

August, 2022 | Ehab Alhosaini

Spotlight on Corruption Victimization in Latin America and the Caribbean

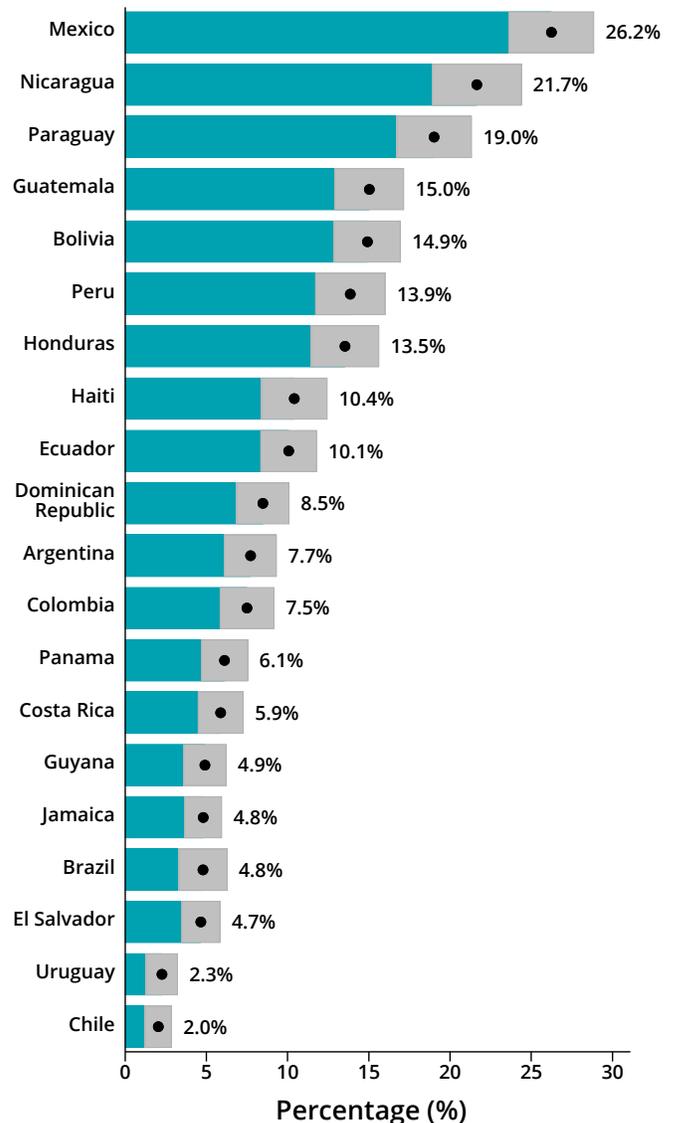
The percentage of individuals asked to pay a bribe in the Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) region increased in 2021

There is notable variation in corruption victimization across the LAC region

Since 2004, LAPOP's AmericasBarometer has measured corruption victimization in the LAC region by asking the following question: **EXC6: In the last twelve months, did any government employee ask you for a bribe?** In the 2021 survey round, this question was included in surveys in 20 LAC countries. Respondents stated whether they were a victim of corruption in the past twelve months by answering "yes" or "no." Here we report on the percentage of people that responded affirmatively.

In the majority of countries, less than one-tenth of adults were asked for a bribe by a government employee in the past year. However, there is great variation by country. Countries with the highest rates of corruption victimization include Mexico (26.2%) and Nicaragua (21.7%), while countries with the lowest rates of corruption victimization include Uruguay (2.3%) and Chile (2.0%).

Corruption Victimization, 2021



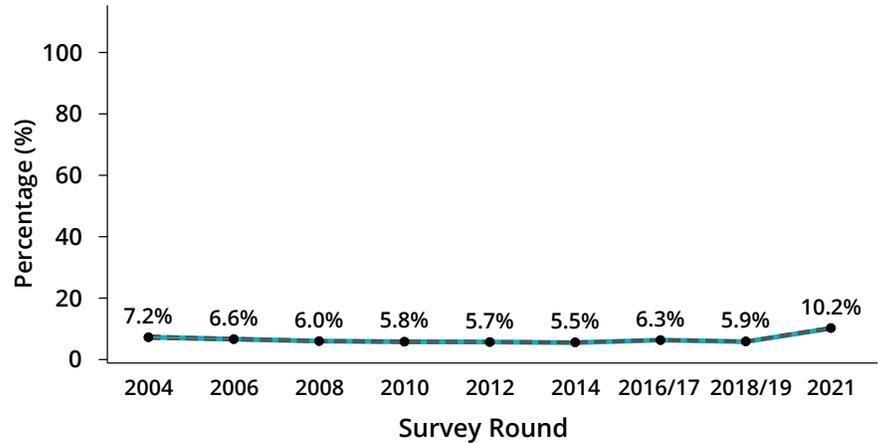
95% Confidence Interval (with Design-Effects)

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2021; GM_20211108

In 2021, corruption victimization by a government employee increased

Corruption victimization showed little fluctuation between the 2004 and 2018/2019 survey rounds, remaining relatively stable around six percent. However, reported victimization experienced an increase of 4.3 percentage points between the 2018/19 and 2021 survey rounds, reaching 10.2% – the highest value ever observed in the AmericasBarometer.¹

Corruption Victimization in the LAC Region, 2004-2021



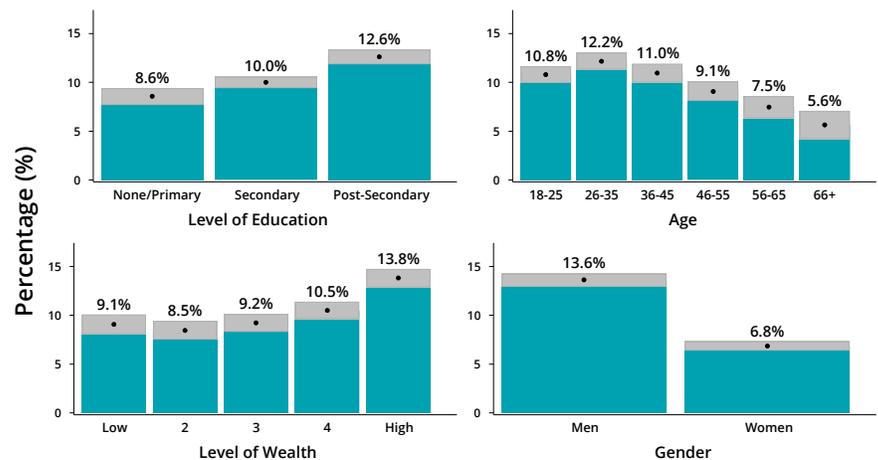
— 95 % Confidence Interval (with Design-Effects)

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2004-2021; GM_20111108

Corruption victimization is highest among those with at least some post-secondary education, younger individuals, those with higher levels of wealth, and men

What characteristics of individuals predict corruption victimization in the LAC region? Those with at least some post-secondary education (12.6%) report higher corruption victimization than those with lower education levels. Those age 26-35 report the highest corruption victimization (12.2%) compared to all other age groups. Individuals with the highest levels of wealth are most likely to report being victims of corruption compared to those with lower levels of wealth. Men (13.6%) are more likely to be victims of corruption than women (6.8%).^{2,3}

Corruption Victimization in the LAC Region, 2021



■ 95% Confidence Interval (with Design-Effects)

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2021; GM_20211108

Ehab Alhosaini is a senior at Vanderbilt University majoring in Public Policy and Economics. After graduation, he hopes to pursue a career combining policymaking and law.

Series Editors: Sebastián C. Larrea, Vanderbilt University
 Mariana Rodríguez, Vanderbilt University
 Valerie Schweizer, Vanderbilt University
 Laura Sellers, Vanderbilt University



Interested in knowing more about the LAPOP Lab's AmericasBarometer study? Consult the data and our reports at www.vanderbilt.edu/lapop.

As a charter member of the American Association for Public Opinion Research (AAPOR) Transparency Initiative, LAPOP Lab is committed to routine disclosure of our data collection and reporting processes. More information about the AmericasBarometer sample designs can be found at www.vanderbilt.edu/lapop/core-surveys.php

The contents of this Spotlight Report are the sole responsibility of the authors and LAPOP and do not necessarily reflect the views of any supporting organization. LAPOP's AmericasBarometer surveys are supported predominantly by USAID and Vanderbilt University. The 2021 round also had support from IADB, US National Science Foundation (NSF), and academic partners and researchers across the Americas.

¹ The number of countries included in the AmericasBarometer has increased since the initial rounds. Our conclusions in over-time analyses do not change if we focus only on the countries surveyed consistently since 2004, or if we focus on the countries included in the 2021 round.

² In order to avoid excluding non-binary respondents from the analysis, we recode the gender variable to include non-binary respondents with women. In this survey in the LAC region, 0.28% of respondents identified as a gender other than man or woman.

³ The variable for place of residence (ur1new) has been omitted for this round of Spotlight Reports due to a change in survey mode for the 2021 round of the AmericasBarometer.