811/812 Final Project

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In this paper I will be examining survey data from the 2021 Americas Barometer survey, specifically the wave of the survey conducted in Mexico. This survey is part of a larger project that asks questions about social, political, and economic attitudes and perceptions across most of the countries in North and South America. In this round of the survey, there were 2998 respondents, with an average age of 41 years od. 51.9% of the sample was female, and 64.4% live in cities or the areas immediately surrounding cities. Here I have included a table of some important summary statistics. An interesting thing about this survey is that, possibly due to COVID, about one half of the subjects were given one form, (A), and others were given form (B).

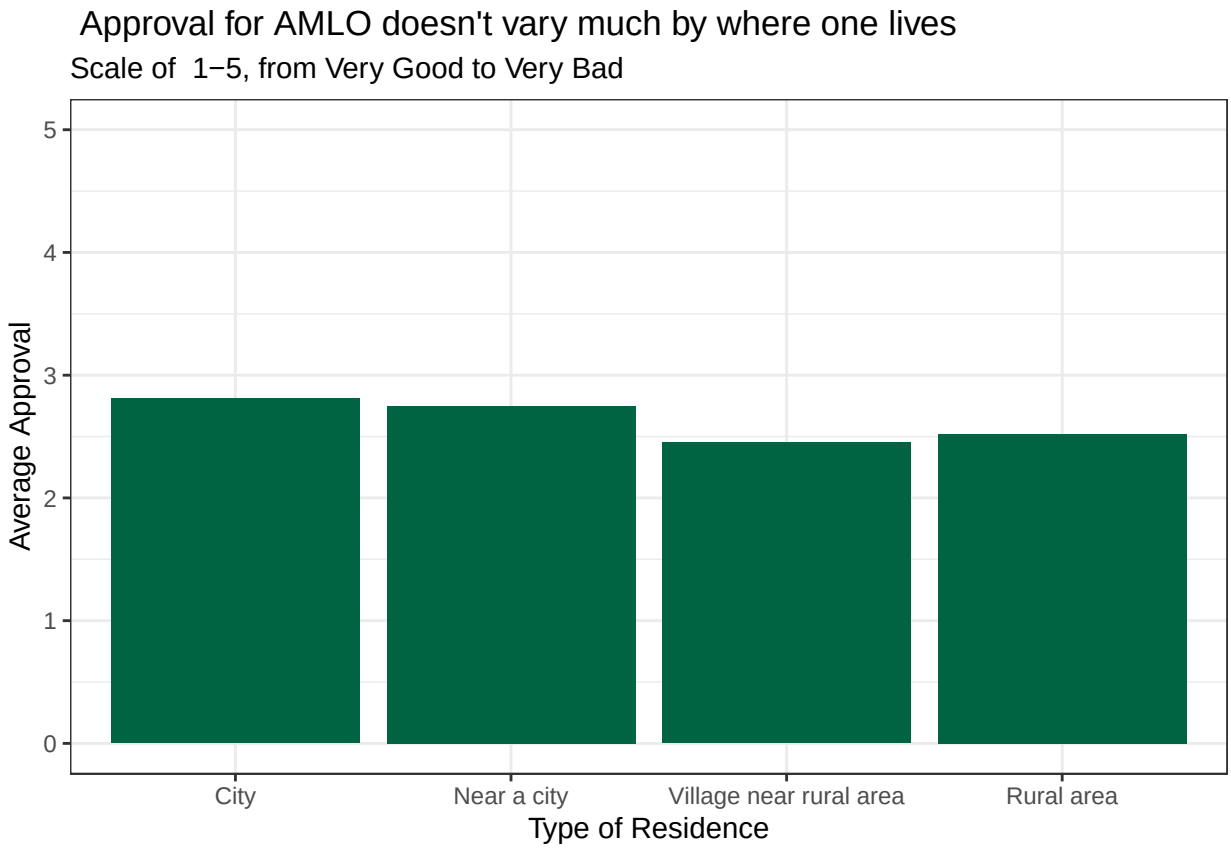
Table 1

Mean Statistics of Important Variables

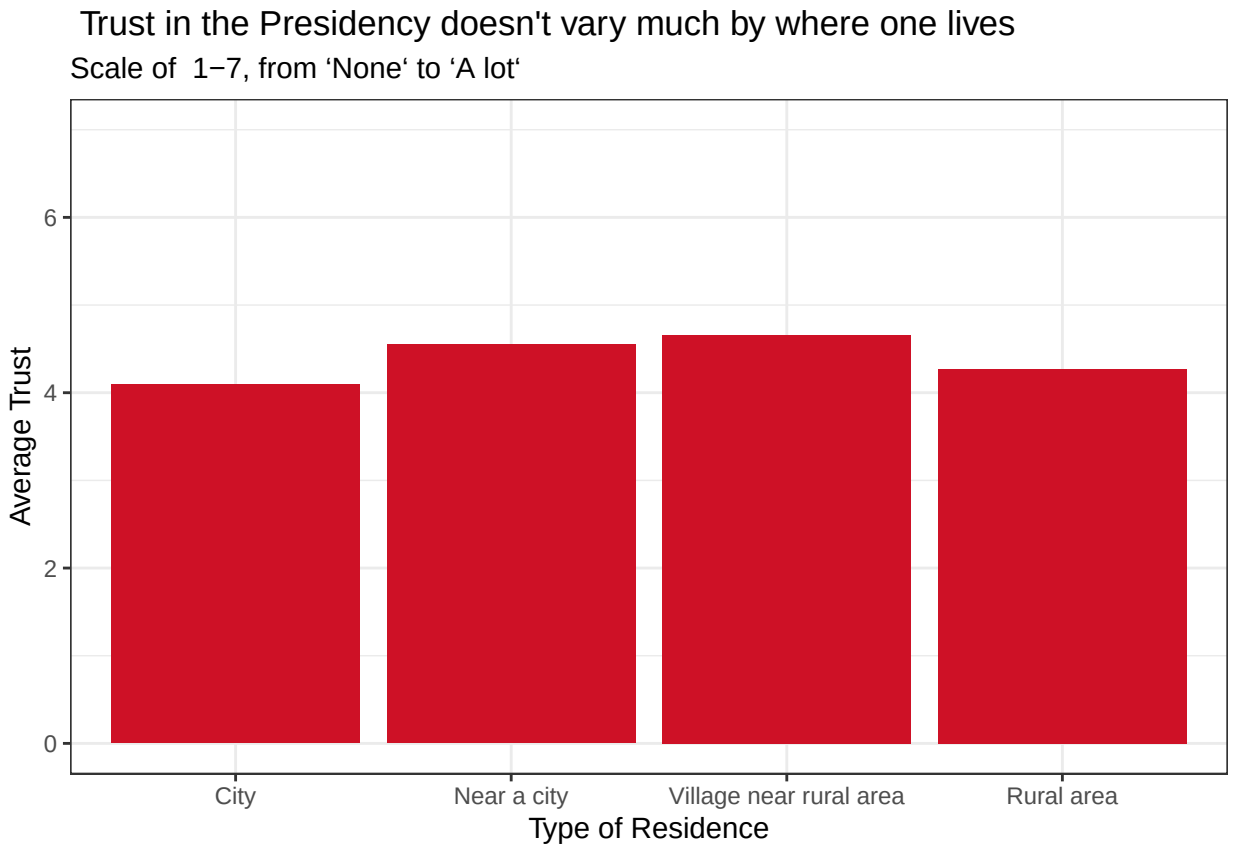
n	Mean Presidential Approval	Mean Trust in Presidency	Mean Age	Female (%)	Percentage Living in or Surrounding a City
2998	2.7	4.3	41	51.9	64.4

Survey Items

The survey questionnaire included 264 items, however as I mentioned above half the total respondents received Questionnaire A and the other half Questionnaire B. I will pick out three items of interest and illustrate the differences between urban and rural citizens. Question B21A and M1 are used on forms A and B, respectively. B21A asks about trust in the executive, without naming the president (Andrés Manuel López Obrador) directly, while M1 asks about Presidential approval, directly naming AMLO.



As shown in this bar graph, the approval for Mexican president Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador does not vary much based on where respondents live. All groups averages are between about 2.5 and 3, so between “Good” and “Neither good nor bad, average.” Alternatively, we can look at the question that asks different respondents how much they trust the President, but wihtout mentioning any specific president. These two questionnaires were sent out at roughly the same time, so AMLO is still the president as in the previous example. Thus, any differnces may be interpreted as approval for AMLO in particular contrasted with trust (different but related to approval) in the position of the presidency in general.



As is the case for AMLO approval, there are not strong differences in trust in the presidency based on where a respondent lives. Since this question has higher numbers meaning more trust and the previous question had lower numbers meaning more approval, these two graphs both show vilagers having the highest presidential approval/trust perceptions among the sample.

Finally, I will run two simple regressions, predicting presidential approval and executive trust based on gender, age, level of urbanization, and their level of education.

In either model, when education level and urbanization are treated as proper categorical variables, none are statistically significant predictor of except living in a village/town near a rural area for presidential approval, and gender alongside primary and secondary education levels in the executive trust model.

Table 2

Model 1: Presidential Approval Rating

term	estimate	std.error	statistic	p.value
(Intercept)	2.7037253	0.2660543	10.1623065	0.0000000
femaleTRUE	-0.0913552	0.0672229	-1.3589892	0.1743571
age	-0.0033507	0.0022920	-1.4619377	0.1439706
ur1newOn the outskirts or surroundings of a city	0.0092786	0.1070591	0.0866685	0.9309468
ur1newIn a town/village near a rural area	-0.2477777	0.0901916	-2.7472373	0.0060829
ur1newIn a rural area	-0.1619436	0.1028719	-1.5742260	0.1156489
ur1newDon't Know	0.0492398	0.3741217	0.1316143	0.8953072
ur1newNo Response	-0.2628198	0.3458862	-0.7598447	0.4474685
edrPrimary (incomplete or complete)	0.1169407	0.2410717	0.4850868	0.6276866
edrSecondary or Upper Middle School/Baccalaureate/High school/Technical Professional (incomplete or complete)	0.0575221	0.2323239	0.2475943	0.8044827
edrUniversity, College or technical college (incomplete or complete)	0.5236687	0.2356516	2.2222160	0.0264194
edrNot Applicable	-1.3755303	1.3013073	-1.0570373	0.2906671
edrDon't Know	1.5914931	0.9328294	1.7060924	0.0882007
edrNo Response	-0.5189928	0.9339684	-0.5556857	0.5785098

Table 3

Model 2: Executive Trust

term	estimate	std.error	statistic	p.value
(Intercept)	1.9433927	0.7382228	2.6325286	0.0086556
femaleTRUE	0.7951544	0.1666689	4.7708636	0.0000022
age	0.0094927	0.0058661	1.6182495	0.1060438
ur1newOn the outskirts or surroundings of a city	0.3598725	0.2822565	1.2749837	0.2027234
ur1newIn a town/village near a rural area	0.2920570	0.2257084	1.2939572	0.1960923
ur1newIn a rural area	-0.0311985	0.2516336	-0.1239840	0.9013623
ur1newDon't Know	1.5146054	1.0211035	1.4833026	0.1384286
ur1newNo Response	-0.8721475	1.0203513	-0.8547522	0.3929707
edrPrimary (incomplete or complete)	1.8706714	0.6706931	2.7891615	0.0054231
edrSecondary or Upper Middle School/Baccalaureate/High school/Technical Professional (incomplete or complete)	1.7789474	0.6505301	2.7346119	0.0063979
edrUniversity, College or technical college (incomplete or complete)	0.9445303	0.6604310	1.4301726	0.1530983
edrDon't Know	4.1760007	2.3379976	1.7861441	0.0744937
edrNo Response	-2.7900229	2.3391658	-1.1927427	0.2333604