What Public Policies Do Citizens Want for Combating Crime in Latin America and the Caribbean?

A Dataset

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Sources

- Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo-Proyecto de Opinión Pública de América Latina (LAPOP)(survey).

- Encuesta Barómetro de las Américas realizada por el Proyecto de Opinión Pública de América Latina (LAPOP), Vanderbilt University.

Variable definitions

General remarks:

Data from AmericasBarometer study were collected in 2016–17 and refer to the subsample of 17 countries in Latin America (Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela). Within the subsample, an extra layer of questions was asked in four countries (Bolivia, Chile, Panama and Uruguay). The IADB–LAPOP–Capital Cities Project includes data collected from 2017, between August and September. A total of 6,040 interviews in seven countries were conducted as part of the project (Chile, Colombia, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Peru, and Uruguay).

For variables with binary values, "1" is equivalent to "yes," while "0" is equivalent to "no." For a special set of binary variables, we refer to Table 1 and Table 1 (cont.) in order to set the baseline category.

Note: With a few exceptions (noted below), when **no information** was available the cells were left **blank**. All of them are declared missing for computations**.**

Dependent variable coding

POLOWNH
1 "agree" 0 "disagree"
The variable refers to a recoded variable to express binary agreement with whether it is appropriate that "Police take justice in their own hands."

TORTURE
1 "agree" 0 "disagree"
The variable refers to a recoded variable to express binary agreement with the appropriateness of "Police use of physical force with suspect if crime is serious."

COMBATCRIME
1 "agree" 0 "disagree"
The variable refers to a recoded variable to express binary agreement with the idea that "Crime reduction is better than poverty reduction."

POL_FINANCE
1 "police" 0 "people"
The variable refers to a recoded variable to express binary choices on more resources for police or more resources for the people.

POL_QE
1 "quality" 0 "quantity"
The variable refers to a recoded variable to express binary choices on improving police quality or increasing police quantity.

POL_CONCENT
1 "hotspots" 0 "traditional"
The variable refers to a recoded variable to express binary choices on hotspot vs. traditional policing.

D_PATIENCE1
1 "20% in two years" 0 "10% now"
The variable refers to a recoded variable to express binary choices on the preference for less crime tomorrow—20 percent in two years or 10 percent now.

POL_WAGE_BEST
1 "agree" 0 "disagree"
The variable refers to a recoded variable to express binary agreement with the idea that "Increasing police wages makes it possible to hire the best personnel."

POL_QUC
1 "quantity" 0 "quality"
The variable refers to a recoded variable to express binary preference on improving police quality to reduce crime by 20 percent in two years or increasing quantity to decrease crime by 10 percent now.

PUNISH_POV
1 "Increase punishment" 0 "Anti-poverty programs"
The variable refers to a recoded variable to express binary preference on increasing punishment of offenders or investing more in anti-poverty programs.

D_COMPENSACION
1 "Investments to reduce crime" 0 "Compensate Victim"
The variable refers to a recoded variable to express binary preference on increasing investment to reduce crime in the community or using those resources to compensate victims.

IACEA
1 "Yes" 0 "No"
The variable refers to a recoded variable to express binary preference on the distribution of social cost and benefits, if the person is "willing to pay x amount of taxes more per month to enlarge police force."

Determinants/factors coding

SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC
This factor compiles a set of variables used in all models. According to the dataset, categories and/or coding may vary. To see the exact category set, refer to Table 1 and Table 1 (cont.). This section provides a synthesis of the variables and usual categories.

SEX/GENDER
1 "male" 0 "female"
Regular observational gender/sex question performed in the surveys. Nonconforming gender identities were not recorded in the raw surveys, so they could not be used here.

ETHNICITY
1 "White" (baseline category) 2 "Mestizo" 3 "Indigenous" 4 "Black" 5 "Mulatto" 7 "Other/1 "White" (baseline category) 2 "Asian" 3 "Afroamerican" 4 "Indigenous" 5 "Mestizo" 6 "Mulatto"
Regular ethnicity question performed in the surveys as self-defined ethnic group. Categories vary according to the survey. For more precision, see Table 1 and Table 1 (cont.).

AGE
Years (continuous)
Regular self-reported age question performed in the surveys. Only people older than 18 could participate in the surveys.

INCOME
Range in local currency/Socioeconomic level (categories)
Regular self-reported income question asked in the surveys. Categories vary according to the survey. For more precision, see Table 1 and Table 1 (cont.).

INCOME_DET
Range in local currency (string)
Regular self-reported income question asked in the surveys. Categories are specified as string **variable**, meaning variables that contain not just numbers, but also other characters (possibly mixed with numbers). They vary according to the survey.

CURRENCY
Name of the local currency
Name of the official currency of the country.

EDUCATION
Last year of completed formal education/ Years of schooling/1 "No Studies" 2 "1 year" 3 "2 years" 4 "3 year"... 14 "incomplete undergrad" 15 "Undergrad"
Regular self-reported education question performed in the surveys. Categories vary according to the survey. For more precision, see Table 1 and Table 1 (cont.).

EMPLOYMENT
1 "Yes" 0 "No"
The variable refers to a recoded variable to express binary self-reported employment in response to survey question.

CRIME AND VICTIMIZATION

VICTIM
1 "Yes" 0 "No"
The variable is binary reflecting if the person has been a crime victim or not in the last 12 months.

SAFETY_NEIGH
1 "unsafe" 0 "safe"
The variable refers to a recoded variable to express binary self-reported feeling of safety in the neighborhood.

SAFETY_CITY
1 "unsafe" 0 "safe"
The variable refers to a recoded variable to express binary self-reported feeling of safety in the city.

FEAR_CRIME
0 "never or almost never" 1 "occasionally" 2 "sometimes" 3 "Almost all the time"
The variable is ordinal reflecting the level of fear of being a crime victim reported by the interviewee.

PROB_MURDER
1"Known" 0 "Unknown"
The variable reflects a binary recoded version of the perception by the interviewee of the probability of being murdered by someone they know.

LEGAL PERCEPTION

GOVERNMENT_LAW
1 "Usual" 0 "Unusual
The variable refers to a recoded variable expressing if it is usual or not that the government obey the law. It is a binary version of the average of the responses of how usual it is for politicians and for public officials to obey the law.

FAMILY_LAW
1 "Usual" 0 "Unusual
The variable refers to a recoded binary variable expressing if it is usual or unusual for the interviewee's family members to obey the law.

TRUST

TRUST_GOVT
1 "Fulfill their promises" 0 "Do not fulfill their processes"/1 "yes" 0 "no"/1 "Trust" 0 "No trust"
The variable refers to a recoded binary variable expressing if it is usual or not for the government to fulfill its promises. In addition, in other datasets, the variable refers to a binary one reflection the opinion regarding if government can be trusted or not, or if the interviewee trusts the government. Categories vary according to the survey. For more precision, see Table 1 and Table 1 (cont.).

TRUST_GENERAL
1 "People can be trusted" 0 "People cannot be trusted"
The variable refers to a recoded binary variable expressing if the person trusts most people or not. Categories vary according to the survey. For more precision, see table 1 and table 1 cont.

TRUST_FAMILY
1 "Trustworthy" 0 "Untrustworthy"
The variable refers to a recoded binary variable expressing if the person considers their family members to be trustworthy or not.

D_TRUST_POLICE
1 "yes" 0 "no"
The variable refers to a recoded binary variable expressing if the person trusts the police or not. Categories vary according to the survey. For more precisions see table 1 and table 1 cont.

D_TRUST_MEDIA
1 "yes" 0 "no"
The variable refers to a recoded binary variable expressing if the person trusts the media or not. Categories vary according to the survey. For more precisions see table 1 and table 1 cont.

PRIORS

CRIME_PROB
1 "Yes" 0 "No"
The variable refers to a recoded binary variable expressing if the person considers delinquency/crime the main problem in the country. According to each survey questionnaire, crime/delinquency original categories were merged in one. The combined categories are: "security (lack of)," "drug trafficking," "kidnapping," "delinquency/crime," "violence" and "gangs."

CORRUPT_PROB
1 "Yes" 0 "No"
The variable refers to a recoded binary variable expressing if the person considers corruption the main problem in the country.

BADGOV_PROV
1 "Yes" 0 "No"
The variable refers to a recoded binary variable expressing if the person considers bad government the main problem in the country.

POV_INEQ_PROV
1 "Yes" 0 "No"
The variable refers to a recoded binary variable expressing if the person considers poverty and inequality the main problem in the country.

POL_IMPORTANCE
1 "Yes" 0 "No"
The variable refers to a recoded binary variable expressing if the interview agrees with the importance of police in solving the most important problems of the country.

D_REDUCE_INEQ
1 "Yes" 0 "No"
The variable refers to a recoded binary variable expressing if the person agrees with the idea that strong policies to reduce inequality are needed in the country.

EXPERIENCE

D_INFORMED
1 "Yes" 0 "No"
The variable refers to a recoded binary variable inferring if the person is informed or not. Based on the criteria of Gingerich and Scartascini (2018), this variable is derived from interviewees' responses to a question on how often they follow the news, whether on television, radio, newspapers, or the Internet: daily, several times a week, or several times a month. Uninformed citizens are individuals who denote that they "rarely" or "never" follow the news on any of these media.

POL_CORRUPT
1 "Yes" 0 "No"/
The variable is a binary variable that asks the person if they have been asked for bribes by the police (have been a victim) or if it is likely that they are being asked for a bribe by the police. Categories vary according to the survey. For more precision, see Table 1 and Table 1 (cont.).

BEHAVIORAL

RISK
1 to 32
The variable is an index that goes from 1 to 32, where 1 implies that the person is risk averse and 32 that the person is a risk-seeker. This variable, based criteria in Scartascini, Keefer and Vlaicu (2018), is compounded from a series of question regarding the interviewee's preferences on a series of payment between now and 12 months in the future.

PATIENCE
1 to 32
The variable is an index that goes from 1 to 32, where 1 implies that the person is "never" willing to sacrifice present benefits for benefits in the future (impatient) and 32 implies willingness "always" to sacrifice present benefits for benefits in the future (patient). It is compounded from a series of question regarding the interviewee's preferences on a series of payment between now and 12 months in the future.

Capital Cities Project (specific variables)

IDNUM
The variable is a numeric ID of the person/interviewee.

UNIQID
The variable is a larger numeric ID of the person/interviewee.

PRISTRATUM
The variable is the primary stratum of the survey.

UPM/PSM
The variable is the primary sampling unit of the survey.

CLUSTER
The variable is the cluster variable of the survey.

WT
The variable is the weight variable of the survey.

COUNTRY
4 "Colombia," 6 "Chile," 10 "Honduras," 11 "Mexico," 13 "Panama," 15 "Peru," 16 "Uruguay"
The variable is the country where survey interviews were conducted.

LAPOP four countries subsample (specific variables)

IDNUM
From 1 to 1691
The variable is a numeric ID of the person/interviewee.

UNIQID
The variable is a larger numeric ID of the person/interviewee. Varies from country to country.

UPM/PSM
The variable is the primary sampling unit of the survey.

PRISTRATUM
The variable is the primary stratum of the survey.

SECSTRATUM
The variable is the secondary stratum of the survey.

PROV
The variable is the province unit reported in the survey.

MUNICIPIO
The variable is the municipality unit reported in the survey.

UR
1 "Urban" 2 "Rural"
The variable refers to the urban or rural characteristic of the municipality unit reported in the survey.

WT
The variable is the country weight variable of the survey.

COUNTRY
2 "Bolivia," 6 "Chile," 13 "Panama," 16 "Uruguay"
The variable refers to the country in which survey interviews were conducted.

AMERICAS BAROMETER (specific variables)

YEAR
2017
The variable refers to the year in which survey interviews were conducted.

NUMENTRE
1 to 1200
The variable refers to the number of the interview conducted for the survey.

COUNTRY
1 "Argentina," 2 "Bolivia," 3 "Brazil," 4 "Colombia," 5 "Costa Rica," 6 "Chile," 7 "Ecuador," 8 "El Salvador," 9 "Guatemala," 10 "Honduras," 11 "Mexico," 12 "Nicaragua," 13 "Panama," 14 "Paraguay," 15 "Peru," 16 "Uruguay," 19 "Dominican Republic"
The variable is the country in which survey interviews were conducted.

REG
From 1 to 27, from 102 to 147, from 201 to 222, from 309 to 339 and from 404 to 431
The variable is the numeric category of the region in which survey interviews were conducted.

CITY
The variable is the numeric category of city in which interviews were conducted.

Table 1-Synthesis

Factor	Variable Name	Variable/Policy action	Survey/Coding		
			LAPOP capital Cities	LAPOP 4 Countries	Americanbarometer
Dependent Variables	polownh	Police justice "in their own hands"		1 "agree" 0 "disagree"	
	torture	Police use of physical force with suspect if crime is serious		1 "agree" 0 "disagree"	
	combatcrime	Crime reduction is better than poverty reduction		1 "agree" 0 "disagree"	
	pol_finance	More resources to police or more resources to the people	1 "police" 0 "people"		1 "police" 0 "people"
	pol_qe	Improve police quality or increase police quantity	1 "quality" 0 "quantity"		1 "quality" 0 "quantity"
	pol_concent	Hotspot vs. traditional patrols	1 "hotspots" 0 "traditional"		1 "hotspots" 0 "traditional"
	d_ patience1	Preference for less crime tomorrow—20 percent in two years or 10 percent now		1 "20% in two years" 0 "10% now"	1 "20% in two years" 0 "10% now"
	pol_wage_best	Increasing police wages allows to contract the best	1 "agree" 0 "disagree"		
	pol_quc	Improve police quality reduces crime by 20 percent in two years or increase quantity decreases crime by 10 percent now.	1 "quantity" 0 "quality"		
	punish_pov	Increase punishment of offenders or invest more in anti-poverty programs		1 "Increase punishment" 0 "Anti-poverty programs"	
	d_ compensation$n$	Reduce crime in the community vs. compensate victim		1 "Investments to reduce crime" 0 "Compensate victim"	
	iacea	Distribute social cost and benefits: willing to pay x amount of taxes more per month to enlarge police force (yes / no)		1 "Yes" 0 "No"	

Table 1 (cont.)-Synthesis

Factor	Variable Name	Variable/Policy action	Survey/Coding		
			LAPOP capital Cities	LAPOP 4 Countries	Latinobarometro
Socio-demographic	gender	Sex	1 "male" 0 "female"	1 "male" 0 "female"	1 "male" 0 "female"
	Ethnicity	Ethnicity (declared)	No data	1 "White" (omit) 2 "Mestizo" 3 "Indigenous" 4 "Black" 5 "Mulatto" 7 "Other"	1 "White" (omit) 2 "Asian" 3 "Afroamerican" 4 "Indigenous" 5 "Mestizo" 6 "Mulatto
	Age	Age	Continuous	Continuous	Continuous
	Income	Income	Range in discrete increasing homogenous categories from 0 to 16	Range in discrete increasing homogenous categories from 0 to 16.	Socioeconomic level in categories
	Income_det	Income	Range with boundaries expressed in detailed local currency	Range with boundaries expressed in detailed local currency	
	Currency	Name of the local currency	Local Currency	Local Currency	
	Education	Education	Last year of completed formal education	Years of schooling	1 "No Studies" 2 "1 year" 3 "2 years" 4 "3 year"... 14 "Incomplete undregrad" 15 "Undergrad"
	Employment	Employment	1 "Yes" 0 "No"	1 "Yes" 0 "No"	1 "Yes" 0 "No"
Crime and victimization	Victim	Victim	1 "Yes" 0 "No"	1 "Yes" 0 "No"	1 "Yes" 0 "No"
	Safety_neigh	Safety (neighborhood)	1 "unsafe" 0 "safe"	1 "insecure" 0 "safe"	No data
	Safety_city	Safety (city)	1 "unsafe" 0 "safe"	No data	No data
	Fear_crime	Fear of crime	No data	No data	0 "never or almost never" 1 "occasionally" 2 "sometimes" 3 "Almost all the time"
	Prob_murder	Perceived chance of being murdered (relative)	1 "Known" 0 "Unknown"	No data	No data
Legal perception	Politicians_law	Abiding by the law (government)	1 "Usual" 2 "A bit usual" 3 "Somewhat usual" 4 "Very Usual"	No data	No data
	Family_law	Abiding by the law (family)	1 "Usual" 0 "Unusual"	No data	No data
Trust	Trust_govt	Government	1 "Fulfill their promises" 0 "Do not fulfill their promises"	1 "yes" 0 "no"	1 "Trust" 0 "No trust"
	Trust_general	General/All people	1 "People can be trusted" 0 "People cannot be trusted"	No data	1 "People can be trusted" 0 "People cannot be trusted"
	Trust_family	Family	1 "Trusworthy" 0 "Untrustworty"	No data	No data
	D_trust_police	Institution (Police)	No data	1 "yes" 0 "no"	1 "Trust" 0 "No trust"
	D_trust_media	Institution (Media)	No data	1 "yes" 0 "no"	No data
Priors	Crime_prob	most important problem in the country (crime)	1 "Yes" 0 "No"	1 "Yes" 0 "No"	1 "Yes" 0 "No"
	Corrupt_prob	(corruption)	1 "Yes" 0 "No"	1 "Yes" 0 "No"	1 "Yes" 0 "No"
	Badgov_prov	(bad government)	1 "Yes" 0 "No"	1 "Yes" 0 "No"	No data
	Pov_ineq_prov	(inequality)	1 "Yes" 0 "No"	1 "Yes" 0 "No"	1 "Yes" 0 "No"
	pol_importance	Importance of police to solve problems	1 "Important" 0 "Not important"	No data	No data

	d_reduce_ineq	Strong policies to reduce inequality	No data	1 "Yes" 0 "No"	No data
Experience	d_informed	Informed person	No data	1 "Yes" 0 "No"	No data
	pol_corrupt	Suffered bribes (police)	Police ask for bribe: 1 "Yes" 0 "No"	1 "Yes" 0 "No"	Likelihood of bribing: 1 "Yes" 0 "No"
Behavioral	Risk	Risk	1 to 32	No data	No data
	patience	Patience	1 to 32	No data	No data