

September, 2022 | Alyssa Dunsizer

Spotlight on Tolerance for Executive Coups in Latin America and the Caribbean

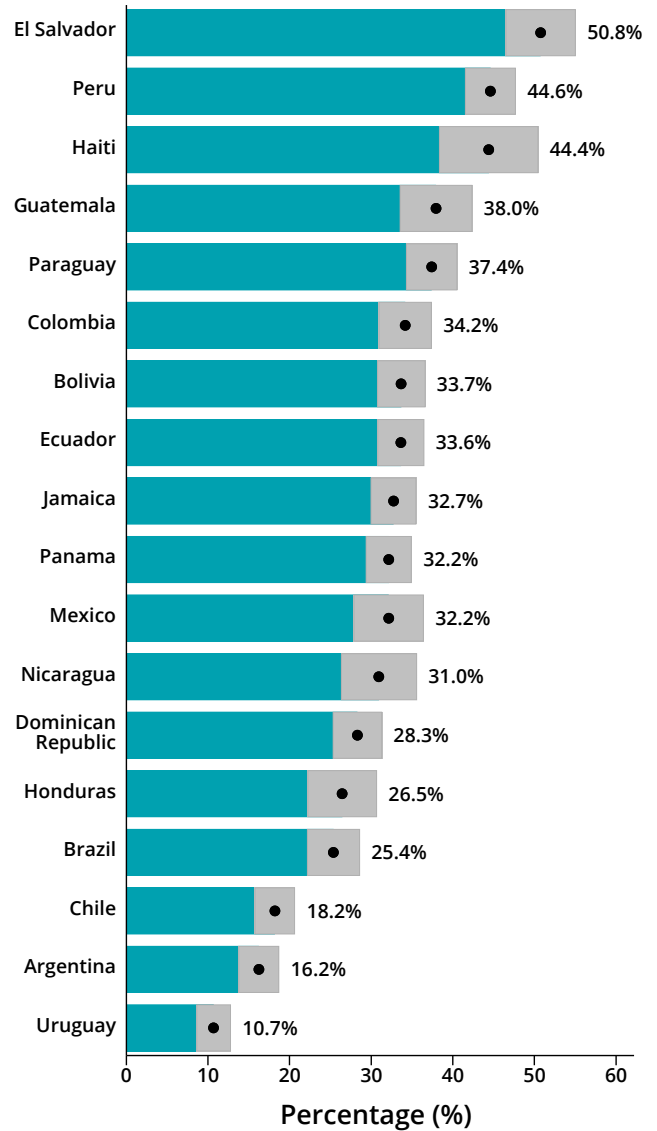
Tolerance for executive coups in the Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) region is steadily rising, though individuals who tolerate a coup remain in the minority

In all but one LAC country, less than half of individuals would justify an executive coup

Since 2010, LAPOP's AmericasBarometer has measured tolerance for executive coups in the LAC region by asking the following question: **JC15A. Do you believe that when a country is facing very difficult times it is justifiable for the president of the country to close the Congress/Parliament and govern without Congress/Parliament?** In the 2021 survey round, this question was included in surveys in 18 LAC countries. Respondents answered either "yes, it is justified" or "no, it is not justified" to the question. Here we report on the percentage of people that responded affirmatively.

In almost every country in the LAC region, less than half of individuals would tolerate an executive coup when their country is facing very difficult times. Uruguay has the lowest percentage of those that would justify an executive coup (10.7%). El Salvador has the highest percentage, and it is the only country where a slight majority (50.8%) would tolerate an executive coup.

Tolerance for Executive Coups, 2021



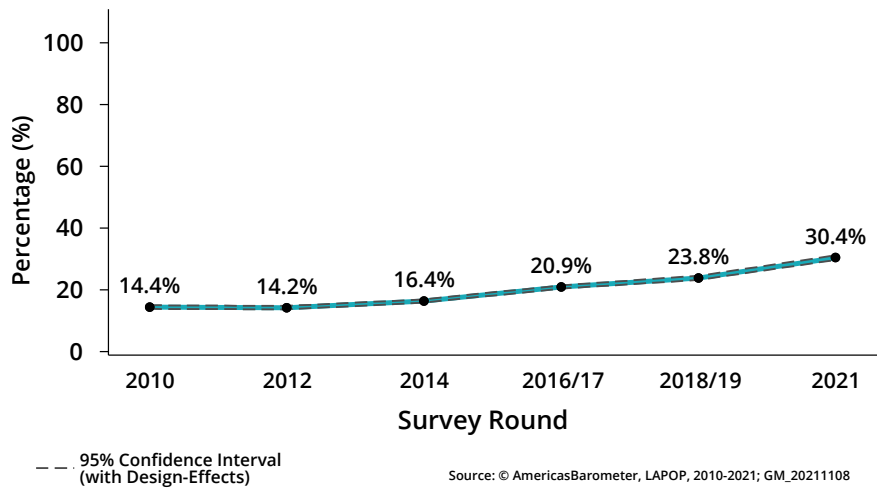
95% Confidence Interval (with Design-Effects)

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2021; GM_20211108

Tolerance for executive coups in the LAC region continues to rise, reaching its highest point in 2021

Since 2012, tolerance for executive coups in the LAC region has risen steadily. The increase between 2018/19 (23.8%) and 2021 (30.4%) is the largest difference recorded in the series, rising by 6.6 percentage points and elevating tolerance of executive coups to its highest level since the survey question debuted in 2010.¹

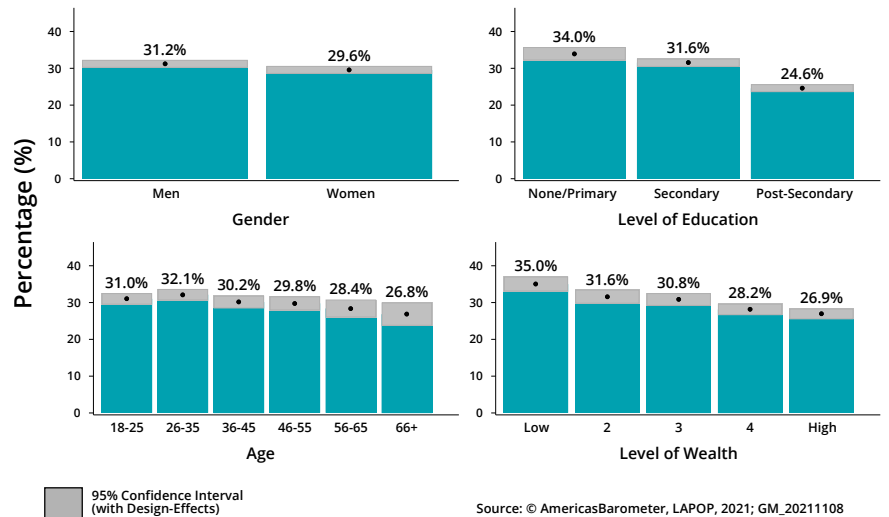
Tolerance for Executive Coups in the LAC Region, 2010-2021



Tolerance for executive coups is highest among men, those with lower levels of education, younger individuals, and those with lower levels of wealth

What characteristics of individuals predict tolerance for executive coups in the LAC region? On average, men (31.2%) report that they would justify a coup more often than women (29.6%).² Individuals with either no education or at least some primary level education (34.0%) would tolerate a coup at a higher rate than those with higher education. Younger individuals are more likely to justify an executive coup than older individuals. Those with the lowest level of wealth (35.0%) demonstrate the highest tolerance for an executive coup and those in the highest wealth category (26.9%) demonstrate the lowest tolerance.³

Tolerance for Executive Coups in the LAC Region, 2021



Alyssa Dunsizer graduated from Vanderbilt University in May 2022 majoring in Public Policy and Spanish. After graduation, she hopes to pursue a career in education policy as an advocate for Hispanic and Latinx communities.

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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 2010, 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.



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

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