

Windhoek, Namibia
3 July 2024

News release

Majority of Namibians say corruption is rising and citizens risk retaliation if they speak out, new Afrobarometer study shows

Two-thirds of Namibians say corruption in the country is getting worse, although this share has decreased significantly in recent years, a new Afrobarometer survey indicates.

Large majorities believe that at least “some” representatives and officials in government, civil society, and business are involved in corruption. Most citizens say the government is doing a poor job of fighting graft and that ordinary people risk retaliation if they speak out.

Key findings

- About two-thirds (65%) of Namibians say corruption in the country increased “somewhat” or “a lot” during the year preceding the survey, a 13-percentage-point drop since 2017 (Figure 1).
 - Perceptions of increasing corruption rise dramatically with citizens’ experience of lived poverty, ranging from 56% among respondents experiencing no or low lived poverty to 72%-73% among those experiencing moderate or high lived poverty (Figure 2).
- Since 2017, more than six in 10 Namibians consistently report that ordinary people risk retaliation or other negative consequences if they report corruption (Figure 3).
- Namibians overwhelmingly think that at least “some” members and representatives of central, regional, and local government as well as state offices, civil society, and business are involved in corruption (Figure 4).
- About three-quarters (76%) of citizens say the government is doing a bad job of fighting corruption in government, the highest level of disapproval recorded in two decades of Afrobarometer surveys (Figure 5).

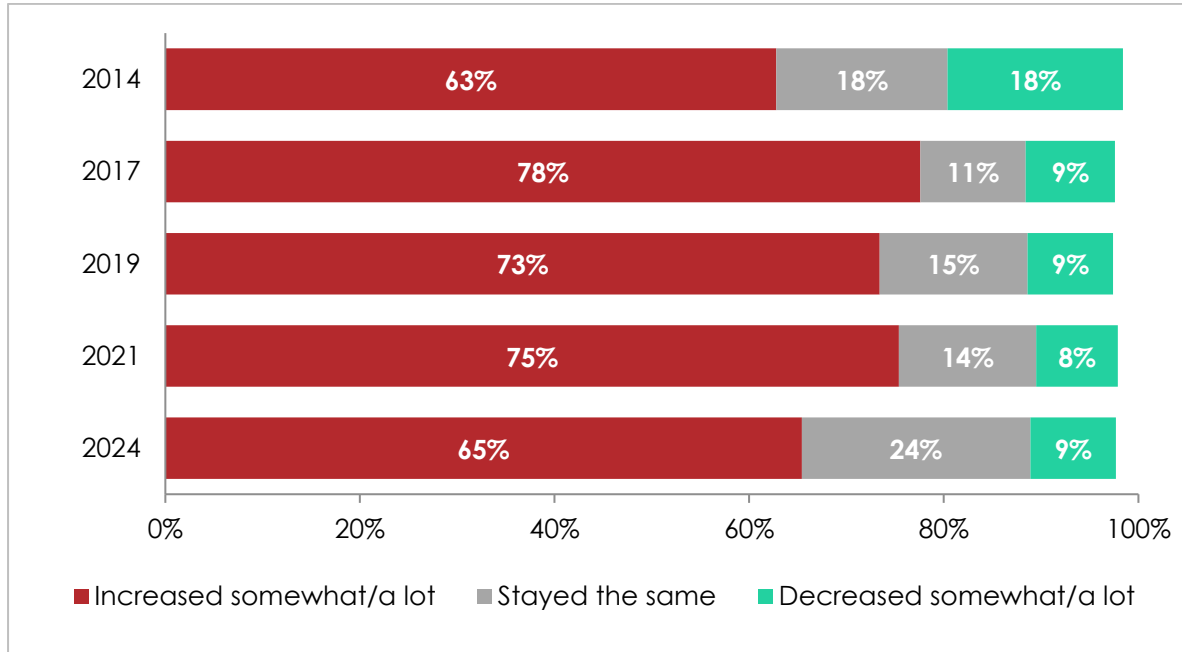
Afrobarometer surveys

Afrobarometer is a pan-African, non-partisan survey research network that provides reliable data on African experiences and evaluations of democracy, governance, and quality of life. Nine survey rounds in up to 42 countries have been completed since 1999. Round 10 surveys are currently underway. Afrobarometer’s national partners conduct face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent’s choice.

The Afrobarometer team in Namibia, led by Survey Warehouse, interviewed a nationally representative sample of 1,200 adult Namibians in March 2024. A sample of this size yields country-level results with a margin of error of +/-3 percentage points at a 95% confidence level. Previous surveys were conducted in Namibia in 1999, 2003, 2006, 2008, 2012, 2014, 2017, 2019, and 2021.

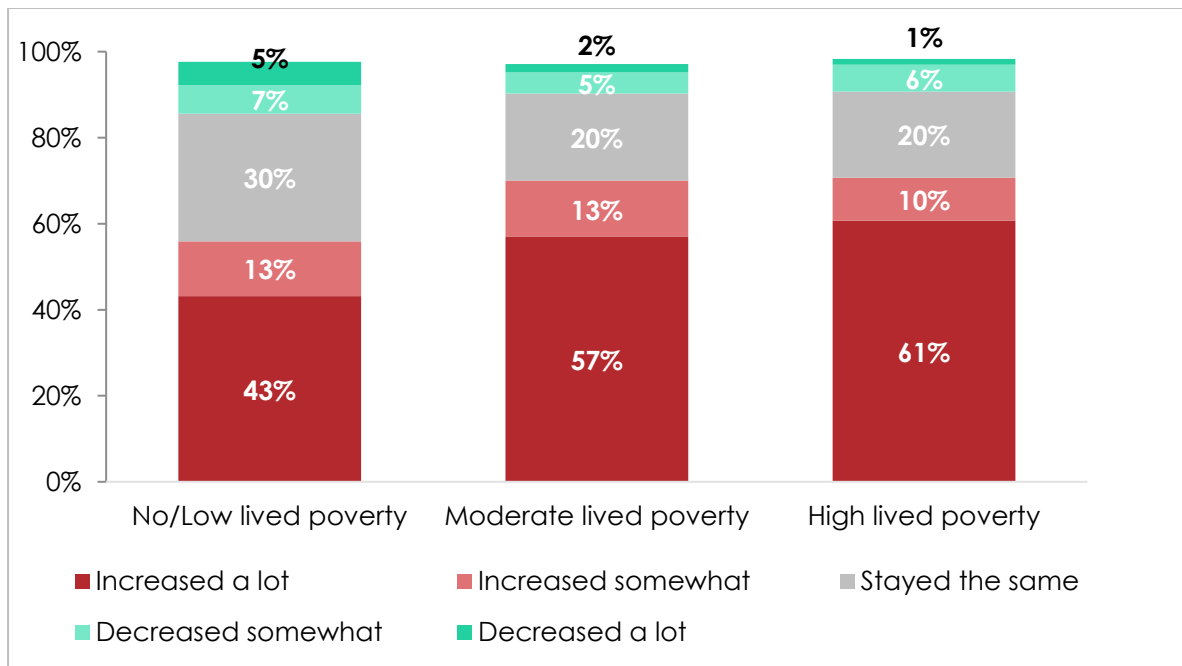
Charts

Figure 1: Level of corruption | Namibia | 2014-2024



Respondents were asked: *In your opinion, over the past year, has the level of corruption in this country increased, decreased, or stayed the same?*

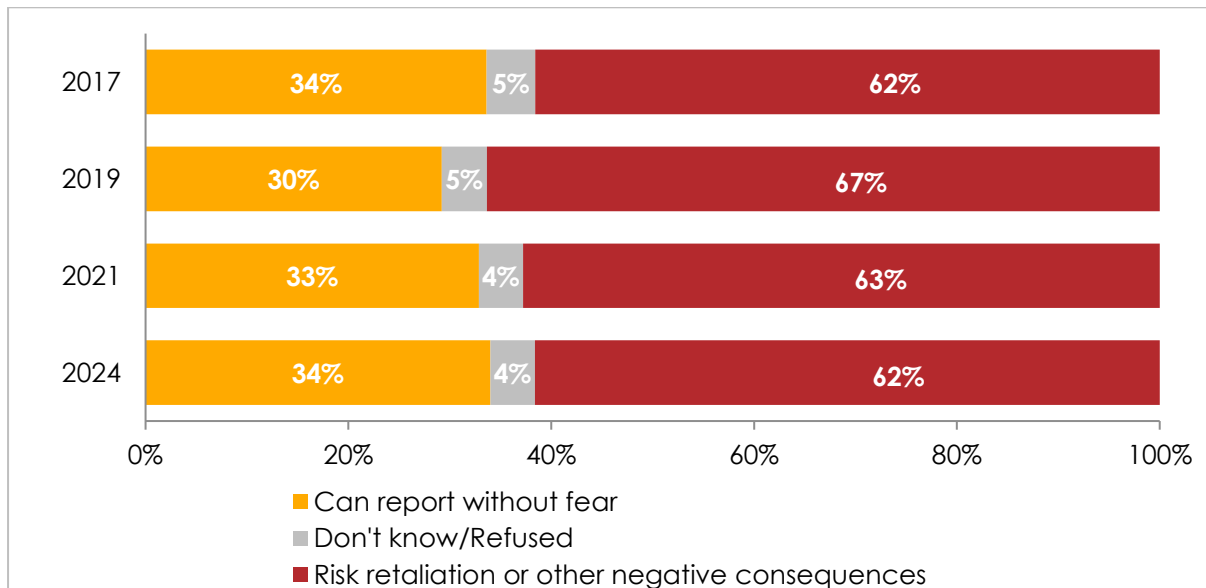
Figure 2: Level of corruption | by lived poverty | Namibia | 2024



Respondents were asked:

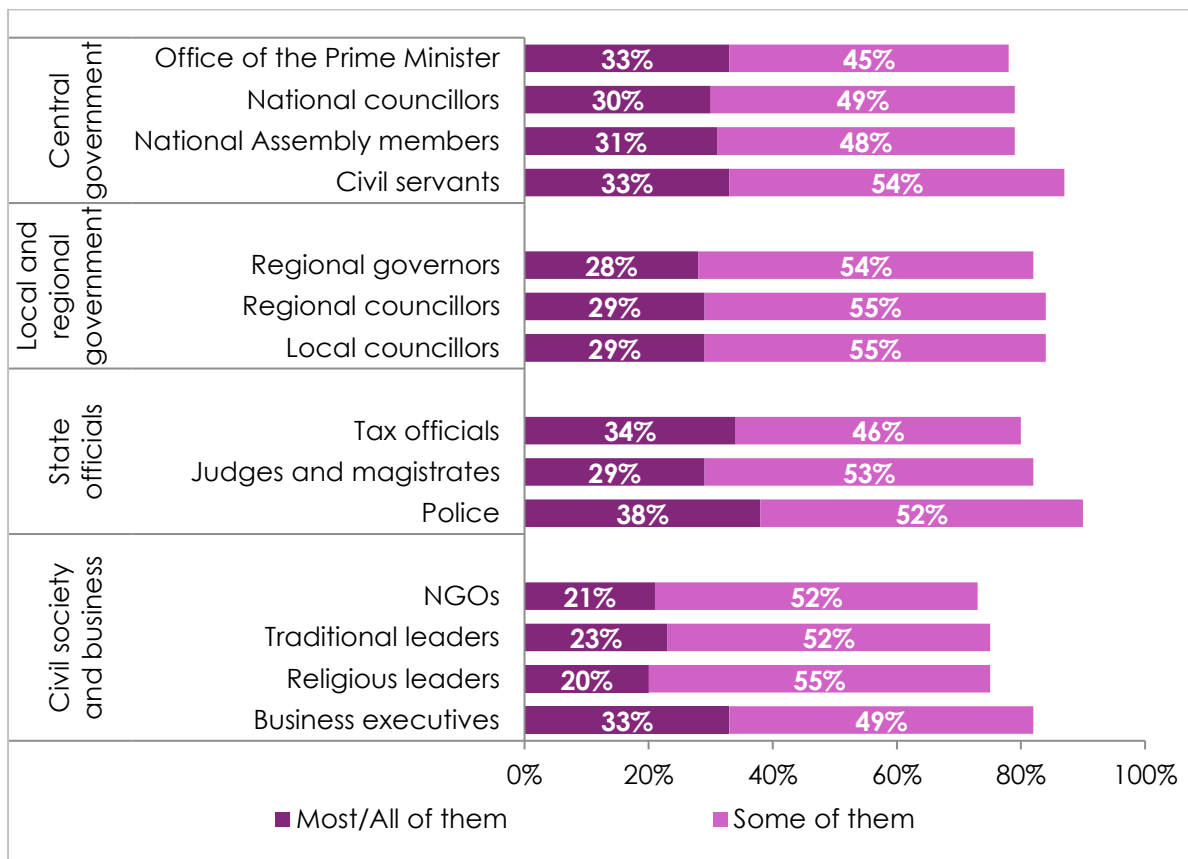
*In your opinion, over the past year, has the level of corruption in this country increased, decreased, or stayed the same?
 Over the past year, how often, if ever, have you or anyone in your family gone without: Enough food to eat? Enough clean water for home use? Medicines and medical treatment? Enough fuel to cook your food? A cash income?*

Figure 3: Can people report cases of corruption without fear? | Namibia | 2017-2024



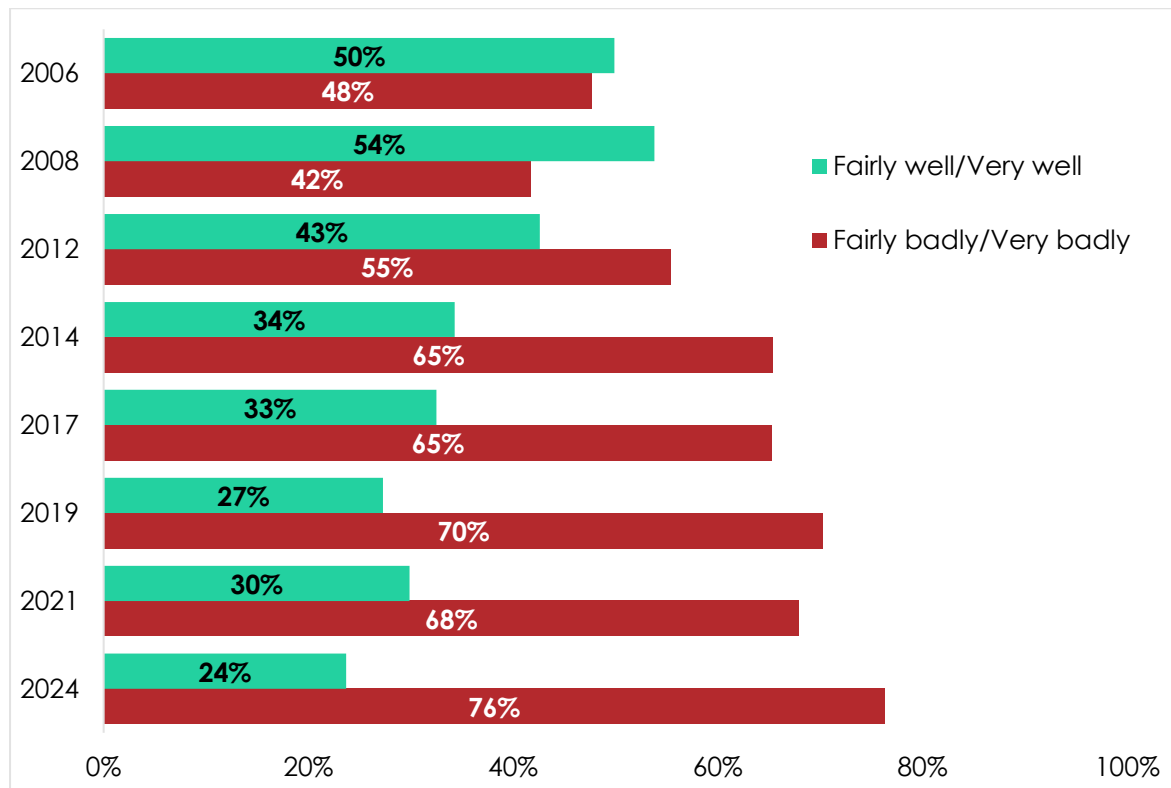
Respondents were asked: In this country, can ordinary people report incidents of corruption without fear, or do they risk retaliation or other negative consequences if they speak out?

Figure 4: Perceived corruption in state institutions and leadership groups | Namibia | 2024



Respondents were asked: How many of the following people do you think are involved in corruption, or haven't you heard enough about them to say?

Figure 5: Government performance in fighting corruption in government | Namibia
 | 2006-2024



Respondents were asked: How well or badly would you say the current government is handling the following matters, or haven't you heard enough to say: Fighting corruption in government?

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Citizens' perceptions on corruption: Highlights from Afrobarometer Round 10 survey in Namibia

Wednesday, 3 July 2024

Stakeholder results launch

Christiaan Keulder, National Investigator



At a glance

- Most Namibians say corruption in the country increased in the past 12 months.
- Only one-third of citizens believe that ordinary people can report incidents of corruption without fear.
- A large majority say government is doing a bad job of fighting corruption.
- Namibians overwhelmingly think that at least “some” representatives and officials in state institutions are involved in corruption.



What is Afrobarometer

- Pan-African, non-partisan survey research network that provides reliable data on African experiences and evaluations of democracy, governance, and quality of life.
- Goal: To give African publics a voice in policy and decision making.
- Nine survey rounds in up to 42 countries have been completed since 1999.
- Round 10 surveys are currently underway.

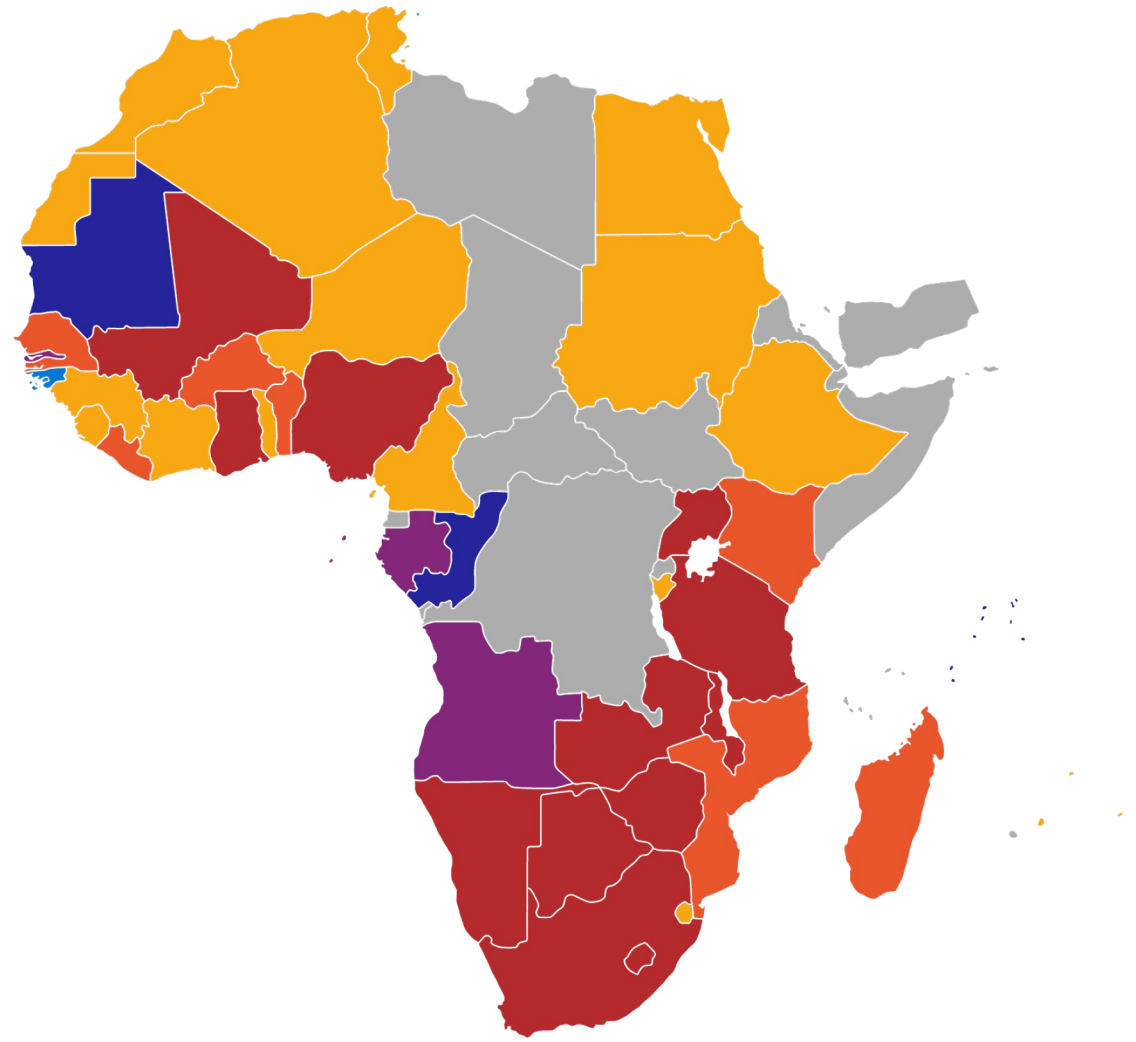


Where Afrobarometer works



First surveyed in

- 1999-2001
- 2002-2008
- 2011-2013
- 2014-2019
- 2021-2023
- To be surveyed in R10
- Never surveyed



Methodology

- Nationally representative sample of adult citizens (aged 18+).
- Face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent's choice.
- Standard questionnaire allows comparisons across countries and over time.
- The Afrobarometer team in Namibia, led by Survey Warehouse, interviewed 1,200 adult citizens between 14 March and 2 April 2024.
- Sample size of 1,200 yields country-level results with margins of sampling error of +/-3 percentage points.



Survey demographics

Gender		%
	Men	50
	Women	50
Residence		
	Urban	56
	Rural	44
Education		
	No formal education	6
	Primary	19
	Secondary	54
	Post-secondary	21
Religion		
	Christian	97
	Other	3

Key findings



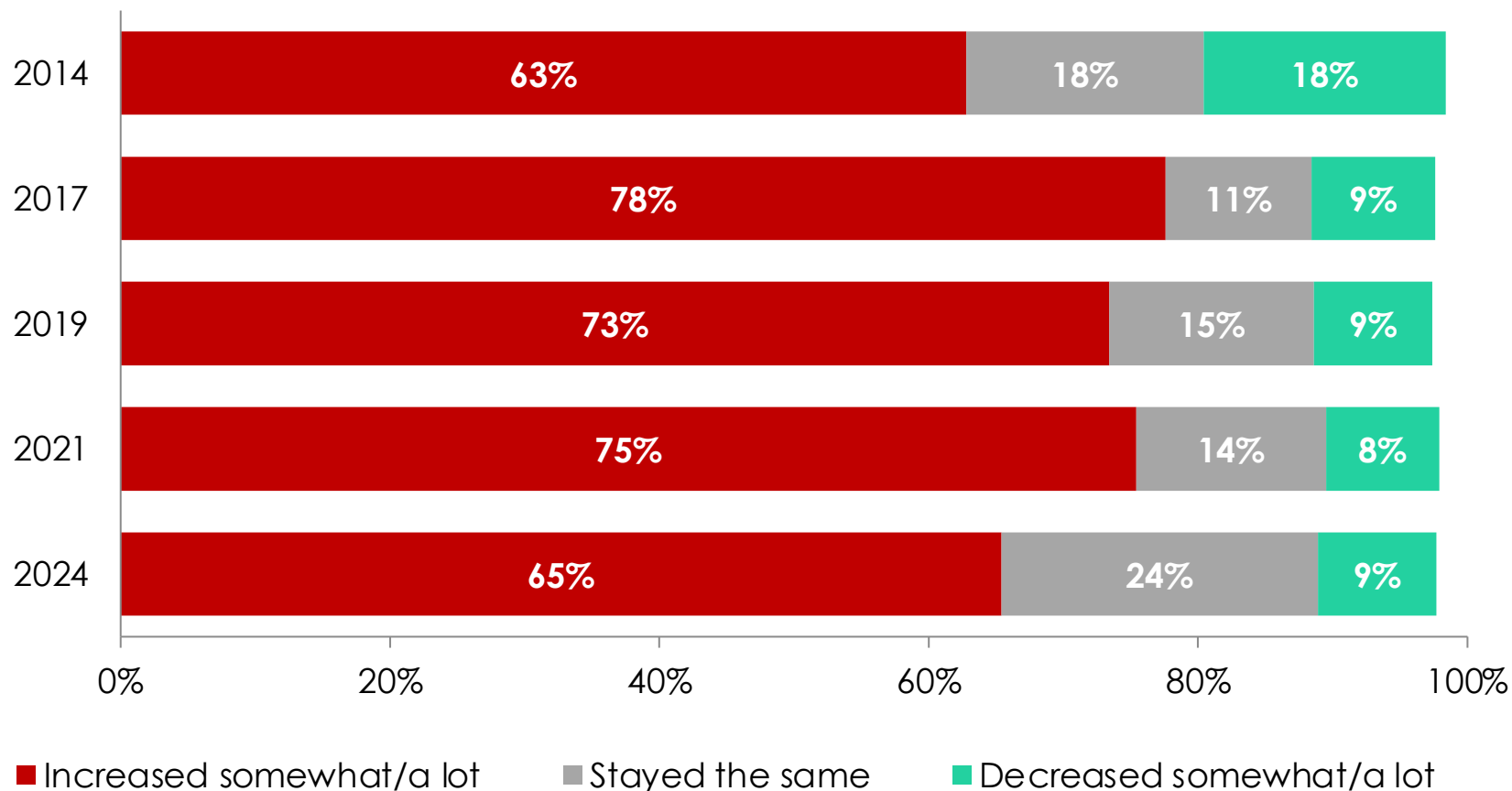
State of corruption



Key findings

- About two-thirds (65%) of Namibians say corruption in the country increased “somewhat” or “a lot” during the year preceding the survey, a 13-percentage-point drop since 2017.
- Perceptions of increasing corruption rise dramatically with citizens’ experience of lived poverty, ranging from 49% among respondents experiencing no lived poverty to 72%-73% among those experiencing moderate or high lived poverty.
- Since 2017, more than six in 10 Namibians consistently report that ordinary people risk retaliation or other negative consequences if they report corruption.

Level of corruption | Namibia | 2014-2024



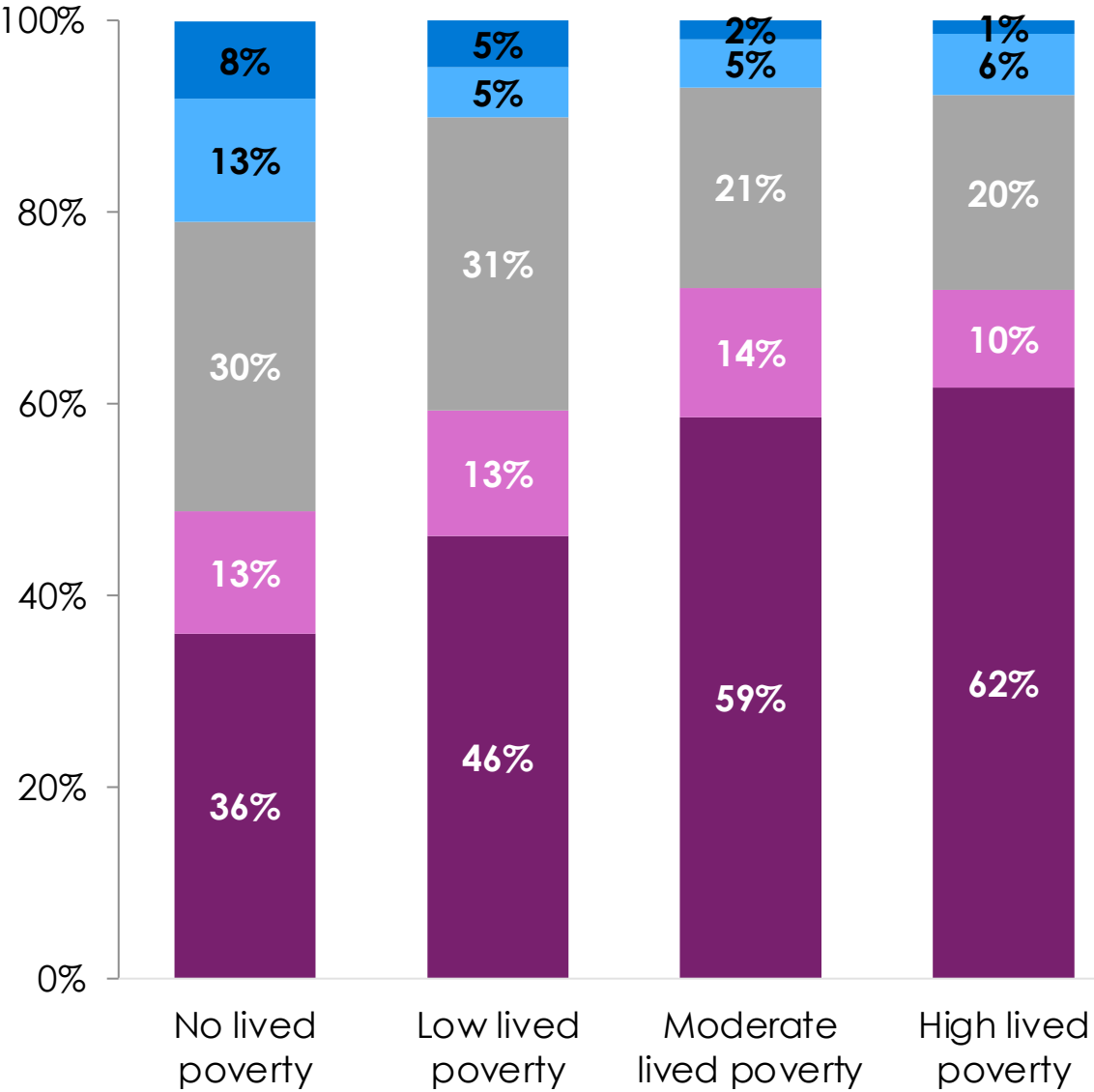
Level of corruption

| by lived poverty

| Namibia | 2024

Respondents were asked:
In your opinion, over the past year, has the level of corruption in this country increased, decreased, or stayed the same?

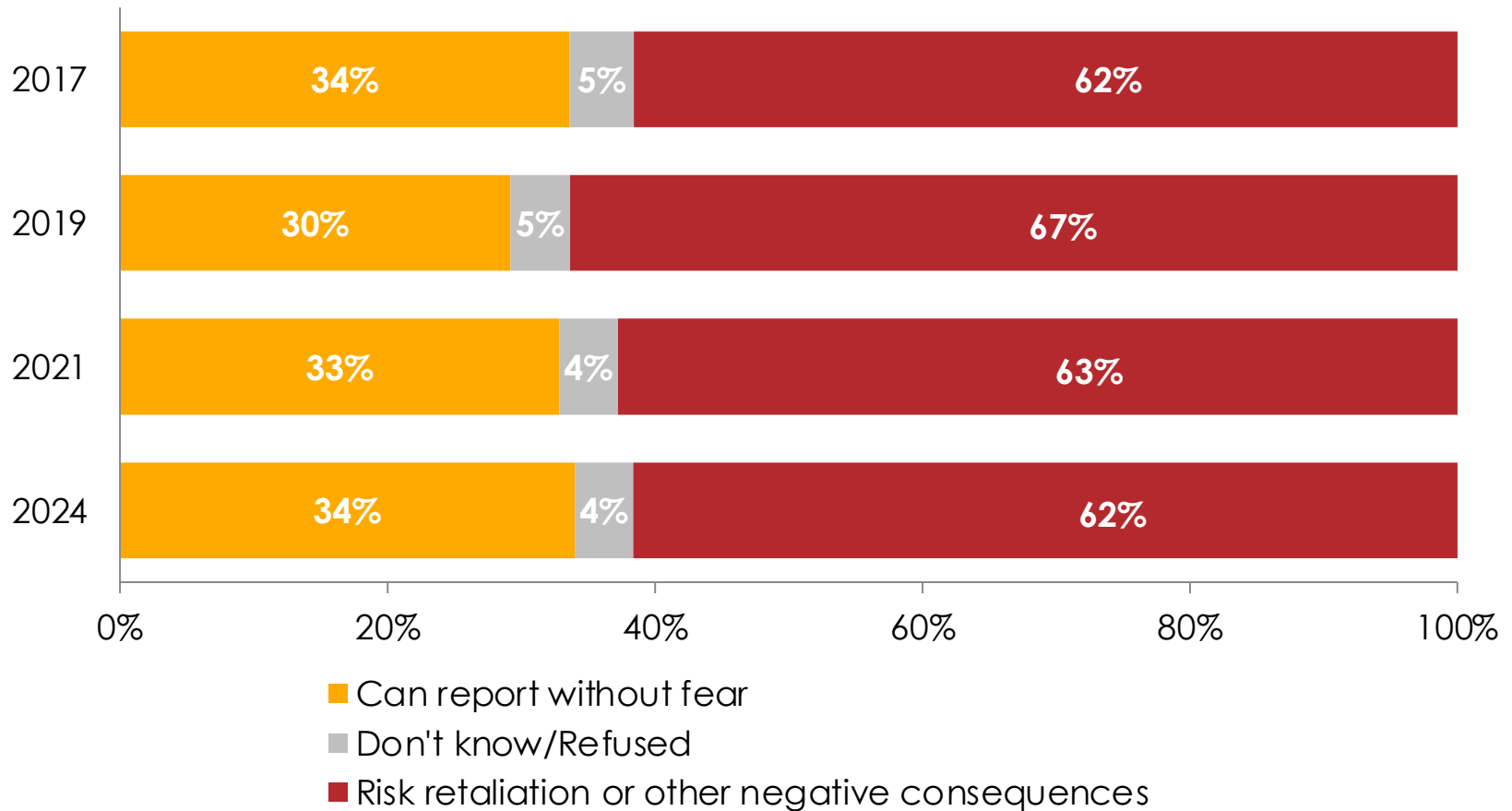
Over the past year, how often, if ever, have you or anyone in your family gone without: Enough food to eat? Enough clean water for home use? Medicines and medical treatment? Enough fuel to cook your food? A cash income?



- Increased a lot
- Increased somewhat
- Stayed the same
- Decreased somewhat
- Decreased a lot

Can people report cases of corruption without fear?

| Namibia | 2014-2024



Government handling of corruption



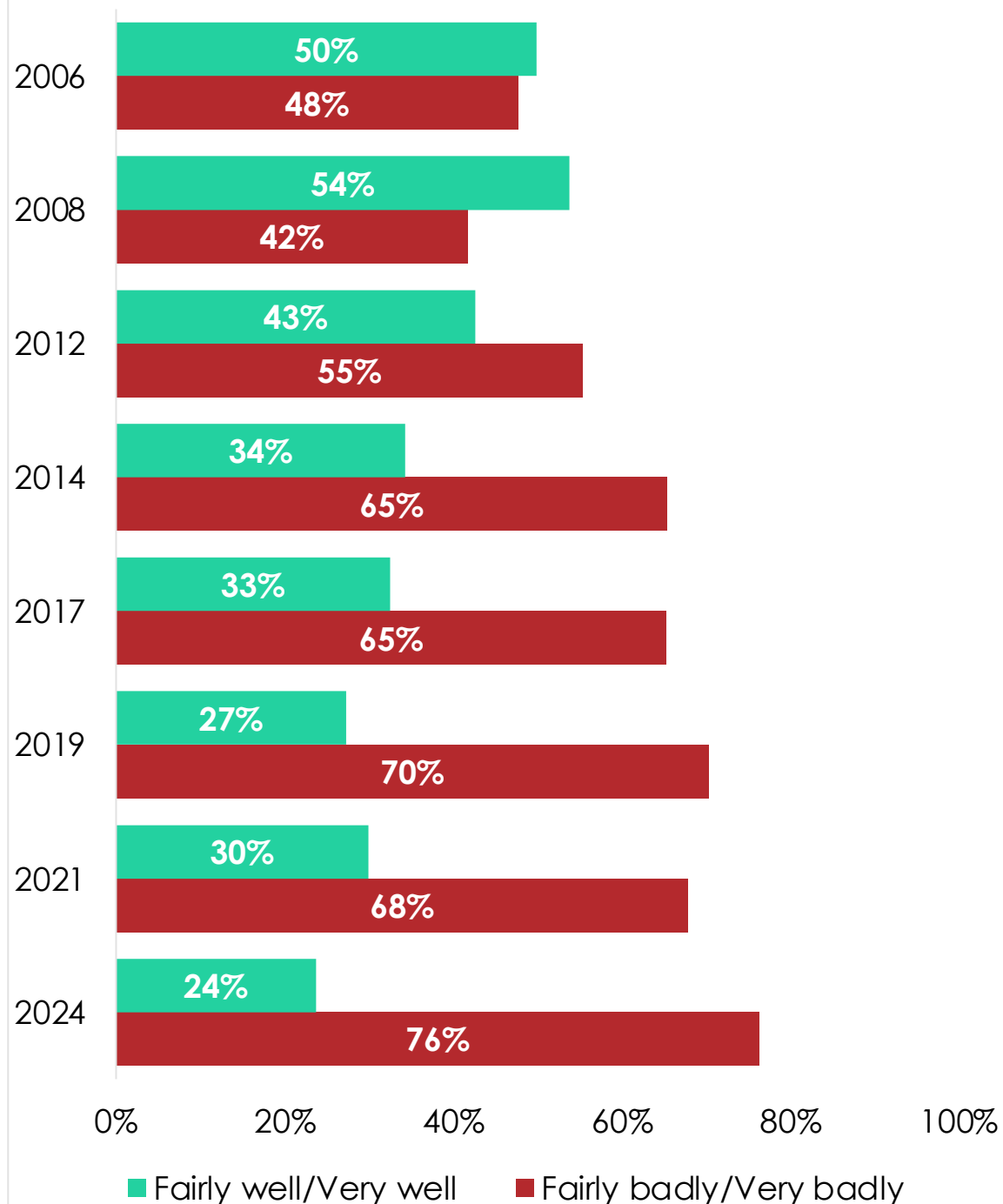
Key findings

- About three-quarters (76%) of Namibians say the government is doing a bad job of fighting corruption in government, the highest level of disapproval recorded in two decades of Afrobarometer surveys.
- Disapproval of the government's performance on corruption is highest among respondents who did not vote in the last national election (78%), citizens with primary education or less (79%), and those experiencing moderate or high lived poverty (79%-82%).

Government performance in fighting corruption in government

| Namibia
| 2006-2024

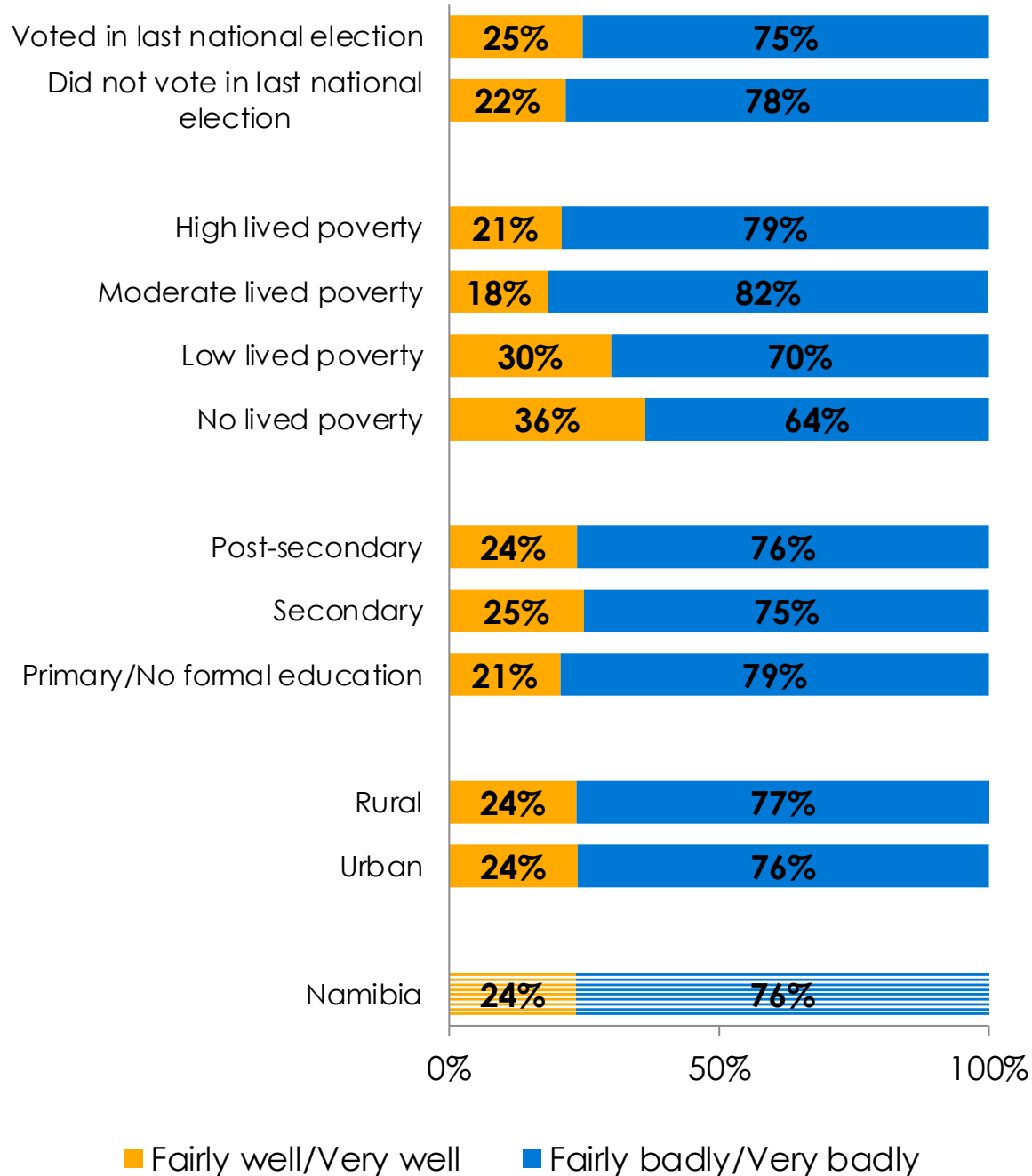
Respondents were asked: How well or badly would you say the current government is handling the following matters, or haven't you heard enough to say: Fighting corruption in government?



Government performance in fighting corruption in government

| by demographic group | Namibia | 2024

Respondents were asked: How well or badly would you say the current government is handling the following matters, or haven't you heard enough to say: Fighting corruption in government?



Perceived corruption in state institutions

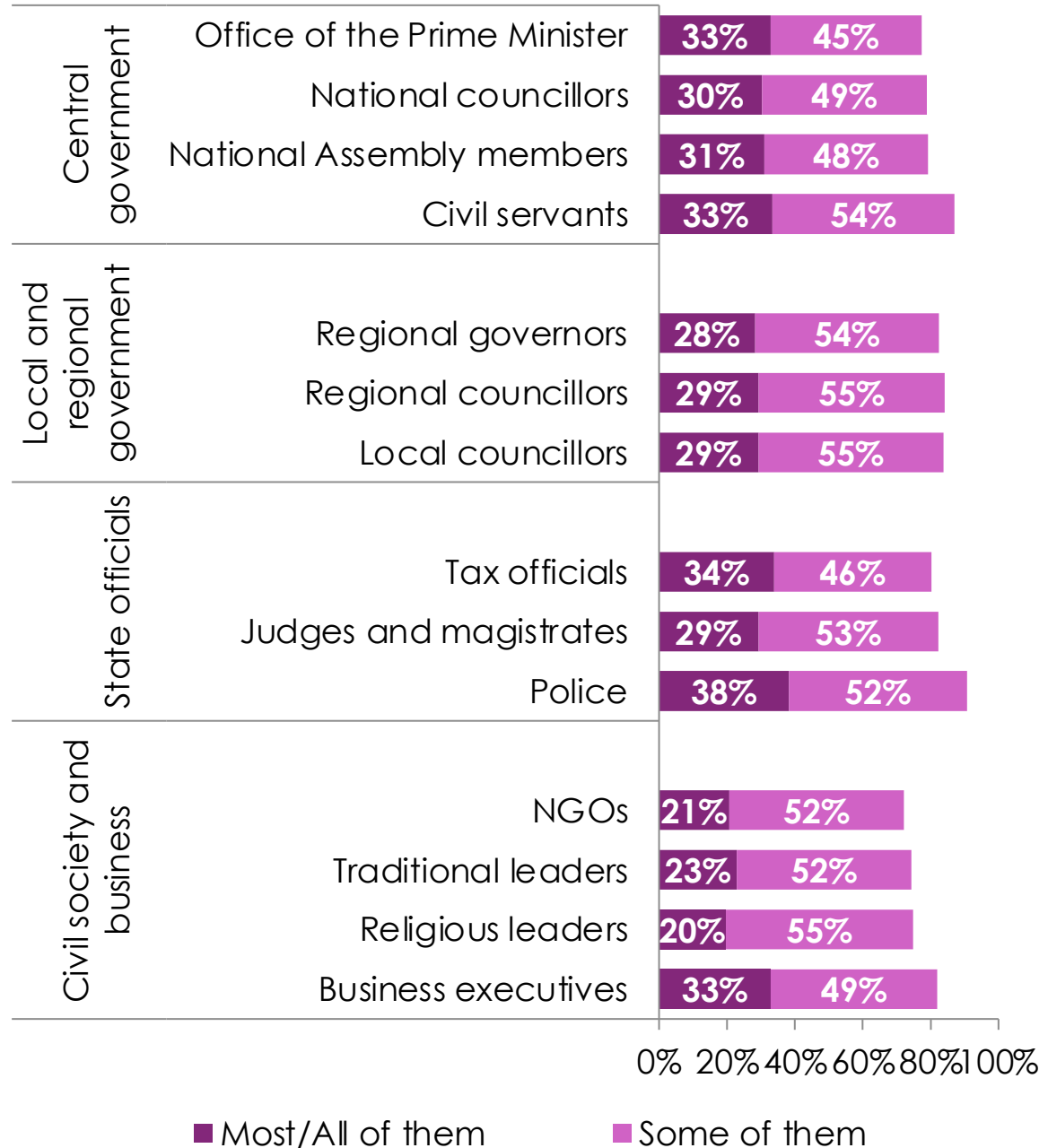


Key findings

- Majorities of Namibians think that at least “some” members and representatives of central, regional, and local government as well as state offices, civil society, and business are involved in corruption.
- More than eight in 10 (82%) think “some” (49%), “most” (23%), or “all” (10%) business executives are involved in corruption.
- A large majority (88%) think “some” (54%), “most” (28%), or “all” (6%) civil servants are involved in corruption.
- About nine in 10 citizens (91%) think “some” (52%), “most” (31%), or “all” (8%) police are involved in corruption.

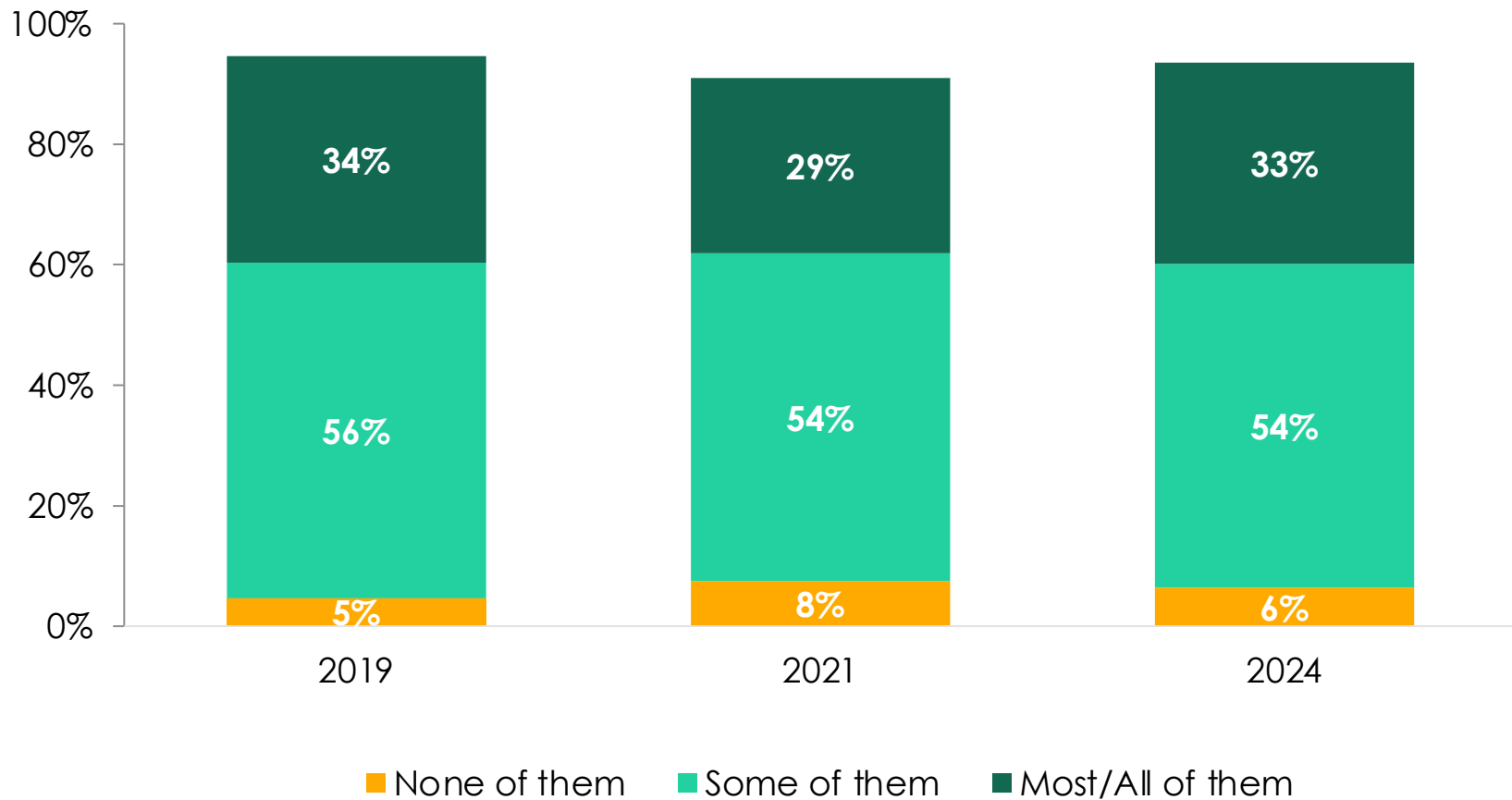
Perceived corruption in state institutions and leadership groups | Namibia | 2024

Respondents were asked: How many of the following people do you think are involved in corruption, or haven't you heard enough about them to say?



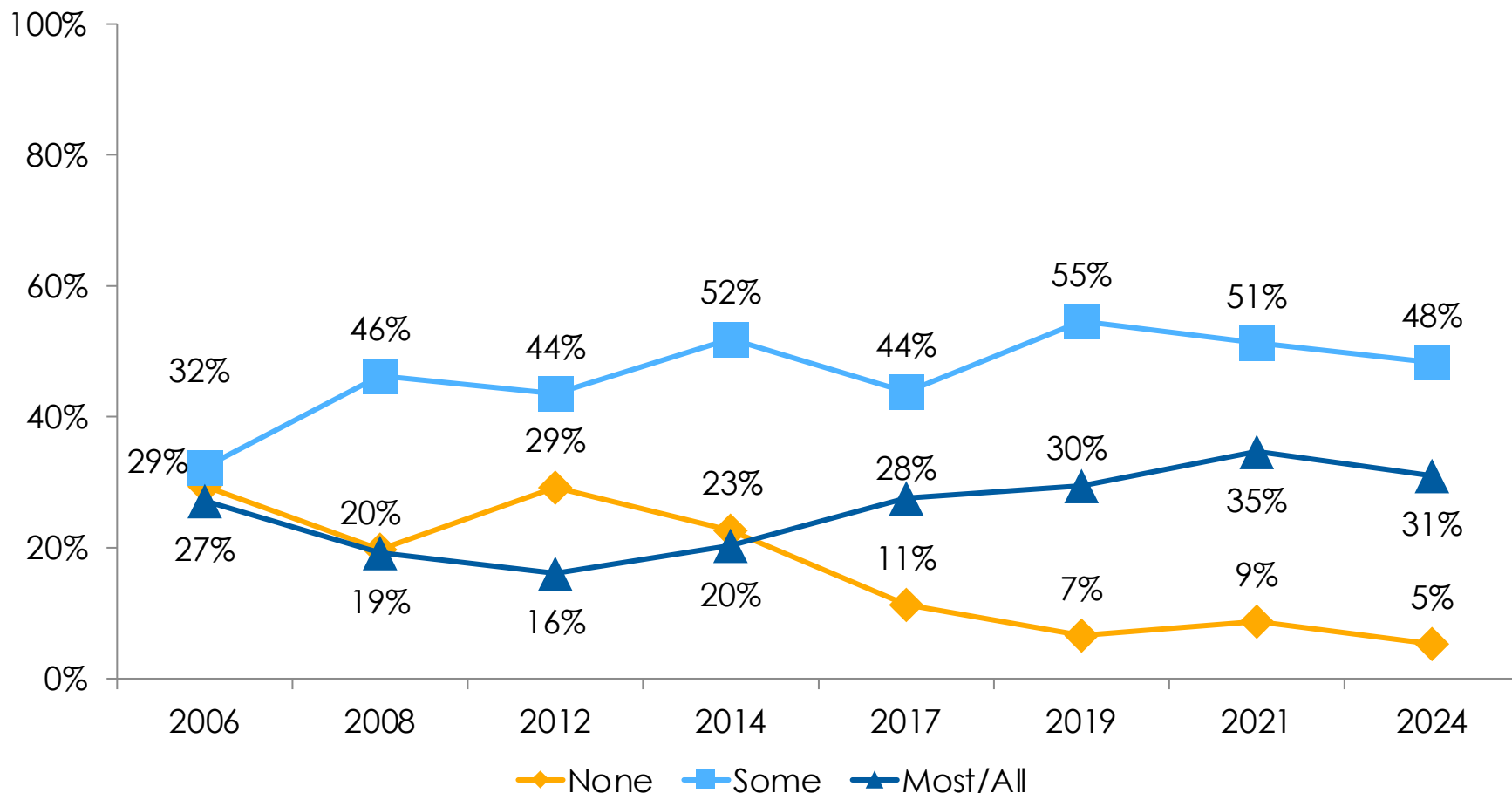
Perceptions of civil servants' involvement in corruption

| Namibia | 2019-2024

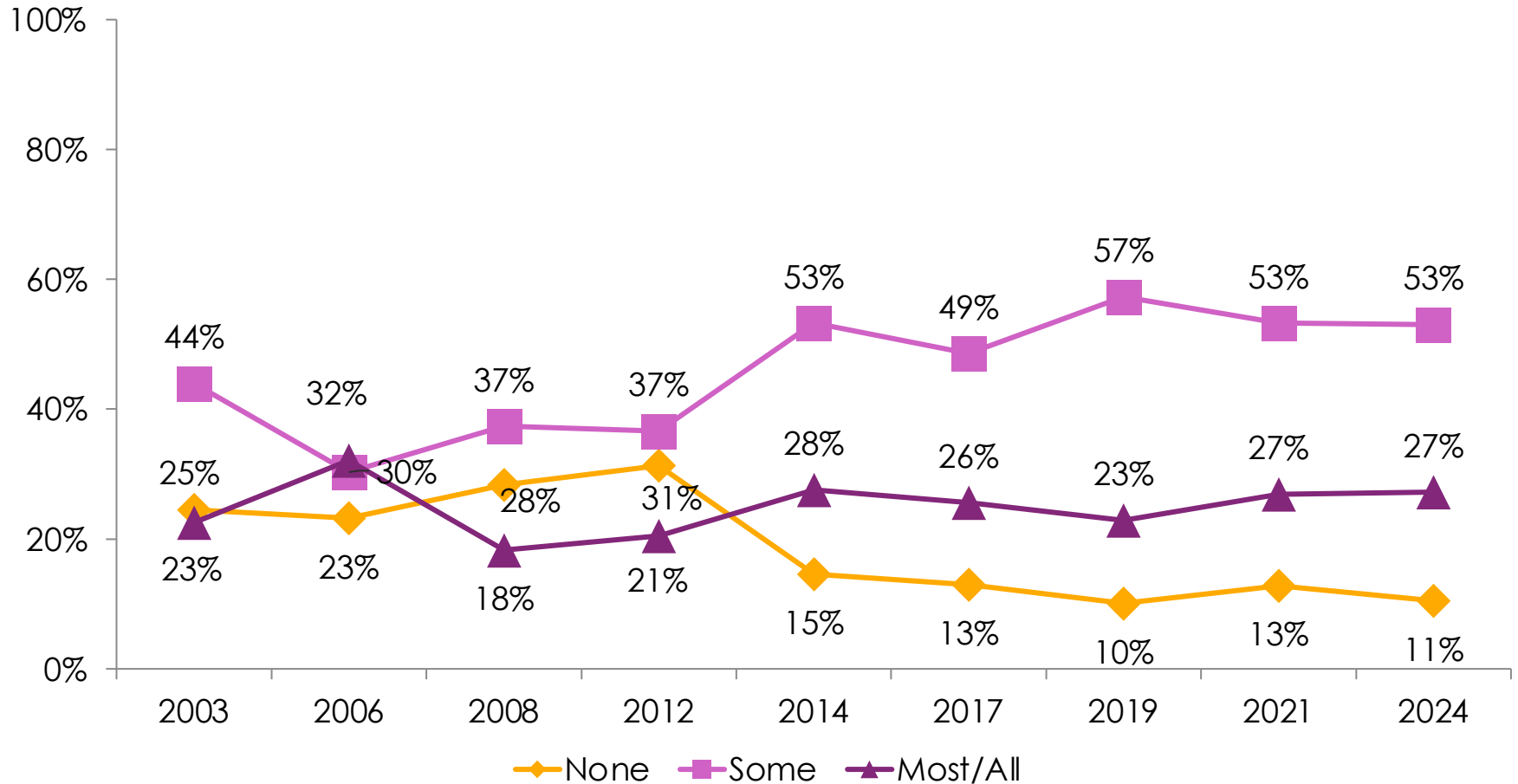


Respondents were asked: How many of the following people do you think are involved in corruption, or haven't you heard enough about them to say: Civil servants?

Perceptions of members of the National Assembly's involvement in corruption | Namibia | 2006-2024



Perceptions of judges and magistrates' involvement in corruption | Namibia | 2003-2024



Paying bribes

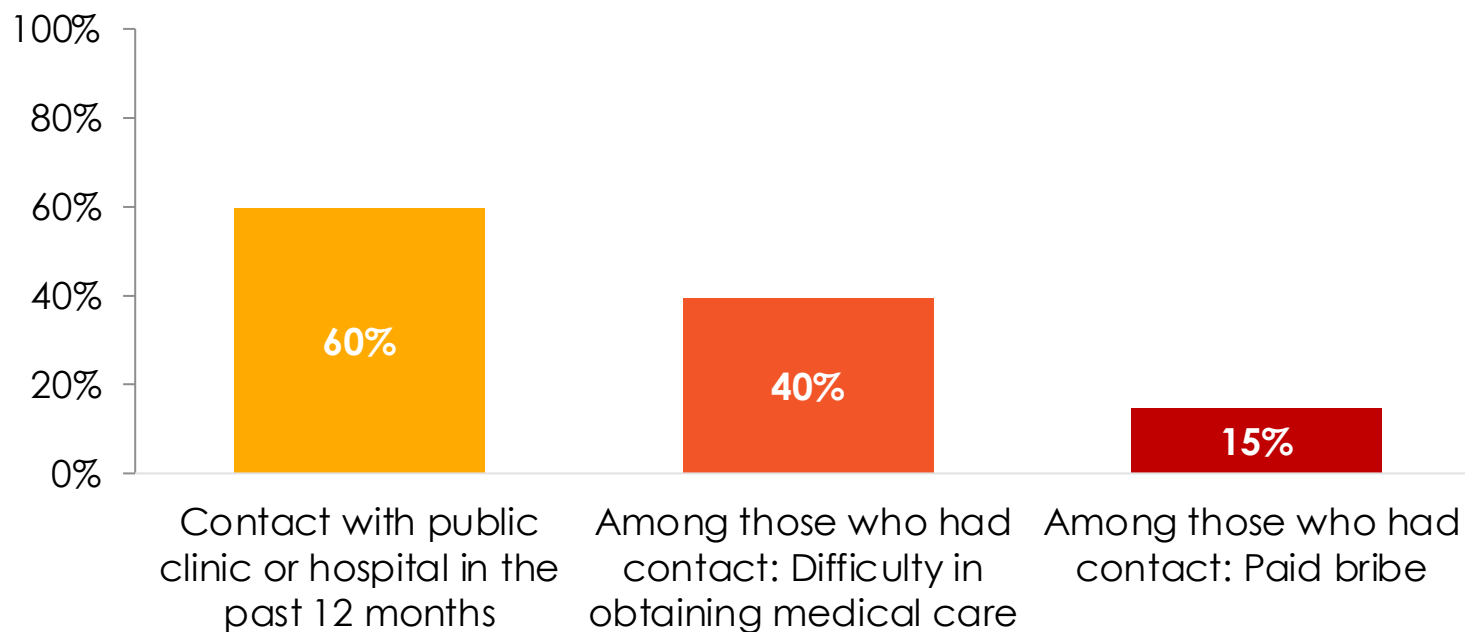


Key findings

- Among six in 10 Namibians (60%) who had contact with a public clinic or hospital in the past 12 months, four in 10 (40%) report that it was “somewhat difficult” or “very difficult” to obtain the medical care they needed. About one in seven (15%) say they had to pay a bribe.
- Among 27% of citizens who tried to obtain a government identification document in the past 12 months, about four in 10 (38%) say it was “somewhat difficult” or “very difficult.” About one in six (17%) say they had to pay a bribe to get the document they needed.
- Among 27% of respondents who requested assistance from the police, more than four in 10 (44%) say it was “somewhat difficult” or “very difficult” to get the help they needed. Nearly one-fifth (18%) say they had to pay a bribe.
- Among 41% of Namibians who encountered the police in other situations, 27% say they had to pay a bribe at least once.

Contact and experience with public clinic or hospital

| Namibia | 2024



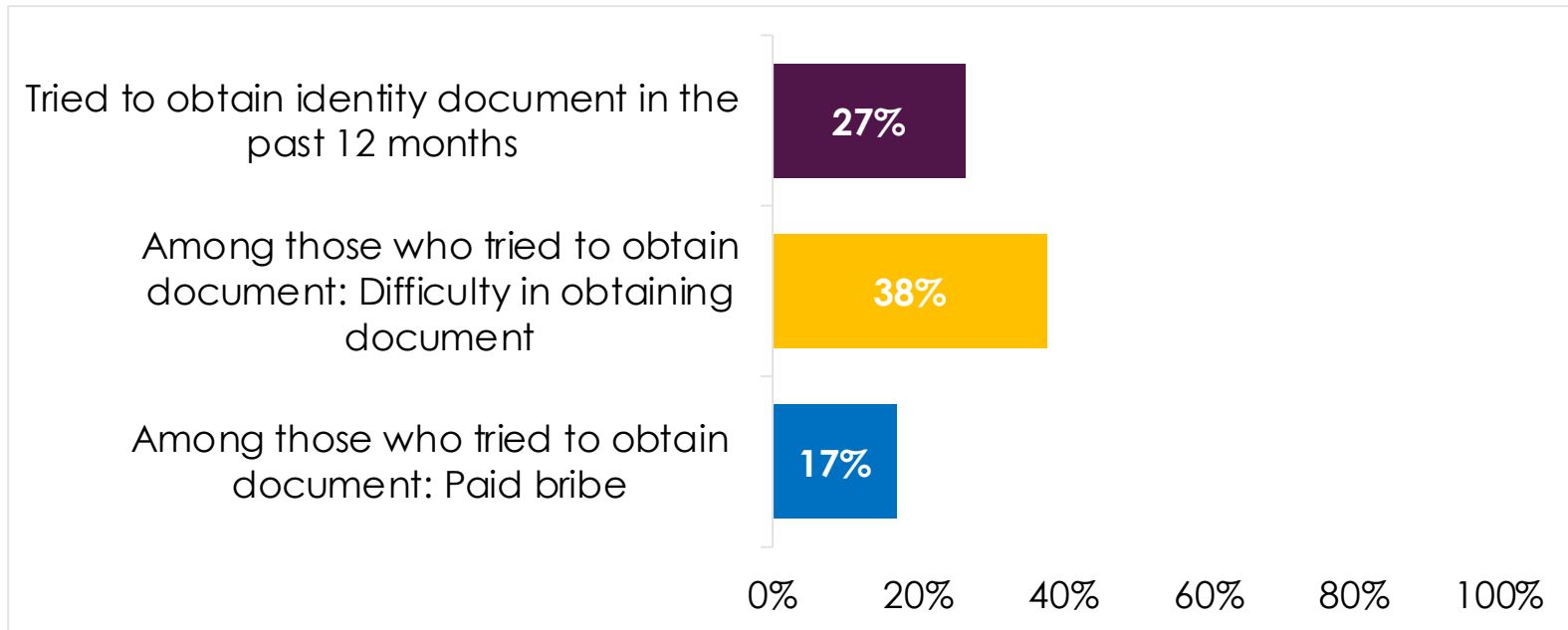
Respondents were asked: *In the past 12 months, have you had contact with a public clinic or hospital?*

[If yes:] How easy or difficult was it to obtain the medical care or services you needed? (% who say "somewhat difficult" or "very difficult")

How often, if ever, did you have to pay a bribe, give a gift, or do a favour for a health worker or clinic or hospital staff in order to get the medical care or services you needed? (% who say "once or twice," "a few times," or "often")

(Respondents who did not have contact with a clinic or hospital are excluded from the questions about difficulty and bribe paying.)

Tried to obtain an identification document | Namibia | 2024



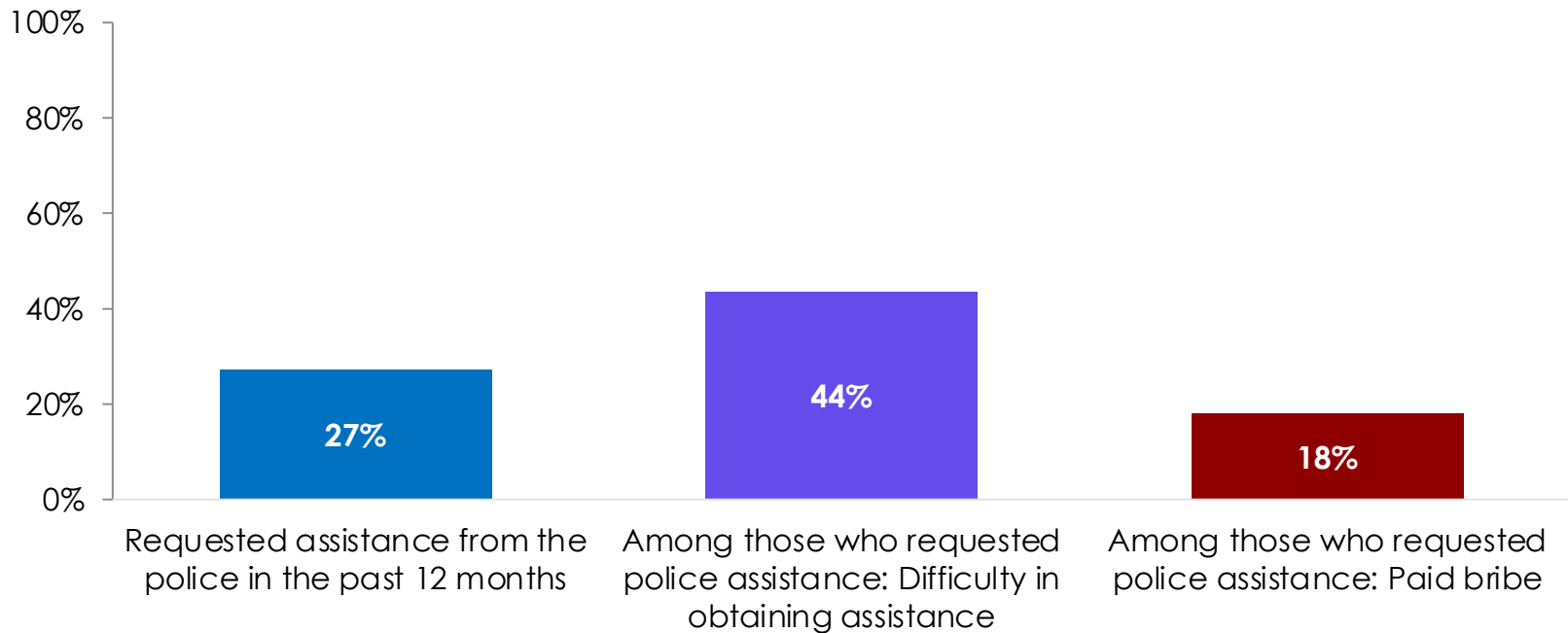
Respondents were asked: In the past 12 months, have you tried to get an identity document like a birth certificate, driver's license, passport or voter's card, or permit from government?

[If yes:] How easy or difficult was it to obtain the document you needed? (% who say "somewhat difficult" or "very difficult")

How often, if ever, did you have to pay a bribe, give a gift, or do a favour for a government official in order to get the document you needed? (% who say "once or twice," "a few times," or "often")

(Respondents who did not try to obtain a document are excluded from the questions about difficulty and bribe-paying.)

Requested assistance from the police | Namibia | 2024



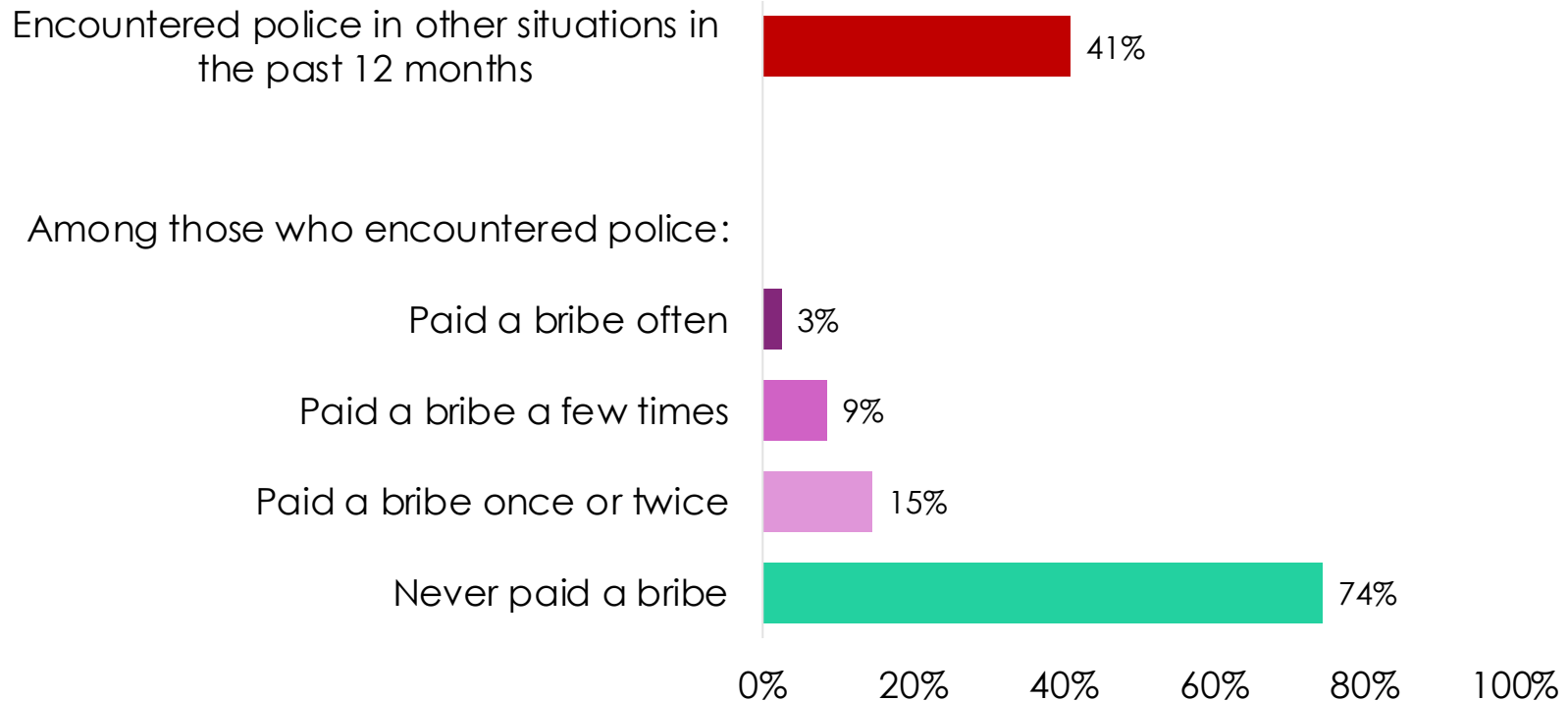
Respondents were asked: *In the past 12 months, have you requested assistance from the police?*

[If yes:] How easy or difficult was it to obtain the assistance you needed? (% who say "somewhat difficult" or "very difficult")

How often, if ever, did you have to pay a bribe, give a gift, or do a favour for a police officer in order to get the assistance you needed? (% who say "once or twice," "a few times," or "often")

(Respondents who did not request police assistance are excluded from the questions about difficulty and bribe-paying.)

Paid a bribe during encounters with the police in other situations | Namibia | 2024



Respondents were asked: In the past 12 months, how often have you encountered the police in other situations, like at checkpoints, during identity checks or traffic stops, or during an investigation? (% who say “once or twice,” “a few times,” or “often”)
[If encountered police:] How often, if ever, did you have to pay a bribe, give a gift, or do a favour for a police officer in order to avoid a problem during one of these encounters?
(Respondents who did not encounter the police are excluded from the question about bribe-paying.)

Conclusion



Conclusion

- A majority of Namibians say corruption has increased in the past year, and most believe that ordinary people risk retaliation or other negative consequences if they report incidents of corruption.
- Citizens overwhelmingly think that at least “some” representatives and officials in state institutions are involved in corruption.
- Among respondents who had contact with key public services in the past 12 months, about four in 10 report that it was difficult to get the services they needed, and more than one in 10 had to pay a bribe.
- About three-quarters of Namibians say the government is performing poorly in fighting corruption.

Thank you

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