

December 2020 | Stacy Horton

Spotlight on Participation in Public Protests in Latin America and the Caribbean

Participation in public protests is low but increasing slightly in the Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) region

In most LAC countries, participation in public protests is less than 15%

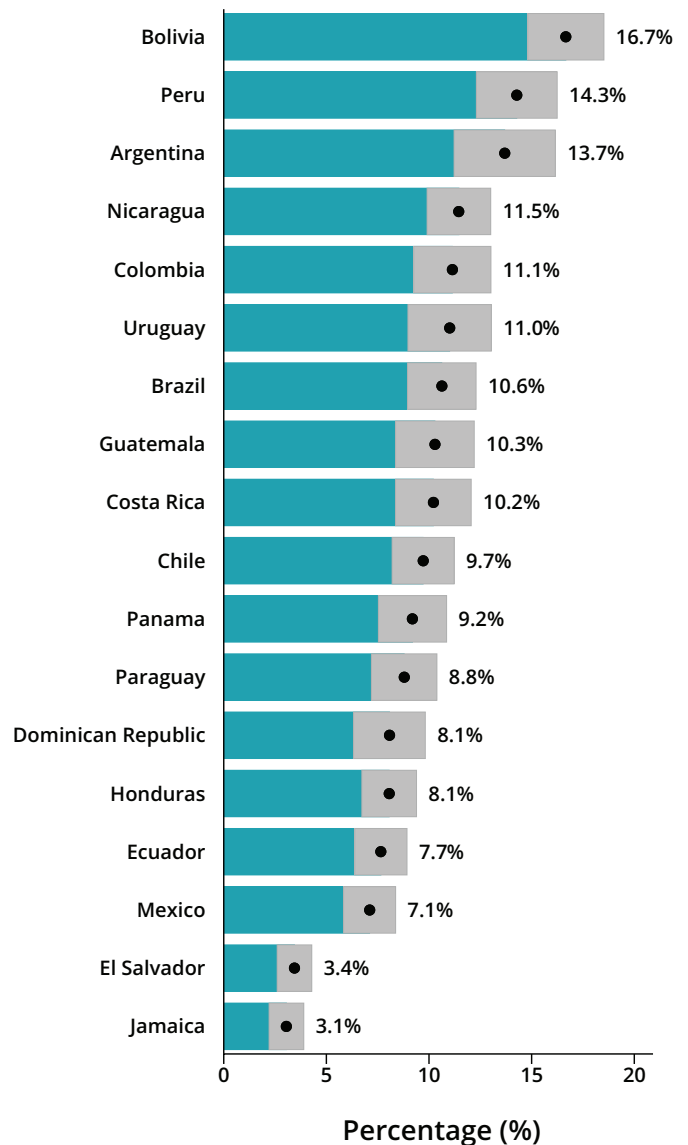
Since 2010, LAPOP's AmericasBarometer has measured public protest participation by asking the following question:

PROT3. In the last 12 months, have you participated in a demonstration or public protest?

In the 2018/19 round, this question was included in surveys in 18 LAC countries. Here we code responses into a dichotomous variable, which allows us to estimate the percentage of people in the region that participated in a public protest in the 12 months prior to the survey.

The country with the highest rate of participation in public protests in 2018/19 is Bolivia (16.7%), while El Salvador (3.4%) and Jamaica (3.1%) hold the lowest rate of participation in public protests in the LAC region. In the majority of countries, one in ten adults or fewer reports having participated in a protest in the last year.

Participation in Public Protests, 2018/19

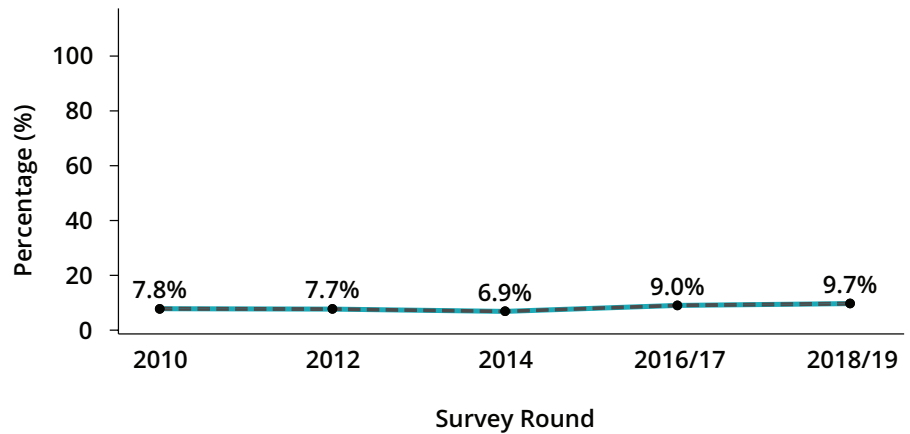


95% Confidence Interval (with Design-Effects)

Participation in public protests is increasing slightly

In the average LAC country, participation in public protests increased a small but statistically significant amount between 2010 and 2018/19, when it reached its highest recorded level. In 2010, on average, 7.8% participated in a public protest. This rate grew to 9.7% in 2018/19. The lowest reported level was in 2014 (6.9%).

Participation in Public Protests in the LAC Region, 2004–2018/19



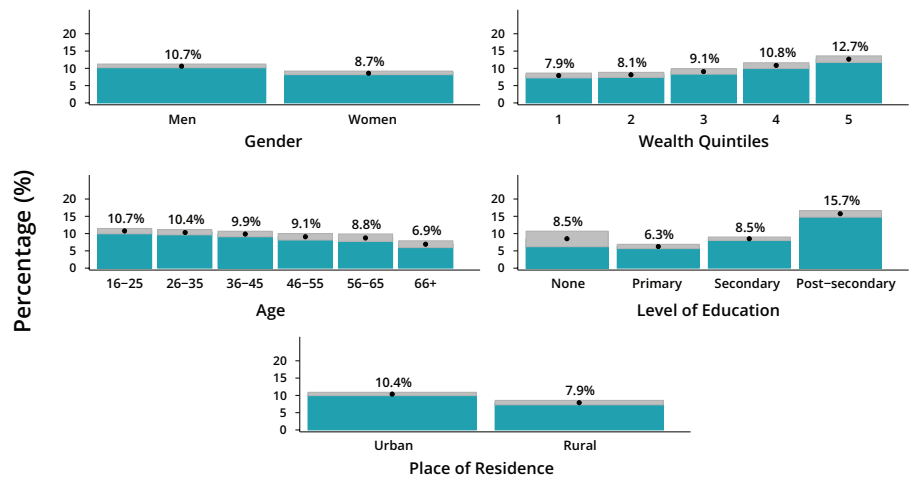
--- 95% Confidence Interval (with Design-Effects)

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2012–2018/19; GM1.0

Participation in public protests is higher among male, wealthy, young, educated, and urban individuals

What characteristics of individuals predict participation in public protests in the LAC region? On average, men are more likely to report protest participation compared to women (10.7% and 8.7%, respectively). Among wealth quintiles, the highest levels of protest participation are found in the richest quintile. Younger cohorts also express higher participation in public protests compared to older cohorts. More educated individuals participate more in public protests than less educated individuals. Lastly, individuals who live in urban areas express greater participation in public protests compared to rural residents.

Participation in Public Protests 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

Stacy Horton is a senior at Vanderbilt University pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in Cinema and Media Arts and Latin American Studies with minors in Sociology and Anthropology. She is hoping to use her studies and video experience to become a social documentarian in Latin America.

Series Editors: Sebastián C. Larrea, Mariana Rodríguez, Valerie Schweizer, and Elizabeth J. Zechmeister

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

The contents of this Spotlight Report are the sole responsibility of the authors and LAPOP and do not necessarily reflect the views of any supporting organization. LAPOP's AmericasBarometer surveys are supported predominantly by USAID and Vanderbilt University. The 2018/19 round also had support from the the IADB, World Bank, and academic partners and researchers across the Americas.