Briefing on LAPOP’s National Survey in Venezuela, 2014

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A. Background information on LAPOP’s 2014 national survey in Venezuela

B. Preliminary results from 2014 and 2007-2014 datasets*, which reveal:
   I. Wide-ranging and increasing dissatisfaction
   II. Decreased system support and lower satisfaction with democracy
   III. Stable political tolerance
   IV. Conclusion: Democratic public opinion profile consistent with *democratic instability*: high tolerance + low system support

*Data used: Venezuela 2014 and Merged 2007-2014 version draft0724
LAPOP’s Database

2004-2014: 228,864 interviews (approx.)

- National surveys in North, Central and South America, and key countries in the Caribbean
- Samples are of a minimum of 1,500 interviews per country
- Truly representative at the national level, and include rural and urban areas
- Face-to-face interviews, conducted in at least 8 languages
- Multiple pre-tests during an entire year
- Electronic data entry in the field

2014:
- 27 countries
- 50,000+ interviews (min. 1,500/country, with a margin of error of +/- 2.5%)
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### Canada and the United States

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Institution</th>
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<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>Environics Institute</td>
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<td>United States</td>
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<td>Vanderbilt University</td>
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### The Consortium for LAPOP: Covering the Americas
Consortium of prestigious universities and research centers in the Americas

### Andes / Southern Cone

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<tr>
<th>Country</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Bolivia</td>
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<td>Paraguay</td>
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<td>Peru</td>
<td>IEP Instituto de Estudios Peruanos</td>
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<td>Uruguay</td>
<td>CIFRA</td>
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<td>Venezuela</td>
<td>Illinois</td>
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### Mexico and Central America

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<th>Country</th>
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<td>Costa Rica</td>
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<td>El Salvador</td>
<td>Fundalino</td>
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<tr>
<td>Guatemala</td>
<td>Universidad Rafael Landivar</td>
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<tr>
<td>Honduras</td>
<td>FOPRIDEH</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México (ITAMA)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nicaragua</td>
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<td>Panama</td>
<td>CIDEM</td>
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</table>
National Survey in Venezuela, 2014

- Number of interviews: 1,500 (margin of error: ±2.5)
- Type of questionnaire: paper
- Pre-test and training of interviewers: February 2014
- Start of fieldwork: February 25, 2014
- End of fieldwork: March 20, 2014
Part I: **Wide-ranging grievances**

**Summary:**

- The most important problems in the country are scarcity and security
- Scarcity and negative economic assessments are widespread
- Insecurity and crime victimization have increased
- Bribery has increased; satisfaction with government efforts have decreased
- Concerns about freedom of expression are elevated
- Social unrest, perceptions of conflict, and polarization are elevated
- Trust in Communal Councils and Missions has decreased
Scarcity and security are viewed as the most important problems by Venezuelans in 2014.

A4. In your opinion, what is the most serious problem faced by the country?

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP; Venezuela 2007-2014 (draft0724)
Concerns about lack of food and basic goods have grown to rival views about security as the most important problem in Venezuela.

“Scarcity” was added as a category in 2014 after piloting of the survey revealed consistently high response rates for this issue.

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP; Venezuela 2007-2014 (draft0724)
Perceptions and experiences with scarcity and the economy are overwhelmingly negative.
Over 80% of Venezuelans believe the national economic situation has worsened in 2014

**SOCT2.** Do you think that the country’s current economic situation is better than, the same as or worse than it was 12 months ago? (1) Better (2) Same (3) Worse

- Better: 3.0%
- Same: 16.7%
- Worse: 80.3%

To compare: In the 2010 AmericasBarometer, for the LAC region as a whole, 39% answered “worse”

Perception of National Economic Situation

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP; Venezuela 2007-2014 (draft0724)
Perceptions of the national economic situation are by far the most negative in all survey rounds.

The percentage indicating the economy is worse has more than doubled.

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP; Venezuela 2007-2014 (draft0724)
Perceptions of personal economic situation are also by far worse in 2014 compared to prior years.

Percentage who think their personal economic situation is worse than it was 12 months ago in Venezuela

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP; Venezuela 2007-2014 (draft0724)
New country-specific module included in the 2014 Venezuela survey: Scarcity of Food and Basic Goods

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>VENESC1.</strong> Muchos hablan de escasez de alimentos y productos básicos en Venezuela. ¿Usted cree que la escasez de alimentos y productos básicos en Venezuela es un problema muy serio, algo serio, poco serio, nada serio, o no es un problema?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(1) Muy serio</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th><strong>VENESC2.</strong> ¿Que tan fácil o difícil ha sido para usted en los últimos 6 meses conseguir los alimentos y productos básicos que usted más consume en su hogar?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(1) Muy fácil</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The vast majority of Venezuelans think that scarcity is a “very serious” problem and that finding food and basic goods is very difficult.

Perceptions of the Scarcity of Food and Basic Goods, Venezuela 2014

95% Confidence Interval (with Design-Effects)

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP; Venezuela 2007-2014 (draft0724)
Venezuelans’ retrospective evaluations of personal economic situations are also pessimistic in 2014

**IDIO2.** Do you think that your economic situation is better than, the same as, or worse than it was 12 months ago?  
(1) Better  (2) Same  (3) Worse

- **Better** 9.6%
- **Same** 27.2%
- **Worse** 63.2%

Perception of Personal Economic Situation

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP; Venezuela 2007-2014 (draft0724)
The 2014 Venezuela survey finds increases in *insecurity and crime*
Perceptions of insecurity increased in 2014

AOJ11. Speaking of the neighborhood where you live and thinking of the possibility of being assaulted or robbed, do you feel very safe, somewhat safe, somewhat unsafe or very unsafe? [coding: 0-100, with 0 = Very safe and 100 = Very unsafe]

Average perception of insecurity in the last 12 months, Venezuela 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Perception of Insecurity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>47.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>46.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>49.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>47.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>63.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP; Venezuela 2007-2014 (draft0724)
In 2014, nearly two-thirds of Venezuelans reported feeling some degree of insecurity in their neighborhood.

Nearly 1 in 3 Venezuelans feels very unsafe in 2014.

To compare: In the 2012 AmericasBarometer, for the LAC region as a whole, only 8% answered “very unsafe.”

Perceptions of Insecurity

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP; Venezuela 2007-2014 (draft0724)
Those with the highest levels of education have higher perception of insecurity, while there are no differences across wealth levels.

Average perception of insecurity in the last 12 months by education level and wealth, Venezuela 2014

National Average: 63.2

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP; Venezuela 2007-2014 (draft0724)
Residents of Caracas, Zuliana and Guayana regions report the highest levels of insecurity in 2014.

Average perception of insecurity in the last 12 months by gender and place of residence, Venezuela 2014.

- Residents of Caracas, Zuliana and Guayana regions report the highest levels of insecurity in 2014.

National Average: 63.2

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP; Venezuela 2007-2014 (draft0724)
Reports of crime victimization increased in 2014

**VIC1EXT.** Now, changing the subject, have you been a victim of any type of crime in the past 12 months? That is, have you been a victim of robbery, burglary, assault, fraud, blackmail, extortion, violent threats or any other type of crime in the past 12 months?

Percentage that reports being a victim of crime in the last 12 months, Venezuela 2014

- 2007: 25.1%
- 2008: 21.4%
- 2010: 26.2%
- 2012: 19.4%
- 2014: 24.4%

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP; Venezuela 2007-2014 (draft0724)

Nearly 1 in every 4 Venezuelans has been a victim of a crime in 2014.
More educated and wealthier Venezuelans report a greater percentage of crime victimization

Percentage that reports being a victim of crime in the last 12 months by education level and wealth, Venezuela 2014

National Average: 24.41%

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP; Venezuela 2007-2014 (draft0724)
Men also report higher percentages of crime victimization in 2014, while there is little differentiation across regions of the country.

Percentage that reports being a victim of crime in the last 12 months by gender and place of residence, Venezuela 2014

Men are significantly more likely (p = 0.05) to be victims of crime.

National Average: 24.41%

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP; Venezuela 2007-2014 (draft0724)
Corruption victimization has increased, and satisfaction with government efforts on corruption have decreased.
Corruption victimization in the Americas, 2012

Percent responding yes to one or more of the following:

- **EXC2.** Has a police officer asked you for a bribe in the last twelve months?
- **EXC6.** In the last twelve months, did any government employee ask you for a bribe?
- **EXC11.** In the last twelve months, to process any kind of document in your local government, like a permit for example, did you have to pay any money above that required by law?
- **EXC13.** In your work, have you been asked to pay a bribe in the last twelve months?
- **EXC14.** Did you have to pay a bribe to the courts in the last twelve months?
- **EXC15.** In order to be seen in a hospital or a clinic in the last twelve months, did you have to pay a bribe?
- **EXC16.** Have you had to pay a bribe at school in the last twelve months?

Venezuela average in 2014: 26.6%

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP; AmericasBarometer Merged 2012 Rev1.5_W English
Reports of corruption victimization increased significantly in 2014, reaching the highest levels since at least 2007.
More educated and wealthier Venezuelans report the highest corruption victimization levels in 2014

Percentage that reports being a victim of corruption in the last 12 months by education level and wealth, Venezuela 2014

National average: 26.6%

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP; Venezuela 2007-2014 (draft0724)
Men and residents of the Central-West, Guayana and Andean regions report the highest levels of corruption victimization in 2014.

Percentage that reports being a victim of corruption in the last 12 months by gender and place of residence, Venezuela 2014.

National average: 26.6%
Over half of Venezuelans believe corruption is very common in 2014 and these perceptions are stable over time.

**EXC7.** Taking into account your own experience or what you have heard, corruption among public officials is:

1. Very common
2. Common
3. Uncommon
4. Very uncommon?

The variable EXC7 is recoded from 0-100, where 0 = Very uncommon and 100 = Very common.

### Perceptions of Corruption in Venezuela

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>80.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>79.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>76.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>75.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>80.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP; Venezuela 2007-2014 (draft0724)
There are no major differences among social classes in terms of corruption perception in 2014.
There are also no major differences in sex or place of residence in terms of corruption perceptions in 2014.

**Average perception of corruption by gender and place of residence, Venezuela 2014**

- Male: 80.4
- Female: 79.6

**Primary Strata (Region)**
- Capital: 76.8
- Zulia: 85.3
- Centro-Occidental: 78.2
- Oriental: 79.8
- Los Llanos: 75.1
- Central: 81.6
- Guayana: 81.4
- Los Andes: 81.7

**Source:** © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP; Venezuela 2007-2014 (draft0724)
Venezuelans’ level of satisfaction with the fight against corruption has dropped significantly.

Average performance evaluations of the government's fight against corruption in Venezuela

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP; Venezuela 2007-2014 (draft0724)
The percentage of Venezuelans who justify the payment of bribes remains low

EXC18. Do you think given the way things are, sometimes paying a bribe is justified? (1) Yes (2) No

Is it justified to pay a bribe?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>24.9%</td>
<td>75.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>13.3%</td>
<td>86.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>10.7%</td>
<td>89.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>8.4%</td>
<td>91.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>11.9%</td>
<td>88.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: AmericasBarometer, LAPOP; Venezuela 2007-2014 (draft0724)
Concerns about *freedom of expression* are elevated in Venezuela
Venezuelans have grown increasingly **dissatisfied** with freedom of expression in the country.

**Country-specific question:**

FEX1. ¿Qué tan satisfecho está usted con la libertad de expresión en el país?

63% are either “very dissatisfied” or “dissatisfied”

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP; Venezuela 2007-2014 (draft0724)
Nearly 45% of Venezuelans think people fear talking about politics

Is there freedom to speak openly in favor or against the government?

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP; Venezuela 2007-2014 (draft0724)
As Venezuelans react to bad times, protest, perceptions of socio-political conflict and polarization are all elevated in 2014.
Protest rates nearly tripled between 2012 and 2014

Percent that participated in a protest in the last 12 months in Venezuela

- 2010: 8.2%
- 2012: 3.7%
- 2014: 11.7%

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP; Venezuela 2007-2014 (draft0724)
The more educated and wealthier participated in protests at higher rates

Percent that participated in a protest by education level and wealth, Venezuela 2014

National Average: 11.7%

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP; Venezuela 2007-2014 (draft0724)
Protest participation was most prominent in the Capital Region.

Percent that participated in a protest by gender and place of residence, Venezuela 2014

National Average: 11.7%

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP; Venezuela 2007-2014 (draft0724)
Protest participation was most prominent in the Capital Region.

National Average: 11.7%
Perceptions of socio-political conflict increased between 2012 and 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Very High (%)</th>
<th>High (%)</th>
<th>Neither High nor Low (%)</th>
<th>Low (%)</th>
<th>Very Low (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>18.1</td>
<td>41.0</td>
<td>28.9</td>
<td>9.1</td>
<td>2.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>32.6</td>
<td>43.1</td>
<td>11.6</td>
<td>8.4</td>
<td>4.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**VENPROT10.** ¿Cree usted que el actual nivel de conflicto social y político en Venezuela es muy bajo, bajo, ni bajo ni alto, alto o muy alto? (1) Muy bajo (2) Bajo (3) Ni bajo ni alto (4) Alto (5) Muy alto

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP; Venezuela 2007-2014 (draft0724)
Perceptions of socio-political conflict increased between 2012 and 2014

VENPROT10. ¿Cree usted que el actual nivel de conflicto social y político en Venezuela es muy bajo, bajo, ni bajo ni alto, alto o muy alto? (1) Muy bajo (2) Bajo (3) Ni bajo ni alto (4) Alto (5) Muy alto

The variable VENPROT10 is recoded from 0-100, where 0 = Very low and 100 = Very high

Average perception of current level of socio-political conflict in Venezuela

The increase in 2014 is driven by the fact that those seeing a “very high” level of conflict nearly doubled from 18% to 33% in 2014

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP; Venezuela 2007-2014 (draft0724)
Over 72% think the socio-political conflict has worsened

In the last 12 months, the level of conflict has...

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP; Venezuela 2007-2014 (draft0724)
The majority of Venezuelans believe that socio-political conflict will continue to escalate

Perceptions of the Socio-Political Conflict, Venezuela 2014

In the next months, the level of conflict will...

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP; Venezuela 2007-2014 (draft0724)
Nearly half of respondents think that there is “a lot” of political polarization, and over 75% believe polarization is greater in 2014.
Trust in Communal Councils and Missions has decreased significantly.
Attitudes about Communal Councils and Missions in the 2014 survey

VENSD7NEW2. Hasta qué punto está satisfecho con el trabajo de los Consejos Comunales, ¿está muy satisfecho(a), satisfecho(a), insatisfecho(a), o muy insatisfecho(a)?
(1) Muy satisfecho(a) (2) Satisfecho(a) (3) Insatisfecho(a) (4) Muy insatisfecho(a)

VENB50. ¿Hasta qué punto tiene usted confianza en los consejos comunales?

VENCCPAR. Ahora vamos a hablar de los consejos comunales. Cualquier venezolano puede participar en los Consejos Comunales, sin importar su posición política. ¿Hasta qué punto esta frase refleja la realidad de los consejos comunales hoy en día?

VENMI1. Y pensando en las misiones… Cualquier venezolano puede beneficiarse de las misiones, sin importar su posición política. ¿Hasta qué punto esta frase refleja la realidad de las misiones hoy en día?

*The variables VENB50, VENCCPAR, AND VENMI1 ARE recoded from 0-100, where 0 = None and 100 = A lot
Over half of Venezuelans are dissatisfied with Communal Councils and trust in these has decreased significantly since 2012.

Evaluations of the Communal Councils in Venezuela

- **Satisfaction with the Comunal Councils in 2014**
  - Very satisfied: 3.1%
  - Satisfied: 28.7%
  - Dissatisfied: 54.4%
  - Very dissatisfied: 13.8%

- **Trust in the Comunal Councils**
  - 2012: 47.6%
  - 2014: 35.6%

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP; Venezuela 2007-2014 (draft0724)

**VENS0D7NEW2.** Hasta qué punto está satisfecho con el trabajo de los Consejos Comunales?

**VENB50.** ¿Hasta qué punto tiene usted confianza en los consejos comunales? (0-100)
The less educated are more satisfied with and have more trust in Communal Councils in 2014, but national perceptions are on average negative.

### Satisfaction with and Trust in Communal Councils by Level of Education and Wealth, Venezuela 2014

#### Satisfaction with Communal Councils

- **None/Primary**: 46.3
- **Secondary**: 40.1
- **Higher**: 37.7

#### Trust in Communal Councils

- **None/Primary**: 42.3
- **Secondary**: 35.1
- **Higher**: 33.1

**Avg. National Satisfaction:** 40.4

**Avg. National Trust:** 35.6

95% Confidence Interval (with Design-Effects)

*Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP; Venezuela 2007-2014 (draft0724)*
Only minor differences exist between regions in levels of satisfaction with and trust in Communal Councils in 2014

Satisfaction with and trust in Communal Councils by gender and place of residence, Venezuela 2014

Avg. National Satisfaction: 40.4
Avg. National Trust: 35.6

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP; Venezuela 2007-2014 (draft0724)
The more educated and wealthy are more skeptical about access to Communal Councils and Missions remaining independent of political views.

Average beliefs that access to Communal Councils or Missions is independent of political affiliation, Venezuela 2014.

**Avg. National Beliefs about CCs:** 46.7 (0 to 100)

**Avg. National Beliefs about Missions:** 52.7 (0 to 100)

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP; Venezuela 2007-2014 (draft0724)
Residents of more urban regions are more skeptical about access to Communal Councils and Missions remaining independent of political views.

Average beliefs that access to Communal Councils or Missions is independent of political affiliation, Venezuela 2014

- **Access to Communal Councils (CCs):**
  - Male: 47.4
  - Female: 45.9
  - National Average: 46.7

- **Access to Missions:**
  - Male: 53.3
  - Female: 52.1
  - National Average: 52.7

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP; Venezuela 2007-2014 (draft0724)
Part II: Decreased system support, decreased satisfaction with democracy

Summary:

- Support for the political system has declined significantly
- Satisfaction with democracy has declined significantly
- Support for democracy in the abstract remains high, but dropped in 2014
- Support for coups under corruption increased between 2012 and 2014
Support for the political system has dropped to its lowest level since at least 2007.

Average Support for the Political System in Venezuela

- **2007**: 59.7
- **2008**: 53.5
- **2010**: 50.5
- **2012**: 57.2
- **2014**: 43.5

95% Confidence Interval (with Design-Effects)

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP; Venezuela 2007-2014 (draft0724)
Satisfaction with democracy also declined to its lowest point since at least 2007

PN4. In general, would you say that you are very satisfied, satisfied, dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with the way democracy works in (country)? (1) Very satisfied (2) Satisfied (3) Dissatisfied (4) Very dissatisfied

*PN4r is recoded from 0-100, where 0 = Very dissatisfied and 100 = Very satisfied

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP; Venezuela 2007-2014 (draft0724)
Support for democracy remains high, but average support experienced a significant drop in 2014.

Average Support for Democracy in Venezuela

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Average</th>
<th>95% Confidence Interval</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>79.1</td>
<td>(76.1 - 82.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>83.8</td>
<td>(80.8 - 86.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>74.0</td>
<td>(71.0 - 77.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>85.3</td>
<td>(82.3 - 88.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>76.1</td>
<td>(73.1 - 79.1)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ING4. Changing the subject again, 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? (0-100 scale)

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP; Venezuela 2007-2014 (draft0724)
Average support for a coup in times of high crime remains low, but Venezuelans’ support for a coup in the face of high corruption increased significantly in 2014.

Some people say that under some circumstances it would be justified for the military of this country to take power by a coup d’état (military coup). In your opinion would a military coup be justified under the following circumstances?

JC10. When there is a lot of crime.

JC13. When there is a lot of corruption.

Percent that Support a Military Coup in Venezuela

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP; Venezuela 2007-2014 (draft0724)
Part III: *Political Tolerance Survives*

Summary:

- Political tolerance for the rights of regime critics remained stable, increasing slightly between 2012 and 2014.
- However, political tolerance is lowest among those more approving of the president.
Tolerance of the rights of critics of the system remains relatively stable

Average Political Tolerance in Venezuela

0-100 Index based on:

D1. There are people who only say bad things about the (country) form of government, not just the incumbent government but the system of government. How strongly do you approve or disapprove of such people’s right to vote?

D2. How strongly do you approve or disapprove that such people be allowed to conduct peaceful demonstrations in order to express their views?

D3. Still thinking of those who only say bad things about the (country) form of government, how strongly do you approve or disapprove of such people being permitted to run for public office?

D4. How strongly do you approve or disapprove of such people appearing on television to make speeches?

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP; Venezuela 2007-2014 (draft0724)
The less well-educated are more supportive of the political system and report lower political tolerance.

Averages in democratic values by level of education, Venezuela 2014

Source: © AmericasBarometer LAPOP; Venezuela 2007-2014 (draft0724)
Democratic values vary by education level in 2014

Averages in democratic values by level of education, Venezuela 2014

- **Support for Democracy**
  - Higher: 74.9
  - Secondary: 76.8
  - None/Primary: 76.9

- **Tolerance**
  - Higher: 64.1
  - Secondary: 62.6
  - None/Primary: 54.6

- **People Should Support the Political System**
  - Higher: 40.2
  - Secondary: 43.2
  - None/Primary: 51.2

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP; Venezuela 2007-2014 (draft0724)
Those who approve of the president are more supportive of the political system and less politically tolerant

Averages in democratic values by presidential approval, Venezuela 2014

Source: © AmericasBarometer LAPOP; Venezuela 2007-2014 (draft0724)
Democratic values also vary by level of presidential approval in 2014

Averages in democratic values by level of education, Venezuela 2014

- **People Should Support the Political System**
  - Very good: 86.2
  - Good: 78.8
  - Neither good nor bad: 54.9
  - Bad: 30.2
  - Very bad: 20.6

- **Support for Democracy**
  - Very good: 85.7
  - Good: 80.1
  - Neither good nor bad: 74.9
  - Bad: 71.7
  - Very bad: 76.1

- **Tolerance**
  - Very good: 41.0
  - Good: 50.7
  - Neither good nor bad: 56.9
  - Bad: 65.0
  - Very bad: 71.9

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP; Venezuela 2007-2014 (draft0724)
Part IV: Venezuela’s Public Opinion Profile Predicts Democratic Instability

Summary:

• Increased political tolerance combined with decreased system support moves Venezuela from a profile of “authoritarian stability” to “democratic instability”
Assessing Prospects for Stable Democracy in Venezuela

Variables used to create a political tolerance index [all are on a 0 (Strongly disapprove) to 100 (Strongly approve) scale]:

D1. There are people who only say bad things about the (country) form of government, not just the incumbent government but the system of government. How strongly do you approve or disapprove of such people’s right to vote?

D2. How strongly do you approve or disapprove that such people be allowed to conduct peaceful demonstrations in order to express their views?

D3. Still thinking of those who only say bad things about the (country) form of government, how strongly do you approve or disapprove of such people being permitted to run for public office?

D4. How strongly do you approve or disapprove of such people appearing on television to make speeches?

Variables used to create a legitimacy (system support) index [all are on a 0 (None) to 100 (A lot) scale]:

B1. To what extent do you think the courts in (country) guarantee a fair trial?

B2. To what extent do you respect the political institutions of (country)?

B3. To what extent do you think that citizens’ basic rights are well protected by the political system of (country)?

B4. To what extent do you feel proud of living under the political system of (country)?

B6. To what extent do you think that one should support the political system of (country)?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Legitimacy (System Support)</th>
<th>High (≥ 50)</th>
<th>Low (&lt; 50)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High (≥ 50)</td>
<td>Stable Democracy</td>
<td>Authoritarian Stability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low (&lt; 50)</td>
<td>Unstable Democracy</td>
<td>Democracy at Risk</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Venezuela’s 2014 public opinion profile – *high tolerance + low system support* – portends democratic instability

In 2014, the percentage of Venezuelans with attitudes conducive to stable democracy is lowest since at least 2007.

Between 2012 and 2014, we find an important shift from authoritarian stability to unstable democracy.
Venezuela’s 2014 public opinion profile – high tolerance + low system support – portends democratic instability

The percentage of Venezuelans with attitudes conducive to stable democracy has reached an all-time low.

There is a shift between 2012 and 2014, from support for authoritarian stability to unstable democracy.

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP; Venezuela 2007-2014 (draft0724)
After Chávez’s death, and over a year into Maduro’s presidency, Venezuelans have grown more tolerant of regime critics while support for the system that Chávez left in place has fallen to its lowest point.
Summary: Venezuela in 2014

CRIME AND INSECURITY
- Security (crime) is considered the most important problem among citizens, although scarcity of food and basic goods is a very close second
- Reported crime and perceptions of insecurity are have increased in 2014, 1 in 4 Venezuelans reports being a victim of a crime and 1 in 3 feels “very unsafe”

SCARCITY OF FOOD AND BASIC GOODS
- 81.5% believe that scarcity is a “very serious” problem (the most negative response category option for this survey item)
- 63.2% find it “very difficult” to find food and basic goods in the last 6 months (also the most negative response option for this survey item)

ECONOMY
- The economy is considered the third most important problem after crime and scarcity
- In 2014, the vast majority (the highest percentage in all LAPOP survey rounds) report that the national and their personal economic situations have worsened in the last 12 months
- Perceptions of economic conditions, national and persona, have reached their most negative levels in all survey rounds
Summary: Venezuela in 2014

CORRUPTION
- In 2014, 1 in 4 Venezuelans report being a victim of corruption, and over half think that corruption among public officials is “very common”
- However, only 1 in 10 Venezuelans justify paying a bribe in 2014
- Levels of satisfaction with the government’s performance to fight against corruption have reached their lowest point since 2007

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION
- More than half of Venezuelans are “dissatisfied” or “very dissatisfied” with freedom of expression in the country
- Nearly 45% think people have fear to speak openly about politics

COMMUNAL COUNCILS AND MISSIONS
- The majority are dissatisfied with Communal Councils and there is little trust in these institutions, although those with the least education have slight better perceptions
- There is widespread skepticism about the access to Communal Councils and Missions remaining independent of a participants political affiliation
Summary: Venezuela in 2014

PROTEST, SOCIO-POLITICAL CONFLICT AND POLARIZATION

• 1 in 10 Venezuelans participated in a protest in the last 12 months, and participation is most likely by the more educated and wealthy

• Venezuelans perceive a high level of socio-political conflict, and the percentage of those that see a “very high” level of conflict nearly doubles (33%) from 2012

• The majority thinks the conflict has increased in the last 12 months and that this trend will continue

• Nearly half of Venezuelans perceived polarization to be at its highest level possible and said that this polarization has increased in the last 12 months

DEMOCRATIC VALUES

• Support for the political system face the largest decrease in 2014, reaching its lowest point in all survey rounds

• The majority of Venezuelans are dissatisfied with the way democracy works in the country. The average level of satisfaction with democracy has also reached its lowest point in all survey rounds.

• Support for democracy remains high but shows a decrease in 2014, while there is an increase in political tolerance

• The more educated are the least supportive of the political system

• Supporters of President Maduro are the strongest supporters of the system and the least tolerant

• The increase in political tolerance and decrease in system support has caused a shift between 2012 and 2014, from attitudes conducive to support for authoritarian stability to attitudes mostly conducive to unstable democracy