

GALLUP®

2019

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 shows the world has a lot of work to do to reach the goal of “peaceful, just and inclusive societies.” In fact, the UN says in recent years, the world has not made any substantial advances toward “ending violence, promoting the rule of law, strengthening institutions at all levels, or increasing access to justice.”

Based on the results from Gallup's latest global surveys on people's perceptions of their own security, it would appear that the world's adults largely concur with this assessment. 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 few years. And in some countries, such as Afghanistan, the situation has actually gotten worse.

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 *2019 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 152,000 adults in 142 countries and areas in 2018.

Countries/Areas With Highest Law and Order Index Scores

COUNTRY	LAW AND ORDER INDEX
Singapore	97
Tajikistan	94
United Arab Emirates	93
Norway	93
Turkmenistan	92
Switzerland	92
Uzbekistan	92
Egypt	92
Finland	91
China	91
Denmark	90
Austria	90

BASED ON GALLUP WORLD POLL, 2018

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

Countries/Areas With Lowest Law and Order Index Scores

COUNTRY	LAW AND ORDER INDEX
Botswana	60
Mexico	60
Namibia	60
Uganda	60
Chad	59
South Africa	56
Liberia	53
Gabon	53
Venezuela	49
Afghanistan	38



Most of the World Confident in Police, Feels Secure

More than two in three people worldwide said in 2018 that they feel safe walking alone at night where they live (69%) and have confidence in their local police (68%). One in eight (13%) 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 2017.

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 2018 was 81 out of a possible 100 — this is also unchanged from the previous year. Eighty-four countries posted scores lower than this average.

The countries scoring the best and the worst on the index were largely the same as well, with a few key differences. Scores worldwide ranged from a high of 97 in Singapore — which tops the list nearly every year — to a low of 38 in Afghanistan, which is now alone at the bottom of the list after essentially tying with Venezuela the previous year.

Afghanistan’s replacement of Venezuela as the least secure country in the world comes at a particularly bleak time for Afghanistan. The percentages of Afghans who feel safe walking alone at night where they live (13%) and feel confident in their police (22%) are not only the lowest on record for the war-torn country, but the lowest in the entire world in 2018. And, while Venezuela and Afghanistan were similarly likely to have the least confidence in police in the world, Afghans were half as likely as Venezuelans (26%) to feel safe walking alone at night.

Afghans were also more likely to have been the victims of crime in 2018 than at any point in the past decade in the country. A record-high 50% of Afghans said they had property or money stolen in the past year and a record 29% said they had been assaulted or mugged within the same time period.

Latin America Continues to 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. The region scored a 63 on Gallup's Law and Order Index — basically in line with scores since 2016. Residents of the U.S. and Canada, Southeast Asia, East Asia and Western Europe were the most likely to feel secure, with index scores of 83 or higher.



Law and Order Index

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

GALLUP WORLD POLL

At the regional level, the 2018 scores on the Law and Order Index were relatively within the range of where they have been for the past several years. However, the score in the U.S. and Canada continued to drop and the score in East Asia continued to climb. Scores for individual countries also changed little.

The two countries with the biggest changes in 2017 continued to move farther in the same directions they were headed that year. Afghanistan's score on the Law and Order Index continued its freefall in 2018, confirming that the dramatic 24-point drop between 2016 and 2017 was no fluke, and truly reflected the worsening security situation in that country.

El Salvador's score continued to edge higher, building on the 13-point increase between 2016 and 2017. The country's Law and Order Index increased six points from the previous year to 73, nudged higher by increasing percentages of Salvadorans who said they felt safe walking alone at night (53%) and fewer reporting that they had money or property stolen (11%).

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

Just 13% of Afghans in 2018 said they feel safe walking alone in their area at night — down from 20% in 2017. This ties the previous record-lows claimed by Venezuela in 2015 and 2016, when 14% and 12% of the population, respectively, in that country reported feeling safe in their neighborhoods.

Except for Afghanistan, the countries in which residents were least likely to say they feel safe walking alone at night were exclusively a mix of countries in Latin America and the Caribbean and sub-Saharan Africa. Nine of them were also at the bottom of this list in 2017.

In most economically developed countries with strong rule of law, high majorities of residents said they feel safe walking alone in their areas at night. This response was nearly universal in Singapore at 94% and topped 80% in many Western European countries. The U.S. was considerably farther down the list, at 72% — unchanged from 2017.



Countries/Areas Most Likely to Feel Safe in 2018

COUNTRY	% YES, FEEL SAFE
Singapore	94
Norway	93
United Arab Emirates	93
Slovenia	90
Turkmenistan	90
Switzerland	89
Armenia	89
Finland	88
Tajikistan	88

GALLUP WORLD POLL

Countries/Areas Least Likely to Feel Safe in 2018

COUNTRY	% YES, FEEL SAFE
Liberia	40
Argentina	39
Dominican Republic	37
Gabon	35
Botswana	34
Brazil	34
South Africa	31
Venezuela	26
Afghanistan	13

68% of adults
worldwide have confidence
in their local police



Confidence in Local Police

More than two in three adults worldwide (68%) said in 2018 that they have confidence in their local police. The results varied significantly by region, however, from a low of 44% in Latin America and the Caribbean to nearly double that in Western Europe (84%).

Percentage Confident in Police

SCORES BY REGION	2017	2018	DIFFERENCE
Western Europe	82	84	+2
Southeast Asia	80	83	+3
U.S. and Canada	82	79	-3
South Asia	74	71	-3
East Asia	71	71	0
Eastern Europe	71	68	-3
Middle East and North Africa	68	67	-1
Sub-Saharan Africa	60	59	-1
Commonwealth of Independent States	52	51	-1
Latin America and the Caribbean	42	44	+2

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 of the Law and Order Index component metrics in 2018 and in previous years. Five of the 10 countries with the lowest scores on the police question were located in the region.

Aside from some signs of slipping confidence in South Asia, Eastern Europe and the U.S. and Canada, and rising confidence in Southeast Asia, numbers in most regions were largely consistent with those in previous years.

Law and Order Index Score Results for 2018

COUNTRY	LAW AND ORDER INDEX
Singapore	97
Tajikistan	94
United Arab Emirates	93
Norway	93
Switzerland	92
Turkmenistan	92
Uzbekistan	92
Egypt	92
China	91
Finland	91
Austria	90
Denmark	90
Taiwan	89
Azerbaijan	89
Luxembourg	89
Indonesia	89
Slovenia	89
Netherlands	88
Spain	88
Germany	88
Portugal	87
Jordan	87
Malta	86
Canada	86
United Kingdom	86

COUNTRY	LAW AND ORDER INDEX
Czech Republic	86
Kosovo	86
Georgia	86
France	85
Ireland	85
Japan	85
Sweden	85
Armenia	85
Myanmar	85
Saudi Arabia	85
Rwanda	84
New Zealand	84
Australia	84
Philippines	84
Croatia	83
South Korea	83
Estonia	83
Poland	83
United States	83
Sri Lanka	83
Northern Cyprus	83
Mauritius	82
Lithuania	82
India	82
Hungary	82

POLICE



COUNTRY	LAW AND ORDER INDEX
Vietnam	82
Italy	81
Belgium	81
Thailand	81
Serbia	81
Israel	81
Slovakia	81
Cambodia	81
Iraq	80
Laos	80
Iran	80
Cyprus	80
Bosnia and Herzegovina	80
Bangladesh	80
Algeria	80

COUNTRY	LAW AND ORDER INDEX
Albania	79
Malaysia	79
North Macedonia	78
Lebanon	78
Greece	78
Romania	78
Kazakhstan	77
Burkina Faso	77
Pakistan	77
Tanzania	76
Ethiopia	76
Latvia	76
Moldova	76
Nepal	76
Montenegro	76



COUNTRY	LAW AND ORDER INDEX
Burundi	76
Kyrgyzstan	76
Turkey	76
Bulgaria	75
Morocco	74
Palestinian Territories	74
Belarus	74
Tunisia	73
El Salvador	73
Ghana	73
Senegal	73
Russia	72
Guatemala	72
Honduras	71
Panama	71
Paraguay	71
Chile	70
Mongolia	70
Niger	70
Comoros	70
Zimbabwe	69
Costa Rica	69
Mozambique	69
Ecuador	69
Mali	69
Eswatini	69
Haiti	68
Libya	68
Benin	68
Ukraine	67
Togo	67

COUNTRY	LAW AND ORDER INDEX
Colombia	67
Uruguay	67
Malawi	66
Yemen	66
Cameroon	65
Kenya	65
Nicaragua	65
Madagascar	64
Zambia	64
Peru	64
Ivory Coast	64
Argentina	64
Sierra Leone	63
Brazil	62
Dominican Republic	62
Nigeria	62
Bolivia	62
The Gambia	61
Guinea	61
Congo Brazzaville	61
Mauritania	61
Botswana	60
Mexico	60
Uganda	60
Namibia	60
Chad	59
South Africa	56
Liberia	53
Gabon	53
Venezuela	49
Afghanistan	38

Methodology

Results are based on telephone and face-to-face interviews with approximately 1,000 adults, aged 15 and older, conducted throughout 2018 in 142 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 Data Set](#) details.

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