

ICAC Annual Survey 2025

Executive Summary

Background

- 1.1 The Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) conducted community-wide opinion surveys through telephone interviews between 1992 and 2009 on an annual basis. As a more in-depth understanding of the public's views and concerns about corruption will be useful to the Commission in mapping out its work strategy, the survey has been conducted via face-to-face household interviews instead of telephone interviews from 2010 onwards.

Survey Objectives

- 1.2 The survey has three main objectives:
- To understand public attitude towards a corruption-free society and their knowledge of corruption;
 - To gauge public experience in encountering and reporting corruption; and
 - To identify how members of the public receive information concerning the ICAC and their related opinions.

Target Respondents

- 1.3 The target respondents were persons aged between 15 and 74 living in Hong Kong who speak Cantonese, Putonghua or English.

Sample Design and Data Collection Method

- 1.4 The target respondents were randomly selected on the basis of "Next Birthday" method within every selected valid household. A total of 1 543 target respondents completed the face-to-face household interview successfully.

Fieldwork Period

- 1.5 The fieldwork was carried out from 16 March to 17 May 2026.

Response Rate

- 1.6 The response rate was 62.5%.

Weighted Data

- 1.7 The collected data was weighted by gender and age group according to the 2025 mid-year population statistics compiled by the Census and Statistics Department.

Questionnaire Design

- 1.8 The questionnaire contained different types of questions, including close-ended question, rating scale question, scenario-type question and open-ended question. All open-ended questions were not pre-coded. Respondents could give their own answers.

Report of Survey Findings

- 1.9 In the tables presented in this executive summary, the weighted figures and percentage figures may not add up to totals (i.e. 100%) because of rounding of decimal points.

Summary of Key Findings

A Public Attitude towards a Corruption-free Society and their Knowledge of Corruption

Tolerance of corruption in Hong Kong (Table A - a)

- 1.10 On a 0 to 10 point scale where 0 represents “total intolerance” of corruption in Hong Kong and 10 represents “total tolerance”, the mean score given by respondents was 0.3, reflecting an extremely low tolerance of corruption amongst the public.
- 1.11 90.0% of the respondents considered corruption in Hong Kong totally intolerable (i.e. a score of 0). 10.0% of the respondents gave a score of 1 or above, with the most commonly cited reason as “corruption existed in the society and was unavoidable” (57.5%).

Table A - a

	2022	2023	2024	2025
Tolerance of corruption in Hong Kong				
0 (Total intolerance)	85.1%	89.1%	90.4%	90.0%
1	1.6%	2.4%	2.0%	1.9%
2	3.8%	2.4%	2.9%	2.6%
3	3.3%	2.7%	1.8%	1.9%
4	0.7%	0.8%	0.4%	0.6%
5	3.6%	1.9%	1.9%	2.1%
6	0.5%	0.2%	0.2%	0.4%
7	0.3%	0.2%	0.2%	0.1%
8	0.8%	0.3%	0.2%	0.4%
9	0.1%	-	0.1%	*
10 (Total tolerance)	0.2%	*	-	0.1%
Don't know/no opinion	0.1%	-	-	-
Mean score [^]	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.3

* Less than 0.05%.

[^] The finding of 2025 was significantly different from that of 2022 at 0.01 significance level.

Willingness to report corruption (Table A - b)

- 1.12 The majority of the respondents (80.9%) indicated that they would report corruption if they were aware that someone had committed the crime.
- 1.13 12.1% of the respondents replied that it would depend on circumstances, mainly considering “whether the safety/job of respondents themselves/their relatives/ friends would be affected” (47.4%). Only 3.9% of the respondents said they would not make a report, with the major reason given as “worry about the safety of respondents themselves/their families” (39.5%).

Table A - b

	2022	2023	2024	2025
Willingness to report corruption				
– Willing	78.2%	78.0%	80.8%	80.9%
– Unwilling	5.6%	4.1%	4.6%	3.9%
– Depending on circumstances	13.1%	13.3%	10.8%	12.1%
– Don't know/no opinion	3.1%	4.5%	3.7%	3.1%

Acceptance level and knowledge towards conducts contravening anti-corruption laws (Table A - c)

- 1.14 Respondents were asked regarding the acceptance level and knowledge towards five scenarios, while four of them were conducts contravening anti-corruption laws and one was a conduct not contravening anti-corruption laws. The majority of the respondents considered those conducts contravening anti-corruption laws unacceptable (with the percentages for the four scenarios between 93.3% and 97.6%) and could identify them as illegal (with the percentages for the four scenarios between 86.3% and 95.8%).

Table A - c

Scenarios (Conducts contravening anti-corruption laws)	Acceptance level				Whether the conduct is illegal		
	Accept- able	Depending on circumstances	Unaccept- able	Don't know/ no opinion	Yes	No	Don't know/ no opinion
(i) A cleaning (or construction) company supervisor accepts money from job seekers for assisting them to secure employment as workers.	0.6%	0.3%	97.6%	1.5%	95.8%	1.4%	2.8%
(ii) A civil servant helps his/her relative to bid for the department's works project tender by providing the relative with internal information.	0.3%	0.1%	96.9%	2.7%	95.5%	1.0%	3.5%
(iii) A candidate of the District Council Election offers a free one-day local tour to electors, and asks them to vote for him/her at the election.	2.0%	0.3%	94.2%	3.5%	88.9%	3.8%	7.3%
(iv) An employee claims from his/her company business entertainment expenses higher than the actual amount.	0.8%	2.2%	93.3%	3.6%	86.3%	3.5%	10.1%

Perceived importance of keeping Hong Kong corruption-free to the overall development of Hong Kong (Table A - d)

- 1.15 The vast majority of the respondents (97.9%) agreed that keeping Hong Kong corruption-free was important to the overall development of Hong Kong. The most common reasons cited were “it would help uphold fairness/justice/righteousness in the society” (37.4%), “it would enable everyone to have equal opportunities for development/competition” (23.7%) and “it would be beneficial to the economic and business development of Hong Kong” (20.6%).

Table A - d

	2022	2023	2024	2025
Perceived importance of keeping Hong Kong corruption-free to the overall development of Hong Kong				
– Very important/quite important	97.9%	96.7%	97.4%	97.9%
– Not quite important/very unimportant	0.5%	0.2%	0.3%	0.5%
– Don't know/no opinion	1.6%	3.1%	2.4%	1.6%

Support for the ICAC (Table A - e)

- 1.16 The majority of the respondents (93.1%) stated that the ICAC deserved their support. The key reasons mentioned were “the ICAC conducted its anti-corruption work effectively” (70.8%) and “the ICAC safeguarded integrity and the rule of law of the society” (42.0%).

Table A - e

	2022	2023	2024	2025
Whether the ICAC deserved respondents' support [^]				
– Yes	90.1%	92.8%	93.1%	93.1%
– No	3.5%	1.4%	1.3%	1.8%
– Don't know/no opinion	6.4%	5.8%	5.6%	5.1%

[^] The findings of 2025 were significantly different from those of 2022 at 0.01 significance level.

B Public Experience in Encountering and Reporting Corruption

The experience of respondents (Table B - a)

- 1.17 Almost all respondents (99.2%) indicated that they had not come across corruption personally in Hong Kong in the past 12 months.
- 1.18 Only 0.6% of the respondents (9 respondents) said that they had come across corruption personally, with most commonly cited sector involved as “the property management industry (including security guard)”. Most of them (7 respondents) had not reported corruption to the ICAC, with the most commonly cited reason as “worry that the job of respondents themselves would be affected”.

Table B - a

	2022	2023	2024	2025
Whether respondents had come across corruption personally in the past 12 months				
– Yes	1.0%	0.8%	1.0%	0.6%
– No	98.9%	98.9%	98.7%	99.2%
– Don't know/no opinion	0.2%	0.3%	0.4%	0.2%

The experience of respondents' relatives or friends (Table B - b)

- 1.19 The vast majority of the respondents (97.1%) said that their relatives or friends had not come across corruption in Hong Kong in the past 12 months.
- 1.20 Only 0.8% of the respondents (12 respondents) indicated that their relatives or friends had come across corruption, with the most commonly cited sector involved as “the construction industry”.

Table B - b

	2022	2023	2024	2025
Whether relatives or friends of respondents had come across corruption in the past 12 months				
– Yes	0.9%	0.7%	0.6%	0.8%
– No	97.0%	97.7%	97.0%	97.1%
– Don't know/no opinion	2.1%	1.6%	2.4%	2.1%

C Information Concerning the ICAC Received by the Public and their Related Opinions

Information concerning the ICAC received (Table C)

- 1.21 The majority of the respondents (83.2%) indicated that they had seen or heard of information concerning the ICAC in the past 12 months. Most of them received information concerning the ICAC through television (87.0%). More than two-fifths of the respondents received information concerning the ICAC through poster/bus body/ MTR/display panel/other large-scale publicity (48.8%) and social media (45.8%). They were followed by internet/webpage/email (36.1%).

Table C

	2024	2025
Whether respondents had seen or heard of information concerning the ICAC in the past 12 months @ ^		
– Yes	76.1%	83.2%
– No	22.7%	16.0%
– Don't know/no opinion	1.2%	0.8%

- 1.22 Among the 83.2% of respondents who had received information concerning the ICAC, 86.9% of the respondents had seen or heard of cases/news related to the ICAC, while 81.2% of the respondents had seen or heard of ICAC's publicity or activities.
- 1.23 Among the remaining 16.8% of respondents who had not seen or heard of information concerning the ICAC, or did not know whether they had done so, a larger proportion considered that the ICAC can use television (43.8%) and social media (40.1%) as the channels to disseminate the related information to them.

@ This question was amended in 2024, therefore only figures of 2024 and 2025 were shown.

^ The findings of 2025 were significantly different from those of 2024 at 0.01 significance level.

Opinions on the use of social media

- 1.24 Among the 45.8% of respondents who had received information concerning the ICAC from social media, a larger proportion received related information from Facebook (58.5%), YouTube (53.1%) and Instagram (35.9%).
- 1.25 YouTube (50.6%), Facebook (45.6%) and Instagram (35.5%) were perceived by respondents as the most effective social media platforms to promote information concerning the ICAC.
- 1.26 If the ICAC posts short videos on social media platforms, the type of short videos that a larger proportion of respondents who used social media platforms would like to see was short plays/short videos/microfilms (79.6%). The topics of short videos that a larger proportion of respondents would like were introduction to cases (51.0%), dramas/detective films/movies (36.7%) and corruption prevention information (34.5%).