

People are divided on whether the Prosecutor's Office in Georgia is independent

On March 7-15, 2019 CRRC-Georgia conducted a phone survey to find out people's attitudes towards the Prosecutors Office of Georgia (PO). The data suggest that people are divided over the PO and that those with experiences of interactions with the PO have more negative attitudes than those that have not had interactions with the PO.

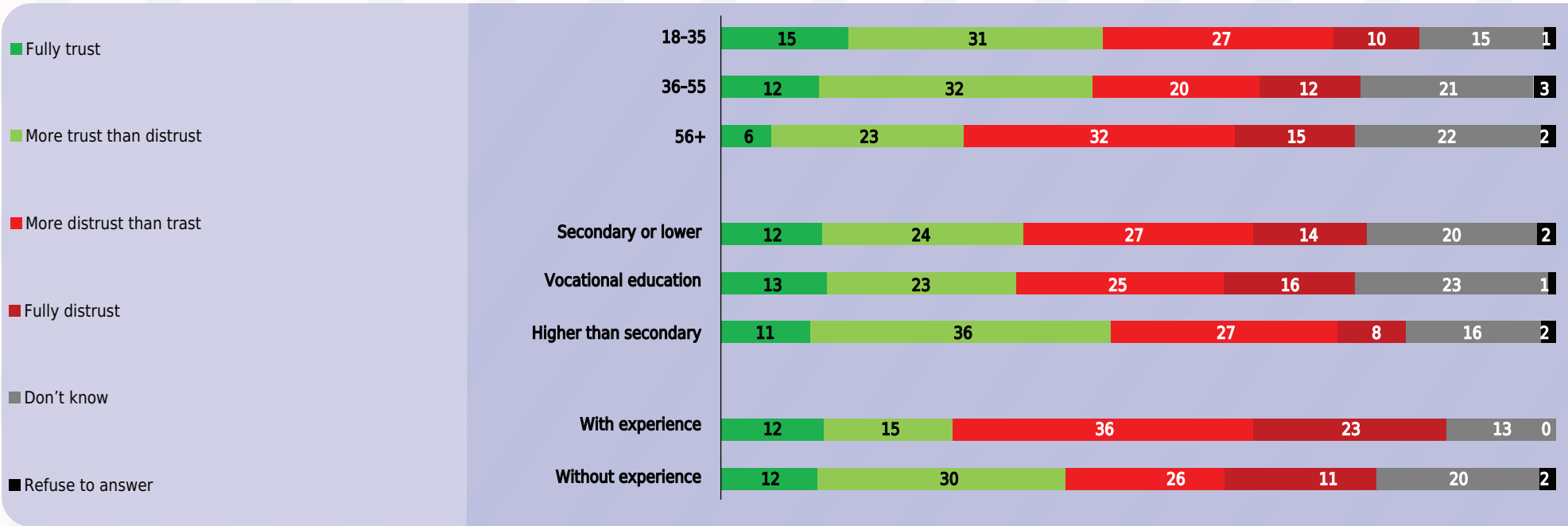
Respondents were asked how much they trust or distrust the Prosecutor's Office. People are divided, with 40% reporting they fully trust or more trust than distrust the Prosecutor's Office of Georgia. A similar share (39%) reported they do not trust it. One in five (20%) don't know or refused to answer the question.

People who have had an interaction with the PO or who have a friend or family member that has had an interaction with them in recent years are significantly less trusting towards the PO than the general public. In total, 8% of the public fall into this category. Only 28% of those that have had an experience with the PO trust them and 59% distrust them. By comparison, 38% of those who have not had an experience with prosecutors say that they do not trust them and 41% trust them.

Older people distrust the PO more often. About half (46%) of 18-35 year olds trust the PO, while 38% do not trust them. A further 16% did not know or refused to answer the question. Similar shares in the 36-55 age group trust (45%), distrust (38%), and don't know or refused to answer (23%). People over 55, however, are less trusting. Only 29% trust the prosecutor's office of Georgia and 47% distrust it. A similar share (24%) responded don't know or refused to answer to the question as in other age groups. People with the higher education trust the PO more (47%) than people with secondary (36%) or vocational (35%) education.

Please tell me how much you trust or distrust the Prosecutor's office of Georgia?

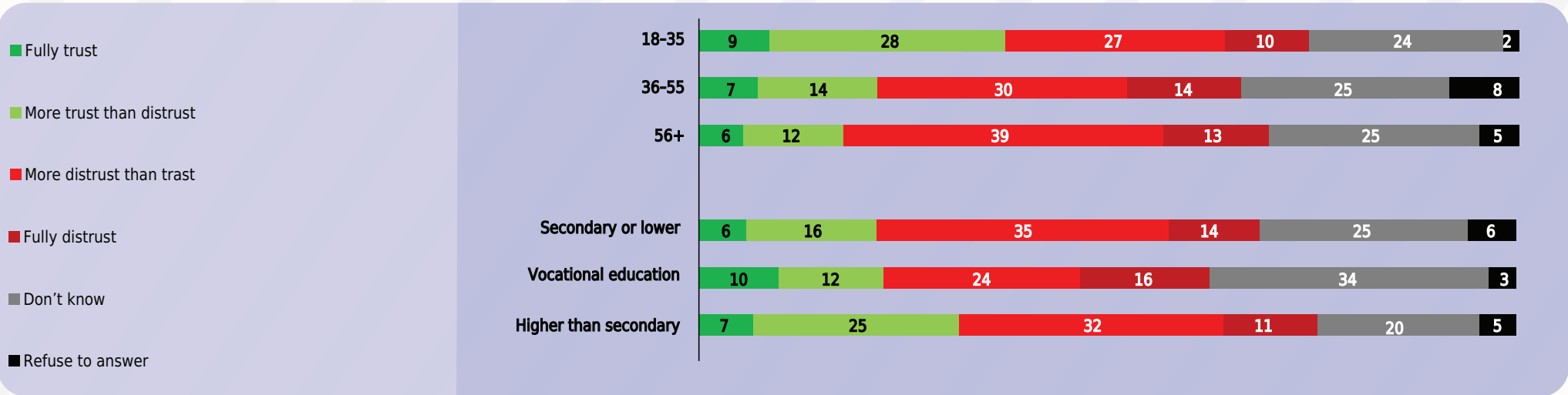
By Age, Education, Experience with the Prosecutor's Office in the last five years



People doubt whether the Prosecutor's Office is independent or not. Less than one in ten (7%) report that the PO is fully independent. One in five (19%) say that it is more independent than not independent, and 32% say the PO is less independent than independent. About one in ten (12%) report that it fully lacks independence. More people with higher education think the Prosecutor's office is independent (32%) than people with vocational (23%) or secondary (22%) education. Young people report more often (37%) than older people (36-55: 22%; 56+: 18%) that the PO is independent.

How independent or not independent is the Prosecutor's Office of Georgia from the influence of the government?

By Age, Education



People were also asked whether the PO was more independent before 2012 or after. About one in ten (13%) say that the PO had been more independent before 2012, while 26% say that it has been more independent after 2012. Still, 28% say that the PO has never been independent, and only 2% answered that it has always been independent. One in three (31%) don't know or refused to answer this question. Young people are more likely to say that the PO has been more independent after 2012 than before compared with older people (18-35: 32%, 36-55: 25%, 56+: 21%). There is little difference between other social and demographic groups.

The Prosecutor's Office of Georgia was more independent from the influence of the government before 2012 or it is more independent after 2012?

By Age, Education

■ Its is more independent after 2012

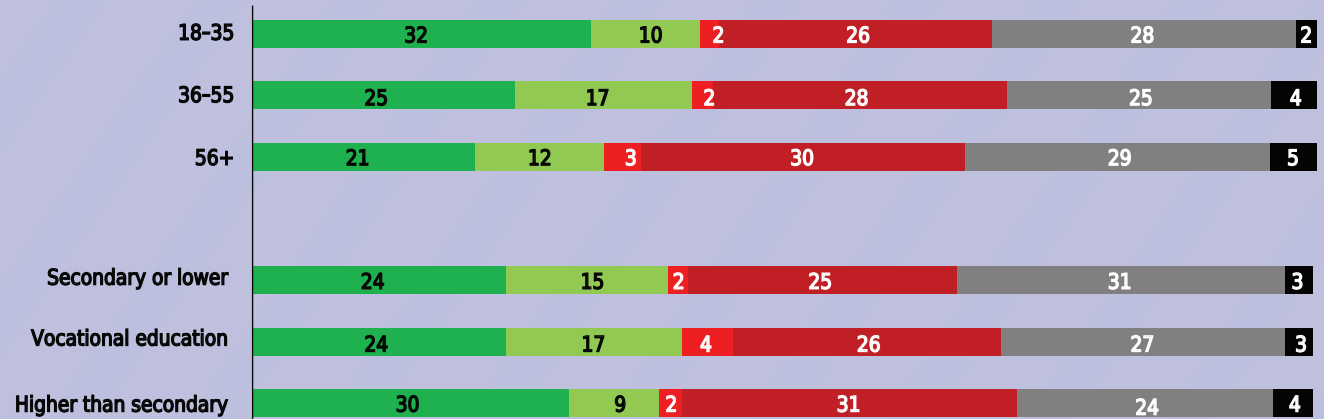
■ It was mere independent before 2012

■ It was independent before and after 2012

■ It was not independent either befor or after 2012

■ Don't know

■ Refuse to answer



Citizens are divided when it comes to trust in the Prosecutor's Office. Older people in Georgia are less trusting of the Prosecutor's Office. Those who have experience with the PO are also less trusting. Although more people think that the PO has been more independent since 2012 than that it has been less independent, just as many say it has never been independent.

The phone survey conducted in March 4-19, 2019 resulted in 815 completed interviews. Its results are representative of the adult Georgian-speaking population of the country. The average margin of error of the survey is 2.6%. Results discussed in this blog are based on all completed interviews (815) and are weighted according to main demographic characteristics of the population.

This survey is part of the [Promoting Prosecutorial Independence through Monitoring and Engagement](#) (PrIME) project implemented by the Institute for Development of Freedom of Information (IDFI) in partnership with [CRRC Georgia](#) and [Studio Monitor](#) with the financial support of the [European Union](#) (EU).

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