

1 Supplementary information

1.1 Victimisation surveys in Latin America

In Mexico, the national victimisation survey (ENVIPE) is a yearly study which aims to measure crime at a national level (INEGI, 2016). In terms of fear of crime, the survey asks:

In terms of crime, do you consider your locality / county / state to be secure or insecure?

These questions help understand the perception of security from people at three different geographic levels: locality, county and state, where the county is formed by a set of localities and a state is formed by a group of counties. The answers are binary, so the person being interviewed was only allowed to answer if he or she considered the region to be either secure or insecure in terms of crime. Answers were merged at a county level to detect the probability that a person considers their county to be insecure (Prieto Curiel and Bishop, 2016).

In terms of crime, the survey considers whether the person (or household) suffered a crime during the previous year, and the number of times that the person (or people from that household) suffered each type of crime. For the study, we considered different categories of crime, including property crimes, sexual crimes, violent crimes, murder and hard crimes (which include murder, kidnap and missing person).

The Latin American Public Opinion Project LAPOP (Latin American Public Opinion Project , LAPOP) study, covers 29 countries in North, Central South and Caribbean America in their AmericasBarometer 2016/2017 study.

In terms of fear of crime, it includes a question

Thinking of your daily life, how much fear do you have being a direct victim of homicide? Do you feel a lot of fear, some fear, little fear or not fear at all?

Each answer was assigned 3 points if the person answered a lot of fear, 2 points if the person answered some fear, 1 point if the person answered little fear and 0 points if the person had no fear. Then, the average number of points was computed to obtain a *fear of crime index* (Tseloni, 2007).

LAPOP allows comparing between different regions in America ¹ although it is not possible to

¹For example, their comparative study of democracy and governance <https://www.vanderbilt.edu/lapop/>

use it for smaller spatial units (such as states or cities).

References

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