

LAPOP 1991 Panama Mass Study

Technical Information

Countries	Year	Sample Size	Weighted/Unweighted
Panama	1991	National: 500	Unweighted

This survey was carried out as part of the University of Pittsburgh Central American Public Opinion Project (CAPOP). The CAPOP was conceived in 1989, and carried out between the years 1990 and 1992. It was designed to tap the opinion of Central Americans on a host of topics, being attitudes towards Central American integration the main one. As a whole, the CAPOP's funding sources include the Andrew Mellon Foundation, the Tinker Foundation, the Howard Heinz Endowment, the University of Pittsburgh Central Research Small Grant Fund, and the *Instituto de Estudios Latinoamericanos* (IDELA). The CAPOP collected attitudinal survey data on the opinions of over 4,000 Central Americans in the metropolitan areas of the six Spanish-speaking Republics of the region. CAPOP was a precursor of LAPOP when the countries were confined to Central America.

Orlando J. Pérez coordinated this mass study. The *Centro de Estudios Latinoamericanos Justo Arosemena* (CELA) collaborated with this effort. Country mass samples for the six-nation study were of area probability design. In each country, the most recent population census data was used. The design called for samples of at least 500 with a maximum of 1,000 respondents from each country. The lower boundary of 500 was established so as to provide a sufficient number of cases from each country to allow for reliable statistical analysis.

This was not a national sample, but a stratified and clustered multi-stage one, designed to represent the metropolitan Panama City, seat of the national government and the largest city in the country. Total number of observations was 500, 52% female and 48% male. 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. The sample was then divided into 103 segments, in which small numbers of interviews, averaging about 5 each, were conducted.

This sample was gathered between July and August 1991. 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. Category labels for some variables remain undefined. This mass survey was also accompanied by an elite survey during this period.

A view of attitudes toward regional integration, that includes the Panamanian data, can be found

in *Attitudes of the Central American Mass Public toward Economic and Political Integration*, co-authored by Mitchell A. Seligson. The Graduate School of International Studies of the University of Miami's Institute of Iberian Studies published this report in 1992. Further analysis based on this sample can be found in the following peer-reviewed publications:

- Muller, Edward N. and Mitchell A. Seligson. 1994. "Civic Culture and Democracy: The Question of Causal Relationships," *The American Political Science Review*, 88(3)
- Pérez, Orlando J. 1999. "Public Opinion and the Future of U.S.-Panama Relations," *Journal of Interamerican Studies and World Affairs*, 41(3)
- Seligson, Mitchell A.; and John A. Booth. 1995. *Elections and Democracy in Central America*. Charlotte, NC: University of North Carolina Press
- Seligson, Mitchell A. 2000. "Toward A Model of Democratic Stability: Political Culture in Central America," *Estudios interdisciplinarios de América Latina y el Caribe*, 11(2) July-December
- Seligson, Mitchell A. 2002. "The Renaissance of Political Culture or the Renaissance of the Ecological Fallacy," *Comparative Politics*, 34(3)

The complete questionnaire, and report, along these above-listed and other publications, can be found at www.vanderbilt.edu/lapop/panama.php.

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