About one in five Peruvians believe their basic rights are protected by their government. Since 2006, LAPOP’s AmericasBarometer has measured the extent to which Peruvians feel their basic rights are protected by asking the following question: **B3. To what extent do you think that citizens’ basic rights are well protected by the political system of Peru?**

Respondents indicated their opinion on a 1-7 scale, where 1 means “not at all” and 7 means “a lot.” Here we code responses into a dichotomous variable, which allows us to estimate the percentage of people in Peru that feel their basic rights are protected. Specifically, we combine responses “5” through “7” into a “Basic Rights are Well Protected” category, and the remaining responses (“1” through “4”) into a baseline “Basic Rights are Not Well Protected” category.

About one in five (21.1%) Peruvians feel that the political system protects their basic rights. However, most Peruvians (78.9%) believe that their basic rights are not well protected.

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**Spotlight on Perceived Basic Rights Protection in Peru**

The belief that the Peruvian political system protects citizens’ basic rights has remained consistent over time.

About one in five Peruvians believe their basic rights are protected by their government.
The percentage of Peruvians that believe their basic rights are protected has remained fairly stable in recent years, at about one in five.

Belief in the protection of basic rights in Peru peaked in the 2012 round of the AmericasBarometer, when less than a third (30.0%) of respondents said they believed their basic rights were protected. Between 2012 and 2021, this rate declined by 8.9 percentage points, with about one in five (21.1%) Peruvians now indicating that their basic rights are well protected.

The belief that basic rights are well protected is highest among those age 18–25, individuals with low levels of education, women, and those with the lowest level of wealth.

What characteristics of individuals predict the belief that basic rights are protected in Peru? Those in the youngest two age groups have the highest perception that their basic rights are protected (25.5% and 23.7%, respectively) compared to other age groups, except those 66 and older (24.1%). Those who have no or at least some primary education (29.4%) believe their basic rights are protected at a higher rate than those who have at least some post-secondary education (18.8%). Women (24.4%) believe their basic rights are protected more than men (17.8%).1 Finally, those in the lowest wealth group have a higher belief that their basic rights are protected compared to those in the highest wealth level.2

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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 the 2021 survey in Peru, 0.1% of the 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.