



Survey Warehouse
Windhoek, Namibia
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News release

Trust in political institutions is on the decline in Namibia, Afrobarometer survey shows

Popular trust in the president, National Assembly, and institutions of law and order has declined sharply in Namibia, according to the latest Afrobarometer survey.

While a majority of Namibians still say they trust the president, the army, the police, and courts of law “somewhat” or “a lot,” these proportions have dropped by double digits over the past five years.

The same is true for the Electoral Commission of Namibia, which is trusted “a lot” by just one in five Namibians.

Key findings

- The proportion of Namibians who say they trust the president “somewhat” or “a lot” dropped by 21 percentage points between 2014 and 2019, from 81% to 60% (Figure 1).
- Citizens' trust in the National Assembly has also plunged dramatically since 2014, reaching its lowest level (45%) since the first Afrobarometer survey in 1999 (Figure 2).
- Popular trust in institutions responsible for law and order has declined as well, to 61% for the army, 60% for the police, and 54% for courts of law (Figure 3).
- Just a slim majority (54%) of Namibians say they trust the Namibian Electoral Commission, a decrease from 74% in 2014 (Figure 4). Only 21% of respondents say they trust the NEC “a lot.”

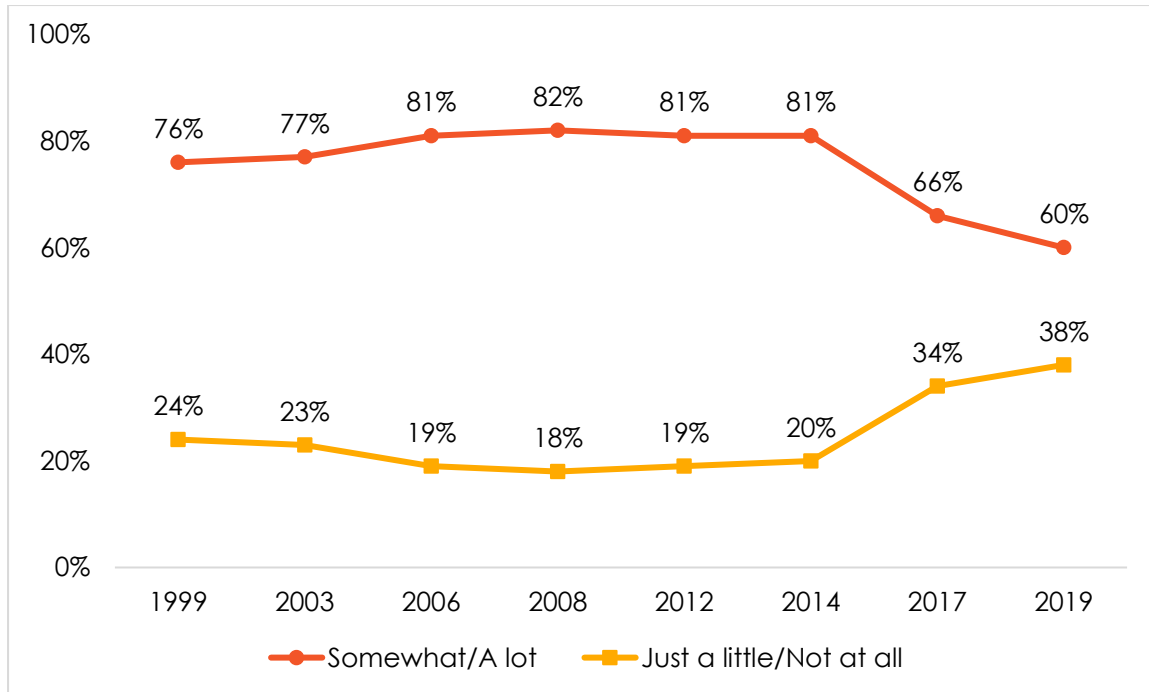
Afrobarometer surveys

Afrobarometer is a pan-African, nonpartisan survey research network that provides reliable data on Africans' experiences and evaluations of quality of life, governance, and democracy. Seven rounds of surveys were completed in up to 38 countries between 1999 and 2018. Round 8 surveys are planned in at least 35 countries in 2019/2020. Afrobarometer conducts face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent's choice with nationally representative samples.

The Afrobarometer team in Namibia, led by Survey Warehouse, interviewed 1,200 adult Namibians in August 2019. A sample of this size yields country-level results with a margin of error of +/-3 percentage points at a 95% confidence level. Previous surveys were conducted in Namibia in 1999, 2003, 2006, 2008, 2012, 2014, and 2017

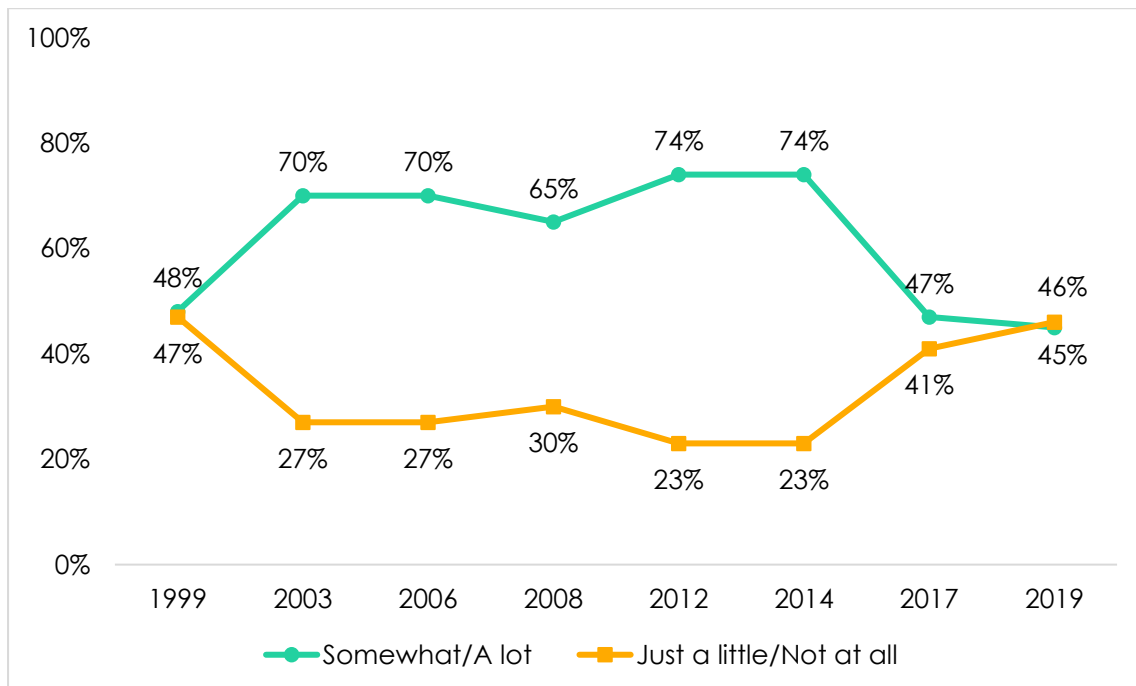
Charts

Figure 1: Trust in the President | Namibia | 1999-2019



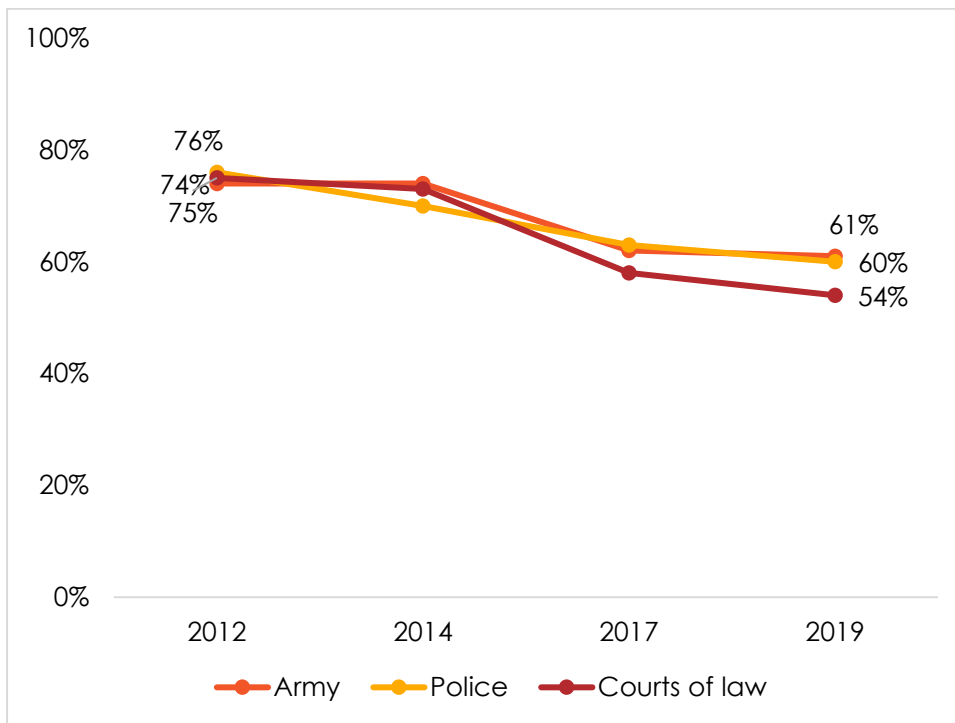
Respondents were asked: How much do you trust each of the following, or haven't you heard enough about them to say: The president?

Figure 2: Trust in the National Assembly | Namibia | 2003-2019



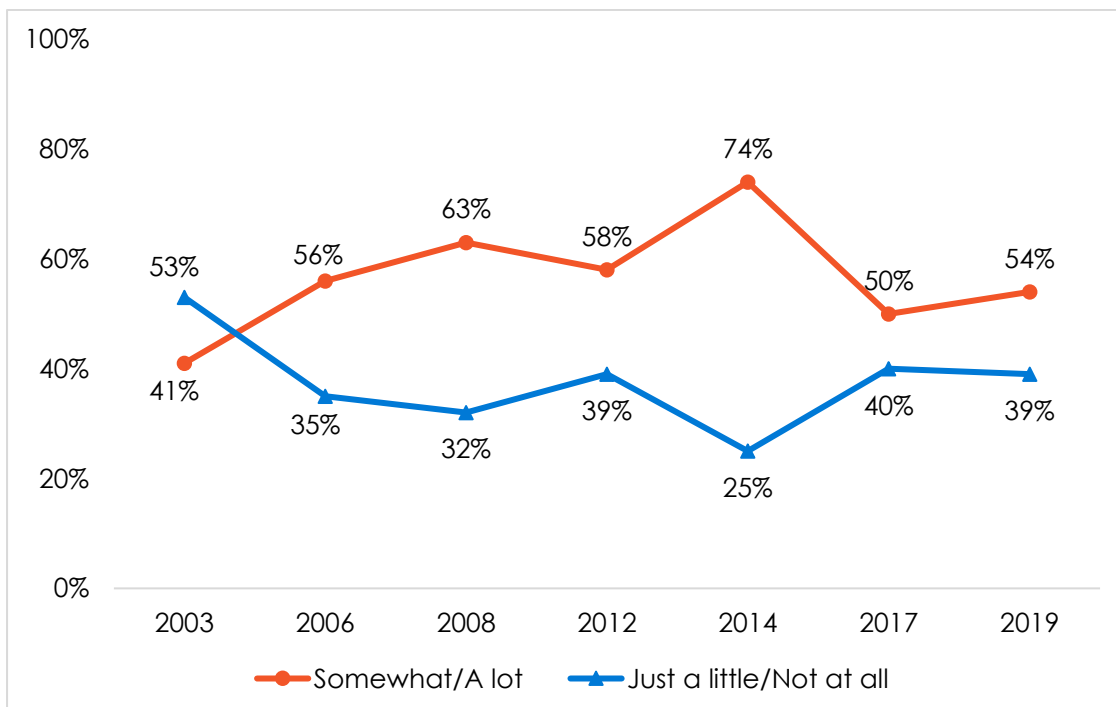
Respondents were asked: How much do you trust each of the following, or haven't you heard enough about them to say: The National Assembly?

Figure 3: Trust in law and order institutions | Namibia | 2012-2019



Respondents were asked: How much do you trust each of the following, or haven't you heard enough about them to say: Police? Army? Courts of law? (% who say "somewhat" or "a lot")

Figure 4: Trust in the Electoral Commission | Namibia | 2003-2019



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

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