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Barómetro de las Américas

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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*

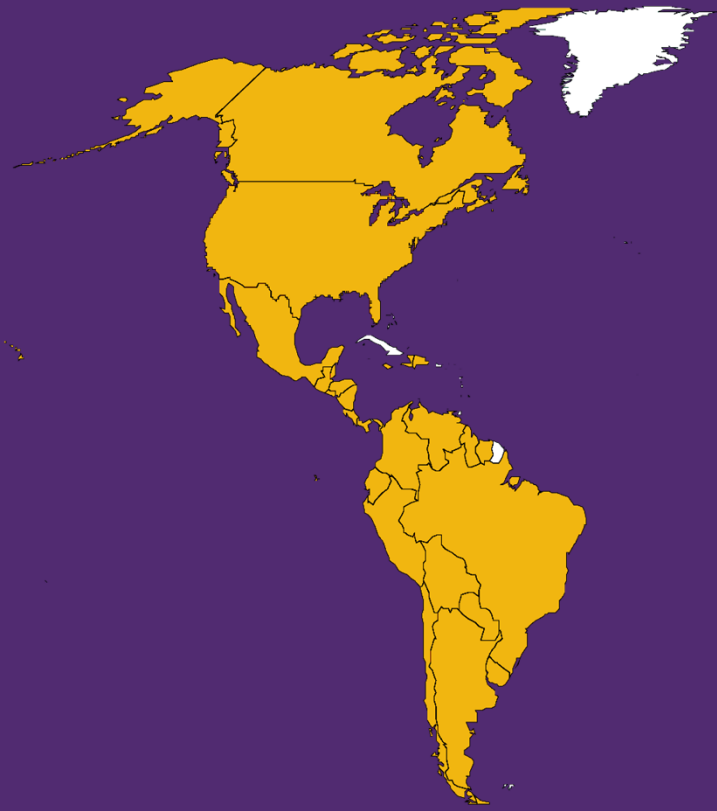


2004-2017

34 Countries
225,000+
interviews

AmericasBarometer

Barómetro de las Américas



2004-2017

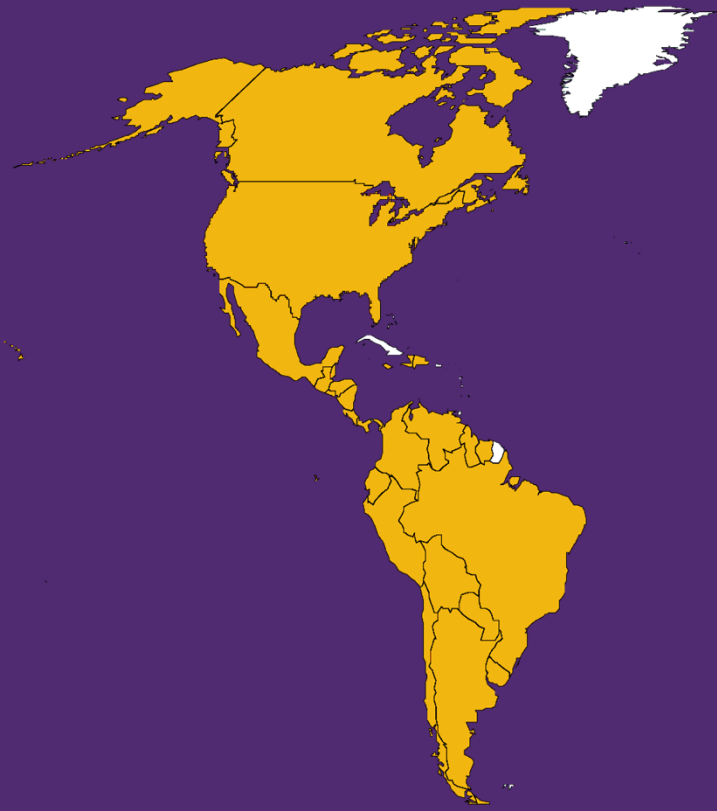
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AmericasBarometer

Barómetro de las Américas



Nationally representative,
urban and rural, typical min. 1,500
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Nationally representative,
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respondents per country

2004-2017

34 Countries
225,000+
interviews

Data and reports
available for **free**
download on
project website

Face-to-face interviews in
8 languages using mobile devices

Caribbean Surveys

AmericasBarometer *Barómetro de las Américas*

Year	2004	2006	2008/09	2010	2012	2014/15	2016/17
Dominican Republic	4,460	1,516	1,507	1,498	1,512	1,520	1,518
Haiti		1,625	1,536	1,752	1,836	1,512	2,221
Jamaica		1,595	1,499	1,504	1,500	1,503	1,515
Guyana		1,555	2,514	1,540	1,529	1,557	1,576
Trinidad & Tobago				1,503	1,506	4,203	
Suriname				1,516	1,490	4,000	
Barbados						3,828	
Bahamas						3,429	
Grenada							1,004
St. Lucia							1,019
Dominica							1,016
Antigua & Barbuda							1,002
St. Vincent & the Grenadines							1,017
St. Kitts & Nevis							1,008

Partners





Extensive qualitative
(cognitive) pre-testing in all
countries

Left: Pretesting in Panama



Above: Training in Ecuador

Standardized Training in all Countries

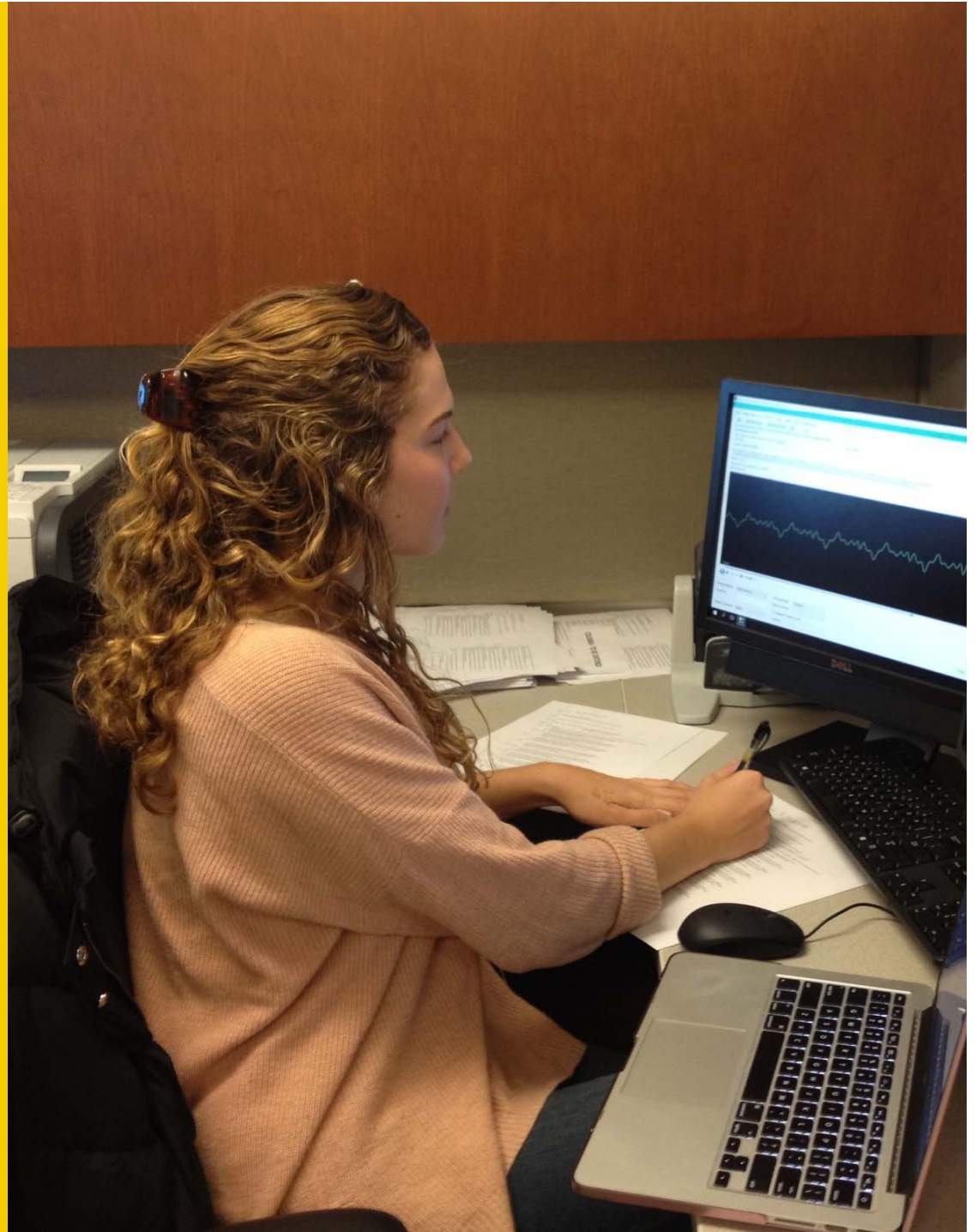
Electronic Devices Used in all Countries



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

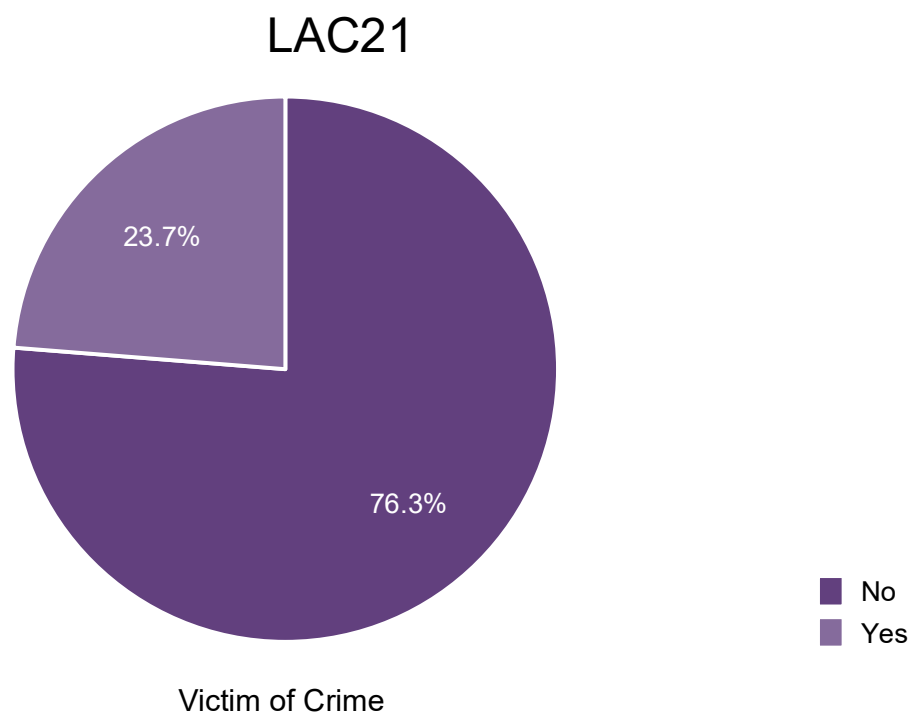


Part 2. Crime, Insecurity, and the Police in the Caribbean

Summary:

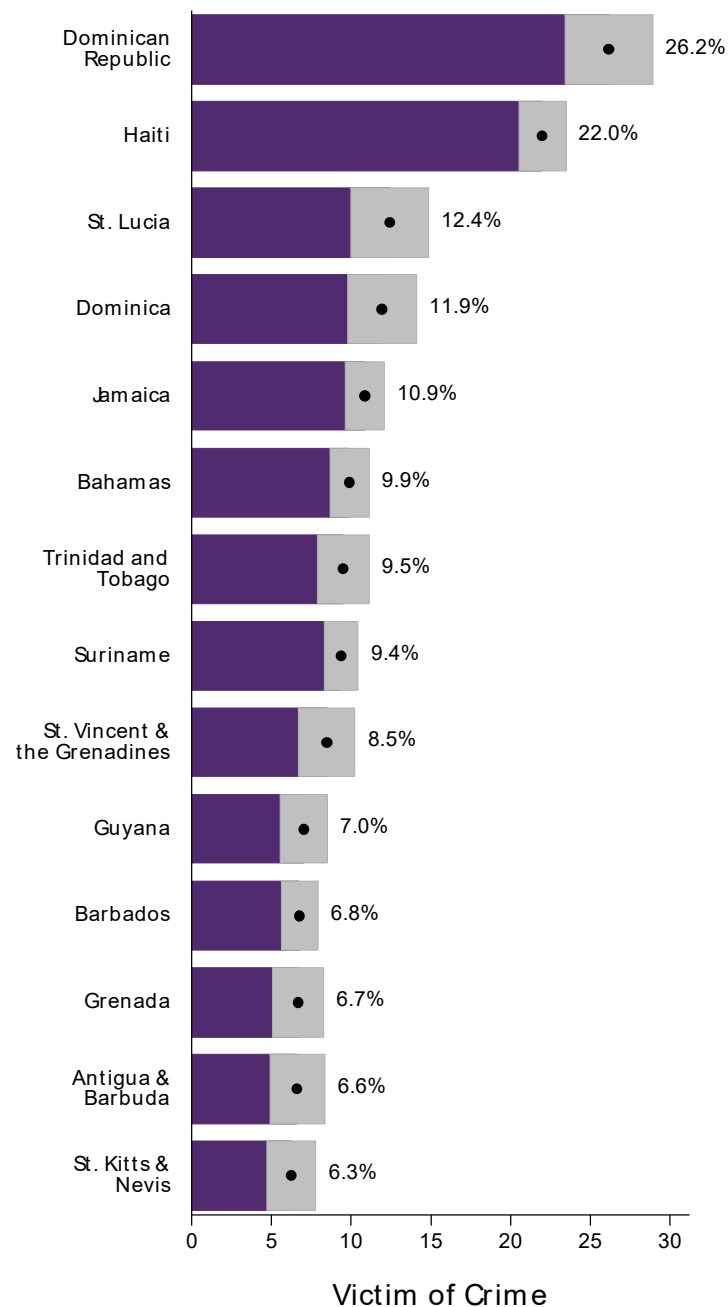
- Crime victimization is low, but has increased (except in Guyana)
- Percent feeling very unsafe has increased
- Small improvements in police responsiveness in the DR and Guyana
- Decreased rates of police bribe solicitation in Guyana
- Increased trust in the police in Jamaica and Guyana
- Case study: 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



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

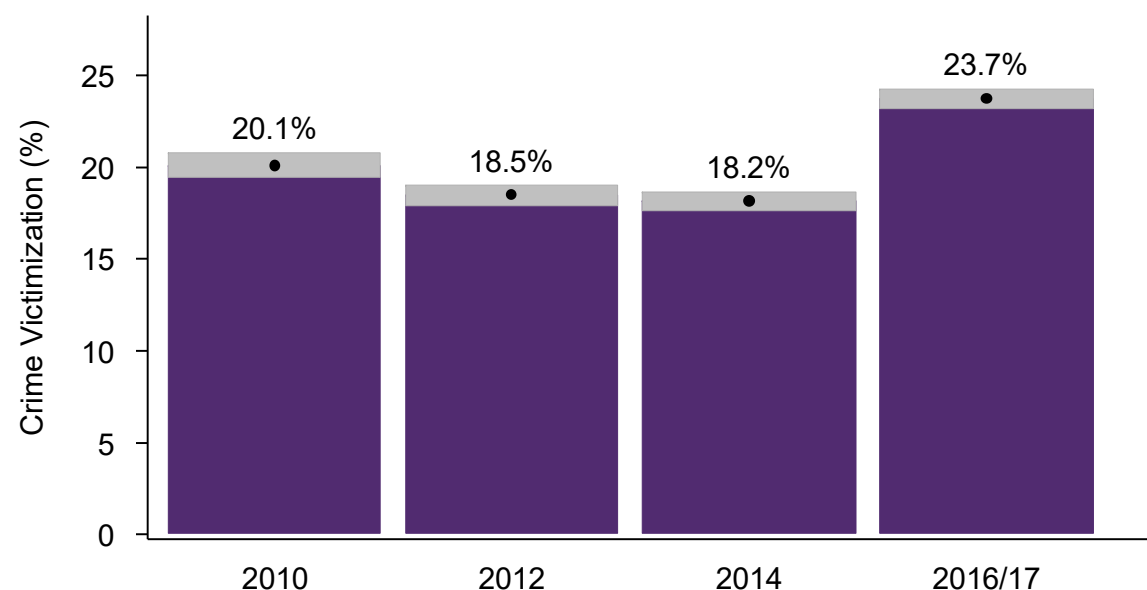
VIC1EXT. Now, changing the subject, have you been a victim of any type of crime in the past 12 months? That is, have you been a victim of robbery, burglary, assault, fraud, blackmail, extortion, violent threats or **any other type** of crime in the past 12 months?



95 % Confidence Interval
(with Design-Effects)

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP

Yet, crime victimization levels have increased



LAC-21 Regional Average

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

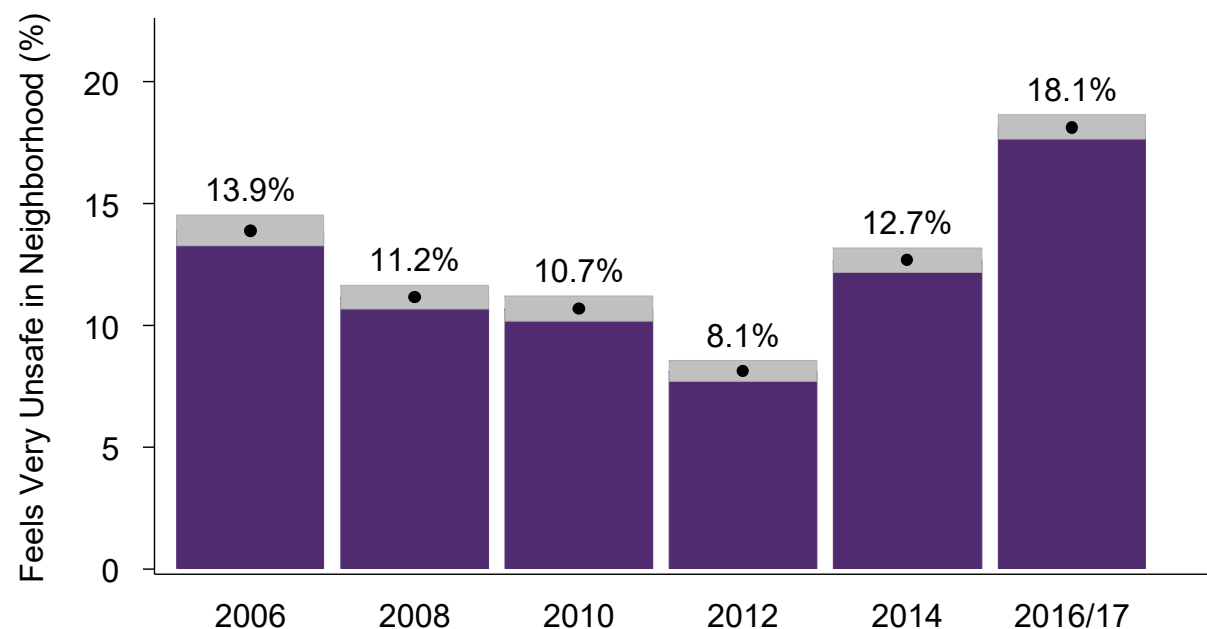
No change in Guyana.

95 % Confidence Interval
(with Design-Effects)

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2010-2016/17, LAC21; v07132017

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



LAC-21 Regional Average

95 % Confidence Interval
(with Design-Effects)

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2006-2016/17, LAC21; v07132017

B/t 2014 and 2016/17, insecurity increased in:

DR: 16.7% to 30.9%*

Haiti: 8.5% to 23.3%*

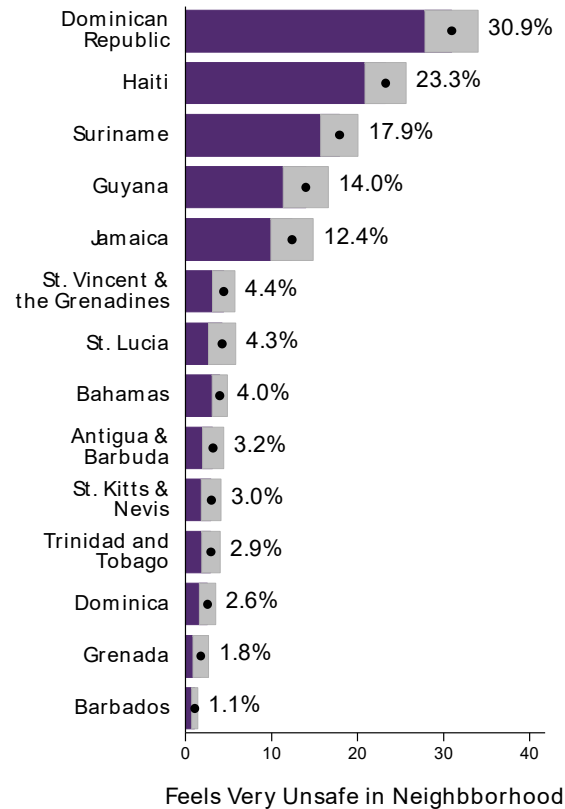
Jamaica: 6.2% to 12.4%

Guyana: 8.3% to 14.0%*

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

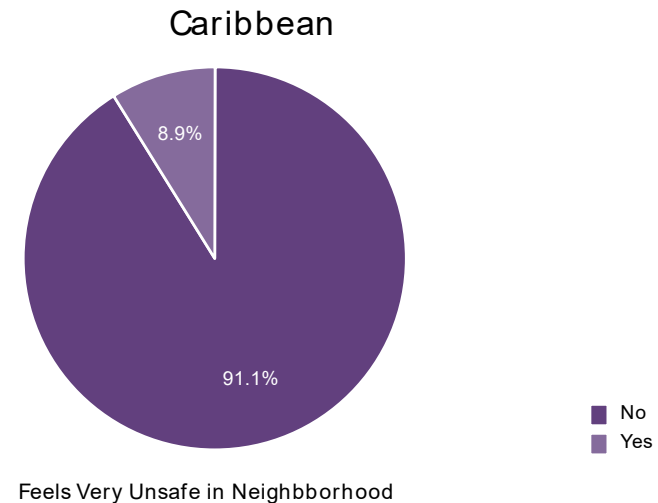
AQJ11. Speaking of the neighborhood where you live and thinking of the possibility of being assaulted or robbed, do you feel very safe, somewhat safe, somewhat unsafe or very unsafe? Insecurity is coded as those individuals who said they feel very unsafe.

In the Caribbean, insecurity is highest in the DR and Haiti



95 % Confidence Interval
(with Design-Effects)

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP



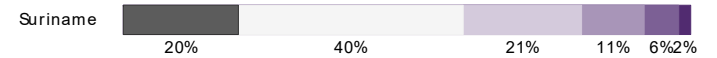
Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP

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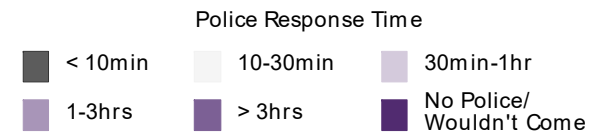
Variation in perceived police responsiveness

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

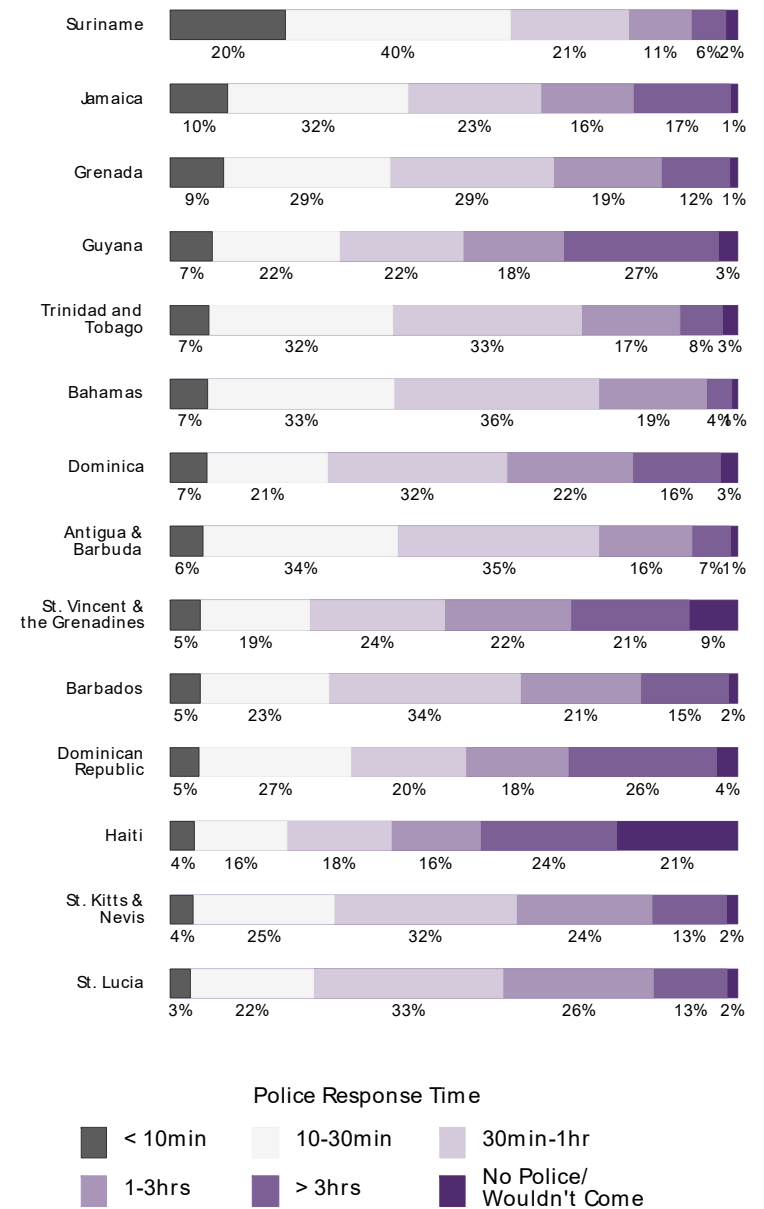


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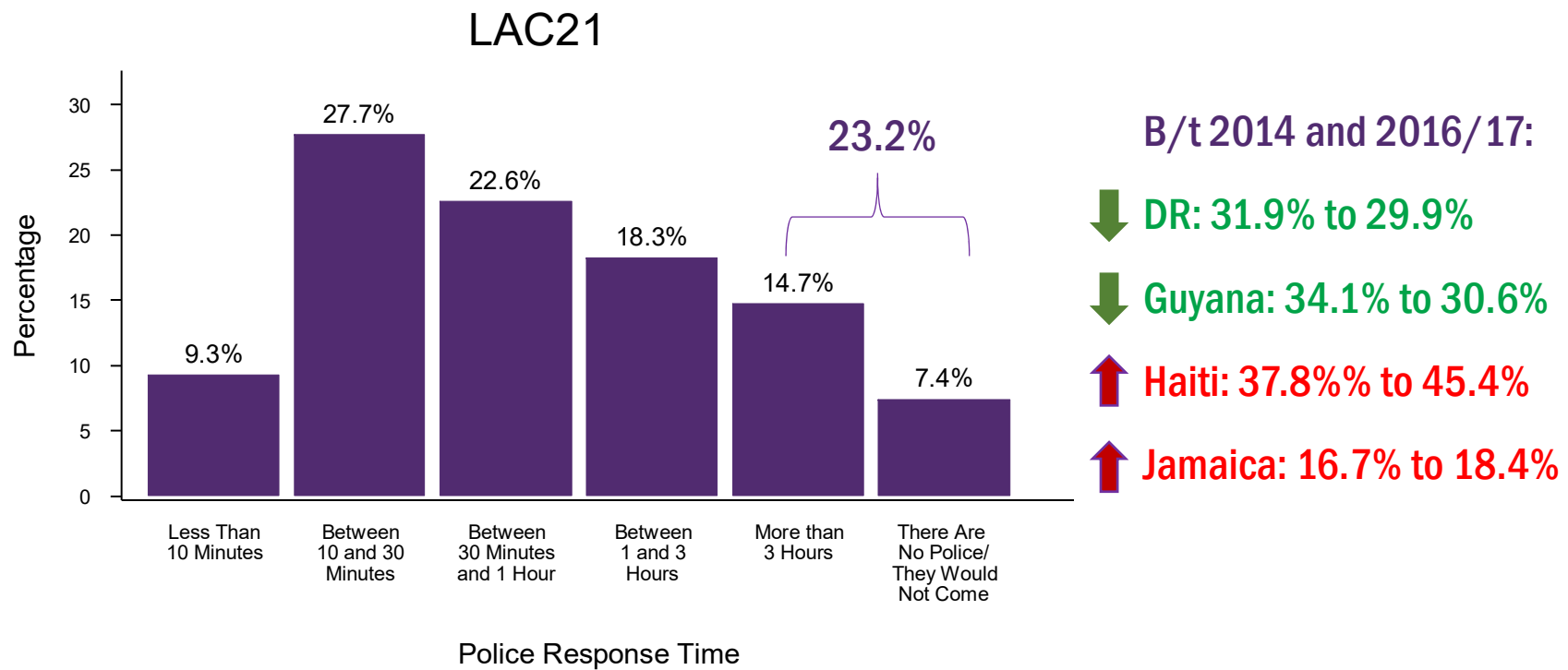


Variation in perceived police responsiveness

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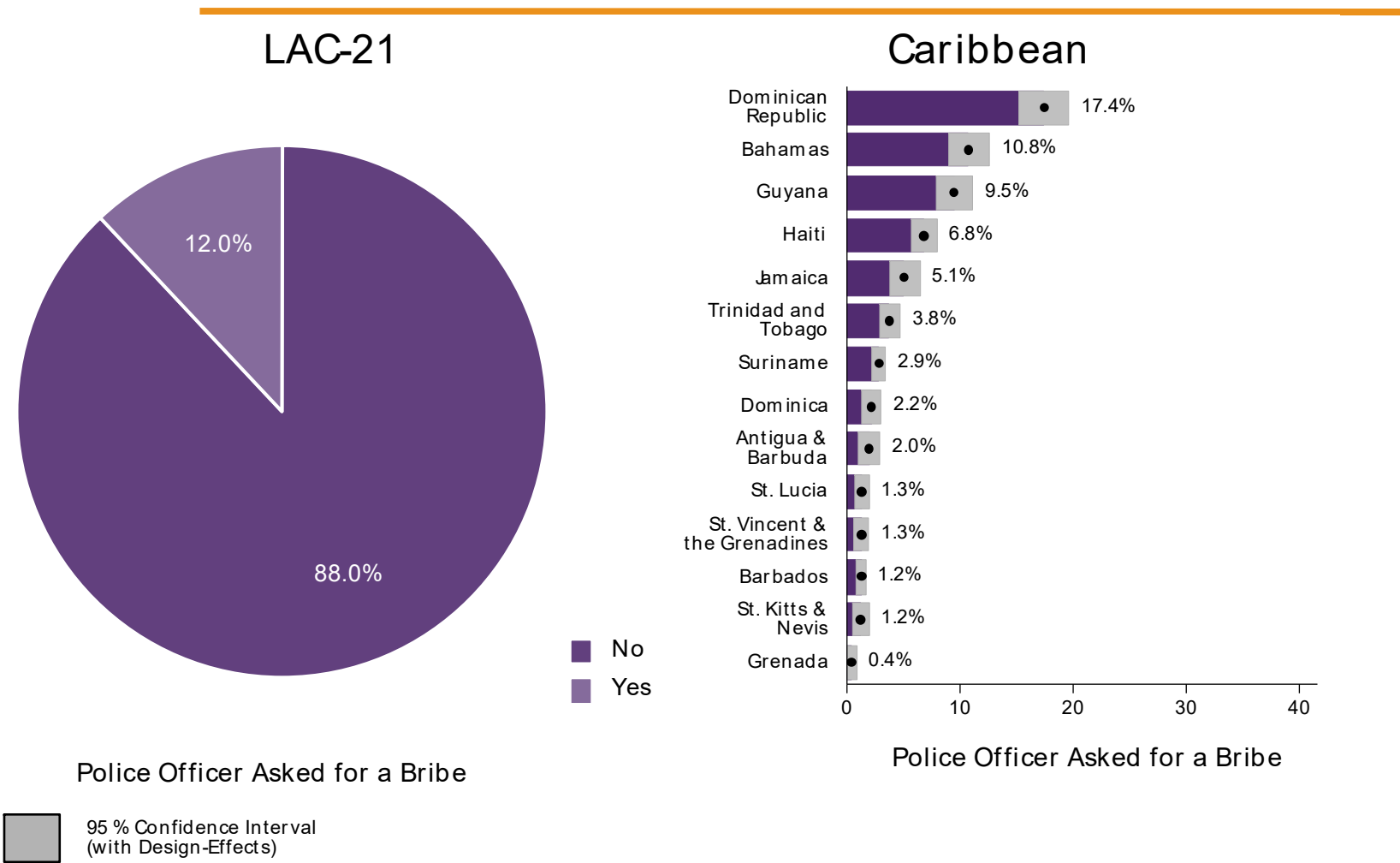
Low confidence in police responsiveness, but different trends



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

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 bribery is lower than the regional mean, except in the DR

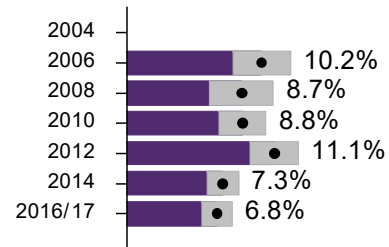


EXC2. Has a police officer asked you for a bribe in the last twelve months?

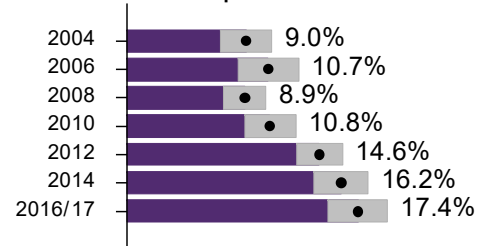
Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP

Police bribe solicitation: Downward trend in Guyana, Upward trend in the DR

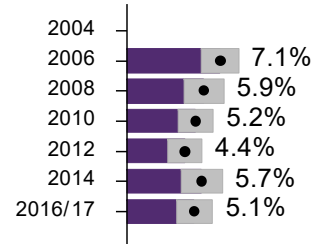
Haiti



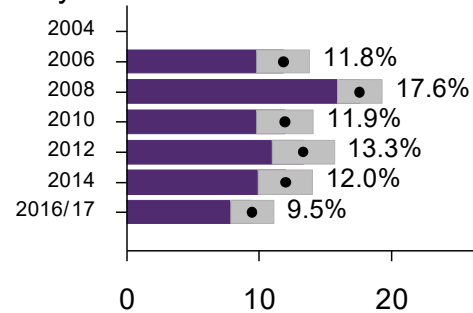
Dominican Republic



Jamaica



Guyana



Percentage

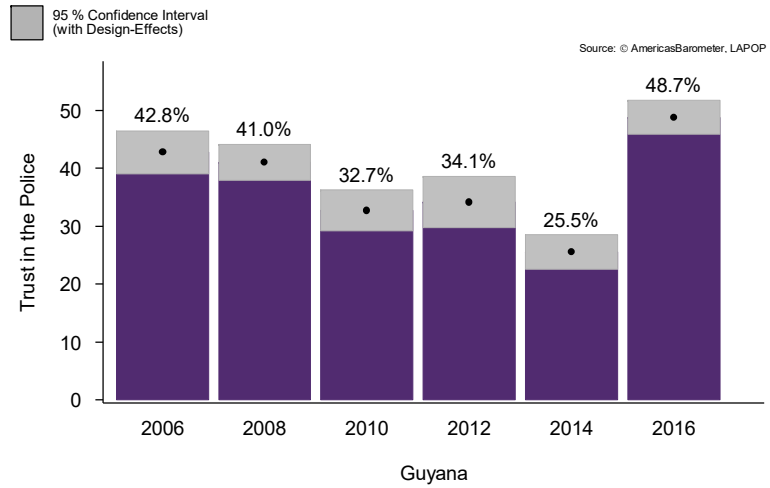
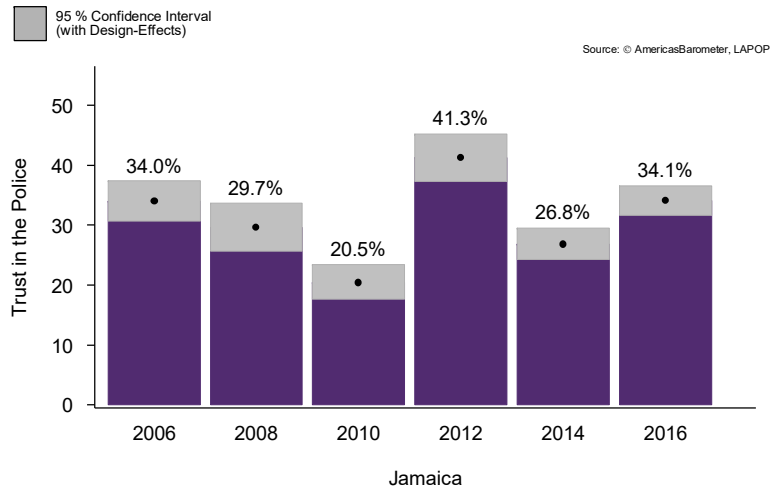
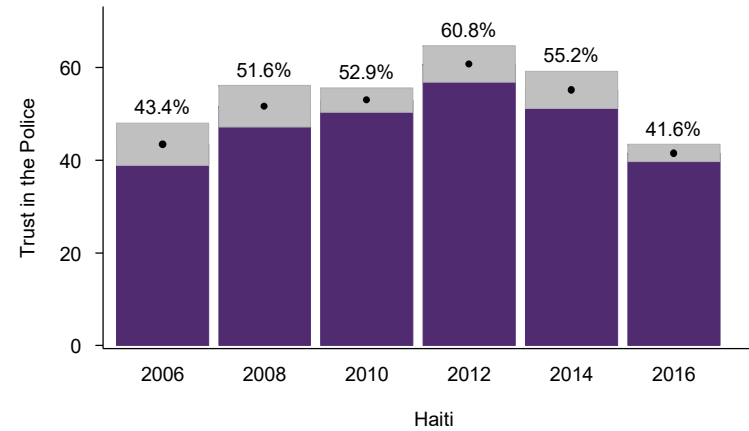
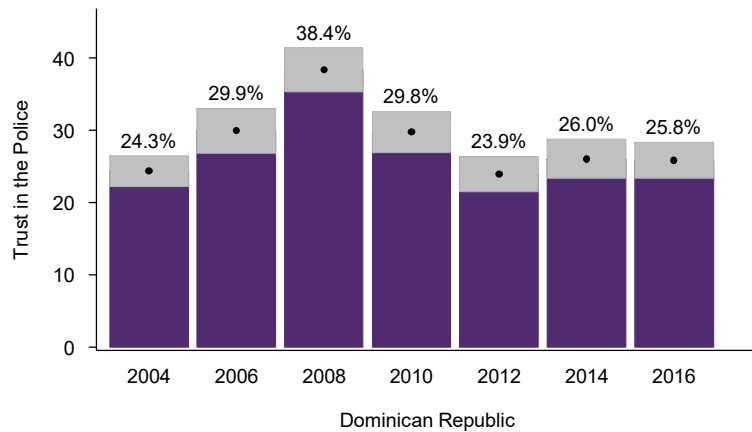
95 % Confidence Interval
(with Design-Effects)

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP

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

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



95 % Confidence Interval
(with Design-Effects)

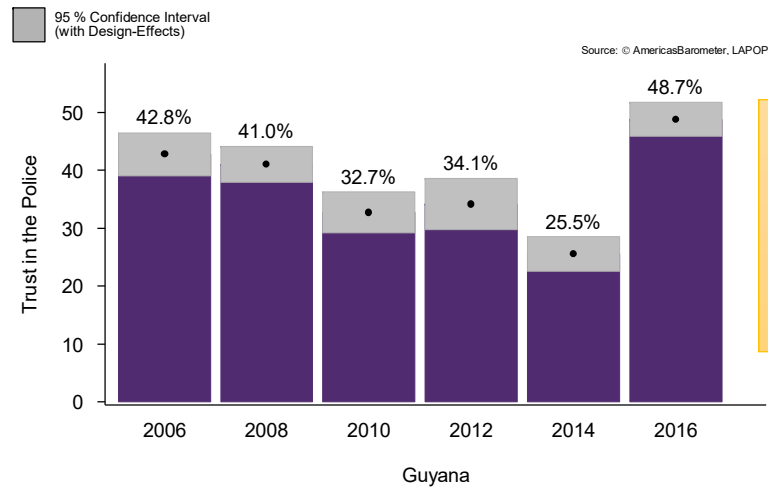
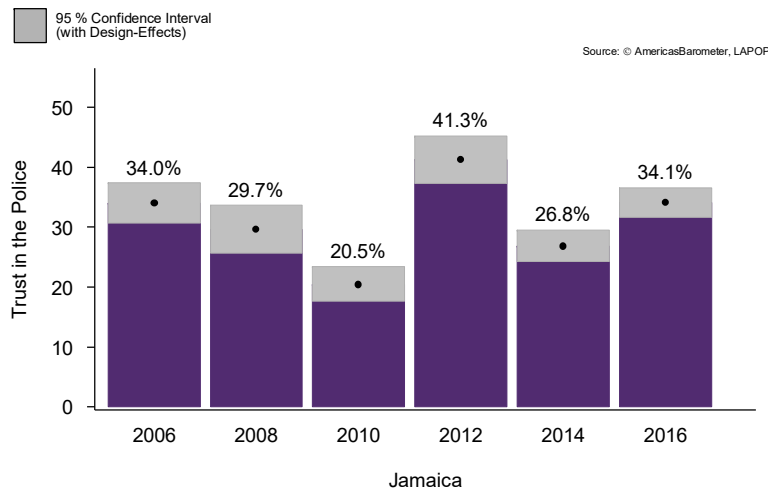
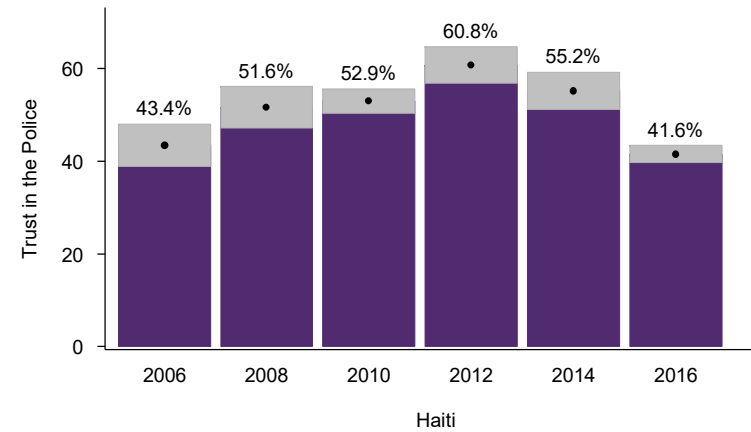
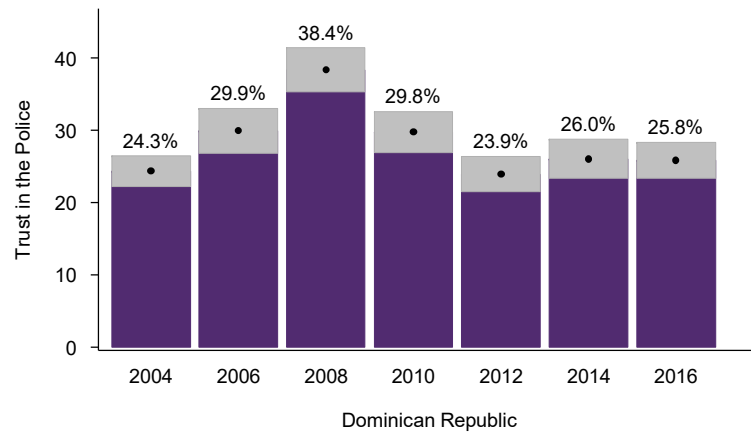
Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP

95 % Confidence Interval
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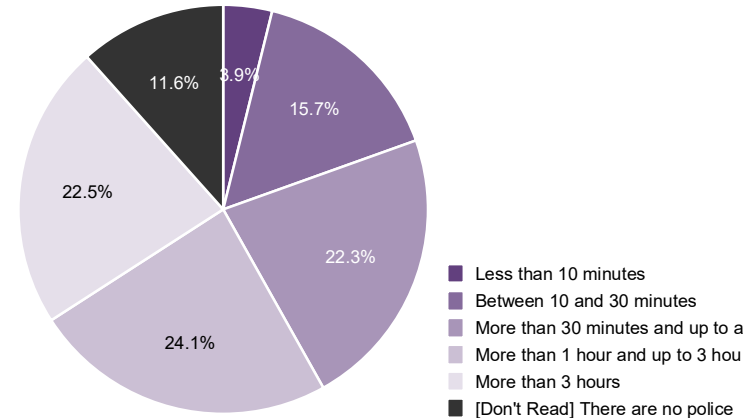


Success case?

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



Police Response Time - Guyana 2014

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP

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

President Ramotar unveils 15-point anti-crime plan

March 13, 2015 By [GuyanaTimes](#)

...re-opening of "cold cases", Police at schools on the cards

By Vahnu Manikchand

Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, President Donald Ramotar on Thursday called on Police to reopen the mountain of "cold cases" (unsolved crimes) as part of a plan he proposed to improve policing in Guyana and also slammed the Force for having the worst response time to crime in the Caribbean.

The President's call comes in wake of the steep increases in murder and the alarmingly high rates of unsolved crimes here.

Ramotar made the remarks while delivering the feature address at the opening ceremony of the Police Officers' Conference held at the Police Mess Annex, Eve Leary. President Ramotar proposed what he calls the "15 in 2015 Programme", which he said will help to restore confidence in the country's Police Force.

One of the measures the President is asking to be implemented is the reopening of cold cases and unsolved crimes in order to improve the clear-up rates in homicide, shootings, robberies, larceny and sexual offences. "If criminals don't think that they will be caught, they will continue to commit crimes," he pointed out.

Ramotar also called for a review of the 911 response system to make it a rapid response system. "Too often we have heard about the length of time or the fact that people don't answer the 911 calls, this must stop. Our response time is the worst among Caribbean nations. The short the police travel time from notification to arrival at the crime scene, the more likely it is that police can arrest offenders before they flee," he stated.



"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."

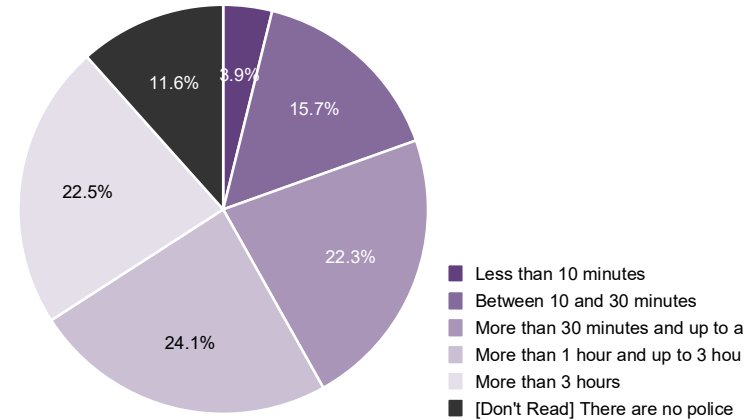
Guyana success story?

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- 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



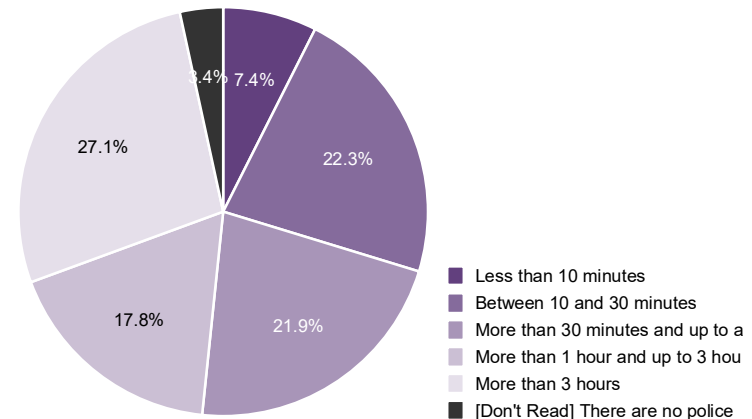
Guyana success story?

- 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



Police Response Time - Guyana 2014

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP



Police Response Time - Guyana 2016

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP

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.)

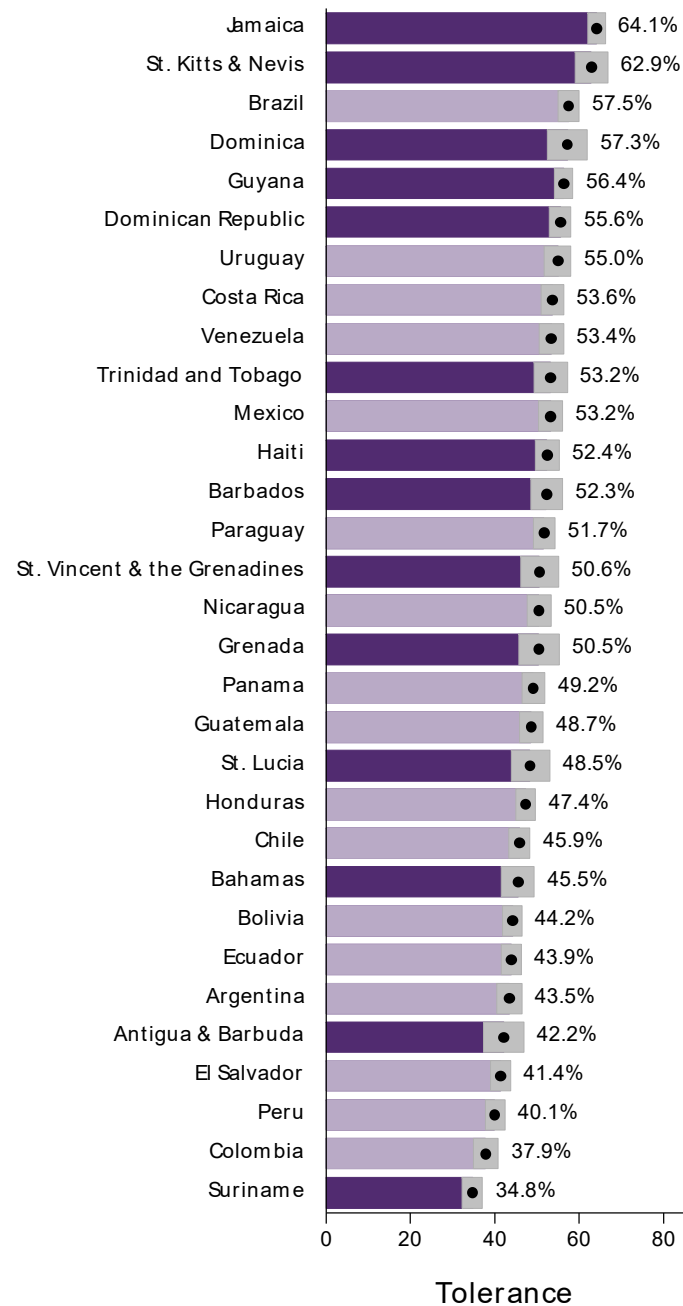
B2. To what extent do you respect the political institutions of Jamaica?

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

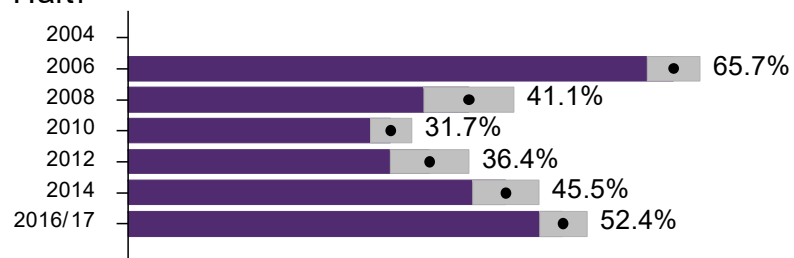
Jamaica is at the top in the Americas, whereas Suriname falls at the bottom

95 % Confidence Interval
(with Design-Effects)

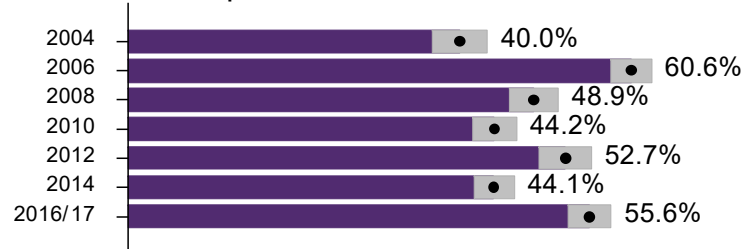
Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2016/17; GM_v07172017+25_29

Political tolerance has increased

Haiti



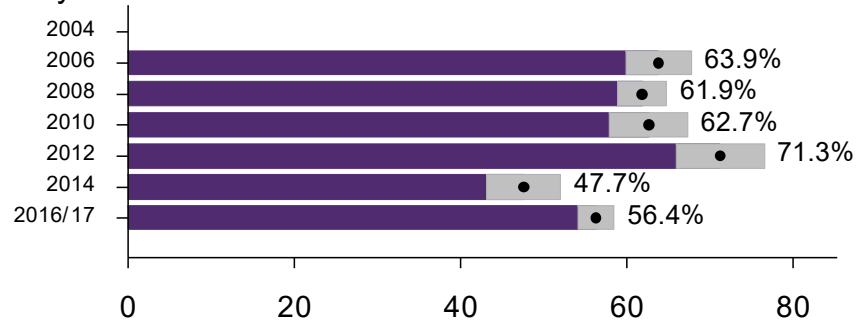
Dominican Republic



Jamaica

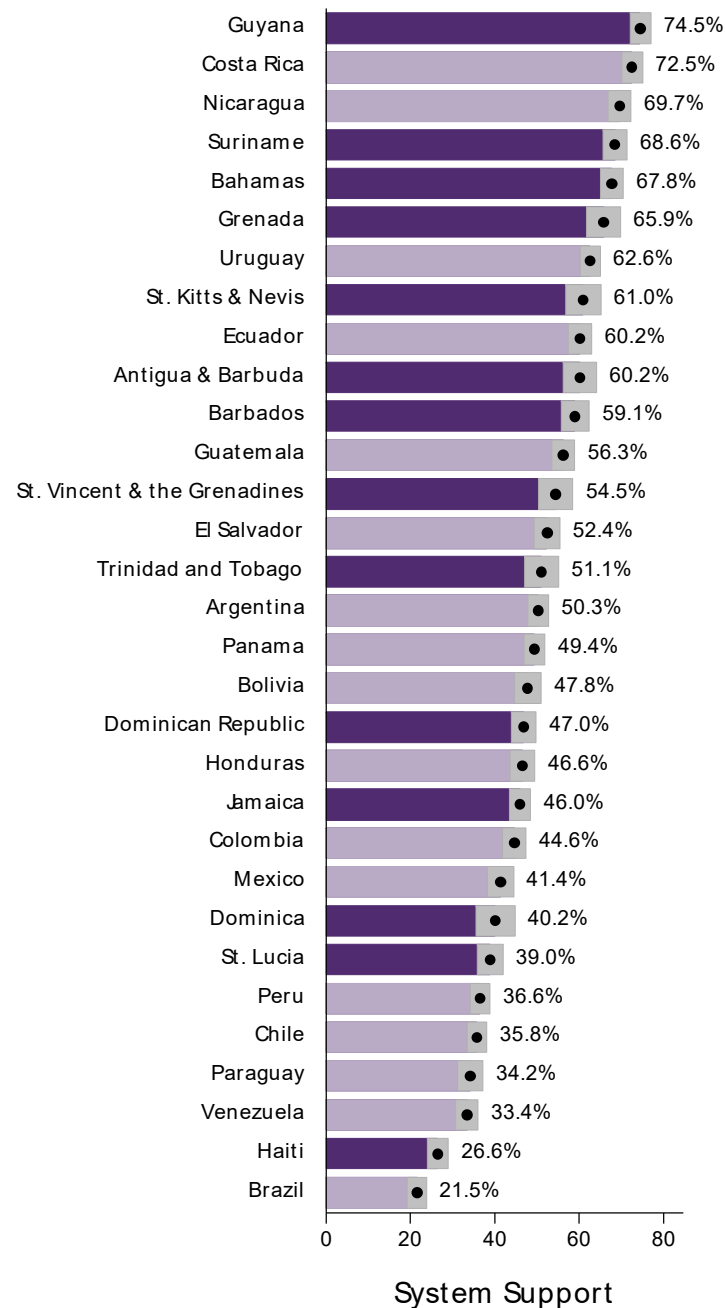


Guyana



95 % Confidence Interval
(with Design-Effects)

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP



System support also varies

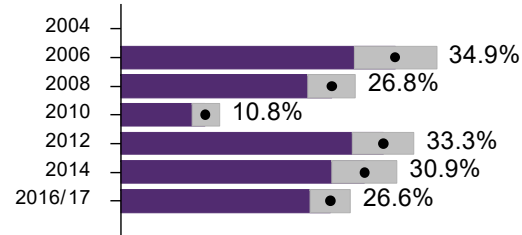
Guyana reports the highest support in the Americas and Haiti ranks second to last

95 % Confidence Interval
(with Design-Effects)

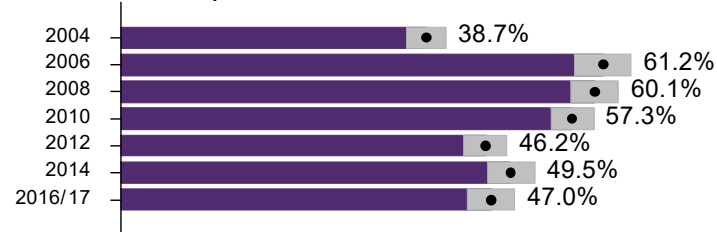
Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2016/17; GM_v07172017+25_29

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

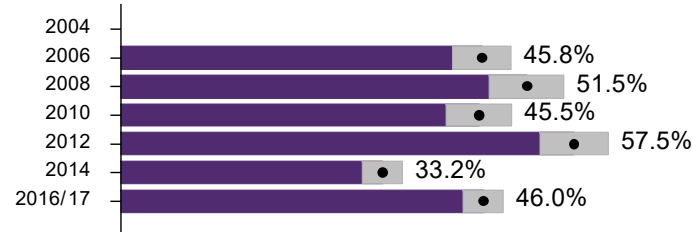
Haiti



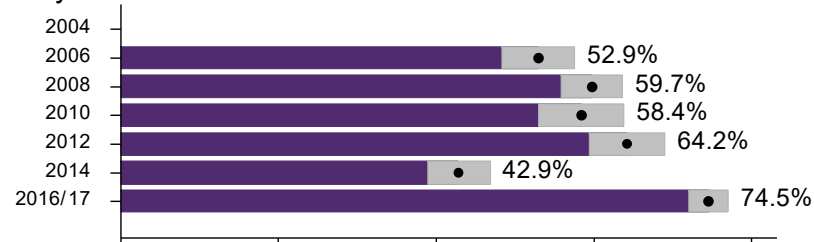
Dominican Republic



Jamaica



Guyana



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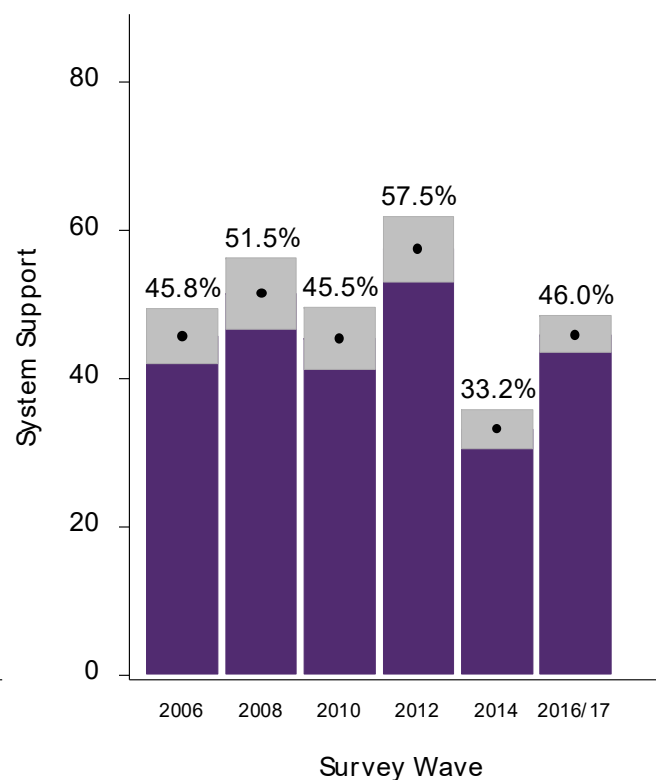
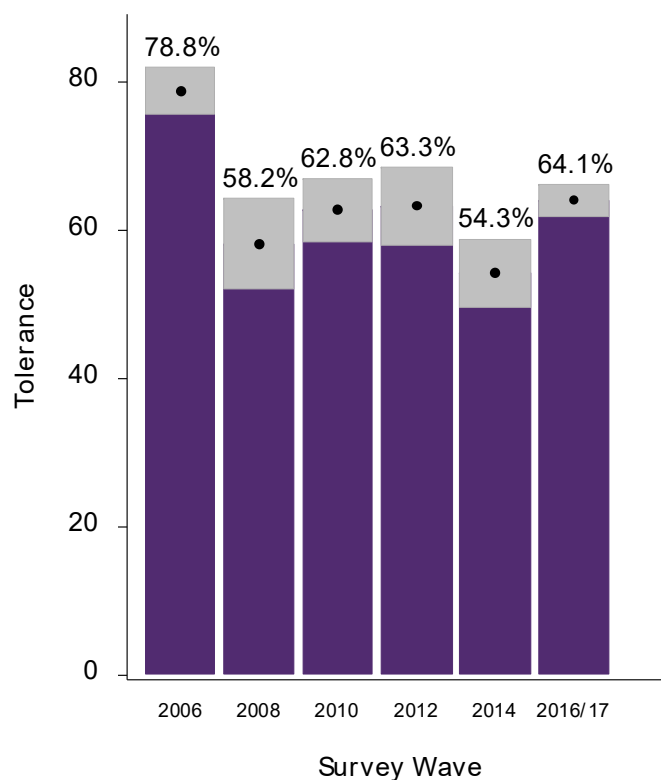
Percentage

95 % Confidence Interval
(with Design-Effects)

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

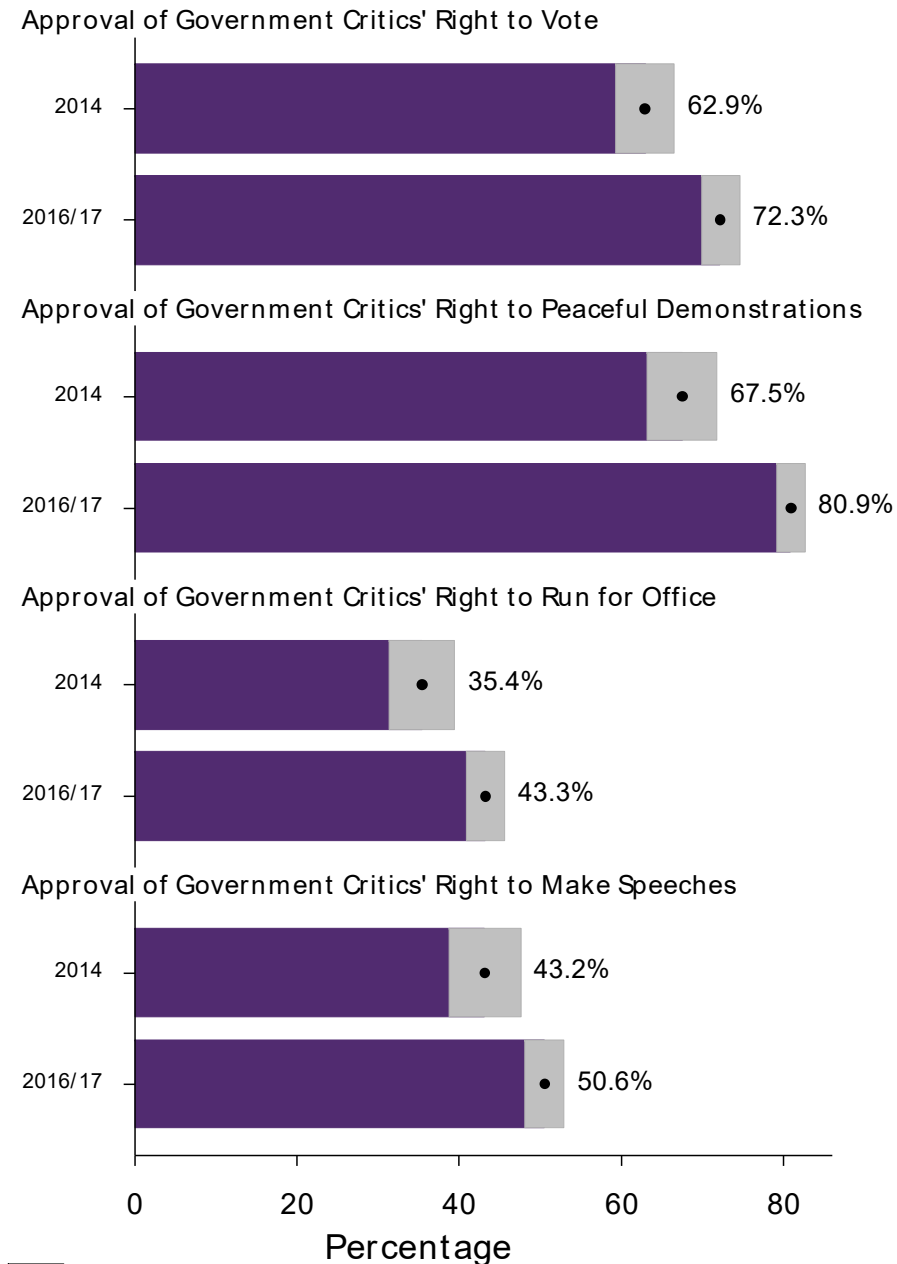


95 % Confidence Interval
(with Design-Effects)

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP

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

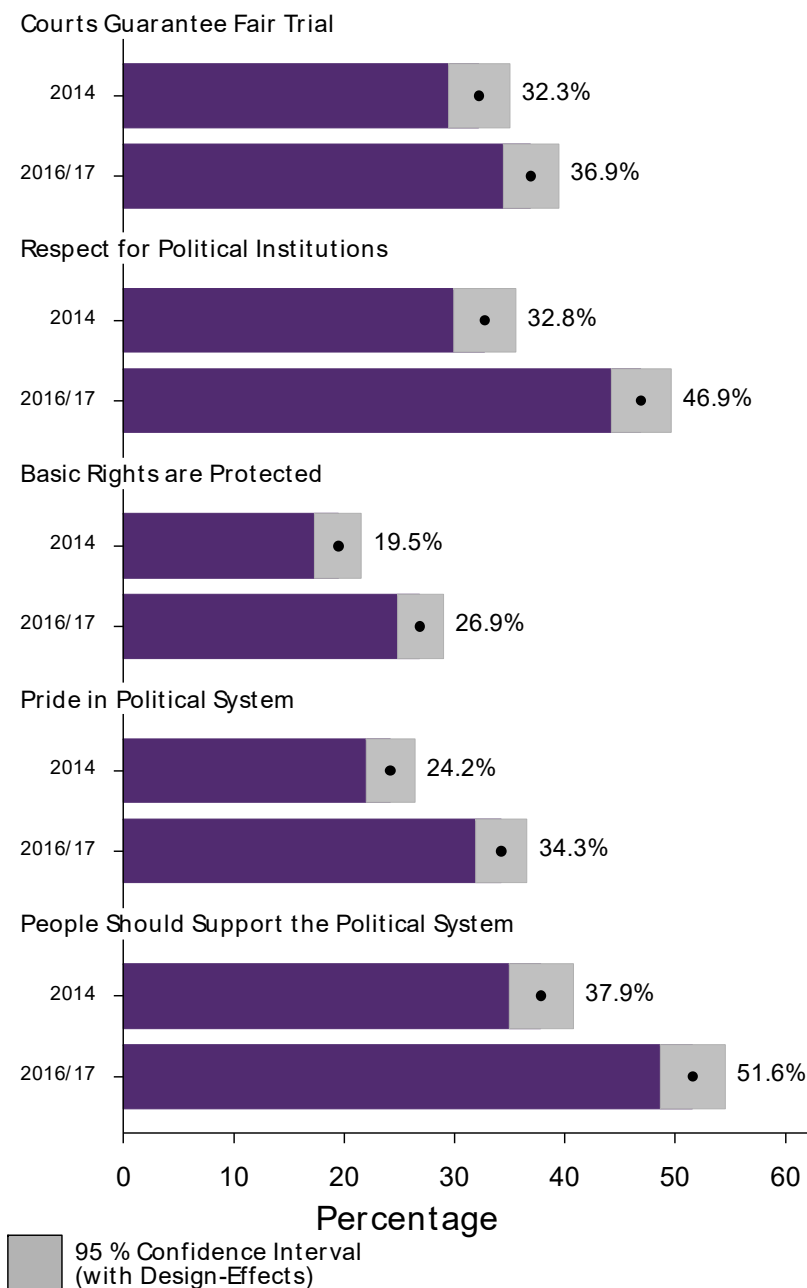


95 % Confidence Interval
(with Design-Effects)

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP

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

Jamaica 2017: System support increased on all dimensions of the index



Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP

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

Measuring political culture via democratic orientations

	High Tolerance	Low Tolerance
High System Support		
Low System Support		

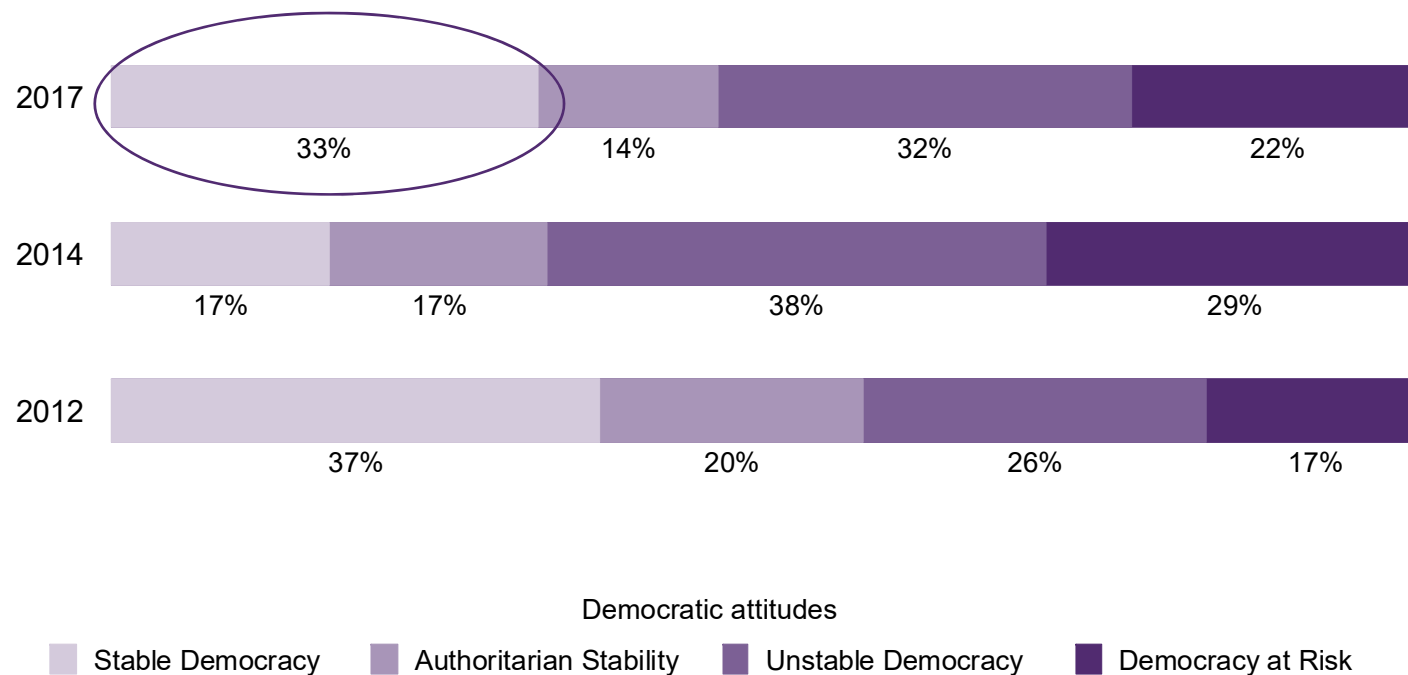
LAPOP monitors the combination of political orientations in each country, paying special attention to changes across cells in this figure, which shows the percentage of respondents with high or low political support by those with high or low political tolerance. High=above 50 degrees

Measuring political culture via democratic orientations: Jamaica 2017

	High Tolerance	Low Tolerance
High System Support	Stable Democracy 33%	Authoritarian Stability 14%
Low System Support	Unstable Democracy 32%	Democracy at Risk 22%

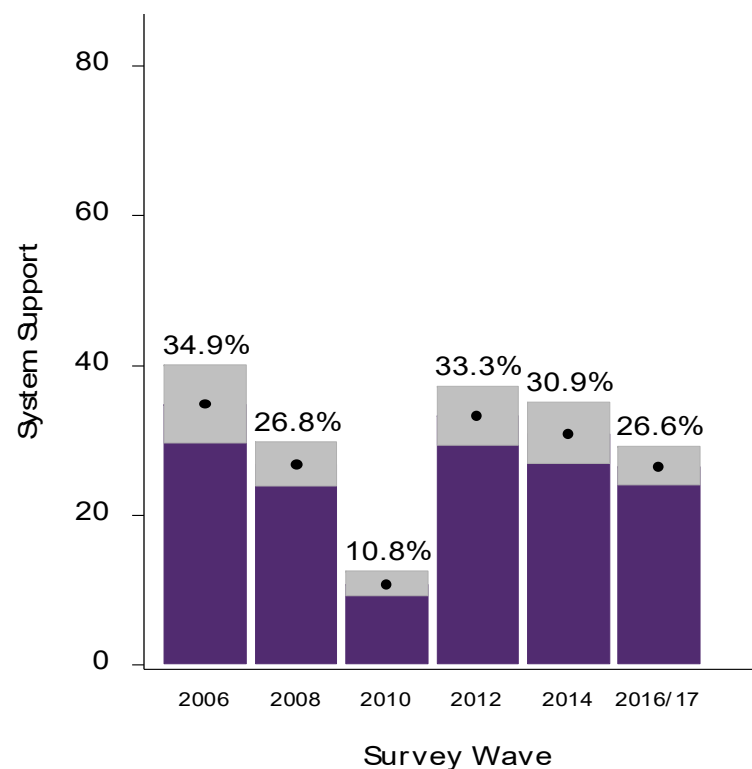
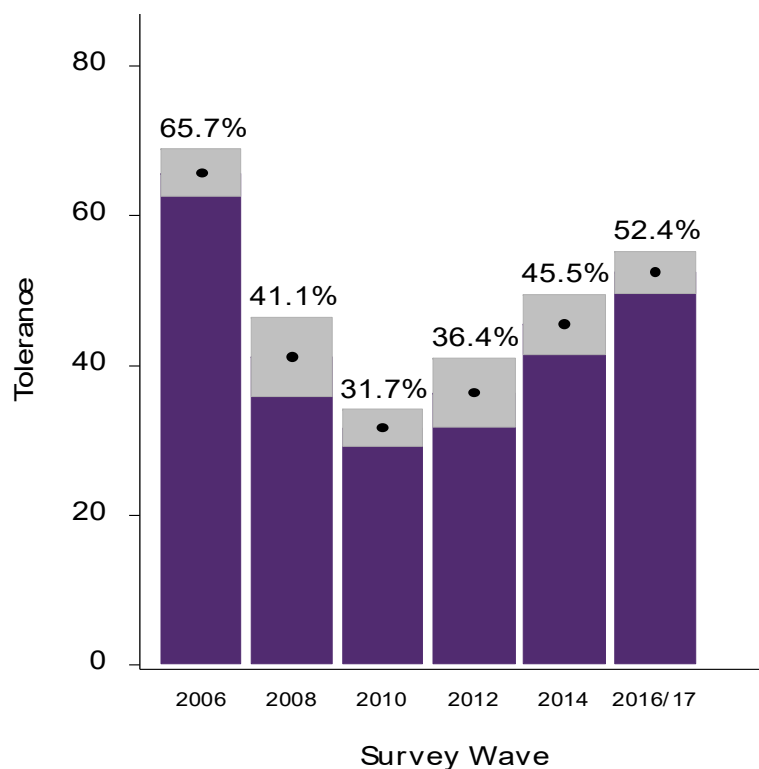
LAPOP monitors the combination of political orientations in each country, paying special attention to changes across cells in this figure, which shows the percentage of respondents with high or low political support by those with high or low political tolerance. High=above 50 degrees

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

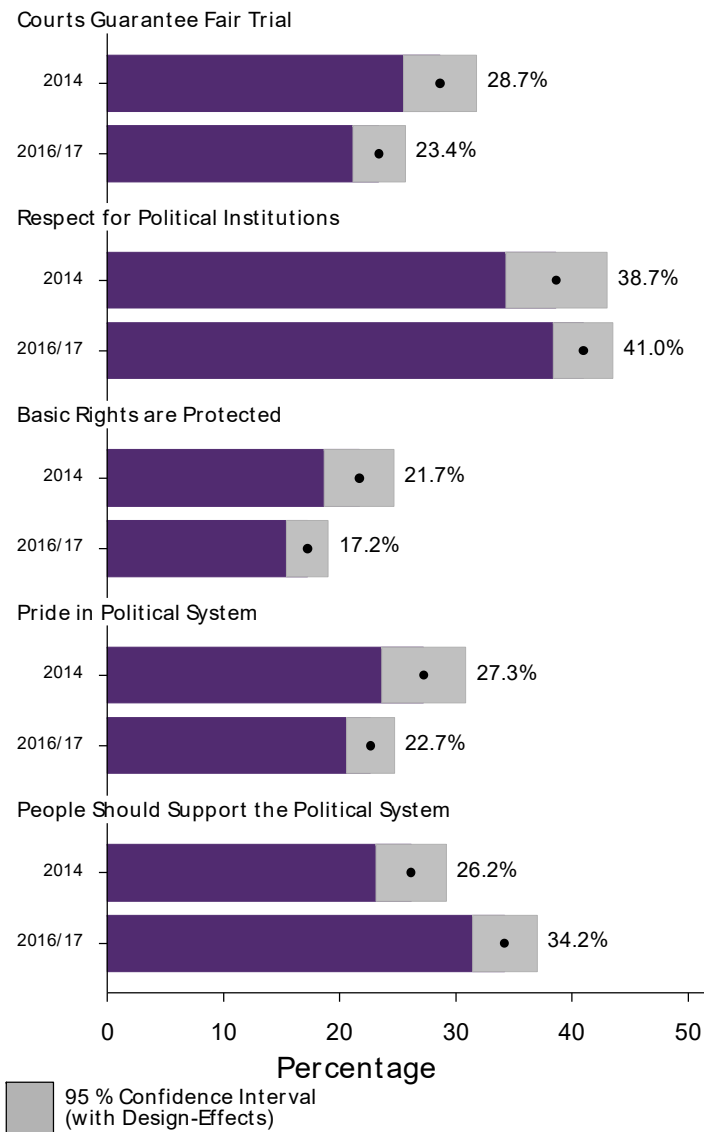


95 % Confidence Interval
(with Design-Effects)

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP

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

Haiti 2017: Declining System Support



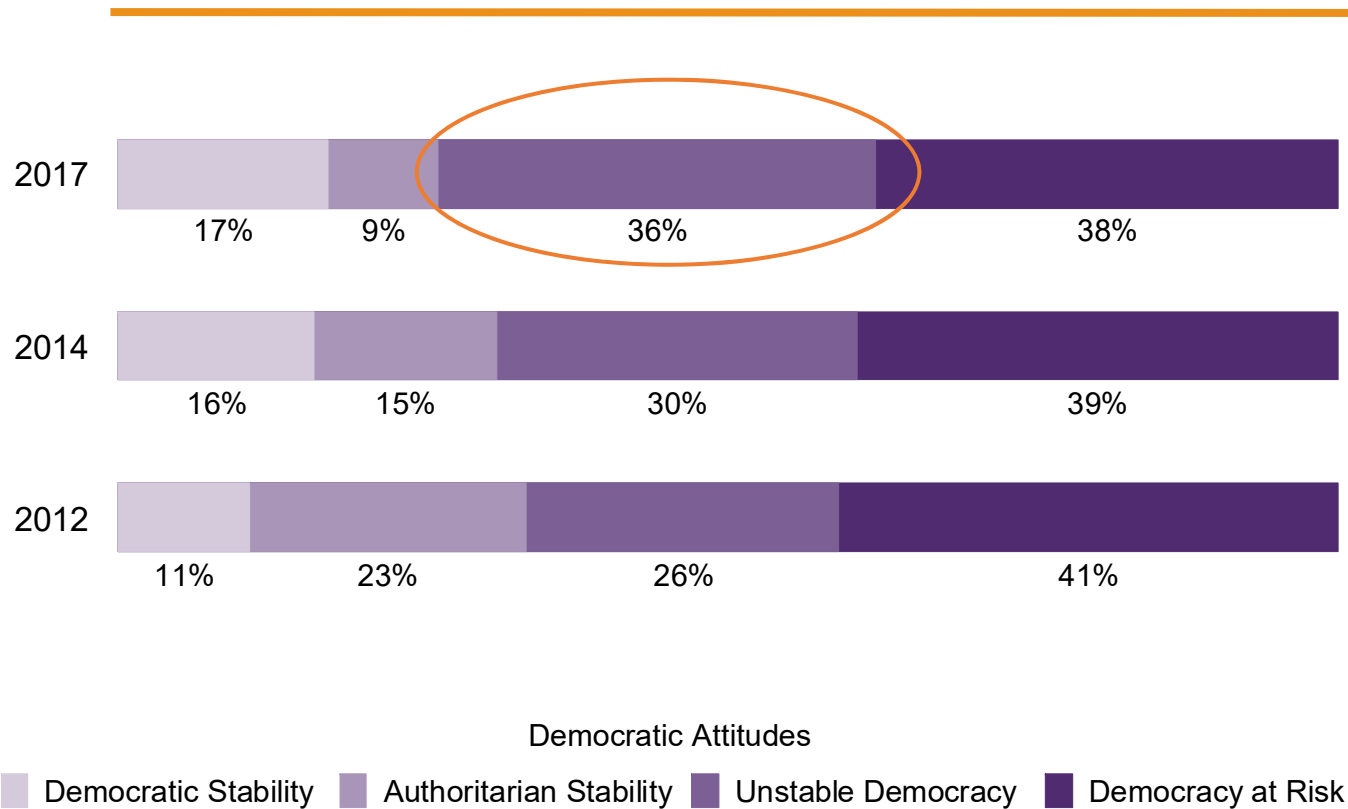
Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP

Political Culture of Democracy in Haiti: Attitudes conducive to an unstable democracy or a democracy at risk predominate in 2017

Types of Political Attitudes	High Political Tolerance	Low Political Tolerance
High System Support	Democratic Stability 16.9%	Authoritarian Stability 9.1%
Low System Support	Unstable Democracy 35.9%	Democracy at risk 38.2%

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

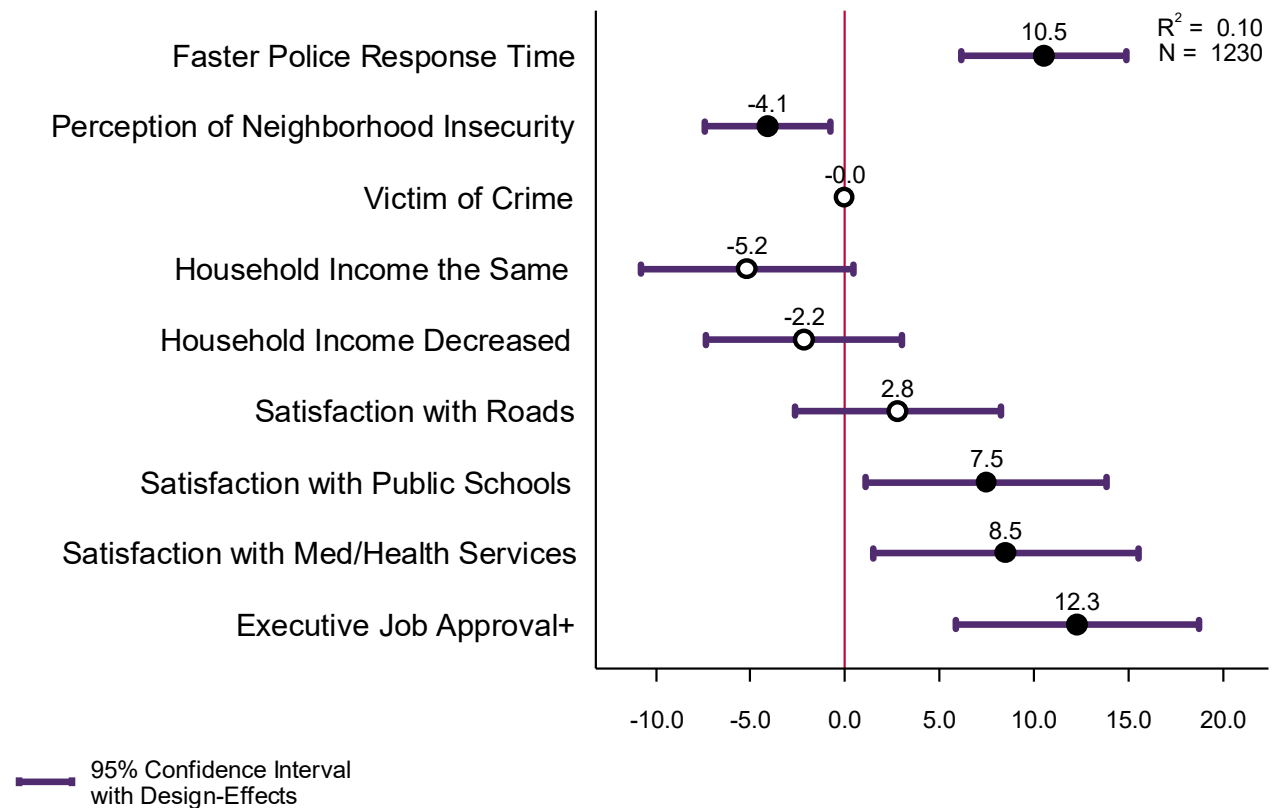


Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2012-2017; v.HAIts_D1

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

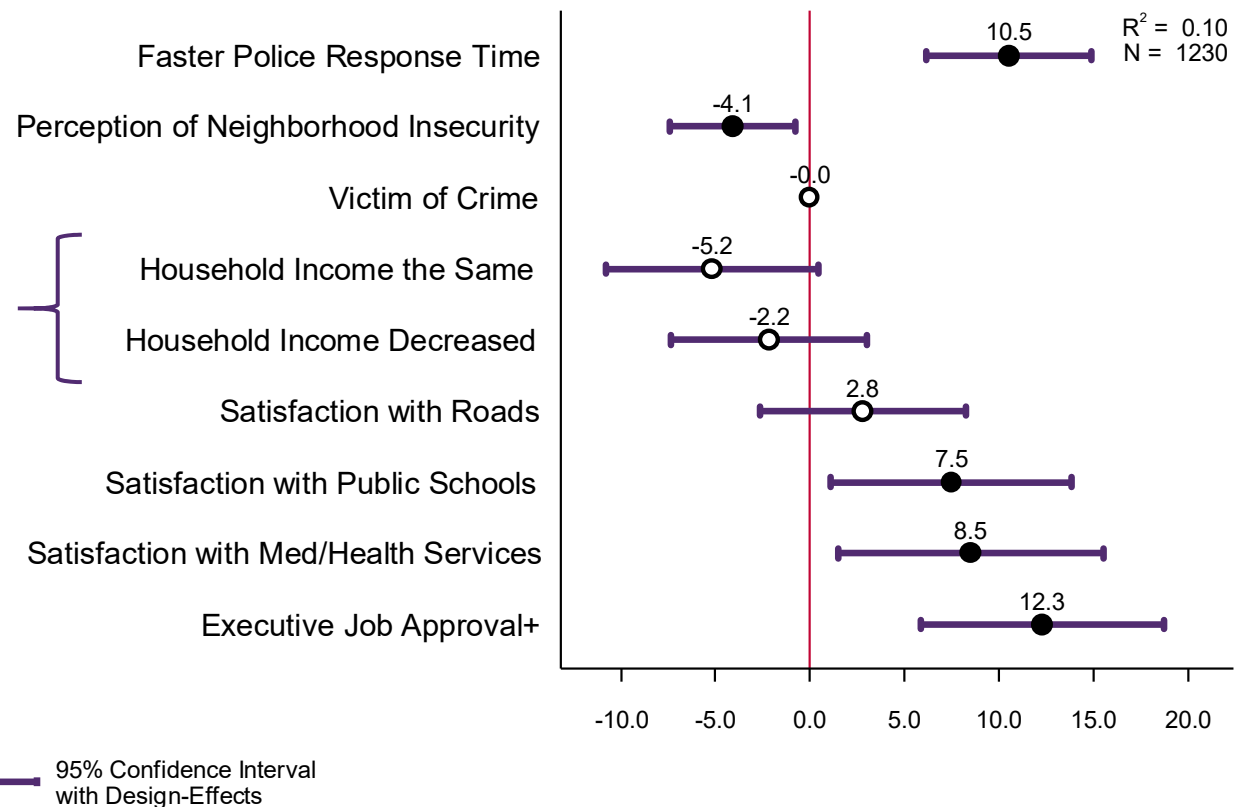


Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP

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

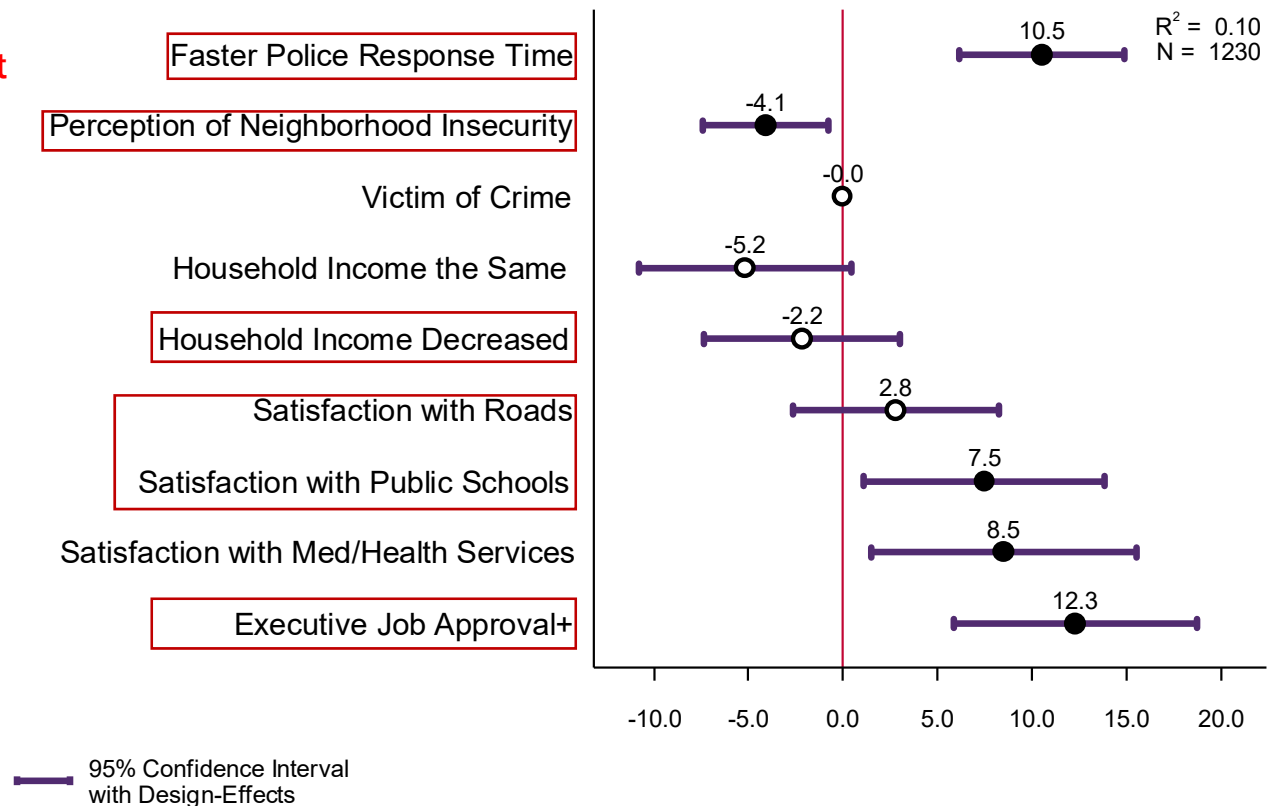


Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP

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



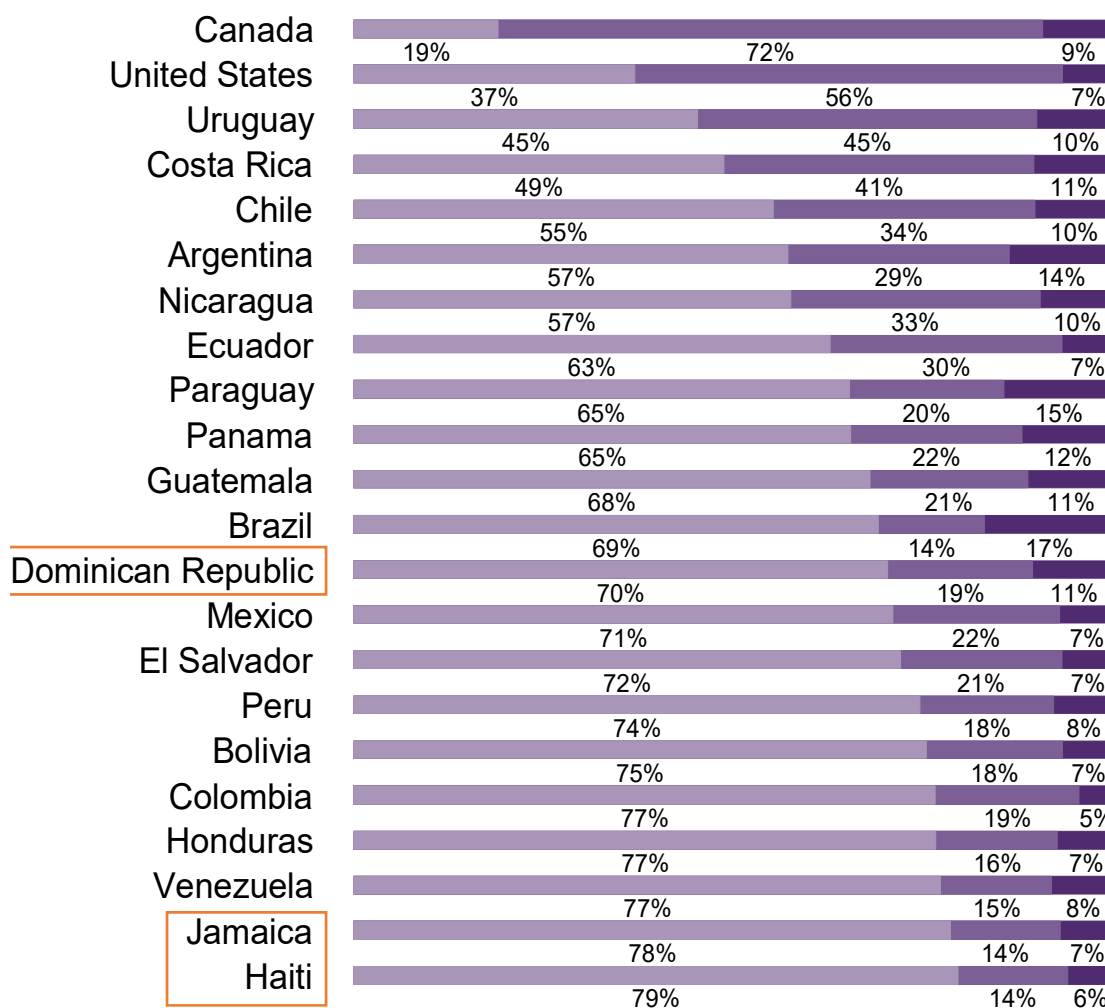
Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP

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

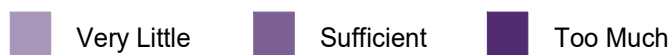
Part 4. Human Rights and Gay Rights in the Caribbean

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



Level of Protection of Human Rights Today

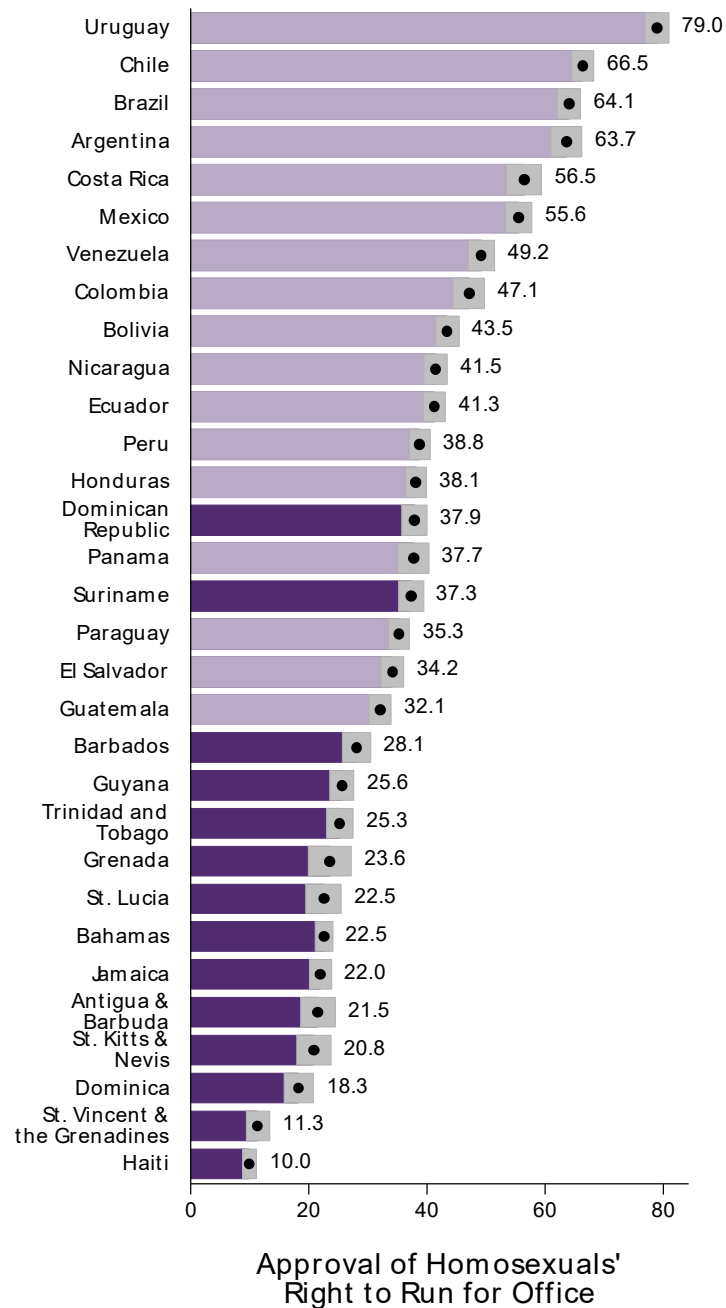


Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2016/17 (Lib4)

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]



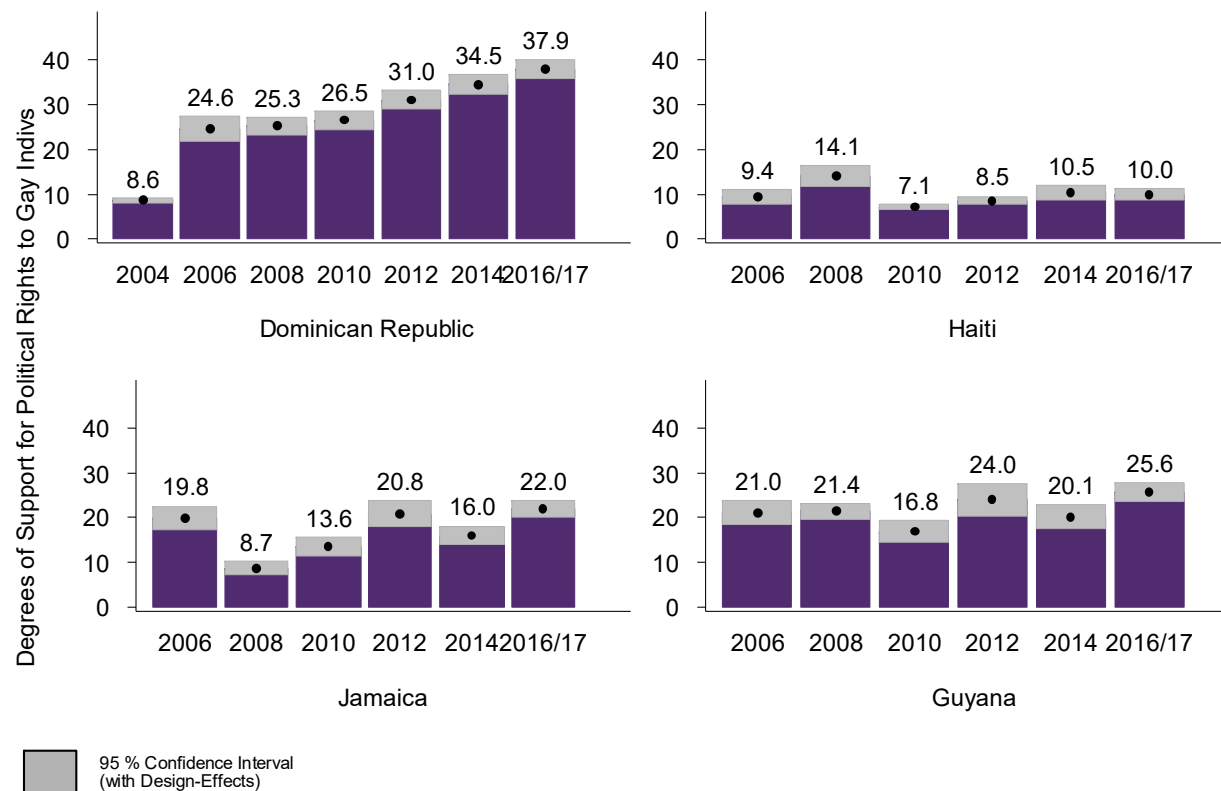
Support for the rights of gay individuals to run for office remains comparatively low in the Caribbean

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

95 % Confidence Interval
(with Design-Effects)

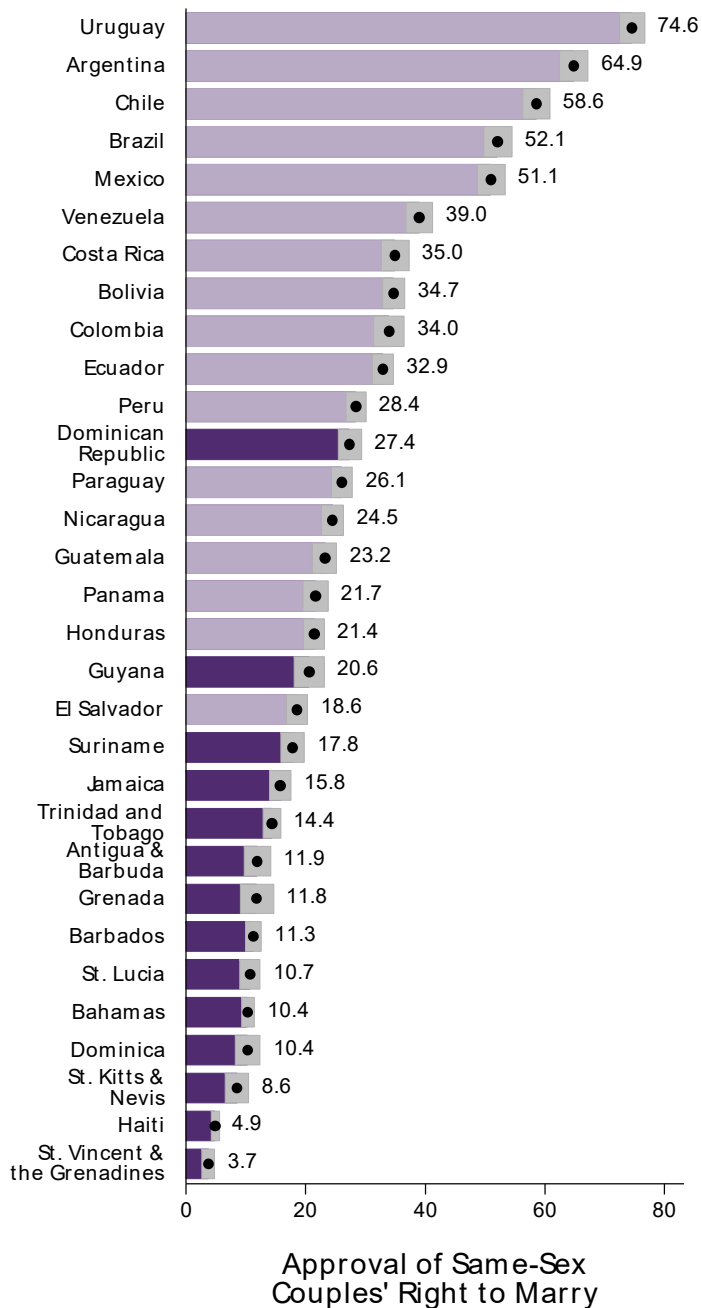
Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP

Except in Haiti, support for political rights of gay individuals increased in 2016/17



Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP

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



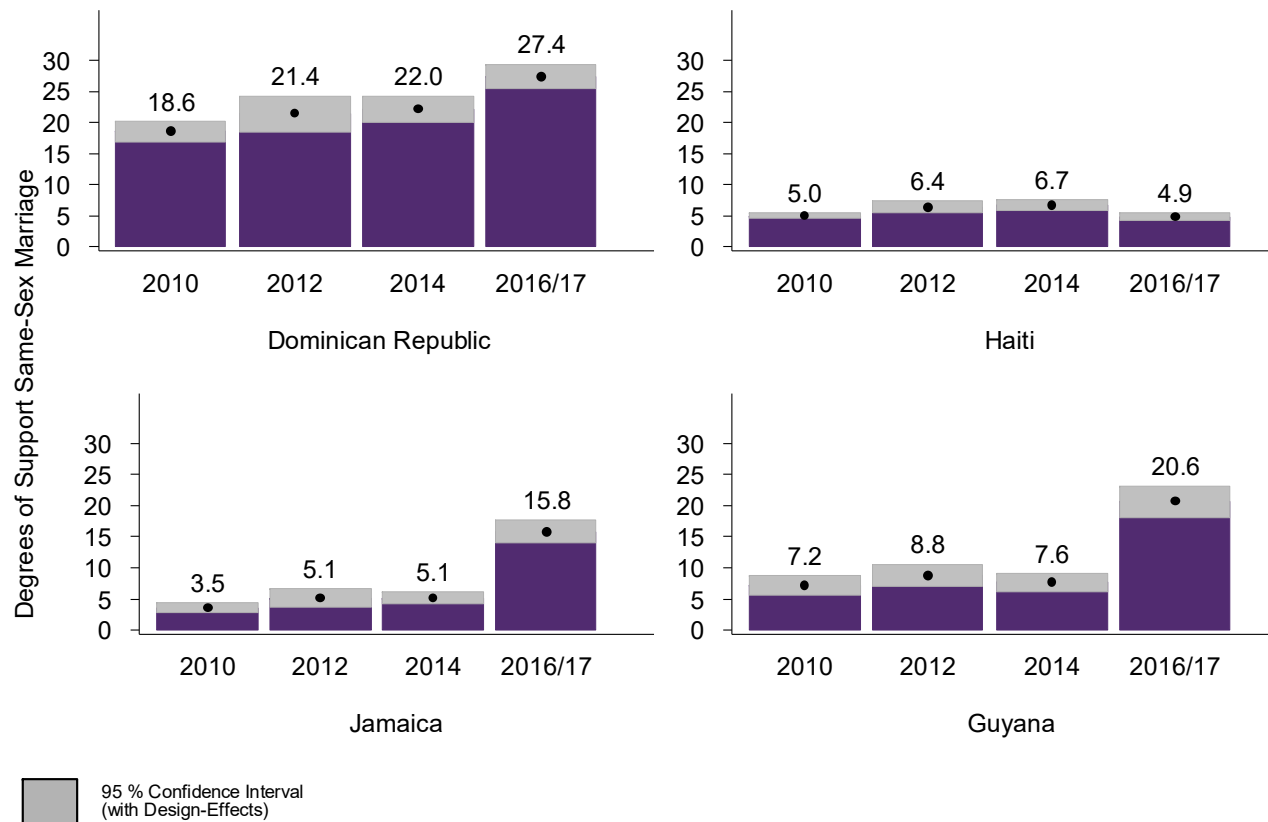
Support for same-sex marriage remains comparatively low in the Caribbean

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

95 % Confidence Interval
(with Design-Effects)

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP

Except in Haiti, support for same-sex marriage increased in 2016/17



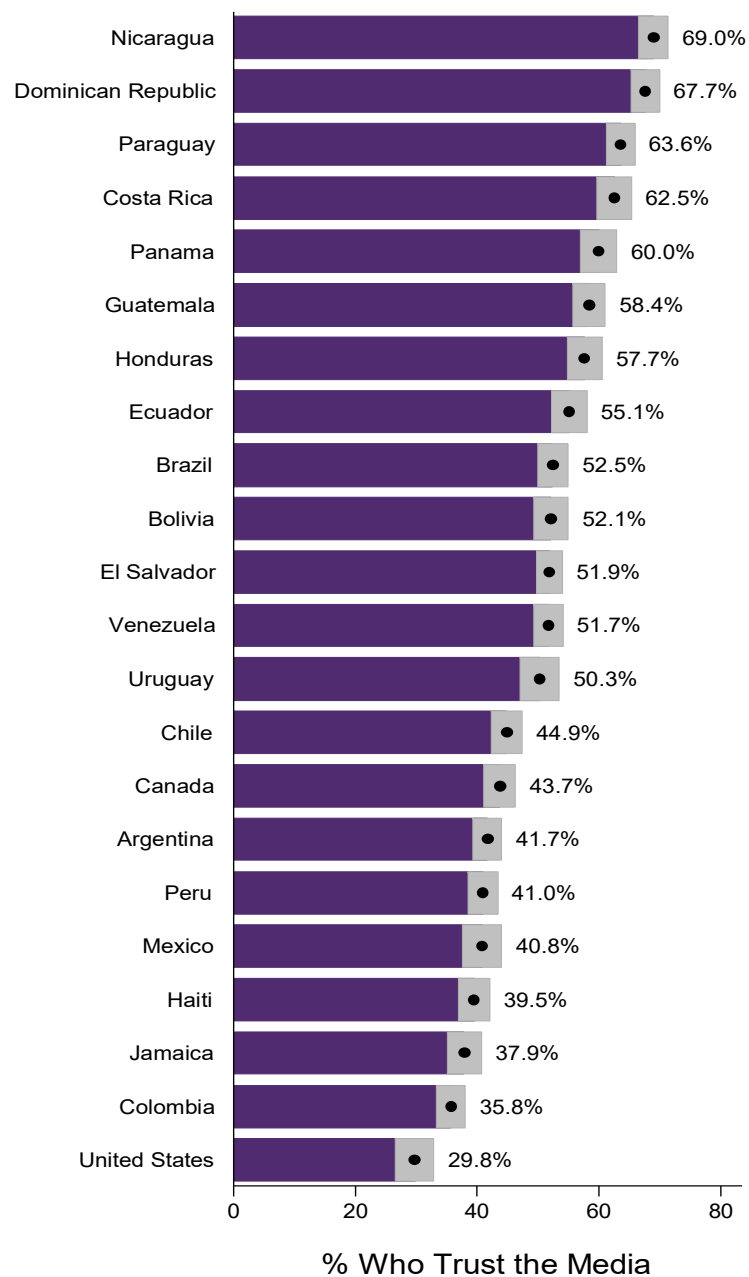
Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP

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

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Trust in the media is highest in Nicaragua, lowest in the U.S.

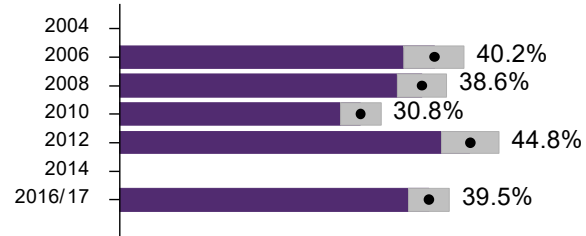
B37. To what extent do you trust the mass media?

95 % Confidence Interval
(with Design-Effects)

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP 2016/17 (B37, recoded)

Trust in the media has been decreasing in the Caribbean

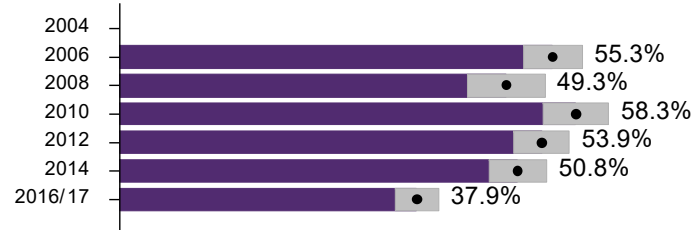
Haiti



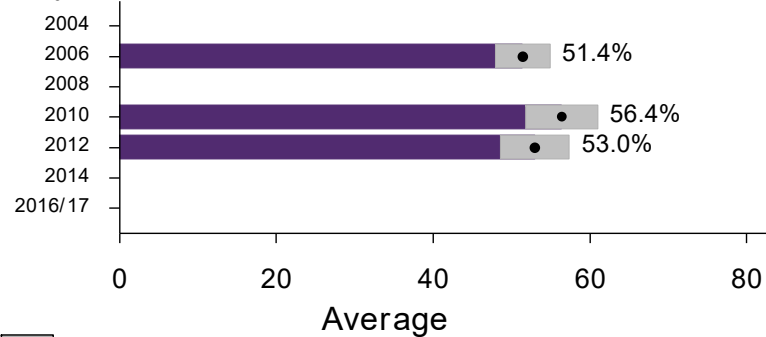
Dominican Republic



Jamaica

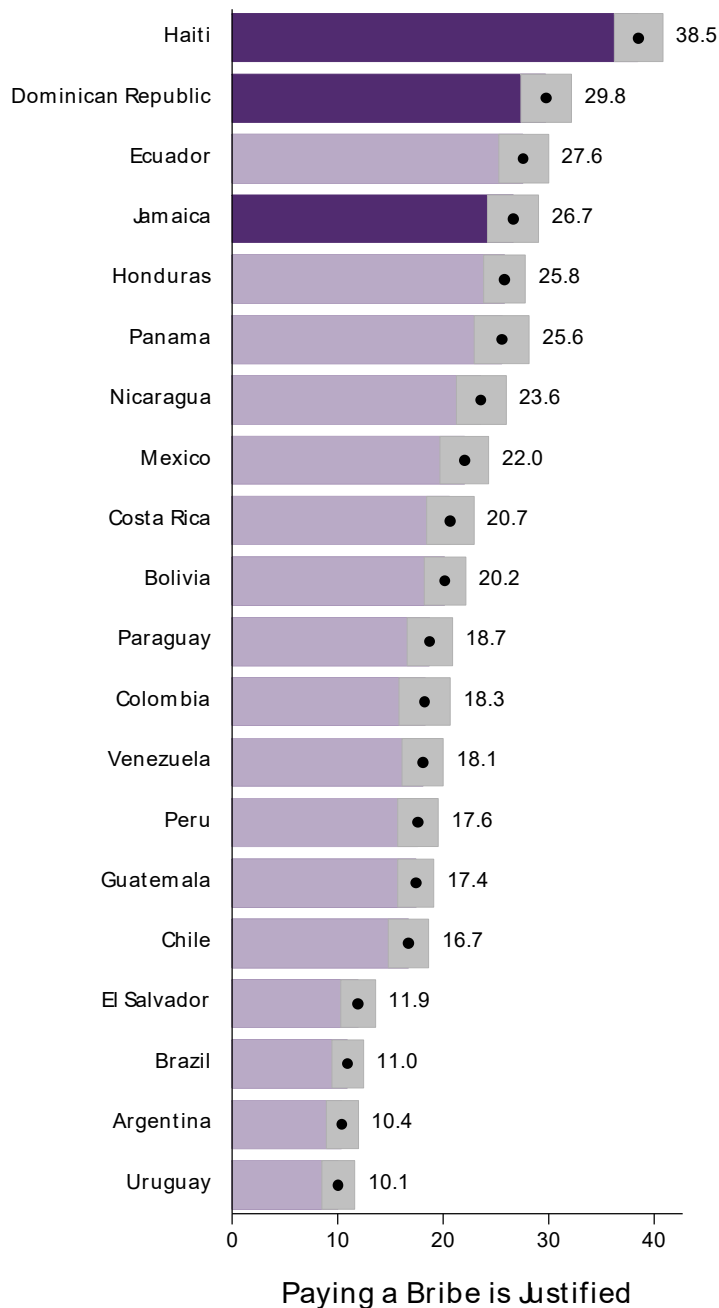


Guyana



95 % Confidence Interval
(with Design-Effects)

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP



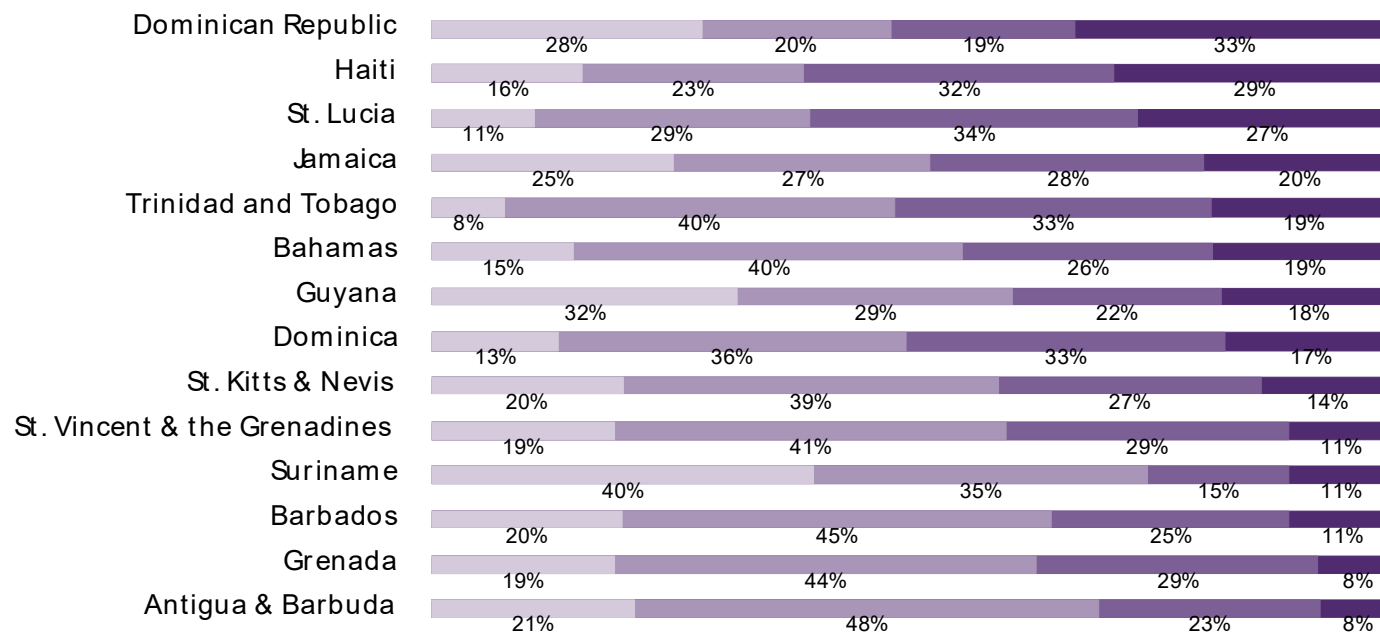
Tolerance for paying bribes is highest in Haiti, DR, Ecuador, and Jamaica

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.

95 % Confidence Interval
(with Design-Effects)

Source: © AmericasBarometer. LAPOP

Confidence in judiciary is low in DR, Haiti, and St. Lucia



Confidence that Judiciary will Punish the Guilty

A lot
 Some
 Little
 None

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP

A0J12. If you were a victim of a robbery or assault how much faith do you have that the judicial system would punish the guilty?