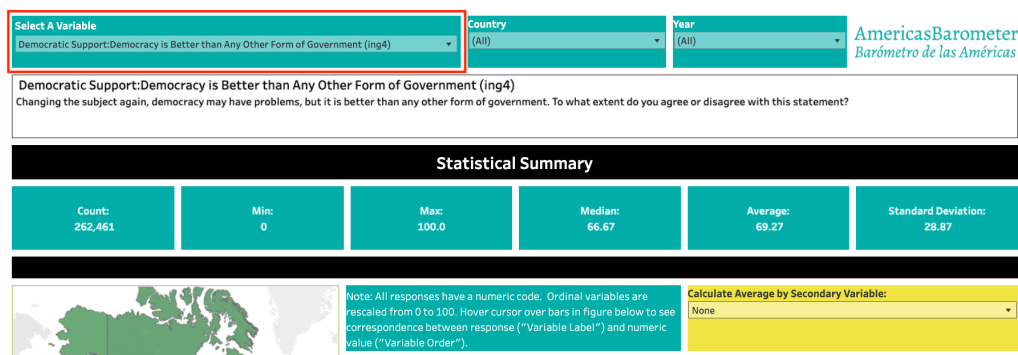


# Data Playground How-To Guide

Users can access LAPOP Lab's Data Playground [here](#).

1. Select a variable from the left of the top menu bar of the Data Playground.

After selecting the variable, the full question wording will appear in the box below it.



The screenshot shows the top menu bar of the Data Playground. The 'Select A Variable' dropdown is highlighted with a red box. Below it, the full question text is displayed: 'Democratic Support: Democracy is Better than Any Other Form of Government (ing4)'. The 'Country' and 'Year' dropdowns are also visible, both set to '(All)'. The 'AmericasBarometer Barómetro de las Américas' logo is in the top right corner.

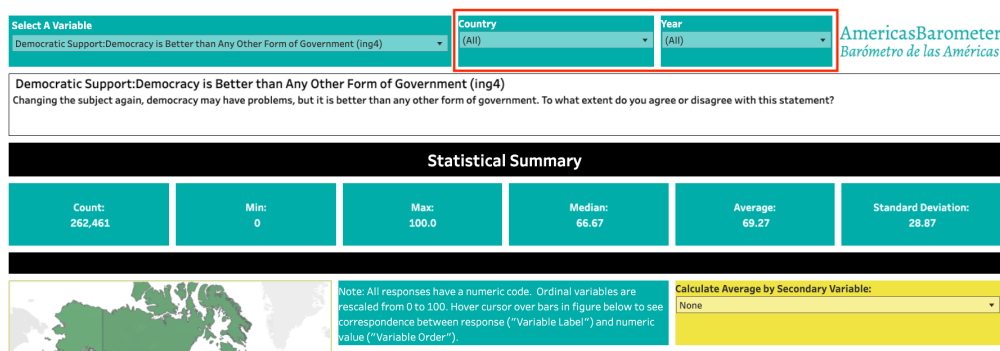
Statistical Summary					
Count: 262,461	Min: 0	Max: 100.0	Median: 66.67	Average: 69.27	Standard Deviation: 28.87

Note: All responses have a numeric code. Ordinal variables are rescaled from 0 to 100. Hover cursor over bars in figure below to see correspondence between response ("Variable Label") and numeric value ("Variable Order").

Calculate Average by Secondary Variable:  
None

Only variables that are part of the AmericasBarometer core questionnaire are included in the Data Playground. To access all questionnaires and variables, click [here](#)

2. Select a country and year from the middle and right top menu bar.



The screenshot shows the top menu bar of the Data Playground. The 'Country' and 'Year' dropdowns are highlighted with a red box. The 'Select A Variable' dropdown is also visible, set to 'Democratic Support: Democracy is Better than Any Other Form of Government (ing4)'. The 'AmericasBarometer Barómetro de las Américas' logo is in the top right corner.

Statistical Summary					
Count: 262,461	Min: 0	Max: 100.0	Median: 66.67	Average: 69.27	Standard Deviation: 28.87

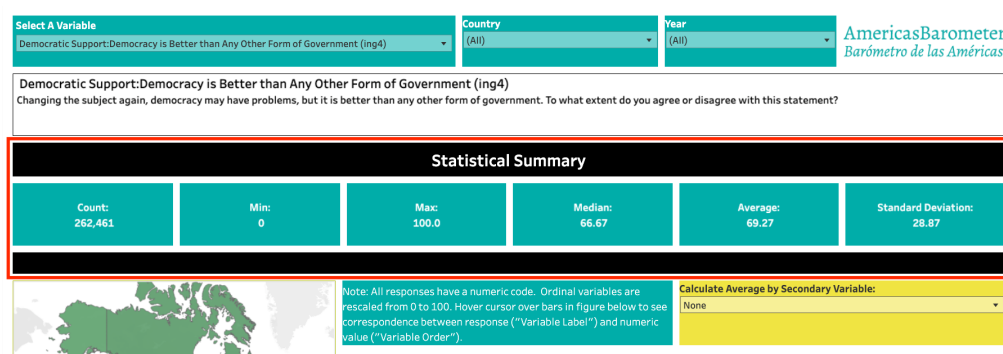
Note: All responses have a numeric code. Ordinal variables are rescaled from 0 to 100. Hover cursor over bars in figure below to see correspondence between response ("Variable Label") and numeric value ("Variable Order").

Calculate Average by Secondary Variable:  
None

Selecting a specific country in the dropdown menu will display country-specific data; leaving the default option or selecting "(All)" will display results from all countries included in the AmericasBarometer.

"Year" options are labeled by the even year of each AmericasBarometer round. Data for specific years can be viewed by selecting the desired year(s); leaving the default option or "(All)" will show pooled data for all years.

3. After selecting variable, country, and year options, the Data Playground will display basic summary statistics, averages by country, and response distribution.

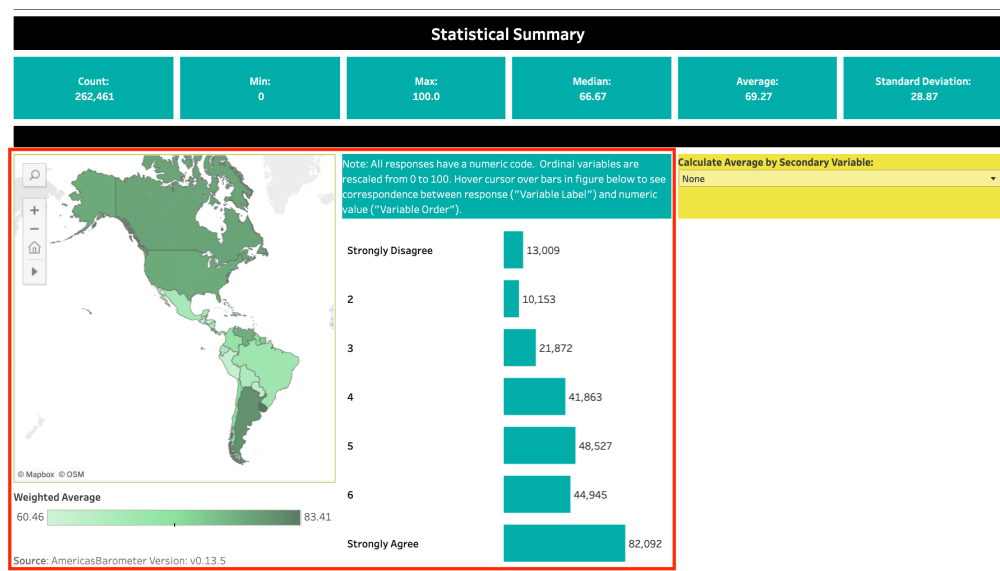


All responses are coded with a numeric value between 0 ("Min") and 100 ("Max"). Averages and other statistics like standard deviation and median are determined based on these values.

For variables with two response choices, "No" and "Yes", one choice is given a value of 0 ("No") and the other is given a value of 100 ("Yes"). The average is the percentage of respondents in the "100" category.

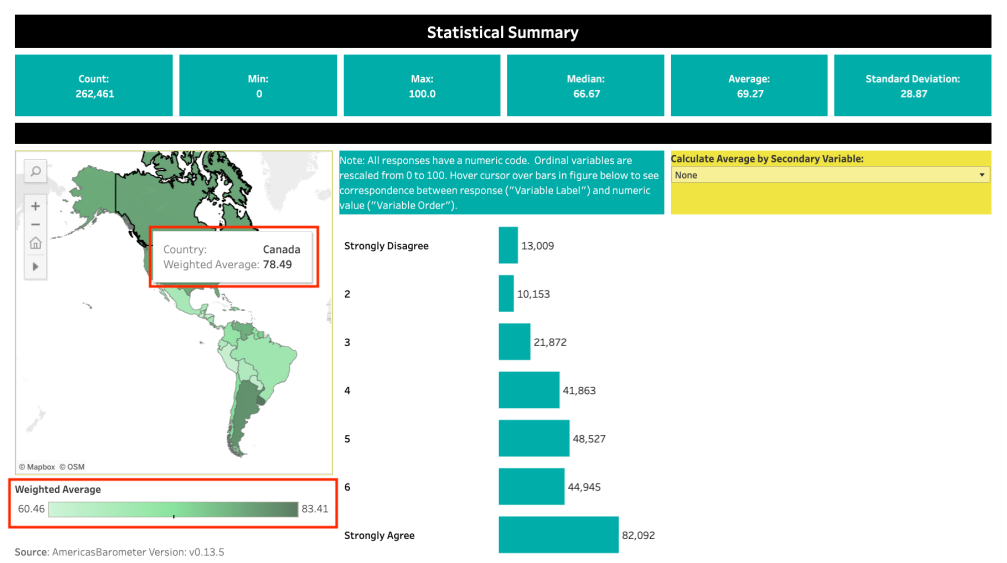
Questions with more than two response choices are assigned numeric values and rescaled from 0 to 100. On a seven-point agreement scale (with "Strongly disagree" as 1 to "Strongly agree" as 7), responses are recoded as 0, 16.667, 33.333, 50, 66.667, 83.333, and 100. Averages for these variables are not percentages, but the mean on this recoded scale.

4. Response distributions for the variable selected are displayed below "Statistical Summary".

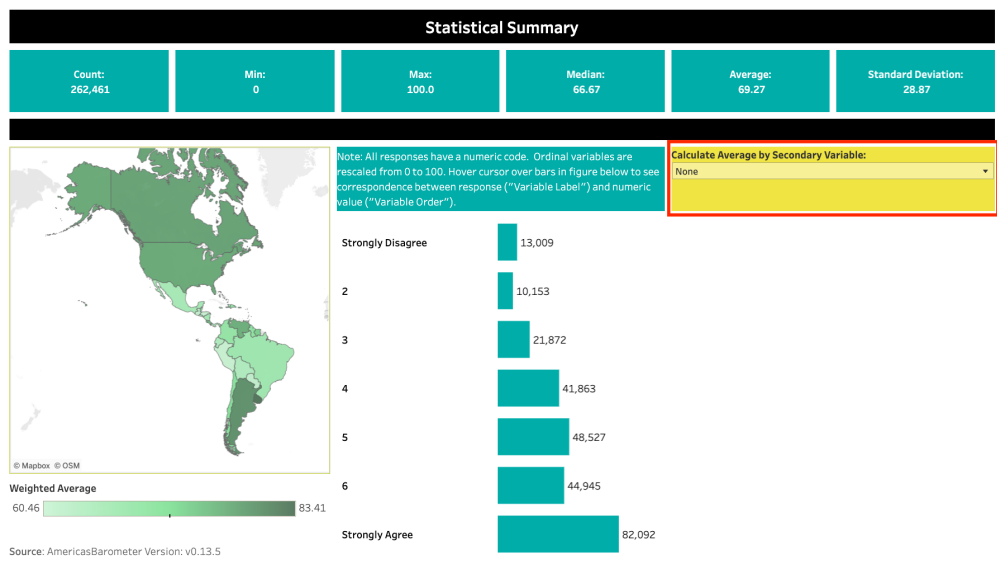


The data is weighted so that each country-year has 1,500 respondents, ensuring cross-country and cross-time comparability. Some country-years also have poststratification weights to match the sample with population distributions on region, urban/rural residency, gender, age, education levels, and/or wealth.

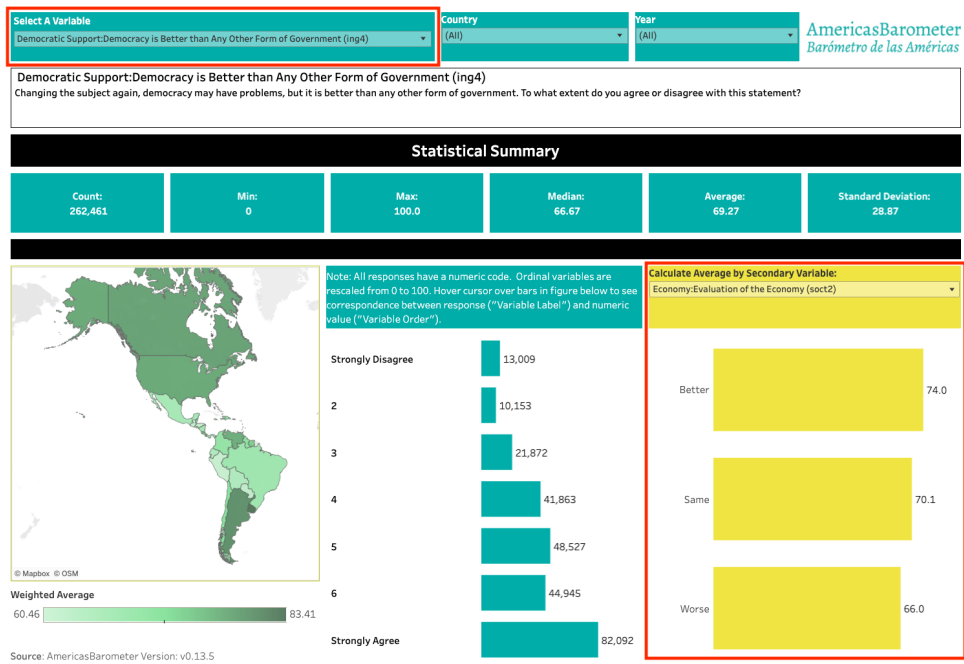
A weighted average can also be found below the map, in the lower left of the Data Playground. In addition, hovering over a specific country will display that country’s weighted average.



5. The Data Playground allows users to cross-tabulate the main variable selected with a second variable. To do this, select a secondary variable in the yellow box on the right.



Upon selecting the secondary variable, the playground will show the average of the main variable for each category of the secondary variable.



6. To download output and summary statistic data in the form of an image, Excel spreadsheet, CSV, PDF, PowerPoint slide, or Tableau Workbook, click the download icon in the lower right-hand corner of the Data Playground.

