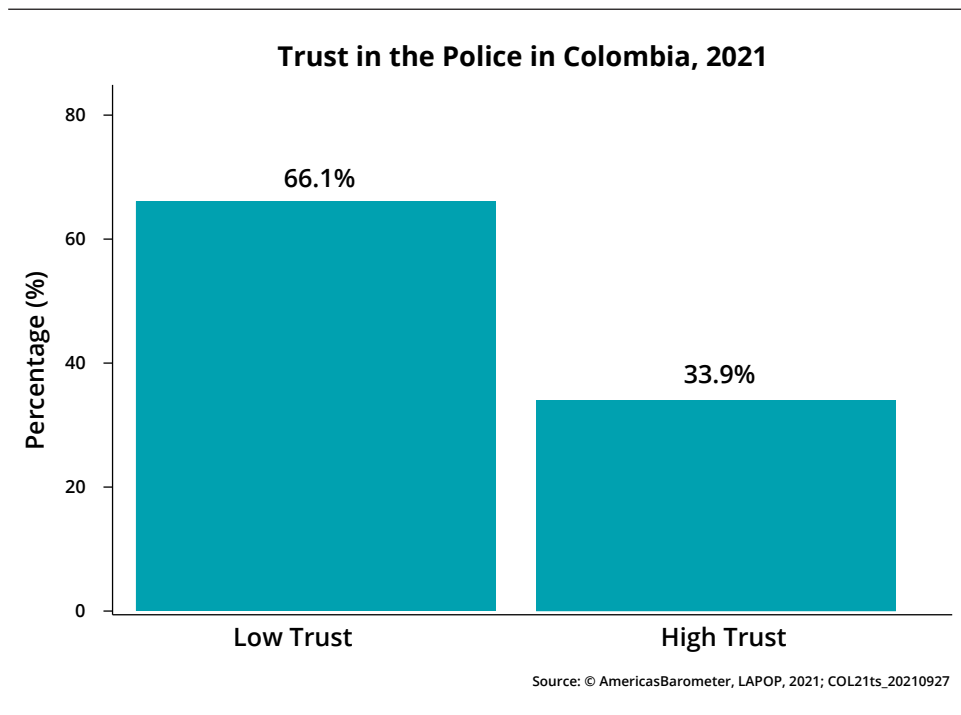


April, 2022 | Mark Grujic and Abrianna Rhodes

Spotlight on Trust in the Police in Colombia

Trust in the police in Colombia has declined over time

About one-third of Colombians have high trust in the police



Since 2004, LAPOP’s AmericasBarometer has measured trust in the police in Colombia with the following question:

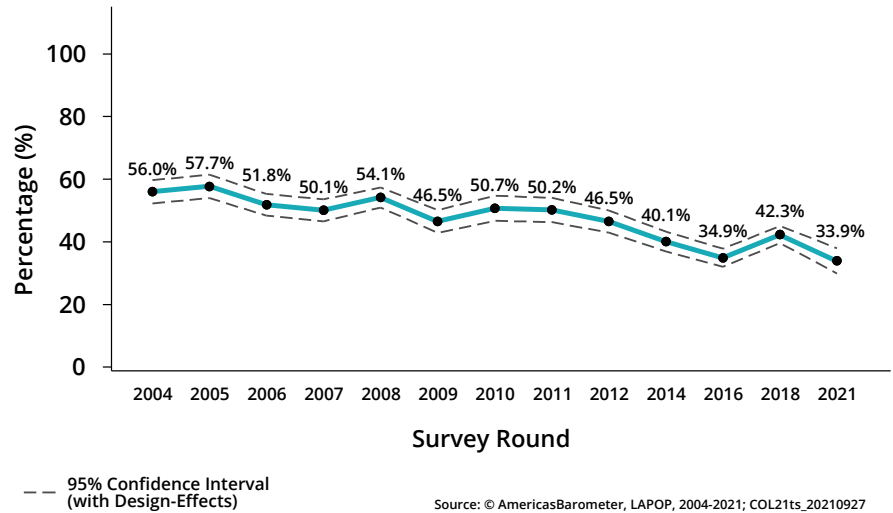
B18: To what extent do you have trust in the police? Respondents indicated their opinion using a 1 to 7 scale, where 1 means “not at all” and 7 means “a lot.” Here we recode responses into a dichotomous variable, which allows us to estimate the percentage of people in the country that have trust in the police. Specifically, responses were recoded into a dichotomous variable indicating trust in the police by combining responses “5” through “7” into a “high trust” category, while placing the remaining responses (“1” through “4”) into a baseline “low trust” category.

We find that about one-third (33.9%) of Colombians have high trust in the police. However, a majority (66.1%) have low trust in the police.

In Colombia in 2021, trust in the police reached its lowest recorded level

Trust in the police in Colombia peaked in 2005, when more than half of Colombians (57.7%) reported that they had trust in the police. After declining slightly, trust in the police increased again to 54.1% in 2008. Since 2008, trust in the police steadily declined until 2016. After a brief recovery in 2018, trust in the police among Colombians reverted to its downward trend. In 2021, only about one-third of Colombians (33.9%) say they trust the police, the lowest level recorded by the AmericasBarometer.

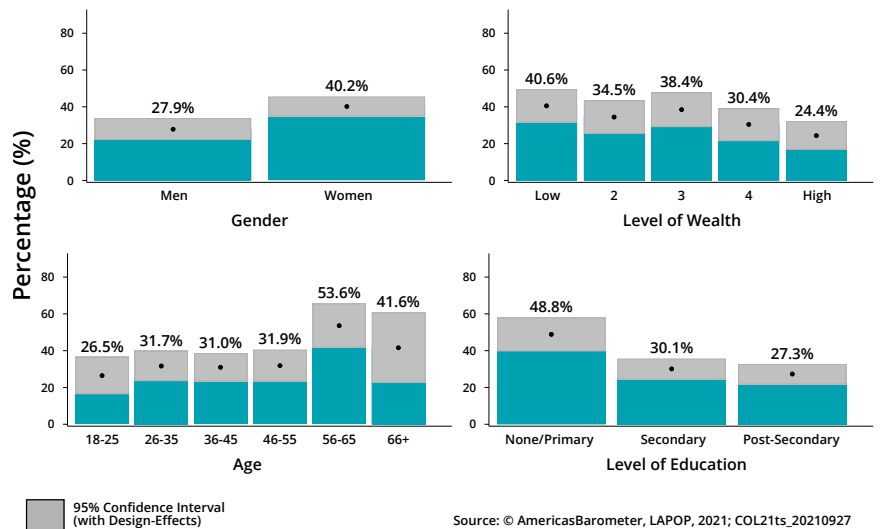
Trust in the Police in Colombia, 2004-2021



Women, those with low levels of wealth and education, and older individuals report the highest levels of trust in police

What characteristics of individuals predict high trust in the police in Colombia? Women tend to have higher levels of trust in the police (40.2%) than men (27.9%).¹ Individuals with the highest level of wealth have significantly lower trust in the police (24.4%) than individuals with the lowest level of wealth (40.6%). Those who are ages 56-65 show higher trust in the police (53.6%) than all other age groups. Respondents who have no education or at least some primary education demonstrate higher levels of trust in the police (48.8%) than those with at least a secondary (30.1%) or post-secondary (27.3%) education.²

Trust in the Police in Colombia, 2021



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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 Colombia, 0.10% of respondents identified as a gender other than man or woman.

² Due to changes in survey mode in the 2021 AmericasBarometer, place of residence was not analyzed in this Spotlight report.