Security, Democracy, and Liberty in the Caribbean: A Report on Findings from LAPOP’s AmericasBarometer

October 3, 2017

Presentation by:

Dr. Carole Wilson, LAPOP Senior Research Analyst
Dr. Elizabeth J. Zechmeister, LAPOP Director
Overview of Presentation

Part I. Description of the AmericasBarometer, esp. Caribbean surveys

Part II. Crime, Insecurity, and the Police in the Caribbean

Part III. Attitudes Conducive to Stable Democracy in the Caribbean

Part IV. Human Rights and Gay Rights in the Caribbean
Part 1. The AmericasBarometer

AmericasBarometer
Barómetro de las Américas

2004-2017
34 Countries
225,000+ interviews
Face-to-face interviews in 8 languages using mobile devices

2004-2017
34 Countries
225,000+ interviews

Americas Barometer
Barómetro de las Américas
Nationally representative, urban and rural, typical min. 1,500 respondents per country

2004-2017
34 Countries
225,000+ interviews

Face-to-face interviews in 8 languages using mobile devices
Nationally representative, urban and rural, typical min. 1,500 respondents per country

Data and reports available for free download on project website

2004-2017
34 Countries
225,000+ interviews

Face-to-face interviews in 8 languages using mobile devices
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>1,576</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trinidad &amp; Tobago</td>
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<td>St. Lucia</td>
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<td>Antigua &amp; Barbuda</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Vincent &amp; the Grenadines</td>
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<td>1,017</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Kitts &amp; Nevis</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1,008</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Extensive qualitative (cognitive) pre-testing in all countries

Left: Pretesting in Panama
Standardized Training in all Countries
Electronic Devices Used in all Countries

Above: Pretest in Bolivia Using Tablet
100% of surveys audited by partner firms; ~1/3 audited a second time by LAPOP

Right: Location, interviewer, timing, and overall quality are verified via a multi-step process
Summary:

• Crime victimization is low, but has increased (except in Guyana)

• Percent feeling very unsafe has increased

• Small improvements in police responsiveness in the DR and Guyana

• Decreased rates of police bribe solicitation in Guyana

• Increased trust in the police in Jamaica and Guyana

• Case study: Successful example of dialogue and programming in Guyana
In the Caribbean region, except in the DR, crime victimization rates are lower than the regional average.

**Victim of Crime**

**Source:** © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2016/17; v07132017

**Graph:**

- **Dominican Republic:** 26.2%
- **Haiti:** 22.0%
- **St. Lucia:** 12.4%
- **Dominica:** 11.9%
- **Jamaica:** 10.9%
- **Bahamas:** 9.9%
- **Trinidad and Tobago:** 9.5%
- **Suriname:** 9.4%
- **St. Vincent & the Grenadines:** 8.5%
- **Guyana:** 7.0%
- **Barbados:** 6.8%
- **Grenada:** 6.7%
- **Antigua & Barbuda:** 6.6%
- **St. Kitts & Nevis:** 6.3%

**Question:** Now, changing the subject, have you been a victim of any type of crime in the past 12 months? That is, have you been a victim of robbery, burglary, assault, fraud, blackmail, extortion, violent threats or any other type of crime in the past 12 months?

- **No:** 76.3%
- **Yes:** 23.7%

**95% Confidence Interval (with Design-Effects)**

**Source:** © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP

**Note:** VIC1EXT.
Yet, crime victimization levels have increased

Between 2014 and 2016/17: Crime victimization increased in the Dominican Republic, Haiti, and Jamaica.

No change in Guyana.

**VIC1EXT.** Now, changing the subject, have you been a victim of any type of crime in the past 12 months? That is, have you been a victim of robbery, burglary, assault, fraud, blackmail, extortion, violent threats or any other type of crime in the past 12 months?
Insecurity continues to rise, including in the Caribbean

**A0J11.** 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? Insecurity is coded as those individuals who said they feel very unsafe.

Between 2014 and 2016/17, insecurity increased in:
- DR: 16.7% to 30.9%*
- Haiti: 8.5% to 23.3%*
- Jamaica: 6.2% to 12.4%
- Guyana: 8.3% to 14.0%*

*Those feeling very safe also increased in DR, Haiti, & Guyana

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2006-2016/17, LAC21; v07132017
In the Caribbean, insecurity is highest in the DR and Haiti

**Diagram:**
- Dominican Republic: 30.9%
- Haiti: 23.3%
- Suriname: 17.9%
- Guyana: 14.0%
- Jamaica: 12.4%
- St. Vincent & the Grenadines: 4.4%
- St. Lucia: 4.3%
- Bahamas: 4.0%
- Antigua & Barbuda: 3.2%
- St. Kitts & Nevis: 3.0%
- Trinidad and Tobago: 2.9%
- Dominica: 2.6%
- Grenada: 1.8%
- Barbados: 1.1%

**Source:** AmericasBarometer, LAPOP

**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? Insecurity is coded as those individuals who said they feel very unsafe.
Variation in perceived police responsiveness

**INFRAX.** Suppose someone enters your home to burglarize it and you call the police. How long do you think it would take the police to arrive at your house on a typical day around noon?
**Variation in perceived police responsiveness**

**INFRAX.** Suppose someone enters your home to burglarize it and you call the police. How long do you think it would take the police to arrive at your house on a typical day around noon?

![Police Response Time Chart]

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP
**Variation in perceived police responsiveness**

*INFRAX.* Suppose someone enters your home to burglarize it and you call the police. How long do you think it would take the police to arrive at your house on a typical day around noon?

---

**Police Response Time**

- < 10min
- 10-30min
- 30min-1hr
- > 3hrs
- No Police/ Wouldn’t Come

**Source:** © AmericaBarometer, LAPOP
Low confidence in police responsiveness, but different trends

Suppose someone enters your home to burglarize it and you call the police. How long do you think it would take the police to arrive at your house on a typical day around noon?

**Police Response Time**

- Less Than 10 Minutes: 9.3%
- Between 10 and 30 Minutes: 27.7%
- Between 30 Minutes and 1 Hour: 22.6%
- Between 1 and 3 Hours: 18.3%
- More than 3 Hours: 14.7%
- There Are No Police/They Would Not Come: 7.4%

**Source:** © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2016/17; v07132017

**INFRAX**

B/t 2014 and 2016/17:
- DR: 31.9% to 29.9%
- Guyana: 34.1% to 30.6%
- Haiti: 37.8% to 45.4%
- Jamaica: 16.7% to 18.4%
Police bribery is lower than the regional mean, except in the DR

**EXC2.** Has a police officer asked you for a bribe in the last twelve months?
Police bribe solicitation: Downward trend in Guyana, Upward trend in the DR

EXC2. Has a police officer asked you for a bribe in the last twelve months?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Haiti</th>
<th>Dominican Republic</th>
<th>Jamaica</th>
<th>Guyana</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>10.2%</td>
<td>9.0%</td>
<td>7.1%</td>
<td>11.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td></td>
<td>10.7%</td>
<td>5.9%</td>
<td>17.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>8.7%</td>
<td>8.9%</td>
<td>5.2%</td>
<td>11.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>8.8%</td>
<td>10.8%</td>
<td>4.4%</td>
<td>13.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td></td>
<td>14.6%</td>
<td>5.7%</td>
<td>12.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>7.3%</td>
<td>16.2%</td>
<td>5.1%</td>
<td>9.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016/17</td>
<td></td>
<td>17.4%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP
B18. To what extent do you trust the national police? 1-7, where 5/7=trust.

Trust in the police varies significantly across countries and time

---

Dominican Republic

- 2004: 24.3%
- 2006: 29.9%
- 2008: 38.4%
- 2010: 29.8%
- 2012: 26.0%
- 2014: 25.8%
- 2016: 23.9%

Haiti

- 2006: 43.4%
- 2008: 51.6%
- 2010: 52.9%
- 2012: 60.8%
- 2014: 55.2%
- 2016: 41.6%

Jamaica

- 2006: 34.0%
- 2008: 29.7%
- 2010: 20.5%
- 2012: 26.8%
- 2014: 34.1%
- 2016: 41.3%

Guyana

- 2006: 42.8%
- 2008: 41.0%
- 2010: 32.7%
- 2012: 34.1%
- 2014: 25.5%
- 2016: 48.7%

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Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP
B18. To what extent do you trust the national police? 1-7, where 5/7 = trust.

Trust in the police varies significantly across countries and time.

Success case?
Lower police corruption & More police responsiveness
Guyana success story?

- 2014 AmericasBarometer found that trust in the police in Guyana had declined and was low (lowest in the region)

- In 2014, 34% of Guyana’s adult population reported the police would take more than 3 hours or not show up
Guyana success story?

• 2014 AmericasBarometer found that trust in the police in Guyana had declined and was low (lowest in the region)

• In 2014, 34% of Guyana’s adult population reported the police would take more than 3 hours or not show up

• Briefing in 2015, hosted by the Public Affairs Office of the U.S. Embassy, pointed to poor evaluations with respect to police responsiveness and sparked lively discussion of solutions

• At least 10 news stories ran in Guyana on the briefing

“The President explained that the effectiveness of the Police Force is not measured by the number of arrests made but on the lack of crime. He mentioned the recent findings of the Latin American Public Opinion Project (LAPOP) which found that Guyana has the lowest level of trust in the Police than anywhere else in the region.”
Guyana success story?

- 2014 AmericasBarometer found that trust in the police in Guyana had declined and was low (lowest in the region)

- In 2014, 34% of Guyana’s adult population reported the police would take more than 3 hours or not show up

- Briefing in 2015, hosted by the Public Affairs Office of the U.S. Embassy, pointed to poor evaluations with respect to police responsiveness and sparked lively discussion of solutions

- At least 10 news stories ran in Guyana on the briefing

- Continued discussion of police reform under new administration, into 2017
Guyana success story?

• In 2016, the proportion saying the police would not show up or would take more than 3 hours has dropped by 4 percentage points
  • Fewer say “no police”
  • More say under 30 minutes

• Reports of police bribe solicitation have decreased

• Crime victimization has remained constant

• Trust in the police has increased
Part 3. Attitudes Conducive to Stable Democracy in the Caribbean

Summary:

• Political tolerance has increased

• System support has increased in Jamaica and Guyana, decreased in Haiti and DR

• Case study 1: Positive developments in Jamaica

• Case study 2: Erosion in the democratic culture in Haiti
Political tolerance and support for the political system

Political tolerance (index comprised of the following questions):
D1. There are people who only say bad things about the (country) form of government, not just the incumbent government but the system of government. How strongly do you approve or disapprove of such people’s right to vote?
D2. How strongly do you approve or disapprove that such people be allowed to conduct peaceful demonstrations in order to express their views?
D3. Still thinking of those who only say bad things about the (country) form of government, how strongly do you approve or disapprove of such people being permitted to run for public office?
D4. How strongly do you approve or disapprove of such people appearing on television to make speeches?

Support for the political system (index comprised of the following questions):
B1. To what extent do you think the courts in Jamaica guarantee a fair trial? (Read: If you think the courts do not ensure justice at all, choose number 1; if you think the courts ensure justice a lot, choose number 7, or choose a point in between the two.)
B2. To what extent do you respect the political institutions of Jamaica?
B3. To what extent do you think that citizens’ basic rights are well protected by the political system of Jamaica?
B4. To what extent do you feel proud of living under the political system of Jamaica?
B6. To what extent do you think that one should support the political system of Jamaica?

For each module, we create a 0-100 index, and then code individuals as either “high” (>50) or “low” (<50). The charts that follow show the percent of individuals who score as “high” on the index.
Political tolerance varies

Jamaica is at the top in the Americas, whereas Suriname falls at the bottom.
Political tolerance has increased
System support also varies

Guyana reports the highest support in the Americas and Haiti ranks second to last

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2016/17; GM_y07122017+25_29
System support has decreased in Haiti and the DR, increased in Jamaica and Guyana

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP
Case studies: Positive developments in Jamaica, Erosion in Haiti
In Jamaica: political tolerance and system support increased significantly in 2017, to levels more consistent with earlier years.

The charts that follow show the percent of individuals who score as “high” on the index.
Jamaica 2017: Political tolerance increased on all dimensions of the index

- Approval of Government Critics' Right to Vote
  - 2014: 62.9%
  - 2016/17: 72.3%

- Approval of Government Critics' Right to Peaceful Demonstrations
  - 2014: 67.5%
  - 2016/17: 80.9%

- Approval of Government Critics' Right to Run for Office
  - 2014: 35.4%
  - 2016/17: 43.3%

- Approval of Government Critics' Right to Make Speeches
  - 2014: 43.2%
  - 2016/17: 50.6%

The difference between years is significant in all cases, except approval of government’s critics’ right to make speeches.

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP
Jamaica 2017: System support increased on all dimensions of the index

The difference between years is significant in all cases, except for courts guarantee a fair trial

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP
Measuring political culture via democratic orientations

LAPOP monitors the combination of political orientations in each country, paying special attention to changes across cells in this figure, which shows the percentage of respondents with high or low political support by those with high or low political tolerance. High=above 50 degrees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>High Tolerance</th>
<th>Low Tolerance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>High System Support</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Low System Support</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Measuring political culture via democratic orientations: Jamaica 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>High Tolerance</th>
<th>Low Tolerance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High System Support</td>
<td>Stable Democracy</td>
<td>Authoritarian Stability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low System Support</td>
<td>Unstable Democracy</td>
<td>Democracy at Risk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*LAPOP monitors the combination of political orientations in each country, paying special attention to changes across cells in this figure, which shows the percentage of respondents with high or low political support by those with high or low political tolerance. High=above 50 degrees*
In Jamaica: attitudes consistent with stable democracy increased in 2017, returning close to 2012

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2012-2017; v.JAMts_1.0
In Haiti: political tolerance increased among Haitians in 2017, while support for the political system and democracy decreased.

The charts that follow show the percent of individuals who score as “high” on the index.

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP
Political Culture of Democracy in Haiti: Attitudes conducive to an unstable democracy or a democracy at risk predominate in 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Types of Political Attitudes</th>
<th>High Political Tolerance</th>
<th>Low Political Tolerance</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High System Support</td>
<td>Democratic Stability</td>
<td>Authoritarian Stability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16.9%</td>
<td>9.1%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low System Support</td>
<td>Unstable Democracy</td>
<td>Democracy at risk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35.9%</td>
<td>38.2%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

LAPOP monitors the combination of political orientations in each country, paying special attention to changes across cells in this figure, which shows the percentage of respondents with high or low political support by those with high or low political tolerance. High=above 50 degrees
Attitudes conducive to an unstable democracy increased in Haiti in 2017

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2012-2017; v.HAIts_D1
What is behind the numbers in Haiti?

• The provision of security and the rule of law
  • Confidence in the police, perceived police responsiveness, and confidence that the judicial system will punish the guilty have declined
  • Crime victimization rates increased from 15.7% in 2014 to 22% in 2016/17
  • Insecurity has increased (in 2012 & 2014: 40% very or somewhat unsafe; now 55%)

• The economy
  • Over half of Haitians report the economy as the most important problem
    • 28% say unemployment; 40% of Haitians say they are actively looking for a job
  • 4 in 5 Haitians report that the national economic situation is worse than it was 12 months ago
  • 70% report that their personal economic situation has eroded in the last 12 months and 73% report their household income has decreased over the last 2 years (vs. 56% in 2014)

• The provision of services
  • Percent satisfied with public schools and health services decreased in 2017
    • The percentage satisfied with local roads stayed constant
Police responsiveness, insecurity, satisfaction with services, and executive approval are strong predictors of system support in Haiti.

Graph shows results of regression predicting system support (PSA5R, 0-100) with independent variables scaled 0-100. Data = AmericasBarometer national Haiti survey 2017.
Police responsiveness, insecurity, satisfaction with services, and executive approval are strong predictors of system support in Haiti.

Note: economic factors strongly predict executive approval.

Graph shows results of regression predicting system support (PSA5R, 0-100) with independent variables scaled 0-100. Data = AmericasBarometer national Haiti survey 2017.
Police responsiveness, insecurity, satisfaction with services, and executive approval are strong predictors of system support in Haiti.

Graph shows results of regression predicting system support (PSA5R, 0-100) with independent variables scaled 0-100. Data = AmericasBarometer national Haiti survey 2017

Note: red boxes indicate factors that deteriorated b/t 2014 and 2017

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP
Summary:

• Concern about human rights is comparatively high in Jamaica and Haiti

• Support for gay rights remains comparatively low in the Caribbean

• Support for gay rights has increased, except in Haiti
Concerns about human rights highest in Jamaica and Haiti

In all but 4 countries, more than 50% of the public reports a deficit in human rights protection

[Question not asked in Guyana]
Support for the rights of gay individuals to run for office remains comparatively low in the Caribbean.

D5. And now, changing the topic and thinking of homosexuals, how strongly do you approve or disapprove of such people being permitted to run for public office? 0 – 100 degrees
Except in Haiti, support for political rights of gay individuals increased in 2016/17

D5. And now, changing the topic and thinking of homosexuals, how strongly do you approve or disapprove of such people being permitted to run for public office? 0-100 degrees
Support for same-sex marriage remains comparatively low in the Caribbean

D6. How strongly do you approve or disapprove of same-sex couples having the right to marry? 0 – 100 degrees

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP
Except in Haiti, support for same-sex marriage increased in 2016/17

D6. How strongly do you approve or disapprove of same-sex couples having the right to marry? 0 – 100 degrees
Trust in the media is highest in Nicaragua, lowest in the U.S.

B37. To what extent do you trust the mass media?
Trust in the media has been decreasing in the Caribbean.
Tolerance for paying bribes is highest in Haiti, DR, Ecuador, and Jamaica

But where tolerance for bribery has been increasing in the LAC region, it has decreased in Haiti and Jamaica (and Guyana, 2012-2014). Tolerance for bribery has increased in the DR.
Confidence in judiciary is low in DR, Haiti, and St. Lucia

Confidence that Judiciary will Punish the Guilty

- **Dominican Republic**
  - A lot: 28%
  - Some: 20%
  - Little: 19%
  - None: 33%

- **Haiti**
  - A lot: 16%
  - Some: 23%
  - Little: 32%
  - None: 29%

- **St. Lucia**
  - A lot: 11%
  - Some: 29%
  - Little: 34%
  - None: 27%

- **Jamaica**
  - A lot: 25%
  - Some: 27%
  - Little: 28%
  - None: 20%

- **Trinidad and Tobago**
  - A lot: 8%
  - Some: 40%
  - Little: 33%
  - None: 19%

- **Bahamas**
  - A lot: 15%
  - Some: 40%
  - Little: 26%
  - None: 19%

- **Guyana**
  - A lot: 32%
  - Some: 36%
  - Little: 29%
  - None: 22%

- **Dominica**
  - A lot: 13%
  - Some: 36%
  - Little: 29%
  - None: 18%

- **St. Kitts & Nevis**
  - A lot: 20%
  - Some: 39%
  - Little: 27%
  - None: 14%

- **St. Vincent & the Grenadines**
  - A lot: 19%
  - Some: 41%
  - Little: 29%
  - None: 11%

- **Suriname**
  - A lot: 40%
  - Some: 35%
  - Little: 15%
  - None: 11%

- **Barbados**
  - A lot: 20%
  - Some: 45%
  - Little: 25%
  - None: 11%

- **Grenada**
  - A lot: 19%
  - Some: 44%
  - Little: 29%
  - None: 8%

- **Antigua & Barbuda**
  - A lot: 21%
  - Some: 48%
  - Little: 23%
  - None: 8%

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP