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Barómetro de las Américas

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July 2019

The Political Culture of Democracy in Ecuador

AmericasBarometer
Barómetro de las Américas
2004 – 2019

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LAPOP



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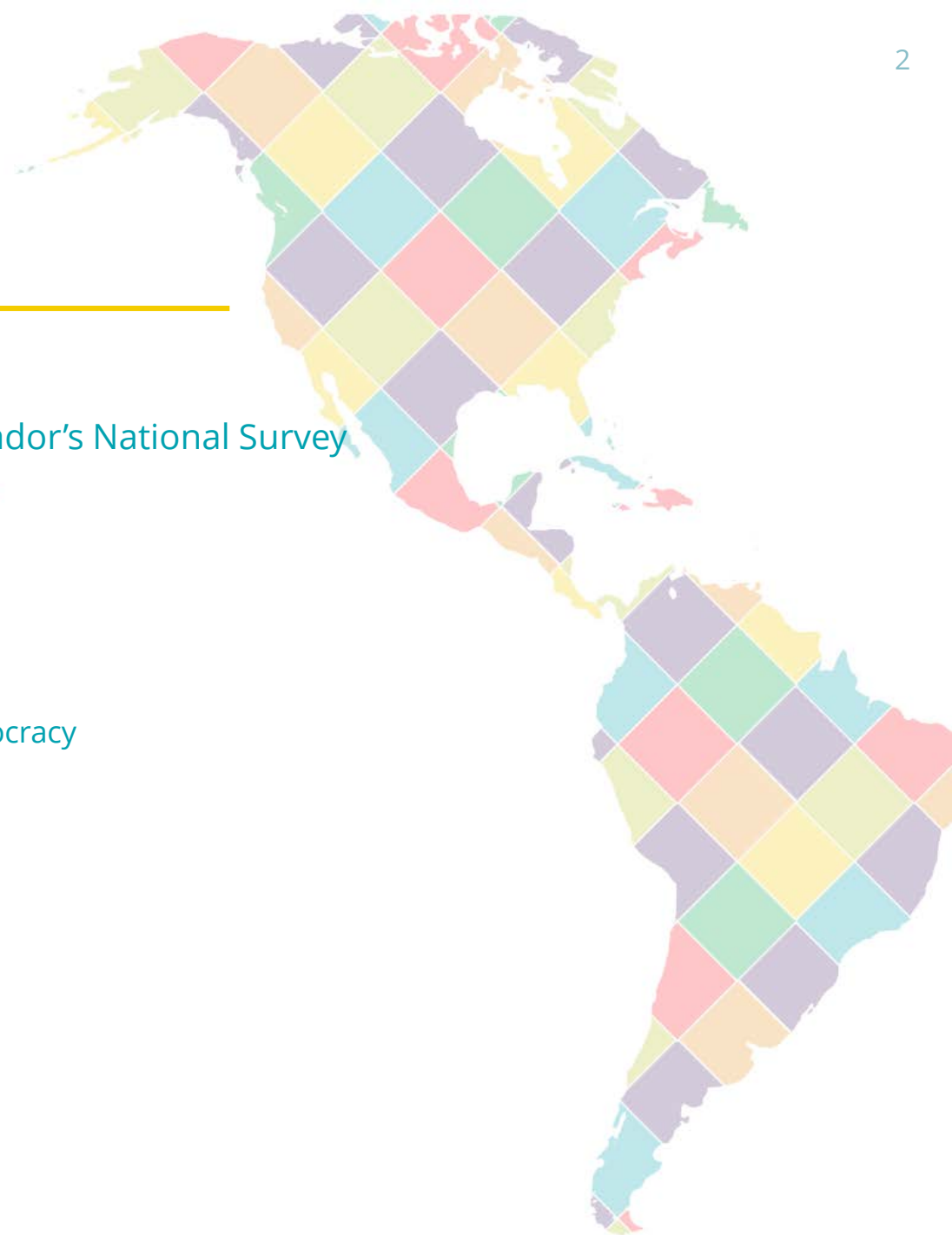
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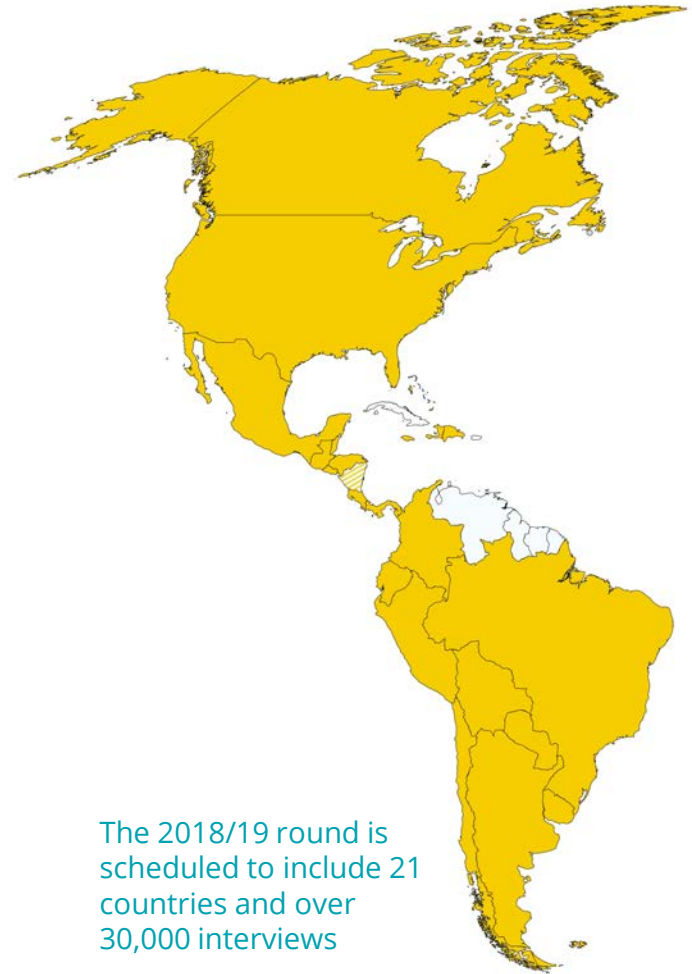
Conclusion



AmericasBarometer

Barómetro de las Américas

- ✓ Representative samples (national & subnational)
- ✓ Standardized methods
- ✓ Common core content from 2004 to present day
- ✓ Face-to-face interviews
- ✓ 100% interviews audited for quality
- ✓ 100% e-devices
- ✓ Open access to data & reports
- ✓ Over 250,000 interviews



The 2018/19 round is scheduled to include 21 countries and over 30,000 interviews

2019 AmericasBarometer National Survey in Ecuador

- 1,533 face-to-face interviews (margin of error: $\pm 3\%$)
- Pretest: December 19-20, 2018
- Training: January 14-15, 2019
- Fieldwork: January 22 – March 19, 2019
- 100% of the data collected with electronic devices



Our team pretesting and training in Quito

Ecuador's Sample Design

- ✓ Nationally Representative
- ✓ Stratified by region (Coastal, Sierra, and Amazon); county size (large, medium, small); and urbanization level (urban and rural)
- ✓ Multistage, probability selection of primary sampling units and clusters
- ✓ Clustered at the block level

Regions and Provinces in the Sample Design

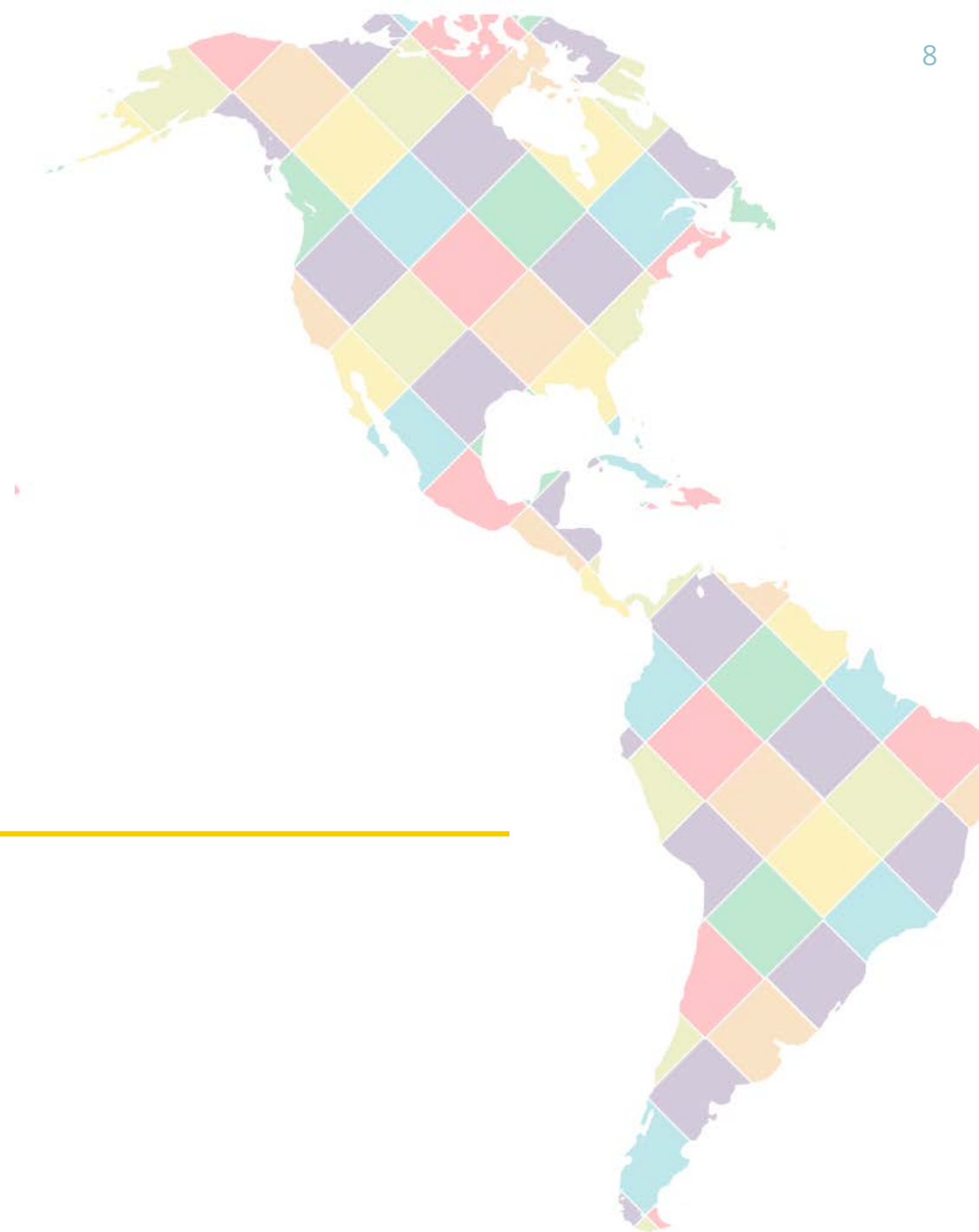
Regions	Provinces
Coastal	
Sierra	Azuay, Bolívar, Cañar, Chimborazo, Cotopaxi, El Oro, Esmeraldas, Guayas, Imbabura, Loja, Los Ríos, Manabí, Morona Santiago, Napo, Pichincha, S.D. De los Tsáchilas, Santa Elena, Sucumbíos, Tungurahua, Zamora
Amazon	Chinchipe

LAPOP Gathers Data from 51 Counties (Cantones) in Ecuador



LAPOP's mission is to:

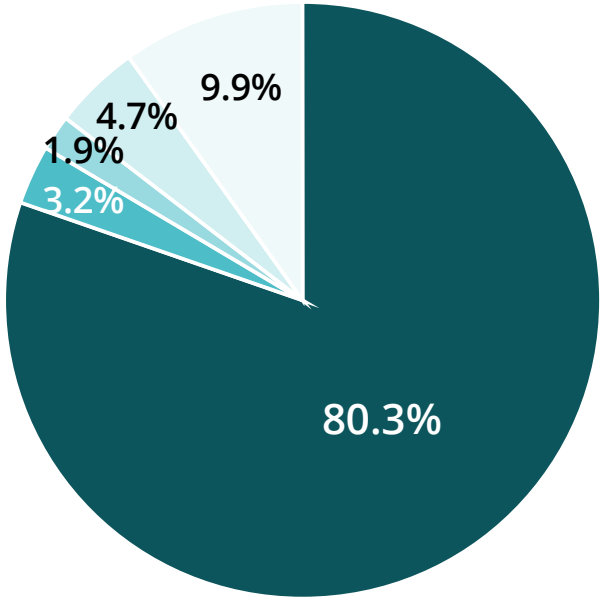
- ✓ Produce high quality public opinion data
- ✓ Develop and implement cutting-edge survey methods
- ✓ Build capacity in survey research and analysis
- ✓ Generate and disseminate policy-relevant research



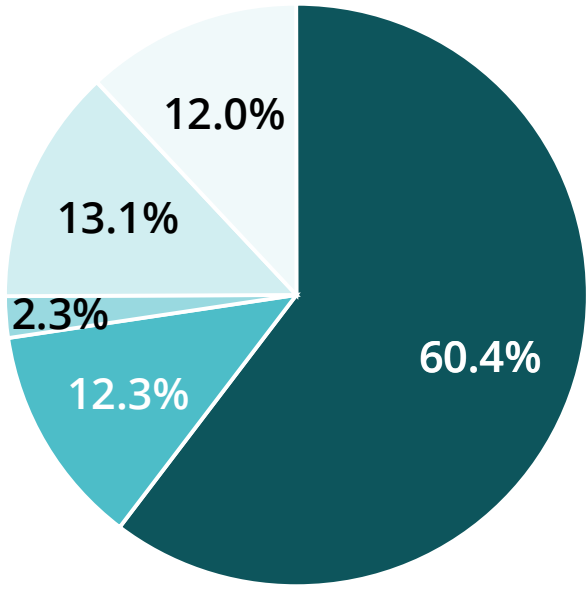
Section 1

National Problems

The economy continues to be the most important problem for 60.4% of Ecuadorians in 2019 (down from 80.3% in 2016). However, the percentage of people reporting security and politics as the most important problem has increased substantially since the last round.



Most Important Problem Ecuador, 2016



Most Important Problem Ecuador, 2019

- Economy
- Security
- Basic Services
- Politics
- Other

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2016-2019; v.TS_20190627

A4. In your opinion, what is the most serious problem faced by the country?

1.1 Economic Insecurity

63.8% of Ecuadorians think the economy has worsened in 2019, up from only 20.0% in 2014 (red line below). Just a small fraction (5.9%) thinks the economy has improved in the last 12 months (blue line).



Source: © AmericasBarometer LAPOP, 2004-2019; v.TS_20190627

Perceptions of the **National** Economic Situation

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?

48.9% think their personal economic situation has gotten worse in 2019. Only 8.8% of Ecuadorians think their economic situation has improved, down from 25.2% in 2014.

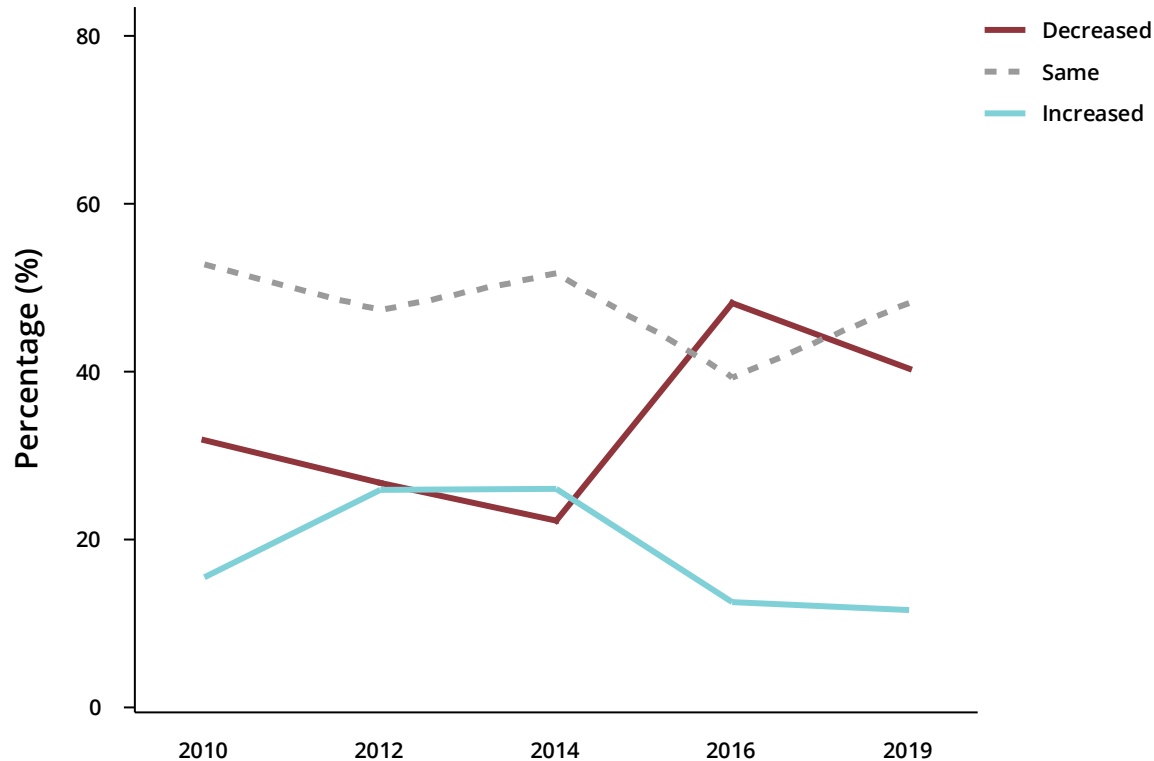


Source: © AmericasBarometer LAPOP, 2004-2019; v.TS_20190627

Perceptions of the **Personal** Economic Situation

IDIO2. Do you think that your economic situation is better than, the same as, or worse than it was 12 months ago?

In 2019, fewer Ecuadorians (40.3%) reported that their household income has deteriorated in the past 2 years than in 2016 (48.2%).

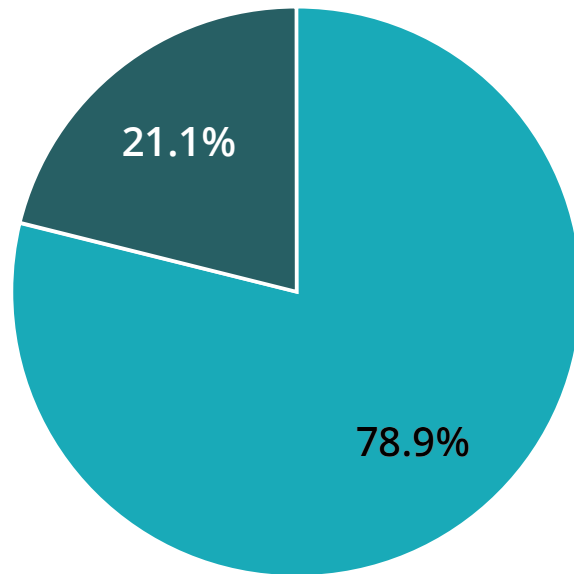


Source: © AmericasBarometer LAPOP, 2010-2019; v.TS_20190627

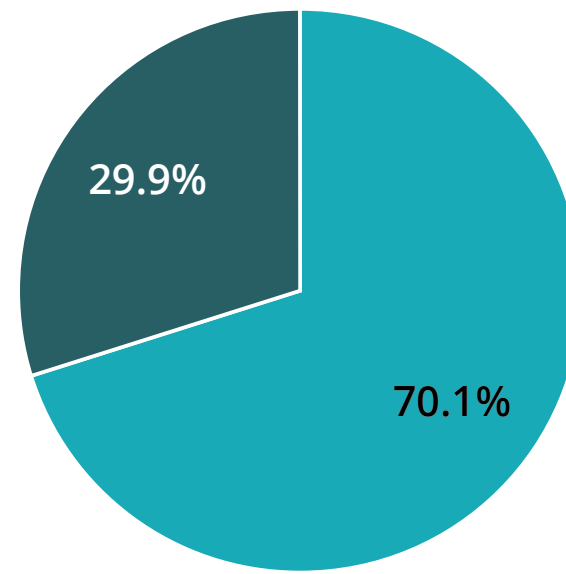
Household Income Over Past Two Years

Q10E. Over the past two years, has the income of your household

More Ecuadorians (29.9%) reported running out of food over the last three months in 2019 than in 2012 (21.1%).



Has Run Out of Food in the Last 3 Months
Ecuador 2012



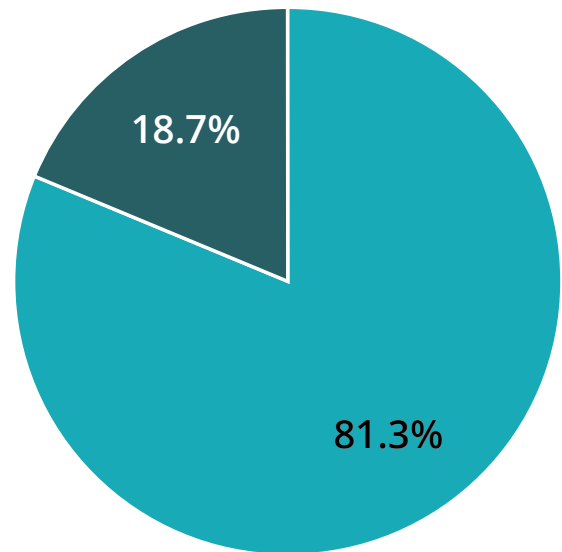
Has Run Out of Food in the Last 3 Months
Ecuador, 2019

■ No
■ Yes

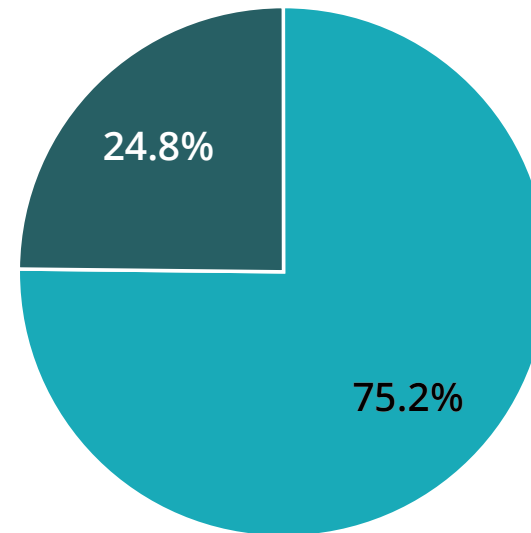
Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2010-2019; v.TS_20190627

FS2. In the last 3 months, due to lack of money or resources, did you ever run out of food?

24.8% reported that an adult in their household has eaten only once or not eaten an entire day in the 3 months prior to the survey (up from 18.7% in 2012).



Eaten only Once/Not Eaten an Entire Day
in the Last 3 Months Ecuador, 2012



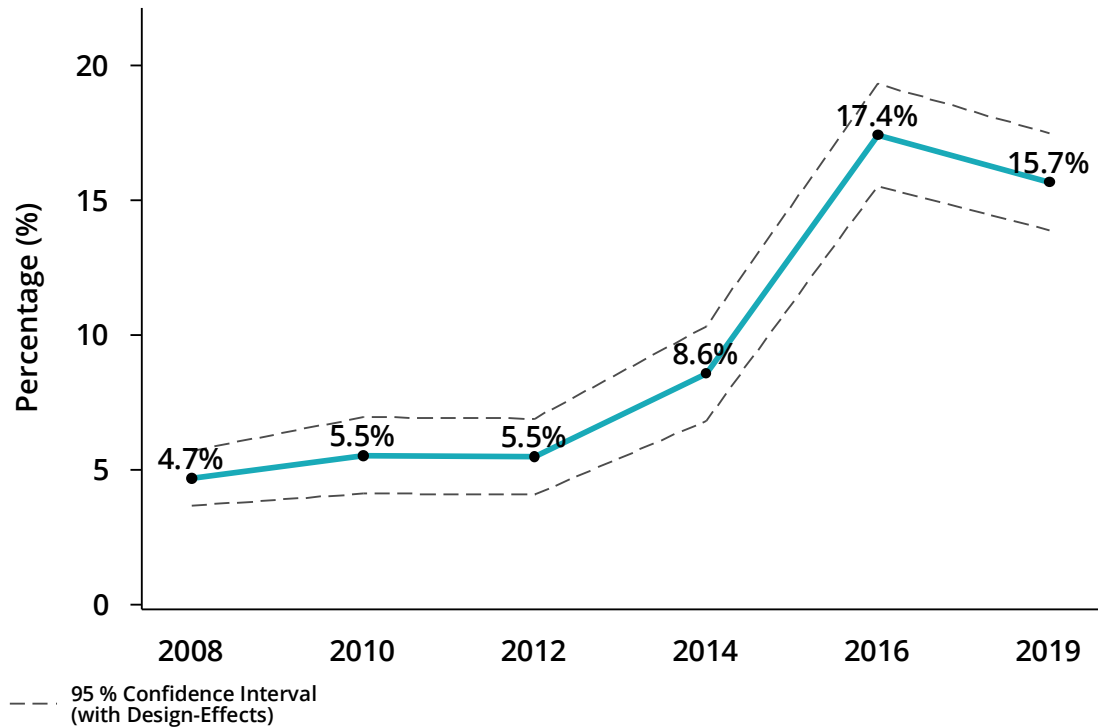
Eaten only Once/Not Eaten an Entire Day
in the Last 3 Months Ecuador, 2019

■ No
■ Yes

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2010-2019; v.TS_20190627

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?

In 2016 and 2019, the percentage of Ecuadorians actively looking for a job is nearly three times that of 2012.

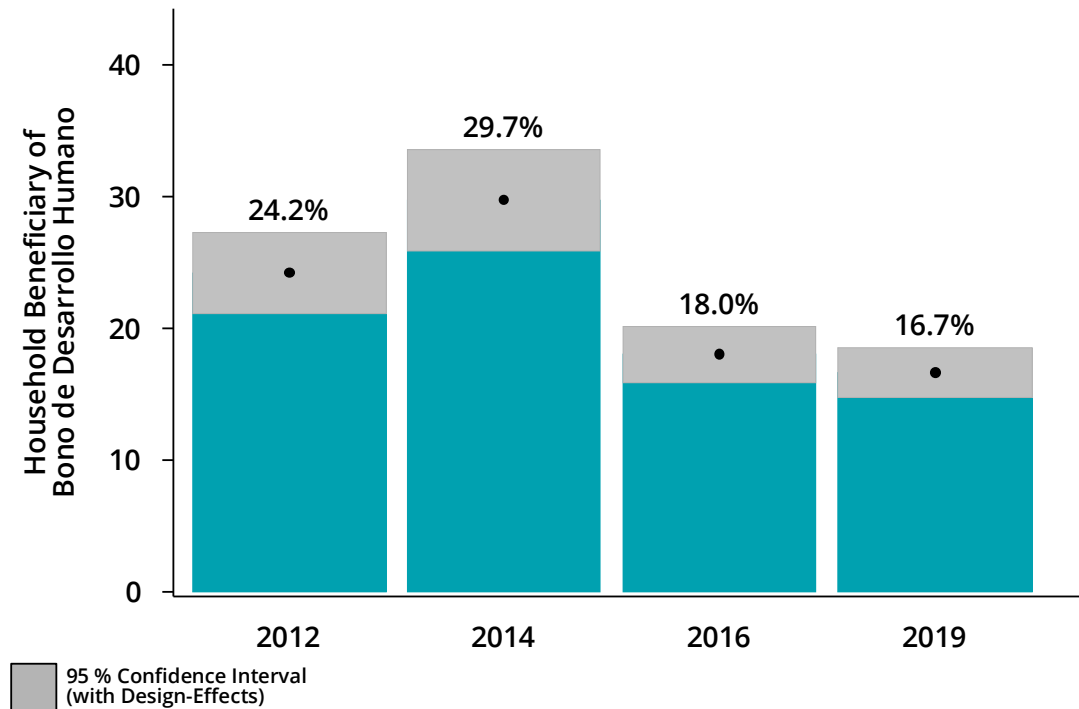


Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2008-2019; v.TS_20190627

Percentage of Ecuadorians Looking for a Job

OCUP4A. How do you mainly spend your time? Are you currently... The figure above shows the percentage of Ecuadorians who are actively looking for a job

The percentage of Ecuadorians who reported receiving government cash transfers was cut almost by half in 2019 compared to 2014.



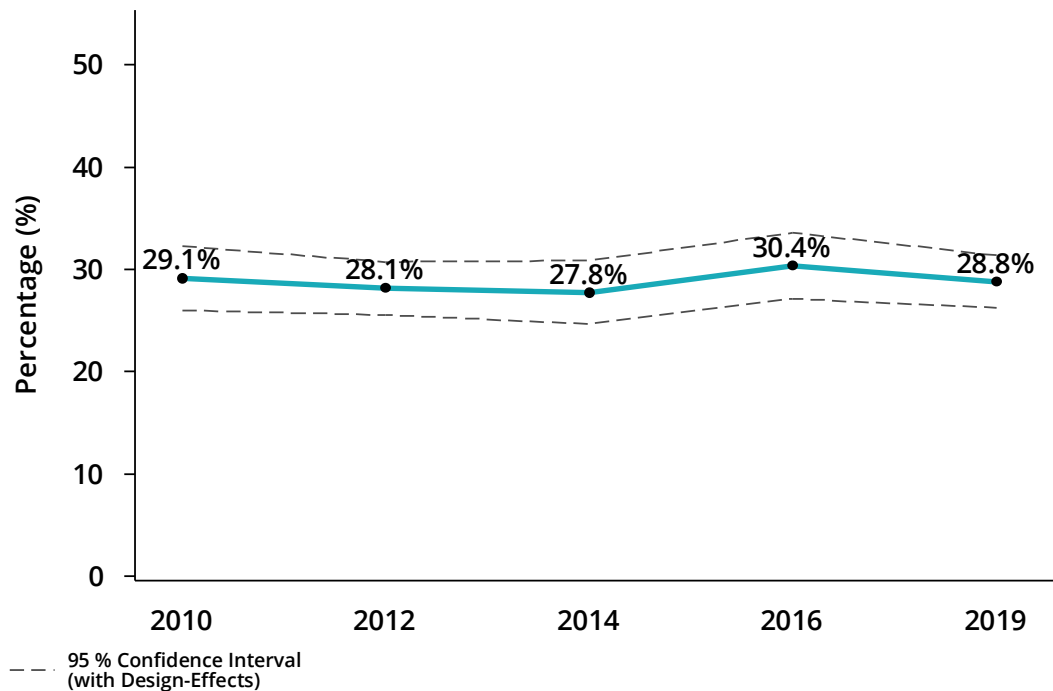
Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2012-2018; v.TS_20190627

Recipients of Bono de Desarrollo Humano (Cash Transfer)

CCT1B. Now, talking specifically about Bono de Desarrollo Humano, are you or someone in your house a beneficiary of this program?

1.2 Crime and Insecurity

Crime victimization rates in Ecuador have remained relatively stable. Since 2010, nearly 1 out of 3 citizens report having been victimized in the 12 months prior to the survey.

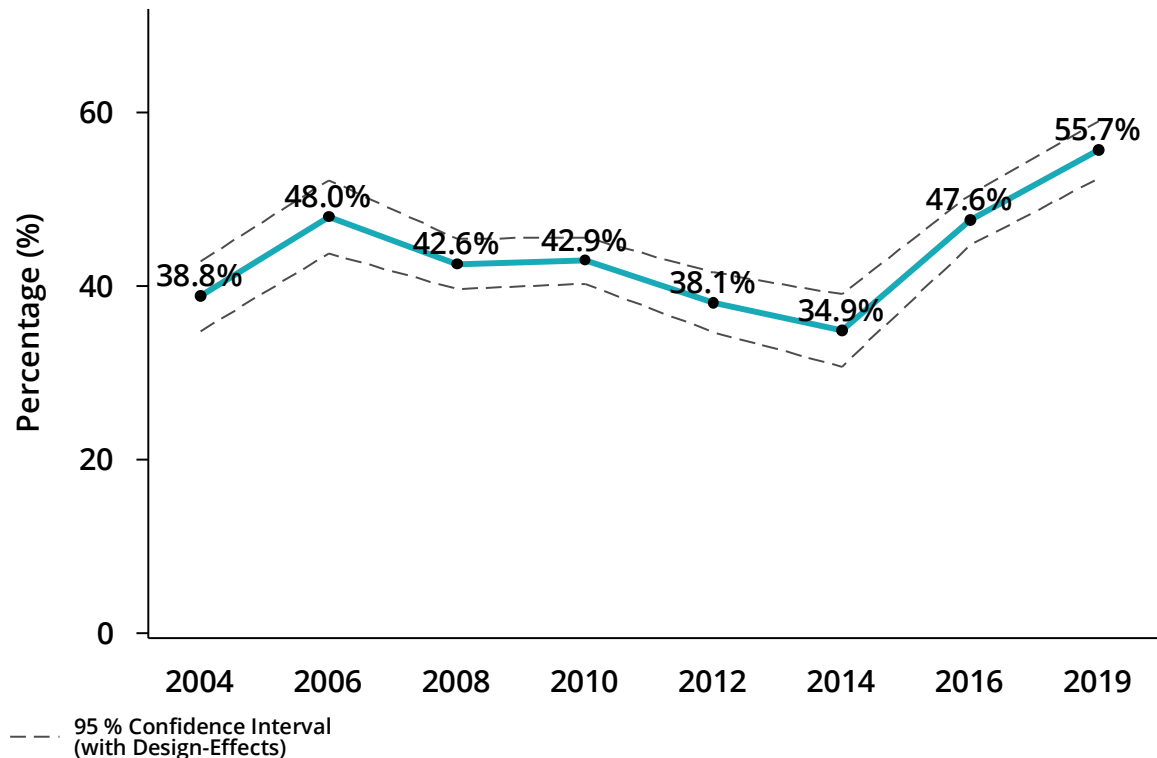


Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2010-2019; v.TS_20190627

Crime Victimization

VIC1EXT. 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?

For the first time, more than half of Ecuadorians feel somewhat or very unsafe in their neighborhoods.

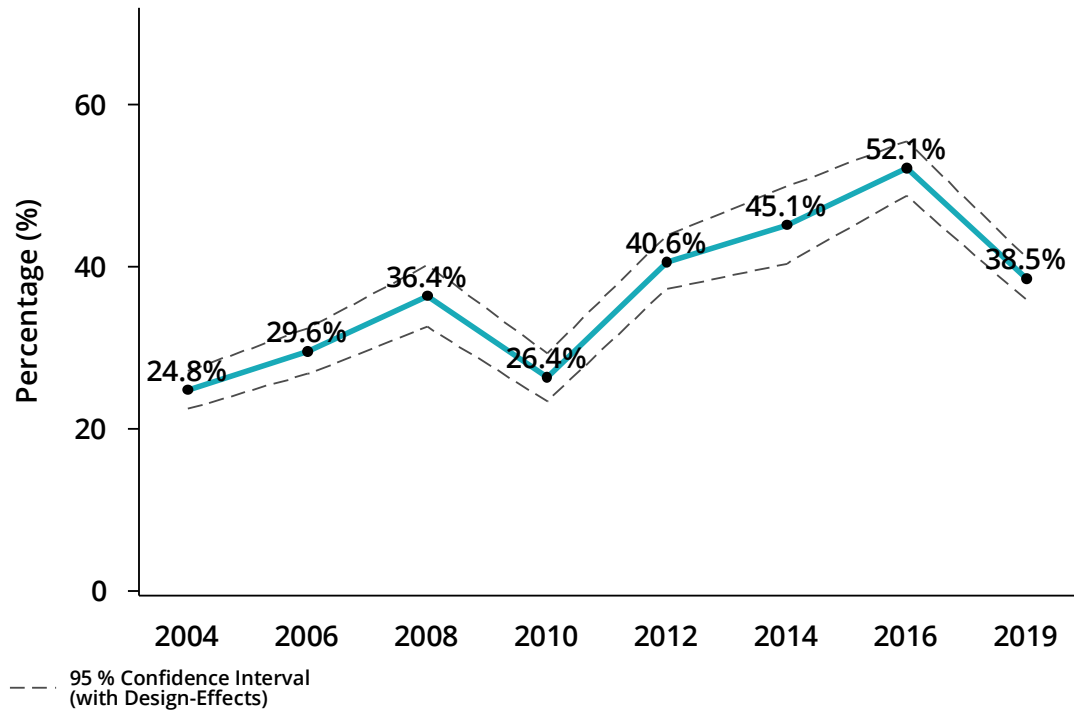


Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2004-2019; v.TS_20190627

Perceptions of Insecurity

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? The figure above shows the percentage of those who feel somewhat and very **unsafe**

In 2019, there is a sharp decrease (13.6 percentage points) in the number of Ecuadorians who have faith that the judicial system will punish criminals, compared to 2016.

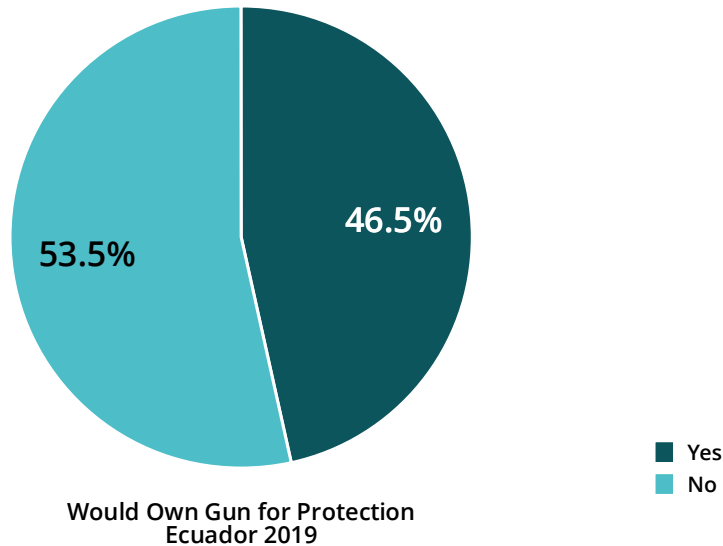


Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2004-2019; v.TS_20190627

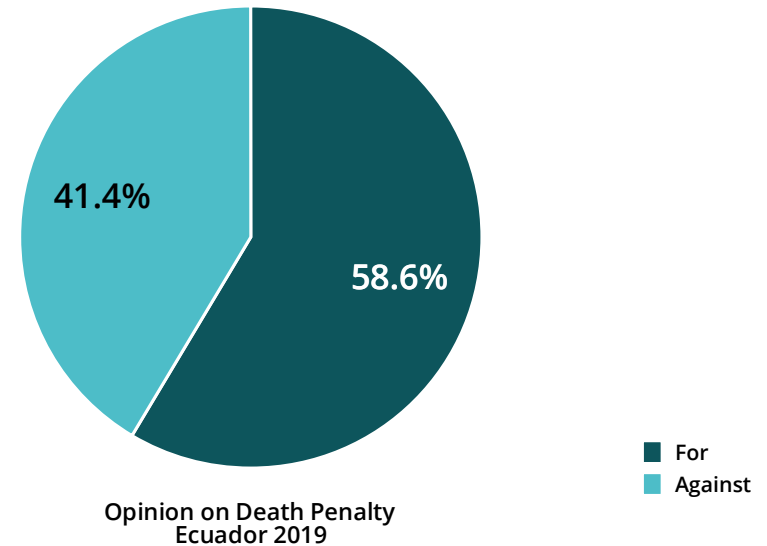
Belief that Courts Will Punish the Guilty

AOJ12. *If you were a victim of a robbery or assault how much faith do you have that the judicial system would punish the guilty? Figure above shows the percentage of people who responded "Some" and "A Lot"*

A little less than half the adult population state that they would own a gun for protection. More than half are in favor of the death penalty for people guilty of murder.



Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2019; v.TS_20190627



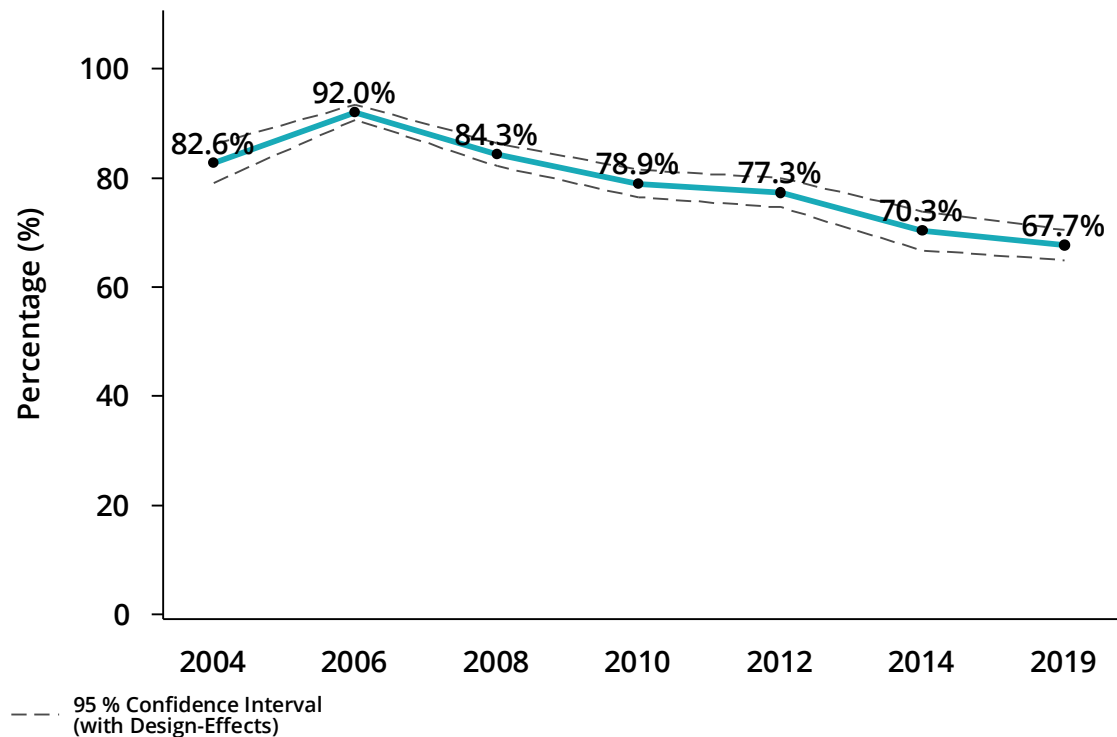
Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2019; v.TS_20190627

ARM2. *If you could, would you have a gun for your protection?*

CAPITAL1. *Are you for or against the death penalty for people guilty of murder?*

1.3 Corruption

The percentage of Ecuadorians who think that corruption among public officials is somewhat or very widespread has been declining since 2006.

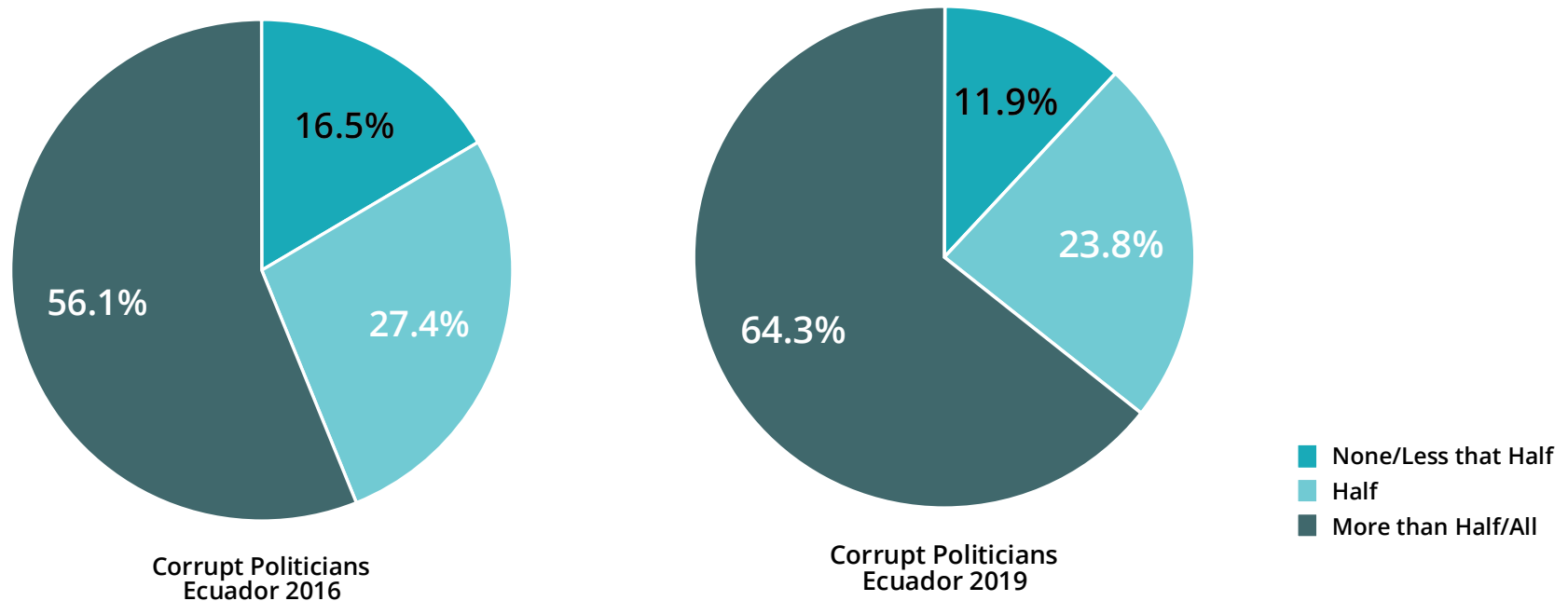


Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2004-2019; v.TS_20190627

Perception of Corruption

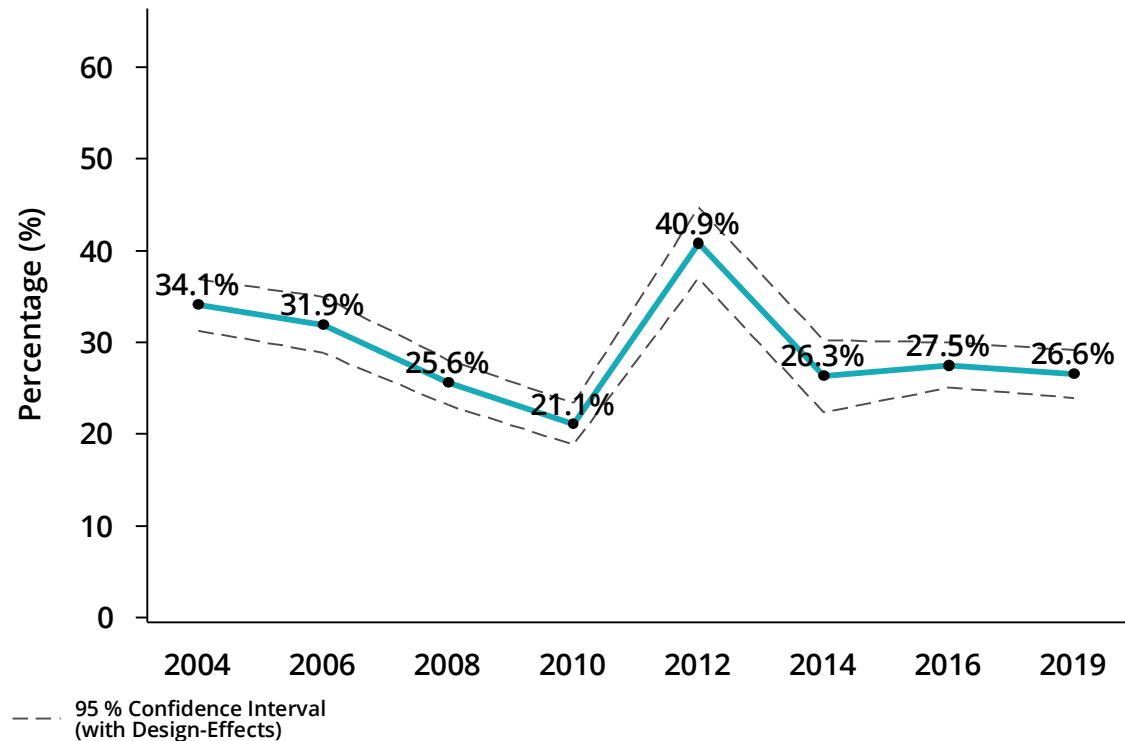
EXC7 . Taking into account your own experience or what you have heard, corruption among public officials is...
Figure above shows the percentage who think it is somewhat or very widespread (not asked in Ecuador in 2016)

In 2019, the belief that more than half or all politicians are corrupt increased 8.2 percentage points compared to 2016.



Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2019; v.TS_20190627

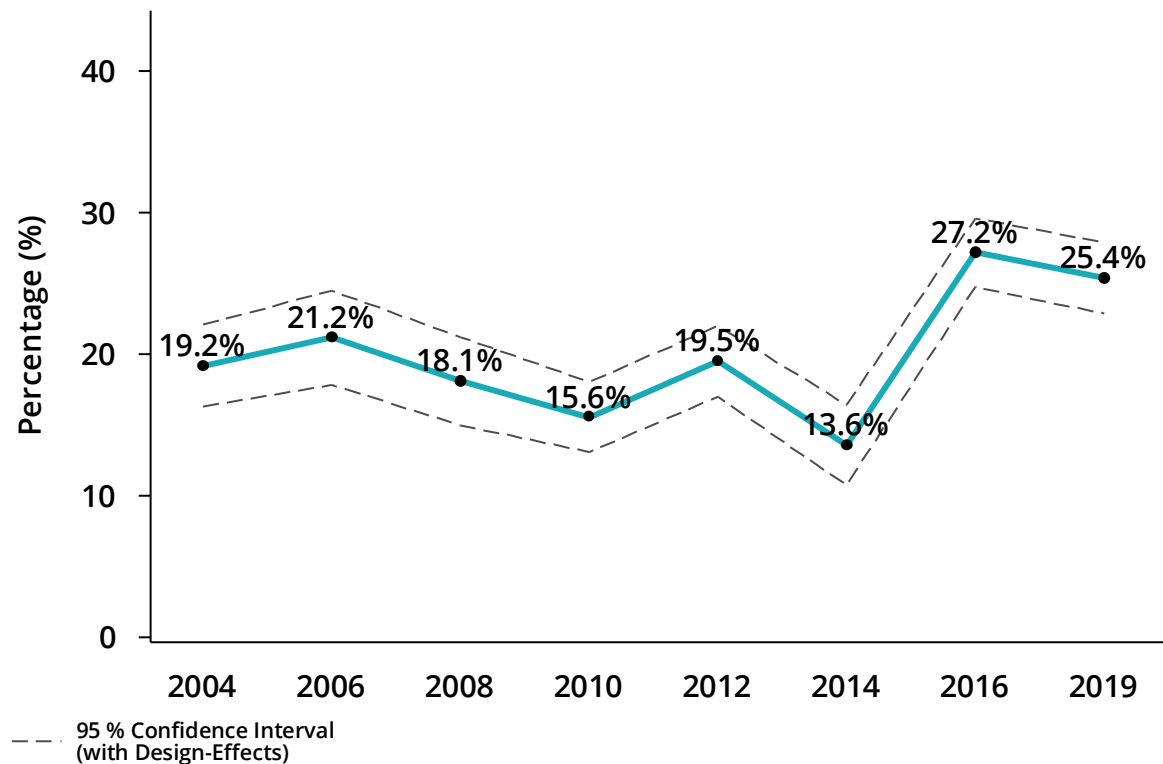
The percentage of corruption victims has remained stable since 2014 in Ecuador, at a rate of nearly 1 out of 4.



Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2004-2019; v.TS_20190627

Corruption Victimization

Nearly 1 out of 4 Ecuadorians justify paying a bribe (up from 13.6% in 2014).



Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2004-2019; v.TS_20190627

Corruption Tolerance

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

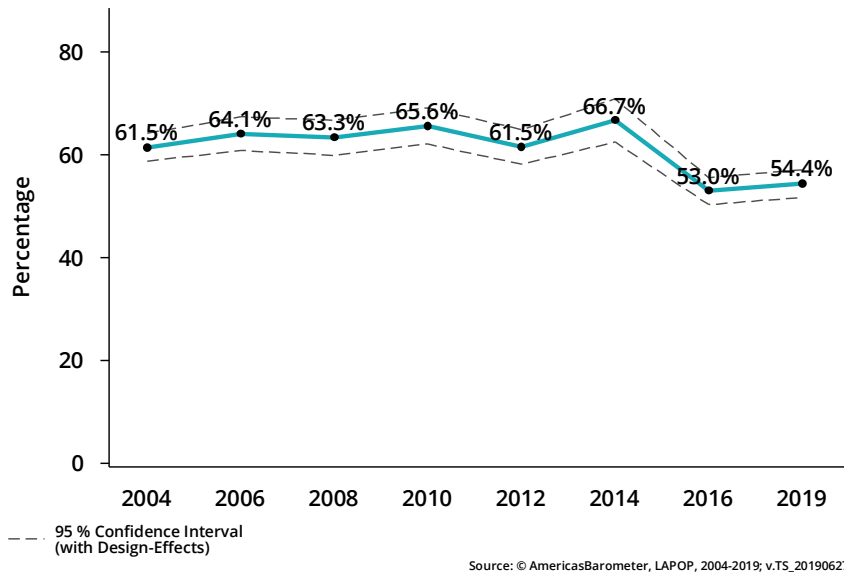


Section 2

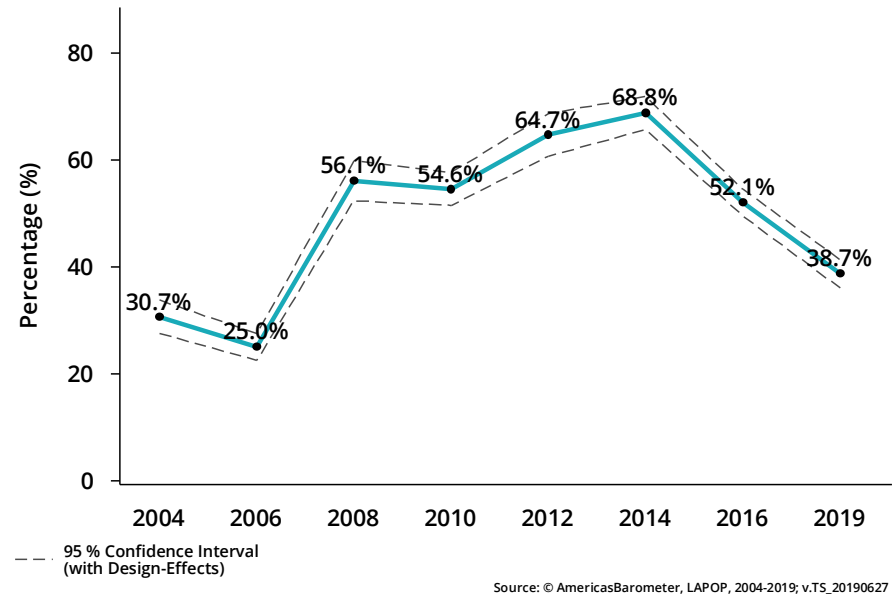
Democracy

2.1. Support and Satisfaction with Democracy

In 2016-2019, support for democracy dropped by about 10 percentage points compared to earlier rounds. There is an even sharper decreasing trend in the percentage of Ecuadorians satisfied with the functioning of democracy in the country.



Support for Democracy in the Abstract



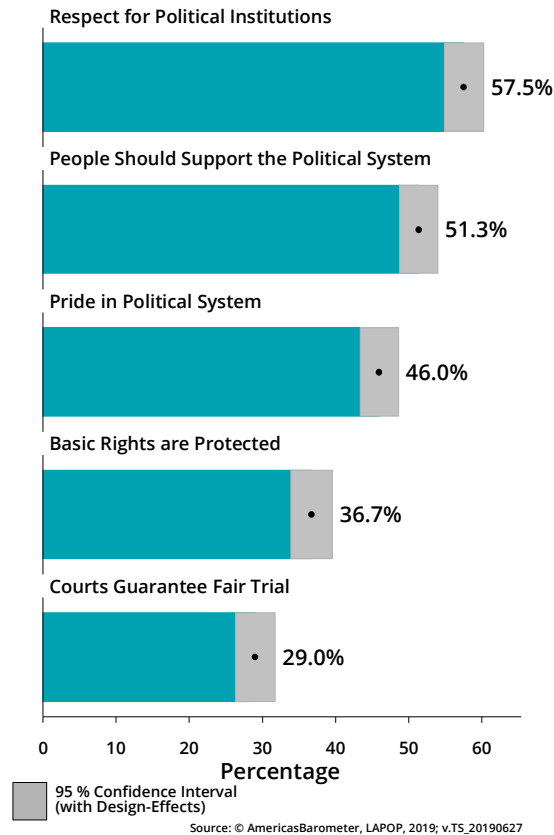
Satisfaction with the Way Democracy Works in Ecuador

ING4. Changing the subject again, 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? Figure on left shows the percentage who responded 5-7 in the original 1-7 scale

PN4. In general, would you say that you are very satisfied, satisfied, dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with the way democracy works in (country)? Figure on right shows the percentage of those who are satisfied and very satisfied

2.2 Institutional Legitimacy

More than half of Ecuadorians respect and support political institutions. However the majority feel their rights are not well protected, and more than 2/3 think courts do not guarantee fair trials.



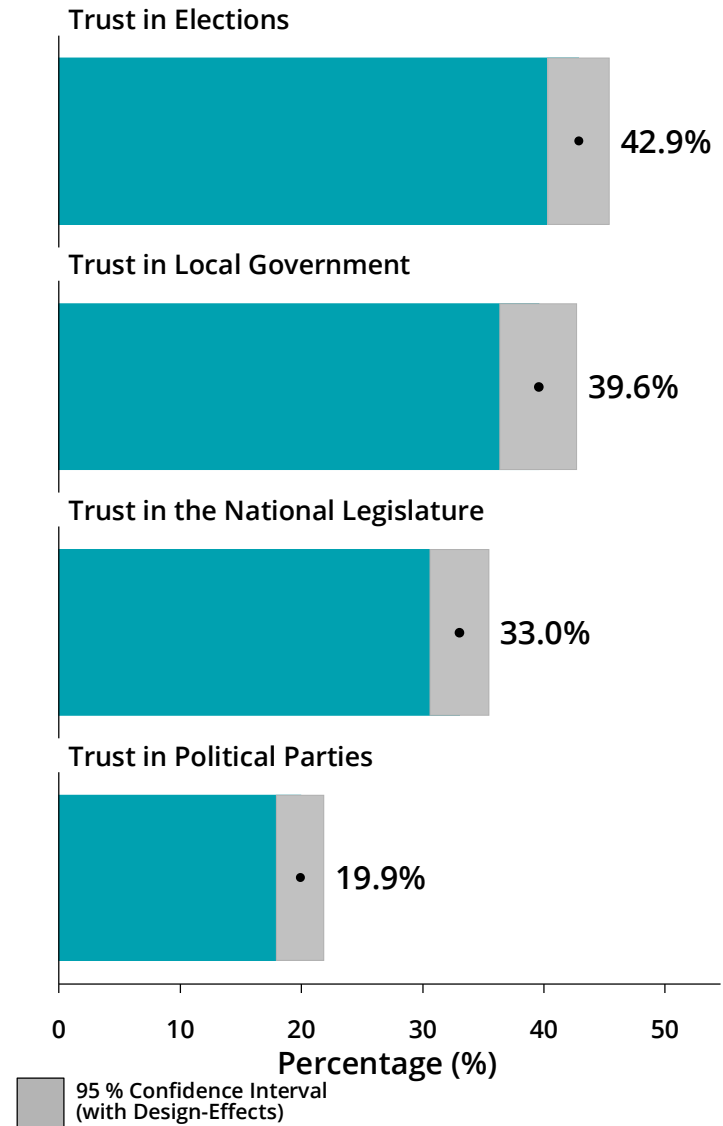
System Support Components

B Series. To what extent do you...

Figure shows the percentage of people who responded 5-7 on the 1-7 original scale

Trust in Institutions of Representative Democracy

- More citizens trust elections and their local governments than the National Assembly and political parties
- No institution of representative democracy is trusted by more than 43% of the population



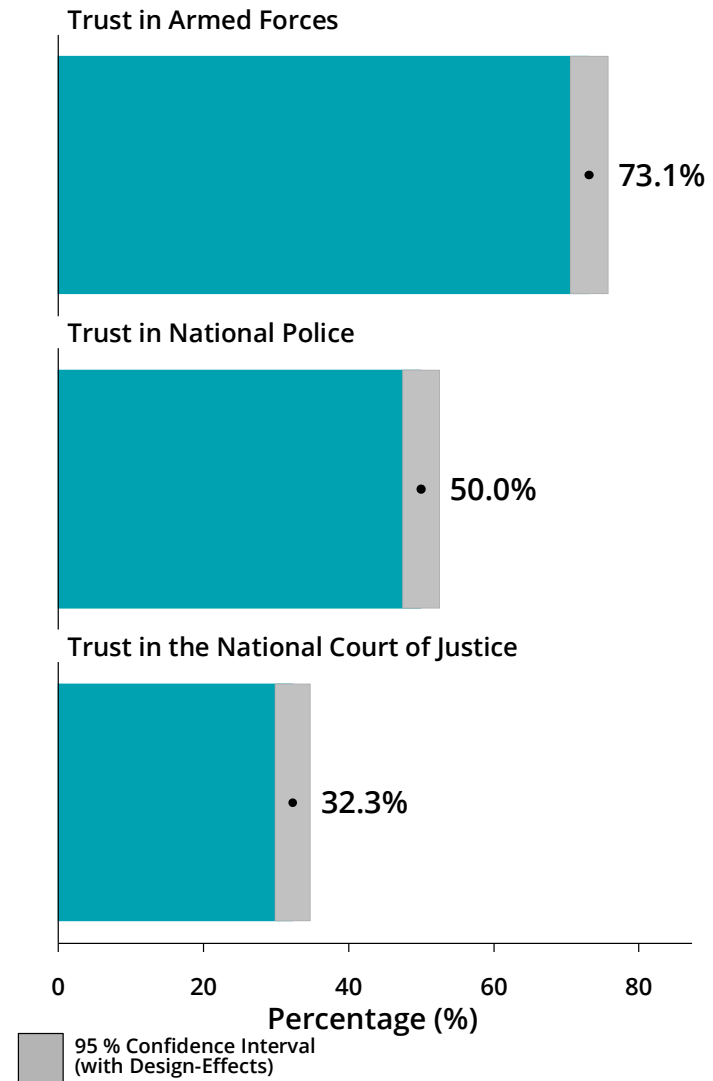
Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2019; v.TS_20190627

B Series. To what extent do you...

Figure shows the percentage of people who responded 5-7 on the 1-7 original scale

Trust in the Military, the Police, and the National Court of Justice

- Nearly 3 in 4 people trust the Military, but only half trust the Police
- Less than a third of Ecuadorians trust the National Court of Justice



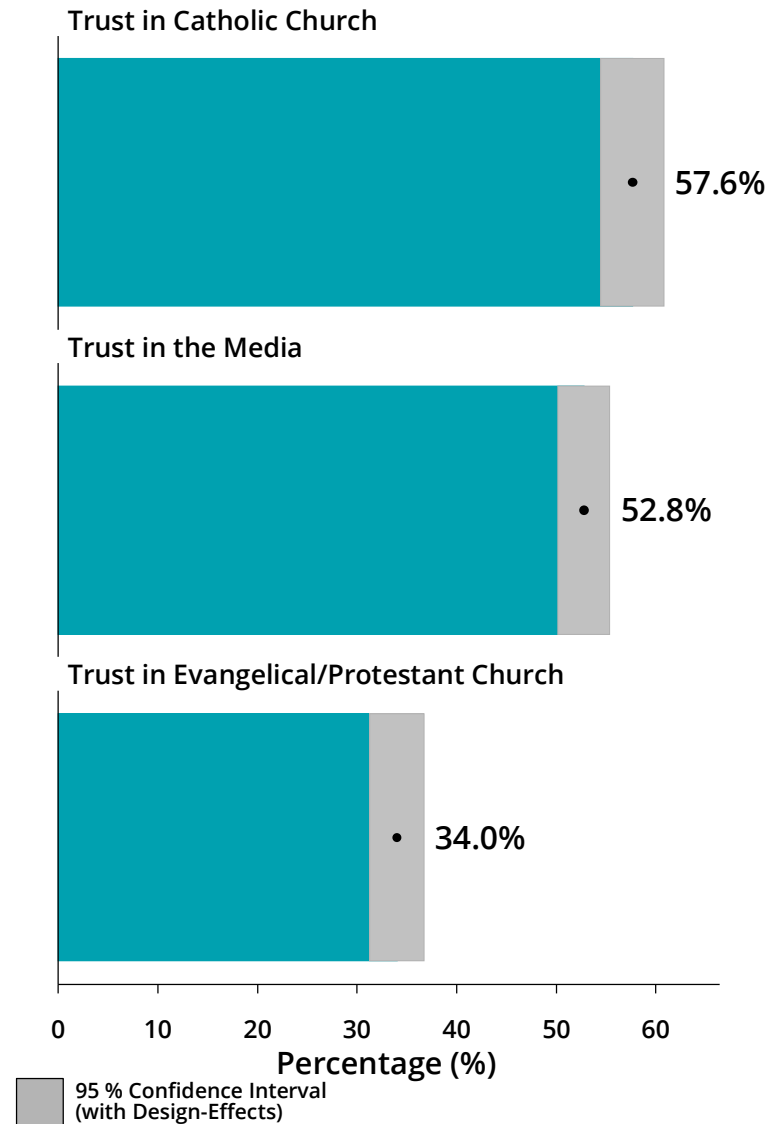
Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2019; v.TS_20190627

B Series. To what extent do you...

Figure shows the percentage of people who responded 5-7 on the 1-7 original scale

Trust in Other Institutions

- More than half of Ecuadorians trust in the Catholic Church and the Media
- Nearly a third trust the Evangelical/Protestant churches



Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2019; v.TS_20190627

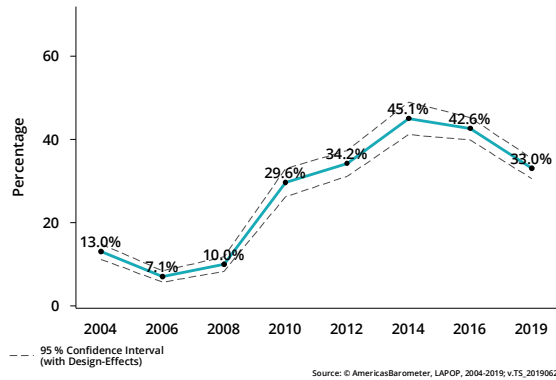
B Series. To what extent do you...

Figure shows the percentage of people who responded 5-7 on the 1-7 original scale

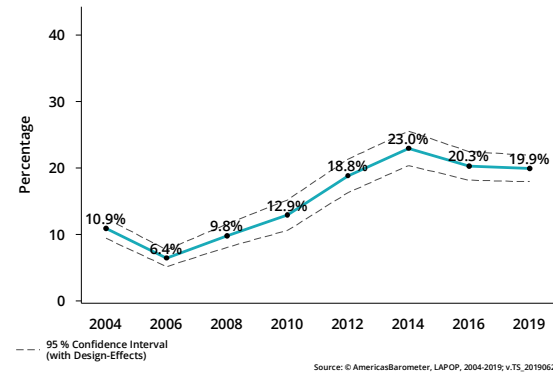
Trust in government institutions has followed different patterns: while both the President and the National Assembly have experienced losses since 2014, trust in the National Court of Justice is increasing. Trust in political parties has remained stable since 2014.

Percentage who trust in the...

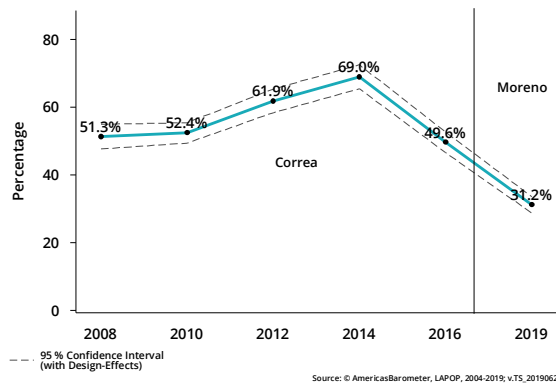
National Assembly



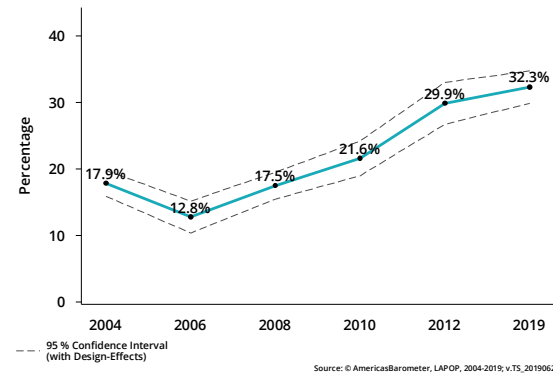
Political Parties



President



National Court of Justice

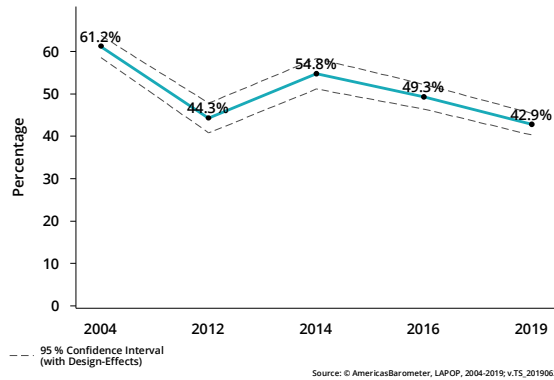


Figures shows the percentage of people who responded 5-7 on the 1-7 original scale

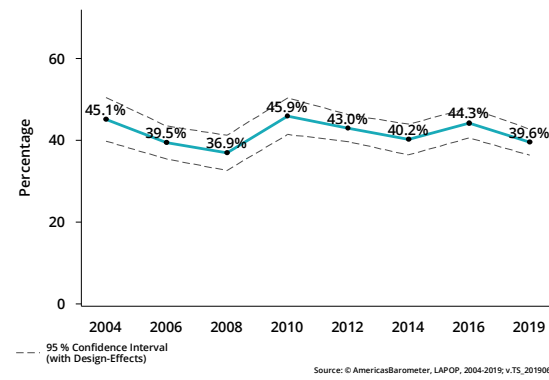
Trust in the Armed Forces and the Police has increased since 2004, but declined somewhat since 2016. Elections and local government have experienced slight decreases in trust since 2004.

Percentage who trust in the...

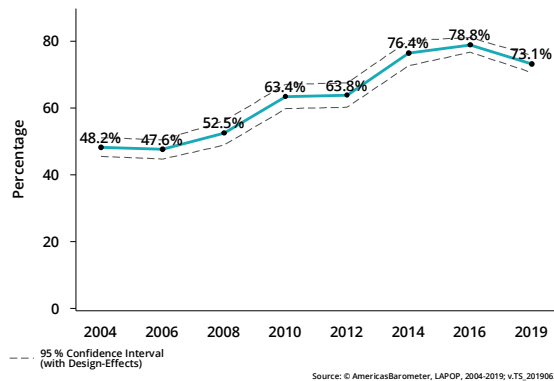
Elections



Local Government



Armed Forces



The Police

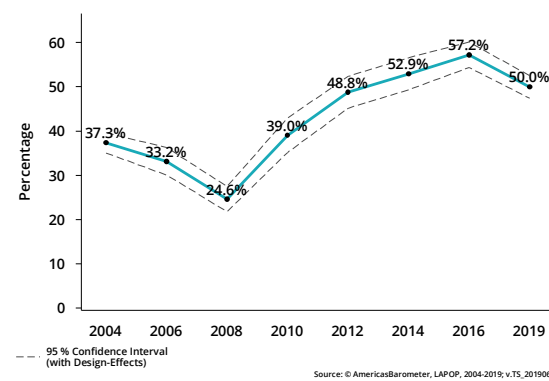
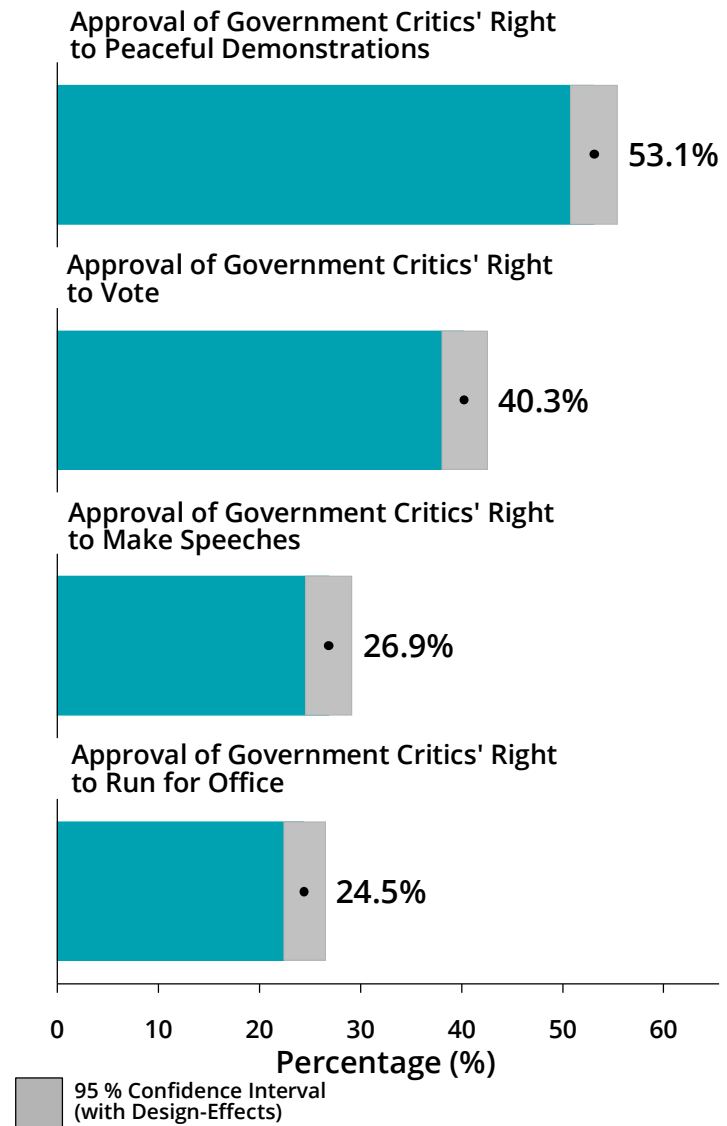


Figure shows the percentage of people who responded 5-7 on the 1-7 original scale

2.3 Tolerance

Tolerance

Except for peaceful demonstrations, the majority of Ecuadorians disapprove of government critics' political rights including the right to vote, make speeches, and run for office in 2019.



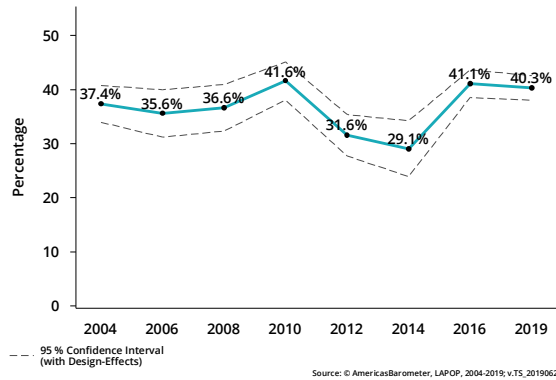
Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2019; v.TS_20190627

D Series. There are people who only say bad things about the Ecuador's form of government, not just the incumbent government but the system of government. How strongly do you approve or disapprove of such people's right to... Figure shows the percentage of people who responded 7-10 on the 1-10 original scale

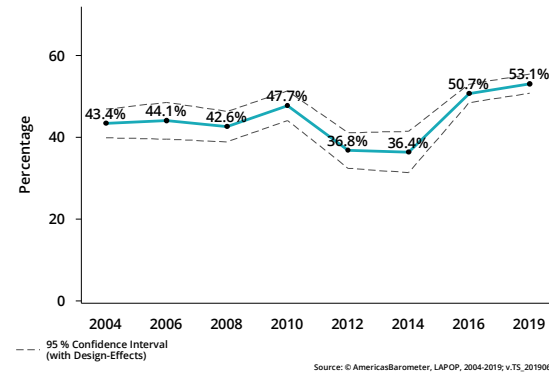
In general, tolerance has increased from 2014 to 2016-2019. However, it remains low, especially for speech and running for office

Approval of Government Critics' Right to...

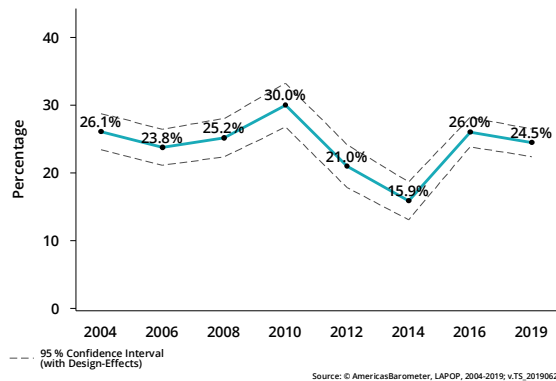
Vote



Peaceful Protests



Run for Public Office



Public Speech

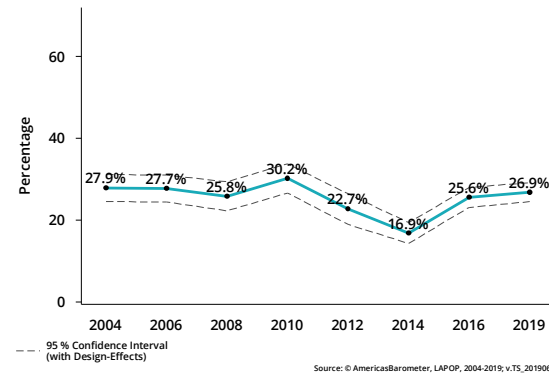
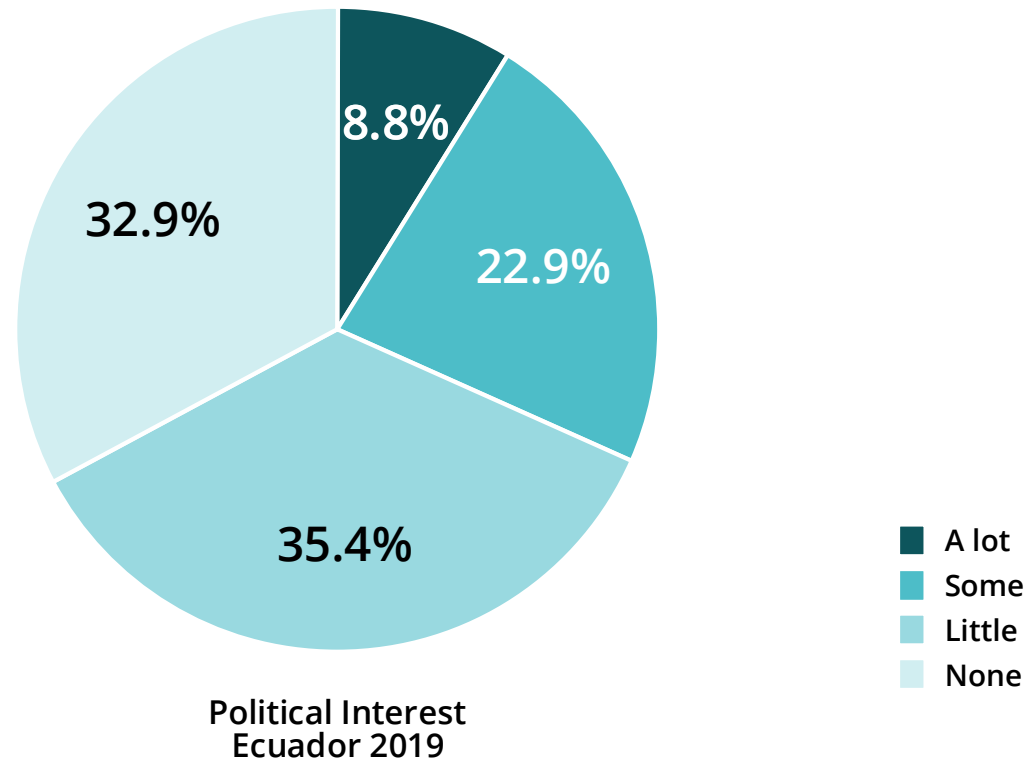


Figure shows the percentage of people who responded 7-10 on the 1-10 original scale

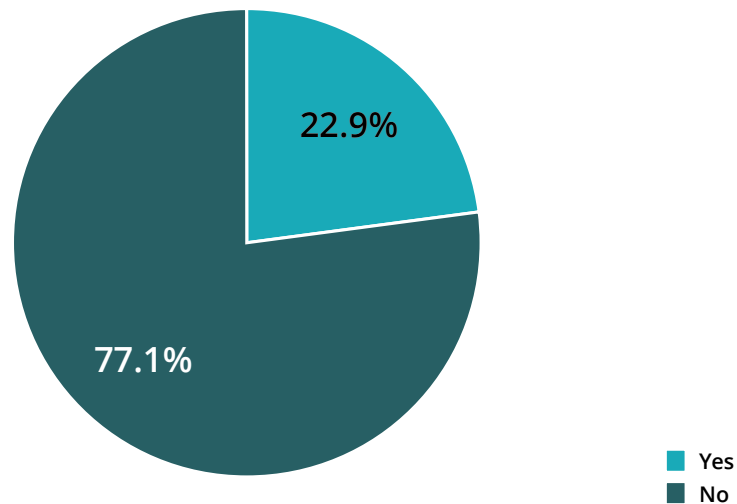
2.3 The Ecuadorian Voter

In 2019, most Ecuadorians said they have little or no interest in politics.



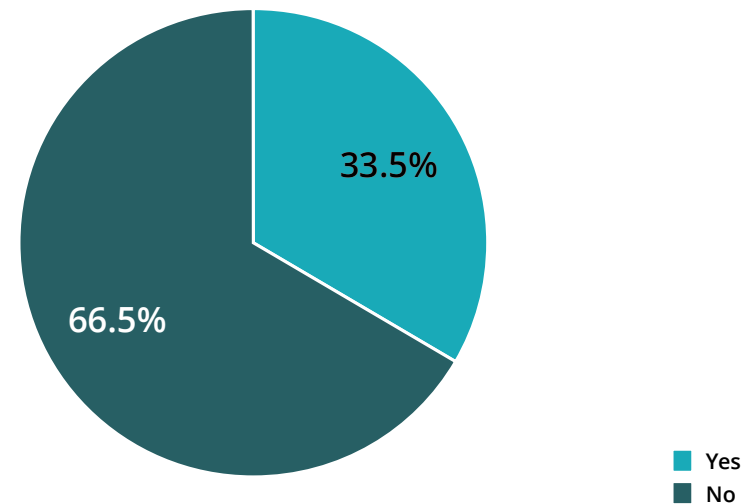
Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2019; v.TS_20190627

Many more people dislike a political party than identify with one.



Identifies with a Political Party
Ecuador 2019

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2019; v.TS_20190627



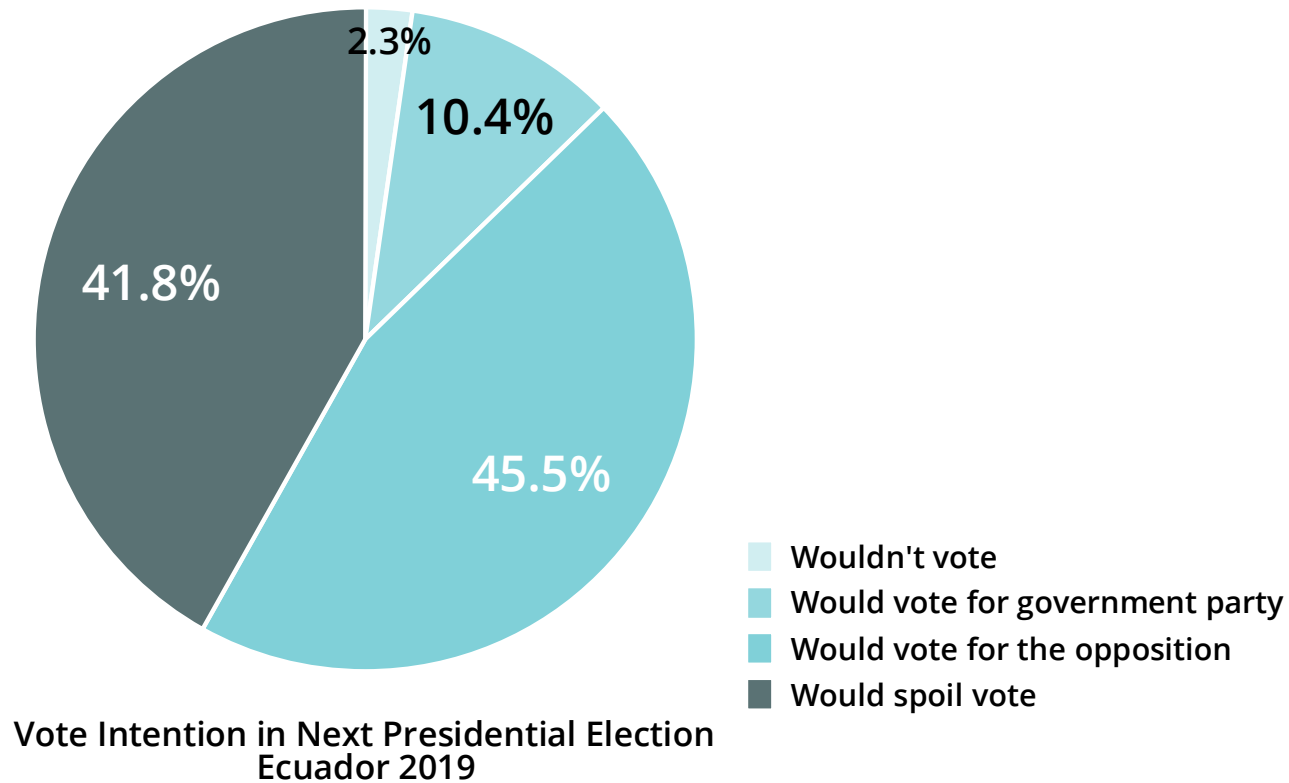
Dislikes a Political Party
Ecuador 2019

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2019; v.TS_20190627

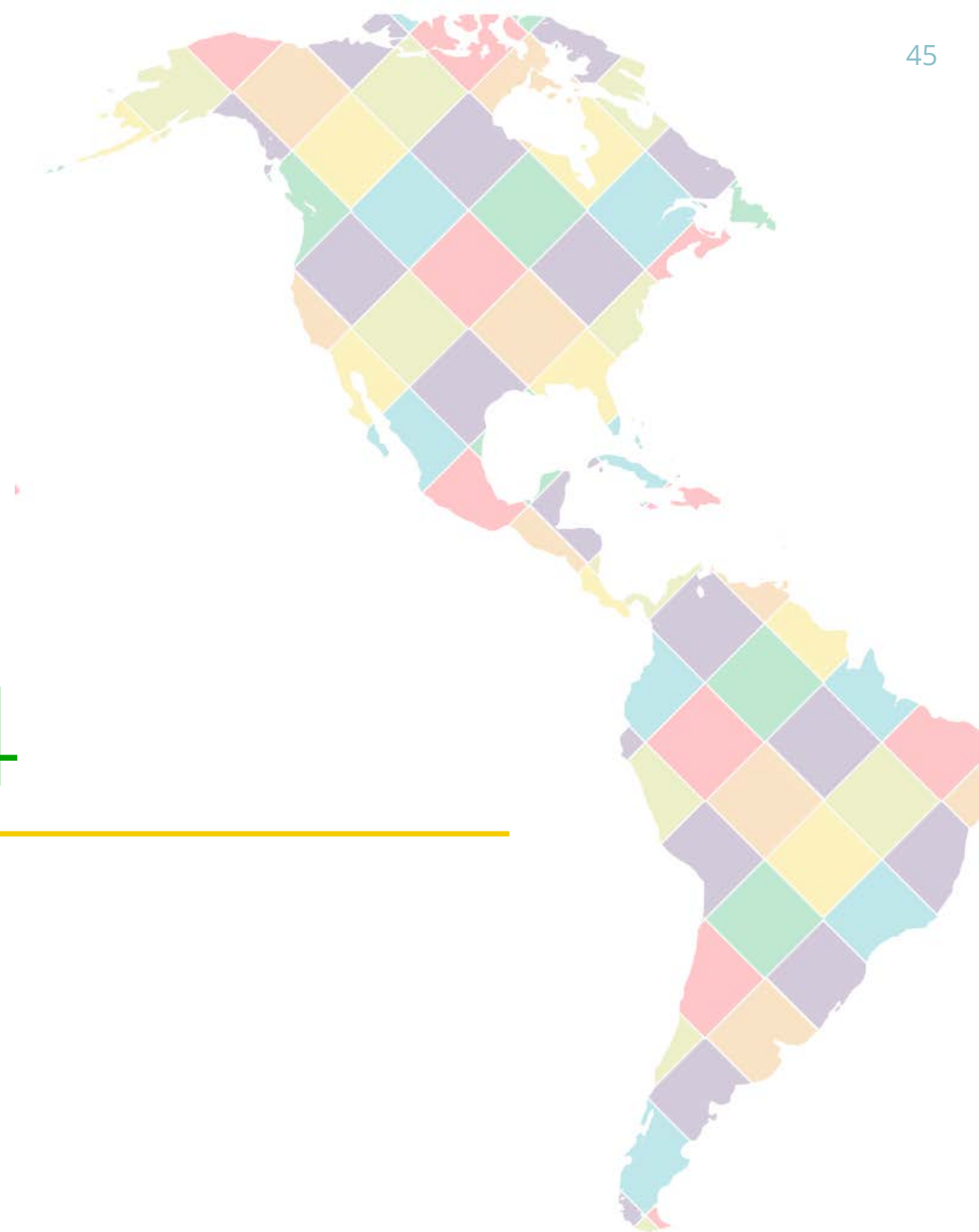
VB1. Do you currently identify with a political party?

VB10NEG. At this time, is there a political party that you dislike?

If the next presidential election were being held in the week of the survey, most people would either vote for the opposition or spoil their vote.



Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2019; v.TS_20190627

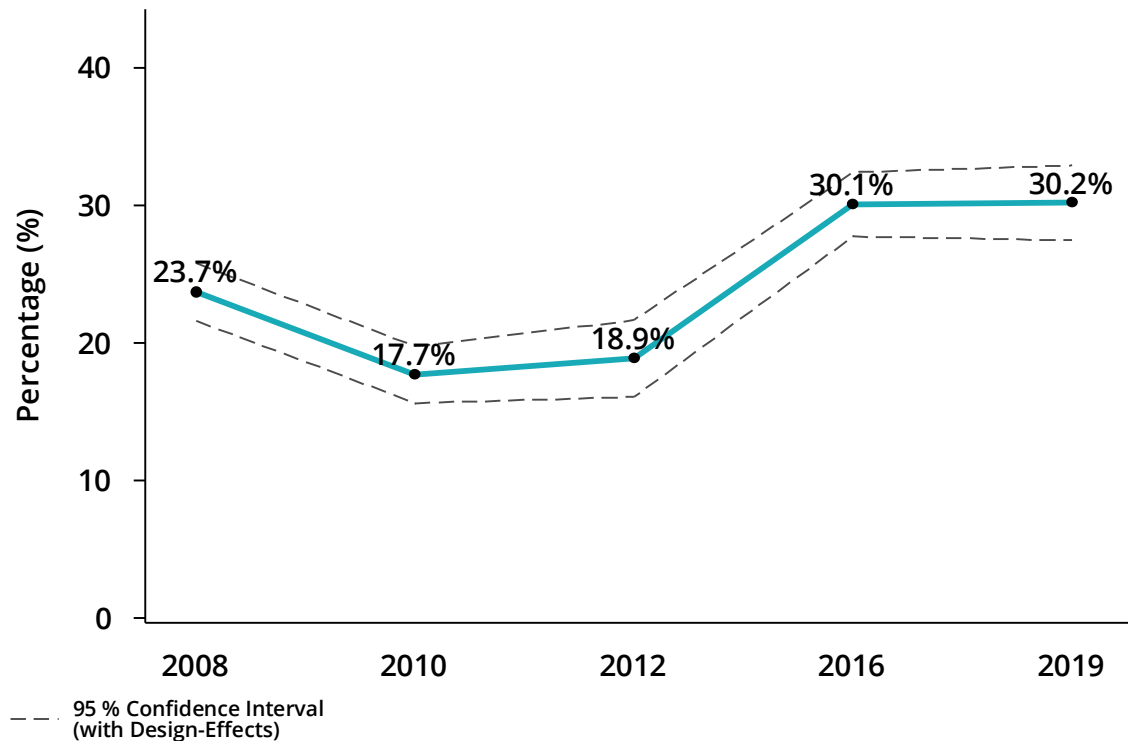


Section 4

Other Issues

4.1 Migration

A little less than a third of Ecuadorians are considering emigrating, up from less than 20% in 2010.

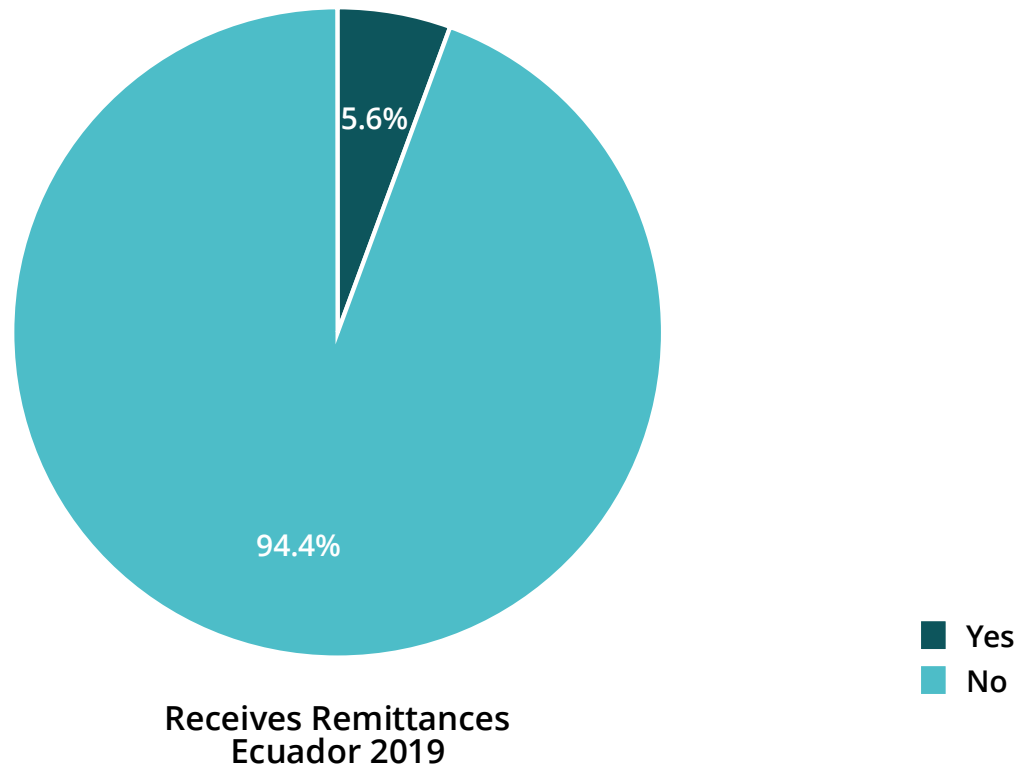


Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2008-2019; v.TS_20190627

Emigration Intentions

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

In 2019, few Ecuadorians receive remittances from abroad.

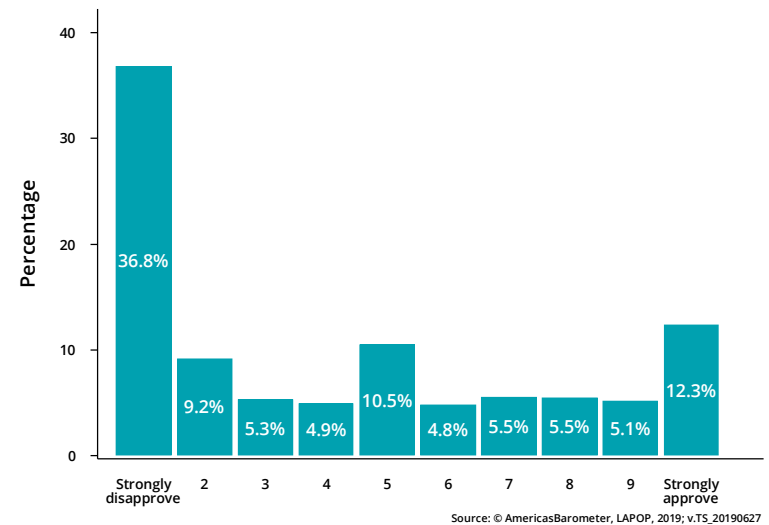
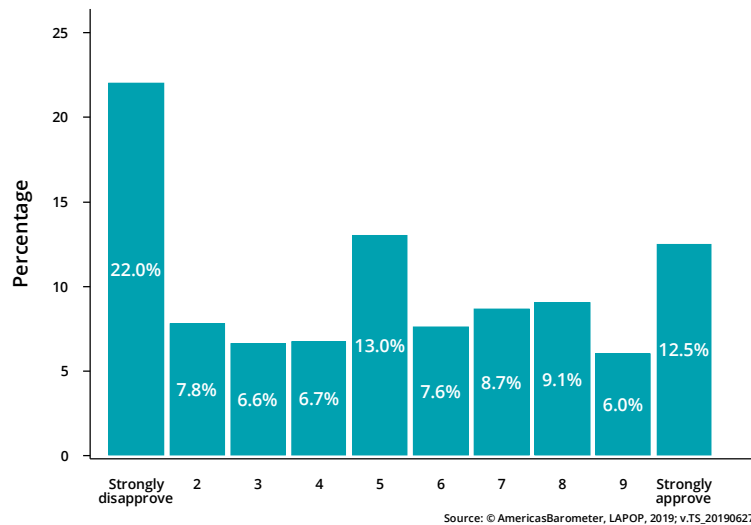


Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2019; v.TS_20190627

Q10A. Do you or someone else living in your household receive remittances, that is, economic assistance from abroad?

4.2 Progressive Policies

Most Ecuadorians strongly disapprove of gays' rights to get married and to run for public office



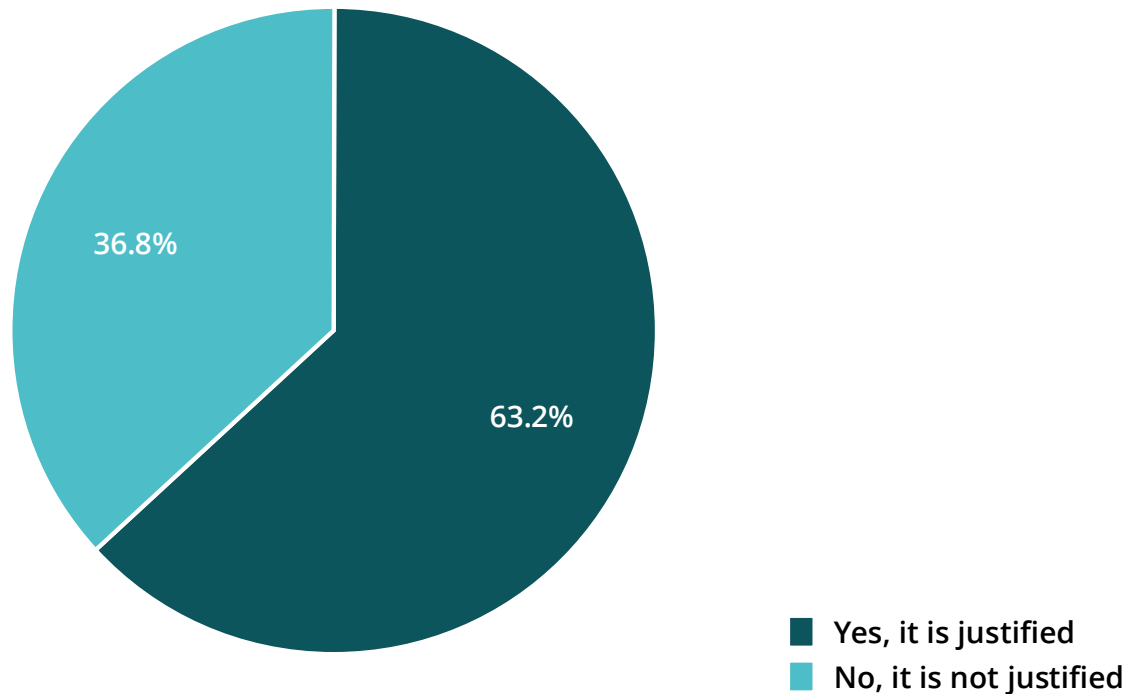
Gays' Right to Run for Public Office (2019)

Gays' Right to Marry (2019)

D5. EnAnd now, changing the topic and thinking of homosexuals, how strongly do you approve or disapprove of such people being permitted to run for public office?

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

There is a sizable majority of people who would approve of abortion when the mother's health is at risk.



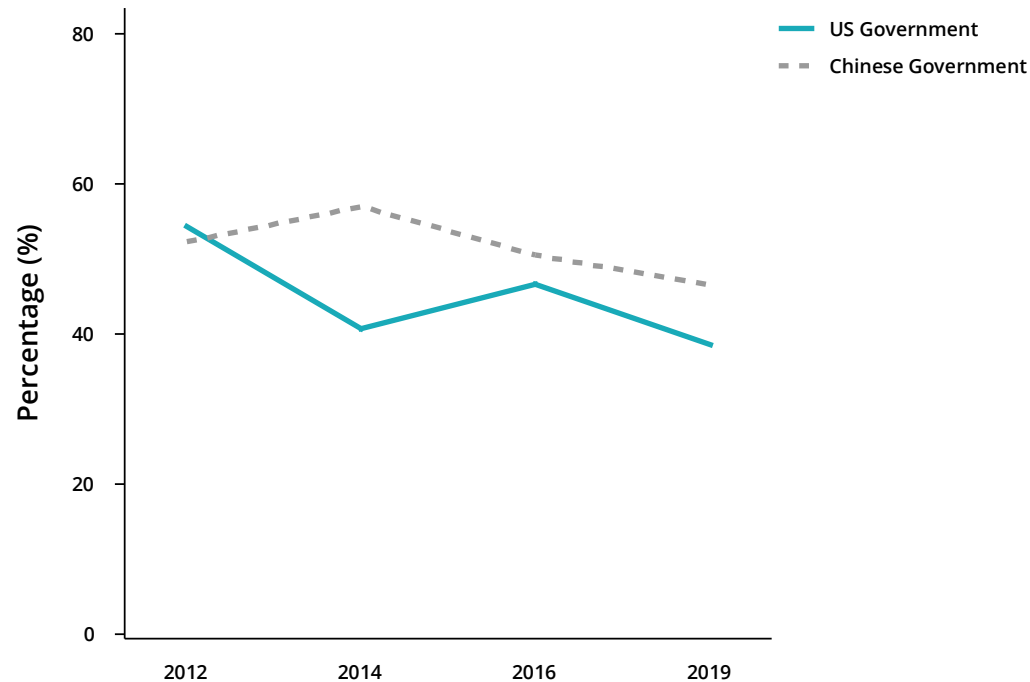
Abortion Justified When Mother's Health is at Risk
Ecuador 2019

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2019; v.TS_20190627

W14A. And now, thinking about other topics. Do you think it's justified to interrupt a pregnancy, that is, to have an abortion, when the mother's health is in danger?

3.2. Trust in China and US Governments

In 2019, more Ecuadorians trust the Chinese Government (46.5%) than the US Government (38.6%). However, trust in both governments is decreasing.



Source: © AmericasBarometer LAPOP, 2012-2019; v.TS_20190627

Percentage who Think the Governments are Somewhat or Very Trustworthy

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? **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?

Conclusion

Main Findings

National Problems: The Economy

- Public opinion of the economy is pessimistic: almost 2 out of 3 Ecuadorians think the **national economic situation** is worse today than it was 12 months ago
- At the individual level, nearly half of Ecuadorians report that their **personal economic situation** has deteriorated during the last year
- 40.3% saw their **household income** decrease in the last two years
- Nearly 1/3 **ran out of food** in the last 3 months, and 1 out of 4 **ate only once or did not eat an entire day** in the same period
- The percentage of Ecuadorians who received the **Bono de Desarrollo Humano** dropped from 29.7% in 2014 to 16.7% in 2019

Main Findings

National Problems: Crime

- The rate of **crime victimization** has remained stable at around 1/3 of the population since our first measurement in 2010
- **Perceptions of insecurity**, however, have skyrocketed: 55.7% of Ecuadorians feel somewhat or very unsafe in their neighborhoods (up from 34.9% in 2014)
- There has been a sharp decrease in the percentage of Ecuadorians (38.5%) who have **faith in the judicial system** to punish criminals (down from 52.1% in 2016)

Main Findings

National Problems: Corruption

- In 2019, almost 2 out of 3 Ecuadorians think that **more than half or all politicians are corrupt** (up from 56.1% in 2016)
- The rate of **corruption victimization**, however, has remained stable since 2014 (at around 26-27%)
- In 2016 and 2019 more people than ever before in our measurements think that **paying a bribe is justifiable** (27.2 and 25.4%, respectively)

Main Findings

Democracy:

- A little over half of Ecuadorians (54.4%) think in 2019 that in spite of its problems, **democracy is the best form of government**
- Only 38.7% are satisfied with **the way democracy works in Ecuador**
- **Trust in Government institutions** is rather low. The most trusted institutions are the Military (73.1% of Ecuadorians trust in this institution), the National Police (50.0%), and local governments (39.6%). The least trusted are Congress (33.0%), the National Court of Justice (32.3%), and political parties (19.9%)
- **Tolerance** towards system critics is improving, but it also remains low. 53.1% approve of government critics to carry out peaceful demonstrations, whereas only 24.5% approve of them running for office.

Main Findings

The Ecuadorian Voter

- Most people (68.3%) have little (35.4%) or no **interest in politics** (32.9%) in 2019
- Only 22.9% **identify** with a political party, while 33.5% **dislike** at least one political party
- If the **next presidential elections** had been held the week of the survey, only 10.4% would have voted for the incumbent party

Report Credits

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All LAPOP reports and datasets are available at www.lapopsurveys.org



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This study is made possible by the support of Vanderbilt University and the American People through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The contents of this study are the sole responsibility of the author and LAPOP and do not necessarily reflect the views of Vanderbilt University, USAID or the United States Government.