



World Justice  
Project

# The Rule of Law in Honduras

*Key Findings from the General  
Population Poll 2021*



# Acknowledgements

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# Table of Contents

## I ABOUT THIS REPORT

- 5 About This Report
- 6 Executive Findings

## II THEMATIC FINDINGS

### ***Section 1: Accountability and Fundamental Freedoms***

- 12 Government Accountability
- 13 Fundamental Freedoms
- 14 Corruption
- 15 Bribery Victimization
- 16 Trust

### ***Section 2: Police and Criminal Justice***

- 18 Criminal Justice System
- 19 Criminal Justice Actors
- 20 Police
- 22 Community Policing, Vigilante Justice, and Trust
- 23 Crime Victimization
- 25 Victim Support

### ***Section 3: Gender, Security, and Migration***

- 27 Gender Roles and Domestic Violence
- 28 Security
- 30 Internal Migration
- 31 International Migration
- 33 Migration to the United States

## III PROJECT DESIGN

- 35 Methodology

## IV APPENDIX

- 39 Appendix
- 40 About the WJP
- 41 Other Publications





I

# About This Report



# About This Report

**EFFECTIVE RULE OF LAW** reduces corruption, combats poverty and disease, and protects people from injustices large and small. Strengthening the rule of law is an important objective for governments, donors, and civil society organizations around the world. To be effective, rule of law development requires clarity about the fundamental features that define the rule of law, as well as an adequate basis for its evaluation and measurement.

*The Rule of Law in Honduras: Key Findings from the General Population Poll 2021* presents question-level data drawn from the General Population Poll (GPP), an original data source designed and collected by the World Justice Project. To provide a more in-depth view of trends in perceptions of rule of law in Honduras, this report also presents select findings over time and compared to Honduras' regional peers in Central America.

***This report represents the voices of people in Honduras and their experiences with the rule of law in their country.***

The GPP was conducted in October and November of 2021 through face-to-face interviews to a nationally representative sample of 3,003 Honduran households. This poll was designed to capture data on the experiences and perceptions of ordinary people regarding a variety of themes related to the rule of law.

The data derived from the General Population Poll is presented in this report as thematic briefs, each one highlighting a different dimension of the rule of law from the perspective of Hondurans. These thematic briefs focus on the current rule of law ecosystem in Honduras while simultaneously illuminating changes over time and comparisons across the following regional peer countries: Belize, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Panama. Each section touches upon perceptions of the following themes: accountability, fundamental freedoms, corruption, bribery victimization, trust in institutions, the criminal justice system and its actors, police performance, community policing, vigilante justice, crime victimization, support for victims of crime, gender issues, security, and migration.



# Executive Findings

*The Rule of Law in Honduras: Key Findings from the General Population Poll 2021* report provides a comprehensive overview of how citizens perceive and experience the rule of law in Honduras. The thematic briefs summarized below draw on historical data and new data collected from the general public in 2021. Despite improvements in certain rule of law outcomes over time, the results highlight the fact that many challenges—including corruption, lack of support for crime victims, and security—persist.

## Section 1: Accountability and Fundamental Freedoms

### 1 GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY

**Hondurans have moderate perceptions of government accountability, marking an improvement since 2014.** Forty percent of Honduran respondents believe that high-ranking government officials would be prosecuted and punished for embezzling public funds for personal benefit, demonstrating a 100% increase compared to this figure in 2014. Hondurans have average perceptions of government accountability when compared to respondents in regional peer countries. Beliefs regarding checks on executive power in Honduras have remained stable over time, with 73% of respondents believing that the president should always obey laws and court decisions in 2021 compared to 74% in 2019.

### 2 FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS

**Hondurans have mixed views regarding their guarantees of fundamental freedoms.** Hondurans' opinions on the freedom of expression have fluctuated since 2014, though they remain fairly moderate. Despite some minor declines since 2019, Hondurans have relatively positive views about their right to participate in political processes. In contrast, Hondurans are most critical of the legitimacy of local elections, with only 41% of respondents reporting that they believe local government officials are elected through a clean process. Hondurans are most confident in their freedom of religion, with 88% of respondents in agreement that religious minorities can observe their holy days.

### 3 CORRUPTION

**Perceptions of corruption in Honduras either declined or remained the same across all institutions between 2019 and 2021.** The National Congress is seen as the most corrupt

institution in Honduras, with nearly two-thirds of respondents (65%) believing that most or all legislative officials are involved in corrupt practices. This perception has worsened over time, as only 42% of respondents felt that way in 2014. Respondents were more optimistic about judicial actors, with only one-third (33%) of Hondurans reporting that most or all defense attorneys are involved in corrupt practices. While perceptions of corruption have varied since 2014, more respondents believe that actors from each institution are corrupt than in 2019, with the exception of local government officers and prosecutors (these percentages were the same in 2019 and 2021).

#### 4 BRIBERY VICTIMIZATION

**Hondurans generally pay bribes at a rate comparable to respondents in regional peer countries.** One-quarter of respondents paid a bribe in the last three years to request a government permit or document. Respondents also reported paying a bribe to request public benefits or assistance (13% of respondents), secure a place at a public school (11% of respondents), obtain a birth certificate or government issued ID (8% of respondents), and use a public health service (6% of respondents). These rates are moderate when compared to the percentage of respondents from regional peer countries who paid bribes for the same services. Salvadorans reported the lowest rates of bribery victimization, while Belizeans reported the highest.

#### 5 TRUST

**More Hondurans reported having trust in various groups and institutions than in 2019, with the exception of trust in police officers and national government officers.** In 2021, most respondents (61%) reported having a lot or some trust in people living in their community. In contrast, only 38% of respondents trust public defense attorneys, 31% trust judges and magistrates, and 29% trust police officers. Between 2019 and 2021, the percentage of respondents who trust local government officers experienced the largest improvement, increasing from 19% in 2019 to 28% in 2021. The fewest respondents reported having trust in national government officers, with only 18% of respondents reporting they trust most or all executive officials in 2014, 2019, and 2021 (despite a brief increase to 24% in 2017).

## Section 2: Police and Criminal Justice

#### 6 CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

**More Hondurans have confidence in the performance of the criminal justice system did than in 2019, with the exception of proportionate punishment.** In 2021, half of respondents were confident that the criminal justice system in Honduras safeguards the presumption of innocence for defendants (50%), while slightly fewer said the criminal justice system ensures equal treatment of the accused (49%), ensures equal treatment of victims (47%), and ensures accessibility (47%). Hondurans were the most critical of the criminal justice system's ability to ensure timeliness (37%), though this figure increased by six percentage points since 2019. Hondurans reported the greatest increase in confidence in the effectiveness of the criminal justice system, with 46% reporting confidence that the criminal justice is effective at bringing people who commit crimes to justice compared to 37% in 2019.

#### 7 CRIMINAL JUSTICE ACTORS

**Hondurans have mixed views on key criminal justice actors.** Hondurans most often reported having trust in public defense attorneys, with 38% reporting that they have at least some trust in them, followed by judges and magistrates (31%) and prosecutors (28%). Perceptions of trust in each actor have improved since 2019, with seven percentage point increases for public defense attorneys and judges and magistrates. In line with these findings, the least Hondurans perceive public defense attorneys as corrupt (33%), followed by judges and magistrates (37%) and prosecutors (38%). Finally, nearly half of Honduran respondents believe that judges and magistrates (47%) and prosecutors (45%) do their job well, while only 33% of Hondurans believe that public defense attorneys do their job well.

#### 8 POLICE

##### *Police Perceptions*

**Hondurans have negative perceptions of police performance.**

Although a majority of respondents believe police resolve security problems in the community (57%) and are available to help when needed (71%), less than a third believe that police respond to crime reports (31%) or perform effective and lawful investigations (32%). When it comes to the legitimacy of police, Hondurans say corruption and accountability are top issues. While most Honduran respondents (56%) believe that the police are not involved in corrupt practices, only 40% believe that the police do not serve the interests of gangs and even fewer (25%) believe that the police do not serve the interests of politicians. Only 26% of respondents believe that the police are held accountable for violating the law and 28% of respondents believe that accusations of police misconduct are investigated. Despite these challenges,



72% of respondents believe that the police treat all people with kindness and respect. Additionally, 46% and 48% of respondents believe that the police serve the interests of regular citizens and the interests of the community, respectively.

### Police Interactions

**In both voluntary and involuntary interactions with the police, most Hondurans reported that the police controlled the situation and treated them with respect.** Eighteen percent of Honduran respondents voluntarily contacted the police in the last 12 months. Within this group, respondents most often contacted the police to request help or information (28%). In these interactions, just over half of respondents reported that the police controlled the situation (51% of respondents) and arrived promptly (54% of respondents). Eighty-five percent of respondents reported that the police treated them with respect, and incidence of bribery solicitation or offering was low (below 5%) during all interactions.

Nearly one-third (32%) of Honduran respondents reported having had an involuntary contact with the police in the last 12 months. Out of those who had an involuntary interaction, respondents most frequently reported that they were stopped for a routine check or so that the police could provide assistance (62%). Eighty-six percent of respondents believe that the police controlled the situation and 82% of respondents reported that the police treated them with respect. Approximately 79% of individuals who were approached involuntarily felt that police clearly explained the reasons for their actions and 73% believe that they were stopped for a legitimate reason.

## 9 COMMUNITY POLICING, VIGILANTE JUSTICE, AND TRUST

**Hondurans who interact more frequently with the police tend to have more trust in the police.** Hondurans who reported seeing the police more frequently in their neighborhood and/or who reported that the police provide opportunities for community members to discuss crime or suggest solutions to local problems also reported having higher levels of trust in the police. Conversely, respondents who report that the police rarely or never patrol their neighborhood have less trust in the police, are less likely to believe that the police resolve security problems, and are less likely to believe that the police act lawfully. Respondents who do not feel safe walking in their neighborhood at night and who believe that most or all police officers are corrupt similarly have lower trust in the police and are less likely to believe that the police resolve security problems or act lawfully.

## 10 CRIME VICTIMIZATION

**Nearly one in five (18%) Hondurans experienced at least one crime in the past year.** When asked about the crime that

they most recently experienced, respondents most often reported being a victim of a property crime (15%), followed by crimes against life and integrity (12%) and corruption, finance, and commercial crimes (7%). Around a third (35%) of those who experienced crime reported the most recent crime to the police or another authority, and 86% of those who reported the crime chose to file an official crime report. The most common reason respondents gave for not reporting the crime was the belief that reporting would not help (35%). In 2021, more men and respondents between the ages of 18 and 29 were victims of crime than other sociodemographic groups. When women and/or those in urban areas were victims of crime, they reported the crime less frequently than respondents from other sociodemographic groups.

## 11 VICTIM SUPPORT

**Most Hondurans do not believe that crime victims receive adequate resources and protection.** Only one fifth of respondents are confident that crime victims are believed by authorities when they report a crime (20%), receive prompt and courteous attention when reporting a crime (23%), or receive adequate care and protection as victims of sexual crimes (24%). Respondents are more often confident that crime victims are addressed by the police using accessible language (45%) and are guaranteed their rights in criminal justice proceedings (40%).

## Section 3: Gender, Security and Migration

### 12 GENDER ROLES AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

**In Honduras, men and women hold similar opinions about family roles but differ in views on domestic violence.** When asked if a man should be responsible for all of his family's expenses, men and women had similar views, with 94% of men and 93% of women agreeing with this statement. Views diverge slightly when it comes to women's earnings, with 87% of women agreeing that women should be as responsible as men for bringing money home and 80% of men believing the same. When asked what reactions respondents would have if their partner were to physically assault them, women most often said they would file a complaint (50%), while men most often said they would get divorced or separated (38%). Only 3% of women said they would hit their partner back and 2% of men said they would not do anything.

### 13 SECURITY

**Fewer Hondurans felt safe in 2021 than in 2019 and perceptions of safety vary based on sociodemographic characteristics.** Only 31% of Hondurans reported feeling safe riding the bus in 2021. Although a majority of respondents reported feeling safe walking in their neighborhood at night (56%), this marks a nine-point decrease from 65% of respondents in 2019. Thirty-seven percent of Hondurans believe that the most frequent crime in their neighborhood is street violence, followed by gang and youth violence (30%) and domestic violence against women (29%). Women and/or Hondurans who were previously a victim of crime are less likely to feel safe walking in their neighborhood at night than respondents with other sociodemographic characteristics.

### 14 INTERNAL MIGRATION

**Roughly two in five respondents in the cities of Le Ceiba and San Pedro Sula reported having migrated there from another city in Honduras.** Fewer respondents reported having migrated to either El Progreso (26%) or Tegucigalpa (20%). In all four cities, respondents most often cited better economic and educational opportunities as their reason to migrate. When compared against other sociodemographic groups, respondents with no high school diploma are more likely to have migrated within Honduras and respondents under the age of 30 are more likely to have migrated within Honduras within the last three years.

### 15 INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION

**More Hondurans would prefer to move permanently to another country than respondents from regional peer countries.** Forty-nine percent of respondents would prefer to move permanently to another country and 18% of respondents

reported having plans to move internationally in the next 12 months. More than half of respondents from La Ceiba (59%), San Pedro Sula (53%), and Tegucigalpa (58%) would prefer to move permanently to another country, and 22% of respondents in both La Ceiba and Tegucigalpa reported having plans to move internationally in the next 12 months.

Across all cities, respondents most frequently cited better economic or educational opportunities as the reason for their desire to migrate, followed by less violence, corruption, or harassment. Respondents who are younger than 30, have previously tried to move to the United States, have been a victim of a crime in the past year, and/or do not have a high school diploma are more likely to have plans to move internationally in the next 12 months than other sociodemographic groups.

### 16 MIGRATION TO THE UNITED STATES

**Seventeen percent of Hondurans have attempted to migrate to the United States.** Most (63%) respondents who reported having attempted to migrate to the United States did not end up entering the country. Of those, 42% of respondents were unable to enter because they were sent back by law enforcement, 20% changed their mind, and 14% reported that the journey was too difficult. Of the 37% of respondents who were successfully able to enter the United States, 43% were deported by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and another 17% left due to family or social reasons.



## II

# Thematic Findings

## **Section 1**

### ***Accountability and Fundamental Freedoms***

- 12 Government Accountability
- 13 Fundamental Freedoms
- 14 Corruption
- 15 Bribery Victimization
- 16 Trust



# Government Accountability

Views in Honduras and regional peer countries regarding accountability under the law.

Chart 1a. Perceptions of Accountability in the Region Over Time

Percentage of respondents who believe that high-ranking government officials would be held accountable for breaking the law

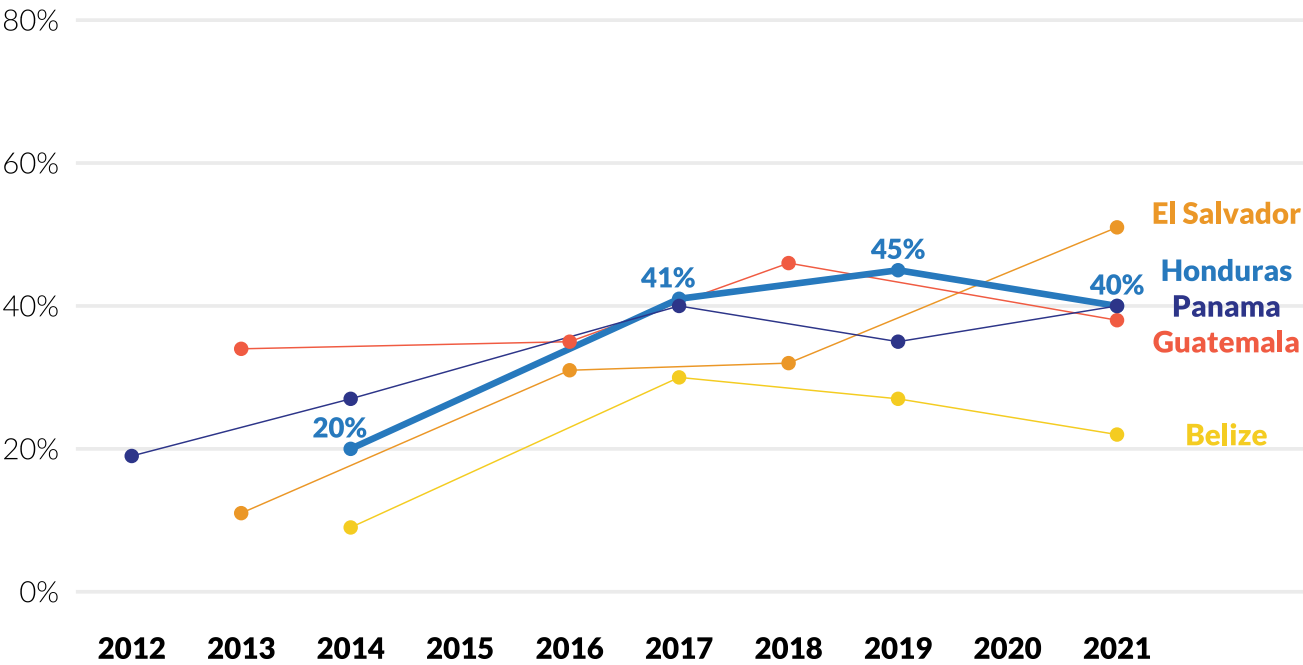
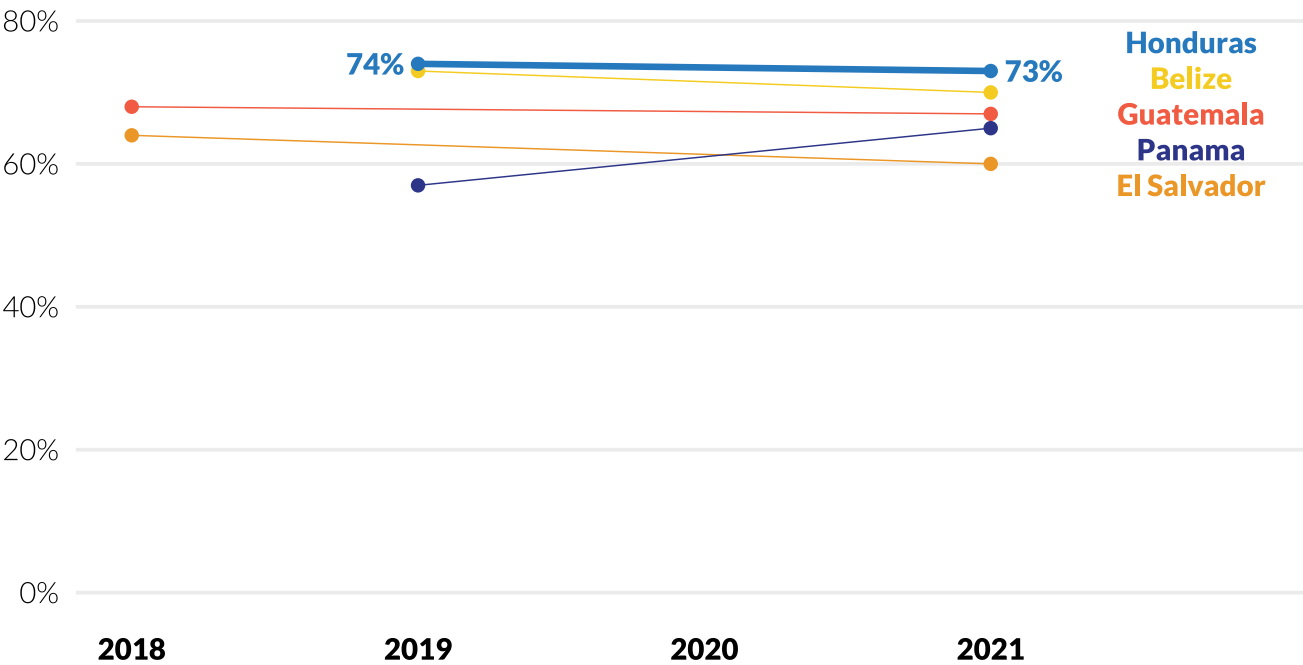


Chart 1b. Checks on Executive Power Over Time

Percentage of respondents who believe that the president should always obey laws and court decisions, even if the president thinks they are wrong



Source: WJP General Population Poll 2012, 2013, 2014, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, and 2021

# Fundamental Freedoms

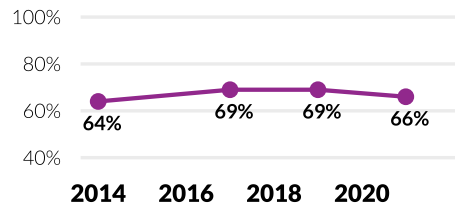
*Views on the extent to which freedoms of expression, participation, elections, and religion are guaranteed.*

## Chart 2. Fundamental Freedoms in Honduras Over Time

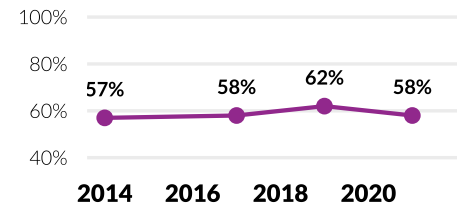
*Percentage of respondents who believe that...*

### EXPRESSION

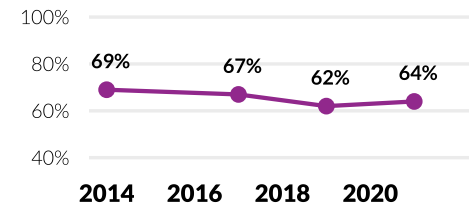
*People can express opinions against the government*



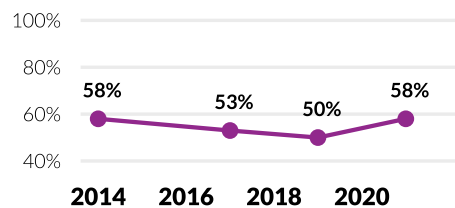
*Civil society organizations can express opinions against the government*



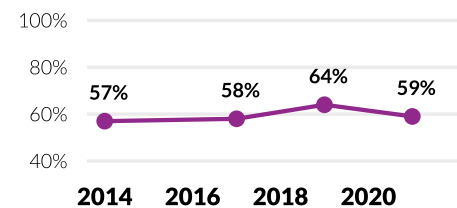
*Political parties can express opinions against the government*



*Media can express opinions against the government without fear of retaliation*

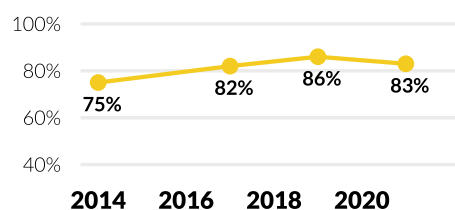


*Media can expose cases of corruption*

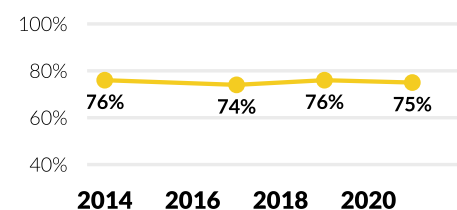


### PARTICIPATION

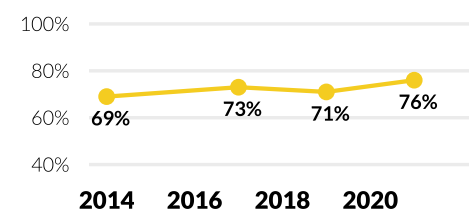
*People can attend community meetings*



*People can join any political organization*

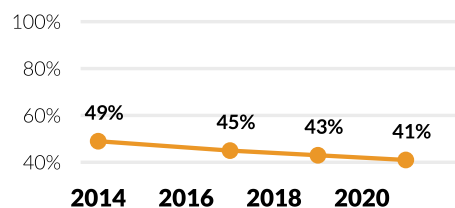


*People can organize around an issue or petition*

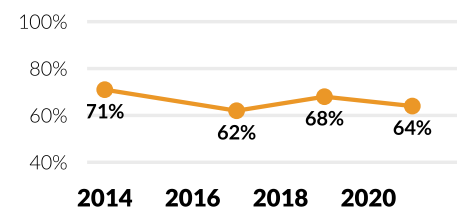


### ELECTIONS

*Local government officials are elected through a clean process*

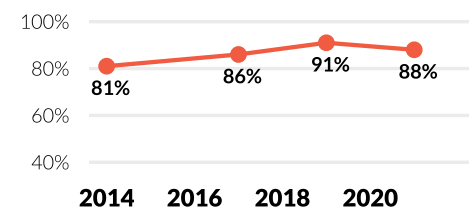


*People can vote freely without feeling harassed or pressured*



### RELIGION

*Religious minorities can observe their holy days*



# Corruption

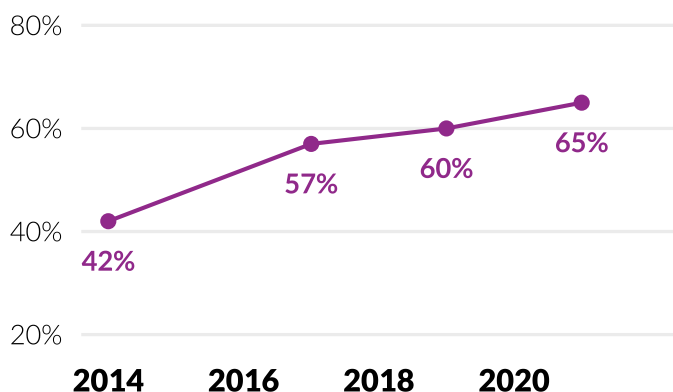
*Perceptions of corruption in Honduras.*

## Chart 3. Perceptions of Corruption by Institution Over Time

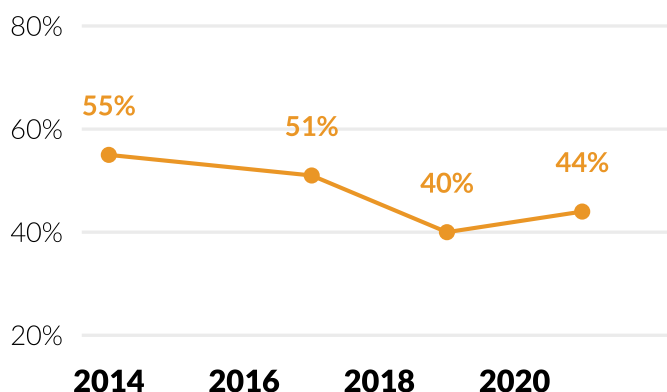
Percentage of respondents who believe that most or all people working in the following institutions are corrupt

### LEGISLATIVE

(Members of the National Congress)

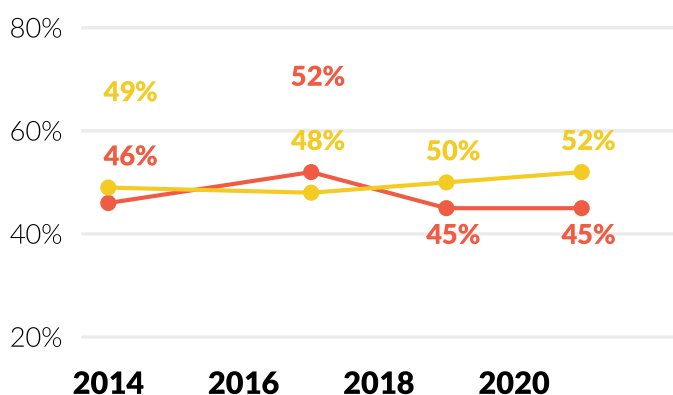


### POLICE OFFICERS



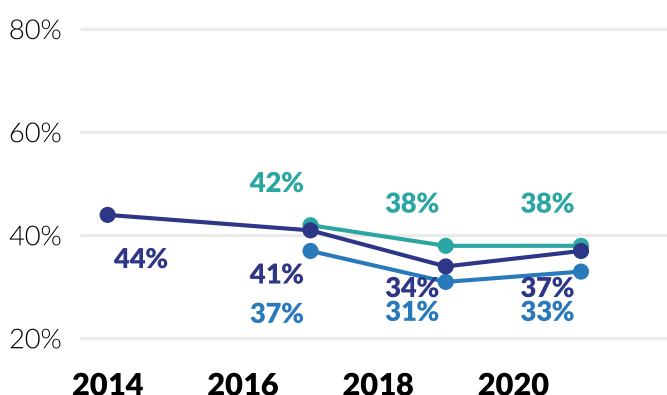
### EXECUTIVE

(Local Government Officers and National Government Officers)



### JUDICIARY

(Prosecutors, Public Defense Attorneys, and Judges and Magistrates)



● Local Government Officers ● National Government Officers

● Prosecutors ● Public Defense Attorneys ● Judges and Magistrates

Source: WJP General Population Poll 2014, 2017, 2019, and 2021

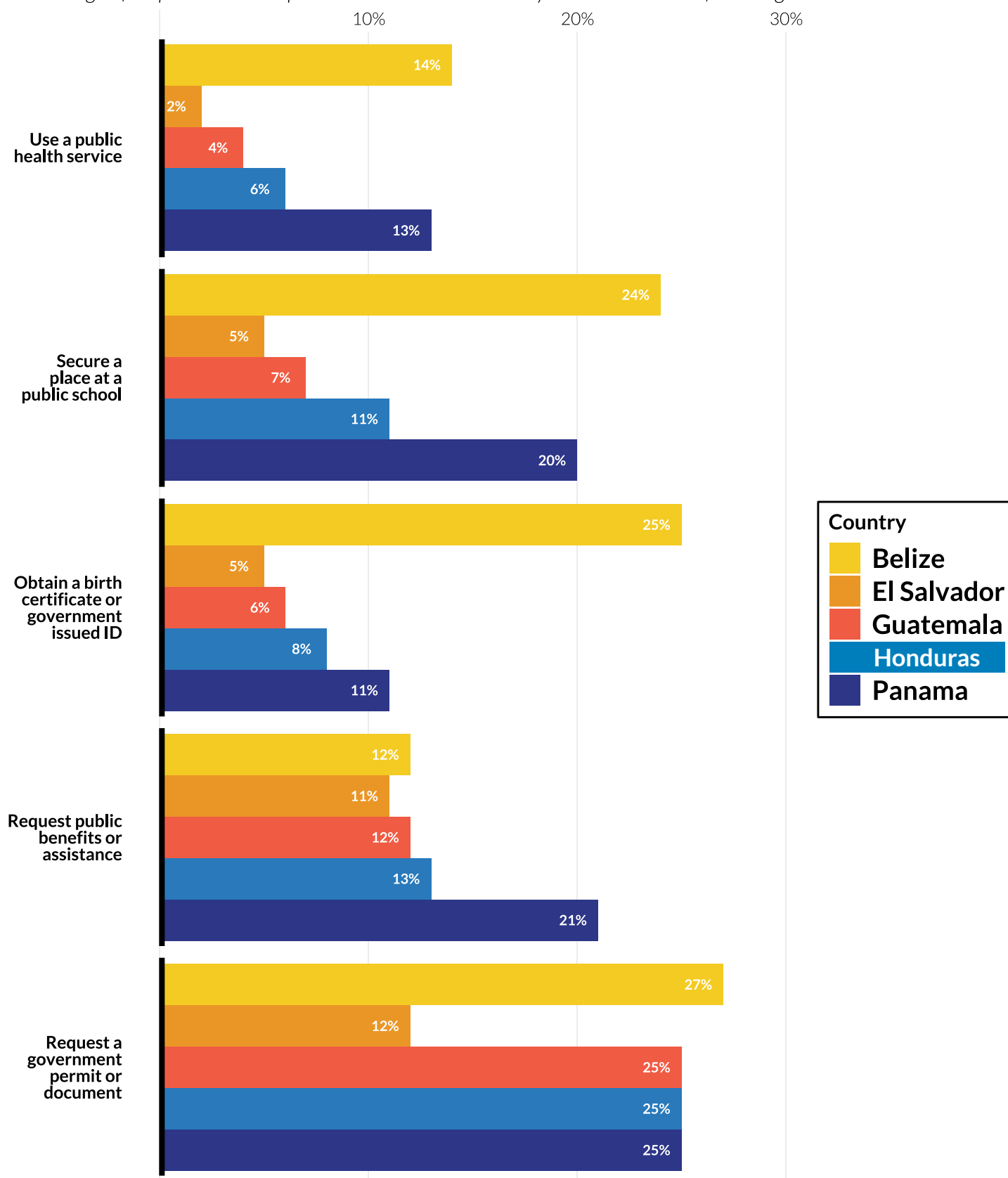


# Bribery Victimization

Data on bribes paid in Central America to access public services.

Chart 4. Bribery Victimization in Honduras and Regional Peer Countries

Percentage of respondents who paid a bribe in the last three years to access the following services



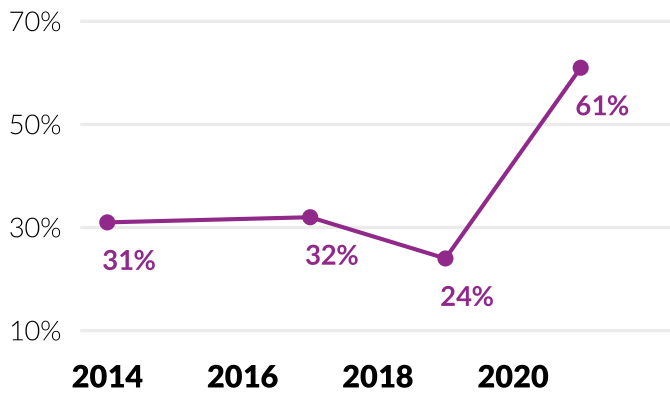
# Trust

Extent to which people in Honduras trust various groups and institutions.

## Chart 5. Trust in Institutions Over Time

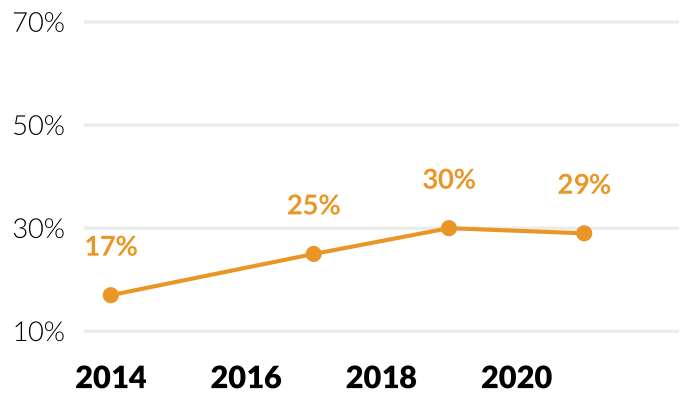
Percentage of respondents who have a lot or some trust in...

### PEOPLE LIVING IN THEIR COMMUNITY



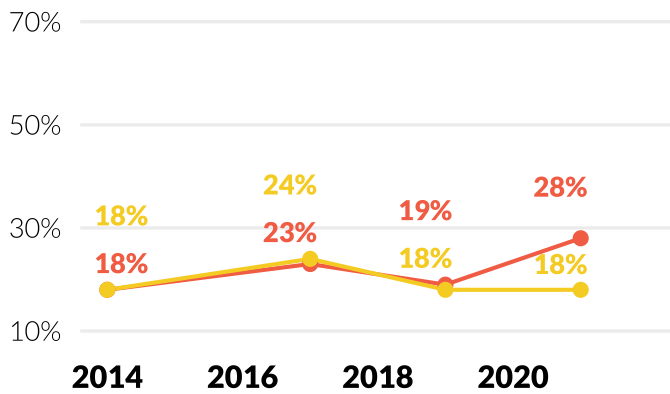
Note: Surveys administered before 2021 asked about "people in your country" instead of "people living in your community."

### POLICE OFFICERS



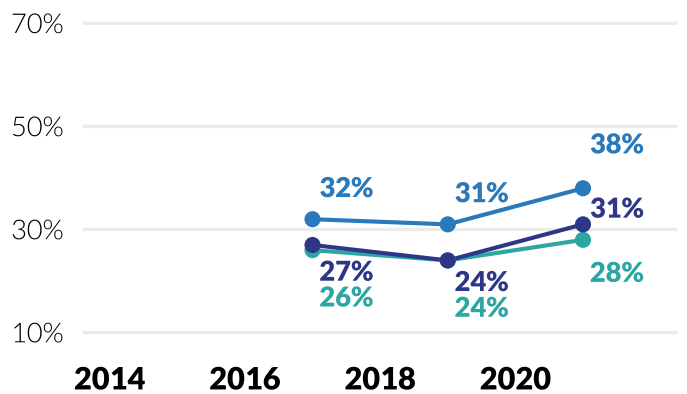
### EXECUTIVE

(Local Government Officers and National Government Officers)



### JUDICIARY

(Prosecutors, Public Defense Attorneys, and Judges and Magistrates)



● Local Government Officers ● National Government Officers

● Prosecutors ● Public Defense Attorneys ● Judges and Magistrates

Source: WJP General Population Poll 2014, 2017, 2019, and 2021

## **Section 2**

### ***Police and Criminal Justice***

- 18 Criminal Justice System
- 19 Criminal Justice Actors
- 20 Police
- 22 Community Policing, Vigilante Justice, and Trust
- 23 Crime Victimization
- 25 Victim Support

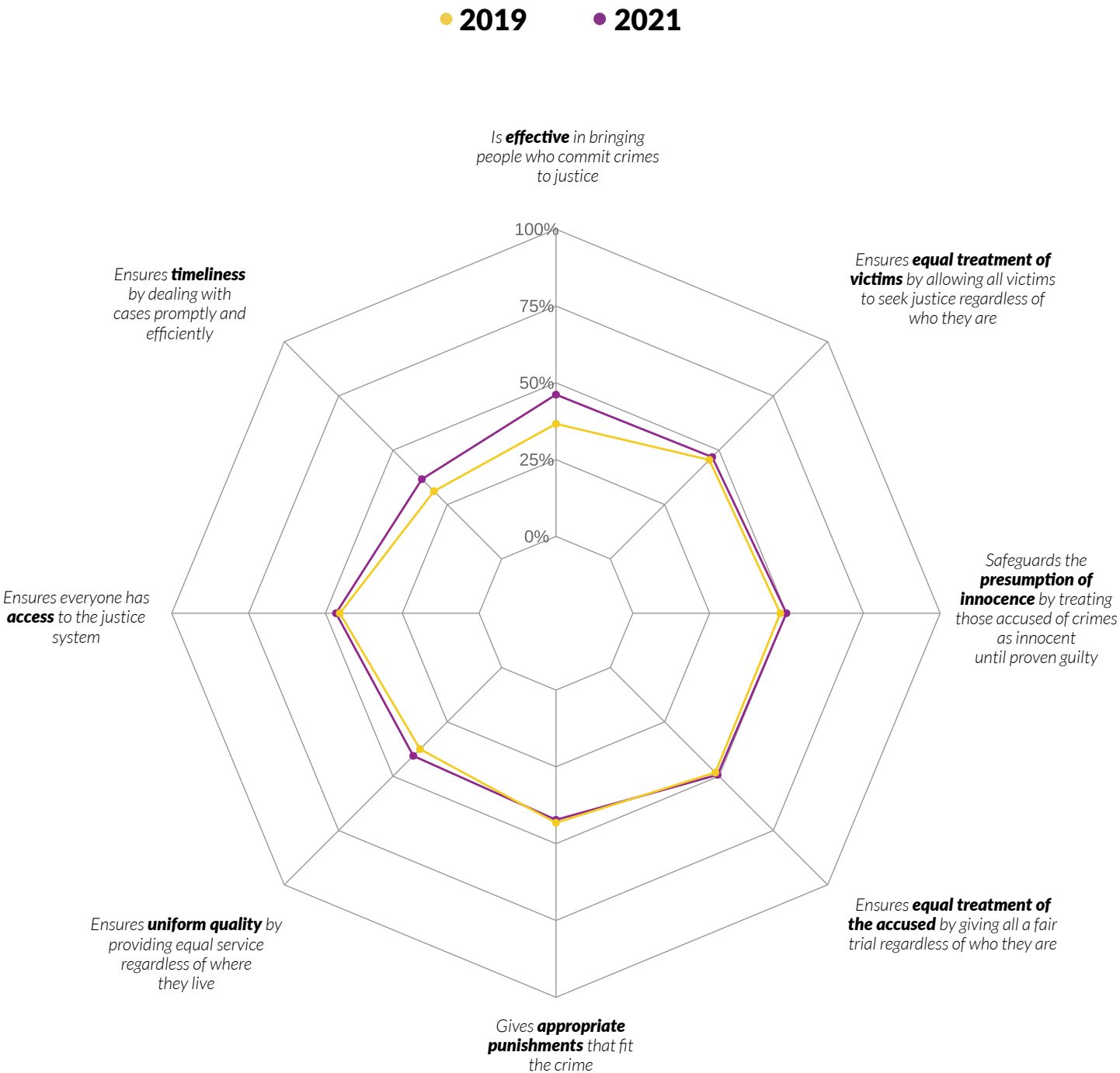


# Criminal Justice System

Views on the criminal justice system in Honduras.

Chart 6. Perceptions of the Criminal Justice System Over Time

Percentage of respondents who are confident that the criminal justice system...



Note: For additional information on how Chart 6 was produced, please see the Appendix.  
Source: WJP General Population Poll 2019 and 2021

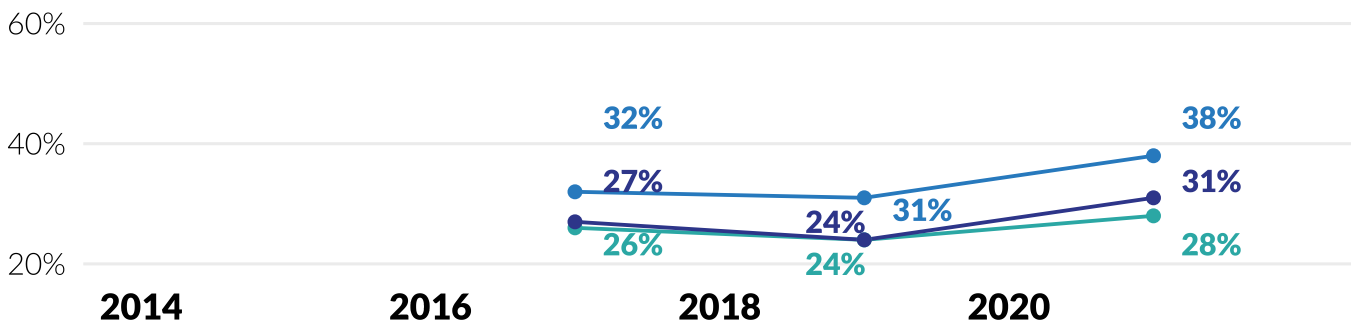
# Criminal Justice Actors

Views on the performance of criminal justice actors in Honduras.

● Prosecutors ● Public Defense Attorneys ● Judges and Magistrates

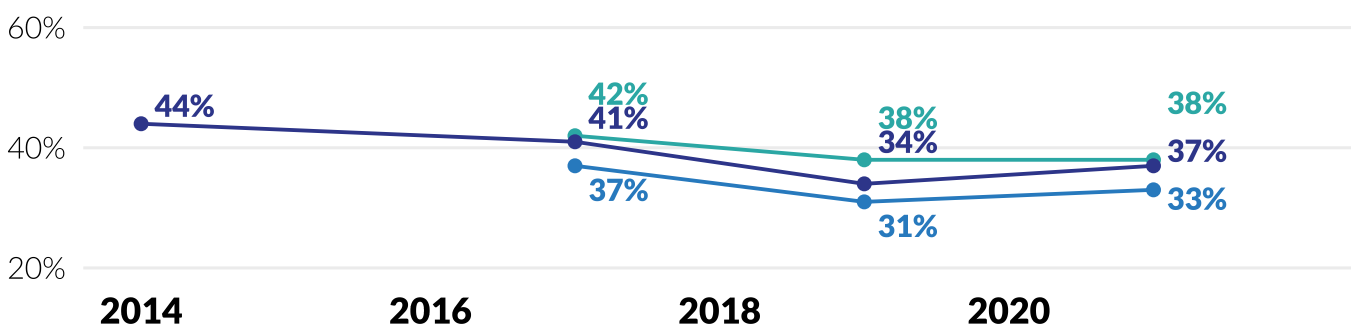
## Chart 7a. Trust in Criminal Justice Actors Over Time

Percentage of respondents who have a lot or some trust in prosecutors, public defense attorneys, and judges and magistrates



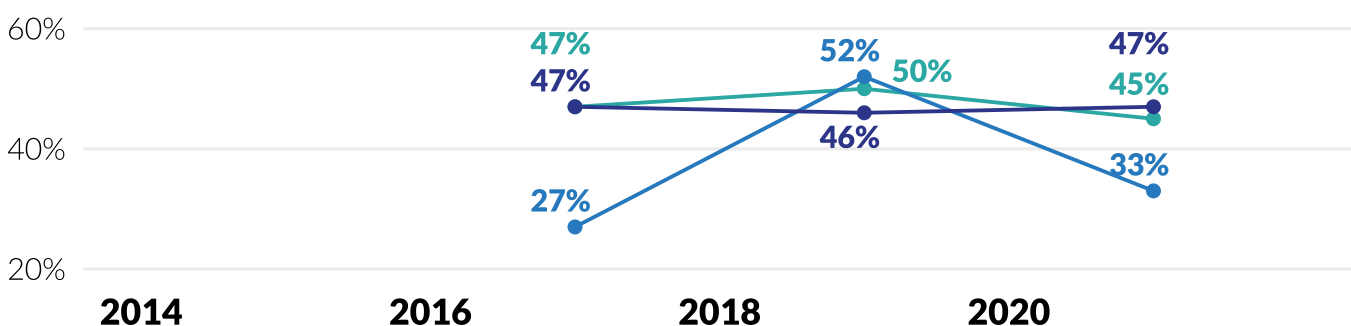
## Chart 7b. Perceptions of Corruption Across Criminal Justice Actors Over Time

Percentage of respondents who believe that most or all prosecutors, public defense attorneys, and judges and magistrates are corrupt



## Chart 7c. Perceptions of Effectiveness Across Criminal Justice Actors Over Time

Percentage of respondents who believe that prosecutors, public defense attorneys, and judges and magistrates do their job well



Note: Variables in Effectiveness category are as follows: **Prosecutors** prosecute crimes committed in an independent manner and are not subject to any sort of pressure (strongly agree/agree); **Public defense attorneys** do everything they can to defend poor people that are accused of committing a crime (often/sometimes); **Judges** decide cases in an independent manner and are not subject to any sort of pressure (strongly agree/agree).

Source: WJP General Population Poll 2014, 2017, 2019, and 2021

# Police

## Views on police performance in Honduras.

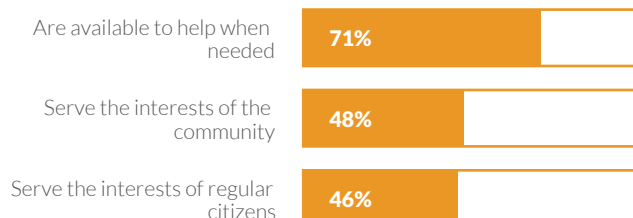
### Chart 8a. Perceptions of the Police

Opinions on effectiveness and legitimacy of law enforcement

#### EFFECTIVENESS

##### SERVE THE PUBLIC

Percentage of respondents who believe that the police...



##### CRIME CONTROL AND SAFETY

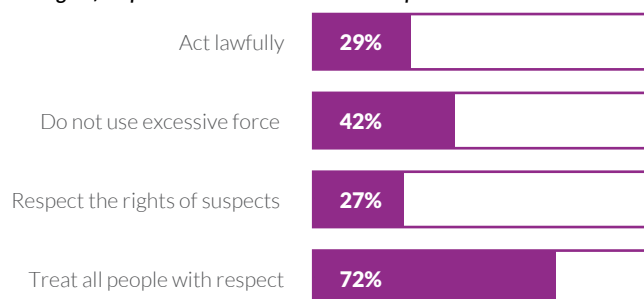
Percentage of respondents who believe that the police...



#### LEGITIMACY

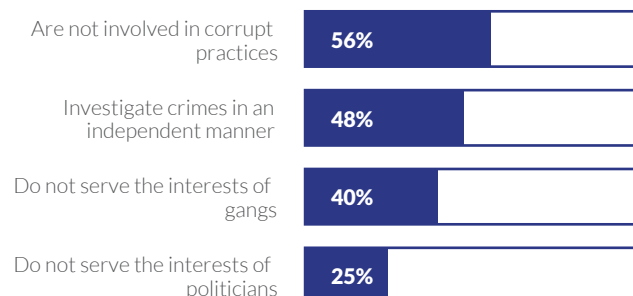
##### DUE PROCESS

Percentage of respondents who believe that the police...



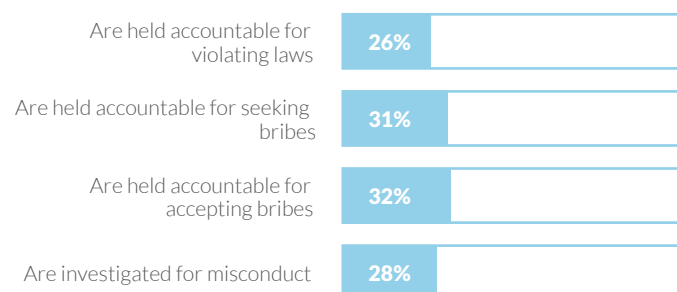
##### CORRUPTION

Percentage of respondents who believe that the police...



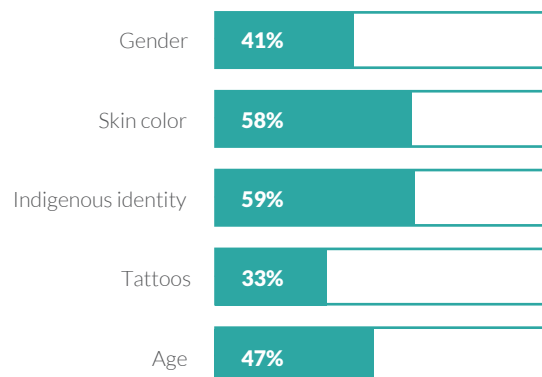
##### ACCOUNTABILITY

Percentage of respondents who believe that the police...



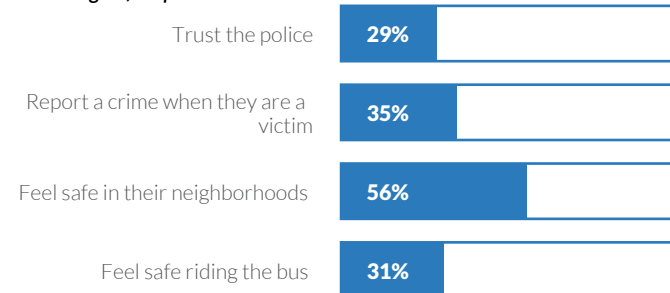
##### DISCRIMINATION

Percentage of respondents who believe that the police do not discriminate against suspects based on...



##### TRUST AND CRIME REPORTING

Percentage of respondents who...



Note: For additional information on how Chart 8a was produced, please see the Appendix.

Source: WJP General Population Poll 2021

# Police, continued

## Views on police performance in Honduras.

### Chart 8b. Interactions with the Police

Experiences of respondents in Honduras who interacted with the police in the last 12 months

#### VOLUNTARY

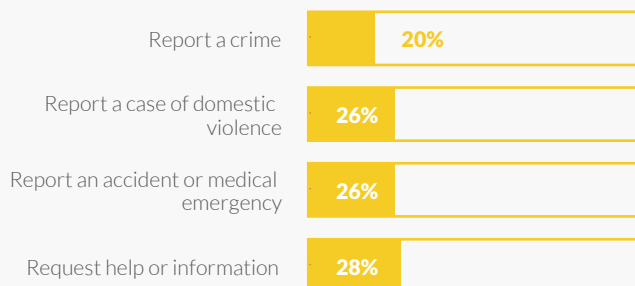
##### TOTAL VOLUNTARY INTERACTIONS

Percentage of respondents in Honduras who contacted the police in the last 12 months

18%

##### CAUSES

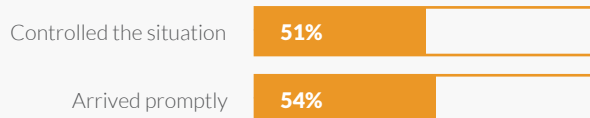
Reasons reported by respondents who contacted the police:



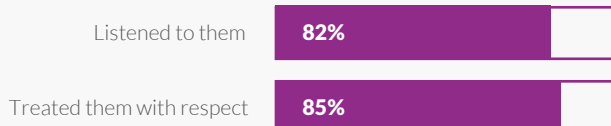
##### EXPERIENCE DURING THE LAST INTERACTION

Percentage of respondents who said that the police...

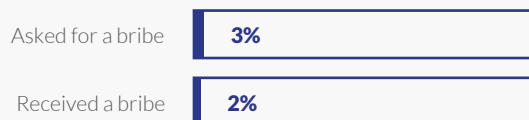
##### SERVE THE PUBLIC



##### DUE PROCESS



##### CORRUPTION



#### INVOLUNTARY

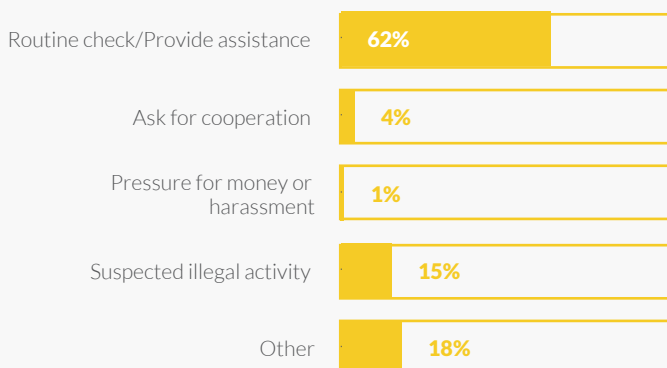
##### TOTAL INVOLUNTARY INTERACTIONS

Percentage of respondents in Honduras who were contacted by the police in the last 12 months

32%

##### CAUSES

Reasons reported by respondents who were contacted by the police:



##### EXPERIENCE DURING THE LAST INTERACTION

Percentage of respondents who said that the police...

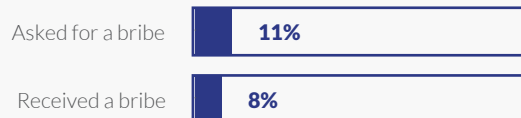
##### SERVE THE PUBLIC



##### DUE PROCESS



##### CORRUPTION



Note: For additional information on how Chart 8b was produced, please see the Appendix.

Source: WJP General Population Poll 2021



# Community Policing, Vigilante Justice, and Trust

## Relationship between community policing, vigilante justice, and trust.

Chart 9a. Police Patrolling and Trust

Percentage of respondents who reported how frequently the police patrol their neighborhood vs. Percentage of respondents who trust the police

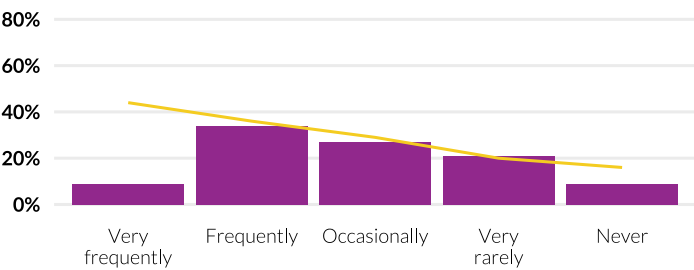


Chart 9b. Community Meetings and Trust

Percentage of respondents who reported how frequently the police hold meetings to discuss crime in their neighborhood vs. Percentage of respondents who trust the police

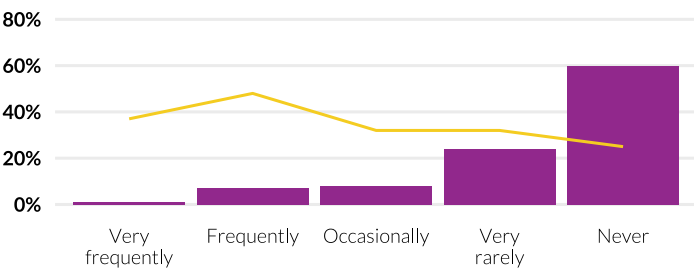


Chart 9c. Public Participation and Trust

Percentage of respondents who reported whether the police allow people in their neighborhood to suggest solutions to local problems vs. Percentage of respondents who trust the police

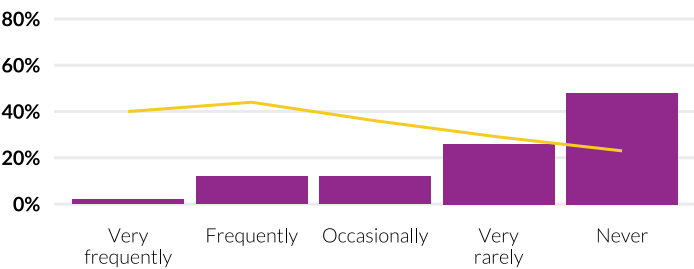
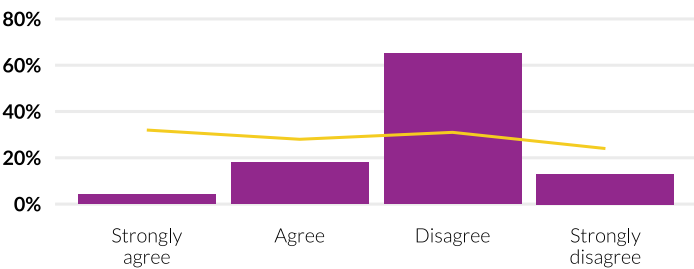


Chart 9d. Vigilante Justice and Trust

Percentage of respondents who reported whether it is acceptable for people to beat up a person who is suspected of committing a crime vs. Percentage of respondents who trust the police



Note: The yellow line represents the percentage of respondents who answered "some" or "a lot" to the question "How much trust do you have in [the police]" that corresponds to each response category represented on the x axis.

Chart 9e. Impact of Experiences with Law Enforcement on Perceptions of the Police

Positive perceptions of the police are lower among respondents who...

	(Lower) Trust in the police	(Lower) Perception that the police resolve security problems in the community	(Lower) Perception that the police act lawfully
Have been a victim of crime		X	
Do not feel safe walking in their neighborhood at night	X	X	X
Were previously asked for a bribe	X		
Believe most or all police officers are corrupt	X	X	X
Report that the police rarely or never patrol their neighborhood	X	X	X
Report that the police rarely or never hold meetings to discuss crime in their neighborhood		X	X
Report that the police rarely or never allow people in their neighborhood to suggest solutions to local problems	X	X	

Note: Each column consists of a logit regression. Only variables with a coefficient significant at the 95% confidence level are marked with an X. All regressions include controls for gender and financial security (not reported in the table). For additional information on how Chart 9e was produced, please see the Appendix.  
Source: WJP General Population Poll 2021

# Crime Victimization

Crimes experienced by people in Honduras.

Chart 10a. Types of Crimes Experienced by People in Honduras

Victimization rate, by type of crime

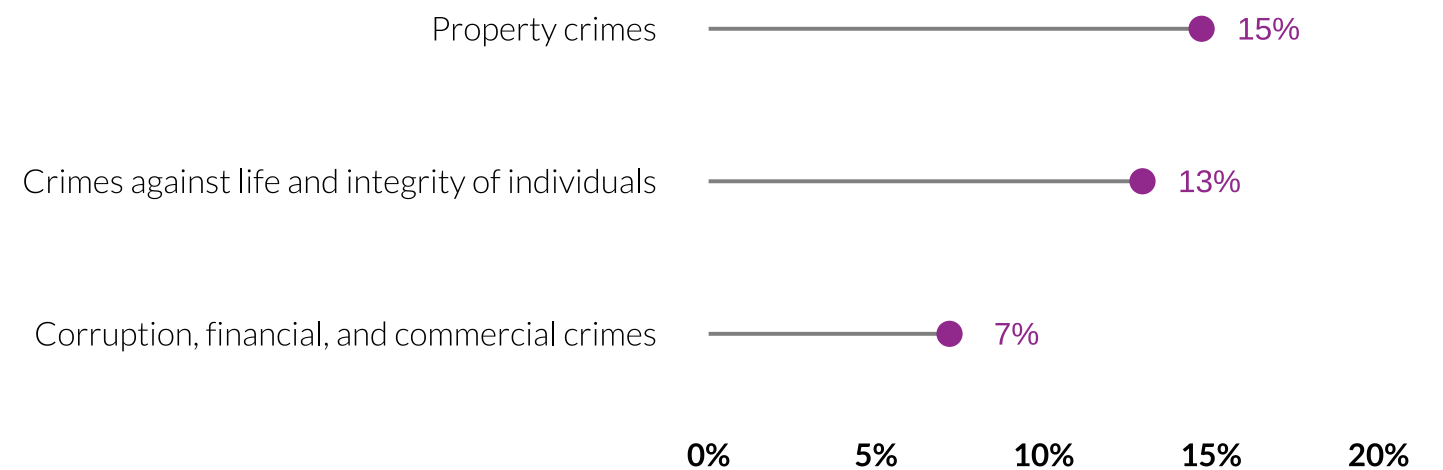
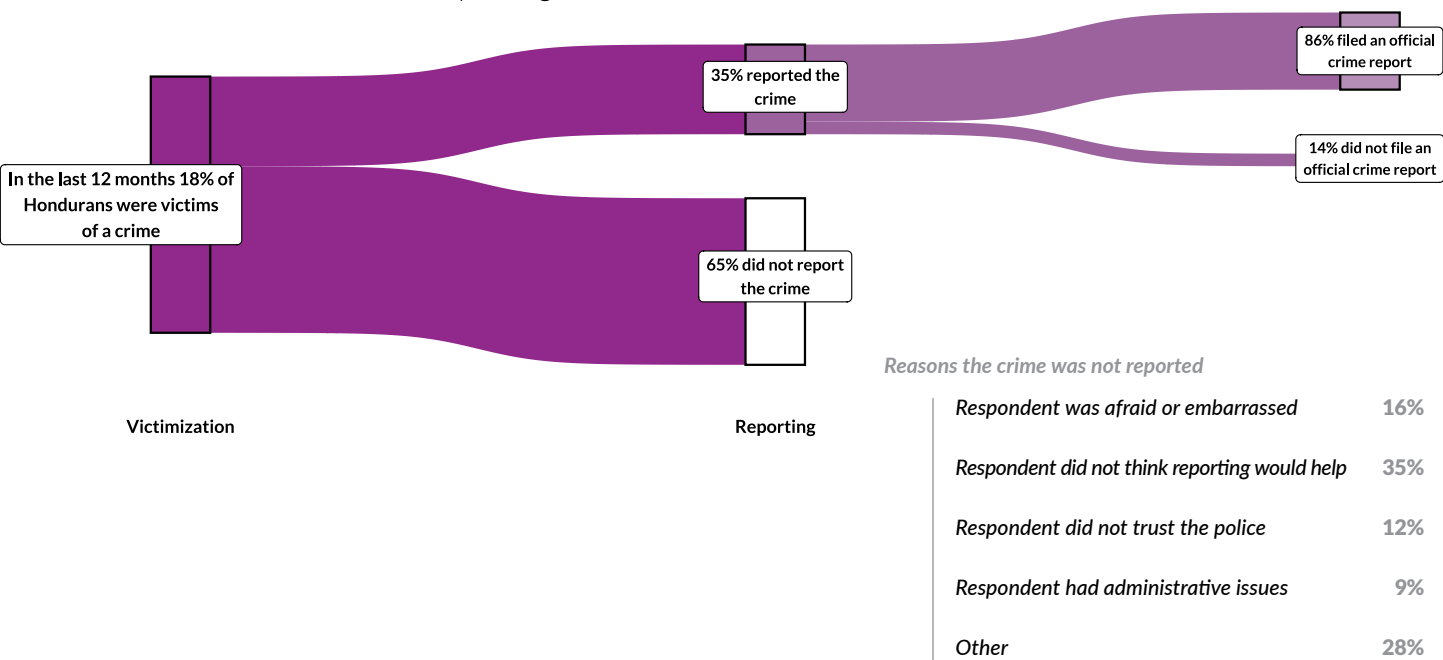


Chart 10b. Crime Victimization Rates and Reporting

Data on crime victimization and reporting in Honduras



Note: For additional information on how Chart 10b was produced, please see the Appendix.

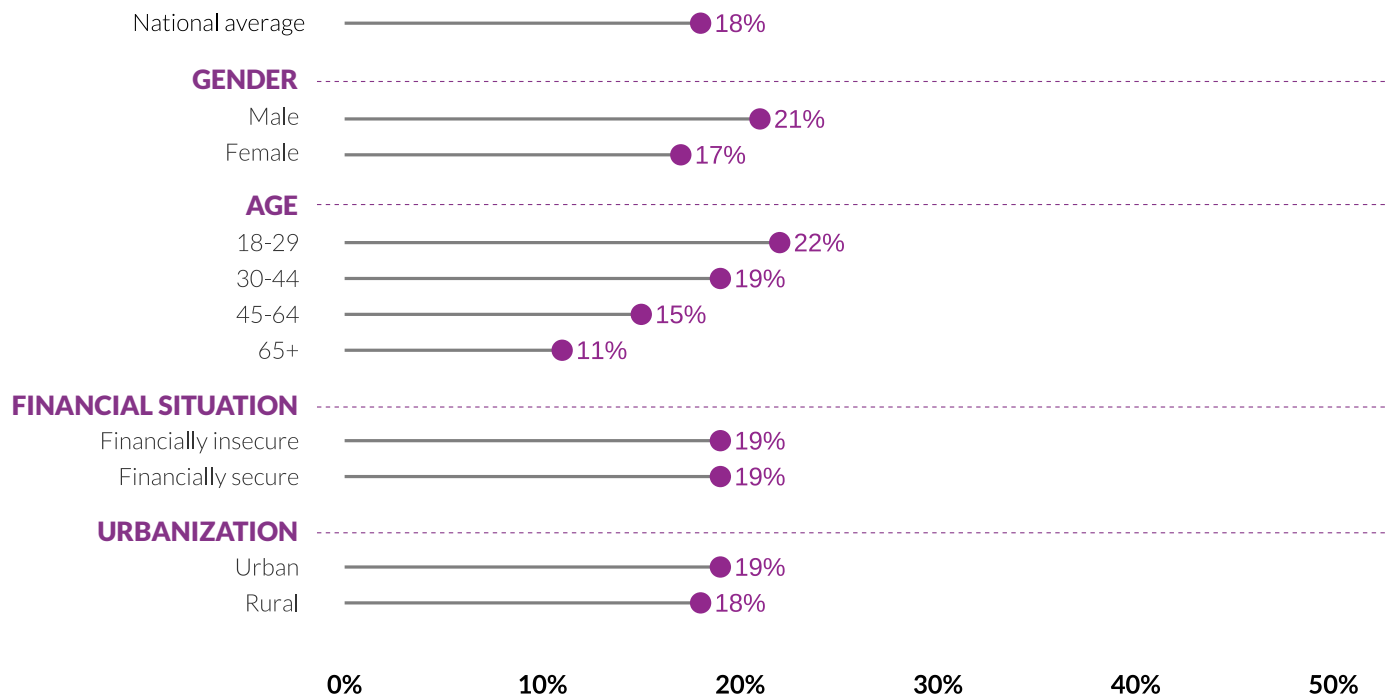
Source: WJP General Population Poll 2021

# Crime Victimization, continued

Crimes experienced by people in Honduras.

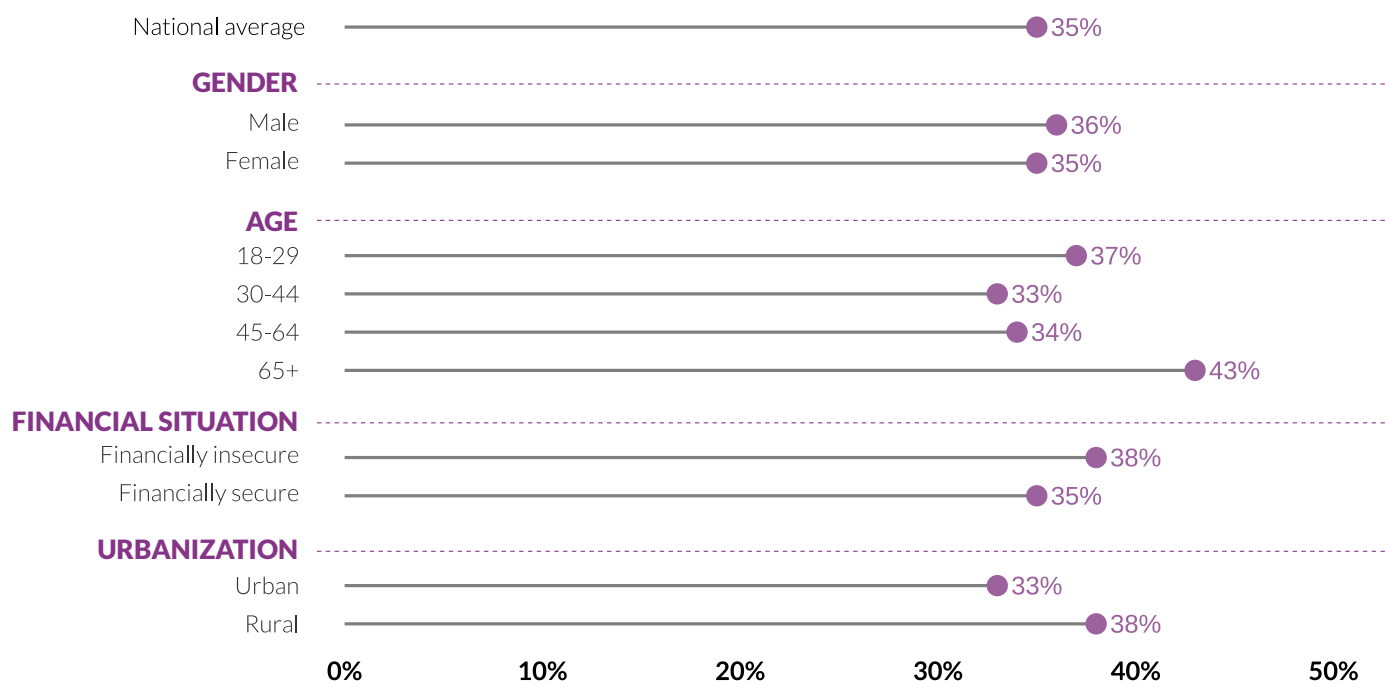
## Chart 10c. Crime Victimization by Sociodemographic Characteristic

Percentage of respondents who experienced a crime in the last 12 months



## Chart 10d. Crime Reporting by Sociodemographic Characteristic

Percentage of respondents who reported a crime in the last 12 months, out of those who experienced at least one crime



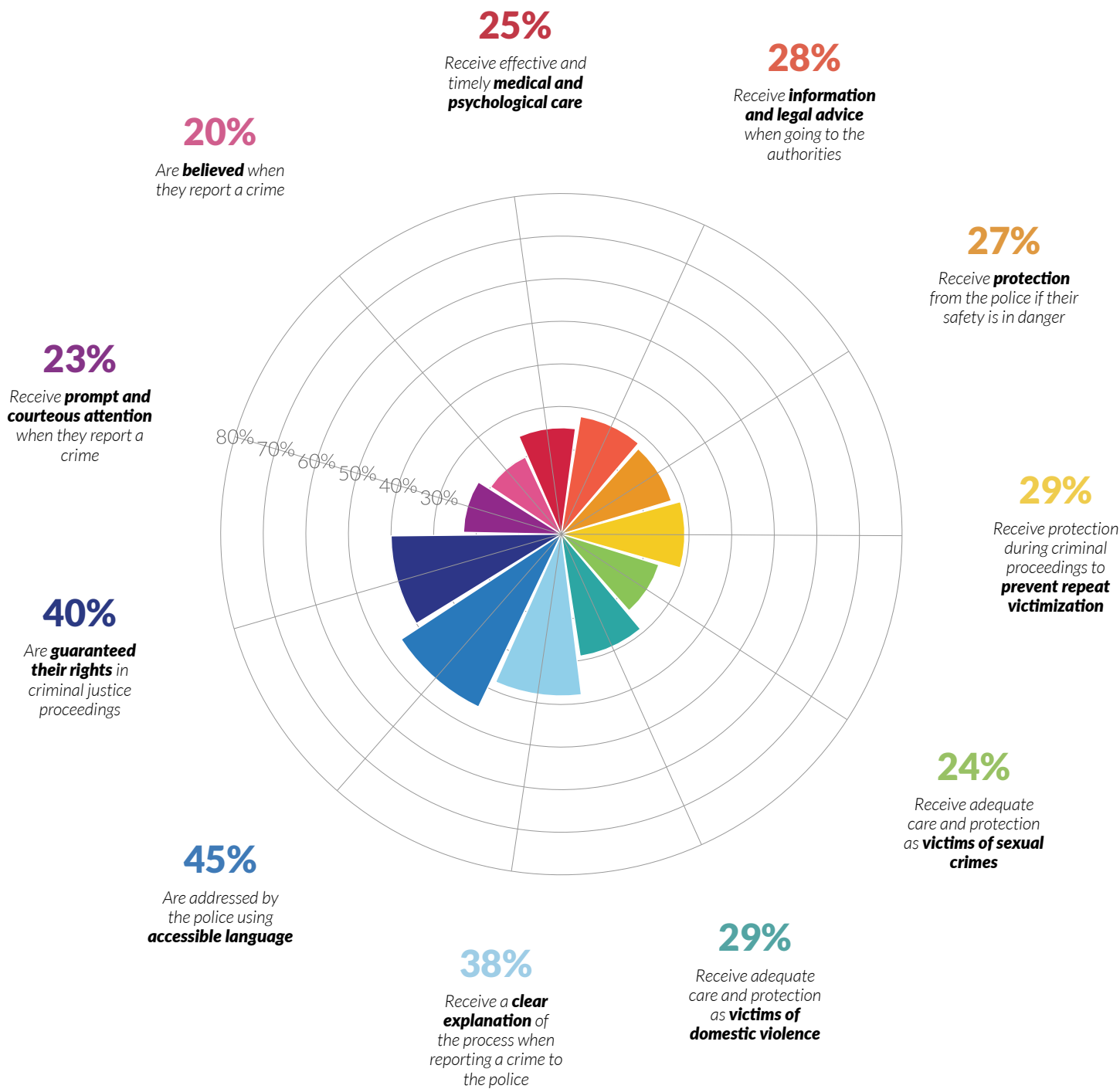
Source: WJP General Population Poll 2021

# Victim Support

Views on support for crime victims in Honduras.

Chart 11. Perceptions of the Treatment of Crime Victims

Percentage of respondents who are confident that crime victims...



Note: For additional information on how Chart 11 was produced, please see the Appendix.  
Source: WJP General Population Poll 2021



## **Section 3**

### ***Gender, Security, and Migration***

27 Gender Roles and Domestic Violence

28 Security

30 Internal Migration

31 International Migration

33 Migration to the United States

# Gender Roles and Domestic Violence

Perceptions of roles within the family and hypothetical reactions to situations of domestic violence.

Male Female

Chart 12a. Attitudes Towards Gender Roles in Honduras by Gender

Percentage of respondents who agree with the following statements

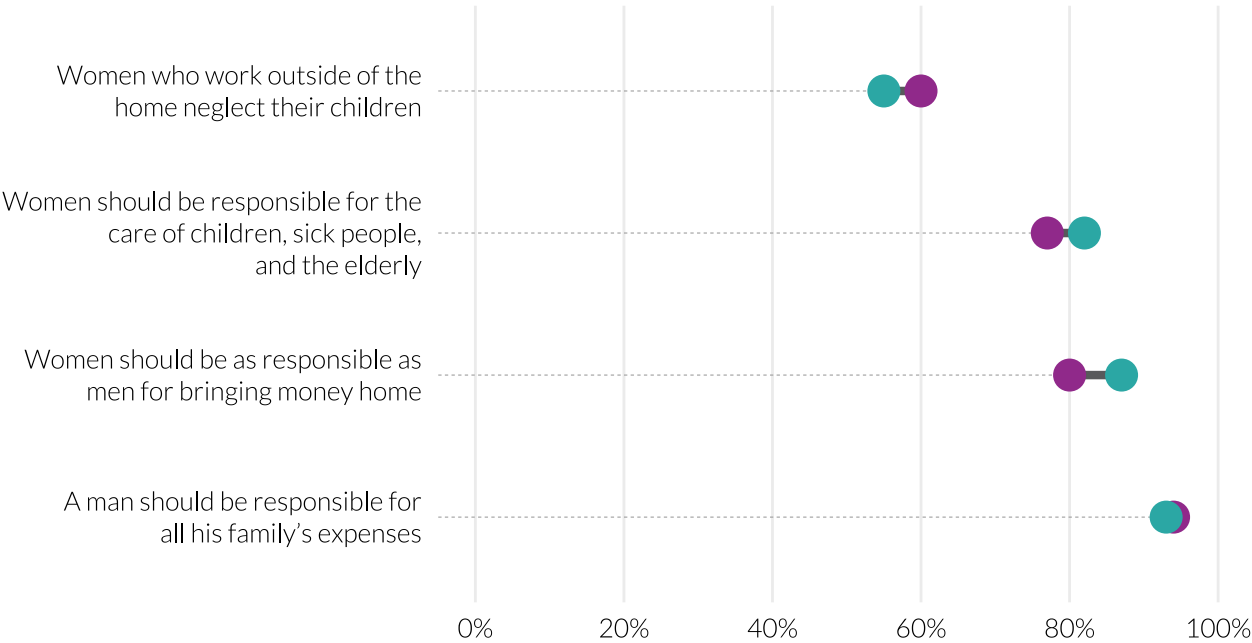
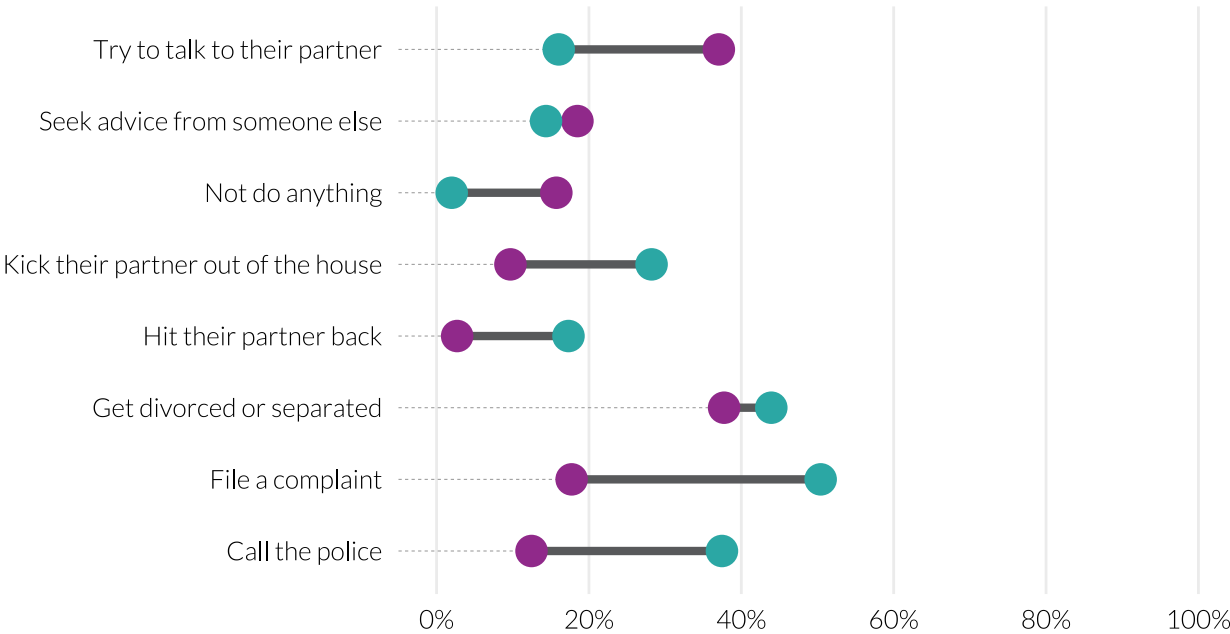


Chart 12b. Hypothetical Reactions to Domestic Violence by Gender

Percentage of respondents who, if their partner were to physically assault them, would...



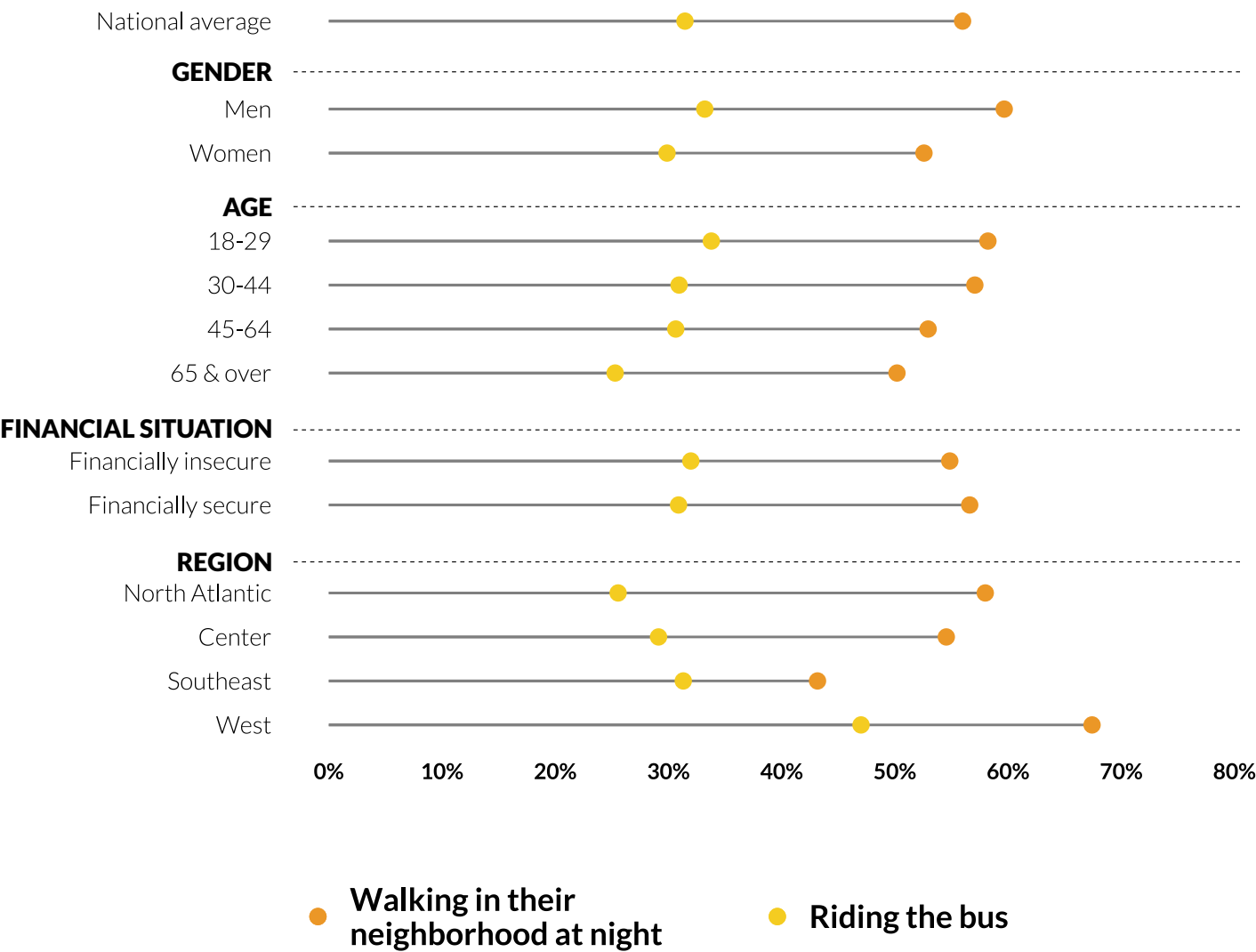
Source: WJP General Population Poll 2021

# Security

Perceptions of safety and crime at the local level in Honduras.

**Chart 13a. Perceptions of Safety by Sociodemographic Characteristic**

Percentage of respondents who reported that they feel safe or very safe walking in their neighborhood at night or riding the bus



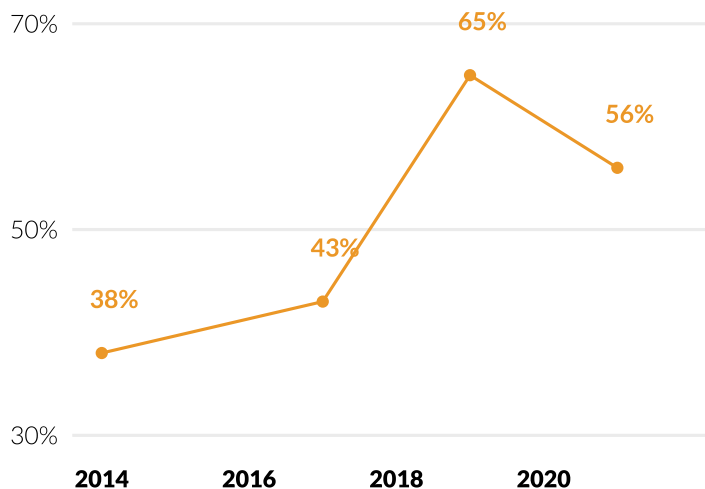
Source: WJP General Population Poll 2021

# Security, continued

## Perceptions of safety and crime at the local level in Honduras.

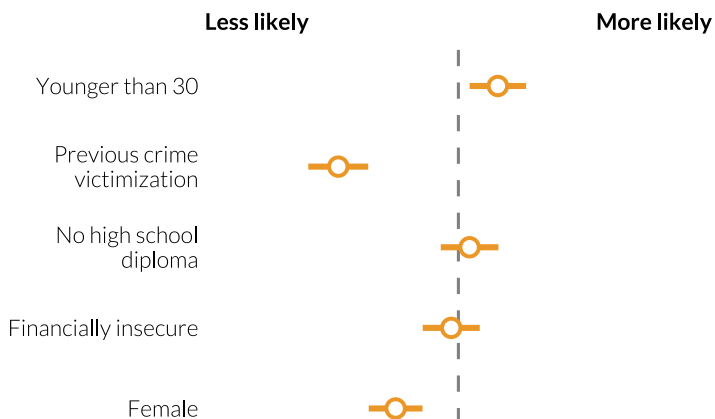
**Chart 13b. Perceptions of Safety Over Time**

Percentage of respondents who reported that they feel safe or very safe walking in their neighborhood at night



**Chart 13c. Impact of Sociodemographic Characteristics on Perceptions of Safety**

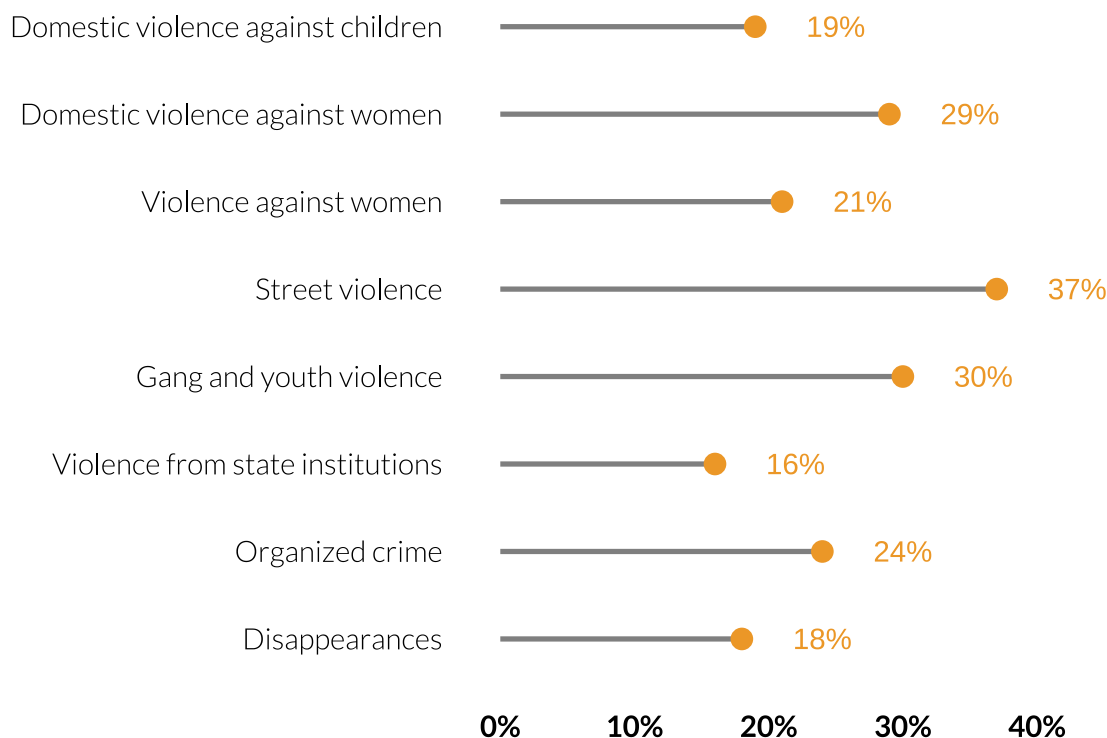
Likelihood that respondents feel safe or very safe walking in their neighborhood at night



Note: Each point indicates the average marginal effect of the corresponding sociodemographic characteristic on the predicted probability in a logit regression that a respondent answers "safe" or "very safe" to the question "How safe do you feel walking in your neighborhood at night?" The lines indicate the 95% confidence intervals of each average marginal effect. For additional information on how Chart 13c was produced, please see the Appendix.

**Chart 13d. Perceptions of Crime at the Neighborhood Level**

Percentage of respondents who think that crime is frequent in their neighborhood, by type of crime



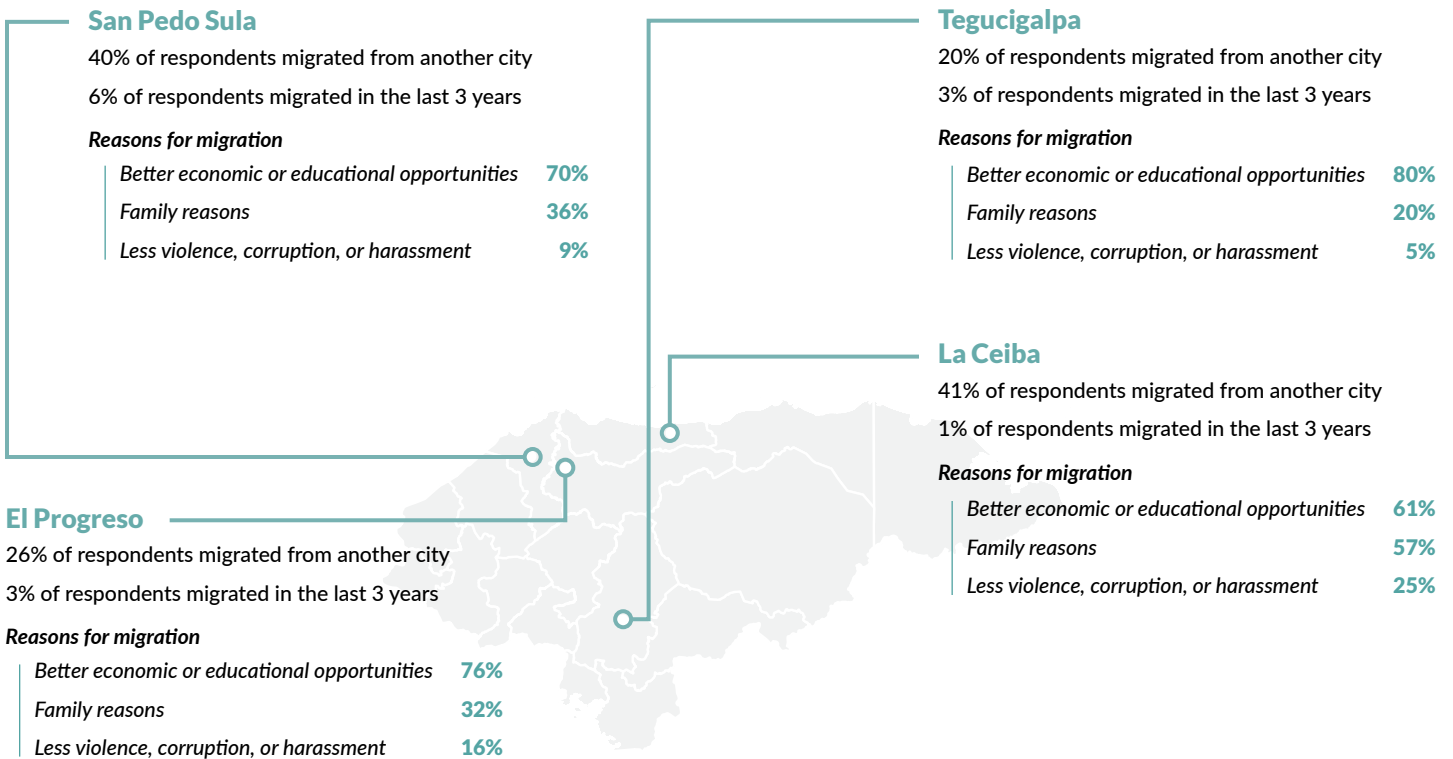


# Internal Migration

Experiences with migration within Honduras.

## Chart 14a. Internal Migration by City

Percentage of respondents who have moved internally within Honduras, and their reasons for moving

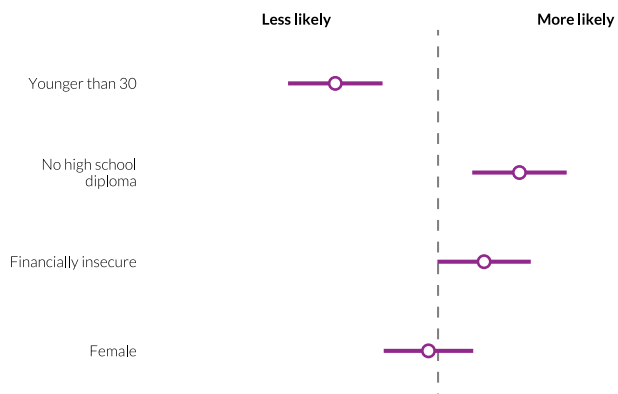


Note: For more information on how Chart 14a was produced, please see the Appendix.

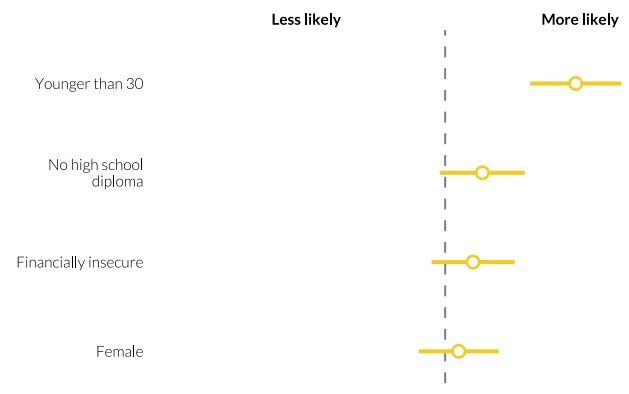
## Chart 14b. Impact of Sociodemographic Characteristics on Internal Migration

Likelihood that respondents...

### Have migrated within Honduras



### Have migrated within Honduras in the last 3 years



Note: These figures show the results of two logit regressions. On the left, each point indicates the average marginal effect of the corresponding sociodemographic characteristic on the predicted probability that a respondent answers "no" to the question "Do you live in the same city in which you were born?" On the right, each point indicates the average marginal effect of the corresponding sociodemographic characteristic on the predicted probability that a respondent answers "less than a year" or "1-3 years" to the question "How long have you lived in this city?" The lines indicate the 95% confidence intervals of each average marginal effect. For additional information on how Chart 14b was produced, please see the Appendix.

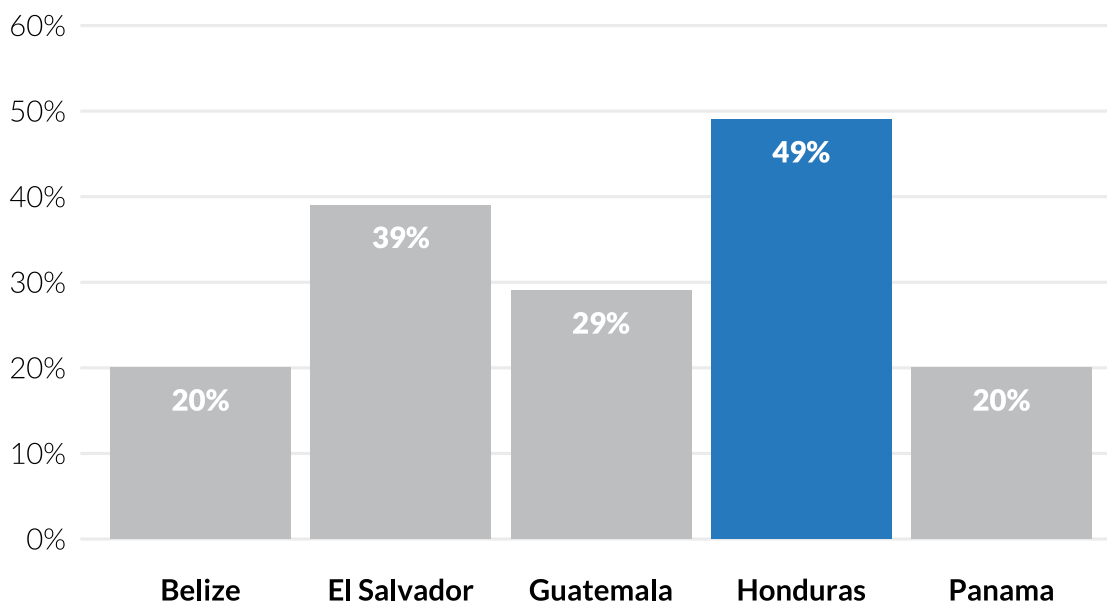
Source: WJP General Population Poll 2021

# International Migration

## Intentions to migrate internationally.

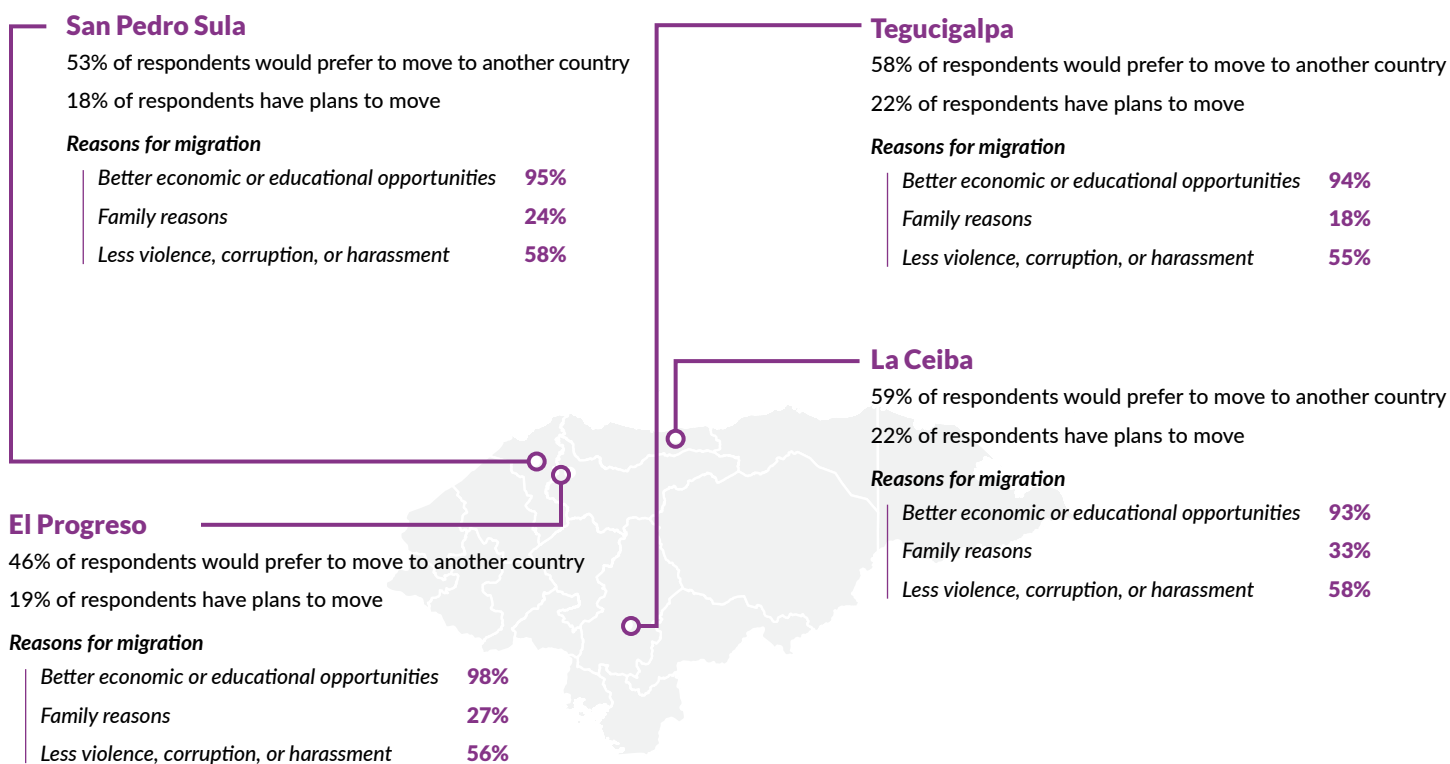
**Chart 15a. Desire to Migrate Internationally**

Percentage of respondents who would like to move internationally, by country



**Chart 15b. International Migration by City**

Percentage of respondents who would like, or have plans, to migrate internationally, by city



Note: For more information on how Chart 15b was produced, please see the Appendix.

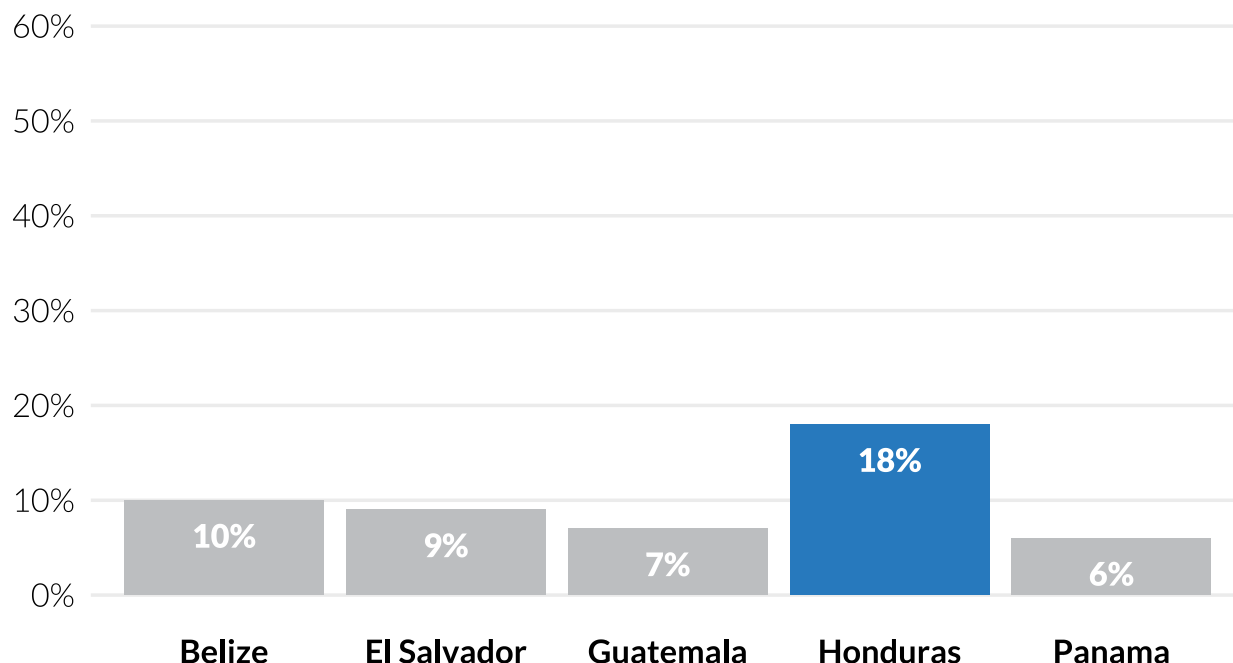
Source: WJP General Population Poll 2021

# International Migration, continued

*Intentions to migrate internationally.*

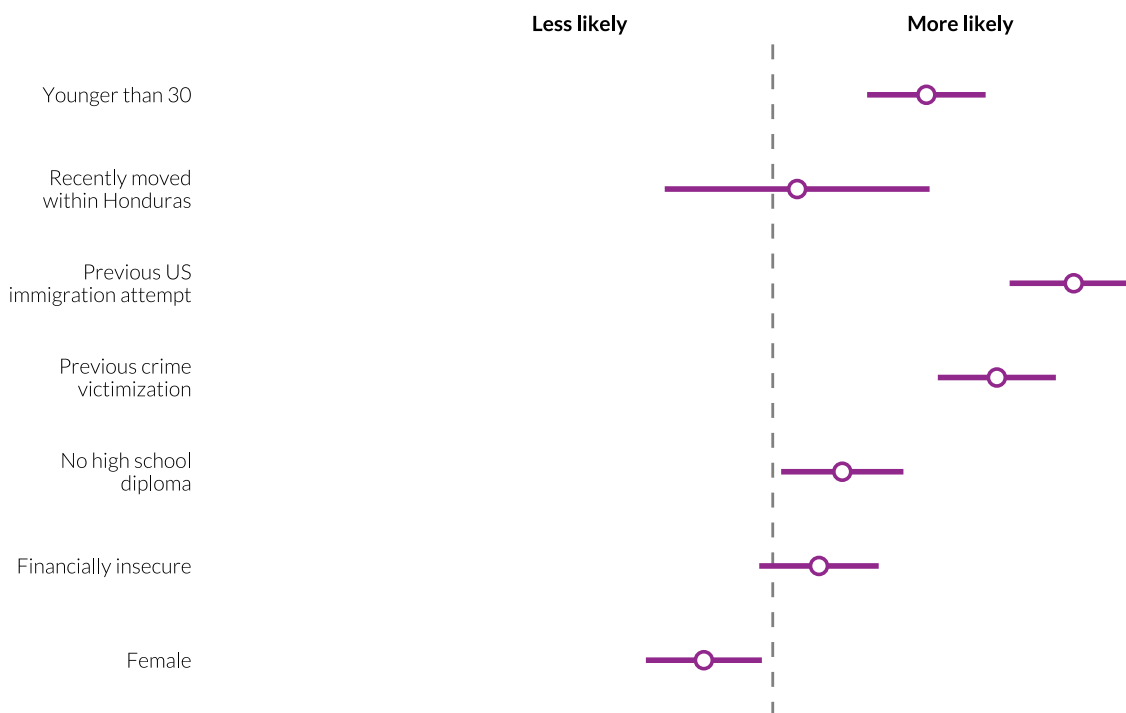
**Chart 15c. Intentions to Migrate Internationally**

*Percentage of respondents who have plans to move internationally, by country*



**Chart 15d. Impact of Sociodemographic Characteristics on Intentions to Migrate Internationally**

*Likelihood that respondents have plans to move permanently to another country*



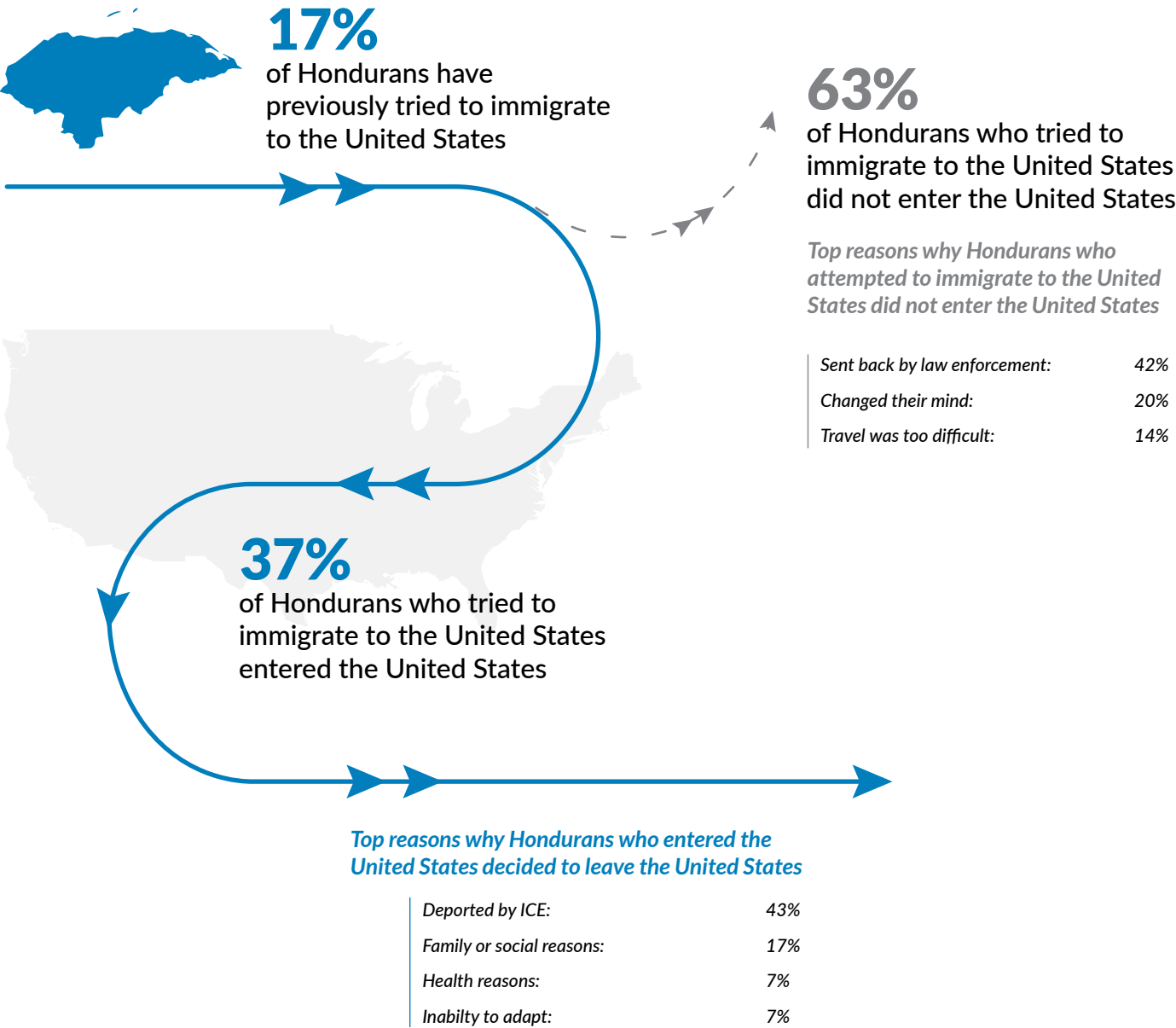
*Note: Each point indicates the average marginal effect of the corresponding sociodemographic characteristic on the predicted probability in a logit regression that a respondent answers "yes" to the question "Are you planning to move permanently to another country in the next 12 months?" The lines indicate the 95% confidence intervals of each average marginal effect. For additional information on how Chart 15d was produced, please see the Appendix.*

Source: WJP General Population Poll 2021

# Migration to the United States

Experiences and challenges migrating to the United States.

**Chart 16. Pathway to the United States**  
Experiences of Hondurans who reported attempting to migrate to the United States



Note: In Chart 16, "Family or social reasons" reflects related responses under the "To visit family or friends, go on vacation, or attend a social or religious event" and "Other (specify)" categories in the question "What was the main reason you left the US?"

Source: WJP General Population Poll 2021



III

# Project Design



# Methodology

To present an image that accurately portrays the rule of law as experienced by ordinary people, data in this report is drawn from the General Population Poll (GPP), an original data source designed and collected by the World Justice Project (WJP). The GPP captures the experiences and perceptions of ordinary citizens concerning the performance of the state and its agents and the actual operation of the legal framework in their country.

The General Population Poll used to collect data in Central America in 2021 features three new modules that highlight perceptions on issues salient to the region: Insecurity, Gender Roles, and Migration. In addition, new questions measuring the acceptance of vigilante justice, police performance, and prevalence of community policing were added to existing modules. In total, the General Population Poll questionnaire includes 124 perception-based questions and 85 experience-based questions, along with sociodemographic information on all respondents. Additionally, the GPP in Central America was administered to a sample ranging from 2,000 to 3,000 in Belize, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Panama. Historically, the GPP was administered to a sample of 1,000 respondents in these countries.

## Data Collection

The GPP in Honduras was conducted for the WJP's *The Rule of Law in Honduras: Key Findings from the General Population Poll 2021* with sampling, fieldwork, and data processing by Mercaplan, based in San Pedro Sula, Honduras. Mercaplan administered the surveys between October and November 2021, conducting face-to-face interviews using a multi-stage random sampling design. The target population group for this survey included Hondurans aged 18 years or older residing across 16 departments of the country.

### SAMPLING SIZE AND SAMPLING FRAME

The General Population Poll in Honduras represents an achieved total sample size of 3,003 interviews distributed proportionally across all four regions. Mercaplan based the sampling frame on the 2013 census data from the National Institute of Statistics (INE), acquiring a proportionally stratified sample by department, age, gender, socioeconomic status, and level of urbanization.

In order to address all relevant topics while controlling the questionnaire length, the World Justice Project split three of the survey modules into two versions (Option A and Option B) and randomly assigned one option to each respondent for each module. These modules included: Hypothetical Situations, Civic Participation, and Institutional Performance. Aside from these modules, the questionnaires are identical. A link to the complete survey instrument, in English and Spanish, can be found in the Appendix of this report.

### SAMPLING

Regions and departments were selected to achieve a nationally representative sample of the country. Within municipalities, cities and towns were selected using probability proportional to size sampling. Sampling units were created by randomly selecting neighborhoods within each selected city or town. Each sampling unit was selected randomly according to its population size, and between 10 and 20 interviews were assigned to each unit, based on its population. Within the sampled units, survey administrators performed a systematic random route to sample households and used the Last Birthday method to select respondents. If the selected respondent declined to be interviewed or otherwise did not meet the characteristics of the target quota, the interviewer moved on to the next household.

Due to a lack of accessibility, the Ocotepeque and Islas de la Bahía departments were excluded from the study. In addition, four sampling units within the Gracias a Dios department were substituted for four sampling units in the Colón Department. The replacement sampling units also belong to the North Atlantic region, are rural, and share the same socioeconomic classification as the original sampling units. Additional challenges to data collection in Honduras included the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, security concerns, and the survey's length. Survey administrators also cited upcoming presidential elections as a significant deterrent from participating in the survey.

## Description of the Sample

**COVERAGE:** Interviews were distributed across regions to create a nationally representative sample. The majority of interviews were conducted in the North Atlantic region (36%) and Central region (27%), followed by the Southeastern region (19%) and Western region (18%).

**GEOGRAPHY:** Fifty-four percent (54%) of respondents reside in rural areas and municipalities and 46% of respondents reside in metro areas or cities.

**ETHNICITY:** Most respondents identified themselves as Mestizo (60%), followed by White (16%) and Afro-Honduran (7%).

**GENDER:** Fifty-two percent (52%) of respondents were female and 48% were male.

**EDUCATION:** Forty-five percent (45%) of respondents reported that they had received at least a high school diploma or vocational degree, and the remaining 55% of respondents received a middle school diploma or less.

## Response Rates

<b>Eligible household, non-interview</b>	<b>18,189</b>
<i>Refusals</i>	<b>10,800</b>
<i>Break-off</i>	<b>189</b>
<i>Non-contact</i>	<b>7,200</b>
<b>Ineligible household</b>	<b>273</b>
<i>No eligible respondent in the household</i>	<b>180</b>
<i>Quota filled</i>	<b>93</b>

## Interviewing and Quality Control

In total, 26 interviewers worked on this project, including 18 female interviewers. Enumerators worked in six groups of four to five interviewers with one supervisor per group. Interviews were conducted in Spanish.

The supervisory team directly oversaw 889 interviews (approximately 30% of the sample) in the field and validated 62 interviews (2% of the sample) in-person. During data processing, 272 interviews (9% of the sample) were selected for audio review by the central office. After quality control, eight interviews were rejected from the final sample. Additional quality control measures included GPS validation of all sampling segment interviews, checks for abnormal interview length, and review of audio quality. Interviews averaged 40 minutes in length and ranged from 25 to 90 minutes.

## Data Review and Justification

Prior to data collection in Central America, the World Justice Project team conducted background research on the following thematic topics in order to adapt the General Population Poll to the Central American context: interactions with the police, perceptions of the police, police abuse, discrimination, violence against women and intimate partner violence, and migration. In addition, the team conducted research on rule of law trends and issues within each country studied and monitored current events before, during, and immediately after the data collection process.

As part of the data analysis process, the team consulted both this background research and several third-party sources in order to contextualize and validate perception-based data captured by the General Population Poll and compare it with the objective rule of law situation in-country. Peer data sources consulted include select indicators measured by the Latin American Public Opinion Project (LAPOP)'s *AmericasBarometer*, *Latinobarómetro*, Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem), Transparency International's *Corruption Perceptions Index*, the Bertelsmann Stiftung's *Transformation Index* (BTI), and Freedom House's *Freedom in the World*. While certain trends captured by the 2021 General Population Poll in Honduras are comparable to trends in perceptions data measured by other indices, the experiences and perceptions presented in this report may not always coincide with the reality of Honduras' rule of law performance.

## Historical Data

Historical data in this report derives from the *WJP Rule of Law Index®*'s General Population Poll that is administered every two to three years using a nationally representative probability sample of 1,000 respondents. These household surveys were administered in the three largest cities of most countries until 2018, when the World Justice Project transitioned to nationally representative coverage as the preferred methodology for polling. The historical polling data used in this year's reports was collected in the following intervals: Data for Belize and Honduras was collected during the fall of 2019, 2017, and 2014. Data for Panama was collected during the fall of 2019, 2017, 2014, and 2012. Data for El Salvador and Guatemala was collected during the fall of 2018, 2016, and 2013.

## Additional Countries

This report includes comparisons to the following Central American countries surveyed by the World Justice Project during the same period: Belize, Guatemala, Honduras, and Panama. Together, these five countries are a portion of the 139 countries and jurisdictions included in the *WJP Rule of Law Index 2021* report.\* Detailed information regarding the methodology of the *Rule of Law Index* is available at: [www.worldjusticeproject.org](http://www.worldjusticeproject.org).

<b>Country</b>	<b>Coverage</b>	<b>Polling Company</b>	<b>Methodology</b>	<b>Sample</b>
<b>Belize</b>	Nationally representative	CID Gallup	Face-to-face	2,004
<b>El Salvador</b>	Nationally representative	CID Gallup	Face-to-face	2,526
<b>Honduras</b>	Nationally representative	Mercaplan	Face-to-face	3,003
<b>Guatemala</b>	Nationally representative	Mercaplan	Face-to-face	2,508
<b>Panama</b>	Nationally representative	CID Gallup	Face-to-face	2,502

\*Due to the staggered timelines of data collection for the *World Justice Project Rule of Law Index 2021* (polling started in the fall of 2020 and concluded in the summer of 2021) and data collection for the General Population Poll in Central America (polling took place in the fall of 2021), the data collected in Central America is not included in the *WJP Rule of Law Index 2021*.



# IV

## Appendix

# Appendix

## Methodological Materials

### GENERAL POPULATION POLL (GPP)

The General Population Poll in Central America was designed to capture high-quality data on the realities and concerns of ordinary people on a variety of themes related to the rule of law, including government accountability, bribery, corruption, police performance, crime and insecurity, and migration.

[World Justice Project General Population Poll 2021 – Central American Survey Instrument \(English Versions A & B\)](#)

[World Justice Project General Population Poll 2021 – Central American Survey Instrument \(Spanish Versions A & B\)](#)

### VARIABLES USED IN INFOGRAPHIC ON THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

This table lists the question-level variables from the General Population Poll used to construct Chart 6.

[World Justice Project Criminal Justice System Variable Map](#)

### VARIABLES USED IN INFOGRAPHICS ON THE POLICE

This table lists the question-level variables from the General Population Poll used to construct Chart 8a and Chart 8b.

[World Justice Project Police Performance Variable Map](#)

### VARIABLES USED IN INFOGRAPHIC ON CRIME VICTIMIZATION RATES AND REPORTING

This table lists the question-level variables from the General Population Poll used to construct the “Reasons the crime was not reported” table in Chart 10b.

[World Justice Project Crime Rates and Reporting Variable Map](#)

### VARIABLES USED IN INFOGRAPHIC ON PERCEPTIONS OF CRIME VICTIM SUPPORT

This table lists the question-level variables from the General Population Poll used to construct Chart 11.

[World Justice Project Victim Support Variable Map](#)

### VARIABLES USED IN INFOGRAPHICS ON MIGRATION BY CITY

This table lists the question-level variables from the General Population Poll used to construct the “Reasons for Migration” tables in Chart 14a and Chart 15b.

[World Justice Project Migration Variable Map](#)

### REGRESSION TABLES FOR REGRESSION ANALYSIS USED IN SECTION II AND SECTION III

This document includes the question-level variables from the General Population Poll used in the regression analysis and the regression results featured in the following infographics: Chart 9e in Section II and Chart 13c, Chart 14b, and Chart 15d in Section III.

[World Justice Project Regression Tables](#)





World Justice  
Project

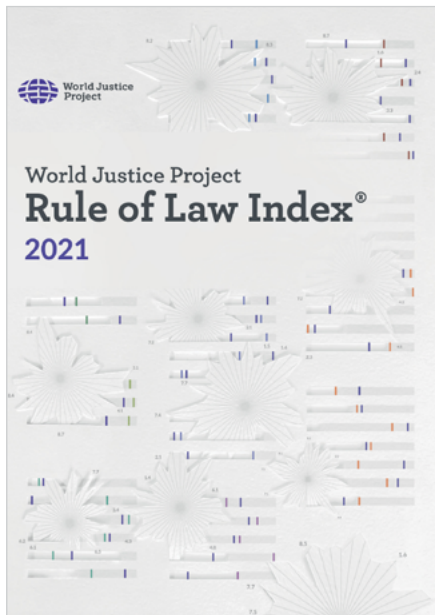
# About the World Justice Project

**THE WORLD JUSTICE PROJECT (WJP)** is an independent, multidisciplinary organization working to create knowledge, build awareness, and stimulate action to advance the rule of law worldwide. Effective rule of law is the foundation for communities of justice, opportunity, and peace—underpinning development, accountable government, and respect for fundamental rights.

The WJP builds and supports a global, multidisciplinary movement for the rule of law through three lines of work: collecting, organizing, and analyzing original, independent rule of law data, including the *World Justice Project Rule of Law Index®*; supporting research, scholarship, and teaching about the importance of the rule of law, its relationship to development, and effective strategies to strengthen it; and connecting and building an engaged global network of policymakers and advocates to advance the rule of law through strategic partnerships, convenings, coordinated advocacy, and support for locally led initiatives.

Learn more at: [worldjusticeproject.org](https://worldjusticeproject.org).

# Other Publications



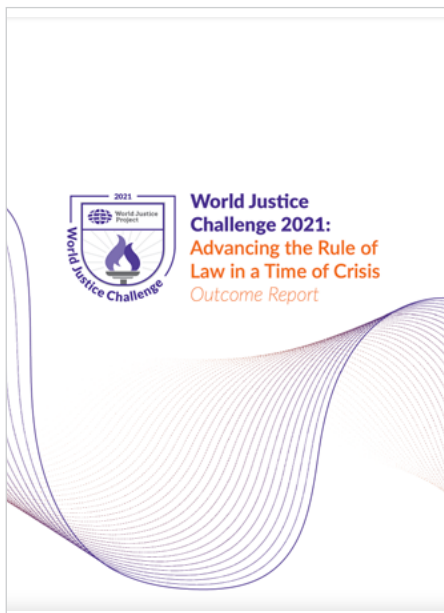
*WJP Rule of Law Index 2021*



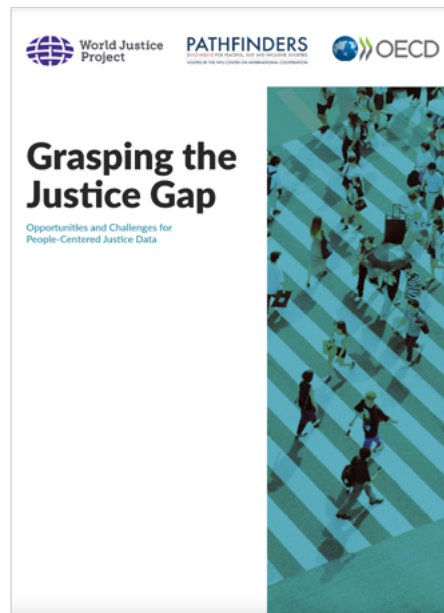
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