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# Acknowledgements

## TO COMPLETE

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## About this Report

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- 6 Executive Findings

# ABOUT THIS REPORT

**EFFECTIVE RULE OF LAW** reduces corruption, combats poverty and disease, and protects people from injustices large and small. Strengthening the rule of law is an important objective for governments, donors, and civil society organizations around the world. To be effective, rule of law development requires clarity about the fundamental features that define the rule of law, as well as an adequate basis for its evaluation and measurement.

TO COMPLETE

# EXECUTIVE FINDINGS

*U.S. Rule of Law Trends and the 2024 Election provides a comprehensive overview of how respondents perceive and experience the rule of law in the United States and their perceptions about the institutions governing the 2024 presidential elections. The results from the World Justice Project (WJP) General Population Poll 2024 show a deterioration in the public's perception of the rule of law in the country compared to previous years.*

## SECTION 1

### Rule of Law and Trust

A majority of Americans view the current state of the rule of law in the United States negatively, despite their positive associations with the concept of rule of law itself. This dichotomy reflects growing concerns over the actual implementation and integrity of the rule of law in the country. While both Democrats and Republicans overwhelmingly agree on the critical importance of the rule of law for the future of the United States, its democracy, and their own lives, these shared beliefs mask deeper concerns about the erosion of government accountability and institutional trust.

Since 2013, public perception of government accountability has declined, with a 30 percentage-point drop in respondents who believe high-ranking government officials would be held accountable for breaking the law. Although this perception improved slightly between 2021 and 2024, accountability remains a critical issue, and the public's views are increasingly divided along partisan lines. Compared to 2018, a greater percentage of Democrats believe that high-ranking government officials are held accountable for misconduct, while views among Republicans have grown increasingly pessimistic<sup>1</sup>.

Additionally, the erosion of the rule of law values is evident, with declining percentages of Americans favoring citizen participation over government efficiency and believing that the president should always obey the law and courts. Moreover, there has been a slight increase in those who believe it is unnecessary for people to obey the laws of a government they did not vote for, indicating a potential weakening of civic responsibility and respect for legal frameworks.

The public's confidence in institutions designed to check executive power, such as Congress and the courts, has also diminished since 2013, although there was a slight recovery in this confidence between 2021 and 2024. Interestingly, the only group that has seen a net increase in confidence to stop illegal actions by the president is the citizens themselves. This suggests a shift towards people's faith in grassroots accountability rather than institutional checks.

Partisan differences complicate these trends. Historically, Republicans have reported greater trust than Democrats in both citizens and institutions to check executive authority, but Republicans' confidence has eroded since 2018, while Democrats' confidence has increased. By 2024, Democrats' trust in all checks on executive authority exceeded Republicans'.

Overall trust in many key institutions has decreased since 2018, with a particularly pronounced decline in confidence in judges and the media. Trust in local government officials has increased slightly, but national officials are more trusted overall. Partisan differences persist, as Democrats generally trust media, executive, and judicial officials more than Republicans, who maintain higher trust in the police than do Democrats. Since 2018, Democrats' trust has declined most significantly in the media, while Republicans' trust has declined most significantly in prosecutors and judges. These trends underscore a growing polarization in perceptions of institutional integrity and fairness.

Generally, public perception of the justice system's fairness and independence has significantly deteriorated since 2018, though there has been a notable improvement in the perceived independence of prosecutors between 2021 and 2024. These shifts are also influenced by political affiliation, with Democrats showing increased confidence in the fairness and independence of the justice system, while Republicans' confidence has deteriorated sharply.

## SECTION 2

### Perceptions of the 2024 Presidential Election

The 2024 presidential election is poised to be a deeply polarizing event, with confidence in the electoral process heavily dependent on political affiliation. Democrats generally express more confidence in the fairness and legitimacy of elections compared to Republicans with the notable exception of voting rights, as Republicans are more likely to believe that voting is equally accessible and convenient for all citizens.

The legitimacy of the 2024 presidential election is also in question, with approximately one-third of respondents indicating they would not accept the election's results if their preferred candidate does not win. This sentiment is particularly strong among Republicans, nearly half of whom say they would not accept the election results if the Democratic candidate wins. This points to a potential crisis of legitimacy that could undermine the stability of the electoral process.

In the event of contested election results, Democrats are more likely than Republicans to trust local and state election workers, courts, and Congress to fairly determine the outcome, while Republicans place greater trust in the Supreme Court. This divergence in trust reflects broader partisan divisions in perceptions of institutional integrity and fairness.

The findings of the WJP General Population Poll 2024 in the U.S. underscore the mounting challenges to the rule of law in the United States, which ranked 26th out of 142 countries in the 2023 *WJP Rule of Law Index®*. While the public continues to express a broad commitment to rule of law principles, the erosion of trust in key institutions, growing partisan divides, and the increasingly precarious perception of accountability pose significant threats to the nation's democratic foundation. The United States, long regarded as a global standard-bearer for democracy and the rule of law, now faces internal weaknesses that threaten this status.

As the 2024 presidential election approaches, the stakes are high. The deepening polarization and mistrust, especially concerning the electoral process and the judiciary, highlights the need for renewed efforts to restore faith in the rule of law. Without such efforts, the United States risks further erosion of its democratic institutions and the very principles that have long underpinned its global leadership in the rule of law. The path forward must involve addressing these issues head-on, strengthening citizens' understanding of U.S. government and electoral processes, fostering a more inclusive, transparent, and accountable legal system, and ensuring that all Americans, regardless of political affiliation, can trust in the fairness and impartiality of the nation's institutions.

## **Section I: Fundamental Rights and Discrimination**

9 Fundamental Freedoms

10 Discrimination

# Fundamental Freedoms

Chart 1

## Fundamental Rights in Thailand Over the Time

Percentage of respondents who agree or strongly agree with the following statements...

● 2025    ● 2018

### Elections

People can vote freely without feeling harassed or pressured



### Expression

The media can express opinions against the government without fear of retaliation

76% ● 85%

The media can expose cases of corruption

72% ● 85%

Political parties can express opinions against the government

69% ● 84%

People can express opinions against the government

68% ● 85%

Civil society organizations can express opinions against the government

71% ● 82%

### Participation

People can organize around an issue or petition

77% ● 90%

People can join any political organization

73% ● 78%

People can attend community meetings

66% ● 87%

### Religion

Religious minorities can observe their holy days

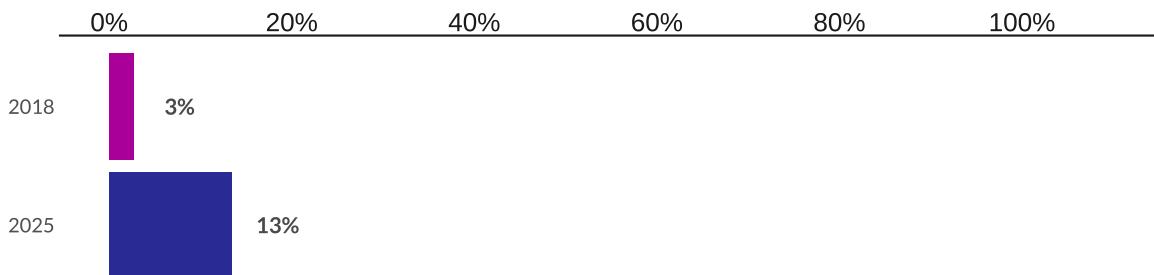
77% ● 89%

# Discrimination

Chart 2.1

## Discrimination in Thailand Over the Time

*Percentage of respondents who experienced discrimination*



Source: WJP General Population Poll 2018 and 2025

Chart 2.2

## Reasons Why People Feel Discriminated

*Percentage of respondents who think that the main reason why they experience discrimination is due to their...*

## Section II: Trust and Corruption

16 Corruption

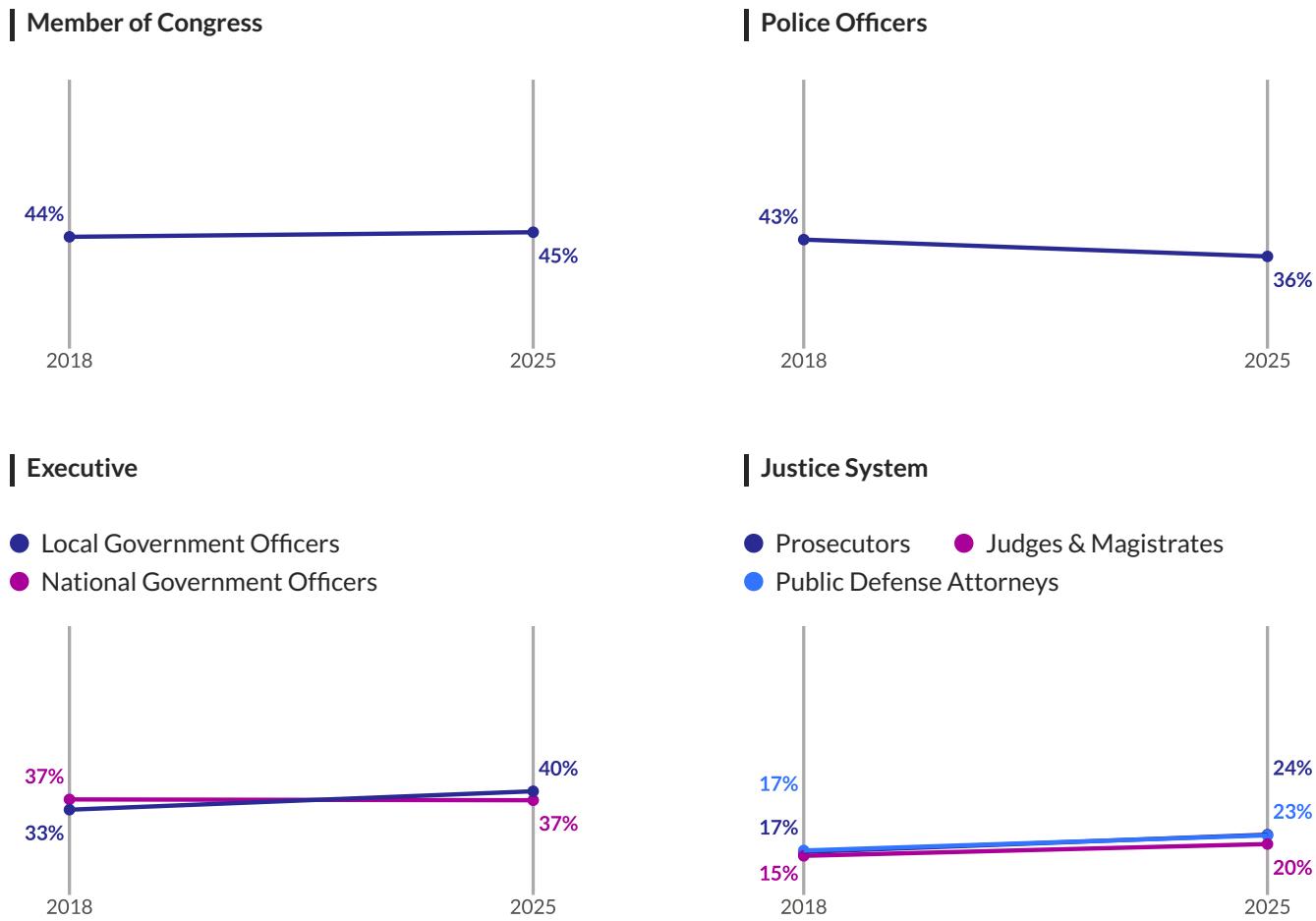
16 Trust

# Corruption

Chart 3

## Perceptions of Corruption by Institution over Time

Percentage of respondents who agree or strongly agree that most or all people working in the following institutions are corrupt

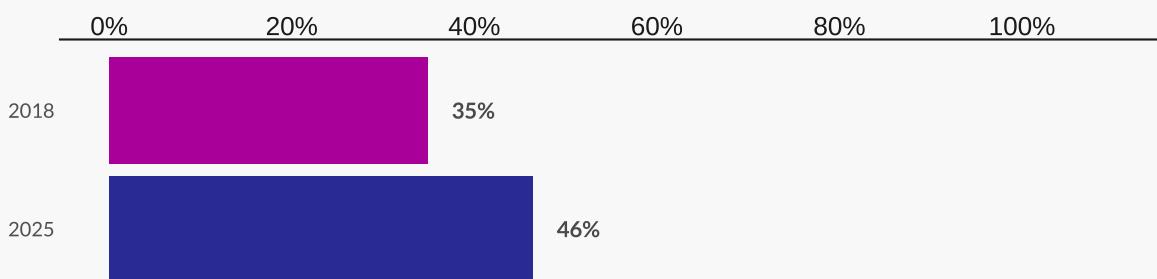


Source: WJP General Population Poll 2018 and 2025

### Chart 4.1

#### Perceptions of Accountability in Thailand over Time

Percentage of respondents who agree or strongly agree that high-ranking government officials would be held accountable for breaking the law



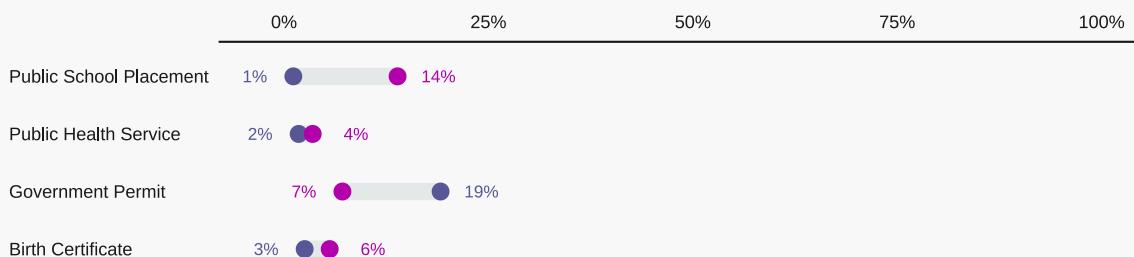
Source: WJP General Population Poll 2018 and 2025

### Chart 4.2

#### Bribery Victimization in Thailand over Time

Percentage of respondents who paid a bribe in the last 12 months to one of the following public servants, out of those who had a contact with them

● 2025   ● 2018



Source: WJP General Population Poll 2018 and 2025

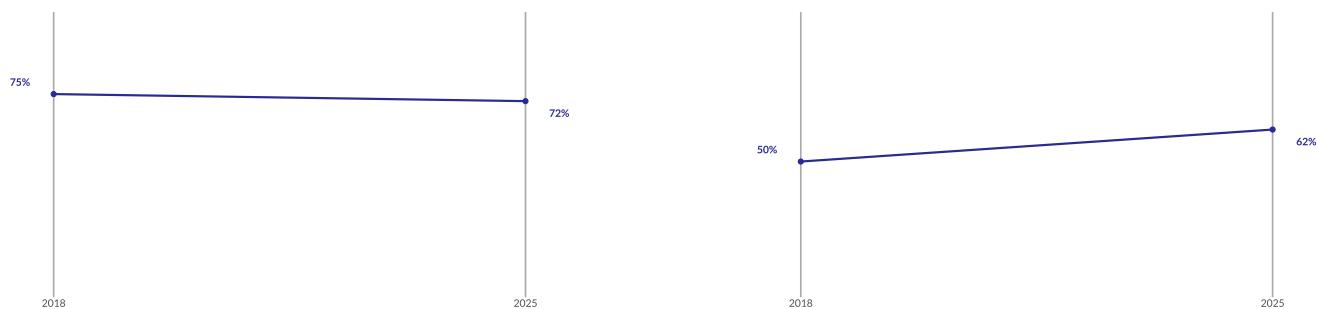
# Trust

Chart 5

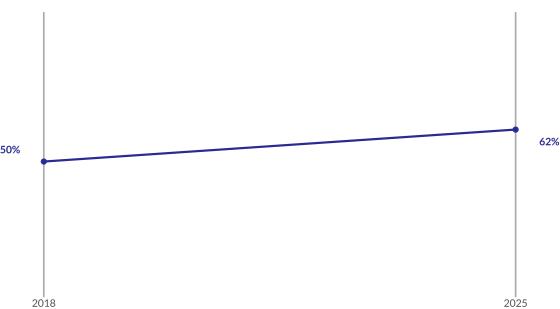
## Trust in Institutions Over Time

Percentage of respondents who have a lot or some trust in...

### People living in their country

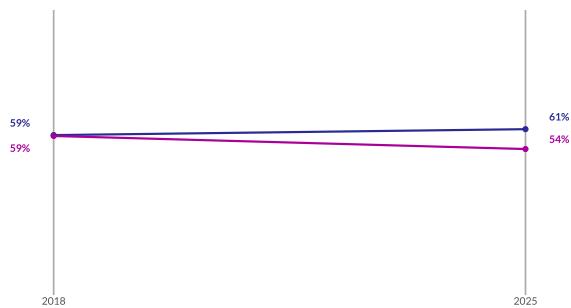


### Police Officers



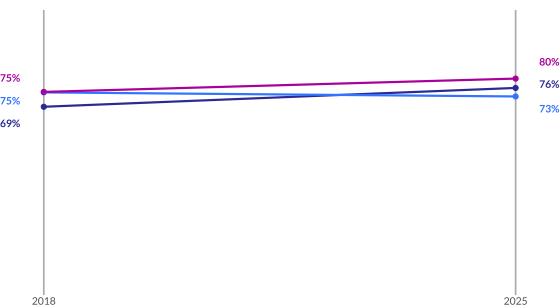
### Executive

- Local Government Officers
- National Government Officers



### Justice System

- Prosecutors
- Judges & Magistrates
- Public Defense Attorneys



Source: WJP General Population Poll 2018 and 2025

## Section III: Security

20 Crime Victimization

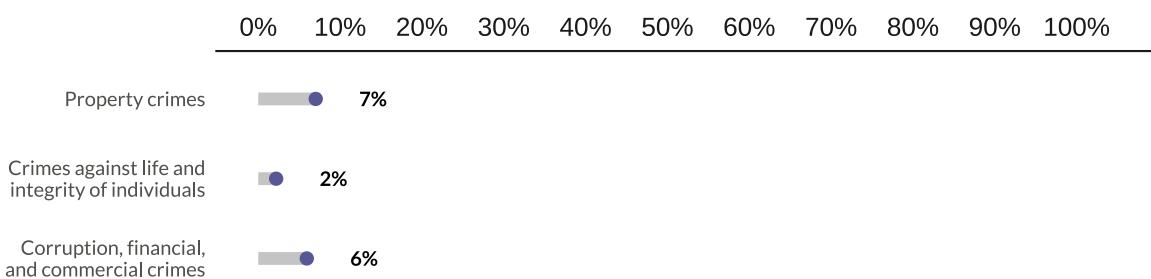
21 Security

# Crime Victimization

## Chart 6.1

### Types of Crimes Experienced by People in Thailand

*Victimization rate in the last 12 months, by type of crime*

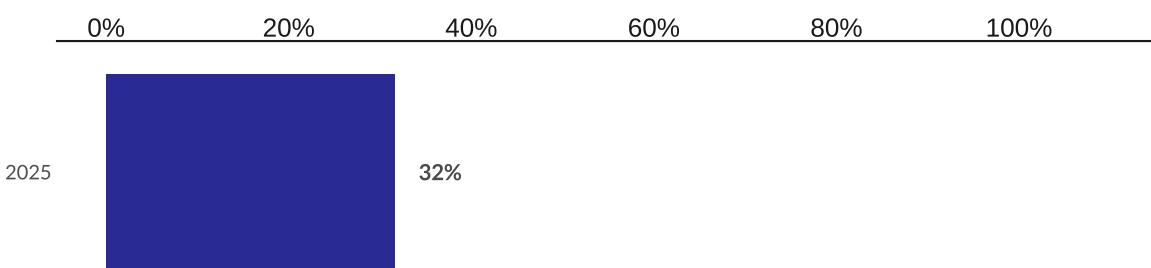


Source: WJP General Population Poll 2018 and 2025

## Chart 6.2

### Crime Victimization Rates

*Data on crime victimization and reporting in North Macedonia*



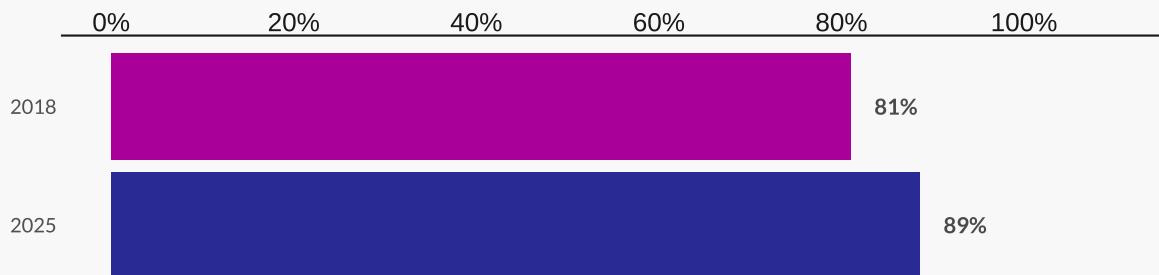
Source: WJP General Population Poll 2025

# Security

## Chart 7.1

### Perceptions of Security in Thailand

*Percentage of respondents who reported that they feelsafe or very safe walking in their neighborhood at night*



Source: WJP General Population Poll 2018 and 2025

## Chart 7.2

### Impact of Sociodemographic Characteristics on Perceptions of Safety

*Likelihood that respondents feelsafe or very safe walking in their neighborhood at night*



Source: WJP General Population Poll 2018 and 2025

## Section V: Justice System



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# METHODOLOGY

## DESCRIPTION OF THE SAMPLE

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# APPENDIX

## Methodological Materials

### GENERAL POPULATION POLL (GPP)

The General Population Poll in the United States was designed to capture high-quality data on the realities and concerns of ordinary people on a variety of themes related to the rule of law, including authoritarianism, government accountability, bribery, corruption, police performance, crime and security, and the 2024 presidential election.

[World Justice Project General Population Poll 2024 – United States Survey Instrument](#)



## ABOUT THE WORLD JUSTICE PROJECT

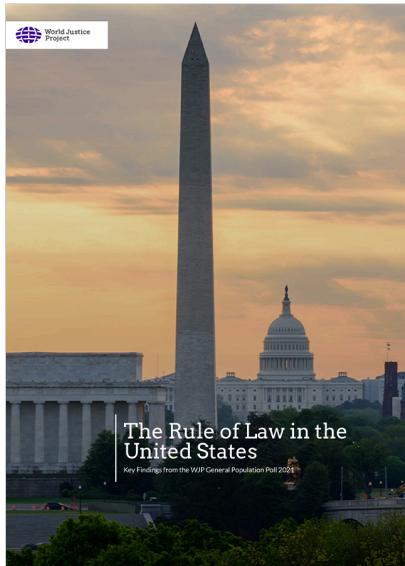
The World Justice Project (WJP) is an independent, multidisciplinary organization working to create knowledge, build awareness, and stimulate action to advance the rule of law worldwide. Effective rule of law is the foundation for communities of justice, opportunity, and peace—underpinning development, accountable government, and respect for fundamental rights.

The WJP builds and supports a global, multidisciplinary movement for the rule of law through three lines of work: collecting, organizing, and analyzing original, independent rule of law data, including the *World Justice Project Rule of Law Index®*; supporting research, scholarship, and teaching about the importance of the rule of law, its relationship to development, and effective strategies to strengthen it; and connecting and building an engaged global network of policymakers and advocates to advance the rule of law through strategic partnerships, convenings, coordinated advocacy, and support for locally led initiatives.

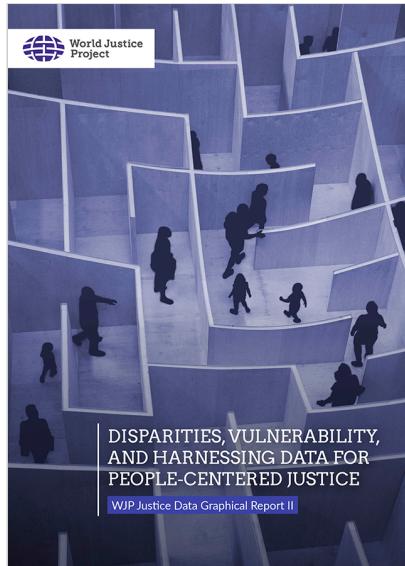
Learn more at: [worldjusticeproject.org](http://worldjusticeproject.org).

# OTHER PUBLICATIONS

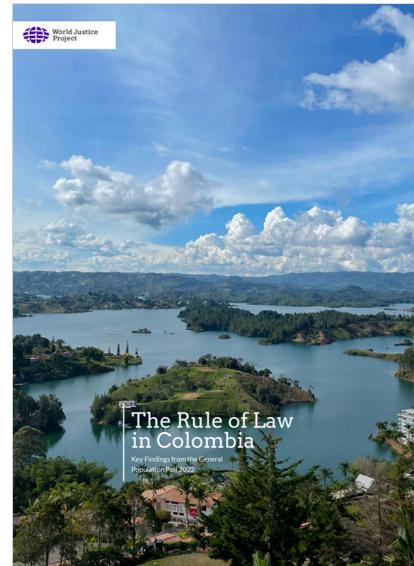
For more information click on the publication.



**The Rule of Law in the United States  
2021**



**Dissecting the Justice Gap in 104  
Countries**



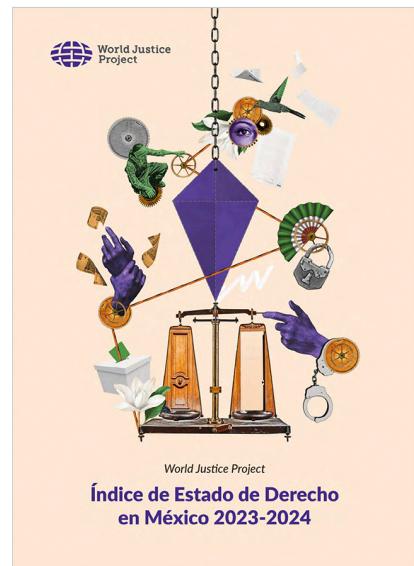
**WJP Country Reports**



**WJP Rule of Law Index 2023**



**WJP Rule of Law Index 2023 Insights**



**Índice de Estado de Derecho en  
México 2023-2024**

