

WJP Rule of Law Index

MSU ILPC/TICA Conference

Dr. Alejandro Ponce
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A photograph of a man and a woman standing outdoors on a sidewalk. The man is on the left, wearing a light blue shirt and dark trousers, holding a white paper. The woman is on the right, wearing a white hard hat, a high-visibility vest over a dark shirt, and dark pants. A small dog is sitting on the ground between them. The background shows a textured wall and some foliage. The entire image is overlaid with a semi-transparent purple gradient.

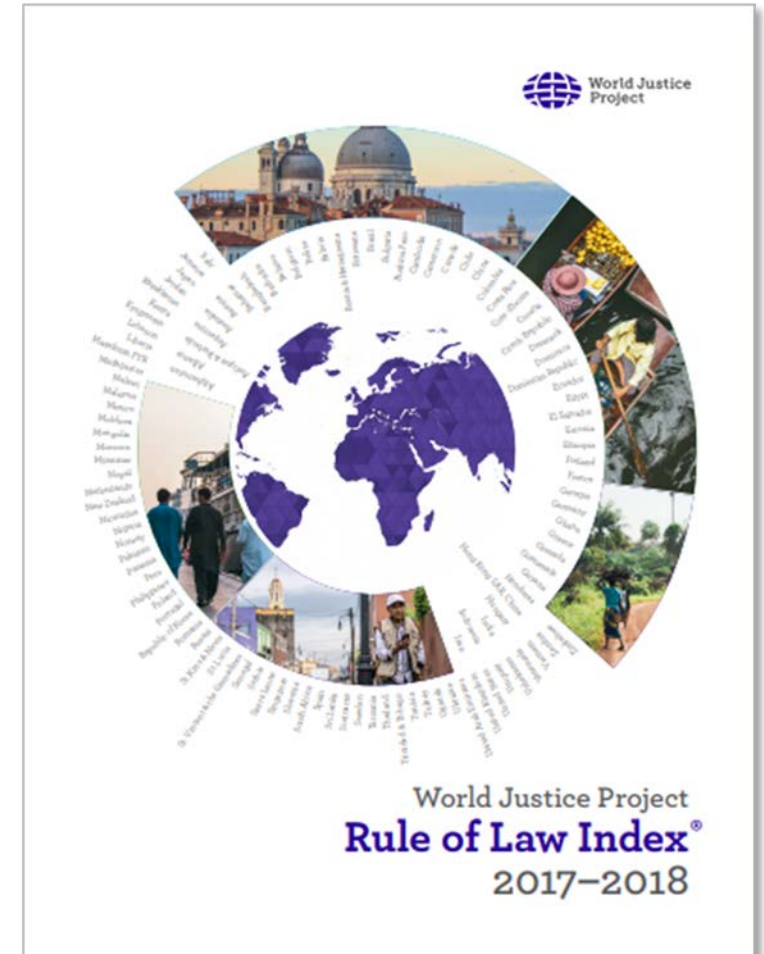
The WJP Rule of Law Index

The WJP Rule of Law Index in a Nutshell

The Rule of Law Index is a quantitative assessment tool designed to offer a comprehensive picture of the extent to which countries adhere to the rule of law in practice.

Contribution:

1. Comprehensive definition of rule of law
2. Quantification of rule of law outcomes obtained from more than 500 individual questions
3. New data



WJP Rule of Law Index

Factors of the Rule of Law



Constraints on
Government Powers



Absence of
Corruption



Open
Government



Fundamental
Rights



Order and
Security



Regulatory
Enforcement



Civil
Justice

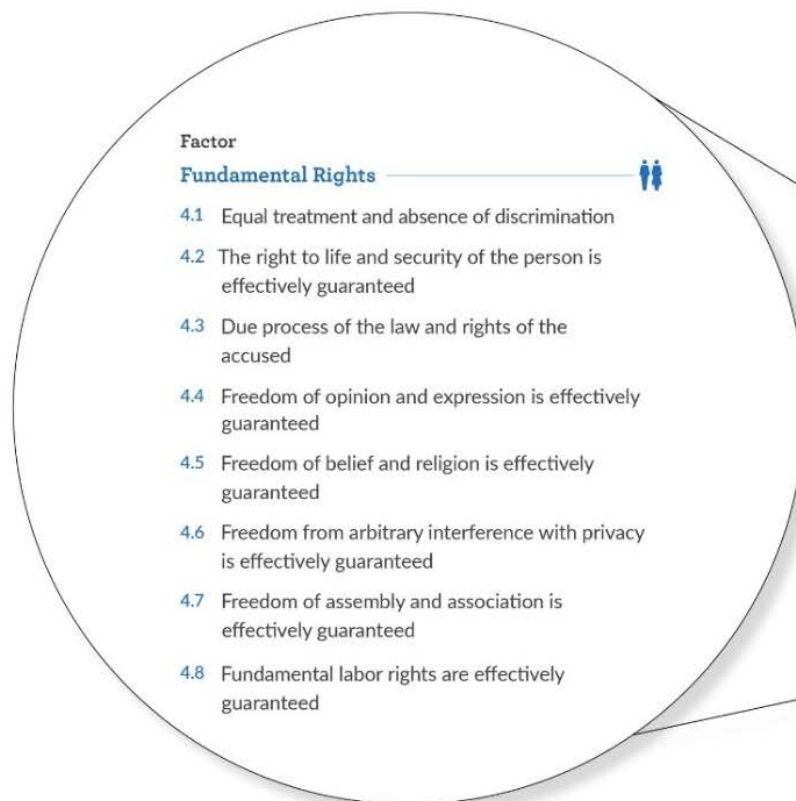


Criminal
Justice



Informal
Justice

Rule of Law Sub-Factors



Part One: Introduction

Conceptual Framework of the WJP Rule of Law Index

The conceptual framework of the WJP Rule of Law Index is comprised of eight factors further disaggregated into 44 sub-factors. The WJP also collects data on a ninth factor, informal justice, which are not calculated into the aggregate scores and rankings. These factors and sub-factors are presented below and described in detail in the section that follows.

Factor 1

Constraints on Government Powers

 — 

- 1.1 Government powers are effectively limited by the legislature
- 1.2 Government powers are effectively limited by the judiciary
- 1.3 Government powers are effectively limited by independent auditing and review
- 1.4 Government officials are sanctioned for misconduct
- 1.5 Government powers are subject to non-governmental checks
- 1.6 Transition of power is subject to the law

Factor 2

Absence of Corruption

 — 

- 2.1 Government officials in the executive branch do not use public office for private gain
- 2.2 Government officials in the judicial branch do not use public office for private gain
- 2.3 Government officials in the police and military do not use public office for private gain
- 2.4 Government officials in the legislative branch do not use public office for private gain

Factor 3

Open Government

 — 

- 3.1 Publicized laws and government data
- 3.2 Right to information
- 3.3 Civic participation
- 3.4 Complaint mechanisms

Factor 4

Fundamental Rights

 — 









- 4.1 Equal treatment and absence of discrimination
- 4.2 The right to life and security of the person is effectively guaranteed
- 4.3 Due process of the law and rights of the accused
- 4.4 Freedom of opinion and expression is effectively guaranteed
- 4.5 Freedom of belief and religion is effectively guaranteed
- 4.6 Freedom from arbitrary interference with privacy is effectively guaranteed
- 4.7 Freedom of assembly and association is effectively guaranteed
- 4.8 Fundamental labor rights are effectively guaranteed

Measurement Approach

1. Perspective of the ordinary person
2. Two sources of entirely new data:
 - A **general population poll** (GPP): Probability sample - 1,000 respondents per country (three largest cities).
 - **Qualified respondent's questionnaires** (QRQ): Completed by in-country experts in civil and commercial law; criminal justice; labor law; and public health.

Botero J. and Ponce A., *Measuring the Rule of Law*. WJP Working Paper # 1 (2011). Available on-line at: www.worldjusticeproject.org

Measurement Approach

	1. Constraints on Government Powers	6 Sub-Factors 61 Question Items
	2. Absence of Corruption	4 Sub-Factors 66 Question Items
	3. Open Government	4 Sub-Factors 67 Question Items
	4. Fundamental Rights	8 Sub-Factors 112 Question Items
	5. Order & Security	3 Sub-Factors 17 Question Items
	6. Regulatory Enforcement	5 Sub-Factors 80 Question Items
	7. Civil Justice	7 Sub-Factors 54 Question Items
	8. Criminal Justice	7 Sub-Factors 98 Question Items

Fieldwork in 113 Countries





550+

Questions

110,000

Households Surveyed

3,000

Experts Interviewed

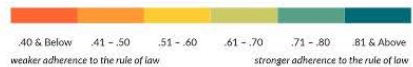
113

Countries

Variables Used to Construct the Index

World Justice Project Rule of Law Index 2017-2018			
Factor 1: Constraints on Government Powers AVERAGE (1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 1.6)			
1.1 Government powers are effectively limited by the legislature AVERAGE (AVERAGE(QRQ1:QRQ4), GPP1)			
QRQ1	QRQ (CC,CJ,LB)	Strongly Agree (0), Agree (.333), Disagree (.667), Strongly Disagree (1)	In practice, the chief executive (President, Prime Minister, etc.) of [COUNTRY] rules without regard to legislative checks
QRQ2	QRQ (CC,CJ,LB)	Strongly Agree (1), Agree (.667), Disagree (.333), Strongly Disagree (0)	In practice, the government's power is not concentrated in one person, but is distributed among different independent branches, for instance the President or Prime Minister, the Congress or Legislative body, and the judges.
QRQ3	QRQ (CC,CJ,LB)	Strongly Agree (1), Agree (.667), Disagree (.333), Strongly Disagree (0)	In practice in [COUNTRY], opposition parties can freely express opinions against government policies without fear of retaliation
QRQ4	QRQ (CC,CJ,LB)	Strongly Agree (1), Agree (.667), Disagree (.333), Strongly Disagree (0)	In practice, opposing factions within the dominant party can freely express opinions in public without fear of facing substantial negative consequences
GPP1	GPP	Very Likely (1), Likely (.667), Unlikely (.333), Very Unlikely (0)	Please assume that one day the President decides to adopt a policy that is clearly against the [COUNTRY] Constitution: How likely is the National Congress/Parliament to be able to stop the President's illegal actions?
1.2 Government powers are effectively limited by the judiciary AVERAGE(AVERAGE(QRQ5:QRQ12), AVERAGE (GPP2:GPP4))			
QRQ5	QRQ (CC,CJ,LB)	Strongly Agree (1), Agree (.667), Disagree (.333), Strongly Disagree (0)	In practice, the government's power is not concentrated in one person, but is distributed among different independent branches, for instance the President or Prime Minister, the Congress or Legislative body, and the judges.
QRQ6	QRQ (CC,CJ,LB)	Strongly Agree (1), Agree (.667), Disagree (.333), Strongly Disagree (0)	The government always obeys the decisions of the high courts, even when they disagree with these decisions

Scores & Rankings



Country/Jurisdiction	Overall Score*	Global Ranking
Denmark	0.89	1
Norway	0.89	2
Finland	0.87	3
Sweden	0.86	4
Netherlands	0.85	5
Germany	0.83	6
New Zealand	0.83	7
Austria	0.81	8
Canada	0.81	9
Australia	0.81	10
United Kingdom	0.81	11
Estonia	0.80	12
Singapore	0.80	13
Japan	0.79	14
Belgium	0.77	15
Hong Kong SAR, China	0.77	16
Czech Republic	0.74	17
France	0.74	18
United States	0.73	19
Republic of Korea	0.72	20
Portugal	0.72	21
Uruguay	0.71	22
Spain	0.70	23
Costa Rica	0.68	24
Poland	0.67	25
Slovenia	0.67	26
Chile	0.67	27
St. Kitts & Nevis	0.66	28
Romania	0.65	29
Barbados	0.65	30
Italy	0.65	31
United Arab Emirates	0.65	32
St. Lucia	0.63	33

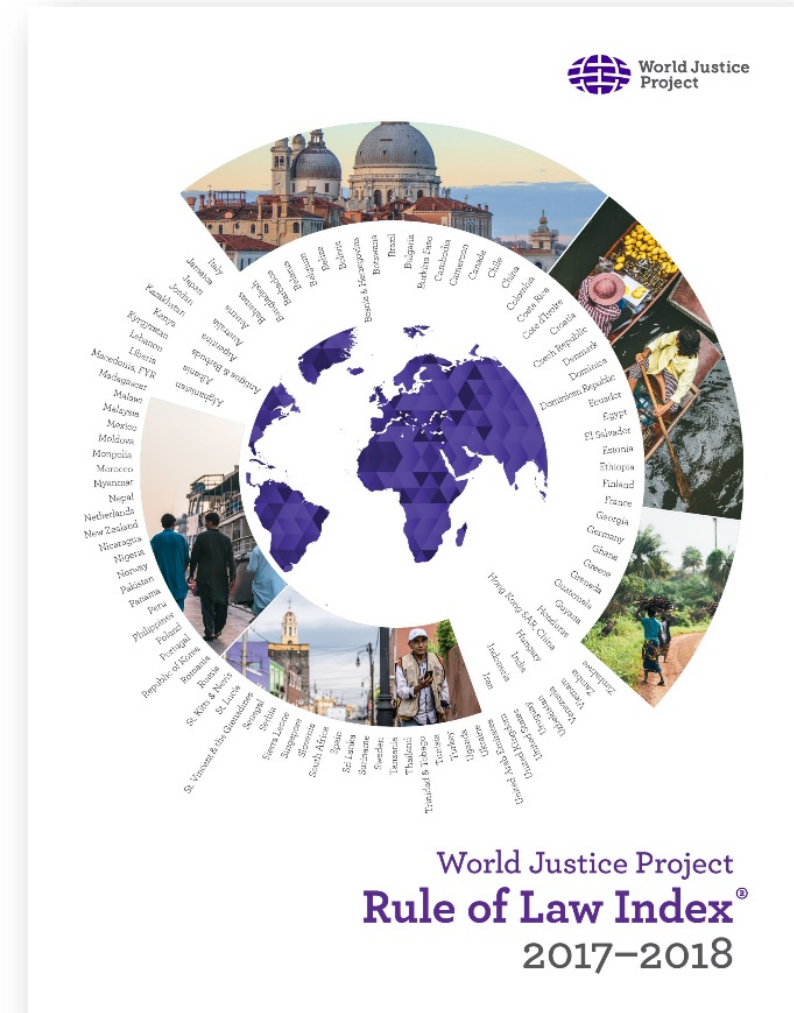
Antigua & Barbuda	0.63	34
Croatia	0.61	35
Grenada	0.61	36
St. Vincent & the Grenadines	0.61	37
Georgia	0.61	38
Greece	0.60	39
Bahamas	0.60	40
Dominica	0.60	41
Jordan	0.60	42
Ghana	0.59	43
South Africa	0.59	44
Botswana	0.58	45
Argentina	0.58	46
Jamaica	0.58	47
Trinidad & Tobago	0.56	48
Senegal	0.55	49
Hungary	0.55	50
Mongolia	0.54	51
Brazil	0.54	52
Malaysia	0.54	53
Tunisia	0.53	54
Bulgaria	0.53	55
Bosnia & Herzegovina	0.53	56
Macedonia, FYR	0.53	57
Nepal	0.53	58
Sri Lanka	0.52	59
Peru	0.52	60
Panama	0.52	61
India	0.52	62
Indonesia	0.52	63
Kazakhstan	0.51	64
Belarus	0.51	65
Malawi	0.51	66

Morocco	0.51	67
Albania	0.51	68
Suriname	0.51	69
Burkina Faso	0.51	70
Thailand	0.50	71
Colombia	0.50	72
Guyana	0.50	73
Vietnam	0.50	74
China	0.50	75
Serbia	0.50	76
Ukraine	0.50	77
Moldova	0.49	78
El Salvador	0.48	79
Iran	0.48	80
Belize	0.47	81
Kyrgyzstan	0.47	82
Zambia	0.47	83
Cote d'Ivoire	0.47	84
Ecuador	0.47	85
Tanzania	0.47	86
Lebanon	0.47	87
Philippines	0.47	88
Russia	0.47	89
Dominican Republic	0.47	90

Uzbekistan	0.46	91
Mexico	0.45	92
Sierra Leone	0.45	93
Liberia	0.45	94
Kenya	0.45	95
Guatemala	0.44	96
Nigeria	0.44	97
Madagascar	0.44	98
Nicaragua	0.43	99
Myanmar	0.42	100
Turkey	0.42	101
Bangladesh	0.41	102
Honduras	0.40	103
Uganda	0.40	104
Pakistan	0.39	105
Bolivia	0.38	106
Ethiopia	0.38	107
Zimbabwe	0.37	108
Cameroon	0.37	109
Egypt	0.36	110
Afghanistan	0.34	111
Cambodia	0.32	112
Venezuela	0.29	113

Rule of Law Index 2017–2018

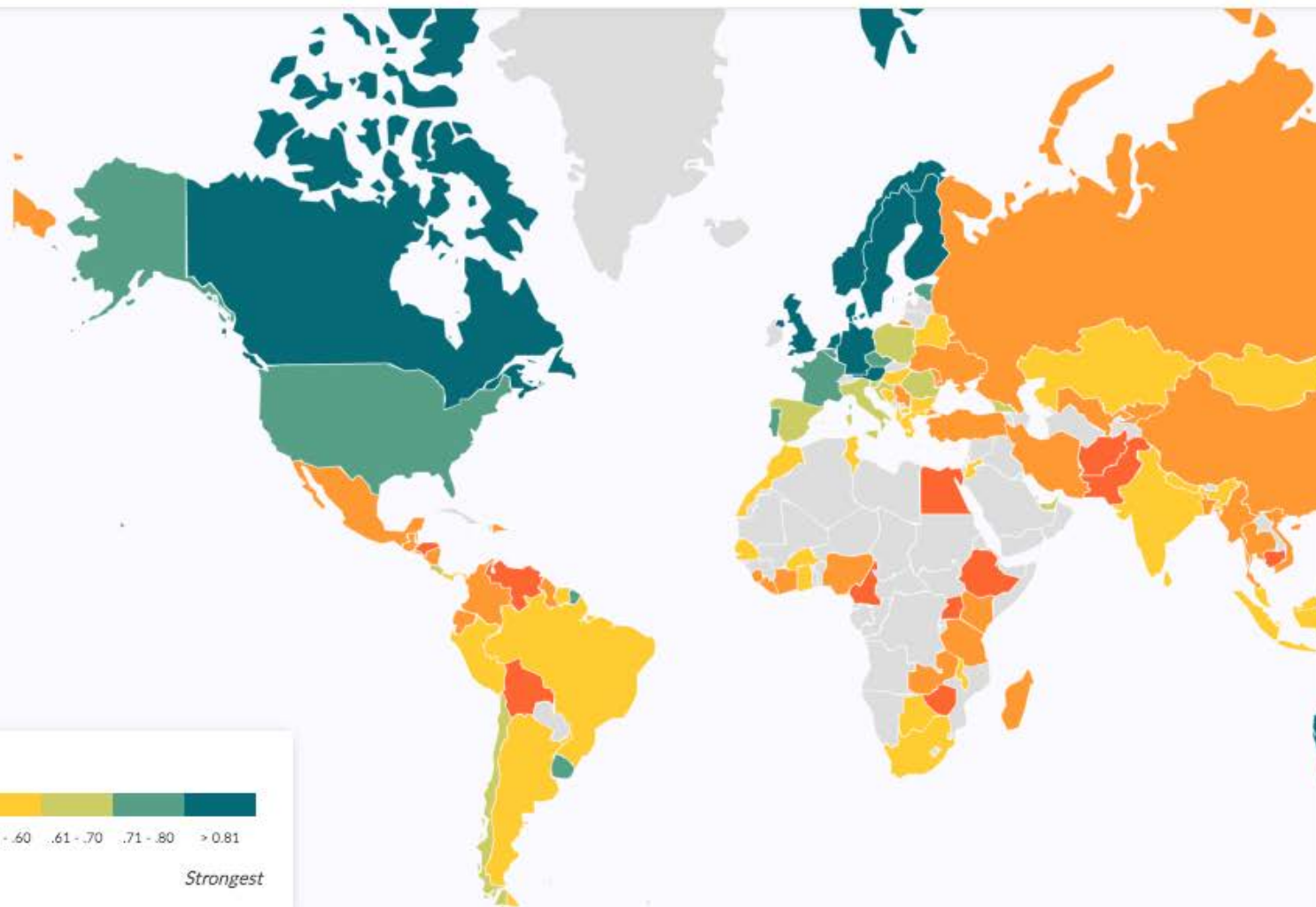
Online Interactive Data





Rule of Law Index®

World Justice Project
2017-2018

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Overall score



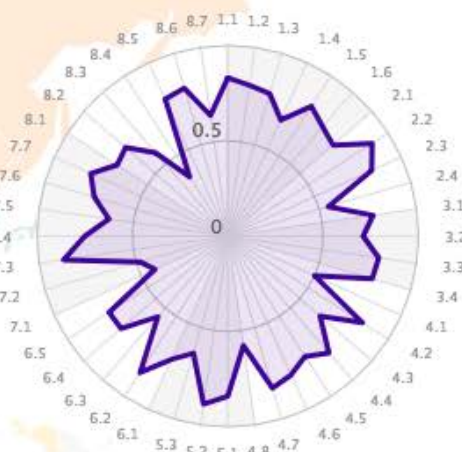
< .40 .41 - .50 .51 - .60 .61 - .70 .71 - .80 > .81

Weakest

Strongest

United States

Overall Score	Regional Rank	Income Rank	Global Rank
0.73	14/24	19/35	19/113

[View full profile](#)









World Justice Project

A purple-tinted image of the Statue of Lady Justice. She is a woman with curly hair, wearing a classical dress with a bow at the waist. She holds a sword in her right hand, pointing it upwards, and a pair of scales in her left hand. The background is a cloudy sky.

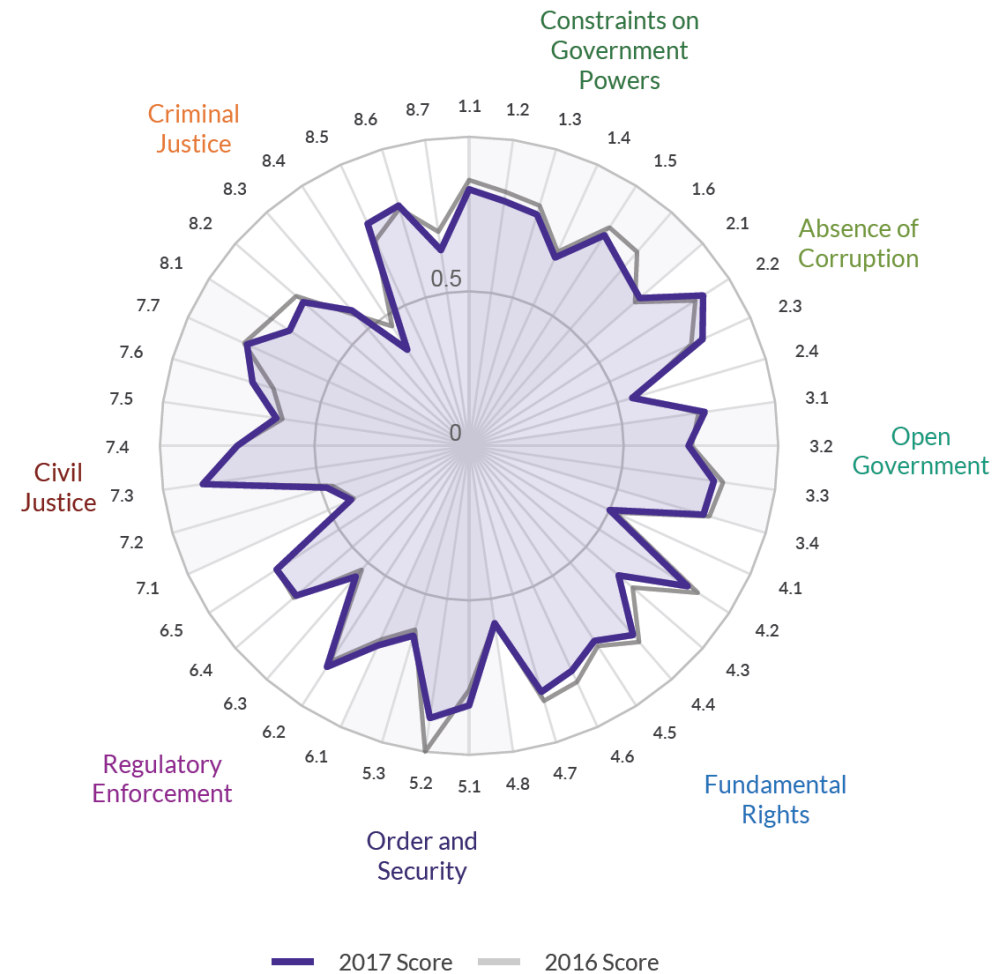
The Rule of Law in the United States

United States Country Profile

Overall Score	Regional Rank	Income Rank	Global Rank
0.73	14/24	19/35	19/113
Score Change	Rank Change		
-0.01 ▾	-1 ▾		

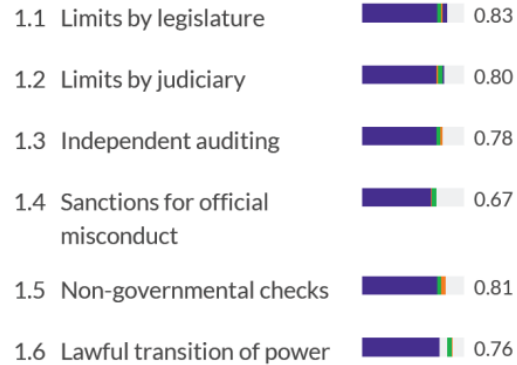
	Factor Trend	Factor Score	Regional Rank	Income Rank	Global Rank
 Constraints on Government Powers	▾	0.77	13/24	15/35	16/113
 Absence of Corruption	—	0.75	12/24	19/35	19/113
 Open Government	—	0.77	11/24	13/35	13/113
 Fundamental Rights	—	0.72	17/24	24/35	26/113
 Order and Security	—	0.79	17/24	23/35	31/113
 Regulatory Enforcement	—	0.72	13/24	19/35	19/113
 Civil Justice	—	0.67	15/24	25/35	26/113
 Criminal Justice	—	0.65	13/24	20/35	20/113

▲ Trending up ▾ Trending down Low Medium High



United States Country Profile (cont.)

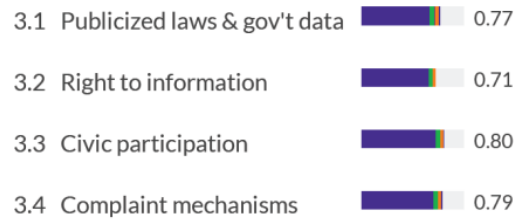
Constraints on Government Powers



Absence of Corruption



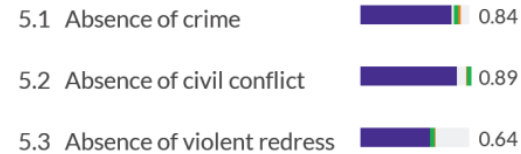
Open Government



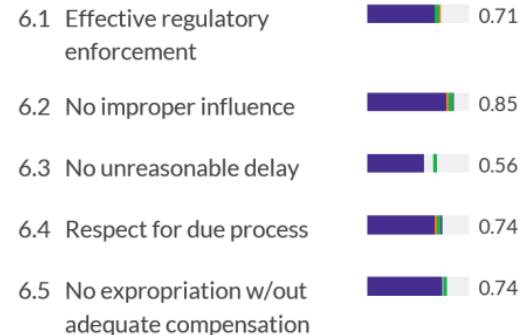
Fundamental Rights



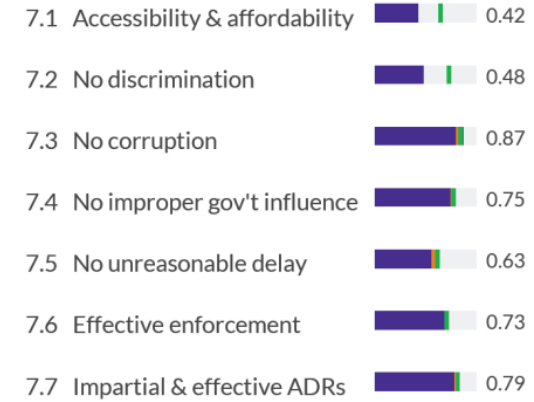
Order and Security



Regulatory Enforcement



Civil Justice



Criminal Justice



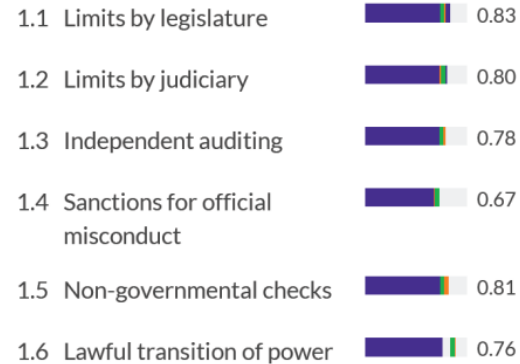
1. Deterioration in Factor 1, Constraints on Govt. Powers

All sub-factors in this dimension declined at least slightly from 2016

Score for lawful transition of power—based on responses to survey questions on confidence in national and local election processes and procedures—declined most markedly



Constraints on Government Powers



Absence of Corruption



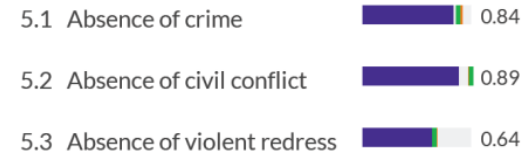
Open Government



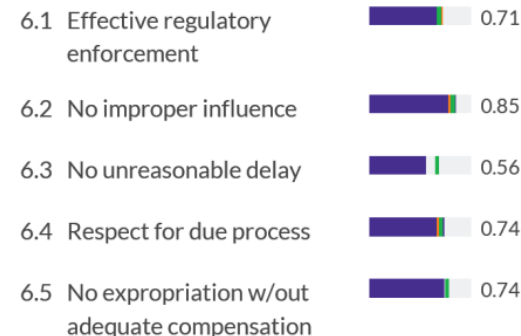
Fundamental Rights



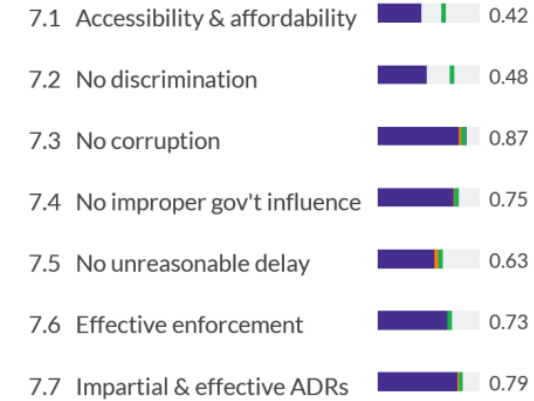
Order and Security



Regulatory Enforcement



Civil Justice



Criminal Justice

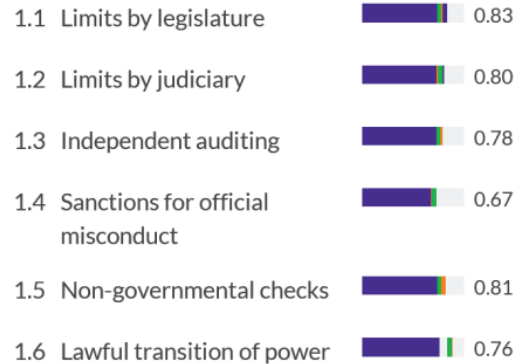


2. Discrimination

Continuing a long-term trend, the U.S. scored notably poorly on several measurements of discrimination

78 out of 113 countries on all three sub-factors

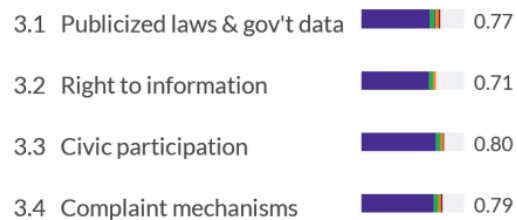
Constraints on Government Powers



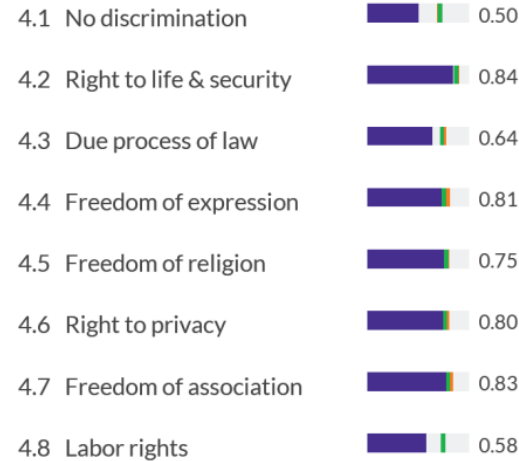
Absence of Corruption



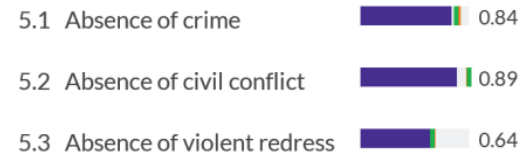
Open Government



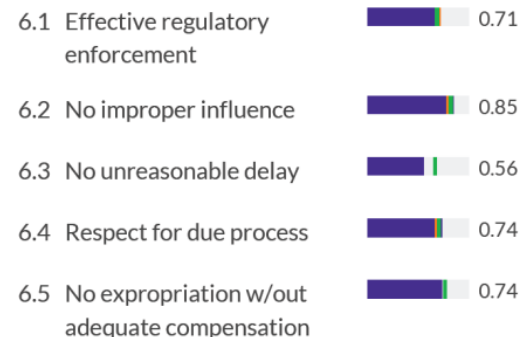
Fundamental Rights



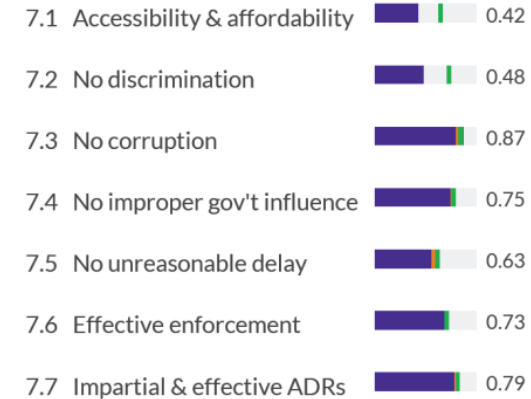
Order and Security



Regulatory Enforcement



Civil Justice



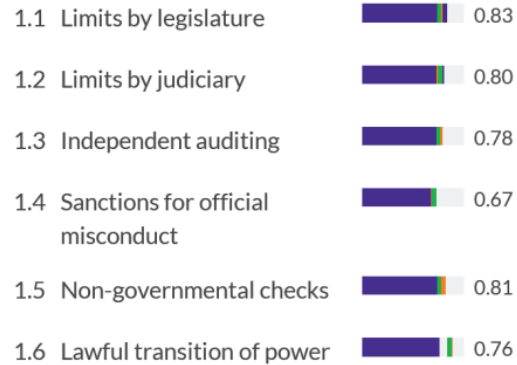
Criminal Justice



3. Access to Civil Justice

Continuing a long-term trend, the U.S. ranked 96 out of 113 countries on measurements of accessibility and affordability of the civil justice system

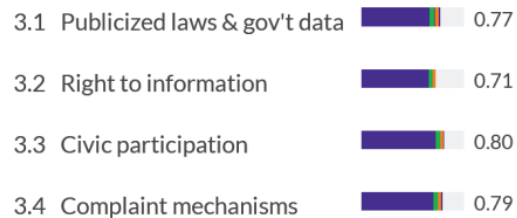
Constraints on Government Powers



Absence of Corruption



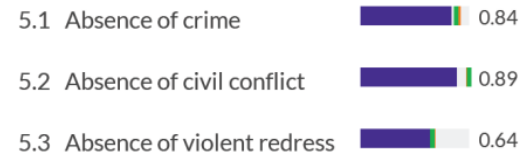
Open Government



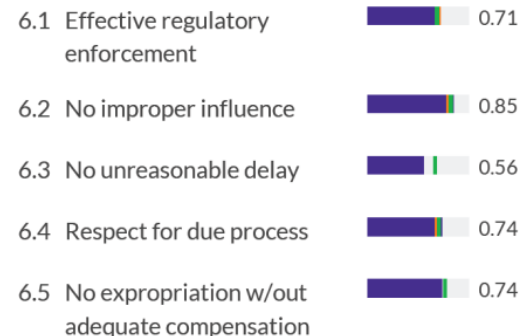
Fundamental Rights



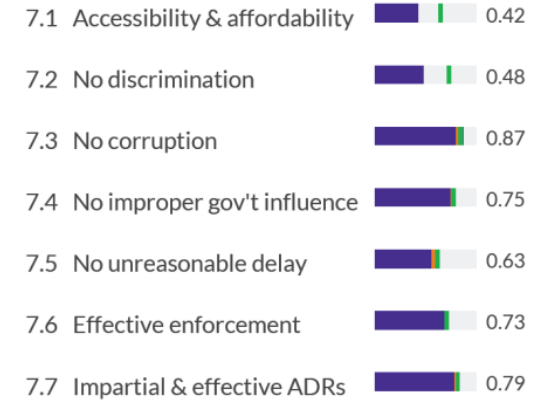
Order and Security



Regulatory Enforcement



Civil Justice



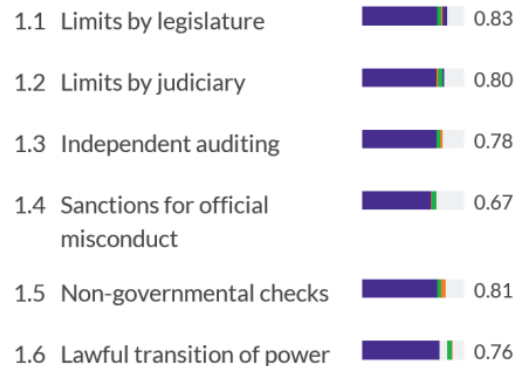
Criminal Justice



4. Due Process and Police Accountability

The U.S. ranked 28th out of 113 countries on measurements of due process of law.

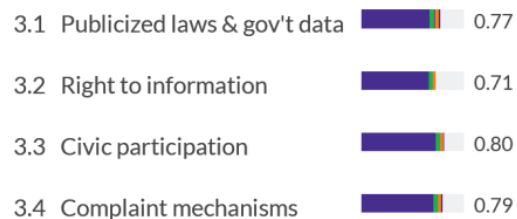
Constraints on Government Powers



Absence of Corruption



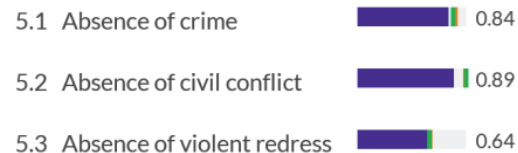
Open Government



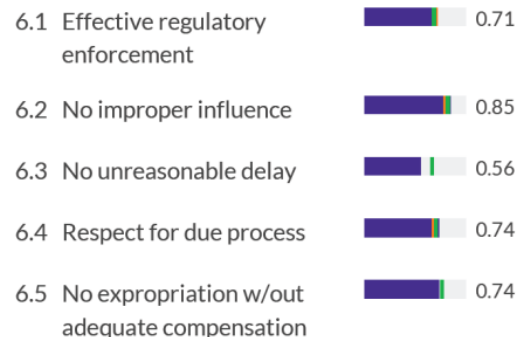
Fundamental Rights



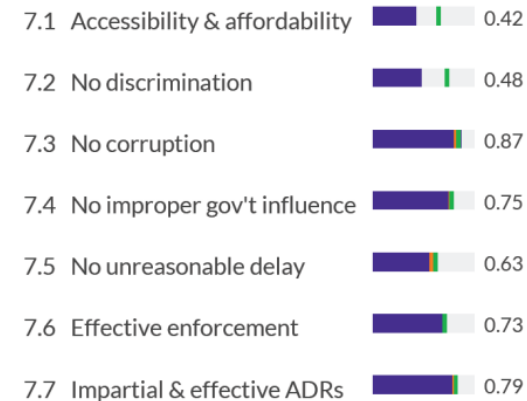
Order and Security



Regulatory Enforcement



Civil Justice

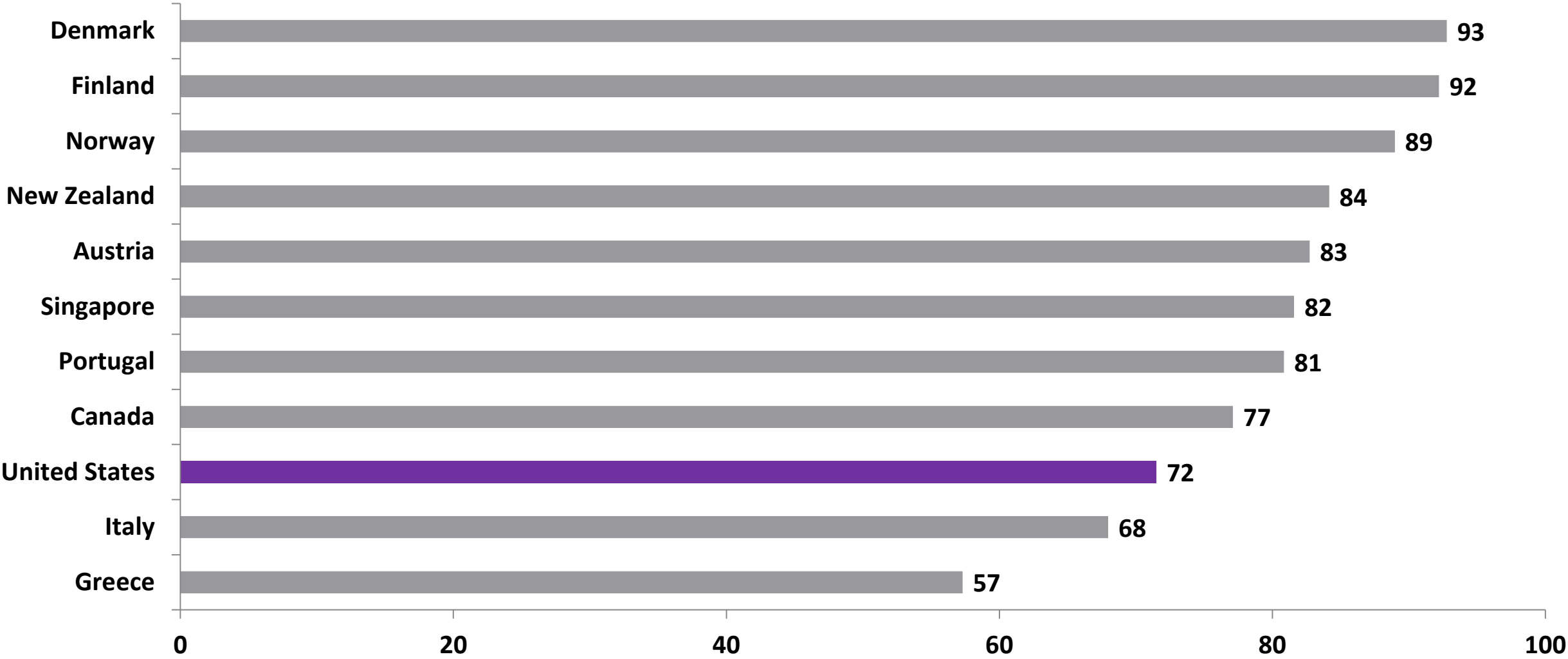


Criminal Justice



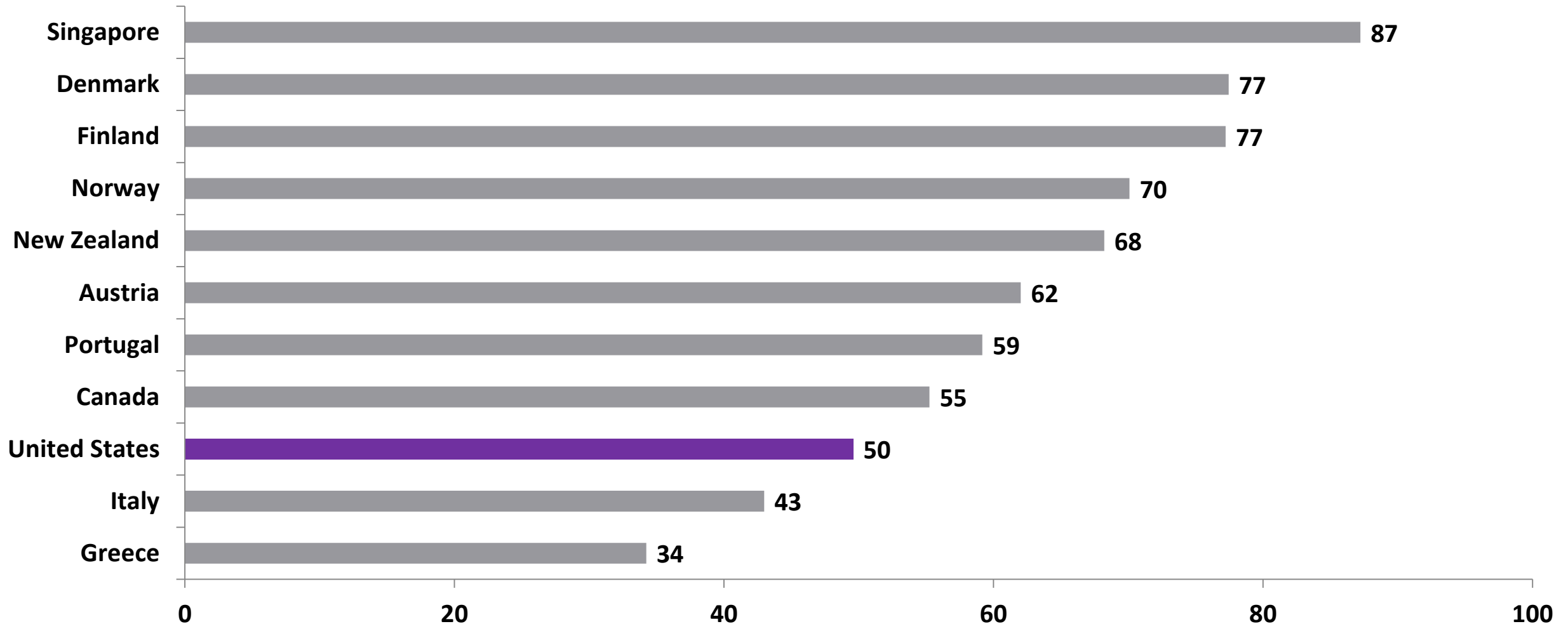
4. Due Process and Police Accountability (cont.)

The basic rights of suspects are respected by police (% Always/Often)



4. Due Process and Police Accountability (cont.)

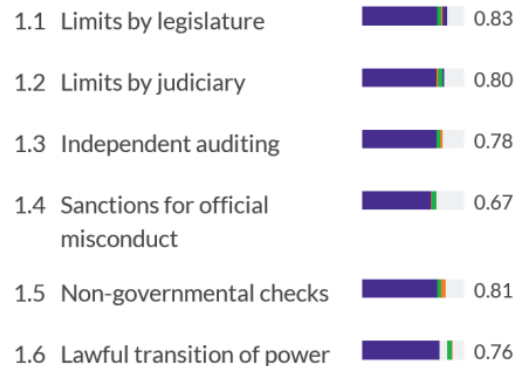
If members of the police violate the law, they are punished for these violations
(% Always/Often)



5. The Correctional System

The U.S. ranked 25th out of 113 countries on measurements of due process of law.

Constraints on Government Powers



Absence of Corruption



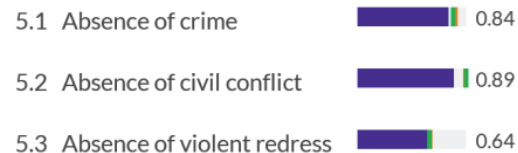
Open Government



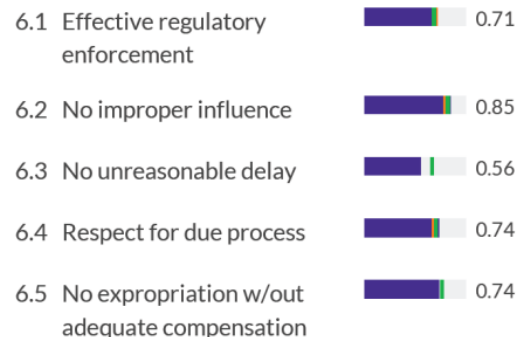
Fundamental Rights



Order and Security



Regulatory Enforcement



Civil Justice

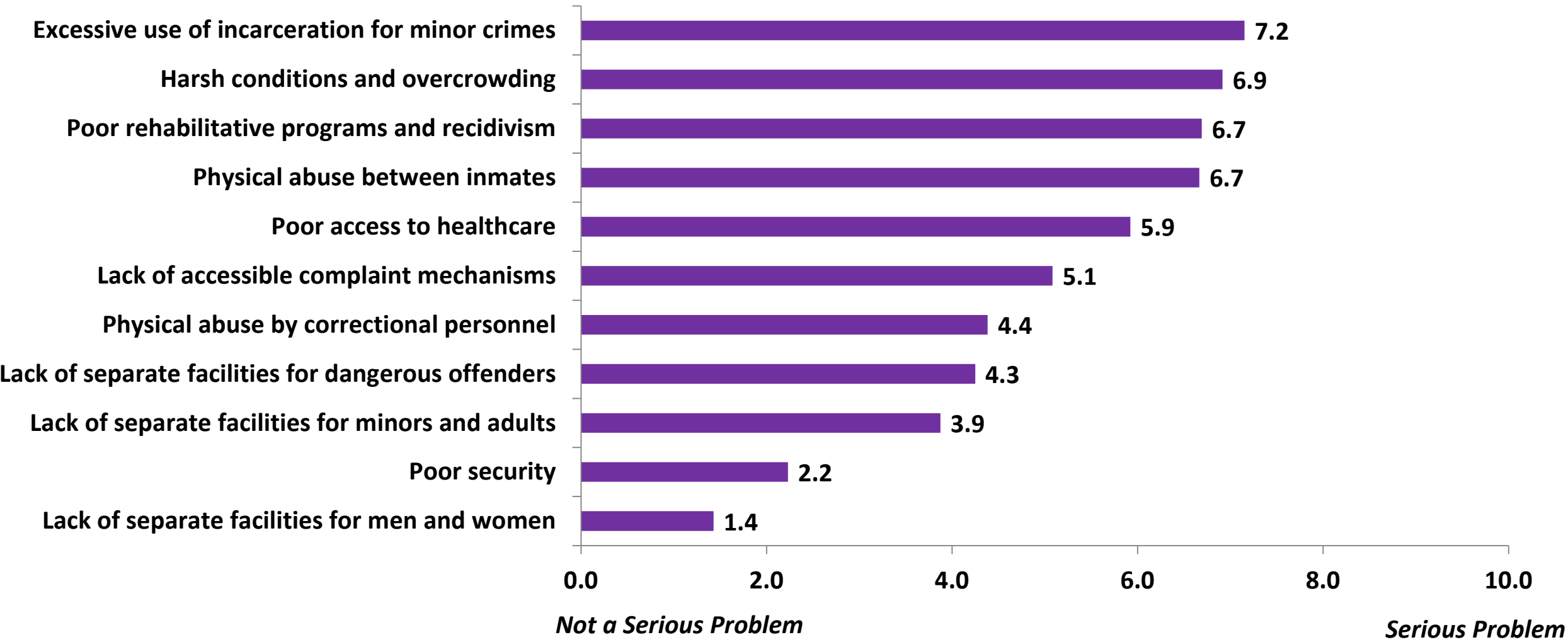


Criminal Justice



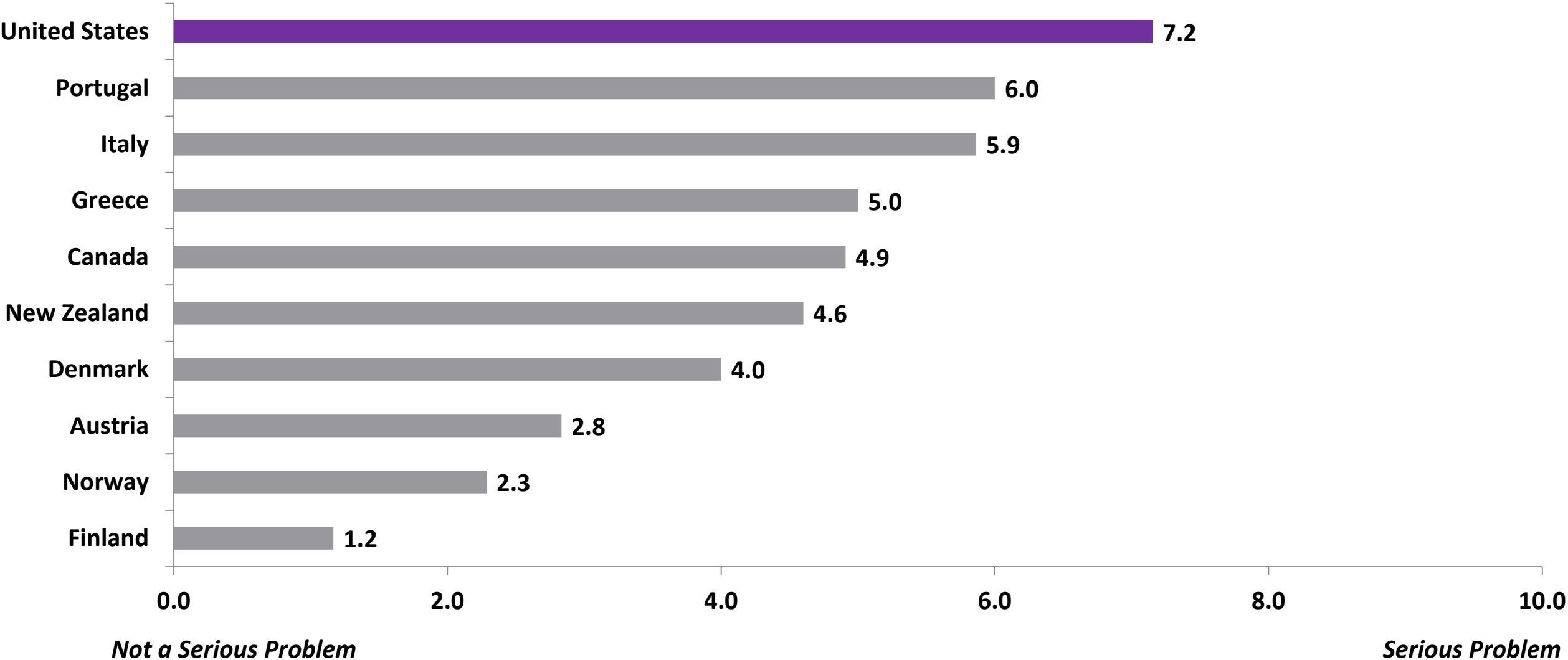
Correctional System

On a scale of 1 to 10, how serious are the following problems for correctional institutions?



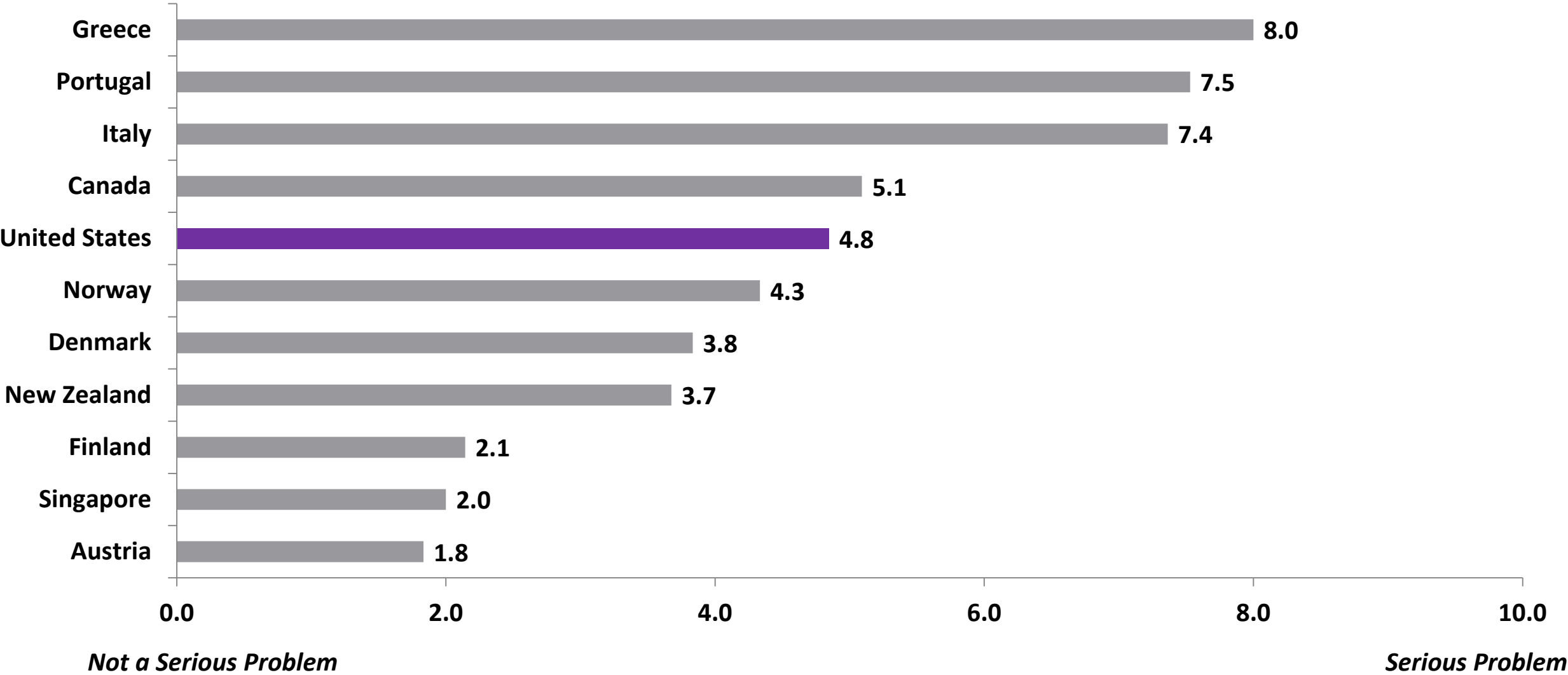
Correctional System

How serious is the following problem: *Excessive use of incarceration for minor crimes*



Pretrial Detention

How serious is the following problem: *Excessive length and use of pretrial detention*





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