



basic education

Department:
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA





LEARNER HAPPINESS INDEX



Research Objectives

The intention of the Learner Happiness Index, is to measure, on a quarterly basis, how happy learners in SA are, across pre selected metrics aligned with Department of Basic Educations goals. Each quarter a series of new topics will be selected to research.

Wave 1:

- Mood
- Learner Retention
- Teachers
- Textbooks
- Bullying
- Drugs & Alcohol

Wave 2:

- Mood
- Teacher performance
- Support factors
- Exam confidence
- Expected results



Study information

Total learners surveyed: 5435



Wave 1: Survey ran from 9 to 11 May 2013

Wave 2: Survey ran from 19 to 26 August 2013

Total market for W2: 4093 learners between the ages of 13 and 24

All data weighted to match SA learner proportions according to CENSUS

Data weighted in 3 dimensions (**age, gender and race**)

Age range of respondents: 13 to 24

Significant increase since wave 1

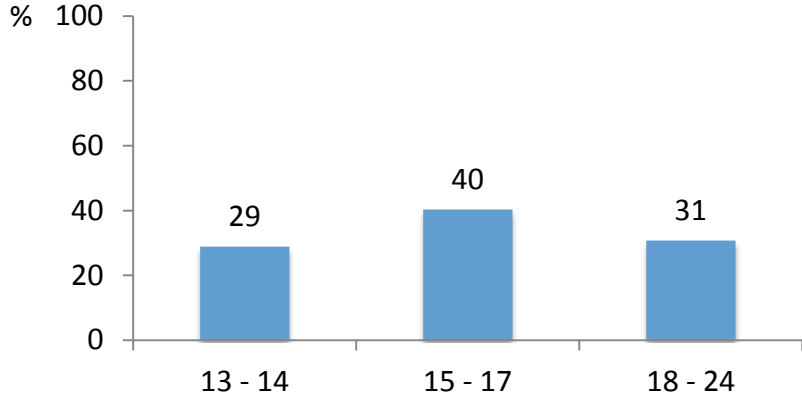
Significant decrease since wave 1



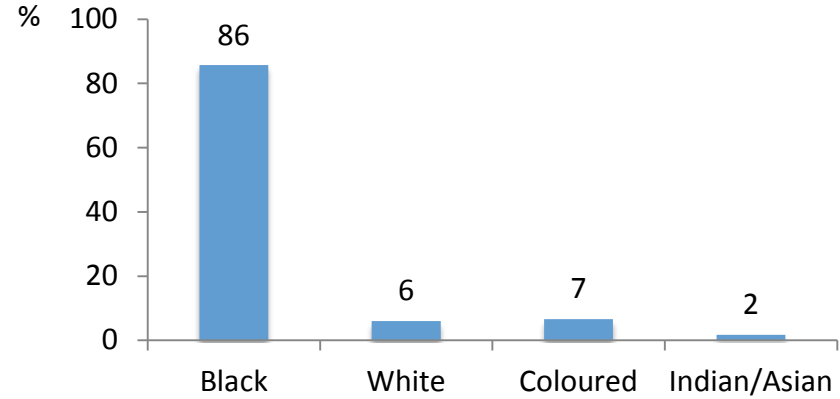
Sample
Demographics

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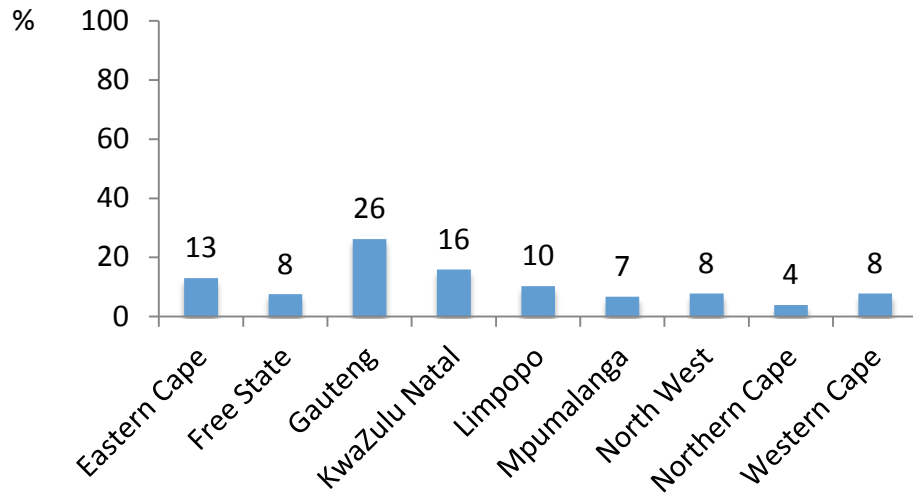
Age



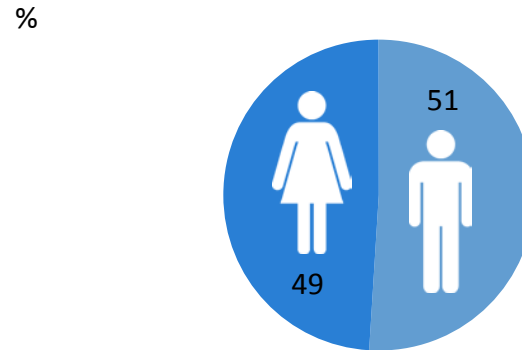
Race



Province



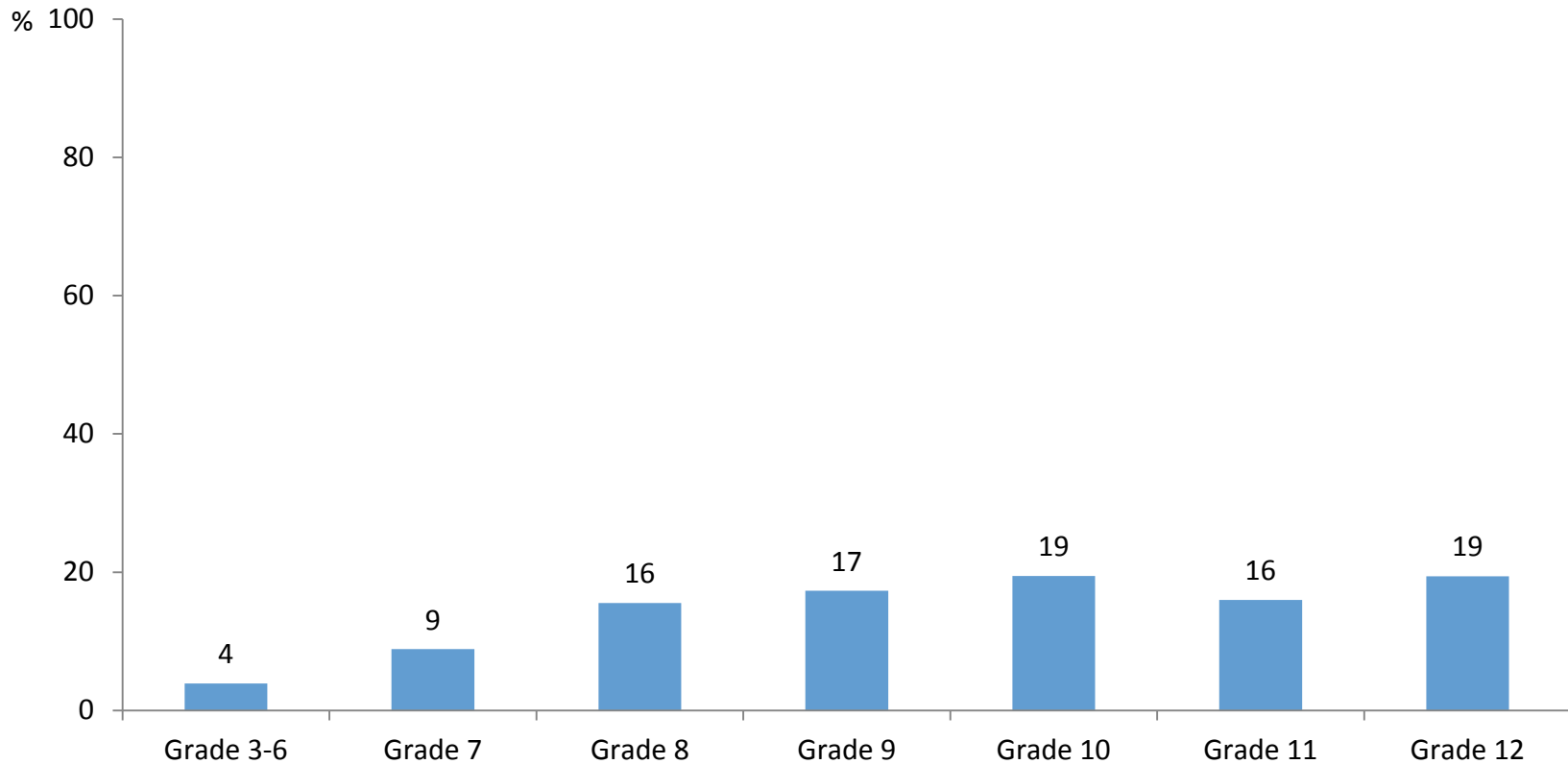
Gender



Grade:

There was a good representation of grade 8 – 12 learners within the sample

Total market
n=4093



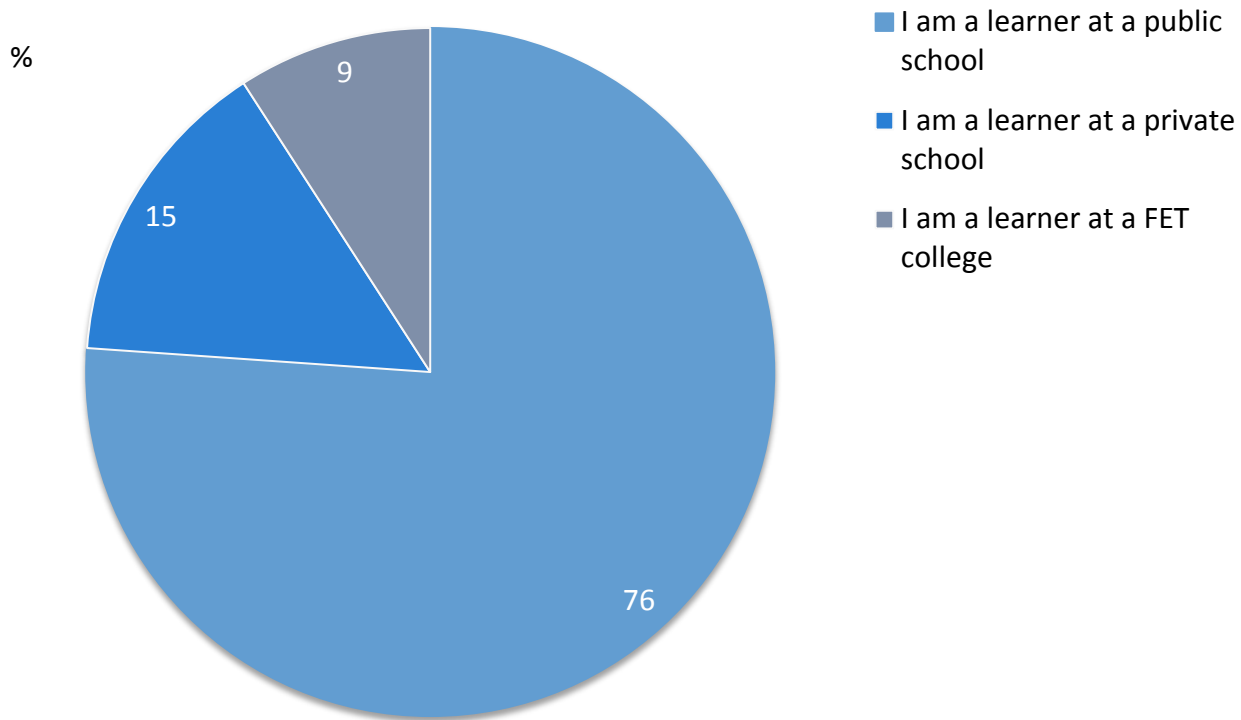
Q3 What grade are you in now?



Type of educational institution:

3 out of 4 learners in the sample attended public schools

Total market
n=4093



Q2 Which of the following best describes you?

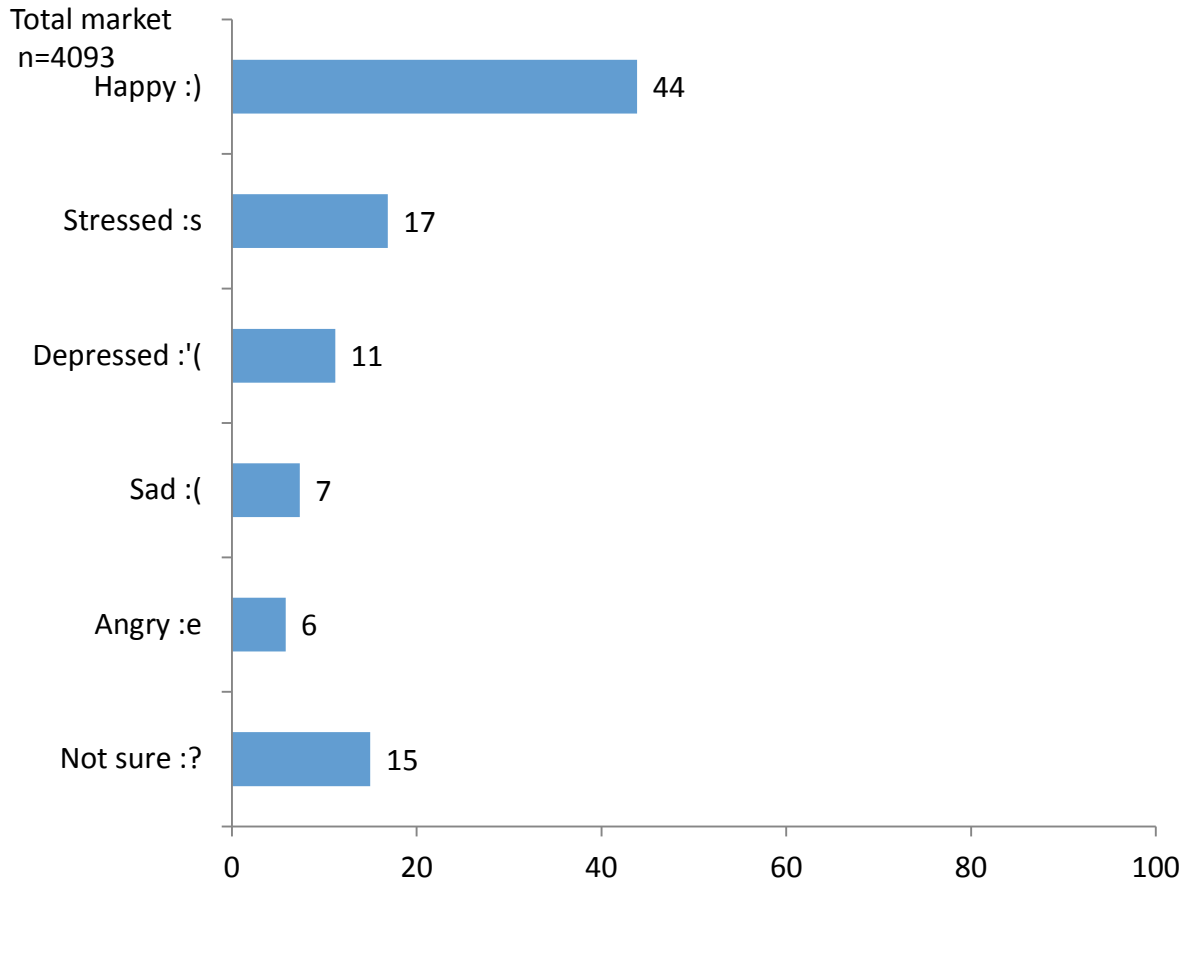




Mood

Mood:

Learners were most likely to be 'happy' followed by being 'stressed'



Happiness decreased and stress increased, as learners progressed through the grades, indicating the increase in academic pressure as one gets older

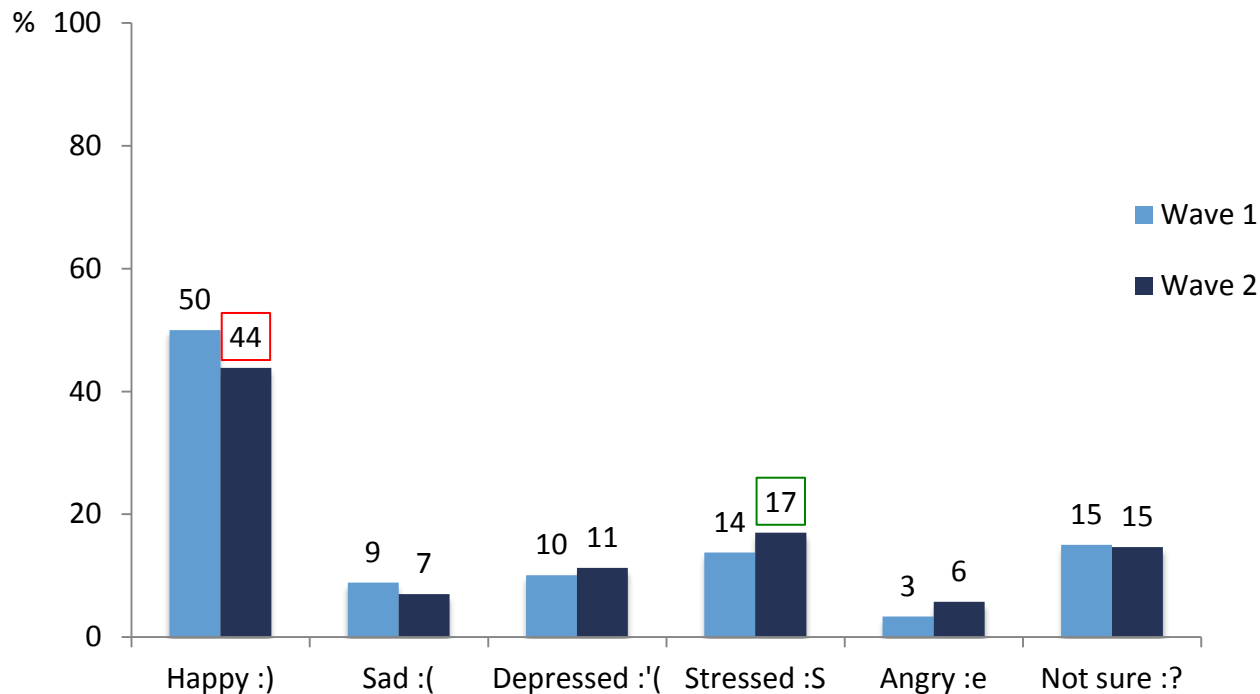
Q1 Which of the following best describes your mood in the last month or so?



Mood comparison:

The upcoming year-end exams seemed to influence mood levels. Most notable was the decrease in the level of happiness, and the increase in stress among learners since May 2013

Total market excluding "Don't know / Don't care"
n=3994



How prepared and confident learners felt for their upcoming tests / exams, had a direct effect on both happiness and stress, with stress increasing as confidence decreased, and happiness decreasing as confidence decreased

Q1 Which of the following best describes your mood in the last month or so?



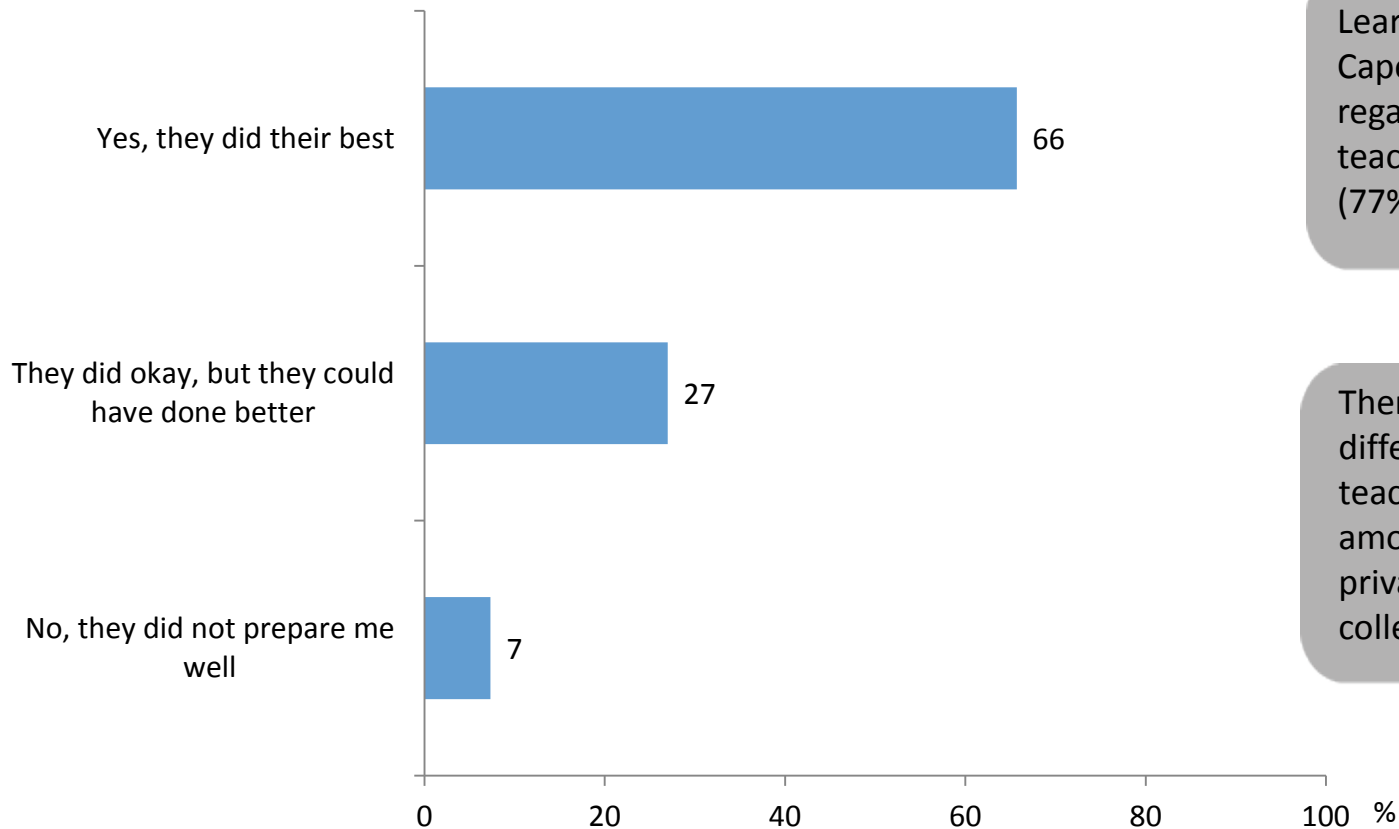


Contributing support factors

Contributing support factor - Teacher performance:

As in Wave one, perceived teacher performance was good, with 2 out of 3 learners claiming that their teachers had done their best to prepare them for their tests / exams

Total market excluding "Don't know / Don't care"
n=4026



Learners in the Northern Cape had the highest regard for how well their teachers prepared them (77%)

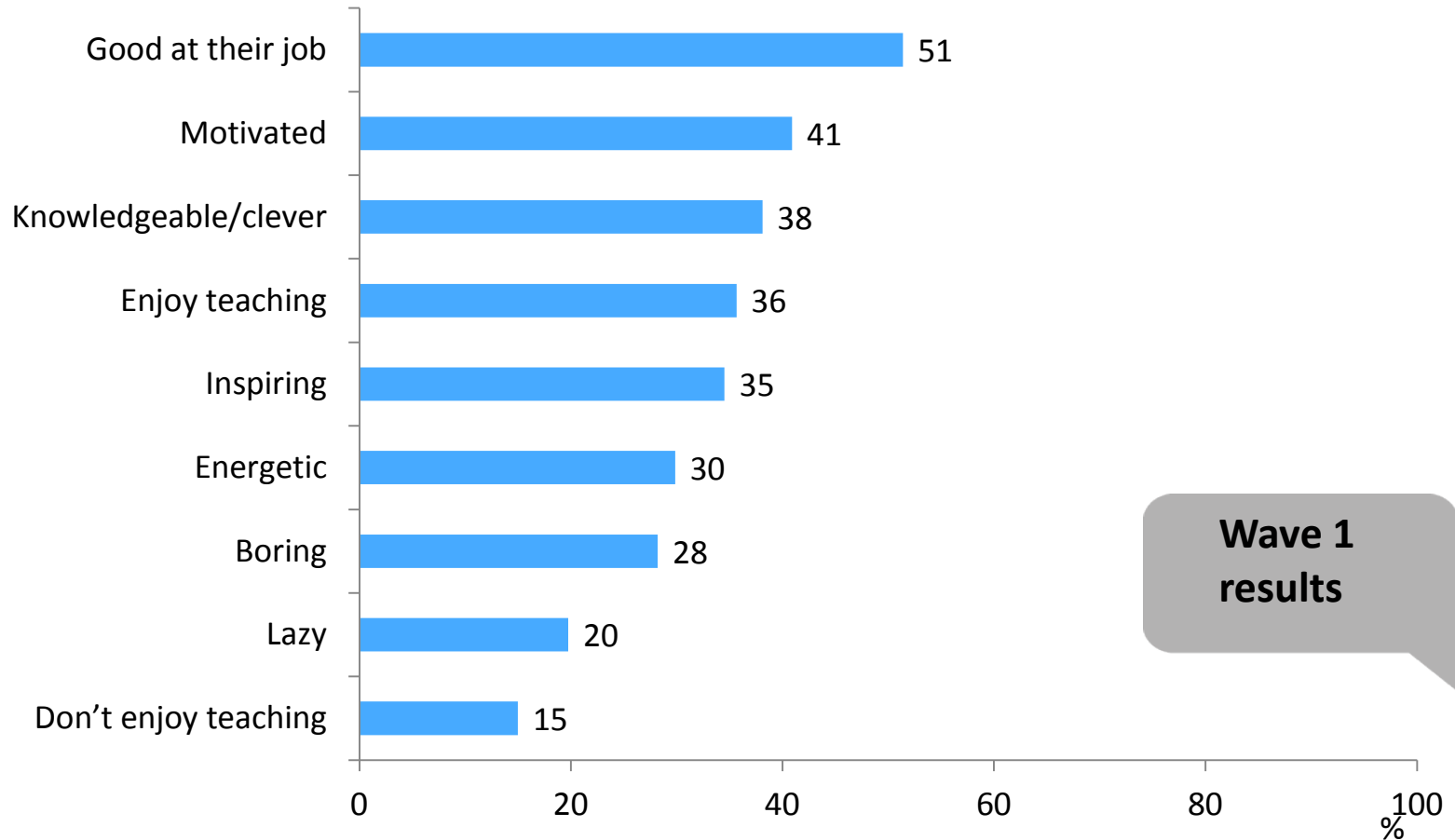
There was no significant difference in perceived teacher performance among public school, private school or FET college learners

Q5 Do you think your teachers did their best to prepare you for your tests or exams?



Thinking about your teachers, which words best describe them?

n=1342



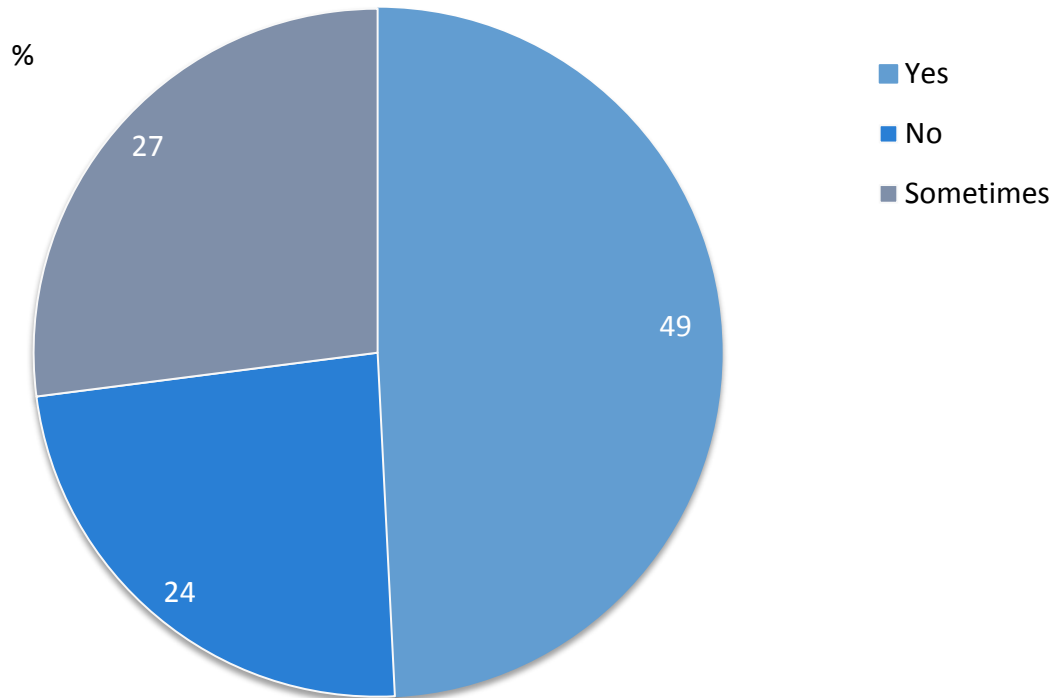
Sentiment towards teachers is overwhelmingly positive.





Contributing support factor - Quiet place to study and do homework: Only about half of the learners always had access to a quiet place to study and do homework after school

Total market
n=4093



Learners at a private school or FET college were more likely than learners at a public school to have access to a quiet place to study / do homework

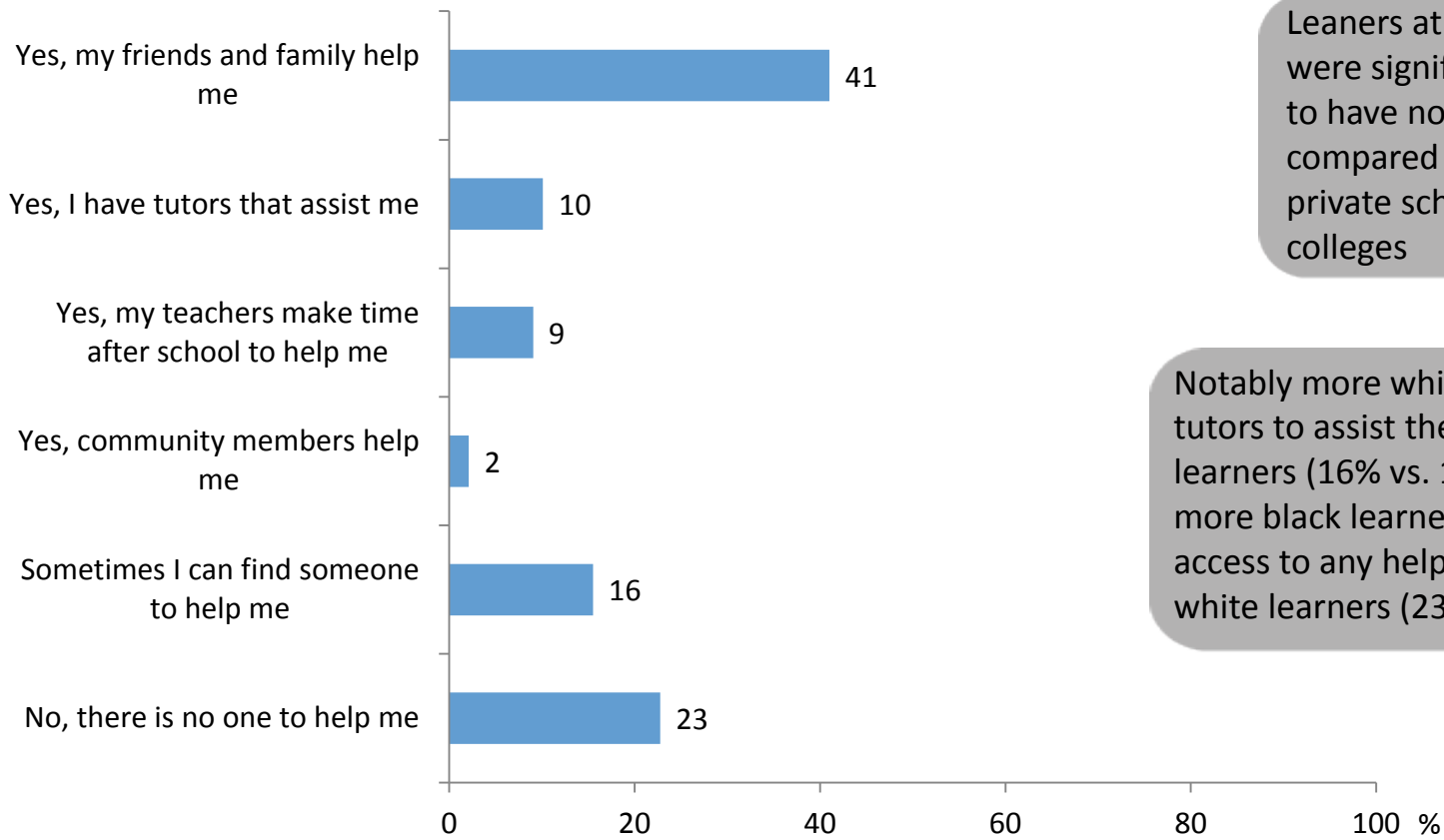
Q6 When school is finished for the day, do you have a quiet place that you can go to, to do your homework and study?



Contributing support factor - Someone to help with homework or studying:

About two thirds of learners always had access to help if needed

Total market excluding "Don't know / Don't care"
n=4041



Learners at public schools were significantly more likely to have no one to help them, compared to learners at private schools or FET colleges

Notably more white learners had tutors to assist them than black learners (16% vs. 10%). Similarly, more black learners didn't have access to any help, compared to white learners (23% vs. 15%)

Q7 If you need help with homework or studying, do you have someone who can help you after school?





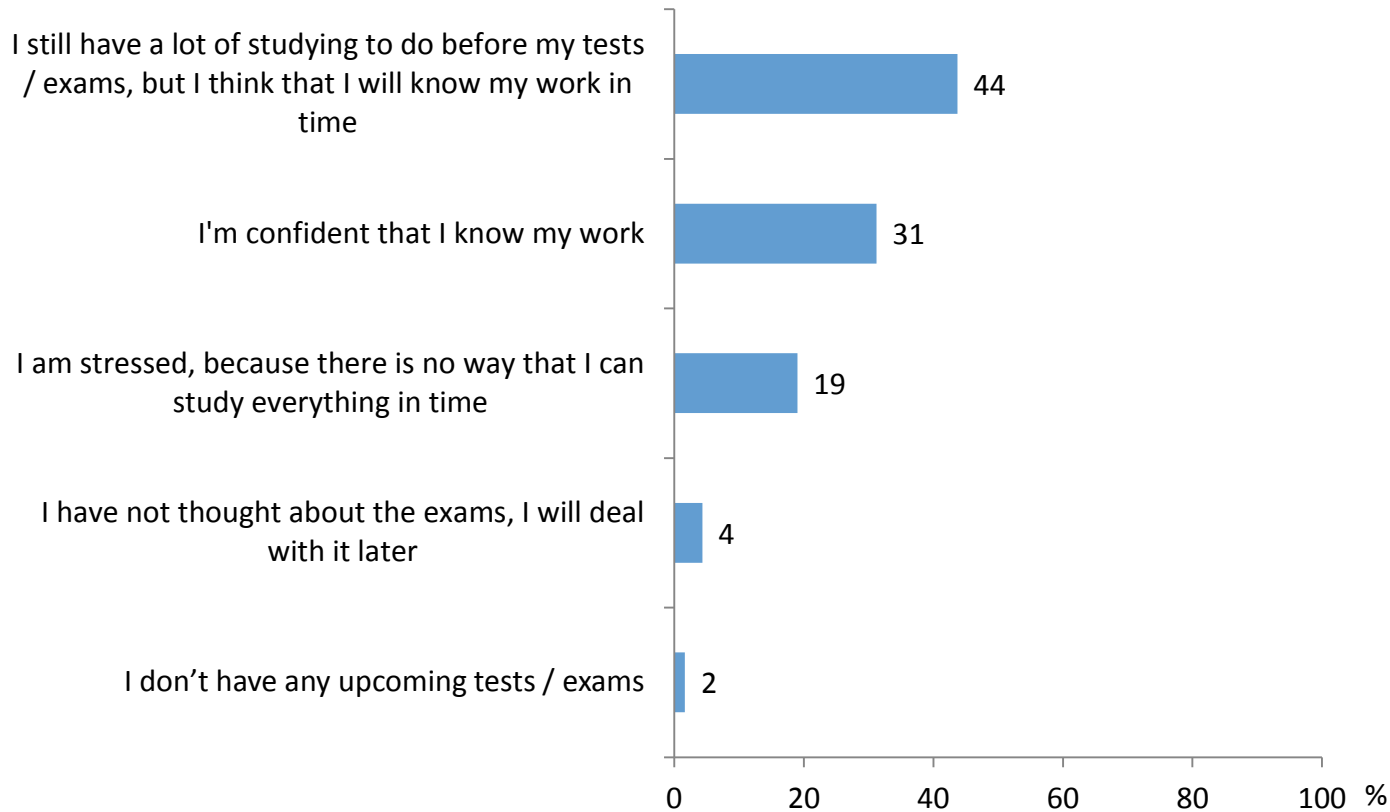
Confidence for exams



Learner confidence - Feeling in the run-up to the exams:

A large proportion of learners still had a lot of studying to do, but thought that they would know their work in time. About a fifth of respondents felt stressed because they didn't think that they would be able to study everything in time

Total market excluding "Don't know / Don't care"
n=4023



Q4 Thinking only about your upcoming tests or exams, which option best describes how you feel?





Impact of contributing support factors and school learner type on exam confidence and stress levels

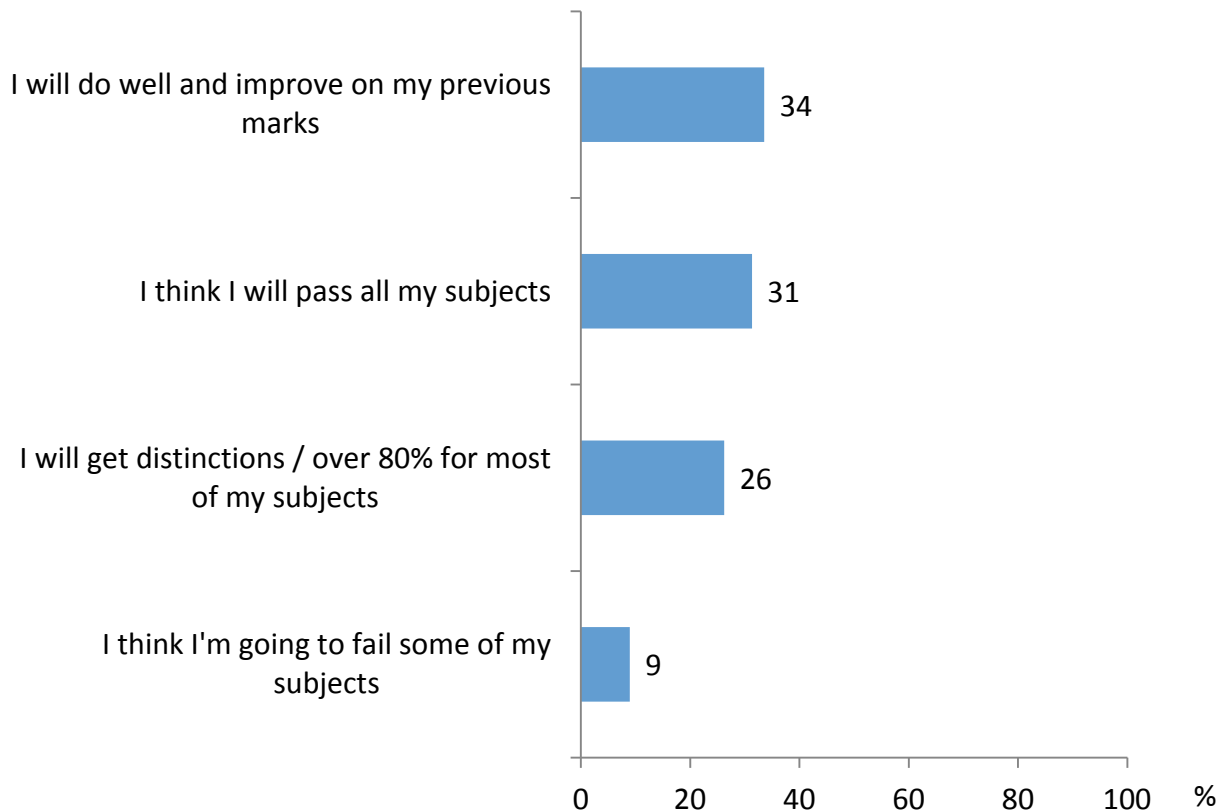
- As access to teachers that did their best, a quiet study environment and someone to help with studying / homework after school increased, confidence levels in preparation in the run-up to the exams increased, and stress related to the exams decreased
- Private and FET school learners felt more confident about the upcoming exams, than public school learners. They were also more supported than public school learners in terms of access to a quiet study environment and someone to assist them with studying / homework



Learner confidence - Expected results:

1 in 3 learners believed that they would do well and improve on their previous marks. A quarter of the sample hoped that they would get distinctions, and 1 in 10 felt that they might fail some subjects

Total market excluding "Don't know / Don't care"
n=3927



A slightly higher proportion of females believed that they would do well and improve on their previous marks, and males were slightly more likely to believe that they would fail some of their subjects

Q8 What results are you expecting after the exams?



Impact of contributing support factors and school learner type on expected results

- As access to teachers who did their best, a quiet study environment and someone to help with studying/ homework after school increased, better results were expected
- A higher proportion of private and FET school learners, compared to public school learners said they were expecting distinctions for most subjects





Thank you!