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LAPOP AmericasBarometer Report on Citizen Security in Six Countries in the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States

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This study was performed with support from the Program in Democracy and Governance of the United States Agency for International Development. The opinions expressed in this study are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the point of view of the United States Agency for International Development.

March 27, 2016

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Part I. Introduction

This report presents the results of quantitative analyses of issues related to public security in six countries of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) using survey data. A total of 6,066 household interviews were conducted between January and March of 2016 in Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. The Latin American Public Opinion Project (LAPOP) at Vanderbilt University conducted the surveys, which form part of the AmericasBarometer project, and prepared this report.

The report is organized as follows. Part I provides a summary of the main findings, contextual background information on the OECS, and a presentation of the methodology employed to carry out the survey studies. Subsequent sections contain substantive analyses of the survey data focusing on the following salient issues: perceptions of insecurity (Part II), crime victimization (Part III), crime as a community problem (Part IV), and evaluations and perceptions of law enforcement institutions (Part V). The final section (Part VI) includes a summary of the main findings and outlines possible policy implications that could be useful for future USAID programing.

I. Summary of findings

- In only one country (St. Kitts and Nevis) is security considered the most serious problem facing the country. The economy is still the main concern throughout most of the OECS.
- 89% of respondents across all OECS countries say that they feel “very safe” or “somewhat safe” in the neighborhoods they live in.
- Approximately seven in ten respondents (71%) say that the current level of violence in their neighborhood is lower than in other places around their communities; 24% say violence in their neighborhood is the same as in other communities, and only five percent think that violence in their neighborhood is higher than in other places.
- Approximately half (51%) of all respondents say that the current level of violence in their neighborhood is lower than it was 12 months prior to the survey, while only six percent think that violence in their neighborhood is higher.
- Household crime victimization rates do not exceed 19% in any of the countries included in the study. There are, however, important differences between countries. Results show that household crime victimization rates are twice as high in Dominica and St. Lucia (about 18%) than they are in Grenada and St. Kitts and Nevis (about 9%), and also higher than in Antigua and Barbuda (10%) and St. Vincent and the Grenadines (12%).
- Overall, about 10% of respondents report that someone has broken into their home in the five years prior to the survey.
- A fifth or more of respondents in St. Lucia (24%), Dominica (21%) and St. Vincent and the Grenadines (20%) were victims of threats or acts of aggression in the five years prior to the survey, compared with slightly more than a tenth of respondents in Antigua and Barbuda (11%), St. Kitts and Nevis (12%), and Grenada (12%).

- Fewer than a third of respondents in Antigua and Barbuda (29%) and in St. Kitts and Nevis (25%) say that there have been illegal drug sales in their neighborhoods in the past year. Conversely, in St. Lucia that number rises to 44% and in Dominica almost half of respondents say that there have been illegal drugs sold in their communities (47%).
- Approximately 87% of respondents say that gangs have had little or no effect on their neighborhoods, while about 13% say that their communities have been affected somewhat or a lot.
- Overall, fewer than a quarter of all respondents claim that gangs are active in their neighborhood.
- St. Kitts and Nevis—the only country in the study with a majority of respondents saying that security is the most serious problem facing the nation—has the highest rate of reported murders in the region, with almost one-in-five of all those interviewed (17%) saying that there was a murder in their neighborhood in the 12 months prior to the survey. The country with the lowest rate of reported murders is Grenada, where only 4% of all respondents report that someone was murdered in their communities in the last year.
- Almost two thirds of all respondents (62%) think the police are doing a “very good job” or a “fairly good job” of controlling crime in their neighborhoods. Conversely, 21% of respondents evaluate the job the police does as “fairly poor” or “very poor”.
- More than half of respondents in St. Vincent and the Grenadines (53%) and St. Lucia (52%) believe that increasing punitive measures is the best way to reduce crime in their country.
- The average score for trust in the police is 46 degrees on a 0 to 100 point scale, which is slightly below the midpoint of the scale.
- A majority of respondents (56%) say that they have “some” or “a lot” of faith that the judicial system would punish the guilty. Roughly a third of respondents across the six countries (29%) say they have “little” faith that the judicial system would punish someone who was responsible for a crime, and 14% say they have “none”.
- The overall score for trust in the judiciary averages 47 degrees on a 0 to 100 point scale for all respondents in the study, which means that, in general, the judicial system is middling (at the mid-point on the scale) in OECS countries. Results shows that trust in the justice system varies from 53 degrees in Antigua and Barbuda to 39 points in St. Lucia.

II. Background

The Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) is an inter-governmental organization established in 1981 by the Treaty of Basseterre.¹ There are currently seven member states and three associate member states. The member states are: Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, Montserrat, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

The main objectives of the OECS are: to promote cooperation among members; defend sovereignty and territorial integrity; promote economic integration; assist member states in

¹ <http://www.oecs.org/about-the-oecs/who-we-are>

meeting international responsibilities; and to harmonize foreign policy and maintain joint overseas representation.²

The OECS is administered by a Central Secretariat located on Morne Fortune, Castries, St. Lucia. The Secretariat is headed by the Director General. Over the years, other subsidiary and autonomous institutions have been created. The OECS islands share a common currency (Eastern Caribbean Dollar) as well as a common Supreme Court, with two divisions, the High Court and the Court of Appeals.

All countries included in the study are parliamentary democracies, although Antigua still refers to itself as a Constitutional Monarchy with a Parliamentary System of Government. GDP per capita (PPP) in 2015 was 23,000 in Antigua and Barbuda and St. Kitts and Nevis, and varied between 11,000 and 13,000 in the other four countries included in the survey.³

Citizen security has been a growing concern in OECS countries in the 21st century, although crime rates in the region remain fairly low by international standards. According to a citizen security report published by UNDP in 2012, the most pressing security concern of citizens across these countries is the fear of robbery (defined as the stealing of property with use or threat of force) and home burglaries.⁴ The report also mentions increases in domestic violence and human trafficking, and, especially in Antigua and Barbuda, sexual violence. Antigua and Barbuda and St. Vincent and the Grenadines are also identified by the United States government as source, transit, and destination countries for men, women, and children subjected to forced labor and sex trafficking.⁵ The issue of organized crime is also a rising concern in this region, although with lower intensity than in other nearby regions, like Central America. Gang activity in OECS countries is primarily connected to human trafficking and drug trafficking. A United States government report reveals that Dominica, St. Kitts and Nevis, and St. Lucia have been identified as transit points for narcotics destined for the United States, Europe, and Latin America.⁶

A UNDP report (2012) indicates that there has been a concern for the lack of individual capacity of the OECS countries to deal with rising crime in their countries. According to the report, the model of policing in OECS countries at the time was primarily focused on state security and not on citizen security. In fact, a survey of security conducted by UNDP in 2010 showed that great majorities across the region had only moderate levels of confidence in the police and judicial institution.⁷

² <http://www.oecs.org/about-the-oecs/who-we-are/mission-objectives>

³ GDP is measured in US Dollars.

⁴ Zimmerman, Carol Lawes and Nanette Svenson (eds.) (2012). *Caribbean Human Development Report 2012: Human Development and the Shift to Better Citizen Security*. Retrieved from UNDP website: <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/hdr/caribbean-human-development-report-2012-1.html>

⁵ The World Factbook. Retrieved from website: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ac.html>

⁶ The World Factbook. Retrieved from Website: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/sc.html>

⁷ UNDP citizen security survey www.regionalcentrelac.undp.org/en/hdr-caribbean

III. Methodology

This section contains a short description of the sample design for each of the six countries included in the study (Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines). Each description includes a brief discussion of the sampling frame, sampling method and stratification.

Table 1 details the countries included, the firms that handled data collection, the target sample sizes, and the pretest and fieldwork dates. A CAPI (Computer Assisted Personal Interview) platform, ADGYS (Android Data Gathering System), was used in all six countries to conduct the interviews.

Table 1. Fieldwork Information for OECS Survey

Country	Firm	Pretest Dates (2015)	Target Sample Size	Fieldwork Start Date (2016)	Fieldwork End Date (2016)
Antigua & Barbuda	The Anatol Institute of Research	November 6-7	1,002	January 9	February 8
Dominica	Caribbean Development Research Services	November 9-10	1,002	February 3	March 20
Grenada	Development Policy and Management Consultants	November 9-10	1,002	January 25	February 18
St. Kitts & Nevis	The Anatol Institute of Research	November 6-7	1,008	January 9	March 14
St. Lucia	DataFruit	November 7-8	1,008	February 2	March 23
St. Vincent & The Grenadines	Development Policy and Management Consultants	November 5-6	1,008	January 19	February 14

Sample Selection:

The survey provides national coverage of voting age adults in six countries of the OECS. The universe is comprised of adults (18 years old and over). The study is designed to collect information from a nationally representative sample of the non-institutionalized voting age adult population, including non-citizens (people who may be studying or who are working legally but are not permanent residents). Only non-institutionalized adults are eligible to participate in the survey. Therefore, the sample excludes people in boarding schools, hospitals, police academies, and military barracks, and inmates of the countries' jails. The unit of analysis is the individual, and most of the information in the survey refers to that individual alone. However, a limited number

of questions ask about the household, which is defined as the immediate family (including parents, children, and grandparents) who are living together in the selected dwelling unit.⁸

The sampling frame covers 100% of the eligible population in the surveyed country. This means that every eligible person in the country has an equal and known chance of being included in the survey sample. It also means that no particular ethnic group or geographical areas are excluded from the sampling frame.

The sampling method chosen takes into consideration a series of elements pre-established by LAPOP. The following are requirements for the design of the sample determined by LAPOP:

- (a) Representative samples for the study strata
- (b) Calculation of sampling errors corresponding to the strata
- (c) Minimization of travel time in survey operations
- (d) Optimal allocation of resources to balance trade-offs between budget, sample size and level of precision of the results
- (e) The best and most up-to-date sampling frame available
- (f) Twelve interviews per Primary Sampling Unit (PSU) or community
- (g) Six interviews in the final sampling unit

In countries where census data were available (St. Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines), primary sampling units (PSUs) are randomly selected enumerated districts. Each PSU is divided into two clusters (6 interviews each). The blocks for each cluster are randomly selected from census maps.

Because detailed census data below the parish level are not available or not updated in four of the six countries included in this study (Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada and St. Kitts and Nevis), those samples were drawn using the LAPOP Survey Sample Optimizer (LASSO ©) software. LASSO was created by LAPOP as a high-tech solution to solve exactly this kind of problem by using remote imagery. LASSO filled in the missing data in the sampling frames from which the project draws probability samples. The software applies complex algorithms to evaluate remote imagery focused on the rooftops found in satellite images and publicly available on Google Maps and Bing Maps. These images make it easier to estimate the number of dwellings in a PSU or village and use a probabilistic method to select clusters and to locate those clusters on public domain maps. For this survey, clusters are selected within each parish using simple random selection. Six interviews are conducted on the selected block within the cluster. To make all six samples parallel, we took two proximate clusters obtained from the LASSO program, and joined them to create a comparable pseudo enumeration district for the PSU.

⁸ Questions are not asked about members of other households in the same dwelling.

Households are selected systematically on a block. From the starting point, interviews are conducted in every third household. In other words, each time an interview is completed, the next interview cannot be carried out in the next two households.

In the case of a rejected interview or empty dwelling, the interviewer selects the adjacent dwelling. In cases where the interviewer reaches the end of the block before completing the quota of six interviews, he or she will proceed to the next block following the same procedure.

A single respondent is selected in each household, following a frequency matching approach to sampling based on gender and age. The frequency target for each age group and gender is estimated based on the most recent census. If two or more eligible respondents of the same gender and age group are in the household, the person with the next birthday is interviewed.

Sample Stratification:

Stratification is the process by which the population is divided into subgroups. Sampling is then conducted separately in each subgroup. Stratification ensures subgroups of interest are included in the sample. In non-stratified designs, some groups of interest may be left out due to the random nature of the selection process. In an extreme case, samples that are not stratified can, by chance, exclude the nation's capital or largest city. Stratification increases the precision of the sample by reducing the sampling error. In a stratified sample, the sampling error depends on population variance within strata and not between them. Since sampling is conducted separately in each stratum, it is desirable and important to ensure that there are a sufficient number of respondents in each subgroup to allow meaningful analysis. The confidence level anticipated for each national sample is 95%, with a margin of error of 2.5%, assuming a 50/50 proportion in dichotomous variables (in any other proportion, the sampling error is lower). The stratification design for each country is described below.

Antigua and Barbuda:

Antigua and Barbuda is divided into six parishes and the island of Barbuda. According to the 2011 census data, Antigua and Barbuda has a total population of 85,567 persons. The sample for Antigua and Barbuda is stratified by two regions: the parish of St. John; and the remaining parishes on the island of Antigua and the island of Barbuda. The confidence levels anticipated for the national sample is 95%, with a margin of error of 2.5%, assuming a 50/50 proportion in dichotomous variables (in any other proportion, the sampling error is lower). The table below displays the distribution of interviews within each region for Antigua and Barbuda.

Table 2. Sample Information for Antigua and Barbuda

Parishes	2011 Pop Total	% Population	Number of Interviews
St. John City	22,219	25.97%	
St. John Rural	29,518	34.50%	607
St. George	8,055	9.41%	96
St. Peter	5,325	6.22%	60
St. Philip	3,347	3.91%	41
St. Paul	8,128	9.50%	96
St. Mary	7,341	8.58%	84
Barbuda	1,634	1.91%	18
Total	85,567	100%	1,002

Dominica:

Dominica is divided into ten parishes and, according to the 2011 Population Census, has a total population of 71,293 persons. The sample for Dominica is stratified by three regions: St. George; Eastern Region (St. Luke, St. Mark, St. Patrick, St. David, and St. Andrew); and Western Region (St. Paul, St. Joseph, St. Peter, St. John). The confidence levels anticipated for the national sample is 95%, with a margin of error of 2.5%, assuming a 50/50 proportion in dichotomous variables (in any other proportion, the sampling error is lower). The final sample distribution is detailed in the table below.

Table 3. Sample Information for Dominica

Parishes	2011 Pop Total	% Population	Number of Interviews
St. George	21,241	29.79%	305
St. John	6,561	9.20%	92
St. Peter	1,430	2.01%	18
St. Joseph	5,637	7.91%	77
St. Paul	9,786	13.73%	141
St. Luke	1,668	2.34%	24
St. Mark	1,834	2.57%	31
St. Patrick	7,622	10.69%	111
St. David	6,043	8.48%	84
St. Andrew	9,471	13.28%	133
Total	71,293	100%	1,016

Grenada:

Grenada is divided into seven parishes. According to the 2011 Population Census, Grenada has a total voting-age population of 73,842 people. The sample is stratified by three regions: Saint George; Eastern Region (St. Andrews and St. David); and Western Region and Carriacou (St. John, St. Mark, St. Patrick and Carriacou). The confidence levels anticipated for the national sample is 95%, with a margin of error of 3.1%, assuming a 50/50 proportion in dichotomous variables (in

any other proportion, the sampling error is lower). The final sample distribution is detailed in the table below.

Table 4. Sample Information for Grenada

Parishes	2011 Pop Total 18+	% Population	Number of Interviews
St. George	26,790	36.28%	362
St. John	5,968	8.08%	84
St. Mark	2,977	4.03%	42
Carriacou	4,010	5.43%	60
St. Patrick	7,413	10.04%	102
St. Andrew	17,680	23.94%	246
St. David	9,004	12.19%	108
Total	73,842	100%	1,004

St. Kitts and Nevis:

Saint Kitts and Nevis is divided into 14 Parishes. According to the 2011 Population Census, Saint Kitts and Nevis has a total population of 46,398 people. The sample is stratified by four regions: Saint George; Eastern Region (St. Peter, St. Mary, St. John and Christ Church); Western Region (Trinity, St. Thomas, St. Anne and St. Paul); and the island of Nevis. The confidence levels anticipated for the national sample is 95%, with a margin of error of 3.1%, assuming a 50/50 proportion in dichotomous variables (in any other proportion, the sampling error is lower). The final sample distribution is detailed in the table below.

Table 5. Sample Information for St. Kitts and Nevis

	Parishes	2011 Pop Total	% Population	Number of Interviews
St. Kitts	St. George	12,995	28.01%	282
	Trinity	1,673	3.61%	36
	St. Thomas	2,479	5.34%	54
	St. Anne	2,798	6.03%	60
	St. Paul	2,441	5.26%	55
	St. John	3,134	6.75%	67
	Christ Church	1,924	4.15%	41
	St. Mary	3,204	6.91%	65
	St. Peter	4,335	9.34%	96
		34,983	75.00%	
Nevis	St. Paul	1,665	3.59%	36
	St. George	2,376	5.12%	54
	St. Thomas	1,858	4.00%	42
	St. James	1,961	4.23%	42
	St. John	3,555	7.66%	78
		11,415	24.60%	
	Total	46,398	100%	1,008

St. Lucia:

St. Lucia is divided into ten districts. According to the 2010 Population Census, St. Lucia has a total population of 151,864 persons. The sample is stratified by three regions: Castries; Eastern Region (Gros Islet, Dennery, Micoud); and Western Region (Anse La Raye, Canaries, Soufriere, Choiseul, Laborie, Vieux Fort). The confidence levels anticipated for the national sample is 95%, with a margin of error of 2.5%, assuming a 50/50 proportion in dichotomous variables (in any other proportion, the sampling error is lower). The final sample distribution is detailed in the table below.

Table 6. Sample Information for St. Lucia

Districts	2011 Pop Total	% Population	Number of Interviews
Castries	60,263	39.68%	401
Anse La Raye	6,033	3.97%	48
Canaries	1,915	1.26%	12
Soufriere	7,747	5.10%	48
Choiseul	5,766	3.80%	36
Laborie	6,507	4.28%	48
Vieux Fort	14,632	9.63%	97
Micoud	14,480	9.53%	97
Dennery	11,874	7.82%	84
Gros Islet	22,647	14.91%	148
Total	151,864	100%	1,019

St. Vincent and the Grenadines:

St. Vincent and the Grenadines is divided into five parishes and the island of the Grenadines. There are a total of 13 census divisions. According to the 2011 preliminary census data, St. Vincent and the Grenadines has a total population of 109,991 persons. The sample is stratified by three regions: Kingston and Metropolitan Area; the remaining areas of the island of St. Vincent; and the islands of the Grenadines. The confidence levels anticipated for the national sample is 95%, with a margin of error of 2.5%, assuming a 50/50 proportion in dichotomous variables (in any other proportion, the sampling error is lower). The final sample distribution is detailed in the table below.

Table 7. Sample Information for St. Vincent and the Grenadines

Parishes	2011 Pop Total	% Population	Number of Interviews
St. George	50,926	46.30%	472
Charlotte	30,852	28.05%	279
St. Andrew	6,339	5.76%	60
St. Patrick	5,884	5.35%	60
St. David	5,756	5.23%	49
Grenadines	10,234	9.30%	97
Total	109,991	100%	1,017

The data on which this report is based, along with technical information including the questionnaires, can be found at www.lapopsurveys.org (www.vanderbilt.edu/lapop). The data are also deposited with USAID's Data Development Library.

Part II. Perceptions of Insecurity

This section looks at respondents' opinions on the issue of security. It first discusses how respondents in OECS countries perceive security in comparison to other problems in their communities. It then moves on to discuss the factors, if any, that are associated with perceiving insecurity as the most important problem. The section also analyzes respondents' feelings of insecurity in their neighborhoods, retrospective evaluation of violence in their communities, and levels of violence in comparison to other neighborhoods.

I. Security as the Most Serious Problem

The first question of the survey asks respondents about the most serious problem faced by their country. The question is open-ended to allow the respondent to name any problem without constraining them to a narrow list of choices. All responses are then recoded into five general categories: economy, security, basic services, politics, and other kinds of problems. The question is worded as follows:

A4. In your opinion, what is the **most serious problem faced by the country?**

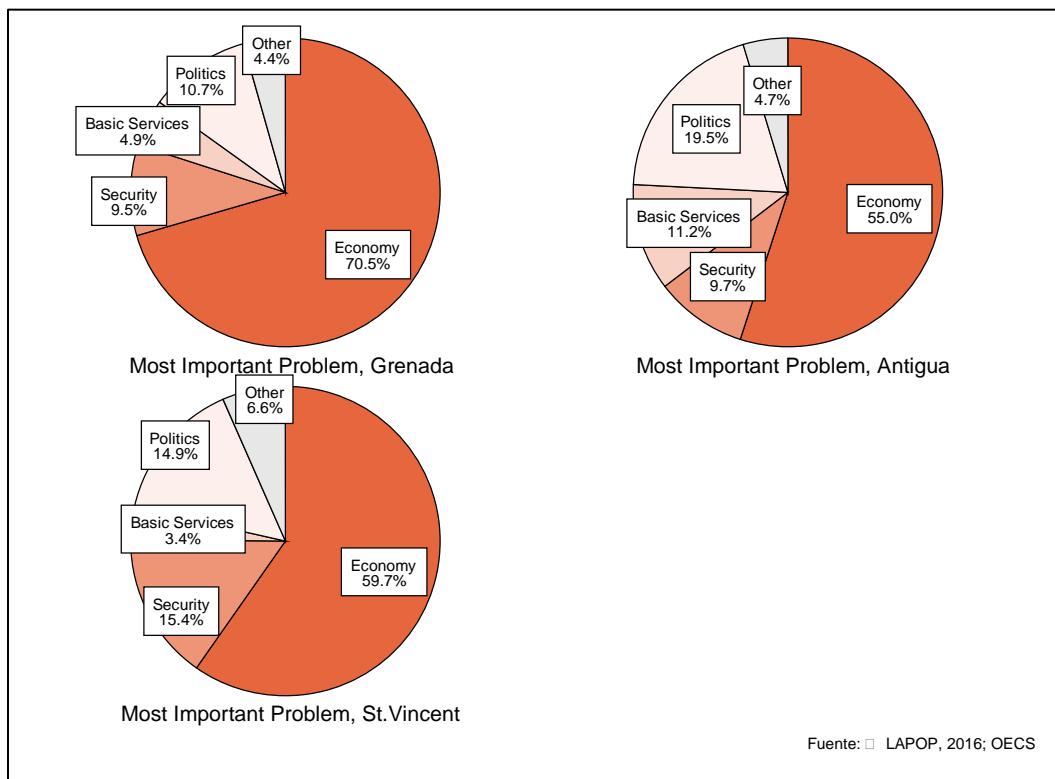


Figure 1. Most Serious Problem in Grenada, Antigua and Barbuda and St. Vincent and the Grenadines, 2016

Figures 1 and 2 depict the percentage of respondents who mention a problem within each of the categories in response to the question asking about the most serious problem in each of the six countries. As Figure 1 shows, majorities in Grenada, Antigua and Barbuda and St. Vincent and the Grenadines believe that the economy is the most serious problem faced by their countries. In Antigua and Barbuda, one in five (20%) believe that problems related to politics are the most serious. In Grenada, approximately 10% of respondents mentioned security as the most important problem faced by their country, compared with 15% of respondents in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Figure 2 shows what respondents in St. Lucia, Dominica and St. Kitts and Nevis consider to be the most serious problem in their countries. Over 50% of respondents in St. Lucia and Dominica say that the economy is their country's biggest challenge. In St. Lucia, 20% of respondents say that the biggest problem is security, while only 7% of those interviewed in Dominica say the same. In St. Kitts and Nevis, however, a vast majority of respondents (68%) identify security as the most serious problem faced by their country.

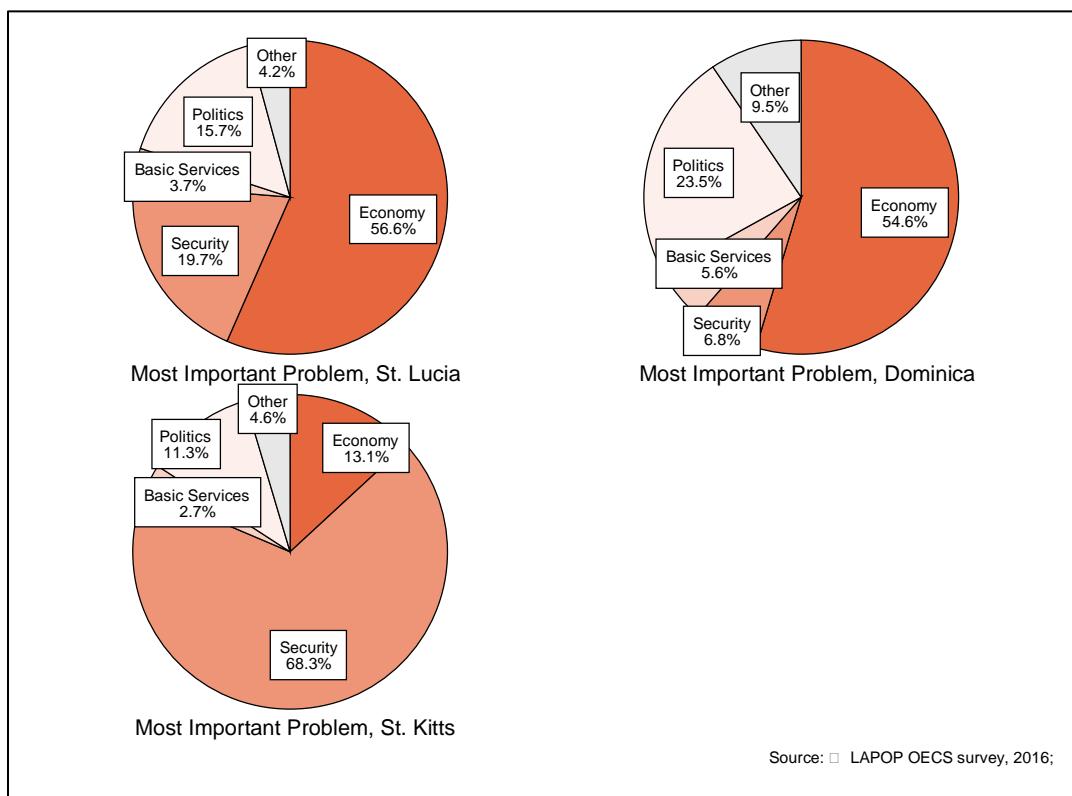


Figure 2. Most Serious Problem in St. Lucia, Dominica and St. Kitts and Nevis

II. Perceptions of Insecurity

This part of the section discusses perceptions of safety in neighborhoods. The survey asks how safe respondents feel in their own neighborhood when thinking of the possibility of being robbed or assaulted:

AOJ11. Speaking of the neighborhood where you live and thinking of the possibility of being assaulted or robbed, do you feel very safe, somewhat safe, somewhat unsafe or very unsafe?

(1) Very safe	(2) Somewhat safe	(3) Somewhat unsafe
(4) Very unsafe	(88) DK	(98) DA

Overall, 89% of respondents across all OECS countries say that they feel “very safe” or “somewhat safe” in the neighborhoods where they live; there is very little variation across countries. Figure 3 shows the average perception of insecurity across OECS countries. To obtain these averages, responses to the question listed above (survey item AOJ11) are recoded to a reverse 0 to 100 “thermometer” scale, where 0 degrees means ‘very safe’ and 100 degrees means ‘very unsafe’. The mean score for all respondents is 21 degrees on this scale. Figure 3 shows that the average response from each country ranges from 16 degrees to 24 degrees. Respondents in the OECS generally feel safe in their neighborhoods. Most differences between the countries are insignificant except that respondents from St. Kitts and Nevis feel significantly more secure than those from Antigua and Barbuda, and citizens of Grenada feel significantly more secure than those from any of the other five countries included in the analysis.

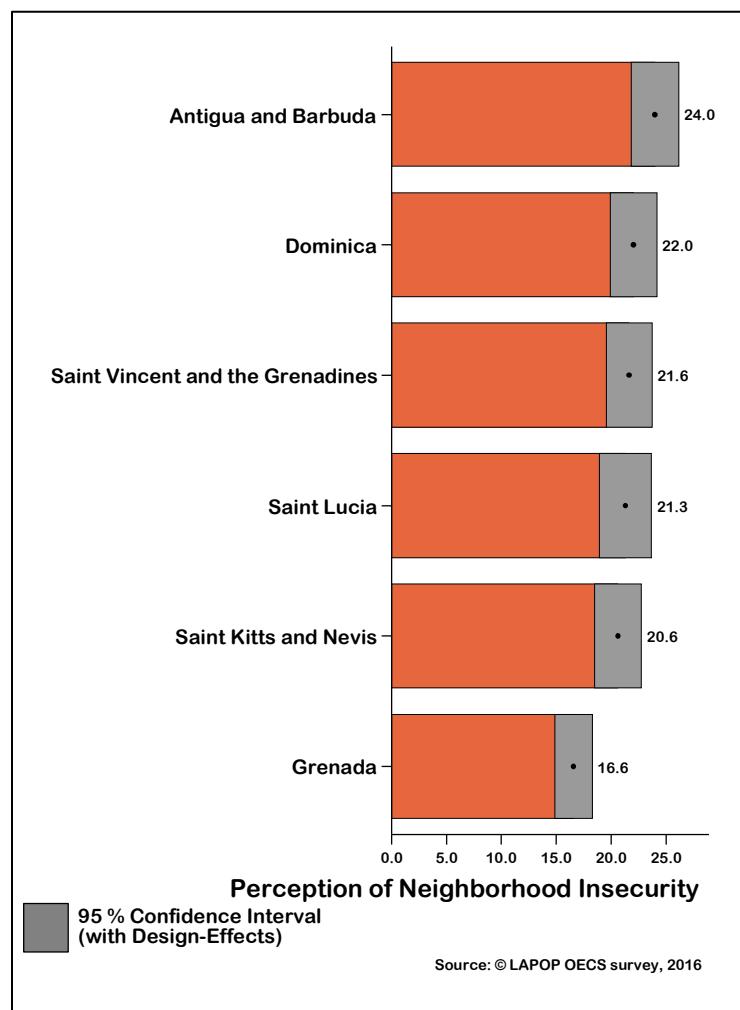


Figure 3. Perception of Neighborhood Insecurity

III. Perceptions of Neighborhood Violence

This part of the section looks at perceptions of violence in communities. To measure perceived levels of neighborhood violence, the survey asks respondents about the level of violence in their neighborhoods in comparison with other neighborhoods:

PESE1. Do you think that the current level of violence in your **neighbourhood is higher, about the same, or lower** than in other neighbourhoods?

(1) Higher (2) About the same (3) Lower (88) DK (98) DA

The study finds that approximately seven in ten respondents (71%) say the current level of violence in their neighborhood is lower than in other neighborhoods; 24% say it is about the same as in other neighborhoods, and only 5% perceive that violence in their neighborhood is higher than in other neighborhoods.

Figure 4 shows the distribution of responses in the six OECS countries included in this study. As the graph illustrates, fewer than 10% of respondents in all six countries say that the current level of violence in their neighborhoods is higher than in other neighborhoods. Conversely, majorities in every country claim that the level of violence in their neighborhood is lower than in other neighborhoods. These majorities vary from 60% in Grenada and 78% in St. Kitts and Nevis.

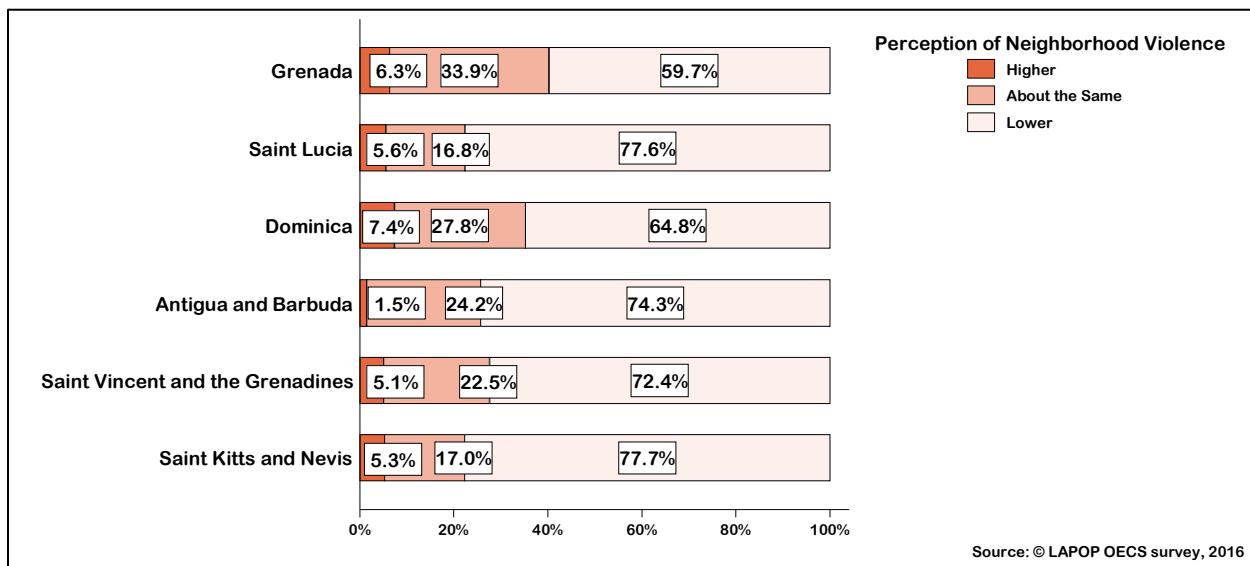


Figure 4. Perception of Neighborhood Violence across OECS Countries, 2016

Table 8 shows the sociodemographic factors that are linked with perceptions of neighborhood violence in all six countries included in the OECS survey. For analytical purposes, the age variable has been recoded into three categories: 18 to 35, 36 to 55 and 56 and older. Similarly, the education variable, which is initially coded as years of education completed by the respondent, has been

recoded into three categories: primary, secondary and post-secondary.⁹ The “x” marks in the table indicate that there is a statistically significant difference of means between categories of an independent variable. For example, the data show that in Grenada, comparative perceptions of neighborhood violence are slightly higher among women, as illustrated in Figure 5. The same graph also shows that respondents with post-secondary education in St. Lucia and Dominica have lower levels of comparative perceptions of neighborhood violence, compared to those with primary education. In St. Vincent and the Grenadines, adults over 56 years of age have higher comparative perceptions of violence in their neighborhood than those between 36 and 55 years of age.

Table 8. Sociodemographic Factors Associated with Perceptions of Neighborhood Violence in OECS Countries, 2016.

Country	Gender	Age	Education
Antigua & Barbuda		x	
Dominica			x
Grenada	x		
St. Kitts & Nevis			
St. Lucia			x
St. Vincent & the Grenadines		x	

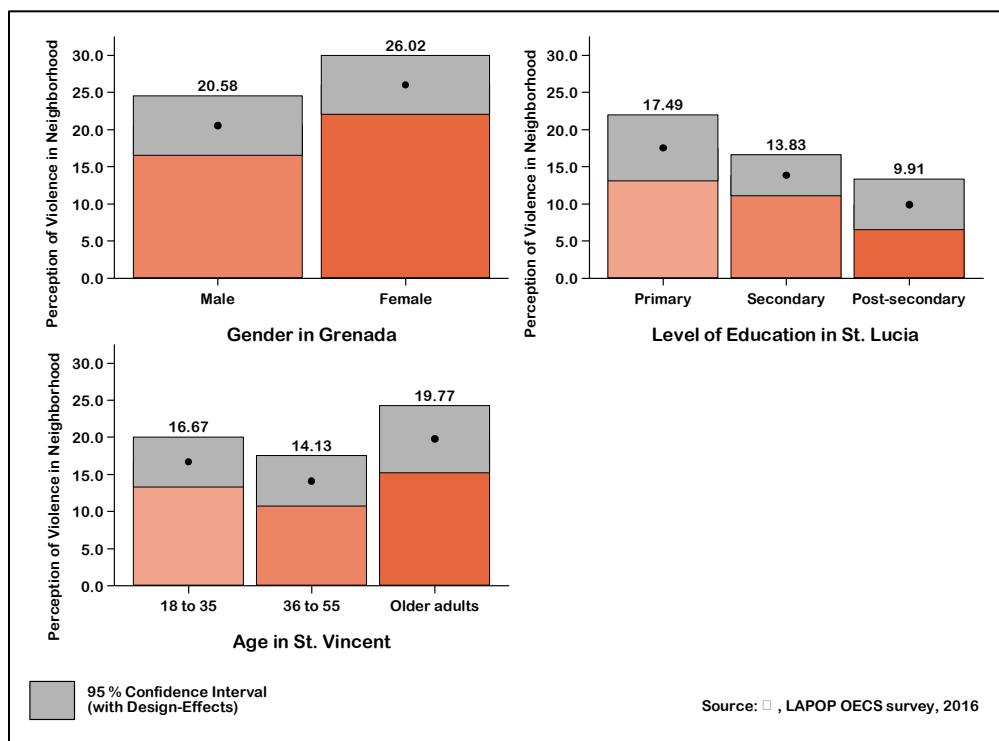


Figure 5. Perceptions of Neighborhood Violence by Gender, Age and Education Level in Grenada, St. Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines, 2016

⁹ The number of respondents with no education was too small (48 people). Those respondents are included in the “primary” category.

II.3.1. Trend in Violence in the Neighborhood

This sub-section also analyzes perceived levels of violence, but in comparison to levels a year ago. To measure these perceptions, the survey includes the following question:

PESE2. Do you think that the current level of violence in your neighbourhood is higher, about the same, or lower than 12 months ago?

(1) Higher (2) About the same (3) Lower (88) DK (98) DA

The study finds that approximately half (51%) of all respondents say that the current level of violence in their neighborhood is lower than it was 12 months prior to the survey, while only 6% think that violence in their neighborhood is higher. Figure 6 shows respondents' average perceptions of violence in comparison with the previous 12 months across OECS countries. To obtain these averages, responses to the question listed above were recoded to a 0 to 100 scale, where 0 means perceived "lower" violence than 12 months ago and 100 means "higher". Figure 6 shows that there is not much variation across countries and that, overall, respondents think that violence in their neighborhoods is lower than it was 12 months ago.

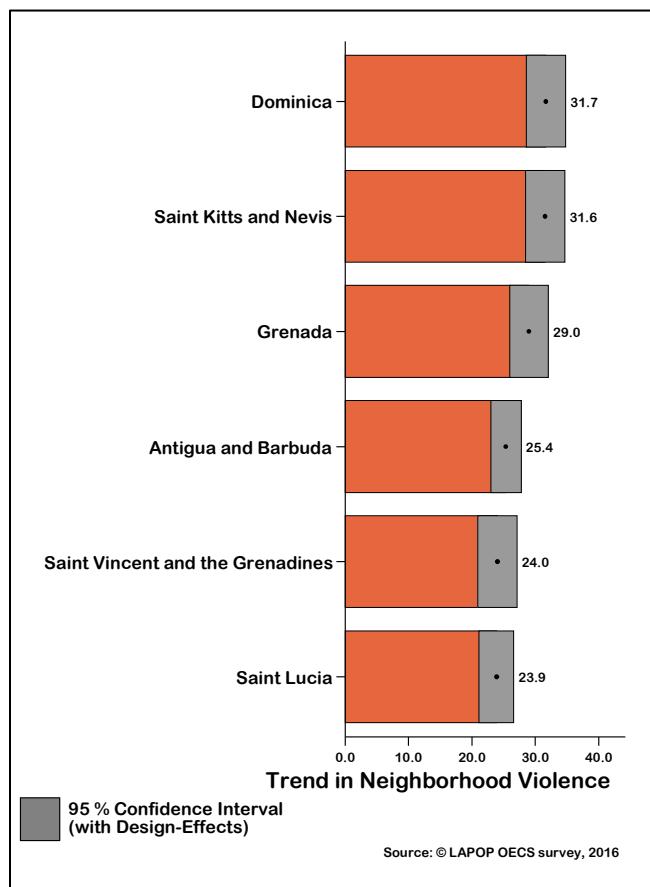


Figure 6. Retrospective Evaluations of Neighborhood Violence across OECS Countries, 2016

Table 9. Sociodemographic Factors Associated with Retrospective Evaluation of Neighborhood Violence across OECS Countries, 2016

Country	Gender	Age	Education
Antigua & Barbuda	X		
Dominica			
Grenada	X		
St. Kitts & Nevis			X
St. Lucia			
St. Vincent & the Grenadines			

Table 9 indicates that in Antigua and Barbuda and Grenada, gender predicts this variable (female respondents report higher retrospective evaluations of neighborhood violence). The data also show that in St. Kitts and Nevis people with primary education are more prone to report that violence in their neighborhoods is lower than 12 months ago. This relationship is depicted in Figure 7.

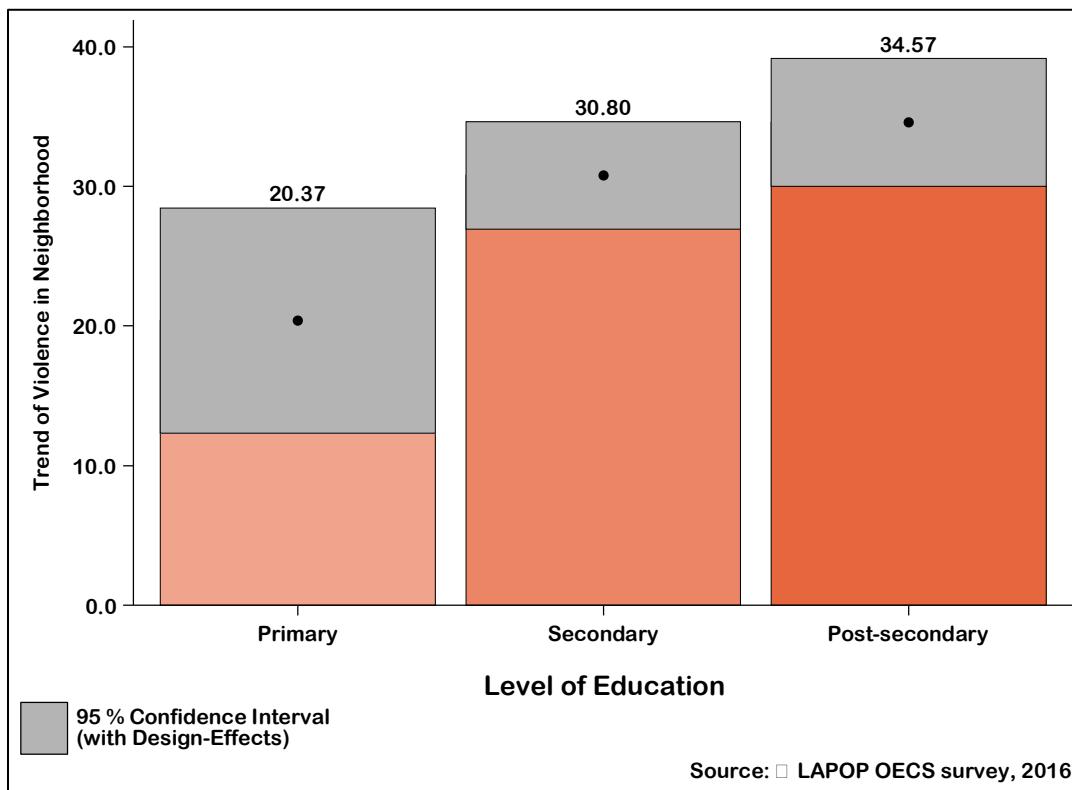


Figure 7. Retrospective Evaluation of Neighborhood Violence and Levels of Education in St. Kitts and Nevis, 2016

Part III. Crime Victimization

This section shows the results of analyses of various instances of crime victimization. The section first looks at household crime victimization (that is, people who report that they, and/or someone else living in the household, has been victimized by crime in the 12 months prior to the survey) and then examines instances of home burglaries in the 5 years prior to the survey.

I. Household Crime Victimization

The issue of household crime victimization was covered by the following questions:

VIC1EXT. Now, changing the subject, have you been a victim of any type of crime in the past 12 months? That is, have you been a victim of robbery, burglary, assault, fraud, blackmail, extortion, violent threats or **any other type** of crime in the past 12 months?

(1) Yes [Continue] (2) No [Skip to VIC1HOGAR]

(88) DK [Skip to VIC1HOGAR] (98) DA [Skip to VIC1HOGAR]

VIC1HOGAR. Has any other person living in your household been a victim of any type of crime in the past 12 months? That is, has any other person living in your household been a victim of robbery, burglary, assault, fraud, blackmail, extortion, violent threats or any other type of crime in the past 12 months?

(1) Yes (2) No (88) DK (98) DA (99) N/A (Lives alone)

These questions were combined to create an index that reflects whether the respondent and/or someone else living in the household was victimized by crime in the 12 months prior to the survey. This index, referred to as “household victimization”, measures whether any household member (or more than one household member) has been a victim of crime.¹⁰ Figure 8 shows the percentage of households in each country that report having a member who had been victimized. Overall, and by this particular measure, household crime victimization does not exceed 19% in any of the countries included in the study. There are, however, important differences between countries. Results show that household crime victimization rates are twice as high in Dominica and St. Lucia (18%) compared to those in Grenada and St. Kitts and Nevis (9%).

¹⁰ The crime does not have to take place in the household to be counted for this index.

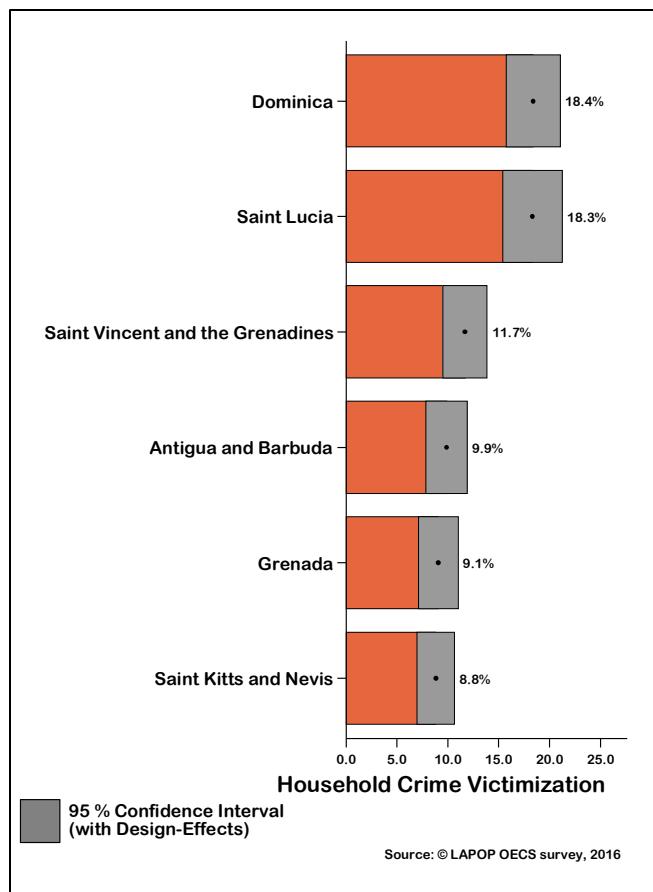


Figure 8. Household Crime Victimization across OECS Countries, 2016

Table 10 illustrates the sociodemographic factors associated with household crime victimization. As the table shows, in St. Lucia, Antigua and Barbuda, and Dominica, women are victims of crime more often than men. Also, in St. Lucia and Dominica adults over 55 years of age are less likely to be victimized by crime than adults between 18 and 35 years of age. Figure 9 shows that in Grenada, Dominica, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines, respondents with post-secondary education report higher levels of incidence of crime victimization, compared to those with primary or secondary education.

Table 10. Sociodemographic Factors Associated with Household Crime Victimization in OECS Countries, 2016.

Country	Gender	Age	Education
Antigua & Barbuda	X		
Dominica	X	X	X
Grenada			X
St. Kitts & Nevis			
St. Lucia	X	X	
St. Vincent & the Grenadines			X

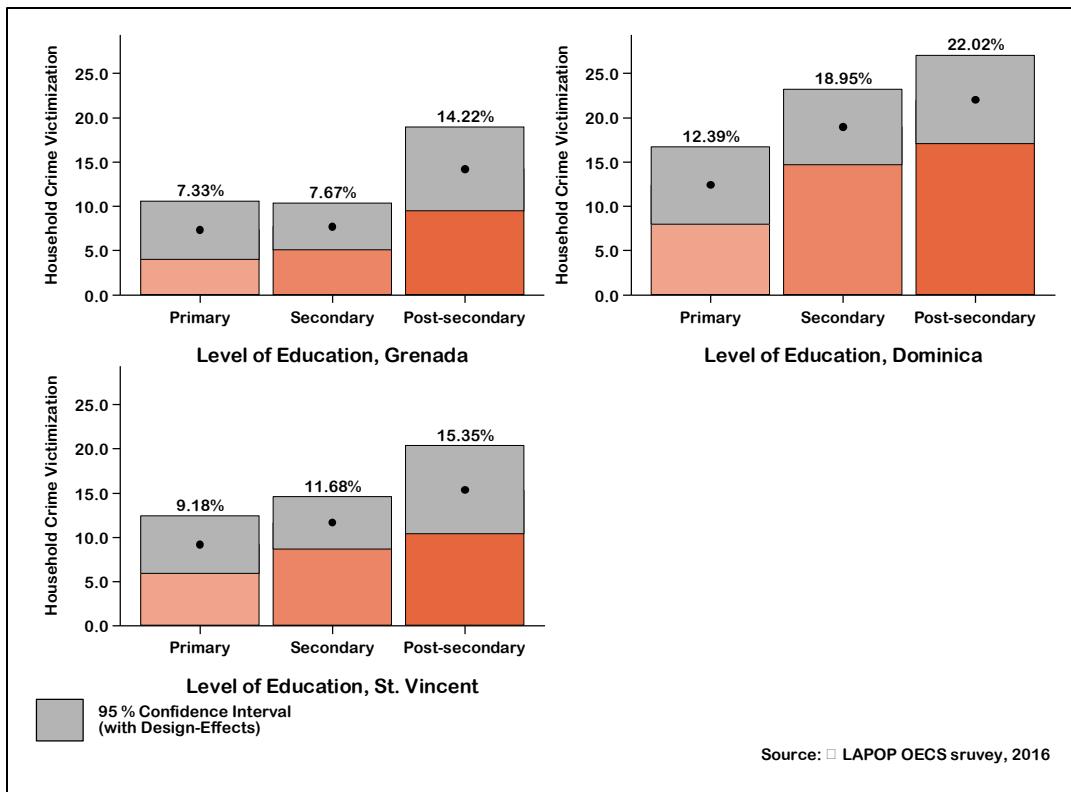


Figure 9. Household Crime Victimization by Level of Education in Grenada, Dominica, and St. Vincent & the Grenadines, 2016

II. Home Burglaries

Respondents in the survey were also asked the following question regarding home invasions:

IVOL2. In the past five years (that is, since 2011), did anyone actually get into your main home without permission and steal or try to steal something? I am not including here thefts from the garden, garage, shed, or lock-up or from a second home.

[INCLUDE BOATS, DORIES, CELLARS THAT ARE PART OF THE HOME; INCLUDE STATIC MOBILE HOMES/CARAVANS; DO NOT INCLUDE SECOND HOMES]

(1) Yes (2) No (88) DK (cannot remember) (98) DA

Figure 10 illustrates the differences in home burglary rates across OECS countries: that is, differences in the percentages of respondents who answered “yes” to the above question. Overall, about 10% of respondents report that someone broke into their home in the five years prior to the survey. Home burglaries were reported most often in St. Lucia at a rate of about 14%.

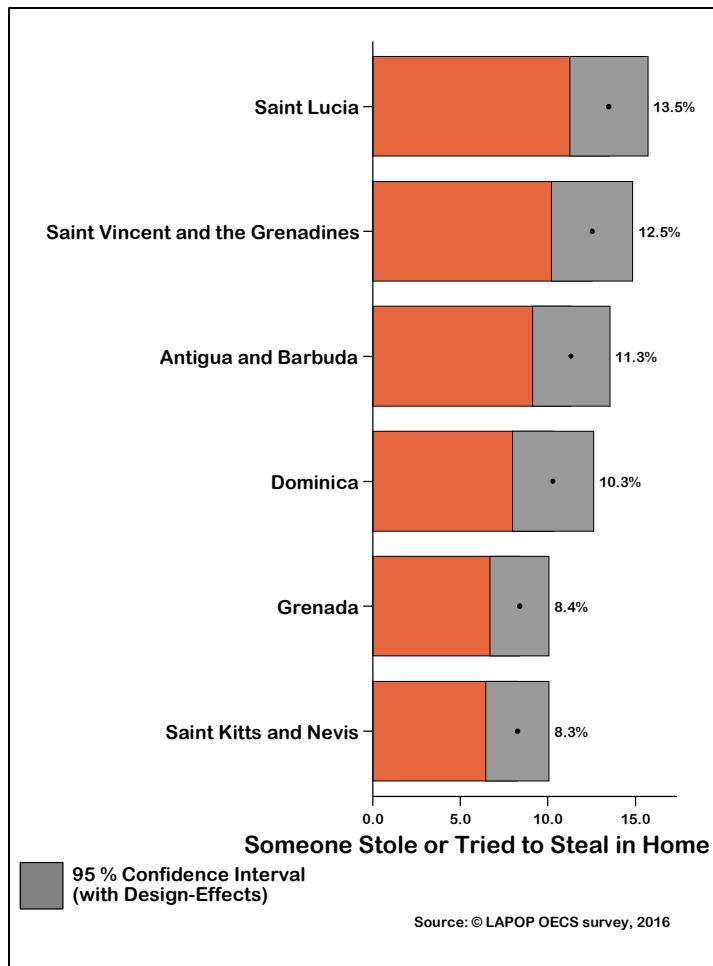


Figure 10. Home Burglaries across OECS Countries, 2016

III. Personal Victimization by Theft or Acts of Aggression

The study also explores the respondents' experience with violent aggression or threats in the five years previous to the survey. The questions listed below were recoded into a single index that measures personal victimization by theft or aggression.

IVOL3. In the last five years, has anyone stolen, or tried to steal something from you by using force or threatening you with force?

(1) Yes (2) No (88) DK (cannot remember) (98) DA

IVOL5. In the past five years, has anyone slapped you, hit or punched you, kicked you, thrown something at you, or attacked you with a weapon in a way that really upset or angered you? Do NOT include horseplay, and do not include incidents of a sexual nature or incidents of domestic violence.

(1) Yes (2) No (88) DK (cannot remember) (98) DA (Refusal)

IVOL6. Separately from any incidents you have already mentioned, in the past five years (that is, since 2011), has anyone seriously threatened to slap, hit, punch or kick you, threatened to throw something at you or otherwise injure you, or threatened you with a weapon in a way that really upset or angered you? Do NOT include threats made as jokes, and do not include incidents of a sexual nature or incidents of domestic violence.

(1) Yes (2) No (88) DK (cannot remember) (98) DA (Refusal)

The percentages in Figure 11 show the difference across countries in the percentage of respondents who answered 'yes' to at least one of the questions in the index. A fifth or more of respondents in St Lucia (24%), Dominica (21%), and St. Vincent and the Grenadines (20%) were victims of threats or acts of aggression in the five year priors to the survey, compared with slightly more than a tenth of respondents in Antigua and Barbuda (11%), St. Kitts and Nevis (12%), and Grenada (12%).

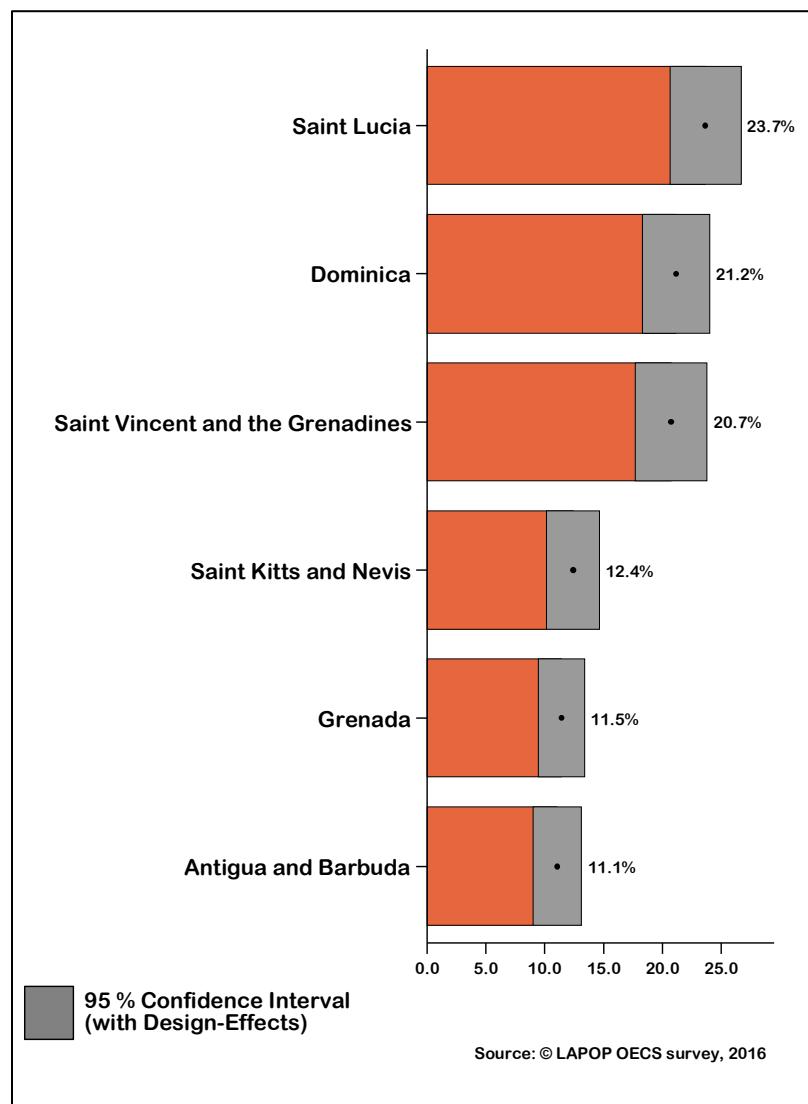


Figure 11. Rates of Crime Victimization by Threats or Aggression across OECS Countries, 2016

Table 11 shows the sociodemographic factors associated with crime victimization by threat or act of aggression. As depicted in the table, there are significant differences between male and female respondents as well as between age categories in most countries. The survey finds that male respondents are more prone to report being victims of threats or acts of aggression than female respondents. Similarly, respondents between 18 and 35 years of age report victimization at greater rates (for these types of crimes) than older adults.

Table 11. Sociodemographic Factors Associated with Crime Victimization by Threat or Act of Aggression in OECS Countries, 2016.

Country	Gender	Age	Education
Antigua & Barbuda		X	
Dominica	X	X	
Grenada	X	X	
St. Kitts & Nevis	X	X	
St. Lucia	X	X	X
St. Vincent & the Grenadines	X	X	X

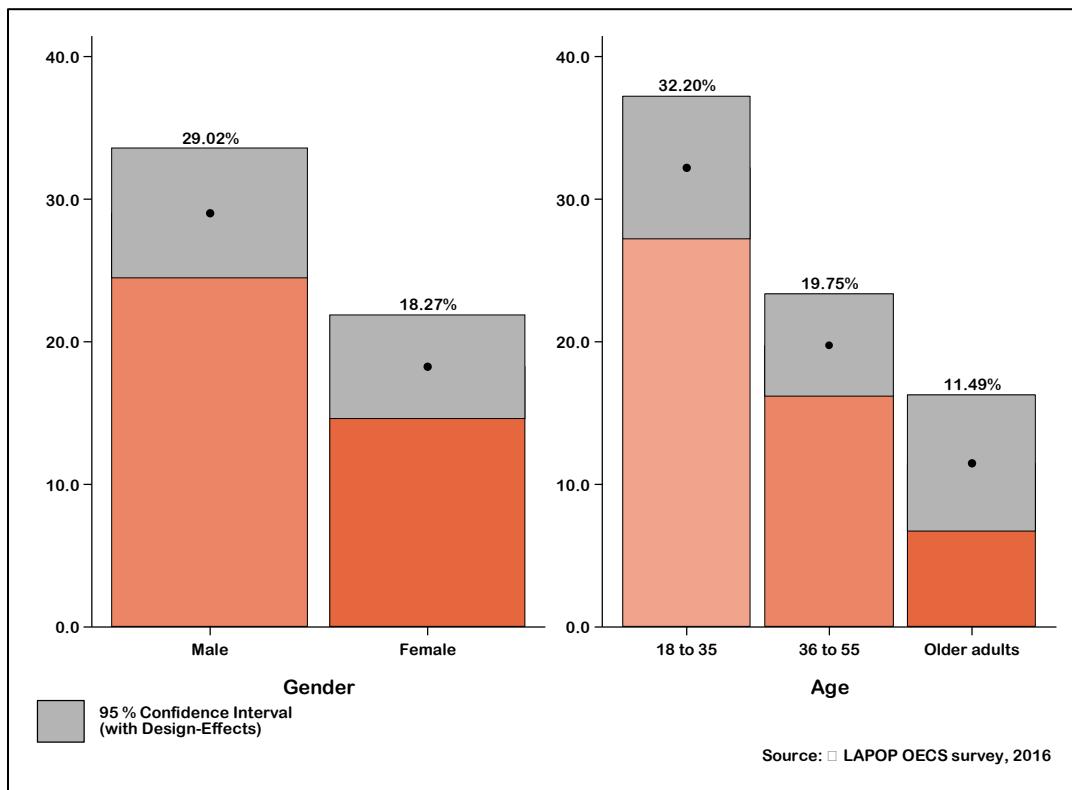


Figure 12. Crime Victimization by Threats or Aggression by Gender and Age in St. Lucia, 2016

Figure 12 illustrates the experiences of male and female respondents as well as those in different age categories with crime victimization by threats or acts of aggression (over the past five years) in St. Lucia. As the graph shows, roughly a third (29%) of men have been either threatened or hurt

by an act of aggression in the last five years, compared with just under a fifth (19%) of women. One-in-three (32%) respondents between the ages of 18 and 35 have also been victims of threats or aggressions, while only 20% of adults between 36 and 55 and 11% of adults 56 and older report being victims of these types of crimes.

Figure 13 illustrates the differences across education categories and crime victimization by threats or aggressions in St. Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. The survey finds that in both countries, respondents with secondary education tend to report being victims of these crimes often than those with primary education and more often those who have post-secondary education.

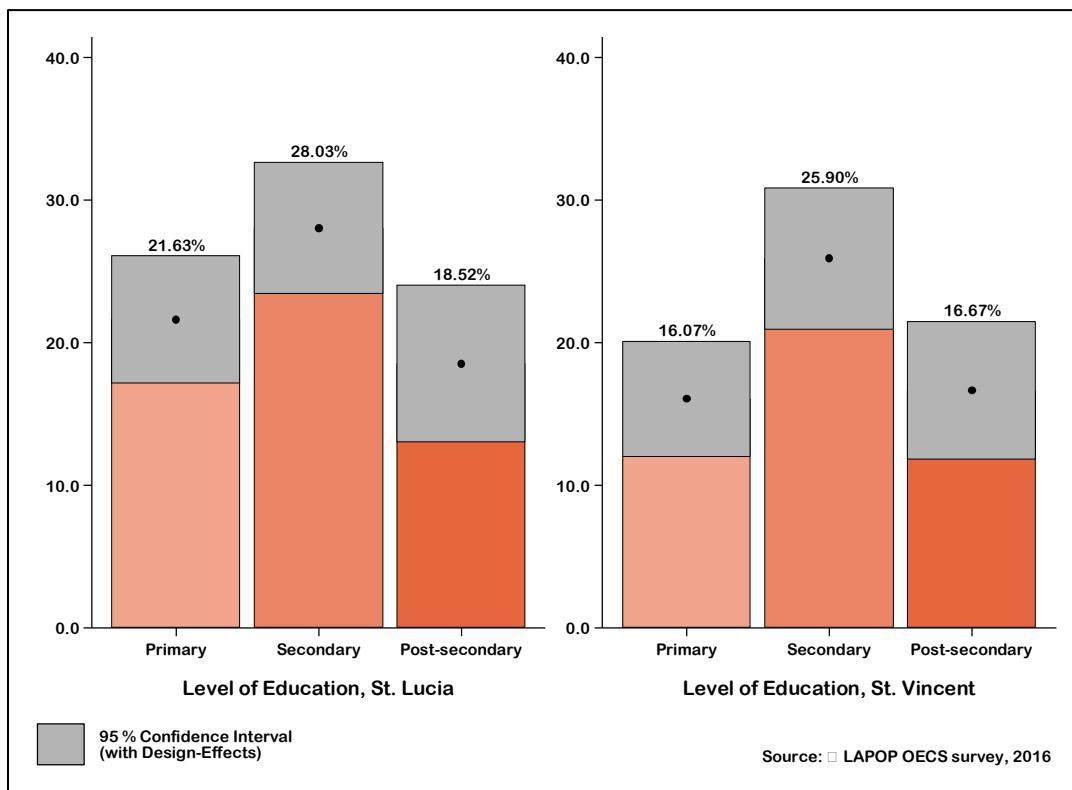


Figure 13. Crime Victimization by Threats or Aggression by education in St. Lucia and St. Vincent & the Grenadines, 2016

Part IV. Crime as a Community Problem

Issues concerning violence and crime can have an effect on citizens' perceptions of their own quality of life, which can eventually reflect on their support for democratic institutions and the political system overall.¹¹ This section documents individual perceptions and experiences with issues such as drug sales, gang activity, human trafficking, and murder across OECS countries.

I. Illegal Drug Sales in Neighborhood

A common security challenges in many countries in the Americas is the illegal trafficking of narcotics. Drug trafficking is often closely related to violent crime and directly impacts the quality of life in a neighborhood or community. The survey measures perceptions of the occurrence of illegal drug sales inside respondents' neighborhoods using the following question:

VICBAR3. Have there been sales of illegal drugs in the past 12 months in your neighbourhood?

(1) Yes (2) No

Figure 14 illustrates the difference in reporting of illegal drug sales in respondents' communities across the six countries included in the survey. The results show that fewer than a third of respondents in Antigua and Barbuda (29%) and in St. Kitts and Nevis (25%) say that there have been sales of illegal drugs in their neighborhoods in the past year. Conversely, in St. Lucia, the number rises to 44% and in Dominica almost half of all respondents say that there have been illegal drugs sold in their communities (47%).

¹¹ Przeworski, Adam, Michael E. Alvarez, José Antonio Cheibub, and Fernando Limongi. 2000. *Democracy and Development: Political Institutions and Well-Being in the World, 1950-1990*; New York: Cambridge University Press. See also: *The Political Culture of Democracy in the Americas, 2014: Democratic Governance across 10 Years of the AmericasBarometer*; the Latin American Public Opinion Project, Vanderbilt University.

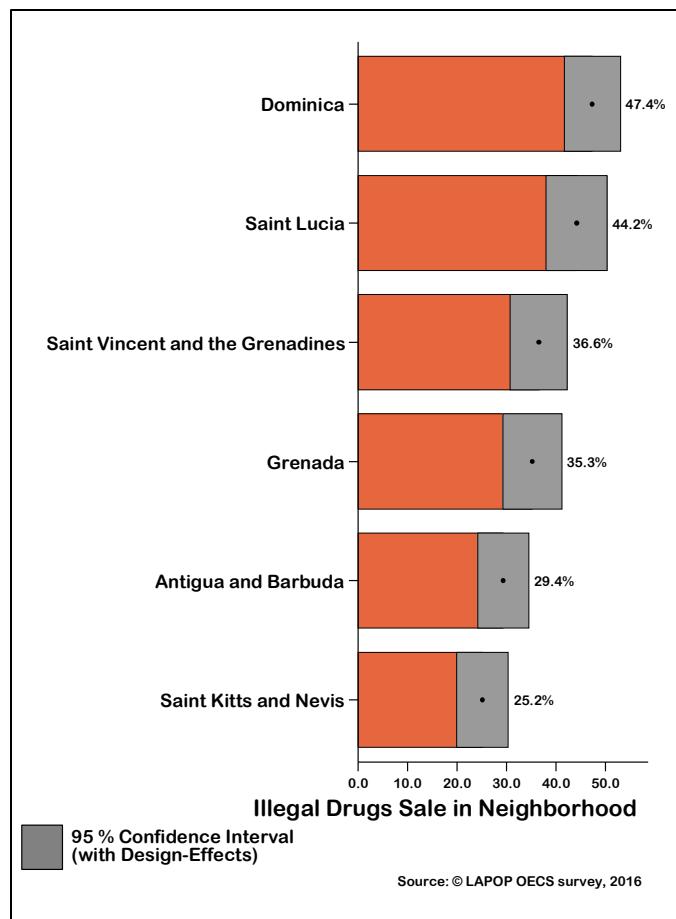


Figure 14. Reports of Illegal Drug Sales across OECS Countries, 2016

Table 12 shows which sociodemographic factors are linked to the reporting of illegal drugs in OECS countries. As the table illustrates, there are differences between age and education groups when it comes to reporting of illegal drug sales in at least half of the countries included in the study, while male and female respondents are significantly different in their reporting of illegal drug sales in St. Lucia and Grenada.

Table 12. Sociodemographic Factors Associated with Reporting of Illegal Drug Sales in OECS Countries, 2016.

Country	Gender	Age	Education
Antigua & Barbuda		X	
Dominica			
Grenada	X		
St. Kitts & Nevis		X	X
St. Lucia	X	X	X
St. Vincent & the Grenadines		X	X

Figure 15 shows differences in reporting of illegal drug sales in St. Vincent and the Grenadines according to the age and level of education of respondents. The survey finds a 20-point difference in reporting of illegal drug sales between respondents with primary education and those with post-secondary education (29% to 49%).

Conversely, older respondents report illegal drug sales less often than younger people. The data show that a quarter of respondents 56 years or older say that there have been illegal drugs sold in their neighborhoods in the last year, compared with 43% of respondents between 18 and 35 years.

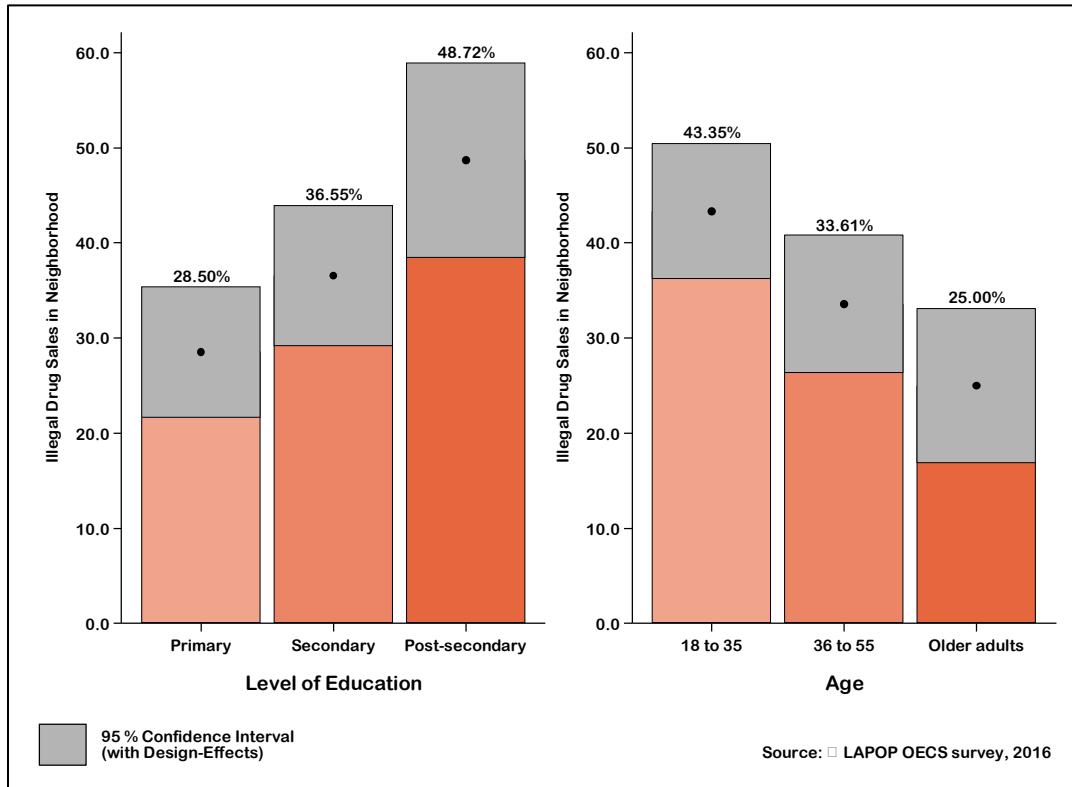


Figure 15. Reporting of Illegal Drugs by Age and Level of Education in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, 2016.

Figure 16 illustrates how male and female respondents differ in their reports of illegal drug sales in Grenada and St. Lucia. In Grenada, female respondents are more prone to report illegal sales of drugs in their neighborhoods, compared with their male counterparts (40% vs. 30%). Conversely in St. Lucia, roughly half of male respondents (51%) report sales of illegal drugs in their communities in the 12 months prior to the survey, compared with 37% of female respondents.

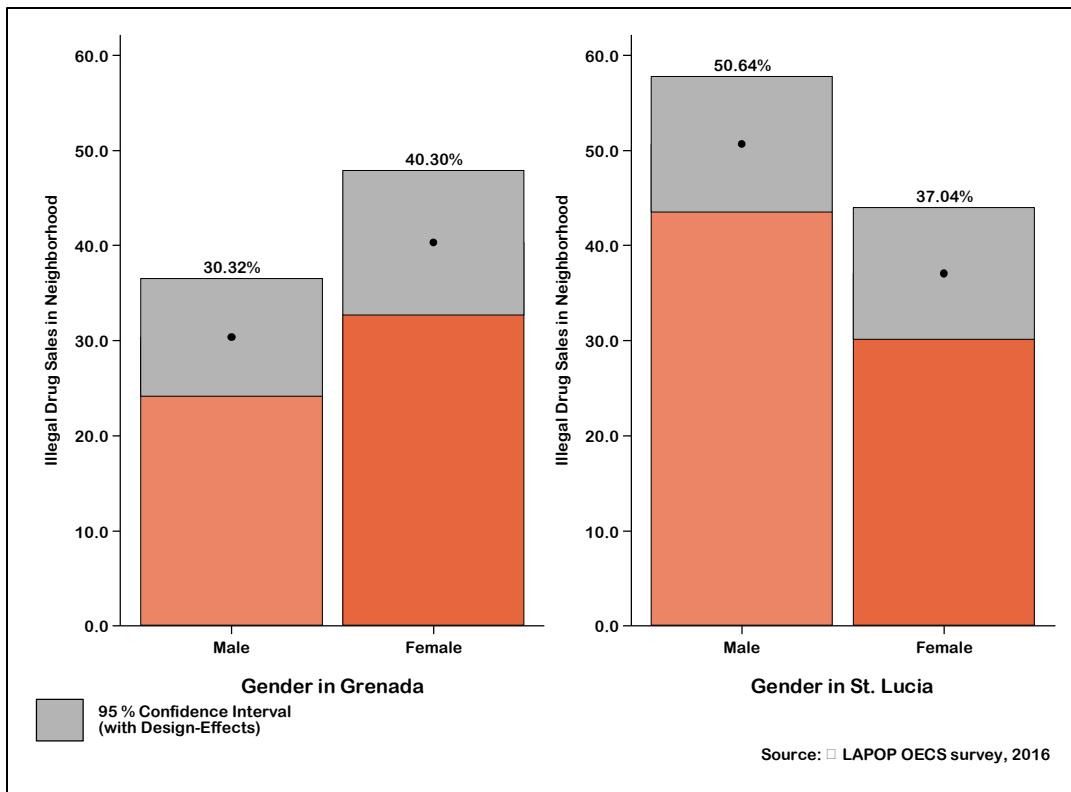


Figure 16. Reporting of Illegal Drug Sales and Respondent Gender in Grenada and St. Lucia, 2016

II. Presence of Gangs in the Neighborhood

This sub-section deals with a different aspect of neighborhood violence, the issue of gang activity across OECS countries. Respondents were asked if their neighborhoods are affected by the presence of gangs using the following survey question:

AOJ17. To what extent do you think your neighbourhood is affected by gangs or bandas?
Would you say a lot, somewhat, a little or none?

(1) A lot (2) Somewhat (3) Little (4) None (88) DK (98) DA

The survey finds that approximately 87% of all respondents say that gangs have had little or no effect in their neighborhoods, while about 13% say that their communities have been affected somewhat or a lot. Figure 17 shows respondents' average perception of gang activity across OECS countries. To obtain these averages, responses to the question listed above were recoded to a 0 to 100 scale, where 0 means "none" and 100 means "a lot". The figure shows that, overall, perceptions of gang activity across all countries are low; in fact, most answers cluster around the "little" response option.

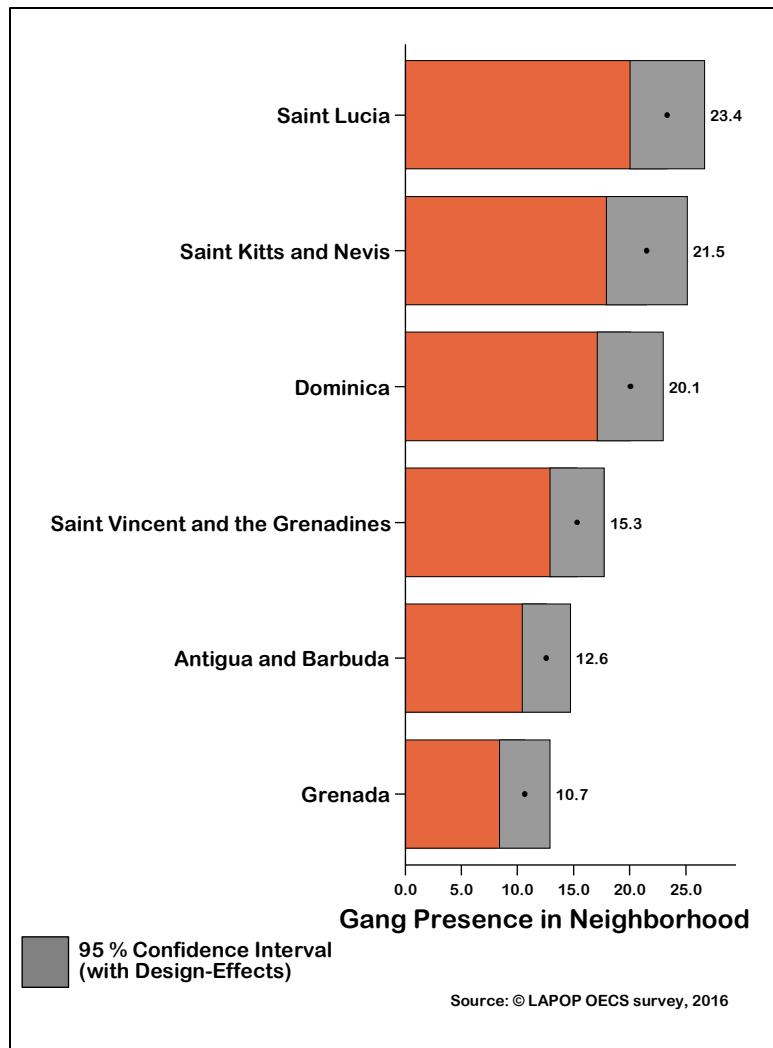


Figure 17. Gang Activity in Neighborhoods across OECS Countries, 2016

III. Murders in Neighborhood

This sub-section discusses the results of respondents' reports of neighborhood murders across the OECS countries in the study. The question used to measure perceived murder rates in the last 12 months is listed below:

VICBAR7. Have there been any murders in the last 12 months in your neighbourhood?

(1) Yes (2) No

Figure 18 shows the difference in murder reporting in the six countries surveyed. The graph shows that St. Kitts and Nevis, which is the only country in the study where a majority of respondents claim that security is the most serious problem their nation is facing, has the highest rate of murder reporting in the region, with almost one-in-five of all those interviewed (17%) saying that there

was a murder in their neighborhood in the 12 months prior to the survey. The country with the lowest rate of murder reporting is Grenada, where only 4% of all respondents report that someone was murdered in their community in the last year.

Results show that sociodemographic factors like age, gender and level of education are not related to the reporting of murders in the OECS countries included in this study.

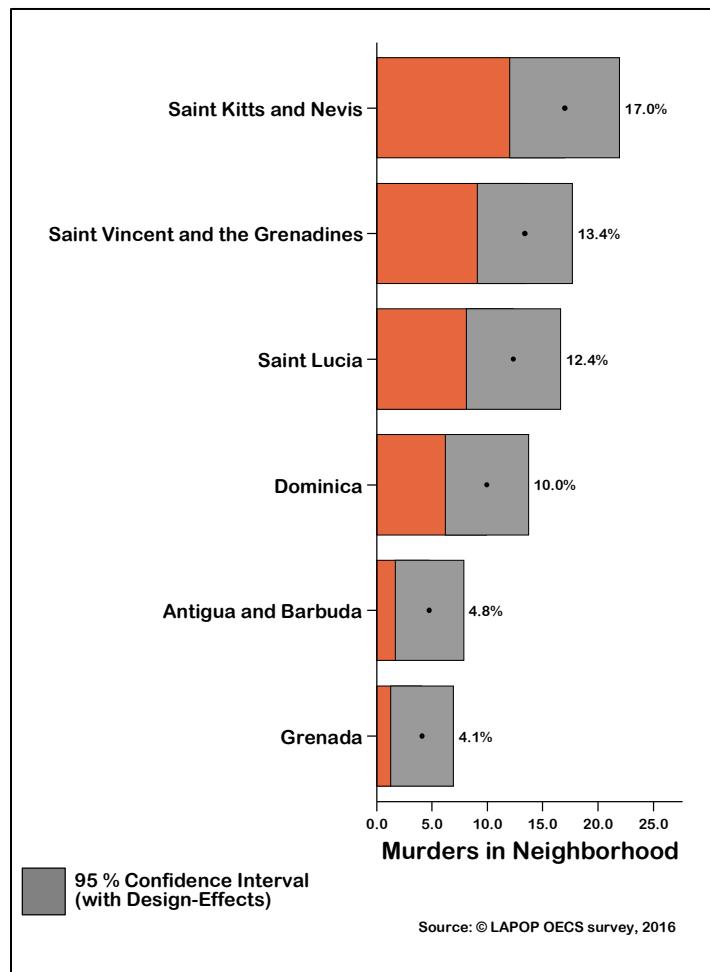


Figure 18. Murder Reporting across OECS Countries, 2016

Part V. Evaluations and Perceptions of Law Enforcement Institutions

This section focuses on citizens' perceptions regarding law enforcement institutions, specifically the police and the judiciary, across OECS countries. These institutions are in charge of the application of the laws, based on the supposition that all citizens are equal and none have legal impunity.¹² They also bear the responsibility of providing security protection for citizens.

The section first focuses on evaluations of police in controlling crime. The second section then analyzes respondents' policy preferences to control crime. The last segment looks at citizens' beliefs in the capacity of the judicial system to punish those who commit crimes and at institutional trust for the police and the justice system across OECS countries.

I. Evaluation of Police in Controlling Crime

An important indicator of police performance is citizens' perceptions regarding how well the police are able to control crime in their communities. To understand citizens' perceptions of this dimension of police performance the survey included the following question:

IVOL14. Taking everything into account, how good do you think the police in your neighbourhood are in controlling crime? Do you think they do a very good job, a fairly good job, neither good nor poor job, a fairly poor job or a very poor job?

(1) very good job	(2) fairly good job	(3) neither good nor poor job	
(4) fairly poor job	(5) very poor job	(88) DK	(98) DA (Refused)

The study finds that evaluations regarding the job the police doing are generally favorable. Almost two thirds of all respondents (62%) think the police are doing a "very good job" or a "fairly good job" of controlling crime in their neighborhoods. Conversely, 21% of respondents evaluate the job the police do as "fairly poor" or "very poor". This leaves approximately one-in-five respondents (17%) who have a neutral opinion. Figure 19 shows the average evaluation of police performance across OECS countries. To obtain these averages, the question listed above was recoded to a 0 to 100 scale, where 0 means "very poor" and 100 means "very good". The graph shows that there is some variation between countries in the OECS. The mean score for all respondents is 62 degrees, which means that, on average, evaluations of police performance across OECS countries are closer to the "fairly good job" response option. The data show that individual country averages range between 56 and 70 degrees.

¹² See, O'Donnell, Guillermo A. 2004. Why the Rule of Law Matters. *Journal of Democracy* 15 (4): 32-46.

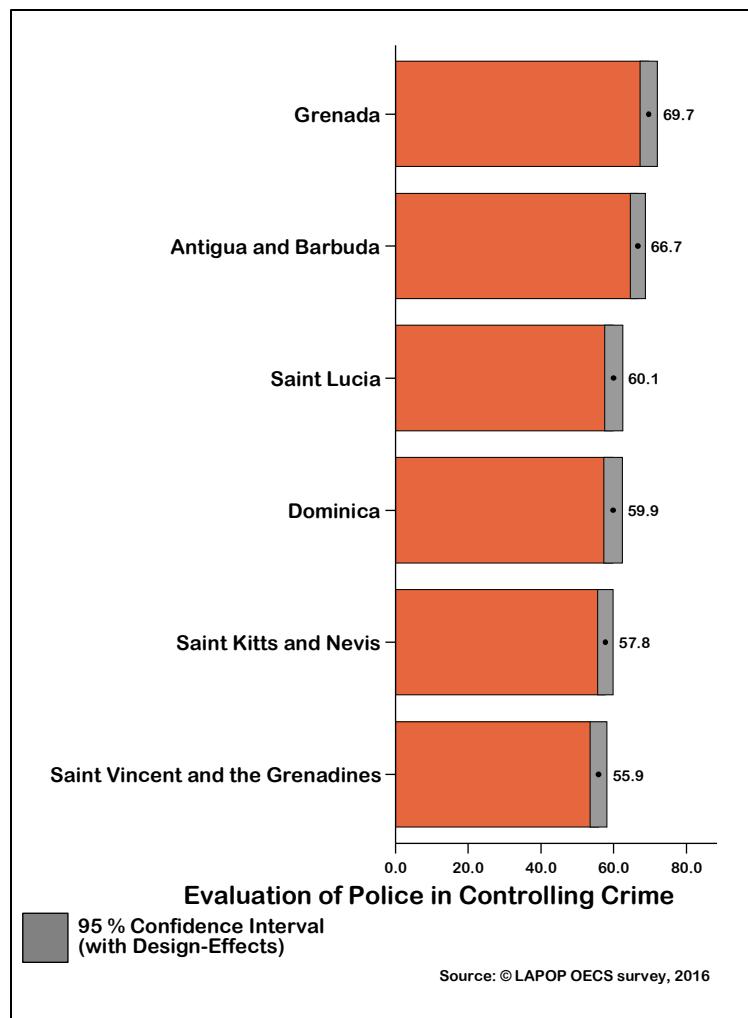


Figure 19. Evaluation of Police Performance across OECS Countries

Table 13. Sociodemographic Factors Associated with Evaluation of Police Performance in OECS Countries, 2016.

Country	Gender	Age	Education
Antigua & Barbuda		X	X
Dominica		X	
Grenada		X	X
St. Kitts & Nevis		X	
St. Lucia	X	X	X
St. Vincent & the Grenadines		X	X

Table 13 shows that in St. Lucia, there is a gender difference (women evaluate police performance more positively than men). The study also finds a significant difference between age categories and evaluation of police performance in every country surveyed. Similarly, there are differences between levels of education and police evaluation in most countries, except Dominica and St. Kitts

and Nevis. The survey finds that in some countries (Grenada, St. Lucia) respondents with lower levels of education evaluate police performance significantly better than those with secondary and post-secondary education.

Figure 20 shows that while evaluation of police performance in Antigua and Barbuda is generally high, respondents with post-secondary education evaluate police performance slightly higher than those with secondary education (and comparable to those with primary education). Likewise, adults 56 years of age and older evaluate police higher than those between 18 and 55 years of age.

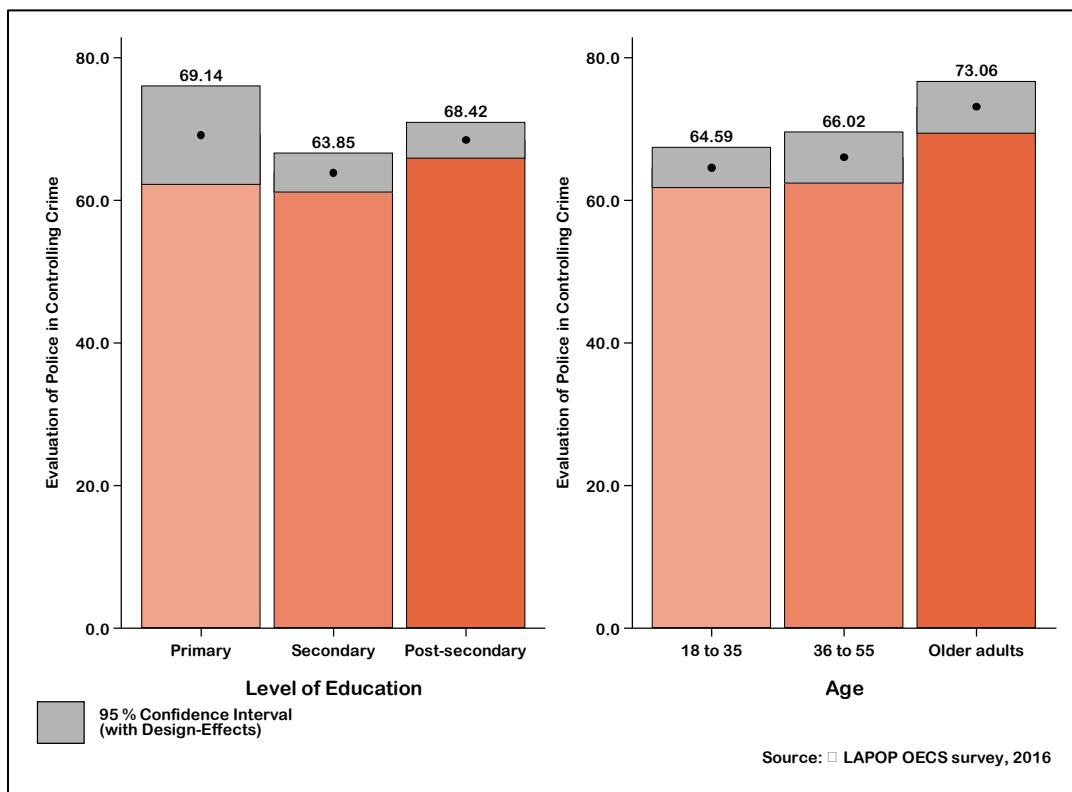


Figure 20. Evaluation of Police Performance by Level of Education and Age, Antigua and Barbuda, 2016

II. Measures to Reduce Crime

Respondents were asked what should be done to reduce crime in their countries and given a choice between increasing punitive measures and implement preventive measures. The question used is detailed below.

AOJ22. In your opinion, what should be done to reduce crime in a country like ours:
 Implement preventive measures or increase punishment of criminals?
 (1) Implement preventive measures
 (2) Increase punishment of criminals
 (3) [Don't read] Both (88) DK (98) DA

The survey finds that, overall, almost half of all respondents (48%) say that increased punishment for criminals is the best way to reduce crime in their countries, compared with 27% who say that preventive measures should be implemented and 24% who say that they should do both. Figure 21 shows the percentage of those who prefer solely to increase punitive measures in all six countries surveyed. Results show that more than half of respondents in St. Vincent and the Grenadines (53%) and St. Lucia (52%) believe that increasing punitive measures is the best way to reduce crime in their countries.

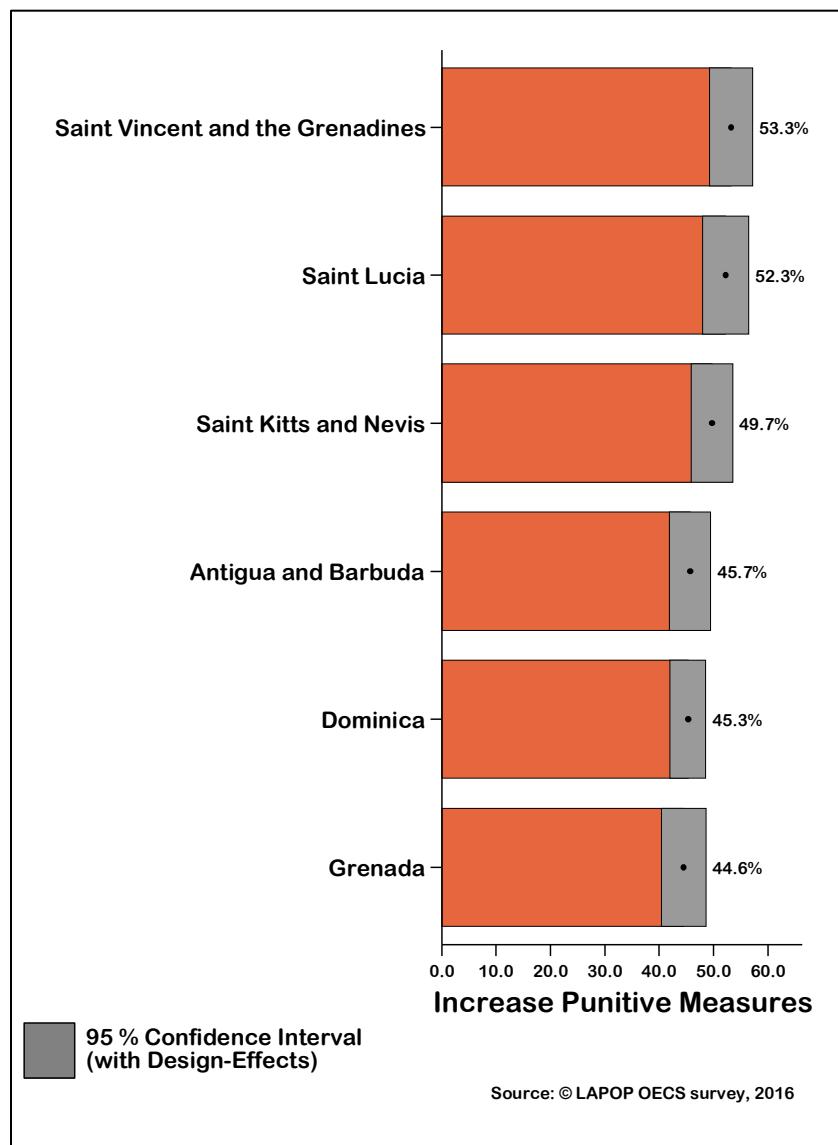


Figure 21. Percentage of Respondents who prefer to Increase Punitive Measures to Reduce Crime across OECS Countries, 2016

Table 14 lists the sociodemographic factors linked to the preference of increased punitive measures to reduce crime in the six countries included in this study. Notably, the survey finds gender differences such that larger percentages of women in Grenada and St. Lucia prefer punitive measures as a strategy to reduce crime, as shown in Figure 22.

Table 14. Sociodemographic Factors associated with the Preference for Increased Punitive Measures to Reduce Crime in OECS Countries, 2016.

Country	Gender	Age	Education
Antigua & Barbuda			X
Dominica		X	X
Grenada	X	X	X
St. Kitts & Nevis			X
St. Lucia	X	X	X
St. Vincent & the Grenadines	X		X

Table 14 also shows that, in every country, highly educated respondents are consistently less likely to support an increase in punitive measures than those with lower levels of education. In Dominica, for example, 59% of respondents with primary education say that increasing punishment for criminals is the best way to reduce crime in their country, compared with 35% of those with post-secondary education. Attitudes are similar in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, where 60% of those with primary education prefer an increase in punitive measures while 39% of those with post-secondary education prefer the same thing. The study also finds that in Dominica, Grenada and St. Lucia, respondents over 55 years of age are more prone to prefer punitive measures to reduce crime than those between 18 and 35 years of age.

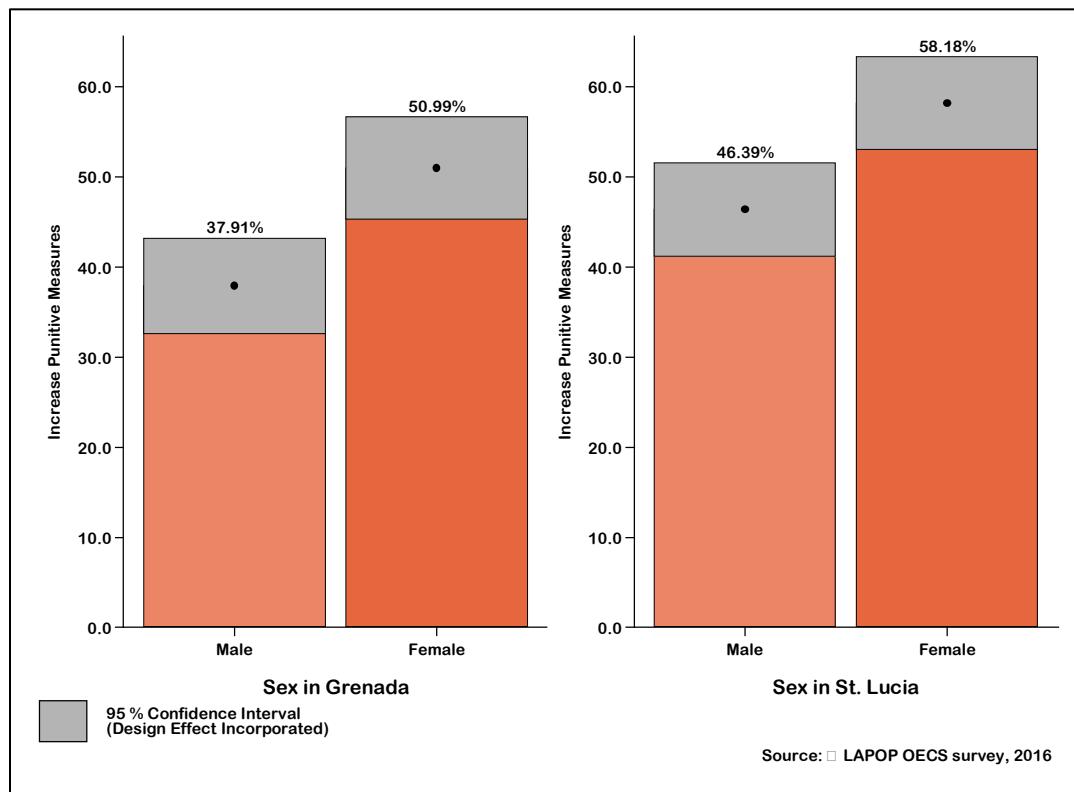


Figure 22. Preference for Punitive Measures to Reduce Crime and Gender in Grenada and St. Lucia, 2016

III. Trust in the Police

The final question about the role of the police evaluates trust in the police as an institution. This survey item asks respondents to evaluate trust in the police on a scale from 1 to 7, where 1 means “not at all” and 7 means “a lot.” This variable was recoded to a 0-100 scale for ease of comparison.

B18. To what extent do you trust the National Police?

Figure 23 shows the average level of trust in the police across OECS countries. The average score for trust in the police is 46 degrees on the 0 to 100 point scale, which is slightly below the halfway point and means that citizens across the OECS countries consider the police to be somewhat trustworthy.

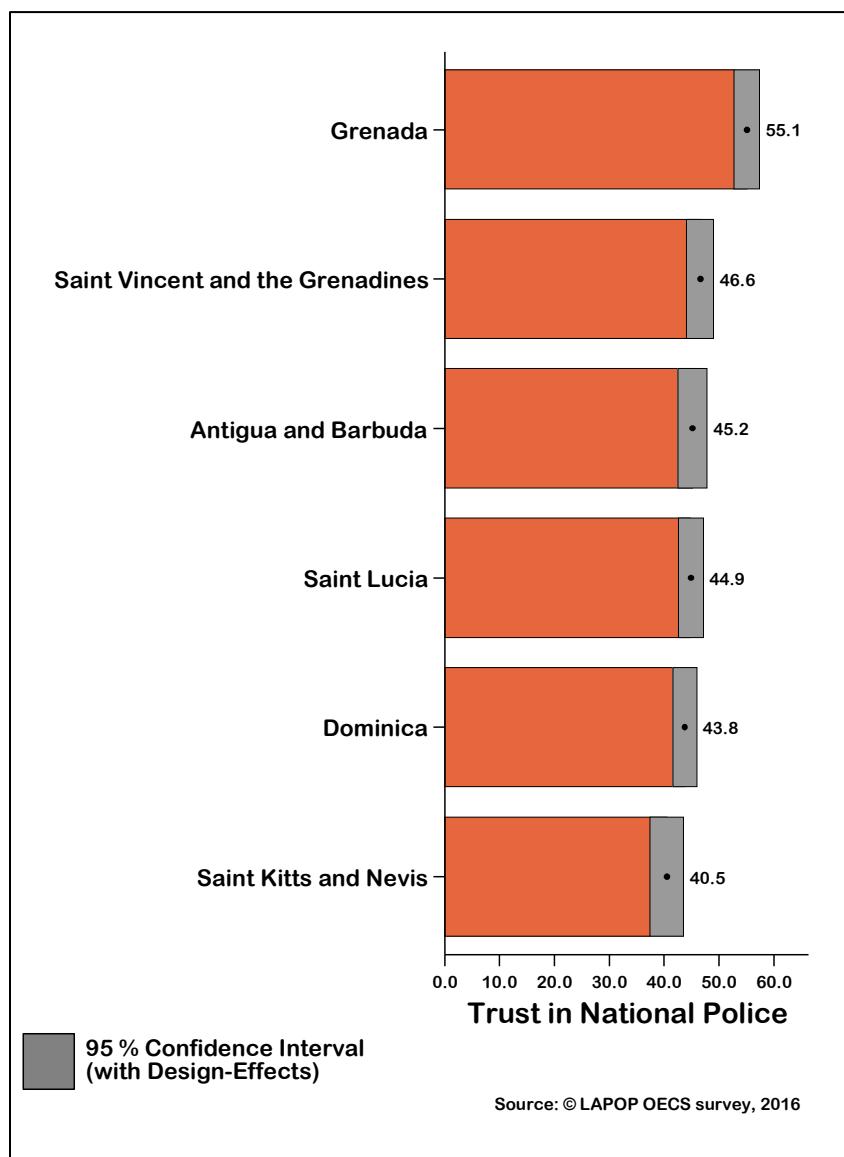


Figure 23. Trust in the Police across OECS Countries, 2016

There are also some differences between countries. St. Kitts and Nevis, the country with the highest percentage of murders reported by respondents, is also the country with the lowest level of trust in the police, with an average score of 41 degrees. On the upper end of the graph is Grenada, with 55 degrees, which is above the mid-point of the scale but still does not show a high level of trust in the police.

Table 15 describes the sociodemographic factors associated with trust in the police in the six OECS countries surveyed. The data reveal that, in every country, older respondents trust the police more. In St. Kitts and Nevis, for example, average trust in the police is 34 degrees among those 18 to 35 years of age, 43 degrees in the 36 to 55 age group and 54 degrees among those 56 years and older. Also, in Antigua and Barbuda, there is a difference of 10 degrees in trust in the police between the youngest and oldest age group (40 vs. 50 degrees).

When it comes to education, most of the differences are between those with primary education and those with secondary education. In St. Kitts and Nevis, for example, the mean score for trust in the police among respondents with primary education is 52 degrees compared to 38 degrees of those with secondary education.

Table 15. Sociodemographic Factors associated with Trust in the Police in OECS Countries, 2016.

Country	Gender	Age	Education
Antigua & Barbuda		X	
Dominica		X	X
Grenada		X	X
St. Kitts & Nevis		X	X
St. Lucia	X	X	X
St. Vincent & the Grenadines		X	X

Figure 24 shows the differences in average trust in the police in St. Lucia, by respondents' age, gender and level of education. As the graph shows, female respondents, those with primary education and respondents older than 55 years of age show higher levels of trust than male respondents, people with secondary or post-secondary studies, and those between the ages of 18 and 55 years.

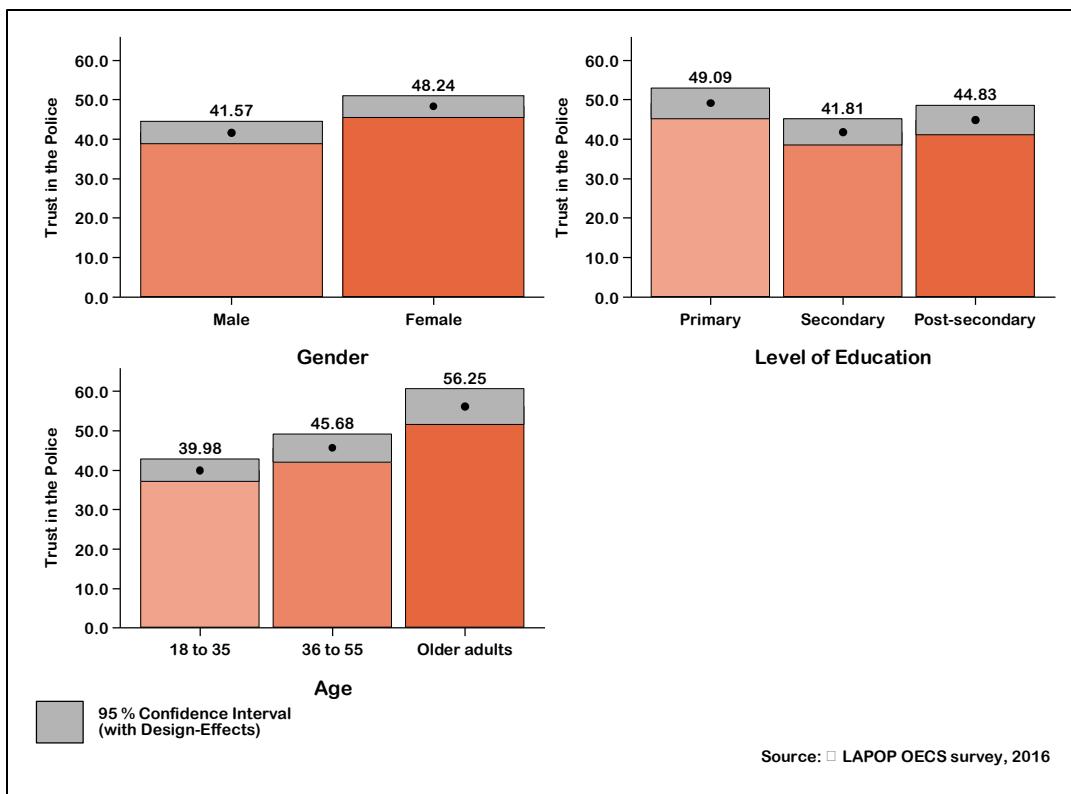


Figure 24. Trust in the Police by Gender, Education and Age in St. Lucia, 2016

IV. Confidence that the Justice System Would Punish the Guilty

A fair judicial system is another fundamental element for an effective rule of law. A fair system that espouses judicial independence and thus encourages trust in this institution is key for good governance. If individuals distrust the judiciary or see it as illegitimate, they may support circumvention of the institution.¹³ This sub-section looks at citizen perception of the ability of the justice system to punish those guilty of a crime.

The questionnaire asks respondents if they think that the judicial system would punish the guilty party if they suffered a robbery or assault:

AOJ12. If you were a victim of a robbery or assault how much faith do you have that the judicial system would punish the guilty? **[Read the options]**
 (1) A lot (2) Some (3) Little (4) None (88) DK (98) DA

The survey results show that a majority of respondents (56%) say that they have “some” or “a lot” of faith that the judicial system would punish the guilty. Roughly a third of respondents in all six countries (30%) say they have “little” faith that the judicial system would punish someone who

¹³ Ríos-Figueroa, Julio and Jeffrey K. Staton. 2009. “Unpacking the Rule of Law: A Review of the Judicial Independence Measures.” Paper prepared for Caltech-USC Center for the Study of Law and Politics and the University of Texas Law School Symposium, *The Rule of Law*, March 26-27; and Malone, Mary Fran T. 2010. “Does Dirty Harry Have the Answer? Citizen Support for the Rule of Law in Central America.” *Public Integrity*.

was responsible for a crime. Finally, 14% of all respondents claim to have no faith in the ability of the judicial system to punish the guilty.

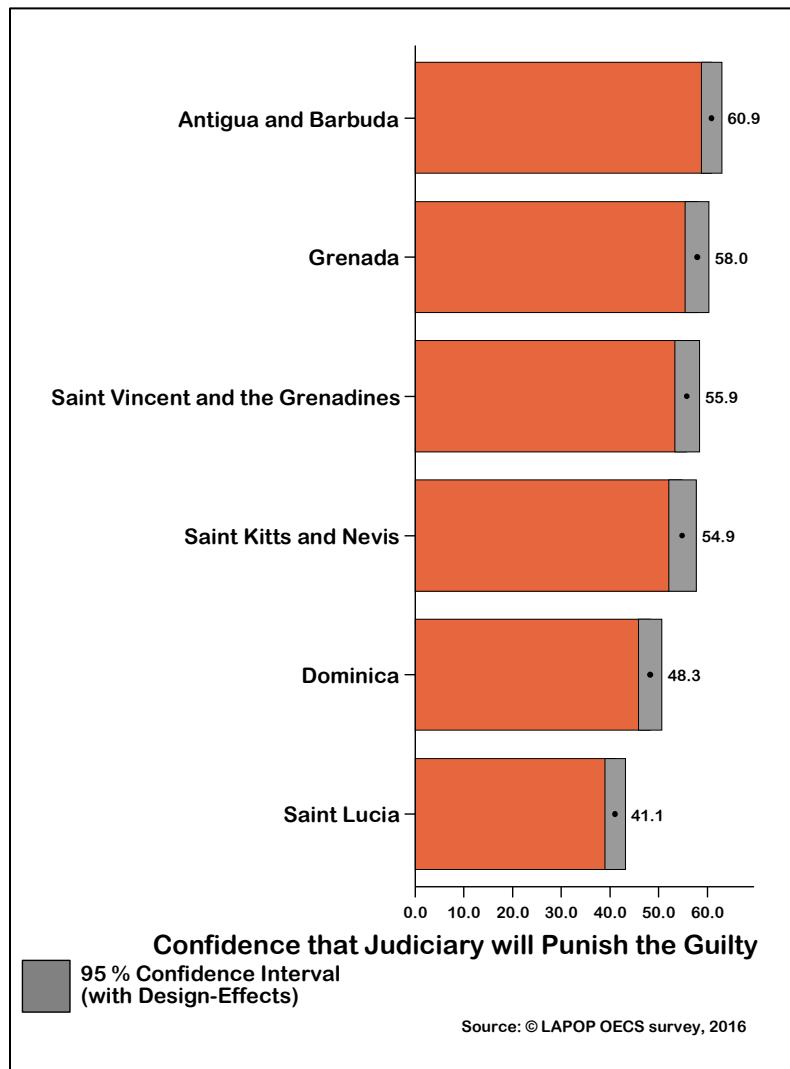


Figure 25. Confidence that the Justice System Would Punish the Guilty across OECS Countries, 2016

Figure 25 shows the differences across OECS countries in confidence in the judicial system to punish the party guilty of a crime. To simplify the analysis, responses to the question above were recoded to a 0 to 100 scale, where 0 is equivalent to “none” and 100 to “a lot”. The graph shows that there is variation in the perceptions of respondents across OECS countries regarding the capacity of the judicial system to punish the guilty. The average score for all surveyed countries is 53 degrees on the 0 to 100 scale. This means that, overall, people are somewhat confident in the ability of the justice system to punish the guilty. The figure shows that the average score in Antigua and Barbuda is 61 degrees, seven degrees higher than the average. Conversely, in St. Lucia, confidence in the ability of the justice system to punish the averages just 41 degrees.

As Table 16 indicates, there is a gender difference in Grenada (male respondents have lower levels of confidence than female respondents in the ability of the justice system to punish the guilty). The table also shows that in St. Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines, education matters (e.g., those with primary education in St. Lucia have a higher degree of confidence that the justice system will successfully punish those guilty of a crime).

Table 16. Sociodemographic Factors associated with Confidence in the Justice System to Punish the Guilty in OECS Countries, 2016.

Country	Gender	Age	Education
Antigua & Barbuda		X	
Dominica		X	
Grenada	X		
St. Kitts & Nevis		X	
St. Lucia			X
St. Vincent & the Grenadines		X	X

Figure 26 shows that in Dominica and St. Kitts and Nevis, respondents older than 56 years of age have a higher degree of confidence than younger respondents in the ability of the justice system to punish those who have committed crimes. In Dominica, the difference between respondents over the age of 55 and those between 18 and 35 years of age is 8 degrees (53 to 45).

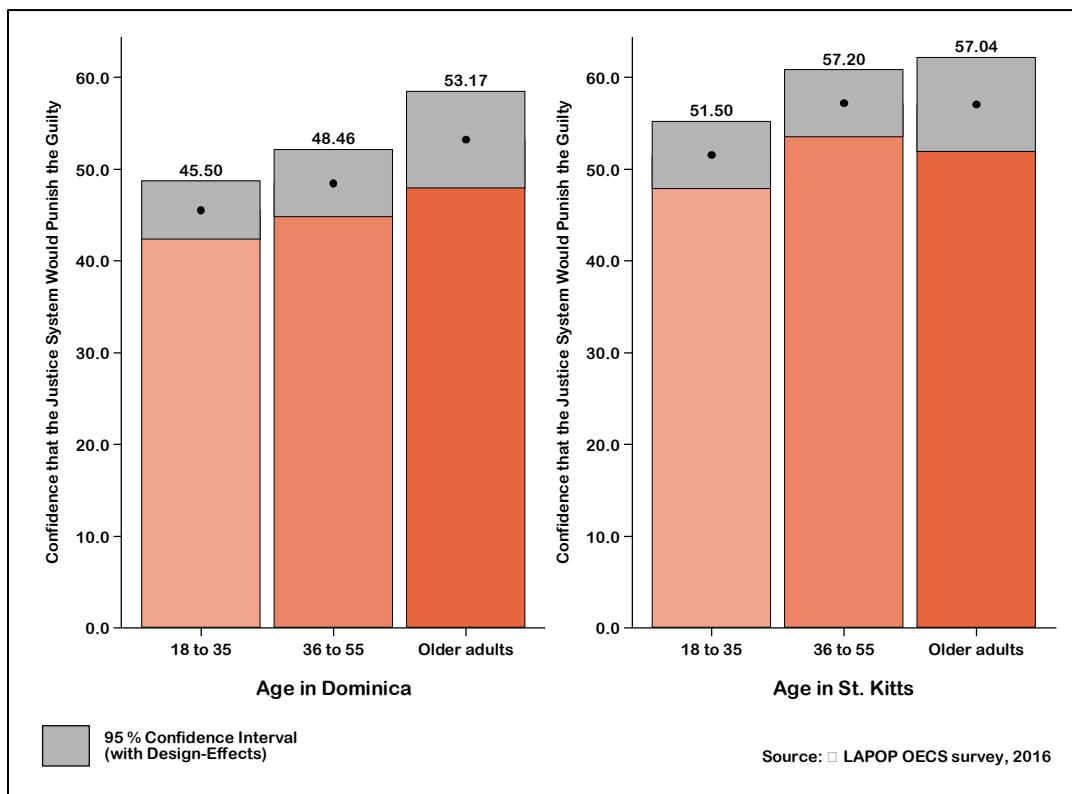


Figure 26. Confidence that the Justice System Would Punish the Guilty by Age in Grenada and St. Kitts and Nevis, 2016

V. Trust in the Judicial System

A second question in the survey that addresses performance of the justice system simply asks individuals to report their level of trust in the justice system. The survey includes the following question:

B10A. To what extent do you trust the justice system?

The original question asks respondents to report their trust in the justice system on a 1-7 scale where 1 is equivalent to “none” and 7 to “a lot”. This scale has been recoded from 0 to 100, scale where 0 is equivalent to “none” and 100 to “a lot”. Figure 27 highlights the differences in average trust for the justice system across OECS countries. The overall average score for trust in the judiciary is 47 degrees for all respondents in the study, which means that, in general, the judicial system is somewhat trusted in OECS countries. Results show that trust in the justice system varies from 53 degrees in Antigua and Barbuda to 39 degrees in St. Lucia.

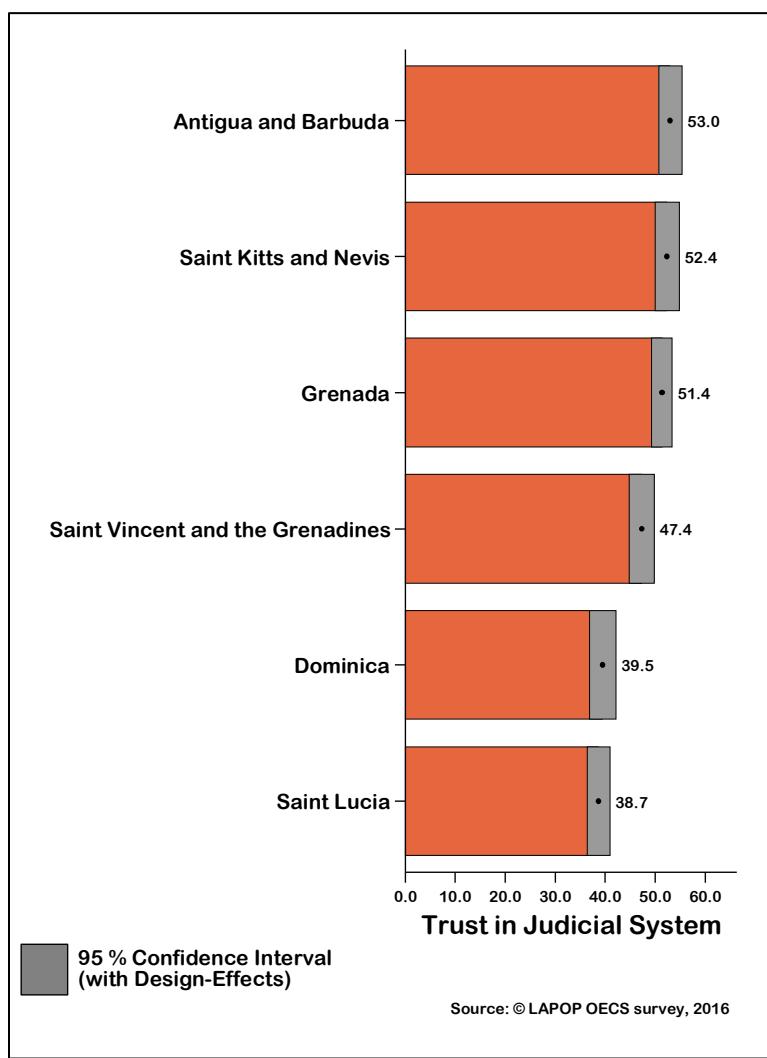


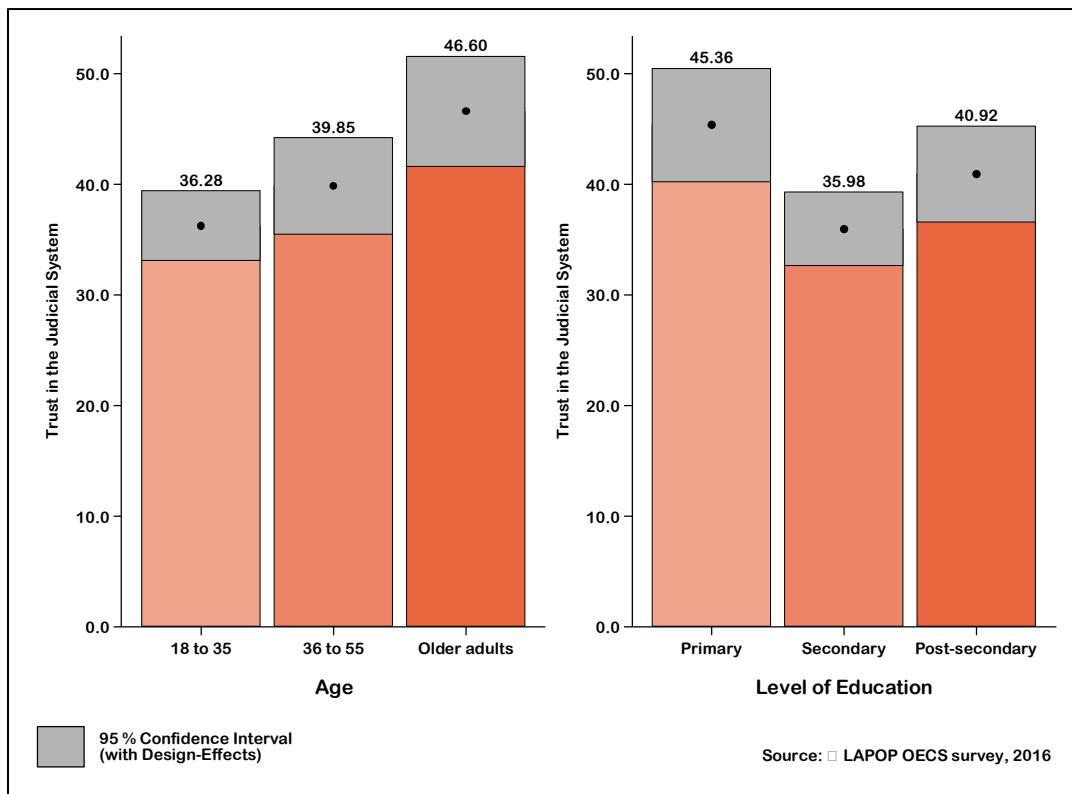
Figure 27. Trust in the Judiciary across OECS Countries

Table 17 shows the sociodemographic factors related to trust in the judiciary. In Dominica, female respondents have higher levels of trust in the judiciary than their male counterparts. Similarly, in Dominica and St. Vincent and the Grenadines, those with primary education are more trusting of the judicial system than those with secondary education. The survey also finds significant differences between age groups in most countries. Once again, the largest differences are between those respondents with primary education, who tend to have higher levels of trust in the judiciary than those with secondary and post-secondary education.

Figure 28 illustrates the degree to which older adults have higher levels of trust in the judicial system in Dominica. Likewise, those with primary education tend to have higher average scores of trust in the judiciary than those with more formal education.

Table 17. Sociodemographic Factors associated with Trust in the Judicial System in OECS Countries, 2016.

Country	Gender	Age	Education
Antigua & Barbuda		X	
Dominica	X	X	X
Grenada		X	
St. Kitts & Nevis		X	
St. Lucia			
St. Vincent & the Grenadines		X	X



Part VI. Conclusions and Policy Implications

This section summarizes the most important findings in the report, with a focus on the differences across OECS countries and especially on the correlations between dependent variables and sociodemographic factors in specific countries included in this study.

Part II looked at how OECS countries perceive security in comparison to other problems in their countries and what factors, if any, are associated to perceptions of insecurity as the most important problem. The section also focused on results of respondents' feelings of insecurity in their neighborhoods as well as a retrospective evaluation of violence in their communities and how they compare to other neighborhoods. Below are some of the more important findings:

- Majorities in Grenada, Antigua and Barbuda and St. Vincent and the Grenadines believe that the economy is the most serious problem faced by their countries. In Antigua and Barbuda, one in five (20%) believe that the second most serious problem is related to politics, and security comes in third, with 10% of respondents mentioning it. In Grenada, approximately 10% of respondents mention security as the most important problem faced by their country, compared with 15% of respondents in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.
- Over 50% of respondents in St. Lucia and Dominica say that the economy is their countries' biggest challenge. In St. Lucia, 20% of respondents say that the biggest problem is security, while only 7% of those interviewed in Dominica say the same thing. In St. Kitts and Nevis, however, a vast majority of respondents (68%) identify security as the most serious problem faced by their country.
- Overall, 89% of respondents across all OECS countries say that they feel "very safe" or "somewhat safe" in the neighborhoods where they live.
- There is little variation across OECS countries regarding perceptions of insecurity. The mean score for all respondents is 21 and average responses for individual surveyed areas range between 16 and 24 degrees of insecurity, which means that respondents feel generally safe in their neighborhoods. The graph also shows that citizens of Grenada feel significantly safer than those in the other five countries included in the survey.
- Approximately seven in ten respondents (71%) say the current level of violence in their neighborhood is lower than in other places around their communities; 24% say violence in their neighborhood is the same as in other communities and only 5% think that violence in their neighborhood is higher than in other places.
- In Grenada, respondents who are more educated tend to have higher perceptions of violence than those who are less educated.
- Approximately half (51%) of all respondents say that the current level of violence in their neighborhood is lower than it was 12 months prior to the survey, while only 6% think that violence in their neighborhood is higher.
- In St. Kitts and Nevis, the more educated respondents report higher levels of retrospective evaluation of neighborhood violence than those who with lower levels of education.

Part III showed results of various instances of crime victimization, mainly household crime victimization, home burglaries and victimization by threats or aggression as measured by the survey study of six countries in the OECS. These are some of the main findings:

- Overall, household crime victimization does not exceed 18% in any of the countries included in the study. There are, however, important differences between countries. Results show that household crime victimization rates are twice as high in Dominica and St. Lucia (18%) than they are in Grenada and St. Kitts and Nevis (9%).
- In Dominica, 22% of respondents with post-secondary education report that either them or someone who lives in their household have been victimized by crime in the last 12 months. Conversely, only 12% of those with primary education report that they or someone who lives with them was a victim of crime in the year prior to the survey.
- Overall, fewer than 15% of respondents report that someone broke into their home in the five years prior to the survey.
- A fifth or more of respondents in St Lucia (24%), Dominica (21%) and St. Vincent and the Grenadines (20%) were victims of threats or acts of aggression in the five years prior to the survey, compared with slightly more than a tenth of respondents in Antigua and Barbuda (11%), St. Kitts and Nevis (12%) and Grenada (12%).
- In all six countries surveyed, older respondents are less likely to have been the victims of a threat or a physical aggression.

Part IV looked at crime as a community problem and focused on illegal drug sales, gang activity and murder. Here are some of the main findings from that chapter:

- Fewer than a third of respondents in Antigua and Barbuda (29%) and in St. Kitts and Nevis (25%) say that there have been sales of illegal drugs in their neighborhoods in the past year. Conversely, in St. Lucia, the number rises to 44% and in Dominica almost half of all respondents say that there have been illegal drugs sold in their communities (47%).
- In St. Vincent and the Grenadines, respondents with post-secondary education and respondents aged 18-35 years report illegal drug sales in their neighborhoods more than their older or less educated counterparts.
- Approximately 87% of all respondents say that gangs have had little or no effect on their neighborhoods, while about 13% say that their communities have been affected somewhat or a lot.
- Overall, less than a quarter of all respondents claim that gangs are active in their neighborhoods.
- St. Kitts and Nevis, which is the only country in the study where a majority of respondents claim that security is the most serious problem their nation is facing, has the highest rate of murder reporting in the region, with almost one-in-five of all those interviewed (17%) saying that there was a murder in their neighborhood in the 12 months prior to them taking the survey. The country with the lowest rate of murder reporting is Grenada, where only 4% of all respondents report that someone was murdered in their community in the last year.

Part V looked at respondents' evaluations of law enforcement institutions, specifically the police and the justice system. These are the main findings from that chapter:

- Almost two thirds of all respondents (62%) think the police are doing a "very good job" or a "fairly good job" of controlling crime in their neighborhoods. Conversely, 21% of respondents evaluate the job the police do as "fairly poor" or "very poor".
- More than half of respondents in St. Vincent and the Grenadines (53%) and St. Lucia (52%) believe that increasing punitive measures is the best way to reduce crime in their countries.
- In every country surveyed, respondents with more education have lower levels of preference for increased punishments as a way to reduce crime. In Dominica, for example, 59% of respondents with primary education say that increasing punishment for criminals is the best way to reduce crime in their country, compared with 35% among those with post-secondary education.
- The average score for trust in the police is 46 degrees on the 0 to 100 point scale, which is slightly below the halfway point and means that citizens across OECS countries have just middling levels of trust in the police.
- Older respondents are more trusting of police in every country surveyed. In St. Kitts and Nevis, for example, average trust in the police is 34 degrees among those 18 to 35 years of age, 43 degrees in the 36 to 55 age group and 54 degrees among those 56 years and older.
- A majority of respondents (56%) say that they have "some" or "a lot" of faith that the judicial system would punish the guilty. Roughly a third of respondents in all six countries (30%) say they have "little" faith that the judicial system would punish someone who was responsible for a crime.
- The overall score for trust in the judiciary is 47 degrees on a 0 to 100 point scale for all respondents in the study, which means that, in general, the judicial system is somewhat trusted in OECS countries. Results shows that trust in the justice system varies from 53 degrees in Antigua and Barbuda to 39 points in St. Lucia.

We conclude by highlighting some of the findings that may have the most direct policy implications:

- Only one country (St. Kitts and Nevis) considers security to be the most serious problem facing that country. The economy is still the main concern throughout most of the OECS.
- In general, perceptions of insecurity are low and satisfaction with the work of the police is fairly high (while trust is at middling levels).
- A majority of respondents believe that their neighborhoods are comparatively safe and getting safer when asked about retrospective evaluations of violence in their communities.
- Rates of household crime victimization as well as victimization by threats or aggressions are relatively low, but in Dominica and St. Lucia they are high enough to merit concern by the government.
- There is a high incidence of illegal drug sales, as reported by the respondents throughout the OECS, especially in Dominica and St. Lucia.

- St. Kitts and Nevis has the highest murder reporting rate in the region and is also the country where security is the biggest concern. Although St. Kitts and Nevis has low rates of crime victimization, the murder reporting rate might explain the overwhelming concern respondents have with security.
- Although levels of satisfaction with police performance are high, almost half of all respondents believe that punitive measures should be increased to reduce crime.
- While satisfaction with police performance is high, trust in the judiciary and in the police is middling to low.