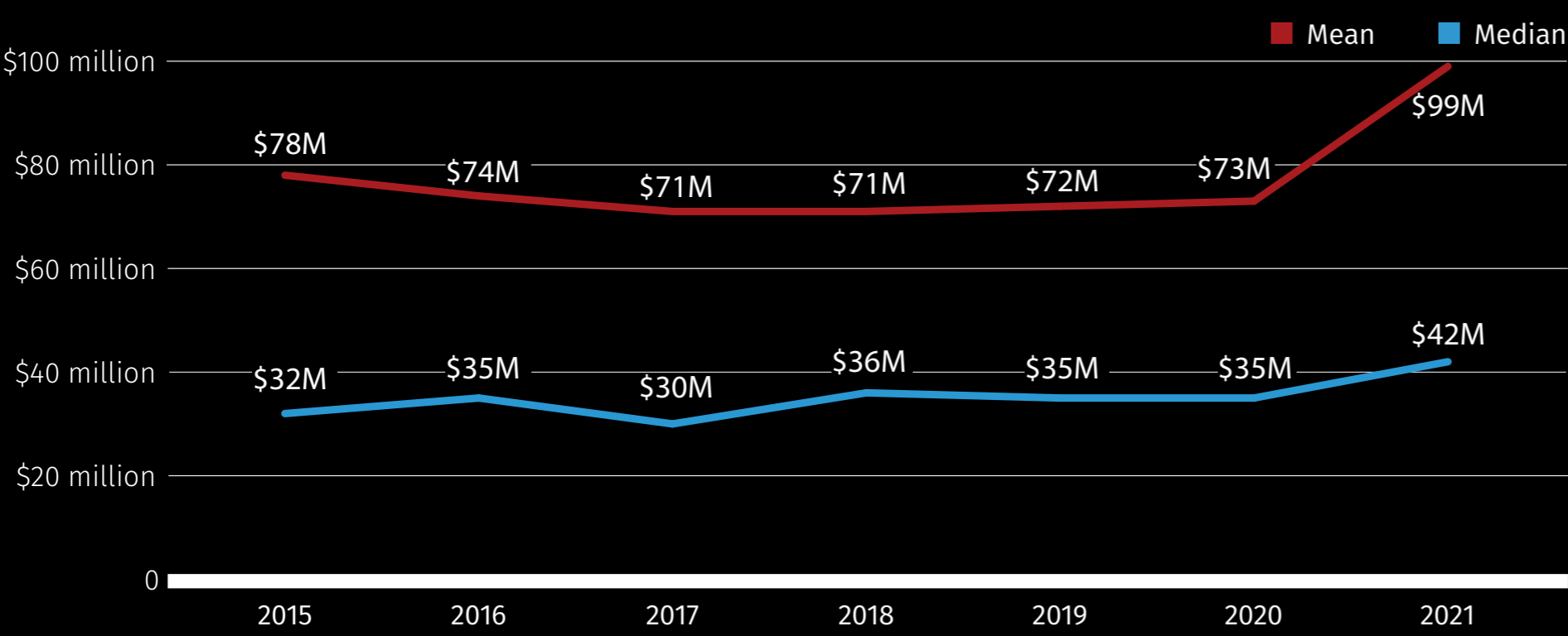


Legal departments increase spend while engaging fewer vendors

ELM Solutions

In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic prompted significant changes to how corporate legal departments engage with outside counsel. In our [LegalVIEW® Insights report volume 5](#), ELM Solutions found that legal spend began to pick up in 2021 but law firm convergence continued as a widespread trend.

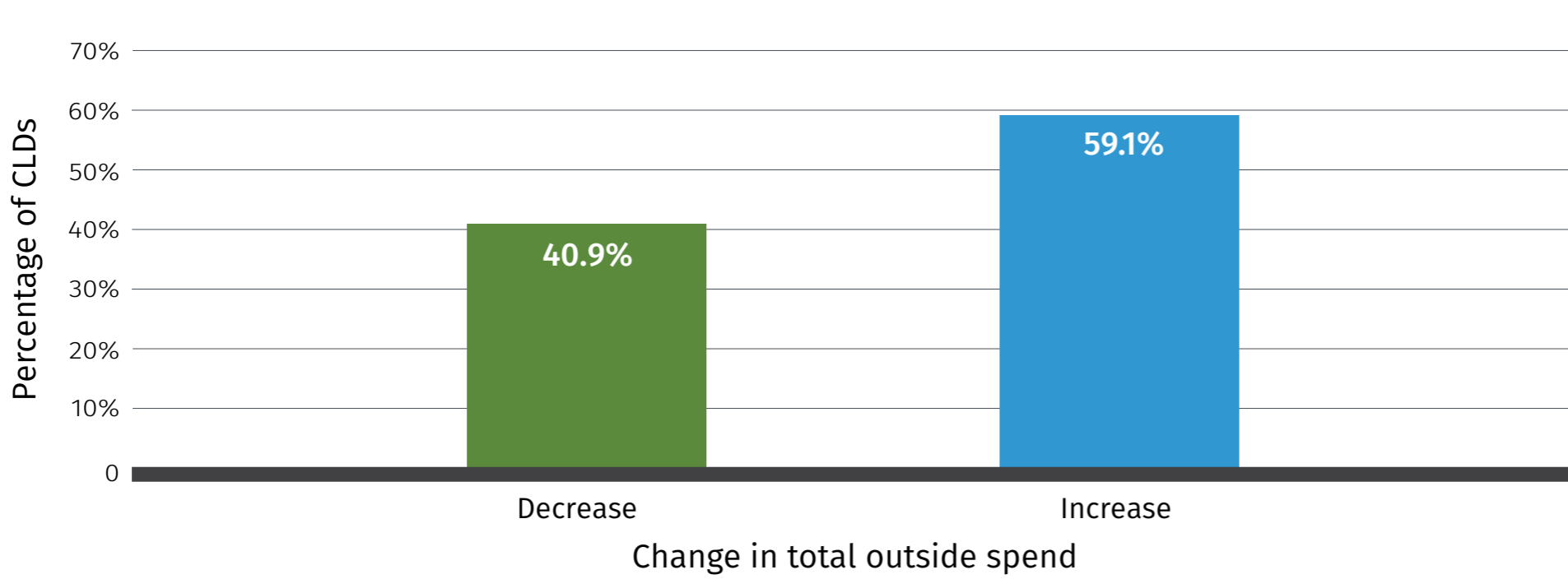
Large corporate legal departments (CLDs) spent significantly more on outside counsel in 2021 than 2020.



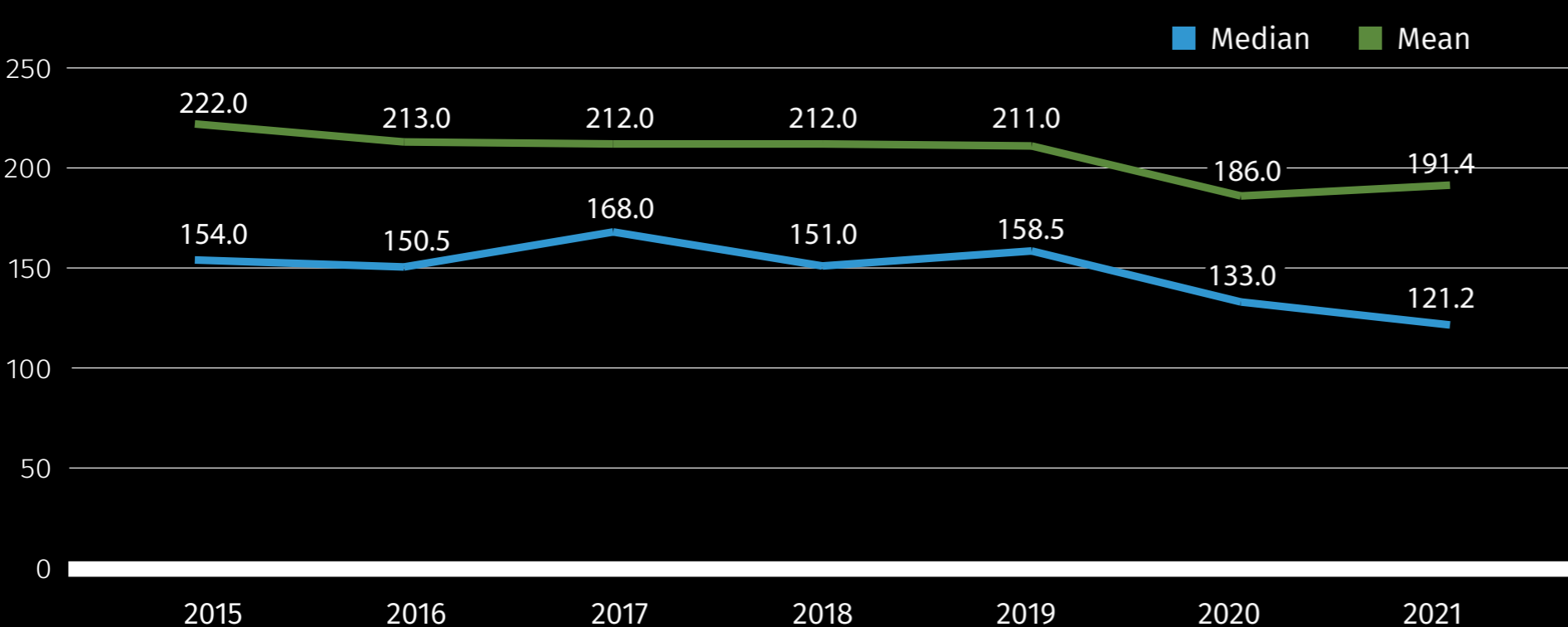
← Mean represents a 36% increase

← Median represents a 21% increase

In 2021, 59% increased their external spend, while only 41% saw a decrease in spend.



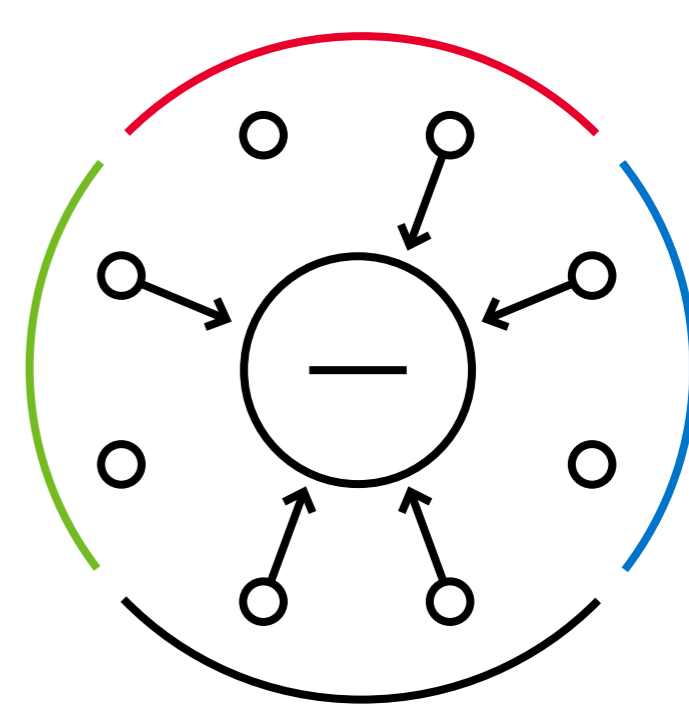
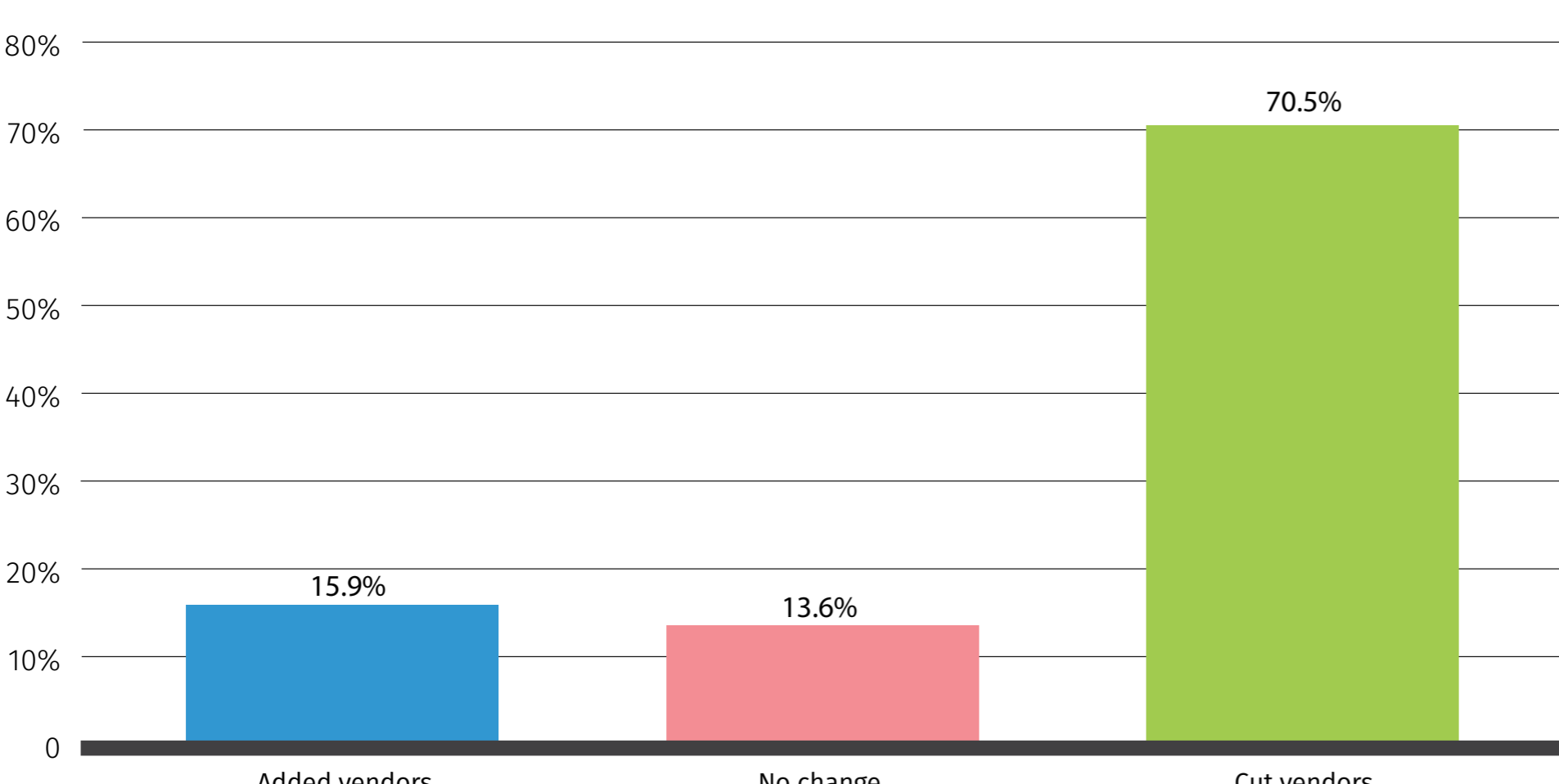
But despite higher spend, CLDs continued to reduce the number of law firms they engaged. Although the mean number of firms recovered slightly, the median dropped.



← Mean represents a 3% increase

← Median represents a 9% decrease

The number of CLDs that cut their vendors far outstrips those that added or did not change vendor count.



To learn more, download our report: [LegalVIEW® Insights volume 5: Trends in vendor mix and total outside spend.](#)