

VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY



# The Status of Democracy in Trinidad and Tobago: A citizens'view

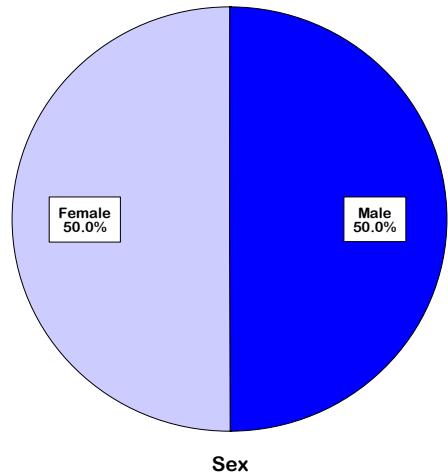
March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010  
University of West Indies

# **Sample Design**

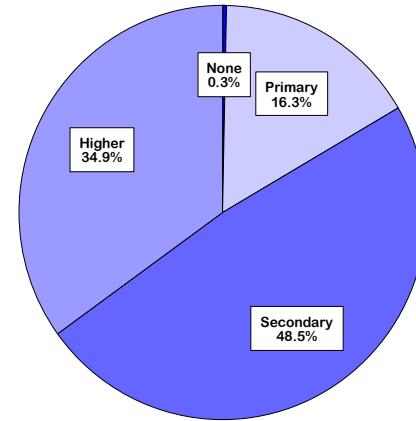
# Methodology

- **Face-to-face interviews by trained interviewers**
- **National probability samples of 1500 respondents 18 years and older**
- **Probability Proportional to Size (PPS) is used at every stage of sampling**
- **Sample is stratified to ensure that all major demographic segments of the population are included in the sample**
- **Estimated Error: +/- 3% with 95% confidence interval**
- **Interviews were carried out by The institute of International Relations (IIR) at UWI**

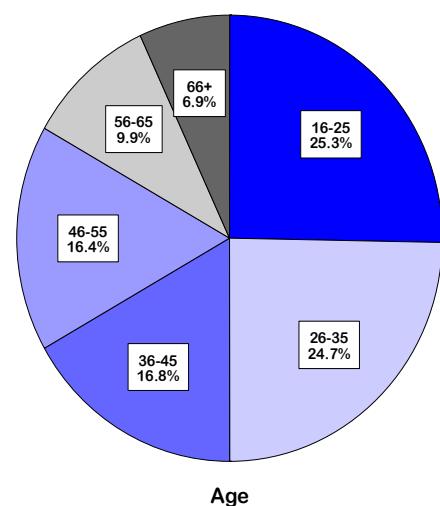
# Sample Description



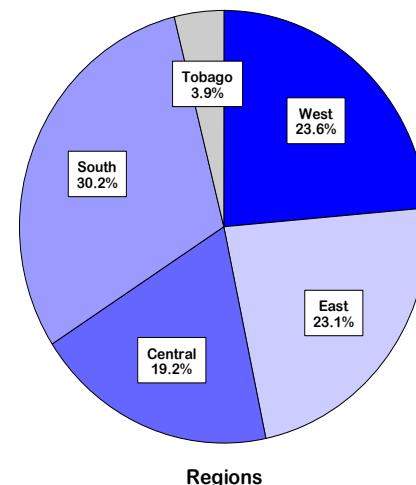
Source: AmericasBarometer by LAPOP



Source: AmericasBarometer by LAPOP



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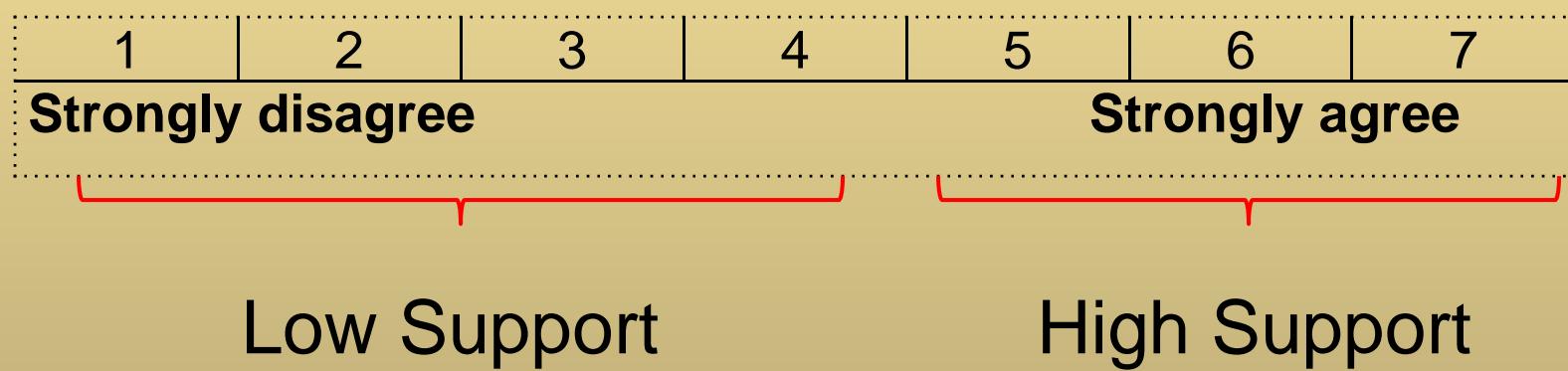


Source: AmericasBarometer by LAPOP

# Support for Democracy as System

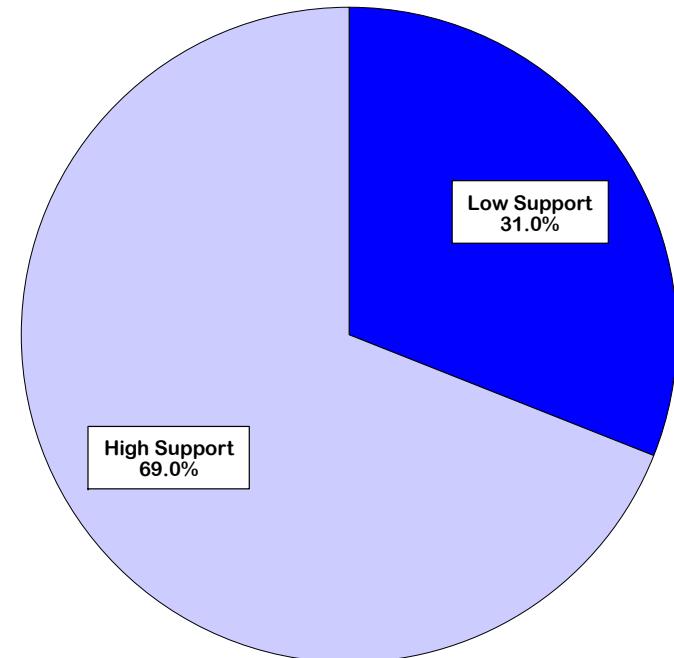
# Agreement with Churchill?

“Democracy may have problems, but it is better than any other form of government. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?”



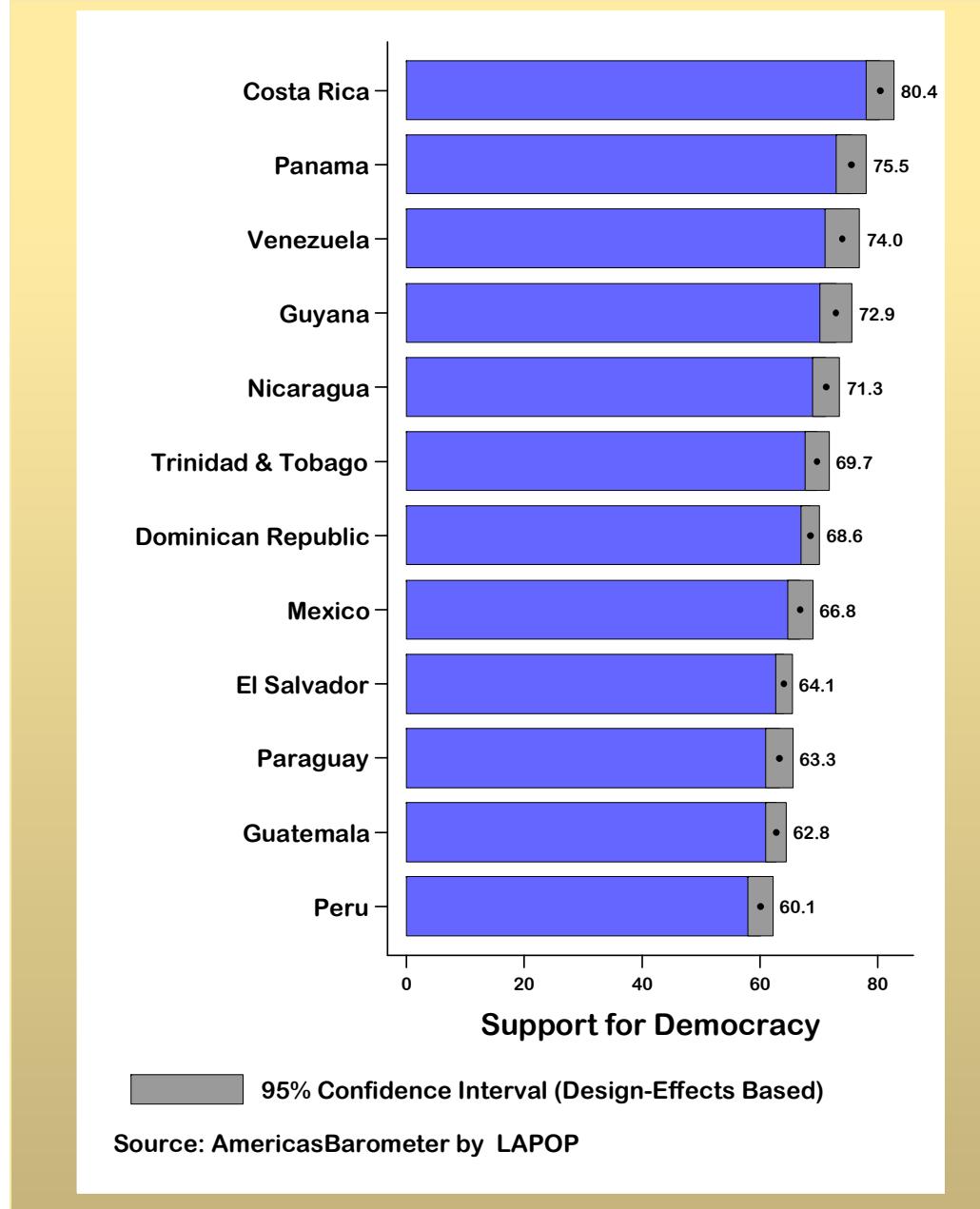
# Support for Democracy in T&T

Substantial proportions of citizens agree with Churchill

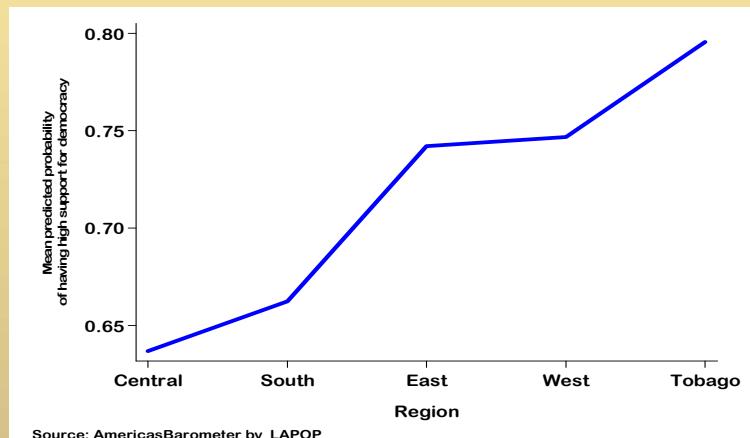
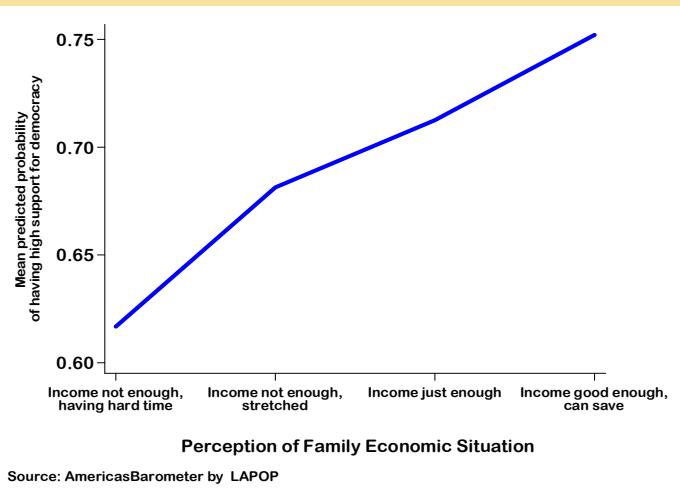
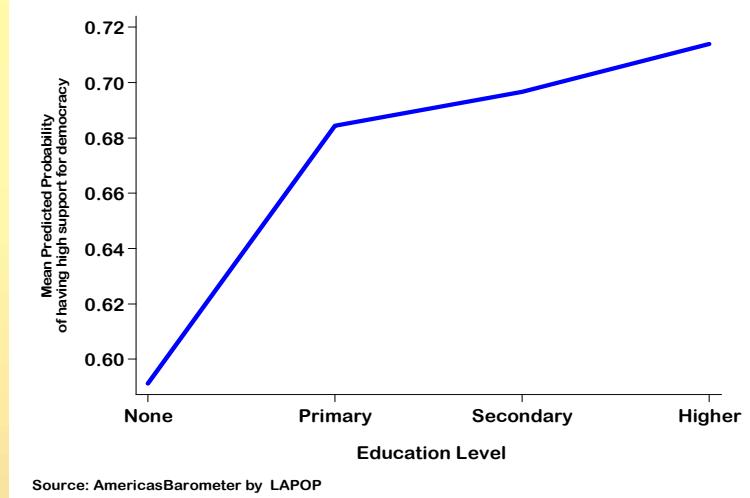
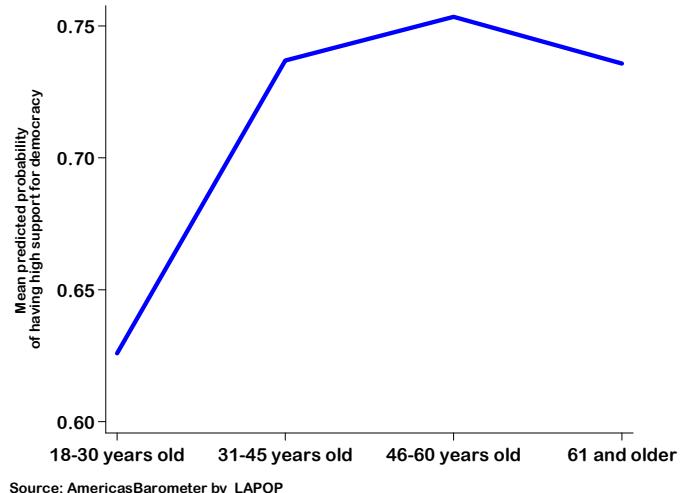


Source: AmericasBarometer by LAPOP

# Support for Democracy in T&T in Comparative Perspective



# Who are more likely to have “high” support for democracy in T&T?



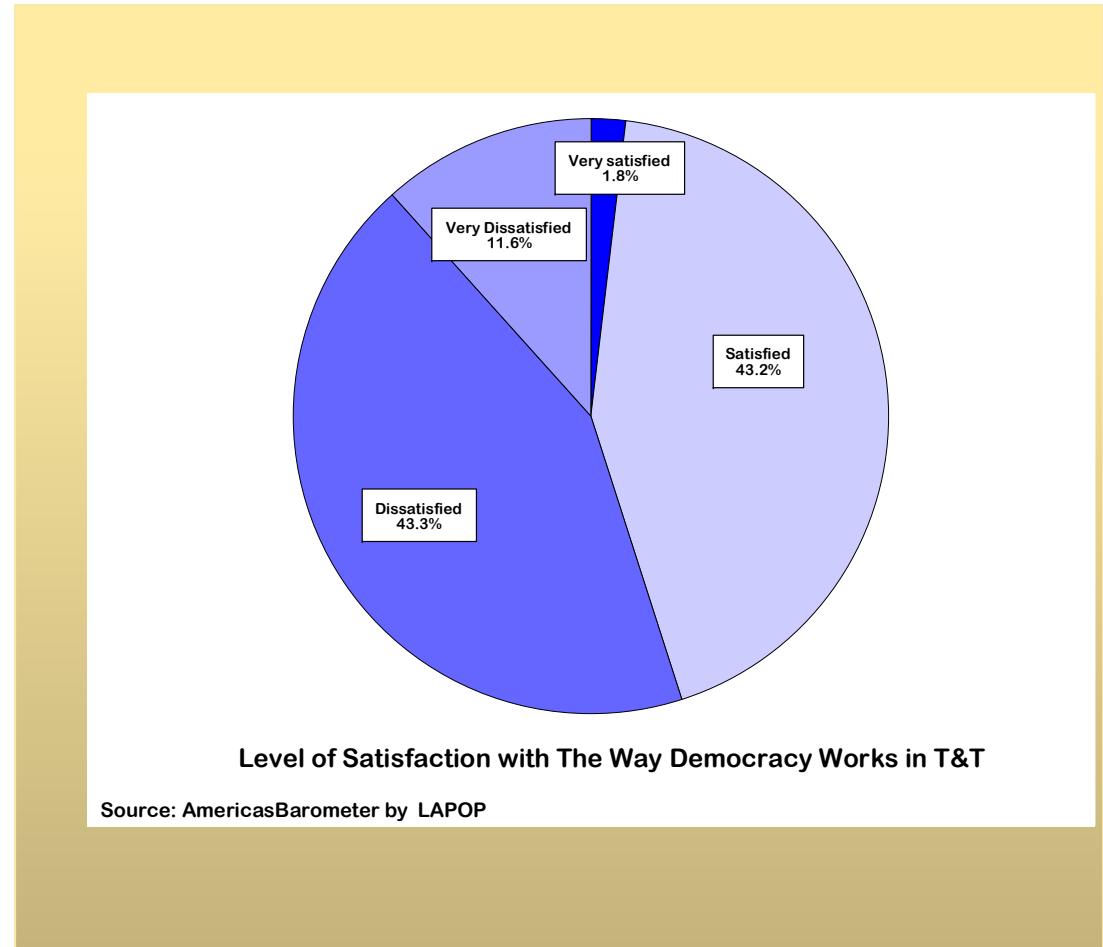
Results significant at p.<0.05; control variables included

# Satisfaction with Democracy

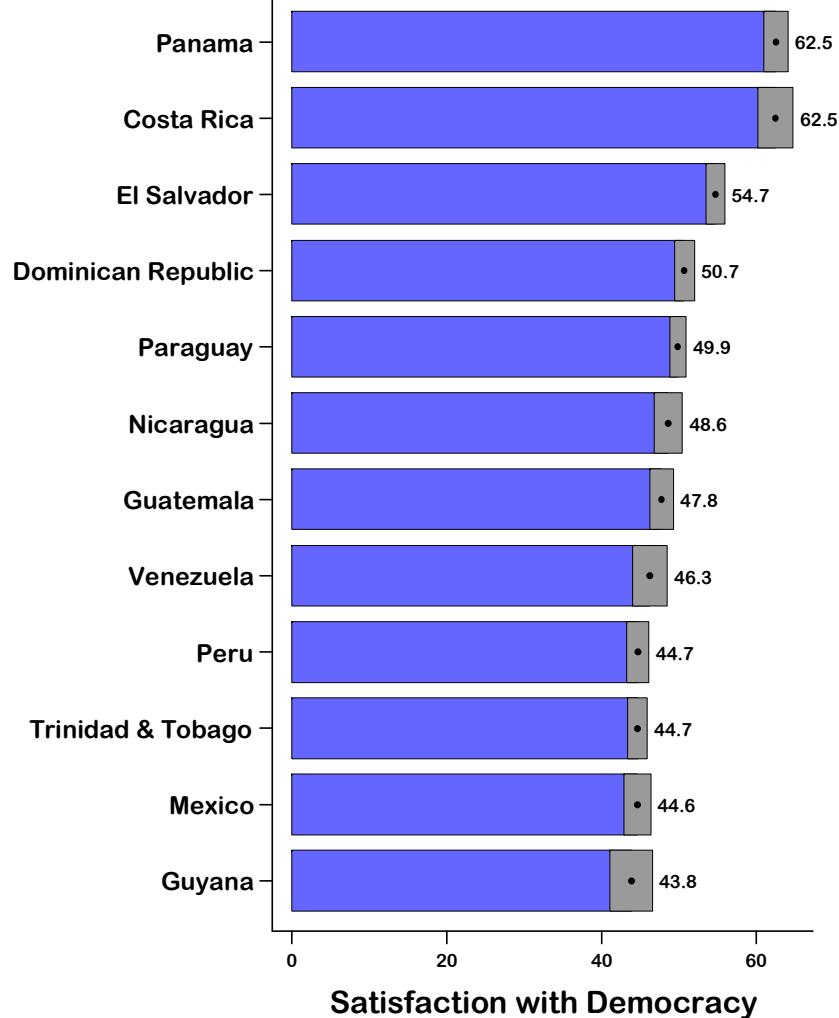
# Satisfaction with the way democracy works in T&T

**PN4.** In general, would you say that you are very satisfied, satisfied, dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with the way democracy works in Trinidad & Tobago?

- (1) Very satisfied
- (2) Satisfied
- (3) Dissatisfied
- (4) Very dissatisfied
- (88) DK (98)DA



# Satisfaction with Democracy in T&T in Comparative Perspective

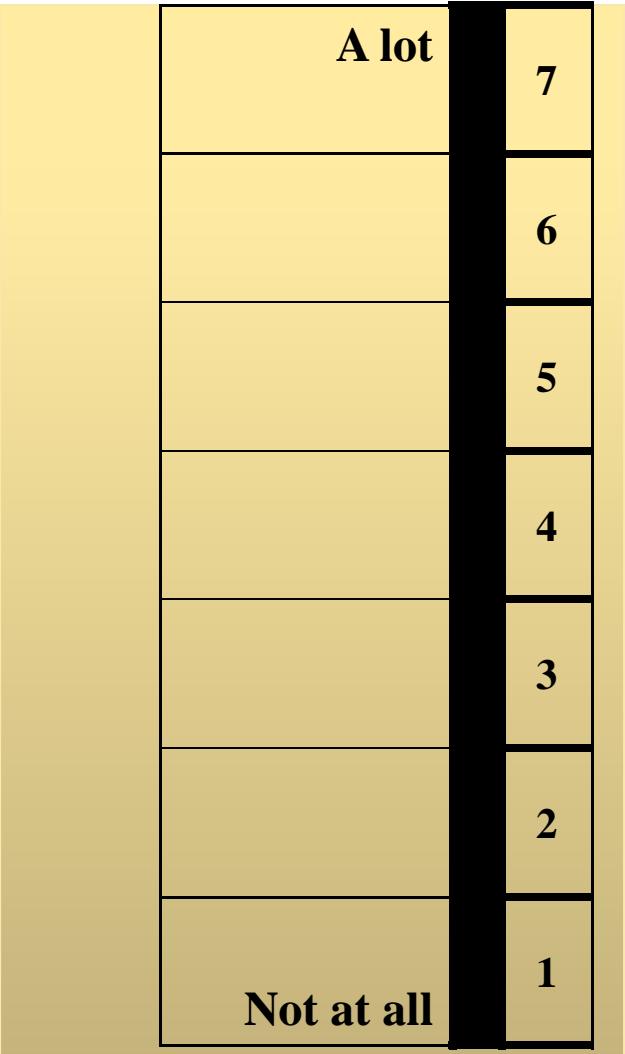


Source: AmericasBarometer by LAPOP

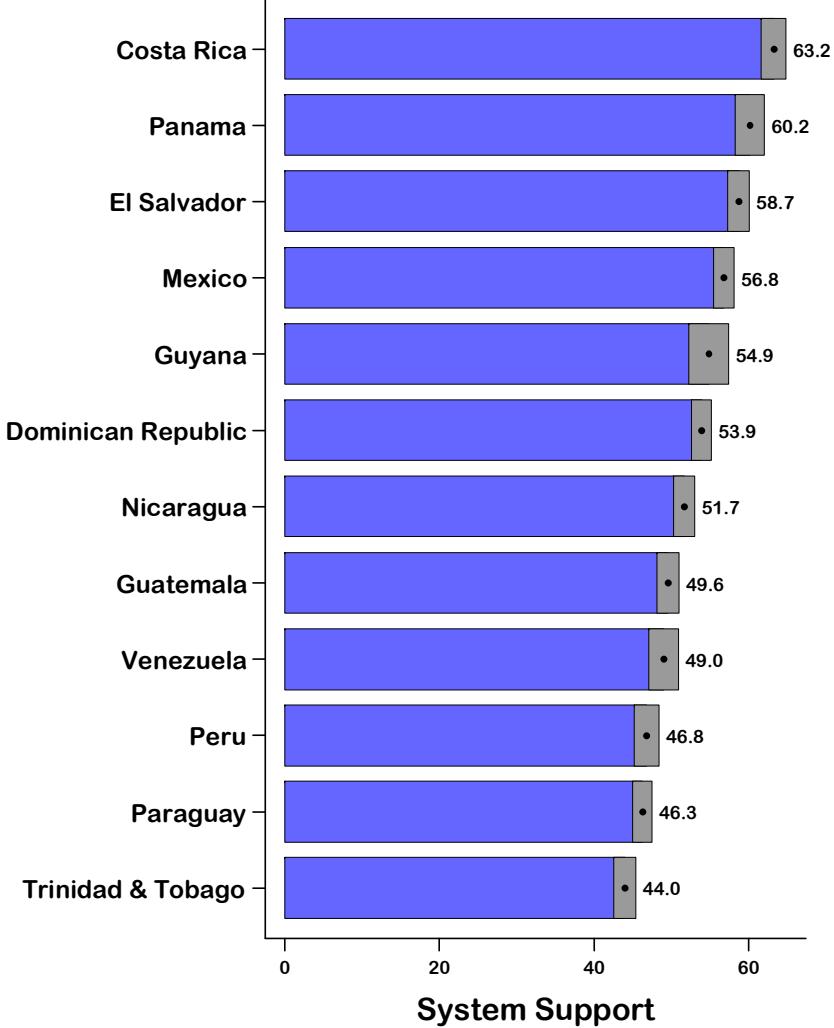
# System Support Index

## Items used to create “System Support” Index

- **B1.** To what extent do you think the **courts** in (country) **guarantee a fair trial**?
- **B2.** To what extent do you respect the **political institutions** of (country)?
- **B3.** To what extent do you think that **citizens' basic rights are well protected** by the political system of (country)?
- **B4.** To what extent do you feel proud of **living under the political system** of (country)?
- **B6.** To what extent do you think that one should **support** the political system of (country)?

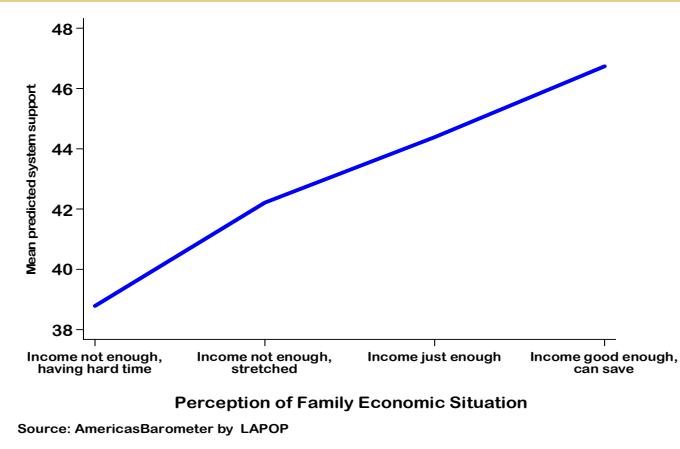
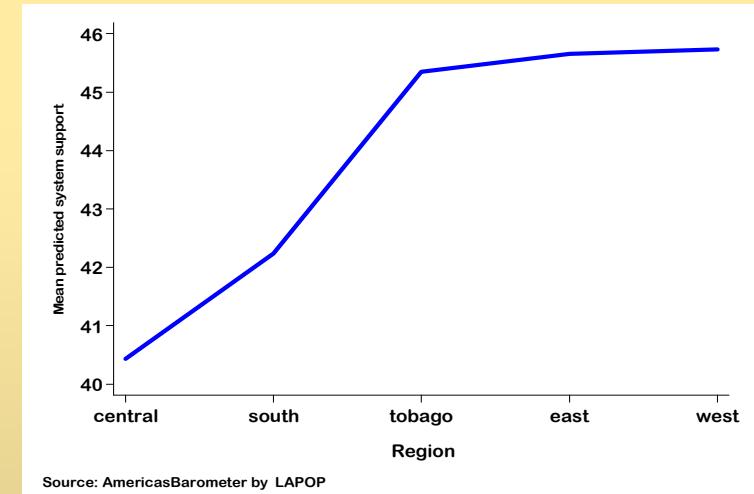
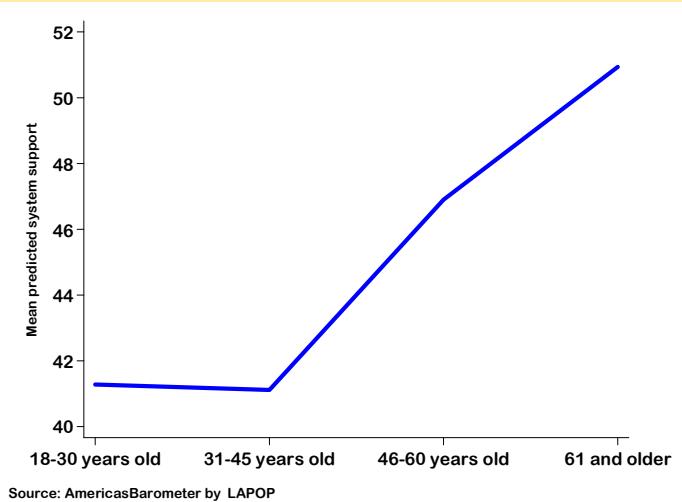


# Support for the Political System in T&T in Comparative Perspective



Source: AmericasBarometer by LAPOP

# Who supports the political system in T&T?



Results significant at  $p.<0.05$ ; control variables included

# Economic Crisis and its Relationship on Democracy

# Perception of the Economic Crisis

**CRISIS1.** Some say that our country is suffering a very serious economic crisis, others say that we are suffering a crisis but it is not very serious, while others say that there isn't any economic crisis. What do you think? **[Read options]**

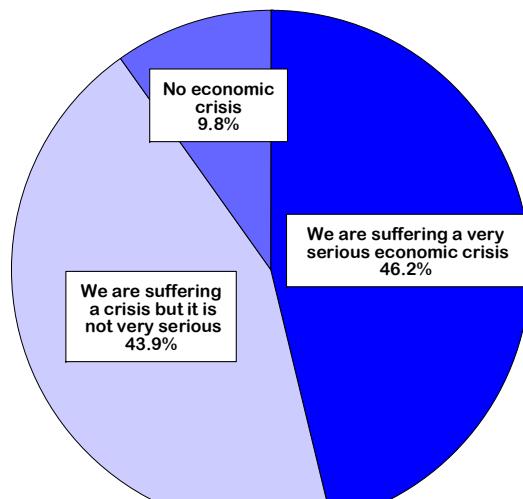
- (1) We are suffering a very serious economic crisis
- (2) We are suffering a crisis but it is not very serious, or
- (3) No economic crisis **[Go to VB1]**
- (88) DK **[Go to VB1]** (98) DA **[Go to VB1]**

**CRISIS2.** Who is the most to blame for the current economic crisis in our country from among the following: **[READ LIST, MARK ONLY ONE RESPONSE]**

- (01) The previous administration
- (02) The current administration
- (03) Ourselves, the Belizeans
- (04) The rich people of our country
- (05) The problems of democracy
- (06) The rich countries **[Accept also United States, England, France, Germany, and Japan]**
- (07) The economic system of the country, or
- (08) Never have thought about it
- (77) **[Don't read]** Other
- (88) **[Don't read]** DK (98) **[Don't read]** DR (99) N/A

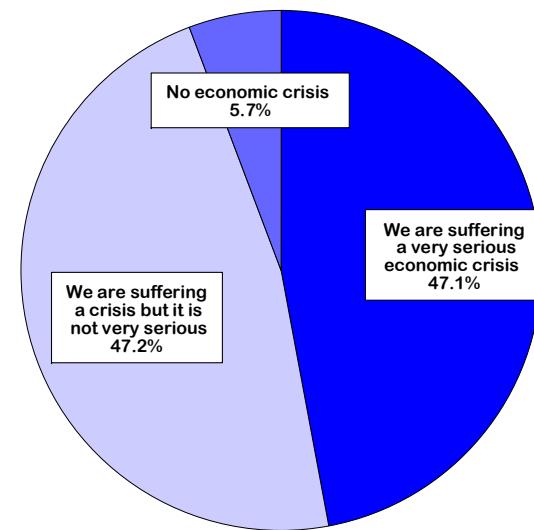
# Is There an Economic Crisis?

## Trinidad & Tobago



Source: AmericasBarometer by LAPOP

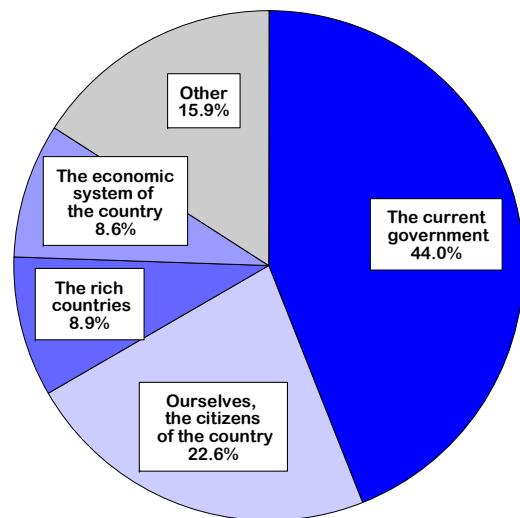
## Latin America and the Caribbean



Source: AmericasBarometer by LAPOP

# Who is to blame for the crisis?

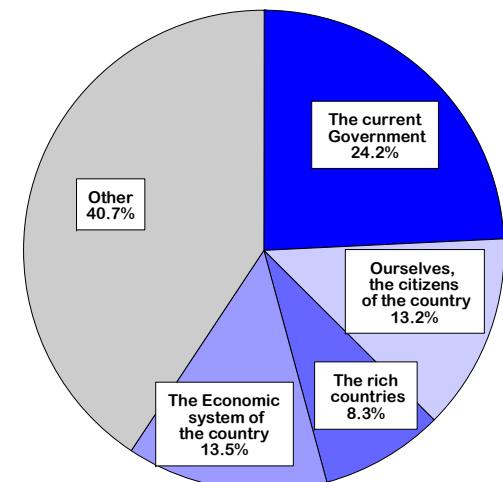
## Trinidad & Tobago



Who is the most to blame for the current economic crisis?

Source: AmericasBarometer by LAPOP

## Latin America and the Caribbean

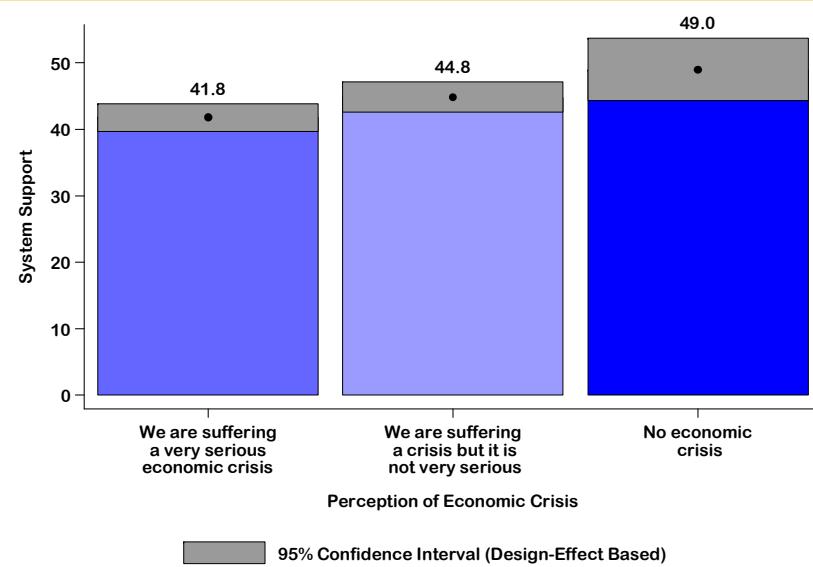


Who is the most to blame for the current economic crisis?

Source: AmericasBarometer by LAPOP

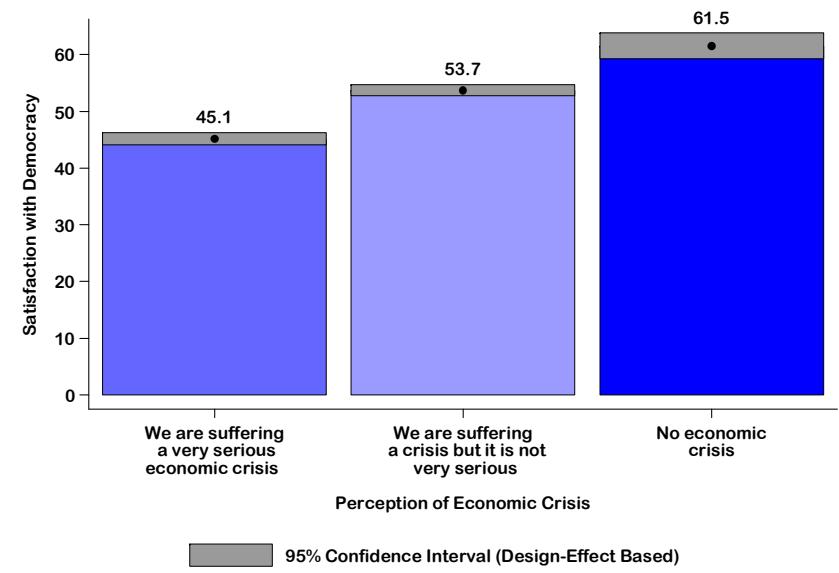
# Economic Crisis and Satisfaction with Democracy

## Trinidad & Tobago



Source: AmericasBarometer by LAPOP

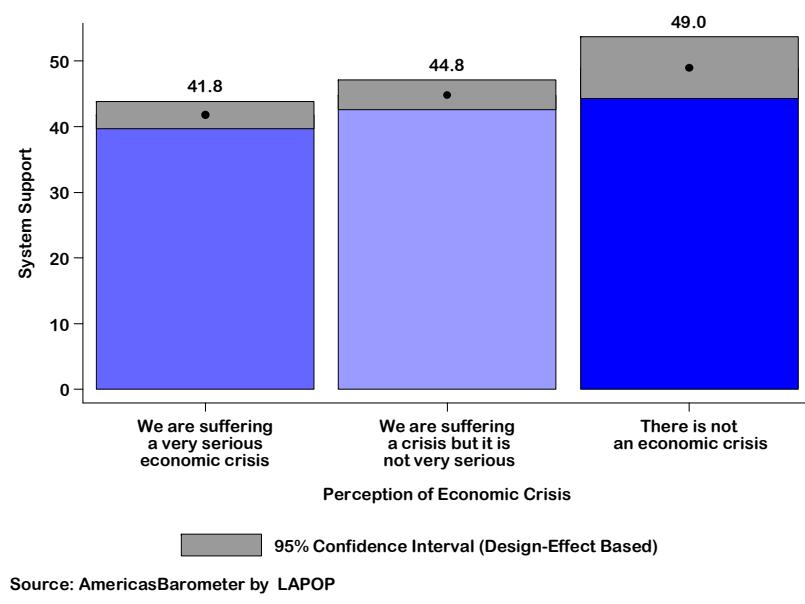
## Latin America and the Caribbean



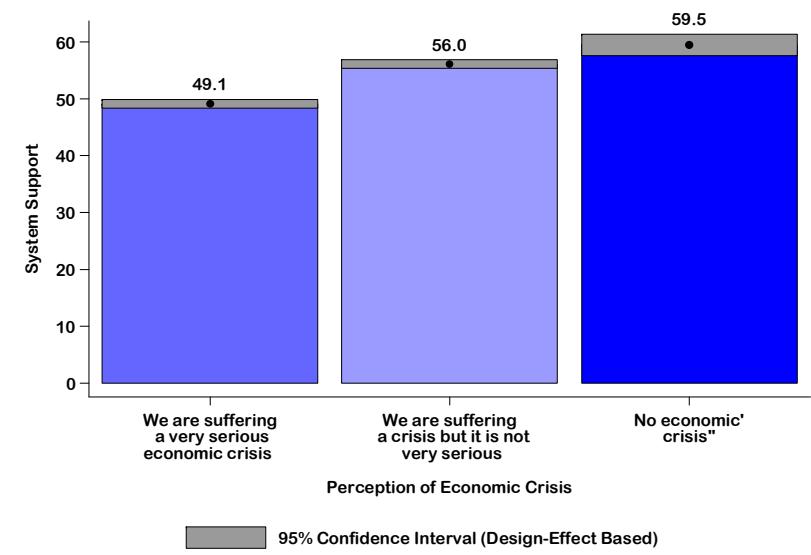
Source: AmericasBarometer by LAPOP

# Economic Crisis and System Support

## Trinidad & Tobago



## Latin America and the Caribbean

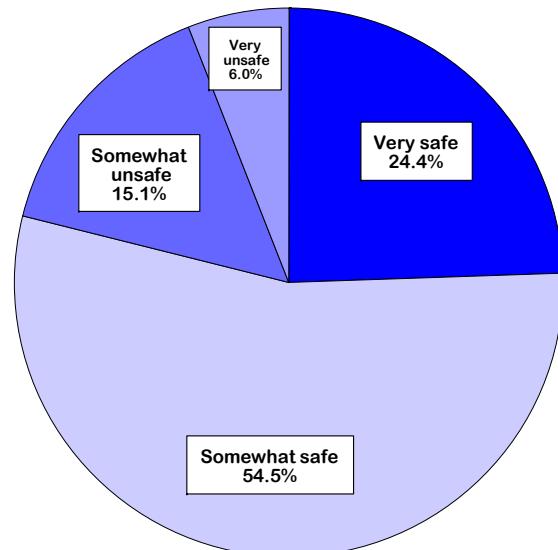


# Perception of Insecurity and its Impact on Democracy

# Perception of insecurity in T&T

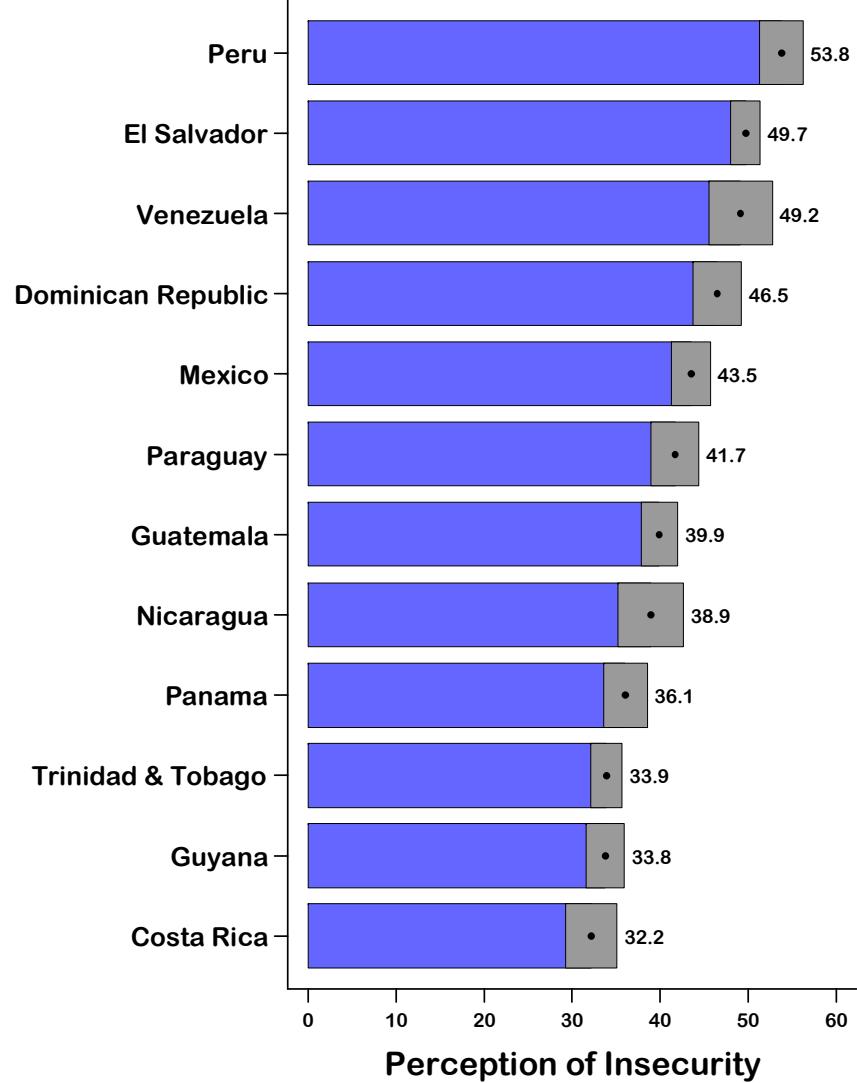
**AOJ11.** Speaking of the neighborhood where you live and thinking of the possibility of being assaulted or robbed, do you feel very safe, somewhat safe, somewhat unsafe or very unsafe?

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



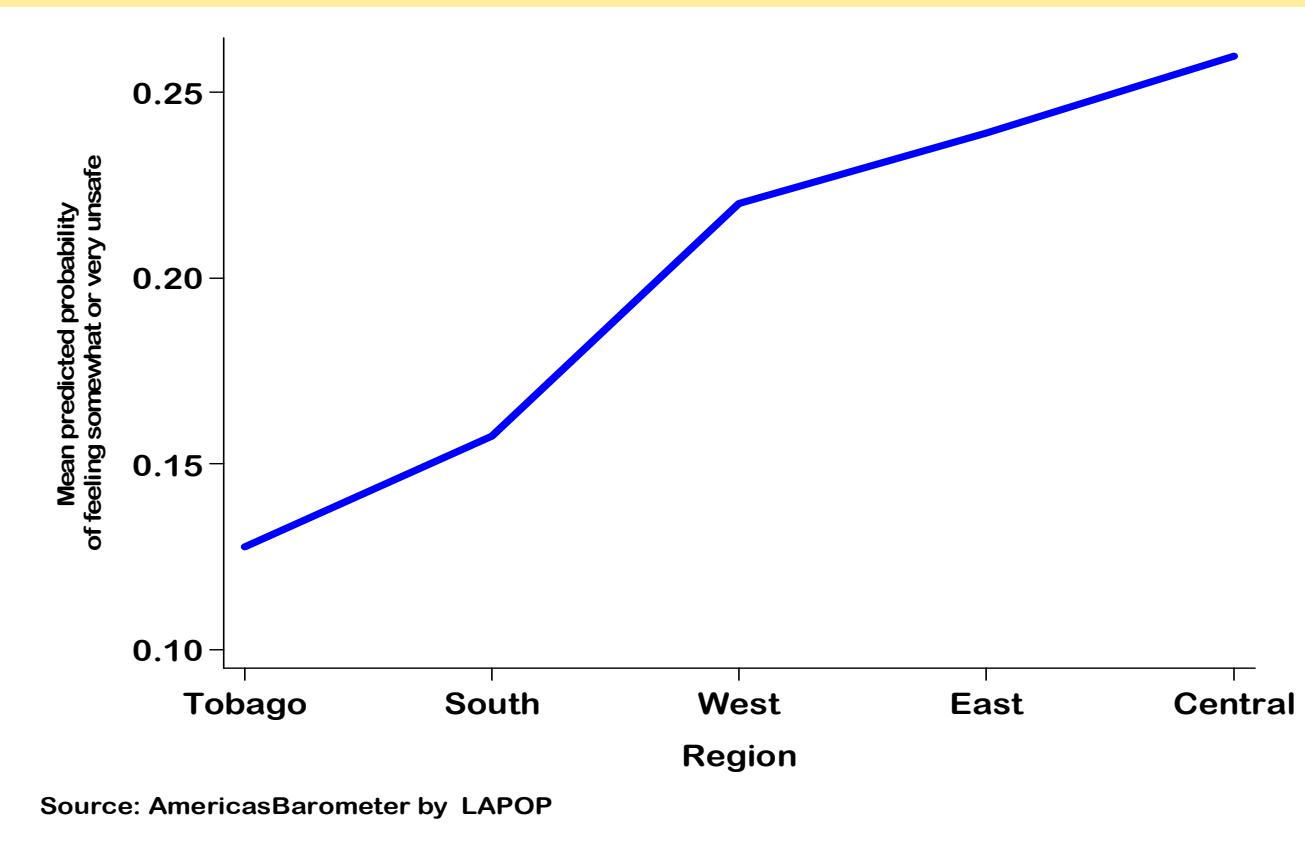
Source: AmericasBarometer by LAPOP

# Perception of insecurity in T&T in Comparative Perspective

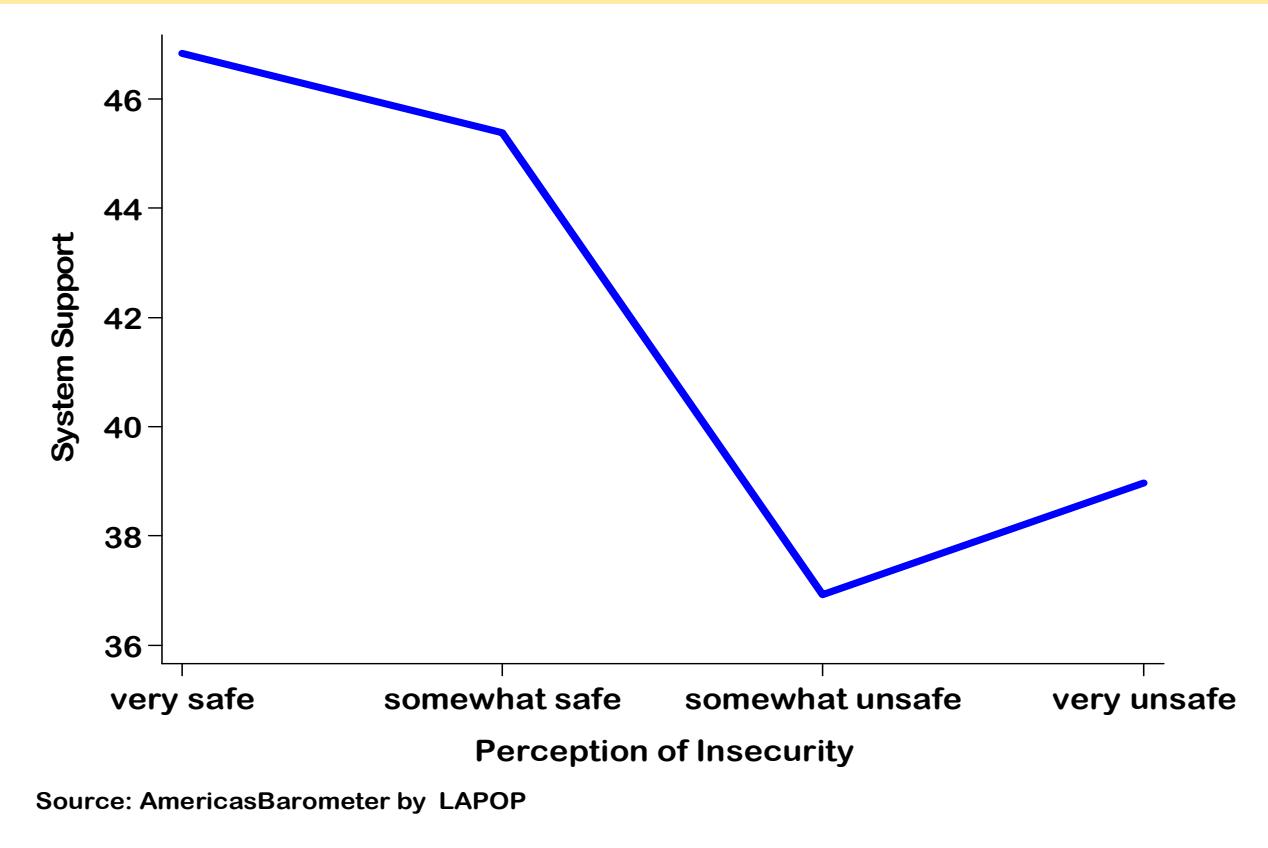


Source: AmericasBarometer by LAPOP

# Who are more likely to feel somewhat or very unsafe in T&T?



# Perception of insecurity undermines democratic legitimacy

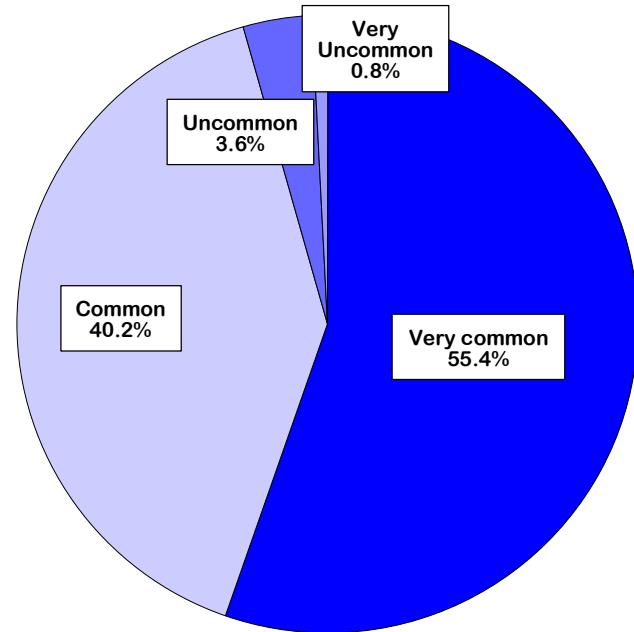


# Corruption and its Impact on Democracy

# Perception of Corruption in T&T

**EXC7.** Taking into account your own experience or what you have heard, corruption among public officials is...

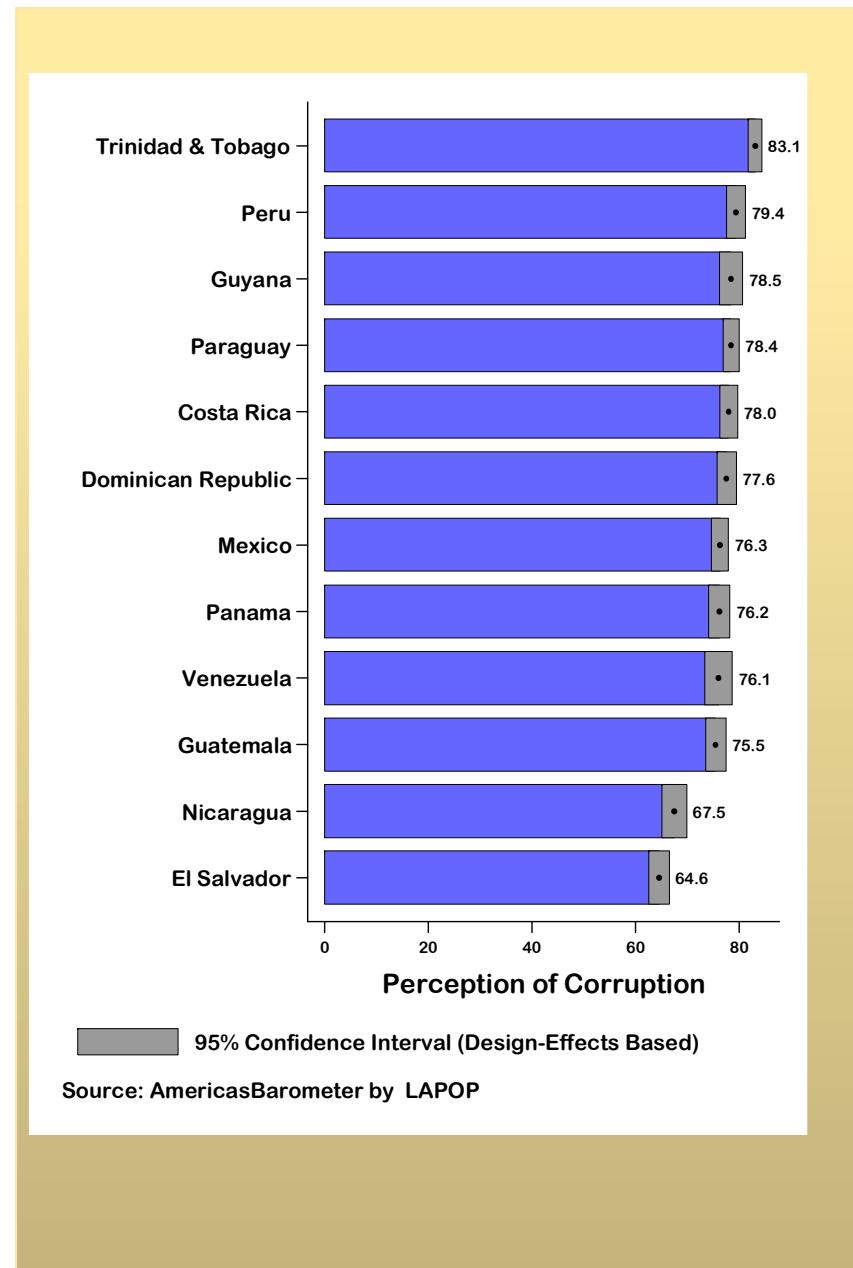
- (1) Very common
- (2) Common
- (3) Uncommon
- (4) Very uncommon
- (88) DK    (98) DA



Perception of corruption

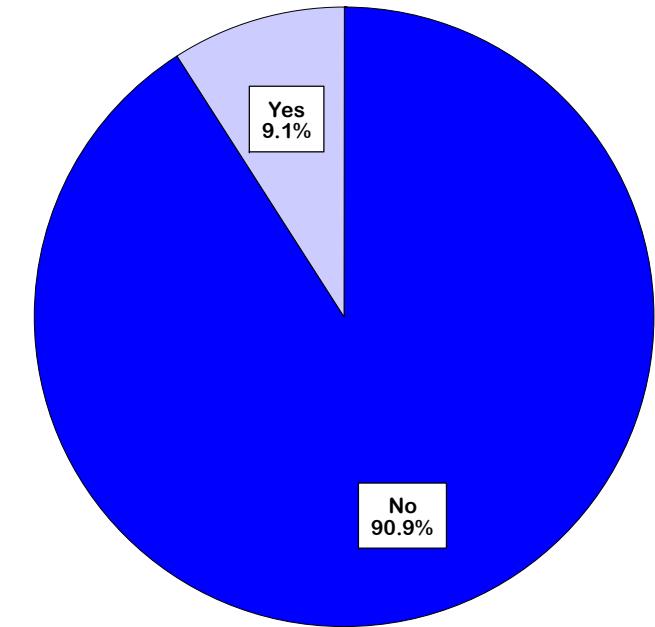
Source: AmericasBarometer by LAPOP

# Perception of Corruption in T&T in Comparative Perspective



# Corruption Victimization in T&T

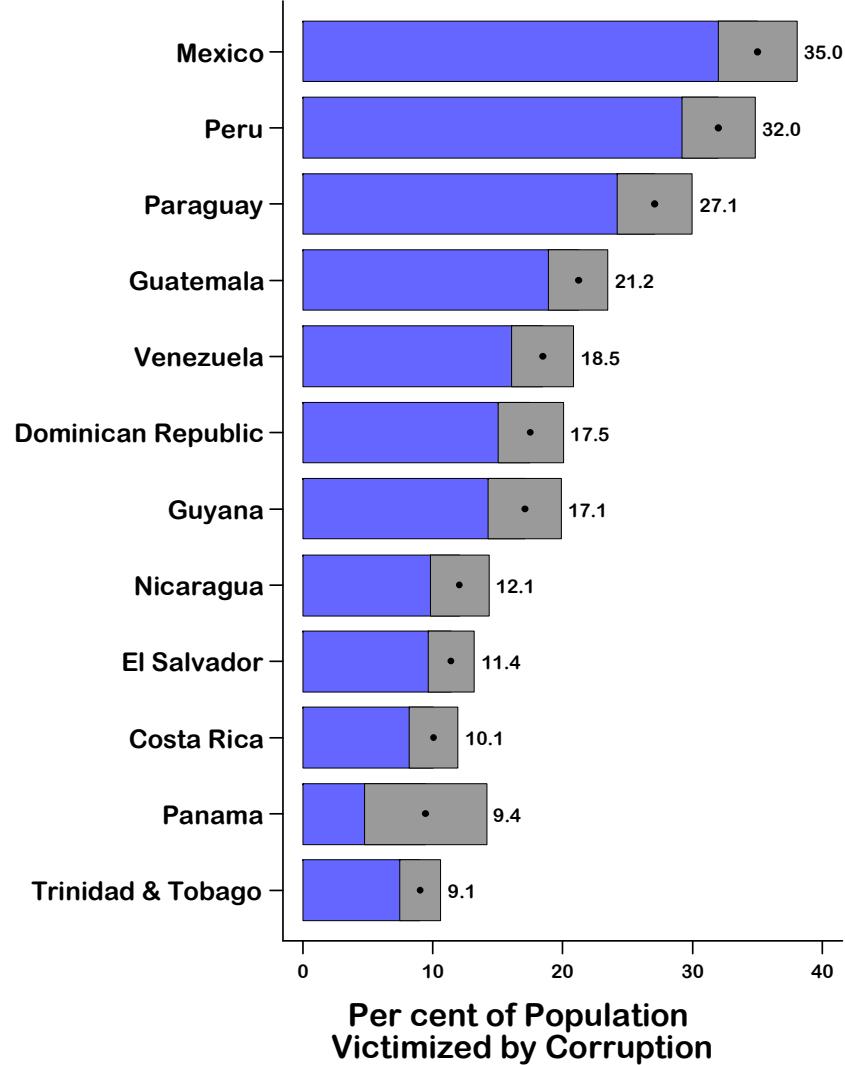
Percentage  
of People  
Victimized  
by  
corruption  
at Least  
Once in  
Past Year



Percent of Population Victimized by Corruption

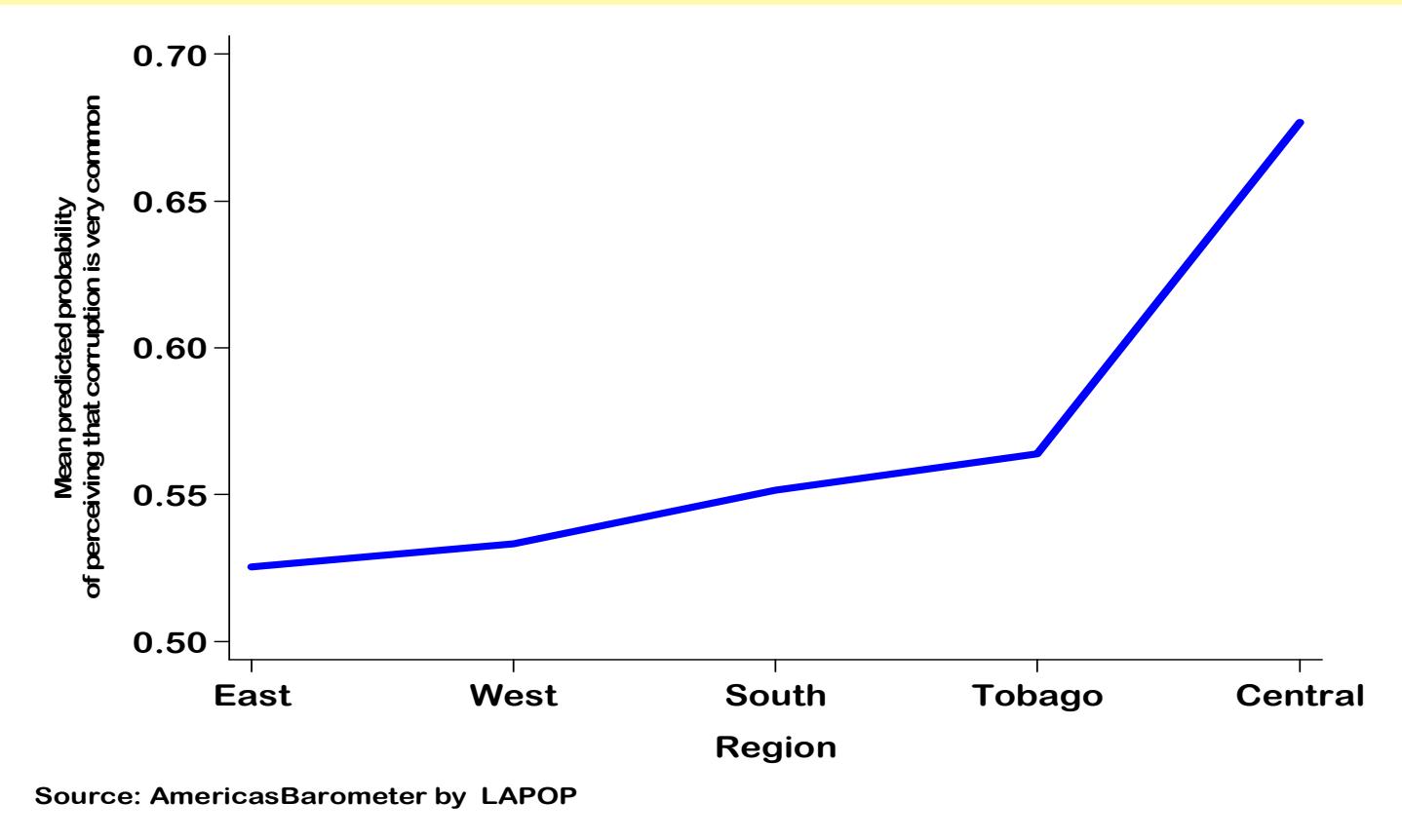
Source: AmericasBarometer by LAPOP

# Corruption Victimization in T&T in Comparative Perspective



Source: AmericasBarometer by LAPOP

# Corruption Victimization in T&T by Regions



**Result significant at  $p < 0.05$ ; control variables included**

# Corruption victimization undermines democratic legitimacy

