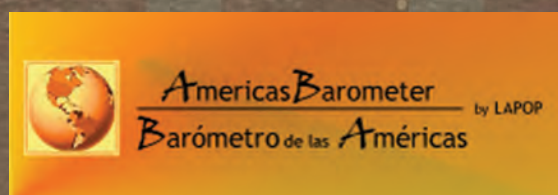
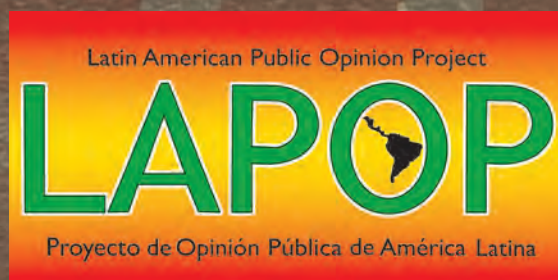


LAPOP: LATIN AMERICAN PUBLIC OPINION PROJECT

and the AmericasBarometer





LAPOP: An Overview



The Latin American Public Opinion Project (LAPOP) is a leader in the development, implementation, and analysis of public opinion surveys. Founded by Dr. Mitchell Seligson over two decades ago, its principal focus is on governance and democracy in Latin America.

LAPOP has its origins in studies of democratic values in one country, Costa Rica. This pioneering public opinion research took place in the 1970s, a time in which much of the rest of Latin America was caught in the grip of repressive regimes that widely prohibited studies of public opinion. As democratization expanded in Latin America, LAPOP grew in scope and size. Today LAPOP regularly carries out public opinion surveys in nearly every country in Latin America, Canada, the United States, and much of the Caribbean.

LAPOP holds its surveys and studies to the highest standards of quality. Questionnaires are systematically pre-tested in-country; hand-held electronic systems (PDAs) are widely used to eliminate data collection and processing errors and to easily enable experimental treatments; sophisticated probability samples are designed and employed to ensure representative samples at the national and sub-national levels; and, cutting-edge statistical methods are used in data analysis.

In 2004, LAPOP established the AmericasBarometer as multi-country, regularly conducted surveys of democratic values and behaviors in the Americas, organized by a consortium of academic and think-tank partners in the hemisphere. The first round included voting-age respondents from 11 countries. The second round of surveys took place in 2006 and represented 22 countries from the hemisphere. The third round, 2008, included 24 countries in the Americas. The most recent two rounds of surveys



were conducted in 2010 and 2012, with 26 countries across North America, Latin America, and the Caribbean. The AmericasBarometer is the most expansive regional survey project in the Western Hemisphere.

LAPOP is housed at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee. Vanderbilt is a research university that for over 60 years has been a leader in the study of Latin America and the Caribbean. At this host institution, a dedicated team of faculty, staff, post-doctoral researchers, and graduate students works year-round on the design and analysis of public opinion surveys. The group also edits and publishes the bi-weekly *Insights* Series reports, each one of which examines a single facet of public opinion. LAPOP's network extends far beyond the Vanderbilt campus, to include partner institutions throughout the Americas and an international advisory board.

LAPOP functions as a consortium, working in partnership with numerous academic and non-governmental institutions in Latin America and the Caribbean. It collaborates with these institutions, sharing ideas for survey content and working together to disseminate the results of the public opinion surveys to the citizens of participating countries. This dissemination of results takes the form of systematic country reports, comparative studies, panel presentations, and media interviews.

Through years of polling an expanding set of countries using sophisticated techniques, LAPOP has developed a treasure trove of high quality data on political views within the Americas. The data are used by academic researchers; the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in its efforts to promote democracy and good governance in Latin America and the Caribbean; the World Bank in its Governance Indicators series; the Inter-American Development Bank in its numerous research projects; the United Nations Development Programme and the Organization of American States in their democracy programs; and perhaps most significantly, by the governments of several Latin American countries as a source of independent information with which to assess public opinion and shape policy.



LAPOP surveys have been conducted in the following countries in the Americas:

ARGENTINA	HONDURAS
BOLIVIA	JAMAICA
BELIZE	MEXICO
BRAZIL	NICARAGUA
CANADA	PANAMA
CHILE	PARAGUAY
COLOMBIA	PERU
COSTA RICA	EL SALVADOR
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	SURINAME
ECUADOR	TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO
GUATEMALA	UNITED STATES
GUYANA	URUGUAY
HAITI	VENEZUELA

The 2008 round of the AmericasBarometer included 24 countries and over 40,000 respondents, whereas in 2010 and again in 2012, the survey grew to include 26 countries, with the addition of Trinidad and Tobago and Suriname.

Each survey is implemented based on a national probability design. In some cases oversamples are collected to allow precise analysis of opinion within sub-national regions. Survey participants are voting-age adults interviewed face to face in their households, except in Canada and the United States where the interviews are Web-based.

LAPOP Methods and Practices



Cutting-edge methods and transparent practices ensure that data collected by LAPOP are of the highest quality. These methods and practices include the following:

Pre-Survey

- Solicitation of input from a vast network of academics, practitioners, and policymakers
- Use of Vanderbilt University's experimental research lab to test new items
- Extensive in-country pre-testing of survey items
- Translation of surveys into more than 15 languages spoken in the Americas
- Expert design of national probability samples
- Approval from Vanderbilt University's Institutional Review Board for the protection of human subjects

Implementation

- Rigorous training of all interviewers using guidelines published in extensive training manuals
- Partnerships with reputable survey organizations in the region
- Widespread use of electronic handheld devices (PDAs) and software specialized by LAPOP to allow multilingual interviews and extensive validity checks

Post-Survey

- Use of cutting-edge statistical programs and methods
- Presentation of results in clear, user-friendly graphs
- Public dissemination of results in surveyed countries
- Posting of survey design and methods on the LAPOP website
- Immediate uploading of data into LAPOP's free interactive data analysis program

LAPOP's resources and expertise allow it to conduct special projects requested by scholars, government institutions, and agencies concerned with democratic development. These have recently included novel experiments embedded within national surveys to assess issues of ethnicity and violence. In addition, these include an extensive new focus on randomized block experiments as a means of program evaluation.



Use of LAPOP Data

LAPOP reports are publicly available and address a wide range of topics related to democratic values and behaviors in the Americas. LAPOP and its partners develop and publish comprehensive reports for each country included in the AmericasBarometer. In addition, its researchers regularly analyze and report on the data, looking at specific themes.

A sample of the topics researched by LAPOP faculty, graduate students, and former students includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Trust in institutions
- Political tolerance
- Civil society participation
- Evaluations of the economy
- Support for democracy
- Political legitimacy
- Electoral behavior
- Corruption and crime victimization
- Engagement in and attitudes toward local government

LAPOP data have been used in numerous academic, governmental, and non-governmental reports beyond those generated by its own network of researchers and analysts. LAPOP also has provided seed funding for researchers at several institutions to support research on public opinion in Latin America and the Caribbean using its data. These small grants have resulted in research papers that provide additional insight into democratic politics in Latin America.

LAPOP data and questionnaires are openly available.

The **LAPOP website**, www.LapopSurveys.org, includes a free and publicly available, interactive program in both English and Spanish that allows analyses from simple tabulations through complicated multivariate analysis of all AmericasBarometer data sets. The website further identifies all surveys and allows free access to all questionnaires and technical manuals. In addition, many institutions have subscribed to the data sets, making them available to their own researchers and students. Free, unrestricted worldwide access to all of the AmericasBarometer data sets in Stata and SPSS formats is available through the website, but subscribing institutions also can access free tech support and multi-year and multi-country merged files.

Reports using LAPOP data are available at:

www.vanderbilt.edu/lapop/studies-articles-books.php

LAPOP's online interactive data analysis program is available at:

<http://lapop.ccp.ucr.ac.cr/>

Information on data access and subscriptions is available at:

www.vanderbilt.edu/lapop/request-datasets.php



Selected Data Sets Available from LAPOP

Argentina

2008
2010
2012

Belize

2008
2010
2012

Bolivia

1998
2000
2002
2003
2004
2006
2008
2010
2012

Brazil

2006/07
2008
2010
2012

Canada

2006
2008
2010
2012

Chile

2006
2008
2010
2012

Colombia

2001
2004
2005
2006
2007
2008
2009
2010
2011
2012

Costa Rica

1973
1976
1978
1980
1983
1985
1987
1990
1995
1999
2002
2004
2006
2008
2010
2012

Dominican Republic

2004
2006
2008
2010
2012

Ecuador

1986
2001
2002
2004
2006
2008
2010
2012

Guatemala

1992
1993
1995
1997
1998
1999
2001
2004
2006
2008
2010
2012

Guyana

2006
2008/09
2010
2012

Haiti

2006
2008
2010
2012

Honduras

1983
1985
1991
2001
2004
2006
2008
2010
2012

Jamaica

2006
2008
2010
2012

Mexico

1978
1979
2004
2006
2008
2010
2012

Nicaragua

1989
1991
1995
1996
1997
1998
1999
2004
2006
2008
2010
2012

Panama

1991
2004
2006
2008
2010
2012

Paraguay

1996
1998
2006
2008
2010
2012

Peru

1996
1997
1998
2006
2008
2010
2012

El Salvador

1991
1993
1995
1999
2004
2006
2008
2010
2012

Suriname

2010
2012

Trinidad and Tobago

2010
2012

United States

2006
2008
2010
2012

Uruguay

2006/07
2008
2010
2012

Venezuela

1995
2006/07
2008
2010
2012

AmericasBarometer *Insights* Series

The *Insights* Series provides short, pithy analyses of key, policy-relevant data gathered by the AmericasBarometer. Normally released every two weeks, the studies are written mainly by LAPOP scholars and students. They are published in both English and Spanish. The studies are accessible at www.vanderbilt.edu/lapop/insights.php. Subscription is free and available by emailing your name to insight@mail.americasbarometer.org.



Country Studies

For many countries, LAPOP's partner scholars write extensive, book-length country studies for each round of the AmericasBarometer. These studies cover a wide range of topics, are fully illustrated with graphs and charts, and also contain full information on the sample design as well as the full version of the questionnaire. These studies are published locally, donated to libraries around the world, and also available as pdfs at no charge on our website. All studies may be downloaded at no cost at www.LapopSurveys.org.

Mexico and Central America

2004	2006	2008	2010	2012
Costa Rica	Costa Rica	—	Costa Rica	Costa Rica
Guatemala	Guatemala	Guatemala	Guatemala	Guatemala
Honduras	Honduras	Honduras	Honduras	Honduras
Mexico	Mexico	Mexico	Mexico	Mexico
Nicaragua	Nicaragua	Nicaragua	Nicaragua	Nicaragua
Panama	Panama	Panama	Panama	—
El Salvador	El Salvador	El Salvador	El Salvador	El Salvador



Andean/Southern Cone

2004	2006	2008	2010	2012
—	—	—	Argentina	Argentina
Bolivia	Bolivia	Bolivia	Bolivia	Bolivia
—	—	—	Brazil	Brazil
—	Chile	—	Chile	Chile
Colombia	Colombia	Colombia	Colombia	Colombia
Ecuador	Ecuador	Ecuador	Ecuador	Ecuador
—	Peru	Peru	Peru	Peru
—	—	Uruguay	Uruguay	Uruguay
—	Venezuela	Venezuela	—	—



Caribbean

2004	2006	2008	2010	2012
Dominican Republic	Dominican Republic	Dominican Republic	Dominican Republic	Dominican Republic
—	Guyana	Guyana 08/09	—	—
—	Haiti	Haiti	Haiti	Haiti
—	Jamaica	Jamaica	Jamaica	Jamaica
—	—	—	Trinidad and Tobago	—

Country studies from previous years for selected countries can be accessed at LAPOP's website www.vanderbilt.edu/lapop/publications.php.

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Special Purpose Studies

Through its detailed, high-quality surveys of thousands of respondents, LAPOP has its finger on the pulse of public opinion in Latin America and the Caribbean. LAPOP can provide customized briefings and conduct special studies on critical topics such as corruption and crime victimization, economic sentiment, political stability, judicial trust, and law enforcement. Geographical, political, demographic, and cultural data can be parsed at the country level and for particular areas within a country as well as compared to historical data and to other countries in the region. LAPOP customized reports are useful resources for researchers, analysts, and decision makers across the Americas.

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CHINA RESEARCH CENTER
AT THE SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH INSTITUTE



Partners

LAPOP operates as an academic consortium of partners. The current partnerships are as follows:

Mexico and Central America

Costa Rica



El Salvador



Guatemala



Honduras



Mexico



Nicaragua



Panama



Andean/Southern Cone

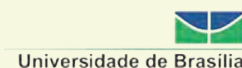
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Bolivia



Brazil



Chile



Colombia



Ecuador



Paraguay



Peru

IEP Instituto de Estudios Peruanos

Uruguay



Venezuela



Partners

Caribbean

Belize



Dominican Republic



Guyana



Haiti



Jamaica



Suriname



Trinidad & Tobago



Canada and United States

Canada



United States



The AmericasBarometer 2012 Start-Up Meeting in Miami



Country teams, LAPOP staff, and donor representatives gathered in Miami to launch the 2012 round of survey research.





JULY 2012

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