

FOR RELEASE APRIL 22, 2014

Indians See Rape as a Major National Problem

Majorities Say Laws and Law Enforcement Are Inadequate

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
ON THIS REPORT:**

Bruce Stokes, Director of Global Economic Attitudes

Neha Sahgal, Senior Researcher

Russ Oates, Communications Manager

202.419.4372

www.pewresearch.org

About the Report

This report examines public opinion in India on the issue of rape. It is based on 2,464 face-to-face interviews with adults 18 and older, between December 7, 2013 and January 12, 2014. The survey covers 15 of the 17 most populous states (Kerala and Assam were excluded) and the Union Territory of Delhi, which together are home to about 91% of the adult Indian population. For more details, see survey methods and topline results.

The report is a collaborative effort based on the input and analysis of the following individuals:

Bruce Stokes, *Director of Global Economic Attitudes*

Neha Sahgal, *Senior Researcher*

Richard Wike, *Director of Global Attitudes Research*

James Bell, *Director of International Survey Research*

Danielle Cuddington, *Research Assistant*

Kat Devlin, *Research Assistant*

Aaron Ponce, *Research Associate*

Steve Schwarzer, *Visiting Research Methodologist*

Claudia Deane, *Director, Research Practice*

Bruce Drake, *Senior Editor*

Jacob Poushter, *Research Associate*

Katie Simmons, *Senior Researcher*

About Pew Research Center

Pew Research Center is a nonpartisan fact tank that informs the public about the issues, attitudes and trends shaping America and the world. It does not take policy positions. It conducts public opinion polling, demographic research, media content analysis and other empirical social science research. The center studies U.S. politics and policy views; media and journalism; internet and technology; religion and public life; Hispanic trends; global attitudes and U.S. social and demographic trends. All of the center's reports are available at www.pewresearch.org. Pew Research Center is a subsidiary of The Pew Charitable Trusts.

Alan Murray, *President*

Michael Dimock, *Vice President, Research*

Elizabeth Mueller Gross, *Vice President*

Paul Taylor, *Executive Vice President, Special Projects*

Andrew Kohut, *Founding Director*

© Pew Research Center 2014

Indians See Rape as a Major National Problem

Majorities Say Laws and Law Enforcement Are Inadequate

One year after the [gang rape and murder of a 23-year-old student in New Delhi](#) made national headlines, Indians remain concerned about the problem of rape in their country and the inadequacy of the criminal justice system in dealing with the issue.

A national poll conducted by the Pew Research Center between December 7, 2013, and January 12, 2014 shows that nine-in-ten Indians agree that the crime of rape is a “very big problem” in the country. Further, roughly eight-in-ten (82%) say the problem is growing. While four of the men convicted in the infamous Delhi case were given the death penalty, nearly three-in-four Indians (74%)

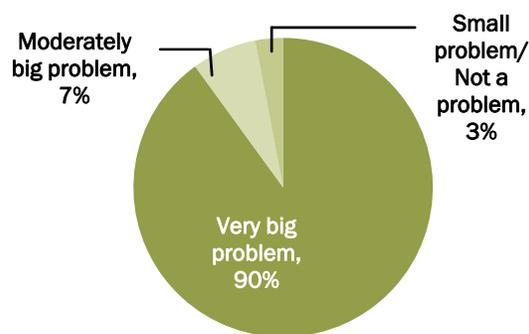
say that the laws in the country are too lax when it comes to punishing cases of rape. About as many (78%) fault the country’s police for not being strict enough in investigating such cases.

Since the New Delhi assault, cases of rape in India continue to gain national and international attention, generating widespread concern about the safety of women both in urban and rural sectors of the country. Earlier this month, three men were given the death penalty for the August 2013 gang rape of a [photojournalist in Mumbai](#). Another [high profile assault](#) took place in January in West Bengal, where a village council used gang rape to punish a young woman for her relationship with a man from outside her community.

In the aftermath of the Delhi case, the [Indian government appointed a three member “Verma Committee”](#) headed by Justice J.S. Verma, the former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, to suggest amendments to the current criminal code dealing with cases of sexual assault. The committee was highly critical of the current laws and law enforcement in dealing with sexual assault, and after reviewing feedback from the general public, made several recommendations to alter the criminal code.

Overwhelming Concerns about Rape in India

% of Indians who say rape is a... in India



Source: Dec. 2013-Jan. 2014 Global Attitudes survey in India. Q12INDIA.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

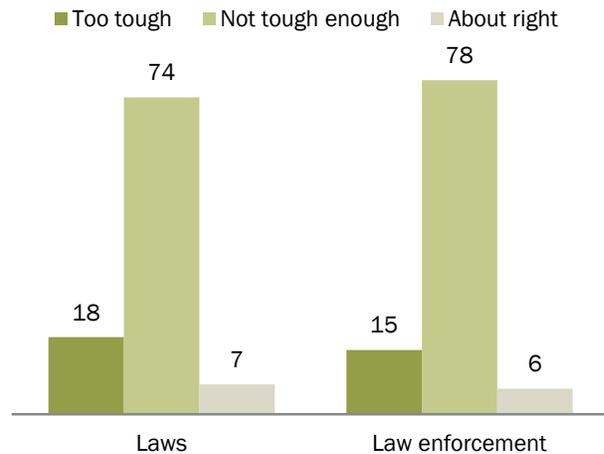
While some of the [recommendations of the Verma Committee](#) were implemented in March 2013, the public remains dissatisfied with the current laws and the police's handling of rape cases, with roughly three-in-four saying that the current criminal code for dealing with such cases is too lax. Fewer than one-in-ten Indians rate the current laws as "about right" in dealing with cases of rape (7%). And only 6% of the public says that the police investigate these cases adequately. Meanwhile, 18% think that laws on rape are too tough, while 15% hold this view about law enforcement.

The concern about rape in the country cuts across gender lines: Roughly as many men (91%) as women (89%) say that rape is a very big issue. And in a country where city and countryside often divide on key issues, about nine-in-ten urban (89%) and rural (91%)

Indians, alike, say that rape is a very big problem. Nearly as many in India's cities and villages also think the problem is growing (83% rural; 81% urban). Concern about rape also cuts across party lines. Supporters of both the BJP and Congress Party are about as likely to fault the current laws (77% BJP supporters; 75% Congress supporters) and the police (79% BJP supporters; 80% Congress supporters) for being too lax in cases of rape.

Laws and Law Enforcement Seen as Inadequate in Dealing with Rape Cases

% who say laws and law enforcement are...



Source: Dec. 2013-Jan. 2014 Global Attitudes survey in India. Q14aINDIA, Q14bINDIA.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

India Survey Methods

Pew Research Center

Winter 2013-2014 Survey

The survey in India was conducted under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates International.

Results for the survey in India are based on 2,464 face-to-face interviews with adults 18 and older, between December 7, 2013, and January 12, 2014. Interviews were conducted in Hindi, Tamil, Bengali, Telugu, Odia, Marathi, Kannada and Gujarati. The survey covers 15 of the 17 most populous states (Kerala and Assam were excluded) and the Union Territory of Delhi, which together are home to about 91% of the adult Indian population. The survey is based on an area-probability design, which entailed proportional allocation of 1,876 interviews by region and urbanity, plus an urban over-sample of 588 interviews. The primary sampling units were urban settlements and rural districts. The full sample was weighted to reflect the national urban-rural distribution in India.

The margin of sampling error is ± 3.8 percentage points. For the results based on the full sample, one can say with 95% confidence that the error attributable to sampling and other random effects is plus or minus the margin of error. In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

Topline Results
Pew Research Center
Winter 2013-2014 Survey
April 22, 2014 Release

Methodological notes:

- Survey results are based on a national sample. For further details on sample designs, see Survey Methods section.
- Due to rounding, percentages may not total 100%. The topline “total” columns show 100%, because they are based on unrounded numbers.
- Not all questions included in the Winter 2013-2014 survey are presented in this topline. Omitted questions have either been previously released or will be released in future reports.

		Q12INDIA Thinking about our country, do you think rape is a very big problem in India, a moderately big problem, a small problem or not a problem at all?					
		Very big problem	Moderately big problem	Small problem	Not a problem at all	DK/Refused	Total
India	Winter, 2013-2014	90	7	3	0	0	100

		Q13INDIA Do you think rape is a growing problem in India or not?			
		Growing problem	Not a growing problem	DK/Refused	Total
India	Winter, 2013-2014	82	15	3	100

		Q14aINDIA In your opinion, are India's laws too tough, not tough enough, or about right when it comes to punishing the crime of rape?				
		Too tough	Not tough enough	About right	DK/Refused	Total
India	Winter, 2013-2014	18	74	7	1	100

		Q14bINDIA In your opinion, are India's police too tough, not tough enough, or about right when it comes to investigating cases of rape?				
		Too tough	Not tough enough	About right	DK/Refused	Total
India	Winter, 2013-2014	15	78	6	1	100