

A dark, high-contrast background featuring the silhouettes of several people walking in a line, viewed from above. The figures are dark against a slightly lighter, textured grey background.

GALLUP®

2020

Global Law and Order

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Sustainable Development Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all, and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

The United Nations' most recent progress report on its Sustainable Development Goals for 2030 maintains that, "conflict, insecurity, weak institutions and limited access to justice" remain threats to sustainable development. These threats have only been amplified during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, further jeopardizing the world's admittedly slow progress toward achieving "peaceful and inclusive" societies.

While Gallup's latest global surveys on people's perceptions of their own security were collected in 2019, before the pandemic,

the results provide a baseline for how the world will respond to the challenges that have surfaced during the ensuing crises, including those related to law enforcement in the United States and elsewhere.

The results show that, ahead of these challenges, there is much room to grow. None of the four security metrics that Gallup asks about, including the proportion of people who feel safe walking alone around the area where they live — one of the indicators of Goal 16 — has changed much, if at all, in the past several years.

Gallup's Law and Order Index uses four questions to gauge people's sense of personal security and their personal experiences with crime and law enforcement.

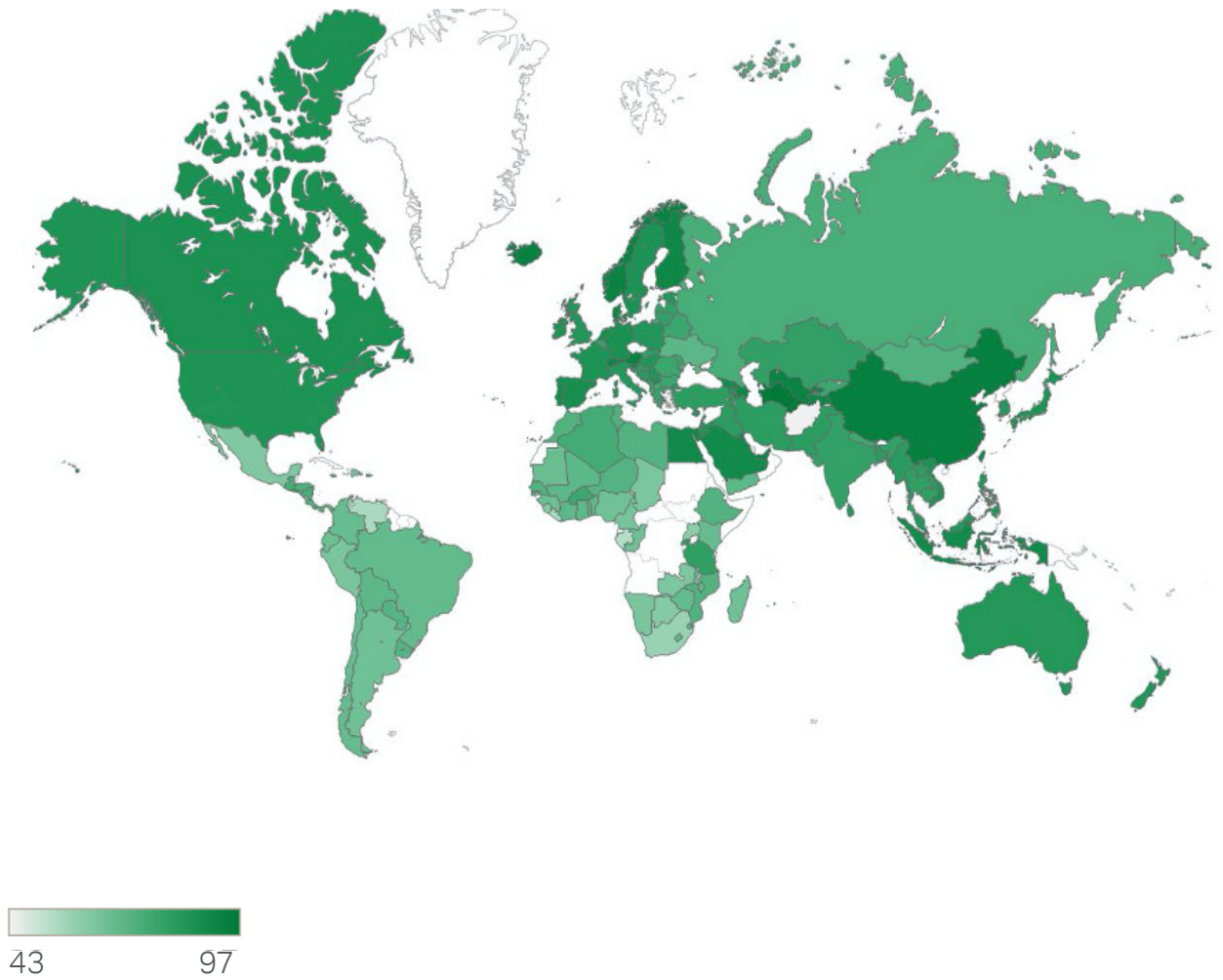
LAW AND ORDER INDEX

- In the city or area where you live, do you have confidence in the local police force?
- Do you feel safe walking alone at night in the city or area where you live?
- Within the last 12 months, have you had money or property stolen from you or another household member?
- Within the past 12 months, have you been assaulted or mugged?

The *2020 Global Law and Order* report presents the results from Gallup's latest measurements of people's answers to these questions, based on interviews with nearly 175,000 adults in 144 countries and areas in 2019.

Law and Order Index

WORLDWIDE 2019





Countries/Areas With Highest Law and Order Index Scores

COUNTRY	LAW AND ORDER INDEX
Singapore	97
Turkmenistan	97
China	94
Iceland	93
Kuwait	93
Norway	92
Austria	92
Switzerland	92
Uzbekistan	92
United Arab Emirates	92

BASED ON GALLUP WORLD POLLS, 2019

*Full results for all countries are available
at the end of the report.*

Countries/Areas With Lowest Law and Order Index Scores

COUNTRY	LAW AND ORDER INDEX
Mexico	61
Botswana	61
Sierra Leone	60
Uganda	59
The Gambia	58
South Africa	57
Liberia	54
Venezuela	54
Gabon	52
Afghanistan	43



Most of the World Remains Confident in Police, Feels Secure

Nearly seven in 10 people worldwide said in 2019 that they feel safe walking alone at night where they live (69%) and have confidence in their local police (69%). About one in eight (12%) said they had property stolen from them or another household member in the past year, and 6% said they were assaulted or mugged. These numbers remained largely unchanged from 2018.

Gallup compiles the “positive” responses to these four questions into a Law and Order Index score for each country. The higher the score, the higher the proportion of the population that reports feeling safe. The index score for the world in 2019 was 82 out of a possible 100 — basically unchanged from scores since 2017. Ninety countries and areas posted index scores lower than the global average.

Countries scoring highest and lowest on the index were also largely the same as in recent years. Scores worldwide ranged from a high of 97 in Singapore — which tops the list nearly every year — to a low of 43 in Afghanistan, which ranked the lowest in the world for the second consecutive year.

As low as Afghanistan’s score was in 2019, it represents an improvement from the record-low score of 38 the previous year, which was one of the deadliest years for Afghan civilians in recent record.

Notably, Afghans did not feel any safer (12%) walking alone at night, nor were they any more confident in their police (24%) in 2019 than in 2018. In fact, no other country posted worse scores on these two measures. However, the country’s overall score improved because Afghans were less likely to have been victims of property crime (40%) in 2019, or to have been assaulted or mugged (22%), than they had been the previous year, when 50% had money or property stolen and 29% had been assaulted.

Latin America, Sub-Saharan Africa Face Security Challenges

As in previous years, people in Latin America and the Caribbean were the least likely among all global regions to feel secure in their communities. However, in 2019, the region scored a 66 on Gallup's Law and Order Index — the region's highest score in recent years — placing it on par with sub-Saharan Africa at 67.



Law and Order Index by Region

SCORES BY REGION	2017	2018	2019	DIFFERENCE
East Asia	87	90	92	2
Western Europe	85	86	86	0
Southeast Asia	86	85	85	0
U.S. and Canada	85	83	85	2
Middle East and North Africa	80	81	81	0
Eastern Europe	81	81	81	0
South Asia	83	80	79	-1
Commonwealth of Independent States	74	76	77	1
Sub-Saharan Africa	68	67	67	0
Latin America and the Caribbean	62	63	66	3

GALLUP WORLD POLL

Law and Order Index Scores in Latin America

SCORES BY REGION	2018	2019	DIFFERENCE
Argentina	64	65	1
Bolivia	62	69	7
Brazil	62	67	5
Chile	70	67	-3
Colombia	67	67	0
Costa Rica	69	71	2
Dominican Republic	62	64	2
Ecuador	69	65	-4
El Salvador	73	79	6
Honduras	71	72	1
Mexico	60	61	1
Nicaragua	65	74	9
Panama	71	72	1
Paraguay	71	70	-1
Peru	64	63	-1
Uruguay	67	71	4
Venezuela	49	54	5

GALLUP WORLD POLL

In most regions, the 2019 scores on the Law and Order Index were relatively within the same range as the past several years. However, the score in the region of Latin America and the Caribbean continued to climb, as did the score in East Asia. Overall, in most regions, scores for individual countries also tended to change very little.

Higher security scores in a handful of countries in Latin America and the Caribbean helped raise the region's overall score in 2019. Index scores improved measurably in Bolivia, Brazil, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Uruguay and Venezuela. In these countries, more residents felt safe walking alone at night in their communities and expressed more faith in their local police than they had in several years.



Afghans Still Least Likely in the World to Feel Safe Walking Alone at Night Where They Live

Just 12% of Afghans in 2019 said they feel safe walking alone in their area at night — similar to the 13% who said so in 2018. This ties with the previous record lows claimed by Venezuela in 2015 and 2016, when 14% and 12% of the population, respectively, reported feeling safe in their neighborhoods. Notably, in 2019, more than twice as many Venezuelans (29%) said they felt safe walking alone at night where they live. However, this percentage is still among the lowest in the world.

Except for Afghanistan, the countries in which residents are least likely to say they feel safe walking alone at night are exclusively countries in Latin America and the Caribbean and sub-Saharan Africa. Eight of them also ranked among the least safe in 2018. The exceptions were Lesotho, which was not surveyed in 2018, and Namibia, which narrowly missed making the bottom of the list in 2018.



Countries/Areas Where People Feel Safest Walking Alone

COUNTRY	% YES, FEEL SAFE
Singapore	97
Turkmenistan	93
Norway	92
United Arab Emirates	92
China	90
Kuwait	90
Slovenia	90
Tajikistan	90
Denmark	88
Saudi Arabia	88

GALLUP WORLD POLL, 2019

In most economically developed countries with strong rule of law, the majority of residents say they feel safe walking alone in their areas at night. This response is nearly universal in Singapore, at 97%, and tops 80% in many Western European countries. The same is true for more highly state-controlled countries.

Countries/Areas Where People Feel Least Safe Walking Alone

COUNTRY	% YES, FEEL SAFE
Brazil	40
Dominican Republic	39
Namibia	39
Botswana	36
Lesotho	34
Liberia	33
South Africa	29
Venezuela	29
Gabon	28
Afghanistan	12

In 2019, the U.S. was only slightly above the global average at 75%, which was statistically unchanged from 72% in 2017 and 2018. This percentage edged up to 78% when Americans were interviewed during the heart of the pandemic lockdown in March through early May 2020. Gallup Panel surveys in June and July 2020 — amid ongoing protests sparked by the killing of George Floyd — found a similar 80% reported feeling safe.

Confidence in Local Police

More than two in three adults worldwide (69%) said in 2018 that they have confidence in their local police. The results varied significantly by region, however, from a low of 49% in Latin America and the Caribbean to nearly double that in Western Europe (83%).



Percentage Confident in Local Police by Region

SCORES BY REGION	2019
Western Europe	83
Southeast Asia	81
Northern America	80
South Asia	73
East Asia	71
Eastern Europe	71
Middle East and North Africa	71
Sub-Saharan Africa	60
Commonwealth of Independent States	53
Latin America and the Caribbean	49

GALLUP WORLD POLL



69% of adults
worldwide have confidence
in their local police

Confidence in Local Police in Latin America

SCORES BY REGION	2018	2019	DIFFERENCE
El Salvador	61%	70%	9
Uruguay	59%	66%	7
Guatemala	58%	62%	4
Panama	57%	59%	2
Costa Rica	57%	56%	-1
Nicaragua	40%	56%	16
Paraguay	56%	55%	-1
Ecuador	59%	54%	-5
Brazil	44%	53%	9
Colombia	51%	53%	2
Argentina	50%	52%	2
Honduras	50%	51%	1
Jamaica	--	51%	--
Dominican Republic	48%	48%	0
Peru	39%	46%	7
Bolivia	32%	45%	13
Chile	59%	44%	-15
Mexico	38%	40%	2
Venezuela	22%	28%	6

GALLUP WORLD POLL

The relatively low average on this measure in Latin America and the Caribbean is not surprising given the region's poor performance on all the Law and Order Index metrics in 2019 and previous years. However, the 49% who were confident in their local police in 2019 is the highest percentage on record for the region in more than a decade of Gallup tracking.

With a few exceptions, confidence in the police remained stable or improved across most of Latin America and the Caribbean in 2019. Confidence notably plummeted in typically stable Chile, which experienced some of its worst unrest in decades. Chileans' confidence in their local police dropped from 59% in 2018 to a record-low 44% during protests in which Chilean President Sebastián Piñera later acknowledged the police had committed "abuses."

Law and Order Index Scores

COUNTRY/AREA	LAW AND ORDER INDEX
Singapore	97
Turkmenistan	97
China	94
Iceland	93
Kuwait	93
Austria	92
Norway	92
Switzerland	92
United Arab Emirates	92
Uzbekistan	92
Azerbaijan	91
Tajikistan	91
Denmark	90
Finland	90
Luxembourg	90
Slovenia	90
Taiwan, Province of China	90
Egypt	89
Indonesia	89
Saudi Arabia	89
Georgia	88
Portugal	88
Netherlands	87
Spain	87
Canada	86
Germany	86
Kosovo	86

COUNTRY/AREA	LAW AND ORDER INDEX
Malta	86
Vietnam	86
Armenia	85
France	85
Ireland	85
Japan	85
Jordan	85
Sweden	85
United States	85
Australia	84
New Zealand	84
Philippines	84
Poland	84
Serbia	84
Estonia	83
Hungary	83
Italy	83
Malaysia	83
Northern Cyprus	83
South Korea	83
Sri Lanka	83
United Kingdom	83
Bosnia and Herzegovina	82
Israel	82
Mauritius	82
Montenegro	82
Myanmar	82

GALLUP WORLD POLL, 2019

COUNTRY/AREA	LAW AND ORDER INDEX
Bangladesh	81
Iran	81
Iraq	81
Laos	81
Pakistan	81
Turkey	81
Cambodia	80
Croatia	80
Rwanda	80
Slovakia	80
Tanzania	80
Thailand	80
Belgium	79
Cyprus	79
El Salvador	79
India	79
Kazakhstan	79
Latvia	79
Lithuania	79
Greece	78
Lebanon	78
Albania	77
Belarus	77
Bulgaria	77
Kyrgyzstan	77
Moldova	77
Romania	77
Burkina Faso	76
Hong Kong, Special Administrative Region of China	76

COUNTRY/AREA	LAW AND ORDER INDEX
Nepal	76
Algeria	75
Jamaica	75
Palestinian Territories	75
Guatemala	74
Nicaragua	74
North Macedonia	74
Russia	74
Honduras	72
Panama	72
Tunisia	72
Costa Rica	71
Ethiopia	71
Libya	71
Mongolia	71
Morocco	71
Mozambique	71
Niger	71
Senegal	71
Uruguay	71
Paraguay	70
Benin	69
Bolivia	69
Comoros	69
Ghana	69
Ivory Coast	69
Mali	69
Ukraine	69
Yemen	69
Eswatini	68

GALLUP WORLD POLL, 2019

COUNTRY/AREA	LAW AND ORDER INDEX
Lesotho	68
Brazil	67
Chile	67
Colombia	67
Kenya	67
Togo	67
Zimbabwe	67
Malawi	66
Mauritania	66
Argentina	65
Republic of the Congo	65
Ecuador	65
Guinea	65
Madagascar	65
Nigeria	65
Dominican Republic	64

COUNTRY/AREA	LAW AND ORDER INDEX
Cameroon	63
Chad	63
Namibia	63
Peru	63
Zambia	62
Botswana	61
Mexico	61
Sierra Leone	60
Uganda	59
The Gambia	58
South Africa	57
Liberia	54
Venezuela	54
Gabon	52
Afghanistan	43

GALLUP WORLD POLL, 2019

Methodology

Results are based on telephone and face-to-face interviews with approximately 1,000 adults in each country, aged 15 and older, conducted throughout 2019 in 144 countries and areas. For results based on the total sample of national adults, the margin of sampling error ranged from ± 2.1 percentage points to ± 5.6 percentage points at the 95% confidence level. All reported margins of sampling error include computed design effects for weighting.

For more complete methodology and specific survey dates, please review [**Gallup's Country Dataset**](#) details.





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