



Supporting Professionalism in Admissions

## **Communicating Change:**

impact and issues for HE admissions

IAG Conference— 28 June 2011

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# What is SPA?

- Set up in 2006 following the Schwartz Report *Fair Admissions to Higher Education: Recommendations for Good Practice* 2004

“ *The Group recommends the creation of **a central source of expertise and advice on admissions issues**. Its purpose would be to act as a **resource for institutions** who wish to maintain and enhance excellence in admissions. Such a centre could **lead the continuing development of fair admissions**, evaluating and commissioning research, and **spreading best practice**. ”*

- UK's independent, free and objective voice on HE admissions
- Small team, but with practical and relevant experience

# What is SPA?



# What is SPA?

## Published good practice on:

- Admissions policies
- Admissions tests
- Criminal convictions
- Equality Impact Assessments
- Feedback to applicants
- Interviews
- Planning and managing admissions

## Key current research:

- Applicant experience strategy
- Contextual data
- Paperless processes
- Vocational qualifications
- 2012 changes impacting admissions

All available on our website: [www.spa.ac.uk](http://www.spa.ac.uk)

# Impact and Issues

## HE White Paper

**"Oh my ears and whiskers,  
how late it's getting"**



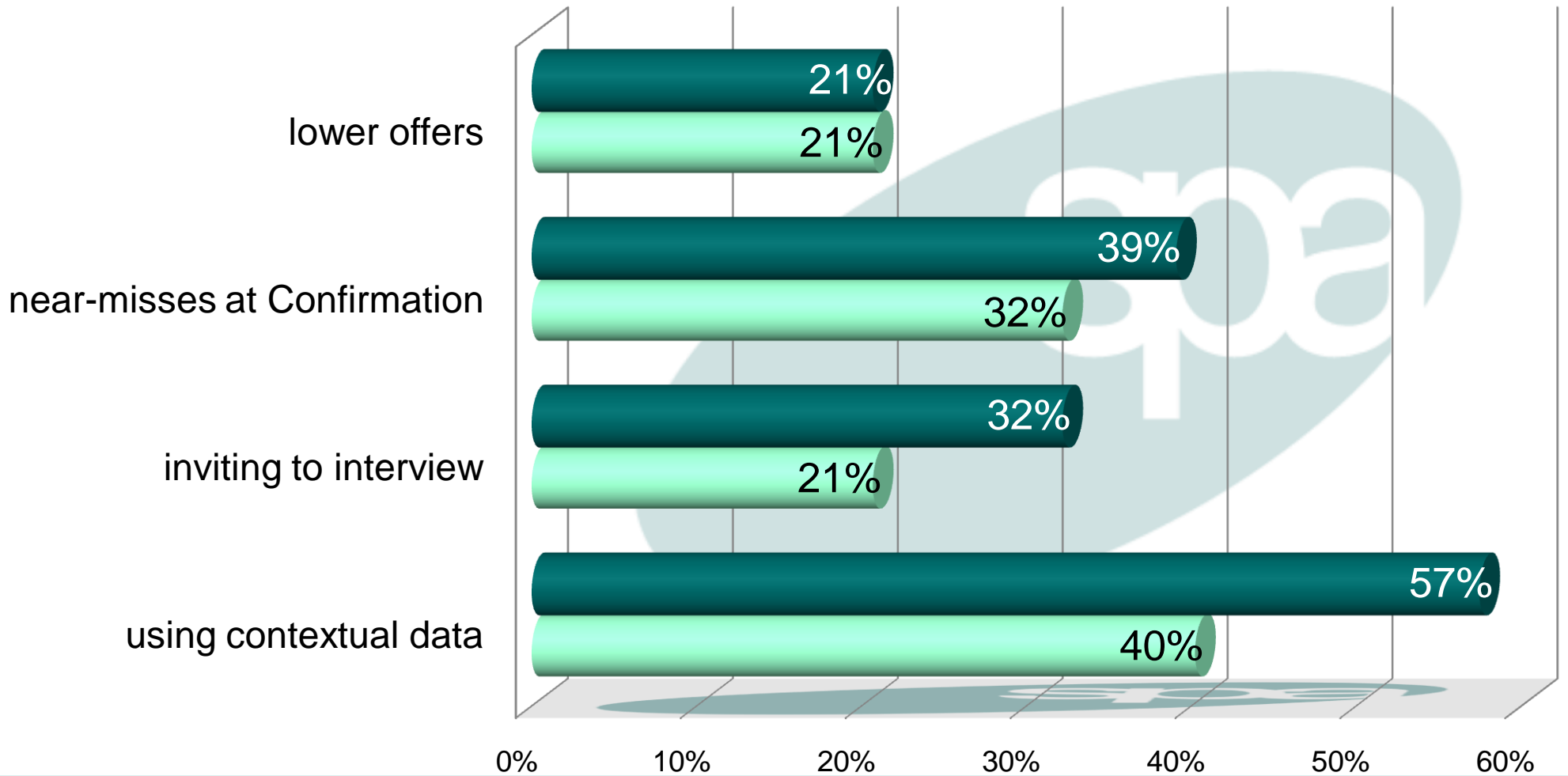
# Impact and Issues

- **Social Mobility Strategy**
- **OFFA Access Agreements**
- **National Scholarship Programme**
- **Contextual Data**

# Use of Contextual Data in Admissions

(87 HEIs)

■ future ■ past



# Impact and Issues

## Effective IAG



**"I think I should understand that better if I had it written down, but I can't quite follow it as you say it."**

# Impact and Issues

- **Key Information Set**
- **Independent Task Force on student funding**
- **Changing entry requirements**
- **Closing courses**

# Impact and Issues

## More for less

**"It takes all the running you can do to keep in the same place."**





**Thank you**

**What more can we do to help?**

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