

**Methodology Report: 2015 Barbados Study**  
**July 31, 2015**  
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**Data collection**

**I. Overview:**

Fieldwork for Barbados commenced February 27, 2015. The pretest and in-country training took place in February 2015 before the start of fieldwork. Two additional trainings also took place April 29, 2015 via Skype and June 19, 2015 in-country. A total of 4,001 interviews are found in the final dataset that meet LAPOP's quality standards.

**II. Non-Response Rate: Pending**

**III. Fieldwork supervision:**

Fieldwork was carried out by Systematic Market & Research Services under the direction of LAPOP. The fieldwork roster consisted of a country coordinator, two project managers, six field supervisors and forty-two interviewers. All individuals involved in the fieldwork were trained according to LAPOP's standardized manual and practices. Nicole Hinton, LAPOP regional coordinator for the Caribbean, was in contact with the fieldwork team throughout the entire collection process.

Data collection was carried out using Android devices with the mobile application, Adgys. The Adgys platform allowed for exceptional control and oversight of fieldwork. The program was developed by a LAPOP affiliate and customized for the special, complex needs of LAPOP surveys.

Adgys increased the control our country team leaders and LAPOP Central had over fieldwork. Every day LAPOP staff checked the interviews uploaded the previous night to the system, which increased our ability to guarantee the highest quality and accuracy of the surveys. Here are a few of the features that Adgys allowed us to observe in real time:

- Time: Adgys records the time elapsed for each question, for each interview, in seconds and the total time of the interview; this allows us to monitor for interview quality.
- GPS Coordinates: Adgys geo-tags interviews and allows us to audit interview locations by checking coordinates on Google Maps.
- Improved Quality of Data Entry: The program eliminates error from mistakenly skipping questions (application does not advance without a selection), and errors made by office-based data entry from paper questionnaires.

Difficulties encountered during fieldwork:

- a. The pace of fieldwork was the most significant issue faced in Barbados, with fieldwork taking 5 months to complete. Three key factors affected the pace. First, high levels of non-response were exacerbated by well-publicized crimes conducted by individuals fraudulently gaining access to local homes. Second, low morale on the team (driven in part by their lack of experience with long questionnaires, in part due to the high non-response rates, and other factors unknown to us) caused a number of individuals to reduce their workload or quit during the duration of the project. Third, while the work produced by the survey firm was of high quality, the firm lacked efficiency.

LAPOP took a number of steps during the course of the study to increase the pace. First, LAPOP was in frequent contact with the survey firm, alerting them to lags in the schedule and proposing ways to expedite the pace. Second, in order to increase pace and maintain a sizable field team, we conducted a Skype training in April. However, with daily oversight of the fieldwork, we noticed that pace began tapering off again. Therefore, third, LAPOP activated our long-standing Caribbean consultant (with expertise and experience in LAPOP fieldwork) to travel to Barbados to assemble and train an additional field team in June. The consultant also worked with the firm to find ways to maintain the size of the field team and to maintain interviewer morale. As a result of a highly collaborative process between LAPOP and our Caribbean consultant, the local team was able to complete the fieldwork.

- b. Non-response rates in this study were particularly high in some areas, for several reasons:
  - i. The response rate for the cohort aged 18-29 is particularly low in perceived drug areas. The local team reported that when an interviewer was able to actually get an interview, they ran into issues of non-response or obviously untruthful answers on issues concerning drugs and guns. Some of those from this age range refused to be interviewed remarking that they need a job rather than participate in a survey.
  - ii. As noted, there was an increase in crime during the fielding of the survey, with consequences for response. The situation was that criminals were acting like they were from reputable organizations going door-to-door and robbing the folks when they opened their door. This made the local population more reluctant to answer their door when approached by the survey team.
  - iii. The local firm also reported that some individuals were reluctant to participate in any form of surveys due to their immigration status.
- c. A third issue that arose during fieldwork was that because the enumeration district maps were from 2010, some of the areas are not as easily identifiable. To resolve this problem, the owner of the firm reviewed the maps and drove to unknown locations on the maps for better specifics of the area for the interviewers.

## Dataset Preparation:

The first check of the dataset was in regards to the sample and quota requirements. Once the sample was approved as meeting the design and quotas, data processing and cleaning began. The data process was as follows: remove identifying information, check for duplicate observations, verify all variables are present, format date and time, make any corrections from the field, recode and label the dataset, check labels and frequencies, audit for excessive missing values, and apply weights necessary for datasets.

The processed and audited dataset then went through a series of checks performed by LAPOP research assistants verifying the dataset was of the highest quality as possible. Nicole Hinton took a final review of the dataset. While the dataset should be clean, please let us know if you find any anomalies with labels or have any questions on codes or responses.

The dataset not only includes data from the national capital, but for the remaining island as well. For this reason, there are weights within the data set. When examining and analyzing only the oversample, no weight is needed. When examining the entire country dataset, a weight is needed. The dataset contains a variable called **wt** which is the country weight variable. This is used when looking within a country and will 'weight down' the oversample. In Stata, you need to use the survey set function in order to obtain appropriate national estimates. Below are examples using survey set:

```
svy: mean q2
```

```
svy: tab cp5
```

Along with the dataset delivery and this report, we are submitting the final questionnaire used for fieldwork in Barbados. The Stata dataset contains short variable labels for each variable to easily identify the topic. However, if you type "note" along with the variable name, the question wording will appear. See below for an example:

```
note a4
```

```
a4:
```

1. In your opinion, what is the most serious problem faced by the country?