

# DAILY LIVES AND CORRUPTION: PUBLIC OPINION IN AMERICAS

Transparency International is the global civil society organisation leading the fight against corruption. Through more than 90 chapters worldwide and an international secretariat in Berlin, we raise awareness of the damaging effects of corruption and work with partners in government, business and civil society to develop and implement effective measures to tackle it.

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# INTRODUCTION

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## WHAT DO PEOPLE THINK ABOUT CORRUPTION IN THEIR COUNTRY

Public views on corruption are of critical importance. They offer significant insight into how corruption affects lives around the world. Transparency International believes it is crucial to present the public's view on corruption – for it is they who suffer its direct and indirect consequences. At the same time, Transparency International encourages the public to play an active role in stopping corruption and improving governance. To this end, this survey also probes public willingness to engage in the fight against corruption.

Between September 2012 and February 2013, more than 14,000 people were interviewed from 14 different countries/territories in Americas on their views of corruption levels in their countries and their governments' efforts to fight corruption. This report also examines the frequency of reports of bribery in different sectors and institutions. It also investigates public willingness to engage in the fight against corruption.

## KEY FINDINGS

[to be completed by regional department]

# PUBLIC OPINION IN AMERICAS

## PUBLIC PERCEPTIONS OF CORRUPTION

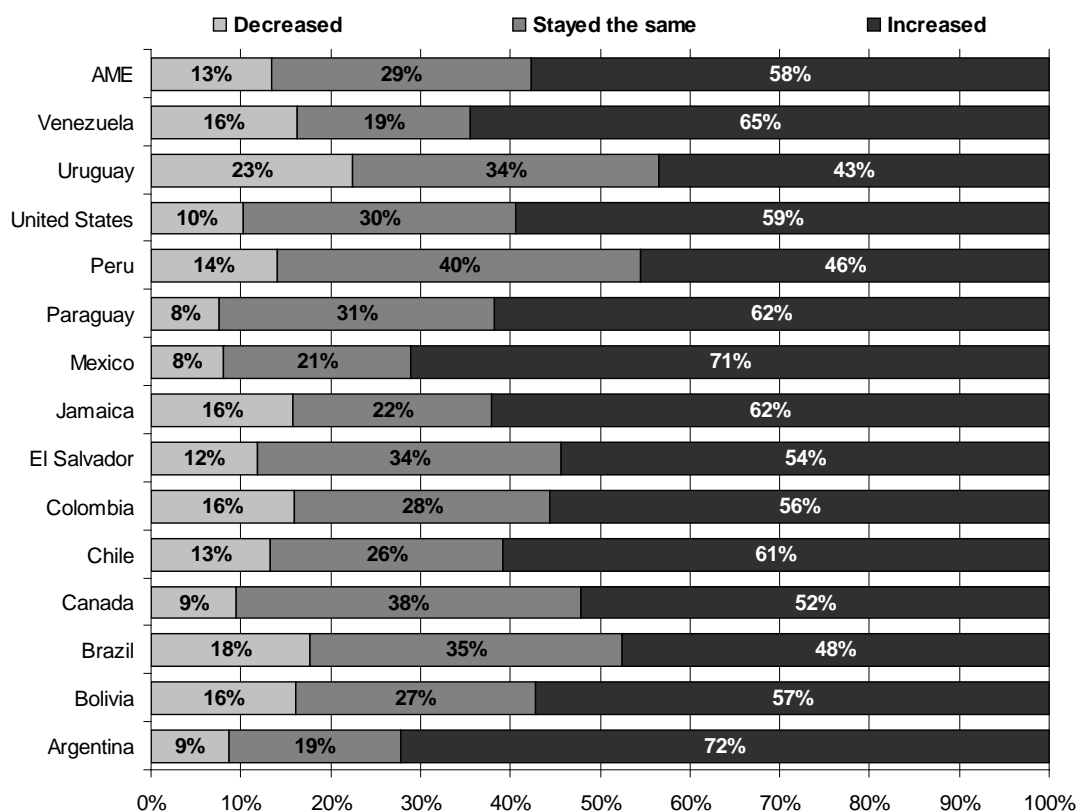
The public were asked about their perceptions of corruption in their home country. The survey captures views on whether people feel that overall corruption levels have increased or decreased in recent years, the extent of corruption overall in the public sector and then in different institutions. For the first time this year, we also asked people how about the importance of personal relationships when trying to get things done and the influence of big interests in government decision making.

More than half of people surveyed in the region think that corruption has increased in their country in the past 2 years.

**Figure 1: How has the level of corruption changed?**

% of people from each of the 14 countries surveyed in AMERICAS

Over the past 2 years, how has the level of corruption in this country changed?



The average results across the 14 countries surveyed find that 58% of people think that corruption had increased in the past two years with 29% thinking that the situation had stayed the same and 13% thought that it had decreased.

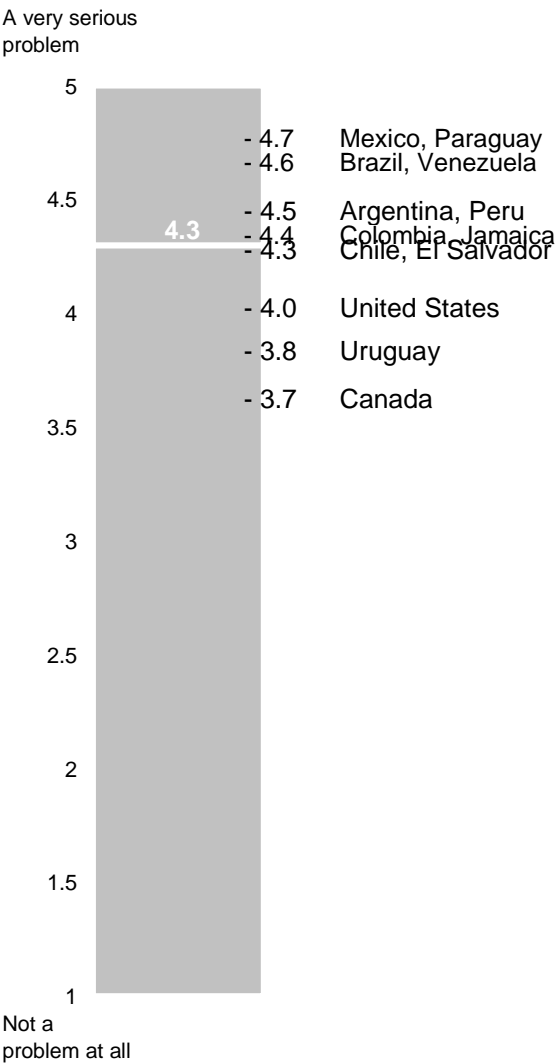
Close to three quarters of people surveyed in Argentina and Mexico think that corruption has increased or increased a lot in the past two years.

We then asked people how big a problem in general corruption is in the public sector. On a scale of one to five, where 1 means not a problem at all and 5 means a very serious problem, the average score across the 14 countries in AMERICAS was 4.3, indicating a very serious problem with the public sector institutions in the region.

**Figure 2: How big is the problem of corruption in the public sector in AMERICAS?**

Average score on a scale of 1-5 from the 14 countries surveyed in AMERICAS

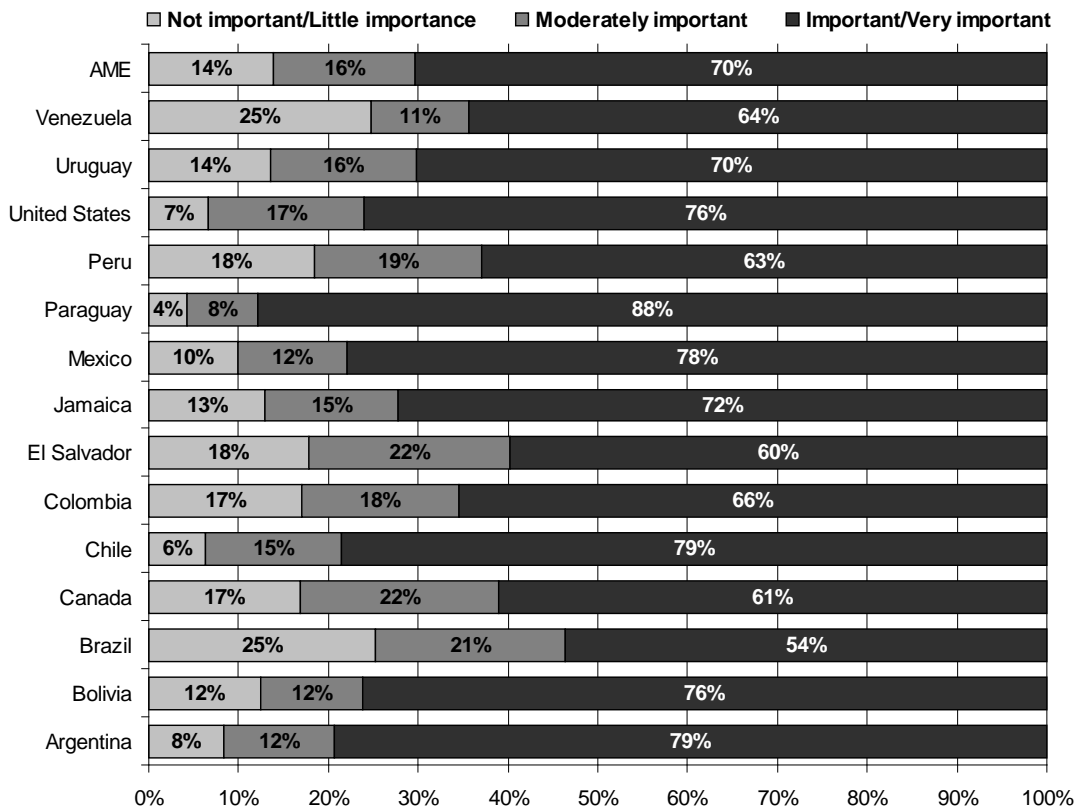
On a scale of 1-5, where 1 is not a problem at all and 5 is a very serious problem, to what extent do you believe corruption is a problem in the public sector in your country?



**Figure 3: How important are personal contacts?**

% of people in AMERICAS

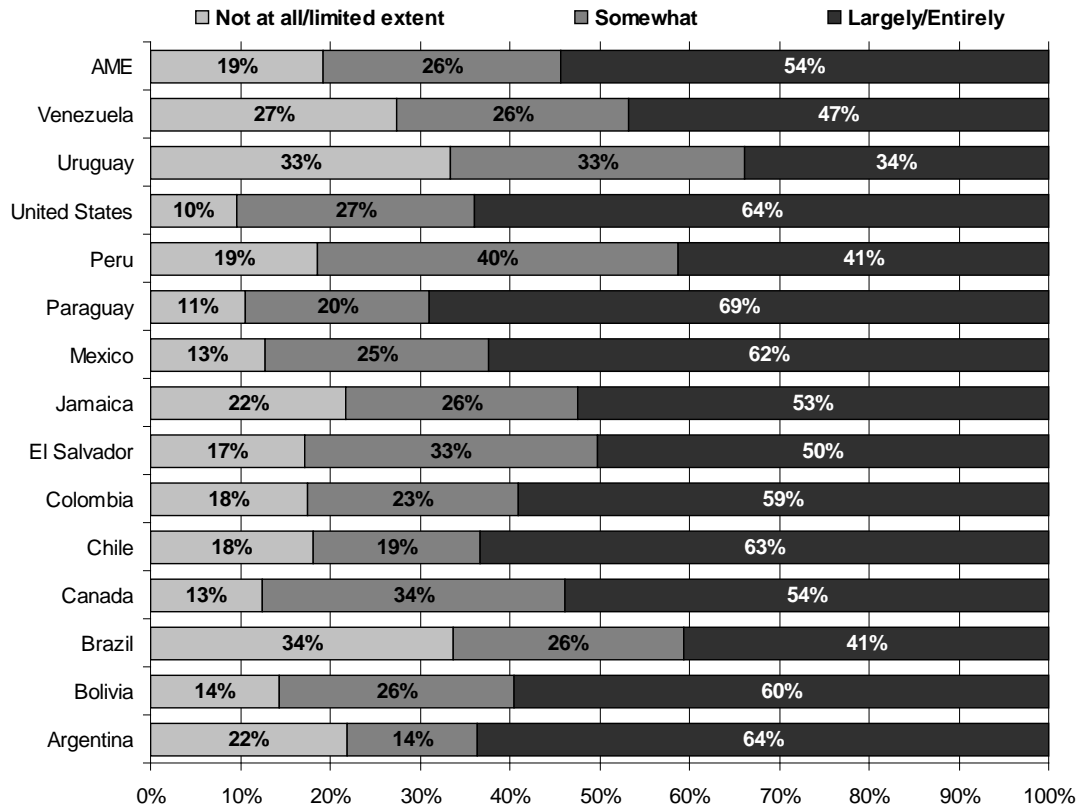
In your dealings with the public sector. How important are personal contacts and/or relationships to get things done?



**Figure 4: How influential are 'big interests'?**

% of people in AMERICAS

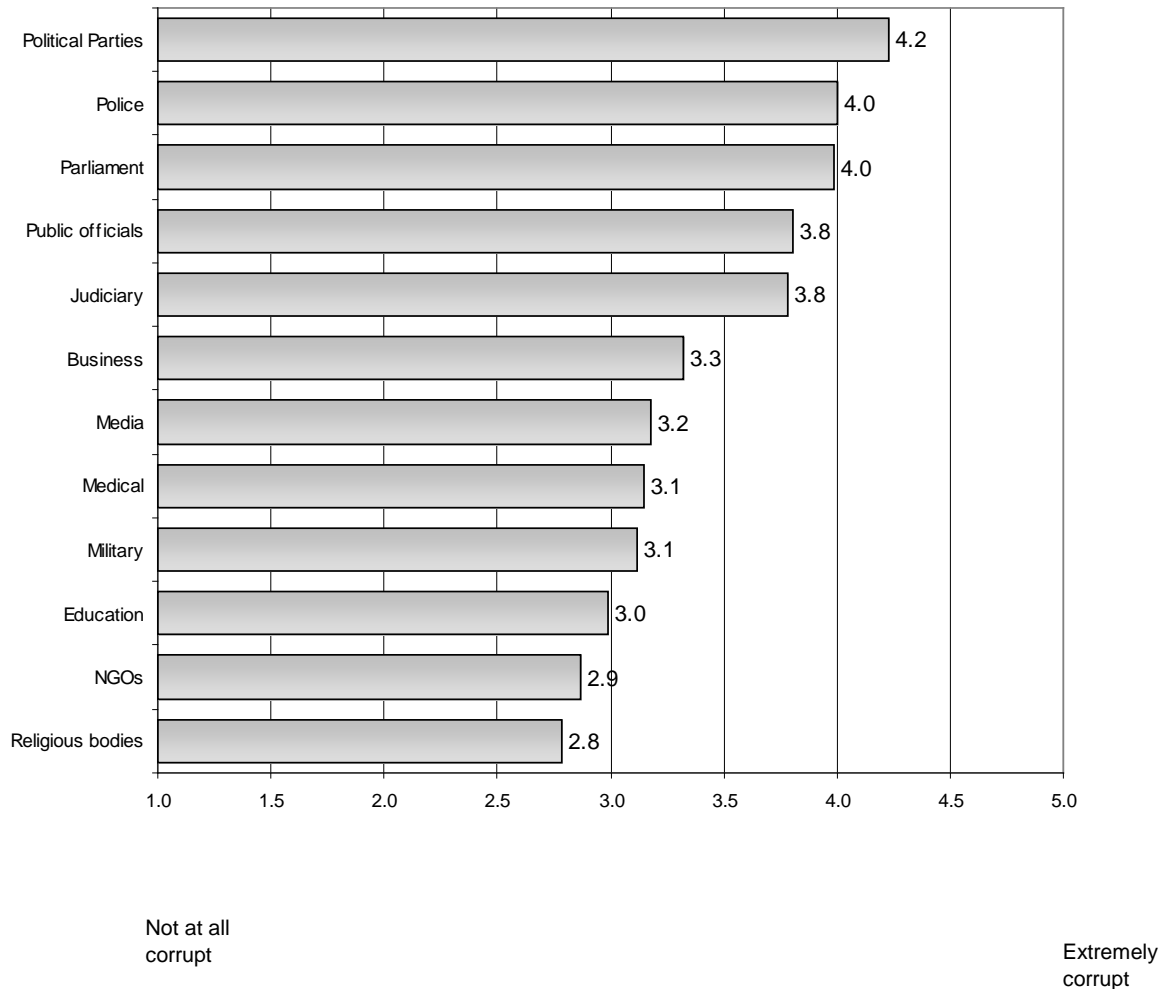
To what extent is this country's government run by a few big entities acting in their own best interests?





### Figure 5: Extent of corruption, by institution

On a scale of 1-5, where 1 means not at all corrupt and 5 means extremely corrupt, to what extent do you see the following categories to be affected by corruption in this country?



### Figure 6: Most corrupt institutions

On a scale of 1-5, where 1 means not at all corrupt and 5 means extremely corrupt, to what extent do you see the following categories to be affected by corruption in this country?

COUNTRY	INSTITUTION
<b>AME</b>	<b>Political parties</b>
Argentina	Political parties
Bolivia	Police
Brazil	Political parties
Canada	Political parties
Chile	Political parties
Colombia	Political parties and Parliament
El Salvador	Political parties and Police
Jamaica	Political parties and Police
Mexico	Political parties and Police
Paraguay	Parliament
Peru	Judiciary
United States	Political parties
Uruguay	Political parties
Venezuela	Police

## PERSONAL EXPERIENCES OF BRIBERY

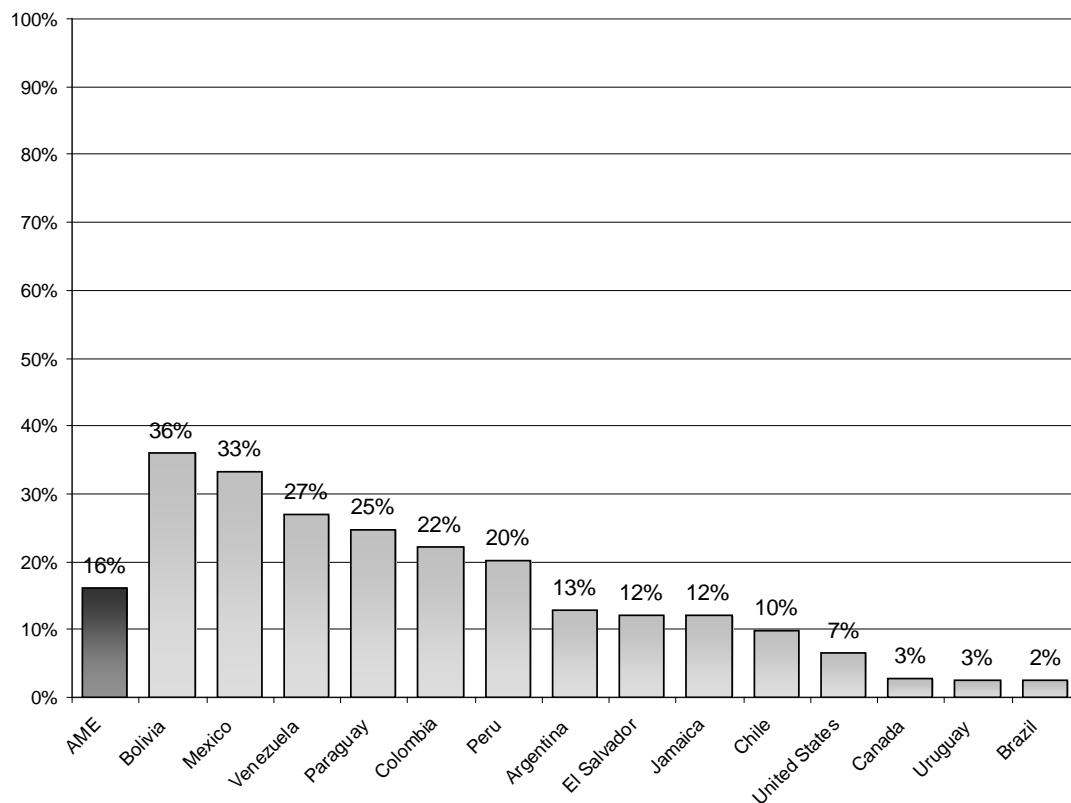
The survey asked people if they had come into contact with one of eight services. For each of these services they were then asked if they had paid a bribe. These results were broken down by gender and age, to better understand where the bribes are paid and who is paying them. Those that had paid a bribe were then asked why they had paid the bribe.

Across the region, an average of 16% of people have paid a bribe to one of eight service providers in the last 12 months

**Figure 7: Bribe payers**

% of people in AMERICAS that have paid a bribe when coming into contact with any one of 8 services.

In the past 12 months, if you or anyone living in your household had a contact or contacts with one of eight services, have you paid a bribe in any form?



Across the region, people were most likely to have paid a bribe to the police. An average of 25% of people that have come into contact with the police in the past 12 months said that they have paid a bribe.

#### Figure 8: Bribe payers in, by service

% of people in AMERICAS that have paid a bribe

In the past 12 months, if you or anyone living in your household had a contact or contacts with each of the following eight services, have you paid a bribe in any form to this service?

COUNTRY	EDUCATION	JUDICIARY	MEDICAL AND HEALTH	POLICE	REGISTRY AND PERMIT SERVICES	UTILITIES	TAX	LAND SERVICES
<b>AME</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>10%</b>
Argentina	2%	6%	7%	16%	7%	6%	5%	5%
Bolivia	10%	38%	9%	52%	22%	4%	14%	17%
Brazil	1%	1%	1%	5%	3%	2%	0%	3%
Canada	4%	3%	3%	3%	2%	2%	2%	5%
Chile	4%	6%	5%	6%	4%	4%	3%	11%
Colombia	6%	19%	7%	27%	16%	12%	12%	10%
El Salvador	3%	6%	5%	18%	5%	3%	3%	4%
Jamaica	3%	6%	4%	12%	7%	8%	3%	3%
Mexico	17%	55%	10%	61%	27%	17%	16%	31%
Paraguay	11%	28%	6%	36%	18%	4%	7%	6%
Peru	11%	32%	8%	44%	13%	6%	7%	12%
United States	11%	15%	6%	7%	14%	6%	9%	17%
Uruguay	0%	1%	1%	4%	0%	2%	1%	1%
Venezuela	12%	37%	15%	57%	48%	12%	3%	15%

## Figure 9: Why do people pay bribes?

% of people in AMERICAS

What was the most common reason for paying the bribe/bribes?

COUNTRY	AS A GIFT, OR TO EXPRESS GRATITUDE	TO GET A CHEAPER SERVICE	TO SPEED THINGS UP	IT WAS THE ONLY WAY TO OBTAIN A SERVICE
<b>AME</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>27%</b>
Argentina	6%	2%	47%	45%
Bolivia	8%	4%	67%	22%
Brazil	24%	21%	33%	21%
Canada	19%	19%	44%	19%
Chile	20%	6%	38%	37%
Colombia	6%	9%	49%	36%
El Salvador	28%	11%	42%	19%
Jamaica	34%	6%	40%	20%
Mexico	5%	8%	52%	34%
Paraguay	5%	7%	63%	25%
Peru	10%	12%	43%	34%
United States	30%	14%	45%	11%
Uruguay	15%	20%	41%	24%
Venezuela	8%	10%	51%	32%

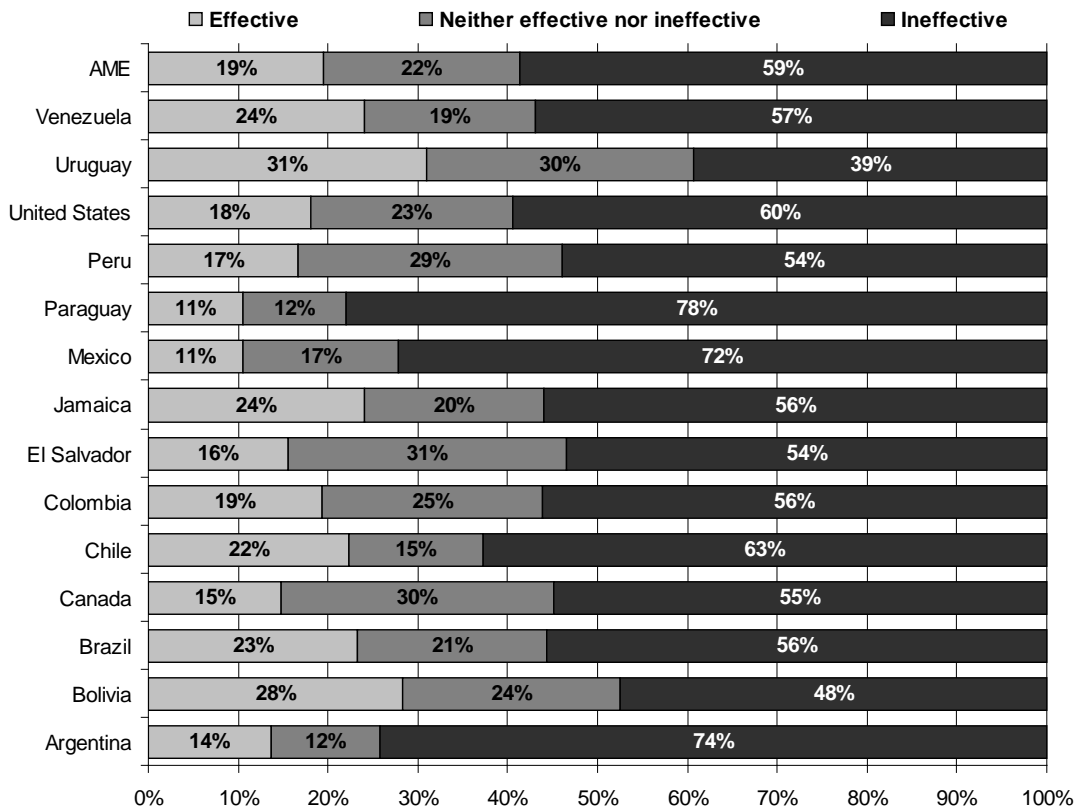
## VIEWS ON THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION

Governments in AMERICAS have been engaged in the fight against corruption to varying degrees in recent years. People were asked for their views on the effectiveness of the current government in the fight against corruption.

**Figure 10: How effective are the governments in fighting corruption?**

% of people in AMERICAS

How effective do you think your government's actions are in the fight against corruption?



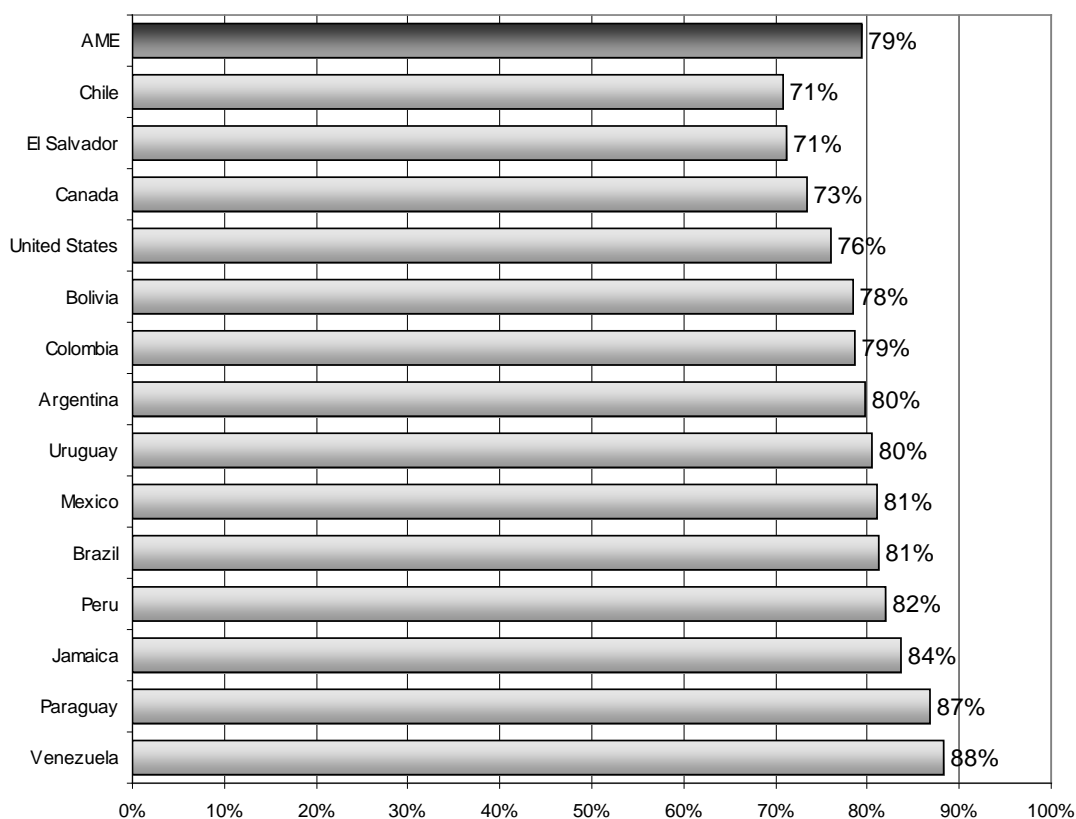
## GETTING INVOLVED

People were asked about their willingness to get involved in the fight against corruption. Respondents were first asked if they believed that ordinary people can make a difference in the fight against corruption. They were then asked more directly if they would be willing to get involved themselves through a number of different ways, including if they would be willing to report an incident of corruption. Of those people that would be willing to report, we asked them where and of those people that would not report, we asked them why not. Finally we asked if people had ever themselves stood up against corruption by refusing to pay a bribe.

**Figure 11: Can ordinary people make a difference?**

% of people in AMERICAS

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: "Ordinary people can make a difference in the fight against corruption"



**Figure 12: How are people willing to get involved in the fight against corruption**  
 % of people in AMERICAS

There are different things people could do to fight corruption. Would *you* be willing to do any of the following:

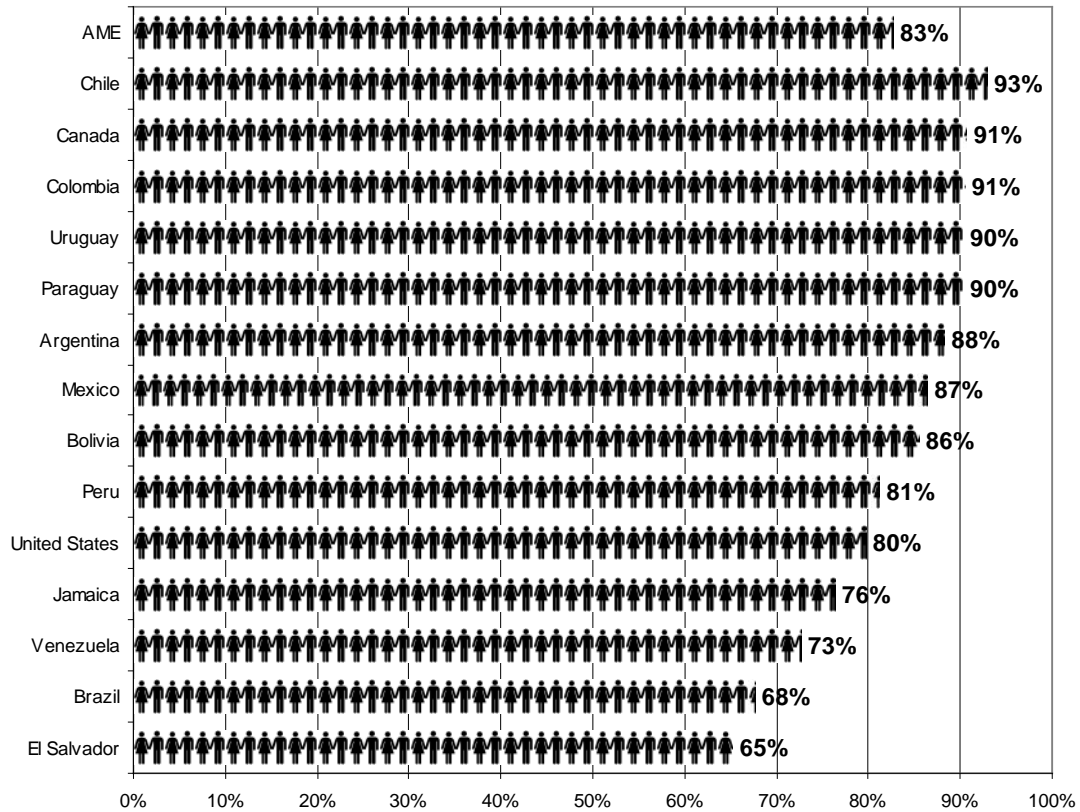
COUNTRY	SIGN A PETITION ASKING THE GOVERNMENT TO DO MORE TO FIGHT CORRUPTION	TAKE PART IN A PEACEFUL PROTEST OR DEMONSTRATION AGAINST CORRUPTION	JOIN AN ORGANISATION THAT WORKS TO REDUCE CORRUPTION AS AN ACTIVE MEMBER	PAY MORE TO BUY GOODS FROM A COMPANY THAT IS CLEAN/CORRUPTION FREE	SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT THE PROBLEM OF CORRUPTION THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA
<b>AME</b>	<b>82%</b>	<b>61%</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>59%</b>	<b>67%</b>
Argentina	83%	67%	48%	66%	66%
Bolivia	80%	75%	68%	61%	69%
Brazil	75%	55%	43%	43%	54%
Canada	84%	42%	41%	65%	64%
Chile	88%	57%	53%	61%	72%
Colombia	87%	68%	67%	55%	80%
El Salvador	73%	52%	53%	44%	62%
Jamaica	87%	69%	77%	65%	75%
Mexico	81%	63%	59%	56%	71%
Paraguay	90%	78%	68%	83%	70%
Peru	83%	66%	58%	52%	71%
United States	79%	48%	52%	55%	62%
Uruguay	79%	53%	41%	71%	54%
Venezuela	78%	59%	58%	45%	67%



**Figure 13: Are people willing to report an incident of corruption**

% of people in AMERICAS that answered 'Yes'

Would you be willing to report an incident of corruption?



83% of people would be willing to report an incident of corruption

**Figure 14: Where would you report an incident of corruption?**

% of people in AMERICAS that would report an incident

Of those people that answered that they would report an incident of corruption, to whome would you report?

COUNTRY	DIRECTLY TO THE INSTITUTION INVOLVED	A GENERAL GOVERNMENT ANTI-CORRUPTION INSTITUTION OR HOTLINE	AN INDEPENDENT NON-PROFIT ORGANISATION	NEWS MEDIA	OTHER
<b>AME</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>4%</b>
Argentina	14%	21%	17%	39%	9%
Bolivia	24%	21%	7%	45%	4%
Brazil	24%	27%	10%	37%	2%
Canada	19%	35%	12%	31%	3%
Chile	16%	25%	15%	39%	5%
Colombia	21%	31%	9%	33%	7%
El Salvador	24%	23%	26%	26%	1%
Jamaica	25%	40%	10%	22%	3%
Mexico	26%	36%	12%	22%	4%
Paraguay	25%	19%	4%	50%	1%
Peru	25%	25%	8%	36%	6%
United States	22%	30%	15%	28%	5%
Uruguay	32%	31%	7%	22%	8%
Venezuela	23%	43%	7%	26%	1%

17% of people would NOT be willing to report an incident of corruption

### Figure 15: Why would you not report an incident of corruption?

% of people in AMERICAS that would not report an incident

Of those people that answered that they would not report an incident of corruption, why would you not report an incident of corruption?

COUNTRY	I DO NOT KNOW WHERE TO REPORT	I AM AFRAID OF THE CONSEQUENCES	IT WOULDN'T MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE	OTHER
<b>AME</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>5%</b>
Argentina	13%	41%	40%	6%
Bolivia	13%	39%	42%	6%
Brazil	9%	44%	42%	5%
Canada	19%	16%	62%	4%
Chile	21%	44%	28%	7%
Colombia	7%	40%	46%	7%
El Salvador	8%	44%	49%	0%
Jamaica	7%	62%	30%	2%
Mexico	10%	39%	50%	1%
Paraguay	4%	58%	34%	3%
Peru	19%	41%	36%	4%
United States	17%	22%	47%	14%
Uruguay	9%	33%	42%	16%
Venezuela	15%	60%	22%	3%



# APPENDIX: SURVEY METHODOLOGY

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Exactly 1000 people from each of the 14 countries in AMERICAS were surveyed between September 2012 and March 2013 as part of the Global Corruption Barometer 2013 survey.

The survey sample in each country has been weighted to be nationally representative where possible. The survey questionnaire was translated into local languages and used for face to face, CATI (Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing) or online interviews depending on the country context.

The data has been checked and analysed at the Transparency International Secretariat in Berlin and verified by an independent analyst. The results presented in the report do not include ambiguous responses (don't know/no answer). AME results are the un-weighted average across the 14 countries surveyed and any apparent small difference in the aggregated global results is due to rounding differences. The full questionnaire in all languages and results at individual respondent level are available free of charge on request from Transparency International.

COUNTRY	LOCAL SURVEY COMPANY	SAMPLE SIZE	SURVEY METHOD	COVERAGE
<b>Argentina</b>	Ibope	1001	CATI	National
<b>Bolivia</b>	Ibope	1000	Face to face	National
<b>Brazil</b>	Ibope	2002	Face to face	National
<b>Canada</b>	Leger Marketing	1000	Online	National
<b>Chile</b>	Ibope	1000	CATI	Urban
<b>Colombia</b>	Sigma Dos	1001	Face to face	National
<b>El Salvador</b>	Sigma Dos	1000	Face to face	National
<b>Jamaica</b>	Dichter & Neira	1003	Face to Face	National
<b>Mexico</b>	Ibope	1052	Face to face	Urban
<b>Paraguay</b>	Ibope	1000	CATI	National
<b>Peru</b>	Datum	1211	Face to face	National
<b>United</b>	Leger USA	1000	Online	National

States				
Uruguay	Ibope Inteligencia	1010	CATI	National
Venezuela	Sigma Dos	1000	Face to face	Urban

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Transparency International  
International Secretariat  
Alt-Moabit 96  
10559 Berlin  
Germany

Phone: +49 - 30 - 34 38 200  
Fax: +49 - 30 - 34 70 39 12

[ti@transparency.org](mailto:ti@transparency.org)  
[www.transparency.org](http://www.transparency.org)

[blog.transparency.org](http://blog.transparency.org)  
[facebook.com/transparencyinternational](https://facebook.com/transparencyinternational)  
[twitter.com/anticorruption](https://twitter.com/anticorruption)