

Windhoek, Namibia
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News release

Majority of Namibians say the country is a safe place to live, but levels of fear are on the rise, Afrobarometer study shows

Three out of four Namibians consider their country a safe place to live, a recent Afrobarometer survey indicates.

The same proportion of citizens say safety and security have improved in Namibia over the past five years – even as increasing numbers report fear of crime.

More than half of Namibians say they experienced fear of crime in their homes and felt unsafe walking in their neighbourhoods during the past year.

Citizens facing a security threat are most likely to seek assistance first from the police, according to the survey. About one in four say they go to other family members first.

Theft and break-ins rank as the most serious threat to safety and security in the eyes of Namibians, followed by robberies and drugs and alcohol.

Key findings

- Three-fourths (74%) of respondents say Namibia is a "somewhat safe" (39%) or "very safe" (35%) country to live in (Figure 1).
 - Urban and rural residents differ little in the degree of safety they feel.
 - Women are somewhat more likely than men to view Namibia as unsafe, 27% vs. 21%.
- The same proportion (74%) say Namibia has become "much more safe" (38%) or "somewhat more safe" (36%) over the past five years (Figure 2).
- At the same time, more than half (52%) of Namibians say they experienced fear of crime in their own homes "just once or twice," "several times," "many times," or "always" during the past year, the highest number recorded over the past two decades (Figure 3).
- Nearly six out of 10 respondents (59%) say they felt unsafe walking in their neighbourhoods at least once during the past year, the highest number since 2012 (Figure 4).
- When faced with a security concern, almost half (46%) of citizens say they turn first to the police. About one-fourth (27%) seek assistance first from family members, while only one in 10 (11%) go to community leaders first (Figure 5).
 - Rural residents are more likely than their urban counterparts to reach out to a community leader for assistance (17% vs. 6%).
 - Older citizens also turn more frequently to community leaders (17%) than do younger persons (8%-13%) (Figure 6).

- Theft and break-ins rank as the biggest perceived threat to safety and security in communities, cited by 27% of Namibians, followed by robberies (14%), drugs/alcohol (14%), and livestock theft (11%) (Figure 7).

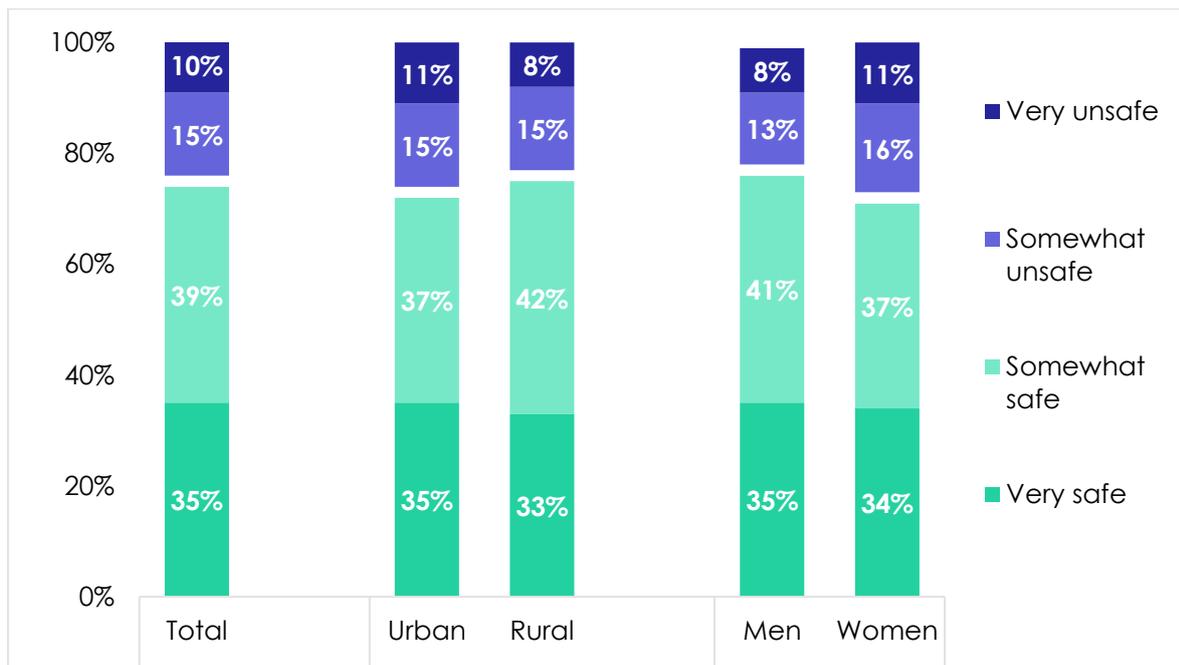
Afrobarometer surveys

Afrobarometer is a pan-African, non-partisan survey research network that provides reliable data on African experiences and evaluations of democracy, governance, and quality of life. Eight survey rounds in up to 39 countries have been completed since 1999. Round 9 surveys (2021/2022) are currently underway. Afrobarometer's national partners conduct face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent's choice.

The Afrobarometer team in Namibia, led by national partner Survey Warehouse, interviewed a nationally representative sample of 1,200 adult Namibians in October and November 2021. 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 were conducted in Namibia in 1999, 2003, 2006, 2008, 2012, 2014, 2017, and 2019.

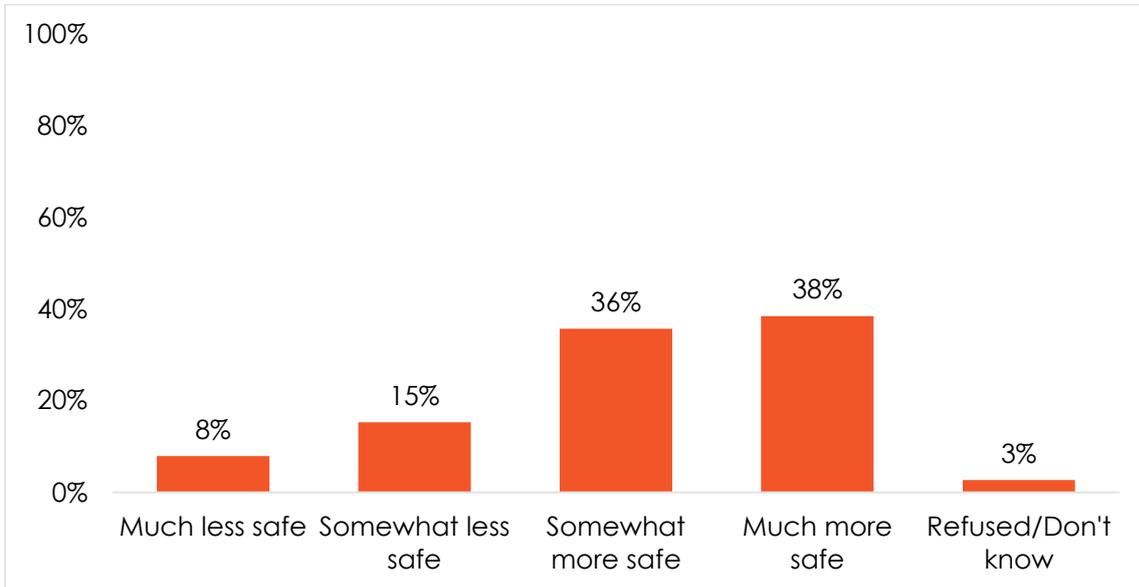
Charts

Figure 1: Is Namibia a safe country to live in? | Namibia | 2021



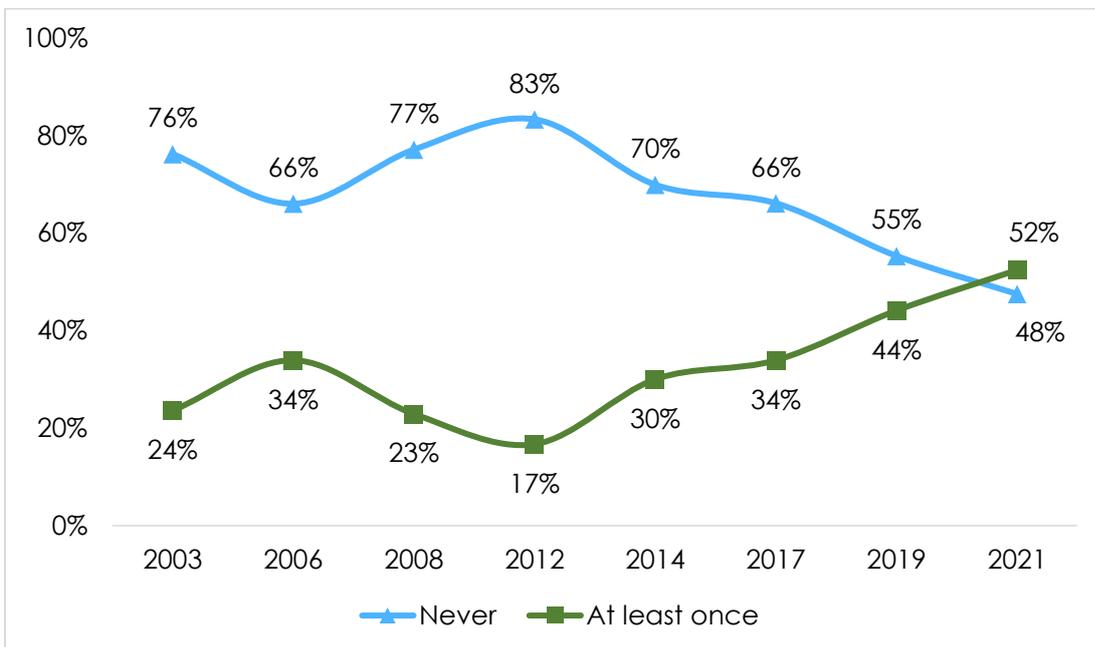
Respondents were asked: In general, would you say Namibia is a safe or unsafe country to live in?

Figure 2: Safer or less safe in past five years? | Namibia | 2021



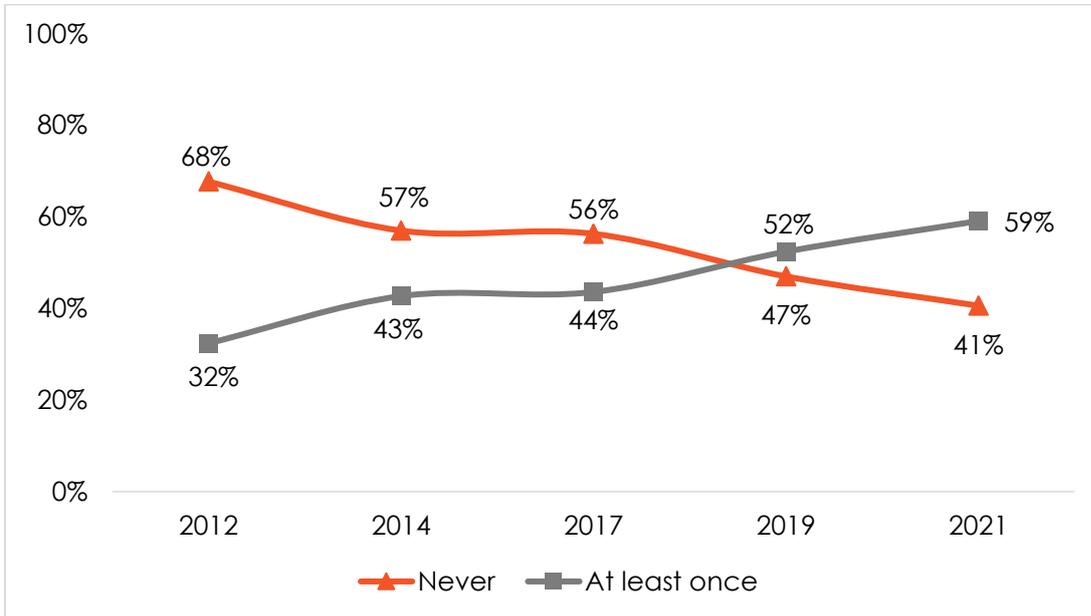
Respondents were asked: Looking back over the last five years, do you feel that Namibia has become safer or less safe?

Figure 3: Feared crime in own home | Namibia | 2021



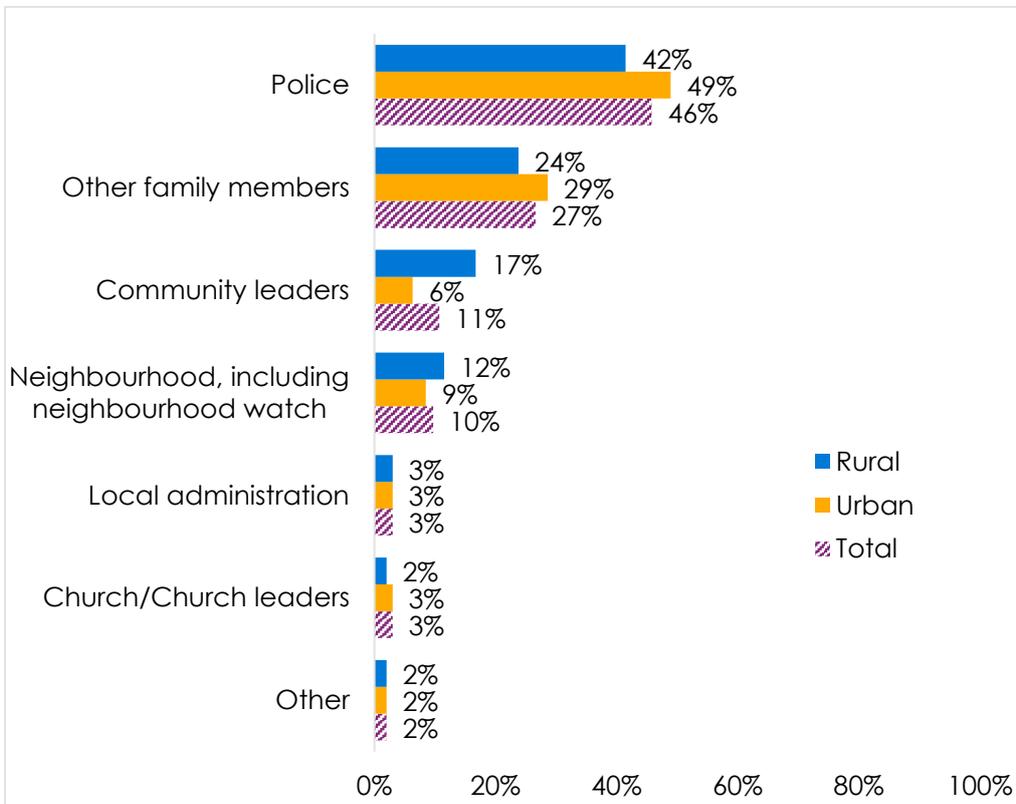
Respondents were asked: Over the past year, how often, if ever, have you or anyone in your family feared crime in your own home? ("At least once" combines the responses "just once or twice," "several times," "many times," and "always")

Figure 4: Felt unsafe walking in neighbourhood | Namibia | 2021



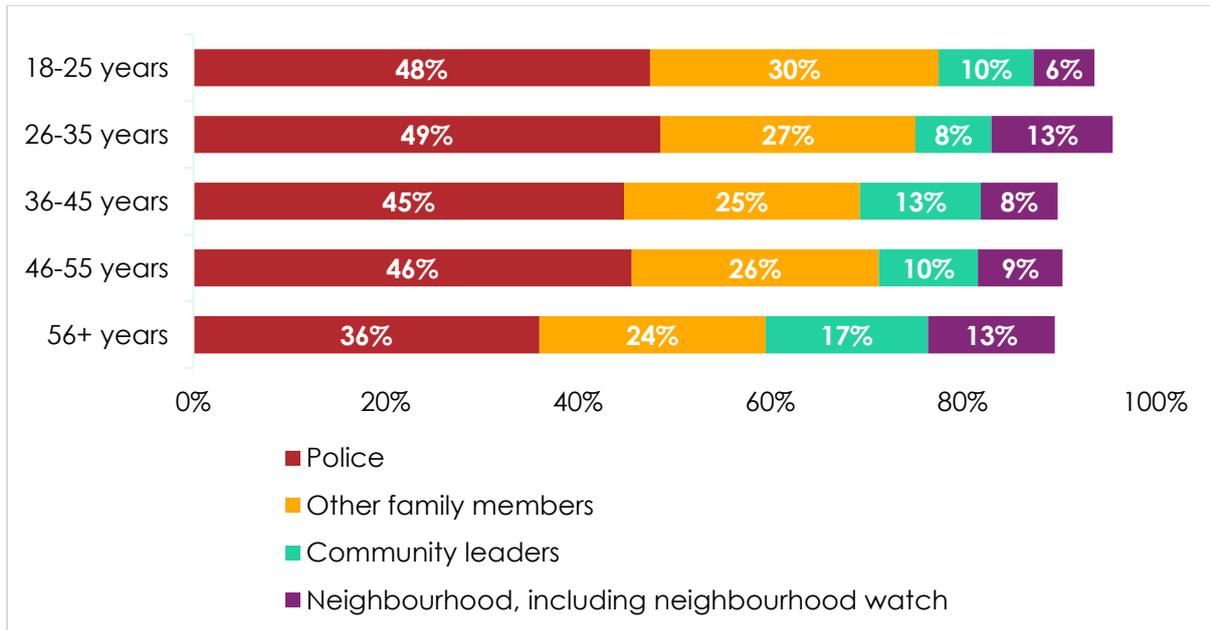
Respondents were asked: Over the past year, how often, if ever, have you or anyone in your family felt unsafe walking in your neighbourhood? ("At least once" combines the responses "just once or twice," "several times," "many times," and "always")

Figure 5: First contact for security reasons | Namibia | 2021



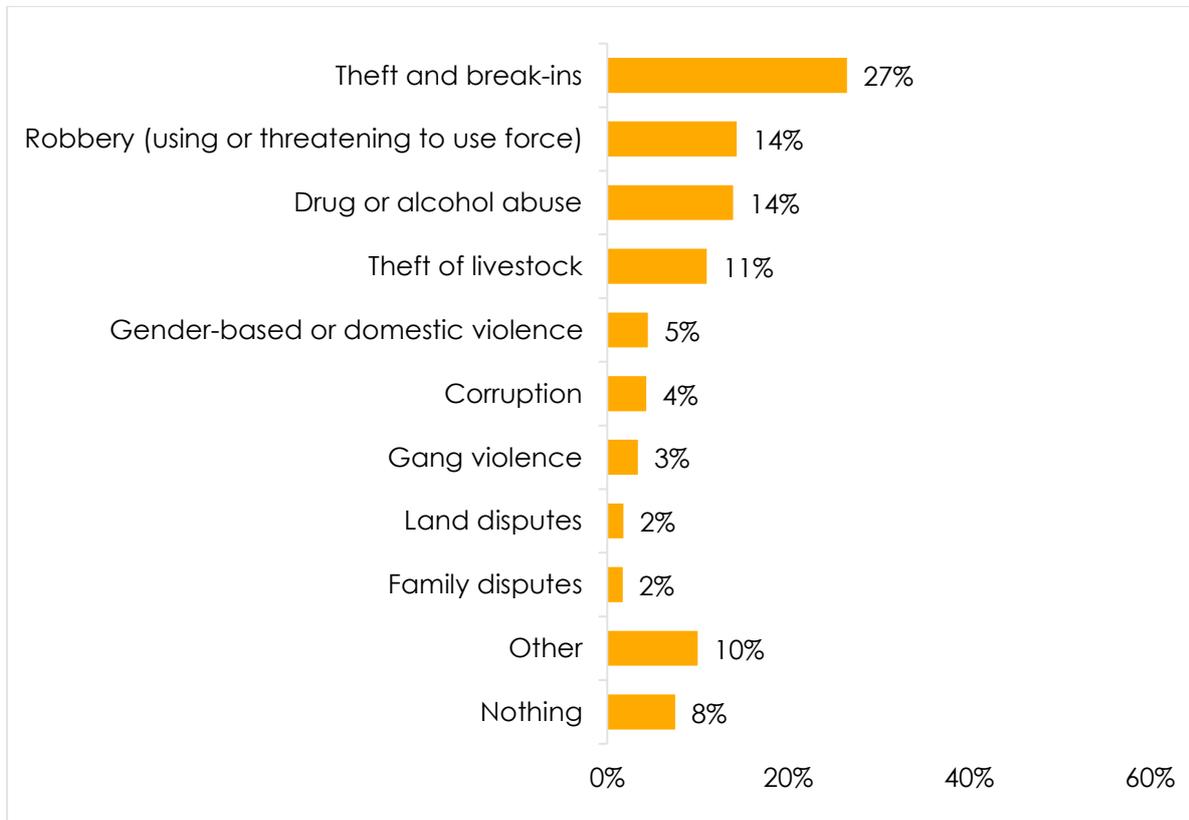
Respondents were asked: To whom do you normally go first for assistance when you are concerned about your security and the security of your family?

Figure 6: First contact for security reasons | by age | Namibia | 2021



Respondents were asked: To whom do you normally go first for assistance, when you are concerned about your security and the security of your family?

Figure 7: Most serious threat to safety and security | Namibia | 2021



Respondents were asked: In your opinion, what is the most serious threat to your safety and security in your neighbourhood?

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