

Guatemalan Values and the Prospects for Democratic Development Second Report

Technical Information

Country	Year	Size of Sample	Weighted/Unweighted
Guatemala	1995	1198 plus an additional 200 indigenous	Weighted

This survey was carried out in 1995 as a follow up of a similar study carried out in 1993. It was conducted by Development Associates and the University of Pittsburgh, in collaboration with the Guatemalan collaborating institution, the Asociación de Investigación y Estudios Sociales (ASIES).

The survey was a national probability design, with a total N of 1,198. The questionnaire was written in Spanish and in four Mayan languages spoken by the majority of Guatemala's indigenous population. An additional 200 indigenous respondents were added to the survey in order to allow a special focus on that population.

The 1995 sample was similar to the one used for the previous study in 1993. It represents 18 of the 22 departments in Guatemala and it includes several items aimed at discovering the reason why electoral turn in Guatemala is low. The full version of the report can be found at "The Democratic Culture of Guatemalans", written by Mitchell Seligson, Malcom Young, Joel Jutkowitz, Dinorah Azpuru and Eduardo Lucas and published by ASIES, Development Associates and the University of Pittsburgh.

This national 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: K'iche', 930,000; Mam, 644,000; Kaqchikel, 405,000; and Q'eqchi', 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. Additionally, earlier versions of the data had a labeling error for variables p65, p66, and p67. The agree/disagree labels were incorrectly reversed. For these variables, a coding of 1 corresponds to "disagree" and a coding of 2 to "agree".

Published in 1996, this national survey report analyzes the attitudes of Guatemala's citizens towards political violence, civil participation, democratic values and support for civil or military governments.