

Where on Earth is Michael Rasmussen?

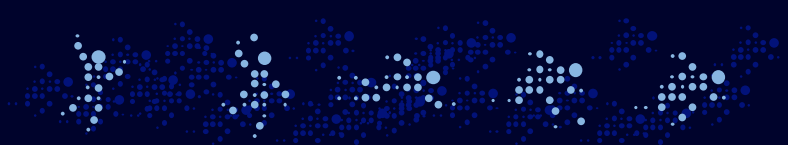
Elite Level Athletes and their Whereabouts

Dag Vidar Hanstad

Play the Game

Reykjavik 23 October 2007

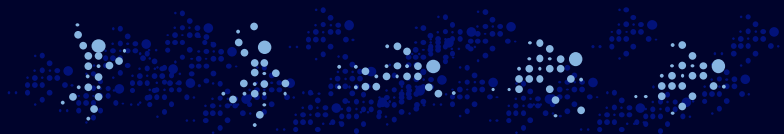






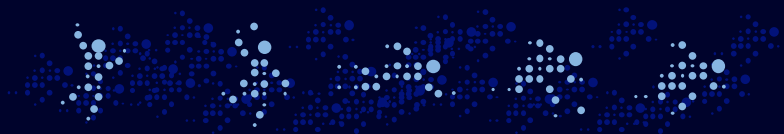
Outline

- Description of the whereabouts system
- Athlete reactions and comments
- Can the system be justified?



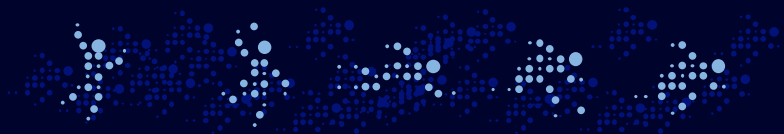
Whereabouts information

- Elite level athletes in registered testing pools established by IFs/NADOs have to provide information about their whereabouts to the relevant anti-doping organisation(s)
- The purpose is that anti-doping organisations can carry out out-of-competition testing without advance notice



The ADOs have to collect the following information

- a) name
- b) sport/discipline
- c) home address
- d) contact phone numbers
- e) training times and venues
- f) training camps
- g) travel plans
- h) competition schedule
- i) disability if applicable, including the requirement for third party involvement in notification



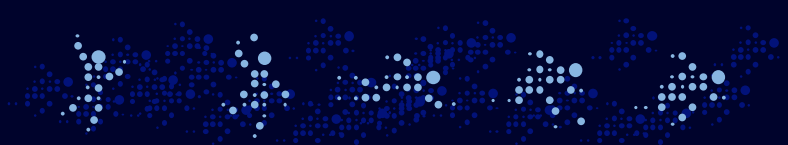
The Norwegian Survey

Selection:

- Athletes in the Norwegian registered testing pool who provide whereabouts information
- n=292
- Response rate: 80,8 (236 answers)
- Period: 11 October – 13 November 2006
- Web based: Questback

Reactions and comments

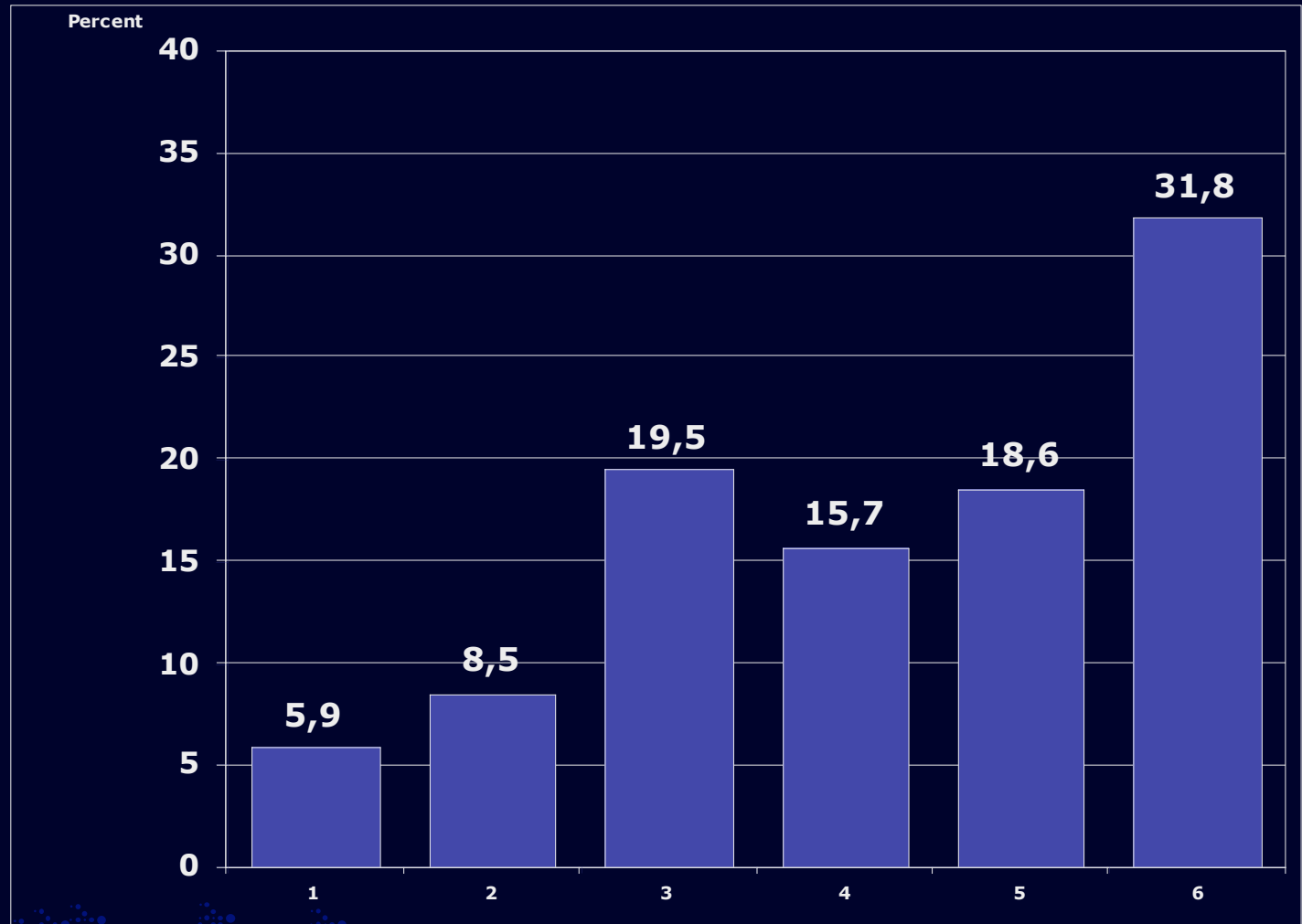
“The anti-doping work is very important, but the requirement to report and the risk of a doping sentence when the doping control officer shows up and you are not there, I think is wrong. It will be a relief to escape this the day I retire.”



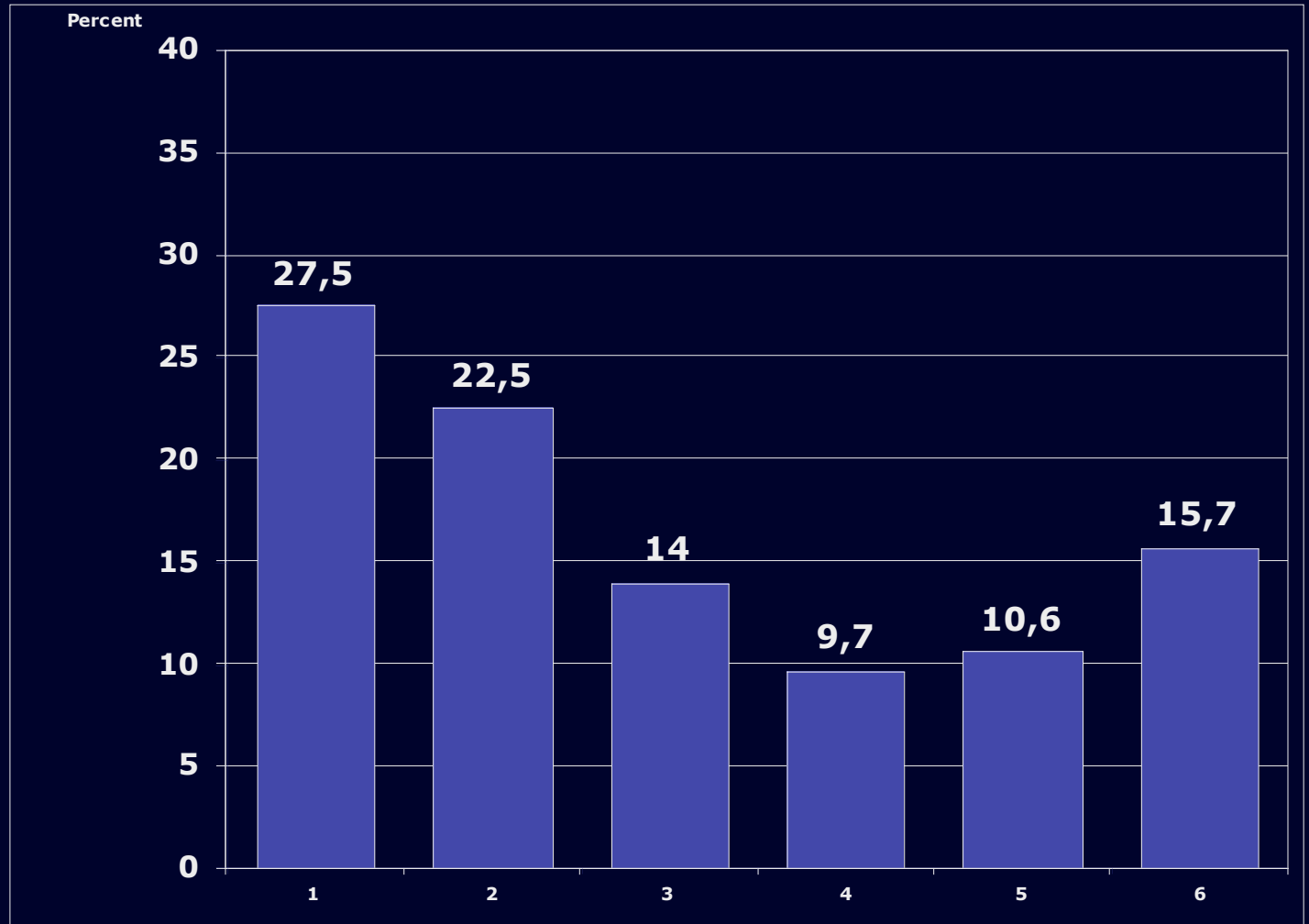
Claim: I see it as a burden to fill out whereabouts information

1: I do not agree at all

6: I agree 100 per cent

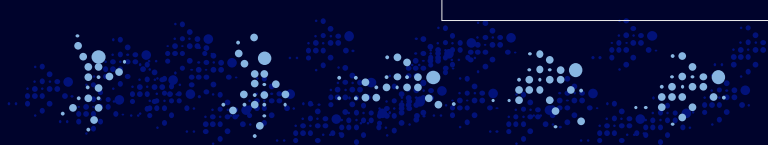


Claim: This reduces the joy of being an elite athlete



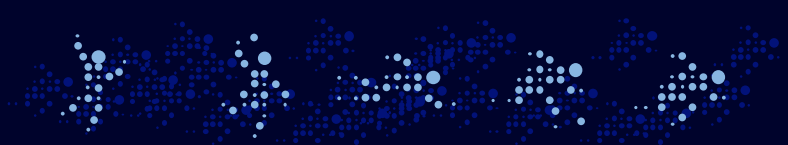
1: I do not agree at all

6: I agree 100 per cent



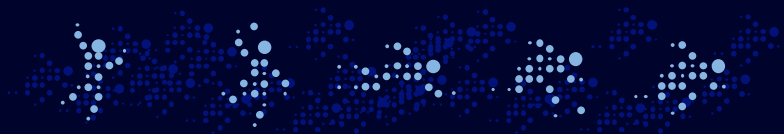
Response

- Probably true but exaggerated
- An unavoidable consequence of anti-doping work
- The alternative scenario probably less joyful



Fairness

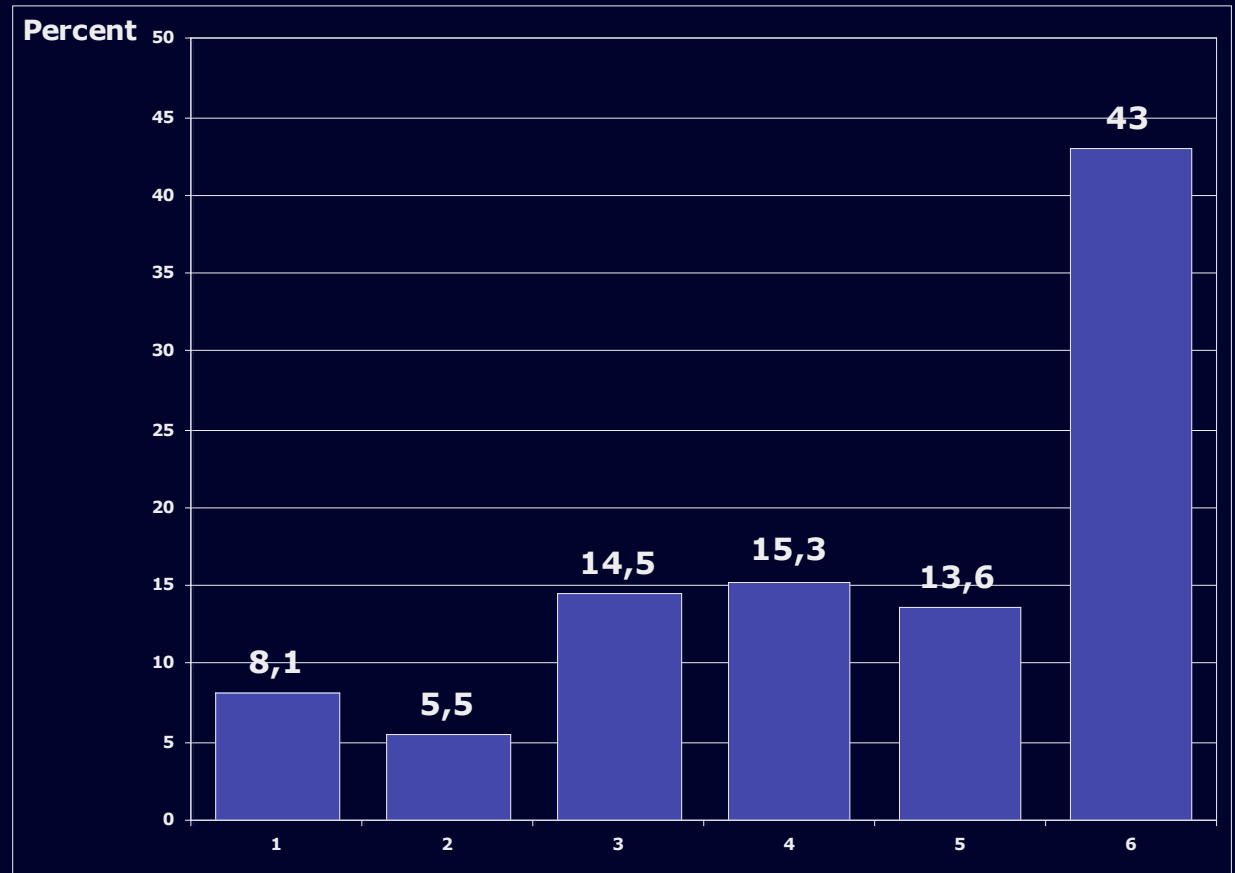
What disappoints me is that the system doesn't work in other countries. My competitors can tell they have not been tested outside world-cup competitions. A change has to take place.



Claim: It is unfair that not all athletes from all sports and nations submit whereabouts information

1: I do not agree at all

6: I agree 100 per cent



A Global Anti-Doping movement?

NADO = National anti-doping organization

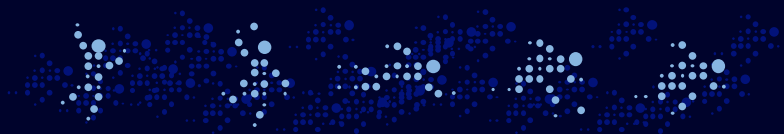


The 2007 survey on NADOs

- Selection:

National anti-doping organizations (NADOs) belonging to the Association of National Anti-Doping Organizations (ANADO)

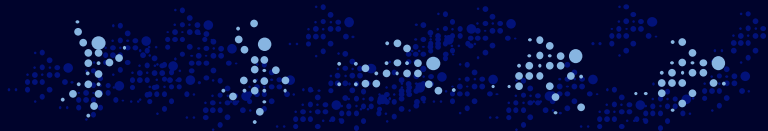
- n=47
- 31 answers
- Period: 24 September – 28 October 2007
- Web based: Questback



How often must the athlete make himself/herself available? PRELIMINARY

Every day	53 %
Every other day	9 %
Five days each week	14 %
One day each week	5 %
Other, please specify	19 %

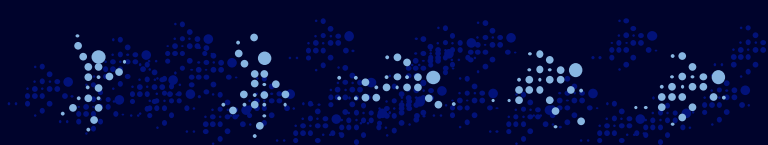
n=22



The duration of a meeting point

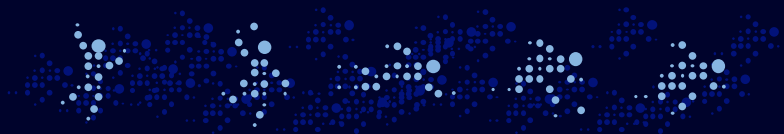
1-30 minutes	15 %
31-60 minutes	45 %
61-120 minutes	15 %
121 minutes – 5 hours	0 %
6 hours - 24 hours	10 %
Other, please specify:	15 %

n=22



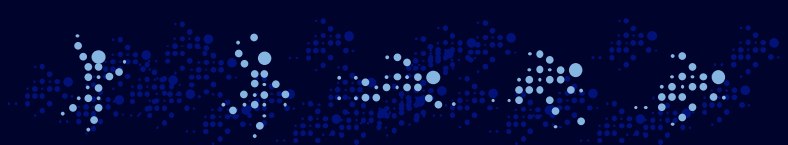
Response

- True – vast and problematic inequalities in control systems
- No strong argument against implementing a high quality system locally
- Advantages: athlete health and elite sport with strict quality control ensures legitimacy and socio-cultural support



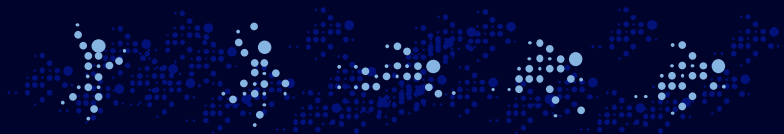
Athlete autonomy and right to self-determination

This is a system that is based on everyone being sinners. Systems like these belong in very different political systems than that which is called democracy



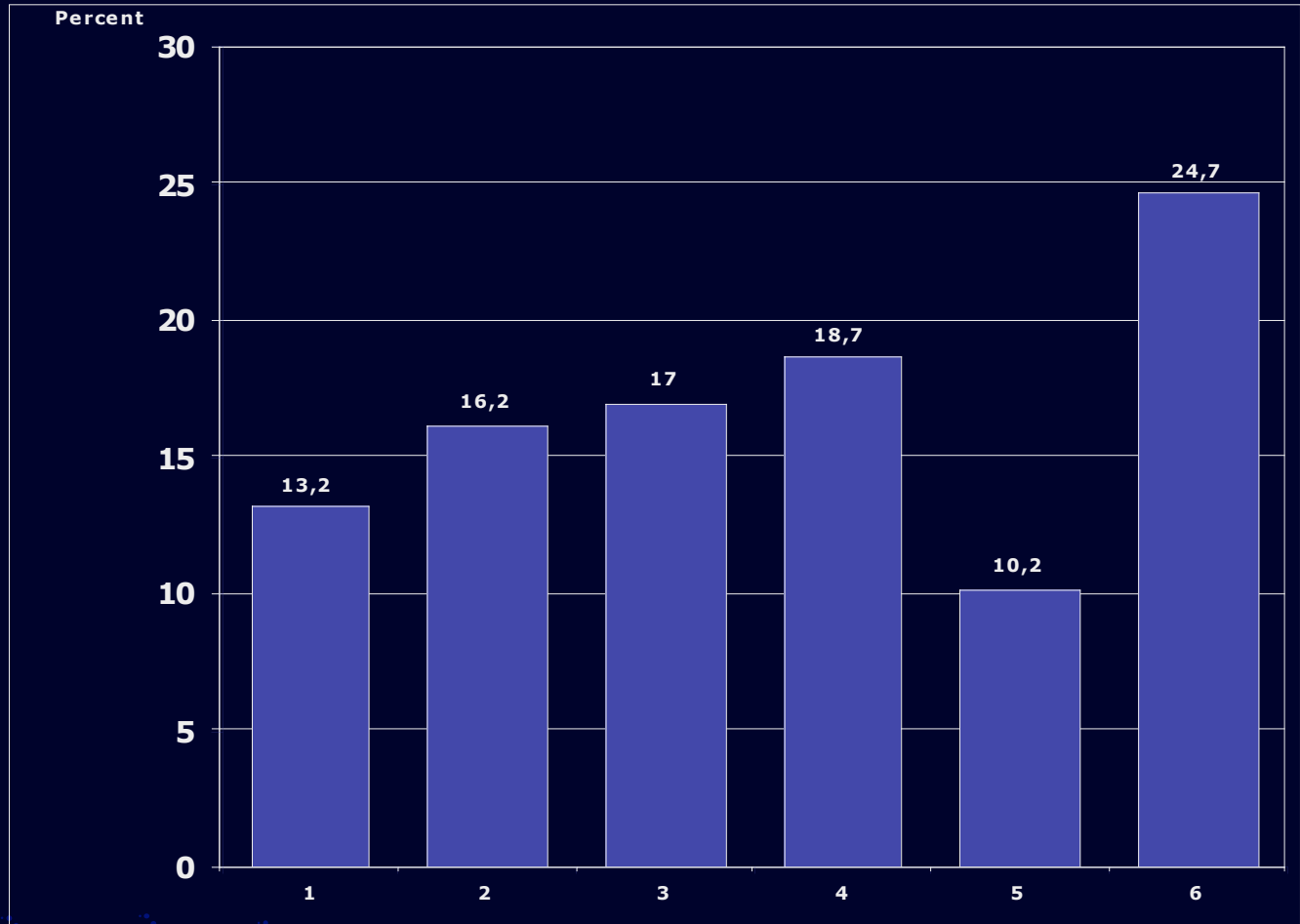
'The surveillance society'

- respect of persons' autonomy and integrity: key challenge in post 9/11 society
- electronic traces
- internet / email
- credit card use
- phone calls
- public video surveillance
- automatic toll recorders
- ...



Big Brother?

Claim: I agree with those who call this a 'Big Brother' system



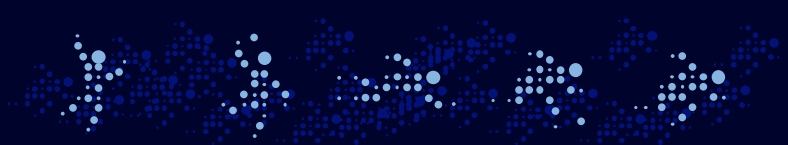
1: I do not agree at all

6: I fully agree

Discussion

“It is a system that is based on everyone being sinners. Systems like these belong in very different political systems than that which is called democracy”

Norwegian Olympic athlete

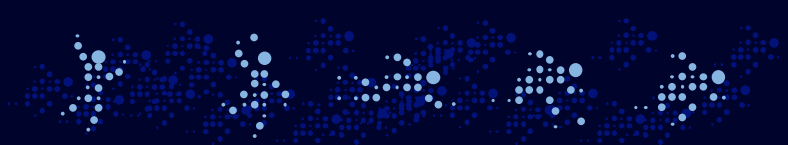


“The answer is a whereabouts system where they know where you are. It definitely should be tighter”

“It's 2007, everyone's accessible by cell phone, e-mail or Blackberry“

"I declared where I was 365 days a year. Everybody has to play by the same rules“

Lance Armstrong
Associated Press July 2007



"The system is turning me into a nervous wreck. It is bloody uncomfortable to know that my sloppiness and my spontaneity can make me equivalent to someone who uses drugs"

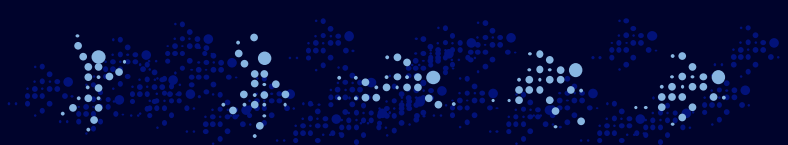
The Swedish Olympic heptathlon champion,

Carolina Klüft

Key questions

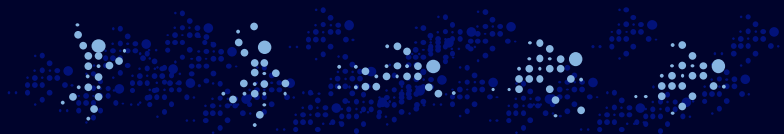
Is it a necessary and justifiable move in anti-doping work?

Does it violate principles of justice and the individual's autonomy and right of self-determination?



Can the system be justified?

- A conditional yes
- The systems have to be completely dependable
- Whereabouts information is a logical and efficient extension of anti-doping work



Thank you for
your attention!

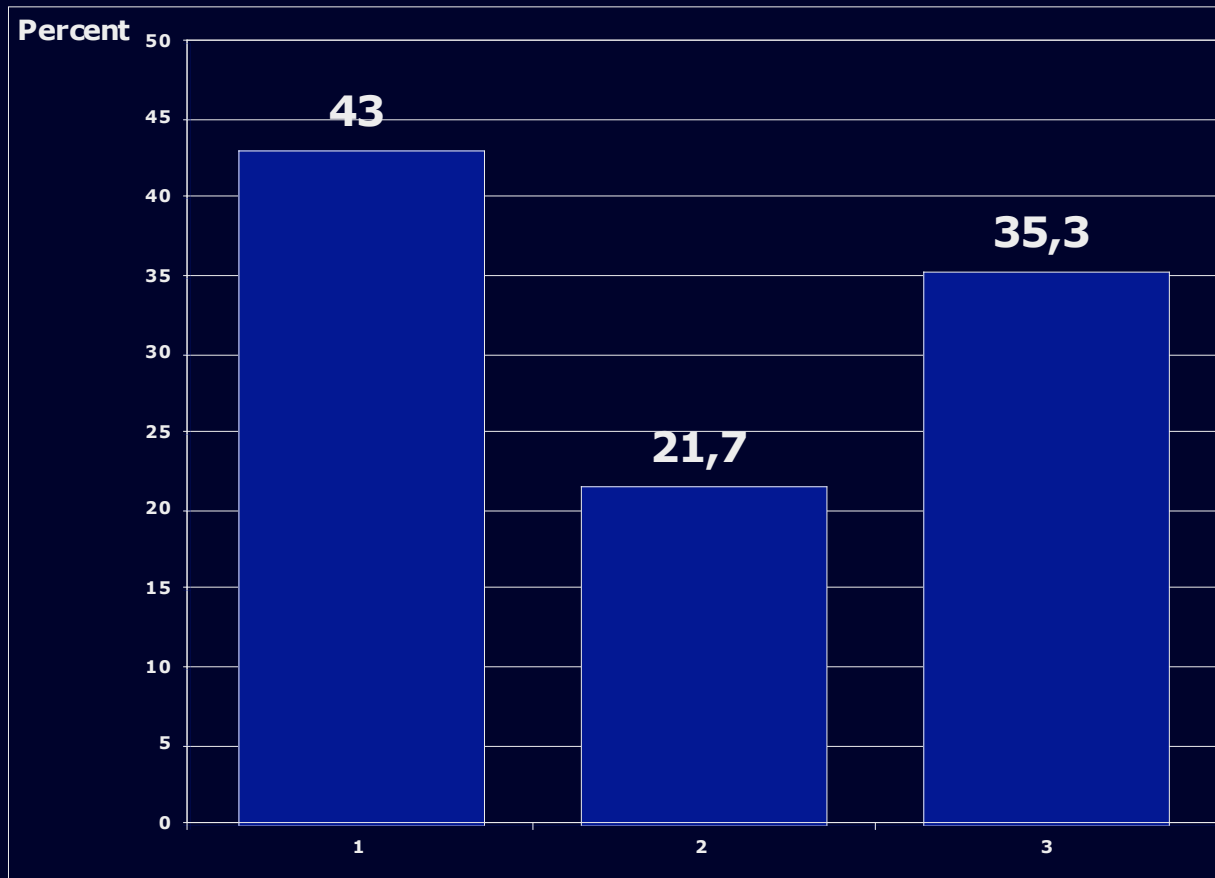


Anti-doping and sport politics:

www.sportsanalyse.no

dag.vidar.hanstad@nih.no

Is the system a contribution to a drug free sport? (1: yes, 2: don't know, 3: no)



Claim: Three warnings within 18 months should give a doping sanction

1: I do not agree at all

6: I agree 100 per cent

