

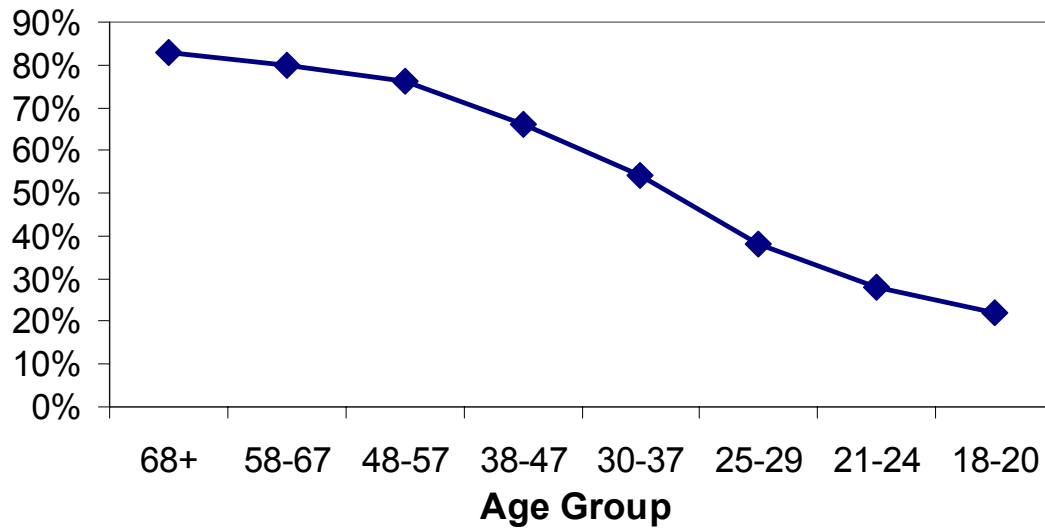
Youth Participation in Canadian Politics

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Overview

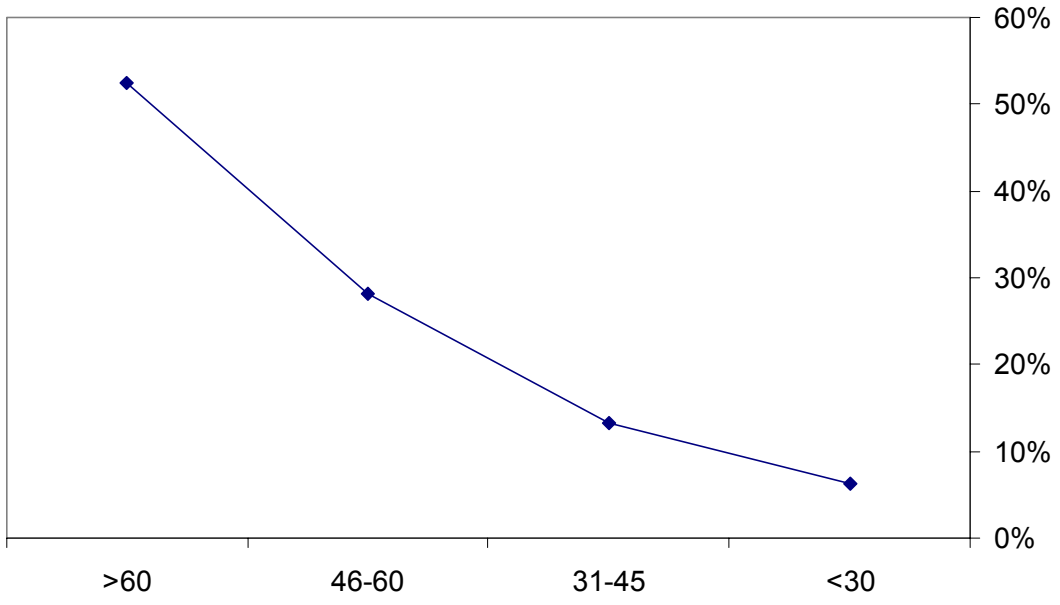
- Evidence of very low rates of participation among young Canadians in traditional forms of politics
 - Low voter turnout
 - Low rates of membership in political parties
 - Lack of interest in politics
 - Lack of knowledge about politics

Voter Turnout By Age Group, 2000 Federal Election



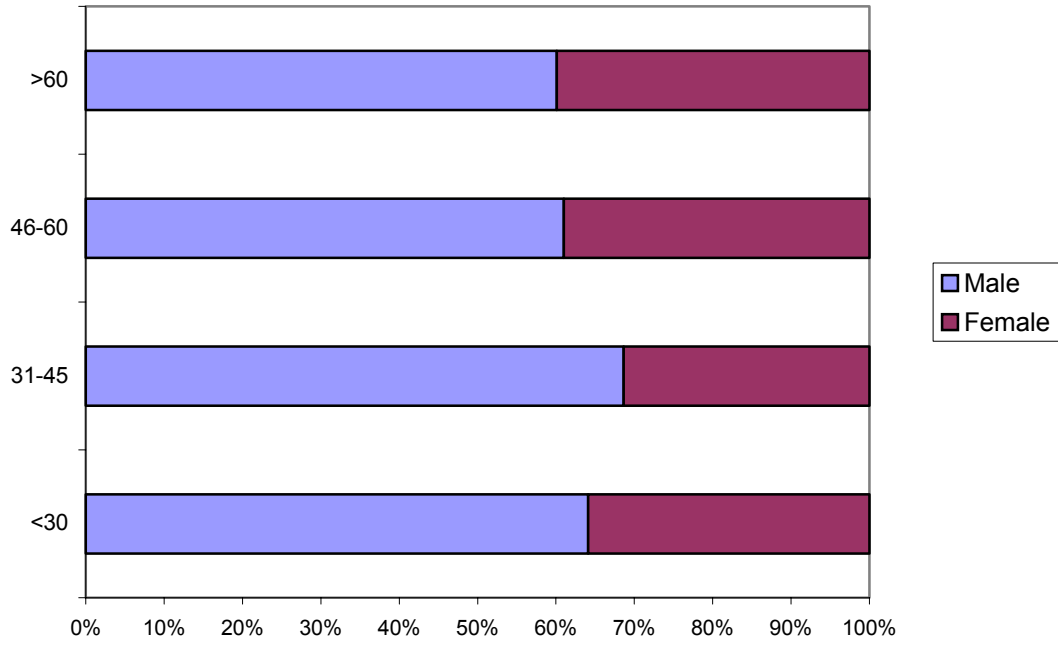
Source: J. Pammett and L. LeDuc, "Confronting the Problem of Declining Voter Turnout Among Youth" *Electoral Insight*

Age Composition of Canadian Political Parties

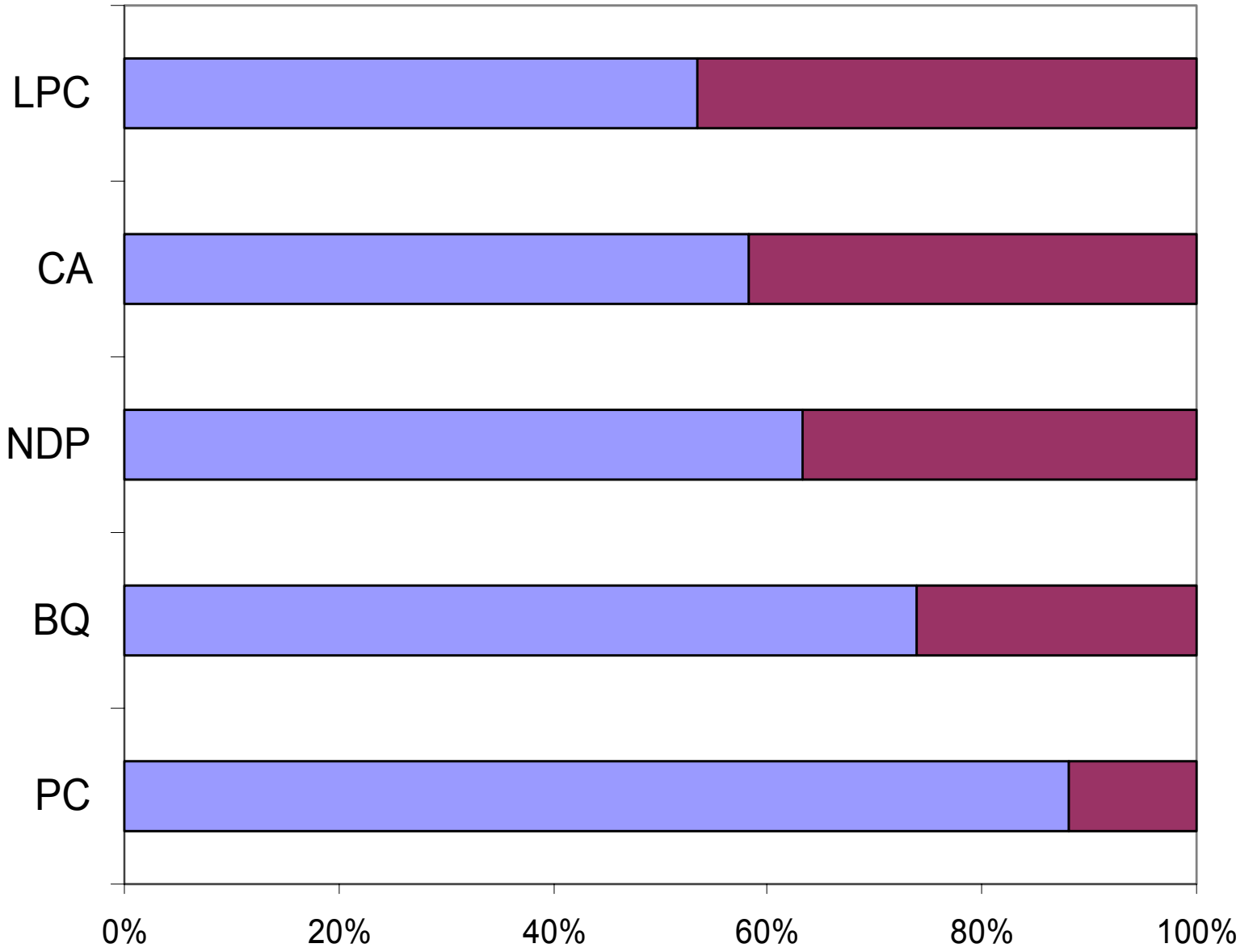


Source: Young and Cross, Study of Canadian Political Party Members

Gender Composition of Party Membership, by Age



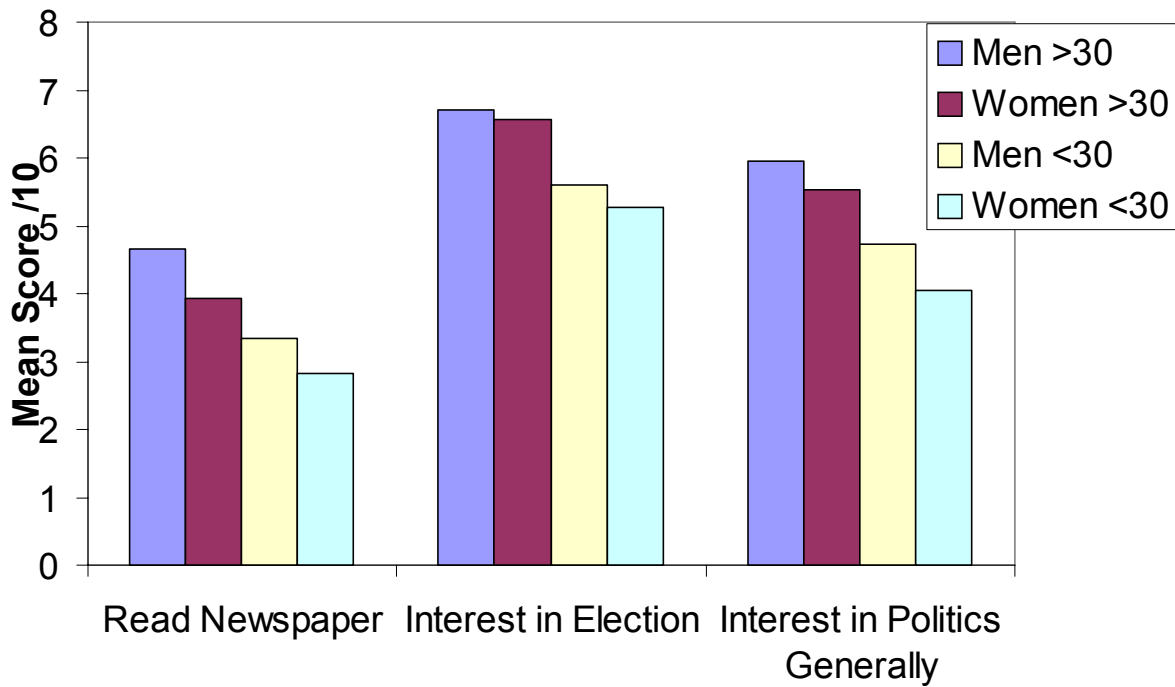
Gender Breakdown, Party Members Under 30



What is behind this lower rate of young women's involvement?

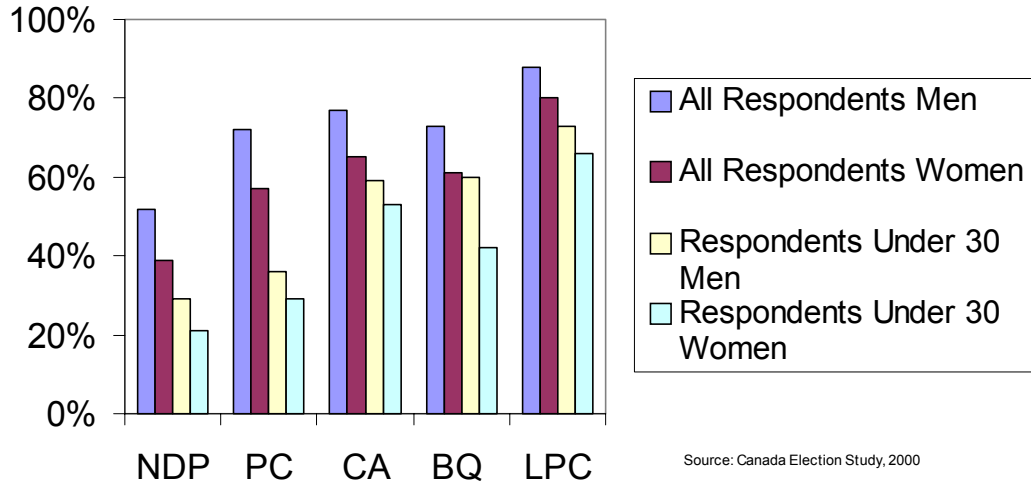
- Lesser degree of interest in politics
- Lower levels of information about politics
 - Persists *despite* increasing rates of post-secondary education

Measures of Attention to/ Interest in Electoral Politics



Source: Canada Election Study, 2000

Percent Correctly Identifying Leader of Party



Source: Canada Election Study, 2000

Conclusions & Implications:

- This may reflect a perception that politics isn't about women
 - Relative absence of role models
 - Negative media coverage of high-profile women
 - Relative absence of discussion of women as a political category
- More difficult to recruit female candidates in the future – smaller pool of willing women