Latin America and the Caribbean
Survey on Gender Equality at Home
Regional Brief
Introduction

The Survey on Gender Equality at Home offers a global snapshot of life at home, from the perspectives of Facebook users around the world. It was conducted in July 2020 to capture household gender dynamics during the COVID-19 pandemic, and reached a statistically representative sample of half a million people who use Facebook, spanning seven world regions and covering 208 countries, territories, and islands in 80 languages.

Over 460,000 people opted in to answer questions that focused on four areas in particular: attitudes and beliefs about gender equality; participation in unpaid care and domestic work; resource allocation and decision-making; and COVID-19’s impact on everyday lives. The survey results were disaggregated for men and women, allowing insights into gender differences.¹

This brief shares findings from Latin America and the Caribbean,² describing aggregate patterns in survey responses from the 43 countries highlighted on the map. The findings presented are based primarily on responses from 69,487 individuals, including 39,299 who identified as female and 30,188 who identified as male.³ This brief does not seek to describe the region as a whole. Rather, results are calibrated to the online population in the region. Note that as of 2017, only about 63 percent of the total Latin America and the Caribbean population was using the internet.⁴ This population tends to be younger (80 percent between the age of 18 and 54 years old), more urban (76 percent reside in cities), and better educated (43 percent have more than secondary education) than the general population. While this limits the generalizability of the findings, the picture that emerges provides important insights into gender differences for the region.

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1. This report focuses on individuals who reported their gender as either female or male. This decision was taken in response to the very low share of respondents who selected the option ‘other.’
2. Countries allocated into regions based upon World Bank classifications.
3. We do not include responses from individuals who did not provide their gender in our analyses that break down responses by gender.
FIGURE 1
Countries surveyed in Latin America and the Caribbean
Key Findings

I. Gender norms

II. Unpaid care and domestic work

III. Resource allocation and decision-making

IV. Life during COVID-19
The majority of respondents (95 percent) in Latin America and the Caribbean reported that they agree\(^5\) with the statement, “Men and women should have equal opportunities (e.g. in education, jobs, household decision-making).” When asked how they thought their neighbors would respond, the pattern that emerges is somewhat different: both men and women expected an average of about 6 (out of 10) of their neighbors to believe that men and women should have equal opportunities.

\(^5\) We collapsed the proportion of respondents who indicated that they "agree" or "strongly agree" with this statement. This comment applies throughout the report.
95 percent of respondents agreed that men and women should have equal opportunities.
II. UNPAID CARE AND DOMESTIC WORK

23 percent of respondents agreed that a woman’s most important role is to take care of her home and children, and 21 percent agreed that household expenses are the responsibility of the man, even if his wife can help him.

Nearly a quarter (23 percent) of respondents indicated they agree with the statement, “A woman’s most important role is to take care of her home and children.” When asked how many of their neighbors they expected to agree with this statement, both men and women thought the majority of their neighbors would agree: the average number among men was 5.7 (out of 10) neighbors, while the average response among women was slightly larger: 6.1 (out of 10).

Regarding men’s household roles, 21 percent of respondents agreed with the statement, “Household expenses are the responsibility of the man, even if his wife can help him.” Responses illustrated gender differences: 26 percent of men agreed compared to 17 percent of women. In contrast, respondents expected a majority of their neighbors hold such beliefs: both men and women estimated that 5.5 out of 10 of their neighbors would agree that “household expenses are the responsibility of the man, even if his wife can help him.”

<table>
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<th>WOMEN</th>
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<td>17%</td>
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Women in Latin America and the Caribbean were more likely than men to report being the main caregiver for children under 6.

Responses on caregiving also indicate gender differences. In Latin America and the Caribbean, women were more likely than men to report that, under “normal circumstances” they are the main caregiver for someone in their family: 24 percent of women were more likely to report being the main caregiver of children under 6, compared to 19 percent of men in the region.

Women were significantly more likely than men to report spending time cooking, cleaning and on household management.

Survey responses indicated gender differences in responsibility for household chores. Women were significantly more likely than men to report they spend time cleaning (88 percent of women vs. 63 percent of men) and cooking (63 percent of women vs. 40 percent of men). Meanwhile, men were significantly more likely to report they spend time subsistence farming (5 percent of men vs. 3 percent of women) and collecting water or fuel (15 percent of men vs. 8 percent of women). Furthermore, men were more likely than women to report not taking part in any of the above-mentioned chores (6.7 percent of men vs. 3.4 percent of women).

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6. This phrase was used to solicit responses about conditions prior to COVID-19.
Men were more likely to report owning motorized vehicles, land, the places they live, computers and smartphones.

The survey illustrated a number of gendered differences in asset ownership. Men were more likely than women to report ownership of every asset considered in the survey, including motorized vehicles (30 percent of women vs. 47 percent of men), land (11 percent of women vs. 18 percent of men) and the places they live (43 percent of women vs. 48 percent of men). There was also a significant gender disparity in ownership of computers (40 percent of women vs. 50 percent of men) and smartphones (63 percent of women vs. 72 percent of men) among the online population in Latin America and the Caribbean.
Women were less likely than men to report being engaged in income-generating activities and being the main income earner, and were more likely than men to say that they “fully depend on someone else in [their] household”.

Women were significantly less likely than men to report being engaged in income-generating activities (46 percent and 58 percent, respectively). Women in the region were also less likely than men to report being the main income earner in their household, with 53 percent of women having reported being the main income earner, compared to 67 percent of men.

Furthermore, men in the region were also significantly more likely than women to report fully covering their own expenses (86 percent vs. 79 percent), while women in the region were significantly more likely than men to report that they “fully depend” on another member of their household (21 percent vs. 14 percent).
IV. LIFE DURING COVID-19

Among respondents from Latin America and the Caribbean, the most commonly reported impact from COVID-19 was being forced to isolate or follow quarantine orders.

When asked how their lives have been affected by COVID-19, the most common response from survey participants in the region was being forced to isolate or follow quarantine orders (57 percent). Compared to men, women were more likely to report school being canceled or reduced as a result of the pandemic; being unable to perform usual personal care and health routines; being unable to seek medical care; and waiting longer times to seek medical care.

55% of respondents reported concern about having enough money to sustain their families during the pandemic.

When asked about their main concerns during the pandemic, the most common response was having enough money to sustain their families, with 55 percent of respondents selecting this option. Other commonly reported concerns included: access to health care (37 percent), the future of their work (37 percent), and having food and basic supplies for their families (50 percent).

In a separate question on the survey, women in Latin America and the Caribbean were also more likely to report that they “feel uncomfortable or even unsafe” in their house during the pandemic (41 percent of women vs. 35 percent of men).

Lastly, when asked the question, “During the last 30 days, was there a time when you were worried about not having enough food to eat because of lack of money or other resources?” more women than men answered affirmatively (55 percent vs. 46 percent, respectively).

7. Respondents were provided with a series of options including: School was canceled or reduced; Migrated to different geographical area; Difficulty accessing medical or hygiene supplies; Longer wait times to visit doctors/seek medical care; Lost a job; Lost access to/ could not use public transport; Unable to perform usual personal care/health routines; Unable to seek medical care; Isolate or follow a quarantine order; None of the above; and Other.

8. Respondents were provided with a series of options including: Having enough money to sustain my family; Having enough food and basic supplies for my family; Being stuck at home for a long time; Having access to accurate information on coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic; The future of my work; Access to health care; Repaying outstanding loans; Staying home with limited things to do; My children education; I do not have any concerns at this time; and Other.
FIGURE 4
What are respondents’ main concerns during the pandemic?

- Enough money to sustain family
- Enough food and basic supplies for family
- Stuck at home for long periods of time
- Access to accurate COVID-19 information
- Future of work
- Access to health care
- Repaying outstanding loans
- Staying home with limited things to do
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Visit www.dataforgood.fb.com/docs/gendersurveyreport for more information about Facebook’s Survey on Gender Equality at Home.