



Corruption, trust, and performance of political leaders

Findings from Afrobarometer Round 6 survey in Sierra Leone



At a glance

- **Trust:** Sierra Leoneans express lower levels of trust in the president, local government councilors, the National Revenue Authority, the ruling party, and the army than they did in 2012. The proportion who say they trust the president “somewhat” or “a lot” declined from 70% to 52%.
- **Corruption:** Seven of ten Sierra Leoneans (70%) say that corruption increased over the previous year, and only one-third of respondents think citizens can make a difference in the fight against corruption.
- **Performance:** About half (51%) of Sierra Leoneans approve of the president’s performance over the previous 12 months, while about seven in ten disapprove of the performance of their MPs and local government councilors.



What is Afrobarometer?



- An African-led, non-partisan survey research project that measures citizen attitudes on democracy and governance, the economy, civil society, and other topics.
- Started in 12 countries in 1999, expanded to 35 African countries in Round 5 (2011-2013).
- Goal: To give the public a voice in policymaking by providing high-quality public opinion data to policymakers, policy advocates, civil society organizations, academics, news media, donors and investors, and ordinary Africans.
- National Partners in each country conduct the survey. In Sierra Leone, Afrobarometer Round 6 survey field work was conducted by ITASCAP, and CGG and Lena Thompson are responsible for dissemination of results.



Methodology



- Nationally representative sample of adult citizens
 - ❑ All respondents are *randomly* selected.
 - ❑ Sample is distributed across districts/provinces and urban/rural areas in proportion to their share in the national population.
 - ❑ Every adult citizen has an *equal* chance of being selected.
- Face-to-face interviews In the language of the respondent's choice.
- Standard questionnaire allows comparisons across countries and over time.
- Sample size in Sierra Leone of 1,200 adult citizens yields country-level results with a margin of error of +/-3% at a 95% confidence level.
- Fieldwork for Round 6 in Sierra Leone was conducted between 22 May and 10 June 2015.



Survey demographics

		Unweighted (%)	Weighted (%)
Gender			
	Male	49	50
	Female	51	50
Location			
	Urban	37	37
	Rural	63	63
Region			
	East	25	25
	North	33	33
	South	22	22
	West	20	20
Education			
	No formal education	46	45
	Primary	13	13
	Secondary	28	28
	Post-secondary	13	14
Religion			
	Christian	23	22
	Muslim	73	73
	Other	4	4

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Results



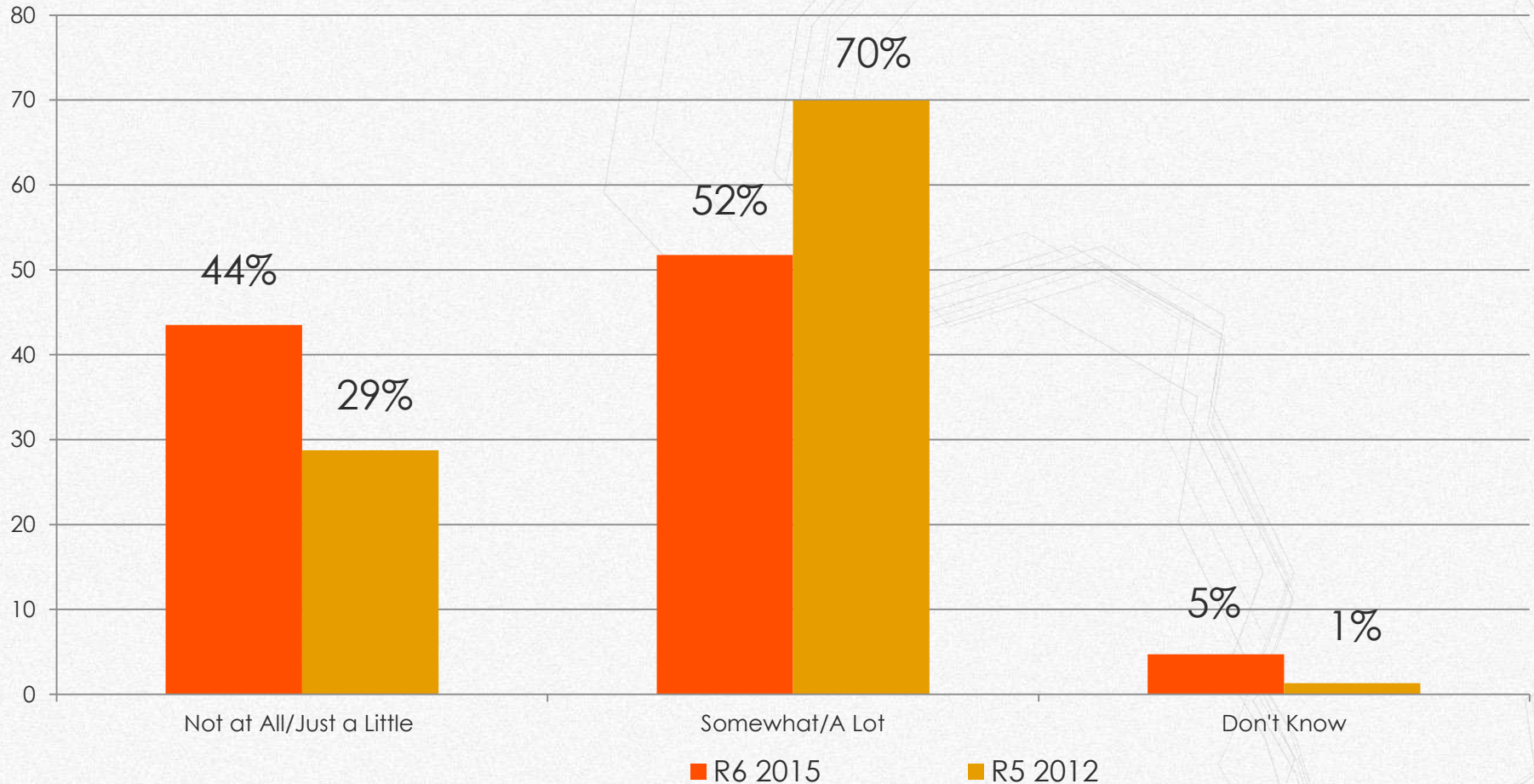
Trust in public institutions

Key findings

- Compared to the previous survey in 2012, citizens express lower levels of trust in the president, local government councillors, the National Revenue Authority, the ruling party, and the army.
- The proportion of citizens who say they trust the president “somewhat” or “a lot” declined from 70% to 52%.
- Less than one-third (31%) of citizens say they trust the police “somewhat” or “a lot.”
- Sierra Leoneans remain divided over their trust in the National Electoral Commission.

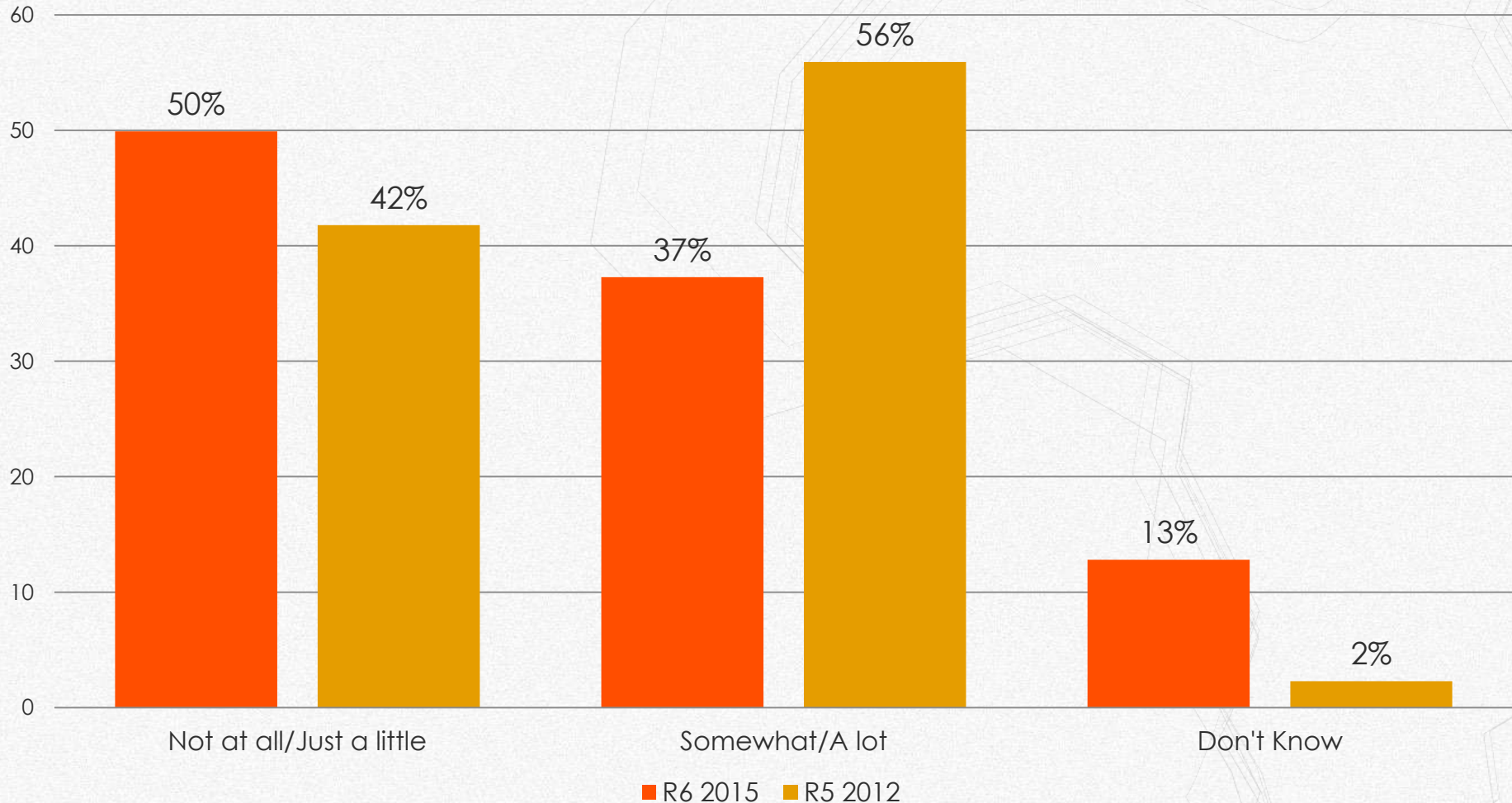


Trust in the president | 2012-2015



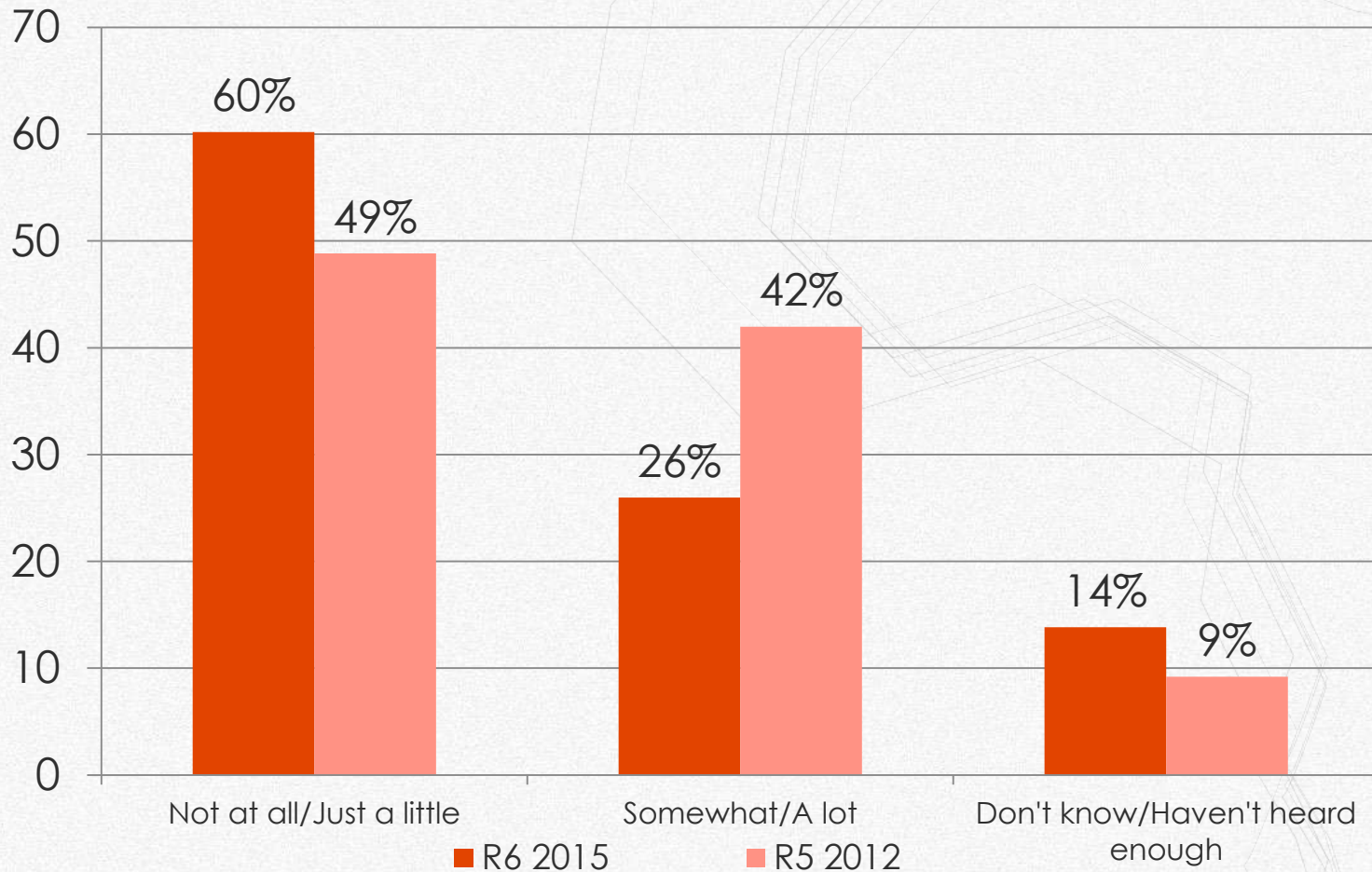
Respondents were asked: *How much do you trust each of the following, or haven't you heard enough about them to say: The president?*

Trust in National Electoral Commission | 2012-2015



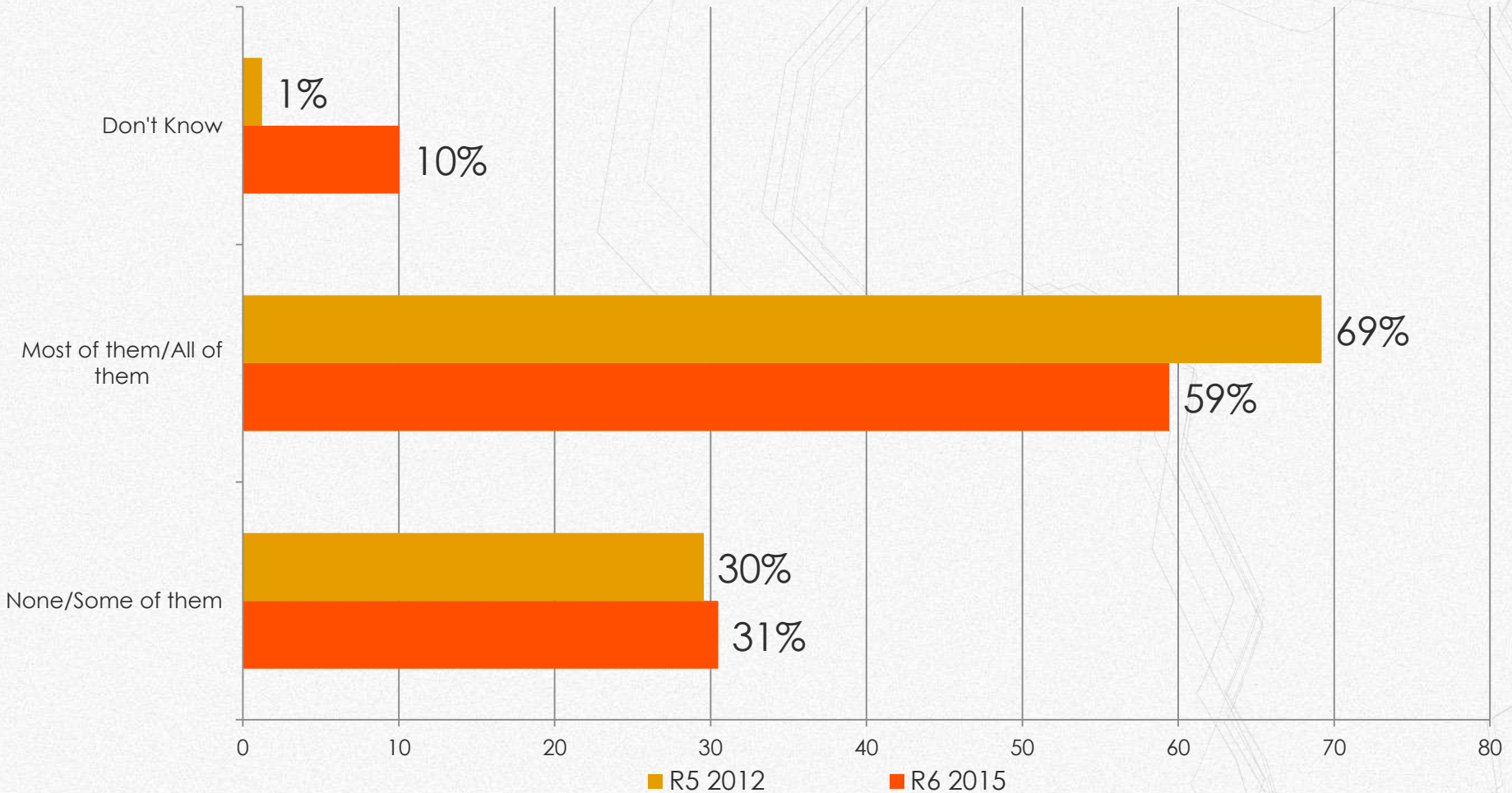
Respondents were asked: How much do you trust each of the following, or haven't you heard enough about them to say: The National Electoral Commission (NEC)?

Trust in the National Revenue Authority | 2012-2015



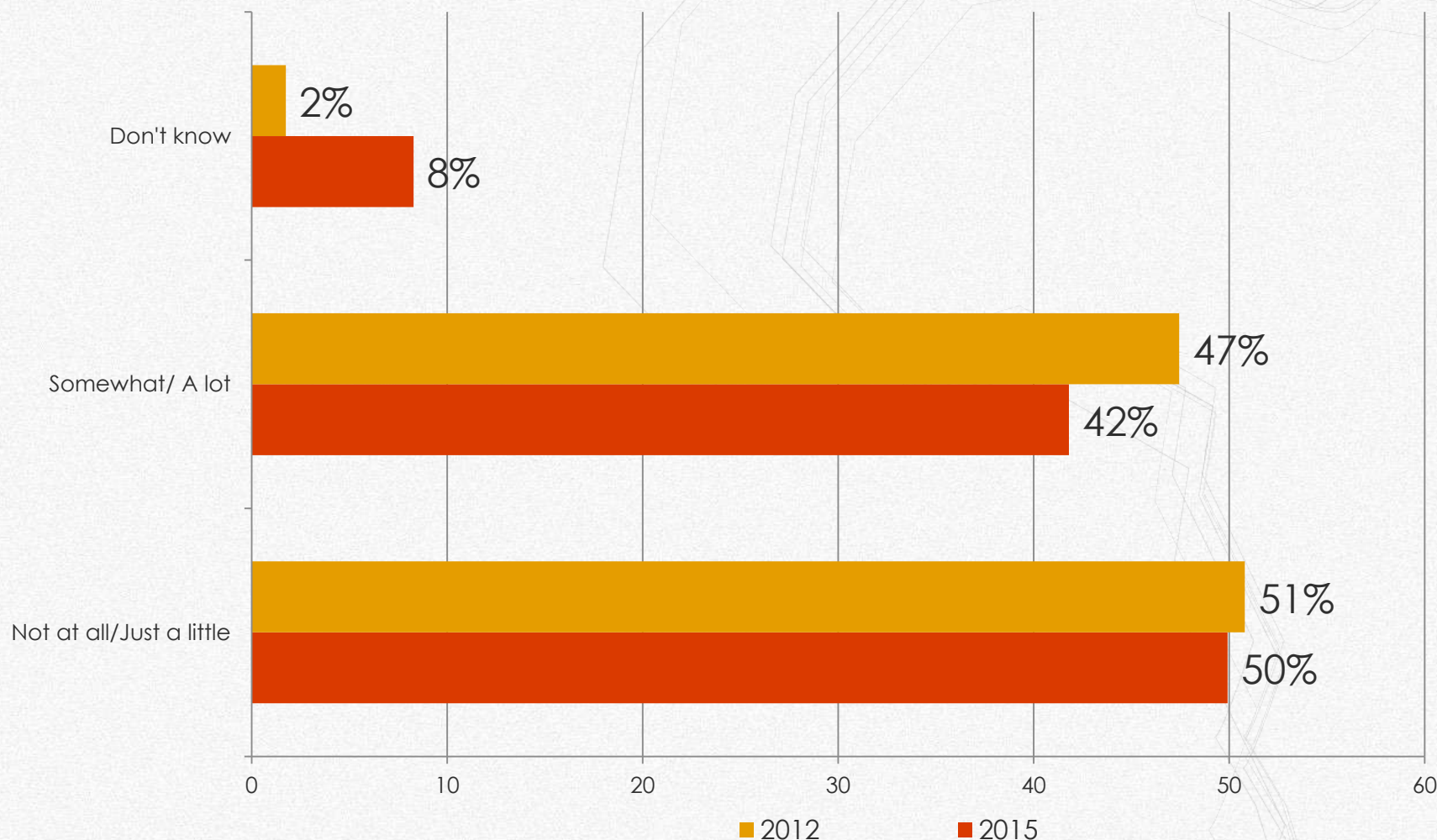
Respondents were asked: How much do you trust each of the following, or haven't you heard enough about them to say: The National Revenue Authority (NRA)?

Trust in local government council | 2012-2015



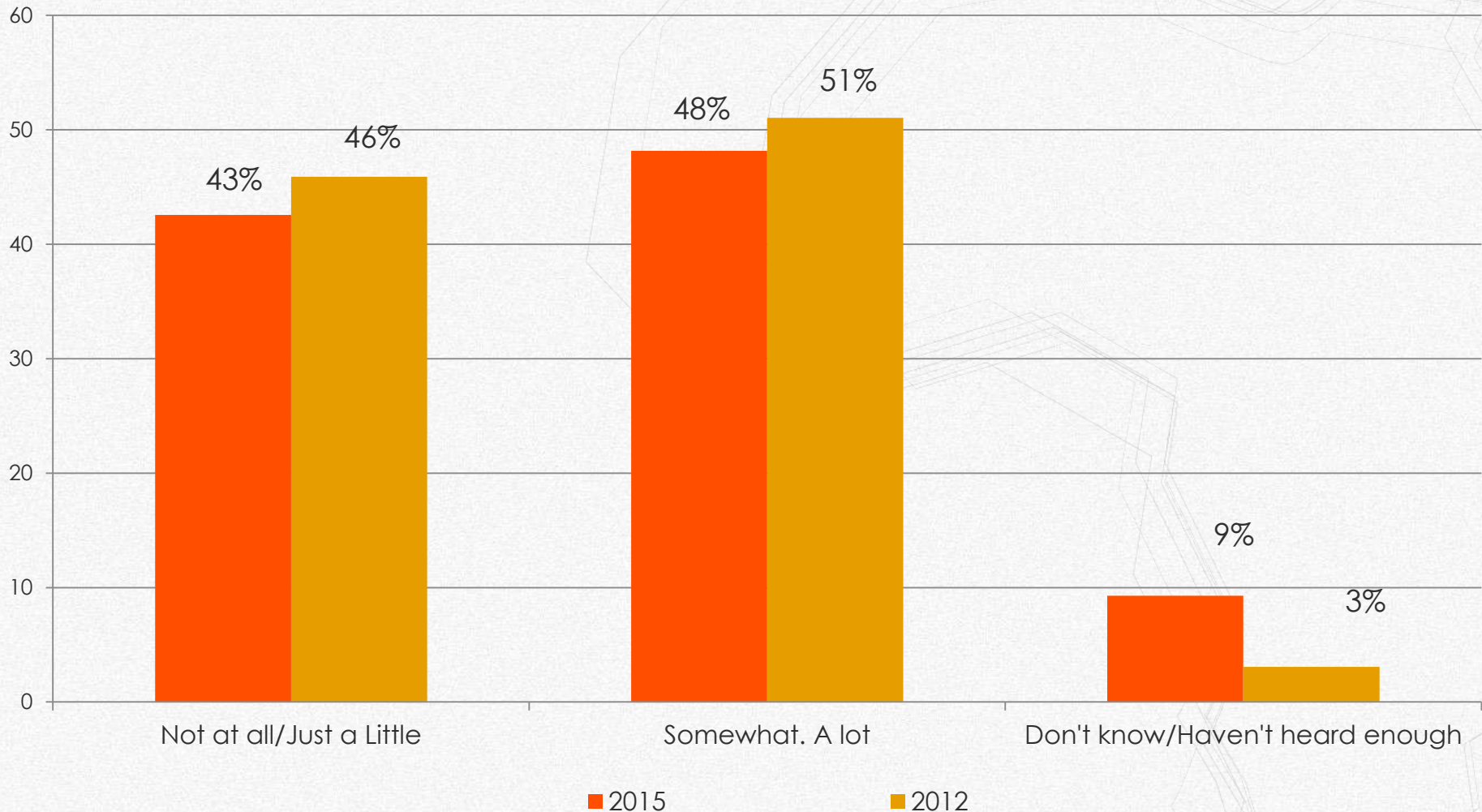
Respondents were asked: *How much do you trust each of the following, or haven't you heard enough about them to say: Your local government council?*

Trust in the ruling party | 2012-2014



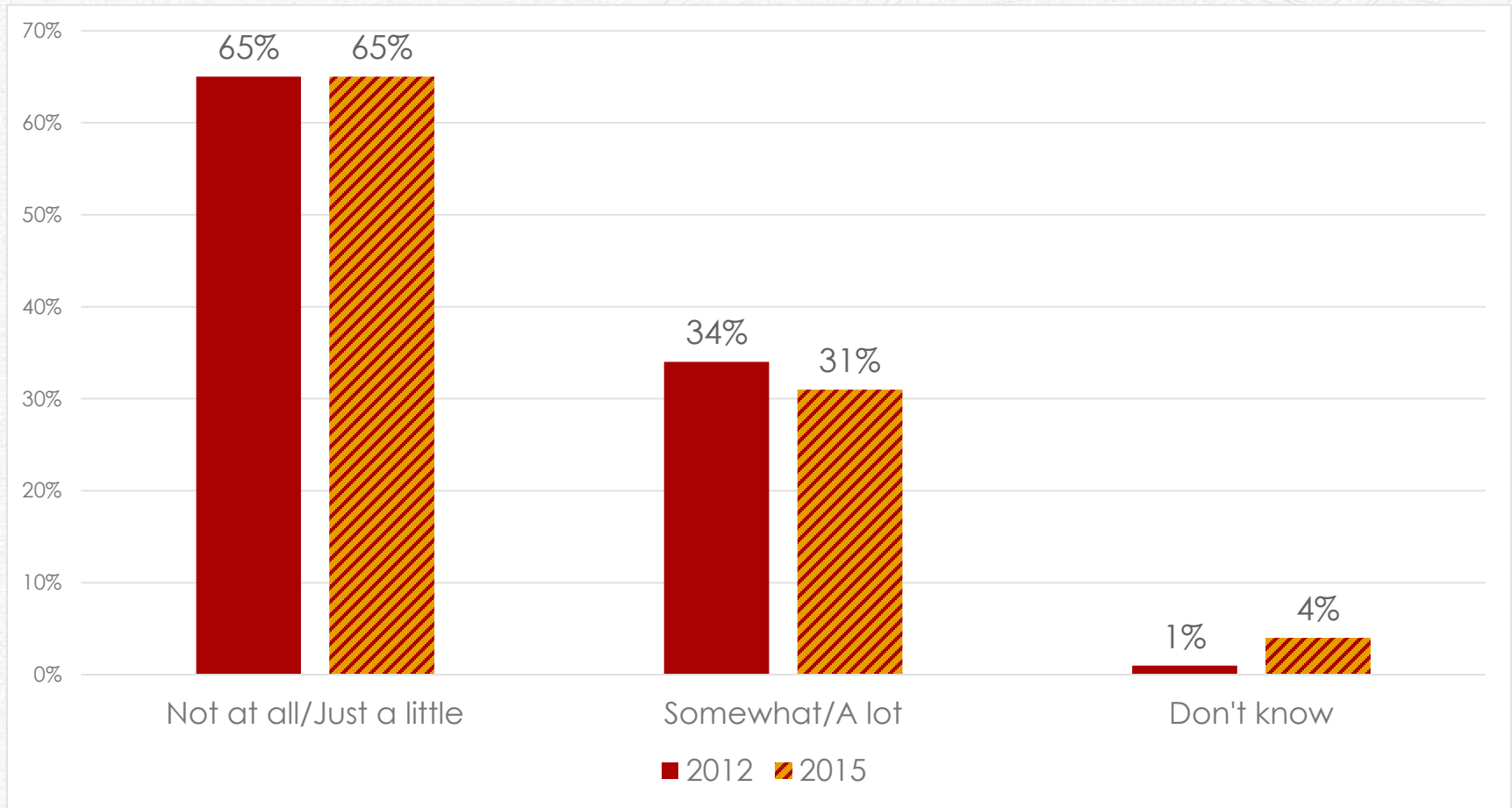
Respondents were asked: *How much do you trust each of the following, or haven't you heard enough about them to say: The ruling party?*

Trust in opposition political parties | 2015



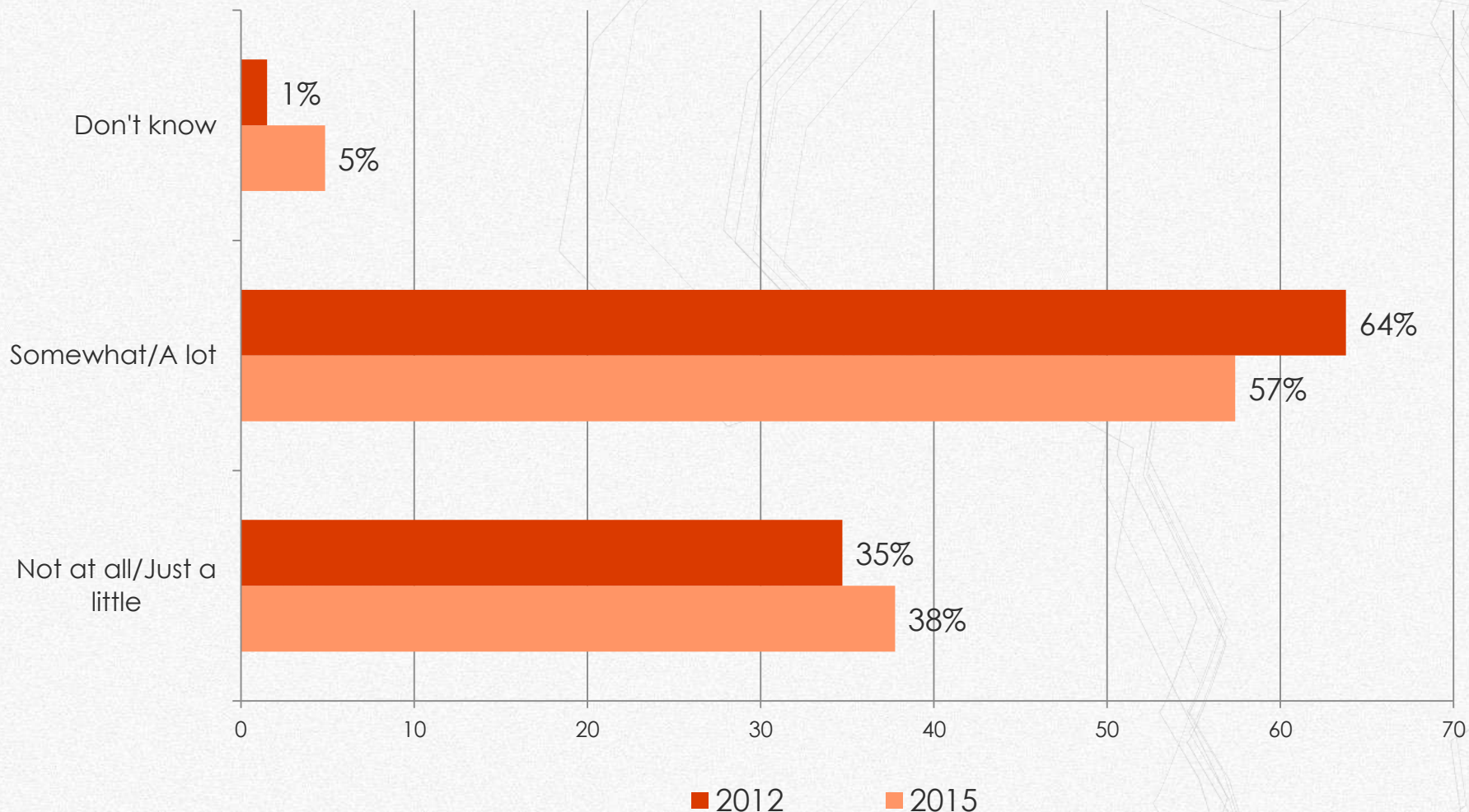
Respondents were asked: *How much do you trust each of the following, or haven't you heard enough about them to say: Opposition political party?*

Trust in the police | 2012-2015



Respondents were asked: *How much do you trust each of the following, or haven't you heard enough about them to say: The police?*

Trust in the Army | 2012-2015



Respondents were asked: *How much do you trust each of the following, or haven't you heard enough about them to say: The army?*



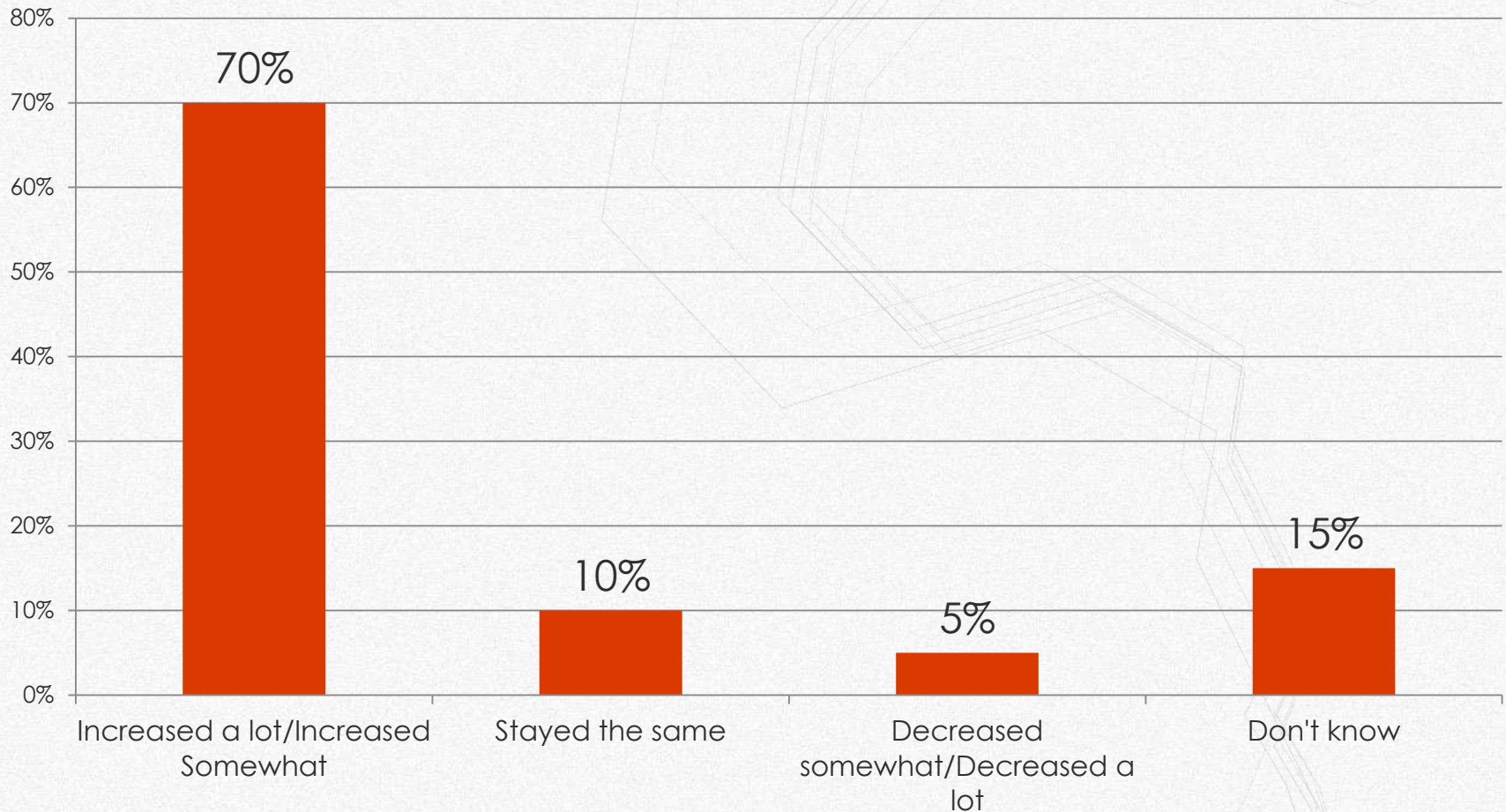
Perception of corruption

Key findings

- Increased corruption: Seven of ten Sierra Leoneans say the level of corruption has increased over the previous year.
- Compared to 2012, citizens perceive more corruption in the president's office and among MPs and government officials.
- The perception of corruption among the police decreased from 2012. Nonetheless, police are still perceived as the most corrupt of state institutions.
- Only one-third (32%) of ten Sierra Leoneans think that ordinary citizens can make a difference in the fight against corruption.

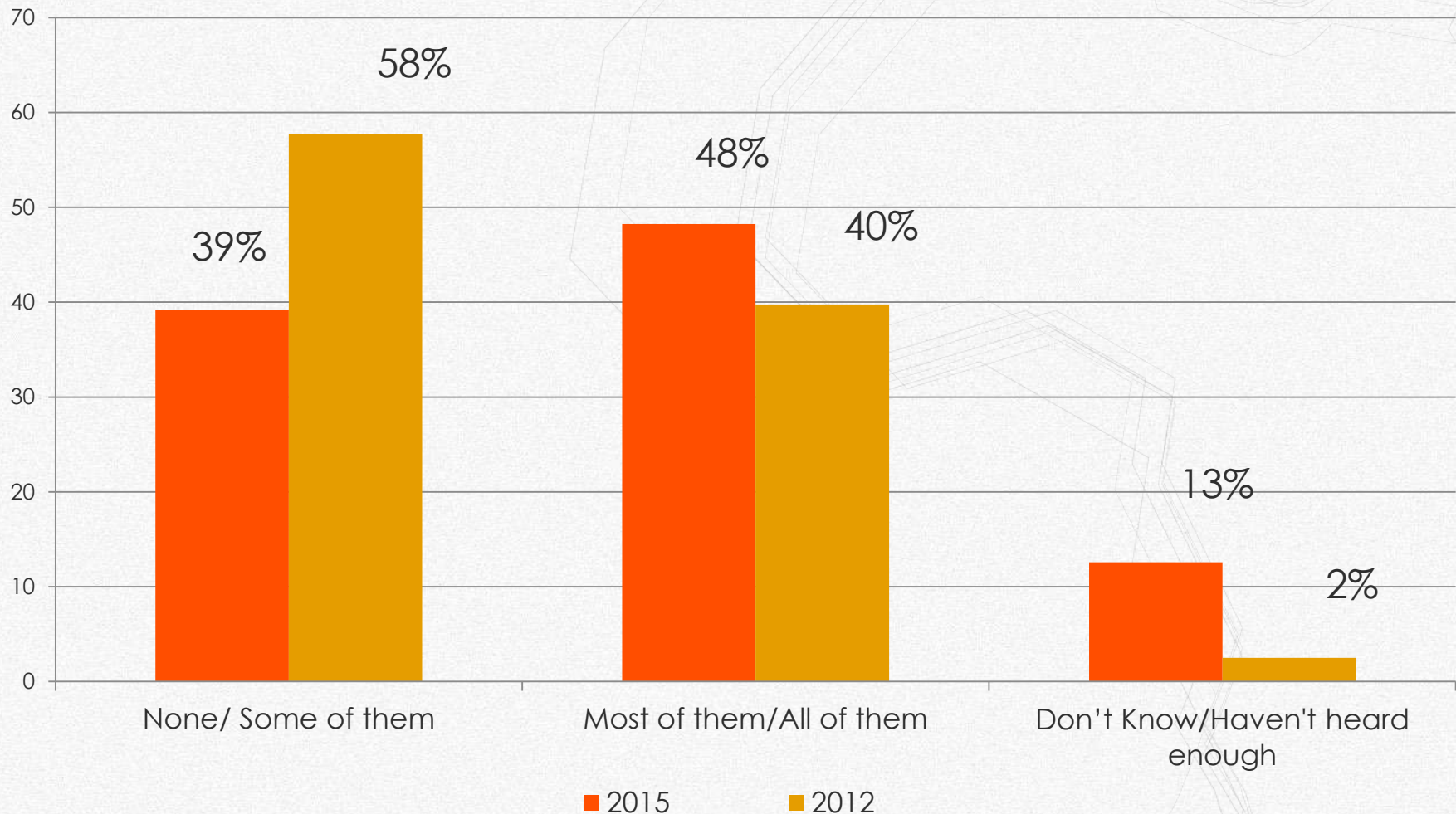


Level of corruption in Sierra Leone | 2015



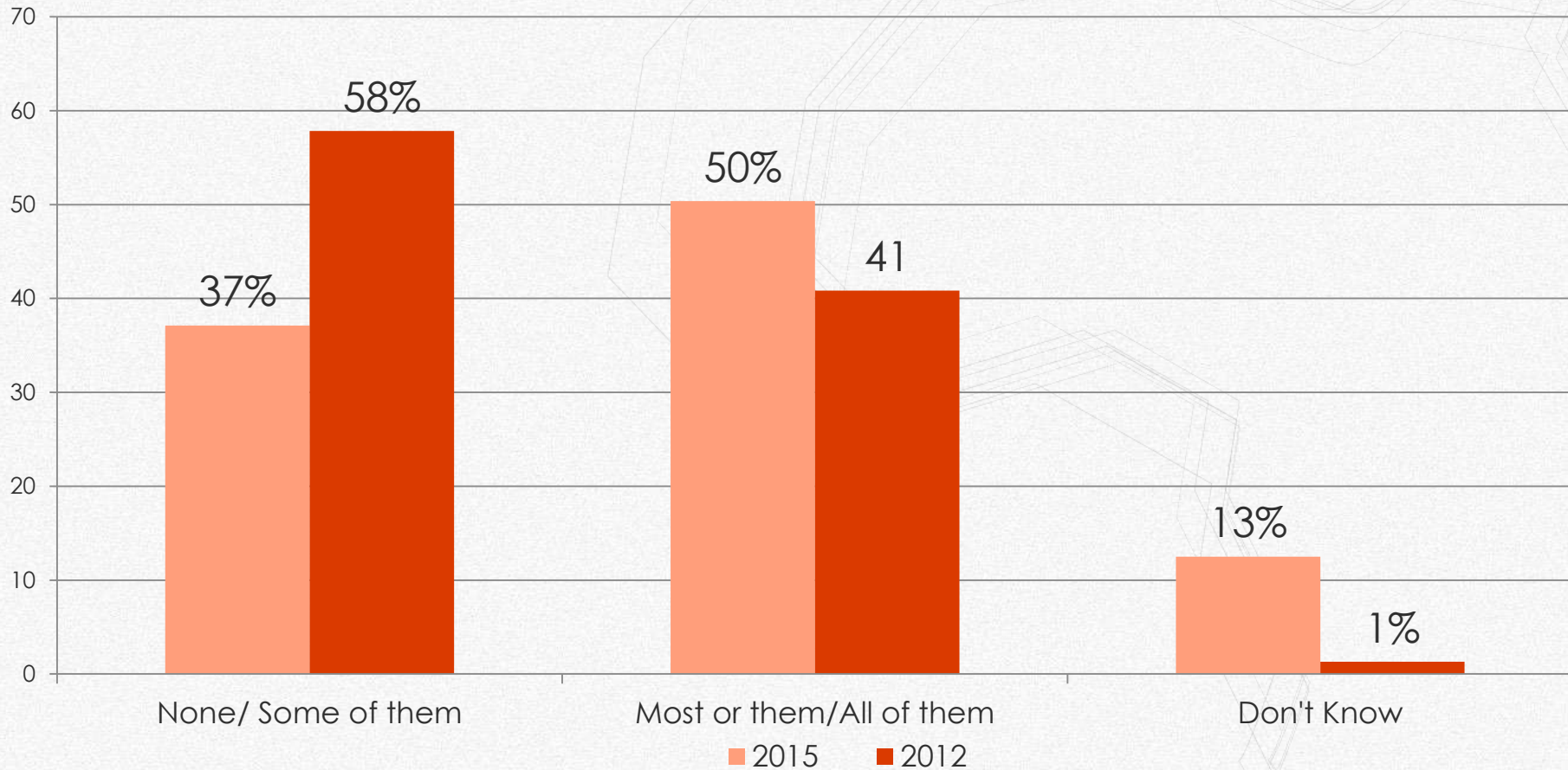
Respondents were asked: *In your opinion, over the past year, has the level of corruption in this country increased, decreased, or stayed the same?*

Corruption in the president's office | 2012-2015



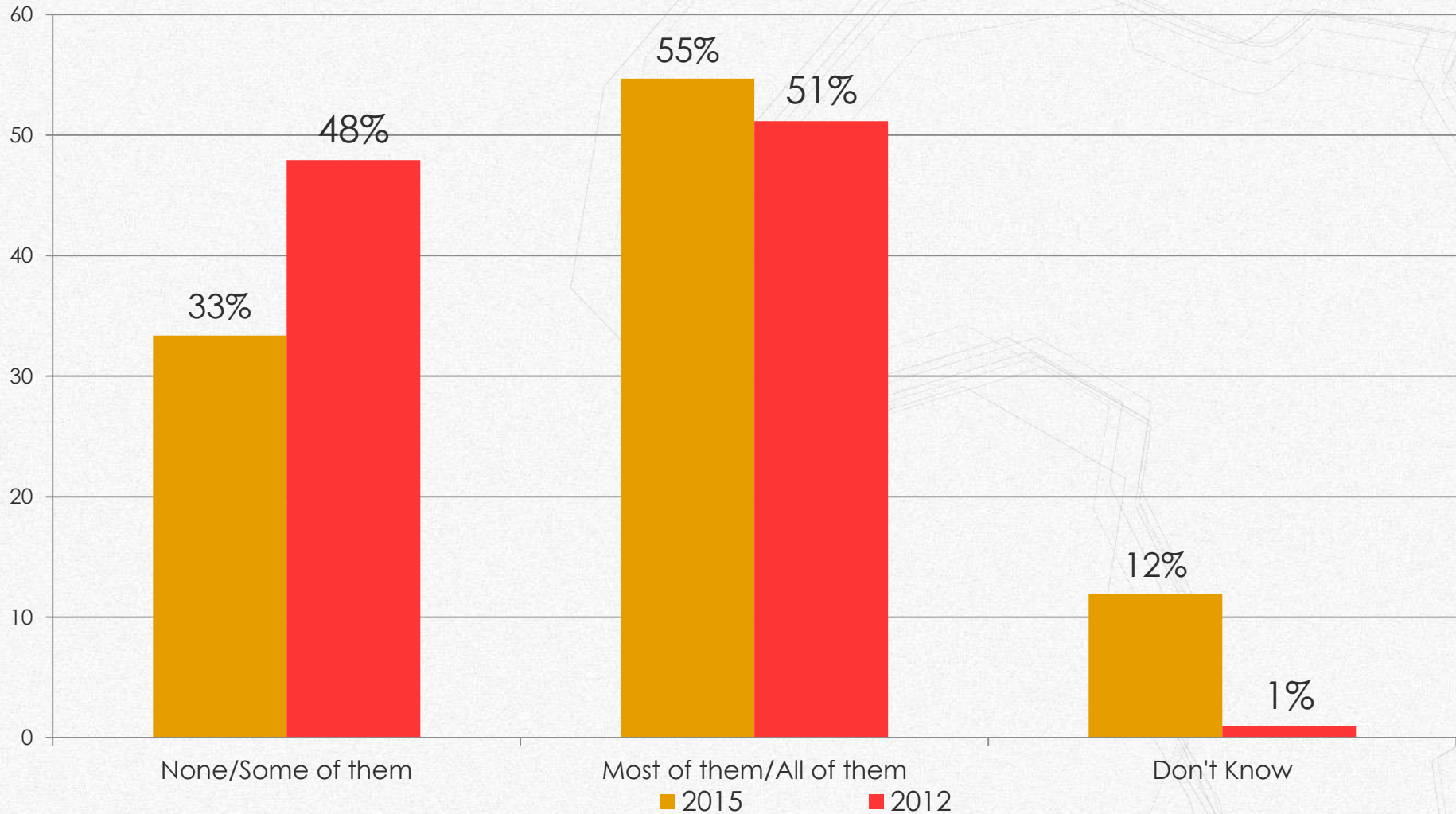
Respondents were asked: *How many of the following people do you think are involved in corruption, or haven't you heard enough about them to say: The office of the presidency?*

Corruption among MPs | 2012-2015



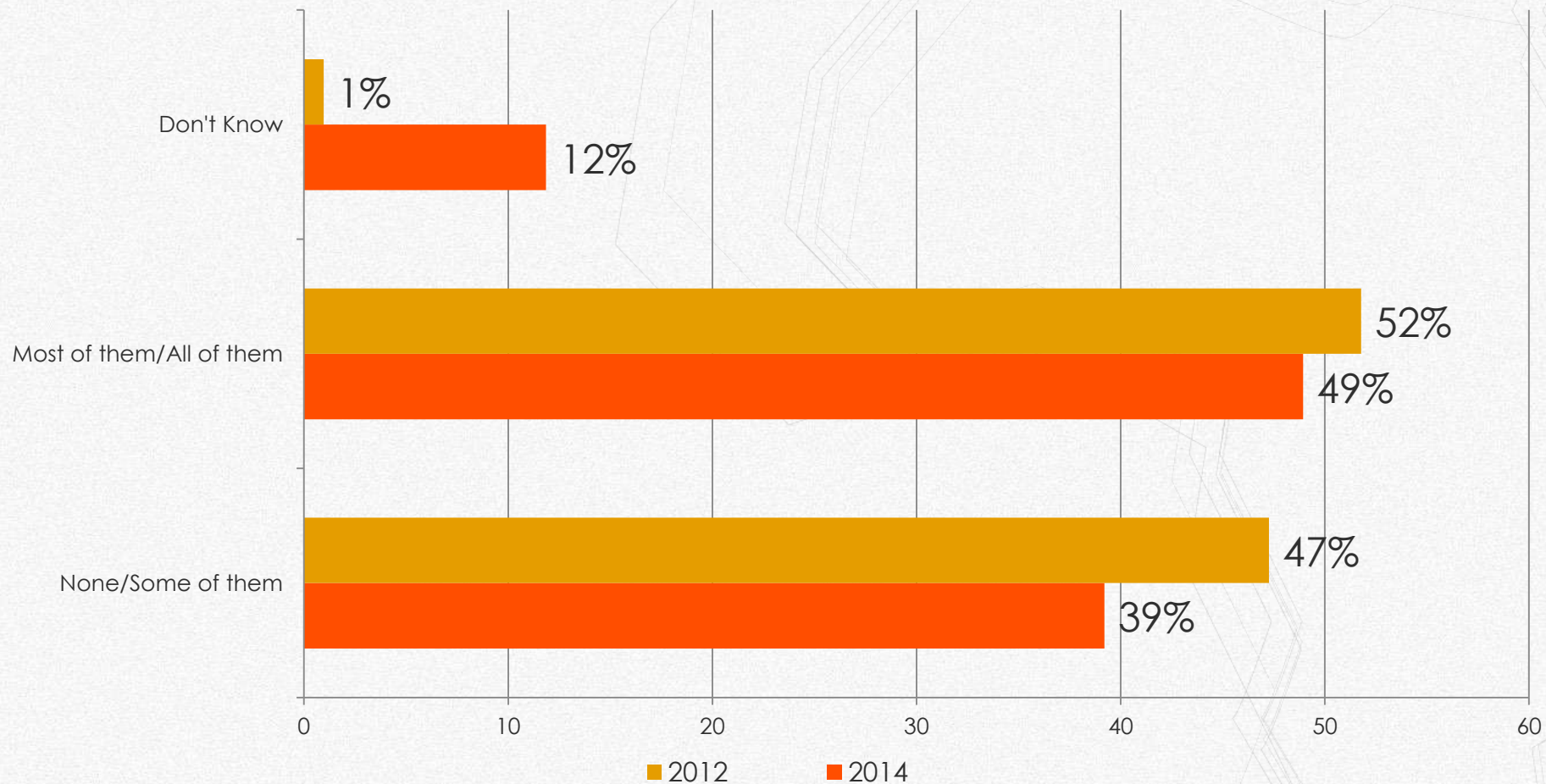
Respondents were asked: *How many of the following people do you think are involved in corruption, or haven't you heard enough about them to say: Members of Parliament?*

Corruption among government officials | 2012-2015



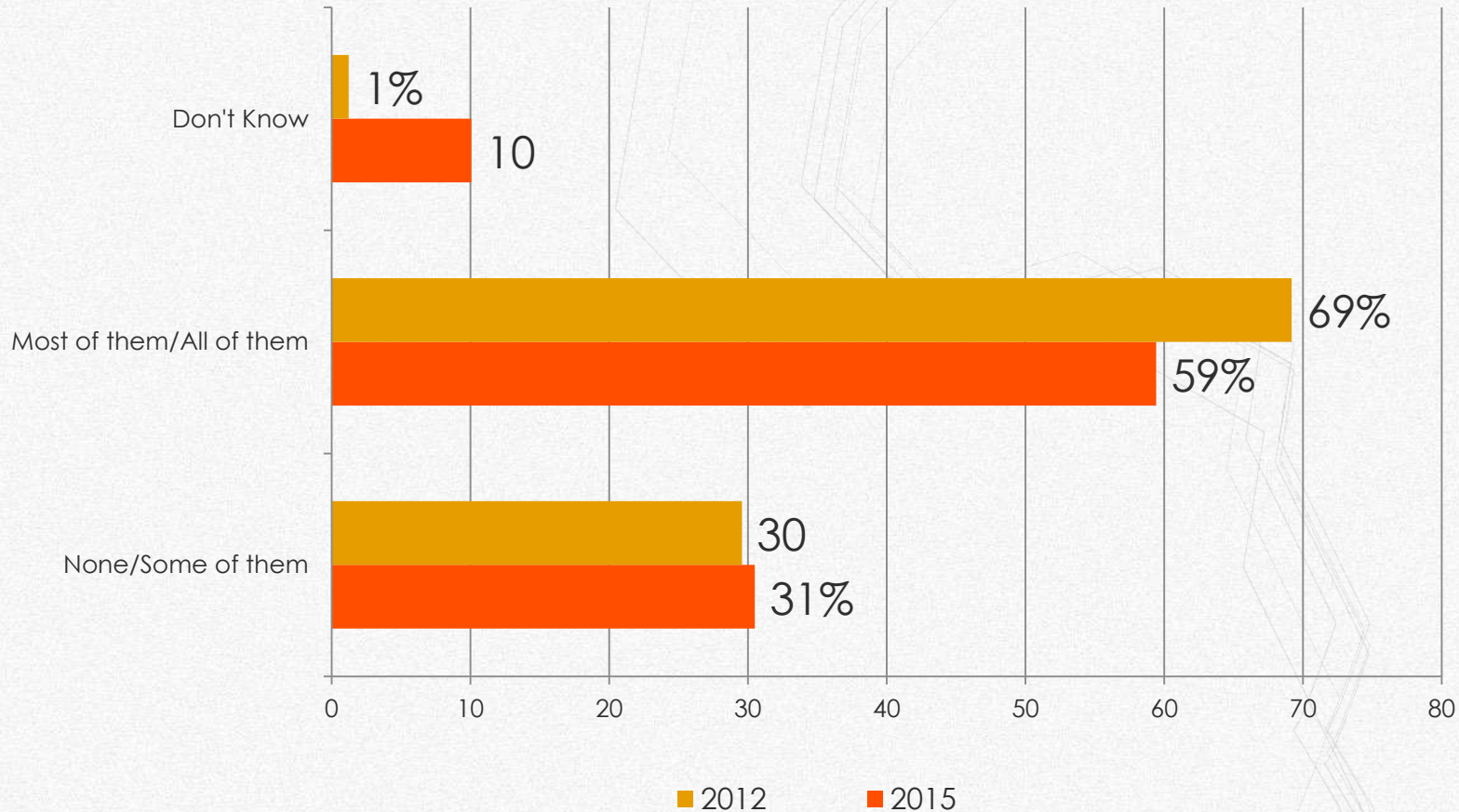
Respondents were asked: *How many of the following people do you think are involved in corruption, or haven't you heard enough about them to say: Government officials?*

Corruption among local government councilors | 2012-2015



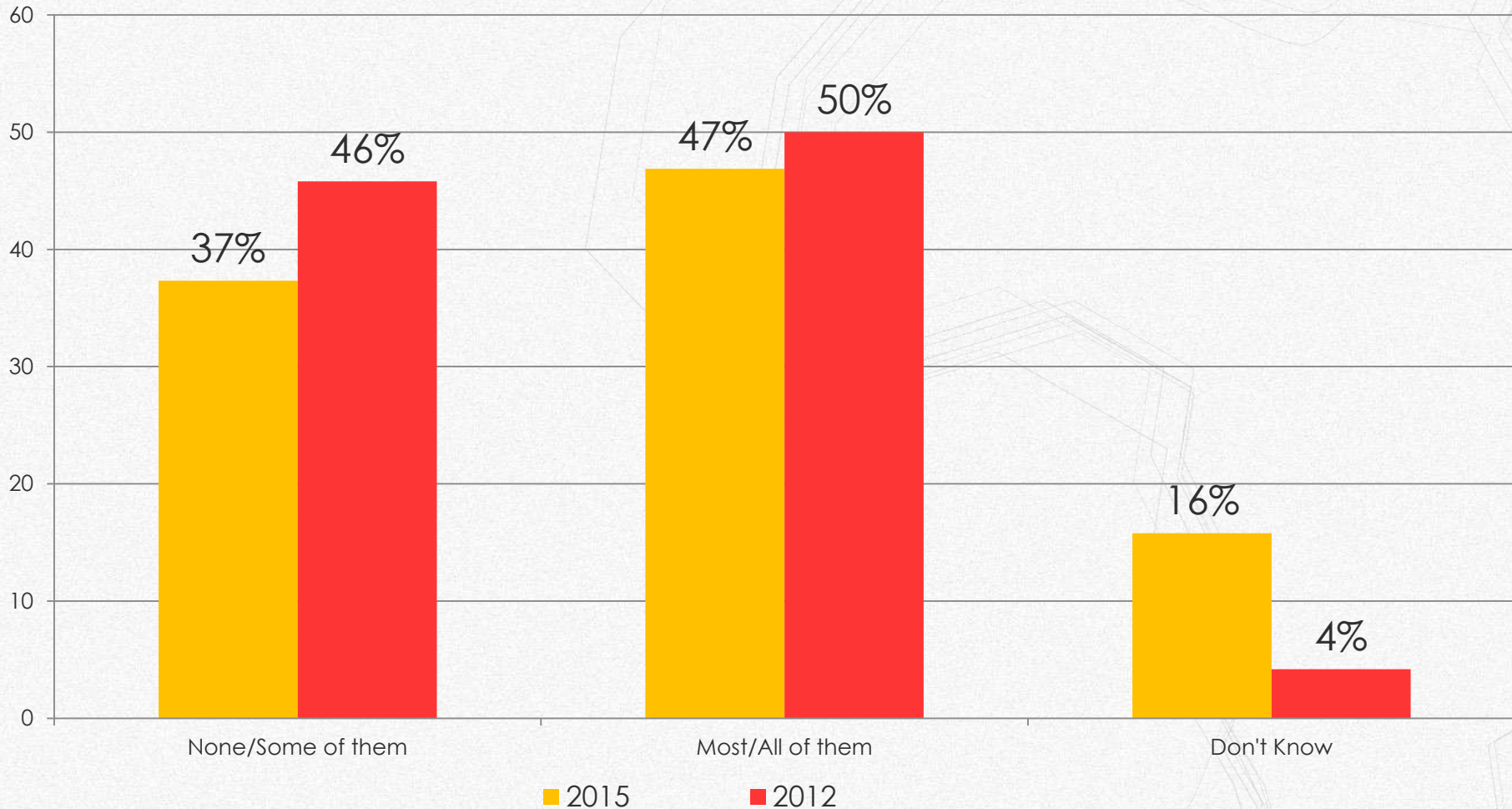
Respondents were asked: *How many of the following people do you think are involved in corruption, or haven't you heard enough about them to say: Local government councilors?*

Corruption in the police | 2012-2015



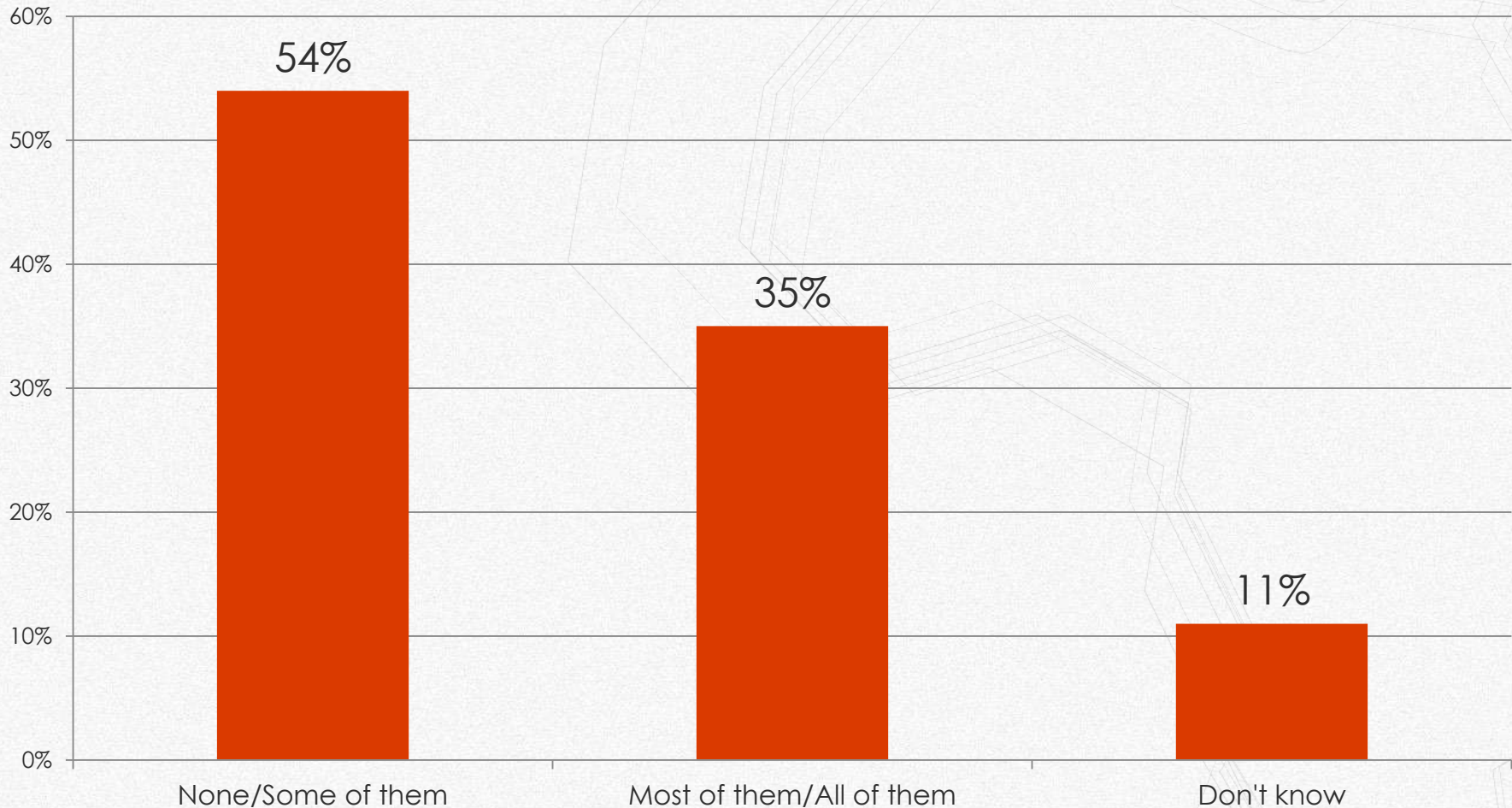
Respondents were asked: *How many of the following people do you think are involved in corruption, or haven't you heard enough about them to say: Police?*

Corruption among judges and magistrates | 2012-2015



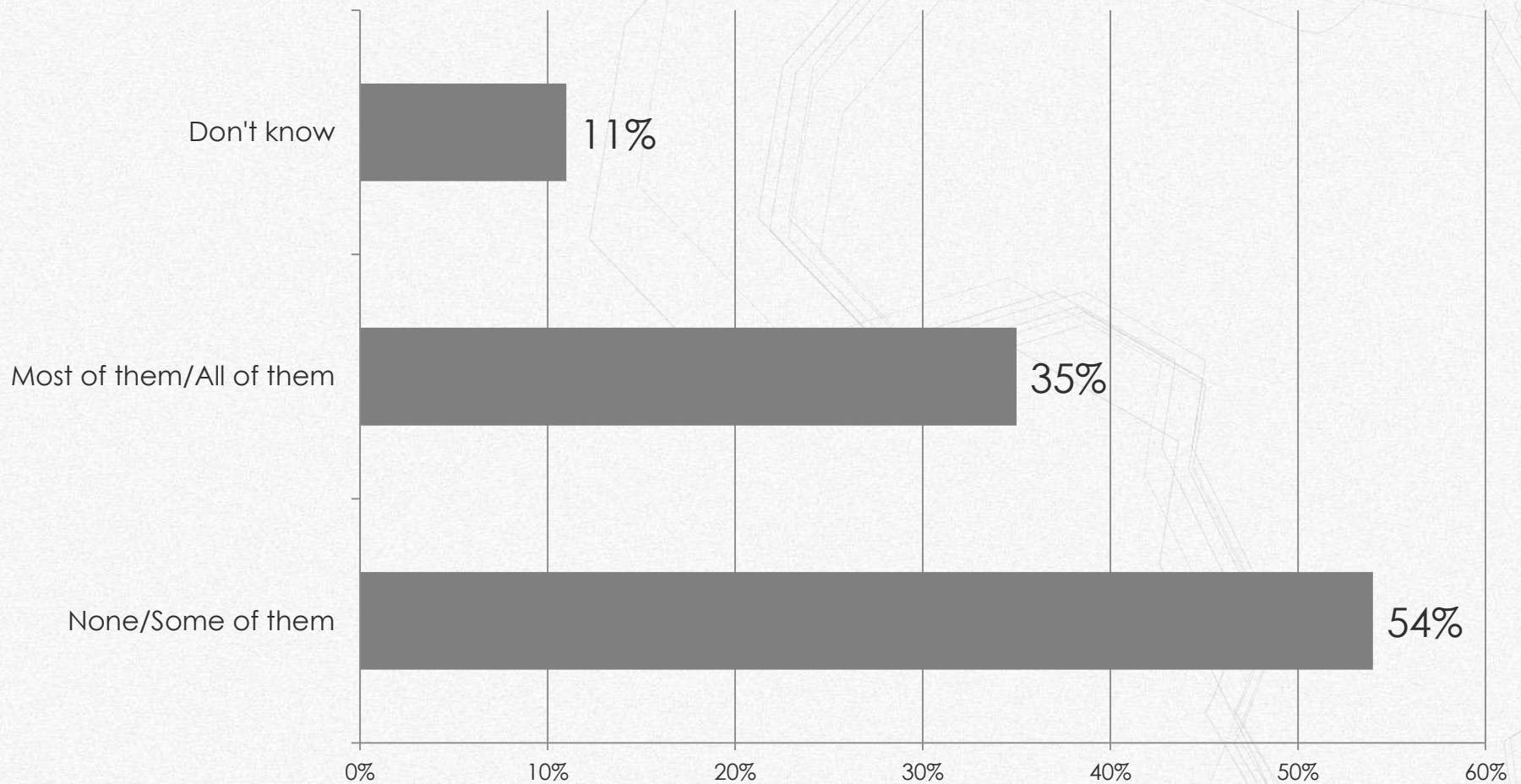
Respondents were asked: *How many of the following people do you think are involved in corruption, or haven't you heard enough about them to say: Judges and magistrates?*

Corruption among religious leaders | 2015



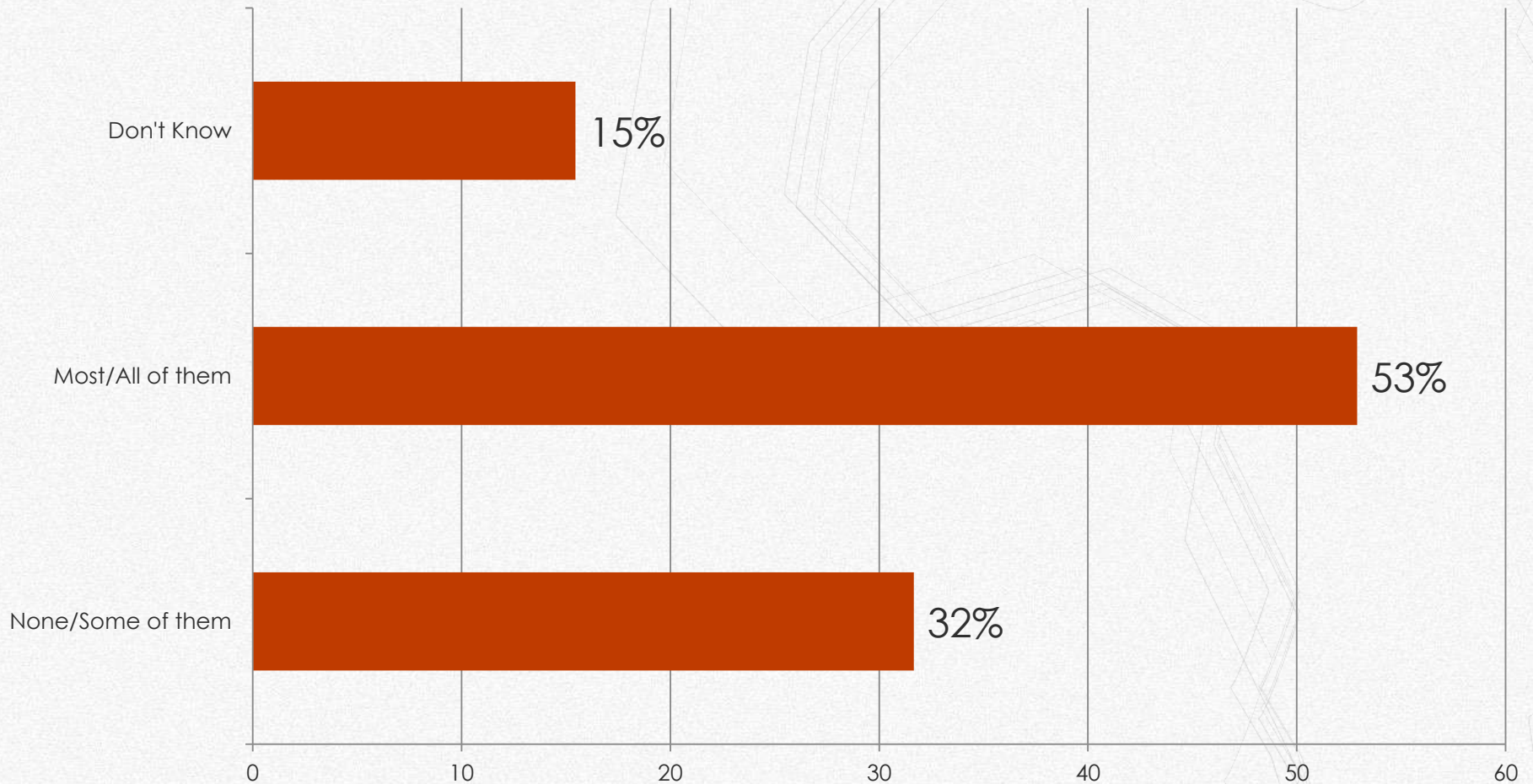
Respondents were asked: *How many of the following people do you think are involved in corruption, or haven't you heard enough about them to say: Religious leaders?*

Corruption among traditional leaders | 2015



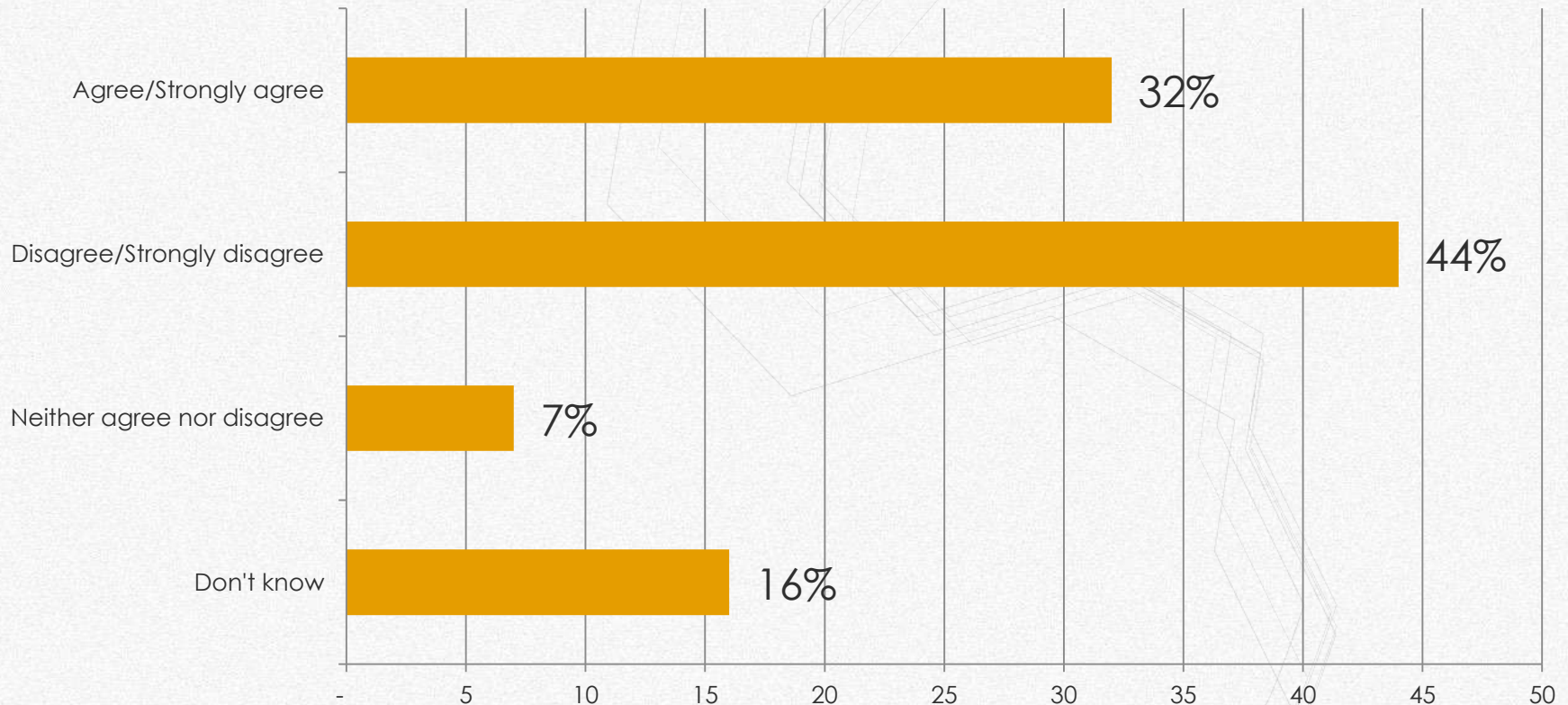
Respondents were asked: *How many of the following people do you think are involved in corruption, or haven't you heard enough about them to say: Traditional leaders?*

Corruption among business executives | 2015



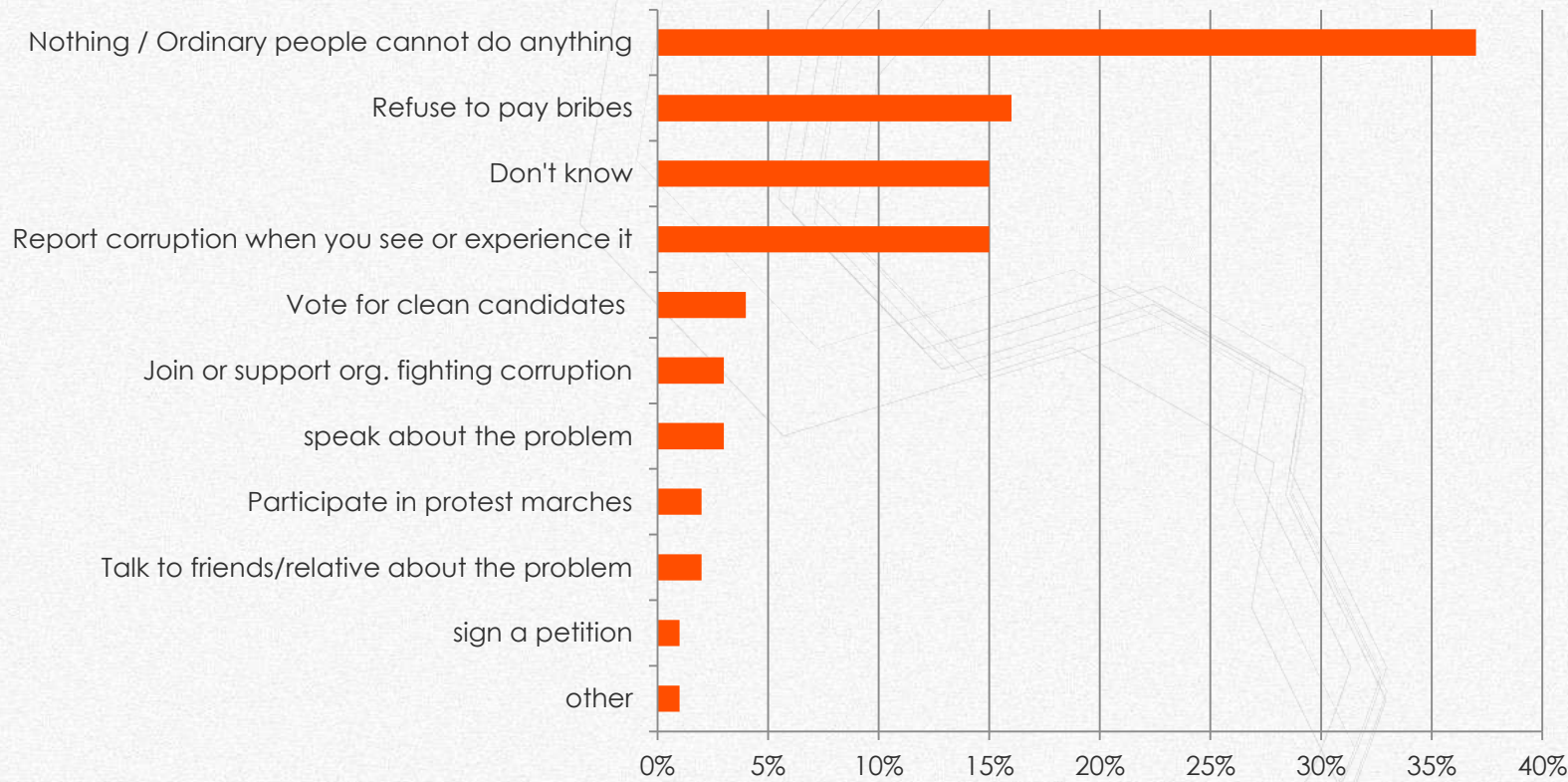
Respondents were asked: How many of the following people do you think are involved in corruption, or haven't you heard enough about them to say: Business executives?

Can ordinary citizens make a difference in the fight against corruption? | 2015



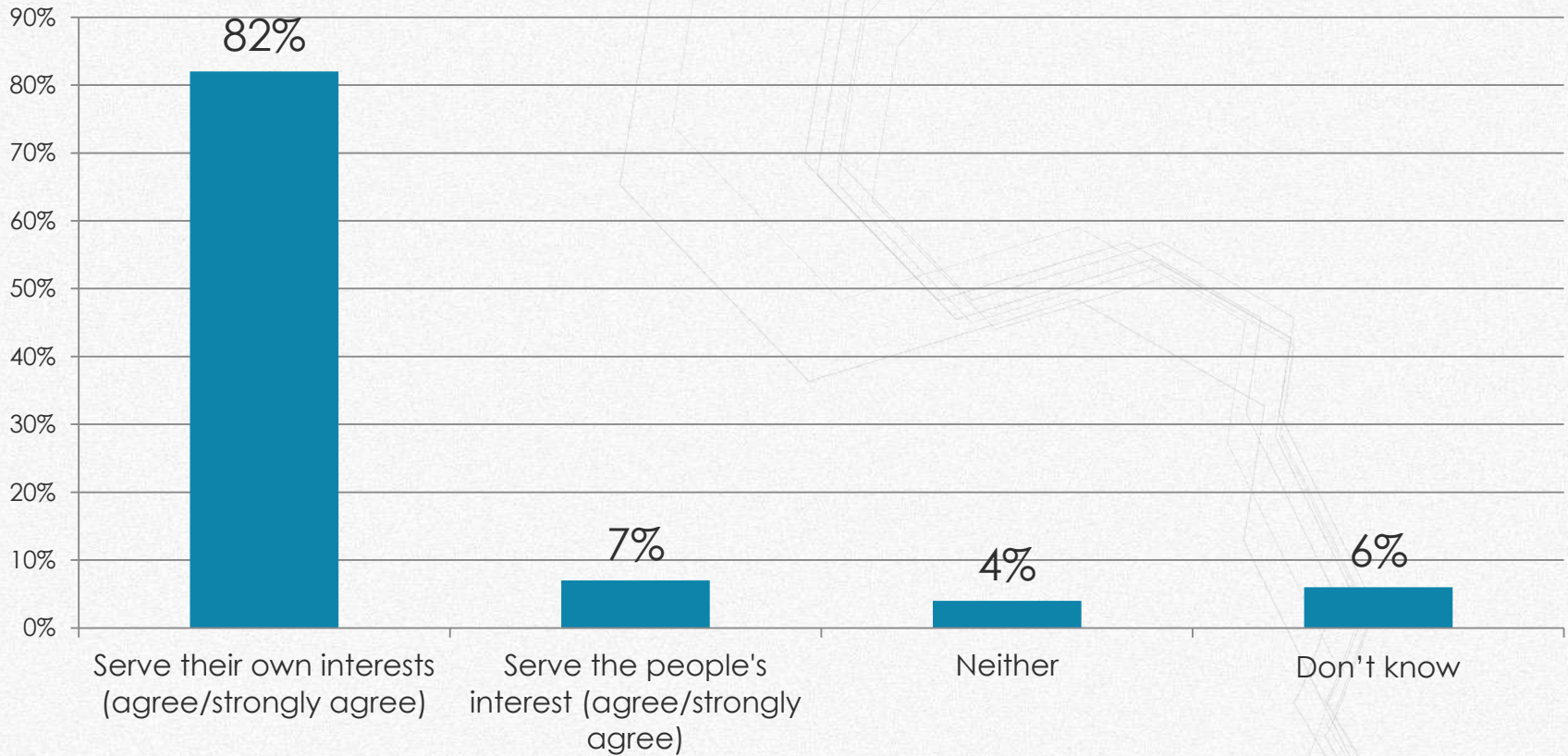
Respondents were asked: *Please tell me whether you agree or disagree with the following statement: Ordinary people can make a difference in the fight against corruption.*

Most effective action that ordinary citizen can take | 2015

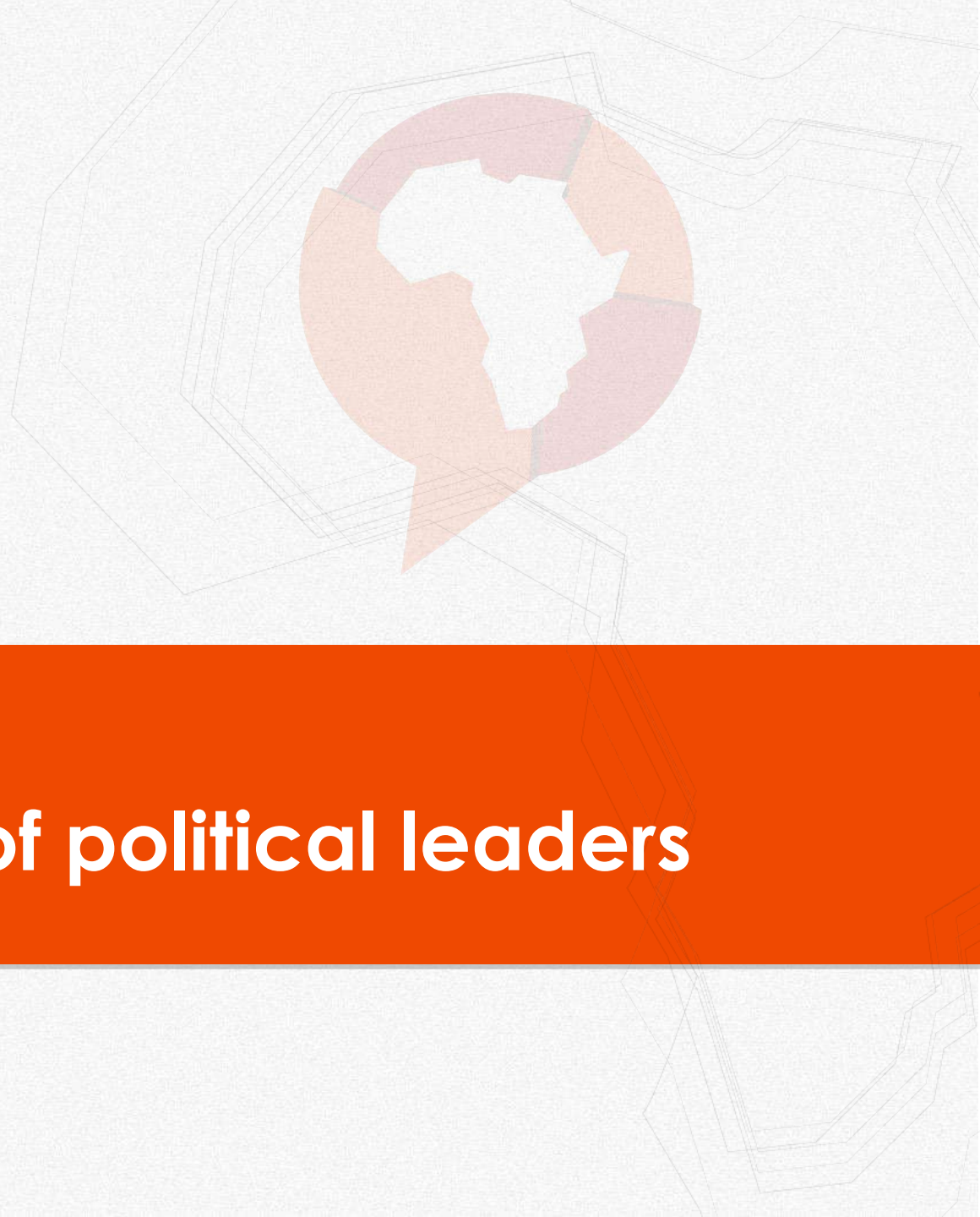


Respondents were asked: What is the most effective thing that an ordinary person like you can do to help combat corruption in this country?

Political leaders serve their own interests | 2015



Respondents were asked: *Do you think that the leaders of political parties in this country are more concerned with serving the interests of the people, or more concerned with advancing their own political ambitions, or haven't you heard enough to say?*



Performance of political leaders

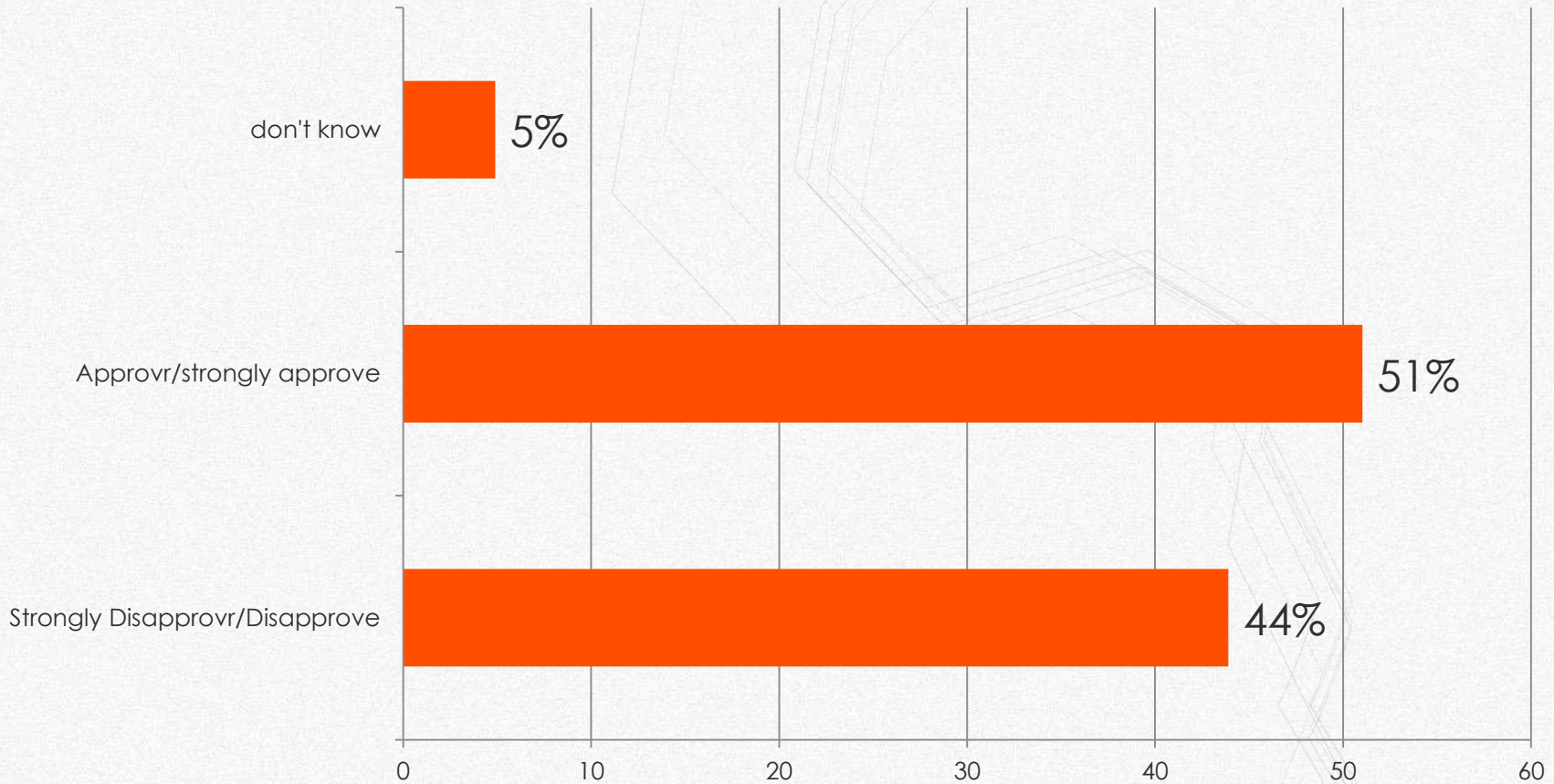
Key findings

- About half (51%) of Sierra Leoneans approve of the president's performance over the past 12 months.
- About seven in ten citizens disapprove of the performance of their MPs and local government councilors.



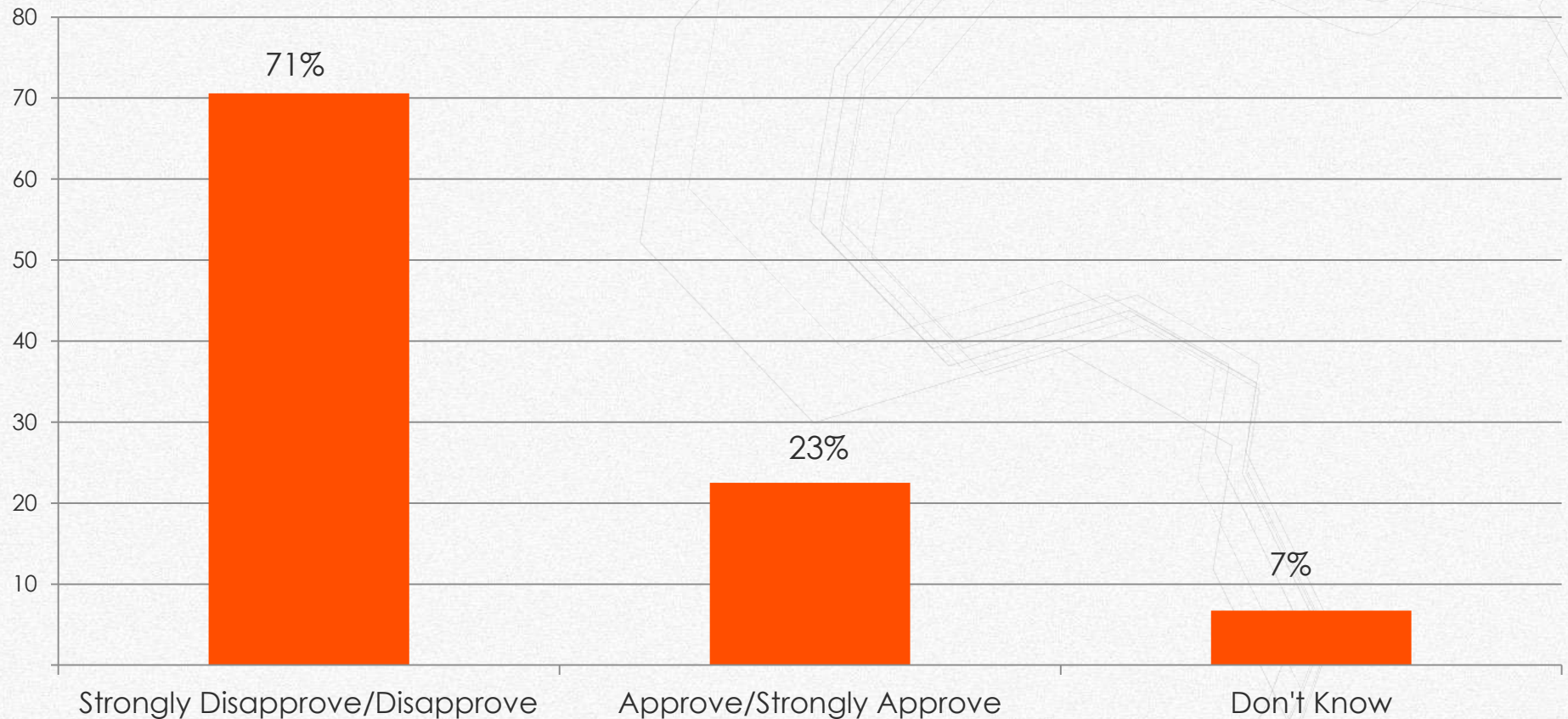
Performance of the president | 2015

2015



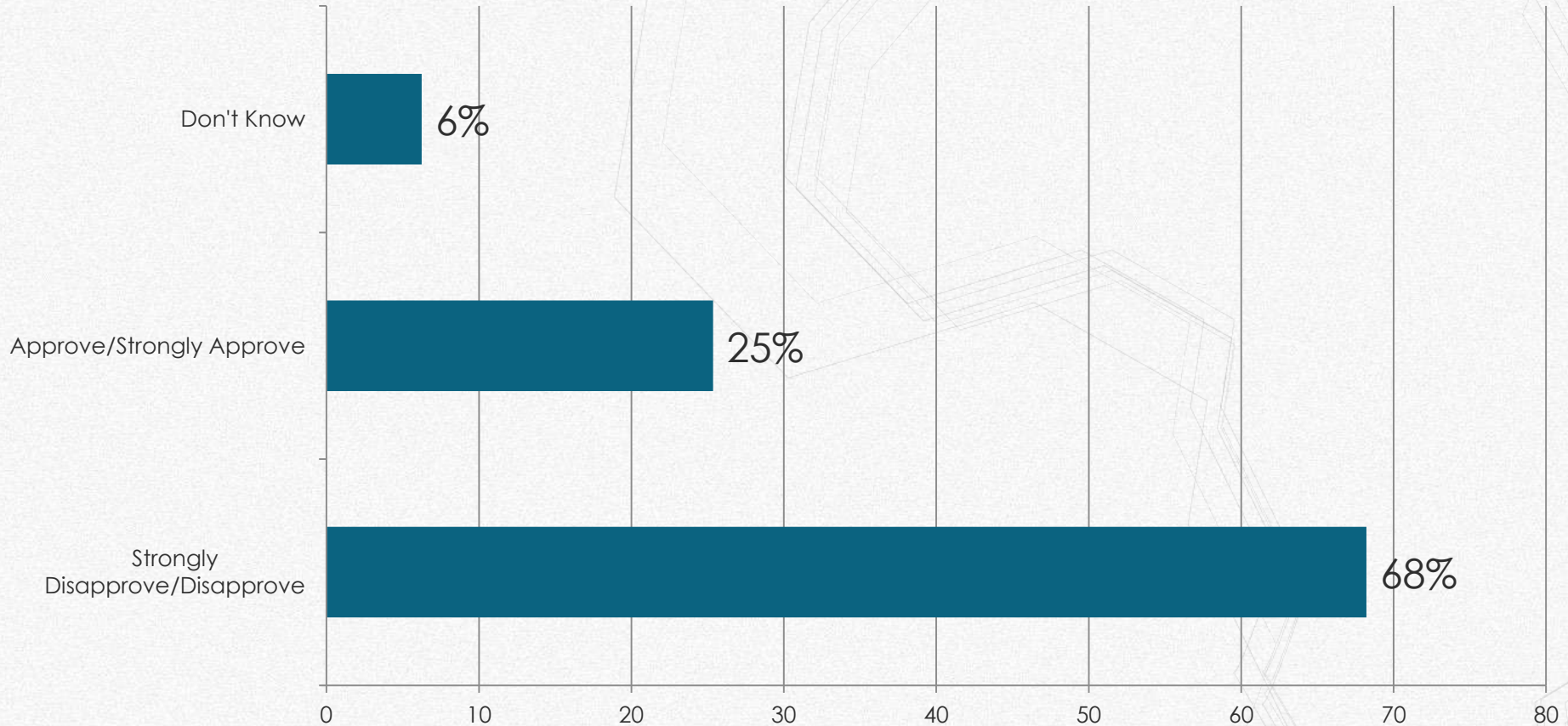
Respondents were asked: *Do you approve or disapprove of the way that the following people have performed their jobs over the past 12 months, or haven't you heard enough about them to say: President Ernest Koroma?*

Performance of MPs | 2015



Respondents were asked: *Do you approve or disapprove of the way that the following people have performed their jobs over the past 12 months, or haven't you heard enough about them to say: Your member of Parliament (MP)?*

Performance of local government councilors | 2015



Respondents were asked: *Do you approve or disapprove of the way that the following people have performed their jobs over the past 12 months, or haven't you heard enough about them to say: Your elected local government councilor?*



Conclusions



- Public trust in several institutions has declined since 2012, including an 18-point drop in the proportion of citizens who trust the president.
- Perceptions of official corruption have increased, and few citizens think they can make a difference in fighting it.
- Only about half of Sierra Leoneans approve of the president's performance, and performance ratings for MPs and local government councilors are overwhelmingly negative.



Thank you

