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Perceptions of safety track with prosperity and homicide rates more closely than armed conflict

> *69% of adults worldwide feel safe walking alone at night; five of seven regions held steady or improved in 2025*

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Wednesday, Nov. 18, 2026 – Gallup's *2026 Global Safety Report* finds that 69% of adults worldwide said they felt safe walking alone at night where they live in 2025. The latest figure is four percentage points below the record 73% in 2024, but nine points above the 2014 level of 60%.

Most regions keep their safety gains

The global decline in perceptions of safety was not shared across all regions. **Northern America** saw the largest increase, rising six points to 78%, largely driven by a seven-point gain in the U.S. **Post-Soviet Eurasia** gained three points to 74%. The decline was concentrated in **Asia-Pacific**, where perceptions fell seven points to 72%, and **Western Europe**, where they fell three points to 74%. **The Middle East and North Africa** stood at 74%, **sub-Saharan Africa** at 54% and **Latin America and the Caribbean** at 50%.

UAE and Singapore lead in safety perceptions; Botswana ranks lowest

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) ranked first in perceptions of safety in 2025, with 96% of adults feeling safe, up six percentage points from 2024. This marked the country's first time at the top of the rankings since 2020. Singapore, which has led the world 12 times on this measure, tied with the UAE as one of the safest countries in the world. Four of the 10 countries with the highest perceptions were Gulf Cooperation Council members: the UAE, Saudi Arabia (95%), Kuwait (93%) and Bahrain (92%). The UAE findings predate the Iran conflict that began in February 2026. Data collected this year in Saudi Arabia and Bahrain show little change from 2025.

Botswana replaced South Africa as the country where people felt least safe in 2025; 28% of adults in Botswana said they felt safe, down from 34% in 2024. It is the first time Botswana has ranked last

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since Gallup began tracking the measure in 2006. Four Southern African countries – Botswana, South Africa, Lesotho and Zimbabwe – were among the 10 least safe countries.

Prosperity and homicide rates show the strongest links to safety perceptions

Across 114 countries, perceptions of safety were positively associated with national prosperity, measured by GDP per capita adjusted for purchasing power, and negatively associated with intentional homicide rates. The association with armed conflict was weaker and was no longer statistically significant after accounting for prosperity and homicide rates.

The distinction is particularly striking in countries experiencing armed conflict, such as Ukraine, Russia and Israel.

Everyday security slips slightly

Gallup's Law and Order Index combines perceived safety with confidence in local police and experiences of theft and assault. Worldwide, 72% of adults expressed confidence in their local police, 14% said they or a household member had property stolen, and 9% said they were assaulted or mugged. The global score was 80 out of 100 in 2025, down three points from 2024, largely because of declines in Asia-Pacific and Western Europe.

Tajikistan led the world with a score of 96, followed by Singapore and the UAE at 95. Liberia and Sierra Leone tied for the lowest score at 55. As with perceived safety, armed conflict was not independently associated with index scores after accounting for prosperity and homicide rates.

About the survey

Results are based on nationally representative, probability-based samples of adults aged 15 and older in 140 countries and territories in 2025, totaling 143,620 interviews. In all countries except China, surveys were conducted by telephone or face to face with about 1,000 or more respondents. China was surveyed online. The margin of sampling error for national results ranges from ±2.2 to ±5.5 percentage points at the 95% confidence level. Figures cited for 2026 come from more recent fieldwork.

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