

A SURVEY OF COMMUNITY-POLICE PERCEPTIONS IN TIMOR-LESTE 2015

Summary



INTRODUCTION

In 2015, The Asia Foundation conducted its third nationwide survey of community-police perceptions. The survey aimed at gathering data, and tracking changes in the perceptions of community members, and of the police on security and police related issues as well as a follow-on survey conducted in 2008 and 2013. The survey was also meant to evaluate the opinion on the security sector performance and security environment in Timor-Leste. The CPP survey interviewed a nationally representative sample of the general public, community leaders and member of the National Police of Timor-Leste (PNTL). The survey oversampled in all 13 municipalities which provided representative data for all 13 municipalities, enabling inter-municipality comparison. The survey generates empirical data that can be used to respond to perceived challenges and to improve the effectiveness of the country's security sector. The survey also establishes a baseline and measures changes in community-police relations over time. This provides a basis for evaluating activities designed to strengthen community-police cooperation. The content of the survey is structured in the sessions that include the security situation, justice-seeking behavior, PNTL performance, community policing capacity, as well as trust in, and expectations of, the PNTL.

METHODOLOGY

5395 Respondents

13 Municipalities

Random Sampling Strategy

General Public	Local Leaders	PNTL
3520	976	899

SECURITY PERCEPTIONS

While concerns about insecurity still reportedly affect half of the general population, there is a decreasing trend since 2008 when feelings of insecurity peaked. Perceptions of insecurity have decreased significantly since 2013. The perceptions of insecurity of both the general public and community leaders have decreased over time, with the largest decline found in the proportion of respondents who say they are 'very concerned' about their safety (CL=66% in 2013 compared to 41% in 2015; GP=54% in 2013 compared to 37% in 2015).

HOW CONCERNED ARE YOU ABOUT **YOUR SAFETY**?

(General public - National)

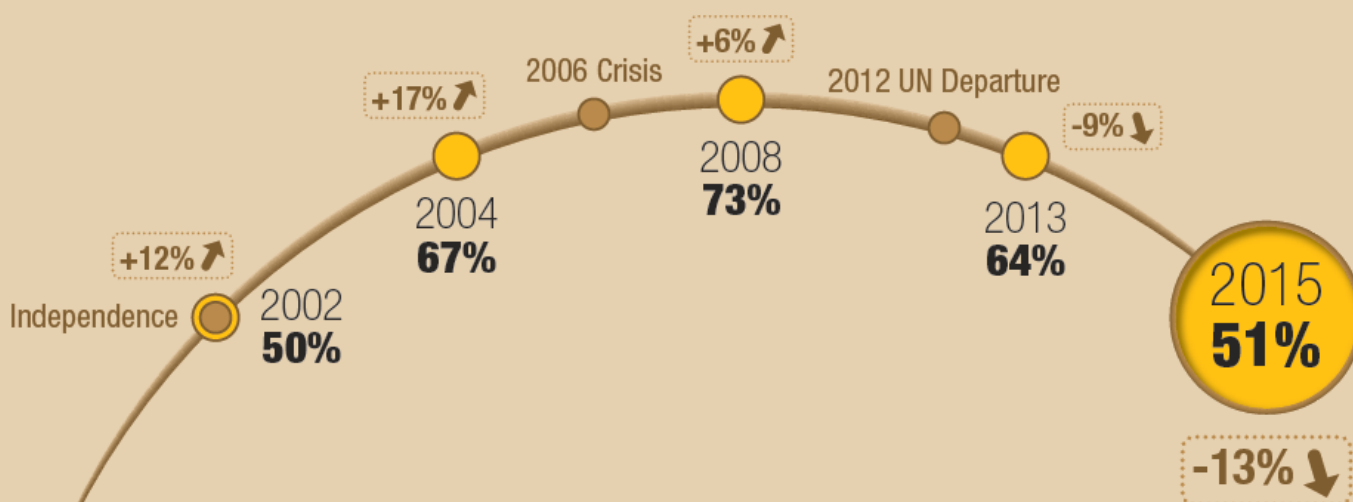
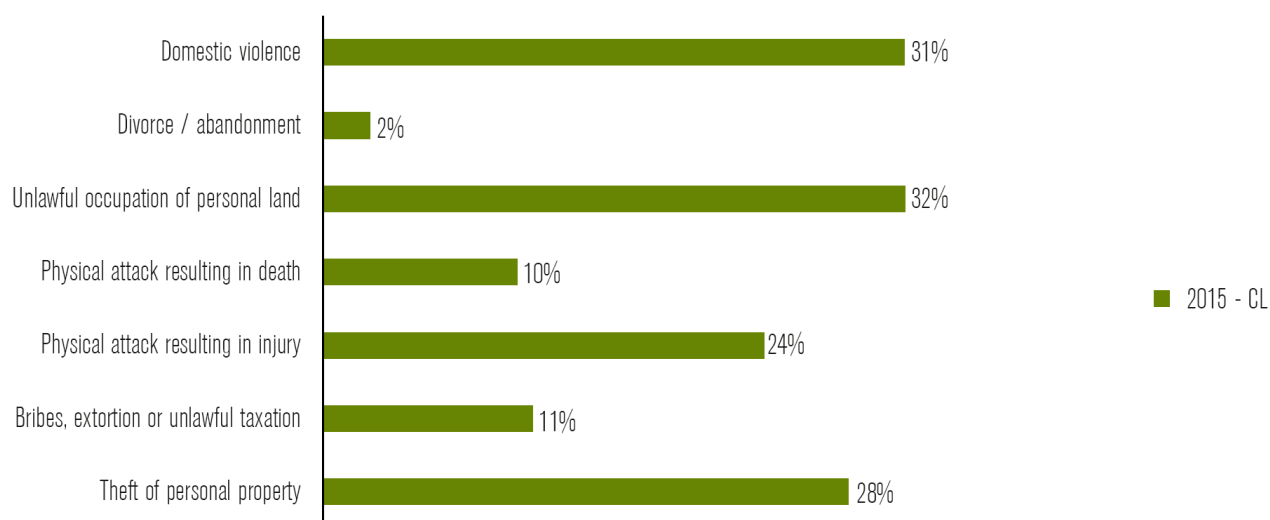


Figure 3.1 **IN THE PAST YEAR HAS A MEMBER OF YOUR COMMUNITY SOUGHT YOUR HELP BECAUSE OF ANY OF THE FOLLOWING CRIMES?**
(2015 - COMMUNITY LEADERS - NATIONAL)



The 2015 survey found that community leaders assisted mainly with land disputes (32%), domestic violence (31%), and theft (28%) over the past year (Figure 3.1). Interestingly, well over 80% of community leaders in Oecusse report dealing with each of these types of issues, and in the case of land disputes, 100% of community leaders in Oecusse report having dealt with that type of case over the past year, despite only 3% of general public respondents in Oecusse reporting being victims of land grabbing in the past year.

Women's lifetime experiences of intimate partner violence



Overall, three out of five (59%) ever-partnered women have experienced physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence in their lifetime, and 47% had experienced it in the last year.

This intimate partner violence was more common in urban areas than in rural areas and more common in the capital municipality, Dili, than in other municipalities. Women aged between 15-19 years were at the greatest risk of experiencing current physical and/or sexual partner violence, suggesting that violence often starts early in marriage. Intimate partner violence prevalence is lower in Timor-Leste than WHO data from the Solomon Islands, Kiribati and Ethiopia and more similar to rates in Bangladesh, Samoa and the Pacific.

ARE **ILLEGAL GROUPS** ACTIVE IN YOUR LOCALITY?

Respondents who said **yes**

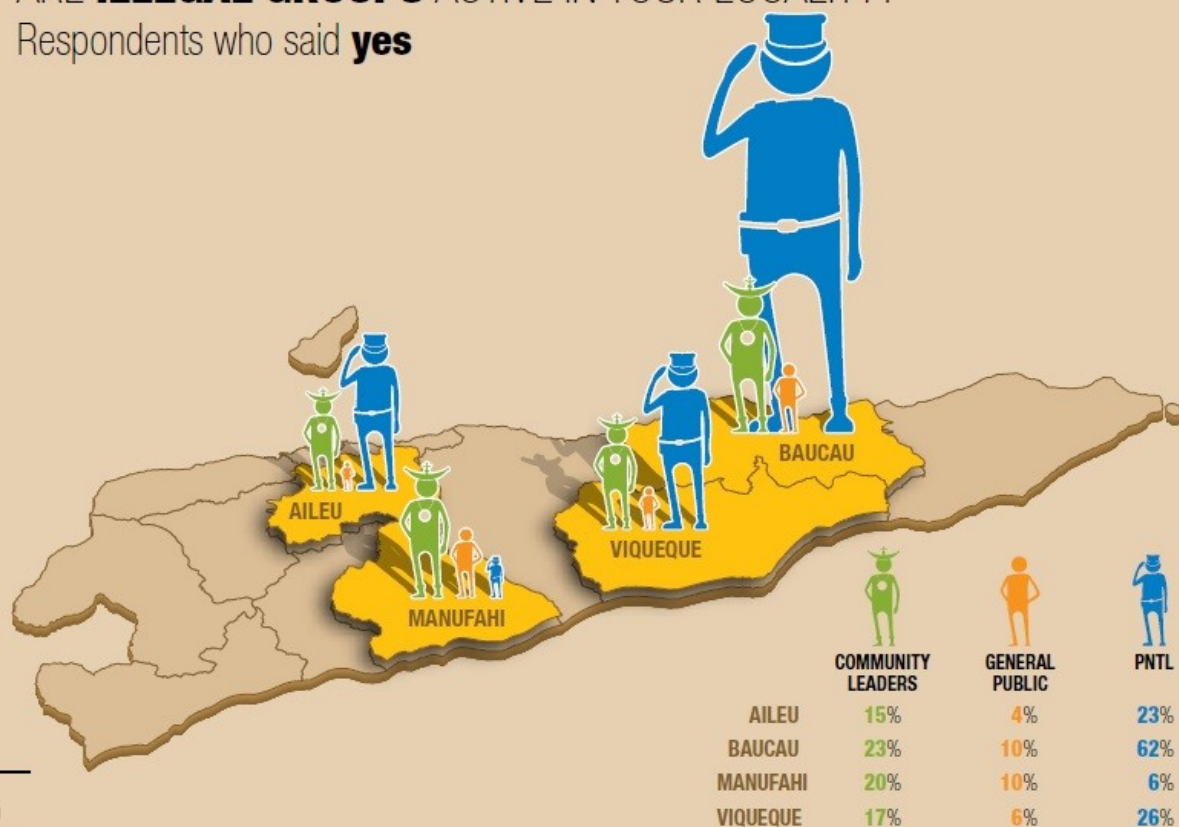


Figure 2.15

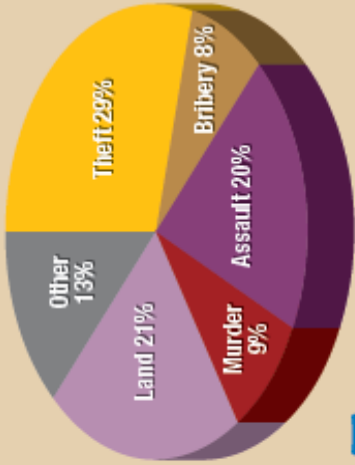
A majority of general public respondents said illegal groups were not active in their locality (92%), a figure similar to community leaders (89%), and slightly higher than the police (80%). Not surprisingly, there are some significant differences between municipalities (Figure 2.15). Among all municipalities, Baucau registered the highest reported level of illegal group activity (PNTL=62%; CL=23%; GP=10%). Despite 62% of police respondents reporting that illegal groups are active in Baucau, when asked to rank how active they are, 56% said not active, 38% said somewhat active, and only 5% said very active. However, in 2015 the PNTL and the government put intensive financial, legislative, and human resources into enforcement measures to control these groups.

JUSTICE-SEEKING BEHAVIOUR



GENERAL PUBLIC JUSTICE SEEKING PATHWAYS AND RESOLUTION RATES

Crimes reported n=1,139



22% experienced a crime

FIRST REACTION



42% PNTL

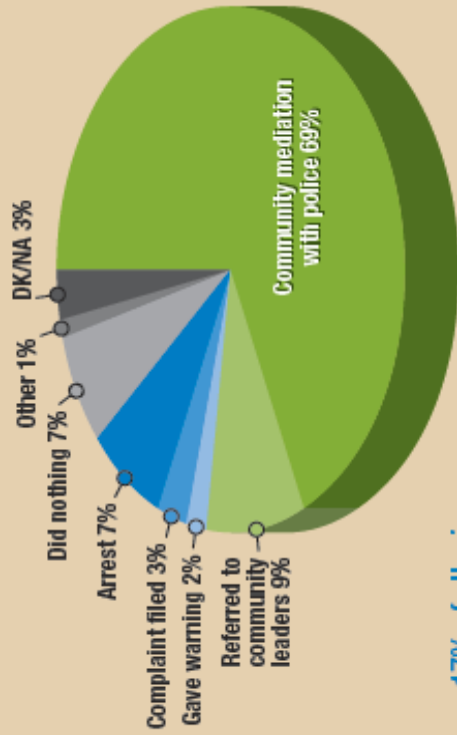
74% of crimes seen by PNTL

57% were referred to the PNTL

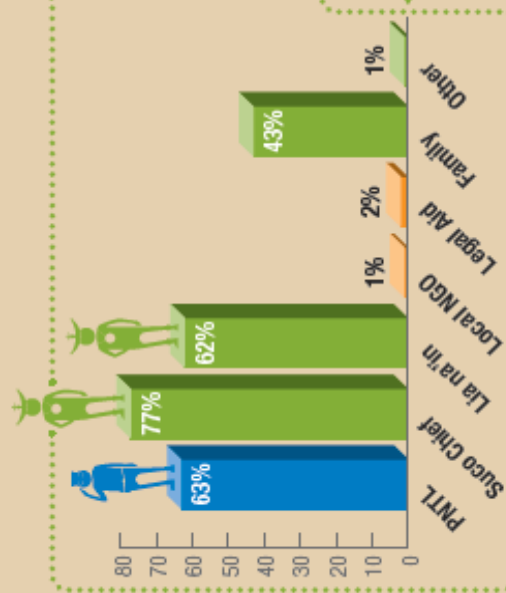
55% COMMUNITY

34% were referred to the community

WHAT DID THE PNTL DO?.....

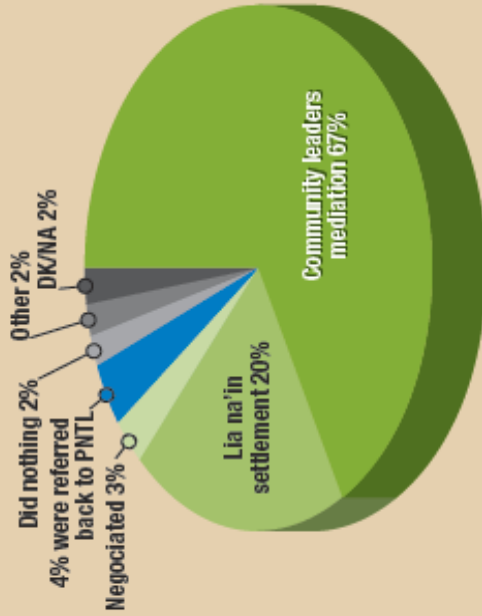


17% of all crimes dealt with, by PNTL.....



68% crimes were resolved with the involvement of....

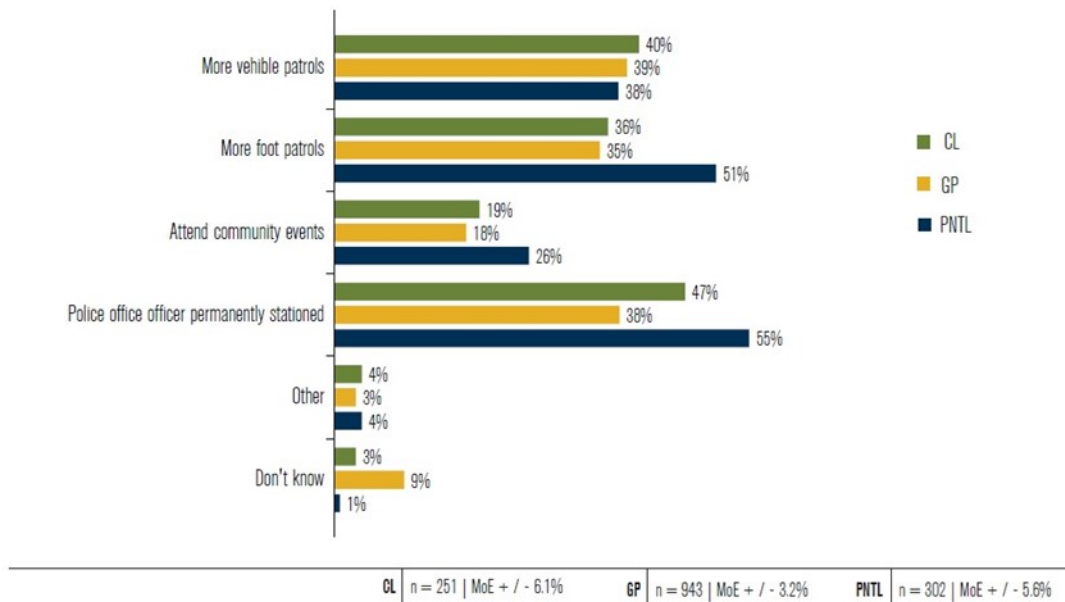
WHAT HAPPENED IN THE COMMUNITY?.....



76% of all crimes dealt with, by community.....

PNTL Performance - Visibility

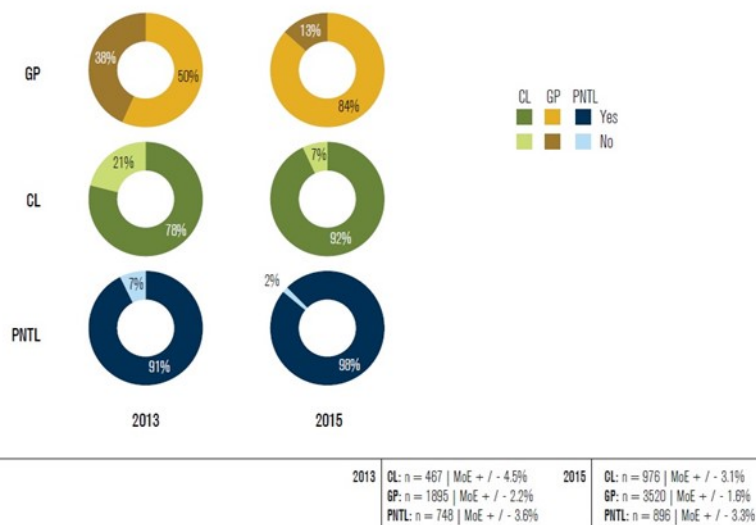
Figure 4.2 WHAT SHOULD THE PNTL DO TO INCREASE THEIR PRESENCE IN YOUR COMMUNITY?
(2015 - GENERAL PUBLIC, COMMUNITY LEADERS & PNTL - NATIONAL)



Both PNTL (48%) and general public respondents (48%) say the level of PNTL presence at the local level is about right, while a slightly greater proportion of community leaders say the same (54%).

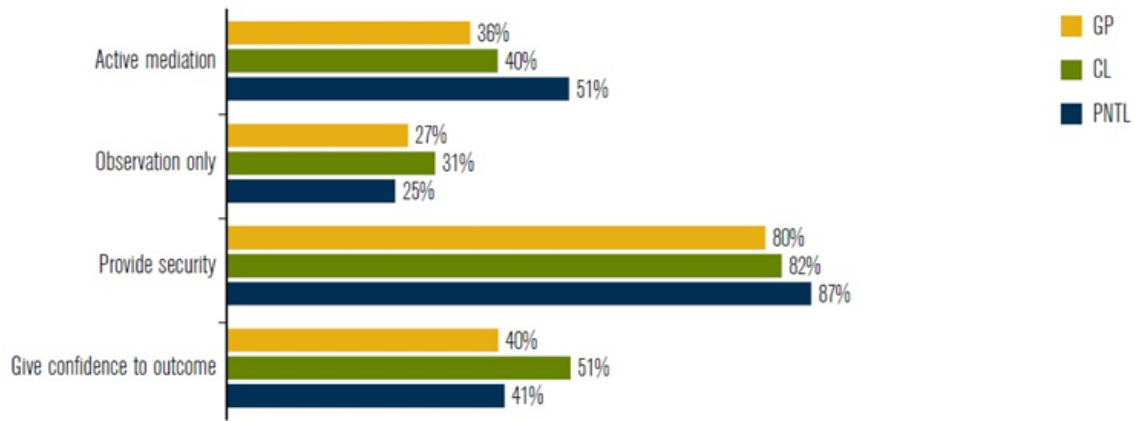
PNTL Performance - Involvement

Figure 4.3 ARE CITIZENS AND POLICE WORKING TOGETHER TO ADDRESS SECURITY PROBLEMS IN YOUR COMMUNITY?
(2013 & 2015 - GENERAL PUBLIC, COMMUNITY LEADERS & PNTL - NATIONAL)



There has been a significant increase in perceptions of local-level citizen-police collaboration and cooperation in 2015 compared to 2013, particularly among the general public and community leaders.

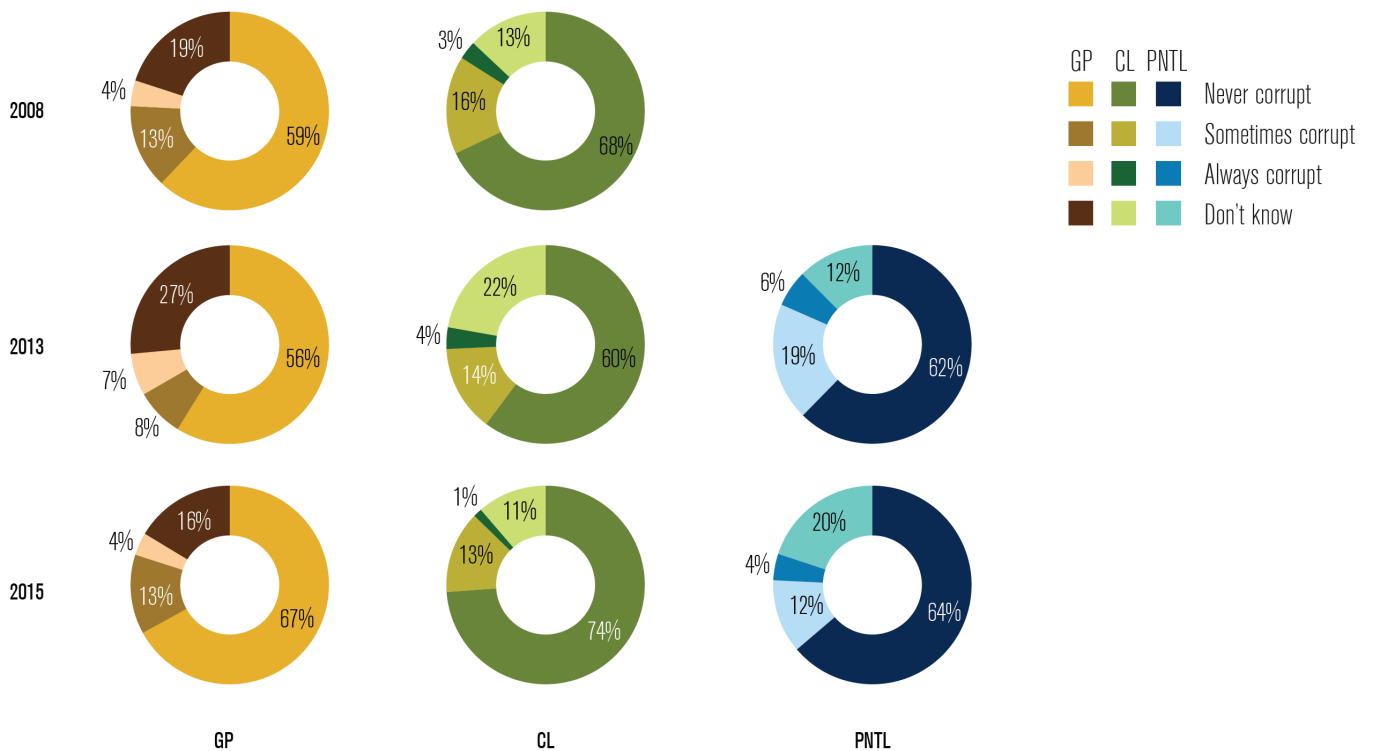
Figure 4.4 WHAT ROLE DO THEY PLAY IN THE RESOLUTION OF DISPUTES BY LOCAL COMMUNITY LEADERS SUCH AS LIA-NA'IN OR SUKU CHIEFS? (2015 - COMMUNITY LEADERS, GENERAL PUBLIC, PNTL - NATIONAL)



2015 | CL: n = 686 | MoE + / - 3.7% | GP: n = 2164 | MoE + / - 2.1% | PNTL: n = 684 | MoE + / - 3.7%

PNTL Performance- Professionalism

Figure 4.6 IN TERMS OF CORRUPTION, DO YOU BELIEVE SOME MEMBERS OF PNTL ARE...? (2008, 2013 & 2015 - GENERAL PUBLIC, COMMUNITY LEADERS & PNTL - NATIONAL)



2008	CL: n = 140 MoE + / - 7.0% GP: n = 410 MoE + / - 4.9%	2013	CL: n = 467 MoE + / - 4.5% GP: n = 1895 MoE + / - 2.2% PNTL: n = 748 MoE + / - 3.6%	2015	CL: n = 976 MoE + / - 3.1% GP: n = 3520 MoE + / - 1.6% PNTL: n = 896 MoE + / - 3.3%
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In the 2013 CPP survey, 25% of PNTL respondents said that police officers are either sometimes or always corrupt, while only 15% of general public respondents and 18% of community leaders said the same (Figure 4.6). In 2015, perceptions amongst general public and community leader respondents have remained relatively the same (GP=17%; CL=14%), while the percentage of PNTL respondents who say police officers are sometimes or always corrupt has declined sharply to 16%.

Trust in the PNTL

DO YOU **TRUST** THE POLICE?
Respondents who said **yes**



Figure 6.2

In 2015, when asked whether they trust the police, 99% of general public and 100% of community leader respondents say yes. Both sets of respondents were then asked a series of questions to determine perceptions of trust in the following areas: purpose of job, potential abuse of power, honesty, assistance, and potential physical abuse.

