

Sören Holmberg
Department of Political Science
University of Gothenburg
June 2013

Voting Behavior in US Presidential Elections

A Graphical Story

US Presidential Election 2008 and 2012

2008

	per cent
Barack Obama (Democrat)	52,9
John McCain (Republican)	45,7
Ralph Nader (Independent)	0,6
Bob Barr (Libertarian)	0,4
Cynthia McKinney (Greens)	0,1
Others	0,3
	100,0

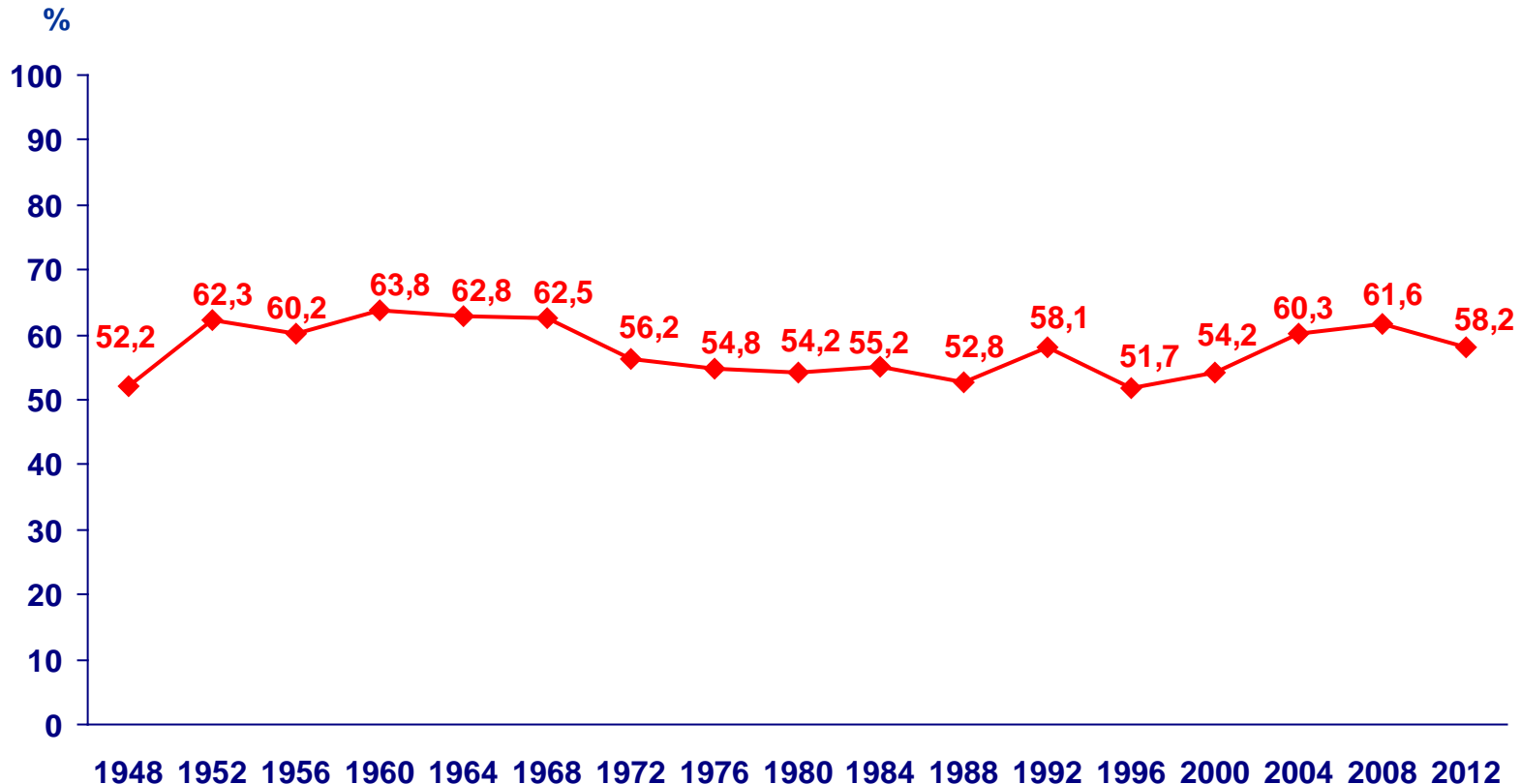
2012

	per cent
Barack Obama (Democrat)	51,0
Mitt Romney (Republican)	47,2
Gary Johnson (Libertarian)	1,0
Jill Stein (Greens)	0,4
Others	0,4
	100,0

Estimated Turn-Out 2008: 131,3 million voters; eligible voters 213 million; turn-out per cent 61.6%

Estimated Turn-Out 2012: 129,1 million voters; eligible voters 222 million; turn-out per cent 58,2%

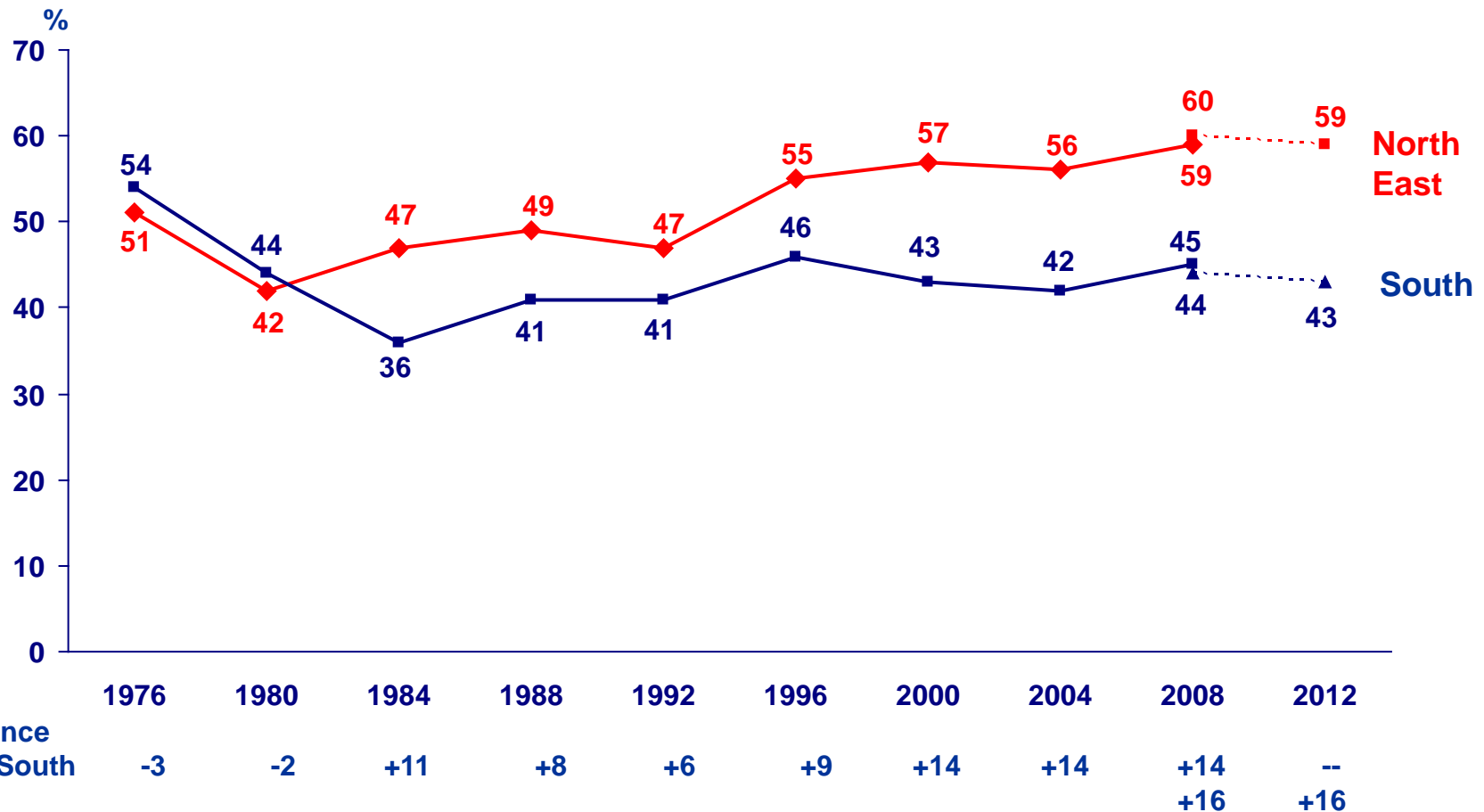
Turn-Out in US Presidential Elections



Source: Stanley and Niemi: *Vital Statistics in American Politics*. The turn-out figures represent the percentage of the eligible electorate that cast votes in presidential elections. The preliminary result for 2012 is based on an estimate of 129,1 million casted votes among 222 million eligible voters.

Regional Voting

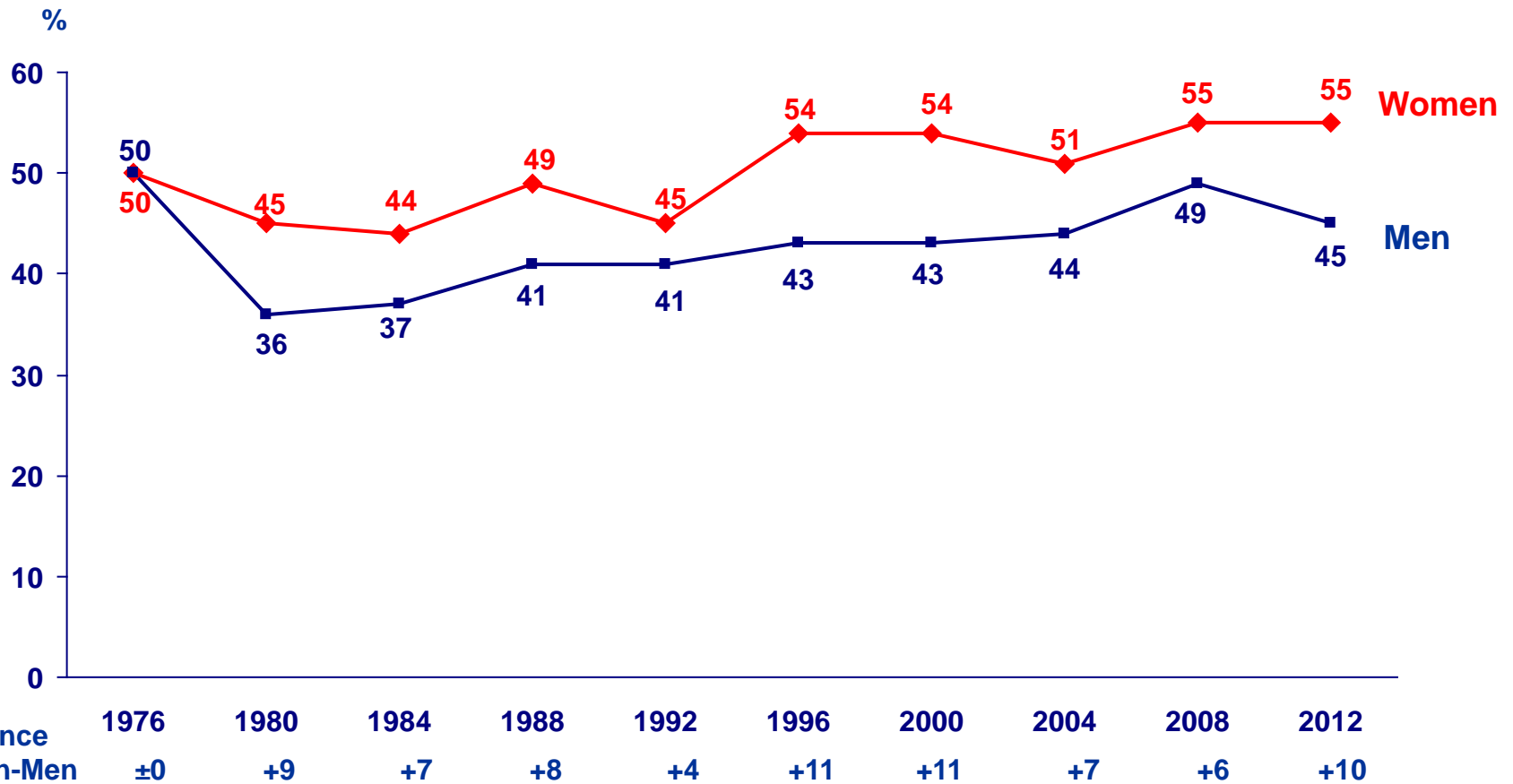
per cent Democrats



Source: VNS Exit Polls; NEP 2004; Edison 2008; averaged official election results for 7 Southern and 9 Northeastern states in 2008 and 2012. Edison's published polling data in 2012 did not contain any regional breakdowns.

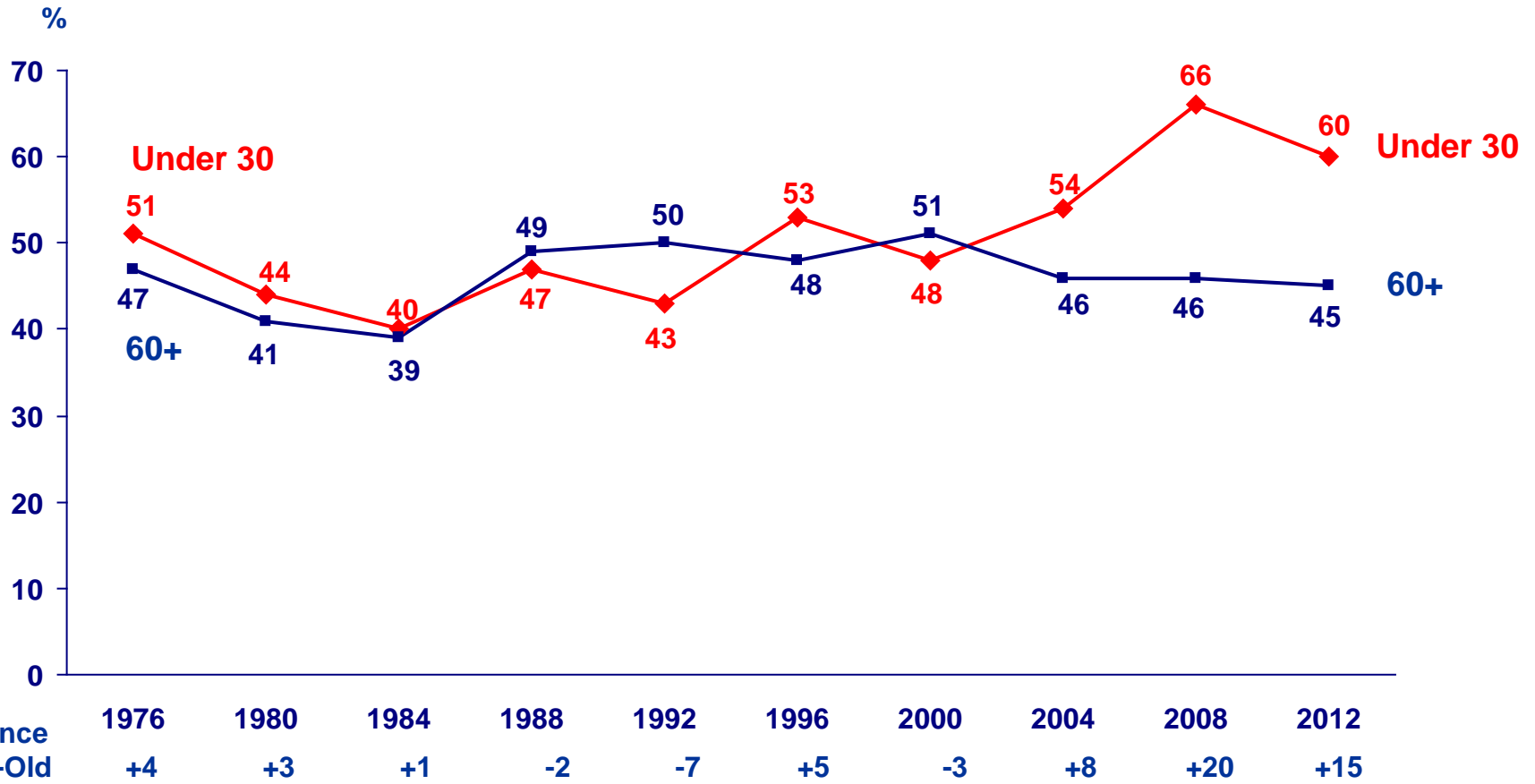
Gender

per cent Democrats



Source: VNS Exit Polls; NEP 2004; Edison 2008-2012

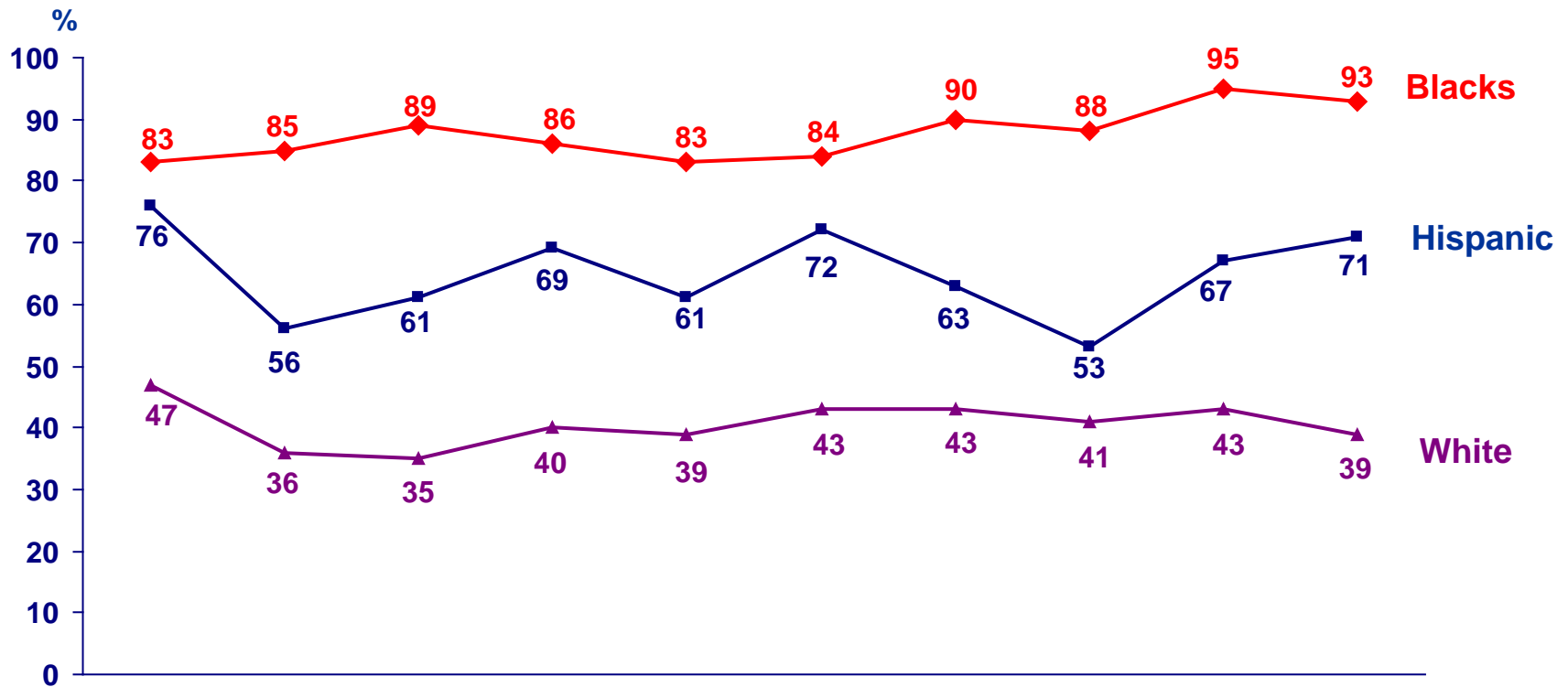
Age *per cent Democrats*



Source: VNS Exit Polls; NEP 2004; Edison 2008-2012

Ethnic Group

per cent Democrats

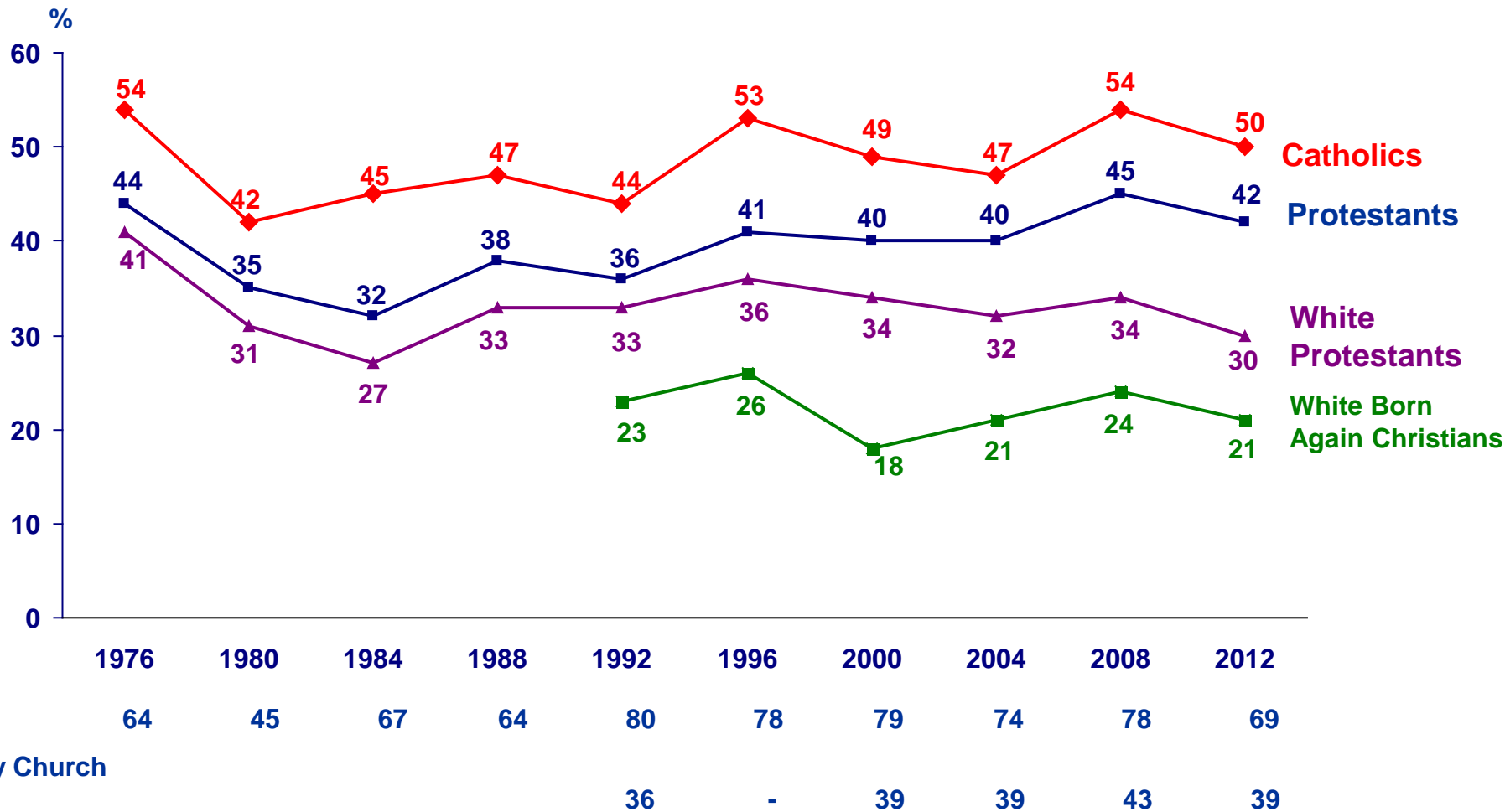


	1976	1980	1984	1988	1992	1996	2000	2004	2008	2012
Difference Black-White	+36	+49	+54	+46	+44	+41	+47	+47	+52	+54
Jews	64	45	67	64	80	78	79	74	78	69
Asians	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	56	62	73

Source: VNS Exit Polls; NEP 2004; Edison 2008-2012

Religion

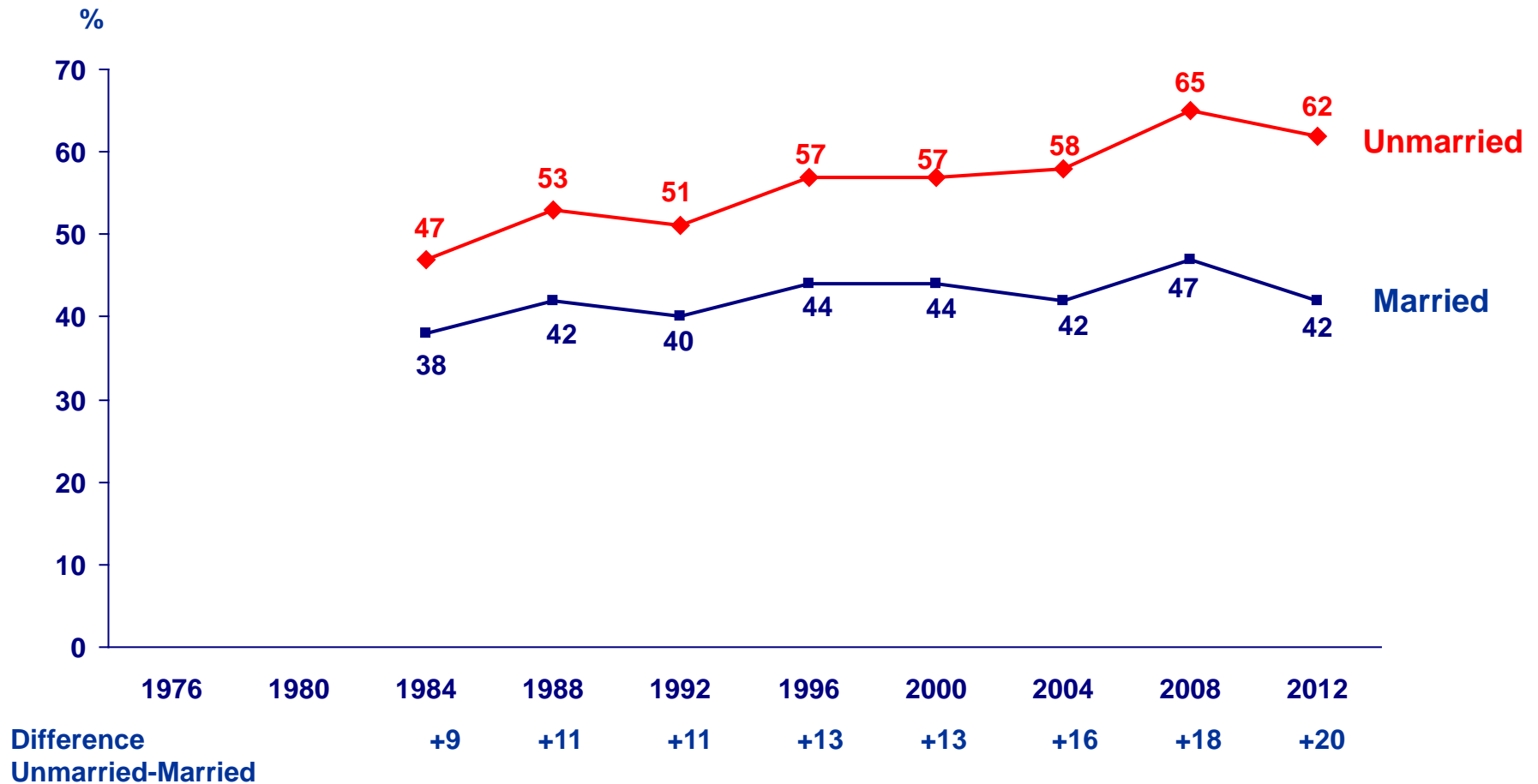
per cent Democrats



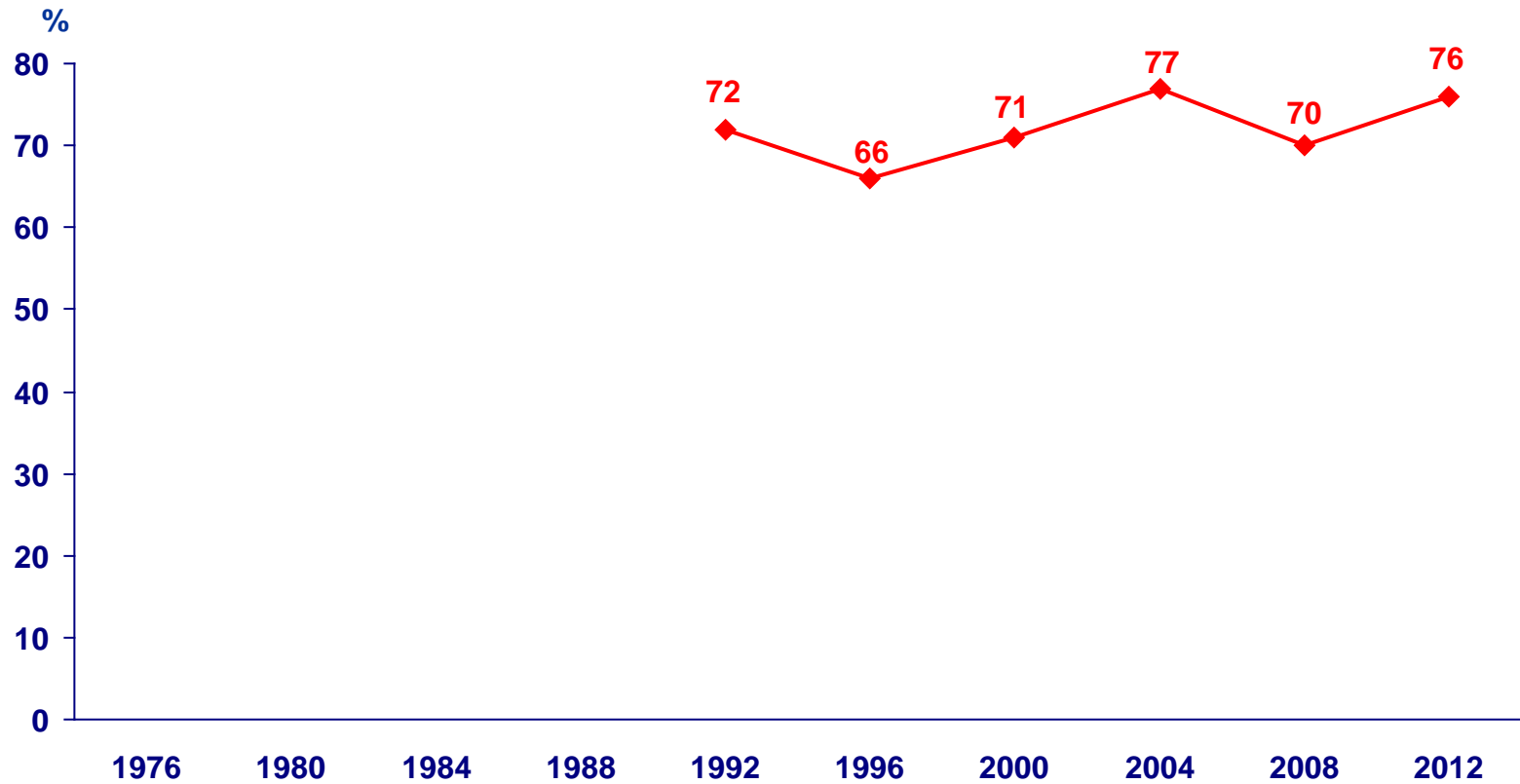
Source: VNS Exit Polls; NEP 2004; Edison 2008-2012

Marital Status

per cent Democrats



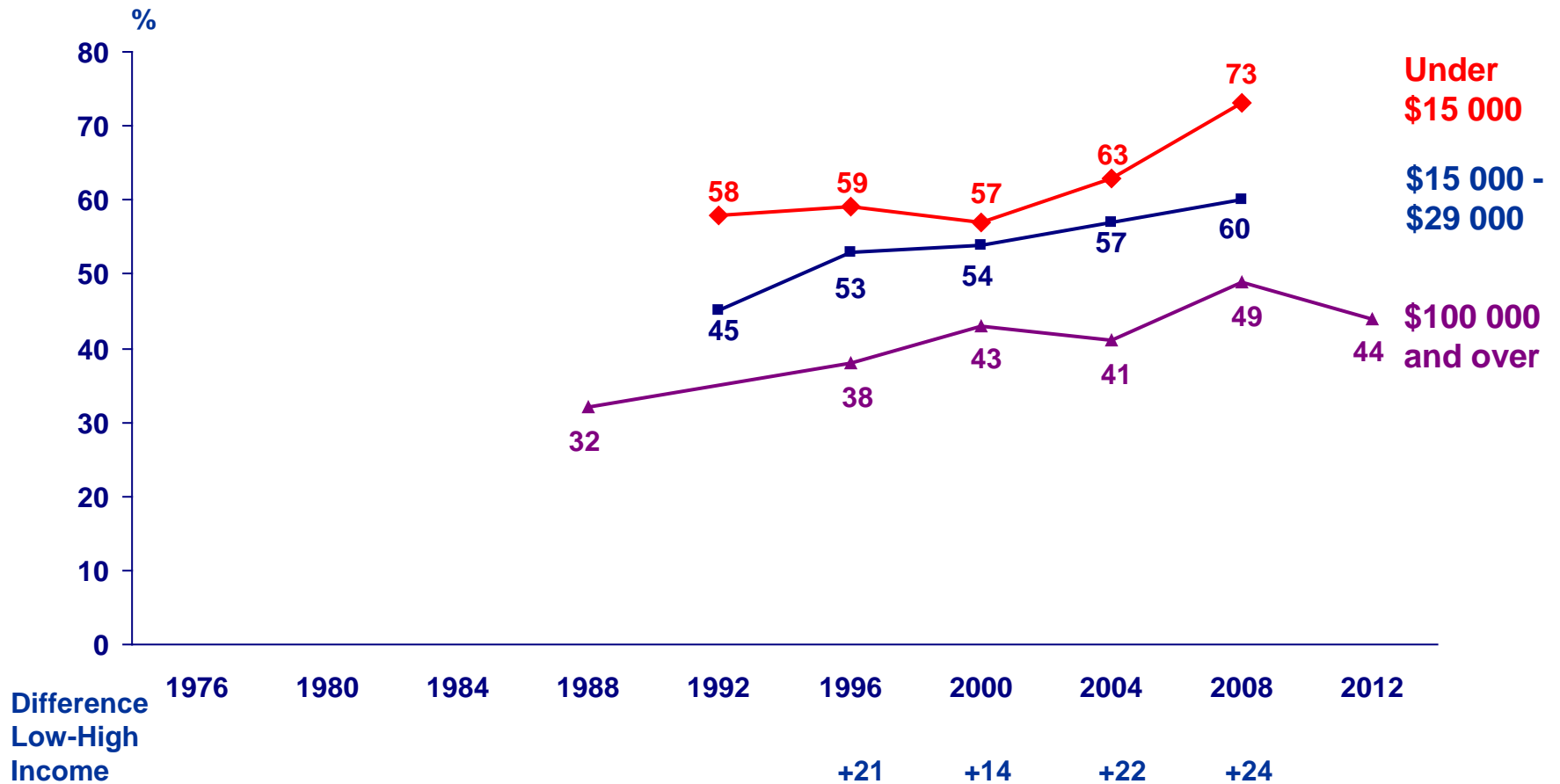
Gays/Lesbians *per cent Democrats*



Source: VNS Exit Polls; NEP 2004; Edison 2008-2012

Income

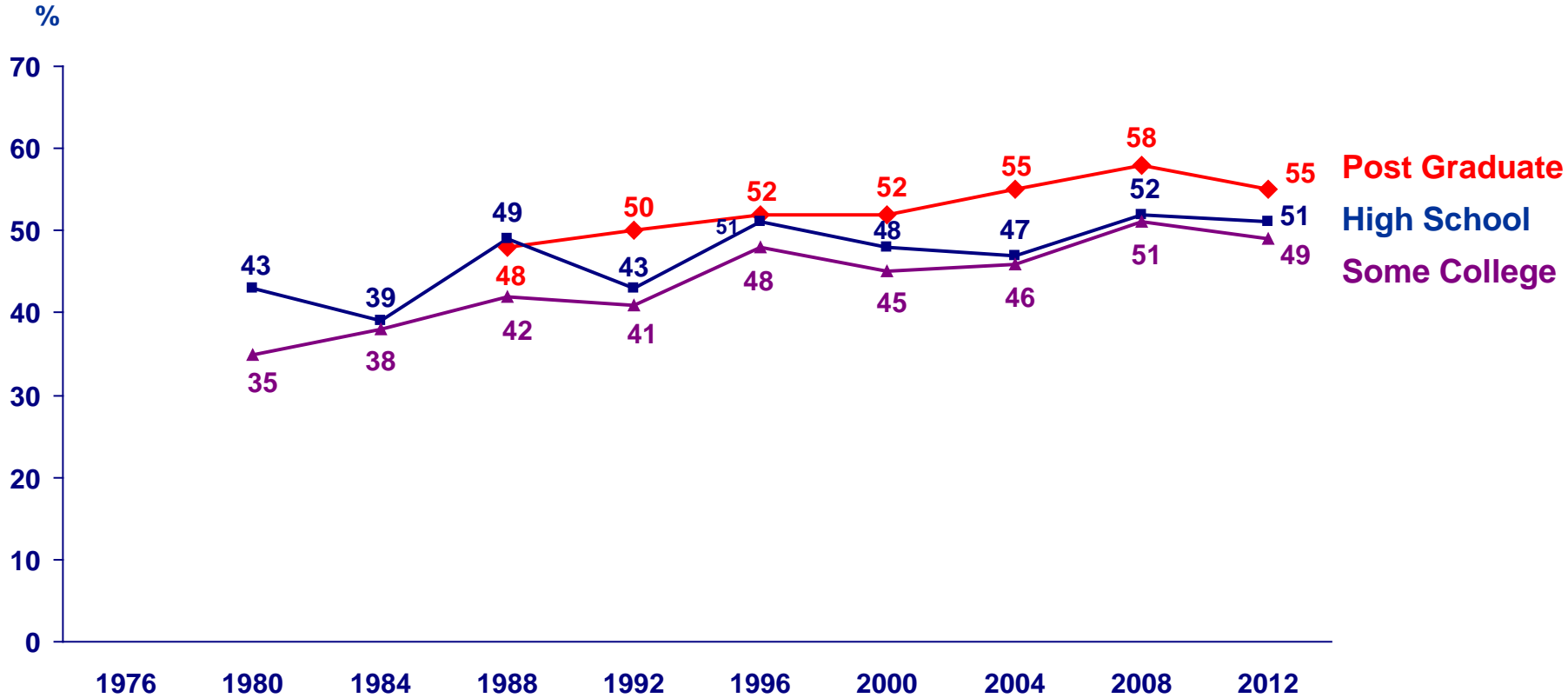
per cent Democrats



Source: VNS Exit Polls; NEP 2004; Edison 2008-2012. In 2012 among voters with incomes under 30 000 dollars, 62 per cent voted Democratic for Obama.

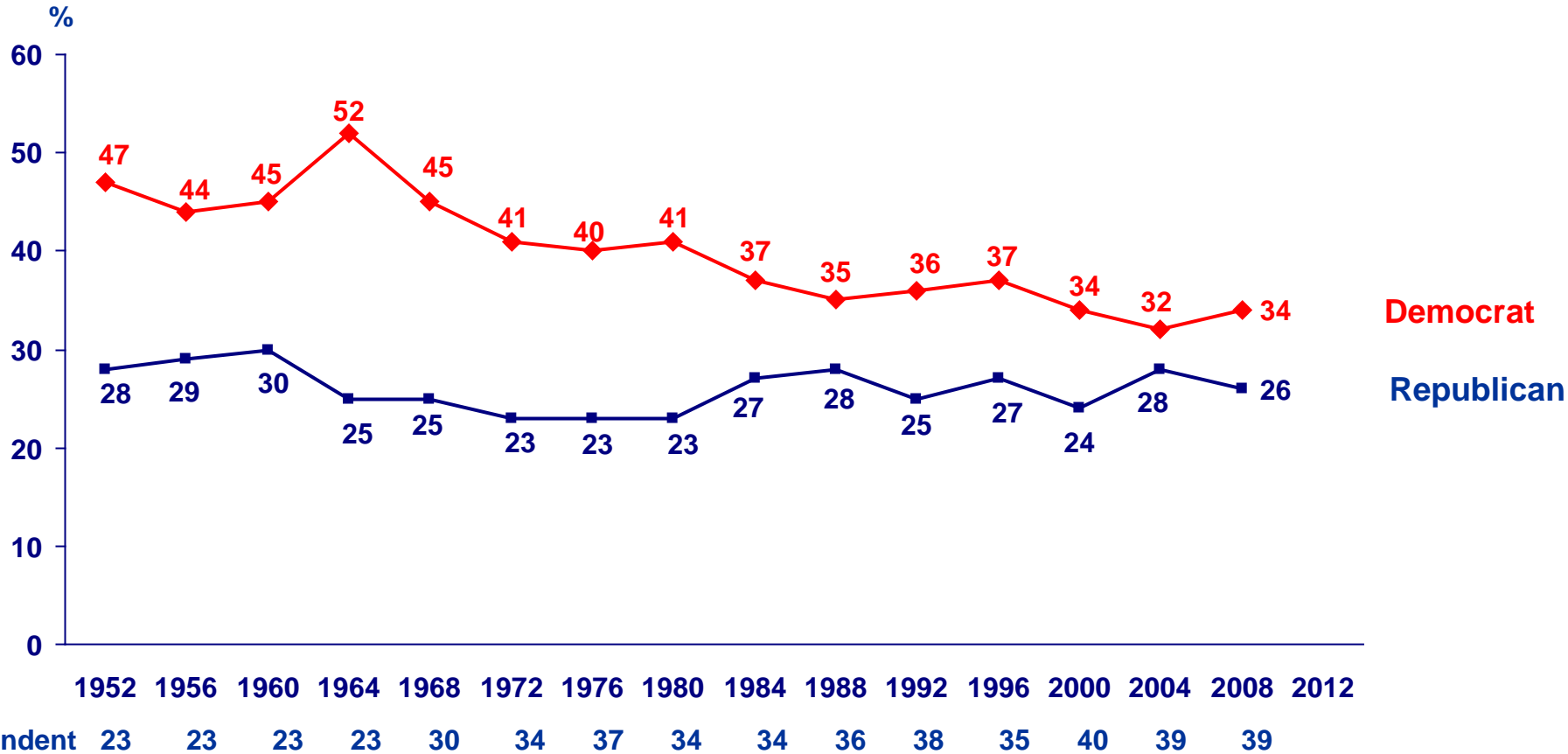
Education

per cent Democrats



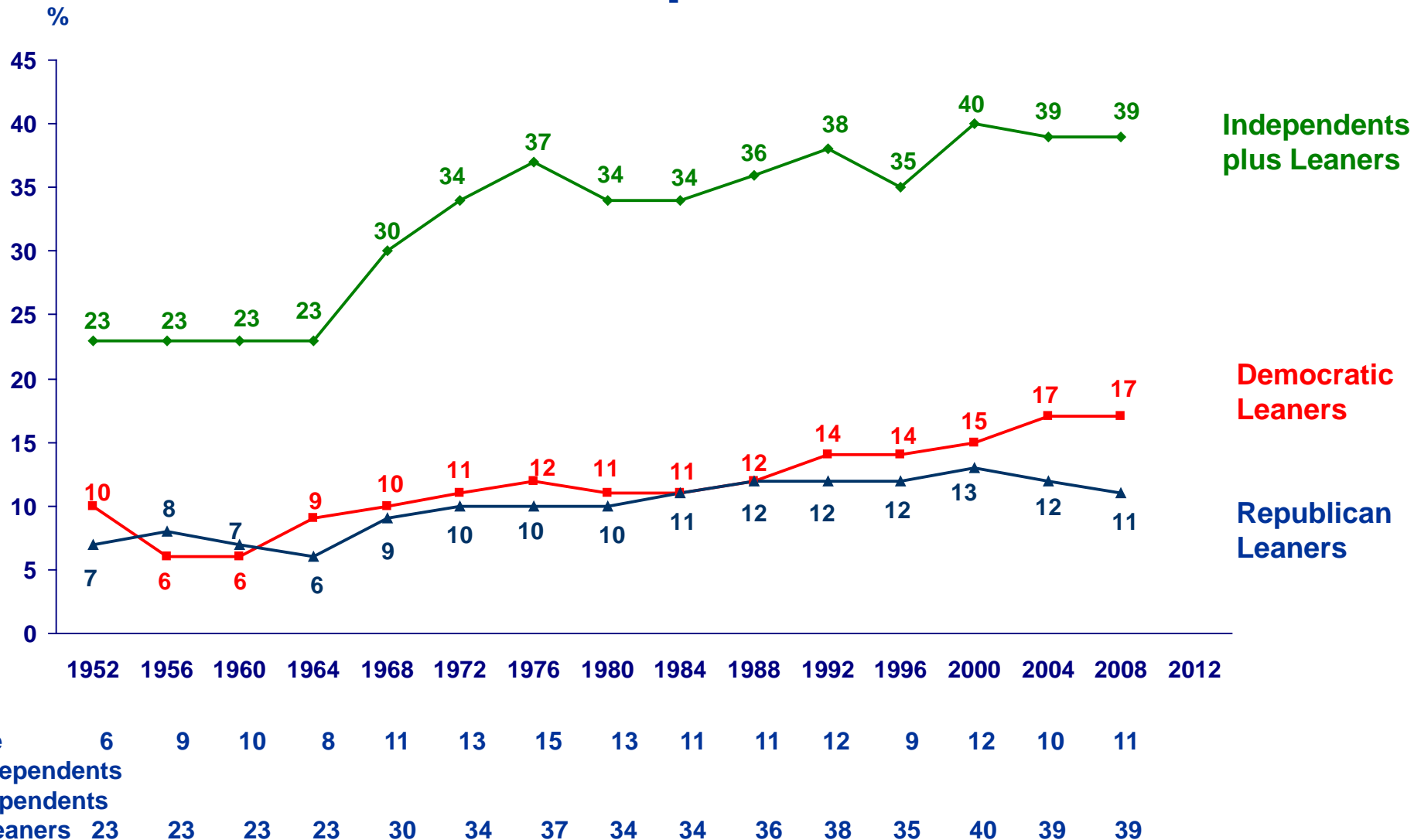
Source: VNS Exit Polls; NEP 2004; Edison 2008-2012.

US Party Identification



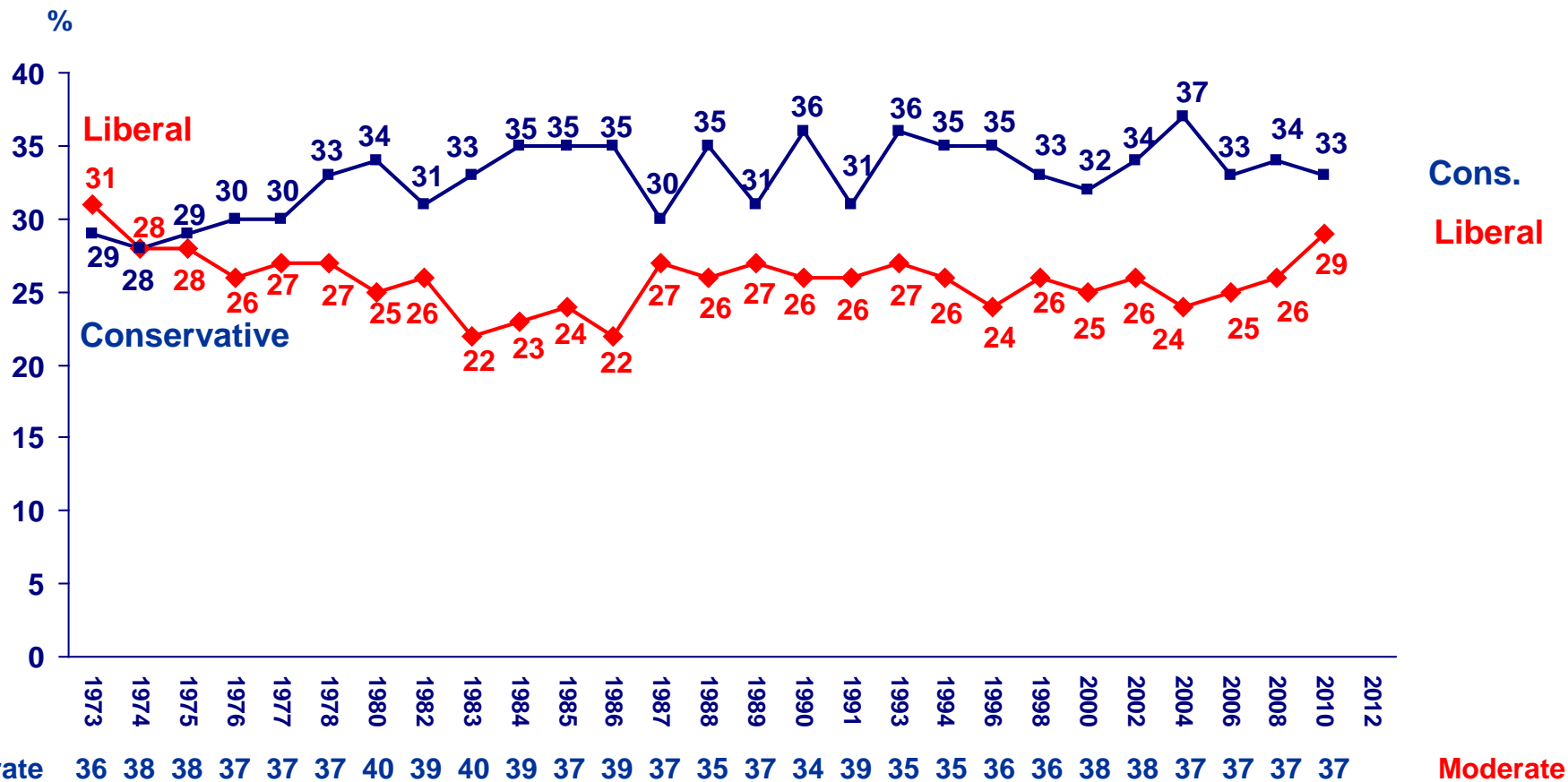
Source: ANES 1952 – 2008. Edison 2012 had Democrat 38 per cent, Republican 32 percent, and Independent 29 per cent.

US: Independents



Source: ANES 1952-2008.

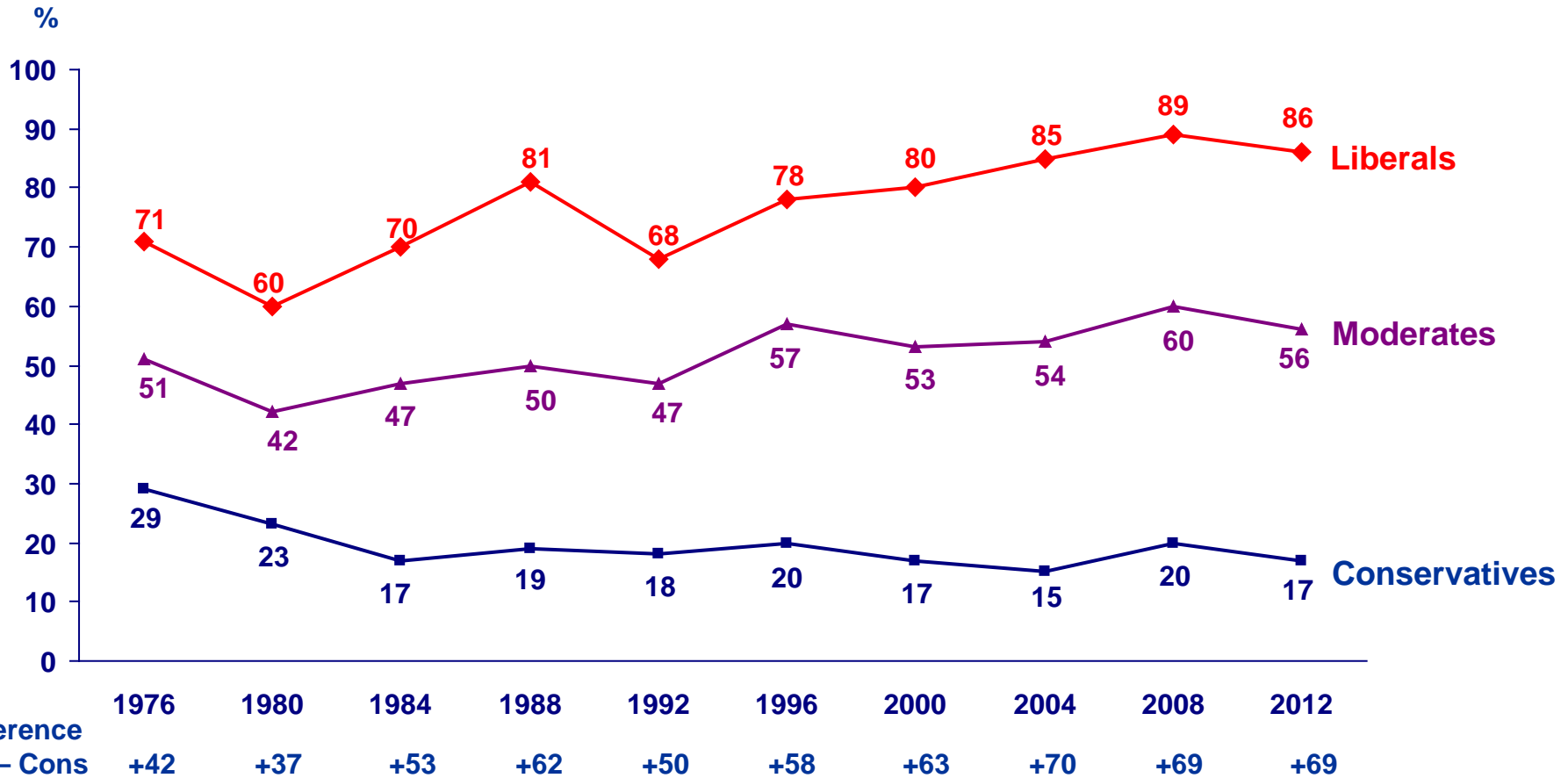
US Ideological Self-Identification



Source: DKs 1 – 6%; General Social Survey, NORC 1973-2010; Edison 2012 had Conservative 35 per cent, Liberal 25 per cent and Moderate 41 per cent.

Ideology

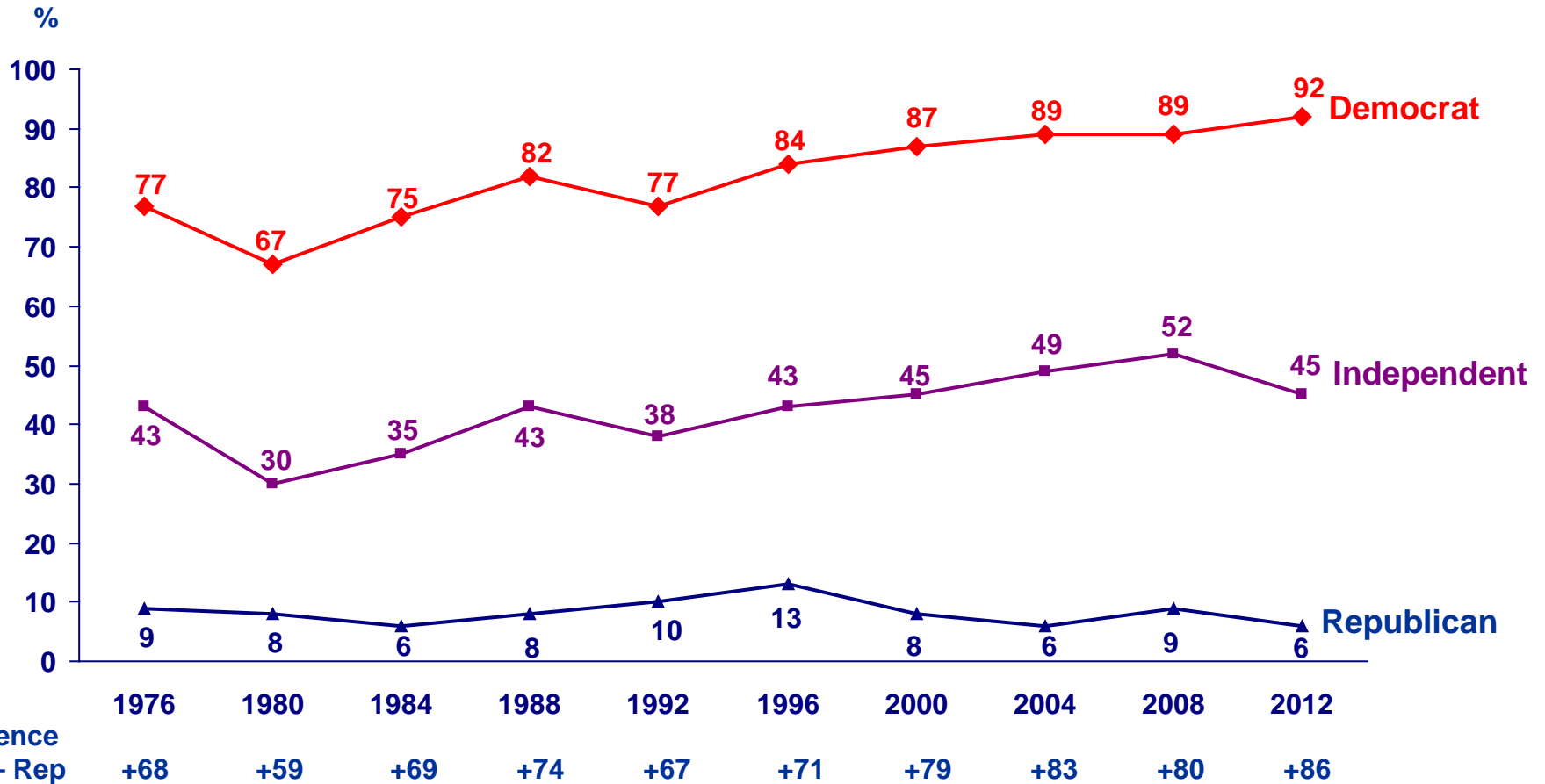
per cent Democrats



Source: VNS Exit Polls; NEP 2004; Edison 2008-2012.

Party Preference

per cent Democrats



Source: VNS Exit Polls; NEP 2004; Edison 2008-2012.

www.valforskning.pol.gu.se