

GALLUP®

# 2016 Global Law and Order Report

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# 2016 Global Law and Order Report

## Global Law and Order

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

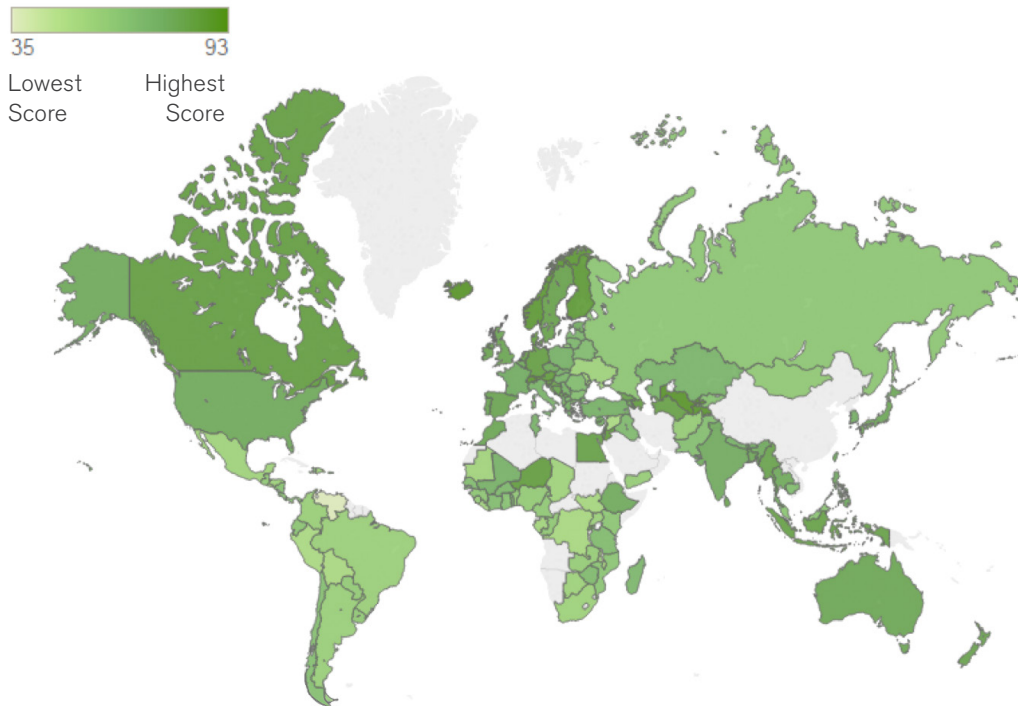
## Law and Order Index

- *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?*

Gallup sees strong relationships between people's answers to these questions and external measures related to economic and social development, reinforcing how high crime rates can suppress social cohesion and negatively affect economic performance. Indicators such as these are important to continue to monitor, particularly given that the United Nations is targeting "promoting just, peaceful and inclusive societies" as one of its Sustainable Development Goals for the world.

The *2016 Global Law and Order* report presents the results from Gallup's latest measurements of people's answers to these questions based on more than 134,000 interviews with adults in 133 countries in 2015.

## 2015 Law and Order Index Worldwide



### Majority of the World Confident in Police, Feels Secure

In 2015, Gallup asked adults in 133 countries whether they feel safe in their neighborhoods and about their personal experiences with crime and law enforcement. On average, more than six in 10 people worldwide say they have confidence in their local police (65%) and feel safe walking alone at night where they live (64%). One in seven (14%) say they had property stolen from them in the past year.

Gallup compiles the “positive” responses to these three 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 2015 is 72 out of a possible 100. Sixty-eight countries posted scores lower than this average.

Scores worldwide ranged from a high of 93 in Singapore — which also led the world on this metric in 2014 — to a low of 35 in Venezuela.<sup>1</sup> Venezuela posted the second-worst score in the world in 2014 before earning the worst score in 2015 as the country veered toward economic and political collapse. Venezuela’s score dropped as a record-low 14% of residents said they felt safe walking alone at night where they live and an only slightly higher 19% expressed confidence in their police. Both percentages are not only record lows for Venezuela, but also the lowest scores Gallup has measured worldwide since 2005.

<sup>1</sup> The full list of results for all countries is included at the end of this report.

### Latin America and the Caribbean Score Lowest on Security

For the seventh consecutive year, residents of Latin America and the Caribbean in 2015 were the least likely among all global regions to feel secure in their communities. The region scored a 55 on Gallup's Law and Order Index — unchanged from its score in 2014. Residents of Southeast Asia, the U.S. and Canada, Europe and East Asia were again the most likely to feel secure, with index scores of 77 or higher.

In most regions, Law and Order Index scores in 2015 remained unchanged from the previous year. Scores did not drop in any region, and the only region with sizable positive movement was South Asia, where scores rose from 68 to 75. Positive shifts in India and Pakistan — the two most populated countries in the region — and Afghanistan were primarily behind the changes in the regional scores.

Scores on several of the component items — such as confidence in police — improved in India, Pakistan and Afghanistan, but in many cases, the results were more in line with those in earlier years than those in 2014 — a highly tumultuous year in each of these countries. For example, in India, confidence in police rose from 66% in 2014 to 71%, and feelings of safety increased from 52% to 69% in the same period. Indians' higher sense of security may partly reflect their reaction to the Modi government's promises to make the country safer.

### Law and Order Index by World Region

Means (0=lowest score, 100=highest score)

	2014	2015	Difference
Southeast Asia	79	79	0
U.S. and Canada	78	78	0
Europe	77	77	0
East Asia	76	77	+1
South Asia	68	75	+7
Middle East and North Africa	73	74	+1
Post-Soviet states	66	66	0
Sub-Saharan Africa	60	63	+3
Latin America and the Caribbean	55	55	0

### El Salvadorans, Venezuelans Least Secure in the World

With an average homicide rate higher than any other region for the past decade, and situations deteriorating in several countries, it is not surprising that the poor personal security situation in Latin America and the Caribbean has failed to improve in most countries.

In 2015, all countries in the region had index scores that are below the global average of 72. Chile, which generally has lower crime rates, came the closest with an index score of 65.

The largest declines in the region took place in El Salvador — which now posts the second-lowest Law and Order Index score in the world ahead of Venezuela — and in Venezuela. The eight-point drop in El Salvador's score between 2014 and 2015 coincided with a 70% spike in violent deaths that ranked it as the most violent country in the world last year. Venezuela — where scores dropped seven points in one year — ranked as the second most murderous country in the world in 2015.

Scores did improve markedly in Paraguay — rising from 46 in 2014 to 60 in 2015 — where surveys took place not long after Pope Francis' visit to the impoverished nation as part of his three-country tour of Latin America.

### Law and Order Index Scores in Latin America and Caribbean

Means (0=lowest score, 100=highest score)

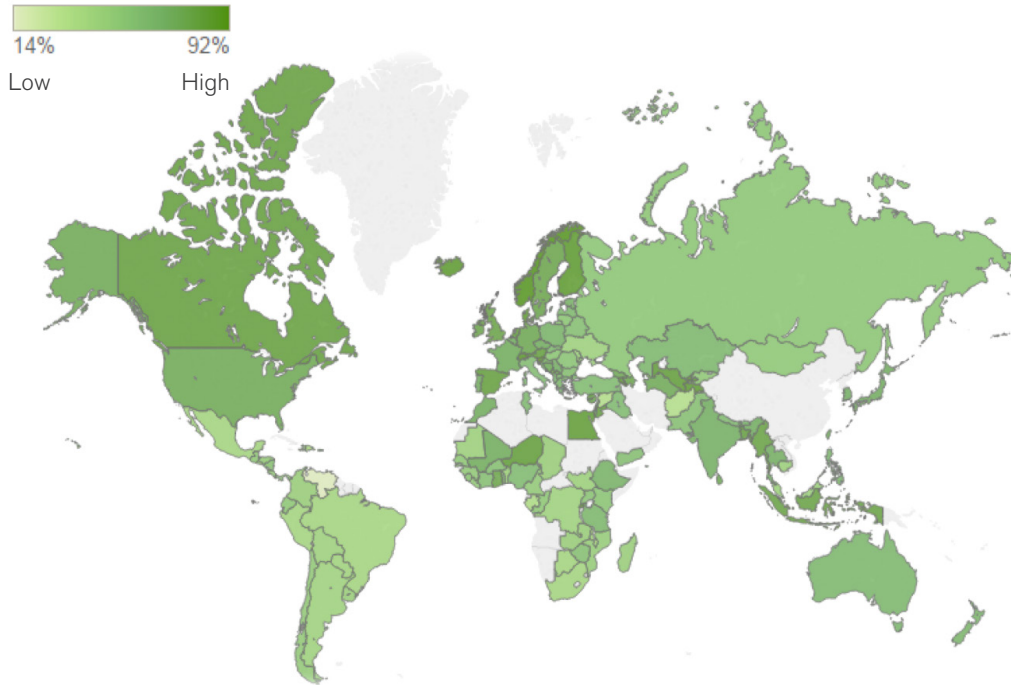
	2014	2015	Difference
Chile	68	65	-3
Nicaragua	63	65	+2
Ecuador	67	63	-4
Costa Rica	58	63	+5
Panama	59	62	+3
Haiti	57	62	+5
Uruguay	61	61	0
Guatemala	58	60	+2
Paraguay	46	60	+14
Colombia	58	57	-1
Argentina	53	57	+4
Brazil	52	57	+5
Honduras	57	55	-2
Mexico	59	54	-5
Dominican Republic	54	53	-1
Bolivia	51	51	0
Peru	52	50	-2
El Salvador	56	48	-8
Venezuela	42	35	-7

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

Venezuela's index score of 35 was the worst in Latin America and the Caribbean in 2015, the worst in the world and the lowest score yet recorded. The 14% of Venezuelans who say they felt safe walking alone at night is a new record low, but the country has ranked at or near the bottom of the "least safe" list since 2009. The next-lowest percentages in the world are in war-torn Afghanistan (32%) and Syria (32%).

#### Do you feel safe walking alone at night in the city or area where you live?

% "Yes"



In general, the countries where residents were the most likely to say they feel safe walking alone at night are among those with the highest Law and Order Index scores in the world. In Singapore, with an index score of 93, more than nine in 10 residents (92%) said they felt safe.

#### Least Likely to Feel Safe

#### Most Likely to Feel Safe

Yes, feel safe		Yes, feel safe	
Mexico	40%	Singapore	92%
Peru	40%	Norway	90%
South Africa	40%	Switzerland	87%
Malawi	39%	Finland	86%
Dominican Republic	36%	Iceland	86%
El Salvador	36%	Denmark	85%
Gabon	35%	Armenia	84%
Afghanistan	32%	Egypt	84%
Syria	32%	Slovenia	84%
Venezuela	14%	Tajikistan	84%

## Methodology

Results are based on telephone and face-to-face interviews with approximately 1,000 adults, aged 15 and older, conducted throughout 2015 in 133 countries. For results based on the total sample of national adults, the margin of sampling error ranged from  $\pm 2.1$  percentage points to  $\pm 5.6$  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 Data Set details](#).

### Law and Order Index Score Results for 2015

Index Score		Index Score	
Singapore	93	Hungary	71
Iceland	90	Palestinian Territories	70
Uzbekistan	90	Latvia	70
Tajikistan	89	Lithuania	70
Switzerland	88	Madagascar	70
Norway	87	Burkina Faso	69
Finland	87	Macedonia	69
Jordan	85	Iraq	68
Austria	85	Zimbabwe	68
Denmark	85	Tanzania	68
Niger	85	Belarus	68
Canada	84	Romania	67
Azerbaijan	84	Ivory Coast	67
Germany	83	Cambodia	67
Egypt	83	Togo	67
Turkmenistan	82	Senegal	66
Indonesia	82	Bulgaria	66
Slovenia	82	Pakistan	66
Malta	82	Ghana	65
Luxembourg	81	Chile	65
Netherlands	81	Kyrgyzstan	65
Sweden	81	Nicaragua	65
Georgia	81	Ecuador	63
Kosovo	81	Costa Rica	63
Myanmar	81	Mozambique	63
New Zealand	81	Kenya	63
Spain	80	Panama	62
Ireland	80	Haiti	62



Sri Lanka	80	Russia	62
Croatia	80	Malaysia	62
Bosnia and Herzegovina	80	Guinea	62
Rwanda	79	Uruguay	61
Portugal	79	Congo Brazzaville	61
United Kingdom	79	Mongolia	61
Morocco	79	Benin	61
Australia	79	Cameroon	61
Montenegro	79	Guatemala	60
Japan	78	Paraguay	60
Taiwan	78	Nigeria	59
Bangladesh	78	Afghanistan	59
United States	77	Sierra Leone	59
Armenia	77	Zambia	58
Thailand	77	Yemen	58
Belgium	77	Moldova	57
Czech Republic	77	Colombia	57
Ethiopia	77	Argentina	57
Philippines	76	Brazil	57
India	76	Uganda	56
Northern Cyprus	76	Botswana	55
France	75	South Africa	55
Estonia	75	Honduras	55
Bhutan	75	Ukraine	55
Israel	74	Chad	55
Greece	74	Mexico	54
South Korea	74	Mauritania	54
Turkey	73	Gabon	53
Mali	73	Liberia	53
Poland	73	Dominican Republic	53
Nepal	72	Malawi	52
Slovakia	72	South Sudan	52
Tunisia	72	Congo Kinshasa	51
Serbia	72	Bolivia	51
Cyprus	72	Peru	50
Italy	72	Syria	50
Albania	72	El Salvador	48
Kazakhstan	71	Venezuela	35
Lebanon	71		

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