

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

Target 16.1: Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere

Indicator 16.1.4: Proportion of population that feel safe walking alone around the area they live

Institutional information

Organization(s):

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

Concepts and definitions

Definition:

This indicator refers to the proportion of the population (adults) who feel safe walking alone in their neighbourhood.

Rationale:

The concept of ‘fear of crime’ has been used in dozens of crime victimization surveys and the standard formulation used here has been seen as effective in different cultural contexts. It is important to understand that ‘fear of crime’ is a phenomenon that is separate from the prevalence of crime and that may be even largely independent from actual experience, as the perception of crime and the resulting fear of it is mediated by a number of factors, such as the awareness of crime, the public discussion and the media and personal circumstances. Nevertheless, the ‘fear of crime’ is an important indicator in itself as a high level of fear can negatively influence well-being and lead to reduced contacts with the public, reduced trust and activities and thus an obstacle to development.

Concepts:

The question measures the feeling of fear of crime in a context outside the house and refers to the immediate experience of this fear by the respondent by limiting the area in question to the “neighbourhood” or “your area” (various formulations depending on cultural, physical and language context).

Comments and limitations:

While the measurement of fear of crime is widely applied in crime victimization surveys around the world, different practices exist in the operationalization of this indicator – for example, by not requiring the person to “walk alone” or limiting the walking to “at night”. Further guidance on measuring the indicator are currently elaborated by UNODC in collaboration with victimization survey experts.

In 2010 UNODC-UNECE published a Manual on Victimization Surveys that provides technical guidance on the implementation of such surveys, on the basis of good practices developed at country level. UNODC-UNECE Manual on Victimization Surveys (2010), available at: https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/Crime-statistics/Manual_on_Victimization_surveys_2009_web.pdf

Victimization surveys (as dedicated surveys or as modules of household surveys) are usually restricted to the general population living in households above a certain age (typically 15 or 18 years of age), while sometimes an upper age limit is also applied (typically 65, 70 or 75 years of age).

Methodology

Computation Method:

The question used in victimization surveys is: How safe do you feel walking alone in your area/neighbourhood? Answer: Very safe/fairly safe/bit unsafe/very unsafe/ I never walk alone after dark/don't know. The proportion of population that feel safe is calculated by summing up the number of respondents who feel "very safe" and "fairly safe" and dividing the total by the total number of respondents.

Disaggregation:

By age and sex

Treatment of missing values:

- [At country level](#)

Missing values are left blank

- [At regional and global levels](#)

Missing values are left blank. Global estimates are not made on the basis of national reporting rates.

Regional aggregates:

No global estimates have been made on the basis of national reporting rates.

Sources of discrepancies:

UNODC only compiles data from national sources, therefore no differences among the values should exist.

Data Sources

Description:

Data are collected through sample surveys among the general population, most often through crime victimization surveys.

UNODC collects data on crime and criminal justice through its annual data collection (UN-CTS). The data collection through the UN-CTS is facilitated by a network of over 130 national Focal Points appointed by responsible authorities. Data on 'fear of crime' are not yet collected in the UN-CTS, however, it is expected that data collection on this indicator can be included in the next major revision of the UN-CTS planned for 2017.

Collection process:

There is a consolidated system of annual data collection on crime and criminal justice (UN- Crime Trends Survey, UN-CTS) managed by UNODC. The UN-CTS data collection is largely based on the network of national Focal Points, which are institutions/officials appointed by countries and having the technical capacity and role to produce data on crime and criminal justice (around 130 appointed Focal Points as of 2016). As decided in a recent meeting of Focal Points, the UN-CTS will be reviewed to include indicator 16.1.4

Data Availability

Reference is made to (non-official) data from the International Crime Victimization Survey – ICVS

Countries have at least 1 data point between 2000 and 2010 for this indicator

Asia and Pacific: 6

Africa: 14

Latin America and the Caribbean: 6

Europe, North America, Australia, New Zealand and Japan: 37"

Calendar

Data collection:

III-IV quarter 2017

Data release:

II quarter 2018

Data providers

National Statistical Offices, Police, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Interior, Prosecutor's Office

Data compilers

UNODC

References

URL:

www.unodc.org

References:

UNODC collects data on the prevalence of crime and violence in its annual data collection on crime and criminal justice (UN- Crime Trends Survey, UN-CTS). In close consultation with national UN-CTS Focal Points, a major revision process for the UN-CTS has is planned for 2017 allowing for the inclusion of new indicators such as 16.1.4. on the perception of safety.