



The Democratic Culture of Guatemalans

Technical information

<i>Country</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Size of sample</i>	<i>Weighted/Unweighted:</i>
Guatemala	1999	1,200	Weighted

This survey was carried out in 1999 as a follow up of a similar study carried out in 1993, 1995 and 1997. It was conducted by Development Associates and the University of Pittsburgh. The collaborating institution in Guatemala was Asociación de Investigación y Estudios Sociales (ASIES). The funding was provided by USAID.

This national sample was designed to be representative of the Guatemalan population, a goal that was largely achieved, with one important limitation. The great bulk of the native population speaks one of only four languages. The early 1980 figures show that of the 2.9 million Mayan language speakers, 2.3 million, or 79 percent are concentrated in these four languages: K'iche', 930,000; Mam, 644,000; Kaqchikel, 405,000; and Q'eqchi', 361,000. Although the sample attempted to incorporate all monolingual speakers of indigenous languages, it limited itself to the four principal indigenous languages spoken in Guatemala (Kaqchikel, Mam, Qeqchi' and Kiché). Versions of the questionnaire were prepared in each of those languages, and interviewers were hired who could deliver the questionnaire in those languages. In an earlier study it was estimated that monolingual speakers of the remaining 20 or so languages in Guatemala probably comprise no more than three percent of the population.

As is typical in virtually all survey samples, Guatemala was stratified into five national regions, and the sample was drawn from each of those regions. Stratification helps ensure an even dispersion of respondents since a purely random sample without stratification could, in theory, end up concentrating most of the interviews in only a very small number of regions. Once stratified by region, however, the sample drew on localities rather than departments as the unit of analysis, and for this reason not all departments were included. Furthermore, in remote regions where sample segments of fewer than ten dwelling units were found, no interviews were conducted since the cost per interview was too great to be justifiable.

It was discovered after the initial sample was designed and drawn in 1993 that those who drew the sample selected more urban districts than justified by the census data. As a result, the sample results are weighted to correct for this error. For continuity purposes the same sample was used in subsequent years.

The 1999 sample was similar to the one used for the previous studies in 1993, 1995 and 1997. It represents 18 of the 22 departments in Guatemala and it includes special items added to analyze people's attitudes towards the peace agreements. The full version of the report can be found at "The Democratic Culture of Guatemalans", written by Mitchell Seligson, Malcom Young, Cynthia Hamill, Dinorah Azpuru and Eduardo Lucas and published by Development Associates and the University of Pittsburgh with the support of USAID.

Published in 1999, this national survey report analyzes the attitudes of Guatemala's citizens towards political tolerance, local governments, civil participation, crime, due process, the perspectives of peace and democracy.

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