Latin American Public Opinion Project

LAPOP

Proyecto de Opinión Pública de América Latina

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AmericasBarometer by LAPOP
Barómetro de las Américas

www.AmericasBarometer.org

V VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY

AmericasBarometer, 2016/2017

Technical Information

Country	*Year*	*Sample Size*	*Weighted/Unweighted*	*Fieldwork dates*
Guyana	2016	1,576	Weighted	February 17th to March 23rd

LAPOP AmericasBarometer 2016/17 round of surveys

In its effort to collect the best quality data possible and therefore produce the highest quality studies, the Latin American Public Opinion Project (LAPOP) adopted a new sample design for the AmericasBarometer 2012 round of surveys, which was also employed in 2014 and 2016. The two main reasons for this decision to change the sample design from that which was used in the 2004-2010 period were: (1) updating the sample designs to reflect the population changes as revealed by recent census information, and (2) standardizing the sample sizes at the level of the municipality in order to both reduce the variance and provide a basis for using multi-level analysis drawing on municipal data. This change in the sample design makes the sample representative by municipality type[1], to enable the use of the municipality as a unit of analysis for multilevel statistical analysis. Details of the revisions are found in the description of the 2012 AmericasBarometer surveys.

With respect to *data collection*, in the 2016/17 round of the AmericasBarometer we continue to expand the use of handheld electronic devices. For the first time, we employed for data collection "Surveys to Go"[©], a questionnaire app designed for data collection. The use of electronic devices for interviews and data entry in the field reduces data entry errors, supports the use of multiple languages, and permits LAPOP to track on a daily basis the progress of the survey, down to the

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[1] The new sample design included three different strata of municipalities classified according to their size. Municipalities were grouped in sizes appropriate for the country. One common grouping was (1) Municipalities with less than 25,000 inhabitants, (2) Municipalities with between 25,000 and 100,000 inhabitants, (3) Municipalities with more than 100,000 inhabitants.

location of interviews (which are monitored in real time, or nearly real time, but not recorded into the public datasets in order to preserve respondents' privacy) and the timing of the interviews.

The remaining pages of this technical note describe the sample design of the AmericasBarometer 2016 survey in Guyana.

Guyana 2016 AmericasBarometer Round

This survey was carried out between February 17th and March 23rd of 2016, as part of the LAPOP AmericasBarometer 2016/17 wave of surveys. It is a follow-up of the national surveys of 2006, 2009, 2010, 2012 and 2014 carried out by the LAPOP. The 2016 survey was conducted by Vanderbilt University with the field work being carried out by Development Policy and Management Consultants (DPMC). The 2016 AmericasBarometer survey in Guyana was supported by USAID and Vanderbilt University.

The project used a national probability sample design of voting-age adults, with a total N of 1,576 people. It involved face-to-face interviews conducted in English. The survey used a complex sample design, taking into account stratification and clustering.

The sample was developed by LAPOP using as a sampling frame the 2002 Population Census. The sample consists of four strata representing the main geographical regions: Greater Georgetown area, Region 3 and rest of Region 4, Regions 2, 5 and 6, and Regions 1, 7, 8, 9, and 10. Each stratum was further sub-stratified by size of the Municipalities and Neighborhood Democratic Councils (NDCs), and by urban and rural areas.[2] Respondents were selected in clusters of 6 interviews. Reported statistics or statistical analyses should be adjusted for the design effect due to the complex design of the sample.[3]

The sample has 51 primary sampling units and 259 final sampling points. A total of 538 respondents were surveyed in urban areas and 1,038 in rural areas. Respondents were selected in clusters of 6 interviews both in urban and rural areas. The estimated margin of error for the survey is ± 2.5. Margin of sampling errors are not adjusted for weights. Table 1 shows the unweighted sample size in each of the four strata and by municipality size.

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[2] The new sample design included three different strata of municipalities classified according to their size. Municipalities were grouped in sizes as follow: (1) Small municipalities with less than 25,000 inhabitants, (2) Medium-sized municipalities with between 25,000 and 100,000 inhabitants, (3) Large municipalities with more than 100,000 inhabitants.

[3] For more information visit http://www.vanderbilt.edu/lapop/survey-designs.php

Table 1: Sample sizes by Strata, Municipality Size and urban/rural area in the 2016 AmericasBarometer Survey in Guyana

Strata	Unweighted Sample Size
Greater Georgetown Area	300
Region 3 and rest of Region 4	603
Region 2,5 and 6	431
Region 7,8,9 and 10	242
Total	**1,576**
Size of Municipality	
Large (Urban Areas)	509
Medium (Rural areas with more than 5,000 inhabitants)	508
Small (Rural areas with less than 5,000 inhabitants)	559
Total	**1,576**
Area	
Urban	538
Rural	1,038
Total	**1,576**

Quotas for gender were adopted since multiple recalls in a national sample such as this are impractical from a cost standpoint. Our experience shows that even three recalls leave the sample with a notable gender imbalance (more women than men). Rather than have to include post-hoc weights to adjust for this sample error, we resolve the problem in the field via quotas.

A single respondent was selected in each household, following the gender and age quota mentioned above. Respondents are permanent household members. If two or more people of the same sex and age group were present in the household at the moment of the interview, the questionnaire was applied to the person with the next birthday.

Weighting of the Guyana 2016 dataset

The AmericasBarometer sample of Guyana are not self-weighted. The dataset contains a variable called WT which is the "country weight" variable. The variable "WEIGHT1500" should be activated/created to produce representative national results. When using this dataset for cross-country comparisons, in order to give each country in the study an identical weight in the pooled sample, LAPOP reweights each country data set in the merged files so that each country has an N of 1,500. In SPSS this is done via the "weight" command.

Margins of sampling error or statistical analyses should be adjusted for the design effect due to the complex design of the sample.[4]

Readers can access the questionnaire through a link on the LAPOP website: www.AmericasBarometer.org.

Further details of the sample design are contained in the country report. For additional information contact Georgina Pizzolitto at georgina.pizzolitto@vanderbilt.edu

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[4] For more information visit http://www.vanderbilt.edu/lapop/survey-designs.php