

September, 2022 | Mark Grujic

# Spotlight on Tolerance for Military Coups in Latin America and the Caribbean

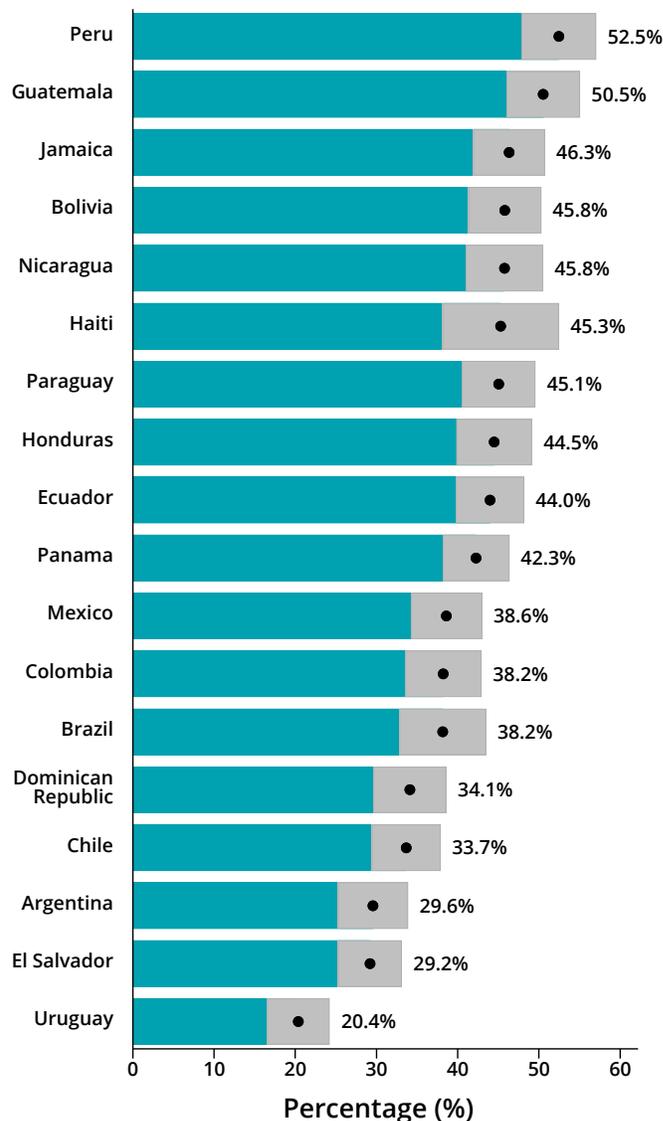
Willingness to justify a coup when corruption is high has increased since 2018/2019 in the Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) region

In most LAC countries, less than one-half of respondents believe that it would be justified for the military to take power by a coup d'état when there is a lot of corruption

Since 2004, LAPOP's AmericasBarometer has measured willingness to justify a coup in times of high corruption in the LAC region with the following question: **JC13: Some people say that under some circumstances it would be justified for the military of this country to take power by a coup d'état (military coup). In your opinion, would a military coup be justified when there is a lot of corruption?** In the 2021 round, this question was included in surveys in 18 LAC countries. Responses were coded as "yes, it is justified" or "no, it is not justified." Here we report on the percentage of people who responded affirmatively.

The country with the greatest proportion of individuals that believe a coup would be justified in times of high corruption is Peru (52.5%), while Uruguay (20.4%) has the lowest proportion of individuals that would justify a coup. In the majority of countries, less than half of adults believe that a coup would be justified when there is a lot of corruption.

### Tolerance for Military Coups, 2021



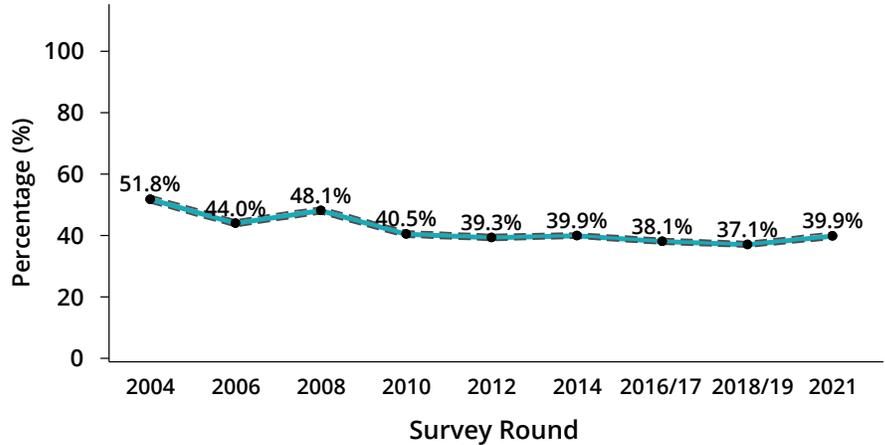
95% Confidence Interval (with Design-Effects)

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

## In 2021, about two-fifths in the LAC region would justify a coup, an increase from 2018/19

Across the LAC region, tolerance for coups was highest in 2004, when over half reported they would justify a coup under high corruption. By 2018/19, tolerance for military coups reached a low of about 37%. In 2021, tolerance for coups increased to about two-fifths.<sup>1</sup>

### Tolerance for Military Coups in the LAC Region, 2004-2021



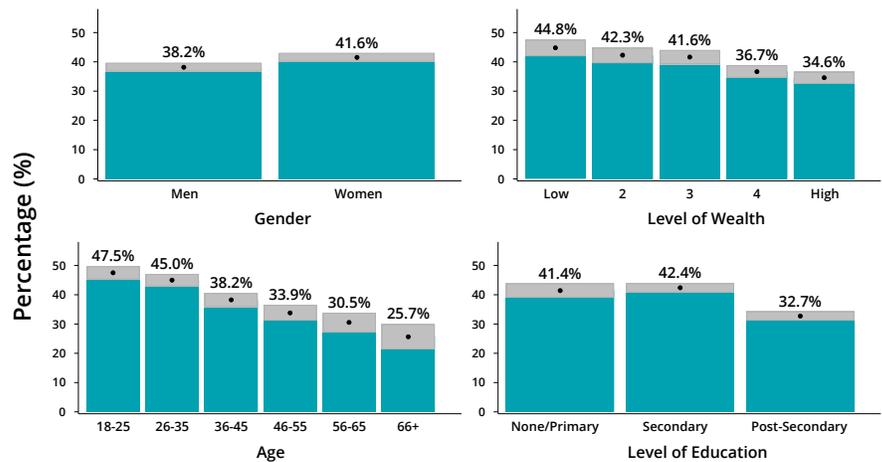
— 95% Confidence Interval (with Design-Effects)

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

## In the LAC region, tolerance for military coups is highest among women, individuals with lower levels of wealth, younger individuals, and those with lower levels of education

What characteristics of individuals predict tolerance for military coups during high corruption in the LAC region? On average, women (41.6%) in the LAC region are more likely than men (38.2%) to believe that a coup would be justified when corruption is high.<sup>2</sup> Individuals with lower levels of wealth are more likely to tolerate a military coup than those with higher levels of wealth. Younger individuals are more likely to think a coup is justified than older individuals. Those with less education are more likely to think a coup is justified than those with at least some post-secondary education (32.7%).<sup>3</sup>

### Tolerance for Military Coups in the LAC Region, 2021



■ 95% Confidence Interval (with Design-Effects)

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

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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> 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.

<sup>3</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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