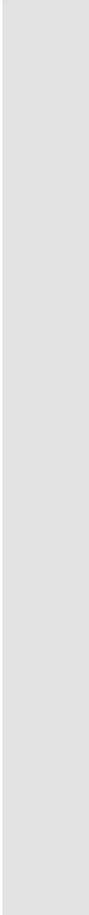# Poll Site Language Assistance

*Updates to Methodology*

# Methodology Overview

- **Goal:** Methodology was developed to ensure we serve as many CVALEP (Citizen of Voting Age with Limited English Proficiency) as possible, with the resources we have.

- **Eligible languages (LL30 + two top non-LI30 in NYC)\*:** Arabic, Bengali, Chinese (Cantonese, Mandarin), French, Haitian Creole, *Italian*, Korean, Polish, Russian, Urdu, and *Yiddish*.

- **Poll site allocation:** Based on language ranking--the percentage share of the total CVALEP for the eligible language, based on the most recent ACS data (more in the next slide).

- **Number of Sites serviced:** CEC serves 25 unique sites, with minimum 2 languages each over the last two day of the Early Voting period, total ~55 language services; for Election Day, 75 unique poll sites, with 5-10% of the sites providing services in more than one language.

*\*VRA languages may not be served in the following jurisdictions: a. Bengali: Queens. b. Chinese (Cantonese, Mandarin): Brooklyn, Manhattan, and Queens. c. Korean: Queens. d. Spanish: The Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan, Queens, and Staten Island.*
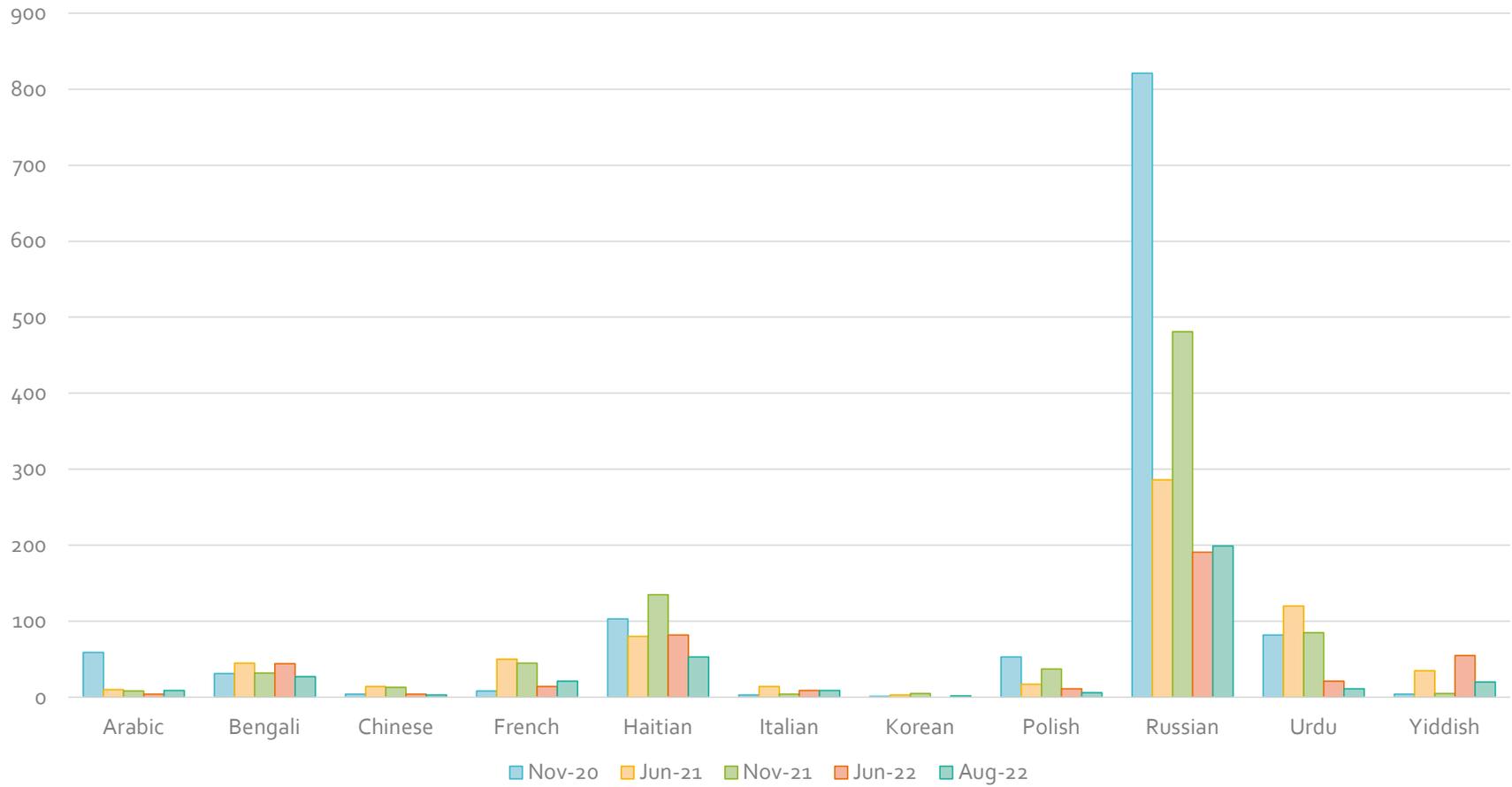
# Language Concentration Ranking

| Program<br>Eligible Language | CVALEP<br>Population | Percentage<br>Share |
|---|---|---|
| Arabic | [14,826]<br>15581 | [7.2]<br>7.5 |
| Bengali | [11,221]<br>11601 | [5.5]<br>5.6 |
| Chinese<br>(Cantonese, Mandarin) | [7,969]<br>8853 | [3.9]<br>4.3 |
| French | [10,091]<br>10443 | [4.9]<br>5.0 |
| Haitian Creole | [22,941]<br>20636 | [11.1]<br>10.0 |
| Italian | [17,078]<br>16036 | [8.3]<br>7.8 |
| Korean | [4,639]<br>4127 | [2.2]<br>2.0 |
| Polish | [12,979]<br>12860 | [6.3]<br>6.2 |
| Russian | [79,449]<br>79988 | [38.6]<br>38.7 |
| Urdu | [11,250]<br>11220 | [5.5]<br>5.4 |
| Yiddish | [13,361]<br>15484 | [6.5]<br>7.5 |

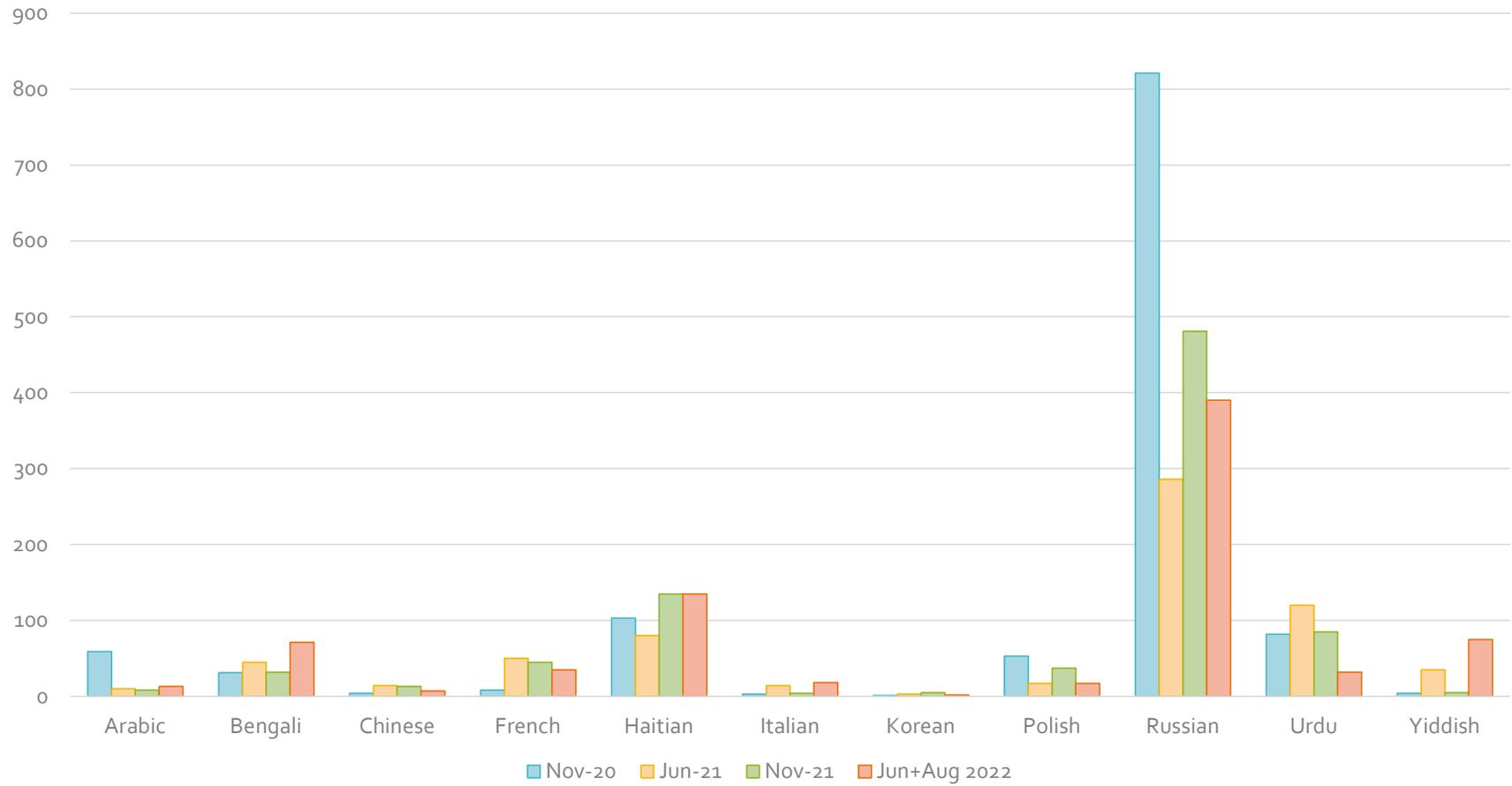| CEC Total Utilization Over Five Cycles (including 2020 General- 2022 August Primary); EV=Early Voting; ED=Election Day | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Program Eligible Language** | **CVALEP Population** | **Percentage Share** | **Total Served** |
| Arabic | [14,826]<br>15581 | [7.2]<br>7.5 | 90 |
| Bengali | [11,221]<br>11601 | [5.5]<br>5.6 | 179 |
| Chinese (Cantonese, Mandarin) | [7,969]<br>8853 | [3.9]<br>4.3 | 39 |
| French | [10,091]<br>10443 | [4.9]<br>5.0 | 138 |
| Haitian Creole | [22,941]<br>20636 | [11.1]<br>10.0 | 453 |
| Italian | [17,078]<br>16036 | [8.3]<br>7.8 | 39 |
| Korean | [4,639]<br>4127 | [2.2]<br>2.0 | 11 |
| Polish | [12,979]<br>12860 | [6.3]<br>6.2 | 124 |
| Russian | [79,449]<br>79988 | [38.6]<br>38.7 | 1978 |
| Urdu | [11,250]<br>11220 | [5.5]<br>5.4 | 319 |
| Yiddish | [13,361]<br>15484 | [6.5]<br>7.5 | 120 |

Utilization Data

Utilization by Language: November 2020 - August 2022

Legend: Nov-20, Jun-21, Nov-21, Jun-22, Aug-22

Categories: Arabic, Bengali, Chinese, French, Haitian, Italian, Korean, Polish, Russian, Urdu, Yiddish

Utilization by Language: November 2020 - August 2022

# How is the methodology applied?

- The NYCBOE provides CEC with a new list of poll sites (over 1000 sites) for each election.

- CEC applies the methodology to the NYC BOE site list selecting the poll sites with the highest concentration for each language.

- Result: A percentage of poll sites, between 20% and 40%, will change from one election to the next.

# Why sites change

- **Why sites served may not be the same across years:**
  - Sites we served in the past may not be on the NYCBOE list for a given election
  - The election districts themselves change so new sites may be designated
  - Application of the CEC methodology results in a change in how that site is ranked by **concentration- concentration at the same site may change over time.**

## Reasons Why Concentration Ranking for Poll Sites May Change

- People move- may explain smaller shifts in number

- Larger shifts: the number of election districts assigned to that poll site change; same site is assigned fewer or more election districts

- Concentration ranking changes, and a site becomes eligible to be added or removed for CEC services

# Questions for Public Discussion

- To date, the CEC has not considered utilization in making decisions about where to provide services.  This is because voting knowledge and behavior varies by type of election. Additional factors may include lack of knowledge about CEC services, and lack of comfort with using government services.
- We seek feedback from the public on the following questions:
  - Over what time period should we evaluate utilization?
  - When application of the methodology results in a change in the concentration ranking for a particular poll site and that site is dropped from the list for a particular election, should CEC consider continuing services at that site by reallocating resources from another site?
    - Given limited resources, should CEC borrow resources within the same language and keep sites that had "good" utilization even when their concentration ranking changes?
    - Given limited resources, should CEC borrow resources across languages, such as if a site has persistently shown zero utilization and yet continues to have a high concentration of language speakers around that site?
  - Should CEC consider dropping sites with low or zero utilization?
    - If yes, how should CEC define "low?"  And what should the benchmark be for "good" or "high" utilization?

# Proposed Amendment

*12. Utilization:*

*The Commission shall review the utilization of poll sites after each cycle and report on utilization on an annual basis. The Commission shall consider utilization data in preserving services or reallocating resources from under-utilized sites under the following circumstances: In the event that application of the methodology results in a well utilized site being dropped from the list of sites to be served for any particular cycle, the Commission shall consider retaining such sites based on available resources. In addition, it may consider reallocating resources from another poll site either within the same language or from another language when a particular poll site has been served over three election cycles with zero or minimal utilization across all three cycles.*

*Link:*
*https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/civicengagement/downloads/pdf/methodology-poll-site-language-assistance-program.pdf*