

AmericasBarometer

The entity that has organized the survey and is responsible for data collection - as well as key data on the entity's membership, governance arrangements, source of funding etc.

AmericasBarometer is organized by [the Latin American Public Opinion Project \(LAPOP\)](#). It was founded by Dr. Mitchell A. Seligson and hosted by Vanderbilt University. LAPOP has been aided financially by USAID, the UNDP and the Inter-American Development Bank.

LAPOP consists of several bodies, including the [Faculty](#), the [Staff](#), the [Partners](#), the [Scientific Support Group](#), and the [International Advisory Board](#).

A historical sketch of the initiation and origin of the survey

LAPOP has its origins in studies of democratic values in one country, Costa Rica. These studies took place in the 1970s, a time in which much of the rest of Latin America was caught in the grip of repressive regimes that widely prohibited studies of public opinion. As democratization expanded in Latin America, LAPOP grew in scope and size. Today LAPOP regularly carries out public opinion surveys in nearly every country in Latin America, Canada, the United States, and much of the Caribbean.

In 2004, LAPOP established the AmericasBarometer as multi-country, regularly conducted surveys of democratic values and behaviors in the Americas, organized by a consortium of academic and think-tank partners in the hemisphere. The first round included voting-age respondents from 11 countries. The second round of surveys took place in 2006 and represented 22 countries from the hemisphere. The third round, 2008, included 24 countries in the Americas. The most recent round of surveys was conducted in 2010, with 26 countries from North America, Latin America, and the Caribbean, adding Trinidad & Tobago as well as Suriname to the 24 countries covered in 2008.

Internet links to the website of the responsible organization

<http://www.vanderbilt.edu/lapop/index.php>

The frequency or repetitions of the survey. Possible explanation of this.

LAPOP conducted a number of studies before the establishment of AmericasBarometer, however the first round of this survey was conducted in 2004.

[AmericasBarometer I: 2004](#)

[AmericasBarometer II: 2006](#)

[AmericasBarometer III: 2008](#)

[AmericasBarometer IV: 2010](#)

[AmericasBarometer V: 2012](#)

A description of the survey's content, i.e. both focused rotational and / or core modules of the survey

The general content regards democratic public opinion, values and behaviour in the Americas.

The AB IV 2010 round included a special series of items on the impact of the economic crises, as well as new or expanded items covering respondent personality, attitudes toward the role of the state, and a more refined measurement of religious affiliation and adherence.

The AB V 2012 round included a special series of items on discrimination, as well as new or expanded items covering the role of the military, international image, attitudes toward China, and the role of the state.

An outline of the type of sample and the main data collection methods used

Sophisticated probability samples are designed and employed to ensure representative samples at the national and subnational levels. In some cases oversamples are collected to allow precise analysis of opinion within subnational regions. The sample sizes vary between 1,500 (the minimum) and 3,000. For details for each country in each wave, please refer to the round- and wave specific [Technical Reports](#).

Face-to-face interviews were conducted, except in Canada and the United States where the interviews are web-based.

An account of availability of the data to researchers, restrictions on access, etc.

For the surveys conducted from 2004 – 2012, access to data is unrestricted, free, and world-wide. The only demand is that each user agrees to the terms of the license, notably regarding human subjects protections and not passing along data to third parties.

For newer surveys, there are several ways to access the AmericasBarometer data sets. One may

purchase an annual subscription to the AmericasBarometer series, purchase any of the data sets LAPOP offers as a repository, or use the free online data analysis site. In addition, LAPOP provides free access to the data sets to individuals for their country of citizenship, for their individual use.

Questionnaires, English version

Both the Core Questionnaires and the language- and round-specific questionnaires are [available here](#).

The countries included in the different rounds

AB I 2004: 11 countries.

AB II 2006: 22 countries.

AB III 2008: 24 countries.

AB IV 2010: 26 countries.

AB V 2012: 26 countries.

Please refer to the wave-specific sites linked to above for information on participating countries in each round.

Cumulative file

There is a cumulative file available at Duke University Library named the Grand Merge Data File 2004-2012. This file may be downloaded [here](#) upon registration.

Publications based on data

[Studies, articles, and books using LAPOP data](#)

Analytical summary...

Sources

Unless otherwise noted, all information is extracted from the LAPOP website.

