The Impact of Culture on Road Safety in Jordan

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Never Stand Still | Science | Transport and Road Safety (TARS) Research

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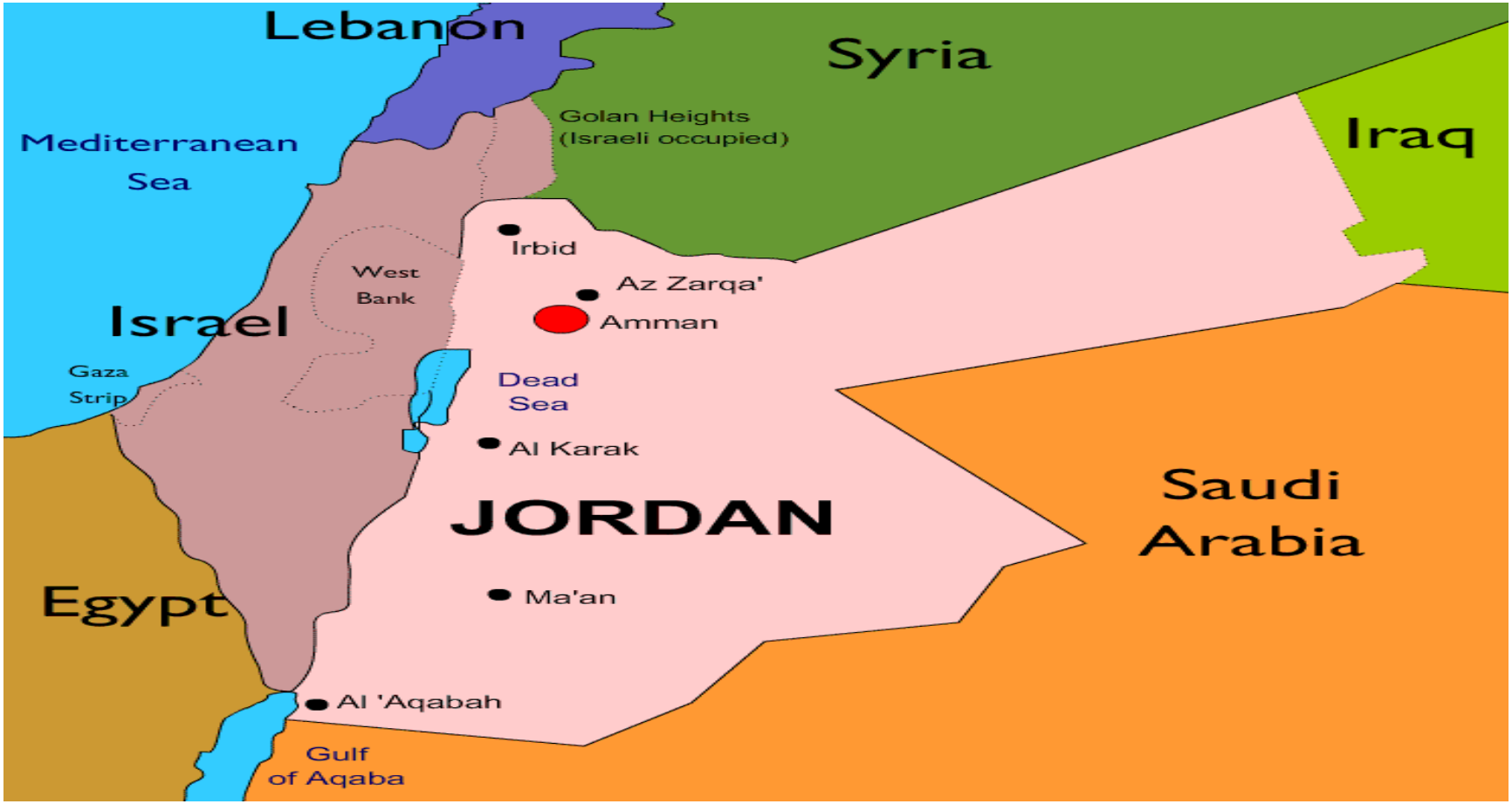
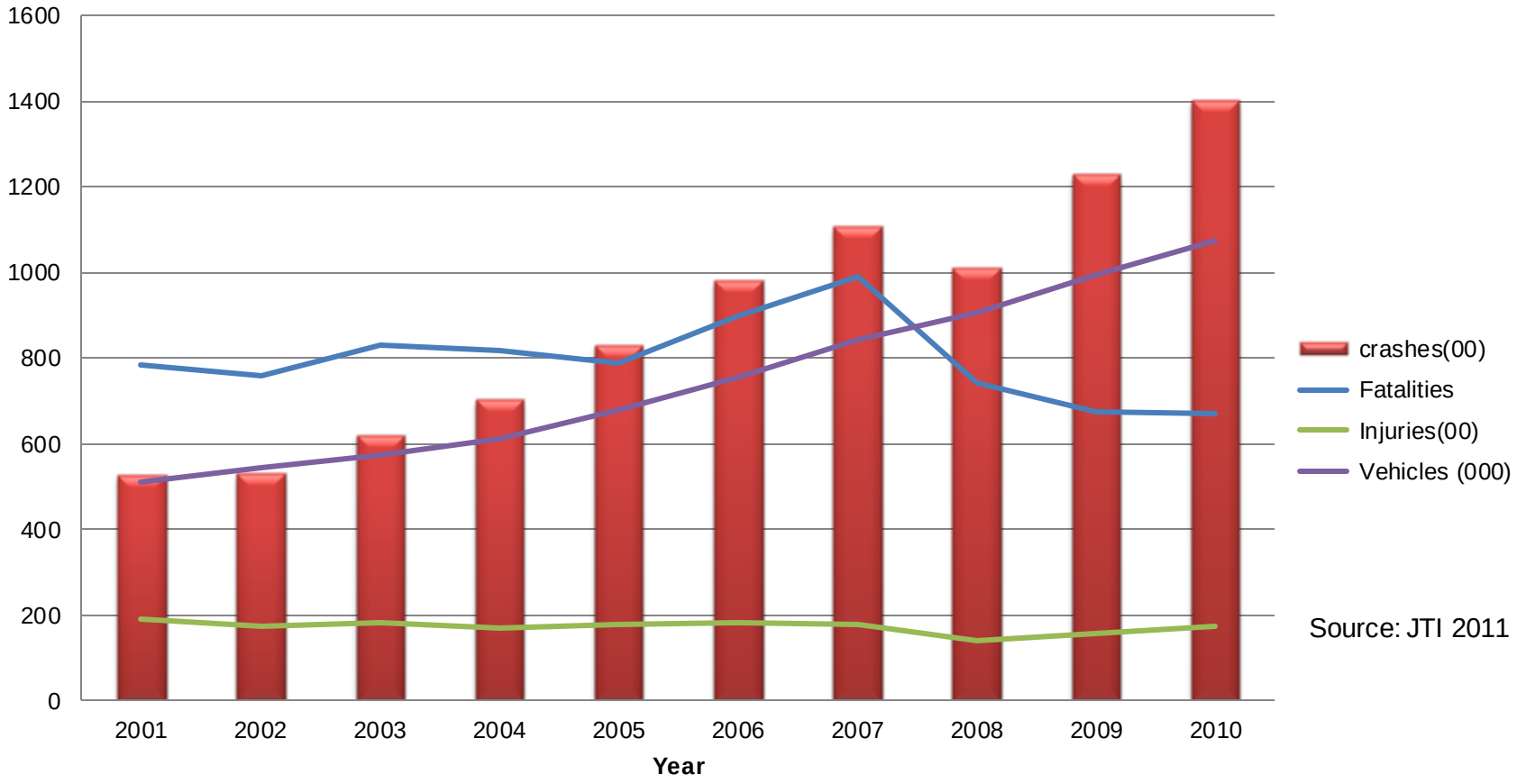
TARS Research

Jordan

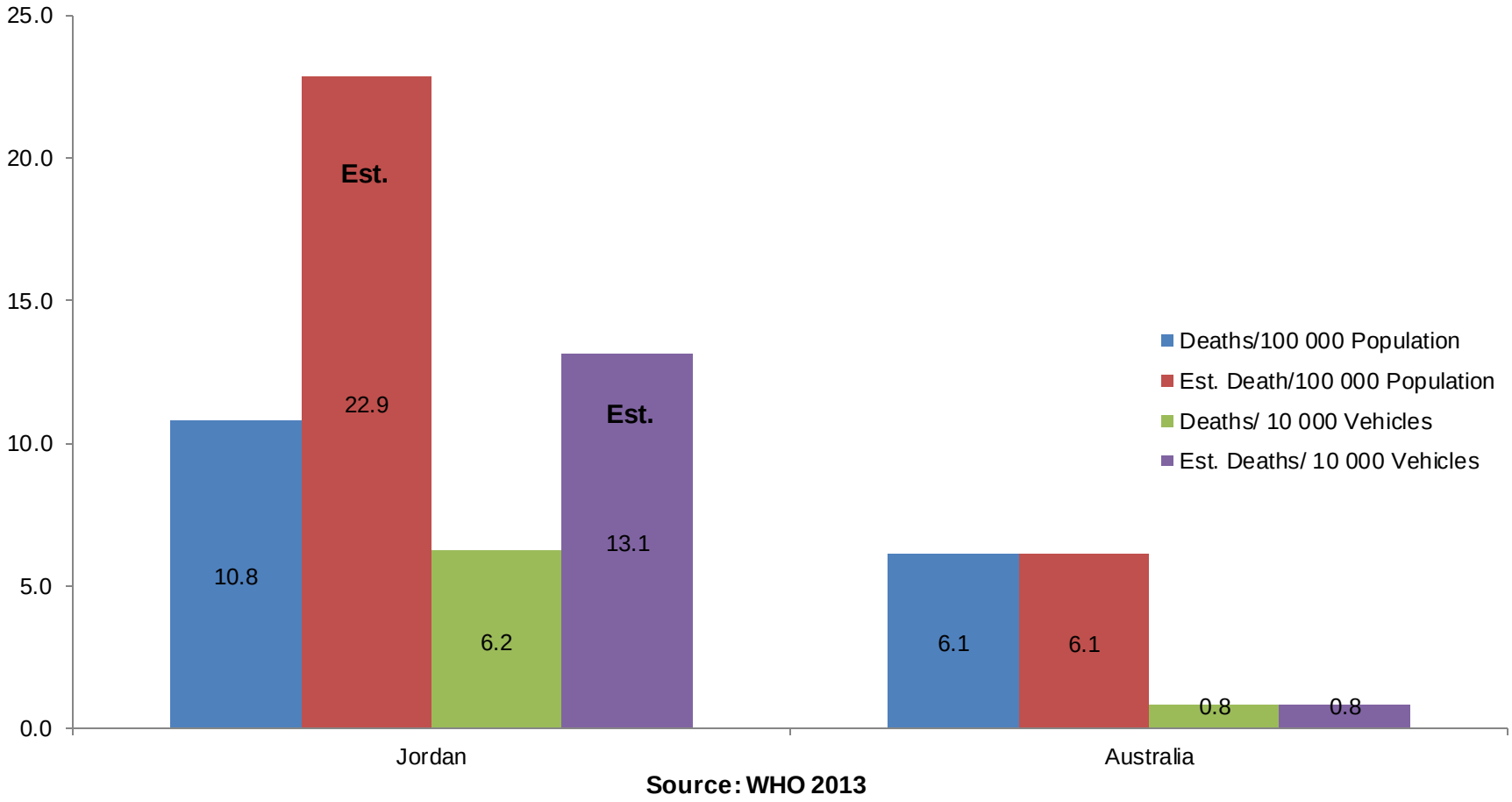

Lebanon
Syria
Iraq
Golan Heights
(Israeli occupied)
Mediterranean
Sea
Irbid
West
Bank
Az Zarqa'
Amman
Israel
Gaza
Strip
Dead
Sea
Al Karak
JORDAN
Saudi
Arabia
Egypt
Ma'an
Al 'Aqabah
Gulf
of Aqaba

Road crashes in Jordan



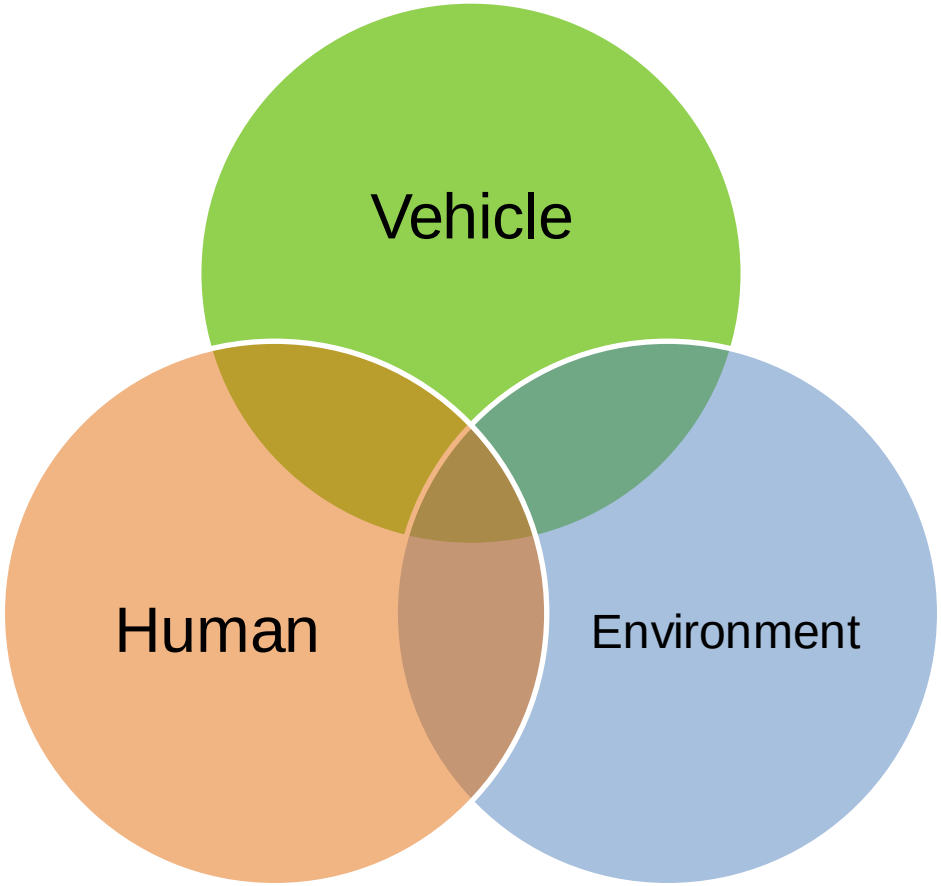
Source: JTI 2011

Jordan vs. Australia



Source: WHO 2013

Crash Causation



The Approach

- The Middle East Driver Behaviour Questionnaire (MEBQ)
  - Demographic characteristics
  - Driving habits
  - Attitudes
  - Behaviours
  - Traffic law enforcement
  - History of traffic violations and crashes.

Respondents

1600 → 587 (37%) → 42 (7%) → 545

- 84% males and 16% females
- 35% single and 63% married,
- 55% HS or less, 42% university degree and 3% postgraduate degree.
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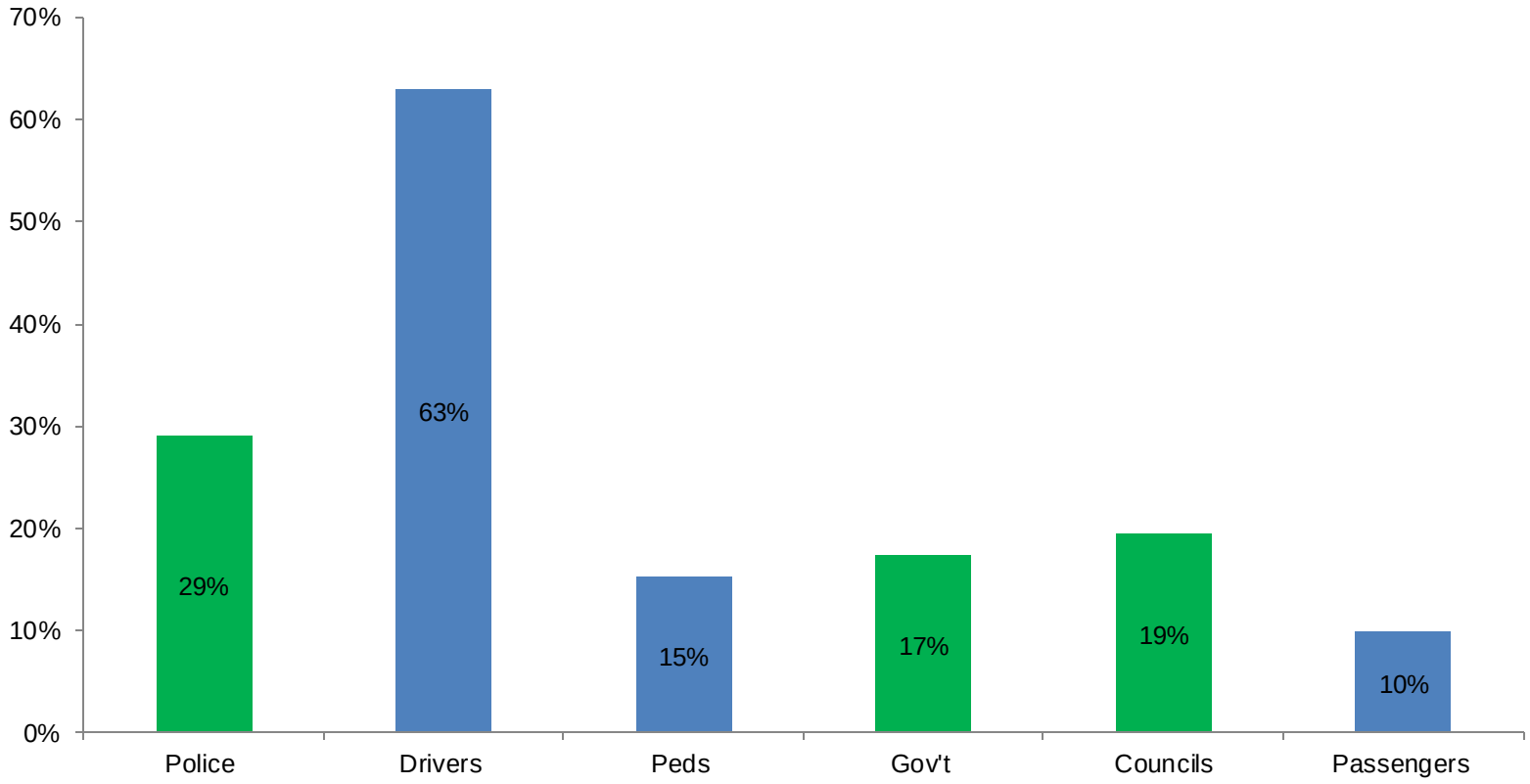
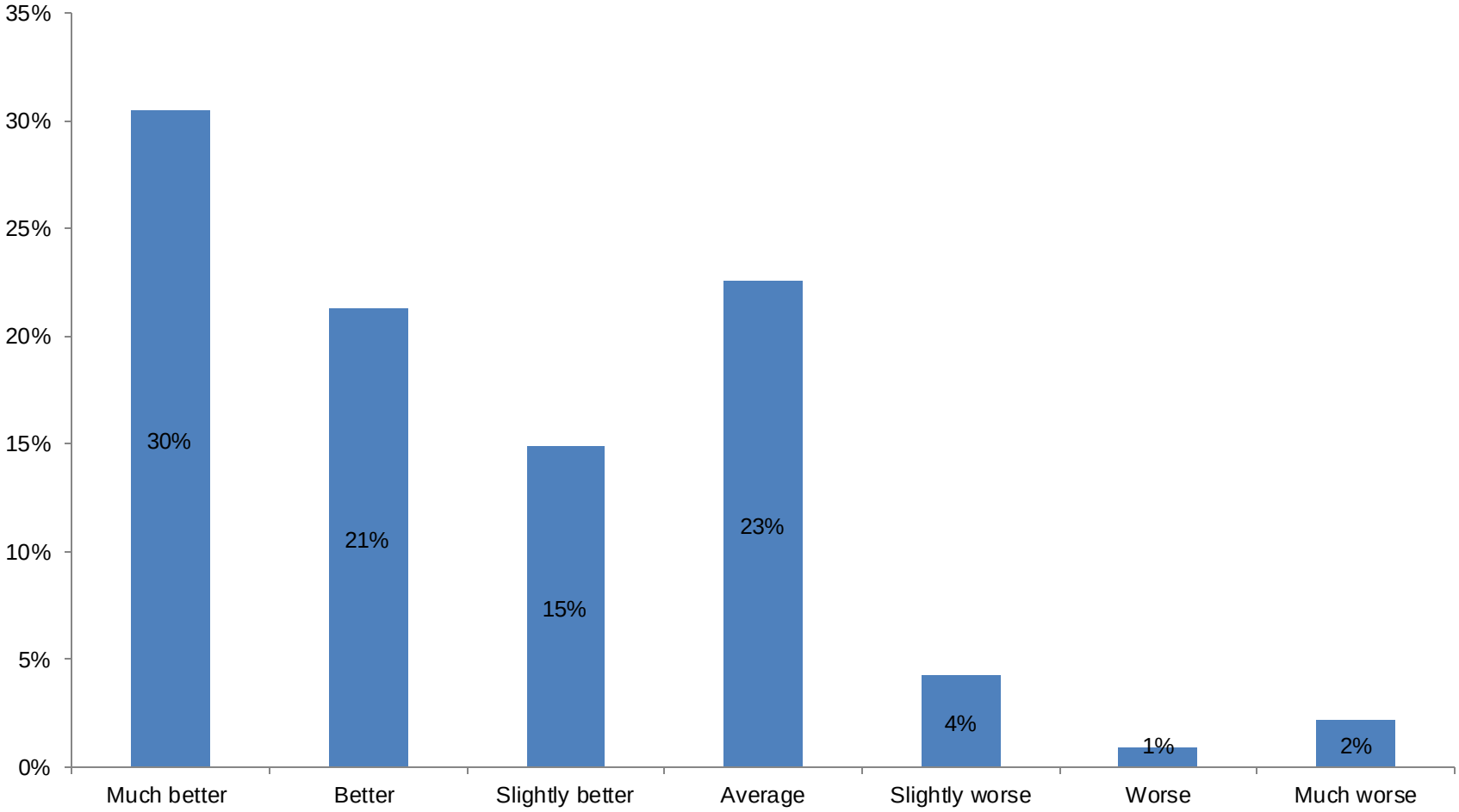
- Crashes (5 years) Avg: 0.87 (SD: 1.5)
- Fines Avg: 2.9 (SD: 5.3)
- Speeding Avg: 0.86 (SD: 1.5)
- Running red light Avg: 0.43 (SD: 1.13)
- Driving on the wrong lane Avg: 0.43 (SD: 1.2)

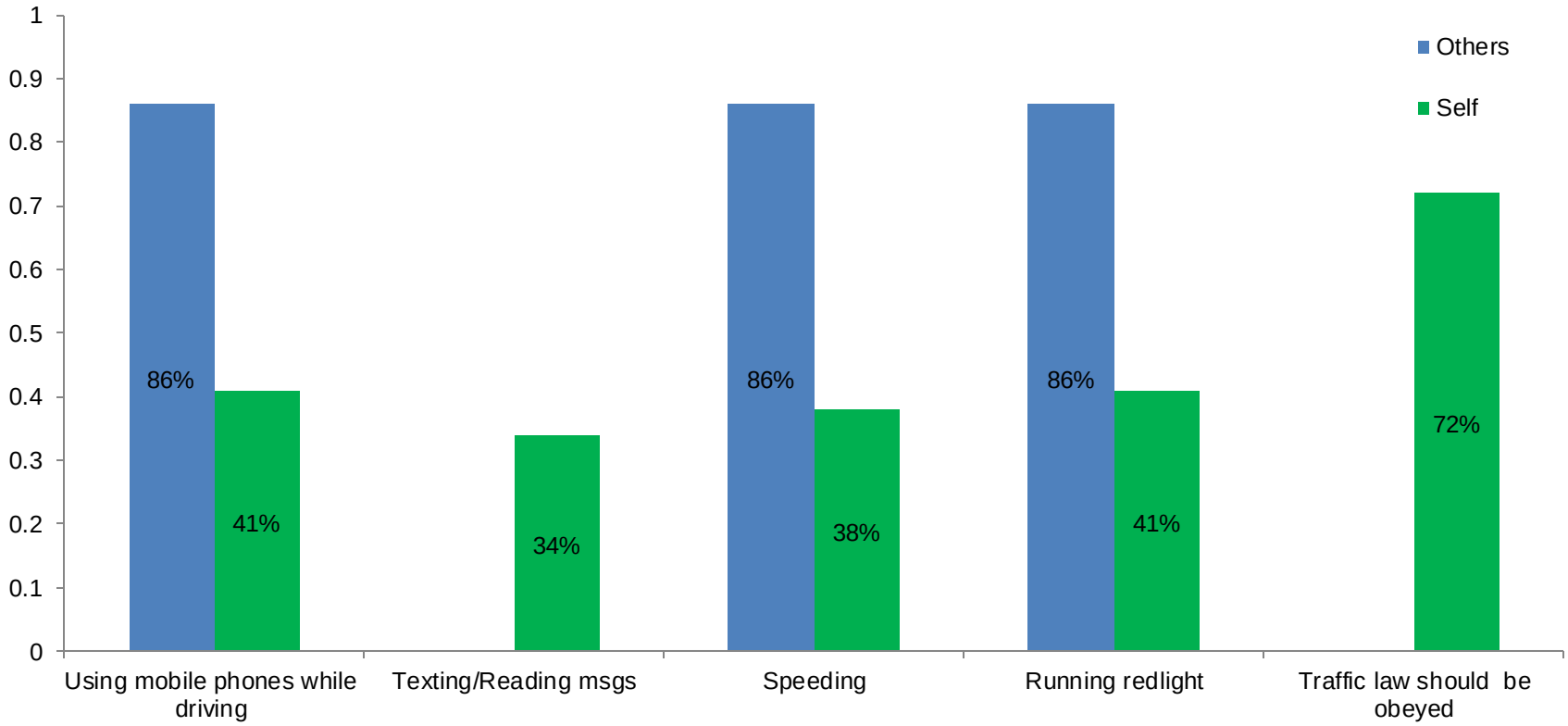
Safety responsibility as perceived by drivers



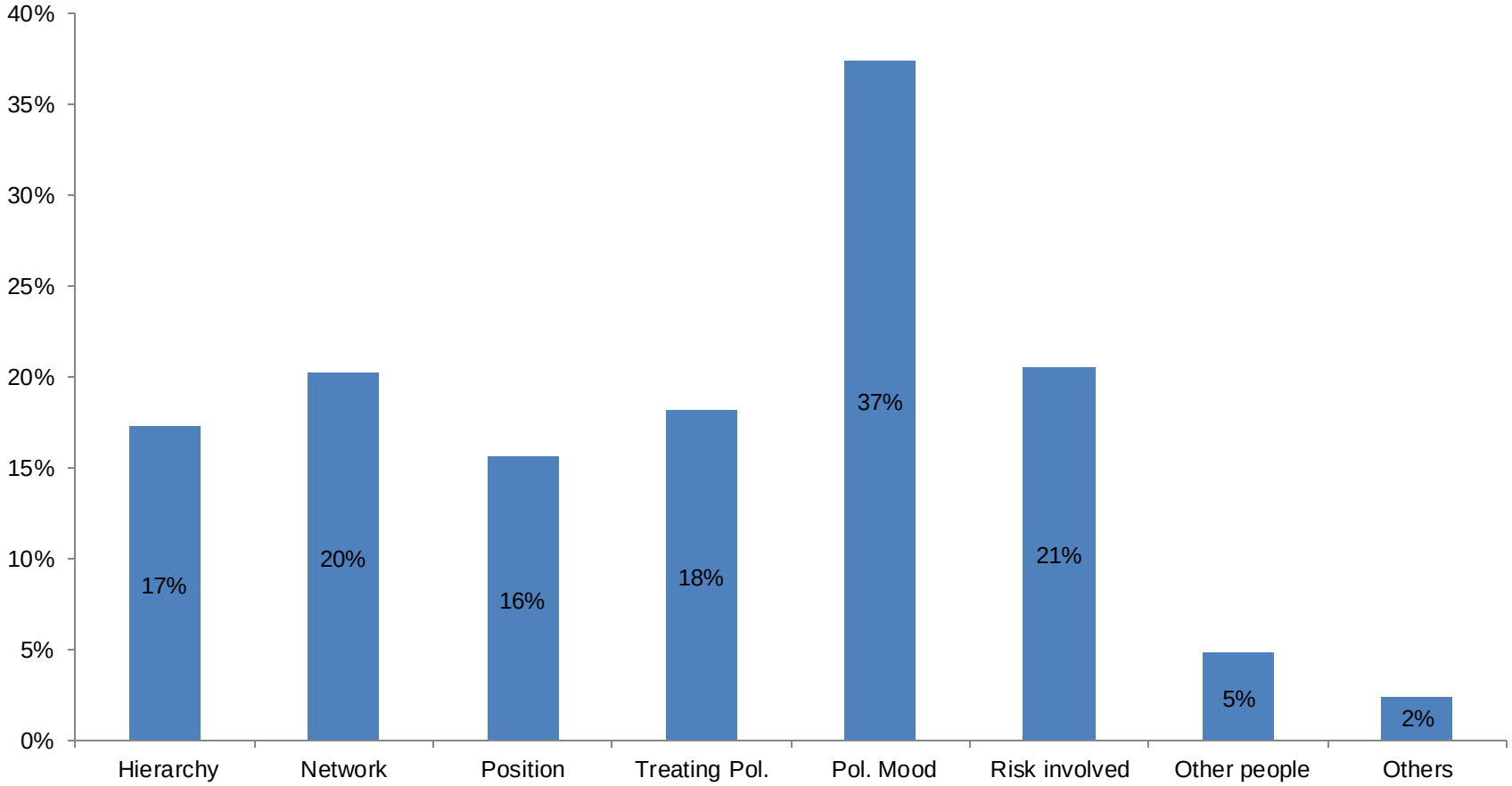
Self rating


35%
30%
25%
20%
15%
10%
5%
0%
30%
21%
15%
23%
4%
1%
2%
Much better
Better
Slightly better
Average
Slightly worse
Worse
Much worse

Self vs. Others



Decision to fine violated driver



Other Results

- Social hierarchy and personal relations and avoiding fines (67%)
- People with no influence receive fines (45%)
- Traffic rules are not enforced on people with authority (58%)
- Fines can be withdrawn after being issued (53%)
- Tolerance worsens the road safety environment (40%)
- Violating traffic laws is against religious rule (50%)
- Nepotism (*Guanxi*) in getting license (58%)
- Nepotism affects road safety negatively (67%)

Conclusion

- Drivers are predominantly males
- Drivers have high self image, masculinity and macho attitudes
- Different punishments for different violations/violators (socio-economic)
- Social hierarchy to encourage compliance
- Positive cultural and religious values to improve safety
- Redefine the social acceptance of behaviours on roads
- Building trustful relationship between drivers and authorities
- Elimination of networking, nepotism , tolerance abuse ..
- Fair and strict enforcement

- And always **POLITICAL WILL**

Thank You!