

2007 Survey of Afghans

A Presentation to the War and Reconstruction Conference

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ENVIRONICS

Background

- Public opinion measured in Afghanistan since 2003 for foreign media, foundations, government agencies – but is virtually unknown in Canada
- New survey initiated by Environics in September 2007 as a self-funded syndicated research project
- First public opinion research survey in Afghanistan commissioned by a Canadian organization - and the first ever by an independent research firm

Why we did it

- Afghanistan mission is a significant and controversial issue in Canada
- Canadians are divided and conflicted
- Limited sources of information on such conflicts in a distant land – difficult to know who to believe
- Afghan public opinion introduces a new type of information that might constructively inform the debate
- Public opinion research was how Environics could make a difference

Topics Covered

- Overall direction of the country
- Confidence in Afghan government/institutions
- International presence/ISAF
- Canadian mission in Afghanistan
- Taliban
- Future of the international mission

Study sponsors

- The Munk Centre for International Studies
- Centre for European, Russian and Eurasian Studies (U of T)
- Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (primary media sponsor)
- The Globe and Mail
- La Presse
- Advisor: Gordon Smith (Director of Global Studies, U Victoria)

Afghan Centre for Social and Opinion Research (ACSOR)

- Our research partner for conducting the survey in Afghanistan
- Subsidiary of D3 Systems (U.S. based)
- Established research capability in Afghanistan in 2003
- Clients include:
 - ABC News
 - British Broadcasting Corporation
 - The Asia Foundation
 - U.S. State Department
 - UN Industrial Development Organization

Survey Sample

- All 34 provinces – divided into 7 regions
- Urban and rural – defined by Sheharwali (municipal administration) boundaries
- Equal number of men and women included in sample
- Multi-stage random sampling – by district, settlement, household, and adult within households
- Interviews conducted in Dari or Pashto (two main languages)



Survey Fieldwork

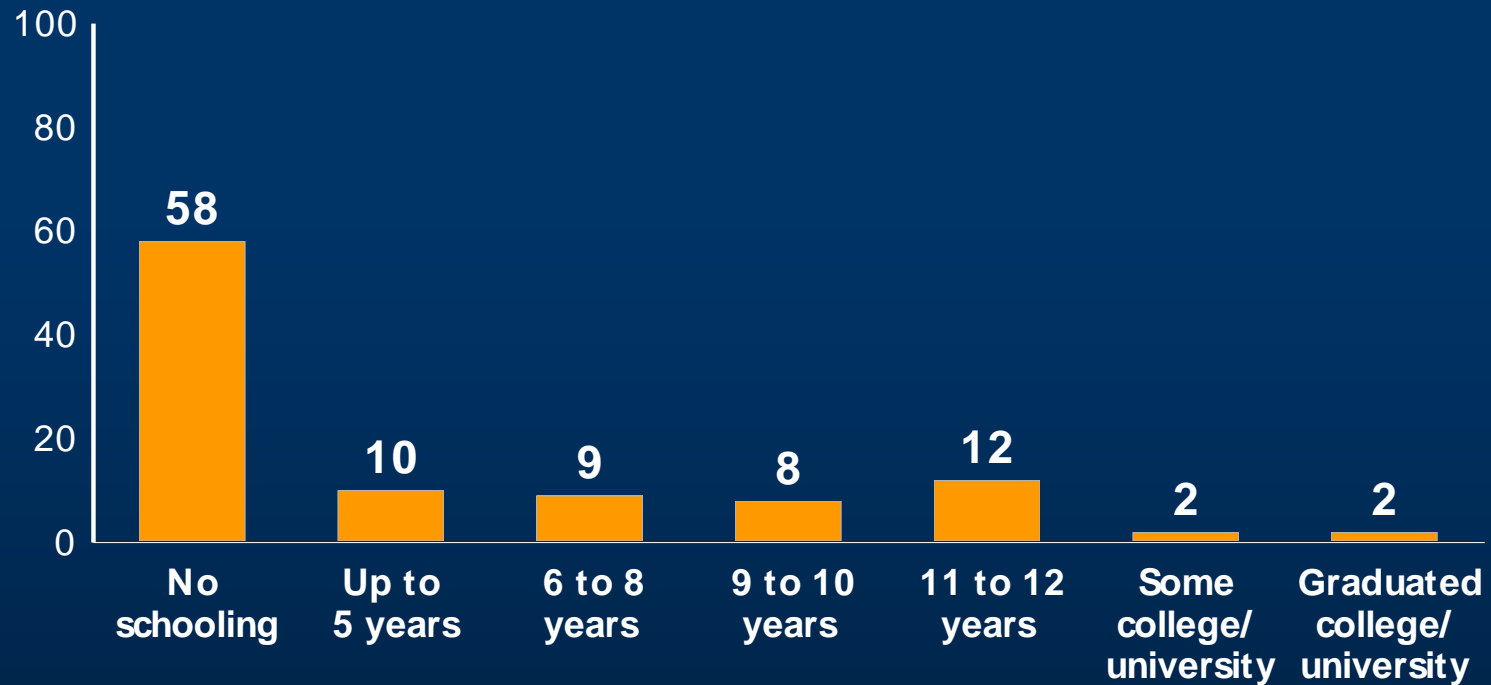
- Survey conducted September 17-24, 2007
- Number of interviews: 1,578 (+/- 2.5%)

Kandahar	260	(+/- 6.0%)
Kabul	270	(+/- 5.9%)
- 178 Afghan interviewers – employed, trained and supervised by ACSOR (most come from the region they interview in)
- Men interviewed men, women interviewed women
- Eight districts/settlements (out of 128) substituted due to conflict or security situations
- Final response rate was 85 percent

A photograph of a bustling outdoor market in Afghanistan. In the foreground, several women wearing blue and red headscarves are crouching on the ground, surrounded by fresh produce like green herbs. A young boy in a blue jacket is also crouching nearby. In the background, there are numerous stalls covered with black and grey tarps, displaying various goods. People are walking through the market, and a bicycle is visible on the right. The overall scene depicts a typical daily life scene in a rural or semi-urban market.

AFGHAN POPULATION PROFILE

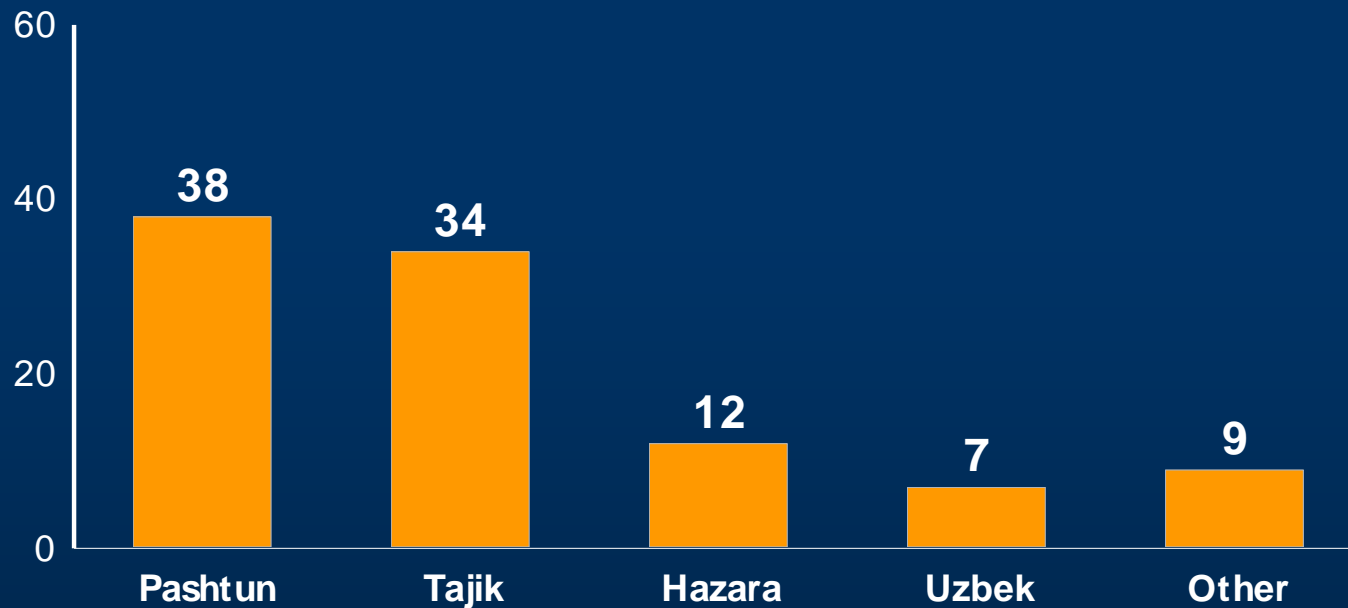
Education level



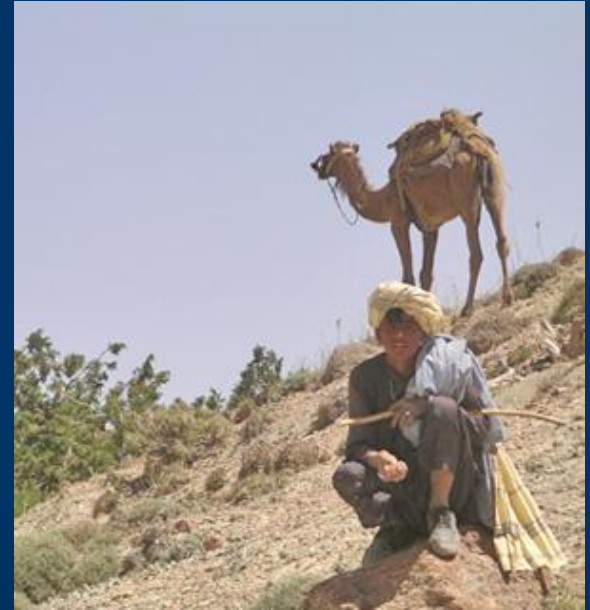
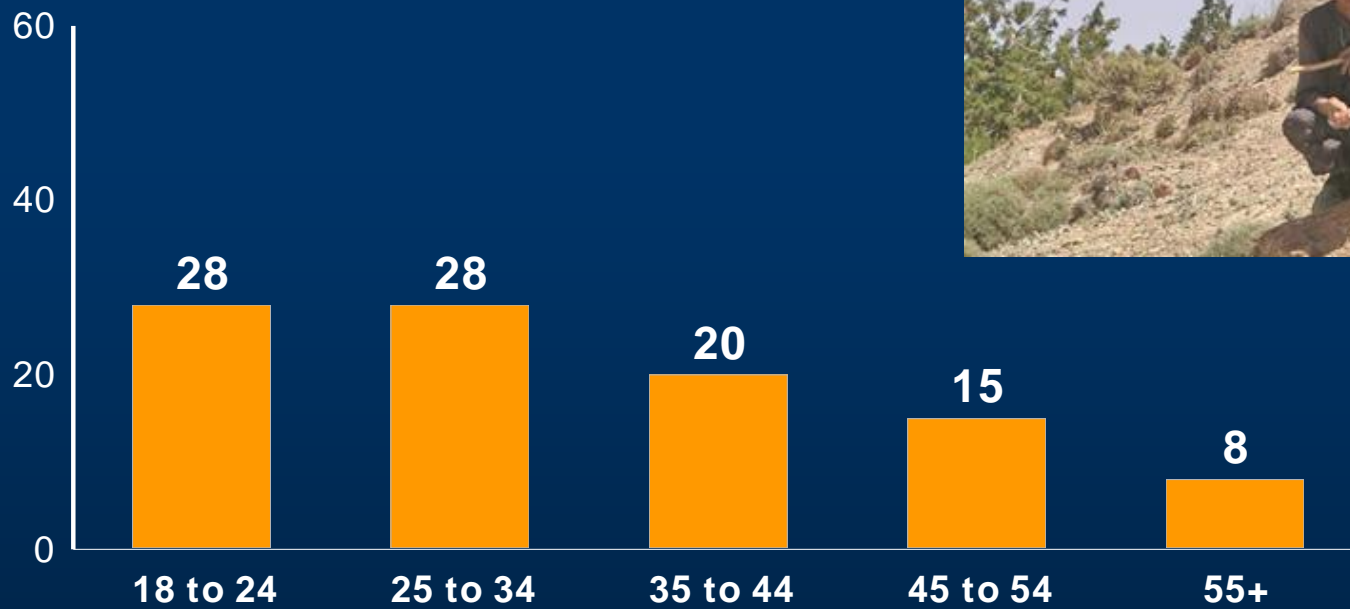
Main occupation



Ethnic group



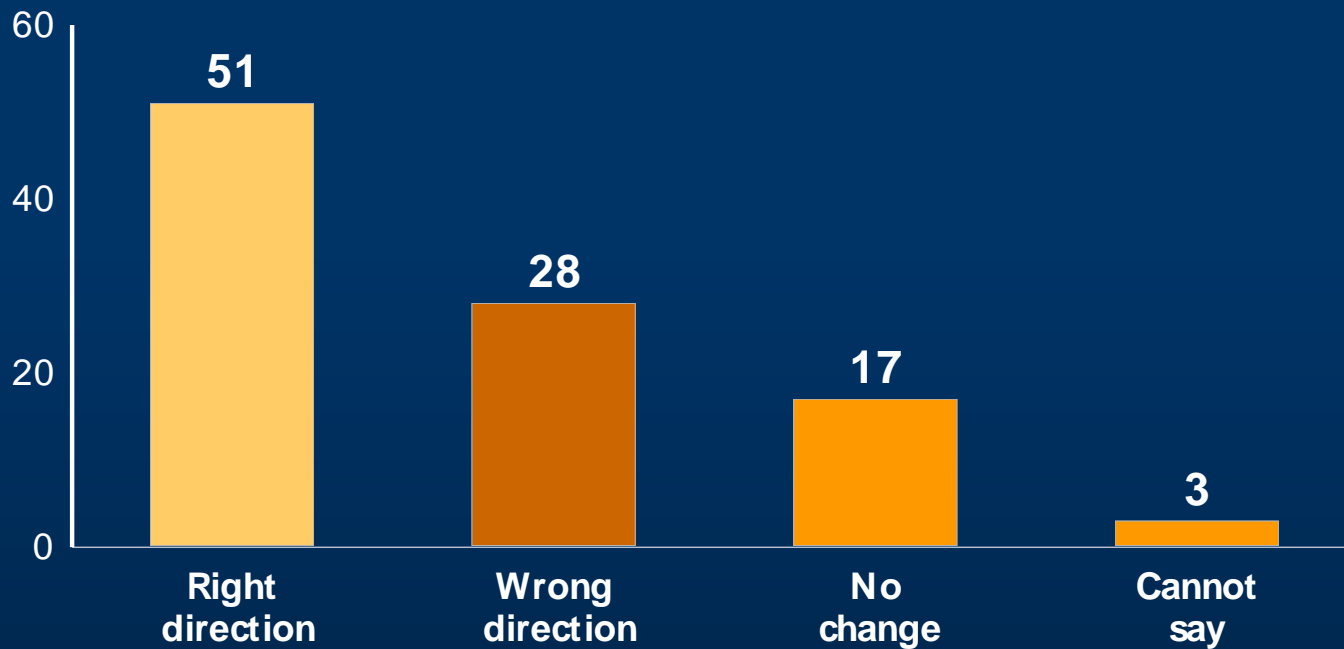
Age



Research Findings

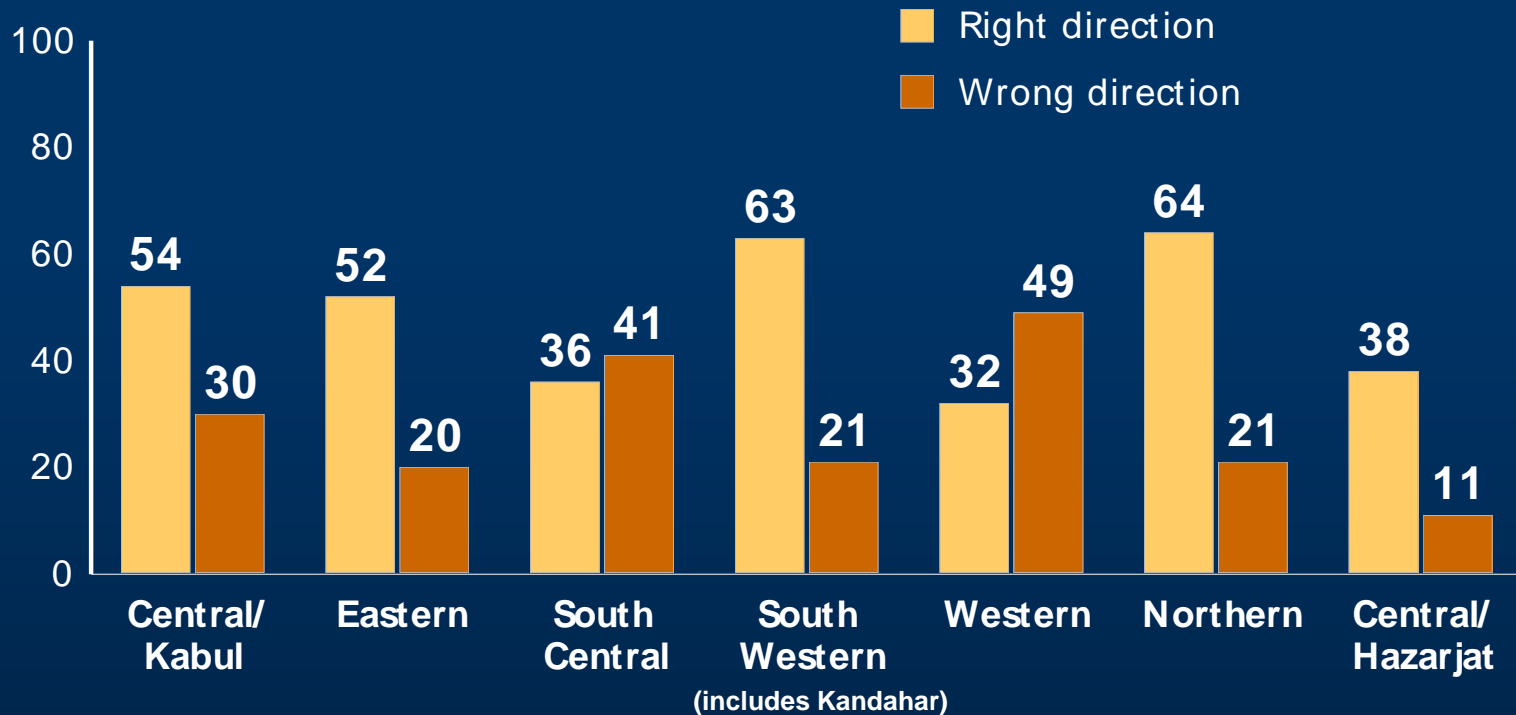
Overall direction of the country today

2007



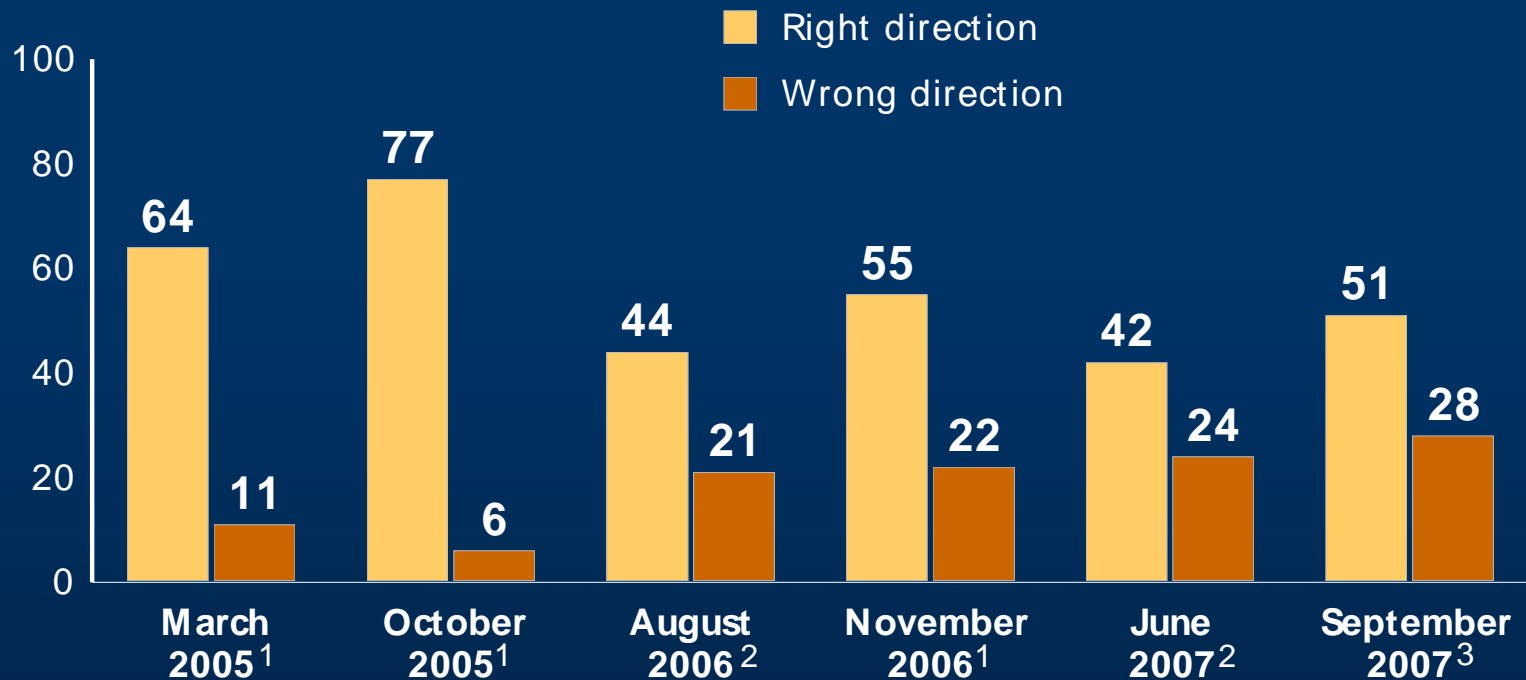
Overall direction of the country today

2007 By region



Overall direction of the country today

2005 – 2007



¹ ABC news

² The Asia Foundation

³ Environics

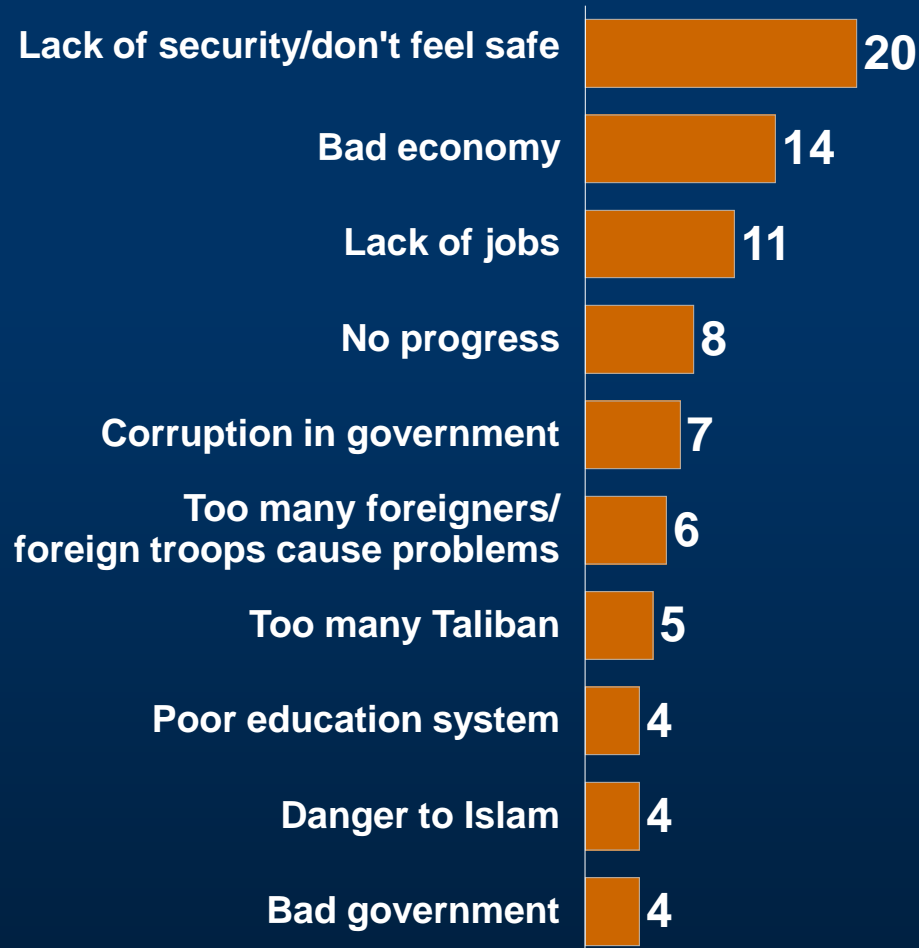
Why country is moving in right direction

2007 Top 10 mentions



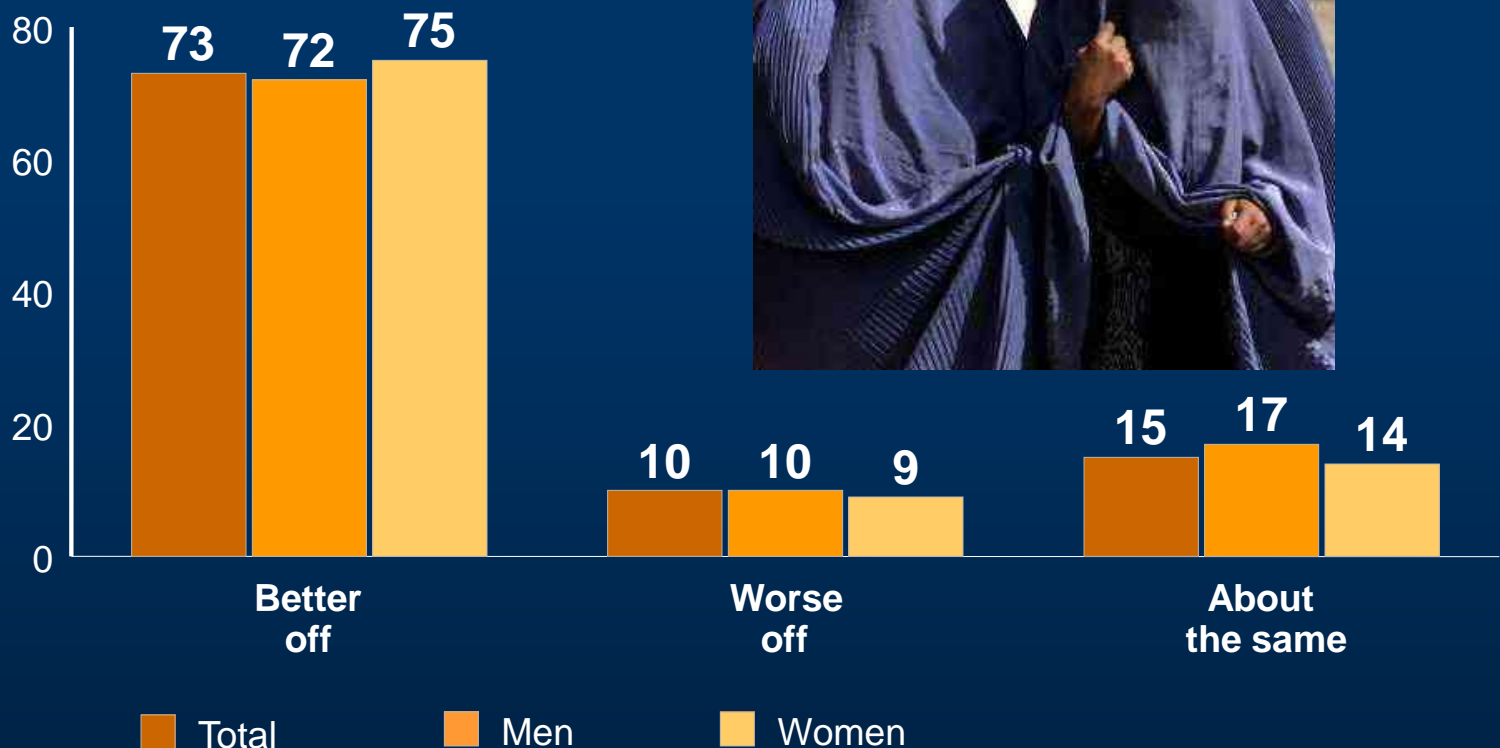
Why country is moving in wrong direction

2007 Top 10 mentions



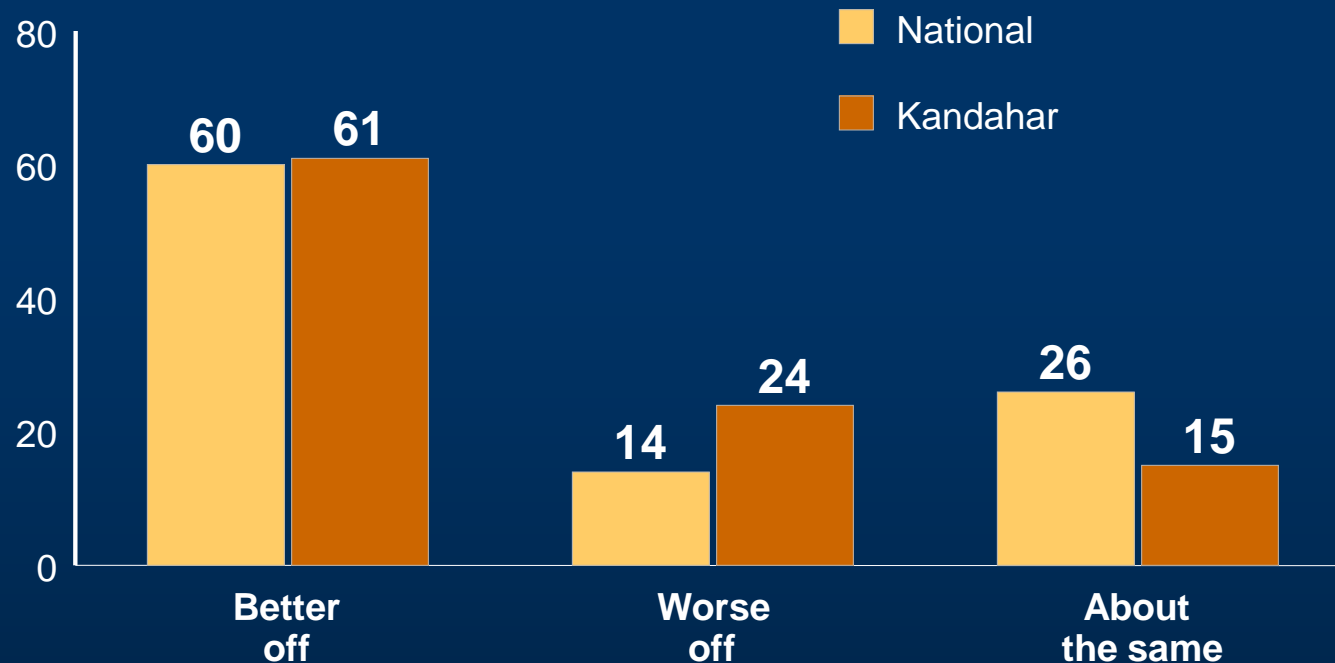
Status of women today compared to 2002

2007 By gender



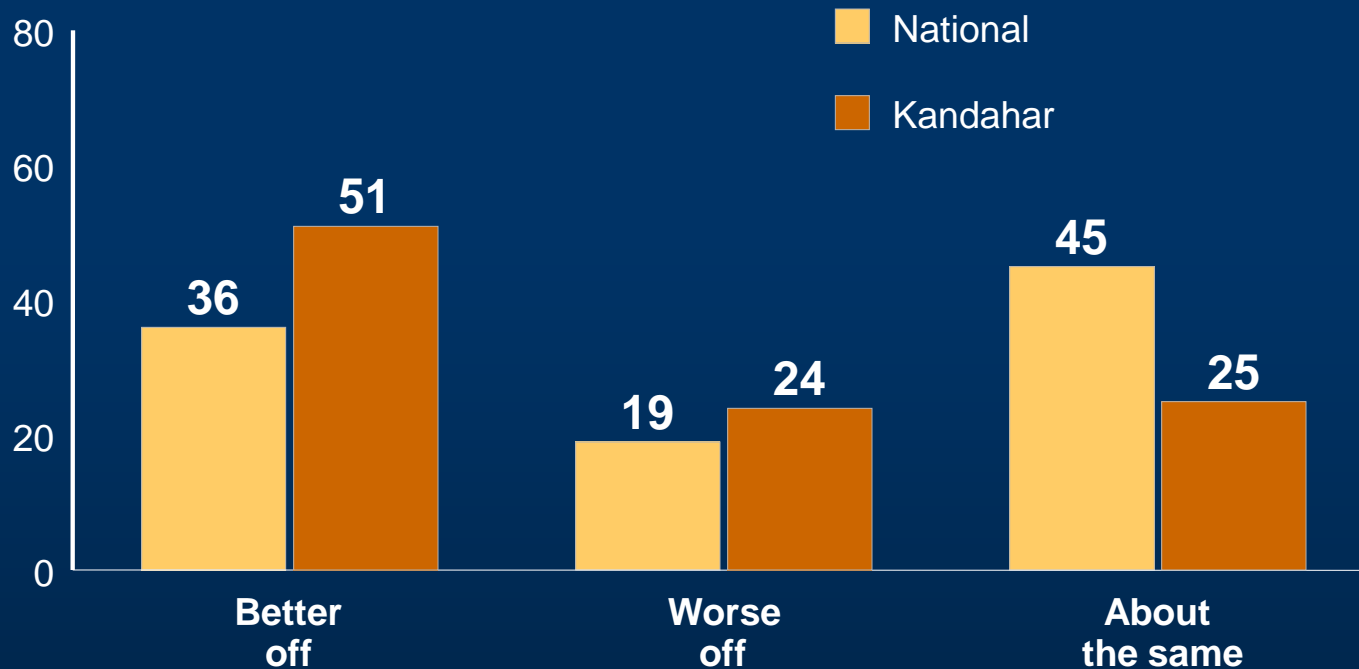
Personal situation today compared to 2002

2007



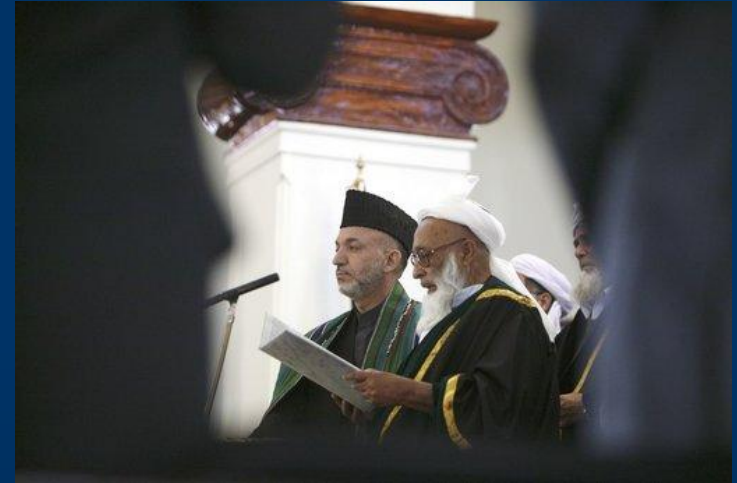
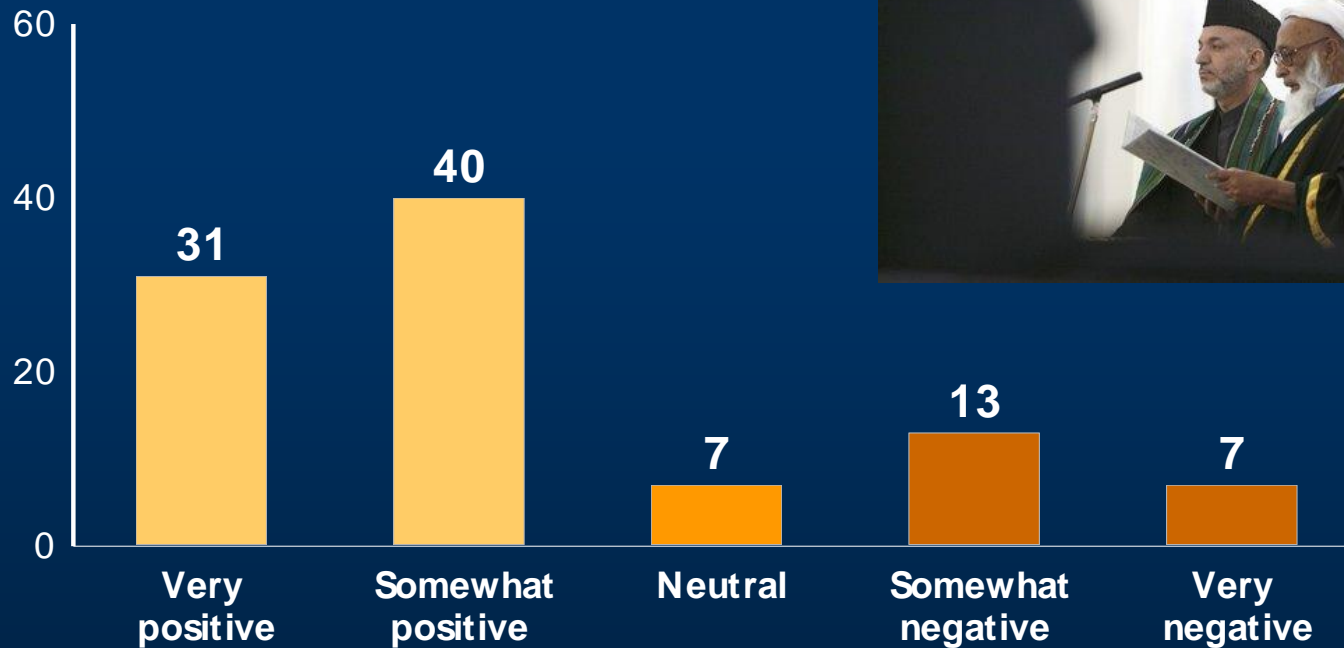
Personal situation since last year

2007



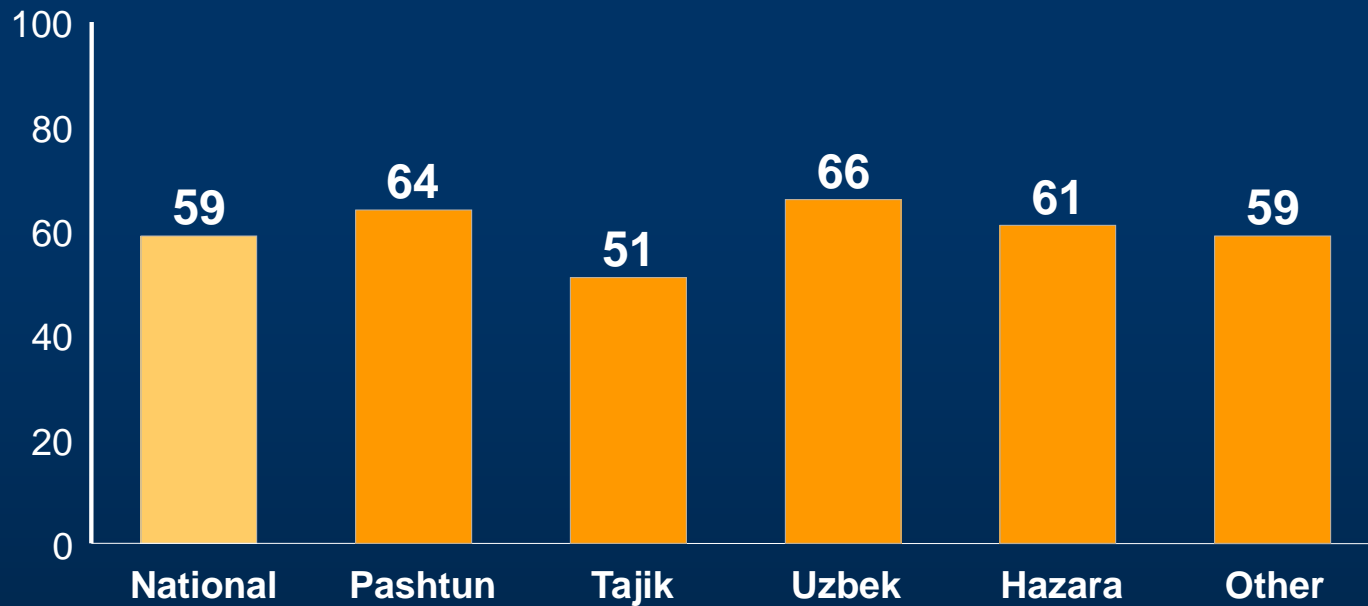
Overall opinion of Karzai government

2007



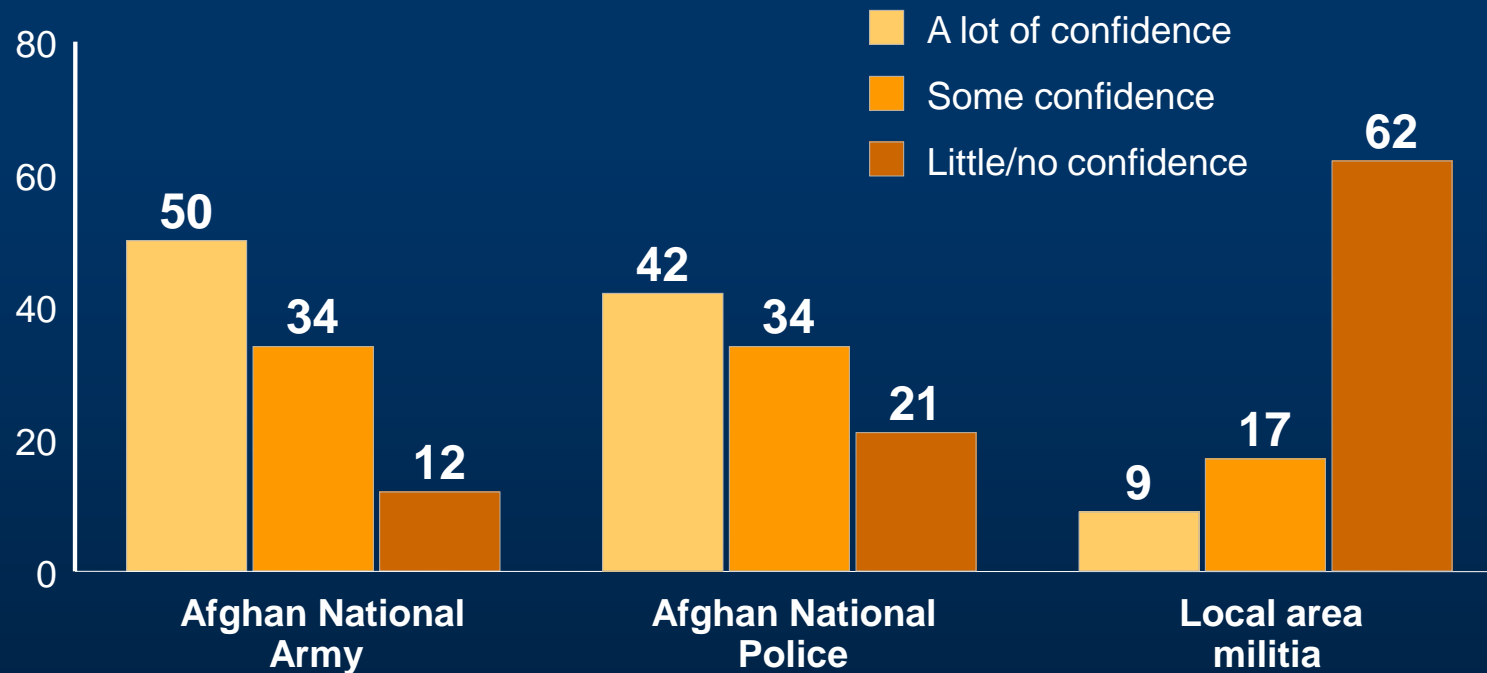
Karzai government represents your interests

2007 By ethnicity



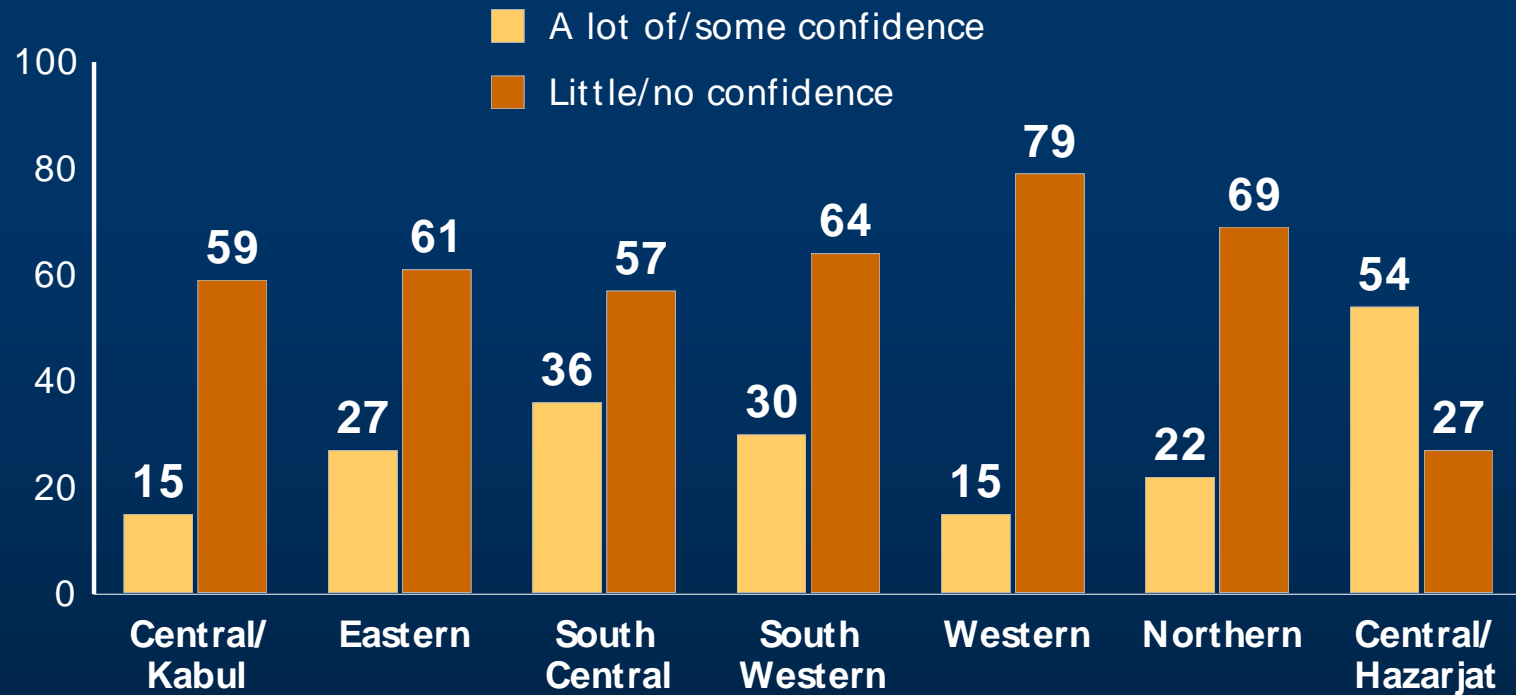
Confidence in Afghan Security Forces

2007



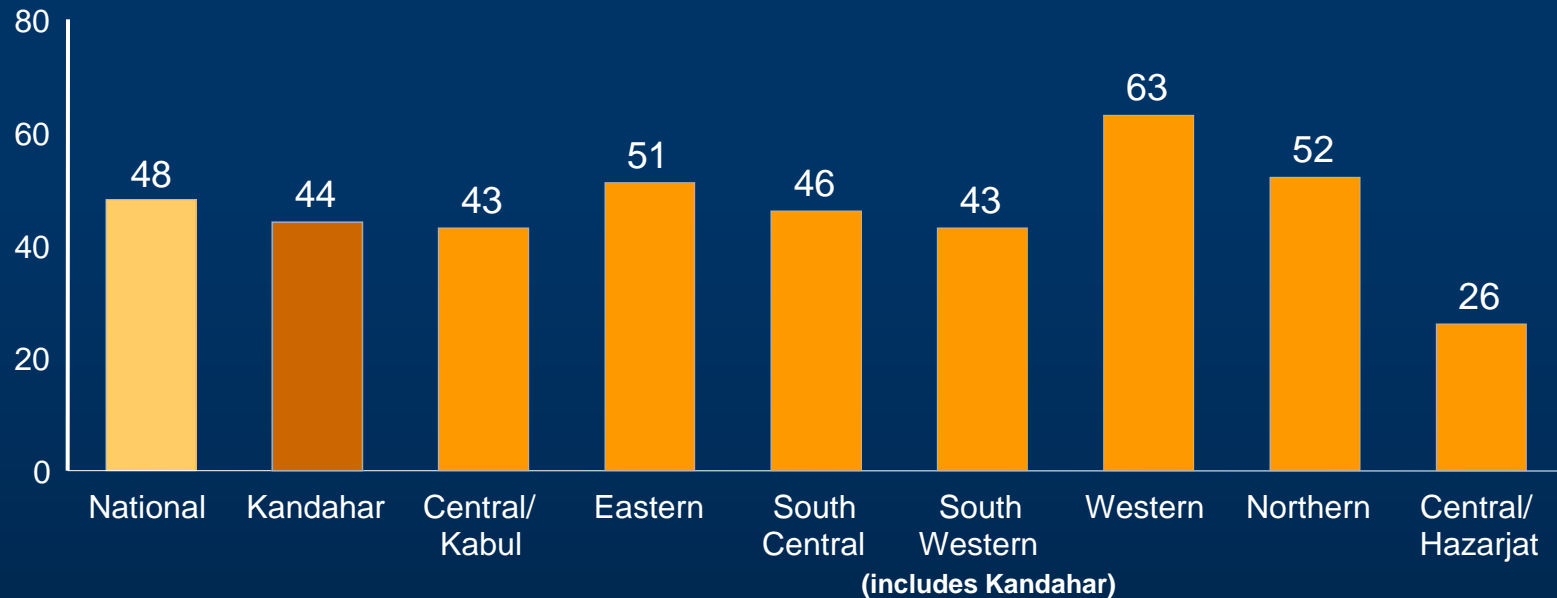
Confidence in local area militia

2007 By region



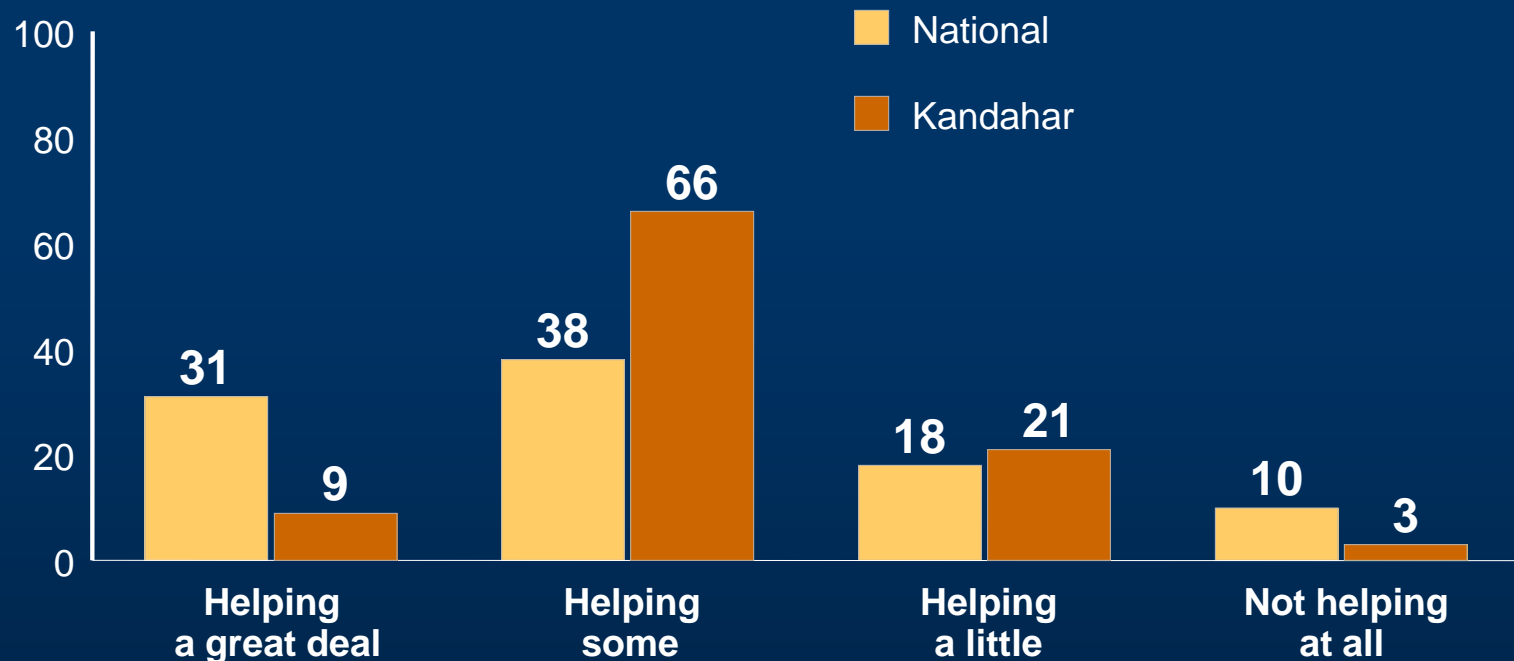
Aware of Community Development Councils

2007 By region



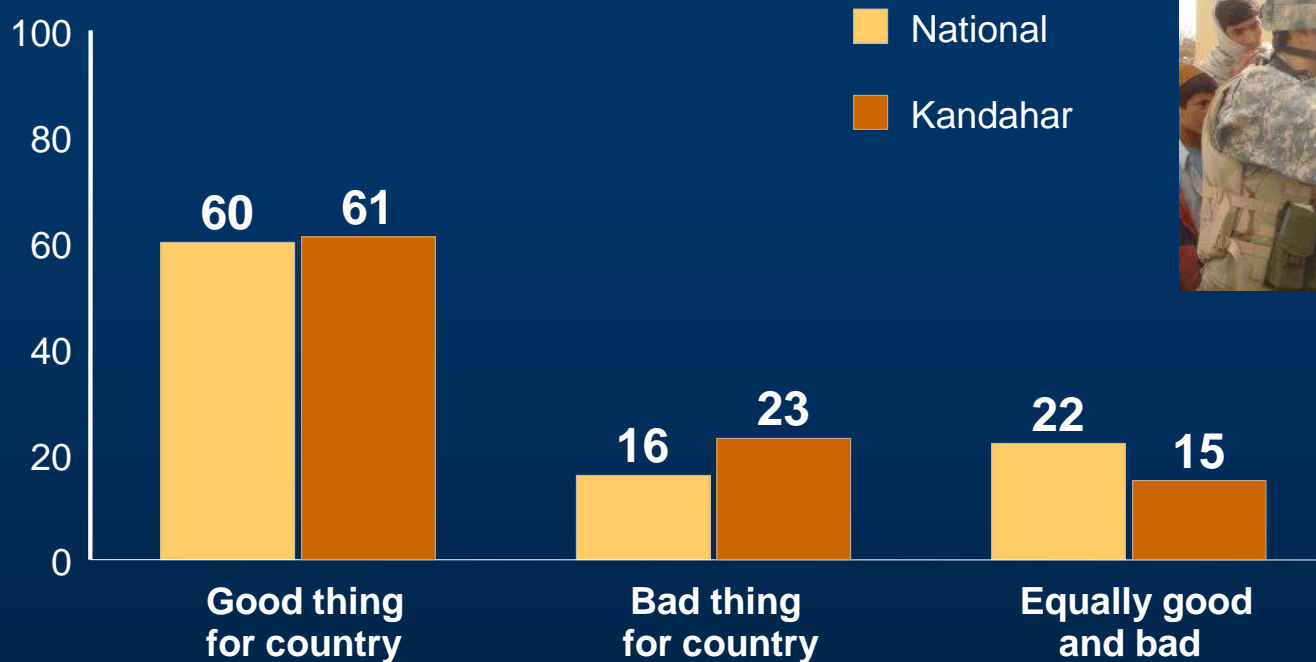
Contribution of Community Development Councils

2007



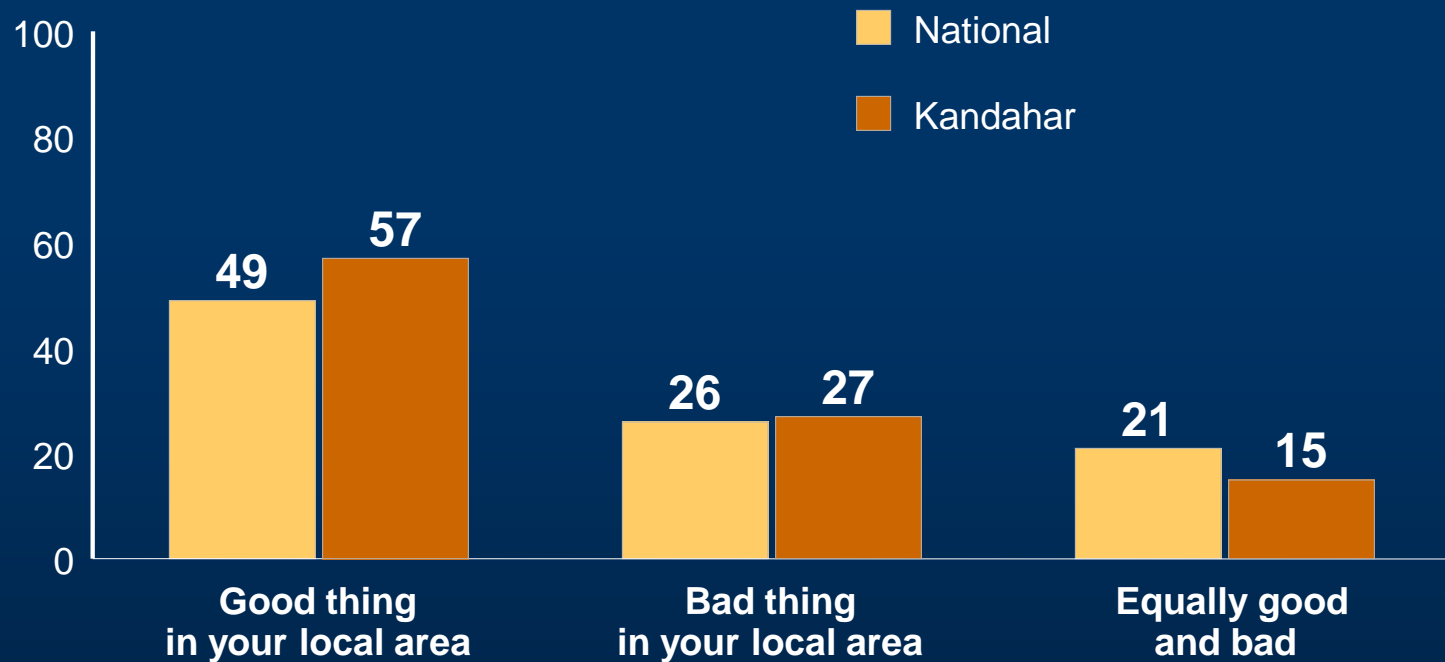
Presence of foreign countries in Afghanistan

2007



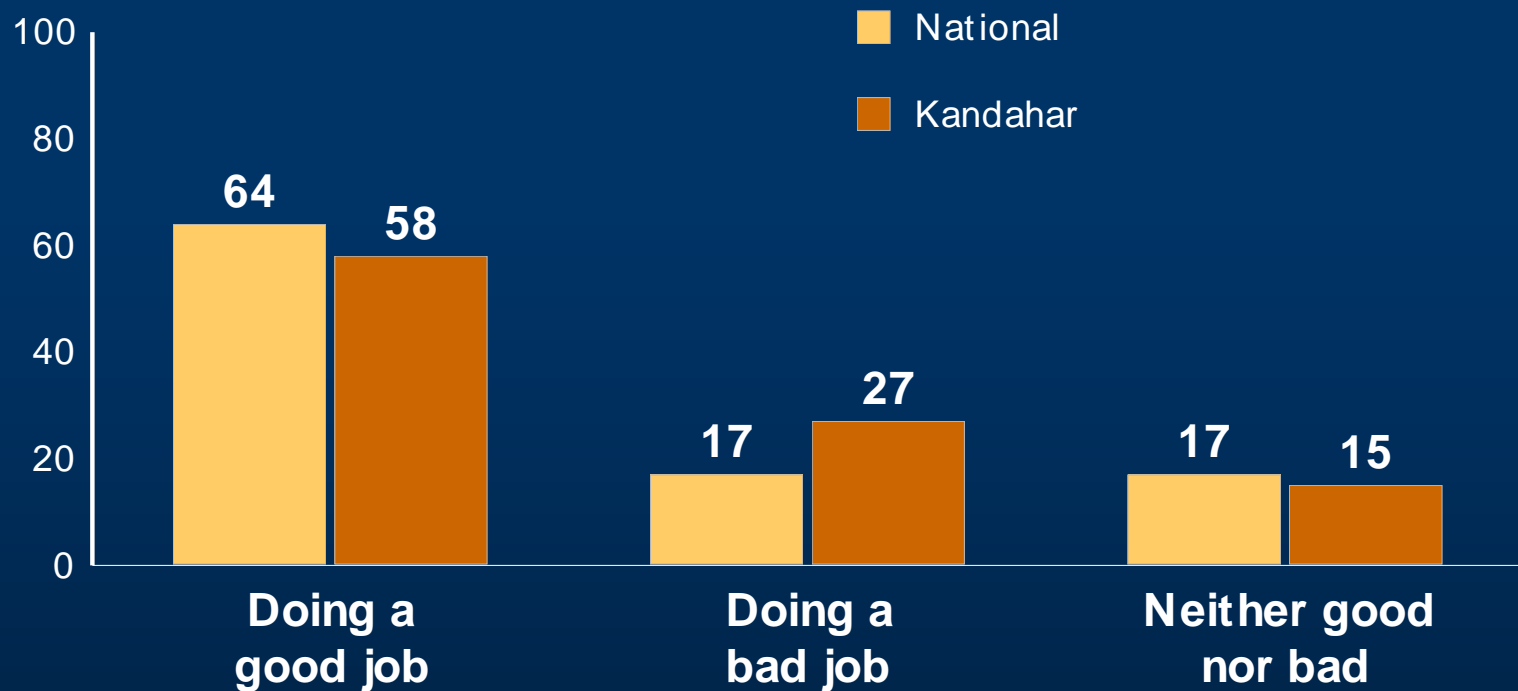
Presence of foreign countries in your local area

2007



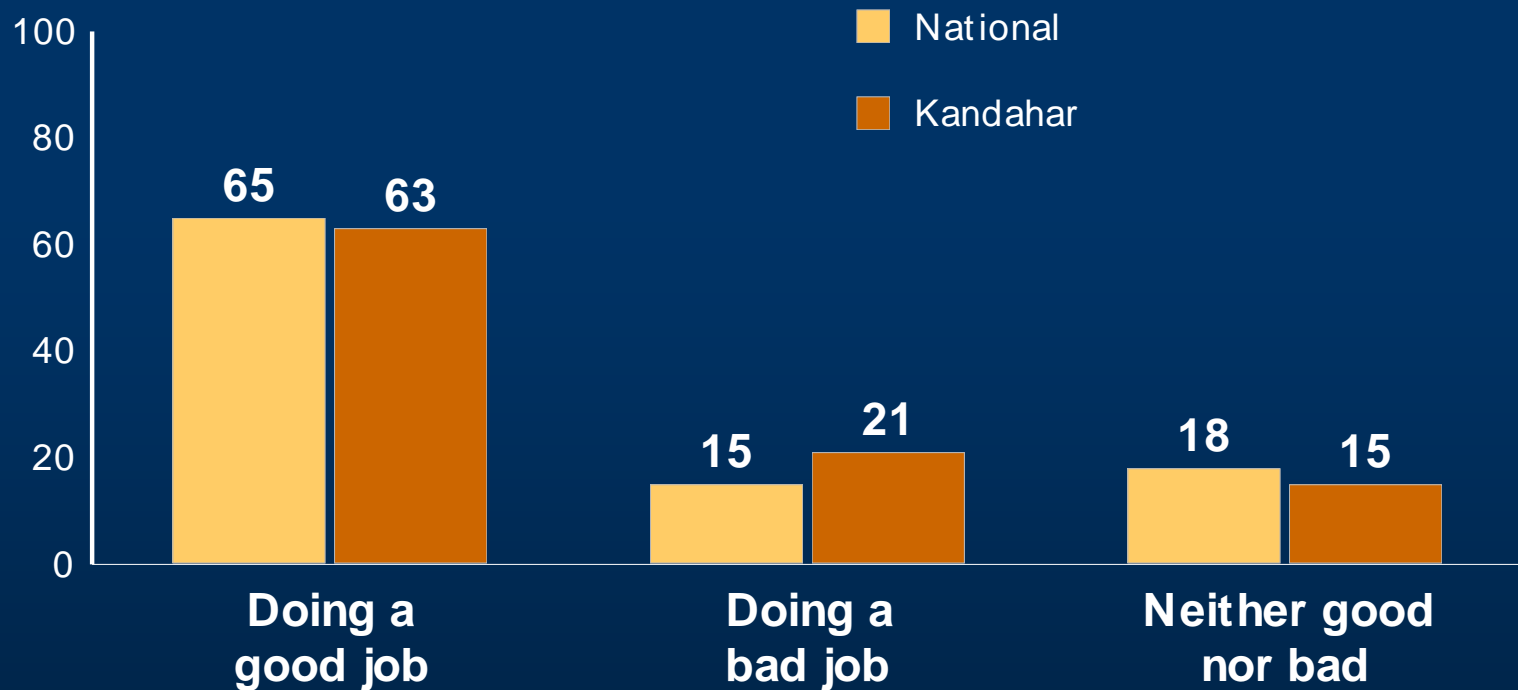
Foreign countries fighting the Taliban

2007



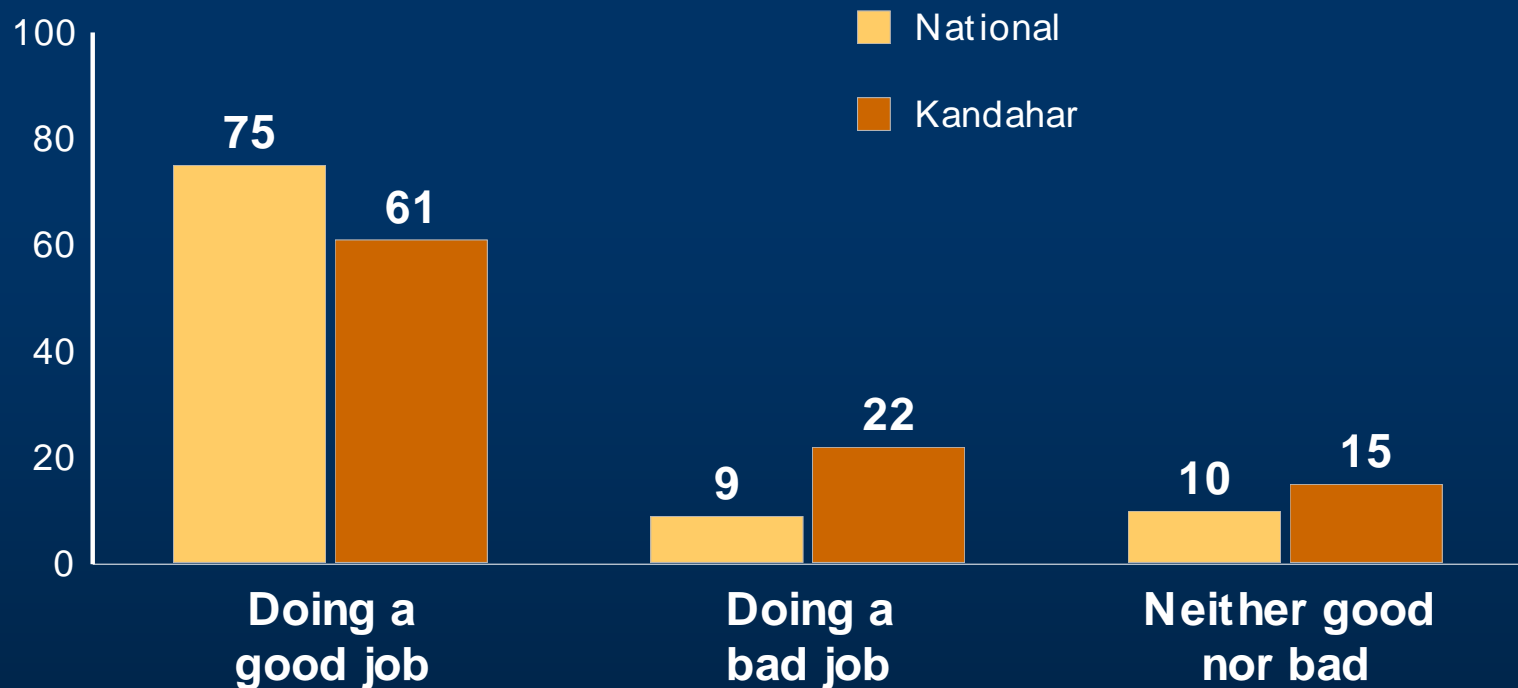
Foreign countries helping with reconstruction

2007



Foreign countries training the Afghan Army/Police

2007



Foreign countries currently in Afghanistan

2007 Top mentions

	National	Kandahar
USA	95	98
Germany	63	54
Great Britain	52	52
Canada	46	58
France	37	27
Italy	32	29
India	31	42
China	25	23
Pakistan	24	20
Iran	21	15

Foreign countries fighting the Taliban

2007 First mention

	National	Kandahar
USA	89	90
Germany	4	3
Great Britain	3	5
Netherlands	1	—
France	1	—
Canada	—	2

Foreign countries helping with reconstruction

2007 First mention

	National	Kandahar
Great Britain	39	27
Germany	27	28
Canada	4	25
France	4	1
Netherlands	3	—
Italy	3	2
India	3	4
USA	1	2
Other	8	8

Foreign countries training the Afghan Army/Police

2007 First mention

	National	Kandahar
Germany	22	10
Canada	14	23
India	8	17
France	6	3
Italy	5	4
China	3	5
Spain	2	2

Foreign countries that stand out as doing a good job of helping Afghanistan

2007 Top mentions

	National	Kandahar
USA	64	64
Germany	42	36
India	21	43
Canada	20	37
Great Britain	19	26
France	14	12
Italy	9	6
China	9	18

Foreign countries that stand out as doing a bad job of helping Afghanistan

2007 Top mentions

	National	Kandahar
Pakistan	64	67
Iran	34	54
China	16	35
USA	13	5
Great Britain	16	3
Canada	3	2

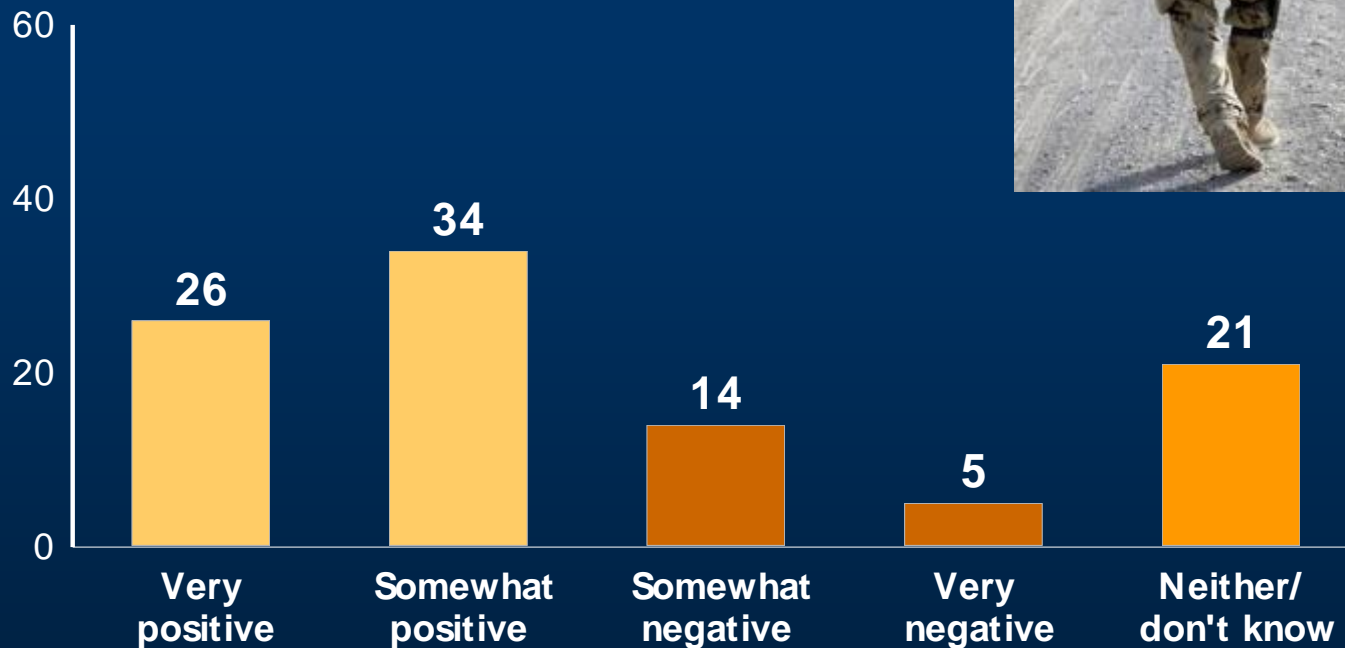
Main purpose of Canadians in Kandahar

2007 Kandahar Province



Overall opinion of Canadians troops

2007 Kandahar Province



Reason for positive opinion of Canadians

2007 Kandahar Province



Reason for negative opinion of Canadians

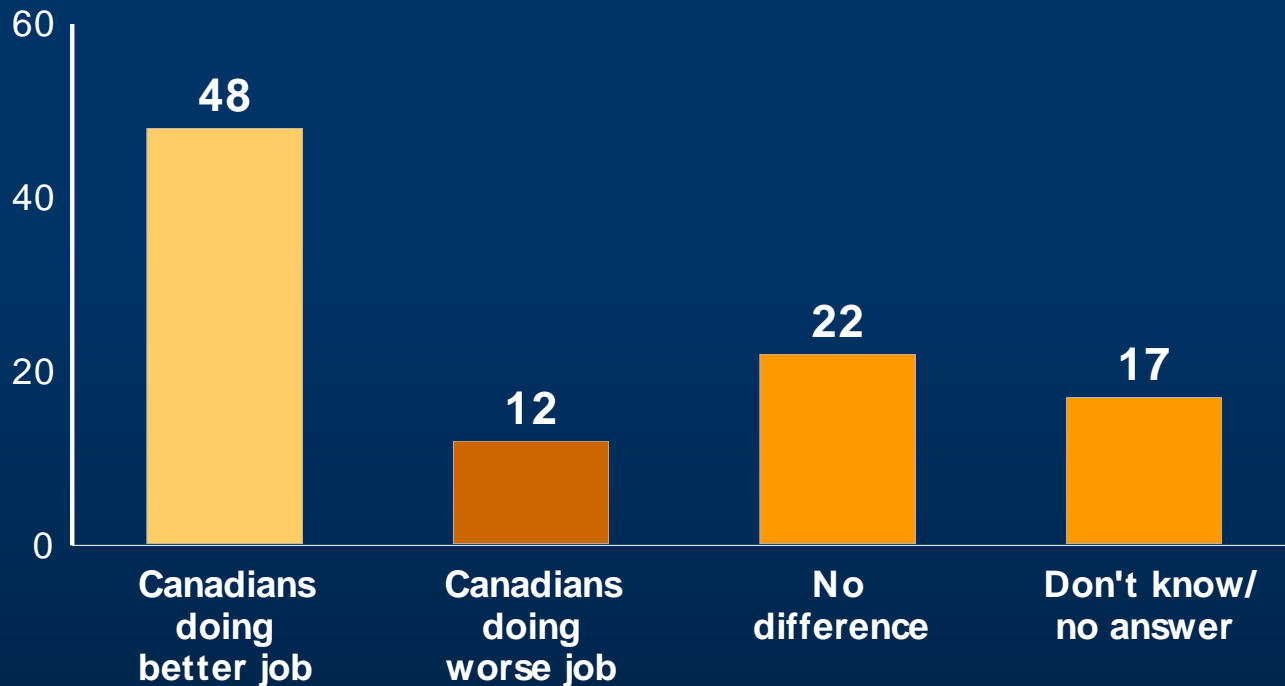
2007 Kandahar Province

	%
Killing innocent people	45
Search houses without permission	24
They are infidels	10
Don't know/no answer	20

Caution: Small subsample (n=49)

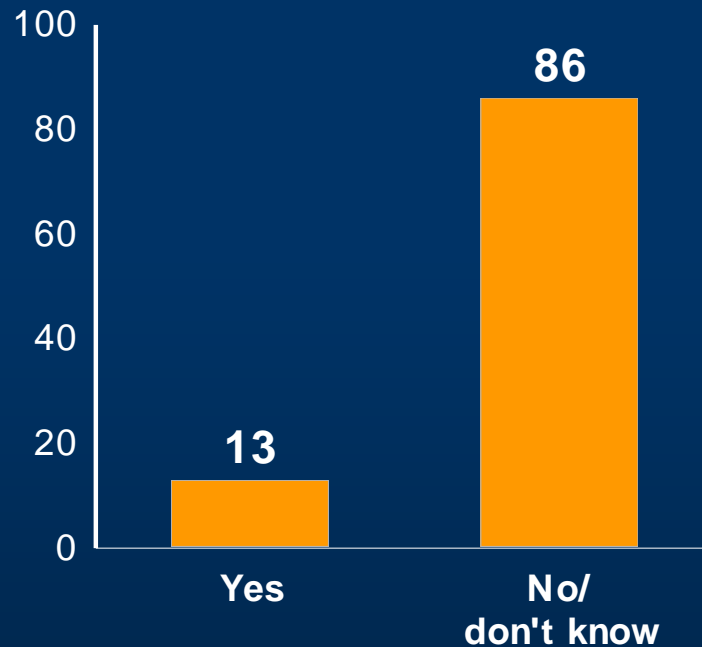
Canadians vs. other countries in helping Afghans

2007 Kandahar Province



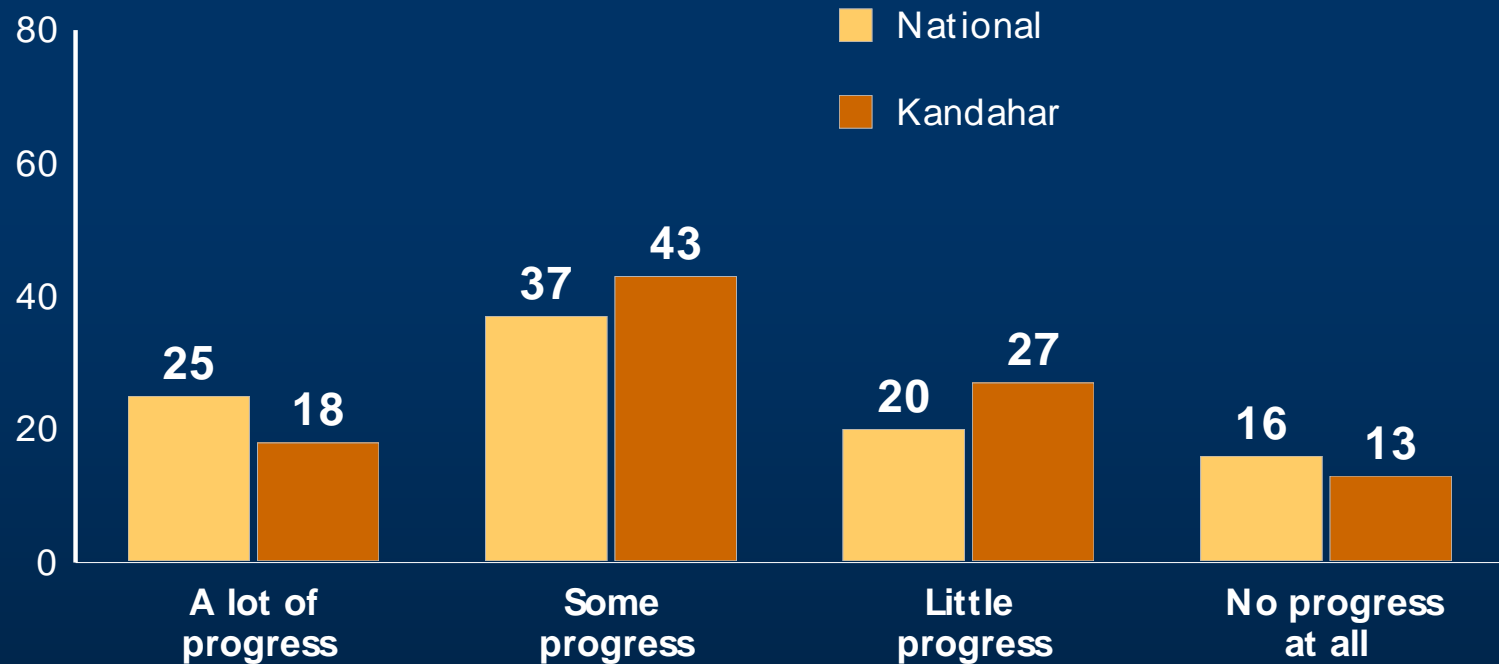
Direct experience with Canadians

2007 Kandahar Province



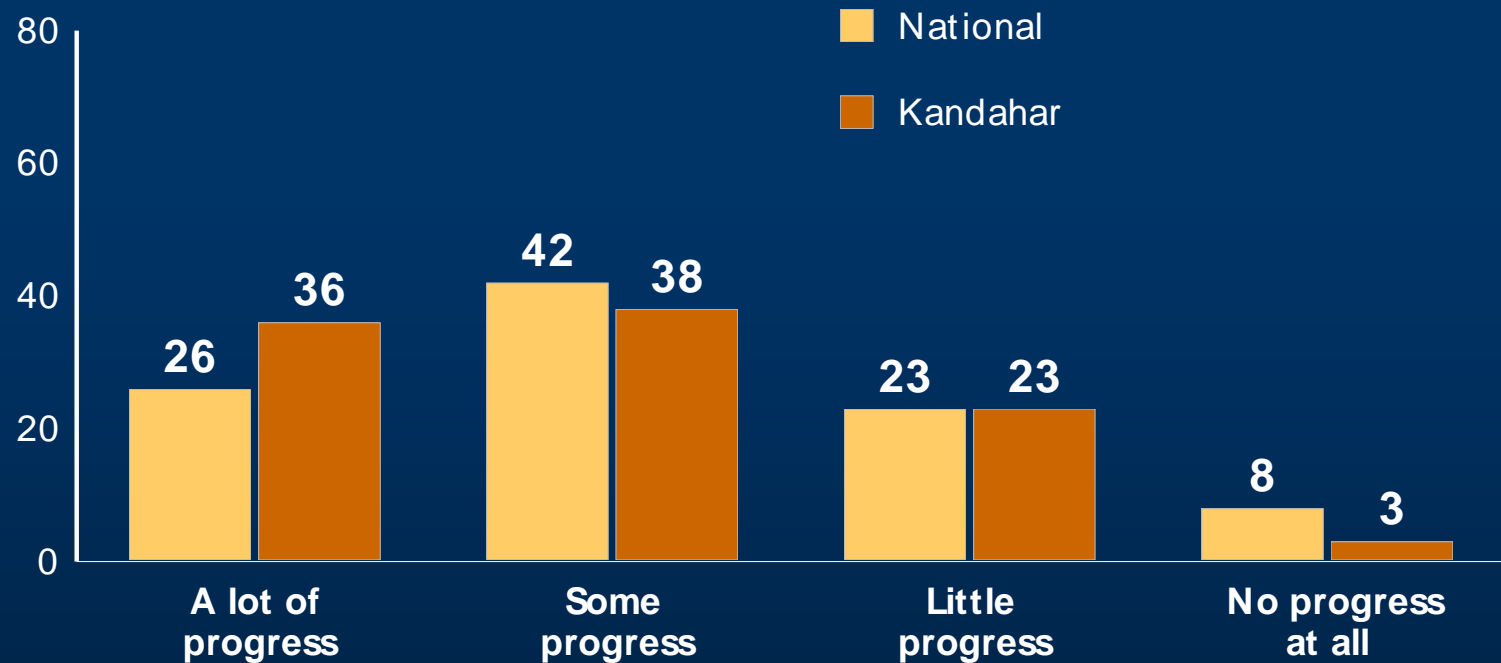
Progress in fighting the Taliban

2007



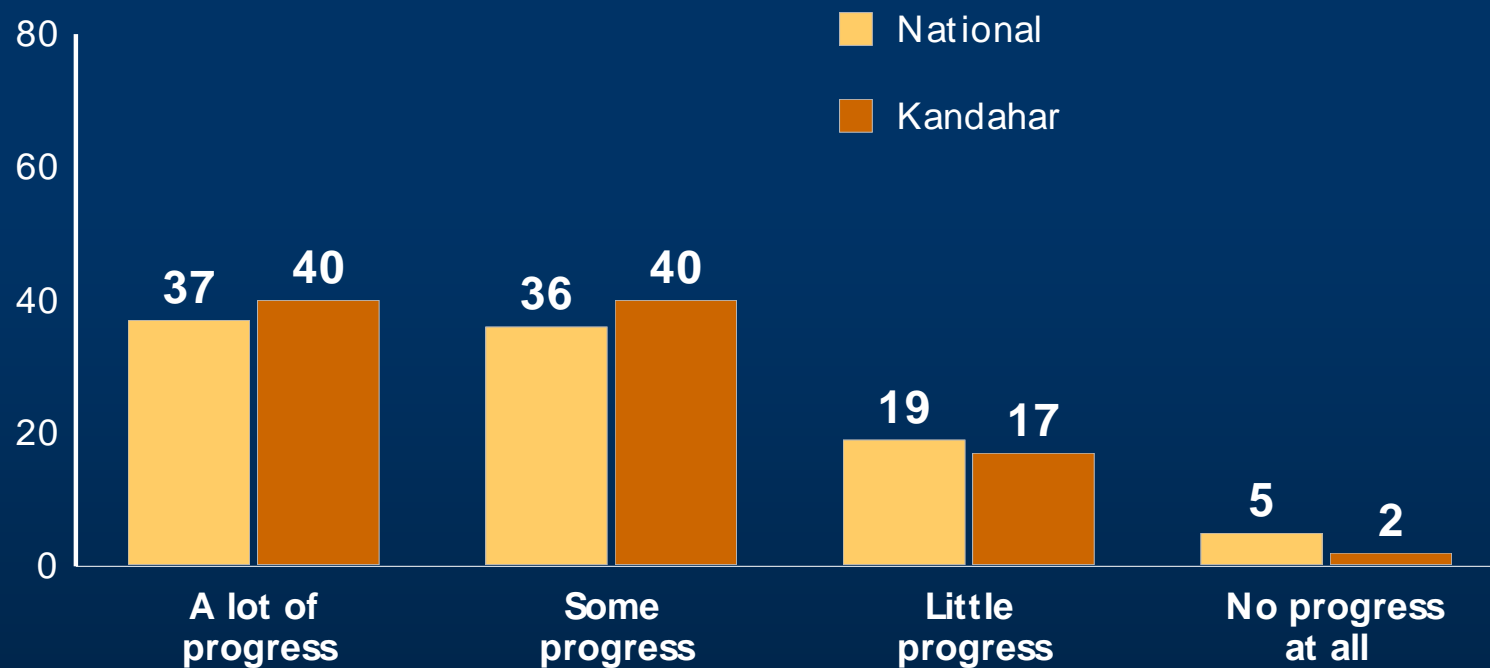
Progress in reconstruction assistance

2007



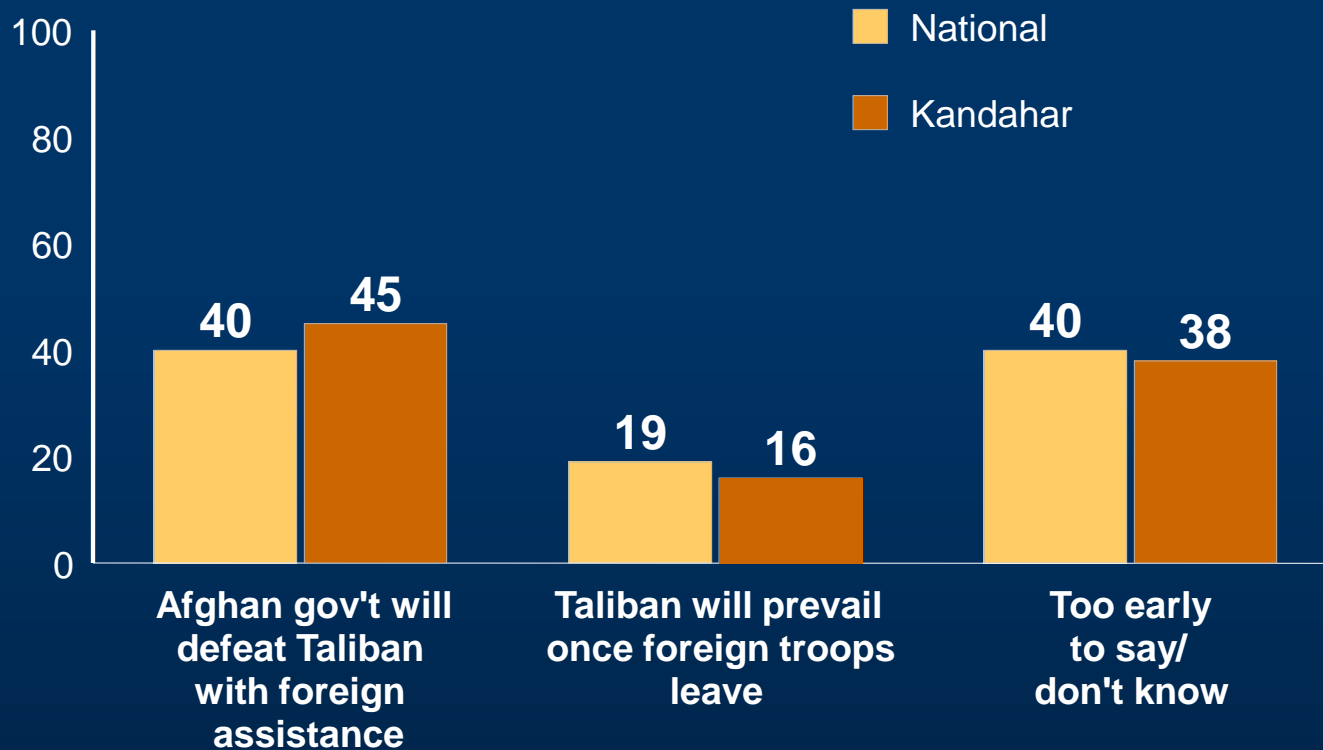
Progress in training Afghan Army/Police

2007



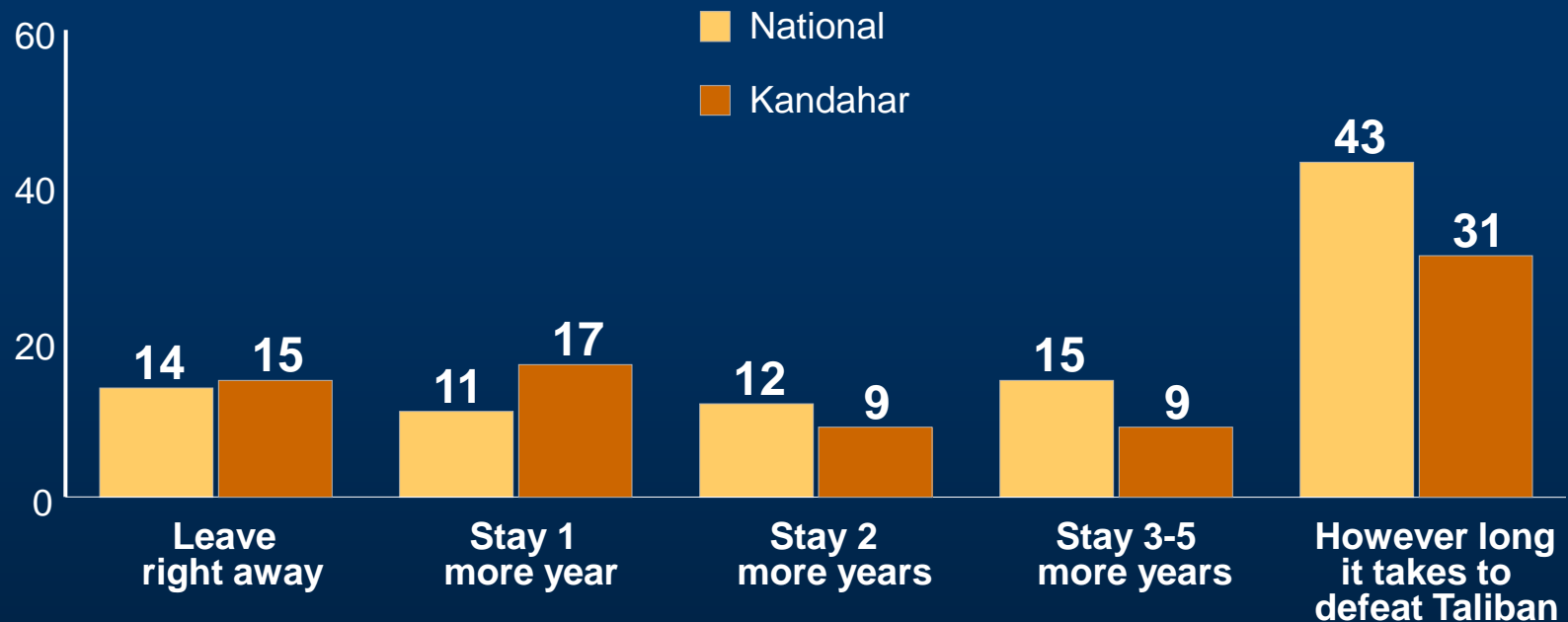
Likely outcome of current conflict

2007



How much longer should foreign troops remain?

2007



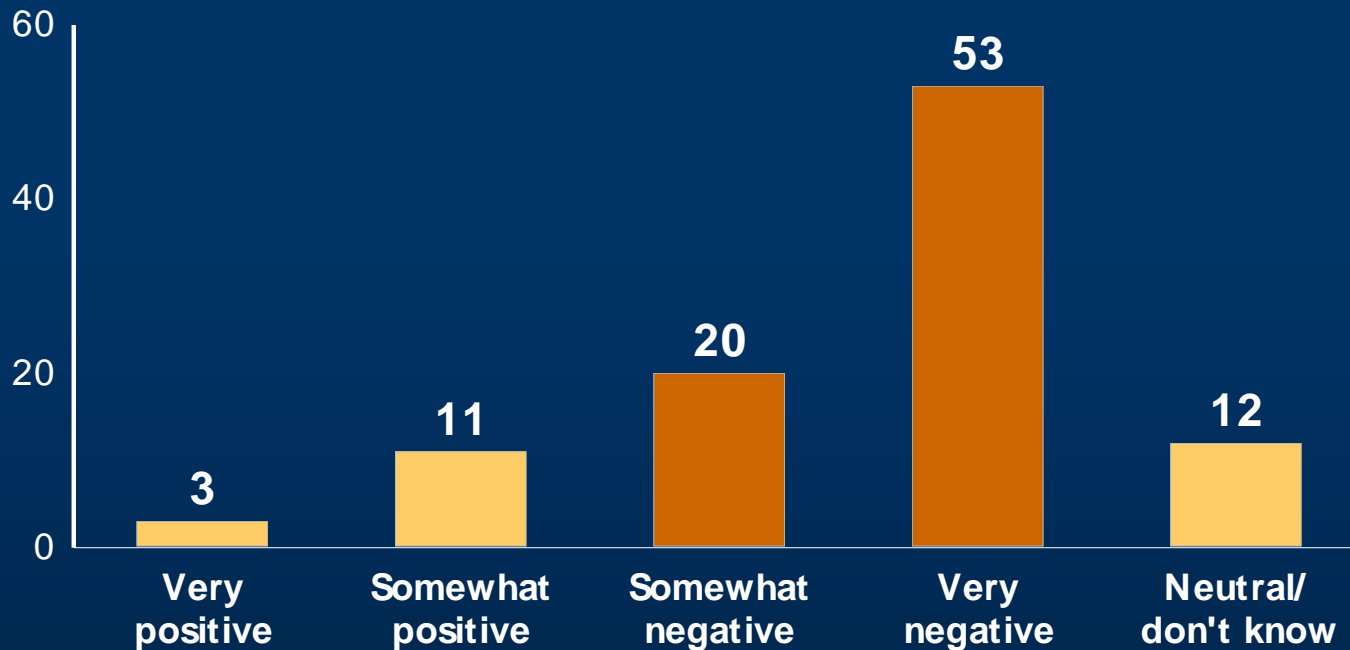
How much longer should foreign troops remain?

2007 By how much it matters



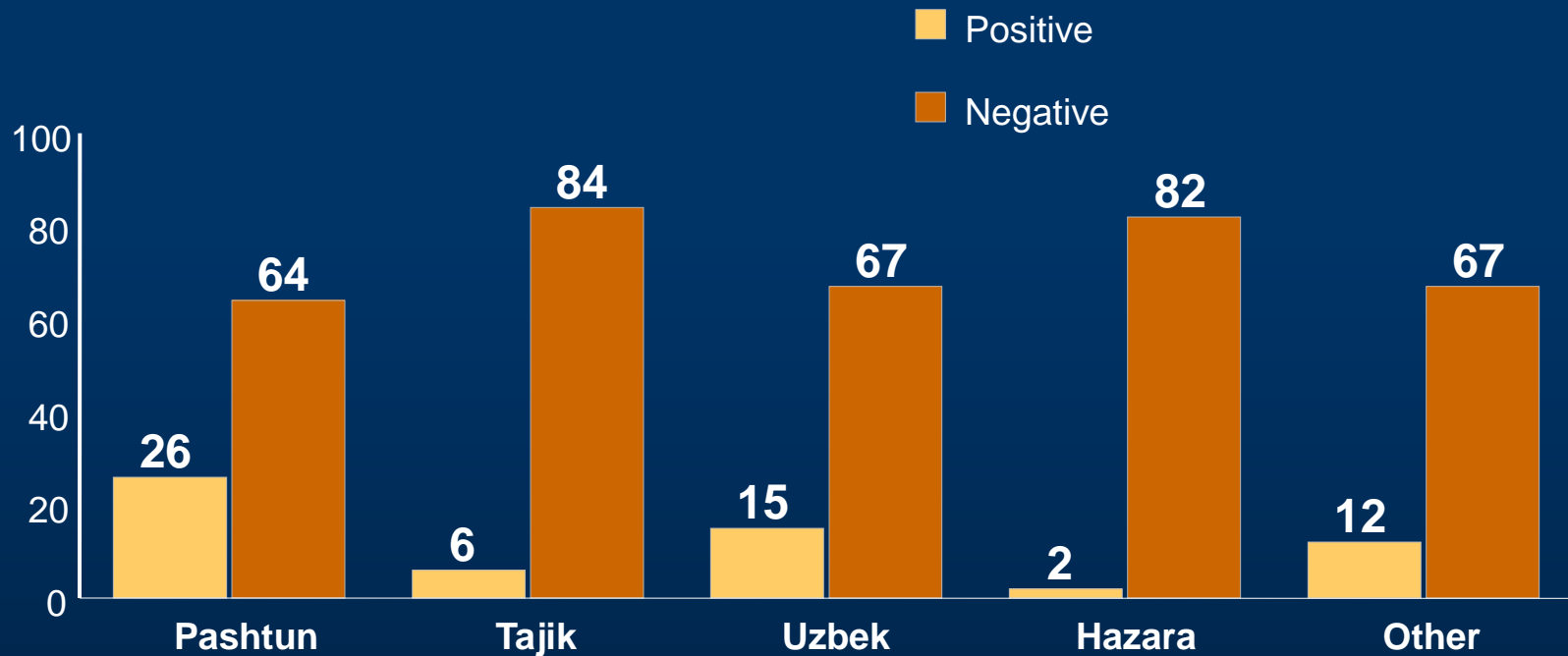
Opinion of the Taliban

2007



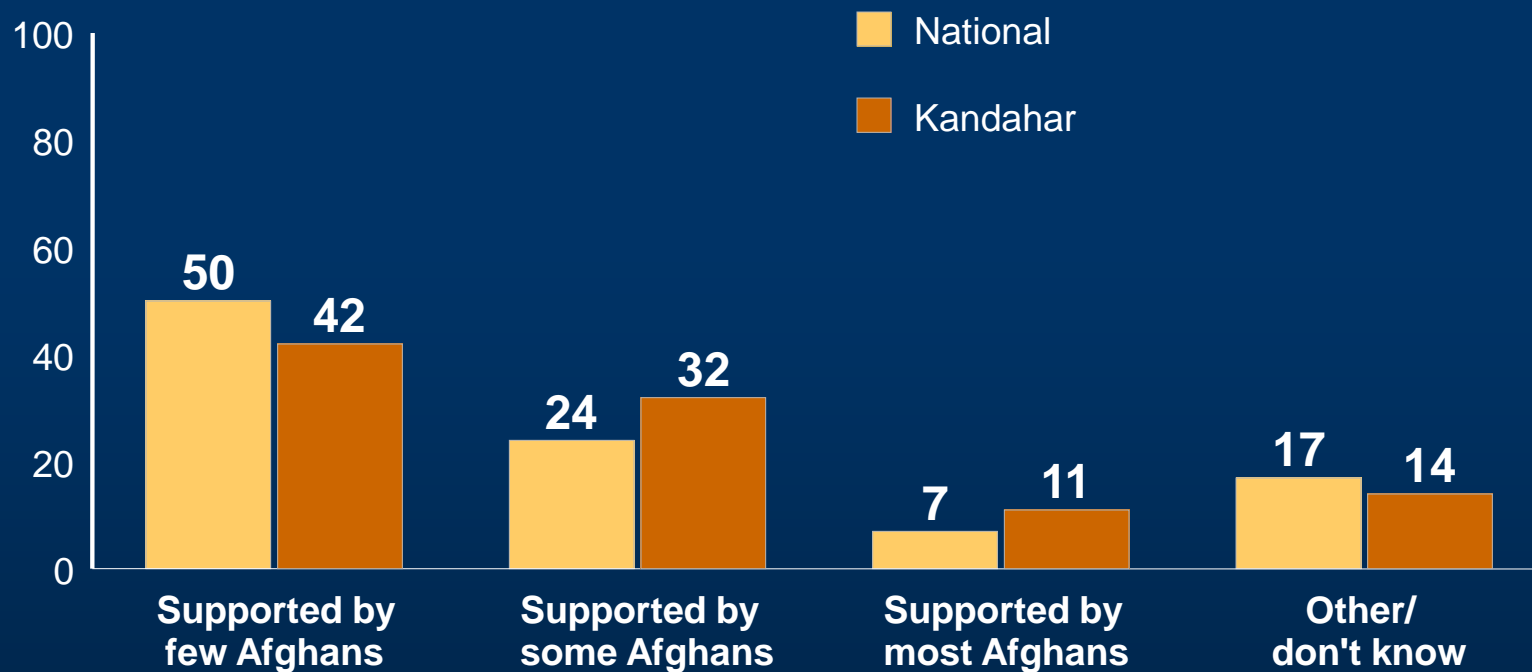
Opinion of the Taliban

2007 By ethnicity



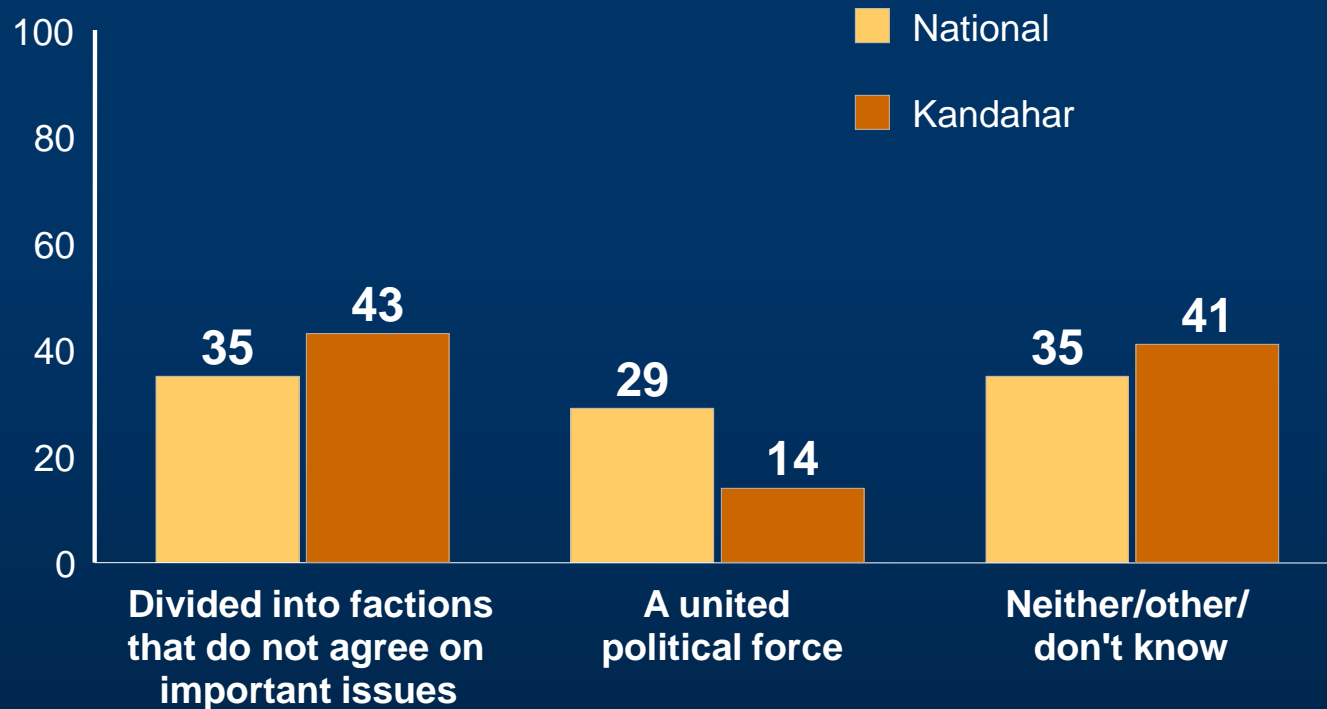
Perception of Taliban support among population

2007



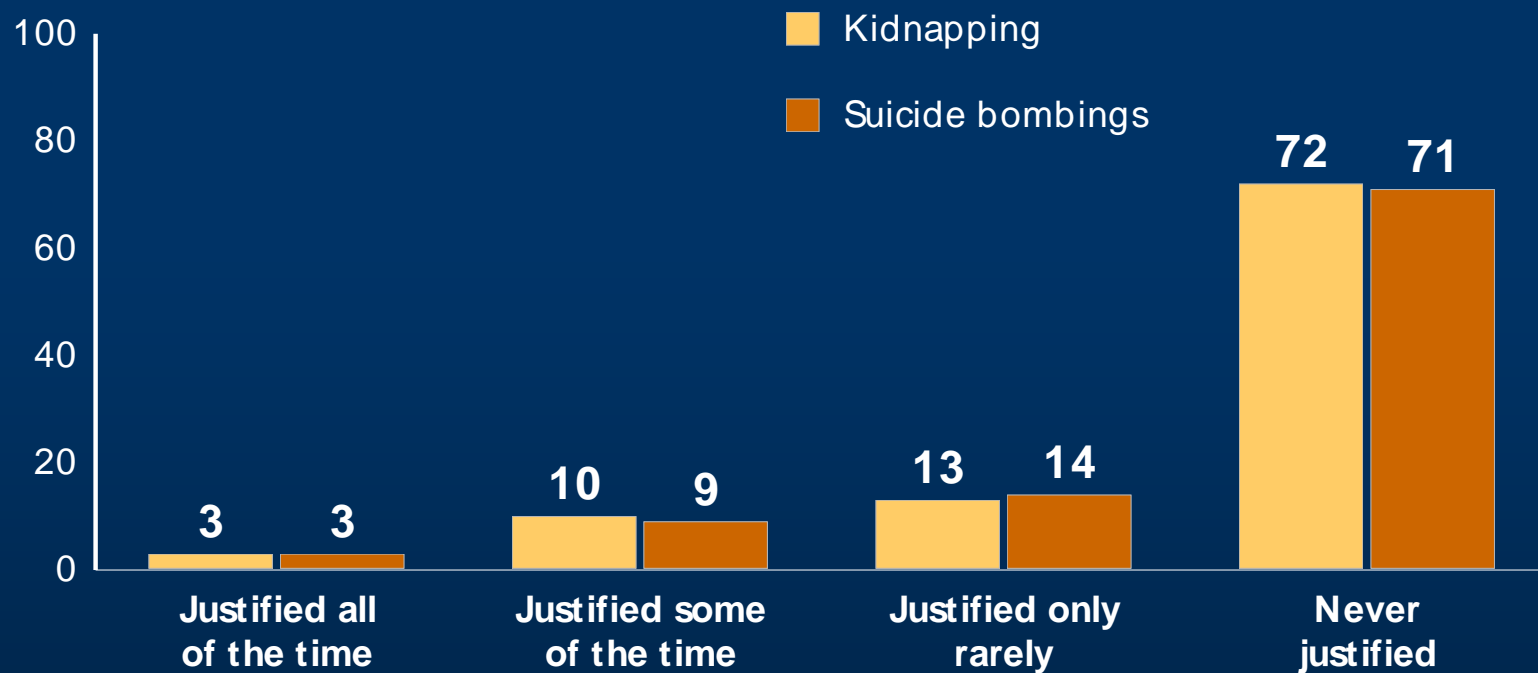
Taliban united or divided?

2007



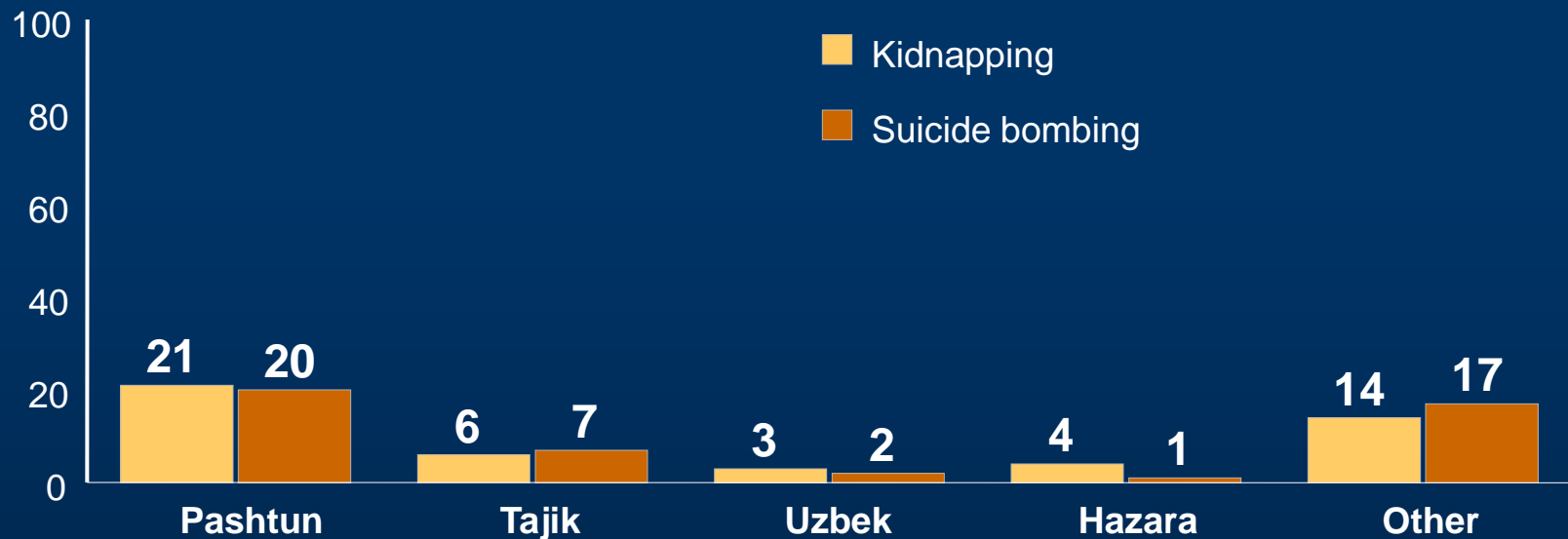
Opinion of insurgent tactics

2007



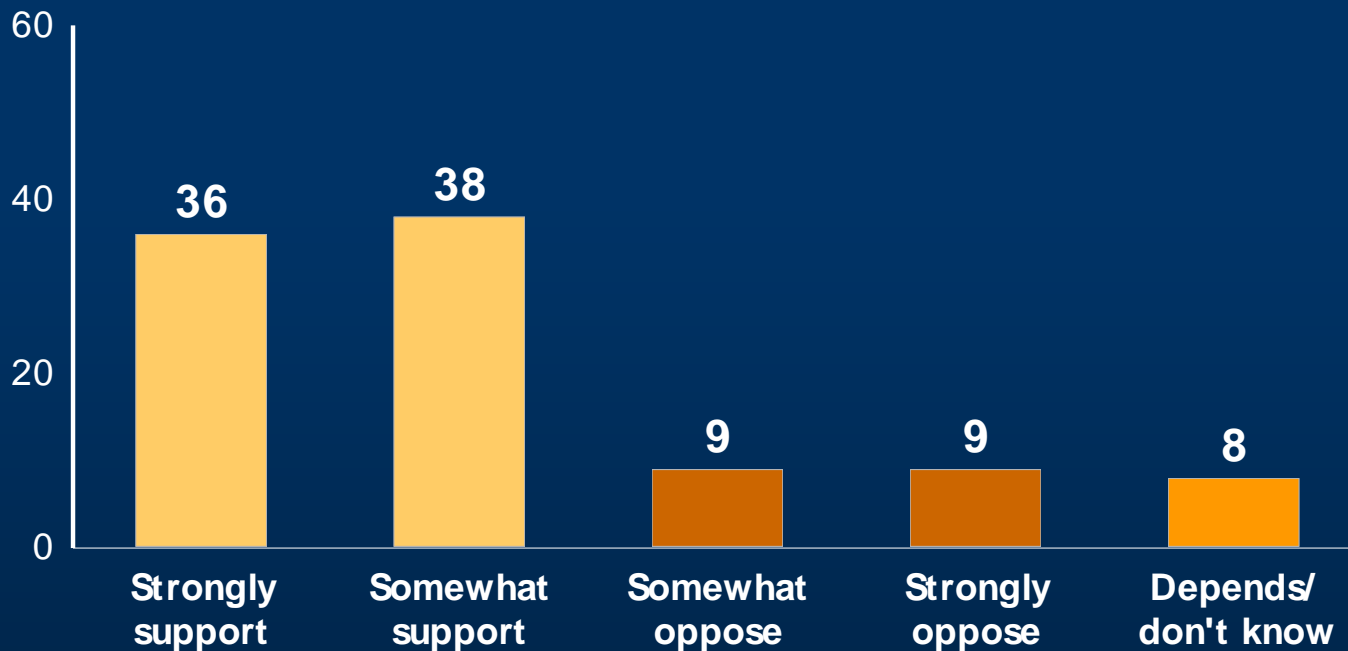
Tactics justified all or some of the time

2007 By ethnicity



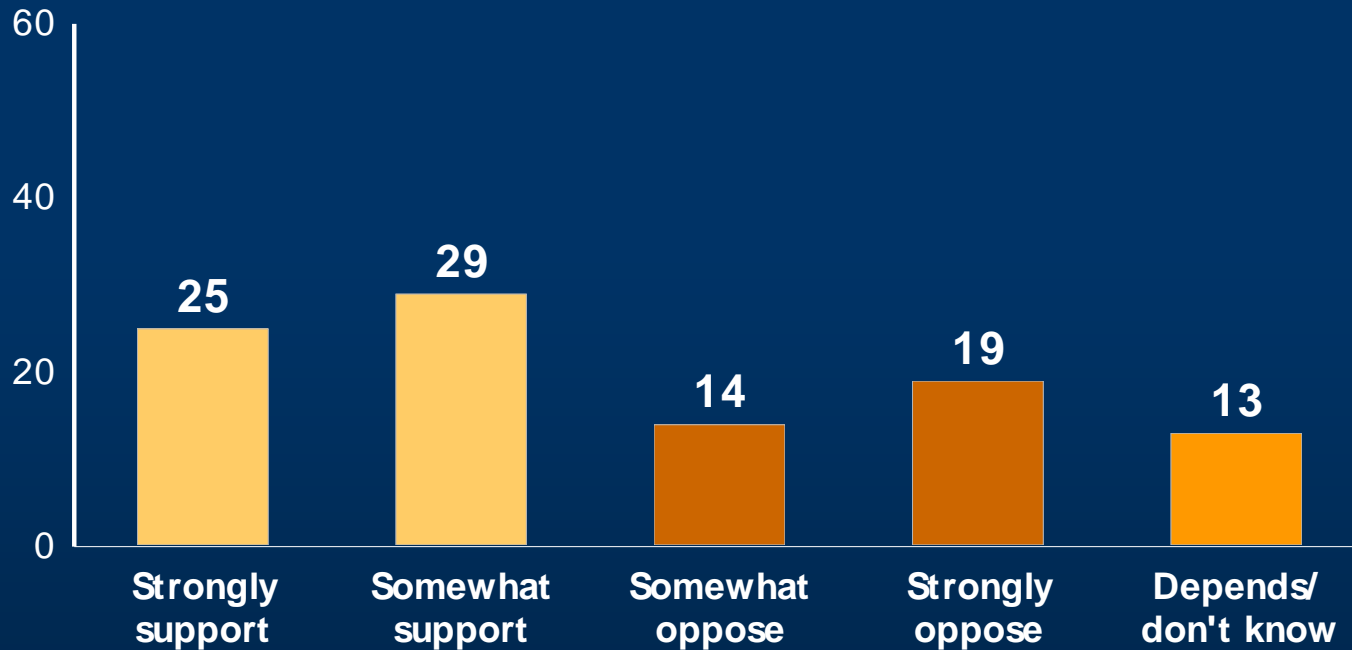
Negotiations between Karzai gov't and Taliban

2007



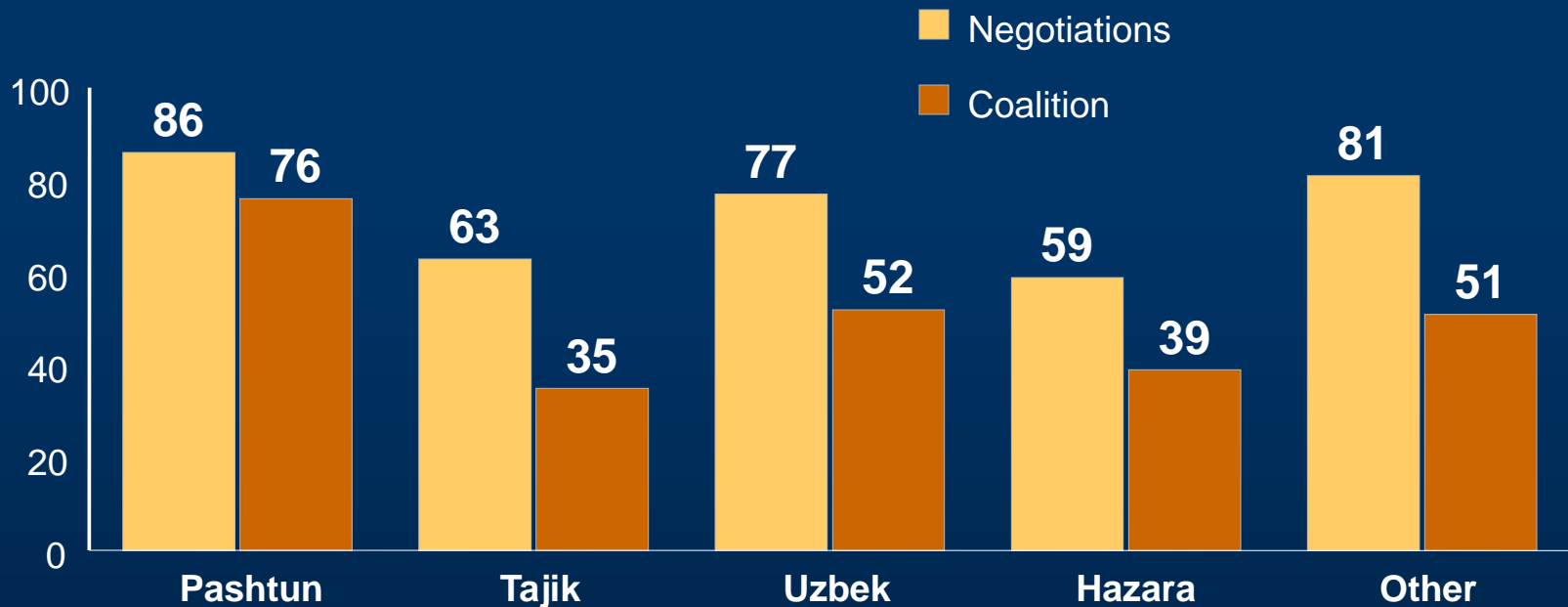
Coalition government—power sharing with Taliban

2007



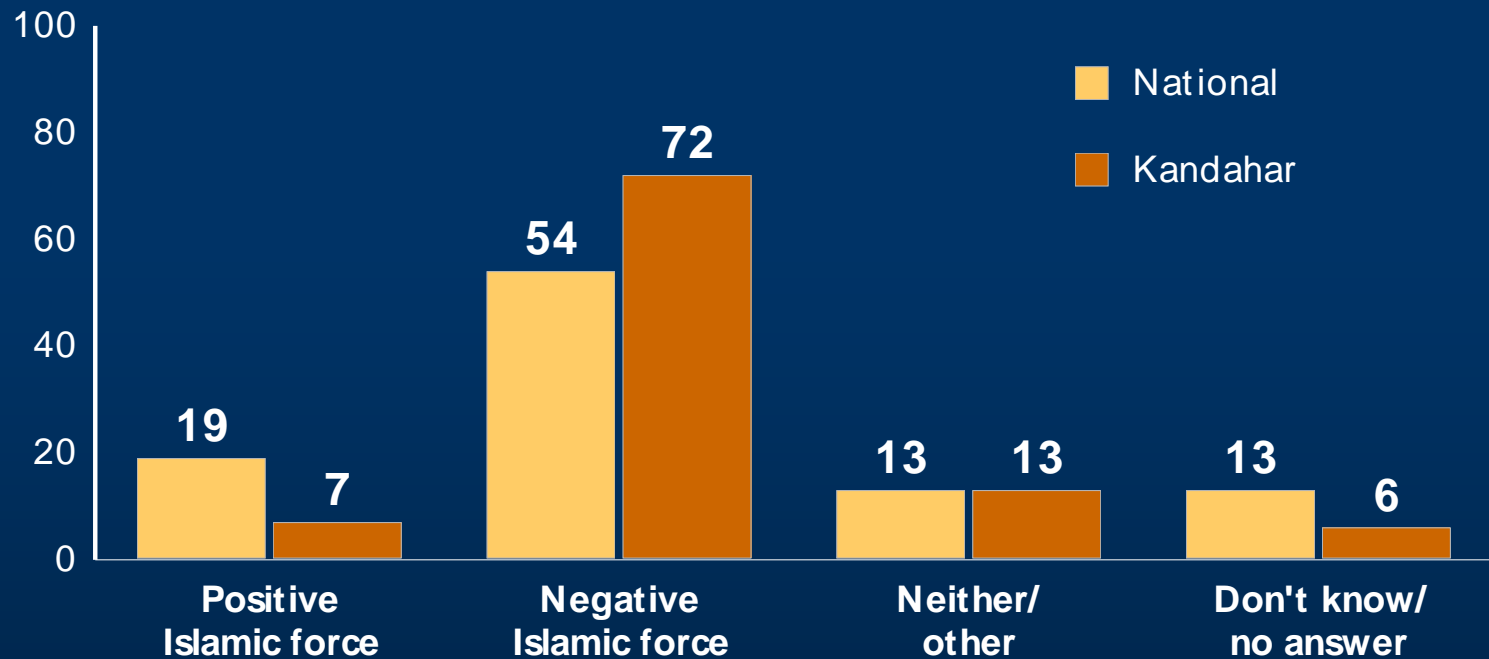
Support negotiations/coalition with Taliban

2007 By ethnicity



Opinion of al Qaeda

2007

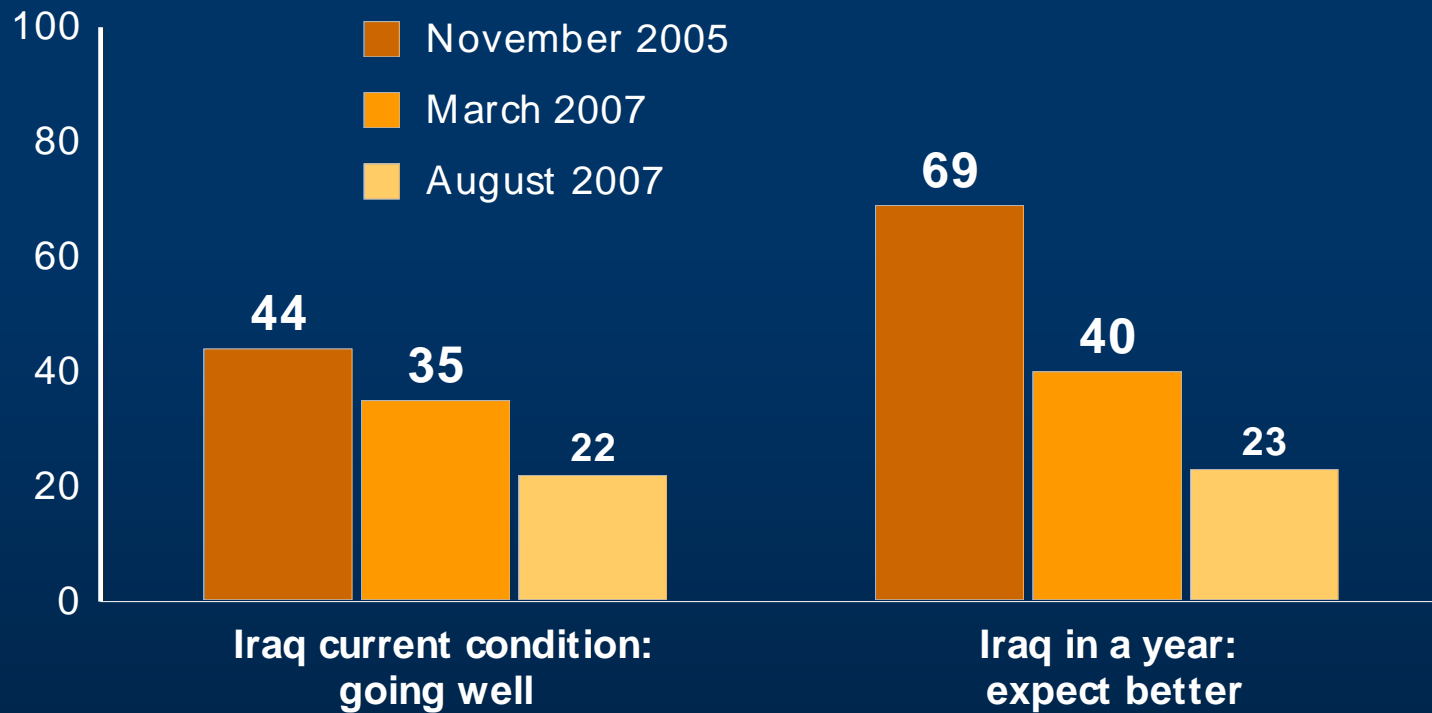


Public Opinion in Iraq



Views of Iraq*

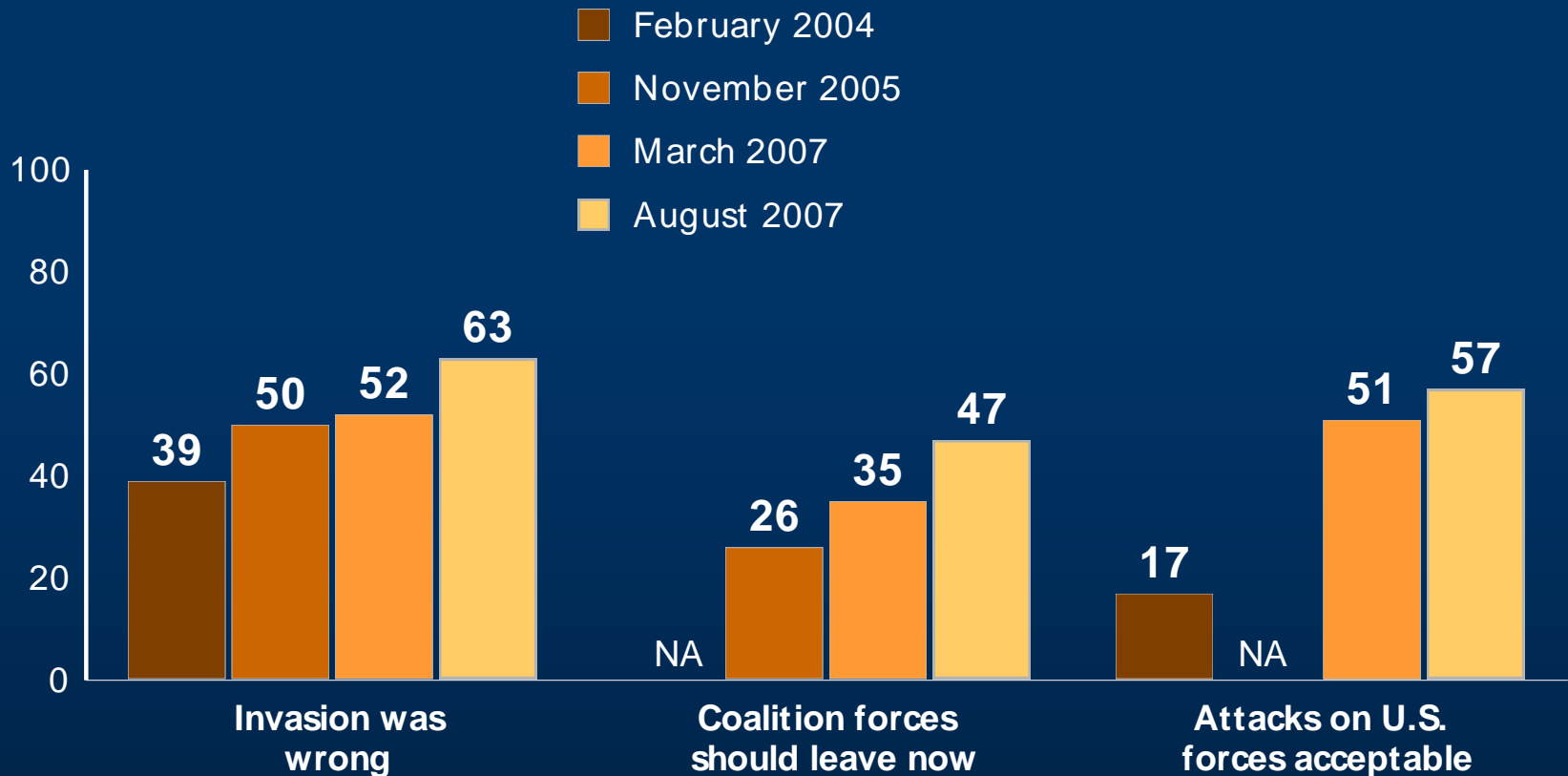
2005 – 2007



* ABC News/BBC/NHK Polls

Views of U.S. presence in Iraq*

2004 – 2007



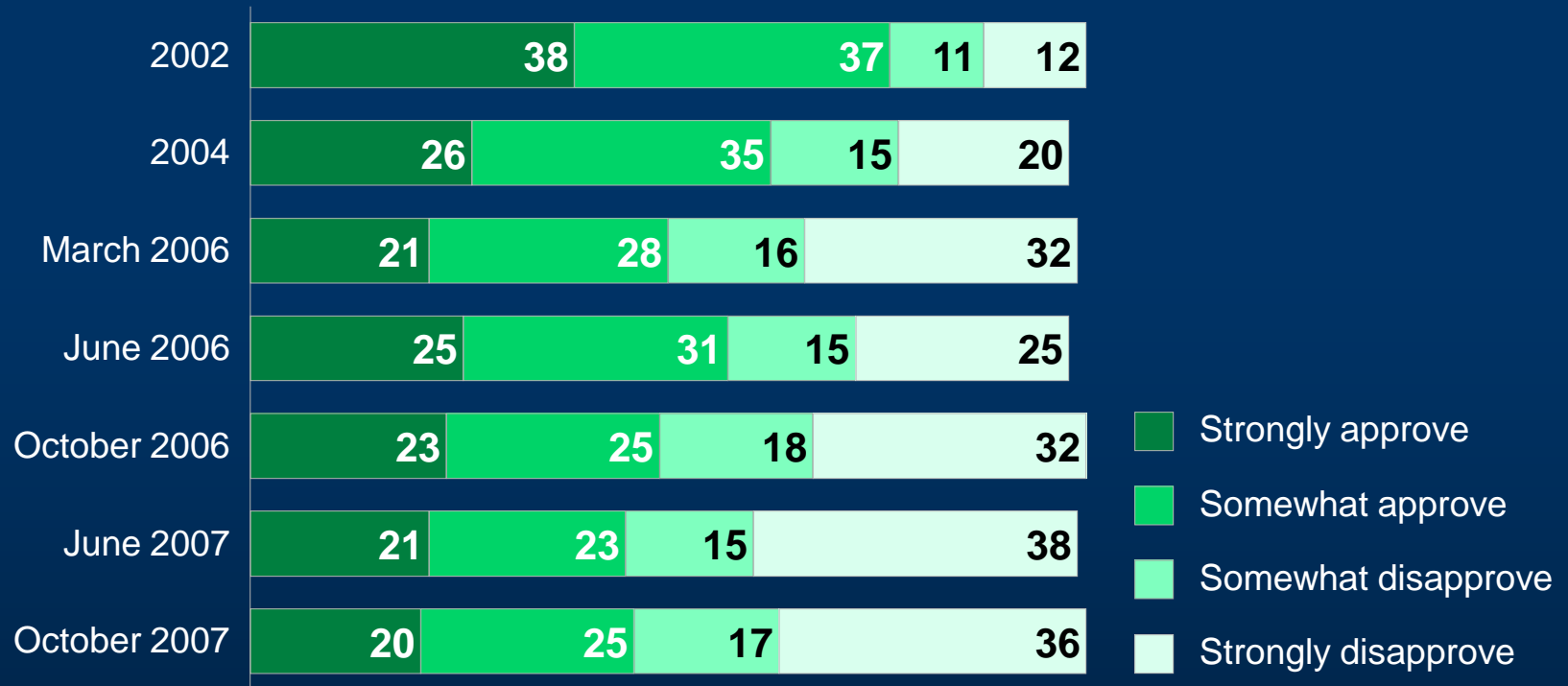
* ABC News/BBC/NHK Polls



Public Opinion in Canada

Canada's military mission in Afghanistan*

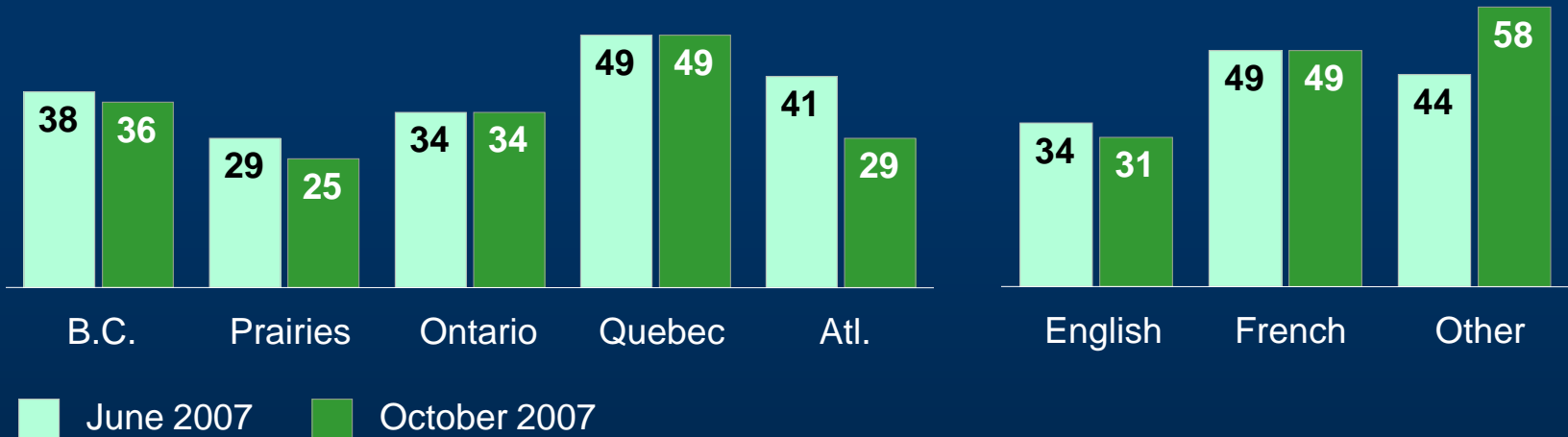
2002 – 2007



* Environics' FOCUS CANADA

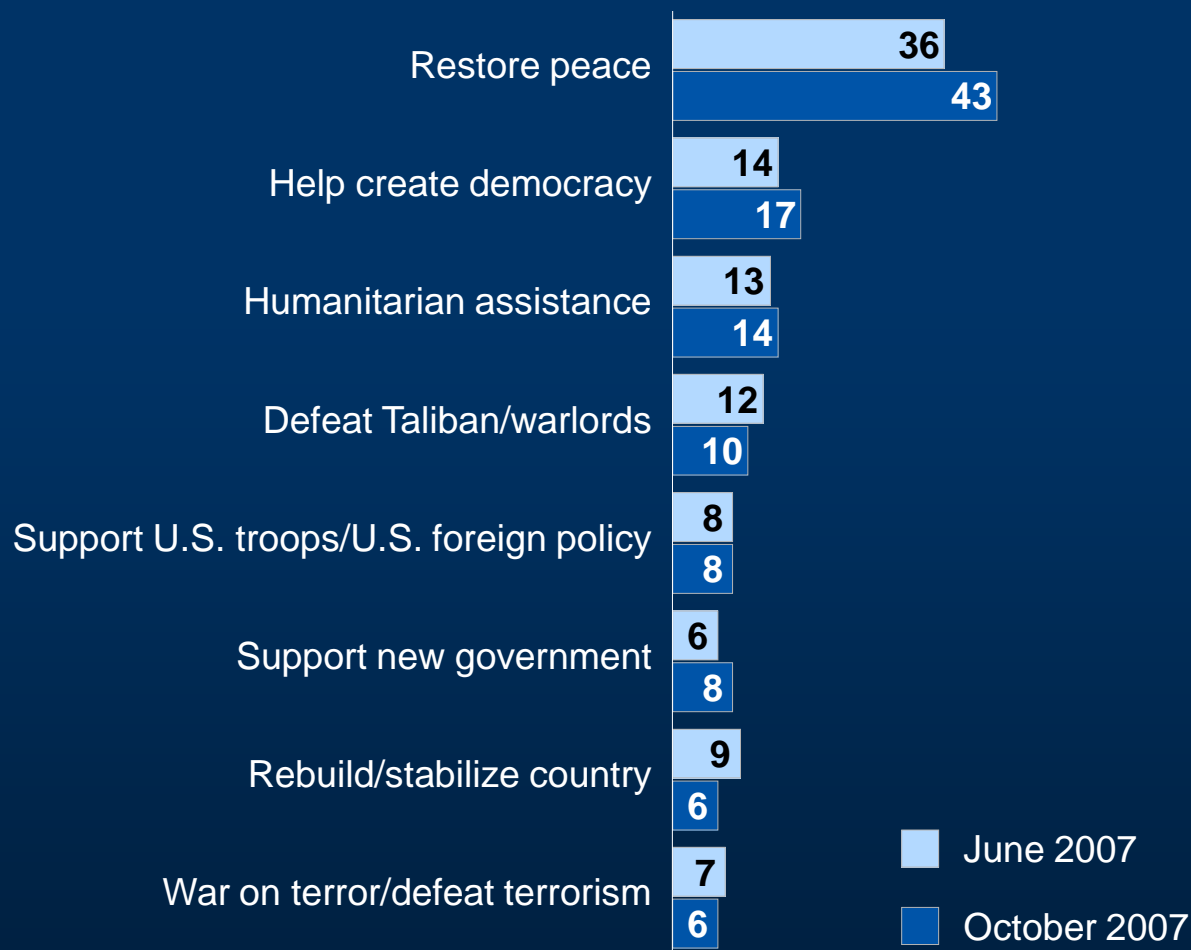
Strongly disapprove of Afghanistan mission

June – October 2007



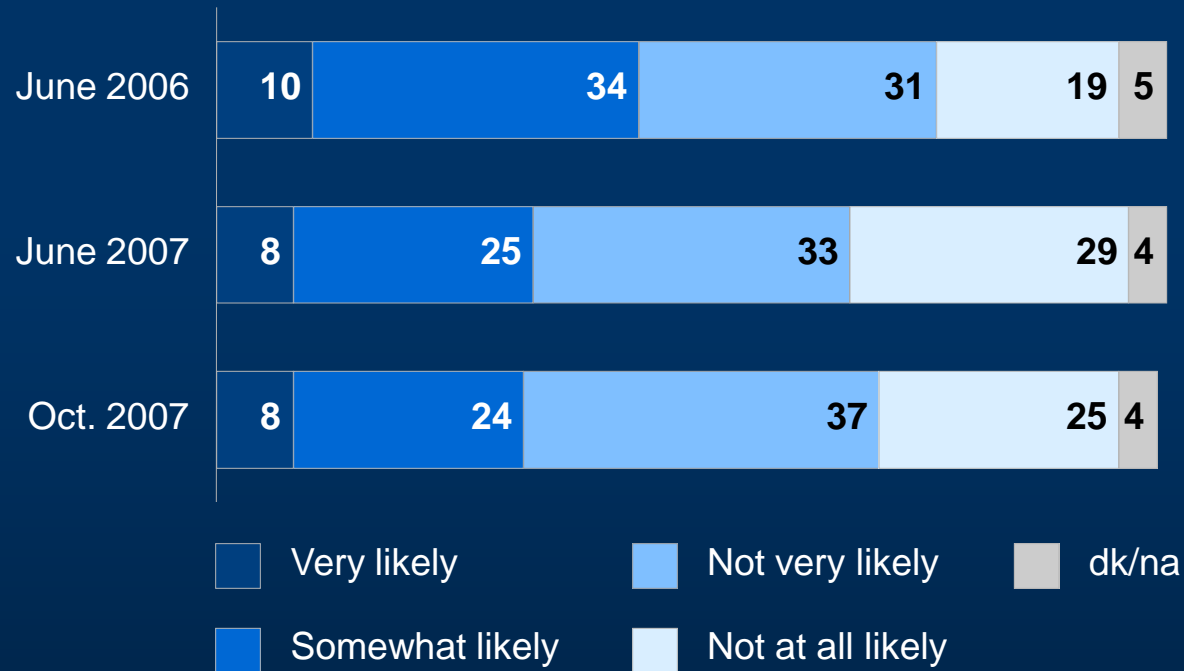
Objective of Canada's mission in Afghanistan

June – Oct 2007 Top mentions



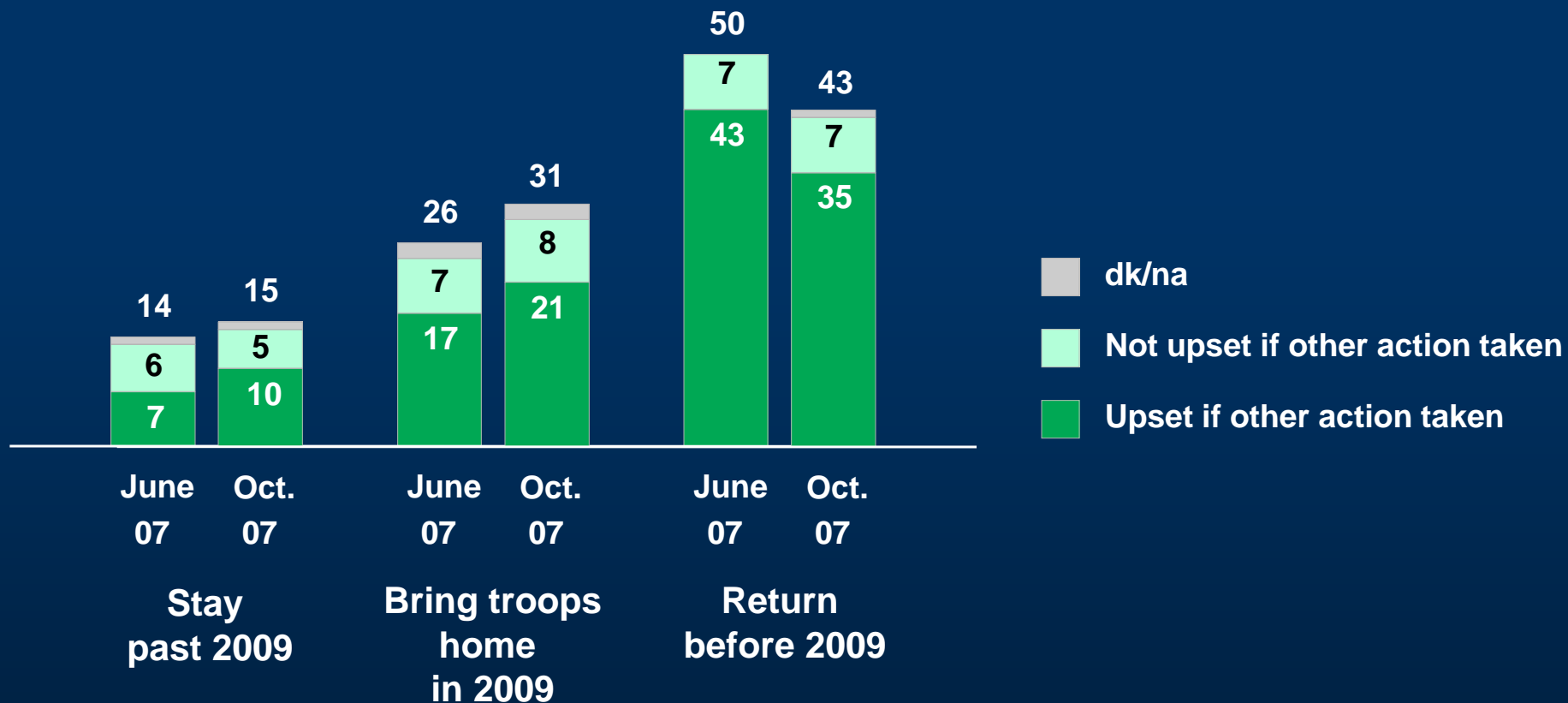
Likelihood that Afghanistan mission will succeed

2006 – 2007



How much longer should Canada remain in Afghanistan?

2007 By strength of opinion



Support for a negotiated settlement between the Afghan government and Taliban

October 2007

The only way to resolve the conflict on Afghanistan is through a negotiated settlement between the Afghan government and the Taliban forces

51

The Taliban is a terrorist group and negotiating with them is out of the question

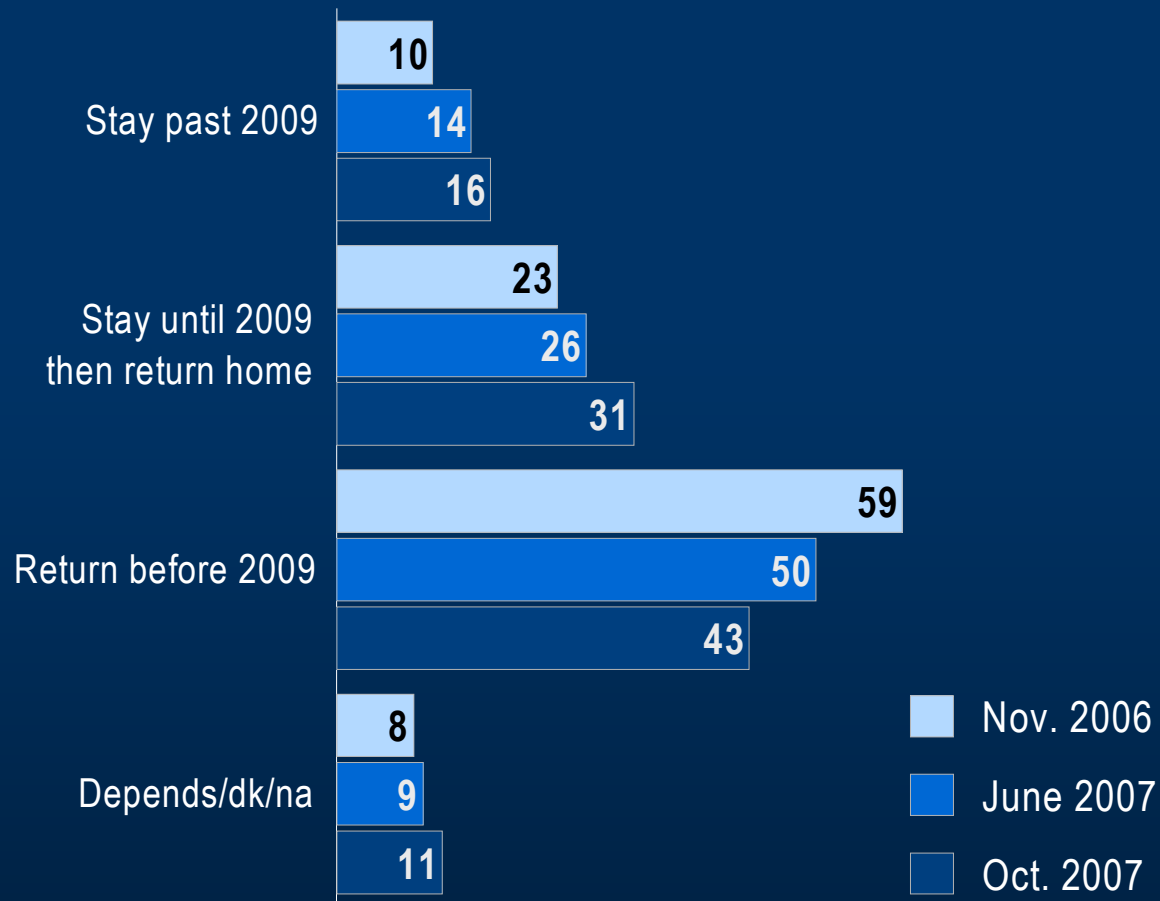
43

dk/na

7

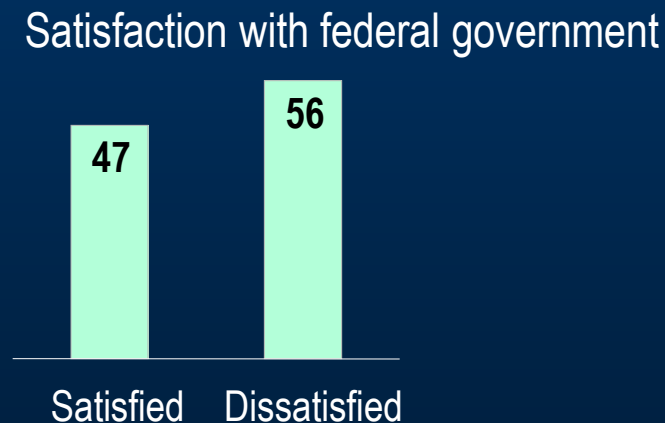
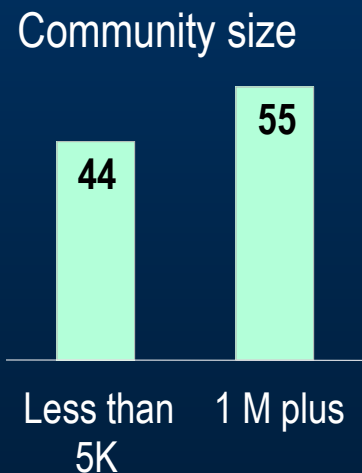
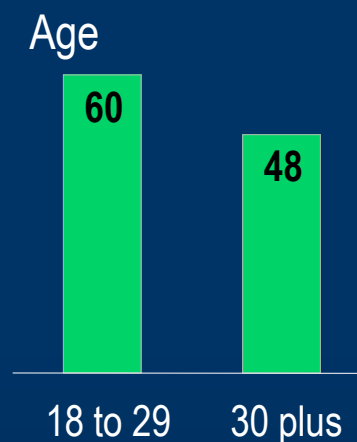
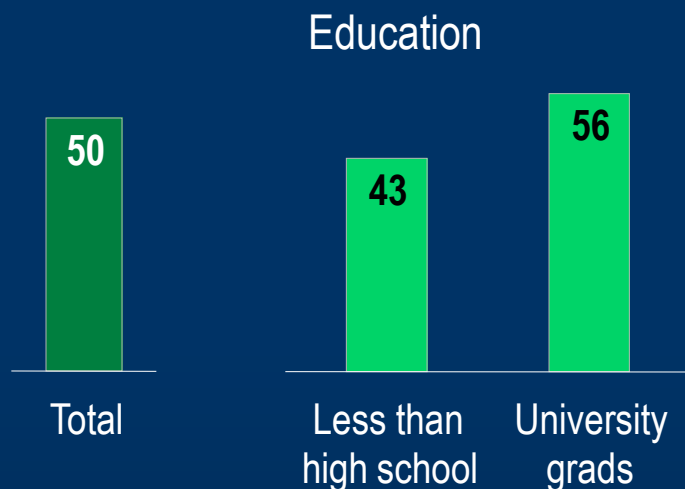
Desired timeline for Afghanistan mission

2006 - 2007



Support for a negotiated settlement between the Afghan government and Taliban

October 2007



Impact of Afghan Survey

Media coverage

- National “front page” media story (October 18-19)
- Quoted in Parliament and by party leaders (October 19)
- Covered on Afghan TV (October 22)
- Story was as much about “novelty” of a survey in Afghanistan, as about what it found

Survey Impact

- Survey results evoked strong response in Canada
 - Mission supporters see as vindication
 - Mission opponents questioned methodology
- Post-coverage survey shows impact on Canadian public:
 - 23% of Canadians heard about the poll
 - Most likely to recall positive aspects of the findings
 - 57% believe the results accurately reflect Afghan public opinion (vs. 29% who do not)
 - 22% say now more supportive of the mission vs. 14% now less so

*** Environics survey of 1,559 Canadians (Oct. 19-24, 2007)**



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