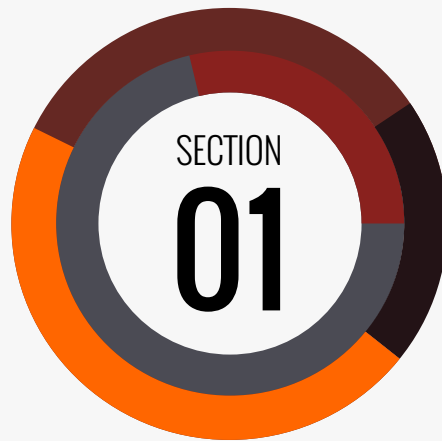


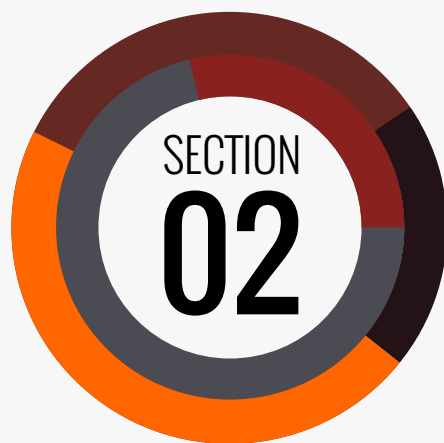
Assessing Perceptions of
Corruption and Transparency
in Nigeria's Justice System



Background

The judiciary, as a cornerstone of democratic governance, plays a pivotal role in upholding the rule of law and ensuring justice. In Nigeria, the perception and effectiveness of the judicial system are crucial for public trust and the overall functioning of the legal framework. However, concerns about corruption and lack of transparency within the judiciary can undermine its integrity and effectiveness. Recognizing the importance of these perceptions, this survey was designed to gather comprehensive insights into how various demographic and professional groups perceive the levels of corruption and transparency in Nigeria's judiciary.

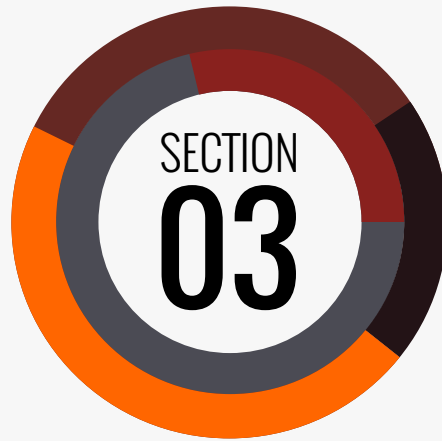




Objectives

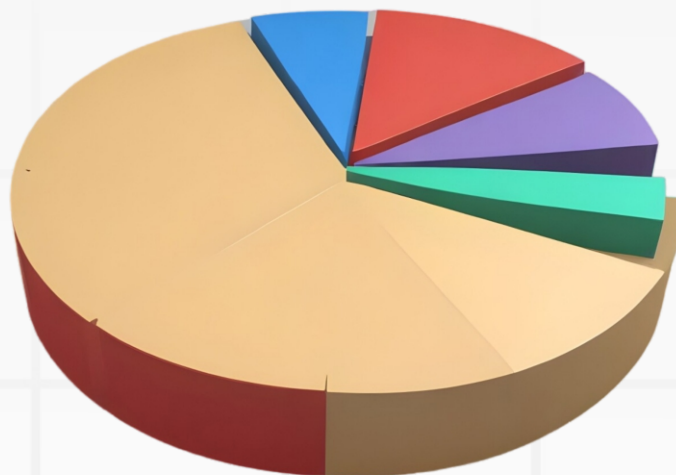
The primary objectives of this survey were to:

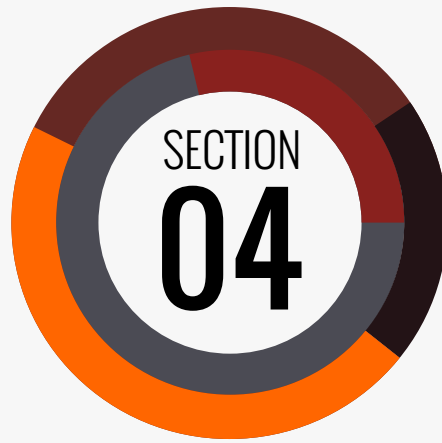
- **Evaluate Perceptions of Transparency:** Understand how different groups perceive the transparency of judicial proceedings and decisions in Nigeria.
- **Assess Beliefs About Judicial Accountability:** Examine views on the adherence of judges and judicial officers to the established judicial code of conduct.
- **Determine the Perceived Integrity of Decision-Making:** Investigate the extent to which judicial decisions are believed to be based on facts and evidence as opposed to external influence.
- **Identify Barriers to Judicial Accountability and Transparency:** Pinpoint the main obstacles hindering the achievement of judicial accountability and transparency.
- **Explore Experiences with Corruption:** Capture the frequency and nature of encounters with corrupt practices within the judiciary.
- **Analyze Reporting Mechanisms and Challenges:** Examine the prevalence and effectiveness of reporting mechanisms for corruption within the judiciary.



Methodology

The survey utilized a structured questionnaire, distributed to a diverse range of participants including legal professionals, judicial officers, court registrars, and the general public. The respondents spanned different age groups, professional experiences, and geographic locations within Nigeria. The survey questions were designed to capture both quantitative data (e.g., percentages, frequency) and qualitative insights (e.g., open-ended responses, personal experiences).



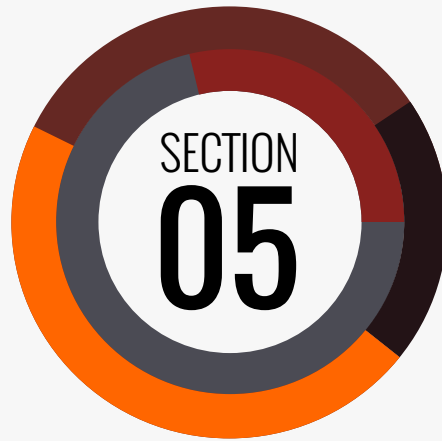


Participant Demographics

The survey reached a broad spectrum of participants, ensuring a comprehensive and representative understanding of perceptions. The demographics of the participants included:

- Age groups ranging from 18 to over 60 years.
- Professional backgrounds, including lawyers, judges, court registrars, and non-legal professionals.
- Varied levels of professional experience, from early career individuals to those with over 30 years in the field.
- Geographic diversity, covering different states and regions within Nigeria.



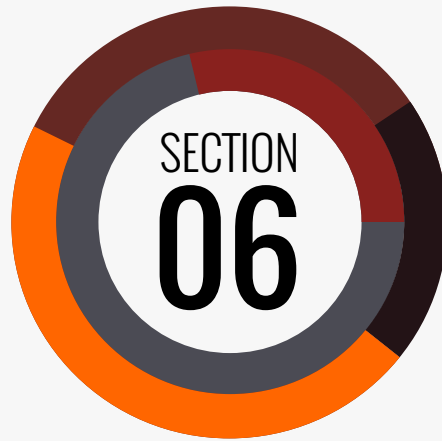


SECTION
05

Survey Scope

This survey focused specifically on the Nigerian judiciary and did not encompass other branches of government or legal systems outside of Nigeria. The findings provide valuable insights for policymakers, legal professionals, and civil society organizations working towards enhancing the integrity and effectiveness of Nigeria's judicial system.

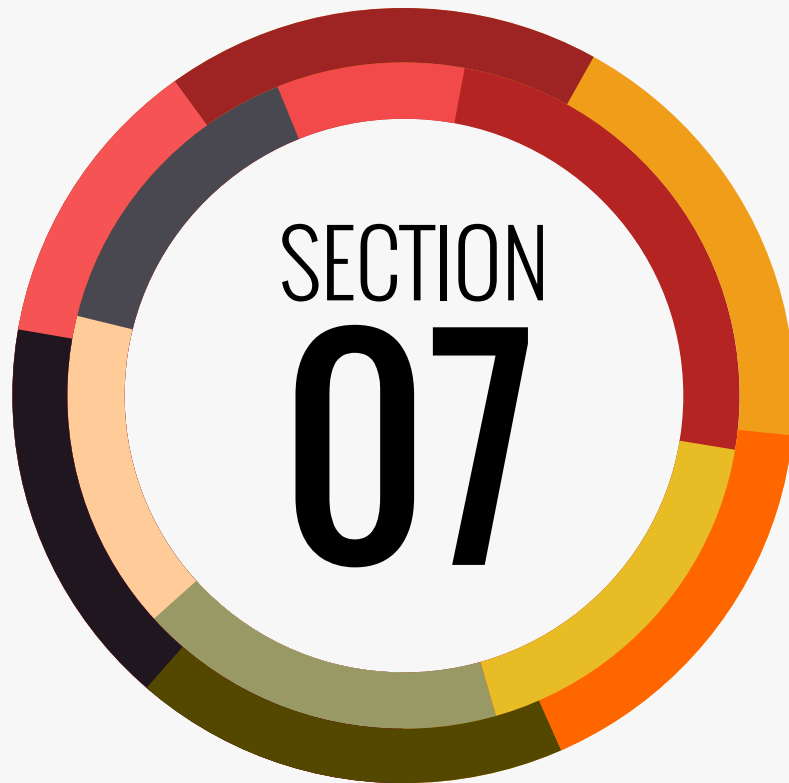




Ethical Considerations

The survey was conducted with strict adherence to ethical research standards. Participant anonymity and confidentiality were maintained throughout the process, and informed consent was obtained from all respondents. The survey did not solicit any sensitive personal information beyond professional experiences and perceptions related to the judiciary.

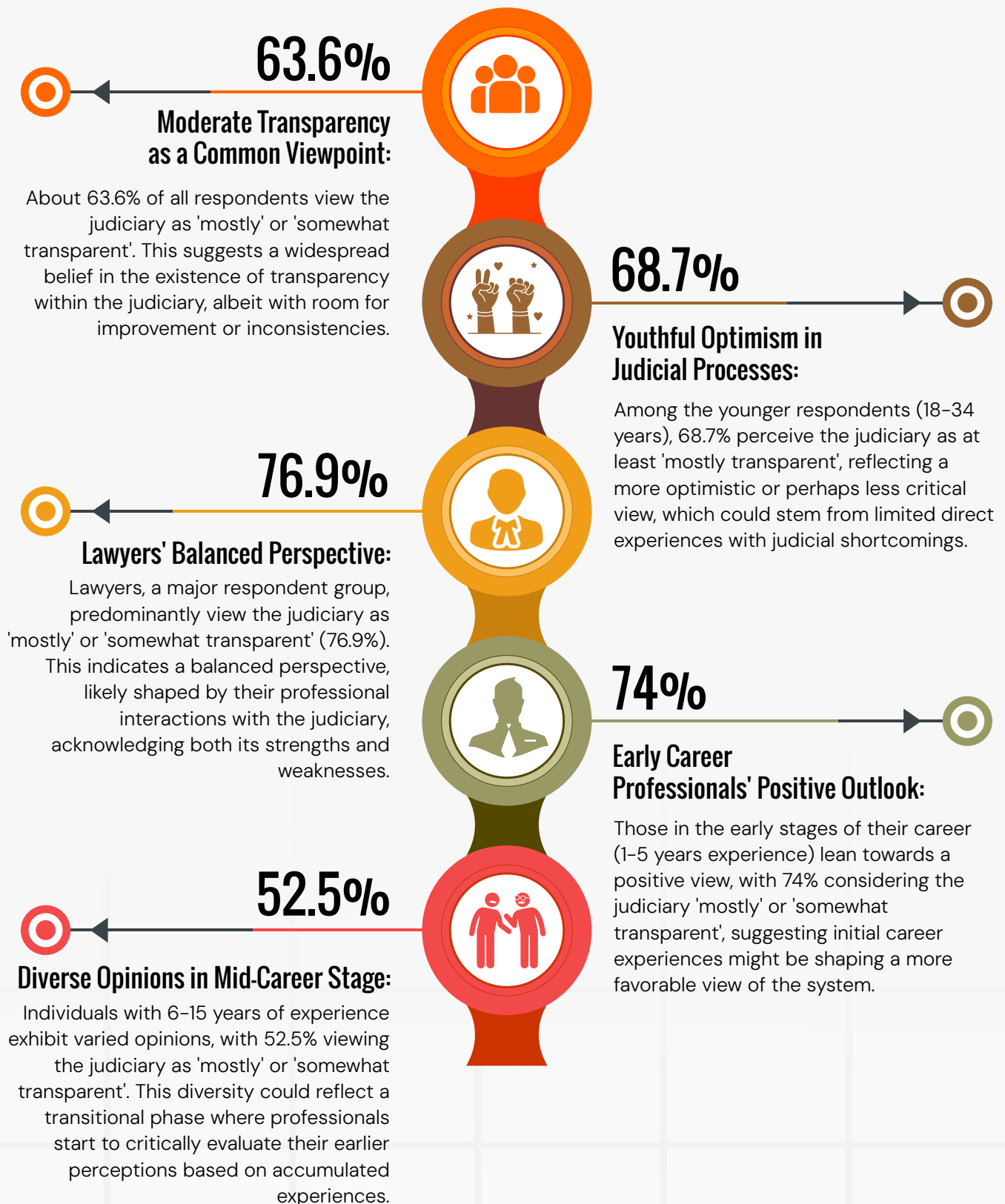




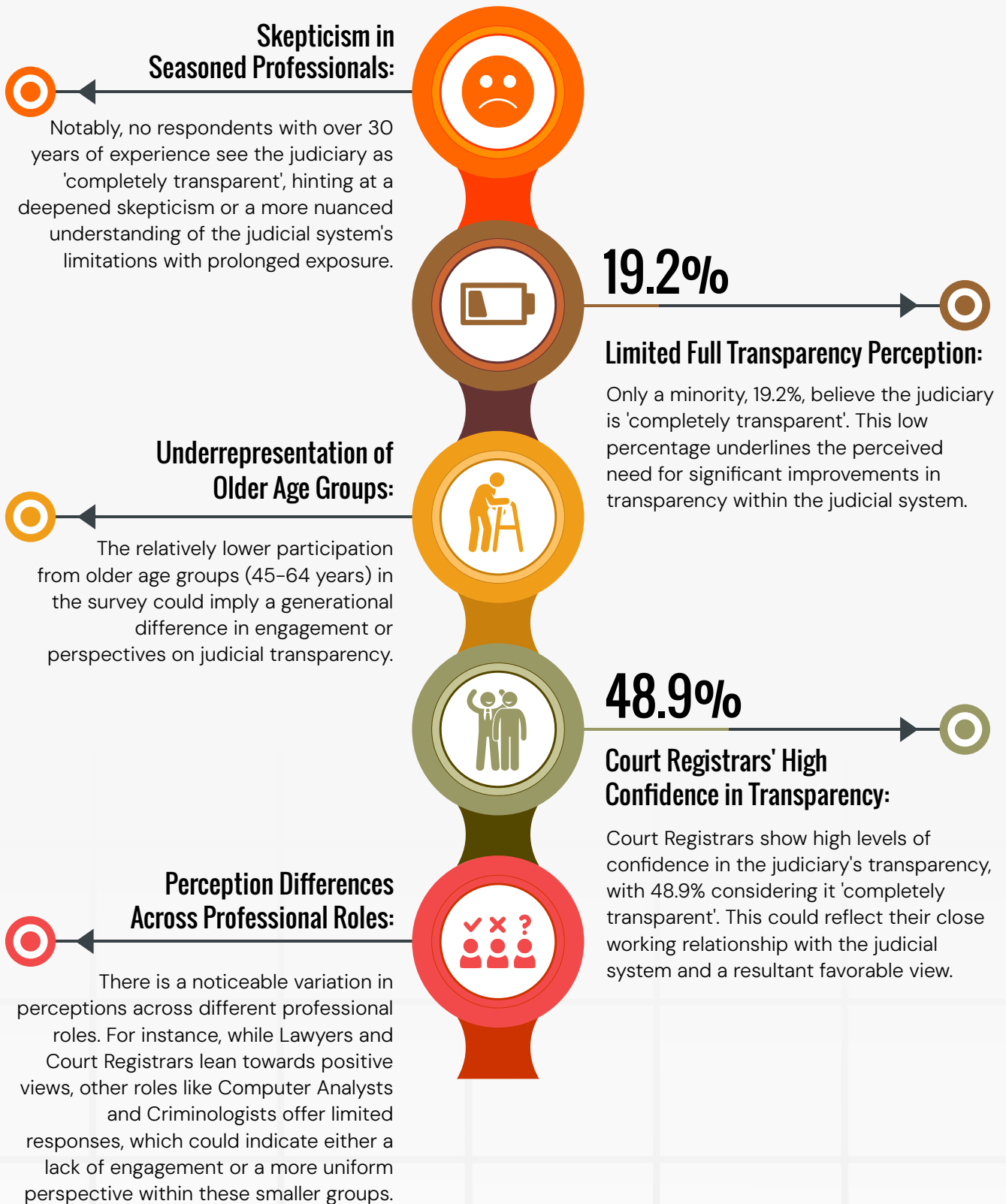
Key Findings



01 How would you assess the transparency of proceedings and decisions made by Judges and Judicial officers?



01 How would you assess the transparency of proceedings and decisions made by Judges and Judicial officers? (cont'd)



02 Based on your observations, how consistently do Judges and Judicial officers provide clear justifications for their rulings?

57.6%



Trend Towards Often Providing Justifications:

87 out of 151 respondents (57.6%) indicate that judges and judicial officers do not consistently provide clear justifications for their rulings, suggesting a trend towards a lack of frequent transparency in judicial reasoning.

57.1%



Young Adults' Perceptions:

In the 18-24 age group, the majority (57.1%) perceive that judges provide clear justifications either always or often, suggesting a positive view of judicial transparency among younger individuals.

69.9%



Dominant Positive View in 25-34 Age Group:

Among respondents aged 25-34, a combined 69.9% believe that judges always or often provide clear justifications, reflecting a strong belief in consistent judicial transparency in this age bracket.

43.9%
22%



Varied Responses in Mid-Age Bracket:

For the 35-44 age range, responses are more varied, with 43.9% stating judges always or often justify their rulings, and 22% saying this occurs occasionally, indicating a more mixed perception.

53.8%
30.8%



Older Age Groups' Mixed Views:

Among those aged 45-64, there's a balanced view, with 53.8% stating that justifications are provided always or often, and 30.8% observing this occurs occasionally or seldom.

02 Based on your observations, how consistently do Judges and Judicial officers provide clear justifications for their rulings? (cont'd)

41.8%
38%



Lawyers' Skeptical Outlook:

As the predominant professional group in the survey, lawyers exhibit a varied viewpoint with 41.8% indicating judges rarely or never provide clear justifications for their rulings, and 38% observing this as an occasional occurrence. This reflects a skeptical perspective likely influenced by their frequent professional engagements with the judiciary.

93.6%



Court Registrars' High Confidence:

Court Registrars, with 47 responses, overwhelmingly believe judges always or often provide justifications (93.6%), which might reflect their close working relationship with the judiciary.

75.3%



Early Career Optimism:

Among those with 1-5 years of experience, 75.3% believe judges always or often provide clear justifications, pointing to a positive perception among newer professionals.

50%
50%



Increased Skepticism with Experience:

In the most experienced group (over 30 years), 50% state that clear justifications are provided often, but a significant 50% note it happens only occasionally, reflecting a more skeptical view with

30.5%

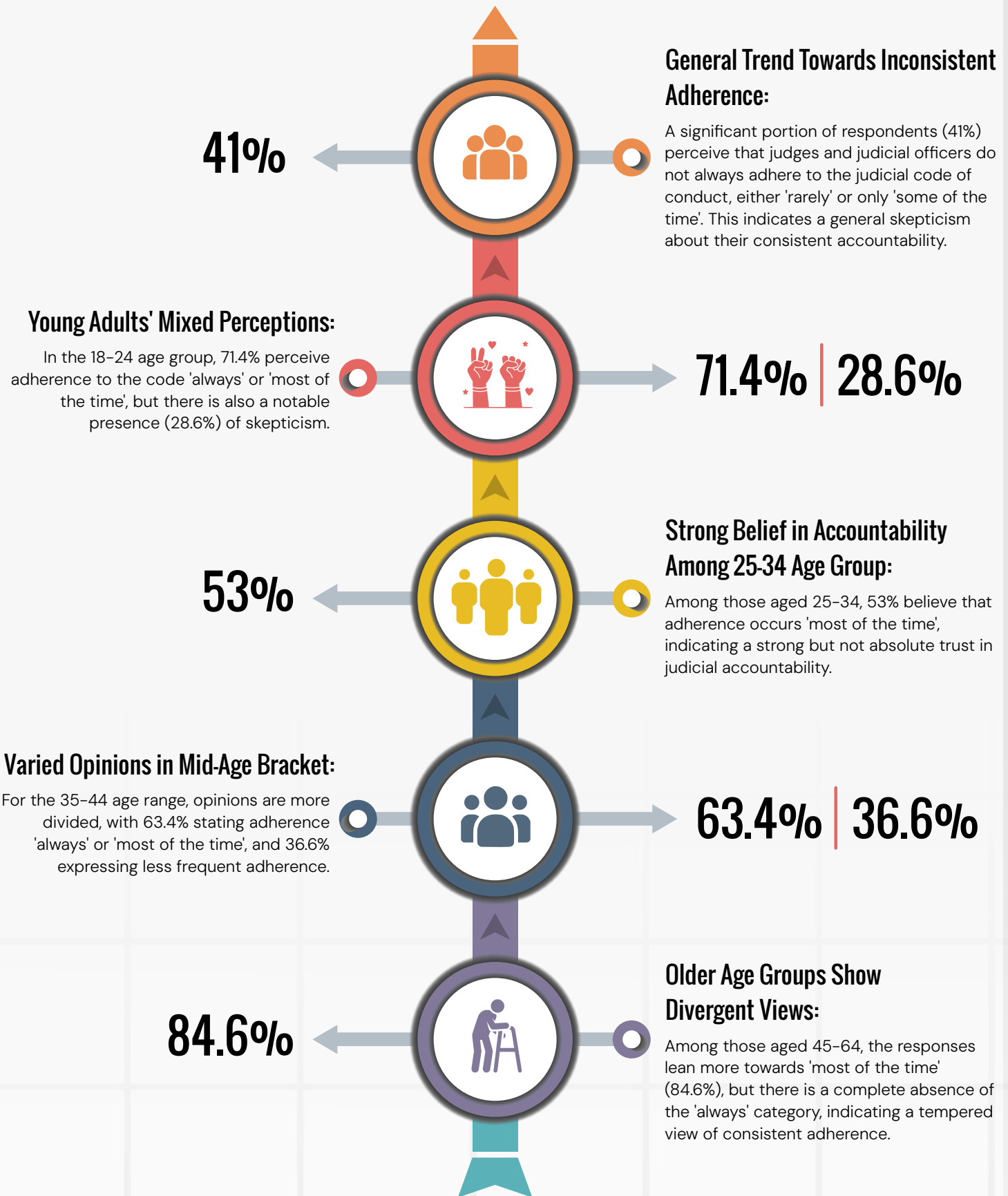


Overall, a Tendency Towards Opacity:

Considering all responses, a minority (30.5%) do not believe that judges and judicial officers consistently provide clear justifications for their rulings, either rarely or never doing so.

03

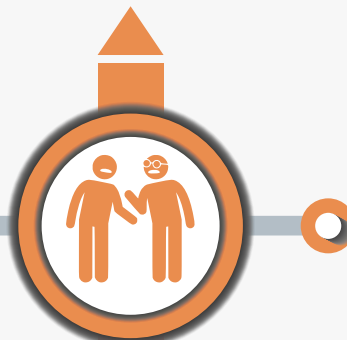
In terms of accountability, how frequently do you believe that Judges and Judicial officers adhere to the established judicial code of conduct?



03

In terms of accountability, how frequently do you believe that Judges and Judicial officers adhere to the established judicial code of conduct? (cont'd)

57.1%



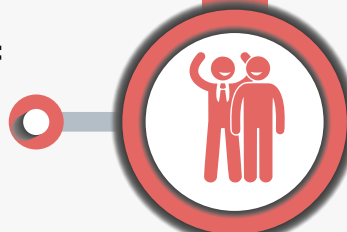
Lawyers Show Diverse Concerns:

Lawyers, representing the largest professional group in the survey, exhibit a range of concerns, with 57.1% suggesting that adherence to the judicial code of conduct occurs 'rarely' or only 'sometimes'. This highlights a critical perspective on judicial conduct, reflecting their in-depth experience and understanding of the system.

Court Registrars Display High Confidence:

Court Registrars overwhelmingly believe in consistent adherence to the code (91.5% state 'always' or 'most of the time'), possibly due to their close operational relationship with the judiciary.

91.5%



61.6%



Early Career Optimism:

Among those with 1-5 years of experience, 61.6% believe that adherence to the code occurs 'always' or 'most of the time', indicating a relatively optimistic view among newer professionals.

Among the most experienced professionals (over 30 years), half indicate that adherence to the judicial code of conduct occurs only 'rarely' or 'some of the time', reflecting a heightened level of concern and skepticism regarding consistent adherence that tends to grow with more experience.

Experienced Professionals Express Greater Concern

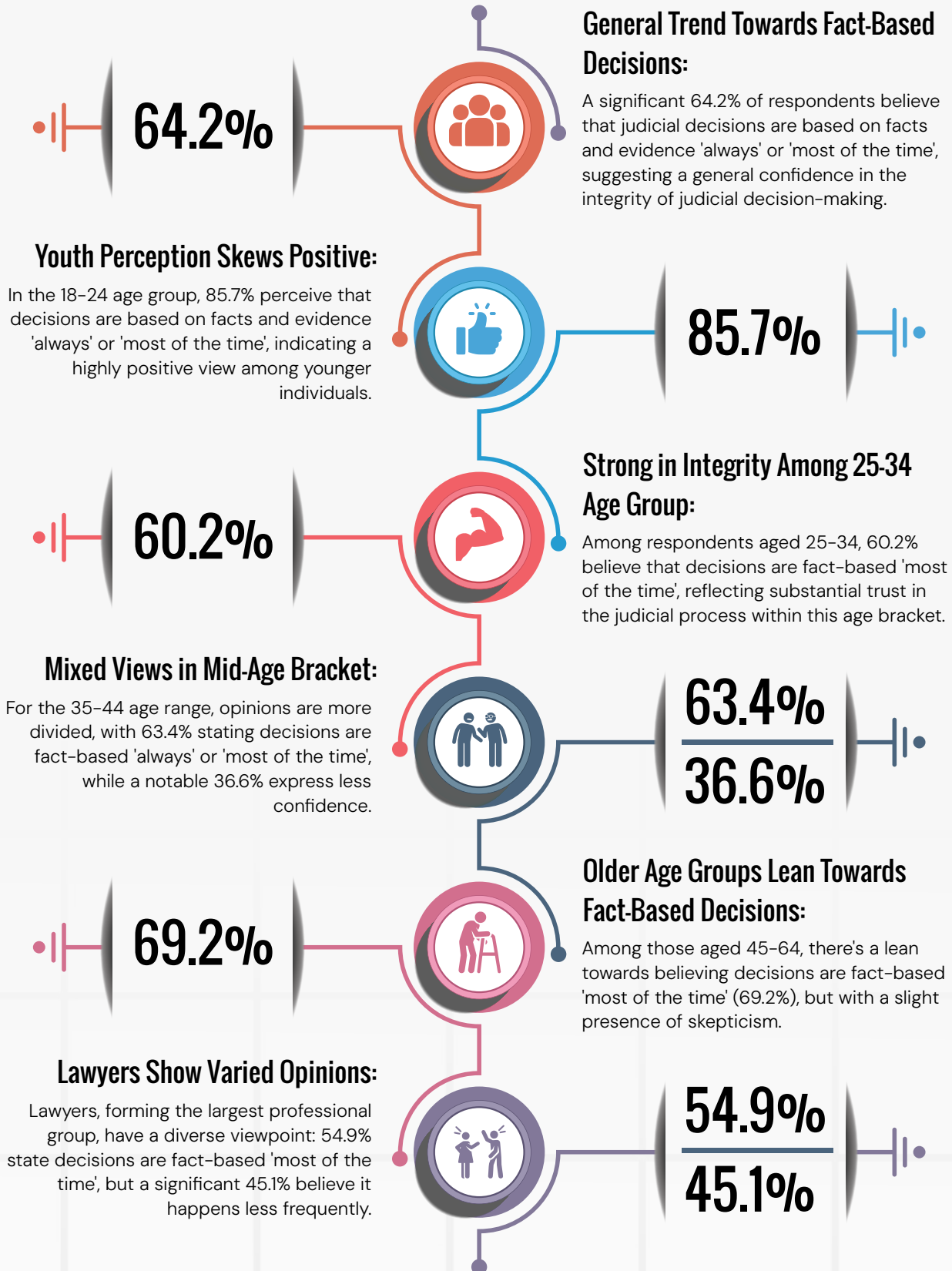
41.0%



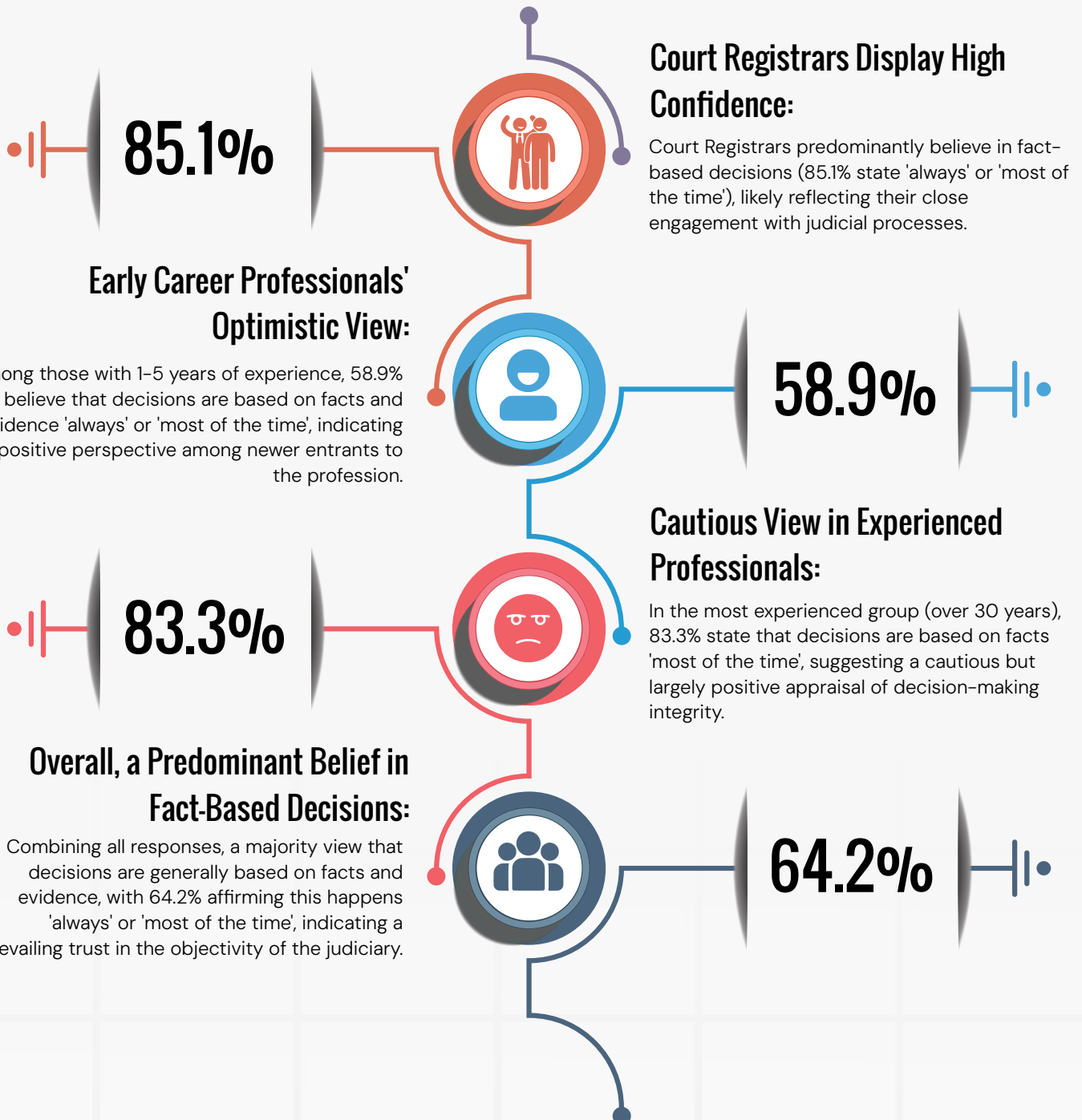
Overall, a Tendency Towards Irregular Adherence:

When all responses are considered, a significant 41% do not believe that judges and judicial officers adhere to the code of conduct 'always' or 'most of the time'. This suggests a general skepticism about the regular accountability within the judiciary.

04 In your opinion, how often are the decisions of judicial officers/Judge based on facts and evidence as opposed to external influence?



04 In your opinion, how often are the decisions of judicial officers/Judge based on facts and evidence as opposed to external influence? (cont'd)



05 Reflecting on your experiences, which barriers to achieving judicial accountability and transparency have you directly observed or dealt with?

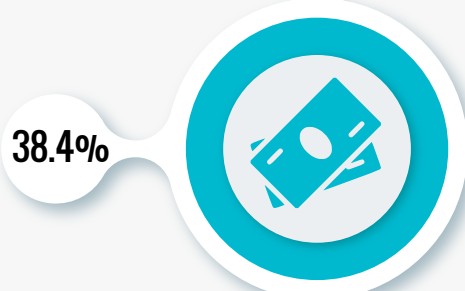
Dominant Barrier - External Pressures:

A total of 50 out of 151 respondents (33.1%) identify external pressures as a primary barrier to judicial accountability and transparency, highlighting its significant impact.



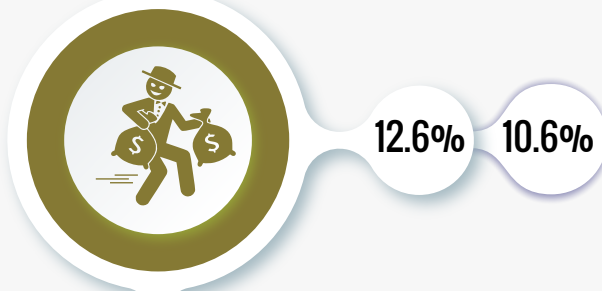
Concern Over Remuneration and External Pressures:

Poor remuneration combined with external pressures is noted as a barrier by 58 respondents (38.4%), indicating that financial incentives and external influences are key concerns.



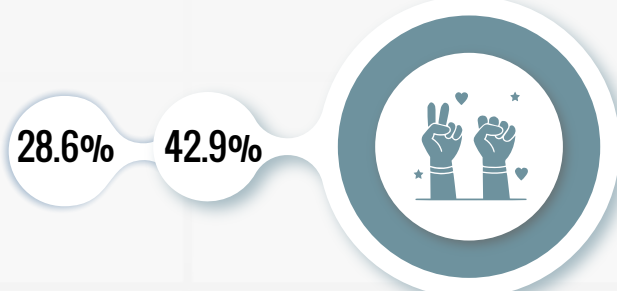
Issue of Greed and Lack of Accountability:

Greed on the part of court workers and laziness and lack of accountability by judiciary personnel are observed barriers, noted by 19 (12.6%) and 16 (10.6%) respondents respectively, pointing towards internal ethical challenges within the



Perception Among Young Adults (18-24):

In the 18-24 age group, external pressures (42.9%) and greed (28.6%) are the most noted barriers, reflecting a perception of systemic ethical issues among younger respondents.



Views of Mid-Age Group (25-34):

For the 25-34 age range, the majority (43.4%) identify poor remuneration and external pressures as key barriers, suggesting concerns about the influence of financial challenges and external forces on judicial integrity.



05 Reflecting on your experiences, which barriers to achieving judicial accountability and transparency have you directly observed or dealt with? (cont'd)

Respondents aged 45–64 note a mix of barriers including external pressures, poor remuneration, and lack of accountability, indicating a recognition of multiple systemic issues affecting judicial



Older Age Groups Highlight Various Issues:

40.7%

38.5%



Lawyers' Broad Perspective:

Lawyers, constituting the largest professional group, identify a range of barriers, with external pressures (40.7%) and poor remuneration (38.5%) being the most prominent, reflecting their broad perspective on the challenges facing the judiciary.

Court Registrars' Unique Insights:

Court Registrars primarily point to external pressures (21.3%) and issues with remuneration (34%) as barriers, likely based on their close involvement with judicial processes.



21.3%

34%

41.1%



Early Career Observations:

Among professionals with 1–5 years of experience, the predominant barrier noted is poor remuneration and external pressures (41.1%), suggesting a concern about the influence of external factors and financial challenges on new entrants.

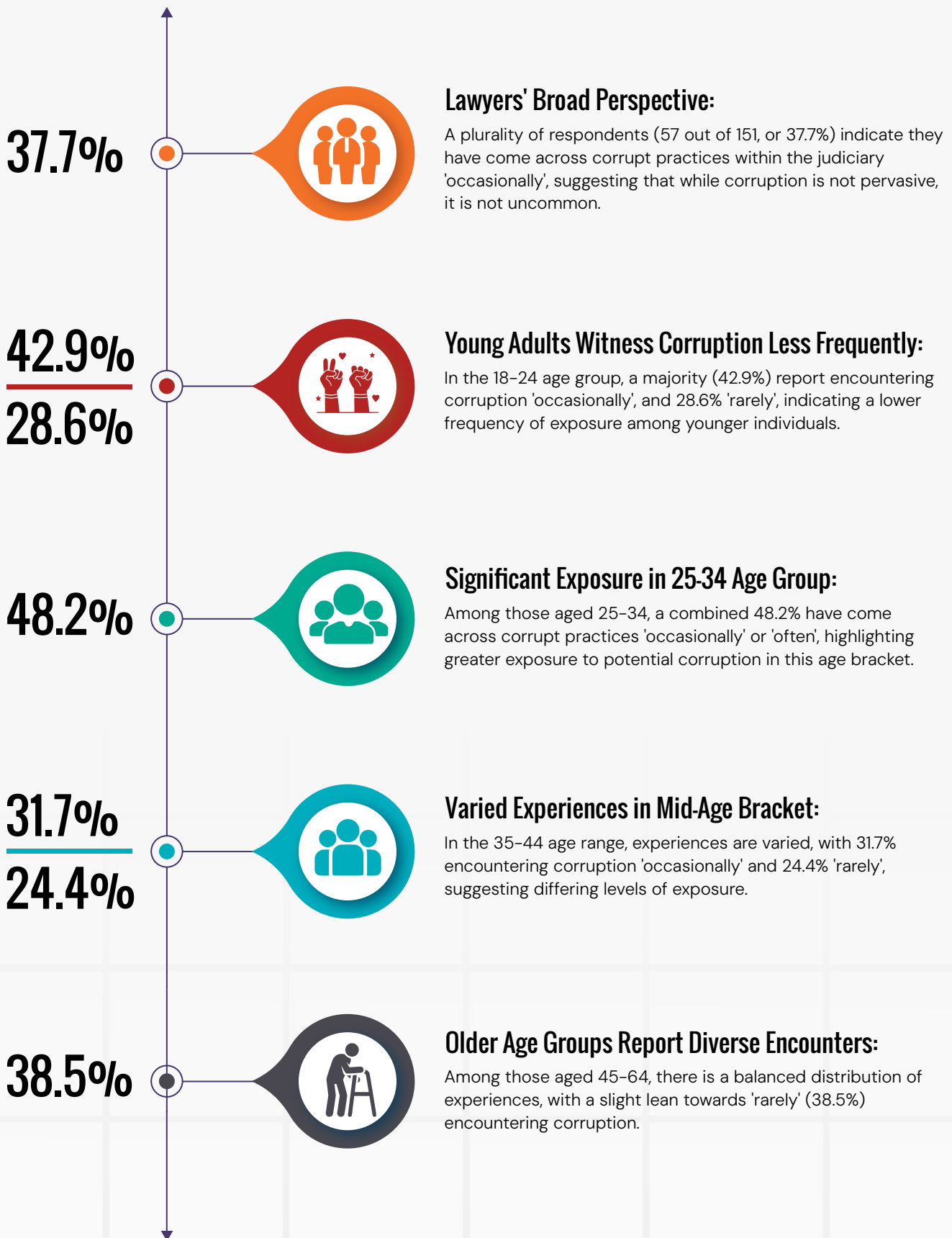
Insights from Experienced Professionals:

In the most experienced group (over 30 years), a focus on poor remuneration (50%) as a barrier suggests a long-term observation of financial constraints impacting judicial accountability.



43.4%

06 In your professional journey, how often have you come across situations that hinted at corrupt practices within the judiciary?



06

In your professional journey, how often have you come across situations that hinted at corrupt practices within the judiciary? (cont'd)

21.3%
36.2%



Lawyers Frequently Encounter Corruption:

Lawyers, forming the largest professional group, report diverse experiences, with 47.3% encountering corruption 'occasionally' and 16.5% 'often', reflecting their extensive interaction with the judiciary.

21.3%
36.2%



Court Registrars' Mixed Observations:

Court Registrars have mixed observations, with 21.3% encountering corruption 'all the time' or 'often', and 36.2% 'rarely', suggesting varied experiences within this role.

35.6%
31.5%



Early Career Professionals' Observations:

Among those with 1-5 years of experience, 35.6% encounter corruption 'occasionally', while a significant 31.5% encounter it 'rarely', indicating varied exposure in early career stages.

42.5%



Increased Encounters with Experience:

Respondents with 6-15 years of experience report higher frequencies of encountering corruption, with 42.5% observing it 'occasionally' or 'often'.

48.3%



Overall Perspective on Judiciary Corruption:

Across all responses, the data suggests that encounters with corruption in the judiciary are not an everyday occurrence for most, but are not rare either, with a significant number of professionals experiencing them 'occasionally' or 'often' (48.3%).

07 Have you ever attempted to report an incident of corruption within the judiciary?



Low Reporting Rate Overall:

Out of 151 respondents, only 42 (27.8%) have attempted to report an incident of corruption, indicating a relatively low rate of reporting.

27.8%



Young Adults Less Likely to Report:

In the 18–24 age group, only 2 out of 7 respondents (28.6%) have attempted to report corruption, suggesting a lower propensity or ability to report among younger individuals.

28.6%



Higher Reporting Among 35-44 Age Group:

Among those aged 35–44, 53.7% have attempted to report corruption, indicating a higher level of engagement or willingness to report in this age bracket.

53.7%

14.3%



Lowest Reporting in Older Age Groups:

Respondents aged 45–64 show a lower tendency to report, with only 4 out of 13 in the 45–54 age group and none in the 55–64 age group having reported corruption.



Lawyers Report at Lower Rates:

Among lawyers, only 14.3% have attempted to report corruption, despite being the largest professional group surveyed, suggesting potential barriers or reluctance within this profession.

07 Have you ever attempted to report an incident of corruption within the judiciary? (cont'd)



Court Registrars More Proactive:

Court Registrars are more proactive, with 61.7% having attempted to report corruption, likely reflecting their closer engagement with judicial processes and possibly a higher sense of responsibility.

61.7%



Early Career Professionals More Likely to Report:

In the 1–5 years experience category, 20.5% have attempted to report corruption, showing a relatively higher inclination to report among newer professionals.

20.5%



Experienced Professionals Less Likely to Report:

Among those with over 30 years of experience, none have reported attempts to address corruption, indicating either lower encounter rates or higher reluctance to report.

32.5%



Mid-Career Professionals' Varied Response:

In the 6–15 years experience bracket, 32.5% have tried to report corruption, showing a mixed response in terms of reporting at mid-career stages.



Overall Reluctance or Barriers to Reporting:

The overall data suggests a significant reluctance or barriers to reporting incidents of corruption in the judiciary, with a majority of professionals across various age groups and experience levels not having attempted to report such incidents.

08

If you answered 'Yes' to the previous question, through which channel did you report the incident?

Reporting to National Judicial Council:

The National Judicial Council (NJC) was the most used channel, with 15 out of 42 respondents (35.7%) who reported corruption using this route, indicating a trust in the NJC's role in addressing judicial corruption.



35.7%

14.3%



Direct Reports to Law Enforcement:

Directly reporting to appropriate law enforcement authorities was chosen by 6 respondents (14.3%), showing a reliance on formal law enforcement channels for addressing corruption.

Internal Reporting Mechanisms:

Via the organization's internal reporting mechanism, 23 respondents (54.8%) reported incidents, highlighting the importance and effectiveness of internal whistleblowing systems.



54.8%



Young Adults' Reporting Preferences:

In the 18–24 age group, 1 respondent reported through social media, and 1 directly to the judiciary, reflecting a willingness to use diverse and perhaps more accessible channels.

Varied Channels Among 25-34 Age Group:

Those aged 25–34 used a variety of channels, with the NJC (7 respondents) and internal reporting mechanisms (6 respondents) being the most popular, indicating a diverse approach to reporting.



08 If you answered 'Yes' to the previous question, through which channel did you report the incident? (cont'd)

Mid-Age Group's Reliance on Formal Channels:

Respondents aged 35-44 primarily reported through the NJC (7 respondents) and internal mechanisms (12 respondents), suggesting a preference for formal and established channels.



Older Age Groups' Limited Reporting:

Among respondents aged 45-64, there's a lower reporting rate, with those who did report primarily using internal mechanisms and the NJC.

Lawyers' Reporting Practices:

Lawyers reported through a range of channels, with a notable number choosing internal mechanisms (7 respondents) and the NJC (7 respondents), reflecting their familiarity with



Court Registrars' Active Reporting:

Court Registrars were active in reporting, with a significant number using internal mechanisms (10 respondents) and the NJC (7 respondents), indicating their pivotal role in addressing judicial corruption.

Overall Reporting Landscape:

Across all respondents, the use of internal reporting mechanisms (54.8%), the NJC (35.7%), and direct reports to law enforcement (14.3%) were the most common channels, suggesting a mix of formal and organizational avenues are utilized to report corruption.

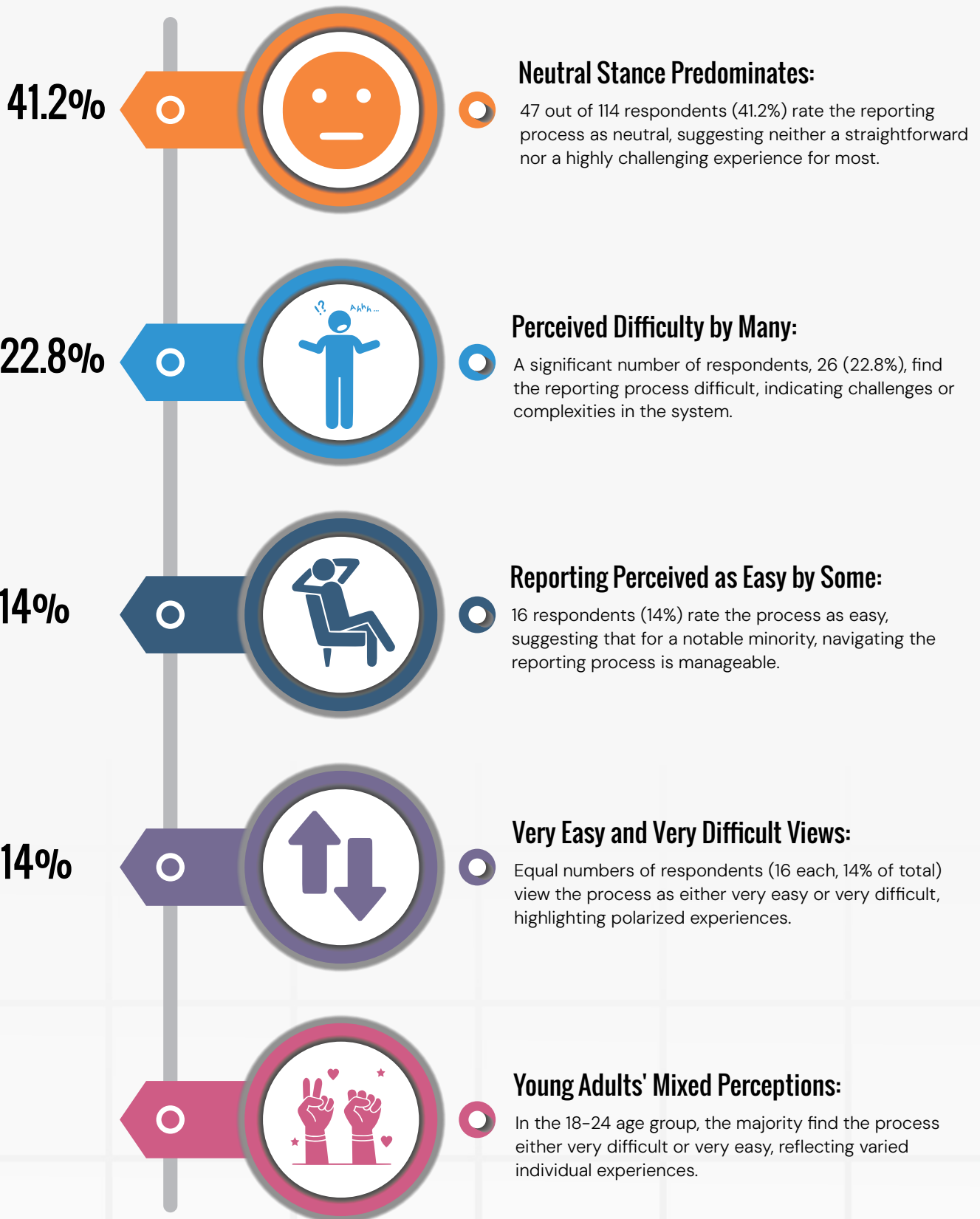


54.8%

35.7%

14.3%

09 How would you rate the difficulty of the reporting process?



09 How would you rate the difficulty of the reporting process? (cont'd)



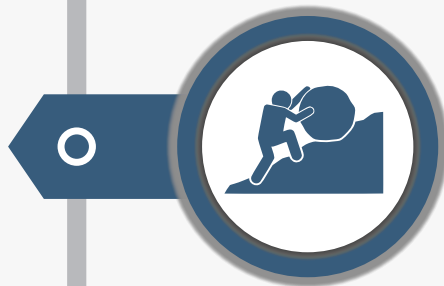
Mid-Age Group (25-34) Views:

Among those aged 25–34, the majority (28 respondents) hold a neutral view, with significant numbers finding it difficult (13) or easy (8).



Older Age Groups' Varied Experiences:

Respondents aged 45–64 show mixed experiences, with some finding it difficult and others rating it as easy or neutral.



Lawyers' Challenging Experiences:

A large proportion of lawyers (17 out of 57) find the reporting process difficult, indicating potential complexities or barriers within their professional context.



Court Registrars' Diverse Views:

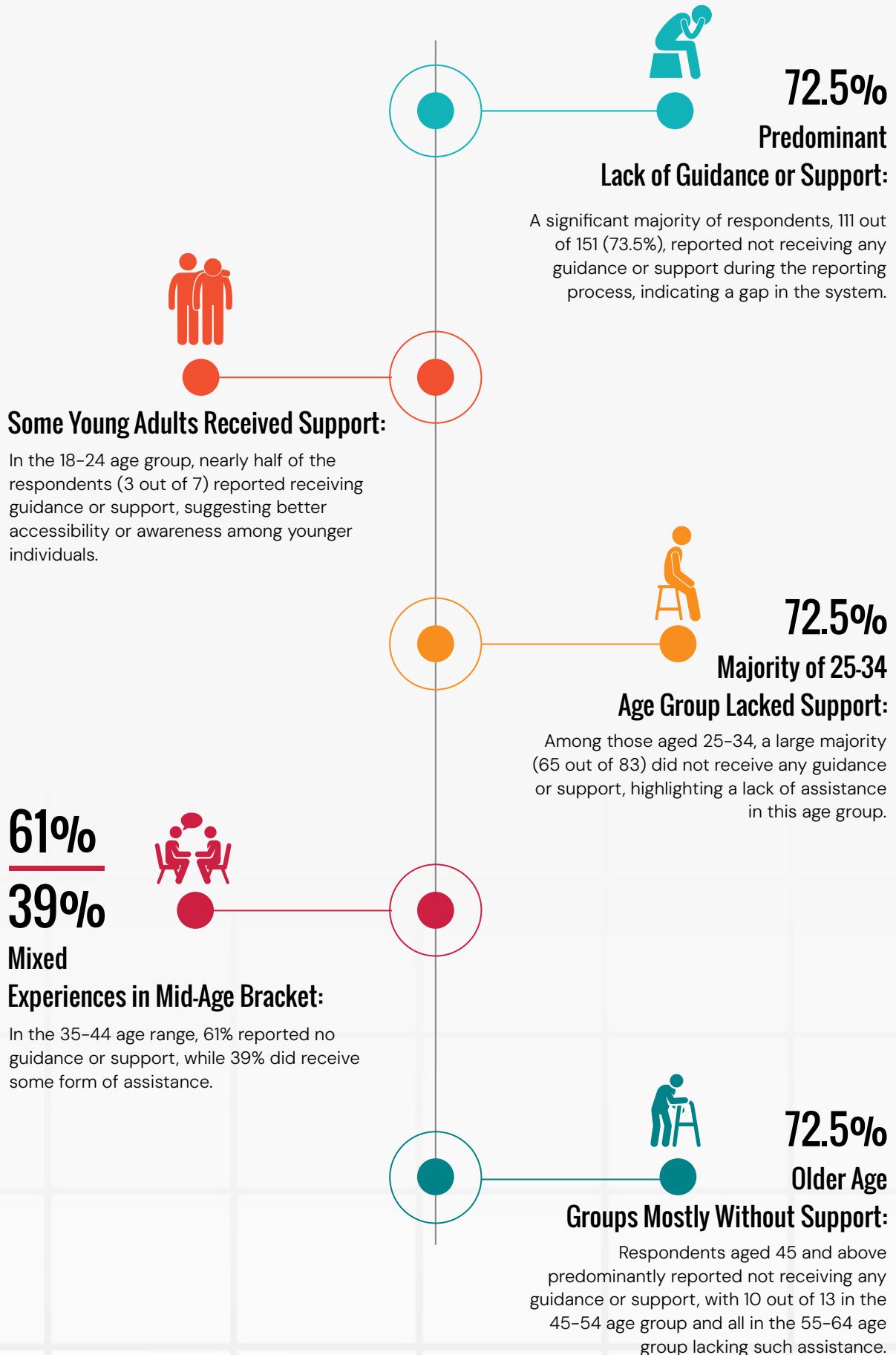
Court Registrars have varied views, with many finding it neutral (18), but a significant number also finding it either very difficult (2) or very easy (14).



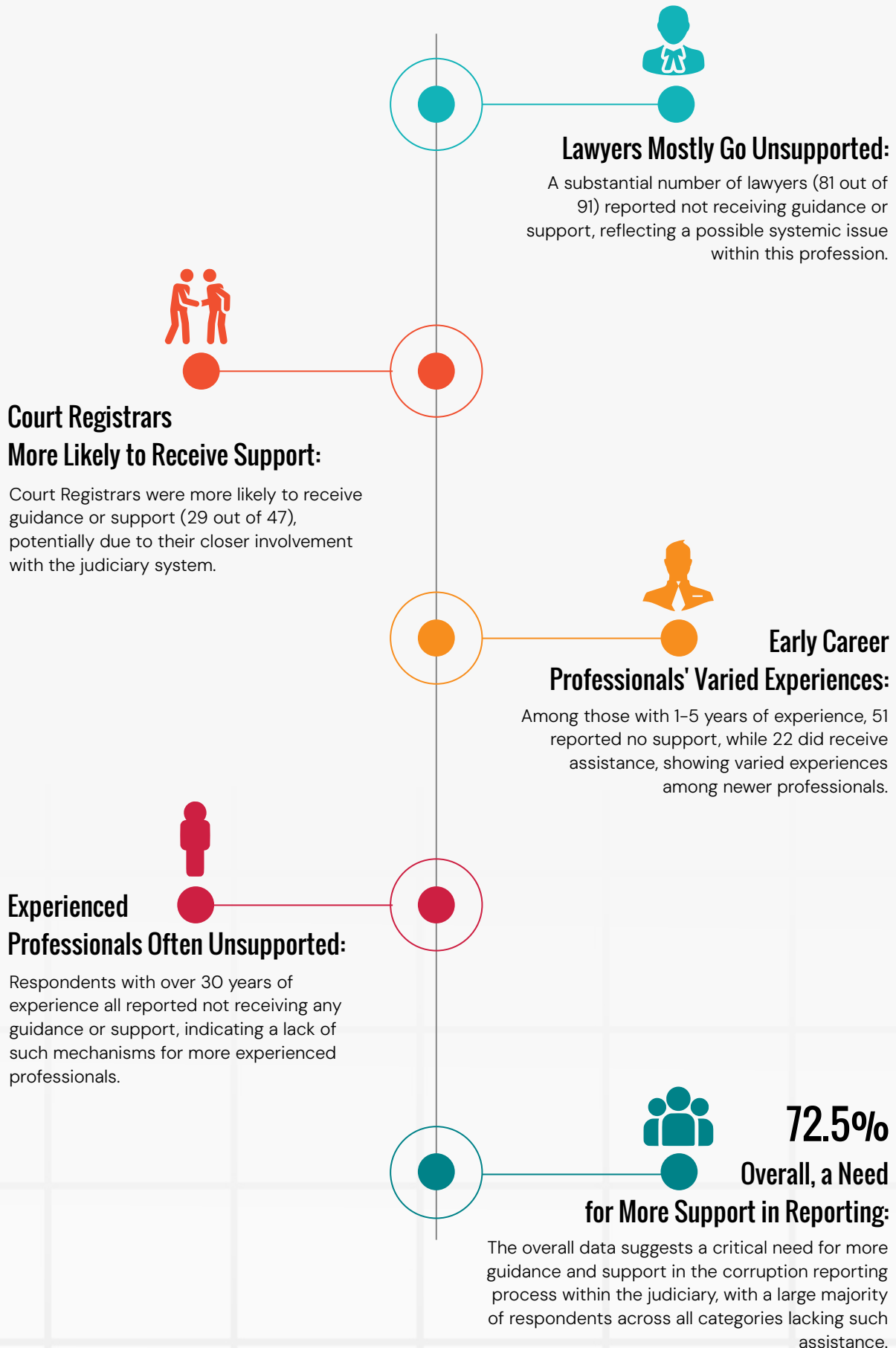
Overall Diverse Perspectives:

Across all respondents, the data reflects a wide range of experiences, from very easy to very difficult, with a significant portion finding it neutral, suggesting a complex landscape in terms of the ease of reporting corruption within the judiciary.

10 Were you provided with any guidance or support during the reporting process?



10 Were you provided with any guidance or support during the reporting process? (cont'd)



11 After reporting, were you faced with any repercussions or challenges due to your action?



Predominance of No Negative Consequences:

A significant number of respondents, 45 out of 99 (45.5%), reported facing no negative consequences after reporting corruption, indicating a generally safe environment for whistleblowers.

45.5%



Some Faced Negative Consequences:

However, 13 respondents (13.1%) did face negative repercussions, highlighting risks associated with reporting corruption.

13.1%



Majority Have Not Reported:

A large portion of the respondents, 20 (20.2%), indicated that they have never reported any incidents, suggesting either a lack of exposure or reluctance to report.

20.2%



Young Adults Mostly Unaffected:

In the 18–24 age group, most respondents (5 out of 7) reported no negative consequences, reflecting either a safer environment for younger individuals or less severe cases reported.



Mixed Experiences Among 25-34 Age Group:

Among those aged 25–34, while 21 reported no negative consequences, 3 did face challenges, showing a mixed bag of experiences.

11 After reporting, were you faced with any repercussions or challenges due to your action? (cont'd)



Mid-Age Group (35-44) Varied Responses:

In the 35–44 age range, 17 reported no repercussions, while 7 faced negative outcomes, indicating varied experiences in this demographic.



Older Age Groups Cautiously Reporting:

Among respondents aged 45–64, a majority reported no negative consequences (9 out of 13), suggesting cautious reporting or less severe repercussions in this age group.



Lawyers Experience Both Sides:

Lawyers, forming a significant respondent group, had diverse experiences, with 21 reporting no negative consequences and 1 experiencing negative outcomes, reflecting the varied nature of their professional involvement.



Court Registrars Mostly Unaffected:

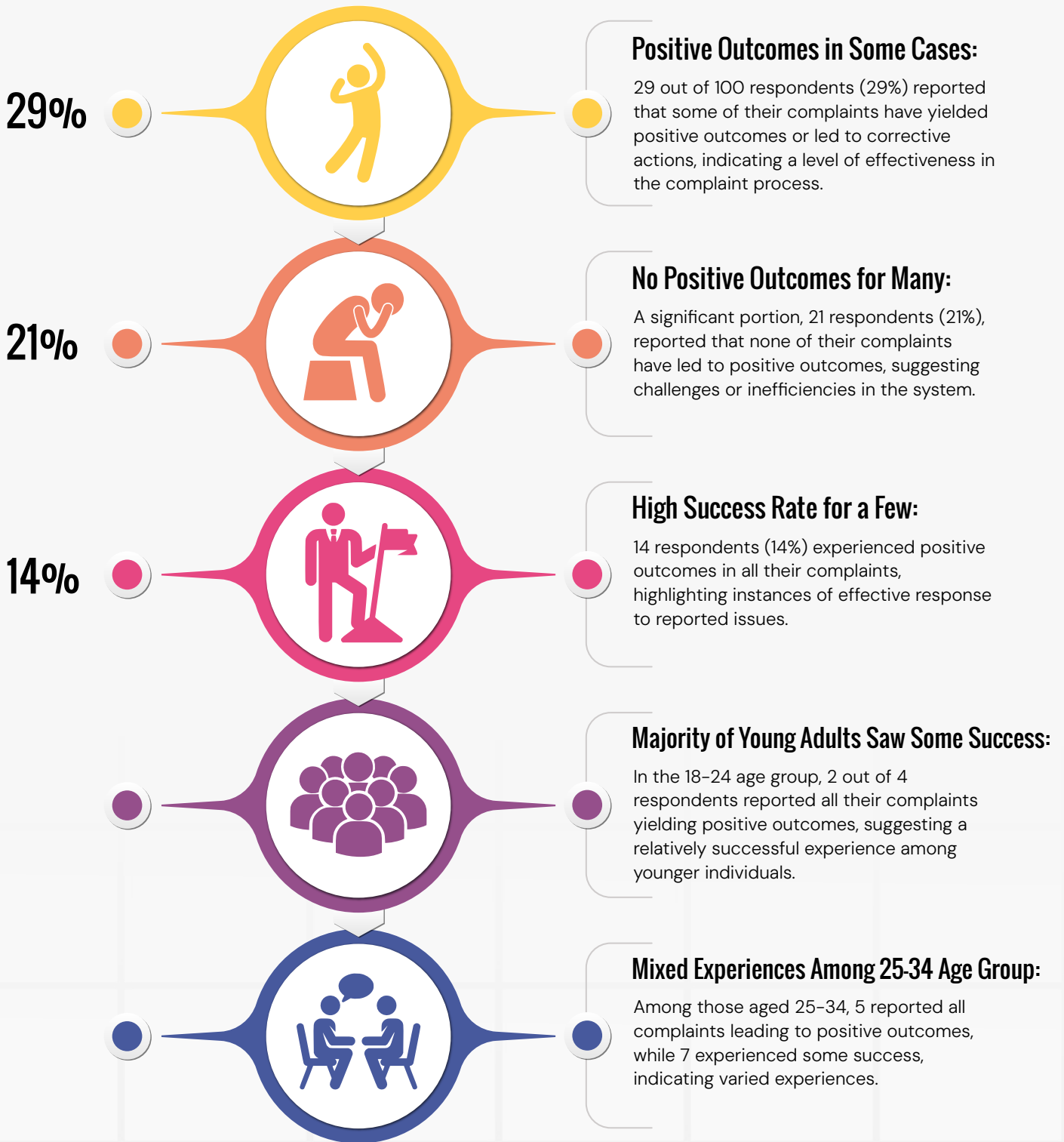
Court Registrars primarily reported no negative consequences (17 out of 47), suggesting a relatively safer reporting environment in their role.



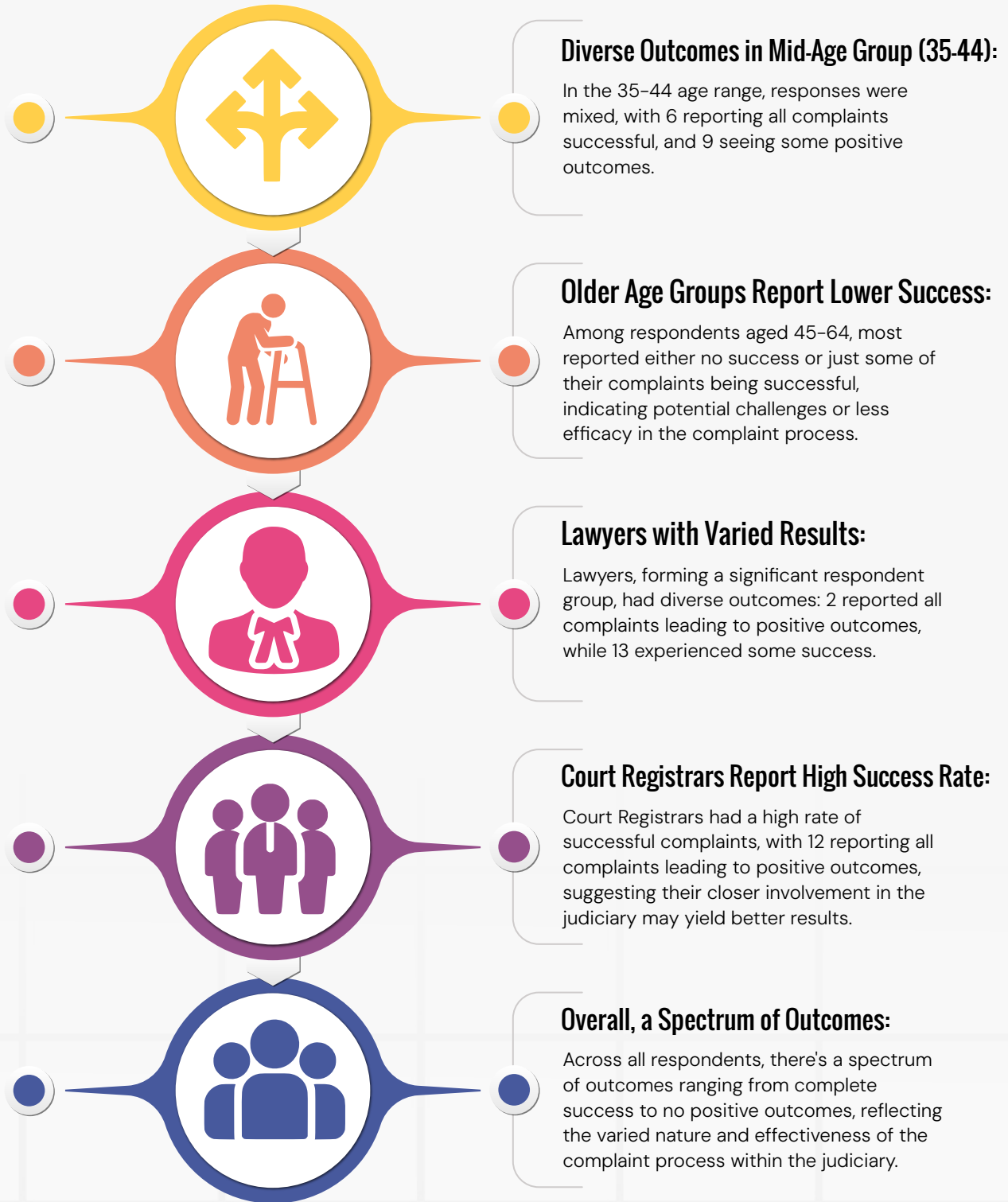
Overall Mixed Reporting Experiences:

The overall data shows a mix of experiences, with a significant number reporting no negative outcomes post-reporting, but a noteworthy minority facing challenges, underscoring the complexity of the reporting environment in the judiciary.

12 Reflecting on your previous complaints, how many have yielded positive outcomes or led to corrective actions?



12 Reflecting on your previous complaints, how many have yielded positive outcomes or led to corrective actions? (cont'd)



13 Based on your experience, how transparent and effective is the process of investigating corruption complaints within the judiciary?

Neutral Views Predominate:

58 out of 151 respondents (38.4%) have a neutral perspective on the transparency and effectiveness of the corruption investigation process, indicating uncertainty or mixed experiences.



38.4%

17.2%



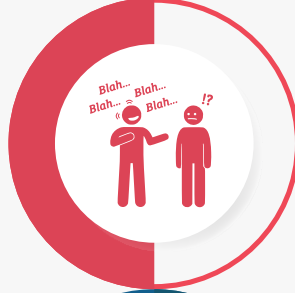
Perceived Lack of Transparency and Effectiveness:

A significant number, 26 respondents (17.2%), view the process as completely non-transparent and ineffective, suggesting strong concerns about the system's integrity.

Some Find the

Process Somewhat Ineffective:

31 respondents (20.5%) find the process somewhat non-transparent and ineffective, reinforcing concerns about the efficiency and transparency of the process.



20.5%



Young Adults' Mixed Perceptions:

In the 18-24 age group, views are divided, with 2 viewing the process as completely non-transparent and ineffective, and 2 as neutral.

Varied Views Among 25-34 Age Group:

Those aged 25-34 show varied opinions, with a notable number (36) holding a neutral view, but also significant concerns about non-transparency and ineffectiveness (26).



13

Based on your experience, how transparent and effective is the process of investigating corruption complaints within the judiciary? (cont'd)

Mid-Age Group (35-44)

Concerned About Transparency:

In the 35-44 age range, 13 view the process as completely non-transparent and ineffective, while 14 have a neutral stance.



Older Age Groups Lean Towards Neutral or Somewhat Ineffective:

Among respondents aged 45-64, the majority are either neutral or view the process as somewhat non-transparent and ineffective.



Lawyers Express Diverse Opinions:

Lawyers, a significant respondent group, have diverse views: 15 see the process as completely non-transparent and ineffective, while 39 are neutral.



Court Registrars' Varied Experiences:

Court Registrars report varied experiences, with 11 viewing the process as completely non-transparent and ineffective, but 14 are neutral.



Overall, Mixed Views on Process Effectiveness:

Across all respondents, there are mixed views on the transparency and effectiveness of the process, with a notable number expressing concerns about non-transparency and ineffectiveness, but the largest group remains neutral.

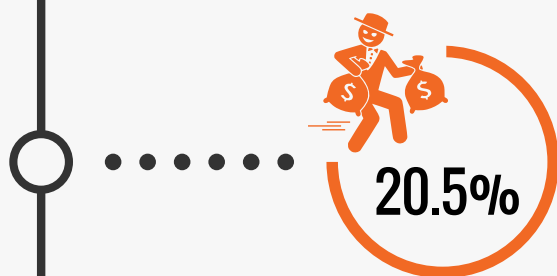


14 How often have you personally witnessed or been directly involved in situations indicating corruption within the judiciary?



Most Never Witnessed Corruption:

A majority of respondents, 74 out of 151 (49%), report never having personally witnessed or been directly involved in situations of corruption, indicating a significant number of individuals with no direct experience of corruption.



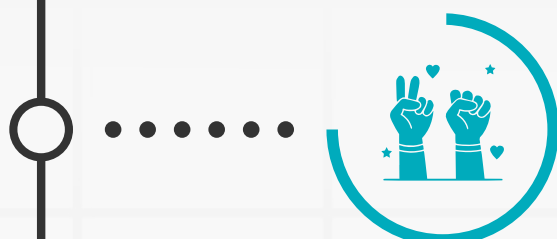
Occasional Encounters with Corruption:

31 respondents (20.5%) have occasionally witnessed or been involved in corrupt situations, suggesting intermittent exposure.



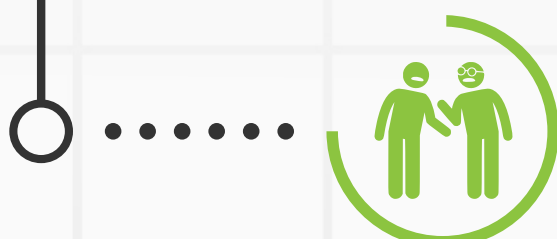
Rare Instances of Corruption for Some:

34 respondents (22.5%) report rarely encountering corruption, indicating infrequent but existent exposure.



Young Adults Less Exposed:

In the 18–24 age group, most respondents (5 out of 7) have never witnessed corruption, suggesting lower exposure among younger individuals.

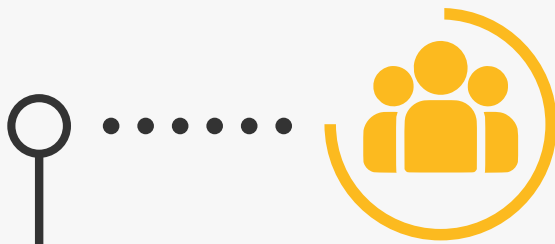


Varied Experiences Among 25-34 Age Group:

Those aged 25–34 show a range of experiences, with a notable number (41) never encountering corruption, but also significant occurrences of occasional (19) and rare (19) encounters.

14

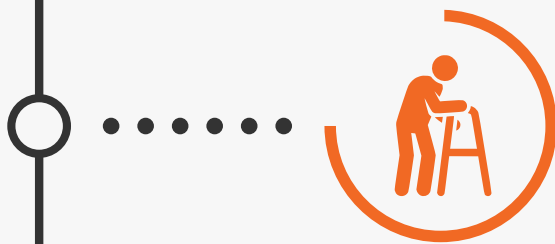
How often have you personally witnessed or been directly involved in situations indicating corruption within the judiciary? (cont'd)



Mid-Age Group (35-44)

Witnesses Occasional Corruption:

In the 35–44 age range, 7 respondents have occasionally witnessed corruption, while 2 report constant exposure, indicating varied experiences.



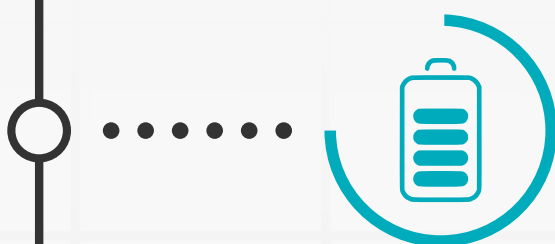
Older Age Groups Report Lower Exposure:

Among respondents aged 45–64, the majority report never or rarely witnessing corruption.



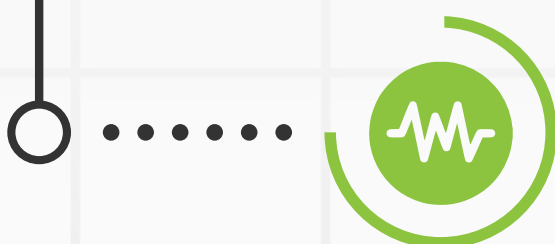
Lawyers Witness Corruption More Frequently:

Among lawyers, 2 report constant corruption exposure, and a combined 32 report occasional or often witnessing corruption, indicating more frequent exposure in this profession.



Court Registrars' Significant Exposure:

Court Registrars report varied levels of exposure, with 8 encountering corruption occasionally and another 8 rarely.



Overall, a Spectrum of Exposure Levels:

Across all respondents, there's a spectrum from never witnessing corruption to encountering it all the time, reflecting diverse experiences within the judiciary.

15 How has the presence (or perception) of corruption within the judiciary affected your professional motivation?



33.8%

Significant Decrease in Motivation for Many:

A notable number of respondents, 51 out of 151 (33.8%), report a significant decrease in motivation due to corruption, indicating a demoralizing effect on professionals.



26.5%

No Impact on Motivation for Some:

40 respondents (26.5%) state that corruption has had no impact on their professional motivation, suggesting resilience or indifference to these issues.



24.5%

Slight Decrease in Motivation:

37 respondents (24.5%) experience a slight decrease in motivation, indicating a negative but less profound impact on their professional drive.



9.3%

Increased Motivation to Bring About Change:

A smaller group, 14 respondents (9.3%), report an increase in motivation (either significantly or slightly), driven by a desire to bring about change, reflecting a proactive response to corruption.



Young Adults' Varied Responses:

In the 18-24 age group, there's a mix of impacts, with 2 reporting significant decreases and 1 slight increase in motivation.

15 How has the presence (or perception) of corruption within the judiciary affected your professional motivation? (cont'd)



**Mixed Experiences
Among 25-34 Age Group:**

Those aged 25–34 show diverse impacts, with 23 experiencing significant decreases and 6 significant increases in motivation.



**Mid-Age Group
(35-44) Mostly Demotivated:**

In the 35–44 age range, 17 report a significant decrease in motivation, indicating a notable demoralizing effect in this demographic.



Older Age Groups' Decreased Motivation:

Among respondents aged 45–64, there's a trend towards decreased motivation, both significant and slight.



Lawyers Particularly Affected:

Among lawyers, 31 report a significant decrease in motivation, indicating that this profession is particularly impacted by the perception of corruption.



**Court Registrars
Show Resilience and Drive:**

Court Registrars have a mixed response, with 17 reporting decreased motivation but also 7 reporting increased motivation to bring about change.

16

Based on your professional experience, how often do you believe judges' decisions are influenced by external pressures rather than legal merits?

**Frequent Influence
From External Pressures:**

A total of 56 out of 151 respondents (37.1%) believe that judges' decisions are influenced by external pressures 'from time to time', suggesting a notable concern about the integrity of judicial decisions.



37.1%

33.8%



Infrequent Influence for Many:

51 respondents (33.8%) believe that such influence occurs 'infrequently', indicating a less pervasive, but still present, concern about external influences.

Some Perceive Constant Influence:

2 respondents (1.3%) believe judges' decisions are 'constantly' influenced by external pressures, highlighting a significant distrust in the judicial process for a small group.



1.3%

18.5%



**A Number Believe
in Judicial Independence:**

28 respondents (18.5%) state that judges' decisions are 'never' influenced by external pressures, reflecting confidence in the independence of the judiciary.

Young Adults' Mixed Views:

In the 18-24 age group, opinions are divided with some believing in infrequent influence and others in more regular influence.



16

Based on your professional experience, how often do you believe judges' decisions are influenced by external pressures rather than legal merits? (cont'd)

**Varied Perceptions
Among 25-34 Age Group:**

Those aged 25–34 show diverse opinions: 36 believe in occasional influence, while 29 see it as infrequent, indicating varied experiences or perceptions.



**Mid-Age Group (35-44)
Believes in Occasional Influence:**

In the 35–44 age range, a majority perceive external influence as occurring from time to time, indicating concerns about judicial independence.



Older Age Groups Have Diverse Opinions:

Among respondents aged 45–64, there's a mix between beliefs of infrequent and occasional external influence on judges' decisions.



Lawyers Note Regular Influence:

A significant number of lawyers, 43 (47.3% of lawyers), believe that judges' decisions are influenced from time to time by external pressures, reflecting their close interaction with the judiciary.

47.3%



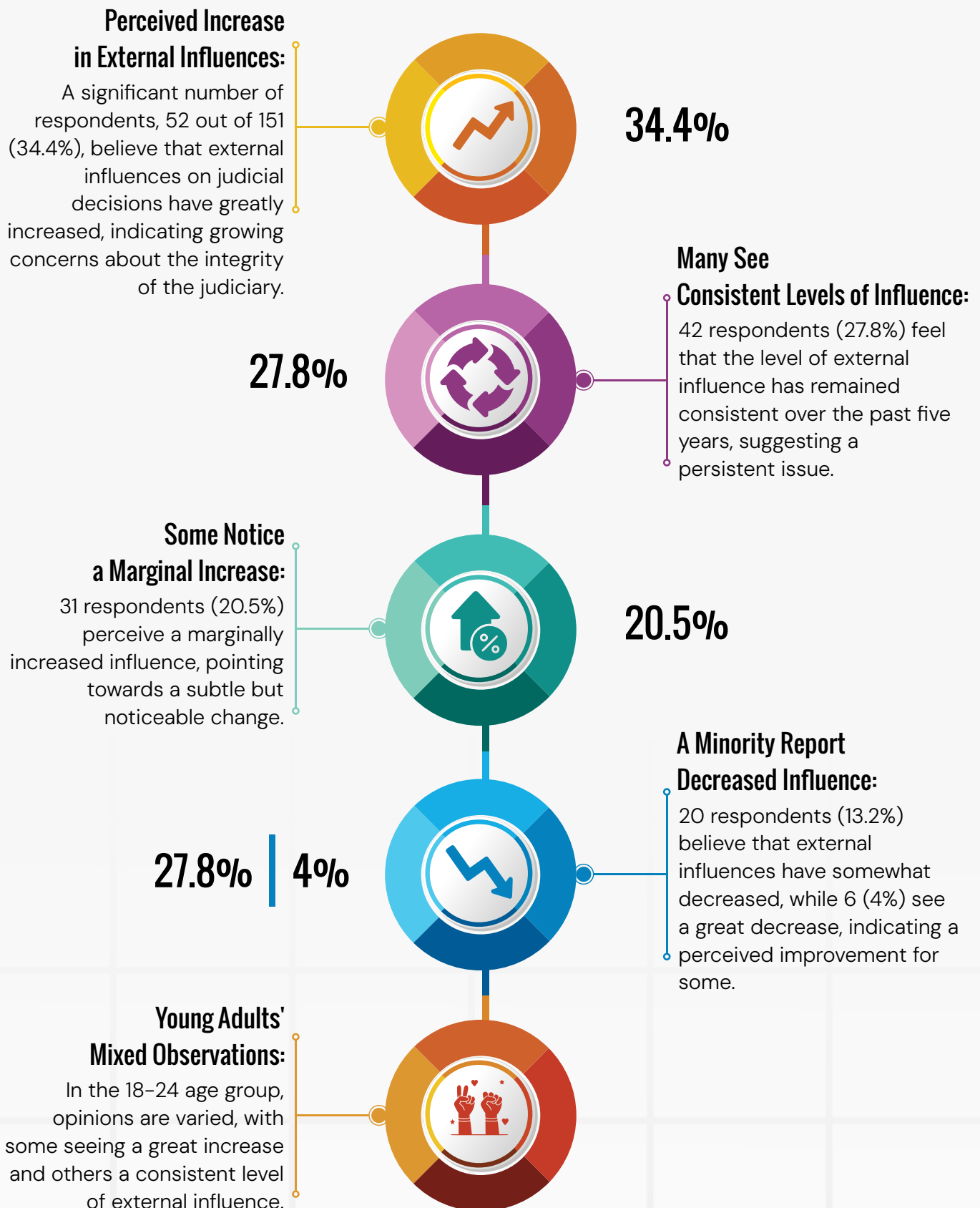
**Overall, Concerns
About External Influence:**

Across all respondents, there is a notable concern about the influence of external pressures on judicial decisions, with a majority believing it happens at least infrequently.



17

Considering the past five years, how would you evaluate the prevalence of external influences on judicial decisions within your jurisdiction?



17

Considering the past five years, how would you evaluate the prevalence of external influences on judicial decisions within your jurisdiction? (cont'd)

Diverse Views

Among 25-34 Age Group:

Those aged 25-34 show a range of views, with a notable number (24) seeing a great increase and 27 perceiving consistent levels of influence.



Mid-Age Group (35-44) Concerned About Increasing Influence:

In the 35-44 age range, 18 respondents believe that external influence has greatly increased, indicating significant concern in this demographic.



Older Age Groups Report Varied Trends:

Among respondents aged 45-64, there's a mix between perceptions of increased influence and consistent levels.



Lawyers Report Both Increases and Consistency:

A significant number of lawyers, 28, perceive a great increase in external influence, while 32 see it as consistent, reflecting their varied experiences within the legal system.



Overall, Concerns About Growing External Influence:

Across all respondents, there is a notable concern about the increasing prevalence of external influences on judicial decisions, although a significant portion also sees this influence as consistent over time.



18

Reflecting on real-life events you've witnessed, what concrete steps do you think are necessary to move the Nigerian judiciary towards being perceived as unbiased, just, and accountable?

In this thematic analysis of suggestions for improving the perception and effectiveness of the Nigerian judiciary, the following research findings were spotlighted based on the responses:

Judicial Autonomy and Independence:

Respondents frequently emphasized the importance of judicial autonomy, suggesting that the judiciary "should stand alone as one of the arms of government" and be "practically given their full autonomy." This is indicative of a public perception that the judiciary may be under undue influence from other branches of government, and there is a strong call for it to operate without interference.

Merit-based Appointments and Promotions:

Many responses highlighted the need for "Appointment of Judicial officers on merit" as a cornerstone for building a judiciary perceived as unbiased and competent. The call for "meritorious appointment of judges and magistrates" suggests a widespread concern that current practices may not sufficiently prioritize merit.

Transparency in Operations and Decisions:

Transparency was identified as a critical need, with respondents calling for "Clear transparency" and expressing concern over the perceived opacity in "appointments, promotions, discipline." This theme aligns with global best practices for judicial integrity and is seen as vital for enhancing public trust.

Enhanced Accountability:

Accountability is closely linked with transparency in respondents' views. Calls for the judiciary to "stay true and be accountable" and for real rather than "paper autonomy" underscore the demand for a system where judges are answerable for their actions and decisions.

Improved Welfare and Remuneration for Judicial Officers:

There is a consensus that "Increase in their salary" and "proper remuneration" are necessary to maintain an independent judiciary. Respondents believe that better compensation would reduce corruption and attract more qualified professionals to the judiciary.

18

Reflecting on real-life events you've witnessed, what concrete steps do you think are necessary to move the Nigerian judiciary towards being perceived as unbiased, just, and accountable? (cont'd)

In this thematic analysis of suggestions for improving the perception and effectiveness of the Nigerian judiciary, the following research findings were spotlighted based on the responses:

Reduced Executive Influence:

The responses reflect concerns about the "financial autonomy from the executive" and the "removal of the involvement of the executive arm in the appointment process." This theme suggests that the executive branch's influence is seen as a barrier to a fair and independent judiciary.

Public Engagement and Social Orientation:

Engaging with the public through "social orientation" and transparent communication were suggested as ways to improve the judiciary's image. This indicates a perceived distance between the judiciary and the citizenry that needs to be bridged for a more robust legal system.

Effective Discipline and Punishment for Misconduct:

The need for "strict punishment" for judicial officers who commit misconduct reflects a desire for strong disciplinary measures. This sentiment underscores the public's demand for a judiciary that holds its members accountable for their actions.

Technological Integration:

The integration of technology into the judiciary was seen as a means to "aid accountability" and create a "responsive and responsible mechanism" to check judicial conduct. This reflects a broader trend towards digitization and modernization in governance.

Legal and Judicial Education for the Public:

The responses highlight a need for greater "awareness on law" and more knowledge about "our laws and their application." This finding suggests that there is a significant gap in legal literacy among the public, which affects the perception and effectiveness of the judiciary.

19 Please share information about a judge whom you know accepts bribes to influence his/her decisions.

Predominantly No Direct Knowledge:

Many respondents indicate that they do not have personal knowledge of any judge accepting bribes.

Some Indicate General Awareness:

A few responses suggest a general awareness of corrupt practices ("We have many of them and they are well known to the system") without specifying individuals.

Specific Instances are Rare:

Specific instances or names are rarely mentioned, with most respondents either denying knowledge or preferring not to say.

Concerns Expressed Indirectly:

Some comments express indirect concerns or hearsay ("I have heard allegations", "there are speculations about a few").

A Few Responses Mention Influence Beyond Bribes:

Some responses allude to other forms of influence or factors that could compromise judicial decisions ("Not bribe per se, but other influences or factors that compromise judicial decision").

19 Please share information about a judge whom you know accepts bribes to influence his/her decisions. (cont'd)

Jurisdictional Issues Raised:

At least one response suggests a situation where a case was heard and then dismissed for lack of jurisdiction as a potential indicator of corruption.

Vagueness and Subjectivity:

Several respondents reflect on the subjectivity of the question or the difficulty in disclosing such information ("This question is very subjective", "Can't disclose").

Some Named Instances:

There are a very small number of instances where specific judges are named, but these seem to be exceptions rather than the rule.

Variety of Responses:

The responses vary from emojis to short phrases ("🤔", "None", "NA"), indicating a range of engagement levels with the question.

Caution and Reluctance:

There is a noticeable caution and reluctance to provide detailed information, with some respondents explicitly stating they prefer not to say or denying direct involvement.

