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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 reiterates how important safety is to the future of global development: "Feeling unsafe in public can fundamentally erode one's sense of wellbeing and reduce trust and community engagement, becoming an obstacle to development."

Gallup's latest global update on people's perceptions of their own security and faith in the rule of law in the second full year of the pandemic provides a sense of where the world stands today — and where its biggest obstacles are.

The results overall show these measures remained mostly stable between 2020 and 2021. Two security metrics, the proportion of people who feel safe walking alone around the area where they live — one of the indicators of Goal 16 — and confidence in police, each ticked down one percentage point. However, both percentages remained higher than at most points since 2006.

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.

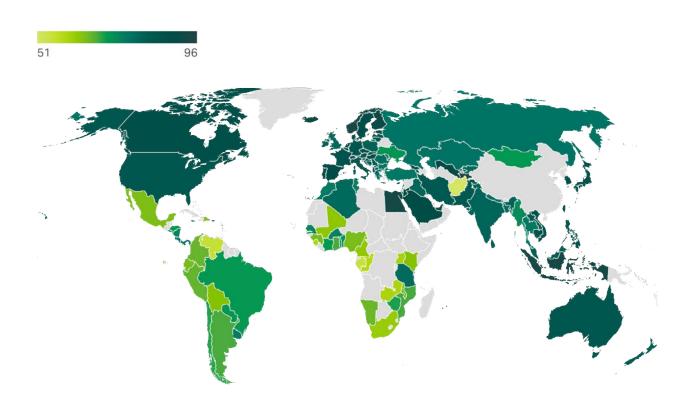
#### LAW AND ORDER INDEX

- 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 2022 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 127,000 adults in more than 120 countries and areas in 2021.

#### **Law and Order Index**

WORLDWIDE 2021



# Countries/Areas With Highest Law and Order Index Scores

COUNTRY / AREA	LAW AND ORDER INDEX
Singapore	96
Tajikistan	95
Norway	93
Switzerland	92
Indonesia	92
Egypt	92
United Arab Emirates	92
Finland	91
Iceland	91
Portugal	91

## Countries/Areas With Lowest Law and Order Index Scores

COUNTRY / AREA	LAW AND ORDER INDEX
Kenya	63
Mali	63
Cameroon	62
South Africa	61
Uganda	60
Zambia	59
Sierra Leone	59
Republic of the Congo	58
Venezuela	55
Gabon	54
Afghanistan	51

BASED ON GALLUP SURVEYS IN 2021

Full results for all countries available at the back of the report.

# Most of the World Remains Confident in Police, Feels Secure

#### **PROGRESS STALLED IN 2021**

Nearly seven in 10 people worldwide in 2021 said they feel safe walking alone at night where they live (71%) and have confidence in their local police (70%). About one in nine (11%) said they had property stolen from them or another household member in the past year, and 6% said they were assaulted or mugged.

These figures did not change much between 2020 and 2021, but the gradual rise that Gallup has been tracking in the percentages of people who feel safe walking alone at night and have confidence in their local police stalled in 2021. Each measure fell one point, but both metrics remained higher than they have been in most years.

The other figures remained in line with previous years. The percentage of people in 2021 who said they had property stolen fell slightly — two points — from 13% in 2020 and the percentage who were assaulted or mugged was unchanged.





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 2021 was 83 out of a possible 100 — one point higher than in 2020, but essentially no different from scores since 2017.

Scores at the country level in 2021 ranged from a high of 96 in Singapore to a low of 51 in Afghanistan. Neither country was surveyed in 2020 because of the pandemic, but in previous years, Singapore had scored the highest on the index nearly every year, and Afghanistan had scored the lowest on the index in both 2018 and 2019.

As low as Afghanistan's score was in 2021, it represents an improvement over the previous score of 43 in 2019. Gallup's surveys in Afghanistan in 2021 took place as the Taliban completed their takeover of the country in August and as the United States withdrew its troops. Although the country was in turmoil, the end of the Taliban's insurgency led to a marked drop in violence.

Most of the improvement came from Afghans feeling safer than they did in 2019 and being less likely to be victims of theft and assault. The 22% of Afghans who felt safe walking alone at night in their neighborhoods in 2021 was nearly double the 12% who said so in 2019. Despite this improvement, Afghans were still the least likely in the world to say they felt safe.

Although the 29% of Afghans who said they had their money or property stolen in 2021 is nearly three times the global average (11%), the percentage who reported this was down substantially from 40% in 2019 and 50% in 2018. Fewer Afghans — 13% — reported being assaulted or mugged in 2021 and, while down from 22% in 2019, the percentage was twice as high as the global average (6%).

# Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America Face Biggest Obstacles

#### NORTHERN AMERICA AND WESTERN EUROPE LOST GROUND

For years, people in Latin America and the Caribbean and sub-Saharan Africa have been the least likely among all global regions to feel secure in their communities. This is still true today. However, for two consecutive years, sub-Saharan Africa's score on Gallup's Law and Order Index has been lower than the score in Latin America and the Caribbean — although just by one point — and the score of 66 is still on par with the 67 in Latin America.



## Law and Order Index by Region

Region	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Change Between 2020 and 2021
East Asia	87	90	92	92	94	+2
Southeast Asia	86	85	85	83	86	+3
Western Europe	85	86	86	87	85	-2
U.S. and Canada	85	83	85	87	84	-3
Middle East and North Africa	80	81	81	81	82	+1
Eastern Europe	81	81	81	82	81	-1
South Asia	83	80	79	81	80	-1
Commonwealth of Independent States	74	76	77	77	78	+1
Latin America and the Caribbean	62	63	66	66	67	+1
Sub-Saharan Africa	68	67	67	65	66	+1

BASED ON GALLUP SURVEYS IN 2021

In most regions, the 2021 scores on the Law and Order Index were relatively within the same range as the past few years. However, East Asia, the Middle East and North Africa, Commonwealth of Independent States, and Latin America and the Caribbean all continued on a positive trajectory.

Scores in the U.S. and Canada and Western Europe ticked downward. Notably, the index score for the U.S. and Canada region declined three points, with the U.S. accounting for nearly all the loss due to Americans' falling confidence in local police.

Although most Americans continue to trust their local police, the steady string of high-profile police shootings in 2020 — including the killing of George Floyd — and in 2021, has likely shaken their faith. Nearly three in four Americans (74%) in 2021 said they were confident in their local police, down from 82% in 2020 (collected before the Floyd shooting in May).

Eighty-three percent of Canadians, on the other hand, said they had faith in their local police in 2021, unchanged from 2020.

# Afghans Least Likely in the World to Feel Safe Walking Alone at Night

#### GAINS IN FEELING SAFE WERE ALMOST ENTIRELY AMONG MEN

Although the 22% of Afghans who said in 2021 they feel safe walking alone in their area at night is higher than the 12% who said so in 2019, it was still the lowest percentage in the world last year. After Afghans, South Africans (32%), Venezuelans (33%) and Gabonese (33%) felt the next-least safe.

Notably, most of the improvement in Afghans' feelings of safety in 2021 was among men. Thirty-two percent of Afghan men in 2021 said they felt safe walking alone at night where they live, double the 16% who reported this in 2019. Twelve percent of Afghan women said the same, up from 8% in 2019.

Except for Afghanistan, the countries in which residents are least likely to say they feel safe walking alone at night are exclusively a mix of countries in Latin America and the Caribbean and sub-Saharan Africa — which tends to be the case each year. Five of them also ranked among the least safe in 2020. The exceptions were Republic of the Congo, Zambia and Ecuador.



## **Countries/Areas Where People** Feel Safest Walking Alone

# **COUNTRY / AREA** % FEEL SAFE Singapore **Norway** Tajikistan **United Arab Emirates** Saudi Arabia 91 Slovenia **Switzerland Egypt** Denmark 87 Jordan

## Countries/Areas Where People Feel Least Safe Walking Alone

COUNTRY / AREA	% FEEL SAFE
Ecuador	42
Namibia	41
Zambia	41
Republic of the Congo	40
Dominican Republic	38
Gabon	33
Venezuela	33
South Africa	32
Afghanistan	22

#### BASED ON GALLUP SURVEYS IN 2021

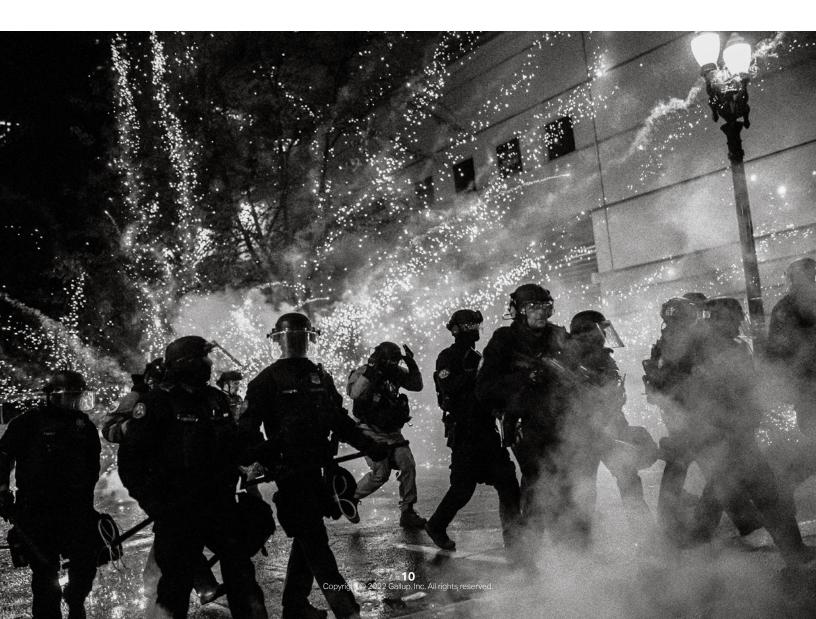
In most economically developed countries and territories with strong rule of law, high majorities of residents say they feel safe walking alone in their areas at night. The same is true in countries where populations are under tighter state control. For example, these feelings were nearly universal in 2021 in Singapore (95%), Tajikistan (93%), United Arab Emirates (92%) and Saudi Arabia (91%).

In 2021, the U.S. was only slightly above the global average of 71%, with 73% of residents saying they felt safe walking alone at night down five points from 78% the previous year.

# Confidence in the Local Police

#### NORTHERN AMERICA LOSES, SOUTHEAST ASIA GAINS

**Seven in 10 adults** worldwide (70%) said in 2021 that they have confidence in their local police. The results vary significantly by region, however, from a low of 51% in Latin America and the Caribbean to 82% in Southeast Asia.



## Percentage Confident in Police by Region

Region	2019	2020	2021	Change between 2020 and 2021
Southeast Asia	81	78	82	+4
Western Europe	83	82	80	-2
U.S. and Canada	80	82	75	-7
South Asia	73	77	74	-3
East Asia	71	73	73	±0
Middle East and North Africa	71	72	69	-3
Eastern Europe	71	66	66	±0
Sub-Saharan Africa	60	56	59	+3
Commonwealth of Independent States	53	56	56	±0
Latin America and the Caribbean	49	49	51	+2

BASED ON GALLUP SURVEYS IN 2021

The relatively low average on this measure in Latin America and the Caribbean is not surprising, given the region's poor performance on all of the Law and Order Index component metrics in 2021 and previous years. The 51% in the region who were confident in 2021 is up slightly from the previous year.

Confidence in local police suffered the biggest losses worldwide in Northern America, entirely attributable to declining confidence in the U.S., where confidence dropped from 82% in 2020 to 74% in the span of a year. As previously mentioned, Americans' trust in their police was tested in both 2020 and 2021 following a stream of high-profile police shootings.

Southeast Asia was home to the largest gains in confidence in 2021 — rising four points from 78% to 82% — and led all other regions on this measure. These improvements largely reflect the inclusion of Singapore (93%) in 2021, where residents typically express high confidence in their police. It also reflects improvements in Indonesia, where confidence rose to 90% after sinking to 81% in 2020 after violent police crackdowns on protests.



# Law and Order Index Scores for 2021

Country / Area	Law and Order Index Score
Singapore	96
Tajikistan	95
Norway	93
Switzerland	92
Indonesia	92
Egypt	92
United Arab Emirates	92
Finland	91
Iceland	91
Portugal	91
Denmark	90
Slovenia	90
Uzbekistan	89
Taiwan, Province of China	89
Spain	89
Jordan	89
Kosovo	89
Saudi Arabia	89
Netherlands	88
Sweden	88
Canada	87
South Korea	87
Malta	87
Estonia	87
Czech Republic	87

Country / Area	Law and Order Index Score
Japan	86
Georgia	86
Vietnam	86
Hungary	86
Philippines	85
France	85
Hong Kong, SAR of China	85
Croatia	85
Slovakia	85
Belgium	84
Cambodia	84
Latvia	84
Austria	84
Australia	84
Mauritius	84
United States	83
Italy	83
Germany	83
Armenia	83
Lithuania	83
Albania	83
Iran	82
Pakistan	82
Serbia	82
Laos	82



Country / Area	Law and Order Index Score
New Zealand	82
Malaysia	81
Cyprus	81
Ireland	81
Bosnia and Herzegovina	81
Israel	81
North Macedonia	81
Poland	80
Sri Lanka	80
India	80
Iraq	80

Country / Area	Law and Order Index Score
United Kingdom	79
Algeria	79
Moldova	79
Bangladesh	79
Greece	79
Kyrgyzstan	79
Tanzania	78
Romania	78
Nepal	78
Kazakhstan	77
Russian Federation	77

Country / Area	Law and Order Index Score
Panama	76
Bulgaria	76
Turkey	76
Thailand	76
Costa Rica	76
Morocco	75
El Salvador	75
Uruguay	75
Tunisia	75
Burkina Faso	74
Nicaragua	74
Senegal	74
Myanmar	73
Togo	72
Benin	71
Jamaica	71
Ukraine	71
Paraguay	71
Brazil	71
Mongolia	71
Honduras	70
Ivory Coast	70
Lebanon	70
Zimbabwe	69
Chile	69

Mozambique       68         Argentina       68         Ghana       68         Peru       66         Colombia       66         Namibia       65         Ecuador       65         Guinea       65         Nigeria       64         Malawi       64         Dominican Republic       64         Mexico       64         Bolivia       64         Kenya       63         Mali       63         Cameroon       62         South Africa       61         Uganda       60         Zambia       59         Sierra Leone       59         Republic of the Congo       58         Venezuela       55         Gabon       54         Afghanistan       51	Country / Area	Law and Order Index Score
Ghana       68         Peru       66         Colombia       66         Namibia       65         Ecuador       65         Guinea       65         Nigeria       64         Malawi       64         Dominican Republic       64         Mexico       64         Bolivia       64         Kenya       63         Mali       63         Cameroon       62         South Africa       61         Uganda       60         Zambia       59         Sierra Leone       59         Republic of the Congo       58         Venezuela       55         Gabon       54	Mozambique	68
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Nigeria       64         Malawi       64         Dominican Republic       64         Mexico       64         Bolivia       64         Kenya       63         Mali       63         Cameroon       62         South Africa       61         Uganda       60         Zambia       59         Sierra Leone       59         Republic of the Congo       58         Venezuela       55         Gabon       54	Ecuador	65
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Dominican Republic       64         Mexico       64         Bolivia       64         Kenya       63         Mali       63         Cameroon       62         South Africa       61         Uganda       60         Zambia       59         Sierra Leone       59         Republic of the Congo       58         Venezuela       55         Gabon       54	Nigeria	64
Mexico       64         Bolivia       64         Kenya       63         Mali       63         Cameroon       62         South Africa       61         Uganda       60         Zambia       59         Sierra Leone       59         Republic of the Congo       58         Venezuela       55         Gabon       54	Malawi	64
Bolivia       64         Kenya       63         Mali       63         Cameroon       62         South Africa       61         Uganda       60         Zambia       59         Sierra Leone       59         Republic of the Congo       58         Venezuela       55         Gabon       54	Dominican Republic	64
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Uganda 60  Zambia 59  Sierra Leone 59  Republic of the Congo 58  Venezuela 55  Gabon 54	Cameroon	62
Zambia59Sierra Leone59Republic of the Congo58Venezuela55Gabon54	South Africa	61
Sierra Leone 59  Republic of the Congo 58  Venezuela 55  Gabon 54	Uganda	60
Republic of the Congo 58  Venezuela 55  Gabon 54	Zambia	59
Venezuela 55 Gabon 54	Sierra Leone	59
Gabon 54	Republic of the Congo	58
	Venezuela	55
Afghanistan 51	Gabon	54
	Afghanistan	51

BASED ON GALLUP SURVEYS IN 2021

# Methodology

Results are based on nationally representative, probability-based samples among the adult populations, aged 15 and older, in 122 countries and territories throughout 2021. Gallup conducted surveys via telephone or face-to-face with approximately 1,000 adults in each of these countries or territories.

For results based on the total sample of national adults, the margin of sampling error ranges from ±2.0 to ±5.5 percentage points at the 95% confidence level.

The margin of error reflects the influence of data weighting. In addition to sampling error, question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of public opinion polls.





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