



December 2020 | Abhinav S. Krishnan

Spotlight on Support for Democracy in Latin America and the Caribbean

Longstanding support for democracy in the Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) region shows signs of decline

In most LAC countries, more than half support democracy

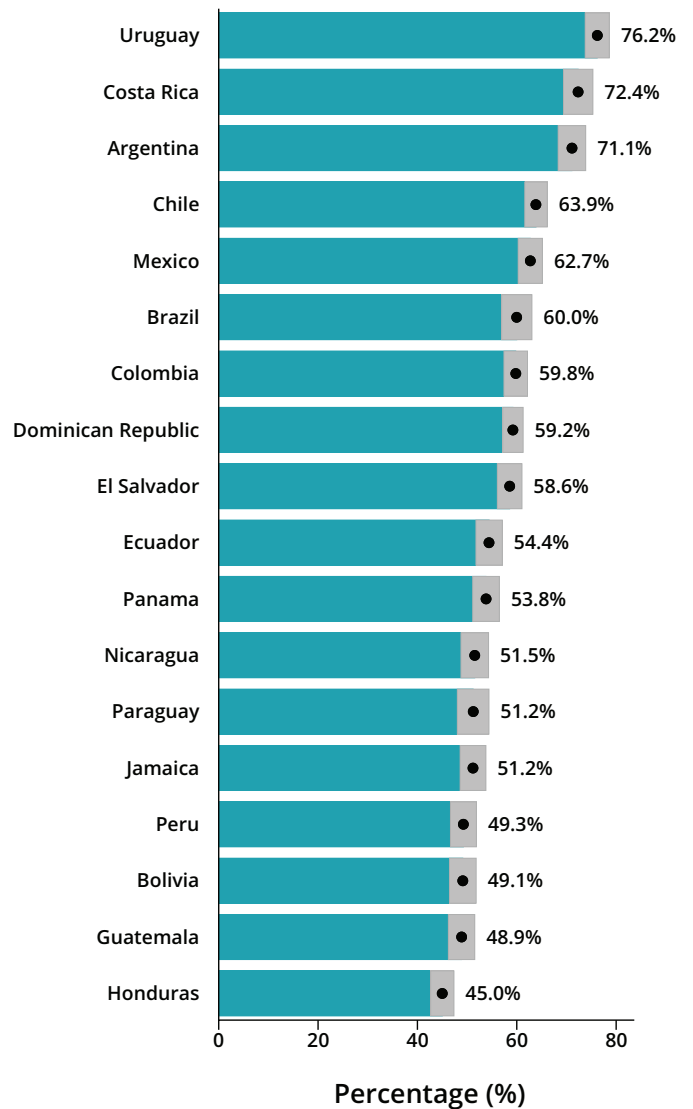
Since 2004, LAPOP’s AmericasBarometer has measured support for democracy by asking the following question:

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 2018/19 round, this question was included in surveys in 18 LAC countries. Respondents indicated their level of agreement with the statement by using a 1-7 scale, where 1 means “strongly disagree” and 7 means “strongly agree.” Here we code responses into a dichotomous variable, which allows us to estimate the percentage of people in the region who support democracy. Specifically, responses were recoded into a dichotomous variable indicating support by combining the responses from “5” through “7” into one category, while placing the other responses (“1” through “4”) into a baseline category.

The country with the highest support for democracy in 2018/19 is Uruguay (76.2%), while Honduras (45.0%) holds the lowest support for democracy in the LAC region. In the majority of countries, more than half of adults support democracy in 2018/19.

Support for Democracy, 2018/19



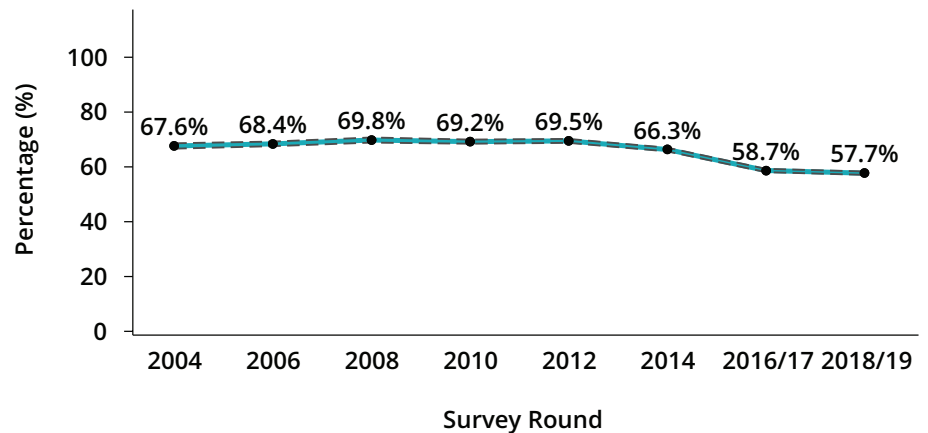
95% Confidence Interval (with Design-Effects)

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

Support for democracy has declined

In the average LAC country, support for democracy remained stable between 2004 and 2014, with slightly over two-thirds reporting that they believe democracy is the best form of government. Between 2014 and 2018/19, support for democracy fell by almost nine percentage points.

Support for Democracy in the LAC Region, 2004–2018/19



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

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2004–2018/19; GM1.0

Support for democracy is higher among men, the wealthy, the educated, urban residents and older individuals

What characteristics of individuals predict support for democracy in the LAC region? On average, men are more likely to support democracy than women (59.5% and 56.0%, respectively). Among wealth quintiles, the highest levels of support for democracy are found in the richest quintile. Highly educated individuals express support for democracy more frequently than less educated individuals. More respondents in urban areas express support for democracy than respondents in rural areas (58.8% and 55.1%, respectively). Lastly, older individuals are more likely to support democracy than younger cohorts.

Support for Democracy 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
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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

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