

How to prevent the referendum from turning into a disaster

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CARDH

Centre d'analyse et de Recherche en Droits de l'Homme

The CARH claims to have some influence on public opinion and government decision. As a human rights research organization, it aims to be an agent of peace, and to guide political actors in making choices that benefit the entire nation.



CARDH

The issue: Referendum or the new constitution

In this context, where the government is preparing a referendum on the approval of a new constitution, as many problems arise as to the legitimacy of both the referendum itself, and the act of changing the constitution.



How to prevent the referendum from turning into a disaster

The priority of CARDH is the stability and the wellbeing of each haitian for the year, Despite the latest socio-political unrest.

CARDH want to know the possible answers to this question.



The Data: Understanding

For this work, we will need relevant data:

- Public opinion on the referendum
- Public opinion on the new constitution
- The tendencies for the referendum

Because of that, we have created a form to collect data related to this issue.



The Data: processing

Since the questionnaire was unconstrained, we had to validate responses based on other questions.

For example: The question "If you have not yet read the draft document of the new constitution. For what reason?" concerned only those who answered NO to the question "Have you ever read the draft document of the constitution? Some people, answering YES, still answered the question, their answers were cancelled and the answer "I am not aware of the document" was added as a modality to the question.



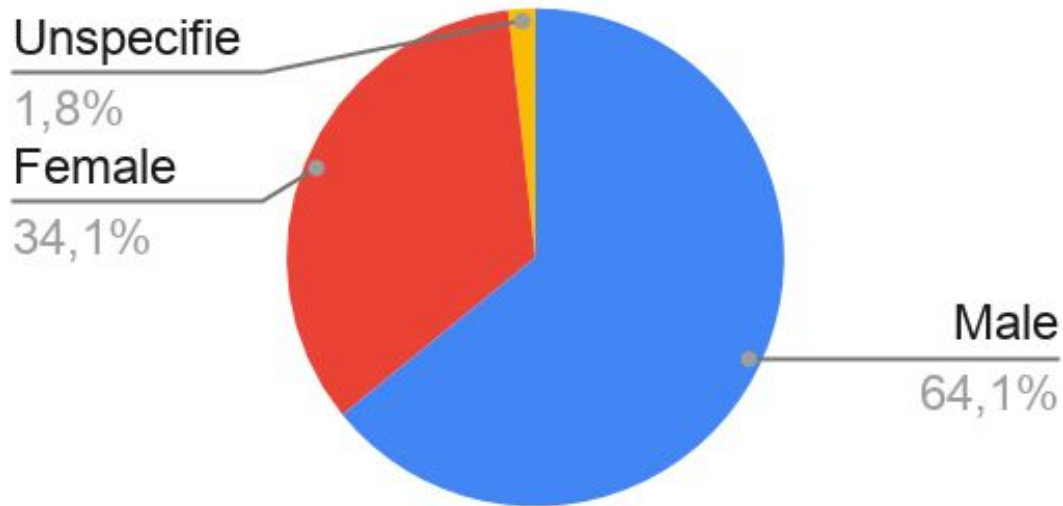
Univariate analysis

Here, we will assess the composition of the survey population to better guide our conclusion.

We will also look at the general trends in the distribution of each variable.

Composition of the population

Participants by gender



Data for this variable were collected on all participants

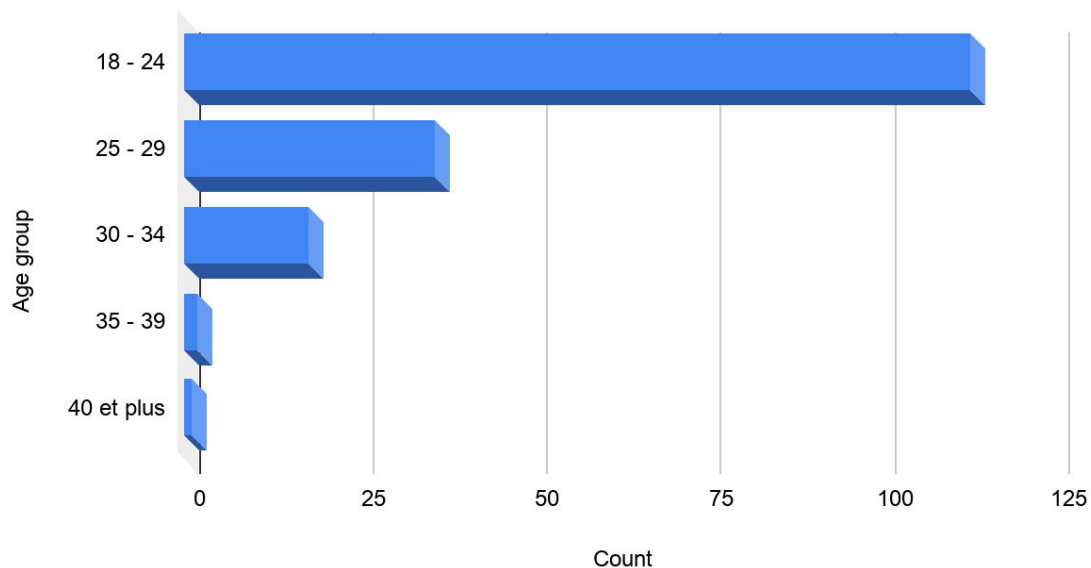
Note that the sex ratio here is about 188. While in general (in Haiti) it is 108.



Data for this variable were collected on all participants

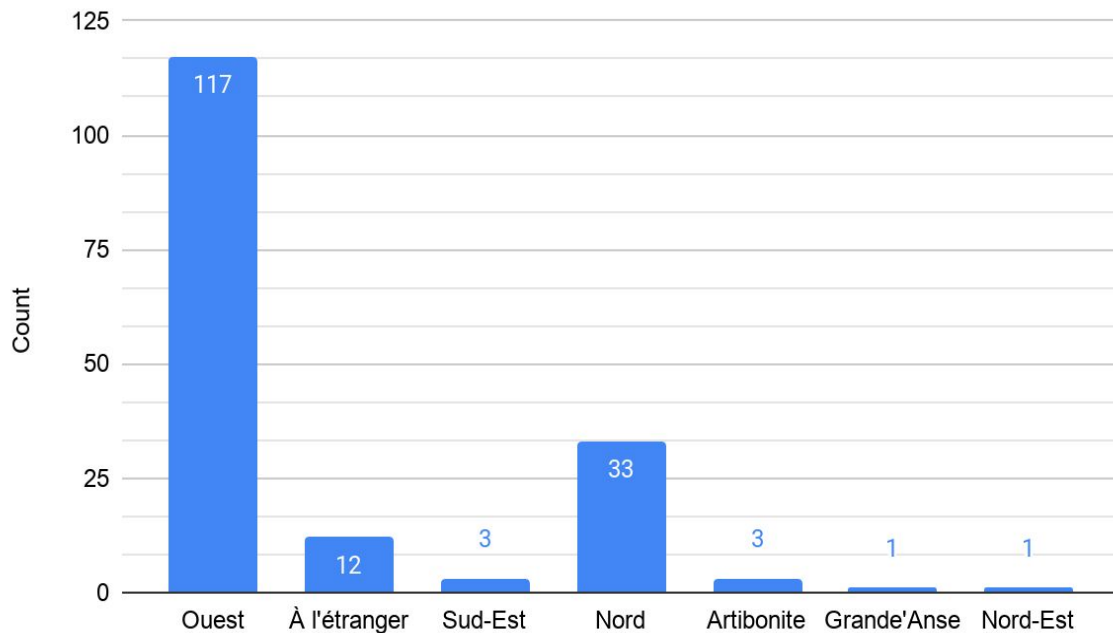
A fairly young population, 66% aged 18 to 24. Are they students?

Participants by age





participants by place of residence



Data for this variable were collected on all participants

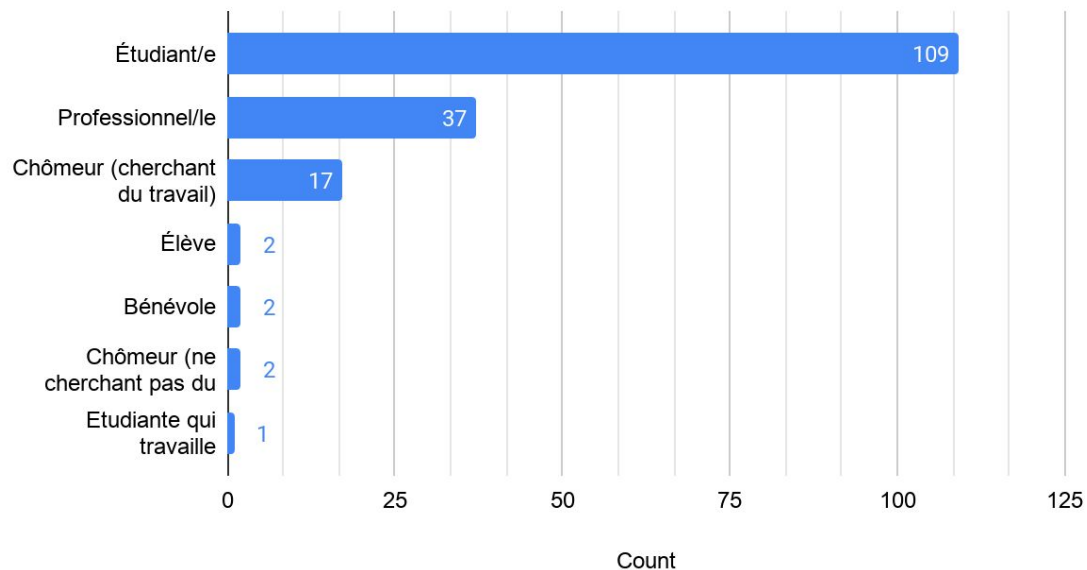
The majority of respondents are residents of the West Department (approximately 69%).



Data for this variable was collected on all participants

Indeed, approximately 68% of respondents are students.

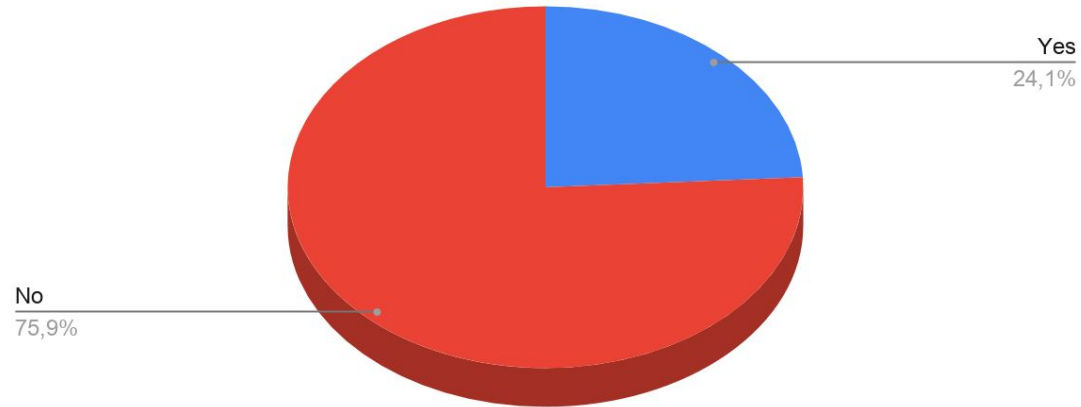
Participants by activity/occupation





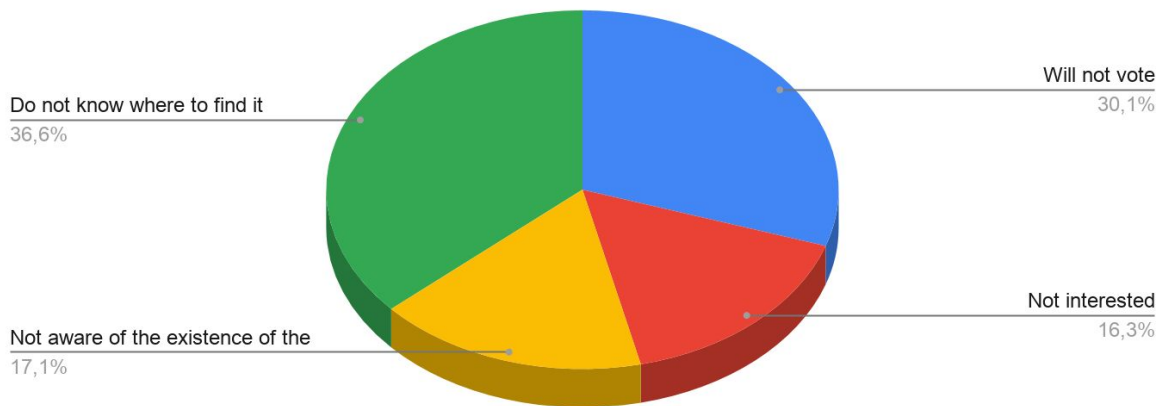
Data for this variable were collected on all participants.

Participants according to whether or not they have read the draft constitution



For the 129 respondents who had not read the document, the main reason was that they did not know where they could find it.

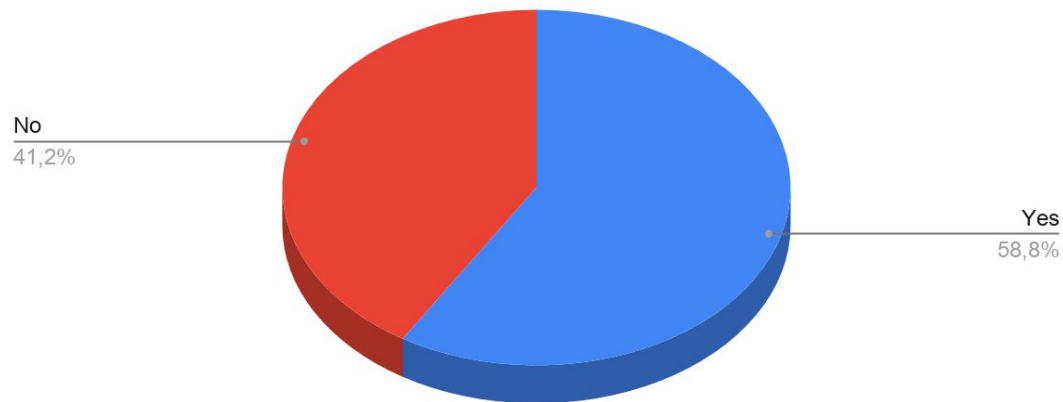
Reason why participants did not read the document





We can see that a significant part of the respondents do not talk about the referendum in their environment.

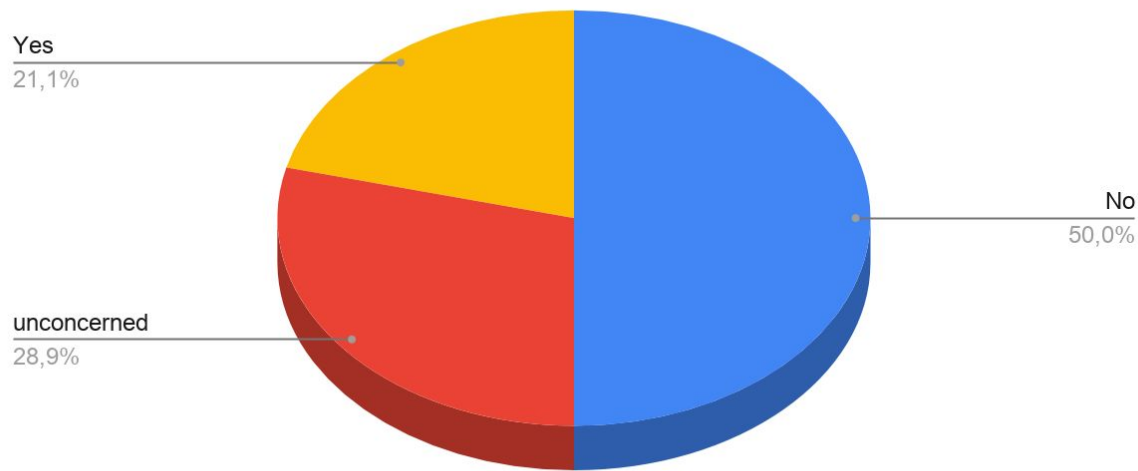
participants according to whether they have already discussed the subject in their environment



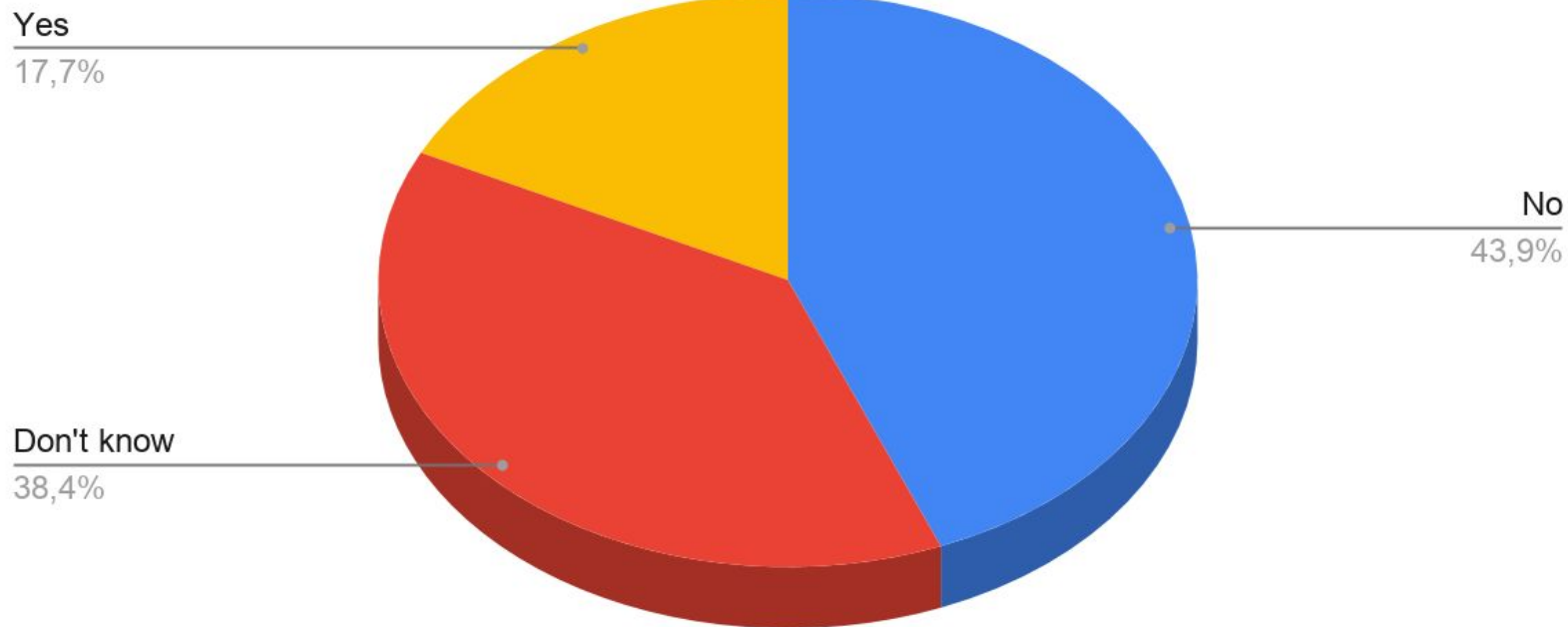


The most important information here is that 50% of respondents oppose this referendum.

Positions about referendum



position on the constitutionality of the referendum





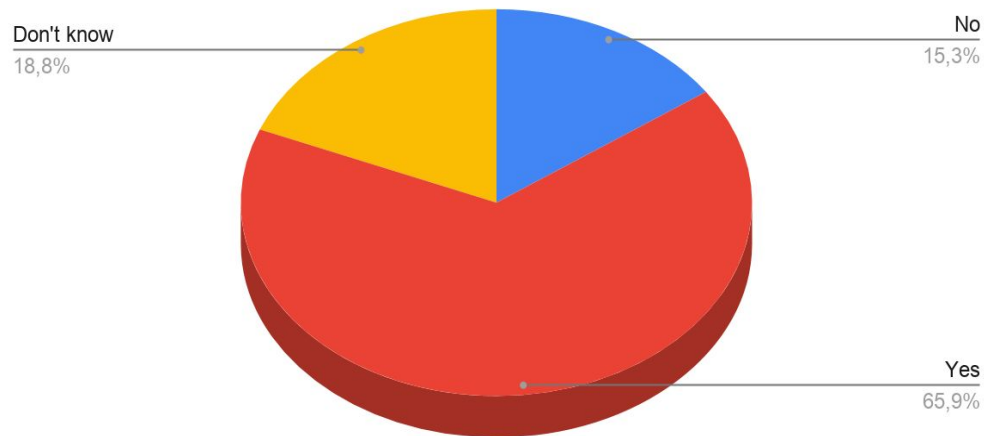
Bivariate Analysis

Here, we will look for existing relationships between variables that can explain the risks of turbulence.

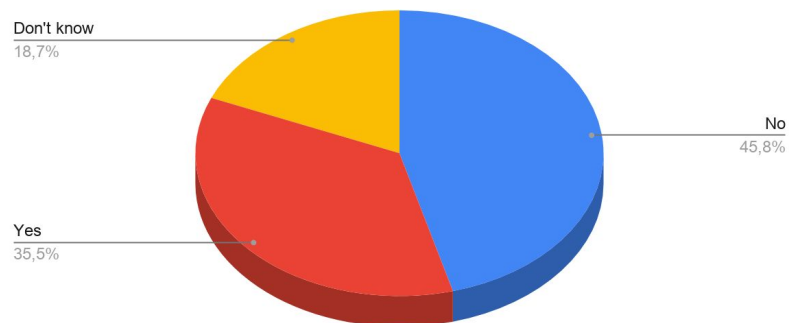


65% of respondents want a change in the constitution but only 35% are willing to vote in a referendum.

position on the need to change the constitution



willingness to vote



	Selon vous, le référendum est-il constitutionn el?				
Êtes-vous pour la réalisation du référendum?		Je ne sais pas	Non	Oui	Total général
Indifférent	0,60%	22,29%	4,22%	1,81%	28,92%
Non	1,20%	9,04%	33,73%	6,02%	50,00%
Oui	1,20%	5,42%	4,82%	9,64%	21,08%
Total général	3,01%	36,75%	42,77%	17,47%	100,00%

Of the 166 participants, the majority (about 34%) were opposed to the referendum and found it unconstitutional; 22% were undecided and did not know whether the initiative was constitutional or not.

COUNTA de Lecture du document		Êtes-vous pour la réalisation du référendum?			
Lecture du document		Indifférent	Non	Oui	Total général
Non	2,33%	34,11%	45,74%	17,83%	100,00%
Oui	2,44%	9,76%	58,54%	29,27%	100,00%
Total général	2,35%	28,24%	48,82%	20,59%	100,00%

		Êtes-vous pour la réalisation du référendum?				
COUNTA de Lecture du document						
Lecture du document			Indifférent	Non	Oui	Total général
Non		75,00%	91,67%	71,08%	65,71%	75,88%
Oui		25,00%	8,33%	28,92%	34,29%	24,12%
Total général		100,00%	100,00%	100,00%	100,00%	100,00%



58% of the participants who have read the document oppose the referendum. 45% of those who have not read the document oppose the referendum.

Thus, for all the participants who oppose the referendum (50% of the total), 71% have not read the document.

In sum, the fact of having read or not the document, a fortiori (at least 45% chance) that the Haitian opposes the referendum.



Limits of the work

The main limitations of the work are the following:

- The way we obtained the sample does not allow us to extrapolate the results. The statistical units are obtained according to their relationship with the other statistical units
- The structure of the sample is not that of the Haitian population, so we cannot generalize the trends obtained. They may hold only for the population of the country corresponding to the sample.
- The time allotted to us was insufficient to provide quality work



Recommendations and Conclusion

To reduce the chances that June 27 will be a fiasco, it is best to look at those who are undecided about the referendum itself.

Most of people are opposed to the referendum without read the proposed documents.

65% of the respondents want another constitution but not with this one (or with this government).

CARDH must play hardball to dissuade the government from cancelling the referendum. If, however, he fails to do so, the worst is to be feared.



Thank You