



World Justice
Project

The Rule of Law in Thailand

Key Findings from
the WJP General
Population Poll 2025



Acknowledgments

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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 Thailand: Key Findings from the General Population Poll 2025 presents findings from the *WJP Rule of Law Index® 2025*¹ alongside question-level data drawn from the *General Population Poll (GPP)*, an original data source designed and collected by the World Justice Project.

The GPP was conducted between June and July 2025 through face-to-face interviews to a nationally representative sample of 1,100 households in Thailand. 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.

This report represents the voices of people in Thailand and their experiences with the rule of law in their country

The data derived from the General Population Poll is presented in this report as thematic findings, each one highlighting a different dimension of the rule of law from the perspective of Thai people. These thematic findings focus on the current rule of law ecosystem in Thailand while simultaneously illuminating changes over time. Each section touches upon perceptions of and attitudes towards the following topics: government accountability, fundamental freedoms, corruption, trust in institutions, the criminal justice system and its actors, crime victimization, security, and police performance.

¹ See WJP's website for the complete WJP Rule of Law Index 2025 report: <https://worldjusticeproject.org/rule-of-law-index>.

EXECUTIVE FINDINGS

The Rule of Law in Thailand. Key Findings from the WJP General Population Poll 2025 provides a comprehensive overview of how people perceive and experience the rule of law in Thailand, presented in two main parts that offer complementary lenses on this issue: a summary of Thailand's performance in the 2025 *World Justice Project (WJP) Rule of Law Index*[®] followed by a series of thematic findings that explore question-level data from a nationally representative sample of the general public (as captured by the WJP's General Population Poll).

The findings in both parts of this report are grounded in rigorous survey data. The first section of this report presents key takeaways from Thailand's performance in the latest *WJP Rule of Law Index* report, alongside comparisons against global peers and countries in the same regional and income groups. The Index draws from two original, primary sources of data: the General Population Poll (GPP) and a series of expert surveys known as the Qualified Respondents' Questionnaires (QRQs). Taken together, these two data sources provide an aggregate picture that blends the views of ordinary people and in-country experts into a single assessment of rule-of-law performance across eight key factors.

The second section of this report takes a closer look at rule of law trends in Thailand by zooming into thematic findings from the General Population Poll (GPP), an original household survey designed by the WJP to capture how ordinary people experience and perceive the rule of law. The latest GPP in Thailand consists of 89 perception-based questions and 52 experience-based questions, covering topics such as corruption, authoritarian behavior, criminal justice, fundamental freedoms, security, and access to justice, alongside detailed socio-demographic information.

The report concludes with a section on the project's design, providing an overview of the methodology behind the *WJP Rule of Law Index* as well as a description of the GPP survey design, sampling strategy, and quality controls underpinning the data.

Part I: Thailand's Performance in the WJP Rule of Law Index

The 2025 *World Justice Project (WJP) Rule of Law Index*[®] is the latest edition in WJP's annual report series that evaluates how the rule of law is experienced and perceived in practical, everyday situations by people around the world. The scores and rankings for the 143 countries and jurisdictions included in the 2025 Index are based on responses drawn from more than 215,000 households and 4,100 expert surveys.

Thailand's WJP Rule of Law Index Country Profile, which features the country's eight factor and 44 sub-factor-level scores and rankings, serves as a diagnostic tool to identify relative strengths and weaknesses, as well as comparisons to regional and income group peers.

The Status of Rule of Law in Thailand

On a scale of 0 to 1 (with 1 being the highest possible score), Thailand has an overall score of 0.50² in the 2025 WJP Rule of Law Index. This is the same rounded value of Thailand's 2024 score but reflects an underlying improvement of about one percentage point. This result is notable in a global context in which the rule of law recession has worsened: 68% of countries experienced declines in 2025, and the average loss among backsliding countries was roughly twice the average gain among improvers.³

Thailand's 2025 rule of law score places it in the middle of all indexed countries: Thailand ranks 77th out of 143 countries worldwide, 21st of 41 upper-middle income countries⁴, and 12th out of 21 regional peers in East Asia, the Pacific and South Asia.⁵ This regional ranking places Thailand well behind top performers such as New Zealand (0.83), Australia (0.80), and Japan (0.78), yet outperforms several Southeast Asian peers, including Vietnam (0.49), the Philippines (0.46), and Cambodia (0.31).

² All numerical scores in the WJP Rule of Law Index are rounded to two decimal places.

³ Learn more about this finding and other global rule of law insights in the WJP Rule of Law Index 2025 report, available in PDF here: <https://worldjusticeproject.org/rule-of-law-index/downloads/WJPIndex2025.pdf>.

⁴ Income groups used in the 2025 WJP Rule of Law Index are based on the World Bank's 2025 fiscal year income group classifications. For a full list of upper-middle income countries, please visit WJP's website at <https://worldjusticeproject.org/rule-of-law-index>.

⁵ Regional groups used in the 2025 WJP Rule of Law Index are largely based on the World Bank classifications. In the Index, Thailand belongs to the East Asia, the Pacific and South Asia regional group, which includes Afghanistan; Australia; Bangladesh; Cambodia; China; Hong Kong SAR; India; Indonesia; Japan; Malaysia; Mongolia; Myanmar; Nepal; New Zealand; Pakistan; the Philippines; the Republic of Korea; Singapore; Sri Lanka; Thailand; and Vietnam. For the purposes of this report, the term "Southeast Asian countries" refers to the following: Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam.

Compared against their performances in the 2020 WJP Rule of Law Index, all Southeast Asian countries have experienced a decline in rule of law score except for Vietnam, which improved by 1%. Thailand saw a minor decrease of -1% in its six-year percentage change in score, indicating that the country's rule of law situation has remained relatively stable in recent years. This contrasts against larger declines in neighboring Cambodia (-5%) and, to a greater extent, Myanmar, which saw a staggering -20% reduction in score from 2020 to 2025.

Strengths and Weaknesses

In 2025, Factor 5: Order and Security is Thailand's strongest rule of law dimension, with a score of 0.75. At the sub-factor level, Thailand's high Order and Security score can be attributed to its performance in sub-factor 5.2, measuring whether civil conflict is limited (0.94), and sub-factor 5.1, measuring whether crime is effectively controlled (0.81). These two indicators also serve as Thailand's highest-scoring sub-factors across all rule of law dimensions. In contrast, Thailand's score of 0.50 for sub-factor 5.3, measuring whether people resort to violence to settle personal grievances, falls far below these areas of strength. Across the factor, Thailand's scores are on par with averages for East Asia, the Pacific and South Asia.

Factor 7: Civil Justice (0.50) and Factor 4: Fundamental Rights (0.49) are Thailand's second- and third-highest scoring factors, respectively. However, the country's sub-factor performances in each of these areas vary widely. In Civil Justice, Thailand scores particularly well in sub-factor 7.3, which measures whether civil justice is free of corruption (0.72) and sub-factor 7.1, measuring the accessibility and affordability of civil justice (0.58). Thailand's scores for both indicators outperform regional averages in East Asia, the Pacific and South Asia (0.51 in sub-factor 7.3 and 0.51 in sub-factor 7.1). Despite these strengths, Thailand's civil justice system struggles with efficiency, as indicated by its relatively low scores in sub-factor 7.6 on effective enforcement (0.35) and 7.5 on unreasonable delays (0.40).

Similarly, Thailand demonstrates relative strengths in several aspects of Fundamental Rights, including sub-factor 4.5 on freedom of belief and religion (0.64) and 4.8 on labor rights (0.55). However, the country's low scores in 4.6 on freedom from arbitrary interference with privacy (0.37) and 4.2, measuring the right to life and security (0.40), point toward Thailand's weakness in guaranteeing core rights related to personal safety. Compared to regional averages for East Asia, the Pacific, and South Asia, Thailand aligns with its peers in most aspects of Fundamental Rights, with exceptions of due process of law and the right to life and security, where it performs below the regional average.

Thailand's performance in Factor 2: Absence of Corruption is also mixed. The factor received a score of 0.45, marking it as one of Thailand's weakest dimensions of the rule of law. Moreover, Thailand's lowest-scoring sub-factor relates to this area: at just 0.25, Thailand's score for sub-factor 2.4 on corruption among members of the legislature falls far below the East Asia, the Pacific, and South Asia average of 0.42. While Thailand's scores for sub-factors 2.1 on corruption in the executive branch (0.44) and 2.3 on corruption in the police and military (0.46) are middle-ground, sub-factor 2.2 on corruption in the judiciary emerges as a relative strength for the country with a score of 0.66. This result, which far exceeds the regional average of 0.49, makes sub-factor 2.2 one of Thailand's best-scoring indicators.

With a lower score of 0.42, Factor 8: Criminal Justice is Thailand's worst-performing factor. While the country scores fairly well in indicators related to accountability in the criminal justice system, such as sub-factors 8.5 on corruption (0.58) and 8.6 on improper government influence (0.54), Thailand falls behind in measures of efficacy, as demonstrated by sub-factors 8.1 on the effectiveness criminal investigations (0.38) and 8.3 on the effectiveness of correctional systems (0.27). Another area of relative weakness is the prevalence of discrimination in criminal proceedings, as measured by sub-factor 8.4 (0.32). These three sub-factor scores all fall below East Asia, the Pacific, and South Asia averages, indicating that Thailand's criminal justice system is less effective than those of peer countries.

Rule of Law over Time

In 2025, Thailand saw its largest increase in score in Fundamental Rights (+0.02), reflecting improvements in all but one of the factor's indicators (sub-factor 4.8 on labor rights declined by less than -0.01).⁶ Sub-factor 4.5 on freedom of religion (one of Thailand's highest-scoring indicators) rose by +0.04 in the past year, and scores for 4.1 on absence of discrimination, 4.2 on right to life security, and 4.3 on due process each improved by +0.02. Another dimension in which Thailand saw broad improvements is Factor 1: Constraints on Government Powers, which increased in score by +0.01. Most related sub-factors also improved, including 1.6 on lawful transition of power (+0.02), and limits on the executive branch by the legislature (sub-factor 1.1) and by the judiciary (sub-factor 1.2), both of which increased by +0.02. The only indicator that declined in this area was 1.3, which measures the strength of independent auditing and review (-0.01). Thailand's rising scores in these two factors contrast trends of increasing authoritarianism that have affected most countries around the world in recent years.

Although Criminal Justice is Thailand's lowest-scoring factor, the country has made some progress in this area with an increase in score of +0.01. Among the most improved Criminal Justice sub-factors is 8.3 on effective correctional systems, one of Thailand's weakest-scoring indicators, which rose by +0.02. All other sub-factors improved by +0.01 to +0.02 except 8.6 on improper government influence, which declined by less than -0.01. These developments offer an encouraging sign of growth in the efficacy and integrity of Thailand's criminal justice system.

⁶ See Appendix for annual changes in Thailand's sub-factor scores.

Absence of Corruption, another challenging area for Thailand, decreased in score by -0.01 in 2025. This decline was driven by a -0.02 decrease in the country's worst-performing sub-factor: 2.4 on corruption in the legislative branch. Sub-factor 2.2 on corruption in the judicial branch, in which Thailand scores relatively high, also saw a decline (-0.01), while 2.1 on corruption in the executive branch decreased by less than -0.01. These deteriorations across all three branches of Thailand's government indicate that the country's struggles with corruption extend not only to its areas of weakness, but also to areas of strength.

Part II: Key findings from the WJP General Population Poll

The second part of the report turns from cross-country comparisons to the lived experience of people in Thailand, drawing on the WJP General Population Poll. The latest GPP, conducted with 1,100 adults across all regions of the country, updates and extends earlier surveys. By comparing results from the 2025 GPP to those from the previous national survey conducted in 2018, the thematic findings in this section of the report demonstrate that many aspects of everyday rule of law—from perceived freedoms to trust in courts and the police—have improved over time, even as discrimination, corruption in specific services, and doubts about high-level accountability persist.

Thai respondents value governmental adherence to the rule of law.

Most respondents hold favorable views about governmental accountability. Over three-fourths (76%) say that judges usually base their decisions on the law, and 71% say the prime minister must obey the law and courts (see Chart 1). Thai people are also optimistic about civic participation: 81% of respondents say the government works with civil society organizations to shape public policies, while a narrow majority (51%) say that citizen engagement in government matters is important, even at the expense of efficiency. These democratic values also extend to questions of government legitimacy, as nearly two-thirds (65%) of respondents believe it is important to obey the law regardless of who they voted for.

The public's experience with fundamental rights has improved.

Thai respondents feel optimistic about their civil and political rights. Between 2018 and 2025, perceptions of fundamental freedoms improved substantially across all dimensions measured (Chart 2). The share of respondents who agree that people can express opinions against the government rose from 68% to 85%, and perceptions that political parties can freely criticize the government increased by about 16 percentage points (from 69% to 84%). Public participation and religious freedom are the highest-rated areas in 2025, with roughly nine in ten respondents affirming that people can organize around issues they care about (90%) and that religious minorities can observe their holy days (89%).

Discrimination is rising, especially on the basis of age, gender, and appearance.

Self-reported discrimination has increased sharply since 2018 (Chart 3.1). The proportion of respondents who say they experienced some form of discrimination in the previous year climbed from around 10% in 2018 to 28% in 2025—an almost over three-fold increase. While the overall prevalence remains relatively low, with roughly one in eight people reporting discrimination, the change over time signals growing concerns about equality and inclusion. Among those who experienced discrimination, about one-third (33%) attribute it to age, 28% to physical appearance, 27% to gender, and 25% to education level (Chart 3.2). People also reported discrimination based on skin color (17%), tribe (11%) and race (14%), whereas ancestry and nationality are mentioned by fewer than 7%. These findings highlight that prejudice is more often linked to visible and socio-economic markers than to formal citizenship or ethnic origin.

Perceptions of institutional corruption are creeping upward, though respondents have more confidence in government accountability.

From 2018 to 2025, the public's perceptions of corruption among judges, prosecutors, and public defenders increased by roughly five to seven percentage points (Chart 4). Compared to other institutional actors, though, the lowest share of respondents currently associate these justice system officials with corruption, with levels between 20–24%. The largest share of respondents say that members of parliament and national government officers are involved in corrupt practices, with perceived levels of corruption at roughly 45% and 40%, respectively. While these perceptions increased for nearly all measured institutions in 2025, the share of respondents who believe that most or all police officers are corrupt fell from 43% to 36%, indicating improved views of integrity among law enforcement officials.

Meanwhile, confidence that powerful officials can be held to account has risen but remains limited. Between 2018 and 2025, the share of Thai respondents who believe high-ranking government officials would face consequences for breaking the law increased from 35% to 46% (Chart 5.1). Trends in bribery victimization rates have also seen improvements: experiences with petty corruption from 2018 to 2025 show encouraging declines in most public services (Chart 5.2). The proportion of respondents who paid a bribe to secure a place in a public school fell from 14% in 2018 to just 1% percent in 2025; bribe payments to procure birth certificates dropped from 6% to 3% and fell from 4% to 2% for public health services. However, government permitting services are a stark exception to this trend: bribery rates in this area nearly tripled, rising from 7% to 19%.

Levels of trust in institutions are high and improving.

The Thai public's levels of trust have increased in several key institutions (Chart 6). Between 2018 and 2025, trust in police officers rose from 50% to 62%, the largest gain among all institutions measured. Respondents also feel more positively about justice system actors, which remain the most trusted out of all institutions: in 2025, around 80% of respondents expressed having trust in judges and magistrates, 76% in prosecutors, and 73% in public defense attorneys. While levels of trust in local government officers remained relatively stable (increasing from 59% to 61%), trust in national government officers fell from 59% to 54%. When it comes to their peers, respondents' levels of trust are slipping slightly. Once the most trusted of all measured institutions, the share of respondents who trust other people living in Thailand dipped from 75% in 2018 to 72% in 2025, now lagging behind justice system actors.

People living in Thailand feel safe in their communities, though this perception varies between sociodemographic groups.

Thai respondents' sense of safety is strong and improving. In 2018, 81% of respondents reported feeling safe or very safe walking in their neighborhood at night; by 2025, this rose to 89% (Chart 8.1). Certain sociodemographic characteristics play a role in these perceptions: Respondents living in rural areas of Thailand are most likely to feel safe in their communities, while those with financial constraints are less likely to feel safe compared to other groups (Chart 8.2). People with higher education and young adults are also less likely to report feeling safe, while female respondents are no more or less likely to say the same.

In addition to reporting high levels of security, crime victimization rates among Thai respondents are relatively low. In 2025, one in ten people (11%) said they had been victims of a crime in the previous year, with property crimes being the most commonly experienced type (7%), followed by corruption-related, financial, and commercial crimes (6%) (Chart 7.1). Crimes against life and personal integrity were least common, affecting about 3% of respondents. However, less than one-third of victims (32%) reported the crime to authorities (Chart 7.2), indicating substantial underreporting that may point to barriers that discourage people from seeking formal redress.

Perceptions of Thailand's criminal justice system have remained fairly positive over time, with some exceptions.

Most respondents express confidence in the Thai criminal justice system, with levels remaining generally stable since 2018 despite minor declines (Chart 10). In 2025, 80% were confident that the system effectively brings offenders to justice. Around three-quarters also believe it ensures equal treatment of victims (75%) and accused persons (74%), and similar shares report confidence in its accessibility (74%) and consistent quality across locations (75%).

Respondents express mixed views of justice actors. Perceptions of court bias remain common but have improved, dropping from 68% in 2018 to 54% in 2025, while confidence that courts guarantee a fair trial rose from 69% to 76%. Yet more people now believe courts prioritize procedure over justice (67% to 75%). Trust in prosecutors and judges—and perceptions of their independence—has increased since 2018, whereas views of public defense attorneys have declined, especially regarding their independence (68% to 59%). Although corruption perceptions remain relatively low, the share of respondents who believe these actors engage in corrupt practices has risen since 2018.

People agree that the Thai police are effective at controlling crime, though opinions regarding their integrity and legitimacy are mixed.

Most people in Thailand believe that the police perform their duties well. In 2025, roughly four in five respondents agreed that the police help them feel safe (83%), resolve security problems in their community (81%), treat all people with respect (81%), are available to help when needed (79%), and investigate crimes in an independent manner (79%) (Chart 12). Despite these positive perceptions, less than two-thirds of respondents say they trust the police (62%), and even less believe that officers are held accountable for violating the law (57%). Moreover, the data indicates that the police have issues with discrimination: only 17% of respondents say that the police would not discriminate against a suspect based on their economic status, and less than half say the same for gender (44%) and citizenship status (47%).

Respondents in rural areas of Thailand feel more positively about rule of law than their urban peers.

In nearly all categories measured, respondents living in rural Thailand are slightly more optimistic about the guarantee of nearly all measured fundamental rights than those living in urban areas (Chart 13). This disparity is greatest in the percentage of respondents who agree that people can join any political organization (69% of urban respondents agree, compared to 83% of rural respondents). Nonetheless, there are two areas in which urban respondents hold marginally more positive views than their rural peers: the right to express opinions against the government and the availability of laws in all official languages.

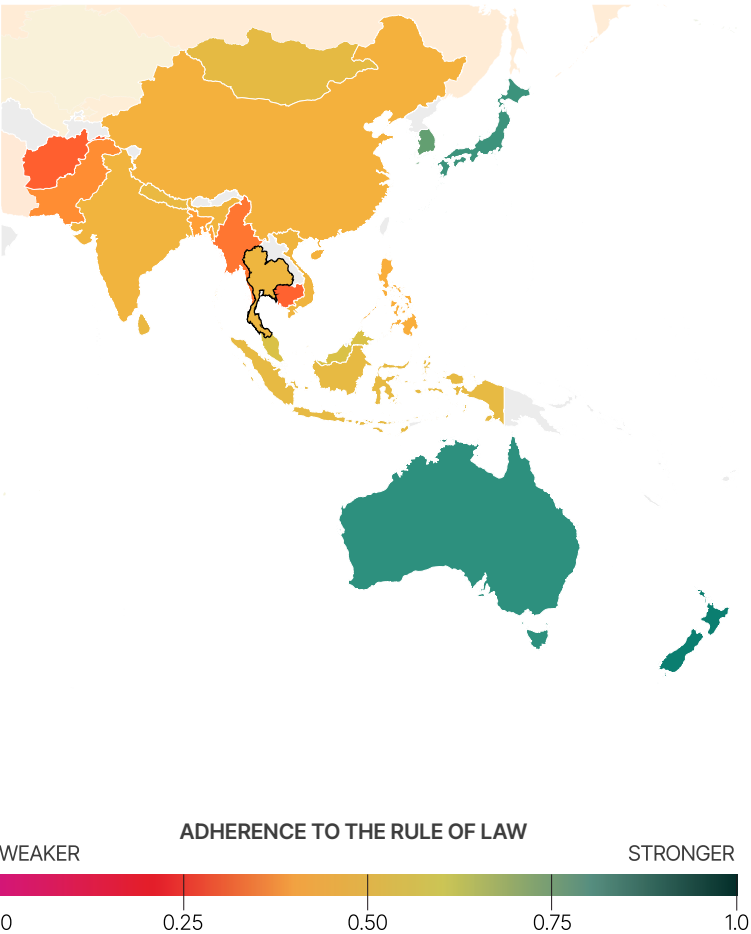
Rural respondents consistently report more positive views than urban residents regarding trust and perceptions of corruption across government actors (Chart 14). They are less likely to say these actors are corrupt—especially police (30% rural vs. 47% urban), national government officers (34% vs. 52%), and local government officers (30% vs. 50%). Trust levels are also higher in rural areas for every actor, most notably local government officers (66% vs. 52%). Similarly, rural respondents show greater confidence in the fairness of the criminal justice system, with 81% saying it ensures equal treatment of both victims and the accused, compared with 67% and 62% among urban respondents.

WJP Rule of Law Index in Thailand

Rule of Law in Thailand

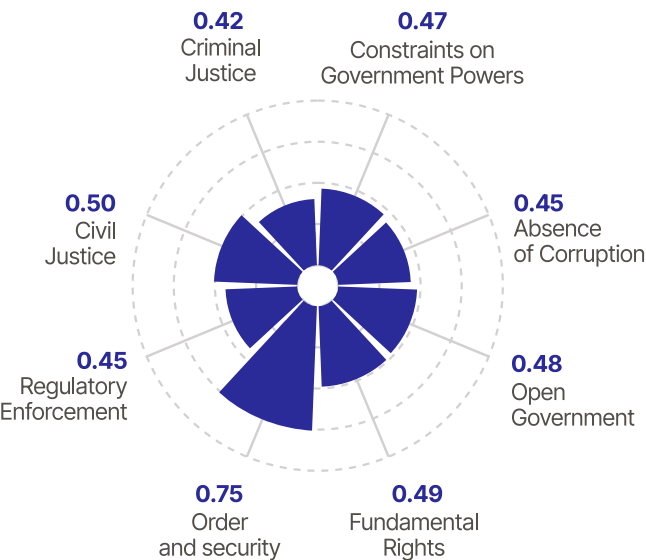
WJP Rule of Law Index 2025 Changes Over Time and Factors in Detail

I OVERALL SCORE



Country/Jurisdiction	Overall Score*	Regional Rank	Global Rank	6-Year % Change in Overall Score (2020-2025)
New Zealand	0.83	1/21	5/143	+1%
Australia	0.80	2/21	11/143	-1%
Japan	0.78	3/21	15/143	+1%
Singapore	0.78	4//21	16/143	-1%
Korea, Rep.	0.74	5/21	19/143	+1%
Hong Kong SAR, China	0.72	6/21	24/143	-6%
Malaysia	0.57	7/21	56/143	-2%
Mongolia	0.53	8/21	67/143	0%
Indonesia	0.52	9/21	69/143	-1%
Nepal	0.52	10/21	71/143	-1%
Sri Lanka	0.51	11/21	74/143	-1%
► Thailand	0.50	12/21	77/143	-1%
Vietnam	0.50	13/21	83/143	+1%
India	0.49	14/21	86/143	-4%
China	0.48	15/21	92/143	0%
Philippines	0.46	16/21	97/143	-3%
Bangladesh	0.39	17/21	125/143	-4%
Pakistan	0.37	18/21	130/143	-5%
Myanmar	0.34	19/21	139/143	-20%
Cambodia	0.31	20/21	141/143	-5%
Afghanistan	0.31	21/21	142/143	-15%

I FACTORS IN DETAIL



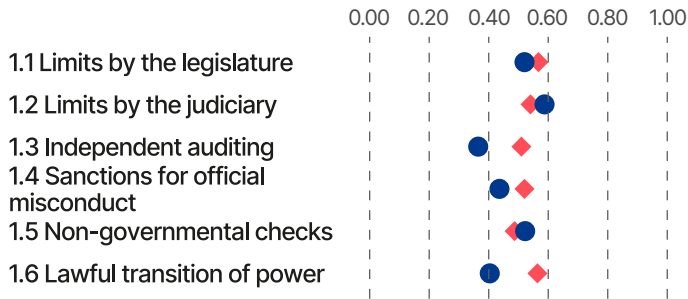
Factor	Global Rank	Regional Rank	6-Year % Change in Overall Score (2020-2025)
1 Constraints on Government Powers	96/143	5/8	-2%
2 Absence of Corruption	77/143	3/8	-8%
3 Open Government	75/143	3/8	-5%
4 Fundamental Rights	89/143	3/8	+1%
5 Order and Security	65/143	4/8	+5%
6 Regulatory Enforcement	102/143	6/8	-4%
7 Civil Justice	80/143	3/8	+5%
8 Criminal Justice	77/143	4/8	-3%

* Scores range from 0 to 1, with 1 indicating the strongest adherence to the rule of law. Scores are rounded to two decimal places.

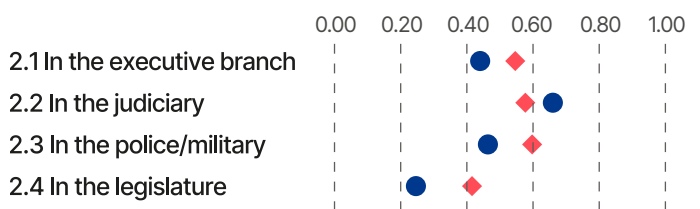
I PERFORMANCE BY SUB-FACTOR

● Thailand ◆ East Asia, the Pacific, and South Asia

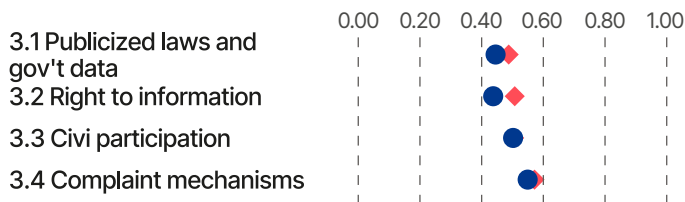
Factor 1: Constraints on Government Powers



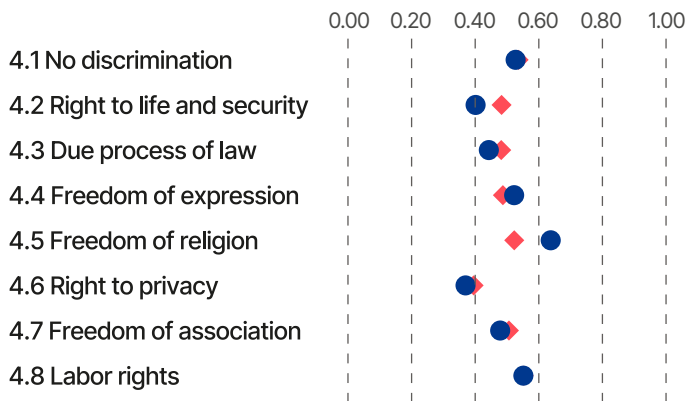
Factor 2: Absence of Corruption



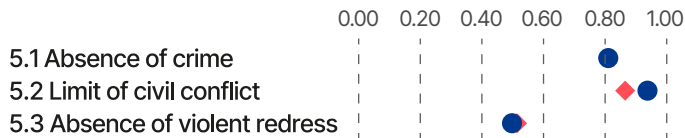
Factor 3: Open Government



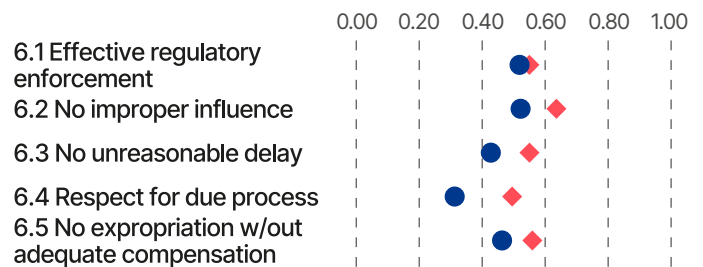
Factor 4: Fundamental Rights



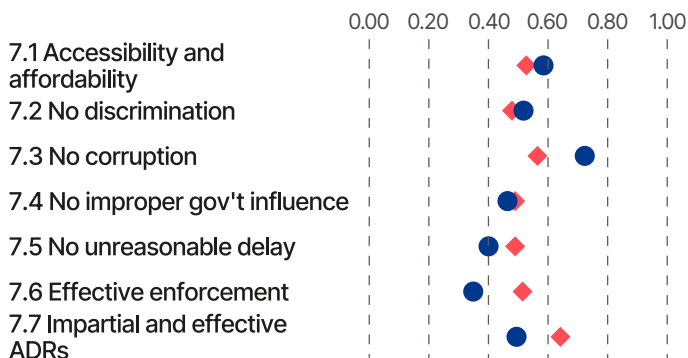
Factor 5: Order and Security



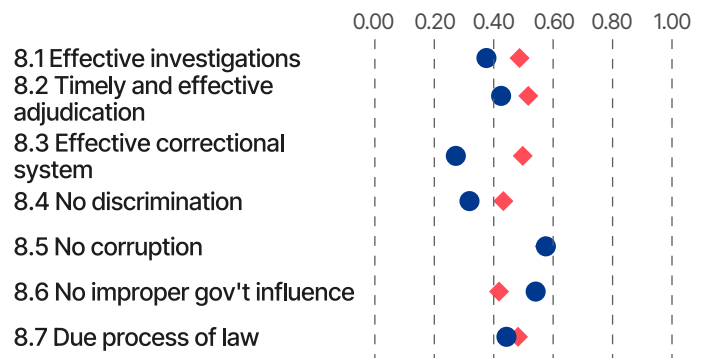
Factor 6: Regulatory Enforcement



Factor 7: Civil Justice



Factor 8: Criminal Justice



Section I: Rule of Law, Fundamental Rights, and Discrimination

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Rule of Law Views

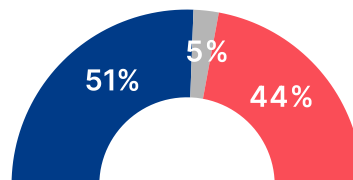
Chart 1

Perceptions and Attitudes Towards Rule of Law Pillars

Percentage of respondents who agree with the following statements

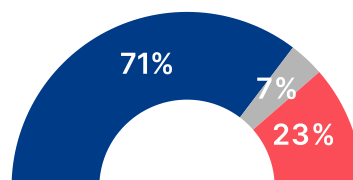
Government Accountability

- Government efficiency is more important than citizen influence
- It is important that citizens have a say in government matters even at the expense of efficiency
- None of the above/Prefer not to answer



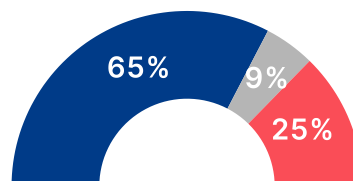
Obedience to Law

- The prime minister should not be bound by the law and courts
- The prime minister must obey the law and courts
- None of the above/Prefer not to answer



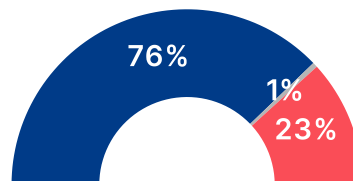
Government Legitimacy

- It is not necessary to obey the laws of a government that you did not vote for
- It is important to obey the government in power no matter who you voted for
- None of the above/Prefer not to answer



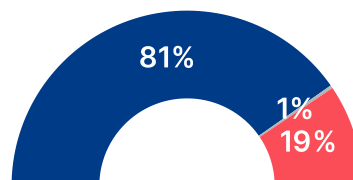
Judicial Independence

- Judges often decide cases under pressure from the government or powerful private companies
- Judges usually base their decisions on the law
- None of the above/Prefer not to answer



Civic Participation

- Civil society groups are excluded from how the government designs public policies
- The government works with civil society organizations to shape public policies
- None of the above/Prefer not to answer



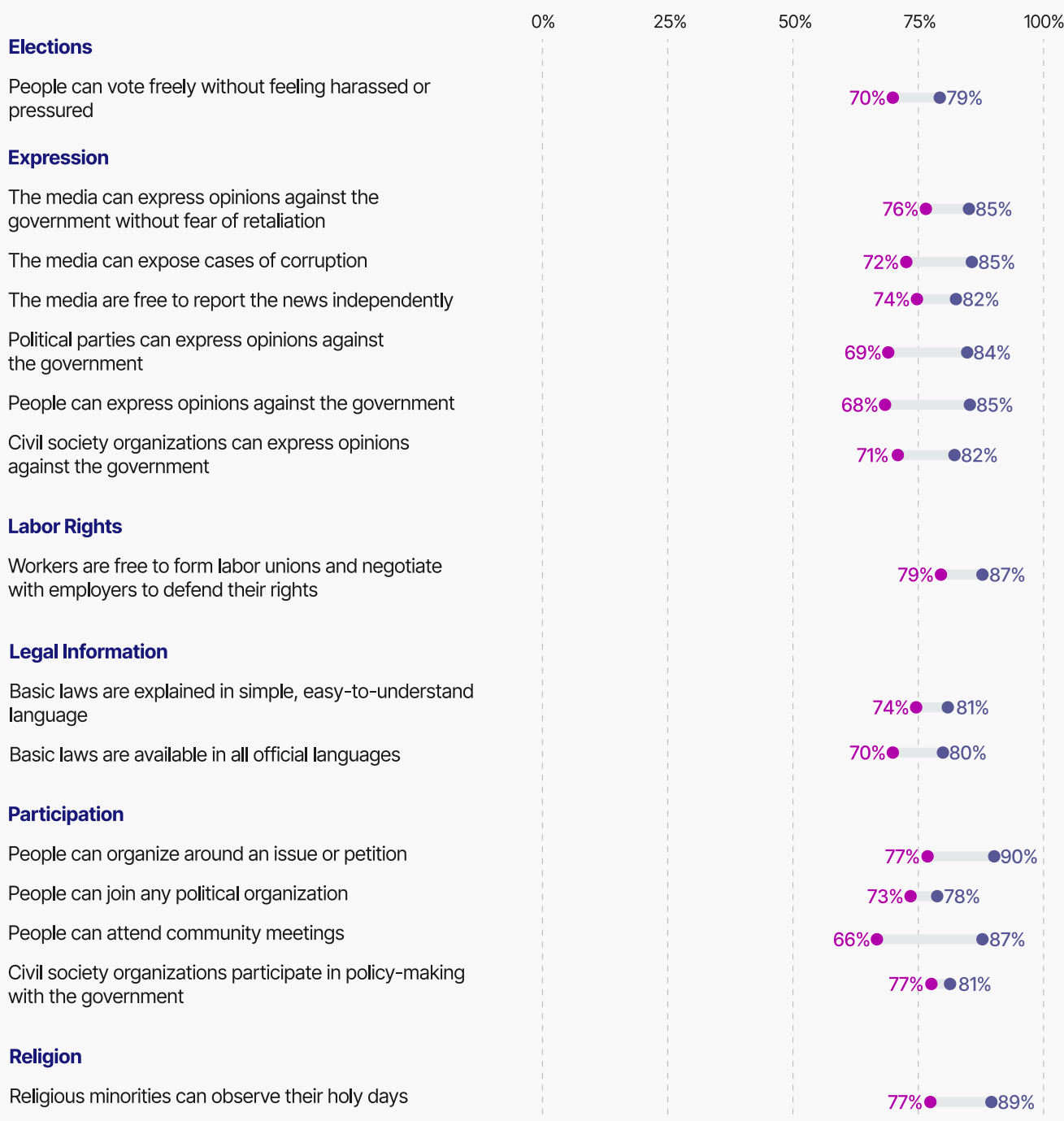
Source: WJP General Population Poll 2025

Fundamental Rights

Chart 2

Fundamental Rights in Thailand over Time

Percentage of respondents who agree or strongly agree with the following statements...



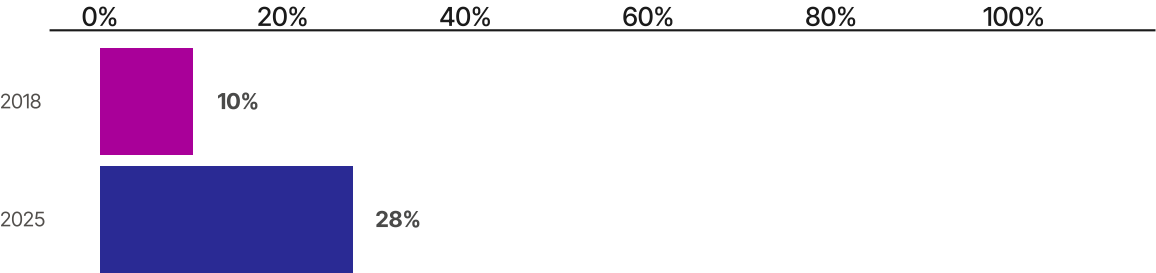
Source: WJP General Population Poll 2018 and 2025

Discrimination

Chart 3.1

Discrimination in Thailand over Time

Percentage of respondents who experienced discrimination

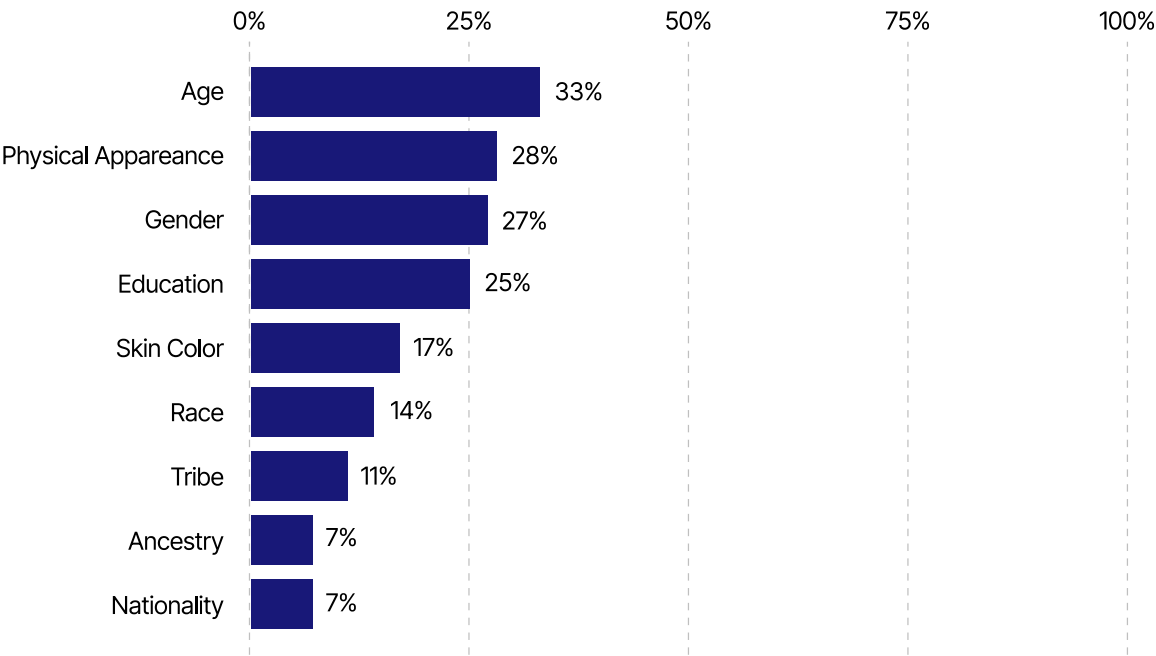


Source: WJP General Population Poll 2018 and 2025

Chart 3.2

Reasons Why People Feel Discriminated

Percentage of respondents who say their experience with discrimination was mainly due to their...



Source: WJP General Population Poll 2025

Section II: Trust and Corruption

18 Corruption

20 Trust

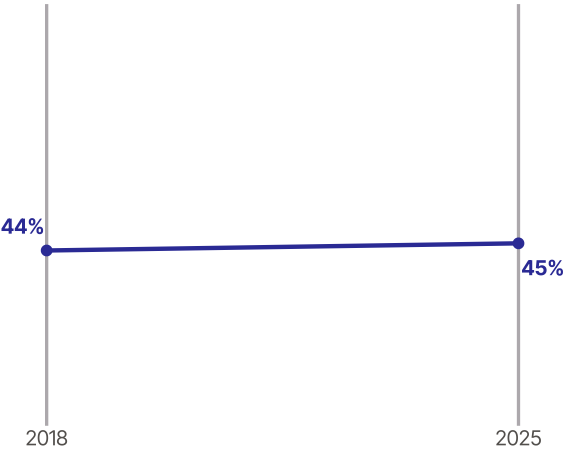
Corruption

Chart 4

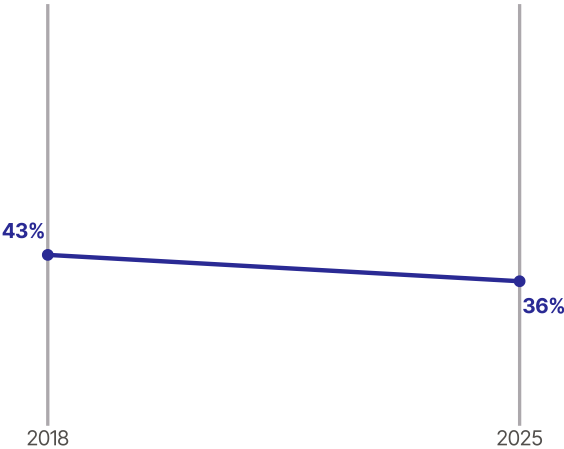
Perceptions of Corruption by Institution over Time

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

Members of Parliament

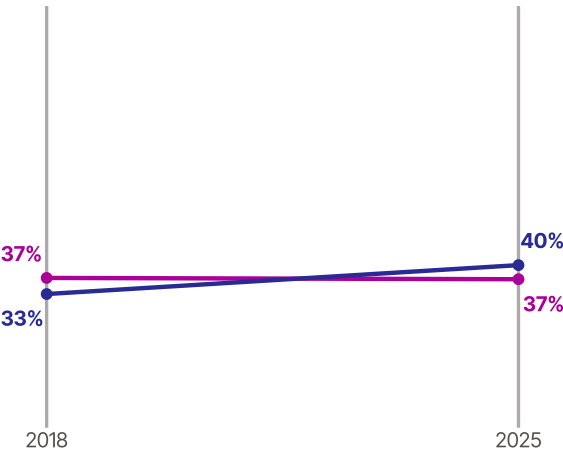


Police Officers



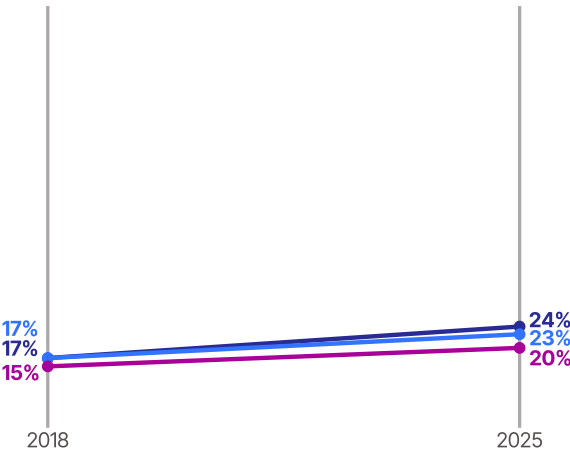
Executive

- National Government Officers
- Local Government Officers



Justice System

- Prosecutors
- Judges & Magistrates
- Public Defense Attorneys

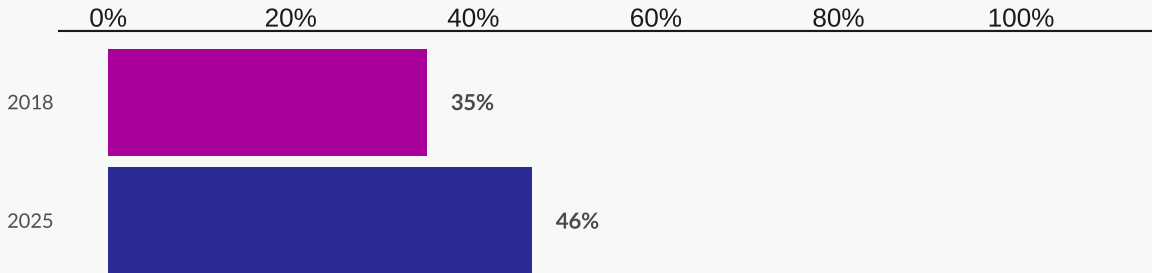


Source: WJP General Population Poll 2018 and 2025

Chart 5.1

Perceptions of Accountability in Thailand over Time

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

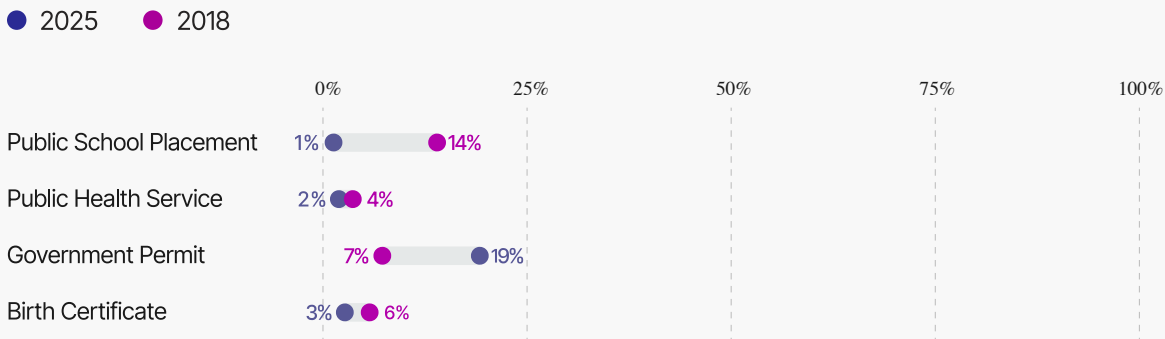


Source: WJP General Population Poll 2018 and 2025

Chart 5.2

Bribery Victimization in Thailand over Time

Percentage of respondents who paid a bribe in the last 12 months for one of the following public services, out of those who utilized the service



Source: WJP General Population Poll 2018 and 2025

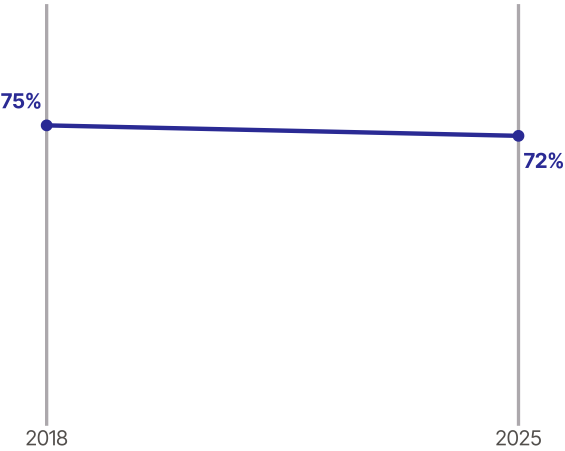
Trust

Chart 6

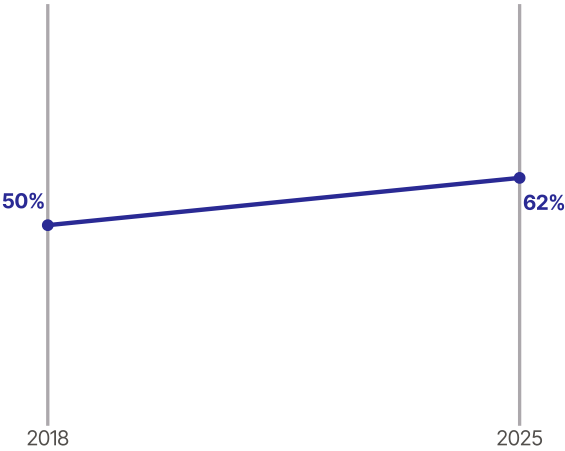
Trust in Institutions over Time

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

People living in their country

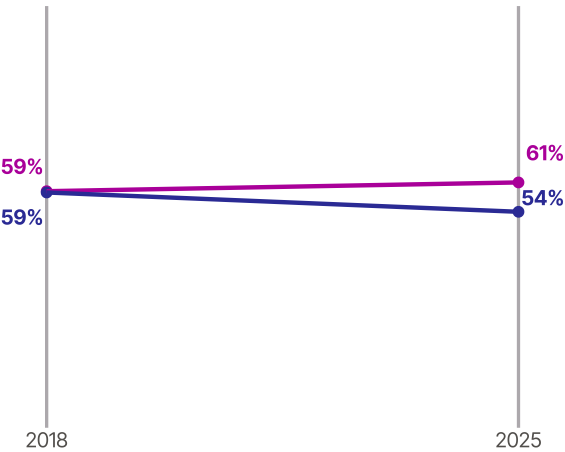


Police Officers



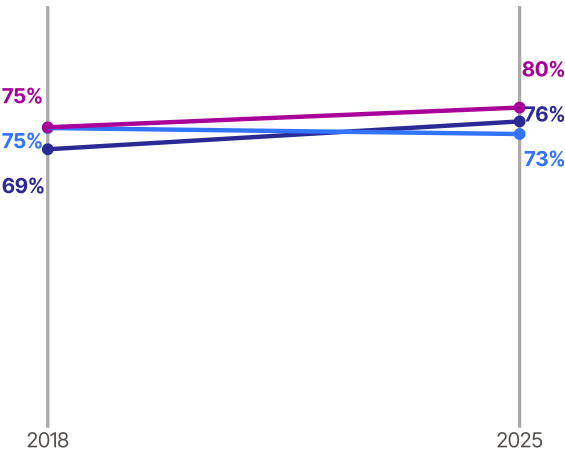
Executive

- National Government Officers
- Local Government Officers



Justice System

- Prosecutors
- Judges & Magistrates
- Public Defense Attorneys



Source: WJP General Population Poll 2018 and 2025

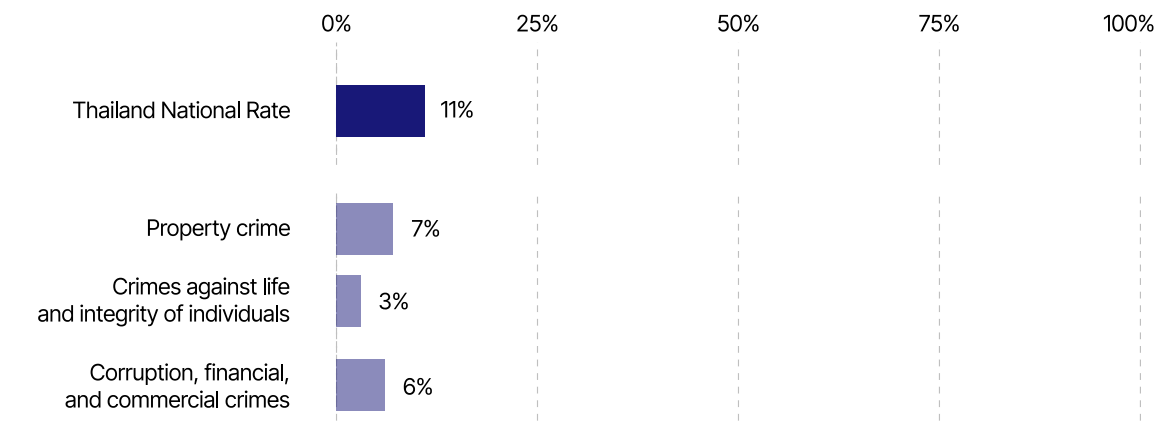
| Section III: Security

22 Crime Victimization

23 Security

Crime Victimization

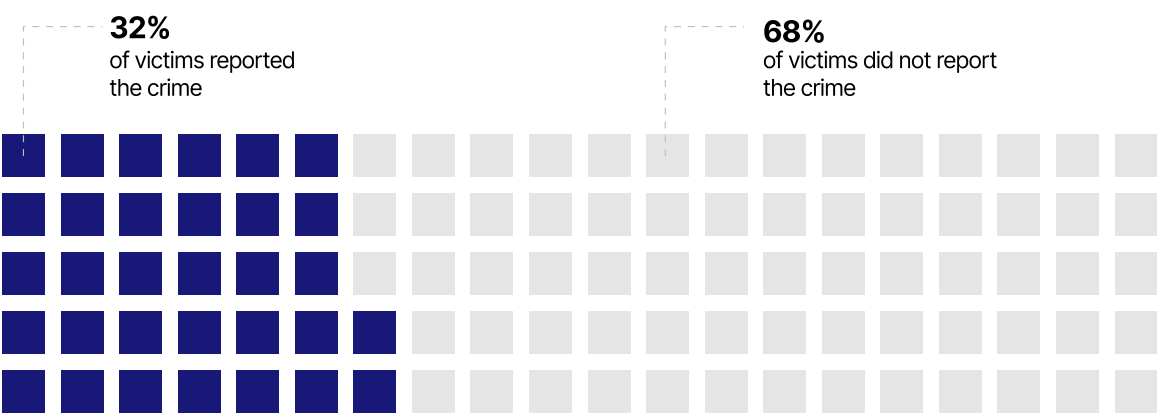
Chart 7.1
Types of Crimes Experienced by People in Thailand
Victimization rate in the last 12 months, by type of crime



Note: The Thailand National Rate comes directly from survey questions on individuals’ experiences with victimization. The categories Property crime, Crimes against life and integrity of individuals, and Corruption, financial, and commercial crimes are classifications developed exclusively for the analytical purposes of this report to group the types of crimes experienced by respondents. Individuals may report having been victims of more than one type of crime. For details on the specific offenses included in each category, please refer to the Appendix.

Source: WJP General Population Poll 2025

Chart 7.2
Crime Reporting Rates
Data on crime victimization and reporting in Thailand



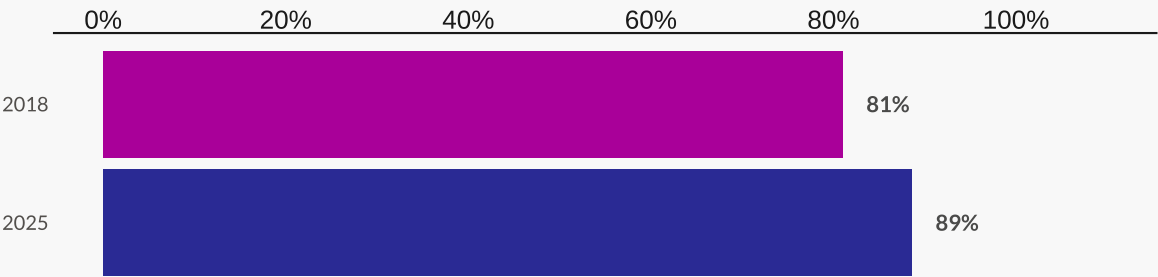
Source: WJP General Population Poll 2025

Security

Chart 8.1

Perceptions of Security in Thailand over Time

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

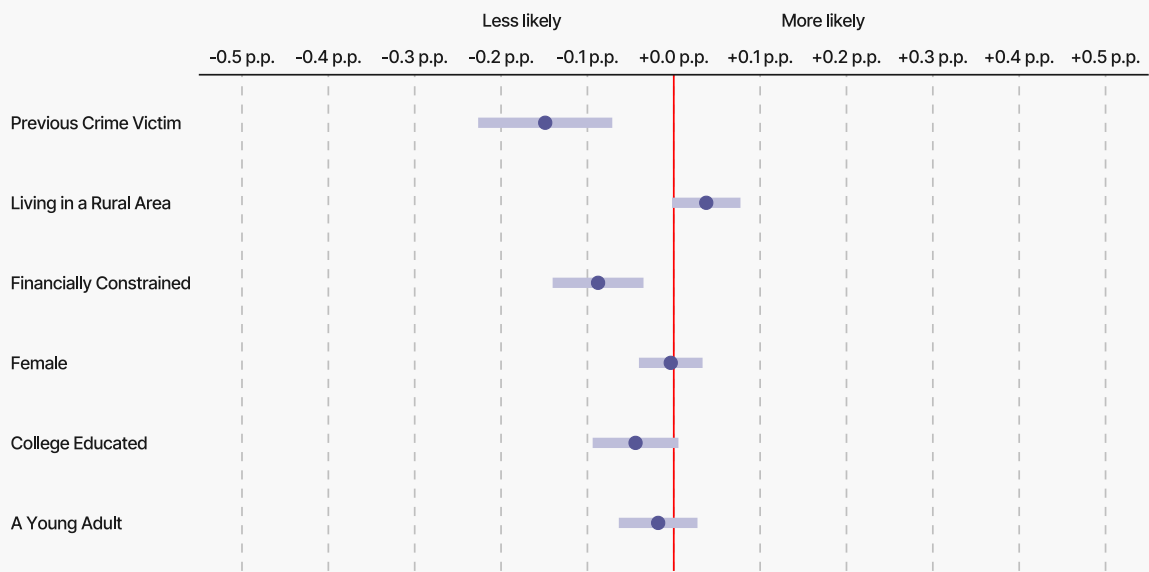


Source: WJP General Population Poll 2018 and 2025

Chart 8.2

Impact of Sociodemographic Characteristics on Perceptions of Safety

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



Note: The results in this infographic were obtained from a logit regression. Each point indicates the average marginal effect, measure as percentage points (p.p.), of the corresponding sociodemographic characteristic on the predicted probability of a respondent to answer “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 13.2 was produced, please see the Regression Key linked in the Appendix.

Source: WJP General Population Poll 2025

Section IV: Criminal Justice System

25 Criminal Justice System

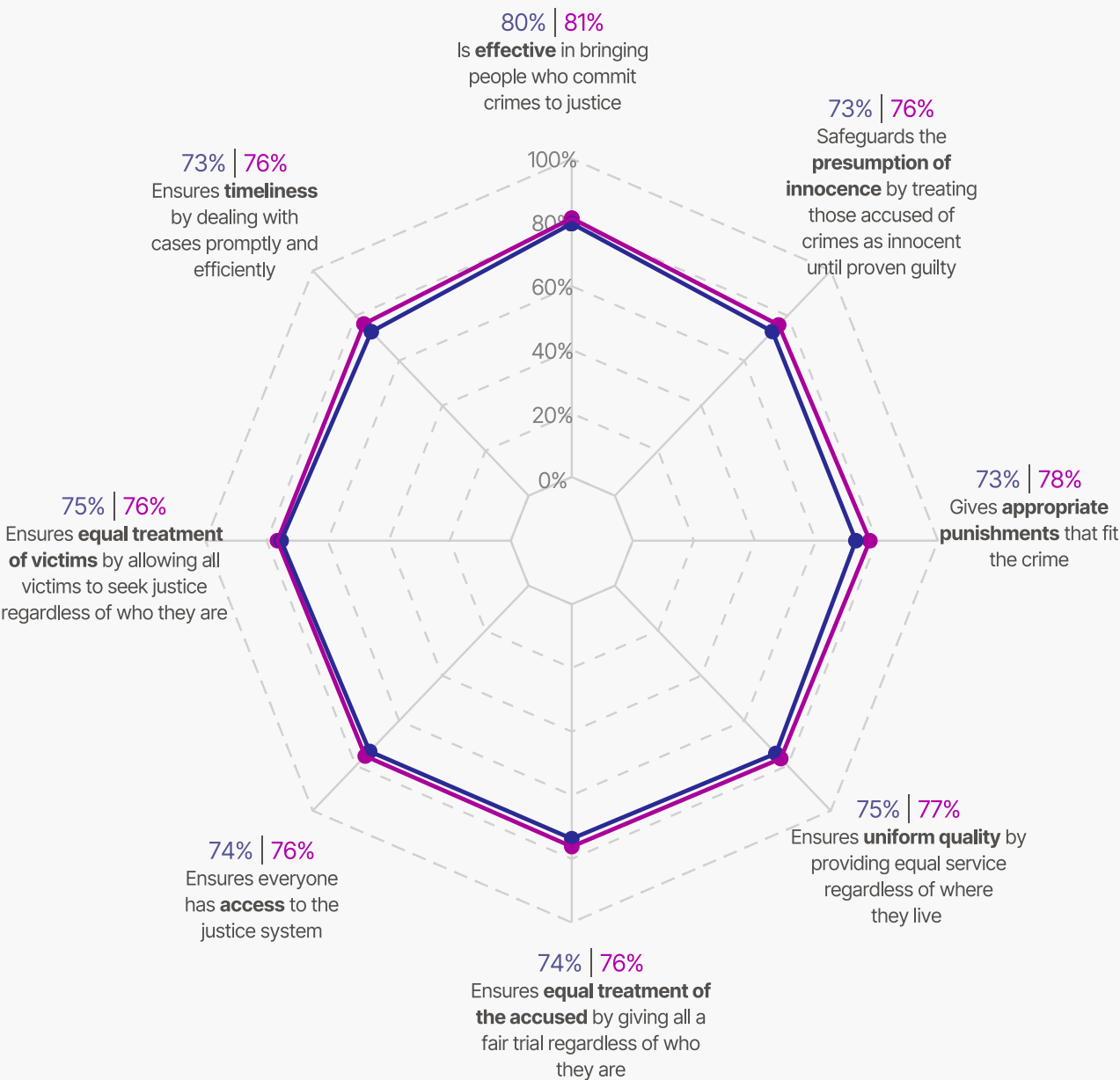
26 Criminal Justice Actors

Criminal Justice System

Chart 9
Perceptions of the Criminal Justice System in Thailand

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

● 2025 ● 2018



Source: WJP General Population Poll 2018 and 2025

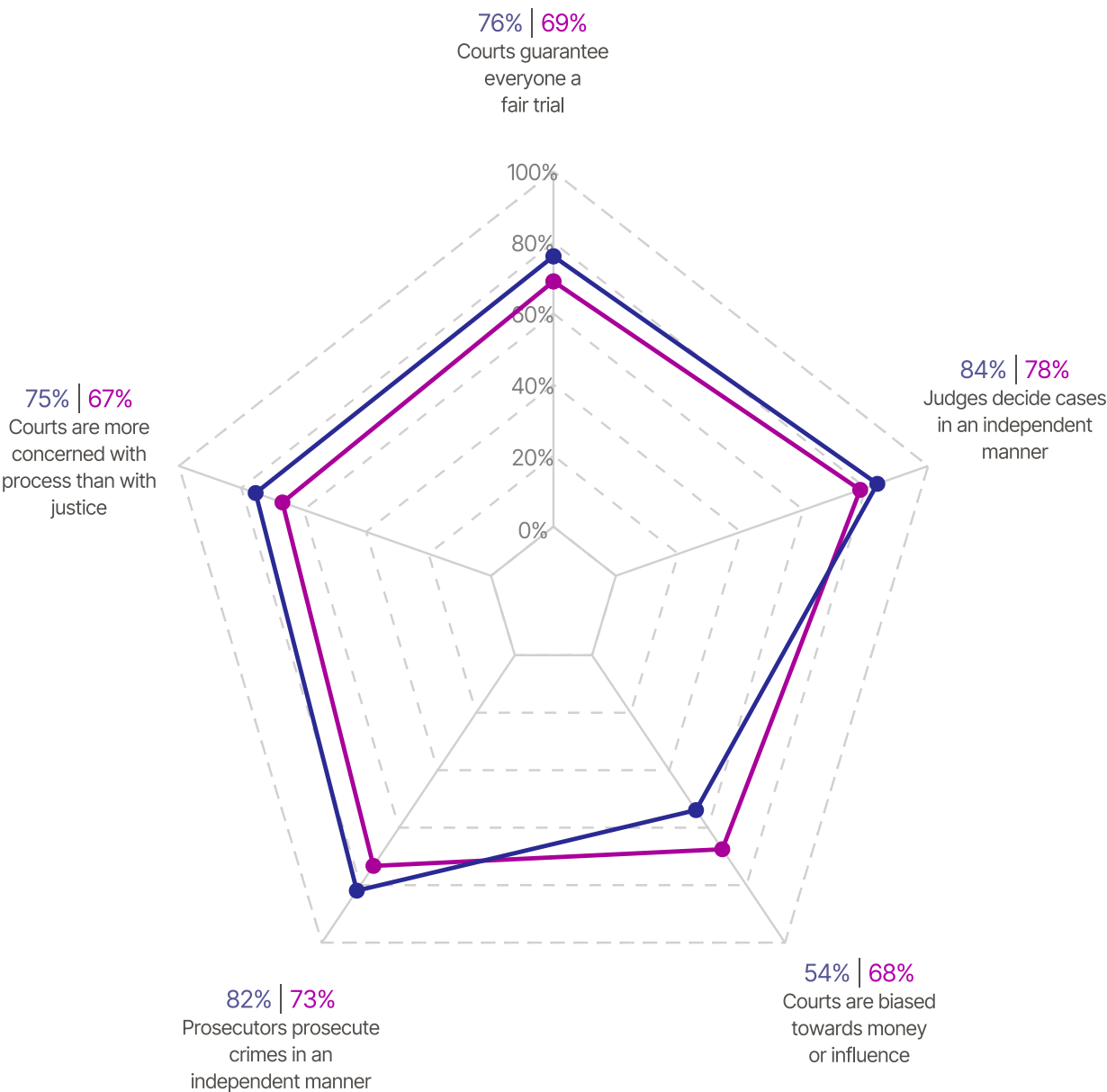
Criminal Justice Actors

Chart 10

Criminal Justice Actors

Perceptions of criminal justice actors in Thailand

2025 2018



Source: WJP General Population Poll 2018 and 2025

Chart 11

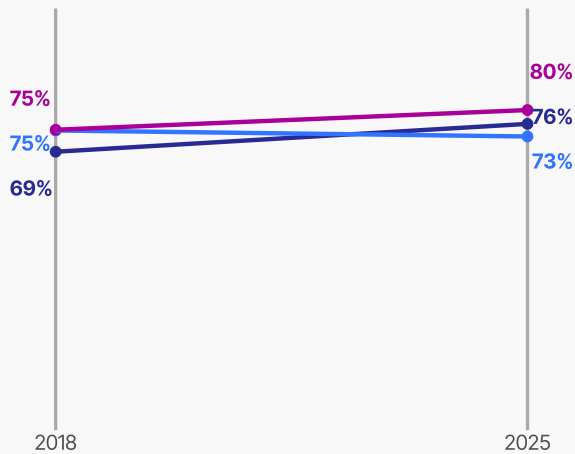
Criminal Justice Actors

Perceptions of criminal justice actors in Thailand

● Prosecutors ● Judges & Magistrates ● Public Defense Attorneys

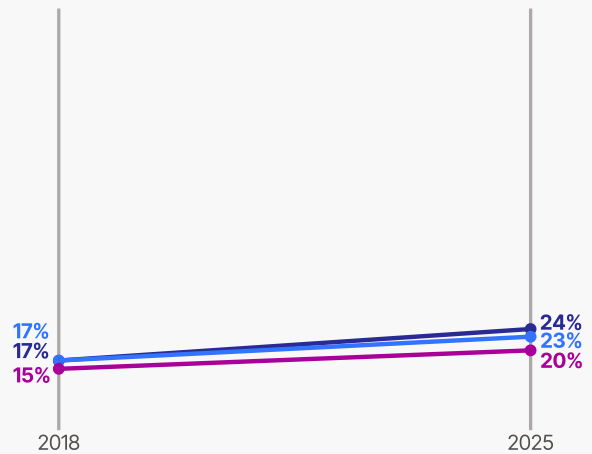
Trust

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



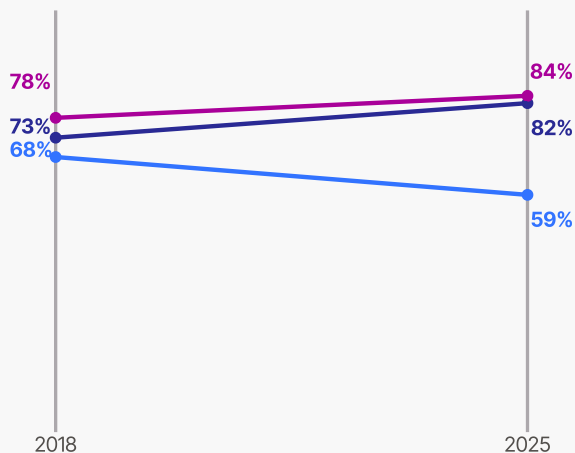
Corruption

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



Competency

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



Source: WJP General Population Poll 2018 and 2025

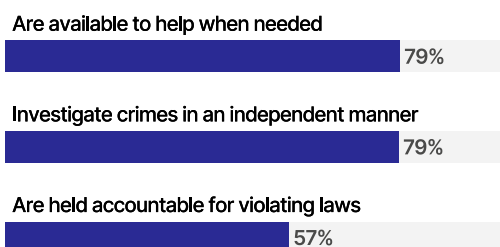
Chart 12

Perceptions of the Police

Perceptions of the police in Thailand

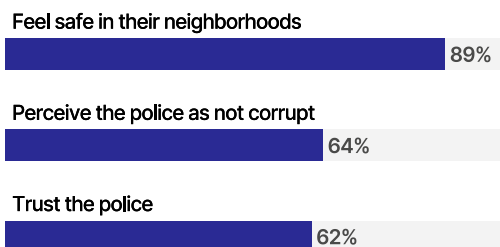
Integrity

Percentage of people who agree or strongly agree that the police...



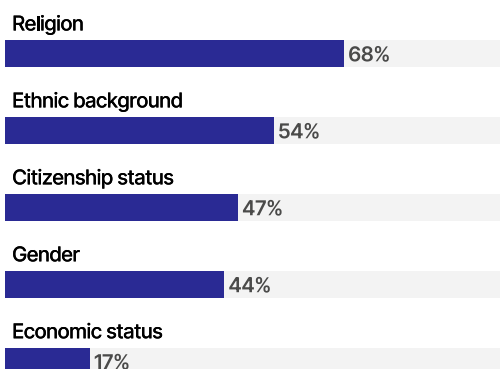
Legitimacy

Percentage of people who...



Discrimination

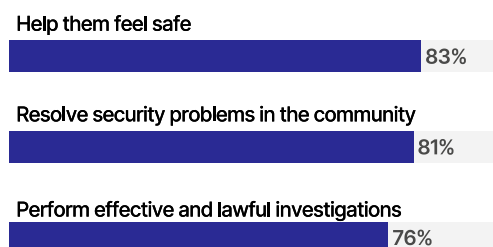
Percentage of people who agree or strongly agree that the police would not discriminate against suspects based on....



Source: WJP General Population Poll 2025

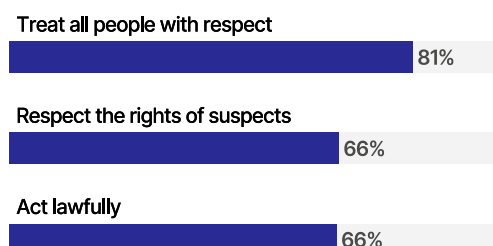
Crime Control

Percentage of people who agree or strongly agree that the police...



Due Process

Percentage of people who agree or strongly agree that the police...



Section V: Diverse Views on Rule of Law by Area of Residence

30 Fundamental Freedoms

31 Corruption and Trust

32 Criminal Justice System

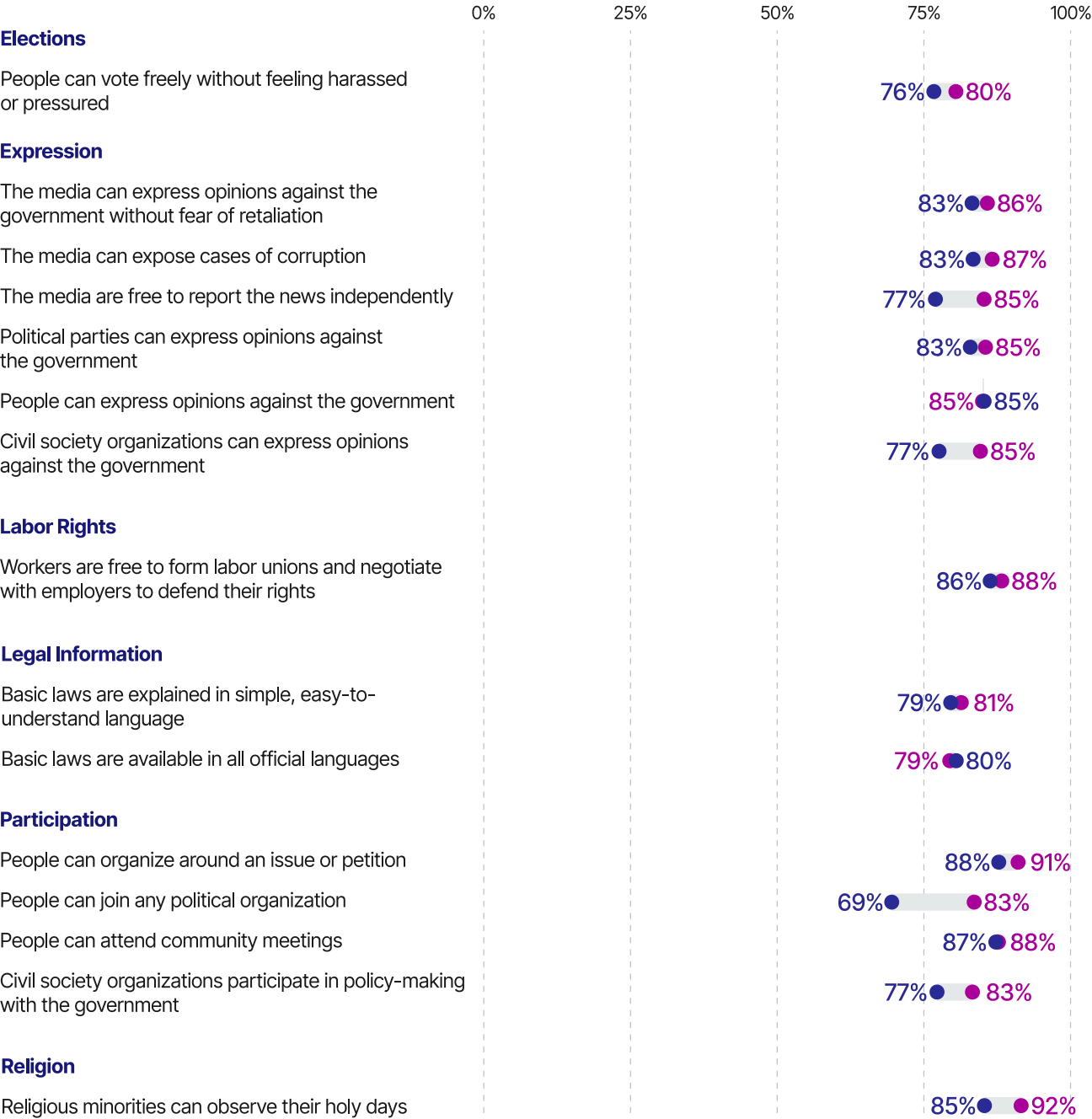
Fundamental Freedoms

Chart 13

Fundamental Rights in Thailand over the Time by Area of Residence

Percentage of respondents who agree or strongly agree with the following statements...

● Urban ● Rural



For the purposes of this survey, "Urban" areas are those classified by Thailand's National Statistics Office as falling within municipal boundaries, while "Rural" areas are those located outside of the municipal area. Ipsos operationalized these NSO classifications by mapping both urban and rural zones using Google Maps and then allocating enumeration areas proportionate to local population size through its internal sampling system across the randomly allocated provinces.

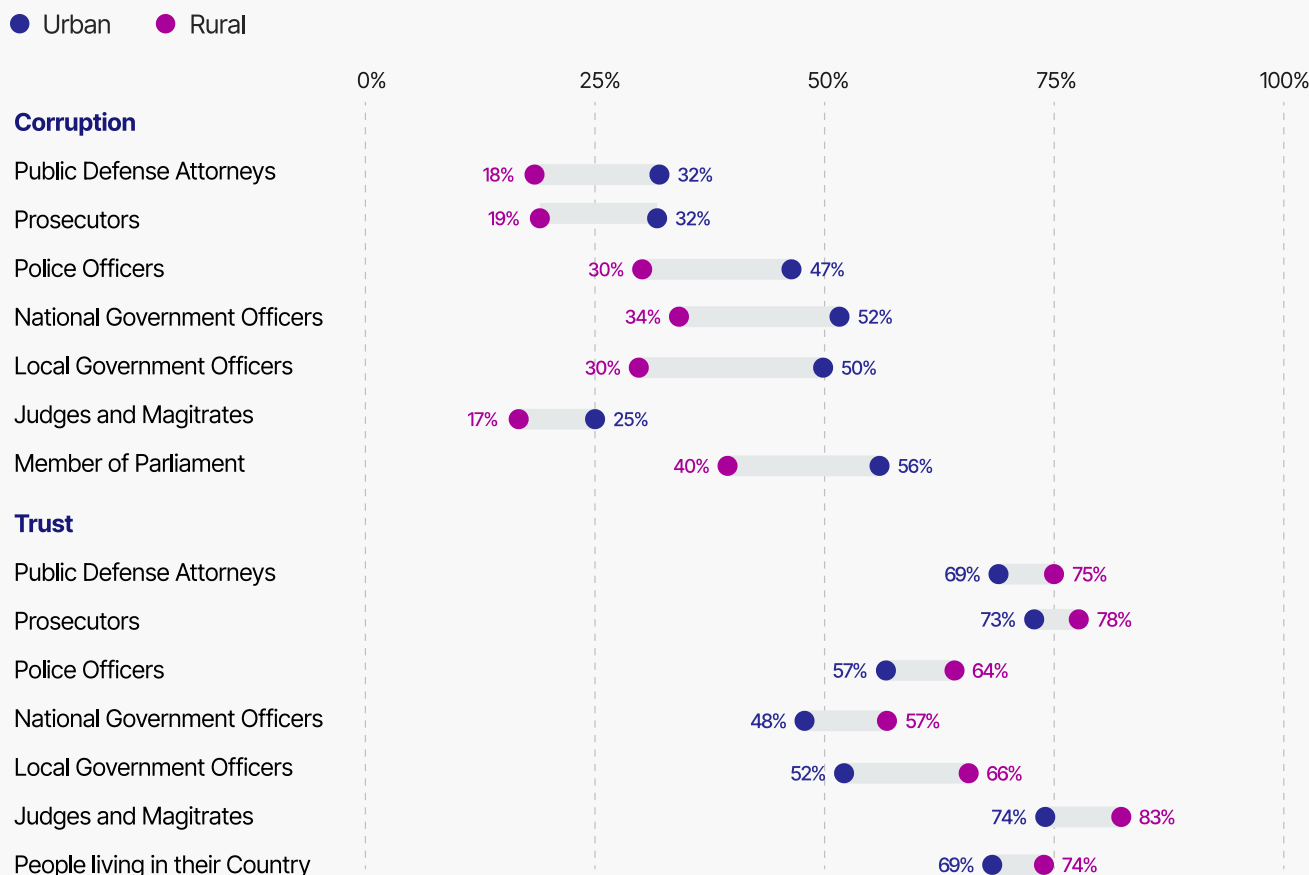
Source: WJP General Population Poll 2025

Corruption and Trust

Chart 14

Corruption and Trust by Area of Residence

Percentage of respondents who say certain government actors are corrupt and levels of trust in different government actors



For the purposes of this survey, "Urban" areas are those classified by Thailand's National Statistics Office as falling within municipal boundaries, while "Rural" areas are those located outside of the municipal area. Ipsos operationalized these NSO classifications by mapping both urban and rural zones using Google Maps and then allocating enumeration areas proportionate to local population size through its internal sampling system across the randomly allocated provinces.

Source: WJP General Population Poll 2025

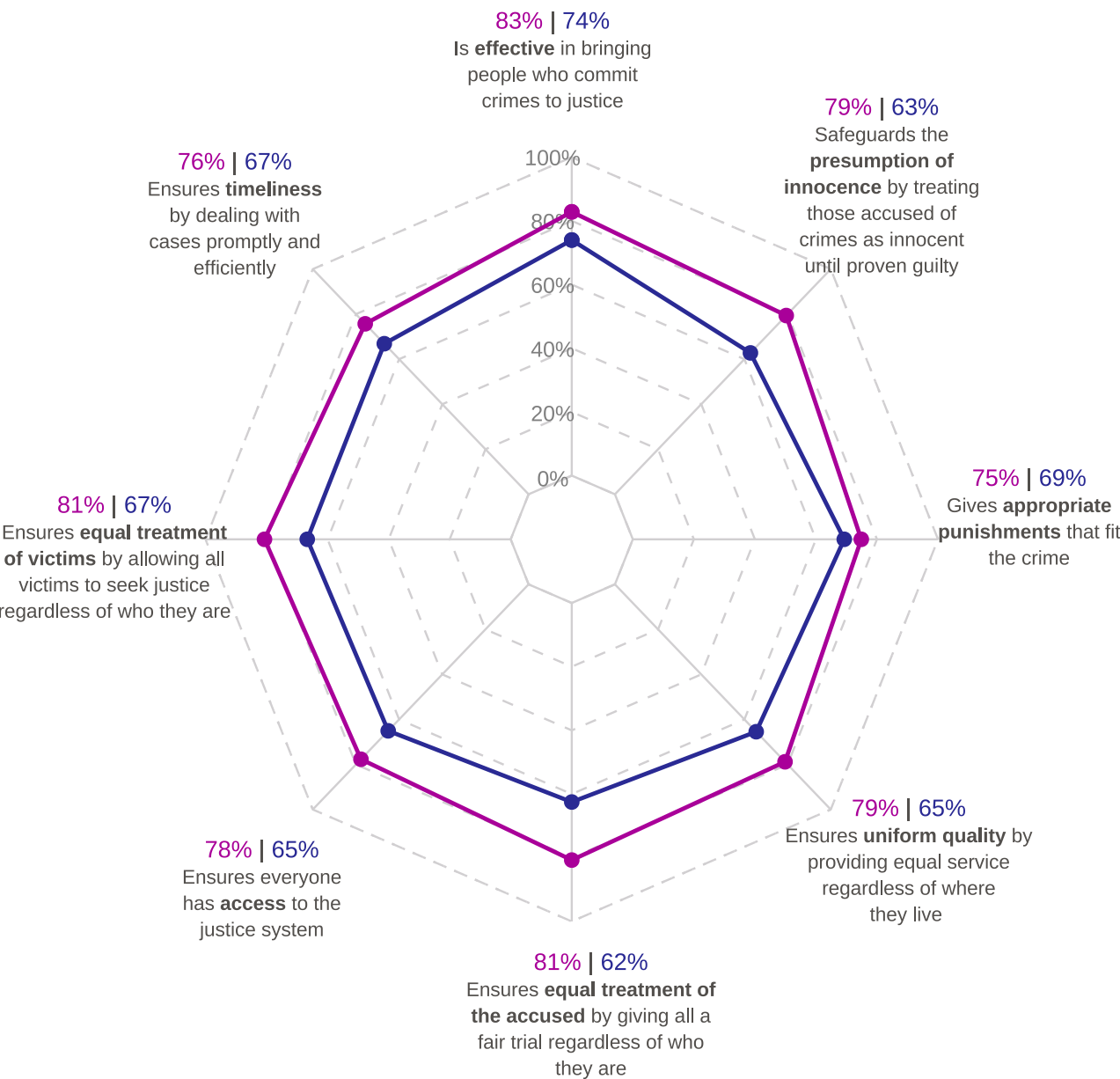
Criminal Justice System

Chart 15

Perceptions of the Criminal Justice System by Area of Residence

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

Urban Rural



For the purposes of this survey, “Urban” areas are those classified by Thailand’s National Statistics Office as falling within municipal boundaries, while “Rural” areas are those located outside of the municipal area. Ipsos operationalized these NSO classifications by mapping both urban and rural zones using Google Maps and then allocating enumeration areas proportionate to local population size through its internal sampling system across the randomly allocated provinces.

Source: WJP General Population Poll 2025

| PROJECT DESIGN

PROJECT DESIGN

To present an image that accurately portrays the rule of law as experienced by ordinary people, the data featured in the thematic findings of 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 regarding the performance of the state and its agents, as well as the actual operation of the legal framework in their country. The WJP Rule of Law Index findings featured in this report come from the 2025 WJP Rule of Law Index. See pages 41-42 for an overview of the Index's methodology.⁷

DATA COLLECTION

The 2025 General Population Poll (GPP) in Thailand was conducted for the World Justice Project by Ipsos, which managed sampling, fieldwork, and data processing. Following a pilot test from May 24 to June 4, surveys were administered face to face between June 21 and July 26 using a multi-stage stratified random sampling design. The poll targeted Thai residents aged 18 or older across all major regions, including Greater Bangkok and the Central, Northeastern, Northern, and Southern areas.

The survey instrument features questions that highlight experiences with and perceptions on salient issues, including authoritarian behavior, corruption, criminal justice, fundamental freedoms, security, and access to justice. In total, the GPP questionnaire includes 89 perception-based questions and 52 experience-based questions, along with sociodemographic information on all respondents.

SAMPLE SIZE AND SAMPLE FRAME

The GPP in Thailand represents an achieved total sample size of 1,100 interviews, proportionally distributed across the five main regions mentioned above. Ipsos based the sampling frame on the most recent population estimates from Thailand's National Statistical Office, achieving a stratified sample by region, gender, age, income, and level of urbanization.

To manage questionnaire length while ensuring comprehensive coverage of all thematic modules, WJP divided the survey's three modules into two versions (Option A and Option B) and randomly assigned one option to each respondent. These modules included hypothetical scenarios, civic participation, and institutional performance. All other sections of the questionnaire remained identical across both versions.

SAMPLING

Households were selected through a multi-stage random stratification process. Geo-economic strata were defined across Greater Bangkok and the Central, Northeastern, Northern, and Southern regions, and cities and districts were randomly chosen in proportion to population size using an internal Ipsos system. In urban areas, interviewers visited every sixth house, and in rural areas every fifth. Within each household, one adult resident (18+) was randomly selected using quota controls for gender, age, and income, and respondents were required to live in the household at least five days per week.

INTERVIEWING AND QUALITY CONTROL

Interviews were conducted in Thai by nine field teams composed of 65 interviewers and lasted an average of 45 minutes, with durations ranging from 11 to 70 minutes. All interviewers received standardized training, and quality control procedures included GPS validation, audio monitoring, data pattern checks, and several layers of backchecking: 10 interviews were supervised directly, 50 were backchecked in person, and 360 were backchecked by the central office. Only interviews that met all reliability and protocol standards were retained for final analysis.

⁷ A full description of the WJP Rule of Law Index methodology is available in PDF online at: <https://worldjusticeproject.org/rule-of-law-index/downloads/Index-Methodology-2025.pdf>.

DESCRIPTION OF THE SAMPLE

COVERAGE: Interviews were distributed across Thailand's five main regions to achieve a nationally representative sample. Twenty-eight percent (28%) of interviews were conducted in Greater Bangkok, 21% in the Central region (including Chonburi and Ayutthaya), 20% in the Northeastern region (including Nakhon Ratchasima and Udon Thani), 16% in the Northern region (including Chiang Mai and Phitsanulok), and 15% in the Southern region (including Nakhon Si Thammarat and Songkhla).

GEOGRAPHY: Forty-two percent (42%) of respondents resided in rural areas, while 58% lived in urban or metropolitan zones.

GENDER: The sample was evenly distributed by gender, comprising 50% male and 50% female respondents.

EDUCATION: A large majority of respondents (around 78%) reported having completed at least secondary education or a vocational degree, while 15% had attained a bachelor's or higher degree, and a small minority (7%) reported only primary education or no formal schooling.

RESPONSE RATES

Category	Definition	Count
Eligible household, non-interview	Households contacted but where interview was not completed (sum of refusals, break-offs, and non-contacts).	3,583
Refusals	Individuals who declined to participate.	2,033
Break-off	Respondents who began but did not finish the interview.	248
Non-contact	Selected households that could not be reached after attempts.	1,302
Total completed interviews	Raw interviews collected by Ipsos enumerators	1,206
Rejected during data validation	Removed due to quality issues (GPS, timing, audio, duplicates).	106
Final achieved sample	Valid, approved interviews after quality control.	1100

DATA REVIEW AND JUSTIFICATION

As part of the data analysis process, the team consulted several third-party sources to contextualize and validate the perception-based data captured by the General Population Poll and to compare it with the objective rule of law situation in Thailand. Peer data sources consulted include select indicators from the Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem) project, Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index, the Bertelsmann Stiftung's Transformation Index (BTI), and Freedom House's Freedom in the World report. While some trends captured by the 2025 General Population Poll in Thailand align with those reflected in other global governance and democracy indicators, the perceptions and experiences presented in this report may not always coincide with the broader assessments of Thailand's rule of law performance as measured by external sources.

HISTORICAL DATA

Historical data in this report derives from the WJP Rule of Law Index General Population Poll, which is typically administered every few years using a nationally representative probability sample ranging from 500 to 2,000 respondents. The historical polling data used in this year's analysis was collected in 2018, allowing for a longitudinal assessment of changes in public perceptions and experiences related to the rule of law in Thailand over the past decade.

Methodology



The *WJP Rule of Law Index*® is built upon an original conceptual framework, which WJP developed in consultation with academics, legal practitioners, and community leaders from around the world.

The methodology* can be broken down into the following five-step process:

1. Questionnaires

WJP administers a set of five original questionnaires to experts and the general public. These questionnaires are translated into several languages and adapted to reflect commonly used terms and expressions.



4 Expert Questionnaires

Qualified Respondents' Questionnaires (QRQs)

Every year, WJP invites legal practitioners and academics from around the world to participate in expert surveys covering four disciplines: civil and commercial law, criminal justice, labor law, and public health.

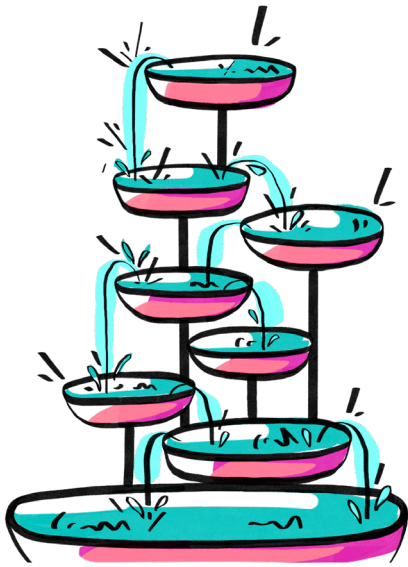
1 Household Questionnaire

General Population Poll (GPP)

Every few years, WJP engages the services of leading local polling companies to conduct surveys of the general public in each country.



*To read more about the methodology of the WJP Rule of Law Index, please refer to the "Methodology" document available for download on WJP's website: <https://worldjusticeproject.org/rule-of-law-index/downloads/Index-Methodology-2025.pdf>



2. Codification

WJP maps collected data onto 44 rule of law sub-factors. Final scores are constructed using a five-step process:

1. Codify questionnaire items as numeric values.
2. Produce raw country scores by aggregating the individual responses.
3. Normalize raw scores.
4. Aggregate the scores into sub-factors and factors using simple averages.
5. Produce the final scores and rankings.

3. Testing

The data is subjected to a series of tests to detect significant changes and identify possible biases and errors. The sub-factors are cross-checked against more than 90 third-party sources drawn from local and international organizations.



4. Presentation

Data is organized into country profiles, tables, and figures to facilitate its presentation and interpretation. The full report, key insights, and historical datasets can be accessed on WJP's website: worldjusticeproject.org/index.



5. External Review and Validation



To assess the statistical reliability of our results, WJP periodically invites the Econometrics and Applied Statistics Unit of the European Commission's Joint Research Centre to perform a sensitivity analysis of the Index. This analysis confirms that the *WJP Rule of Law Index®* is a reliable tool with statistical coherence and robust structure.

| APPENDIX

APPENDIX

Methodological Materials

GENERAL POPULATION POLL (GPP)

The General Population Poll in Thailand 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 security, judicial system perceptions and trust in institutions.

[*World Justice Project General Population Poll 2025 – Thailand Survey Instrument \(English Version\)*](#)

[*World Justice Project General Population Poll 2025 – Thailand Survey Instrument \(Thai Version\)*](#)

RULE OF LAW INDEX

The following documents includes the report of the Rule of Law Index 2025, and the question-level variables from the General Population Poll and the Qualified Respondents' Questionnaires used to construct the factors of the WJP Rule of Law Index.

[*World Justice Project Rule of Law Index 2025*](#)

[*World Justice Project Rule of Law Index Methodology*](#)

[*World Justice Project Rule of Law Index Variable Map*](#)

VARIABLES USED IN INFOGRAPHICS ON CRIME VICTIMIZATION

This table lists the question-level variables from the General Population Poll used to construct Chart 7.1 Types of Crimes Experienced by People in Thailand.

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

REGRESSION TABLES FOR REGRESSION ANALYSIS USED IN INFOGRAPHIC ON PERCEPTIONS OF SECURITY

This document includes the question-level variables from the General Population Poll used in the regression analysis and the regression results featured in Chart 8.2.

[*World Justice Project Regression Tables*](#)

Overview of Rule of Law Index Factors and Subfactors

Factor	Regional ranking	Global ranking	Score in 2025	Score in 2024	Score in 2020	% change last year	% change in 6 years
1	14/21	96/143	0.47	0.46	0.48	+3%	-2%
1.1	15/21	90/143	0.52	0.50	0.52	+4%	+1%
1.2	10/21	53/143	0.59	0.56	0.60	+4%	-1%
1.3	18/21	112/143	0.36	0.38	0.43	-4%	-14%
1.4	14/21	74/143	0.44	0.42	0.47	+3%	-7%
1.5	10/21	81/143	0.52	0.51	0.54	+3%	-3%
1.6	16/21	118/143	0.40	0.39	0.35	+4%	+14%
2	10/21	77/143	0.45	0.46	0.49	-2%	-8%
2.1	15/21	74/143	0.44	0.44	0.46	-1%	-5%
2.2	8/21	62/143	0.66	0.67	0.71	-2%	-7%
2.3	14/21	97/143	0.46	0.45	0.49	+2%	-4%
2.4	17/21	90/143	0.25	0.27	0.30	-9%	-19%
3	12/21	75/143	0.48	0.48	0.51	0%	-5%
3.1	11/21	65/143	0.45	0.43	0.44	+3%	+1%
3.2	15/21	93/143	0.44	0.44	0.45	0%	-3%
3.3	12/21	88/143	0.50	0.50	0.53	0%	-5%
3.4	11/21	79/143	0.55	0.57	0.61	-3%	-10%
4	11/21	89/143	0.49	0.48	0.49	+3%	+1%
4.1	10/21	87/143	0.53	0.51	0.54	+3%	-3%
4.2	12/21	99/143	0.40	0.38	0.40	+6%	+1%
4.3	11/21	78/143	0.44	0.43	0.42	+4%	+5%
4.4	10/21	81/143	0.52	0.51	0.54	+3%	-3%
4.5	7/21	78/143	0.64	0.60	0.58	+6%	+10%
4.6	12/21	85/143	0.37	0.37	0.38	0%	-2%
4.7	13/21	109/143	0.48	0.46	0.47	+3%	+2%
4.8	12/21	80/143	0.55	0.55	0.58	0%	-4%
5	11/21	65/143	0.75	0.74	0.71	+1%	+5%
5.1	12/21	60/143	0.81	0.79	0.80	+3%	+1%
5.2	13/21	110.5/143	0.94	0.94	0.83	0%	+13%
5.3	11/21	59/143	0.50	0.50	0.51	0%	-1%
6	16/21	102/143	0.45	0.45	0.47	0%	-4%
6.1	12/21	66/143	0.52	0.51	0.52	+2%	-1%
6.2	14/21	94/143	0.52	0.54	0.52	-4%	+1%
6.3	14/21	87/143	0.43	0.43	0.49	-1%	-12%
6.4	16/21	113/143	0.31	0.30	0.32	+4%	-2%
6.5	15/21	105/143	0.46	0.46	0.49	0%	-5%

Factor	Regional ranking	Global ranking	Score in 2025	Score in 2024	Score in 2020	% change last year	% change in 6 years
7	10/21	80/143	0.50	0.50	0.48	0%	+5%
7.1	7/21	65/143	0.58	0.60	0.58	-2%	+1%
7.2	10/21	81/143	0.52	0.53	0.49	-3%	+6%
7.3	7/21	42/143	0.72	0.71	0.68	+1%	+6%
7.4	11/21	73/143	0.46	0.47	0.52	-2%	-10%
7.5	14/21	73/143	0.40	0.36	0.26	+11%	+54%
7.6	18/21	126/143	0.35	0.35	0.33	0%	+6%
7.7	19/21	133/143	0.49	0.50	0.49	0%	0%
8	12/21	77/143	0.42	0.41	0.43	+3%	-3%
8.1	15/21	83/143	0.38	0.36	0.42	+3%	-11%
8.2	13/21	79/143	0.42	0.42	0.43	+2%	-1%
8.3	18/21	105/143	0.27	0.25	0.30	+9%	-9%
8.4	14/21	113/143	0.32	0.31	0.31	+4%	+2%
8.5	9/21	60/143	0.58	0.55	0.61	+4%	-6%
8.6	6/21	54/143	0.54	0.54	0.54	0%	0%
8.7	11/21	78/143	0.44	0.43	0.42	+4%	+5%



**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.

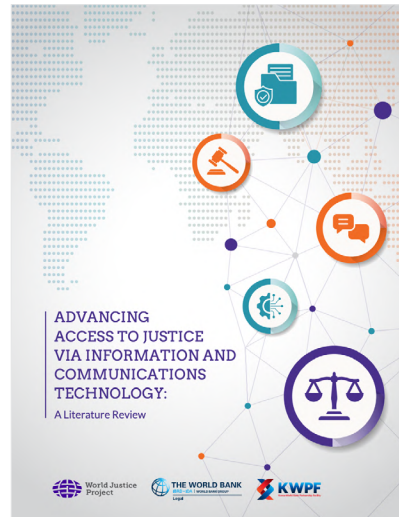
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