Citizen Security in Six Countries in the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States: Results from LAPOP's AmericasBarometer

Report prepared by LAPOP*

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Understanding the Figures I

- Results from the OECS 2016 study are presented on right hand side of slides
- AmericasBarometer 2014/15 results presented on left hand side of slide
  - AmericasBarometer 14/15 regional averages are in green
- Purple lines indicate the OECS countries' position within the 2014/15 AmericasBarometer ranking

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Understanding the Figures II

- The data are presented by percentages or degrees
  - A percentage is a ratio or proportion of one group versus the total population
    - For example: percentage of males in the total population
  - A degree is an expression of a variable that has been rescaled to fit a 0-100 scale and is the output of a sum of numbers divided by the total number of cases interviewed (that is, the *mean* or *average)*
    - For example: responses to the insecurity question are: “a lot,” “some,” “a little,” or “none”
    - None → 0
    - A little → 33.33
    - Some → 66.66
    - A lot → 100
    - After the responses are coded to the above numbers, they are added up for every individual and divided by the number of people interviewed in the country (that is, the *mean* is calculated).
    - For example: the country mean (average) for insecurity in the country is 40 degrees

Summary of Selected Findings

1. A majority in St. Kitts & Nevis, as in Trinidad & Tobago, identify security as the most important problem in their countries

2. Neighborhood insecurity is low in the OECS compared to the rest of the Americas
   - Young adults, less wealthy people, and women report higher levels of insecurity

3. Around 1 in 10 people report crime victimization in the past year in Saint Lucia and in Dominica

4. Reports of illegal drug sales in one's neighborhood are comparatively high in Dominica and St. Lucia

5. 1 in 6 people report murders in their neighborhood in St. Kitts & Nevis and in Trinidad & Tobago

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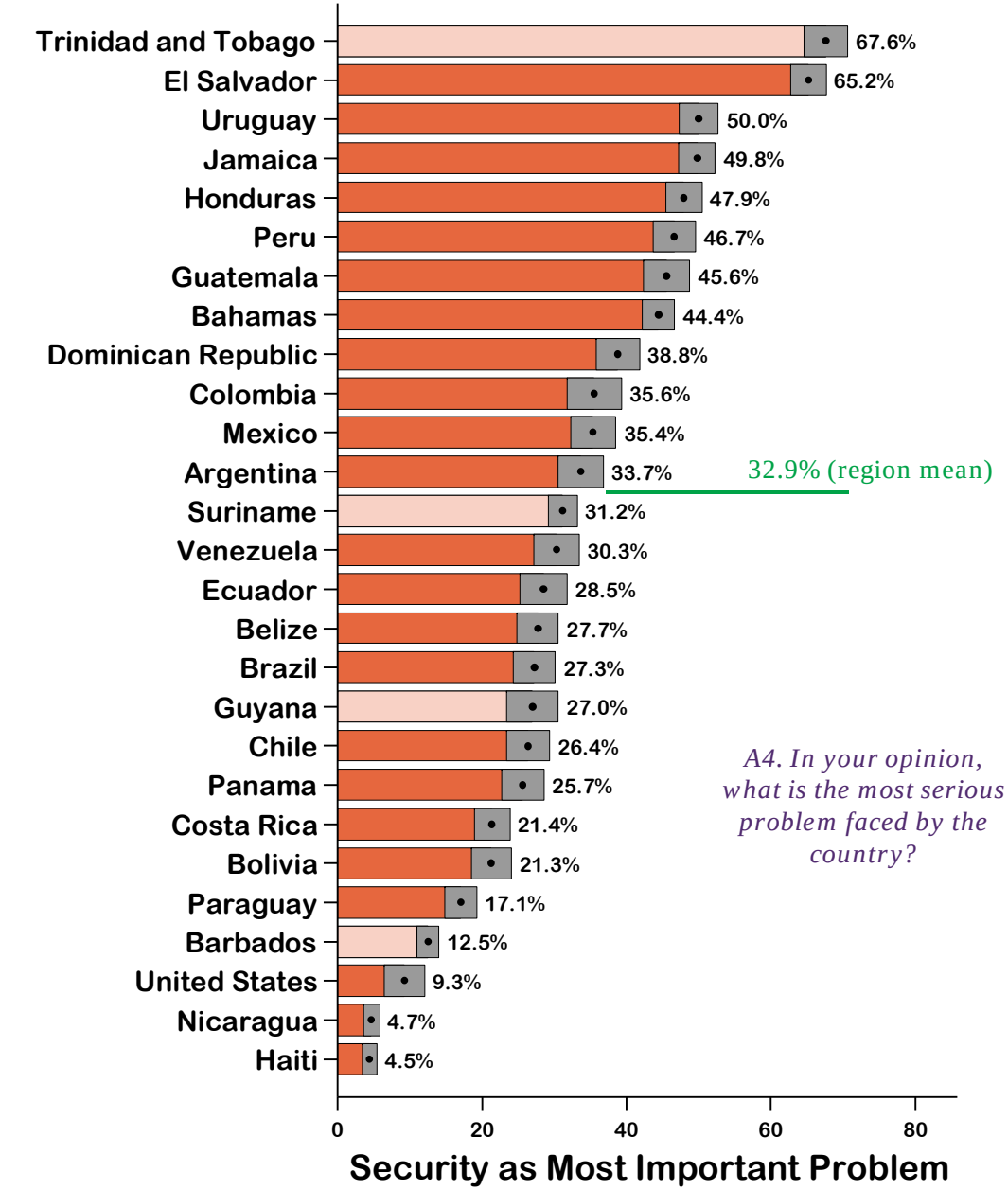
Security tops the list of critical problems in St. Kitts & Nevis and in Trinidad & Tobago



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

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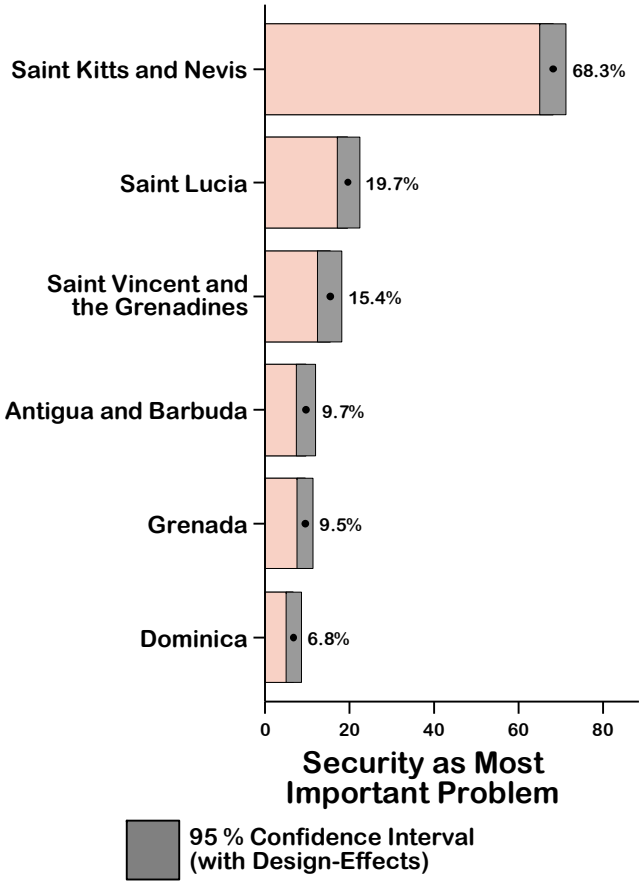

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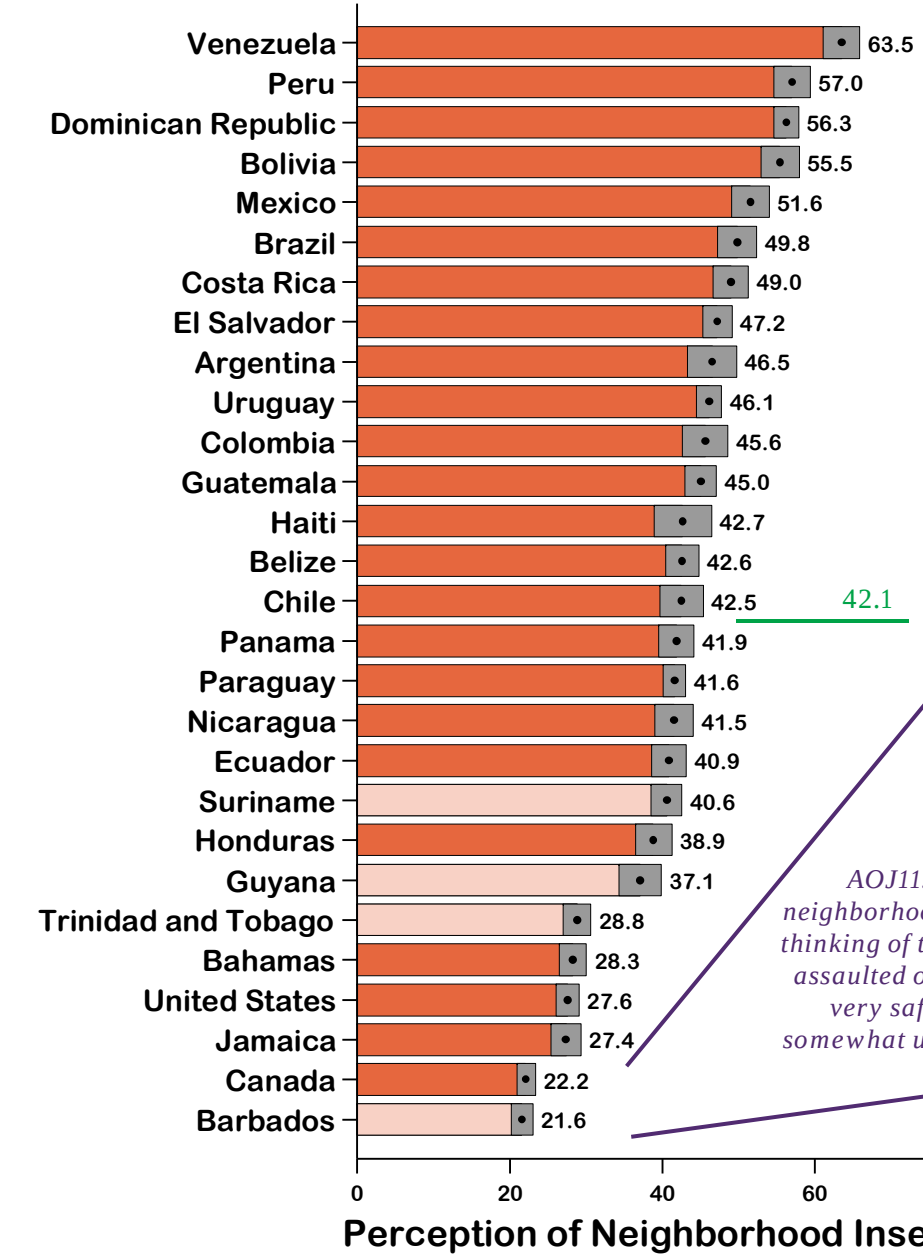
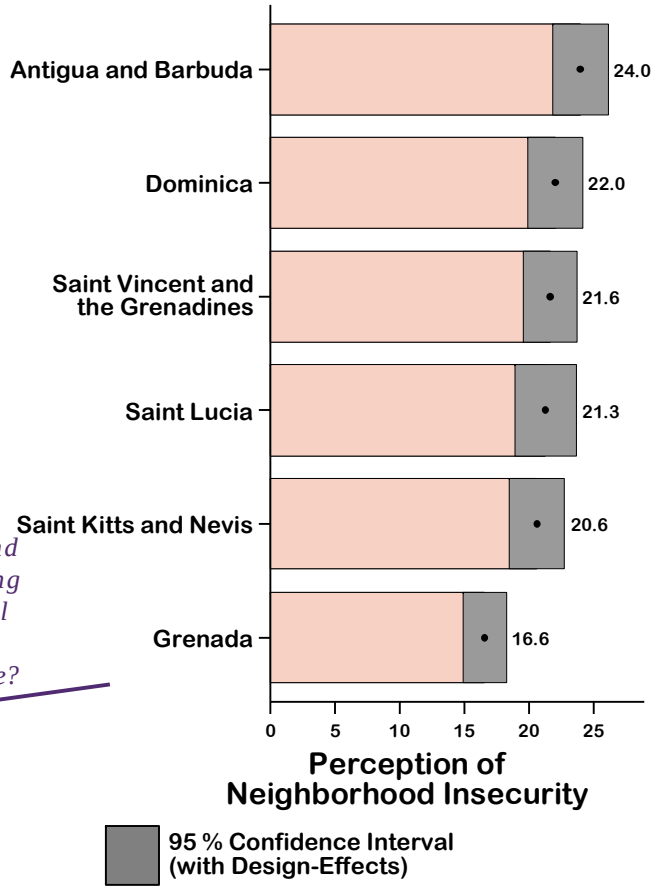
Insecurity is low in the OECS compared to the rest of the Americas



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?



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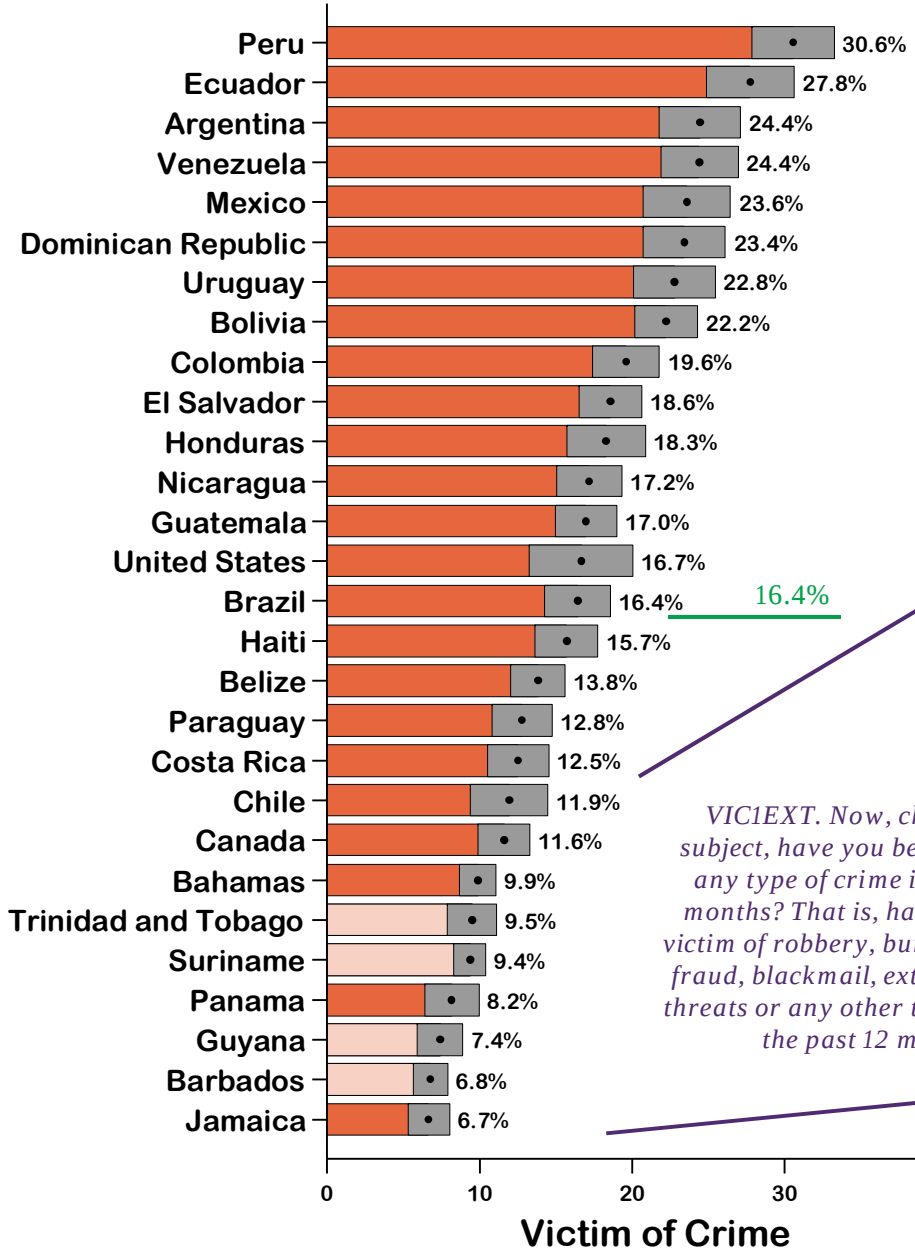
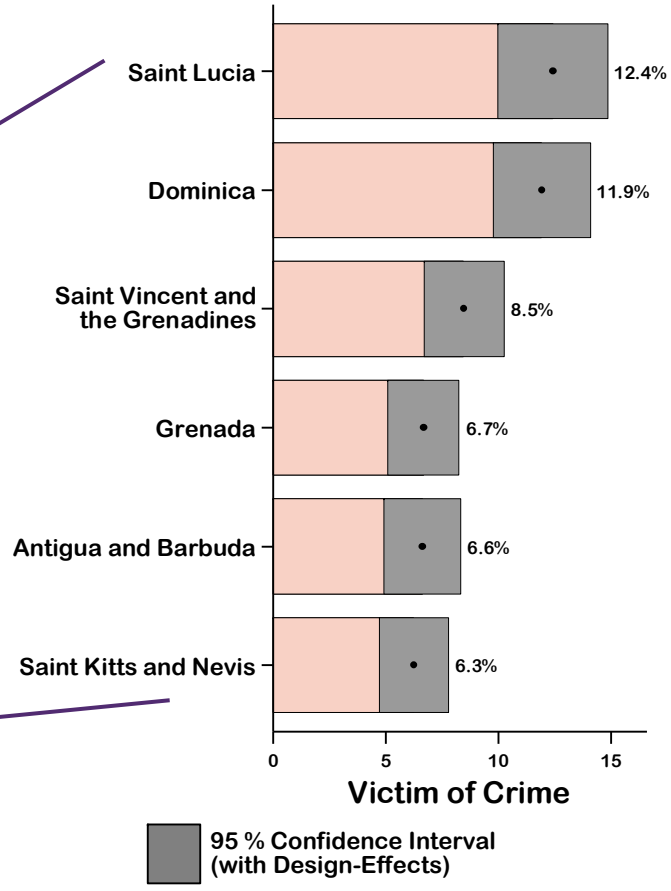
Around 1 in 10 reports being a crime victim in St. Lucia and Dominica



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?



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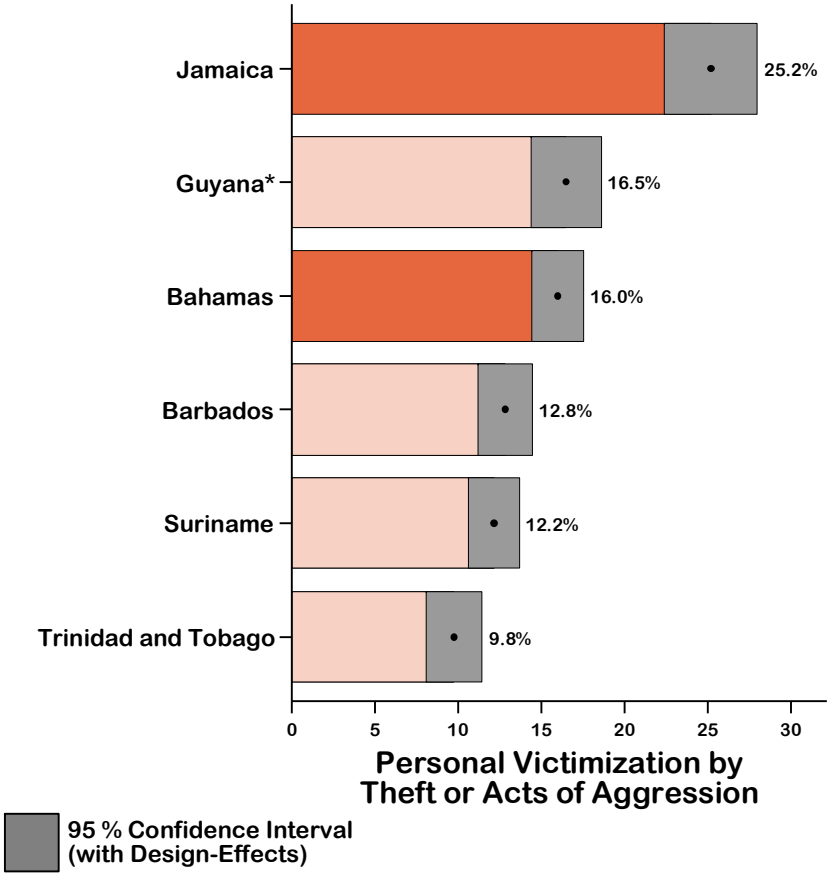
Upwards of almost 1 in 4 people report personal victimization in the past 5 years by theft or acts of aggression in some Caribbean countries



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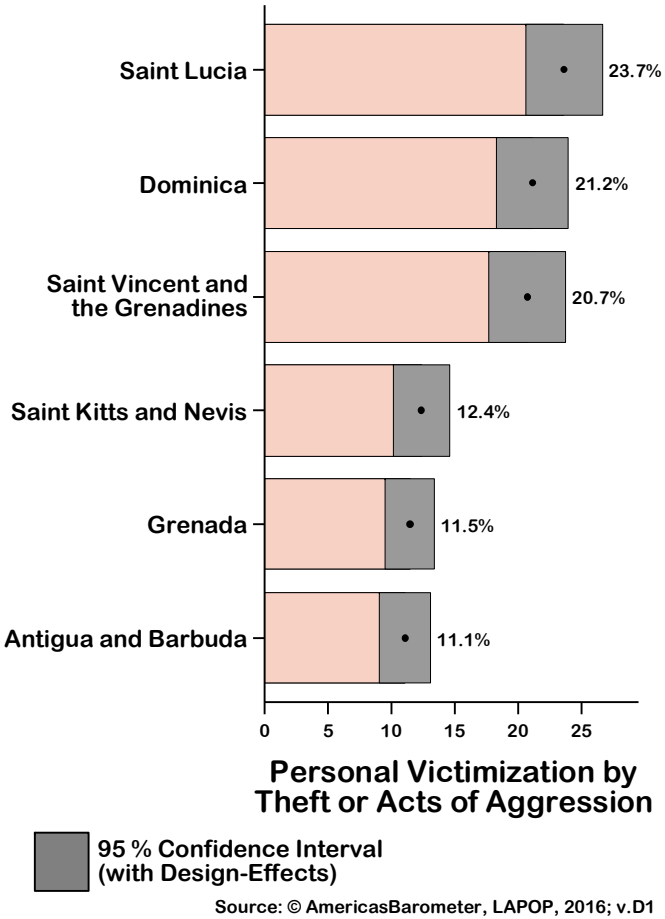

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2016; v.D1

Questions asked in Guyana in 2016, not 2014

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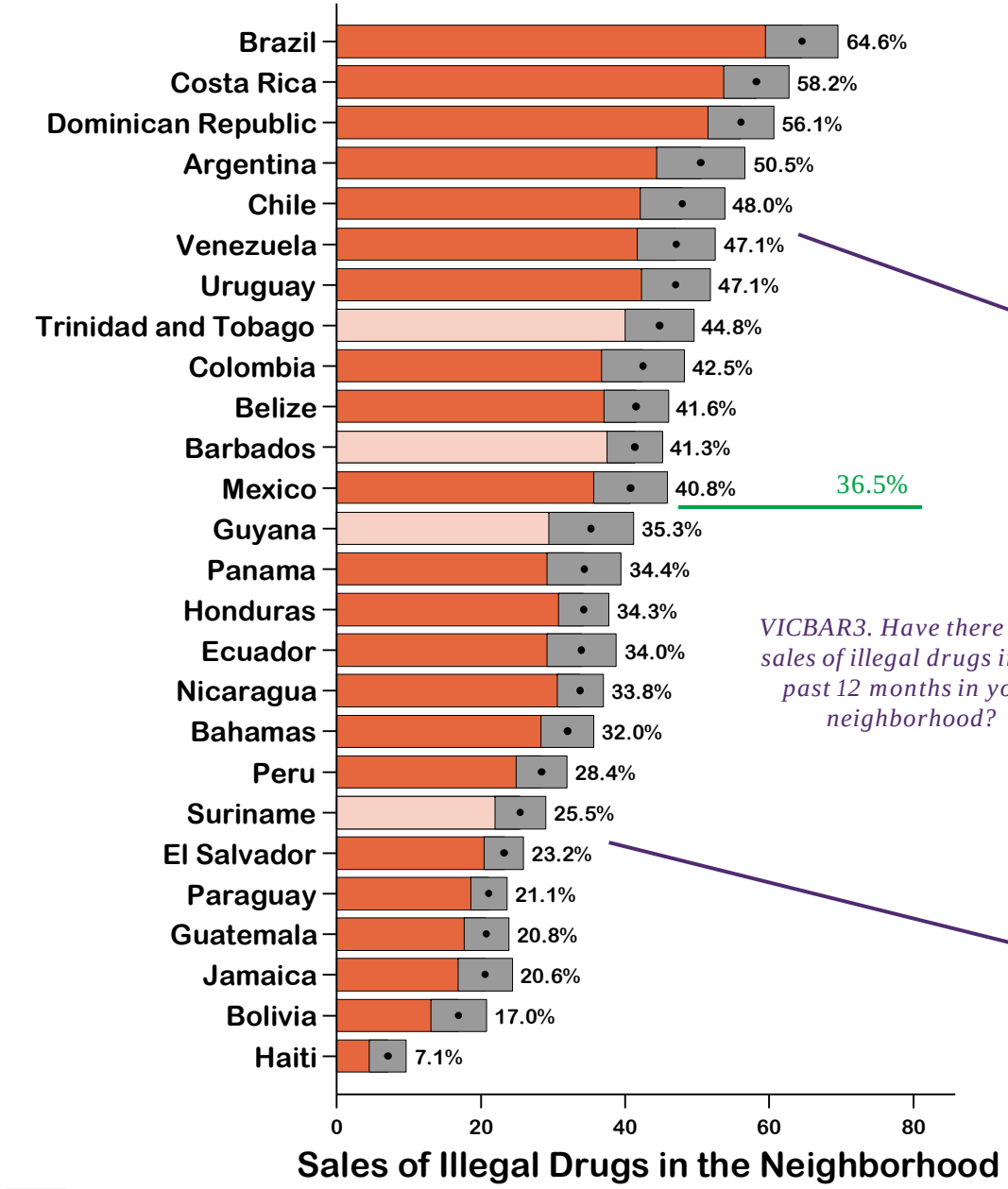
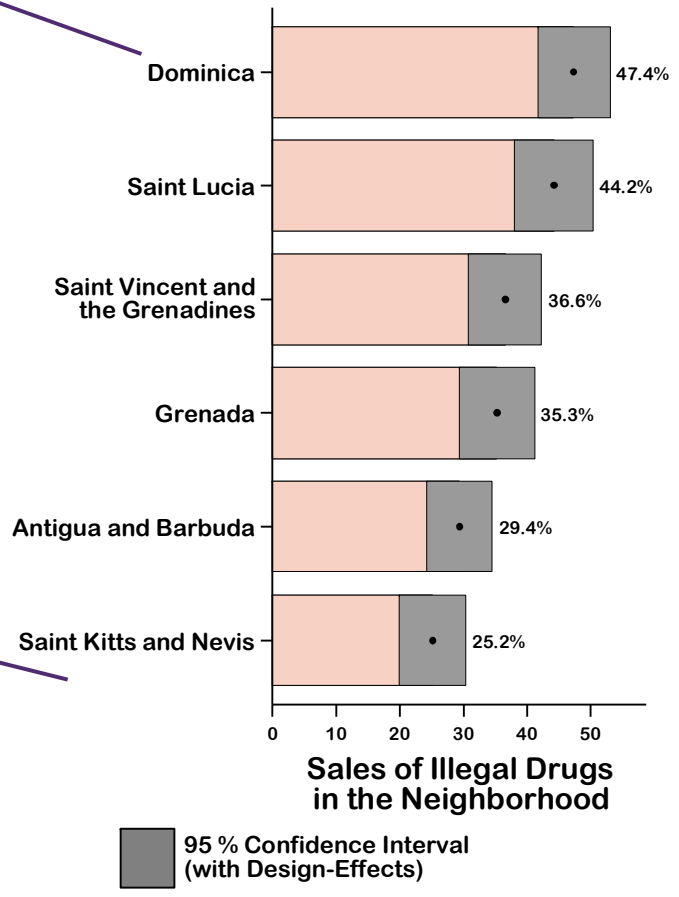
Reports of illegal drug sales in one's neighborhood are comparatively high in Dominica and St. Lucia



36.5%

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



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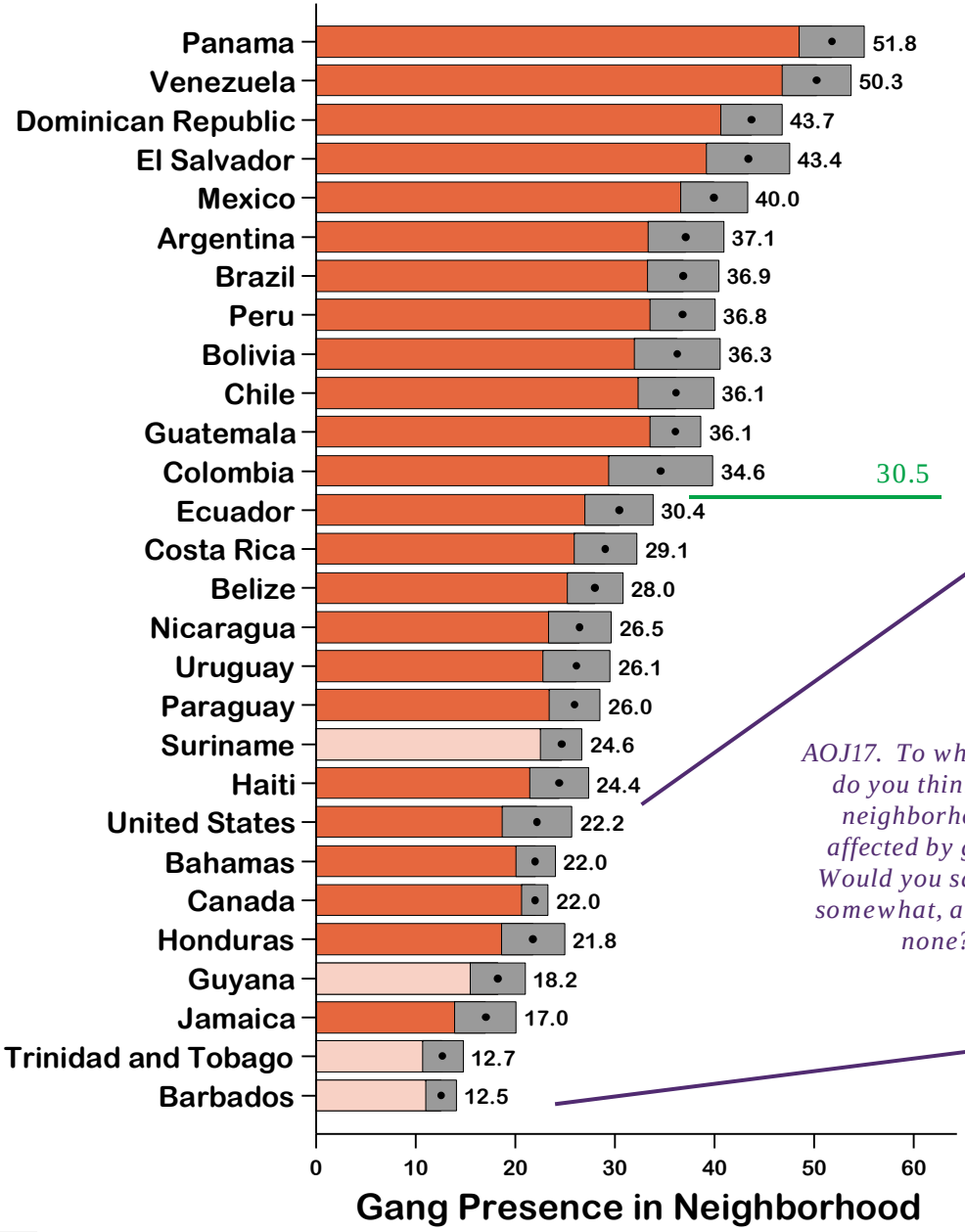
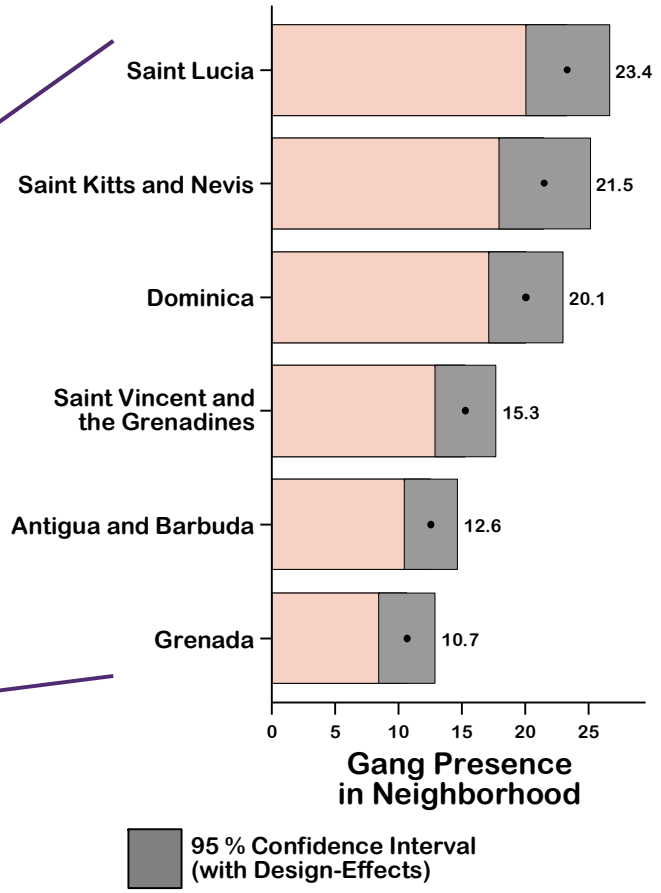
Reports of gang presence are comparatively low in the OECS



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



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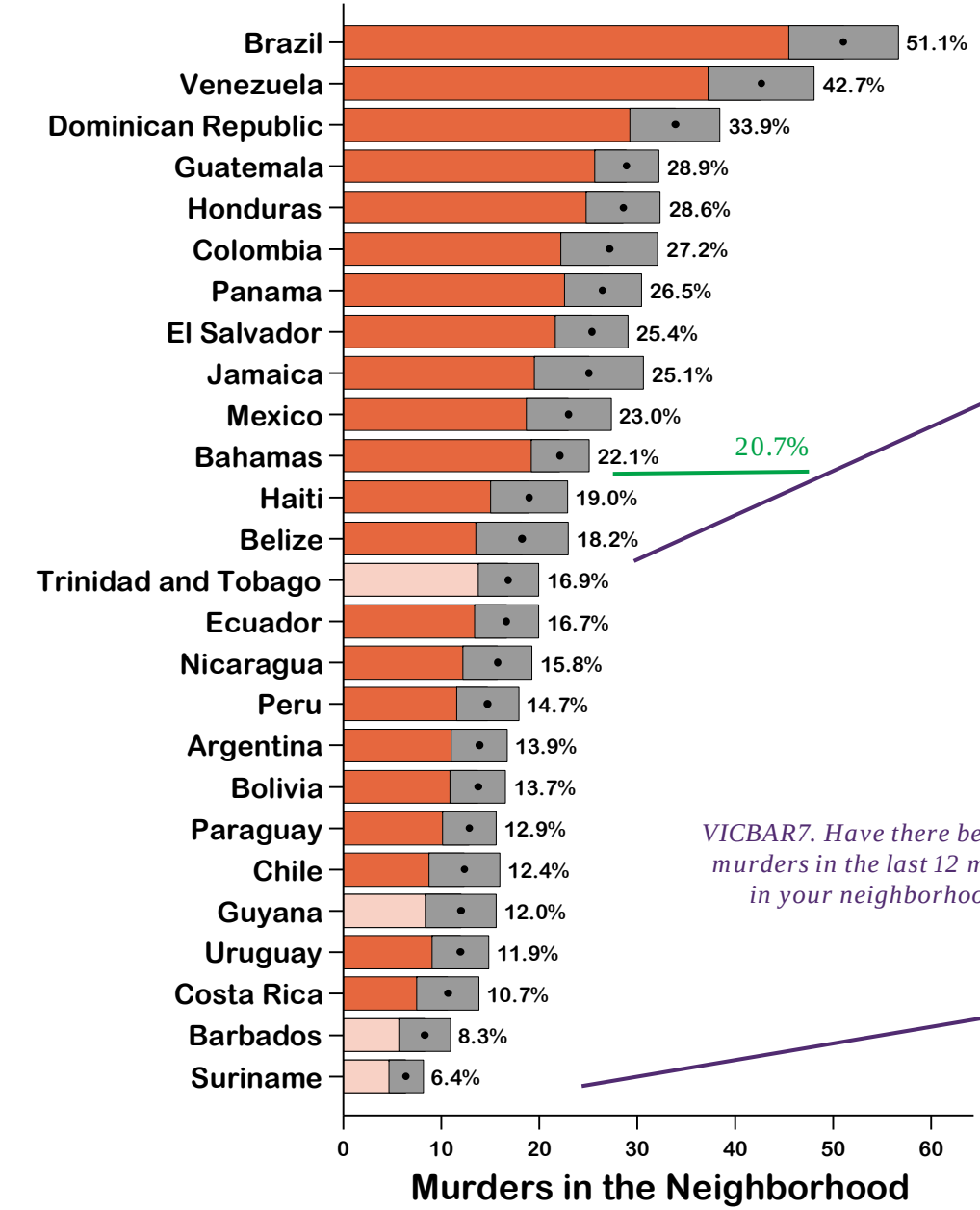
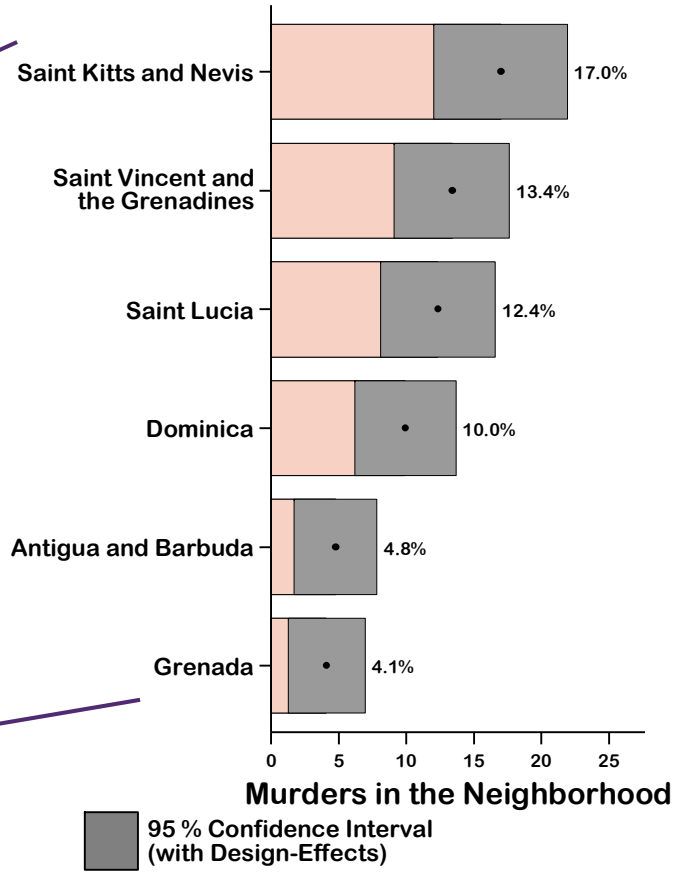
1 in 6 citizens report murders in their neighborhood in St. Kitts and Trinidad



20.7%

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



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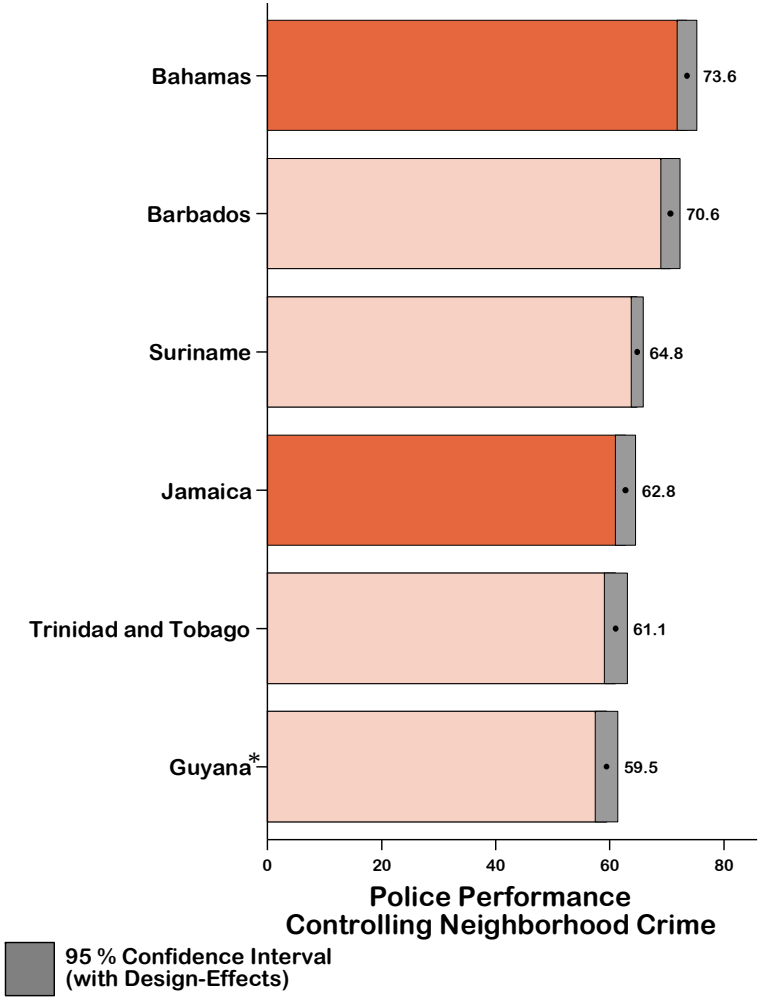
Police are rated as doing a “fairly good job” throughout the Caribbean, with some countries (Bahamas, Barbados, Grenada) performing better than others



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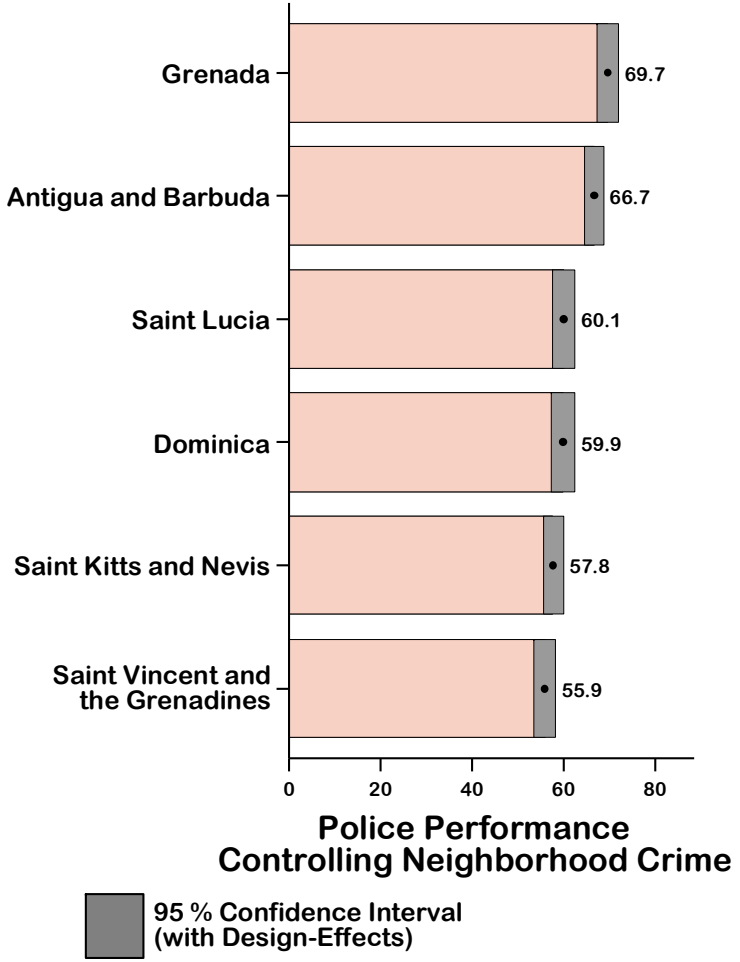

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Question asked in Guyana in 2016, not 2014

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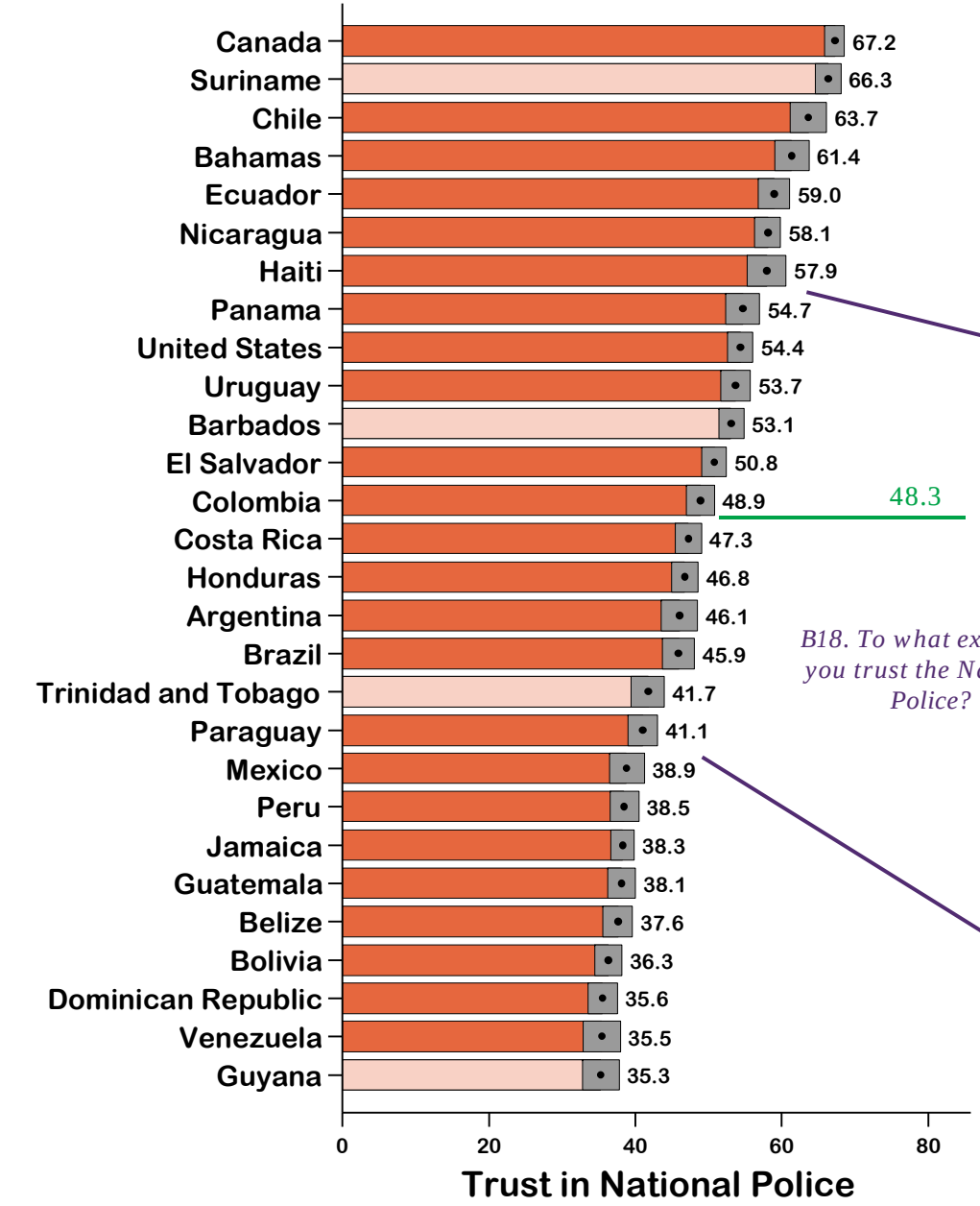
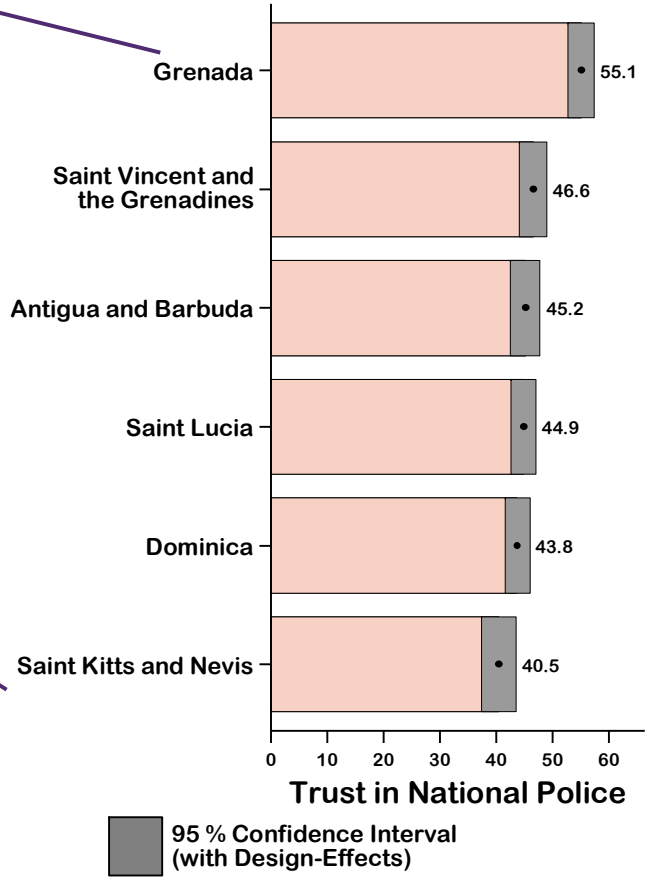
Citizens across the OECS have middling levels of trust in the police (again Barbados and Grenada are higher)



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



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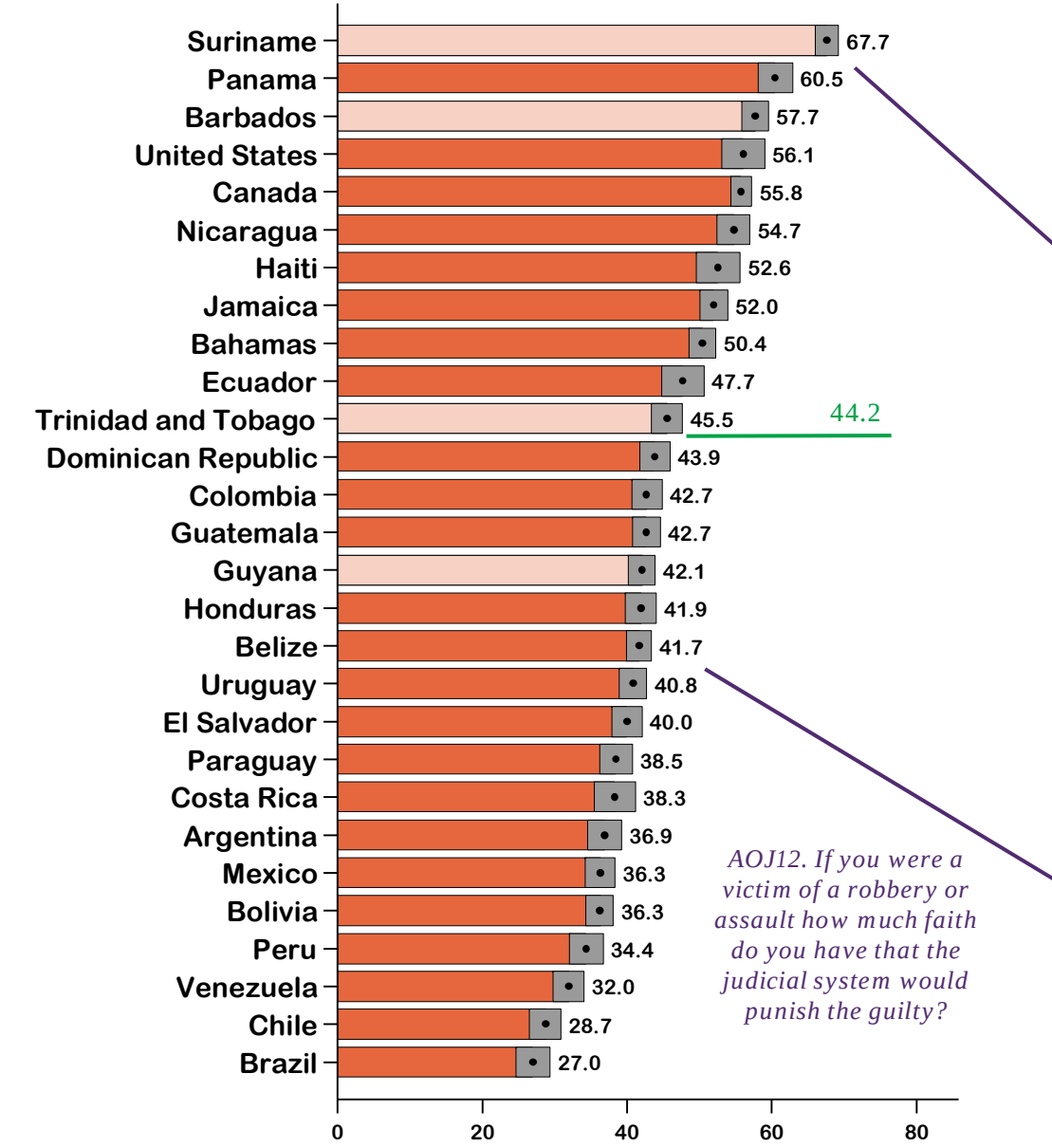
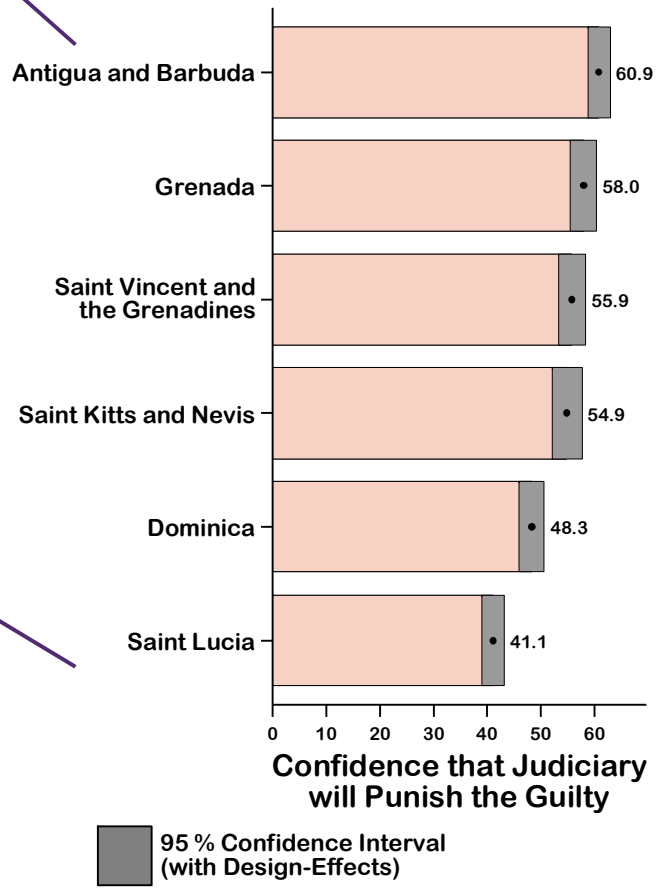
Most citizens in the OECS have confidence in the judiciary punishing the guilty that is above average for the LAC region



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?



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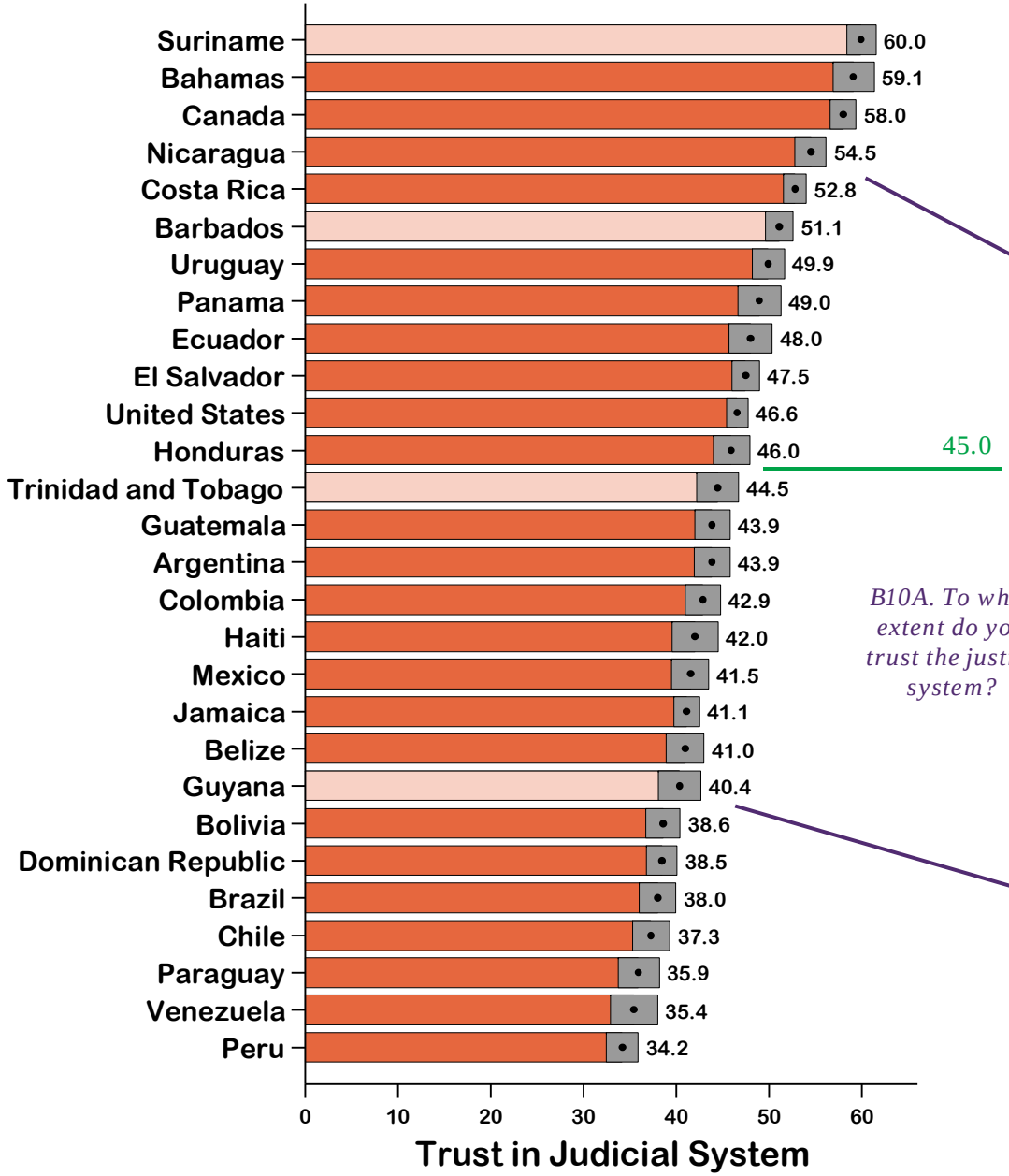
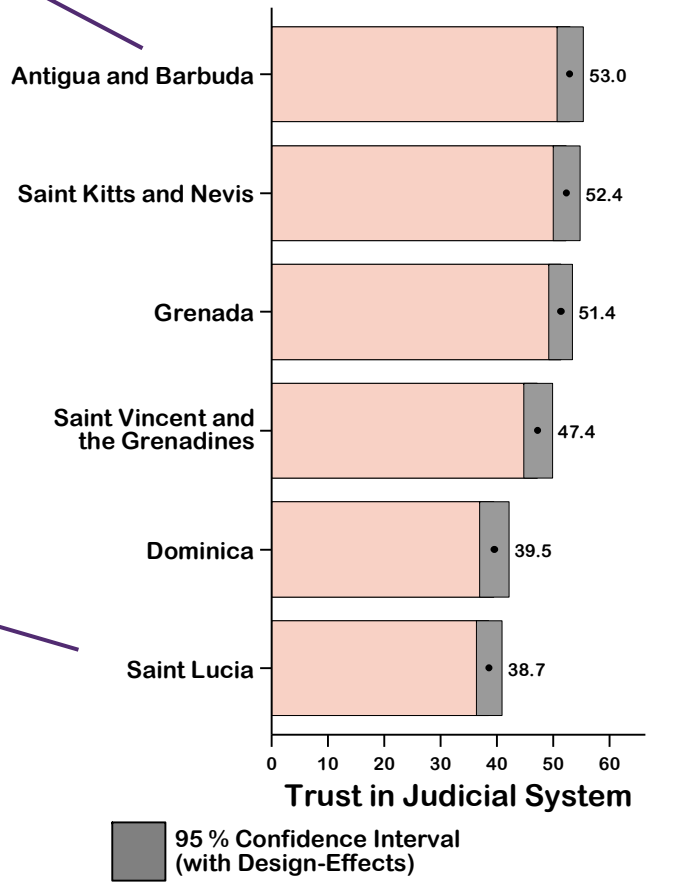
Only middling levels of trust in the judicial system are in the OECS; low trust is found in Dominica and St. Lucia



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



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