

# South African elections: present trends and electoral scenarios up to 2030

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# ISS Pre-election synopsis

## Trends in Electoral Participation & Voter Behaviour 1994-2014

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# Voter Age Population % Registered: 2011 vs. 2013 population estimates

Age group	Registered voters	VAP 2011 Census	% voter registration	VAP 2013 estimates	% voter registration
<b>Total</b>	25 390 150	31 434 035	<b>81%</b>	32 687 600	<b>78%</b>

# Looking beneath aggregate results

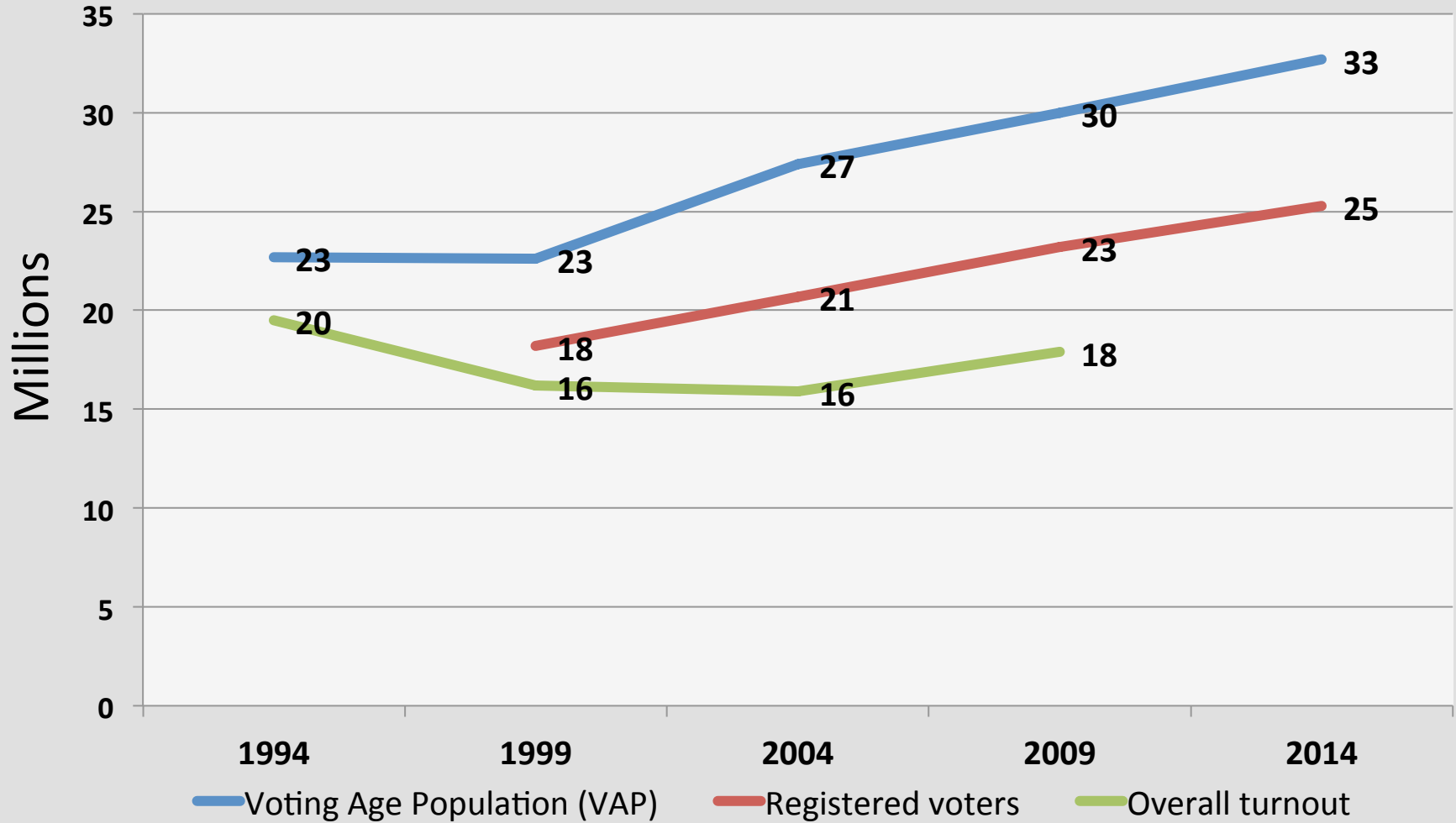
Decline in electoral participation generally

Eligible voting age population (VAP) increased

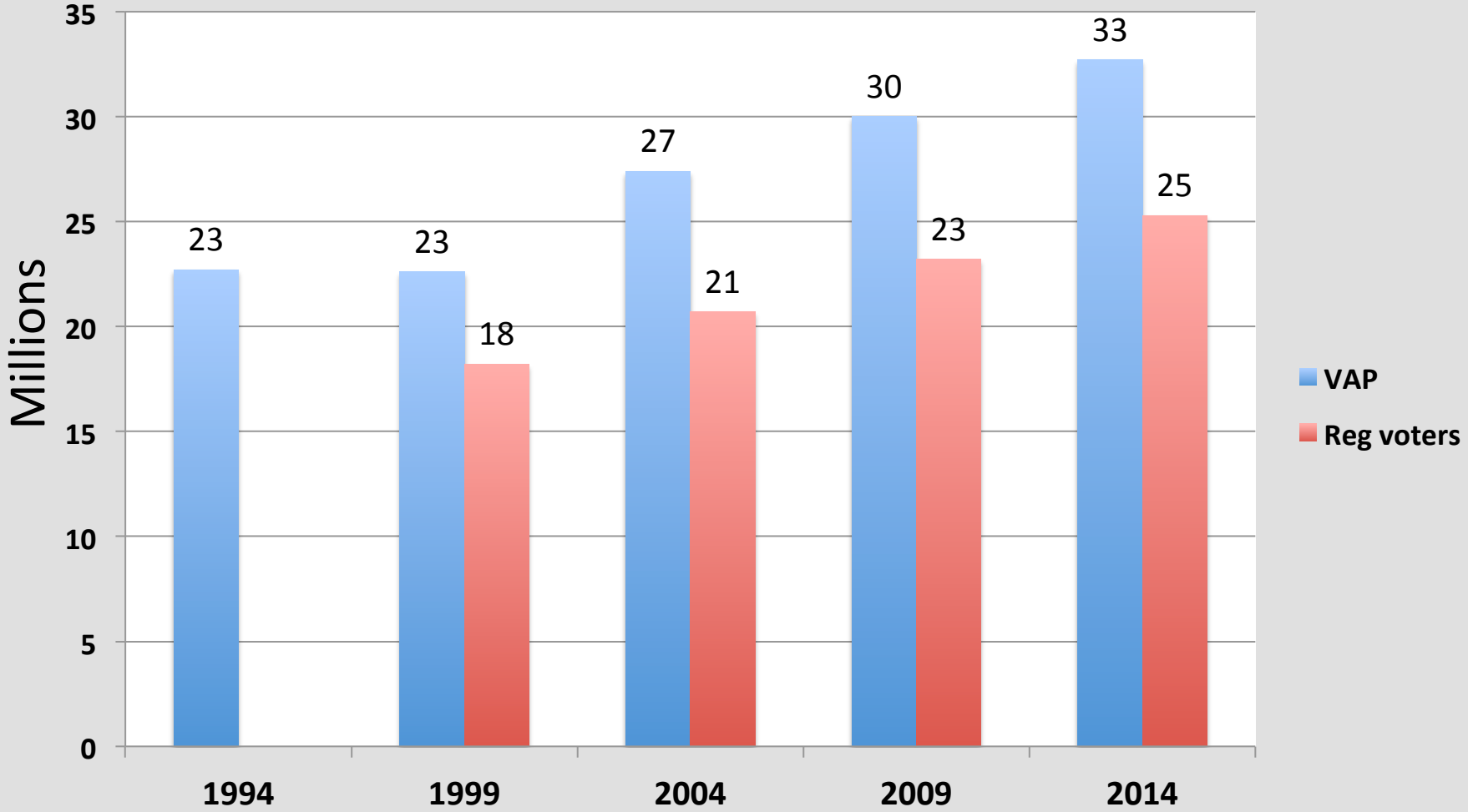
Voter registration not kept pace with VAP

Voter turnout as % of VAP decreased

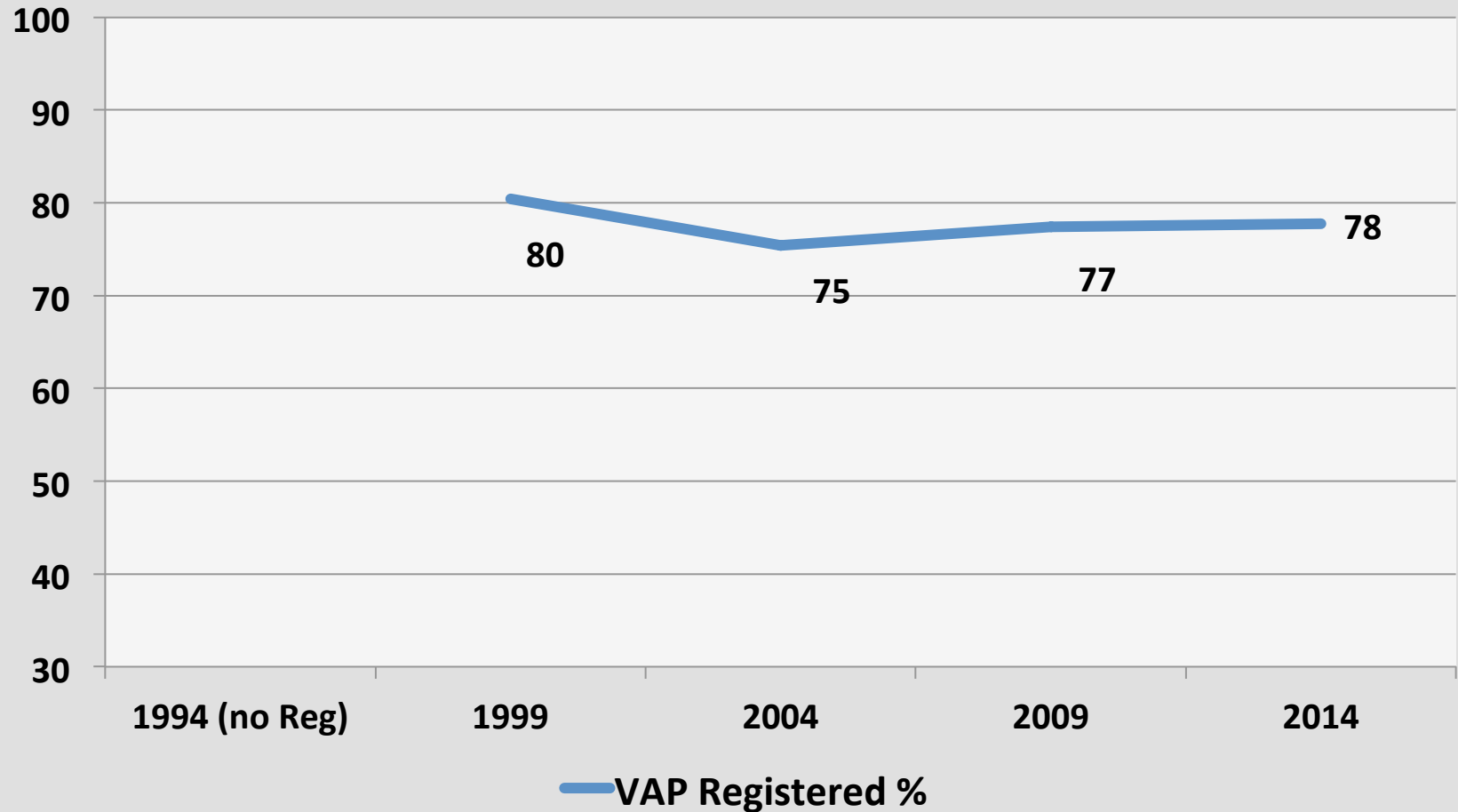
# VAP, registration and turnout



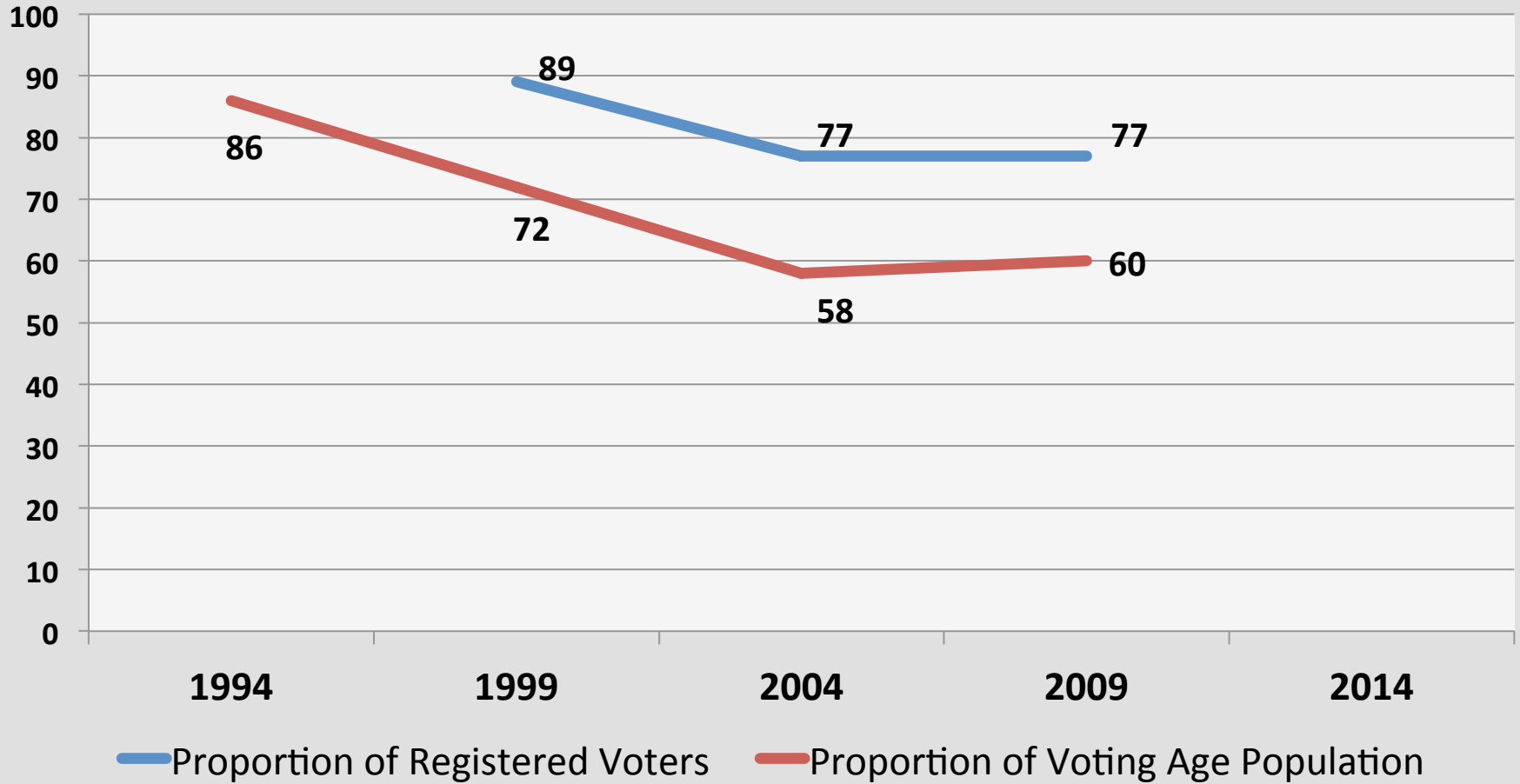
# VAP vs. registered voters in millions, 1994-2014



# Registration as a proportion of the VAP (%)

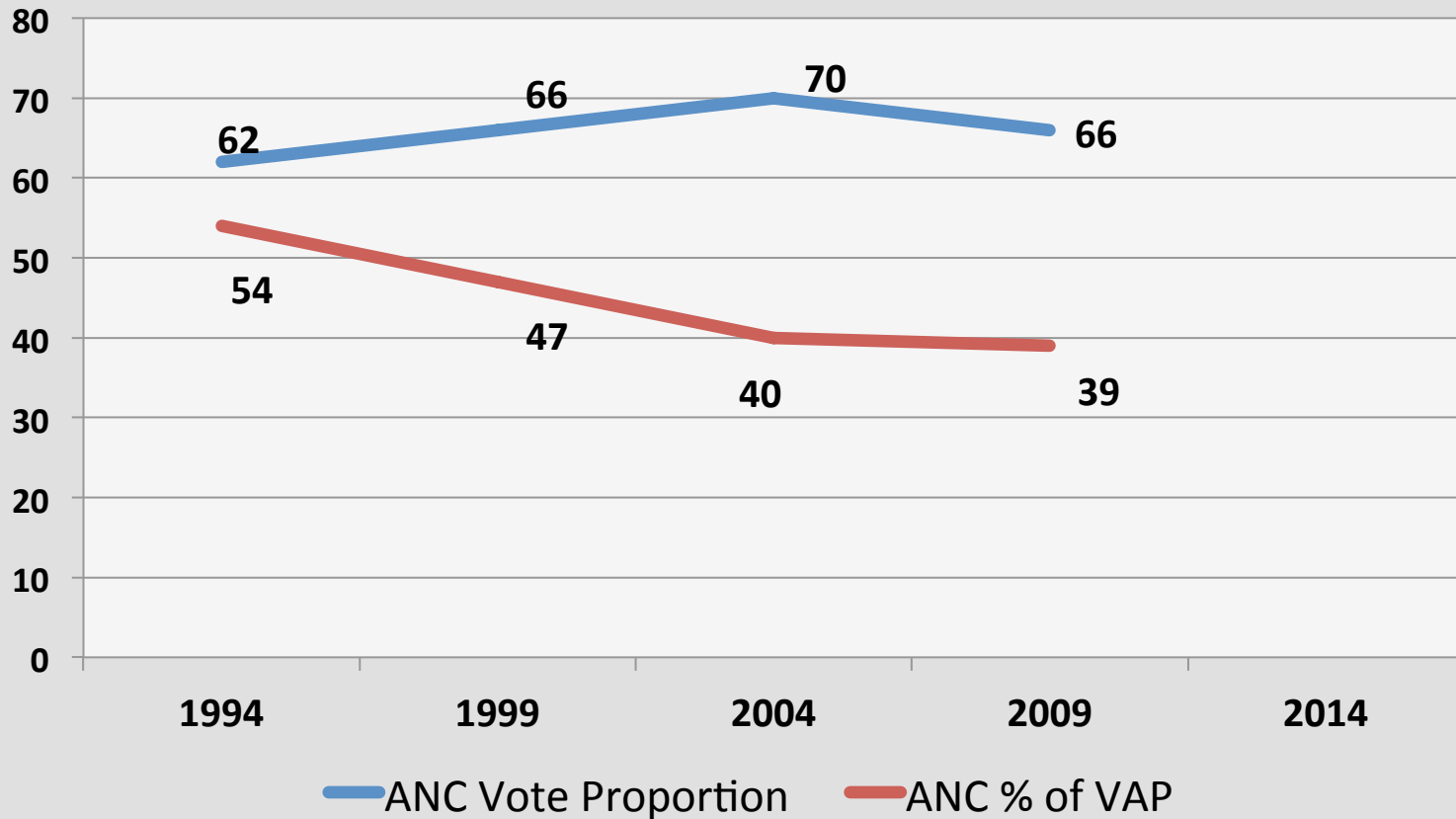


# Voter turnout, 1994-2014 (%)





# ANC electoral support, 1994-2014 (%)



# Comparisons in party support, 2004-2009

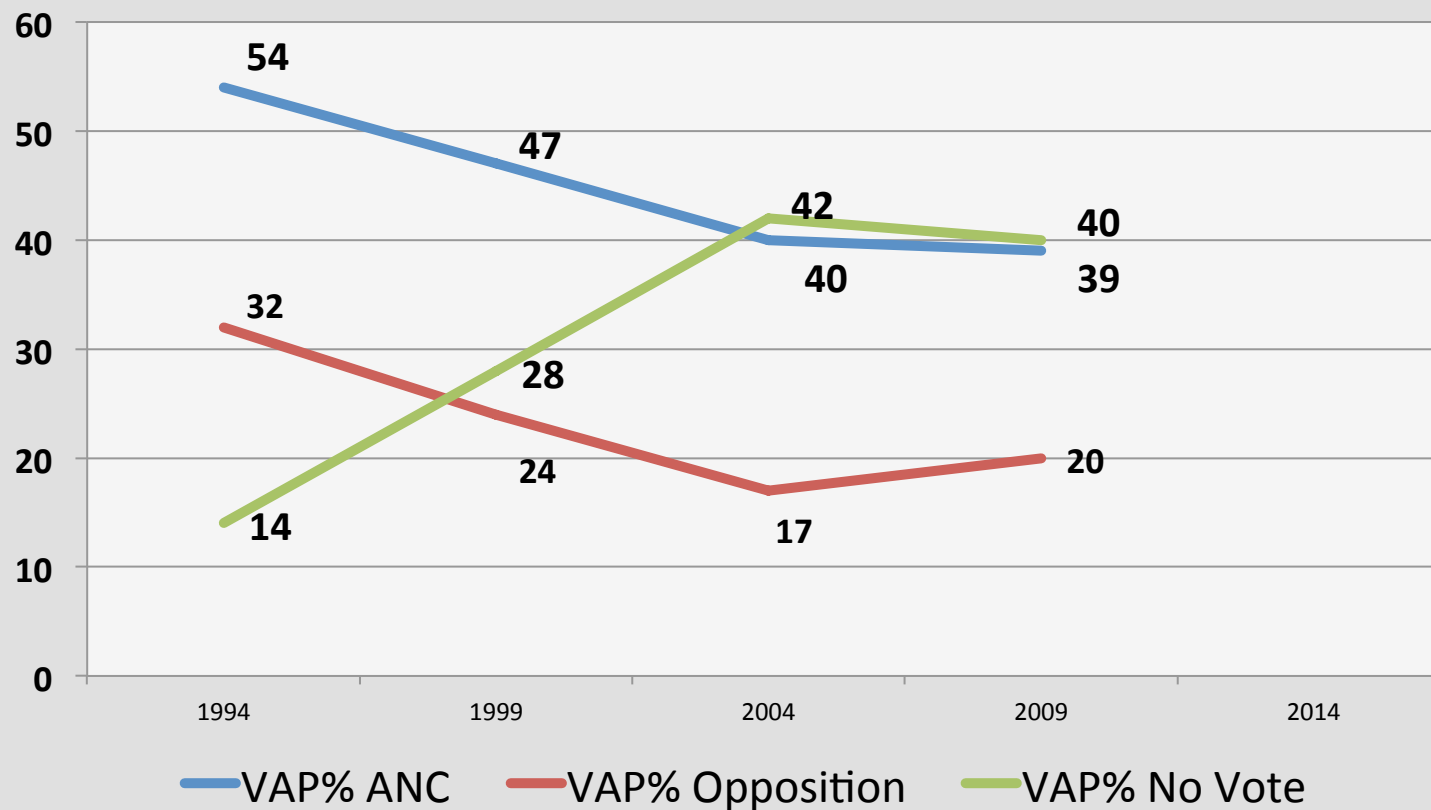
	2004	2009	Difference	% Difference
<b>Registered Voters</b>	20 674 926	23 181 997	2 507 071	11%
<b>Actual Voters</b>	15 863 558	17 919 966	2 056 408	12%
<b>ANC</b>	10 880 915	11 650 748	769 833	<b>7%</b>
<b>DA</b>	1 931 201	2 945 829	1 014 628	34%
<b>IFP</b>	1 088 664	804 260	-284 404	-35%
<b>ID</b>	269 765	162 915	-106 850	-66%

Source: Idasa, 2009

# ANC provincial performance, 2004-2009

Province	2004	2009	% Difference
Eastern Cape	79.3	68.8	-10.5
Free State	81.8	71.1	-10.7
Gauteng	68.4	64	- 4.4
<i>KZN</i>	<i>47</i>	<i>62.9</i>	<i>15.9</i>
Limpopo	89.2	84.8	- 4.4
Mpumalanga	86.3	85.5	- 0.8
Northern Cape	68.8	60.7	- 8.1
North West	80.7	72.8	- 7.9
Western Cape	45.3	31.5	- 13.8

# South African electorate, 1994-2014

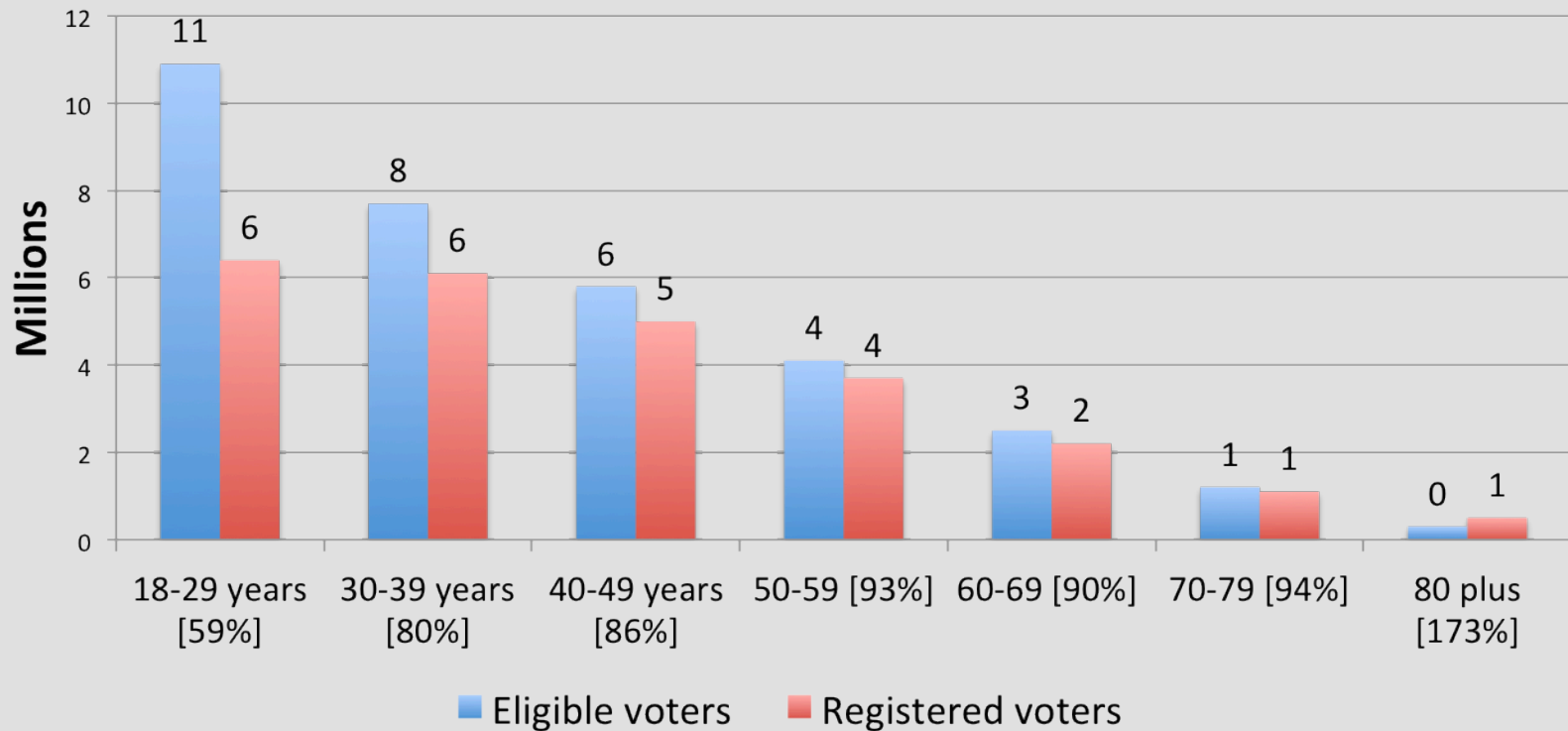


# A youthful electorate: but will they vote?

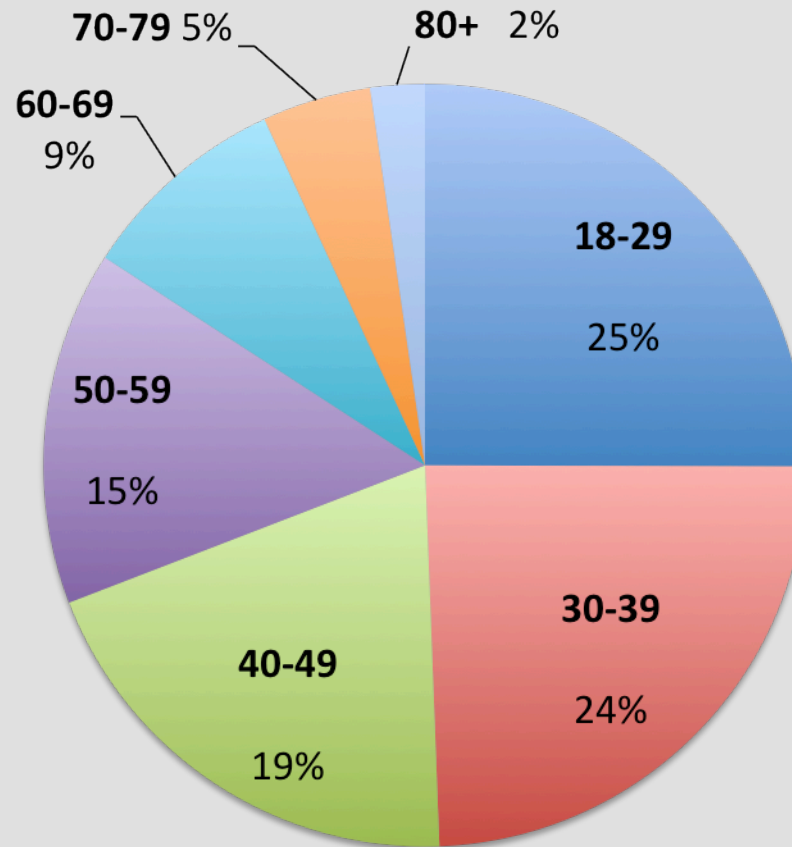
The youth are important factor in electoral politics: introduce the possibility of change.

- 10.9 million eligible 18-29 year olds: 34% of VAP
- 6.4 million registered: 20% of VAP & 25% of all registered voters
- 59% of all eligible 18-29 yr olds registered
- Only 33% of all 18-19 yr olds registered

# Comparison of age group registration



# Age groups as proportions of registered voters



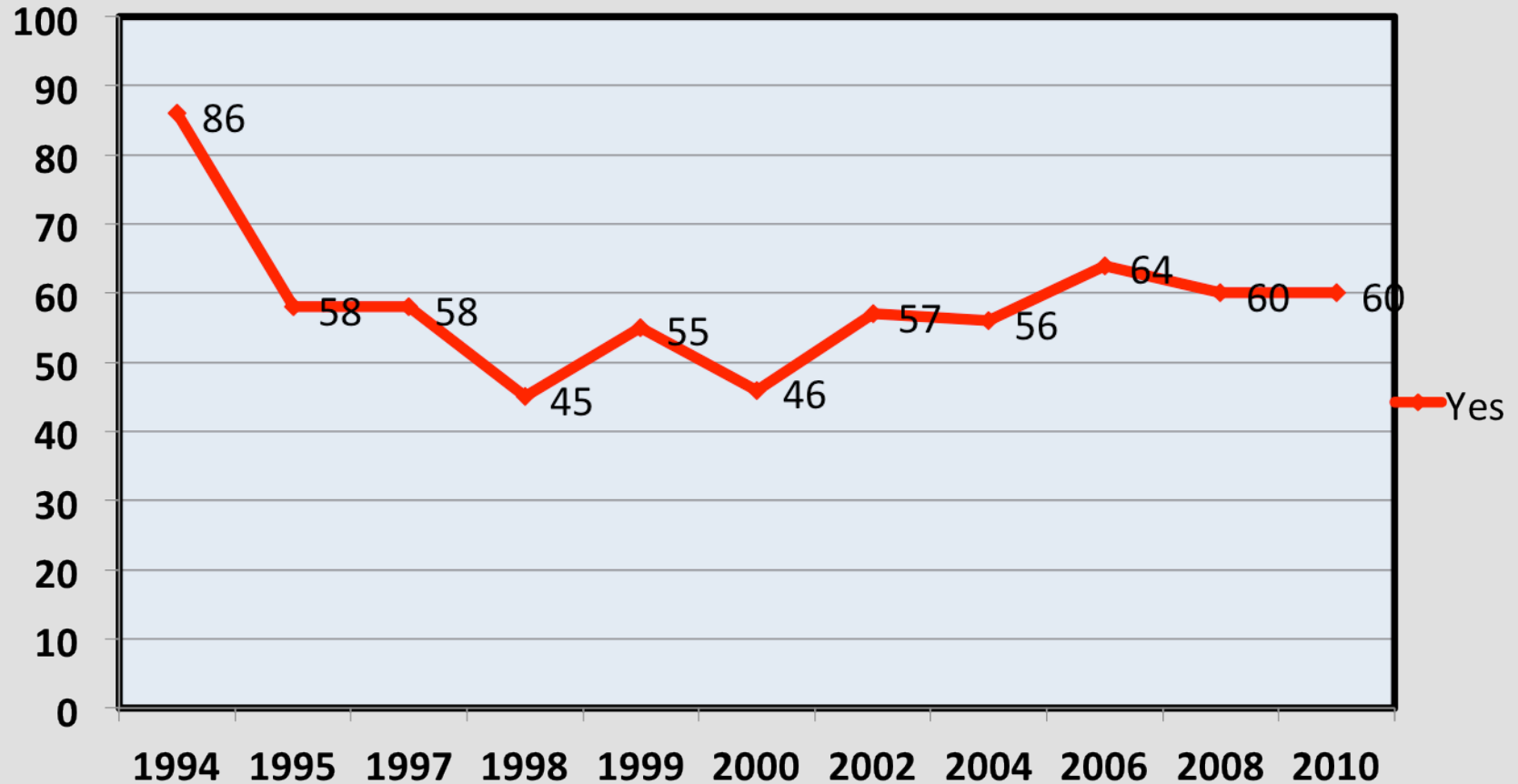
# Motivations of voters

- **Party identification** – weakening party loyalties?
- **Government performance evaluations** – becoming increasingly important?
- **Party images in transformation** – do ‘re-branded’ DA and new EFF present credible alternatives to ANC?
- **Social contexts** – is a more diverse political environment challenging old political loyalties and changing the way voters learn about and respond to parties and candidates?



# Party identification, 1994-2010

'Do you feel close to a political party?'



# Party images

‘Does party X look after the interests of all in SA or one group only?’

Perceptions of a party’s racial inclusiveness influences support

- Preferred party seen as inclusive of all South Africans
- ‘Other’ parties seen as exclusive to one group
- Notions of exclusion are race-based
- Party images act as strong, useful information cues for most voters regardless of levels of education and political interest

# Influence of race and identity

‘Racial census’ outcomes at election are a result of:

1. Restrictive (racialised) party images
2. An ‘overload’ of partisan bias in the political information voters receive from racially homogenous, ‘sealed’ political environments.

Party images and information contexts can change over time!  
Should foster new opportunities for political competition.

# Questions for 2014 elections

- Newcomers: Agang and EFF?
- Will DA support increase among black voters?
- Will ANC drop below 60%?
- Will voter turnout decline or rebound?



Thanks!