In most LAC countries, less than one-half of respondents report high levels of trust in their country’s elections.

Since 2012, LAPOP’s AmericasBarometer has measured trust in elections in the LAC region with the following question: **B47A: To what extent do you trust elections in this country?** In the 2021 survey round, this question was included in surveys in 20 LAC countries. Respondents indicated their opinion using a 1 to 7 scale, where 1 means “not at all” and 7 means “a lot.” Here we recode responses into a dichotomous variable, which allows us to estimate the percentage of people in each country that have high trust in elections. Specifically, responses were recoded to indicate trust in elections by combining responses “5” through “7” into one category, while placing the remaining responses (“1” through “4”) into a baseline category.

The country with the highest level of trust in elections is Uruguay (80.9%), while individuals in Colombia trust elections the least (22.3%). In the majority of countries, less than half have high levels of trust in their country’s elections.
In the LAC region, trust in elections is highest among older individuals and individuals with either the lowest levels or highest levels of education

What characteristics of individuals predict trust in elections in the LAC region? On average, older individuals have greater trust in their country's elections than younger individuals. Likewise, those with no education or at least some primary education (44.0%), as well as individuals with at least some post-secondary education (42.2%), are more likely to have high trust in elections than individuals with at least some secondary education (40.4%).

Gender and wealth were not statistically significant predictors of trust in elections.

Trust in Elections in the LAC Region, 2012-2021

Across the LAC region, trust in elections dropped from 2012 to 2014, but remained relatively stable from 2014 to 2018/2019. Trust in elections then increased by 3.8 percentage points in the 2021 round. Now, just over two-fifths (41.8%) of respondents have high trust in their country's elections.

Just over two-fifths of respondents in the LAC region have trust in their country's elections, an increase of 3.8 percentage points from 2018/2019.

In the LAC region, trust in elections is highest among older individuals and individuals with either the lowest levels or highest levels of education.

Gender and wealth were not statistically significant predictors of trust in elections.¹

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¹ 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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