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About This Report
EFFECTIVE RULE OF LAW reduces corruption, combats poverty and disease, and protects people from injustices large and small. Strengthening the rule of law is an important objective for governments, donors, and civil society organizations around the world. To be effective, rule of law development requires clarity about the fundamental features that define the rule of law, as well as an adequate basis for its evaluation and measurement.

The Rule of Law in El Salvador: Key Findings from the General Population Poll 2021 presents question-level data drawn from the General Population Poll (GPP), an original data source designed and collected by the World Justice Project. To provide a more in-depth view of trends in perceptions of rule of law in El Salvador, this report also presents select findings over time and compared to El Salvador’s regional peers in Central America.

This report represents the voices of people in El Salvador and their experiences with the rule of law in their country.

The GPP was conducted in November of 2021 through face-to-face interviews to a nationally representative sample of 2,526 Salvadoran households. This poll was designed to capture data on the experiences and perceptions of ordinary people regarding a variety of themes related to the rule of law.

The data derived from the General Population Poll is presented in this report as thematic briefs, each one highlighting a different dimension of the rule of law from the perspective of Salvadorans. These thematic briefs focus on the current rule of law ecosystem in El Salvador while simultaneously illuminating changes over time and comparisons across the following regional peer countries: Belize, Guatemala, Honduras, and Panama. Each section touches upon perceptions of the following themes: accountability, fundamental freedoms, corruption, bribery victimization, trust in institutions, the criminal justice system and its actors, police performance, community policing, vigilante justice, crime victimization, support for victims of crime, gender issues, security, and migration.
Note on El Salvador

The data presented in *The Rule of Law in El Salvador: Key Findings from the General Population Poll 2021* represents the perceptions and experiences of individuals living in El Salvador. The results show an increasingly favorable perception of the rule of law situation in the country, particularly when compared to results in El Salvador from previous years, or to other countries with similar governance structure and level of development.

The data presented in this report has undergone a rigorous validation process. The team conducted five separate tests to ensure the accuracy of data:

1. **STATISTICAL VALIDATION**
   The team verified the data routing, labeling, and coding and did not find any issues.

2. **SAMPLING PLAN VALIDATION**
   The team checked the consistency of the sampling plan against the data collected by the polling company. More information about the sampling plan is available in the Methodology section of this report.

3. **INTERNAL CHECKS AGAINST DIFFERENT VARIABLES**
   The normalized scores of perception questions were checked against sociodemographic, socioeconomic and political characteristics (sex, age, income, educational level, ethnicity, urbanization, crime victimization, and political affiliation).

4. **CHECKS AGAINST EXTERNAL QUANTITATIVE SOURCES**
   The team normalized the General Population Poll data in El Salvador and compared these scores to other external quantitative sources, including Latin American Public Opinion Project (LAPOP)’s AmericasBarometer, and Latinobarómetro. These checks compared similar perception questions in the questionnaires as well as overall trends for a broader set of questions on trust in political institutions and actors, crime and bribery victimization, and migration. The AmericasBarometer and Latinobarómetro data revealed similar trends in that they also showed improved perceptions in El Salvador on measures of government accountability, fundamental freedoms, trust in institutions, support for victims of crime, and security.

5. **CHECKS AGAINST EXTERNAL QUALITATIVE SOURCES**
   The team reviewed current events as well as qualitative reports from other organizations such as Human Rights Watch, Transparency International, Freedom House, and Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem).

The results of our various checks confirmed the internal validity of our data, in that it accurately represents the views and experiences of respondents in El Salvador at the time the data was collected. However, there are discrepancies between our data and other data sources coming from expert assessments. For instance, the data collected from experts in El Salvador by the WJP in the Qualified Respondents’ Questionnaires in 2021 presents a departure from the views of the general population. Other human rights organizations and regional experts such as Human Rights Watch, Transparency International, Freedom House, and Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem) have also expressed alternate views from the data presented in this report. These organizations highlight the challenges that El Salvador is facing with accountability, civil liberties, judicial independence, due process, security, and other thematic topics discussed in this report.

As mentioned above, the data in this report highlights significant improvements in perceptions and experiences across many measures of the rule of law in El Salvador. El Salvador’s president, Nayib Bukele, entered office in June 2019. Bukele and his Nuevas Ideas Party represent a significant shift from traditional party-sharing in El Salvador and have become widely popular among Salvadorans. Since taking office, Bukele has maintained an approval rating of at least 75%, with some surveys citing an approval rating as high as 93% in 2021. In our analysis of the GPP data for El Salvador, political affiliation was the variable most likely to explain statistically significant differences in perceptions. Indeed, most perception questions had higher normalized scores among respondents who identified with Nuevas Ideas than among respondents who identified with other political parties or no party at all. These results suggest that Bukele’s popularity may be influencing the perceptions of people regarding governing institutions in El Salvador. Further information on the rule of law in El Salvador can be found at the [Country Insights](#) page from the WJP Rule of Law Index 2021®.
Executive Findings

The Rule of Law in El Salvador: Key Findings from the General Population Poll 2021 report provides a comprehensive overview of how citizens perceive and experience the rule of law in El Salvador. The thematic briefs summarized below draw on historical data and new data collected from the general public in 2021. Please see our Note on El Salvador for further considerations on these findings.

Section 1: Accountability and Fundamental Freedoms

1 GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY
Just over half of respondents in El Salvador believe government officials are held accountable for breaking the law. When asked if high-ranking government officials would be held accountable for breaking the law, 51% of respondents in El Salvador believe that the government official would be prosecuted or punished. Compared to regional peers, Salvadorans have the most positive perceptions of government accountability. Moreover, these perceptions of government accountability have improved more between 2013 and 2021 in El Salvador than in other regional peer countries. That being said, standards for checks on executive power are lower in El Salvador than in regional peer countries – only 60% of respondents in El Salvador believe that the president must obey the laws and the courts even if they disagree.

2 FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS
When it comes to guarantees of fundamental freedoms, Salvadorans have generally positive views. Salvadorans are the most optimistic about their religious rights, with 91% of respondents reporting that religious minorities are free to observe their holy days. In contrast, Salvadorans are the least optimistic about the legitimacy of local elections, with 70% saying local government officials are elected through a clean process. Though progress in the country has been inconsistent since 2013, Salvadorans’ perceptions of their rights have improved in every dimension since 2018. The largest improvements are evident in questions on voting freely without feeling harassed or pressured and the freedom to express opinions against the government, which both saw increases of 30 percentage points between 2018 and 2021.

3 CORRUPTION
Salvadorans reported low levels of corruption across all state actors and institutions, demonstrating an improvement in perceptions since 2018. Members of the Legislative Assembly in El Salvador are seen as the most corrupt institution, with 38% of respondents believing most or all people working in the legislature are involved in corrupt practices. Additionally, executive officials tend to receive less favorable views than other actors, with roughly a third of respondents in El Salvador reporting that most or all local and national government officers are corrupt (32% and 29%, respectively). Salvadorans say public defense attorneys are the least corrupt state actor, with only 25% believing most or all are involved in corrupt practices. While their perceptions have varied widely since 2013, respondents believe levels of corruption are much lower in every institution since 2018.

4 BRIBERY VICTIMIZATION
Salvadorans pay bribes less frequently than respondents in regional peer countries. In the last three years, Salvadorans reported paying bribes most often to request a government permit (12%) or request public benefits or assistance (11%). Five percent (5%) said they paid a bribe either to obtain a birth certificate or government issued ID or to request public benefits or assistance. Very few respondents reported paying bribes to access public health services (2%), marking the lowest reported bribery victimization rate amongst regional peer countries for any service. Salvadorans reported the lowest rates of bribery victimization in each of these service categories, while Belizeans often reported the highest.

5 TRUST
Despite improvements since 2018, most Salvadorans lack trust in the judiciary, executive officials, and police officers. Less than one-third of respondents reported having some or a lot of trust in judges and magistrates (29%) or defense attorneys (30%). Their judicial counterparts perform slightly better, with 34% of Salvadorans saying they trust prosecutors. Only 31% of respondents trust local government officers, and less than half (48%) trust both national government officers and police officers. In contrast, 55% of respondents stated that they have some or a lot of trust in people living in their communities. Salvadorans reported sharp positive increases, ranging as high as 35 percentage points, in their trust across all groups and institutions between 2018 and 2021.

Section 2: Police and Criminal Justice

6 CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM
Salvadoran’s perceptions of the criminal justice system have improved in all dimensions since 2018, though timeliness continues to be a top issue. Most respondents feel confident that the criminal justice system ensures that everyone has
access to justice (59%), is effective in delivering justice (58%), and provides a fair trial for all (56%). In both 2018 and 2021, Salvadorans reported the lowest levels of confidence in the criminal justice system’s ability to deal with cases promptly and effectively (29% in 2018 and 46% in 2021), though this figure has improved.

7 CRIMINAL JUSTICE ACTORS
The public’s views on the performance of key criminal justice actors in El Salvador have improved over time. While levels of trust in criminal justice actors remain fairly low, Salvadorans report an improvement in perceptions between 2018 and 2021. Roughly one in four respondents believe that most or all prosecutors (26%), judges and magistrates (26%), and public defense lawyers (25%) are involved in corrupt practices. These perceptions of corruption have improved since 2018, with nearly 50 percentage point decreases for all three actors. The majority of Salvadorans believe that both prosecutors (56%) and judges and magistrates (53%) do their job well, while only 32% believe the same of public defense attorneys.

8 POLICE
Police Perceptions
Salvadorans have conflicting views on police performance. In the category of police effectiveness, Salvadorans responded most negatively when asked if the police respond to crime reports, with only 42% of respondents believing that this is always or often the case. In contrast, over three-quarters of Salvadorans (79%) believe that the police are generally available to help when needed. Most Salvadorans (81%) believe that the police treat all people with kindness and respect, but only 40% believe that the police respect the rights of suspects and 44% believe that the police do not use excessive force. Although 74% of respondents believe that police officers are generally not involved in corrupt practices, 52% believe that the police do not serve the interests of gangs and only 36% believe that the police do not serve the interests of politicians. Perceptions of accountability in law enforcement are similarly unfavorable, with less than half of Salvadorans believing that the police are held accountable for violating the law (40%) or seeking bribes (41%).

Police Interactions
In both voluntary and involuntary interactions with the police, a majority of Salvadorans reported that the police controlled the situation and treated them with respect. Respondents who contacted the police voluntarily most often contacted them to report an accident or medical emergency (37%). During these voluntary interactions, over half of Salvadorans reported that the police controlled the situation (65%) and arrived promptly (56%). Nearly nine in ten (87%) reported that they felt that the police listened to them, and 89% reported that the police treated them with kindness and respect.

Most Salvadorans who were involuntarily contacted by the police reported that they were stopped for a routine check or for the police to provide assistance (63%). During the interaction, 86% of respondents believed that the police were able to control the situation, and 80% said they were treated with kindness and respect. While 71% felt that police clearly explained the reasons for their actions, only 64% of individuals who experienced involuntary police interactions believe that they were stopped for a legitimate reason.

9 COMMUNITY POLICING, VIGILANTE JUSTICE, AND TRUST
Salvadorans living in communities with a greater police presence have more trust in the police and are more likely to believe that the police effectively resolve security problems in their neighborhood. Public levels of trust in the police are correlated to additional factors, such as previous crime victimization, how safe people feel walking in their neighborhood at night, and perceptions of corruption among police officers. Respondents who reported that the police never allow members of their community to suggest solutions to local issues also have less trust in the police (53% have a lot or some trust) than those who reported that the police very frequently or frequently do so (85% have a lot or some trust).

10 CRIME VICTIMIZATION
Nearly one in five Salvadorans were victim of a crime in the last year. Of the 18% of respondents who experienced a crime, only 32% reported it to the police or another authority and of those, 79% chose to file an official crime report. Over two-thirds (68%) of respondents did not report the crime, and the most frequently cited reason for their decision was fear of retaliation or concern for their safety (19%). Of the crimes experienced by Salvadorans, crimes against life and integrity were the most frequent (12%), followed by property crimes (10%) and corruption, financial, and commercial crimes (6%). Incidence of crime victimization was higher than national averages among men, financially secure individuals, and respondents between the ages of 18 and 29. When it comes to crime reporting, women, financially insecure respondents, and Salvadorans living in urban areas tend to report crimes less frequently than the national average.

11 VICTIM SUPPORT
Most Salvadorans are not confident that crime victims receive adequate resources and protection. Less than one-third of respondents are confident that crime victims are believed (28%) or receive prompt and courteous attention (29%) when they report a crime. Only 30% of respondents believe that victims are protected by the police when their safety is in danger while 33% say victims receive protection during criminal proceedings to prevent repeated victimization. More respondents are confident that victims are guaranteed their rights in criminal justice proceedings (53%) and that victims are addressed by the police using accessible language (55%).
Section 3: Gender, Security and Migration

12 GENDER ROLES AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
Men and women expressed similar views toward family roles and domestic violence. When asked if women who work outside the home neglect their children, a minority of men and women agreed or strongly agreed (44% and 46%, respectively). The largest difference between men and women's opinions on gender roles is evident in their beliefs on whether women should be as responsible as men for bringing money home, with 89% of women compared to 83% of men agreeing with the statement.

When respondents were asked to choose which actions they would take if faced with domestic violence from a partner, male respondents were most likely to choose "I would try to talk to them" (38% of respondents), while female respondents were most likely to choose "I would file a complaint" (48% of respondents).

13 SECURITY
Perceptions of personal safety in El Salvador have improved by 50% since 2018, but differences in perceptions persist between different sociodemographic groups. Perceptions of personal safety vary across contexts in El Salvador, with only 29% of respondents feeling safe or very safe riding the bus while a majority (60%) feeling safe or very safe walking in their neighborhoods at night. Women and Salvadorans who have been victims of crime in the last 12 months were less likely to report feeling safe or very safe while walking in their neighborhood than other sociodemographic groups. When asked to identify the most frequent types of crime in their neighborhood, Salvadorans most often selected gang and youth violence, (26%), street violence (18%), and domestic violence against women (13%).

14 INTERNAL MIGRATION
Out of all respondents, internal migration rates were highest among those living in the western city of Santa Ana. Half (50%) of respondents in Santa Ana reported that they had moved there from another city, and of that group, 44% cited better economic or educational opportunities as the main reason for their move. Respondents in San Miguel reported the second highest internal migration rate, with 45% of respondents having moved there from another city. Of this percentage, most respondents chose to migrate due to family reasons (41%).

15 INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION
While 39% of respondents in El Salvador indicated they would prefer to move to another country, only 9% reported that they had plans to move. Salvadorans were more likely to report having plans to move to another country if they were under the age of 30, had previously attempted to immigrate to the US, and/or were a victim of crime in the past 12 months. Compared to respondents in four regional peer countries, Salvadorans were the second most likely to prefer to move permanently to another country after Honduras.

Nearly half of respondents (47%) from the city of San Miguel would prefer to move permanently to another country, and 13% have plans to move in the next 12 months. Of those in San Miguel who would prefer to move, the top reason was for better economic or educational opportunities, with 89% of respondents choosing this option.

16 MIGRATION TO THE UNITED STATES
Sixteen percent of respondents reported that they tried to immigrate to the US in the past, and 39% reported being able to enter. Salvadorans who attempted but did not enter the US were most often unable to enter because they were sent back by law enforcement (29%), while 21% said they changed their mind. Of those who did enter the United States, 25% stated that they then left the US for family or social reasons and 22% reported that they were deported by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).
Thematic Findings
Section 1
Accountability and Fundamental Freedoms

12 Government Accountability
13 Fundamental Freedoms
14 Corruption
15 Bribery Victimization
16 Trust
Government Accountability
Views in El Salvador and regional peer countries regarding accountability under the law.

Chart 1a. Perceptions of Accountability in the Region Over Time
Percentage of respondents who believe that high-ranking government officials would be held accountable for breaking the law

Chart 1b. Checks on Executive Power Over Time
Percentage of respondents who believe that the president should always obey laws and court decisions, even if the president thinks they are wrong

Fundamental Freedoms

Views on the extent to which freedoms of expression, participation, elections, and religion are guaranteed.

Chart 2. Fundamental Freedoms in El Salvador Over Time

Percentage of respondents who believe that...

**EXPRESSION**

People can express opinions against the government

- 2013: 69%
- 2015: 59%
- 2017: 51%
- 2019: 82%
- 2021: 81%

Civil society organizations can express opinions against the government

- 2013: 67%
- 2015: 55%
- 2017: 57%
- 2019: 75%
- 2021: 74%

Political parties can express opinions against the government

- 2013: 70%
- 2015: 68%
- 2017: 52%
- 2019: 75%
- 2021: 74%

Media can express opinions against the government without fear of retaliation

- 2013: 68%
- 2015: 65%
- 2017: 62%
- 2019: 73%
- 2021: 73%

Media can expose cases of corruption

- 2013: 68%
- 2015: 59%
- 2017: 64%
- 2019: 74%
- 2021: 74%

**PARTICIPATION**

People can attend community meetings

- 2013: 76%
- 2015: 70%
- 2017: 61%
- 2019: 87%
- 2021: 87%

People can join any political organization

- 2013: 74%
- 2015: 74%
- 2017: 60%
- 2019: 85%
- 2021: 84%

People can organize around an issue or petition

- 2013: 73%
- 2015: 59%
- 2017: 62%
- 2019: 79%
- 2021: 79%

**ELECTIONS**

Local government officials are elected through a clean process

- 2013: 63%
- 2015: 55%
- 2017: 44%
- 2019: 70%
- 2021: 69%

People can vote freely without feeling harassed or pressured

- 2013: 72%
- 2015: 71%
- 2017: 56%
- 2019: 86%
- 2021: 86%

**RELIGION**

Religious minorities can observe their holy days

- 2013: 79%
- 2015: 84%
- 2017: 76%
- 2019: 91%
- 2021: 91%

Source: WJP General Population Poll 2013, 2016, 2018, and 2021
Corruption
Perceptions of corruption in El Salvador.

Chart 3. Perceptions of Corruption by Institution Over Time
Percentage of respondents who believe that most or all people working in the following institutions are corrupt

LEGISLATIVE
(Members of the Legislative Assembly)

POLICE OFFICERS

EXECUTIVE
(Local Government Officers and National Government Officers)

JUDICIARY
(Prosecutors, Public Defense Attorneys, and Judges and Magistrates)

Source: WJP General Population Poll 2013, 2016, 2018, and 2021
Bribery Victimization

Data on bribes paid in Central America to access public services.

Chart 4. Bribery Victimization in El Salvador and Regional Peer Countries

Percentage of respondents who paid a bribe in the last three years to access the following services

Source: WJP General Population Poll 2021
Trust
Extent to which people in El Salvador trust various groups and institutions.

Chart 5. Trust in Institutions Over Time
Percentage of respondents who have a lot or some trust in...

**PEOPLE LIVING IN THEIR COMMUNITY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Local Government Officers</th>
<th>National Government Officers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**POLICE OFFICERS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Local Government Officers</th>
<th>National Government Officers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**EXECUTIVE**
(Local Government Officers and National Government Officers)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Local Government Officers</th>
<th>National Government Officers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**JUDICIARY**
(Prosecutors, Public Defense Attorneys, and Judges and Magistrates)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Prosecutors</th>
<th>Public Defense Attorneys</th>
<th>Judges and Magistrates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Surveys administered before 2021 asked about “people in your country” instead of “people living in your community.”

Source: WJP General Population Poll 2013, 2016, 2018, and 2021
Section 2
Police and Criminal Justice

18 Criminal Justice System
19 Criminal Justice Actors
20 Police
22 Community Policing, Vigilante Justice, and Trust
23 Crime Victimization
25 Victim Support
Criminal Justice System

Views on the criminal justice system in El Salvador.

Chart 6. Perceptions of the Criminal Justice System Over Time
Percentage of respondents who are confident that the criminal justice system...

- **2018**
- **2021**

Is effective in bringing people who commit crimes to justice
Ensures timeliness by dealing with cases promptly and efficiently
Ensures everyone has access to the justice system
Ensures uniform quality by providing equal service regardless of where they live
Ensures equal treatment of the accused by giving all a fair trial regardless of who they are
Safeguards the presumption of innocence by treating those accused of crimes as innocent until proven guilty
Gives appropriate punishments that fit the crime

Source: WJP General Population Poll 2018 and 2021

Note: For additional information on how Chart 6 was produced, please see the Appendix.
Criminal Justice Actors
Views on the performance of criminal justice actors in El Salvador.

Chart 7a. Trust in Criminal Justice Actors Over Time
Percentage of respondents who have a lot or some trust in prosecutors, public defense attorneys, and judges and magistrates

Chart 7b. Perceptions of Corruption Across Criminal Justice Actors Over Time
Percentage of respondents who believe that most or all prosecutors, public defense attorneys, and judges and magistrates are corrupt

Chart 7c. Perceptions of Effectiveness Across Criminal Justice Actors Over Time
Percentage of respondents who believe that prosecutors, public defense attorneys, and judges and magistrates do their job well

Note: Variables in Effectiveness category are as follows: Prosecutors prosecute crimes committed in an independent manner and are not subject to any sort of pressure (strongly agree/agree); Public defense attorneys do everything they can to defend poor people that are accused of committing a crime (often/sometimes); Judges decide cases in an independent manner and are not subject to any sort of pressure (strongly agree/agree).

Source: WJP General Population Poll 2013, 2016, 2018, and 2021
Police
Views on police performance in El Salvador.

Chart 8a. Perceptions of the Police
Opinions on effectiveness and legitimacy of law enforcement

**EFFECTIVENESS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Serve the public</th>
<th>Percentage of respondents who believe that the police...</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Are available to help when needed</td>
<td>79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serve the interests of the community</td>
<td>68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serve the interests of regular citizens</td>
<td>69%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Crime control and safety**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage of respondents who believe that the police...</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Respond to crime reports</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resolve security problems in the community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perform effective and lawful investigations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assist crime victims</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**LEgITIMACY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Due process</th>
<th>Percentage of respondents who believe that the police...</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Act lawfully</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do not use excessive force</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respect the rights of suspects</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treat all people with respect</td>
<td>81%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Corruption**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage of respondents who believe that the police...</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Are not involved in corrupt practices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investigate crimes in an independent manner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do not serve the interests of gangs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do not serve the interests of politicians</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Discrimination**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage of respondents who believe that the police do not discriminate against suspects based on...</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gender</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skin color</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indigenous identity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tattoos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Accountability**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage of respondents who believe that the police...</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Are held accountable for violating laws</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are held accountable for seeking bribes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are held accountable for accepting bribes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are investigated for misconduct</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Trust and crime reporting**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage of respondents who...</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trust the police</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Report a crime when they are a victim</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feel safe in their neighborhoods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feel safe riding the bus</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note: For additional information on how Chart 8a was produced, please see the Appendix.*

Source: WJP General Population Poll 2021
Police, continued
Views on police performance in El Salvador.

Chart 8b. Interactions with the Police
Experiences of respondents in El Salvador who interacted with the police in the last 12 months

**VOLUNTARY**

**TOTAL VOLUNTARY INTERACTIONS**
Percentage of respondents in El Salvador who contacted the police in the last 12 months

- **15%**

**CAUSES**
Reasons reported by respondents who contacted the police:

- Report a crime: 14%
- Report a case of domestic violence: 19%
- Report an accident or medical emergency: 37%
- Request help or information: 31%

**EXPERIENCE DURING THE LAST INTERACTION**
Percentage of respondents who said that the police...

- **SERVE THE PUBLIC**
  - Controlled the situation: 65%
  - Arrived promptly: 56%

- **DUE PROCESS**
  - Listened to them: 87%
  - Treated them with respect: 89%

- **CORRUPTION**
  - Asked for a bribe: 1%
  - Received a bribe: 3%

**INVOlUNTARY**

**TOTAL INVOLUNTARY INTERACTIONS**
Percentage of respondents in El Salvador who were contacted by the police in the last 12 months

- **22%**

**CAUSES**
Reasons reported by respondents who were contacted by the police:

- Routine check/Provide assistance: 63%
- Ask for cooperation: 7%
- Pressure for money or harassment: 1%
- Suspected illegal activity: 18%
- Other: 12%

**EXPERIENCE DURING THE LAST INTERACTION**
Percentage of respondents who said that the police...

- **SERVE THE PUBLIC**
  - Controlled the situation: 86%

- **DUE PROCESS**
  - Had a legitimate reason to stop them: 64%
  - Explained the reasons for their actions: 71%
  - Did not threaten them: 90%
  - Did not use physical force against them: 90%
  - Listened to them: 75%
  - Treated them with respect: 80%

- **CORRUPTION**
  - Asked for a bribe: 4%
  - Received a bribe: 3%

Note: For additional information on how Chart 8b was produced, please see the Appendix.
Source: WJP General Population Poll 2021
Community Policing, Vigilante Justice, and Trust

*Relationship between community policing, vigilante justice, and trust.*

**Chart 9a. Police Patrolling and Trust**
Percentage of respondents who reported how frequently the police patrol their neighborhood vs. Percentage of respondents who trust the police.

**Chart 9b. Community Meetings and Trust**
Percentage of respondents who reported how frequently the police hold meetings to discuss crime in their neighborhood vs. Percentage of respondents who trust the police.

**Chart 9c. Public Participation and Trust**
Percentage of respondents who reported whether the police allow people in their neighborhood to suggest solutions to local problems vs. Percentage of respondents who trust the police.

**Chart 9d. Vigilante Justice and Trust**
Percentage of respondents who reported whether it is acceptable for people to beat up a person who is suspected of committing a crime vs. Percentage of respondents who trust the police.

**Chart 9e. Impact of Experiences with Law Enforcement on Perceptions of the Police**
Positive perceptions of the police are lower among respondents who...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Experience</th>
<th>(Lower) Trust in the police</th>
<th>(Lower) Perception that the police resolve security problems in the community</th>
<th>(Lower) Perception that the police act lawfully</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Have been a victim of crime</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do not feel safe walking in their neighborhood at night</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Were previously asked for a bribe</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Believe most or all police officers are corrupt</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Report that the police rarely or never patrol their neighborhood</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Report that the police rarely or never hold meetings to discuss crime in their neighborhood</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Report that the police rarely or never allow people in their neighborhood to suggest solutions to local problems</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: The yellow line represents the percentage of respondents who answered “some” or “a lot” to the question “How much trust do you have in [the police]” that corresponds to each response category represented on the x axis.

Note: Each column consists of a logit regression. Only variables with a coefficient significant at the 95% confidence level are marked with an X. All regressions include controls for gender and financial security (not reported in the table). For additional information on how Chart 9e was produced, please see the Appendix.

Source: WJP General Population Poll 2021
Crime Victimization

Crimes experienced by people in El Salvador.

Chart 10a. Types of Crimes Experienced by People in El Salvador
Victimization rate, by type of crime

- Property crimes: 10%
- Crimes against life and integrity of individuals: 12%
- Corruption, financial, and commercial crimes: 6%

Chart 10b. Crime Victimization Rates and Reporting
Data on crime victimization and reporting in El Salvador

- In the last 12 months, 18% of Salvadorans were victims of a crime.
- 32% reported the crime.
- 68% did not report the crime.
- 79% filed an official crime report.
- 21% did not file an official crime report.

Reasons the crime was not reported:
- Respondent was afraid or embarrassed: 21%
- Respondent did not think reporting would help: 31%
- Respondent did not trust the police: 13%
- Respondent had administrative issues: 13%
- Other: 21%

Note: For additional information on how Chart 10b was produced, please see the Appendix.
Source: WJP General Population Poll 2021
Crime Victimization, continued

Crimes experienced by people in El Salvador.

Chart 10c. Crime Victimization by Sociodemographic Characteristic
Percentage of respondents who experienced a crime in the last 12 months

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>18%</th>
<th>21%</th>
<th>19%</th>
<th>21%</th>
<th>15%</th>
<th>12%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GENDER</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>AGE</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18-29</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>30-44</td>
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<tr>
<td>45-64</td>
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<tr>
<td>65+</td>
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<tr>
<td>FINANCIAL SITUATION</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financially insecure</td>
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<tr>
<td>Financially secure</td>
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<tr>
<td>URBANIZATION</td>
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<tr>
<td>Urban</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rural</td>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Chart 10d. Crime Reporting by Sociodemographic Characteristic
Percentage of respondents who reported a crime in the last 12 months, out of those who experienced at least one crime

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>32%</th>
<th>34%</th>
<th>30%</th>
<th>31%</th>
<th>30%</th>
<th>33%</th>
<th>39%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GENDER</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
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<td>AGE</td>
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<tr>
<td>18-29</td>
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<tr>
<td>30-44</td>
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<tr>
<td>45-64</td>
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<tr>
<td>65+</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FINANCIAL SITUATION</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financially insecure</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financially secure</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URBANIZATION</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: WJP General Population Poll 2021
Victim Support
Views on support for crime victims in El Salvador.

Chart 11. Perceptions of the Treatment of Crime Victims
Percentage of respondents who are confident that crime victims...

- 36% Receive effective and timely medical and psychological care
- 35% Receive information and legal advice when going to the authorities
- 33% Receive protection during criminal proceedings to prevent repeat victimization
- 31% Receive adequate care and protection as victims of sexual crimes
- 30% Receive protection from the police if their safety is in danger
- 29% Receive prompt and courteous attention when they report a crime
- 28% Are believed when they report a crime
- 53% Are guaranteed their rights in criminal justice proceedings
- 55% Are addressed by the police using accessible language
- 45% Receive a clear explanation of the process when reporting a crime to the police

Note: For additional information on how Chart 11 was produced, please see the Appendix.
Source: WJP General Population Poll 2021
Section 3

Gender, Security, and Migration

27 Gender Roles and Domestic Violence
28 Security
30 Internal Migration
31 International Migration
33 Migration to the United States
Gender Roles and Domestic Violence

*Perceptions of roles within the family and hypothetical reactions to situations of domestic violence.*

**Chart 12a. Attitudes Towards Gender Roles in El Salvador by Gender**

*Percentage of respondents who agree with the following statements*

- Women who work outside of the home neglect their children
- Women should be responsible for the care of children, sick people, and the elderly
- Women should be as responsible as men for bringing money home
- A man should be responsible for all his family’s expenses

**Chart 12b. Hypothetical Reactions to Domestic Violence by Gender**

*Percentage of respondents who, if their partner were to physically assault them, would...*

- Try to talk to their partner
- Seek advice from someone else
- Not do anything
- Kick their partner out of the house
- Hit their partner back
- Get divorced or separated
- File a complaint
- Call the police

Source: WJP General Population Poll 2021
Security

Perceptions of safety and crime at the local level in El Salvador.

Chart 13a. Perceptions of Safety by Sociodemographic Characteristic
Percentage of respondents who reported that they feel safe or very safe walking in their neighborhood at night or riding the bus

- National average
- GENDER
  - Men
  - Women
- AGE
  - 18-29
  - 30-44
  - 45-64
  - 65 & over
- FINANCIAL SITUATION
  - Financially insecure
  - Financially secure
- REGION
  - East
  - Central
  - Greater Central
  - West

- Walking in their neighborhood at night
- Riding the bus

Source: WJP General Population Poll 2021
Security, continued
Perceptions of safety and crime at the local level in El Salvador.

Chart 13b. Perceptions of Safety Over Time
Percentage of respondents who reported that they feel safe or very safe walking in their neighborhood at night

Chart 13c. Impact of Sociodemographic Characteristics on Perceptions of Safety
Likelihood that respondents feel safe or very safe walking in their neighborhood at night

Chart 13d. Perceptions of Crime at the Neighborhood Level
Percentage of respondents who think that crime is frequent in their neighborhood, by type of crime

Source: WJP General Population Poll 2013, 2016, 2018, and 2021
Internal Migration

Experiences with migration within El Salvador.

Chart 14a. Internal Migration by City
Percentage of respondents who have moved internally within El Salvador, and their reasons for moving

San Salvador
31% of respondents migrated from another city
3% of respondents migrated in the last 3 years

Reasons for migration
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Better economic or educational opportunities</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family reasons</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less violence, corruption, or harassment</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Santa Ana
50% of respondents migrated from another city
7% of respondents migrated in the last 3 years

Reasons for migration
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Better economic or educational opportunities</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family reasons</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less violence, corruption, or harassment</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

San Miguel
45% of respondents migrated from another city
0% of respondents migrated in the last 3 years

Reasons for migration
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Better economic or educational opportunities</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family reasons</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less violence, corruption, or harassment</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Chart 14b. Impact of Sociodemographic Characteristics on Internal Migration
Likelihood that respondents...

Note: For more information on how Chart 14a was produced, please see the Appendix.

Note: These figures show the results of two logit regressions. On the left, each point indicates the average marginal effect of the corresponding sociodemographic characteristic on the predicted probability that a respondent answers “no” to the question “Do you live in the same city in which you were born?” On the right, each point indicates the average marginal effect of the corresponding sociodemographic characteristic on the predicted probability that a respondent answers “less than a year” or “1-3 years” to the question “How long have you lived in this city?” The lines indicate the 95% confidence intervals of each average marginal effect. For additional information on how Chart 14b was produced, please see the Appendix.

Source: WJP General Population Poll 2021
International Migration

Intentions to migrate internationally.

Chart 15a. Desire to Migrate Internationally
Percentage of respondents who would like to move internationally, by country

- **Belize**: 20% would prefer to move to another country; 10% have plans to move.
- **El Salvador**: 39% would prefer to move to another country; 15% have plans to move.
- **Guatemala**: 29% would prefer to move to another country; 12% have plans to move.
- **Honduras**: 49% would prefer to move to another country; 15% have plans to move.
- **Panama**: 20% would prefer to move to another country; 12% have plans to move.

**Reasons for migration**
- **El Salvador**: Better economic or educational opportunities (82%), Family reasons (4%), Less violence, corruption, or harassment (31%)
- **Guatemala**: Better economic or educational opportunities (82%), Family reasons (4%), Less violence, corruption, or harassment (31%)
- **Honduras**: Better economic or educational opportunities (83%), Family reasons (12%), Less violence, corruption, or harassment (37%)

Chart 15b. International Migration by City
Percentage of respondents who would like, or have plans, to migrate internationally, by city

**San Salvador**
- 35% of respondents would prefer to move to another country
- 8% of respondents have plans to move

**Reasons for migration**
- Better economic or educational opportunities (83%)
- Family reasons (12%)
- Less violence, corruption, or harassment (37%)

**San Miguel**
- 47% of respondents would prefer to move to another country
- 13% of respondents have plans to move

**Reasons for migration**
- Better economic or educational opportunities (89%)
- Family reasons (11%)
- Less violence, corruption, or harassment (57%)

**Santa Ana**
- 46% of respondents would prefer to move to another country
- 7% of respondents have plans to move

**Reasons for migration**
- Better economic or educational opportunities (82%)
- Family reasons (4%)
- Less violence, corruption, or harassment (31%)

Note: For more information on how Chart 15b was produced, please see the Appendix.
Source: WJP General Population Poll 2021
International Migration, continued

Intentions to migrate internationally.

Chart 15c. Intentions to Migrate Internationally
Percentage of respondents who have plans to move internationally, by country

Chart 15d. Impact of Sociodemographic Characteristics on Intentions to Migrate Internationally
Likelihood that respondents have plans to move permanently to another country

Note: Each point indicates the average marginal effect of the corresponding sociodemographic characteristic on the predicted probability in a logit regression that a respondent answers “yes” to the question “Are you planning to move permanently to another country in the next 12 months?” The lines indicate the 95% confidence intervals of each average marginal effect. For additional information on how Chart 15d was produced, please see the Appendix.

Source: WJP General Population Poll 2021
Migration to the United States

Experiences and challenges migrating to the United States.

Chart 16. Pathway to the United States
Experiences of Salvadorans who reported attempting to migrate to the United States

- **16%** of Salvadorans have previously tried to immigrate to the United States
- **39%** of Salvadorans who tried to immigrate to the United States entered the United States
- **61%** of Salvadorans who tried to immigrate to the United States did not enter the United States

**Top reasons why Salvadorans who attempted to immigrate to the United States did not enter the United States**

- Sent back by law enforcement: 29%
- Changed their mind: 21%
- Visa or permit issues: 17%

**Top reasons why Salvadorans who entered the United States decided to leave the United States**

- Family or social reasons: 25%
- Deported by ICE: 22%
- Inability to adapt: 12%

Note: In Chart 16, “Family or social reasons” reflects related responses under the “To visit family or friends, go on vacation, or attend a social or religious event” and “Other (specify)” categories in the question “What was the main reason you left the US?”

Source: WJP General Population Poll 2021
Project Design
Methodology

To present an image that accurately portrays the rule of law as experienced by ordinary people, data in this report is drawn from the General Population Poll (GPP), an original data source designed and collected by the World Justice Project (WJP). The GPP captures the experiences and perceptions of ordinary citizens concerning the performance of the state and its agents and the actual operation of the legal framework in their country.

The General Population Poll used to collect data in Central America in 2021 features three new modules that highlight perceptions on issues salient to the region: Insecurity, Gender Roles, and Migration. In addition, new questions measuring the acceptance of vigilante justice, police performance, and prevalence of community policing were added to existing modules. In total, the General Population Poll questionnaire includes 124 perception-based questions and 85 experience-based questions, along with sociodemographic information on all respondents. Additionally, the GPP in Central America was administered to a sample ranging from 2,000 to 3,000 in Belize, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Panama. Historically, the GPP was administered to a sample of 1,000 respondents in these countries.

Data Collection

The GPP in El Salvador was conducted for the WJP’s *The Rule of Law in El Salvador: Key Findings from the General Population Poll 2021* with sampling, fieldwork, and data processing by CID Gallup, based in San José, Costa Rica. CID Gallup administered the surveys in November 2021, conducting face-to-face interviews using a multi-stage random sampling design. The target population group for this survey included Salvadorans aged 18 years or older residing across all 14 departments of the country.

**SAMPLING SIZE AND SAMPLING FRAME**

The General Population Poll in El Salvador represents an achieved total sample size of 2,526 interviews distributed proportionally across all four regions. CID Gallup based the sampling frame on the 2018 updated population figures from the General Directorate of Statistics and Censuses (DIGESTYC), acquiring a proportionally stratified sample by department, age, gender, socioeconomic status, and level of urbanization.

In order to address all relevant topics while controlling the questionnaire length, the World Justice Project split three of the survey modules into two versions (Option A and Option B) and randomly assigned one option to each respondent for each module. These modules included: Hypothetical Situations, Civic Participation, and Institutional Performance. Aside from these modules, the questionnaires are identical. The complete survey instrument, in English and Spanish, can be found in the Appendix of this report.

Challenges to data collection in El Salvador included the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, security concerns, and the survey’s length.
Description of the Sample

**COVERAGE:** Interviews were distributed across regions to create a nationally representative sample. The majority of interviews were conducted in the Central and Paracentral regions (57%), followed by the Western region (23%) and Eastern region (20%).

**GEOGRAPHY:** Thirty-three percent (33%) of respondents reside in rural areas and municipalities and 67% of respondents reside in metro areas or cities.

**ETHNICITY:** Most respondents identified themselves as Mestizo (72%), followed by Indigenous (12%) and White (7%).

**GENDER:** Fifty-five percent (55%) of respondents were female and 45% were male.

**EDUCATION:** Most respondents (51%) reported that they had received at least a high school diploma or vocational degree, and the remaining 49% of respondents received a middle school diploma or less.

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Response Rates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Eligible household, non-interview</th>
<th>1,821</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Refusals</td>
<td>1,402</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Break-off</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-contact</td>
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<td>Other reason</td>
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<table>
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<th>Ineligible household</th>
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<td>No eligible respondent in the household</td>
<td>78</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quota filled</td>
<td>147</td>
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Interviewing and Quality Control

In total, 52 interviewers worked on this project, including 32 female interviewers. Enumerators worked in 13 groups of four interviewers with one supervisor per group. Interviews were conducted in Spanish.

The supervisory team directly oversaw 37% of interviews in the field. During data processing, 33% of the interviews were selected for audio validation. After quality control, 48 interviews were rejected from the final sample. Additional quality control measures included GPS validation of all sampling segment interviews, checks for abnormal interview length, and review of audio quality. Interviews averaged 50 minutes in length and ranged from 42 to 102 minutes.

Data Review and Justification

Prior to data collection in Central America, the World Justice Project team conducted background research on the following thematic topics in order to adapt the General Population Poll to the Central American context: interactions with the police, perceptions of the police, police abuse, discrimination, violence against women and intimate partner violence, and migration. In addition, the team conducted research on rule of law trends and issues within each country studied and monitored current events before, during, and immediately after the data collection process.

As part of the data analysis process, the team consulted both this background research and several third-party sources in order to contextualize and validate perceptions-based data captured by the General Population Poll and compare it with the objective rule of law situation in-country. Peer data sources consulted include select indicators measured by the Latin American Public Opinion Project (LAPOP)’s AmericasBarometer, Latinobarómetro, Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem), Transparency International’s Corruption Perceptions Index, the Bertelsmann Stiftung’s Transformation Index (BTI), and Freedom House’s Freedom in the World. While certain trends captured by the 2021 General Population Poll in El Salvador are comparable to trends in perceptions data measured by other indices, the experiences and perceptions presented in this report do not necessarily coincide with the reality of El Salvador’s rule of law performance.
Historical Data

Historical data in this report derives from the WJP Rule of Law Index®’s General Population Poll that is administered every two to three years using a nationally representative probability sample of 1,000 respondents. These household surveys were administered in the three largest cities of most countries until 2018, when the World Justice Project transitioned to nationally representative coverage as the preferred methodology for polling. The historical polling data used in this year’s reports was collected in the following intervals: Data for Belize and Honduras was collected during the fall of 2019, 2017, and 2014. Data for Panama was collected during the fall of 2019, 2017, 2014, and 2012. Data for El Salvador and Guatemala was collected during the fall of 2018, 2016, and 2013.

Additional Countries

This report includes comparisons to the following Central American countries surveyed by the World Justice Project during the same period: Belize, Guatemala, Honduras, and Panama. Together, these five countries are a portion of the 139 countries and jurisdictions included in the WJP Rule of Law Index 2021 report.* Detailed information regarding the methodology of the Rule of Law Index is available at: www.worldjusticeproject.org.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Coverage</th>
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<th>Methodology</th>
<th>Sample</th>
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<td>CID Gallup</td>
<td>Face-to-face</td>
<td>2,004</td>
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<td>Face-to-face</td>
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<td>Panama</td>
<td>Nationally representative</td>
<td>CID Gallup</td>
<td>Face-to-face</td>
<td>2,502</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Due to the staggered timelines of data collection for the World Justice Project Rule of Law Index 2021 (polling started in the fall of 2020 and concluded in the summer of 2021) and data collection for the General Population Poll in Central America (polling took place in the fall of 2021), the data collected in Central America is not included in the WJP Rule of Law Index 2021.
Appendix
Appendix

Methodological Materials

GENERAL POPULATION POLL (GPP)
The General Population Poll in Central America was designed to capture high-quality data on the realities and concerns of ordinary people on a variety of themes related to the rule of law, including government accountability, bribery, corruption, police performance, crime and insecurity, and migration.


World Justice Project General Population Poll 2021 – Central American Survey Instrument (Spanish Versions A & B)

VARIABLES USED IN INFOGRAPHIC ON THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM
This table lists the question-level variables from the General Population Poll used to construct Chart 6.

World Justice Project Criminal Justice System Variable Map

VARIABLES USED IN INFOGRAPHICS ON THE POLICE
This table lists the question-level variables from the General Population Poll used to construct Chart 8a and Chart 8b.

World Justice Project Police Performance Variable Map

VARIABLES USED IN INFOGRAPHIC ON CRIME VICTIMIZATION RATES AND REPORTING
This table lists the question-level variables from the General Population Poll used to construct the “Reasons the crime was not reported” table in Chart 10b.

World Justice Project Crime Rates and Reporting Variable Map

VARIABLES USED IN INFOGRAPHIC ON PERCEPTIONS OF CRIME VICTIM SUPPORT
This table lists the question-level variables from the General Population Poll used to construct Chart 11.

World Justice Project Victim Support Variable Map

VARIABLES USED IN INFOGRAPHICS ON MIGRATION BY CITY
This table lists the question-level variables from the General Population Poll used to construct the "Reasons for Migration" tables in Chart 14a and Chart 15b.

World Justice Project Migration Variable Map

REGRESSION TABLES FOR REGRESSION ANALYSIS USED IN SECTION II AND SECTION III
This document includes the question-level variables from the General Population Poll used in the regression analysis and the regression results featured in the following infographics: Chart 9e in Section II and Chart 13c, Chart 14b, and Chart 15d in Section III.

World Justice Project Regression Tables
About the World Justice Project

THE WORLD JUSTICE PROJECT (WJP) is an independent, multidisciplinary organization working to create knowledge, build awareness, and stimulate action to advance the rule of law worldwide. Effective rule of law is the foundation for communities of justice, opportunity, and peace—underpinning development, accountable government, and respect for fundamental rights.

The WJP builds and supports a global, multidisciplinary movement for the rule of law through three lines of work: collecting, organizing, and analyzing original, independent rule of law data, including the World Justice Project Rule of Law Index®; supporting research, scholarship, and teaching about the importance of the rule of law, its relationship to development, and effective strategies to strengthen it; and connecting and building an engaged global network of policymakers and advocates to advance the rule of law through strategic partnerships, convenings, coordinated advocacy, and support for locally led initiatives.

Learn more at: worldjusticeproject.org.
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