



# 160 Girls Kenya Police Impact Report

Analyzing 10 Years of Systemic  
Equality Engagement

*KEY FINDINGS: December, 2025*

# 160 Girls Kenya Police Impact Report

## Analyzing 10+ Years of Systemic Equality Engagement

In 2014, the Equality Effect (e<sup>2</sup>) surveyed 63 police in Mombasa, Nairobi, Meru and Kakamega to establish their awareness of the 160 Girls High Court Decision, and their observed treatment of defilement cases. This study created a baseline for tracking progress and provided important information for the design of the 160 Girls engagement.

In 2025, e<sup>2</sup> sent a similar survey to 167 police, nationally, to track changes since the 2014 benchmark. In the intervening 10 years, the police training for “handling of defilement” has been transformed. There have been significant structural changes at the station level to facilitate proper handling of these cases.

This report focuses on the changes in police treatment of defilement cases, and the police recommendations for what should come next in their support of the “journey to justice” for child defilement victims.



## **Overview of Significant Progress**

# **2014 to 2024**

### **Police Are Now Well Educated in Children's Rights:**

**The majority of police are now aware of the 160 Girls High Court Decision and have been trained on the significance of the decision. In 2014 there was only 11% awareness of the 160 Girls case. It grew to 66% over the next 10 years.**

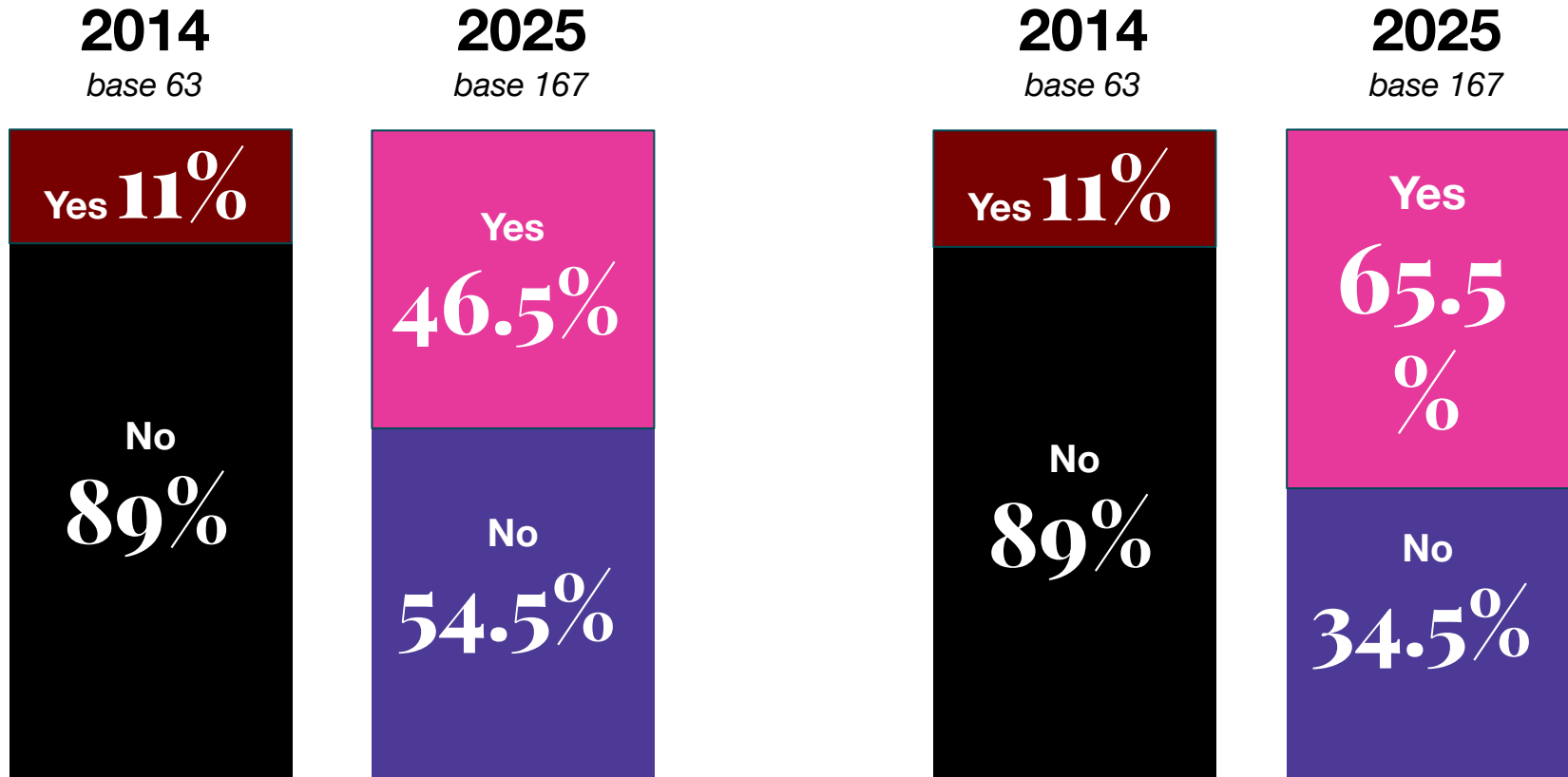
### **Police Treatment of Defilement Victims Has Been Transformed:**

**There has been a very impressive reduction in harmful/unconstitutional behaviour of the police towards child defilement victims. 70% -> 30% of police witnessing harmful and/or unconstitutional behaviour.**

# Dramatic Increase in 160 Girls' Case Awareness

Have you undergone any briefing or training on the significance of the decision to Police work since May 2013

Are you aware or familiar with the High Court decision of the 160 Girls case?



# The Police Have an Improved Understanding of the State's Responsibility To Protect Girls from Violence.

**“The state is responsible to protect girls from defilement as it a shared responsibility. However, the primary legal and moral responsibility rests with adults and institutions, not the child herself. Failure to protect children reflects a breakdown in one or more layers of this protective system. ”**

**“To help them to have a brighter future.”**

**“To create good environment for young girls to progress in their future well.”**

**“They are citizens like everyone else.”**

**“Creating laws that aim at protecting girls against sexual violence. Empowering women. ”**

**“Yes Girls are our future generation ”**

**“The girls are our springboard to future generational transition component hence they should be protected from any form of sexual violence .”**

# Police are expressing the foundational equality principles behind the law

**In your view, does the state have a responsibility to protect girls against sexual violence?**

***Please explain why or why not.***

*(base 167)*

Foundational Principles  
(Embellishment of the  
Sentiment)

61%

Legal/Constitutional  
Mandate to protect girls

29%

Children need  
protection/They are  
vulnerable

28%

Children have Human  
Rights/right to Justice

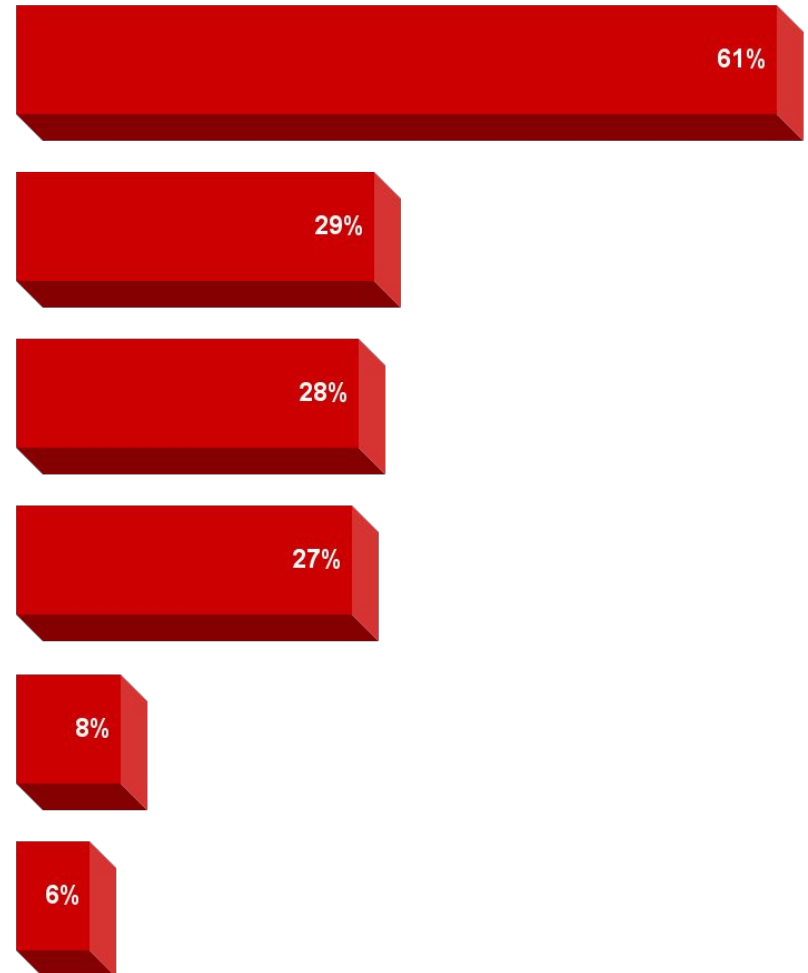
27%

Sexual Violence  
Harms/kills  
children/inhuman

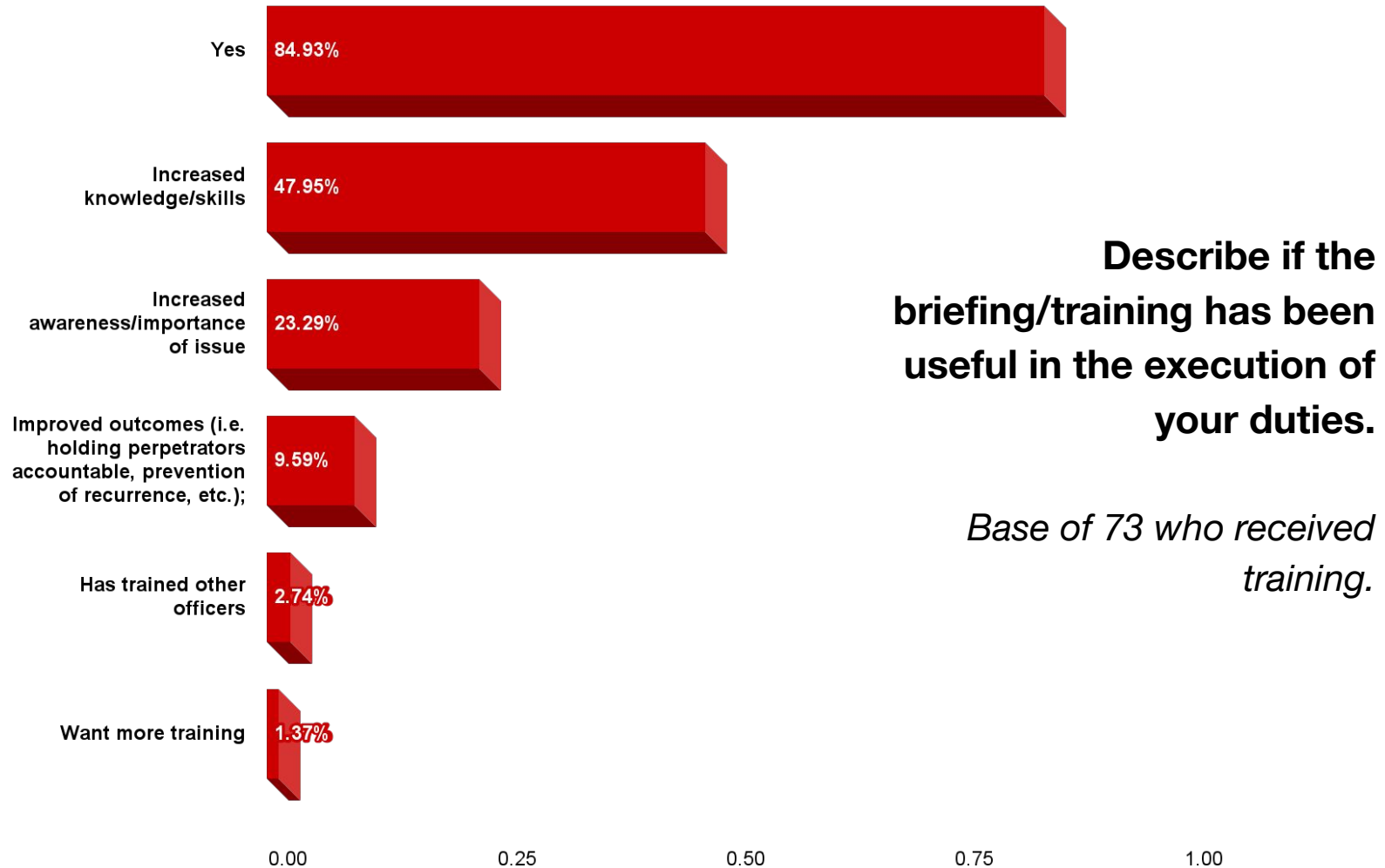
8%

To give girls a chance of  
a bright future

6%



# The Police Report Broad Benefits of the 160 Girls Training Including Improved Outcomes



**CRIME  
BRANCH**

**CRIME  
OFFICE**

# Police Behaviour Transformed

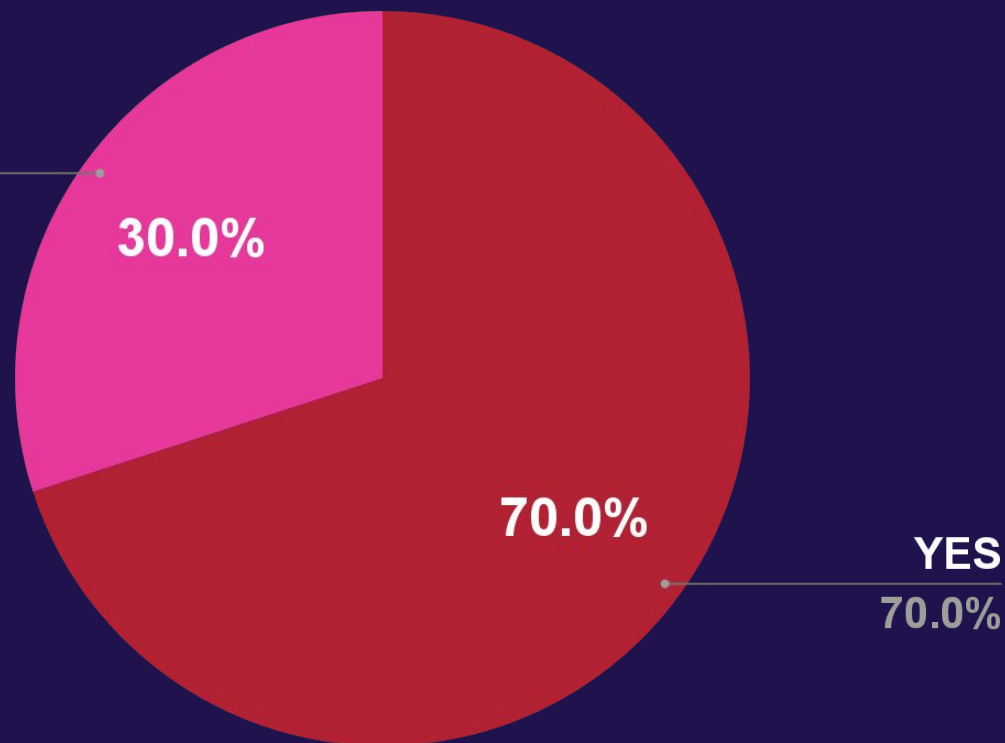


# One of the Biggest Calls to Action in 2014:

**70% of Police Had Witnessed Other Police Harming and Humiliating Defilement Victims, i.e. Unconstitutional Treatment of Girls\***

***\*Have you personally witnessed any of the behaviours described above in response to defilement claims by the Police?***

**NO**  
**30.0%**

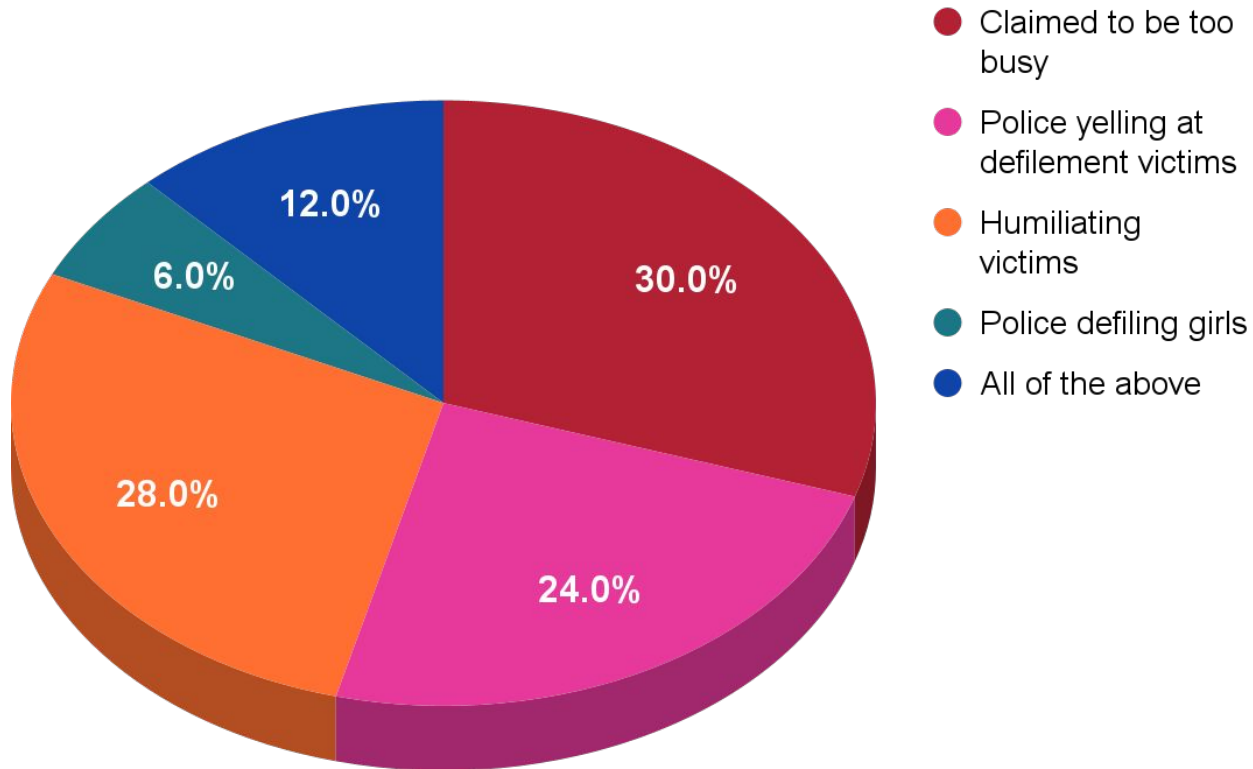


**YES**  
**70.0%**

# 2014 Specific Police Observations

## Which specific behaviours have you observed?

The 160 girls' case pleadings included admitted evidence of police delay or reluctance to investigate defilement claims reported to them by the public. The evidence submitted further illustrated the Police responded to defilement claims in the following ways;



# 2025 Shows Tremendous Progress in Reducing Police Inflicted Harm on Defilement Victims.

Now **71%** have not witnessed harmful or unconstitutional behavior by the police.

*Base - 135*

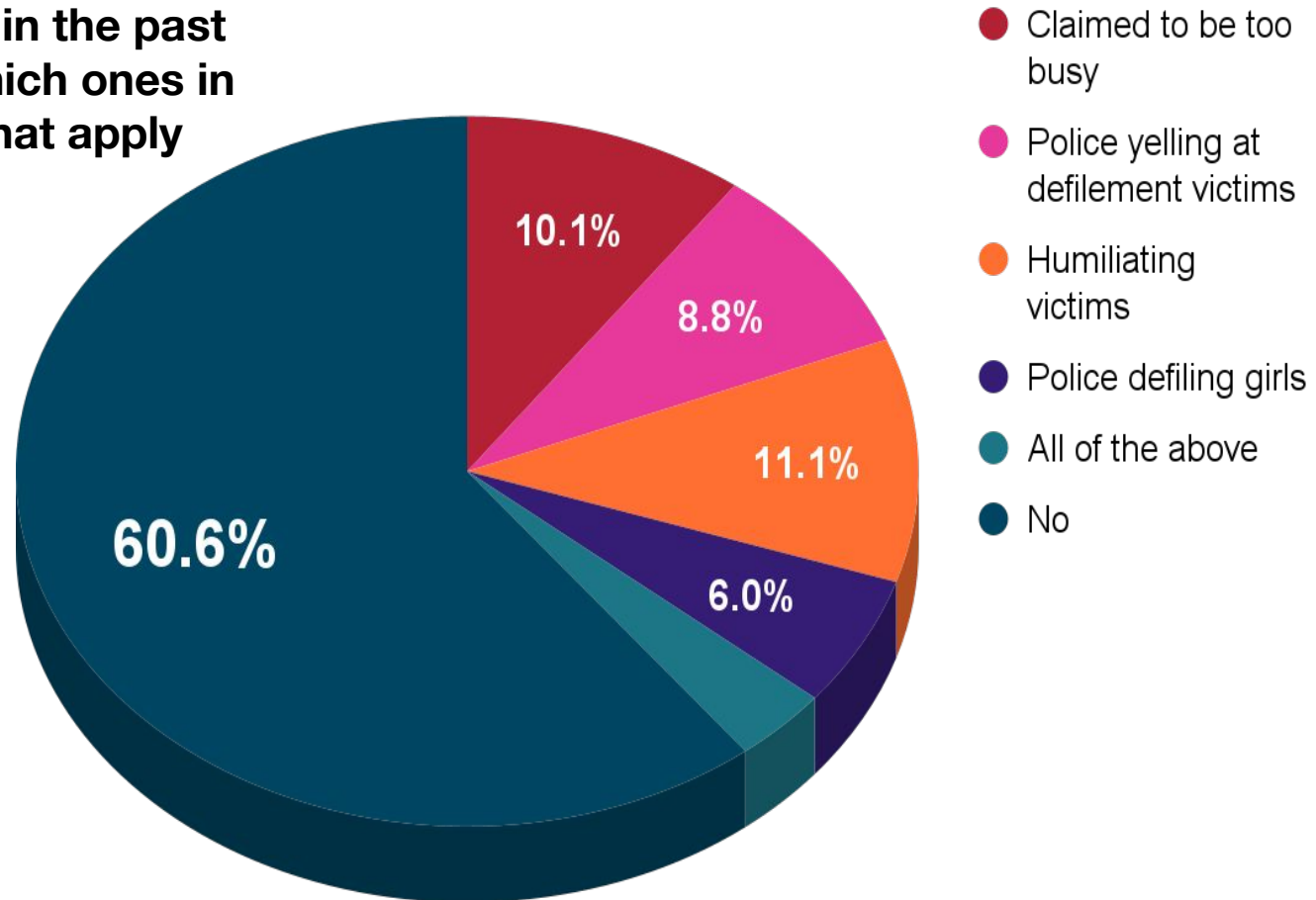


More improvement is necessary as **29%** still report harmful police behavior towards victims.

# Great Improvement: More Work Still Needed

**Have you personally witnessed any of the behaviours described above in response to defilement claims by the Police in the past 12 months? If so, which ones in particular? Tick all that apply**

*Base - 135*

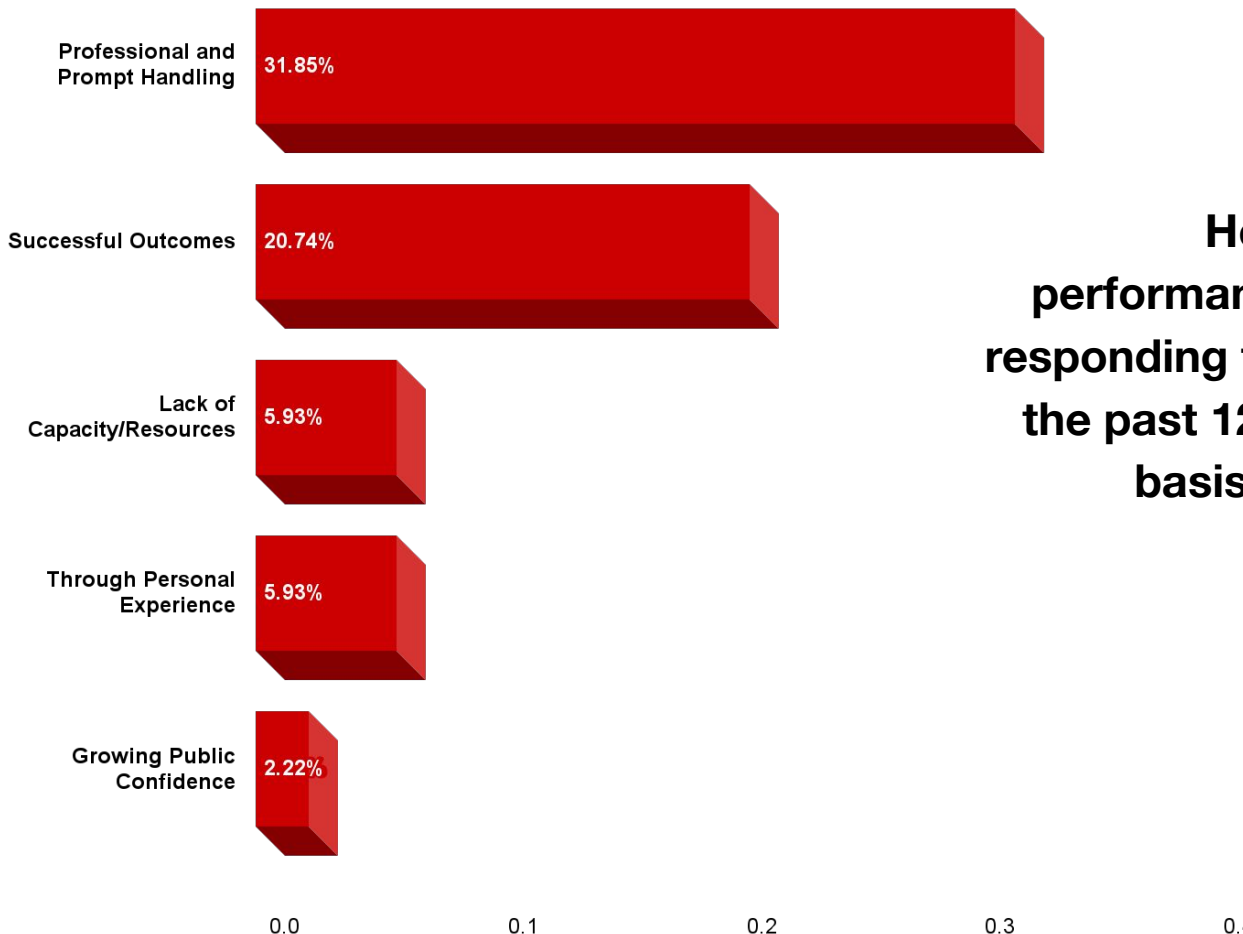


# Changes in How Police Rate Their Performance Overall for Handling Child Defilement Cases

|                  | <b>2014</b><br>Performance of Duty<br>Station Overall (63) | <b>2025</b><br>Performance of Police<br>Overall (135) |
|------------------|--|---|
| <b>Excellent</b> | <b>11</b>  | <b>21</b>   |
| <b>Good</b>      | <b>69</b>  | <b>59</b>   |
| <b>Adequate</b>  | <b>15</b>  | <b>15</b>   |
| <b>Poor</b>      | <b>5</b>   | <b>4</b>  |

*Note: For 2014, prior to the 160 Girls engagement, we don't know the basis the police used for this rating. Arguably the standards for good and excellent have changed over the past 10 years.*

# 2025 Reasons for Overall Ratings of Excellent/Good are Totally Consistent with the Focus of the Training



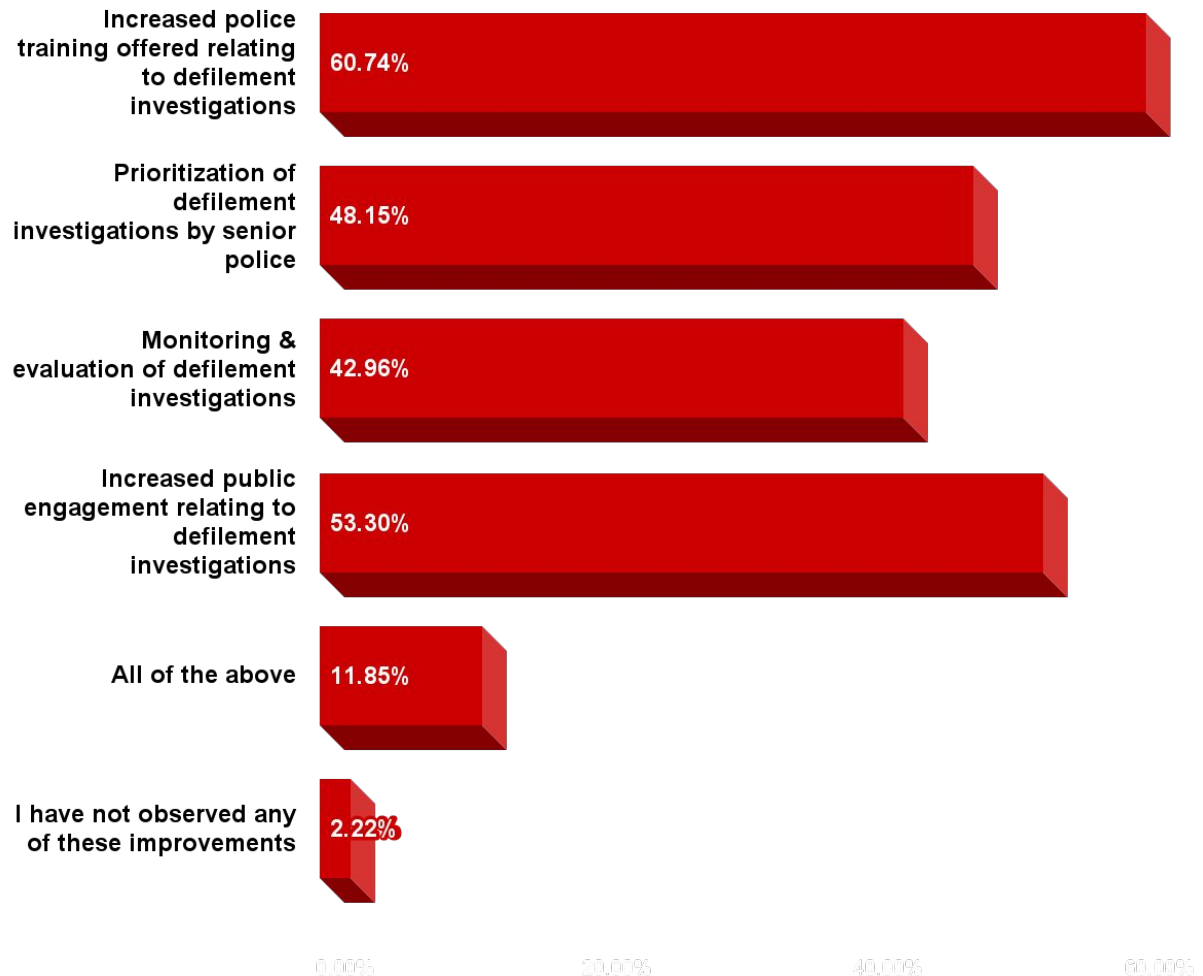
**How would you rate the performance of police overall in responding to defilement cases in the past 12 months? What is the basis for your evaluation in question 10 above?**

*(base 109)*

# The Police Clearly Have Seen Improvement in the 160 Girls' Focus Areas

**Which of the following improvements (if any) have you observed relating to the police treatment of defilement in the past 5 years? Please check all that you have observed.**

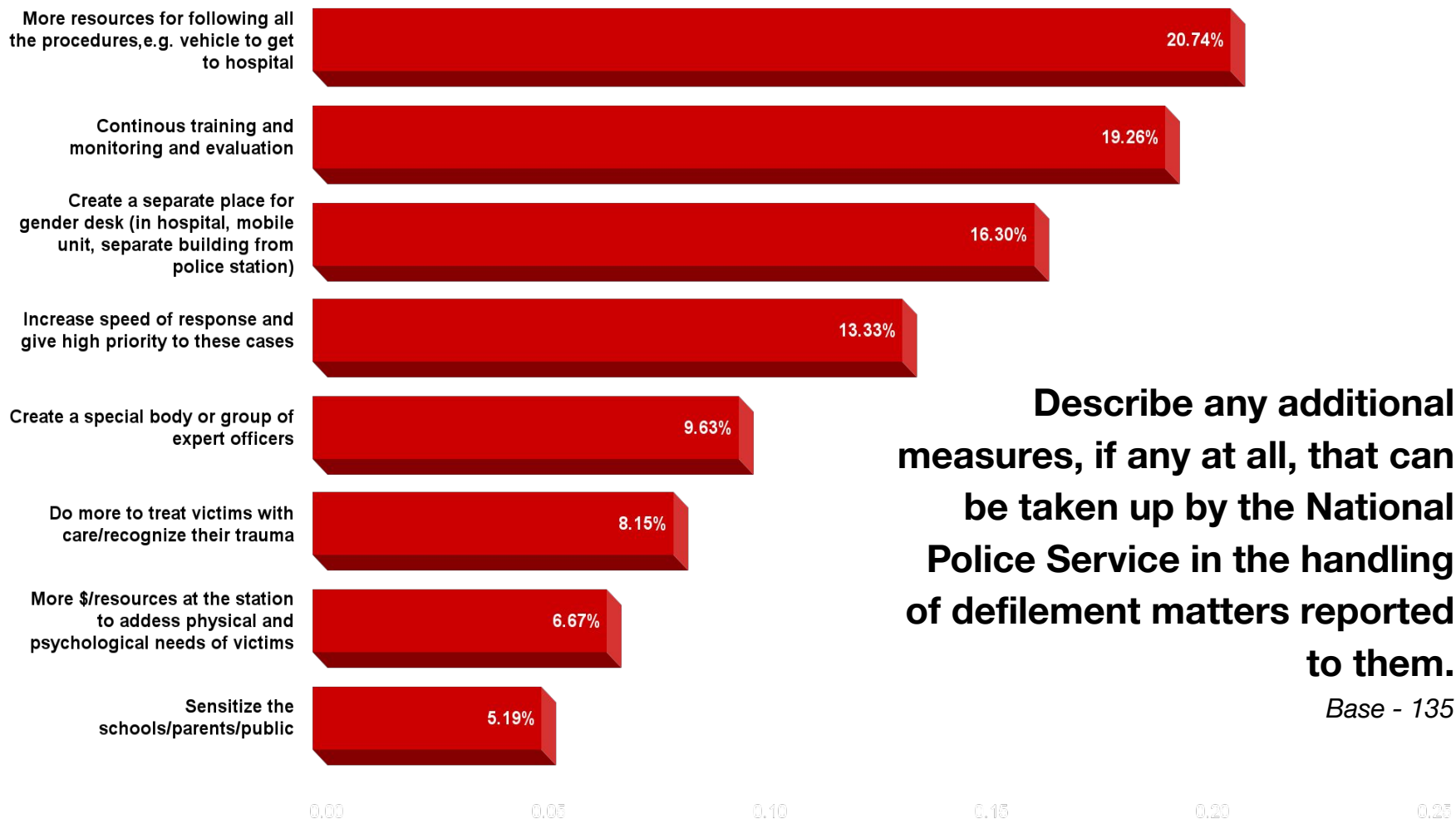
*135 Respondents*



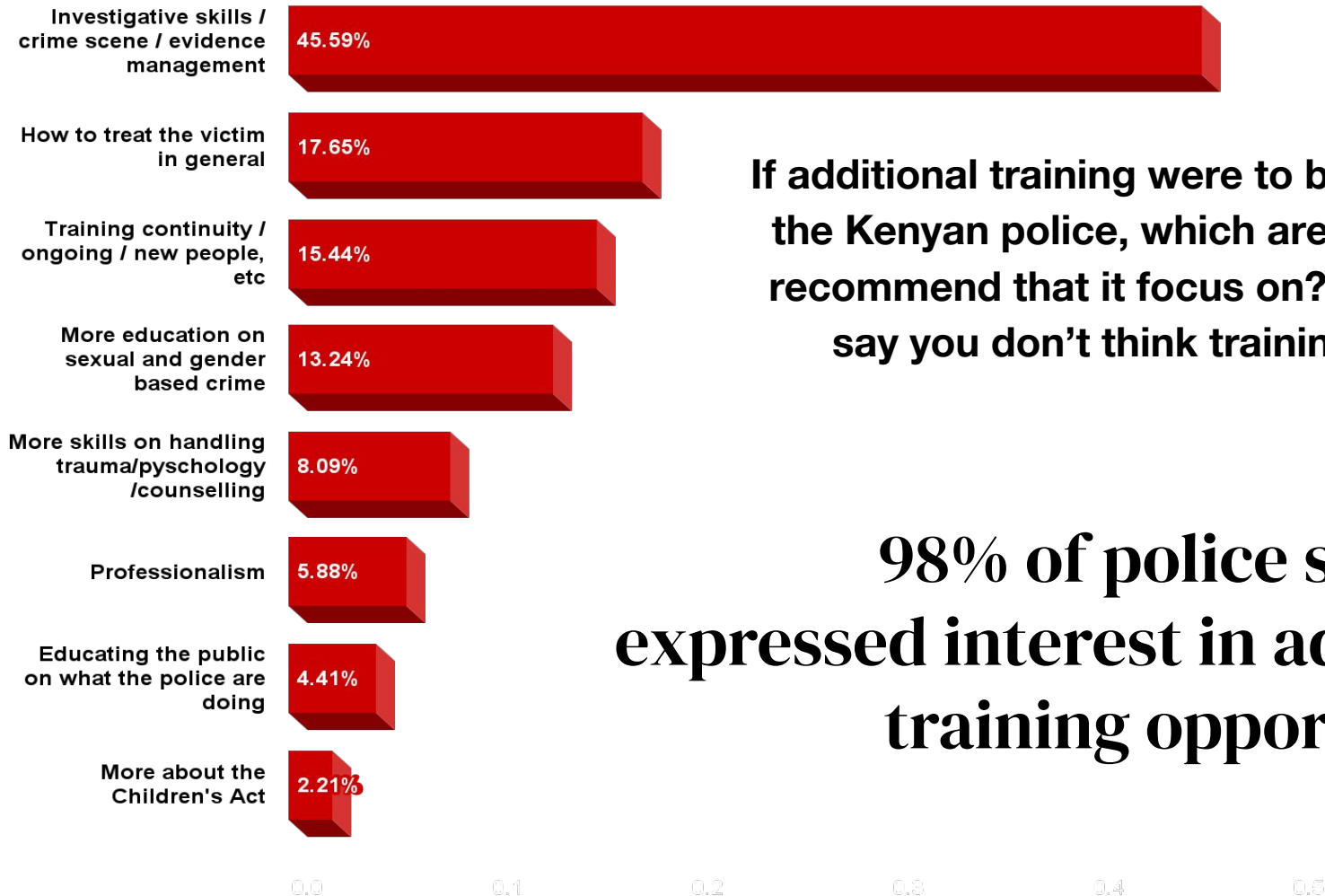
A woman with dark skin and long braids is seated at a wooden table, focused on writing in a notebook. She is wearing a dark blue t-shirt with the text "160 GIRLS JUSTICE" printed in pink. In the background, a black police helmet with a clear visor and the word "POLICE" is visible on a shelf. The setting appears to be an office or a workspace with a rustic, corrugated metal wall. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the woman's face and hands.

# Police Have Specific Recommendations for Future Progress

# Police Display Energy for Ongoing Improvements in Skill Building, Capability Development and Victim Understanding



# The Majority of Police Have Enthusiasm for more Training; especially in proper procedures, victim management, and public engagement.



If additional training were to be provided to the Kenyan police, which areas would you recommend that it focus on? You can also say you don't think training is required.

*(base 136)*

**98% of police surveyed expressed interest in additional training opportunities.**

# Research Method:

This study was conducted using standard questionnaires developed by the e<sup>2</sup> measurement team. The 2025 questionnaire was similar to a questionnaire administered to the police by e<sup>2</sup> in 2014 which provides a benchmark for progress. Both surveys explored the police's impression of the following:

- The level of awareness of the 160 Girls ruling;
- The quality of police treatment of defilement cases;
- The quality and history of training in proper defilement investigation procedures;
- The police perception of what hinders progress re: defilement cases;
- Police suggestions for improvement of treatment of defilement cases.



# Research Method Continued

The 2025 survey was conducted in 2 waves. The first 73 respondents were recruited in the spring of 2025. (Feb and March)



The second wave of 94 respondents was conducted in June 2025

The sample was recruited by inviting trained Officer in Command of Stations (OCS) via WhatsApp trainee groups to answer the standard questionnaire online. Officers in Command of Station were also directed to share the questionnaire with the officers in their stations.

# Demographic Summary of Respondents

Overall the demographic profile of the 167 respondents is generally representative of the Kenyan police force with respect to age, gender, geography, rank and level of experience.



# What is your age?



19-25 2.96%

26-35 15.56%

36-45 59.26%

46-55 19.26%

56-60 2.96%

0.00%

20.00%

40.00%

Base - 135

Answered: 135  
Skipped: 32

# What is your sex?

Answered: 135  
Skipped: 32

35%

Female



65%

Male

0%

Inter-Sex

**Do you  
intend to identify as a  
person with  
a disability?**

**Answered: 135  
Skipped: 32**



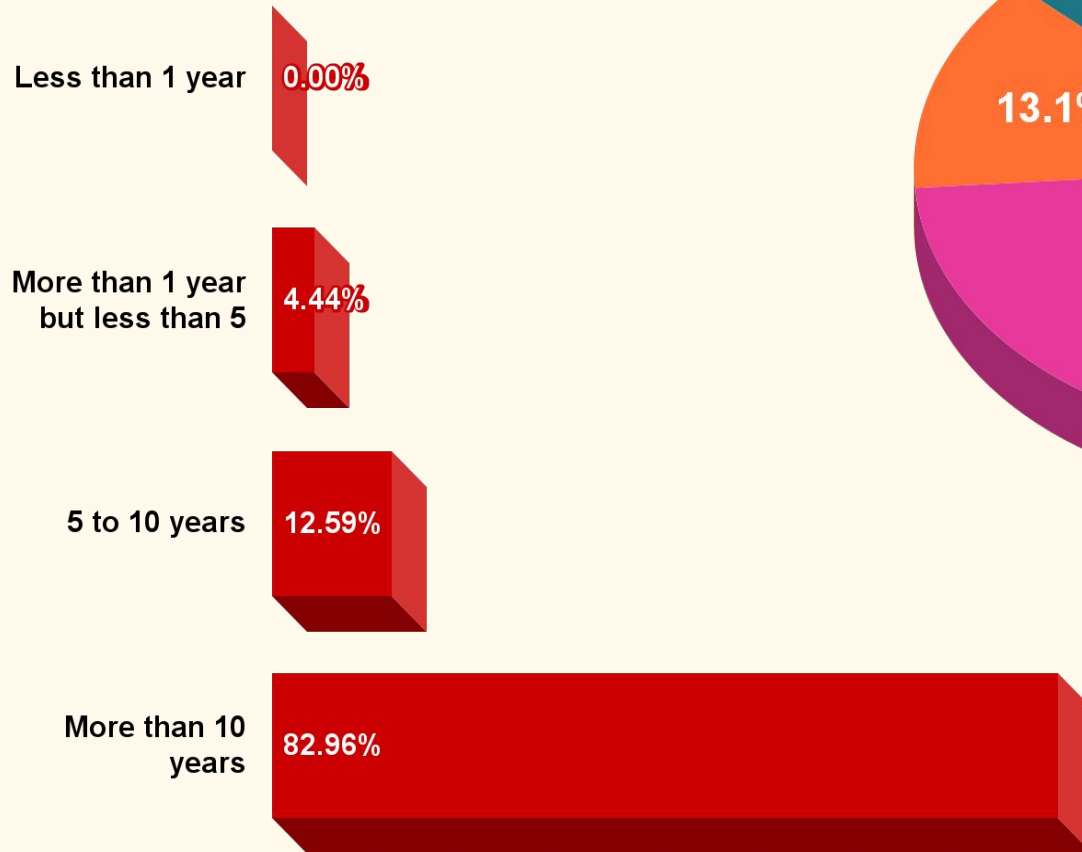
**2%**

**Yes**

**98%**

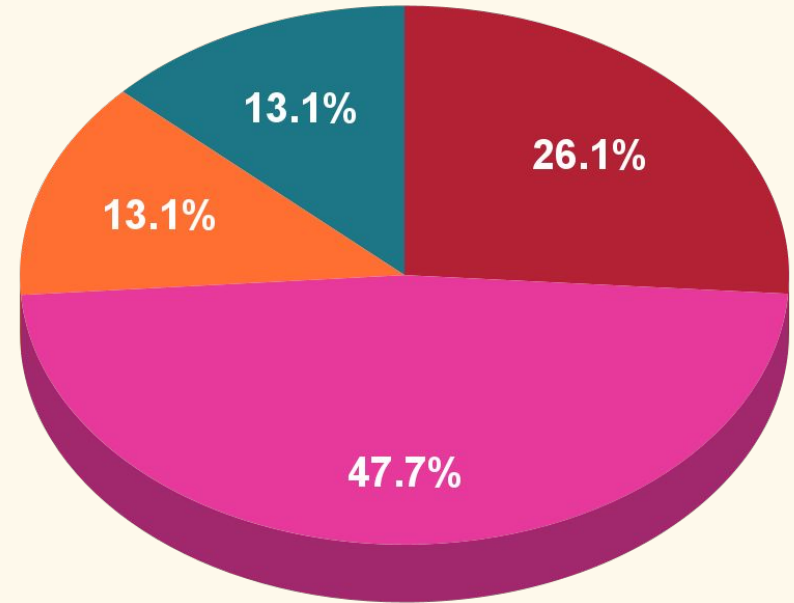
**No**

# How long have you been a police officer?



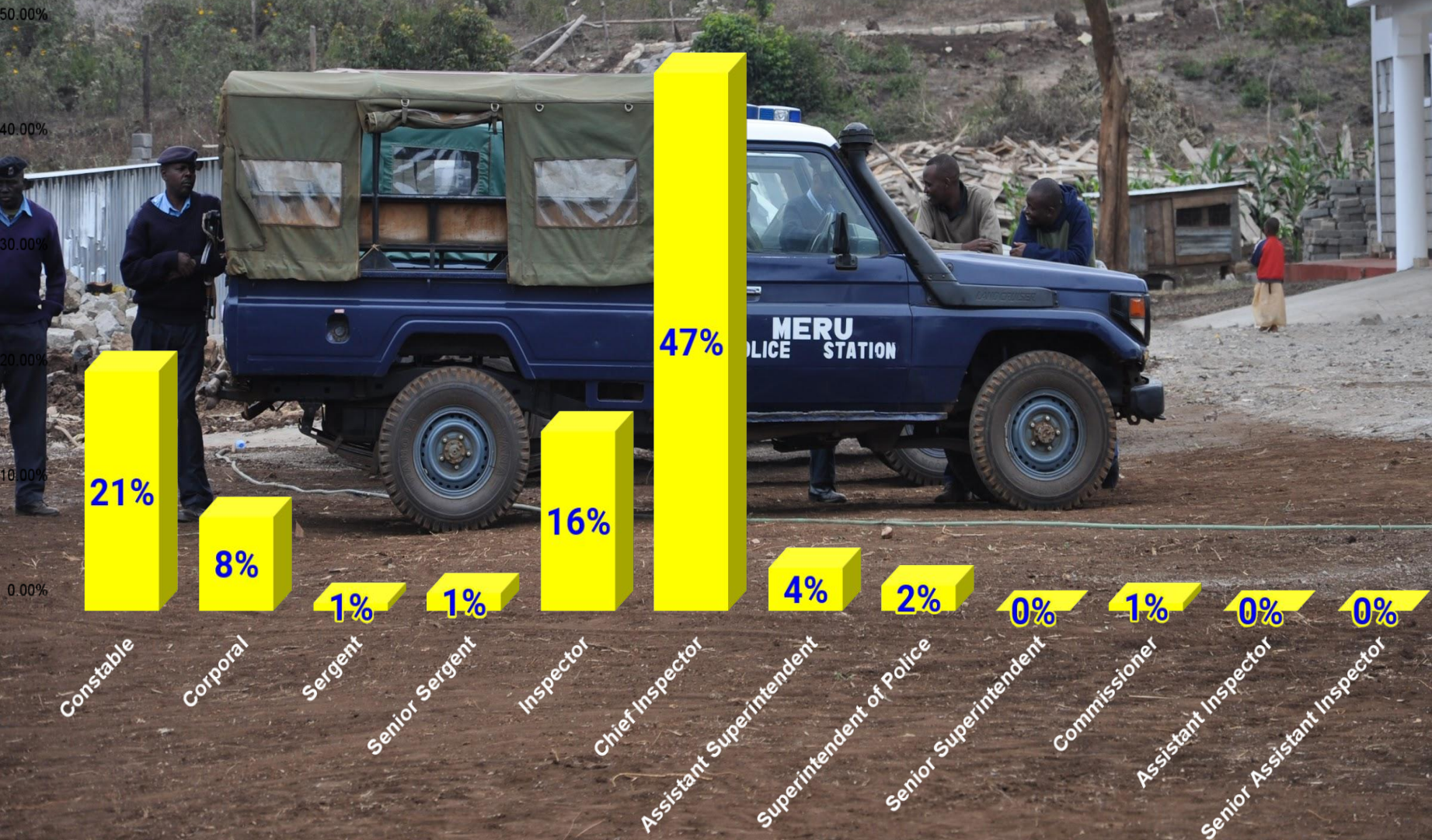
# What is your level of education?

● College ● University ● Postgraduate ● Other



Answered: 135  
Skipped: 32

# What is your rank within the police department?



**In your view, does the state have a responsibility to protect girls against sexual violence?**

**98%**

**yes**

**2%**

**no**



In your view, do you feel that defilement cases in Kenya are currently treated differently from other crime cases?

If yes, what ways are they treated differently?



87%

Yes, in a good way

8%

No

5%

Yes, in a negative way

# Results

How would you rate the performance of police overall in responding to defilement cases in the past 12 months? What is the basis for your evaluation in question 10 above (109)?

**21%**  
Excellent

**59%**  
Good

**15%**  
Adequate

**4%**  
Poor

