

September, 2022 | Mark Grujic

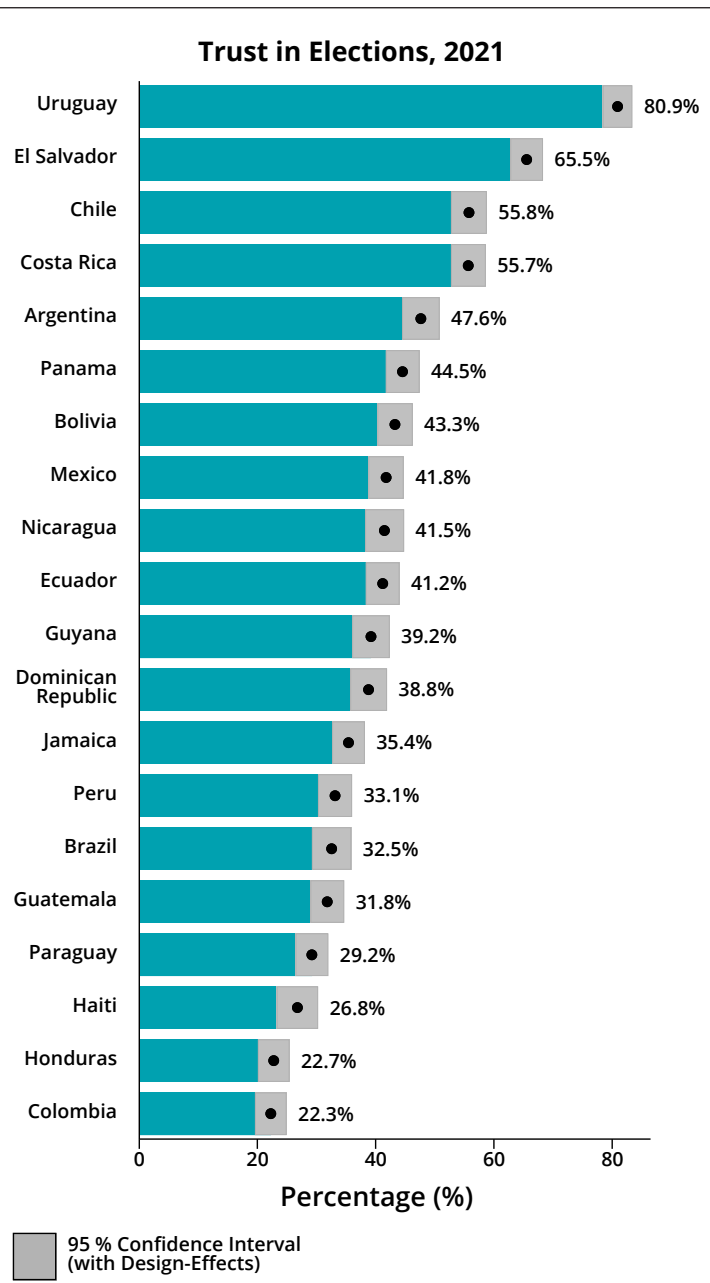
# Spotlight on Trust in Elections in the Latin America and Caribbean region

Trust in elections in the Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) region has increased since 2018/2019

## In most LAC countries, less than one-half of respondents report high levels of trust in their country's elections

Since 2012, LAPOP's AmericasBarometer has measured trust in elections in the LAC region with the following question: **B47A: To what extent do you trust elections in this country?** In the 2021 survey round, this question was included in surveys in 20 LAC countries. Respondents indicated their opinion using a 1 to 7 scale, where 1 means "not at all" and 7 means "a lot." Here we recode responses into a dichotomous variable, which allows us to estimate the percentage of people in each country that have high trust in elections. Specifically, responses were recoded to indicate trust in elections by combining responses "5" through "7" into one category, while placing the remaining responses ("1" through "4") into a baseline category.

The country with the highest level of trust in elections is Uruguay (80.9%), while individuals in Colombia trust elections the least (22.3%). In the majority of countries, less than half have high levels of trust in their country's elections.

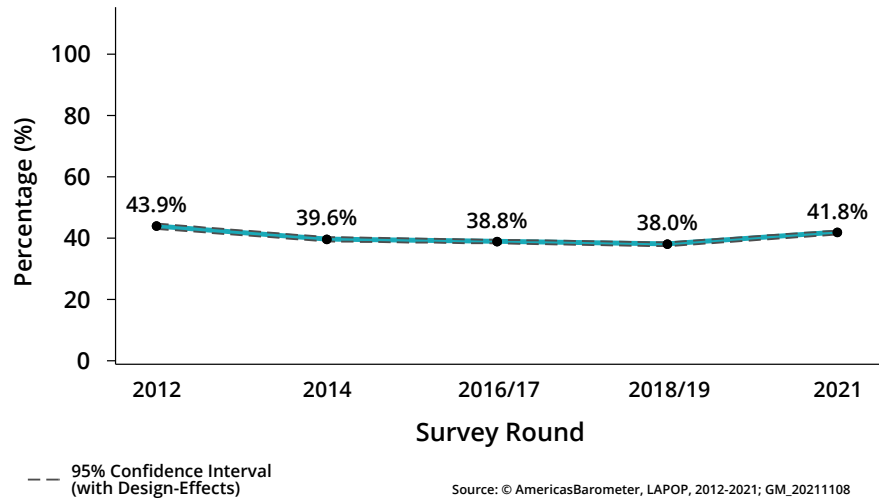


Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2021; GM\_20211108

**Just over two-fifths of respondents in the LAC region have trust in their country's elections, an increase of 3.8 percentage points from 2018/2019**

Across the LAC region, trust in elections dropped from 2012 to 2014, but remained relatively stable from 2014 to 2018/2019. Trust in elections then increased by 3.8 percentage points in the 2021 round. Now, just over two-fifths (41.8%) of respondents have high trust in their country's elections.

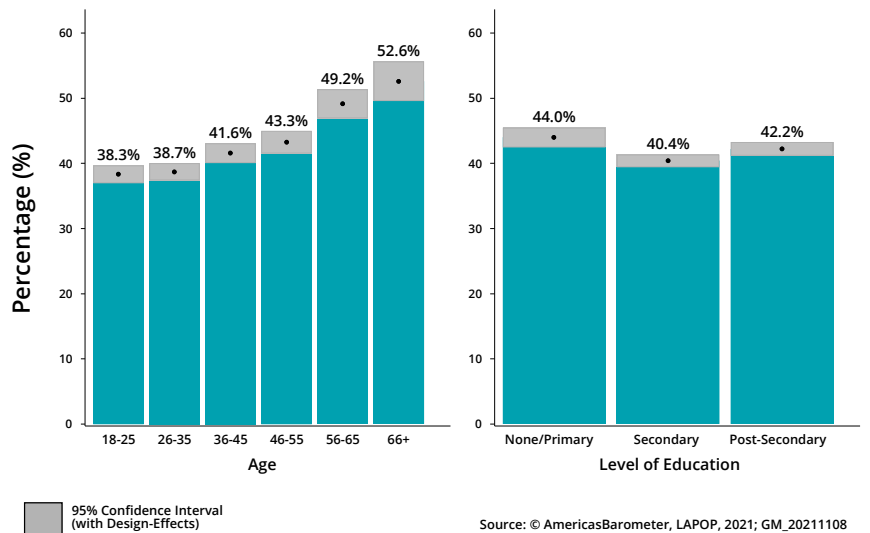
**Trust in Elections in the LAC Region, 2012-2021**



**In the LAC region, trust in elections is highest among older individuals and individuals with either the lowest levels or highest levels of education**

What characteristics of individuals predict trust in elections in the LAC region? On average, older individuals have greater trust in their country's elections than younger individuals. Likewise, those with no education or at least some primary education (44.0%), as well as individuals with at least some post-secondary education (42.2%), are more likely to have high trust in elections than individuals with at least some secondary education (40.4%).

**Trust in Elections in the LAC Region, 2021**



Gender and wealth were not statistically significant predictors of trust in elections.<sup>1</sup>

Mark Grujic is an undergraduate researcher in the LAPOP Lab. He is a junior studying history and public policy.

Series Editors: Sebastián C. Larrea, Vanderbilt University  
 Mariana Rodríguez, Vanderbilt University  
 Valerie Schweizer, Vanderbilt University  
 Laura Sellers, Vanderbilt University



**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)

The contents of this Spotlight Report are the sole responsibility of the authors and LAPOP and do not necessarily reflect the views of any supporting organization. LAPOP's AmericasBarometer surveys are supported predominantly by USAID and Vanderbilt University. The 2021 round also had support from IADB, US National Science Foundation (NSF), and academic partners and researchers across the Americas.

<sup>1</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.