The study was conducted in Panama City (the capital and largest city in the country). Although the sample is not representative of the national population, it is representative of the Metropolitan Panama City area. Total number of observations was 500, 52% female and 48% male. The sample was divided into 103 segments, in which small numbers of interviews, averaging about 5 each, were conducted.

The fieldwork effort was led by Orlando J. Pérez, now of Central Michigan University.

Census mapping was used as the basis for drawing the segments. The city was stratified into 10 major segments, corresponding to corregimientos (the smallest political and administrative level), of about 50 interviews each.

This survey was carried out as part of a larger project conducted by LAPOP in 1990-1991 covering a total of five countries in the Central American region: Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua and Costa Rica. Samples were designed similarly for all the countries in the study.

Within the household, individuals were selected for the interview using the next birthday selection system.

As in virtually all LAPOP surveys, this study was conducted using face-to-face interviews in the homes of respondents. No phone interviews were used.

Results were used in different articles and studies, many of which are listed on the LAPOP web site, www.lapopsurveys.org.