

# Political Culture of Democracy in the Dominican Republic and in the Americas, 2016/17

By:

Rosario Espinal, PhD  
Temple University

Jana Morgan, PhD  
University of Tennessee



# AmericasBarometer

## *Barómetro de las Américas*

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## Methodology

### In the Region:

- 29 countries and 43,454 interviews
- January 2016 to May 2017
- Stratified Samples of ~1500
- Household-based and in 8 languages in the region
- Pilot studies to refine the questionnaire
- Standardized interviewer training
- Electronic Devices
- Strategies to promote the quality and integrity of the data
  - GPS to verify location
  - We verify the interviewer's identity
  - We verify the quality of the interview
  - We audit all of the interviews

### In the Dominican Republic

- Surveys conducted since 2006
- Some graphics use data from DEMOS surveys 1994, 1997, 2001 and 2004
- The 2016 survey
  - Conducted by CESDEM
  - In the field: Oct 22 to Dec 3, 2016
  - Sample Size: 1518

# Key Findings

Democracy is on the defensive in the Americas and in the Dominican Republic.

However, in Latin America and the Caribbean there has been an increase in support of the political system, and this support has remained stable in the Dominican Republic.

Perceptions of insecurity and trust in judiciary institutions have continued to worsen.

Crime and corruption victimization are not infrequent.

In the Dominican Republic, crime victimization has increased and a fifth of the population has avoided sending their children to school for fear of their safety.



## CULTURA POLÍTICA DE LA DEMOCRACIA EN LA REPÚBLICA DOMINICANA Y EN LAS AMÉRICAS, 2016/17

Un estudio comparado sobre  
democracia y gobernabilidad

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María Fernanda Boidi, Ph.D.  
Coordinadora Regional de LAPOP y editora del informe

Elizabeth J. Zechmeister, Ph.D.  
Directora de LAPOP y editora de la serie  
Vanderbilt University

# Key Findings

Party identification and rightwing ideological positions are in decline in the Dominican Republic, although they are high for the region.

Civic participation has remained stable.

There have been changes favoring the participation of women in politics although there is much to be done to achieve equality.

The majority of Dominicans considers that discrimination because of disabilities is a problem.

Intention to immigrate among Dominicans has increased.



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# Plan of Presentation of the Findings

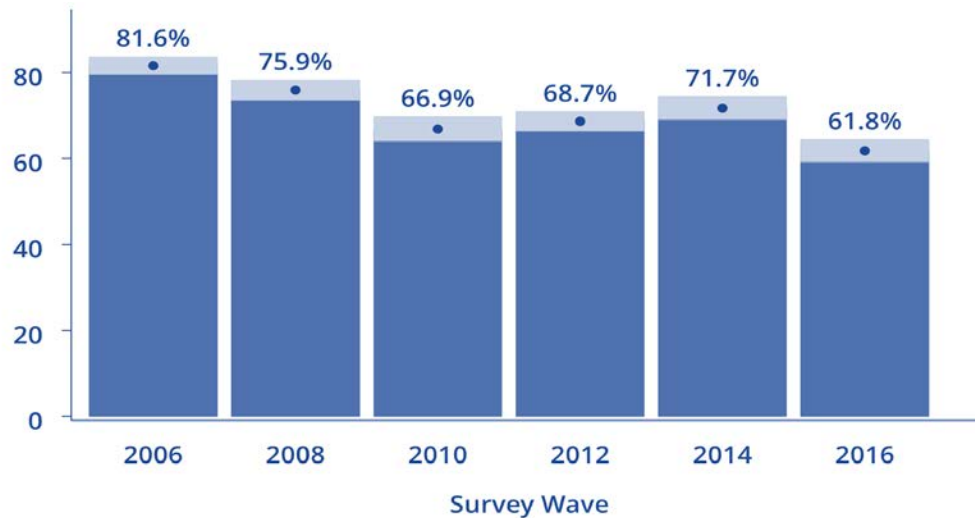
- Support for Democracy
- The Rule of Law
  - Crime
  - Corruption
  - The Justice System
- Conservatism and Partisanship
- Civic Participation
- Trust in Institutions
- Gender and sexuality
- Disability
- Race
- Immigration

**Support for Democracy**

# Erosion in Support for Democracy

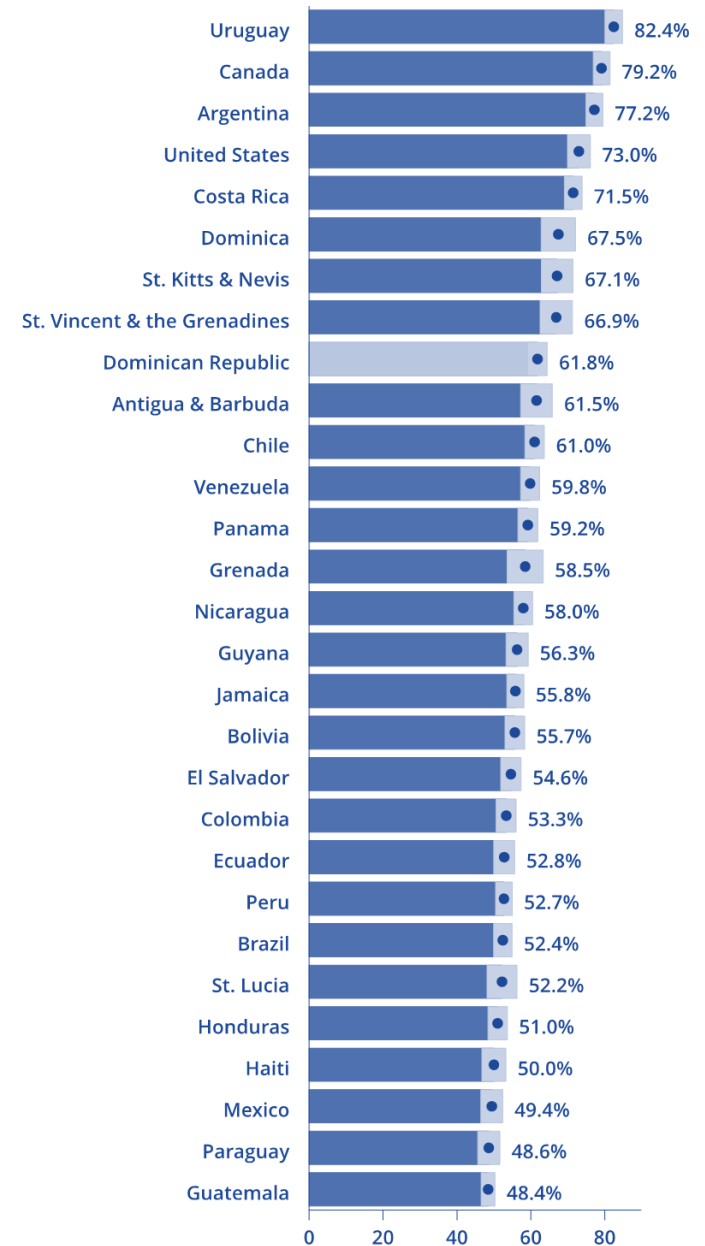
- Support for democracy has decreased.
- Support for executive coups has increased.
- Trust in elections is low, although electoral participation is high.
- Trust in political parties has decreased over the last ten years.

# Support for Democracy



Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, Dominican Republic 2006-2016; GM\_v.07172017

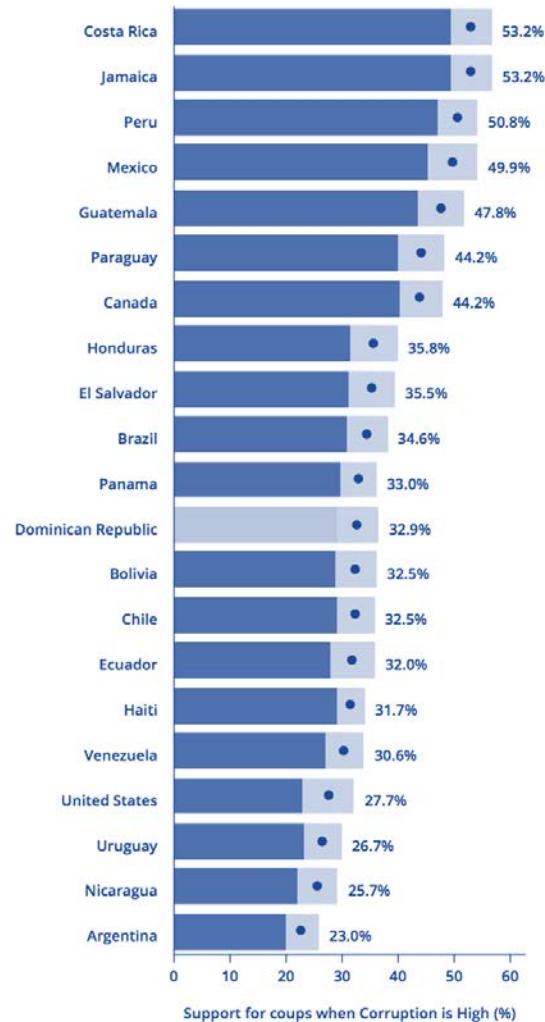
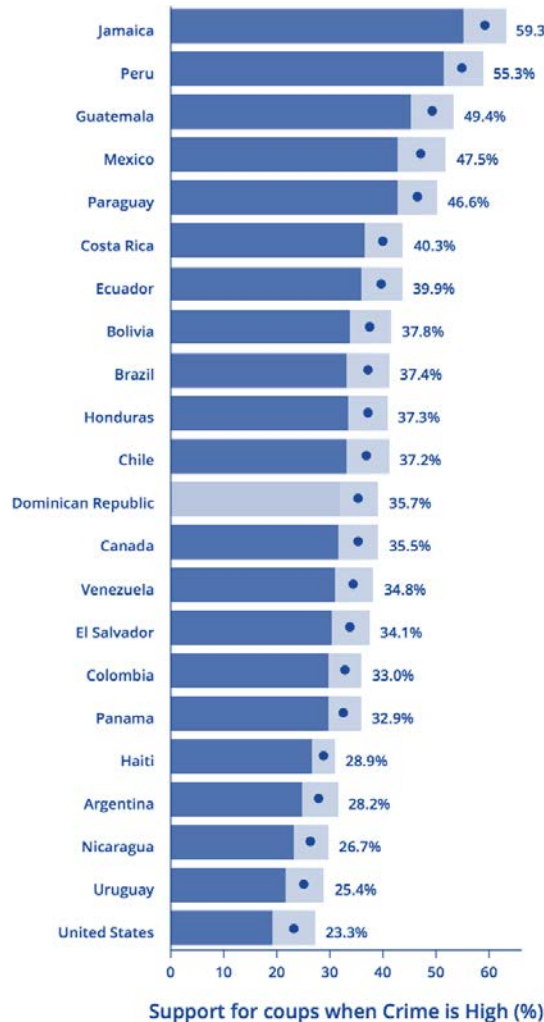
- The majority of Dominicans support democracy as the best form of government, but this percentage has decreased to its lowest level in 2016.
- Older and more educated Dominicans support democracy more than younger and less educated Dominicans.



Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2016/17 - LAC21; GM\_v.07172017



# Support for Military Coups under High Crime and High Corruption



- Support for military coups under high crime is 35.7% in the Dominican Republic, which is around average for the region.
- Support for military coups under high corruption is somewhat lower (32.9%).

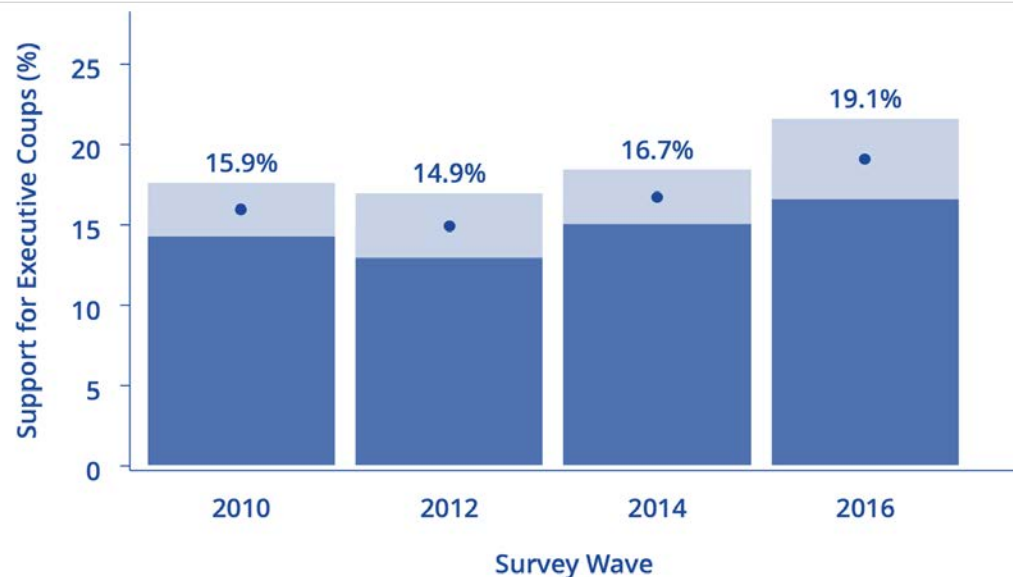
95 % Confidence Interval  
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Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2016/17 - LAC21; GM\_v.07172017

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Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2016/17 - LAC21; GM\_v.07172017

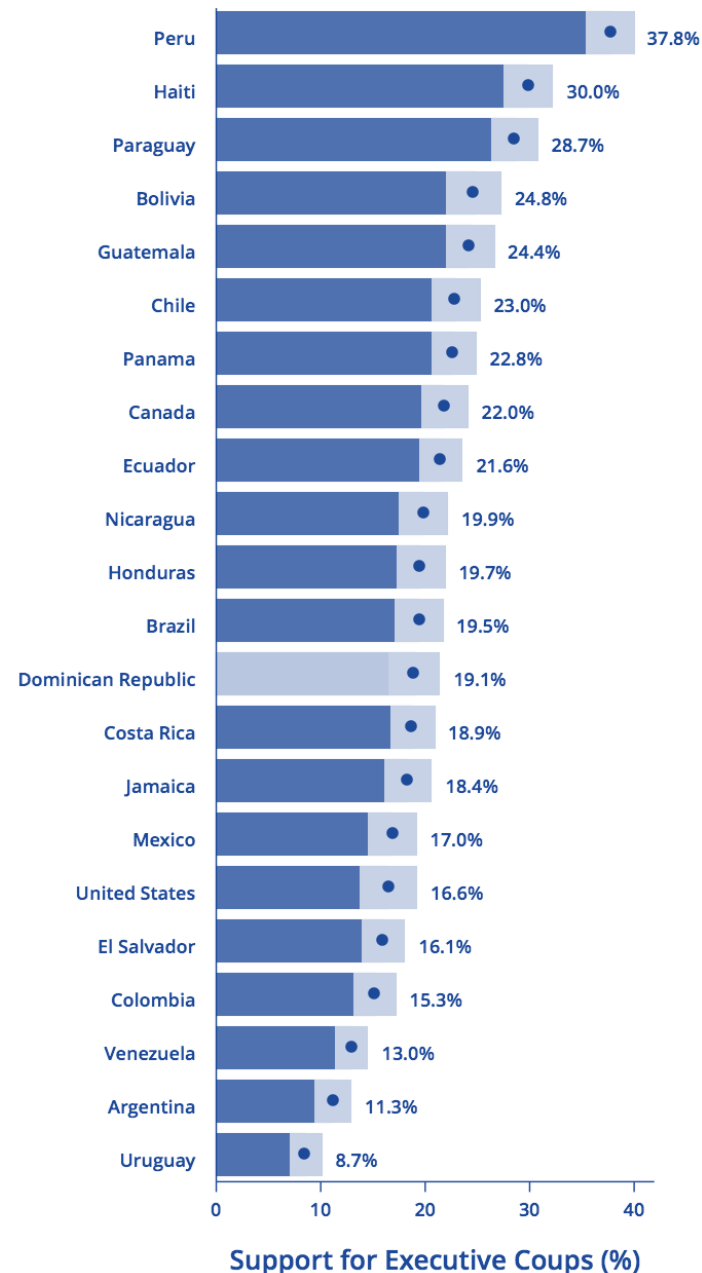
# Support for Executive Coups



95 % Confidence Interval  
(with Design-Effects)

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, Dominican Republic 2010-2016; GM\_v.07172017

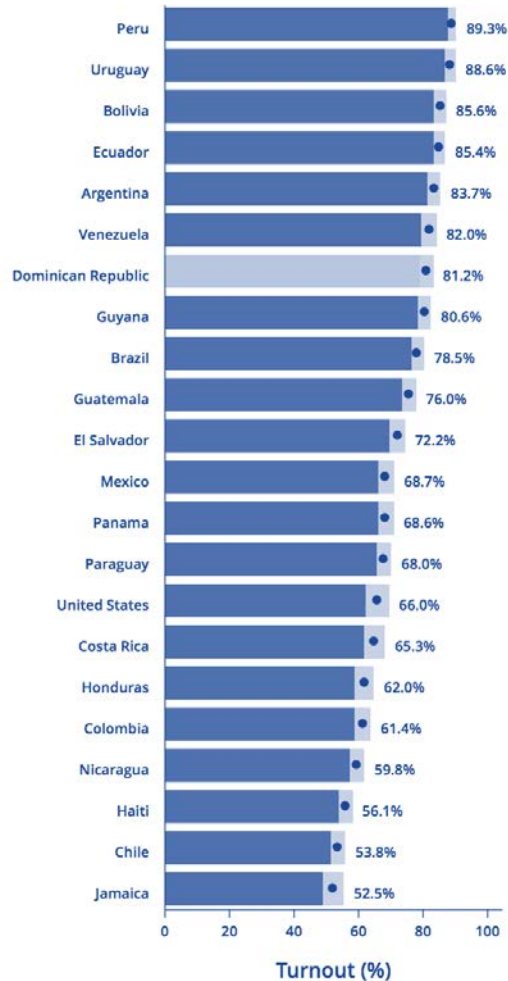
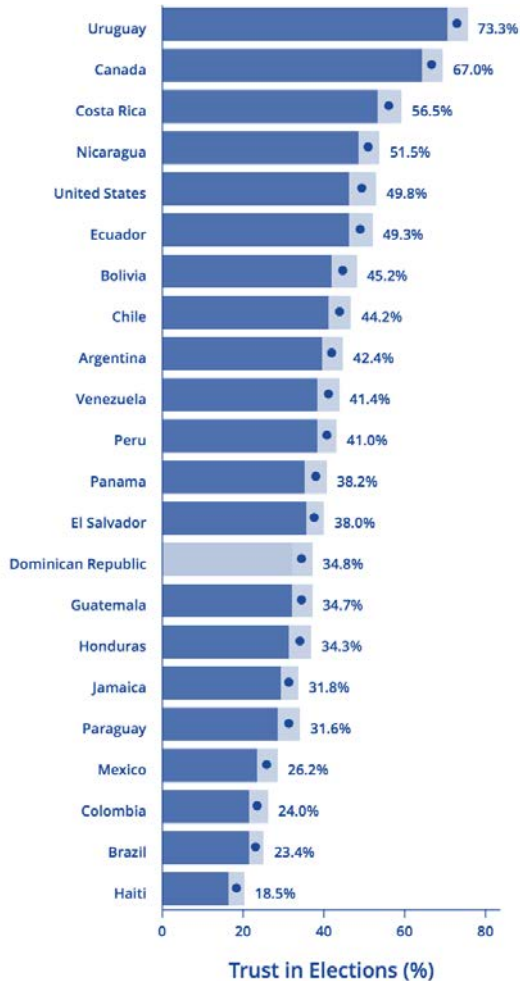
- Support for executive coups is lower than support for military coups under high corruption and crime, but support for shutting Congress has increased.
- Men and the less educated are the most likely to support a potential executive coup.



95 % Confidence Interval  
(with Design-Effects)

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2016/17 - LAC21; GM\_v.07172017

# Elections: Low Trust, High Participation



- The Dominican Republic is at an average level in trust in elections.
- But it is one of the countries with the highest electoral participation reported in the survey.

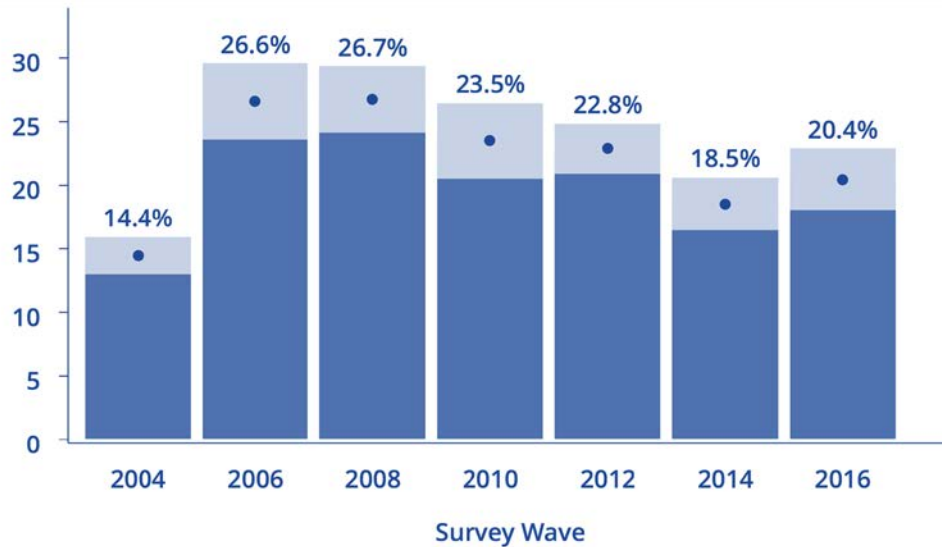
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95 % Confidence Interval  
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Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOR, 2016/17 - LAC21; GM\_v.07172017

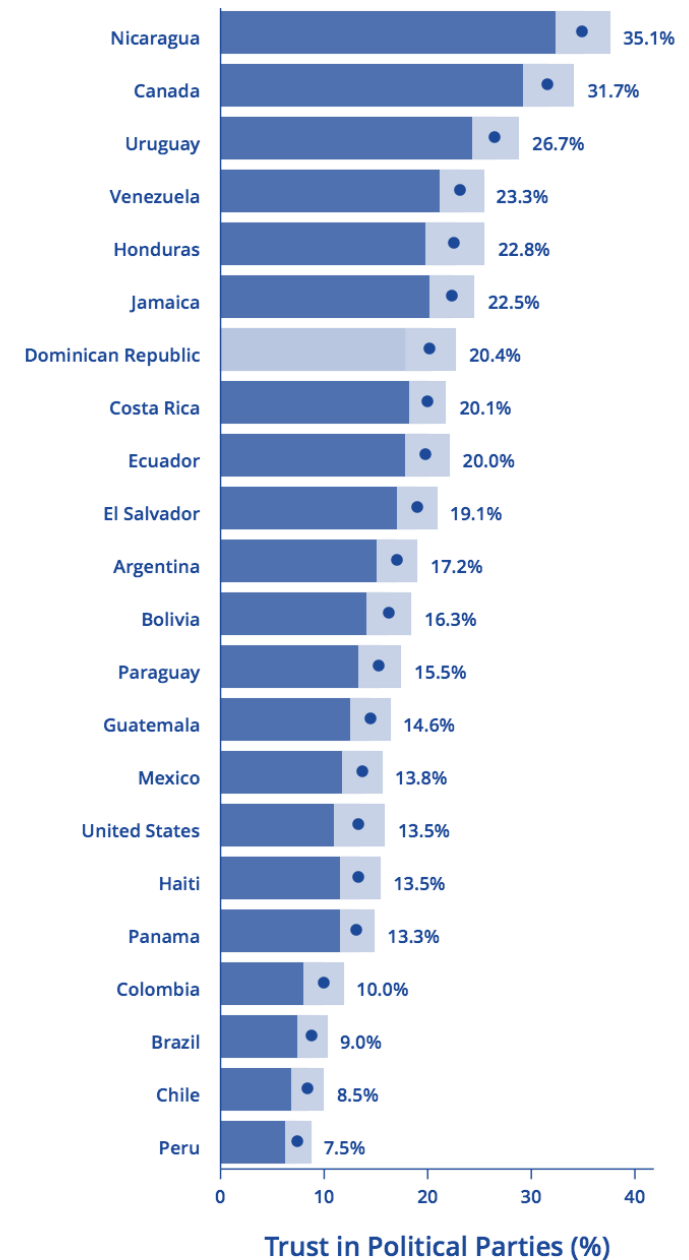
# Trust in Parties



95 % Confidence Interval  
(with Design-Effects)

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, Dominican Republic 2004-2016; GM\_v.07172017

- Trust in parties has declined in the Dominican Republic since 2008, although there has been a non-significant increase between 2014 and 2016.
- In a regional context, the country shows a high level of trust in parties.



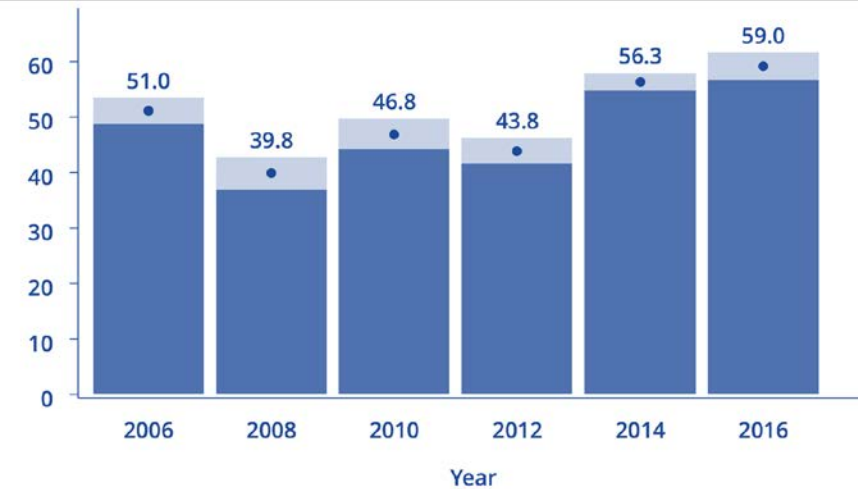
95 % Confidence Interval  
(with Design-Effects)

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2016/17 - LAC21; GM\_v.07172017

# Rule of Law

Crime

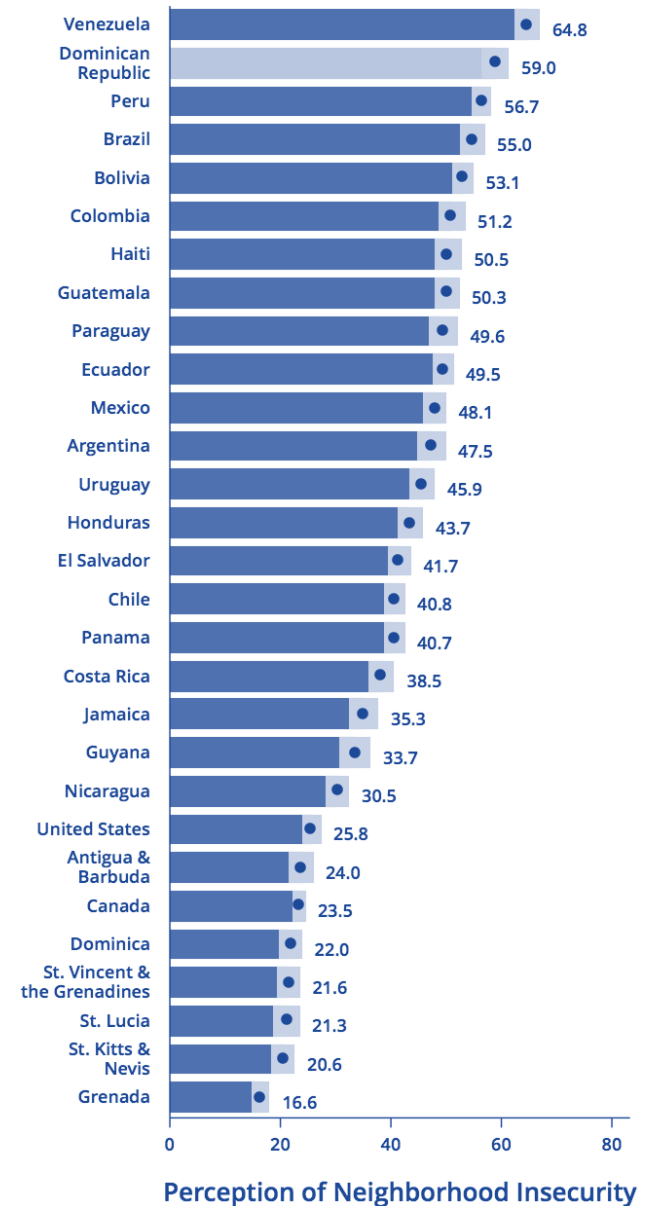
# Perceptions of Insecurity



95 % Confidence Interval  
(with Design-Effects)

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2006-2016; v.DOM16ts\_1,2

- Perceptions of insecurity have increased in the Dominican Republic since 2012.
- The country has the second highest level of perceptions of insecurity in the region.
- Perceptions of insecurity are highest in metropolitan Santo Domingo and the North.

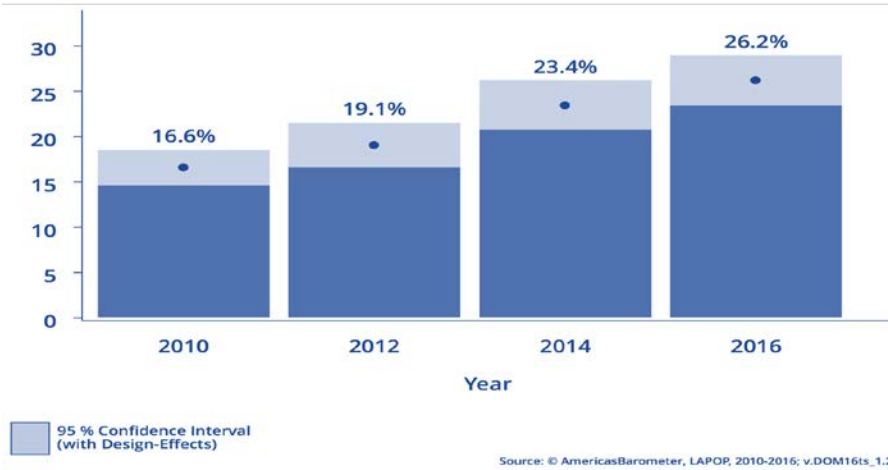


Perception of Neighborhood Insecurity

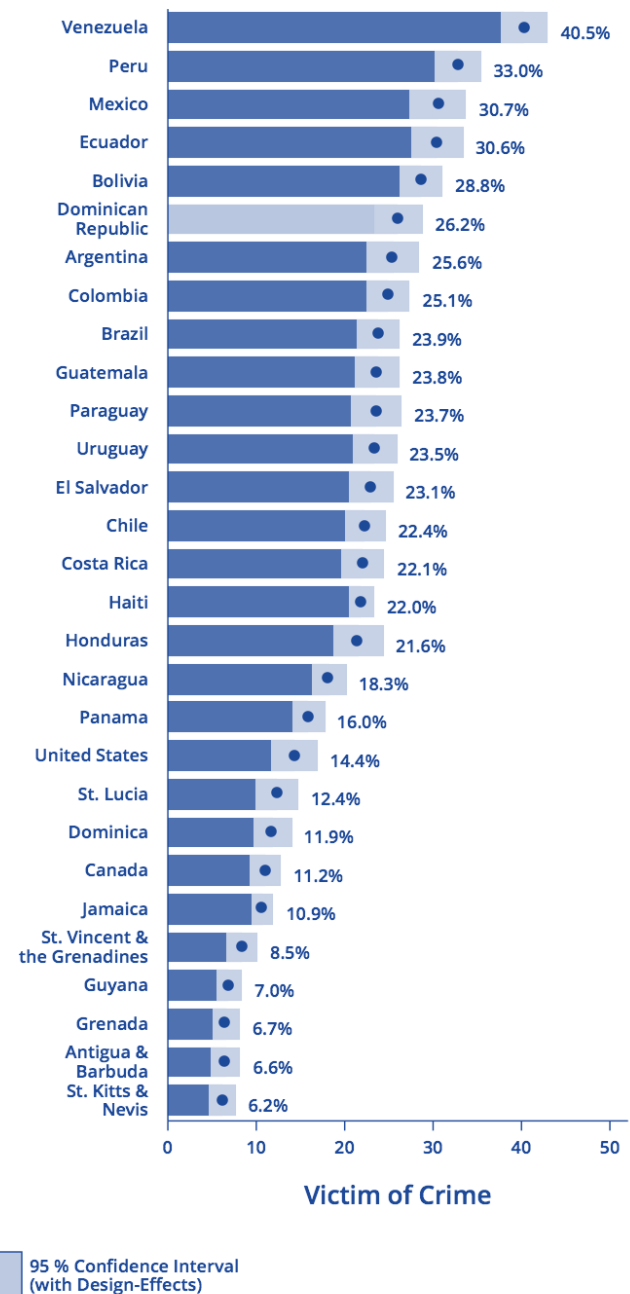
95 % Confidence Interval  
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Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2016; v.GM\_07172017

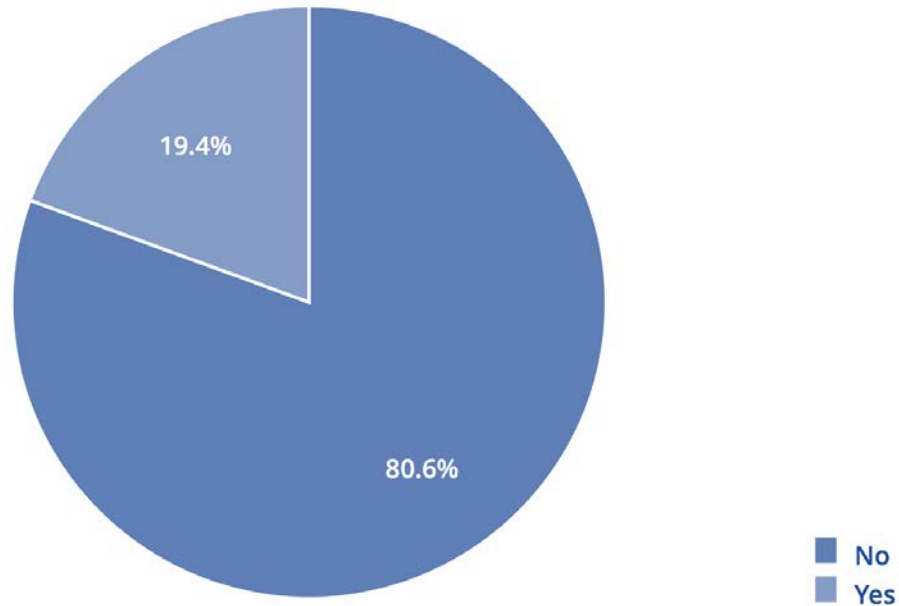
# Crime Victimization



- There has been a steady increase in the percent of Dominicans who indicated having been a victim of crime in the last year.
- The Dominican Republic is located in the sixth highest position of crime victimization.
- People with the highest propensity to report being victims live in urban areas, are better educated, are younger and men.



# Avoiding Sending Children to School because of Fear of Crime



Kept Children Home from School Out of Fear of Crime

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2016; v.DOM16\_1.2

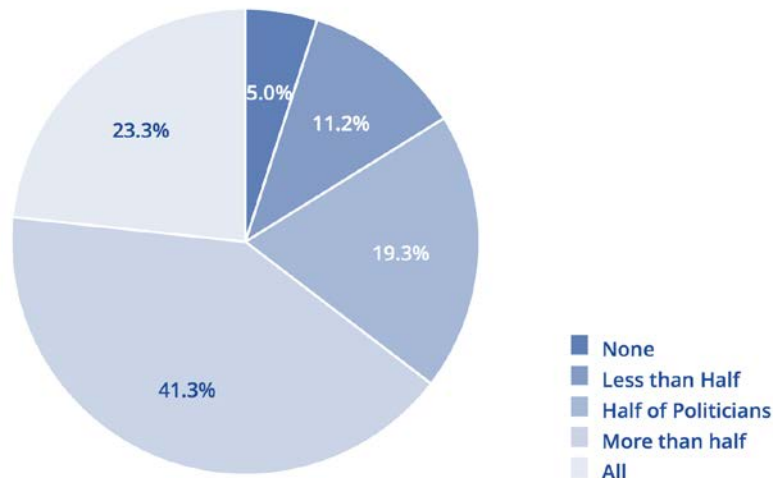
19.4% of respondents said they avoided sending their children to school for fear of their safety.



# Rule of Law

Corruption

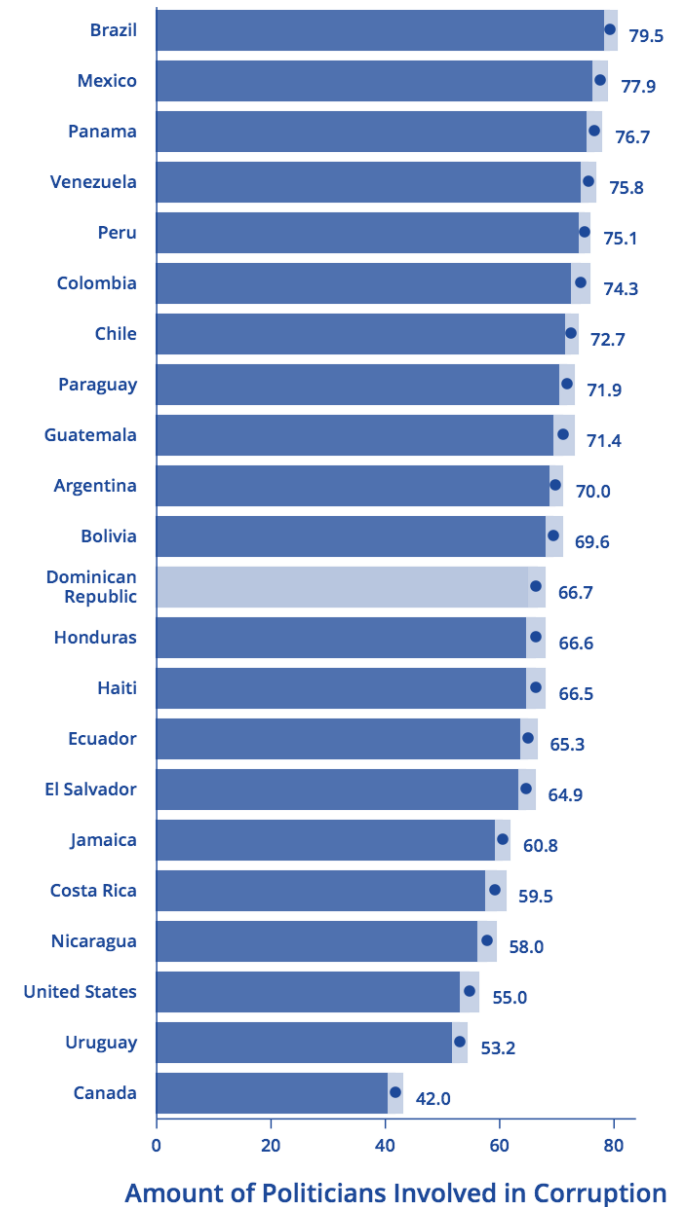
# Perceptions of Corruption



Amount of Corruption among Politicians

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2016; v.DOM16\_1.2

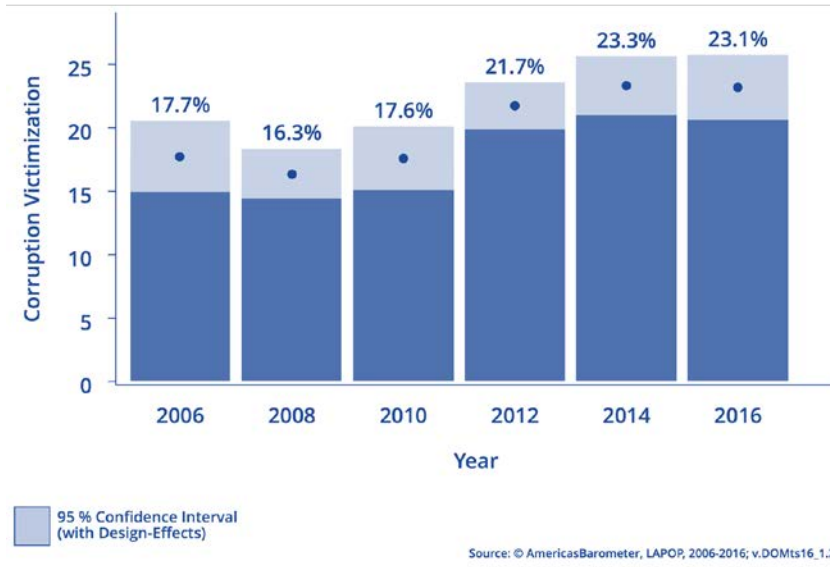
- 83.9% of Dominicans believe that most politicians are involved in corruption.
- The Dominican Republic is around the average position in Latin America in perceptions of corruption.
- Perception of corruption is generalized, independent of respondents' social characteristics.



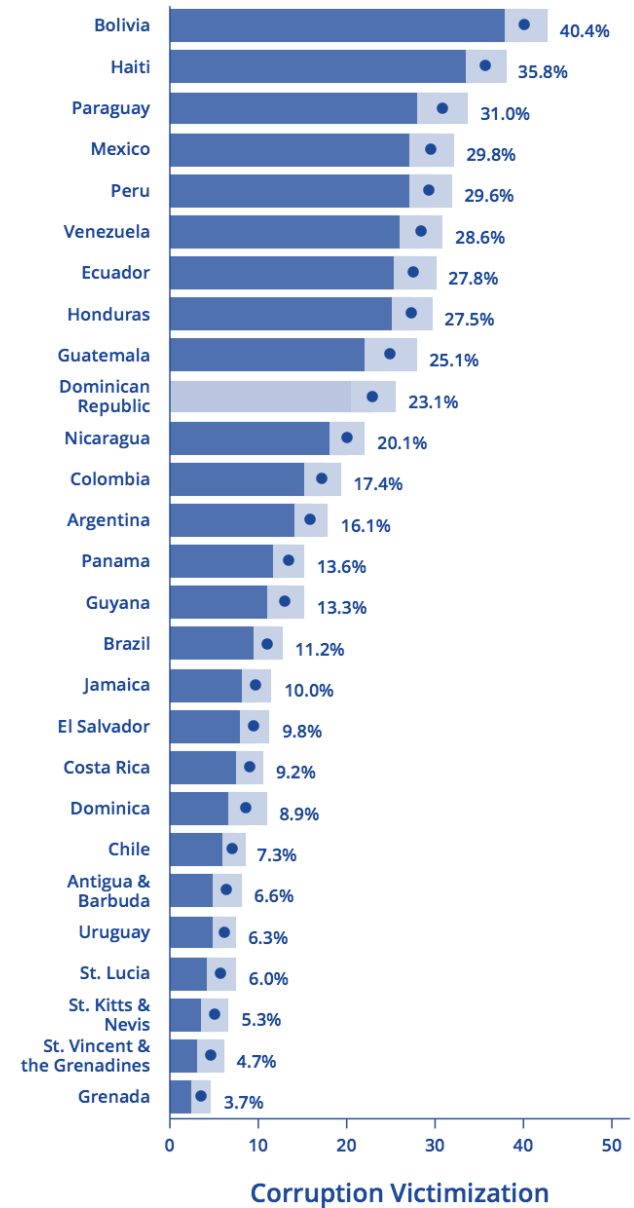
95 % Confidence Interval  
(with Design-Effects)

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2016; v.GM\_07172017

# Corruption Victimization

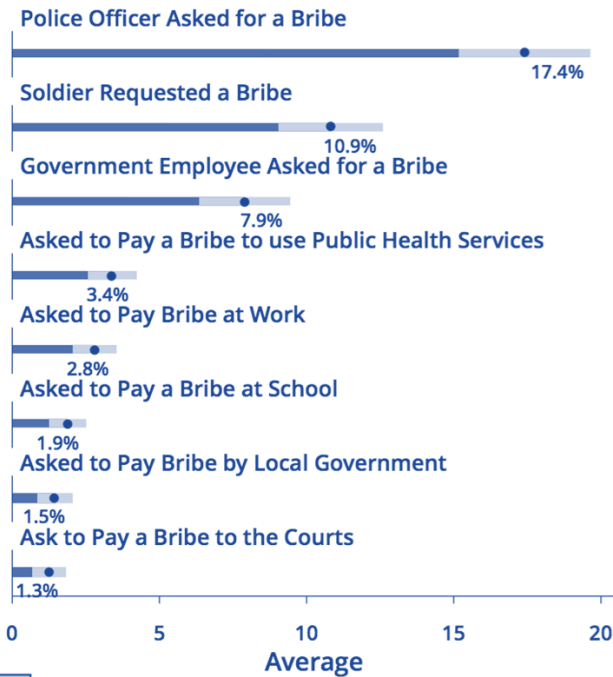


- The Dominican Republic is in an average position in the Americas for corruption victimization.
- Those who are the most likely to be solicited for bribes live in urban areas, are wealthier, younger, and more male.

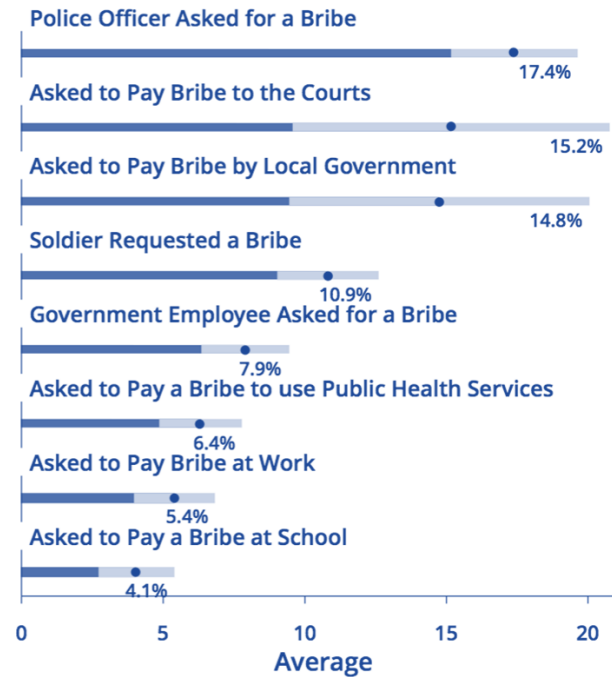


# Victimization by Type of Institution

Victimization among all respondents



Victimization among those who were solicited a bribe



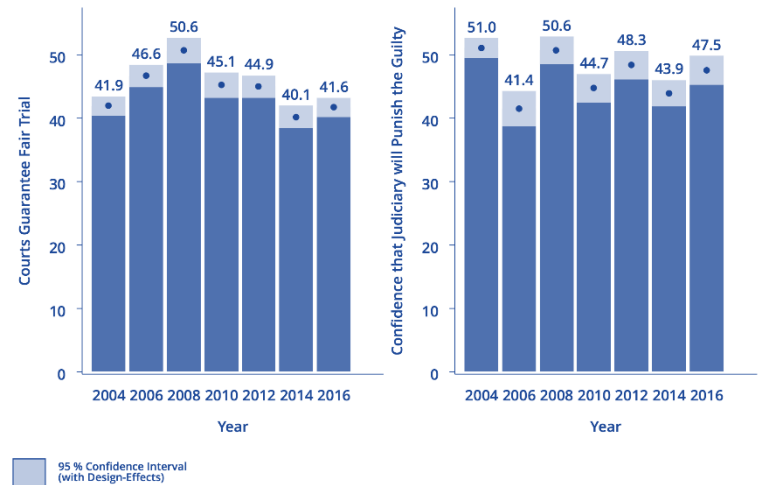
Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2016; v.DOM16\_1.2

- Police are at the top of the list of government officials who solicit bribes.
- Among institutions where there is an interaction between citizens and officials, judges and the local government are the most likely to solicit bribes.

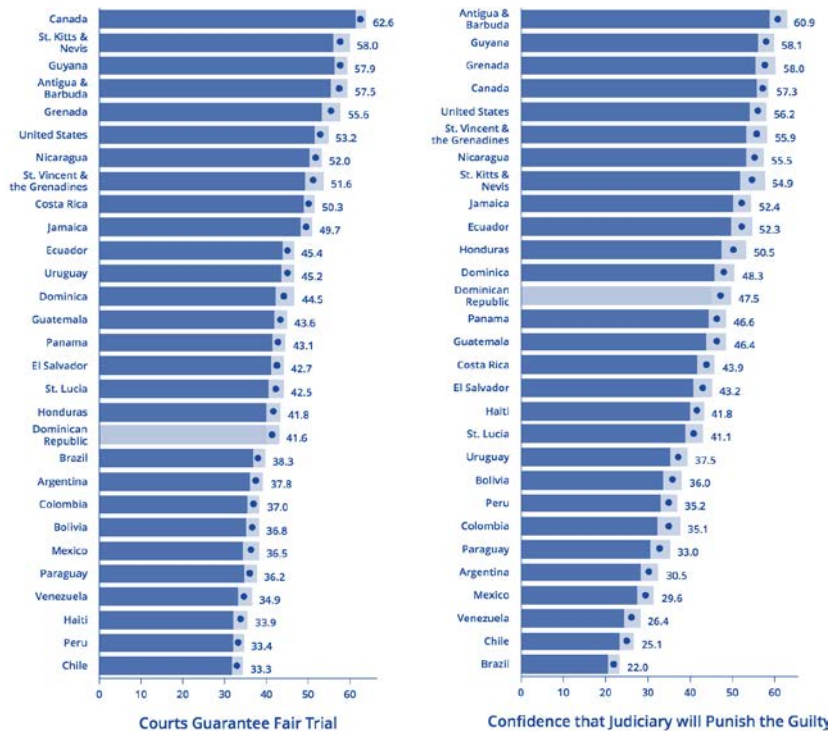
# Rule of Law

Institutions of the State

# Trust in the Judicial System



Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2004-2016; v.DOM16\_1,2

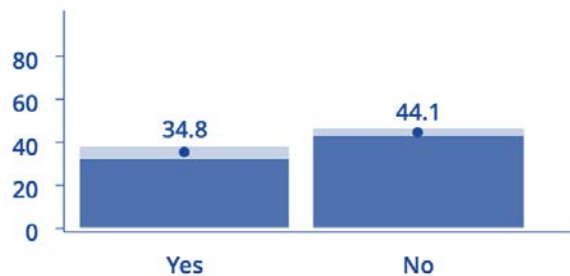


Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2016; v.GM\_07172017

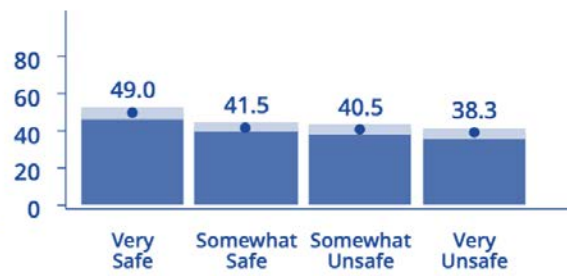
Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2016; v.GM\_07172017

- Since 2008 there has been a significant decline in trust in the courts. The small increase between 2014 and 2016 is not statistically significant. Regionally, the DR has relatively low trust in the judicial system.
- Those who reported trusting the judicial system to punish the guilty increased between 2014 and 2016, but this is not significant. The country is near the average in the region for this indicator

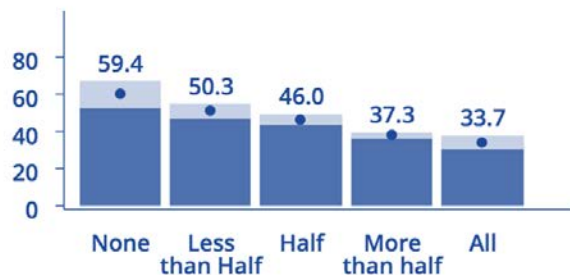
# Relationships Between Corruption and Crime and Trust in the Judicial System



Victim of Crime in the Last 12 Months



Perception of Neighborhood Insecurity

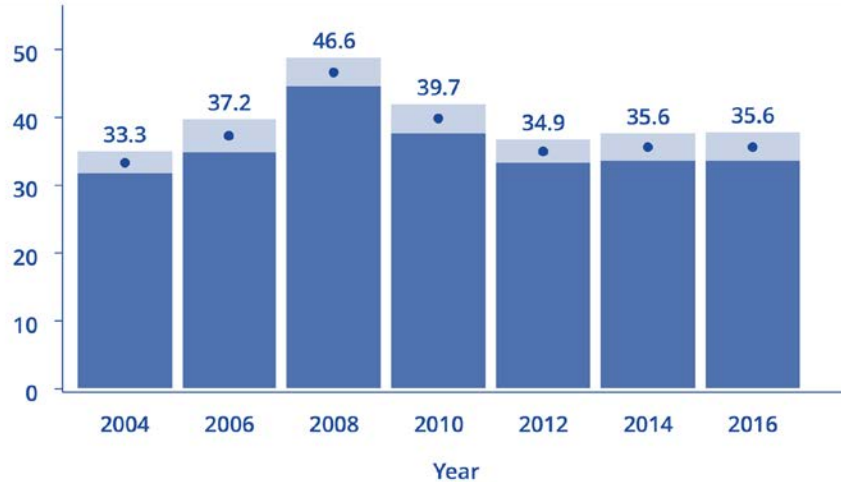


Amount of Corruption among Politicians

95 % Confidence Interval  
(with Design-Effects)

- People who have been victims of crime, have higher perceptions of insecurity, and more corruption are less likely to trust the courts.
- In addition, victims of crime and people who perceive higher corruption are less likely to believe the justice system will punish the guilty.

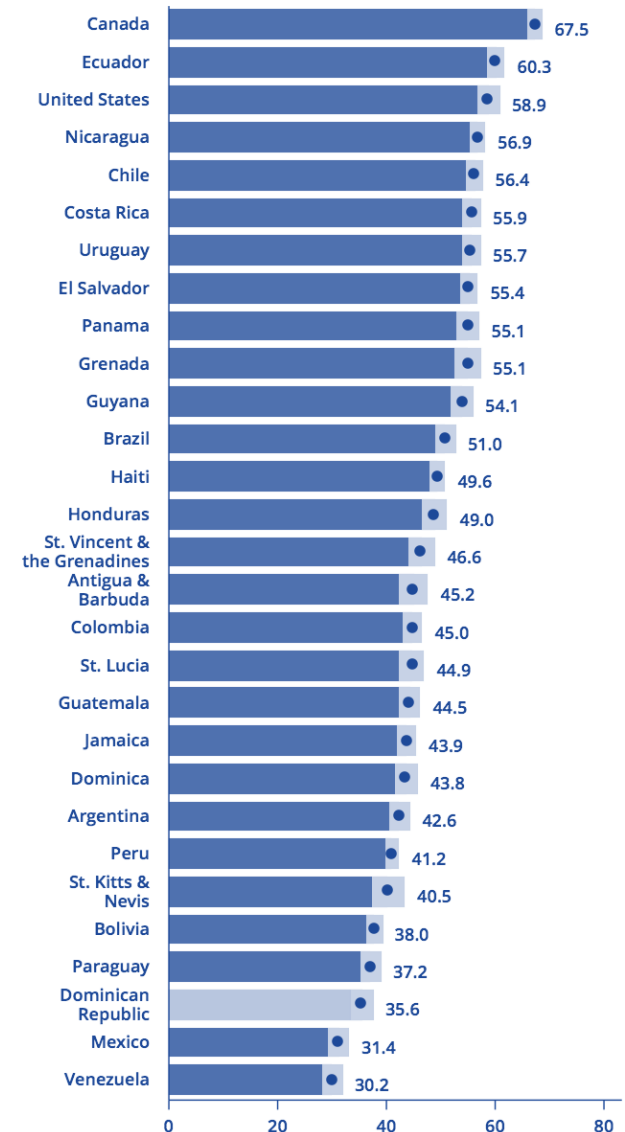
# Trust in the Police



95 % Confidence Interval  
(with Design-Effects)

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2004-2016; v.DOM16\_1.2

- The pattern of low levels of trust in the Police has remained stable in 2016.
- The level of trust in the Police is quite low in the regional context.
- Victims of crime, those who perceive more crime, victims of corruption and those who perceive more corruption are less likely to trust the police.



Trust in National Police

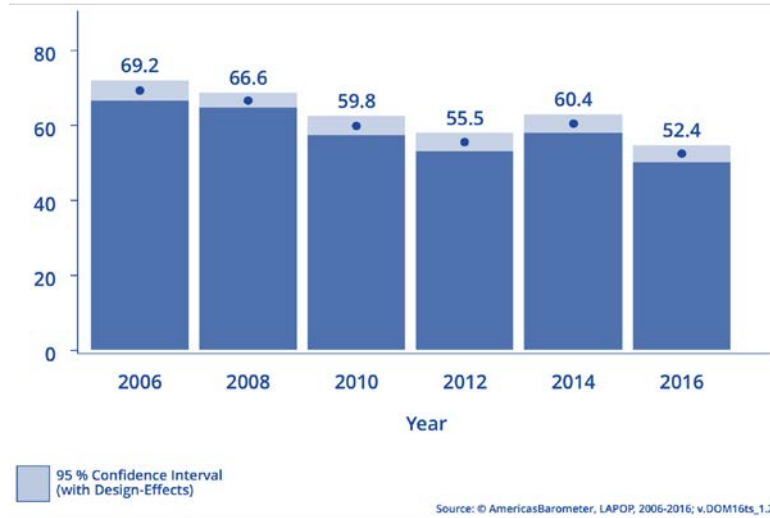
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Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2016; v.GM\_07172017

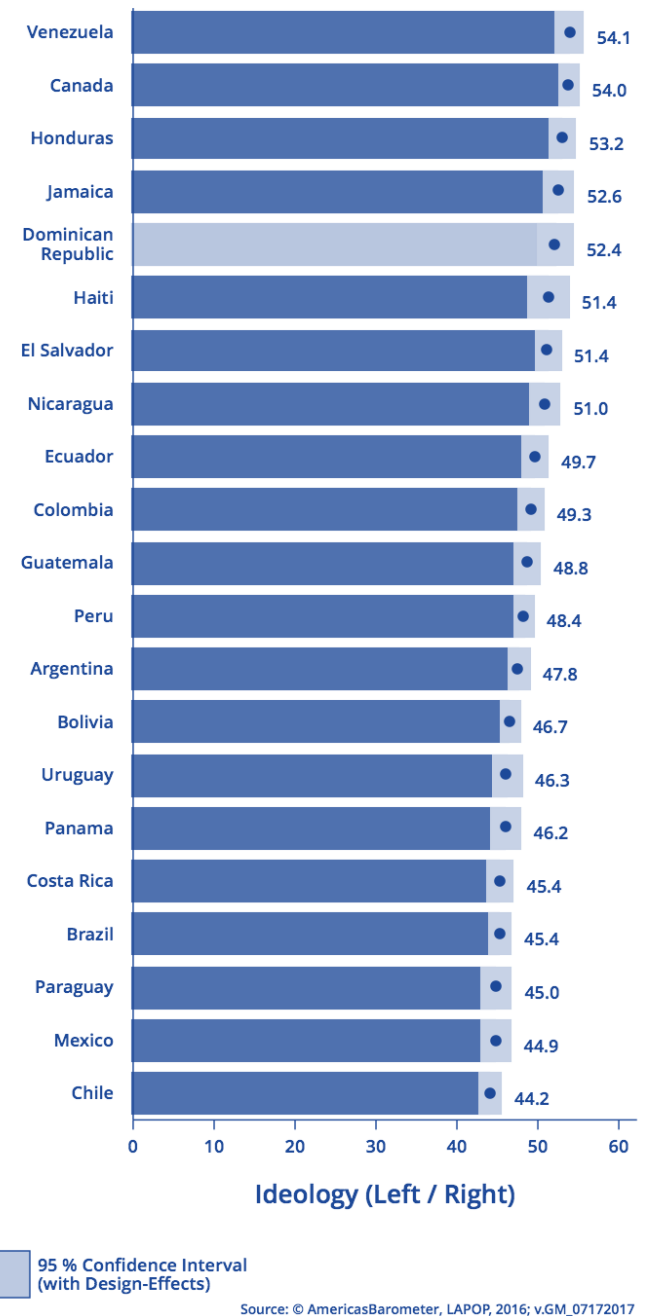


# Conservatism and Partisanship

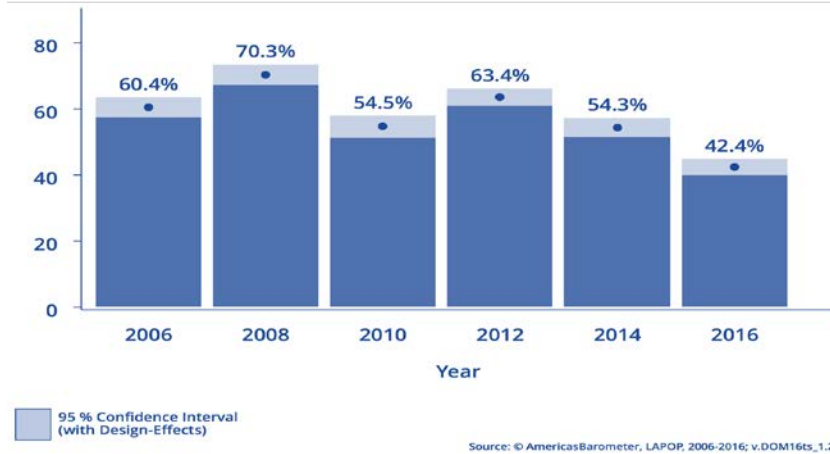
# Ideology



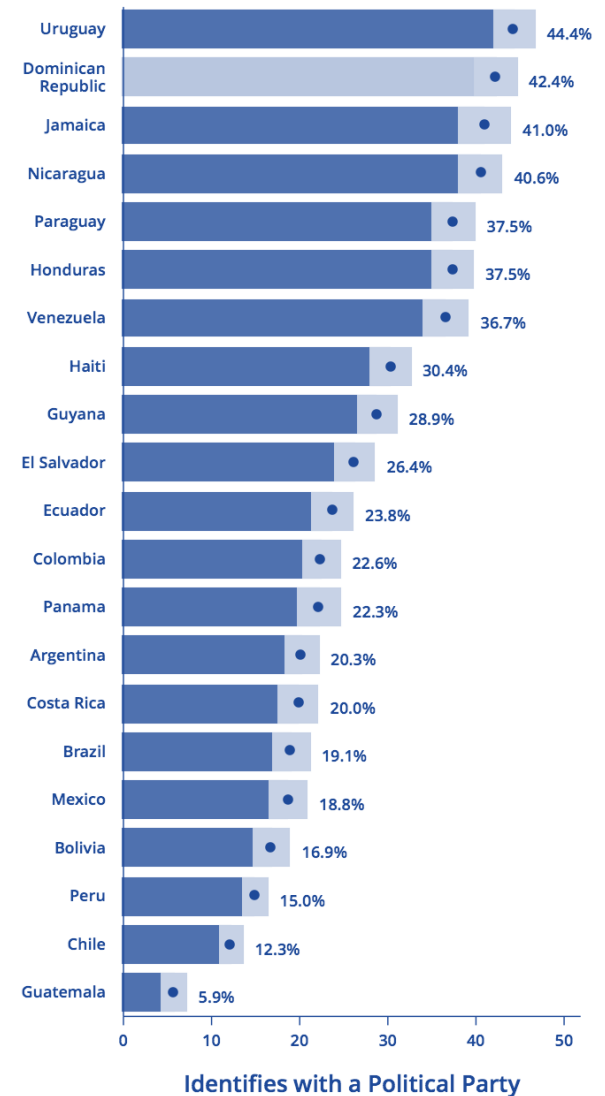
- There has been a steady decline in identification with the right in the last decade.
- The DR occupies the fifth spot in the region, a decline compared to previous years where the country occupied the first or second position.
- People who are more likely to have a rightwing ideology are those who live in rural areas, have less education and are older.



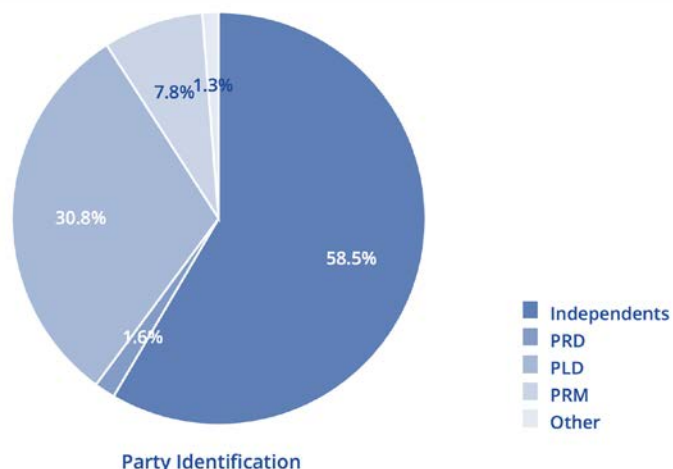
# Partisanship



- Since 2012 there has been a decline in partisanship, which has not recovered even though 2016 was an election year.
- Nevertheless, the country has one of the highest levels of partisanship in the region in part because there has been a region-wide decline in partisanship.
- Those who identify with political parties in the Dominican Republic are more right-leaning, have a positive evaluation of the economy, are public employees, older and lighter skinned.



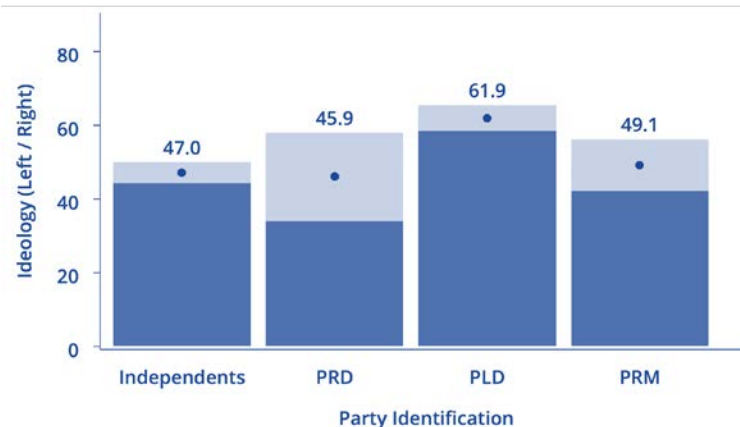
# Partisanship and Ideology



Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2016; v.DOM16\_1.2

- 58.5% of respondents do not identify with a party.
- 30.8% identify with the incumbent PLD.
- From 2014 to 2016 there was an increase of 12.5 points of those who did not identify, and a decline of 10.5 points of those who identify with the PLD

People who identify more with the PLD, are, on average, more to the right of the rest of Dominicans

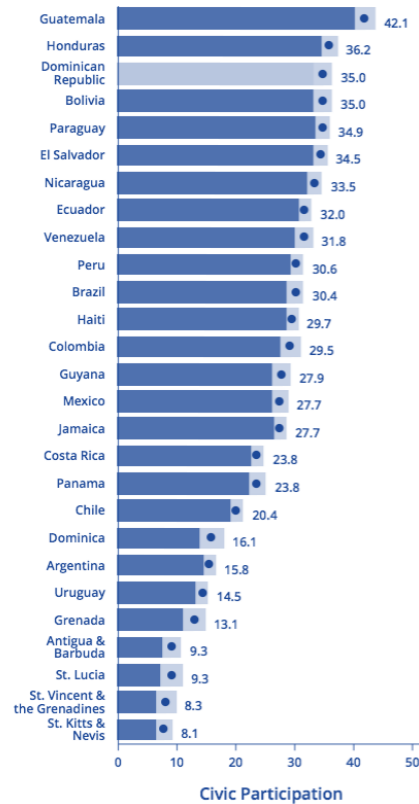


95 % Confidence Interval  
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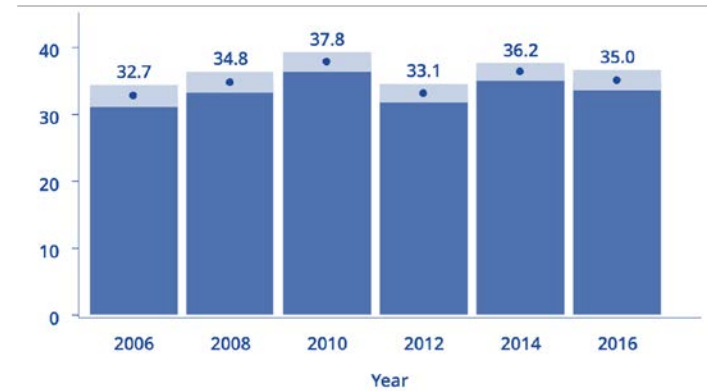
# Civic Participation

# Civic Participation



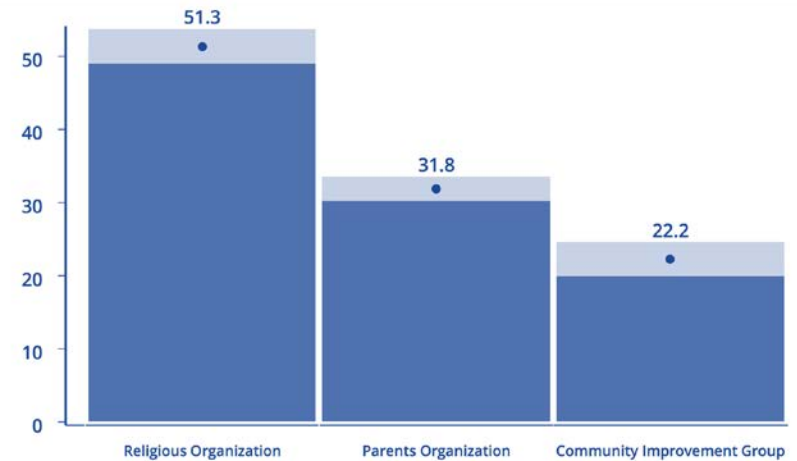
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95 % Confidence Interval  
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Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2006-2016; v.DOM16cs\_1.2



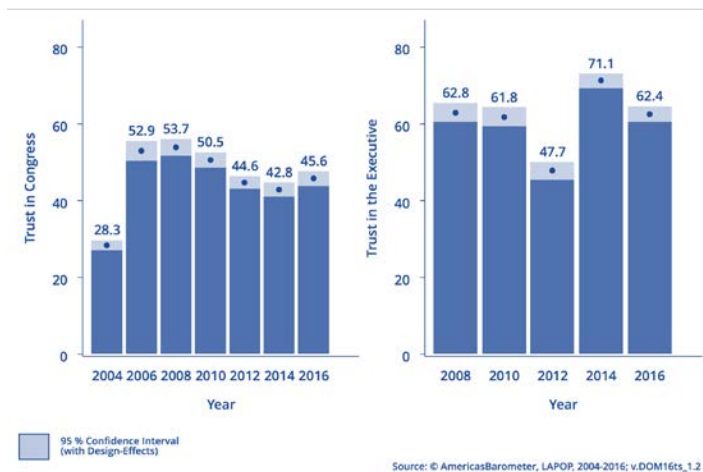
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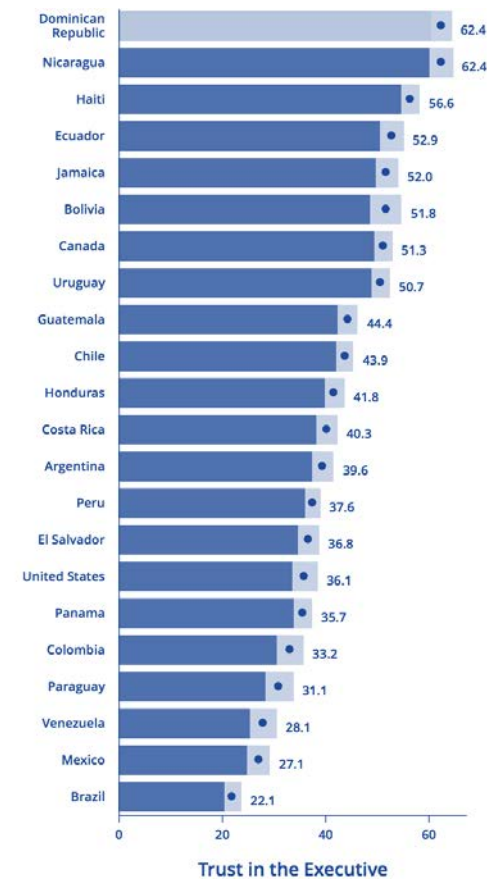
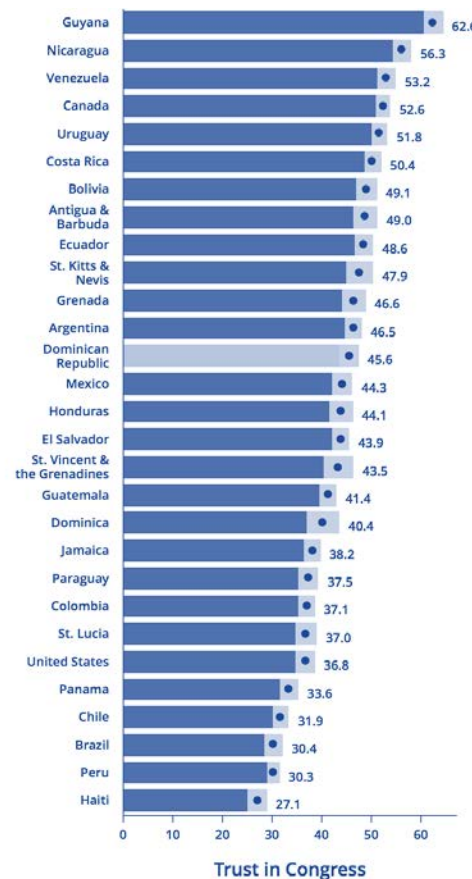
- Participation in religious organizations is the highest the three types of participation measured.
- The scale of participation in the three types of organizations (religious, parents and community) has remained stable in the last decade.
- The country is in third place in the region for civic participation.

# Trust in Institutions

# Trust in Congress and the Executive

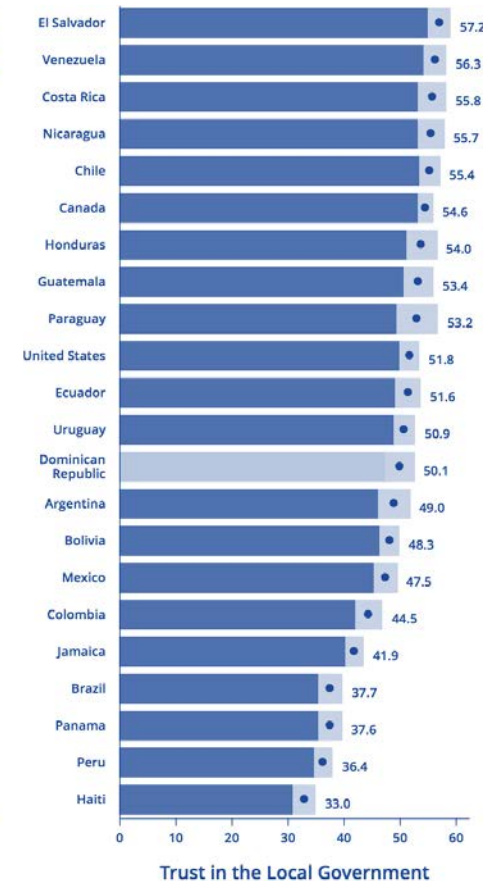
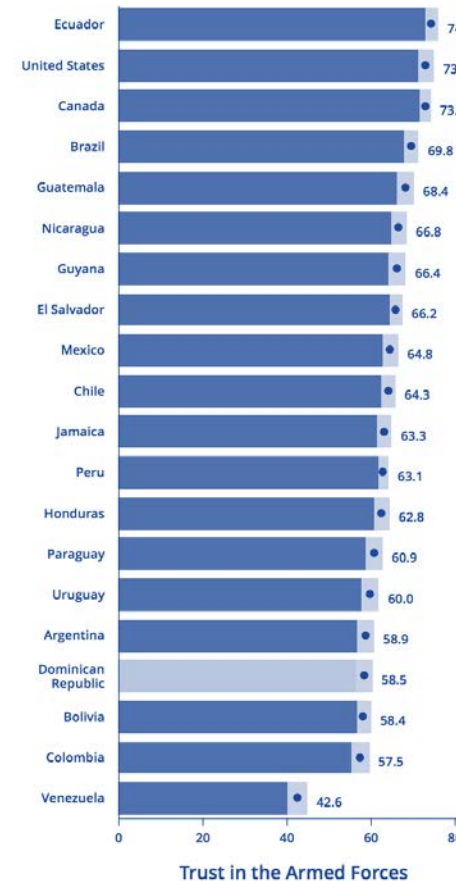
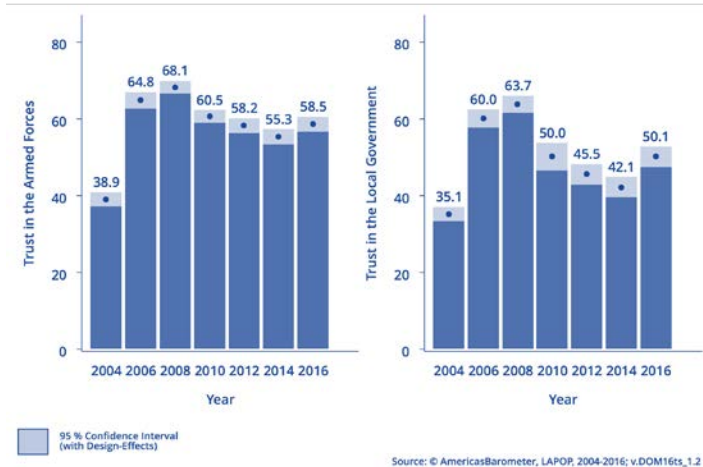


- From 2006 to 2014, Congress witnessed a decreasing trend in citizens' trust and did not experience a significant change in 2016.
- Trust in the executive decreased in 2016, but it is highest in the region.



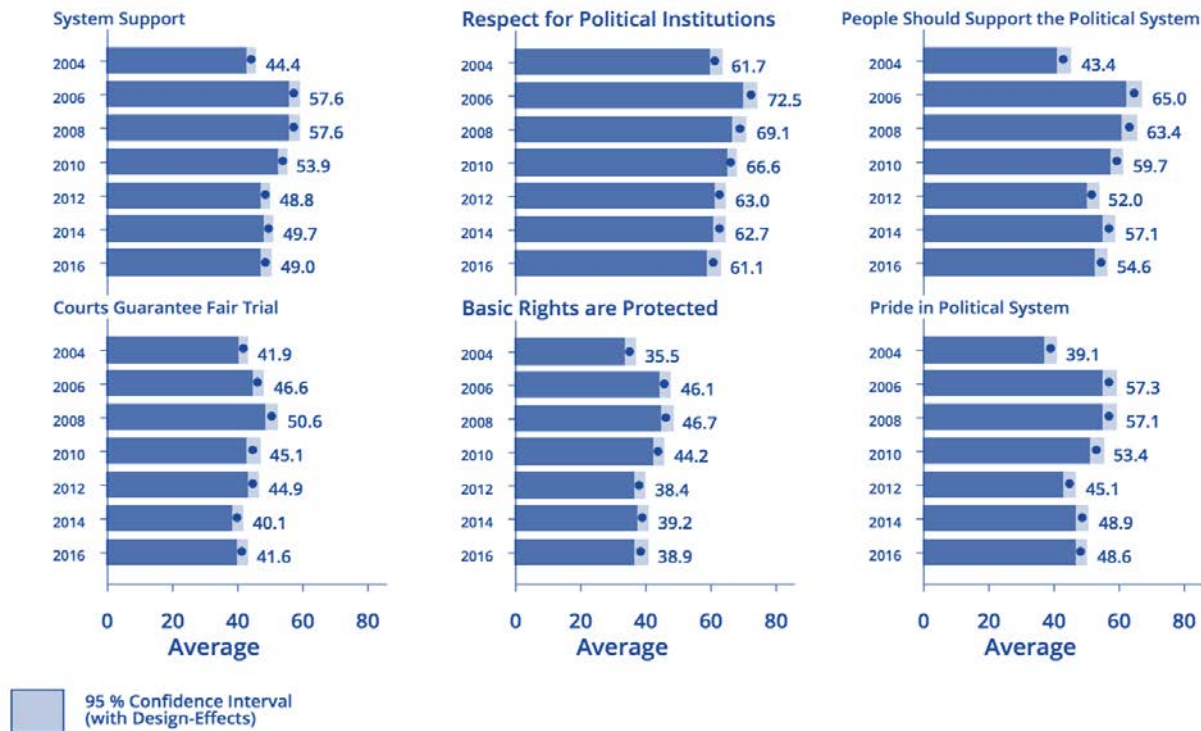


# Trust in the Armed Forces and the Local Government



- The Armed Forces has one of the highest levels of trust in institutions in the Dominican Republic. However, in the region, the country has the fourth lowest level of trust in the Armed Forces.
- Trust in the local government experienced a marked increase in 2016 and is around the average for the region.

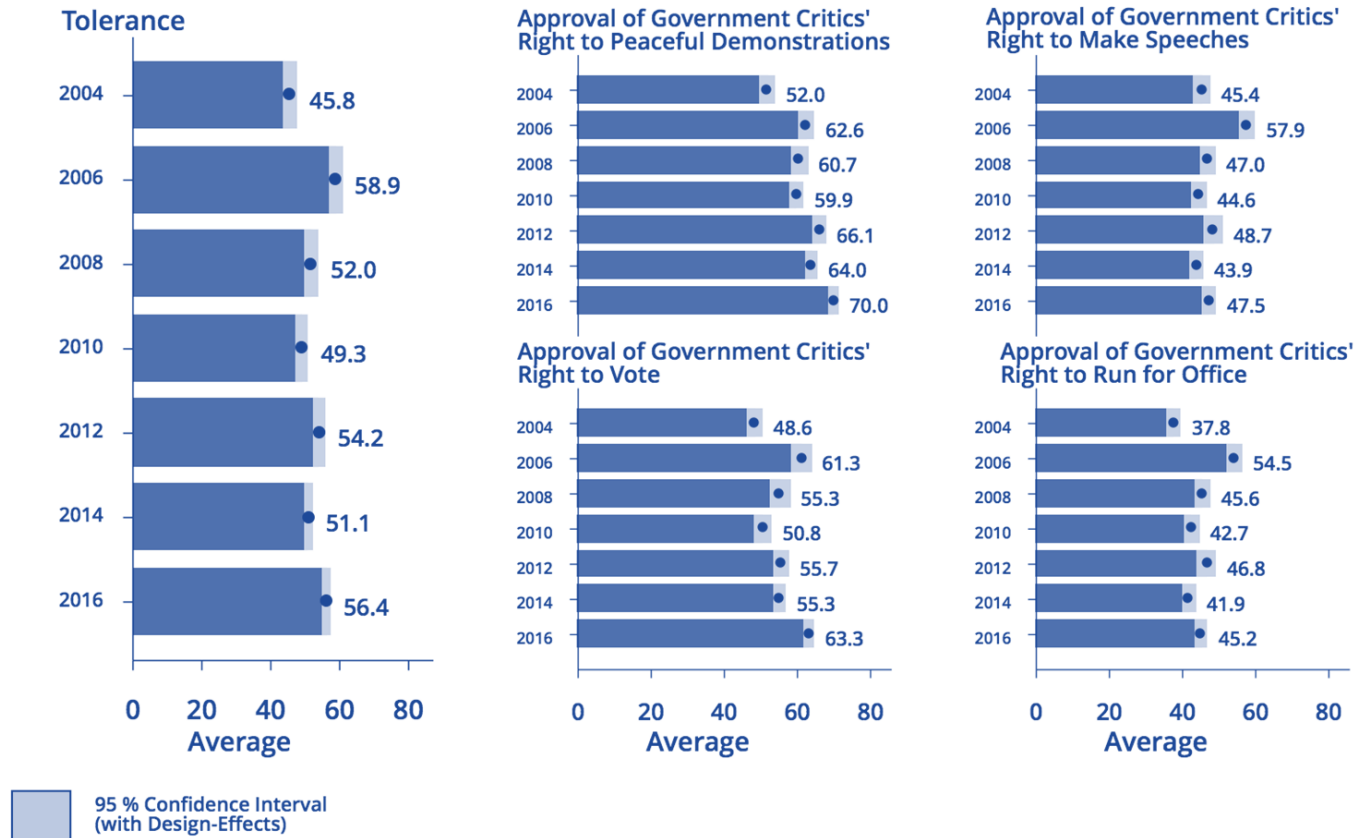
# System Support and its Components



Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, Dominican Republic 2004-2016; v.GM\_v.07172017

- Support for the political system has dropped from its highest points in 2006 and 2008. In 2016, this decreasing tendency has grown stronger.
- This is due to a decrease in four of the five components of the index of system support in 2016: respect of institutions, the level of pride in the political system, trust in the protection of citizens' basic rights, and the need to support the political system.

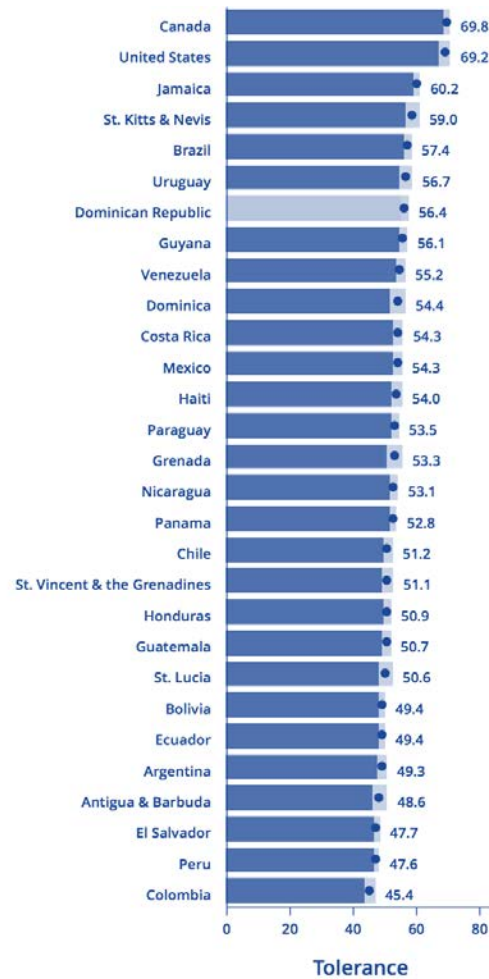
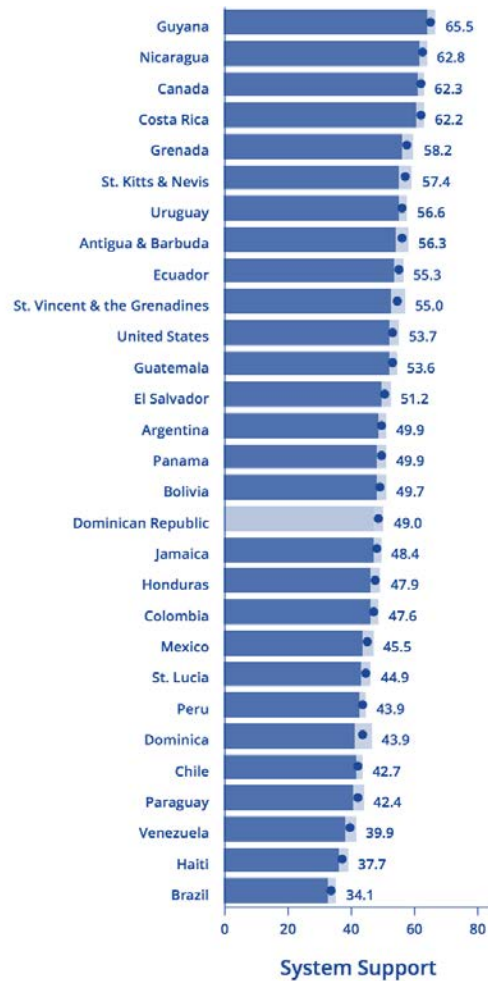
# Tolerance and Its Components



Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, Dominican Republic 2004-2016; v.GM\_v.07172017

- From 2014 to 2016 there has been a five point increase in tolerance.
- This increase is due to statistically significant increases in all components of the index.

# System Support and Tolerance in the Americas



- The Dominican Republic is near the average for system support compared to the other countries in the region.
- It is in seventh place in the region for political tolerance in 2016.

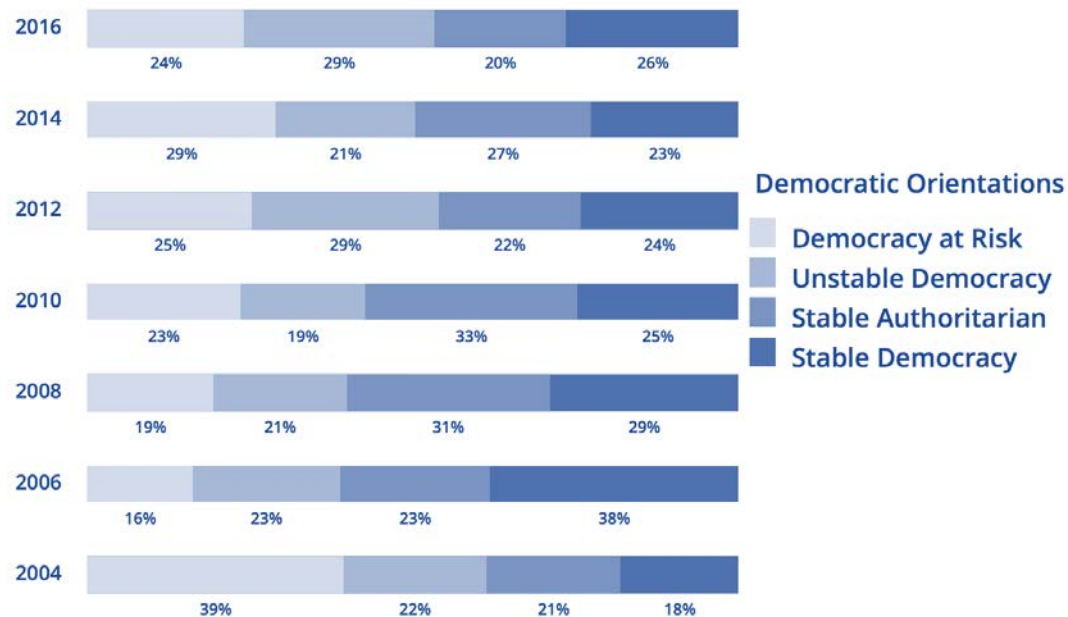
95 % Confidence Interval  
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Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2016/17; v.GM\_v.07172017

95 % Confidence Interval  
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Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2016/17; v.GM\_v.07172017

# Democratic Orientations

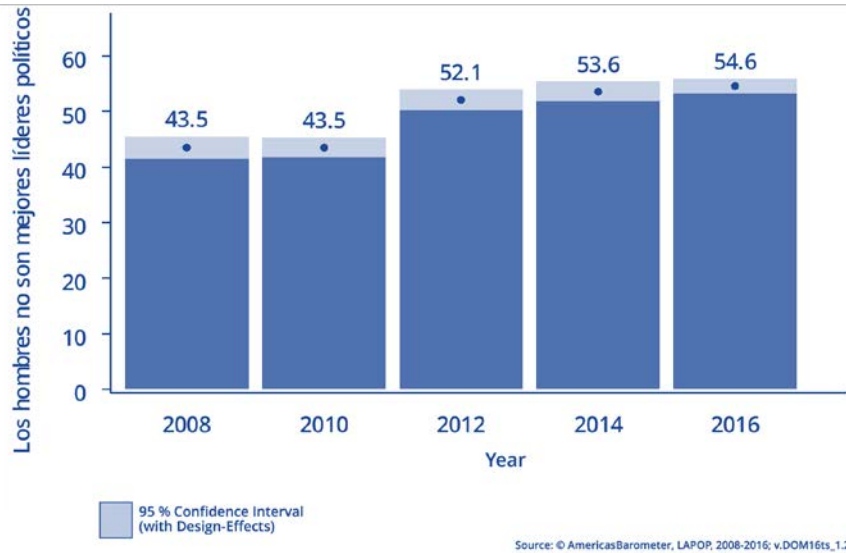


Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, Dominican Republic 2004-2016; v.GM\_v.07172017

- The biggest percentage of orientations towards *stable democracy* was found in 2006.
- Since 2006, it declined until 2014.
- In 2016 this trend reversed, with a modest increase.
- Nevertheless, there was also an increase in *unstable democracy*, that is, high tolerance but low system support.

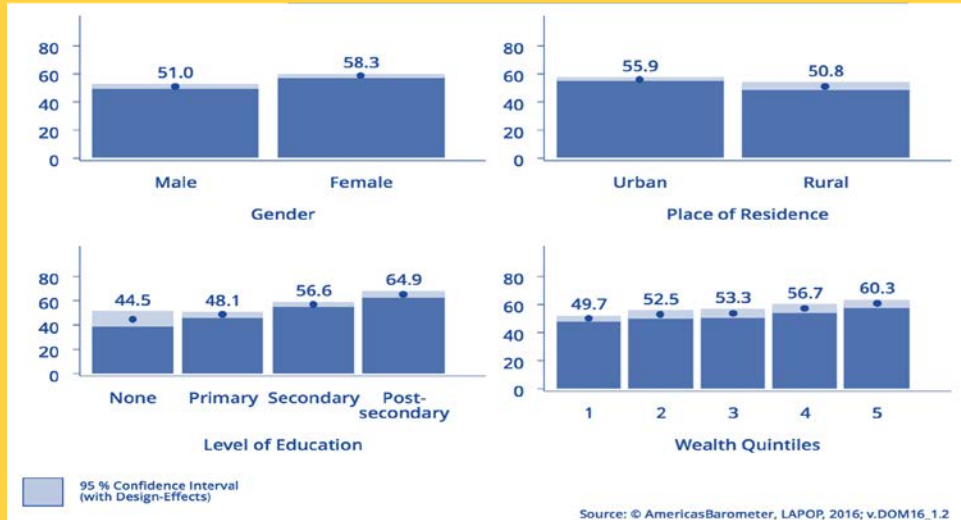
# Gender and Sexuality

# Rejection of Masculine Supremacy

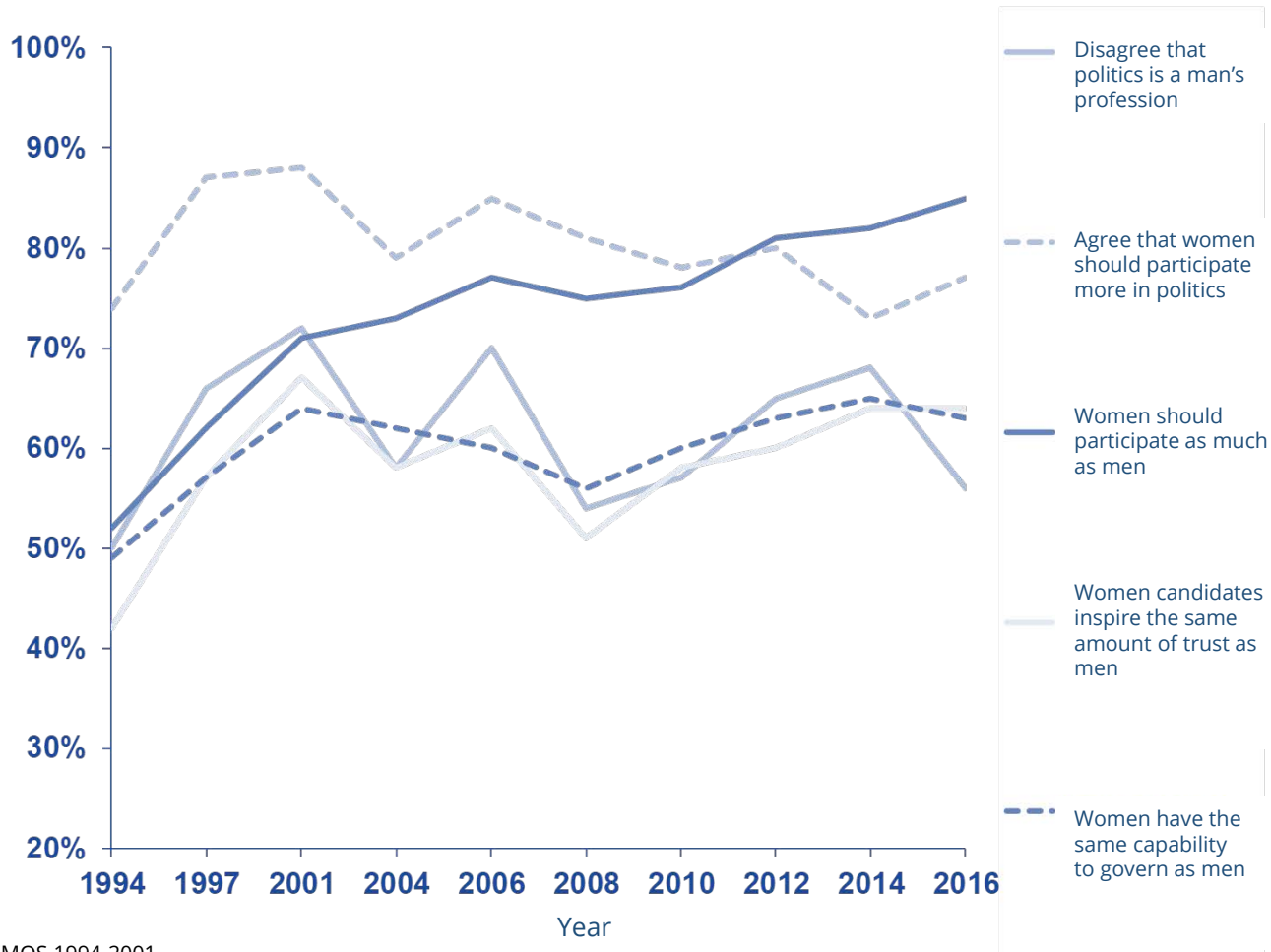


- From 2008 to 2012 there was a substantial increase in disagreement with the idea that men are better political leaders than women.
- However, since 2012, there has not been much of a change.

There is a stronger rejection of masculine supremacy in politics among women, the urban population and wealthier people.



# Support for Women in Politics

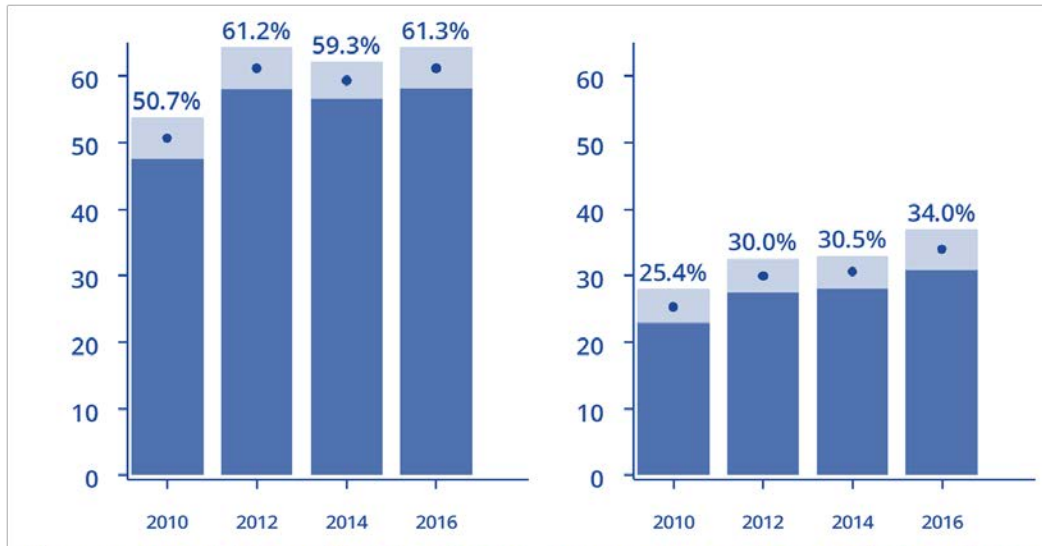


Source: DEMOS 1994-2001  
AmericasBarometer by LAPOP, 2004-2016, v. DOM16ts\_1.2

The changes are positive, but reveal there is much more to do in order to achieve gender equality.



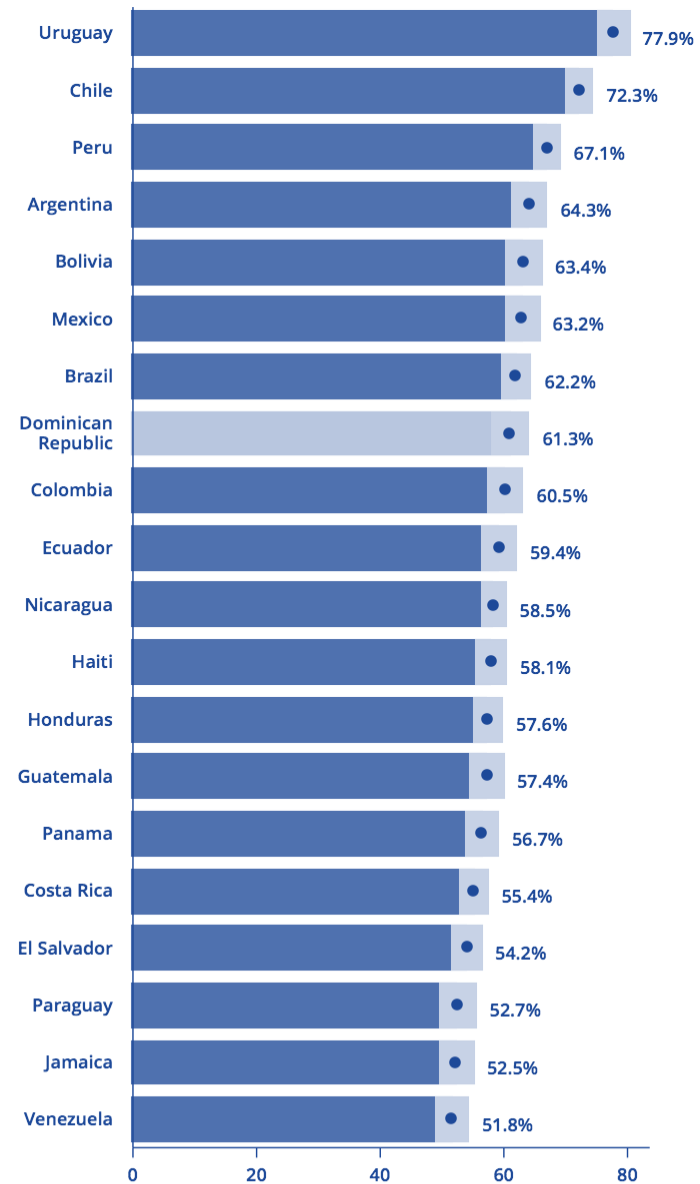
# Reproductive Rights



Abortion is justified when a mother's health is at risk

Abortion is justified in the case of incest or rape

- 61.3% of Dominicans support the right of abortion if a pregnancy presents a health risk to the mother. The country is eighth in the region for this indicator.
- Support for abortion in cases of rape or incest is lower than support for abortion when a mothers' health is at risk, but it has increased in recent years.

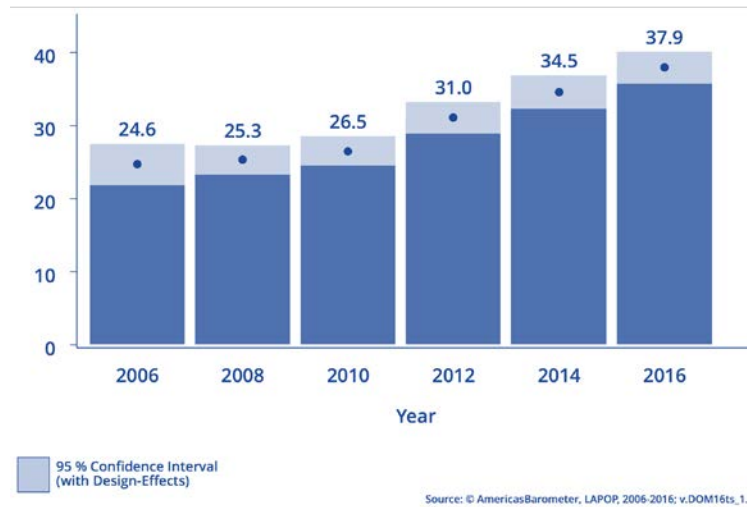


Abortion Justified When Mother's Health is at Risk

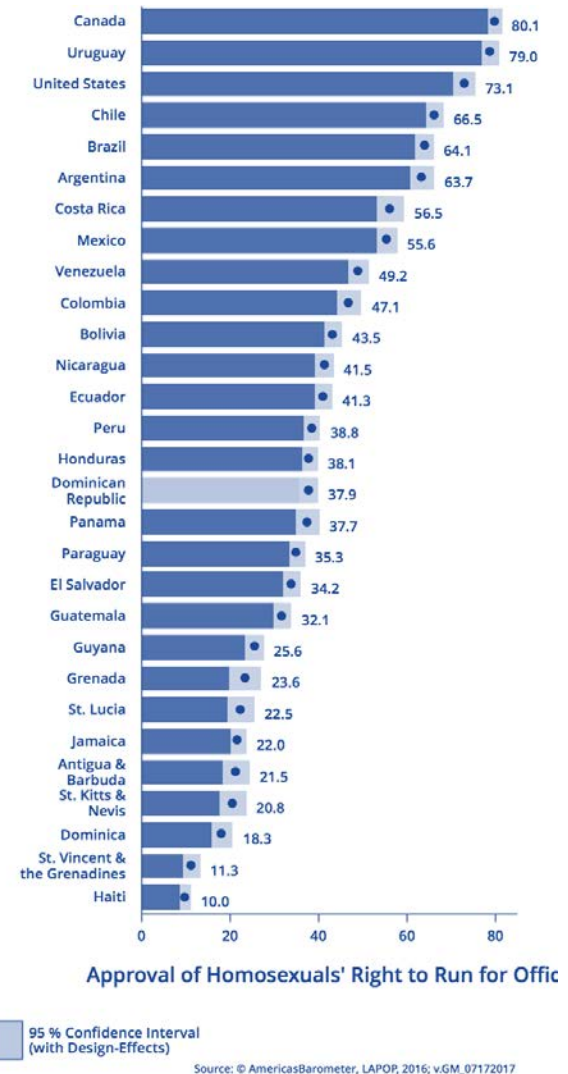
95 % Confidence Interval  
(with Design-Effects)

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOR, 2016; v.GM\_07172017

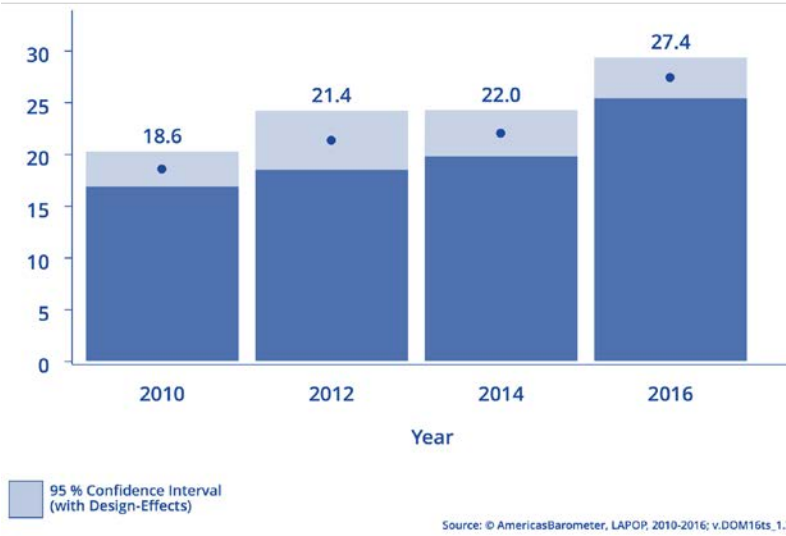
# Sexual Minorities in Politics



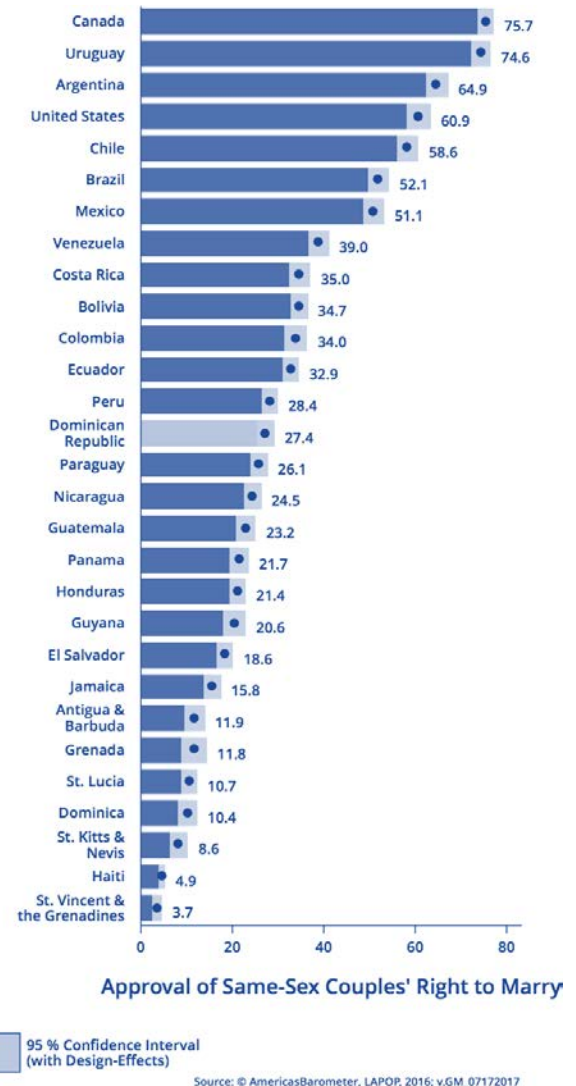
- Regarding support for the right of homosexuals to run for office, the Dominican Republic is located in the bottom half of the region; but there has been an increase in the level of acceptance with respect to previous years.
- In 2016 support reached 37.9.



# The right of marriage for couples of the same sex



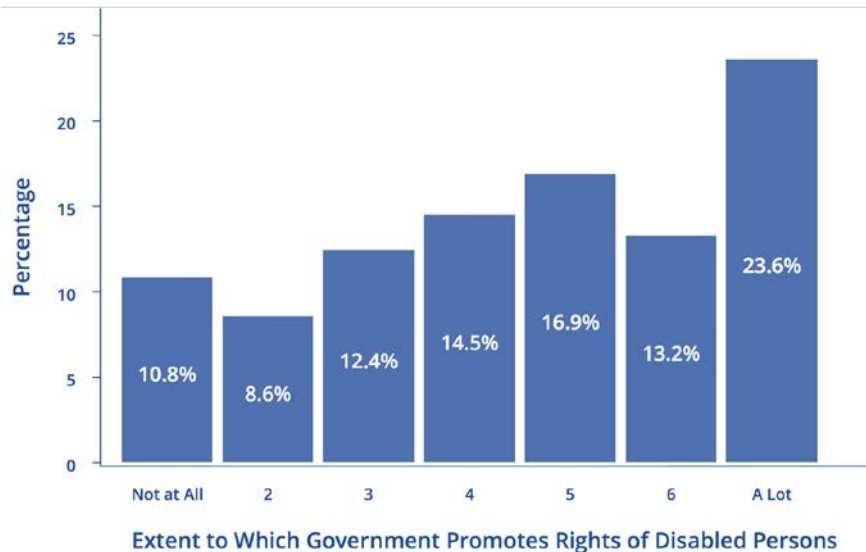
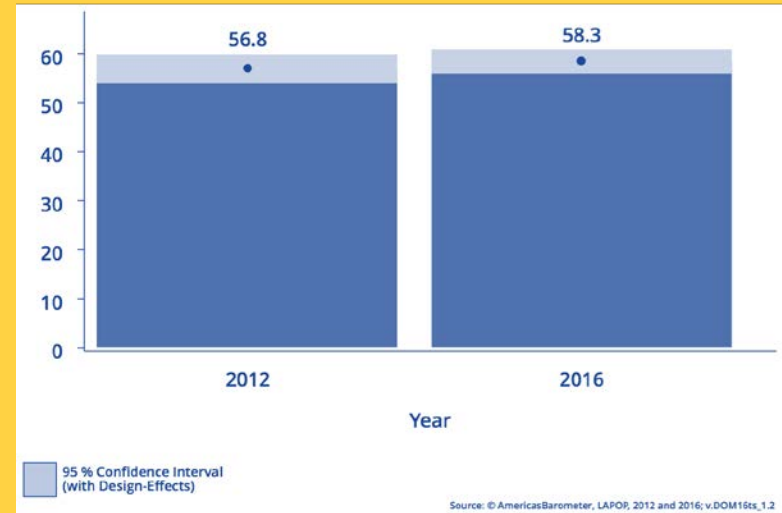
- From 2010 to 2016, there has been a significant increase in support for this ri
- Regionally, the country is in an average position, although it is closer to countries with lower support than countries which have borader support for same-sex marriage.



# Physical Disability

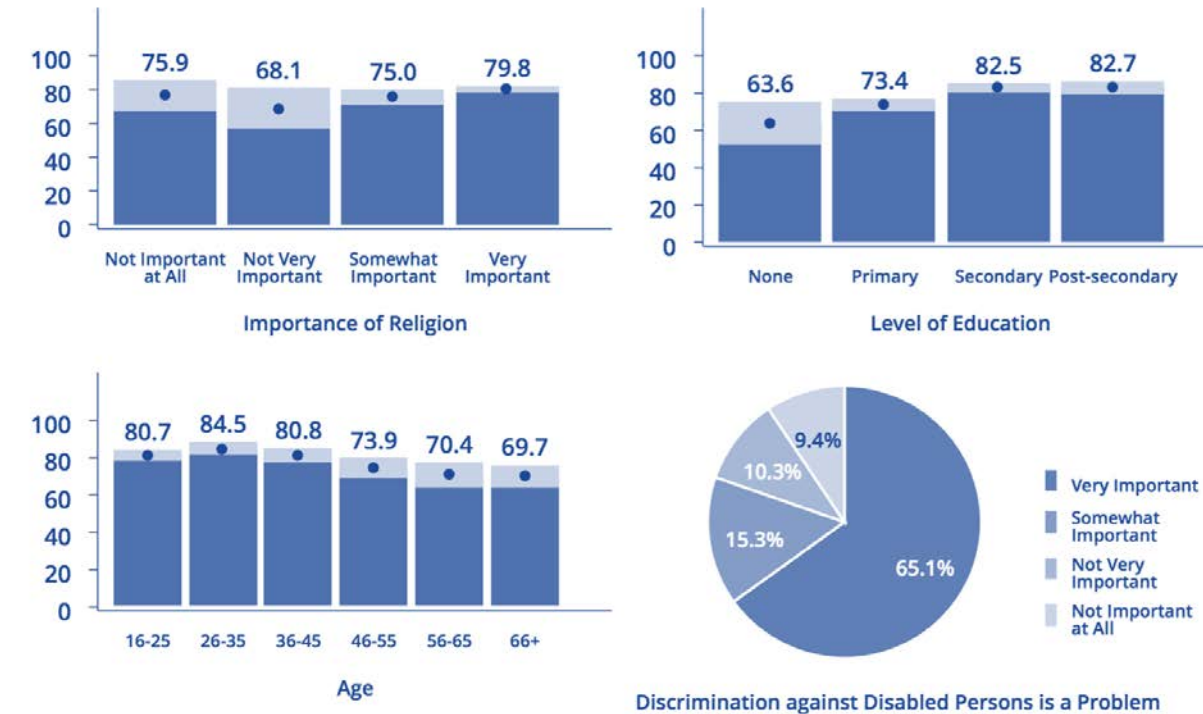
# Attitudes towards people with Physical Disabilities

- Support for people with physical disabilities to run for office is in the just over the mid point of the scale.
- Results are similar for 2012 and 2016.



- 53.7% of Dominicans believe that the government promotes the rights of people with disabilities.
- People who have positively evaluated government actions favoring disabled people rights are those who express more approval of the government performance in general.

# Is discrimination against the disabled a problem in the Dominican Republic?



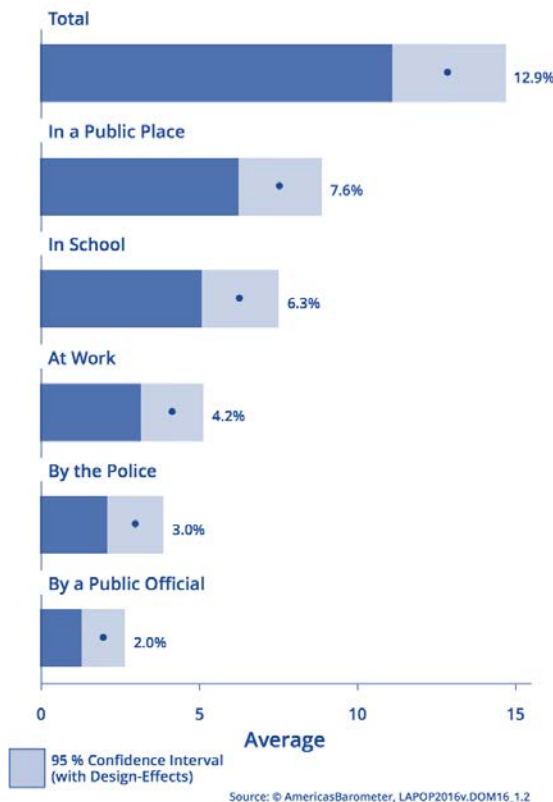
Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2016; v.DOM16\_1.2

- 65.1% of respondents believe that it is a very important problem, and 15.3% that it is somewhat important.
- People who believe religion is very important, who have higher levels of education and who are younger, are more likely to believe that discrimination against the disabled is a problem.

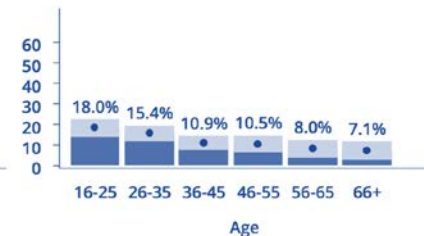
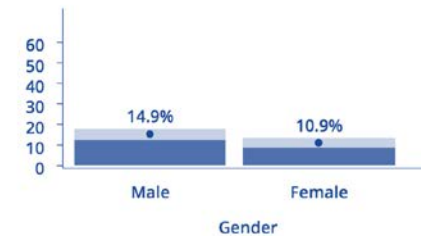
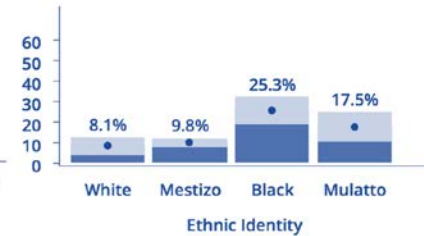
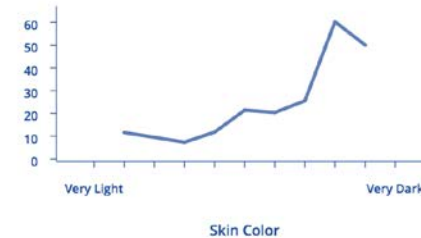
# Race

# Discrimination Because of Skin Color

## Victimization Because of Skin Color



Victimization because of skin color



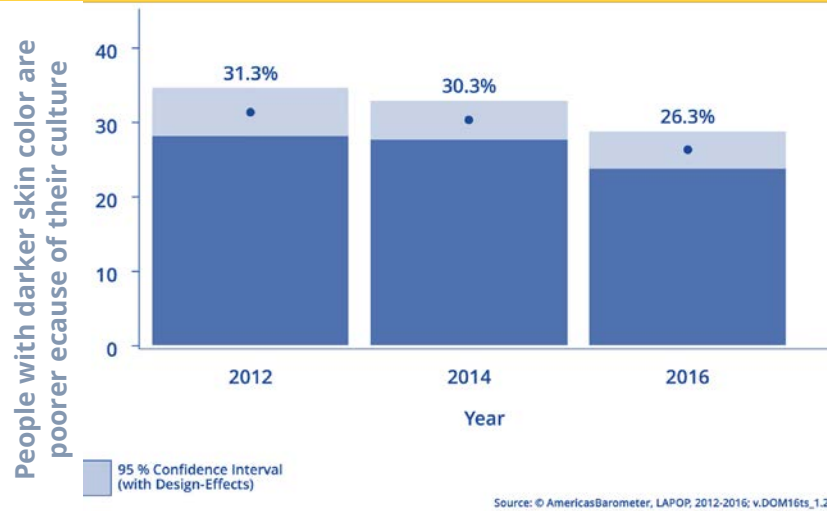
95 % Confidence Interval  
(with Design-Effects)

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2016; v.DOM16\_1.2

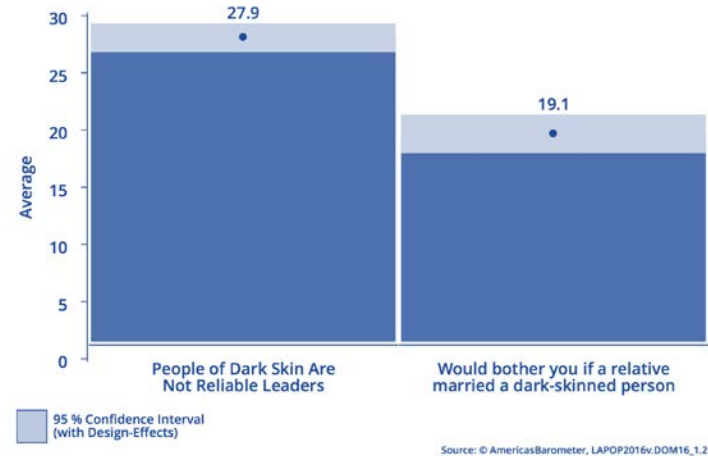
- 12.9 % have been victims of discrimination because of skin color in some instance.
- There is a higher likelihood of reporting discrimination among people with a darker skin tone, who identify as black or mulatto, who are young and men.



# Racial Attitudes

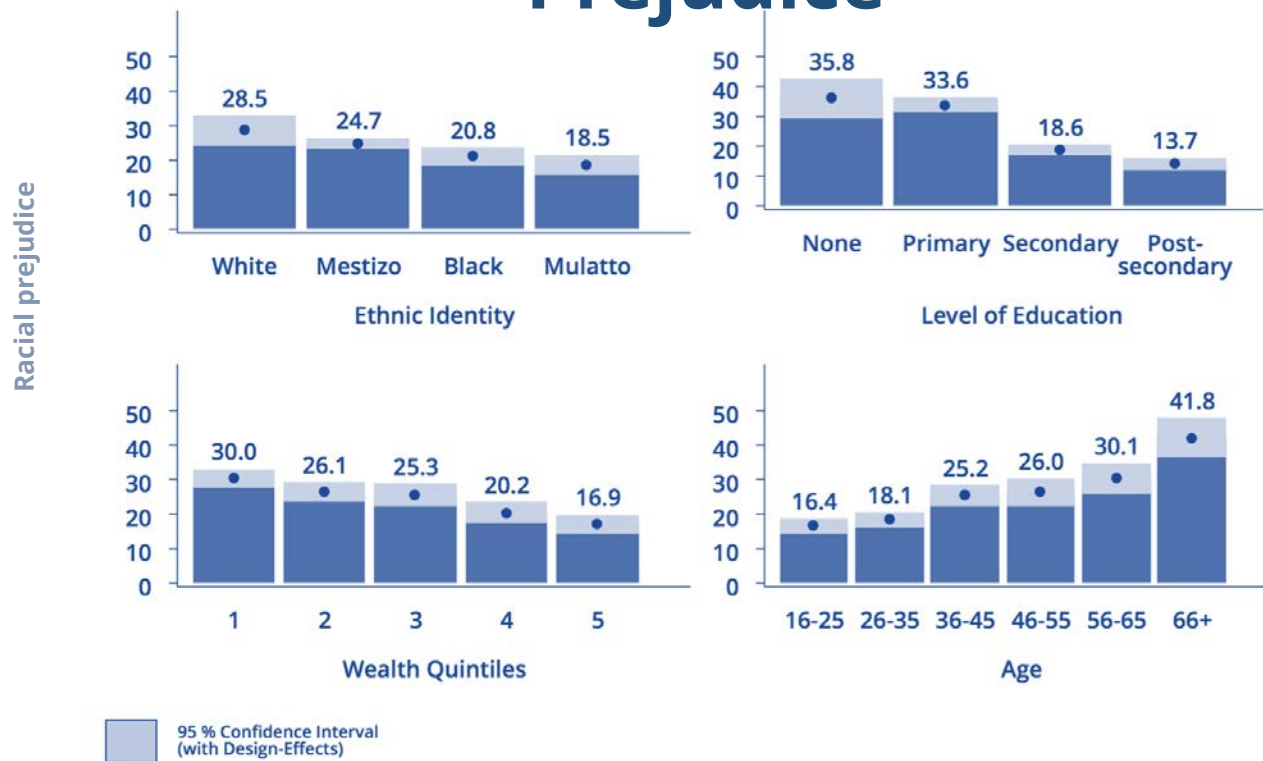


The percentage of Dominicans who think that people with dark skin are poorer because of their culture declined somewhat in 2016.



More people perceive that those with dark skin are not trustworthy employees than those who reported being bothered by a close family member marrying someone with dark skin.

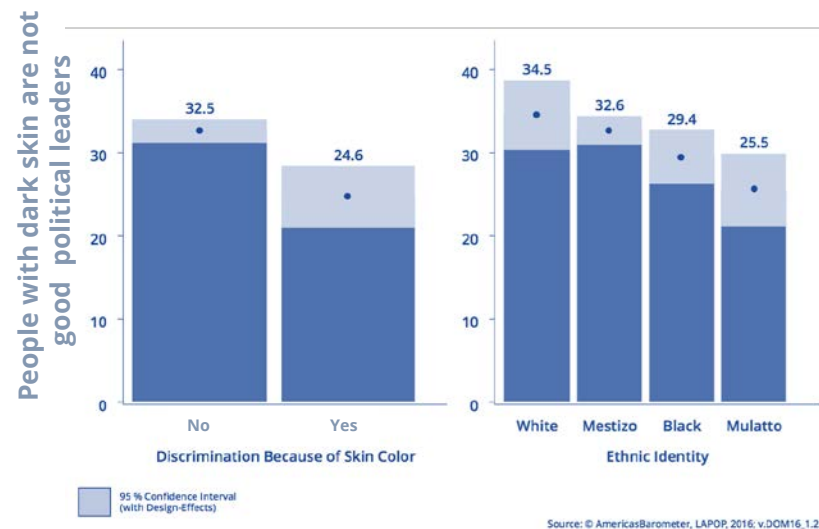
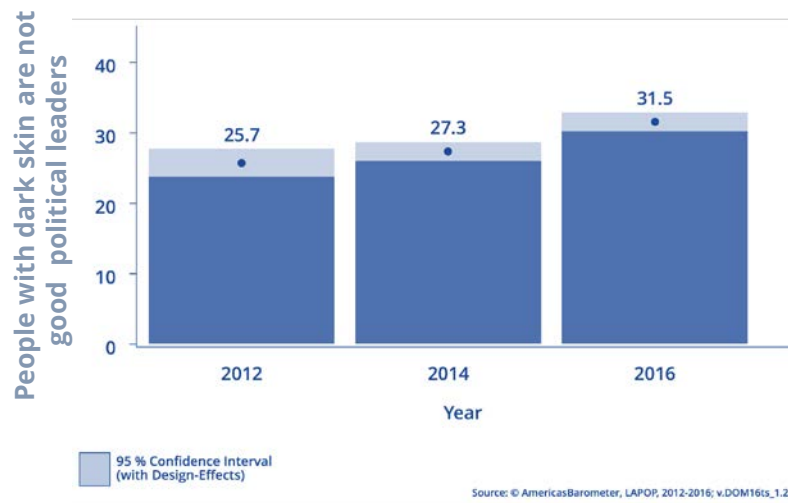
# Factors associated with Racial Prejudice



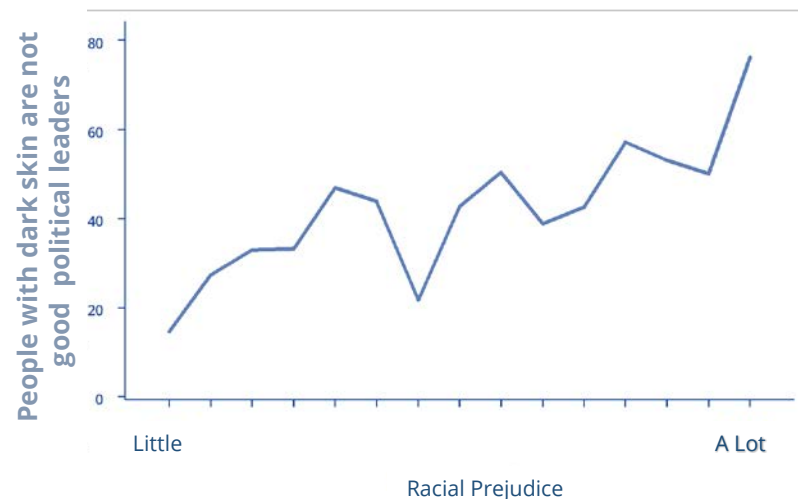
Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2016; v.DOM16\_1.2

Analyzing a scale consisting of two questions related to attitudes towards employees and spouses of dark skin, there is less prejudice among the more educated, the wealthier, the younger and those who identify as black or mulatto.

# Attitudes towards Politicians with Dark Skin

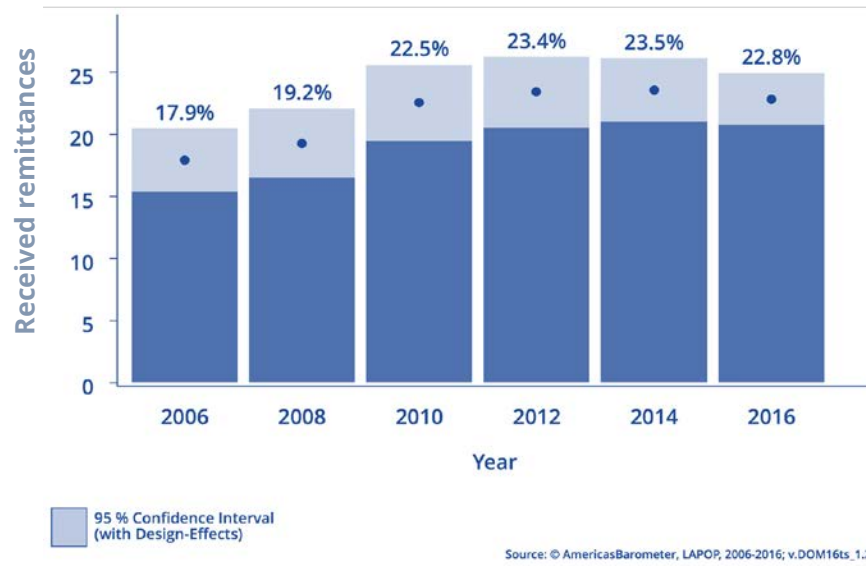


- From 2012 to 2016, there has been an increase in respondents who think that dark-skinned politicians are not considered good political leaders.
- People who have been victims of racial discrimination, identify as blacks or mulattoes and those who express less racial prejudice, are less likely to say that people with dark skin are not good leaders.

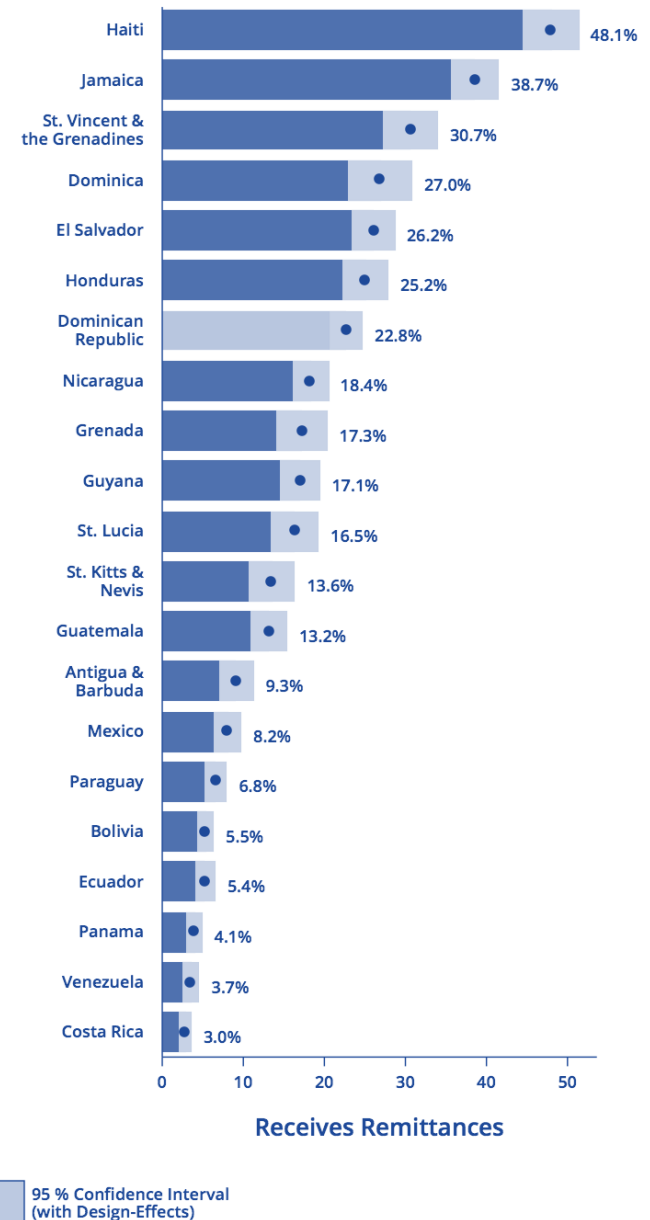


# Immigration

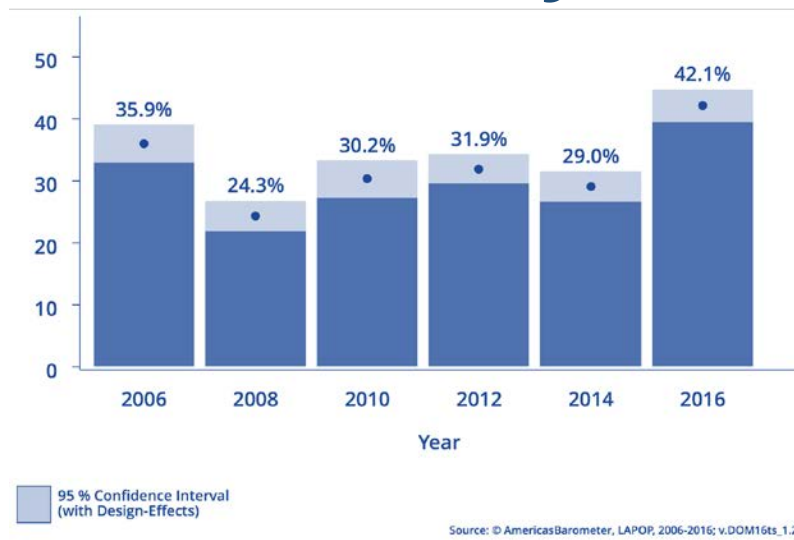
# Receiving Remittances



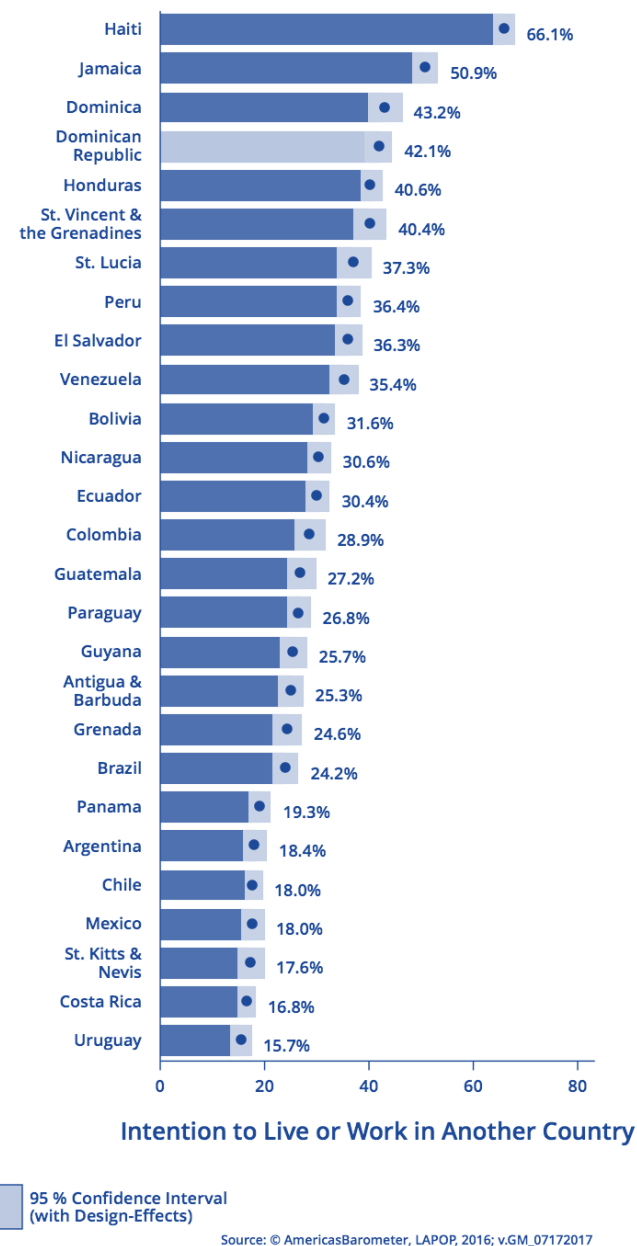
- Respondents who reported receiving remittances dropped slightly from 2012 and 2014, but there is no statistically significant difference.
- The Dominican Republic is seventh place in the region for citizens receiving remittances.



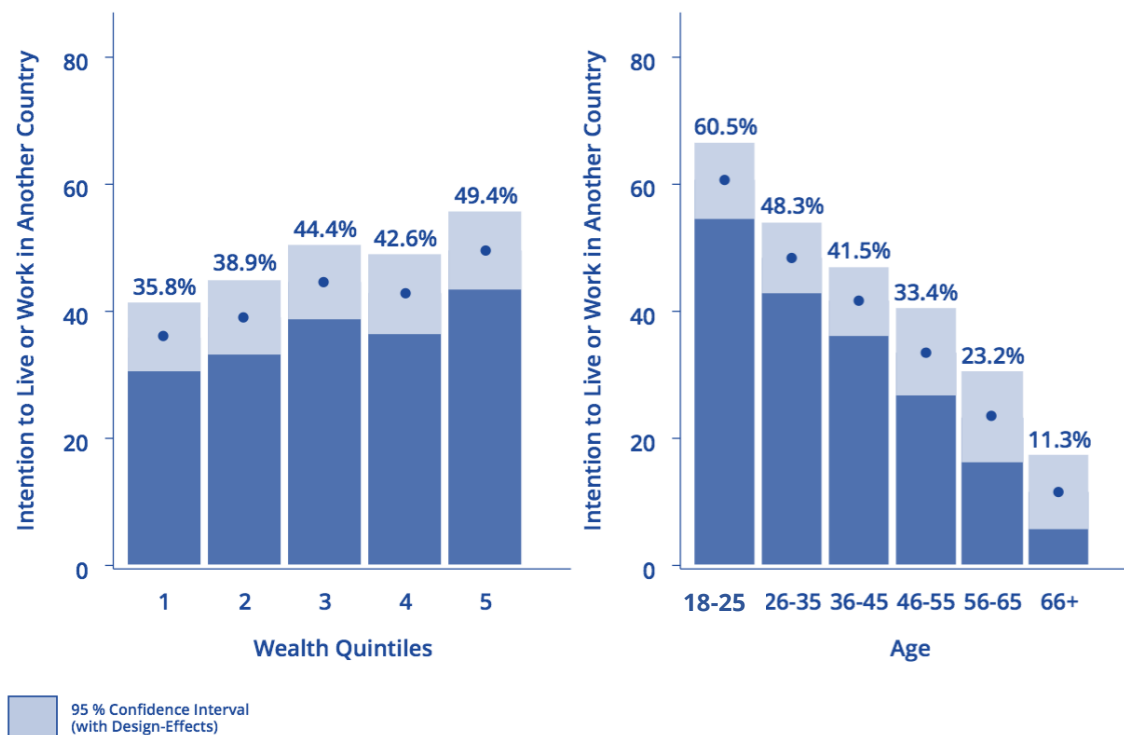
# Intentions to Leave the Country



- Intentions to leave the country have increased significantly in the last two years, from 29.0% in 2014 to 42.1% in 2016.
- The Dominican Republic is fourth in the region for the percentage of respondents who expressed an intention to leave the country.



# Factors Associated with Intentions to Leave the Country



Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2016; v.DOM16\_1.2

- The wealthiest and youngest are more likely to say that they have plans to live or work in another country. 60.5% of Dominicans between 18 and 25 say they intend to leave the country.
- There are no significant relationships between the intention to live or work in another country and evaluations of the economy, place of residence, level of education and color of skin.

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