

correlation, while taking advantage of economies of fieldwork that simple random selection of interviews within the entire PSU would not make possible.

The remaining pages of this technical note describe the sample design of the 2018/19 AmericasBarometer survey in El Salvador.

2018/19 AmericasBarometer: El Salvador

This survey was carried out November 13 –December 6 2018, as part of LAPOP's 2018/ 19 AmericasBarometer. It is a follow on to LAPOP's AmericasBarometer El Salvador surveys of 2004, 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014 and 2017. The 2019 survey fieldwork was carried out by Fundaungo on behalf of LAPOP. Key funding came from Vanderbilt University and USAID.

Questionnaire pretesting took place in San Salvador on November 5 and 6, 2018 and interviewer training took place on November 8 and 9, 2018. A full copy of the 2018/19 AmericasBarometer El Salvador questionnaire can be found at LAPOP's website at www.LapopSurveys.org.

The project used a national probability sample design of voting-age adults, with a total N of 1,511 people involving face-to-face interviews conducted in Spanish. In the 2018/19 round, LAPOP used the SurveyToGo© (STG) software, running on Android tablets and phones, to conduct 100% of the interviews.

The survey used a complex sample design, including stratification and clustering. The sample was developed by LAPOP, using a multi-stage probability design and was stratified by the five main geographical regions: Occidental, Central I, Central II, Oriental and San Salvador Metropolitan Area. The sample is representative at the national level and of the 5 regions as shown in the map below (see Figure 1). Each stratum was further sub-stratified by size of municipality¹ and by urban and rural areas within municipalities. Respondents were selected in clusters of 6 in urban and rural areas. Reported statistics or statistical analyses should be adjusted for the design effect due to the complex design of the sample.²

The sample frame used for the sample is the 2007 Population Census. The sample is representative of voting age population at the primary stratum level, by urban/rural areas, and by size of the municipalities. No areas or regions of the country were excluded from the design.

No sample substitutions were done during fieldwork in El Salvador.

¹ The sample design includes three different strata of municipalities classified according to their size. Municipalities were grouped in sizes as follow: (1) Small municipalities with less than 25,000 inhabitants, (2) Medium-sized municipalities with between 25,000 and 100,000 inhabitants, (3) Large municipalities with more than 100,000 inhabitants.

² For more information visit <http://www.vanderbilt.edu/lapop/survey-designs.php>

LAPOP uses “frequency matching,” a technique that permits one to obtain a sample with a distribution of age and gender similar to that of the national census or electoral registration lists. Frequency matching avoids the extremely costly effort involved in making multiple callbacks to each missed unit within each PSU in an effort to obtain a balanced sample. In national, face-to-face interviewing, multiple callbacks are often impractical from a cost standpoint. Our experience reveals that even three callbacks leave the sample with a notable gender imbalance (more women than men, since women are more likely to be at home than men). Rather than having to include post-hoc weights to adjust for this sample error, which can be large, we resolve the problem in the field via using a distribution of interviews among gender and ages that reflects the structure of the population.³

A single respondent was selected in each household, following the frequency matching distribution programmed into the sample design, by gender and age as mentioned above. Respondents are limited to household members who reside permanently in that household (thus excluding visiting relatives), who fit the age and residency requirements (limited to adult citizens and permanent residents). If two or more people of the same sex and age group were present in the household at the moment of the visit of our interviewer, the questionnaire was applied to the person who most recently celebrated a birthday (i.e., the “last birthday” system) in order to avoid selection bias.

Participation in the AmericasBarometer survey is anonymous and voluntary.⁴ Eligible respondents agree to participate in the survey are administered the survey after the questionnaire after giving their consent to interviewers.⁵

Weighting of the El Salvador datasets

The dataset contains a variable called “wt” which is the “country weight” variable. Since in the case of Mexico 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

and/or cross-time studies, the command is: `svyset`. 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 this section we present the number of attempts that interviewers did to obtain an interview as

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	0.2	0.71
Peru	0.15	0.19	0.73
Chile	0.18	0.2	0.92
Paraguay	0.20	0.22	0.82
Ecuador	0.21	0.27	0.69
Colombia	0.22	0.27	0.76
Costa Rica	0.23	0.26	0.85
Nicaragua	0.24	0.25	0.92
Brazil	0.26	0.3	0.83
Dominican Republic	0.26	0.31	0.77
Panama	0.36	0.38	0.93
Honduras	0.38	0.39	0.94
Guatemala	0.46	0.48	0.92
Jamaica	0.50	0.51	0.96

Quality Control

In the 2018/19 AmericasBarometer, Quality Control was based in FALCON© (Fieldwork Algorithm for LAPOP's Control over Survey Operations and Norms), which includes, but is not limited to, an interviewer identity monitoring check, a geo-fencing system,⁷ time checks, a reading control check, an 0 G1 0 0 1 72.024 282.53 Tm0 G(ch)6(e)-2(ck,)48.5

For additional information

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The enumerator interviews himself/herself ¹²
Audio files are attached, but no one is heard speaking - or only the interviewer can be heard ¹³
The interviewer sets the device to "Airplane Mode" ¹⁴
The interviewer turns off the device's GPS ¹⁵
The interviewer covers or disables the camera to avoid photo captures ¹⁶
The interviewer interviews another enumerator ¹⁷

The interviewer changes the expected duration in the information sheet ³⁰
The interviewer is overly pushy with respect to continuing with the interview, in response to an individual expressing reservations about participating ³¹
The interviewer reads 1, 2, or 3 (or more) questions incompletely/incorrectly ³²
The interviewer reads 1, 2, or 3 (or more) too quickly/unintelligibly ³³
The interviewer interprets a question meaning 1, 2, or 3 (or more) times ³⁴
The interviewer skips 1, 2, or 3 (or more) questions without reading, or the interviewer does not give the interviewee time to respond ³⁵

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

Key performance indicators: