

September, 2022 | Alexandra Rounds

# Spotlight on Belief that People Should Support the Political System in Latin America and the Caribbean

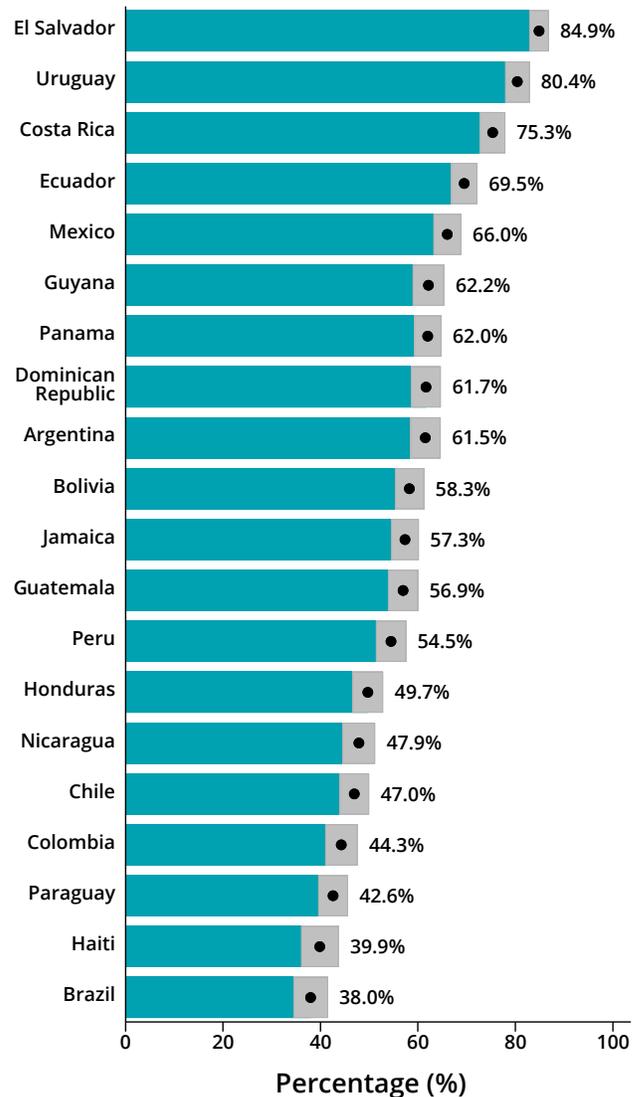
Belief that people should support the political system in the Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) region recovered slightly in 2021

## Belief that people should support the political system varies greatly throughout the LAC region

Since 2004, LAPOP's AmericasBarometer has measured the belief that people should support the political system in the LAC region by asking the following question: **B6. To what extent do you think that one should support the political system of (country)?** In the 2021 survey round, this question was included in surveys in 20 LAC countries. Respondents indicated their opinion using 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 the country that believe that people should support the political system. Specifically, responses were recoded to indicate belief that people should support the political system by combining responses "5" through "7" into one category, while placing the remaining responses ("1" through "4") into a baseline category.

Belief that people should support the political system varies greatly among LAC countries. El Salvador and Uruguay report the highest percentage of adults who believe that people should support the political system (84.9% and 80.4%, respectively), while Brazil demonstrates the lowest percentage (38.0%).

### Belief that People Should Support the Political System, 2021



95% Confidence Interval (with Design-Effects)

## In 2021, belief that people should support the political system in the LAC region increased slightly

After a steady decline between 2004 and 2008, the belief that people should support the political system remained relatively stable at around the 50% mark. In 2021, the belief that people should support the political system in the LAC region reached its highest point (58.3%). The change between 2018/19 and 2021 is the greatest increase between any two consecutive rounds since the question's debut in 2004.<sup>1</sup>

## Belief that people should support the political system is higher among women, individuals with lower levels of education, those age 56 and older, and those in the lowest wealth group

What characteristics of individuals predict the belief that people should support the political system in the LAC region? On average, women (60.7%) are more likely to believe that people should support the political system than men (55.9%).<sup>2</sup> Satisfaction is highest among those with no education or at least some primary education (59.3%) and lowest for those with at least some post-secondary education (56.3%). Individuals age 56-65 (59.6%) and age 66+ (61.5%) are more likely to report that they believe people should support the political system than those age 26-35 (56.2%) and 36-45 (56.3%). Lastly, individuals in the lowest wealth group (60.2%) are more likely to report that they believe that people should support the political system than those in the highest (57.0%) and second highest (57.5%) wealth groups.<sup>3</sup>

Alexandra Rounds is a junior at Vanderbilt University majoring in Political Science and Spanish. She hopes to pursue a career in law in the future.

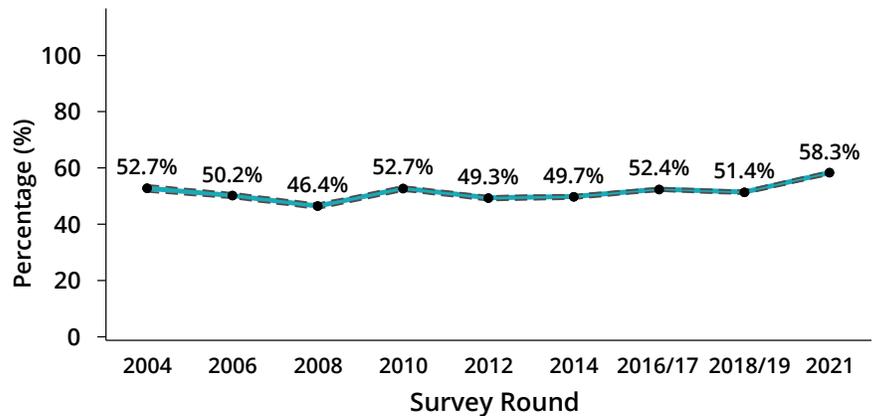
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<sup>1</sup> The number of countries included in the AmericasBarometer has increased since the initial rounds. Our conclusions in over-time analyses do not change if we focus only on the countries surveyed consistently since 2004, or if we focus on the countries included in the 2021 round.

<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 this survey in the LAC region, 0.28% of respondents identified as a gender other than man or woman.

<sup>3</sup> The variable for place of residence (ur1new) has been omitted for this round of Spotlight Reports due to a change in survey mode for the 2021 round of the AmericasBarometer.

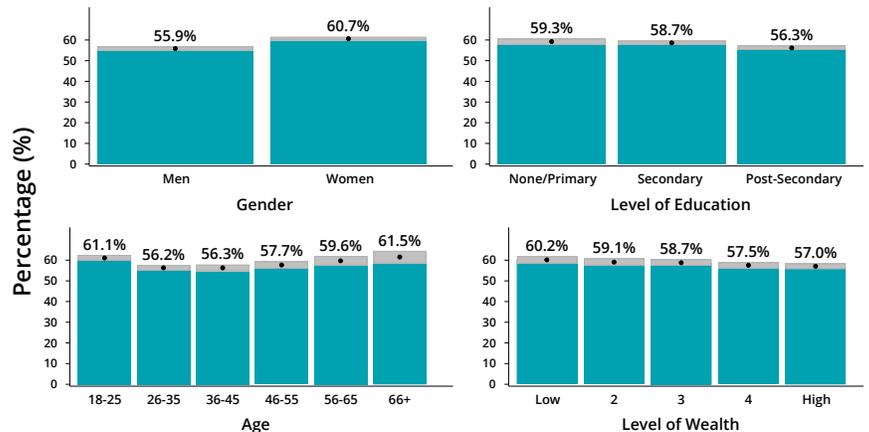
### Belief that People Should Support the Political System in the LAC Region, 2004-2021



— 95% Confidence Interval (with Design-Effects)

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2004-2021; GM\_20211108

### Belief that People Should Support the Political System in the LAC Region, 2021



■ 95% Confidence Interval (with Design-Effects)

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2021; GM\_20211108



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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