

Windhoek, Namibia
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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).

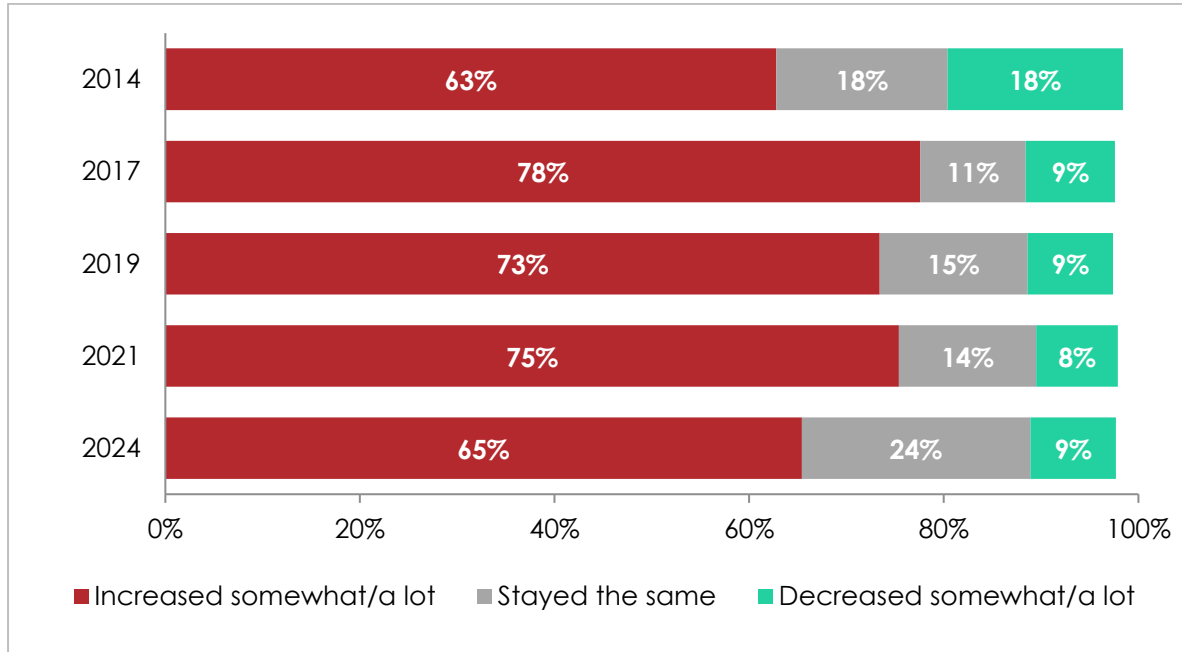
Afrobarometer surveys

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.

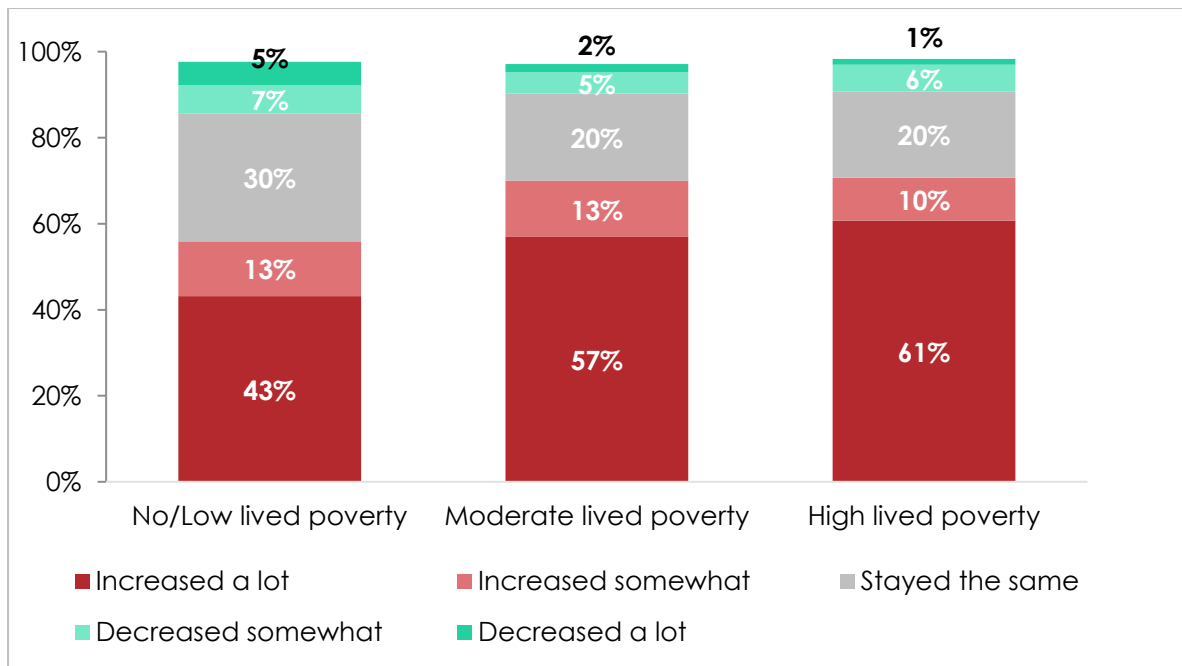
Charts

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

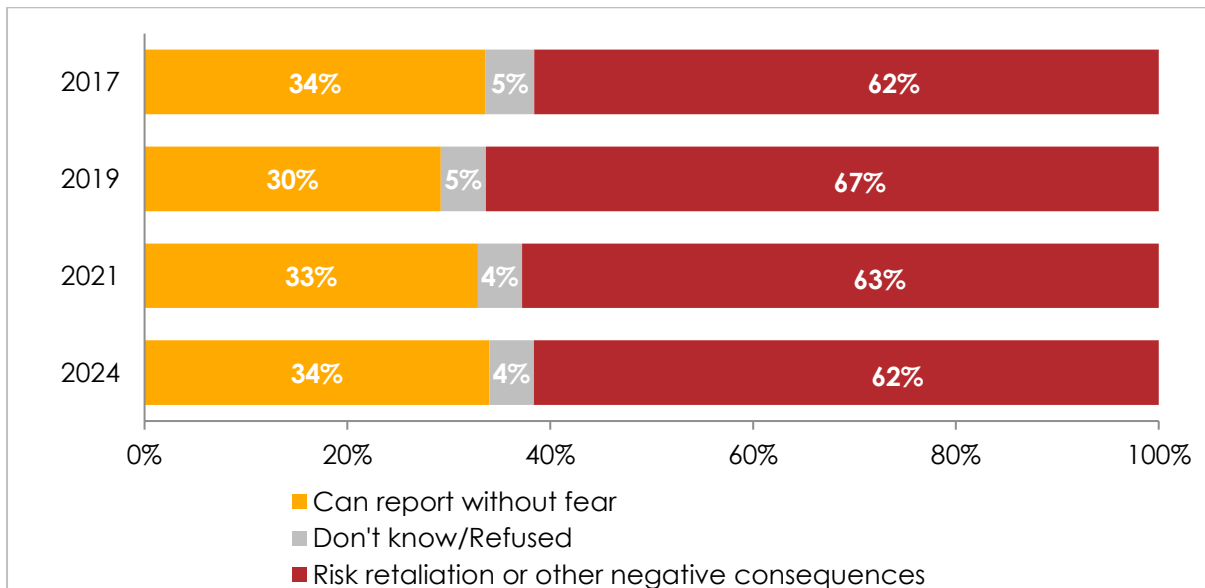


Respondents were asked:

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

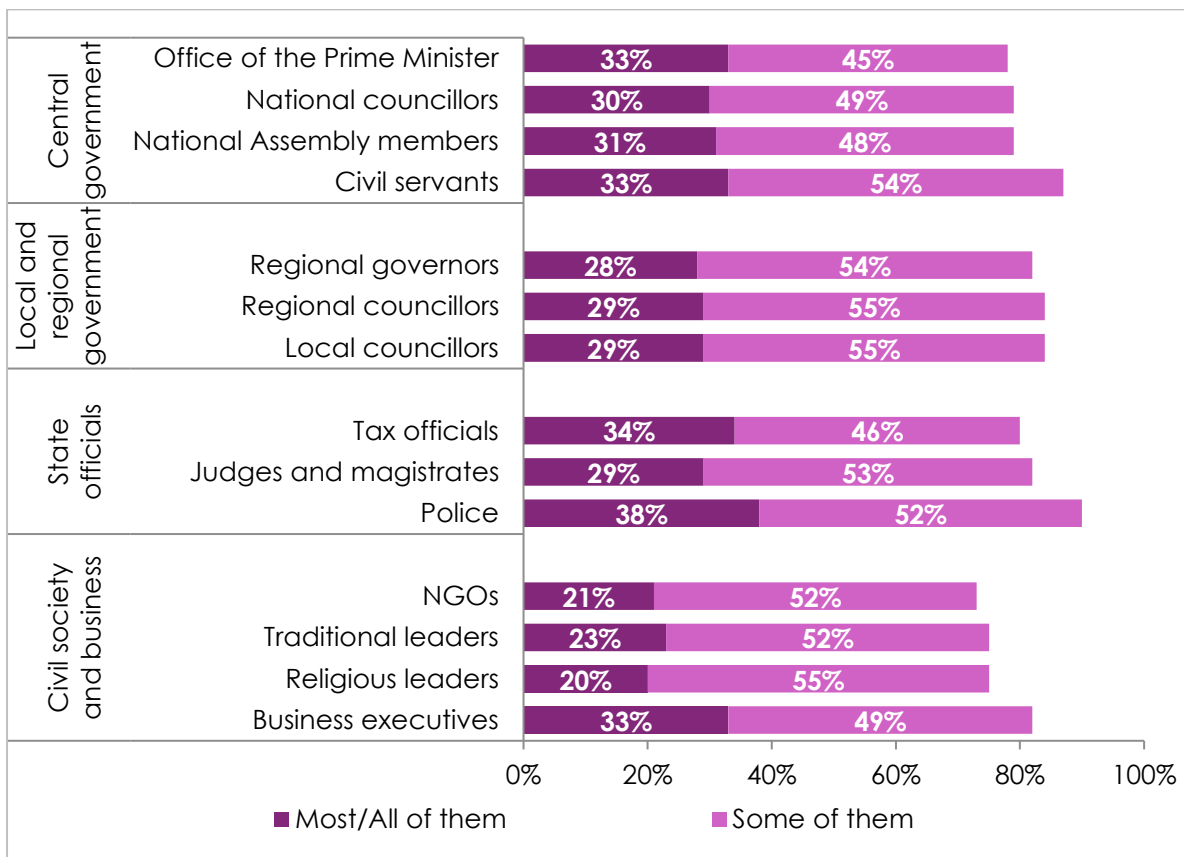
Over the past year, how often, if ever, have you or anyone in your family gone without: Enough food to eat? Enough clean water for home use? Medicines and medical treatment? Enough fuel to cook your food? A cash income?

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



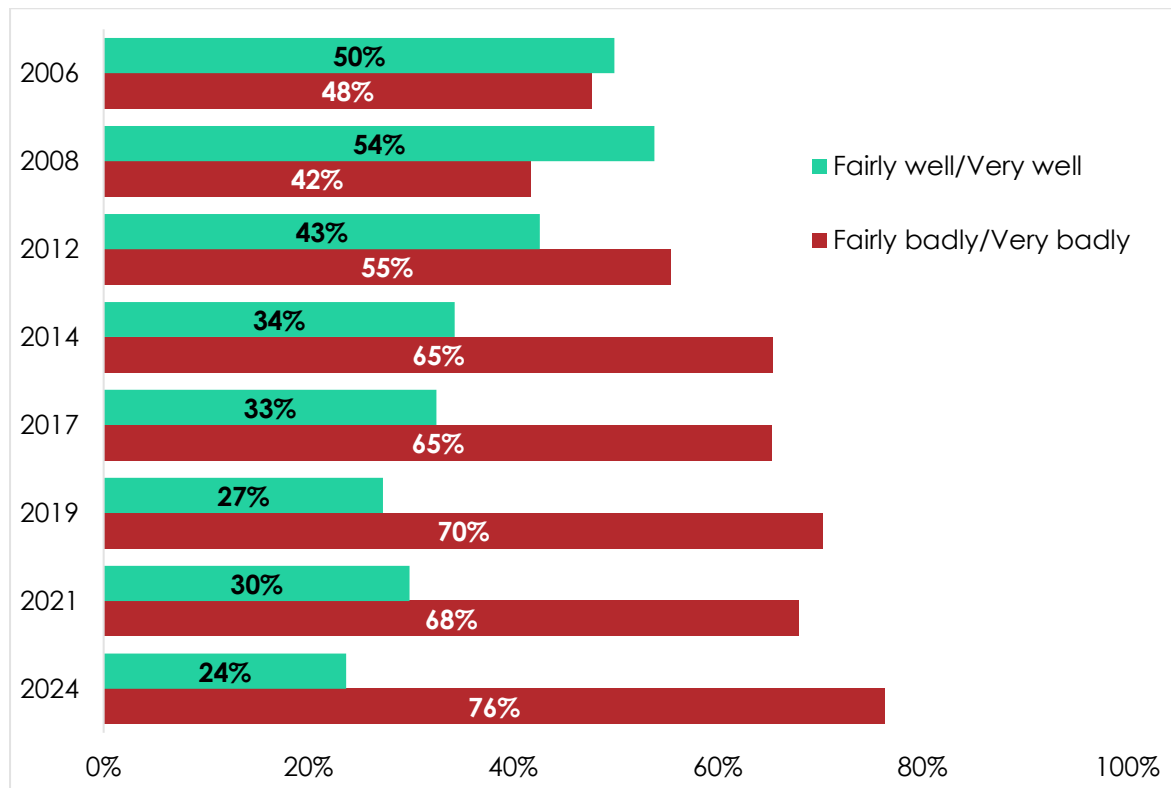
Respondents were asked: In this country, can ordinary people report incidents of corruption without fear, or do they risk retaliation or other negative consequences if they speak out?

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?

For more information, please contact:

Survey Warehouse
 Lizl Stoman
 Telephone: +264 81 261 6333
 Email: lizl@surveywarehouse.com.na

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