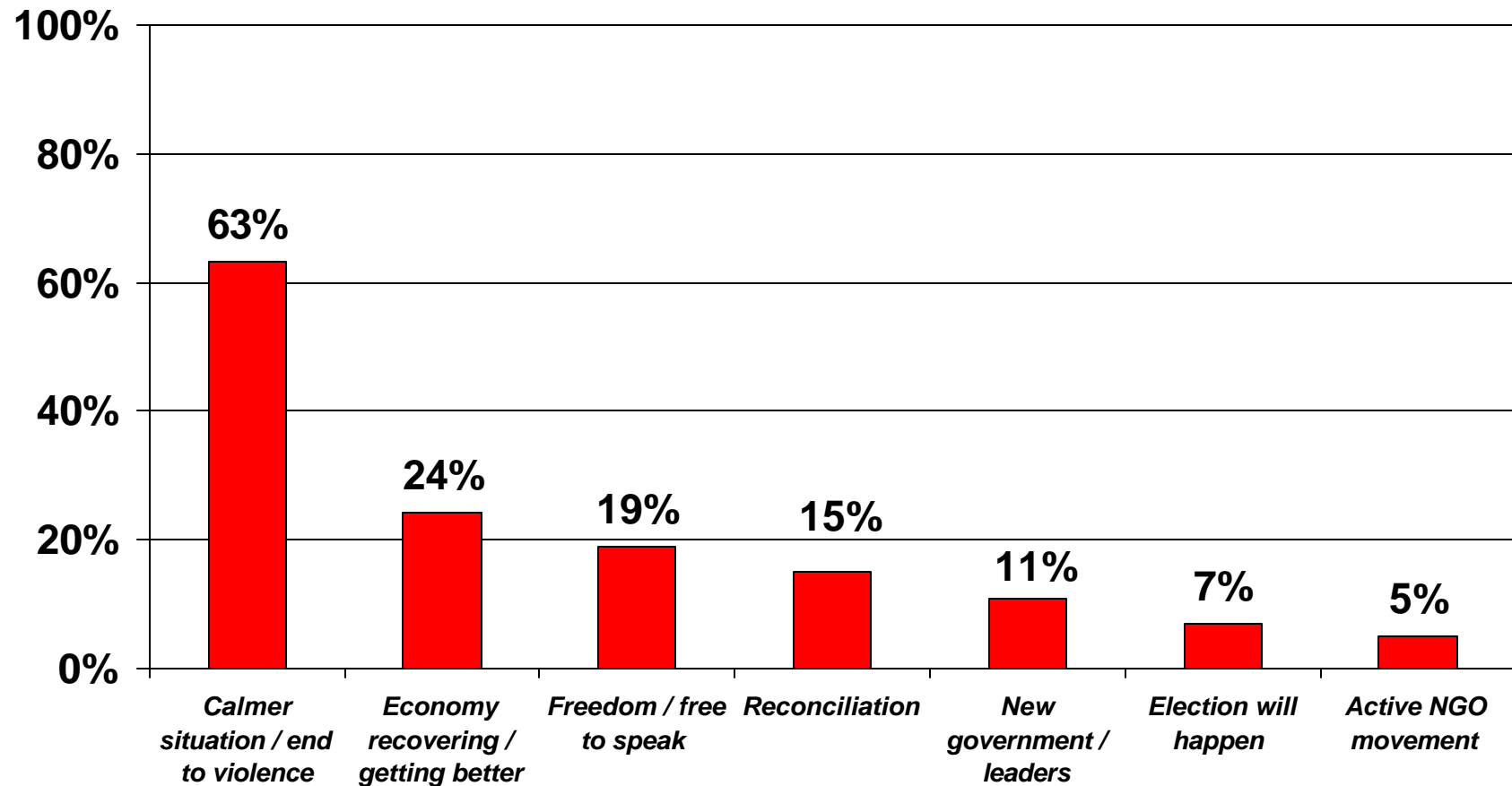
Do you think East Timor is heading in the right direction or the wrong direction?



Right Direction

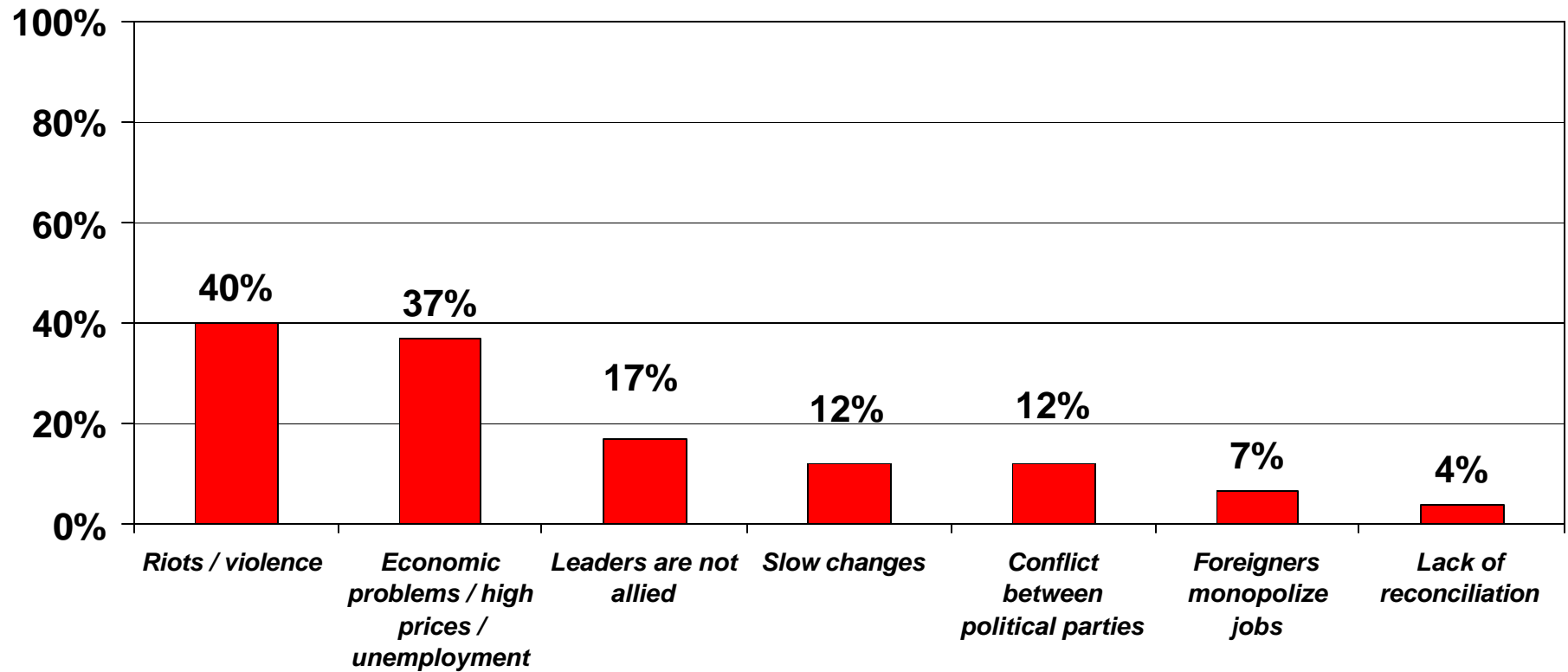
Why do you say that ?

(Reasons given by 5% or more of the 75% who said that East Timor is heading in the right direction. Up to 2 responses given.)



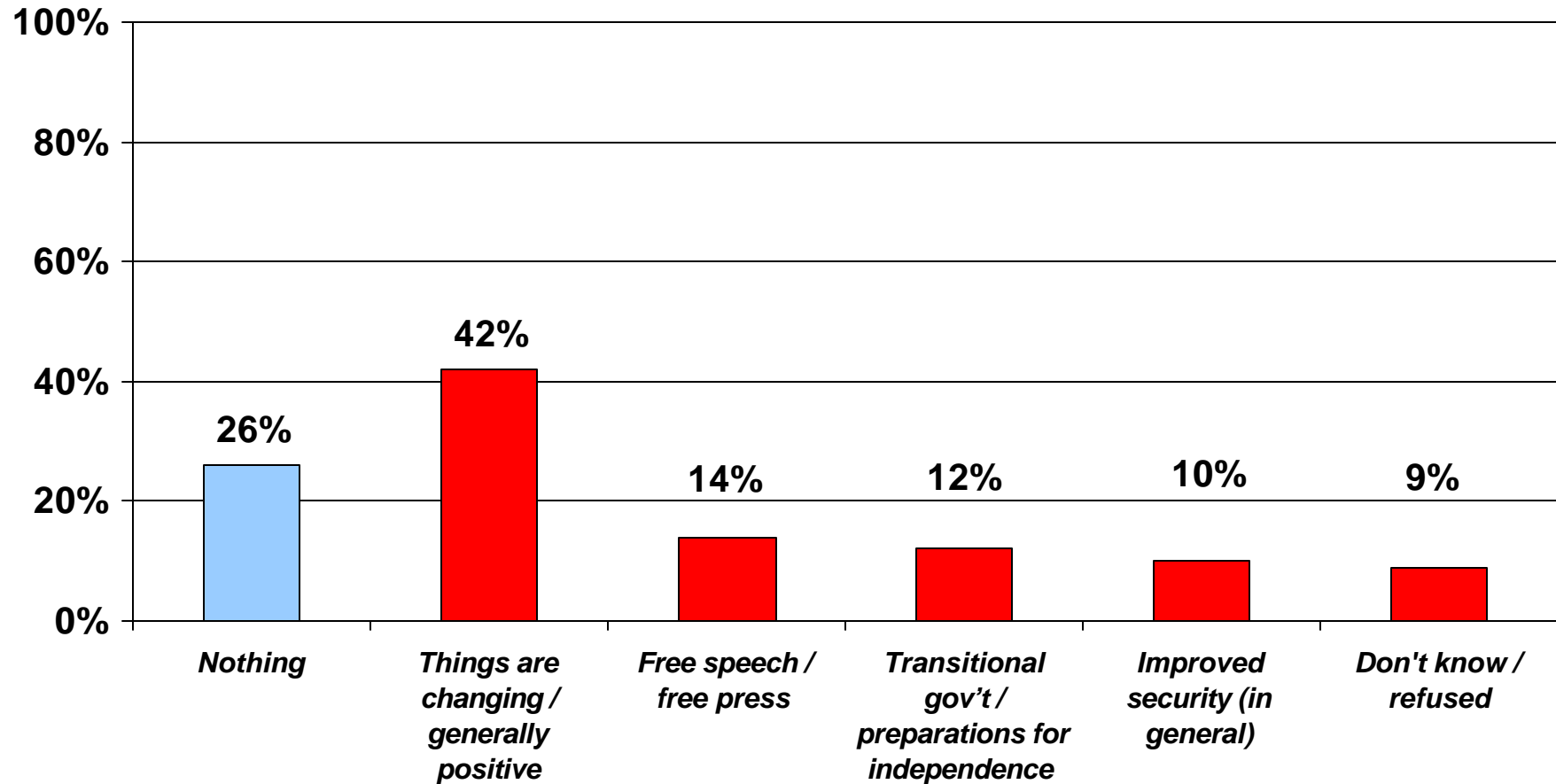
Wrong Direction

*Why do you say that ?
(Reasons given by 4% or more of the 12% who said that East Timor is heading in the wrong direction. Up to 2 responses given.)*



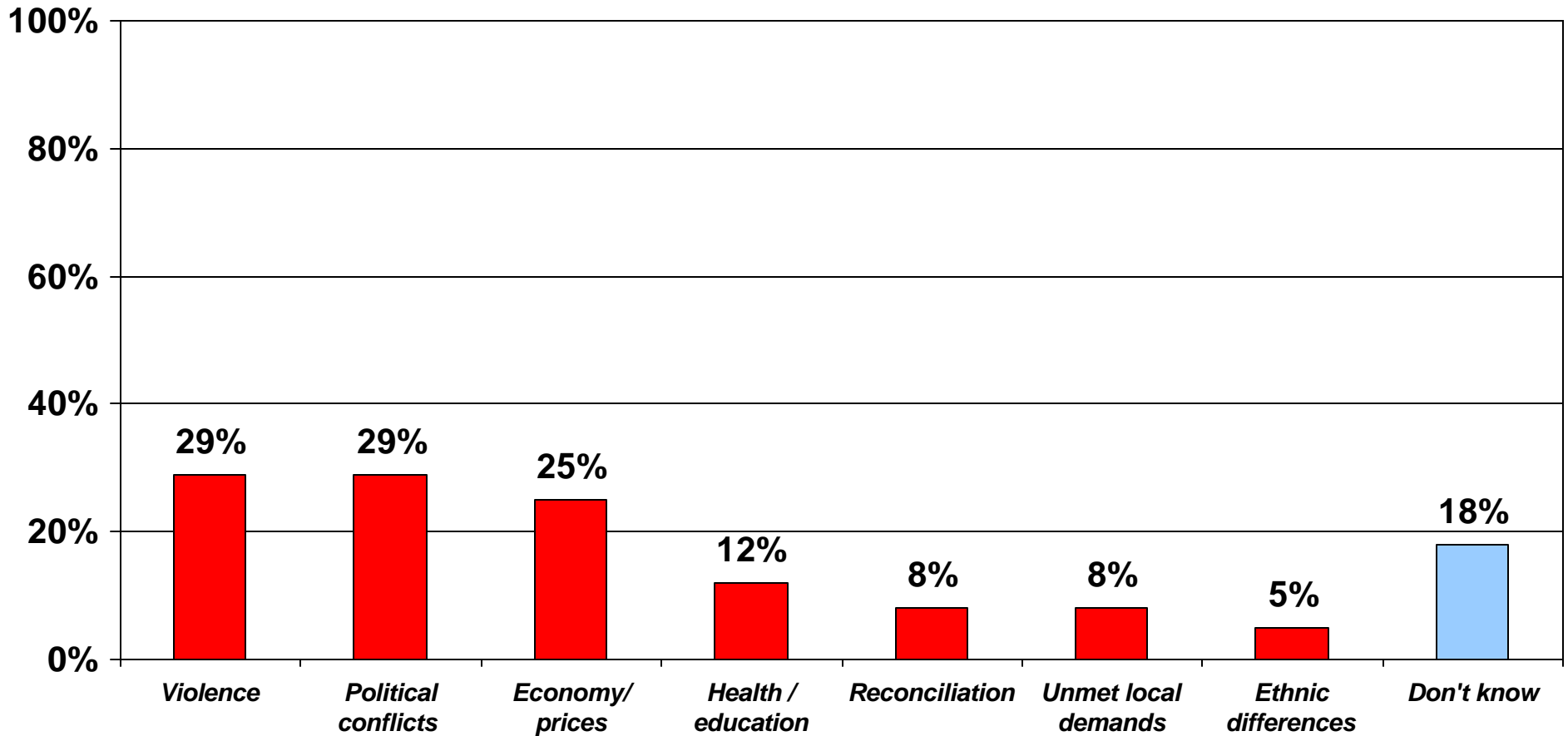
Improvements in East Timor

*What, if anything, has improved in East Timor ?
(Responses cited by 5% or more)*



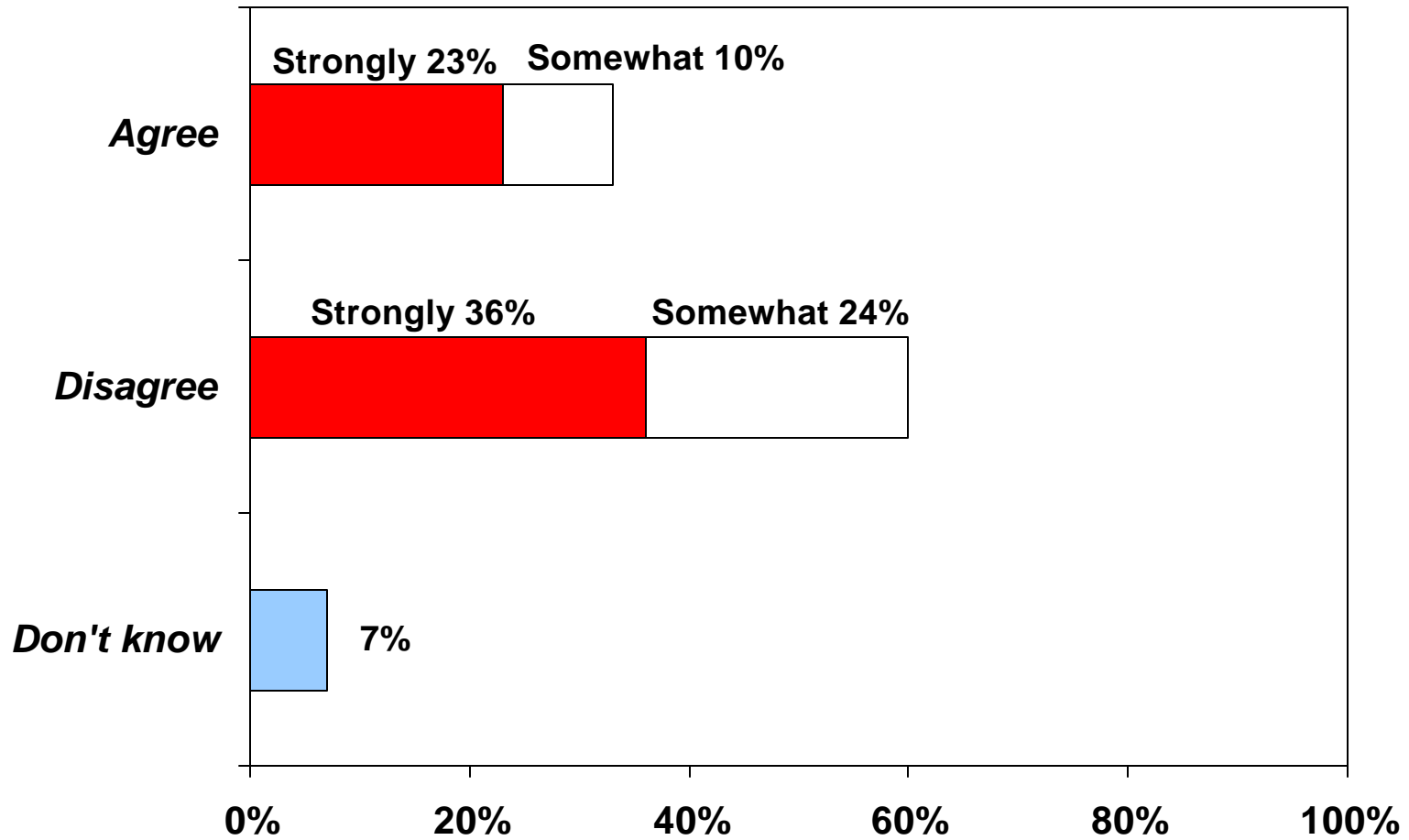
East Timor's Biggest Problems

*In your view, what are the biggest problems facing East Timor ?
(Responses combined, all those cited by 5% or more)*



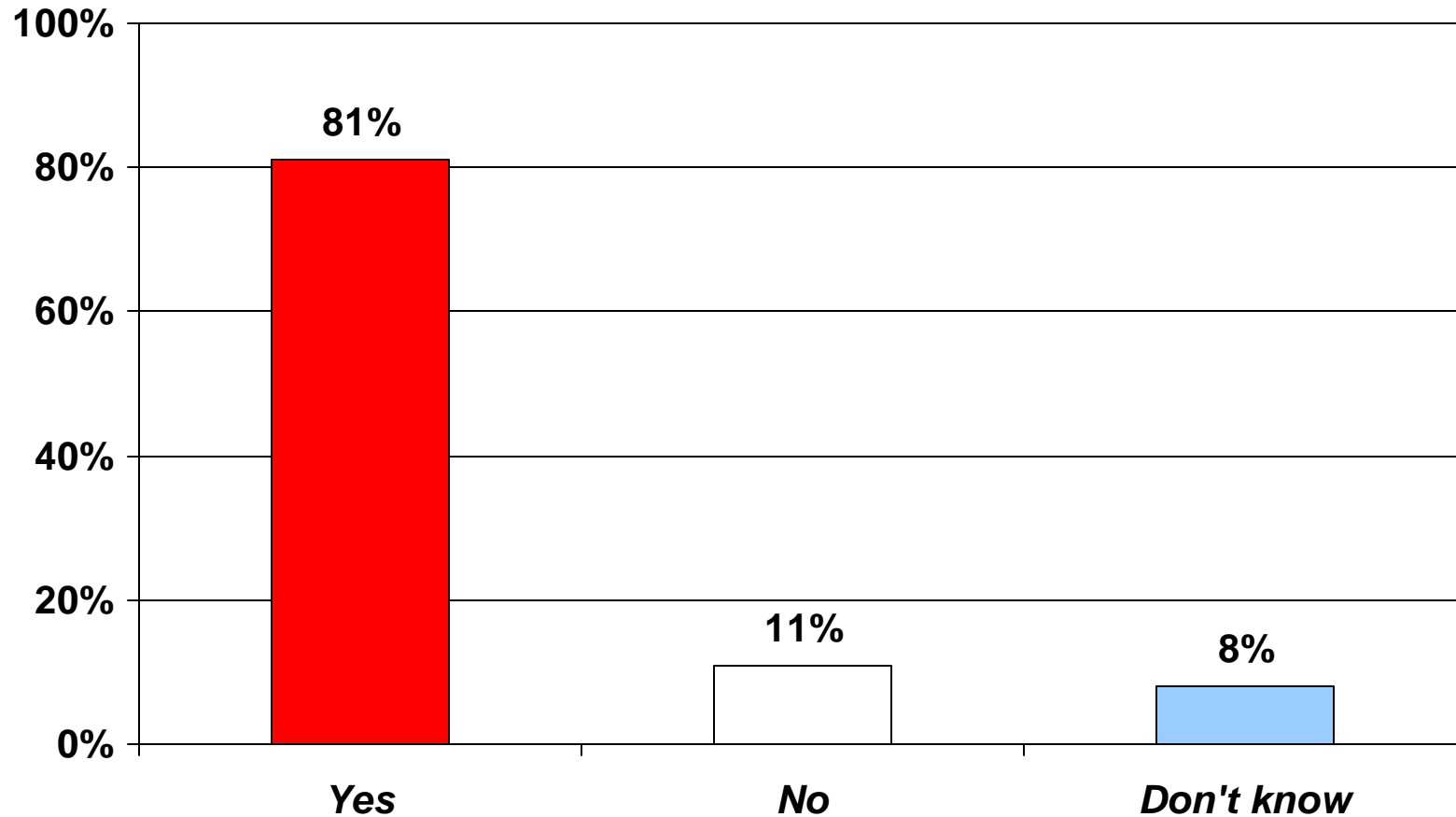
Political Alienation

Some people say: "I don't think the government cares very much about what people like me think." Do you agree?



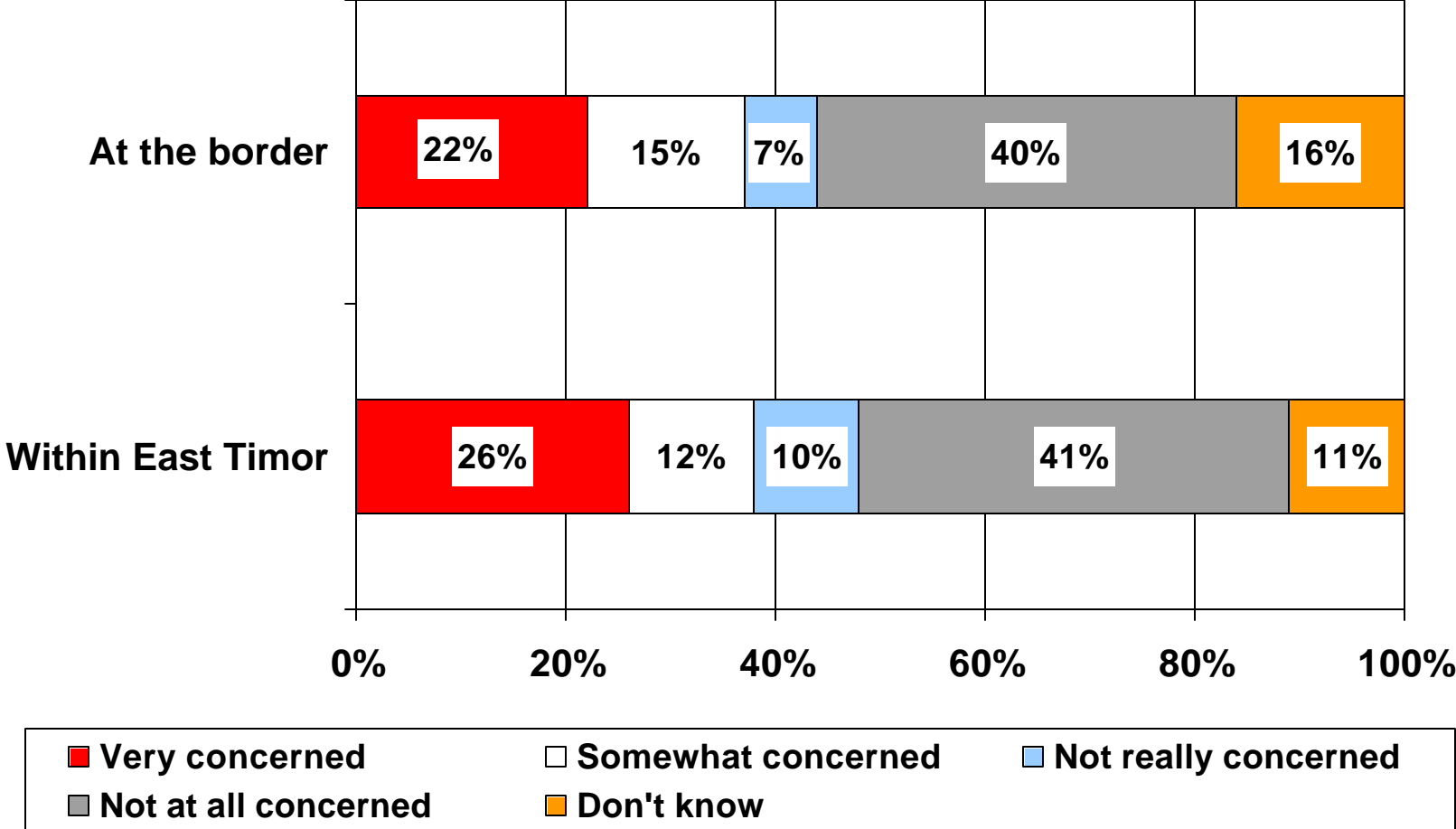
Freedom of Political Expression

Do people feel free to express their opinion where you live ?



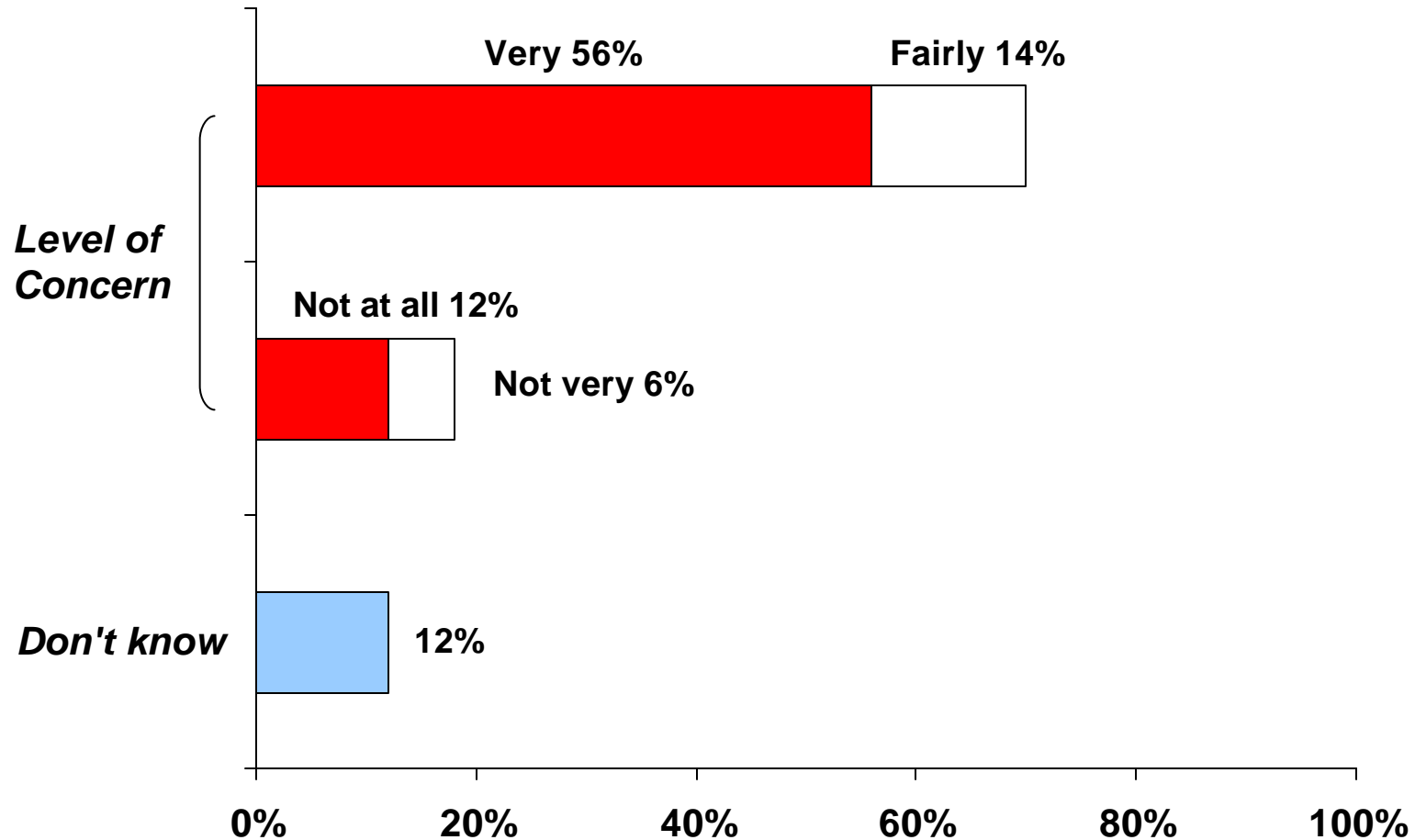
Concerns About Security

How concerned are you about security within East Timor and at the border (with West Timor)?



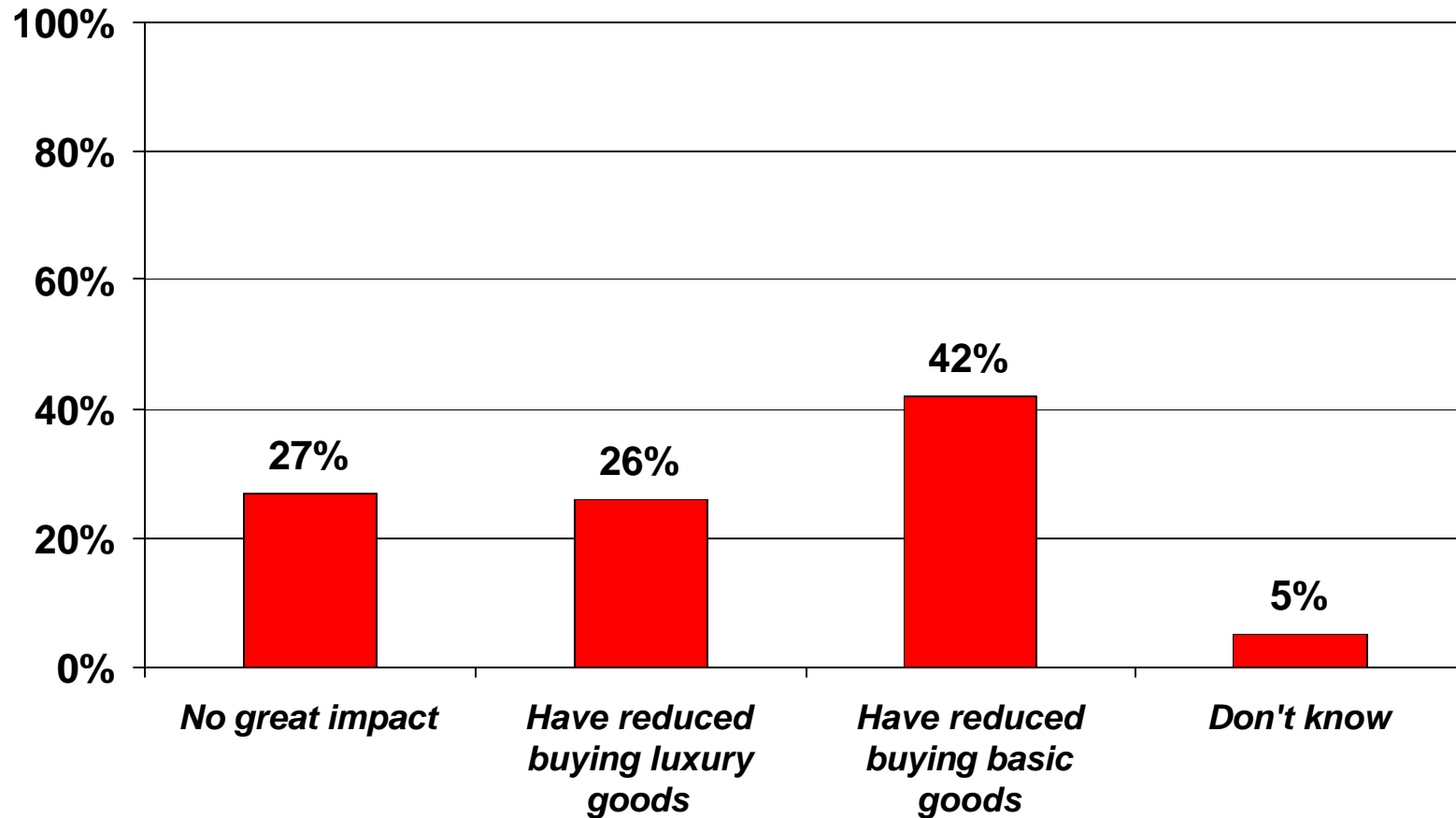
Concern About Corruption, Collusion and Nepotism "KKN"*

How concerned are you about KKN in the current and future government?



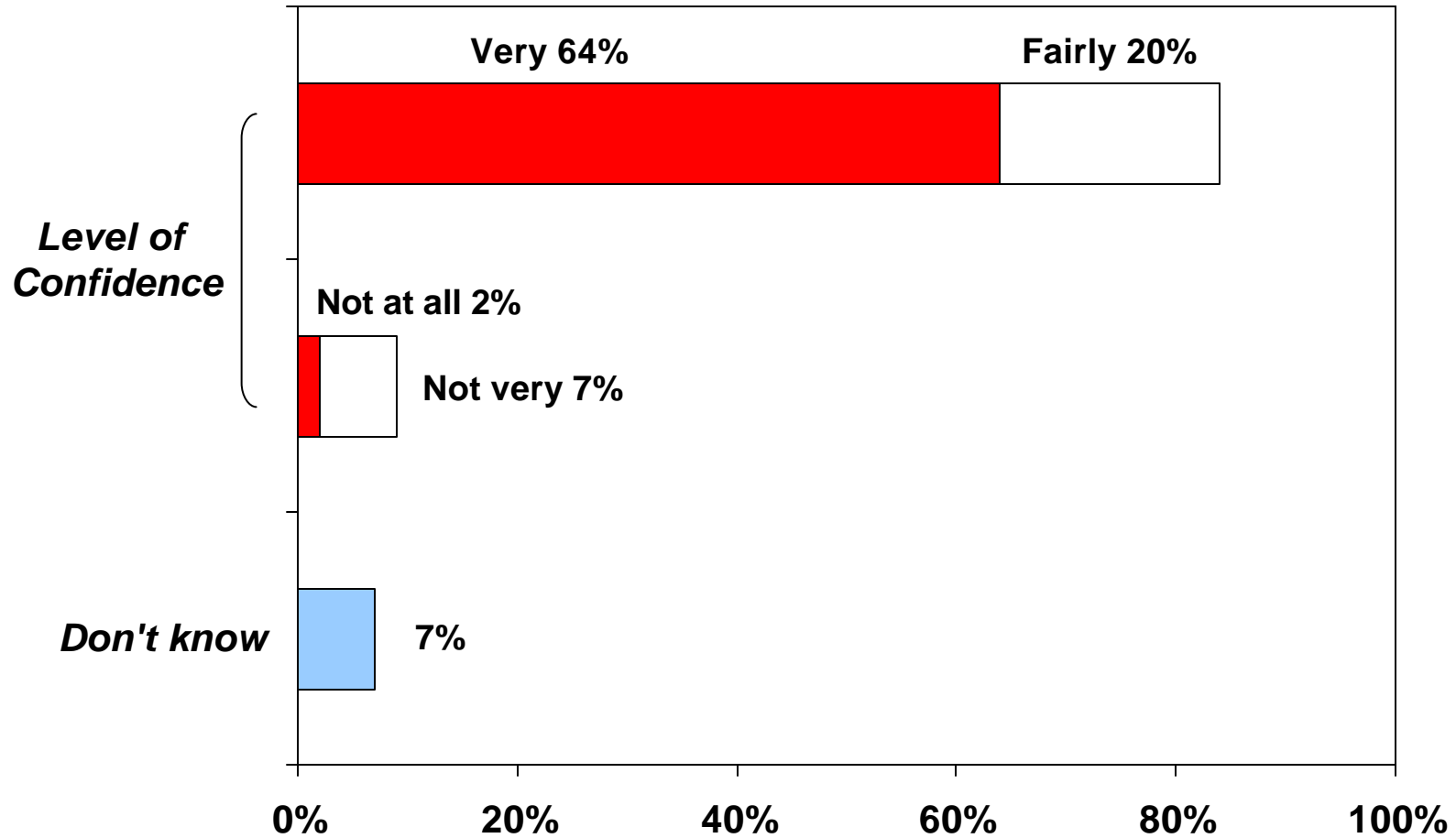
Impact of Prices

Some people say that prices keep increasing and goods have become expensive. Please choose which statement best describes your family condition.



Confidence in the Future

How confident are you of a happy future for East Timor?



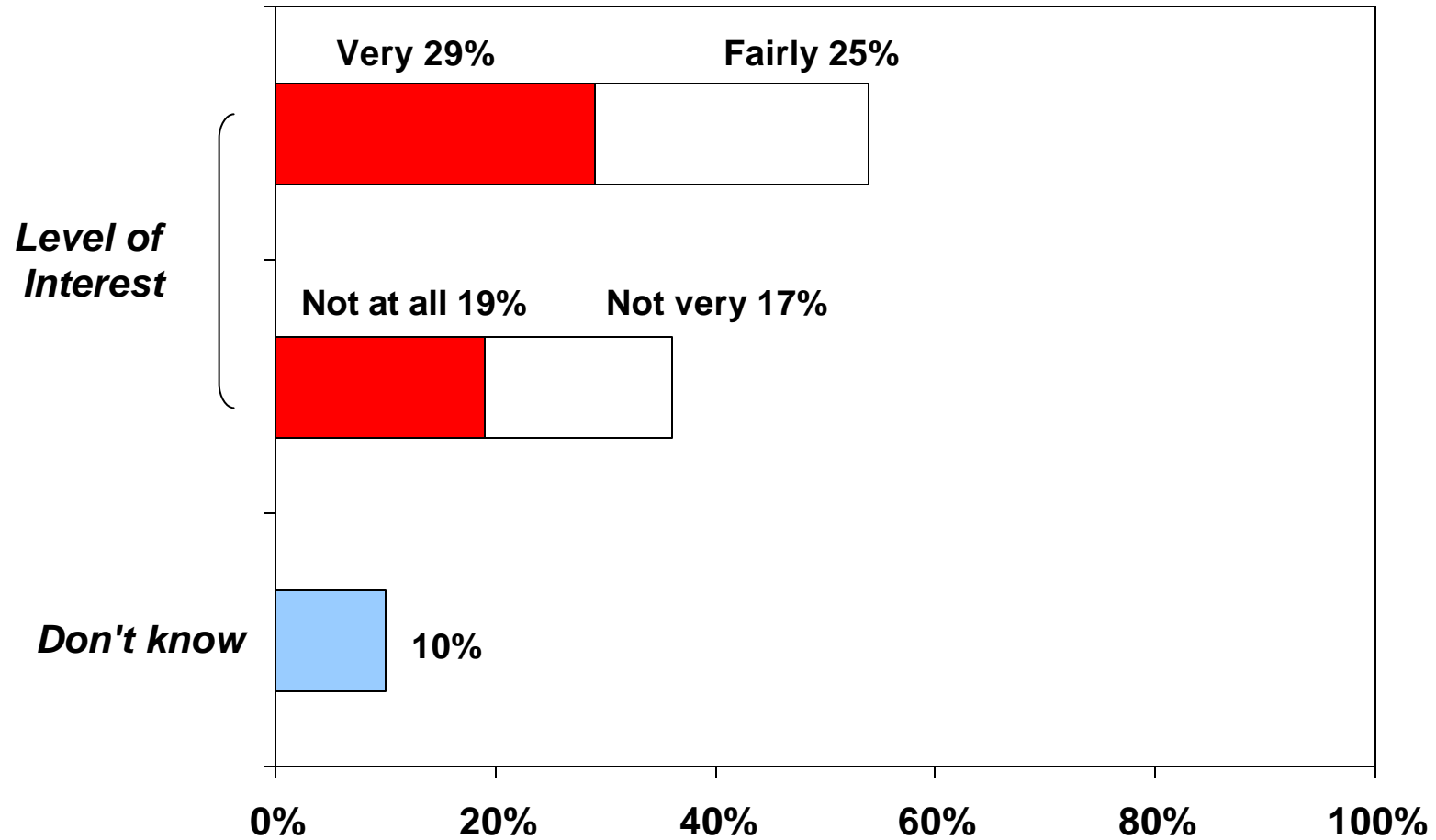
Part 2: Civic Education

CIVIC EDUCATION -- SUMMARY

- 54% of those polled are interested in politics. Men, younger East Timorese and those with higher levels of education are more interested in politics.
- There is little clear understanding of the meaning or implications of democracy. 36% understand democracy as freedom of speech. 11% of respondents defined democracy in cautionary terms. No-one equated democracy with elections.
- A majority of East Timorese view the government in paternalistic terms. Those in the east more strongly assert that the government and people are equals.
- Tolerance for free expression appears to wane in the context of political party campaigning. While 81% of East Timorese say that they feel free to express their opinions, only a slim majority, 53%, support all political parties holding meetings in their areas.
- There is less tolerance for political party activity in Dili and Baucau.
- 64% of those who consider political party competition a bad thing are concerned about the potential for violence and riots.
- A large majority of East Timorese support the idea that women should be as active as men in positions of political leadership. Young East Timorese are less likely to hold this opinion, and women are no more likely to be stronger proponents than men of equal participation in political leadership.
- Over half the population, 56%, do not know anything about East Timor's constitution.

Political Interest

How interested are you in politics? Very interested, somewhat interested, not very interested, or not at all interested?



Characteristics of a Democratic Country

*If a country is called a democracy, what does that mean to you?
Anything else?*

No answer	37%
Freedom to speak	36%
Unity	8%
Democracy is freedom but has still not been attained	6%
Must have limits	5%
Responsible democracy	4%
Mutual respect	3%
Depends on the community's awareness	1%
Sovereignty of the people	1%

Personal Consequences of Democracy

What, if anything, is the most important thing that democracy in East Timor will bring you personally? Anything else ?

No answer	42%
Democracy is freedom	40%
Unity	5%
Leaders should listen to the people	5%
Democracy is freedom but has still not been attained	4%
Democracy is limited	2%
Democracy is not important	1%

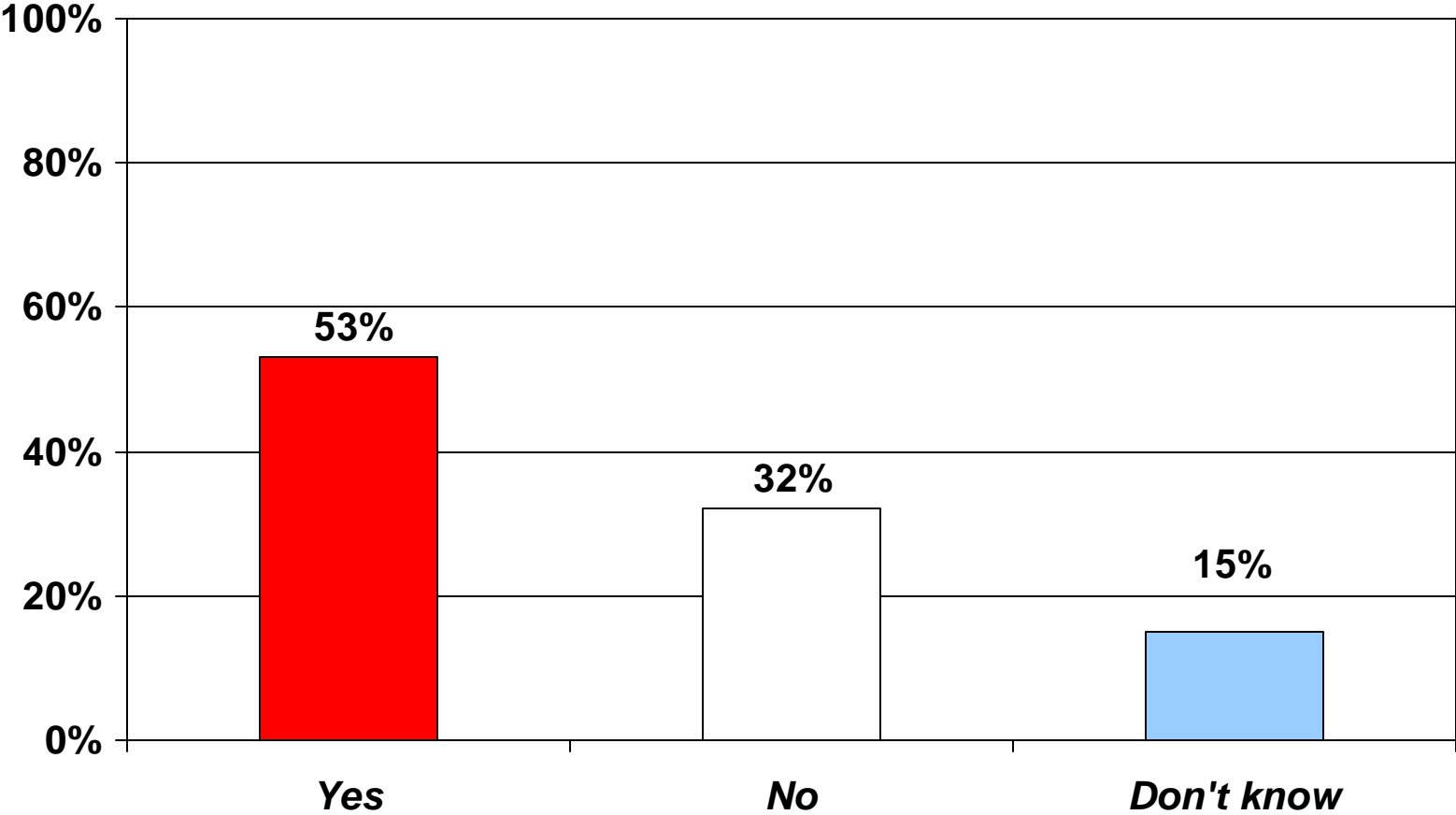
Political Culture

Which of these is closest to your view of what the government represents?

Government is the parent, people the children	56%
Government and the people are equal	35%
Government is the boss, people subordinates	3%
Don't know	6%

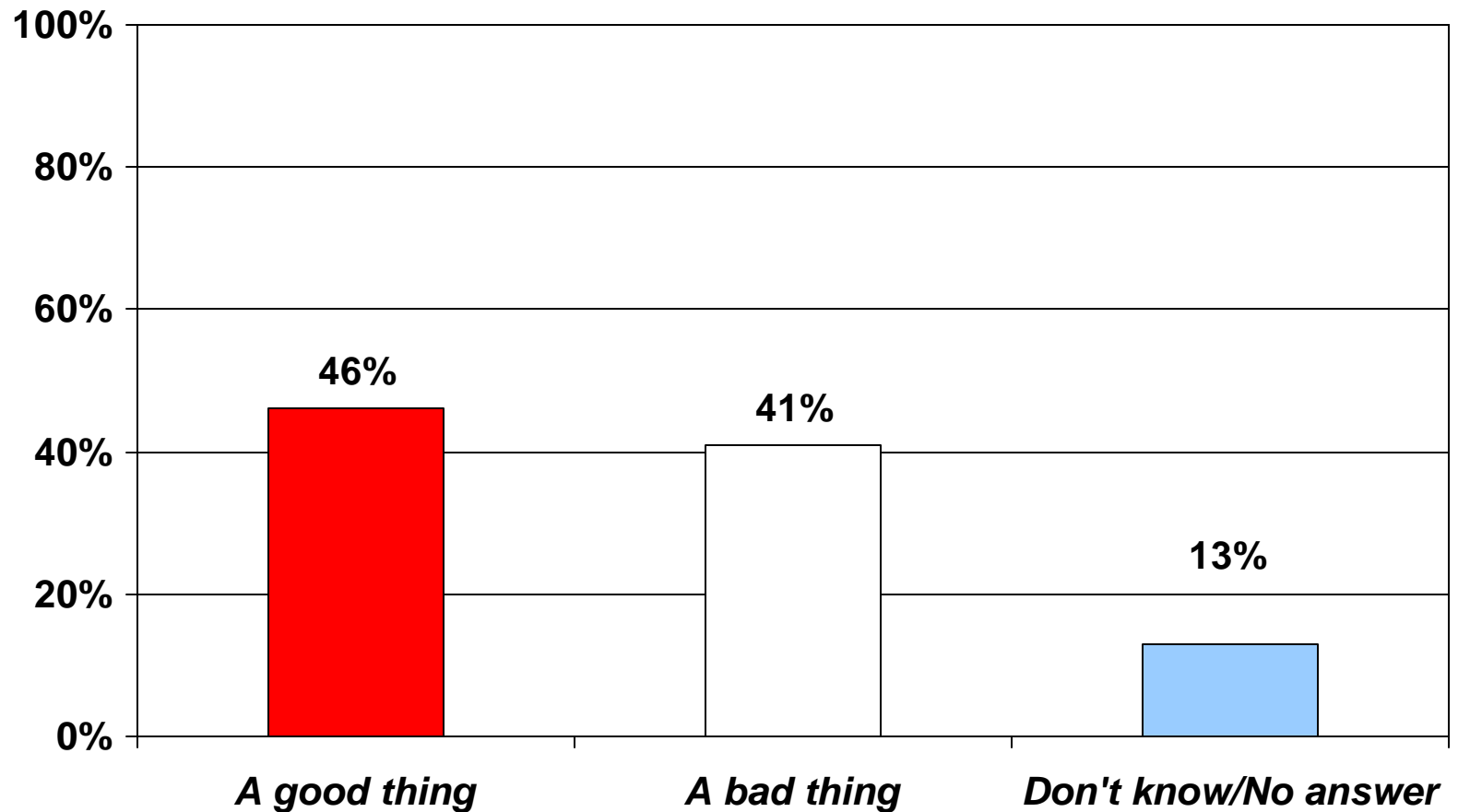
Tolerance of Political Party Meetings

Do you think that all political parties should be allowed to hold meetings in your area ?



Competition Among Political Parties

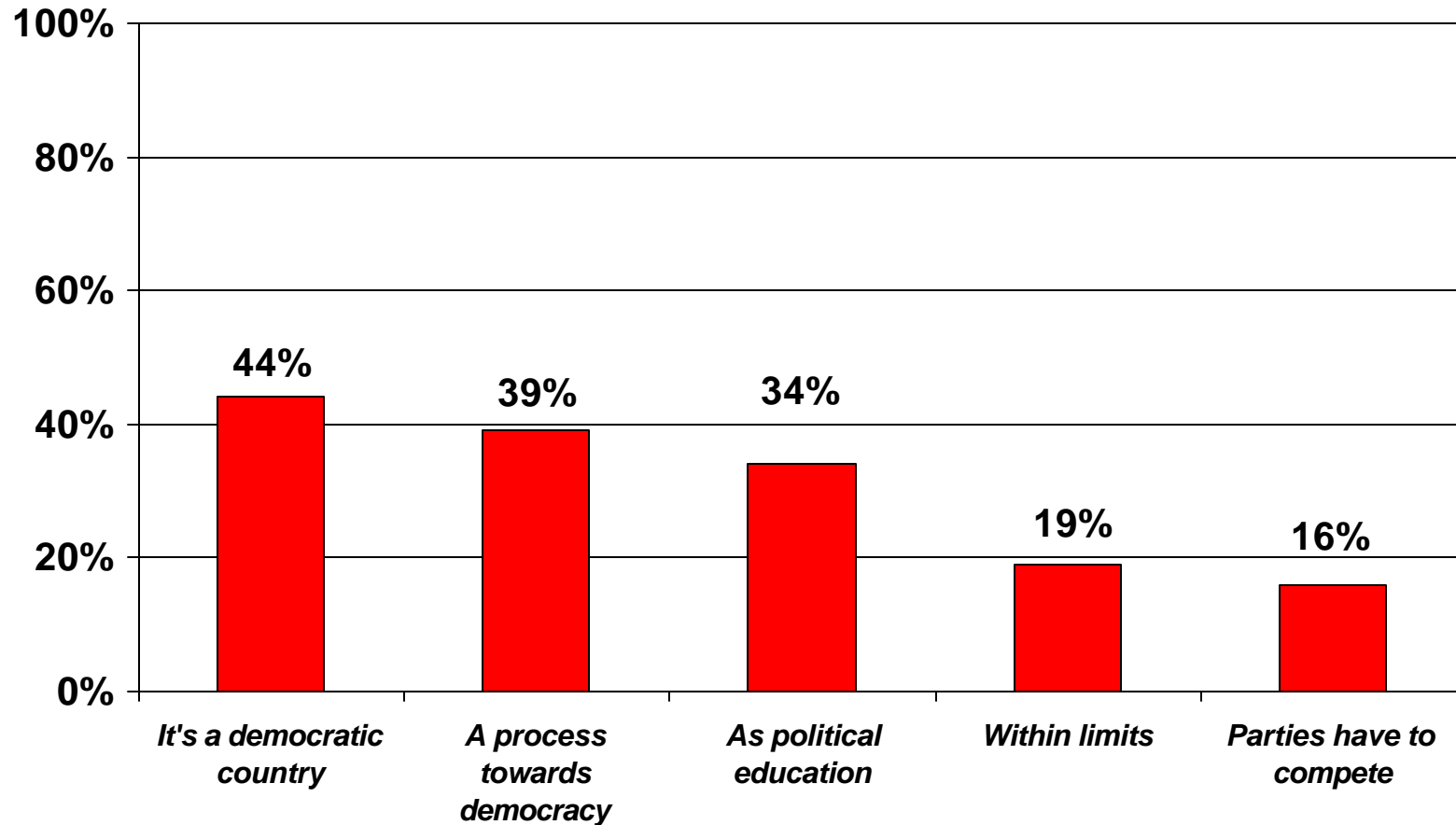
In the upcoming August election, do you think that competition among political parties is a good thing or a bad thing ?



Political Party Competition - A Good Thing

Why do you say that?

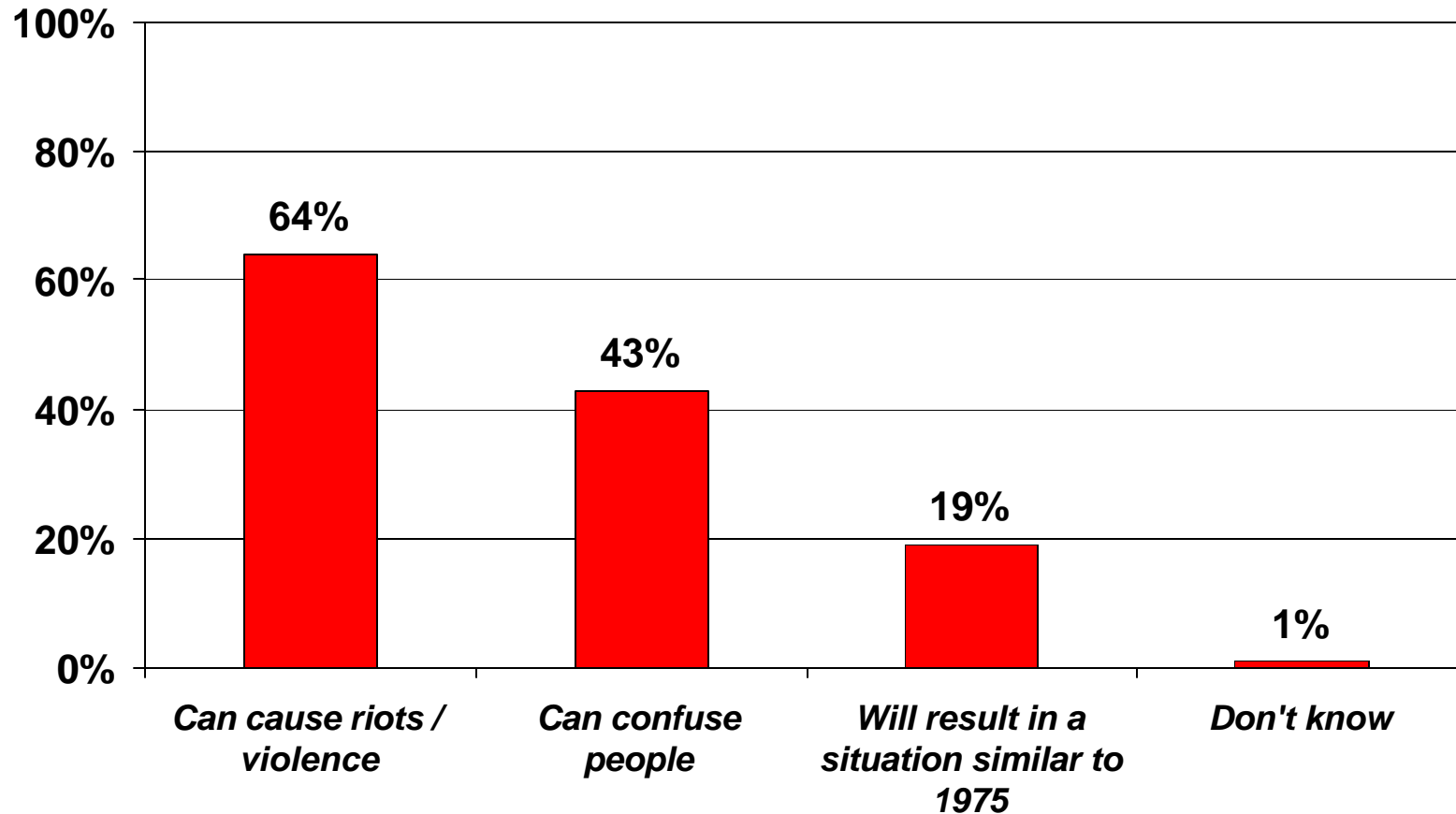
(Asked only of those who answered that political party competition is a good thing)



Political Party Competition - A Bad Thing

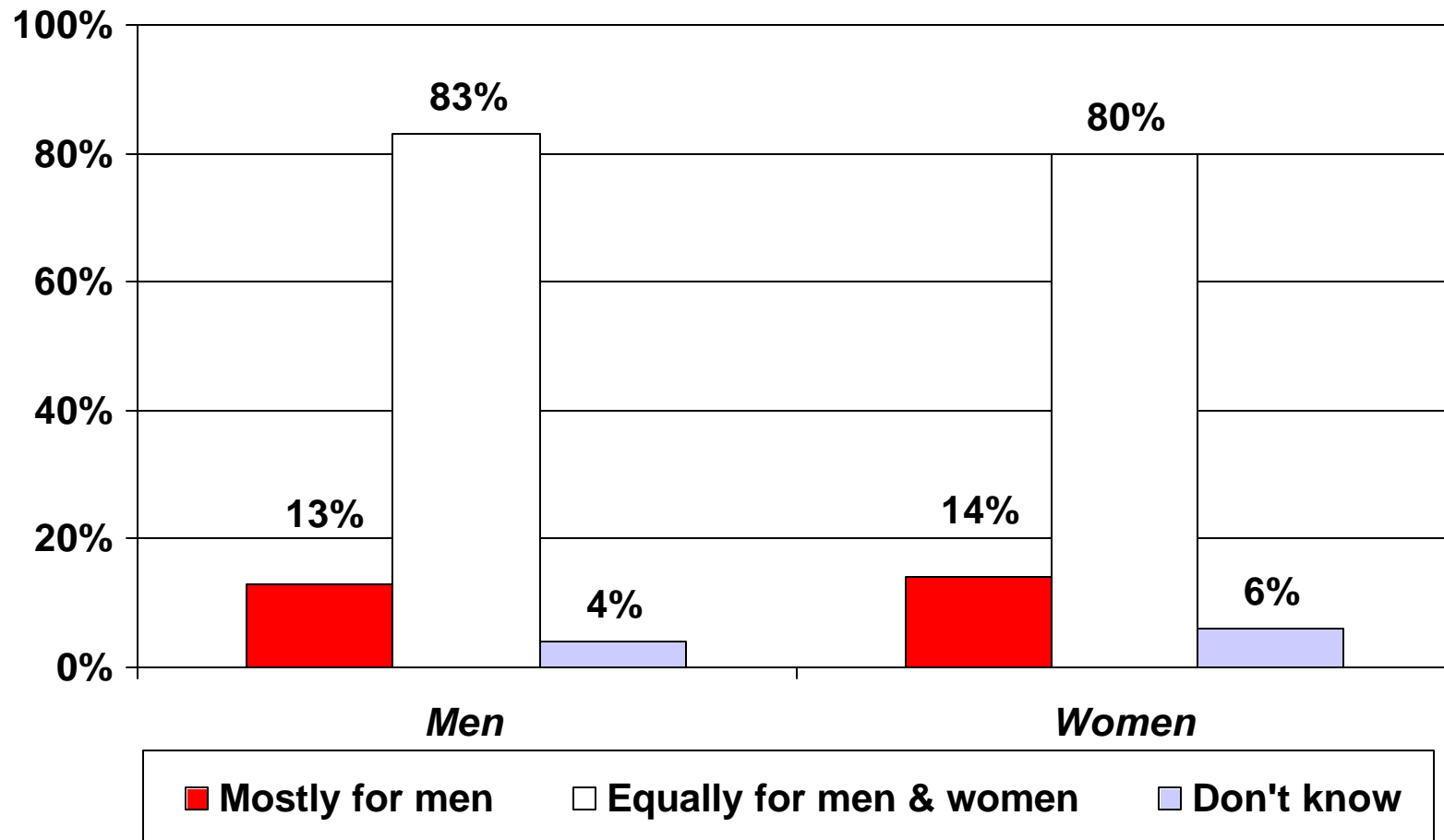
Why do you say that ?

(Asked only of those who who answered that political party competition is a bad thing)



Gender and Political Leadership

Do you think that political leadership positions should be mostly for men or do you think that women should be just as active?



Political Leadership : Gender Preference

*Why do you say that?
(Asked only of those who expressed a preference)*

Mostly for Men

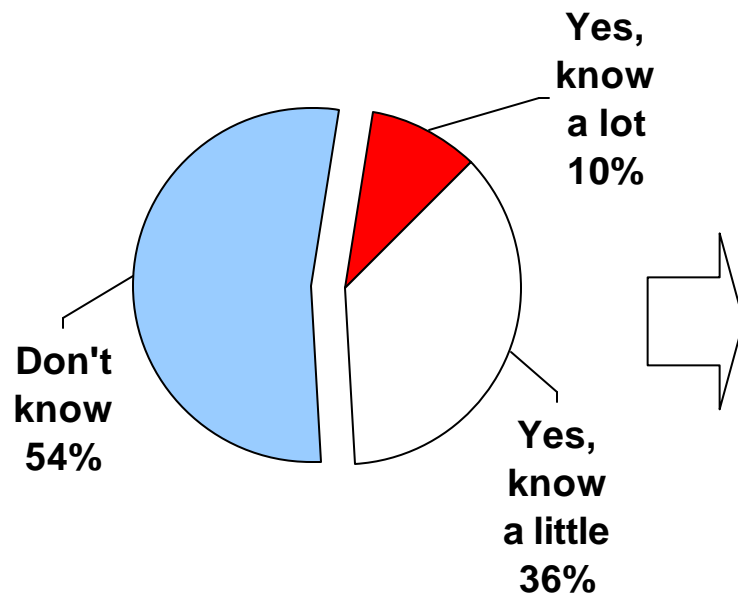
Equally for Men and Women

Culture that is difficult to change	35%
Men and women are different	26%
Religious teaching/law of the church	3%
Don't know / No answer	3%
Even though	
Rights of men and women are equal	55%

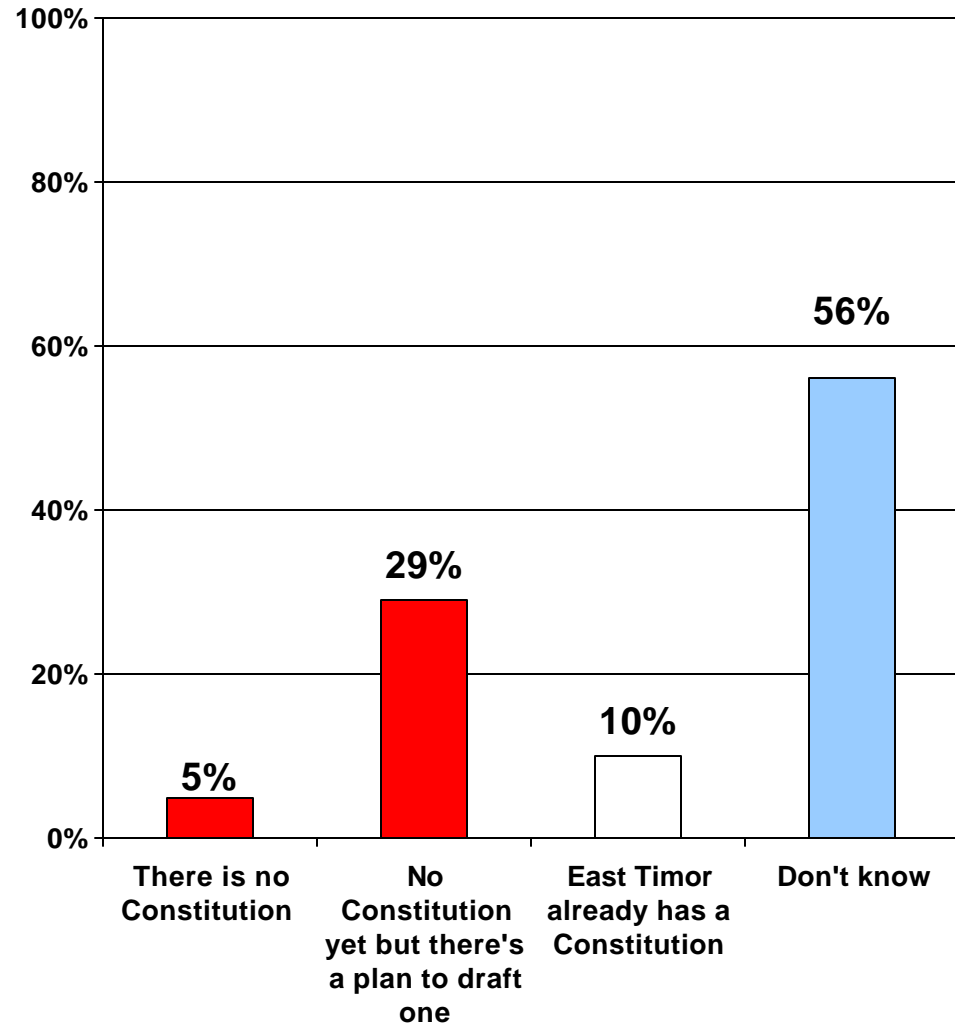
96%	Rights of men and women are equal
6%	Culture
4%	Religious teaching/law of the church
1%	Don't know / No answer
	Even though
9%	Men and women are different

Knowledge about East Timor's Constitution

In general, do you know about East Timor's Constitution?



What do you know about East Timor's Constitution?



Part 3:

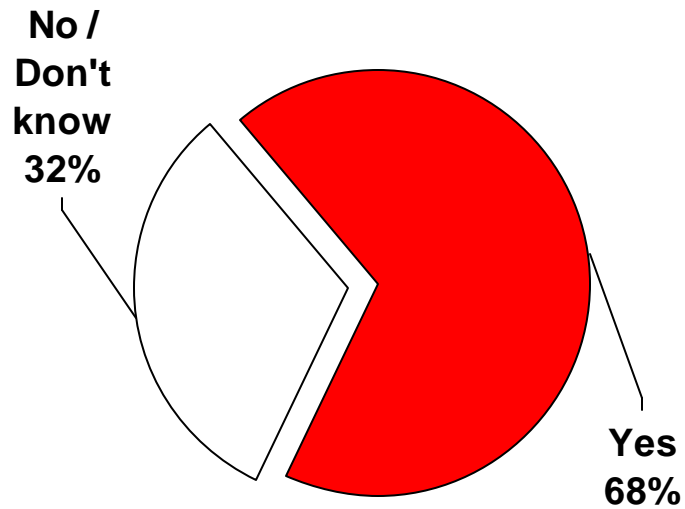
Voter Education

VOTER EDUCATION -- SUMMARY

- 32% of eligible voters in East Timor have not heard about Civil Registration. Those East Timorese without access to media and in the more remote east and west of the country are least aware.
- While 75% of eligible voters have heard that there will be an election this year, only 30% know that the election is scheduled for August 30.
- Only 5% of eligible voters correctly stated that the election will be for a Constituent Assembly. 61% think the upcoming election is for the presidency.
- 94% of respondents said that they would vote. This does not guarantee a large turnout, though, since a majority believe the election to be for something other than the Constituent Assembly.
- Only a slim majority, 52%, said that voting in the 2001 election will make a difference. Men and better educated East Timorese are more confident of the impact of voting.
- There is a lack of knowledge about the political parties that currently exist.
- Riots and political party-related violence are the two most prominent concerns expressed in relation to the electoral process.
- 56% of respondents indicated that the presence of election observers would increase their confidence that the election will be free and fair.
- While a majority of respondents expressed a preference for both East Timorese and foreign election observers, only 7% specifically expressed a preference for foreign observer.

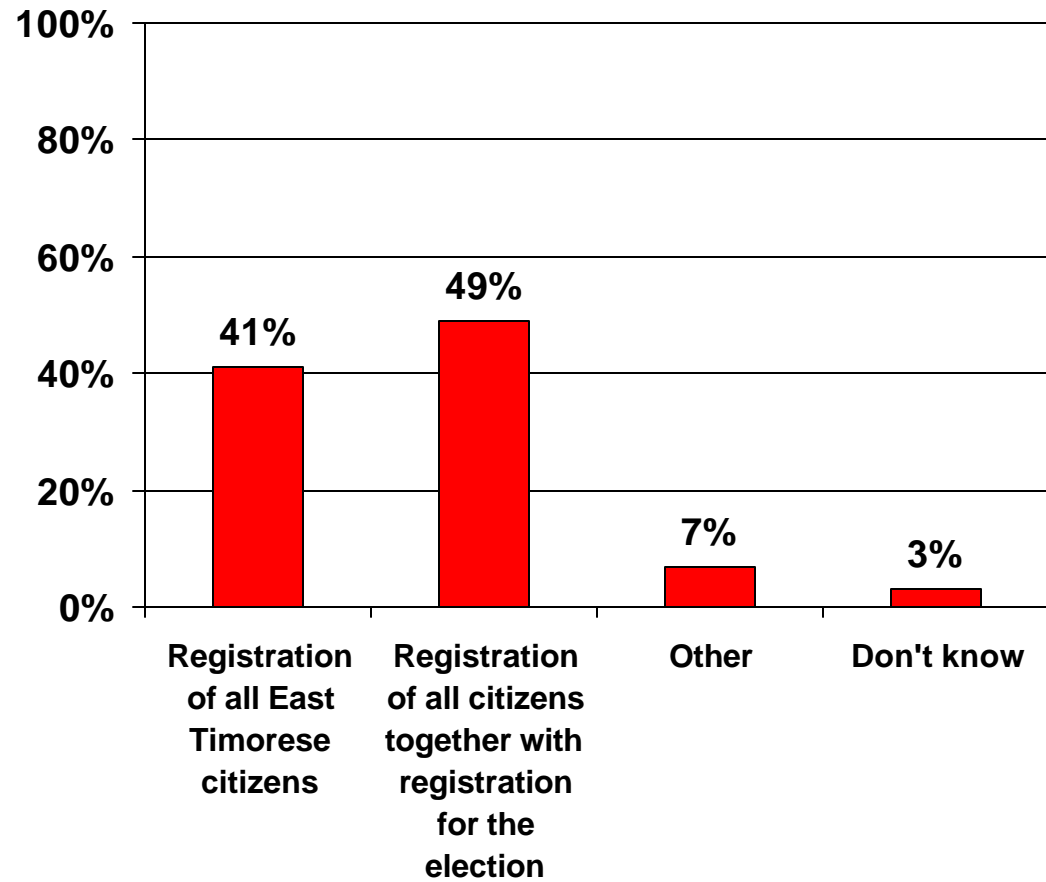
Awareness of Civil Registration

Have you heard anything about civil registration?



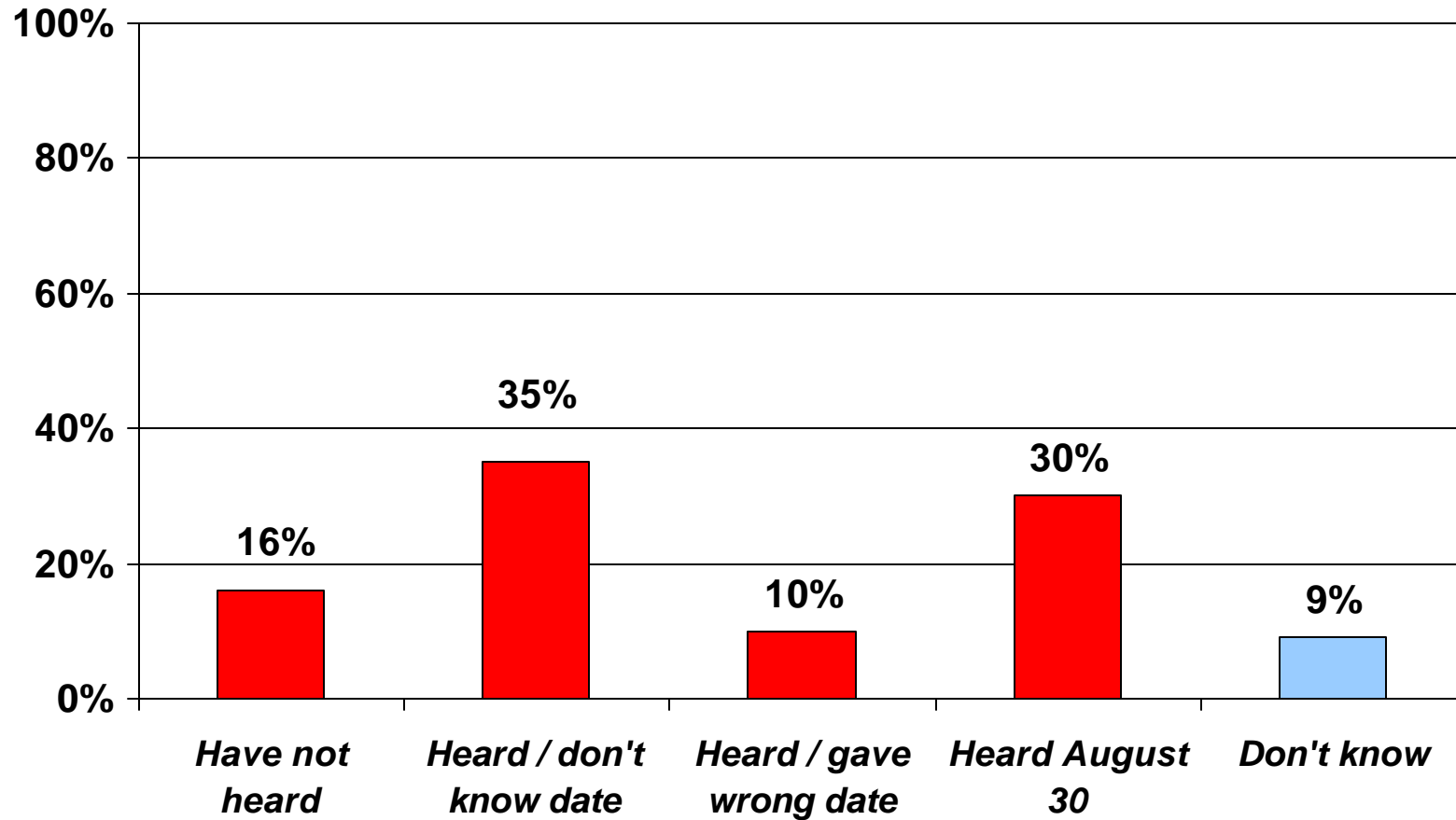
Understanding of Civil Registration

*What have you heard about civil registration?
(Asked of the 68% who responded that they have heard about civil registration)*



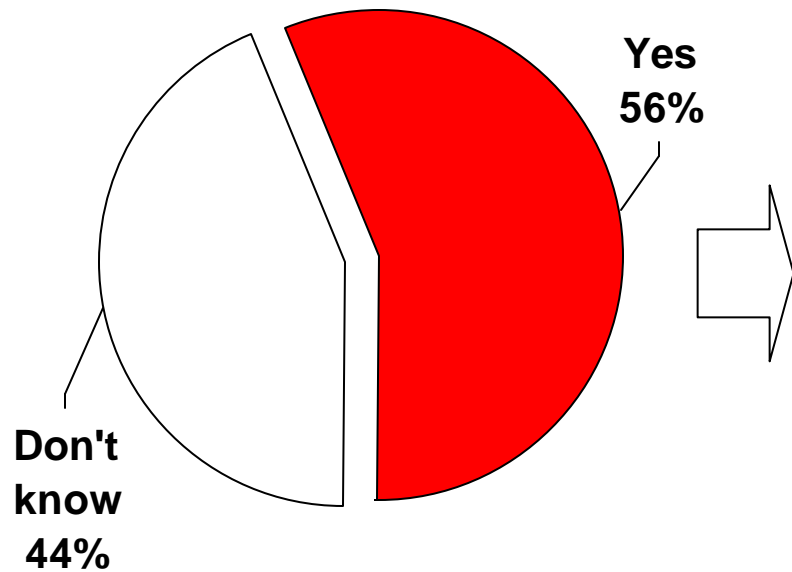
Awareness of Elections

Have you heard anything about an upcoming election?



Election Organizer

*Do you know who will organize the upcoming August election?
If YES, who?*



Election Organizer

UNTAET	47%
ETTA	10%
UNTAET + ETTA	22%
CNRT	17%
National Council (NC)	1%
Don't know	3%

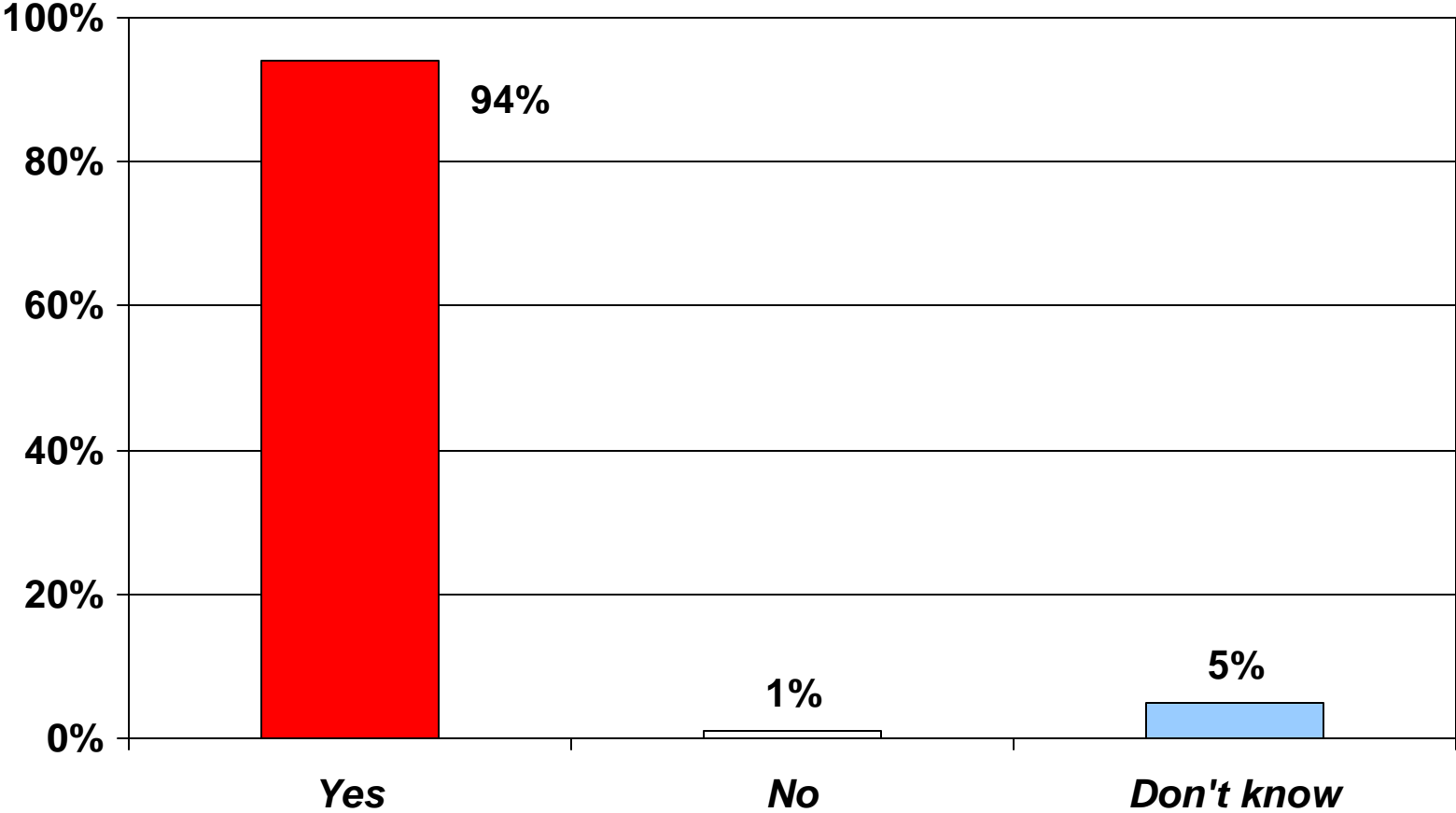
Objectives of the Election

*What do you think is the objective of the upcoming election?
(Respondents could give more than one answer)*

To choose the President	61%
To become fully independent	22%
To elect a Constituent Assembly (only answer given)	5%
To elect a Constituent Assembly (in addition to other answers given)	20%
To vote on the constitution	8%
To return East Timor to prosperity	4%
Don't know / no answer	16%

Election Turnout

Will you vote in the upcoming election ?



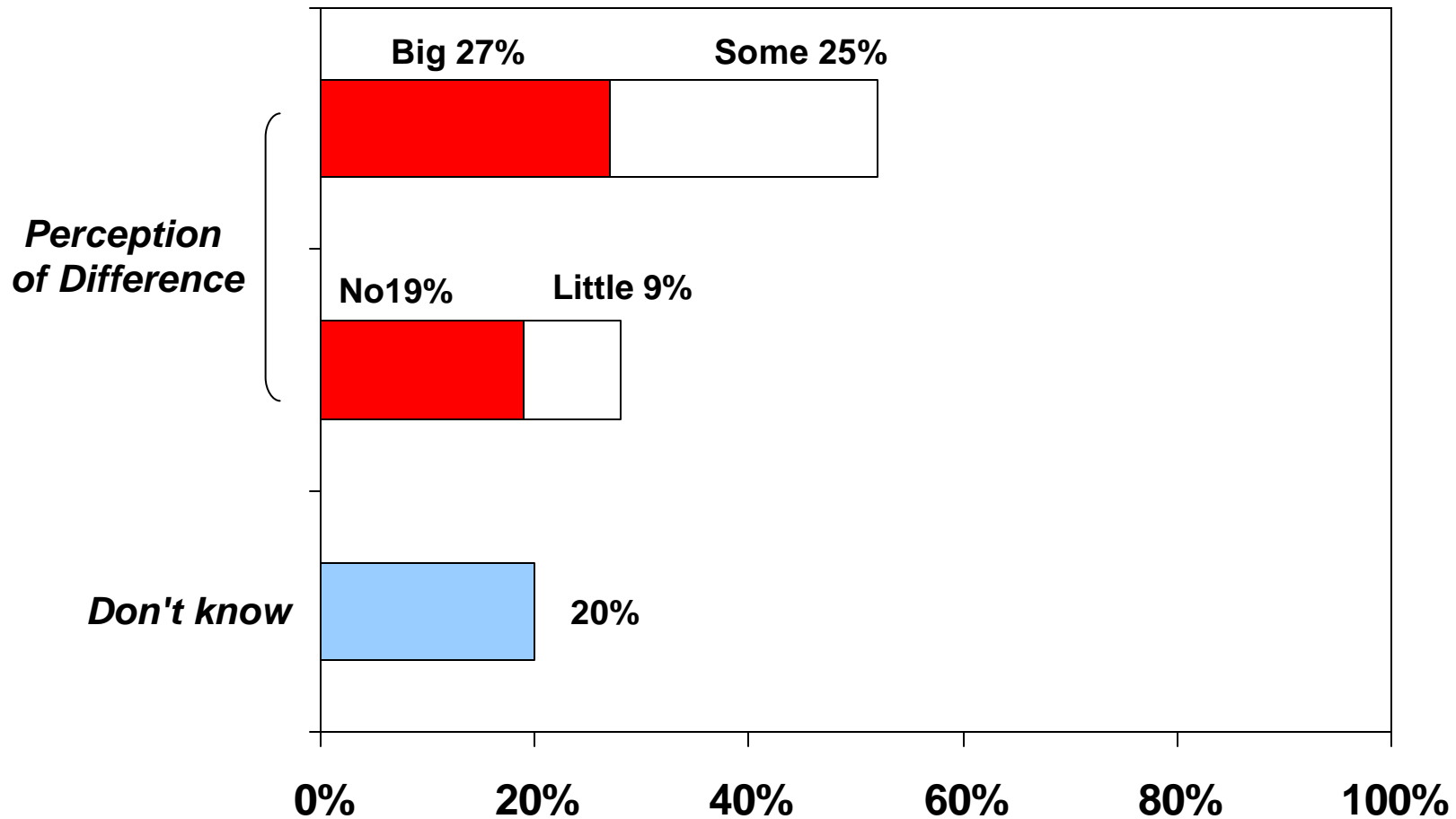
Reasons for Voting

*What is the most important reason why you want to vote ?
(Reasons cited by 5% or more potential voters)*

To choose leaders	63%
Civic responsibility	30%
Make changes	1%
Democracy	1%
Social pressure	1%
Don't know	4%

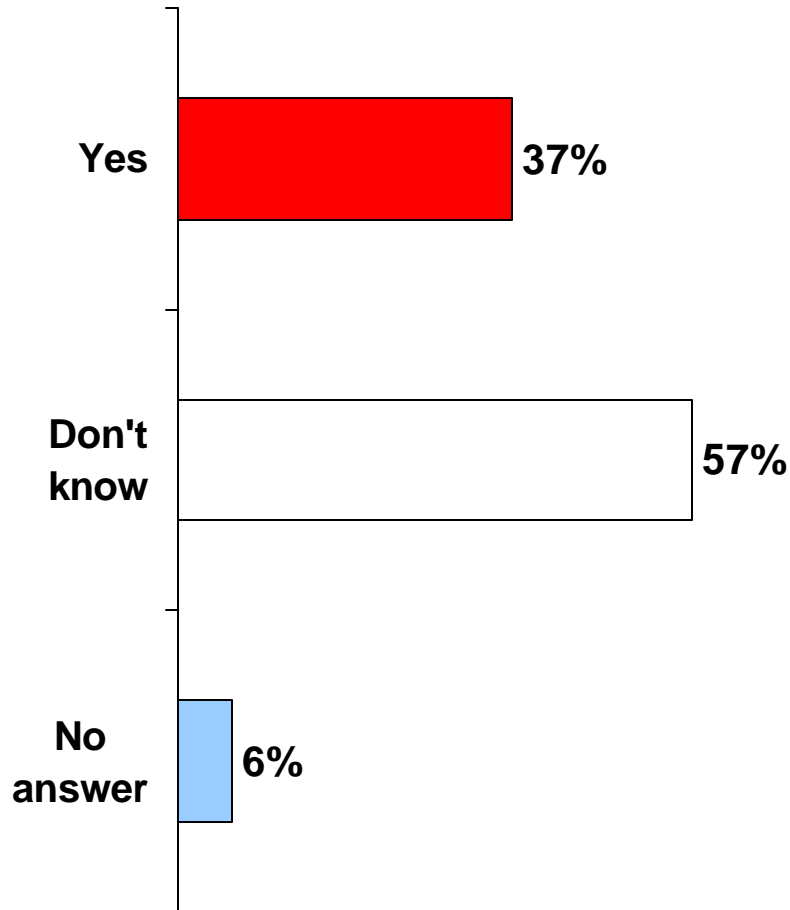
Expectations of the 2001 Election

Do you think that voting in the election will make a big difference, some difference, little difference, or no difference at all ?



Number of Political Parties

*Do you know how many political parties there are?
If YES, how many?*



Number of political parties

1 - 5 parties	18%
6 - 10 parties	10%
11 parties	2%
12 parties	6%
13 parties	54%
More than 13 parties	3%
Don't know	7%

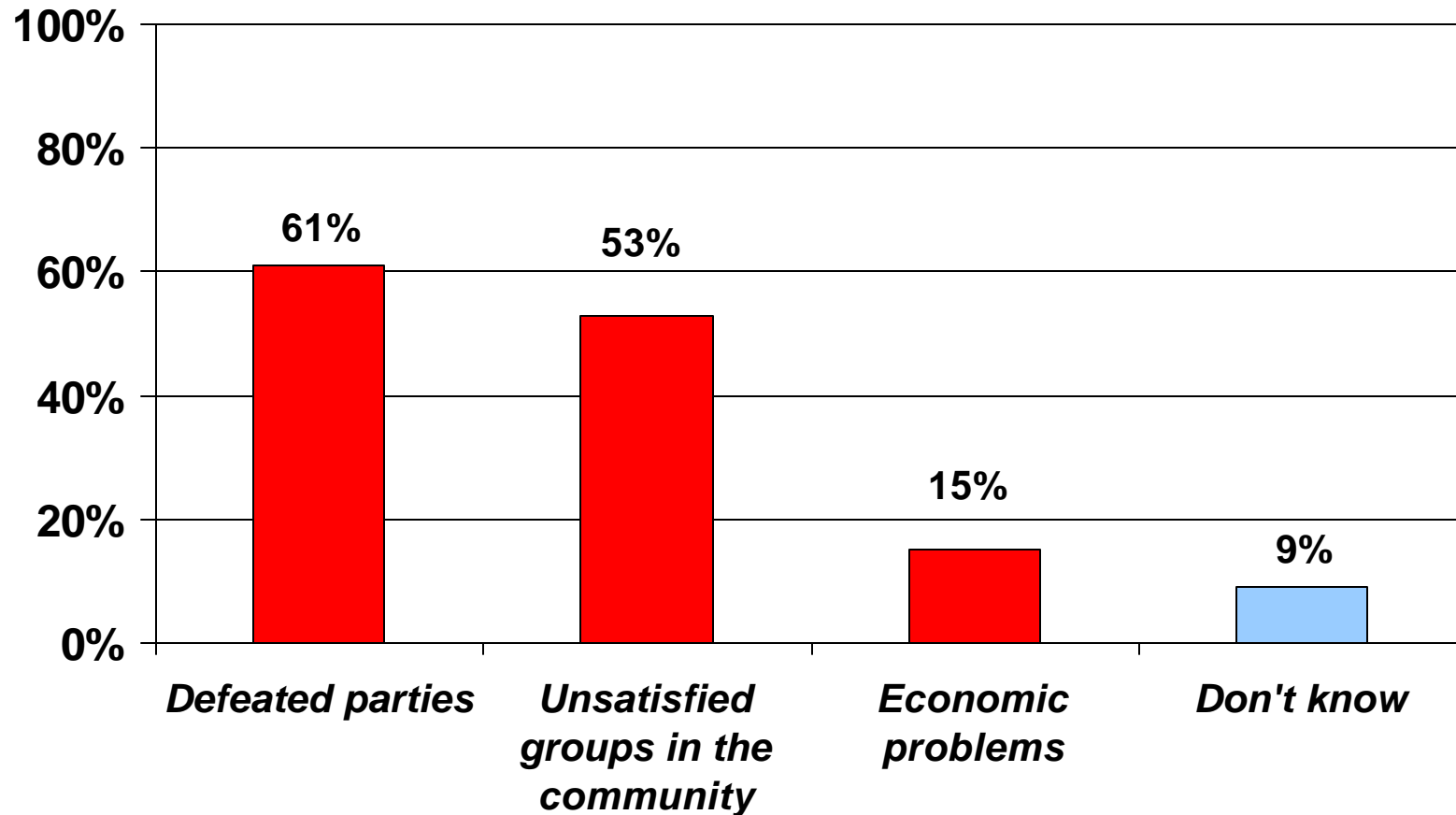
Election Concerns, August 2001

*I'm going to mention some problems that can happen in elections.
For each one, tell me if you believe it might happen in the August election.*

Riots or disorder	32%
Violence among party activists	25%
People left off the voter list	16%
Threats from officials	14%
Defeated parties will not accept the result	13%
Media bias favoring a particular party	9%
Election officials cheating	5%
None of the above	42%

Main Cause of Riots or Disorders

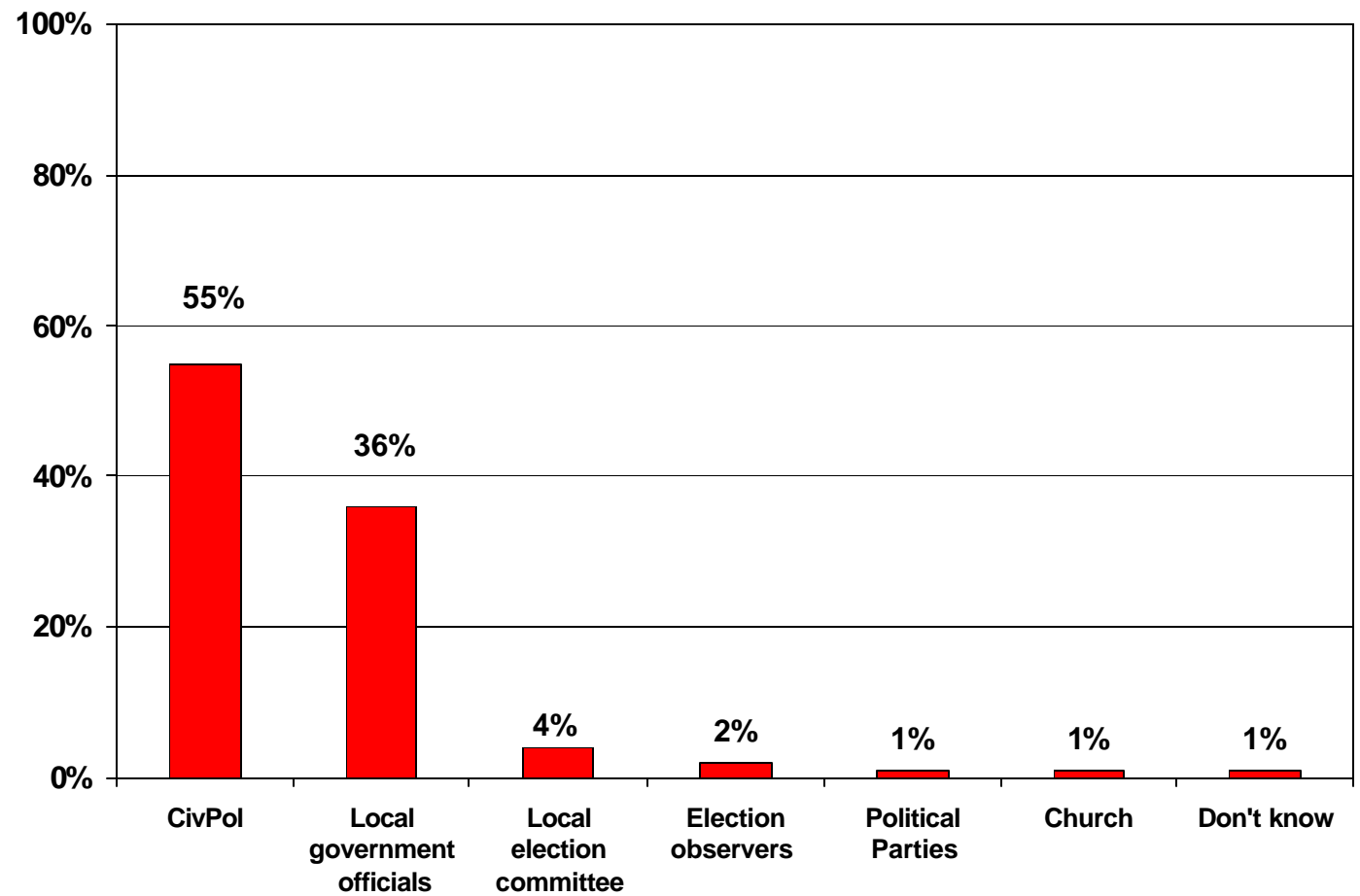
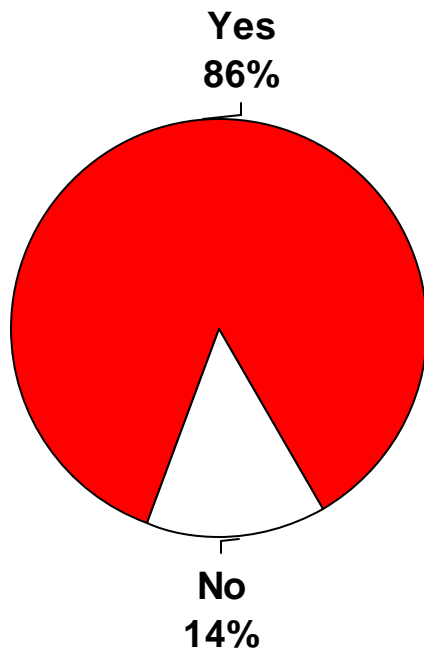
*If riots or disorder happen, what or who will be the cause?
(Asked only of those who answered "Riots or disorder" to the previous question.
Respondents could answer more than once.)*



Where to Report Election-related Problems

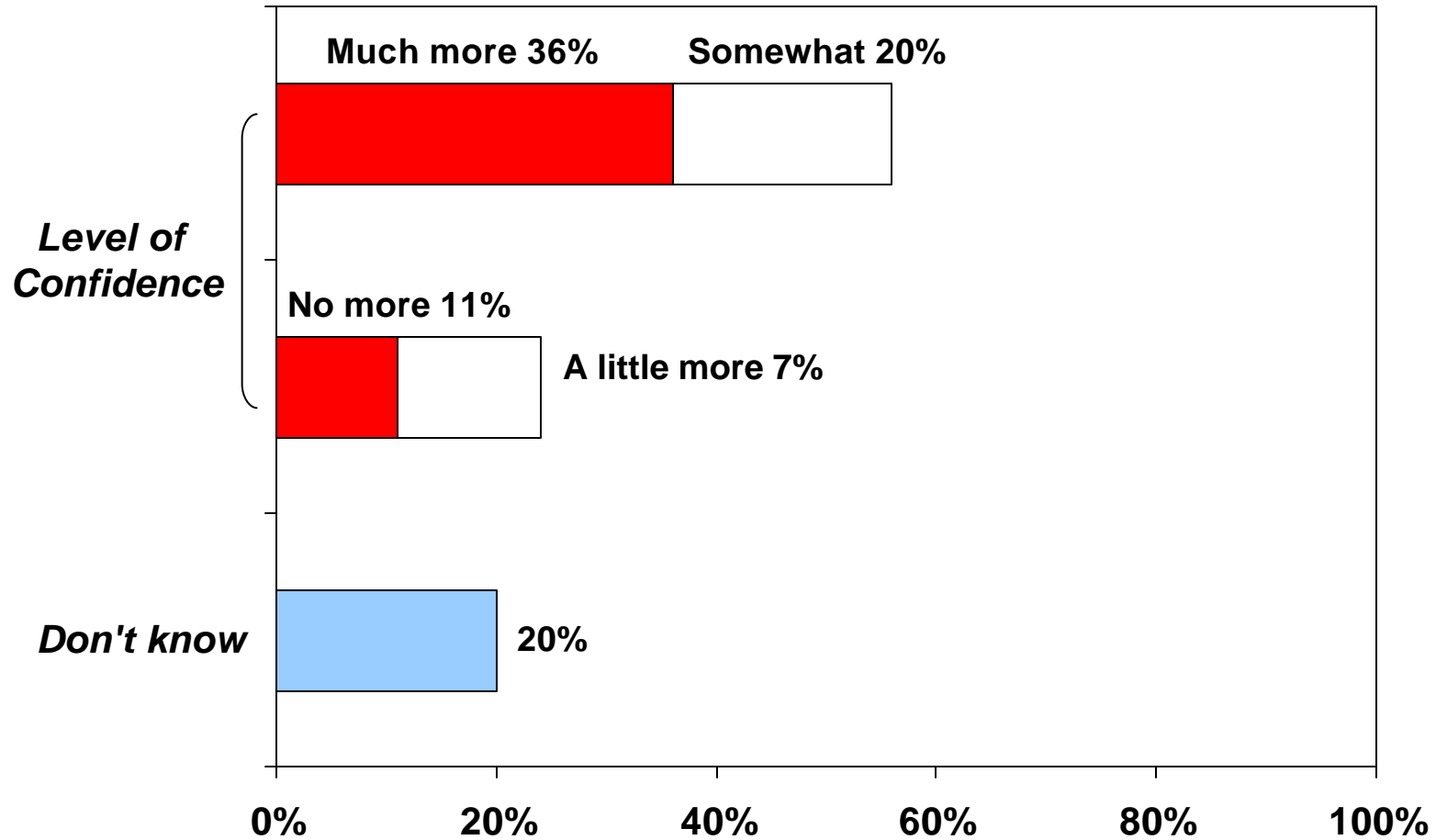
If there is a problem in your area during the August election, do you know where to report it?

*Where would you report it?
(Asked only those who answered "Yes, I know where to report")*



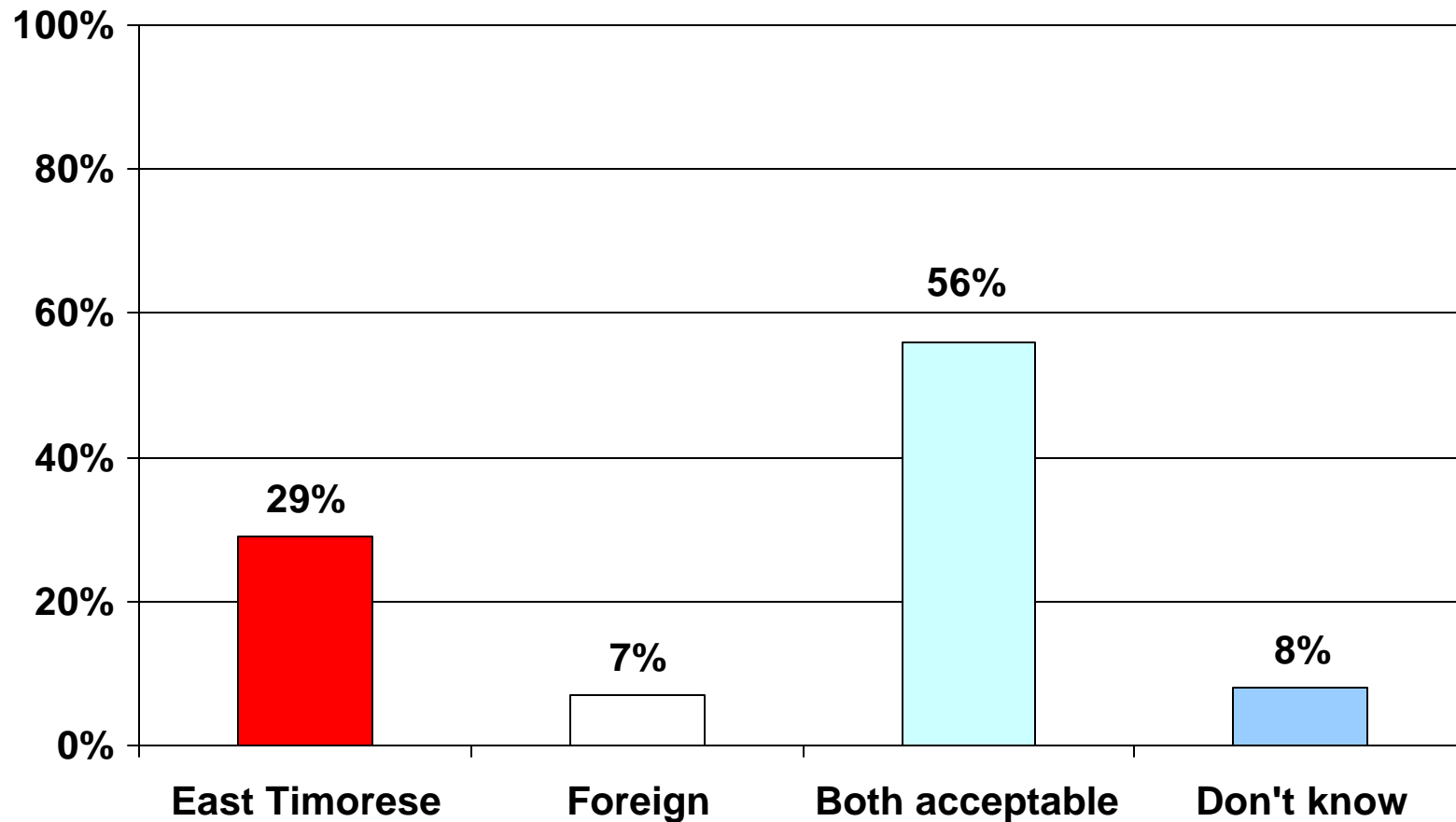
Impact of Election Observers

Would the presence of election observers make you much more confident, somewhat more confident, a little more confident, or no more confident that the election will be free and fair?



Preferred Nationality of Observers

Which election observers would you prefer: East Timorese, foreign, or are both acceptable?



Voter Education Sources

*I will read out some information sources that might be used to inform about the election.
Tell me whether you want to get information about the election from that source.*

	Source %
<i>Chefe de Suco / Village head</i>	62%
Radio	30%
General meeting of local citizens	25%
House visits by voter education groups	23%
Religious organizations	18%
Local community groups	12%
TV	9%
Newspaper / magazines	8%
From NGO representatives	6%
Political parties	2%
Women neighbors	2%

Organizational Involvement

Here is a list of organizations. As I mention each, please tell me if you belong to it.

	Organization %
Religious volunteer group	49%
Neighborhood association	18%
Youth group	13%
Environmental group	9%
School parents group	5%
NGO	4%
Non-religious charity group	3%
Trade union	3%
Student association	3%
Cooperative	1%
Do not belong to any organization	8%

Part 4 : Media

MEDIA -- SUMMARY

- Radio is the most widely accessed medium in East Timor.
- Despite 34% illiteracy nationwide, more East Timorese are reading either newspapers or magazines and newsletters than are watching television.
- Younger and better educated East Timorese are listening to radio and watching television more often than those who are older and less educated.
- The eastern four districts of East Timor have particularly low levels of radio listenership.
- Radio UNTAET is clearly the most popular radio station in the country and is popular across all major demographic categories.
- Television viewership and VCD ownership is heavily concentrated in Dili.
- The peak time for watching television and listening to radio is 17:00 - 21:00.
- *Suara Timor Lorosa'e* (STL) is the most widely read newspaper in East Timor, with 72% of those who read a newspaper saying that they read STL most often.
- While *Tais Timor* is the most widely read periodical, East Timorese publications with much smaller print runs are more widely read in four districts.
- Tetum is the most widely spoken and understood language by those accessing media in East Timor.
- Indonesian is a practical language for use in media.

Media Exposure

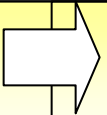
Medium	Ownership	Access	Frequent Access
TV	8%	21%	8%
Radio	39%	57%	35%
Newspaper	NA	30%	11%
Magazine / leaflet (1-3 times in a month)	NA	23%	14%
VCD (ownership)	4%	NA	NA

Ownership: those with working televisions, radios and VCDs in their house.

Access: those who own televisions and radios & those who can view / listen elsewhere

Frequent access: those accessing a particular medium three days a week or more

Multiple Media Access

<u>Already access to :</u> 	TV	Radio	Newspaper	Magazine / Newsletter
<u>Also access to :</u>				
TV	100%	26%	33%	30%
Radio	87%	100%	78%	74%
Newspaper	60%	42%	100%	82%
Magazine / newsletter	41%	31%	63%	100%

Language Ability of those with Media Access

	TV	Radio	Newspaper	Magazine / Newsletter
<u>National/int'l language</u>				
Tetum	99%	97%	93%	92%
Indonesian	88%	76%	88%	89%
Portuguese	19%	18%	22%	23%
English	6%	4%	6%	6%
<u>Local language</u>				
Mambae	30%	33%	11%	8%
Makasa'e	8%	9%	4%	5%
Bunak	2%	9%	2%	1%
Galolen	5%	5%	0%	0%
Baikeno	1%	4%	1%	1%
Fata luko	5%	3%	5%	6%
Tokodede	3%	7%	0%	0%
Tetum terik	1%	5%	0%	0%
Kairui	1%	2%	0%	1%
Kemak	1%	3%	2%	1%
Nau-eti	0%	1%	0%	0%

Favorite Programs

Which TV / radio program is your favorite ?

TELEVISION

Program	%
TVTL news	81%
Other TV news	20%
Foreign films	11%
National / local music	10%
Drama / foreign serial TV films	8%
Sports	8%
Foreign music	5%
Talk shows / interviews / discussions	5%
RCTI (Indonesian TV channel)	4%
Religious programs	1%
Don't know / no answer	3%

RADIO

%	Program
72%	UNTAET News
30%	Information / Radio News
28%	Music
6%	Traditional / Local performance
6%	Talk Shows / Interviews
3%	Radio plays
3%	Religious Programs
3%	"Listeners' choice"
2%	RTK (Church radio)
2%	Don't Know / No Answer

Media Viewing / Listening Hours

What time of day do you watch TV most often?

What time of day do you listen to the radio?

Time of Day	TV	Radio
05.00 -- 08.00	17%	39%
08.00 -- 12.00	13%	18%
12.00 – 17.00	16%	8%
17.00 – 21.00	51%	49%
21.00 – 23.00	12%	8%
23.00 – 05.00	0%	3%
Don't know	8%	8%

TV Station Most Often Watched

Which TV station do you watch most often?

Station	%
TVTL	79%
Indonesian satellite TV	6%
Portuguese satellite TV	2%
Satellite (not specific)	8%
Don't Know / No Answer	5%

Radio Station Most Often Listened To

Which radio station do you listen to most often?

Station	%
Radio UNTAET	75%
Radio RTK	16%
Radio BBC	2%
Radio Falintil	1%
Radio Australia	1%
RTP (Portuguese radio)	1%
VOA (Voice Of America)	1%
Los Palos Community Radio	1%
Don't Know / No Answer	2%

Newspaper Readership

Which daily newspaper do you read most often?

Newspaper	%
Suara Timor Lorosa'e	72%
Timor Post	16%
Tais Timor	4%
Other	1%
Don't Know / No Answer	7%

Magazine / Newsletter Readership

What magazine / newsletter do you read most often?

Magazine / Newsletter	%
Tais Timor	43%
Talitakum	19%
Lian Maubere	7%
Direito	6%
Lalenok	3%
Beran	2%
La'o Hamutuk	2%
Lian Berlaka	3%
Any Leaflet	2%
Vanguardia	1%
Tolas	1%
Don't know	11%

Principal News Sources

How do you normally get information about what is happening in East Timor and your community ?

	Source %
Radio	35%
<i>Chefe de Suco / Village Head</i>	30%
Friends, family and neighbors	13%
Newspaper / Magazine / NGO leaflet	6%
TV	4%
Religious leaders / Bishop	4%
Don't know / No answer	8%

Part 5 : Language

Language

- The survey data confirm the strength of Tetum as a practical and preferred language. More East Timorese understand Tetum (91%) than any other language and can read and write Tetum (58%) than any other language.
- Tetum was overwhelmingly selected, by 80% of respondents, as the language of choice for election related information. Local languages were the second most popular choice at 17%, substantially more popular than Indonesian (3%).
- The use of local languages is strong and widespread: A majority of East Timorese (57%) identify a local language, other than Tetum, as their mother tongue. The remaining 43% cite Tetum. However, while 83% understand at least one local language, only 16% of East Timorese can read and write a local language.
- Portuguese is the only language that has a strong gender bias. While 21% of men can speak Portuguese and 19% can read Portuguese, this can only be said of 12% and 8% of women, respectively.
- Age is a significant determinant of language ability, with younger East Timorese relatively more proficient in Tetum, Indonesian and English and older East Timorese relatively more proficient in Portuguese.

Languages: Comprehension / Preference

	Mother tongue	Speak	Read	Prefer / election info
Tetum	43%	91%	58%	80%
Indonesian	*	63%	54%	3%
Portuguese	*	17%	14%	*
Mambae	7%	24%	6%	1%
Makasa'e	12%	14%	2%	5%
Bunak	5%	9%	3%	1%
Galolen	7%	9%	1%	*
Baikeno	6%	6%	1%	4%
Fata luko	4%	5%	3%	3%
Tokodede	5%	5%	*	0%
Tetum terik	3%	5%	*	0%
Kairui	4%	4%	1%	1%
Kemak	2%	3%	1%	1%
Nau-eti	2%	2%	*	*
Illiterate			34%	
Refused to answer			1%	

* refers to less than 1% of respondents

Part 6 :
Recommendations for
Civic and Voter Education

CIVIC EDUCATION -- RECOMMENDATIONS

Target Group: All voters

Emphasis:

- Fundamental Concepts of Democracy. Few East Timorese know anything about democracy and none polled equate democracy with elections. 40% of respondents revealed basic knowledge of rights but there are limits to the support of rights of others (especially in regard to political party campaigning).
- Representative and Accountable Government. With the country's first democratic election approaching, a majority of East Timorese still view the government in paternalistic or authoritarian terms.
- The Benefits of Political Party Competition. Approximately half of the East Timorese polled are wary of political party competition.
- East Timor's Constitution. Few respondents know that a process is underway to draft East Timor's constitution -- one of the most important steps of which is the upcoming election.

Media:

- Radio is the most effective medium to use (particularly between 17:00 and 21:00).
- There should also be a concentrated effort to educate and engage *Chefes de Suco* and to encourage public discussions at the village level.

VOTER EDUCATION -- RECOMMENDATIONS

Target Group: All voters

Emphasis:

- Civil Registration. Public knowledge about civil registration is an immediate priority given the fact that one-third of respondents are unaware of the civil registration and that the deadline for eligible voters to register is June 24.
- Who will organize the election. Voters also need information about who is organizing the election (given the recent creation of the Independent Electoral Commission).
- The purpose of the upcoming election. Only 5% of respondents know the answer.
- Information on the parties who register and why political party campaigning is beneficial. There is little knowledge nationwide of the political parties that currently exist and little tolerance for competition between them.

Media:

- Radio is the most effective medium to use (particularly between 17:00 and 21:00).
- There should also be a concentrated effort to educate and engage *Chefes de Suco* and to encourage public discussions at the village level.
- Information on Civil Registration and the election is critically needed in the more

Part 7: Demographics

Demographics of Respondents

	TOTAL	Male	Female
Gender			
Male	50%	100%	-
Female	50%	-	100%
Age			
Under 25 years	23%	22%	25%
25-34 years	36%	33%	39%
35-49 years	27%	30%	24%
50 years +	14%	15%	12%

Demographics of Respondents

	TOTAL	Male	Female
Occupation			
Farmer (own land) / tenant farmer	51%	55%	38%
Farm laborer (other's land)	20%	21%	15%
Laborer, domestic, or unskilled worker	5%	4%	9%
Skilled worker / artisan	5%	5%	5%
Small business owner	5%	4%	11%
Sales or office worker	3%	2%	3%
Professional or technician	3%	3%	4%
Informal sales / business	2%	1%	3%
Military / police	1%	1%	2%
NGO staff	1%	1%	2%
Don't know/ No answer	4%	3%	8%

Demographics of Respondents

	TOTAL	Male	Female
Religion			
Catholic	97%	97%	96%
Christian - Protestant	2%	2%	2%
Islam	*%	*%	*%
Hindu	*%	0%	*%
Don't know / no answer	*%	*%	*%

* : less than 0,5%