

Analysis of MEB COVID Survey 2

MEB Team

29 December 2021

Notes:

1. This document contains aggregate graphs for all survey questions weighted by share of IAS officers in each state.
2. Questions 13 which asked “Dealing with any pandemic of this scale is a collective responsibility and everyone has a part to play. However, in the final analysis, who do you think must shoulder a greater share of responsibility for any shortcomings?” has been excluded from the analysis because we received only partial responses.
3. Questions 4,5 and 6 can be depicted at the time of design using a map of India with colour markers indicating the percentage of responses that each state received
4. Sample: Number of responses from serving officers = 452, Number of responses from former officers = 96
5. Of the serving officers who responded to this survey, 147 (33%) had also filled last year’s survey while 305 officers (67%) responded to our survey for the first time.
6. Of the former officers who responded to this survey, 25 (26%) also participated in our survey last year while 71 (74%) filled our survey for the first time this year.

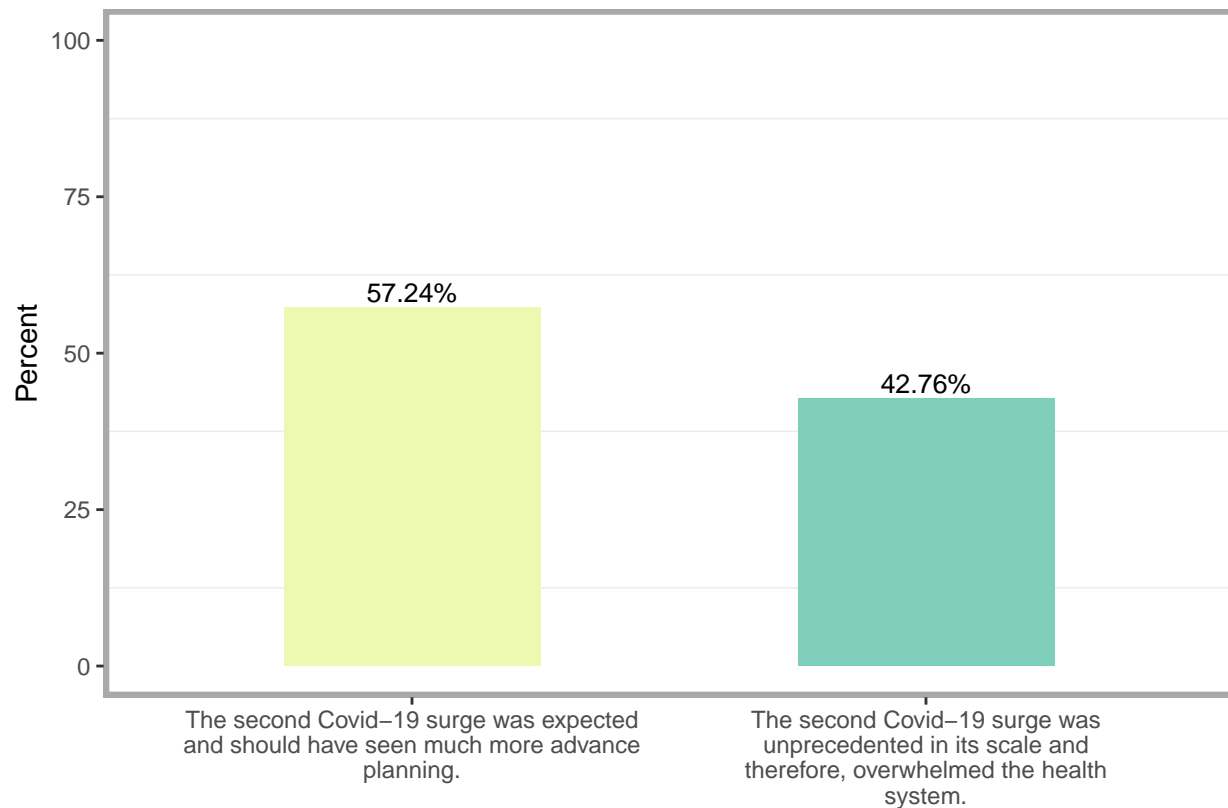
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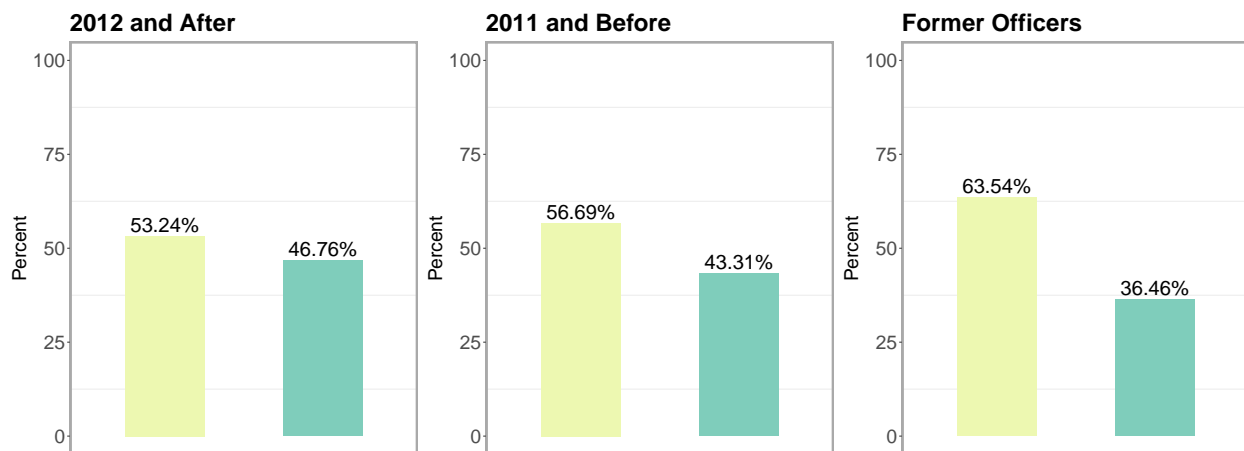
Question 1: Aggregate Graph

Most countries in the world experienced a second wave of Covid-19 characterised by higher infection prevalence and rapid viral spread. Which of these statements would you agree with more, in the context of the second wave in India?



Question 1: Disaggregated by Age

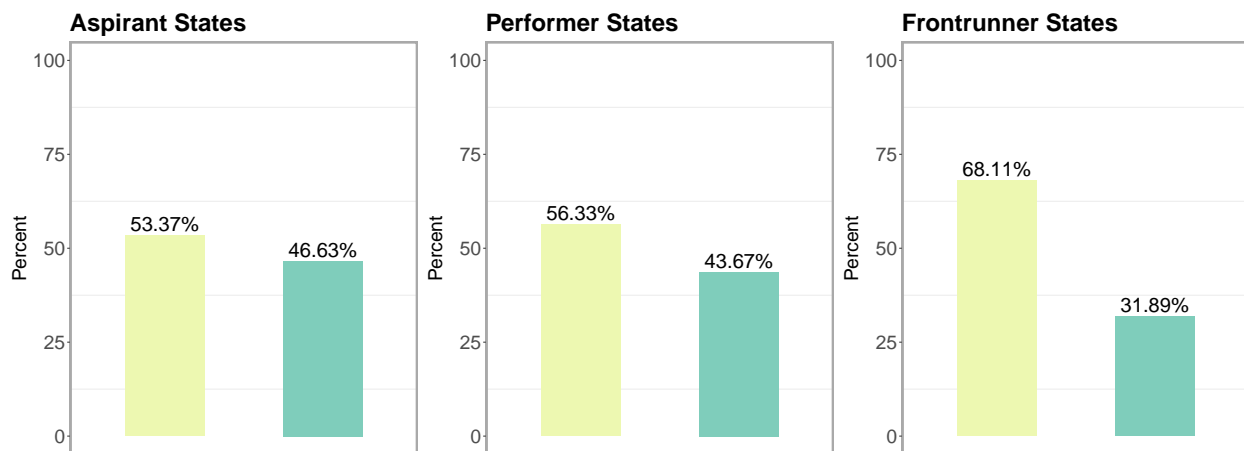
Most countries in the world experienced a second wave of Covid-19 characterised by higher infection prevalence and rapid viral spread. Which of these statements would you agree with more, in the context of the second wave in India?



- The second Covid-19 surge was expected and should have seen much more advance planning.
- The second Covid-19 surge was unprecedented in its scale and therefore, overwhelmed the health system.

Question 1: Disaggregated by SDG

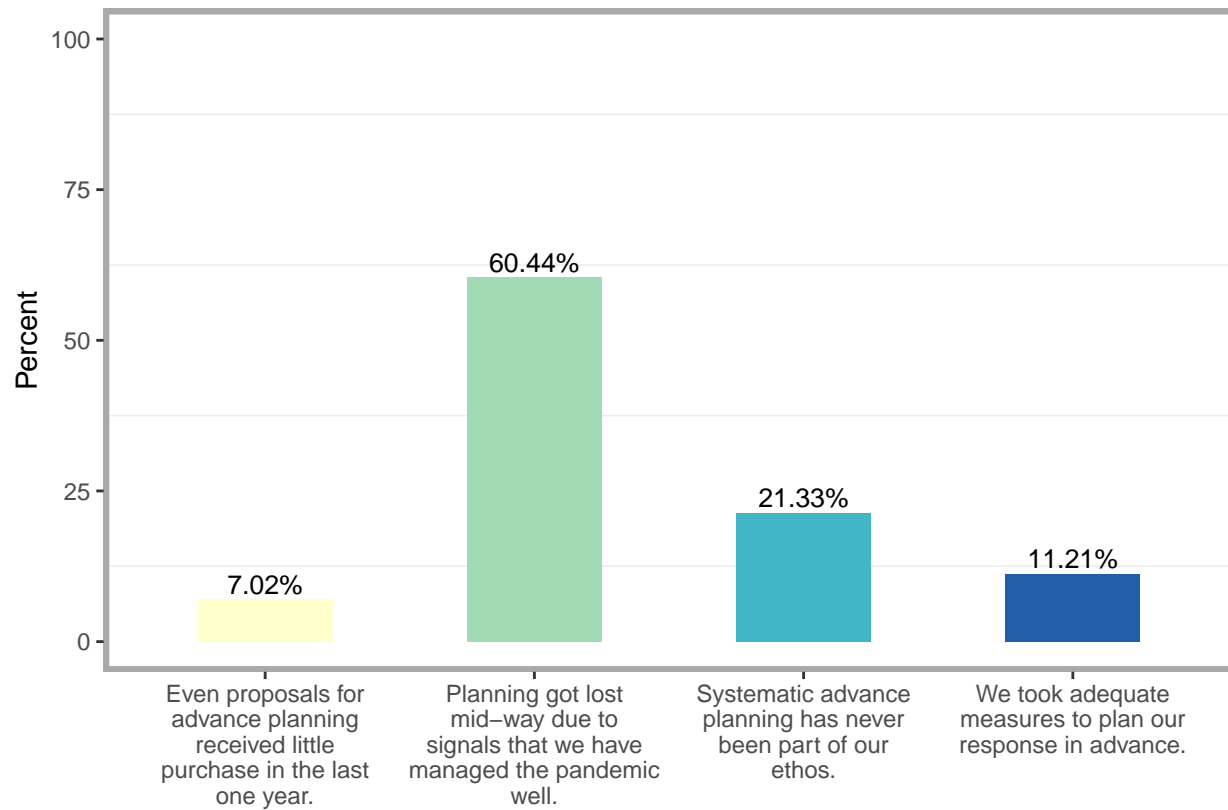
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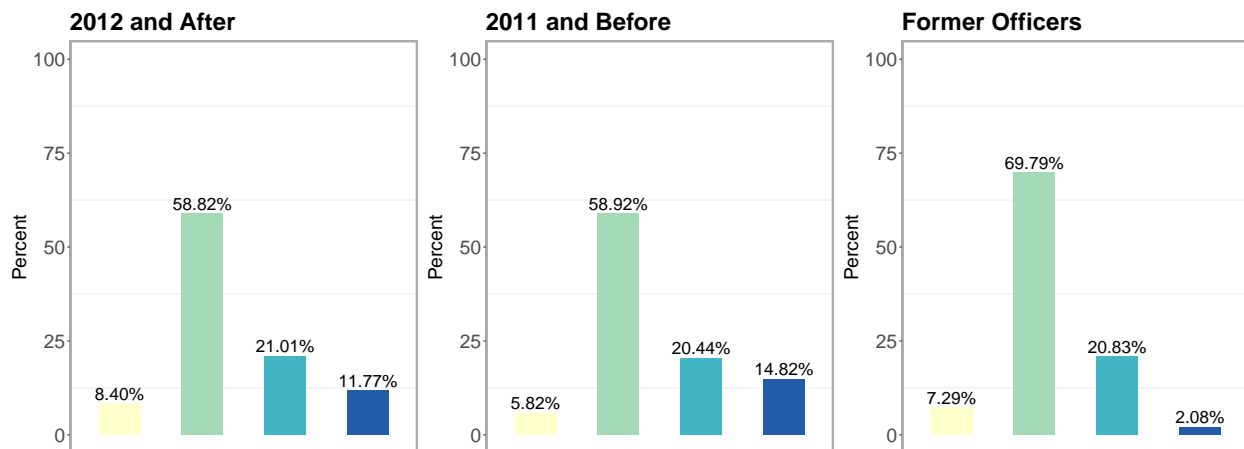
Question 2: Aggregate Graph

With regard to our planning and preparation for the second wave, which of these statements would you agree with most?



Question 2: Disaggregated by Age

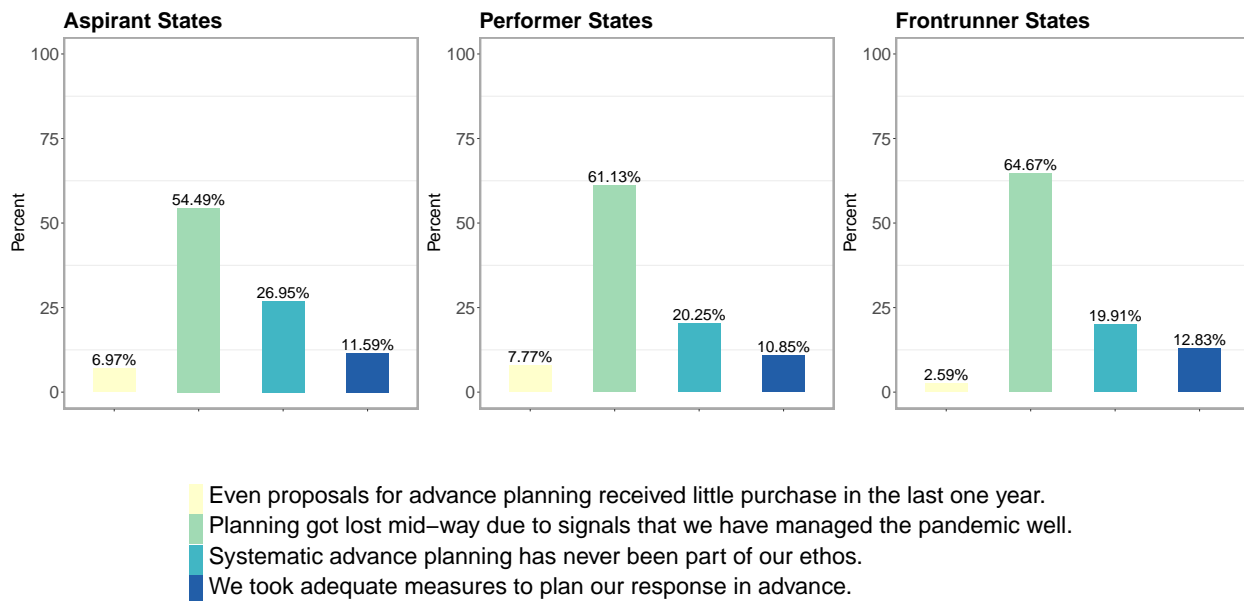
With regard to our planning and preparation for the second wave, which of these statements would you agree with most?



- Even proposals for advance planning received little purchase in the last one year.
- Planning got lost mid-way due to signals that we have managed the pandemic well.
- Systematic advance planning has never been part of our ethos.
- We took adequate measures to plan our response in advance.

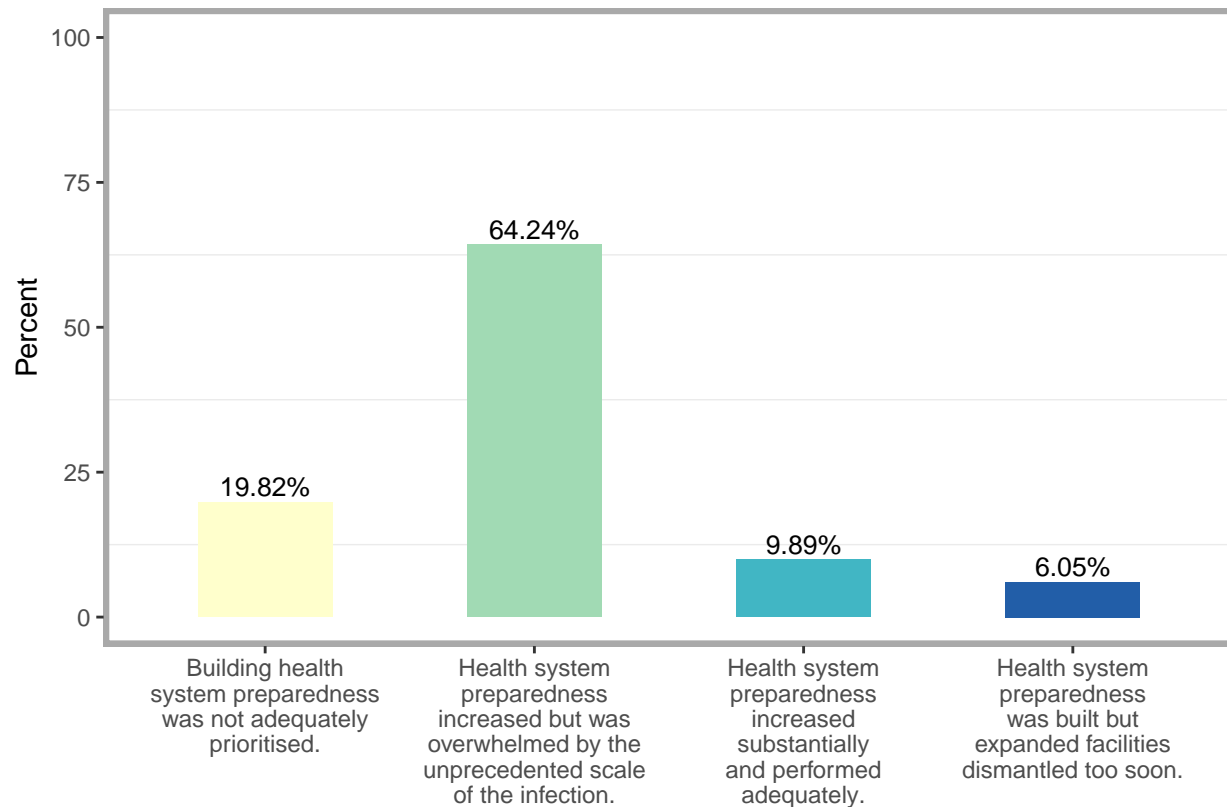
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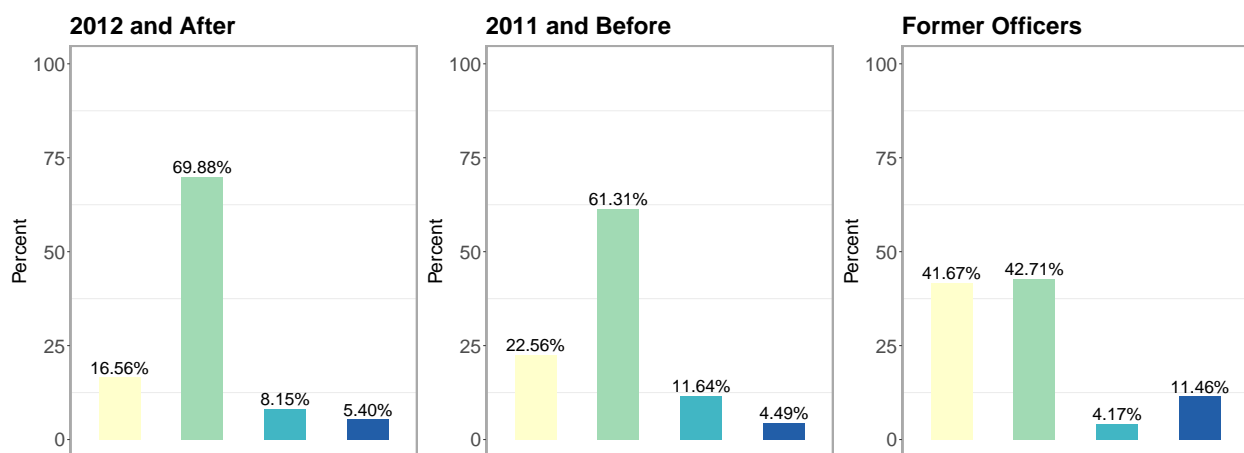
Question 3: Aggregate Graph

In our survey of IAS officers during the first wave of the pandemic, almost 70% of officers felt that there was a reasonable to substantial increase in health system preparedness post the nationwide lockdown. Which of these statements best reflects health system preparedness for the second wave?



Question 3: Disaggregated by Age

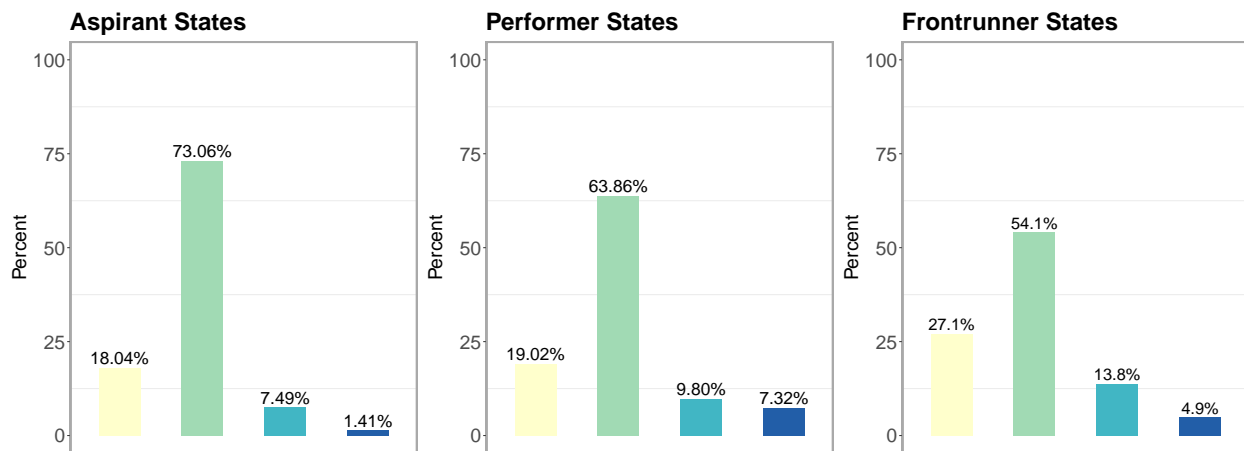
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- Building health system preparedness was not adequately prioritised.
- Health system preparedness increased but was overwhelmed by the unprecedented scale of the infection.
- Health system preparedness increased substantially and performed adequately.
- Health system preparedness was built but expanded facilities dismantled too soon.

Question 3: Disaggregated by SDG

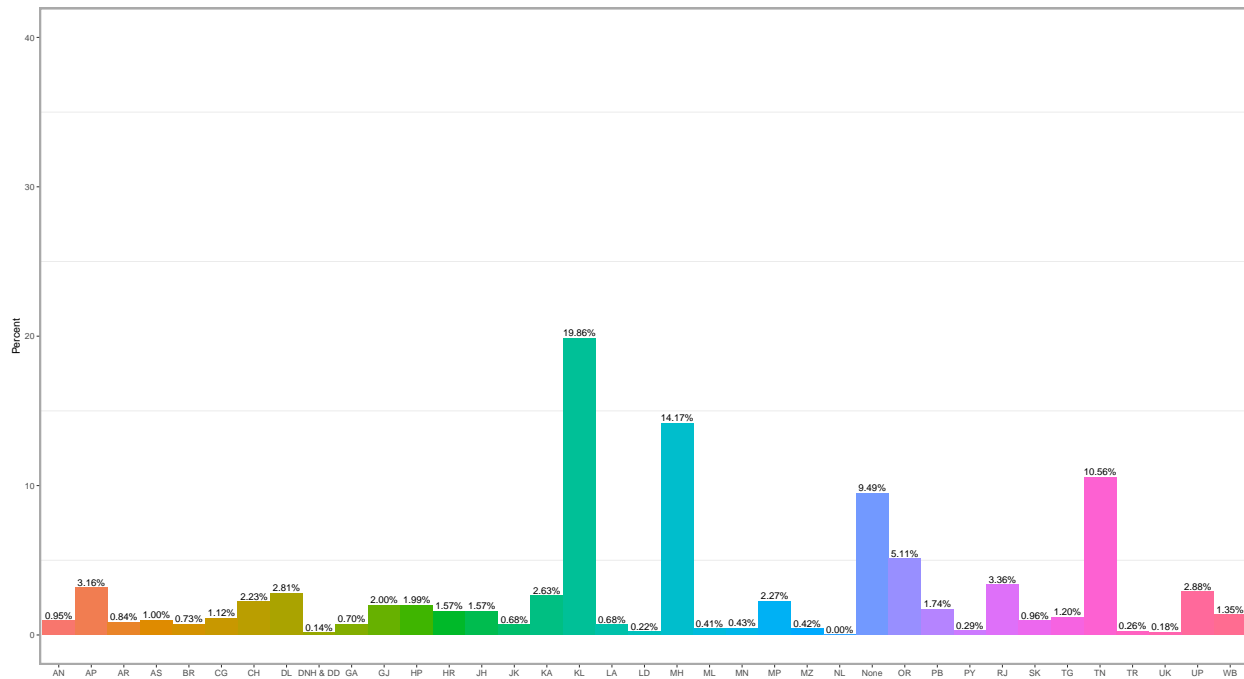
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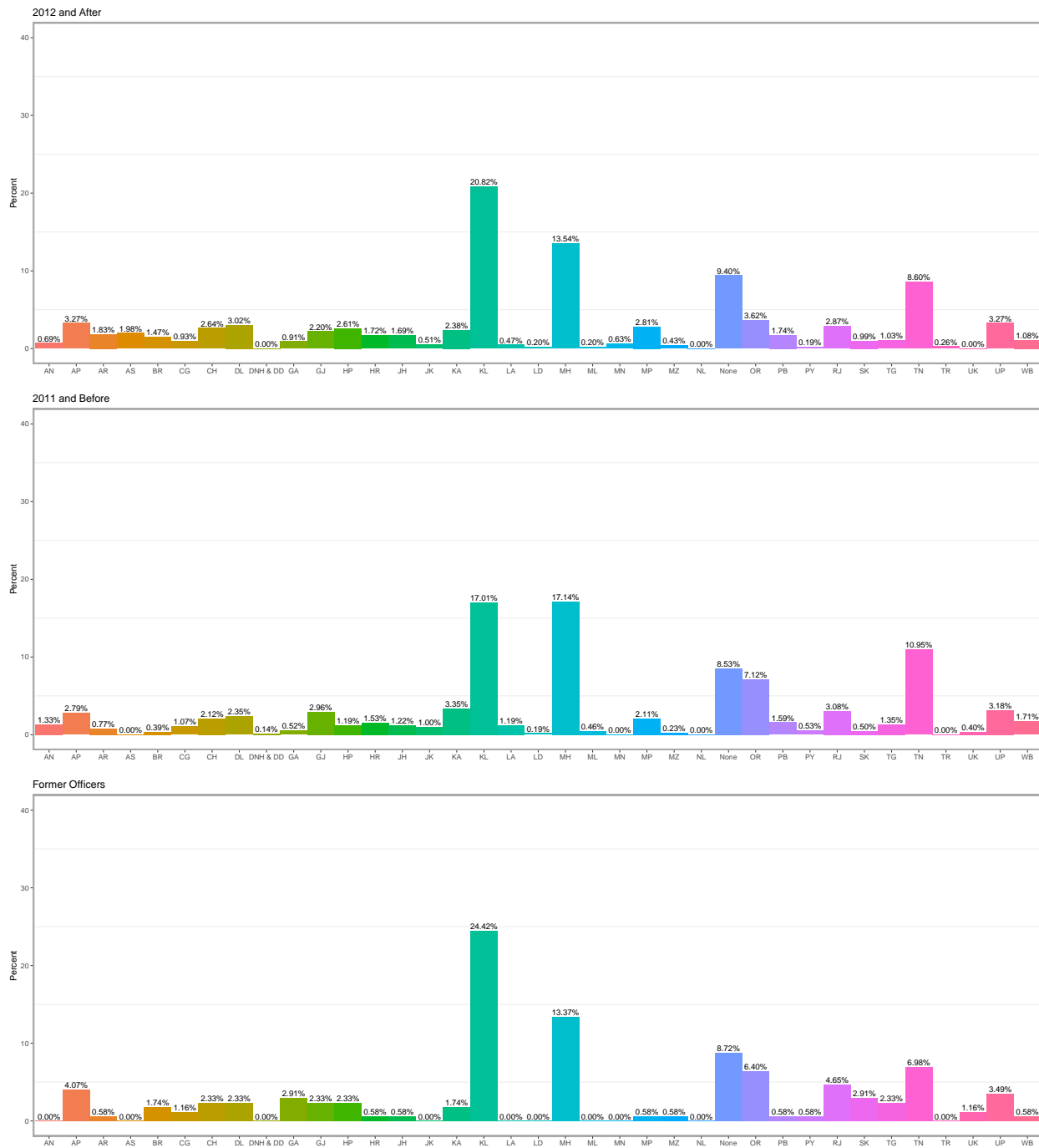
Question 4: Aggregate Graph

Please select upto two States that you think have best fulfilled their pandemic management responsibilities.



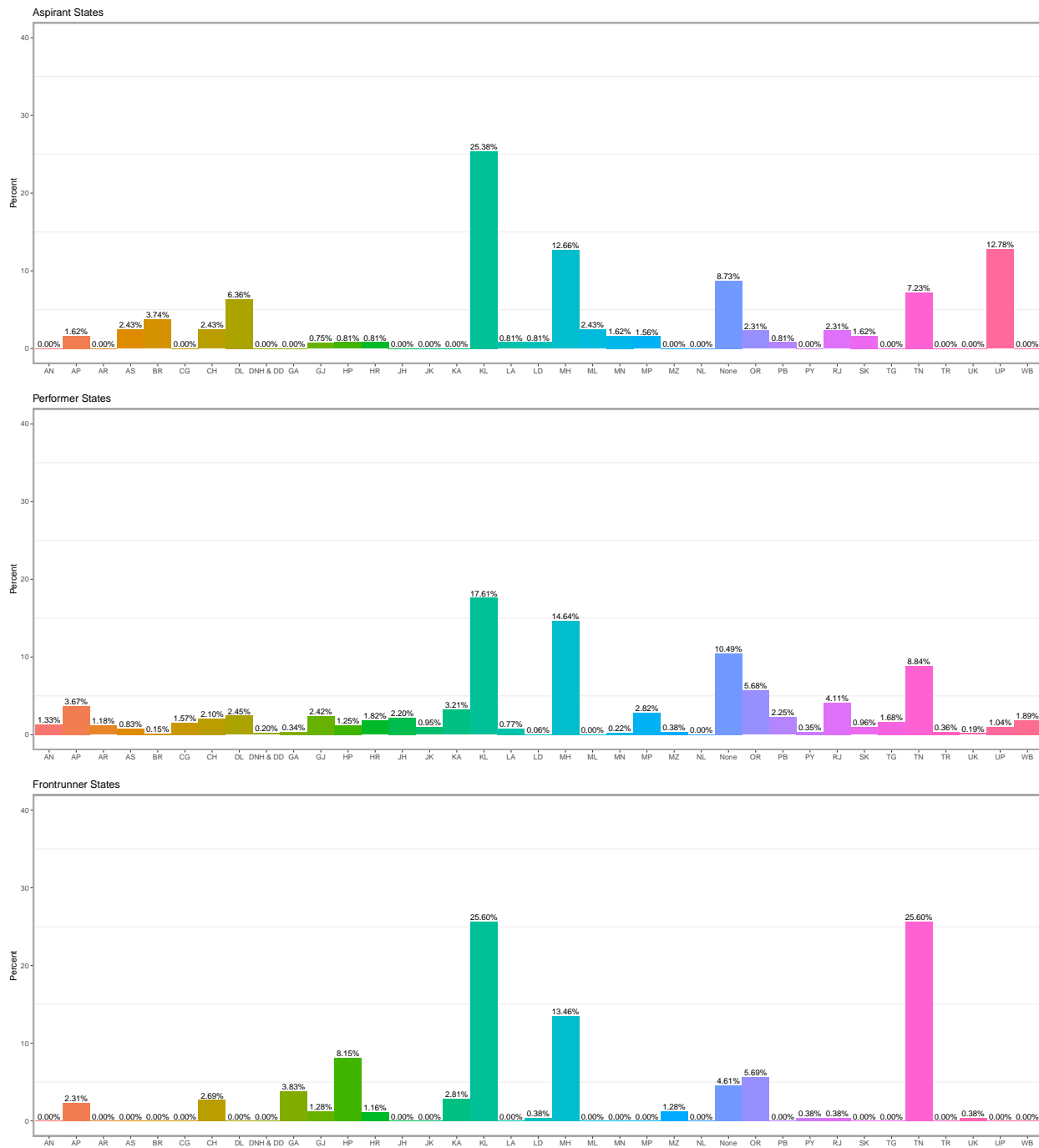
Question 4: Disaggregated by Age

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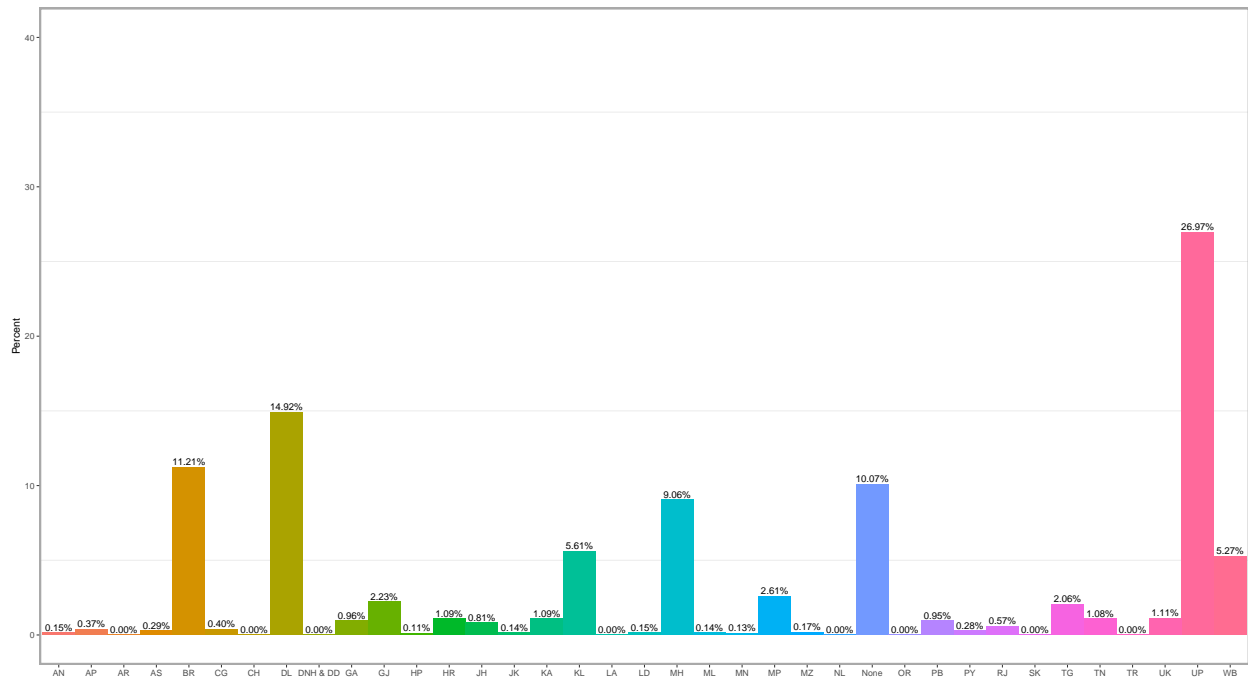
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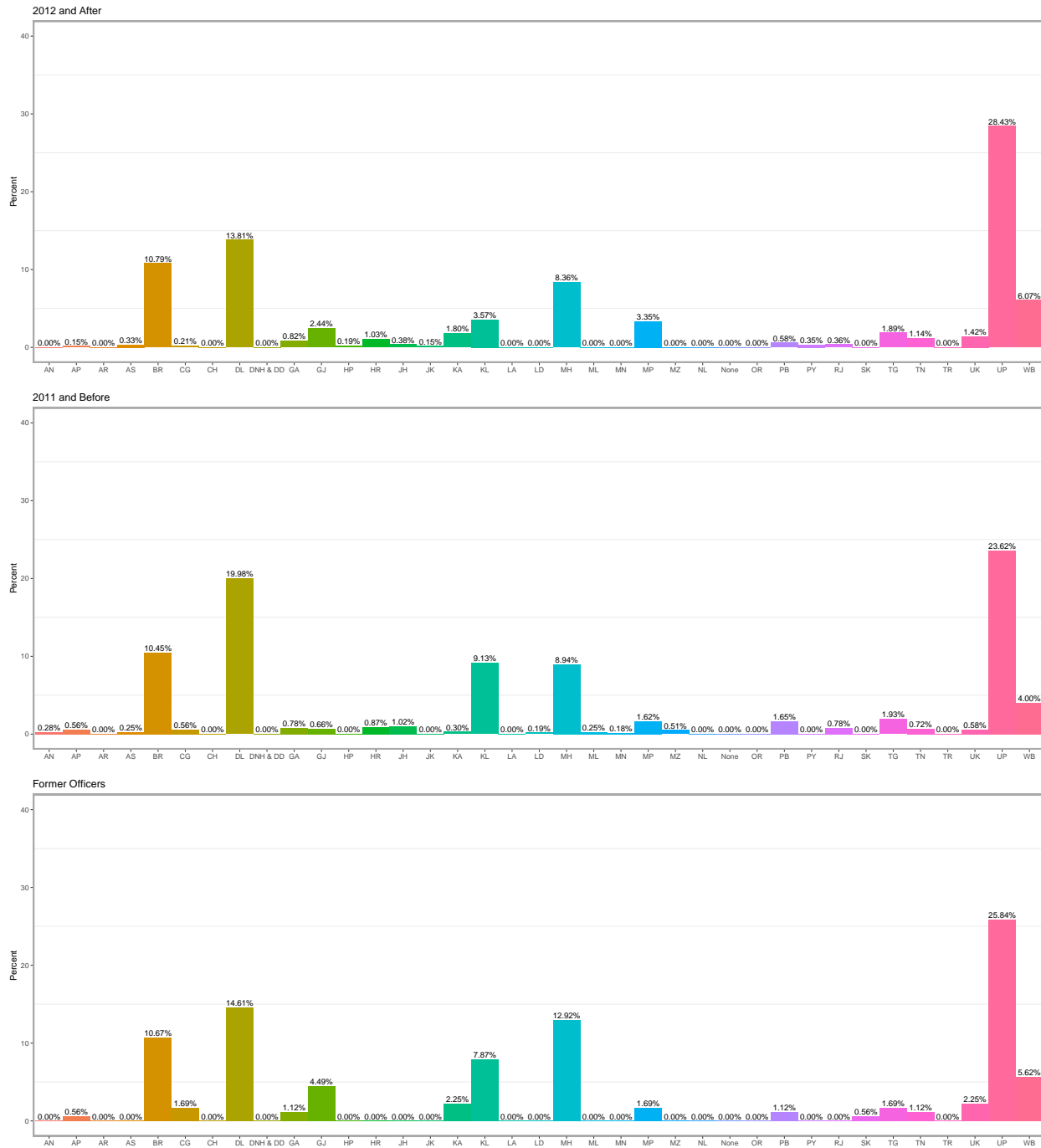
Question 5: Aggregate Graph

Please select upto two States that you think have performed their pandemic management responsibilities most poorly.



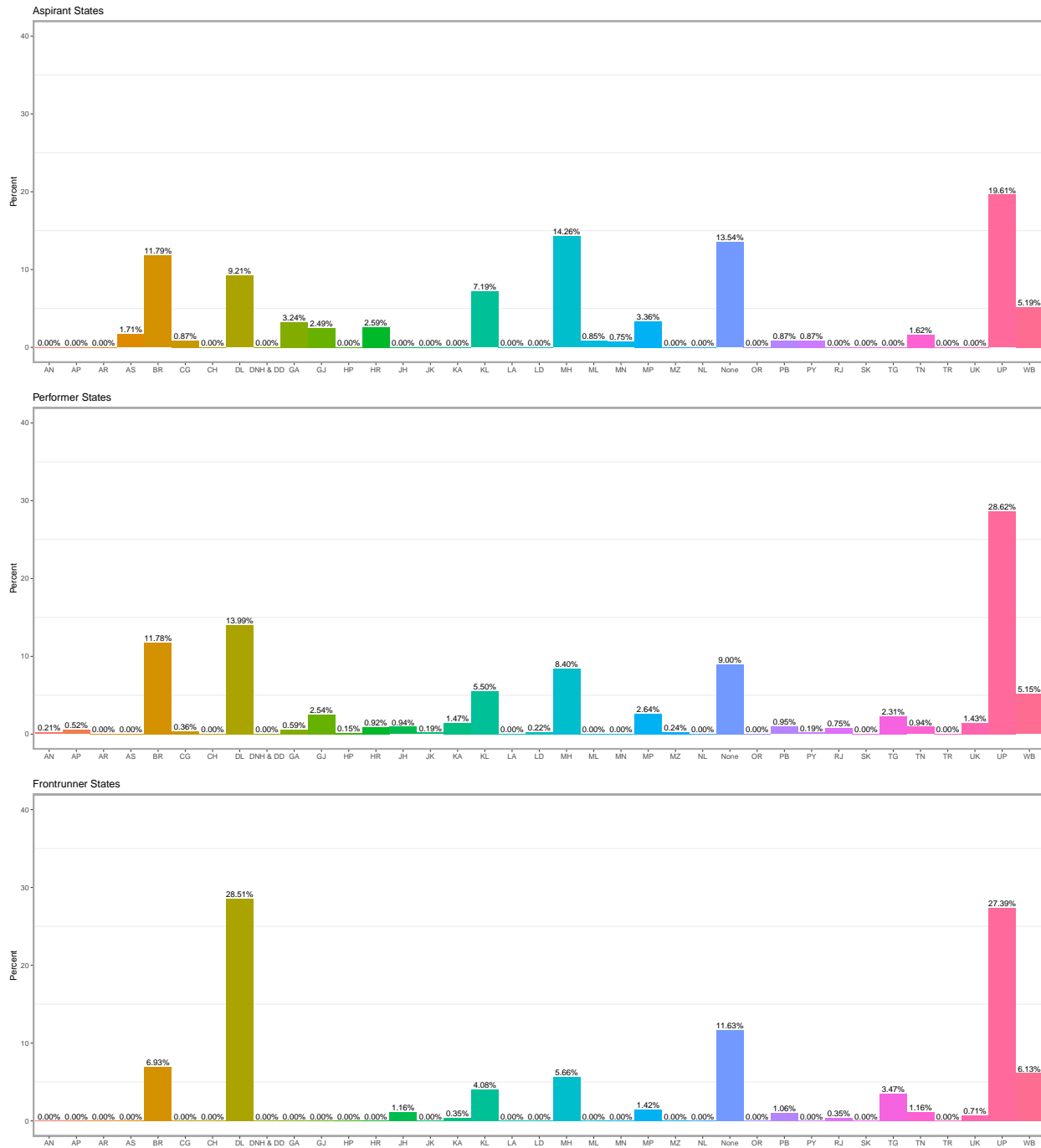
Question 5: Disaggregated by Age

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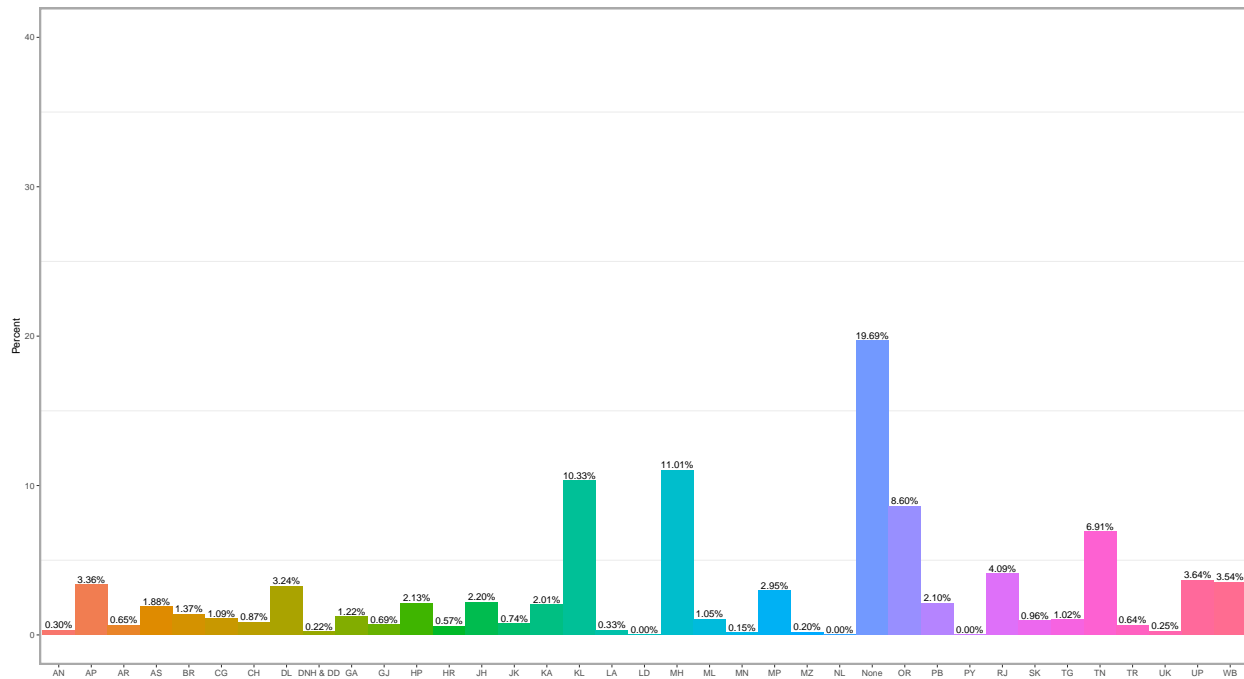
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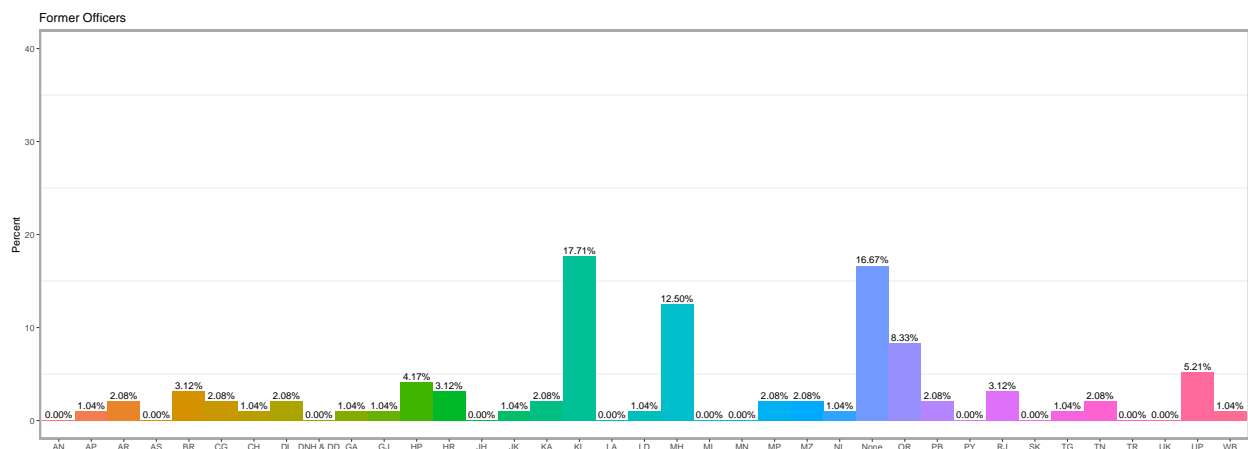
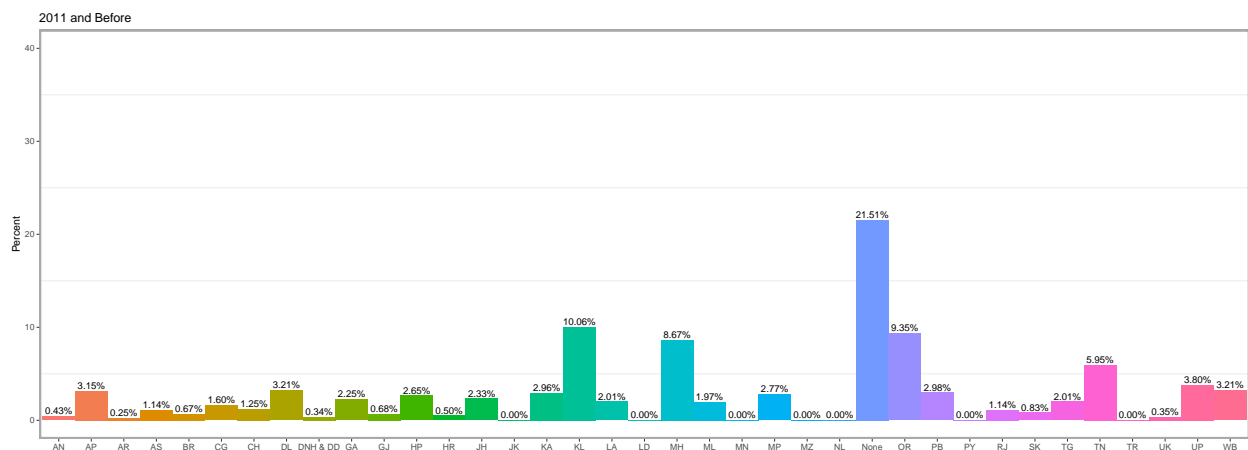
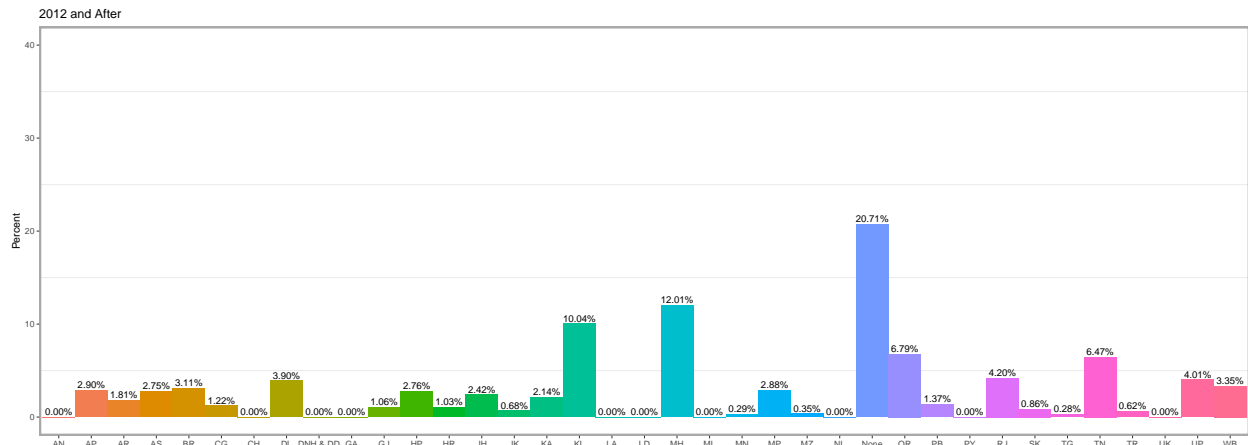
Question 6: Aggregate Graph

Please select one State that you think has been under-appreciated for its success in pandemic management. (States selected in previous answers can be repeated)



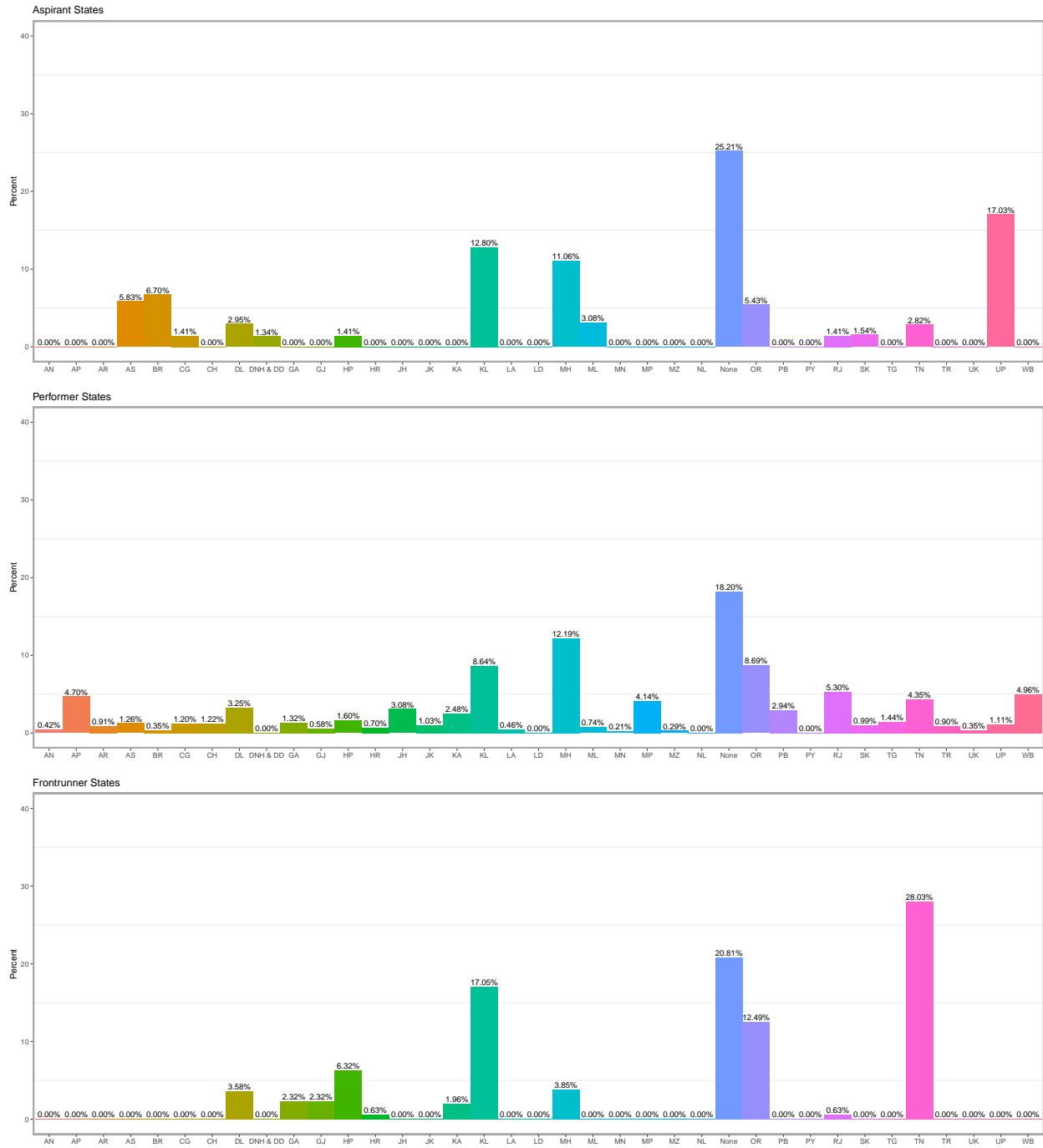
Question 6: Disaggregated by Age

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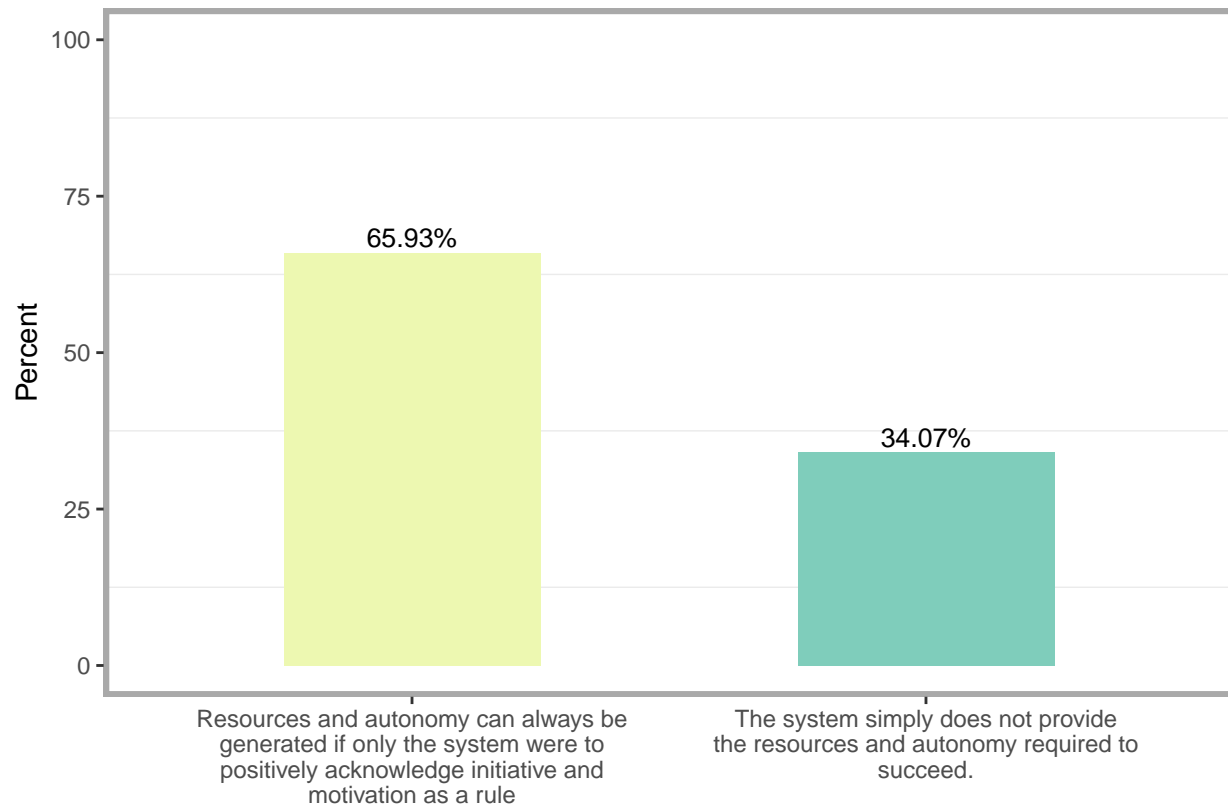
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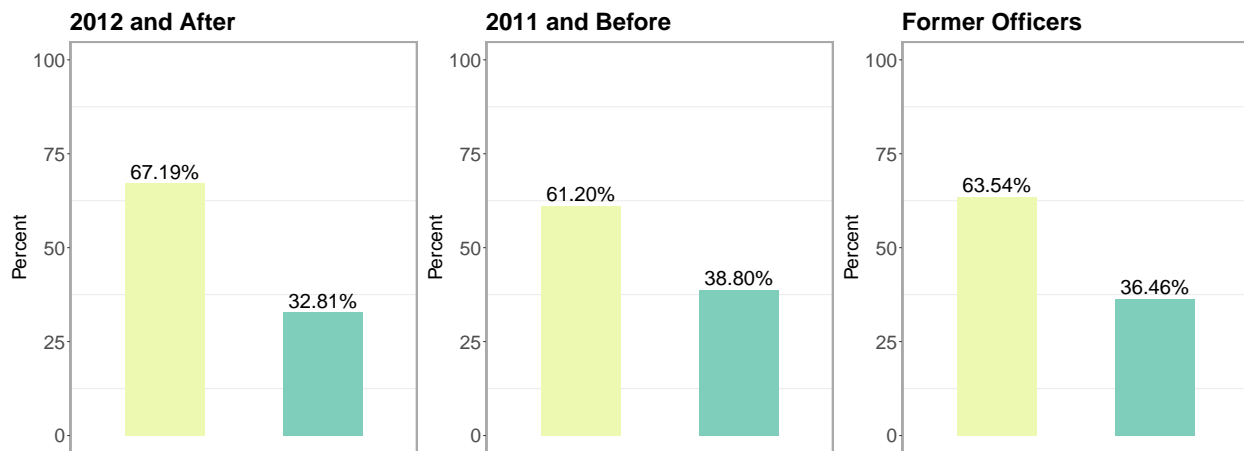
Question 7: Aggregate Graph

Some examples of successful management of the challenges posed by the pandemic show that civil servants can perform even under very difficult circumstances. Why is this situation not the norm? Choose the option that you consider more important.



Question 7: Disaggregated by Age

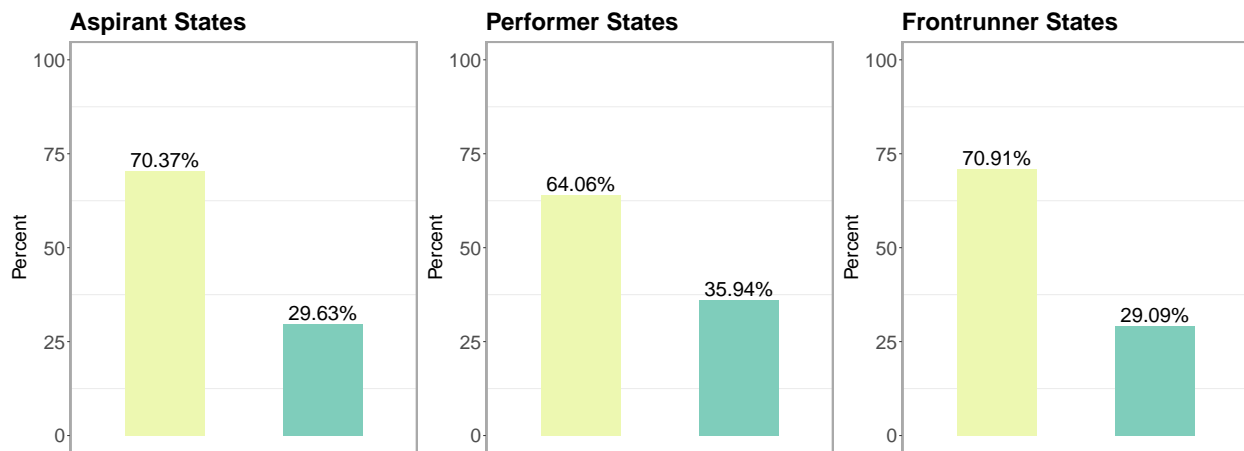
Some examples of successful management of the challenges posed by the pandemic show that civil servants can perform even under very difficult circumstances. Why is this situation not the norm? Choose the option that you consider more important.



- Resources and autonomy can always be generated if only the system were to positively acknowledge initiative and motivation as a rule
- The system simply does not provide the resources and autonomy required to succeed.

Question 7: Disaggregated by SDG

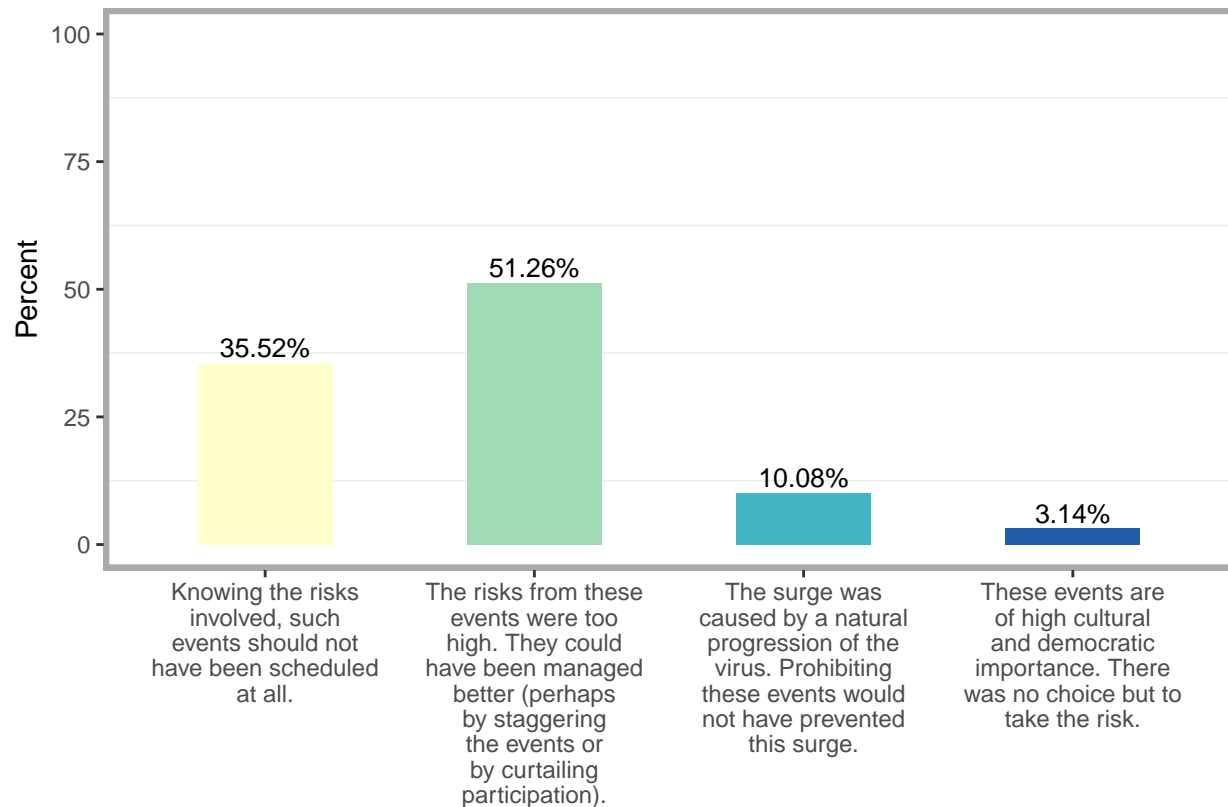
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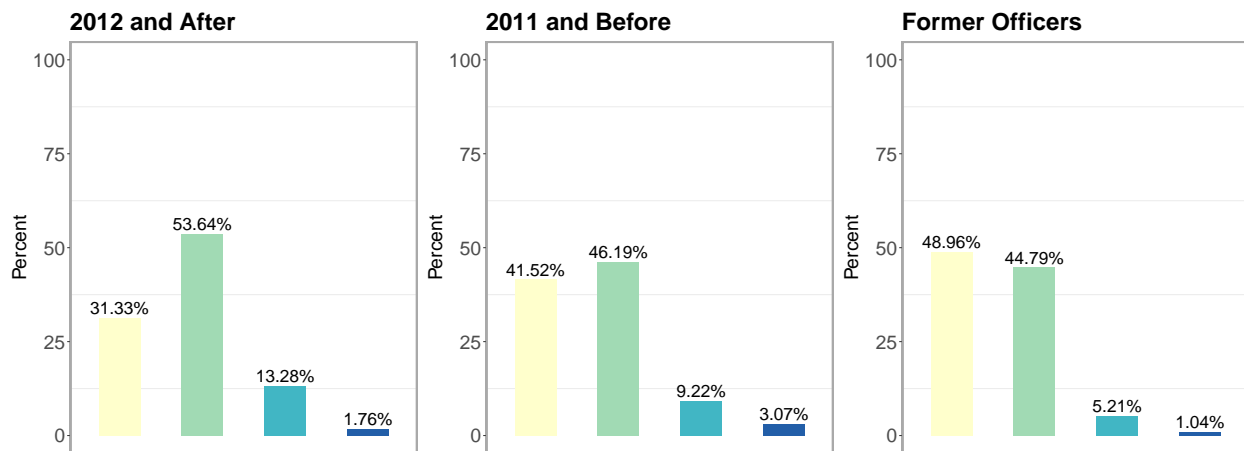
Question 8: Aggregate Graph

The government has been criticised for permitting large gatherings (during election campaigning and religious/cultural events like the kumbh mela) that may have accelerated the surge. Which of the following statements would you agree with most?



Question 8: Disaggregated by Age

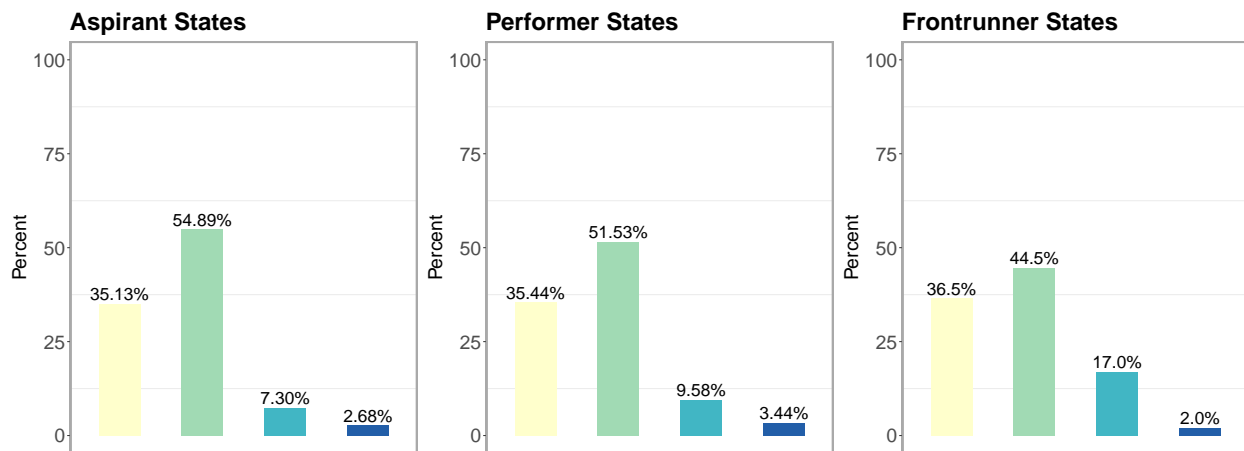
The government has been criticised for permitting large gatherings (during election campaigning and religious/cultural events like the kumbh mela) that may have accelerated the surge. Which of the following statements would you agree with most?



- Knowing the risks involved, such events should not have been scheduled at all.
- The risks from these events were too high. They could have been managed better (perhaps by staggering the events or by curtailing participation).
- The surge was caused by a natural progression of the virus. Prohibiting these events would not have prevented this surge.
- These events are of high cultural and democratic importance. There was no choice but to take the risk.

Question 8: Disaggregated by SDG

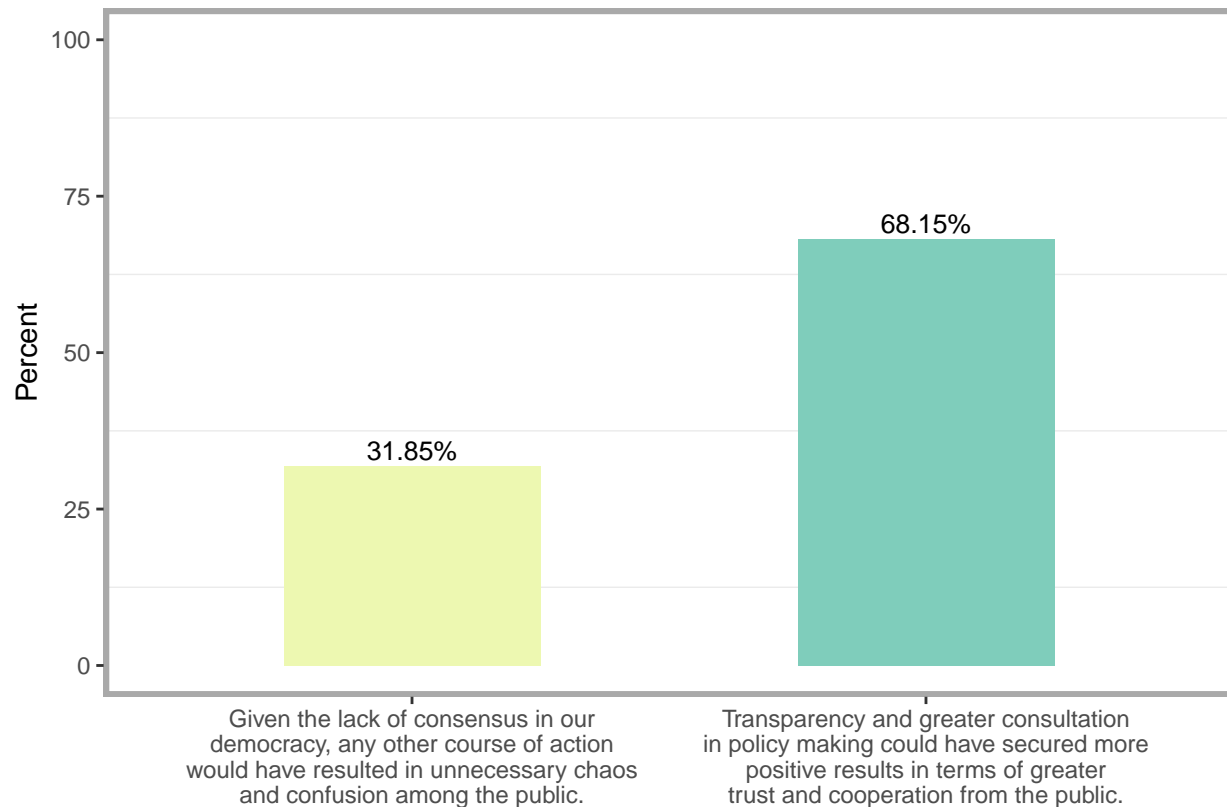
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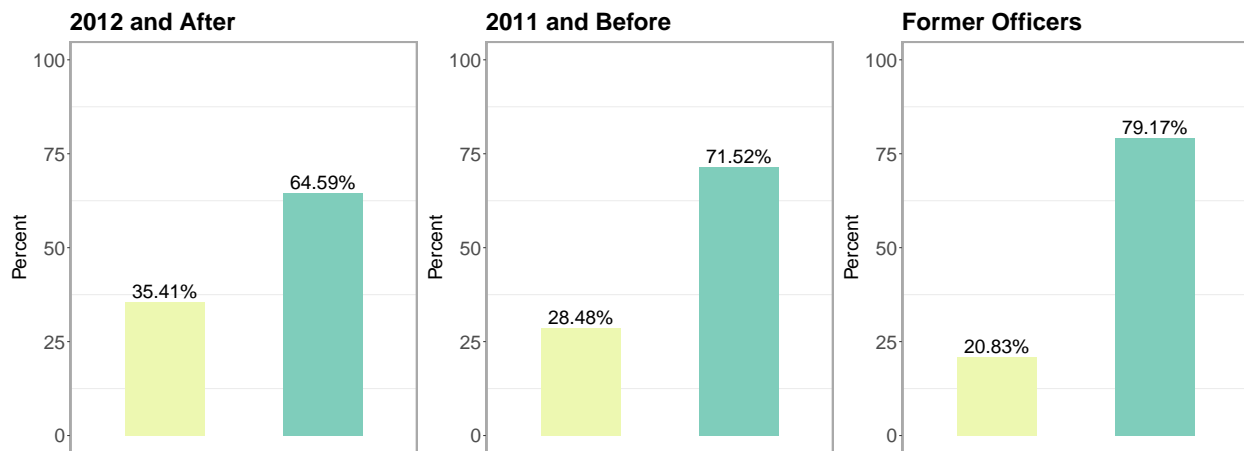
Question 9: Aggregate Graph

The unprecedented nature of this pandemic has meant that policy has had to constantly evolve and change to confront the challenges. Explanations for changes have rarely been given to the public. In this context, which statement would you agree with more?



Question 9: Disaggregated by Age

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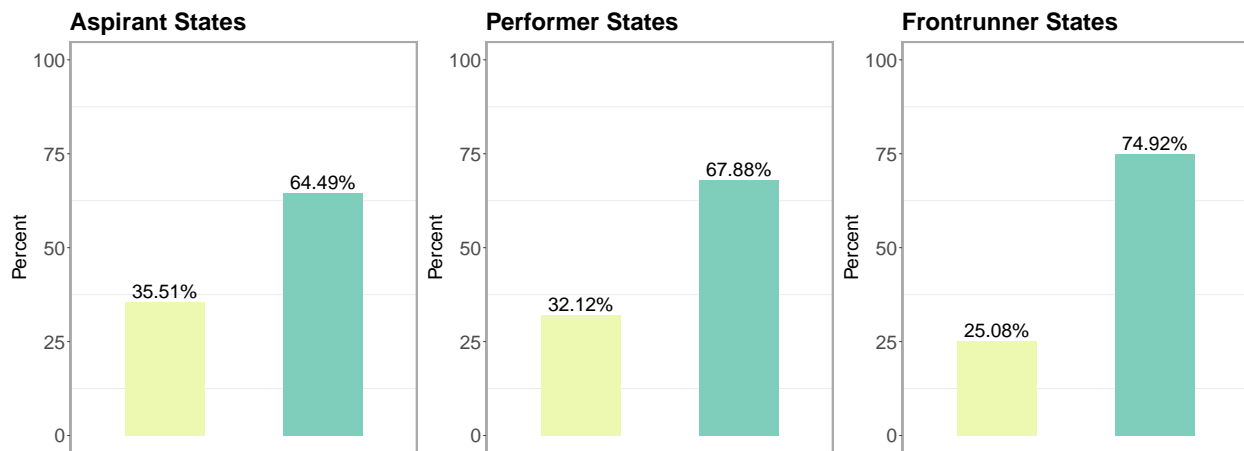


Given the lack of consensus in our democracy, any other course of action would have resulted in unnecessary chaos and confusion among the public.

Transparency and greater consultation in policy making could have secured more positive results in terms of greater trust and cooperation from the public.

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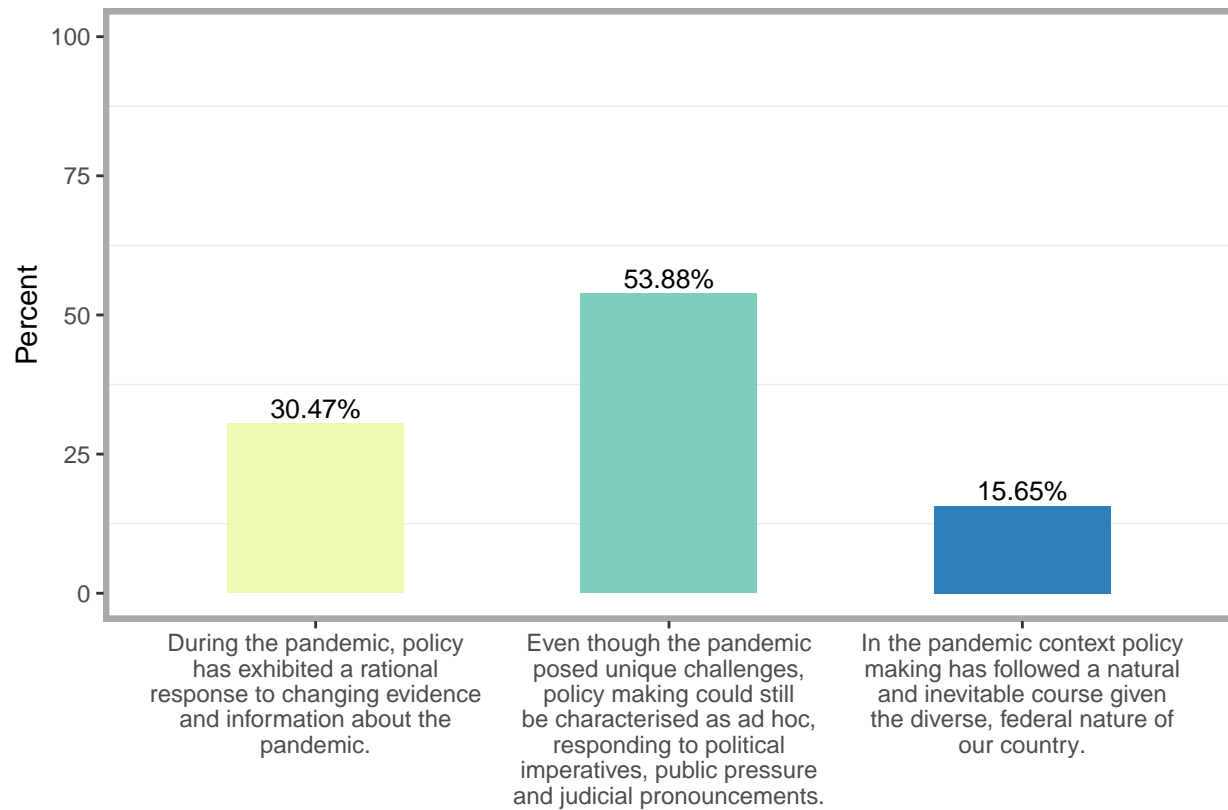


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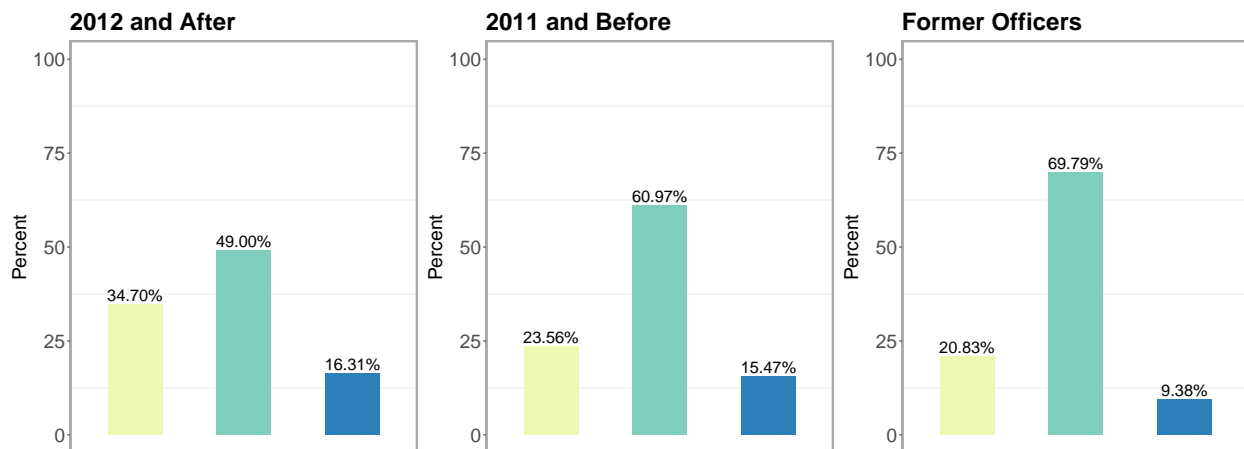
Question 10: Aggregate Graph

India's vaccine procurement policy has undergone multiple changes in a short span of time. What, in your opinion, best explains these frequent changes?



Question 10: Disaggregated by Age

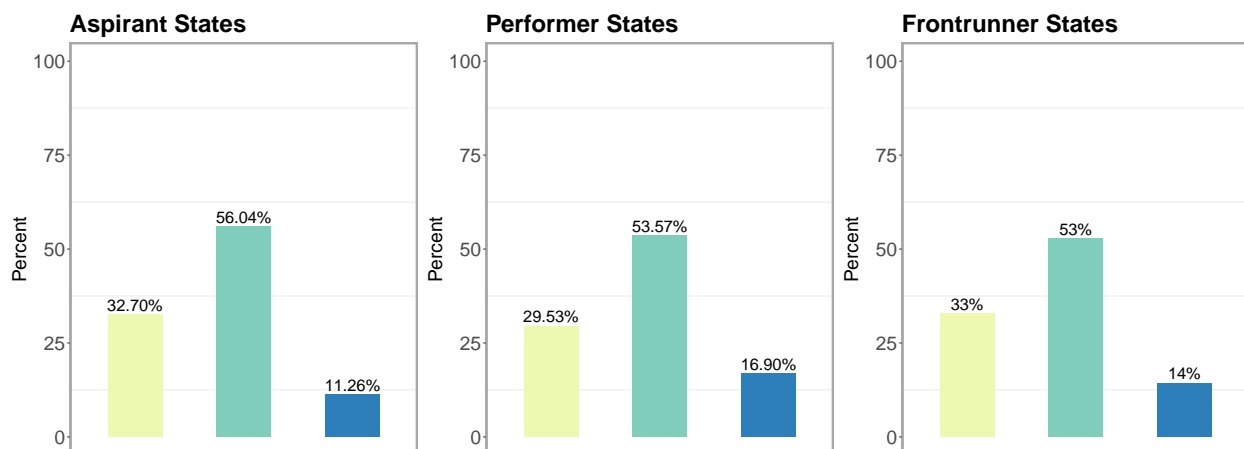
India's vaccine procurement policy has undergone multiple changes in a short span of time. What, in your opinion, best explains these frequent changes?



- During the pandemic, policy has exhibited a rational response to changing evidence and information about the pandemic.
- Even though the pandemic posed unique challenges, policy making could still be characterised as ad hoc, responding to political imperatives, public pressure and judicial pronouncements.
- In the pandemic context policy making has followed a natural and inevitable course given the diverse, federal nature of our country.

Question 10: Disaggregated by SDG

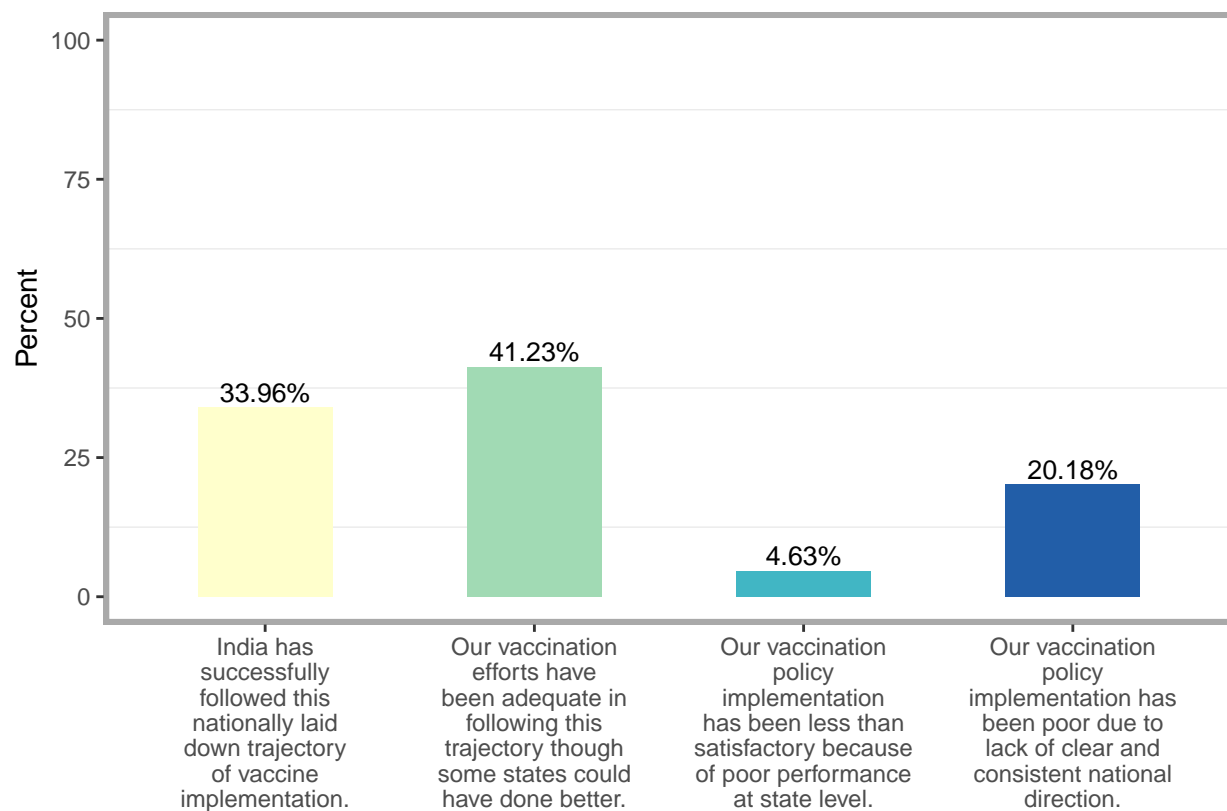
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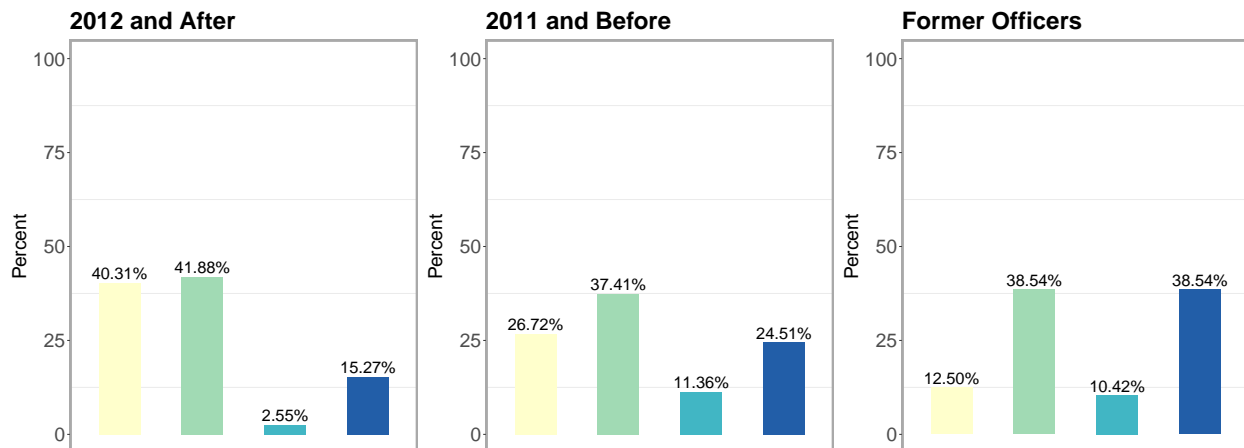
Question 11: Aggregate Graph

Successful vaccination policy across most of the world has prioritised high risk segments (such as the aged, those with comorbidities, and frontline workers) followed by a rapid coverage of a minimum threshold number in the general population. Which statement in your opinion best characterises India's implementation of such a vaccination policy?



Question 11: Dis-ggregated by Age

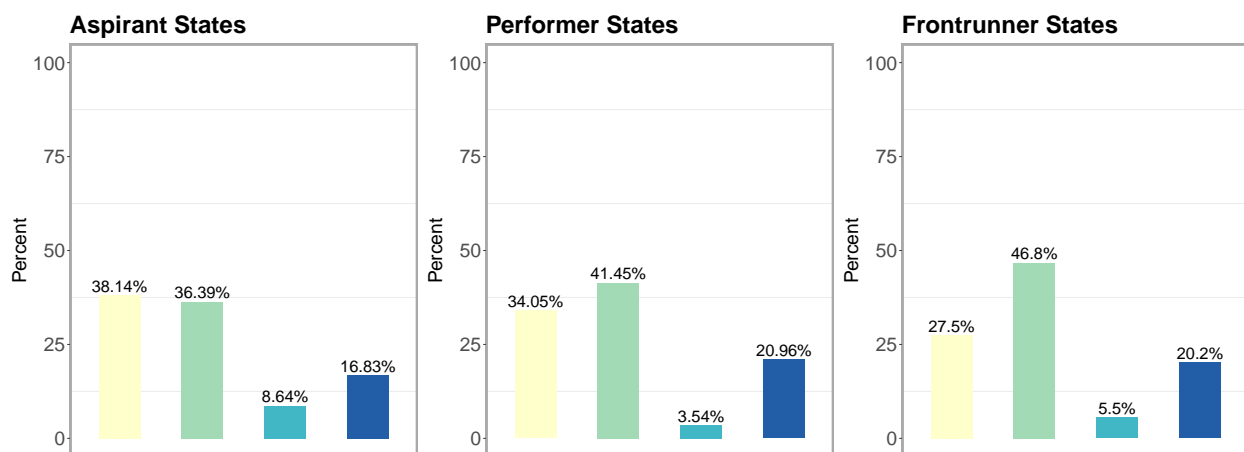
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- India has successfully followed this nationally laid down trajectory of vaccine implementation.
- Our vaccination efforts have been adequate in following this trajectory though some states could have done better.
- Our vaccination policy implementation has been less than satisfactory because of poor performance at state level.
- Our vaccination policy implementation has been poor due to lack of clear and consistent national direction.

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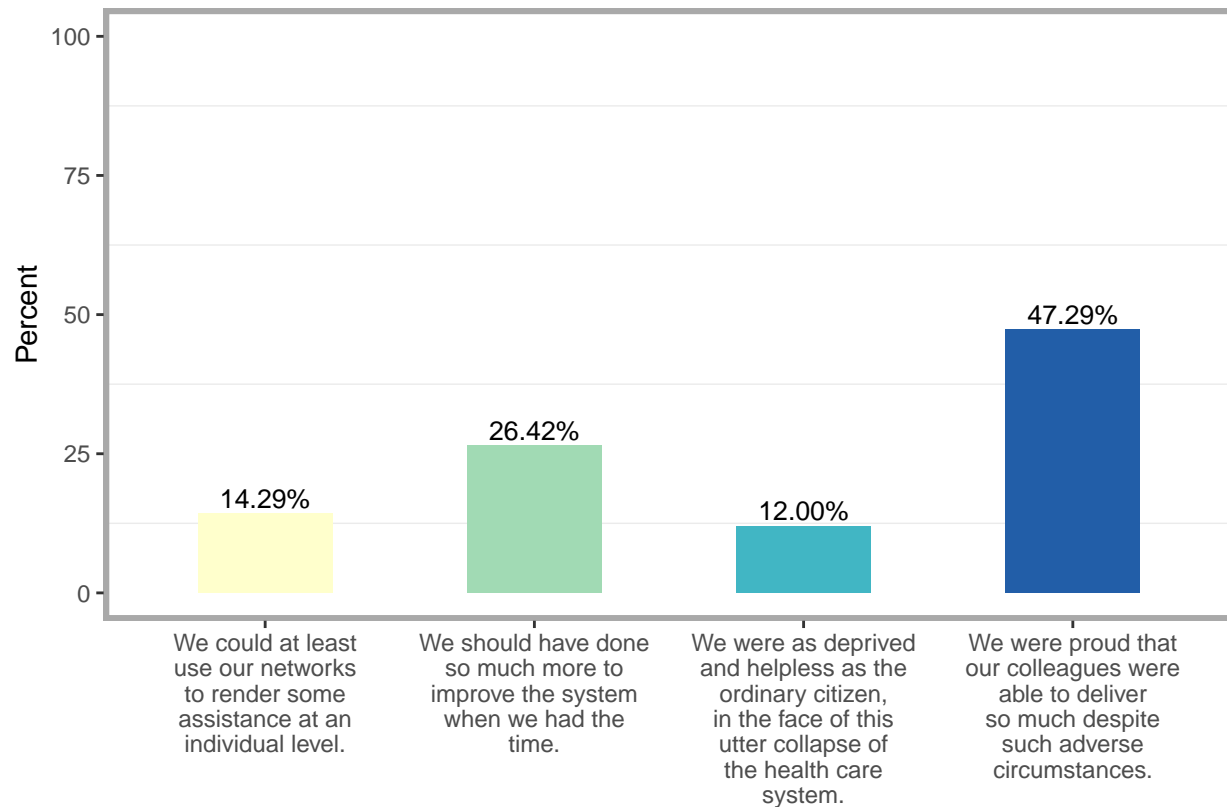
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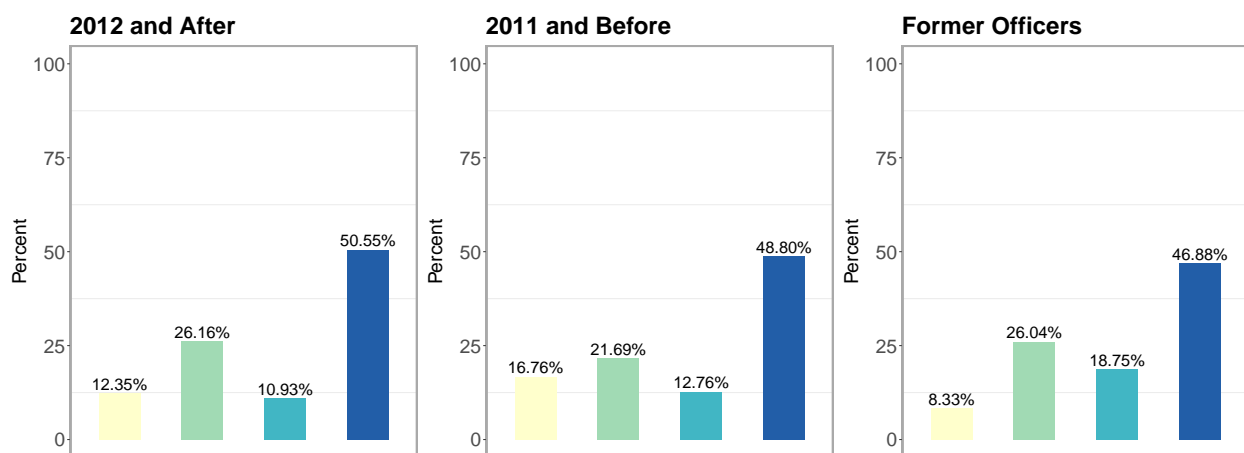
Question 12: Aggregate Graph

Choose the option that best describes the overriding feeling among IAS officers during the peak of the second wave when the scale and human consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic across many parts of the country were palpable to all.



Question 12: Disaggregated by Age

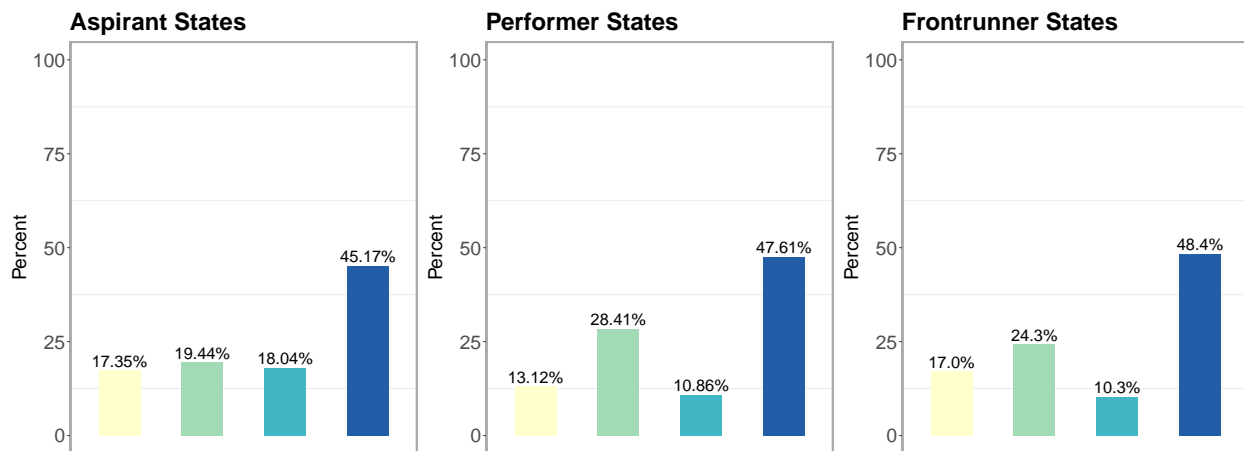
Choose the option that best describes the overriding feeling among IAS officers during the peak of the second wave when the scale and human consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic across many parts of the country were palpable to all.



- We could at least use our networks to render some assistance at an individual level.
- We should have done so much more to improve the system when we had the time.
- We were as deprived and helpless as the ordinary citizen, in the face of this utter collapse of the health care system.
- We were proud that our colleagues were able to deliver so much despite such adverse circumstances.

Question 12: Disaggregated by SDG

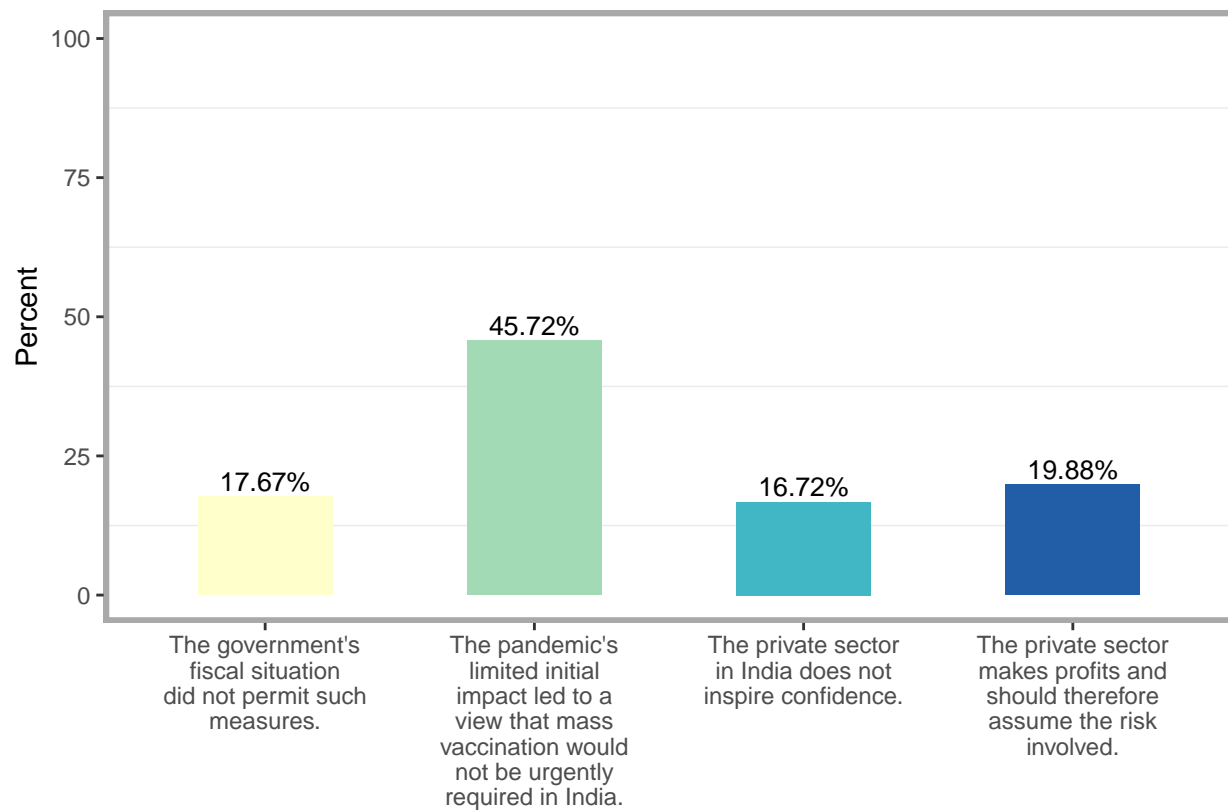
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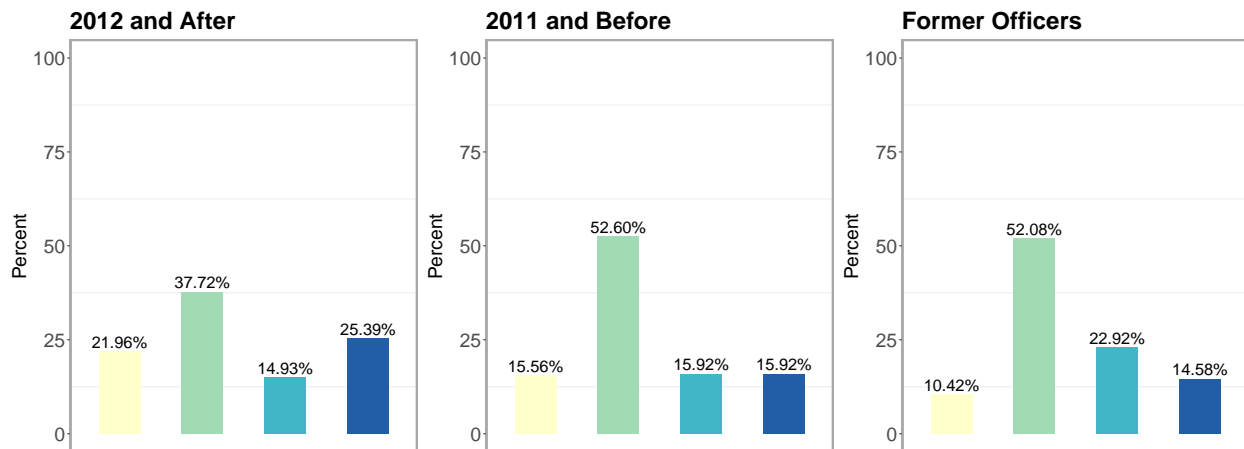
Question 14: Aggregate Graph

The government support for India's huge vaccine production capacity appears to have been limited compared to many other countries. Pick the option that you think is the most important reason.



Question 14: Disaggregated by Age

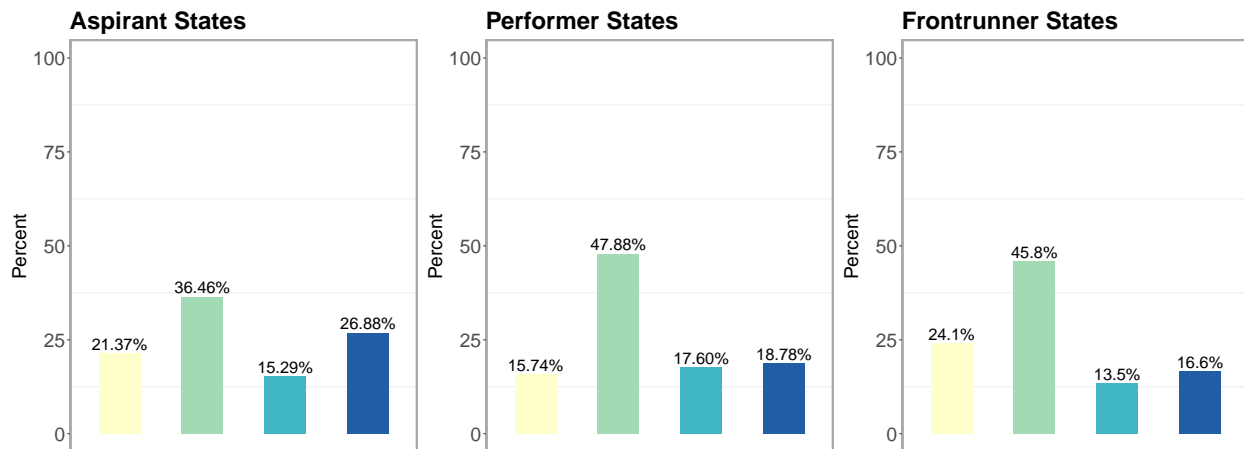
The government support for India's huge vaccine production capacity appears to have been limited compared to many other countries. Pick the option that you think is the most important reason.



- The government's fiscal situation did not permit such measures.
- The pandemic's limited initial impact led to a view that mass vaccination would not be urgently required in India.
- The private sector in India does not inspire confidence.
- The private sector makes profits and should therefore assume the risk involved.

Question 14: Disaggregated by SDG

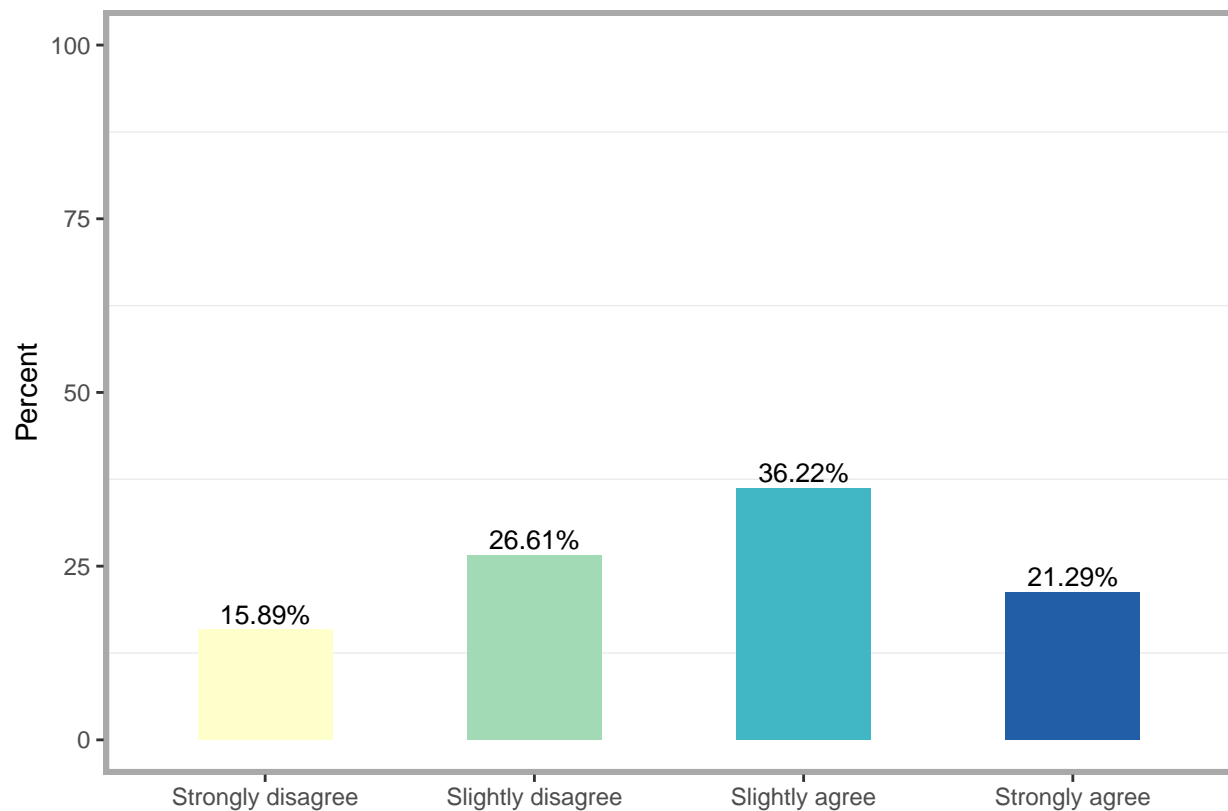
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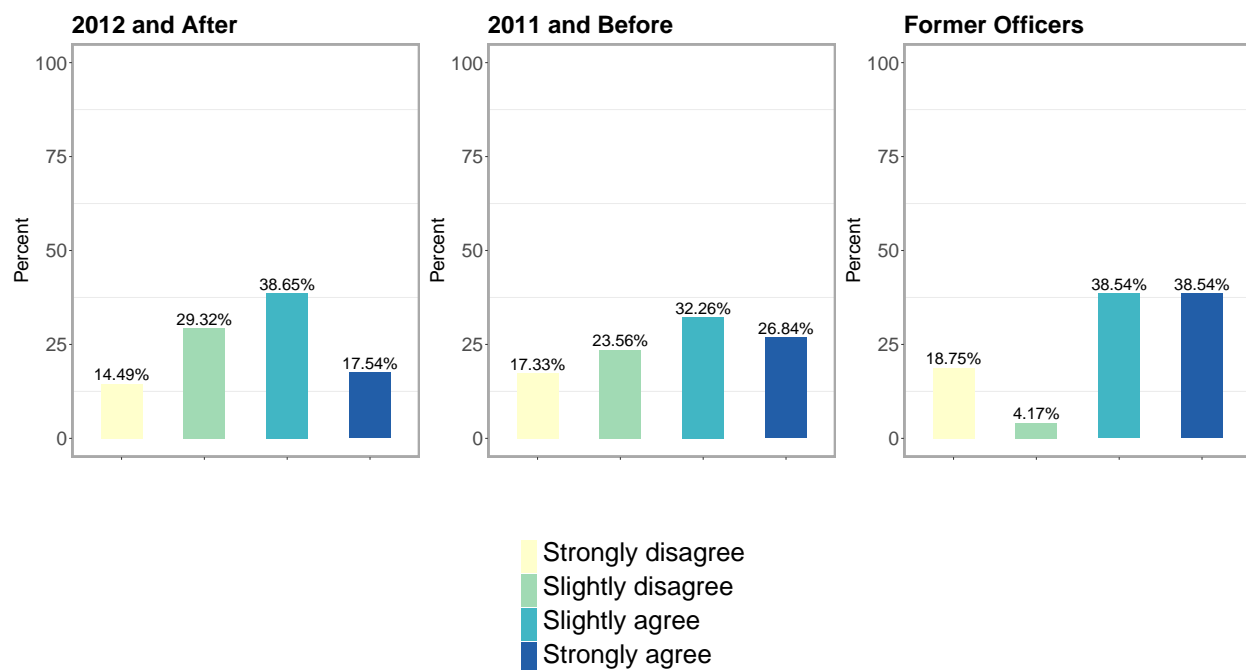
Question 15: Aggregate Graph

To what extent would you agree with the following statement? “NGOs and civil society rendered critical assistance to pandemic management in 2020. While they played an important role in the second wave (particularly for oxygen, hospital beds and food relief), increased regulation of their fundraising and activities has come in the way of their playing an even bigger role.”



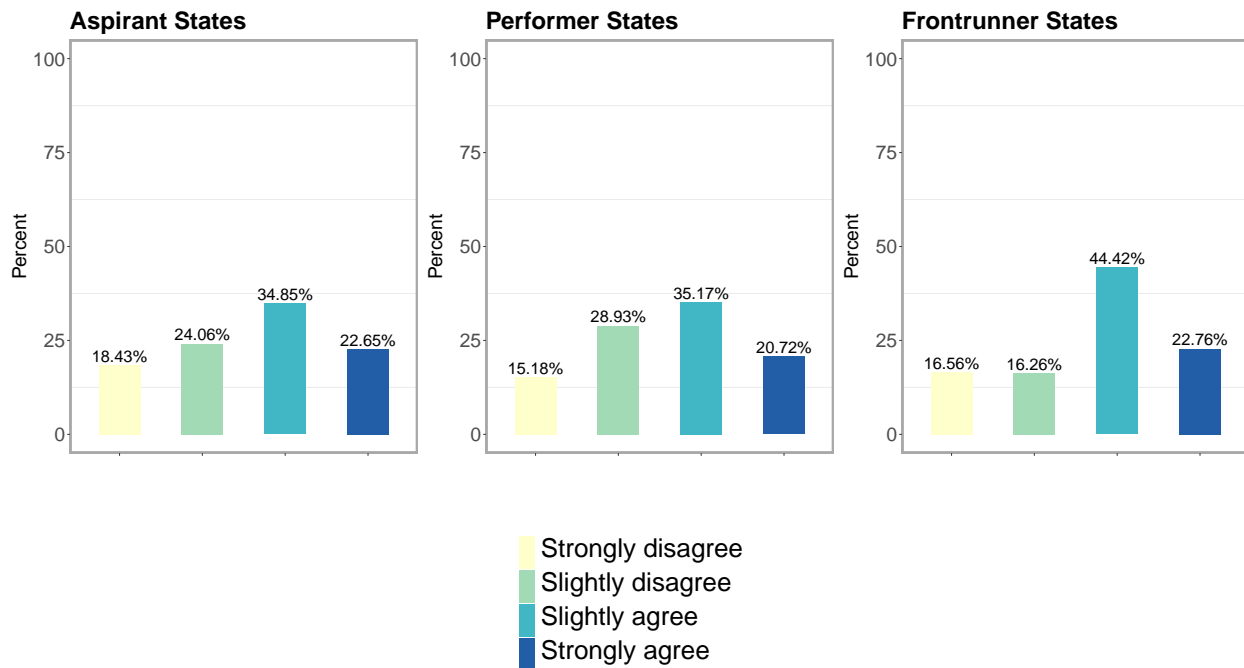
Question 15: Disaggregated by Age

To what extent would you agree with the following statement? “NGOs and civil society rendered critical assistance to pandemic management in 2020. While they played an important role in the second wave (particularly for oxygen, hospital beds and food relief), increased regulation of their fundraising and activities has come in the way of their playing an even bigger role.”



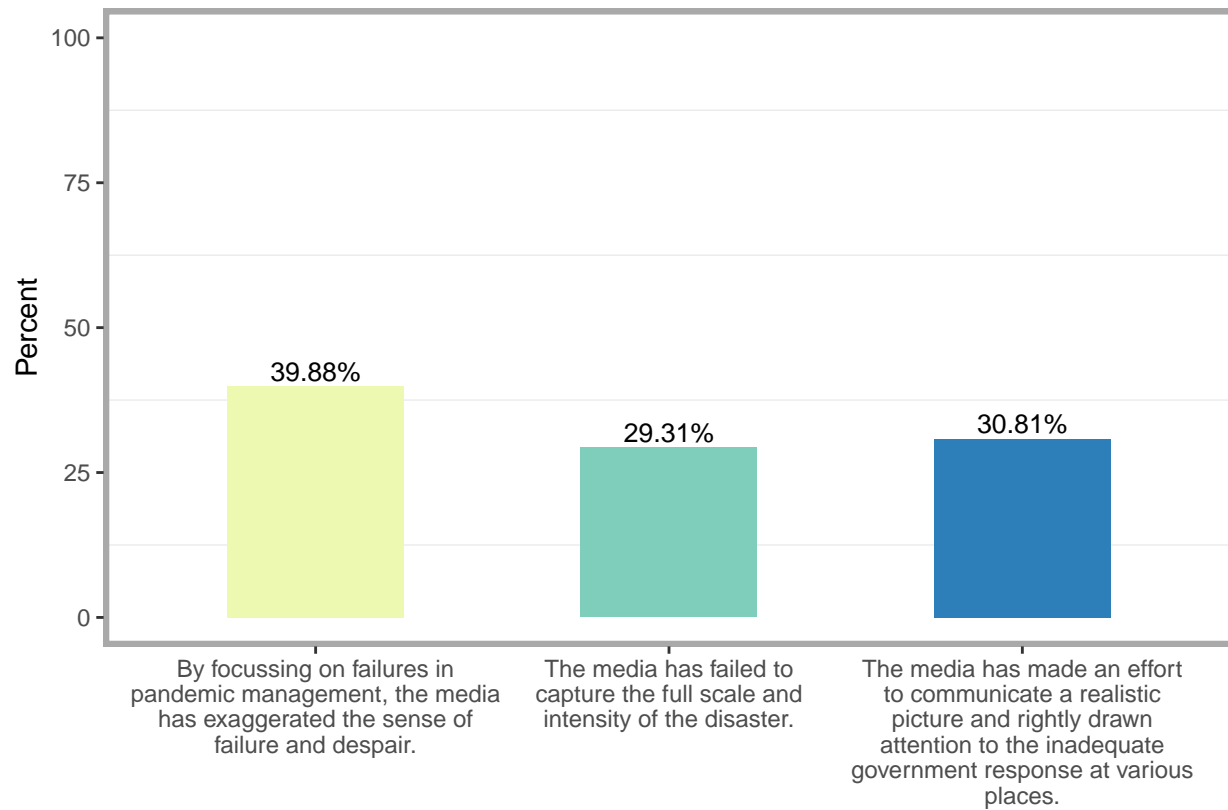
Question 15: Disaggregated by SDG

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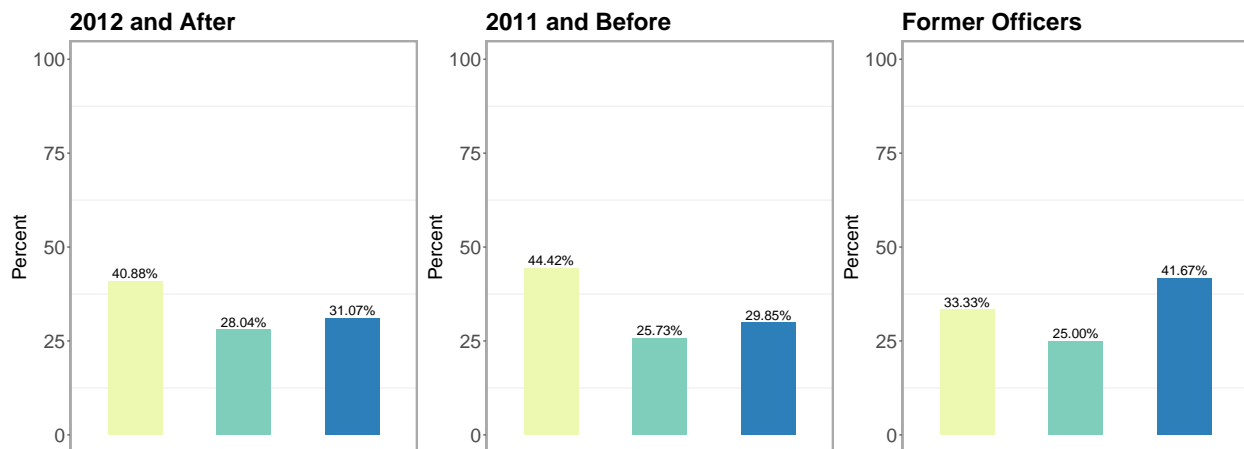
Question 16: Aggregate Graph

Which of the following statements best describes the media's coverage of the pandemic?



Question 16: Dis-ggregated by Age

Which of the following statements best describes the media's coverage of the pandemic?



- By focussing on failures in pandemic management, the media has exaggerated the sense of failure and despair.
- The media has failed to capture the full scale and intensity of the disaster.
- The media has made an effort to communicate a realistic picture and rightly drawn attention to the inadequate government response at various places.

Question 16: Disaggregated by SDG

Which of the following statements best describes the media's coverage of the pandemic?

