

December 2020 | Claire Q. Evans

# Spotlight on Corruption Victimization in Latin America and the Caribbean

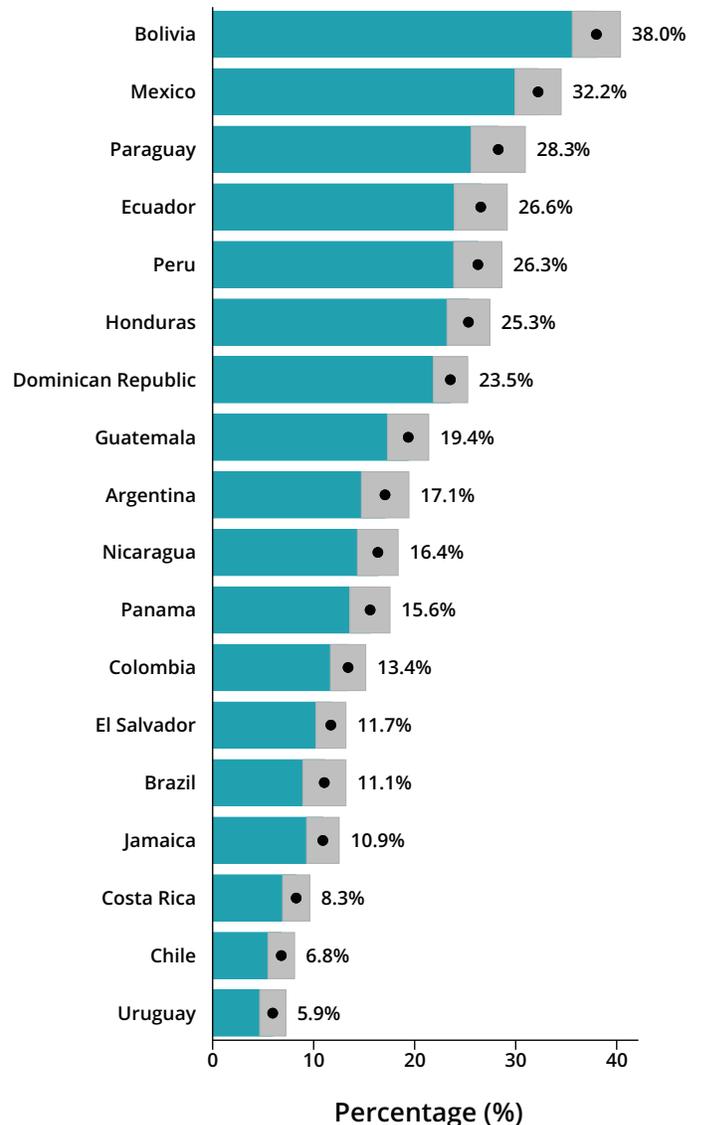
*People in the Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) region are commonly asked to pay a bribe, though corruption victimization rates have remained relatively stable*

## On average across the LAC region, one in five was asked for a bribe in the 12 months prior to the 2018/19 survey

Since 2004, LAPOP’s AmericasBarometer has measured corruption victimization via an index of individuals’ experience with being asked for a bribe in a variety of institutions. If a person reports that, in the last 12 months, they were asked for a bribe by a police officer, government employee, someone at work, someone in the court system, a public health service provider, and/or by someone at a school - then they are categorized as being the victim of corruption.<sup>1</sup>

In the 2018/19 round, this index of corruption victimization was created for 18 LAC countries. The country with the highest level of corruption victimization in the latest round of the AmericasBarometer is Bolivia, with nearly two in five individuals (38.0%) reporting that they have been asked for one or more bribes in the previous 12 months. Ranking second, with approximately one in three people reporting corruption experience, is Mexico. Less than 10% of people in Costa Rica, Chile, and Uruguay were asked for a bribe in the 12 months prior to the 2018/19 survey.

Corruption Victimization, 2018/19



95% Confidence Interval (with Design-Effects)

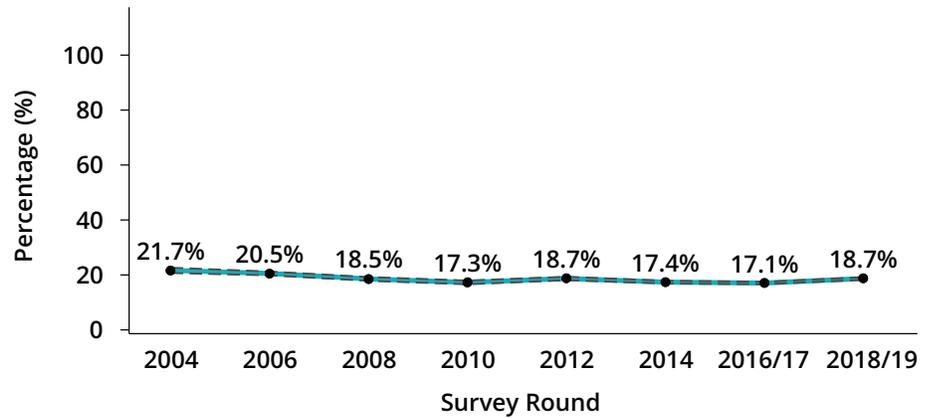
Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2018/19; GM v1.0

<sup>1</sup> The LAPOP AmericasBarometer survey items that are used to make this overall corruption victimization variable are: EXC2, EXC6, EXC11, EXC13, EXC14, EXC15, and EXC16.

## The regional average for corruption victimization has remained relatively stable

The average rate of corruption victimization in the LAC region declined steadily between 2004 and 2010 (21.7% to 17.3%). Since then, the region's average rate of corruption victimization has remained at about 18%.

### Corruption Victimization in the LAC Region, 2004–2018/19



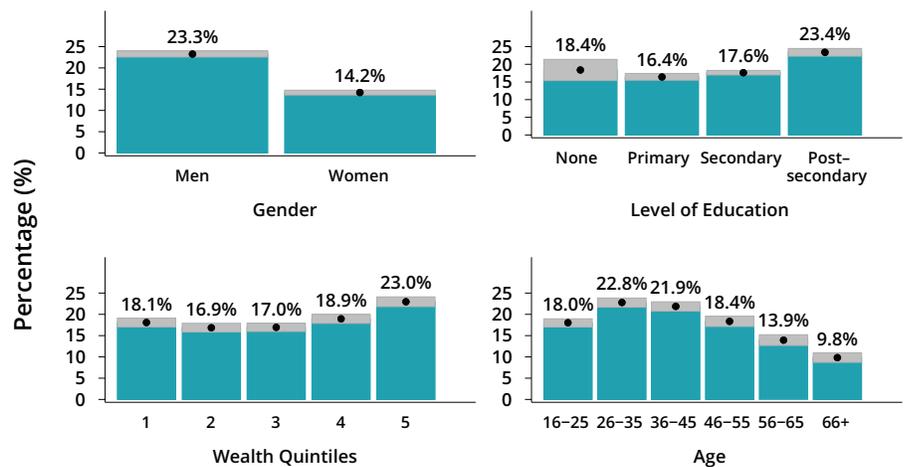
— 95% Confidence Interval (with Design-Effects)

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2004–2018/19; GM1.0

## Corruption victimization is highest among those who are men, educated, wealthy, and between the ages of 26-45

Who is more likely to be asked for a bribe? On average, men are about nine percentage points more likely to be asked for a bribe than women. Those with a post-secondary education are more likely than those with lower education levels to be asked for a bribe. Similarly, wealthier individuals report higher corruption victimization rates than those in lower wealth quintiles. Lastly, those who are aged 26-45 are more likely to experience corruption than those 16 to 25 or younger and 46 or older.

### Corruption Victimization in the LAC Region, 2018/19



■ 95% Confidence Interval (with Design-Effects)

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2018/19; GM1.0



**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)

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As a charter member of the American Association for Public Opinion Research (AAPOR) Transparency Initiative, the 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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