AmericasBarometer 2018/19: Costa Rica

Technical Information

Country	Year	Sample Size	Weighted/Unweighted	Fieldwork dates
Costa Rica	2018	1,501	Self-Weighted	September 24th – October 31st, 2018

The sample consists of 30 primary sampling units and 250 final sampling units across all the departments in Costa Rica. A total of 950 respondents were surveyed in urban areas and 551 in rural areas. The estimated margin of error for the survey is ± 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.

LAPOP uses "frequency matching," a technique that permits one Mching," a   "u   %   eue

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 Costa Rica

In this section we present the number of attempts that interviewers did to obtain an interview as well as the survey response rates.[7] 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 rates reported below are:

Response Rate 1 (RR1) = ——————————

Response Rate 3 (RR3) = ——————————

Where: where C refers to completed interviews, P to partial interviews, R to refusals, N for non-contacts, O for others, UH for unknown if household, UO to unknown others, and e is the eligibility rate calculated using the CASRO method: e=Eligible/(Eligible + Ineligible).

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[7] For additional information on how response rates are estimated, see LAPOP's Methodological Note: "How Does LAPOP Calculate Response Rates? By Zachary Warner and Gabriel Camargo-Toledo (June 2019). Available at: https://www.vanderbilt.edu/lapop/methods-005rev.pdf

Table 2: Response Rates in the 2018/19 AmericasBarometer Survey

Country	AB2018/19		
	RR1	RR3	Eligibility
Uruguay	0.11	0.18	0.55
Argentina	0.12	0.15	0.78
El Salvador	0.12	0.13	0.86
Bolivia	0.15	0.2	0.67
Mexico	0.15		

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 sophisti

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

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

[12] 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.

The interviewer changes the expected duration in the information sheet[31]
The interviewer is overly pushy with respect to continuing with the interview, in response to an individual expressing reservations about participating[32]
The interviewer reads 1, 2, or 3 (or more) questions incompletely/incorrectly[33]
The interviewer reads 1, 2, or 3 (or more) too quickly/unintelligibly[34]
The interviewer interprets a question meaning 1, 2, or 3 (or more) times[35]
The interviewer skips 1, 2, or 3 (or more) questions without reading, or the interviewer does not give the interviewee time to respond[36]

Problems reported during the quality control process

Our efforts to identify the different types of errors that occur during interviews allow insight into the prevalence of serious errors like those consistent with fabrication. We are pleased to report that such errors account for a very small portion of all errors in our interviews. The vast majority of errors, such as misreading questions, are consistent with sloppy or forgetful interviewing, not with data fabrication.[37]

Problems found during the quality control process	% of total interviews

Key performance indicators:

Key performance indicators are STG measures that help us track fieldwork progress and analyze teams' efficiency. Below are results for interview average duration, GPS information, and geo-fencing data.