The Results of an Independent Audit of the Current Voter Registration List in Cambodia

Phnom Penh, September 6, 2007

Supported by:

Presentation Outline

- Audit Methodology
- Results:
  - The level of registration and the accuracy of the voters list,
  - Registration awareness;
  - Others
- Recommendations

Voter Registration Audit Methodology

What is the Purpose of VRA?

- To provide an independent election observation report
- To verify the accuracy of voters list
- To evaluate the quality of voter registration process

Methodology

- 380 communes randomly selected – *multistage stratified random sampling,* with ± 3.5% of margin errors and 95% level of confidence.

- VRA conducted with *two-way audit*:

  a. *List-to-people* – selected 4 names on the voter list and then interviewed them to verified their data in each commune

  b. *People-to-list* – selected and interviewed 6 voters and then verified their data on the voter list in each commune

| Voter List | List to People → ← People to List | Voter as respondent |
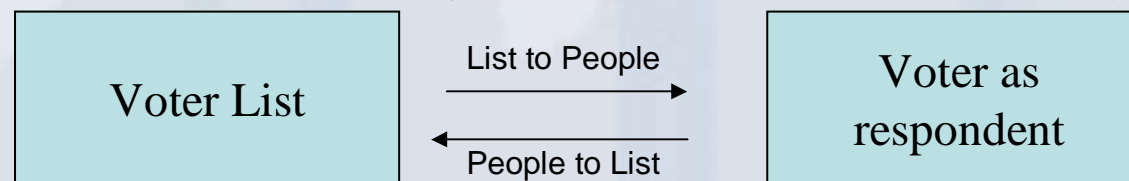
Data Collection

- NICFEC and COMFREL deployed 385 volunteers on August 10-14, 2007

- Total sample received from communes: 380 communes (98.7% of target sample communes) from 24 provinces/ municipalities

- Number of respondents: 3,796 voters (98.6% of target sample)

- The voters list audited is the 2006 voters list (the list used in the 2007 commune council elections)

Report received by Provinces

No	Provinces	Sample communes	No	Provinces	Sample communes
1	Banteay Meanchey	19 (100%)	13	Preah Vihear	3 (96.1%)
2	Battambang	25 (96.1%)	14	Prey Veng	33 (96.1%)
3	Kampong Cham	53 (100%)	15	Pursat	11 (100%)
4	Kampong Chhnang	12 (96.1%)	16	Ratanak Kiri	3 (100%)
5	Kampong Speu	21 (100%)	17	Siem Reap	20 (96.1%)
6	Kampong Thom	18 (100%)	18	Sihanouk Ville	5 (100%)
7	Kampot	17 (100%)	19	Stung Treng	2 (100%)
8	Kandal	38 (100%)	20	Svay Rieng	17 (100%)
9	Kong Kong	4 (100%)	21	Takeo	27 (100%)
10	Kratie	8 (100%)	22	Oddar Meanchey	4 (100%)
11	Mondul Kiri	1 (100%)	23	Krong Kep	1 (100%)
12	Phnom Penh	36 (100%)	24	Krong Pailin	2 (100%)
	Urban = 12.1 ; Rural = 87.9			Total	380

Audit Result:
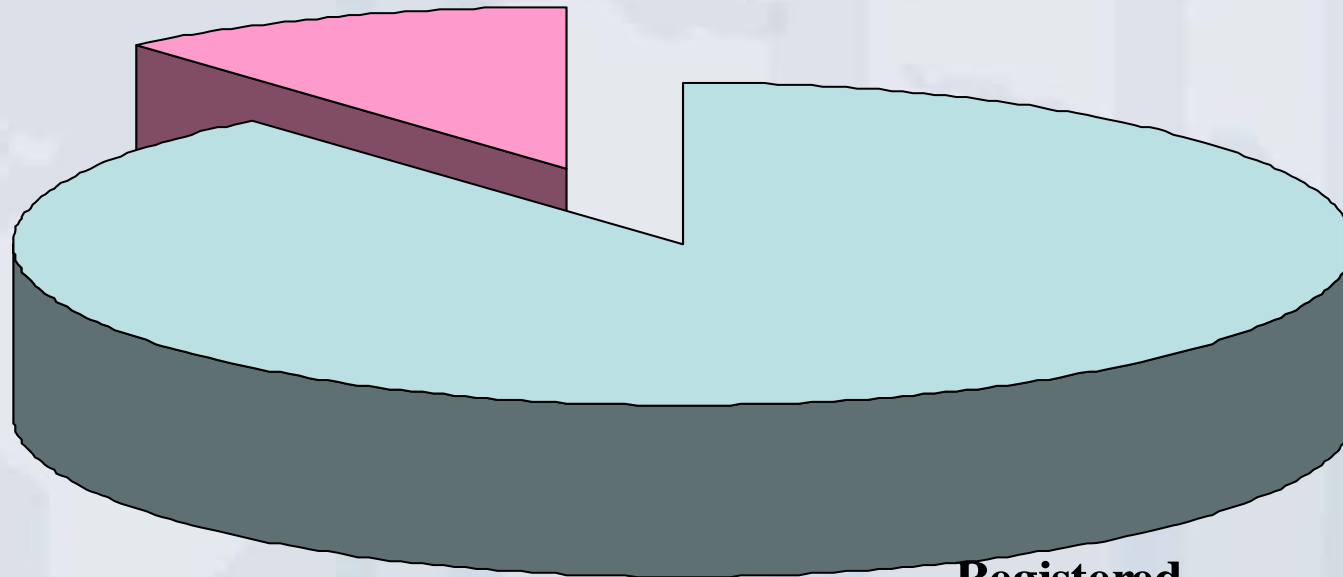
The level of registration and the accuracy of the voters list

Voter Registration Rate

Unregistered
Voters
11.2%
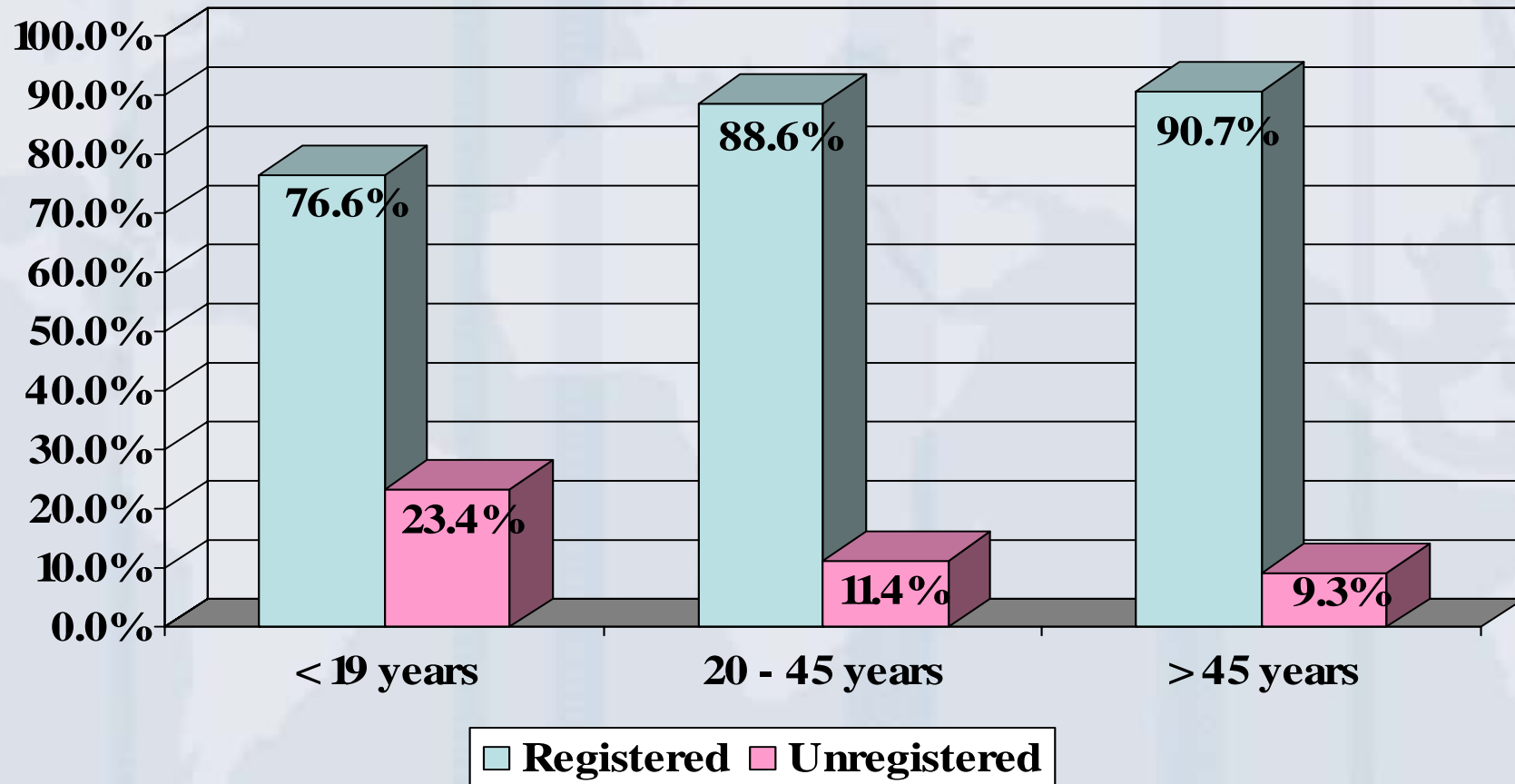
Registered
Voters
88.8%

N = 2,278; People-to-List (verifying information from eligible voters to the voters list)

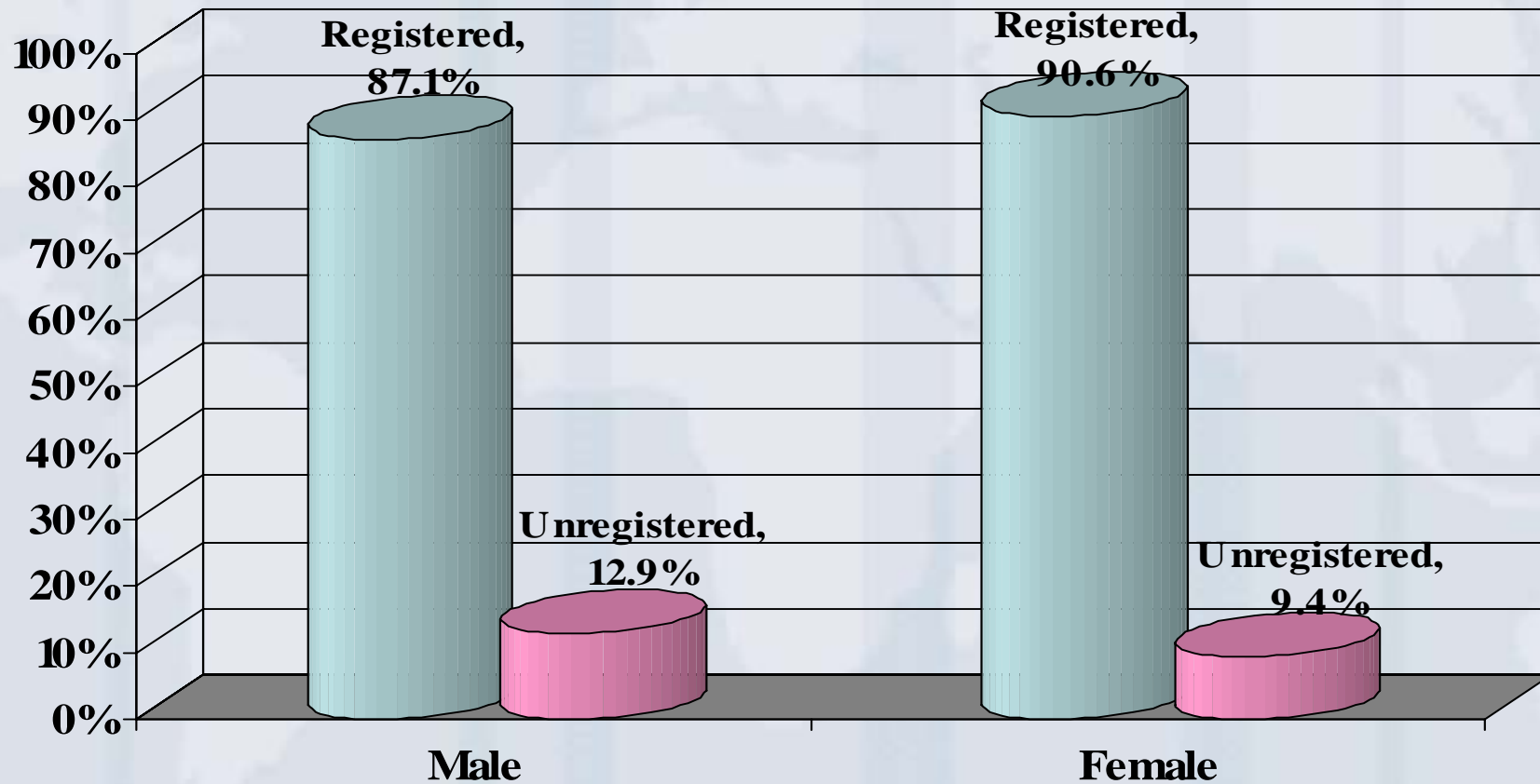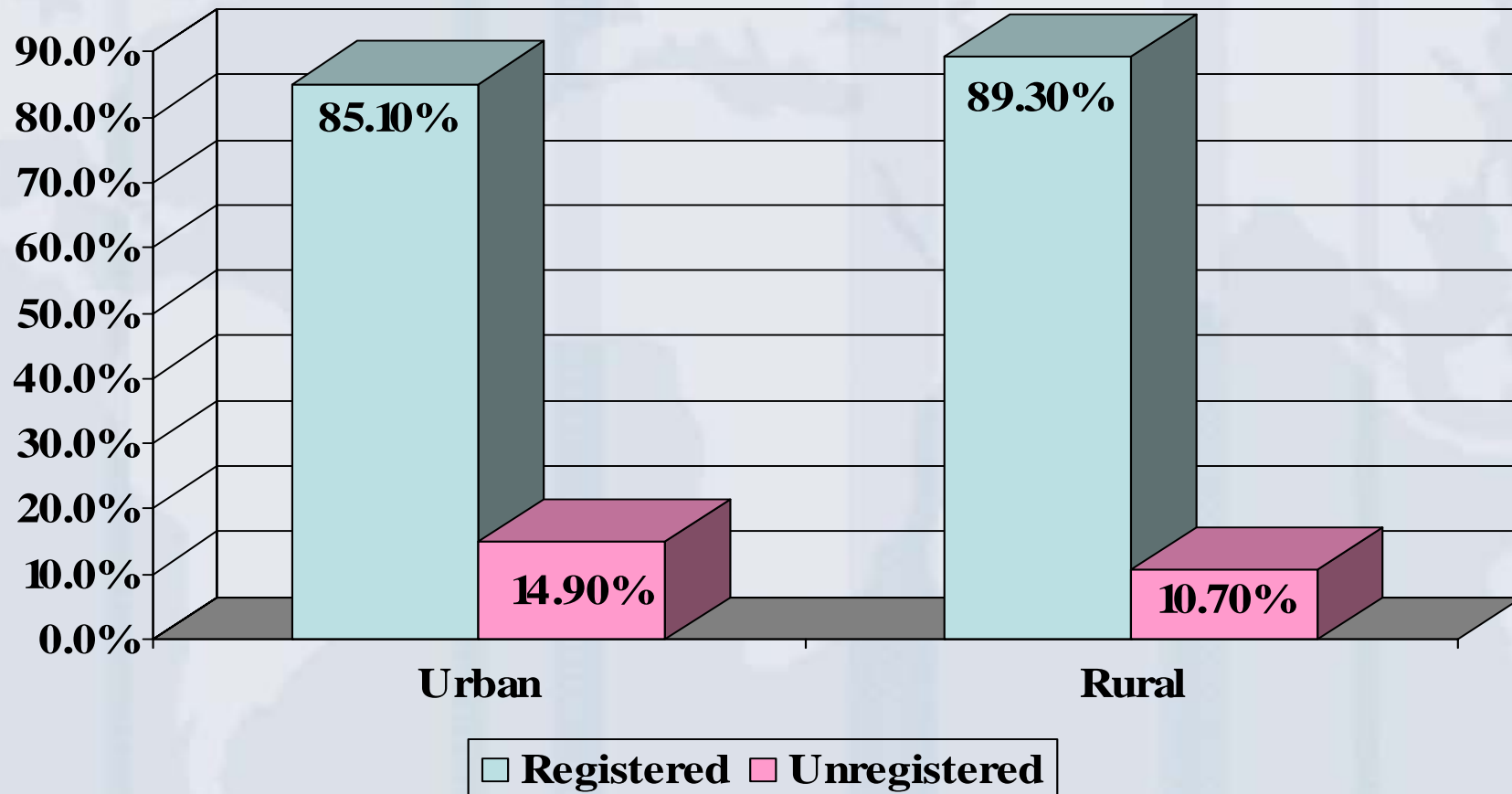# Voter Registration Rate by Age

Voter Registration Rate by Gender

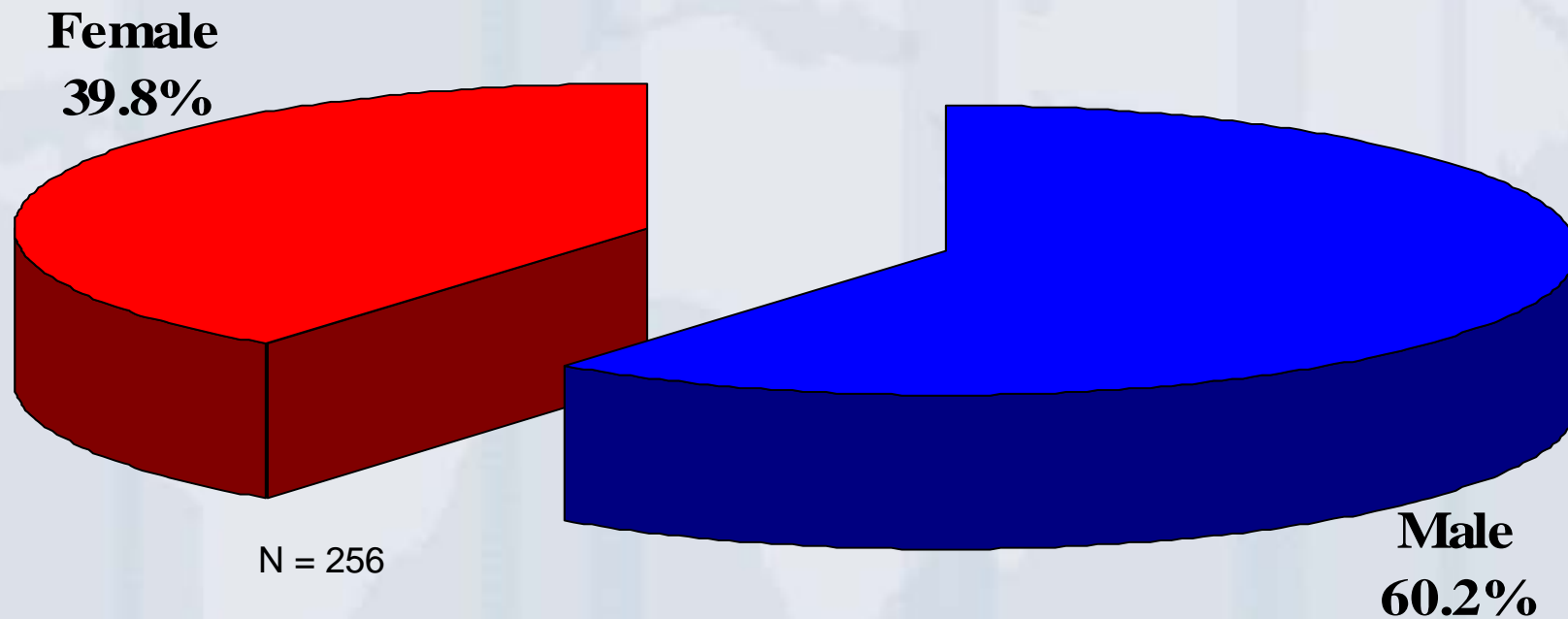N = 2,278; People to List respondents

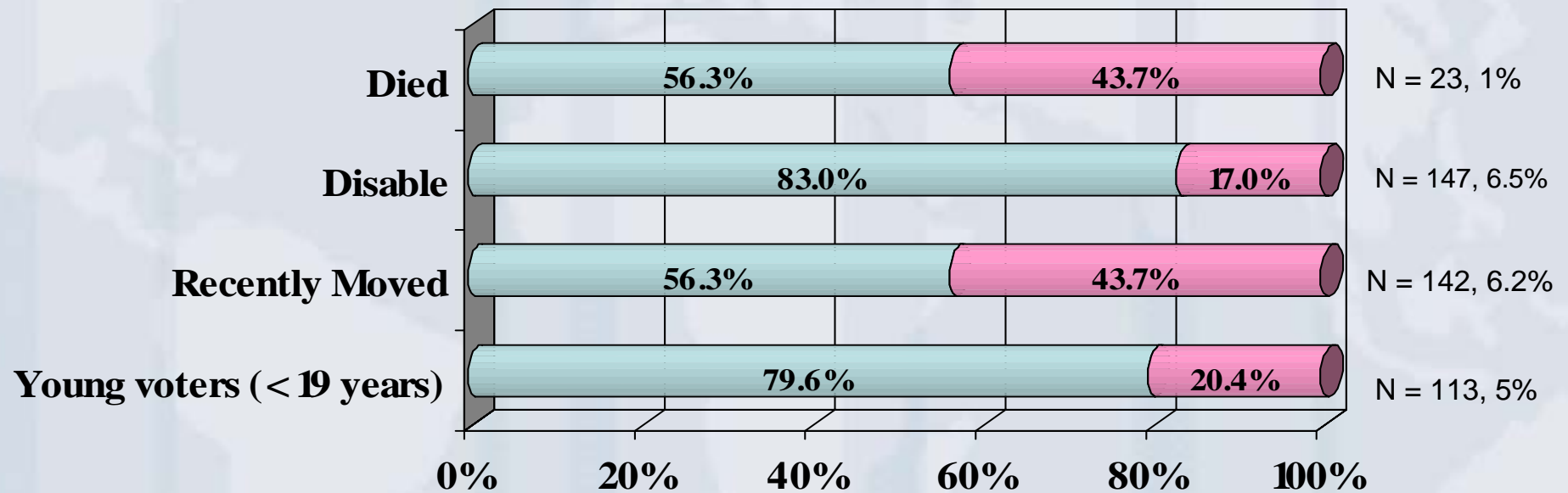Comparison of Voter Registration Rate in Urban and Rural Areas

Unregistered Voters by Gender

Female
39.8%

N = 256

Male
60.2%

Registration Rate within Specific Respondent Category

Died — Registered 56.3%, Unregistered 43.7% — N = 23, 1%

Disable — Registered 83.0%, Unregistered 17.0% — N = 147, 6.5%

Recently Moved — Registered 56.3%, Unregistered 43.7% — N = 142, 6.2%

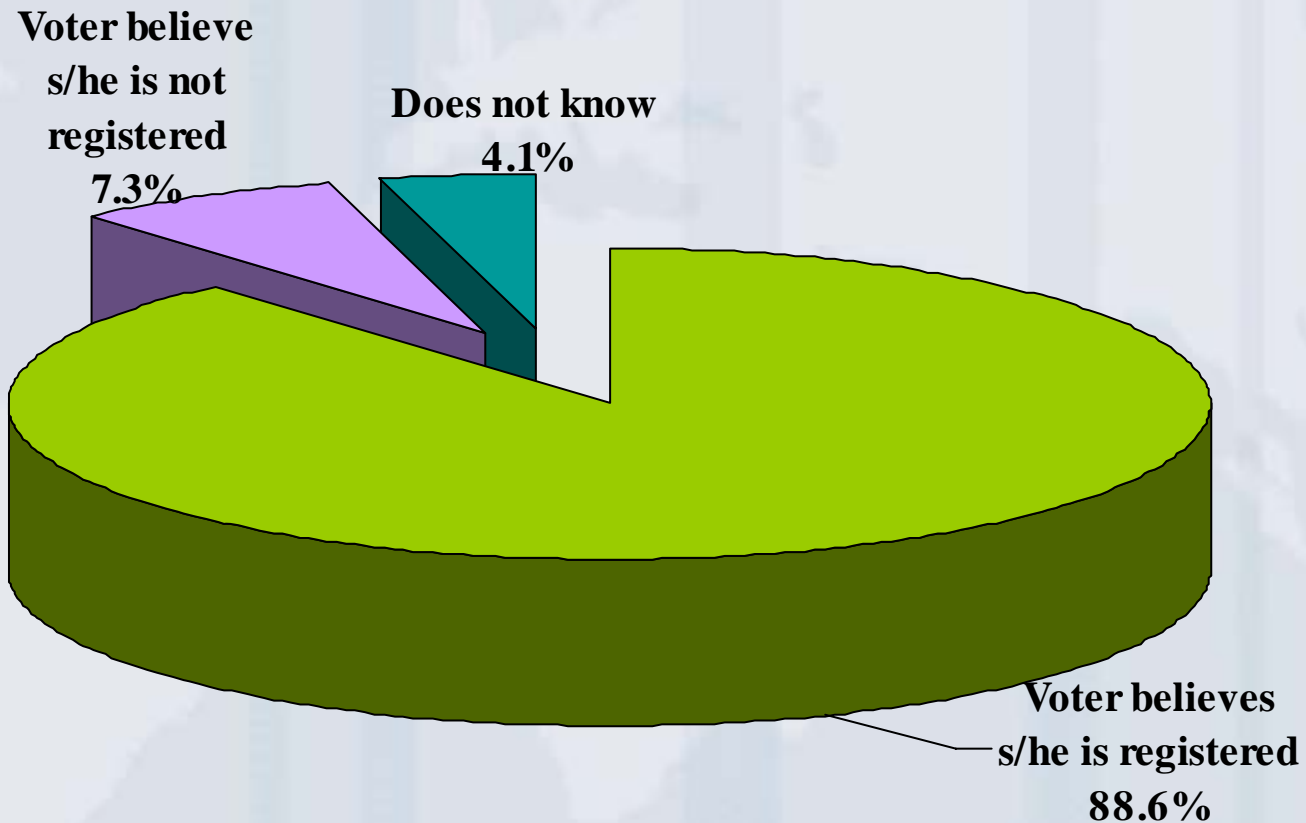Young voters (< 19 years) — Registered 79.6%, Unregistered 20.4% — N = 113, 5%

0% 20% 40% 60% 80% 100%

People to List respondents, 2,278 respondents

☐ Registered   ☐ Unregistered

Awareness among Registered Voters

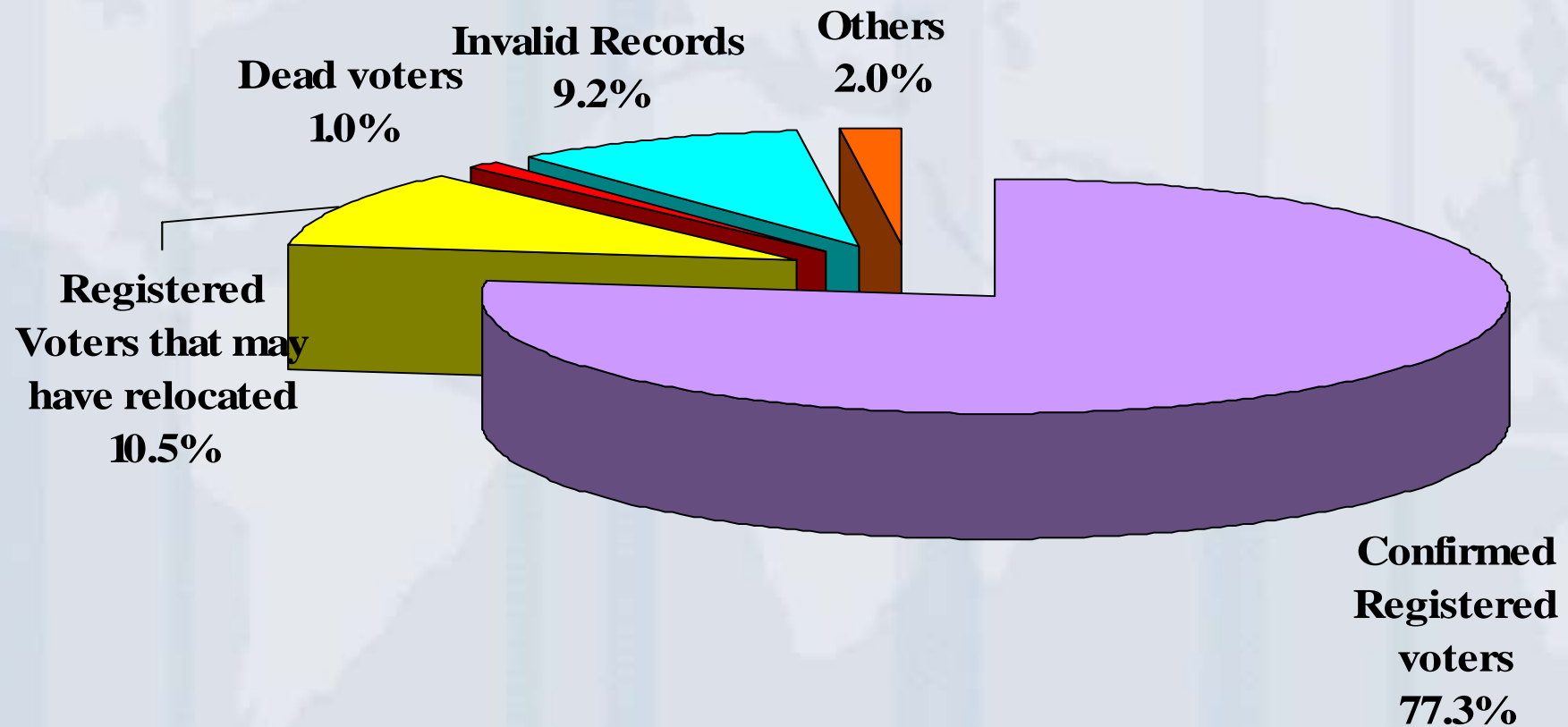**Voter believe s/he is not registered 7.3%**

Does not know 4.1%

Voter believes s/he is registered 88.6%

"Have you been registered for the upcoming 2008 election" (n = 1,174; List-to-People)

Results of Verifying Names on the Voter List

Dead voters 1.0%

Invalid Records 9.2%

Others 2.0%

Registered Voters that may have relocated 10.5%

Confirmed Registered voters 77.3%

N = 1,518; List-to-People respondents

Accuracy of the Voters List
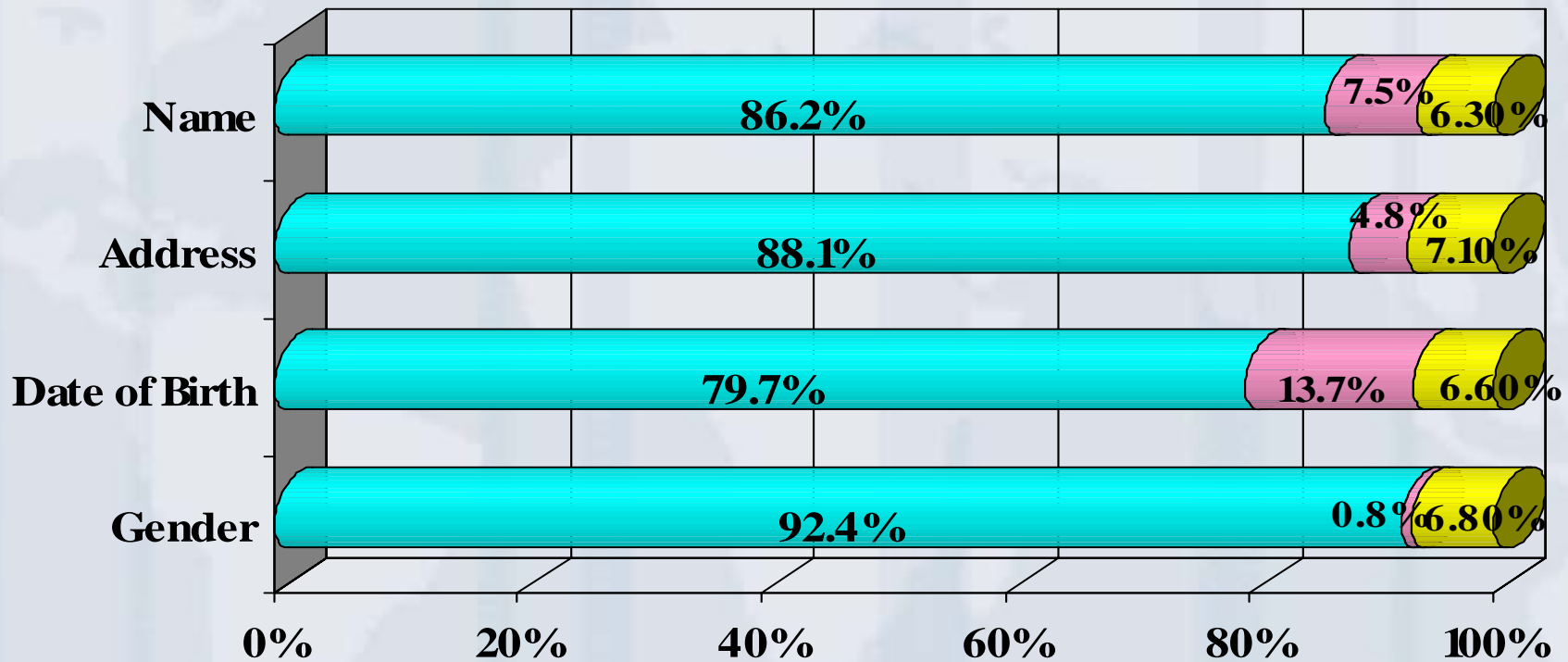
N = 3,452; All respondents
No data includes unregistered voters, relocated voters, etc.

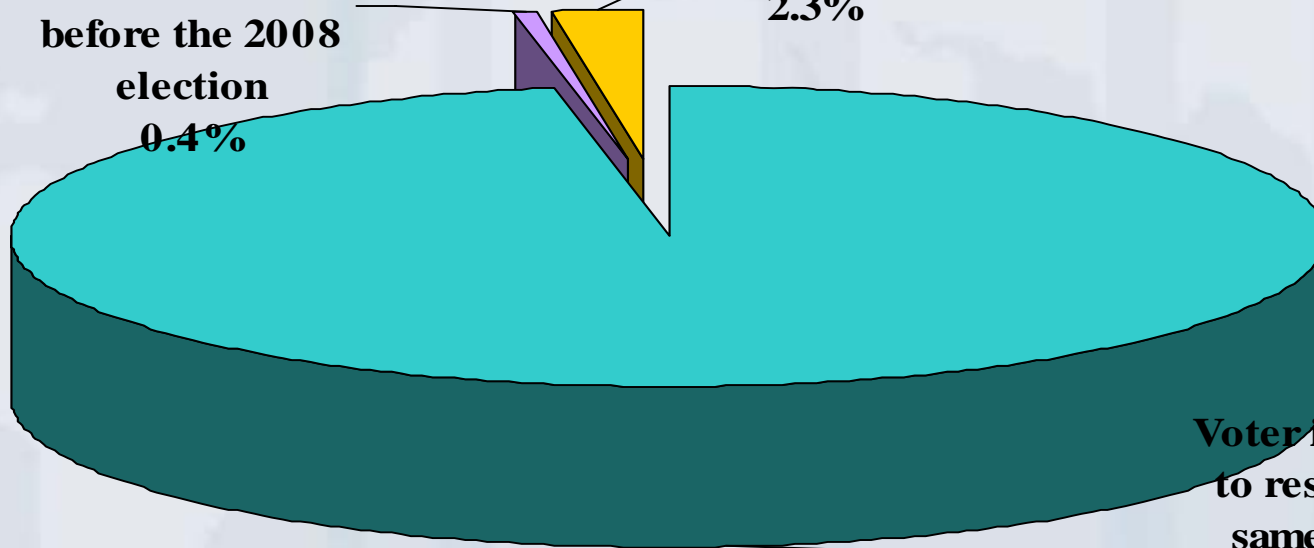The Accuracy of the Voters List in Urban vs Rural Areas
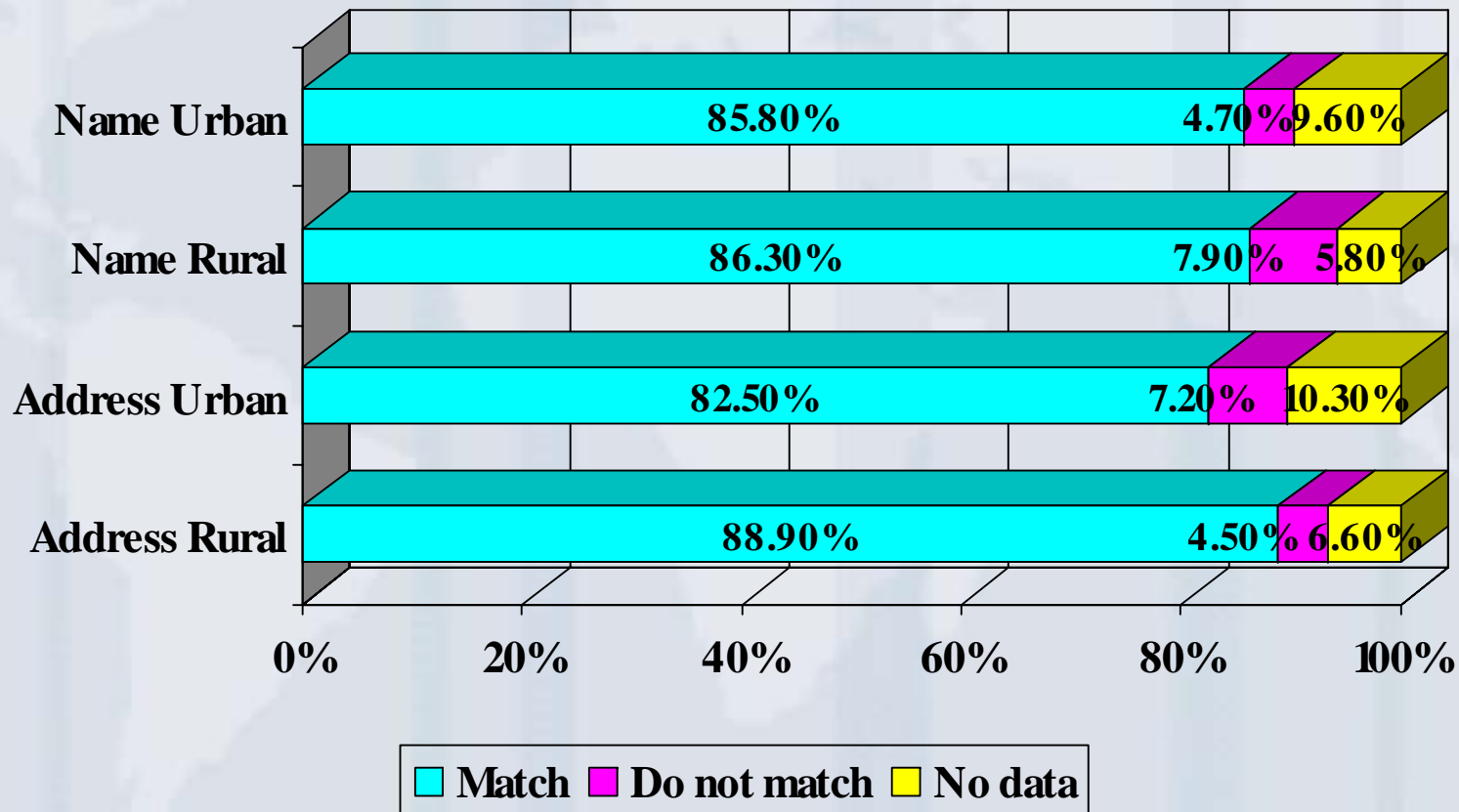
Intention to Reside at the Same Address until the 2008 election

Voter is planning to move to another address before the 2008 election 0.4%

Undecided 2.3%

Voter is planning to reside at the same address until the 2008 election 97.2%

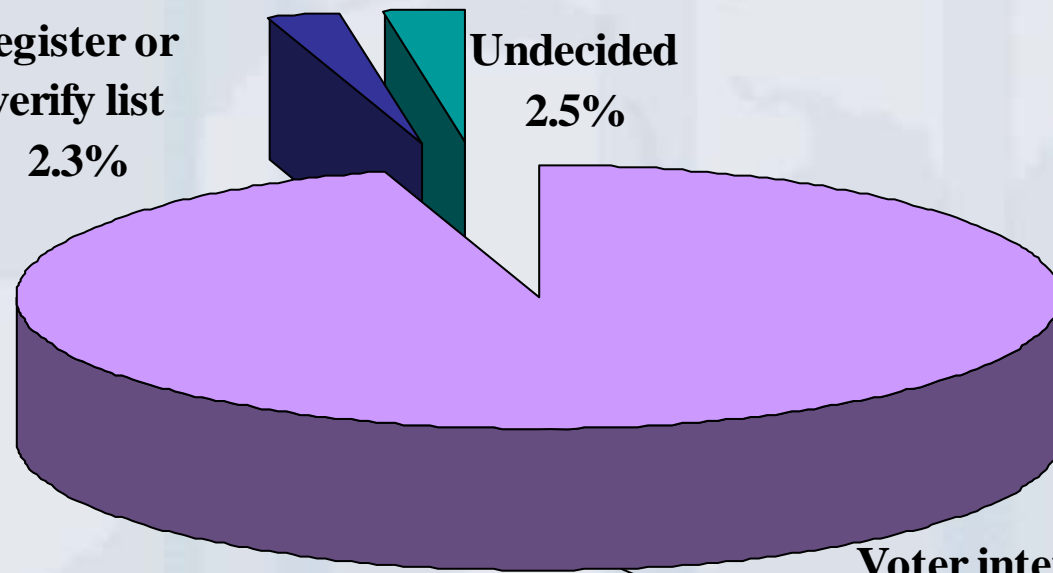*Are you planning to reside at this address permanently until the 2008 election?*
N = 3,417; All respondents

Intention to Register or Verify Name on Voters List

Voter does not intend to register or verify list 2.3%

Undecided 2.5%

Voter intends to register or verify list 95.2%

Will you check your registration status or register during the registration period?
N = 3,417; All respondents

Motivation of Voter to Check Name on Voters List

I was forced to 0.8%

Others 3.4%

Because everybody else was registered 6.1%

So I can support my party 4.1%

I was suggested or encouraged to register 1.4%

It is my right 40.9%

So I can vote in the election 43.4%

If you are going to check your name on the voters list, why?
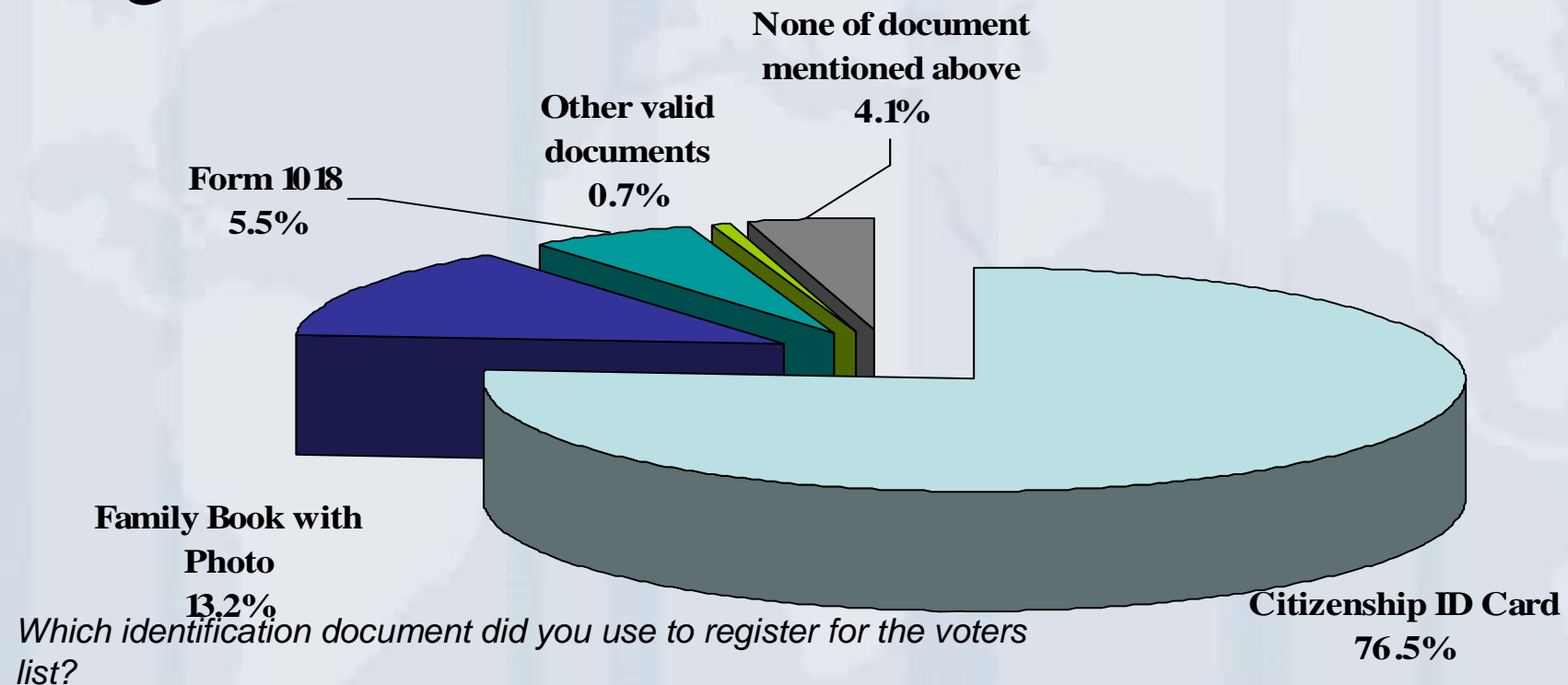N = 3,253; All respondents that said they are going to check

Reasons for Not Checking Voters List

- Does not have identification documents for registration

- The distance to the registration station is too far

- The registration period is to short

- Does not know about the registration

- Does not care, etc.

Identification Documents Used for Registration

None of document
mentioned above
4.1%

Other valid
documents
0.7%

Form 1018
5.5%

Family Book with
Photo
13.2%

Citizenship ID Card
76.5%

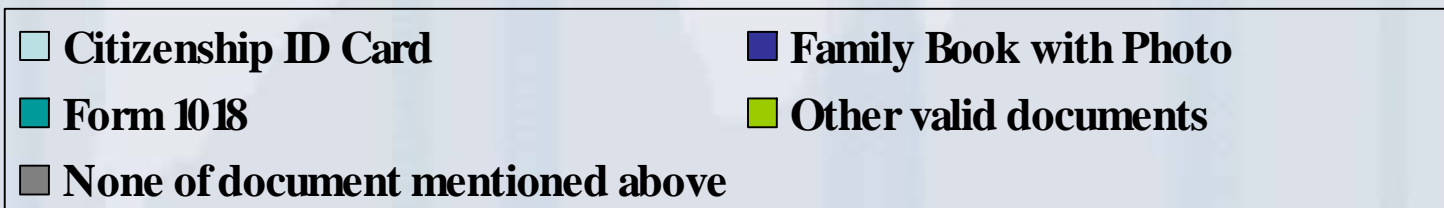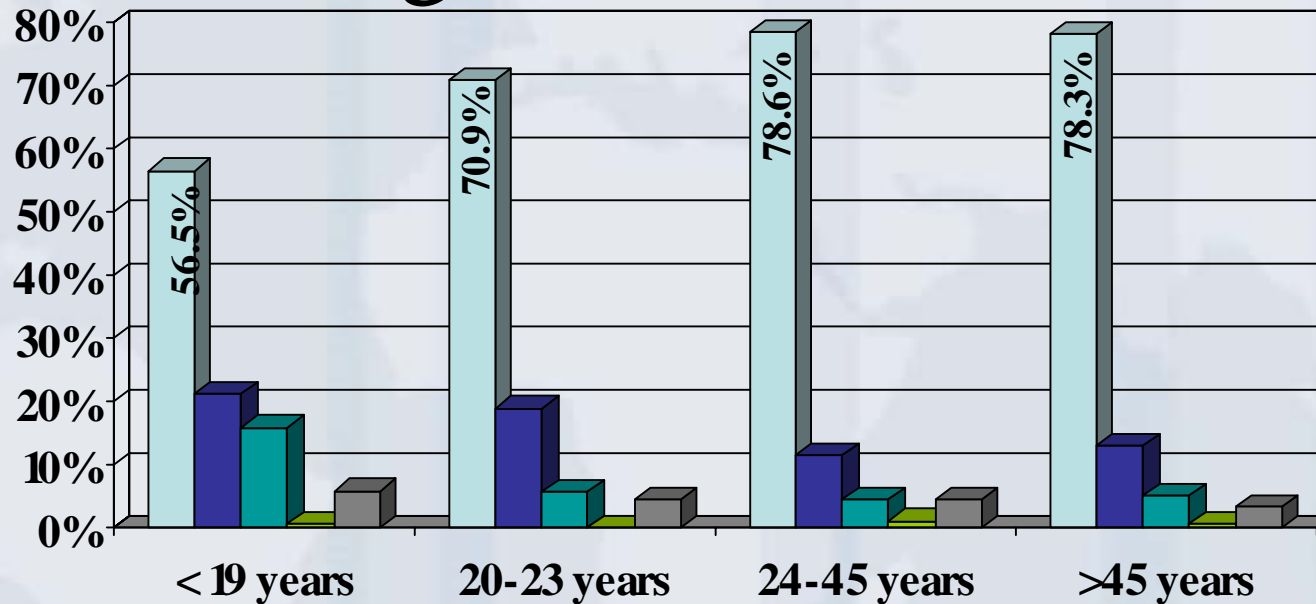*Which identification document did you use to register for the voters list?*
N = 3,354; All respondents
Other valid documents includes: passport, civil servant ID card,
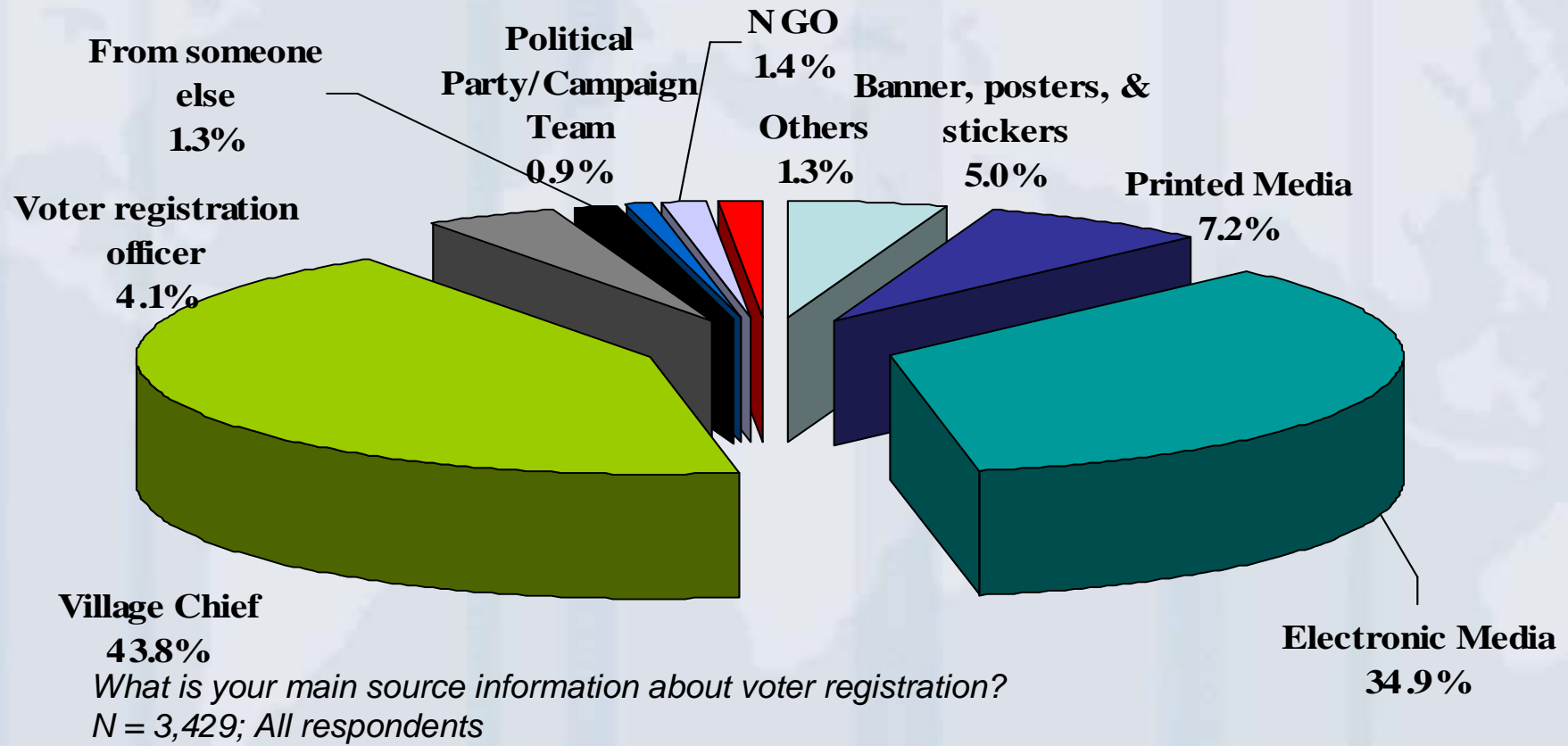national police ID card, RCAF ID Card, form 1018, ID used by ministry

Identification Document Used Against Respondent Age

Other valid documents includes: passport, civil servant ID card, national police ID card, RCAF ID Card, form 1018, ID used by ministry

Source of Information about Registration

From someone else 1.3%

Political Party/Campaign Team 0.9%

NGO 1.4%

Others 1.3%

Banner, posters, & stickers 5.0%

Printed Media 7.2%

Voter registration officer 4.1%

Village Chief 43.8%

Electronic Media 34.9%

What is your main source information about voter registration?
N = 3,429; All respondents

Recommendations for NEC

1. Continue with registration update plans and prioritize enumerating unregistered voters. Pay special attention to specific groups such as male voters, young voters, and relocated voters.

2. Better to err on the side of caution and refrain from deleting voters who reside outside their commune and may or may not be registered in a new location

3. For the deletion of names, reverse the burden of proof to rest with NEC and not the voter. In other words, accept only concrete evidence as proof of invalidity prior to deletion rather than delete if voter does not check. For example: deceased voters should only be deleted with proof of death certificate.

4. Use the 2007 commune council election polling stations records to cross-check the deletion list.

5. Make registration procedures easier to understand and easier to fulfill. For example: reduce requirements for completion of 1018 form.

6. Increase effectiveness of voter education programs by using electronic media

Recommendation to Government

1. Complete the distribution of National ID cards preferably before September 15.
Release information on the statistics of National ID cards issued and distributed.

2. Prioritize the first time voters to get their National ID cards

3. Cooperate and assist NEC to ensure the neutrality of the village chiefs

Recommendations to Political Parties, Civil Society, Media, and the International Community

1. Encourage voters to check their registration status or register themselves starting on September 15 – October 20, 2007.

2. Monitor the registration updating process and pay particular attention to relocated voters, deceased voters, and unregistered voters

3. Use electronic media for effective dissemination of information on voter registration.

4. International community is encouraged to support financially and technically.

Thank you

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