

Topline Brief

2021 AmericasBarometer: *El Salvador National Survey*

August 2021



AmericasBarometer
Barómetro de las Américas

Key Takeaways

- Intentions to emigrate are common, especially among young Salvadorans (18-25)
- Economic and food insecurity are common, and most attributed these worsening economic conditions to the Coronavirus pandemic
- Crime victimization reached its lowest rate in the series, while trust in the police reached its highest level
- Perceptions of corruption worsened, with believing corruption is very widespread among public officials. However, direct experiences with corruption victimization remained low
- There is a widespread improvement in evaluations of the political system, including elections. However, trust in other key institutions like the Supreme Court and political parties remains low
- Satisfaction with and support for democracy reached their highest level in the history of the AmericasBarometer
- Willingness to justify a military coup remained low, but a majority would allow an executive coup and think an extralegal strong leader would be good for the country

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1. Survey Methodology

Survey Methodology

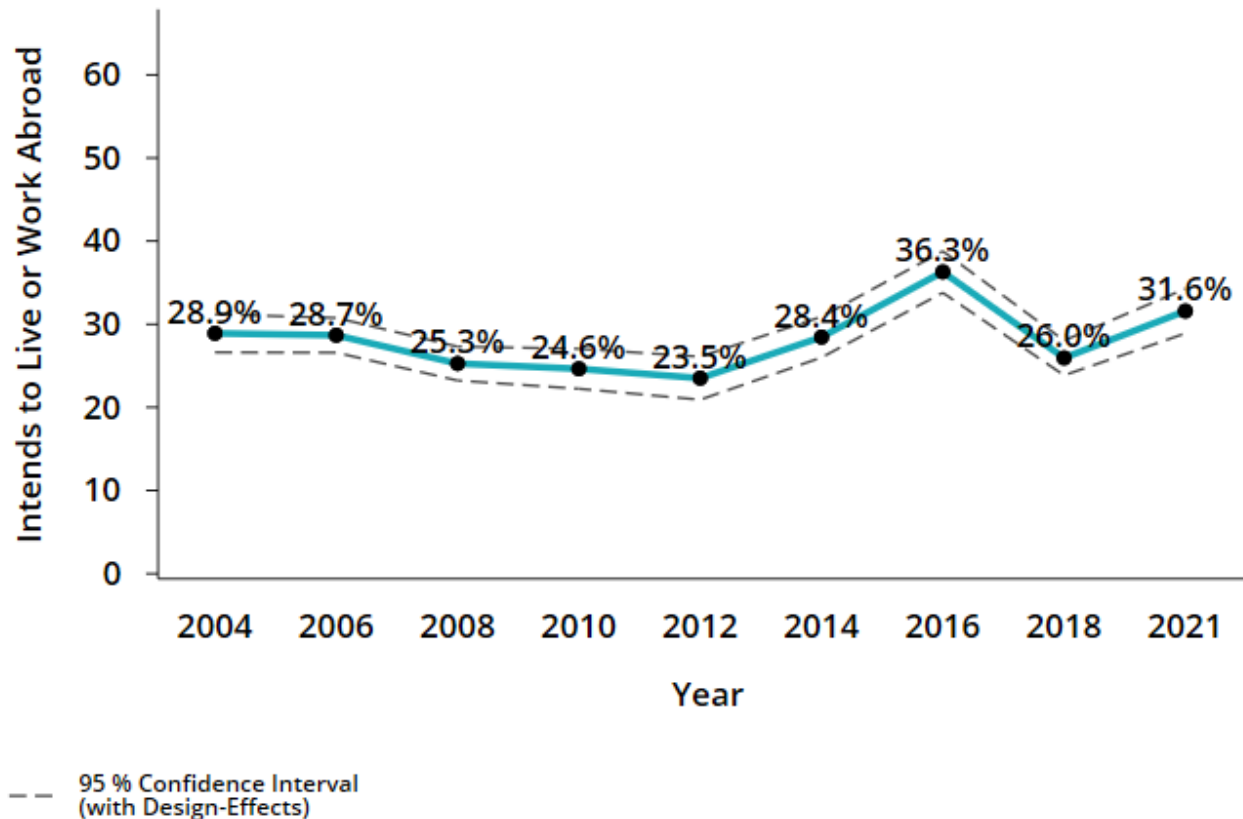
- 3,245 telephone interviews (margin of error: ± 1.81 %)
- Pretest dates: March 18-19, 2021
- Training dates: April 7-8, 16-19, 2021
- Fieldwork dates: April 21-June 2, 2021
- Survey language: Spanish
- Data collection software: SurveyToGo
- Local partner firm: IUDOP
- Data collection mode: Computer-Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI)
- Sample design information
 - Nationally representative of voting age cell phone users (when weights are applied)
 - Data set includes base weights (inverse probability of selection), non-response weights, and calibration weights (region, age, gender, and education level)
 - The sample frame is based on the Plan de Numeración Nacional (PNN) from Superintendencia General de Electricidad y Telecomunicaciones (SIGET) in El Salvador. A sample framework of 300,000 phone numbers was constructed from the mobile numbering series from cell phone providers (market share in parentheses): Telemovil (36.5%), Telefonias Moviles (24.2%), Telecom (22.4%), Digicel (16.5%) and Intelfon (0.4%). There is 89% cell phone coverage in El Salvador
 - Using random digit dialing, the survey was administered using a predictive dialing system. All numbers dialed were validated or active numbers. Interviewers made the call to carry out the survey. If the respondent agreed to the telephone interview and completed the entire survey, it was considered an effective survey

2. Migration

Summary of Findings

- About a third (32%) say they intend to live or work abroad, a higher rate than all years in the series except 2016
 - Young people are most likely to intend to emigrate, with more than two in five (43.5%) saying they intend to live or work abroad
- Of those who say they intend to live or work abroad, over two-thirds (71%) intend to go to the United States
- Among those who say they intend to emigrate, a plurality (41%) reports economic opportunities as the most important factor
- A majority of those who intend to emigrate (65%) have not taken any steps to do so

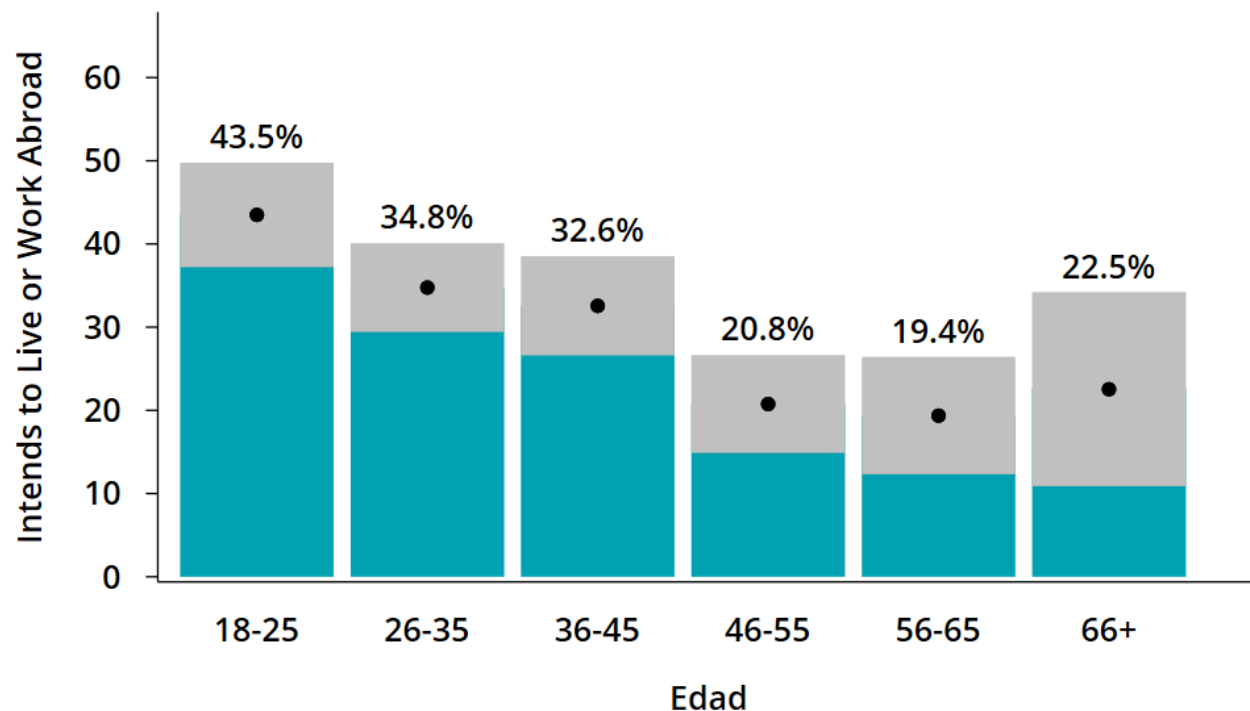
About a third say they intend to live or work abroad, a higher rate than all years in the series except 2016



Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2004-2021; SLV_2004-2021_(20210701)

Q14. ¿Tiene usted intenciones de irse a vivir o a trabajar a otro país en los próximos tres años?

Young people are most likely to intend to emigrate, with more than two in five saying they intend to live or work abroad

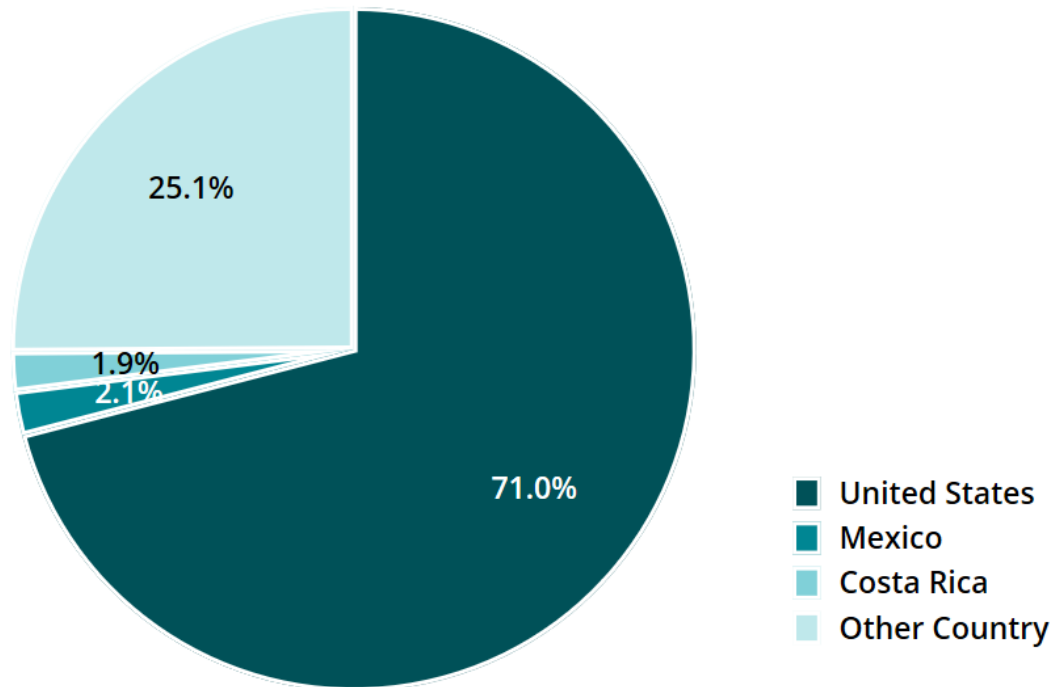


95 % Intervalo de confianza
(Efecto de diseño incorporado)

Fuente: © Barómetro de las Américas por LAPOP, 2004-2021; SLV_2004-2021_(20210701)

Q14. ¿Tiene usted intenciones de irse a vivir o a trabajar a otro país en los próximos tres años?

Of those who say they intend to live or work abroad, over two-thirds intend to go to the United States



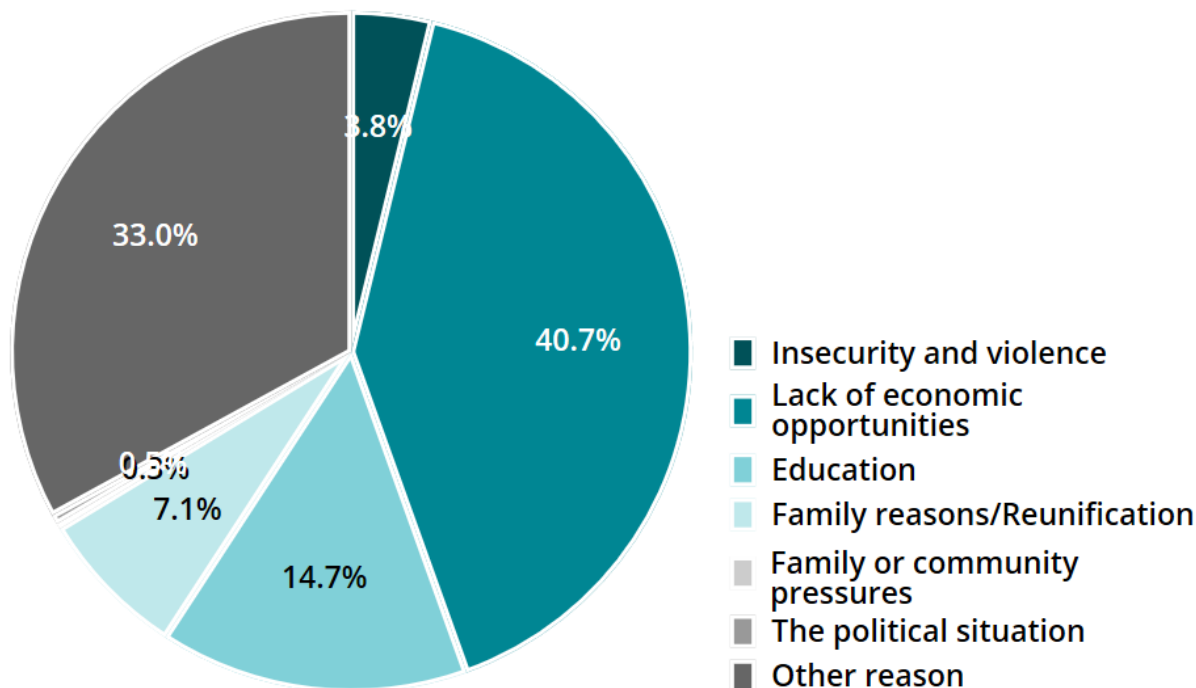
Destination country for those who say they intend to leave

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2021; SLV_2004-2021_(20210701)

Q14D. ¿Y a qué país? (1) Estados Unidos (2) México (3) Costa Rica (4) Otro país

This question was only asked of the 31.6% who expressed an intention to emigrate (Q14)

Among those who say they intend to emigrate, a plurality reports economic opportunities as the most important factor



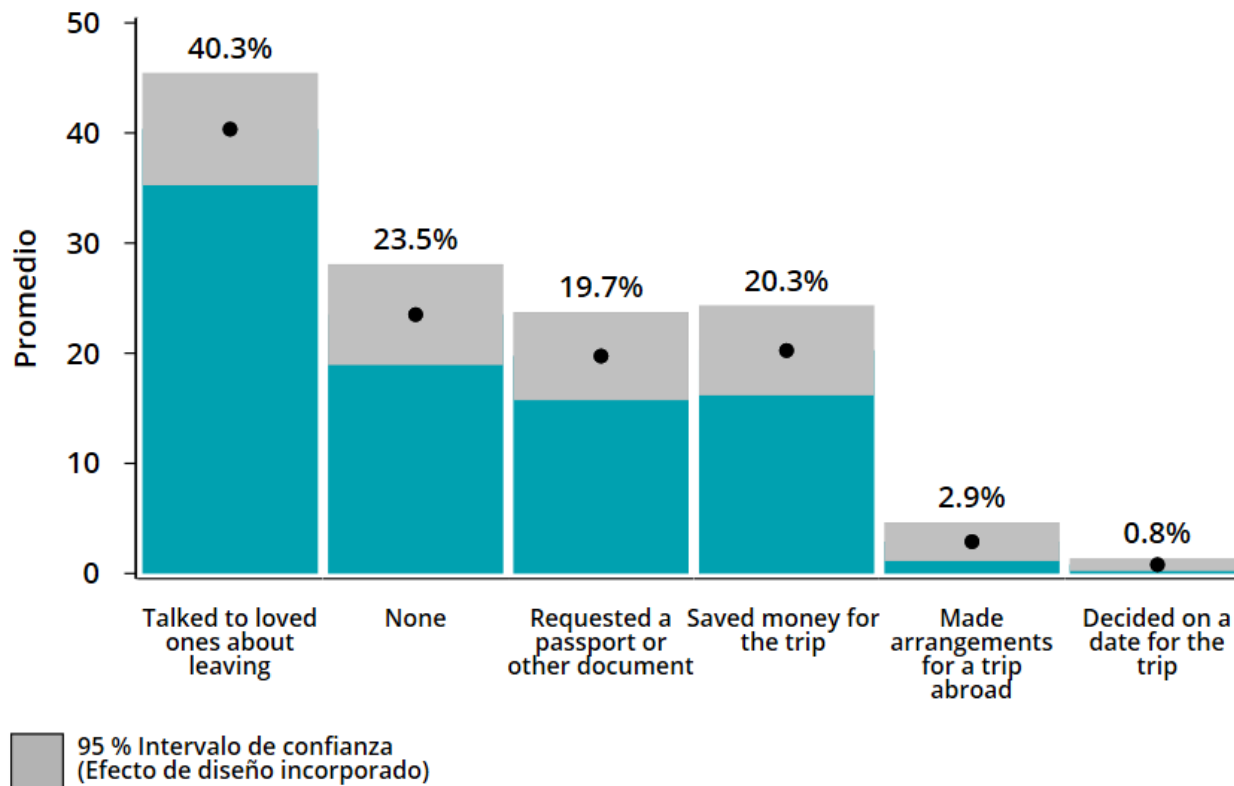
Most Important Reason for Thoughts of Emigration

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2021; SLV_2004-2021_(20210701)

Q14MOTA. ¿Y cuál es la razón más importante por la que ha pensado en emigrar?

This question was only asked of the 31.6% who expressed an intention to emigrate (Q14)

Only a small percentage of Salvadorans with intentions to emigrate have taken action to prepare to live or work abroad



Fuente: © Barómetro de las Américas por LAPOP, 2021; SLV_2004-2021_(20210701)

Q14PA. En el último año, ¿ha tomado alguna de las siguientes medidas para planificar irse a vivir o trabajar en otro país? (1) Ahorrar dinero para el viaje (2) Solicitar/tramitar un pasaporte u otro documento (3) Realizar arreglos para un viaje al exterior (4) Decidir una fecha para el viaje (5) Hablar con amigos, familiares o vecinos acerca de irse (0) Ninguna / Ninguna de las anteriores

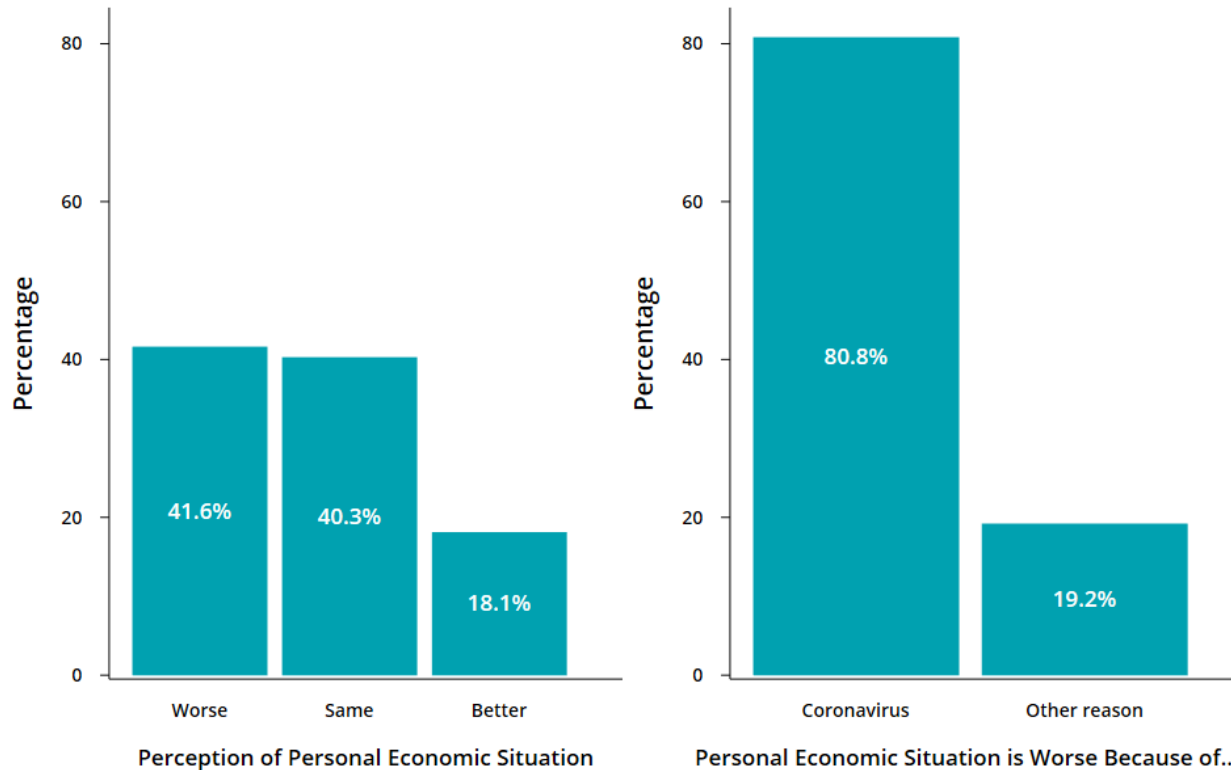
Respondents could choose more than one answer. This question was only asked of the 31.6% who expressed an intention to emigrate (Q14)

3. Economic Opportunities

Summary of Findings

- Two in five (42%) say their personal economic situation worsened
- Of those whose personal economic situation has worsened, most (81%) say it was because of the Coronavirus pandemic
- More than one in four (28%) say they experienced food insecurity in the last year
- Of those who experienced food insecurity, most (83%) cite the pandemic as the cause of this insecurity

Two in five say their personal economic situation worsened, and they blame this on the Coronavirus pandemic

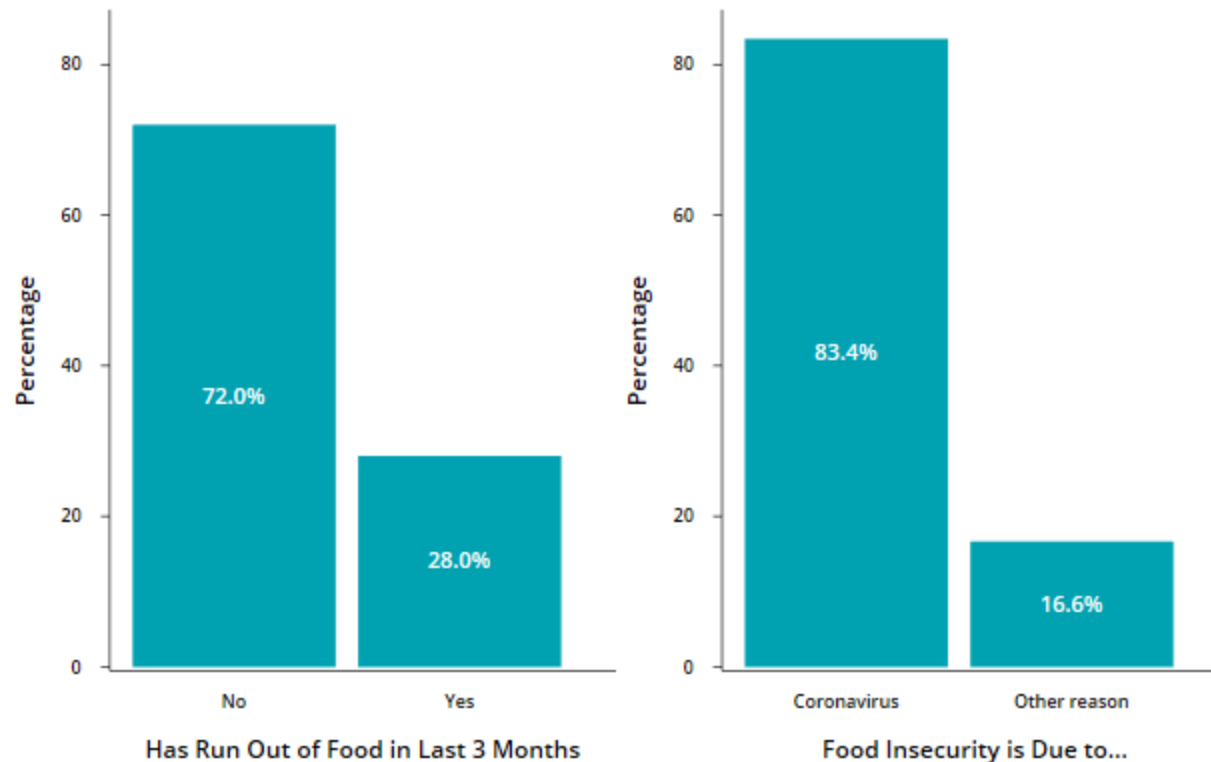


Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2021; SLV_2004-2021_(20210701)

IDIO2. ¿Considera usted que su situación económica actual es mejor, igual o peor que la de hace doce meses?

IDIO2COV. ¿Y eso se debe principalmente al coronavirus o a alguna otra razón?

Of the more than one in four who say they experienced food insecurity, most say it was due to the pandemic



Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2021; SLV_2004-2021_(20210701)

FS2. En los últimos 3 meses, por falta de dinero u otros recursos, alguna vez ¿en su hogar se quedaron sin alimentos?

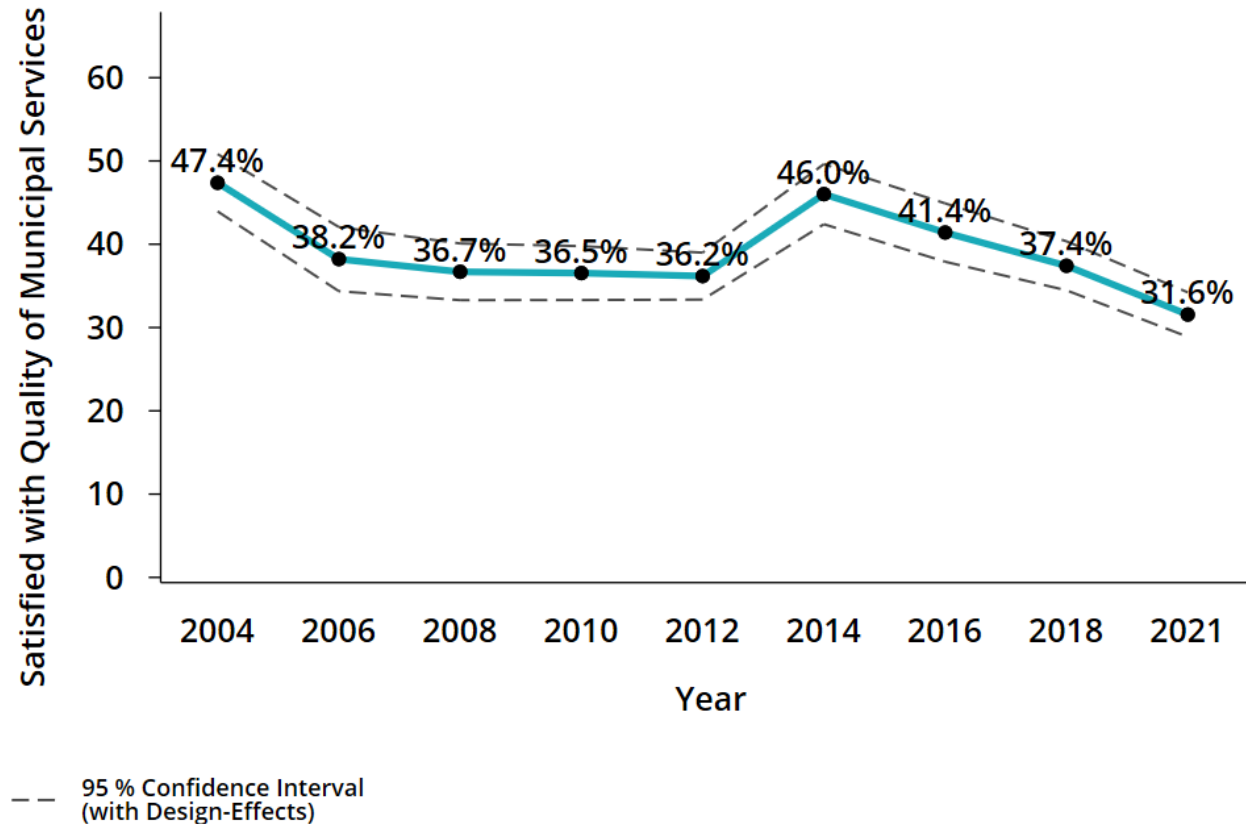
FS2COVIDN. ¿Y eso sucedió principalmente a causa del coronavirus o por alguna otra razón?

4. Municipal Services

Summary of Findings

- Less than a third (32%) have positive evaluations of services provided by their municipality, the lowest rate in the series

Less than a third have positive evaluations of services provided by their municipality, the lowest rate in the series



Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2004-2021; SLV_2004-2021_(20210701)

SGL1. ¿Diría usted que los servicios que la municipalidad está dando a la gente son: [Leer alternativas]

(1) Muy buenos (2) Buenos (3) Ni buenos ni malos (regulares) (4) Malos (5) Muy malos (pésimos)

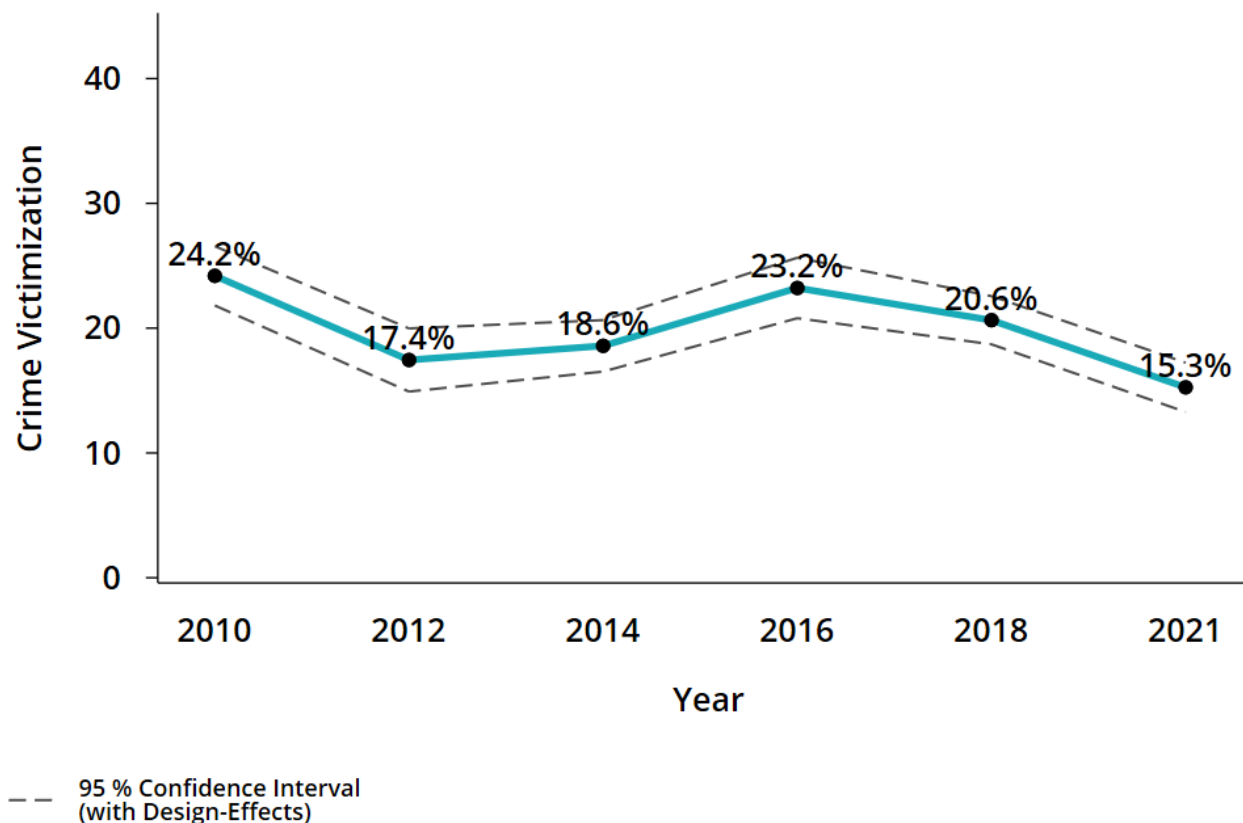
Figure shows the percentage who say "good" or "very good"

5. Citizen Security

Summary of Findings

- Fewer than one in five (15%) were the victim of a crime in 2021, the lowest rate in the series
- Two in five (40%) feel “somewhat unsafe” or “very unsafe” in their neighborhood, a rate that has remained relatively stable
- Trust in the police reached its highest level since 2004 (57%)
- Nearly one in ten (9%) continues to report having been the victim of extortion in the last year

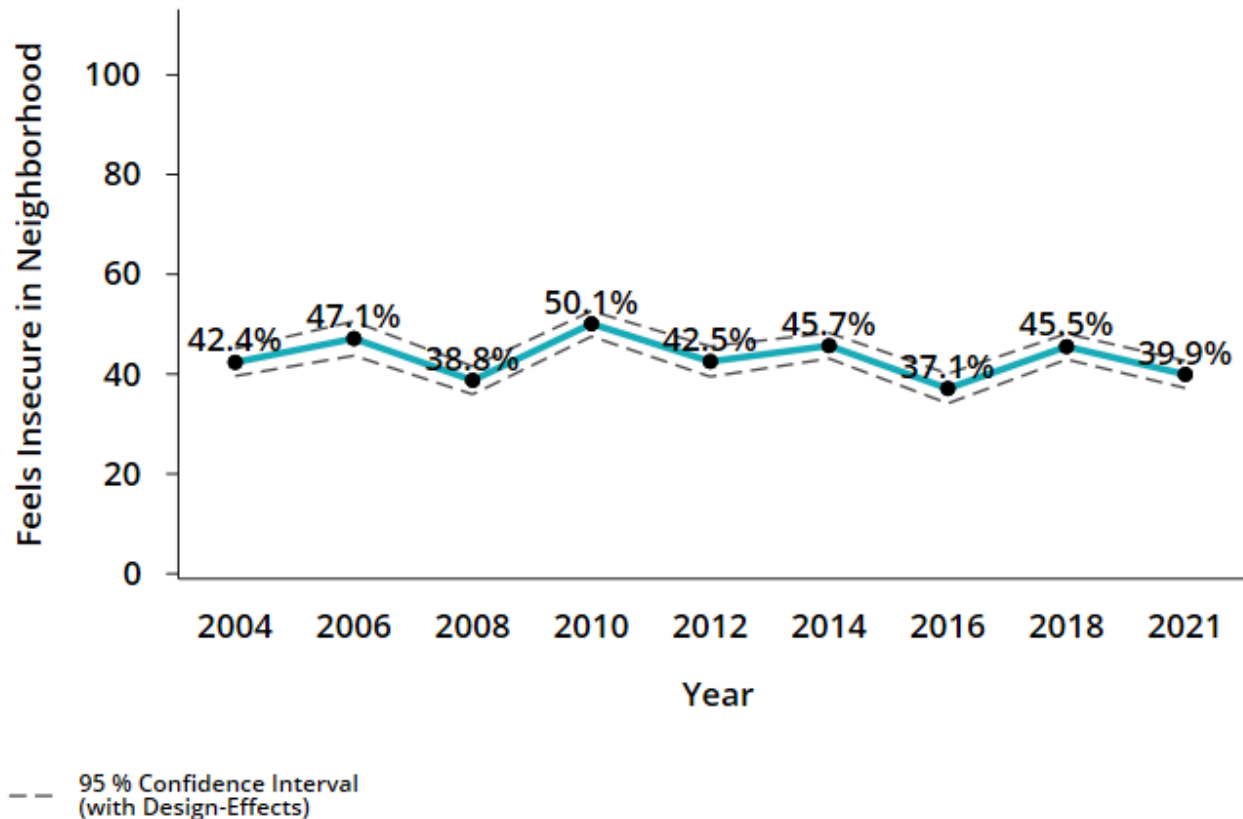
Fewer than one in five were the victim of a crime in 2021, the lowest rate in the series



Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2010-2021; SLV_2004-2021_(20210701)

VIC1EXT. Ahora, cambiando el tema, ¿ha sido usted víctima de algún acto de delincuencia en los últimos 12 meses? Es decir, ¿ha sido usted víctima de un robo, hurto, agresión, fraude, chantaje, extorsión, amenazas o algún otro tipo de acto delictual en los últimos 12 meses?

Two in five feel unsafe in their neighborhood, a rate that has remained relatively stable

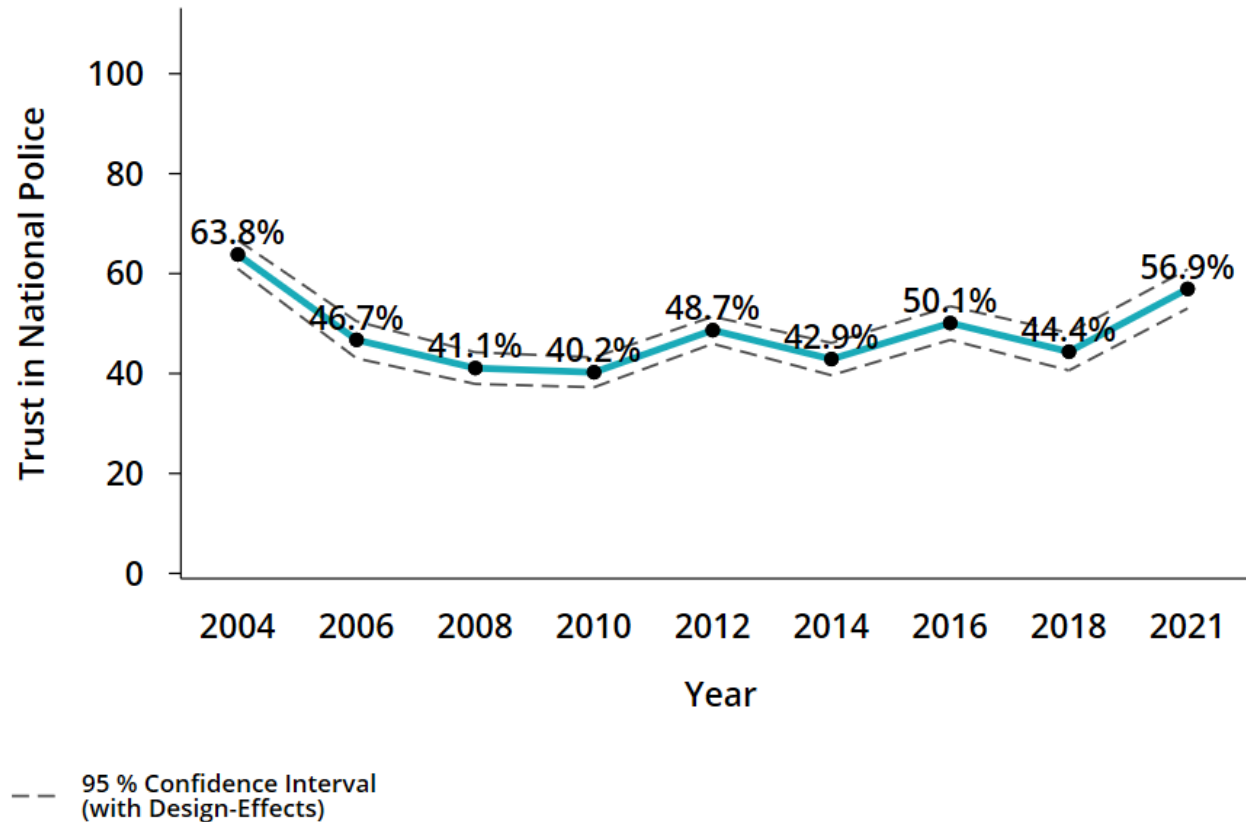


Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2004-2021; SLV_2004-2021_(20210701)

A0J11. *Hablando del lugar o la comunidad/colonia donde usted vive y pensando en la posibilidad de ser víctima de un asalto o robo, ¿usted se siente muy seguro(a), algo seguro(a), algo inseguro(a) o muy inseguro(a)?*

Figure shows percentage who said somewhat or very unsafe

Trust in the police reached its highest level since 2004

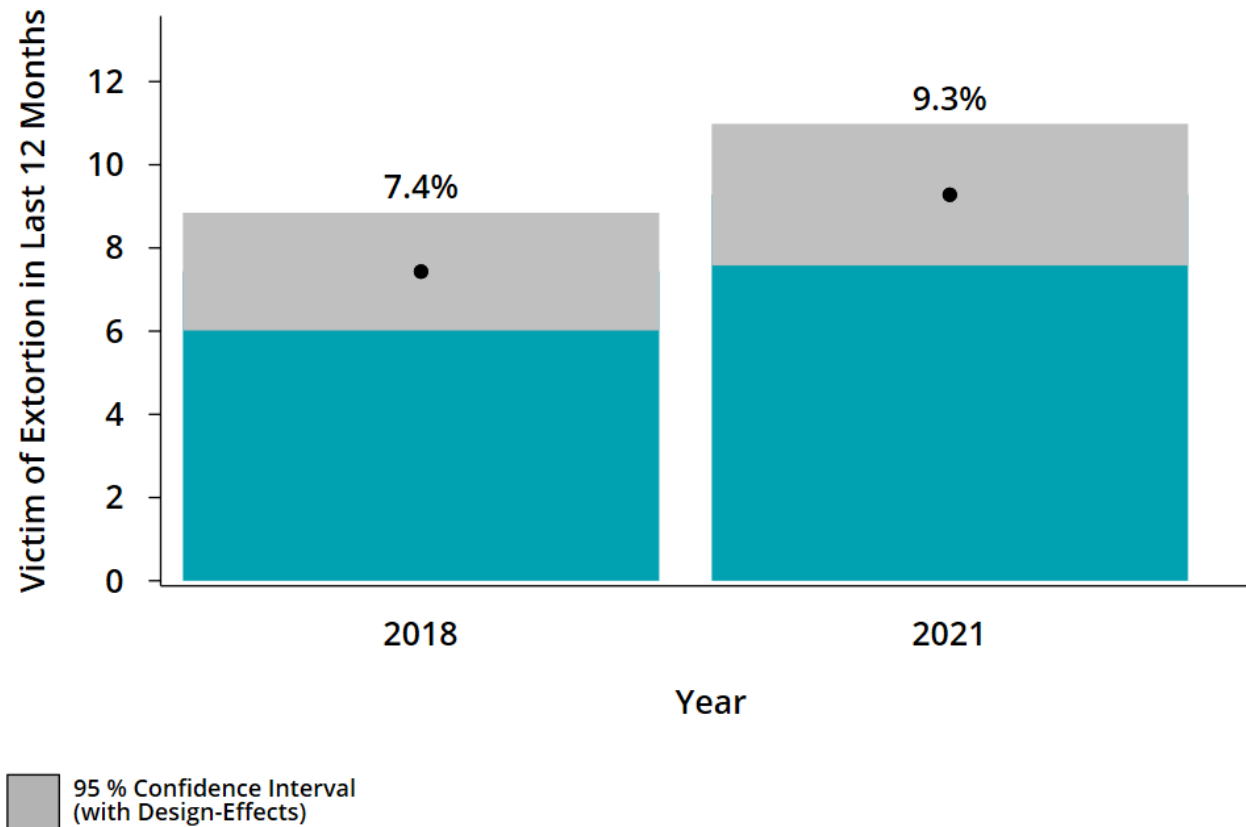


Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2004-2021; SLV_2004-2021_(20210701)

B18. ¿Hasta qué punto usted tiene confianza en la Policía? 1 “Nada” – 7 “Mucho”

Figure shows the percentage who responded 5-7

Nearly one in ten continues to report having been the victim of extortion in the last year



Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2018-2021; SLV_2004-2021_(20210701)

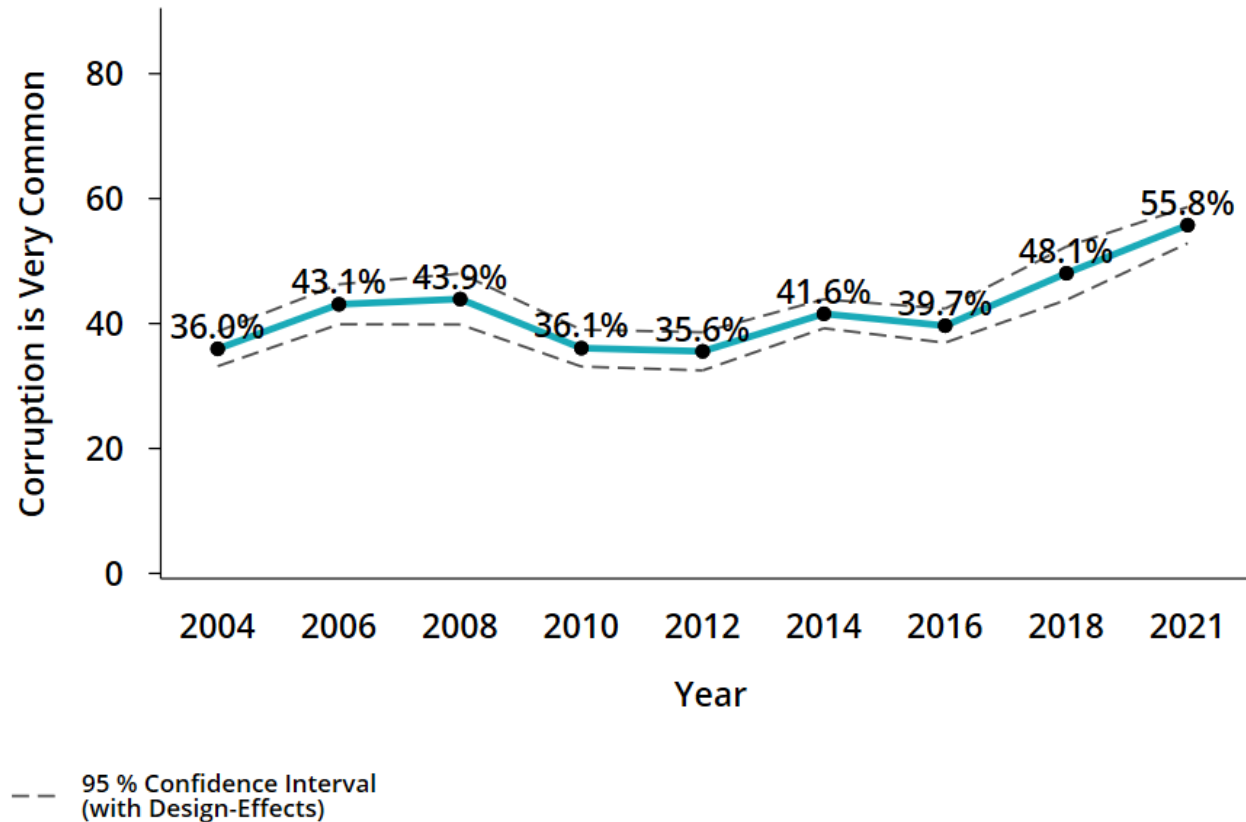
VICBAR4A. ¿Ha sido usted o alguien de su familia inmediata (hijos, esposo, esposa) víctima de extorsión en los últimos 12 meses?

6. Corruption

Summary of Findings

- More than half (56%) now say that they believe corruption among public officials is “very common,” the highest rate in the series
- A majority (58%) continue to believe that most or all politicians are involved in corruption, though fewer (21%) report that all are
- Corruption victimization by the police remains low, with one in twenty (5%) reporting that a police officer asked them for a bribe
- Corruption victimization by government employees remains low, though the rate peaked in 2021 to one in twenty (5%)
- More than a third (34%) think it is likely that building would require a bribe, while a similar number (37%) think building without a permit would result in punishment

More than half now say that they believe corruption among public officials is “very common,” the highest rate in the series



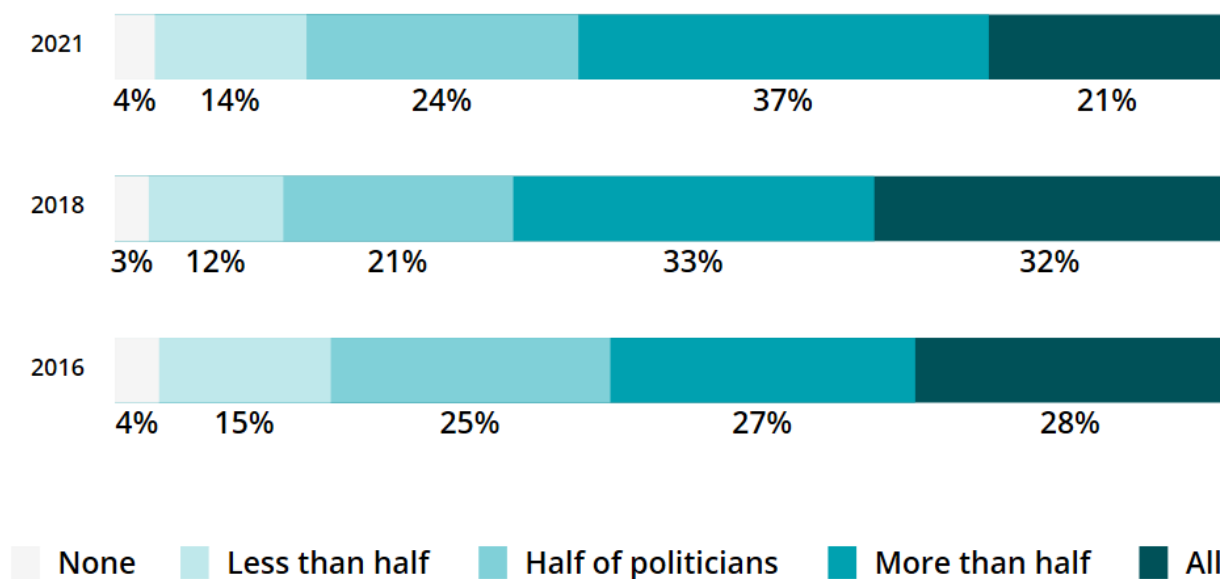
Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2004-2021; Dom_2004-2021_(20210701)

EXC7. Teniendo en cuenta su experiencia o lo que ha oído mencionar, ¿la corrupción de los funcionarios públicos en el país está:
(1) Muy generalizada (2) Algo generalizada (3) Poco generalizada (4) Nada generalizada

Figure shows percentage who said corruption was “very common”

A majority continue to believe that most or all politicians are involved in corruption, though fewer report that *all* are

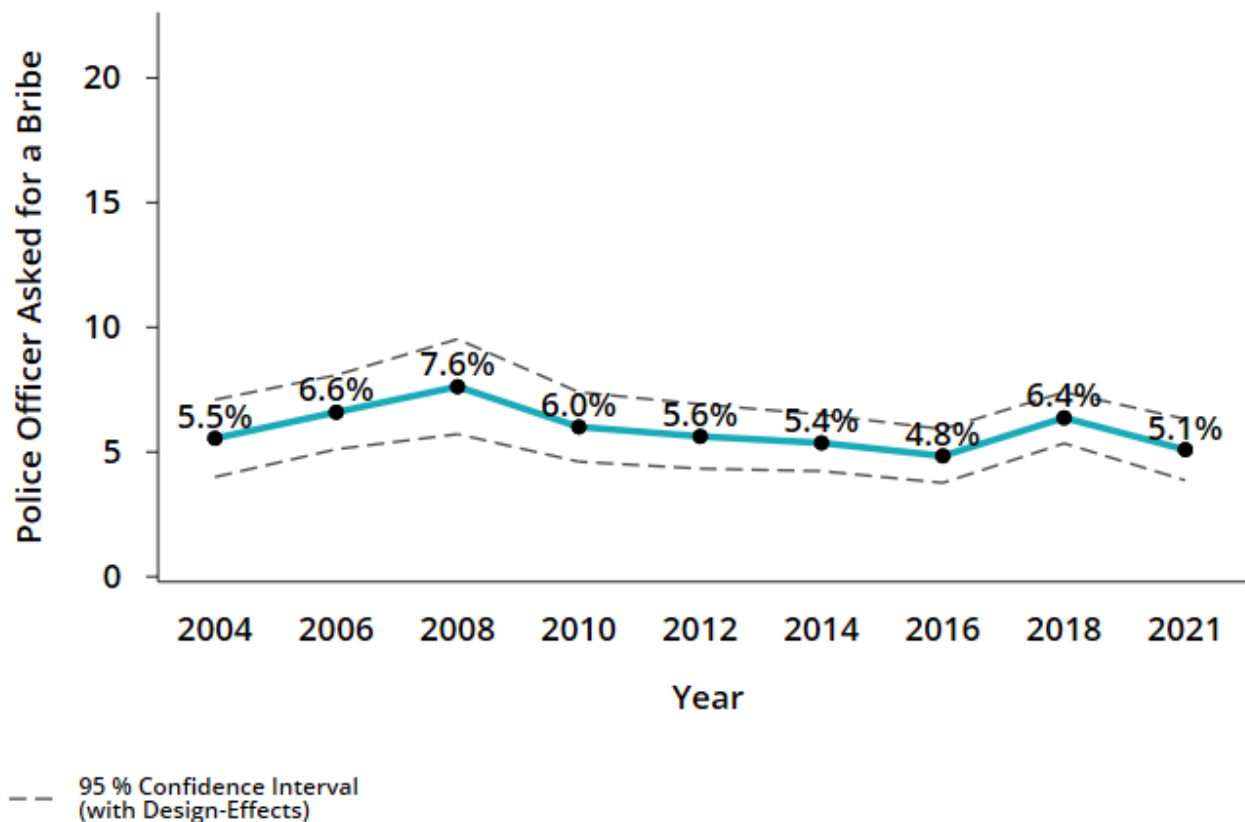
Amount of Politicians Involved in Corruption



Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2016-2021; SLV_2004-2021_(20210701)

EXC7NEW. Pensando en los políticos de El Salvador, ¿cuántos de ellos cree usted que están involucrados en corrupción?
(1) Ninguno (2) Menos de la mitad (3) La mitad de los políticos (4) Más de la mitad (5) Todos

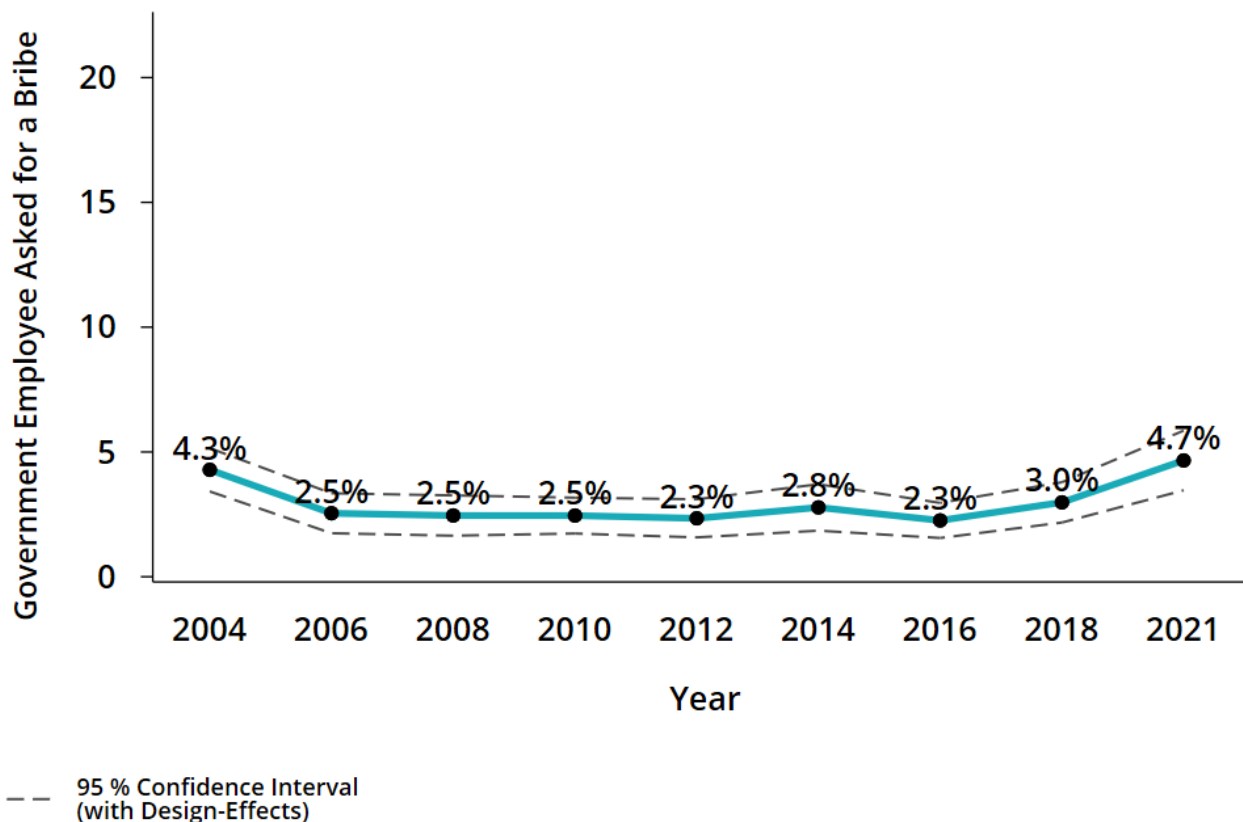
Corruption victimization by the police remains low, with one in twenty reporting that a police officer asked them for a bribe



Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2004-2021; SLV_2004-2021_(20210701)

EXC2. ¿Algún agente de policía le pidió una mordida (o soborno) en los últimos 12 meses?

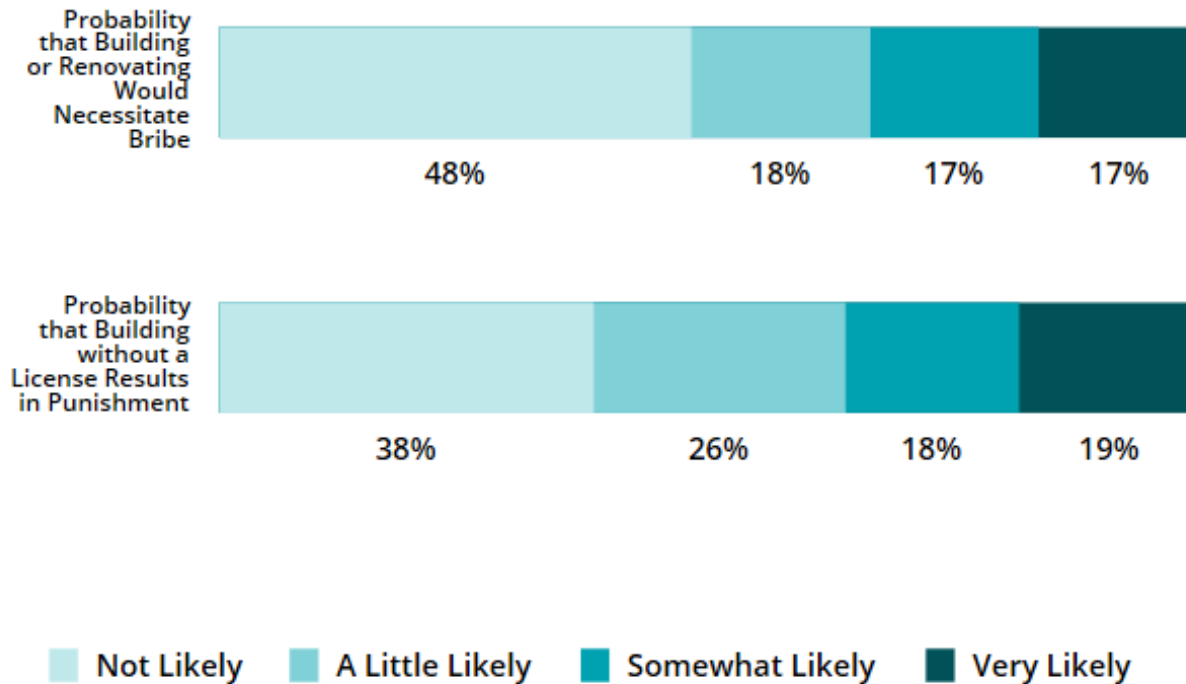
Corruption victimization by government employees remains low, though the rate peaked in 2021 to nearly one in twenty



Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2004-2021; SLV_2004-2021_(20210701)

EXC6. ¿En los últimos 12 meses, algún empleado público le ha solicitado una mordida (o soborno)?

More than a third think it is likely that building would require a bribe, while a similar number think building without a permit would result in punishment



Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2021; SLV_2004-2021_(20210701)

PR3ENR. Y si alguien en su comunidad/colonia fuera a construir o remodelar una casa, ¿qué tan probable sería que a esa persona le pidieran pagar una mordida?

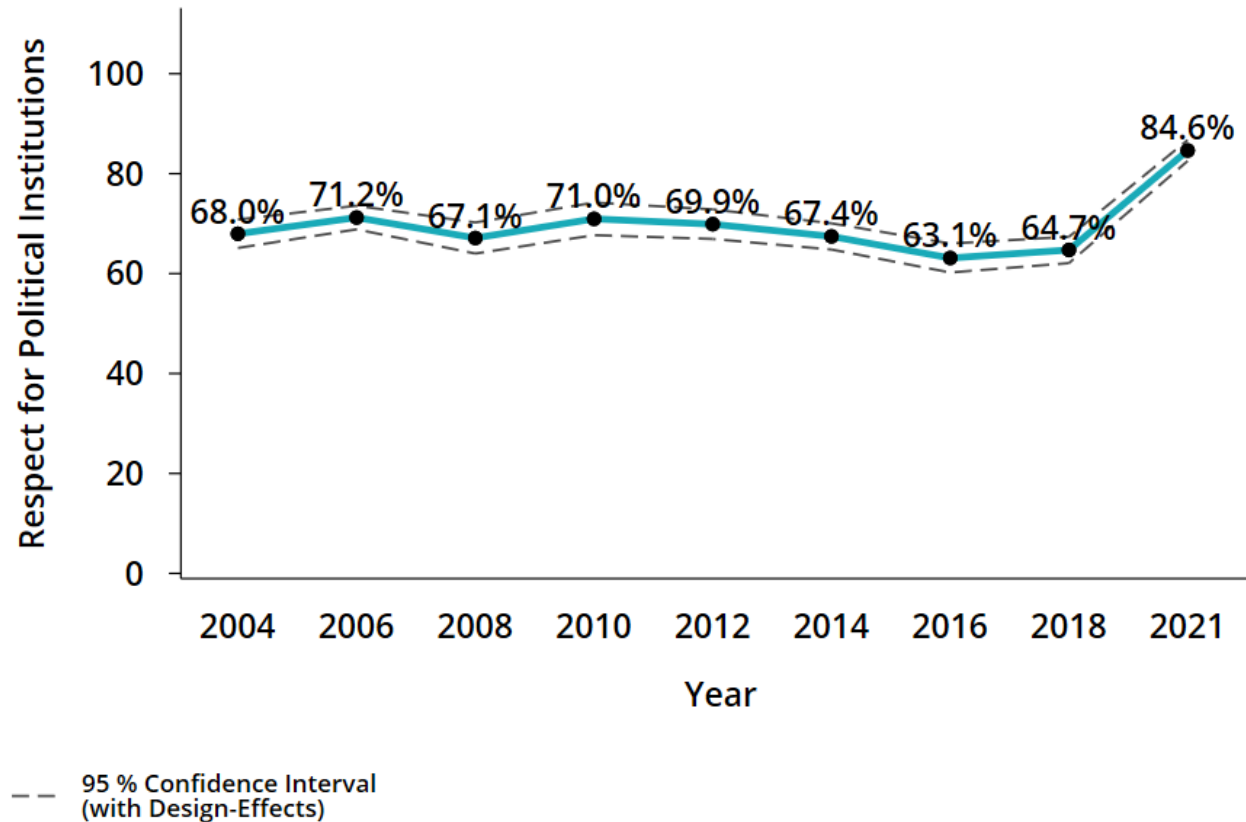
PR3DNR. ¿Qué tan probable sería que alguien en su comunidad/colonia sea castigado por las autoridades por construir o remodelar una vivienda sin licencia o permiso?

7. Trust in Political Institutions

Summary of Findings

- Respect for El Salvador's political institutions reached its highest level in 2021 (85%)
- Belief that basic rights are protected also reached its highest level in the series (55%)
- Belief that people should support the political system remains strong, also reaching its highest level in the series (85%)
- Trust in elections reached its highest level in the series (65.5%)
- Trust in political parties remains low (23%)
- Trust in the Supreme Court also remains low (38%)
- Trust in local government decreased slightly in 2021 from 55.5% to 52%

Respect for El Salvador's political institutions reached its highest level in 2021

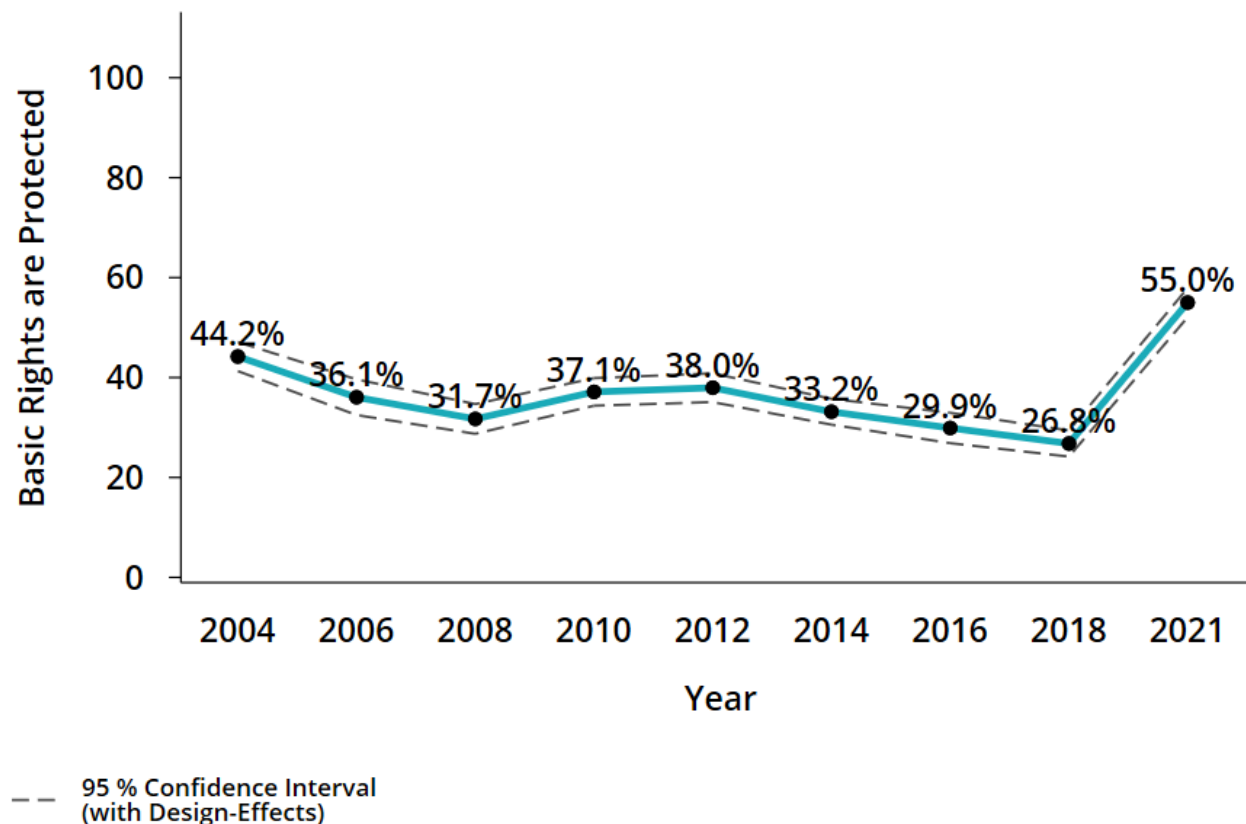


Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2004-2021; SLV_2004-2021_(20210701)

B2. ¿Hasta qué punto tiene usted respeto por las instituciones políticas de El Salvador? 1 “Nada” – 7 “Mucho”

Figure shows percentage who responded 5-7

Belief that basic rights are protected also reached its highest level in the series

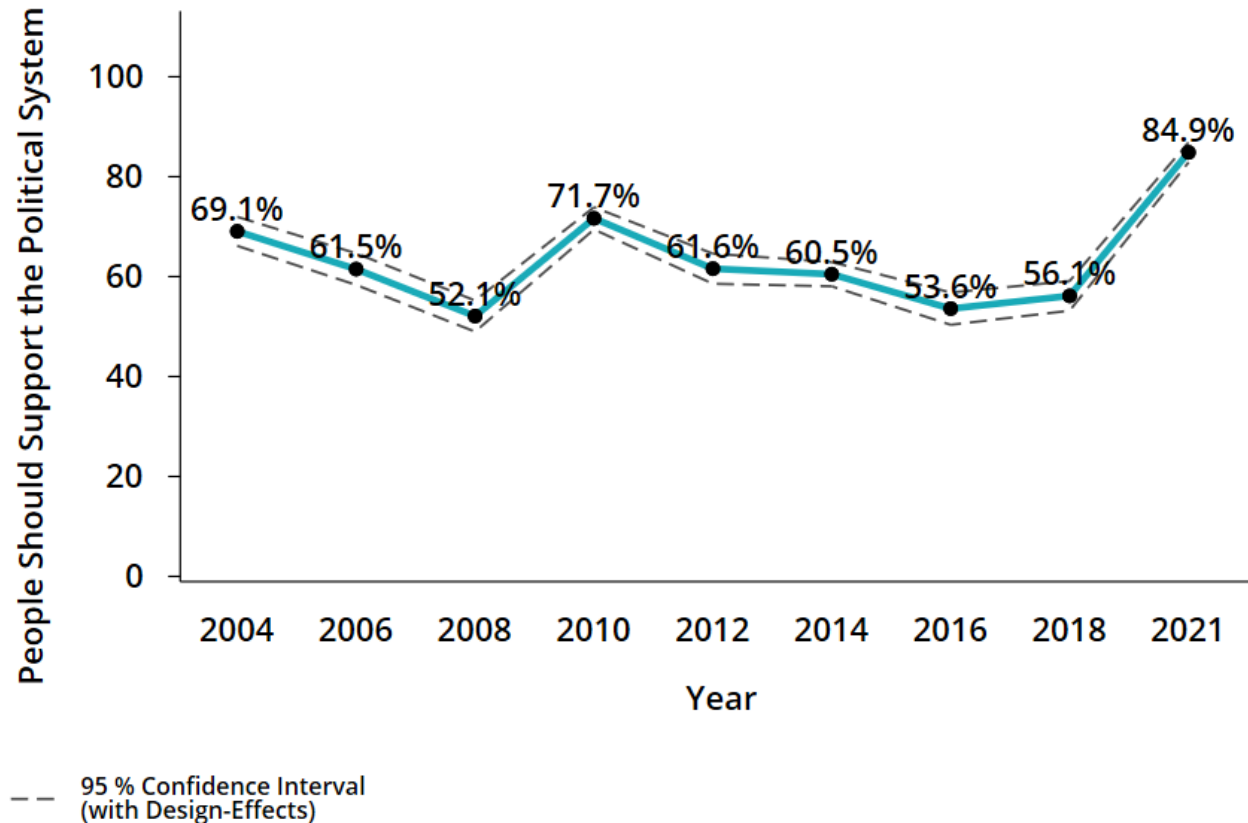


Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2004-2021; SLV_2004-2021_(20210701)

B3. ¿Hasta qué punto cree usted que los derechos básicos del ciudadano están bien protegidos por el sistema político salvadoreño?
1 "Nada" – 7 "Mucho"

Figure shows percentage who responded 5-7

Belief that people should support the political system remains strong, also reaching its highest level in the series

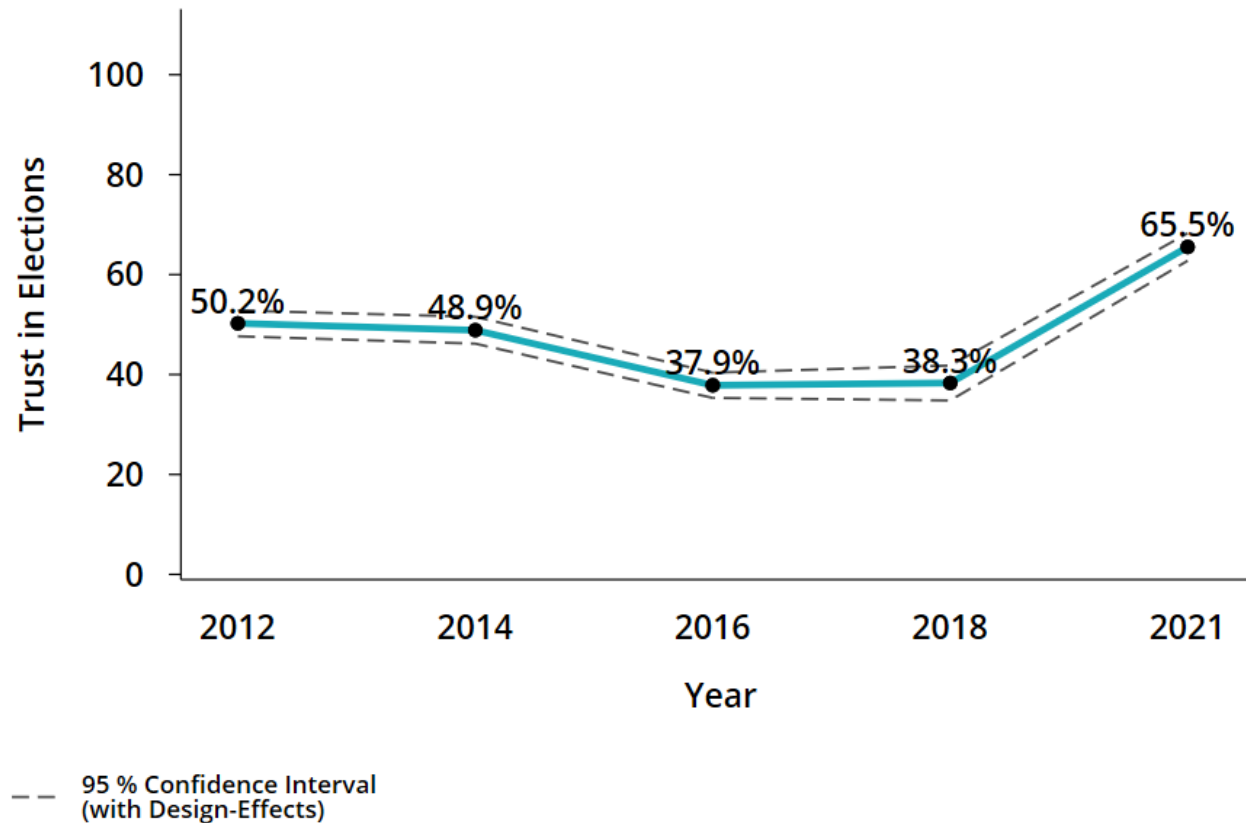


Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2004-2021; SLV_2004-2021_(20210701)

B6. ¿Hasta qué punto piensa usted que se debe apoyar al sistema político salvadoreño? 1 "Nada" – 7 "Mucho"

Figure shows percentage who responded 5-7

Trust in elections reached its highest level in the series

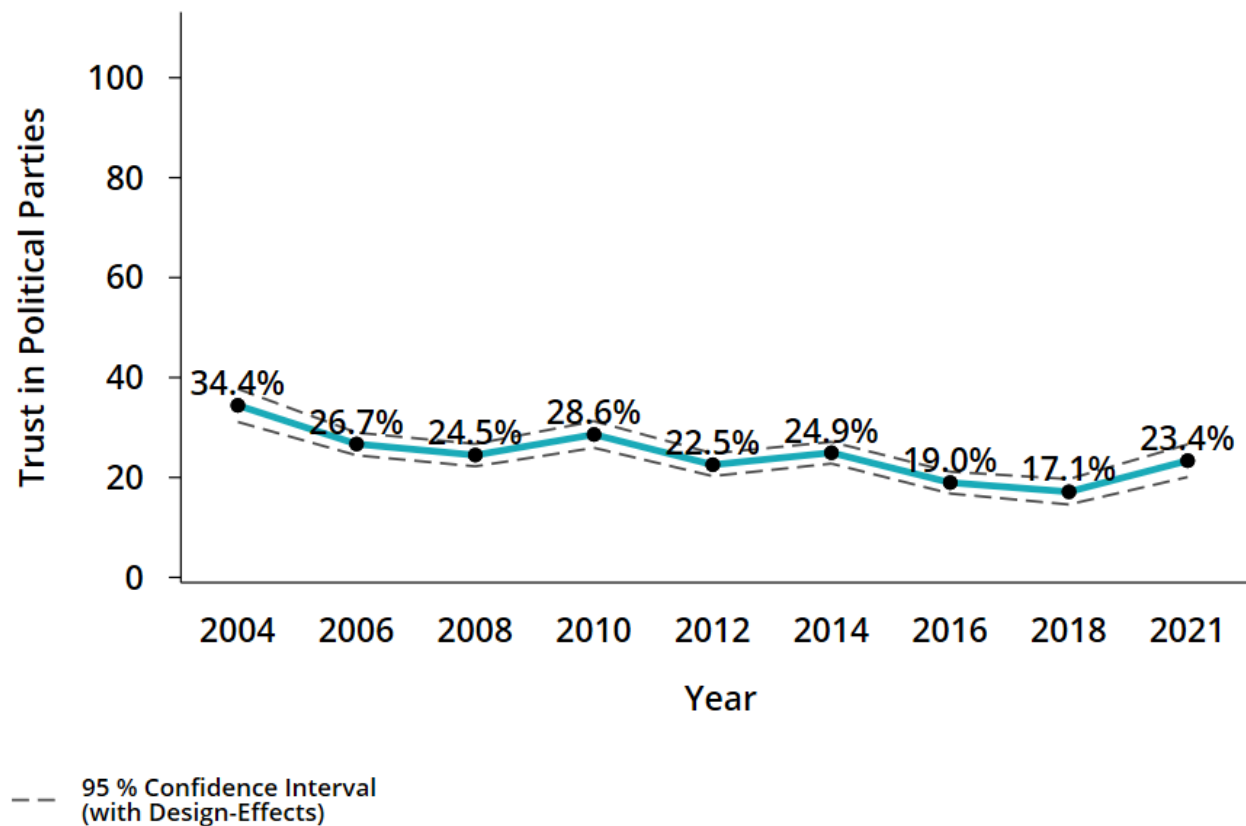


Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2004-2021; SLV_2004-2021_(20210701)

B47A. ¿Hasta qué punto tiene usted confianza en las elecciones en este país? 1 “Nada” – 7 “Mucho”

Figure shows percentage who responded 5-7

Trust in political parties remains low

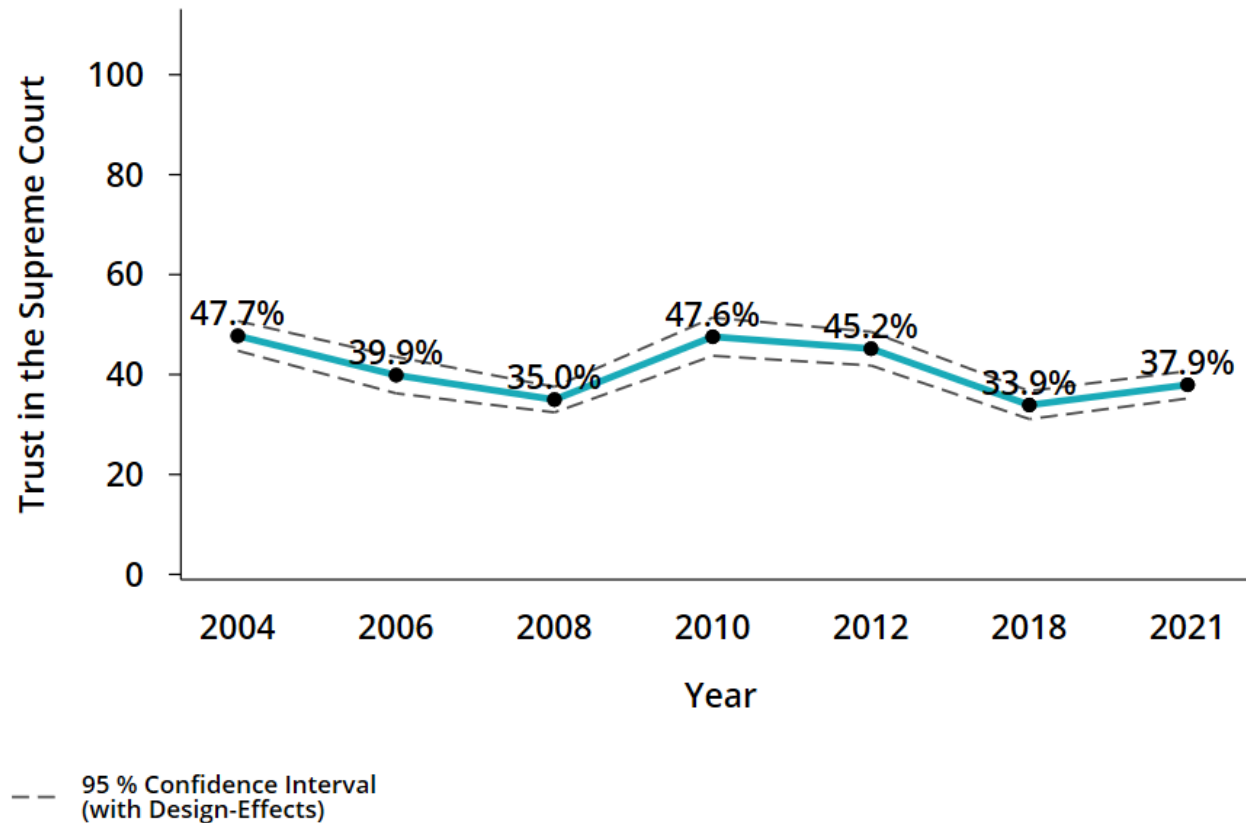


Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2004-2021; SLV_2004-2021_(20210701)

B21. ¿Hasta qué punto tiene confianza usted en los partidos políticos? 1 “Nada” – 7 “Mucho”

Figure shows percentage who responded 5-7

Trust in the Supreme Court also remains low

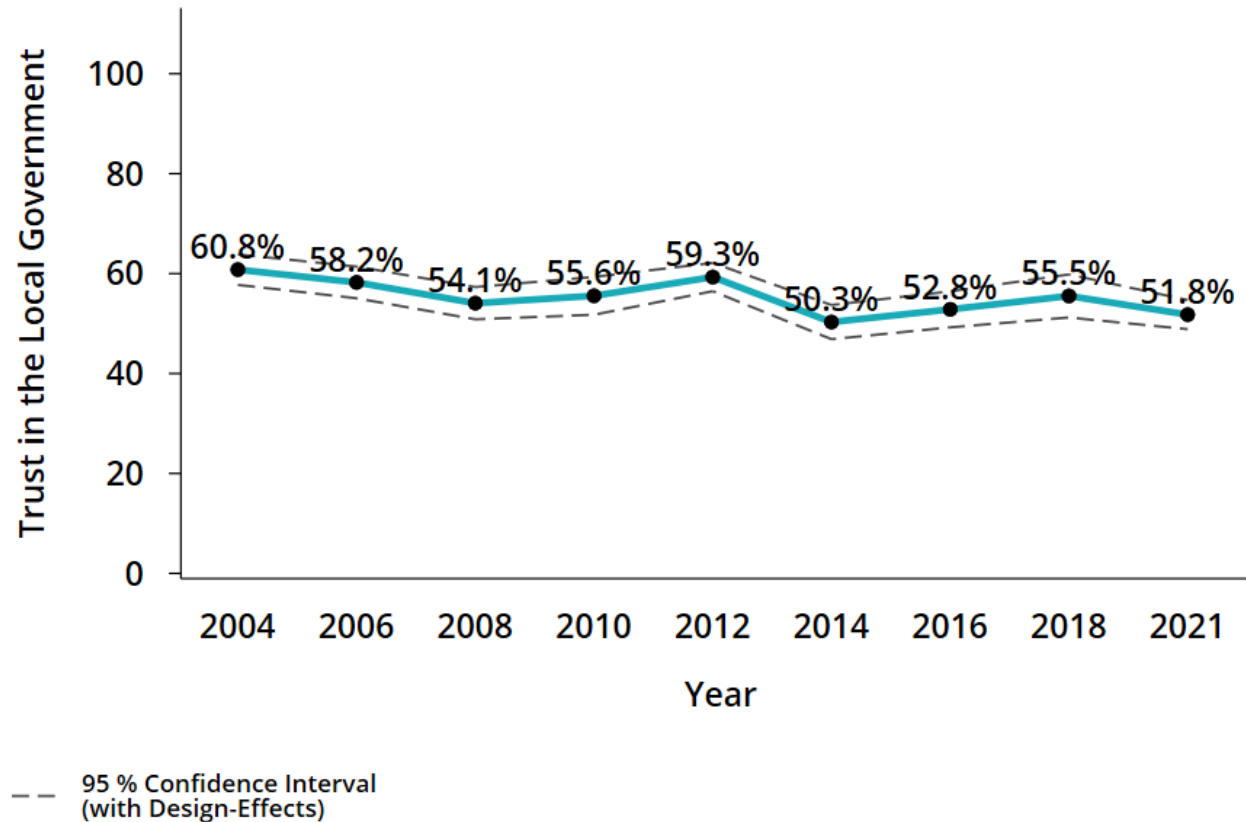


Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2004-2021; SLV_2004-2021_(20210701)

B31. ¿Hasta qué punto tiene usted confianza en la Corte Suprema de Justicia? 1 “Nada” – 7 “Mucho”

Figure shows percentage who responded 5-7

Trust in local government decreased slightly in 2021



Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2004-2021; SLV_2004-2021_(20210701)

B32. ¿Hasta qué punto tiene usted confianza en su municipalidad? 1 "Nada" – 7 "Mucho"

Figure shows percentage who responded 5-7

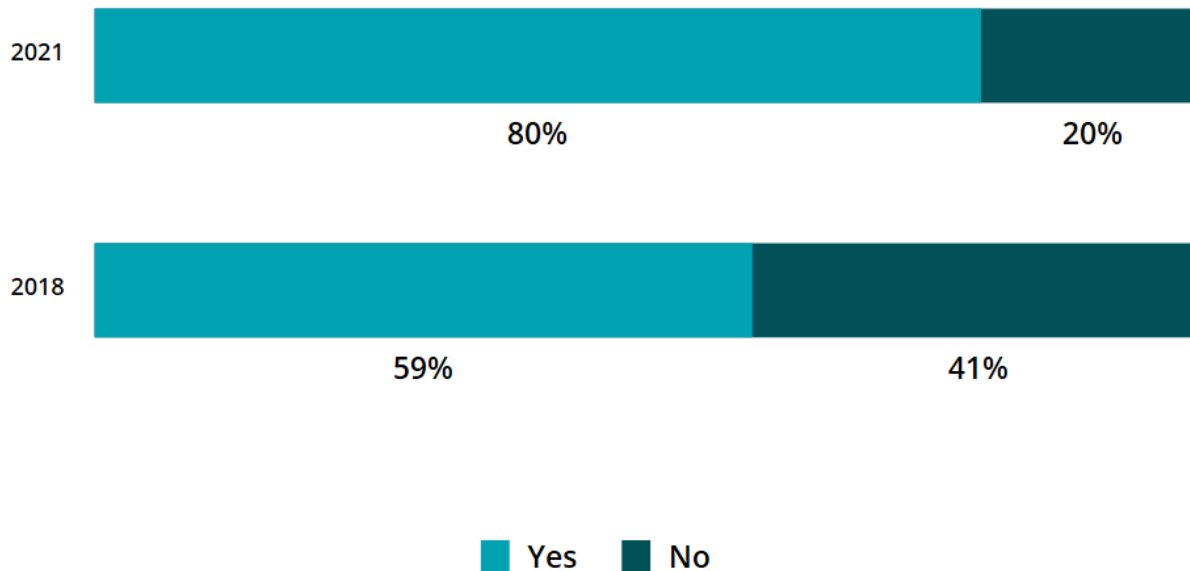
8. Democracy

Summary of Findings

- The vast majority (80%) consider El Salvador a democracy, an increase from 2018
- Satisfaction with democracy more than doubled from 37% to 78%
- Support for democracy also increased, reaching its highest level in the series (72.5%)
- More than half think it is either “good” (31%) or “very good” (24.5%) to have a strong leader who does not follow the rules
- Willingness to justify a coup under high corruption remains lower than previous years at 29%, but those willing to justify a closure of Congress more than doubled to 51%
- Salvadorans are split in their preference between a system that guarantees basic services versus an electoral democracy
- However, the vast majority (76%) prefer freedom of expression over a system that guarantees basic income and services

The vast majority consider El Salvador a democracy, an increase from 2018

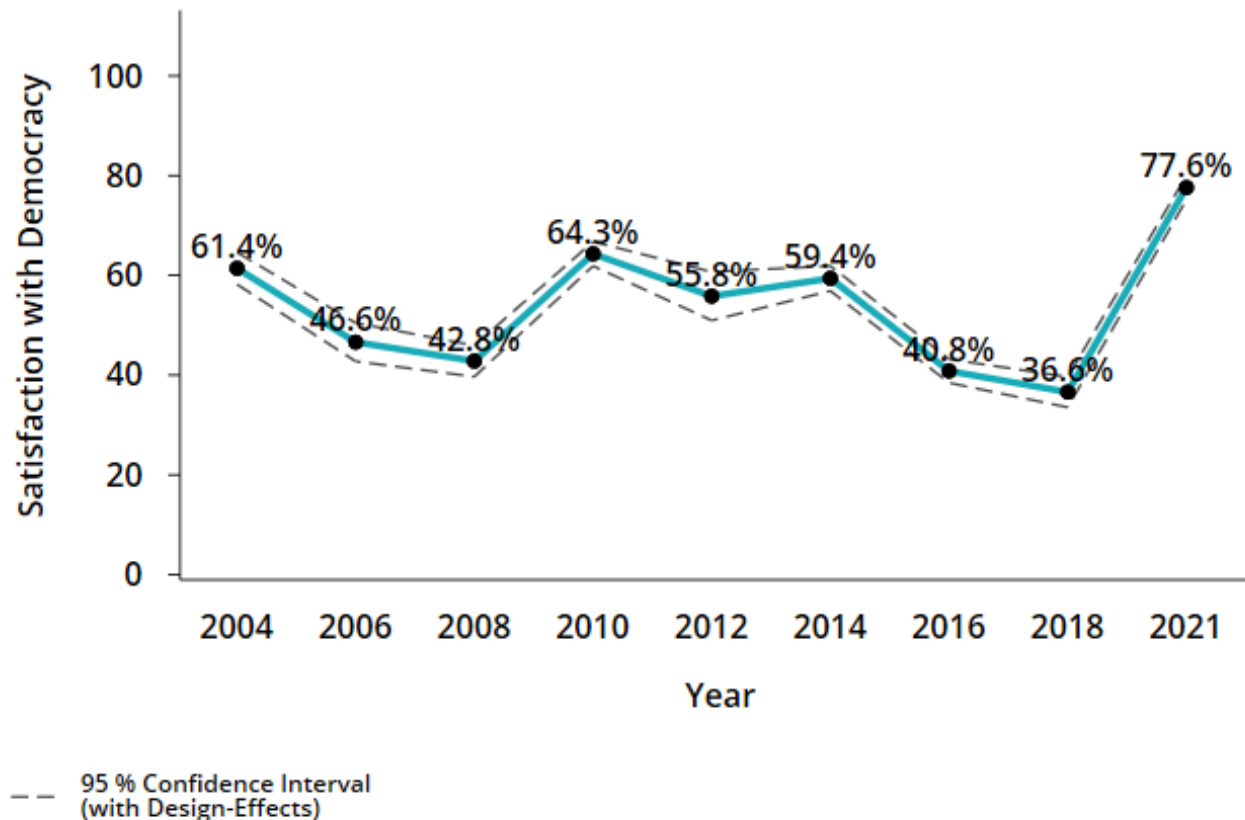
El Salvador is a Democracy



Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2021; SLV_2004-2021_(20210701)

DEM30. ¿En su opinión, El Salvador es una democracia?

Satisfaction with democracy more than doubled in 2021, with over three-fourths saying they are satisfied with democracy

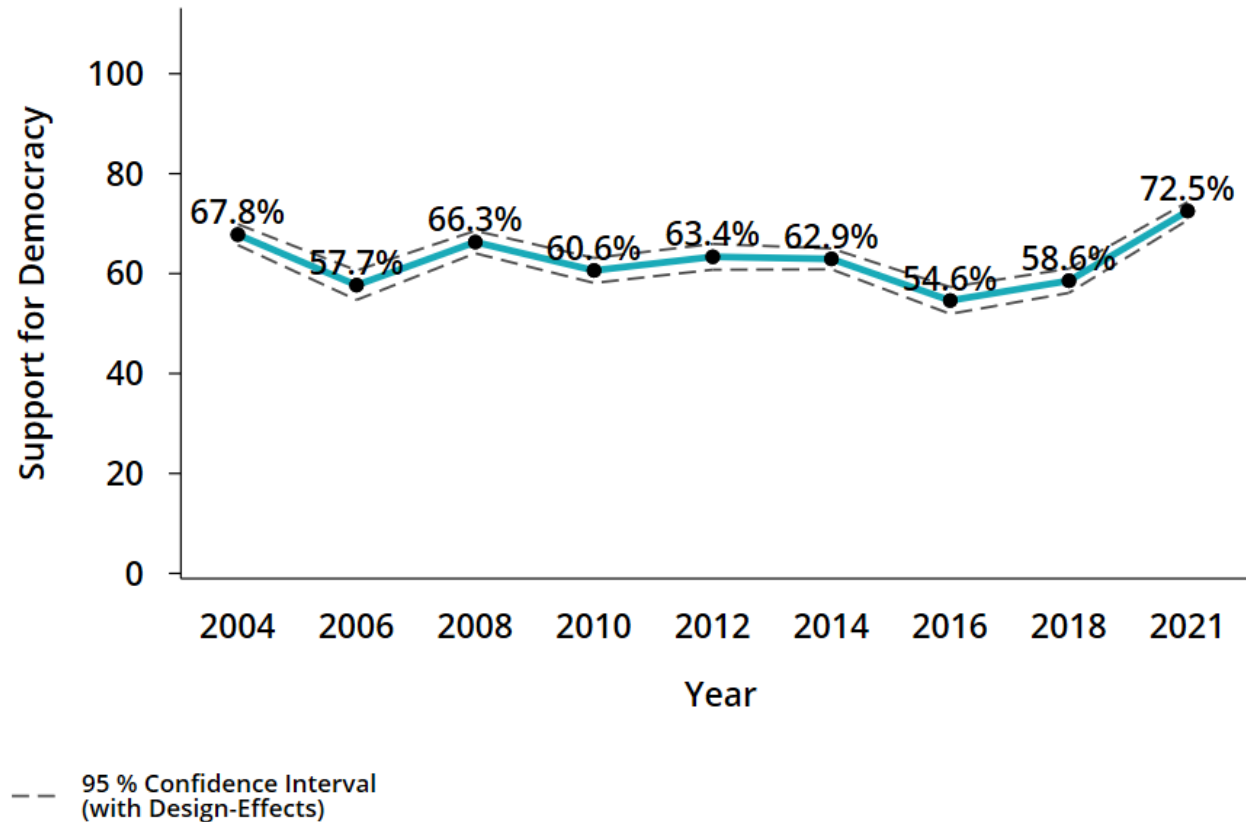


Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2004-2018; SLV_2004-2021_(20210701)

PN4. En general, ¿usted diría que está muy satisfecho(a), satisfecho(a), insatisfecho(a) o muy insatisfecho(a) con la forma en que la democracia funciona en El Salvador?

Figure shows the percentage who answered “very satisfied” or “satisfied”

Support for democracy also increased, reaching its highest level in the series

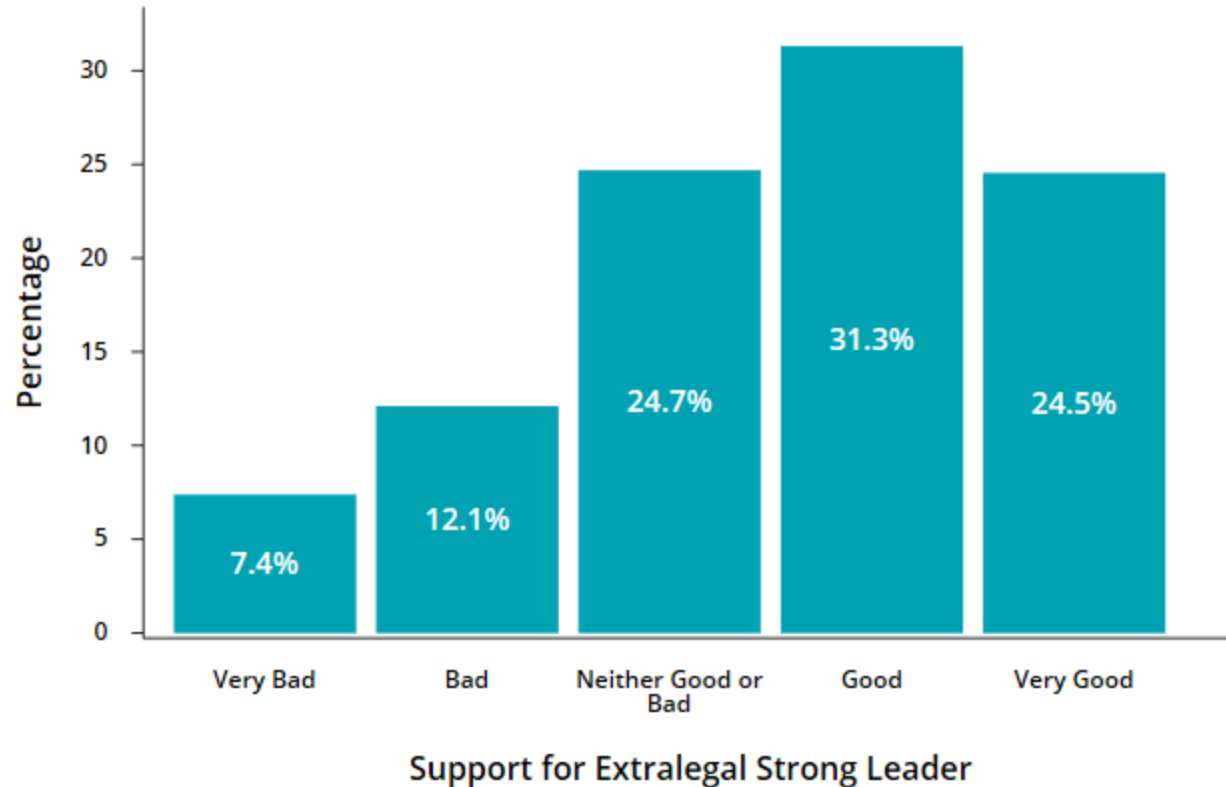


Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2004-2021; SLV_2004-2021_(20210701)

ING4. *Puede que la democracia tenga problemas, pero es mejor que cualquier otra forma de gobierno. ¿Hasta qué punto está de acuerdo o en desacuerdo con esta frase? 1 "Nada" – 7 "Mucho"*

Figure shows percentage who responded 5-7

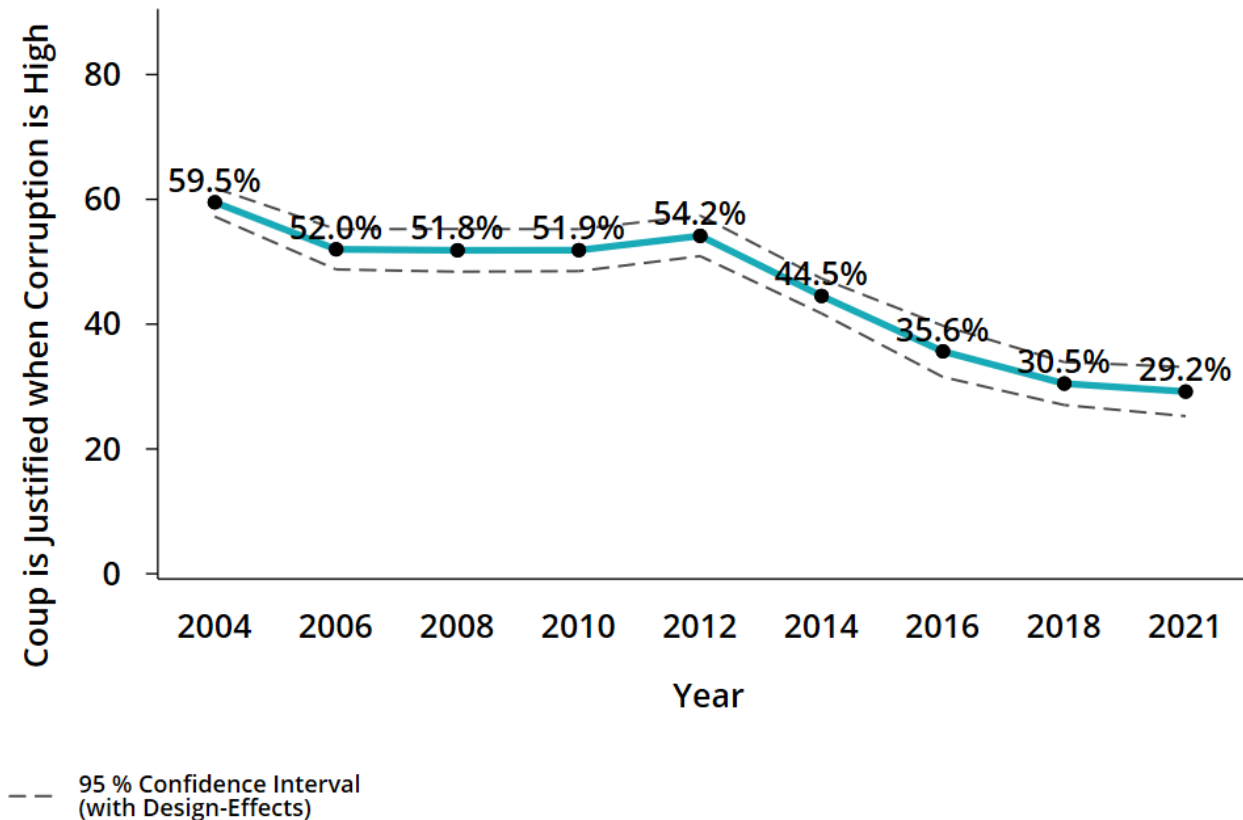
Yet more than half think it is either “good” or “very good” to have a strong leader who does not follow the rules



Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2021; SLV_2004-2021_(20210701)

CSES6N. *Tener un líder fuerte en el gobierno, incluso si ese líder no cumple del todo con las reglas para conseguir resultados, ¿usted diría que es muy bueno, bueno, ni bueno ni malo, malo o muy malo como forma de gobierno para nuestro país?*

Willingness to justify a coup under high corruption remains low and stable, at fewer than one in three

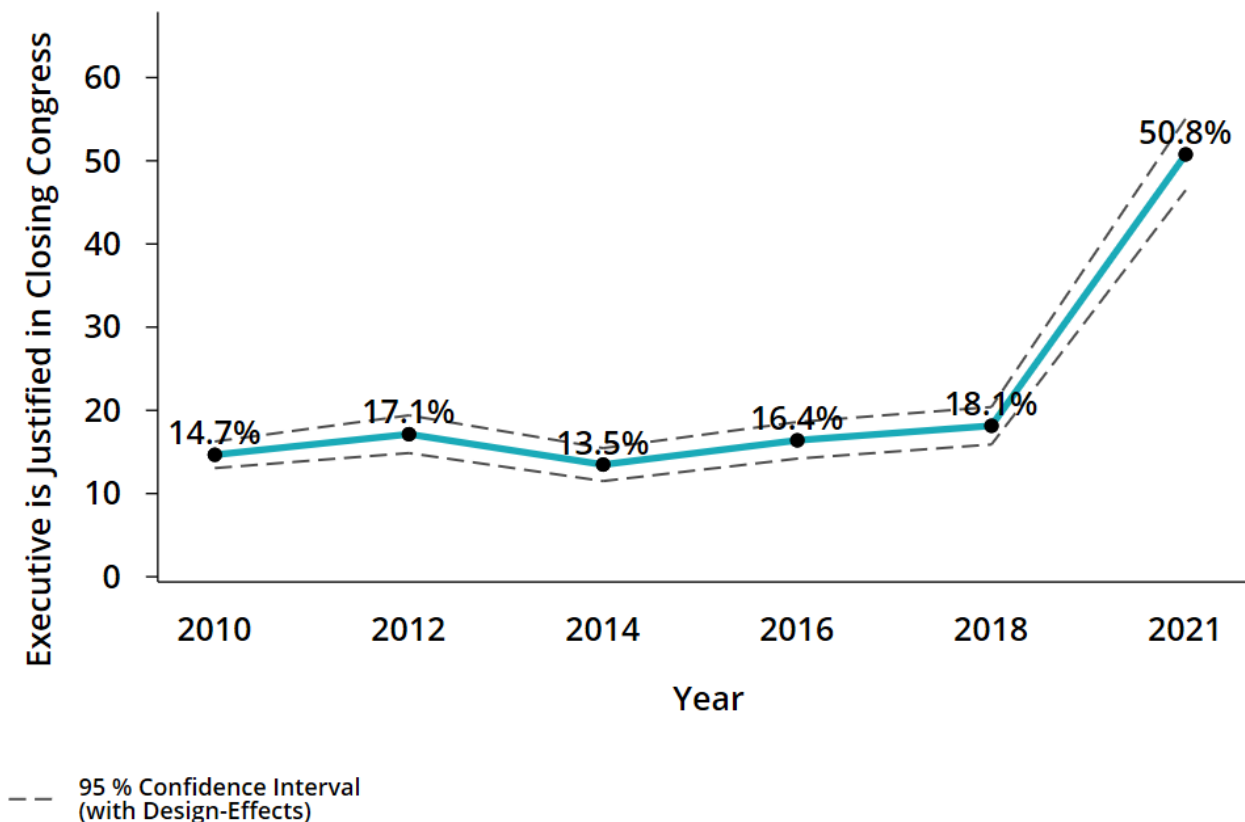


Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2004-2018; SLV_2004-2021_(20210701)

Alguna gente dice que en ciertas circunstancias se justificaría que los militares de este país tomen el poder por un golpe de Estado. En su opinión se justificaría que hubiera un golpe de estado por los militares...

JC13. Frente a mucha corrupción.

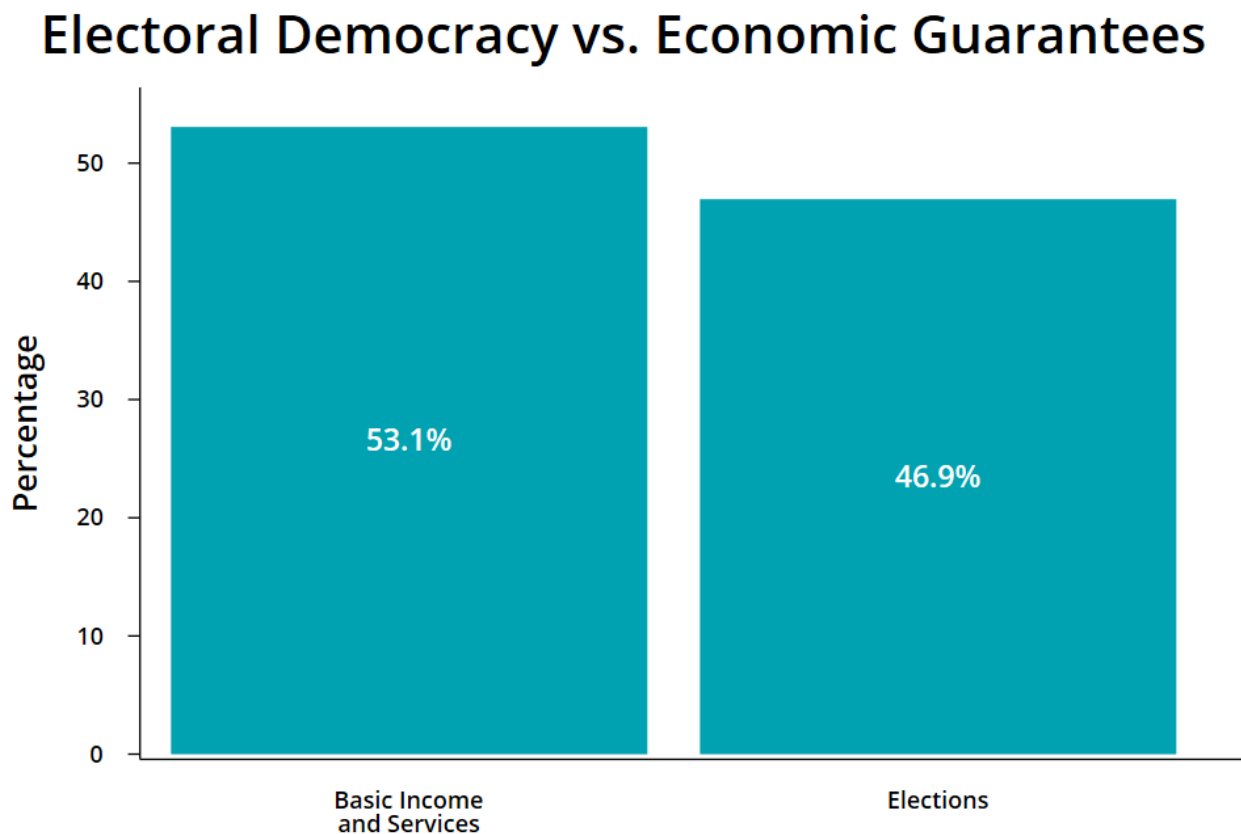
The rate willing to justify a closure of Congress more than doubled to one half, the highest level in the series



Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2010-2018; SLV_2004-2021_(20210701)

JC15A. ¿Cree usted que cuando el país enfrenta momentos muy difíciles, se justifica que el presidente del país cierre la Asamblea Legislativa y gobierne sin Asamblea Legislativa?

Salvadorans are split in their preference between a system that guarantees basic services versus an electoral democracy

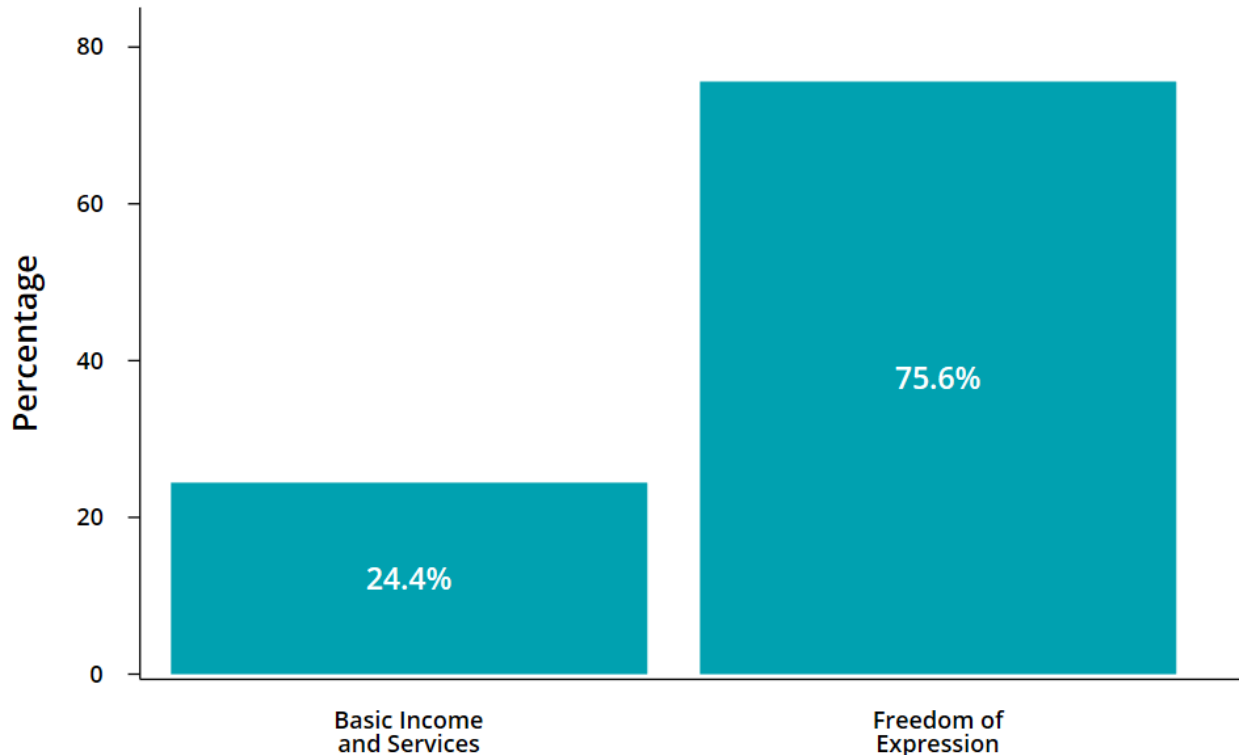


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CHM1BN. *Cuál sistema político le parece mejor para El Salvador: ¿un sistema que garantice acceso a un ingreso básico y servicios para todos los ciudadanos, aunque no se pueda elegir a las autoridades, o poder votar para elegir las autoridades, aunque algunas personas no tengan acceso a un ingreso básico y servicios?*

The vast majority prefer freedom of expression over a system that guarantees basic income and services

Freedom of Expression vs. Economic Guarantees



Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2021; SLV_2004-2021_(20210701)

CHM2BN. *Cuál sistema político le parece mejor para El Salvador: ¿un sistema que garantice acceso a un ingreso básico y servicios para todos los ciudadanos, aunque no se pueda expresar opiniones políticas sin miedo o censura, o un sistema en el que todos puedan expresar sus opiniones políticas sin miedo o censura, aunque algunas personas no tengan acceso a un ingreso básico y servicios?*

Credits

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