



Gaborone, Botswana
6 December 2022

News release

Many Batswana feel unsafe and fear crime, say government is performing badly on reducing crime

Half of Batswana say they felt unsafe walking in their neighbourhoods at least once during the past year, while about the same proportion feared crime in their homes, a recent Afrobarometer survey indicates.

Crime/insecurity ranks second, behind unemployment, among the most important problems that Batswana want their government to address, and citizens give the government poor marks on reducing crime.

Respondents with high levels of lived poverty are most likely to report feeling unsafe in their communities.

Key findings

- Half of Batswana (50%) say they felt unsafe walking in their neighbourhoods at least once during the past year, and almost as many (45%) report fearing crime in their homes. Both numbers reflect the highest levels of insecurity recorded in Afrobarometer surveys in Botswana over the past decade (Figure 1).
 - Feeling unsafe in the neighbourhood is far more common among citizens experiencing high levels of lived poverty (64%) than among those who are economically well off (38%) (Figure 2).
 - Fear of crime in the home shows the same pattern: 54% among those with moderate or high lived poverty vs. 31% of economically well-off citizens (Figure 3).
 - Men are somewhat more likely than women to say they feared crime in the home (48% vs. 42%), as are urban residents compared to their rural counterparts (46% vs. 41%).
- Crime/insecurity ranks second among the most important problems that Batswana want their government to address, trailing only unemployment (Figure 4).
- Six in 10 citizens (59%) say the government is performing “very badly” (34%) or “fairly badly” (25%) on reducing crime (Figure 5). Only 5% say it is doing “very well.”

Afrobarometer surveys

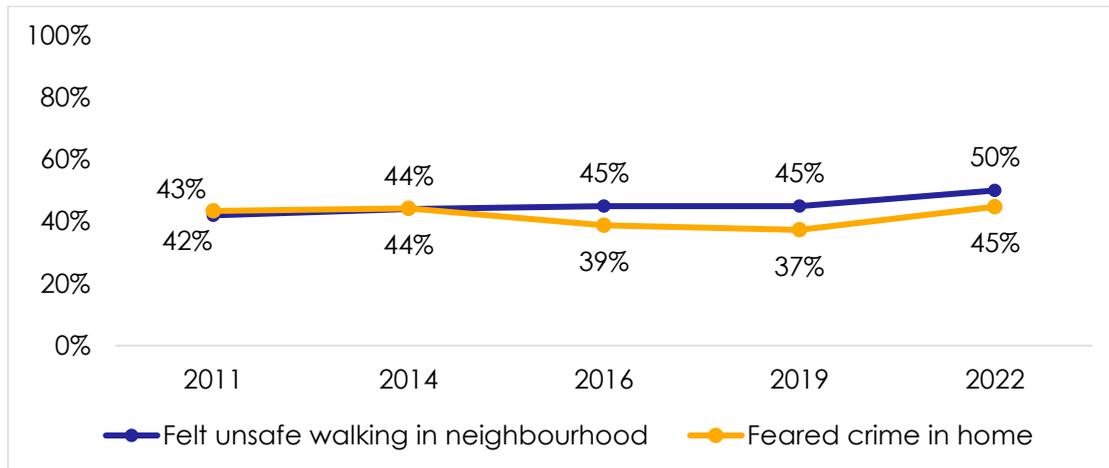
Afrobarometer is a pan-African, non-partisan survey research network that provides reliable data on African experiences and evaluations of democracy, governance, and quality of life. Eight survey rounds in up to 39 countries have been completed since 1999. Round 9 surveys (2021/2022) are currently underway.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

The Afrobarometer team in Botswana, led by Star Awards, interviewed a nationally representative sample of 1,200 adult Batswana in July-August 2022. 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 Botswana in 1999, 2003, 2005, 2008, 2012, 2014, 2017, and 2019.

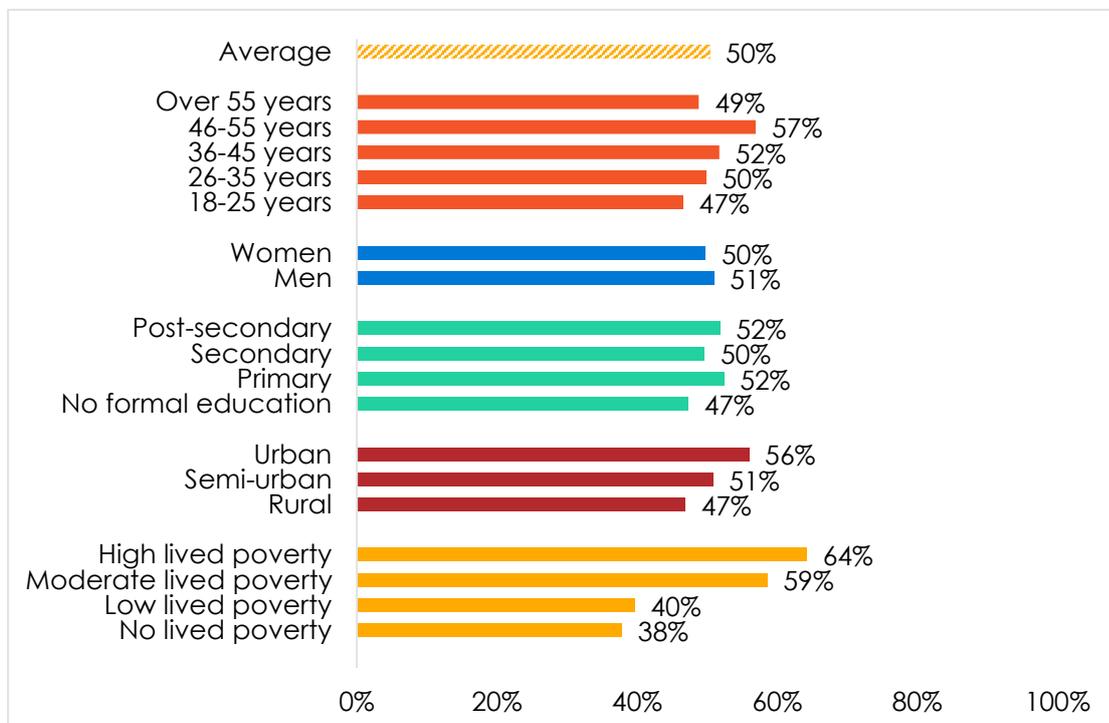
Charts

Figure 1: Felt unsafe walking in neighbourhood | Botswana | 2022



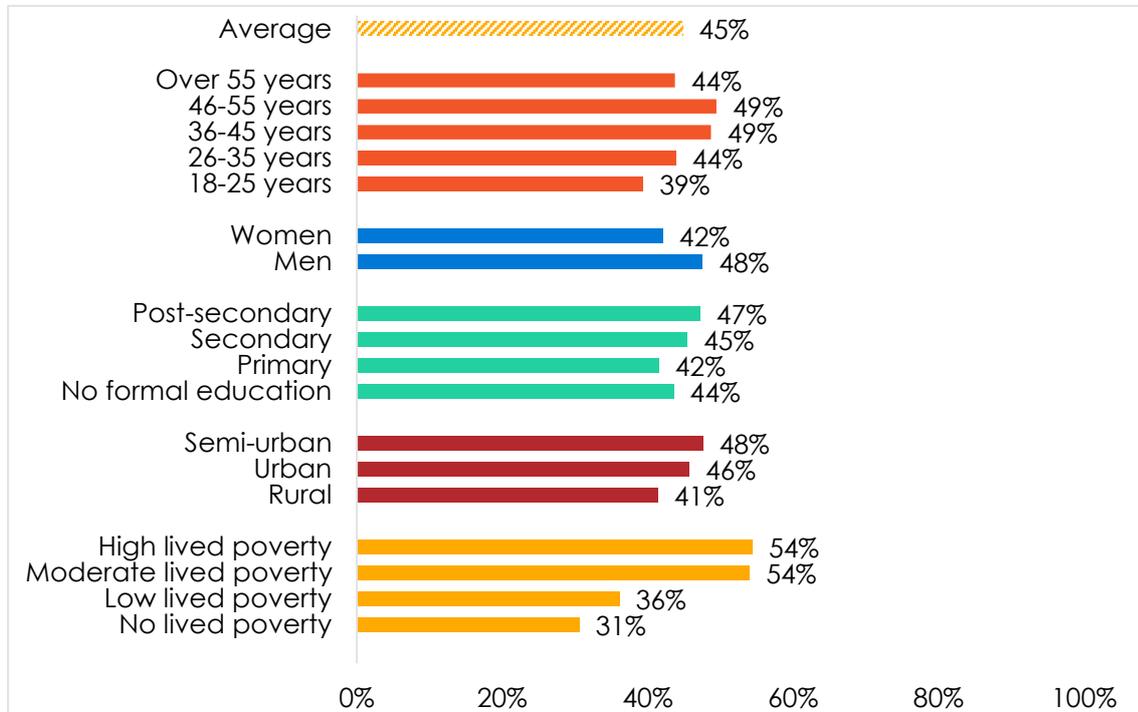
Respondents were asked: Over the past year, how often, if ever, have you or anyone in your family: Felt unsafe walking in your neighbourhood? Feared crime in your own home? (% who say “just once or twice,” “several times,” “many times,” or “always”)

Figure 2: Felt unsafe walking in neighbourhood | by demographic group | Botswana | 2022



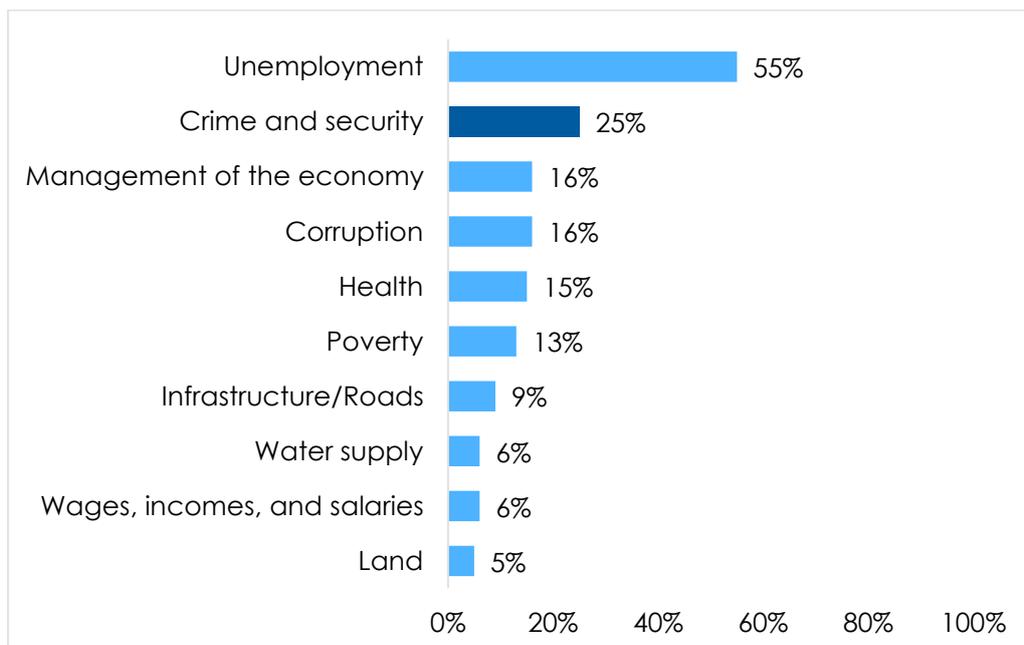
Respondents were asked: Over the past year, how often, if ever, have you or anyone in your family felt unsafe walking in your neighbourhood? (% who say “just once or twice,” “several times,” “many times,” or “always”)

Figure 3: Feared crime in own home | by demographic group | Botswana | 2022



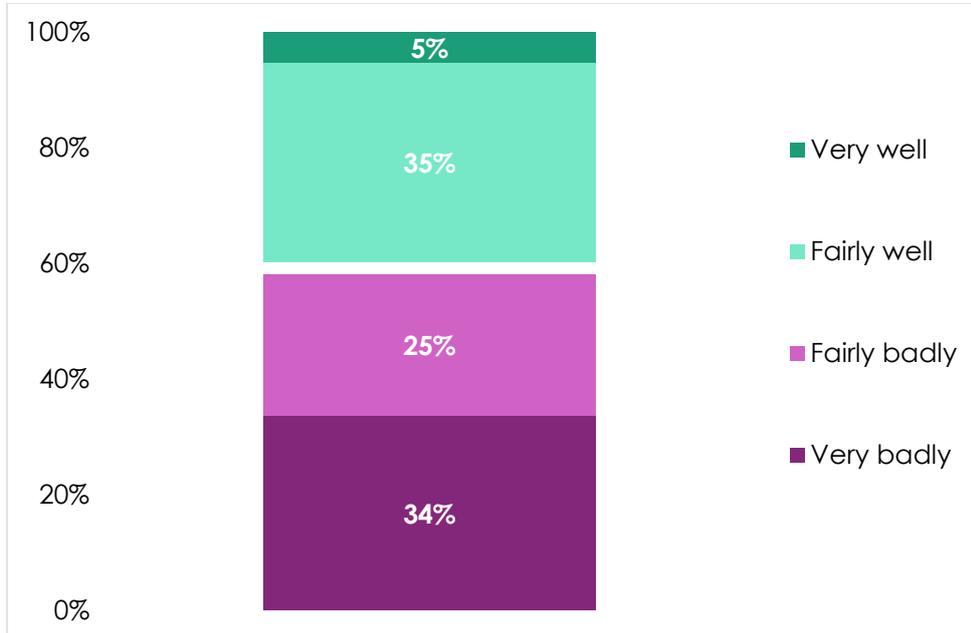
Respondents were asked: Over the past year, how often, if ever, have you or anyone in your family feared crime in your own home? (% who say "just once or twice," "several times," "many times," or "always")

Figure 4: Most important problems | Botswana | 2022



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

Figure 5: Government performance on reducing crime | Botswana | 2022



Respondents were asked: How well or badly would you say the current government is handling the following matters, or haven't you heard enough to say: Reducing crime?

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