



Background Information on the AmericasBarometer 2008 Round of Surveys by LAPOP

The **AmericasBarometer** by LAPOP focus on the measurement of underlying values that can lead to stable democracy. For example, the surveys tap into the extent to which citizens in Latin America believe in the legitimacy of key government institutions, and the extent to which they are tolerant of groups that they dislike. Moreover, since participation is at the heart of democracy (and, according to Putnam’s classic work, thought to be essential for making democracy work), we carefully measure civil society participation. In addition, with the growth of decentralization efforts throughout the region, we measure participation in and satisfaction with municipal government.

A common sample design was crucial for the success of the 2008 **AmericasBarometer**’s round of surveys by LAPOP. We used a common design for the construction of a multi-staged, stratified sample (with household level quotas) of approximately 1,500 individuals, with the exception of Bolivia (N=3,000), Ecuador (N=3,000), Paraguay (N=1,166), and Canada (N=2,000) as shown in the table below.

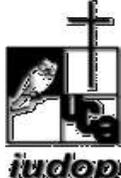
Country	Sample Size	Sampling Error
Mexico and Central America		
Mexico	1560	±2.5%
Guatemala	1538	±2.5%
El Salvador	1549	±2.5%
Honduras	1522	±2.5%
Nicaragua	1540	±2.5%
Costa Rica	1500	±2.5%
Panama	1536	±2.5%
Belize	1552	±2.5%
Andean/Southern Cone		
Colombia	1503	±2.5%
Ecuador	3000	±1.8%

Peru	1500	±2.5%
Bolivia	3003	±1.8%
Paraguay	1166	±2.9%
Chile	1527	±2.5%
Uruguay	1500	±2.5%
Brazil	1497	±2.5%
Venezuela	1500	±2.5%
Argentina	1486	±2.5%
Caribbean		
Dominica Republic	1507	±2.5%
Haiti	1536	±2.5%
Jamaica	1499	±2.5%
United States and Canada		
Canada	2032	±2.2%
United States	1500	±2.5%
TOTAL	38,053	±0.5%

The fieldwork for the surveys was carried out only after the questionnaires were pretested extensively in each country. This effort began with pretests administered to Vanderbilt students in the fall of 2007, followed by more extensive tests with the greater Nashville population. After making the appropriate changes and polishing the questionnaire, LAPOP team members were then sent to Mexico, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua and Venezuela to conduct more tests. The experience gained from each country pretest was transmitted to LAPOP and the necessary changes and revisions were made. In December, the questionnaire, having been revised many times, was tested by each country team. In many countries more than 10 revised versions of the questionnaire were created. Version 18 was used as the standard for the final questionnaire, and is available for download from our web site for each country. The result was a highly polished instrument, with common questions but with appropriate customization of vocabulary for country-specific needs. In the case of countries with significant indigenous-speaking population, the questionnaires were translated into those languages (e.g., Quechua and Aymara in Bolivia). We also developed versions in English for the English-speaking Caribbean and for Atlantic coastal America, as well as a French Creole version for use in Haiti and a Portuguese version for Brazil.

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The following tables list the partner institutions that have contributed to the project.

Country	Institutions	
Mexico and Central America		
México	 <p>Opinión Pública y Mercados</p>	 <p>INSTITUTO TECNOLÓGICO AUTÓNOMO DE MÉXICO</p>
Guatemala		
El Salvador		
Honduras	 <p>Federación de Organizaciones para el Desarrollo de Honduras</p>	
Nicaragua		
Costa Rica		
Panama		

Andean/Southern Cone

Colombia	 Universidad de los Andes	 observatorio de la democracia
Ecuador		
Peru	<i>IEP Instituto de Estudios Peruanos</i>	
Bolivia		
Paraguay		
Chile		
Uruguay		
Brazil		
Venezuela		

The Caribbean

<p>Dominican Republic</p>	 <p><i>Gallop, Republica Dominicana, S.A.</i></p>	
<p>Guyana</p>		
<p>Haiti</p>		
<p>Jamaica</p>	 <p>THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES AT MONA, JAMAICA</p>	

Canada and United States

<p>Canada</p>	
<p>United States</p>	<p>VANDERBILT  UNIVERSITY</p>