



Nicaragua 1997: Cultura Política y Democratización en Nicaragua

Technical Information

<i>Country</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Size of Sample</i>	<i>Weighted/Unweighted</i>
Nicaragua	1997	2500 + 1,100 special groups	Weighted

This sample involves two components. The first is a national probability sample of 2,500 Nicaraguans, interviewed in July 1997. In addition, 1,100 specialized interviews took place among the following groups: police officers, the military, teachers and members of various NGOs. The national sample is representative of each department in the country with exception of Río San Juan, which was excluded for cost considerations (because of its low population density and remoteness). Río San Juan contained 1.6% of the population of the country, and outside of a small urban concentration, the population was very widely scattered, and thus costly to interview. The exclusion of Río San Juan means that the findings presented in the study actually referred to the 98.4% of the population of the country, with a margin of error of $\pm 2\%$, with 95% confidence level. The sample design was based on the frame provided by the revised definitive 1995 population census. At the level of the Department, samples of 150 interviews each were conducted, stratified into urban and rural areas. The confidence interval at level of the department is $\pm 8\%$. While the sample design had as a target 150 interviews per department, for the overall results to faithfully represent the proportion of the population contained within each department, it was necessary to weight the sample. Thus, the results reflect the weighted sample, accurately portraying a picture of the distribution of the voting-aged population of Nicaragua. The questionnaire utilized drew heavily on the earlier surveys of Nicaragua, but also included some new items to explore themes not previously covered.

The sample was based on face-to-face interviews in respondents' homes or place of work. Quota samples were used at the household level (for gender and age). The results were presented in a general report, *Democratic Values in Nicaragua 1991-1997*, prepared by Mitchell A. Seligson for USAID. The report includes reference to two earlier samples, 1991 and 1995, both of which can be found on the LAPOP web site. For a detailed presentation of the method and theory in this study, the reader may consult the report in the LAPOP web page, www.lapopsurveys.org.