# The Pulse of Democracy in the Americas:
# Results from the 2019 AmericasBarometer Study

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October 15, 2019

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FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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# AmericasBarometer Partners

# AmericasBarometer
## *Barómetro de las Américas*

- Representative samples (national & subnational)
- Standardized methods
- Common core content

- 100% interviews audited (location, integrity, & quality)
- 100% e-devices
- Transparency & full dissemination of data and reports

## 2018/19 Round

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Colombia | Sep-Dec, 2018 | Chile | Jan-Mar, 2019 |
| Costa Rica | Sep-Oct, 2018 | Argentina | Feb-Apr, 2019 |
| Honduras | Oct-Nov, 2018 | Jamaica | Feb-Apr, 2019 |
| Panama | Oct-Dec, 2018 | Uruguay | Mar-May, 2019 |
| El Salvador | Nov-Dec, 2018 | Bolivia | Mar-May, 2019 |
| Brazil | Jan-Mar, 2019 | Nicaragua | Apr-May, 2019 |
| Guatemala | Jan-Mar, 2019 | Dominican Rep | Apr-May, 2019 |
| Mexico | Jan-Mar, 2019 | Canada | Jun-Jul, 2019 |
| Ecuador | Jan-Mar, 2019 | United States | July, 2019 |
| Peru | Feb-Mar, 2019 | | |
| Paraguay | Feb-Apr, 2019 | | |

# Presentation Outline

- **Part I:** Declines in Support for Democracy

- **Part II:** Contributing Factors to the Democratic Deficit
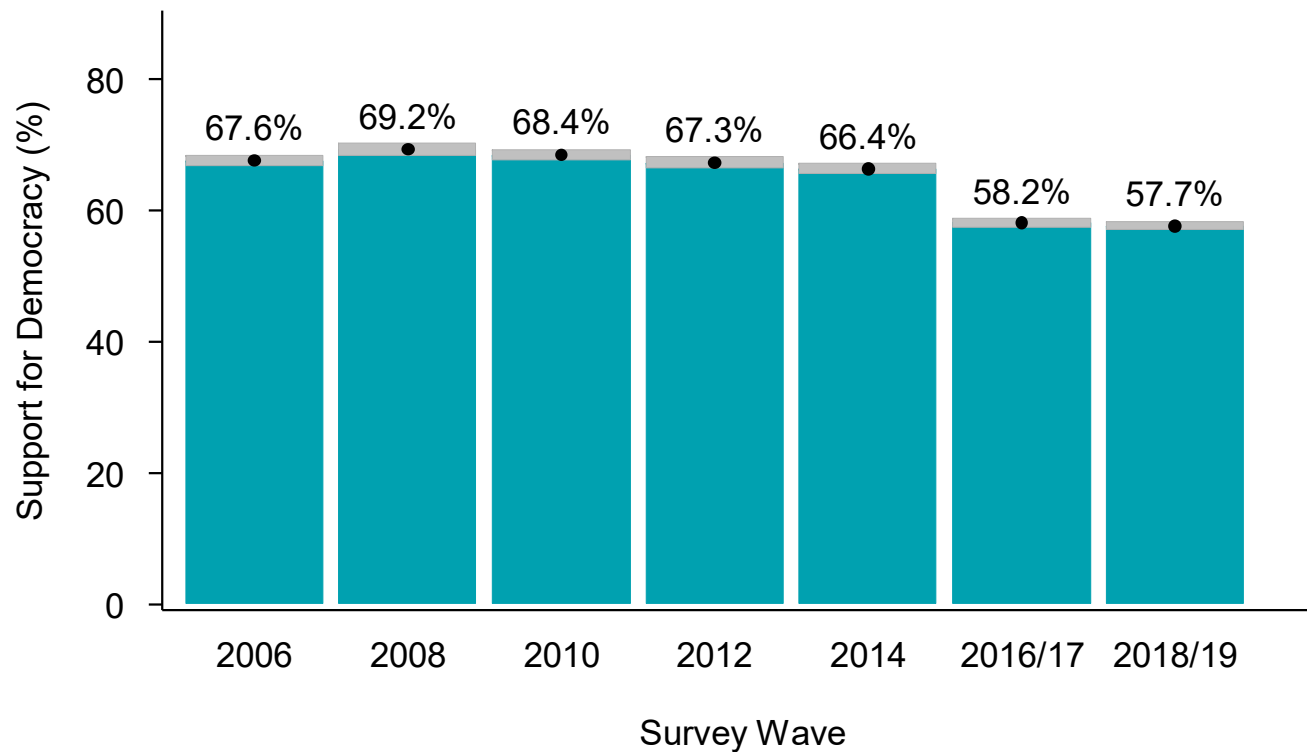
- **Part III:** What Predicts Democratic Support?

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# Part I.
# Declines in Support for Democracy

# "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?

| Strongly Disagree | | | | | | Strongly Agree |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
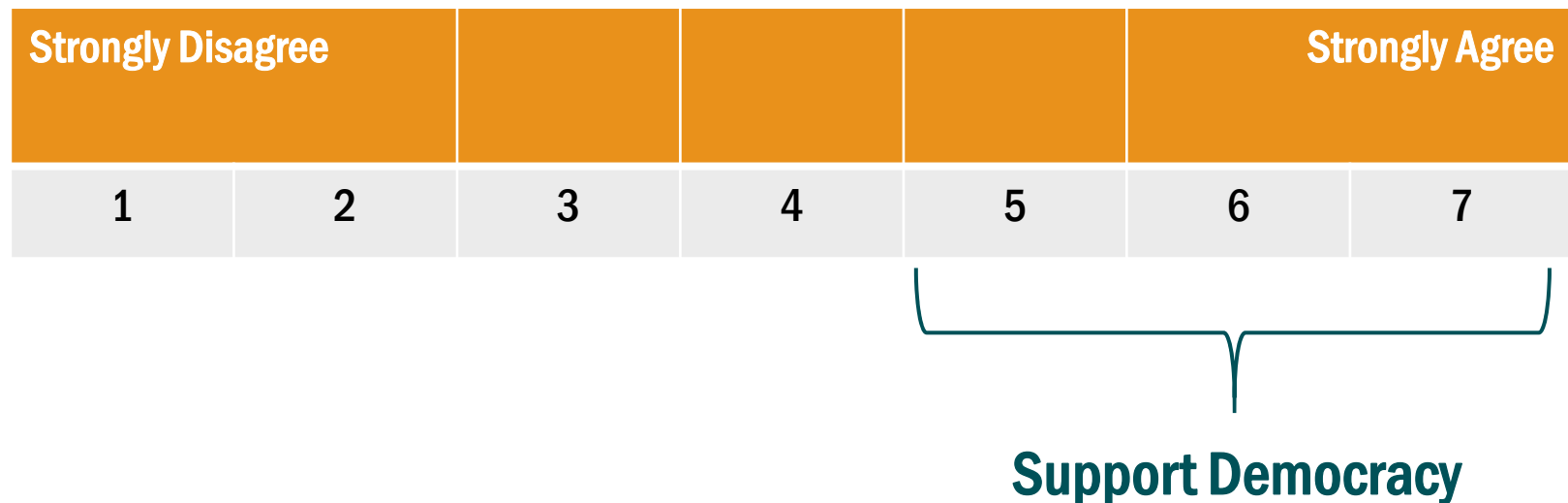
**Support Democracy**

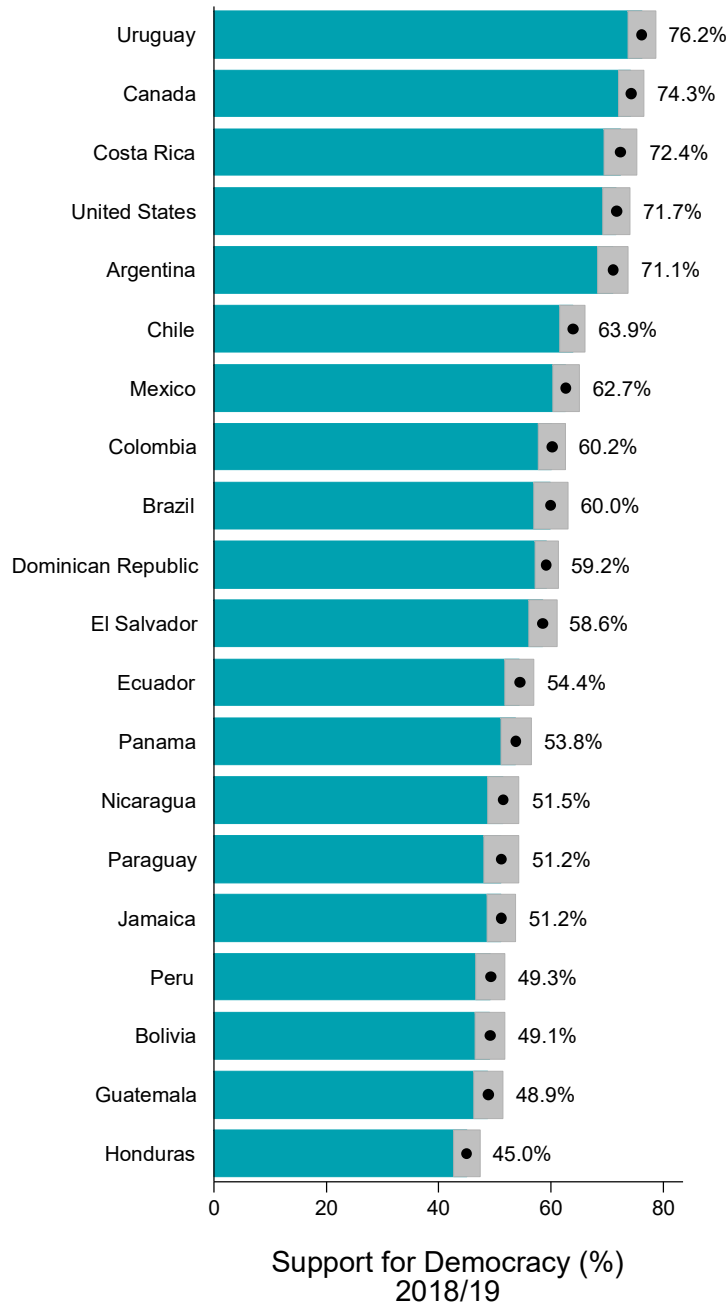# Support for democracy is at an all-time low in the LAC region



Note: On average, the young are less supportive.

95 % Confidence Interval (with Design-Effects)

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

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".

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Support for democracy is low: Peru, Bolivia, Guatemala, and Honduras

| Country | Support for Democracy (%) |
|---|---|
| Uruguay | 76.2% |
| Canada | 74.3% |
| Costa Rica | 72.4% |
| United States | 71.7% |
| Argentina | 71.1% |
| Chile | 63.9% |
| Mexico | 62.7% |
| Colombia | 60.2% |
| Brazil | 60.0% |
| Dominican Republic | 59.2% |
| El Salvador | 58.6% |
| Ecuador | 54.4% |
| Panama | 53.8% |
| Nicaragua | 51.5% |
| Paraguay | 51.2% |
| Jamaica | 51.2% |
| Peru | 49.3% |
| Bolivia | 49.1% |
| Guatemala | 48.9% |
| Honduras | 45.0% |

Support for Democracy (%)
2018/19

95 % Confidence Interval
(with Design-Effects)

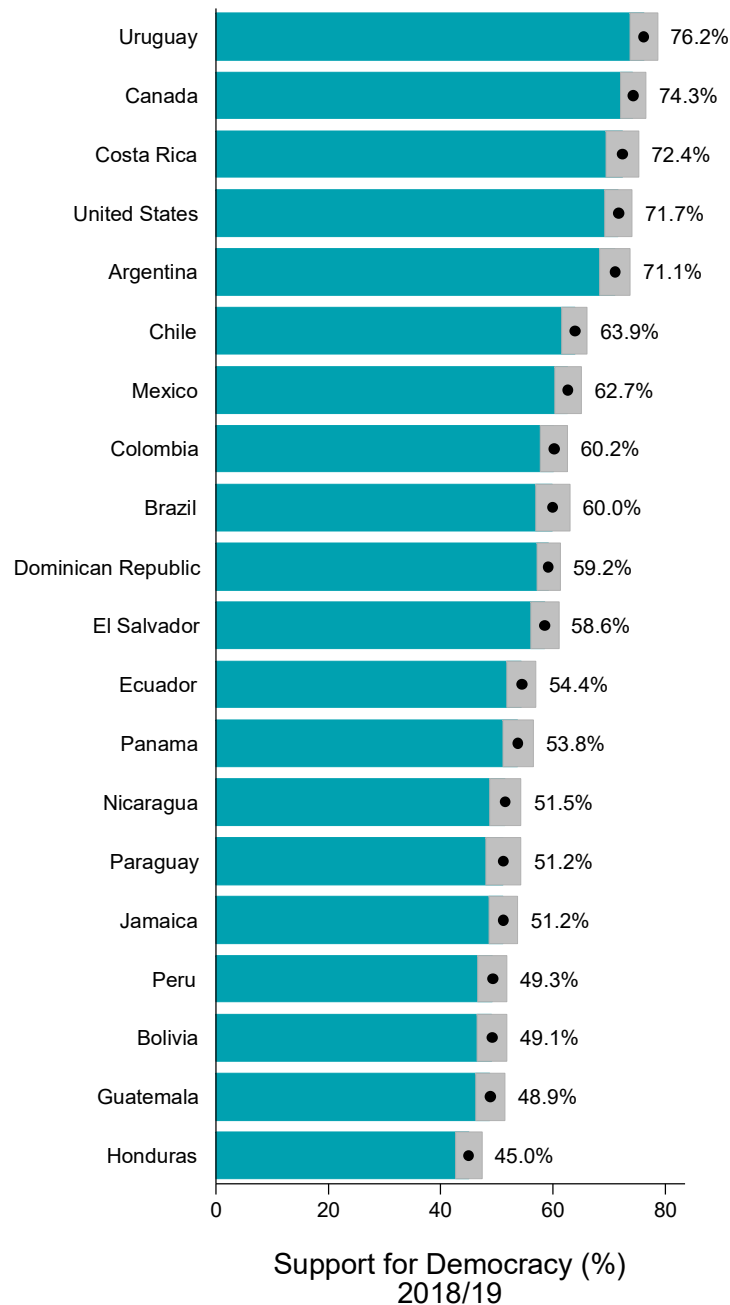Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2018/19; (GM August 2019)

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".

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# Support for democracy has declined in a number of countries

Uruguay — 76.2%
Canada — 74.3%
Costa Rica — 72.4%
United States — 71.7%
Argentina — 71.1%
Chile — 63.9%
Mexico — 62.7%
Colombia — 60.2%
Brazil — 60.0%
Dominican Republic — 59.2%
El Salvador — 58.6%
Ecuador — 54.4%
Panama — 53.8%
Nicaragua — 51.5%
Paraguay — 51.2%
Jamaica — 51.2%
Peru — 49.3%
Bolivia — 49.1%
Guatemala — 48.9%
Honduras — 45.0%

**Support for Democracy (%) 2018/19**

95 % Confidence Interval (with Design-Effects)

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

## In LAC region since 2016/17, support has:

**Increased:**
- Brazil
- Chile
- Colombia
- El Salvador
- Mexico
- Paraguay

**Decreased:**
- Argentina
- Bolivia
- Jamaica
- Honduras
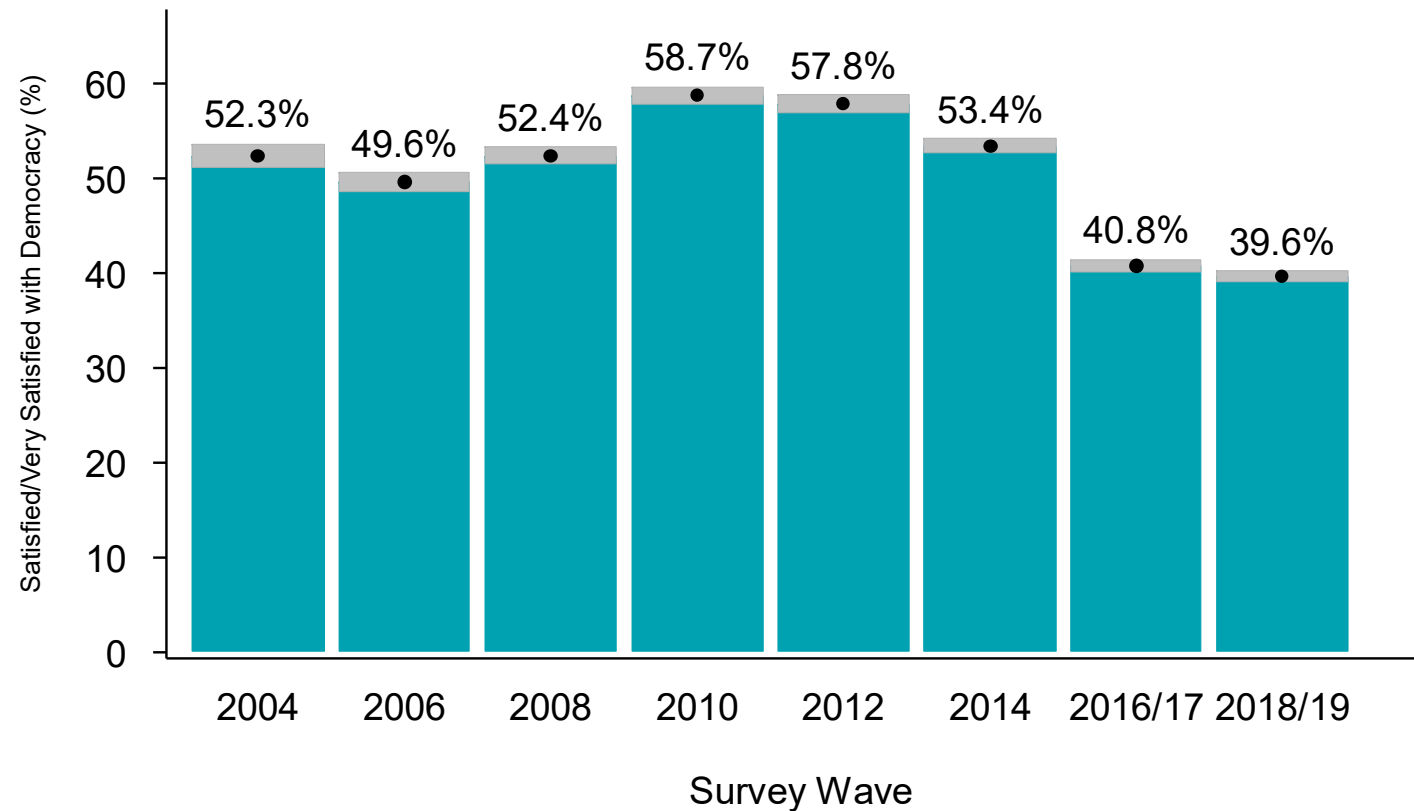- Nicaragua
- Panama
- Uruguay

**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".

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# Satisfaction with democracy has decreased since 2010



Satisfied/Very Satisfied with Democracy (%)

- 2004: 52.3%
- 2006: 49.6%
- 2008: 52.4%
- 2010: 58.7%
- 2012: 57.8%
- 2014: 53.4%
- 2016/17: 40.8%
- 2018/19: 39.6%

Survey Wave

95 % Confidence Interval
(with Design-Effects)

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).

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A minority of the public is **satisfied** with how democracy works

| Country | % |
|---|---|
| Canada | 76.2% |
| Uruguay | 59.5% |
| United States | 55.8% |
| Nicaragua | 46.4% |
| Mexico | 46.4% |
| Costa Rica | 45.6% |
| Dominican Republic | 43.1% |
| Paraguay | 42.6% |
| Brazil | 41.7% |
| Chile | 41.2% |
| Guatemala | 41.0% |
| Bolivia | 40.8% |
| Ecuador | 38.7% |
| El Salvador | 36.6% |
| Honduras | 35.9% |
| Argentina | 35.5% |
| Jamaica | 32.2% |
| Colombia | 29.3% |
| Peru | 28.0% |
| Panama | 26.1% |

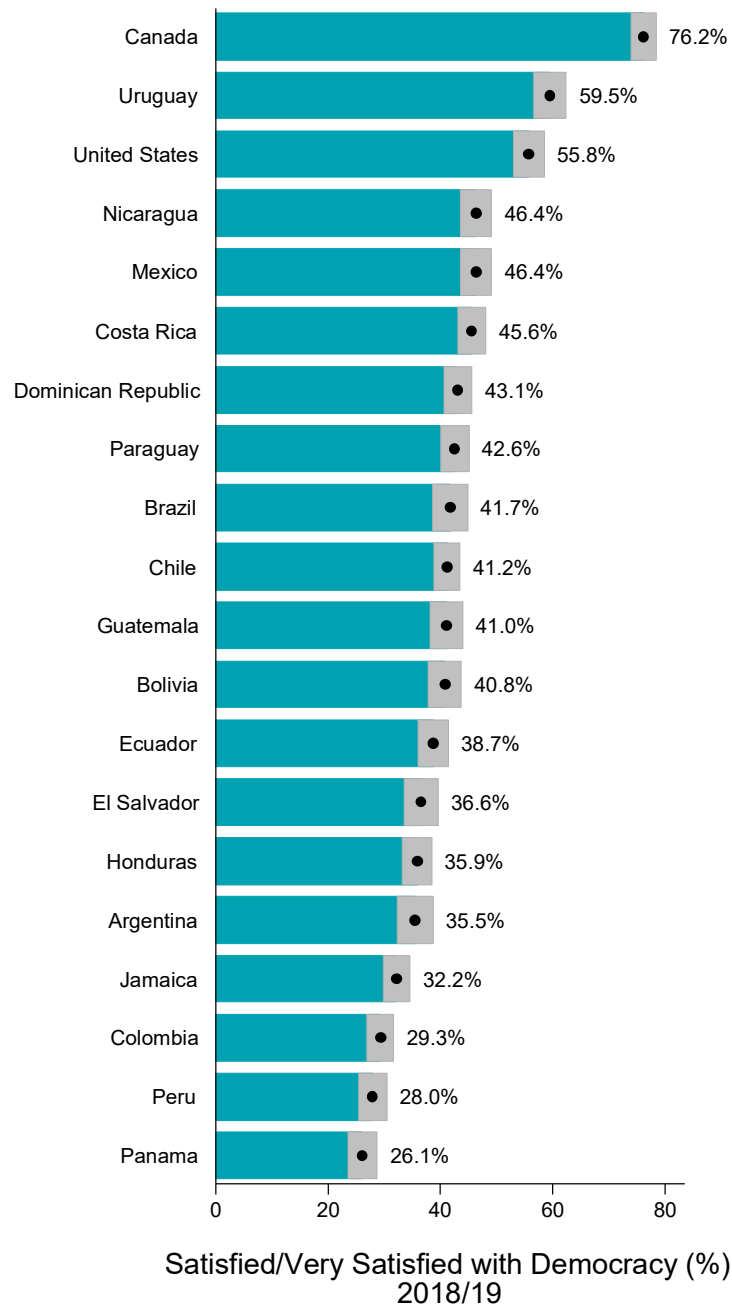Satisfied/Very Satisfied with Democracy (%)
2018/19

95 % Confidence Interval
(with Design-Effects)

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

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

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# A minority of the public is satisfied with how democracy works

Satisfied/Very Satisfied with Democracy (%) 2018/19

| Country | % |
|---|---|
| Canada | 76.2% |
| Uruguay | 59.5% |
| United States | 55.8% |
| Nicaragua | 46.4% |
| Mexico | 46.4% |
| Costa Rica | 45.6% |
| Dominican Republic | 43.1% |
| Paraguay | 42.6% |
| Brazil | 41.7% |
| Chile | 41.2% |
| Guatemala | 41.0% |
| Bolivia | 40.8% |
| Ecuador | 38.7% |
| El Salvador | 36.6% |
| Honduras | 35.9% |
| Argentina | 35.5% |
| Jamaica | 32.2% |
| Colombia | 29.3% |
| Peru | 28.0% |
| Panama | 26.1% |

95 % Confidence Interval (with Design-Effects)

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

## In LAC region since 2016/17, satisfaction has:

**Increased:**
- Brazil
- Chile
- Mexico
- Paraguay

**Decreased:**
- Argentina
- Bolivia
- Costa Rica
- Ecuador
- El Salvador
- Nicaragua
- Panama
- Uruguay

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

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# Trust in elections continues to slip
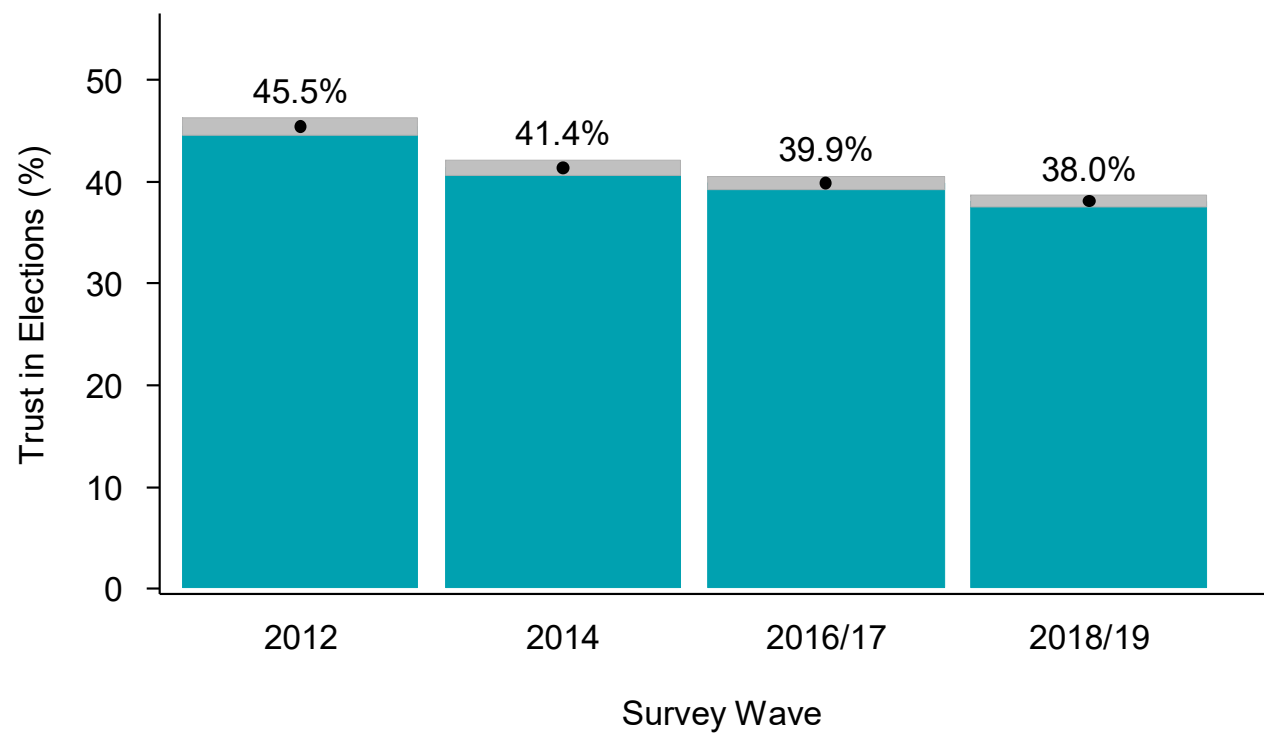


Trust in Elections (%)

45.5%
41.4%
39.9%
38.0%

50
40
30
20
10
0

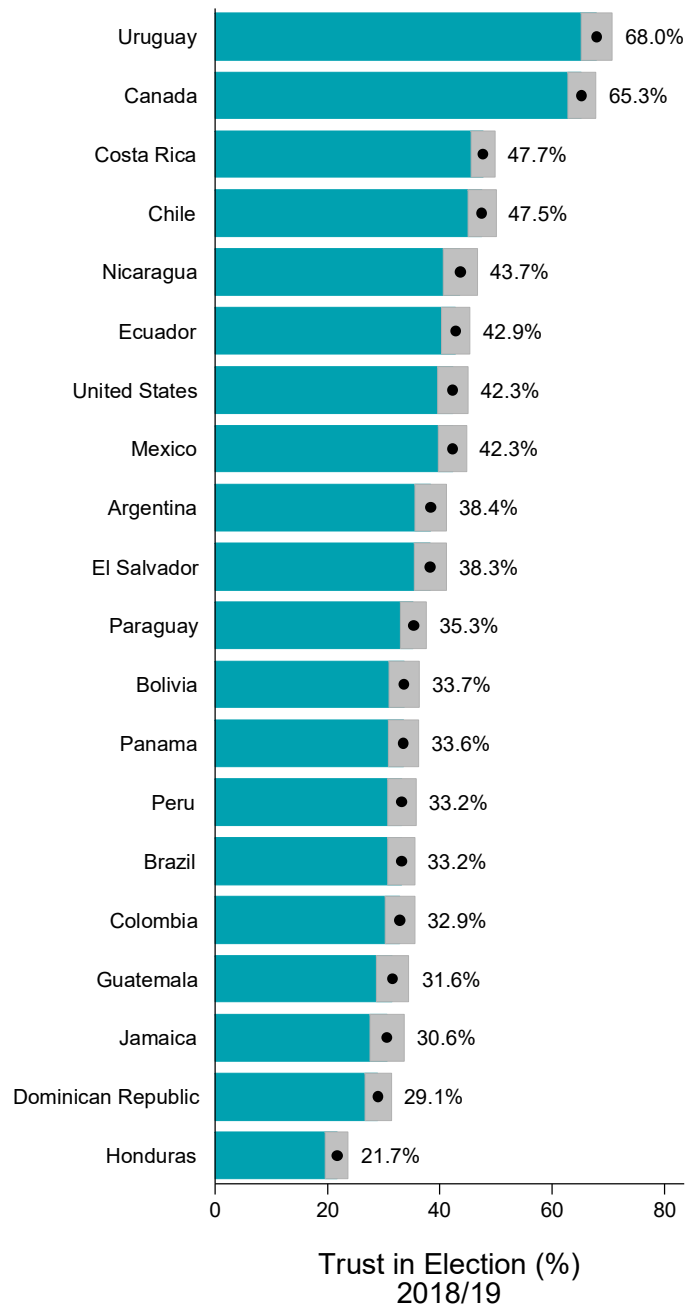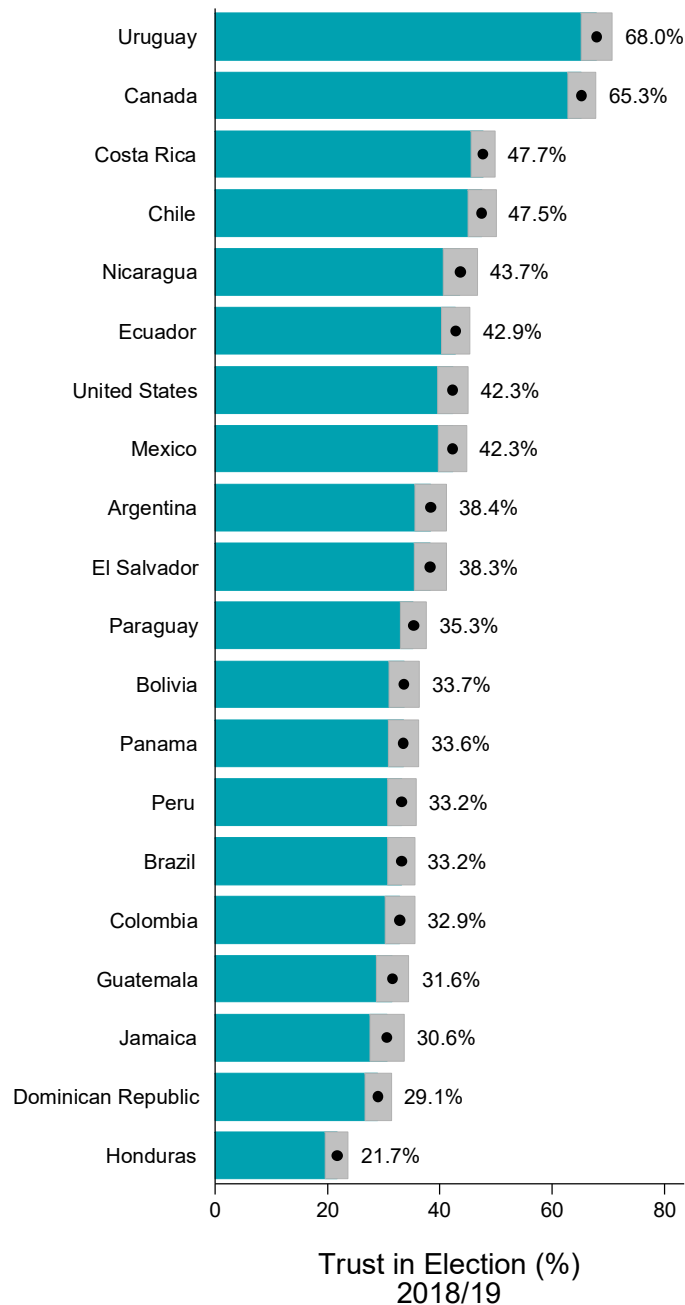2012    2014    2016/17    2018/19

Survey Wave

95 % Confidence Interval
(with Design-Effects)

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

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

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# Trust in elections is highest in Uruguay, lowest in Honduras

| Country | Trust in Election (%) |
|---|---|
| Uruguay | 68.0% |
| Canada | 65.3% |
| Costa Rica | 47.7% |
| Chile | 47.5% |
| Nicaragua | 43.7% |
| Ecuador | 42.9% |
| United States | 42.3% |
| Mexico | 42.3% |
| Argentina | 38.4% |
| El Salvador | 38.3% |
| Paraguay | 35.3% |
| Bolivia | 33.7% |
| Panama | 33.6% |
| Peru | 33.2% |
| Brazil | 33.2% |
| Colombia | 32.9% |
| Guatemala | 31.6% |
| Jamaica | 30.6% |
| Dominican Republic | 29.1% |
| Honduras | 21.7% |

Trust in Election (%)
2018/19

95 % Confidence Interval
(with Design-Effects)

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2018/19; (GM August 2019); b47a

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

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# Trust in elections is highest in Uruguay, lowest in Honduras

**Trust in Election (%) 2018/19**

| Country | Trust (%) |
|---|---|
| Uruguay | 68.0% |
| Canada | 65.3% |
| Costa Rica | 47.7% |
| Chile | 47.5% |
| Nicaragua | 43.7% |
| Ecuador | 42.9% |
| United States | 42.3% |
| Mexico | 42.3% |
| Argentina | 38.4% |
| El Salvador | 38.3% |
| Paraguay | 35.3% |
| Bolivia | 33.7% |
| Panama | 33.6% |
| Peru | 33.2% |
| Brazil | 33.2% |
| Colombia | 32.9% |
| Guatemala | 31.6% |
| Jamaica | 30.6% |
| Dominican Republic | 29.1% |
| Honduras | 21.7% |

■ 95 % Confidence Interval (with Design-Effects)

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2018/19; (GM August 2019); b47a

## In LAC region since 2016/17, trust in elections has:

**Increased:**
- Brazil
- Chile
- Colombia
- Mexico

**Decreased:**
- Bolivia
- Costa Rica
- Dominican Rep.
- Ecuador
- Guatemala
- Honduras
- Nicaragua
- Panama
- Peru
- Uruguay

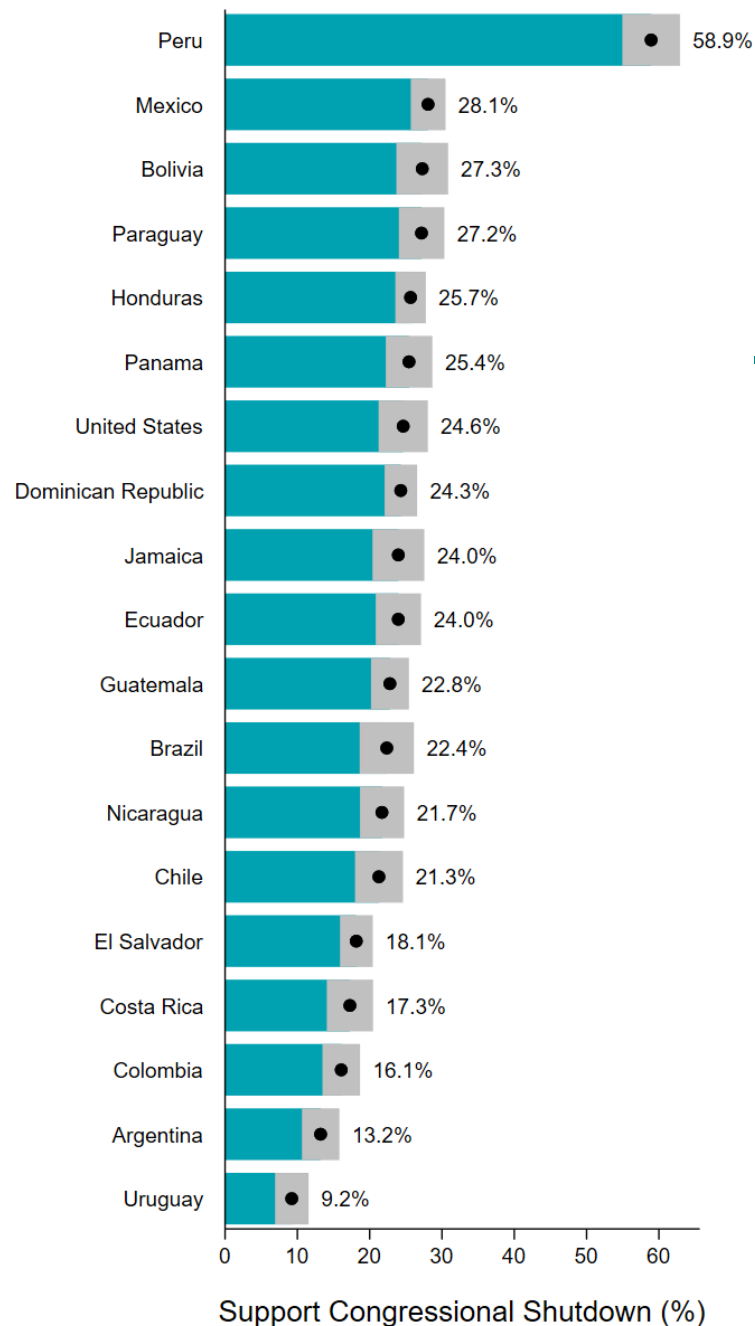**B47A.** To what extent do you trust elections in this country? 5, 6, 7 coded as "trust".

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# Tolerance for dissolving Congress (in times of crisis) is rising
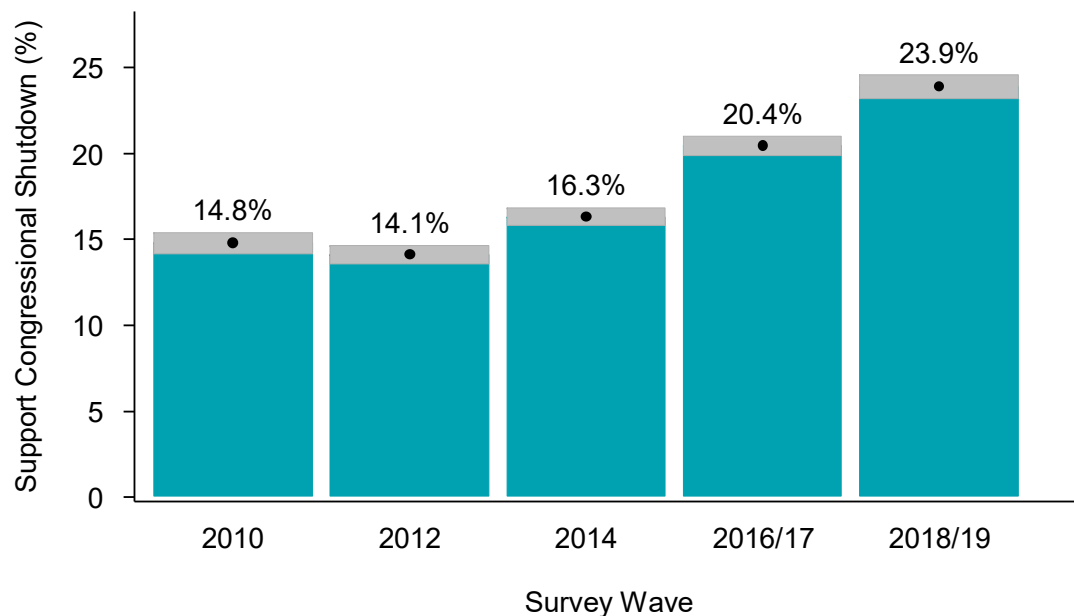


Do you believe that when the country is facing very difficult times it is justifiable for the president of the country to close the Congress and govern without Congress?

95 % Confidence Interval (with Design-Effects)

**Tolerance for dissolving Congress has increased five countries**

In LAC region since 2016/17, tolerance has:

**Increased:**
- Dominican Rep.
- Honduras
- Jamaica
- Mexico
- Peru

Chart: Support Congressional Shutdown (%)

| Country | Value |
|---|---|
| Peru | 58.9% |
| Mexico | 28.1% |
| Bolivia | 27.3% |
| Paraguay | 27.2% |
| Honduras | 25.7% |
| Panama | 25.4% |
| United States | 24.6% |
| Dominican Republic | 24.3% |
| Jamaica | 24.0% |
| Ecuador | 24.0% |
| Guatemala | 22.8% |
| Brazil | 22.4% |
| Nicaragua | 21.7% |
| Chile | 21.3% |
| El Salvador | 18.1% |
| Costa Rica | 17.3% |
| Colombia | 16.1% |
| Argentina | 13.2% |
| Uruguay | 9.2% |

95 % Confidence Interval (with Design-Effects)

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP; GM Oct 2019

**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?

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# Spotlight on **Tolerance for Dissolving Congress** in Peru



Tolerance of Executive Coups (%)

26.5%
22.0%
27.4%
37.8%
58.9%

2010 · 2012 · 2014 · 2017 · 2019

- - - 95 % Confidence Interval (with Design-Effects)
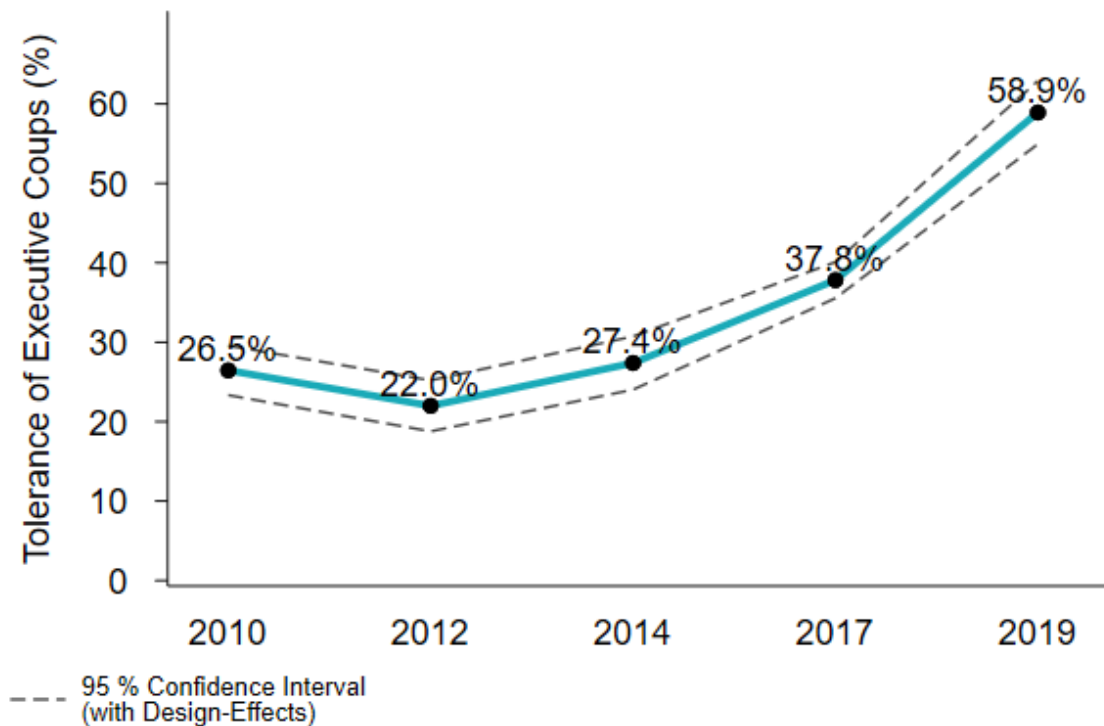
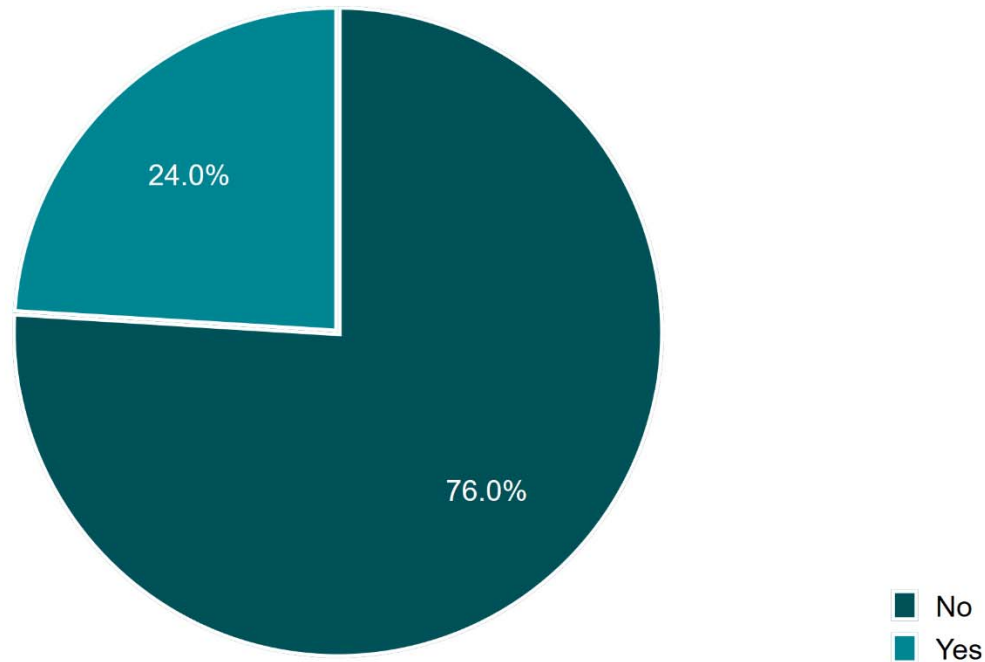Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2010-2018/19; v.GM20190821_E

- **3 in 5** Peruvians agree it can be justifiable to close congress

- **+ 21.1 percentage points** since 2017

- **Wealthier** and **middle aged cohorts** are more tolerant

- Related: only **8%** of Peruvians trust Congress

**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?

**Part II.**
**Contributing to the Democratic Deficit: Insecurity, Corruption, Economic Vulnerability**

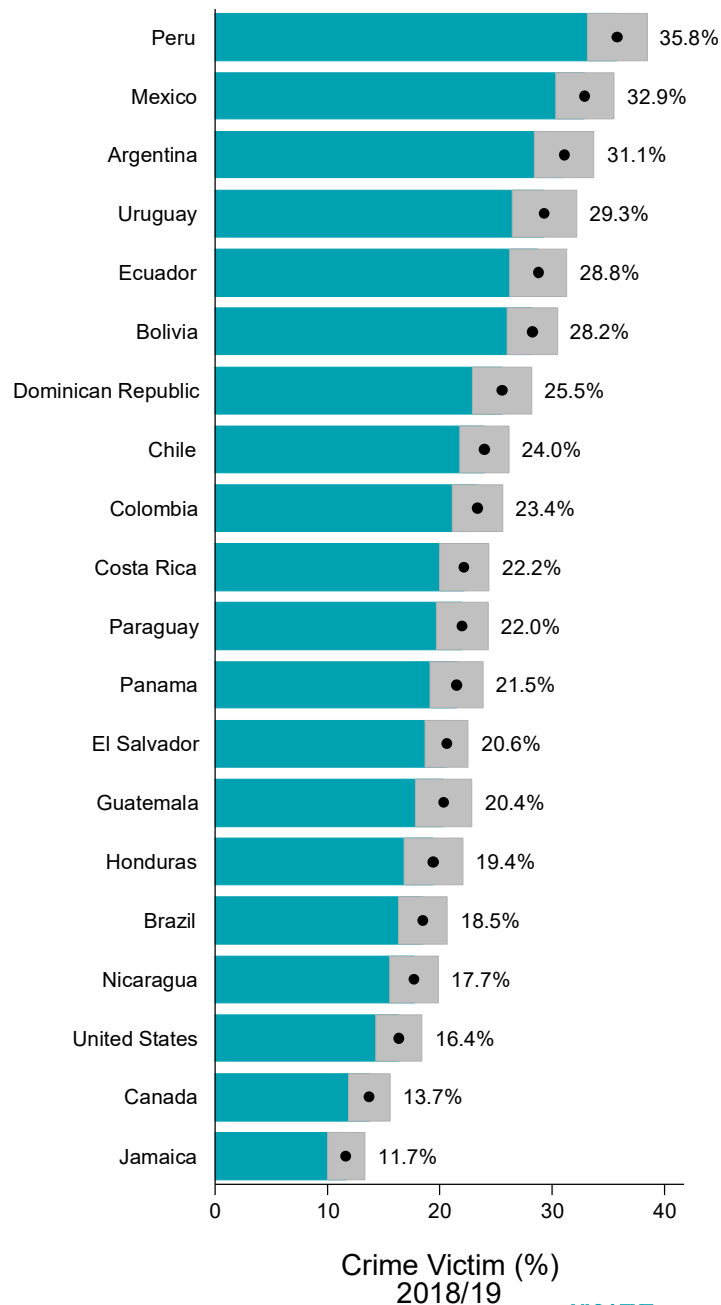# 1 in 4 are crime victims



24.0%

76.0%

■ No
■ Yes

Crime Victim (%) 2018/19

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP; GM Oct 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?  LAC-18 countries only.

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Crime victimization is most widespread in Peru

| Country | Crime Victim (%) |
|---|---|
| Peru | 35.8% |
| Mexico | 32.9% |
| Argentina | 31.1% |
| Uruguay | 29.3% |
| Ecuador | 28.8% |
| Bolivia | 28.2% |
| Dominican Republic | 25.5% |
| Chile | 24.0% |
| Colombia | 23.4% |
| Costa Rica | 22.2% |
| Paraguay | 22.0% |
| Panama | 21.5% |
| El Salvador | 20.6% |
| Guatemala | 20.4% |
| Honduras | 19.4% |
| Brazil | 18.5% |
| Nicaragua | 17.7% |
| United States | 16.4% |
| Canada | 13.7% |
| Jamaica | 11.7% |

Crime Victim (%)
2018/19

95 % Confidence Interval
(with Design-Effects)

**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?

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

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# Crime victimization is most widespread in Peru

Peru — 35.8%
Mexico — 32.9%
Argentina — 31.1%
Uruguay — 29.3%
Ecuador — 28.8%
Bolivia — 28.2%
Dominican Republic — 25.5%
Chile — 24.0%
Colombia — 23.4%
Costa Rica — 22.2%
Paraguay — 22.0%
Panama — 21.5%
El Salvador — 20.6%
Guatemala — 20.4%
Honduras — 19.4%
Brazil — 18.5%
Nicaragua — 17.7%
United States — 16.4%
Canada — 13.7%
Jamaica — 11.7%

Crime Victim (%)
2018/19

95 % Confidence Interval
(with Design-Effects)

In LAC region since 2016/17, victimization has:

**Decreased:**
- Brazil

**Increased:**
- Argentina
- Panama
- Uruguay

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?

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

# Insecurity continues to rise
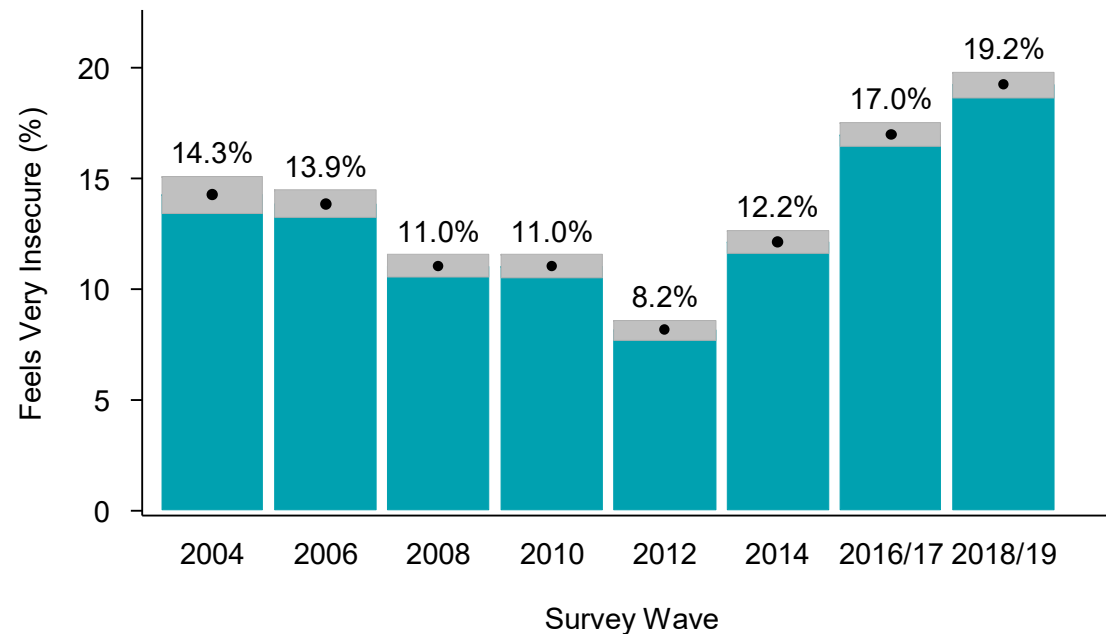
Feels Very Insecure (%)

- 2004: 14.3%
- 2006: 13.9%
- 2008: 11.0%
- 2010: 11.0%
- 2012: 8.2%
- 2014: 12.2%
- 2016/17: 17.0%
- 2018/19: 19.2%

Survey Wave

95 % Confidence Interval
(with Design-Effects)

Speaking of the neighborhood where you live and thinking of the possibility of being assaulted or robbed, do you feel ... **very unsafe**?

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

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*Barómetro de las Américas*
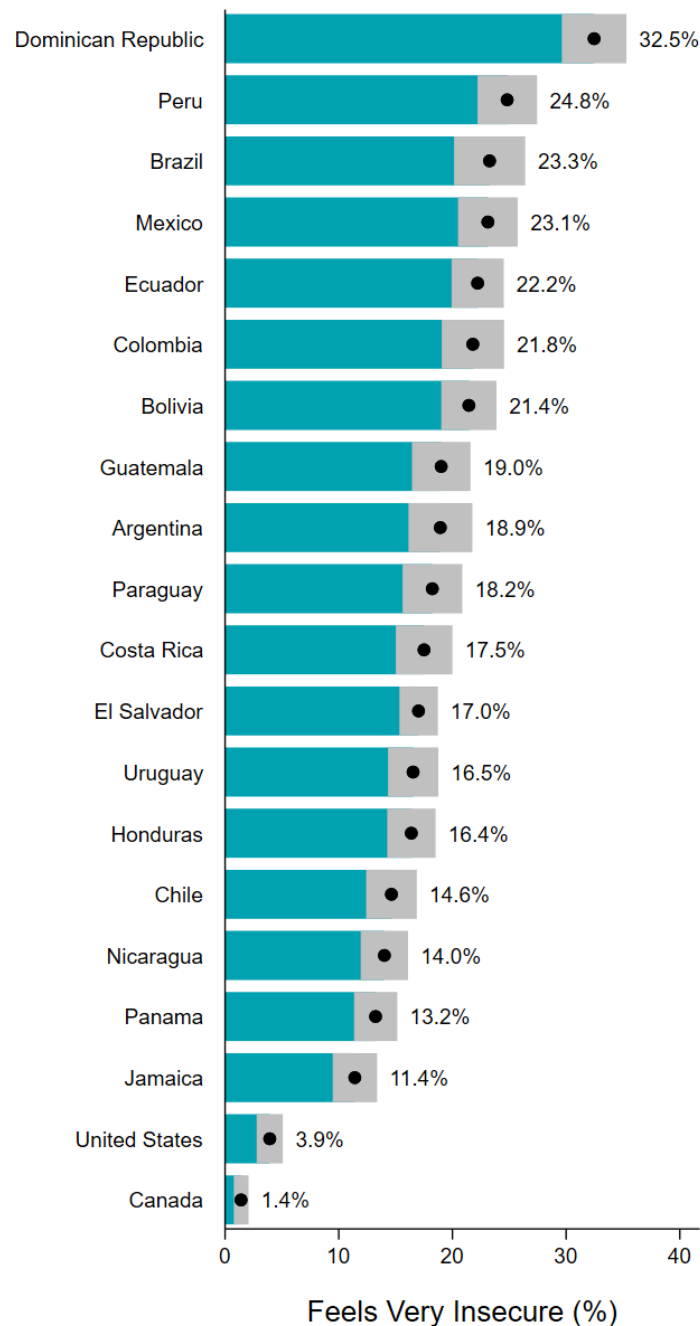
## Insecurity has increased in most countries in the region

In LAC region since 2016/17, insecurity has:

**Decreased:**
- Brazil

**Increased:**
- Bolivia
- Chile
- Costa Rica
- Ecuador
- El Salvador
- Mexico
- Nicaragua
- Panama
- Peru

Feels Very Insecure (%)

| Country | % |
|---------|-----|
| Dominican Republic | 32.5% |
| Peru | 24.8% |
| Brazil | 23.3% |
| Mexico | 23.1% |
| Ecuador | 22.2% |
| Colombia | 21.8% |
| Bolivia | 21.4% |
| Guatemala | 19.0% |
| Argentina | 18.9% |
| Paraguay | 18.2% |
| Costa Rica | 17.5% |
| El Salvador | 17.0% |
| Uruguay | 16.5% |
| Honduras | 16.4% |
| Chile | 14.6% |
| Nicaragua | 14.0% |
| Panama | 13.2% |
| Jamaica | 11.4% |
| United States | 3.9% |
| Canada | 1.4% |

95 % Confidence Interval (with Design-Effects)

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP; GM Oct 2019

**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.

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# Corruption Victimization (bribe solicitation)

**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?

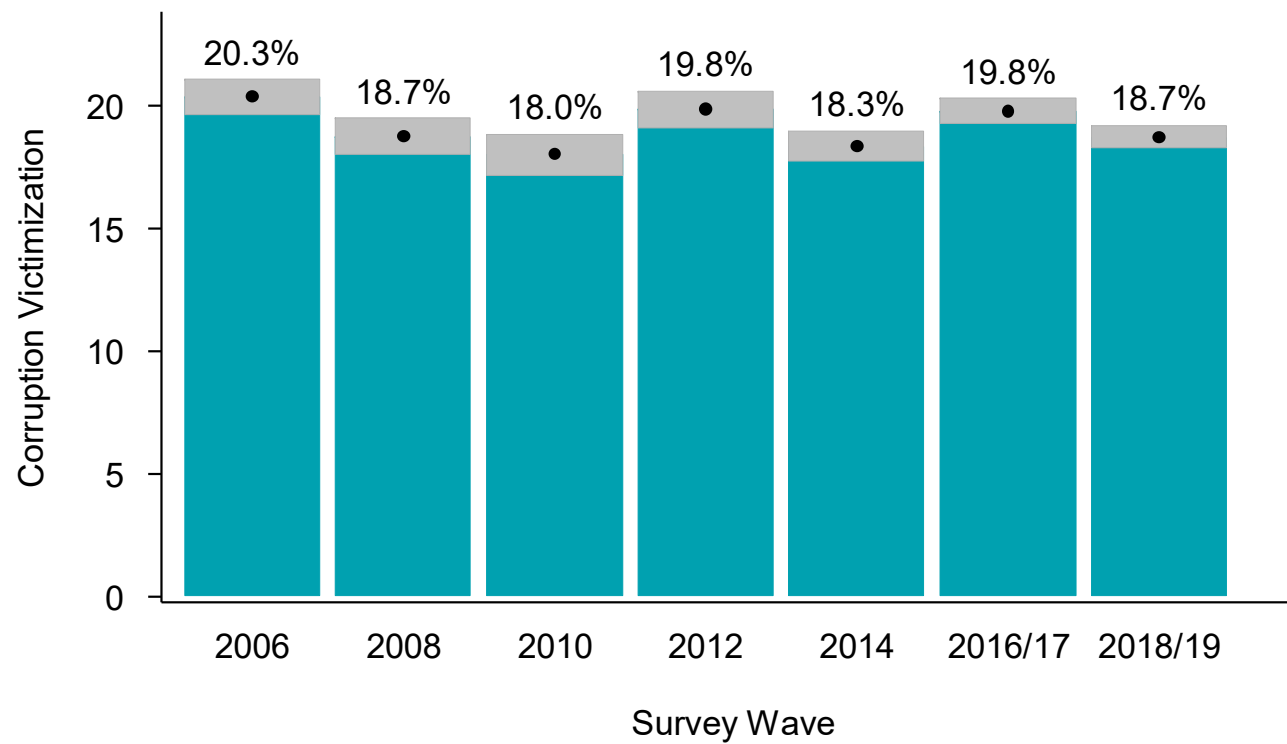**EXC13**. In your **work**, have you been asked to pay a bribe in the last twelve months?

**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.
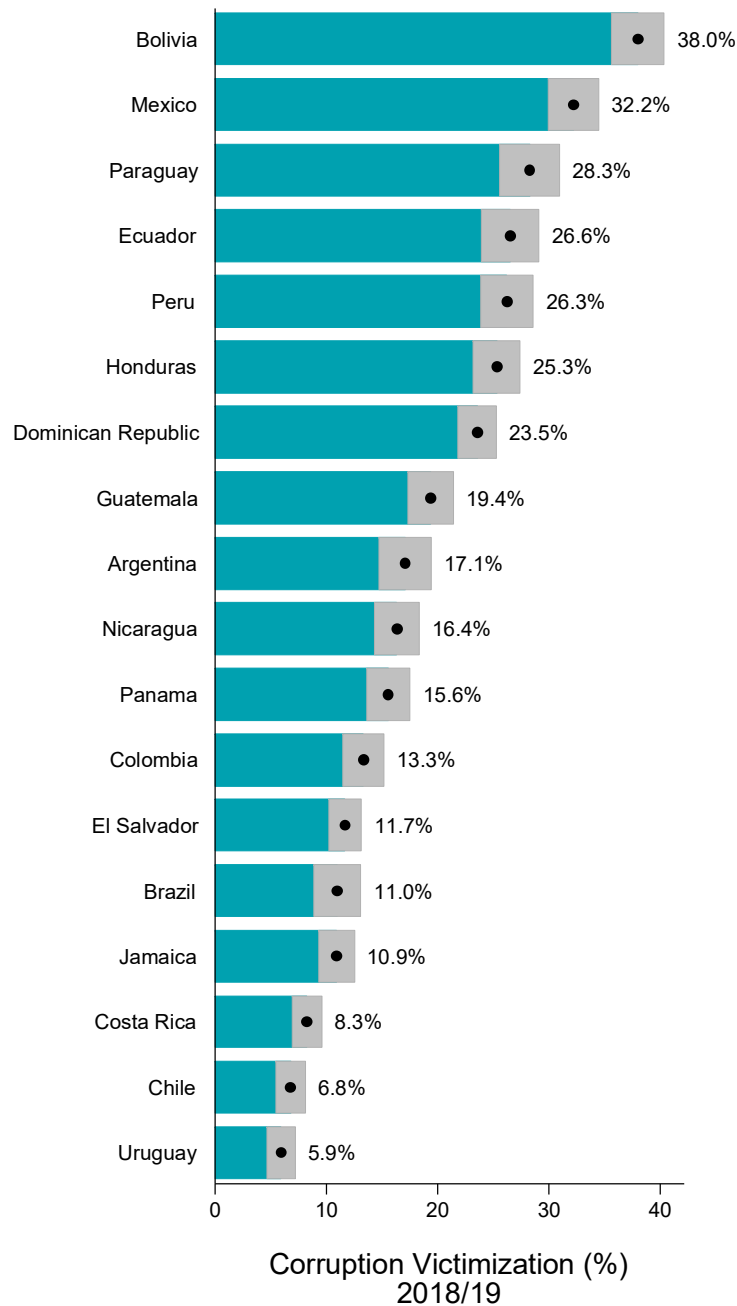
**Bribe victimization is most widespread in Bolivia and Mexico**

Corruption Victimization (%) 2018/19

| Country | Value |
|---|---|
| Bolivia | 38.0% |
| Mexico | 32.2% |
| Paraguay | 28.3% |
| Ecuador | 26.6% |
| Peru | 26.3% |
| Honduras | 25.3% |
| Dominican Republic | 23.5% |
| Guatemala | 19.4% |
| Argentina | 17.1% |
| Nicaragua | 16.4% |
| Panama | 15.6% |
| Colombia | 13.3% |
| El Salvador | 11.7% |
| Brazil | 11.0% |
| Jamaica | 10.9% |
| Costa Rica | 8.3% |
| Chile | 6.8% |
| Uruguay | 5.9% |

95 % Confidence Interval (with Design-Effects)

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

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**Bribe victimization is most widespread in Bolivia and Mexico**

In LAC region since 2016/17, bribery has:

**Decreased:**
- **Chile**
- **Guatemala**
- **Nicaragua**

Bolivia — 38.0%
Mexico — 32.2%
Paraguay — 28.3%
Ecuador — 26.6%
Peru — 26.3%
Honduras — 25.3%
Dominican Republic — 23.5%
Guatemala — 19.4%
Argentina — 17.1%
Nicaragua — 16.4%
Panama — 15.6%
Colombia — 13.3%
El Salvador — 11.7%
Brazil — 11.0%
Jamaica — 10.9%
Costa Rica — 8.3%
Chile — 6.8%
Uruguay — 5.9%

Corruption Victimization (%)
2018/19

95 % Confidence Interval
(with Design-Effects)

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*Barómetro de las Américas*

# Perceptions of corruption are elevated

Peru — 84.7%
Brazil — 79.0%
Panama — 79.0%
Colombia — 75.4%
Guatemala — 73.3%
Argentina — 73.2%
Honduras — 68.9%
Dominican Republic — 68.7%
Bolivia — 68.1%
Chile — 67.0%
Mexico — 65.4%
Paraguay — 64.5%
Ecuador — 64.3%
El Salvador — 64.2%
Jamaica — 61.7%
Costa Rica — 54.2%
Nicaragua — 53.4%
Uruguay — 50.3%
United States — 43.1%

More than Half/All are Corrupt (%)
2018/19

95 % Confidence Interval
(with Design-Effects)

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

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

Graph shows % "more than half" or "all" are corrupt.

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# Perceptions of corruption are elevated

## More than Half/All are Corrupt (%) 2018/19

| Country | Value |
|---------|-------|
| Peru | 84.7% |
| Brazil | 79.0% |
| Panama | 79.0% |
| Colombia | 75.4% |
| Guatemala | 73.3% |
| Argentina | 73.2% |
| Honduras | 68.9% |
| Dominican Republic | 68.7% |
| Bolivia | 68.1% |
| Chile | 67.0% |
| Mexico | 65.4% |
| Paraguay | 64.5% |
| Ecuador | 64.3% |
| El Salvador | 64.2% |
| Jamaica | 61.7% |
| Costa Rica | 54.2% |
| Nicaragua | 53.4% |
| Uruguay | 50.3% |
| United States | 43.1% |
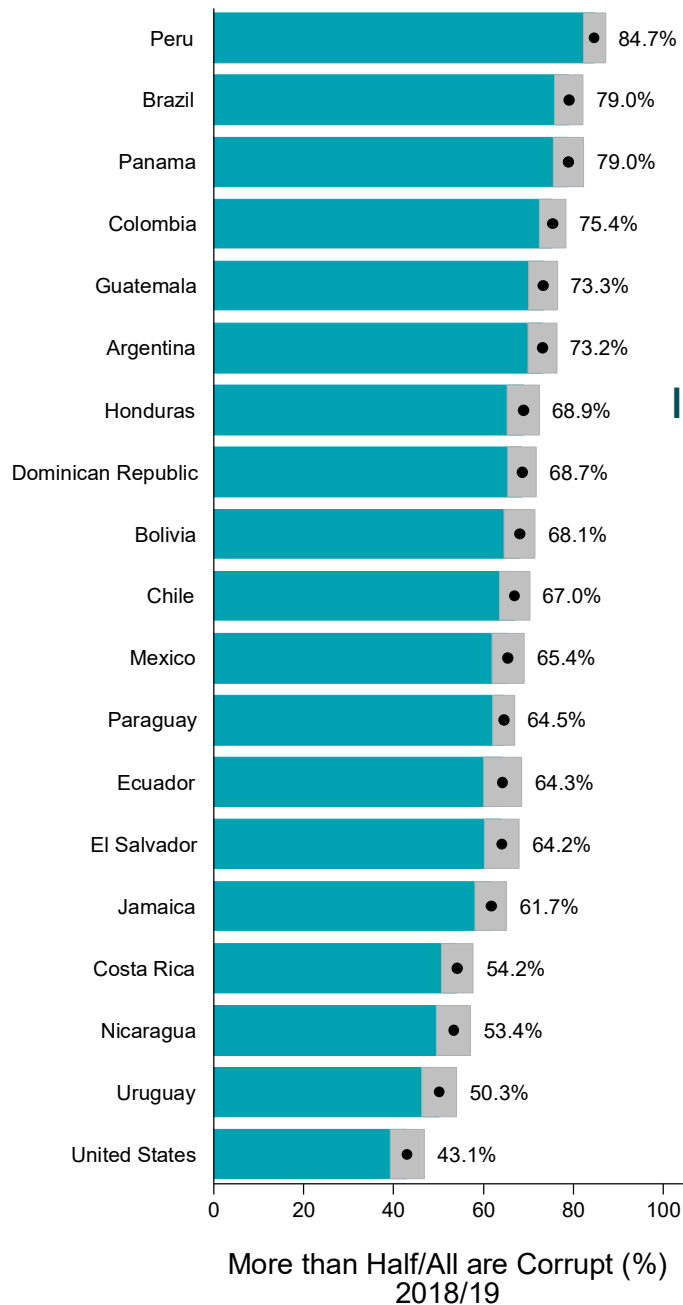
In LAC region since 2016/17, perceptions of corruption have:

**Decreased:**
- Brazil
- Chile
- Mexico
- Paraguay

**Increased:**
- Argentina
- Bolivia
- Costa Rica
- Dominican Rep.
- Ecuador
- El Salvador
- Guatemala
- Honduras
- Nicaragua
- Peru
- Uruguay

95 % Confidence Interval (with Design-Effects)

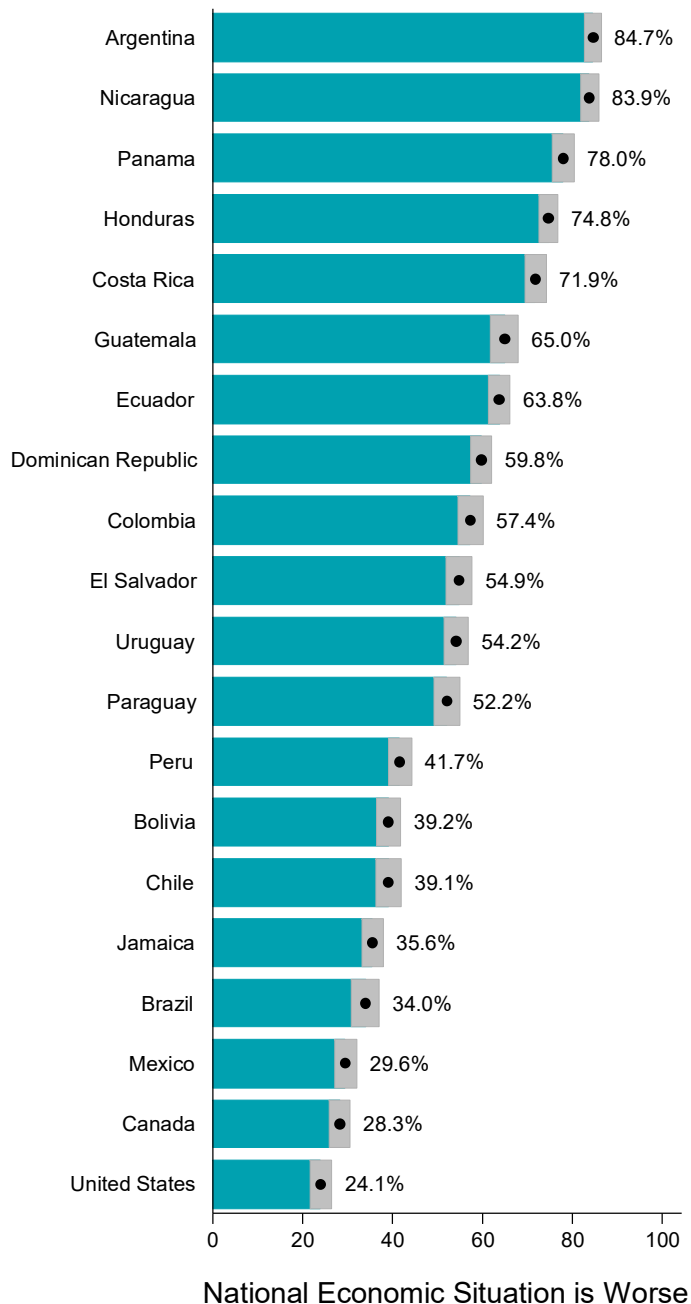Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2018/19; (GM August 2019)

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# More than 1-in-2 adults reports the national economy has gotten worse over the prior twelve months

Economy has Worsened
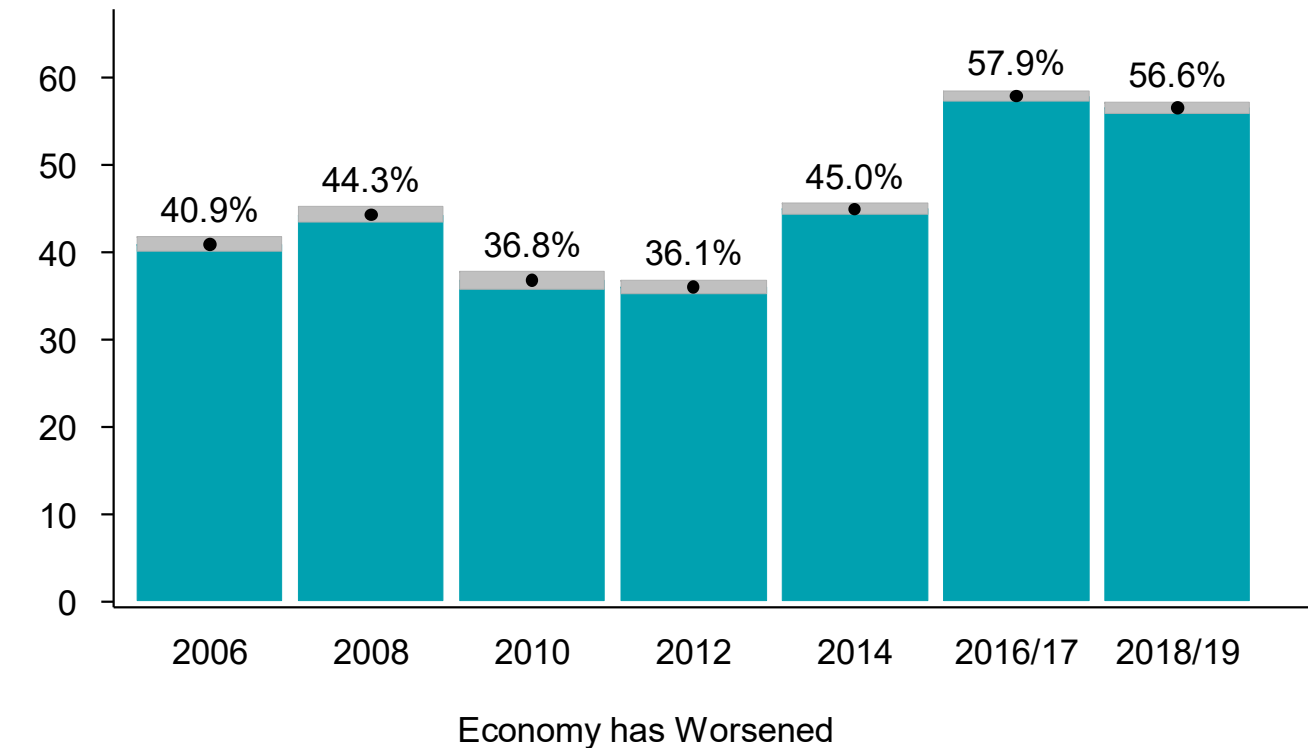
95 % Confidence Interval (with Design-Effects)

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP; (GM August 2019)

SOCT2. Do you think that the country's current economic situation is better than, the same as or worse than it was 12 months ago? Graphs shows % who respond "worse"
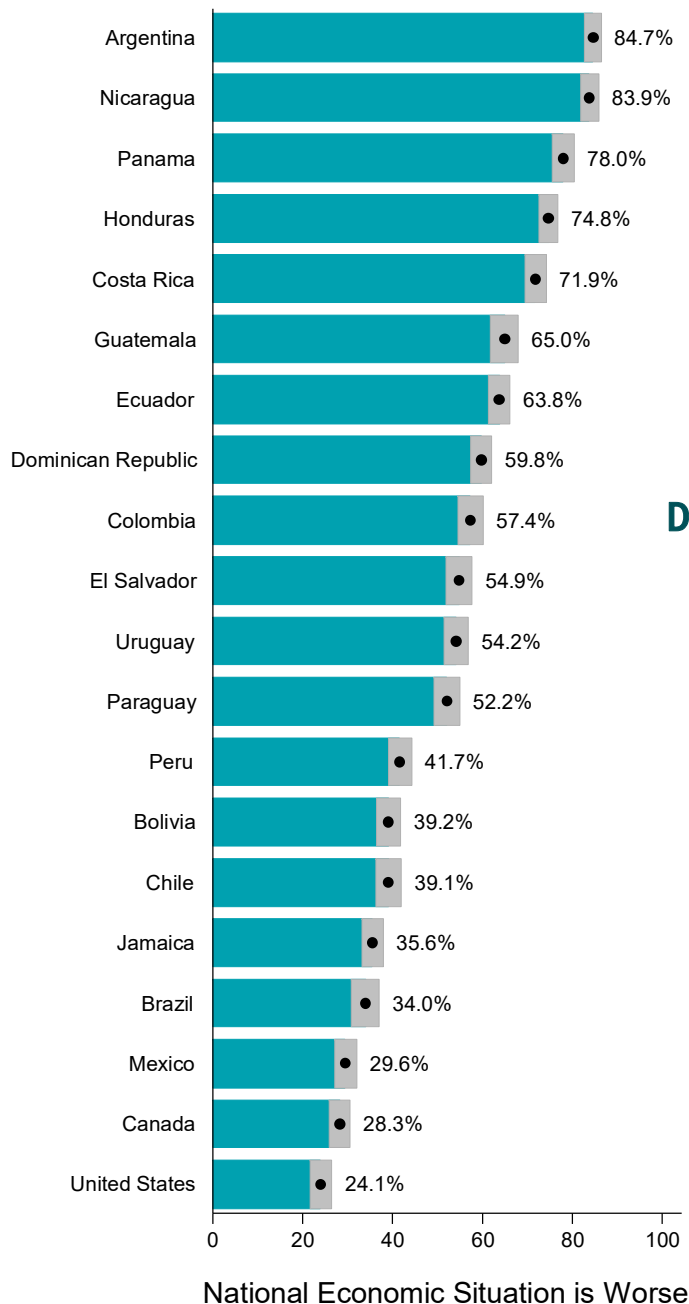
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National economic evaluations vary dramatically across countries

| Country | % |
|---------|-----|
| Argentina | 84.7% |
| Nicaragua | 83.9% |
| Panama | 78.0% |
| Honduras | 74.8% |
| Costa Rica | 71.9% |
| Guatemala | 65.0% |
| Ecuador | 63.8% |
| Dominican Republic | 59.8% |
| Colombia | 57.4% |
| El Salvador | 54.9% |
| Uruguay | 54.2% |
| Paraguay | 52.2% |
| Peru | 41.7% |
| Bolivia | 39.2% |
| Chile | 39.1% |
| Jamaica | 35.6% |
| Brazil | 34.0% |
| Mexico | 29.6% |
| Canada | 28.3% |
| United States | 24.1% |

National Economic Situation is Worse

**SOCT2.** Do you think that the country's current economic situation is better than, the same as or worse than it was 12 months ago? Graphs shows % who respond "worse".

95 % Confidence Interval (with Design-Effects)

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

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National economic evaluations vary dramatically across countries

Chart: National Economic Situation is Worse

| Country | Value |
|---|---|
| Argentina | 84.7% |
| Nicaragua | 83.9% |
| Panama | 78.0% |
| Honduras | 74.8% |
| Costa Rica | 71.9% |
| Guatemala | 65.0% |
| Ecuador | 63.8% |
| Dominican Republic | 59.8% |
| Colombia | 57.4% |
| El Salvador | 54.9% |
| Uruguay | 54.2% |
| Paraguay | 52.2% |
| Peru | 41.7% |
| Bolivia | 39.2% |
| Chile | 39.1% |
| Jamaica | 35.6% |
| Brazil | 34.0% |
| Mexico | 29.6% |
| Canada | 28.3% |
| United States | 24.1% |

Since 2016/17, poor evaluations have:

Decreased:
- Bolivia
- Brazil
- Chile
- El Salvador
- Jamaica
- Mexico
- Paraguay

Increased:
- Argentina
- Costa Rica
- Dominican Rep.
- Honduras
- Nicaragua
- Panama
- Uruguay

"Increased" means that more people say the national economy is worse off compared to 2016/17. "Decreased" means that fewer people think the economy is worse off in 2018/19 than they did in 2016/17.

95 % Confidence Interval (with Design-Effects)

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

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# Perceptions of a poor **personal economic situation** have been increasing since 2012



39.6%
31.4%
35.7%
28.2%
26.7%
34.6%
40.2%
42.3%

2004  2006  2008  2010  2012  2014  2016/17  2018/19

Personal Economic Situation is Worse

□ 95 % Confidence Interval
(with Design-Effects)

**IDIO2.** Do you think that **your** economic situation is better than, the same as, or worse than it was 12 months ago? Graphs shows % who respond "worse".
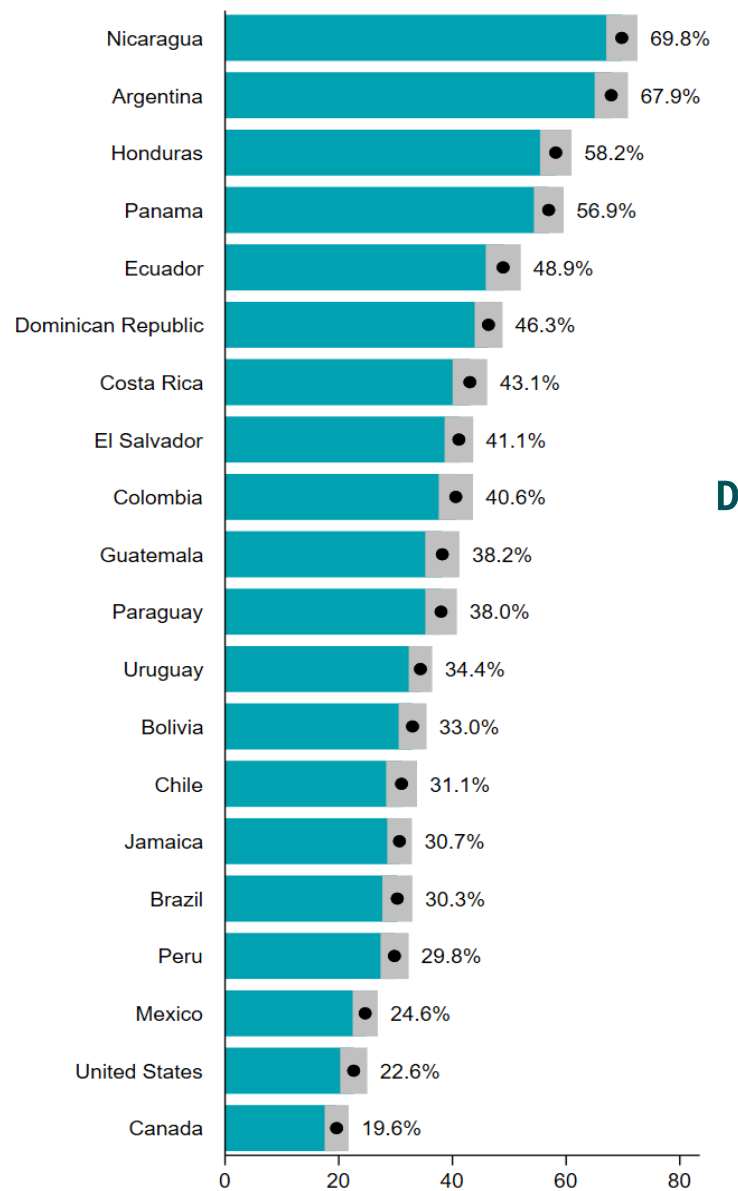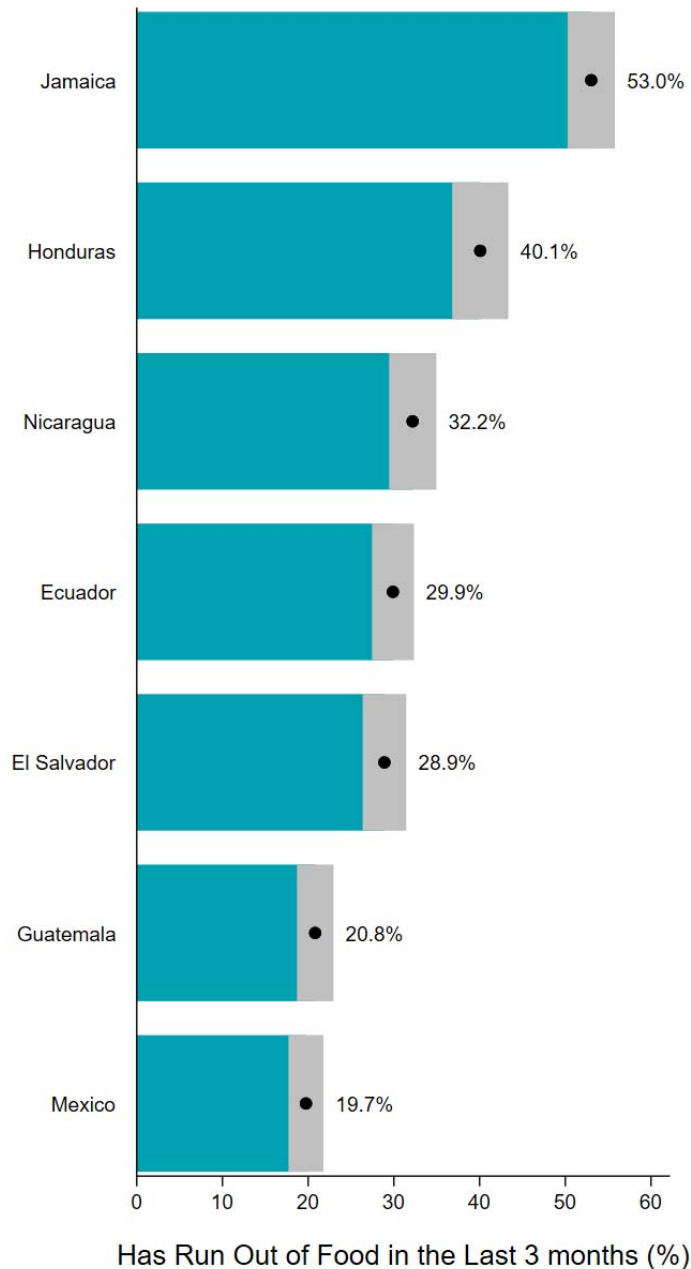
**LAPOP** AmericasBarometer
*Barómetro de las Américas*

# Pessimism about personal economic evaluations varies across countries

Nicaragua — 69.8%
Argentina — 67.9%
Honduras — 58.2%
Panama — 56.9%
Ecuador — 48.9%
Dominican Republic — 46.3%
Costa Rica — 43.1%
El Salvador — 41.1%
Colombia — 40.6%
Guatemala — 38.2%
Paraguay — 38.0%
Uruguay — 34.4%
Bolivia — 33.0%
Chile — 31.1%
Jamaica — 30.7%
Brazil — 30.3%
Peru — 29.8%
Mexico — 24.6%
United States — 22.6%
Canada — 19.6%

**Personal Economic Situation is Worse (%)**

95 % Confidence Interval
(with Design-Effects)

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP; GM Oct 2019

**IDIO2.** Do you think that **your** economic situation is better than, the same as, or worse than it was 12 months ago? Graphs shows % who respond "worse".

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# Pessimism about personal economic evaluations varies across countries

**Since 2016/17, poor evaluations have:**

**Decreased:**
- Brazil
- El Salvador
- Jamaica
- Mexico
- Paraguay

**Increased:**
- Argentina
- Colombia
- Costa Rica
- Honduras
- Nicaragua
- Panama

Chart — Personal Economic Situation is Worse (%):
- Nicaragua 69.8%
- Argentina 67.9%
- Honduras 58.2%
- Panama 56.9%
- Ecuador 48.9%
- Dominican Republic 46.3%
- Costa Rica 43.1%
- El Salvador 41.1%
- Colombia 40.6%
- Guatemala 38.2%
- Paraguay 38.0%
- Uruguay 34.4%
- Bolivia 33.0%
- Chile 31.1%
- Jamaica 30.7%
- Brazil 30.3%
- Peru 29.8%
- Mexico 24.6%
- United States 22.6%
- Canada 19.6%

95 % Confidence Interval (with Design-Effects)

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP; GM Oct 2019

**IDIO2.** Do you think that **your** economic situation is better than, the same as, or worse than it was 12 months ago? Graphs shows % who respond "worse".

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**Food insecurity** a challenge in many places, esp. Jamaica and Honduras

Since **2012**, food insecurity has:

**Increased:**
- Ecuador
- Honduras
- Jamaica
- Mexico

Jamaica 53.0%
Honduras 40.1%
Nicaragua 32.2%
Ecuador 29.9%
El Salvador 28.9%
Guatemala 20.8%
Mexico 19.7%

Has Run Out of Food in the Last 3 months (%)

95 % Confidence Interval (with Design-Effects)

This question was only asked in a subset of countries, and had not been asked since 2012.

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

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP; GM Oct 2019

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# Spotlight on **Food Insecurity** in Honduras



Has run out of food in the last 3 months (%)

14.8%

40.1%

2012 2018

Year
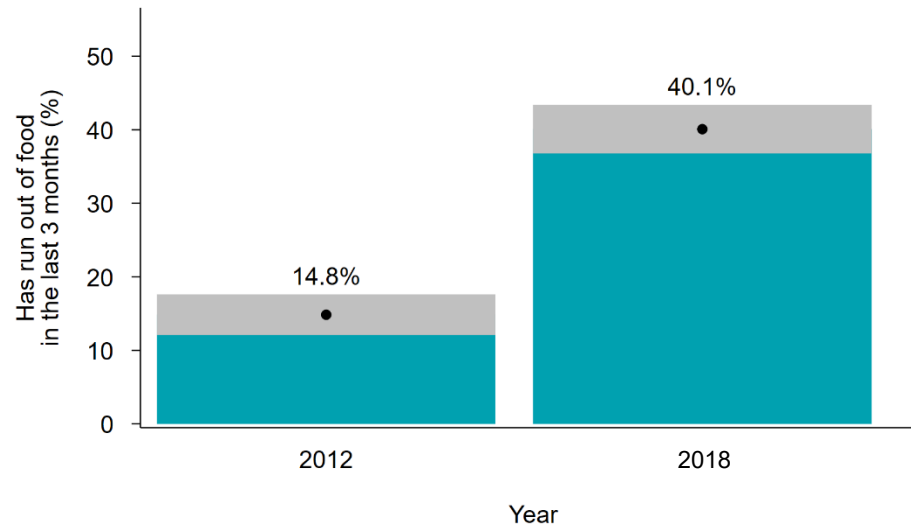
95 % Confidence Interval
(with Design-Effects)

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP; 20190821

- Food insecurity affects **2 in 5** in Honduras

- Increased by **171%** between 2012 and 2018

- **Older individuals, those who are poorer, and those with children under 13** at home are more likely to experience food insecurity

- **45.6%** who have experienced food insecurity express intentions to emigrate, compared to **33.5%** who have not run out of food in the last three months

**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

**Part III.**

**What Predicts Support for Democracy? Security, Rule of Law, Prosperity, Social Media, and Elections**

# IIIA. Lower levels of democratic attitudes are connected to security, corruption, and economic vulnerability

| Democratic attitudes are *lower* among those who: | (Lower) Support for Democracy | (Lower) Satisfaction with Democracy | (Lower) Trust in Elections | (Lower) Intolerance of Dissolving Congress |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Are victims of a crime | | ☑ | ☑ | |
| Feel very insecure | ☑ | ☑ | ☑ | ☑ |
| Were asked for bribe(s) | ☑ | ☑ | ☑ | ☑ |
| Think most/all politicians are corrupt | ☑ | ☑ | ☑ | |
| Perceive worse national economy | ☑ | ☑ | ☑ | ☑ |
| Report a worse household economy | ☑ | ☑ | ☑ | |

Note: Checkmarks indicate a statistically significant negative relationships. Results of regression analysis of 2018/19 data, controlling for SES/demographic factors and including country fixed effects.

# IIIB: Democratic Attitudes Vary by Social Media Use

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

- Social media use is widespread, especially WhatsApp and Facebook

- Frequent social media users are more supportive of democracy

- Frequent social media users are less satisfied with democracy and less trusting in elections (and other institutions)

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# Social media use is prevalent among adults in the LAC region

64.4% WhatsApp User

7.9% Twitter User

56.2% Facebook User

WhatsApp

13%

44%

Facebook

5%

7%

0.5%

0.2%

0.1%

Twitter

Non-users
30%
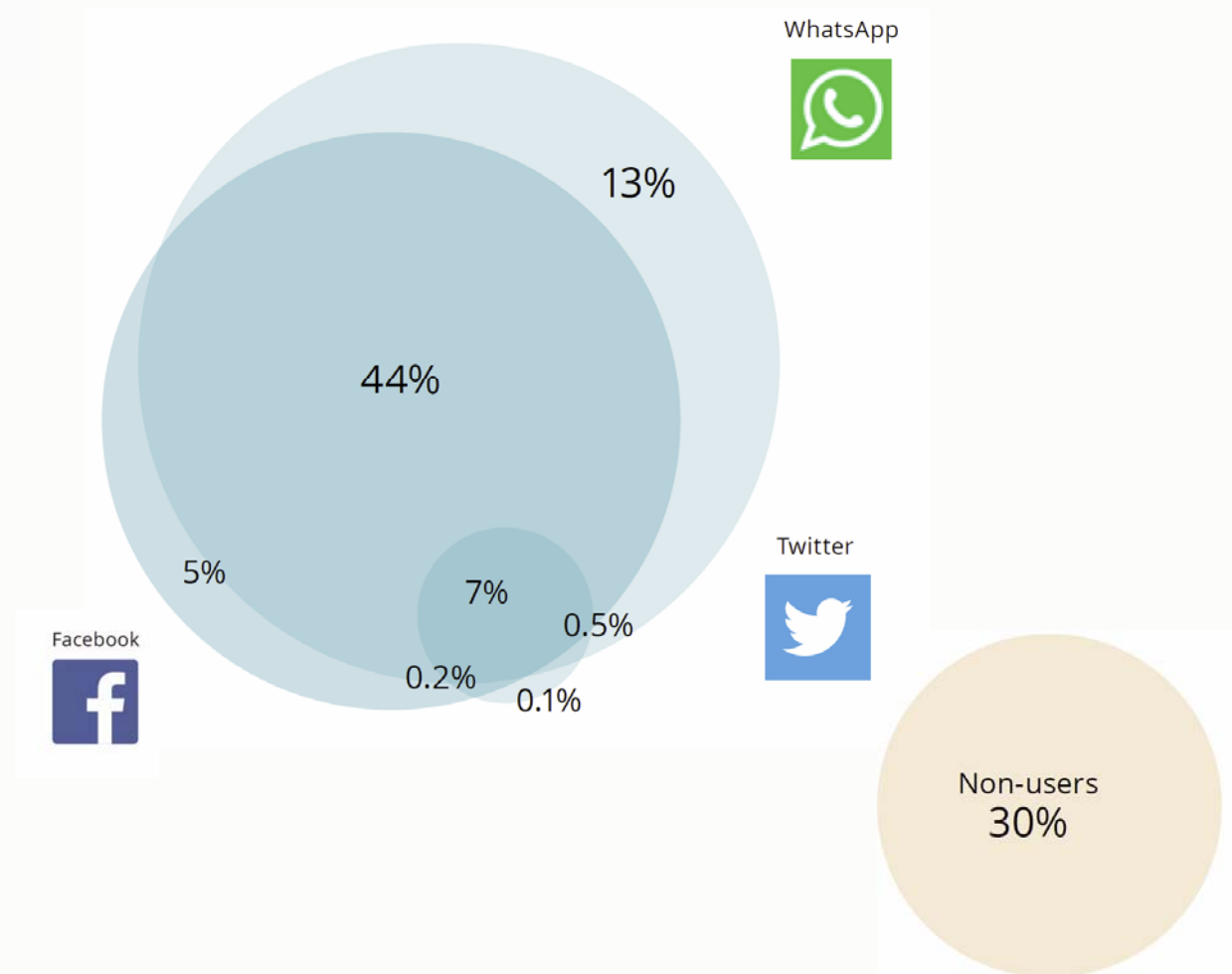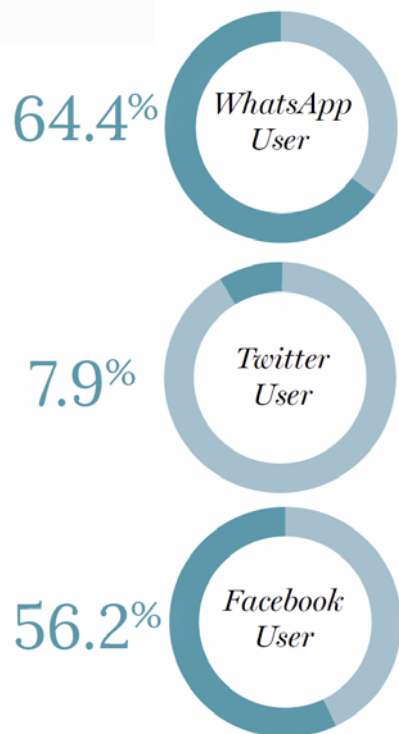
# Support for democracy is highest among frequent social media users in the LAC region

## Support for Democracy (%)



| | High Social Media | Low Social Media | Non-user |
|---|---|---|---|
| Support for Democracy (%) | 59.2 | 54.2 | 54.8 |
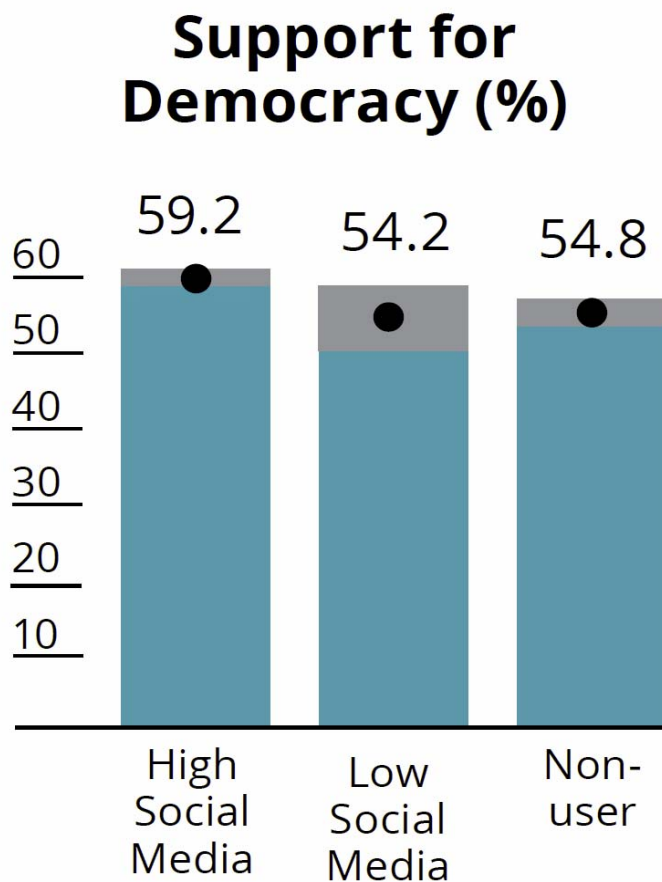
Support for democracy = % agreeing that "democracy...better than any other form of gov't."

High users: Access social media on Facebook, Whatsapp and/or Twitter daily or weekly.

Low users: Access monthly or yearly.

Non-users do not access social media.

# Satisfaction and trust in elections are lower among frequent social media users in the LAC region



**Satisfaction with Democracy (%)**

- High Social Media: 37.7
- Low Social Media: 39.2
- Non-user: 43.8

**Trust in Elections (%)**

- High Social Media: 36.6
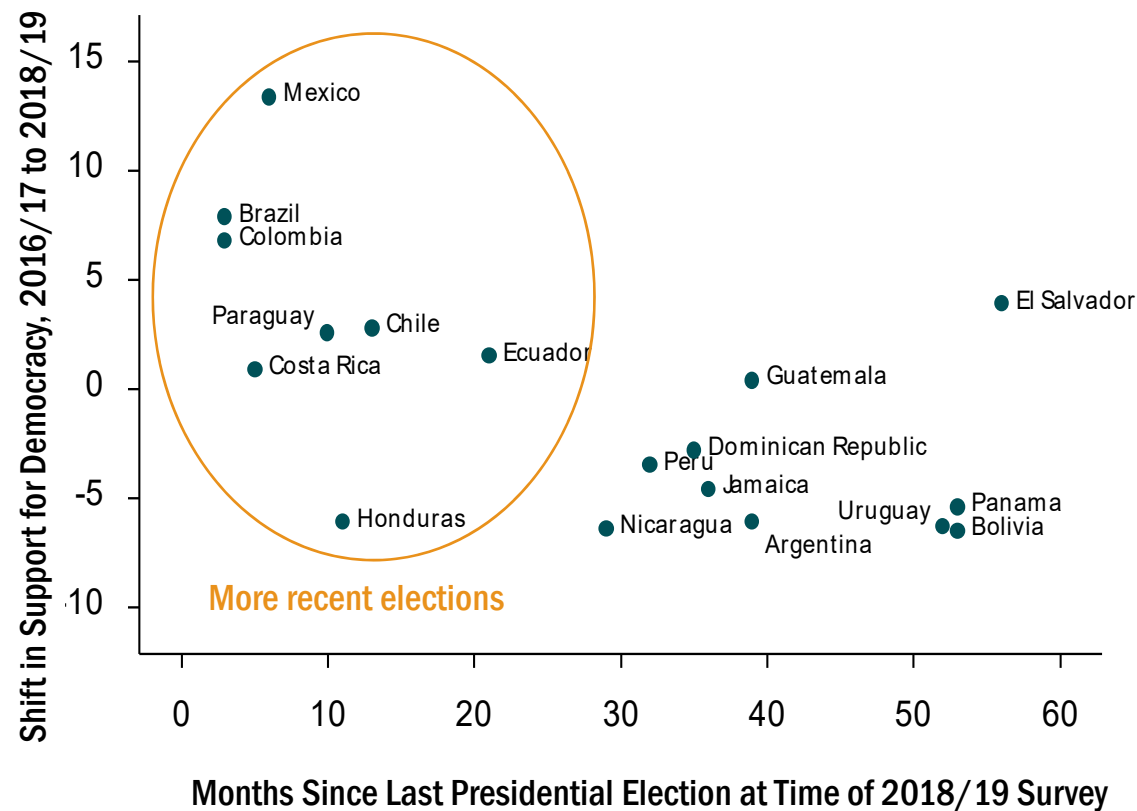- Low Social Media: 37.2
- Non-user: 41.0
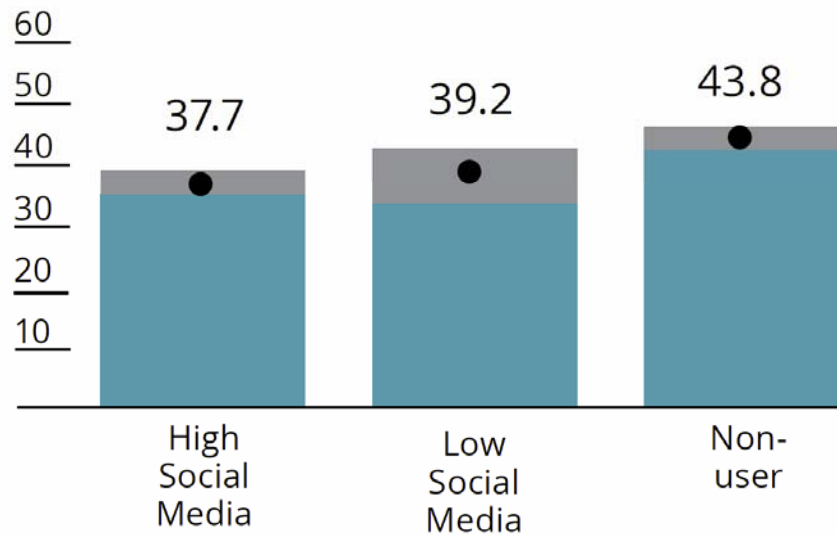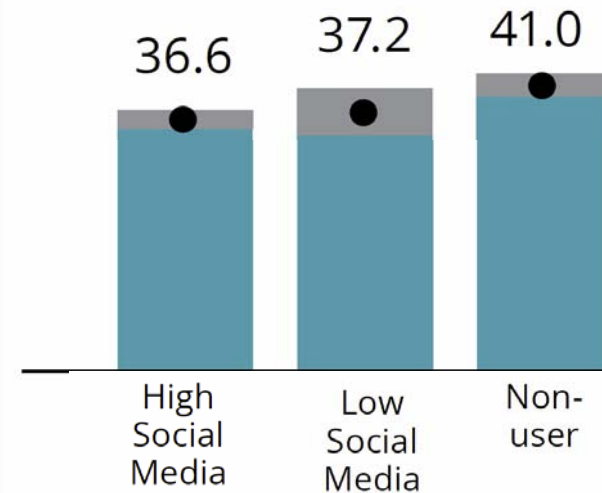
# IIIC: Elections are Democracy-Promoting

## In the LAC region, the 2018/19 AmericasBarometer finds:

- The more proximate a national election was to the 2018/19 fieldwork, the more positive the shifts in public support for democracy

- Mexico, Brazil, and Colombia in particular benefitted from recent elections

- Honduras demonstrates that not all elections have positive consequences

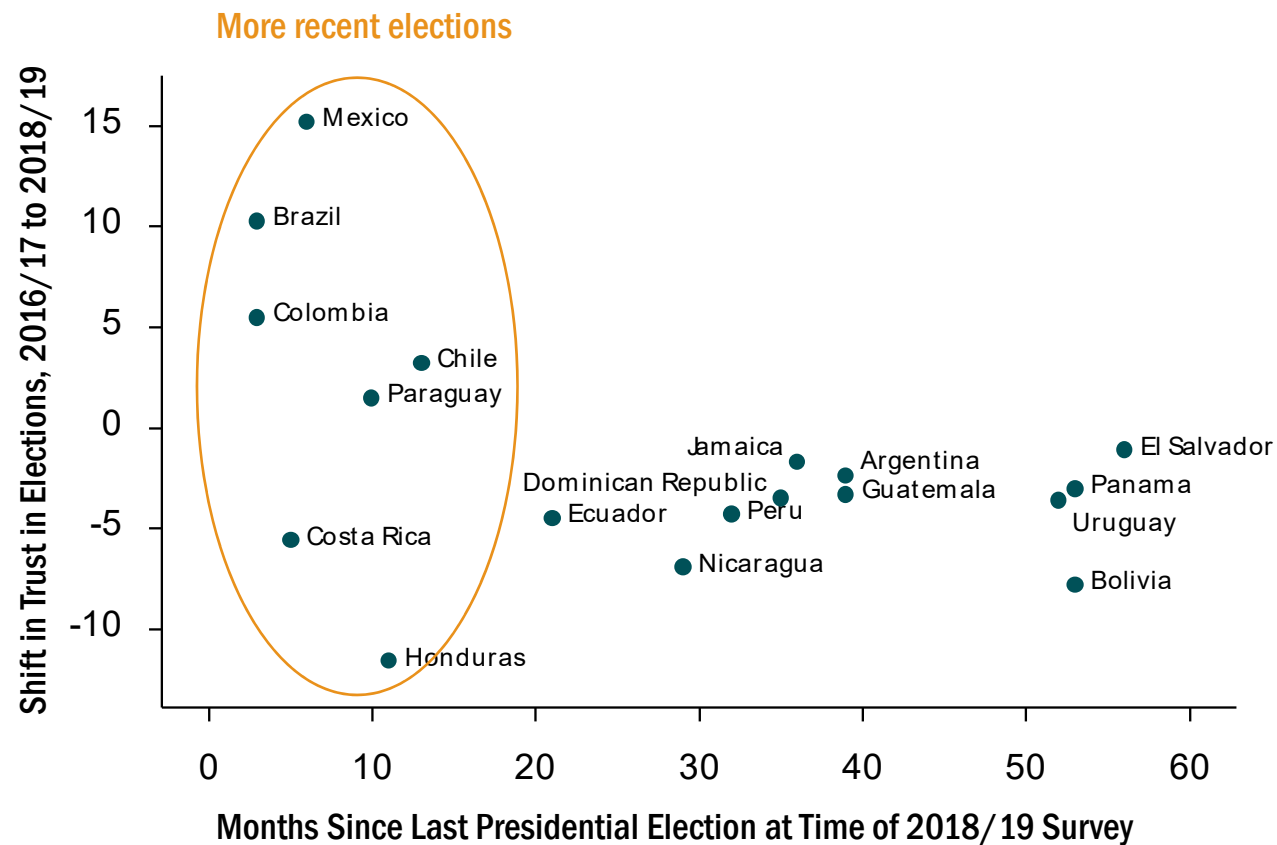# The recency of elections is associated with increasing support for democracy



**Months Since Last Presidential Election at Time of 2018/19 Survey**

Y-axis: Shift in Support for Democracy, 2016/17 to 2018/19

Data points:
- Mexico
- Brazil
- Colombia
- Paraguay
- Chile
- Costa Rica
- Ecuador
- Honduras
- El Salvador
- Guatemala
- Dominican Republic
- Peru
- Jamaica
- Nicaragua
- Argentina
- Uruguay
- Panama
- Bolivia

**More recent elections**

# The recency of elections is associated with increasing satisfaction with democracy
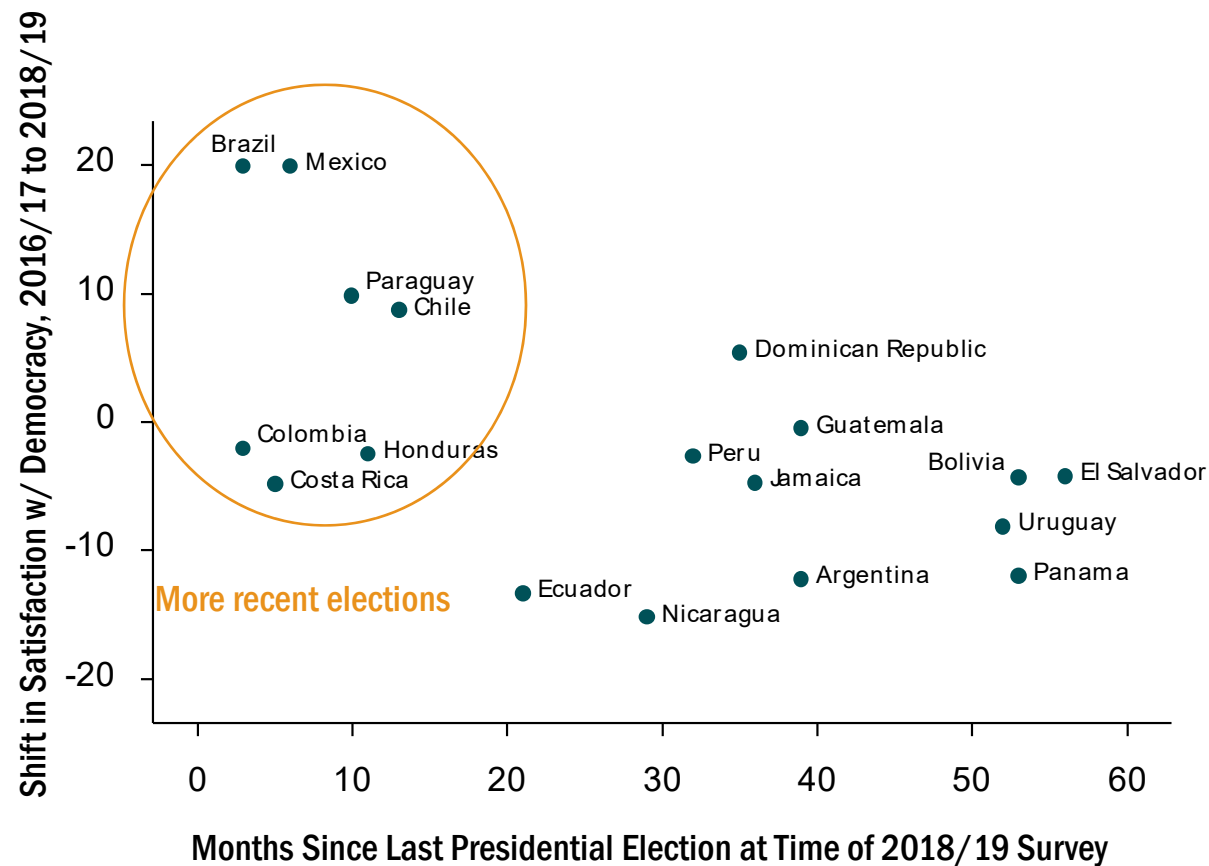


PN4. In general, would you say that you are very satisfied, satisfied, dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with the way democracy works in (country)? Graph shows % very satisfied or satisfied (vs. not).

# The recency of elections is associated with increasing trust in elections



More recent elections

Shift in Trust in Elections, 2016/17 to 2018/19 (y-axis)

- Mexico — 15
- Brazil — 10
- Colombia — 5
- Chile — 3
- Paraguay — 1.5
- Jamaica
- Argentina
- El Salvador
- Dominican Republic
- Guatemala
- Panama
- Ecuador
- Peru
- Uruguay
- Costa Rica — -5.5
- Nicaragua
- Bolivia
- Honduras — -11

Months Since Last Presidential Election at Time of 2018/19 Survey (x-axis)

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

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