

Living in Gang-Controlled Neighborhoods: Impacts on Electoral and Non-Electoral Participation in El Salvador

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ONLINE APPENDIX

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Table A1. Comparison of Neighborhood and Nationally Representative Samples (Population 18 years old or older)

	National Sample (2010 AmericasBarometer)				Neighborhood Sample (El Salvador)			
	Mean	Std. Err.	[95% Conf. Interval]		Mean	Std. Err.	[95% Conf. Interval]	
Women	51.9%	1.3	49.4%	54.4%	49.4%	0.8	47.8%	50.9%
Age	38.1	0.4	37.4	38.9	39.5	0.3	39.1	40.0
No formal education	8.2%	0.7	6.8%	9.6%	9.7%	0.5	8.8%	10.6%
Primary education	29.2%	1.2	26.9%	31.4%	31.0%	0.7	29.5%	32.4%
Secondary education	42.3%	1.3	39.9%	44.8%	45.3%	0.8	43.8%	46.9%
Higher education	20.3%	1.0	18.3%	22.3%	14.0%	0.5	12.9%	15.1%
Sample Size	1,550				4,096			

Table A2. Description of Individual Level Variables Included in Table 1 in the Manuscript.

Individual-Level Variable	Description	Instrument
Participation in Meetings of a Political Party	Do you participate in meetings of a political party? Never (4) Once or twice a year (3) Once or twice a month (2) Once a week (1)	Neighborhood Public Opinion Survey
Contacted Local Government	In order to solve your problems have you ever requested help or cooperation from a local public official such as the mayor or town council? (1) Yes (0) No	Neighborhood Public Opinion Survey
Contacted a legislator	A member of the Legislative Assembly? (1) Yes (0) No	Neighborhood Public Opinion Survey
Non-Electoral Participation Index	Count of five modes of participation: participation in meetings of political parties, help requests from the local government, a legislator or state ministry, and participation in protests. The index ranges from 0 to 5.	Neighborhood Public Opinion Survey
Crime victim	Personal experience with <i>at least</i> one crime in the past twelve months from a list of 10 types of crime. (=1 if victimized; 0=No)	Neighborhood Public Opinion Survey
Fear of being victimized by crime in the neighborhood	Index based on the following two items: How worried are you that someone will stop you in the street, threaten you, hit you or hurt you in [NAME OF NEIGHBORHOOD]? Are you...? (4) Very worried (3) Somewhat worried (2) Not very worried (1) Not worried How worried are you that someone from your family will be stopped in the street, threatened, hit or hurt in [NAME OF NEIGHBORHOOD]? Are you...? (4) Very worried (3) Somewhat worried (2) Not very worried (1) Not worried Unidimensional index with a Cronbach's alpha of 0.88	Neighborhood Public Opinion Survey
Trust toward neighbors	Speaking of the people from around here, would you say that people in [NAME OF NEIGHBORHOOD] are: (4) Very trustworthy (3) Somewhat trustworthy (2) Not very trustworthy (1) Untrustworthy	Neighborhood Public Opinion Survey

Interest in Politics	How much interest do you have in politics: a lot, some, little or none? (4) A lot (3) Some (2) Little (1) None	Neighborhood Public Opinion Survey
Quintiles of Wealth	Variable estimated based on Principal Component Analysis and 13 Household Assets (for details in the methodology, see Córdova 2009)	Neighborhood Public Opinion Survey
Schooling	Years of schooling (ranges from 0 to 18)	Neighborhood Public Opinion Survey
Age	How old are you? _____ years	Neighborhood Public Opinion Survey
Sex	Female=1; Male=0	Neighborhood Public Opinion Survey

Table A3. Description of Neighborhood Level Variables Included in Table 1 in the Manuscript

Neighborhood-Level Variable	Description	Instrument
Gang Dominance Index	Computed based on the following questions: Please tell me which of the following situations is a very serious problem, somewhat serious, not so serious, not serious or not a problem in [NAME OF NEIGHBORHOOD]. Young people or children that live in [NAME OF NEIGHBORHOOD] who are in gangs or maras Gang or maras brawls or fights in [NAME OF NEIGHBORHOOD]	Neighborhood Public Opinion Survey
Absolute Living Conditions in the Neighborhood (Poverty)	Based on the Unsatisfied Basic Needs Methodology as described in Méndez and Trejos (2004) % Households living in poverty (with at least one basic need unsatisfied)	Census carried out for the study
Neighborhood Crime	Index based on responses to seven items in the opinion survey that asked respondents whether they had knowledge of the following seven acts occurring in the last twelve months in their neighborhood: robberies, damage to private property, sale of illegal drugs, extortions, sexual violence, kidnappings, and murders. The index measures the average number of crimes (from the list of seven possible crimes) that respondents reported in each neighborhood and varies between 0 and 7	Neighborhood Public Opinion Survey
Neighborhood Size	Number of inhabited households in the neighborhood	Census carried out for the study

Table A4. Factor Analysis: Gang Dominance Index

Question Wording	Factor I	Uniqueness
1. Young people or children that live in [NAME OF NEIGHBORHOOD] who are in gangs or maras?	0.9107	0.1706
2. Gang or maras brawls or fights in [NAME OF NEIBHBORHOOD]?	0.9107	0.1706

Method: Principal-Component Factors; Rotation: Orthogonal Varimax
Proportion of Variance Explained by Factor I=82.94%

Cronbach's alpha coefficient=0.8

Table A5. Description of Variables Employed to Validate the Gang-Dominance Index.

Individual-Level Variable	Description	Instrument
Graffiti on the walls	<p>Please tell me which of the following situations is a very serious problem, somewhat serious, not so serious, not serious or not a problem in [NAME OF NEIGHBORHOOD].</p> <p>Tags or graffiti on the walls in [NAME OF NEIGHBORHOOD]</p>	Neighborhood Public Opinion Survey
Asking for help to the police	In order to protect yourself from a crime, in the last 12 months, have you taken any measure such as... Asking for help from the police? (Yes=1; 0=No)	Neighborhood Public Opinion Survey
Fear of crime	<p>Being at home with your family during the day, would you feel...? Very Safe, Somewhat Safe, Somewhat Unsafe, or Very unsafe</p> <p>Being home alone during the day, would you feel...?</p> <p>Being home alone at night, would you feel...?</p> <p>Walking alone in this neighborhood during the day, would you feel...?</p> <p>Walking alone in this neighborhood at night, would you feel...?</p> <p>Unidimensional index with a Cronbach's alpha of 0.81</p>	Neighborhood Public Opinion Survey
Saw neighbor talking to the police	In the last 12 months, which of the following activities have you seen the national civil police do in [NAME OF NEIGHBORHOOD]? Talk with the residents of [NAME OF NEIGHBORHOOD] (Yes=1; No=0)	Neighborhood Public Opinion Survey
Participation in meetings of neighborhood organizations	Do you participate in meetings of a committee for community improvement? Never (4) Once or twice a year (3) Once or twice a month (2) Once a week (1)	Neighborhood Public Opinion Survey
Physical Disorder	The physical disorder index consists of the sum of five items from the block	Systematic Observation of Neighborhood Blocks

	<p>observation: (1) garbage dumps or mounds of trash scattered outdoors throughout the area, (2) garbage or broken glass in the streets or on sidewalks, (3) empty lots with overgrown grass, (4) sewage or waste in the streets, and (5) lack of public electricity.</p> <p>The index was calculated at the neighborhood level by averaging the scores for blocks within each neighborhood.</p>	
Absolute Living Conditions in the Neighborhood (Poverty)	<p>Based on the Unsatisfied Basic Needs Methodology as described in Méndez and Trejos (2004).</p> <p>The index measures the percentage of households with at least one unsatisfied basic need across four dimensions: consumption capacity, education, health, and housing.</p>	Census carried out for the study
Neighborhood Crime	<p>Index based on responses to seven items in the opinion survey that asked respondents whether they had knowledge of the following seven acts occurring in the last twelve months in their neighborhood: robberies, damage to private property, sale of illegal drugs, extortions, sexual violence, kidnappings, and murders. The index measures the average number of crimes (from the list of seven possible crimes) that respondents reported in each neighborhood and varies between 0 and 7</p>	Neighborhood Public Opinion Survey

Table A6. Dependent Variable: Reports of Graffiti (Index Validation)

<i>Neighborhood-Level</i>	
Gang Dominance Index	0.052*** (0.008)
Neighborhood Crime	0.024 (0.043)
Poverty	-0.701* (0.288)
Neighborhood Size	-0.000 (0.000)
<i>Individual-Level</i>	
Crime Victim (1=Yes; 0=No)	-0.174 (0.136)
Fear of Crime	1.621*** (0.109)
Trust toward Neighbors	-0.060 (0.040)
Years of Schooling	-0.023** (0.008)
Quintiles of Wealth	0.041* (0.021)
Sex (1=Female; 0=Male)	-0.050 (0.058)
Age	-0.006 (0.009)
Age Squared	0.000 (0.000)
Num. Neighborhoods	71
Num. Obs.	4,022
Model Specification	Multilevel Ordered Logit

⁺ $p<0.10$; $*p<0.05$; $**p<0.01$; $***p<0.001$ (Standard errors in parenthesis). Fixed effects at the municipal level included but not shown.

**Table A7. Dependent Variable: Asked for Help to the Police
(Index Validation)**

<i>Neighborhood-Level</i>	
Gang Dominance Index	-0.018* (0.009)
Neighborhood Crime	-0.002 (0.051)
Poverty	0.875* (0.363)
Neighborhood Size	0.001 (0.001)
<i>Individual-Level</i>	
Crime Victim (1=Yes; 0=No)	0.526** (0.198)
Fear of Crime	0.878*** (0.205)
Trust toward Neighbors	-0.181* (0.072)
Interest in Politics	0.205** (0.065)
Years of Schooling	-0.014 (0.015)
Quintiles of Wealth	0.035 (0.040)
Sex (1=Female; 0=Male)	0.081 (0.112)
Age	0.042* (0.019)
Age Squared	-0.001* (0.000)
Constant	-3.065*** (0.765)
Num. Neighborhoods	71
Num. Obs.	3,979
Model Specification	Multilevel Logit

⁺ $p<0.10$; * $p<0.05$; ** $p<0.01$; *** $p<0.001$ (Standard errors in parenthesis). Fixed effects at the municipal level included but not shown.

Table A8. Dependent Variable: Fear of Crime (Index Validation)

<i>Neighborhood-Level</i>	
Gang Dominance Index	0.002*** (0.001)
Poverty	0.026 (0.024)
Neighborhood Size	-0.000 (0.000)
<i>Individual-Level</i>	
Crime Victim (1=Yes; 0=No)	0.050*** (0.014)
Fear of Crime	-0.067*** (0.004)
Trust toward Neighbors	0.000 (0.001)
Years of Schooling	-0.009*** (0.002)
Quintiles of Wealth	0.028*** (0.006)
Sex (1=Female; 0=Male)	0.002 (0.001)
Age	-0.000 (0.000)
Age Squared	0.050*** (0.014)
Constant	0.383*** (0.051)
Num. Neighborhoods	71
Num. Obs.	4,022
Model Specification	Multilevel Linear Model

⁺ $p<0.10$; $*p<0.05$; $**p<0.01$; $***p<0.001$ (Standard errors in parenthesis). Fixed effects at the municipal level included but not shown.

Table A9. Dependent Variable: Talked to the Police (Index Validation)

<i>Neighborhood-Level</i>	
Gang Dominance Index	-0.018* (0.009)
Neighborhood Crime	0.050 (0.050)
Poverty	1.575*** (0.344)
Neighborhood Size	0.001+ (0.001)
<i>Individual-Level</i>	
Crime Victim (1=Yes; 0=No)	-0.118 (0.170)
Fear of Crime	-0.114 (0.134)
Trust toward Neighbors	-0.081 (0.050)
Years of Schooling	0.032** (0.011)
Quintiles of Wealth	0.000 (0.028)
Sex (1=Female; 0=Male)	0.138+ (0.078)
Age	0.003 (0.013)
Age Squared	0.000 (0.000)
Constant	-1.580* (0.648)
Num. Neighborhoods	71
Num. Obs.	3,999
Model Specification	Multilevel Logit Model

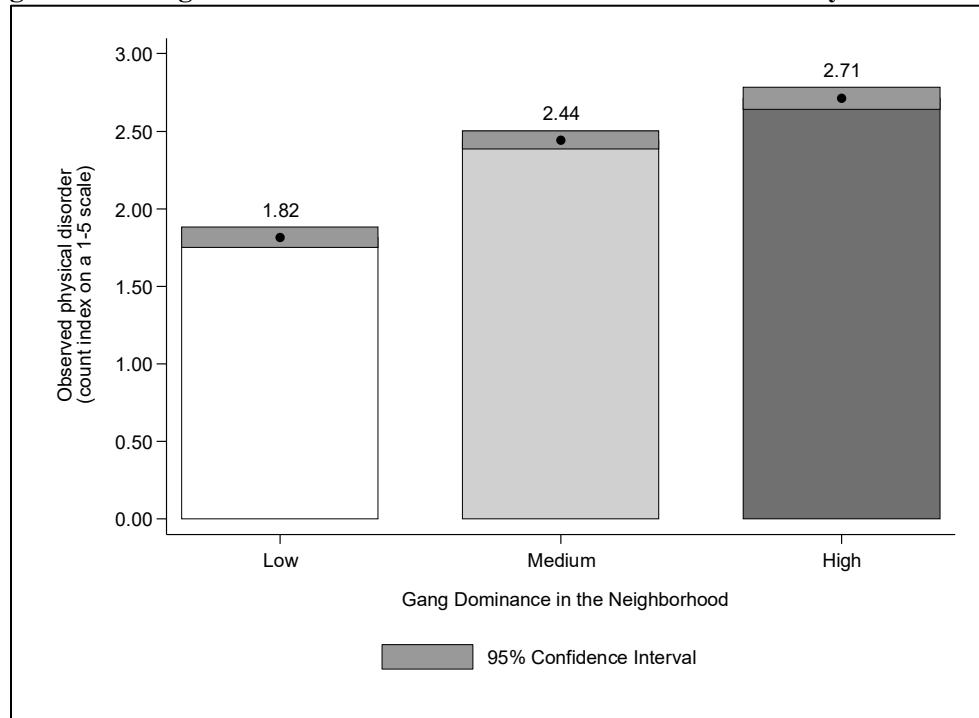
+ $p < 0.10$; * $p < 0.05$; ** $p < 0.01$; *** $p < 0.001$ (Standard errors in parenthesis). Fixed effects at the municipal level included but not shown.

Table A10. Dependent Variable: Participation in Meeting of Neighborhood Organizations (Index Validation)

<i>Neighborhood-Level</i>	
Gang Dominance Index	-0.047** (0.016)
Neighborhood Crime	0.155+ (0.094)
Poverty	1.525* (0.653)
Neighborhood Size	-0.001 (0.001)
<i>Individual-Level</i>	
Crime Victim (1=Yes; 0=No)	0.454* (0.199)
Fear of Crime	0.074 (0.185)
Trust toward Neighbors	0.126+ (0.071)
Interest in Politics	0.044 (0.068)
Years of Schooling	0.024 (0.015)
Quintiles of Wealth	0.056 (0.040)
Sex (1=Female; 0=Male)	-0.128 (0.112)
Age	0.115*** (0.021)
Age Squared	-0.001*** (0.000)
Num. Neighborhoods	71
Num. Obs.	3,974
Model Specification	Multilevel Ordered Logit

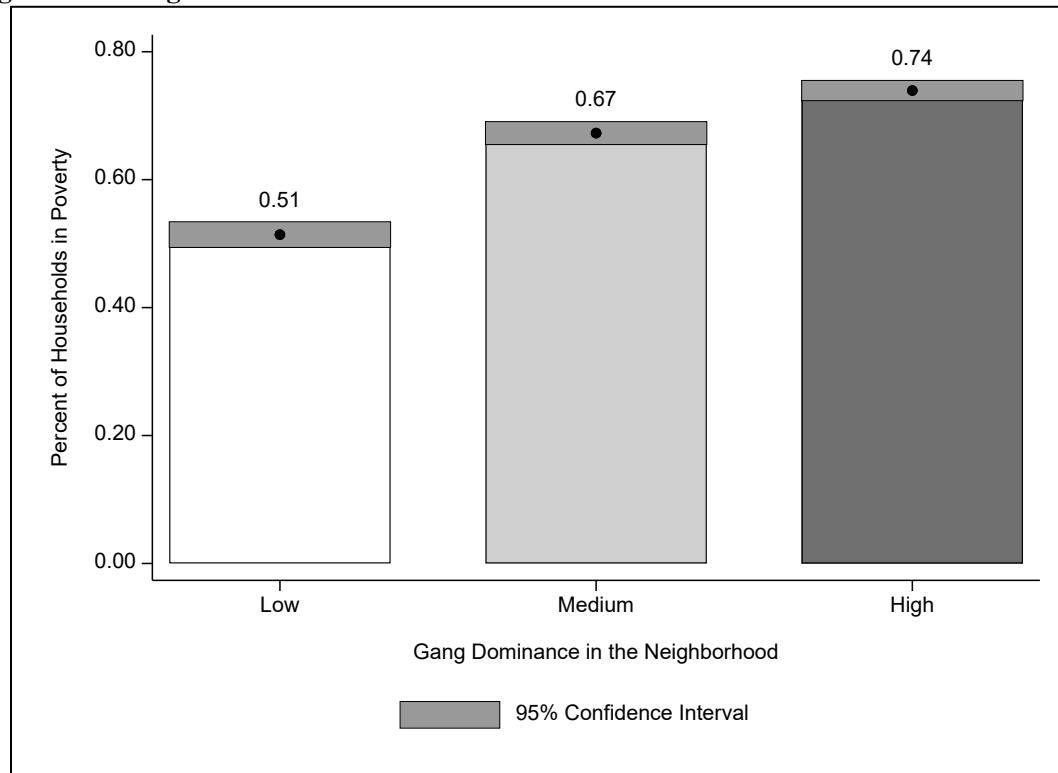
⁺ $p<0.10$; * $p<0.05$; ** $p<0.01$; *** $p<0.001$ (Standard errors in parenthesis). Fixed effects at the municipal level included but not shown.

Figure A1. Gang Dominance Index Validation: Correlation with Physical Disorder



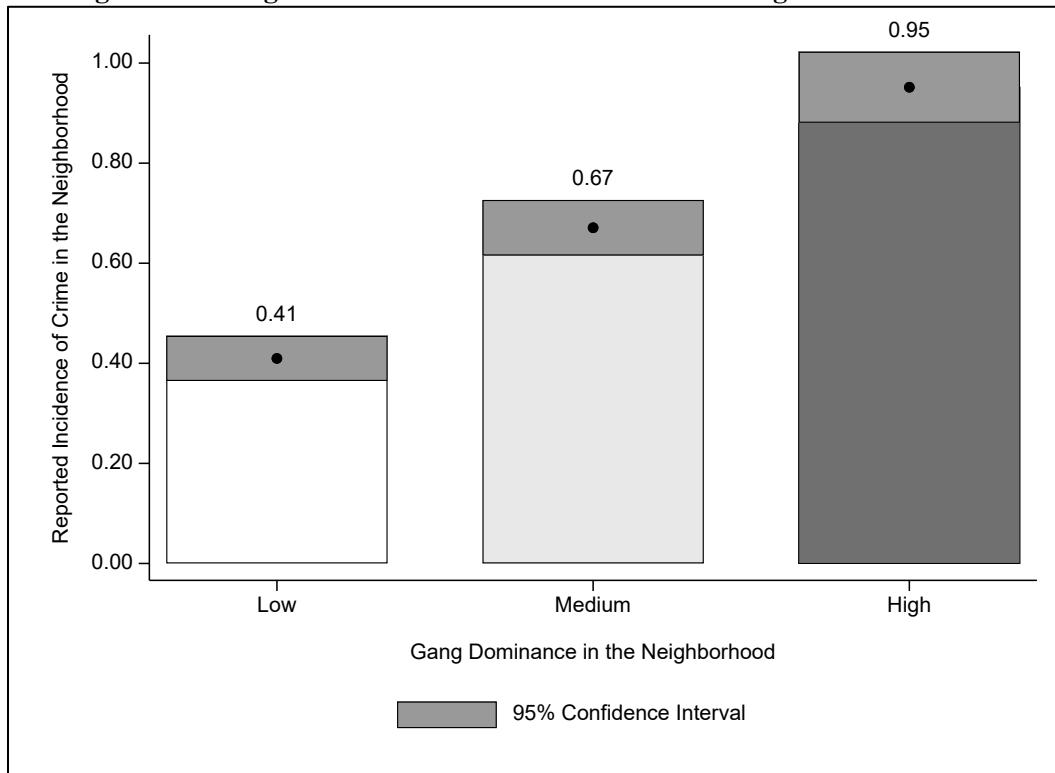
*With the purpose of displaying descriptive statistics graphically, the gang dominance index was divided into terciles to classify neighborhoods as having low, medium, or high levels of gang dominance. Following previous work in sociology (e.g., Sampson and Raudenbush 1999), a systematic observation of the physical deterioration of public spaces was conducted by fieldwork personnel in each neighborhood block prior to the collection of census and survey data. Based on these data, I computed a physical disorder index using the following items in the systematic observation questionnaire: (1) garbage dumps or mounds of trash scattered outdoors; (2) garbage or broken glass in the streets or on sidewalks; (3) empty lots with overgrown grass; (4) sewage or waste in the streets; and (5) lack of public electricity.

Figure A2. Gang Dominance Index Validation: Correlation with % Households in Poverty



*Poverty is measured based on the Unsatisfied Basic Needs (UBN) methodology using data from the neighborhood census. The index measures the percentage of households with at least one unsatisfied basic need across four dimensions: consumption capacity, education, health, and housing

Figure A3. Gang Index Validation: Correlation with Neighborhood Crime



*Neighborhood crime is measured based on responses to seven items in the opinion survey that asked respondents whether they had knowledge of the following seven acts occurring in the last twelve months in their neighborhood: robberies, damage to private property, sale of illegal drugs, extortions, sexual violence, kidnappings, and murders.

Table A11. Dependent Variables: Protest Participation and Help Request from a Ministry

	Protest Participation	Requested Help from State Ministry
<i>Neighborhood-Level</i>		
Gang Dominance Index	-0.039+ (0.023)	-0.040** (0.015)
Neighborhood Crime	0.053 (0.128)	0.085 (0.089)
Poverty	0.488 (0.868)	1.007 (0.671)
Neighborhood Size	0.001 (0.001)	0.000 (0.001)
<i>Individual-Level</i>		
Crime Victim (1=Yes; 0=No)	0.845* (0.343)	0.659* (0.313)
Fear of Crime	-0.088 (0.363)	-0.152 (0.311)
Trust toward Neighbors	-0.242+ (0.136)	0.210+ (0.121)
Interest in Politics	0.472*** (0.109)	0.294** (0.099)
Years of Schooling	0.039 (0.028)	0.038 (0.024)
Quintiles of Wealth	0.031 (0.075)	0.065 (0.065)
Sex (1=Female; 0=Male)	-0.100 (0.214)	0.112 (0.181)
Age	0.064+ (0.039)	0.057+ (0.032)
Age Squared	-0.001 (0.000)	-0.001+ (0.000)
Num. Neighborhoods	71	71
Num. Obs.	3,997	3,979
Model Specification	Multilevel Logit	Multilevel Logit

+ $p<0.10$; * $p<0.05$; ** $p<0.01$; *** $p<0.001$ (Standard errors in parenthesis). Fixed effects at the municipal level included but not shown.

Table A12. Average Treatment Effect (ATE) of Crime Victimization on Non-Electoral Participation

Dependent Variable	ATE (Coeff.)
Participated Political Party Activities	.0525**
Contacted Local Government	.0879**
Contacted Legislator	.0973***
Non-Electoral Participation Index	.305***

** $p<0.01$; *** $p<0.001$

Results are based on the augmented inverse propensity weighted estimator. The outcome model includes all control variables included in the regression models displayed in Table 1. The propensity score model predicts the probability of treatment as a function of participation in neighborhood improvement committees and respondents' demographic characteristics, including household wealth, education level, sex, and age.

Table A13. Dependent Variables: Crime Victimization and Frequency of Crime Victimization

	Crime Victimization	Frequency of Crime Victimization~
<i>Neighborhood-Level</i>		
Gang Dominance Index	0.012 (0.009)	0.002* (0.001)
Poverty	1.650*** (0.425)	0.255*** (0.048)
Neighborhood Size	0.001 (0.001)	0.000 (0.000)
<i>Individual-Level</i>		
Years of Schooling	0.015 (0.019)	0.006* (0.002)
Quintiles of Wealth	0.075 (0.051)	0.003 (0.006)
Sex (1=Female; 0=Male)	-0.082 (0.143)	0.012 (0.018)
Age	0.022 (0.024)	-0.003 (0.003)
Age Squared	-0.000 (0.000)	0.000 (0.000)
Num. Neighborhoods	71	71
Num. Obs.	4,089	4,085
Model Specification	Multilevel Logit	Multilevel Linear

+ $p < 0.10$; * $p < 0.05$; ** $p < 0.01$; *** $p < 0.001$ (Standard errors in parenthesis). Fixed effects at the municipal level included but not shown. The frequency of crime victimization variable measures the number of times individuals reported being victims of crime in the past twelve months.

Table A14. Dependent Variable: Voting (Placebo test: Effect of Crime Victimization After Election)

<i>Neighborhood-Level</i>	
Gang Dominance Index	-0.004 (0.006)
Neighborhood Crime	0.023 (0.032)
Poverty	0.336 (0.209)
Neighborhood Size	0.001* (0.000)
<i>Individual-Level</i>	
Crime Victim (1=Yes; 0=No)	-0.104 (0.166)
Fear of Crime	0.023 (0.130)
Trust toward Neighbors	-0.066 (0.049)
Interest in Politics	0.240*** (0.049)
Years of Schooling	0.044*** (0.010)
Quintiles of Wealth	0.085** (0.027)
Sex (1=Female; 0=Male)	-0.054 (0.075)
Age	0.177*** (0.012)
Age Squared	-0.002*** (0.000)
Num. Neighborhoods	71
Num. Obs.	3,998
Model Specification	Multilevel Logit

+ $p<0.10$; * $p<0.05$; ** $p<0.01$; *** $p<0.001$ (Standard errors in parenthesis). Fixed effects at the municipal level included but not shown.

Table A15. Dependent Variable: Interest in Politics

	Interest in Politics
<i>Neighborhood-Level</i>	
Gang Dominance Index	-0.009 (0.006)
Neighborhood Crime	-0.005 (0.032)
Poverty	0.392 (0.219)
Neighborhood Size	0.000 (0.000)
<i>Individual-Level</i>	
Crime Victim (1=Yes; 0=No)	0.014 (0.139)
Fear of Crime	-0.061 (0.111)
Trust toward Neighbors	0.134** (0.042)
Years of Schooling	0.013 (0.009)
Quintiles of Wealth	0.118*** (0.023)
Sex (1=Female; 0=Male)	-0.488*** (0.063)
Age	0.011 (0.010)
Age Squared	-0.000 (0.000)
_cons	0.027 (0.016)
Num. Neighborhoods	71
Num. Obs.	4,012
Model Specification	Multilevel Ordered Logit

+ $p<0.10$; * $p<0.05$; ** $p<0.01$; *** $p<0.001$ (Standard errors in parenthesis). Fixed effects at the municipal level included but not shown.

Table A16. Dependent Variable: Trust in the Police

	Trust in the Police Model 1
<i>Neighborhood-Level</i>	
Gang Dominance Index	-0.004 (0.005)
Neighborhood Crime	0.017 (0.031)
Poverty	0.329 (0.205)
Neighborhood Size	-0.000 (0.000)
<i>Individual-Level</i>	
Crime Victim (1=Yes; 0=No)	-0.529*** (0.131)
Fear of Crime	-0.295** (0.105)
Trust toward Neighbors	0.319*** (0.040)
Years of Schooling	0.007 (0.036)
Quintiles of Wealth	-0.014 (0.008)
Sex (1=Female; 0=Male)	0.018 (0.021)
Age	0.163** (0.057)
Age Squared	-0.030** (0.009)
_cons	1.882*** (0.434)
Num. Neighborhoods	71
Num. Obs.	3,977
Model Specification	Multilevel Ordered Logit

+ $p<0.10$; * $p<0.05$; ** $p<0.01$; *** $p<0.001$ (Standard errors in parenthesis). Fixed effects at the municipal level included but not shown.

Table A17. Dependent Variable: Demand for Police Involvement in the Neighborhood

	Demand for Police Involvement
<i>Neighborhood-Level</i>	
Gang Dominance Index	-0.011 (0.017)
Neighborhood Crime	0.051 (0.096)
Poverty	-1.953** (0.687)
Neighborhood Size	-0.003** (0.001)
<i>Individual-Level</i>	
Crime Victim (1=Yes; 0=No)	-0.462 (0.251)
Fear of Crime	0.174 (0.242)
Trust toward Neighbors	0.117 (0.088)
Years of Schooling	-0.139 (0.083)
Quintiles of Wealth	0.006 (0.019)
Sex (1=Female; 0=Male)	-0.074 (0.050)
Age	-0.047 (0.141)
Age Squared	0.027 (0.022)
_cons	1.882*** (0.434)
Num. Neighborhoods	71
Num. Obs.	4,001
Model Specification	Multilevel Ordered Logit

+ $p < 0.10$; * $p < 0.05$; ** $p < 0.01$; *** $p < 0.001$ (Standard errors in parenthesis). Fixed effects at the municipal level included but not shown.

Table A18. Alternative Index of Gang Dominance: Signs of Graffiti in Census Track (based on the 2016 LAPOP national survey for El Salvador)

	Participation in Meeting of Political Parties	Voting in Past Presidential Election
<i>Census Track-Level</i>		
Gang Dominance Index	-0.824** (0.309)	-0.265 (0.241)
Crime Level	0.309 (0.381)	0.479 (0.315)
<i>Individual-Level</i>		
Crime Victim (1=Yes; 0=No)	0.094 (0.189)	
Fear of Crime	-0.089 (0.080)	-0.116 (0.068)
Interest in Politics	0.566*** (0.073)	0.389*** (0.070)
Years of Schooling	-0.074 (0.118)	0.473*** (0.106)
Quintiles of Wealth	-0.024 (0.057)	-0.045 (0.048)
Sex (1=Female; 0=Male)	-0.132 (0.158)	0.056 (0.132)
Age	-0.003 (0.005)	0.071*** (0.006)
_cons	0.216 (0.168)	-3.507*** (0.698)
Num. Census Tracts	252	252
Num. Obs.	1,499	1,501
Model Specification	Multilevel Ordered Logit	Multilevel Logit

+p<0.10; *p<0.05; **p<0.01; *** p<0.001 (Standard errors in parenthesis).