

August, 2022 | Alyssa Dunsizer

Spotlight on Crime Victimization in Latin America and the Caribbean

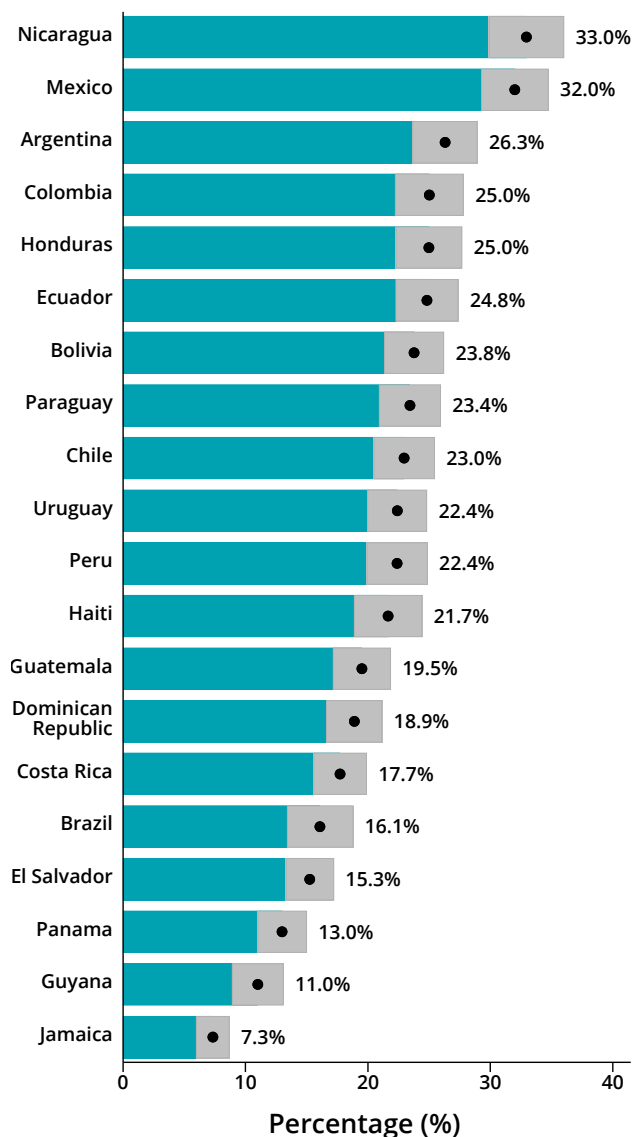
While it remains common for individuals in the Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) region to report being the victim of a crime, reported victimization is now decreasing

In most of the LAC countries surveyed, at least one in five respondents report being a victim of a crime in the past 12 months

Since 2010, LAPOP's AmericasBarometer has measured crime victimization in the LAC region by asking the following question: **VIC1EXT. Now, changing the subject, have you been a victim of any type of crime in the past 12 months?** That is, have you been a victim of robbery, burglary, assault, fraud, blackmail, extortion, violent threats, or any other type of crime in the past 12 months? In the 2021 survey round, this question was included in surveys in 20 LAC countries. Respondents answered "yes" or "no" to the question. Here we report on the percentage of people that responded affirmatively.

In 12 out of 20 countries, at least one in five respondents report being the victim of a crime in the past 12 months. Individuals from Nicaragua and Mexico indicate the highest rates of crime victimization (33.0% and 32.0%, respectively), while Jamaica has the lowest level of vicimization (7.3%).

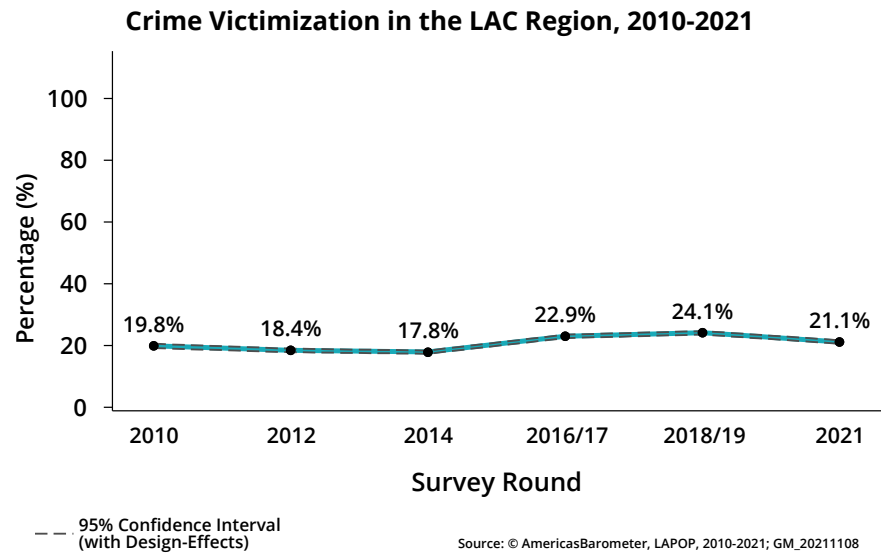
Crime Victimization, 2021



95% Confidence Interval (with Design-Effects)

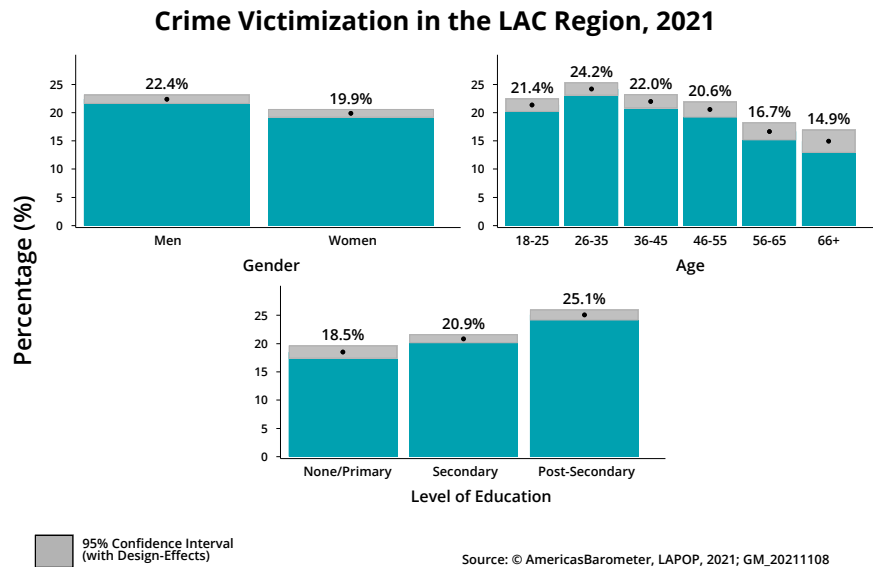
Crime victimization in the LAC region experienced a slight decline in 2021

Since the survey question debuted in 2010, the regional average of crime victimization in the LAC region reached its lowest level in 2014 (17.8%). Reported levels of victimization then began to rise until a peak in the 2018/19 survey round (24.1%). Crime victimization decreased by 3 percentage points in 2021 to 21.1%.



Crime victimization is highest among men, younger individuals, and those with more education

What characteristics of individuals predict crime victimization in the LAC region? On average, men (22.4%) report being a victim of a crime more often than women (19.9%).¹ Younger individuals, especially those age 26-35 (24.2%), are more likely to be victims of a crime than older individuals. Those with at least some post-secondary education (25.1%) are most likely to be victimized, while those with no education or at least some primary-level education (18.5%) are least likely to be victimized. Wealth is not a significant predictor of crime victimization.²



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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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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¹ 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.

² 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.