

# AmericasBarometer 2018/19



local conditions. Most of the substitutions were because the selected enumeration areas no longer contained households as a result of urban renewal or spreading commerce. Following LAPOP's substitution protocols,<sup>3</sup> the replacement sampling points were located within the same primary sampling unit (PSU) and, in the case of Argentina, in the same census sector.

Figure 1: Sample stratification in Argentina

The sample consists of 84 primary sampling units and 252 final sampling units across the set of all provinces in Argentina. A total of 1,332 respondents were surveyed in urban areas and 180 in rural areas. The estimated margin of error for the survey is  $\pm 2.5$ . Margin of sampling errors are not adjusted for weights. Table 1 shows the sample size in each of the regions (primary stratum) and by municipality size.

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<sup>3</sup> See LAPOP's methodological note "Sample Substitutions in the AmericasBarometer 2016/ 17" by Facundo Salles

Table 1: Sample sizes by Strata and Municipality  
Size in the 2018/19 AmericasBarometer Survey in Argentina

Strata

Participation in the AmericasBarometer survey is anonymous and voluntary.<sup>5</sup> Eligible respondents agree to participate in the survey are administered the survey after the questionnaire after giving their consent to interviewers.<sup>6</sup>

## **Weighting of the Argentina datasets**

The dataset contains a variable called "wt" which is the "country weight" variable. Since in the case of Argentina the sample is self-weighted, the value of each case =1. 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. The weight variable for cross-country comparisons is called "weight1500." In SPSS, this is done via the "weight" command. Weights are already activated in SPSS datasets. In Stata, one should use the svyset command to weight the data and declare the sampling information to correctly compute standard errors that take into account the design effects. The command for single country, single year studies is: svyset upm [pw=wt], strata(estratopri). For cross-country and/or cross-time studies, the command is: svyset upm [pw=weight1500], strata(strata). These declarations have been made in Stata datasets. One must use the svy prefix with estimation commands to compute the weighted statistics and correct standard errors (see help svy\_estimation within Stata for more information).

## **Response Rates in Argentina**

In this section we present the number of attempts that interviewers did to obtain an interview as well as the survey response rates.<sup>7</sup> AmericasBarometer response rates are based on AAPOR's Standard Definitions. The response rate is the number of complete interviews with reporting units divided by the number of eligible reporting units in the sample. LAPOP has programmed in SurveyToGo a module of questions and skips that permits the accurate recording of the number of refusals, ineligible respondents, or non-contact. This in turn allows for estimating the response rates in each country. Two definitions of response rates are provided below, ranging from the definition that yields the lowest rate to the definition that yields the highest rate, depending on how partial interviews are considered and how cases of unknown eligibility are handled.

Response Rate 3 (RR3) = \_\_\_\_\_

Where:

higher scores indicate more serious errors, and we refuse to accept (that is, we require the cancelation of) low quality interviews.

## **Annex 1: Quality Control Report**

### **Introduction**

Producing high quality survey data is a core mission at the Latin American Public Opinion Project (LAPOP). The LAPOP research team implements and constantly updates a set of rigorous fieldwork protocols that both office personnel and fieldwork operators are required to follow closely. These include state-of-the-art sampling techniques; iterative pre-testing; interviewer, supervisor and quality control officer training; and standardized methods of data processing and analysis. They further include a sophisticated monitoring algorithm of data c



interview takes place, permitting detection of interviews conducted in odd places (e.g., at parks or shops).

Our quality control personnel audit “Key Performance Indicators,” which provide detailed information about fieldwork start and end times each day, the number of interviews carried out in a particular timeframe, and the average duration of interviews, among other metrics. Finally, we listen to audio recordings to ensure that enumerators read items completely and correctly, without interpreting the question, skipping items, or influencing respondents’ answers.

Based on these audits, we assign each interview a quality control score using a “demerit” system. In this system, higher scores indicate more serious errors, and we refuse to accept (that is, we require the cancelation of) low quality interviews. Local firms audit 100% of all interviews according to our protocols. All interviews are also run through LAPOP’s automatic flagging system, and then LAPOP’s team manually audits a subset of the interviews. When low quality interviews are identified by the local firm or LAPOP, the firm is obligated to replace them. Because FALCON works in real time (meaning, while fieldwork is in progress), canceled interviews can be and are replaced by high quality interviews.

In this report, we summarize the results of this quality control process as implemented in the 2019 Argentina AmericasBarometer national survey.

LAPOP worked with the local survey firm MBC Mori to collect data from 1,528 voting-age adults in 50 districts in Argentina

The Quality Assurance Chapter log reports on the most common problems found by the auditing team during fieldwork. The items in the QuAC are listed below:

Items in the Quality Assurance Chapter (QuAC) <sup>12</sup>
The enumerator interviews himself/herself <sup>13</sup>
Audio files are attached, but no one is heard speaking - or only the interviewer can be heard <sup>14</sup>
The interviewer sets the device to "Airplane Mode" <sup>15</sup>
The interviewer turns off the device's GPS <sup>16</sup>
The interviewer covers or disables the camera to avoid photo captures <sup>17</sup>
The interviewer interviews another enumerator <sup>18</sup>
The interviewer interviews someone that he/she knows <sup>19</sup>
The photographs do not correspond to those of the interviewer or there are inconsistencies in the photographs <sup>20</sup>
The voice in the audio files does not correspond to the interviewer's voice <sup>21</sup>
The attempts are exhausted <sup>22</sup>
The respondent does not complete the interview and leaves it <sup>23</sup>
The interviewer decides to end the interview for any other reason <sup>24</sup>
The interview is carried out in an incorrect location (a shopping mall, store, park, gas station, school, etc.) <sup>25</sup>
The interview starts and ends in different locations <sup>26</sup>
The net interview duration is less than 25 minutes or more than 2 hours <sup>27</sup>
The interviewer does not read the complete study information sheet <sup>28</sup>
The interviewer reads only parts of the study information sheet <sup>29</sup>
The interviewer changes words from the study information sheet <sup>30</sup>

<sup>12</sup> Each item has a predetermined score that STG automatically computes after the auditing process is completed. Based on our protocols, if an interview reaches a score of 20 or more, the interview is canceled and replaced by the local firm.

<sup>13</sup> This item refers to an interviewer who asks and responds to questions by himself/herself without the present of a valid respondent.

<sup>14</sup> This point refers to interviewers who complete an interview without asking questions.

<sup>15</sup> This point refers to interviewers turning on "airplane mode" on the device deliberately.

<sup>16</sup> This point refers to interviewers turning off the GPS of the device deliberately.

<sup>17</sup> This point refers to interviewers covering the front camera of the device deliberately.

<sup>18</sup> This point refers to interviewers who fake interviews by interviewing another member of the interviewer's team.

<sup>19</sup> This point refers to interviewers who fake interviews by not interviewing a respondent within selected households.

<sup>20</sup> This point refers to cases in which the interviewer is not part the team trained by LAPOP Central.

<sup>21</sup> This point refers to cases in which the voice of the interviewer does not match with his/her voice in previous interviews.

<sup>22</sup> This point refers to cases in which interviewers could not find a valid respondent after completing 100 attempts.

<sup>23</sup> This point refers to respondents abandoning the interview before it is completed.

<sup>24</sup> This point refers to interviewers abandoning the interview before it is completed.

<sup>25</sup> This point refers to interviewers who conducted an interview in public places and not residential zones.

<sup>26</sup> This point refers to interviewers who started an interview in one location and completed it in a different location.

<sup>27</sup> This point refers to interviews that lasted less than a minimal amount of time pre-set by LAPOP.

<sup>28</sup> This point refers to interviewers not reading the information sheet to respondents at the beginning of the interview.

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The interviewer changes the expected duration in the information sheet <sup>31</sup>
The interviewer is overly pushy with respect to continuing with the interview, in response to an individual expressing reservations about participating <sup>32</sup>
The interviewer reads 1, 2, or 3 (or more) questions incompletely/incorrectly <sup>33</sup>
The interviewer reads 1, 2, or 3 (or more) too quickly/unintelligibly <sup>34</sup>
The interviewer interprets a question meaning 1, 2, or 3 (or more) times <sup>35</sup>
The interviewer skips 1, 2, or 3 (or more) questions without reading , or the interviewer does not give the interviewee time to respond

