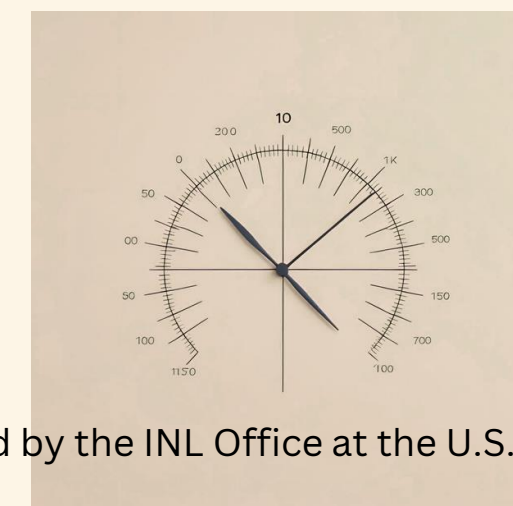


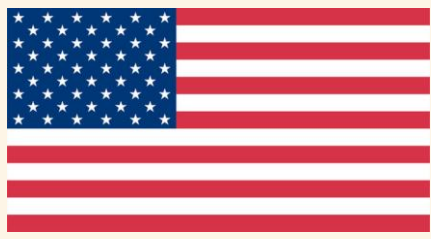


Public Opinion Survey Montenegrin Corruption Statoscope

Citizens' Attitudes, Perceptions and Experiences
with Corruption in Montenegro, May–June 2025

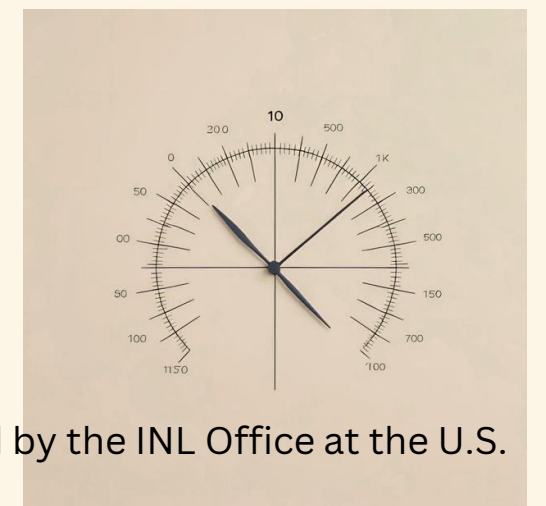


The Montenegrin Corruption Statoscope public opinion research was conducted as part of the project „Blow the Whistle: No Corruption Blindspots in Montenegro“, supported by the INL Office at the U.S. Embassy in Montenegro.



General Information

- Representative three-stage stratified sample
- Face-to-face interview method
- Fieldwork conducted: May–June 2025
- Questionnaire focus:
 - a) Perception of Corruption
 - b) Attitudes Toward the Fight Against Corruption
 - c) Corruption Knowledge - Corruption Knowledge Index
 - d) Attitudes Toward the Acceptability of Corruption
 - e) Experience with Corruption

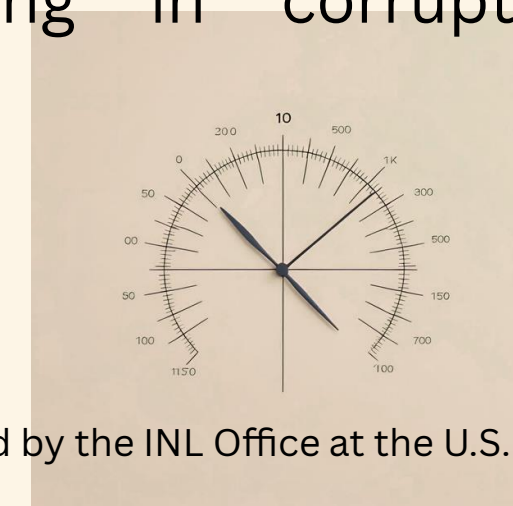


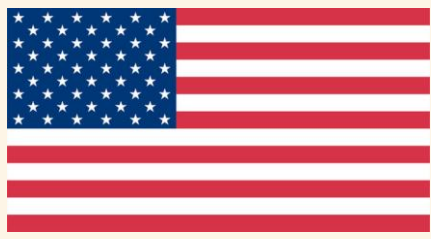
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Key Findings

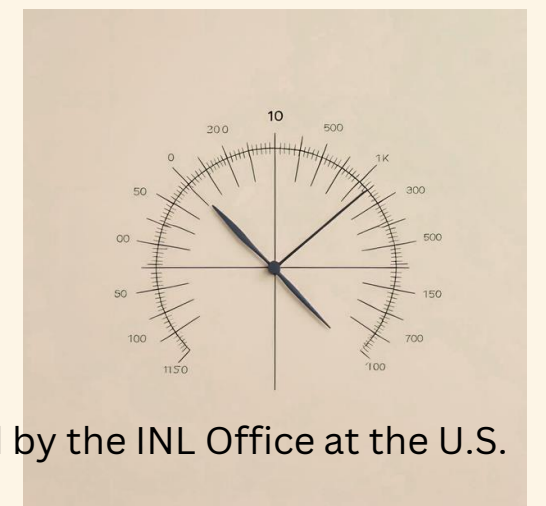
- ❑ The vast majority of respondents believe that corruption is mostly or extremely present in Montenegro (71.4%).
- ❑ For 46.7% of respondents, the level of corruption has remained almost unchanged over the past 4 years.
- ❑ The worst-rated sectors in terms of the presence of corruption are: (1) the healthcare sector 44.5%, (2) the police 43.6%, and (3) customs 42.8%.
- ❑ Within healthcare as the worst-rated sector, 39.8% believe that corruption is highly present in the doctor/patient relationship, while 26.1% hold that view regarding the nurse (technician)/patient relationship.
- ❑ Among politically exposed persons, political party leaders rank highest, with 52.8% of respondents believing that corruption is present to a great extent among this group.
- ❑ The majority of respondents (53.2%) believe that high-level corruption cases are not prosecuted sufficiently, while only 7.1% believe that anti-corruption measures in Montenegro are applied impartially.
- ❑ A slightly higher percentage, 13.7% of respondents, fully agree with the statement that successful criminal proceedings in Montenegro discourage people from engaging in corrupt activities.



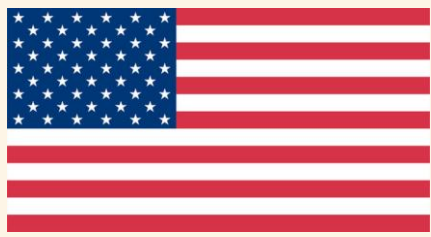


Key Findings

- ❑ Respondents were presented with 10 potential corruption scenarios and asked to assess whether each one was an example of corruption or not. The results show that citizens have a high level of recognition of corruption in simple situations. The average number of correct answers was **7.3** out of 10, and nearly **75%** of respondents scored between 7 and 10 correct answers.
- ❑ Regarding the acceptability of corrupt behavior, only a minority believes it is always acceptable to give money (**4.5%**), a gift (**8.5%**), or a favor (**10.1%**) in exchange for a service. However, it is concerning that **18%** of respondents find it sometimes acceptable to give money, **38.1%** to give a gift, and **35%** to do a favor.
- ❑ The pattern in attitudes toward services in the areas of education, healthcare, traffic police, or public officials in general shows that citizens are *more accepting of offering* money, gifts, or favors *themselves*, than *being directly asked for them by civil servants*.
- ❑ As the main reason for corruption in their community, citizens cite the inability or difficulty of accessing services through regular channels (**34.2%**).

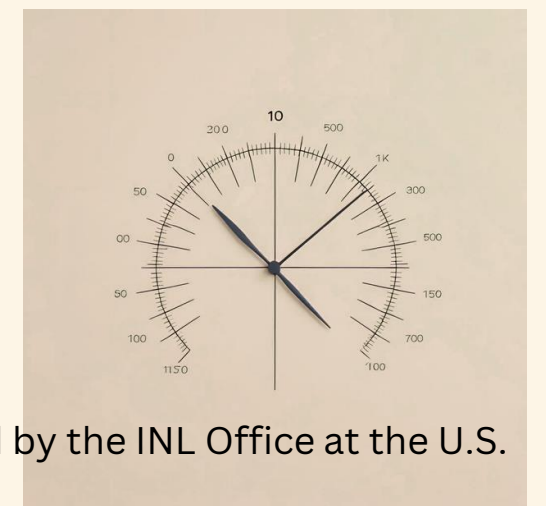


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Key Findings

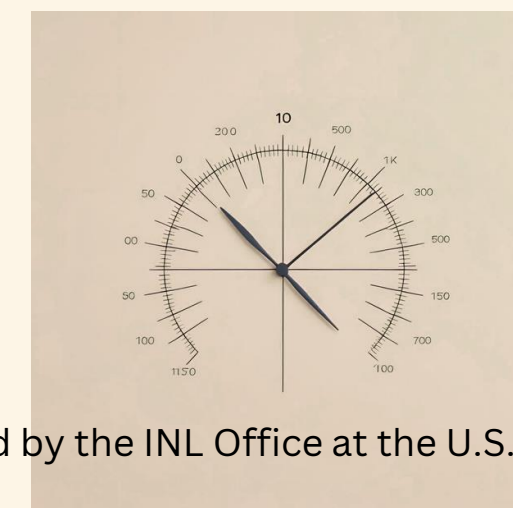
- ❑ In the past 12 months, **10.4%** of respondents personally made an unofficial, additional payment for a specific service, while in **12%** of cases, someone from their household made such a payment.
- ❑ Among respondents who had contact with the listed institutions in the past 12 months, **28.9%** of those who interacted with inspections, **26.2%** with healthcare institutions, and **23.3%** with the police reported that someone asked or expected them to give a gift, do a favor, or pay extra money for their services.



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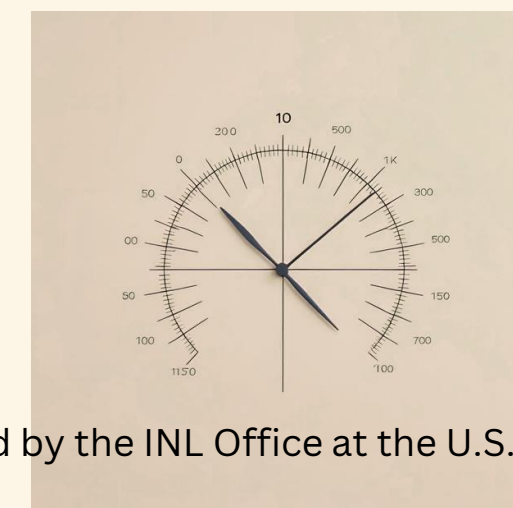
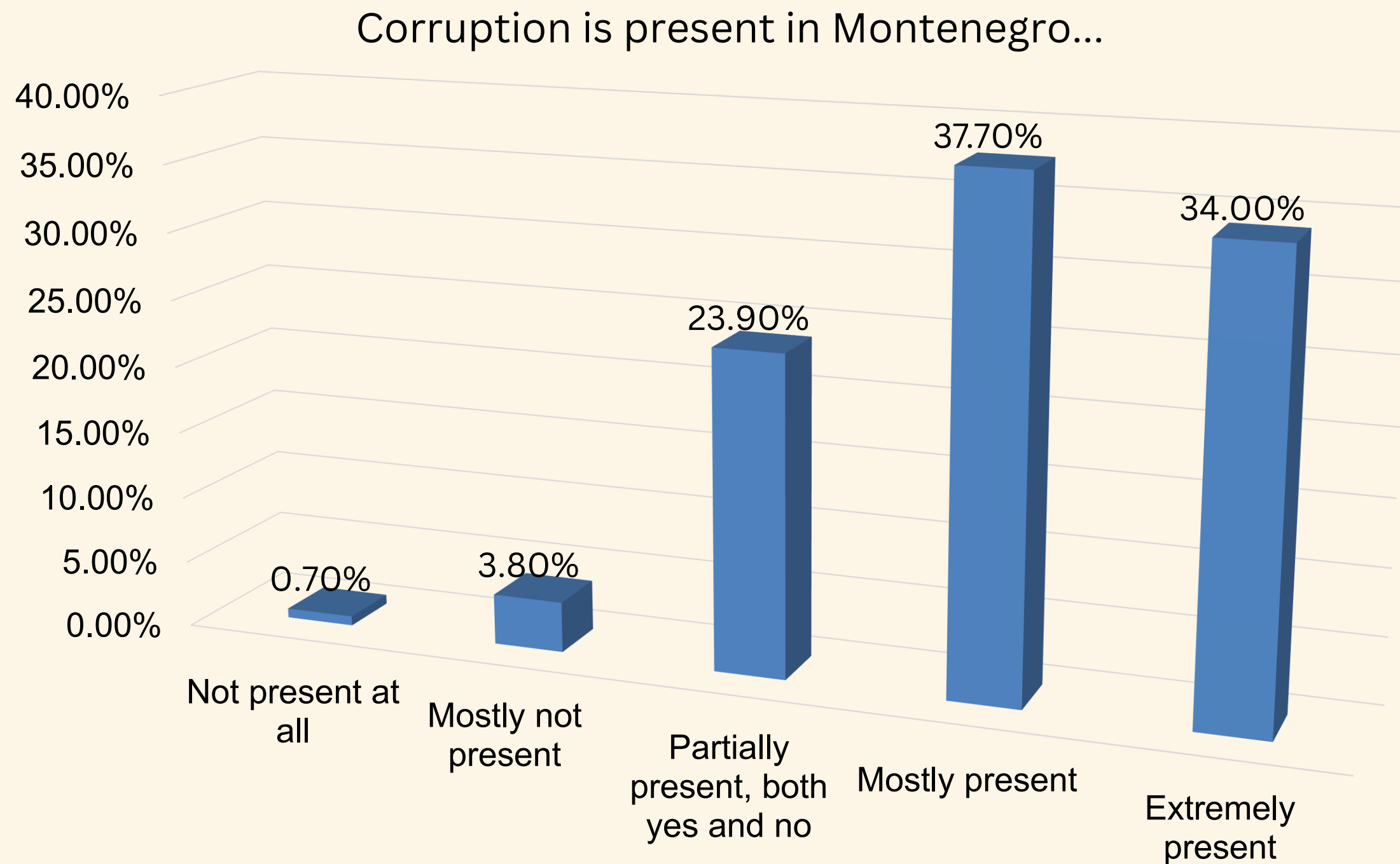
Perception of Corruption



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Perception of Corruption

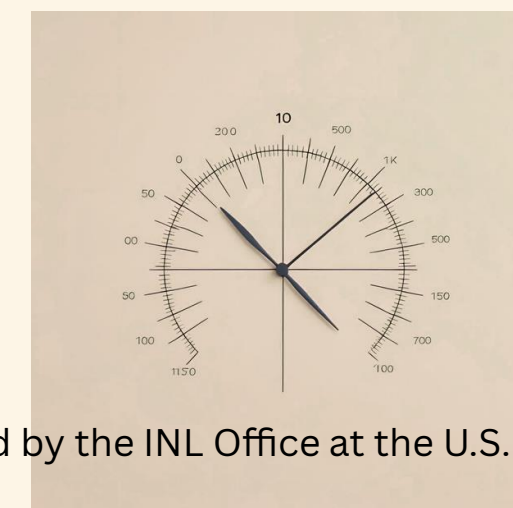
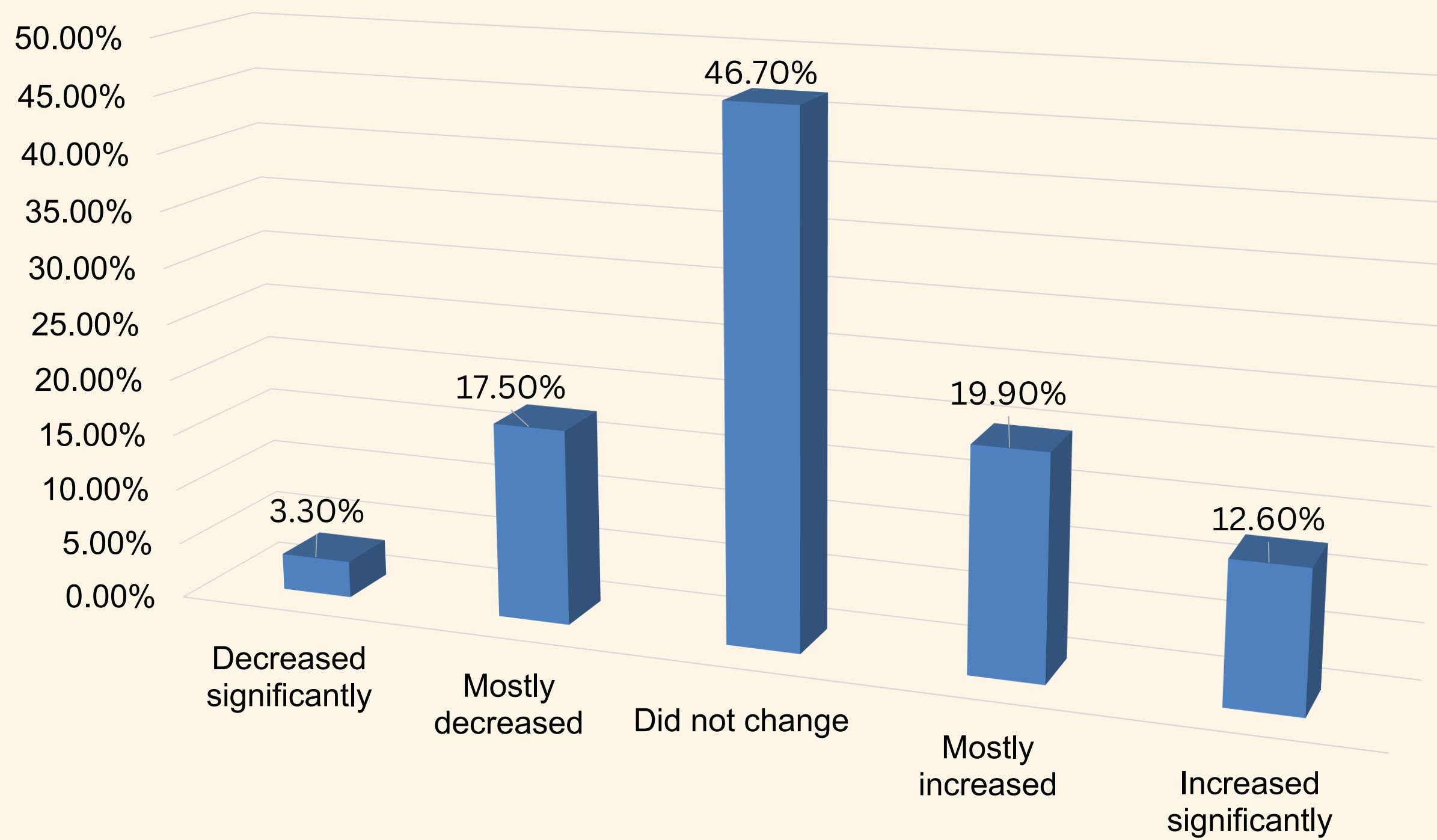


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Perception of Corruption

Level of corruption in the past four years...

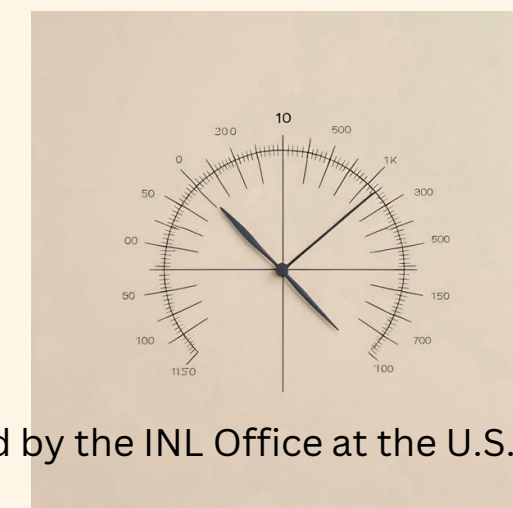
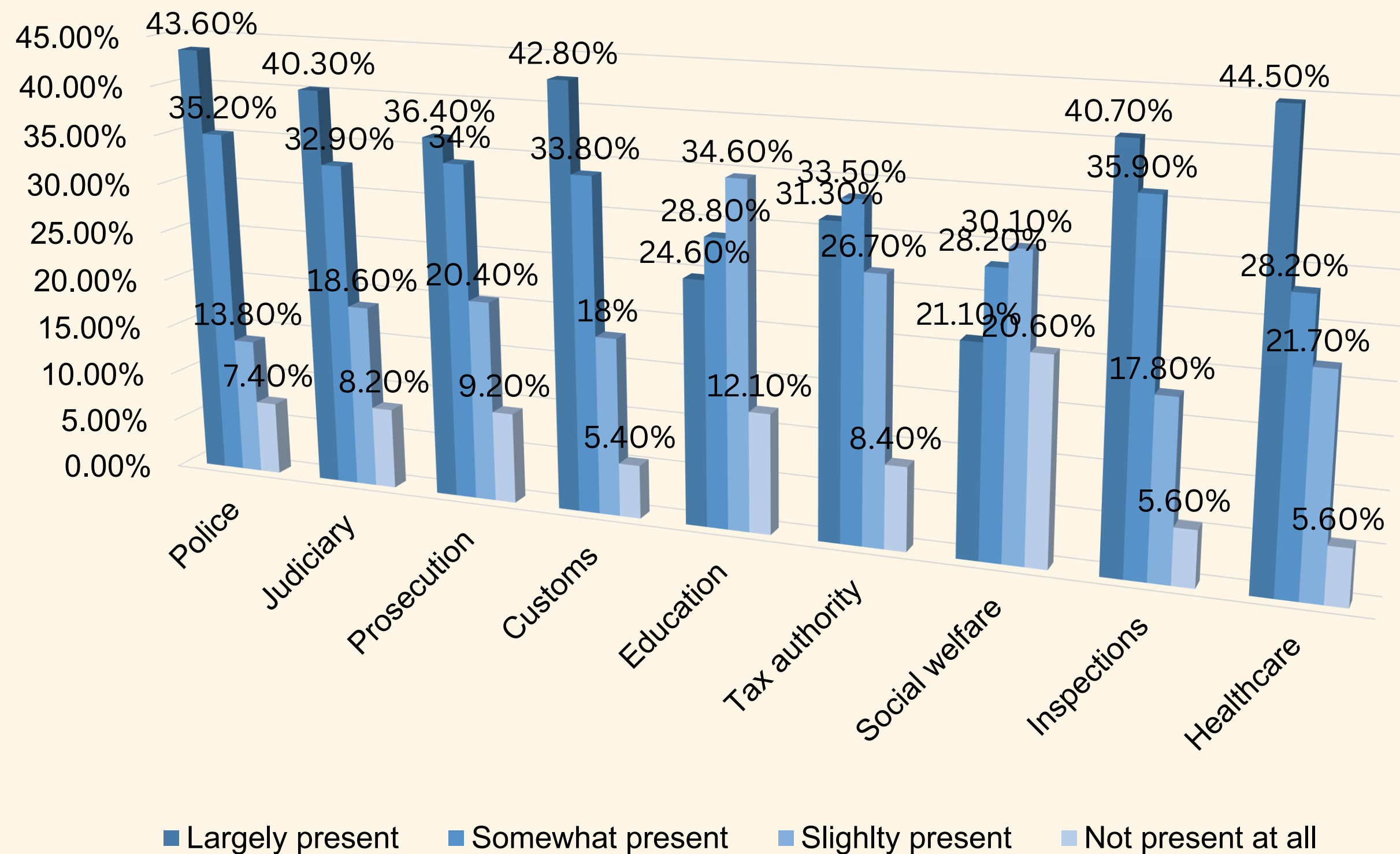


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Perception of Corruption

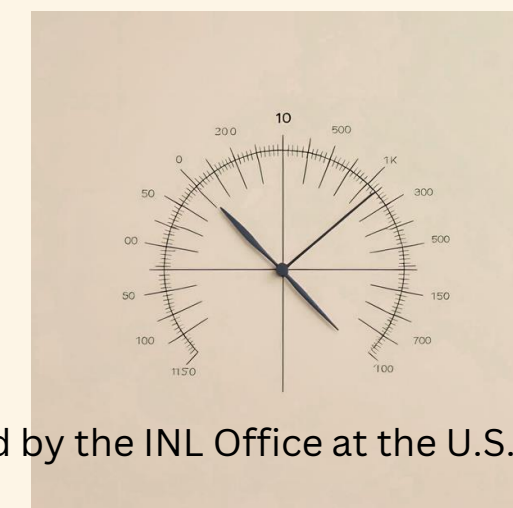
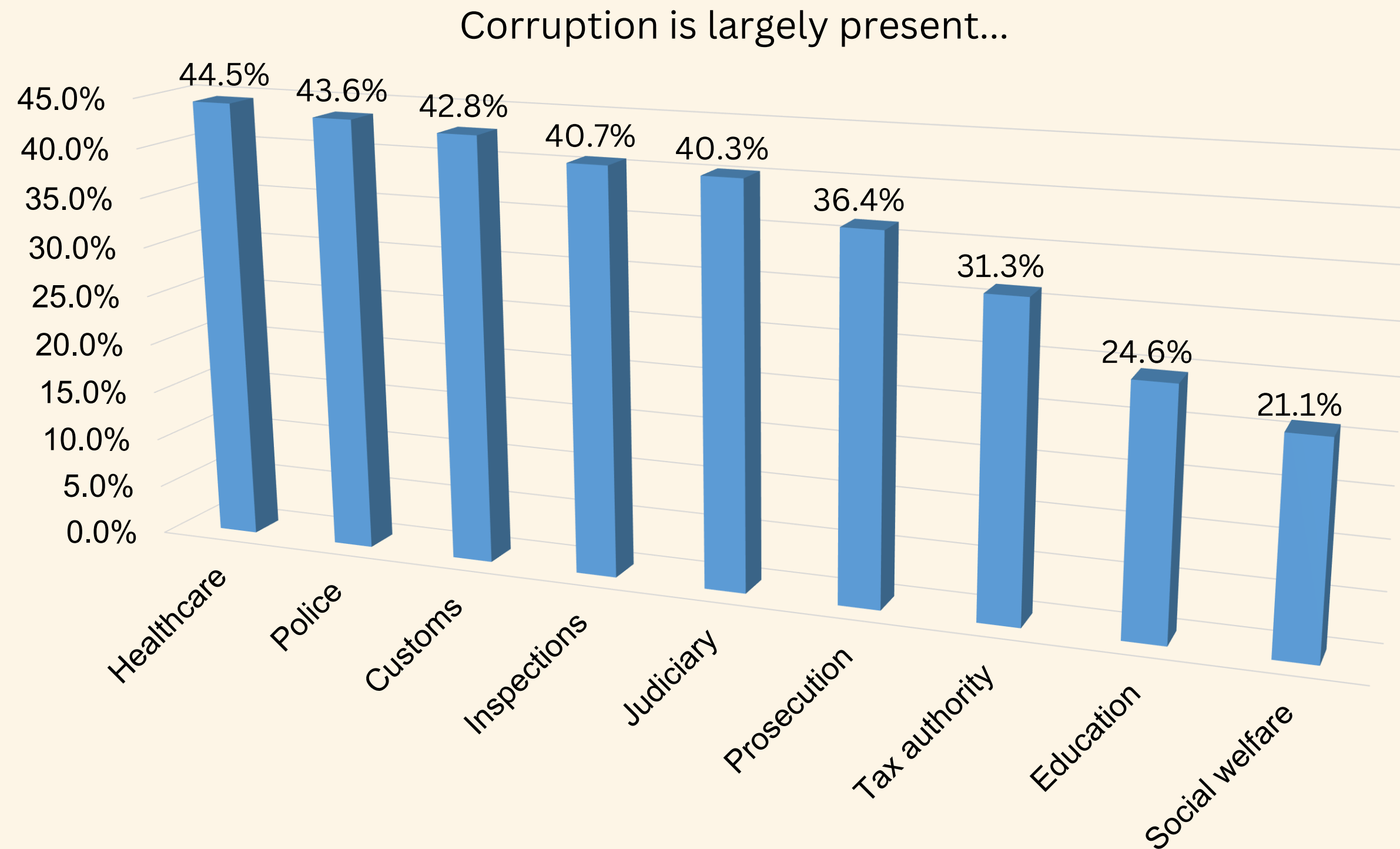
Corruption is present in the following sectors...



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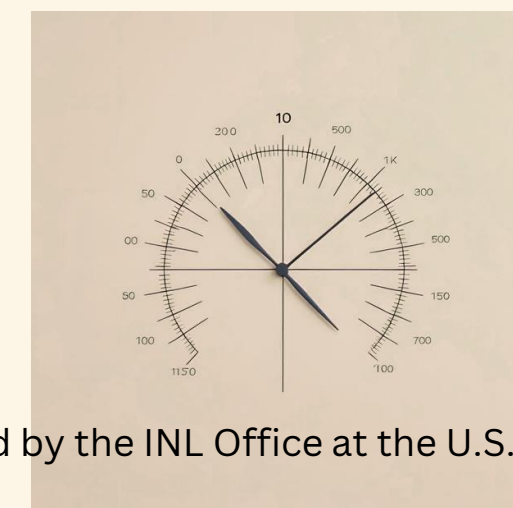
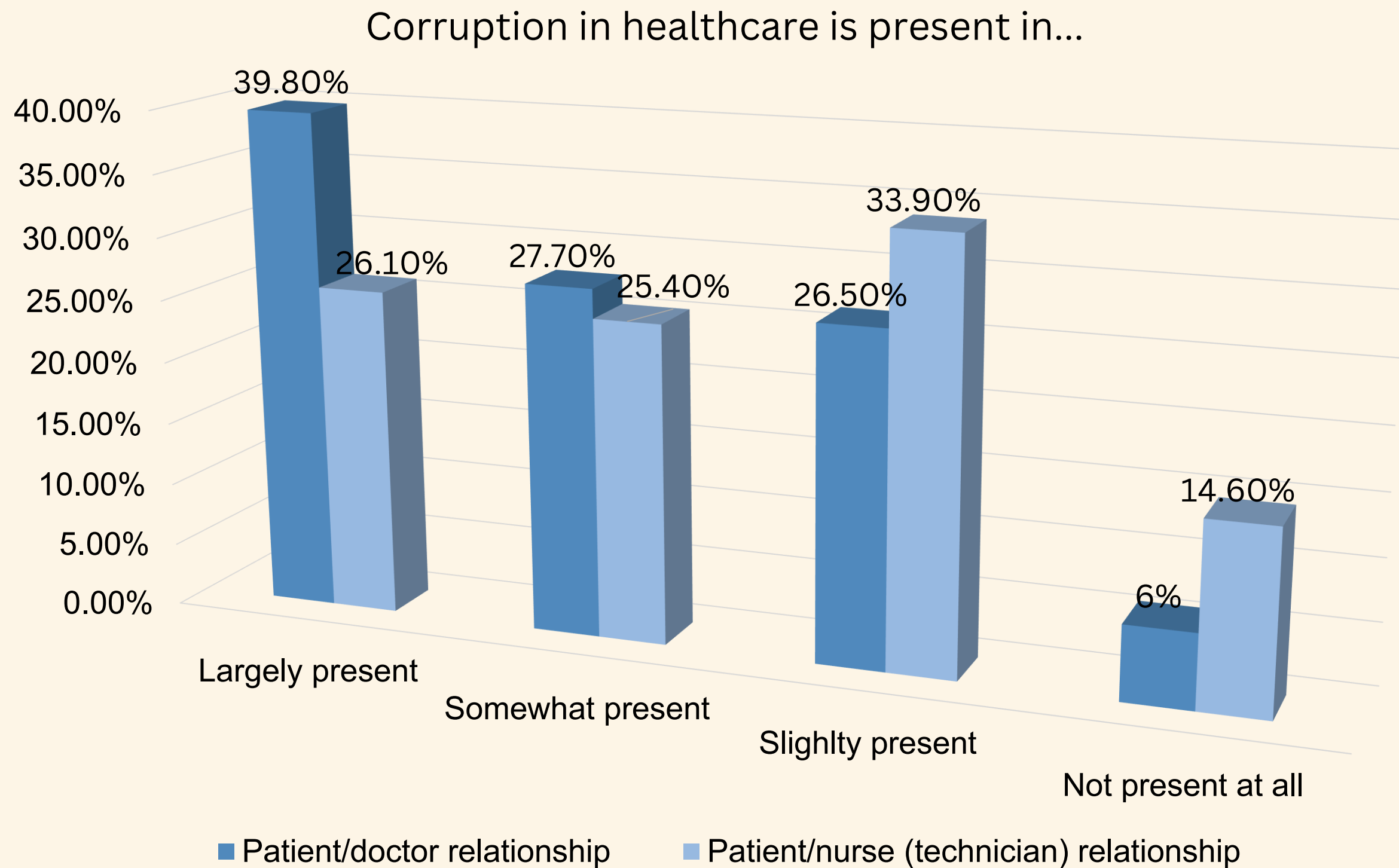
Perception of Corruption



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Perception of Corruption

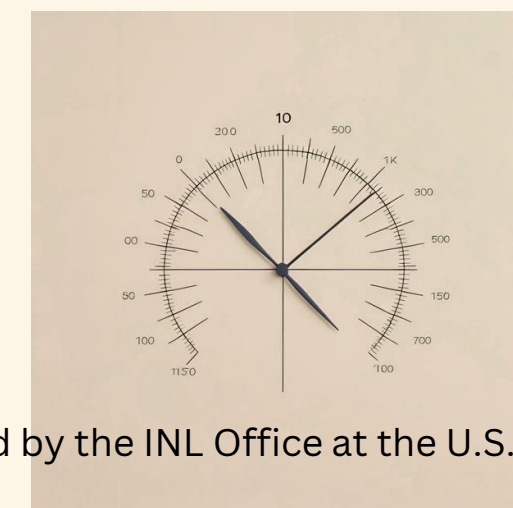
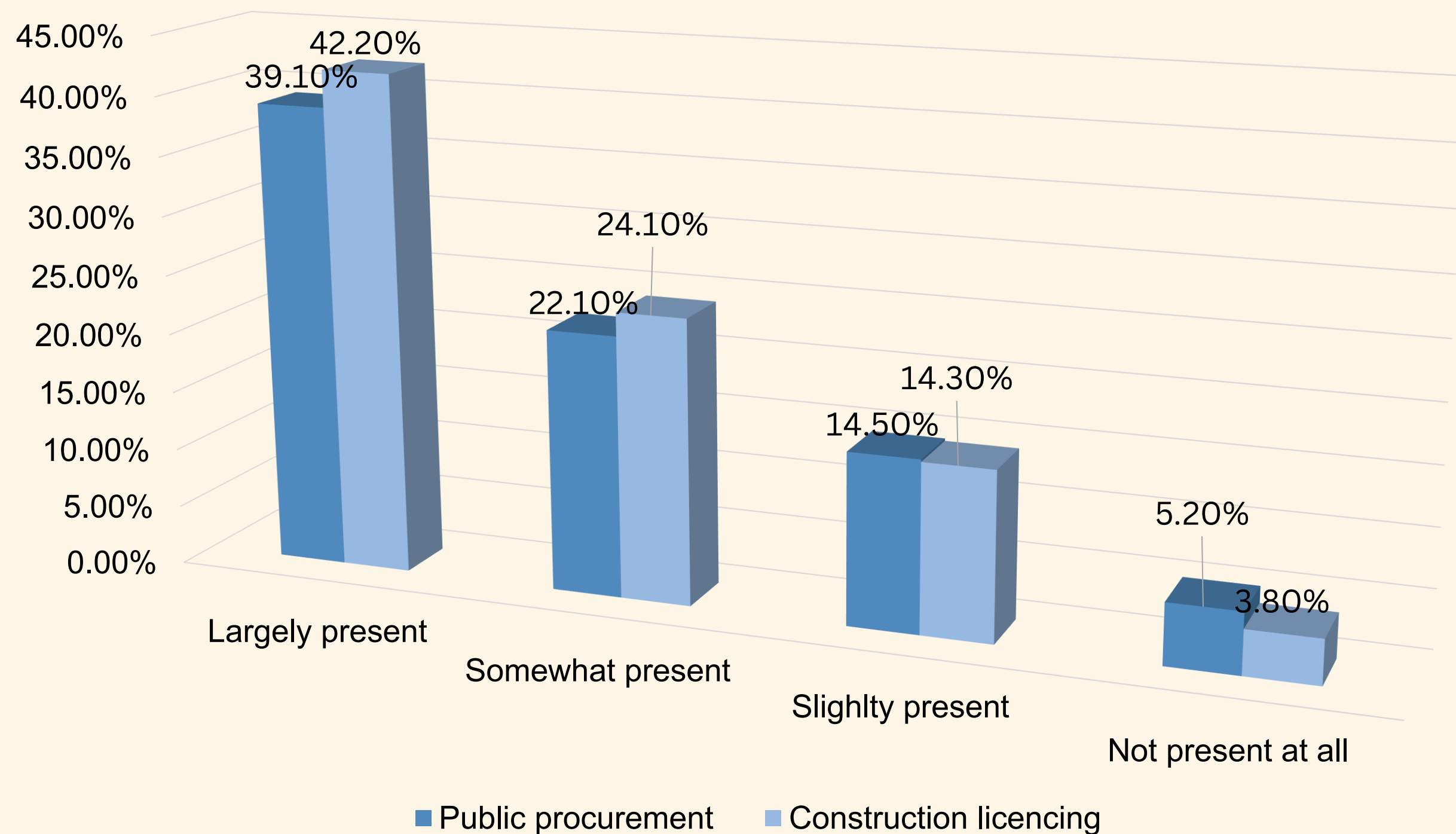


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Perception of Corruption

Corruption is present in...

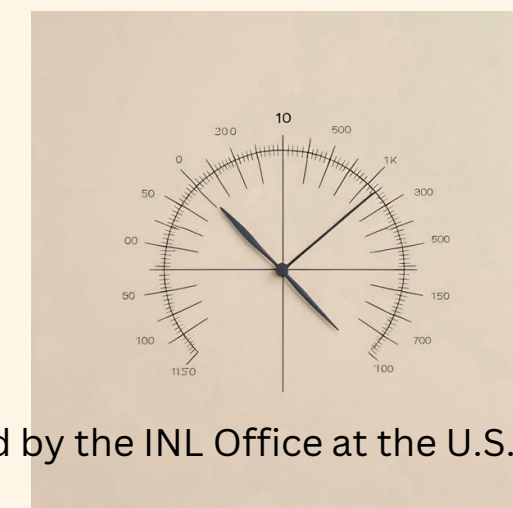
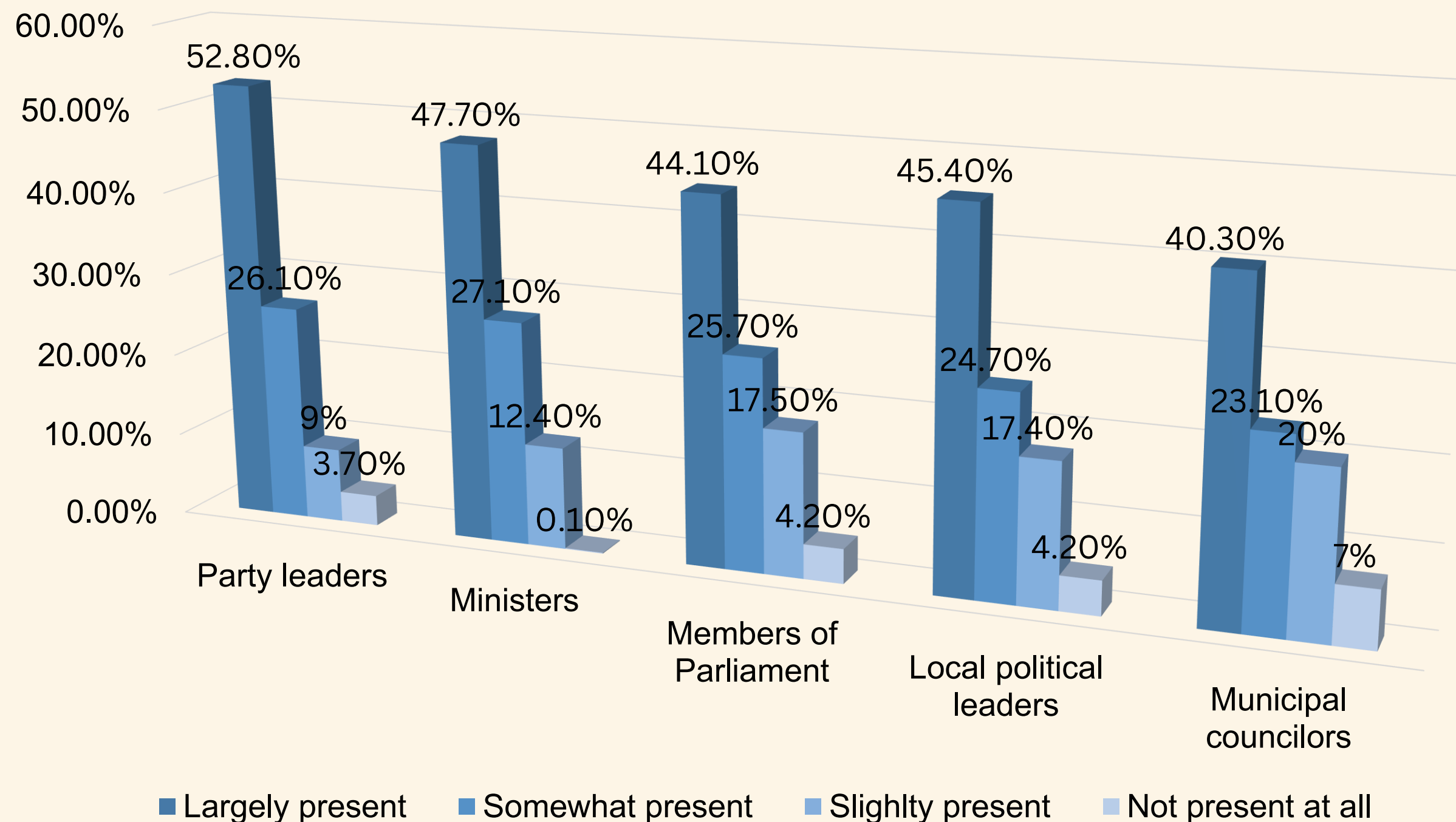


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Perception of Corruption

Corruption is present within the following groups...

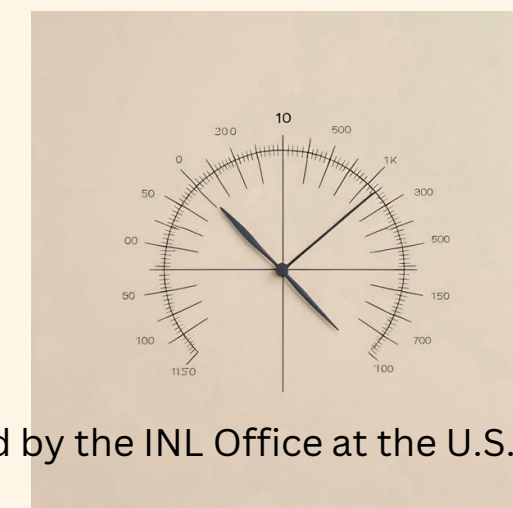
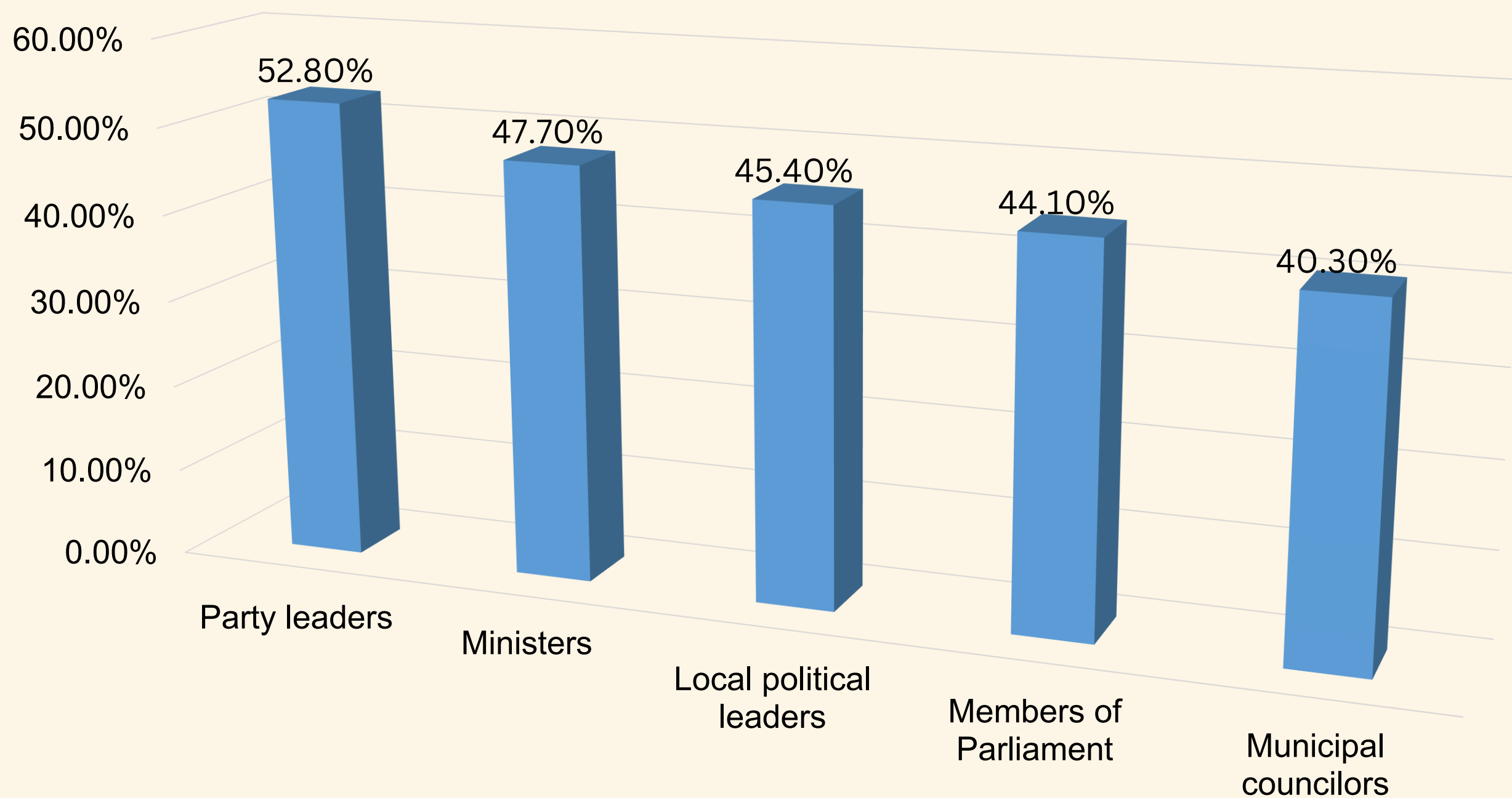


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Perception of Corruption

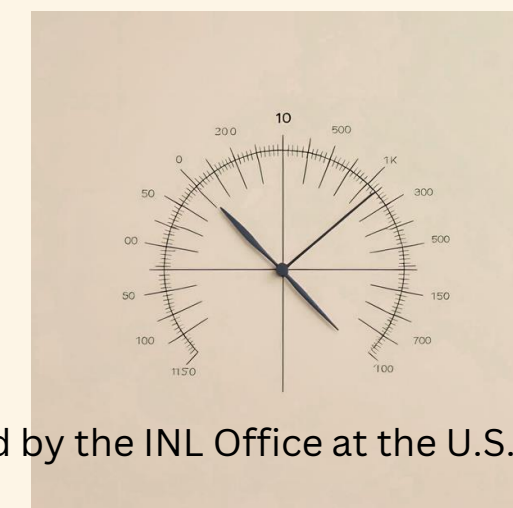
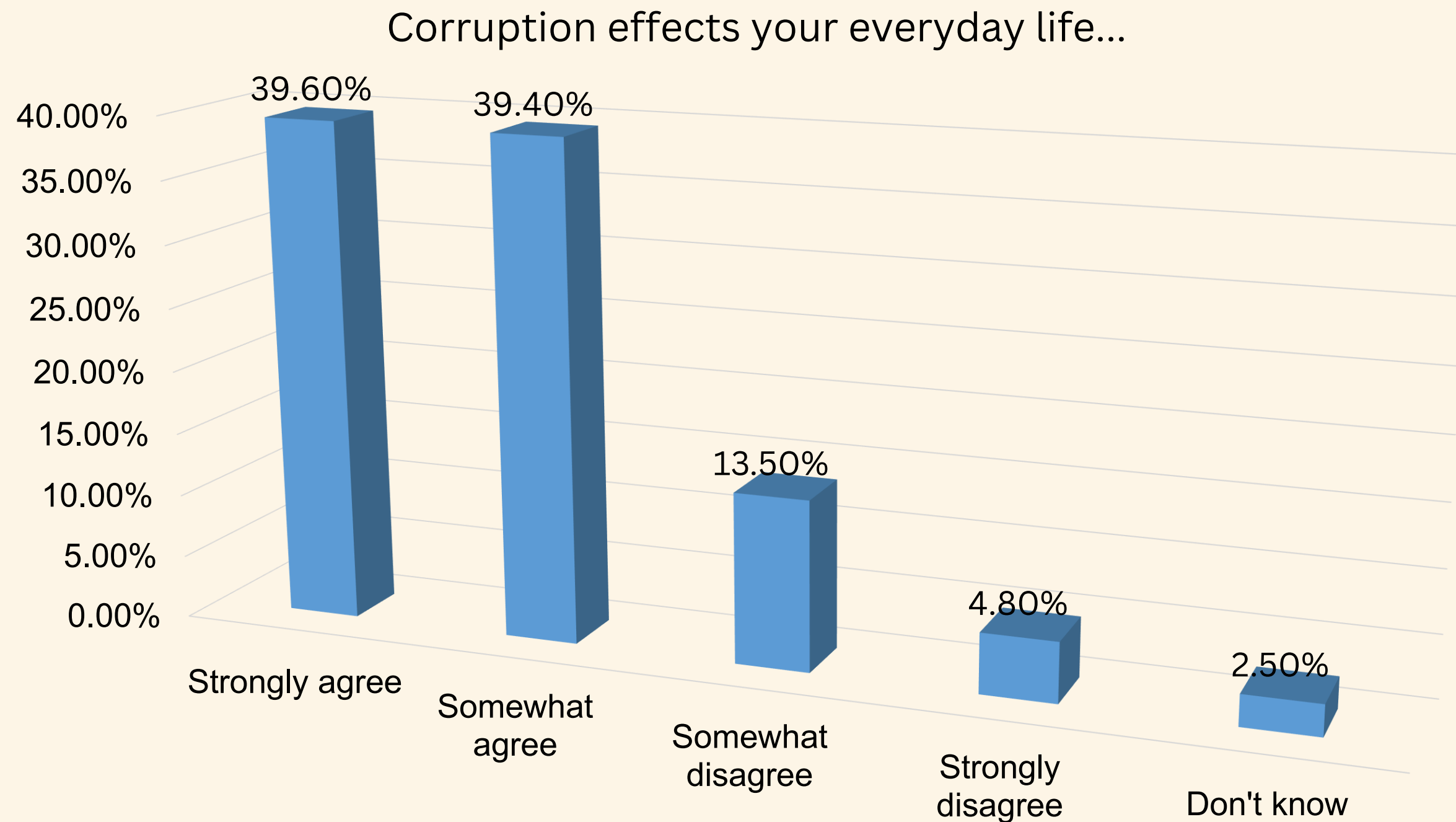
Corruption is largely present among....



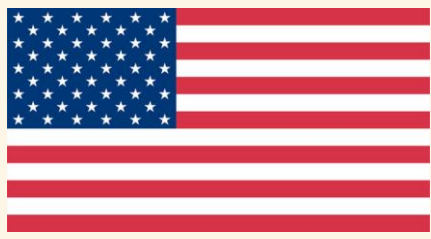
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Perception of Corruption

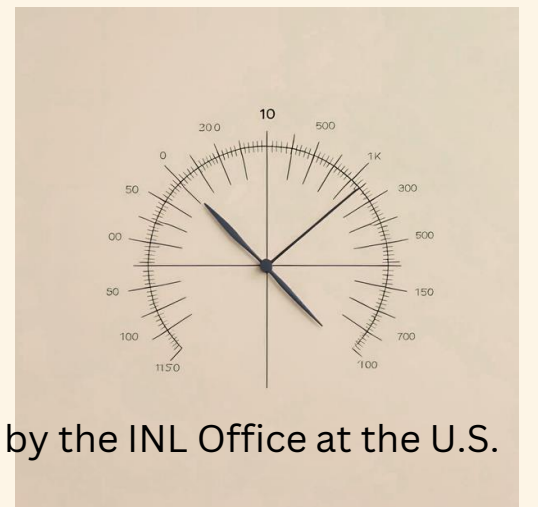


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Perception of Corruption – Key Findings

- ❑ The vast majority of respondents believe that corruption is largely or highly present in Montenegro (**71.4%**).
- ❑ According to **46.7%** of respondents, the level of corruption has remained almost unchanged over the past four years.
- ❑ The worst-rated sectors in terms of corruption presence are: (1) the healthcare sector – **44.5%**, (2) the police – **43.6%**, and (3) customs – **42.8%**.
- ❑ In healthcare as the lowest-rated sector, **39.8%** of respondents believe that corruption is highly present in the doctor/patient relationship, while **26.1%** hold the same view regarding the nurse (or medical technician)/patient relationship.
- ❑ Among politically exposed persons, political party leaders are perceived as the most corrupt, with **52.8%** of respondents believing that corruption is significantly present among this group.

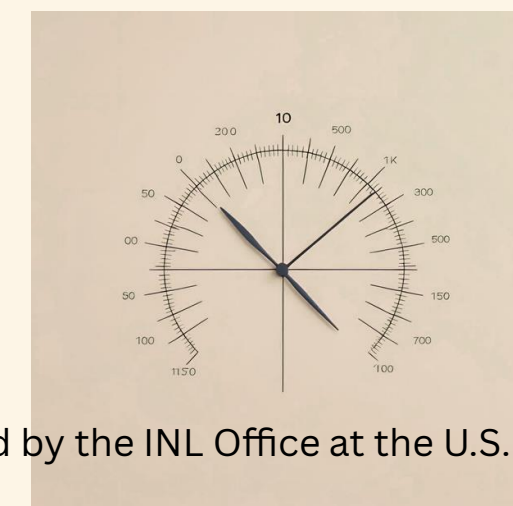


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Attitudes Toward the Fight Against Corruption

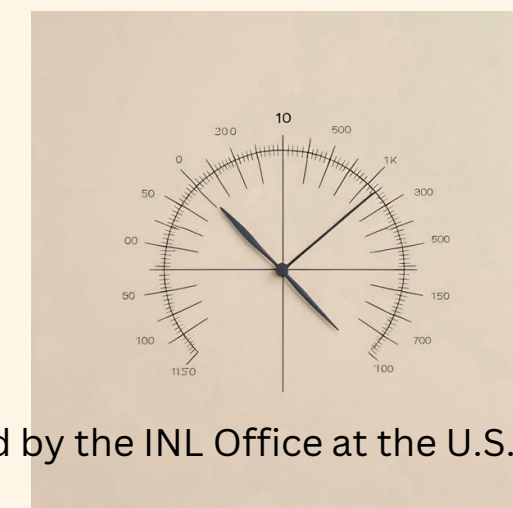
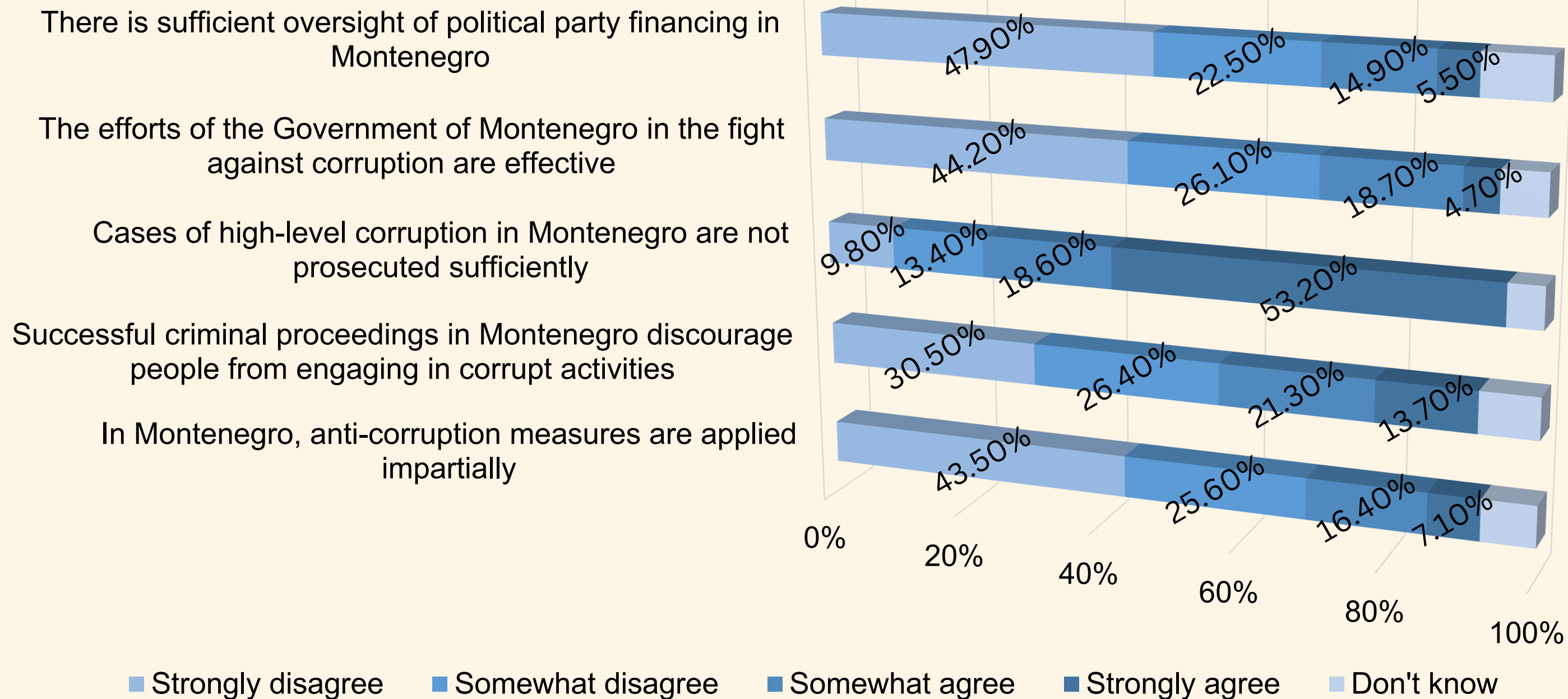
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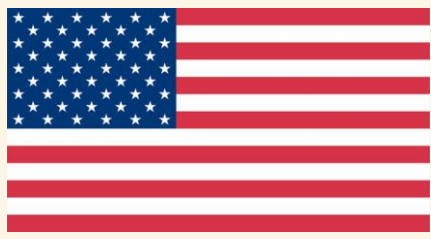


Attitudes Toward the Fight Against Corruption

To what degree do you agree with the following



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Attitudes Toward the Fight Against Corruption

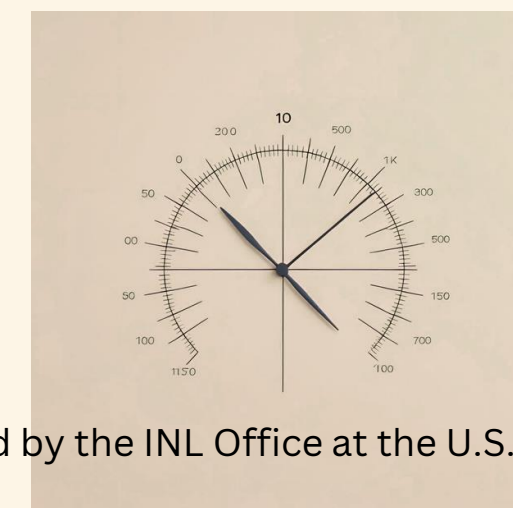
- The majority of respondents (**53.2%**) believe that high-level corruption cases are not being prosecuted adequately, while only **7.1%** believe that anti-corruption measures in Montenegro are applied impartially. A slightly higher percentage, **13.7%**, fully agree with the statement that successful criminal proceedings in Montenegro discourage people from engaging in corrupt activities.



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Corruption Knowledge Index

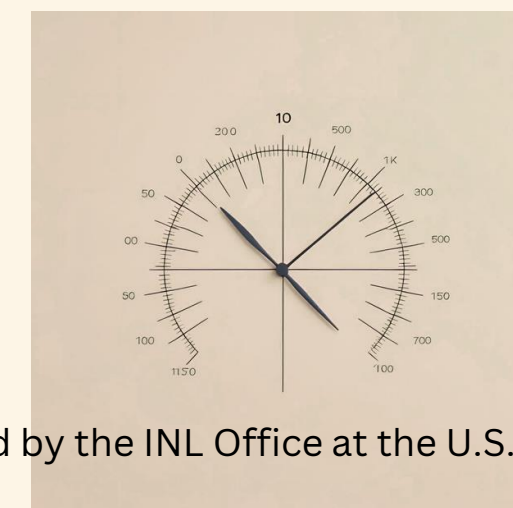
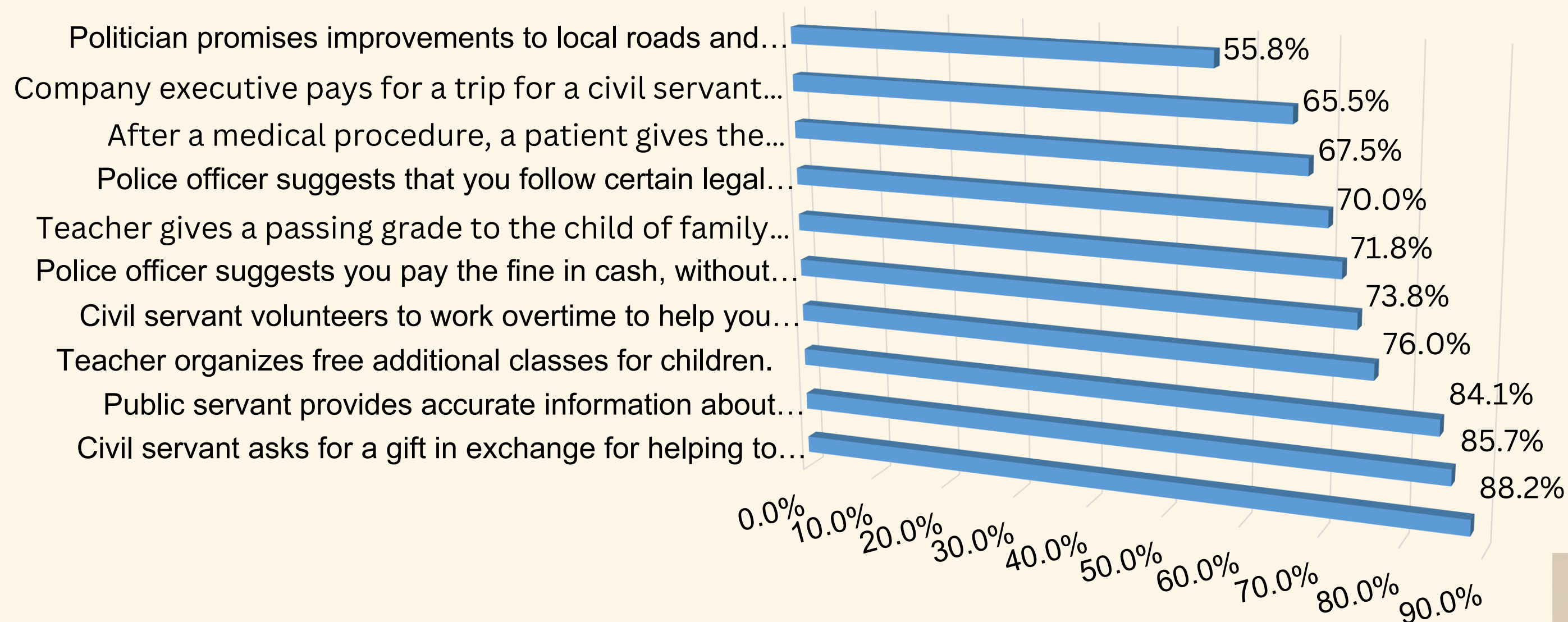


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Corruption Knowledge Index

Percentage of correct assesment

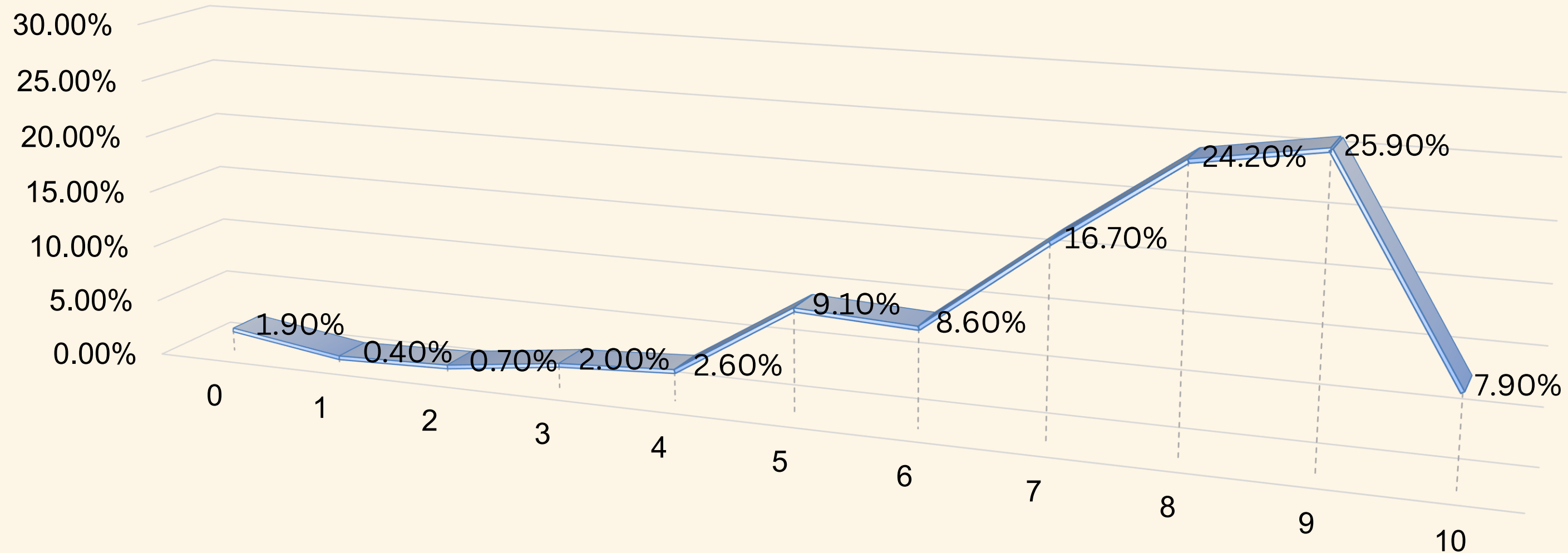


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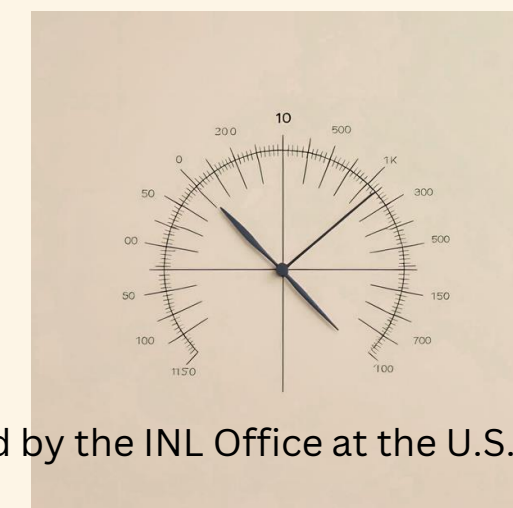


Corruption Knowledge Index

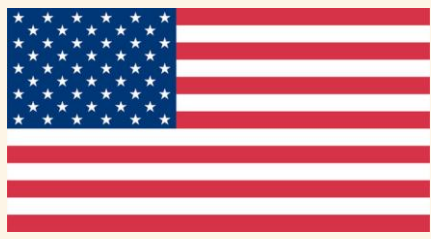
Corruption Knowledge Index



Average value
 $\bar{x} = 7.3$

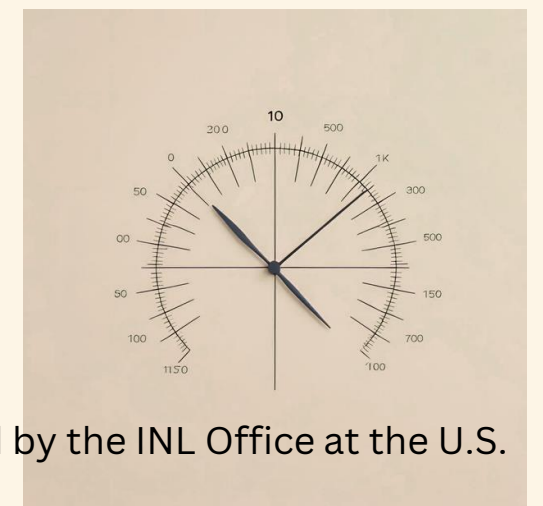


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Corruption Knowledge Index – Key Finding

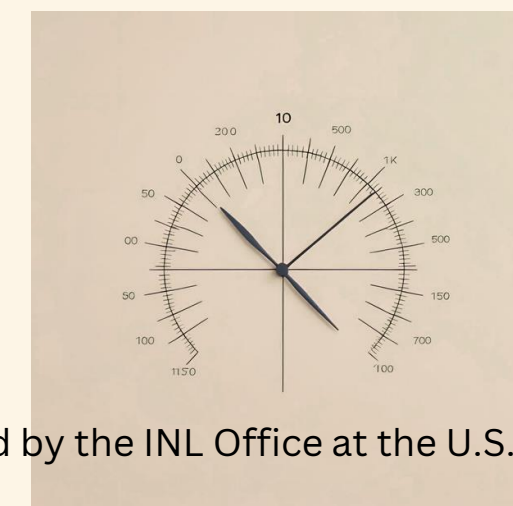
- Respondents were presented with 10 scenarios depicting potential corruption, and their task was to assess whether each scenario represented an instance of corruption or not. The results show that citizens demonstrate a high level of recognition of corruption in straightforward situations. The average number of correct answers is 7.3 out of a possible 10, while nearly 75% of respondents scored between 7 and 10 correct answers.



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Attitudes Toward the Acceptability of Corruption

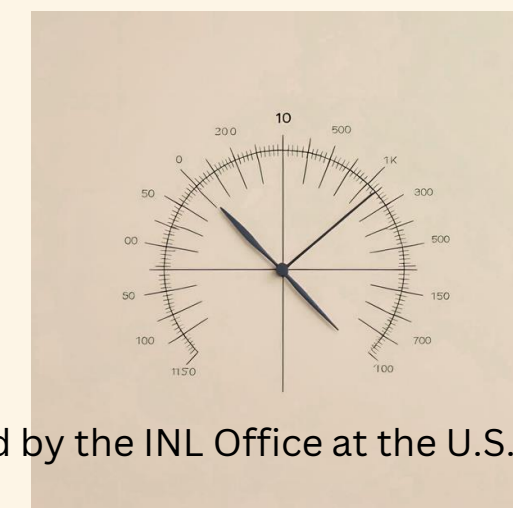
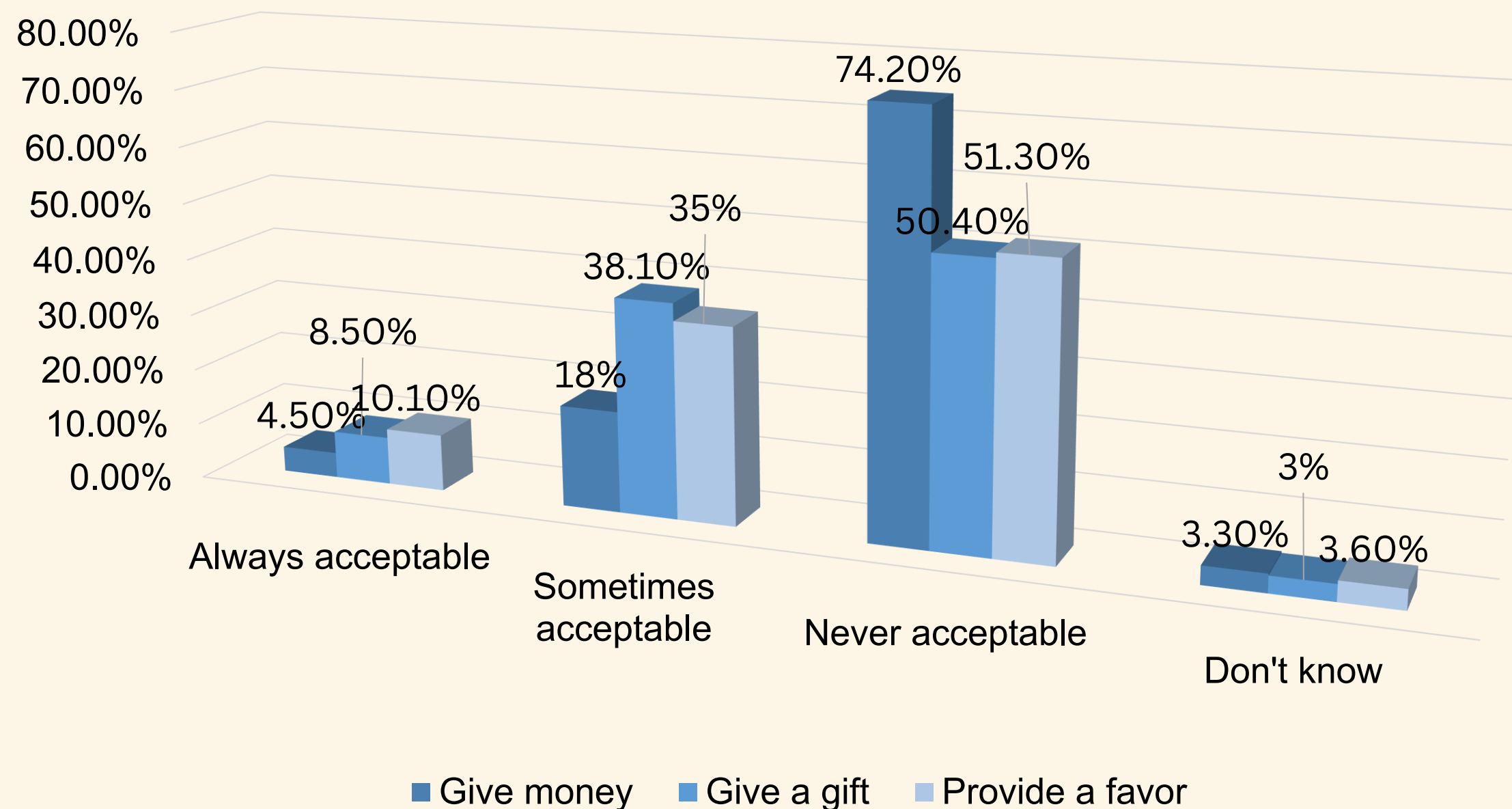


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Attitudes Toward the Acceptability of Corruption

How acceptable is it for you to...

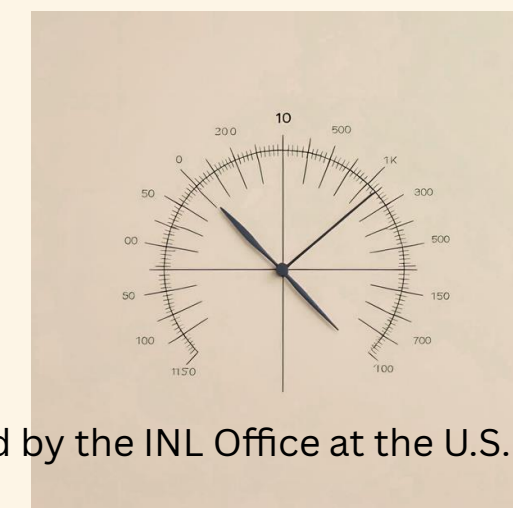
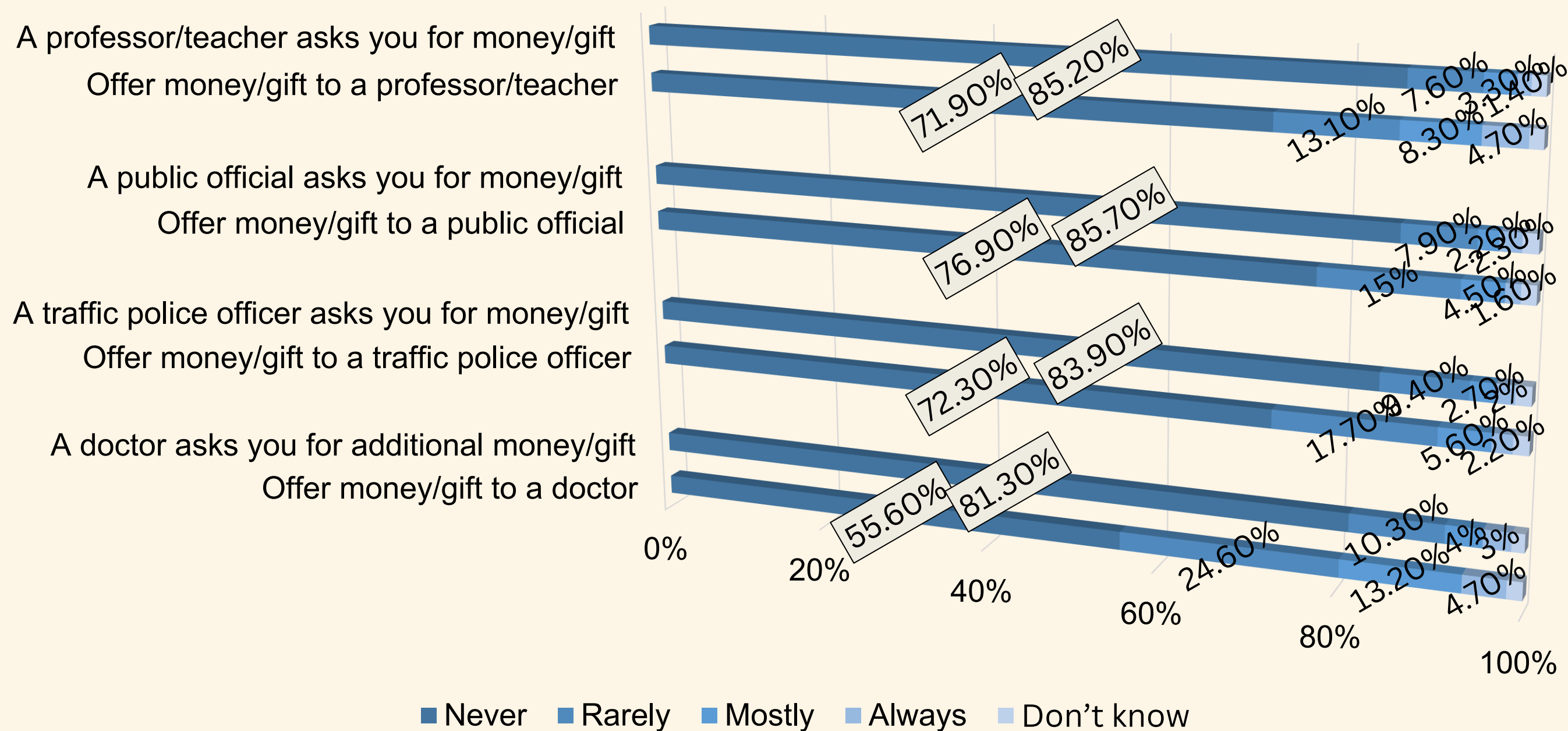


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Attitudes Toward the Acceptability of Corruption

How acceptable is it for you to...

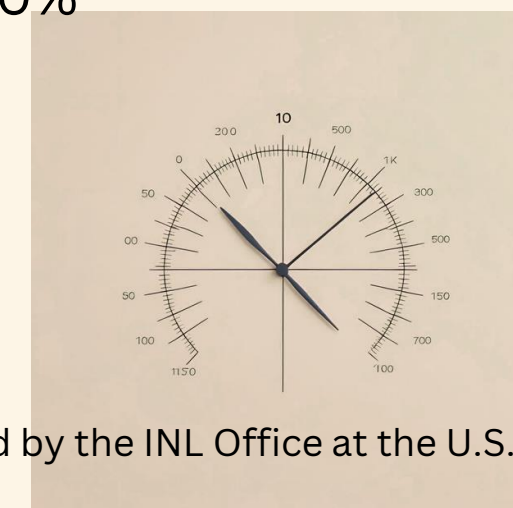
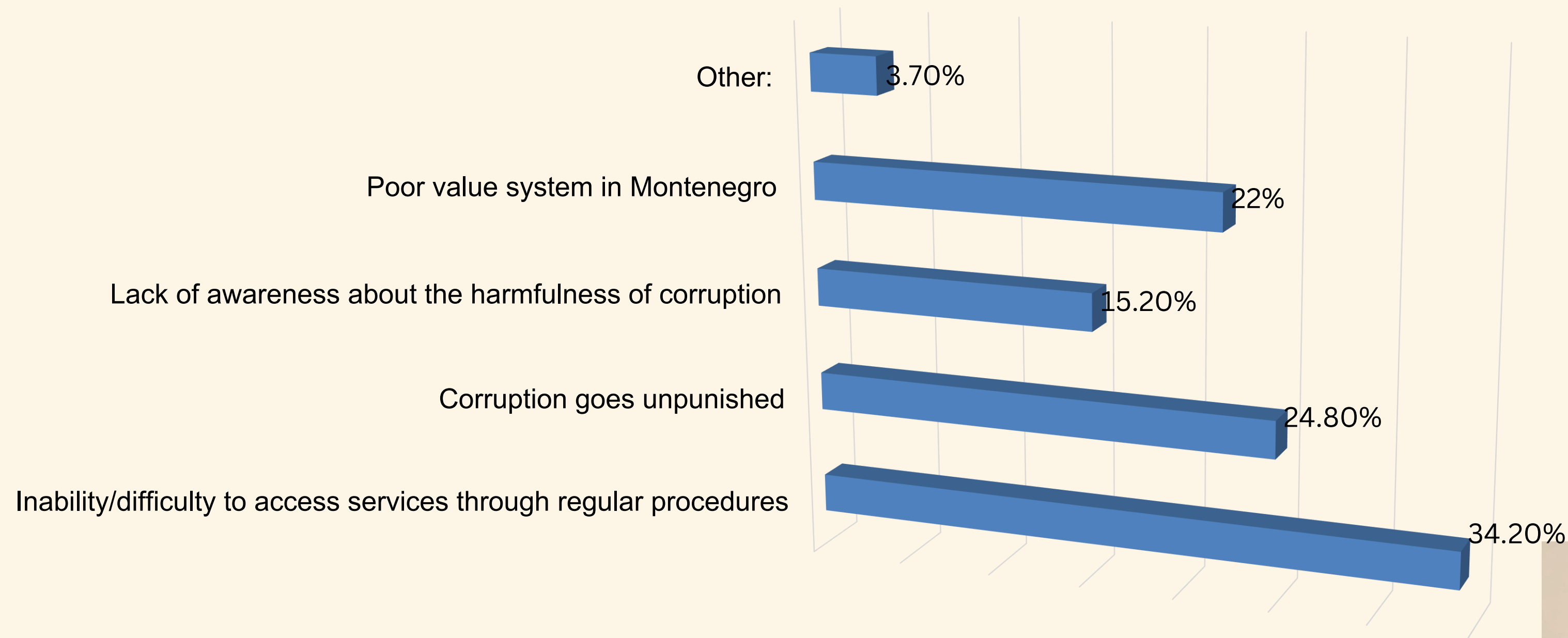


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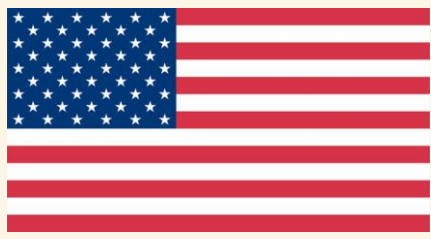


Attitudes Toward the Acceptability of Corruption

Primary reason for giving bribes in your place of residence...



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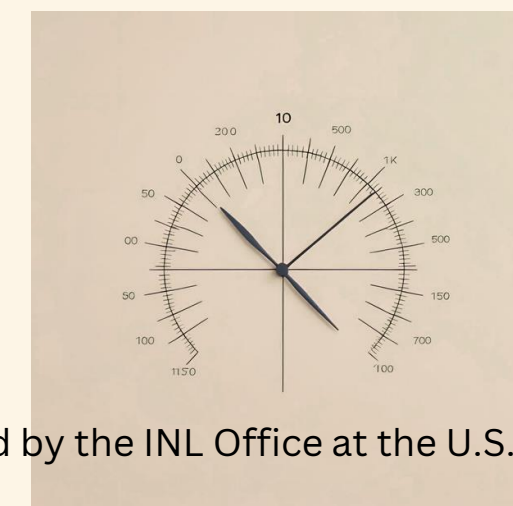
Attitudes Toward the Acceptability of Corruption

- ❑ Regarding the acceptability of corrupt behavior, a minority of respondents believe it is always acceptable to offer money (4.5%), a gift (8.5%), or a favor (10.1%) in exchange for a service. However, it is concerning that 18% consider it sometimes acceptable to offer money, 38.1% to give a gift, and 35% to do a favor.
- ❑ The pattern observed in attitudes toward services in the areas of education, healthcare, interactions with traffic police, or public officials in general, indicates that citizens *are more likely to view it as acceptable to offer money, gifts, or favors than to be asked for them.*
- ❑ As the main reason for corruption in their community, citizens most frequently cite the inability or difficulty of obtaining services through regular, legal channels (34.2%).





Experience with Corruption

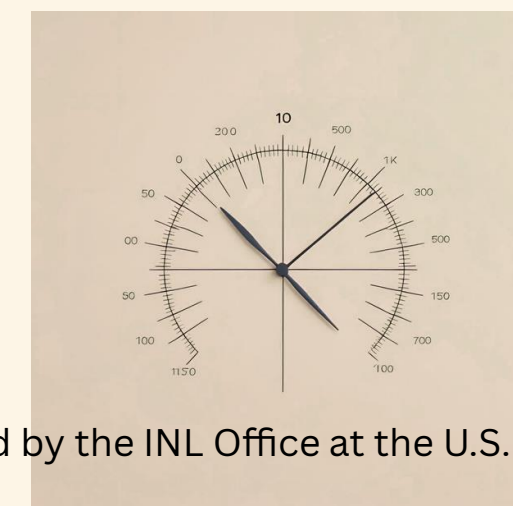
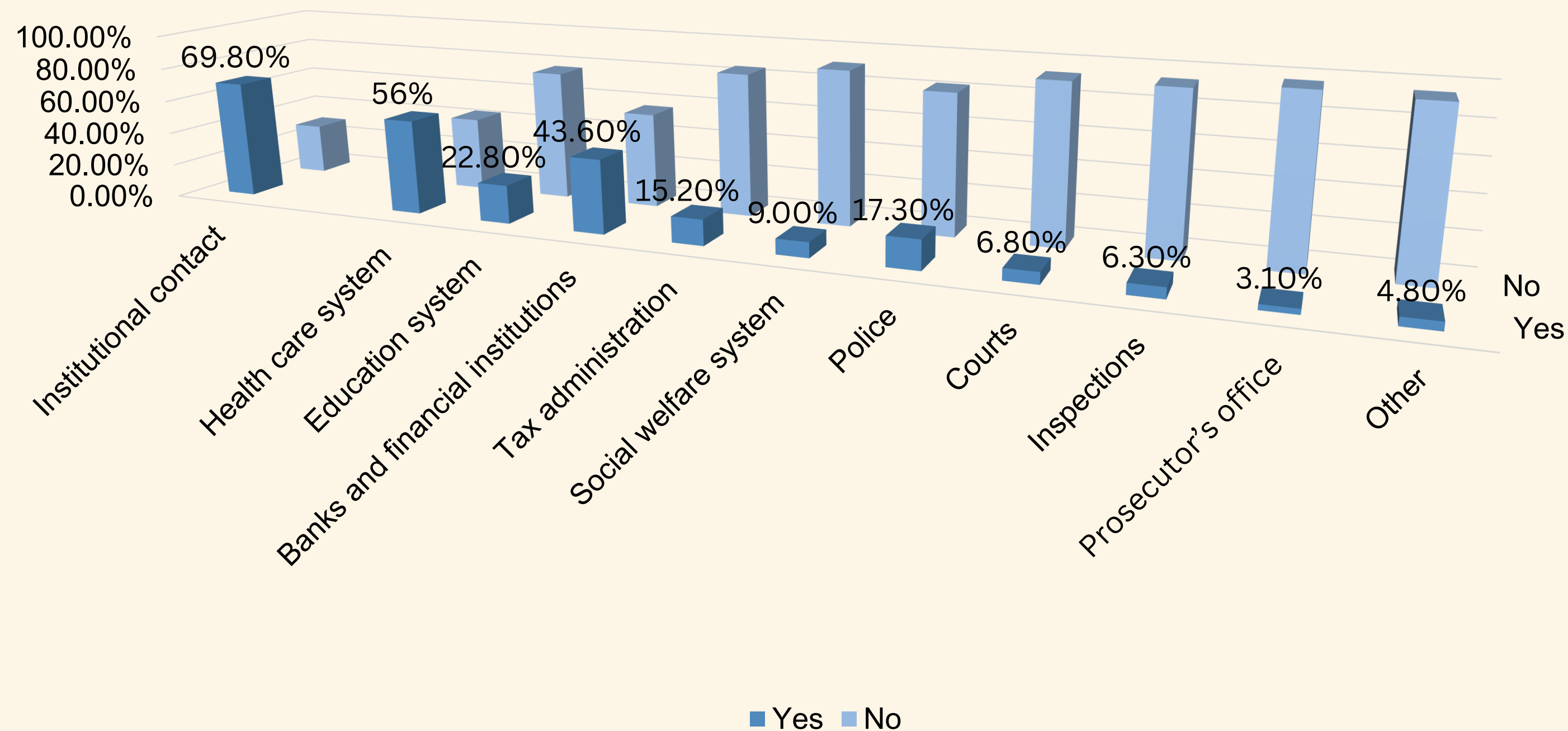


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Experience with Corruption

Institutional contact in the past 12 months...

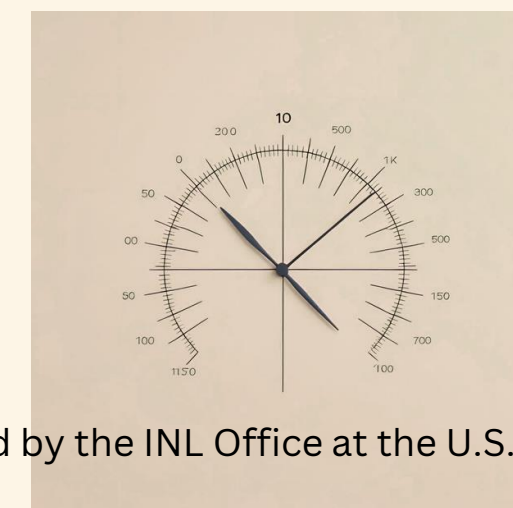
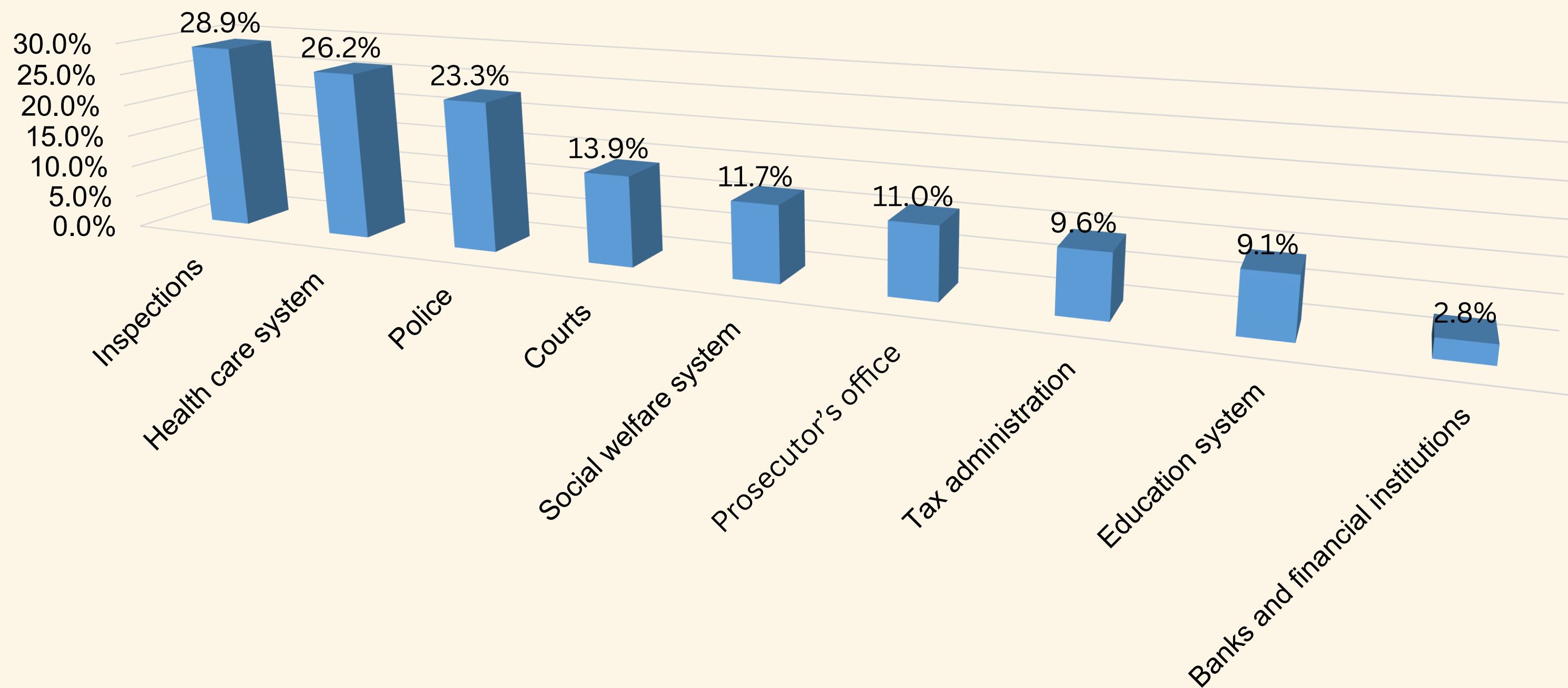


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Experience with Corruption

In dealing with institutions in the past 12 months, has anyone asked or expected money/gift/favor...

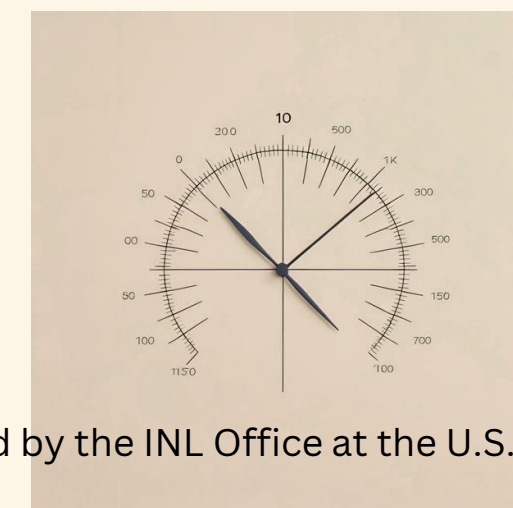
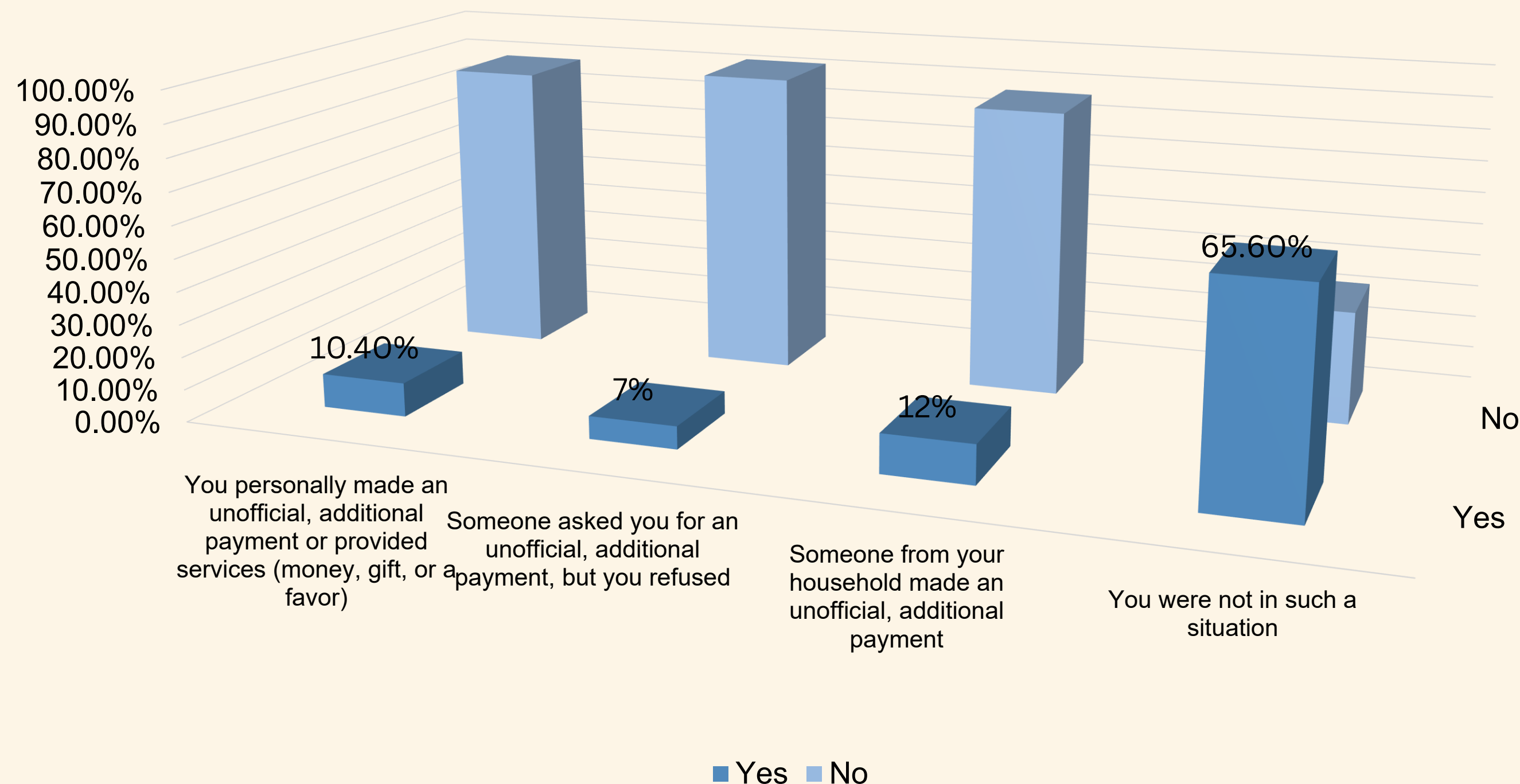


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Experience with Corruption

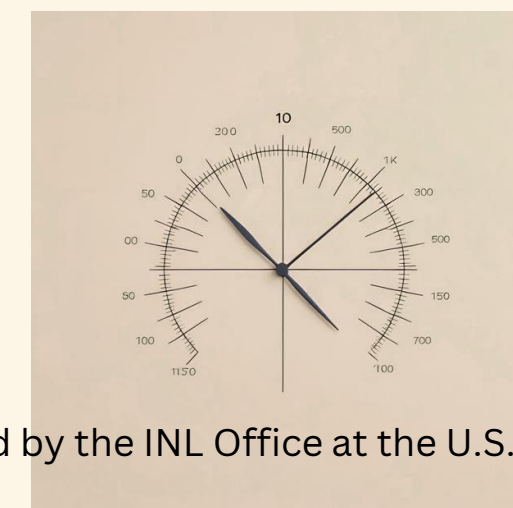
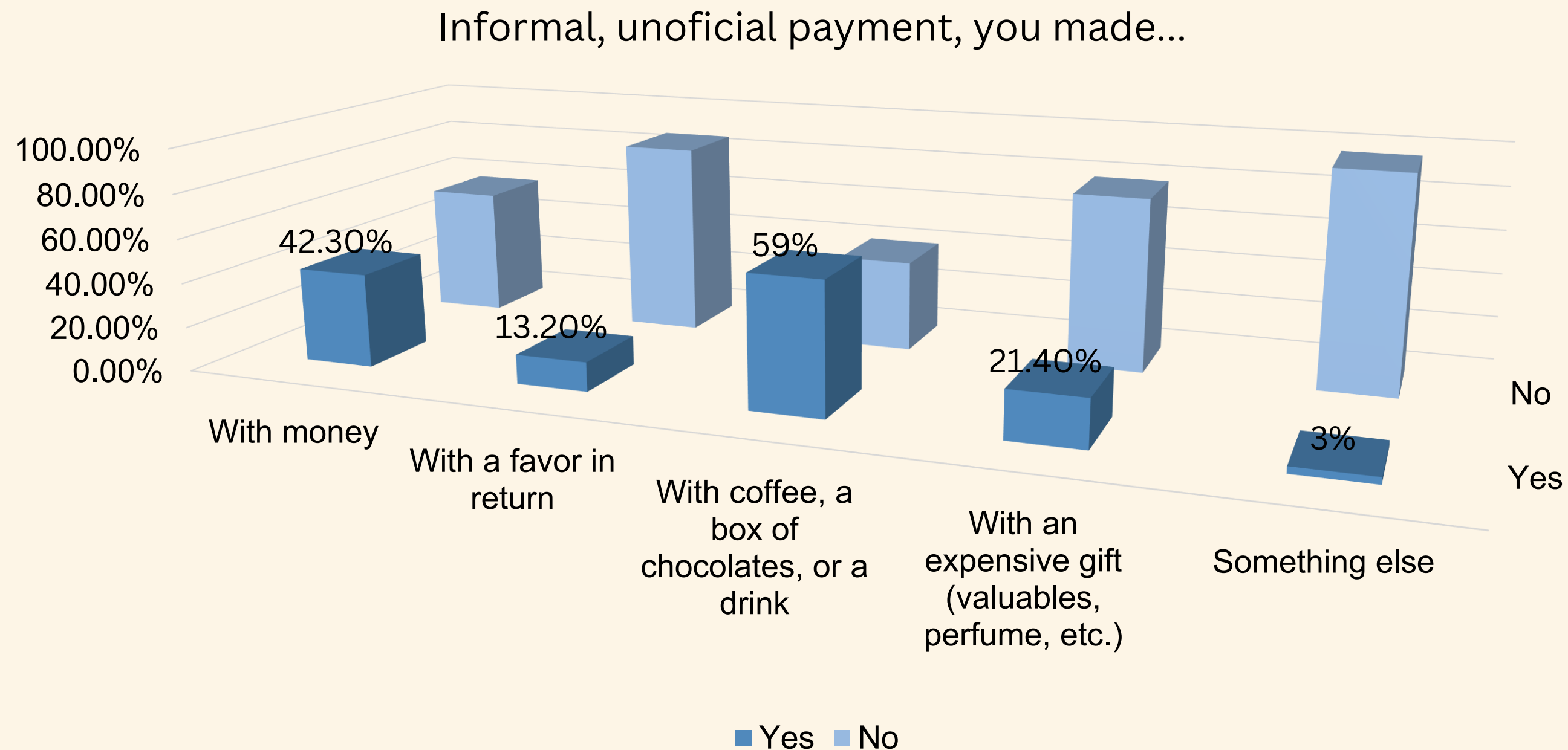
In the past 12 months, have you...



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Experience with Corruption

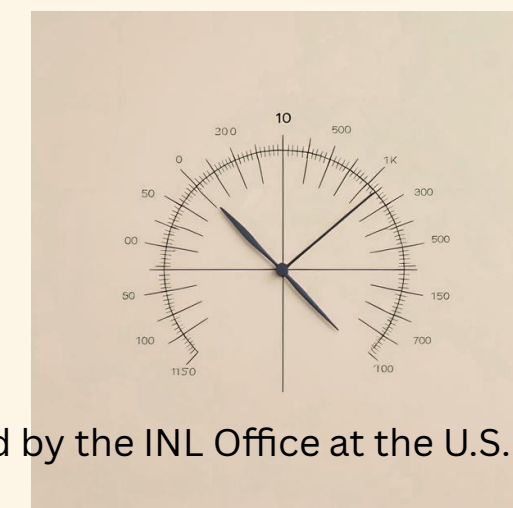
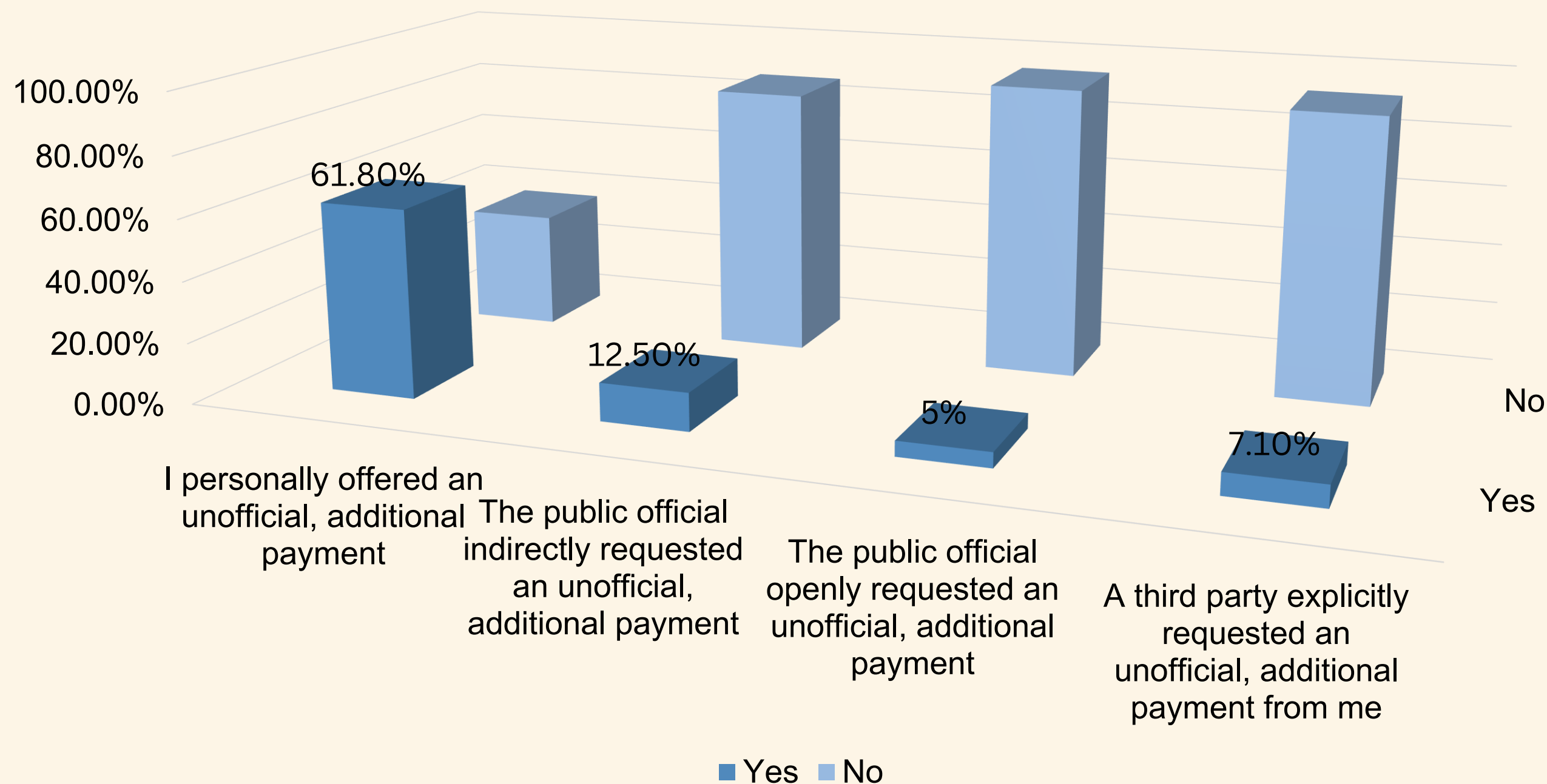


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Experience with Corruption

How was the unofficial payment initiated?

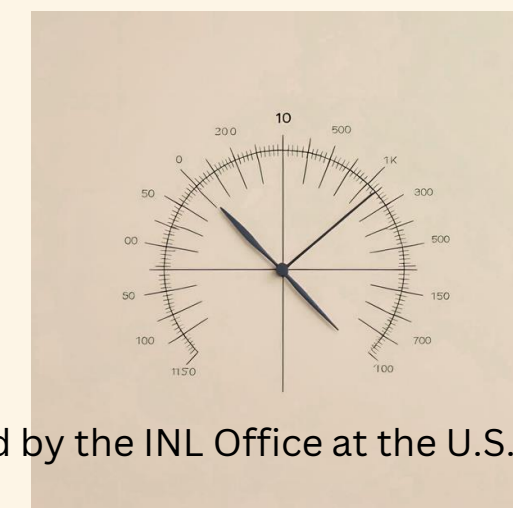
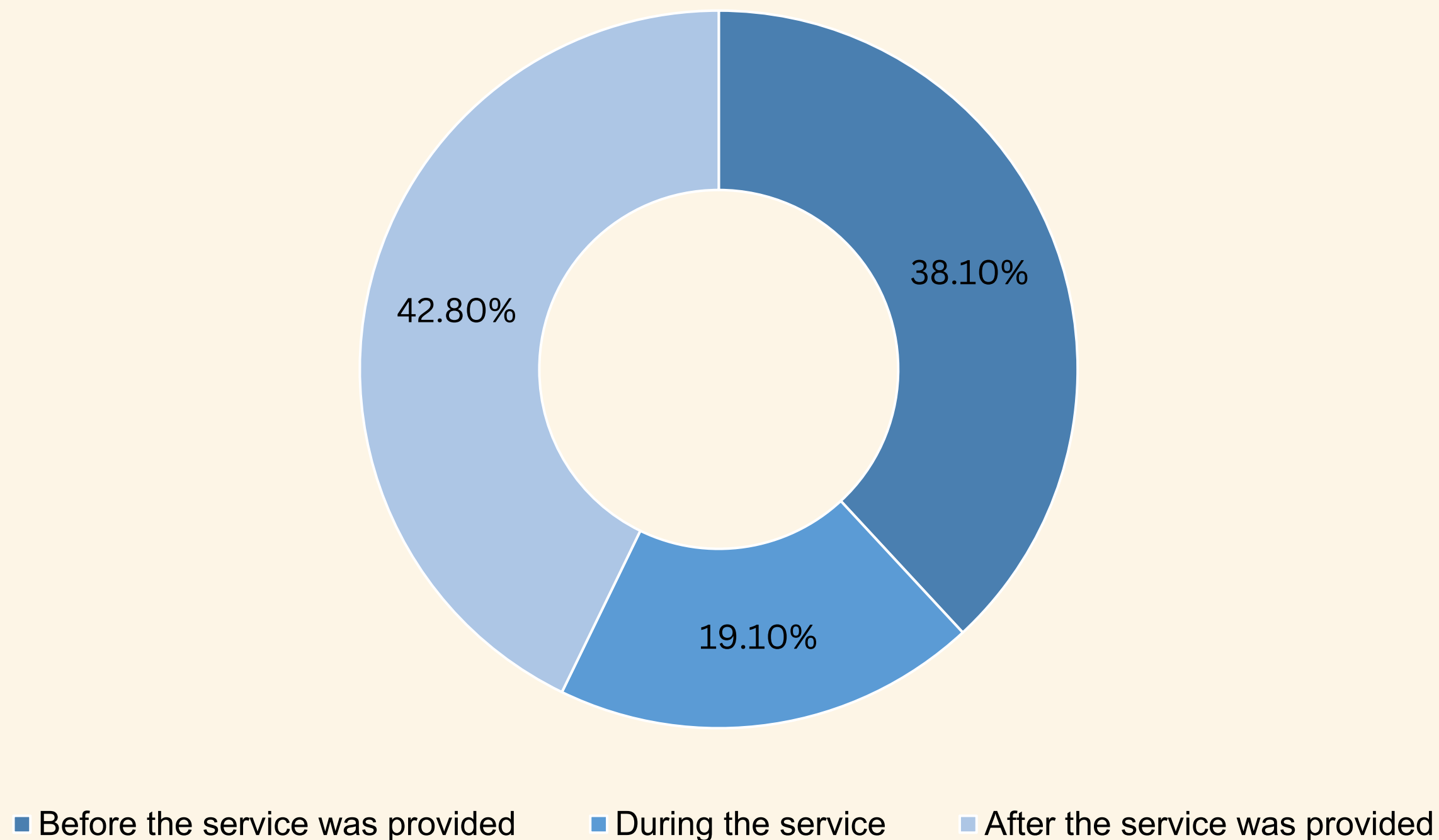


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Experience with Corruption

When did the unofficial payment occur?

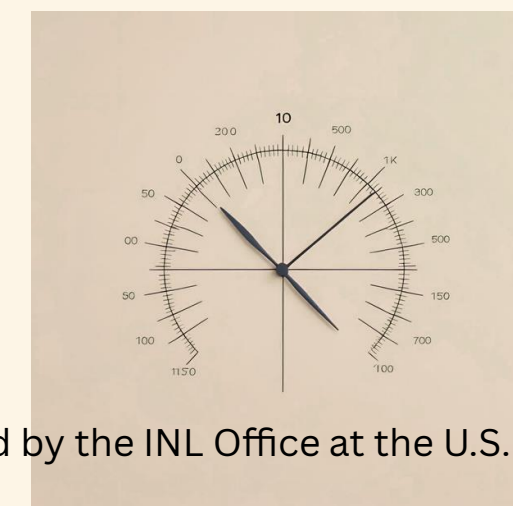
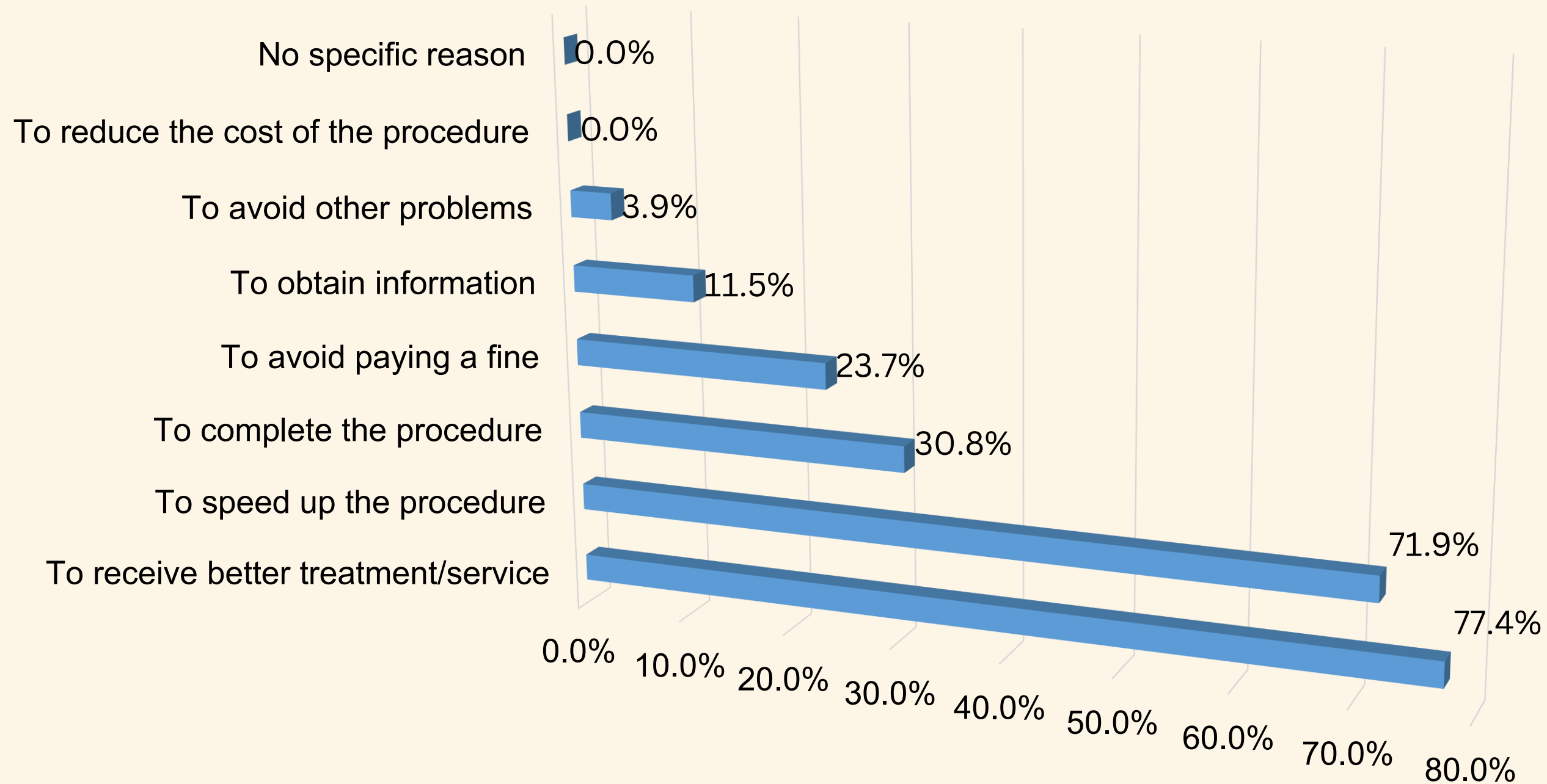


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Experience with Corruption

What were the reasons for making an unofficial additional payment for the service?

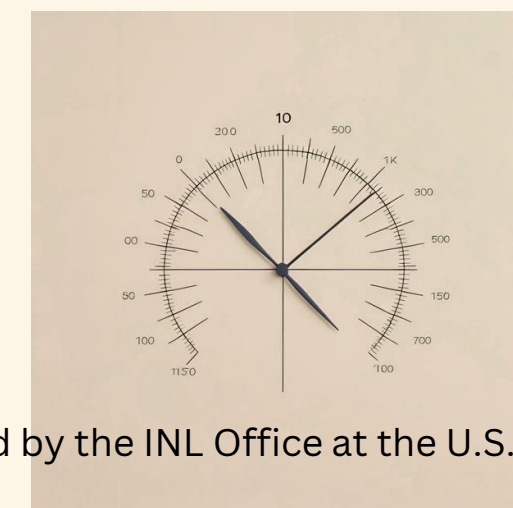
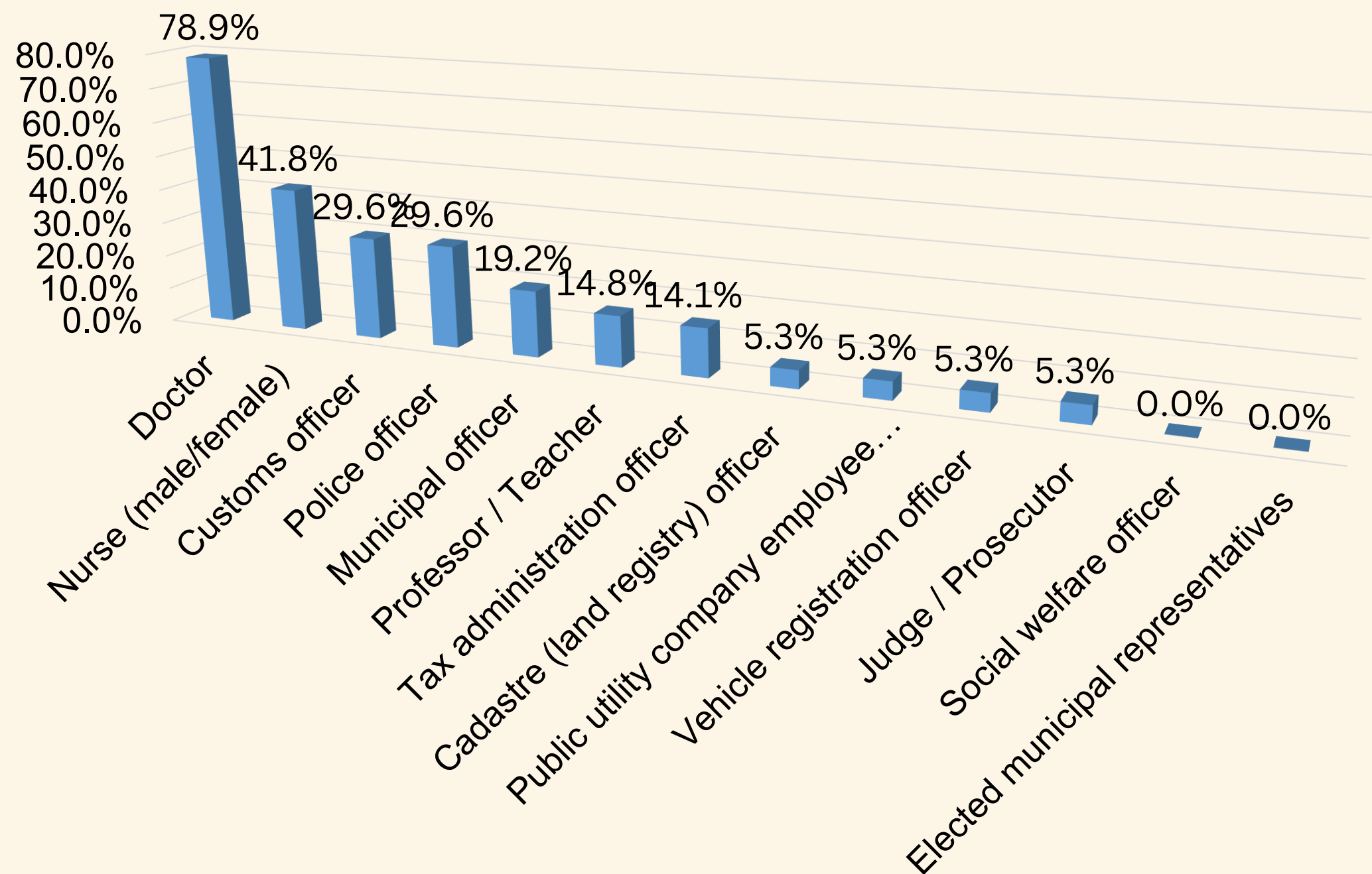


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Experience with Corruption

Which public officials did you make an unofficial, additional payment to for a service?

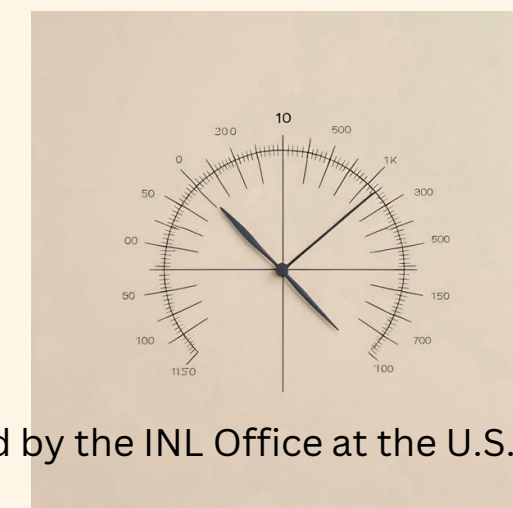
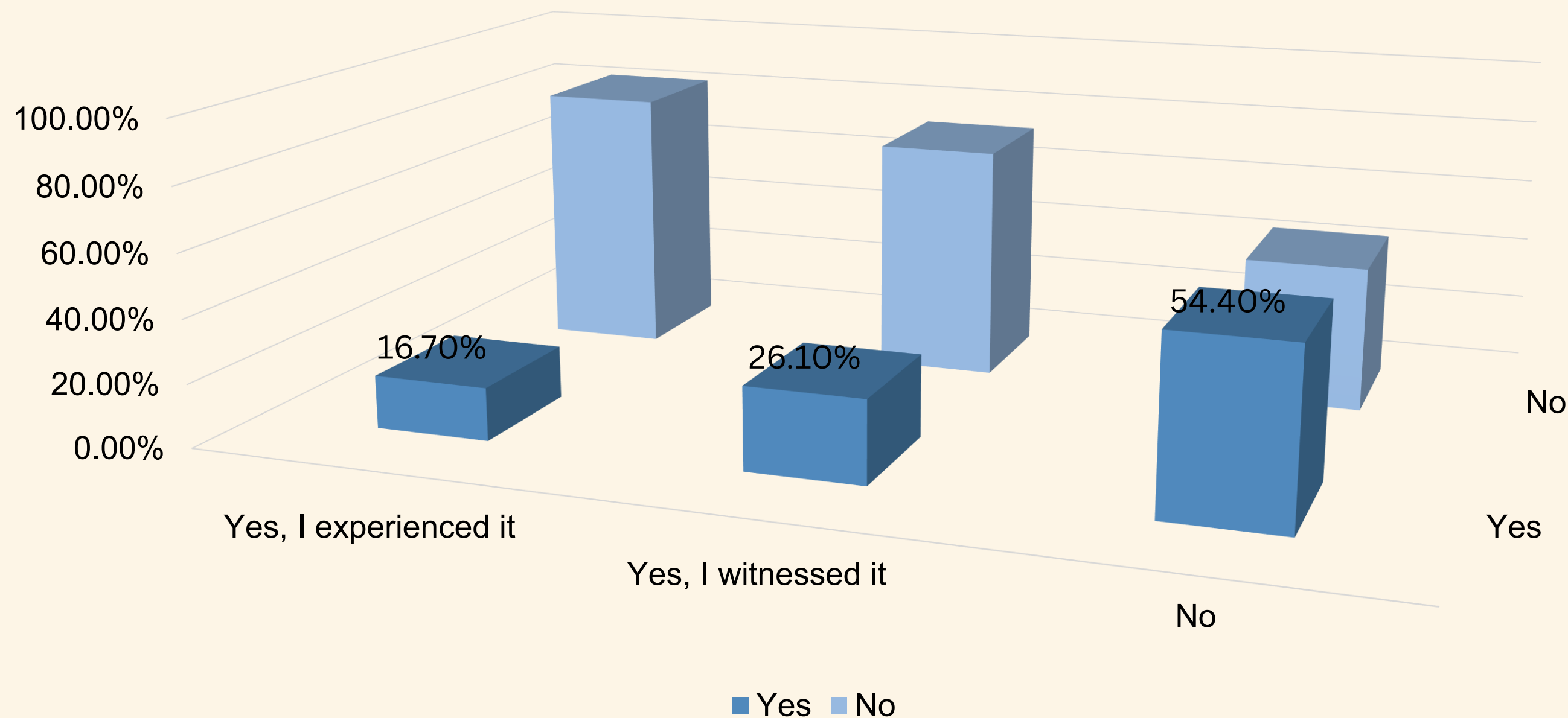


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Experience with Corruption

In the past 12 months, have you experienced or witnessed any case of corruption?

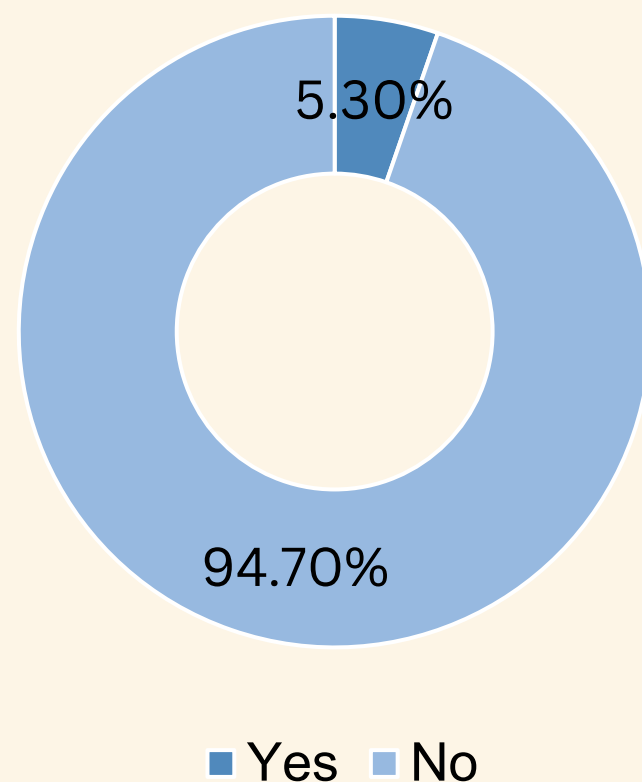


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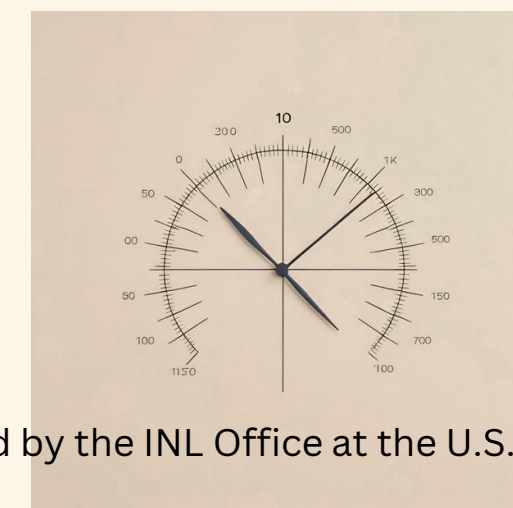
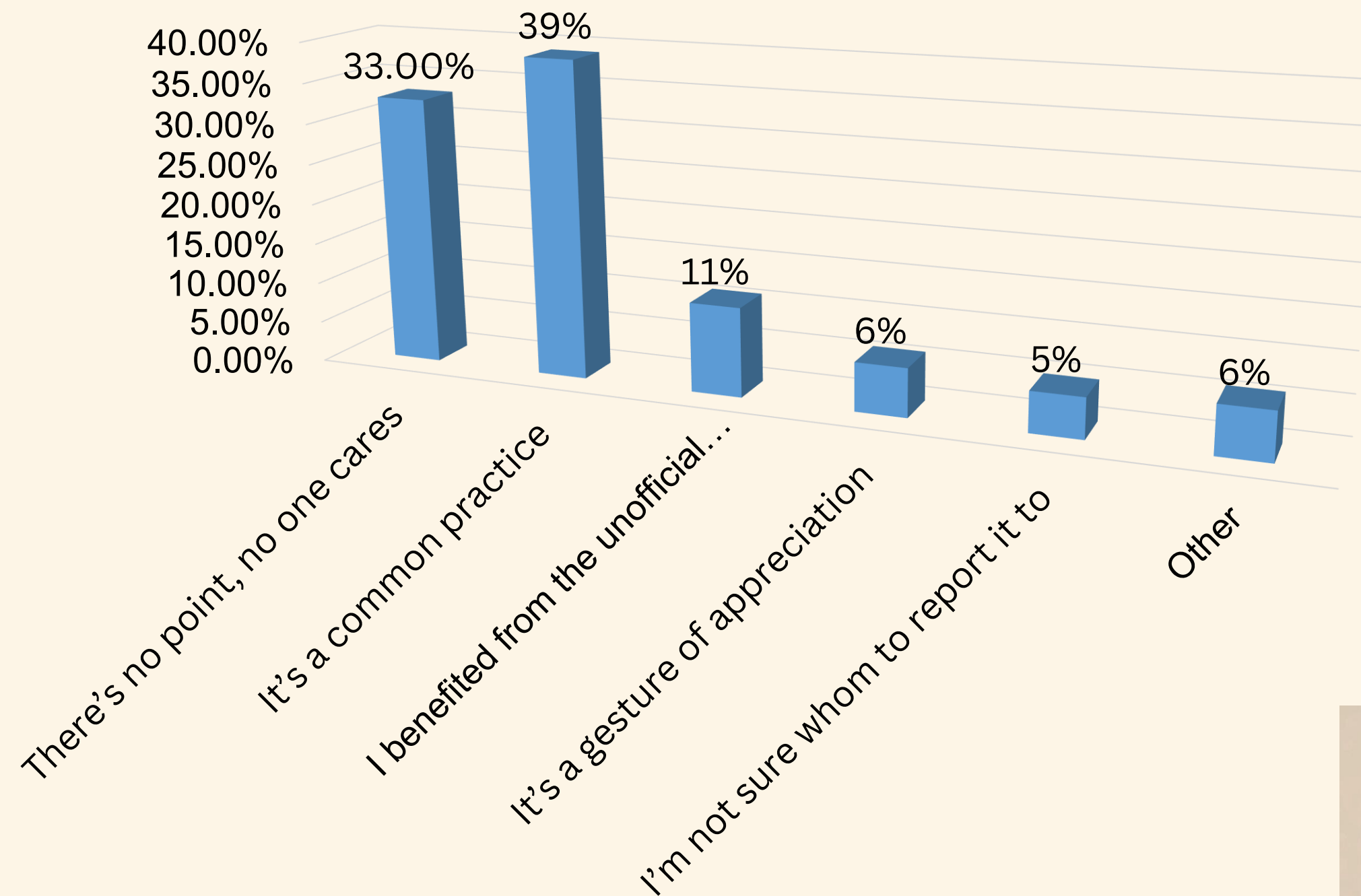


Experience with Corruption

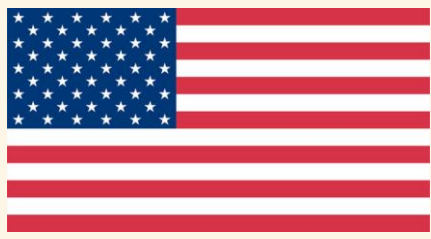
Did you report it to someone?



What was the reason for not reporting it to the authorities?

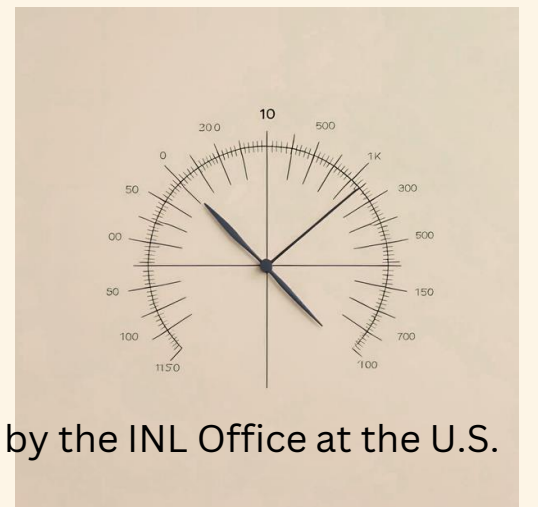


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Experience with Corruption – Key Findings

- ❑ In the past 12 months, **10.4%** of respondents personally made an unofficial, additional payment for a specific service, while in **12%** of cases, such a payment was made by another member of the household.
- ❑ Among respondents who had contact with a given institution in the past 12 months, **28.9%** of those who interacted with inspection services, **26.2%** with healthcare institutions, and **23.3%** with the police reported that someone had asked for or expected a gift, favor, or additional payment in exchange for their services.

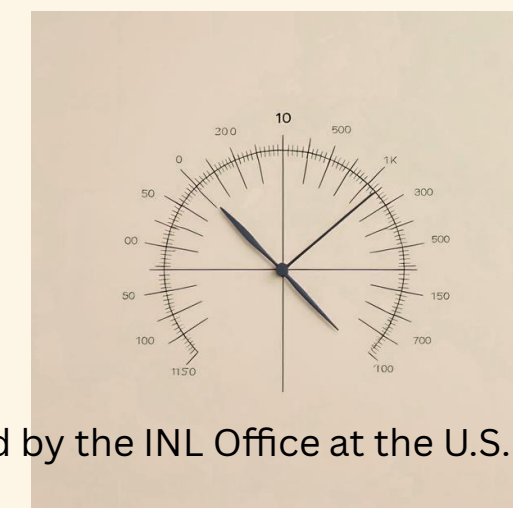


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Demographic Data on the Sample

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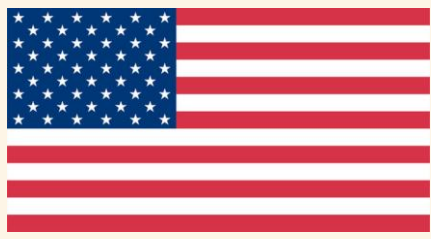


Demographic Data on the Sample

Gender		Residence	
Male	48.40%	Village	26.80%
Female	51.50%	Suburb	37.10%
		City	36.20%
Age		Region	
18-30	19.90%	South	26.10%
31-45	27.40%	Centre	47.90%
46-64	31.50%	North	25.90%
65+	21.20%		
Education		Employment Status	
Unfinished elementary school	0.40%	Full-time employment	32.40%
Elementary school	5.00%	Employed – Fixed-term / Temporary contract	11.20%
High school (3 years)	13.70%	Part-time employment	4.20%
High school (4 years)	44.40%	Unemployed, actively seeking work	6.40%
Higher vocational schools	9.30%	Unemployed, not actively seeking work	10.80%
Bachelor’s	23.60%	Retired	23.80%
Master’s/Doctoral	3.10%	Other	5.10%

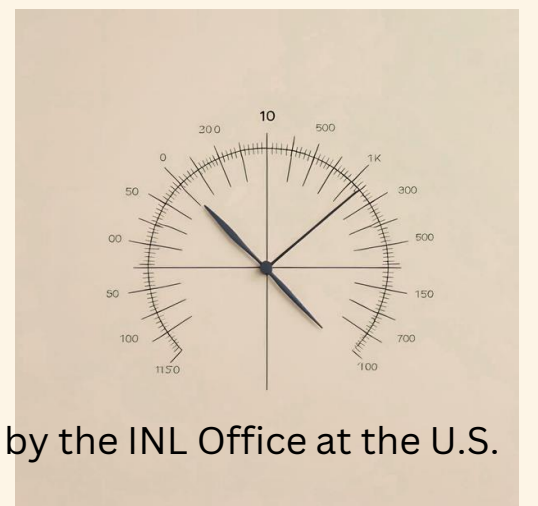


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The public opinion survey "Montenegrin Corruption Statoscope" was conducted within the framework of the project “Blow the Whistle: No Corruption Blindspots in Montenegro,” supported by the INL Office at the U.S. Embassy in Montenegro.

Disclaimer: This research was funded by a grant from the United States Department of State. The opinions, findings, and conclusions stated herein are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States government.



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