

Safety of Journalists Country Report

Philippines

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Report Authors

Edson Tandoc (Nanyang Technological University, Singapore)

The Philippines continues to be one of the most dangerous places for journalists, with over 200 journalists killed since democracy was restored in 1986. In April 2025, a veteran radio journalist was gunned down near his home in Aklan province, with the motive still unknown at the time of this writing. Journalists outside Metro Manila are particularly vulnerable to threats, but those in the capital and working for larger news organizations also face digital harassment, often instigated by politicians unhappy with their news coverage. These physical and online threats are exacerbated by low wages, the rise of influencers spreading fake news, and increasing distrust from political supporters who accuse mainstream media of bias against their political idols.

Safety Index Scores

Overall Safety Score
58.09

Safety Dimensions

Physical Safety

50.19

Psychological Safety

64.66

Digital Safety

76.32

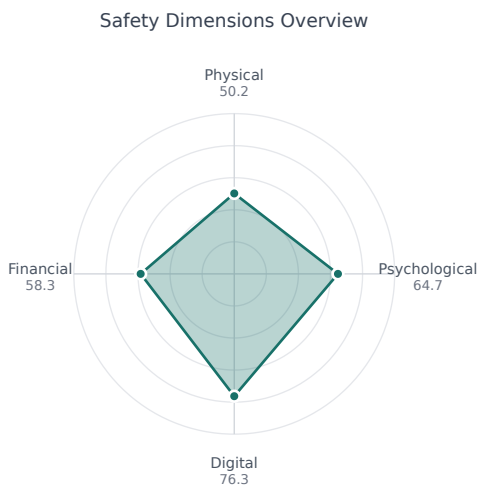
Financial Safety

58.34

Overview

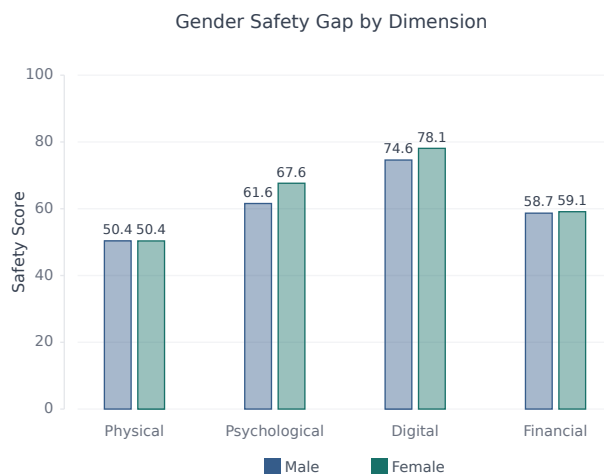
The Safety of Journalists Index provides a comprehensive measurement of journalist safety across four dimensions. The charts below show how Philippines performs across each dimension and highlight any gender-

based disparities.



Safety Dimensions

This radar chart displays how the country performs across all four safety dimensions, revealing areas of strength and concern.



Gender Safety Gap

This comparison highlights differences in safety experiences between male and female journalists, revealing potential gender-based disparities.

Physical Safety

The physical dimension carries **50% weight in the safety index**.

25

Journalist Killings

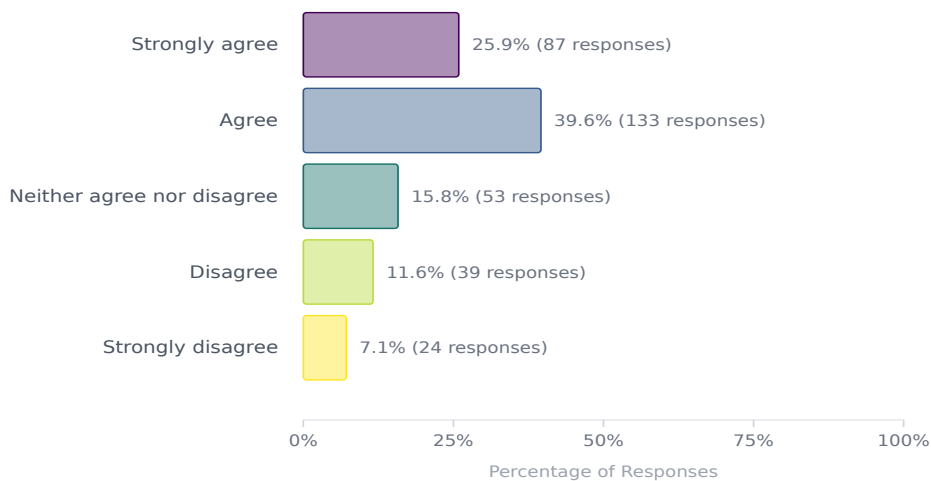
2016-2024

This figure represents the total number of journalist killings in Philippines between 2016 and 2024.

Note: This indicator carries 35% of the weight within the physical dimension of the Safety Index, making it the most significant factor in this category.

Data sourced from UNESCO Observatory of Killed Journalists.

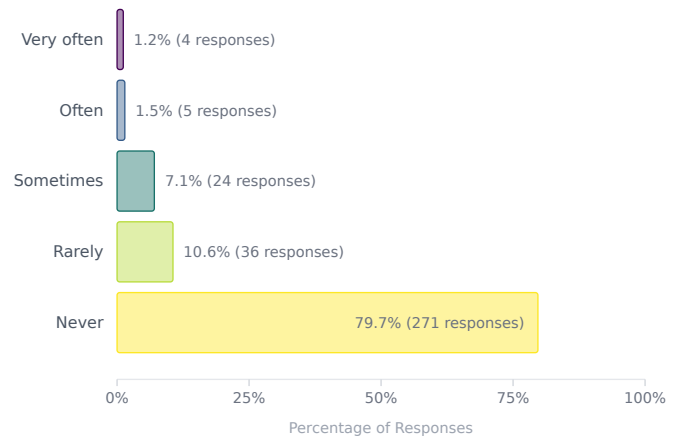
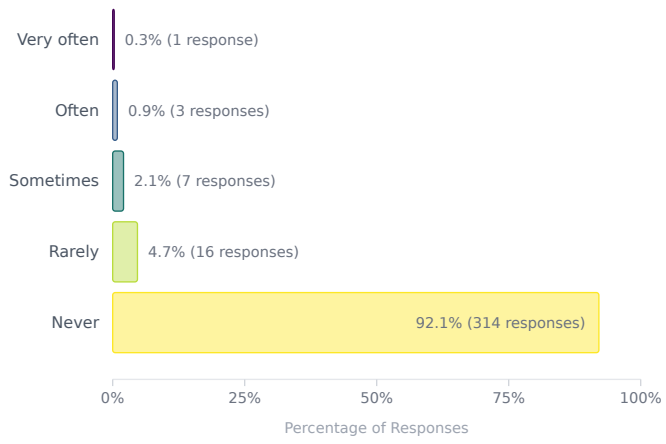
Responses to: "I am concerned about my physical wellbeing" (20% weight in physical dimension)



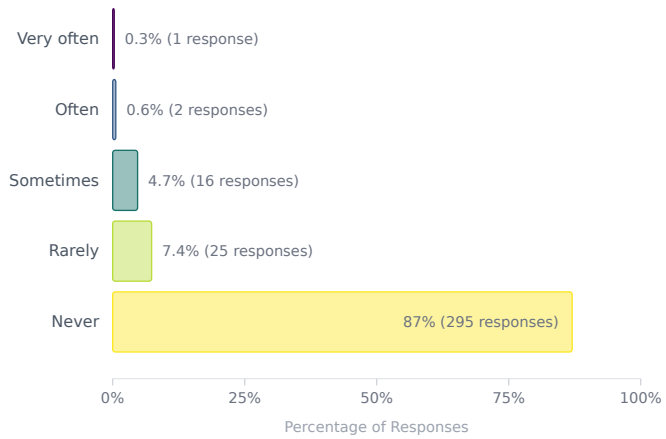
Responses to: "In the last five years, how often have you experienced any of the following actions related to your work as a journalist?"

Arrests, detentions or imprisonment (15% weight in physical dimension)

Sexual assault or sexual harassment (15% weight in physical dimension)



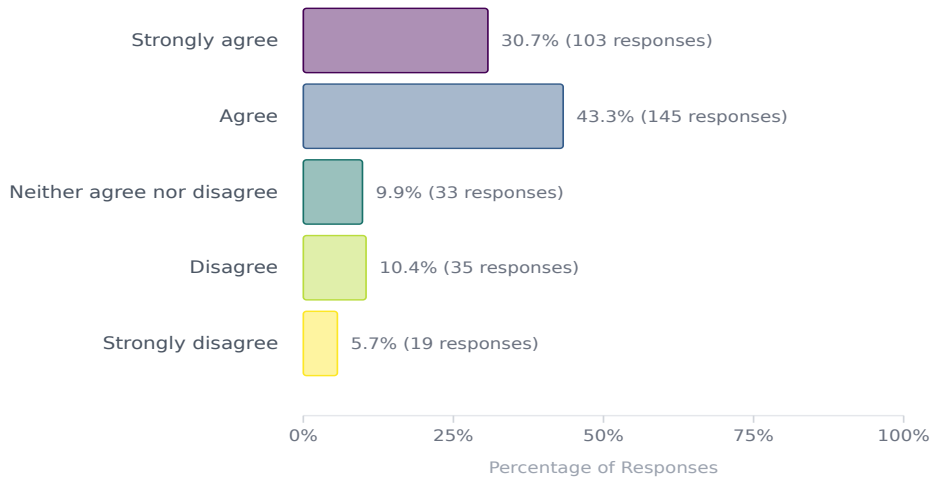
Other physical attacks (15% weight in physical dimension)



Psychological Safety

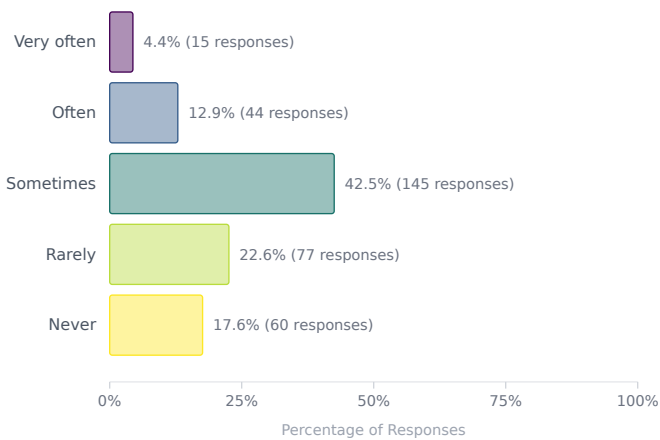
The psychological dimension carries **25% weight in the safety index**.

Responses to: "I am concerned about my emotional wellbeing" (20% weight in psychological dimension)

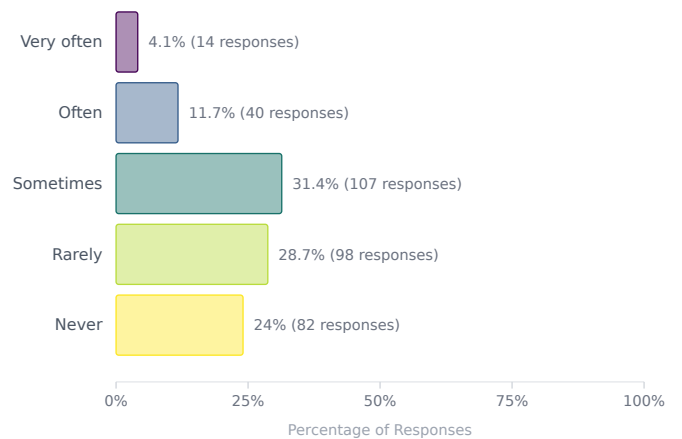


Responses to: "In the last five years, how often have you experienced any of the following actions related to your work as a journalist?"

Demeaning or hateful speech directed at you (16% weight in psychological dimension)



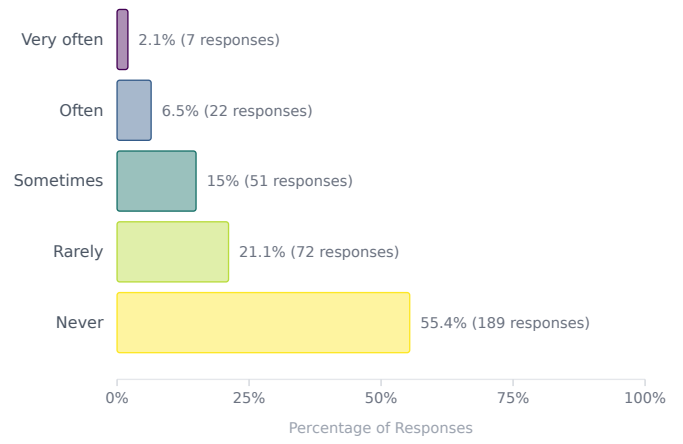
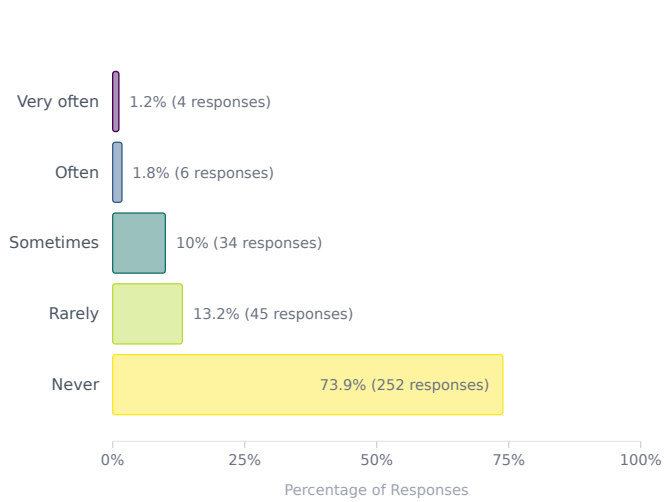
Public discrediting of your work (16% weight in psychological dimension)



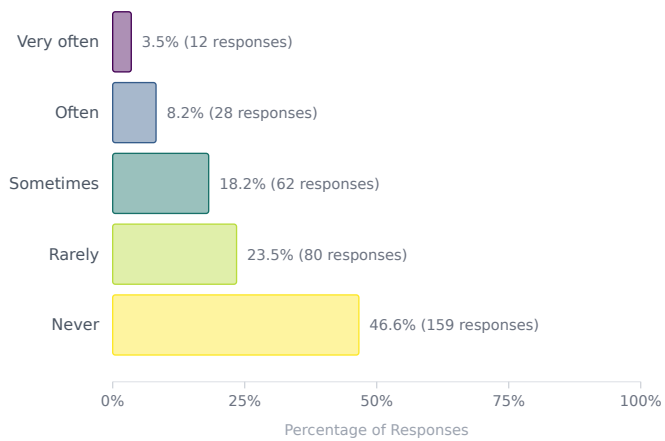
Legal actions against you because of your work (16% weight in psychological dimension)

Stalking (16% weight in psychological dimension)

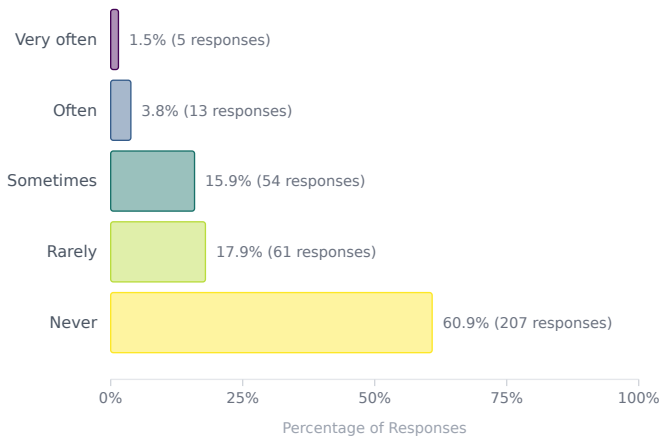
dimension)



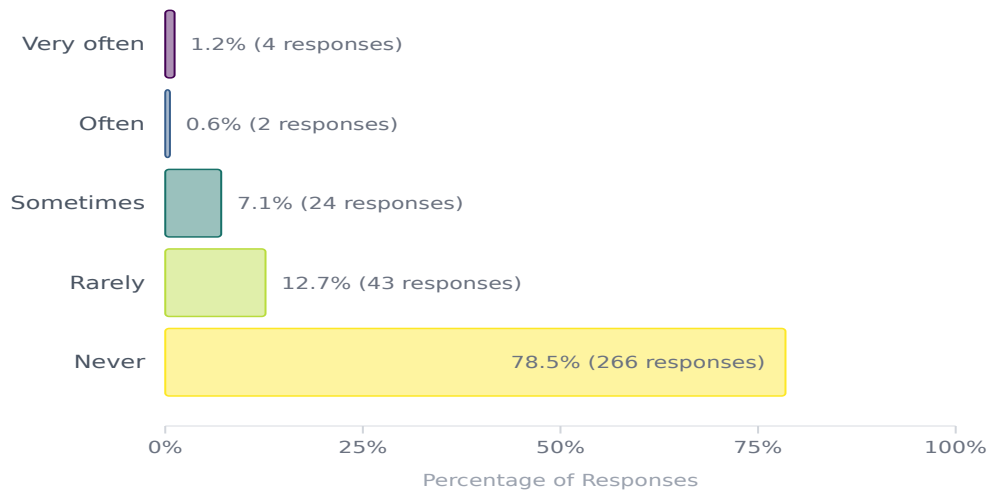
Other threats or intimidation directed at you (16% weight in psychological dimension)



Workplace bullying (did not contribute to calculation)



Intimidation that targets your family or close associates (did not contribute to calculation)

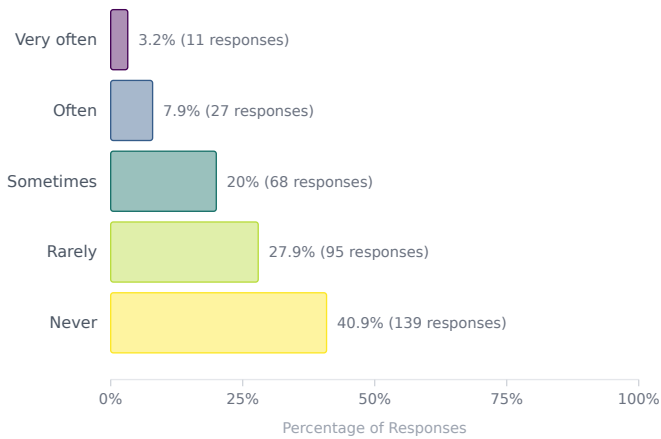


Digital Safety

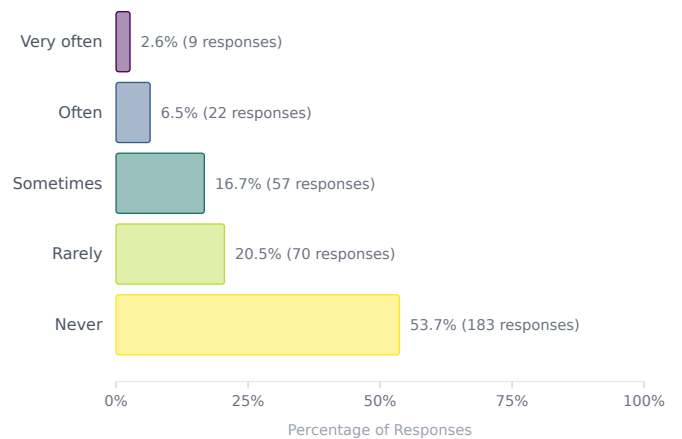
The digital dimension carries **12.5% weight in the safety index.**

Responses to: "In the last five years, how often have you experienced any of the following actions related to your work as a journalist?"

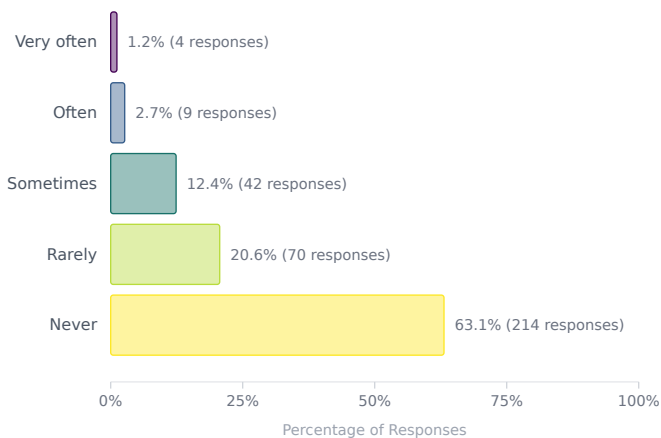
Surveillance (50% weight in digital dimension)



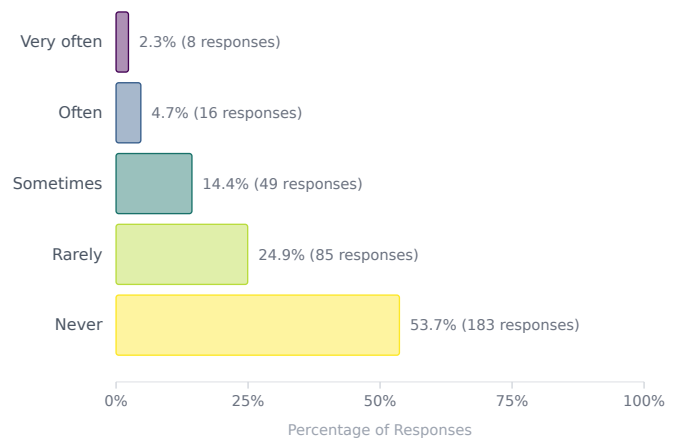
Hacking or blocking of social media accounts or websites (50% weight in digital dimension)



Others using your byline for fabricated or manipulated stories (did not contribute to calculation)



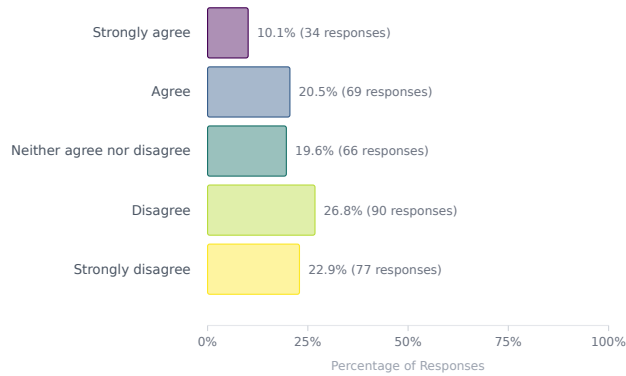
Others disseminating your personal information (did not contribute to calculation)



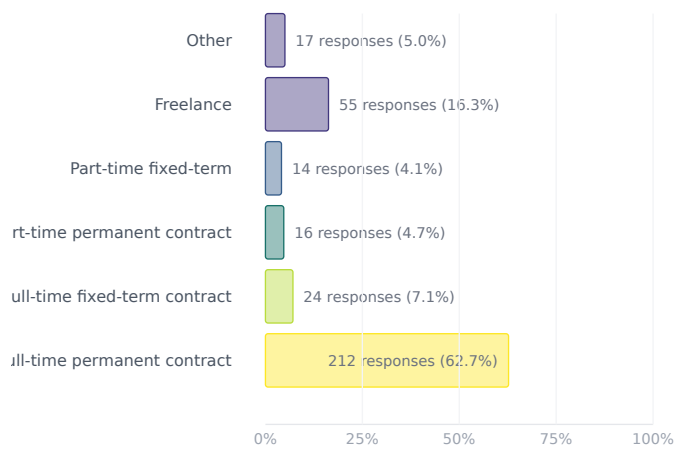
Financial Safety

The financial dimension carries **12.5% weight in the safety index.**

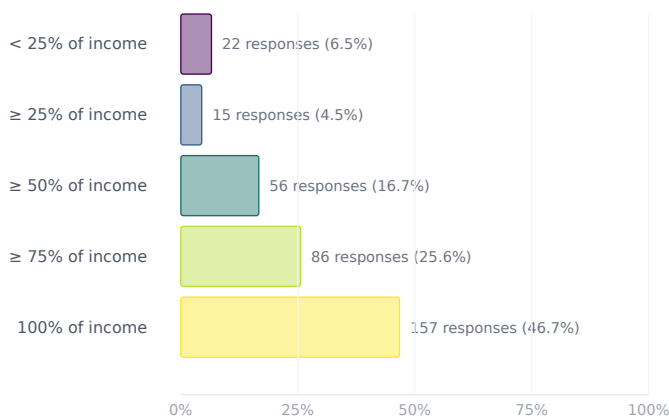
Responses to: "I am worried about losing my job in journalism within the next 12 months" (20% weight in financial dimension)



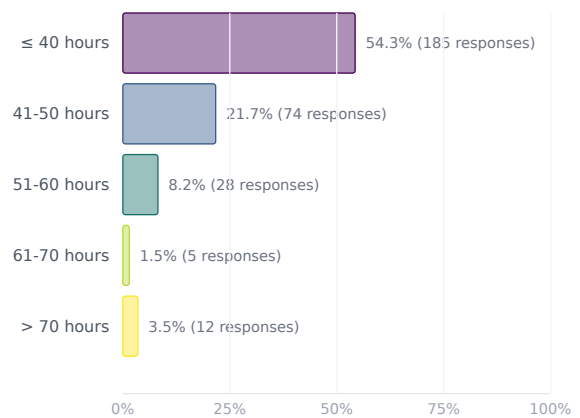
Responses to: "Which of the following categories best describes your current working situation as a journalist?" (20% weight in financial dimension)



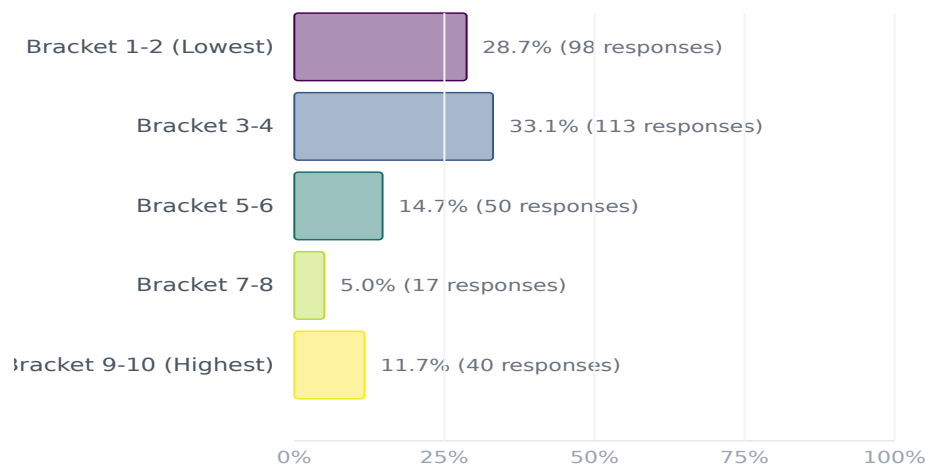
Responses to "Approximately what percentage of your overall work-related income comes from your work as a journalist?" (20% weight in financial dimension)



Responses to: "How many hours a week on average do you work as a journalist?" (20% weight in financial dimension)



Responses to: "In which of the following categories does your salary as a journalist fall?" (20% weight in financial dimension)



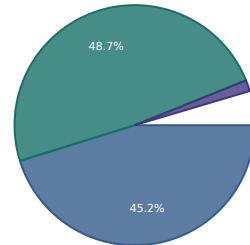
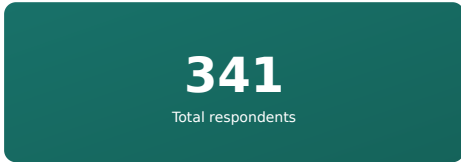
Options are given on a 10-point scale specific to each country.

Demographics

This section contains demographic information about survey respondents from Philippines.

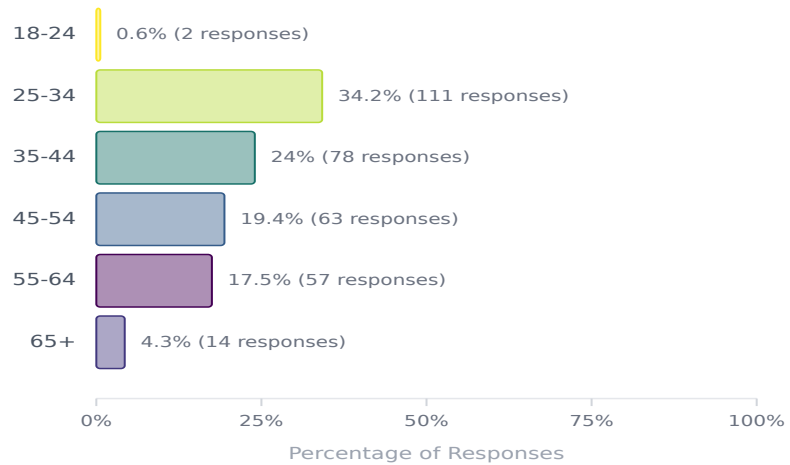
Gender Breakdown of Respondents

Survey Participation



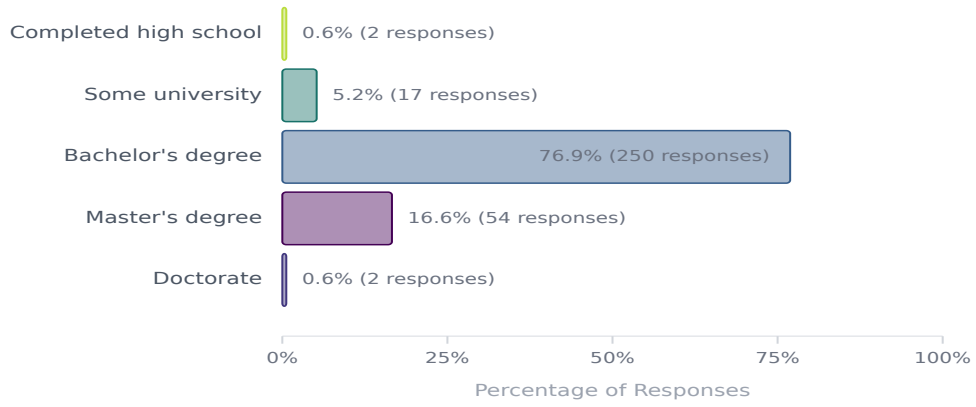
Male (154, 45.2%) Female (166, 48.7%) Other (5, 1.5%)

Age Distribution of Respondents

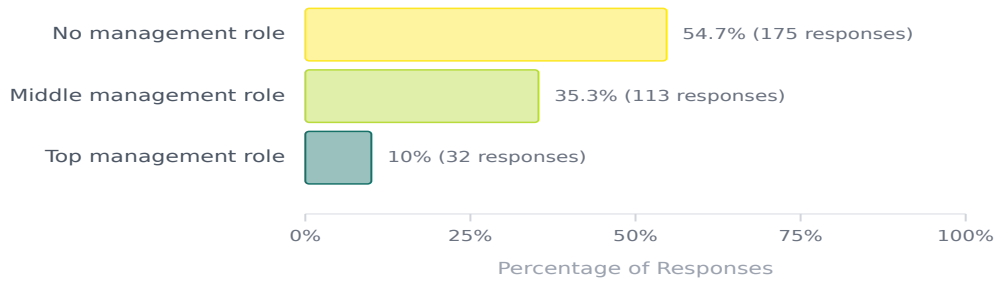


Education Level of Respondents

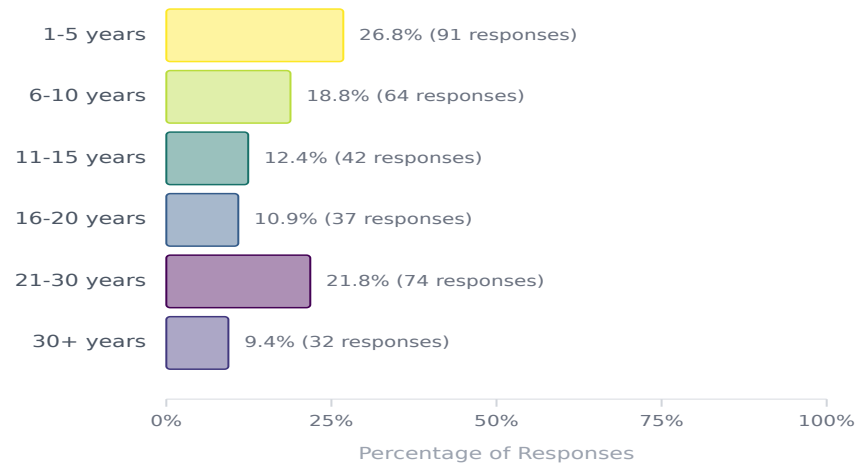
ot completed high school



Workplace Position of Respondents



Years of Experience as Journalist



For more detailed information about the methodology and complete findings, please visit the full country page at: <https://safetyofjournalists.org/index/country/philippines>

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For more information, visit safetyofjournalists.org

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