

# The Political Culture of Democracy in the Americas: First Glance at Topline Results

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Preliminary AmericasBarometer Mid-Fieldwork Report

May 2019



# A note about the data in this report

- LAPOP releases each AmericasBarometer country dataset for free public download and analysis, following each round.
- This report includes results based on analysis of a preliminary, *pre-release* data from the most recent AmericasBarometer, complemented by cross-time data available on LAPOP's website.
- Regional averages shown in this report are calculated only for the 11 countries for which pre-release data were available.
- The AmericasBarometer is supported by USAID, Vanderbilt University, the Inter-American Development Bank, and other partners across the Americas. The analyses in this report were generated by LAPOP and not necessarily reflect the opinions of USAID or any other funding agency.
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# AmericasBarometer

## *Barómetro de las Américas*

- ✓ Samples representative at national & subnational levels
- ✓ Standardized methods
- ✓ Common core content
- ✓ 100% interviews audited for location, integrity, & quality
- ✓ 100% e-devices
- ✓ Transparency & dissemination



### 2018/19 Round

#### Completed Surveys

Colombia	Sep-Dec, 2018
Costa Rica	Sep-Oct, 2018
Honduras	Oct-Nov, 2018
Panama	Oct-Dec, 2018
El Salvador	Nov-Dec, 2018
Brazil	Jan-Mar, 2019
Guatemala	Jan-Mar, 2019
Mexico	Jan-Mar, 2019
Ecuador	Jan-Mar, 2019
Peru	Feb-Mar, 2019
Paraguay	Feb-Apr, 2019

#### Processing / In Progress / Planned

Argentina
Chile
Jamaica
Bolivia
Dominican Republic
Nicaragua
Uruguay
Haiti
U.S.
Canada

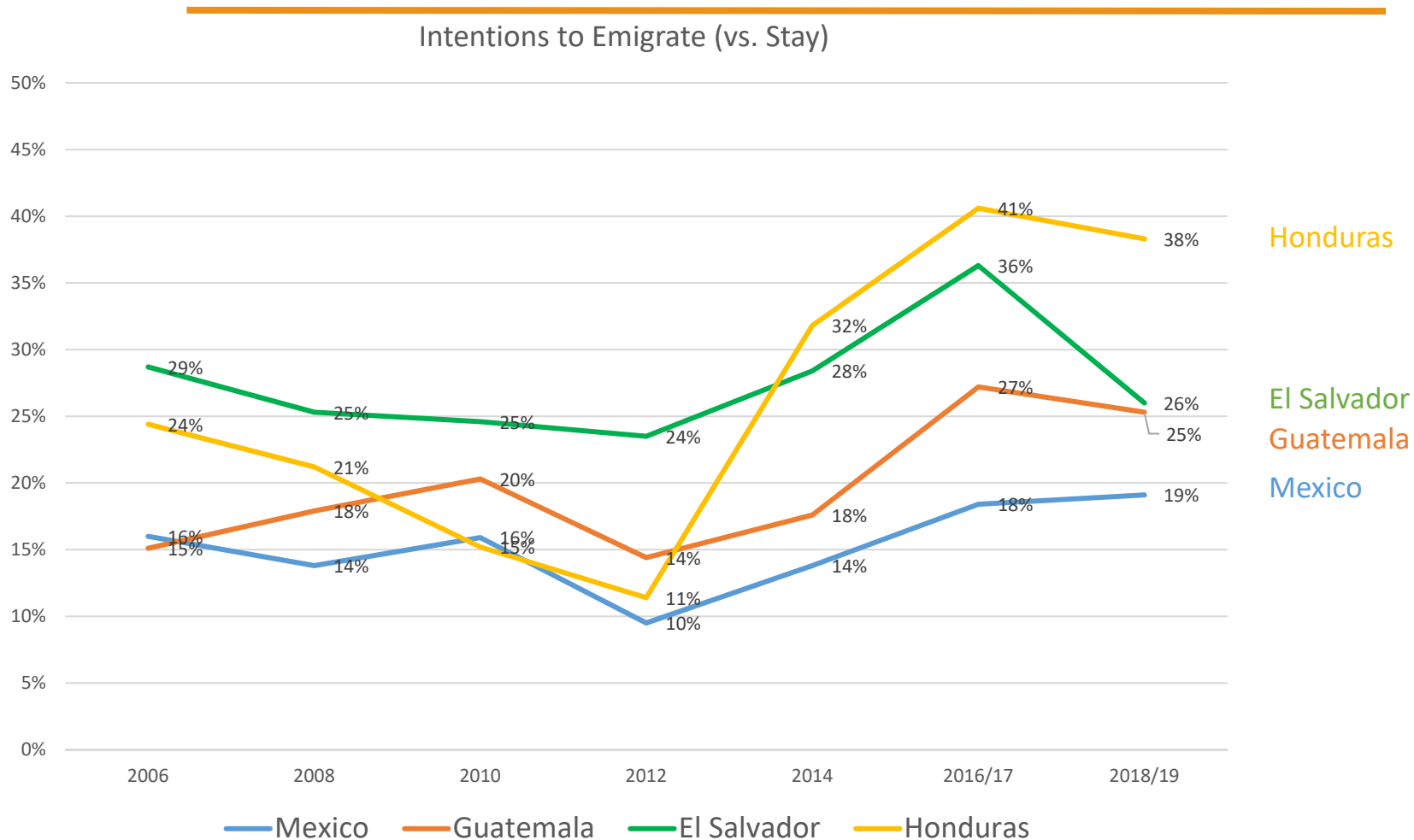
## Part 1: Intentions to Stay vs. Emigrate

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In the Mexico & Northern Triangle region, the 2018/19 AmericasBarometer finds:

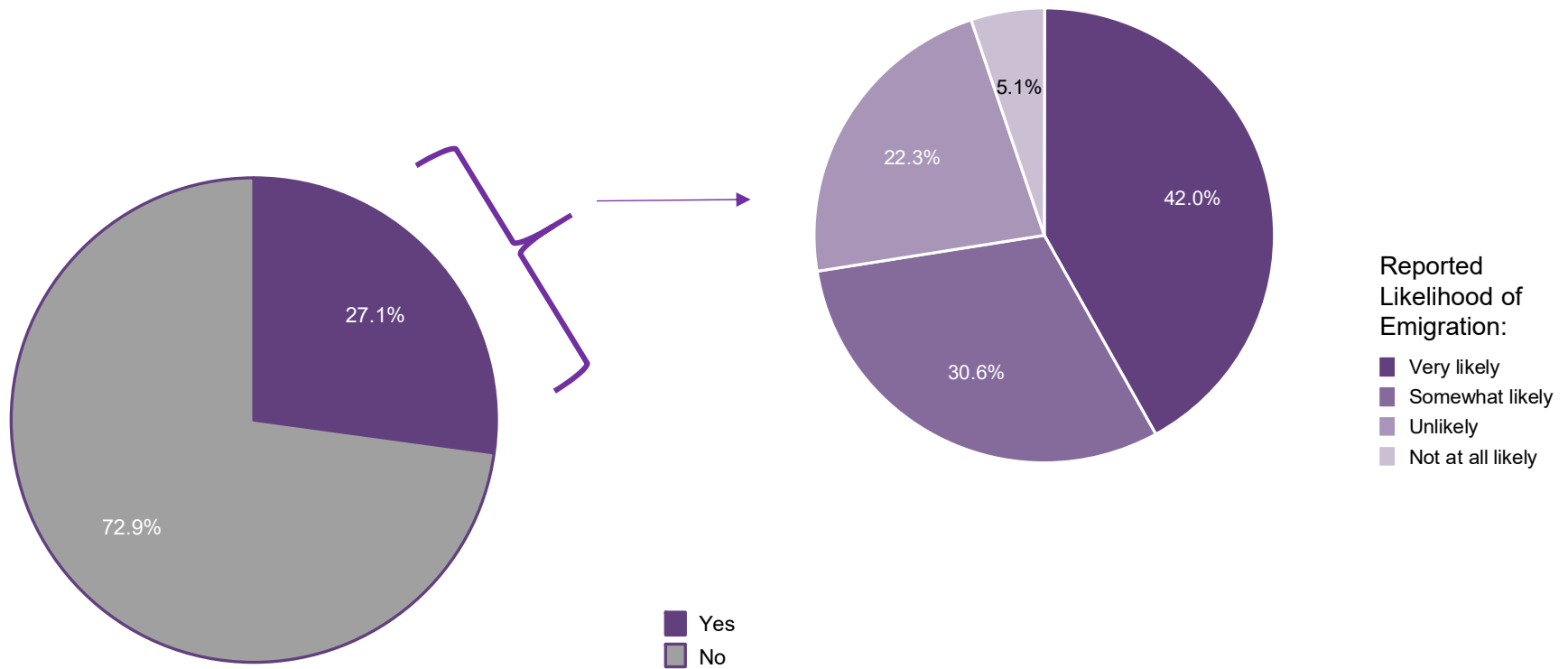
- An upward trend in migration intentions shifted in 2018/19
- About 1 in 10 report that they are highly motivated to leave their country
- In Honduras and El Salvador, more than 20% of homes receive remittances

## An upward trend in migration intentions shifted in 2018/19



Q14. Do you have any intention of going to live or work in another country in the next three years? Graph shows % responding "Yes".

**Of those with intentions to leave, 2 in 5 say it is very likely that they will (i.e., of all adults, about 1 in 10 express a high likelihood/intention)**



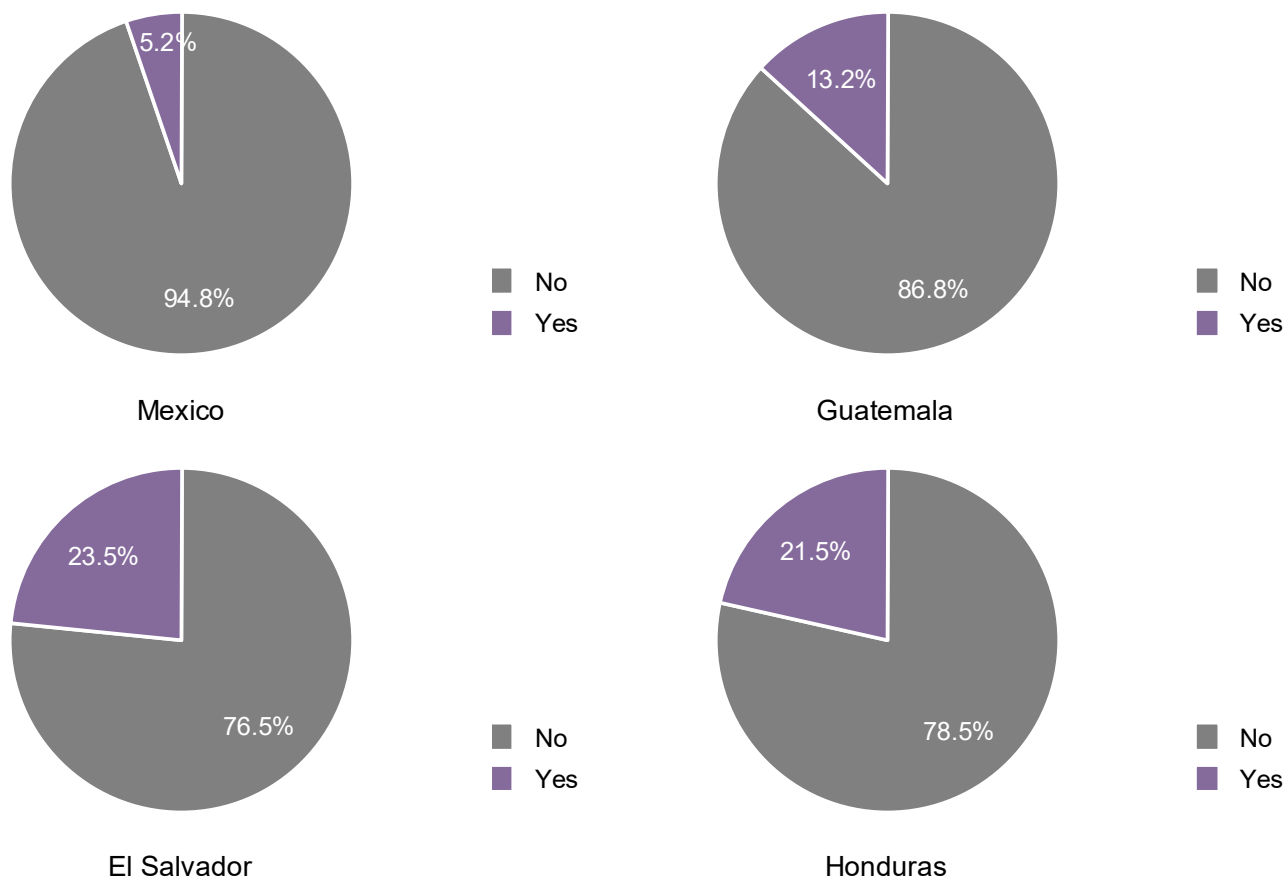
Expressed Intention to Emigrate: Mexico, Nor Tri Region, 2018/19

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP (GM April 2019), q14 for Mex+NorTri 2018/19

Q14. Do you have any intention of going to live or work in another country in the next three years?

Q14F. How likely is it that you will live and work in another country in the next three years?

## More than 1 in 5 homes receive remittances in El Salvador and Honduras



Source: © AmericasBarometer by LAPOP (GM April 2019), 2018/19

Q10A. Do you or someone else living in your household receive remittances, that is, economic assistance from abroad? Yes, No

## Part 2. Crime and Insecurity

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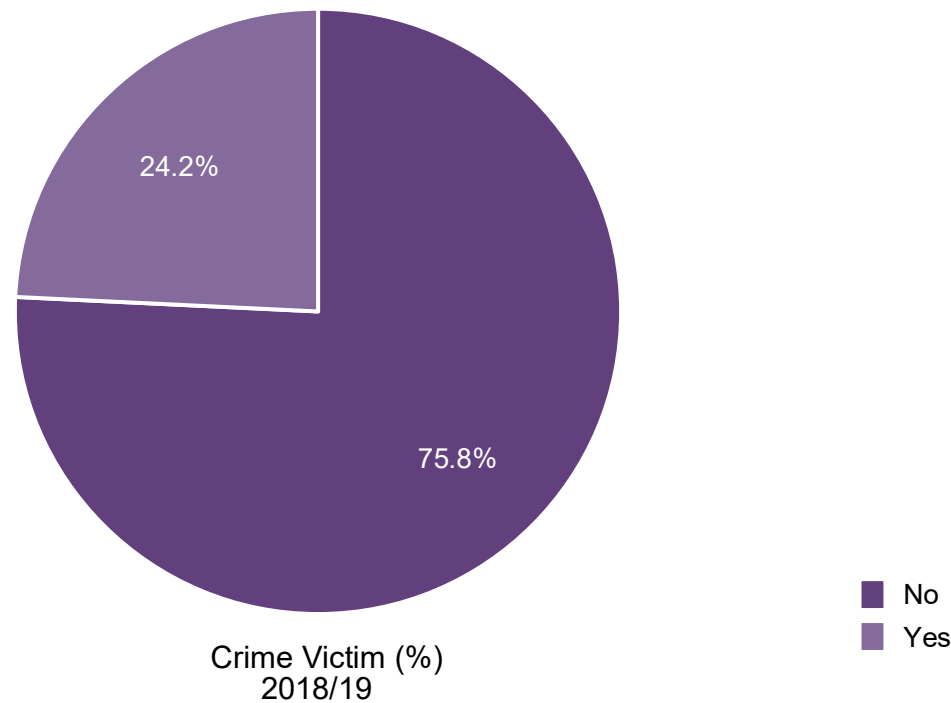
The 2018/19 AmericasBarometer finds:

- 1 in 4 are victims of crime
- Victims often experience multiple victimizations per year
- Crime-related insecurity is rising in several countries
- Views of the police are low
- Views of the military are declining
- Not all insecurity is due to crime; high proportions express food insecurity



## About 1 in 4 are victims of crime, on average in the region

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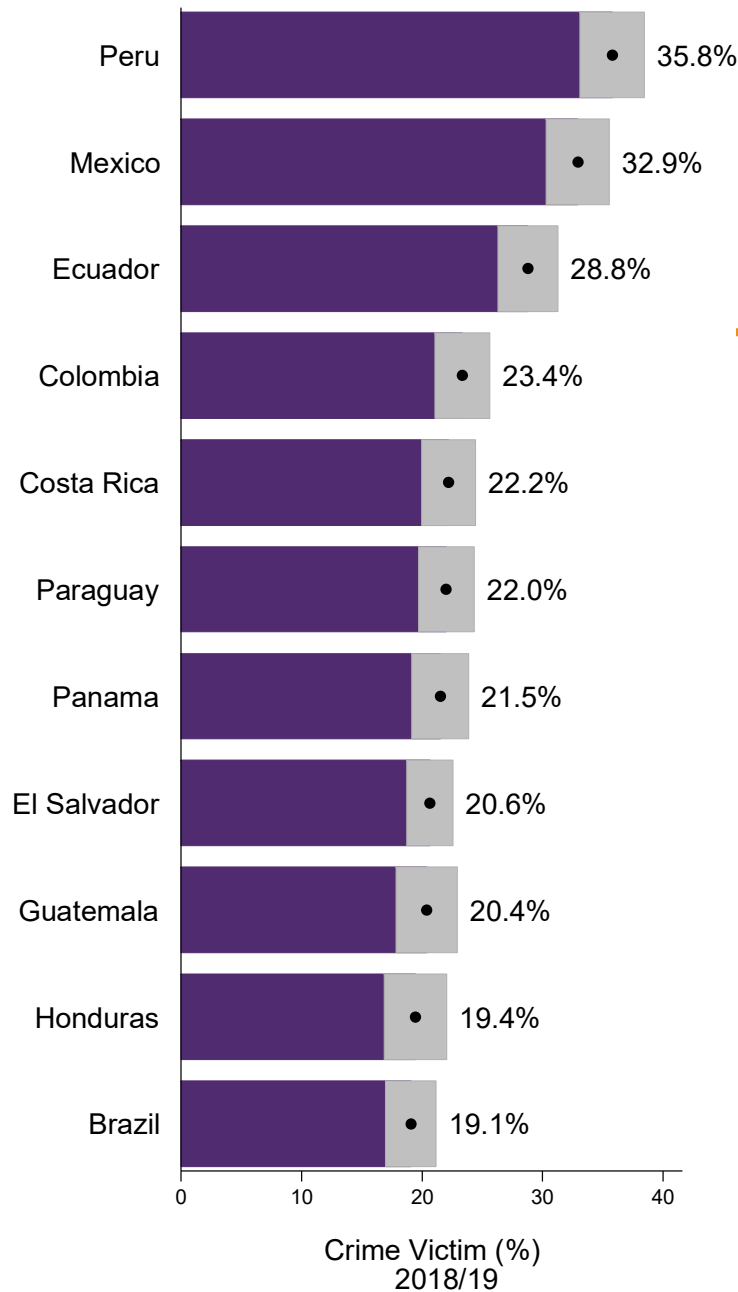


Source: © AmericasBarometer by LAPOP (GM April 2019)

**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?

Pie chart shows 11-country regional average

## Crime victimization experiences are most widespread in Peru



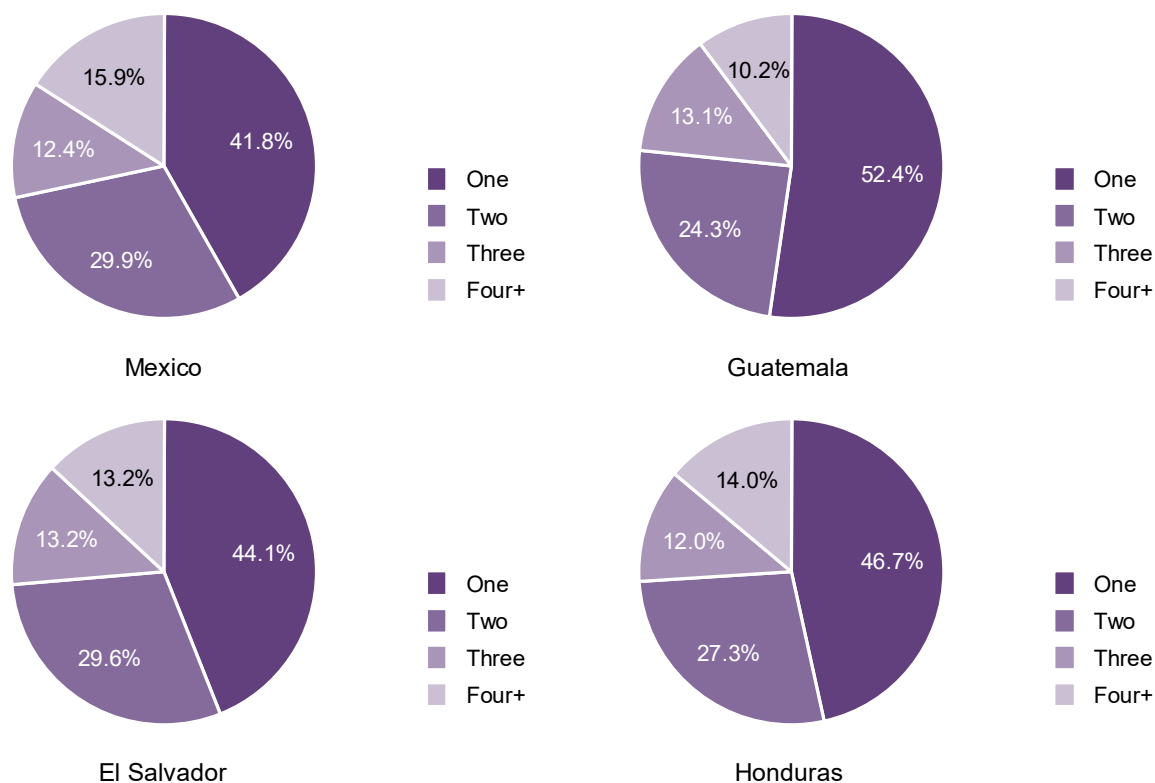
Victimization is above 20% in most countries.

Since 2016/17, rates increased in Panama (5.5) and decreased in Brazil (3.7).

95 % Confidence Interval  
(with Design-Effects)

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP (GM April 2019)

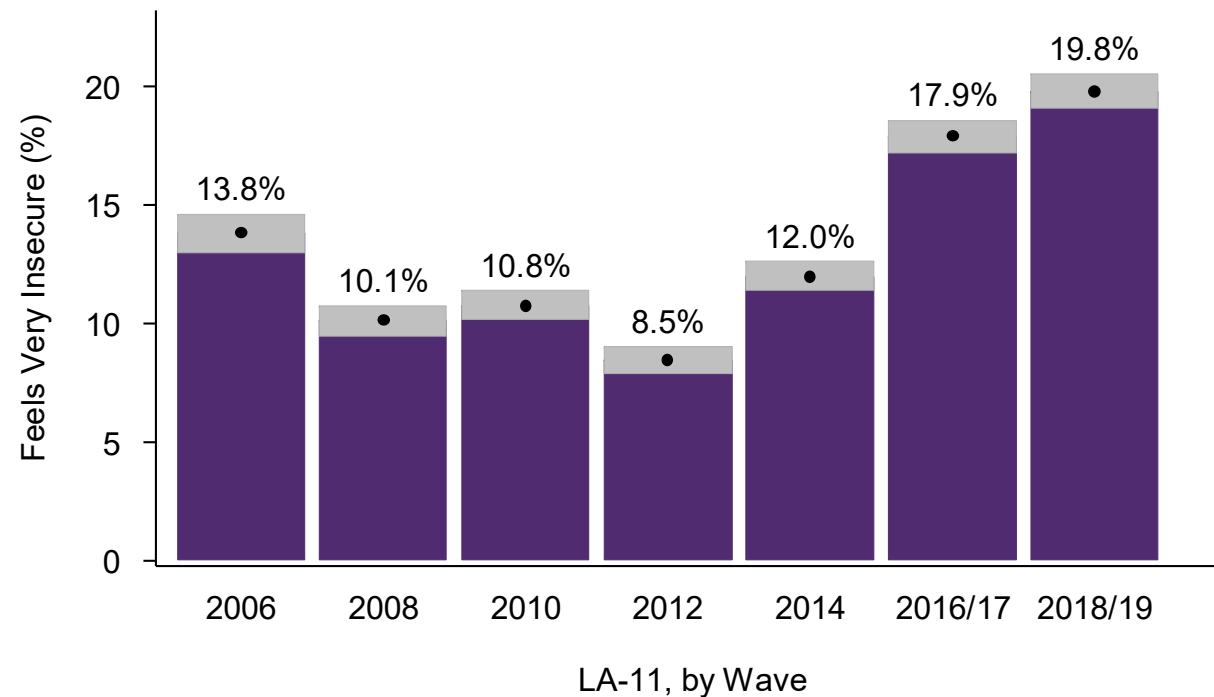
## Crime victims often experience more than one victimization



Source: © AmericasBarometer by LAPOP (GM April 2019), 2018/19

**VIC1EXTA.** [Asked of victims only]: How many times have you been a crime victim during the last 12 months?

## Insecurity continues to rise



95 % Confidence Interval  
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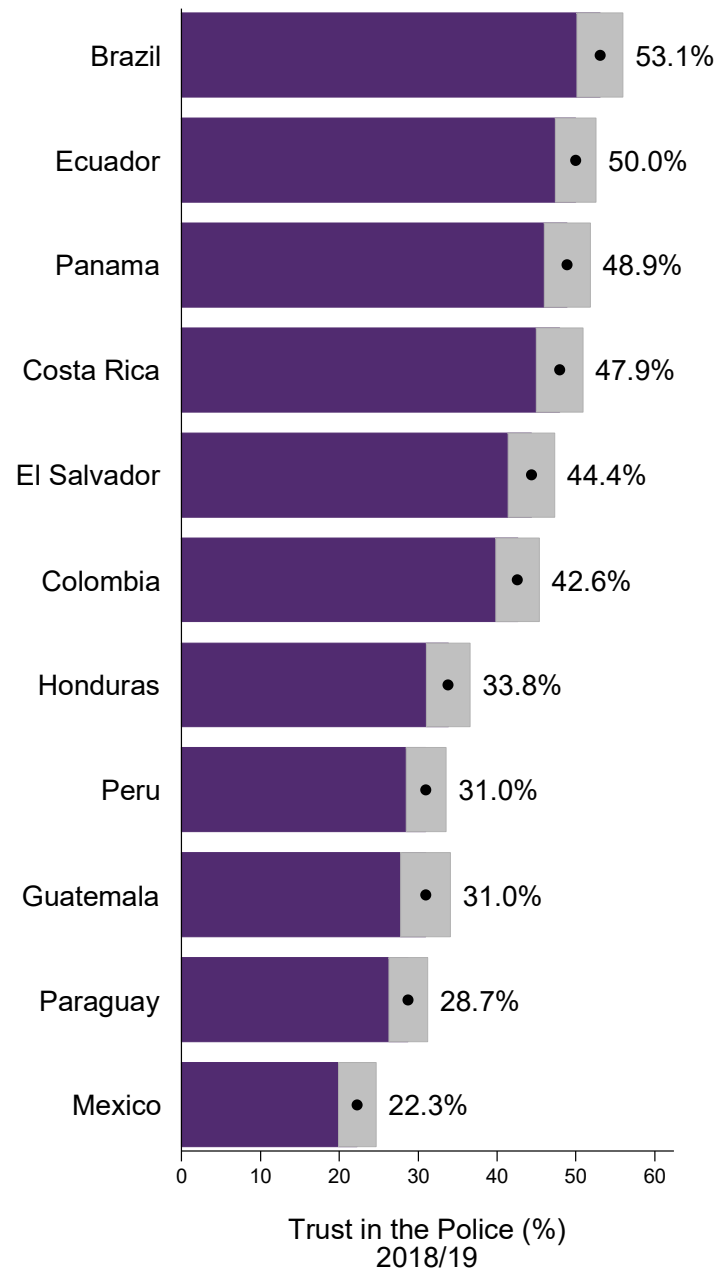
Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP (GM April 2019)

Since 2016/17, insecurity:

- Decreased in Brazil
- Increased in Costa Rica, Ecuador, and Mexico

**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. Graph shows 11-country regional average.

## Trust in the police is low in Honduras, Peru, Guatemala, Paraguay, and Mexico



Since 2016/17, trust in the police

Increased:

- Colombia: 7.7
- Brazil: 8.8
- Peru (3.4)

Decreased:

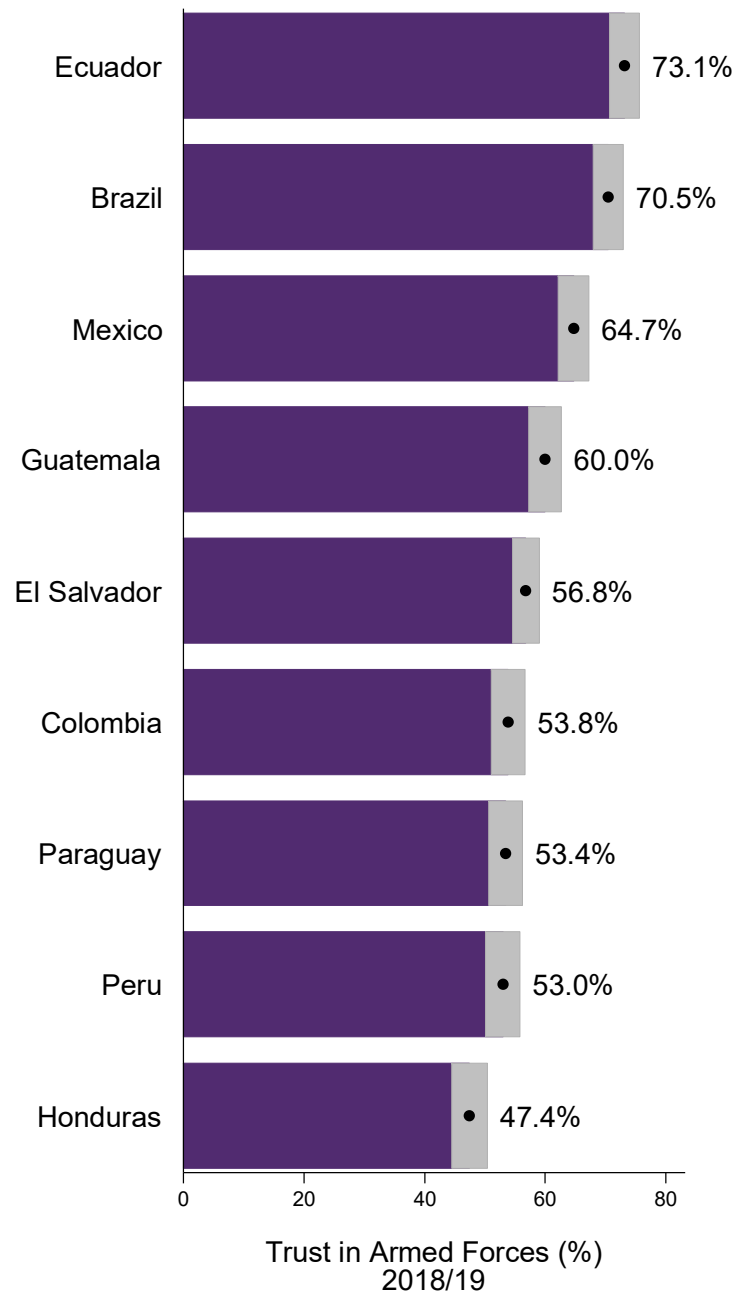
- El Salvador: -5.7
- Ecuador: -7.2
- Honduras: -7.7

95 % Confidence Interval  
(with Design-Effects)

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP (GM April 2019)

B18. To what extent do you trust the National Police?  
Coded so that 5-7, on a 1-to-7 scale are considered  
“trusting in the police.”

Trust in the army is low in Honduras,  
but in all countries trust in the  
armed forces > trust in the police



Since 2016/17, trust in the army:

- Decreased in Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Ecuador, Peru, and Paraguay

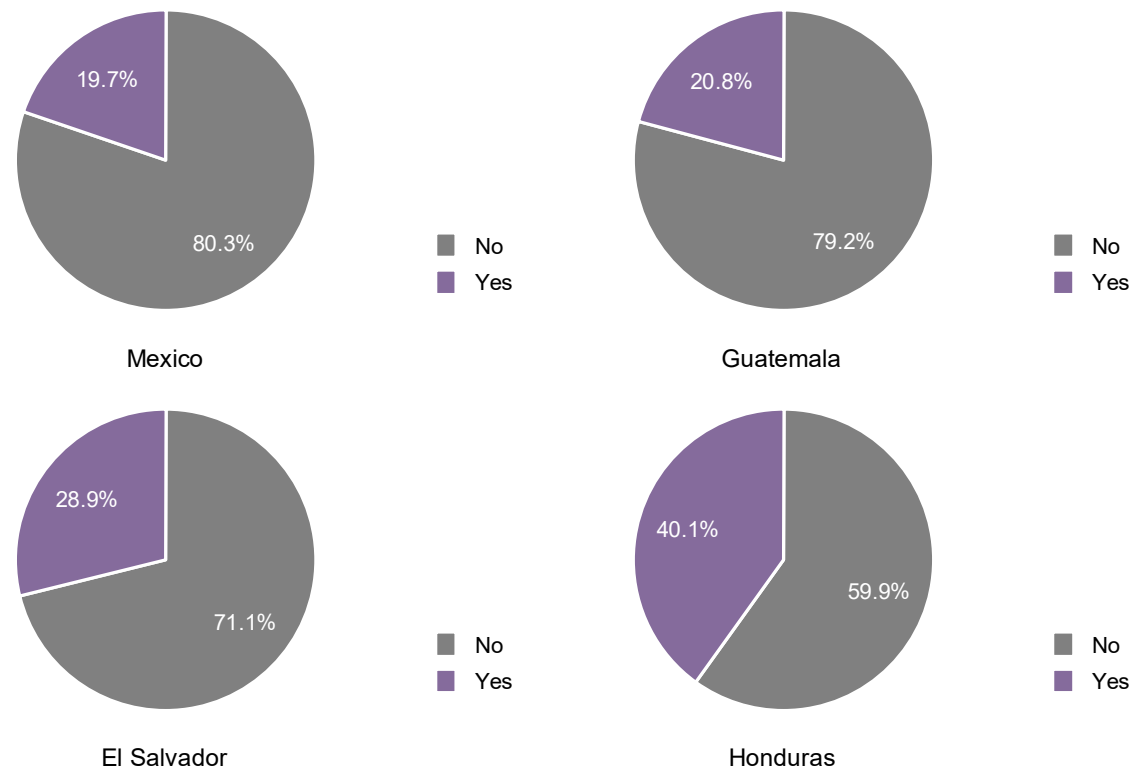
B12. To what extent do you trust the Armed Forces?  
Coded so that 5-7, on a 1-to-7 scale are considered  
“trusting in the Armed Forces.”

95 % Confidence Interval  
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Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP (GM April 2019)

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## Not all insecurity is crime-related: food insecurity is a challenge in all countries, especially Honduras



Source: © AmericasBarometer by LAPOP (GM April 2019), 2018/19

FS2. In the past three months, because of a lack of money or other resources, did your household ever run out of food? Yes / No  
[Not shown]: FS8. In the last 3 months, due to lack of money or resources, have you or any adult in your household eaten only once a day or not eaten an entire day?

## Part 3. Corruption

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**The 2018/19 AmericasBarometer finds:**

- 1 in 5 are victims of corruption (bribe solicitation)
- Tolerance for bribery is high in Honduras and Ecuador, and among the young
- Perceptions of political corruption have increased in most countries



# Corruption victimization

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

**EXC6.** In the last twelve months, did any **government employee** ask you for a bribe?

**EXC11.** In the last twelve months, to **process any kind of document in your local government**, like a permit for example, did you have to pay any money above that required by law?

**EXC13.** In your **work**, have you been asked to pay a bribe in the last twelve months?

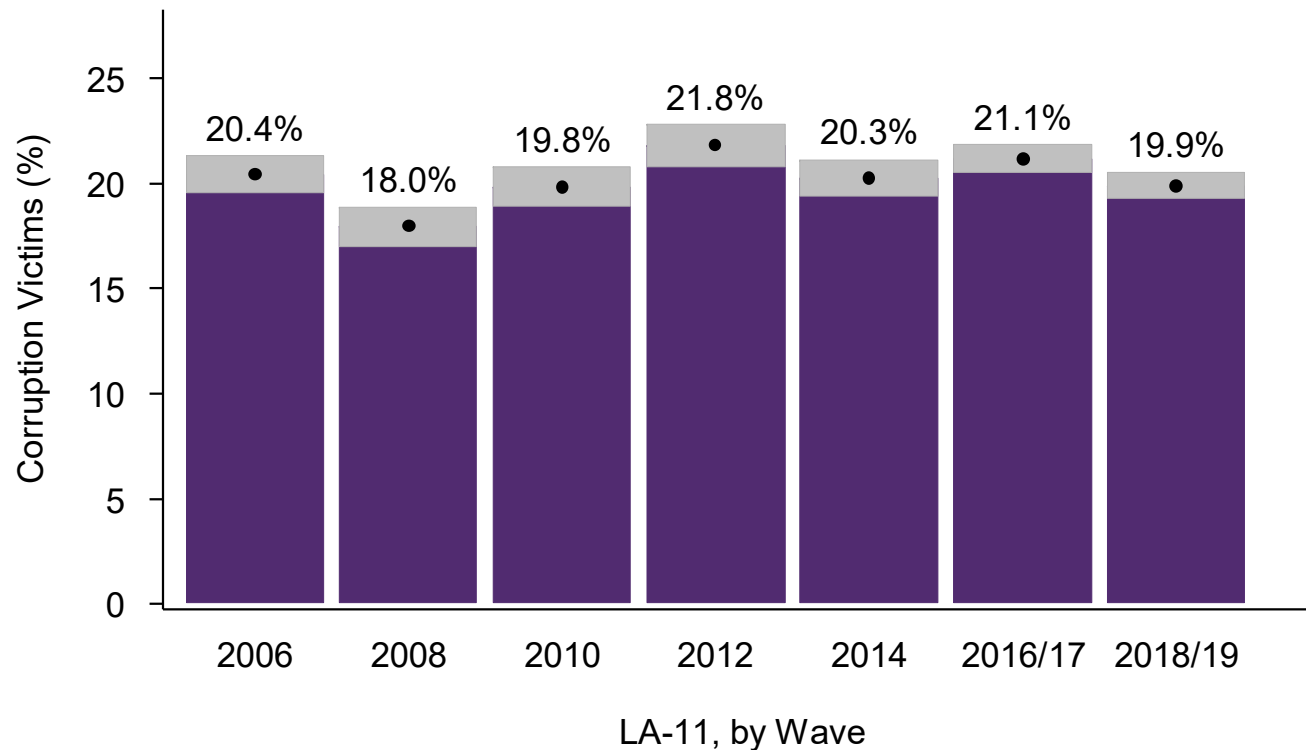
**EXC14.** Did you have to pay a bribe to **the courts** in the last twelve months?

**EXC15.** In order to be seen in **a hospital or a clinic** in the last twelve months, did you have to pay a bribe?

**EXC16.** Have you had to pay a bribe **at school** in the last twelve months?

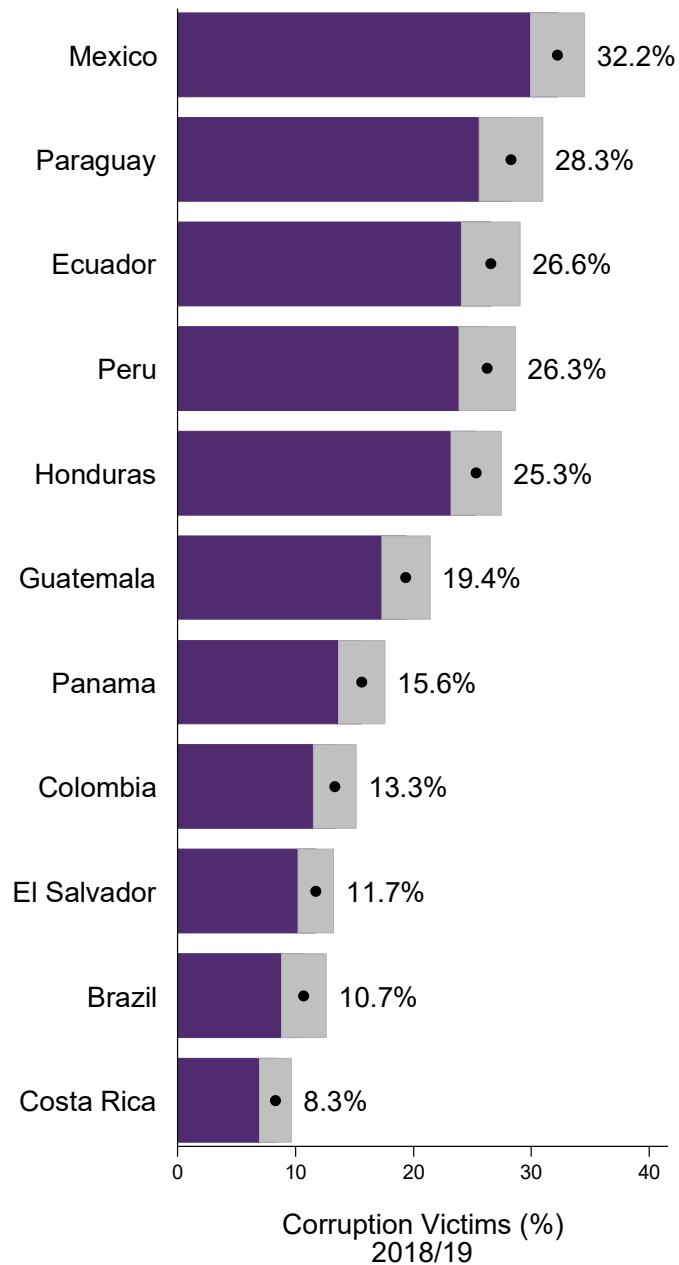
\*This series of corruption victimization is converted to an index and then the percentage of respondents who were victims is calculated.

## Bribe victimization is fairly constant, but dropped slightly in 2018/19 (chart shows regional average based on 11 countries)



95 % Confidence Interval  
(with Design-Effects)

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP (GM April 2019)



95 % Confidence Interval  
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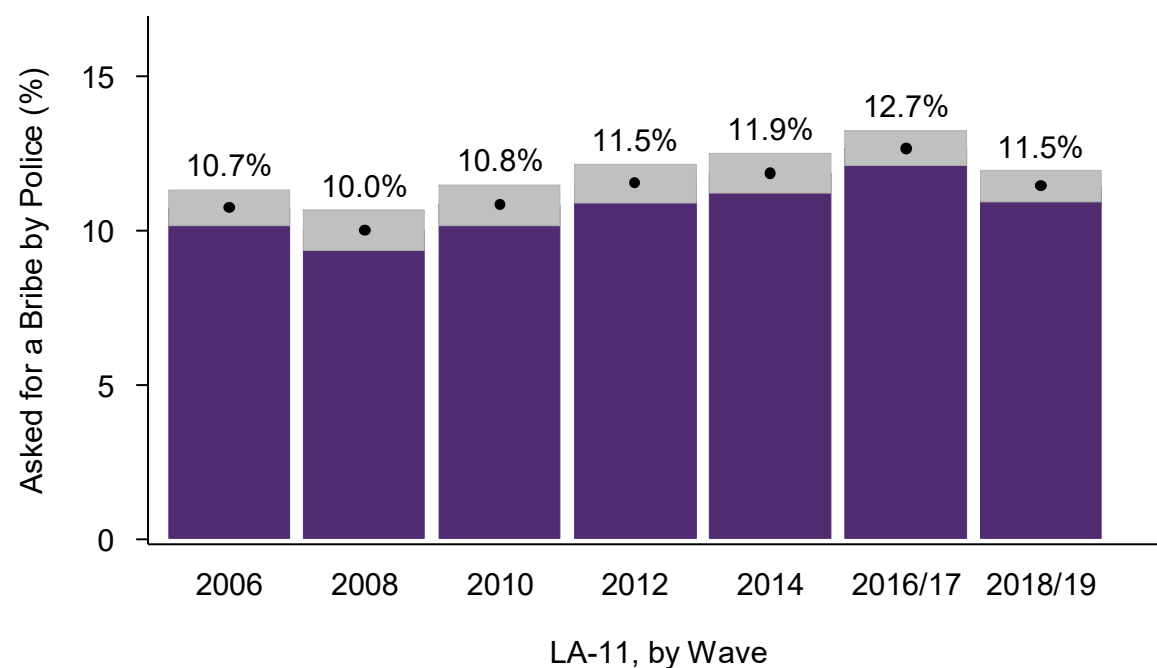
## Bribery is most widespread in Mexico

Since 2016/17, bribe experiences

Decreased:

- Colombia: -4.1
- Guatemala: -5.7

## Police bribery experiences have returned to earlier levels



95 % Confidence Interval  
(with Design-Effects)

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP (GM April 2019)

Large decline in police corruption in Paraguay:

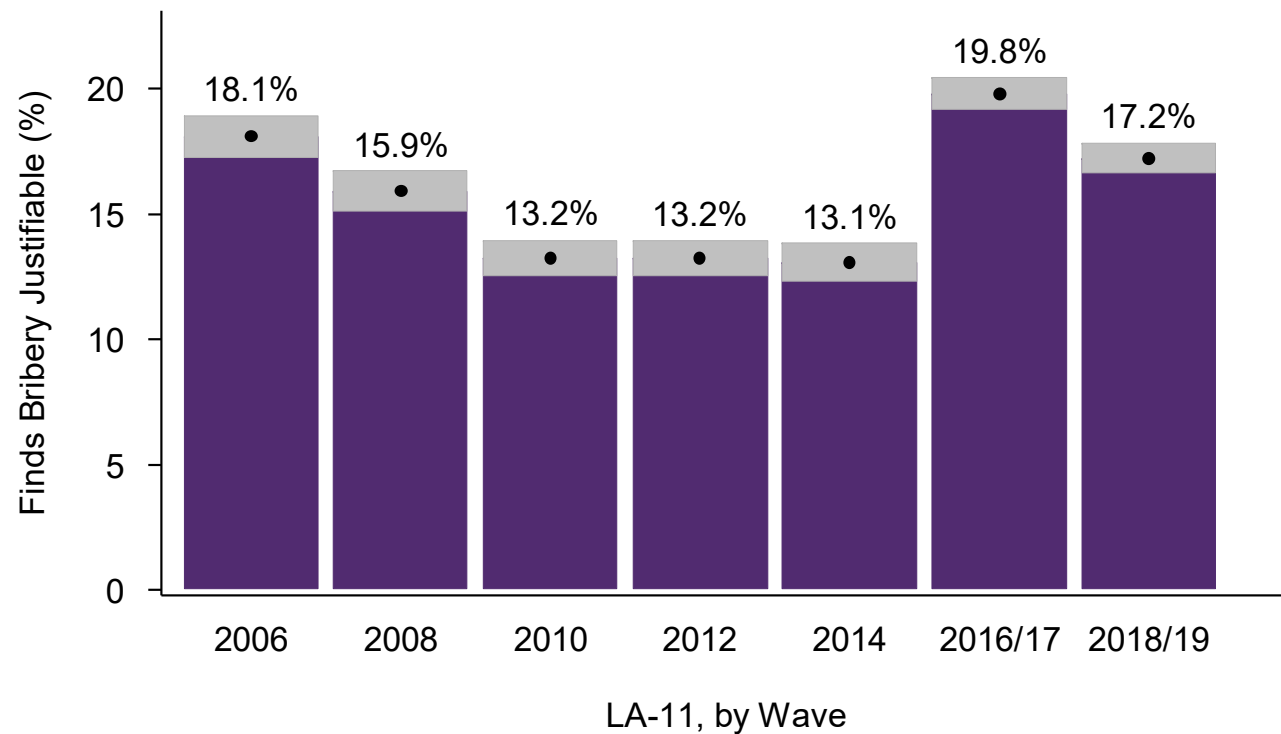
- 21% in 2016/17

vs.

- 15.4 % in 2018/19

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

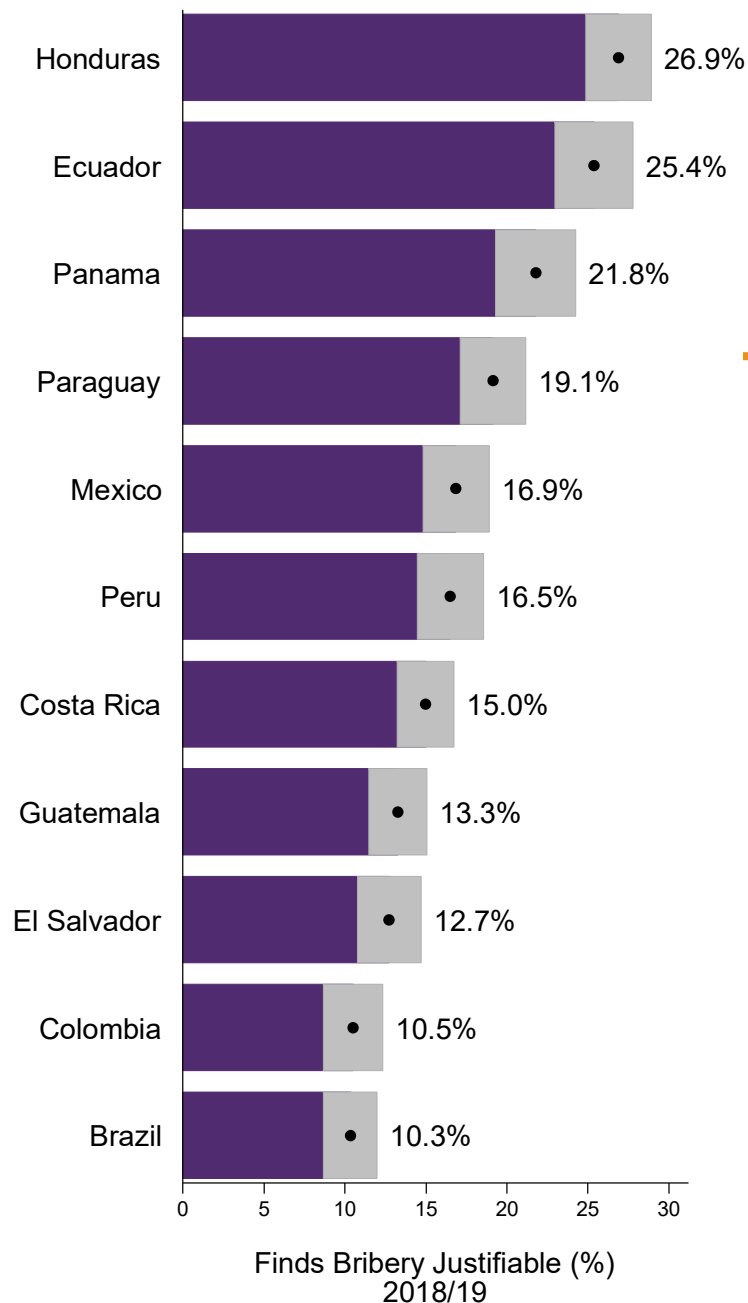
## Tolerance of bribery is elevated, but declined in 2018/19



95 % Confidence Interval  
(with Design-Effects)

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP (GM April 2019)

**EXC18.** Do you think given the ways things are, sometimes paying a bribe is justified?



## Tolerance for bribery is highest in Honduras and Ecuador

Since 2016/17, tolerance

Decreased:

- Guatemala: -4.1
- Costa Rica: -5.7
- Mexico: -6.7
- Colombia: -7.8
- Panama: -3.9

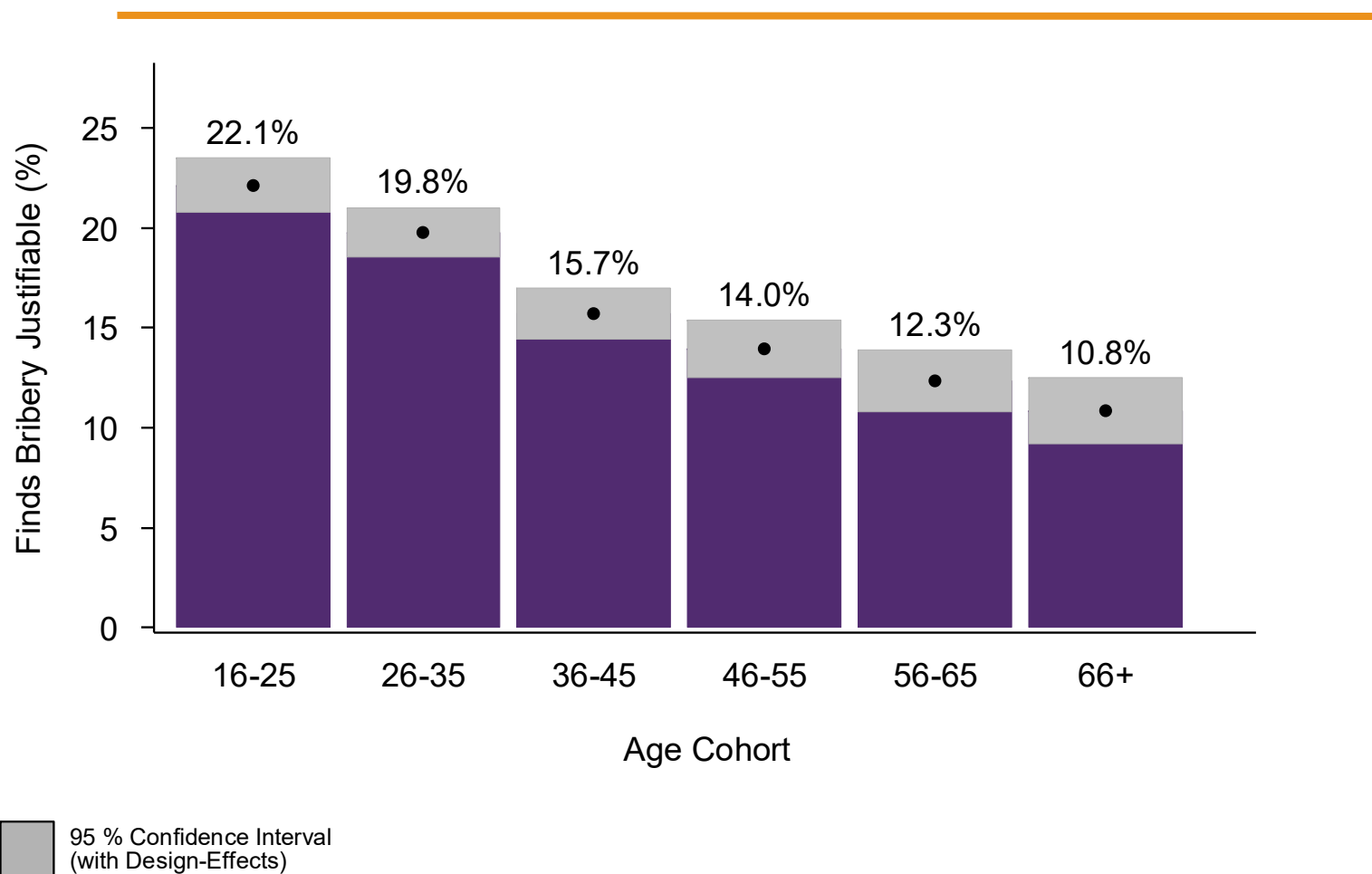
EXC18. Do you think given the ways things are, sometimes paying a bribe is justified?

95 % Confidence Interval  
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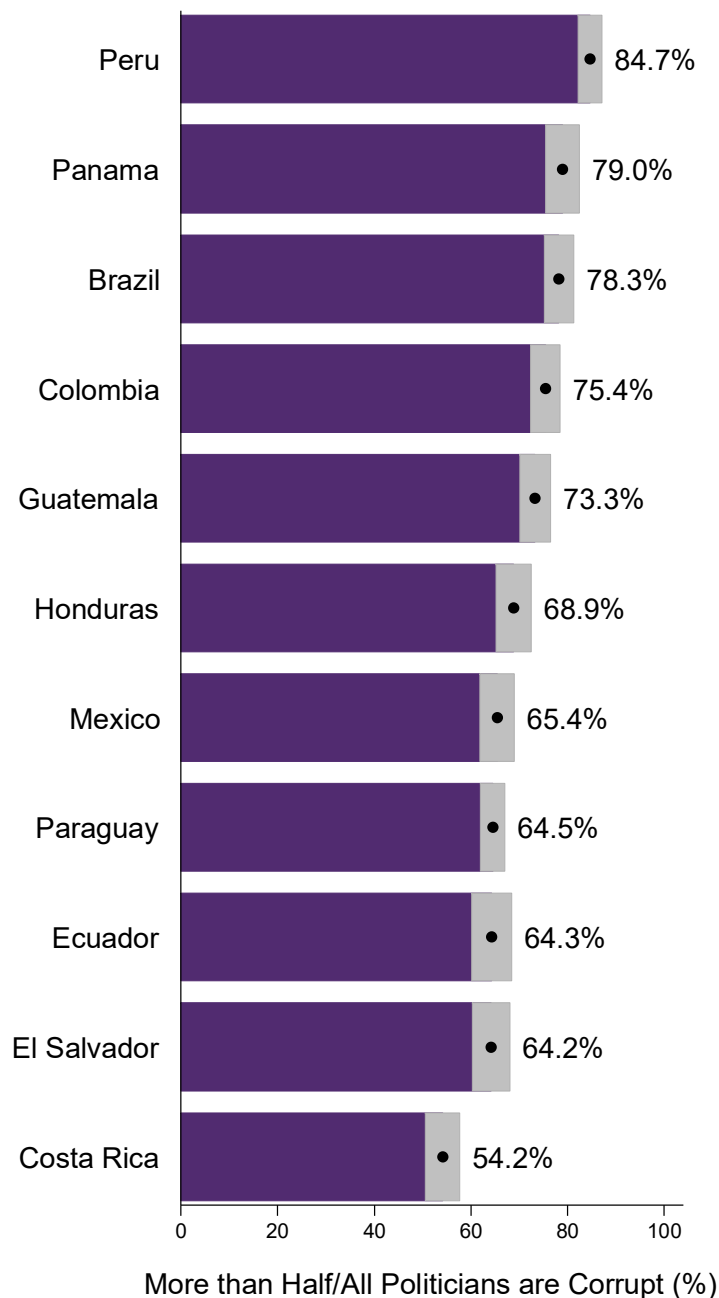
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## Younger age cohorts are more likely to be tolerant of bribery



Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP (GM April 2019) LA-11

**EXC18.** Do you think given the ways things are, sometimes paying a bribe is justified?



## Perceptions of corruption are elevated and, in many countries, on the rise

Since 2016/17, perceptions of corruption

Increased in Peru, Panama, Guatemala, Honduras, Ecuador, El Salvador, Costa Rica

Decreased in Brazil, Mexico, Paraguay

**EXC7NEW.** Thinking of politicians in [country], how many do you believe are involved in corruption?

Graph shows % “more than half” or “all” are corrupt.

95 % Confidence Interval  
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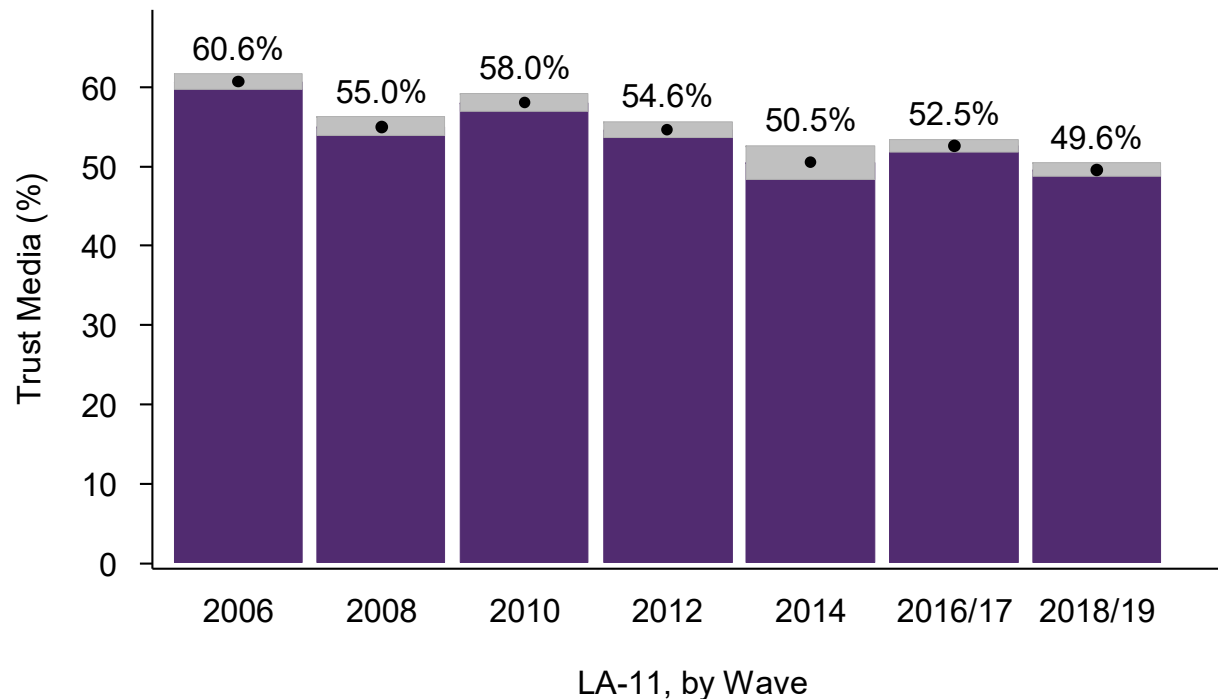
## Part 4: The Media, Rights, and Elections

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In the LAC-11 region, the 2018/19 AmericasBarometer finds:

- Trust in the media remains at middling levels, with a slight overall drop
- More than 1 in 2 typically believes there is very little freedom to express views without fear
- On average, fewer than 1-in-3 believe rights are well-protected
- Trust in elections remains low

## Trust in the media has remained at middling levels, with a slight drop in 2018/19



95 % Confidence Interval  
(with Design-Effects)

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP (GM April 2019)

Since 2016/17, trust

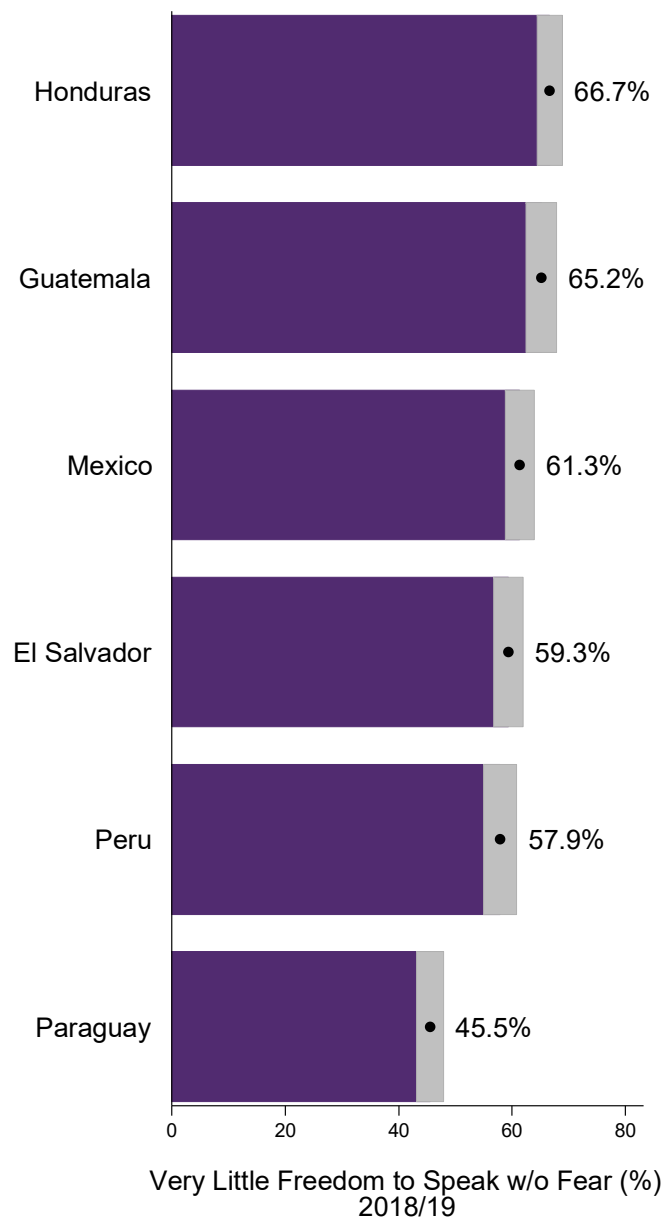
Increased:

- Colombia: 11.0

Decreased:

- Paraguay: -4.9
- Honduras: -8.4
- Guatemala: -9.2
- Costa Rica: -21.3

**B37** . Trust in the media 1-7 scale; graph shows the percentage who respond 5, 6, or 7. Chart shows regional average based on 11-countries.



95 % Confidence Interval  
(with Design-Effects)

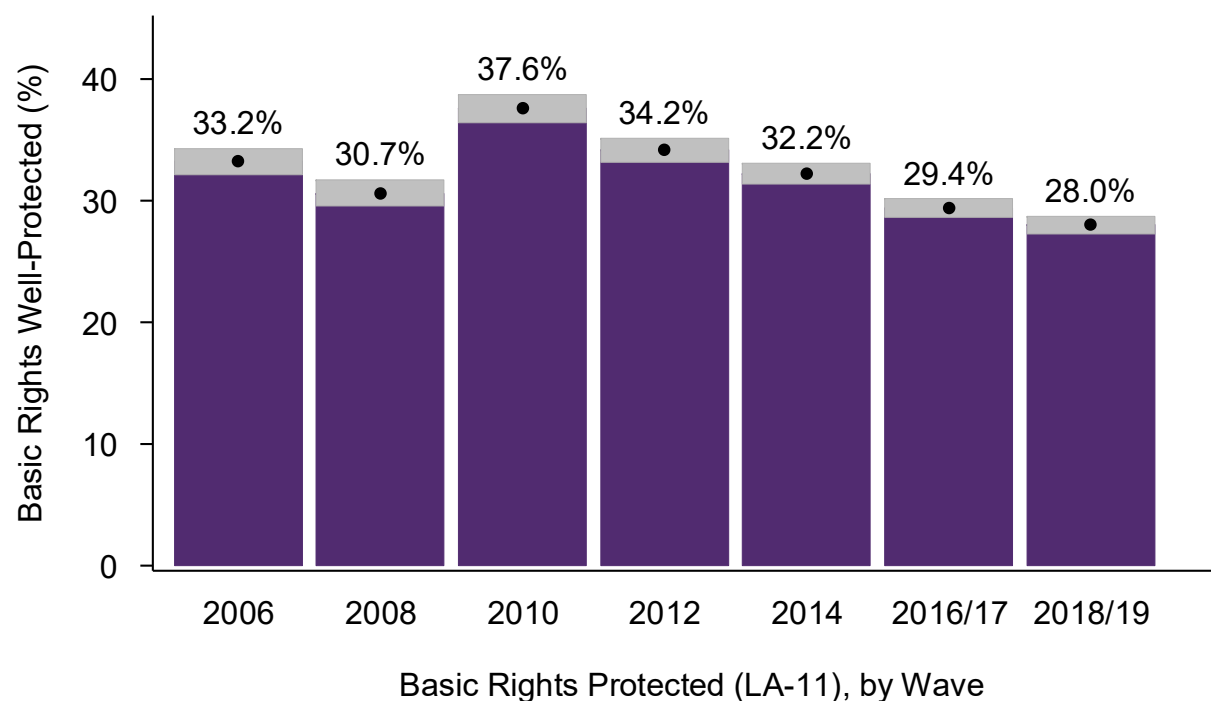
Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP (GM April 2019)

Perceptions of deficits in freedom of to speak without fear are high and stable in Honduras

Improvements: Since 2016/17, the percentage reporting “very little” freedom decreased in Mexico, El Salvador, & Guatemala.

**LIB2c.** . And freedom to express political views without fear. Do we have very little, enough, or too much?  
Graph shows the percentage who report “very little” (vs. enough or too much).

## On average, fewer than 1-in-3 agree that basic rights are well-protected



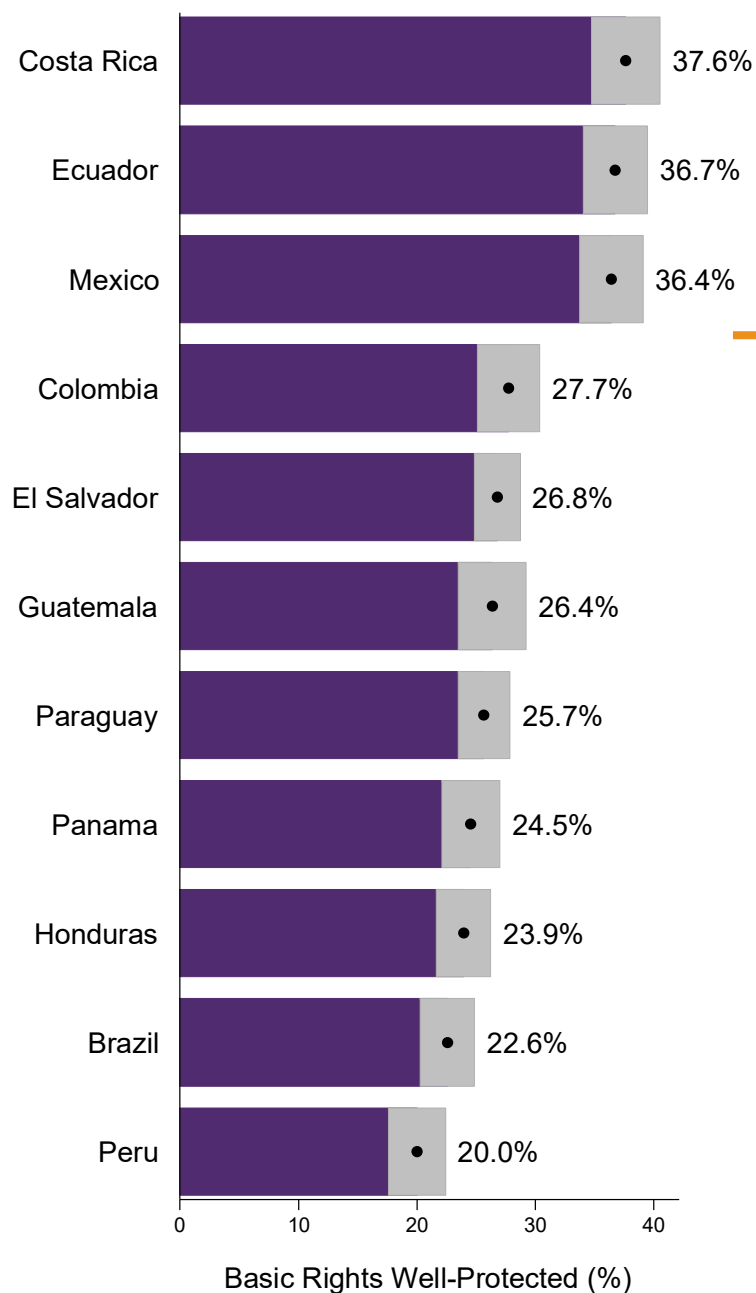
95 % Confidence Interval  
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Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP (GM April 2019) LA-11

On average in the region,

- The youngest (<26) and the oldest (>65) are more likely to agree that basic rights are well-protected
- Women are slightly more likely to agree that basic rights are protected

**B3. To what extent do you think that citizens' basic rights are well protected by the political system of (country)?**  
Graphs shows % who respond 5, 6, or 7, one a 1-to-7 not at all to a lot scale.



## Belief that rights are well-protected is particularly low in Peru

Since 2016/17, views on right protection

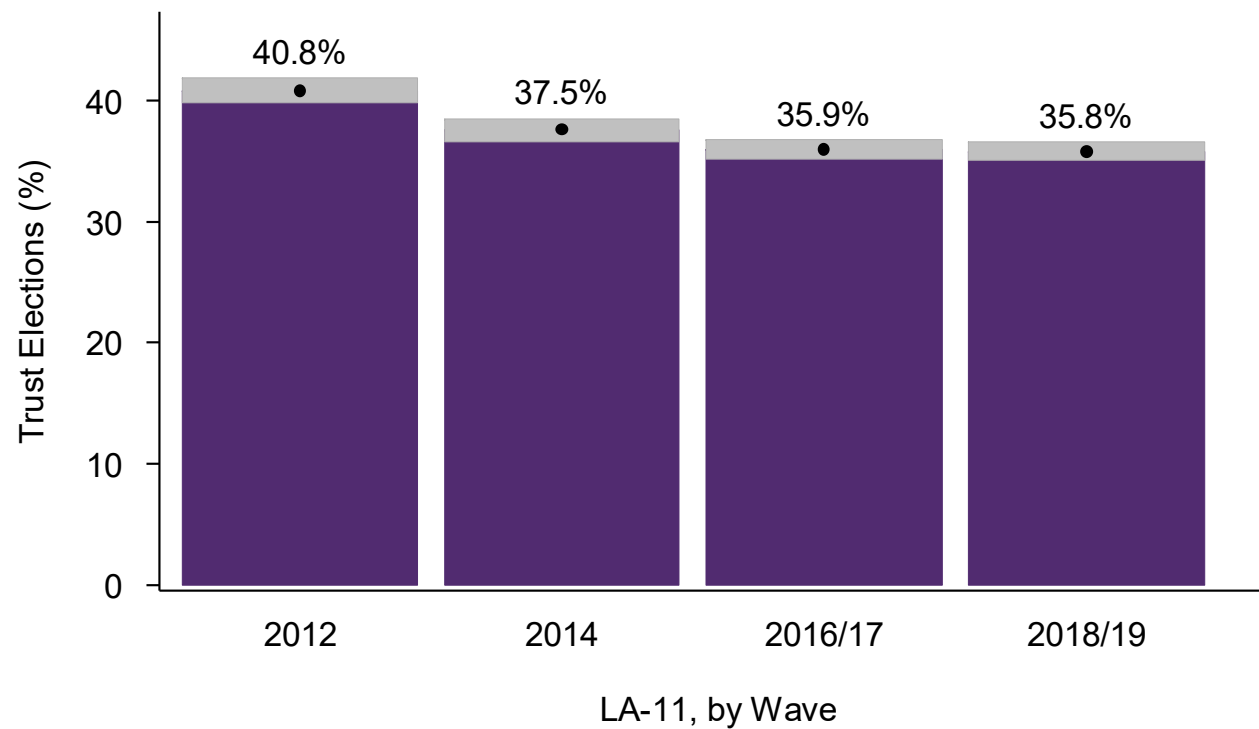
- Increased in Mexico and Brazil
- Decreased in Costa Rica, Guatemala, Ecuador, Panama, and Honduras

95 % Confidence Interval  
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Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP (GM April 2019)

B3. To what extent do you think that citizens' basic rights are well protected by the political system of (country)? 5, 6, 7 coded agree.

## Trust in elections remains low

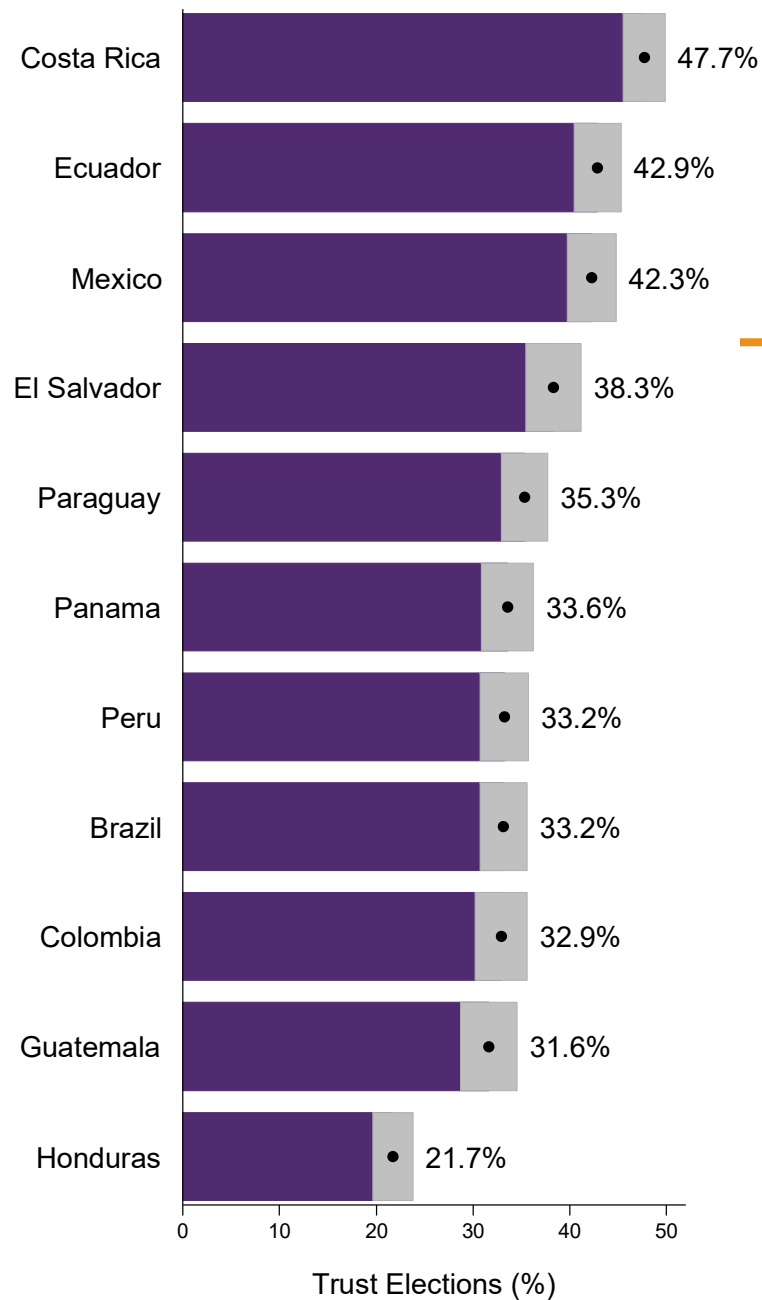


95 % Confidence Interval  
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Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP (GM April 2019)

B47A. To what extent do you trust elections in this country? 5, 6, 7 coded as "trust".

## Trust in elections varies across countries



Since 2016/17, trust

Increased:

- Colombia: 8.9
- Brazil: 10.6
- Mexico: 17.2
- Paraguay: 3.7

Decreased:

- Panama: -4.6
- Ecuador: -6.4
- Peru: -7.8
- Costa Rica: -8.8
- Honduras: -12.5

95 % Confidence Interval  
(with Design-Effects)

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP (GM April 2019)

**B47A.** To what extent do you trust elections in this country? 5, 6, 7 coded as "trust".

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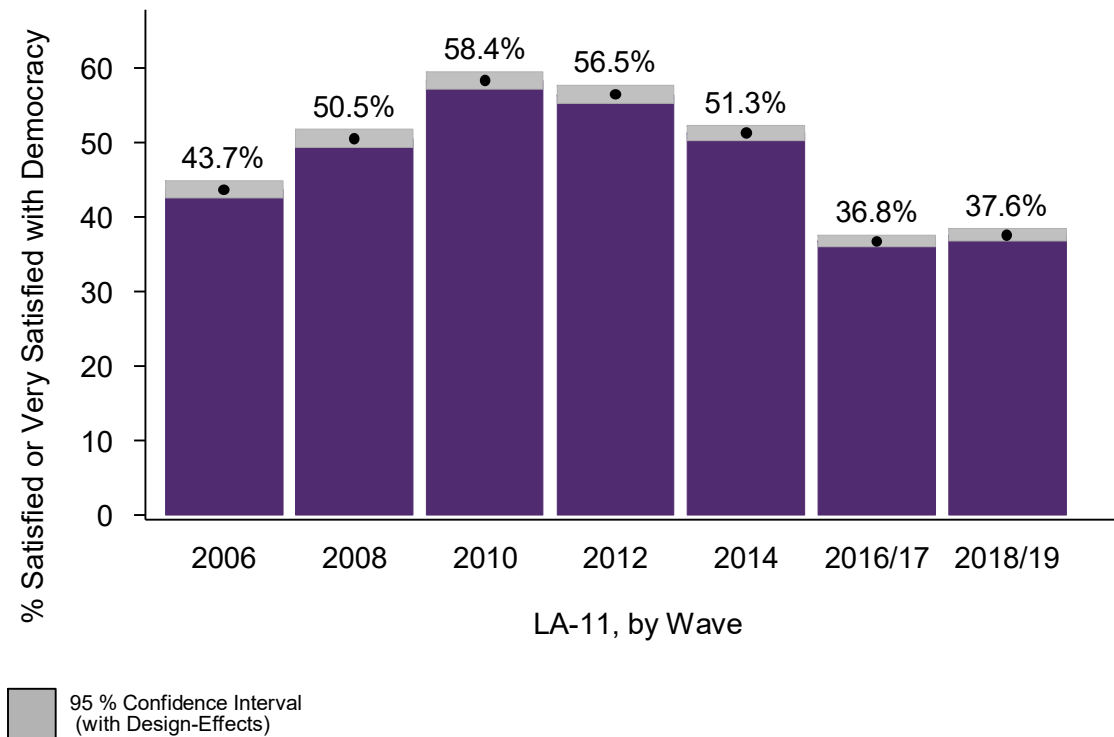
## Part 5: Support for democracy

In the LAC-11 region, the 2018/19 AmericasBarometer finds:

- Satisfaction with democracy has remained low
- Support for democracy has remained low
- Support for executive coups has increased

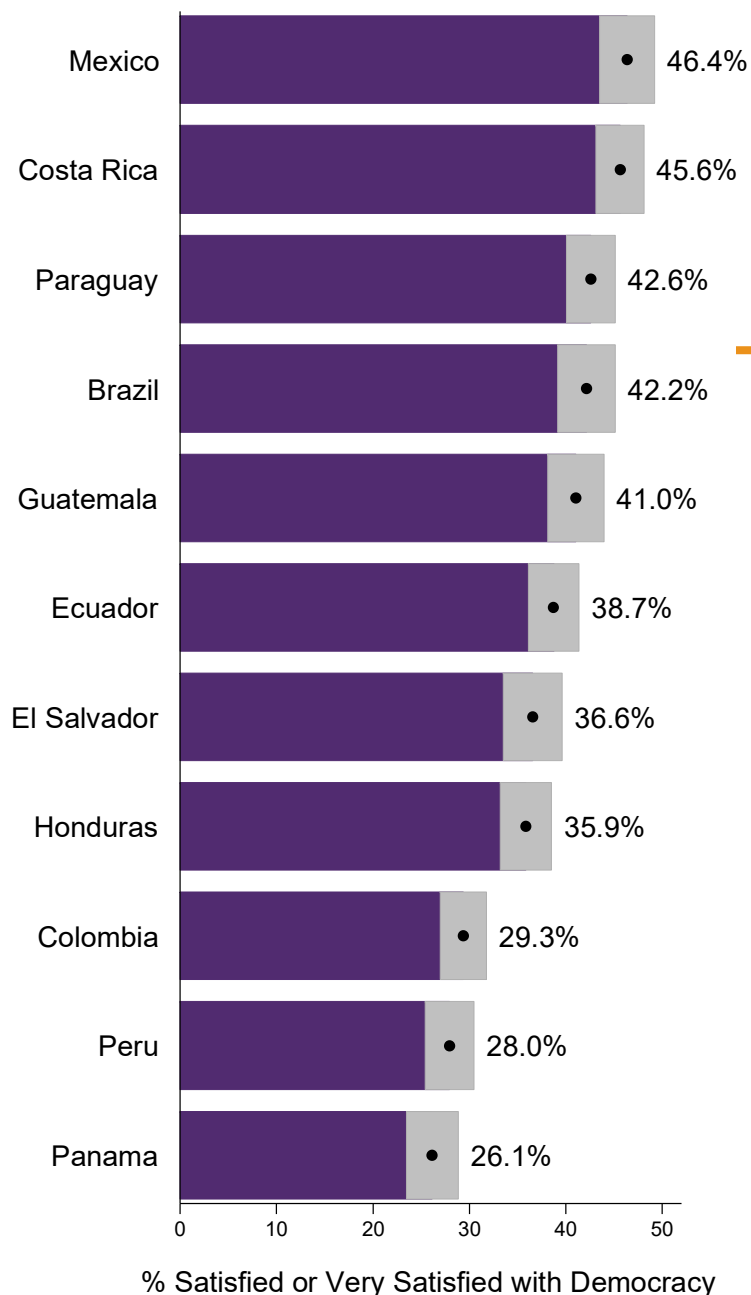


## In the average country, satisfaction with democracy has remained low



Source: © AmericasBarometer by LAPOP, 2019 (GM April 2019)

**PN4.** In general, would you say that you are very satisfied, satisfied, dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with the way democracy works in (country)? Graph shows % very satisfied or satisfied (vs. not). Graph shows regional average based on 11 countries



## A minority is satisfied with how democracy works

Since 2016/17, satisfaction

Increased:

- Paraguay: 9.8
- Mexico: 19.9
- Brazil: 20.4

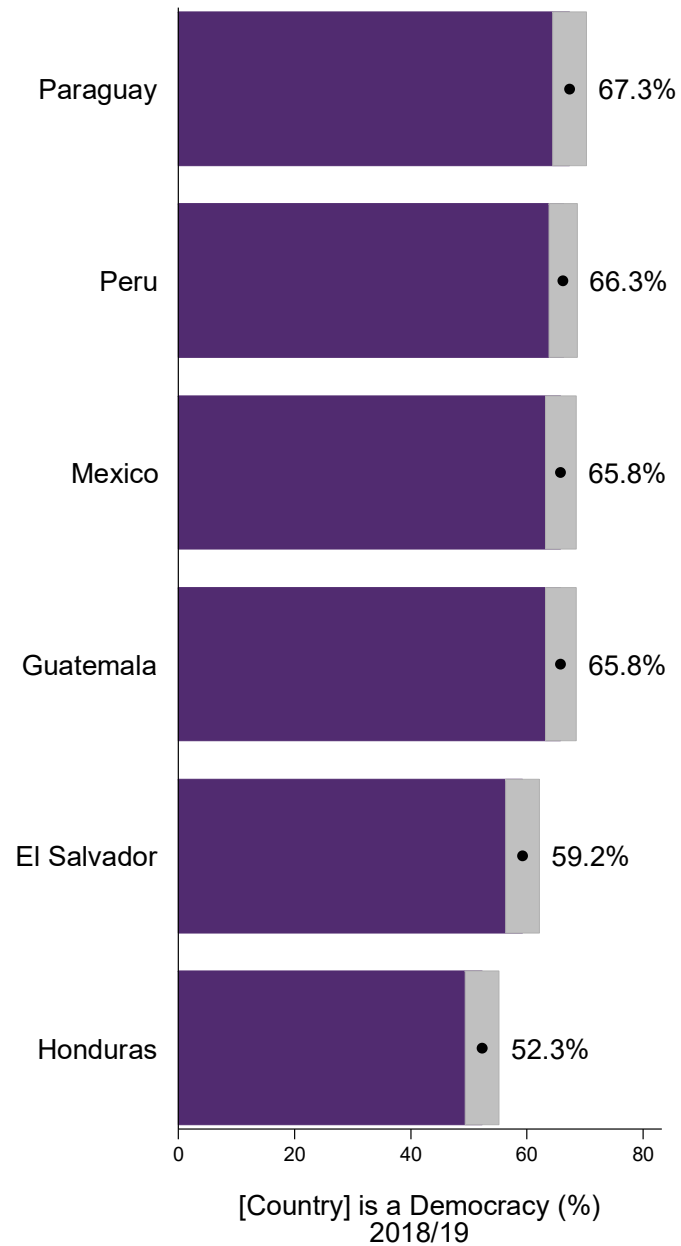
Decreased:

- El Salvador: -4.2
- Costa Rica: -4.9
- Panama: -12.1
- Ecuador: -13.4

95 % Confidence Interval  
(with Design-Effects)

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP 2019 (GM April 2019)

**PN4.** In general, would you say that you are very satisfied, satisfied, dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with the way democracy works in (country)?



Between half and 2/3 of the public believes their country is functioning as a democracy

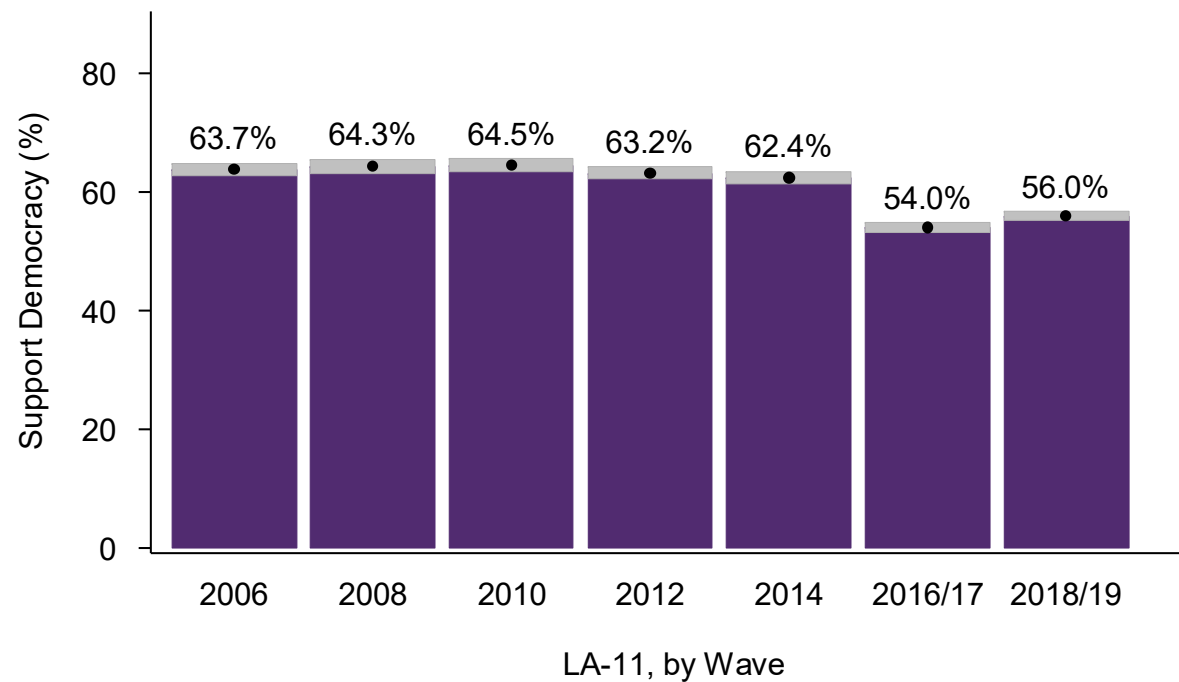
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New in 2018/19: DEM30. In your opinion, [country] is a democracy?

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## In the average country, support for democracy has remained tepid

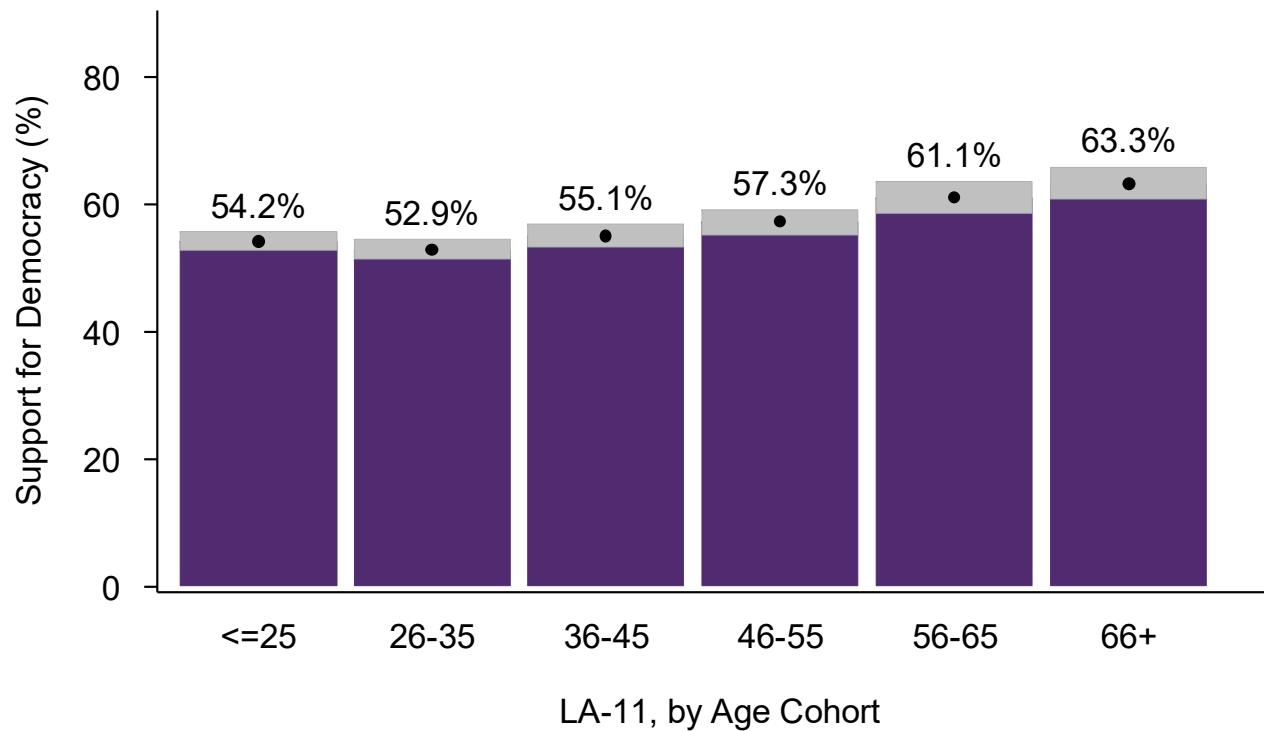


95 % Confidence Interval  
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**ING4.** Democracy may have problems, but it is better than any other form of government. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement? 5, 6, 7 coded as “support”. Graph shows regional average based on 11 countries.

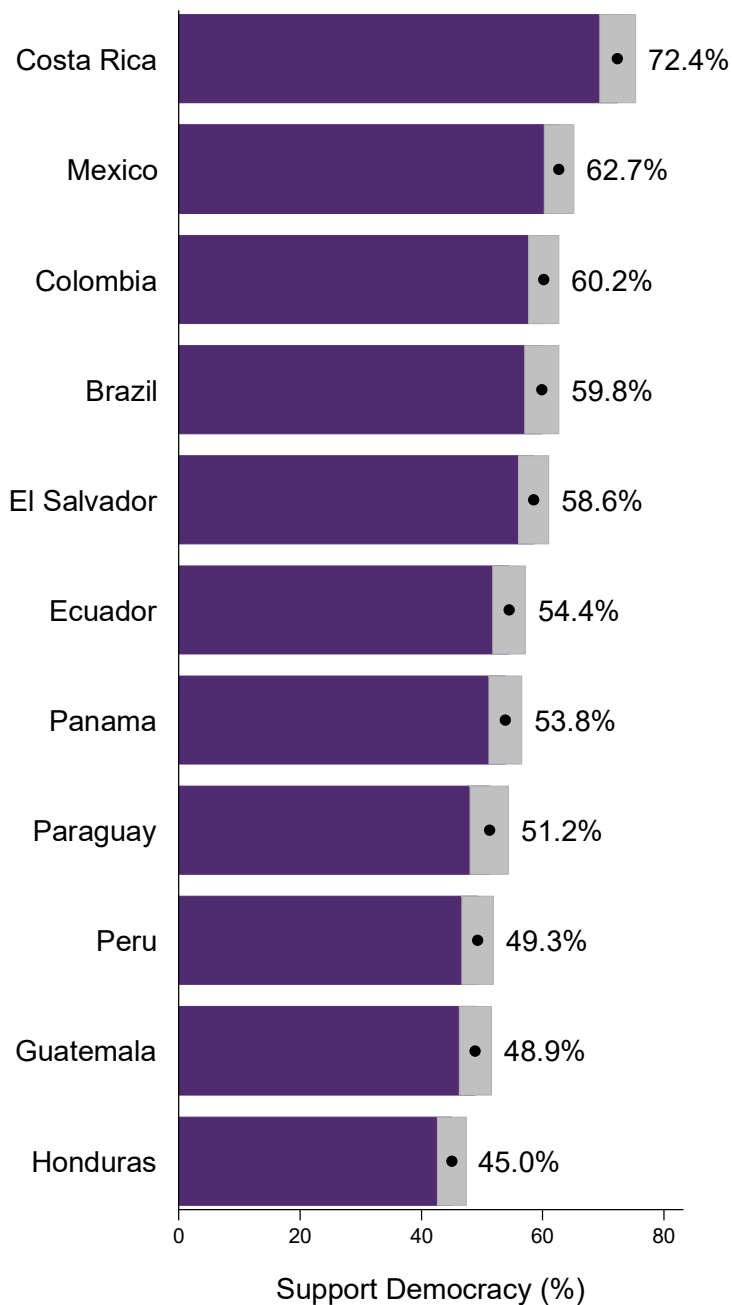
On average, support for democracy is lower among the younger cohorts



95 % Confidence Interval  
(with Design-Effects)

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP (GM April 2019), LA-11, 2018/19

**ING4.** 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? 5, 6, 7 coded as “support”.



95 % Confidence Interval  
(with Design-Effects)

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP (GM April 2019)

## Support for democracy low and declining in Honduras, Peru, Panama

Since 2016/17, support

Increased:

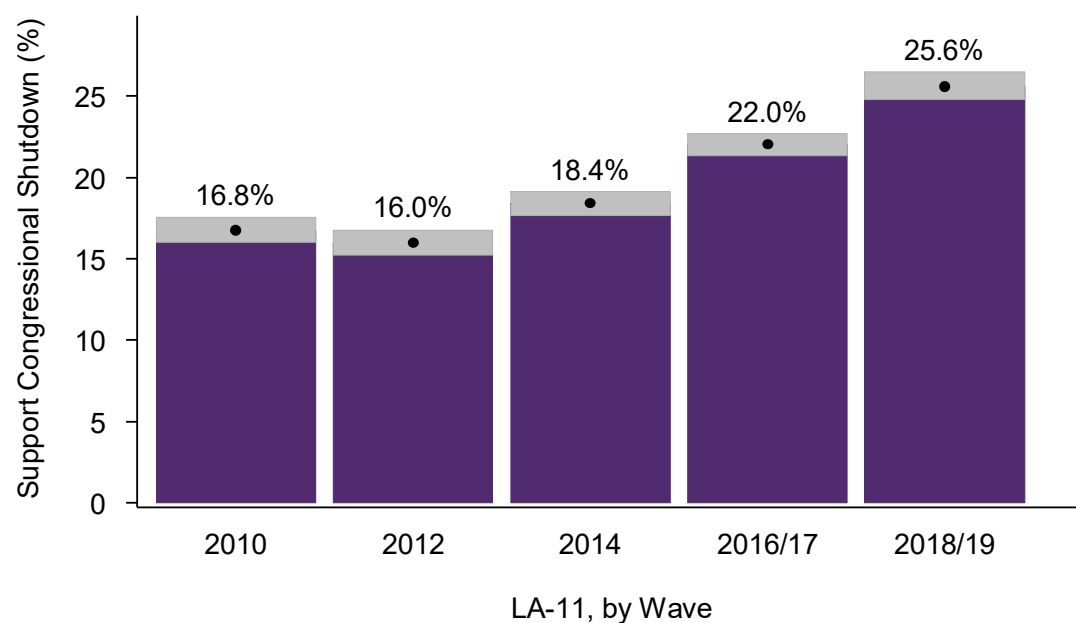
- El Salvador: 4.0
- Colombia: 6.9
- Brazil: 7.7
- Mexico: 13.4

Decreased:

- Peru: -3.4
- Panama: -5.4
- Honduras: -6.1

**ING4.** 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? 5, 6, 7 coded as "support".

## Tolerance for *autogolpes* (shuttering Congress) has continued to increase, while tolerance for military coups has remained at between 37-40% in 2016-2019



95 % Confidence Interval  
(with Design-Effects)

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP (GM April 2019)

Support for shuttering Congress is highest in Peru (58.9%).

Support for shuttering Congress is lowest in El Salvador, Costa Rica, and Colombia (all < 20%).

**JC15A.** Do you believe that when the country is facing very difficult times it is justifiable for the president of the country to close the Congress and govern without Congress? Graph shows regional average based on 11 countries.

## Part 6: Views of the U.S. and China

In the LAC-11 region, the 2018/19 AmericasBarometer finds:

- In most countries, more people trust the Chinese government than the USG
- Trust in the U.S. and China, respectively, has declined



## More people trust the Chinese government than trust the USG (2018/19)

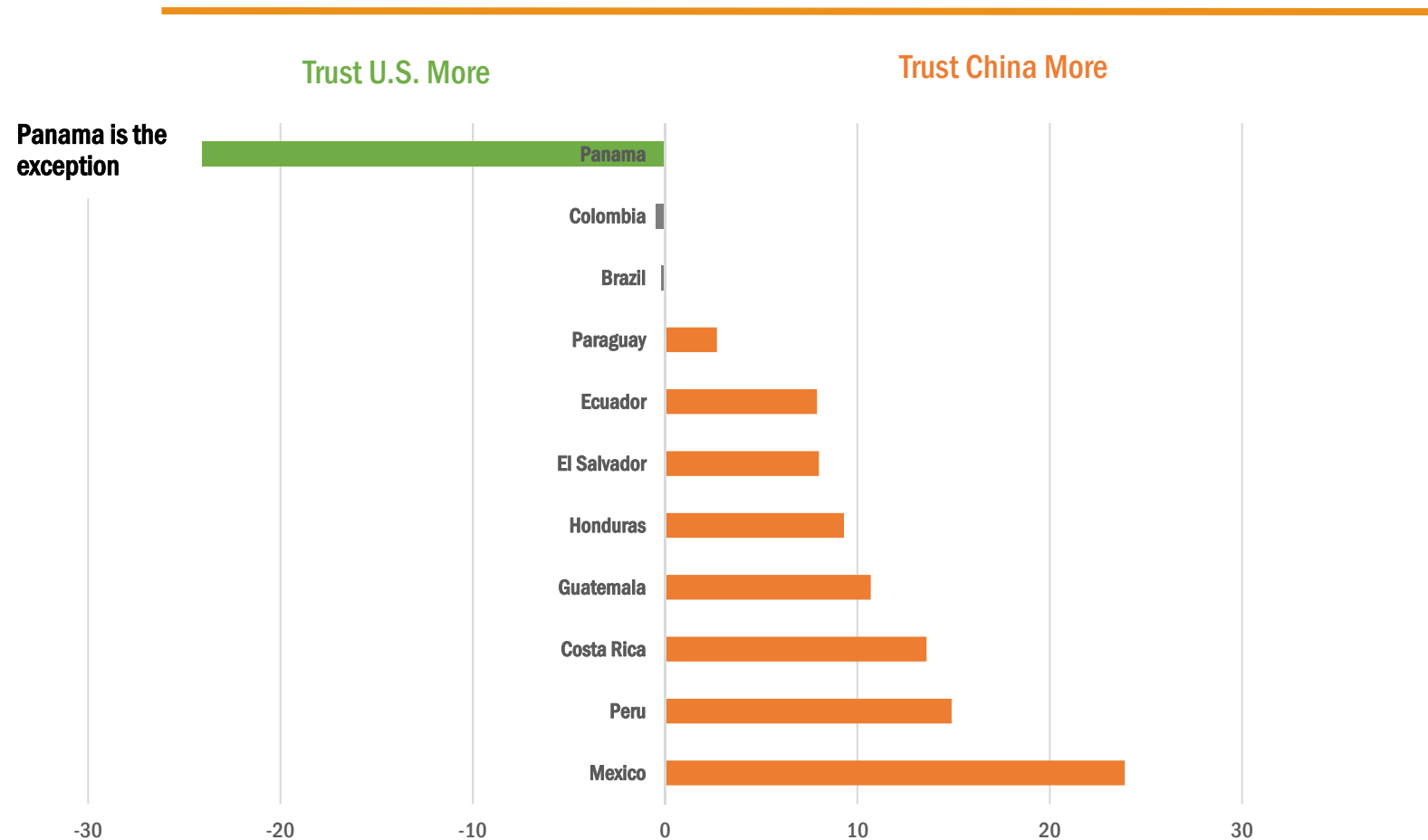
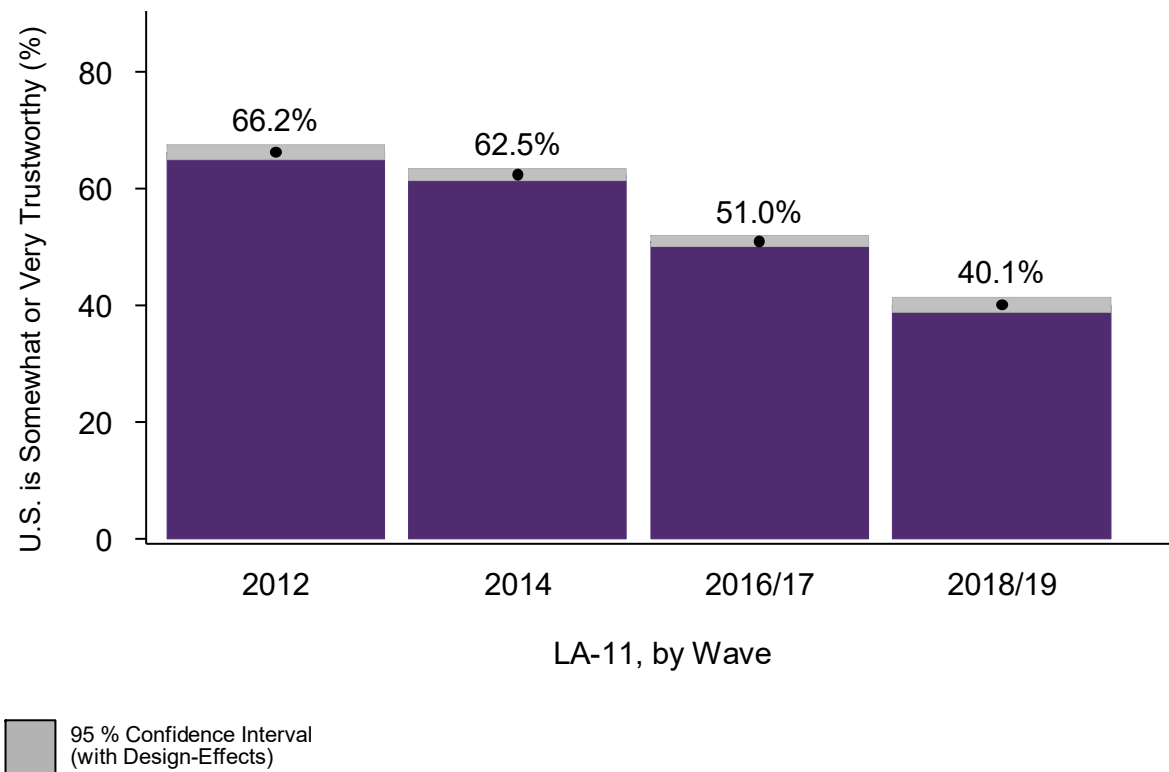


Chart shows the % of people with trust in the Chinese government , minus the % of people with trust in the U.S. government. Positive values mean more trust in China than in the U.S.

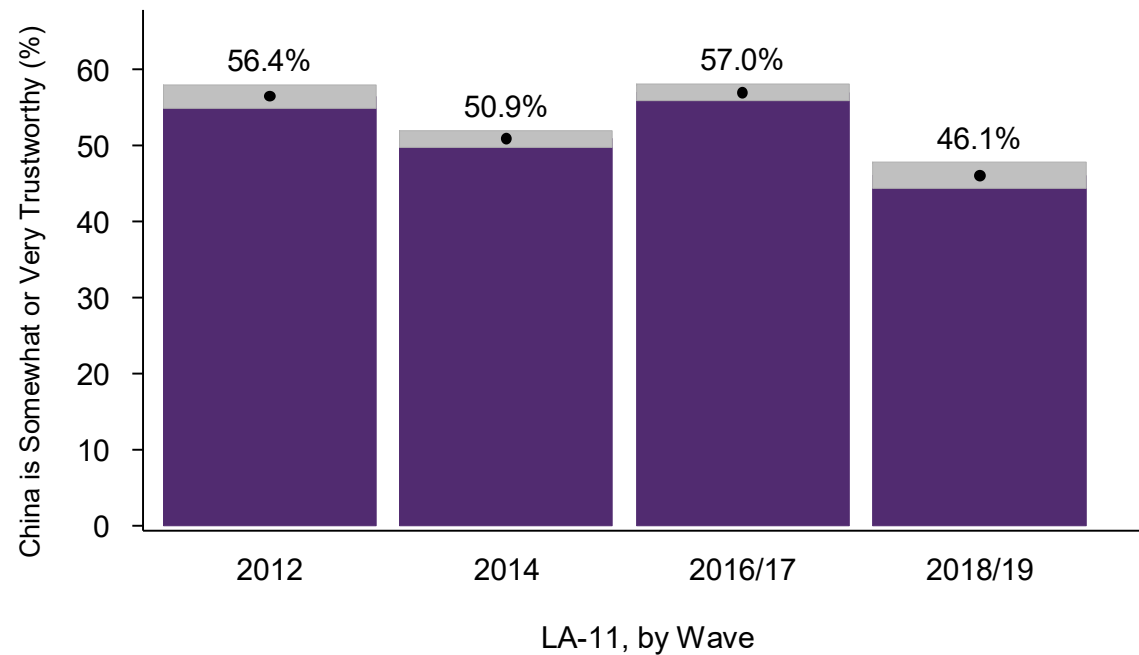
## Trust in the U.S. has declined sharply



Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP (GM April 2019)

MIL10E. The government of the United States. In your opinion, is it very trustworthy, somewhat trustworthy, not very trustworthy, or not at all trustworthy, or do you not have an opinion? Those without an opinion are not included in the analysis.

## Trust in China also has declined



95 % Confidence Interval  
(with Design-Effects)

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP (GM April 2019)

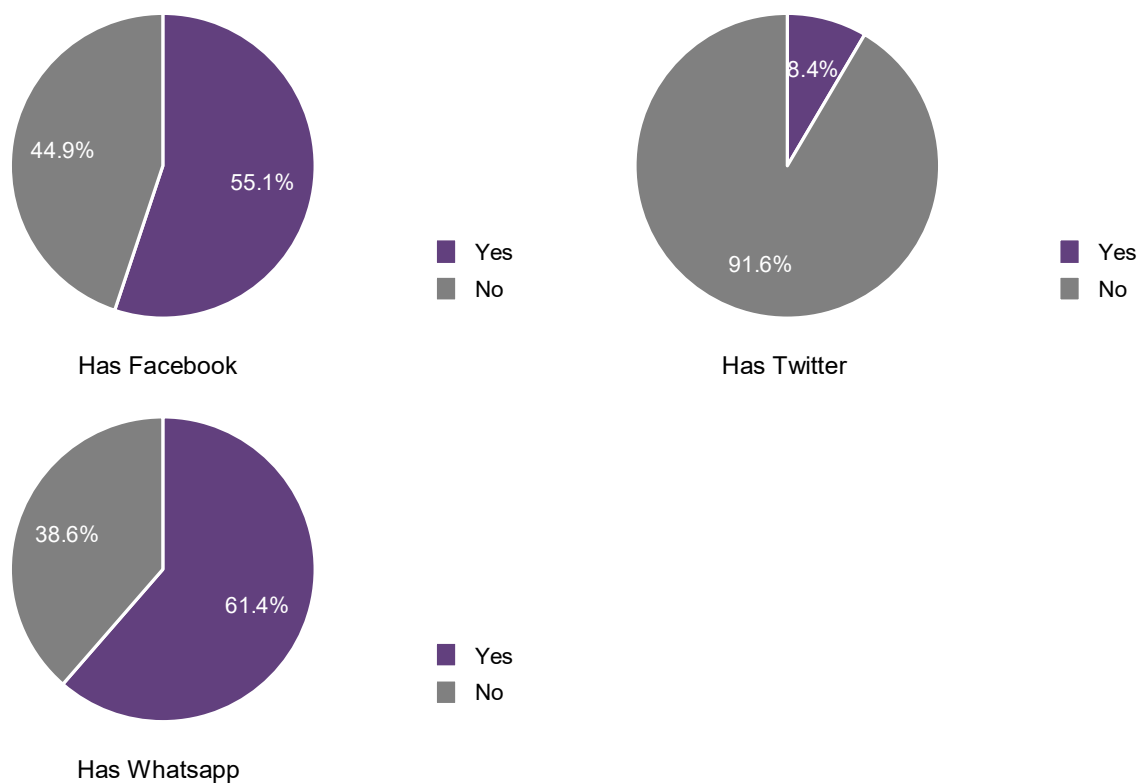
MIL10A. The government of China. In your opinion, is it very trustworthy, somewhat trustworthy, not very trustworthy, or not at all trustworthy, or do you not have an opinion? Those without an opinion are not included in the analysis.

## Part 7: Social Media

**In the LAC-11 region, the 2018/19 AmericasBarometer finds:**

- Facebook and WhatsApp are used by majorities in Latin America
- Among Facebook and WhatsApp users, the majority access content daily
- 80% of the youngest age cohort (those 25 and under) use social media often
- High social media users are more supportive of democracy, but less satisfied

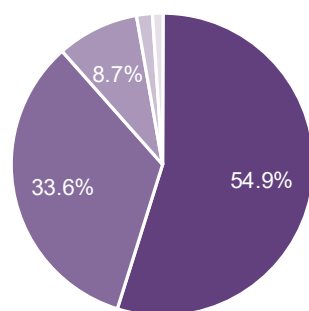
## Whatsapp and Facebook are used by a majority of Latin Americans



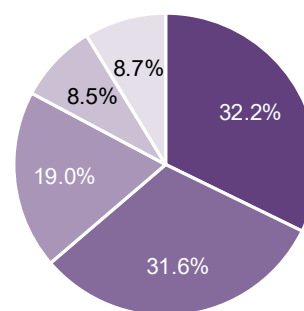
Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP (GM April 2019), LA-11

SMEDIA1. Do you have a Facebook account? SMEDIA4. Do you have a Twitter account? SMEDIA7. Do you have a WhatsApp account?

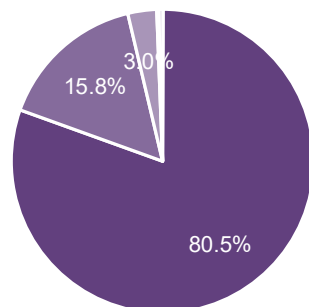
## Facebook and Whatsapp users: the majority access content daily



Frequency of Facebook Use



Frequency of Twitter Use



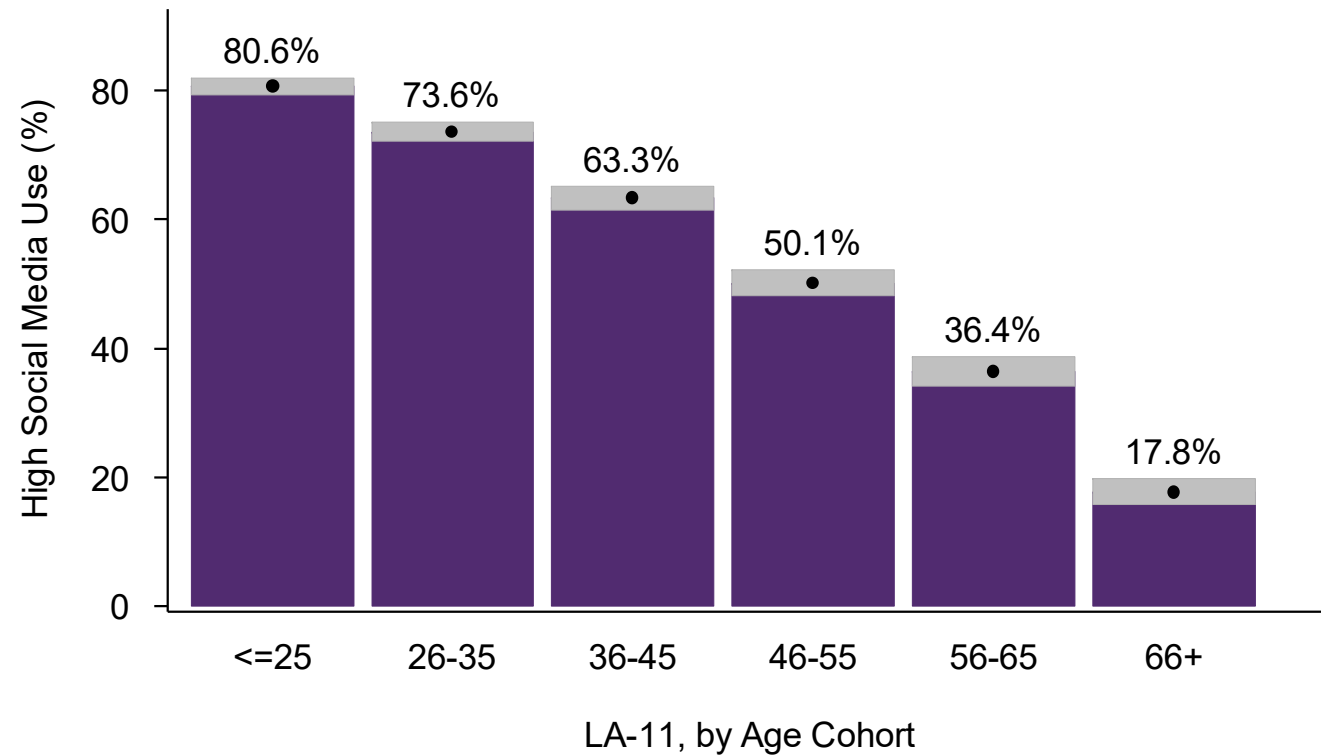
Frequency of WhatsApp Use

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP (GM April 2019), LA-11

SMEDIA2. How often do you view content on Facebook? SMEDIA5. How often do you view content on Twitter?

SMEDIA8. How often do you use WhatsApp?

## The young are very likely to be “high social media users” (use Facebook, Twitter, and/or WhatsApp several times a week or more)

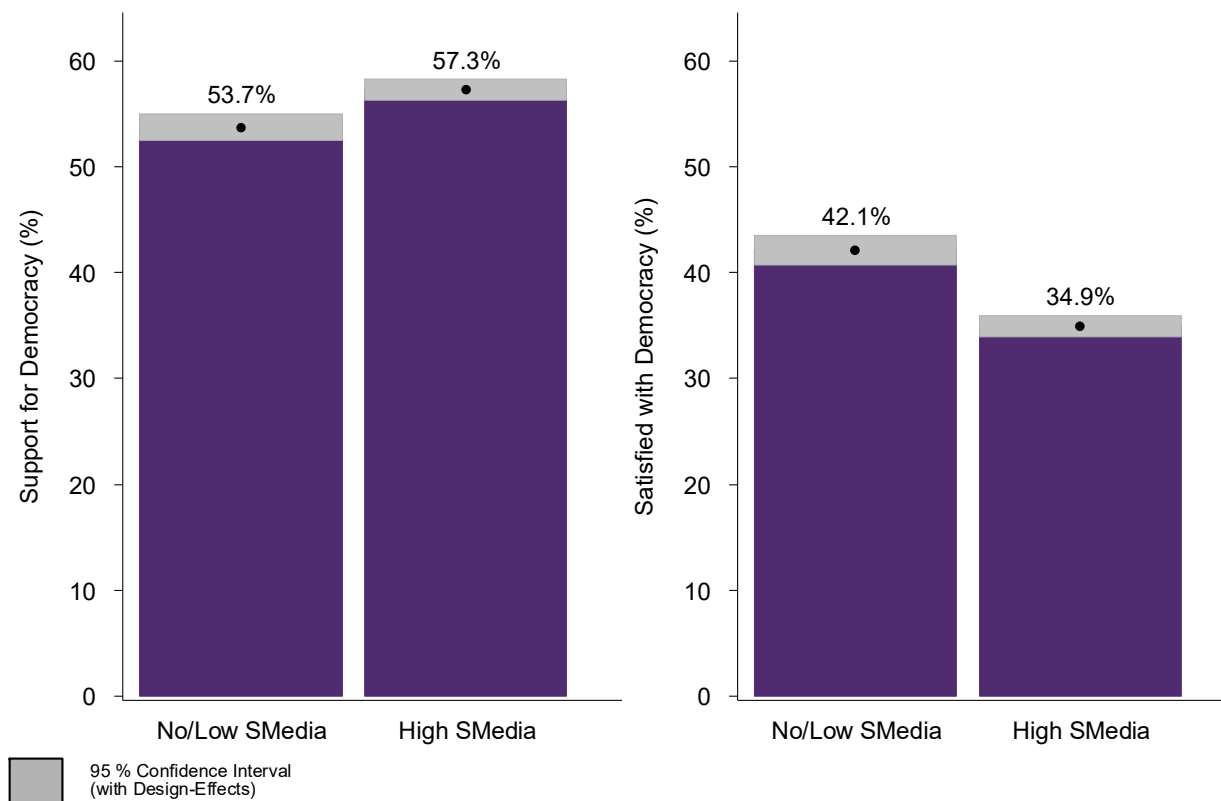


95 % Confidence Interval  
(with Design-Effects)

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP (GM April 2019), 2018/19

Based on SMEDIA2, SMEDIA5, and SMEDIA8.

## High social media users support democracy, but are less satisfied



Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP (GM April 2019), LA-11

Graph shows different rates of support for democracy and satisfaction with democracy (see earlier slides for coding), among those who frequently use social media and those who do not use social media often. Differences hold if age, education, and wealth are controlled.



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