

LAPOP Nicaragua 1991 Mass Study

Technical Information

Countries	Year	Sample Size	Weighted/Unweighted
Nicaragua	1991	National: 704	Unweighted

This survey was carried out as part of the University of Pittsburgh Central American Public Opinion Project (CAPOP). The CAPOP was conceived in 1989, and carried out between the years 1990 and 1992. It was designed to tap the opinion of Central Americans on a host of topics, being attitudes towards Central American integration the main one. As a whole, CAPOP's funding sources include the Andrew Mellon Foundation, the Tinker Foundation, the Howard Heinz Endowment, the University of Pittsburgh Central Research Small Grant Fund, and the Instituto de Estudios Latinoamericanos (IDELA). The CAPOP collected attitudinal survey data on the opinions of over 4,000 Central Americans in the metropolitan areas of the six Spanish-speaking Republics of the region. CAPOP was a precursor of LAPOP when the countries were confined to Central America.

Andrew Stein coordinated this mass study. The Centro de Estudios Internacionales (CEI) and the Sociology Department at the Universidad Centroamericana (UCA) collaborated with this effort. Country mass samples for the six-nation study were of area probability design. In each country, the most recent population census data was used. The design called for samples of at least 500 with a maximum of 1,000 respondents from each country. The lower boundary of 500 was established so as to provide a sufficient number of cases from each country to allow for reliable statistical analysis.

The Nicaraguan sample was heavily focused in Managua (73.4% of the interviews), but interviews were also carried out in León (11.9%), Masaya (8.9%), and Granada (5.7%). A small number of those interviews were also conducted in rural areas. Total number of observations was 704, 55.3% female and 44.7% male. This sample was gathered during July and August 1991. In this study, the interviews carried out in urban areas are retained, but those obtained from rural settings were dropped in order to retain comparability with the urban samples from the other five countries. All of the interviews were conducted face to face, using as a method of selection the next birthday system. Category labels for some variables remain undefined. No elite sample was collected in Nicaragua.

A view of attitudes toward regional integration, that includes the Nicaraguan data, can be found in *Attitudes of the Central American Mass Public toward Economic and Political Integration*, co-authored by Mitchell A. Seligson. The Graduate School of International Studies of the University of Miami's Instituto de Estudios Ibéricos published this report in 1992. Further analysis based on

this sample can be found in the following peer-reviewed publications:

- Muller, Edward N. and Mitchell A. Seligson. 1994. "Civic Culture and Democracy: The Question of Causal Relationships," *The American Political Science Review*, 88(3)
- Seligson, Mitchell A.; and John A. Booth. 1995. *Elections and Democracy in Central America*. Charlotte, NC: University of North Carolina Press
- Seligson, Mitchell A. 2000. "Toward A Model of Democratic Stability: Political Culture in Central America," *Estudios interdisciplinarios de América Latina y el Caribe*, 11(2) July-December
- Seligson, Mitchell A. 2002. "The Renaissance of Political Culture or the Renaissance of the Ecological Fallacy," *Comparative Politics*. 34(3)

The complete questionnaire, report and other above-mentioned publications can be found at www.vanderbilt.edu/lapop/nicaragua.php.

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