



# **GUATEMALA 2017 AMERICASBAROMETER SPECIAL REPORT:**

Local Government  
in the Western Highlands

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# **Guatemala 2017 AmericasBarometer Special Report: Local Government in the Western Highlands**

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## I. Introduction

Citizens' first point of contact with their country's political system is often with local government institutions, public officials, and services. How they perceive and experience the quality of their local government's performance, responsiveness, and trustworthiness is fundamental for shaping their quality of life and the legitimacy of the political system. This report examines a series of questions from the AmericasBarometer national surveys in Guatemala related to citizens' level of participation in their communities and local government and their assessments of the quality of municipal services; further, it analyzes how these perceptions and experiences connect to trust in municipal government.

This report focuses on evaluations of local government from a subsample of respondents for what the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) defines as the Western Highlands region, which includes departments of Huehuetenango, Quetzaltenango, Quiché, San Marcos, and Totonicapán.<sup>1</sup> These are five of the eight departments that constitute what the Latin American Public Opinion Project (LAPOP) defines as the Northwestern strata in the AmericasBarometer sample design for Guatemala,<sup>2</sup> which also includes the departments of Chimaltenango, Sacatepéquez, and Solalá.<sup>3</sup> The analyses in this report focus on comparing responses from residents of the Western Highlands to those who reside in the rest of the country for the 2004-2017 period in which the AmericasBarometer has been carried out in Guatemala. Table 1 presents the number of respondents in each year for the Western Highlands and the rest of Guatemala.<sup>4</sup>

**Table 1. Number of AmericasBarometer Respondents in the Western Highlands and the Rest of Guatemala, 2004-2017**

	2004	2006	2008	2010	2012	2014	2017
<b>Western Highlands</b>	423	365	359	332	391	372	382
<b>Rest of Guatemala</b>	1,285	1,133	1,179	1,162	1,118	1,134	1,164
<b>Total</b>	<i>1,708</i>	<i>1,498</i>	<i>1,538</i>	<i>1,494</i>	<i>1,509</i>	<i>1,506</i>	<i>1,546</i>

The next section of this report summarizes main findings. The report then is divided into four substantive sections covering community participation and attendance at municipal meetings, evaluations of municipals services, police response and access to local hospitals, and trust in the local government.

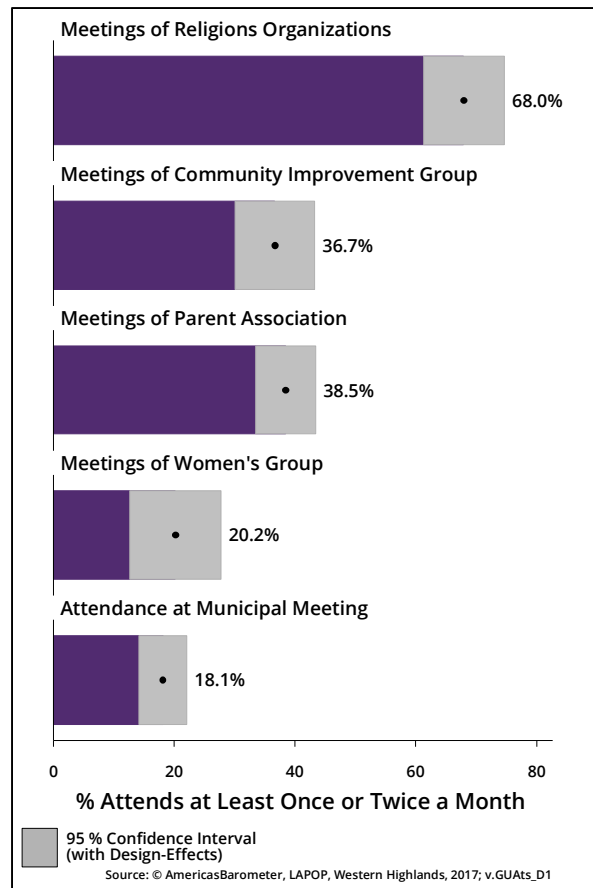
## II. Main Findings

- Guatemalans who reside in the Western Highlands report participating in religious organizations (68%), community improvement groups (36.7%), and parent associations (38.5%) at higher rates than in meetings of their municipal government (18.1%).

- Residents of the Western Highlands (36.7%) are more engaged in community improvement groups than rest of Guatemalans (27.5%).
- A gap in attendance at local government meetings between residents of the Western Highlands (18.1%) and those in the rest of Guatemala (17%) disappears in 2017.
- Participation in meetings of local government and community engagement is positively linked and potentially mutually reinforcing among the average Guatemalan.
- General satisfaction with municipal services (40%) improved in 2017 among residents of the Western Highlands from 2014 (25%).
- Residents of the Western Highlands are more satisfied with their public schools (62.7%) and health services (40.2%) than the rest of Guatemalans (54.6% and 31.8%, respectively).
- Guatemalans report greater state capacity for healthcare than police response. Two in five report that it would take them more than 30 minutes to reach the nearest medical center or hospital in an emergency, while a vast majority of residents in both the Western Highlands (73.2%) and in the rest of Guatemala (75.2%) say the police would take more than 30 minutes to respond.
- On average, nearly half of Guatemalans, regardless of whether they reside in the Western Highlands or in other areas of the country, report trust in their local government in 2017.
- Satisfaction with municipal services is a key predictor of trust in local government across Guatemala.
- Guatemalans in the Western Highlands who express satisfaction with condition of the streets, roads, and highways, public schools, and public health services express trust in their local government at higher rates than those who are dissatisfied.

### **III. Residents of the Western Highlands are More Engaged in Their Communities than in Local Government**

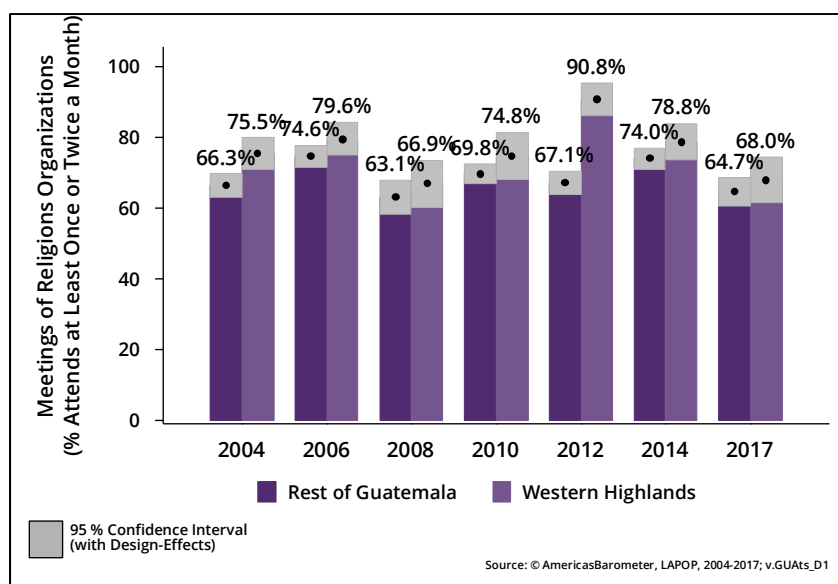
Guatemalans who reside in the Western Highlands report participating in community-based organizations at higher rates than in meetings of their municipal government. As seen in Figure 1, two-thirds of Western Highlands residents attend meetings of a religious organization at least once or twice a month.<sup>5</sup> At the same time, around one-third of those who live in the Western Highlands attend meetings of community improvement groups or parent associations at least once or twice a month.<sup>6</sup> In contrast, only 18.1% say they attended a municipal meeting in the year prior to AmericasBarometer survey.



**Figure 1. Local Participation in the Western Highlands, 2017**

The rate of attendance at religious organizations among residents of the Western Highlands has remained relatively high and stable since 2004, with the exception of an uptick in 2012 (see Figure 2). In comparison to residents of the rest of Guatemala, those who reside in the Western highlands report slightly higher rates of participation in religious organizations, though differences in these rates are not significant in 2017.

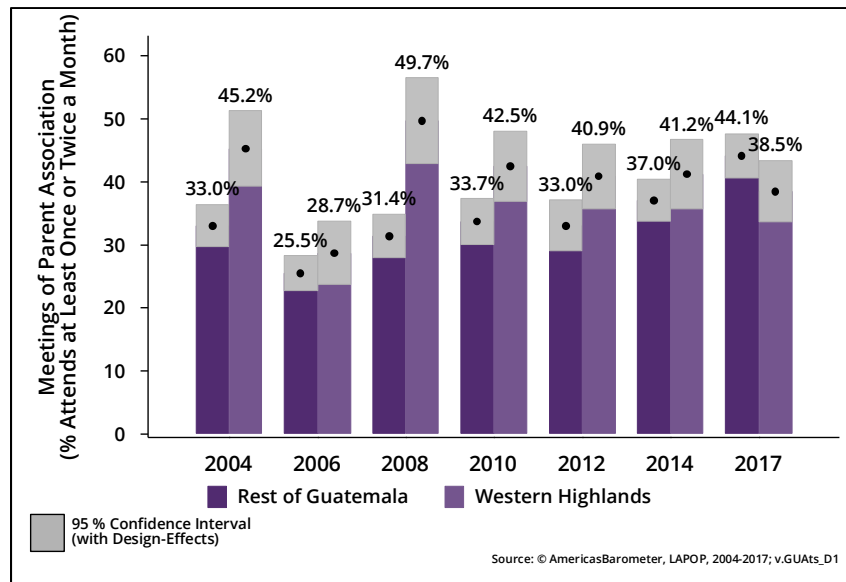
Findings from the 2017 AmericasBarometer also show that women from either region attend meetings of religious organization more frequently than men.<sup>7</sup> Education, however has a distinct relationship with religious engagement, depending on where a person resides. While residents of the Western Highlands with no or only primary education attend religious organization meetings more frequently in comparison to those with high levels of education, they are the group with the lowest rate of attendance at these types of meetings in the rest of Guatemala.



**Figure 2. Attends at Meeting of Religious Organizations at Least Once or Twice a Month, Guatemala 2004-2017**

As with religious organizations, a gap in participation in meetings of parent associations has also closed between residents of the Western Highlands and those in the rest of Guatemala. On average close to two in five Guatemalans, regardless of place of residence, report participating in these type of meetings at least once or twice a month in 2014 and in 2017 (see Figure 3). In previous years (with the exception of 2006), Western Highlands residents exhibited higher attendance in parent association meetings than the rest of Guatemalans.

While women in areas outside of the Western Highlands report higher attendance at parent association meetings than men, no gender difference exist in rates of this type of participation within the Western Highlands.<sup>8</sup> Throughout the country, Guatemalans aged 36-45, arguably individuals who are likely to have school-aged children, report the highest level of attendance at parent associations meetings in 2017.

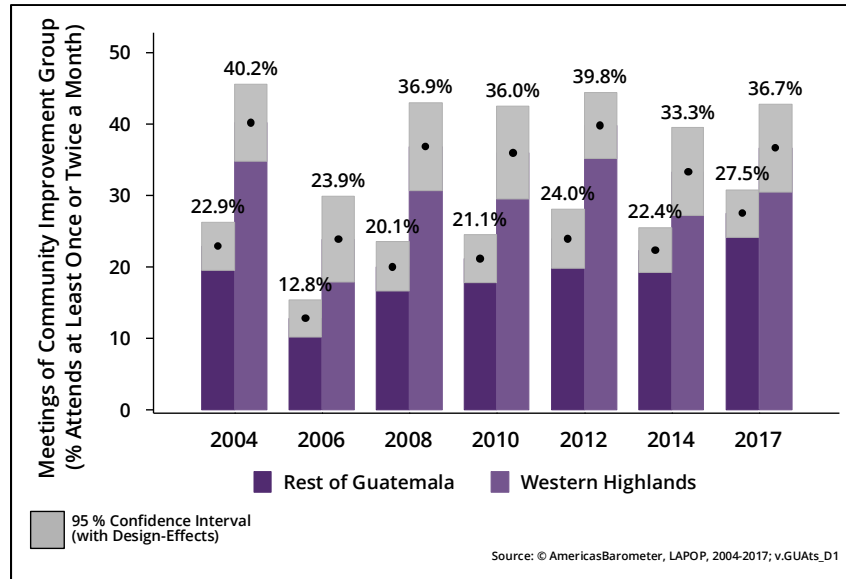


**Figure 3. Attendance at Meeting of Parent Association at Least Once or Twice a Month, Guatemala 2004-2017**

Guatemalans' rate of participation in community improvement groups is similar to that of parent associations but less frequent in comparison to that of religious organizations. Additionally, there is a significant and consistent gap between residents of the Western Highlands and those in the rest of Guatemala. Among residents of the Western Highlands, around one-third has consistently reported participating in community improvement groups at least once or twice a month between 2004 and 2017, with the exception of a significant dip in 2006 (see Figure 4). The rate of community engagement in the rest of Guatemala is significantly lower with about one in five reporting frequent participation in community improvement groups on average between 2004 and 2017. In 2017, the participation gap between residents of the Western Highlands and those in the rest of Guatemala significantly shrunk due to an increase in community participation among those living outside of the Western Highlands from 22.4% to 27.5%.

In contrast to findings related to the socioeconomic and demographic predictors of religious involvement, women who reside either in the Western Highlands or in other parts of Guatemala attend community improvement groups at lower rates than men. At the same time, rural residents throughout the country report greater involvement in this type of community participation than do urban residents.<sup>9</sup>

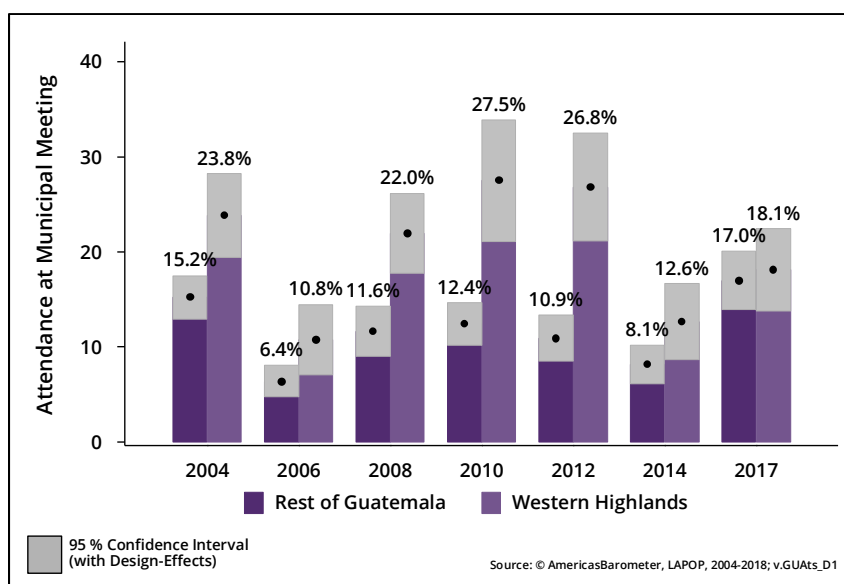




**Figure 4. Attendance at Meeting of Community Improvement Group at Least Once or Twice a Month, Guatemala 2004-2017**

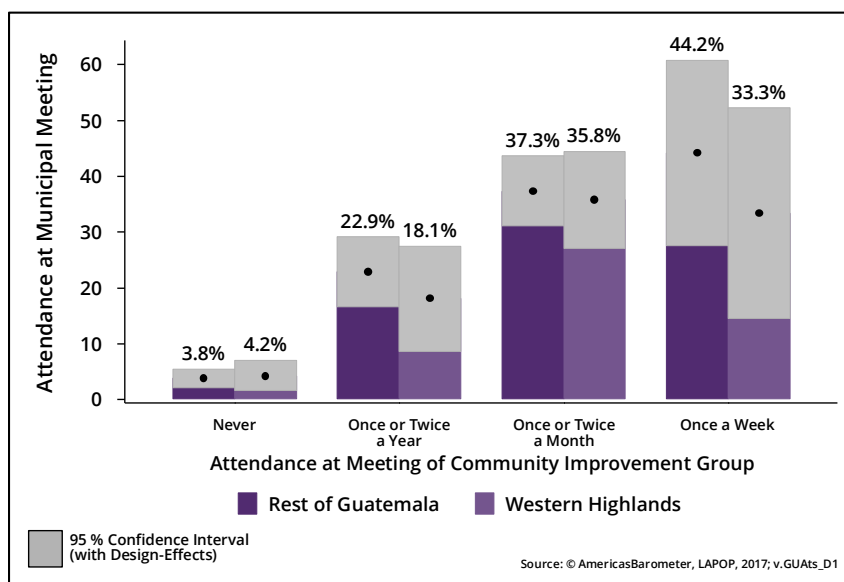
In comparison to community engagement, residents of the Western Highlands participate in meetings of their local government with noticeably lower frequency. As seen in Figure 5, after a sharp decline in attendance at municipal meetings from 26.8% in 2012 to 12.6% in 2014, participation increased recovered slightly in 2017, reaching 18.1%. There is a similar pattern of decline after 2012 and recovery in 2017 in rates of participation in municipal meetings among residents of the rest of Guatemala. In fact, a gap in attendance at these type of local government meetings between residents of the Western Highlands and those in the rest of Guatemala disappears in 2017.

While women and those with higher education are less likely to attend municipal meetings in the Western Highlands, no gender or education differences exist in other areas of Guatemala.<sup>10</sup> Interestingly, while urban residents in the Western Highlands are more likely to attend local government meetings than rural residents, they are less likely to do so in the rest of Guatemala.



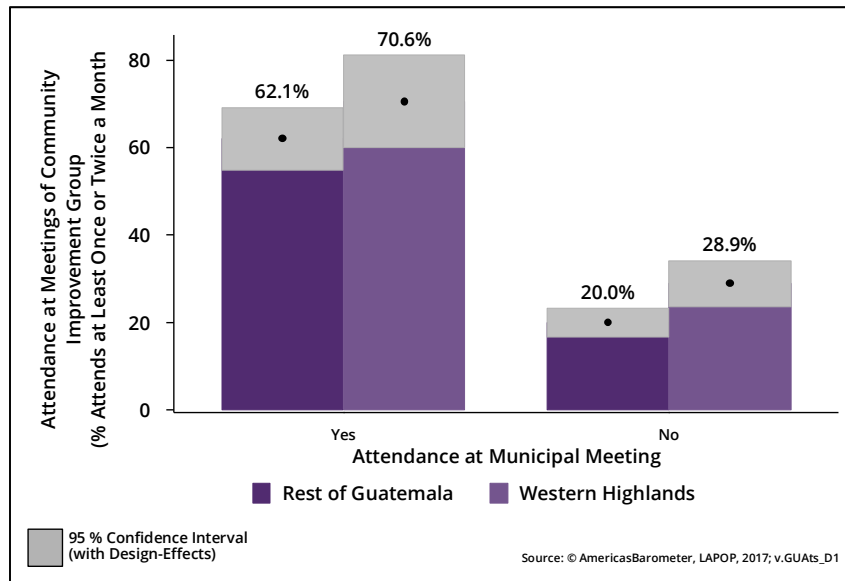
**Figure 5. Attendance at Municipal Meeting in Previous 12 months, Guatemala 2004-2017**

Participation in meetings of local government and community engagement are positively linked, and potentially mutually reinforcing, among Guatemalans, regardless of their place of residence. As shown in Figure 6, attendance at municipal meetings is much higher among those who also attend meetings of community improvement groups at least once or twice a month.<sup>11</sup> In fact, the rate is nearly 10 times higher than compared to those who never engage with community improvement groups. No differences exist between Guatemalans who live in the Western Highlands and those who reside elsewhere in the country.



**Figure 6. Attendance at Municipal Meetings by Participation in Community Improvement Groups, 2017**

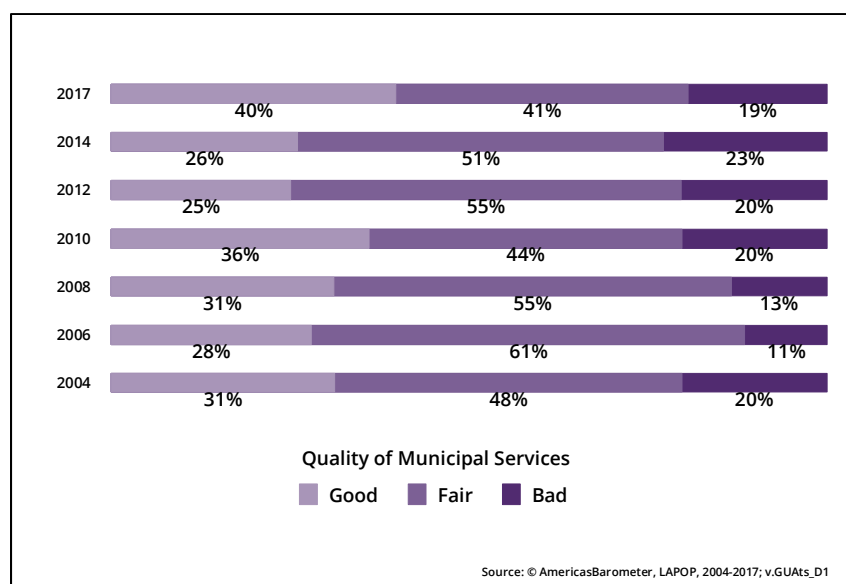
When looking at the inverse relationship, Figure 7 shows that participation in community improvement groups is nearly three times more frequent among Guatemalans who attend municipal meetings. There is no statistically significant difference in the rate of engagement in community groups among municipal meeting attendees who reside in the Western Highlands versus in other areas of Guatemala. However, residents of the Western Highlands who do not participate in municipal meetings (28.9%) attend community improvement groups at a significantly higher rate than the rest of Guatemalans (20%).



**Figure 7. Participation in Community Improvement Groups at Least Once or Twice a Month by Attendance at Municipal Meetings, 2017**

#### IV. Residents of the Western Highlands are More Satisfied with their Public Healthcare and Schools than the rest of Guatemalans

Guatemalans who live in the Western Highlands report generally positive evaluations of the services provided by their municipalities in 2017. In fact, a significantly greater proportion of them (40%) say that these services are good or very good in 2017, in comparison to only 26% and 25% in 2014 and 2012, respectively (see Figure 8).<sup>12</sup> A similar proportion of Guatemalans who reside outside of the Western Highlands give their municipal services a positive evaluation; though when asked about specific services such as public schools, and public healthcare, residents of the Western Highlands are more satisfied than the rest of Guatemalans.

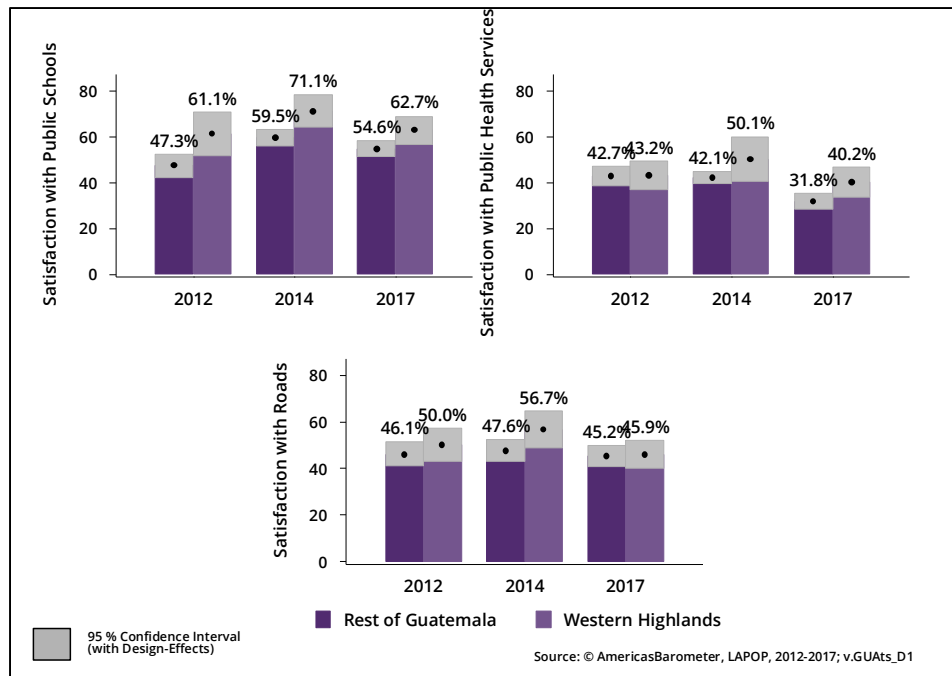


**Figure 8. Evaluation of Municipal Services in the Western Highlands, 2004-2017**

As seen in Figure 9,<sup>13</sup> while two-thirds of residents of the Western Highlands report being satisfied or very satisfied with the quality of public schools in 2017, just over half of Guatemalans in other areas report similar evaluations. Since 2012, the proportion of Guatemalans in the Western Highlands who report satisfaction with schools has remained relatively stable, with a slight improvement in 2014. Among Guatemalans in the rest of the country, satisfaction with public schools has improved significantly in comparison to 2012.

Guatemalans report less satisfaction with the quality of public health services; though residents of the Western Highlands are more satisfied with these services than the rest of Guatemalans. The rate of satisfaction with public health services in the Western Highlands has remained stable between 2012 and 2017 at around two in five who are satisfied or very satisfied. However, across the rest of the country, on average, the 2017 data shows a significant decline in satisfaction with public health services. While two in five report some degree of satisfaction with public health services in 2012 and 2014, only a third of Guatemalans who reside in areas outside of the Western Highlands are satisfied in 2017.

There are no differences in satisfaction with the quality of roads between residents of the Western Highlands and the rest of Guatemala (see Figure 9). Around 45% of Guatemalans, independent of their place of residence, report being satisfied or very satisfied with the condition of the streets, roads, and highways in 2017.

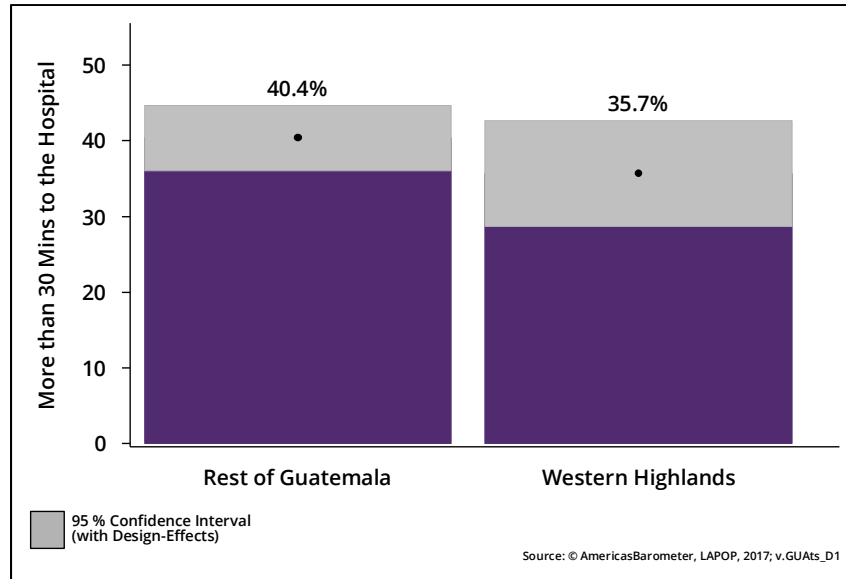


**Figure 9. Evaluation of Public Schools, Health Services, Roads, 2012-2017**

High levels of education and negative personal experiences with petty corruption or crime victimization tend to decrease the level of satisfaction with local services, while positive evaluations of personal or national economic conditions tend to increase satisfaction. In the Western Highlands, specifically, women are more satisfied with local services than men.<sup>14</sup>

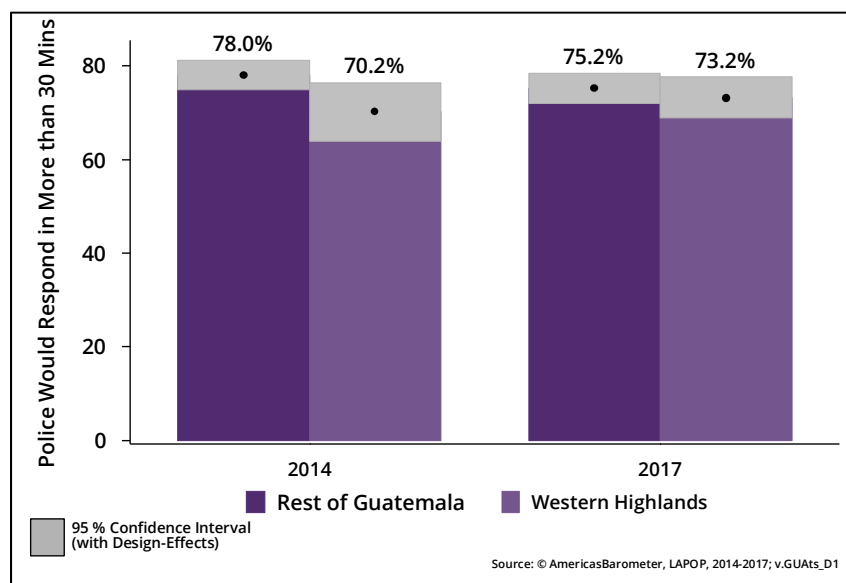
## V. Guatemalans Report Greater State Capacity for Healthcare than Police Response

Approximately two in five Guatemalans, regardless of whether they reside in the Western Highlands or elsewhere in the country, report that it would take them more than 30 minutes to reach the nearest medical center or hospital if they experienced a very serious injury and needed immediate medical attention (see Figure 10).<sup>15</sup> In other words, a majority of Guatemalans have relatively quick access to medical services in emergency situations. Unsurprisingly, urban residents in both the Western Highlands and the rest of Guatemala report faster access to hospitals than rural residents.



**Figure 10. Hospital Access Time, 2017**

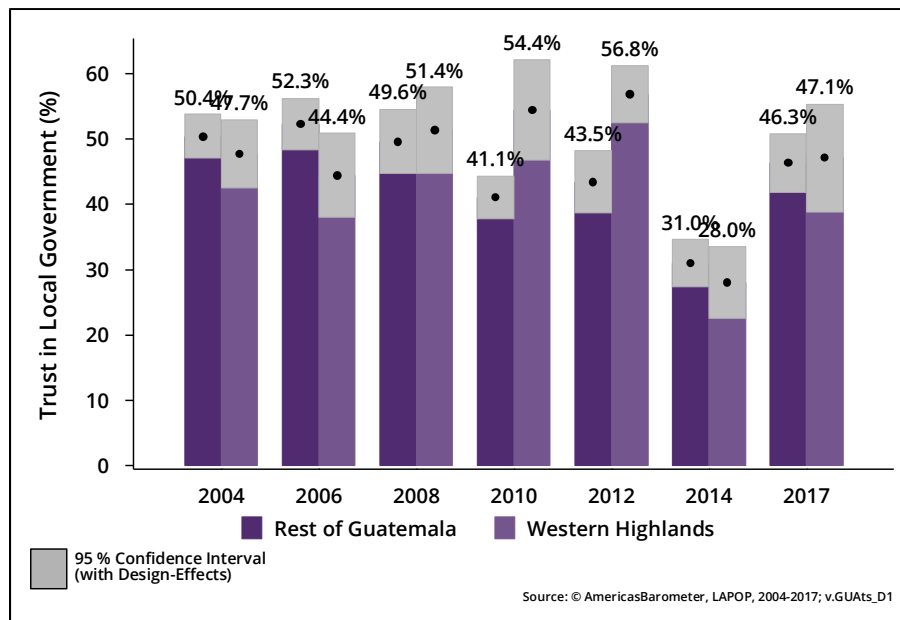
Contrastingly, Guatemalans report slower state capacity for police response. A vast majority of residents in both the Western Highlands and the rest of Guatemala say the police would take more than 30 minutes to respond to a home burglary (see Figure 11).<sup>16</sup> Perceptions of slow police response was greater in areas outside of the Western Highlands in 2014; this gap disappears in 2017 due to a slight decrease in the percentage of residents of areas outside of the Western Highlands who report police response times greater than 30 minutes. On average, one in five Guatemalans, whether residents of the Western Highlands or not, report that the police would take more than three hours to respond or that there are no police in their neighborhood.<sup>17</sup>



**Figure 11. Police Response Time, 2014-2017**

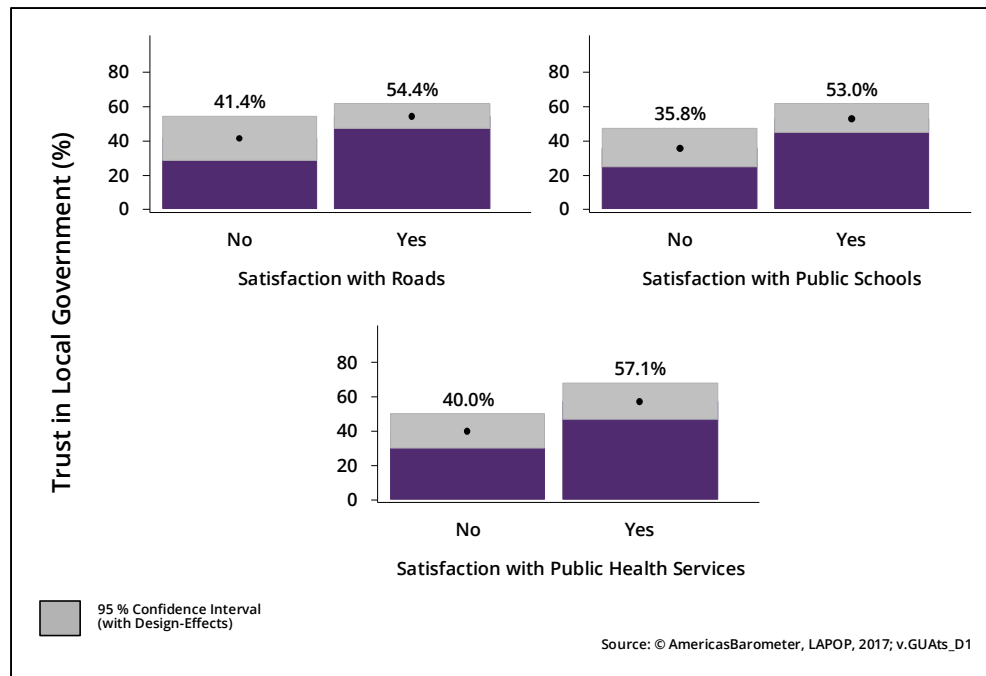
## VI. Satisfaction with Local Services is Key for Trust in Local Government

On average, nearly half of Guatemalans, independent of their place of residence, report trust in their local government in 2017 (see Figure 12).<sup>18</sup> Trust in local government recovered in 2017 after reaching its lowest rates in the AmericasBarometer series in 2014. Results also show that a trust gap between residents of the Western Highlands and the rest of Guatemalans that existed between 2010 and 2012 has now disappeared. Among residents of the Western Highlands, trust declined nearly 10 percentage points in 2017 after reaching a series high in 2012 (56.8%).



**Figure 12. Trust in Local Government, 2004-2017**

In analyses of the AmericasBarometer data, the most important predictor of trust in local government is the perceived quality of local services, even when controlling for key demographic and socioeconomic differences.<sup>19</sup> As seen in Figure 13, Guatemalans in the Western Highlands who express satisfaction with condition of the streets, roads, and highways (54.4%), public schools (53%), and public health services (57.1%) express trust in their local government at higher rates than those who are dissatisfied.<sup>20</sup> The largest gap in trust is observed between those who differ in their evaluations of public schools. There is nearly a 17 percentage point difference in trust in the municipal government between those who are satisfied or very satisfied with the quality of their public schools and those who are dissatisfied or very dissatisfied.

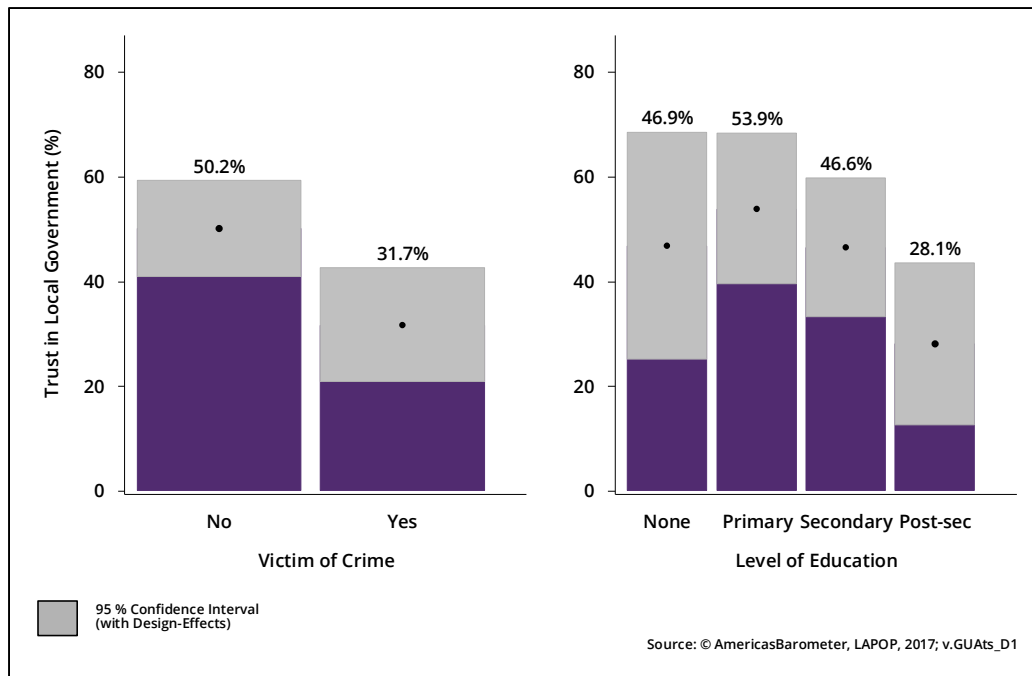


**Figure 13. Trust in Local Government in the Western Highlands by Satisfaction with Local Services, 2017**

Further analysis shows that Guatemalans of the Western Highlands who report having been the victim of a crime in the 12 months prior to the AmericasBarometer survey are significantly less likely to trust their local government.<sup>21</sup> As seen in Figure 14, being a victim of a crime decreases the rate of trust by 20 percentage points in comparison to those who were not victimized (50.2%).

At the same time, Guatemalans of the Western Highlands with post-secondary education are the least confident in their local government.<sup>22</sup> While one-third of these residents report trusting their local government, about half those with a secondary or lower level of education say they share this trust.





**Figure 14. Trust in Local Government in the Western Highlands by Crime Victimization and Education, 2017**

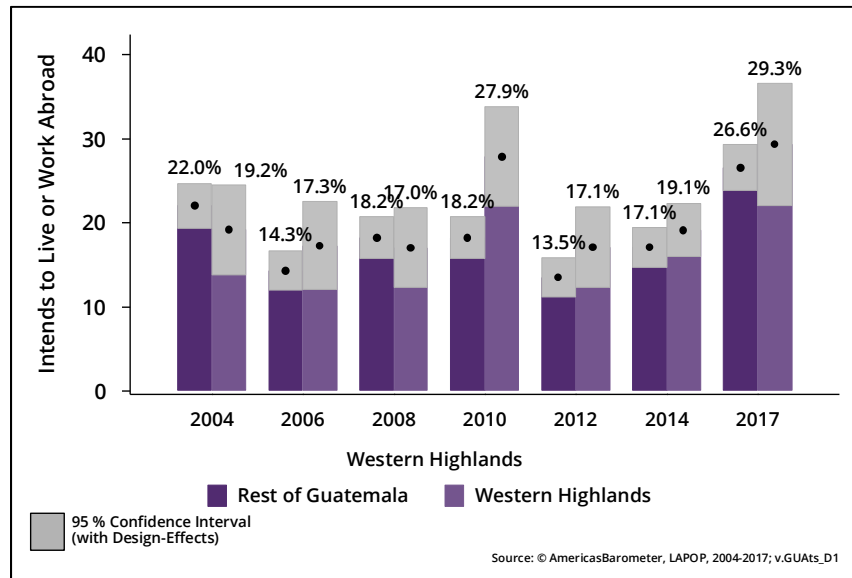
## VII. Conclusions

The findings in this report show that Guatemalans who reside in the Western Highlands are more engaged in their communities than those who live in other parts of the country. Engagement in religious organizations, parents associations, and community improvement groups among Guatemalans who reside in the Western Highlands is greater than their participation in more formal meetings of their municipal government; though these types of local participation are positively linked, and perhaps mutually reinforcing. To that extent, greater engagement with formal institutions of the local government in the Western Highland might be enhanced through the strengthening of community-based groups and the ability of Guatemalans to participate in them.

Guatemalans in the Western Highlands also express growing satisfaction in municipal services, and are more satisfied in public schools and public health services than the rest of Guatemalans. These evaluations are shown to positively predict trust in local government, a key factor for generating legitimacy and support for the national political system. Continued improvements in the quality of local services, such as road infrastructure, public education and healthcare would then foster greater trust and legitimacy local and national political institutions both in the Western Highlands and in the rest of Guatemala.

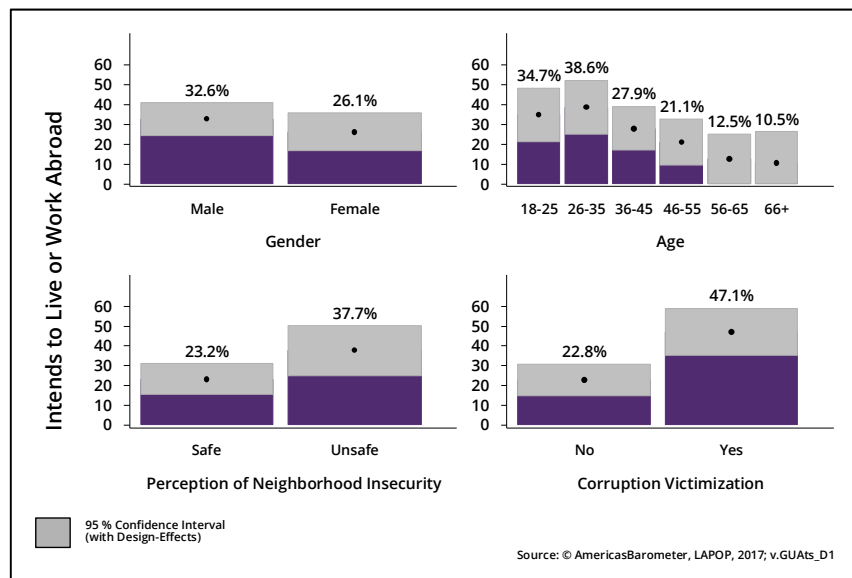
## Residents of the Western Highlands and the Rest of Guatemala Express Intentions to Emigrate at Similar Rates

Intentions to live or work abroad have steadily increased since 2012 in Guatemala, among both residents of the Western Highlands and those who reside in other regions of the country. Slightly over a quarter of Guatemalans express intentions of going to live or work in another country in the three years following the 2017 survey.<sup>23</sup> No differences exist between those who live in the Western Highlands and those in the rest of Guatemala.



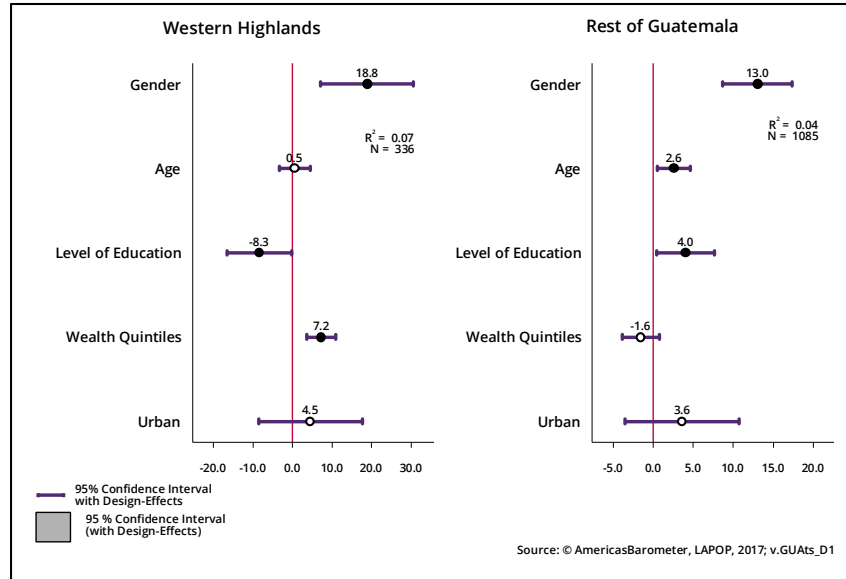
Among residents of the Western Highlands in 2017, the intention to emigrate is more likely among men, young adults between 18 and 35 years of age, those who have been asked for a bribe by a public official, and those who feel unsafe in their neighborhoods (see figure below).<sup>24</sup> While 32.6% of men indicate having intentions to live or work abroad in the next three years, 26.1% of women express the same intentions. Slightly more than a third of residents of the Western Highlands between the ages of 18 and 35 report wanting to emigrate. This rate significantly decreases with age. While 37.5% of those who feel unsafe in their neighborhood intend to emigrate, only 23.2% of those who feel safe also intend to do so. Finally, nearly half of corruption victims report wanting to emigrate in comparison to 22.8% of those who were not asked to pay a bribe.

Men and young adults who live outside of the Western Highlands are also most likely to report the desire to live or work abroad. In contrast to residents of the Western Highlands, Guatemalans who reside in other areas of the country are more likely to intend to emigrate when they have been victims of a crime or receive remittances from abroad.

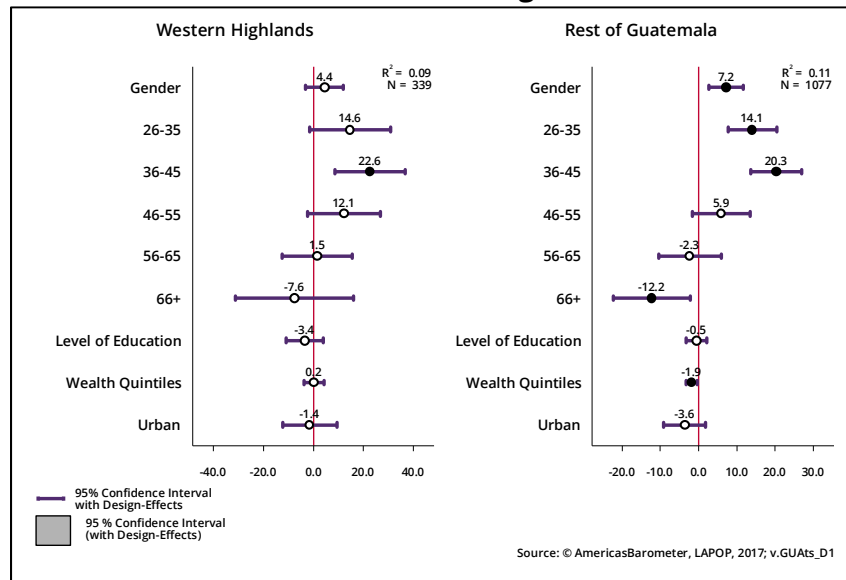


## Appendix

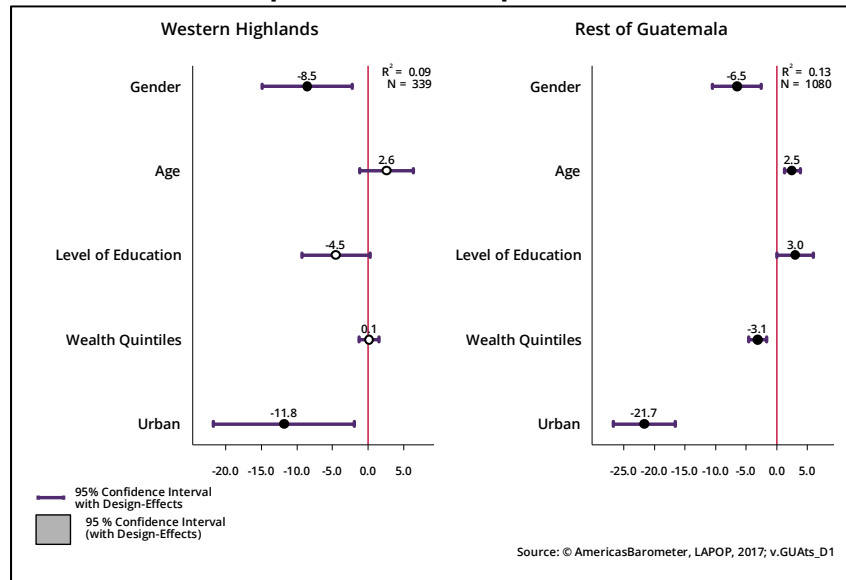
### Appendix 1. Determinants of Attendance at Religious Organization Meetings, 2017



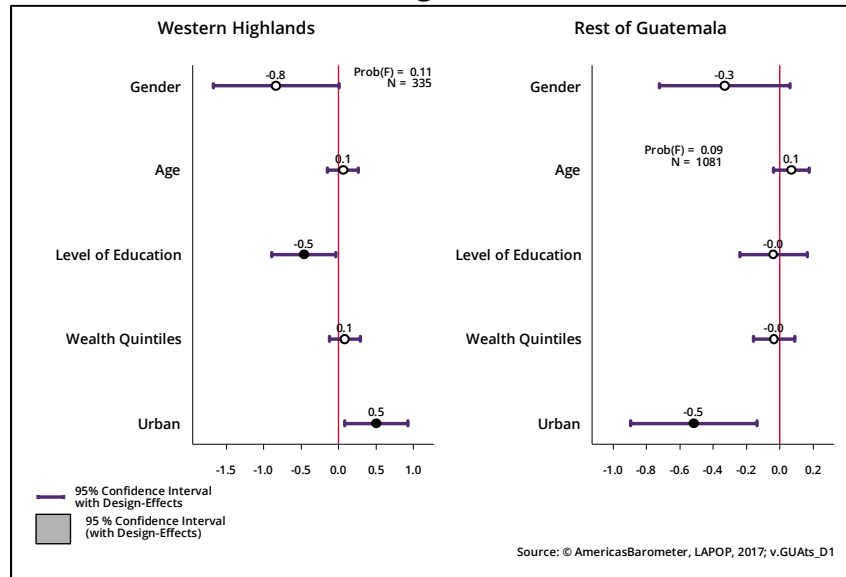
### Appendix 2. Determinants of Attendance at Parent Association Meetings, 2017



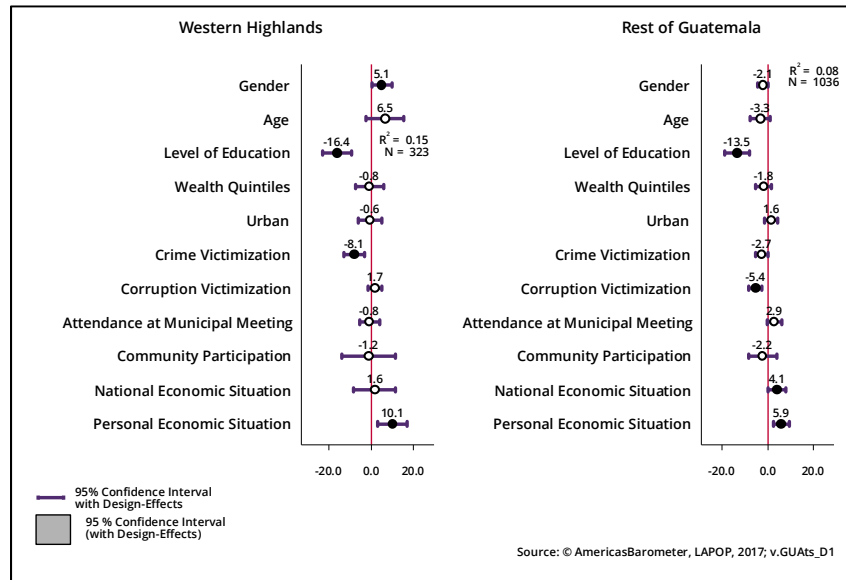
### Appendix 3. Determinants of Attendance at Community Improvement Groups, 2017



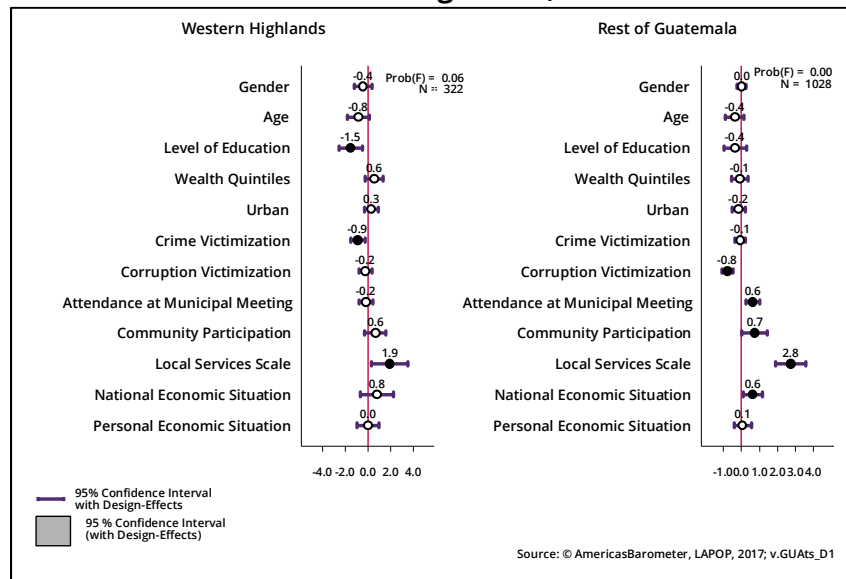
### Appendix 4. Determinants of Attendance at Municipal Meetings, 2017



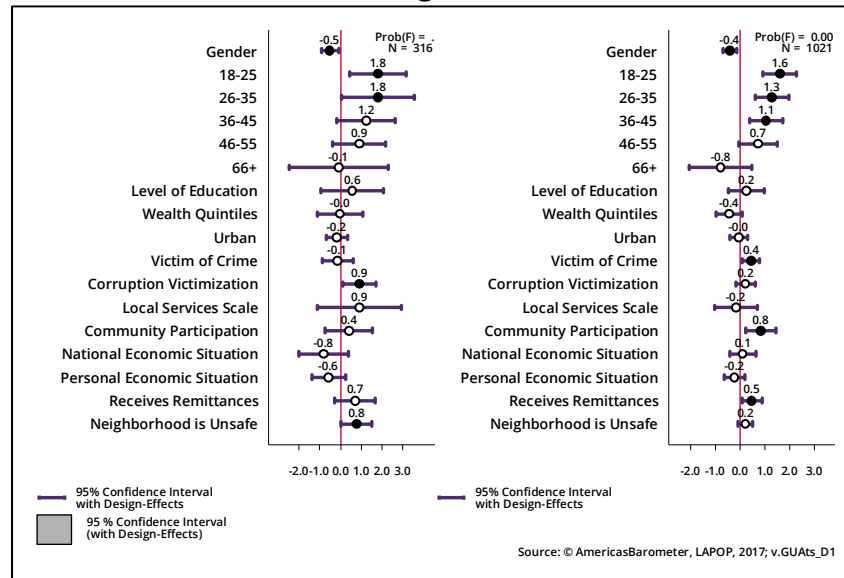
## Appendix 5. Determinants of Satisfaction with Local Services, 2017



## Appendix 6. Determinants of Trust in Local Government in the Western Highlands, 2017



## Appendix 7. Determinants of Intentions to Emigrate in the Western Highlands, 2017



<sup>1</sup> See [http://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf\\_docs/pdax493.pdf](http://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/pdax493.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Given that the departments of San Marcos and Quetzaltenango extend south into the Pacific Lowlands LAPOP's sample considers the municipalities of El Palmar and Coatepeque (for Quetzaltenango) and Nuevo Progreso (for San Marcos) as part of the strata named "South". However, per USAID's request respondents from these municipalities we also included in the subsample for the Western Highlands analyzed in this report.

<sup>3</sup> The national sample includes three additional strata defined as Metropolitan, Northeast, and South. For further technical information on the 2017 AmericasBarometer survey sample for Guatemala please see

[https://www.vanderbilt.edu/lapop/guatemala/Guatemala\\_AmericasBarometer\\_Tech\\_Info\\_2016\\_17\\_W\\_092217.pdf](https://www.vanderbilt.edu/lapop/guatemala/Guatemala_AmericasBarometer_Tech_Info_2016_17_W_092217.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> The "rest of the Guatemala" includes the departments of Chimaltenango, Sacatepéquez and Solalá, which LAPOP also considers as part of the Northwest strata; the departments of El Progreso, Baja Verapaz, Alta Verapaz, Petén, Izabal, and Chiquimula (from the Northeast strata); Escuintla, Santa Rosa, Suchitepéquez, Retalhuleu, Jalapa, and Jutiapa (from the South strata); and the department of Guatemala (from the Metropolitan strata).

<sup>5</sup> Based on question CP6 found on page 3 of the questionnaire. Those who responded "once a week" or "once or twice a month" were coded 100, and those who responded "once or twice a year" or "never" were coded 0.

<sup>6</sup> One in five women in the Western Highlands report attending a meeting of a women's group at least once or twice a month in the year prior to the 2017 survey.

<sup>7</sup> Interestingly, higher wealth is also associated with greater participation in religious organization in the Western Highlands. Results are based on a linear regression model that controls for gender, age, level of education, level of wealth, and place of residence (urban vs. rural). See Appendix 1 for full results.

<sup>8</sup> Results are based on a linear regression model that controls for gender, age, level of education, level of wealth, and place of residence (urban vs. rural). See Appendix 2 for full results.

<sup>9</sup> Guatemalans who reside outside of the Western Highlands and have high levels of wealth report the least frequent level of involvement in their community improvement groups. Results are based on a linear regression model that controls for gender, age, level of education, level of wealth, and place of residence (urban vs. rural). See Appendix 3 for full results.

<sup>10</sup> The p-value for the significant effect of female gender is p.05. The least educated residents in the Western Highlands are more likely to attend meetings of the municipal government. Results are based on a logit regression model that controls for gender, age, level of education, level of wealth, and place of residence (urban vs. rural). See Appendix 4 for full results.

<sup>11</sup> The large size of confidence intervals for the “once a week” categories are due to a low number of respondents.

<sup>12</sup> Based on question SGL1 on page 3 of the questionnaire. Those who responded “good” or “very good” were coded 100, and those who responded “fair”, “bad”, or “very bad” were coded 0.

<sup>13</sup> Based on questions SD2NEW2, SD3NEW2, and SD6NEW2 on page 8 of the questionnaire. Those who responded “satisfied” or “very satisfied” were coded 100, and those who responded “dissatisfied” or “very dissatisfied” were coded 0.

<sup>14</sup> Results are based on a regression model that controls for gender, age, level of education, level of wealth, and place of residence (urban vs. rural), crime victimization, corruption victimization, attendance at municipal meetings, level of community participation, evaluation of the national economic situation, and evaluation of personal economic situation. The dependent variable is an index created from mean values for the measures of satisfaction with roads, public schools, and public health services. See Appendix 5 for full results.

<sup>15</sup> Based on question INFRA3 on page 9 of the questionnaire. Those who responded “Less than 10 minutes” and “Between 10 minutes and 30 minutes” were coded 0, those who responded “More than 30 minutes and up to an hour”, “More than an hour and up to three hours”, “More than three hours” were coded 100.

<sup>16</sup> Based on question INFRA3 on page 9 of the questionnaire. Those who responded “Less than 10 minutes” and “Between 10 minutes and 30 minutes” were coded 0, those who responded “More than 30 minutes and up to an hour”, “More than an hour and up to three hours”, “More than three hours” were coded 100.

<sup>17</sup> Women and rural residents in areas outside of the Western Highlands report slower police response than men and urban residents. These results hold when controlling for other socioeconomic and demographic factors.

<sup>18</sup> Based on question B32 on page 7 of the questionnaire. Results reflect the percentage of those who have trust in the local government, or those who gave responded between 5-7 on the 1-7 scale of trust.

<sup>19</sup> Results are based on a logit model that controls for gender, age, level of education, level of wealth, and place of residence (urban vs. rural), crime victimization, corruption victimization, attendance at municipal meetings, level of community participation, satisfaction with local services, evaluation of the national economic situation, and evaluation of personal economic situation. See Appendix 6 for full results.

<sup>20</sup> Similar results are observed for Guatemalans who reside outside of the Western Highlands.

<sup>21</sup> Similar results are observed for Guatemalans who reside outside of the Western Highlands.

<sup>22</sup> Similar results are observed for Guatemalans who reside outside of the Western Highlands.

<sup>23</sup> Based on question Q14 on page 26 of the questionnaire.

<sup>24</sup> Results are based on a logit model that controls for gender, age, level of education, level of wealth, and place of residence (urban vs. rural), crime victimization, perceptions of neighborhood insecurity, corruption victimization, satisfaction with local services, evaluation of the national economic situation, evaluation of personal economic situation, and the reception of remittances. See Appendix 7 for full results.

# The AmericasBarometer

The AmericasBarometer is a regional survey carried out by the Latin American Public Opinion Project (LAPOP). LAPOP has deep roots in the Latin America and Caribbean region, via public opinion research that dates back over four decades. Its headquarters are at Vanderbilt University, in the United States. The AmericasBarometer is possible due to the activities and support of a consortium of institutions located across the Americas. To carry out each round of the survey, LAPOP partners with local individuals, firms, universities, development organizations, and others in 34 countries in the Western Hemisphere. These efforts have three core purposes: to produce objective, non-partisan, and scientifically sound studies of public opinion; to build capacity and strengthen international relations; and to disseminate important findings regarding citizens' experiences with, assessments of, and commitment to democratic forms of government.

Since 2004, the AmericasBarometer has received generous support from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and Vanderbilt University. Other institutions that have contributed to multiple rounds of the survey project include Ciudadanía, Environics, the Inter-American Development Bank, the Tinker Foundation, and the United Nations Development Programme. The project has also benefited from grants from the U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF), the National Center for Research in Brazil (CNPq), and the Open Society Foundation. Collaborations with university partners who sponsor items on the survey also sustain the project. In this most recent round, those contributors included Dartmouth, Florida International University, the University of Illinois, the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, the Universidad Católica Andrés Bello in Venezuela, and several centers at Vanderbilt University.

The 2016/17 AmericasBarometer was carried out via face-to-face interviews in 27 countries across the Latin America and Caribbean region, and via the internet in Canada and the U.S. All samples are designed to be nationally representative of voting-age adults and electronic devices were used for data entry in all countries. In all, more than 43,000 individuals were interviewed in this latest round of the survey. The complete 2004-2016/17 AmericasBarometer dataset contains responses from over 250,000 individuals across the region. Common core modules, standardized techniques, and rigorous quality control procedures permit valid comparisons across individuals, subgroups, certain subnational areas, countries, supra-regions, and time.

AmericasBarometer data and reports are available for free download from the project website: [www.LapopSurveys.org](http://www.LapopSurveys.org) Datasets from the project can also be accessed via "data repositories" and subscribing institutions at universities across the Americas. Through such open access practices and these collaborations, LAPOP works to contribute to the pursuit of excellence in public opinion research and ongoing discussions over how programs and policies related to democratic governance can improve the quality of life for individuals in the Americas and beyond.

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