



Results of the 2007 national victim survey

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Outline

- How was the survey conducted?
- How have crime levels, as measured by the survey, changed since 1998?
- How safe do SA's feel and how have our views about crime changed over time?
- Access to, and confidence in, the police
- To what extent are we, as individuals and communities, taking responsibility for our safety?



How was the survey
conducted?



Survey methodology

- 4 500 interviews conducted by Markinor in all 9 provinces during Oct-Nov 2007
- Survey designed to ensure comparability with 1998 StatsSA& 2003 ISS surveys
- Representative sample of population >16 years
- Sample stratified by province
- EAs randomly selected for each province
- Households randomly selected based on updated 2001 census data published in 2007

Achieved sample





How have crime levels, as measured by the survey, changed since 1998?



% of respondents who experienced crime in past 12 months

	1998	2003	2007
Any crime	25	23	22
Housebreaking	7.2	7.5	7.2
Theft of personal property	4.8	4.7	4.9
Robbery	2.4	2	3.6
Corruption		5.6	2.9
Assault	4.2	2.2	2.2
Theft out of vehicle	2.5	2.5	1.9
Stock theft	4.9	2.5	1.8
Car theft	1.2	1	1.3
Damage to vehicle	1.3	1.3	0.7
Bicycle theft		1.2	0.5
Sexual assault/rape	0.4	1	0.5
Damage to buildings	1.1	0.9	0.4
Car hijacking	1.4	0.5	0.4
Murder	0.5	0.2	0.4
Fraud	3	0.8	0.3
Crop theft		0.7	0.1
Theft of motorbike	0	0.1	0.1

- Overall, crime is down 12% since 1998 and 4% since 2003
- Notable decreases: housebreaking, corruption, theft out of vehicle & stock theft
- Notable increases: robbery & car theft
- Housebreaking remains the most common crime



Government sectors in which corruption was experienced in past 12 months

‘Has any government official asked or indicated that they would be receptive to money/favour/gift in return for service?’

- Most bribes are in the form of money
- Most bribes relate to policing, and traffic fines in particular
- Traffic fines & driver’s licenses are growth areas for bribery
- Most people who are asked to pay a bribe, do so



% of victims who reported their experience of crime to police

	1998	2003	2007
Housebreaking	57	57	81
Theft of personal property	28	41	36
Robbery	41	29	49
Assault	38	55	76
Theft out of vehicle	57	64	51
Theft of livestock		36	50
Vehicle theft		97	97

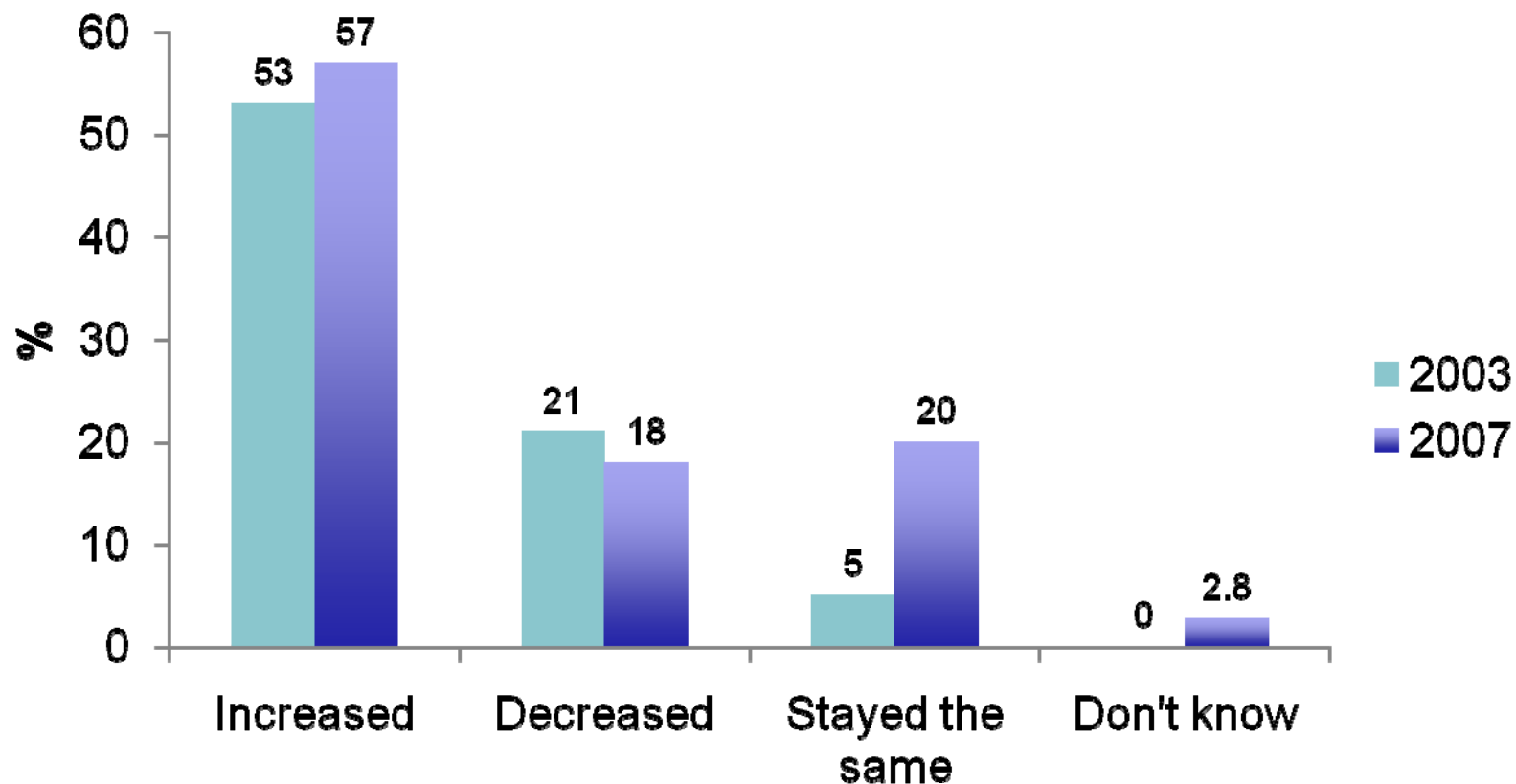
- Reporting levels increased between 2003 and 2007 for several crimes
- Increased reporting of housebreaking & robbery is most significant



How safe do SA's feel and how have our views about crime changed over time?



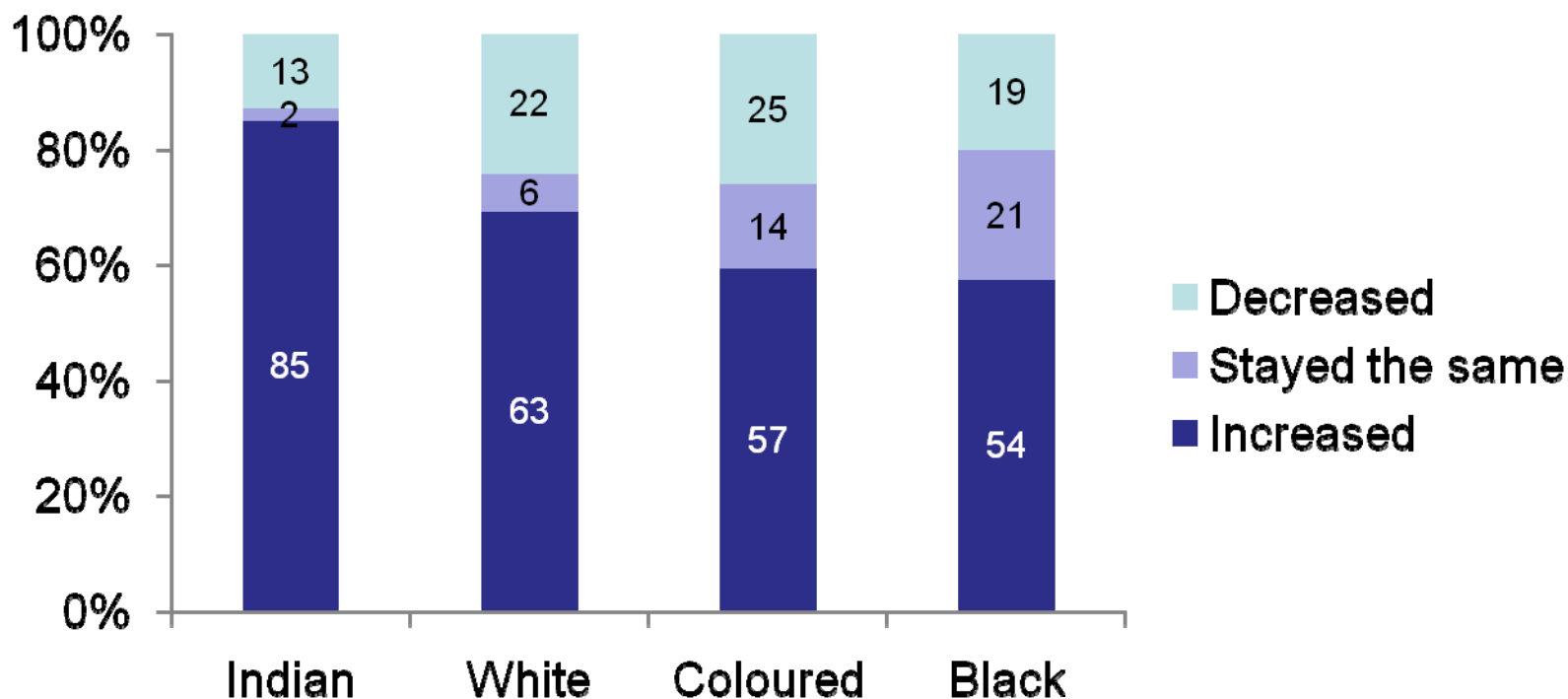
How have crime levels changed in your area over the past 4 years?



- Even though victimisation levels decreased since 2003, most SA's still think crime is increasing, and more held this view in 2007 than in 2003



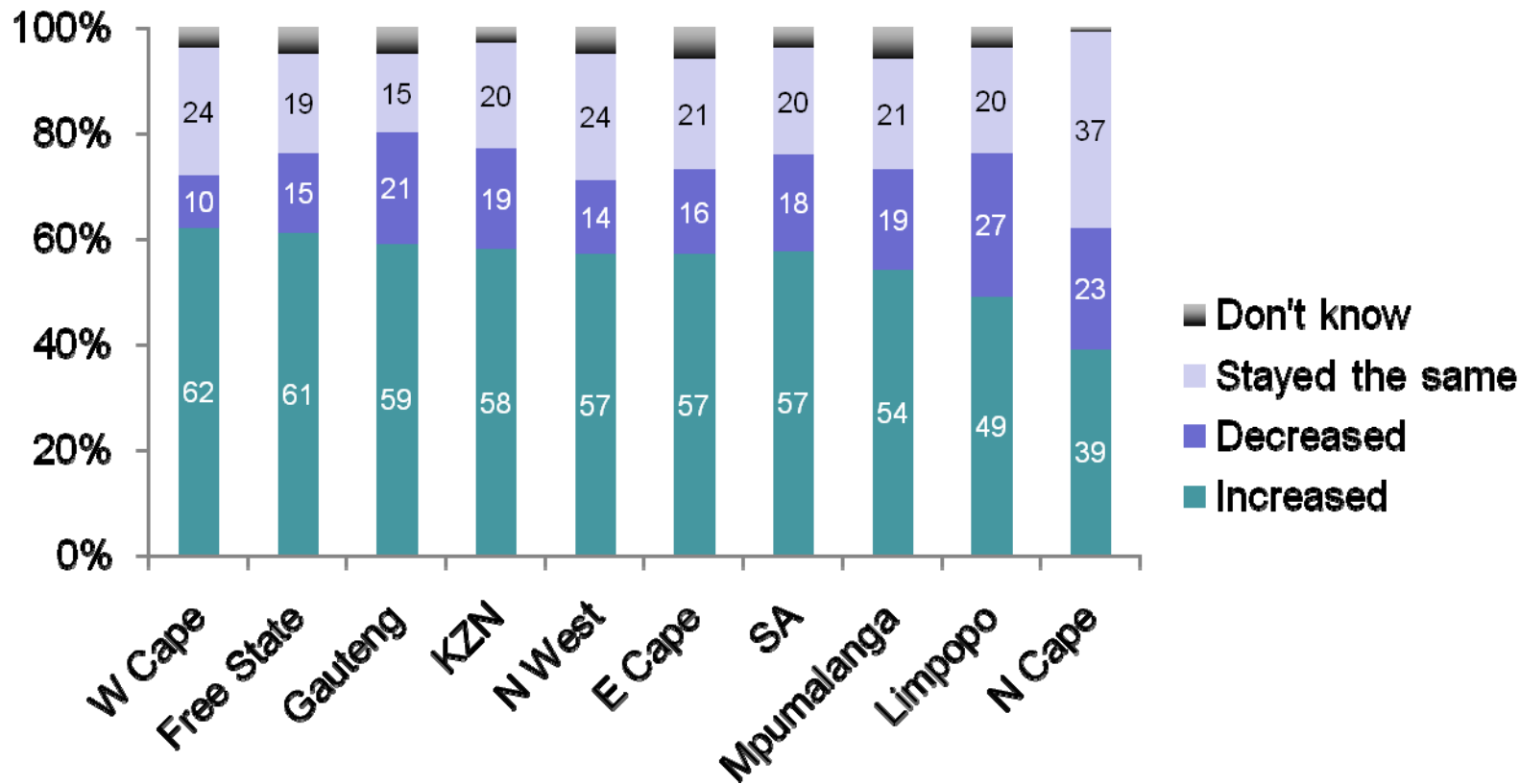
How have crime levels changed in your area over the past 4 years? By race



- Indian respondents were much more likely to think crime has increased
- This trend is evident across several indicators of perception & fear of crime
- Views of the other race groups have become more similar since 2003



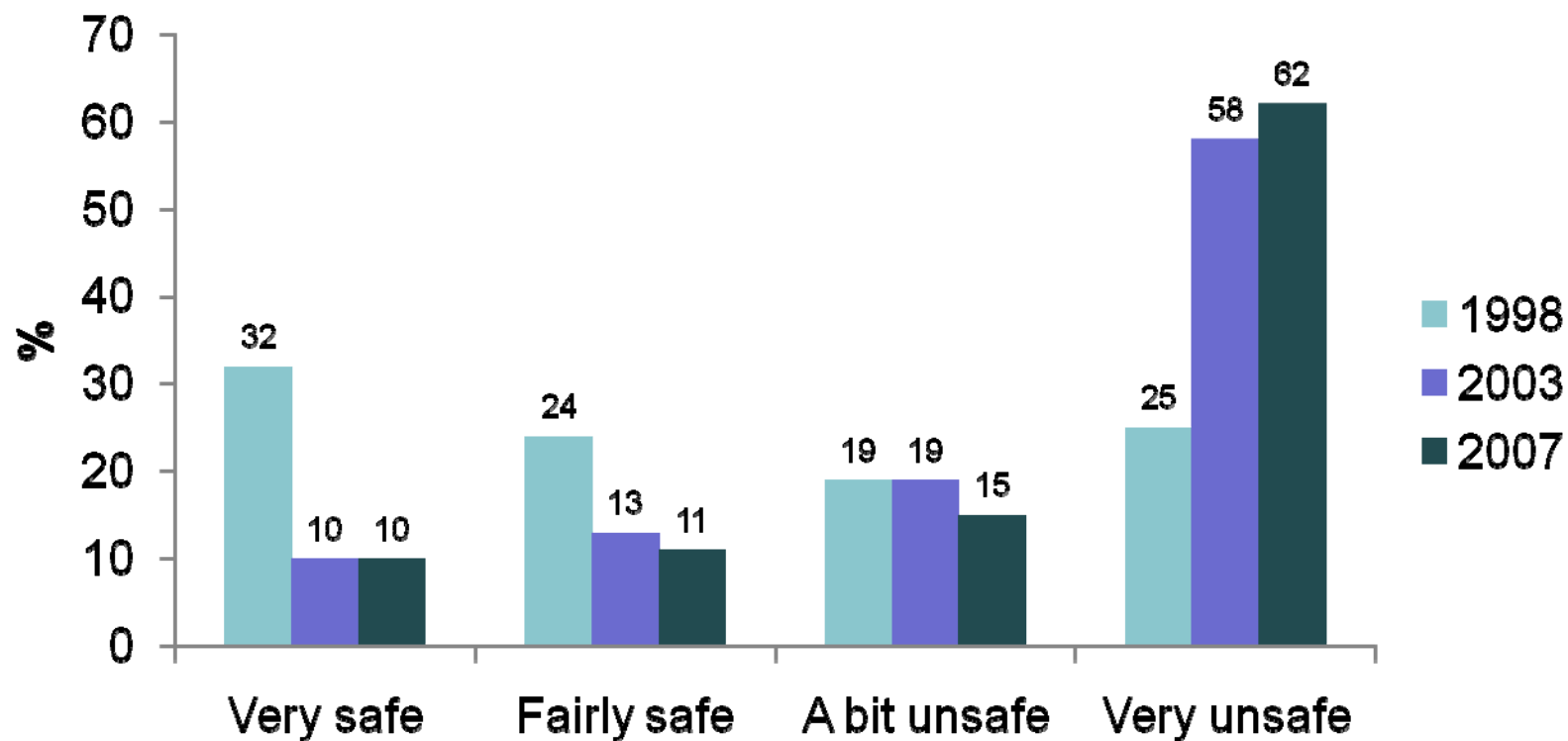
How have crime levels changed in your area over the past 4 years? By province



- A majority of people in all provinces except Limpopo and N Cape thought crime had increased
- Respondents in N Cape & Limpopo are consistently most positive, while those in Gauteng are generally most negative



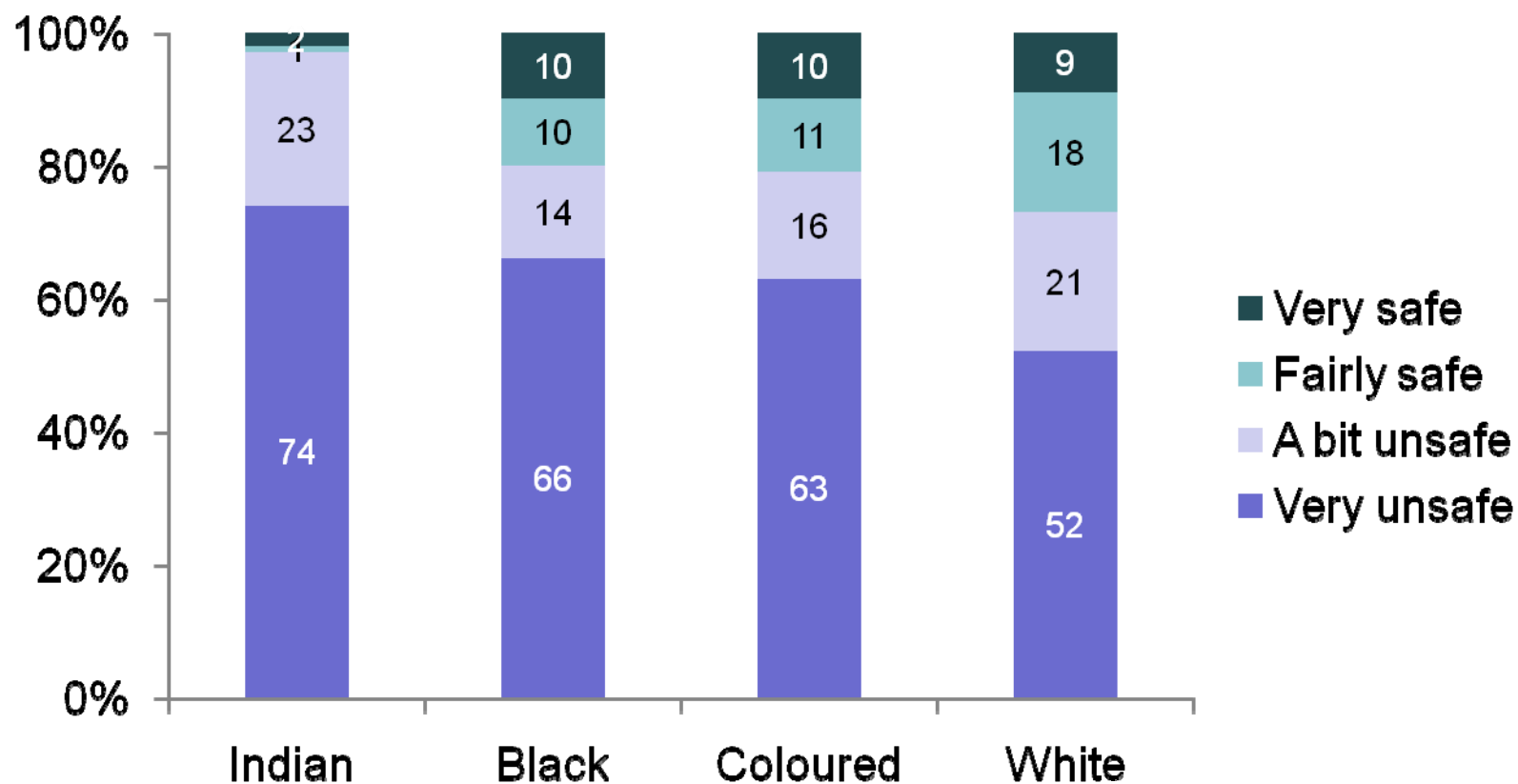
How safe do you feel walking alone in your area after dark?



- SA's feel increasingly unsafe in their areas, despite declining crime levels
- The % feeling very unsafe increased by 148% between 1998 and 2007

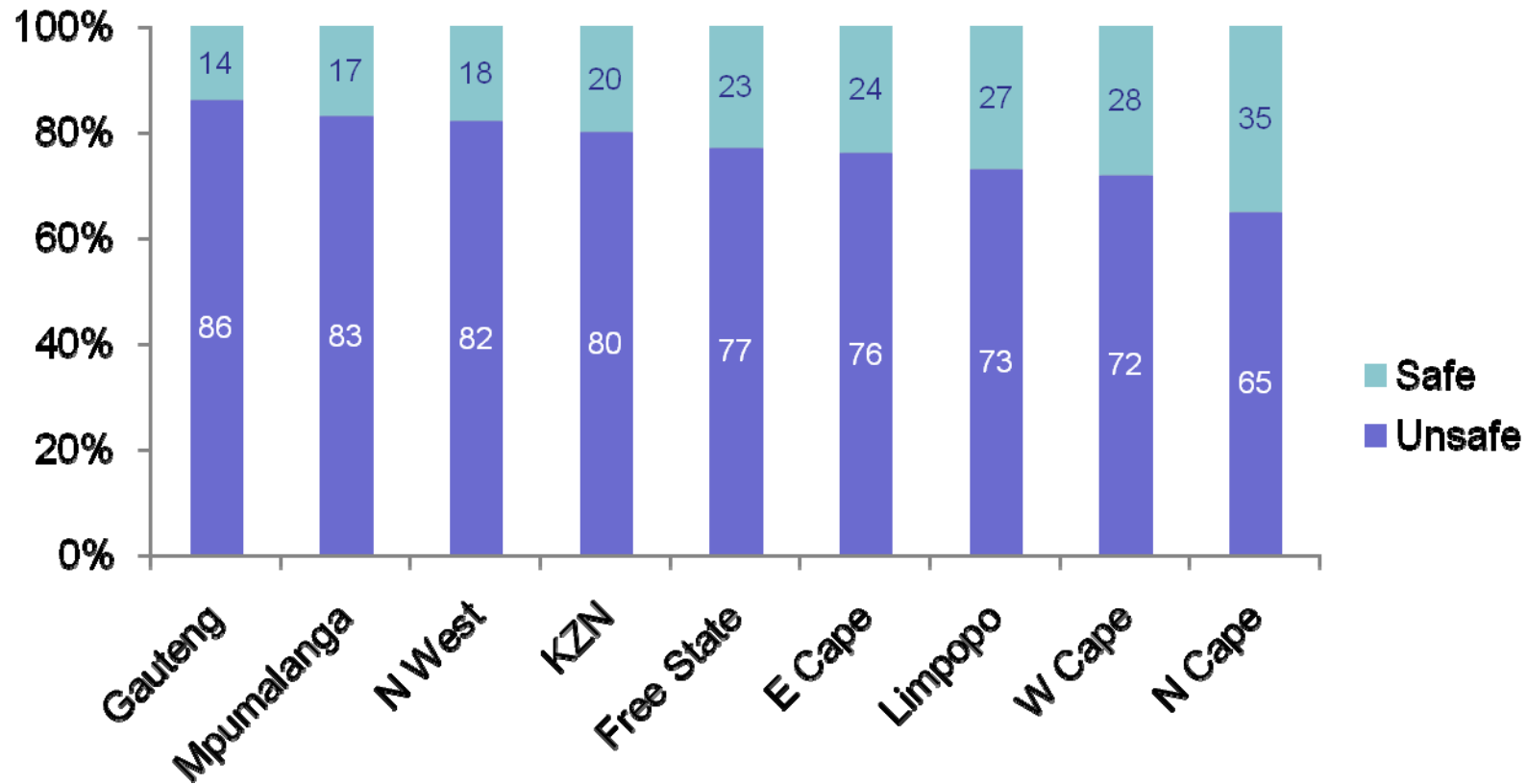


How safe do you feel walking alone in your area after dark? By race



➤ Almost all Indian respondents said they felt unsafe; only 3% felt safe

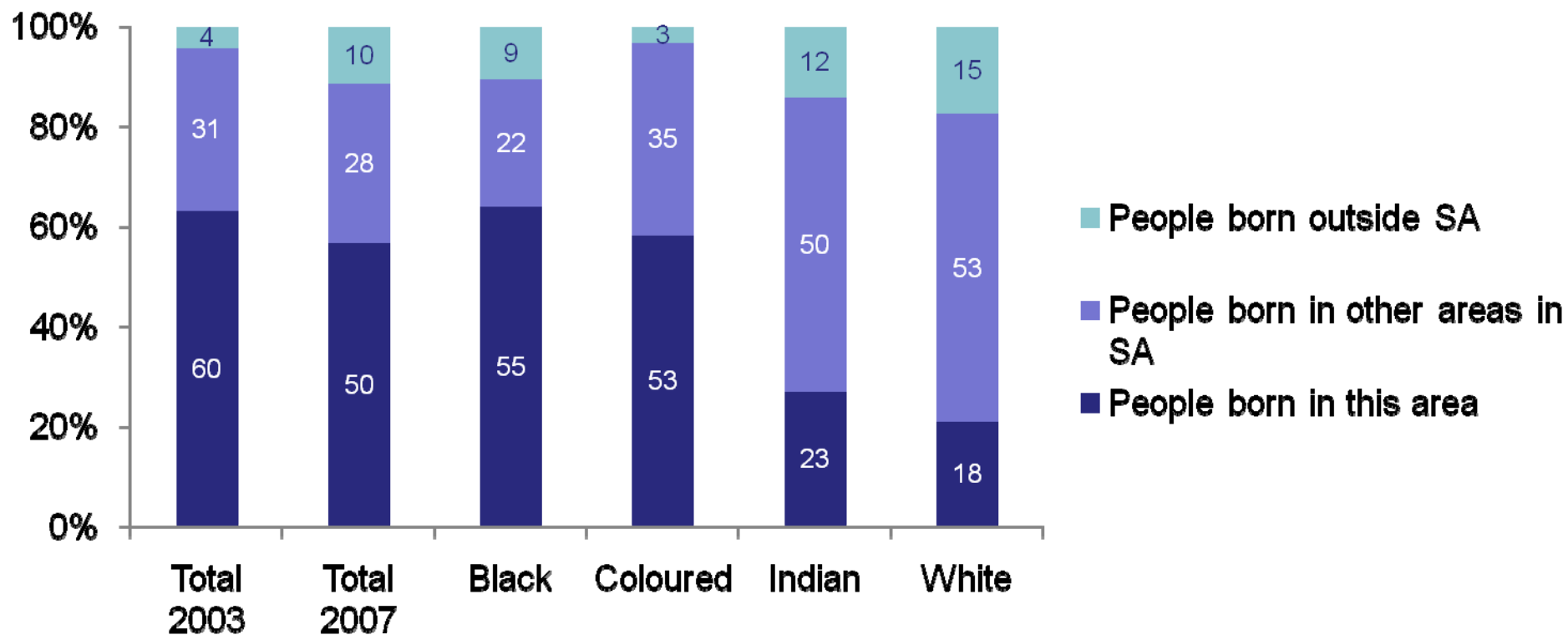
How safe do you feel walking alone in your area after dark? By province



- People in Gauteng, Mpumalanga & N West felt most unsafe – these 3 provinces were also most likely to say their police are performing poorly
- Although W Cape most likely to say crime is increasing, people here felt safest of all provinces, after N Cape

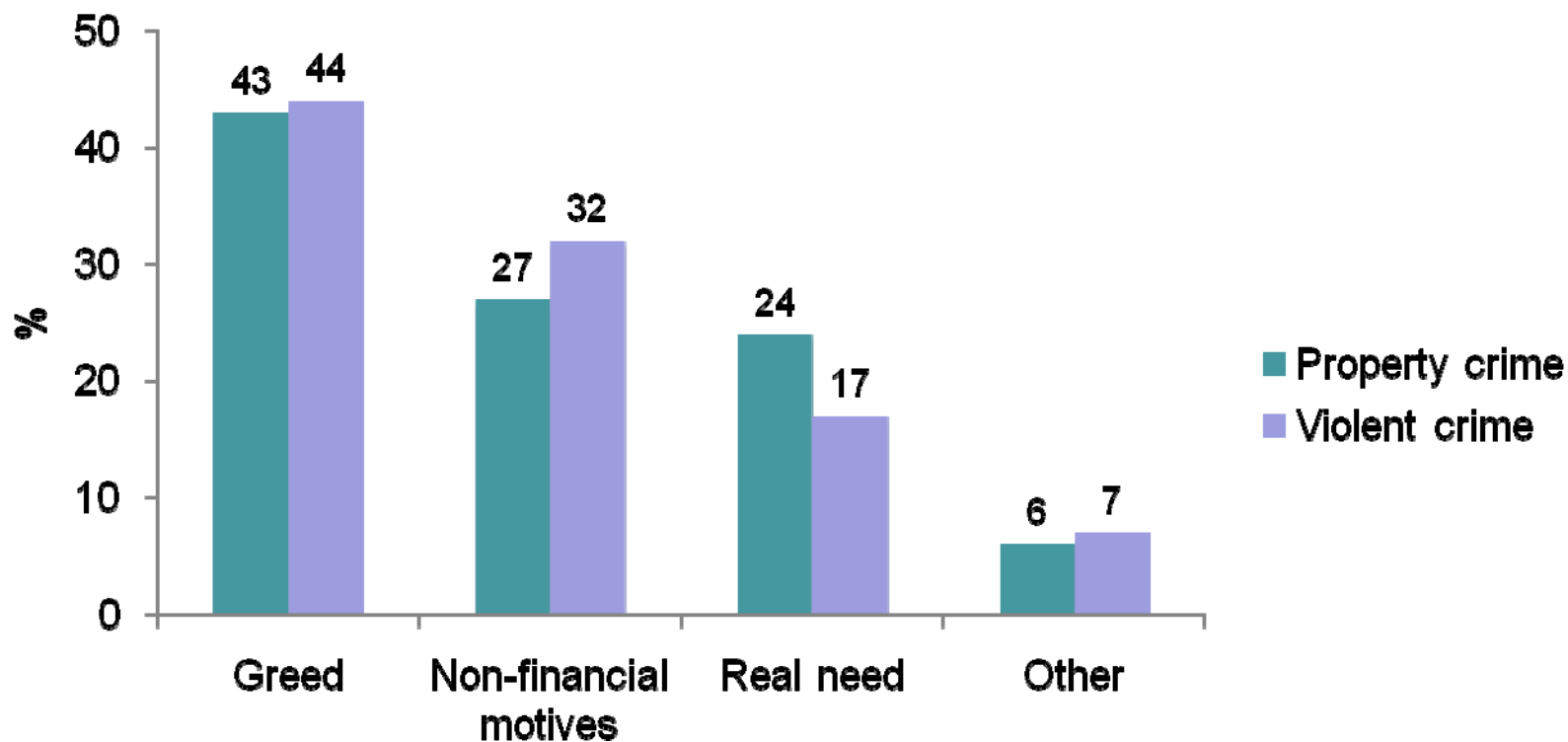


Do you think property crimes in your area are most likely to be committed by...?



➤ % saying foreigners commit crime is small but has more than doubled since 2003

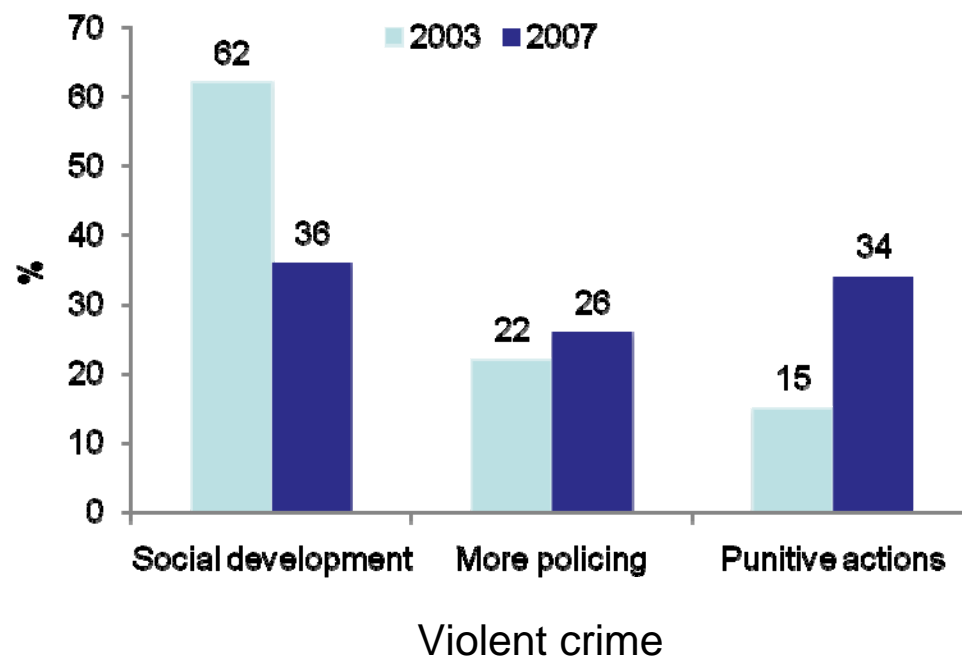
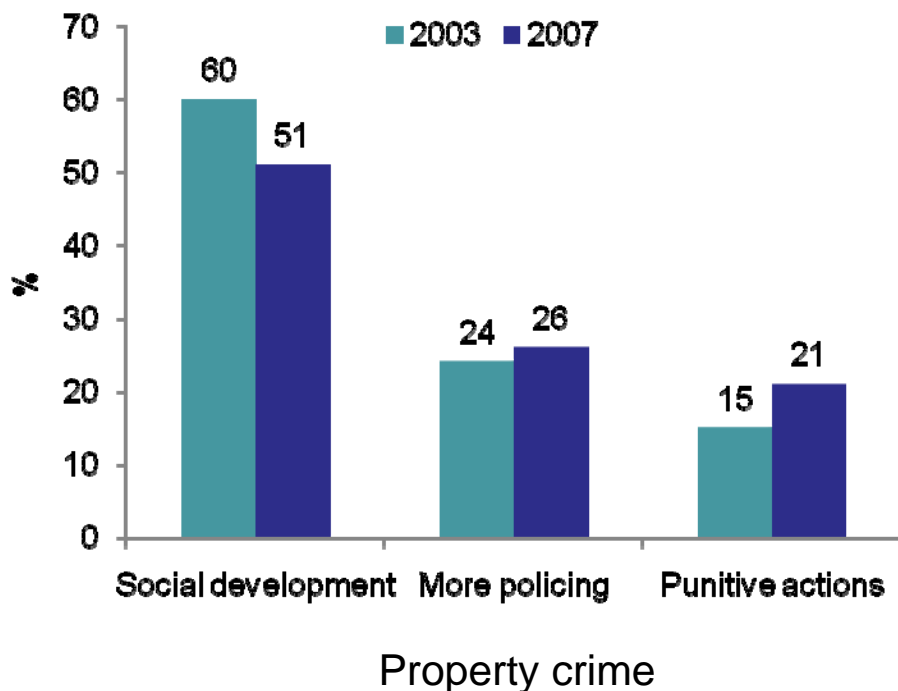
What motivates most people who commit crime in your area?



- 'Greed' is believed to be the most likely reason why people commit crime
- 'Greed' was a more popular view in 2007 than in 2003



What should government spend money on to make your area safer from crime?



- Punitive responses to crime have gained popularity at the expense of social development (preventive) interventions
- Public views towards crime have hardened significantly since 2003, particularly with regard to violent crime.



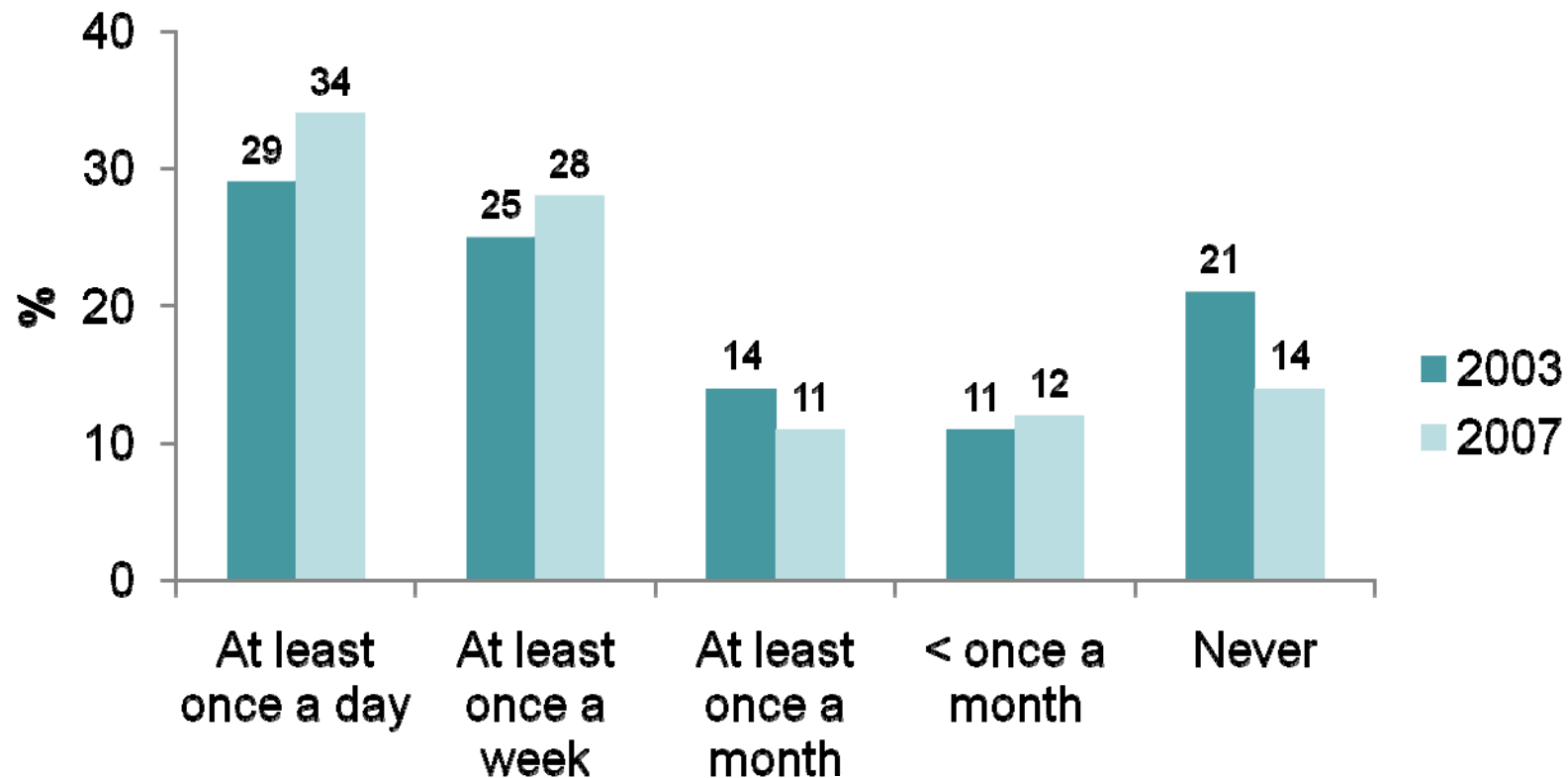
Access to, and confidence in, the police



Access to the police

- Access is good:
 - 98% said they know where the nearest police station is
 - It takes most of these people < 30 mins to get there
- Direct experience of policing:
 - Half had been once or more to the station in the past 4 years
 - 30% had other official contact with police
 - Most of these said this contact improved their opinion of the police

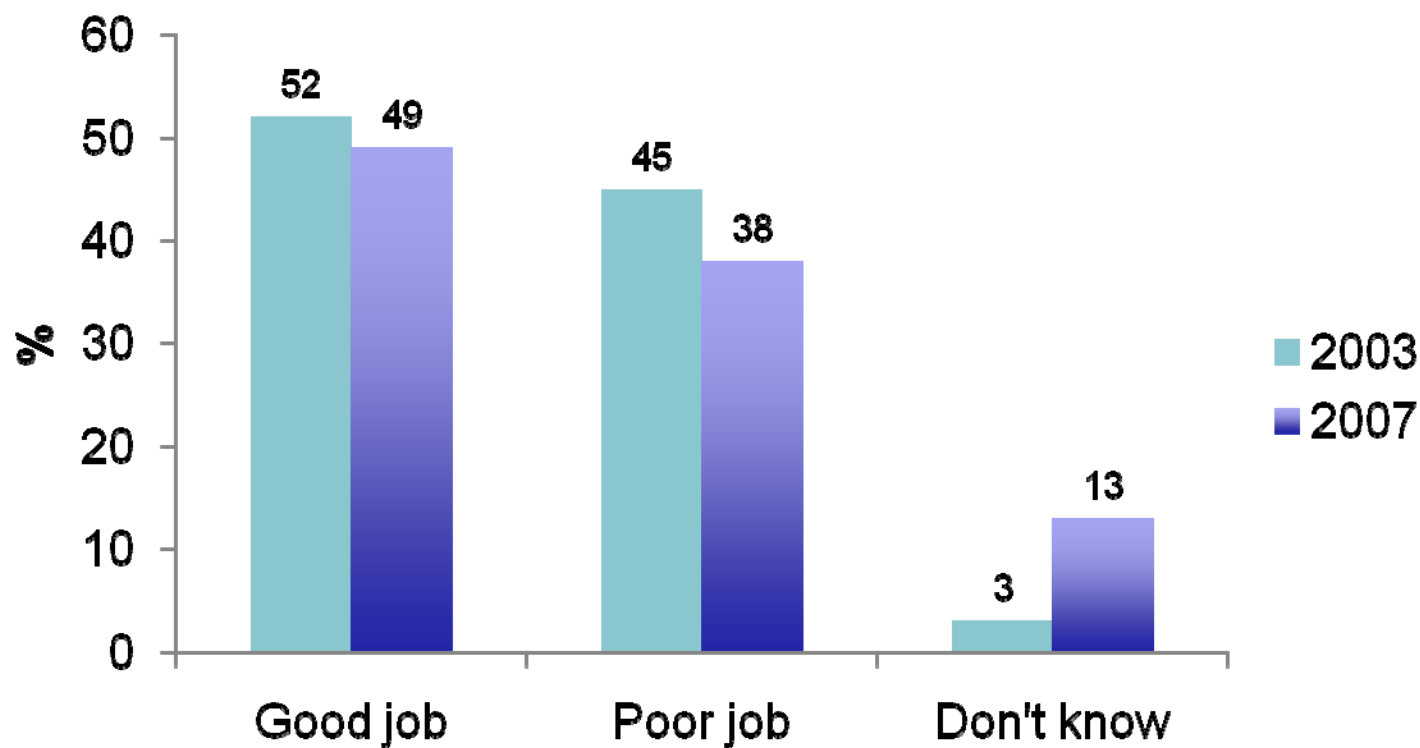
How often do you see a police officer in uniform/on duty in your area?



- Police visibility has improved since 2003
- Black & Coloured respondents more likely to say they see the police once a day; Whites & Indians more likely to say 'never'
- Lowest visibility in densely populated rural provinces



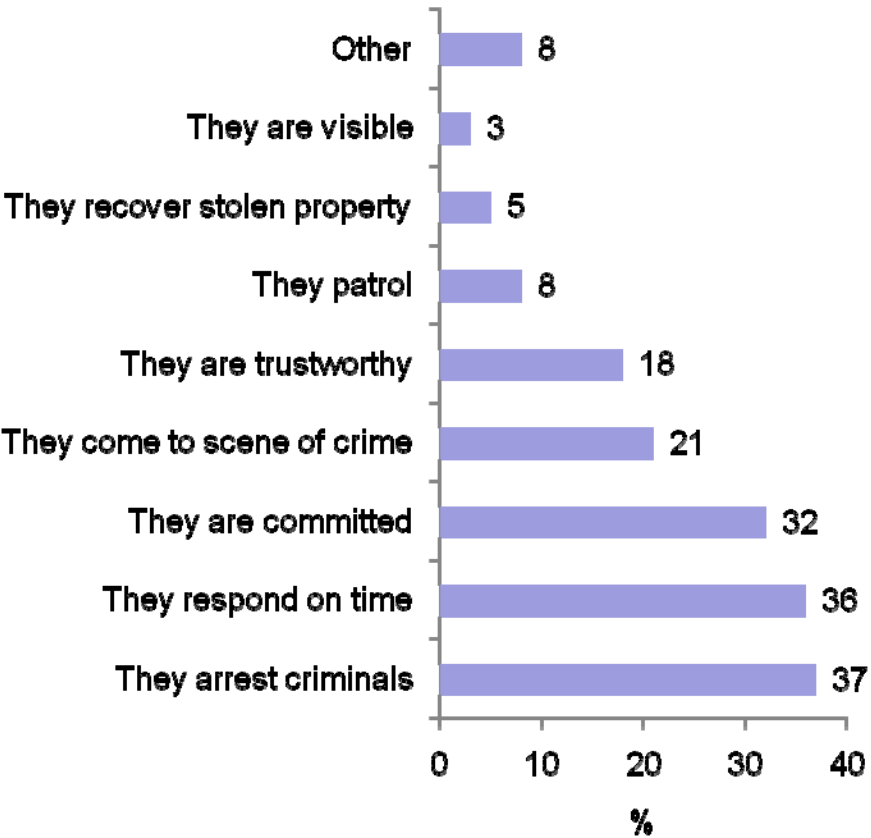
How do you think the police are performing in your area?



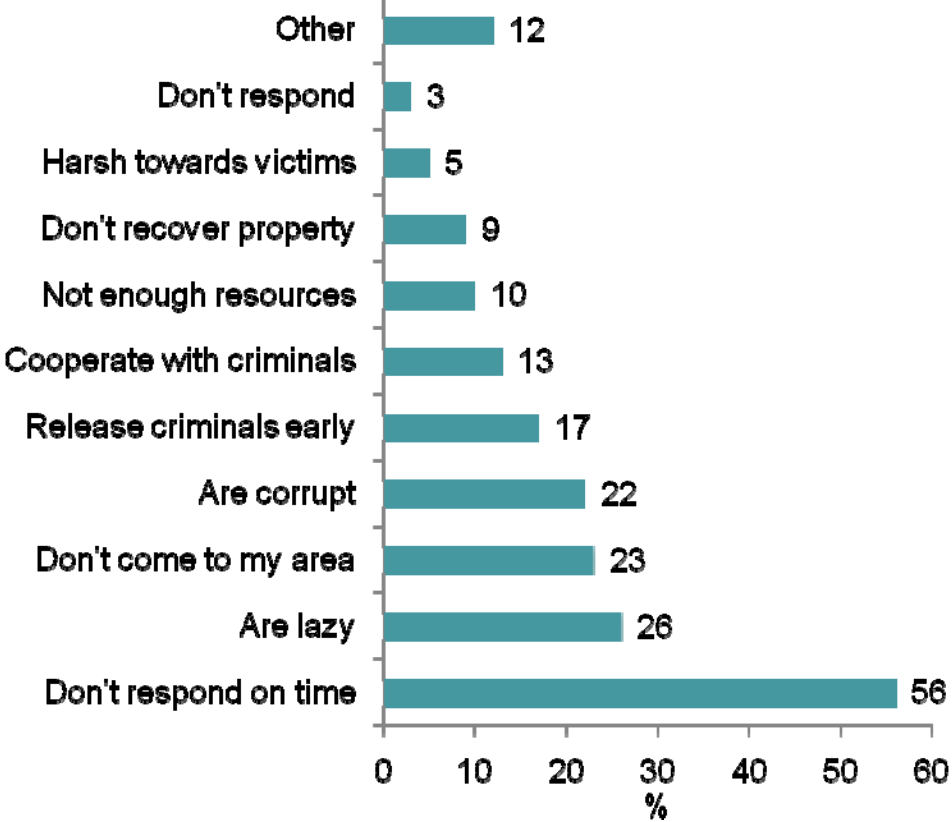
- The public were slightly less satisfied with policing than in 2003, but they were also less critical: ambivalence is the new trend

Reasons for views on police performance

Good job



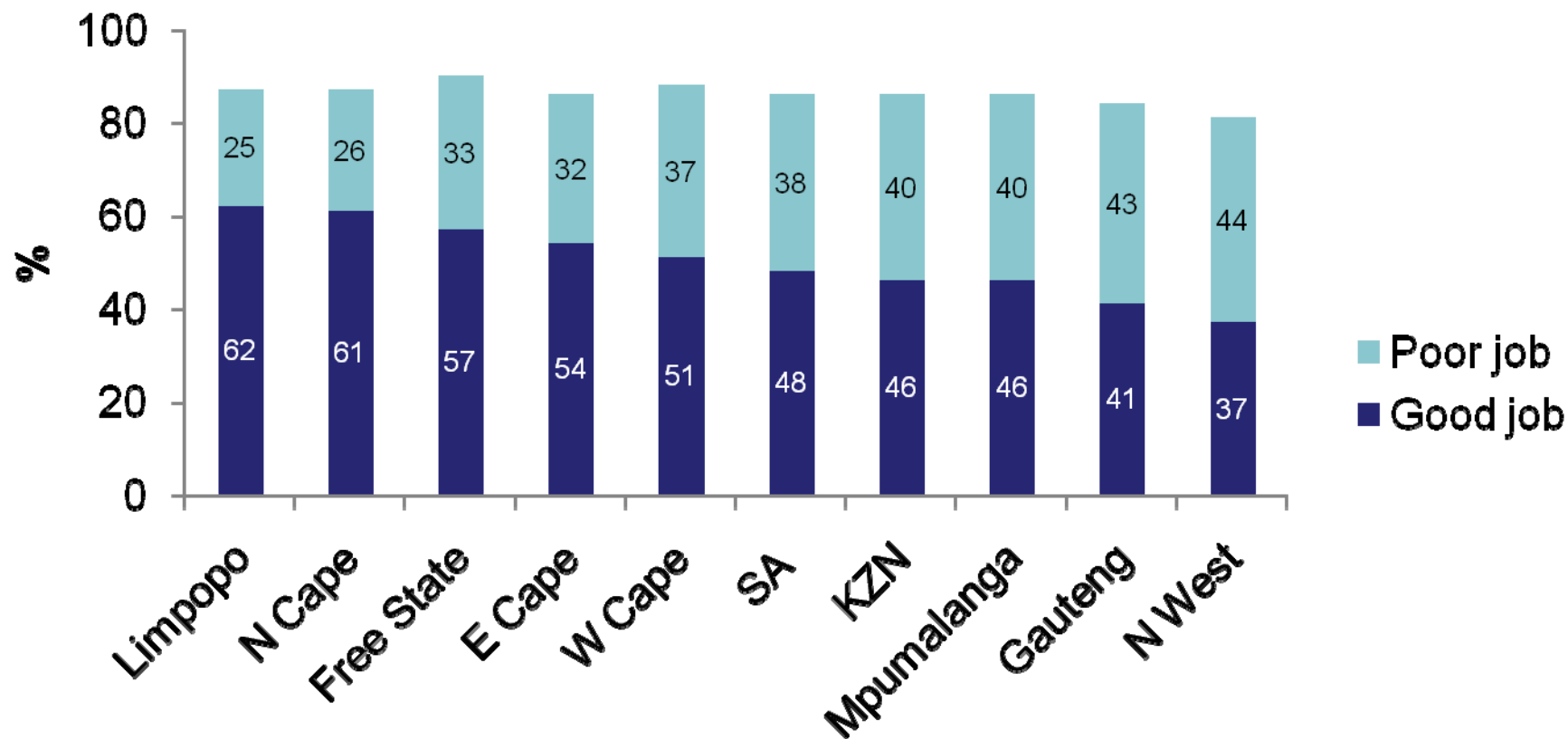
Poor job



- Response time is key to both positive and negative views
- Police attitudes ('committed' vs 'lazy') are also important
- Corruption + cooperating with criminals = 2nd most common criticism
- Patrolling & visibility don't seem to be key issues for the public



How do you think the police are performing in your area? By province



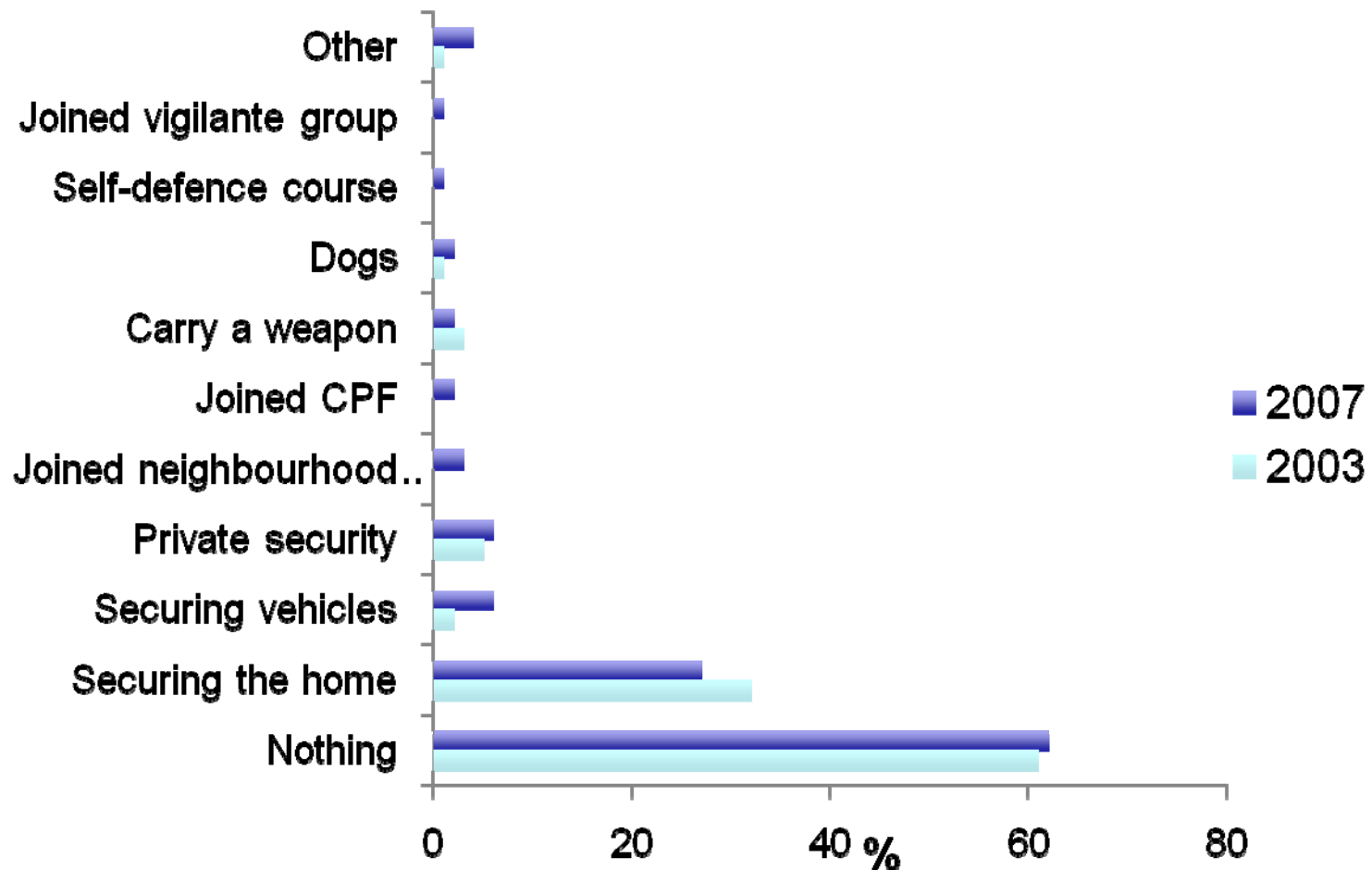
- There are some general links between provinces where there is high fear of crime and limited police visibility, and negative views of the police, and vice versa



To what extent are we taking responsibility for our safety?



What have you done to protect yourself or your household against crime?





Community (in)action ?

- As in 2003, most SA's still do 'nothing' to protect themselves & their property
- This is unfortunate because of those who did take measures, 75% said they felt safer as a result
- A quarter of SA's (26%) personally know someone who makes a living from crime in their area



Community (in)action ?

- Community initiatives:
 - Only a quarter (as in 2003) said an organisation or group exists in their area to provide protection (mostly CPFs and private security)
 - Nearly half (48%) know what a CPF is although only 20% of these have ever attended a meeting
 - Only 7% know what a sector forum is, and of these, only 23% have ever attended a meeting



Community (in)action ?

- The problem does not seem to be one of a lack of ‘social capital’:
 - Levels of trust in neighbourhoods are high
 - Level of knowledge of neighbours is high
 - Vast majority say people in neighbourhood provide help when it’s needed
 - But only 12% say they belong to a community group that provides help



Conclusions

- Crime is down since 1998 and 2003
- The increase in robbery is worrying: together with the prevalence of housebreaking and perceptions about this crime – home robbery must be prioritised
- Likely that a small percentage of violent crime is having a big impact on perceptions
- Despite declining crime levels and good access to the police, public feelings of safety and levels of confidence in the police continue to fall



Conclusions

- SA's have also become much more punitive in their attitudes towards crime – both in terms of its causes and how government should respond. Reversing this trend will become increasingly difficult.
- Despite policy and strategy aimed at CPFs and similar initiatives, public participation remains as low in 2007 as in 2003 – is a new approach to mobilising the public against crime needed?



Acknowledgements

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