

Spazas, Foreigners, & Crime

It's more complicated than that.

In a four-part series, we summarize academic articles produced by the Scalabrini Institute for Human Mobility in Africa (SIHMA), which conducts research on migration in Africa. The statistics below were taken from, "Xenophobia, Price Competition, and Violence in the Spaza Sector in South Africa," originally authored by Prof. Laurence Piper and Andrew Charman.

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01 DEMOGRAPHICS

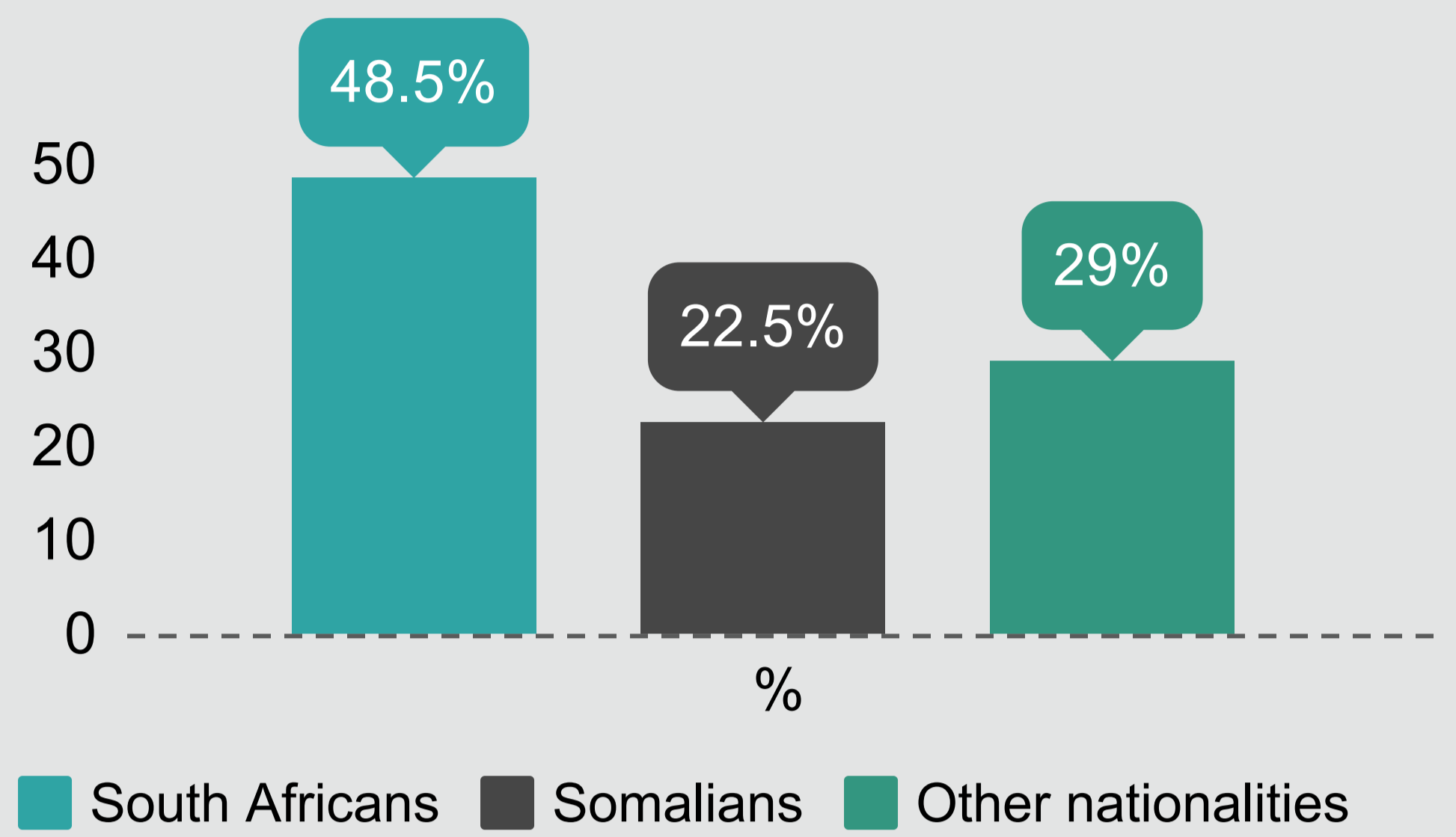
Out of over 1050 shopkeepers in 11 township communities across Cape Town, Gauteng, and Durban were sampled:

Nationalities represented:



Angola, Bangladesh, Burundi, DRC, Egypt, Ethiopia, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, Pakistan, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania, Somalia, and Zimbabwe

Sampled shopkeepers



02 PRICE

The actual difference in average prices between South Africans and foreigners is small

LOWEST PRICE

Somali and Bangladeshi shopkeepers had the cheapest prices for the 12 most common products (most competitive businesses)

HIGHEST PRICE

Mozambican and Zimbabwean shopkeepers had the highest prices (least competitive businesses).



South African shopkeepers fell in the middle in terms of price. For some very popular products like a loaf of white bread and a litre of milk, they outcompeted (had cheaper prices than) most foreign shopkeepers

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out of 74 prices: South African spazas have cheaper prices than all other nationalities of store ownership.

03 CRIME RATE IN SPAZA SHOPS

Regardless of nationality, the risk of murder is 46 times the national average for a spaza shopkeeper

71% of spaza shops had experienced at least one crime in the past five years

62% of South African shopkeepers had experienced crime

Reported violent crime

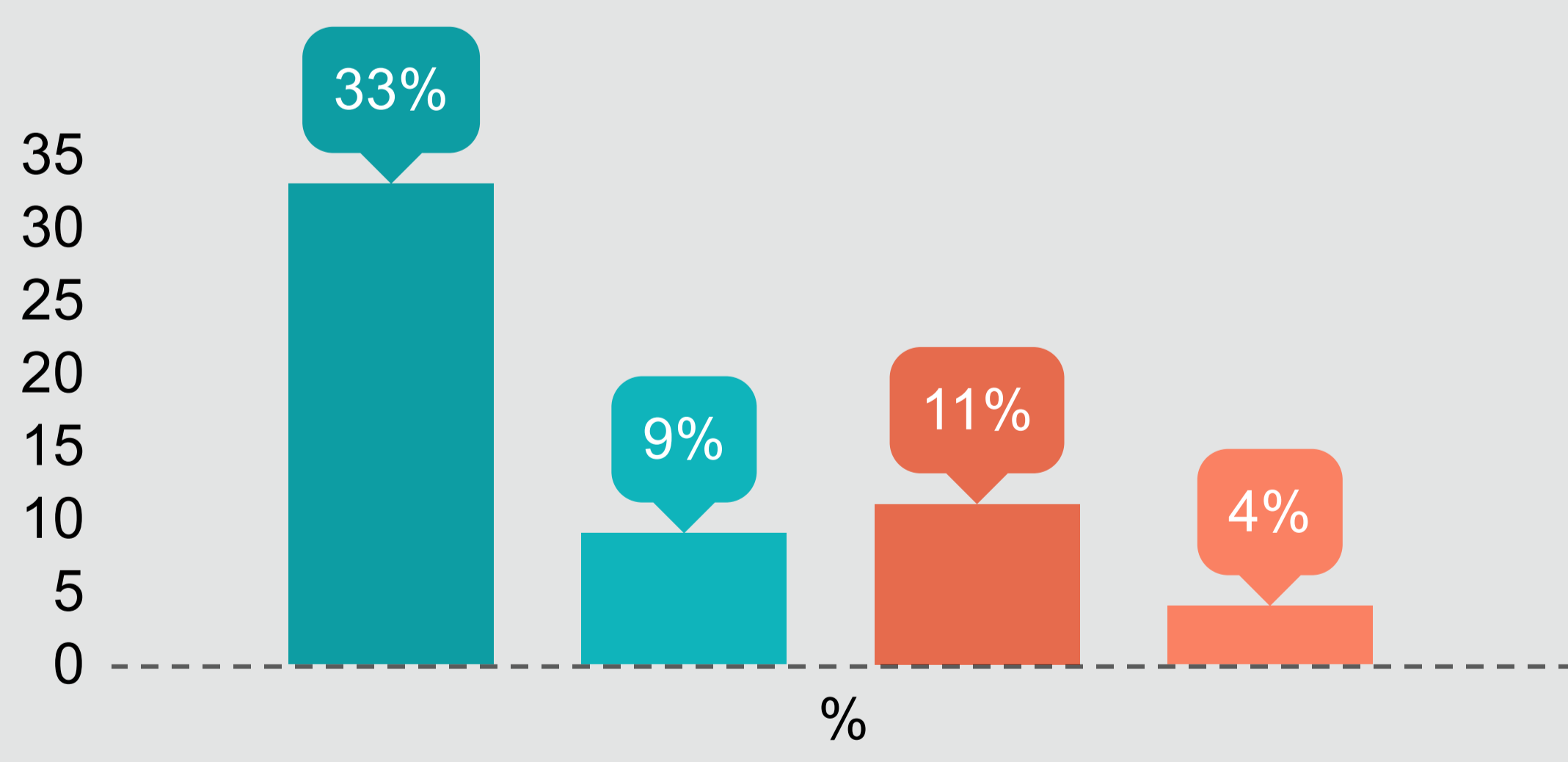
(armed robbery, assault, arson, attempted murder, murder, and harassment) in the past five years.



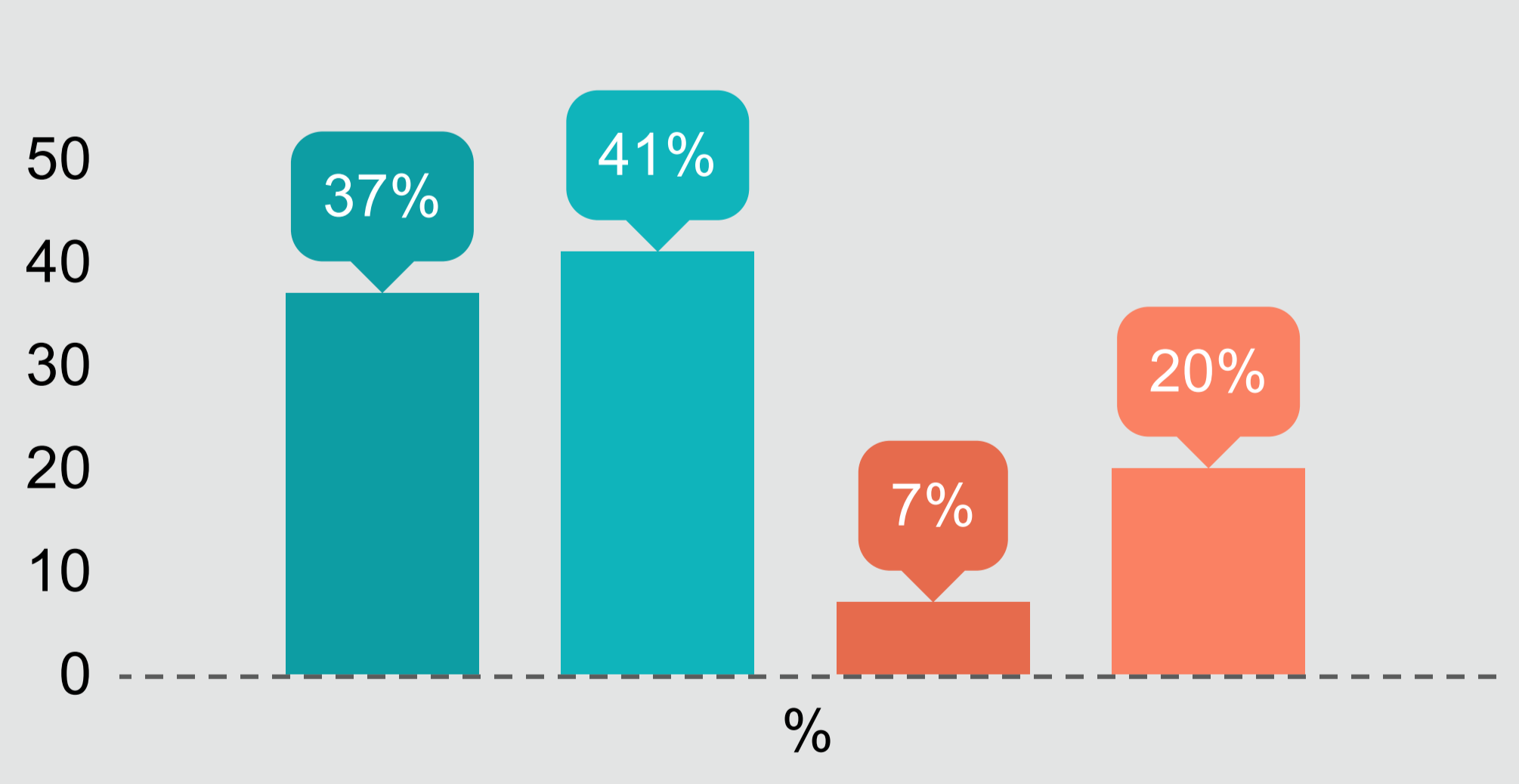
■ Reported violent crime (45%) ■ Did not report a crime (55%)

The two most crime-vulnerable groups experienced different natures of violent crime:

Somali



Bangladeshi



✝ For Somali shopkeepers, the risk of murder is **OVER 100** times the national average