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Contacts:

kristjan_archer@gallup.com

Gallup Global Safety Report Shows Declines in Israel and Ecuador, El Salvador Ranks Among “Most Safe” for First Time

Washington, DC, September 24, 2024 – *The Global Safety Report: Measuring Personal Security Worldwide* reveals most of the world felt safe in 2023 — but remains far from achieving the UN’s goal of “peaceful societies.” [The report](#) finds 70% of adults worldwide felt secure walking alone at night, which is higher than it was a decade ago, but progress has stalled in recent years.

Key Findings:

- **Global Safety Trends:** In 2023, 70% of adults felt safe, up from 64% in 2013. However, this is a slight decline from the record-high 72% in 2020.
- **Regional Variations:** Feelings of safety are highest in Asia-Pacific (75%), Western Europe (75%), the Middle East and North Africa (74%), Northern America (72%), and post-Soviet Eurasia (71%). Post-Soviet Eurasia has seen the most significant improvement, with a 34-percentage point increase since its low of 37% in 2006.
- **Areas of Concern:** Sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean remain the regions where people felt the least safe walking alone at night, at 51% and 47%, respectively.
- **World Remains Confident in Police:** In 2023, over seven in 10 adults worldwide (71%) said they had confidence in their local police, considerably higher than the 62% who reported this in 2013.

Notable Insights:

- **Ecuador’s Security Crisis:** In 2023, 27% of Ecuadorians said they felt safe walking alone at night, a new record low for the country and the lowest score both regionally and globally.
- **Impact of Conflict in Israel:** In 2022, 82% of Israelis felt safe walking alone at night, a higher percentage than in many other OECD member states. However, in the wake of the Oct. 7 Hamas attacks, 68% of Israelis felt safe.
- **El Salvador’s Improvement:** In 2023, a record-high 88% of residents in El Salvador reported feeling safe walking alone at night amid the government’s recent crackdown on gangs.
- **Community-Based Safety Approaches:** Gallup’s analysis suggests that local-level strategies are more effective in enhancing perceptions of safety than national-level interventions. Key components of these community-based approaches include:



- **Enhancing Community Satisfaction:** Satisfaction with various aspects of the community, such as the availability of quality healthcare, the quality of schools, and the cleanliness of water and air, significantly are related to feelings of safety.
- **Boosting Confidence in Local Police:** Trust in local law enforcement is crucial. When people are confident in their local police, they are more likely to feel safe.

To download the full report, visit the [Gallup Global Safety Research Center](#).

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About the Gallup World Poll

The Gallup World Poll is the most comprehensive and farthest-reaching survey of the world. The survey connects with more than 98% of the world's adult population through annual, nationally representative surveys with comparable metrics across countries. The Gallup World Poll is used to measure and track progress on several U.N. sustainable development goals and is the official statistic for work and life for more than 55 indexes and metrics associated with the most important aspects of individuals' lives, their communities and their countries.

About Gallup

[Gallup](#) delivers analytics and advice to help leaders and organizations solve their most pressing problems. Combining more than 80 years of experience with its global reach, Gallup knows more about the attitudes and behaviors of employees, customers, students and citizens than any other organization in the world.