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# Kenyans decry incessant corruption but reluctant to report incidents

Findings from Afrobarometer Round 6 survey in Kenya

April 14, 2015
Nairobi Safari Club

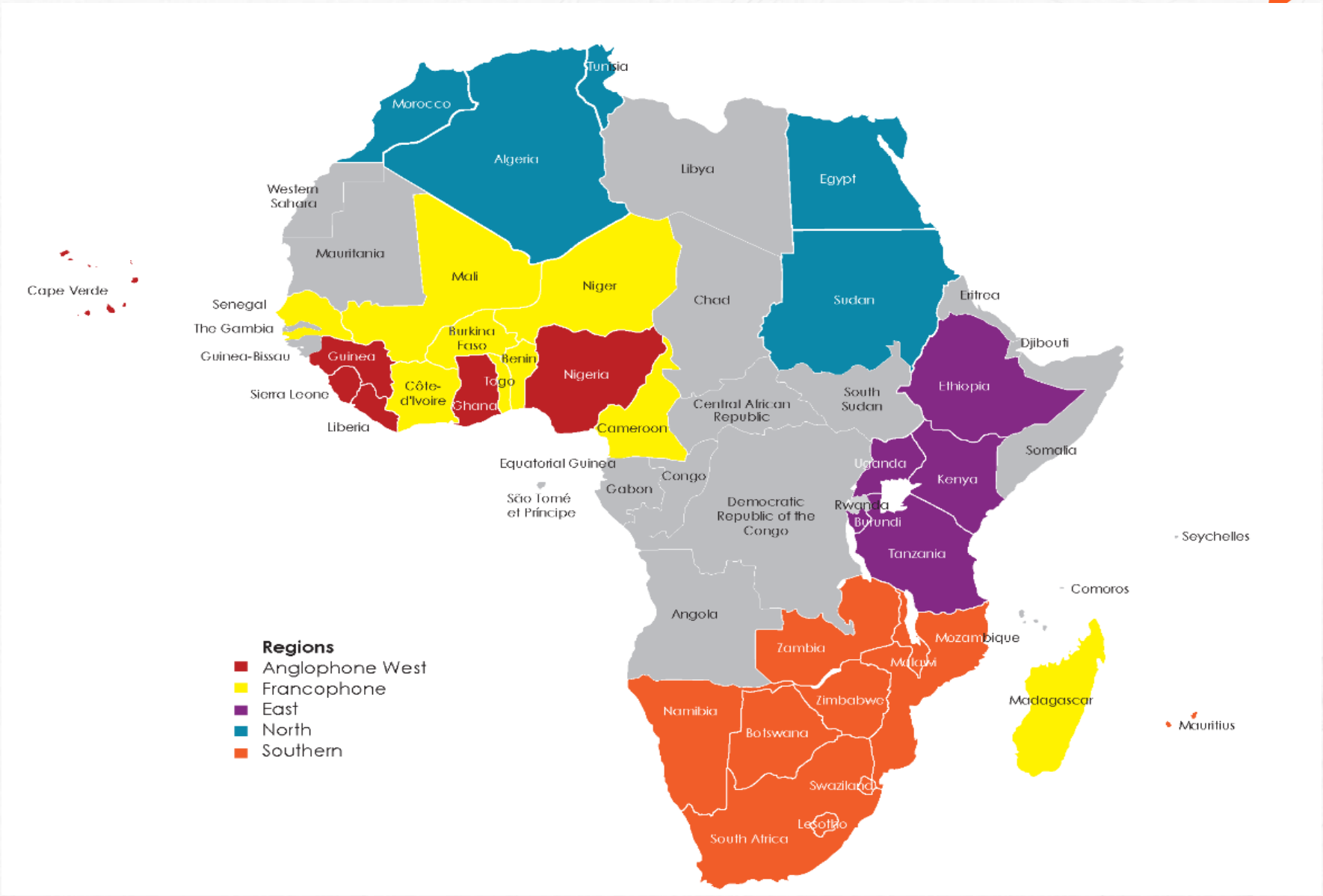
# At a glance

- A majority of Kenyans say that corruption has increased over the past year.
- Nearly 1 in 3 Kenyans have had to pay a bribe at least once in the past year, but most did not report it to authorities
- Ordinary citizens and the media are key allies in the fight against corruption.

# What is Afrobarometer?

- An African-led, non-partisan survey research project that measures citizen attitudes on democracy and governance, the economy, civil society, and other topics.
- Started in 12 countries in 1999; expanded to 35 African countries in Round 5 (2011-2013); round 6 surveys ongoing (2014 -2015)
- **Goal:** To give the public a voice in policymaking by providing high-quality public opinion data to policymakers, policy advocates, civil society organizations, academics, news media, donors and investors, and ordinary Africans.
- A national partner in each country conducts the survey. In Kenya, Afrobarometer Round 6 survey was conducted by the University of Nairobi's Institute for Development Studies (IDS).

# Where Afrobarometer works



# Methodology

- Nationally representative sample of adult citizens
  - ❑ All respondents are *randomly* selected.
  - ❑ Sample is distributed across all 47 counties and along urban/rural divide in proportion to their share in the national *adult* population.
  - ❑ Every adult citizen thus has *known* and *equal* chance of being selected/included in the survey.
- Face-to-face interviews in language of respondent's choice.
- Standard questionnaire which allows comparisons across countries and over time.
- Sample size in Kenya of 2,397 adult citizens yields a margin of error of +/-2% at a 95% confidence level.
- Fieldwork for Round 6 survey in Kenya was conducted between 12 November and 5 December 2014.

# Survey demographics

| Gender | % |
|---|---|
| Male | 50 |
| Female | 50 |
| **Location** | |
| Urban | 36 |
| Rural | 64 |
| **Education** | |
| No formal education | 8 |
| Primary | 36 |
| Secondary | 36 |
| Post-secondary | 20 |

| Age | % |
|---|---|
| 18-25 | 22 |
| 26-35 | 36 |
| 36-45 | 21 |
| 46-55 | 11 |
| 56-65 | 7 |
| Over 65 | 3 |
| **Religion** | |
| Christians | 86 |
| Muslims | 9 |
| Other | 5 |

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# Results

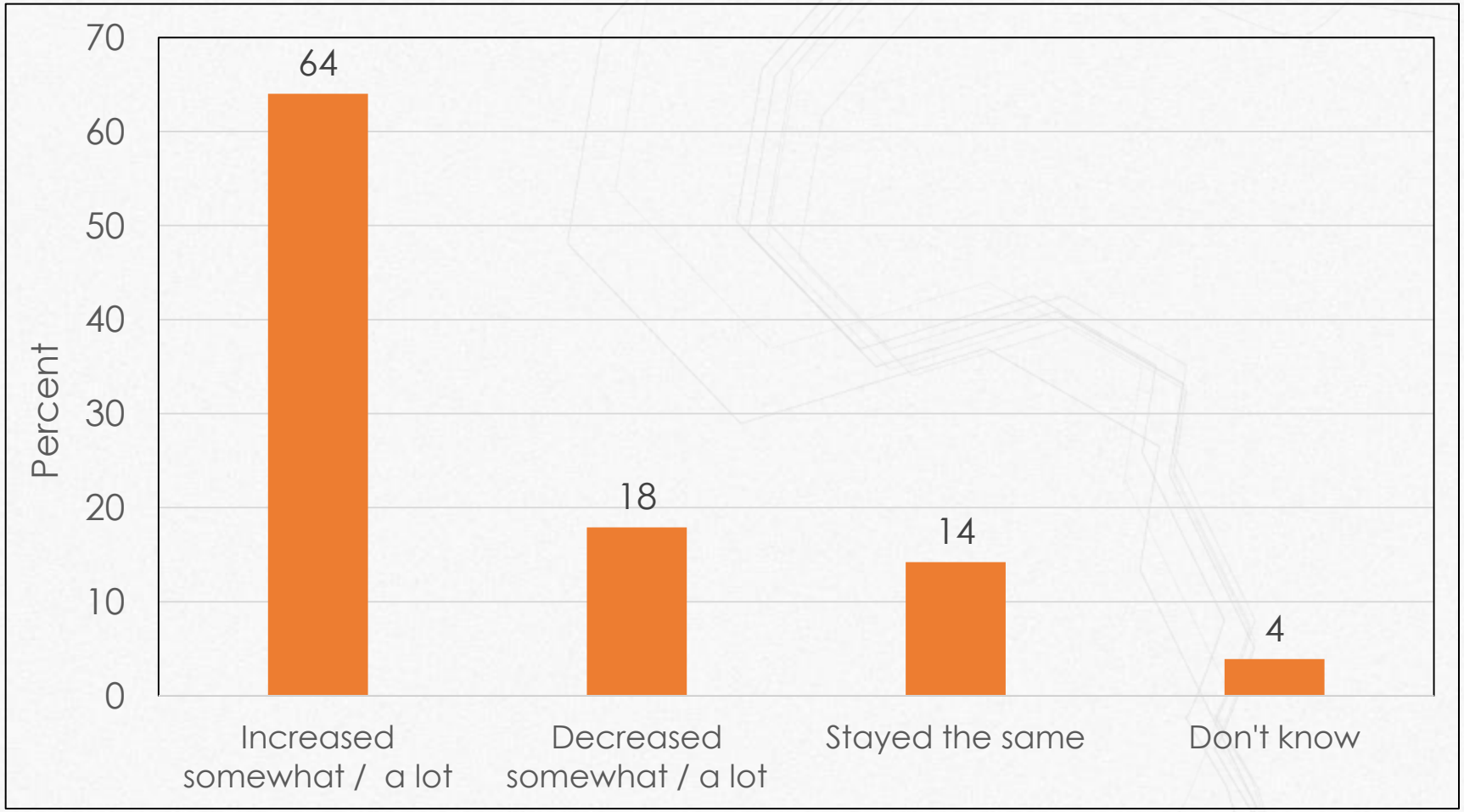
# Key findings

- Perceived corruption in Kenya increased over the past year.
  - The government has performed poorly in fighting corruption.
  - Police, government officials, and members of Parliament are perceived as the most corrupt.
  - Business executives are regarded as the most corrupt among non-state actors.
  - Payment of bribes to access public school services, medical care and identity documents is low compared to payment of bribes to obtain help from the police and courts.

# Key findings *cont'd*

- A majority of Kenyans do not report bribery incidents.
  - Mainly due to fear of consequences and perceived inaction by authorities
- Kenyans believe that ordinary citizens can make a difference in the fight against corruption.
  - Mainly by refusing to pay bribes and reporting corruption incidents
- Most Kenyans view the media as effective in revealing government corruption and support this watchdog role.
- A majority of Kenyans view the ruling coalition as being better able to fight corruption in government than opposition parties.
- Difficulty in accessing services is a driving factor in citizens' payment of bribes.

# Perceived corruption in Kenya | 2014




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

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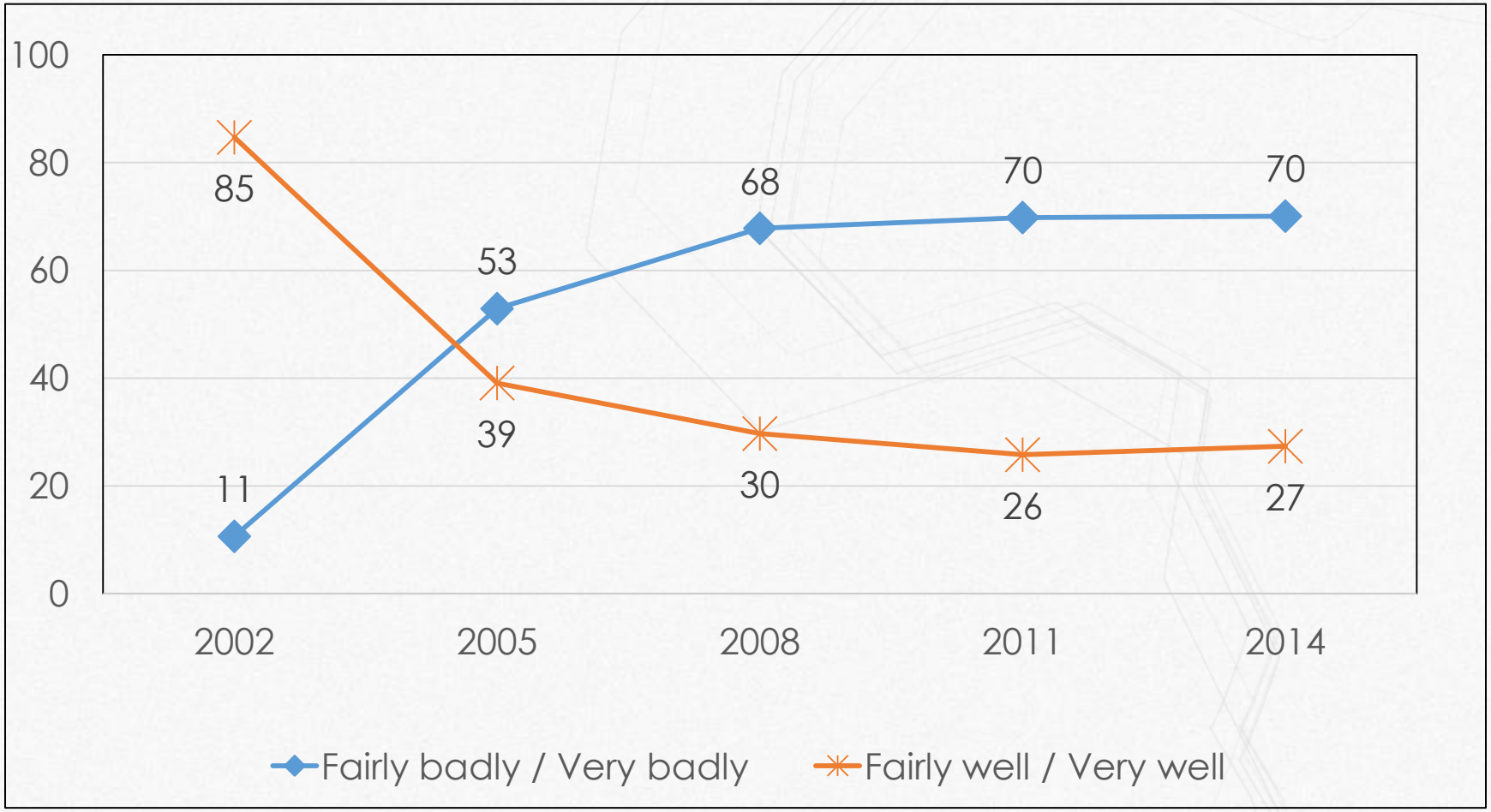
# Government performance in fighting corruption




**Respondents were asked:** *How well or badly would you say the current government is handling the fight against corruption? (%)*

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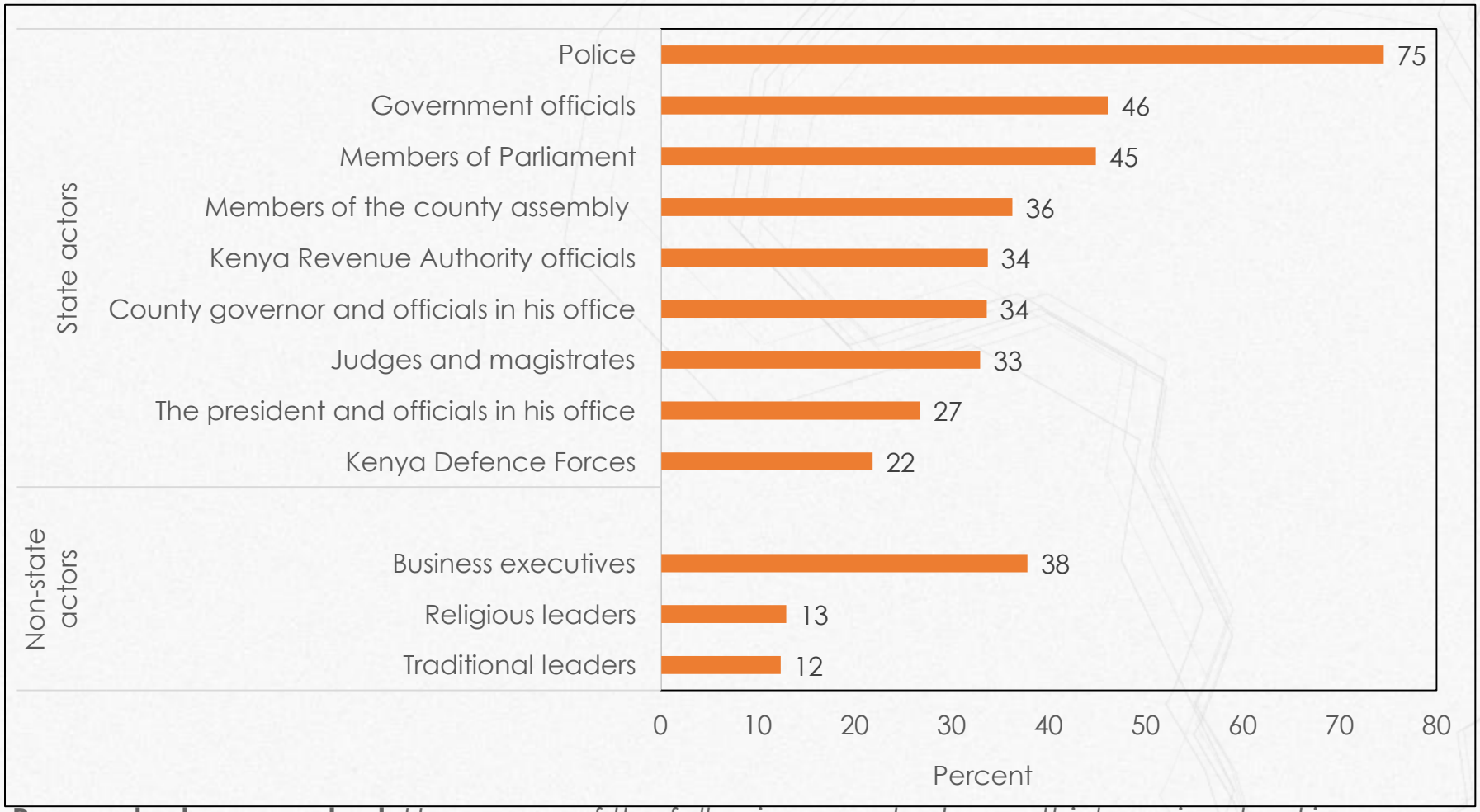
# Perceived corruption within governance institutions | 2014




**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? (% who say "most" or "all" of them)*

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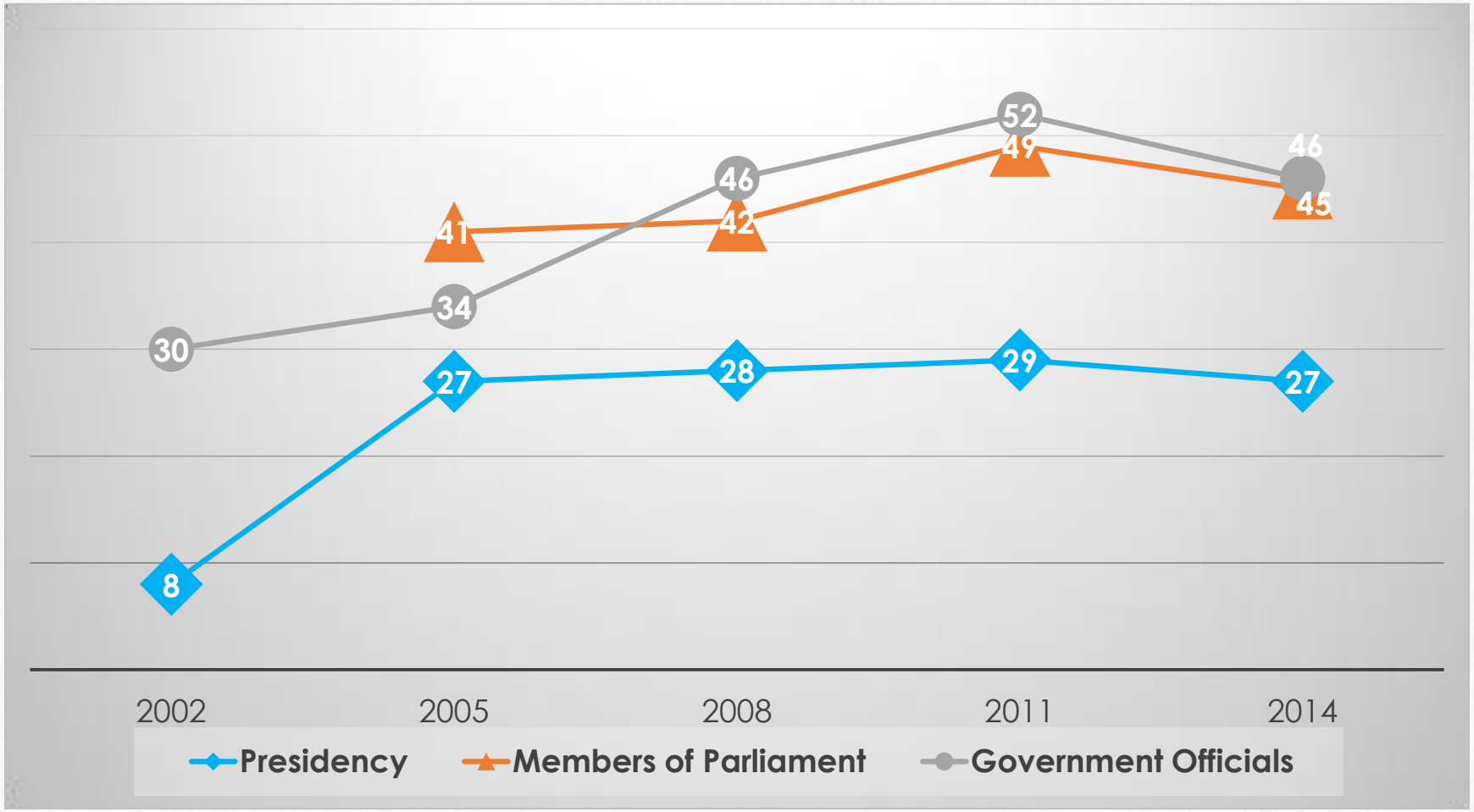
# Trends in perceived corruption (1)




**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? (% who say "most" or "all" of them are corrupt)*

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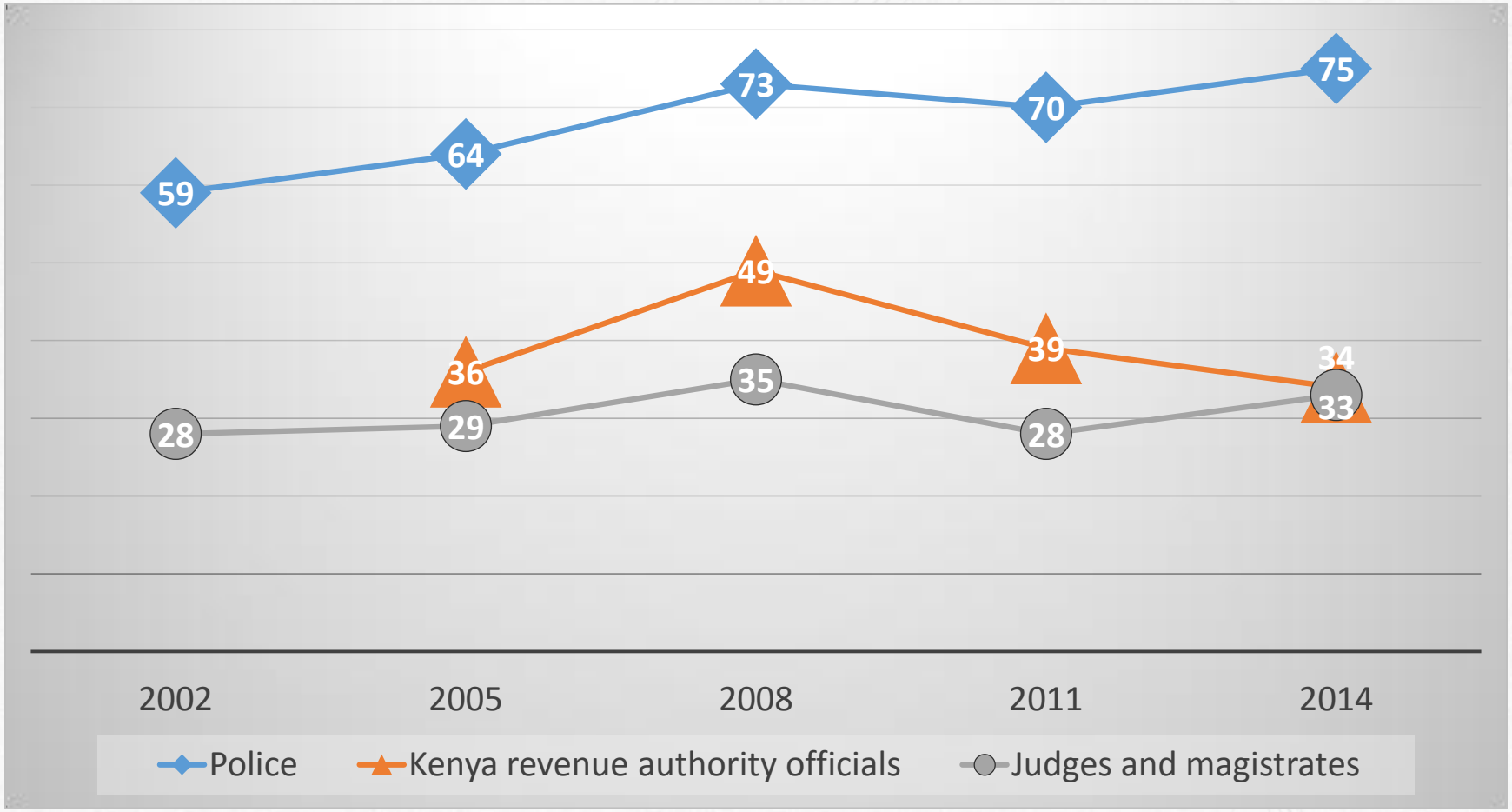
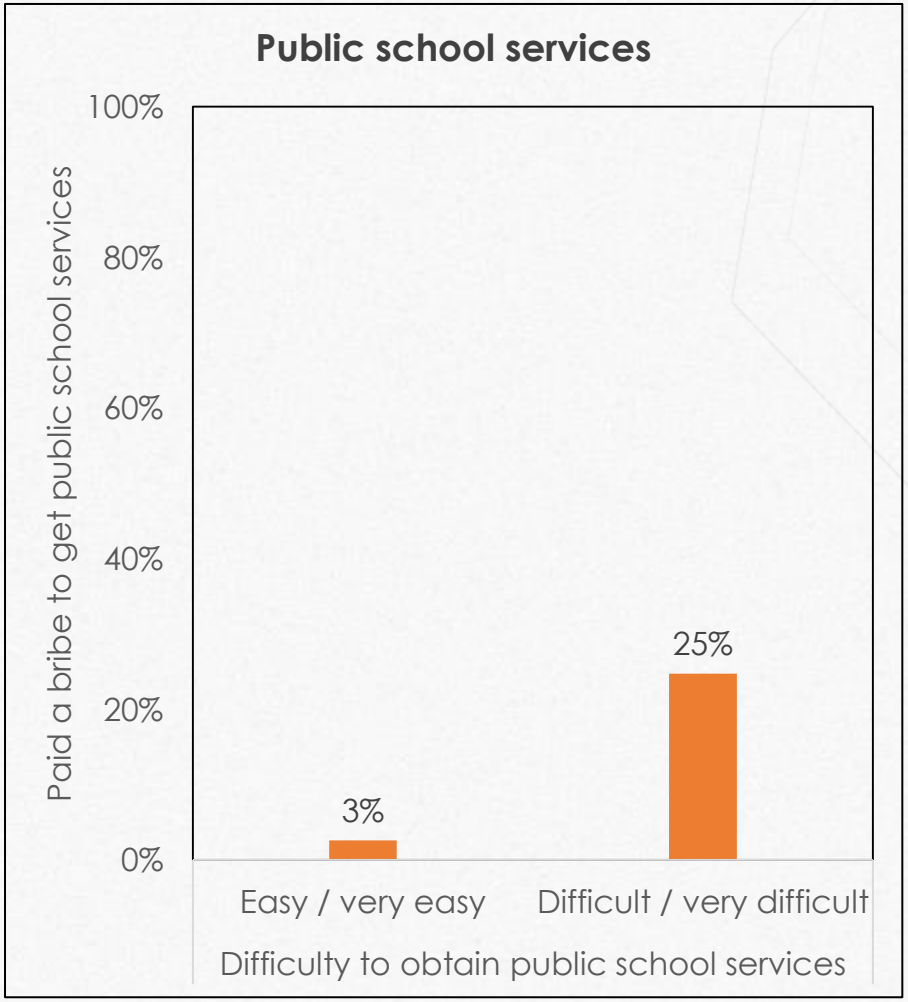
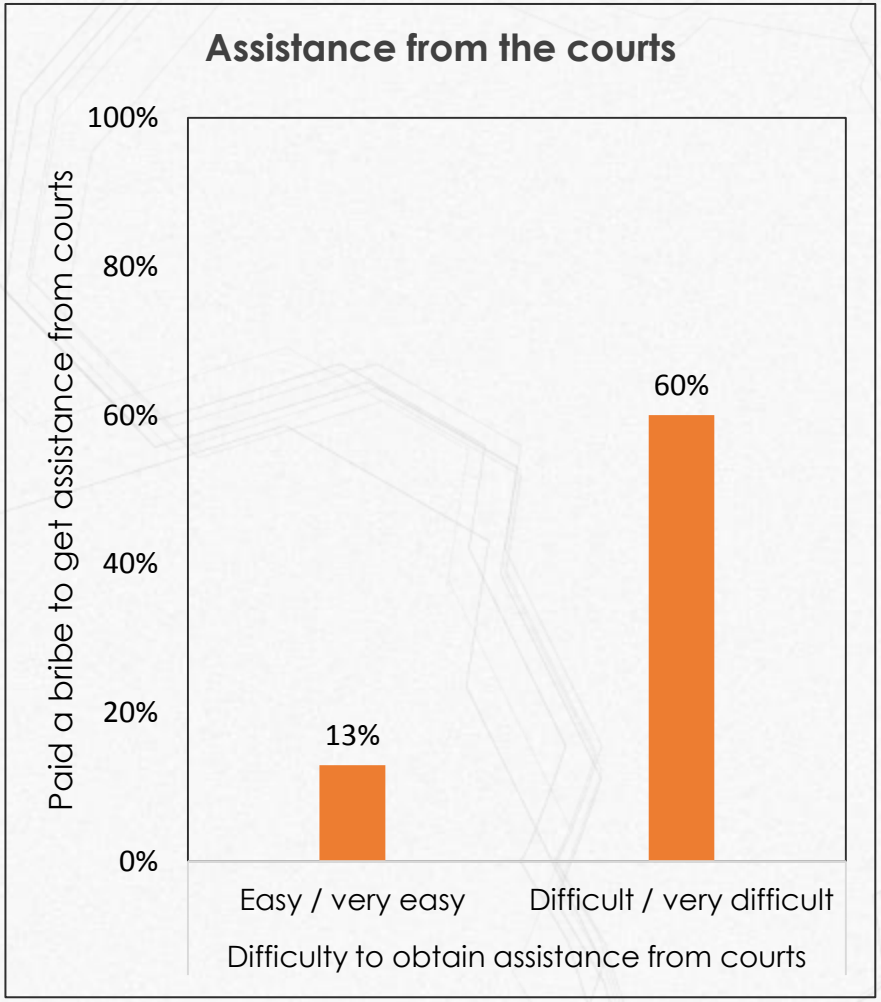
# Trends in perceived corruption (2)




**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? (% who say "most" or "all" of them are corrupt)*

# Is 'difficulty to obtain a service' a driving factor to payment of bribes?




**Respondents were asked:** How often, if ever, did you have to pay a bribe, give a gift, or do a favour to access the following services ?

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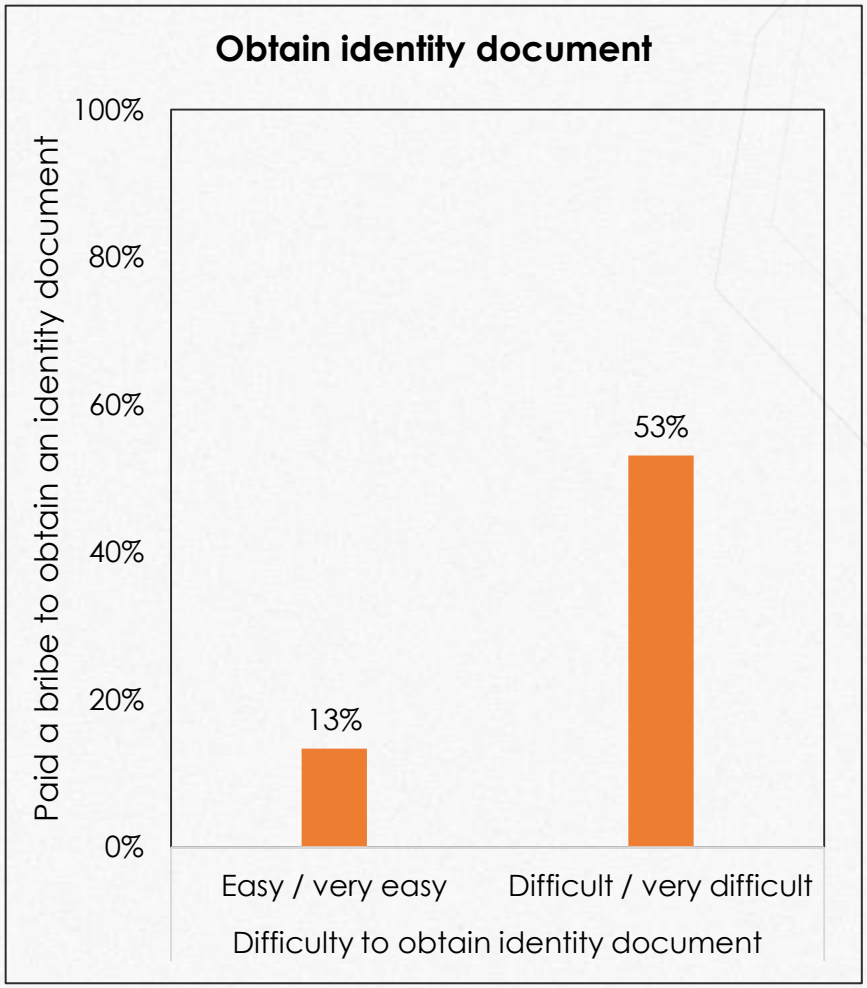
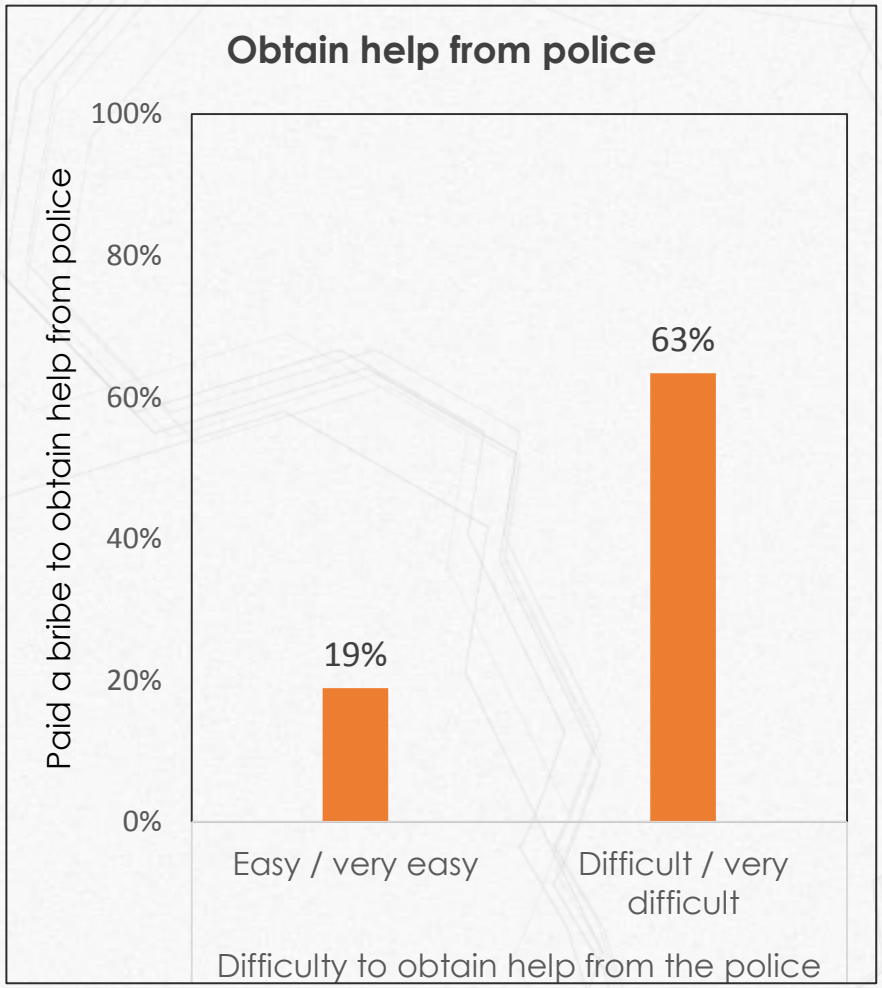
# ‘Difficulty to obtain services’ and payment of bribes *cont’d*




**Respondents were asked:** How often, if ever, did you have to pay a bribe, give a gift, or do a favour to access the following services ?

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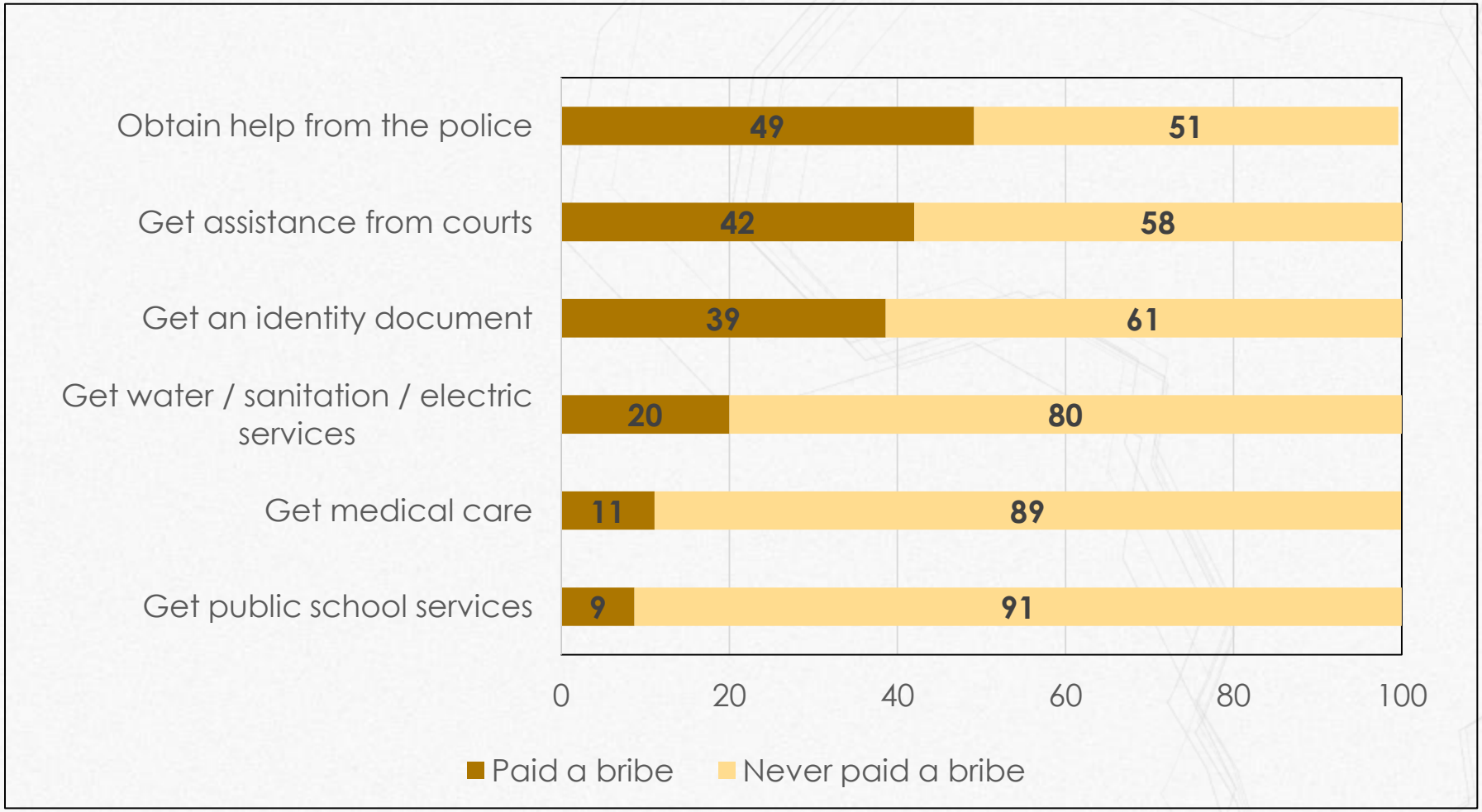
# ‘Bribe for service’: proportion who paid bribe to access service




**Respondents were asked:** *How often in the past year, if ever, did you have to pay a bribe, give a gift, or do a favour to access the following services?*

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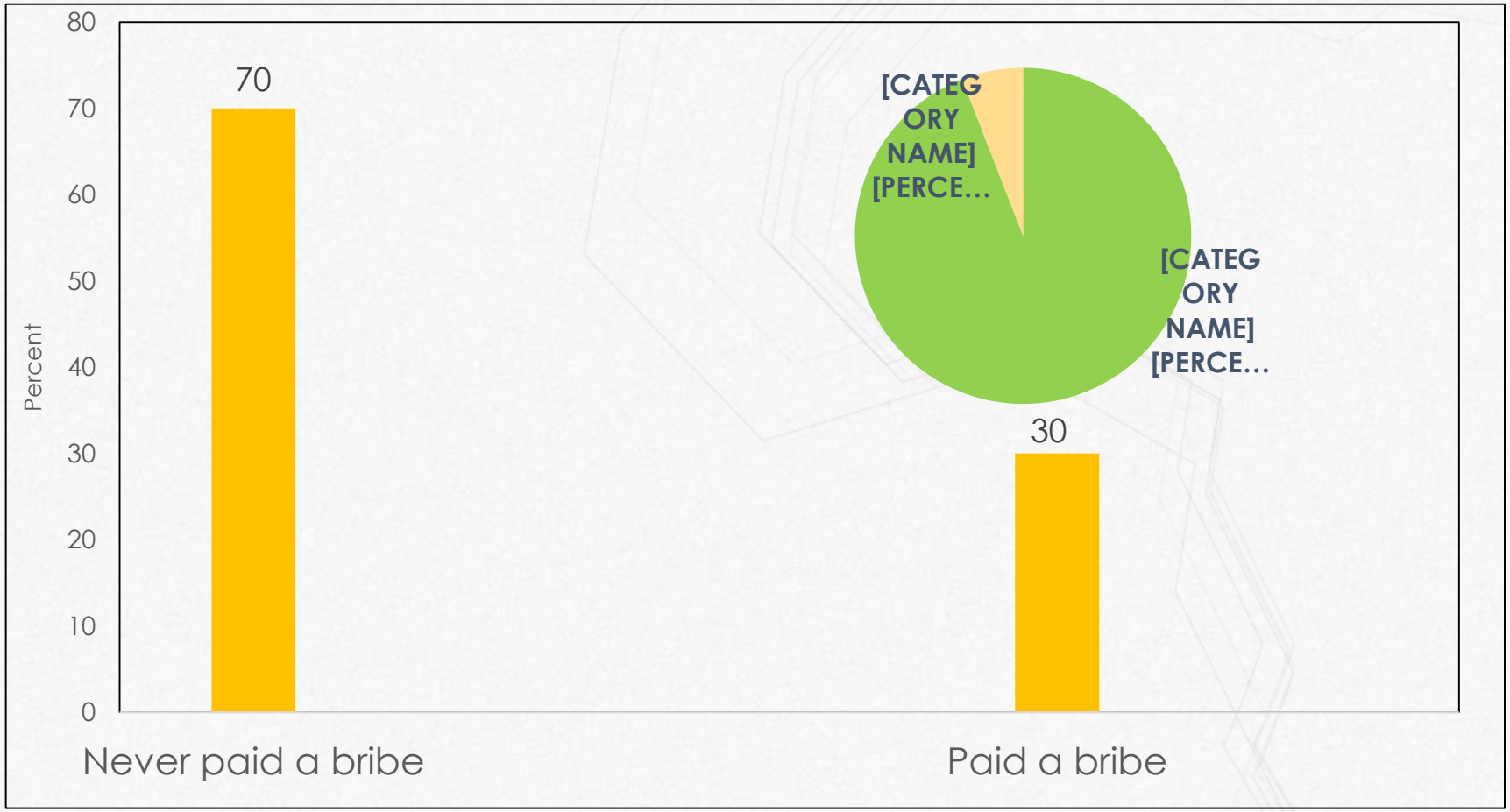
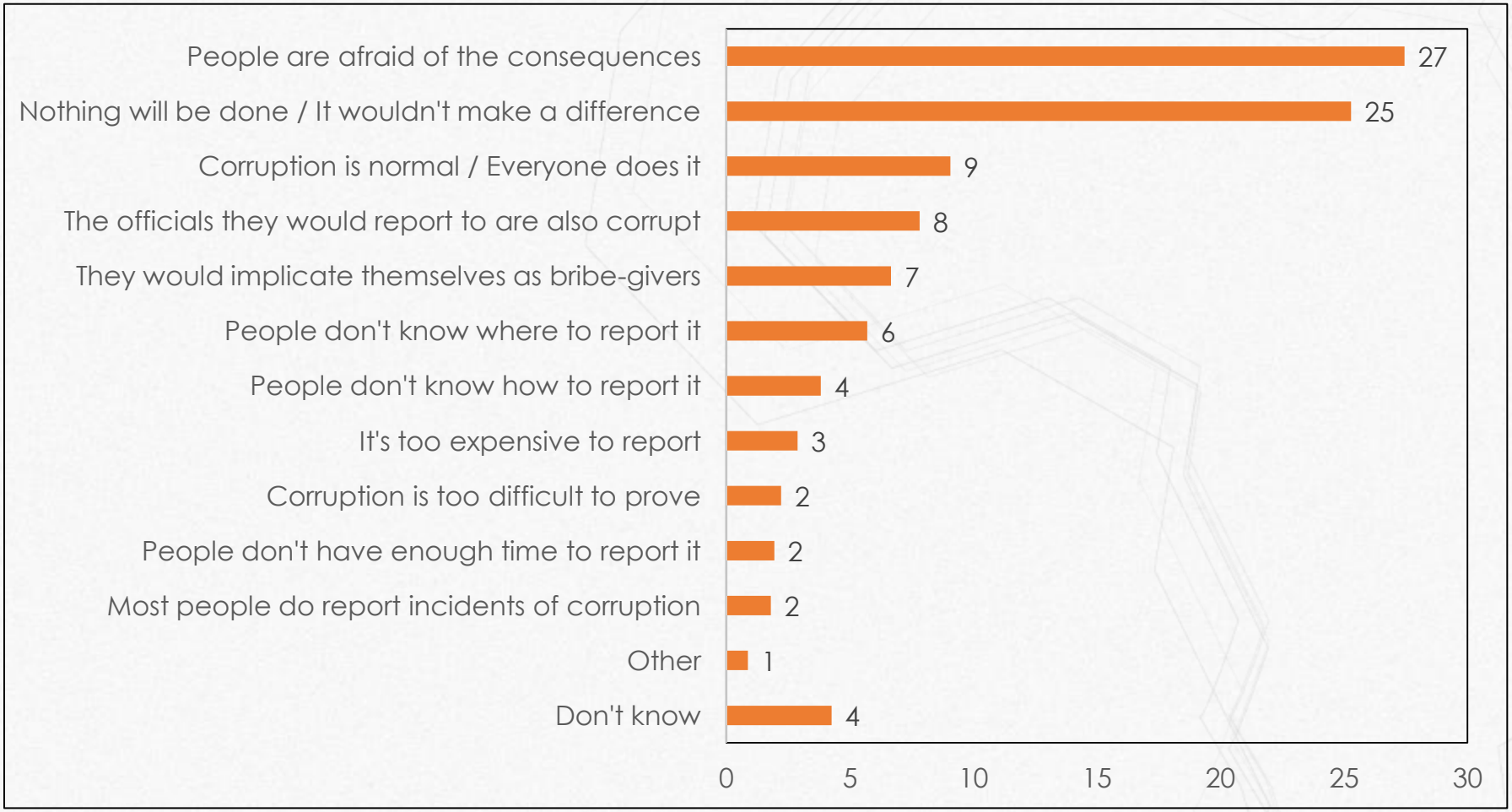
# Reporting of bribery incidents




**Respondents were asked:** *If you ever paid a bribe for any of the services discussed above, did you report any of the incidents you mentioned to a government official or someone in authority?*

# Main reasons for not reporting corruption | 2014




**Respondents were asked:** *Some people say that many incidents of corruption are never reported. Based on your experience, what do you think is the main reason why many people do not report corruption when it occurs? (%)*

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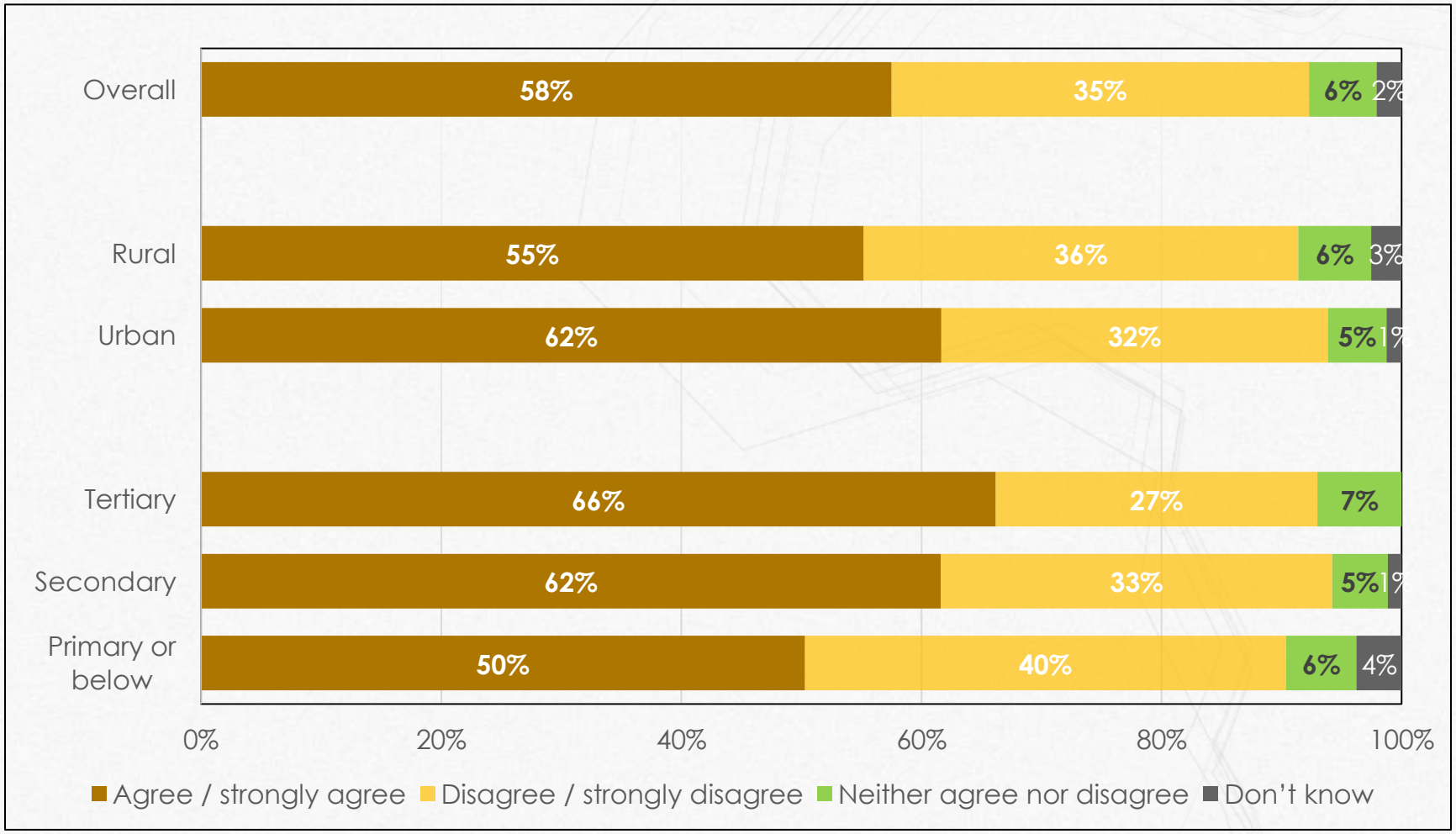
# Ruling and opposition parties: Which can fight corruption?

| | Urban | Rural | Male | Female | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ruling political parties | 65 | 71 | 67 | 71 | **69** |
| Opposition political parties | 23 | 16 | 21 | 17 | **19** |
| Neither of them | 10 | 9 | 10 | 8 | **9** |
| Don't know | 2 | 4 | 2 | 4 | **3** |

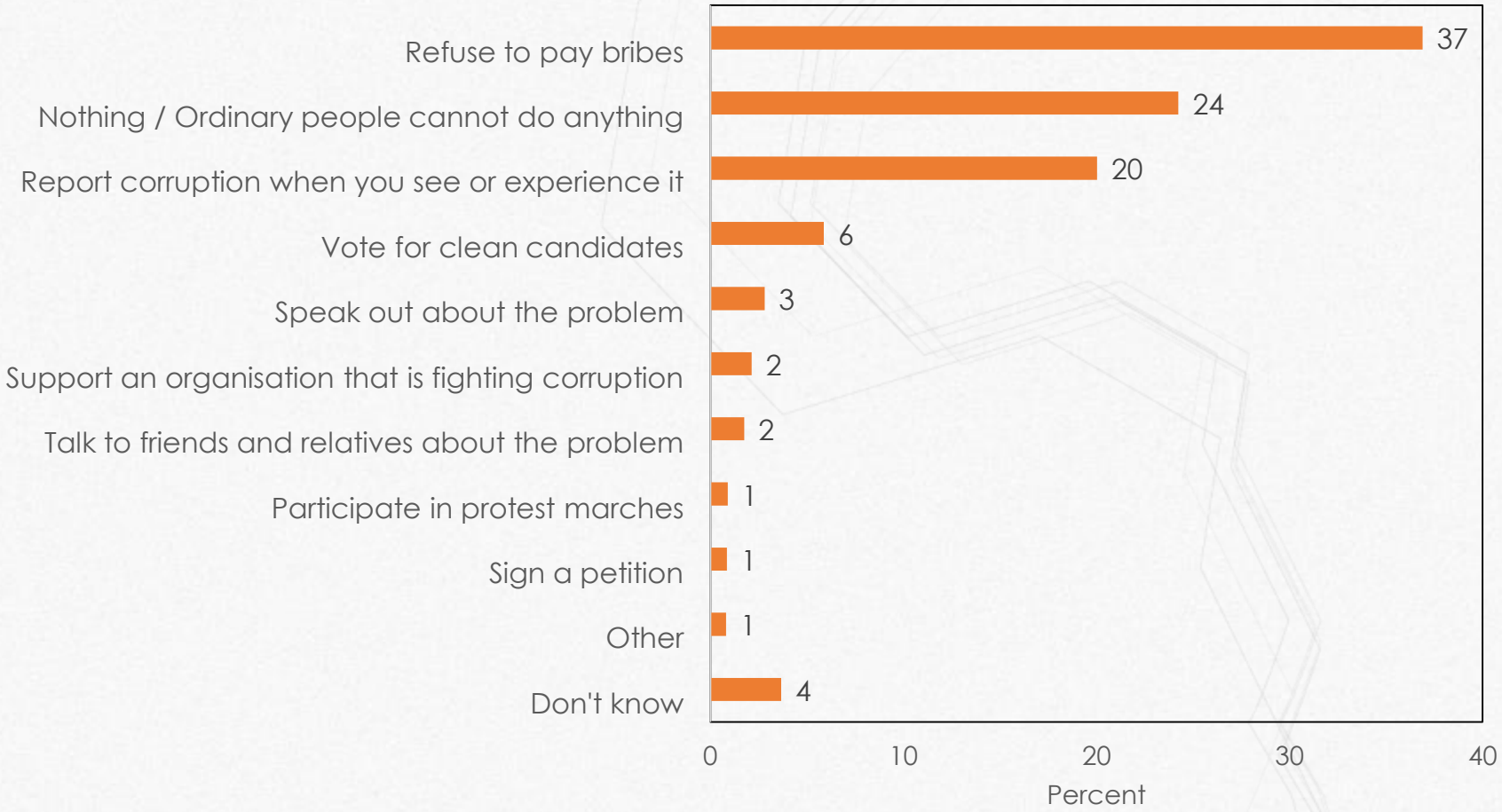
**Respondents were asked:** *Looking at the ruling and opposition political parties in this country, which would you say is most able to fight corruption in government? (%)*

# Can ordinary people help fight corruption?



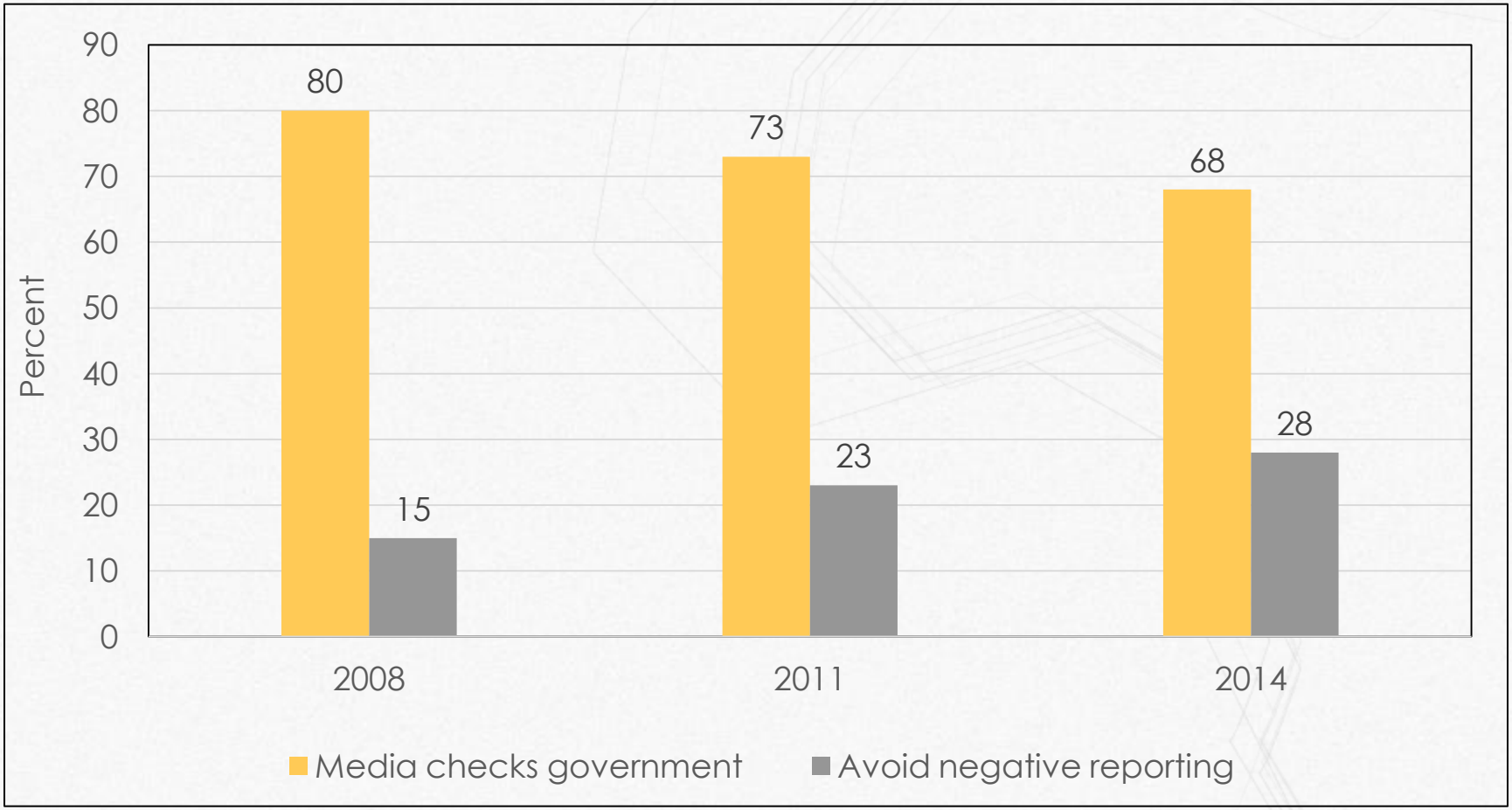

**Respondents were asked:** *Please tell me whether you agree or disagree with the following statement: Ordinary people can make a difference in the fight against corruption?*

# Citizens' ideas on most effective ways to combat corruption




**Respondents were asked:** *What is the most effective thing that an ordinary person like you can do to help combat corruption in this country?*

# News media and the fight against corruption




**Respondents were asked:** *Which of the following statements is closest to your view?*

***Statement 1:*** *The news media should constantly investigate and report on government mistakes and corruption.*

***Statement 2:*** *Too much reporting on negative events, like government mistakes and corruption, only harms the country.*

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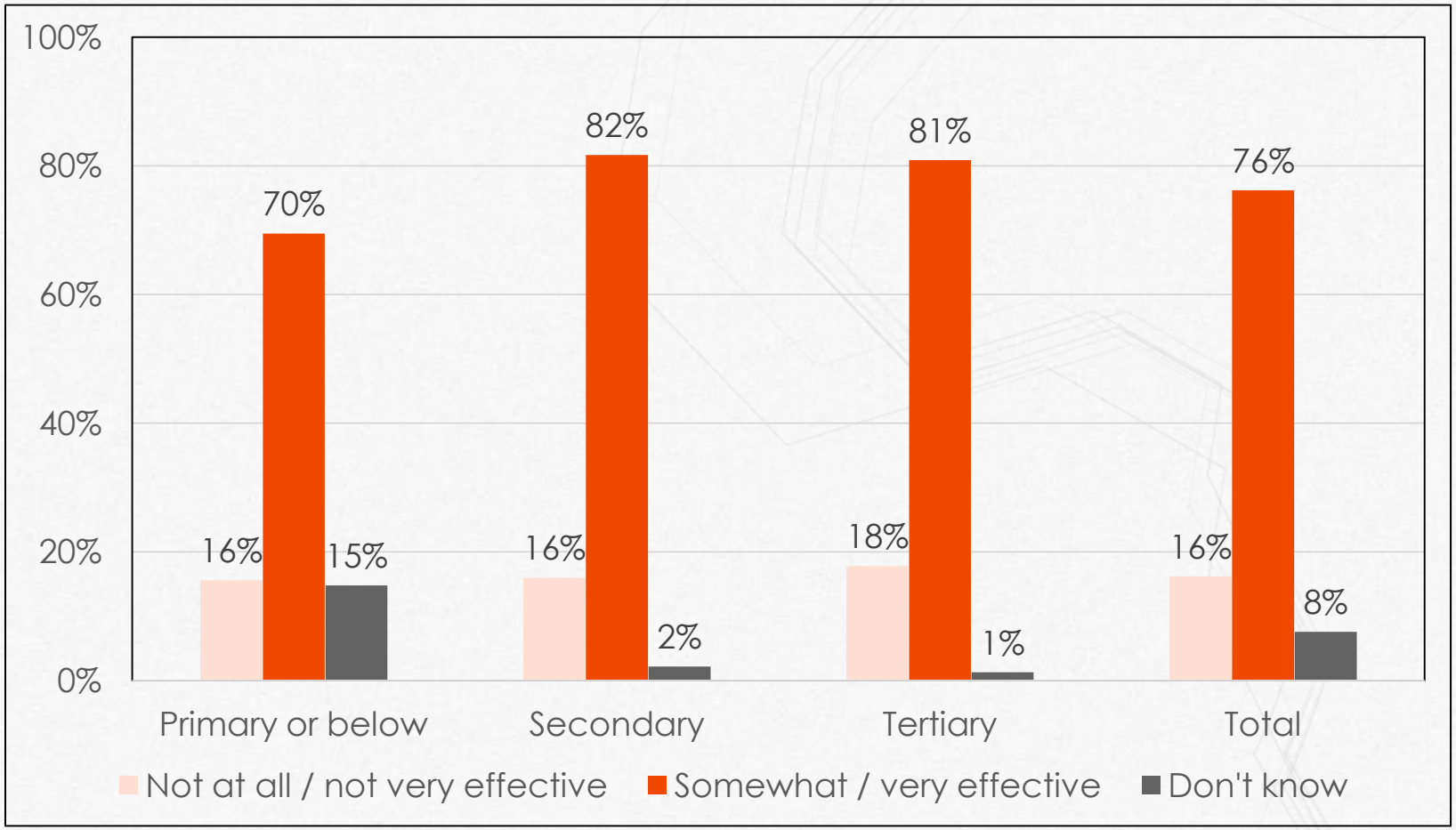
# **Media effectiveness in revealing corruption** | by education level




**Respondents were asked:** *In this country, how effective is the news media in revealing government mistakes and corruption?*

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# Conclusion

- A majority of Kenyans perceive increased corruption in the country over the past one year.
- A majority of Kenyans believe that effective integration of ordinary citizens in the fight against corruption can make a significant impact.
- The role of the media in revealing government mistakes and corruption cannot be overemphasized as it provides essential checks to the government through investigations and corruption exposures.
- The culture of not reporting bribery incidents to the authorities is undermining the fight against corruption in Kenya. Underlying factors for this non-reporting should be explored.
- Although the performance of the ruling coalition is perceived to be poor in handling the fight against corruption, a majority of Kenyans still feel it is better placed to fight corruption than the opposition parties.

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# Thank you

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