



The Democratic Culture of Guatemalans

Technical Information

<i>Country</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Size of Sample</i>	<i>Weighted/Unweighted</i>
Guatemala	1993	1197 plus an additional 200 indigenous respondents	Weighted

This survey was carried out in 1993 and was supported by Development Associates and the University of Pittsburgh, with funding from USAID. The collaborating institution in Guatemala was Asociación de Investigación y Estudios Sociales (ASIES). The survey was a national probability design, with a total N of 1,197. An additional 200 indigenous respondents were added to the survey in order to allow a special focus on that population.

The sample was designed to be representative of the Guatemalan population, a goal that was largely achieved, with one important limitation. The great bulk of the native population speaks one of only four languages. The early 1980 figures show that of the 2.9 million Mayan language speakers, 2.3 million, or 79 percent are concentrated in these four languages: Kiché, 930,000; Mam, 644,000; Kaqchikel, 405,000; and Qeqchi, 361,000. Although the sample attempted to incorporate all monolingual speakers of indigenous languages, it limited itself to the four principal indigenous languages spoken in Guatemala (Kaqchikel, Mam, Qeqchi and Kiché). Versions of the questionnaire were prepared in each of those languages, and interviewers were hired who could deliver the questionnaire in those languages. In an earlier study it was estimated that monolingual speakers of the remaining 20 or so languages in Guatemala probably comprise no more than three percent of the population.

As is typical in virtually all survey samples, Guatemala was stratified into five national regions, and the sample was drawn from each of those regions. Stratification helps ensure an even dispersion of respondents since a purely random sample without stratification could, in theory, end up concentrating most of the interviews in only a very small number of regions. Once stratified by region, however, the sample drew on localities rather than departments as the unit of analysis, and for this reason not all departments were included. Furthermore, in remote regions where sample segments of fewer than ten dwelling units were found, no interviews were conducted since the cost per interview was too great to be justifiable.

It was discovered after the initial sample was designed and drawn in 1993 that those who drew the sample selected more urban districts than justified by the census data. As a result, the sample results are weighted to correct for this error. For continuity purposes the same sample was used in subsequent years.

The full version of the report can be found at “The Democratic Culture of Guatemalans”, written by Mitchell Seligson, Joel Jutkowitz, Dinorah Azpuru and Eduardo Lucas and published by Development Associates and the University of Pittsburgh.

This national survey report analyzes the attitudes of Guatemala citizens towards political violence, civil participation, democratic values and support for civil or military governments.