

July, 2022 | Mark Grujic

Spotlight on Support for Democracy in Latin America and the Caribbean

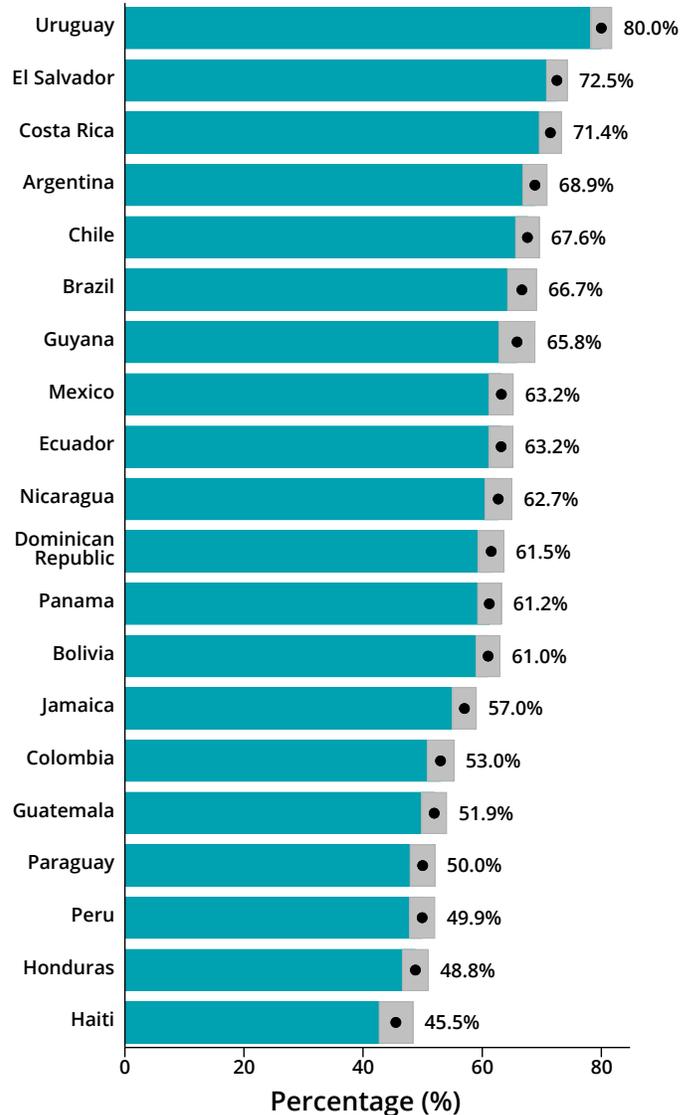
Support for democracy in the Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) region has increased since 2018/2019

In most LAC countries, a majority of respondents support democracy

Since 2004, LAPOP's AmericasBarometer has measured support for democracy in the LAC region with the following question: **ING4: Democracy may have problems, but it is better than any other form of government. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?** In the 2021 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 support democracy. Specifically, responses were recoded to indicate support for democracy 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 support for democracy in the LAC region is Uruguay (80.0%), while respondents in Haiti (45.5%) demonstrate the lowest support for democracy in the LAC region. In the majority of countries in 2021, more than half of individuals support democracy.

Support for Democracy, 2021

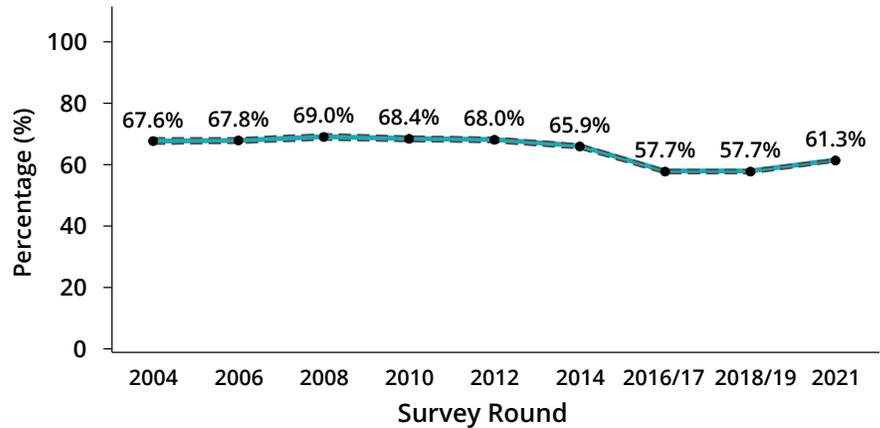


95% Confidence Interval (with Design-Effects)

In 2021, just over three in five respondents in the LAC region support democracy, an increase of 3.6 percentage points from 2018/2019

Across the LAC region, support for democracy remained relatively stable between 2004 and 2014, with around two-thirds of respondents indicating that they support democracy more than other forms of government. Support for democracy fell to its lowest level in the series between 2016/17 and 2018/19. In 2021, support for democracy recovered slightly to 61.3%.¹

Support for Democracy in the LAC Region, 2004-2021



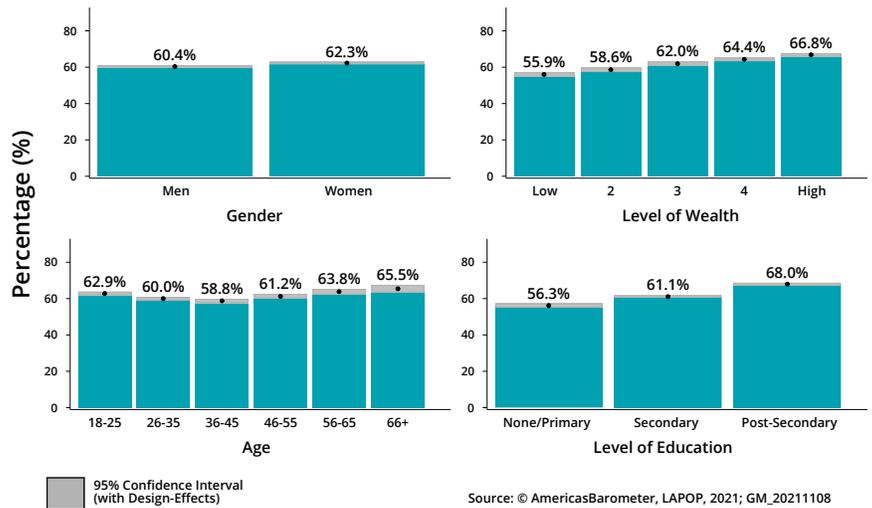
--- 95% Confidence Interval (with Design-Effects)

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2004-2021; GM_20211108

Support for democracy in the LAC region is highest among women, individuals with higher levels of wealth, the youngest and oldest respondents, and those with higher levels of education

What characteristics of individuals predict support for democracy in the LAC region? On average, women (62.3%) in the LAC region are more likely than men (60.4%) to support democracy.² Individuals with higher levels of wealth are more likely to support democracy compared to individuals with lower levels of wealth. Older individuals age 56-65 (63.8%) and 66+ (65.5%), as well as younger individuals age 18-25 (62.9%), are more likely to support democracy than other age categories. Those with at least some secondary education (61.1%) or at least some post-secondary education (68.0%) are more likely to support democracy than individuals with lower levels of education (56.3%).³

Support for Democracy in the LAC Region, 2021



■ 95% Confidence Interval (with Design-Effects)

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2021; GM_20211108

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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 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.

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 of 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.