

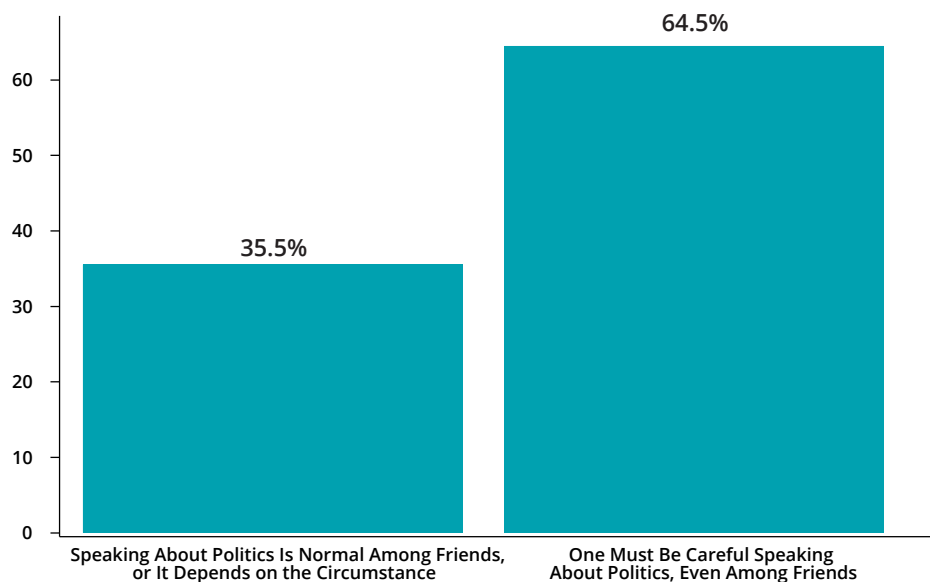
June, 2022 | Ria Mehrotra

## Spotlight on Attitudes Toward Political Discussions in Nicaragua

Most Nicaraguans remain fearful of discussing politics, though this fear declined in 2021

Most Nicaraguans are cautious when speaking about politics, even among friends

Attitudes Toward Political Discussions in Nicaragua, 2021



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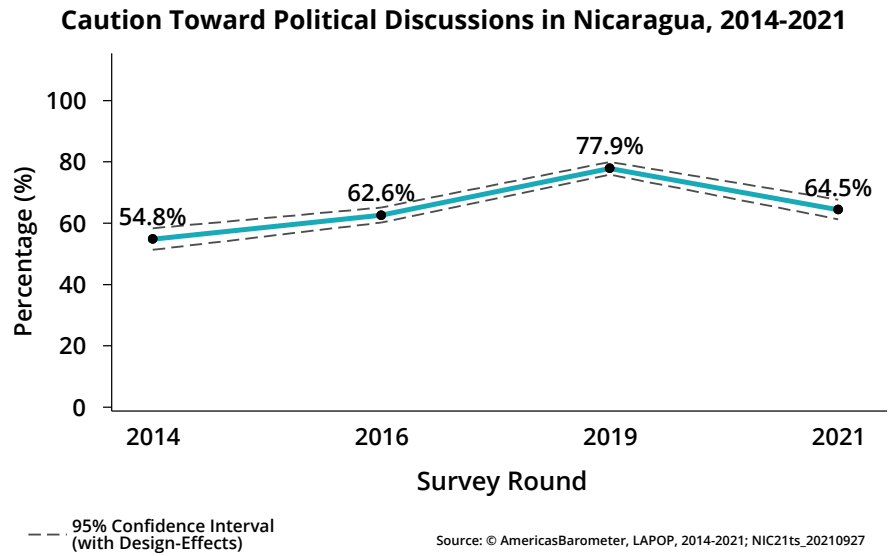
Since 2014, LAPOP's AmericasBarometer has measured attitudes toward political discussions in Nicaragua by asking the following question: **NICFEAR. Which perspective best describes your attitude surrounding political discussions?** Responses were recoded into a dichotomous variable, which allows us to estimate the percentage of people in Nicaragua that exhibit caution when speaking about politics. Specifically, responses were recoded into a dichotomous variable by placing those who responded "One must be careful when speaking about politics, even among friends" into one category, while combining "Speaking about politics is normal among friends" and "It depends on the circumstance" into a baseline category.

Most Nicaraguans (64.5%) maintain caution when speaking about politics, even with their friends. However, over a third (35.5%) say that speaking about politics is normal among friends, or that it depends on the circumstance.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> 1.79% of respondents indicated that their attitude toward political discussions depends on the circumstance.

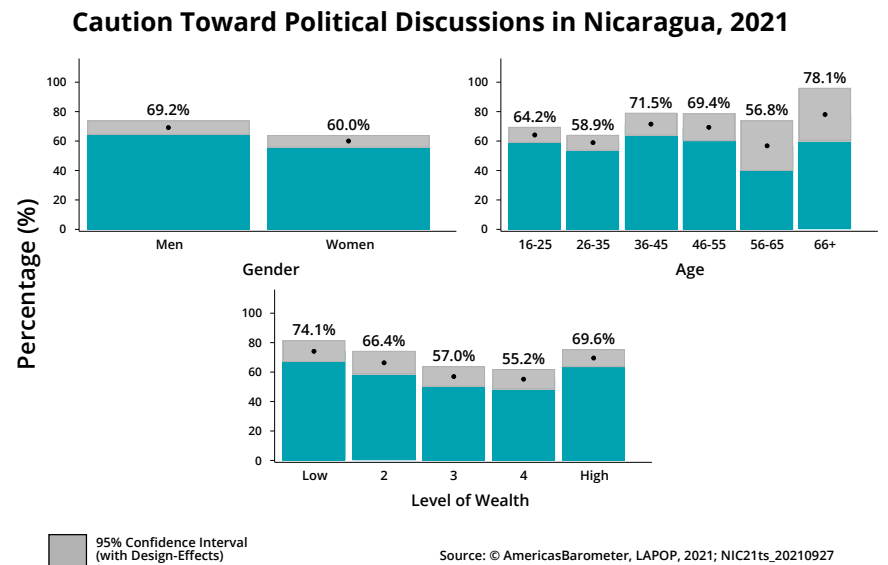
## A majority of individuals continue to report they must be careful when discussing politics in Nicaragua, although this percentage has declined from its peak in 2019

Fear of political discussions in Nicaragua reached its highest level in the 2019 round of the AmericasBarometer, when more than three-quarters (77.9%) indicated they were careful when discussing politics, even among their friends. This rate declined by 13.4 percentage points in 2021 to 64.5%.



## Fear of political discussions is highest among men, those middle-aged or older, and those with low levels of wealth

What characteristics of individuals predict caution surrounding political discussions in Nicaragua? Caution toward political discussions is higher among men (69.2%) than women (60.0%).<sup>2</sup> Those in the 66+ age range (78.1%) and those age 36-45 (71.5%) are more cautious when it comes to political discussions than those age 26-35 (58.9%). Those who have the lowest level of wealth (74.1%) and highest level of wealth (69.6%) are more likely to express caution toward political discussions than those in the third and fourth wealth groups.<sup>3</sup>



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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](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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<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 the 2021 survey in Nicaragua, 0.33% of respondents identified as a gender other than man or woman.

<sup>3</sup> Due to changes in survey mode in the 2021 AmericasBarometer, place of residence was not analyzed in this Spotlight report.