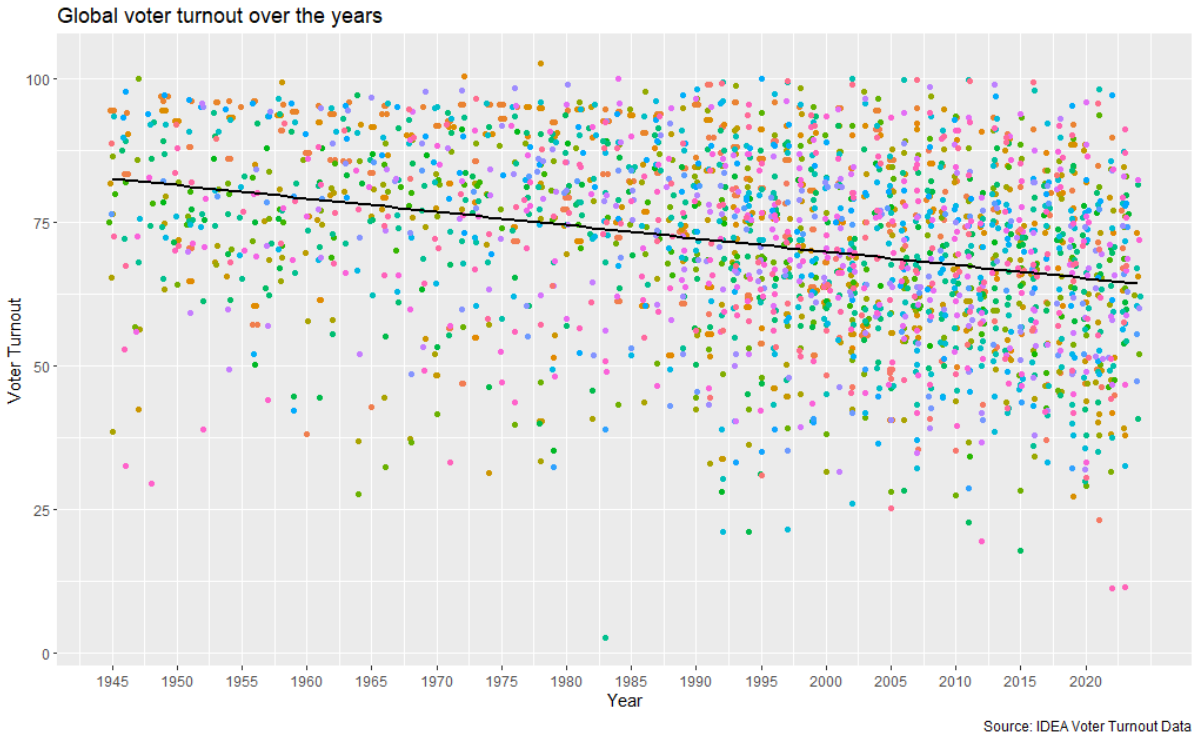
Global voter turnout shows concerning trends

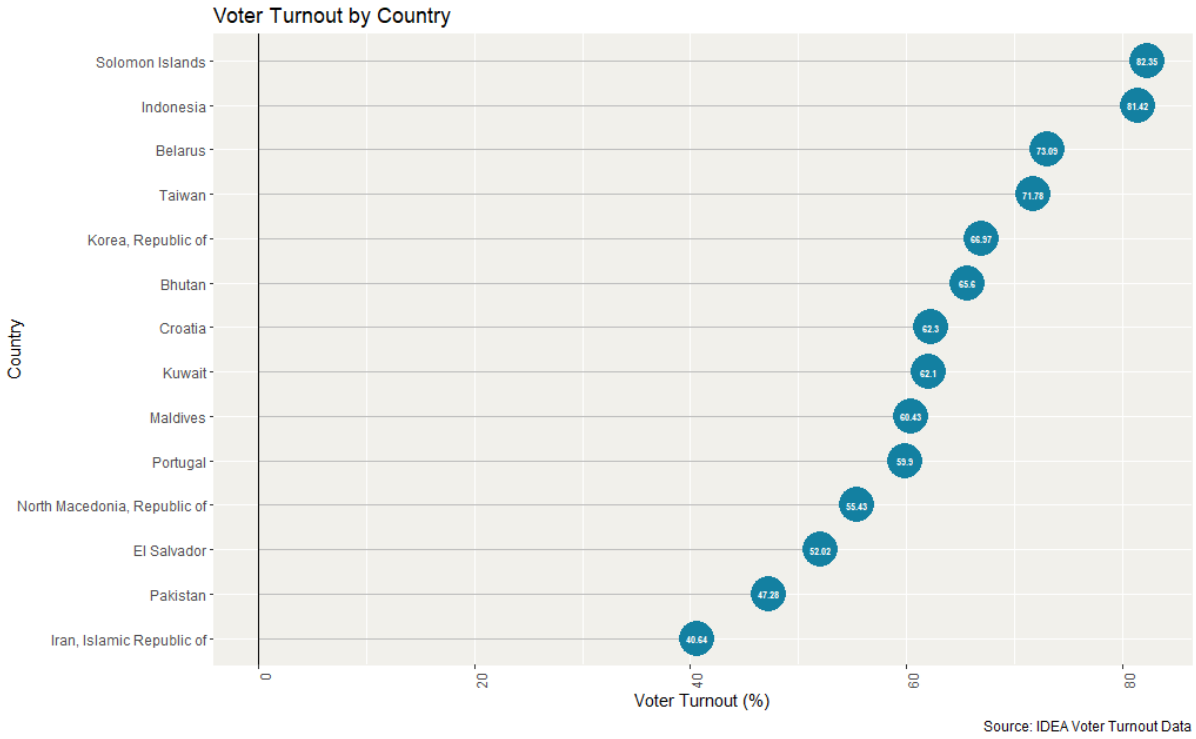
There has been a steady decline in the average global voter turnout numbers, posing a cause for concern for democracies around the world.



Interactive plot: Link

According to the Voter Turnout Database, compiled by intergovernmental organisation International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA), global voter turnout numbers have been declining. The Voter Turnout Database from IDEA has been tracking voter turnout statistics from presidential and parliamentary elections since 1945.

Considering all the elections that have happened this year up to the 8th of May, the average voter turnout has been around 62%, as per the IDEA voter turnout data.



Researchers and stakeholders have been voicing their concerns over these declining numbers for the past few years.

According to a 2021 research at the University of Essex and University of Montreal argue, voter numbers had declined by over 10 percentage points in 2021.

In the late 1960s, over 77% of citizens showed up to vote in national legislative and presidential elections. However, this number dropped below 67% after 2010, as per the report.

The researchers had stated that these voter numbers could have a serious implication on policymaking, as well as enable economic inequality and bad governance.

Voter turnout have been a concern for some of the biggest democracies having their major elections this year such as India and the United States. India, the world's biggest democracy for instance, had its voter turnout remain around the high 60s in its second phase of voting.

With 2024 being one of the biggest election year, voter turnouts will remain a key factor in democracies. It remains to be seen whether these numbers are likely to decline further.