

World Justice Project Police Performance Variable Map 2022

Variables used in infographics on the police

This table lists the individual variables from the General Population Poll used to construct Chart 15 and Chart 16. The table consists of four columns:

1. **Column one** lists the variable's identification number within the 2022 General Population Poll used in Central America
2. **Column two** lists the indicator being measured as it is described in the infographic
3. **Column three** lists the answer options from each variable shown in each chart
4. **Column four** includes the survey text for the variable

World Justice Project Police Performance Variable Map 2022			
Variable Number	Label	Answer Options Shown	Full Question Text
Chart 15. Perceptions of the Police			
Effectiveness			
Crime Control and Safety			
q18e_G2	Percentage of respondents who believe that the police respond to crime reports	Always; Often	Please tell me how often you would say that: In [COUNTRY], when a victim reports a crime to the police, the police do everything possible to assist the victim and hold the perpetrator accountable.
q15a_G2	Percentage of respondents who believe that the police resolve security problems in the community	Very well; Fairly well	Keeping in mind your own experience or what you have heard, how well or how badly do you think the police in [CITY] fulfill the following functions? Resolving security problems in your community
q15b_G1	Percentage of respondents who believe that the police perform effective and lawful investigations	Always; Often	Please tell me how often you would say that: Police investigators in [COUNTRY] perform serious and law-abiding investigations to find the perpetrators of a crime.
q17a_G1	Percentage of respondents who believe that the police assist crime victims	Always; Often	Please tell me how often you would say that: In [COUNTRY], crime victims receive prompt and courteous attention when they report a crime.
Serve the Public			
q15c_G2	Percentage of respondents who believe that the police are available to help when needed	Very well; Fairly well	Keeping in mind your own experience or what you have heard, how well or how badly do you think the police in [CITY] fulfill the following functions? Being available to help when you need it
q16e_G2	Percentage of respondents who believe that the police serve the interests of the community	Strongly agree; Agree	Based on your experience or on what you have heard, would you say that: The police in [COUNTRY] serve the interests of your community.
q16d_G2	Percentage of respondents who believe that the police serve the interests of regular citizens	Strongly agree; Agree	Based on your experience or on what you have heard, would you say that: The police in [COUNTRY] serve the interests of people like you.

Legitimacy			
Due process			
q15a_G1	Percentage of respondents who believe that the police act lawfully	Always; Often	Please tell me how often you would say that: The police in [COUNTRY] act according to the law
q15e_G1	Percentage of respondents who believe that the police do not use excessive force	Rarely; Never	Please tell me how often you would say that: In [COUNTRY], members of the police employ excessive use of force.
q15c_G1	Percentage of respondents who believe that the police respect the rights of suspects	Always; Often	Please tell me how often you would say that: In [COUNTRY], the basic rights of suspects are respected by the police.
q15d_G2	Percentage of respondents who believe that the police treat all people with respect	Very well; Fairly well	Keeping in mind your own experience or what you have heard, how well or how badly do you think the police in [CITY] fulfill the following functions? Treating all people with kindness and respect
Corruption			
q2d	Percentage of respondents who believe that the police are not involved in corrupt practices	Some of them; None	How many of the following people in [COUNTRY] do you think are involved in corrupt practices? Police officers
q16a_G2	Percentage of respondents who believe that the police investigate crimes in an independent manner	Strongly agree; Agree	Based on your experience or on what you have heard, would you say that: Police investigators in [COUNTRY] investigate crimes in an independent manner and are not subject to any sort of pressure.
q16g_G2	Percentage of respondents who believe that the police do not serve the interests of gangs	Disagree; Strongly disagree	Based on your experience or on what you have heard, would you say that: The police in [COUNTRY] serve the interests of gangs and organized criminal groups.
q16f_G2	Percentage of respondents who believe that the police do not serve the interests of politicians	Disagree; Strongly disagree	Based on your experience or on what you have heard, would you say that: The police in [COUNTRY] serve the interests of politicians.
Discrimination			
q17b*	Percentage of respondents who believe that the police do not discriminate against suspects based on gender	No	Imagine that the local police detain two persons equally suspected of committing a crime. In your opinion, would the following characteristics place one of them at a disadvantage? A female
q17g*	Percentage of respondents who believe that the police do not discriminate against suspects based on skin color	No	Imagine that the local police detain two persons equally suspected of committing a crime. In your opinion, would the following characteristics place one of them at a disadvantage? A person with dark skin
q17h*	Percentage of respondents who believe that the police do not discriminate against	No	Imagine that the local police detain two persons equally suspected of committing a crime. In your opinion, would the following characteristics place

	suspects based on Indigenous identity		one of them at a disadvantage? An Indigenous person
q17i*	Percentage of respondents who believe that the police do not discriminate against suspects based on tattoos	No	Imagine that the local police detain two persons equally suspected of committing a crime. In your opinion, would the following characteristics place one of them at a disadvantage? A person with tattoos
q17j*	Percentage of respondents who believe that the police do not discriminate against suspects based on age	No	Imagine that the local police detain two persons equally suspected of committing a crime. In your opinion, would the following characteristics place one of them at a disadvantage? A young person

Accountability

q15d_G1	Percentage of respondents who believe that the police are held accountable for violating laws	Always; Often	Please tell me how often you would say that: In [COUNTRY], if members of the police violate the law, they are punished for these violations
q15f_G1	Percentage of respondents who believe that the police are held accountable for seeking bribes	Always; Often	Please tell me how often you would say that: In [COUNTRY], if members of the police request bribes, they will be held accountable
q15g_G1	Percentage of respondents who believe that the police are held accountable for accepting bribes	Always; Often	Please tell me how often you would say that: In [COUNTRY], if members of the police accept bribes from gangs or criminal organizations, they will be held accountable
q15h_G1	Percentage of respondents who believe that the police are investigated for misconduct	Always; Often	Please tell me how often you would say that: In [COUNTRY], if someone makes a complaint against a member of the police, the accusation will be investigated

Trust and Crime Reporting

q1e	Percentage of respondents who trust the police	A lot; Some	Please tell me, how much TRUST do you have in each of the following categories? The police
q11d	Percentage of respondents who report a crime when they are a victim [†]	Yes	Thinking about the most recent incident, did you report the crime to the police or any other authority?
q12a	Percentage of respondents who feel safe in their neighborhoods	Very safe; Safe	How safe do you feel walking in your neighborhood at night?
q12b	Percentage of respondents who feel safe riding the bus	Very safe; safe	How safe do you feel riding the bus, microbus, or other method of public transportation?

Chart 16. Interactions with the Police

Voluntary Contacts

Causes

q10a*	Reasons reported by respondents who contacted the police: Report a crime	Yes	Did you report a crime, a shooting, or any sort of suspicious activity?
q10b*	Reasons reported by respondents who contacted the police: Report a case of domestic violence	Yes	Did you report a case of domestic violence, and altercation or fight, or another disturbance in your neighborhood?

[†]Note: This percentage includes respondents who reported a crime to the police or other authority – including a public prosecutor, lawyer, human right agency, military officer, or court.

q10c*	Reasons reported by respondents who contacted the police: Report an accident or medical emergency	Yes	Did you report an accident or medical emergency?
q10d* and q10e*	Reasons reported by respondents who contacted the police: Request help or information	Yes	q10d: Did you request information? q10e: Did you request any other type of help?

Experience During the Last Interaction

Serve the Public

q10p*	Percentage of respondents who said that the police controlled the situation	Yes	Did the police control the situation?
q10k*	Percentage of respondents who said that the police arrived promptly	In less than 10 minutes; Within 10 to 30 minutes	How fast did they get there? Did they arrive...

Due Process

q10q*	Percentage of respondents who said that the police listened to them	Yes	Did the police listen to what you had to say?
q10r*	Percentage of respondents who said that the police treated them with respect	Yes	Did the police treat you with kindness and respect?

Involuntary Contacts

Causes

q12a* and q13*	Routine check/Provide assistance	q12a: As part of a routine check q12a: Due to a problem with the vehicle that I was driving q12a: Traffic accident q13: To do a routine check q13: To offer me some help (for being victim of a crime, having an emergency, or for having been involved in an accident)	q12a: From now on, we are only going to talk about the LAST TIME that the police stopped you while you were in a vehicle. During this occasion, what was the main reason that the police stopped you? q13: From now on, we are going to talk only about the LAST TIME that the police approached or stopped you in a public place, or looked for you at your home or work. During this occasion, what was the main reason that the police approached you?
q12a* and q13*	Ask for cooperation	q12a: To ask for my cooperation q13: To ask for my cooperation q13: Because they were looking for some information about a person q13: Because they were investigating a crime	q12a: From now on, we are only going to talk about the LAST TIME that the police stopped you while you were in a vehicle. During this occasion, what was the main reason that the police stopped you? q13: From now on, we are going to talk only about the LAST TIME that the police approached or stopped you in a public place, or looked for you at your home or work. During this occasion, what was the main reason that the police approached you?

q12a* and q13*	Pressure for money or harassment	<p>q12a: To pressure me into giving them money or to bother or harass me</p> <p>q13: To pressure me into giving them money or to bother or harass me</p>	<p>q12a: From now on, we are only going to talk about the LAST TIME that the police stopped you while you were in a vehicle. During this occasion, what was the main reason that the police stopped you?</p> <p>q13: From now on, we are going to talk only about the LAST TIME that the police approached or stopped you in a public place, or looked for you at your home or work</p> <p>q13: During this occasion, what was the main reason that the police approached you?</p>
q12a* and q13*	Suspected illegal activity	<p>q12a: A traffic violation (speeding, talking on my phone, not wearing a seatbelt)</p> <p>q12a: To check if the driver was drunk</p> <p>q12a: Because the vehicle was stolen or resembled on that the police were looking for</p> <p>q13: They thought I/someone I was with was carrying something or doing something illegal</p> <p>q13: Because I looked like/they thought someone I was with looked like someone they were looking for</p> <p>q13: To call out something I was or we were doing wrong</p>	<p>q12a: From now on, we are only going to talk about the LAST TIME that the police stopped you while you were in a vehicle. During this occasion, what was the main reason that the police stopped you?</p> <p>q13: From now on, we are going to talk only about the LAST TIME that the police approached or stopped you in a public place, or looked for you at your home or work. During this occasion, what was the main reason that the police approached you?</p>
q12a* and q13*	Other	<p>q12a: Other</p> <p>q13: Other</p>	<p>q12a: From now on, we are only going to talk about the LAST TIME that the police stopped you while you were in a vehicle. During this occasion, what was the main reason that the police stopped you?</p> <p>q13: From now on, we are going to talk only about the LAST TIME that the police approached or stopped you in a public place, or looked for you at your home or work. During this occasion, what was the main reason that the police approached you?</p>

Experience During the Last Interaction
Serve the Public

q14*	Percentage of respondents who said that the police controlled the situation	Yes	Did the police control the situation?
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Due Process

q15a*	Percentage of respondents who said that the police had a legitimate reason to stop them	Yes	In your opinion, did the police have a legitimate reason to approach or stop you on this occasion?
q15c*	Percentage of respondents who said that the police explained the reasons for their actions	Yes	Did the police clearly explain the reasons for their actions?
q15f*	Percentage of respondents who said that the police did not threaten them	No	At any time did a police officer threaten you or any of your companions?
q15g*	Percentage of respondents who said that the police did not use physical force against them	No	At any time did a police officer use physical force against you or any of your companions?
q15m*	Percentage of respondents who said that the police listened to them	Yes	Did the police listen to what you had to say?
q15n*	Percentage of respondents who said that the police treated them with respect	Yes	Did the police treat you with kindness and respect?

*These variables were drawn from the 2021 General Population Poll used in Central America