Institute of Policy Studies 25 Years & Forward 1988-2013

ENGAGING MINDS, EXCHANGING IDEAS

Governance in 2022

Views from the IPS Prism Immersive Arts Experience

Findings of IPS Prism Survey

28 January 2013

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National University of Singapore

Objective

“Tell us a story about
what your life might be like in ten years’ time”

IPS Prism Survey provides a ‘values map’ of people who viewed the Immersive Arts Experience (IAE) to complement other output from the IPS Prism on the question:

How will we govern ourselves in 2022?

Content

- Methodology
- Profile of respondents and stories
- Findings
  - What is ‘good governance’?
  - Who should provide the basics and to whom?
  - How should the government play its role?
  - What is the value of the vote?

Where do the IPS Prism participants stand on the IPS Prism scenarios?

Methodology, Profile of Respondents & Profile of Stories

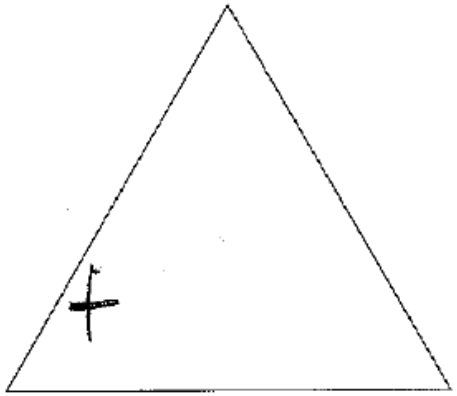
Methodology

- A qualitative study using ‘Narrative Capture’ by Cognitive Edge.
- Participants tell us their stories and what the stories mean by answering a set of questions.
- 600 responses, 66 of whom did not view IAE.
- Findings are not generalisable to Singapore population.

Methodology

T1. I would judge the government by whether it:

Delivers economic growth



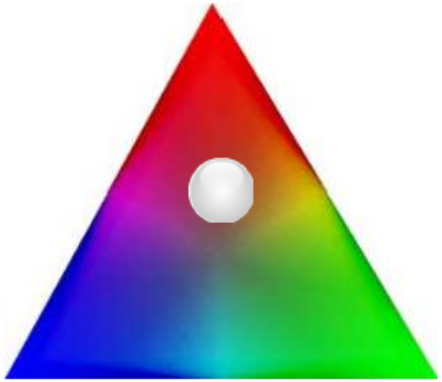
N/A ☐

Improves the well-being of people

Gives people the freedom to do what they want

T1. I would judge the government by whether it:

Delivers economic growth



Improves the well-being of people

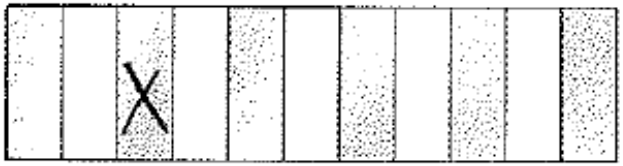
Gives people the freedom to do what they want

☐N/A

In my story,

P1. The government:

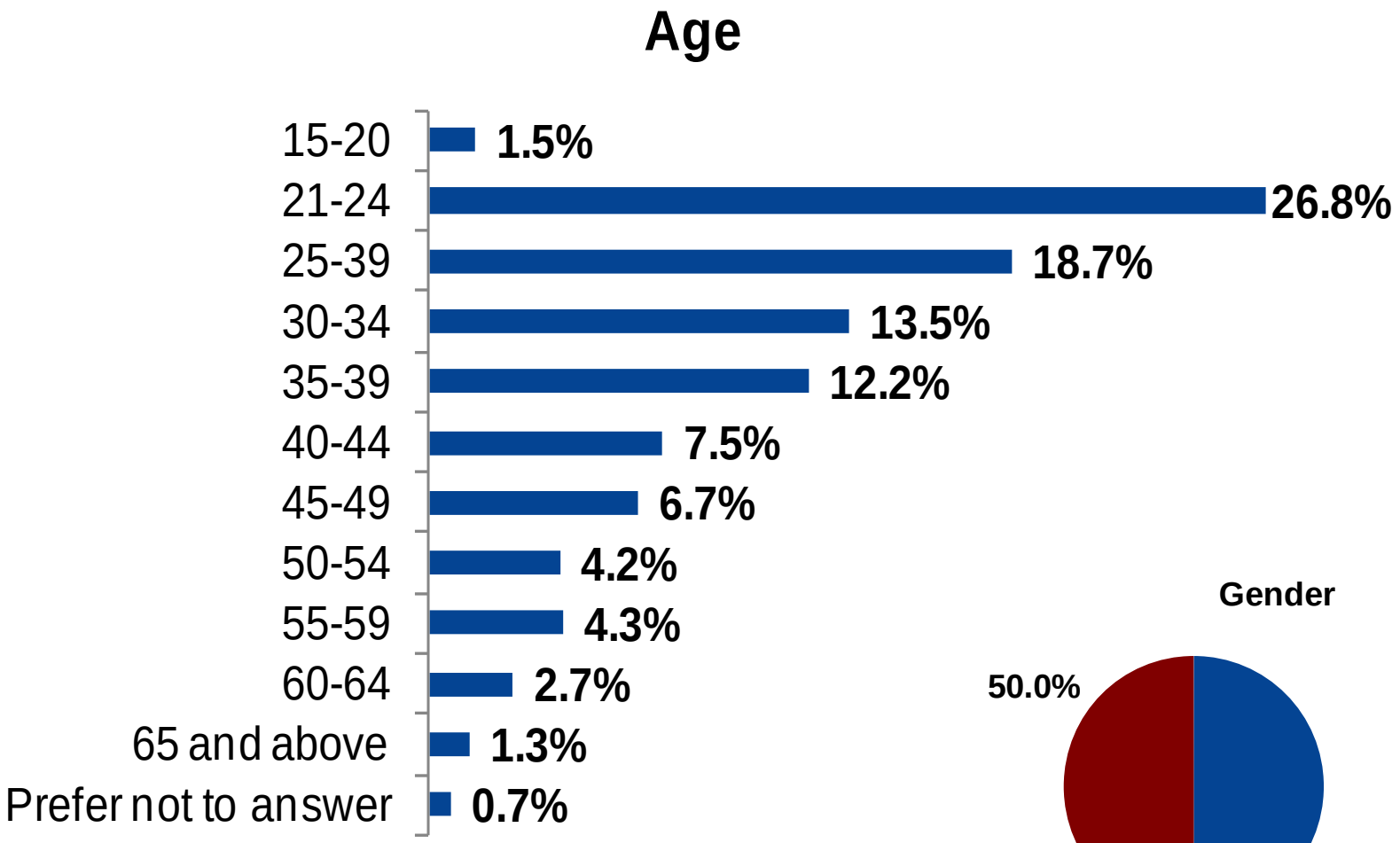
supports new ideas regardless of the past

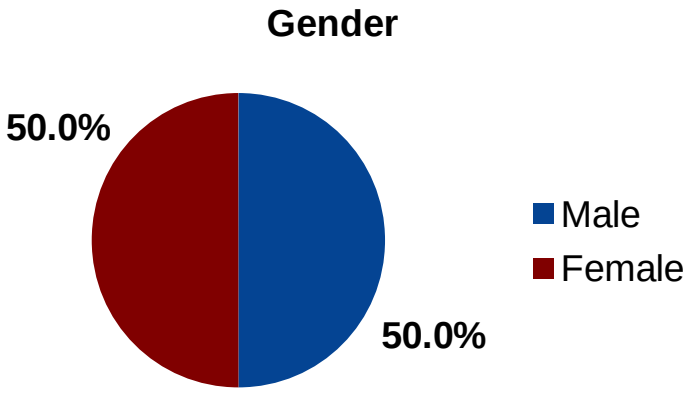


is rooted in tradition, ignoring new ideas

N/A ☐

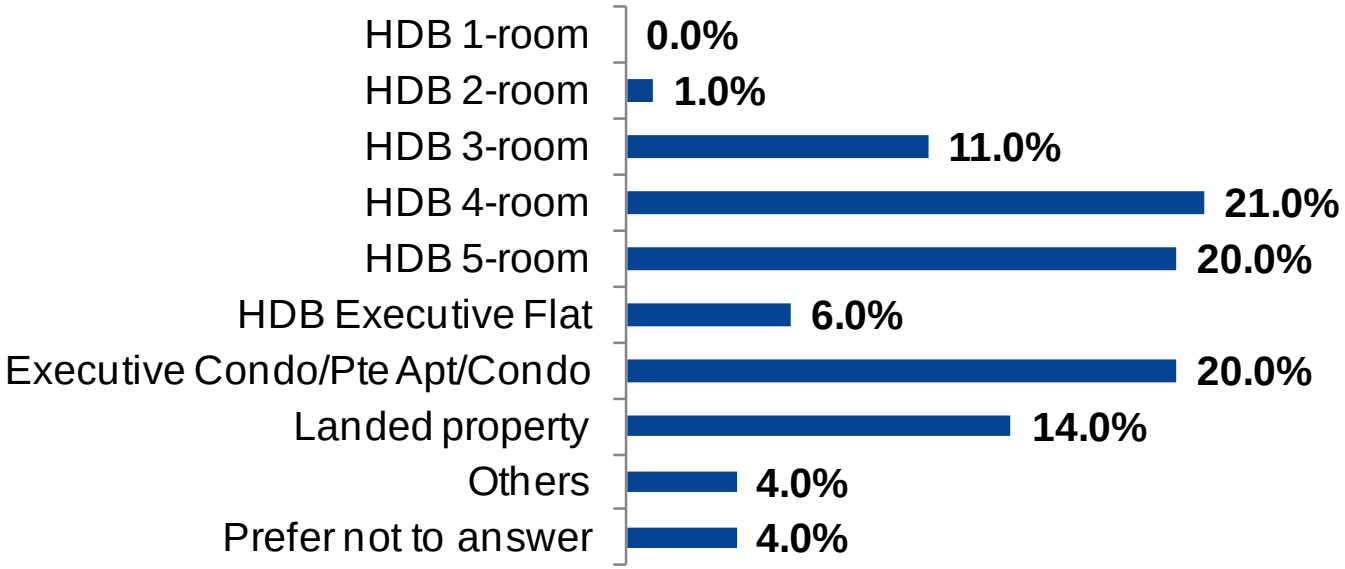
Profile of Respondents



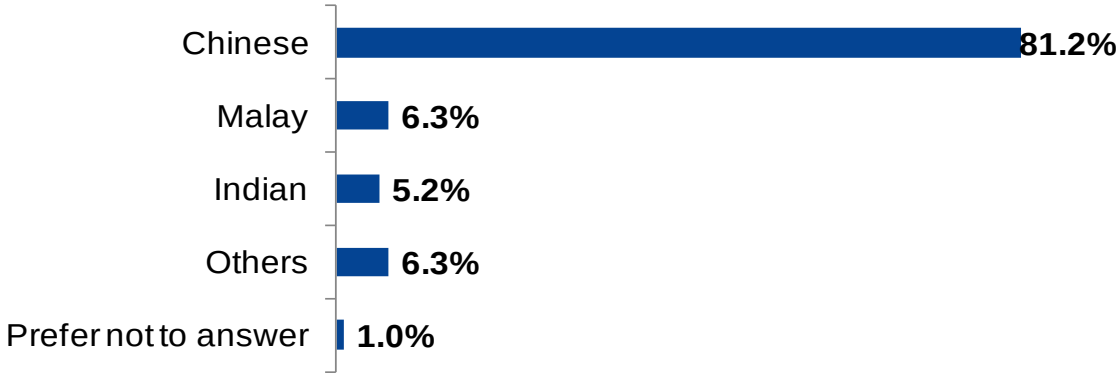


Profile of Respondents

Housing Type

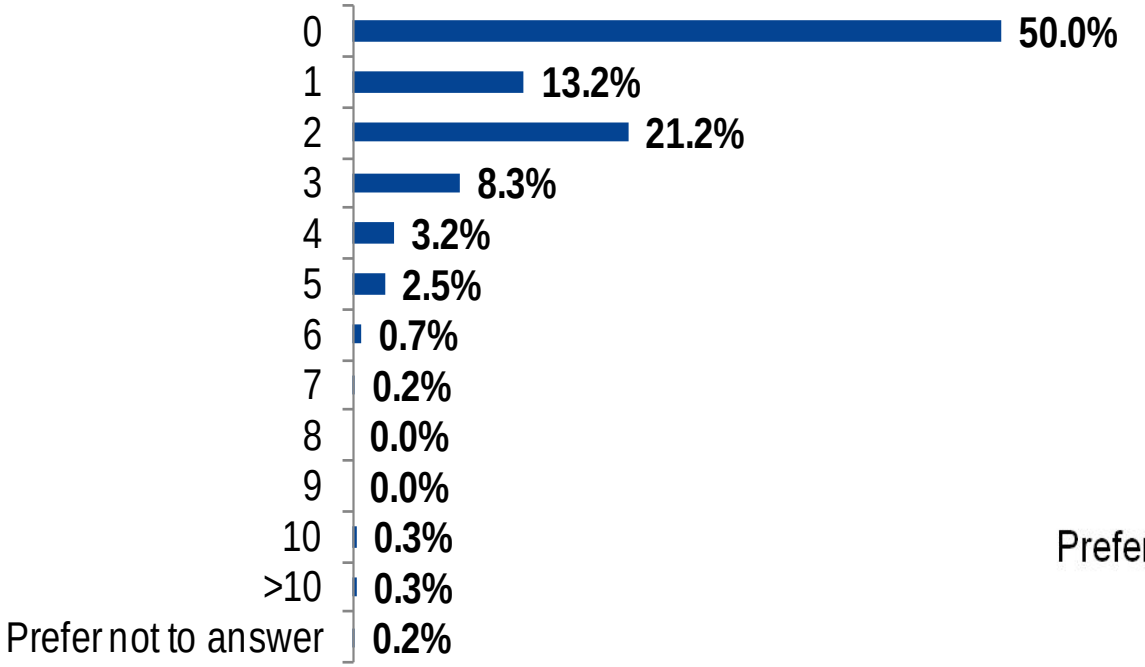


Ethnicity

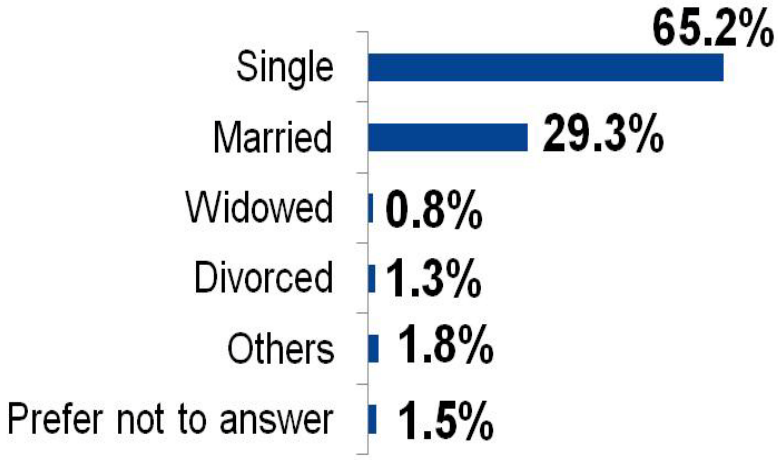


Profile of Respondents

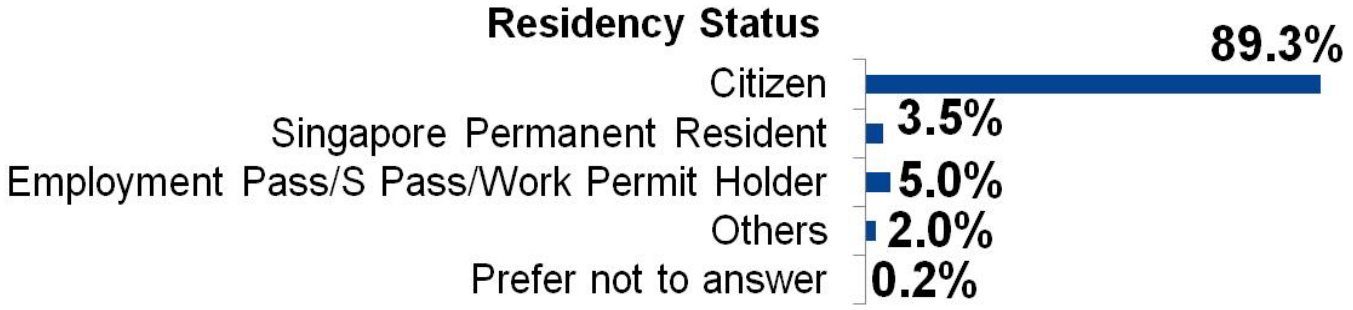
Number of Dependents



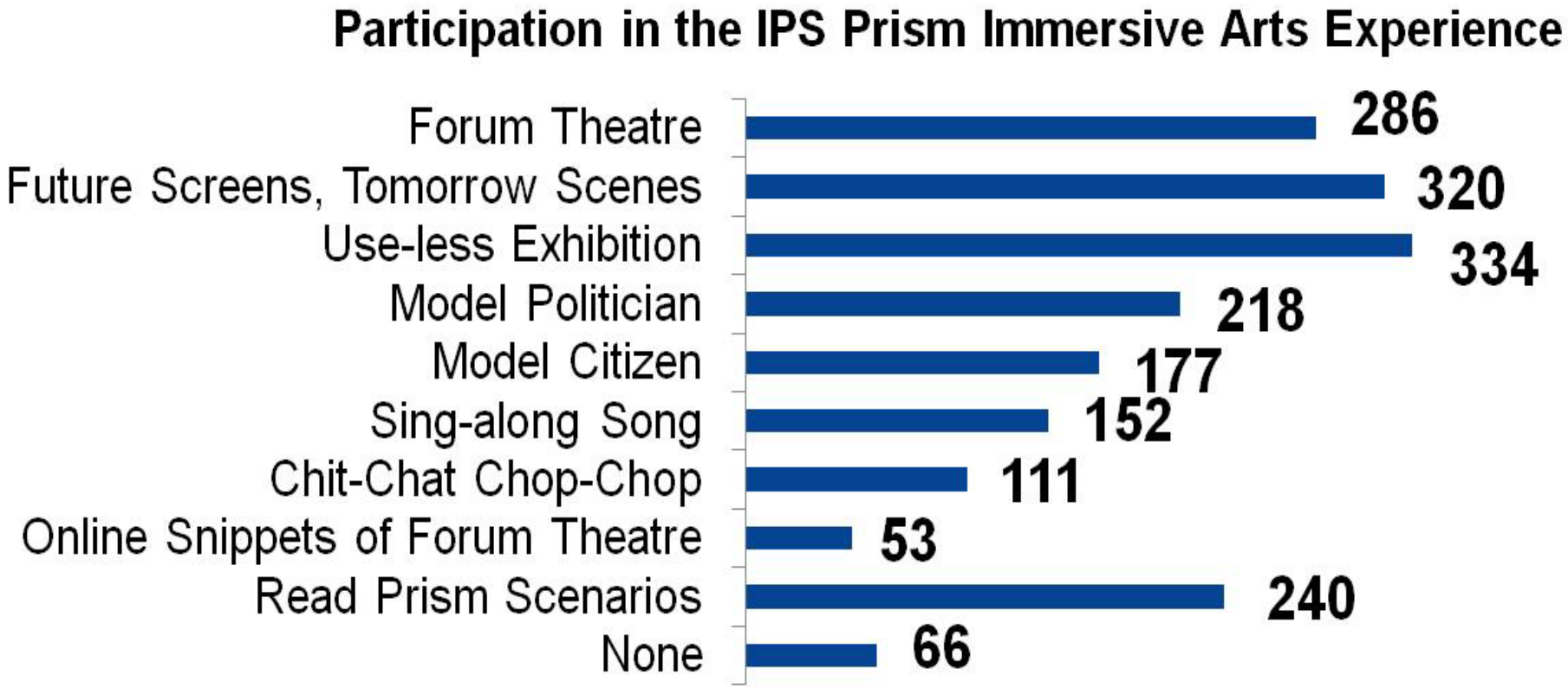
Marital Status



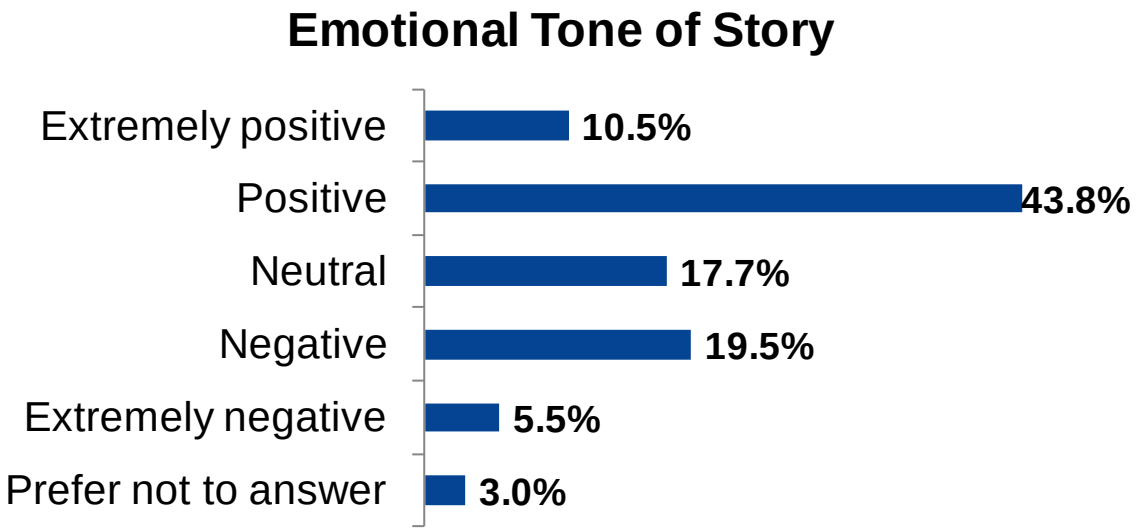
Residency Status

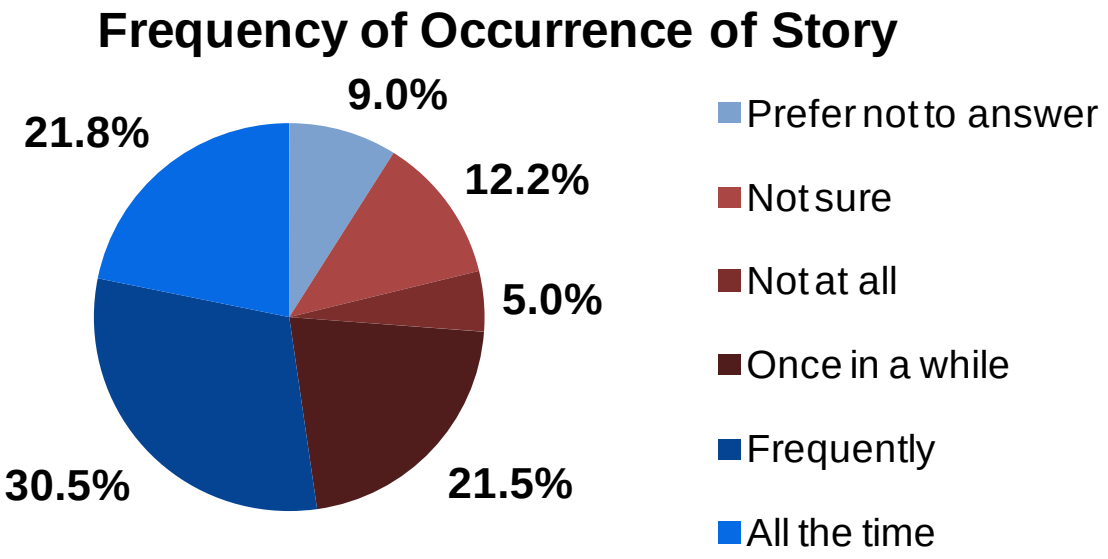


Profile of Respondents



Profile of Stories





Findings

Findings

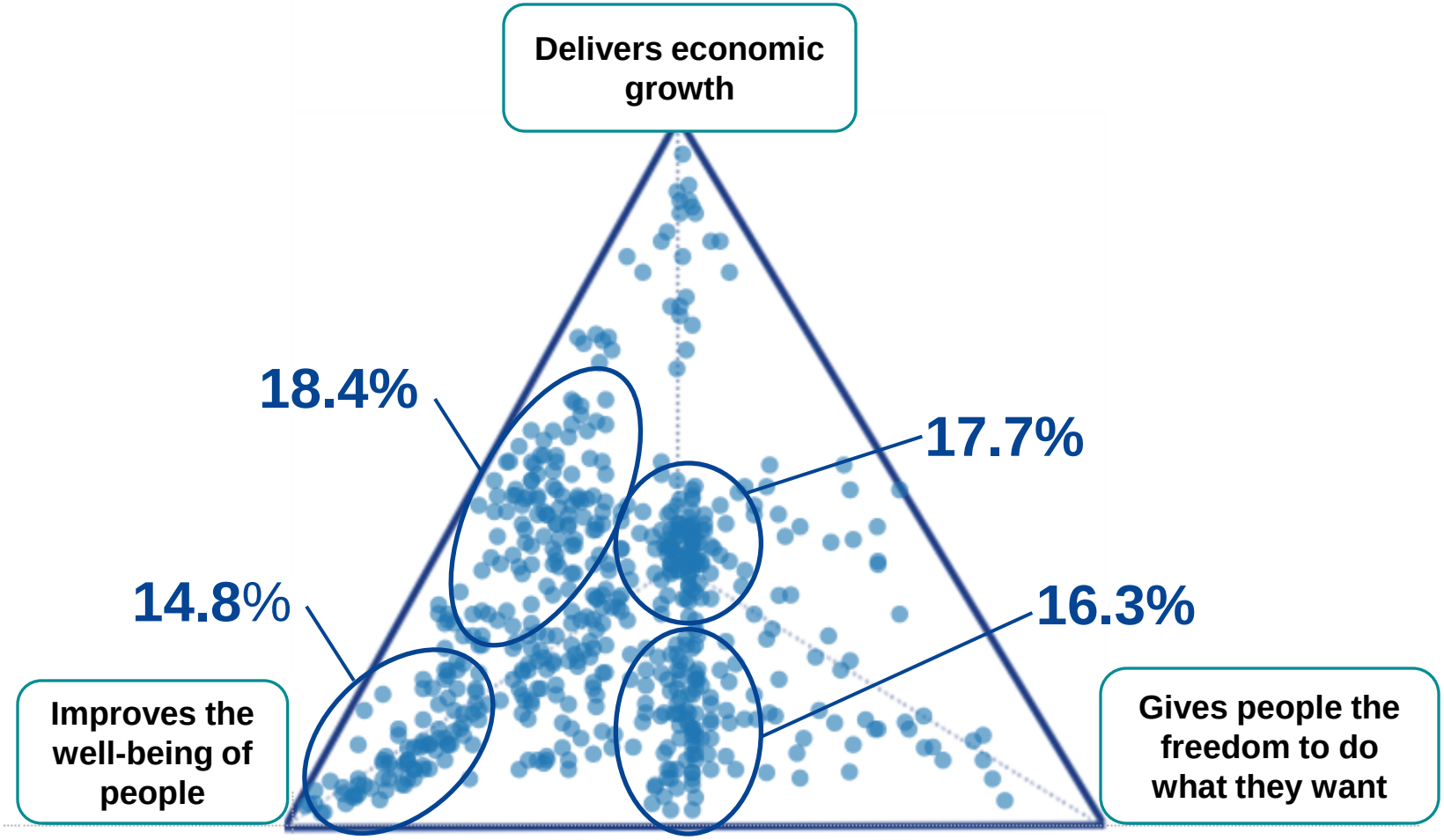
In stories about life in 2022, what is 'good governance'?

- Governance and trust in the government will rest on its **moral direction** and how well citizens' **sense of well-being** is attended to, not simply on the achievement of material goals, nor 'the freedom to do what one wants to do'.

- This addresses the first and second driving forces of the IPS Prism Scenarios.

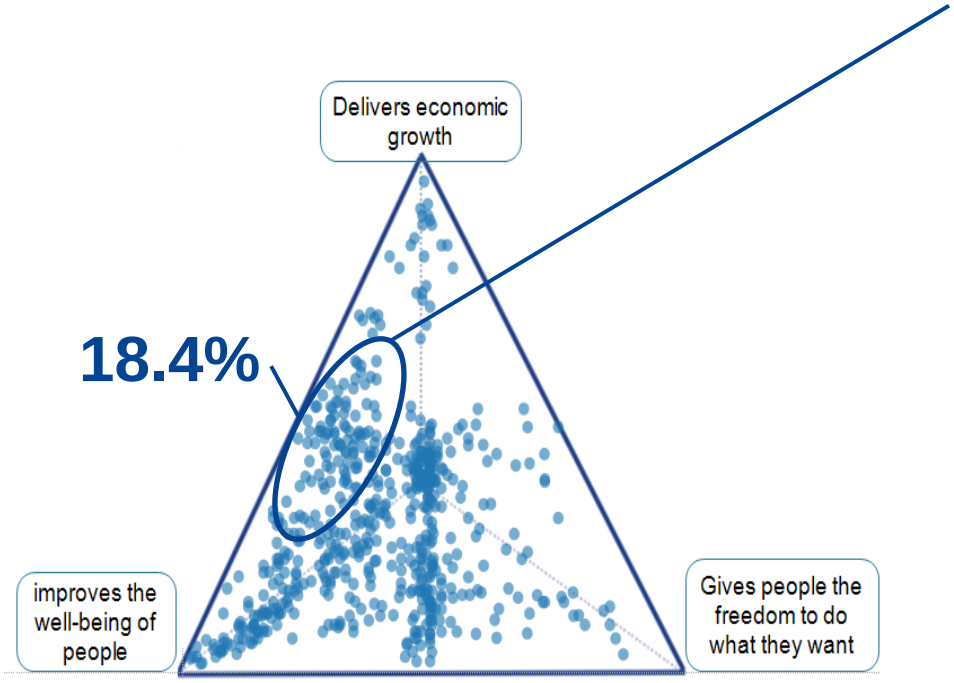
Findings

T1: I would judge the government by whether it:



n = 588

Findings

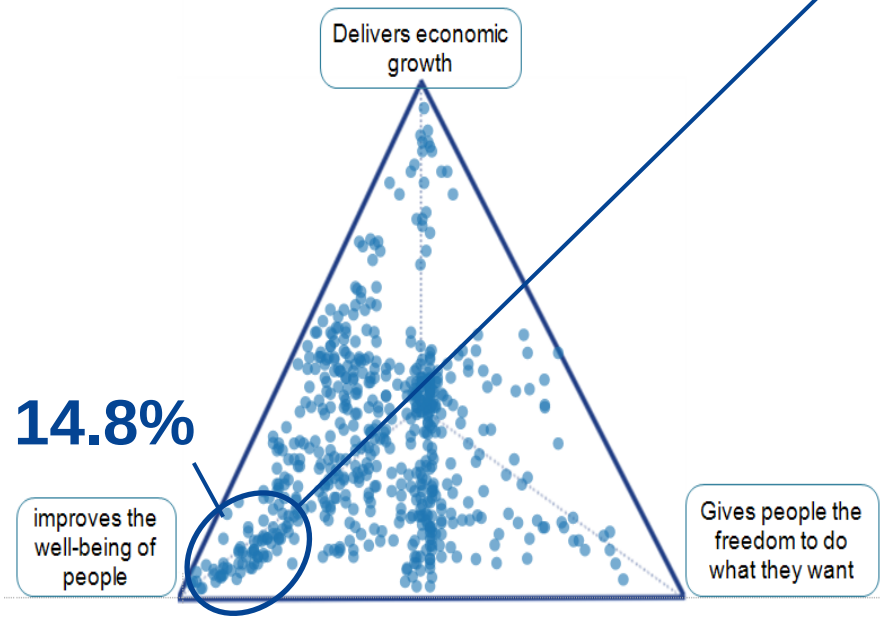


Someone's got my back. No worries.

"Society as a whole will be much happier and safer if everyone is doing well and living a dignified life."

Please note that the title and text of stories replicated in this presentation are in their original, unedited form.

Findings

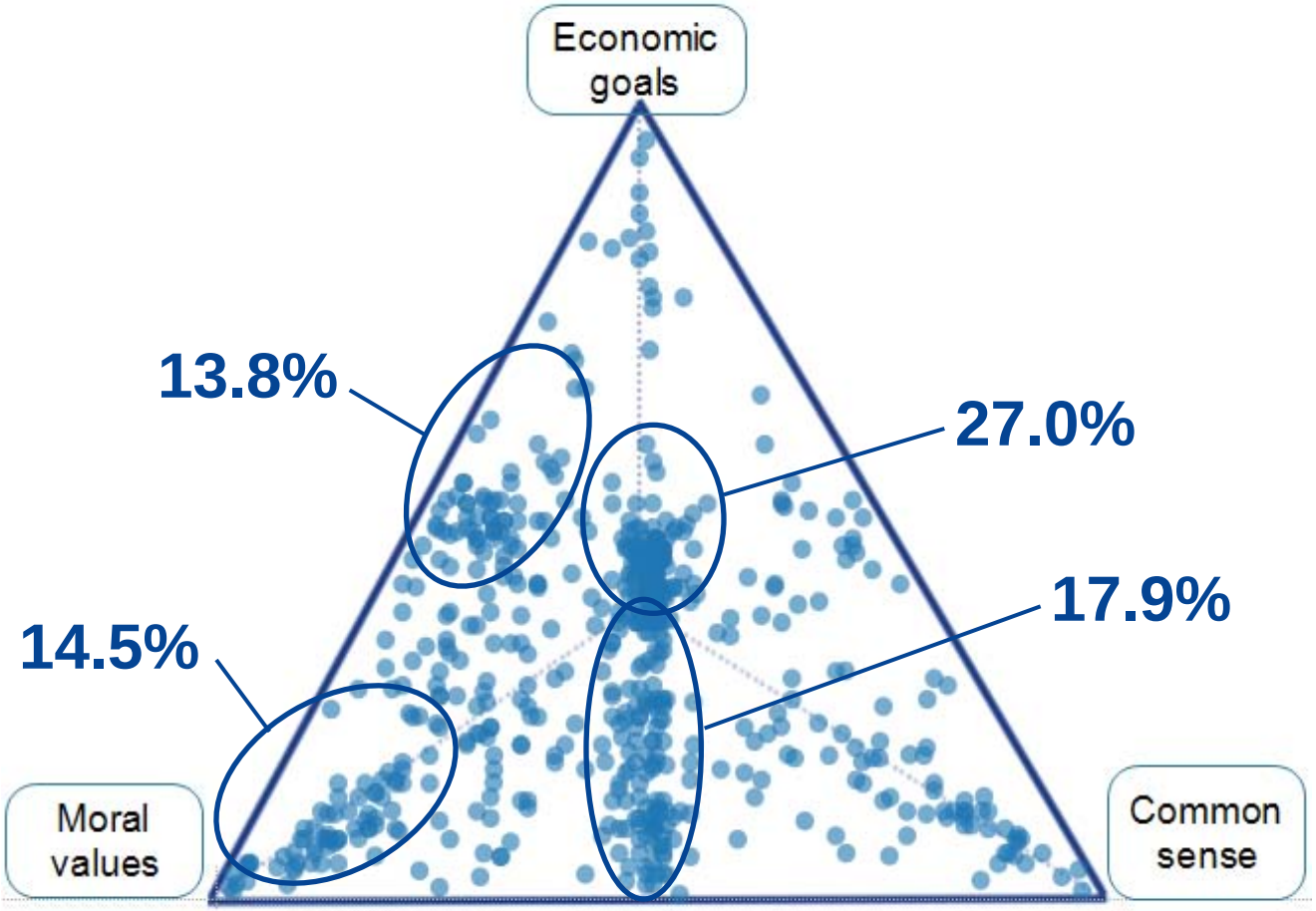


People – places and stories that matters

"People should be at the core of our society. Not just another productivity statistics – caring, sharing, sensitive, strong, united, unique, belonged."

Findings

Opinion Triad A4:
In 2022, I would like Singapore to be governed by:



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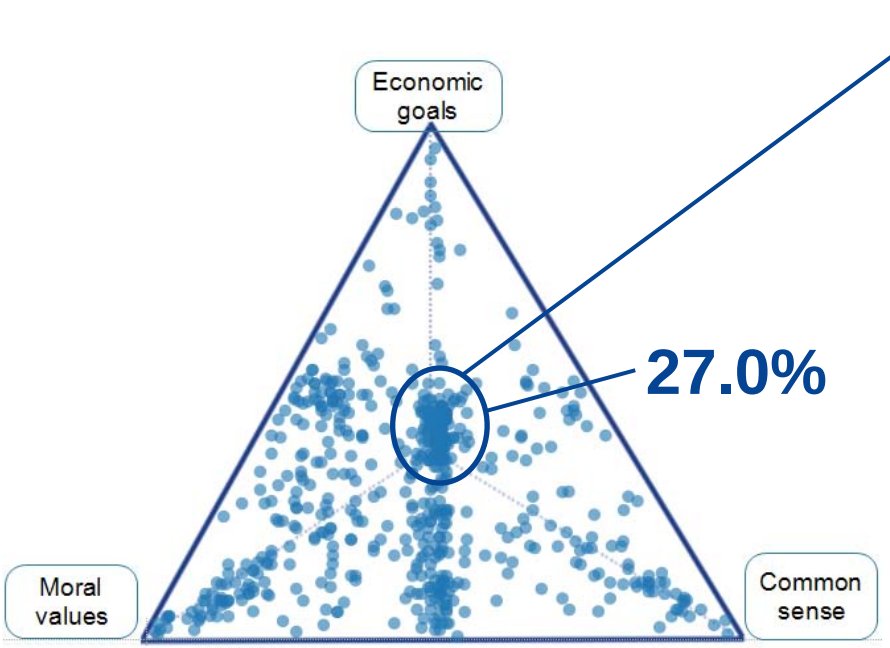
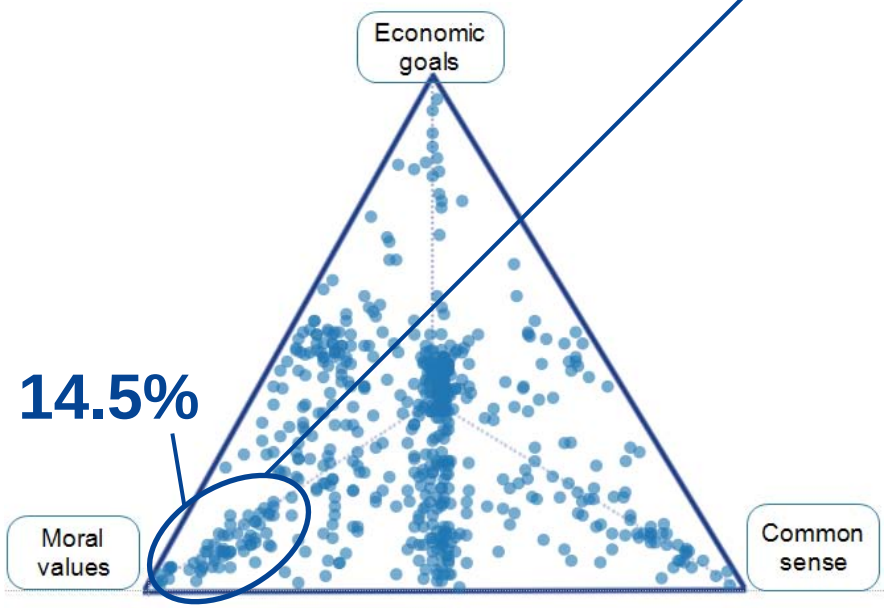
Findings



Sharing of resources

"Slow economy is ok, but still growth and creation of jobs/ensure that everyone is meaningfully engaged & has a job that can support a life/family."

Findings



All People Matter

"There are many, many out there who struggle daily with basic living. We cannot focus relentlessly and doggedly on economic success for our country alone."

Findings

In stories about life in 2022,
who should provide the basic goods?

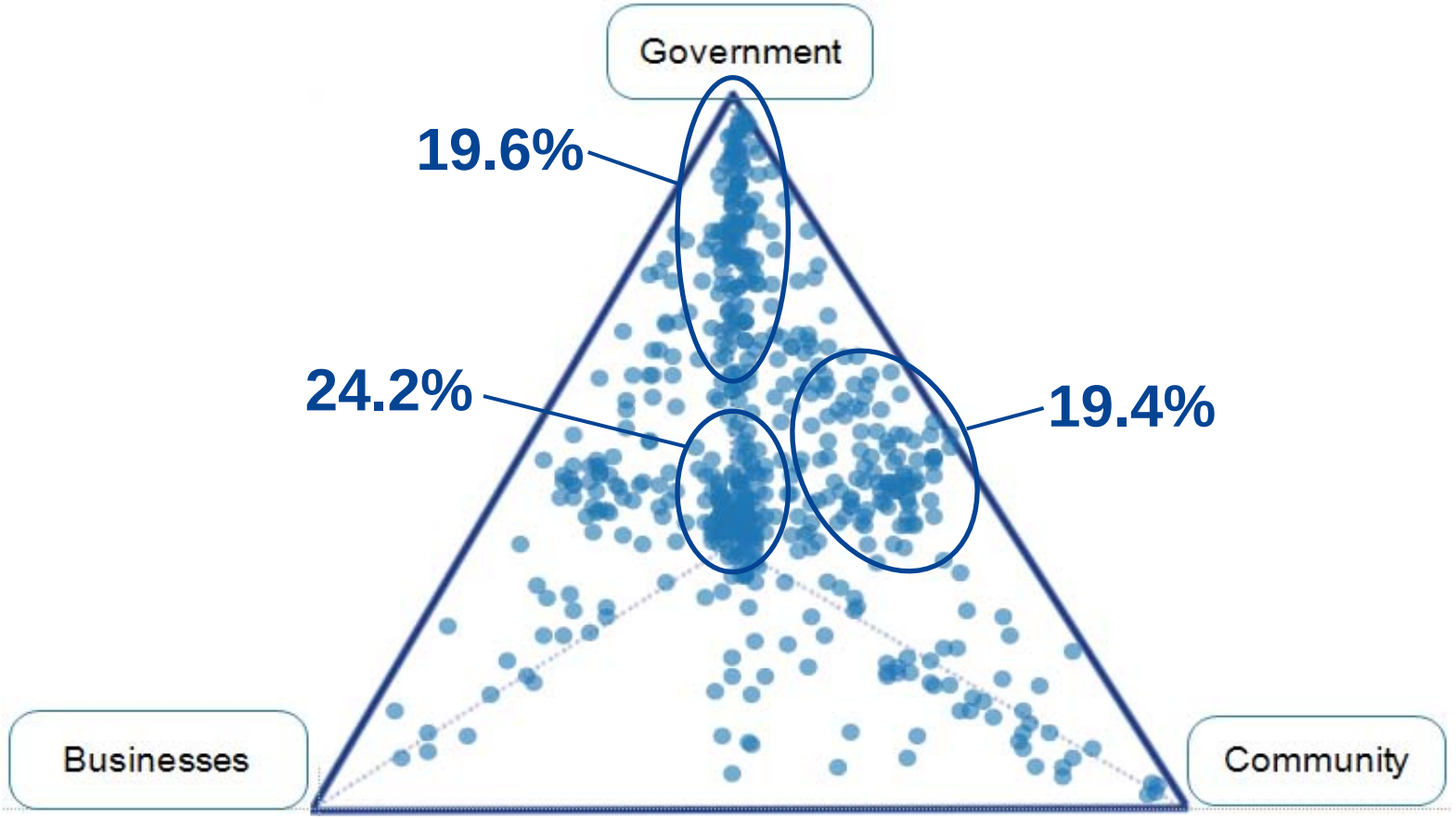
- Big government still in fashion, providing basic healthcare, education, housing and transportation, although community might chip in.

- To be distributed based on need, although some want it to be given to all, equally.

- The addresses the third driving force of the IPS Prism scenarios – how support and rewards should be distributed.

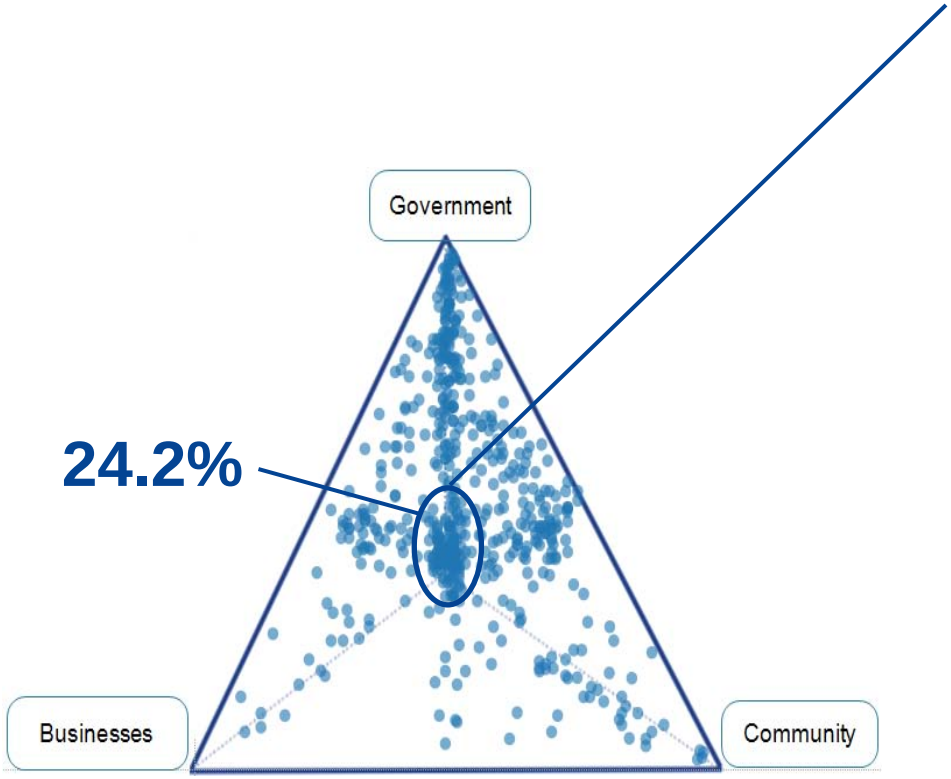
Findings

T2: The main provider of what I need (healthcare, education, housing and transportation) should be:



n = 583

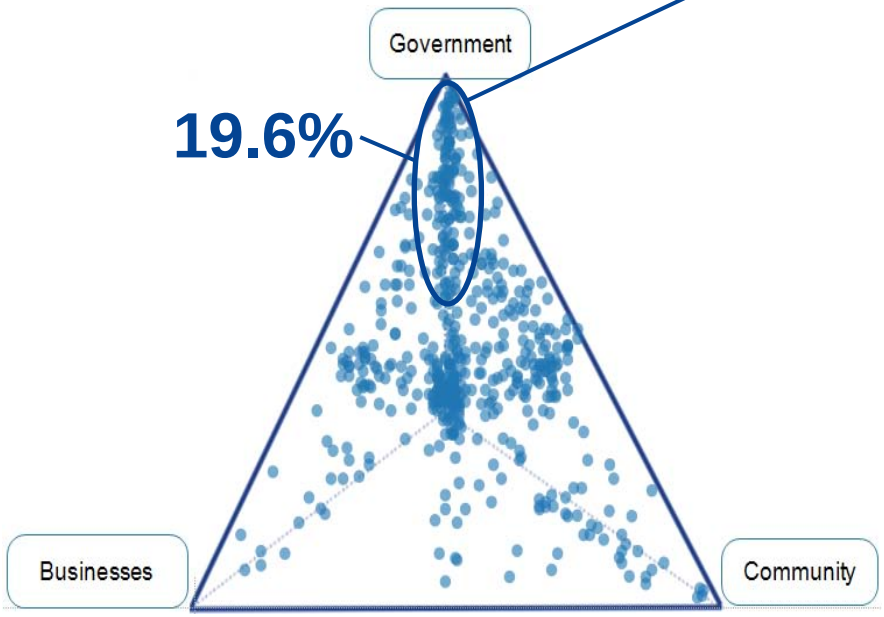
Findings



For the community

"Should a crisis happen, I hope to be able to garner whatever resources that I can get hold of & help those in need. Because I don't really trust the government to allocate resources."

Findings

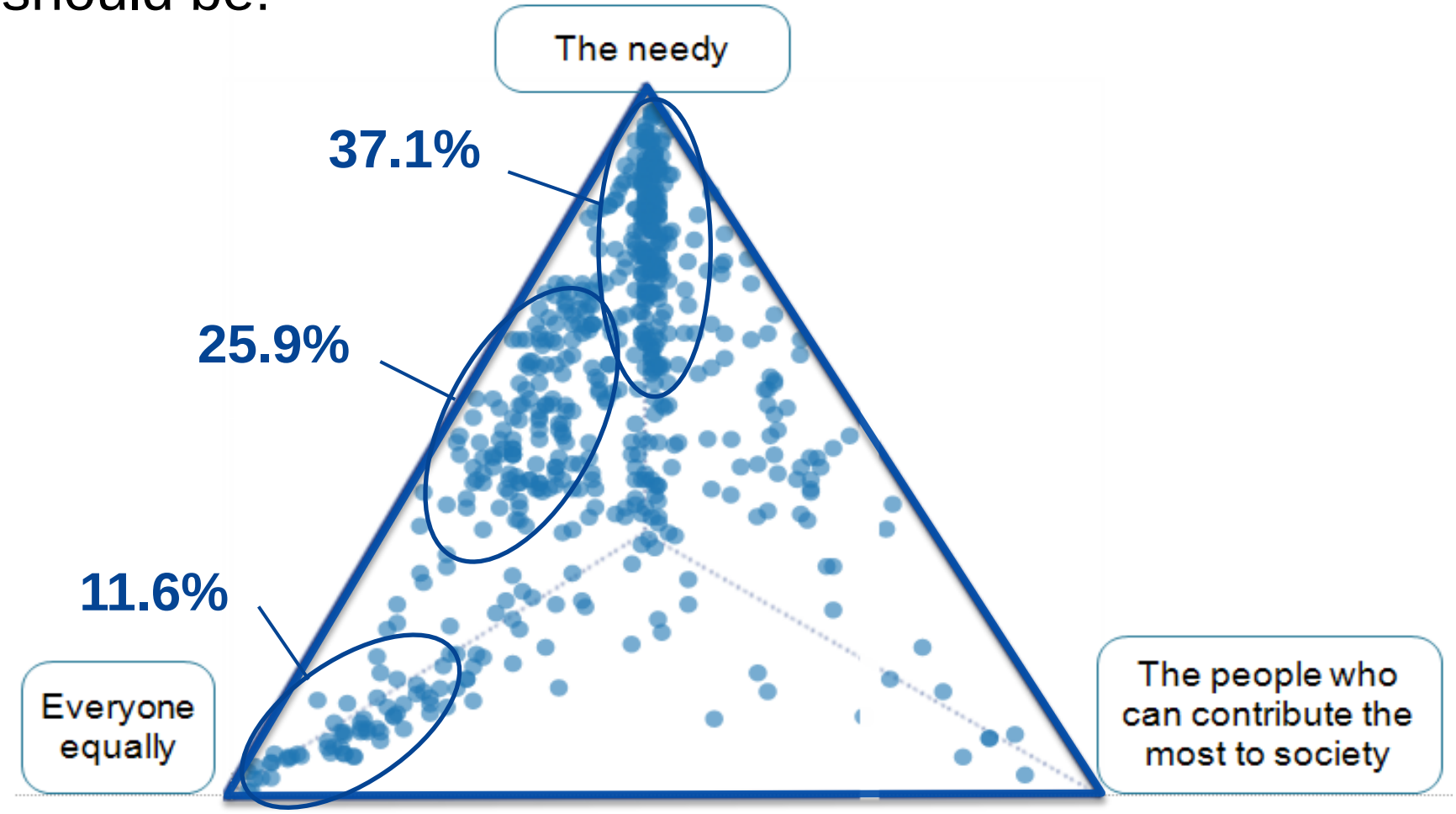


Singapore – The Story of an Entrepreneurial Society, bottom-up

"The role of civil institutions and the government are to serve THE PEOPLE, not a select affluent sector of the big businesses"

Findings

T3: The first to receive support from the government should be:



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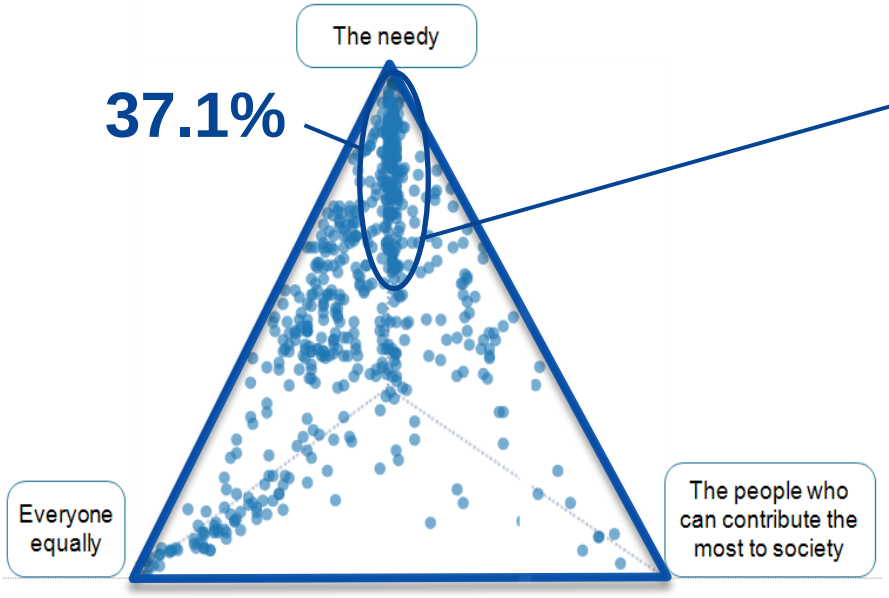
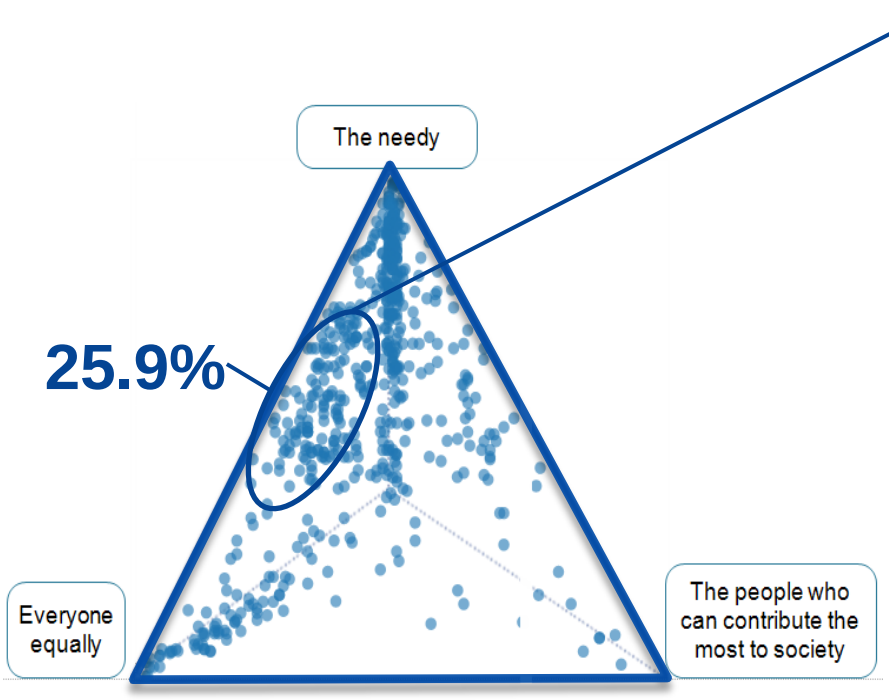
Findings



People-centered Singapore

"We are a self-centered society now, but I want to be in a people-centered Singapore in the future."

Findings

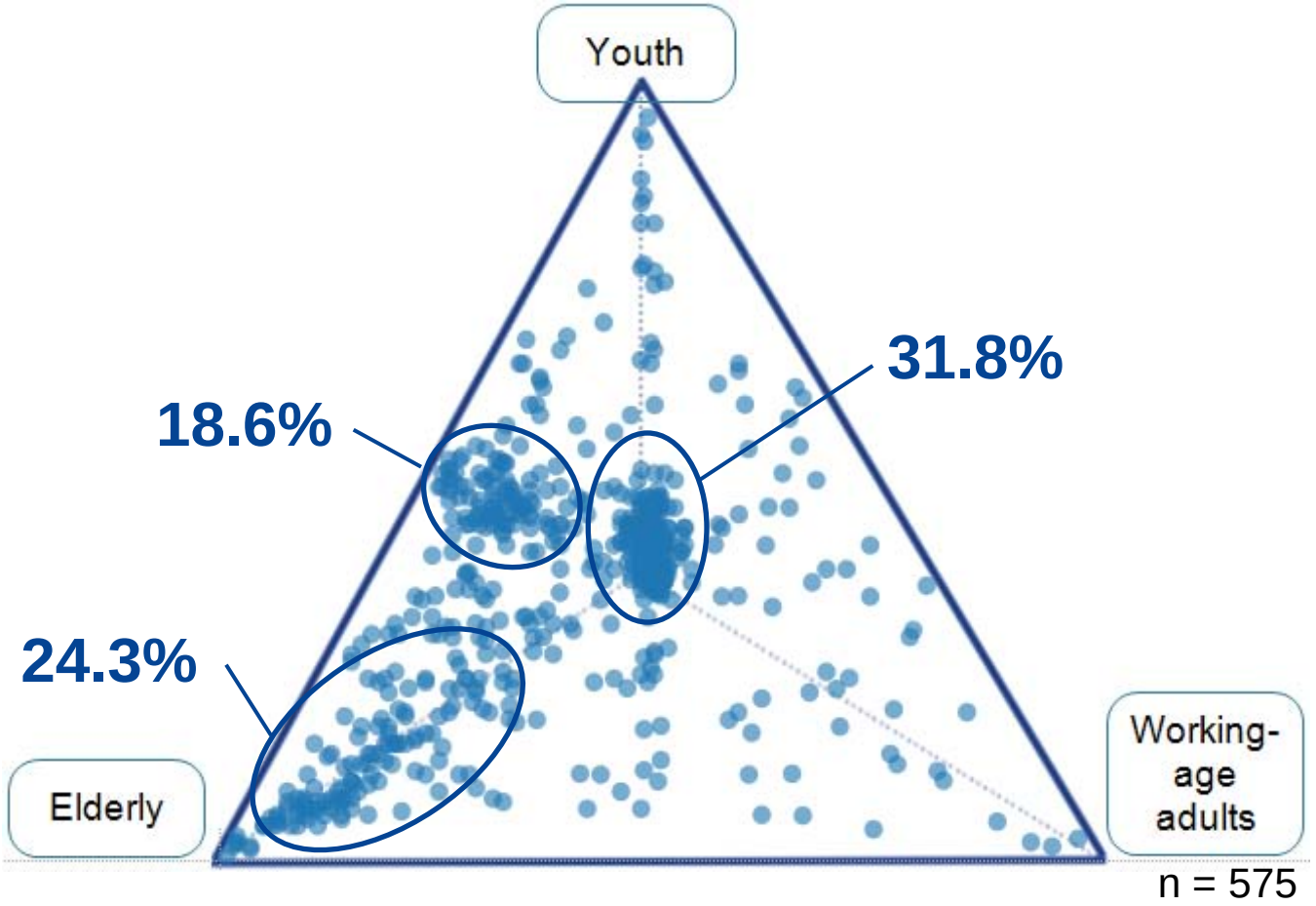


No one left behind

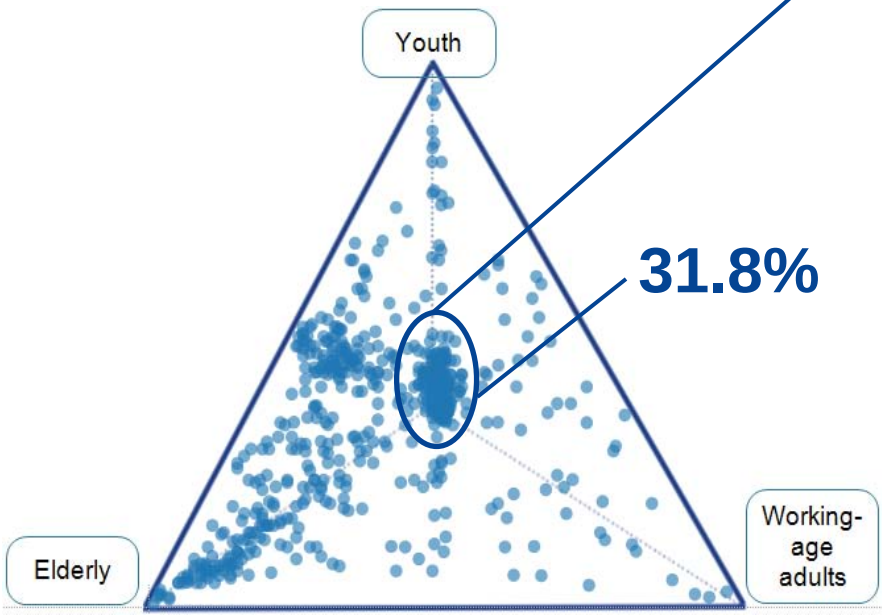
"We achieved balance between growth, wealth redistribution and progress at a moderate pace where no one is left behind."

Findings

T4: The government should help these people first:



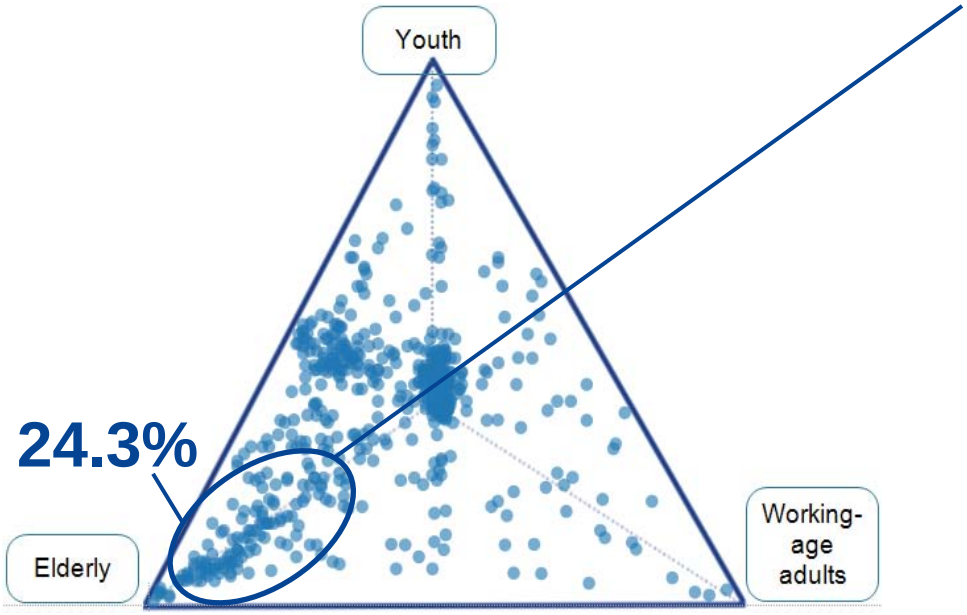
Findings



What are we becoming

"…the young generation is far from appreciative or respectful of those who've lived much longer, clearing dirty tables at a food centre, dirty washroom, callous disregard for those who pick up after them."

Findings

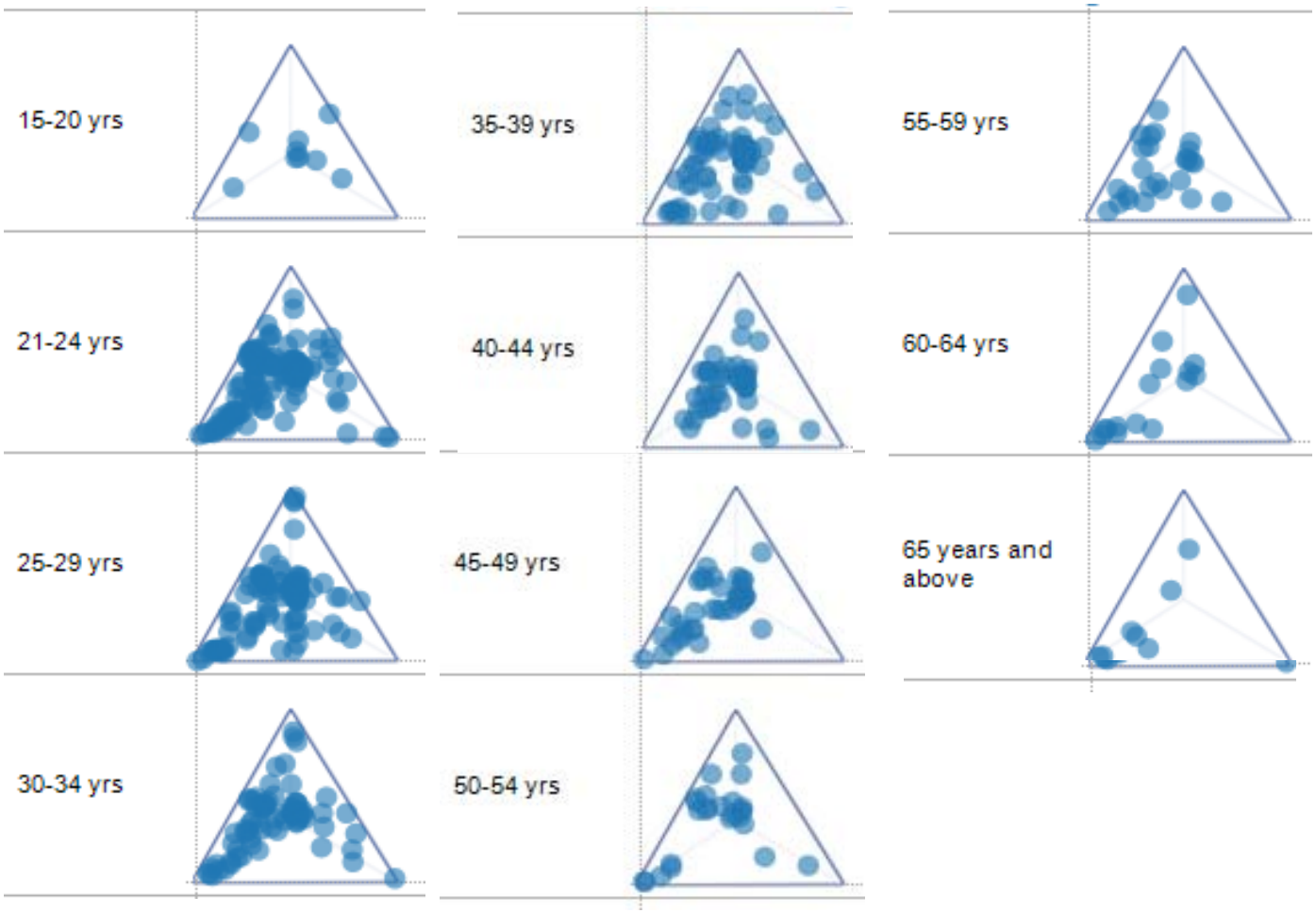


50 shades of greying

"The ageing population is no laughing matter…Politics, policies, national issues MUST involve and revolve around them."

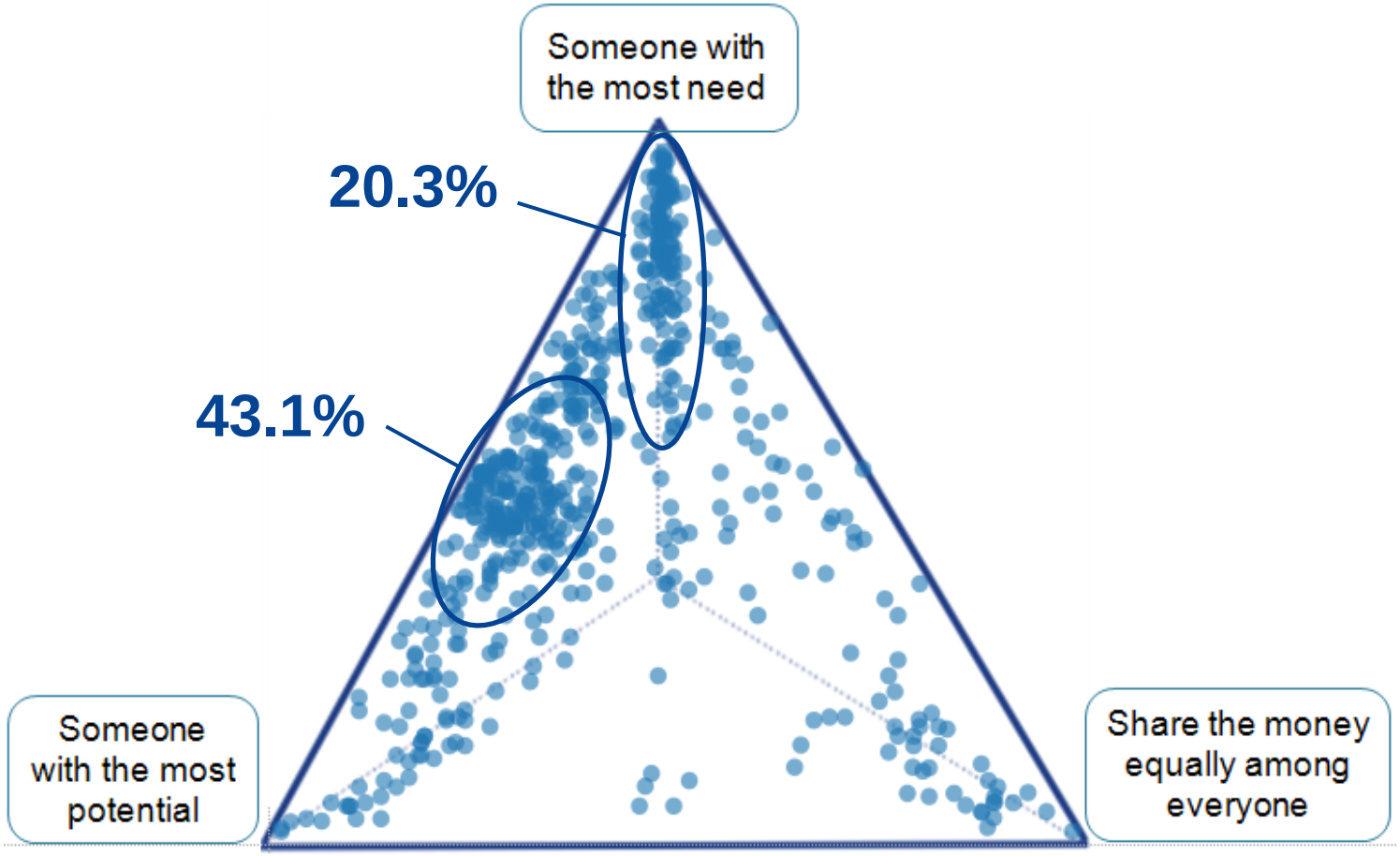
Findings

The young are just as likely to identify the elderly when compared to other age groups.



Findings

Opinion Triad A1: If you had $100,000 to give away for an educational scholarship, who would you give it to?



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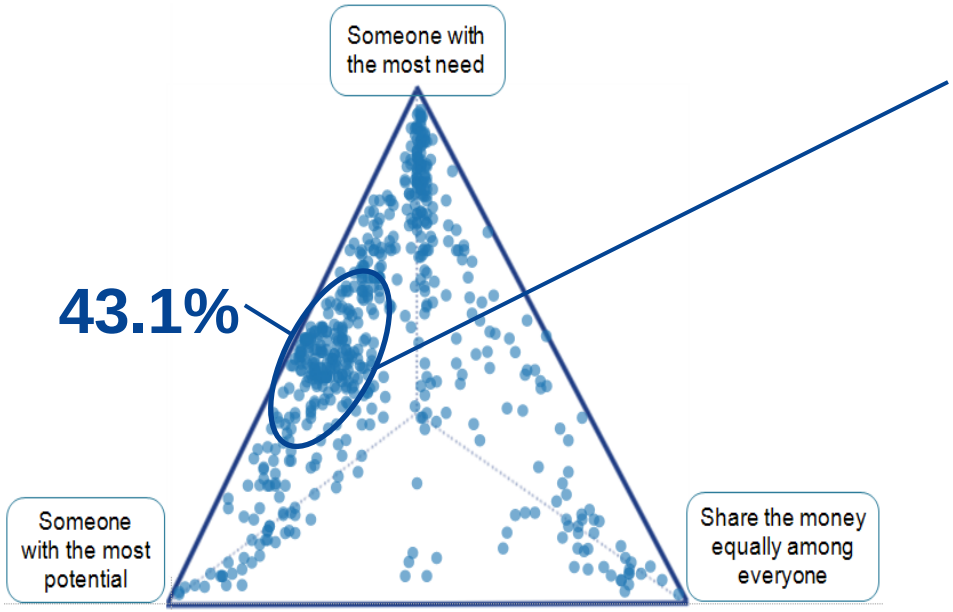
Findings



"The … rich should take more ownership of the community and share not only money but their talent & skills with the middle/low-income who wants to be successful like them."

Findings

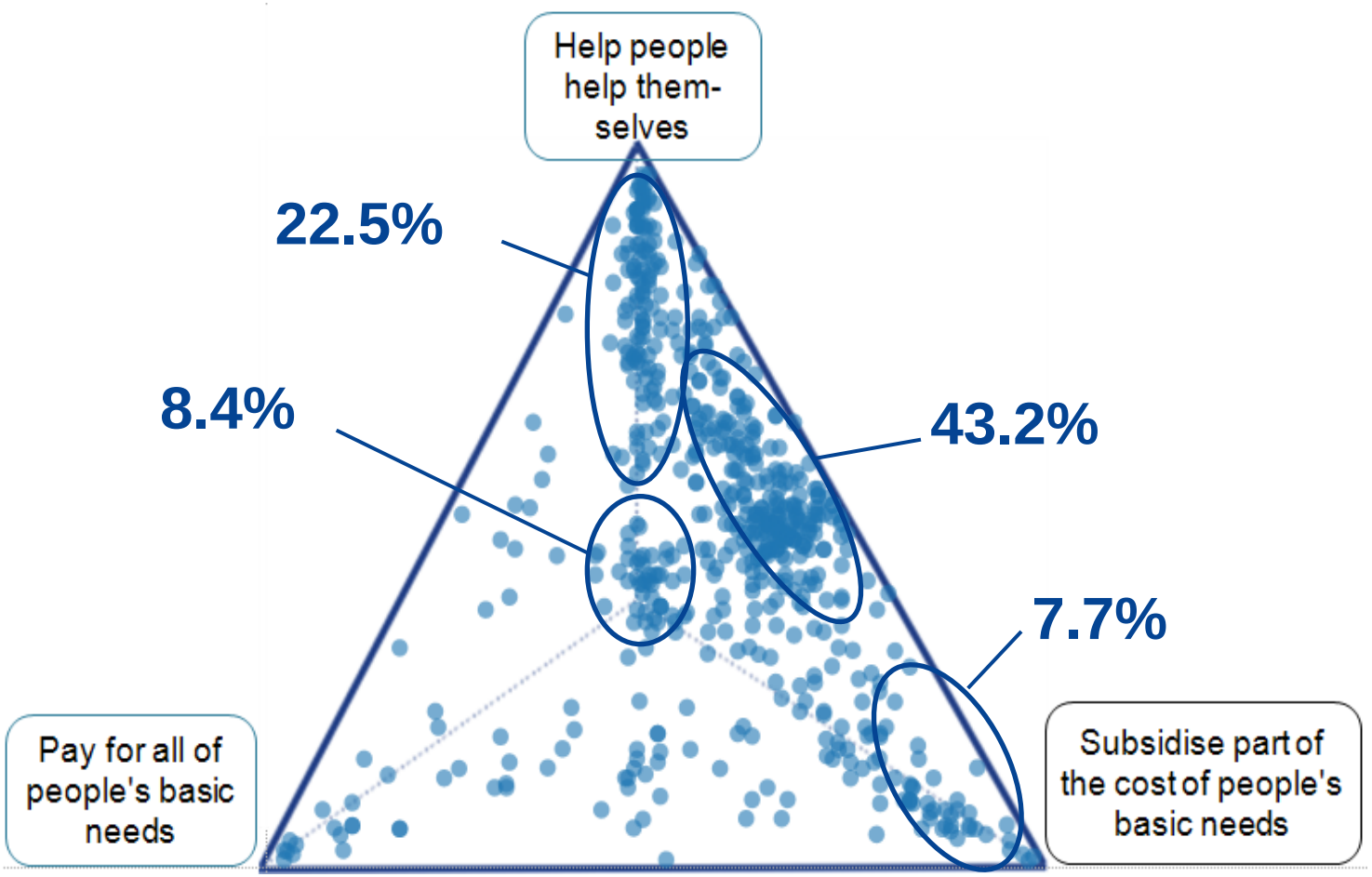
In stories about life in 2022,
how should the government play its part?

•There is a strong bias towards the empowerment ethic – subsidise basic needs and help people 'help themselves'. There is little tendency towards the idealised notion of 'welfarism' (of SingaGives).

•This also addresses the third driving force of the IPS Prism Scenarios – the distribution of support and rewards

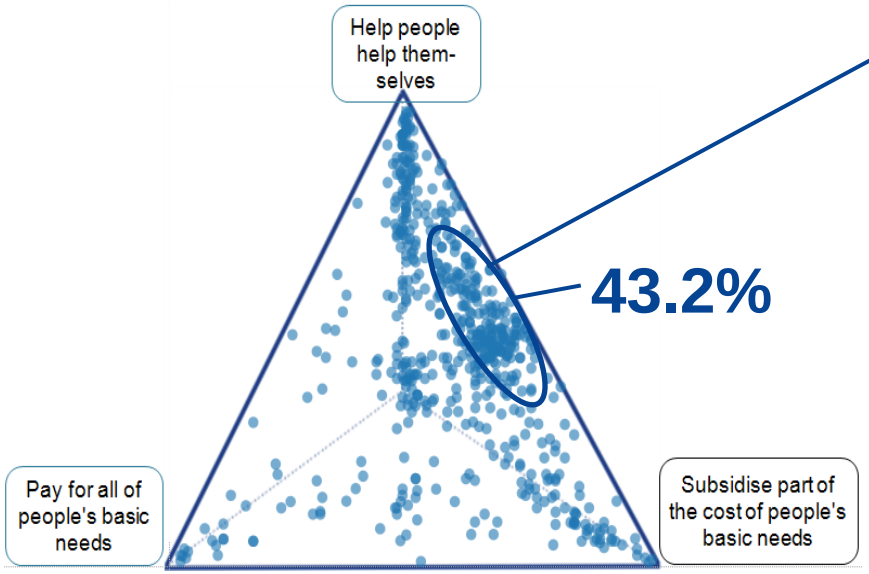
Findings

T5: The government should:



n = 595

Findings

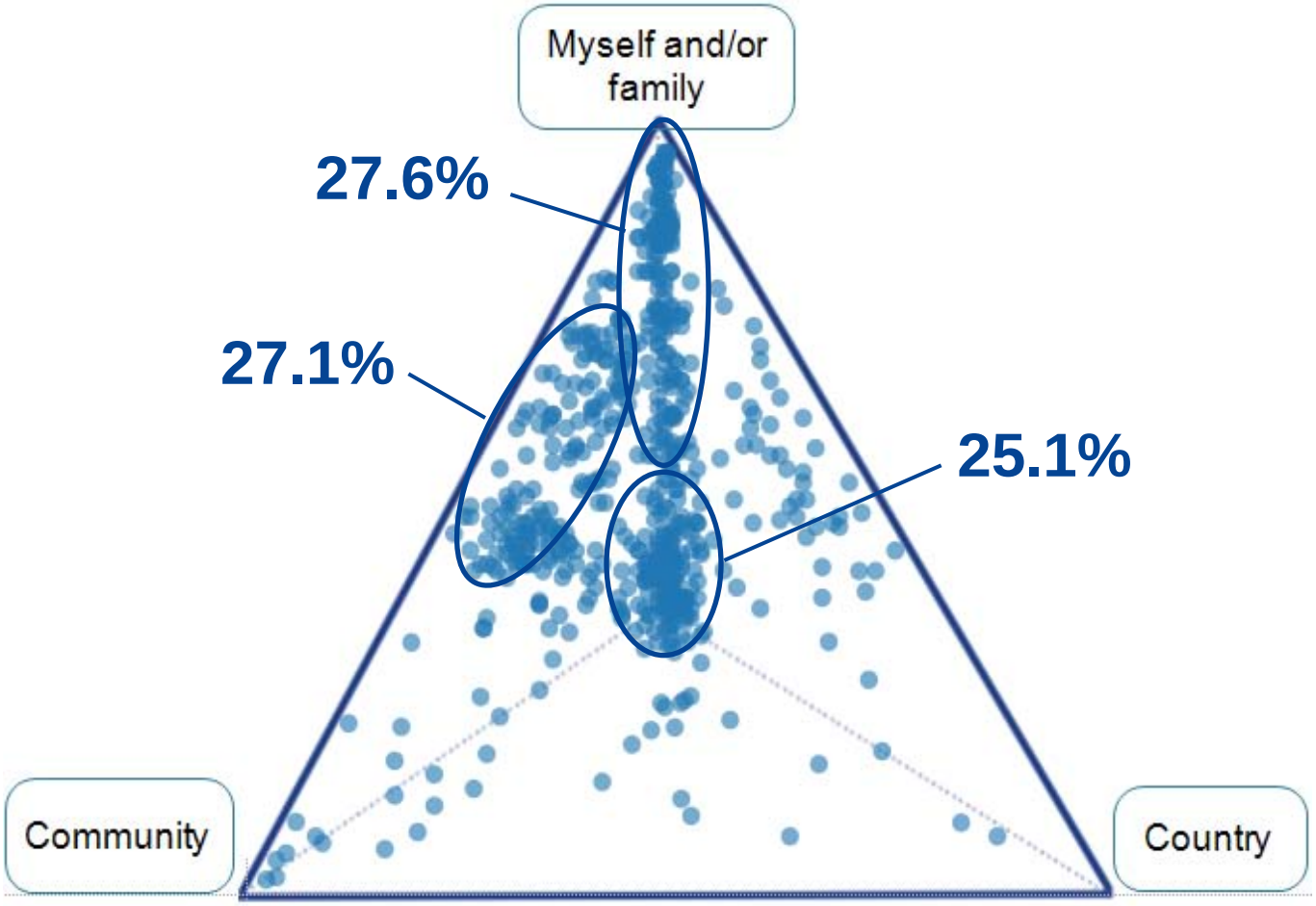


Sharing of Resources

"Not necessarily a welfare state nor communist, but a place where resources are necessary & [people] will get/receive the resources."

Findings

T6: My primary duty is to take care of:



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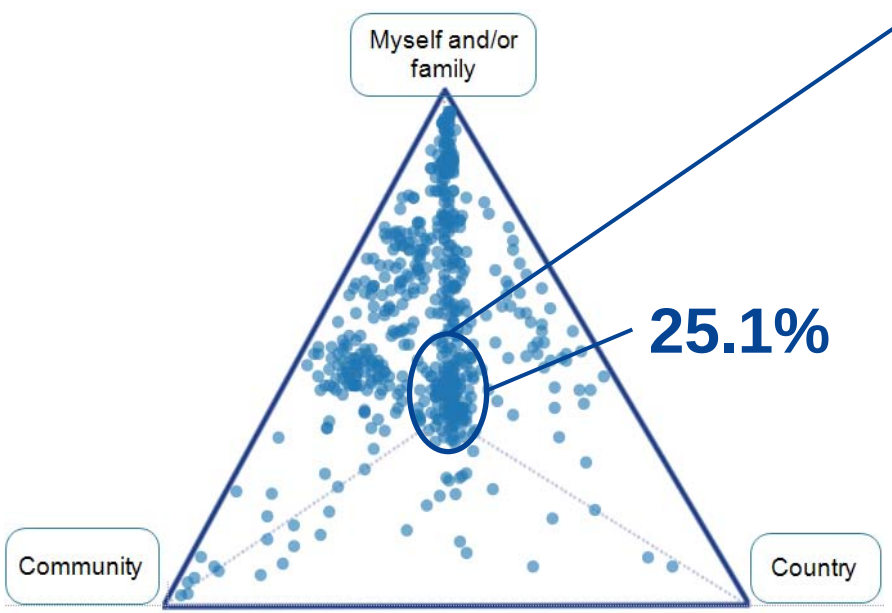
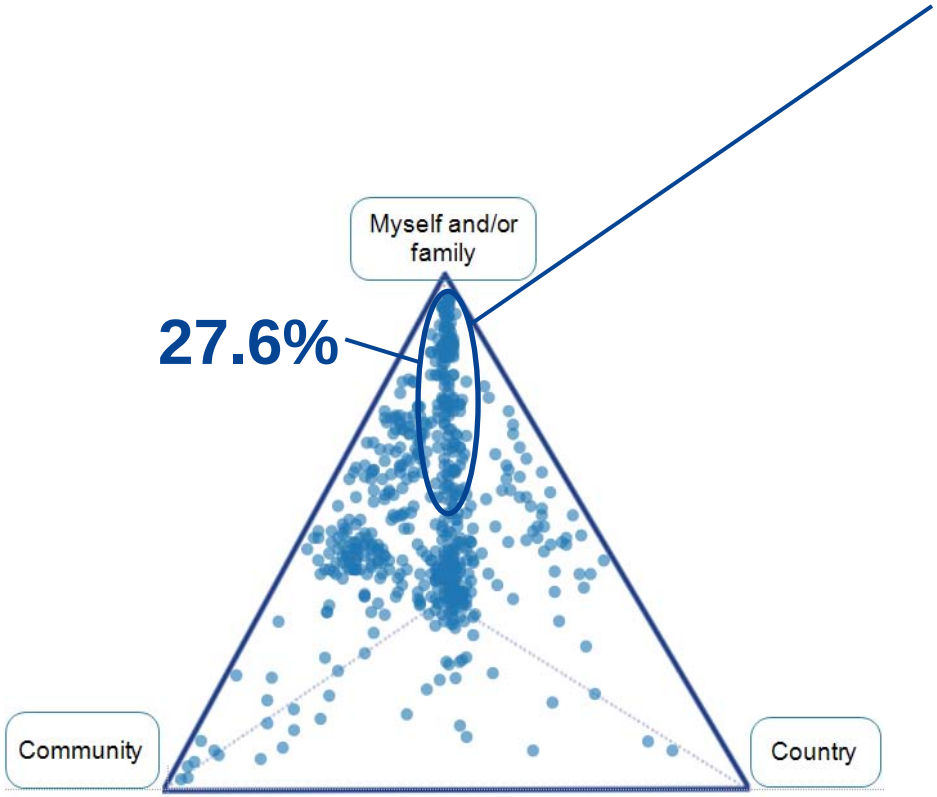
Findings



The Price of Progress

"As we become more educated, we have become more self-centered, which is ironic, given that education is supposed to empower us to help others."

Findings



Bills, Bills, Bills.

"I think 10 years later, I'll be busy working, worried about bills, loans. My parents will be older, without CPF, Medicare bills will be a problem for me and 3 other younger siblings. 4 of us will probably share these bills."

Findings

In stories of life in 2022, who should lead and how?

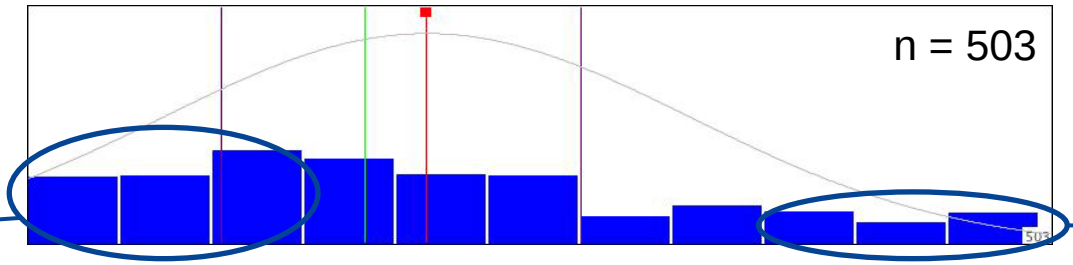
- Leadership should arise from and be demonstrated from both the government and people sectors; not just government alone.

- Government leadership is likely to be innovative rather than tied too much to the past or tradition.

Findings

P1:In my story, the government

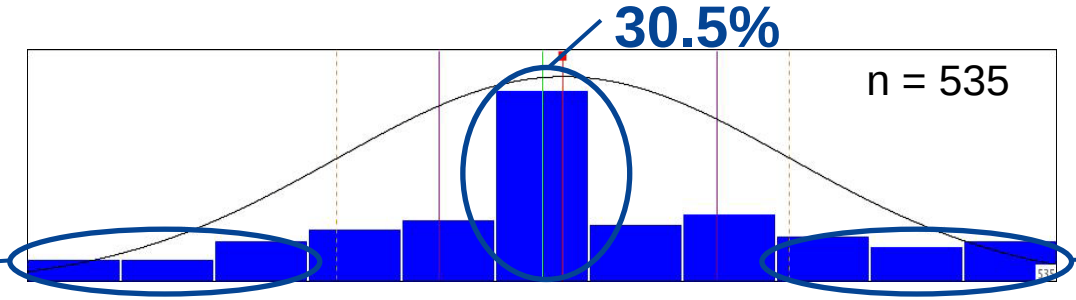
supports new ideas regardless of the past **38%**



is rooted in tradition, ignoring new ideas **14.1%**

P2: In my story, leadership should be:

provided by the government **13.1%**



provided by the community **18.7%**

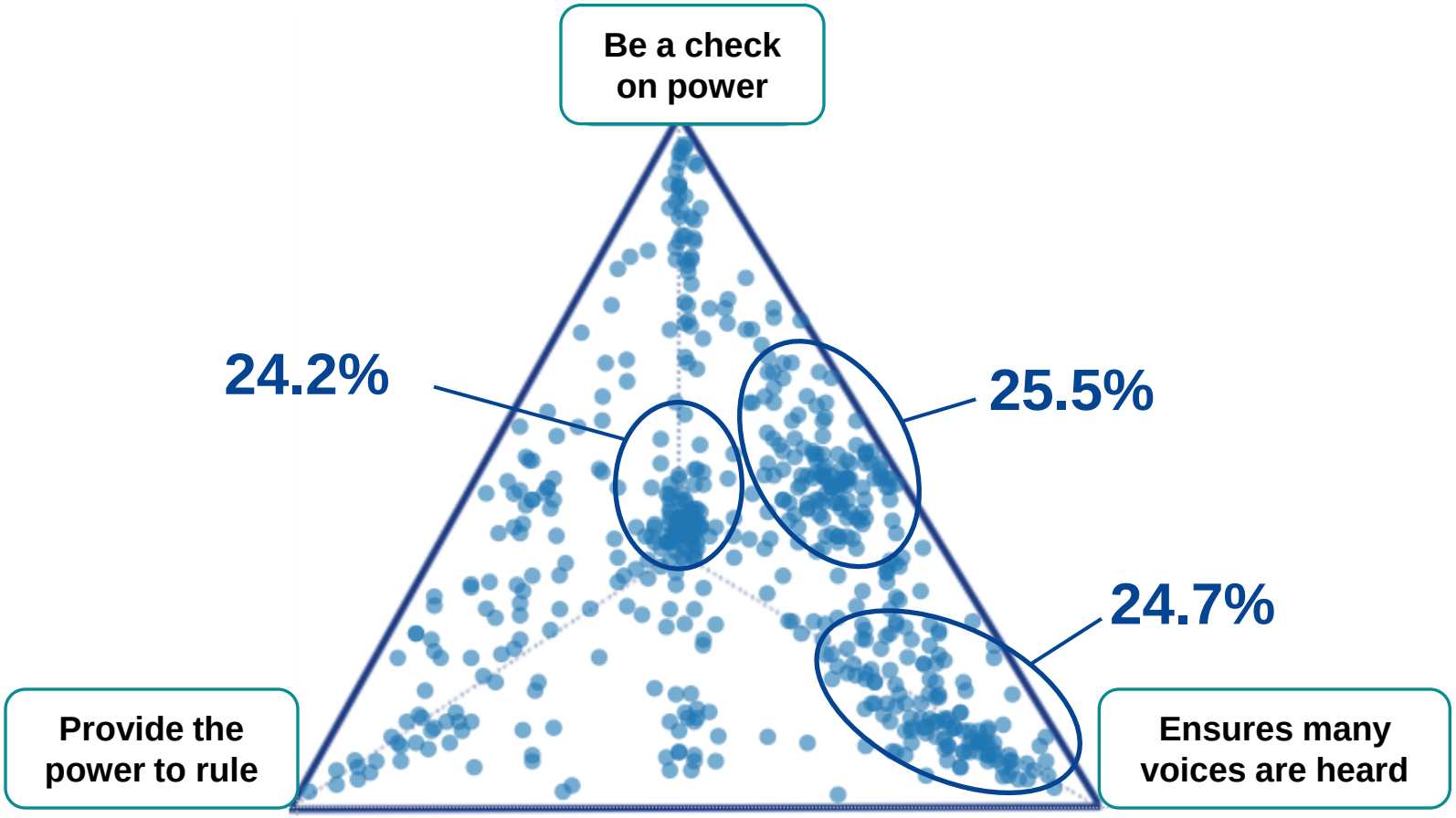
Findings

What does the vote mean to IPS Prism participants?

•It is used to ensure that interests and concerns across society are well-represented and also, to some extent, be a check on power.

Findings

Opinion Triad A3:
It's most important to me that my vote is used to:



n = 588

Summary

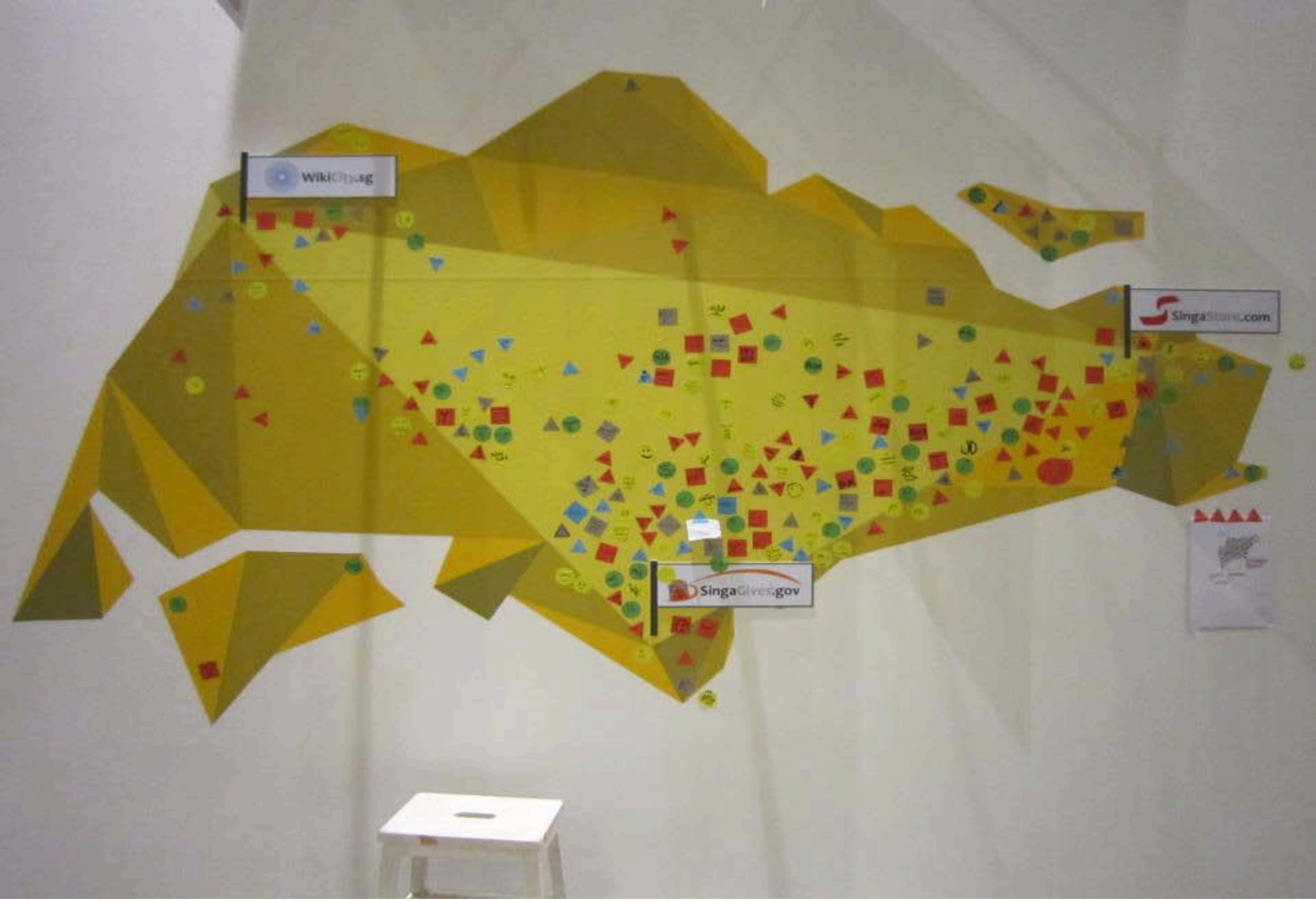
- Caveat: IPS Prism Survey is of Prism participants and the findings are not generalisable to Singaporeans.

- Given that it is a future-oriented project, an over-representation of the young gives us a sense of how they will shape the future.

- The main message from IPS Prism participants is that governance must be morally-directed; that a big state is still important and it should provide its support in a way that ‘teaches people how to fish’.

Summary

- The elderly should receive first priority for state support but ideally, not at the expense of youths.
- The political system must ensure that there is a good representation of the interests and concerns of everyone across society.
- This is a nuanced form of SingaGives.


WikiCity.sg
SingaStore.com
SingaGives.gov

The IPS Prism Survey was conducted by the Politics and Governance Research Cluster of the Institute of Policy Studies which comprises Dr Gillian Koh, Ms Valerie Koh and Mr Tay Ek Kiat.

We thank the following for their contribution to the study:

•Cognitive Edge that provided the survey methodology, 'Narrative Capture' and data analysis.
•Mr Jason Loe, Consultant, IPS Prism Project
•Ms Ko Siew Huey and Ms Ngiam Su-Lin, ArtsWok
•Drama Box
•All the respondents

The End