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VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY

## AmericasBarometer Surveys Fact Sheet

The *AmericasBarometer* series of surveys are of great interest to political and social scientists, Latin Americanists, government officials and interested citizens. The surveys gather data and analyze citizen views on a broad range of important democracy issues, including social capital, political tolerance, local government, corruption, crime, courts, the legislature and the executive. They also include a wide range of behavior variables, including citizen participation and electoral behavior among others. The effort, which began in a limited way in the 1970s, is directed by Dr. Mitchell Seligson, Vanderbilt University Centennial Professor of Political Science and Fellow of Vanderbilt's Center for the Americas. The following countries are included in the 2008 *AmericasBarometer*: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela, Canada and the United States.

### **Public Access to AmericasBarometer Data, Surveys and Reports**

All of the *AmericasBarometer* reports are available to the public on-line in English and Spanish at [www.americasbarometer.org](http://www.americasbarometer.org). The survey data can also be analyzed publicly, at no charge through the same website, with the hopes that students and professionals around the world will conduct additional research and statistical analysis. Several major university libraries (Vanderbilt, Harvard, Princeton and Yale) serve as data repositories for some or all of the Americasbarometer data. Published studies have been deposited in libraries throughout the world.

### **USAID Cooperation with Vanderbilt University**

USAID has supported the *AmericasBarometer* surveys for over 10 years. While the surveys' primary goal is giving the hemisphere's citizens a voice on democracy issues, they also help guide USAID programming, alert policymakers throughout the region to potential problem areas, and inform citizens about democratic values and experiences in their countries relative to regional trends. USAID officers use the *AmericasBarometer* findings to prioritize funding allocation and guide program design. The surveys are also often employed as an evaluation tool, by comparing results in specialized "oversample" areas with national trends. In March 2006, USAID signed a Cooperative Agreement with Vanderbilt University that supports the surveys through 2012. The Agreement is managed out of USAID's Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), and contributes about \$1 million per year from USAID Missions in the region, LAC Bureau and Democracy Bureau for survey work in USAID-presence countries.

### **Support from Other Donors**

In 2008, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) helped fund the survey research in Central America; the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) funded surveys in Chile, Argentina and Venezuela; and Vanderbilt's Center for the Americas, together with Notre Dame University, funded the survey in Uruguay.