2017

Findings - Baseline Assessment

Talk up Yout

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Executive Summary

This report highlights the findings from the UNDEF funded Talk Up Yout', Youth Empowerment Through Dialogue baseline survey. The survey comprised an on-line survey of adolescents and young adults island-wide, supplemented by on-the ground data collection to reach young people who are not reached through the available mailing lists or social media. The study questionnaire was developed in consultation with the project's technical officer and youth focal point.

This survey aimed to gather baseline information on key project indicators related to the capacity of young people to participate in governance. The areas assessed include knowledge, attitudes, behaviours, opportunities and barriers related to their participation in governance.

Data collection occurred on-line over a 8–week period and utilized passive (emails through mailing lists and social media posts) and active recruitment methods (recruited by study volunteers). A total of 4812 persons accessed the survey during the period of data collection, of which 3668 were eligible (47.3% Male; 52.7% Female) and were included in the final study sample.

The survey revealed a low level of knowledge in key areas that are central to effective participation in governance. Very few respondents had read any section of the Charter for Fundamental Rights and Freedoms (CFRF), the majority were unable to identify basic constitutional rights related to their participation in governance. Less than 10% of respondents in Portland, St Thomas, St Mary, Westmoreland and St James had read any section of the CFRF. There was also a low level of engagement with the political process. Less than half of eligible youth were registered to vote and few voted in last general or local government elections. Almost 40% of participants stated a lack of interest as their reason for not voting.

There was a low level of engagement in local politics and governance. The majority of respondents did not know the names of their Member of Parliament (MP), their Councilor, or their Mayor. And similarly, most young people did not know the office location of their elected officials and almost a third did not know how they would bring an important issue to the attention of an elected official.

Most young people access information about politics from social media and television and less than 5% get political information from discussions in communities. As such, their political information will likely not address issues that are locally relevant, further fueling the disengagement with local governance.

Participant's perception of politicians is also an important factor in understanding their participation in governance. Participants in the survey overwhelmingly perceived politicians as corrupt and very few thought the government was responsive to the needs of young people. Participants generally agreed on the most pressing issues facing youth. They identified the lack of job opportunities after leaving school as the most pressing issue for young people in all parishes except for St James. Violence in communities, limited skills training opportunities, and poor road and other infrastructure were the other most commonly noted issues for young people.

Increasing participation in the governance process will require engaging youth in several areas: Knowledge of the nation's constitutions and their rights, facilitating their access to voter registration, and increasing the perception of relevance of political platforms and actions to their realities. Increasing the use of local channels to engage them in the governance process will address of number of the challenges to participation that have been identified.

Evaluation Design

The survey comprised an on-line survey of adolescents and young adults island-wide, supplemented by on-the ground data collection to reach young people who are not reached through the available mailing lists or social media.

Objectives of survey

1. Describe current, knowledge, attitude, behaviors, practices, opportunities and barriers related to youth participation in governance;
2. Gather relevant baseline data for key project indicators to enable the analysis of increased capacity of young people to participate in governance;
3. Provide baseline data from which to measure and evaluate change over the life of the project;
4. Elicit accurate data and identify current trends and patterns of participation of young people in governance.

Questionnaire Development

The questionnaire development process had three key stages, as outlined below:

- Firstly, in meetings with the project's technical officer and youth focal point, the team identified the key areas that the questionnaire should assess. Key areas were identified based on the goals and objectives of the project. The sampling frame and data collection mechanisms were also discussed and agreed on in these meetings. Several databases of youth from all parishes, various education levels, physical (dis)abilities and social classes were identified. Together the databases were estimated to include over 6000 youth.
- Following these meetings, the consultant developed a draft questionnaire that was circulated to the project team for review and feedback.
- The draft survey was scrutinized and feedback was provided for edits.
- The survey was revised, questions removed, several reworded and additional response options added. This second draft was re-circulated and feedback received.
- A third draft of the survey was circulated and accepted for implementation.

Questionnaire

The following topics were included in the 29 – item questionnaire that was administered in this assessment.

- Demographic – Age, sex, parish, highest level of education, in school/out of school, residence, employment, parental status, dis/ability, registered voter etc..
- Affiliations – service organisations, service clubs, student leadership, religious participation
- Knowledge of leaders –Member of Parliament, Councilor, Mayor; location and contact information; and their roles.
- Knowledge of the process – electoral process, (where to get enumerated), how to give input or feedback to leaders.

- Interest in political process-level of involvement and drivers of interest?
- Knowledge of constitutional rights.
- Mechanisms for involvement – petitions, sending emails, writing letter to editors, town hall meetings (e.g. through NEPA, political rallies), political youth organization
- Advocacy – Identifying the most pressing issues in your parish.
- Access to information – medium used to obtain information
- Knowledge of organizations that facilitate their involvement in governance – NIA (National Integrity), youth organizations (youth arms of major political parties), CAFÉ, Commonwealth youth group, and Youth Information Centres.

Sample size

The sample size calculation was based on the proportion of young persons 14 – 25 years of age who have read the Charter of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms (Constitutional Amendment) Act, 2011. This is a key indicator of awareness of constitutional rights and engagement with issues related to the Jamaica constitution and governance. We wished to estimate this outcome with confidence bounds between ± 5% in each parish. The sample size needed for this is p*(1-p)/((w/1.96)*2), where w is the width of the confidence interval. Guided by findings from preliminary data collected among 1899 youth nationally, we used the estimate for an underlying population proportion of 20% and a confidence bound of ± 5%. This yields a parish sample of 246. Based on recruitment in 14 parishes, we would have a total sample of 3,444 for national estimates.

Recruitment

Data collection occurred on-line over a 8–week period. Participants were recruited through passive (emails through mailing lists and social media posts) and active methods (recruited by study volunteers).

The following databases and mailing lists were identified by the Talk up Yout' project team:

1. Ministry of Youth – (approximately 6000 adolescents and youth island-wide with affiliations to National Student Council, police youth club, around the table conversations, youth who were interested in different programs, youth parliament, etc.)
2. Talk UP Yout' - 110 emails sent to youth affiliated organizations, schools and universities.

Volunteers recruited participants in all parishes. Recruitment occurred in various locations (i.e. hang out spots) where young people gather in all parishes. Han out locations included school libraries, parish library, restaurants, game shops, and computer labs. Volunteers recruited from among their personal network, strangers who they approached randomly, the social network of participants and in institutions (e.g. school settings).
All respondents completed the survey electronically. Study staff provided access through tablets, cell phones or computers.

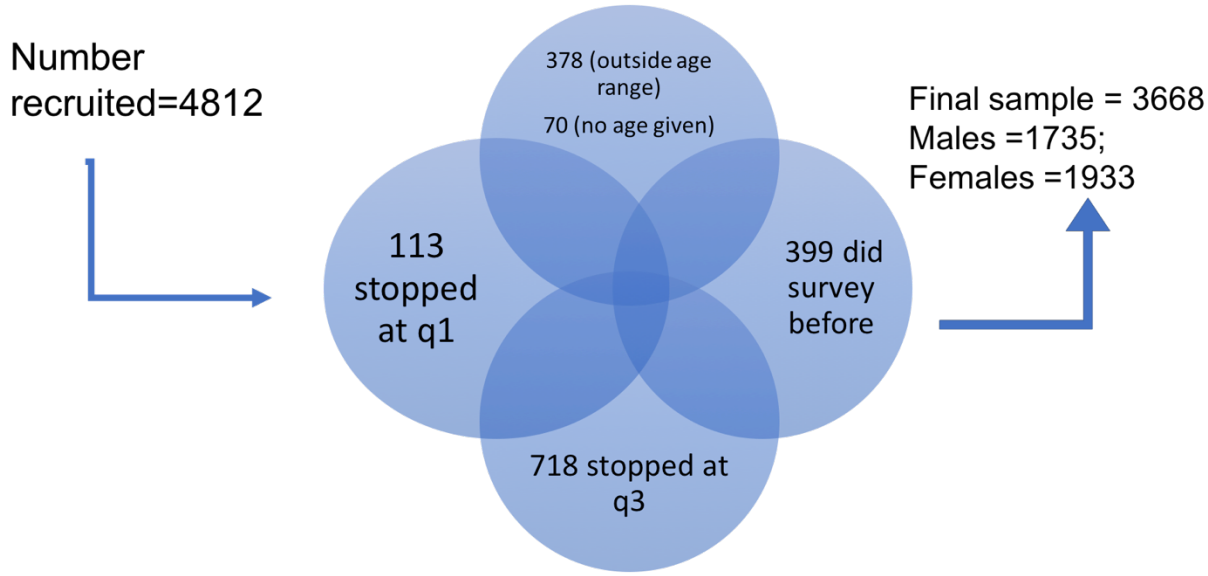
Data Analysis

This report presents frequency charts for various demographic variables and key project indicators. Statistical significance between sex and age groups were assessed with chi square tests. Significance level was set at $p < .05$.

Findings

Sample

Figure 1 Sample



A total of 4812 persons accessed the survey during the period of data collection. Fifty-three persons (1.1%) were under 14 years of age, 255 (5%) were over 25 years, and 70 (1.5%) did not include their age (Figure 1). Of the remaining 4473 respondents, 399 (8%), stated that they completed a talk up youth survey in the last month and 718 (16%) ended participation at this question. An additional 113 respondents ended their participation at question 10, completing less than 30% of the survey items. Participants who ended participation at question 10 or earlier were removed from the sample.

A total of 3668 eligible participants (47.3% Male; 52.7% Female) were included in the final study sample. Among these 3668, 360 did not respond to the question regarding having read the constitution, and 422 ended their participation before completing all questions in the survey.

Table 1. Data sources for participants, N=3668

Data Source	*Number*	*Percent*
Email Invitation	87	2.4
Embedded Survey	6	0.2
Popup Survey	9	0.2
Social Media Post	2018	55.0
Weblink	1548	42.2

Respondents were recruited to the survey through various promotional efforts on Social Media, email invitations and in person recruitment by interviewers who provided online access to the survey. The majority of participants completed the survey after contact through social media (55%) (Table 1). The remaining participants were reached through on the ground recruiting and completed the survey on tablets provided by study volunteers (Weblink, 42.2%).

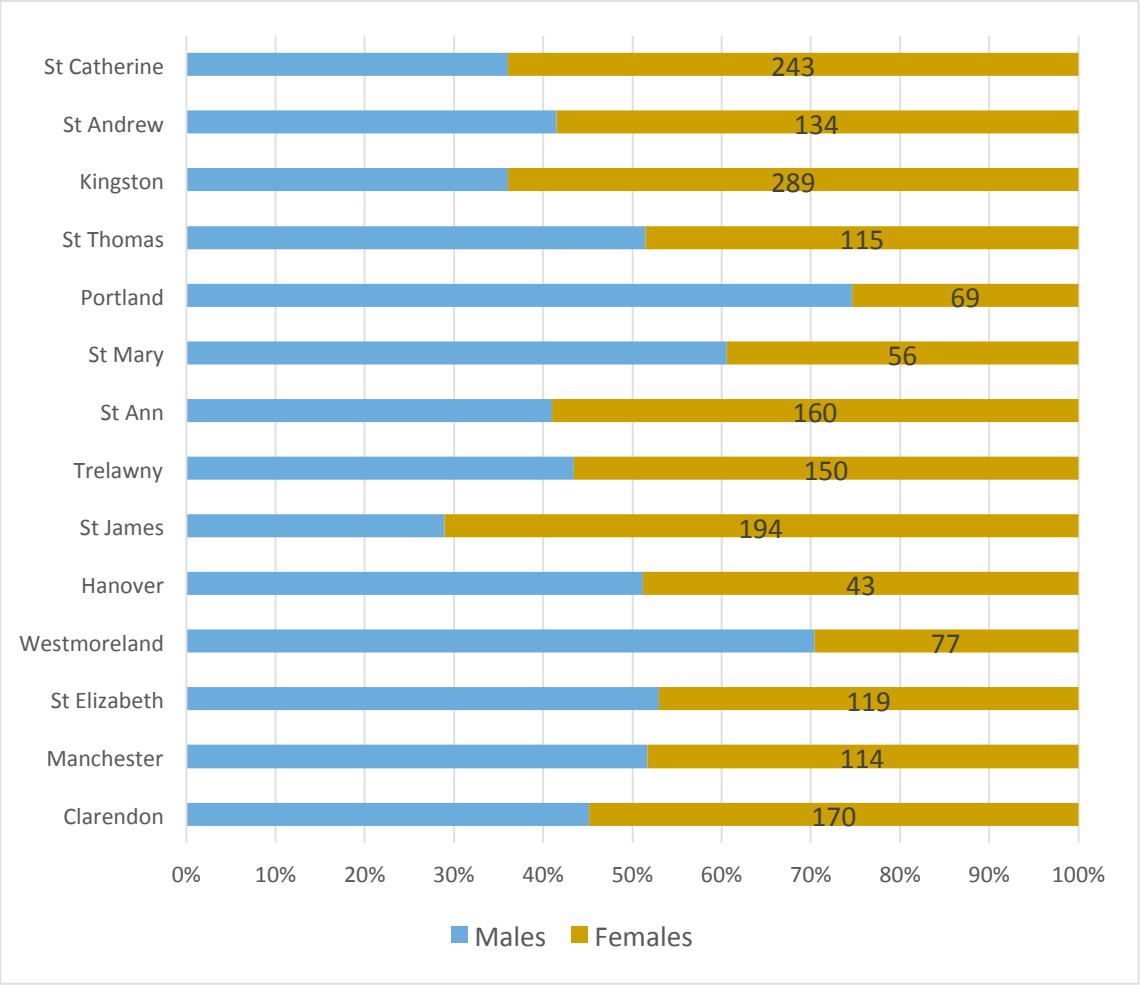
Demographic Characteristics

Table 2 Parish of Residence of Participants, N=3668

Parish	n	%
Clarendon	310	8.5
Hanover	88	2.4
Kingston	452	12.3
Manchester	236	6.4
Portland	272	7.4
St. Andrew	229	6.2
St. Ann	271	7.4
St. Catherine	380	10.4
St. Elizabeth	253	6.9
St. James	273	7.4
St.Mary	142	3.9
St. Thomas	237	6.5
Trelawny	265	7.2
Westmoreland	260	7.1

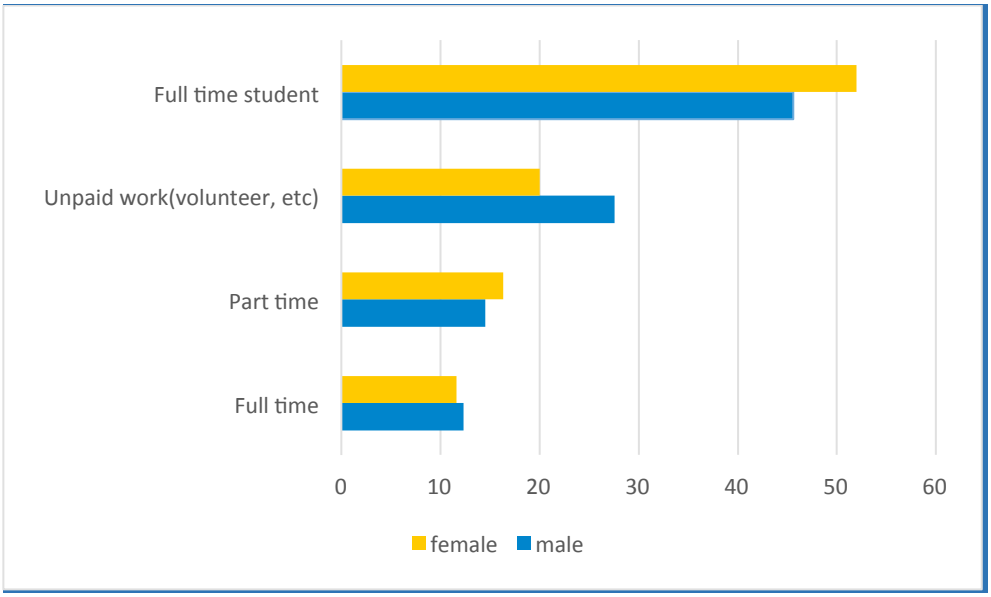
The majority of the participants were residents of St Catherine (10.4%), Kingston (12.3%), Clarendon (8.5%), St James (7.4%), Portland (7.4%) and St. Ann (7.4%) (Table 2).
Five parishes – Hanover, Manchester, St Andrew, St Mary and St. Thomas - did not meet the minimum target sample size of 245. Estimates from respondents in these parishes will be less specific. Respondents from Kingston and St Andrew are combined in parish analysis.

Figure 2 Parish of residence by sex



The average age of respondents did not vary between males (M=19.44, SD=2.72) and females (mean = 19.73, SD=2.36). However, a greater proportion of female participants, compared to males, were 20 -25 years of age (54.1% vs 49.0%), while a greater proportion of males than females was in the younger age group (51.0 vs 45.9%, respectively; $p < .01$) (Figure 2).

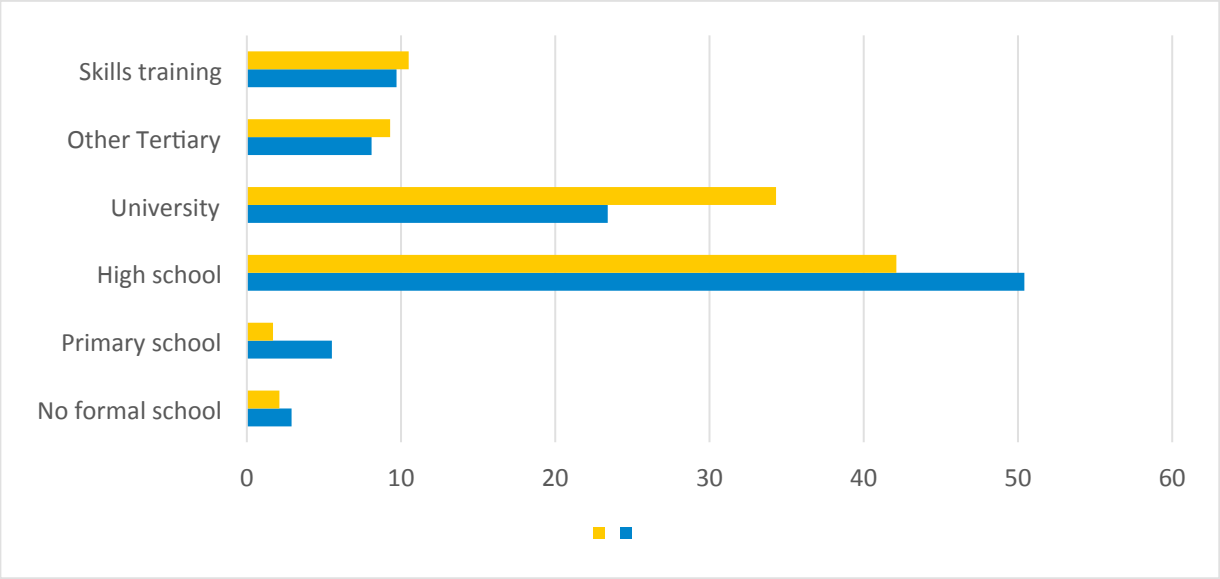
Figure 3 Employment status of participants, percentage by sex



Almost half the respondents (49%) were full time students, while almost a quarter (23.6%) were involved in unpaid work, such as internships or volunteering (Figure 3). Fifteen percent reported working part-time and 12% worked full time. Significantly more males than females were engaged in unpaid work (27.6% vs. 20%, respectively), while more females than males (52% vs. 45.6%) were full-time students, ($p<.05$).

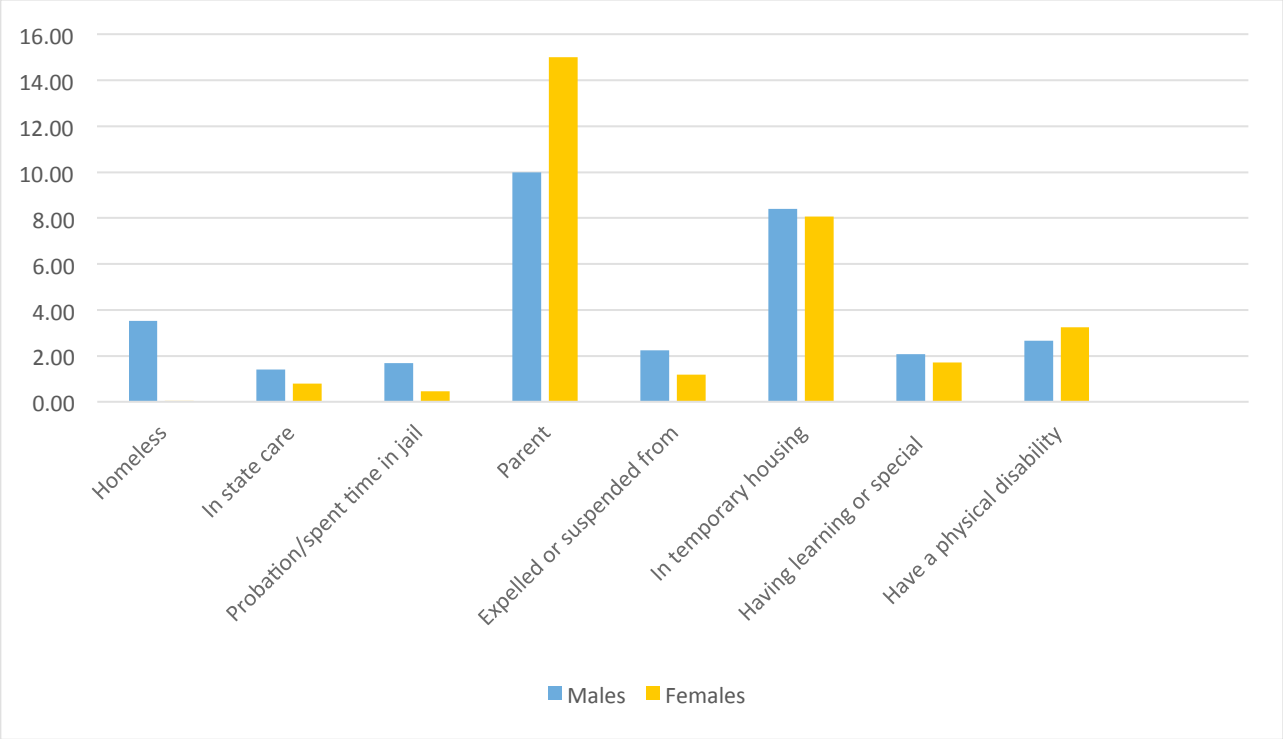
Most participant had achieved a high school (45.9%) or university (29.0%) education (Figure 4). Only 2.5% reported no formal education (2.9% Males and 2.1% Females).

Figure 4 Highest education level, percentage by sex



Finally, we asked respondents about their status on various social characteristics that are important to understanding the representation needs of adolescents and young adults. Eight percent of females and males reported being in temporary housing, 15% of females and 10 % of males reported being parents (Figure 5). Less than 4% identified with any other issue. Sixty-four percent of males and 68% of females reported that none of the issues that were queried applied to them.

Figure 5 Social characteristics of participants, percentage by sex

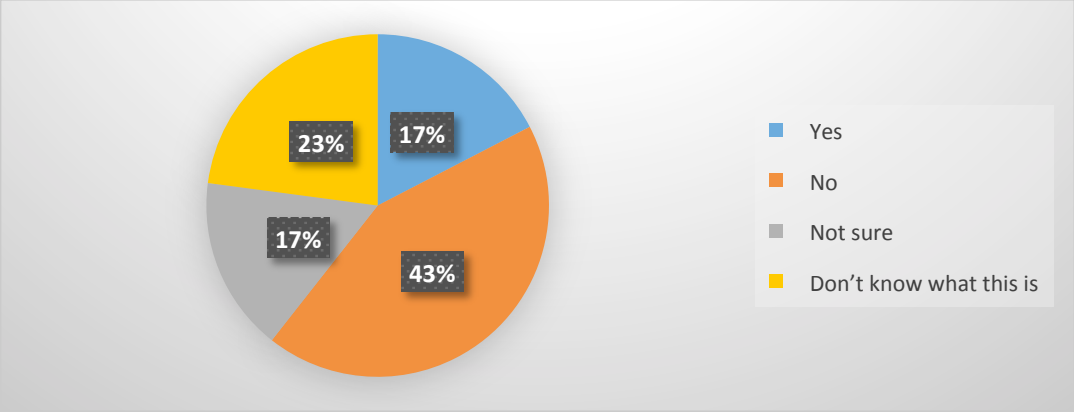


The following figures present preliminary findings related to the objectives of the survey:

1. Gather relevant baseline data for key project indicators to enable the analysis of increased capacity of young people to participate in governance;
2. Provide baseline data from which to measure and evaluate change over the life of the project;
3. Elicit accurate data and identify current trends and patterns of participation of young people in governance.

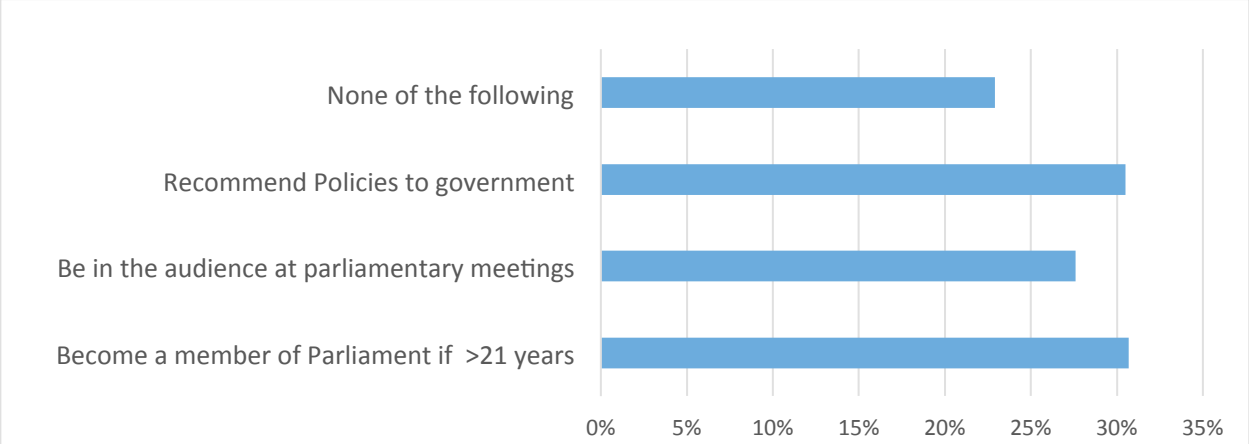
Current knowledge, attitude, behaviors, practices, opportunities and barriers related to youth participation in governance

Figure 6 Percentage of participants who have read any section of the Charter of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms(CFRF)



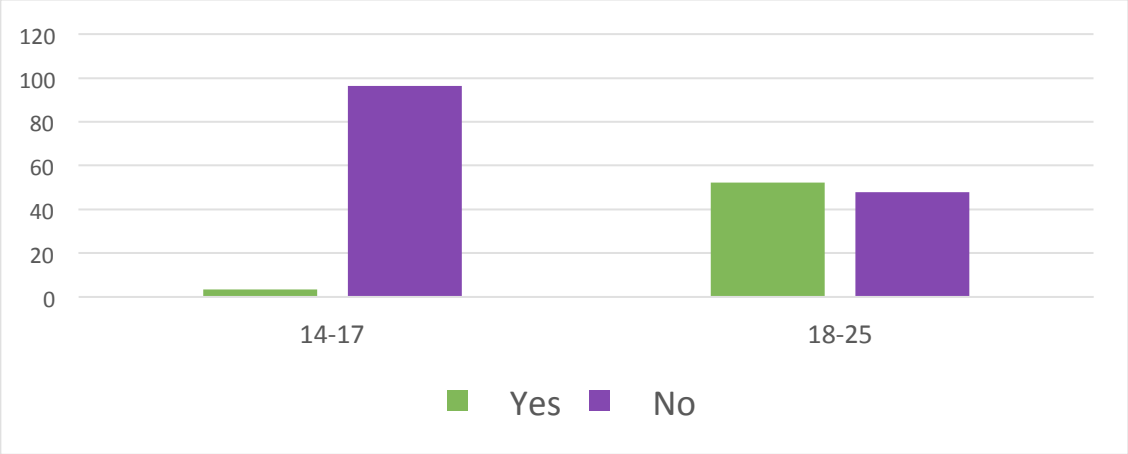
Only 17% of the survey respondents reported that they had read any section of the CFRF (Figure 6). Almost a quarter (23%) reported that they did not know what it was, and another 17% said they were not sure if they had read this document.

Figure 7 Percentage of participants who correctly identify constitutional rights



Related to this, less than a third of respondents correctly identified any of the three constitutional rights included in the survey (Figure 7). And, almost a quarter (23%) incorrectly stated that none of the three were constitutional rights.

Figure 8 Percent registered to vote by age group



Overall, 42.1% of respondents were registered to vote, but, the majority (52.1%) of persons of voting age reported that they were registered to vote (Figure 8).

A greater proportion of females (45.2%) reported that they were registered to vote, compared to males (38.8%), p <.001 (Figure 9).

Figure 9 Percent registered to vote by sex

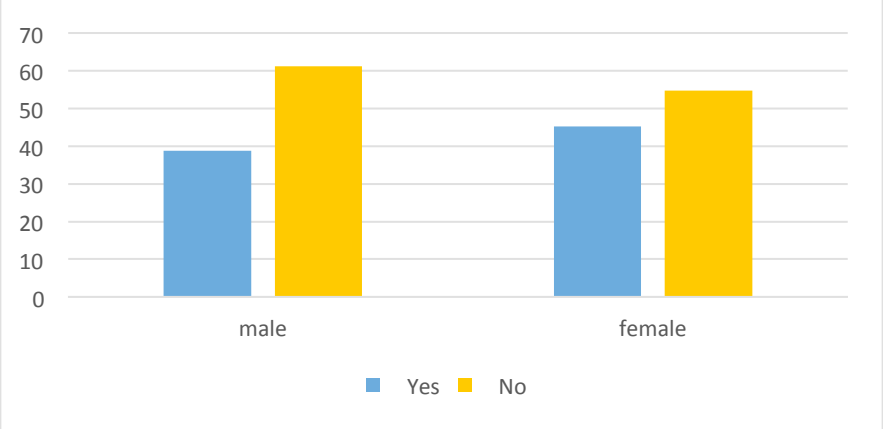
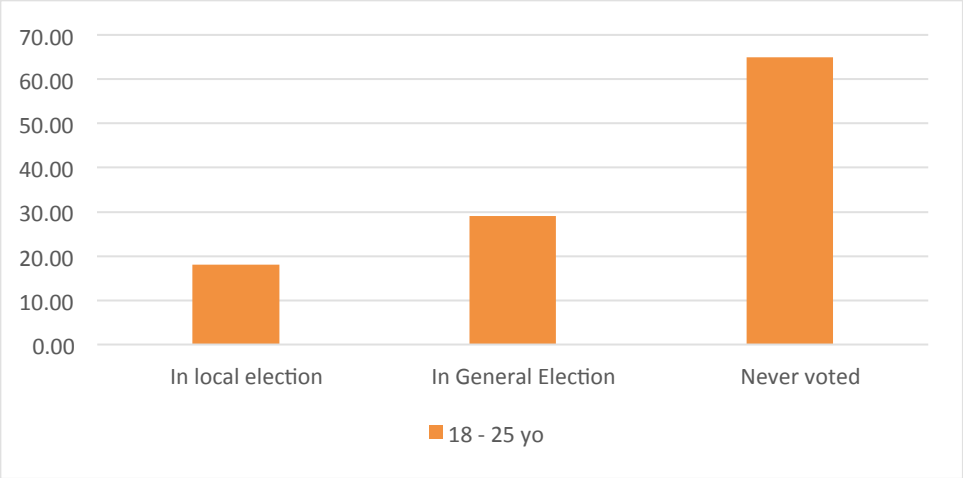


Figure 10 Percent who have voted in local election, voted in general election, or never voted



Among eligible voters 18 -25 years old, only 18% reported that they had ever voted in a local election and 29% in a general election (Figure 10). The majority, 65%, had never voted.

Among persons of voting age, the most common reason for not voting was a lack of interest (36.7%) (Figure 11).

Figure 11 Reasons for not voting, percentage by age

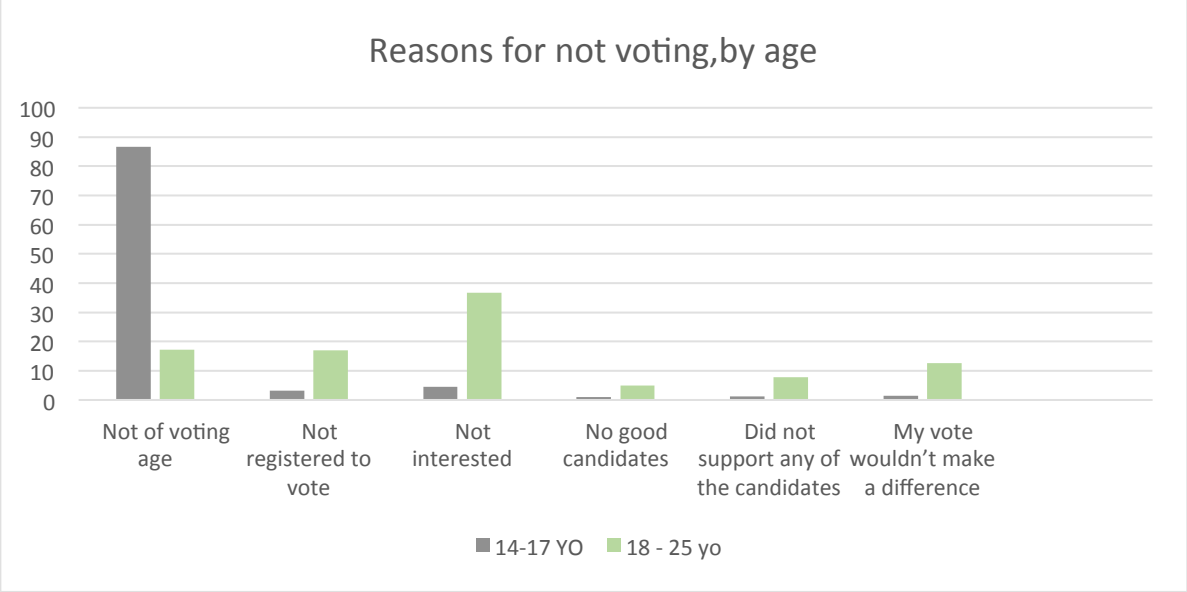
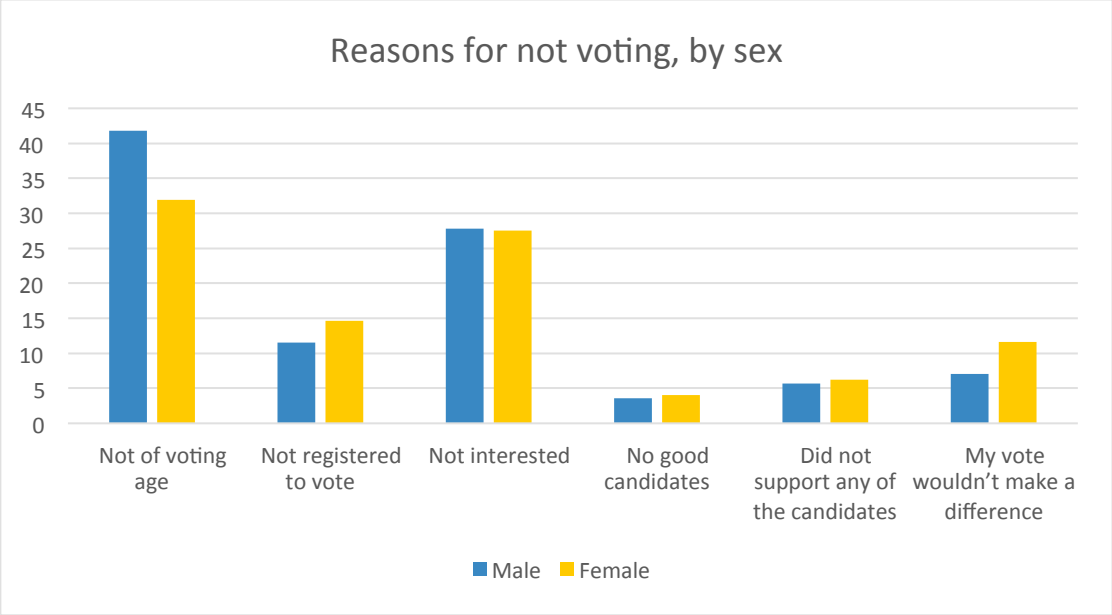


Figure 12 Reasons for not voting, percentage by sex



More males than females reported not being of voting age (41.8% vs 31.9%, respectively) (Figure 12). An equal percentage of males (27.8%) and females (27.5%) reported a 'lack of interest' as their main reason for not voting.

Only 19.5% of males and 22.3% of females viewed the election process as fair and transparent (Figure 13). While 40% of females and 42.6% of males reported that they were not sure if the election process was fair and transparent.

Figure 13 The election process fair and transparent, percentage by gender

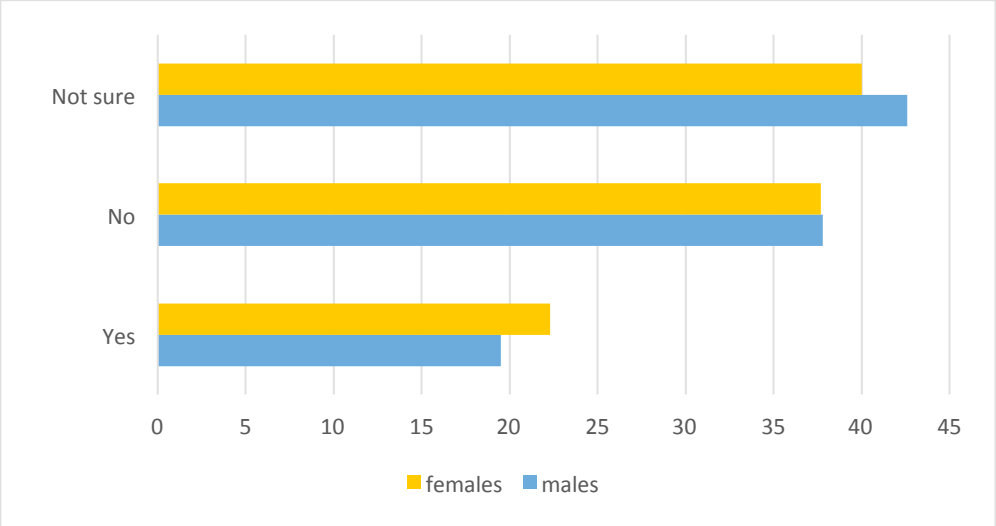
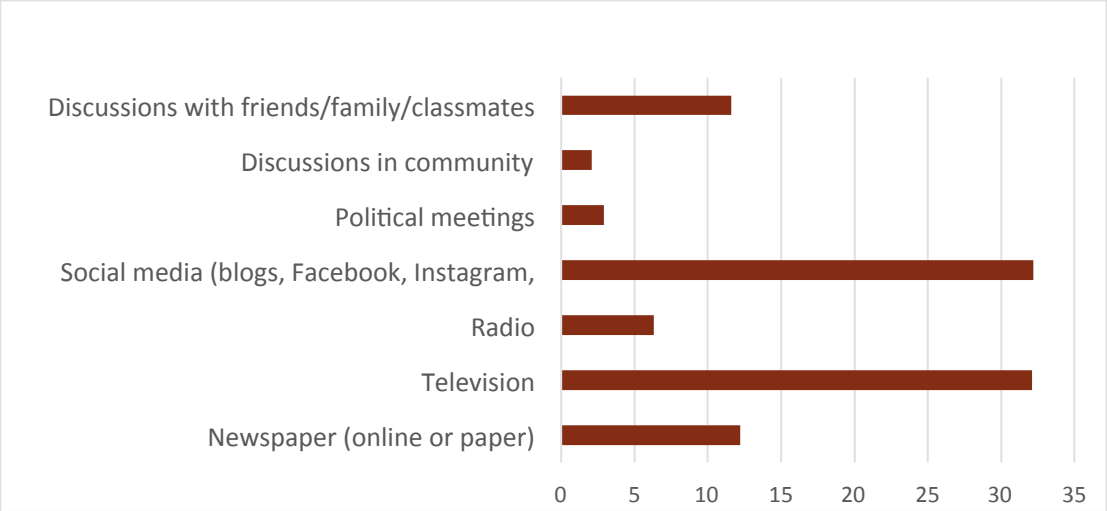


Figure 14 Sources of political information



The two main sources of political information were television (32.1%) and social media (32.2%) (Figure 14). Very few respondents reported participating in discussions in their communities (2.1%) or attending political meetings (2.9%).

Only 8.2% of the respondents reported that they did not have access to various electronic (broadcast and internet) media (Figure 15). Over 70% had access to a television in their home and another 66.8% had access to a smart phone with a data plan or consistent internet access and 53.1% had access to internet through a personal computer or tablet.

Figure 15 Percent of participants with access to electronic media at home

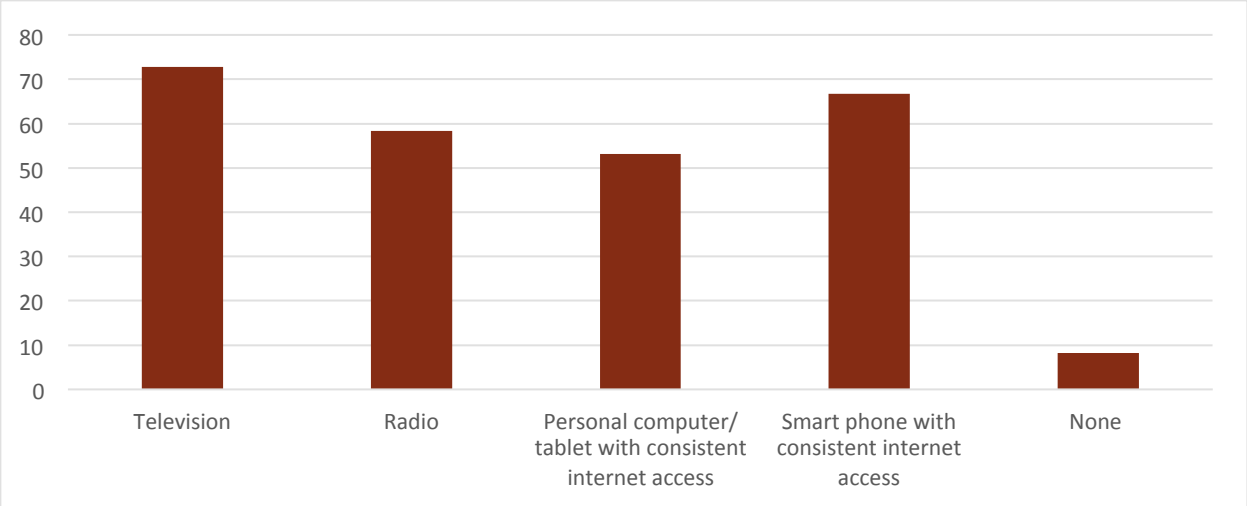
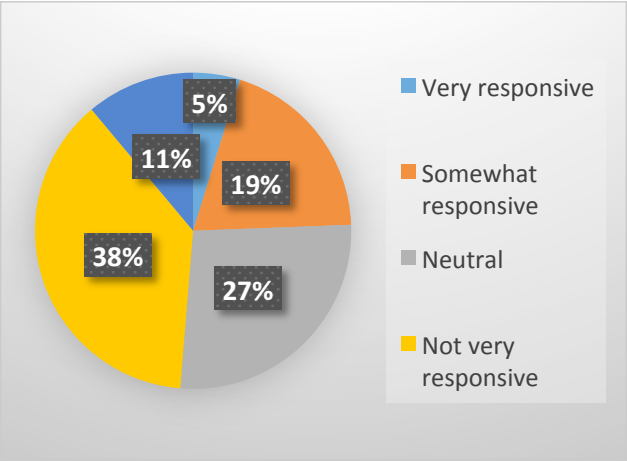


Figure 16 How responsive are government officials to youth?



Most respondents did not think that government officials were responsive to the needs of young people. Thirty-eight percent reported that they were not very responsive and 11% reported that they were 'not at all responsive' (Figure 16). Only 5% reported that officials were 'very responsive', while 19% reported that government officials were 'somewhat responsive'.

Respondents also perceived that many (31%) or most (49%) officials are involved in corruption (Figure 17). Only 18% responded that 'hardly anyone is involved in corruption'.

Figure 17 Are officials involved in corruption?

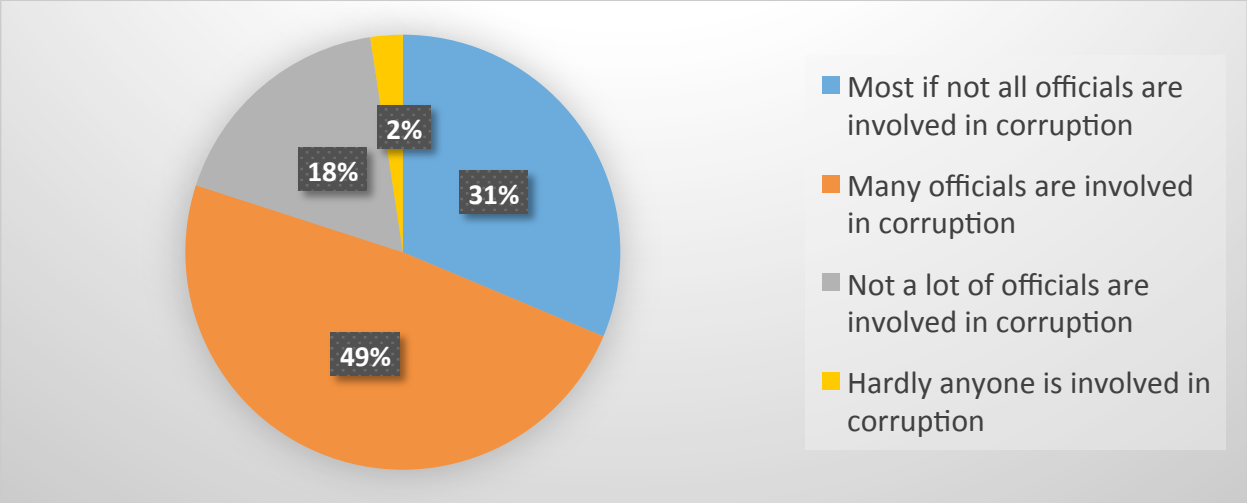


Figure 18 Percent of participants that know the office location of their elected officials

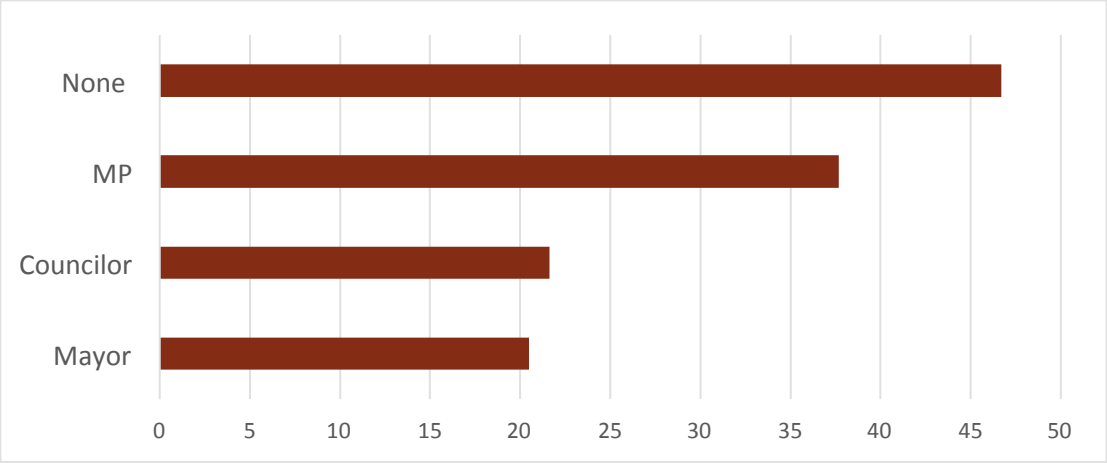
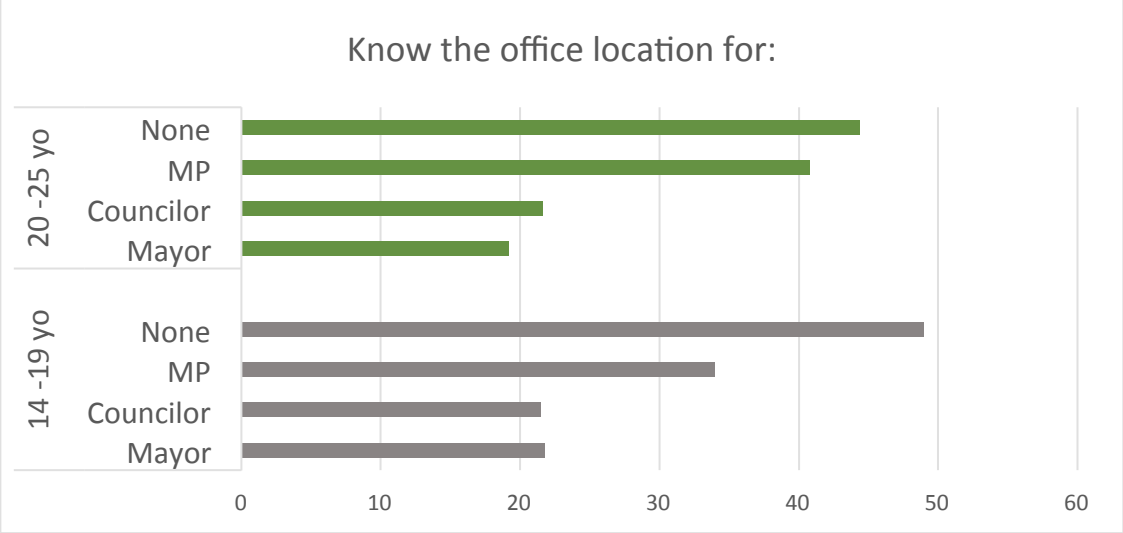
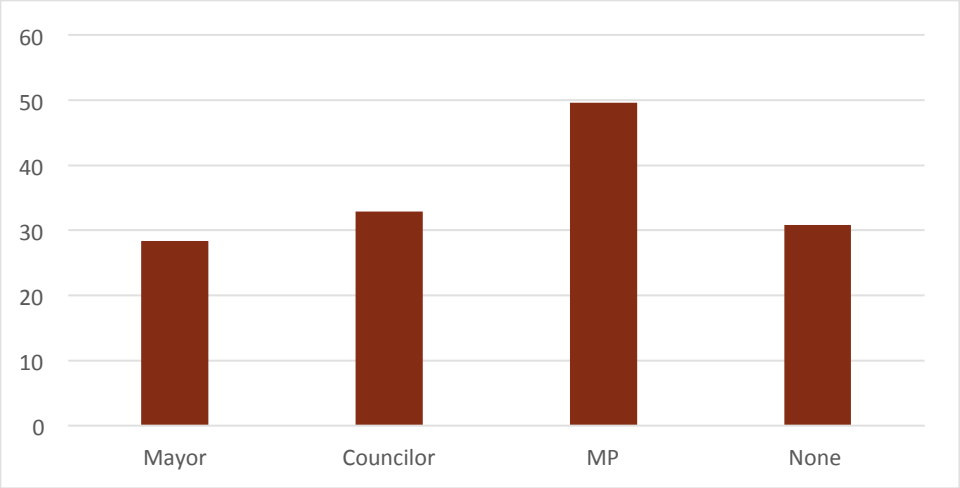


Figure 19 Percent of participants who know the office location of elected officials, by age groups



Significantly more participants were aware of the office location for their Member of Parliament (MP) (37.68%) than the office location of the Mayor (20.5%) or the Councilor (21.6%) (Figure 18). Young adult respondents were more likely to know the office location of their MP, compared to adolescents (40.8% vs 34%, respectively) (Figure 19). Similarly, participants were more likely to be familiar with the name of their MP (49.6%), than their Councilor (32.9%) or Mayor (28.4%) (Figure 20). Of note, less than 50% of participants knew the name of their Member of Parliament and 30% reported that they did not know the name of any of their elected officials. Knowing the name of elected officials was not related to sex or age.

Figure 20 Percent of participants who know the name of elected representative



When asked, 'If you needed to bring an issue to the attention of your political representative, what would you do?', the most common response was, 'I don't know' (23.8%) (Figure 21). Sixteen percent reported that they would contact elected officials at any level. Other common responses were to 'contact community leaders' (16.5%).

Figure 21 How would you contact your elected official about an important issue?

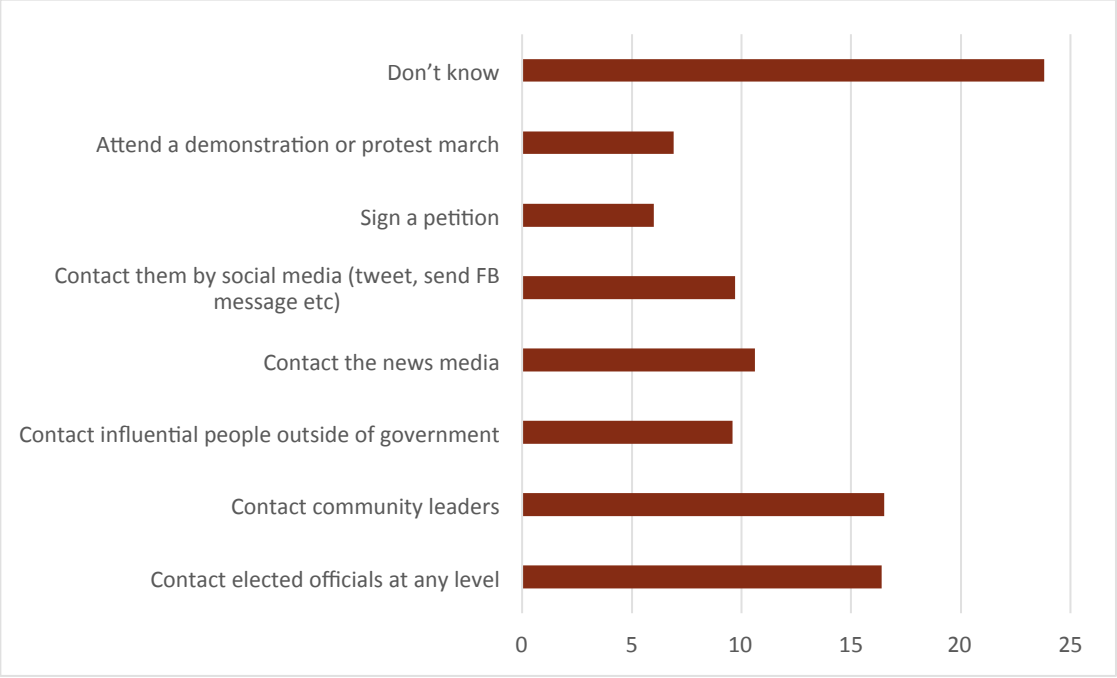
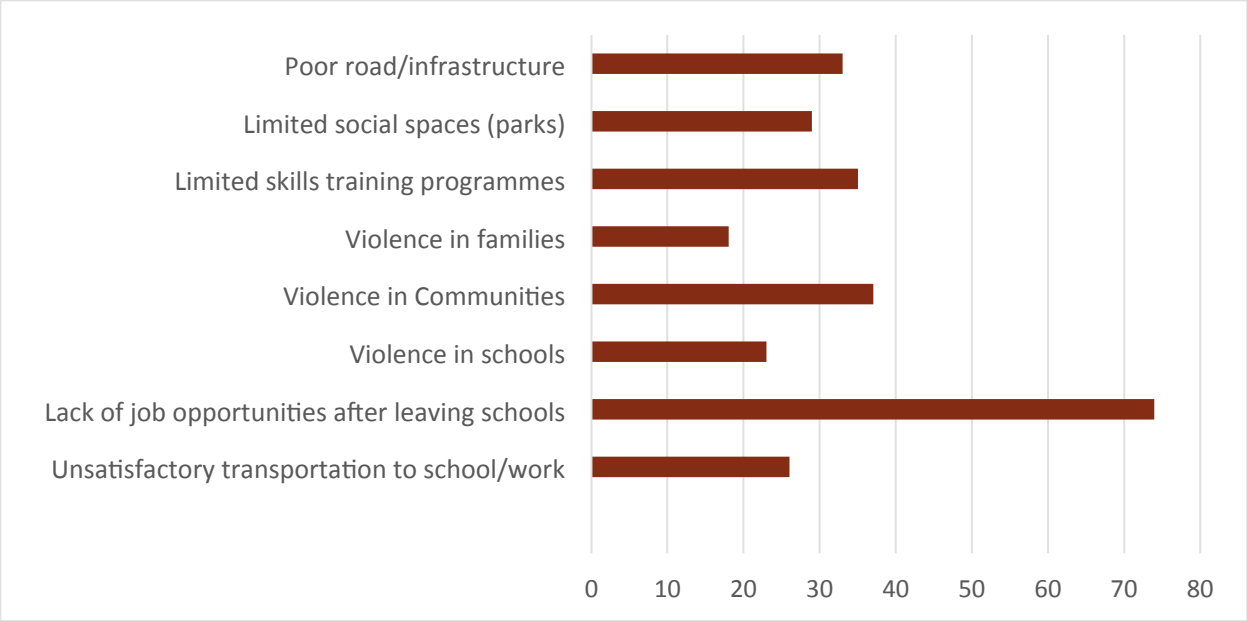
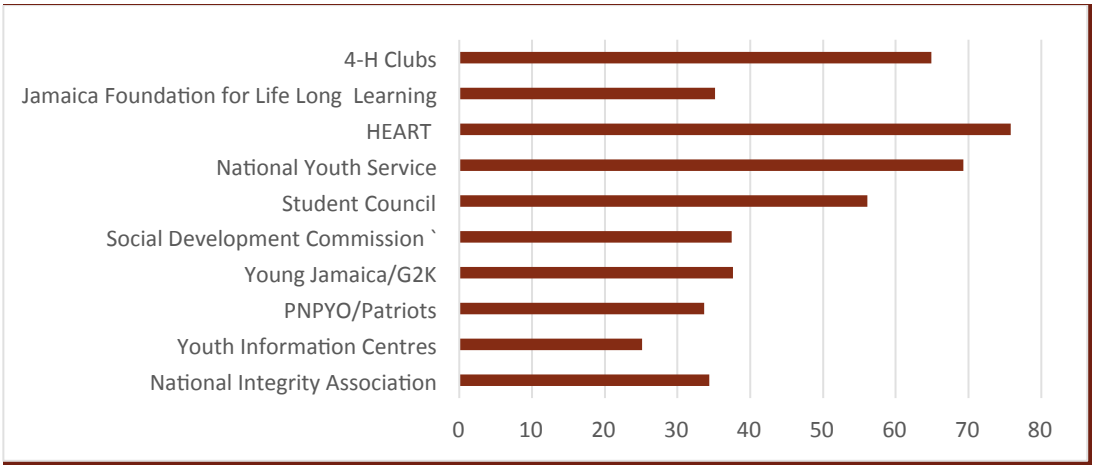


Figure 22 Most pressing issues that are affecting young people



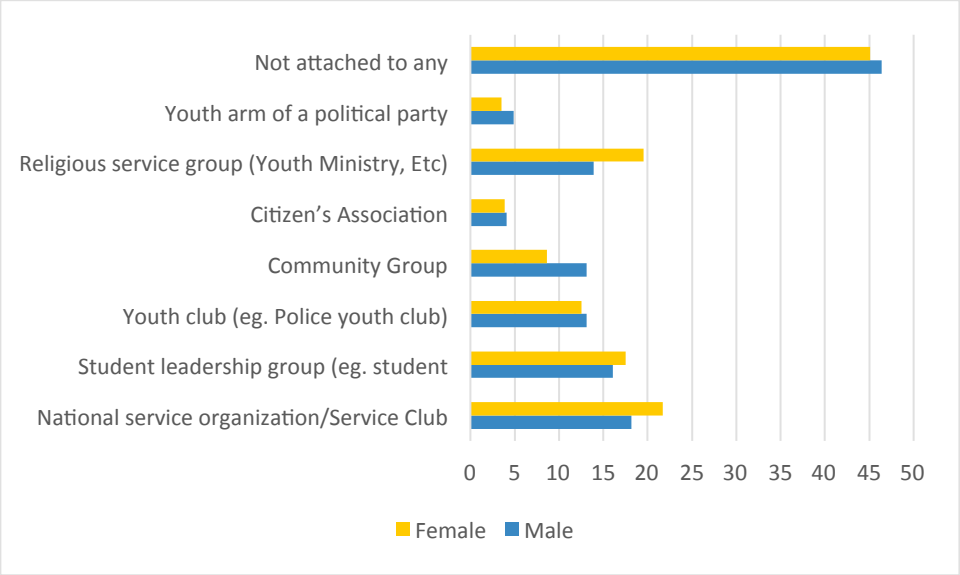
Respondents overwhelmingly identified 'lack of job opportunities after leaving schools' has the most pressing issue that was affecting young people (74.0%) (Figure 22). Violence in communities (37%) and limited skills training programs were other commonly mentioned issues that affect young people.

Figure 23 Awareness of youth groups, political and service organizations that facilitate participation in governance



Most respondents were aware of Student Council (56.1%), 4-H Clubs (64.9%), National Youth Service (69.3%), and HEART (75.8%) (Figure 23). They were least aware of the Youth Information Centres (25.1%), PNPYO/Patriots (33.7%), National Integrity Association (34.4%) and Jamaica Foundation for Lifelong Learning (35.2%).

Figure 24 Involvement in service organization, leadership or political group, percent by sex



In terms of their involvement with various organizations, 45% of respondents reported that they were not attached to any organizations (Figure 24). Respondents were primarily involved in National Service Organizations/ Service clubs (20.0%), Religious Service Organizations (16.9%) and Student Leadership Groups (16.9%).

Parish level findings

Table 3 Distribution of participants, by age groups

		Age 14-19		Age 20 - 25	
Parish of Residence	N	n	%	n	%
Clarendon	310	153	49.40	157	50.60
Manchester	236	107	45.3	129	54.7
St Elizabeth	253	128	50.6	125	49.4
Westmoreland	260	114	43.8	146	56.2
Hanover	88	38	43.2	50	56.8
St James	273	116	42.5	157	57.5
Trelawny	265	146	55.1	119	44.9
St Ann	271	130	48.0	141	52
St Mary	142	80	56.3	62	43.7
Portland	272	171	62.9	101	37.1
St Thomas	237	112	47.3	125	52.7
Kingston	452	185	40.9	267	59.1
St Andrew	229	109	47.6	120	52.4
St Catherine	380	183	48.2	197	51.8

Overall, participants were evenly distributed between the 14 – 19 (48.3%) and 20 -25 (51.7%) age groups (Table 3). Portland, St. Mary and Trelawny had a higher proportion of adolescents than young adults. Kingston had the lowest proportion of adolescents.

Table 4 Do you know where you can register to vote?

		Yes	
Parish of Residence	N	n	%
Clarendon	310	201	64.8
Manchester	236	142	60.2
St Elizabeth	253	181	71.5
Westmoreland	260	79	30.4
Hanover	88	52	59.1
St James	273	100	36.6
Trelawny	265	104	39.2
St Ann	271	150	55.4
St Mary	142	86	60.6
Portland	272	182	66.9
St Thomas	237	164	69.2
Kingston	452	268	59.3
St Andrew	229	135	59.0
St Catherine	380	238	62.6

Overall, 56.8% of respondents reported that they knew where to register to vote. Knowledge of where to vote varied across parishes. The highest percentage was from St. Elizabeth (71.5%), St Thomas (69.2%), and Portland (66.9%) (Table 4). The lowest percentage was from Westmoreland (30.4%), St James (36.6%) and Trelawny (39.2%).

Table 5 Registered to vote and voting behavior

		Registered to vote		*Ever voted in general election*		*Ever voted in local election*	
Parish of Residence		n	%	n	%	n	%
Clarendon	308	149	48.4	55	36.9	46	30.9
Manchester	236	101	42.8	51	50.5	30	29.7
St Elizabeth	251	119	47.4	83	69.7	48	40.3
Westmoreland	254	47	18.5	28	59.6	13	27.7
Hanover	88	42	47.7	21	50.0	17	40.5
St James	270	62	23.0	33	53.2	21	33.9
Trelawny	264	101	38.3	68	67.3	44	43.6
St Ann	269	165	61.3	135	81.8	63	38.2
St Mary	142	54	38.0	35	64.8	17	31.5
Portland	272	112	43.7	61	54.5	51	45.5
St Thomas	237	110	46.4	63	57.3	44	40.0
Kingston	448	212	47.3	98	46.2	60	28.3
St Andrew	229	100	43.7	54	54.0	27	27.0
St Catherine	379	163	43.0	67	41.1	45	27.6

While 42% of the sample was registered to vote, only 56% of the registered voters have voted in a general election and 34.6% voted in a local election.

Respondents from St Ann reported the highest level of voter registration (61.3%) and the highest rate of participation in a general election (81.8%) (Table 5). Voter registration was slightly above the average in Clarendon (48.4%), Hanover (47.7%), St. Elizabeth (47.4%), and Kingston (47.3%). In comparison, St James (23.0%) and Westmoreland (18.5%) had the lowest rate of voter registration.

Participation in general election was highest for St Ann (81.8%), St Elizabeth (69.7%), Trelawny (67.3%) and St Mary (64.8%), and lowest in Clarendon (36.9), St Catherine (41.1%) and Kingston (46.2%).

Participation in local elections was low in all parishes. The parishes with the lowest rate of youth participation in local elections were St Andrew (27.0%), St Catherine (27.6%), Westmoreland (27.7%), Kingston (28.3%) and Manchester (29.7%).

Table 6 Reason for not voting

		I was not of voting age		*I did not register to vote*		*I was not interested*		*There were no good candidates*		*I did not support any of the candidates*		*My vote wouldn't have made a difference*	
Parish of Residence													
Clarendon	224	91	40.60	29	3.10	65	29.00	7	3.10	12	5.40	10	4.50
Manchester	173	57	32.90	33	19.10	43	24.90	8	4.60	8	4.60	16	9.20
St Elizabeth	167	84	50.30	20	12.00	40	24.00	2	1.20	5	3.00	7	4.20
Westmoreland	224	103	46.00	20	8.90	66	29.50	4	1.80	5	2.20	24	10.70
Hanover	58	14	24.10	9	15.50	20	34.50	0	0.00	7	12.10	6	10.30
St James	230	50	21.70	15	6.50	43	18.70	5	2.20	8	3.50	103	44.80
Trelawny	167	53	31.70	31	18.60	42	25.10	6	3.60	16	9.60	17	10.20
St Ann	119	50	42.00	13	10.90	31	26.10	9	7.60	7	5.90	6	5.00
St Mary	94	51	54.30	6	6.40	21	22.30	6	6.40	7	7.40	3	3.20
Portland	195	114	58.50	15	7.70	35	17.90	6	3.10	6	3.10	14	7.20
St Thomas	154	72	46.80	14	9.10	40	26.00	7	4.50	9	5.80	5	4.50
Kingston	318	77	24.20	52	16.40	118	37.10	15	4.70	27	8.50	18	5.70
St Andrew	164	46	28.00	37	22.60	50	30.50	6	3.70	15	9.10	3	1.80
St Catherine	287	86	30.00	42	14.60	98	34.10	17	5.90	21	7.30	10	3.50

In terms of the reasons for not voting, the most common reasons across respondents in almost all parishes were that they were not of voting age (36.8%), they were not interested (27.7%), and they were not registered to vote (13.1%). 'My vote wouldn't have made a difference' was the most common reason given by respondents from St James (44.8%) and the third most common response given respondents from Westmoreland (10.7%) (Table 9). 'I was not interested' was the most common reason cited by respondents from Hanover (34.5%), Kingston (37.1%), St Andrew (30.5%), and St Catherine (34.1%).

Table 7 Three most pressing issues for young people in your parish

Parish of Residence	*N*	*Unsatisfactory transportation to school*	*Lack of job opportunities after leaving school*	*Violence in school*	*Violence in communities*	*Violence in families*	*Limited skills training*	*Limited social spaces*	*Poor road and infrastructure*
Clarendon	310	**29%**	**74%**	17%	**43%**	12%	28%	27%	28%
Manchester	236	29%	**67%**	27%	**29%**	13%	**30%**	23%	29%
St Elizabeth	253	9%	**75%**	9%	8%	8%	37%	**56%**	**49%**
Westmoreland	260	17%	**51%**	19%	**41%**	18%	13%	**30%**	12%
Hanover	88	30%	**67%**	**31%**	**38%**	13%	15%	19%	19%
St James	273	8%	**41%**	23%	**46%**	31%	**41%**	38%	28%
Trelawny	265	22%	**45%**	**24%**	**30%**	18%	23%	22%	23%
St Ann	271	26%	**58%**	**39%**	**38%**	28%	32%	17%	12%
St Mary	142	**52%**	**73%**	27%	23%	15%	31%	17%	**35%**
Portland	272	33%	**85%**	9%	15%	6%	**39%**	25%	**63%**
St Thomas	237	18%	**71%**	10%	13%	8%	**51%**	22%	**58%**
Kingston	452	20%	**73%**	27%	**46%**	17%	**30%**	20%	21%
St Andrew	229	28%	**74%**	14%	**40%**	13%	**30%**	24%	25%
St Catherine	380	**28%**	**66%**	17%	**35%**	16%	27%	22%	21%

The lack of job opportunities after leaving school was noted as the most pressing issue for young people in all parishes except for St James. In St James, 46% of respondents noted 'violence in communities', 41% noted 'lack of job opportunities after leaving school' and 41% noted 'limited skills training opportunities' as the most pressing issues facing young people in St James (Table 6). 'Violence in communities' (10 parishes), 'limited skills training opportunities' (6 parishes), and 'poor road and other infrastructure' (4 parishes) were the other most commonly noted among the top three issues for young people.

Table 8 Read a section of the Charter of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms

		Yes	
Parish of Residence		n	%
Clarendon	278	43	15.5
Manchester	212	36	17.0
St Elizabeth	231	42	18.2
Westmoreland	237	19	8.00
Hanover	81	13	16.0
St James	246	13	5.3
Trelawny	239	46	19.2
St Ann	239	99	41.40
St Mary	129	8	6.2
Portland	260	21	8.1
St Thomas	215	17	7.9
Kingston	409	98	24.0
St Andrew	206	55	26.7
St Catherine	326	64	19.6

Overall, very few persons have read the Charter of Fundamental Rights and Freedom. While 17.4% of the total sample reported that they had read a section of the CFRF, this varied across parishes. Less than 10% of respondents in Portland, St Thomas, St Mary, Westmoreland and St James had read any section of the CFRF (Table 7). The lowest rate was reported in St James, where only 5.3% of respondents had read any section of the CFRF. Approximately a quarter of respondents from Kingston (24.0%) and St Andrew (26%) and over 40% of respondents from St Ann, reported that they have read a section of the CFRF.

Young adults age 20-25 were almost twice as likely compared to adolescents 14 -19 years to have read a section of the CFRF (63.2% vs 36.8%), while more adolescents than young adults reported that they did not know what the CFRF is (53.4% vs 46.6%), $p < .001$.

Summary – National Data:

This survey aimed to gather baseline information on key project indicators related to the capacity of young people to participate in governance. The areas assessed include knowledge, attitudes, behaviours, opportunities and barriers related to their participation in governance.

The survey revealed a low level of knowledge in key areas that are central to effective participation in governance. Very few respondents had read any section of the Charter for Fundamental Rights and Freedoms (CFRF), the majority were unable to identify basic constitutional rights related to their participation in governance. Less than 10% of respondents in Portland, St Thomas, St Mary, Westmoreland and St James had read any section of the CFRF. There was also a low level of engagement with the political process. Less than half of eligible youth were registered to vote and few voted in last general or local government elections. Over a quarter of participants stated a lack of interest as their reason for not voting and only 1 in 5 viewed the electoral process as fair and transparent.

There was a low level of engagement in local politics and governance. The majority of respondents did not know the names of their Member of Parliament (MP), their Councilor, or their Mayor. Similarly, most young people did not know the office location of their elected officials and almost a third did not know how they would bring an important issue to the attention of an elected official.

Most young people access information about politics from social media and television and less than 5% get political information from discussions in communities. As such, their political information will likely not address issues that are relevant at a local level, further fueling the disengagement with local politics and governance.

Participant's perception of politicians is also an important factor in understanding their participation in governance. Participants in the survey overwhelmingly perceived politicians as corrupt and very few thought the government was responsive to the needs of young people. Participants generally agreed on the most pressing issues facing youth. They identified the lack of job opportunities after leaving school as the most pressing issue for young people in all parishes except for St James. Violence in communities, limited skills training opportunities, and poor road and other infrastructure were the other most commonly noted issues for young people.

Increasing participation in the governance process will require engaging youth in several areas: Knowledge of the nations constitutions and their rights, facilitating their access to voter registration, and increasing the perception of relevance of political platforms and actions to their realities. Increasing the use of local channels to engage them in the governance process will address of number of the challenges to participation that have been identified.

Appendix. Data collection tools

Online Survey Tool
Detailed St James Parish Report
Detailed Parent Report

No.	Questions and Filters	Coding categories	Skip to
	Demographic		
1	Are you	MALE..... …….....1 FEMALE..... ..... ……...2	
2	How old were you at your last birthday?	_____	
3	Parish of Residence		
4	What is your highest level of education?	No formal school... …….....1 Basic/primary..... …….....2 High school.....3 University….....4 Other tertiary……..5 Skills training (HEART, etc).....6	skip
5	Are you employed?	Yes, full time (more than 30 hours a week). ….....1 Yes Part-time..... …….....2 Not in paid work (volunteering, unpaid intern) .....3 Full time Student….....…….....4	skip
6	Would you describe yourself as any of the following? Please tick all that apply	Homeless In state care On probation/spent time in jail A parent Expelled or suspended from school Living in temporary accommodation Have learning difficulties or special needs Have a physical disability None of these I prefer not to say	
7	Which of the following do you have access to at home	Television Radio Personal computer with consistent internet access Smart phone with consistent data plan None of the above	
8	Which of the following groups are you involved in	National service organization/Service Club (eg. Kiwanis) Student leadership group (eg. student council, Hall/Guild committee) Youth club (eg. Police youth club) Community Group Citizen's Association Religious service group (Youth Ministry, Etc) Youth arm of a political party Not attached to any	

	Voting preference and attitude		
9	Do you know where you can register to vote	YES ……..1 NO ……..……..2 Not sure…….……..3	
10	Are you registered to vote?	YES ……..1 NO ……..……..2	**skip**
11	Have you ever voted in a local or General Election (choose all that apply)	YES, Local Election ……..1 Yes, General Election NO, I've never voted ……..2	**skip**
12	IF NO: What was your main reason	I was not of voting age I did not register to vote I was not interested There were no good candidates I did not support any of the candidates My vote wouldn't have made a difference Other: _____	
13	Do you think the election process is fair and trustworthy?	YES ……..1 NO ……..……..2 Not sure…….……..3	
	Interest and knowledge		
14	If young people get involved in local politics, they can help make a change in their communities	Strongly agree Agree Neither agree nor disagree Disagree Strongly disagree Don't know	
15	Which of the following do you know	I know the name of my Member of Parliament I know the name of my Mayor I know the name of my Councilor Other_____ None of the above	
16	I know the location of the local office for :	Mayor Councilor Member of Parliament None of the above	
17	Where do you get most of your information about political issues	Newspaper (online or paper) Television Radio Social media (blogs, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter) Political meetings Discussions in community Discussions with friends/family/classmates Other: _____	
	Rights and responsibilities		
18	Which of the following are rights that you have as a citizen? Choose all that apply	Become a member of either House of Parliament if over 21 yrs old Right to tuition-free education at secondary and tertiary level Be in the audience at parliamentary meetings Recommend policies to the government Right to live in any available housing	
19	What is the most important contribution that	Participate in organizations that implement government	

	young people can make to strengthen governance	programs and services Participate in online or group discussions to provide feedback and recommendations on government programs and services Read manifestos Hold politicians accountable Visit constituency office/ministries Vote in local and general elections Nothing. Young people's voice doesn't matter Other:_____	
20	Have you read any section of the "*The Charter of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms (Constitutional Amendment) Act, 20ll"*	YES …….....1 NO ……..... …….....2 Not sure…….....…….....3 Don't know what that is……4	
	Corruption		
	Would the following actions be considered corruption:		
21	Do you think officials are involved in corruption	Most if not all officials are involved in corruption Many officials are involved in corruption Not a lot of officials are involved in corruption Hardly anyone is involved in corruption	
22	Using a public position to collect gifts, money	No, not at all Yes to a small extent Yes, to a moderate extent Yes, to a large extent Don't Know/No Answer	
23	Using public position to help friends, relatives, constituents (such as giving jobs or licenses, or favoring in bids)	No, not at all Yes to a small extent Yes, to a moderate extent Yes, to a large extent Don't Know/No Answer	
24	Politicians using state funds to benefit only their constituents	No, not at all Yes to a small extent Yes, to a moderate extent Yes, to a large extent Don't Know/No Answer	
25	How can young people make a difference in the fight against corruption	Vote for clean candidates Speak out about the problem Refuse to pay bribes Report corruption Participate in protest action Talk to friends and relatives Other Don't know	
	Youth engagement/justice?		
26	How well do government officials respond to the needs of young people?	Very responsive Somewhat responsive Neutral Not very responsive Not at all responsive	

27	If you needed to bring an issue to the attention of your political representative, what would you do?	Contact elected officials at any level Contact community leaders Contact influential people outside of government Contact the news media Contact them by social media (tweet, send FB message etc) Sign a petition Attend a demonstration or protest march Other Don't know	
28	What are the 3 most pressing issues for young people in your parish of Residence	Unsatisfactory transportation to school and work Lack of job opportunities after leaving school Violence in schools Violence in communities Violence in families Limited skills training programmes Limited social spaces (parks, entertainment etc) Poor road(infrastructure) Other_____	
29	Which of these organizations have you heard about?	National Integrity Association Youth Information Centres PNPYO/Patriots Young Jamaica/G2K) Social Development Commission Student Council Other_____	

St James Parish Data

St James Parish Data

The following analysis describes finding from St James.

Limitations

The sample recruited in St James included significantly more males than females (Figure 25). Less than 1/3 of the parish sample was female. Further, the males recruited in St James were less educated than females in St James and also compared to males in the national sample (Figure 26). A high proportion of males recruited in St James also reported being homeless (30%) (Figure 27).

Figure 25 Distribution of participants, percent by sex and age groups, St James

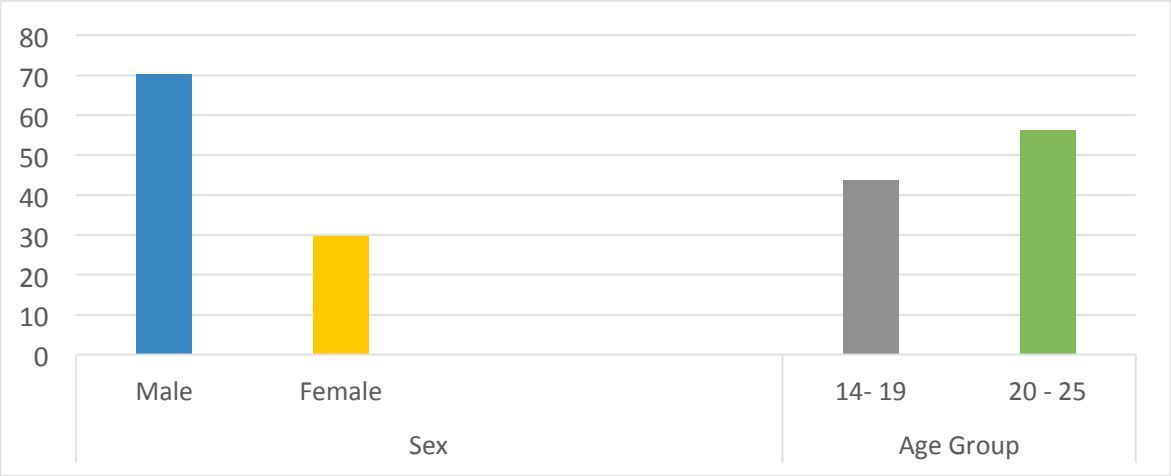


Figure 26 Highest level of Education, percent by sex, St James

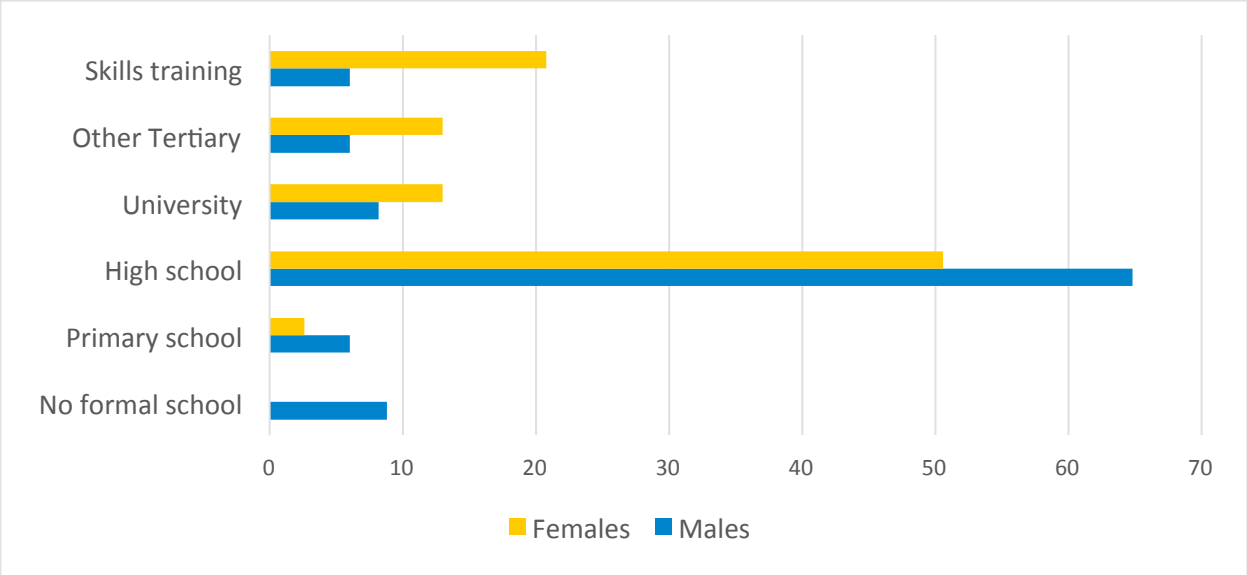
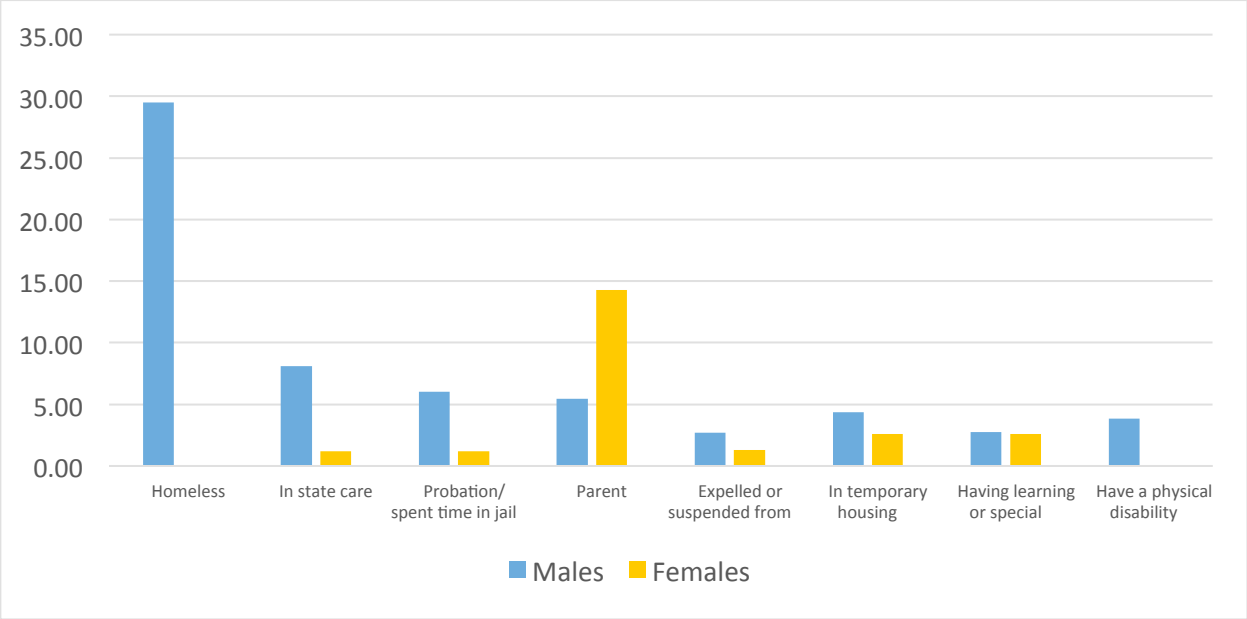
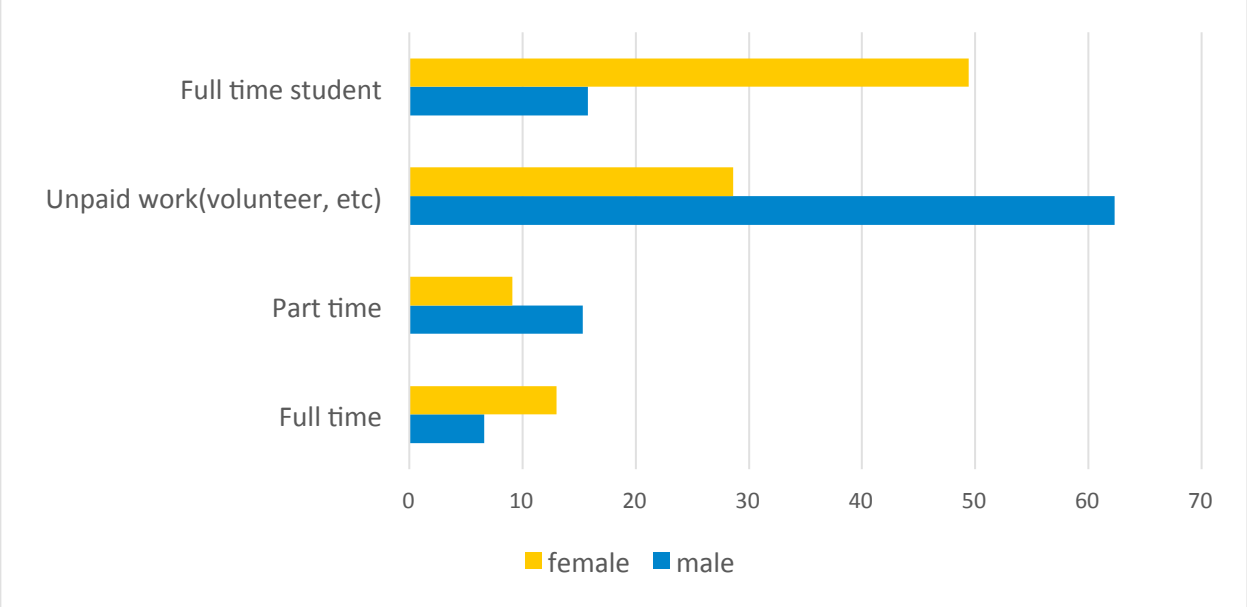


Figure 27 Percent of participants reporting social and physical issues, by sex, St James



Although the required sample size was achieved, recruitment may have introduced bias into the composition of the parish sample. Given these characteristics, the data from St James is not considered representative of the parish population. Never-the-less the resulting data can be used alongside national findings to guide interventions in this parish.

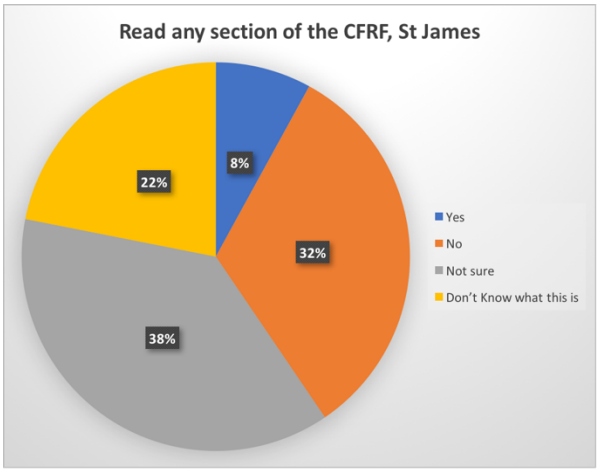
Figure 28 Current employment status, percent by sext, St James



Current knowledge, attitude, behaviors, practices, opportunities and barriers related to youth participation in governance, St James

At the parish level, only 8% of participants recruited in St James had read any section of the CFRF (Figure 29). This is lower than the national average of 17%. Only 36% of respondents were aware of their right to become a member of parliament at the age of 21. Further, less than 15% correctly identified the other two rights listed in the survey, and 30% incorrectly stated that none of the options listed were constitutional rights.

Figure 29 Knowledge of the Charter of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms and familiarity with constitutional rights, St James



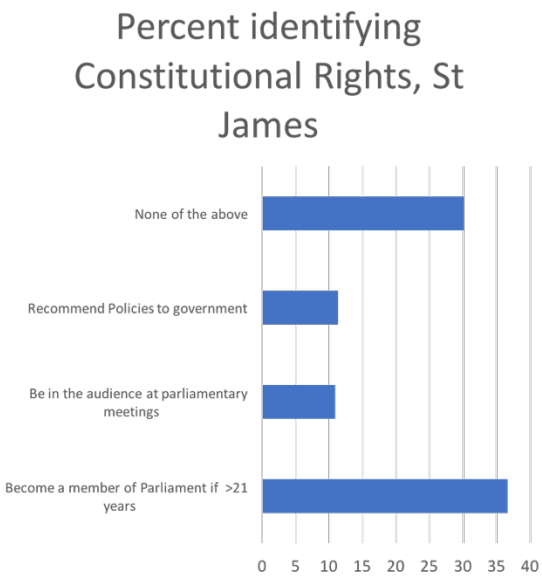
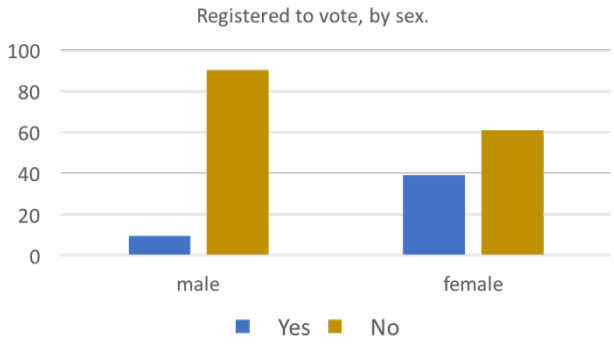
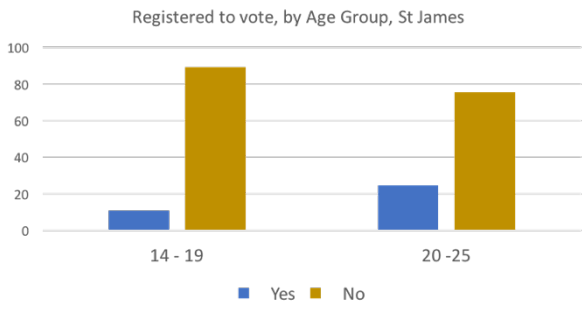


Figure 30 Percent registered to vote by sex and age groups, St James





A lower percent of males (9.6%) and persons 20 – 25 (24.5%) (Figure 30) were registered to vote in St James, compared to the national sample (38.8% and 61.9%, respectively). The majority of participants did not know or were not sure where they could go to get registered to vote (Figure 31).

Figure 31 Knowledge of where to register to vote, percent by sex, St James

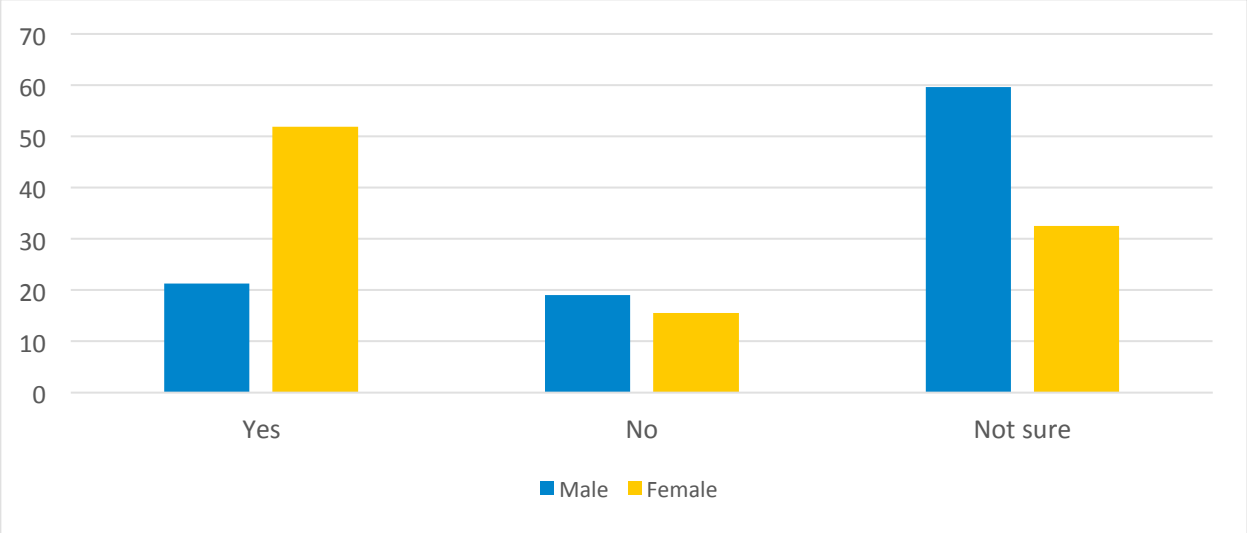
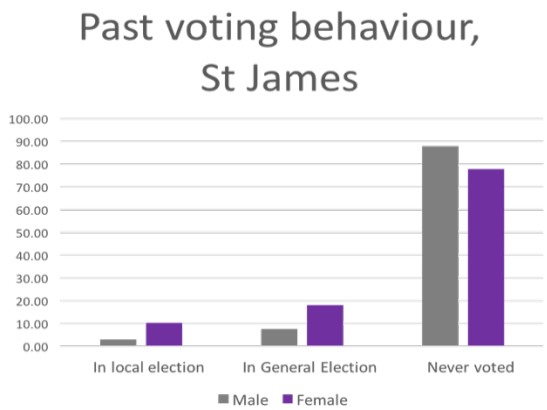
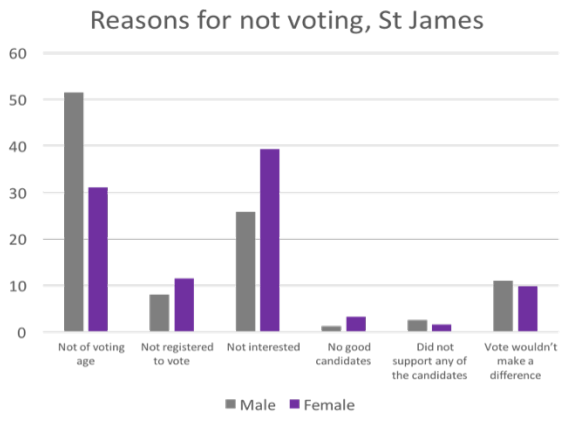


Figure 32 Past voting behavior, percent by sex, St James

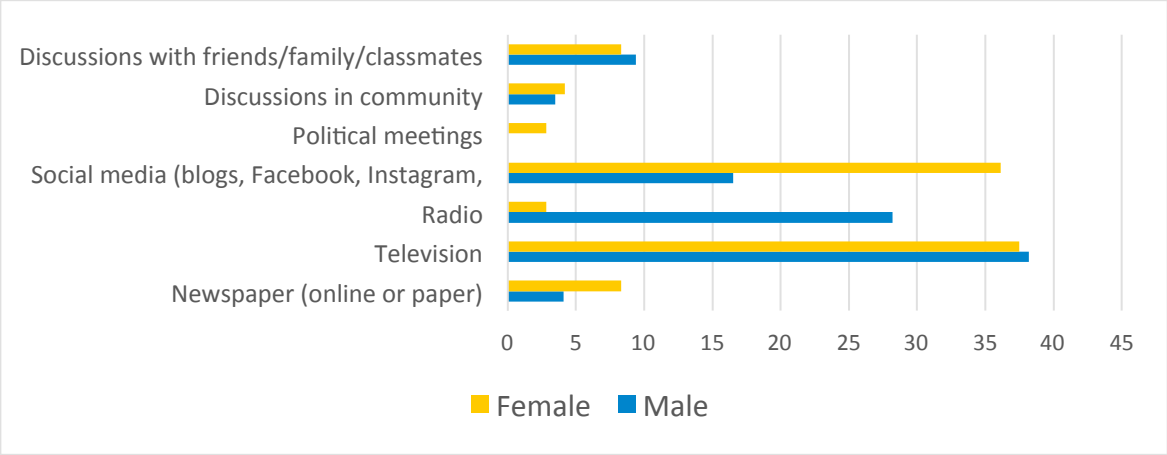




In terms of reported voting behavior, almost 90% of males and 80% of females have never voted in a local or general election (Figure 32). The reasons for not voting were similar to the national data. Almost half reported that the main reason they did not vote was because they were not of voting age. However, almost 40% of females and 25% of males reported they were not interested.

The most common source of political information for participants in St James was the television for both males and females (Figure 33). There was a significant gender difference in the use of social media and radio. Females reported greater use of social media compared to males (36.1% vs 16.5%, respectively) while males reported greater use of radio compared to females (28.2% vs 2.8%).

Figure 33 Main source of political information, St James



Over 45% of participants did not know the office location of any of their elected officials (Figure 34). However, 42% reported knowing the location of their Member of Parliament (MP). Related to this, most respondents did not report a direct means of communicating with elected officials (Figure 35).

Figure 34 Percent of participants that know the office location of elected officials, St Jame

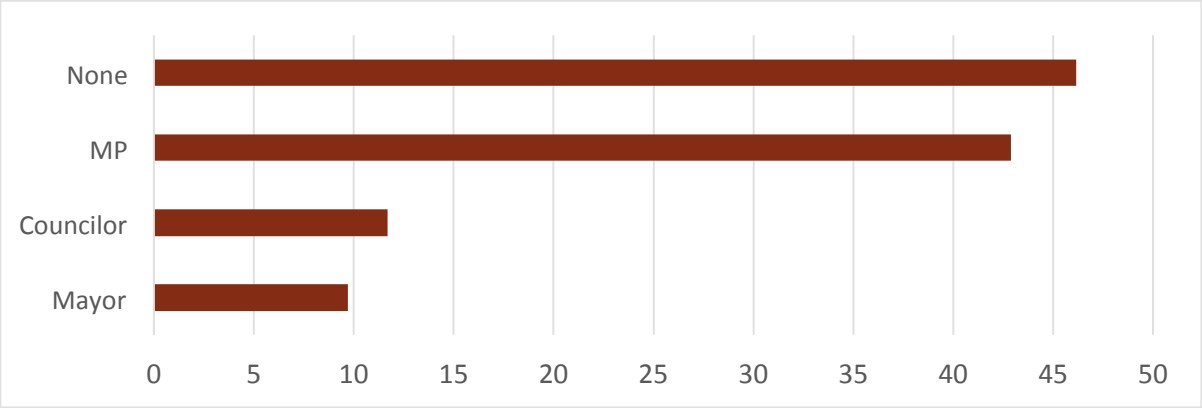


Figure 35 Percent reporting preference for means of bringing an issue to the attention of your political representative, St James

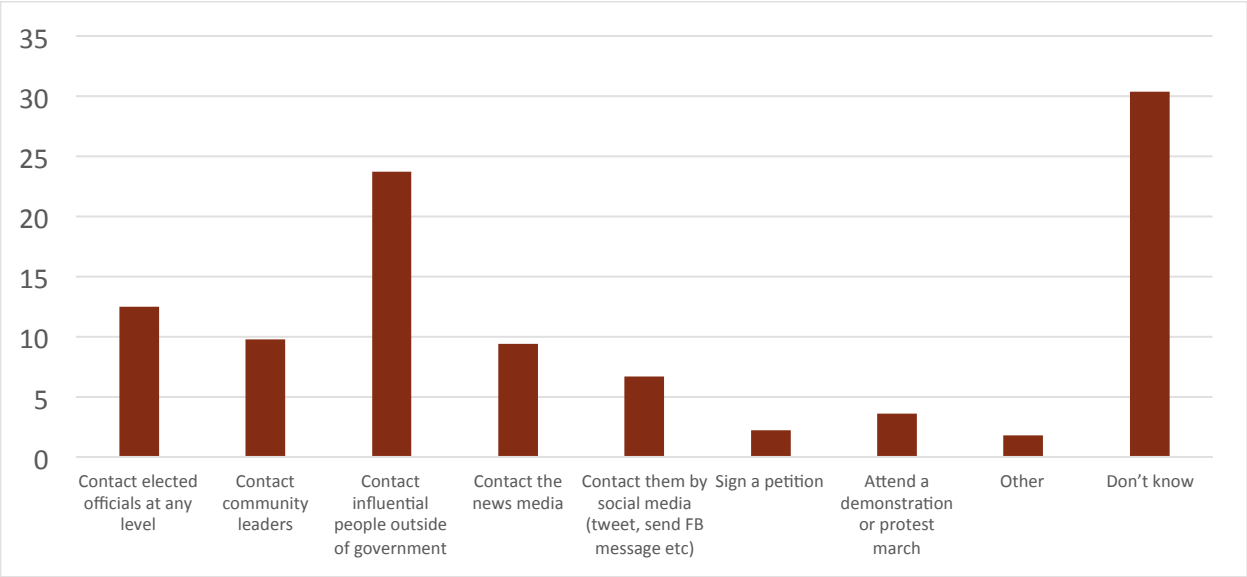
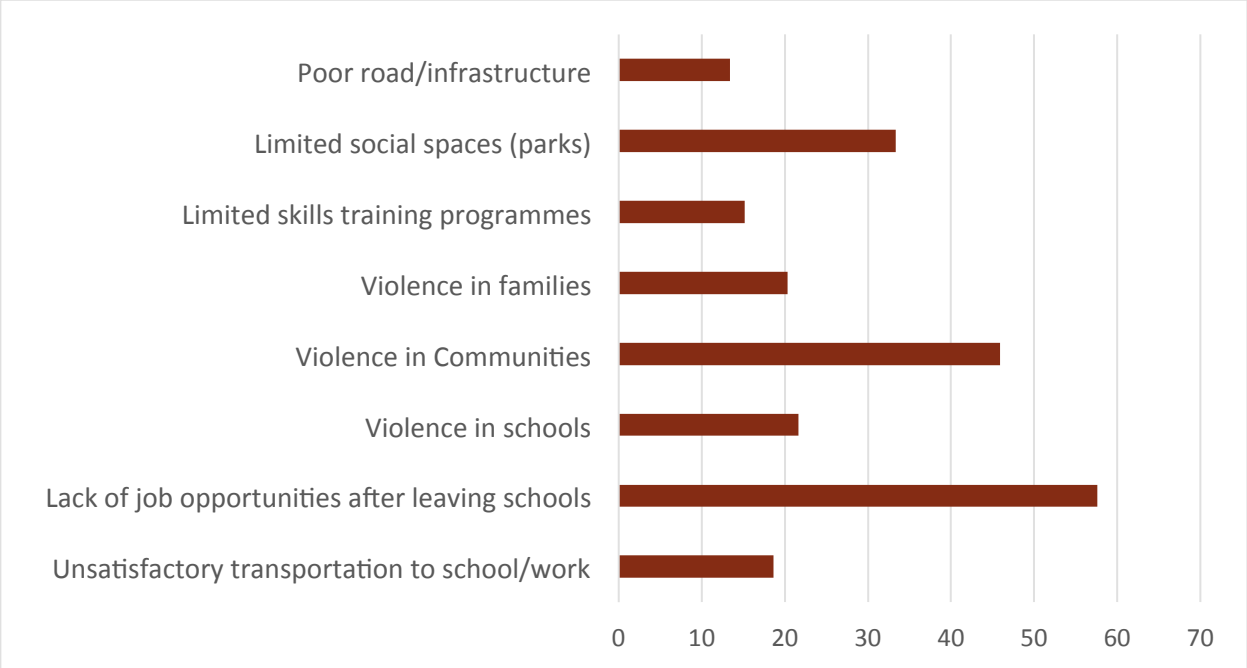


Figure 36 Most pressing issues for young people, St James



Summary

- Although the required sample size was achieved, recruitment may have introduced bias into the composition of the parish sample.
- Compared to females in St James and males in the rest of the island, males were less educated and more likely to be homeless
- Participants from St James were less likely to have read the CFRF, less likely to be registered to vote.
- Almost half of respondents did not know the office location of any elected official, or have a direct means of contacting any elected official.
- Participants identified lack of opportunities after leaving school, violence in communities, and limited social spaces as the most pressing issues faced by young people.

Parent Data

Parent Data

The following report describes detailed findings from the comparisons of young people who report being parents to others in the samples who were not parents.

Demographic

Four hundred and eight-five (485) participants identified as parents. Table 10 presents a comparison of the parents versus non-parents in this survey. Parents varied significantly from non-parents on all of the key socio-demographic variables. The majority of parents (74.2%) were in the 20-24-years age group compared to 48.3% of the non-parents. Although older, parents had lower education achievement than non-parents. Parents reported lower rates of high school (40.6 vs 46.9) and tertiary level education (29.7% vs 39.1%) than did non-parents. On the other hand, more parents reported having less than high school (9.1% vs 5.5%) and skills training (20.6 vs 8.5%) than non-parents.

Compared to non-parents, the parents in the survey were more likely to be full time, part-time or unpaid workers. No-parents were more likely to be full-time students.

Parents were significantly more likely to be registered to vote.

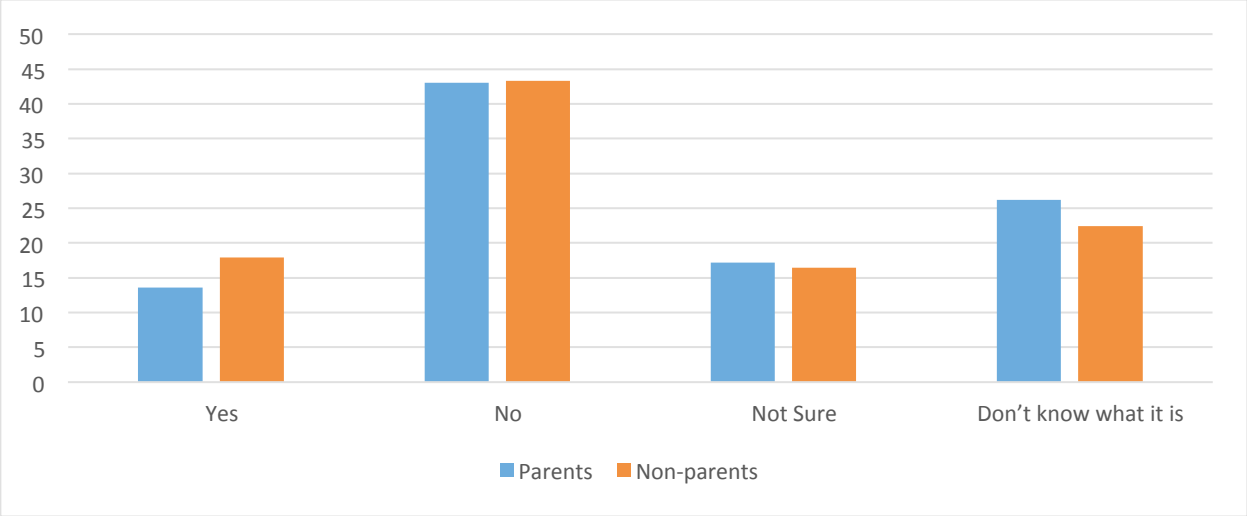
Table 10 Socio-Demographic characteristics of participants who identified as parents versus nonparents

Variables	**Parent**		**Non Parent**		**P value**
	N	**%**	**N**	**%**	
Age group					
14 – 19	125	25.8	1647	51.7	.000
20 - 24	360	74.2	1536	48.3	
Highest Education					
Less than High school	44	9.1	173	5.5	.000
High School	197	40.6	1485	46.9	
Tertiary Level	144	29.7	1239	39.1	
Skills training	100	20.6	270	8.5	
Current employment					
Full time	96	19.8	343	10.8	.000
Part-time	140	28.9	427	13.4	
Unpaid work	162	33.4	704	22.1	
Full-time student	87	17.9	1709	53.7	
Registered to vote					
Yes	294	60.6	1243	39.1	.000
No	190	39.2	1920	60.9	

Current knowledge and participation in governance, parents

Similar to the rest of the population, parents also reported a low level of familiarity with the Charter of Fundamental Rights and Freedom (CFRF). Thirteen percent of parents have read the CFRF and 26.2% reported that the did not know the CFRF (Figure 37).

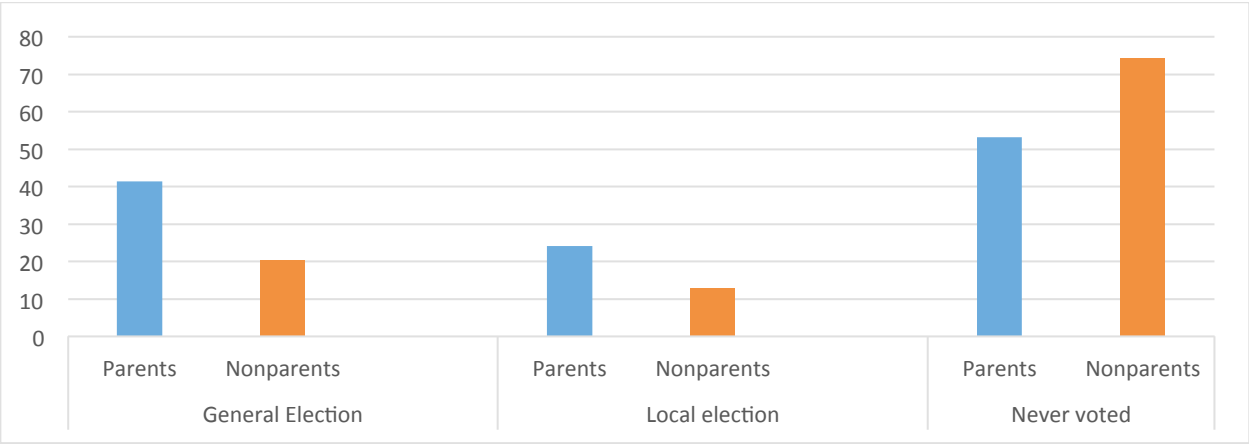
Figure 37 Knowledge of the Charter of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms, parents and non-parents



Past voting behavior

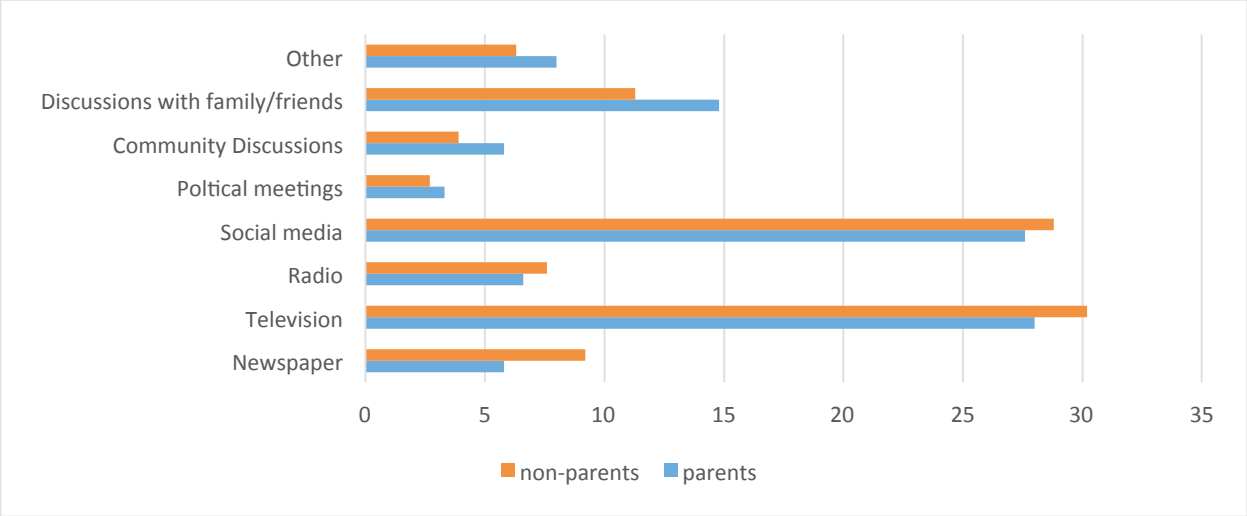
As seen in table 10, the majority of parents (60.6%) were registered to vote. Although they had a higher rate of participation in general and local elections, only 41.4% of parents reported voting in a general election, 24.1% in a local election and 53.2% reported that they have never voted in any election (Figure 38).

Figure 38 Past voting behaviour, parents and nonparents



The most common sources of political information for parents were television, social media, and discussion with friends and family. was the television for both males and females (Figure 39).

Figure 39 Sources of political information, parents and nonparents



Most pressing issues

Parents identified lack of job opportunities (60.6%), limited skills training programmes (36.5%) and poor road/infrastructure (33.4%) as the most pressing issues facing youth (Figure 40). Compared to non-parents, the parents were more likely to identify limited skills training (36.5% vs 30.1%), poor road/infrastructure (33.4% vs 29%) and violence in families (21.6% vs 14.9%) as pressing issues. On the other hand, they were less likely to identify lack of job opportunities (60.6% vs 66.5%), and violence in communities (27.2% vs 33.6%), p <.01.

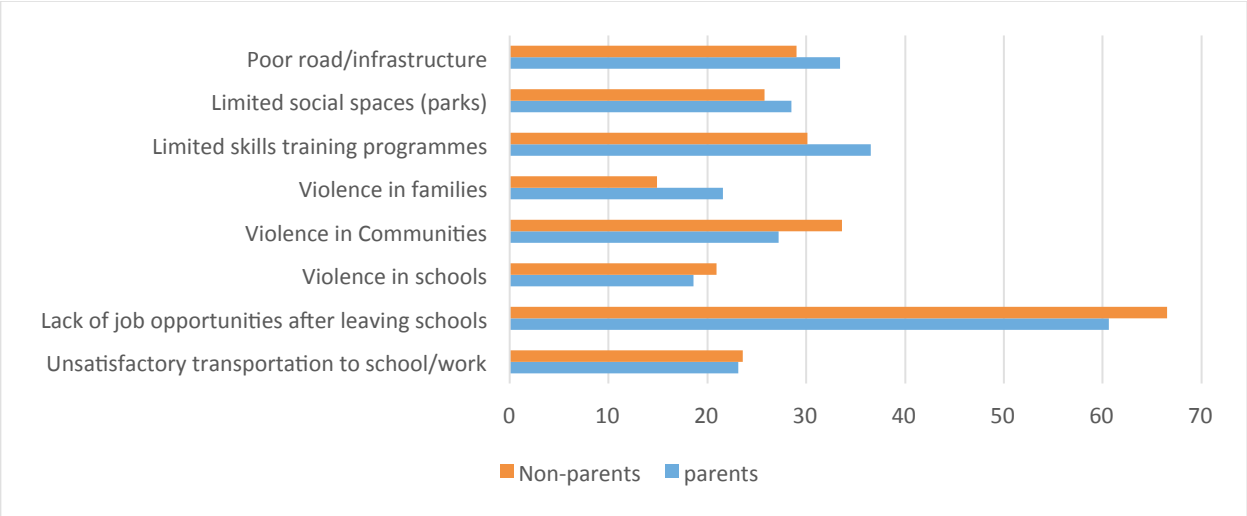



Figure 40 Most pressing issues for young people, parents and nonparents