

July, 2022 | Alyssa Dunsizer

# Spotlight on Satisfaction with Democracy in Latin America and the Caribbean

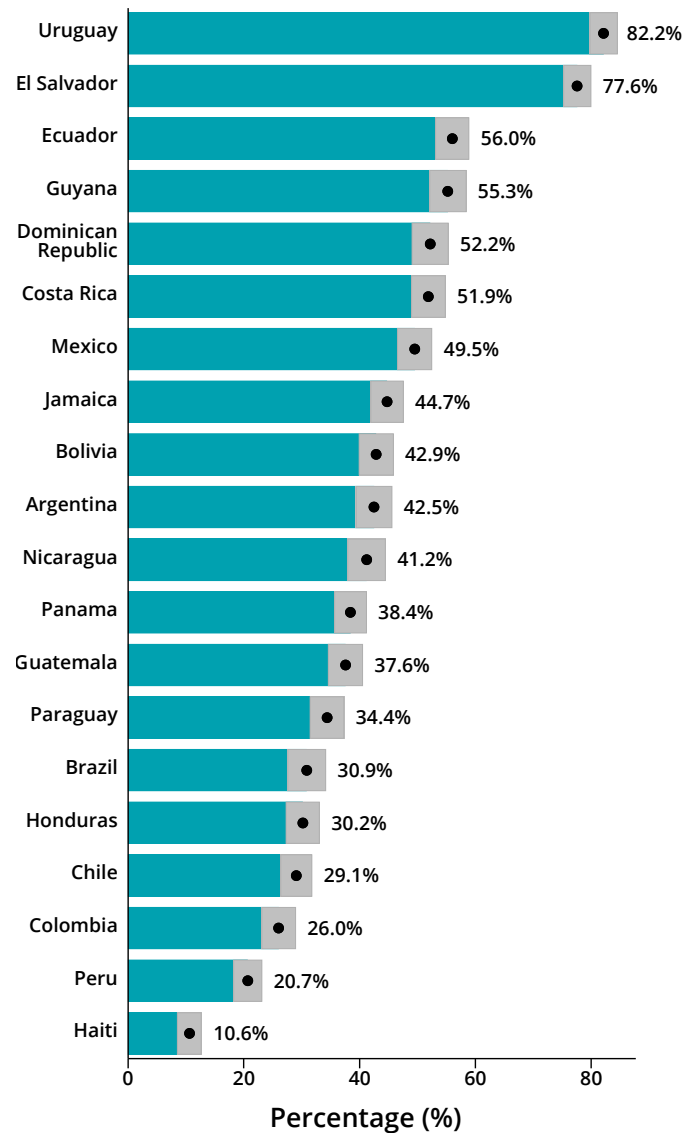
Satisfaction with democracy in the Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) region recovered slightly in 2021

Satisfaction with democracy varies greatly throughout the LAC region, though less than half are satisfied with democracy in most countries

Since 2004, LAPOP's AmericasBarometer has measured satisfaction with democracy in the LAC region by asking the following question: **PN4. In general, would you say that you are very satisfied, satisfied, dissatisfied, or very dissatisfied with the way democracy works in (country)?** In the 2021 survey round, this question was included in surveys in 20 LAC countries. Here we code responses into a dichotomous variable, which allows us to estimate the percentage of people in the country that are satisfied with democracy. Specifically, responses were recoded to indicate satisfaction with democracy by combining responses "very satisfied" and "satisfied" into one category, while placing the remaining responses into a baseline category.

Less than half of respondents are satisfied with democracy in most LAC countries, though satisfaction varies greatly across the region. Uruguay and El Salvador report the highest satisfaction with democracy (82.2% and 77.6%, respectively), while Haiti demonstrates the lowest level of satisfaction (10.6%).

### Satisfaction with Democracy, 2021



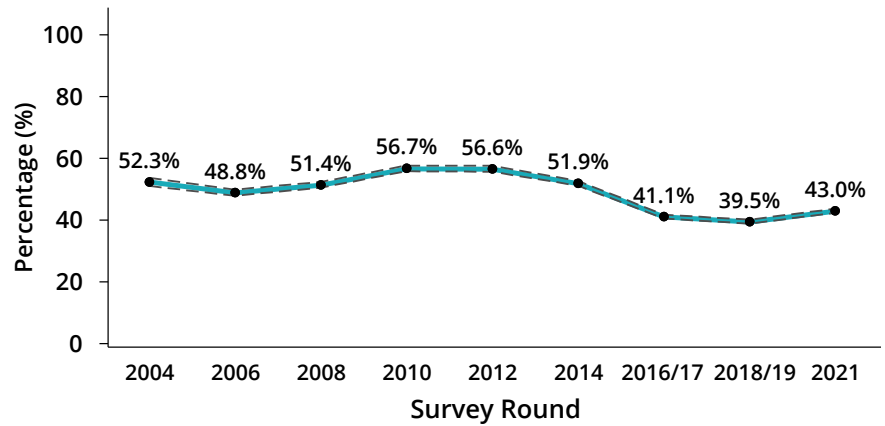
95% Confidence Interval (with Design-Effects)

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2021; GM\_20211108

## In 2021, satisfaction with democracy in the LAC region recovered slightly

Satisfaction with democracy in the LAC region reached its peak between 2010 and 2012 when a majority indicated that they were satisfied with democracy. Beginning in 2014, this satisfaction faced substantial decline, reaching a record-low level in the 2018/19 survey round. In 2021, satisfaction began to recover, increasing by 3.5 percentage points to 43.0%.<sup>1</sup>

### Satisfaction with Democracy in the LAC Region, 2004-2021



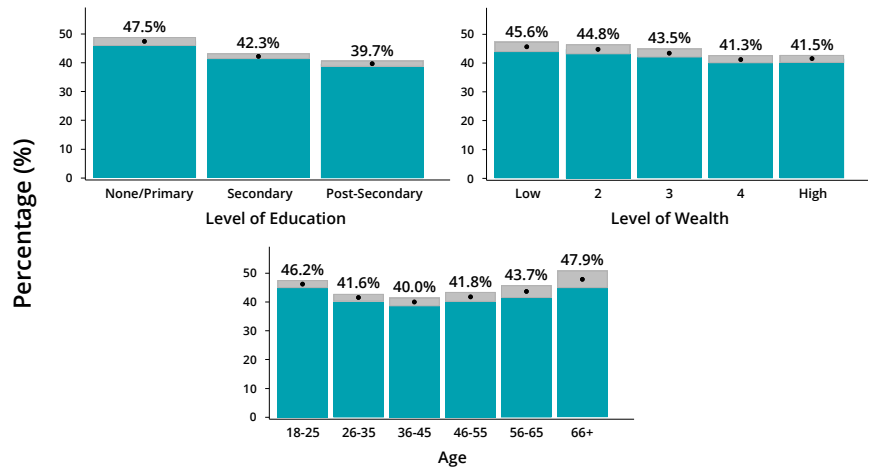
--- 95% Confidence Interval (with Design-Effects)

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2004-2021; GM\_20211108

## Satisfaction with democracy is higher among individuals with lower levels of education, lower levels of wealth, and the oldest and youngest respondents

What characteristics of individuals predict satisfaction with democracy in the LAC region? On average, satisfaction is highest among those with no education or at least some primary-level education (47.5%) and lowest for those with at least some post-secondary education (39.7%). Individuals in the two lowest wealth categories are more likely to report satisfaction than those in the two wealthiest groups. Older individuals age 56-65 and 66+ (43.7% and 47.9%, respectively) are more likely to report satisfaction with democracy, as well as the youngest age group (46.2%). Gender is not a significant predictor of satisfaction with democracy.<sup>2</sup>

### Satisfaction with Democracy in the LAC Region, 2021



■ 95% Confidence Interval (with Design-Effects)

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2021; GM\_20211108

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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<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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](http://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](http://www.vanderbilt.edu/lapop/core-surveys.php)

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