

Port Louis, Mauritius
29 June 2021

News release

Mauritians trust law enforcement agencies but are concerned about crime and insecurity, Afrobarometer survey shows

Fear of crime is on the rise in Mauritius, and security is the second-most-important problem that Mauritians want their government to address, Afrobarometer survey findings show.

While a majority of citizens say they trust the police, the Special Mobile Force, and judges and magistrates, popular trust in these institutions has declined since 2012.

Large majorities say at least some police officers and judges are corrupt, although only a small minority of citizens report having to pay bribes to police officers.

Key findings

- When Mauritians are asked to identify the most serious problems facing their country, crime/security ranks high – in second place (46%) (Figure 1).
- Almost three in 10 Mauritians (29%) say they felt unsafe walking in their neighbourhood during the past year, a 10-percentage-point increase compared to 2012 (Figure 2).
 - The proportion of citizens who feared crime in their homes during the previous year, increased by 6 percentage points from 2012 (12%) to 2020 (18%).
- Among the 14% of citizens who say they requested assistance from the police during the previous year, about one in 20 (4%) say they had to pay a bribe to obtain assistance (Figure 3).
 - Far more citizens (57%) report encountering the police at checkpoints or during traffic stops, identity checks, or investigations. Among these respondents, one in 10 (9%) say they had to pay a bribe.
- A majority (55%) of Mauritians say they trust the police “somewhat” or “a lot.” Somewhat larger majorities express trust in the Special Mobile Force (59%) and in courts of law (63%). However, levels of popular trust in these institutions have declined since 2012 (Figure 4).
- A quarter (26%) of Mauritians say “most” or “all” police officials are involved in corruption, about twice the rate perceived for judges and magistrates (12%). In addition, about six in 10 citizens see “some” of these officials as corrupt (Figure 5).

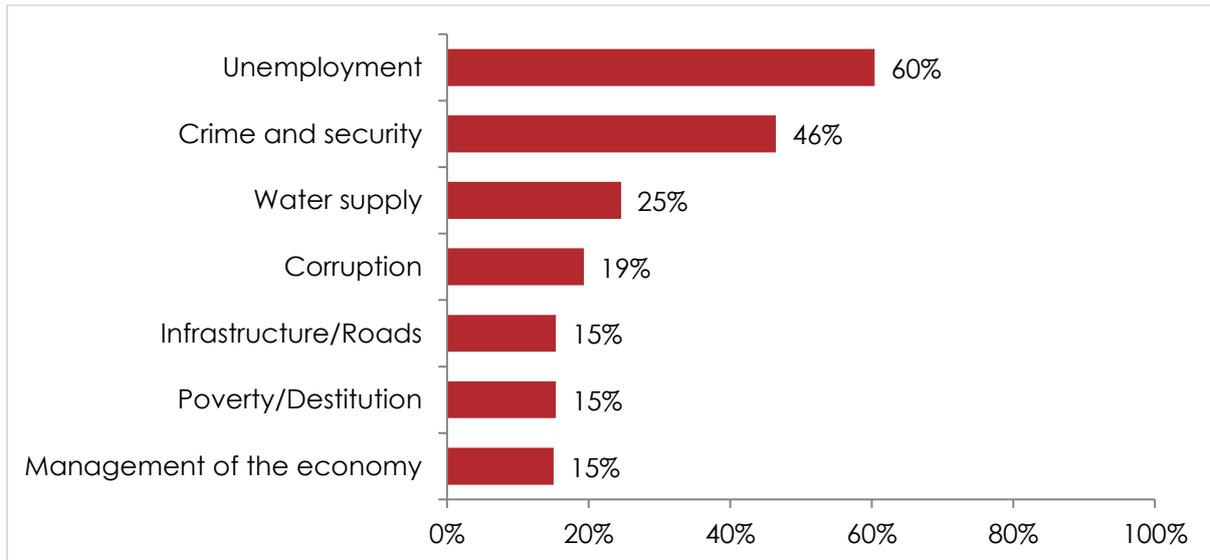
Afrobarometer survey

Afrobarometer is a pan-African, nonpartisan survey research network that provides reliable data on African experiences and evaluations of democracy, governance, and quality of life. Seven rounds of surveys were completed in up to 38 countries between 1999 and 2018. Round 8 surveys in 2019/2021 cover 34 countries. Afrobarometer conducts face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent's choice with nationally representative samples.

The Afrobarometer team in Mauritius, led by Straconsult Ltd., interviewed 1,200 adult Mauritians in November 2020. A sample of this size yields country-level results with a margin of error of +/-3 percentage points at a 95% confidence level. Previous surveys have been conducted in Mauritius in 2012, 2014, and 2017.

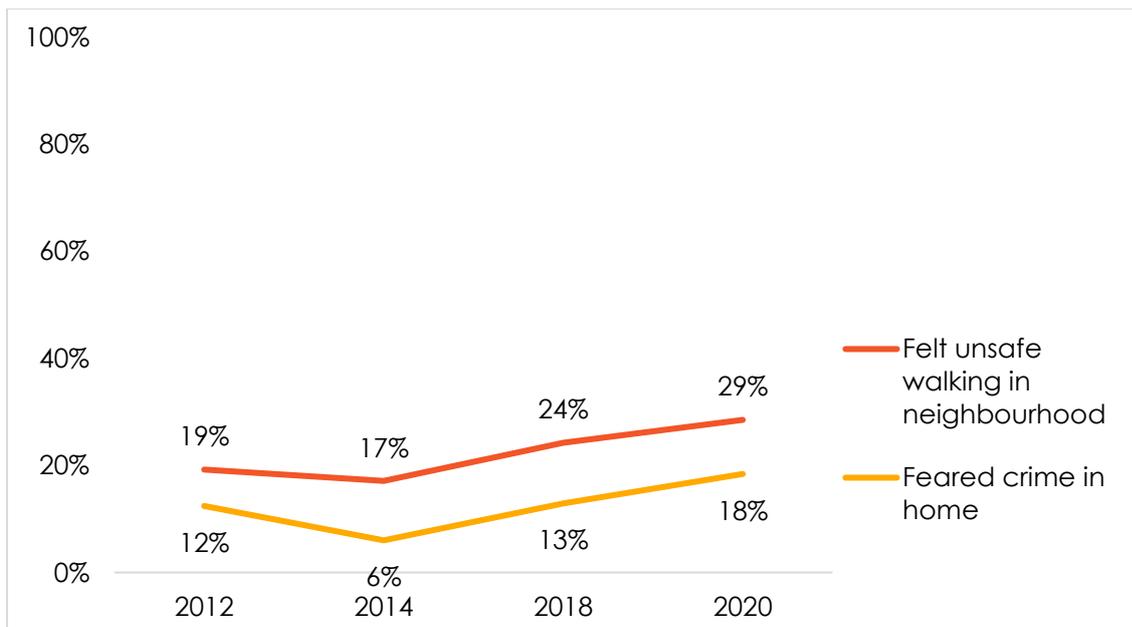
Charts

Figure 1: Most important problems that government should address | Mauritius | 2020



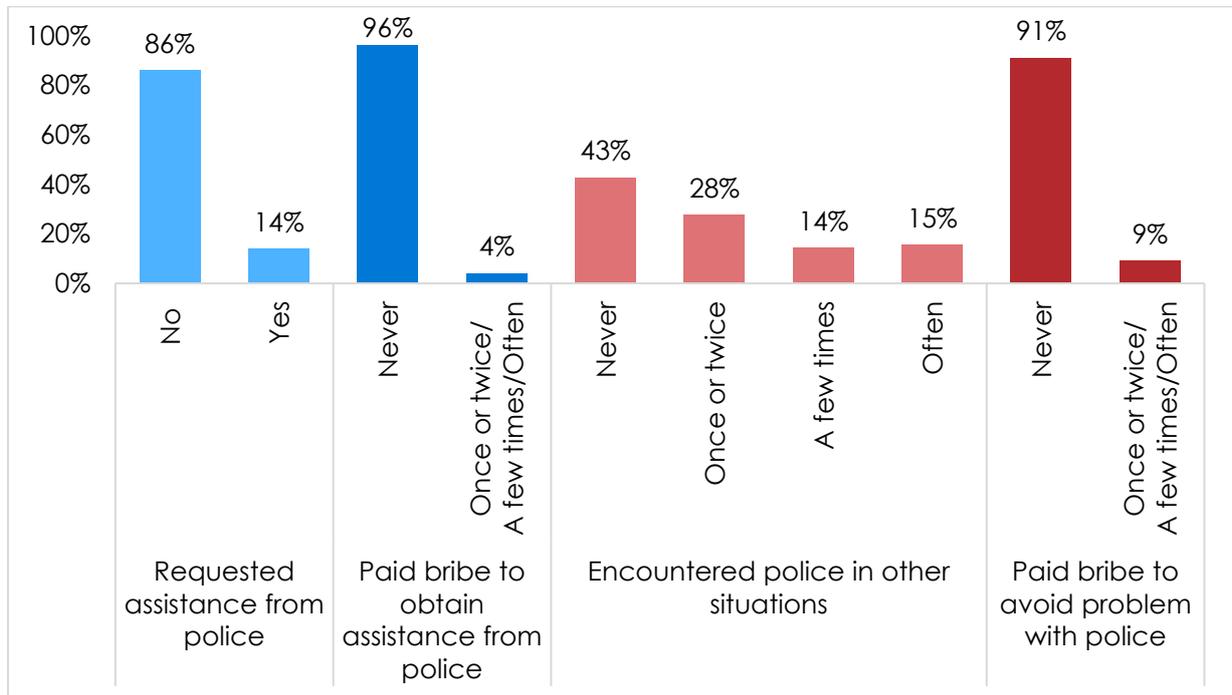
Respondents were asked: *In your opinion, what are the most important problems facing this country that government should address? (Note: Respondents could give up to three responses. Figure shows % of respondents who cite each problem among their three priorities.)*

Figure 2: Fear of violence and crime | Mauritius | 2012-2020



Respondents were asked: *Over the past year, how often, if ever, have you or anyone in your family: Felt unsafe walking in your neighbourhood? Feared crime in your own home? (% who say "Just once or twice," "several times," "many times," or "always")*

Figure 3: Experience with the police | Mauritius | 2020

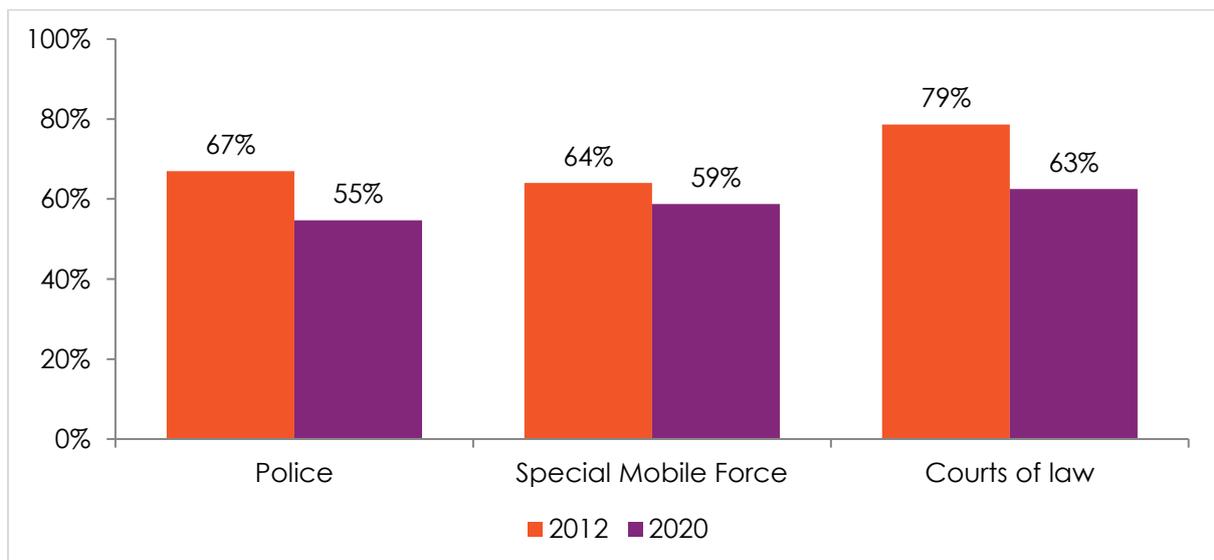


Respondents were asked:

In the past 12 months, have you requested assistance from the police? [If yes:] And how often, if ever, did you have to pay a bribe, give a gift, or do a favour for a police officer in order to get the assistance you needed? (% among those who requested assistance from the police)

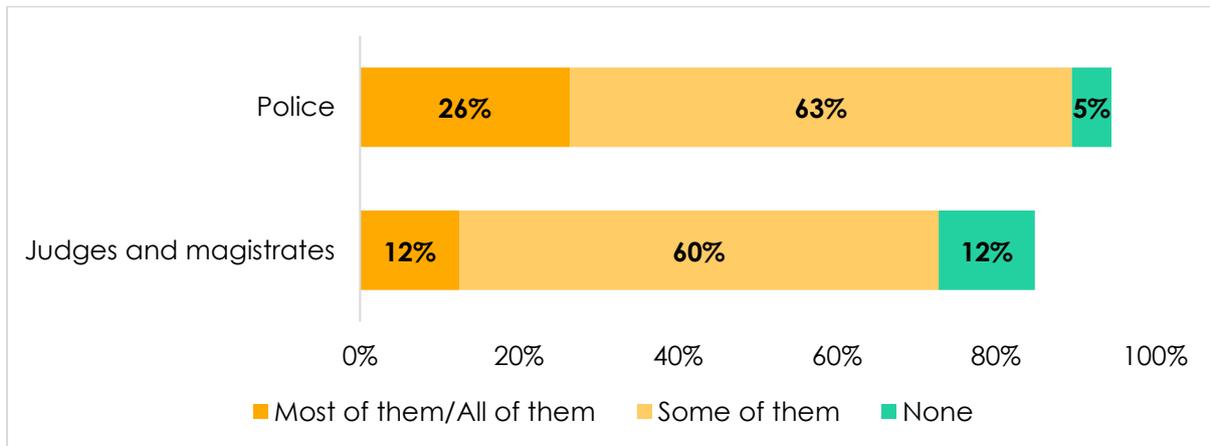
In the past 12 months, how often have you encountered the police in other situations, like at checkpoints, during identity checks or traffic stops, or during an investigation? [If at least once:] How often, if ever did you have to pay a bribe, give a gift, or do a favour for a police officer in order to avoid a problem during one of those encounters? (% among those who encountered the police)

Figure 4: Trust in security institutions | Mauritius | 2012-2020



Respondents were asked: *How much do you trust each of the following, or haven't you heard enough about them to say? (% who say "somewhat" or "a lot")*

Figure 5: Involvement in corruption | Mauritius | 2020



Respondents were asked: How many of the following people do you think are involved in corruption, or haven't you heard enough about them to say?

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