

ONLINE APPENDIX TO

**Confronting Crime by Ourselves: Trust
in Neighbors and Anti-Crime
Organization Attempts in Mexico**

I. Question wording

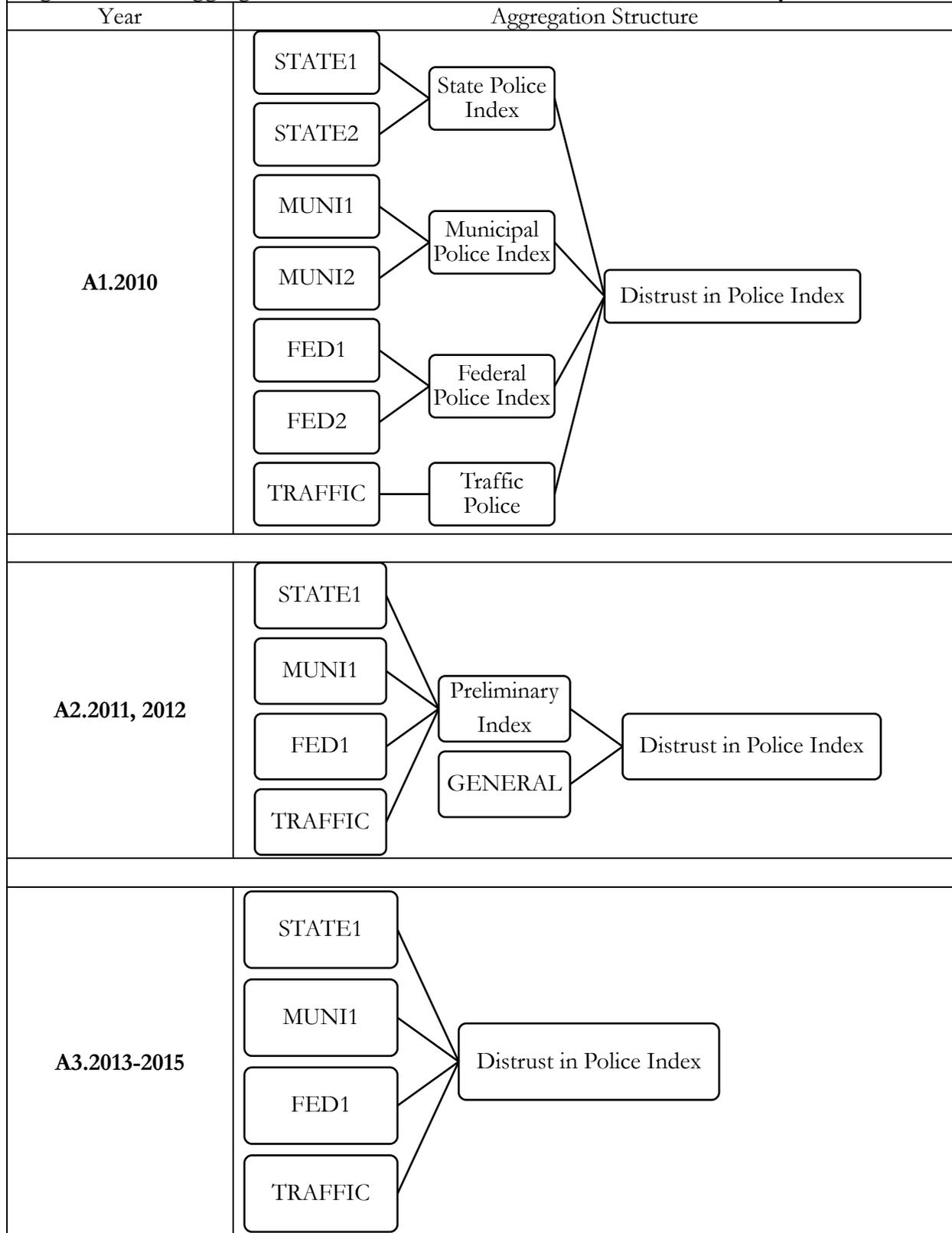
Table A1. Question Wording.		
	ENSI 2010	ENVIPE 2011-2015
Collective Anti Criminal Action/Organization	In the previous year, to protect itself from crime. Were any of the following actions taken in this household? Engage in joint actions with the neighbors. <i>No, Yes</i>	
Support for Vigilante Justice		
Trust in Neighbors	Please tell me the degree of trust that you have in your neighbors? <i>A lot, some, little, or none?</i>	
Trust in the Police (inverted when referred as distrust)	See appendix III	
Neighborhood Criminality	<p>Do you know, or have you heard, if around your home the following situations occur?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Drug is used (yes or no) 2. Alcohol is consumed in public (yes or no) 3. There have been gun shots (yes or no) 4. There are sites selling firearms (yes or no) 5. There are gangs or group who commit crimes (yes or no) 6. There are frequent assaults (yes or no) 7. There is youth who neither work nor go to school (yes or no) 8. There are frequent assaults on women, children and elderly (yes or no) 9. There is illegal sale of alcohol (yes or no) 10. There are sites selling counterfeit goods (yes or no) 11. There are sites selling drugs (yes or no) 12. There have been kidnappings (yes or no) 13. There have been extortions (yes or no) 14. There have been charges for “the use of floor” (yes or no) 	<p>Do you know, or have you heard, if around your home the following situations occur?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Alcohol is consumed on the street (yes or no) 2. There are gangs or bands (yes or no) 3. There are arguments between neighbors (yes or no) 4. There is illegal sale of alcohol (yes or no) 5. Pirate products are sold (yes or no) 6. There has been police violence against citizens (yes or no) 7. There is invasion of land 8. Drug is used (yes or no) 9. There are frequent assaults or robberies (yes or no) 10. Drug is sold (yes or no) 11. There have been frequent shootings (yes or no) 12. Firearms are sold (yes or no) 13. There is prostitution (yes or no) 14. There have been kidnappings (yes or no) 15. There have been killings (yes or no) 16. There have been extortion (yes or no) 17. There have been charges for “the use of floor” (yes or no)
Trend of Crime	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. For what you have noted in (State), ¿Do you consider that during last year crime has... <i>decreased, remained the same or increased?</i> 2. For what you have noted in (City), ¿Do you consider that during last year crime has... <i>decreased, remained the same or increased?</i> 	
Security	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Do you consider that living in your neighborhood is <i>safe or unsafe?</i> 2. Do you consider that living in your municipality is <i>safe or unsafe?</i> 	

	3. Do you consider that living in your state is <i>safe or unsafe</i> ?	
Insecurity	1. Tell me if you feel safe or unsafe in ... your home 2. Tell me if you feel safe or unsafe in ... the street 3. Tell me if you feel safe or unsafe in ... the public transport ... 1. Tell me if you feel safe or unsafe in ... an ATM located in public	
Crime Victimization	During 2009, any person who lives or lived in your household was the victim of a crime in this state?	During 2010, in (STATE) or in another state, did any person who live or lived in your household suffered any of the situations listed? (list of crimes)
Size of Town	Rural, Suburban, Urban	
Ethnic Identity	[Based on INEGI's Inter-census survey 2015] According to your culture, do you consider yourself as indigenous? (yes, no)	

II. Structure of the Police Distrust Index

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
TRAFFIC. How much do you trust the traffic police?	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
MUNI1. How much do you trust the municipal police?	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
STATE1. How much do you trust the state police?	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
FED1. How much do you trust the federal police?	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
GENERAL. Please tell me to what degree do you trust the police		✓	✓			
MUNI2. Please tell me to what degree do you trust the municipal police	✓					
STATE2. Please tell me to what degree do you trust the state police	✓					
FED2. Please tell me to what degree do you trust the federal police	✓					
Alpha scale reliability coefficient:	0.862	0.823	0.813	0.785	0.78	0.79

Figures A1-A3. Aggregation Structure of the Distrust in the Police Index by Year



III. Alternative Model Specifications

Table A3. Robustness of the results to variable selection

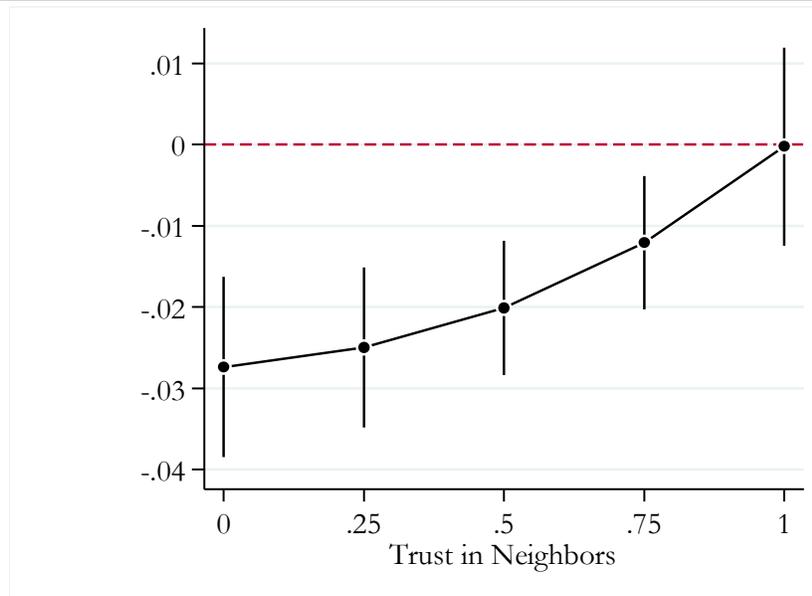
	(1) Minimalist	(2) In Text	(3) Full Model
Trust in Neighbors	0.431*** (0.0693)	0.649*** (0.0739)	0.618*** (0.0749)
Distrust in the Police	-0.257*** (0.0852)	-0.449*** (0.0896)	-0.495*** (0.0909)
Trust in Neighbors x Distrust in the Police	0.623*** (0.105)	0.447*** (0.110)	0.474*** (0.112)
Crime Victimization		0.452*** (0.0198)	0.425*** (0.0200)
			0.0475** (0.0222)
PERCEIVED INSECURITY Index		Insecurity (Municipality) 0.258*** (0.0267)	0.109*** (0.0255)
			0.0322 (0.0251)
			Insecurity (State) 0.0322 (0.0251)
Age		2.286*** (0.165)	2.186*** (0.168)
Age ²		-2.656*** (0.231)	-2.612*** (0.236)
Female		0.0611*** (0.0204)	0.0560*** (0.0206)
Education		1.121*** (0.0562)	1.037*** (0.0567)
Size of Town (Urban vs. Rural)		-0.0838** (0.0394)	-0.0943** (0.0397)
Size of Town (Semi-Urban vs. Rural)		0.264*** (0.0365)	0.232*** (0.0373)
% Indigenous speakers		-0.0276 (0.0783)	-0.00919 (0.0789)
			Alcohol Consumption in Neighborhood -0.104*** (0.0214)
			Gangs in Neighborhood 0.0884*** (0.0235)
NEIGHBORHOOD INSECURITY Index		Illegal Alcohol Sales in Neighborhood 0.618*** (0.0440)	0.0878*** (0.0267)
			Piracy in the Neighborhood 0.0304 (0.0246)
			Drug Consumption in Neighborhood -0.0850***

			(0.0238)
	Assaults in Neighborhood		0.361***
			(0.0223)
	Drug Stores in the Neighborhood		-0.0875***
			(0.0268)
	Gunfire in Neighborhood		0.104***
			(0.0256)
	Kidnap in the Neighborhood		0.172***
			(0.0308)
	Extortions/Floor- charges in Neighborhood		0.207***
			(0.0275)
Student		0.0167	0.0143
		(0.0923)	(0.0942)
House-worker		-0.140*	-0.132
		(0.0830)	(0.0849)
Retired		0.0298	0.0256
		(0.0932)	(0.0953)
Incapacitated		-0.0524	-0.0645
		(0.131)	(0.134)
Did not work		0.0493	0.0455
		(0.0930)	(0.0951)
Farmer or worker on the field		-0.0136	-2.62e-05
		(0.0872)	(0.0892)
Employee or factory worker		-0.0485	-0.0314
		(0.0797)	(0.0817)
Self employed		-0.0521	-0.0393
		(0.0813)	(0.0831)
Boss		0.0819	0.0593
		(0.0989)	(0.101)
Student		-0.0798	-0.0631
		(0.0929)	(0.0948)
Constant		-1.735***	-3.143***
		(0.137)	(0.166)
Fixed Effects	StateYear	StateYear	StateYear
Observations	427,127	425,129	416,358
Design Based Standard Errors in parentheses. *** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1			

IV. Moderating effect of Social Capital over Citizens' Distrust in the Police.

I also considered the change in the marginal effect of distrust in the police as a function of citizens' trust in their neighbors.

Figure A4. Moderating effect of Citizens' Trust in their Neighbors on the Effect of Distrust on the Police



As Figure A4 shows I find that, among citizens with *high trust* in their neighbors, distrust in the police does not translate into significant changes in citizens' likelihood to engage in an anti-crime organization attempt. However, among citizens with *low trust* in their neighbors, a maximum trust in the police change associated with a 2.73 (0.56) change in a citizens' likelihood to engage in an anti-crime organization attempt.

V. Beyond Anti-Criminal Organization Attempts

Although the results in the body of the text are valuable in themselves, it is important to recognize that the questions included by INEGI do not explicitly specify whether *Anti-Crime Organizations* are confronting criminals fully independently of the state. Indeed, although the signs posted in Mexico and Argentina point towards extra-legal intentions, some citizens might constitute this groups to turn criminals to the authorities for them to face due process. To what extent do citizens' participation in anti-criminal organizations ultimately translates into an increased preference for neighbors, rather than state authorities, as a source of criminal justice?

To investigate this question, I analyze an item included in Mexico's 2014 AmericasBarometer designed to recover citizens' preference for their neighbors, rather than state authorities, as their preferred agent to turn in order to dispense justice after, hypothetically, being victimized by crime.¹ Interviewers asked participants,

*If you or someone of your family was victim of a crime in one of the streets of your neighborhood. To whom would you turn in search for justice? 1) The municipal police 2) The public prosecutor 3) Your neighbors/ community 4) Other 5) No one.*² (Henceforth *Neighbors*)

From the information recovered by this item, I created a variable (*Preference*) that takes a value of 1 if citizens chose a state authority (i.e. the police or the state prosecutor) (*Preference=Authorities*), 2 if they chose their neighbors/community (*Preference=Neighbors*), and 3 if they chose other option (*Preference=Other*). While 79% (1.3) of the responses accorded with the rule of law (i.e. the interviewee chose a state authority)³ as many as 10.64% (1.1) of Mexicans declared that they would turn to their neighbors/community as their preferred choice for criminal justice if they were to be victimized by crime.

However, to study if participation in anti-criminal organizations is linked to a preference for collective extra-legal justice, it is necessary to go beyond these numbers and turn to the average respondent's probability of choosing her neighbors as a source of criminal justice compared to the authorities ($\frac{Pr(Preference=Neighbors)}{Pr(Preference=Authority)}$). To do so, I specified a multinomial logistic regression model in which the *Relative Preference for Neighbors* (the probability ratio described before) is modeled as a function of citizens' participation in *Anti-Crime Organizations*, their distrust in the Police (*Distrust P*), the interaction between these two variables (*AntiCrime* \times *Distrust P*), and a series of important controls

¹ Although the use of the word *justice* renders the question vague, this has the advantage of reducing the social desirability bias associated with words like "*retribution*", "*violence*" or "*vengeance*". The fact that *vigilante violence* is often referred to euphemistically as "*vigilante justice*" or "*justice by own hands*", however, provides a reasonable basis from which to interpret citizens' choice of "*turning to their neighbors in search for justice*", as their standing preference for vigilante justice.

² Note the question closely resembles Malone's statement cited before (Malone, 2012b, p. 127).

³ Of the total number of respondents 50.64% (1.86) selected the police and 28.36% (1.68) the public prosecutor as their preferred justice dispensing state authority. 6.35% of Mexicans say that they would turn to another actor in order to seek justice.

$$\frac{Pr(\text{Preference} = \text{Neighbors})}{Pr(\text{Preference} = \text{Authority})} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \text{Distrust } P_i + \beta_2 \text{AntiCrime}_i + \beta_3 \text{AntiCrime}_i \times \text{Distrust } P_i \quad 1) \\ + \Phi' \text{CONTROLS}' + \theta' \text{REGION}' + e_i$$

In line with previous specifications **Φ' CONTROLS'** represents a vector of control variables including demographic controls (*Sex, Education, Age, Size of the Locality and Wealth*)⁴, insecurity controls (perceived neighborhood *Insecurity* and *Crime Victimization*) and controls for differences in law enforcement availability across contexts (citizens' estimation of the police's response *Speed* in their area⁵ and citizens' *Satisfaction* with the security provided by government). Further, to account for

variation in citizens' normative *Support for Vigilantism*, I included a variable that captures their general support for citizens taking the law into their own hands.⁶ Finally, since LAPOP consistently asks citizens about their ethnic background I included a dummy variable that distinguishes between those who identify themselves as *Indigenous* and those who have a different ethnic identity.

As in previous analyses, I included dummy variables to account for regional differences. In this case, the term **Φ' REGION'** refers to four dummy variables that uniquely identify each of the regional strata for which the Mexican sample is representative. Once again, recall that if distrust in the police moderates the link between citizens' participation in an *Anti-Crime Organizations* and their *Relative Preference for Neighbors* (rather than authorities) as the suppliers of criminal justice, we should observe a positive and significant coefficient associated with the multiplicative term *Organization x Distrust P*.

The results do not show evidence that insecurity or crime victimization have a significant effect on citizens' *Relative Preference for Neighbors* once their likelihood to participate in an *Anti-Crime Organization* is accounted for. However, there is evidence that, beyond showing a higher likelihood of organizing against crime, those identifying as indigenous are also more likely to turn to their neighbors (rather than the state) to seek justice if victimized by crime. An average indigenous respondent is expected to have a 4.29 (2.1) percentage points greater chance to respond that they would be likely to turn to her neighbors (rather than authorities) than her non-indigenous counterparts.

⁴Note that in this case, wealth takes particular relevance since an important strand of literature has linked lynching, brawls and vigilante organizations to group competition (Olzak, 1990) often triggered by economic pressures (Hepworth & West, 1988; Hovland & Sears, 1940; Tadjoeeddin & Murshed, 2007) but, at times, also encouraged by rapid religious, political and demographic change (Bagozzi, 1977; Inverarity, 1976; Tyson, 2013; Wasserman, 1977).

⁵This variable was not included in previous analysis because it was only included in 2014.

⁶It is important to clarify that this variable was included to measure *normative support for vigilantism* rather than a pragmatic preference for it. Citizens may choose their neighbors as a source of criminal justice even if they do not generally support this behavior. This, if they are normatively opposed to other options more strongly than they are normatively opposed to vigilantism or if they take a pragmatic rather than a normative approach to their decisions. That said, to apace potential concerns with the inclusion of this variable I removed it from the model and found no significant differences in the results (*See online appendix XIIIb*).

Additionally, and in contrast with previous results, it seems that distrust in the police has a direct and significant effect on citizens' willingness to turn to their neighbors as a source of criminal justice. While the average respondent who trusts the police has 4% (1) chance to turn to her neighbors, the average police-distrusting citizen has a 12.9% (1.9) chance to do so. A difference of 9.78 (2.92) percentage points.

Conversely, I find no evidence that participating in an *Anti-Crime Organization* is linked to a higher *Relative Preference for Neighbors* (rather than authorities) as the suppliers of criminal justice among the average citizen. That said, consistent with my theoretical framework, I find this connection to be positively moderated by distrust in the police. That is, as citizens' distrust in the police increases the association between *Anti-Crime Organization* and their *Relative Preference for Neighbors* as the suppliers of justice in the face of criminal victimization becomes activated (Figure A5).

As seen in Figure A6, among citizens who strongly trust the police (solid line), participating in an *Anti-Crime Organization* is not linked to an increase in the *Relative Preference for Neighbors* as a source of criminal justice. However, among those who distrust the police (dotted line), the story is quite different. Among this subgroup, participating in an *Anti-Crime Organization* is associated with an 8.17 (0.4) percentage points increase in the probability of choosing neighbors, rather than state authorities, as the preferred provider of criminal justice (*Relative Preference for Neighbors*).

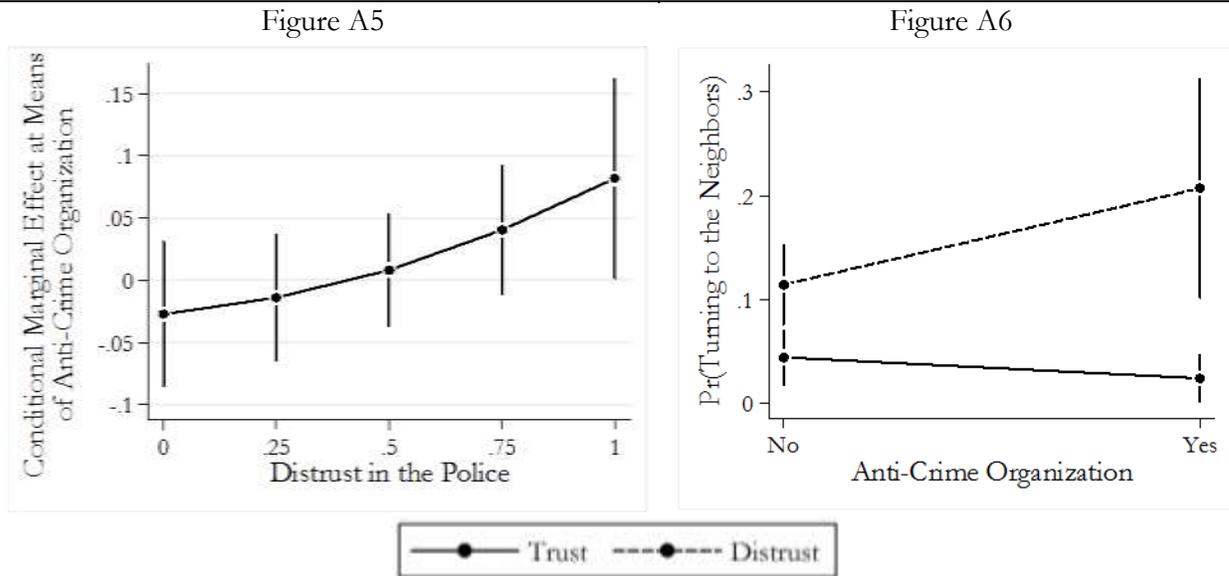
Table A4. Interactive Effect of Trust on the Probability of Engaging in Anti-Crime Organization

	<i>Relative Preference for Neighbors</i>
Anti-Crime Organization	-0.670 (0.573)
Distrust in the Police	1.080** (0.426)
Anti-Crime Organization x Distrust in the Police	1.498** (0.738)
Trust in Neighbors	0.443 (0.367)
Crime Victimization	-0.123 (0.222)
Insecurity	-0.395 (0.432)
Support for Vigilante Justice	0.787*** (0.283)
Indigenous	0.535* (0.271)
Age	(0.0703)
Female	-0.00949 (0.224)
Education	-0.279* (0.157)
Constant	-3.270*** (0.771)
Fixed Effects	4 Regions
Observations	1,197

Design Based Robust Standard Errors (in parentheses) account for stratification, clustering and weighting. *** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1

Controls included but not shown: size of locality, speed of police response, satisfaction with security provided by government, See full results in *online appendix IV*. For a complete list of question wording see *online appendix II*.

Figures A5 and A6. Conditional Effect of Anti-Crime Organization on Citizens' Preference for Neighbors as Source of Criminal Justice (as moderated by Distrust in the Police)



In other words, while police-distrusting citizens who *do not* participate in *Anti-Criminal Organizations* have a 11.46% (1.91) chance of manifesting a *Relative Preference for Neighbors*, their *participating* counterparts have almost a 20.74% (5.31) chance of manifesting such preference. This, translates nearly to a 200% increase in the probability of choosing neighbors, rather than state authorities, as the preferred supplier of criminal justice.