

Statement of Problem

For in-person household surveys, it is fundamental to consider societal customs when choosing appropriate times and interviewer gender. However, even after all these procedures were taken into consideration with an eye to improving or maintaining our Qatari survey response rates, our recorded cases of refusal to participate in polls increased significantly in a relatively short time frame. From early 2011, when the percentage of refusal cases reported at only 3.7% in the Social & Economic Survey Research Institute's (SESRI) Social Capital survey, to the end of 2012, this proportion jumped to 14.6% in our Health and Expenditure survey, as illustrated in the following table:

SESRI Survey	Refusal %
Social Capital 2011	3.7
Human Right 2011	7.2
Omnibus 2012	9.3
Health Expenditure 2012	14.6

In this paper we will try to assess the drivers of non-response in SESRI's 2012-2013 surveys, to better understand the reasons for non-response, by focused on refusal causes among survey participants without regard to other disposition statuses in the surveys. Our refusals numbered 1,263 representing 14% of the total number of selected respondents participating in our surveys (9062), and exactly (376) of the refusals (30%) also refused to disclose any reasons for their decision. In all, 887 of our refusal cases agreed to provide a reason for their non-participation.

The objectives of this paper are:

- Determine reasons for non-response in SESRI public opinion surveys (Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI)).
- Study Qatari attitudes towards participation in (CAPI) surveys.
- Determine factors that may affect in the participants refusal decision.

Methods

The data in this paper were collected from three surveys carried out in 2012-2013 by Qatar university's SESRI on a sample of Qatari households for the World Values Survey (WVS), Women's Role in Public Life Survey (WRS) and the Qatari Attitudes Towards Foreign (migrant) workers (QAF) survey.

With each field survey conducted by SESRI, we asked people who refused to participate in the study about the reasons for rejection. Some of them of course declined even to answer this question.

This paper summarizes our field data for survey participants who were randomly selected to participate in a survey but subsequently refused. It includes other related survey data that may help us understand a participant's decision to take the survey.

The total households in the three surveys that were visited numbered 9,062 and a total of 4,211 participants successfully completed an interview. On the other hand, 1,263 refused to participate.

Table 1: Refusal & Response rate percentages according to surveys

Survey	Sample	Complete	Resp. Rate	Refused	Refusal %
QAF	5018	2394	63%	706	14.1
WVS	1985	798	67%	264	13.3
WRS	2059	1019	66%	293	14.2
Total	9062	4211	65% (Avg.)	1263	13.9 (Avg.)

Results

Figure I: Reasons for refusal

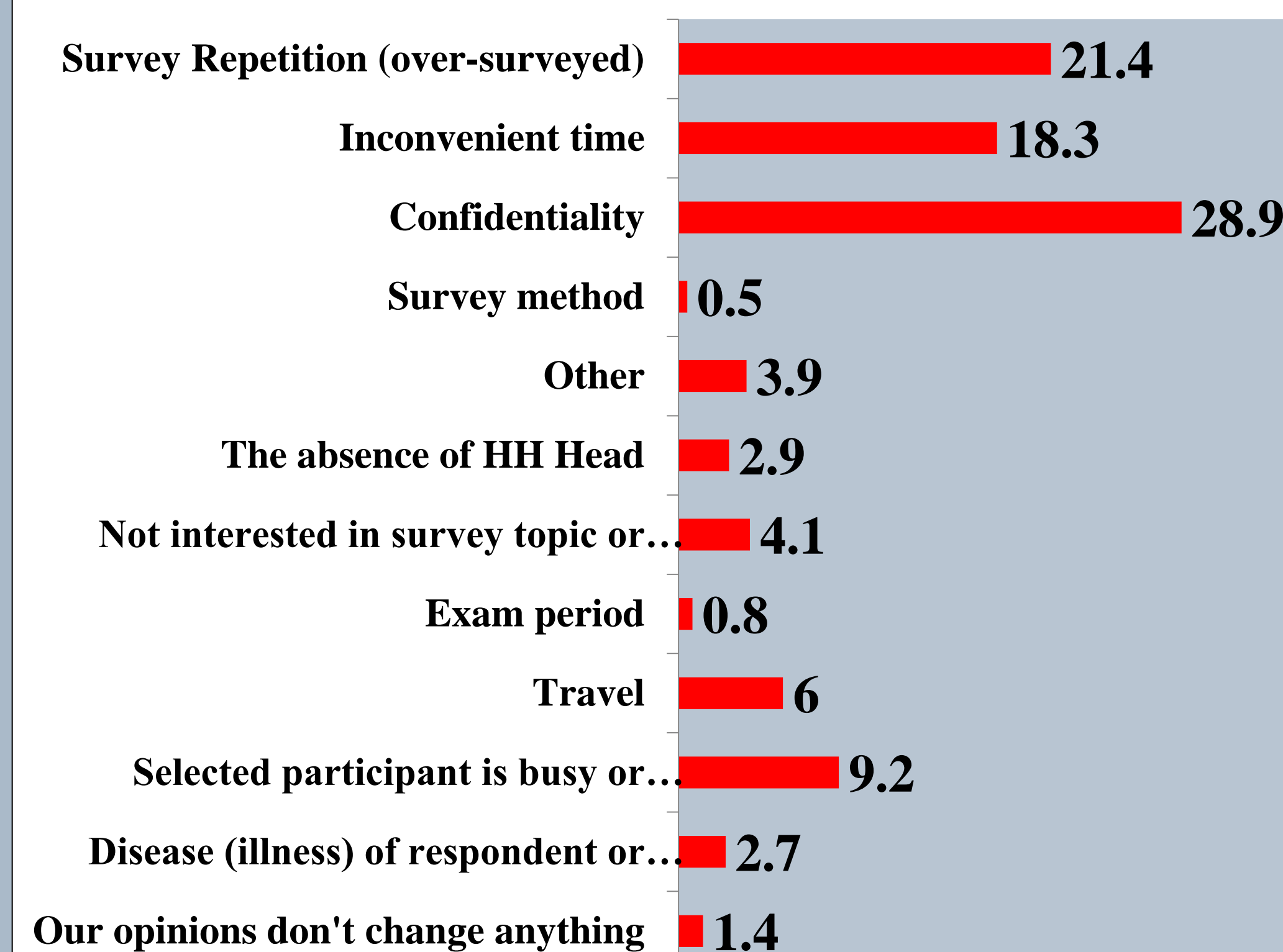


Figure II: Refusal according to Participant Gender

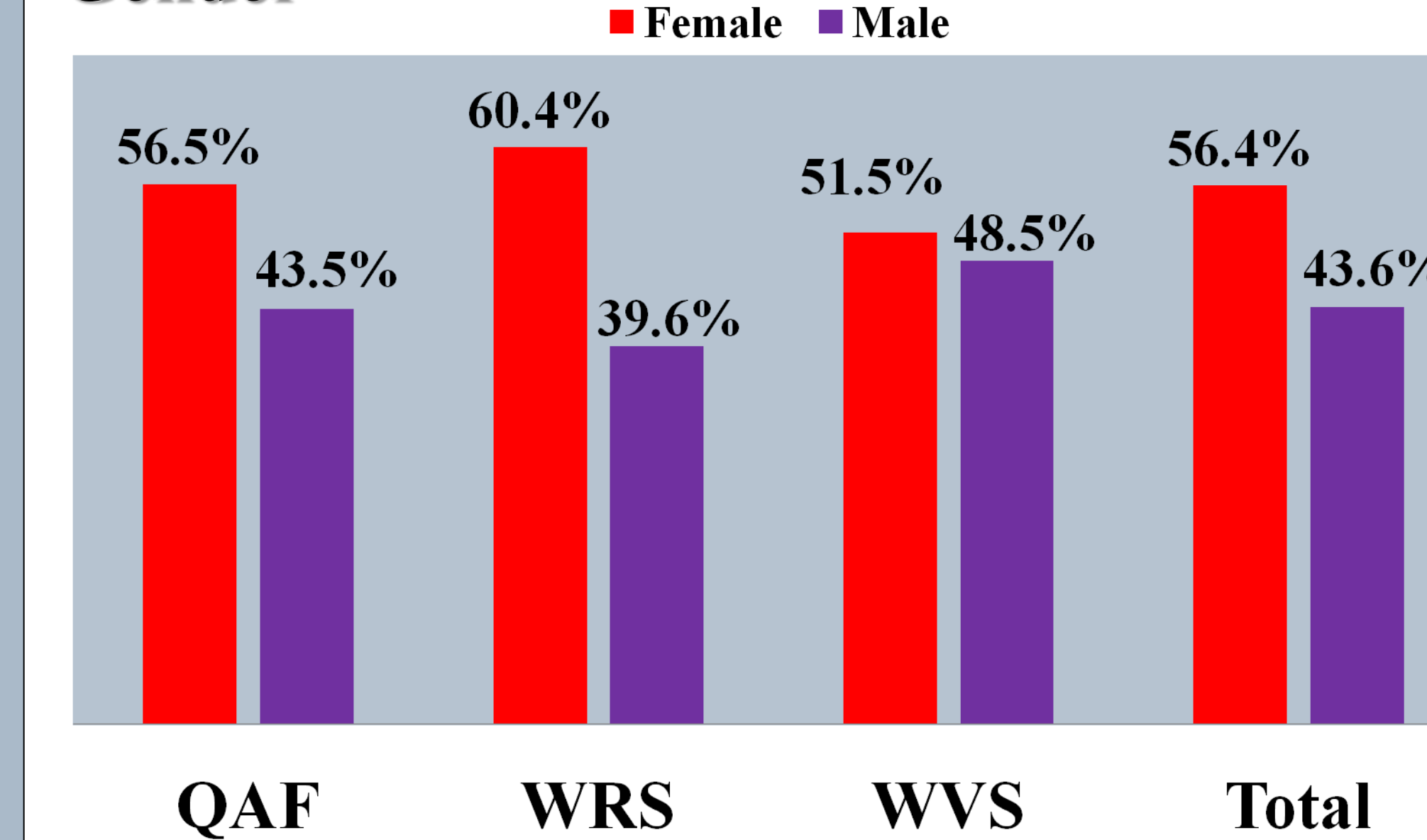


Figure III: Refusal & completed Households percentage according to nationality of interviewers

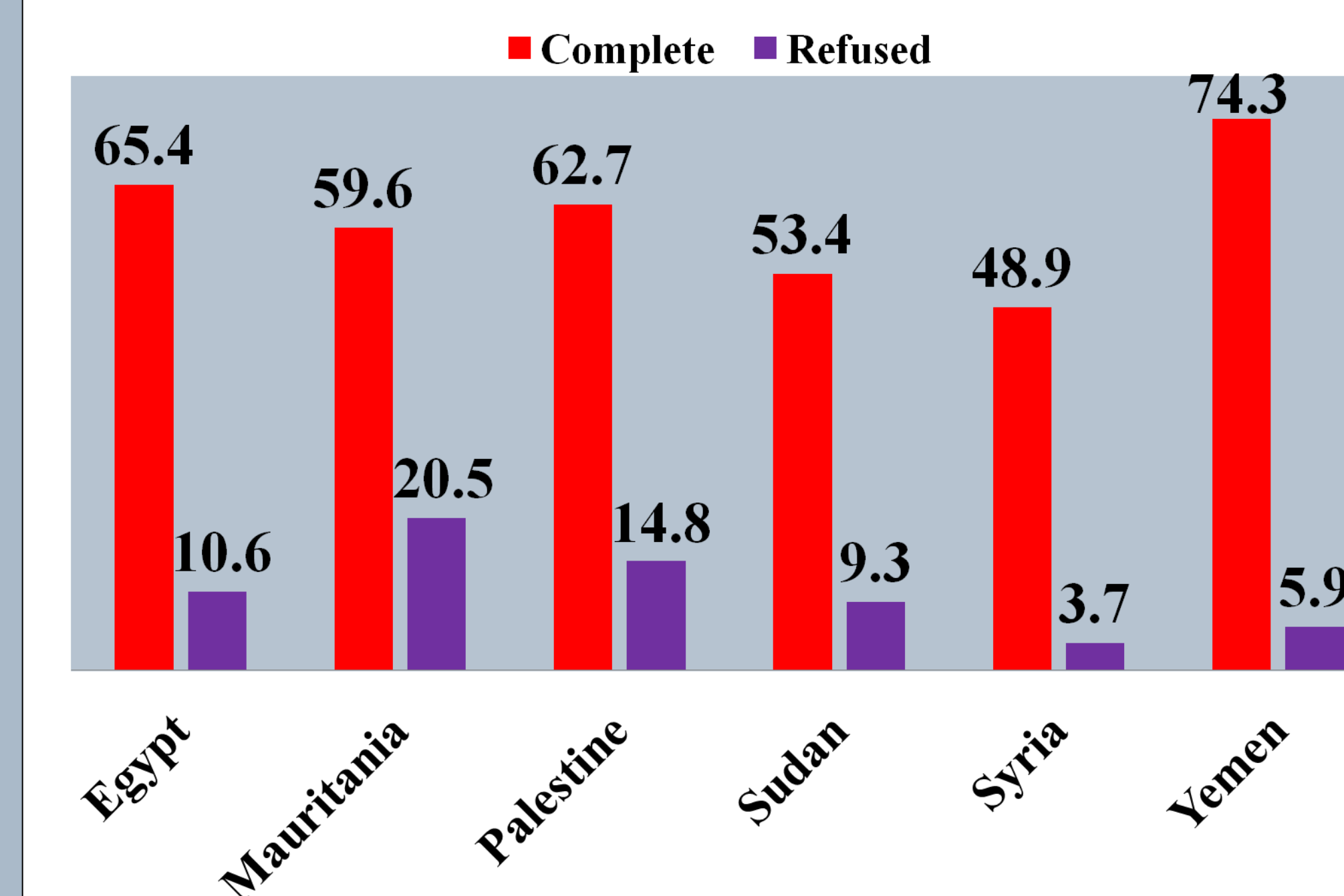


Figure IV: Refusal percentage according to Qatari Zones:

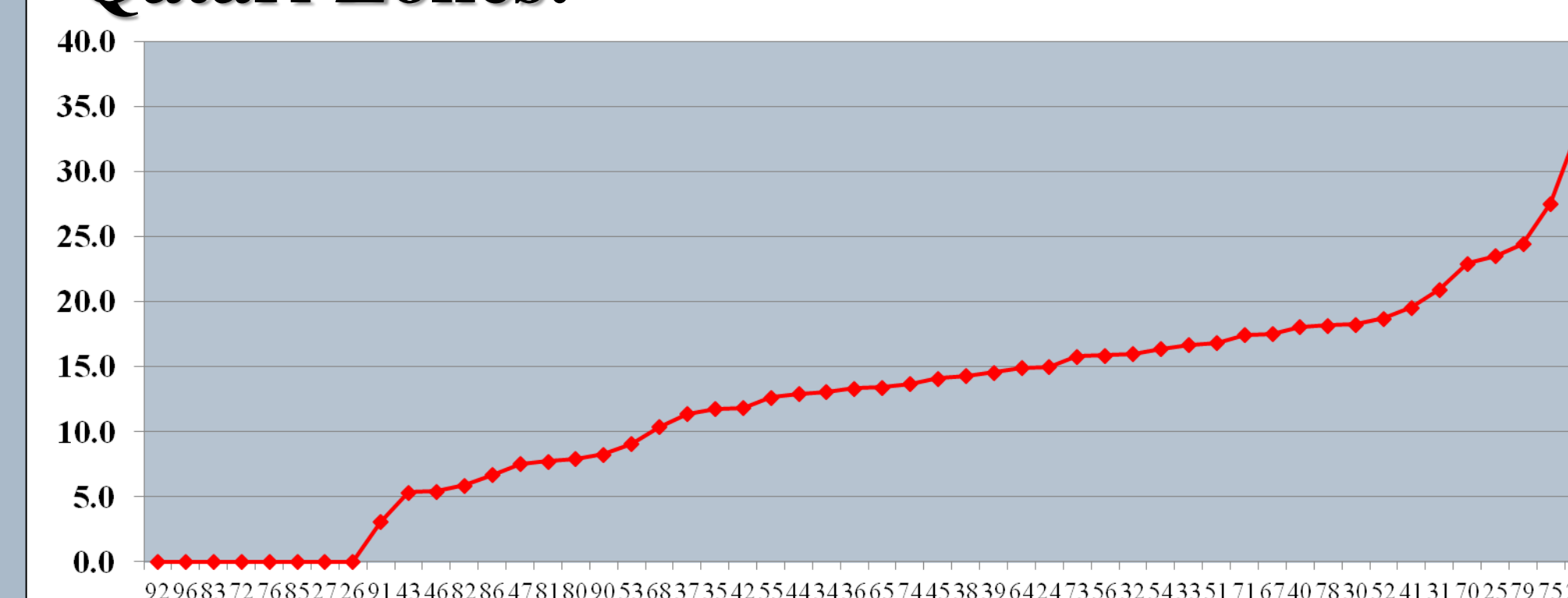


Figure V: Refusal according to Days of the Week* (SUN is first workday)

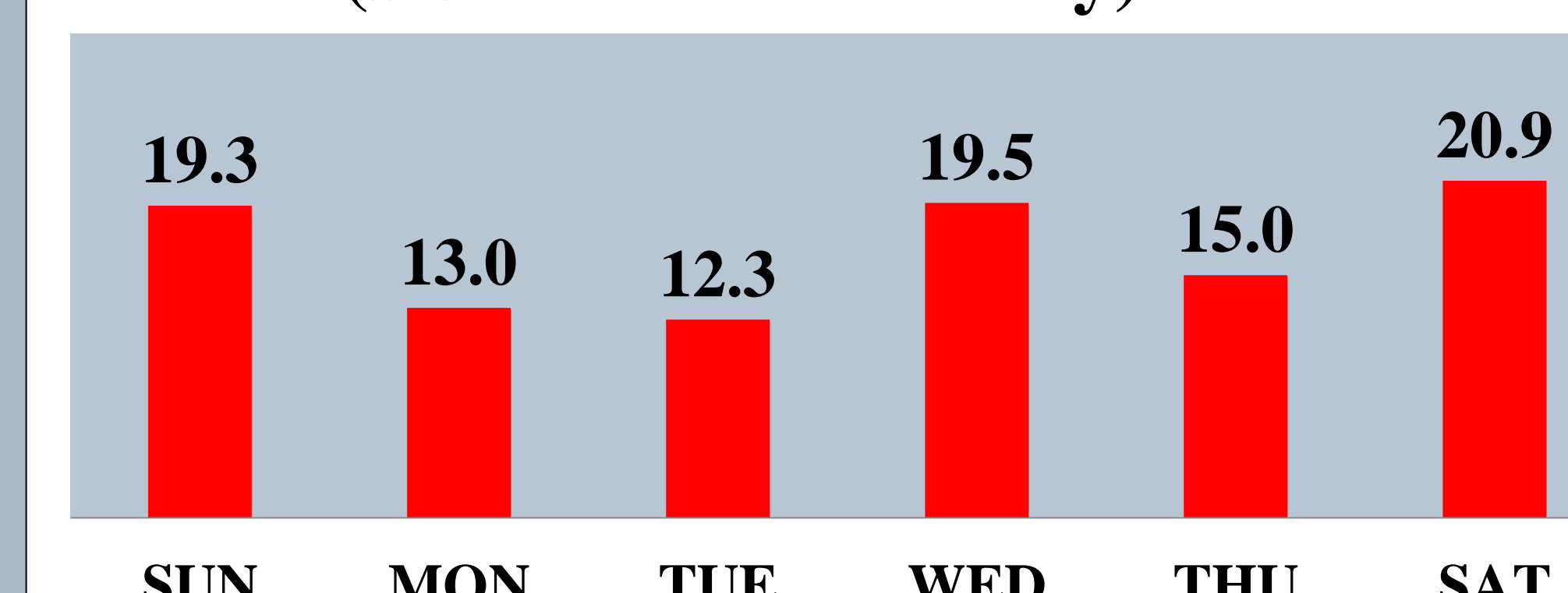
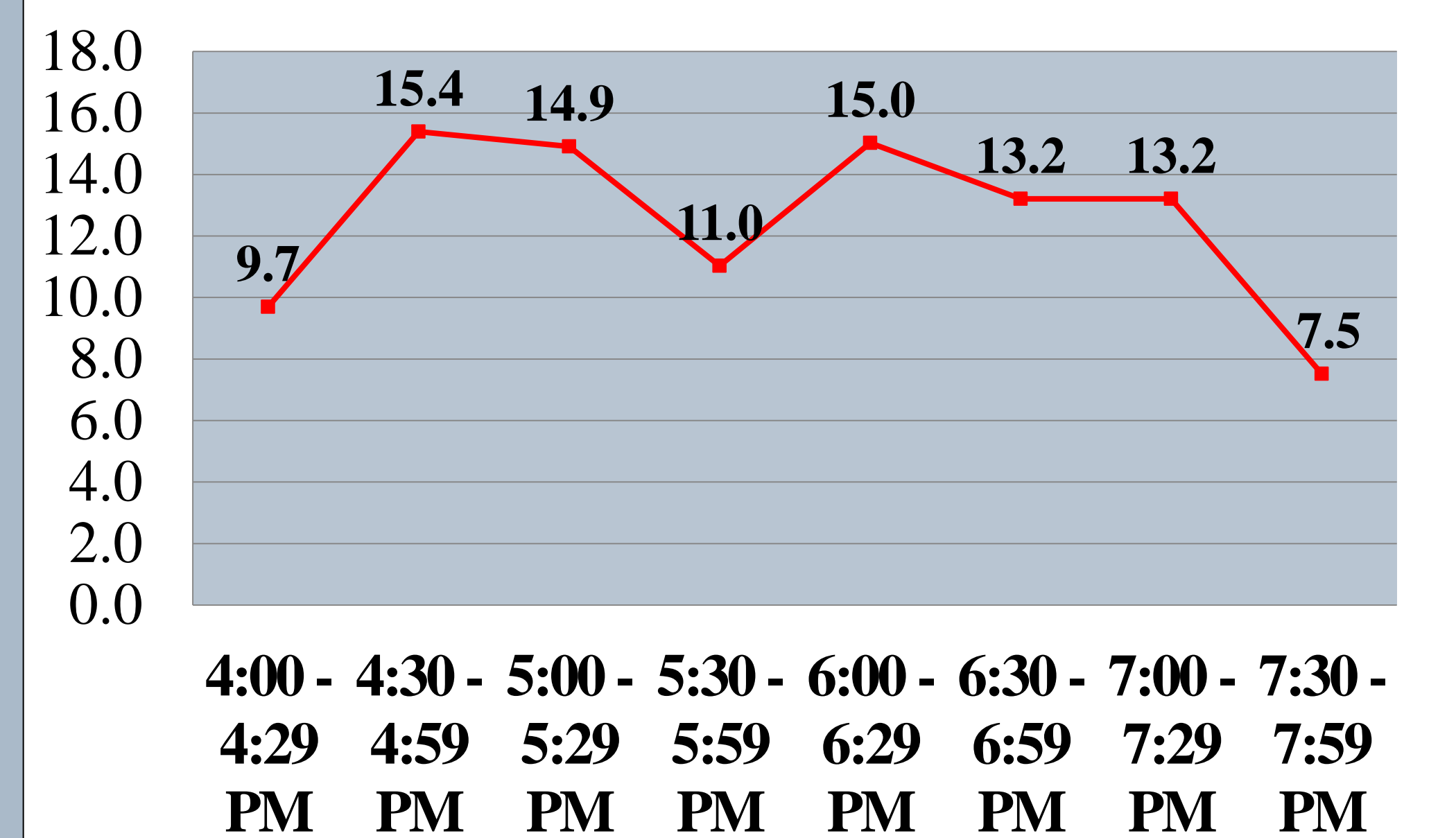


Table 2: Main causes of refusal according to gender of participants

Reasons of refuse	Gender		Total
	Female	Male	
Our opinions don't change anything	1	1.9	1.4
Disease (illness) of respondent or HH member	2.7	2.7	2.7
Selected participant is busy or has no time	8	11	9.2
Travel	4.9	7.5	6
Exam period	1	0.5	0.8
Not interested in survey topic or questions	2.7	5.9	4.1
The absence of HH Head	1.6	4.8	2.9
Other	3.5	4.5	3.9
Survey method	0.2	0.8	0.5
Confidentiality	31.6	25.1	28.9
Inconvenient time	20.5	15.2	18.3
Survey Repetition (over-surveyed)	22.4	20.1	21.4
Total	100	100	100

Figure VI: Refusal percentage according to time of interview



Conclusion

- The confidentiality of the data, survey repetition or oversaturation and inconvenient time were the most frequently mentioned reasons for refusal.
- There is no difference in refusal proportion based on the type or survey theme. However, the figures did indicate that the proportion of women who refused to participate in surveys was higher than men in every survey.
- With respect to other factors that may affect the refusal percentage we analyzed interviewer characteristics, interviewing time and date and no significant difference were founded.
- This study supported some confidence in the proposition that some interviewer nationalities (such as the Syrian and Yemeni) corresponded with lower refusal proportions.
- Although there is no significant different, however days towards the center of the week (specifically Monday and Tuesday) contained more completed interviews proportionately than did other days.
- Regarding refusal cases according to zones and areas we found no difference between the higher density population zones inside Doha and Rayan municipalities, but more than 80% from outside in the less densely populated areas had lower refusal proportions.