Spotlight on Perceived Basic Rights Protection in Chile

The belief that basic rights are well protected in Chile reached its lowest point in 2021

About one in five Chileans believe their basic rights are well protected

Since 2006, LAPOP’s AmericasBarometer has measured the perceived protection of basic rights among Chileans by asking the following question: B3. To what extent do you think that citizens’ basic rights are well protected by the political system of Chile? Here, we recode responses into a dichotomous variable which allows us to estimate the proportion of people in Chile who feel that their basic rights are protected. Specifically, responses were recoded by combining responses “5” through “7” into one category, indicating the belief that basic rights are well protected, while placing the other responses (“1” through “4”) into a baseline category.

We find that one in five Chileans (19.9%) believe their basic rights are well protected. However, most Chileans (80.1%) believe that their basic rights are not well protected by their country’s government.
In 2021, the perception that basic rights are well protected reaches the lowest level in the series

Perceived basic rights protection in Chile reached its highest point in 2010, when almost half (49.1%) believed the political system protected their basic rights. Since then, the rate has continuously decreased. In the 2021 round of the AmericasBarometer, only one in five Chileans (19.9%) report the belief that their basic rights are well protected. This is the lowest percentage recorded since the AmericasBarometer began asking this question in 2006.

We find that perceptions of basic rights protection in Chile do not vary by gender, age, education, or wealth

What characteristics of individuals predict the belief in rights protection in Chile? In analysis not shown here, we find that there are no differences across sociodemographic characteristics in the perceived basic rights protection in Chile. That is, we find that these perceptions do not vary significantly by gender, age, education, or wealth.¹

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¹ Due to changes in survey mode in the 2021 AmericasBarometer, place of residence was not analyzed in this Spotlight report.