

11/2015

# CORRUPTION IN UKRAINE

comparative analysis of nationwide surveys  
of 2007, 2009, 2011 and 2015



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



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# SURVEY DESCRIPTION

## POPULATION:

adult population (18 and older)  
from all oblasts of Ukraine and  
Kyiv city.

## REPRESENTATIVENESS:

for Ukraine as a whole as well  
as for each of 24 oblasts\* and  
the city of Kyiv.

## SURVEY METHOD:

face-to-face interview

## SAMPLING:

multistage random sample  
with quota selection at the last  
stage



**10 580**  
respondents



**10 577**  
respondents



**10 639**  
respondents



**10 173**  
respondents

**2007**

fieldworks:  
**21/02 – 21/03**

**2009**

fieldworks:  
**19/02 – 24/03**

**2011**

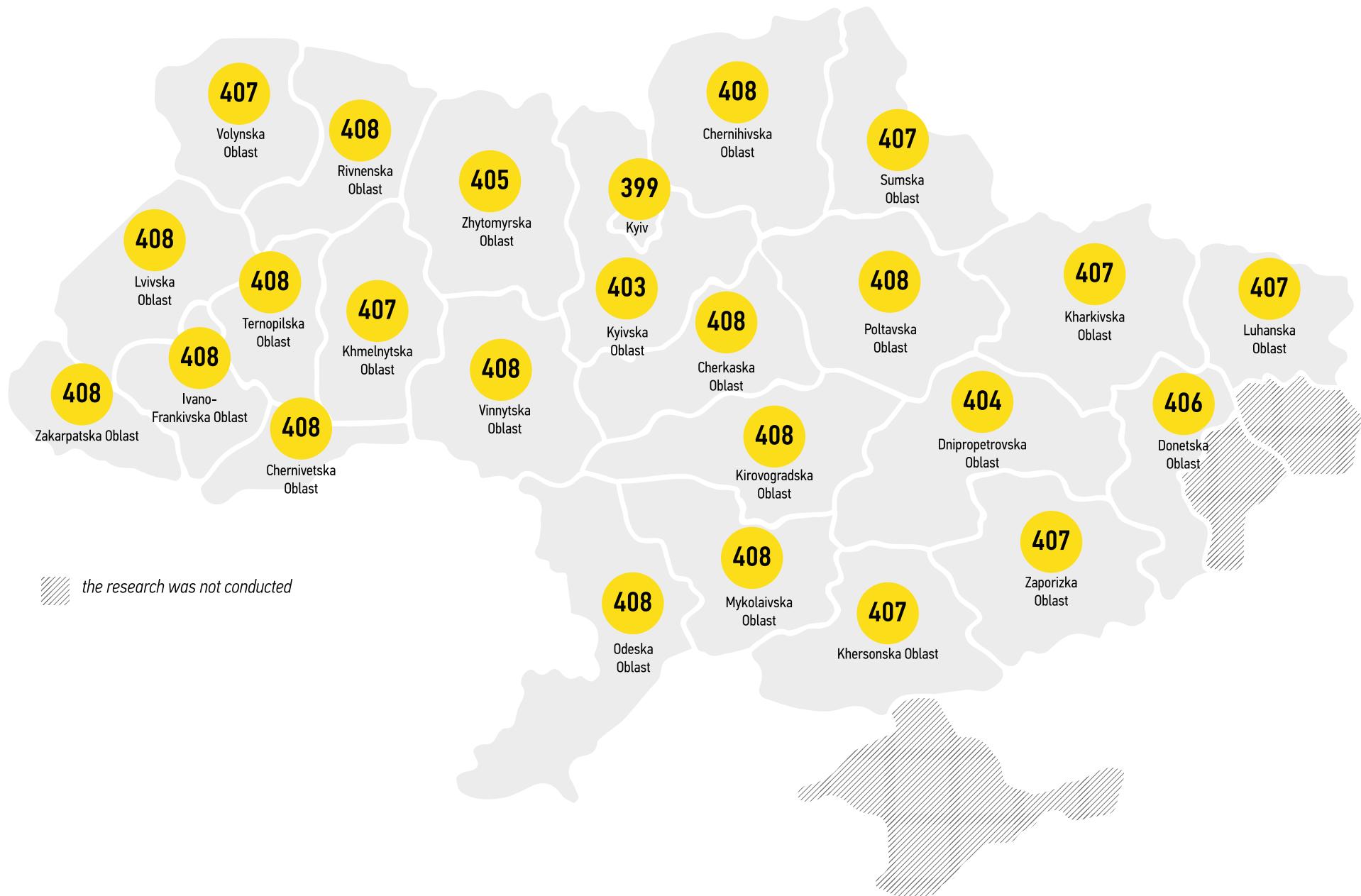
fieldworks:  
**18/03 – 30/04**

**2015**

fieldworks:  
**15/08 – 17/09**

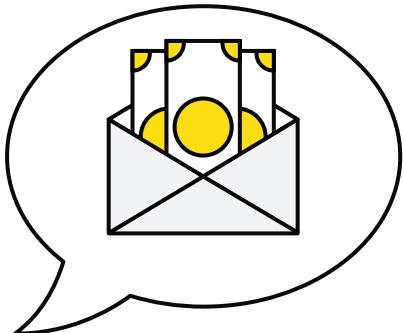
\* In Donetska and Luhanska oblasts the survey was conducted on government controlled area

# SAMPLE SIZE



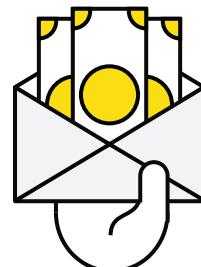
# MAJOR SURVEY TASKS

Monitoring changes in people's perception and experience with corruption in the year preceding the survey; comparing them to the results of the surveys conducted in 2007, 2009, and 2011.



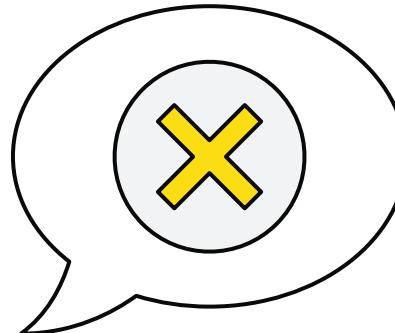
## ATTITUDES TOWARDS THE PROBLEM

*monitoring of attitudes of the adult population in Ukraine towards the problem of corruption*



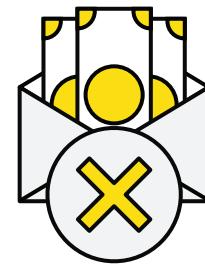
## EXPERIENCES WITH CORRUPTION

*monitoring of citizen experiences with corruption*



## ASSESSMENTS OF ANTI-CORRUPTION MEASURES

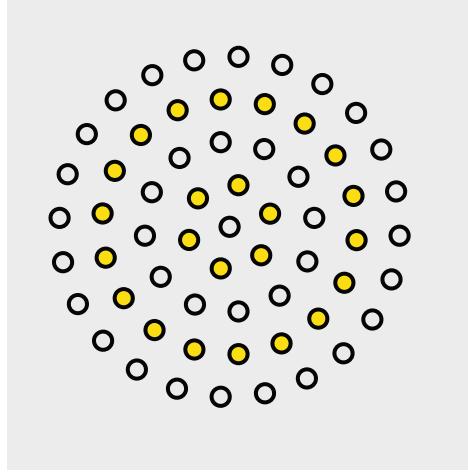
*citizen assessments of the effectiveness of anti-corruption measures taken by the authorities and other anti-corruption activists;*



## WILLINGNESS TO ENGAGE IN ACTIVITIES

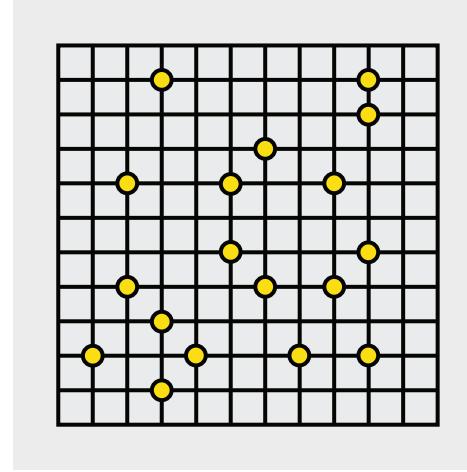
*the public's willingness to engage in anti-corruption activities.*

# PARTICULAR SURVEY ADVANTAGES



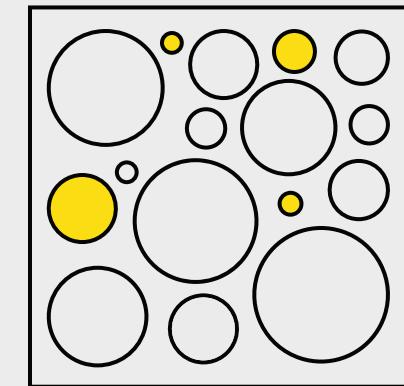
## SAMPLE SIZE

*sample size, which allows to study not only people's perception of the corruption but also their real experience with it*



## SAMPLE DESIGN

*sample design, developed in such a way that it provides an opportunity to analyze data not only for Ukraine as a whole, but also at the level of each separate oblast and Kyiv city;*



## COMPARABLE METHODOLOGY

*comparable methodology and instruments, allowing to track changes in people's perception and experience of corruption which took place during 2007 – 2015*

# CORRUPTION AS THE MISUSE OF PUBLIC OFFICE FOR PRIVATE GAIN

*Corruption includes many forms of behavior. In this survey, we defined corruption as the misuse of public office for private gain. Therefore, corruption occurs when people who are paid from the state budget request or take bribes, gifts or favors; abuse their government position; use their influence for their own personal benefit; show favoritism; or practice nepotism. Sometimes, corruption involves the transfer of money or gifts, but it always includes attempts to seek or use influence beyond what is legal. This definition was also proposed to the respondents.*

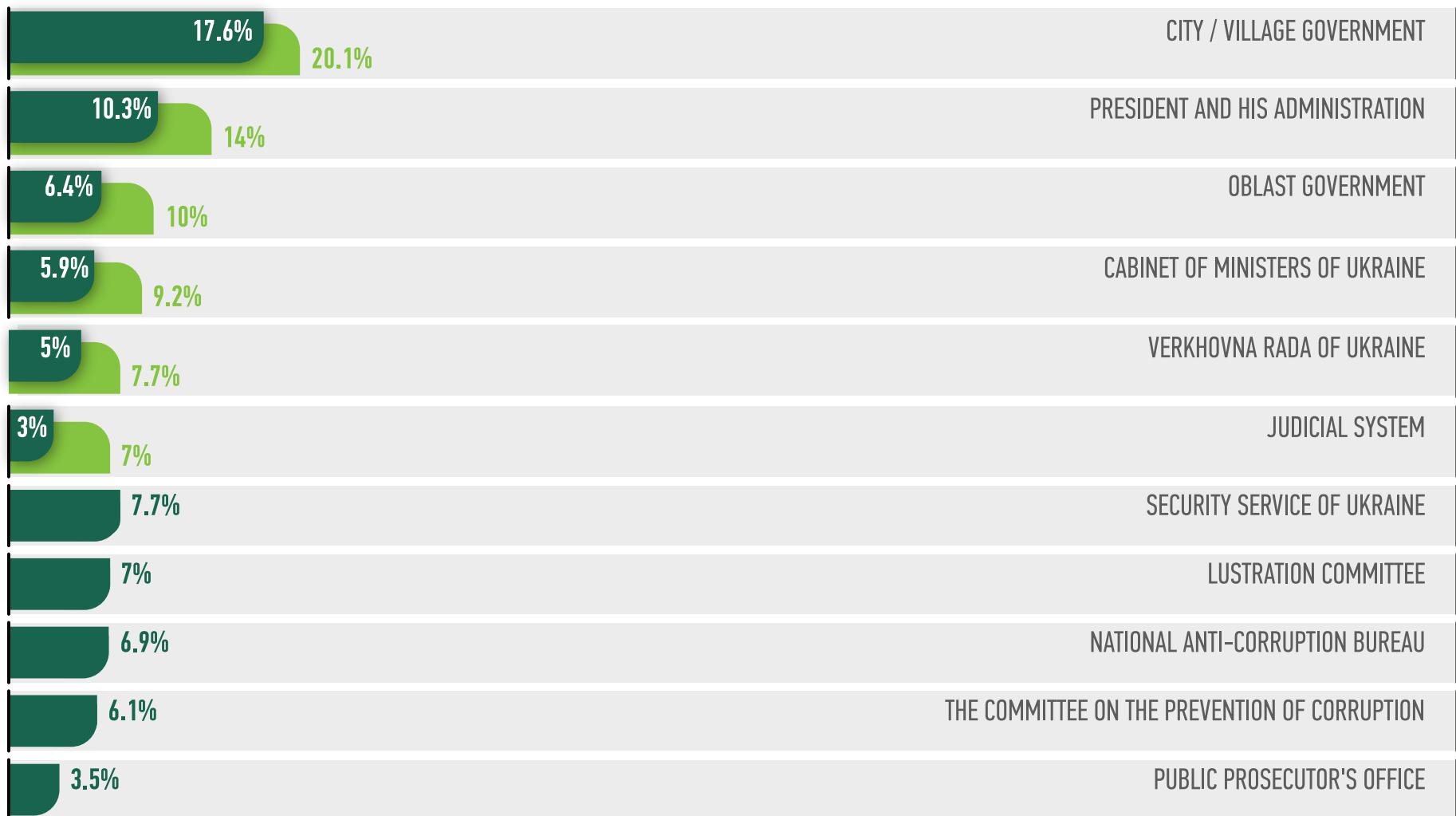
# **ATTITUDES TOWARD THE GOVERNMENT**

comparative analysis of nationwide  
surveys of 2011 and 2015

# DECREASE OF TRUST TO GOVERNMENT

2015 survey has shown decrease of trust in all government levels and bodies, which have been included into both waves of the study, as compared to 2011.

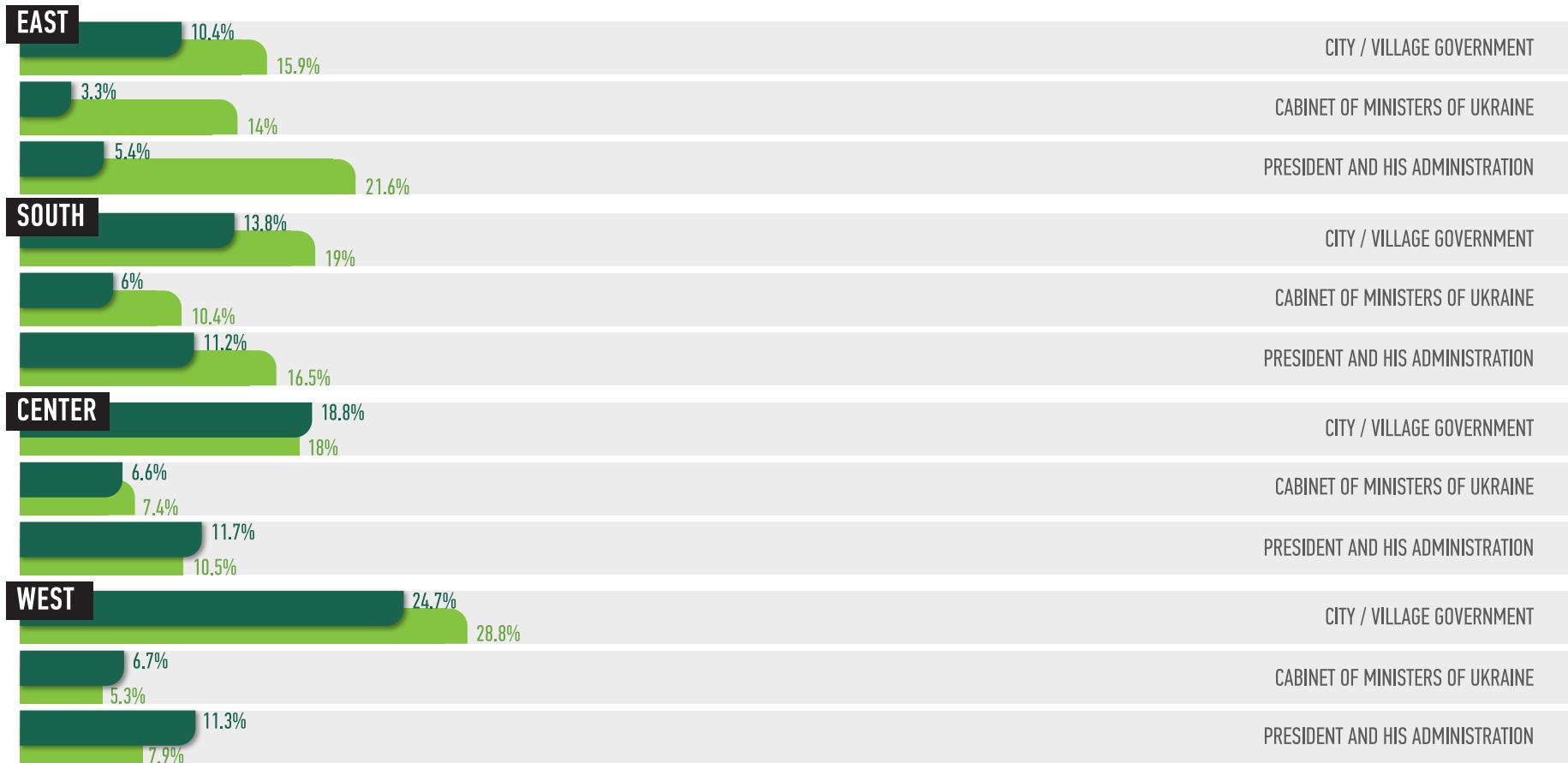
Local governments traditionally enjoy the highest level of trust. Newly created structures have not won trust of population yet.



# TRUST IN GOVERNMENT IN REGIONAL TERMS REFLECTS THE ELECTORAL PREFERENCES

The population of the western regions shows higher confidence in local government (25%) than in the East (10%) and South (14%).

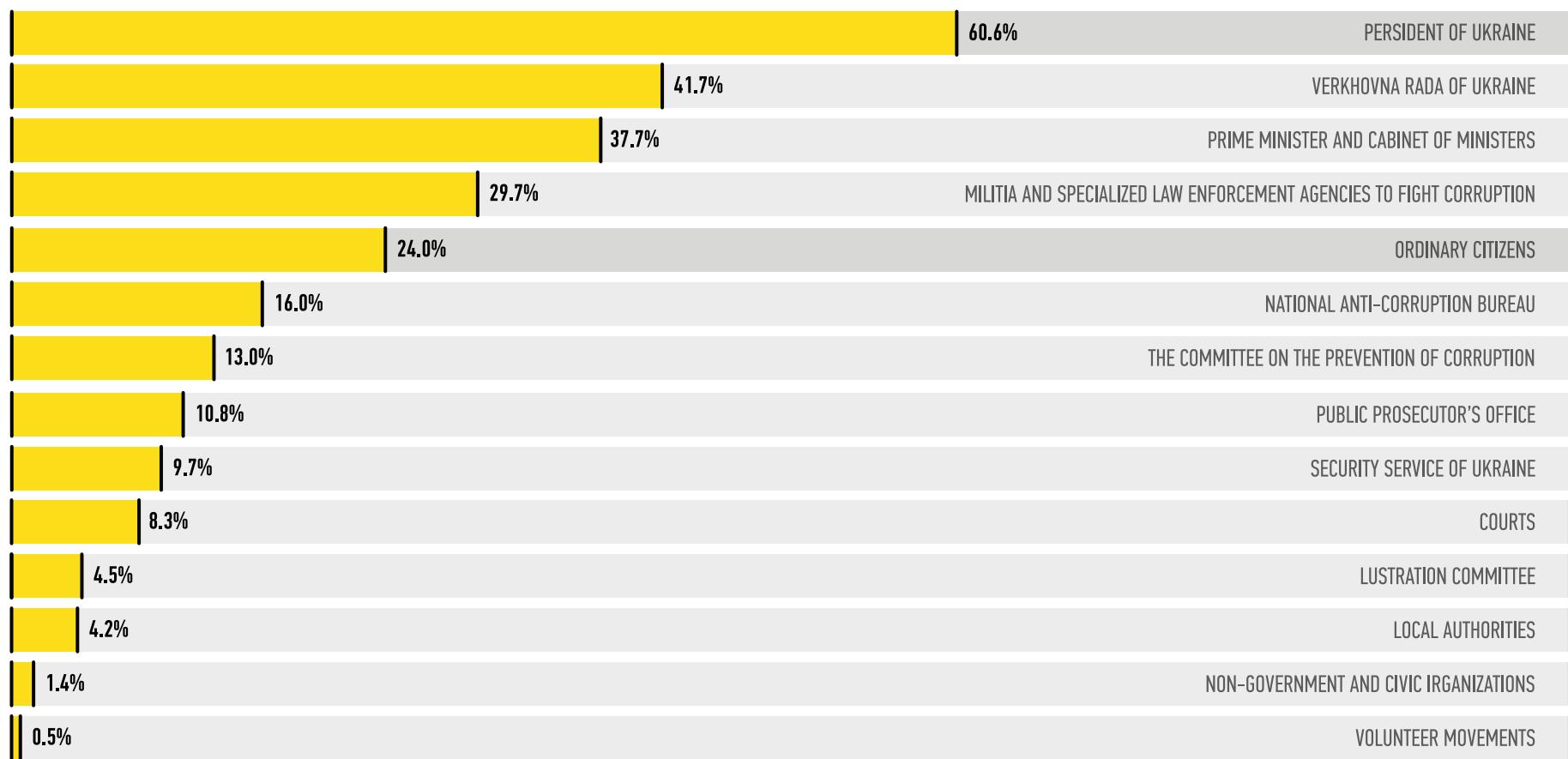
The perception of the credibility of the President and the Cabinet of Ministers coincides with the electoral preferences.



# 60,6% CONSIDER THAT THE PRESIDENT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR OVERCOMING THE CORRUPTION

Despite the low general level of confidence in the governmental institutions, the population of Ukraine continues to regard the highest authorities as the ones responsible for fighting the corruption

The proportion of citizens who consider themselves responsible for fighting the corruption is increasing year after year.



IN YOUR OPINION, WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR OVERCOMING THE CORRUPTION IN UKRAINE?

# CITIZENS BELIEVE THAT THE GOVERNMENT ARE NOT EAGER TO OVERCOME CORRUPTION

Along with the decrease of trust in government, public also shows disbelief in its willingness to fight corruption.

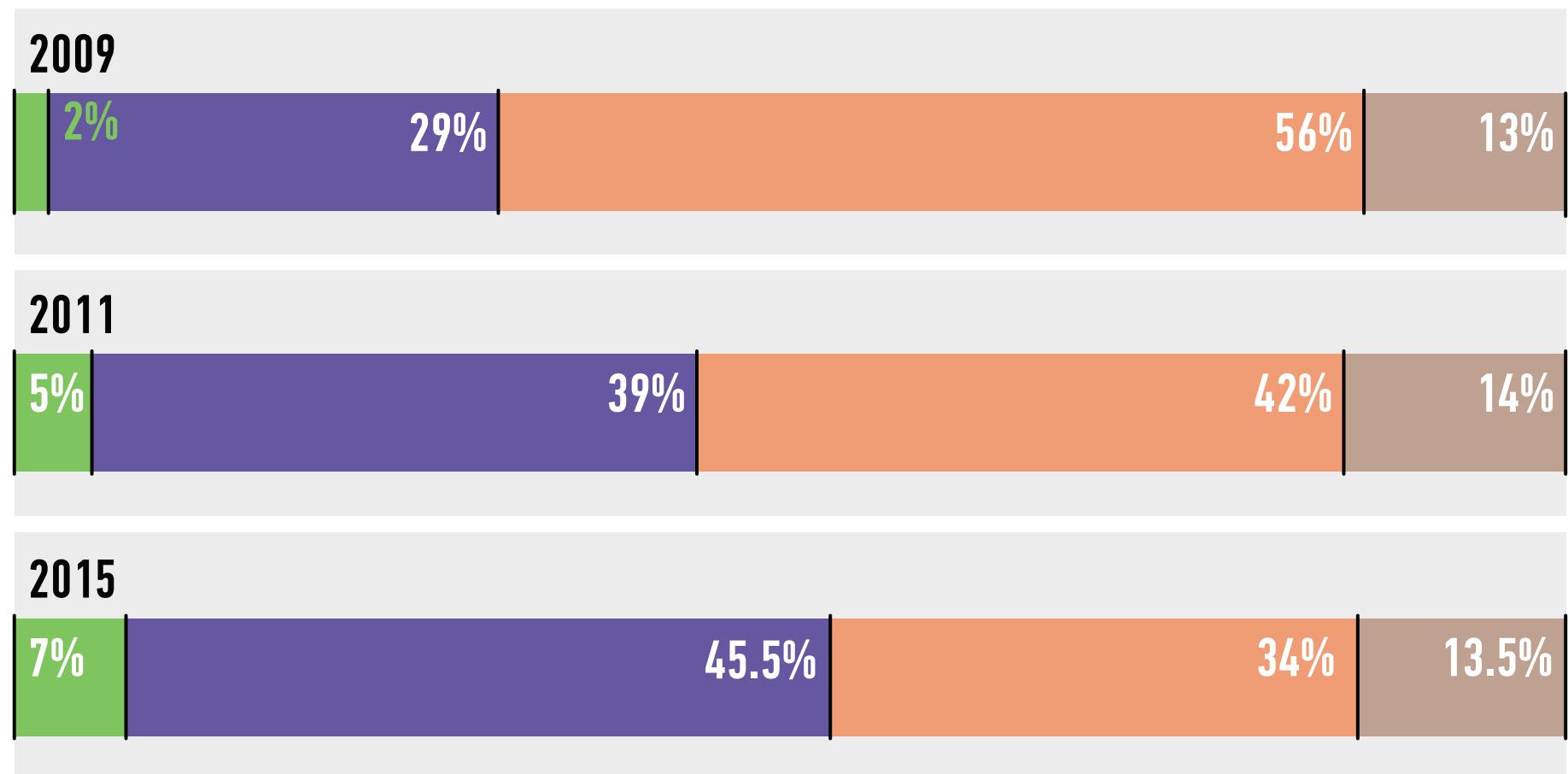
Citizens think that the President demonstrates the highest desire to combat corruption.



# **CHANGES IN PERCEPTION OF CORRUPTION**

# 34% BELIEVE THAT CORRUPTION IS CURRENTLY HIGHER THAN BEFORE EUROMAIDAN (2013)

In the perception of corruption a definite trend is evident: the share of those who comment on the decreased or unchanged scale of corruption is growing. However, fewer citizens point to the growth of corruption in society.



IS THE LEVEL OF CORRUPTION HAS CHANGED?

INCREASED

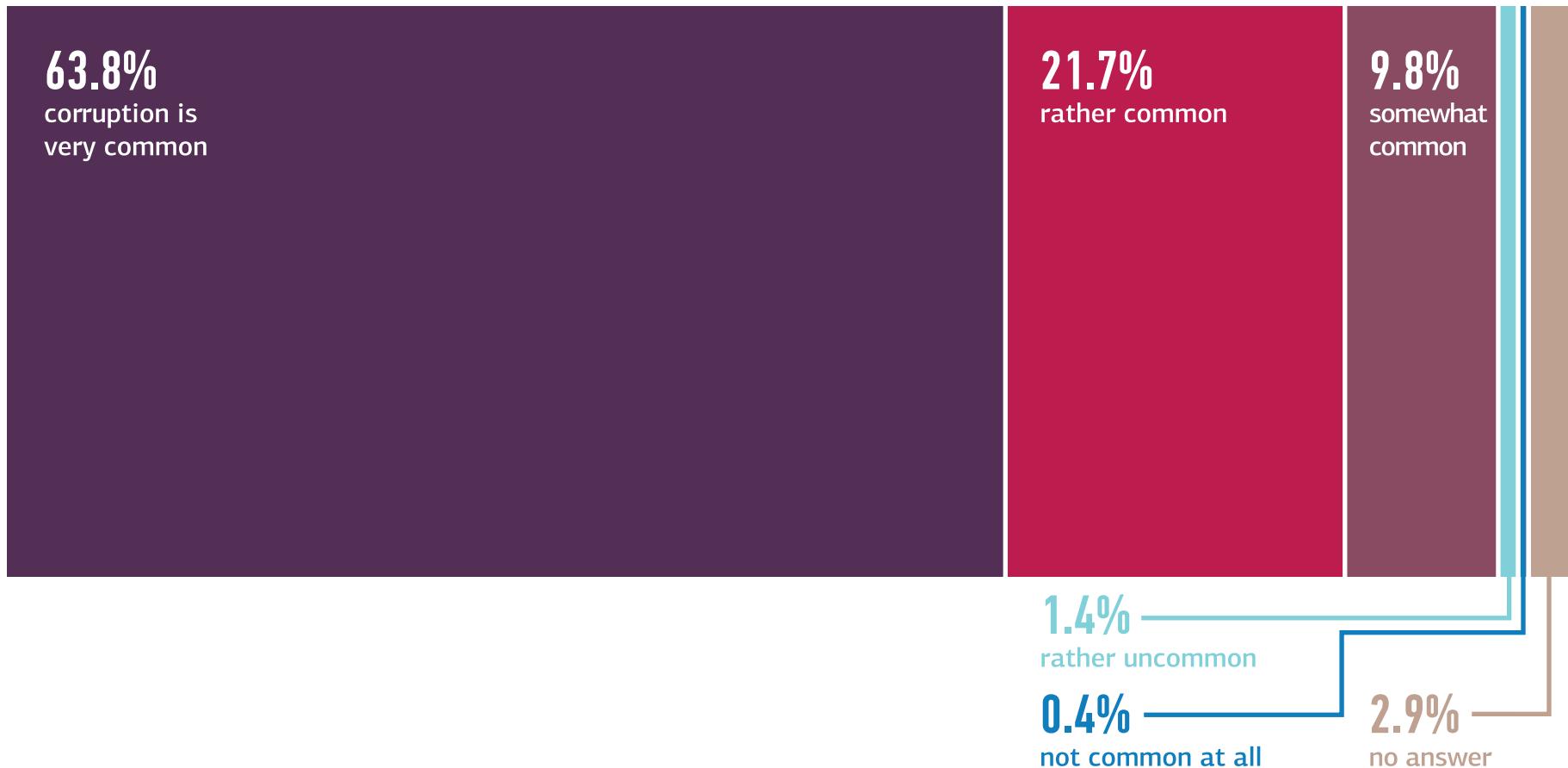
REMAINED THE SAME

DECREASED

NO ANSWER

# 85.5% BELIEVE THAT THE CORRUPTION IN THE UKRAINIAN SOCIETY IS EXCESSIVE

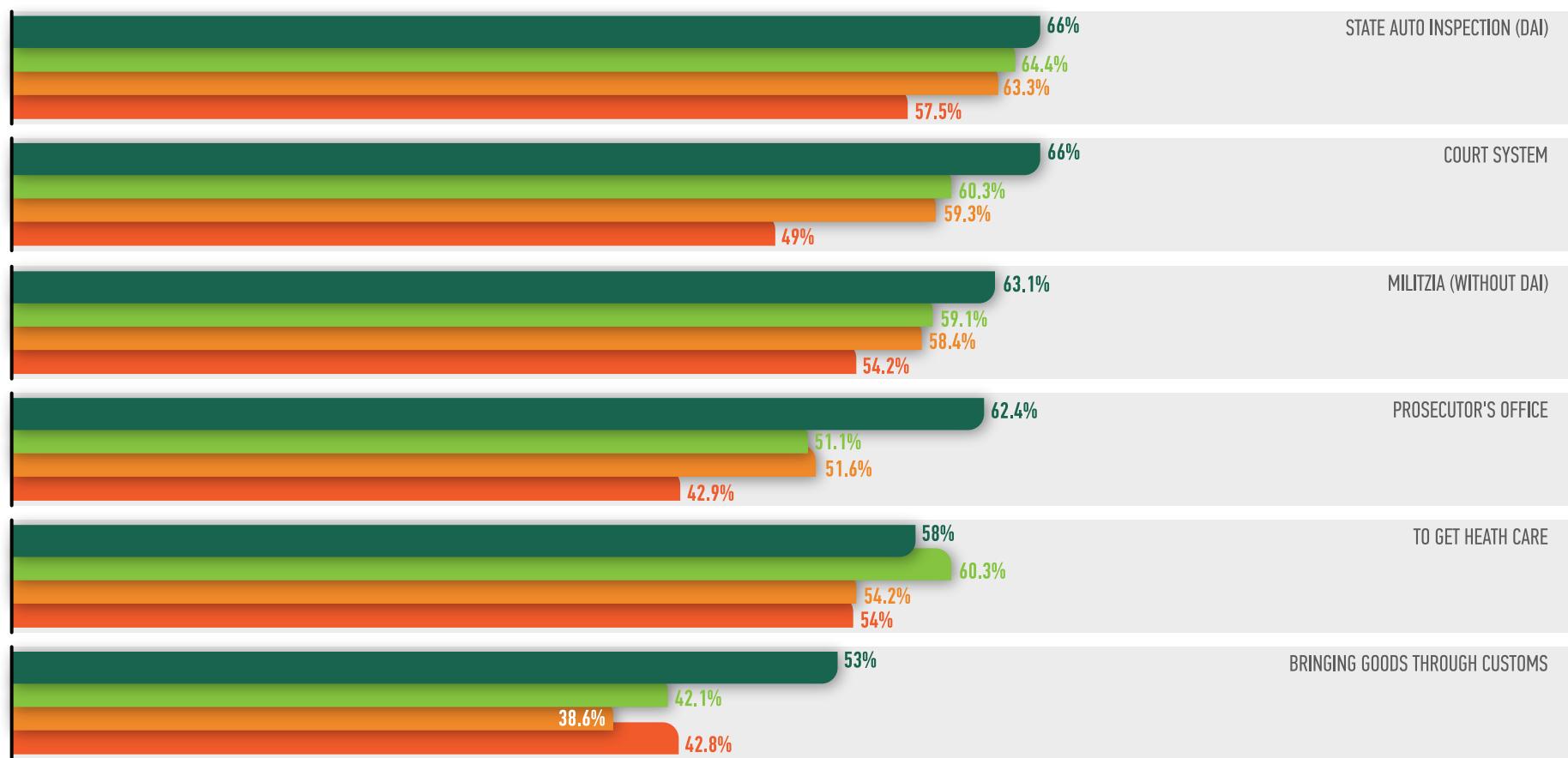
85.5% of adults said that the prevalence of corruption in society is above average. Less than 2% believe that the level of corruption is low or even that there is no corruption at all.



# 6 OUT OF 20 SUGGESTED FIELDS ARE REGARDED AS BEING TOO CORRUPT BY THE MAJORITY

The top-5 areas of activity with the most corrupt image retained its composition. For three sectors only a slight decrease in the perception of the corruption has been observed. The most notable

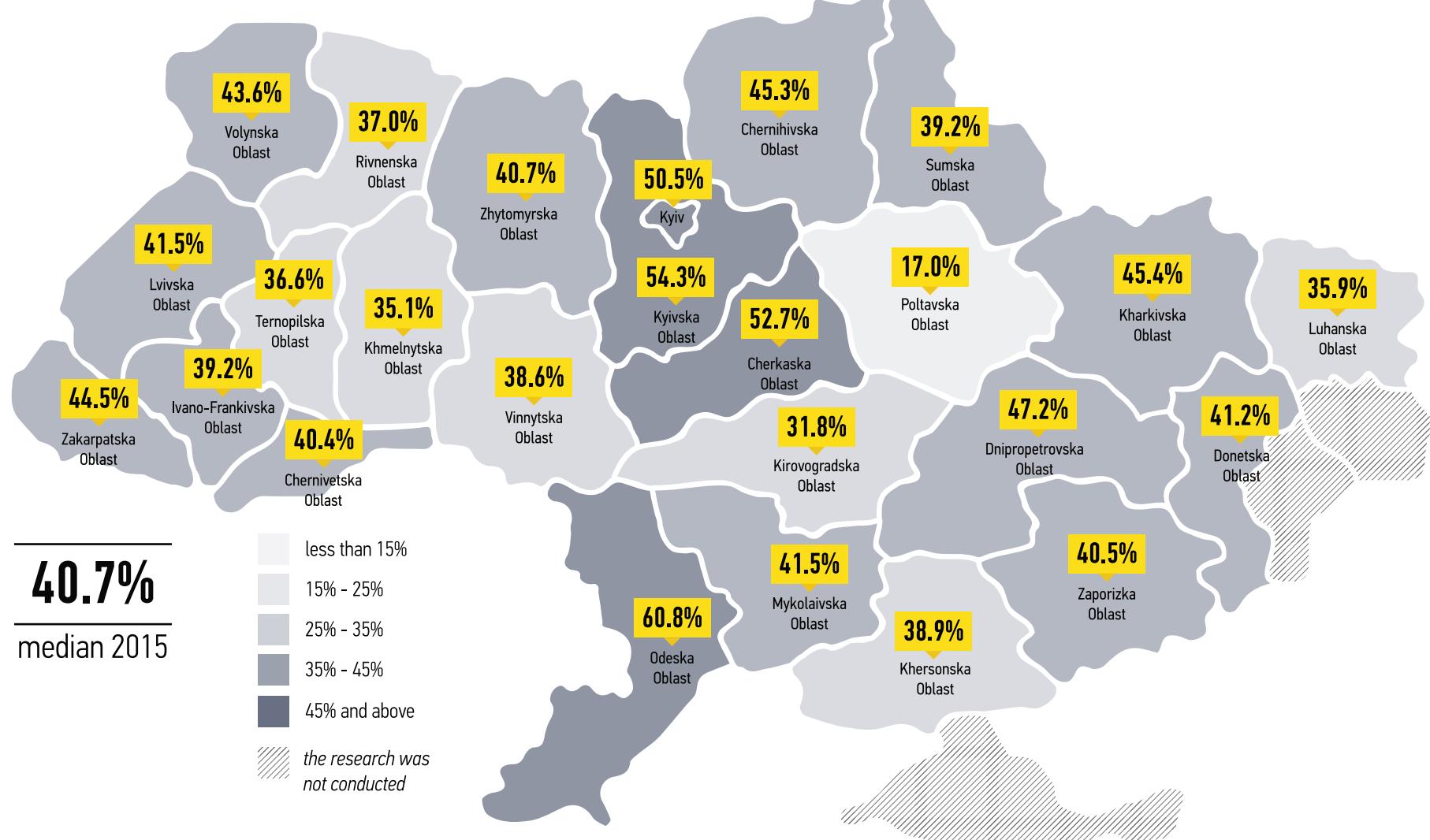
gain in corruption image was observed for prosecutors' office and customs services, although traditionally not more than 3.5% of the population have contacts with these bodies.



# CITIZENS' CORRUPTION PERCEPTION INDEX BY REGION

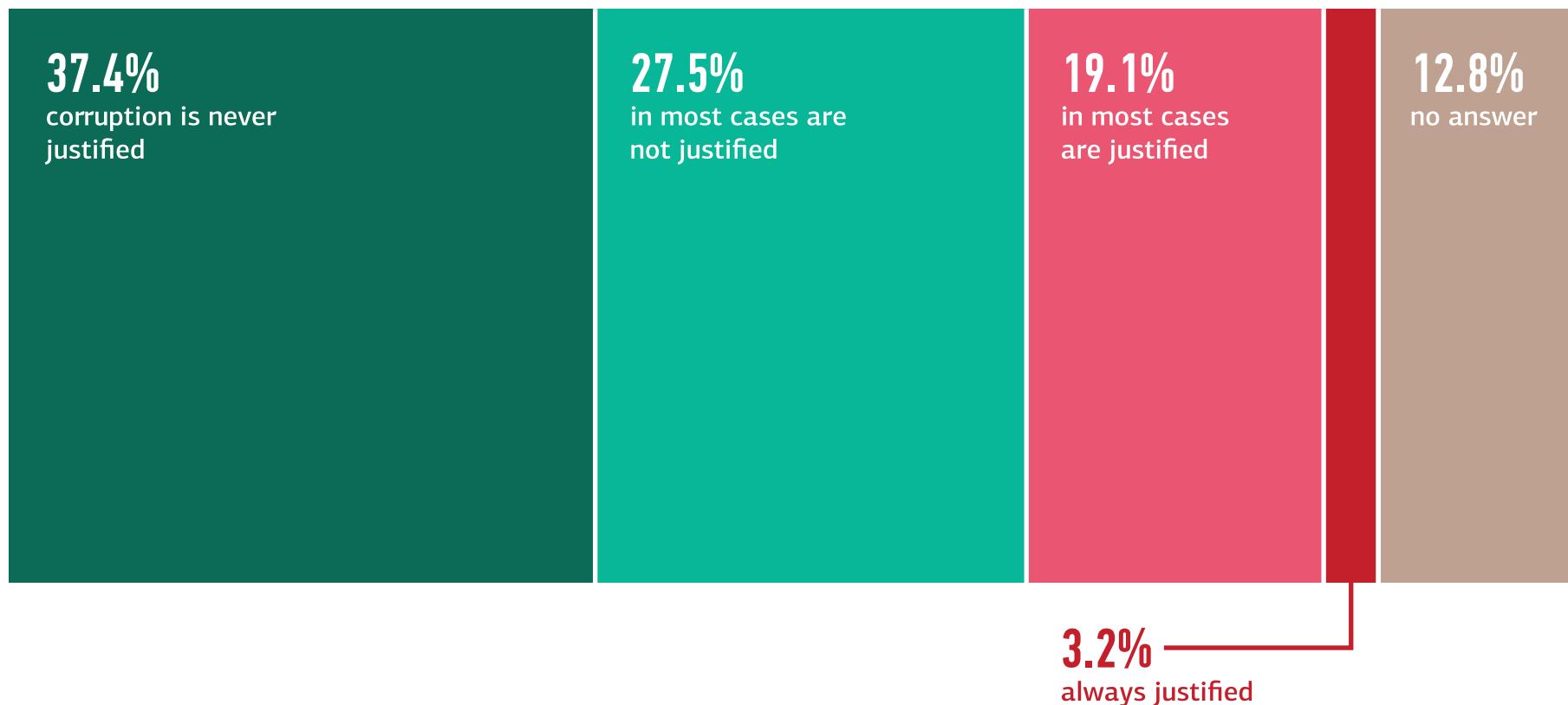
The median, which was 33 in 2007, then rose up to 37 in 2009 and stayed at this level until 2011, has now increased up to 40.7.

Generally, the index has increased in thirteen oblasts in 2015, while in ten of them it has increased by ten or more points.



# 37.4% DECLARE THAT CORRUPT PRACTICES ARE UNACCEPTABLE FOR THEM; 27,5% MORE ACCEPT IT ONLY IN EXCEPTIONAL CASES

49.8% justify their own involvement into the corruption in case if it is beneficial to them, that is when it can help them solve their own problem. 37.4% declare that corrupt practices are completely unacceptable for them. Tendency to rejection of corruption increases with age, while women are relatively more tolerant to corruption. Young people are most willing to use corrupt beneficial relationships.

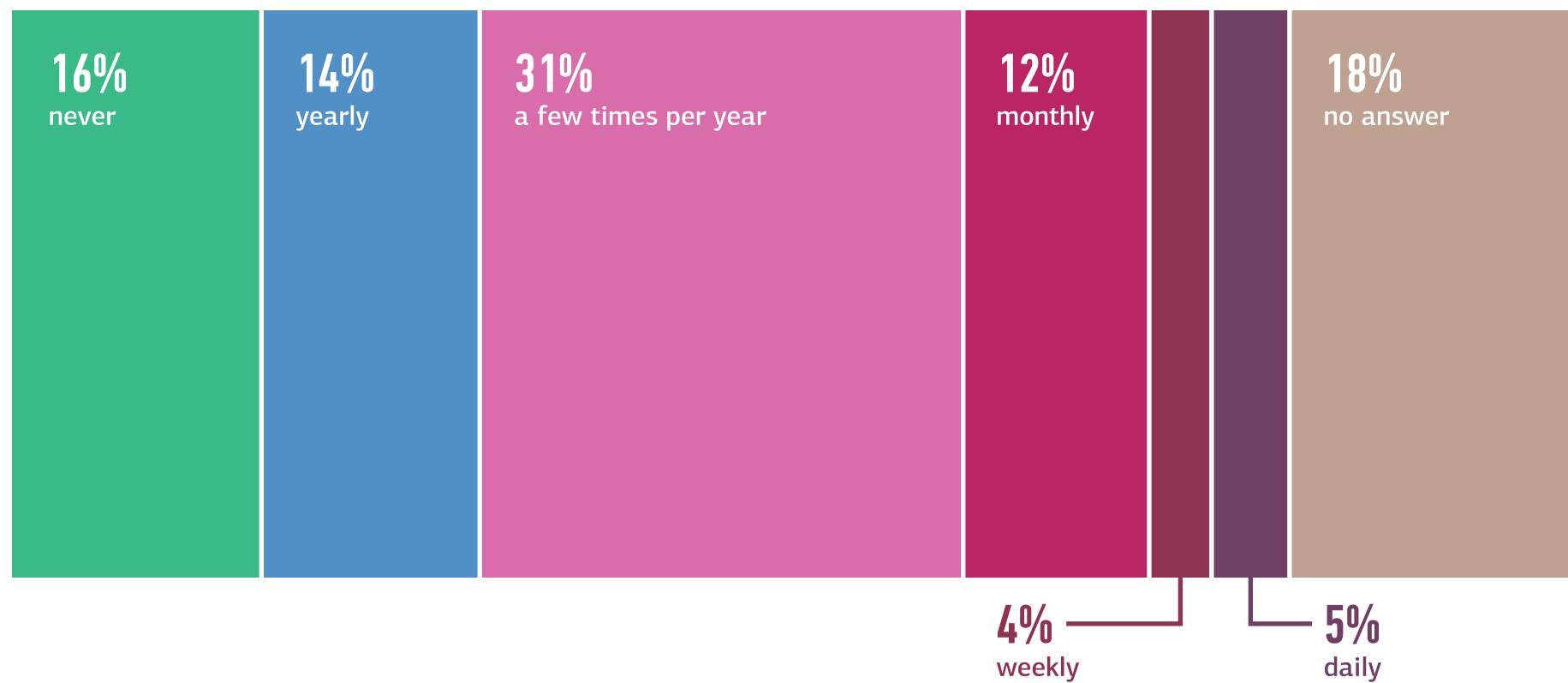


# **CHANGES OF REAL EXPERIENCE WITH CORRUPTION**

# MORE THAN HALF OF THE CITIZENS FACE THE CORRUPTION AT LEAST ONCE A YEAR

According to the survey in 2015, 65.5% of the population face situations that they regard as corruption at least once a year. 40.7% of adult residents of Ukraine have given unofficial

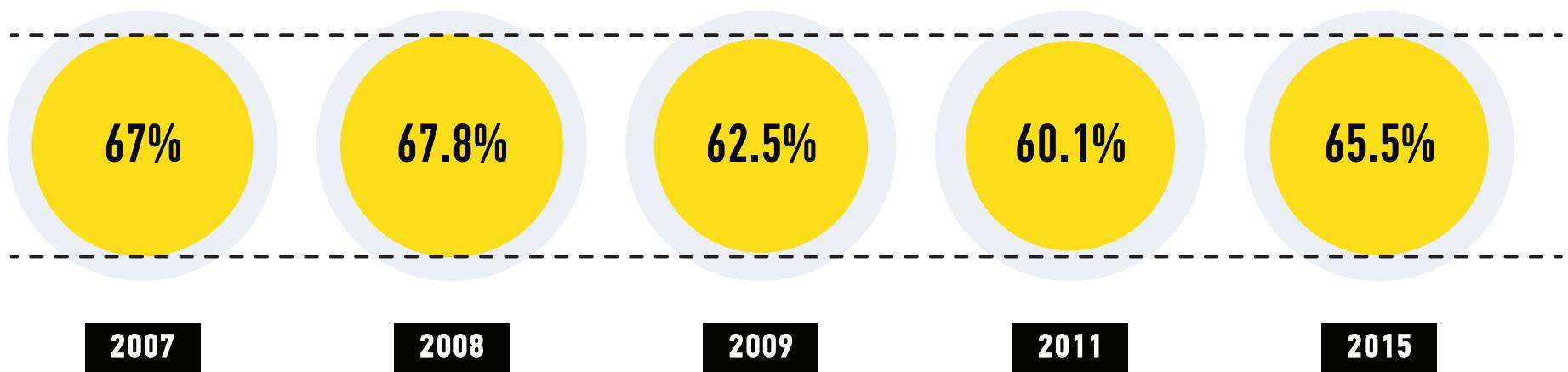
payments to representatives of state bodies, and 6.1% have received a corresponding offer over the last 12 months.



# THE SHARE OF CITIZENS INVOLVED INTO CORRUPT RELATIONS HAS NOT DECREASED

In 2015, the wording of the questions about the general experience of corruption was changed, so it is impossible to compare directly the percentage of those involved in the corrupt relations.

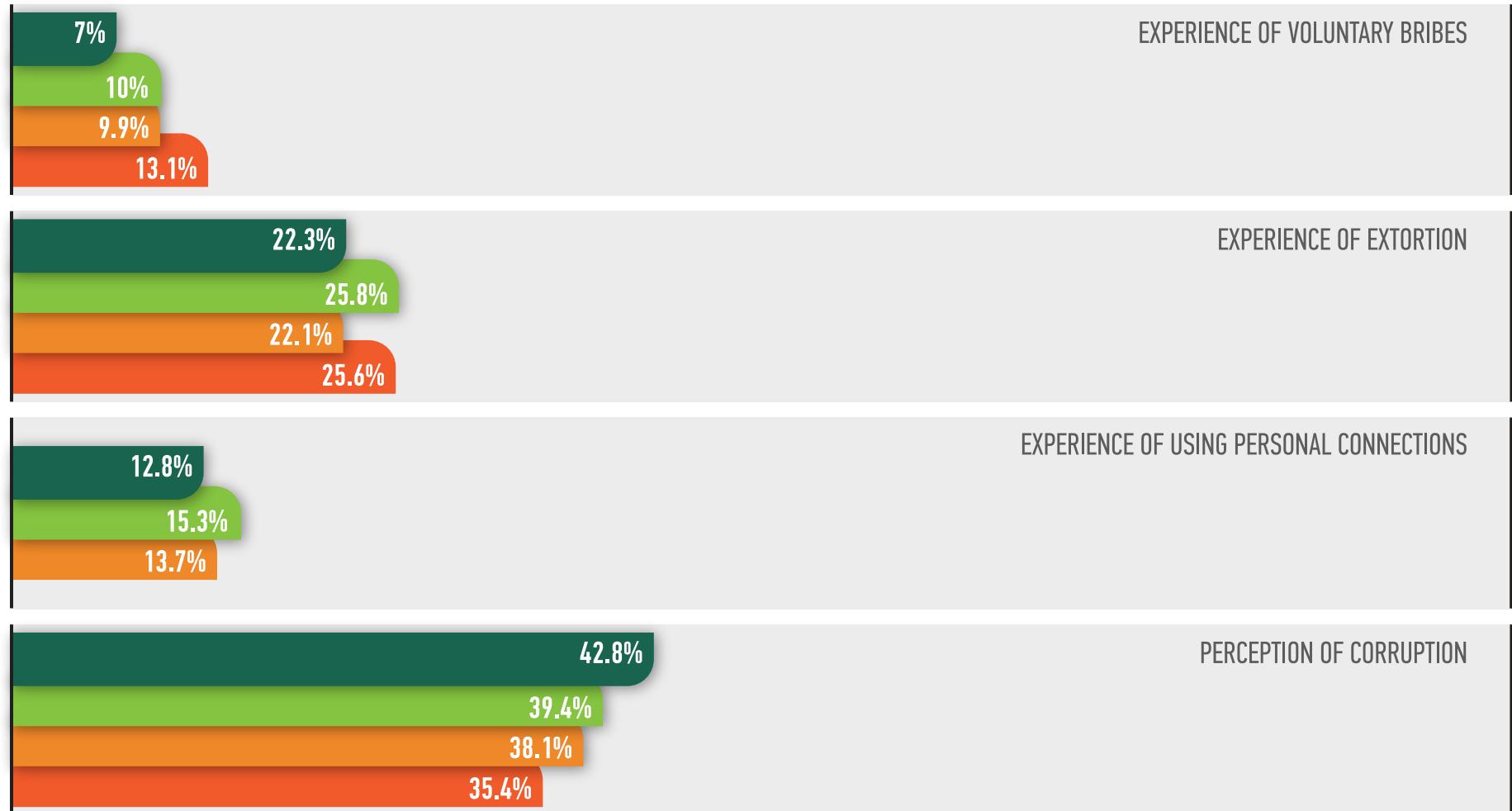
However, we can point out that the share of those involved into corruption has not changed significantly over the past four years.



In the studies of 2007- 2011, the proportion of people involved in corruption was determined by the answers "yes" to the question "In the past 12 months, have you or your family been involved in any form of corruption with any governmental officials including educational, medical or other organizations?". The 2015 research question was worded as "How often do you encounter any form of corruption? - Daily, weekly, monthly, several times a year, yearly or never", where the proportion of those involved in the corrupt relationship was defined as the percentage of responses "every day" to "yearly".

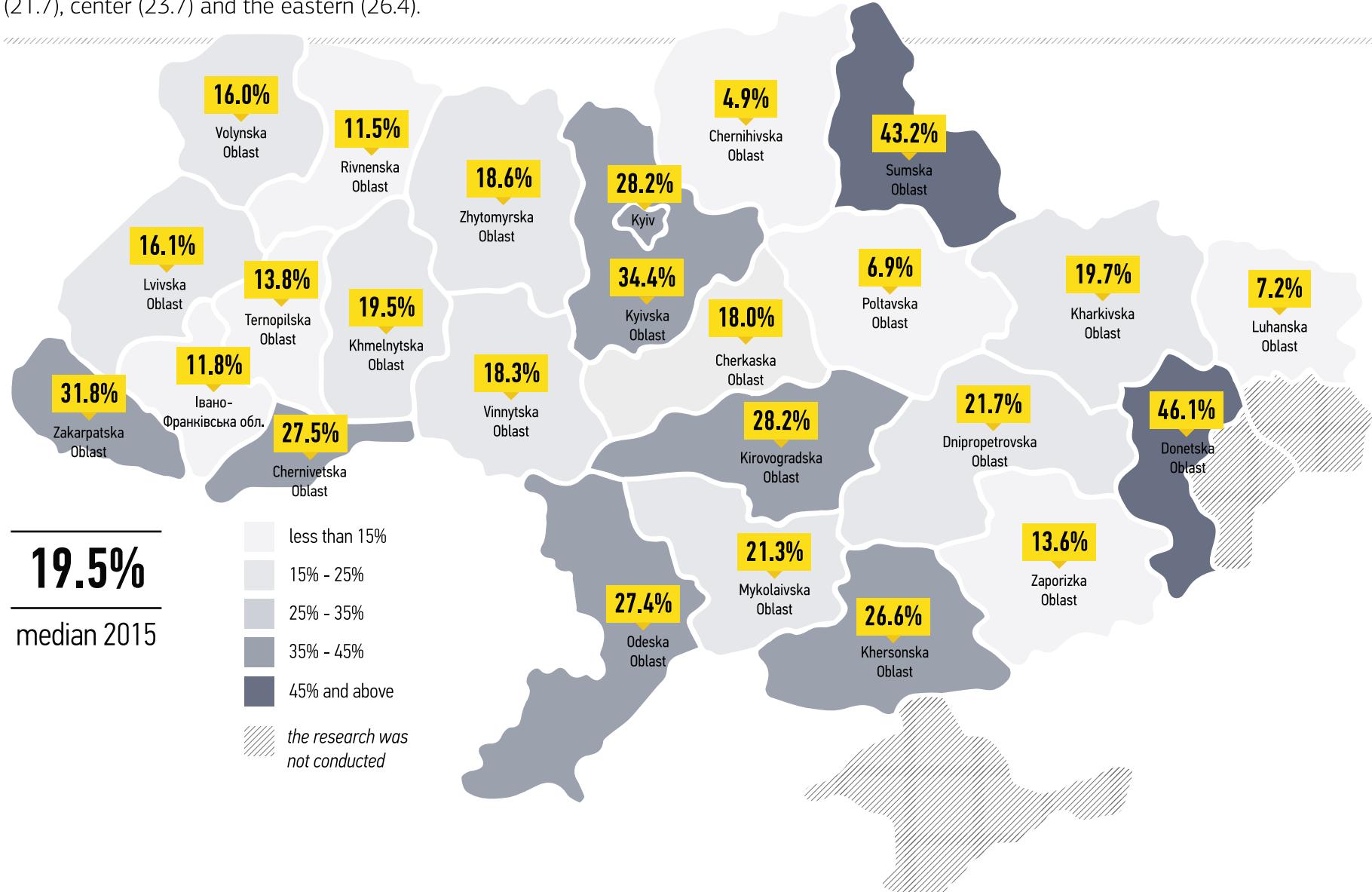
# INDICES OF CORRUPTION: 2007 - 2015

Despite the growing perception of the corruption prevalence in different sectors, the share of corruption situations has decreased slightly as compared to 2011, moreover, not only the prevalence of extortion, but also the use of personal connections and voluntary bribe offers in order to make the deal with government officials has reduced.



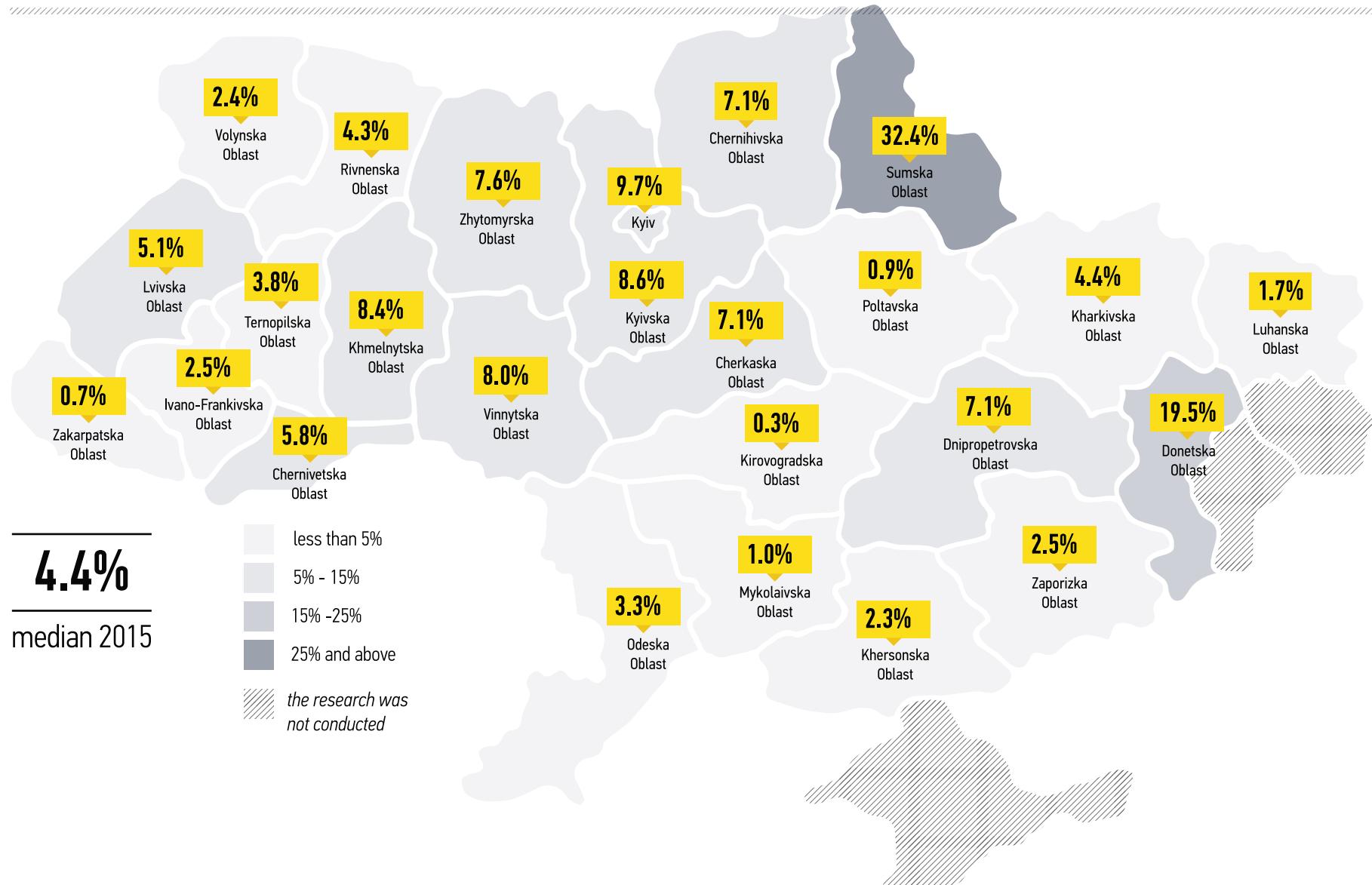
# INDICES OF CORRUPTION: EXTORTION (2015)

The data of 2007 showed and all subsequent studies have confirmed the fact that extortion takes place much more often than voluntary bribery. In 2015, this ratio has increased slightly, and the average for all observed areas is 2.9 to 1. The median of the extortion experience index (CEI-E) has decreased from 25.3 to 19.5 since 2011. That is, if extortion of the bribe was associated with one in four official contacts four years ago, now it is one in five. On the average, bribes are somewhat less common in western oblasts (18.1) than in the southern (21.7), center (23.7) and the eastern (26.4).



# INDICES OF CORRUPTION: VOLUNTARY BRIBES (2015)

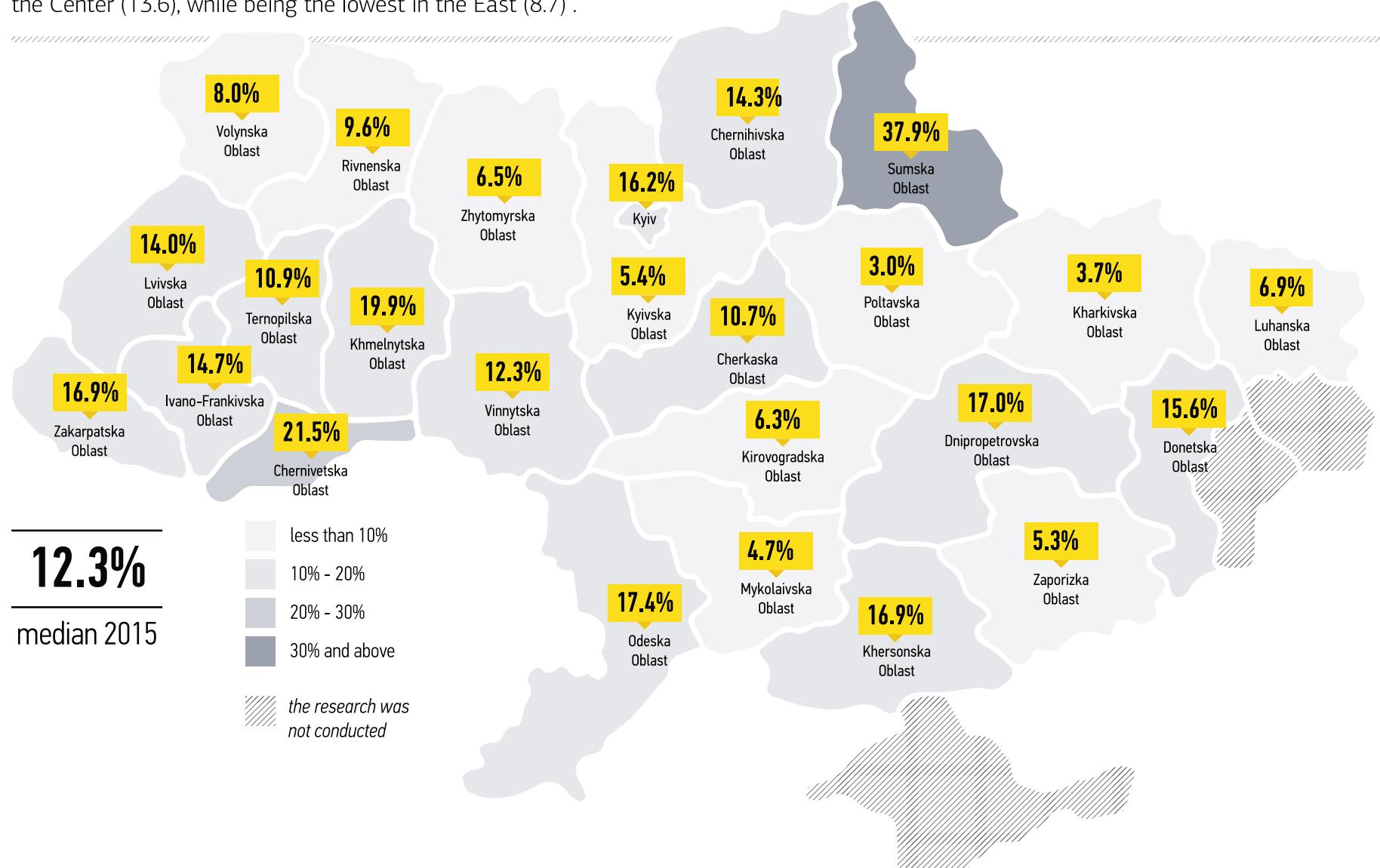
According to the 2015 data, the incidence of bribe offers still tends to decrease. As compared to 2011, the cases of offering unofficial payments initiated by citizens has become twice as rare as before: median of corruption experience index on a voluntary basis has decreased from 8.2 to 4.4. As for the regional differences, residents of western (4.1) and southern (4.1) oblasts offer bribes less frequently than in the East (9.2) and the Center (10.1) of Ukraine.



# INDICES OF CORRUPTION: USING CONNECTIONS (2015)

According to the 2015 data, median value of the index of use of personal connections, nepotism, cronyism when dealing with government officials (CEI-P) is 12.3, which is slightly lower than in 2011. As before, this index contains values between CEI-E and CEI-V, i.e. the Ukrainians use personal connections more often than face extortion by officials, but less often than they offer bribe on their own initiative.

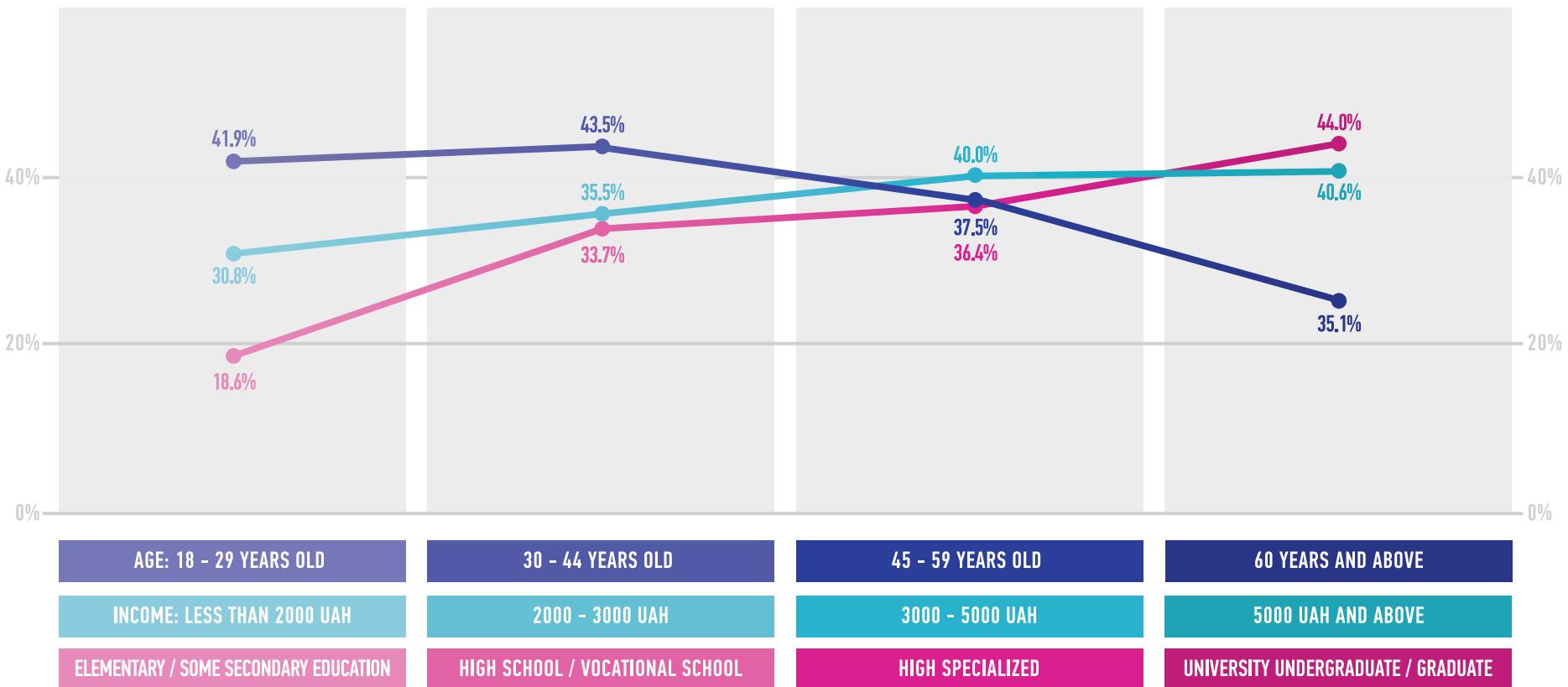
In regional terms, the highest level of use of personal connections is in western Ukraine (14.2); it is slightly lower in the South (13.3) and in the Center (13.6), while being the lowest in the East (8.7).



# **PEOPLE'S RESPONSE TO CORRUPTION**

# ONE THIRD HAS SHOWN READINESS TO DEFEND THEIR RIGHTS BEFORE OFFICIALS

36.7% declare the willingness to stand for their own rights. This figure has not changed compared to previous years, and during 2007 - 2011, the proportion of those willing to resist corrupt officials ranged from 33.2% to 35.9%. On the other hand, the proportion of respondents who report their unwillingness to stand for their rights has decreased from 33% -34% in 2007-2011 to 22.8% in 2015. Men, younger citizens, those having higher education and material wellbeing used to report their willingness more frequently.



# CONCLUSIONS

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In general, the people of Ukraine are still poorly informed about the anti-corruption campaigns or activities taken by the authorities and other organizations; and those familiar with similar anti-corruption activities, tend to consider them ineffective. Anti-corruption activities taken by media (regarded as effective by 27% of respondents) and NGOs (28%) are recognized to be the most effective. Estimates for the rest of organizations range from 5% (activity of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine) to 12% (activity of the Lustration Committee).

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## TRUST IN GOVERNMENT

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2015 study shows the decrease in trust in government bodies of all levels.

## PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY

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Despite the general low level of trust in the government, the population continues to view the highest authorities as the ones responsible for fighting corruption; although the proportion of those who are willing to share the responsibility increases.

## CORRUPTION IN SOCIETY

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More than half of respondents said that corruption in society is now not higher than it was on the eve of Euromaidan (2013), while one third of respondents noticed an increase in corruption.

## THE MOST CORRUPTED FIELDS

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Population considers traffic police, court system, militia (apart from the traffic police), prosecutors' office, and health care to be the most corrupt fields of life.

## CORRUPTION AS A HANDY TOOL

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Half of the population regards corruption as a handy tool to achieve their own goals.

## FACING THE CORRUPTION

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More than half the population faces corruption more or less often.

## OFFERING THE BRIBE

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The general trend in the corruption practice in Ukraine in 2015 is as follows: although cases of bribe extortion in many fields stay at the same level, there is a noticeable reduction in the voluntary bribe offer.

## CORRUPTION EXPERIENCE

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Indices of corruption experience are the following: extortion takes place in 22% of interactions with officials; voluntary bribe offer in 7%, and use of personal connections in 13% of cases.