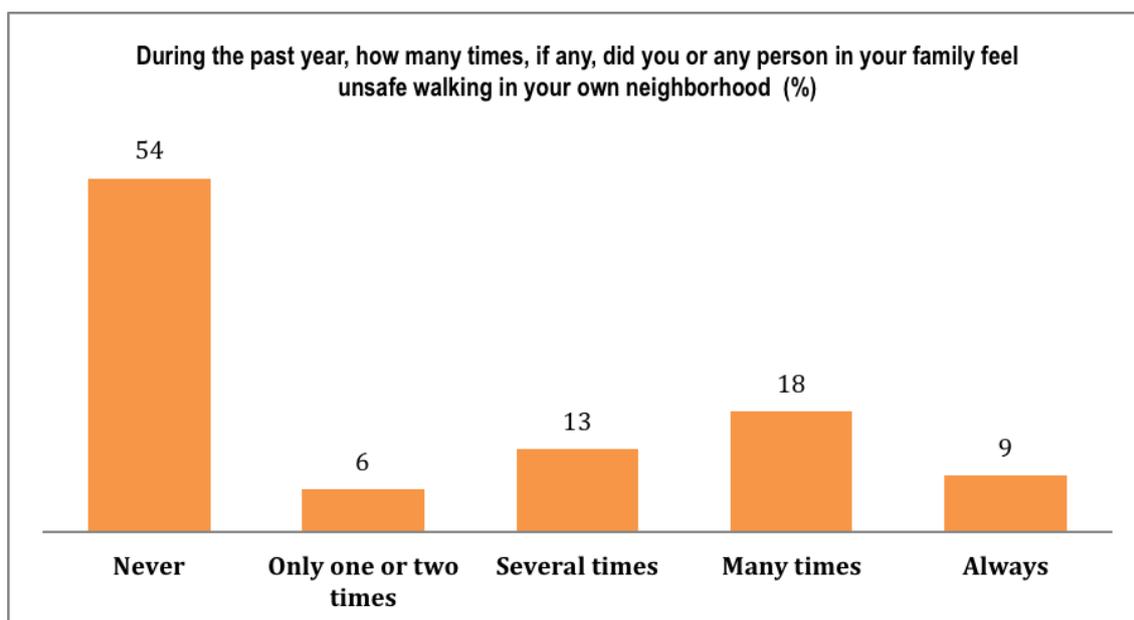


Afrobarometerⁱ Presents The Perception of Security in Cape Verde

In recent years, security has been the major determinant of the public policy agenda and has been the issue that has seen the most remarkable evolution from the viewpoint of the Cape Verdeans. While in 2002, it represented a marginal phenomenon, it has become the center of the political agenda and discursive categories, as confirmed by the study.

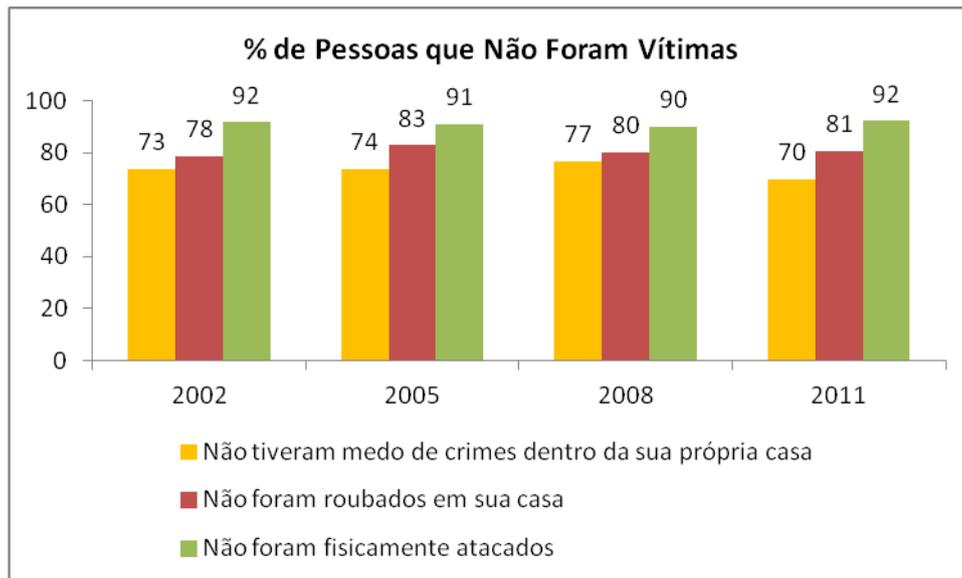
According to Cape Verdeans, lack of security is the second biggest problem in the country, having dethroned poverty as the top priority and coming up just behind unemployment. This is especially the case on the islands with major urban centers like São Vicente, Sal and Praia.

It also seems that the perception of insecurity is reflected in the everyday life of the citizens. About 40% of Cape Verdeans feel somewhat unsafe walking in their own neighborhoods, and among these, about 10% always feel unsafe.

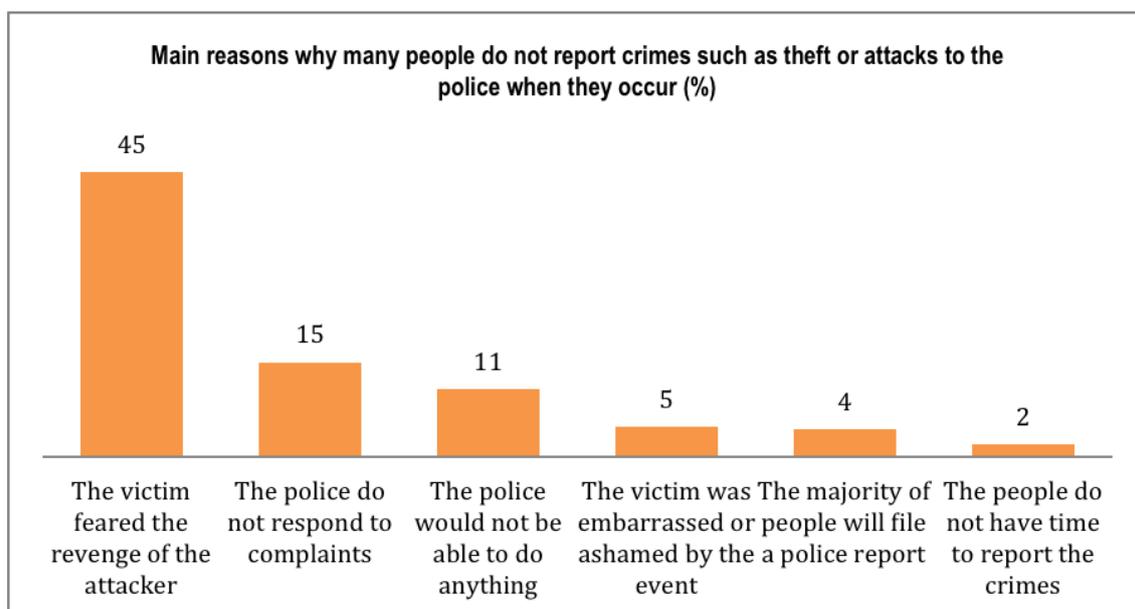


This trend of increased perception of insecurity is not reflected in the levels of victimization, have tended to remain stable and even decrease. In fact, the number of people who have never been victims of crime within their home decreased from 73% to 70% (growing sentiment of insecurity) but the level of victimization decreased, with an increase from 78% to 81% in the number of families that have never had robberies occur in their home and there has been a stability in the proportion of households that were not attacked in the past 12 months.

That is, even considering the high levels of victimization, the trend is contrary to the evolution of the sense of insecurity that ultimately puts safety and crime fighting crime as one of the main objectives of the country.

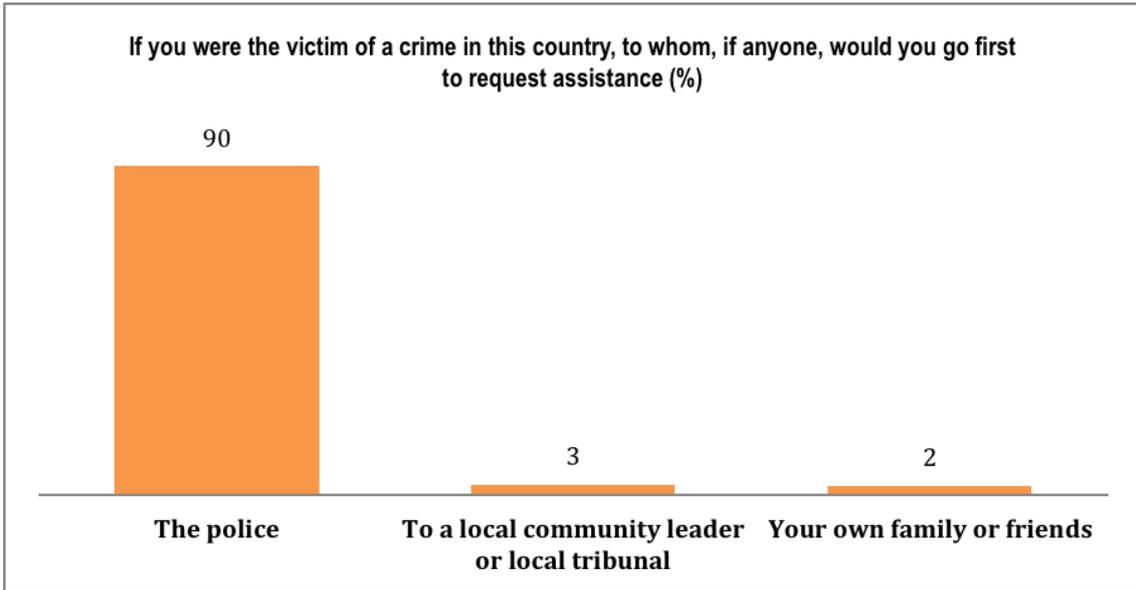


Among the victims of crimes last year, more than half (54%) did not report the incident to the police. The main reasons for this attitude are related to the fact that the victim feared repercussions from the attacker (45%), that the police did not take into account the complaints (15%) or that the police would be unable to do anything (11%).



However, 90% of respondents believe that if they did ask for assistance, the first place they would go would be the police.

This attitude is understandable since 97% confirmed having never paid criminals or gangs in exchange for protection.



ⁱ Afrobarometer is a research network on democracy and governance in Africa. Carried out in CV since 2002 by Afrosondagem, it collects information for over 45 African countries based on a standard questionnaire.