

Indigenous Peoples in Latin America: Statistical Information

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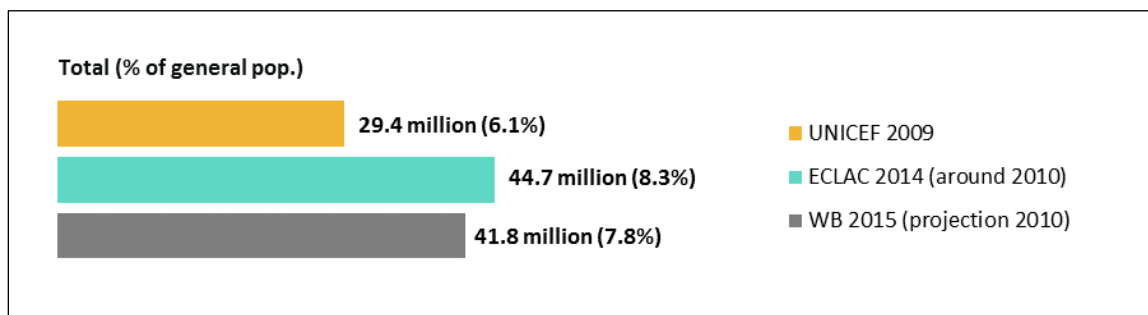
July 16, 2020

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Indigenous Peoples in Latin America: Statistical Information

This report provides statistical information on indigenous peoples in Latin America. Data and findings vary, sometimes greatly, on all topics covered in this report, including populations and languages, socioeconomic data, land and natural resources, human rights and international legal conventions. For example, Figure 1, shows three estimates for the indigenous population of Latin America. These estimates range from UNICEF's 2009 estimate of the total indigenous population of Latin America of 29.4 million; to the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean's (ECLAC's) 2014 estimate of 44.7 million; to the World Bank's (WB's) 2015 estimate of 41.8 million (7.85% of the population).

Total Indigenous Population and Percentage of General Population of Latin America



Source: Graphic created by CRS using UNICEF and FUNPROEIB Andes' (UNICEF) 2009 *Atlas Sociolingüístico de Pueblos Indígenas en América Latina*; the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and World Bank's (WB) 2015 *Indigenous Latin America in the twenty-first century: the first decade*; and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean's (ECLAC) 2014 *Guaranteeing indigenous people's rights in Latin America: Progress in the past decade and remaining challenges*.

Notes: The ECLAC report includes a table titled "Latin America (17 countries): population of indigenous peoples according to censuses and estimates, around 2010." The World Bank report uses national censuses to provide demographic information and notes "for countries without census data available for the end of the decade, the indigenous population was estimated by applying the percentage of the last census to the 2010 projection of the national population."

Definitions of indigenous peoples also vary. The United Nations and many countries rely on self-identification of indigenous peoples. In counting distinct groups, this report uses the term "indigenous groups" rather than "tribe," "nation," "ethnic minority," or "sociolinguistic group."

Resource lists for each section (languages; socioeconomic; land, natural resources, and climate change; international organizations; and human rights) are available in the appendix as well as a lists of national agencies that oversee indigenous affairs in each Central American or South American country.

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Introduction

Congress has long been interested in the status of indigenous peoples abroad. In 1992, the 102nd Congress enacted H.R. 5368 (P.L. 102-391) requiring the State Department's annual human rights report to "describe the extent to which indigenous people are able to participate in decisions affecting their lands, cultures, traditions and the allocation of natural resources, and assess the extent of protection of their civil and political rights." Issues relating to indigenous peoples periodically have been considered in hearings focused on such issues as environmental protection, energy opportunities, and security cooperation.¹

This report provides statistical information on indigenous peoples in Latin America, including populations and languages, socioeconomic data, land and natural resources, human rights, and international legal conventions. Resource lists for each section (languages; socioeconomics; land and resources; international organizations; and human rights) are available in the tables of **Appendix A. Table B-1** lists national agencies that oversee indigenous affairs in each country.

Terms

Definitions of indigenous peoples vary. The United Nations (U.N.) has not adopted an official definition, but instead relies on self-identification to categorize indigenous populations around the world; many countries do the same. However, the U.N. web page dedicated to indigenous peoples does state "indigenous peoples are inheritors and practitioners of unique cultures and ways of relating to people and the environment. They have retained social, cultural, economic and political characteristics that are distinct from those of the dominant societies in which they live."² The annex of the U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples states "indigenous peoples have suffered from historic injustices as a result of, *inter alia*, their colonization and dispossession of their lands, territories and resources."

The Organization of American States' (OAS) American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples repeats the U.N. Declaration language and adds "indigenous peoples are original, diverse societies with their own identities that constitute an integral part of the Americas." According to OAS estimates, more than 50 million people of indigenous descent live in the Western hemisphere. This report examines those living in Latin American and the Caribbean.

According to the *Manual for National Human Rights Institutions* that accompanied the U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, "indigenous peoples have argued against the adoption of a formal definition at the international level, stressing the need for flexibility and for respecting the desire and the right of each indigenous people to define themselves.... As a consequence, no formal definition has been adopted in international law. A strict definition is seen as unnecessary and undesirable."³

¹ For example: U.S. Congress, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere, Peace Corps, Narcotics and Terrorism, *Environmental Protection in an Era of Dramatic Economic Growth in Latin America*, 106th Cong., 2nd sess., July 25, 2000 (Washington, DC: GPO, 2000); U.S. Congress, House Committee on Foreign Affairs, Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere, *U.S.–Mexico Security Cooperation: An Overview of the Merida Initiative 2008–Present*, 113th Cong., 1st sess., May 23, 2013 (Washington, DC: GPO, 2013); U.S. Congress, House Committee on Foreign Affairs, Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere, *Energy Opportunities in South America*, 115th Cong., 1st sess., May 17, 2017 (Washington, DC: GPO, 2017).

² U.N. Department of Economic and Social Affairs, "Indigenous Peoples at the UN," at <https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/about-us.html>.

³ United Nations, The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: A Manual for National Human

In counting distinct groups, this CRS report uses the term “indigenous groups” rather than “tribe,” “nation,” “ethnic minority,” or “sociolinguistic group.”

A 2019 United Nations report included sections titled “the need for disaggregated data” and “the persistent invisibility of indigenous peoples” to address data limitations regarding indigenous people around the globe. However, the report notes progress in Latin America: “only two censuses included self-identification criteria in the 1990 round, but by the 2010 round such criteria were present in 21 of them.”⁴ Despite some advances, the sources cited in this report contain data limitations, which are discussed in **Appendix A**. The countries listed in each table or graph may differ from others in this report based on the information available in the sources.

Population Data

Latin America is home to 29-45 million indigenous people according to several studies that provided estimates for around 2010.⁵ The World Bank stated in a report that “official data on indigenous people are not conclusive, as many technical and sociological difficulties persist in census data collection. Other sources based on estimates and unofficial data refer to 50 million indigenous inhabitants in Latin America (about 10 percent of the total population). For this report, however, we will refer to the official—albeit imperfect—numbers provided by the national censuses [41.81 million].”⁶ **Figure 1** illustrates the total number of indigenous people and their share of the total population according to three sources: a 2009 UNICEF report, a 2014 report from the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), and a 2015 World Bank Report. Census projections forecast indigenous population increases in many countries in part due to populations that are younger on average than non-indigenous populations and in part due to an increase in self-identification.⁷

Rights Institutions, HR/PUB/13/2, 2013, at <https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/IPeoples/UNDRIPManualForNHRIs.pdf>. For more information about the United Nations, the International Labor Organization and the World Intellectual Property Organization, see CRS Report R43614, *Membership in the United Nations and Its Specialized Agencies*, by Luisa Blanchfield and Marjorie Ann Browne.

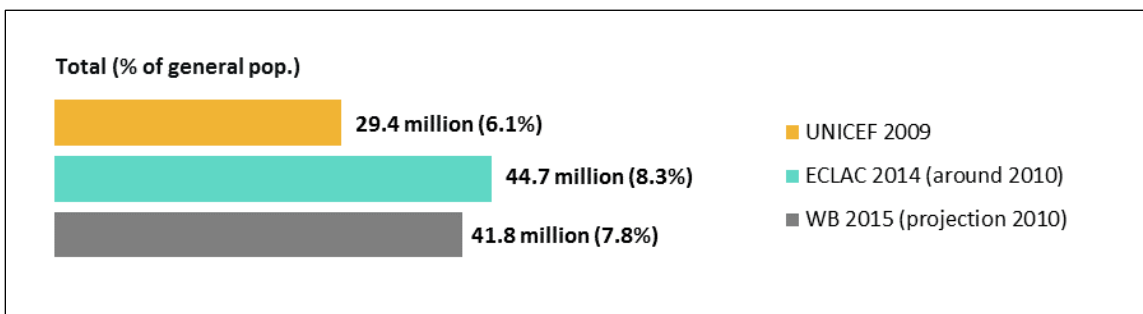
⁴ United Nations, *The state of the world’s indigenous people: Implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, 4th volume*, ST/ESA/371, 2019, at <https://social.un.org/unpfii/sowip-vol4-web.pdf>.

⁵ In this report, Latin America includes Mexico, the land mass of Central America (Belize, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama), and the land mass of South America (Colombia, Venezuela, Guyana, Suriname, Brazil, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Chile, Argentina, Paraguay, and Uruguay). The exception is French Guiana, which is an overseas department of France and is not included in this report.

⁶ International Bank for Reconstruction and Development/World Bank, *Indigenous Latin America in the Twenty-First Century: the First Decade*, 2015, pp. 6, 9, at <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/2016/02/24863854/indigenous-latin-america-twenty-first-century-first-decade>, p. 24. Hereinafter: World Bank, 2015.

⁷ Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, *Guaranteeing indigenous people’s rights in Latin America: Progress in the past decade and remaining challenges*, November 2014, p. 40, at https://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/37051/4/S1420782_en.pdf. Hereinafter: ECLAC, 2014.

Figure 1. Total Indigenous Population and Percentage of General Population of Latin America



Source: Graphic created by CRS using UNICEF and FUNPROEIB Andes' (UNICEF) 2009 *Atlas Sociolingüístico de Pueblos Indígenas en América Latina*; the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and World Bank's (WB) 2015 *Indigenous Latin America in the twenty-first century: the first decade*; and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean's (ECLAC) 2014 *Guaranteeing indigenous people's rights in Latin America: Progress in the past decade and remaining challenges*.

Note: The ECLAC report includes a table titled "Latin America (17 countries): population of indigenous peoples according to censuses and estimates, around 2010." The World Bank report uses national censuses to provide demographic information and notes "for countries without census data available for the end of the decade, the indigenous population was estimated by applying the percentage of the last census to the 2010 projection of the national population."

Table 1 shows a breakdown by country of indigenous populations and their share of the overall population. CRS created the following tables from several sources; publication dates and methodologies differed. The countries listed in each table may differ from others in this report based on the information available in the sources.

Table I. Indigenous Populations and Percentages of General Population in Latin America by Country

Country	UNICEF 2009 Indigenous Population (% of general pop.)^a	ECLAC 2014 Indigenous Population (% of general pop.)^b	WB 2015 Indigenous Population (% of general pop.)^c
Argentina	600,329 (1.6%)	955,032 (2.4%)	955,032 (2.4%)
Belize	38,562 (16.6%)	N/A	N/A
Bolivia	5,358,107 (66.2%)	6,216,026 (62.2%)	4,115,226 (41%)
Brazil	734,127 (0.4%)	896,917 (0.5%)	817,963 (0.5%)
Chile	692,192 (4.6%)	1,805,243 (11%)	788,935 (4.6%)
Colombia	1,392,623 (3.3%)	1,559,852 (3.4%)	1,532,678 (3.3%)
Costa Rica	65,548 (1.7%)	104,143 (2.4%)	104,143 (2.4%)
Ecuador	830,418 (6.8%)	1,018,176 (7%)	1,018,176 (7%)
El Salvador	13,310 (0.2%)	14,408 (0.2%)	14,865 (0.2%)
Guatemala	4,487,026 (39.9%)	5,881,009 (41%)	5,880,046 (41%)
Guyana	68,819 (9.1%)	N/A	N/A
Honduras	440,313 (7.2%)	536,541 (7%)	548,727 (7.2%)
Mexico	9,504,184 (9.4%)	16,933,283 (15.1%)	16,836,877 (15%)
Nicaragua	292,244 (5.7%)	518,104 (8.9%)	349,333 (6%)
Panama	285,231 (10%)	417,559 (12.3%)	417,559 (12.2%)
Paraguay	108,308 (2%)	112,848 (1.8%)	112,848 (1.7%)
Peru	3,919,314 (13.9%)	7,021,271 (24%)	7,596,039 (26%)
Suriname	6,601 (1.5%)	N/A	N/A
Uruguay	115,118 (3.5%)	76,452 (2.4%)	N/A

Country	UNICEF 2009 Indigenous Population (% of general pop.) ^a	ECLAC 2014 Indigenous Population (% of general pop.) ^b	WB 2015 Indigenous Population (% of general pop.) ^c
Venezuela	534,816 (2.3%)	724,592 (2.7%)	724,592 (2.8%)
TOTAL	29,373,208 (6.1%)	44,791,456 (8.3%)	41,813,039 (7.8%)

Source: Compiled by CRS using the following sources: UNICEF and FUNPROEIB Andes' (UNICEF) 2009 *Atlas Sociolingüístico de Pueblos Indígenas en América Latina*; Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean's (ECLAC) 2014 *Guaranteeing indigenous people's rights in Latin America: Progress in the past decade and remaining challenges*; and the World Bank Group's (WB) 2015 *Indigenous Latin America in the twenty-first century: the first decade*.

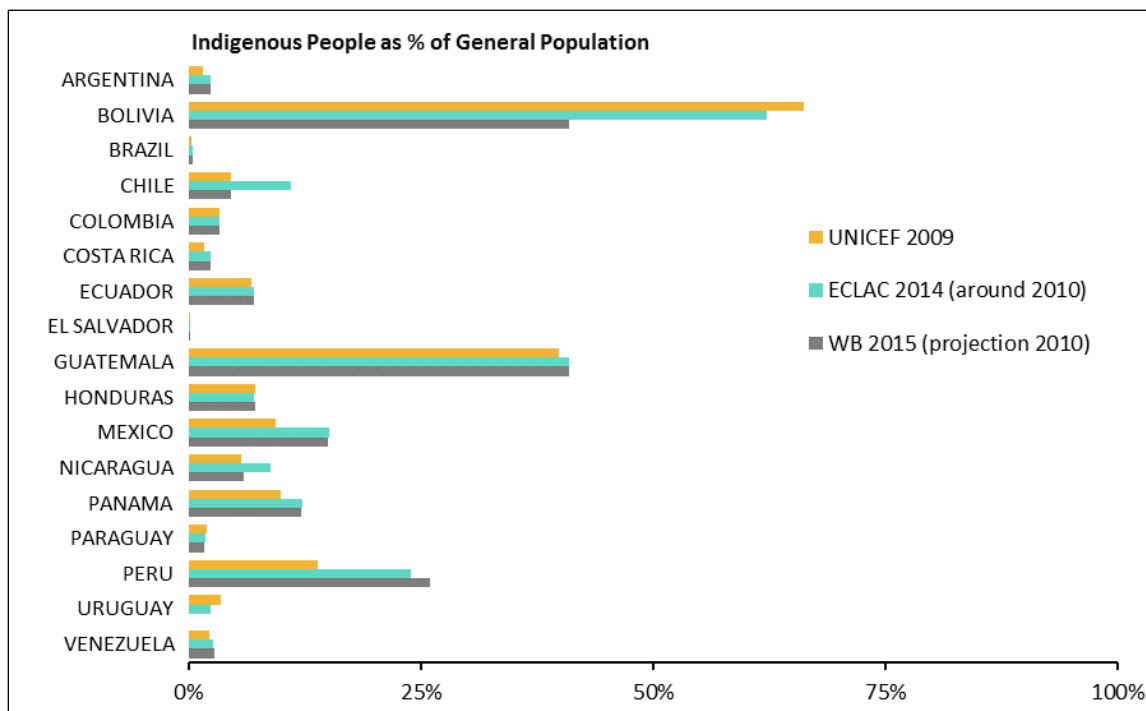
Notes:

- UNICEF and FUNPROEIB Andes' 2009 Atlas covered 25 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean and the population figures vary by country from 1999 to 2008.
- ECLAC's 2014 report covered 17 countries in Latin America with population figures "according to censuses and estimates, around 2010."
- The World Bank's 2015 report covered 16 countries in Latin America and the population figures vary by country from 2001 to 2012 with some projections for 2010.

Figure 2 illustrates the range of estimates regarding the indigenous population as a percentage of the general population in each country. Bolivia's steep decrease in the indigenous population reflects "reasons that probably have more to do with discrepancies in how the data were collected between the last two censuses than with a real trend to negative growth," according to the World Bank.⁸ More generally, differences in data collection between censuses and across countries make it difficult to estimate population increases.

⁸ World Bank, 2015, p. 10.

Figure 2. Indigenous Population in Latin America as Percentage of General Population by Country



Source: Graphic created by CRS using UNICEF and FUNPROEIB Andes' (UNICEF) 2009 *Atlas Sociolingüístico de Pueblos Indígenas en América Latina*; the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and World Bank's (WB) 2015 *Indigenous Latin America in the twenty-first century: the first decade*; and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean's (ECLAC) 2014 *Guaranteeing indigenous people's rights in Latin America: Progress in the past decade and remaining challenges*.

Note: The sources note that figures are based on national censuses. For more details see **Appendix A**.

Indigenous Groups and Languages

Following the International Year of Indigenous Languages in 2019 the United Nations declared 2022-2032 the International Decade of Indigenous Languages.⁹ Experts found that 4 in 10 indigenous languages are in danger of disappearing yet figures on indigenous groups and languages vary among sources.¹⁰

Data on indigenous ethnic groups

“As for the number and distribution of ethnic groups, the issue is even more problematic and the regional censuses might not be the best source, because ethnic frontiers rarely match national borders and no country keeps track of cross-border populations. Also, different ethnic groups sometimes receive... names given to several unconnected peoples.... On the other hand, a single group or linguistic family might receive different names in different countries—such as the several groups of Maya peoples inhabiting a large area of southern Mexico and Central America.”

-- World Bank's *Indigenous Latin America in the twenty-first century: the first decade*¹¹

Figure 3 shows the total number of indigenous groups in Latin America as identified by three sources. A 2009 UNICEF report identified a total of 655 indigenous groups in Latin America.¹² The 2014 ECLAC report cites 826 indigenous groups in Latin America although it does not provide a country breakdown.¹³ Of these 826, about 200 indigenous groups live in voluntary isolation, which is defined by an Inter-American Commission on Human Rights report as groups that “do not maintain sustained contacts with the majority non-indigenous population.”¹⁴ The World Bank's 2015 report identifies 772 indigenous groups in Latin America.¹⁵

⁹ United Nations, “General Assembly Adopts 60 Third Committee Resolutions, Proclaims International Decade of Indigenous Languages, Covering Broad Themes of Social Equality,” press release GA/12231, December 18, 2019, at <https://www.un.org/press/en/2019/ga12231.doc.htm>

¹⁰ United Nations News, “Four in 10 indigenous languages at risk of disappearing, warn UN human rights experts,” August 7, 2019, at <https://news.un.org/en/story/2019/08/1043871>

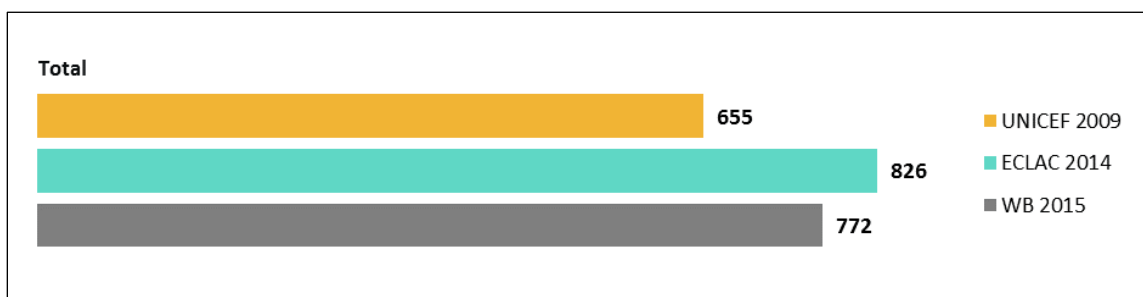
¹¹ IBRD and World Bank, 2015, p. 24.

¹² UNICEF and FUNPROEIB Andes, *Atlas Sociolingüístico de Pueblos Indígenas en América Latina Vol. I*, 2009, p. 68, at https://www.unicef.org/honduras/tomo_1_atlas.pdf. Hereinafter, UNICEF, 2009. This figure excludes 10 indigenous groups from Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, French Guiana, Saint Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago, which are not otherwise included in the report.

¹³ ECLAC, 2014, pp. 38-39.

¹⁴ Rapporteurship on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, *Indigenous peoples in voluntary isolation and initial contact in the Americas: Recommendations for the full respect of their human rights*, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, OEA/Ser.L/V/II. Doc.47/13, 2013, p. 4, at <http://www.oas.org/en/iachr/indigenous/docs/pdf/report-indigenous-peoples-voluntary-isolation.pdf>.

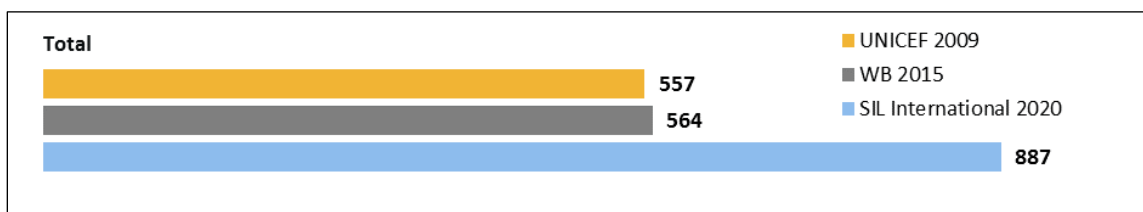
¹⁵ IBRD and World Bank, 2015, p. 26. This figure excludes six indigenous groups from French Guiana.

Figure 3. Total Number of Indigenous Groups in Latin America

Source: Graphic created by CRS using UNICEF and FUNPROEIB Andes' (UNICEF) 2009 *Atlas Sociolingüístico de Pueblos Indígenas en América Latina*; the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and World Bank's (WB) 2015 *Indigenous Latin America in the twenty-first century: the first decade*; and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean's (ECLAC) 2014 *Guaranteeing indigenous people's rights in Latin America: Progress in the past decade and remaining challenges*.

Note: These figures exclude French Guiana and Caribbean island nations.

According to several sources, indigenous languages number fewer than the number of indigenous groups across the region as some languages are spoken by more than one group and some groups have lost their indigenous language (see **Figure 4**). The 2015 World Bank report found 558 indigenous languages across 20 countries of Latin America,¹⁶ while a 2009 UNICEF report found 551 languages across the same 20 countries.¹⁷ Of these 551, the latter report found that 111 languages are vulnerable to extinction although five (Quechua, Nahuatl, Aymara, Yucatan Maya, and Ki'che') had over a million speakers each. In 2019, the Summer Institute of Linguistics (SIL International) reported 880 indigenous languages are spoken across the same 20 Latin American countries.¹⁸

Figure 4. Total Number of Indigenous Languages in Latin America

Source: Graphic created by CRS using UNICEF and FUNPROEIB Andes' (UNICEF) 2009 *Atlas Sociolingüístico de Pueblos Indígenas en América Latina*; the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and World Bank's (WB) 2015 *Indigenous Latin America in the twenty-first century: the first decade*; and SIL International's 2020 *Ethnologue: Languages of the World (Twenty-third ed.)*.

Note: Numbers indicate the number of living indigenous languages. Not included are countries, primarily in the Caribbean, whose only indigenous languages are sign languages and Creole languages based on European and African languages.

Table 2 shows a breakdown of Latin America's indigenous groups and languages by country according to two sources. CRS created the table from several sources; publication dates and methodologies differed. The countries listed in each table may differ from others in this report based on the information available in the sources.

¹⁶ Ibid. This figure excludes six languages in French Guiana.

¹⁷ UNICEF, 2009, p. 81. This figure includes six languages in French Guiana.

¹⁸ Gary F. Simons (editor), *Ethnologue: Languages of the World. Twenty-third edition*, SIL International, 2020, at <https://www.ethnologue.com/>.

Table 2. Indigenous Groups and Languages of Latin America by Country

Country	UNICEF 2009 Indigenous Groups (languages)^a	WB 2015 Indigenous Groups (languages)^b
Argentina	30 (15)	30 (15)
Belize	4 (4)	4 (4)
Bolivia	36 (33)	114 (33)
Brazil	241 (186)	241 (186)
Chile	9 (6)	9 (6)
Colombia	83 (65)	83 (65)
Costa Rica	8 (7)	8 (7)
Ecuador	12 (12)	32 (13)
El Salvador	3 (1)	3 (1)
Guatemala	24 (24)	24 (24)
Guyana	9 (9)	9 (9)
Honduras	7 (6)	7 (6)
Mexico	67 (64)	67 (67)
Nicaragua	9 (6)	9 (6)
Panama	8 (8)	7 (7)
Paraguay	20 (20)	20 (20)
Peru	43 (43)	52 (47)
Suriname	5 (5)	5 (5)
Uruguay	0 (0)	0 (0)

Country	UNICEF 2009 Indigenous Groups (languages) ^a	WB 2015 Indigenous Groups (languages) ^b
Venezuela	37 (37)	50 (37)
TOTAL	655 (551)	774 (558)

Source: Graphic created by CRS using UNICEF and FUNPROEIB Andes' (UNICEF) 2009 *Atlas Sociolingüístico de Pueblos Indígenas en América Latina*; and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and World Bank's (WB) 2015 *Indigenous Latin America in the twenty-first century: the first decade*.

Notes: This report uses "peoples" rather than "tribe," "nation," "ethnic minority," or "sociolinguistic group."

- While UNICEF and FUNPROEIB Andes' 2009 Atlas covered 25 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, French Guiana, Saint Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago are not otherwise included.
- While the World Bank's 2015 report covered 16 countries in Latin America, French Guiana is not included in this report.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, approximately 15,000-19,000 indigenous language speakers from Latin America reside in the United States.¹⁹

Indigenous languages also relate to issues such as biodiversity. A 2020 study states that "most of the places with the highest concentration of biological diversity coincide with spaces inhabited by indigenous peoples whose members continue to speak the language of their ancestors" and highlights Mexico and Brazil.²⁰ A 2012 study explored "the co-occurrence of linguistic and biological diversity in regions containing many of the Earth's remaining species... Results indicate that these regions often contain considerable linguistic diversity, accounting for 70% of all languages on Earth."²¹ The study specifically notes Mesoamerica as a biodiverse hotspot with more than 250 indigenous languages. Additional resources about indigenous groups and languages can be found in **Table A-1**.

Socioeconomic Data

In a 2015 publication, the World Bank found that 43% of indigenous people in Latin America are poor (living on less than \$5.50 a day in 2011 purchasing power parity prices or PPP), and 24% are extremely poor (living on less than \$1.90 a day in 2011 PPP prices), more than twice the rates for non-indigenous people. The report also documented education gaps were across the region.²² Drawing from another World Bank resource, **Figure 5** compares rates of indigenous peoples

¹⁹ Language is a proxy for Latin American indigenous presence in the United States. See the U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2008 American Community Survey, "Detailed Language Spoken at Home and Ability to Speak English for the Population 5 Years and Older by States: 2006-2008," April 2010, at <https://www.census.gov/data/tables/2008/demo/2006-2008-lang-tables.html>; see also U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-2013 American Community Survey, "Detailed Language Spoken at Home and Ability to Speak English for the Population 5 Years and Over: 2009-2013," October 2015, at <https://www.census.gov/data/tables/2013/demo/2009-2013-lang-tables.html>.

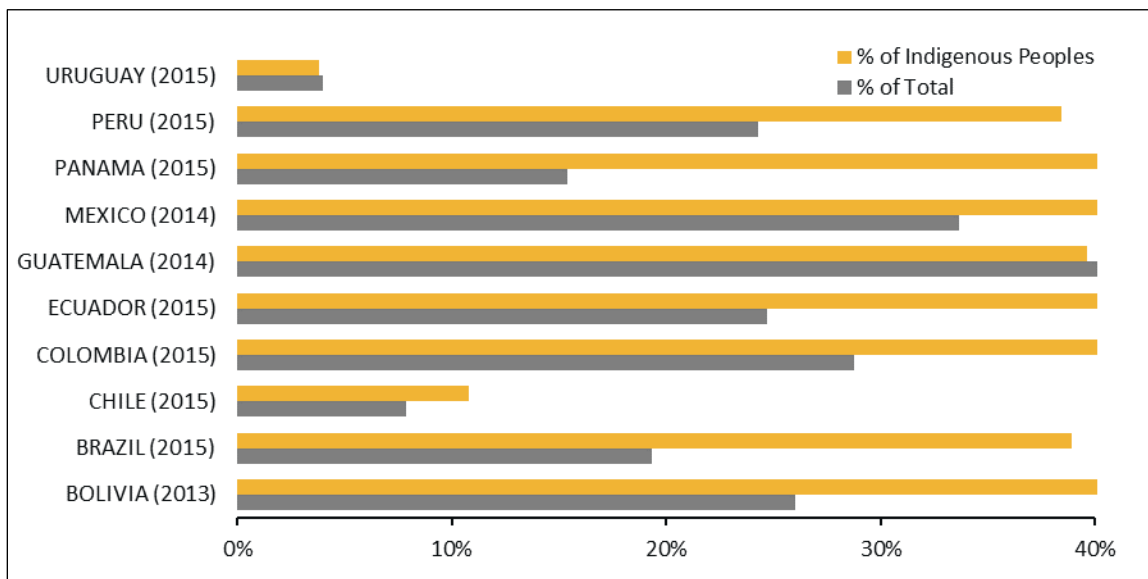
²⁰ Claudia Gafner-Rojas, "Indigenous languages as contributors to the preservation of biodiversity and their presence in international environmental law," *Journal of International Wildlife Law & Policy*, (June 12, 2020).

²¹ L. J. Gorenflo, Suzanne Romaine, Russell A. Mittermeier, Kristen Walker-Painemilla, "Co-occurring linguistic and biological diversity," proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, Vol. 109, no. 2 (May 2012), pp. 8032-8037.

²² IBRD and World Bank, 2015, pp. 12, 127, 9, 34-37.

living on less than \$5.50 a day compared to the general population in select countries of Central and South America.

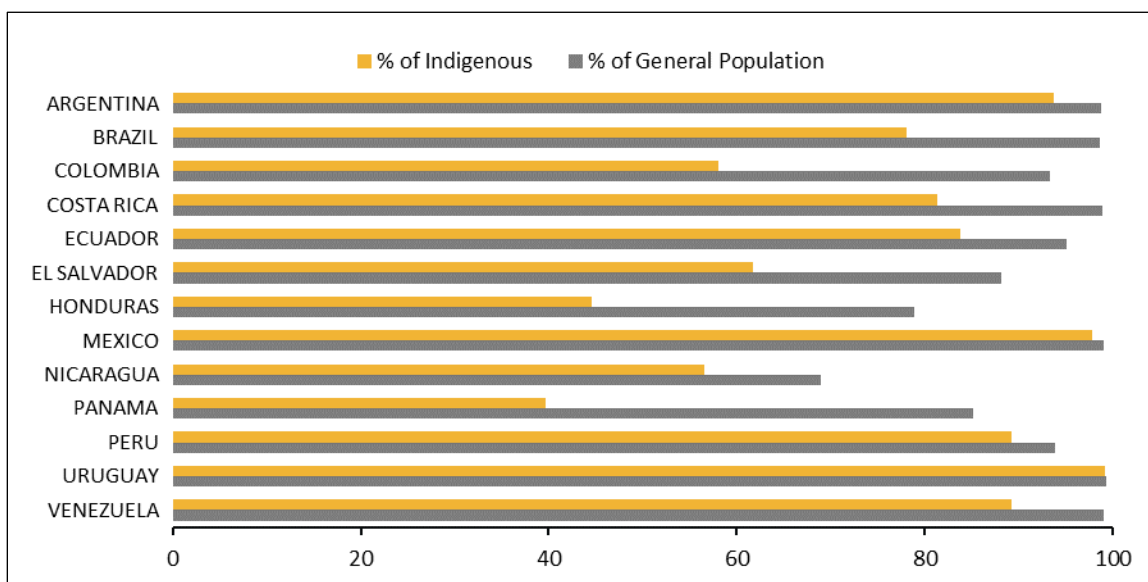
Figure 5. Rates of Indigenous People Living on Less than \$5.50 a Day in Select Latin American Countries



Source: Graphic created by CRS using data from the World Bank's LAC Equity Lab web page "Ethnicity – Poverty."

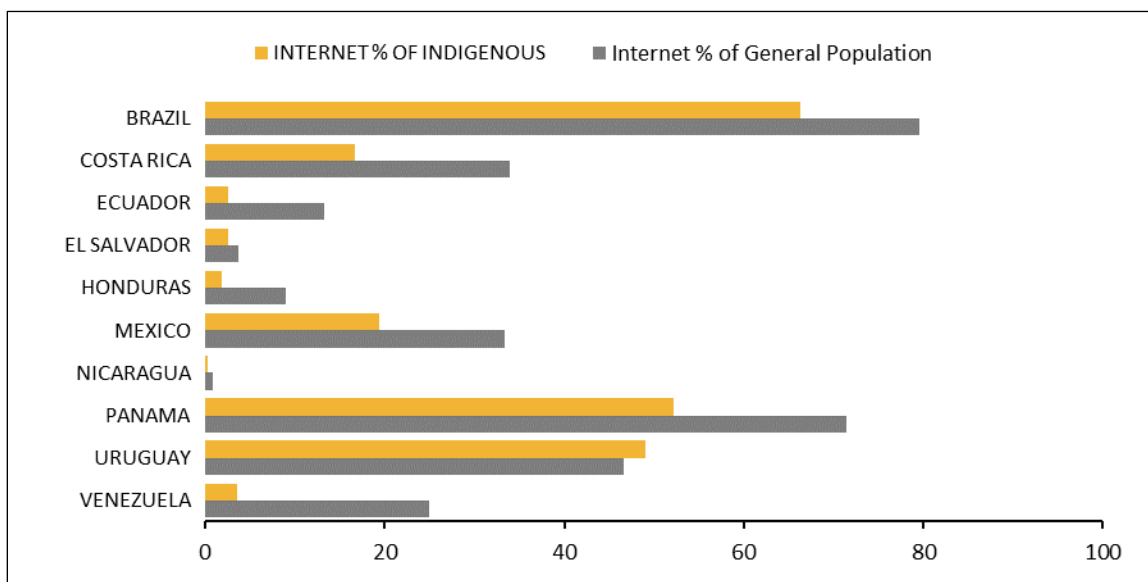
Note: The World Bank notes that ethnic identity is based on self-reported data. The numbers presented are based on a regional data harmonization effort comprised of the World Bank and the Center for Distributive, Labor and Social Studies, which may differ from official statistics. Monetary values are reported in USD 2011 purchasing power parity (PPP) terms. Last updated October 2018.

The World Bank provides statistics on access to various services and opportunities for indigenous peoples in select countries of Central and South America, last updated in October 2018. The following graphs compare indigenous rates of access to these amenities compared with the general population rates by country (**Figure 6**, electricity; **Figure 7**, internet; **Figure 8**, home ownership; **Figure 9**, sewage; and **Figure 10**, water).

Figure 6. Electricity Access Rates in Select Latin American Countries (2018)

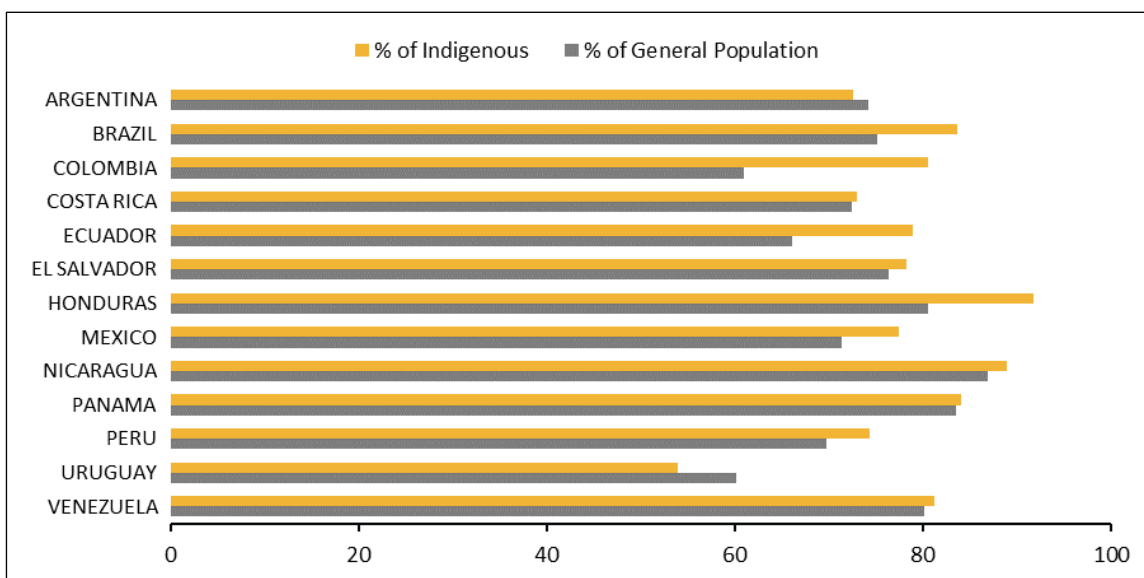
Source: Graphic created by CRS using data from the World Bank's LAC Equity Lab web page "Ethnicity - Access to Services."

Note: The World Bank notes that ethnic identity is based on self-reported data. The numbers presented are based on a variety of sources, which may differ from official statistics reported by governments and national statistical offices. Last updated October 2018.

Figure 7. Internet Access Rates in Select Latin American Countries (2018)

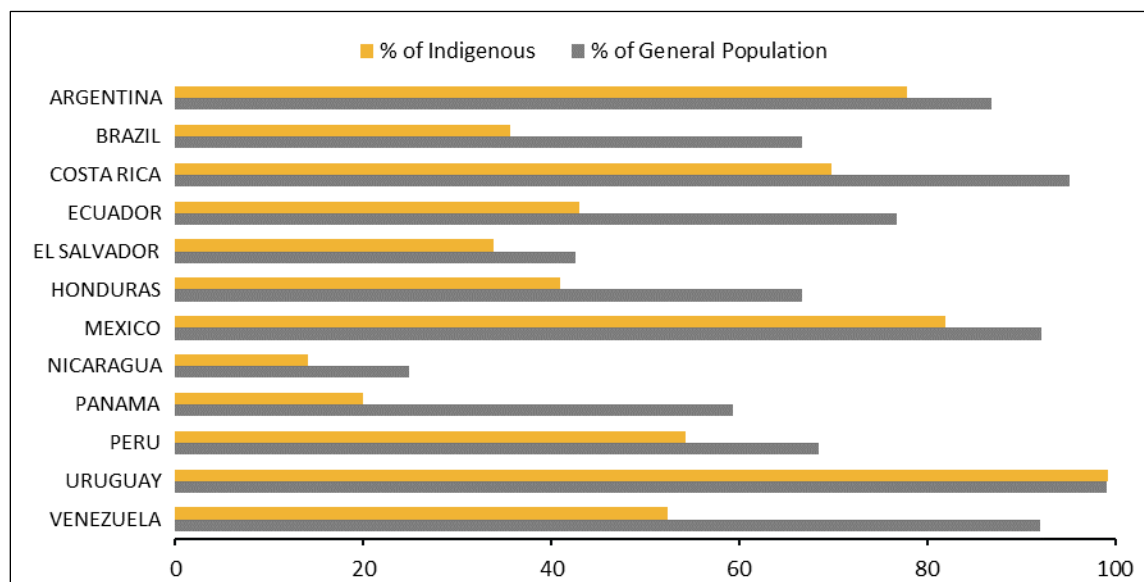
Source: Graphic created by CRS using data from the World Bank's LAC Equity Lab web page "Ethnicity - Access to Services."

Note: The World Bank notes that ethnic identity is based on self-reported data. The numbers presented are based on a variety of sources, which may differ from official statistics reported by governments and national statistical offices. Last updated October 2018.

Figure 8. Ownership of Dwelling Rates in Select Latin American Countries (2018)

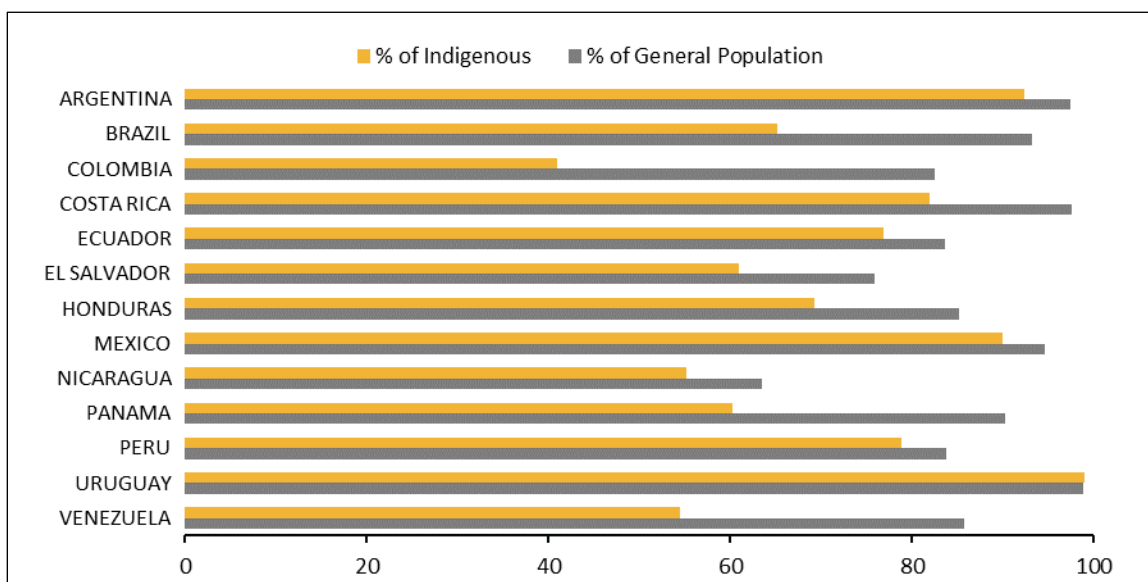
Source: Graphic created by CRS using data from the World Bank's LAC Equity Lab web page "Ethnicity - Access to Services."

Note: The World Bank notes that ethnic identity is based on self-reported data. The numbers presented are based on a variety of sources, which may differ from official statistics reported by governments and national statistical offices. Last updated October 2018.

Figure 9. Sewage Access Rates in Select Latin American Countries (2018)

Source: Graphic created by CRS using data from the World Bank's LAC Equity Lab web page "Ethnicity - Access to Services."

Note: The World Bank notes that ethnic identity is based on self-reported data. The numbers presented are based on a variety of sources, which may differ from official statistics reported by governments and national statistical offices. Last updated October 2018.

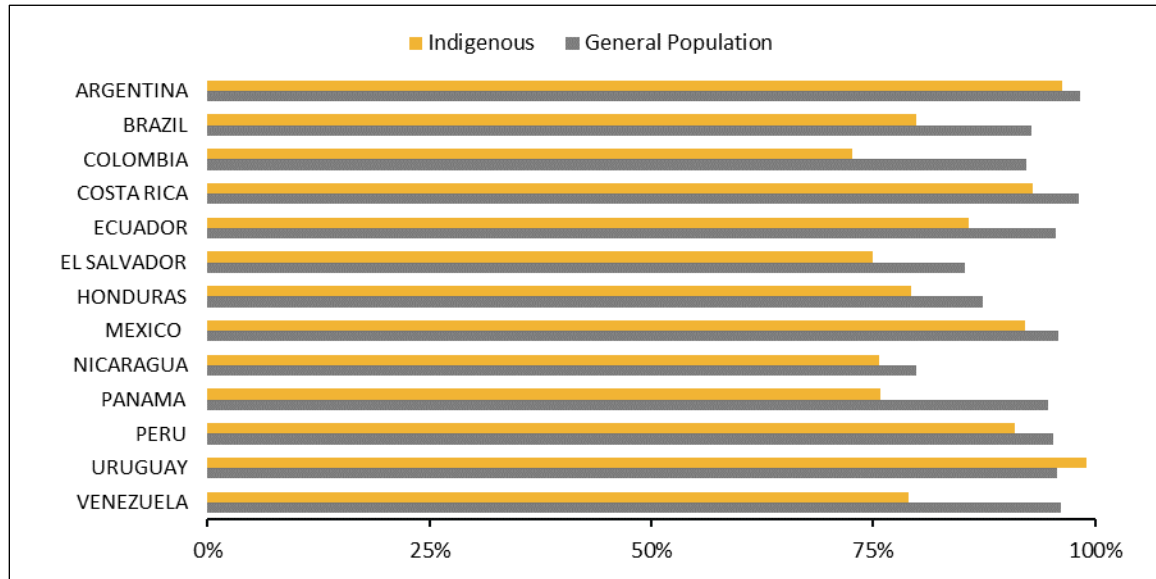
Figure 10. Water Access Rates in Select Latin American Countries (2018)

Source: Graphic created by CRS using data from the World Bank's LAC Equity Lab web page "Ethnicity - Access to Services."

Note: The World Bank notes that ethnic identity is based on self-reported data. The numbers presented here are based on a variety of sources, which may differ from official statistics reported by governments and national statistical offices. Last updated October 2018.

The World Bank also provides labor and education statistics for indigenous peoples in select countries of Central and South America, last updated in October 2018. The following graphs compare indigenous rates compared with general population rates by country (**Figure 11**, literacy; **Figure 12**, school attendance; **Figure 13**, unemployment; and **Figure 14**, low-skill and high-skill employment).

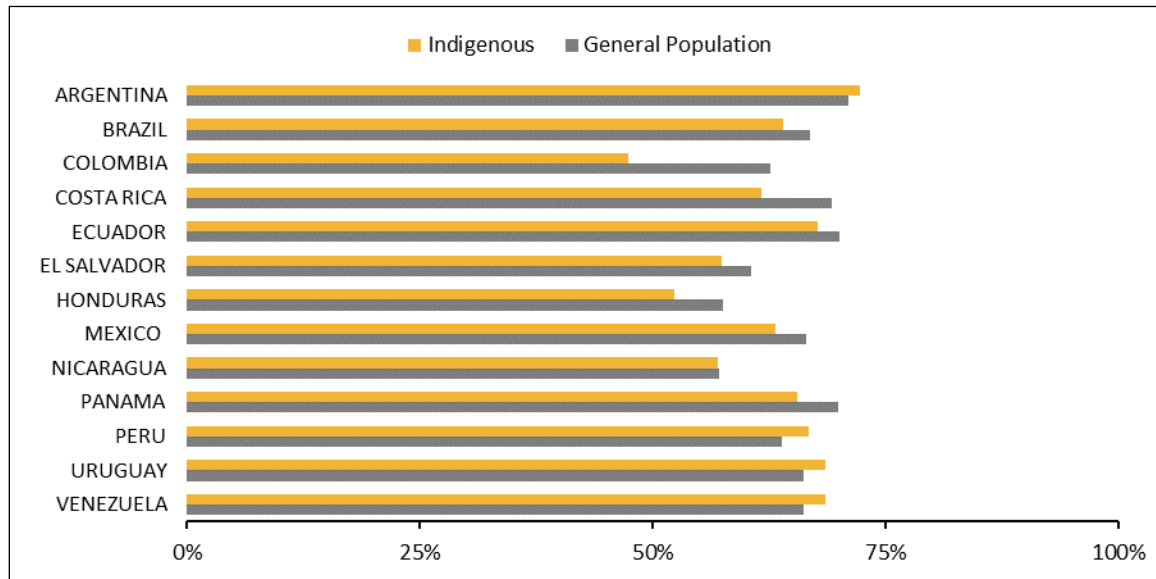
Figure 11. Literacy Rates in Select Latin American Countries (2018)



Source: Graphic created by CRS using data from the World Bank's LAC Equity Lab web page "Ethnicity - Socio-demographics."

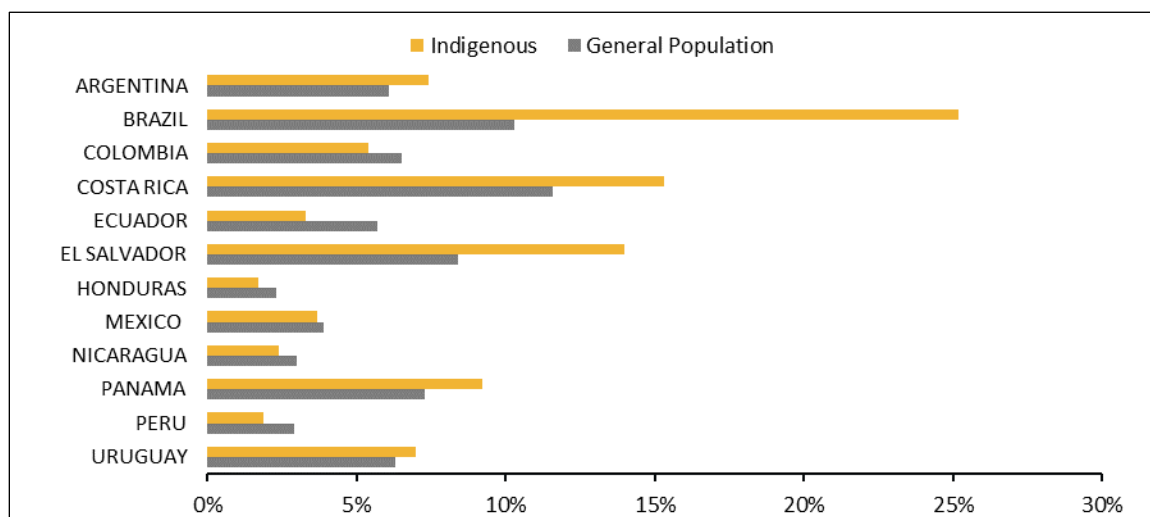
Note: The World Bank notes that ethnic identity is based on self-reported data. The numbers presented here are based on a variety of sources, which may differ from official statistics reported by governments and national statistical offices. Last updated October 2018.

Figure 12. School Attendance Rates in Select Latin American Countries (2018)



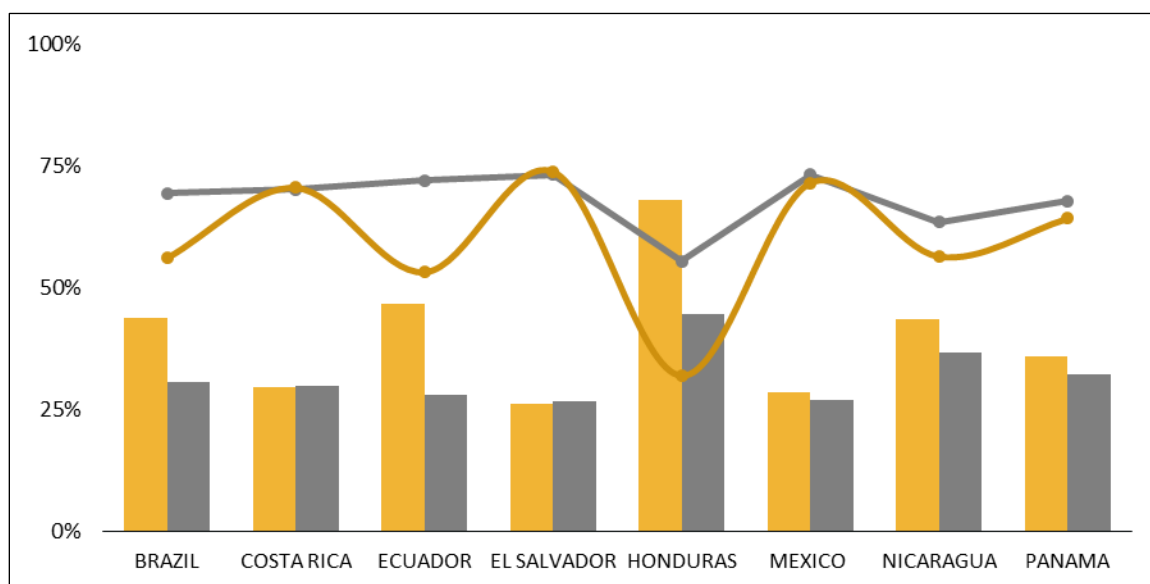
Source: Graphic created by CRS using data from the World Bank's LAC Equity Lab web page "Ethnicity - Socio-demographics."

Note: The World Bank notes that ethnic identity is based on self-reported data. The numbers presented here are based on a variety of sources, which may differ from official statistics reported by governments and national statistical offices. Last updated October 2018.

Figure 13. Unemployment Rates in Select Latin American Countries (2018)

Source: Graphic created by CRS using data from the World Bank's LAC Equity Lab web page "Ethnicity - Socio-demographics."

Note: The World Bank notes that ethnic identity is based on self-reported data. The numbers presented here are based on a variety of sources, which may differ from official statistics reported by governments and national statistical offices. Last updated October 2018.

Figure 14. High & Low-Skill Occupation Rates in Select Latin American Countries (2018)

Source: Graphic created by CRS using data from the World Bank's LAC Equity Lab web page "Ethnicity - Socio-demographics."

Note: The World Bank notes that ethnic identity is based on self-reported data. The numbers presented here are based on a variety of sources, which may differ from official statistics reported by governments and national statistical offices. Last updated October 2018.

The socioeconomic challenges faced by indigenous peoples also impact their health. In light of COVID-19, the United Nations highlights that "indigenous peoples face limited access to quality and culturally accessible health services, which already affect their health outcomes, such as high

maternal mortality rates and lower life expectancy” and that “the pandemic is compounding the precarious situation.”²³ Widespread disease is not new to Latin American indigenous peoples: “While figures for Latin America are unclear, mortality from influenza and H1N1 was between four and seven times higher in indigenous populations...Latin America’s indigenous population was reduced by 95 percent over 300 years through diseases spread by colonizers.”²⁴

In the appendix, **Table A-2** lists resources relating to the socioeconomic standing of indigenous peoples in Latin America.

Land and Natural Resources

A 2017 World Resources Institute (WRI) report states “the precise amount of communal land is not known, but many experts argue that at least half of the world’s land is held by Indigenous Peoples and other communities. Some estimates are as high as 65 percent or more of the global land area.” The WRI goes on to specify that “globally, Indigenous Peoples and local communities have formal legal ownership of 10 percent of the land, and have some degree of government-recognized management rights over an additional 8 percent.”²⁵

The United Nations’ Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean’s (ECLAC) 2014 report *Guaranteeing indigenous people’s rights in Latin America: Progress in the past decade and remaining challenges* states that “over the past decade, booming international demand for primary goods (minerals, hydrocarbons, soybeans and other agricultural commodities) has boosted economic growth in the countries of Latin America but has had its cost in the form of a growing number of environmental, social and ethnic conflicts involving extractive industries located in or near indigenous territories.”²⁶

According to a 2012 Forest Peoples Programme global report, “[A]n estimated 350 million people live inside or close to dense forests, largely dependent on these areas for subsistence and income, while an estimated range of 60 million to 200 million indigenous people are almost wholly dependent on forests.”²⁷ For the region of Mexico, Central and South America, the report estimates 42-48 million indigenous peoples and 21-26 million forest peoples.²⁸ Some but not all indigenous peoples are also forest peoples. Some countries did not have population figures for forest people. A 2018 *Science* article classifies drivers of global tree cover loss using satellite imagery. In Latin America, deforestation accounts for over half of the tree cover loss, shifting agriculture about a third, and, to a smaller degree, forestry, wildfire, and urbanization.²⁹

²³ UN Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues, “Indigenous Peoples and COVID-19 A Guidance Note for the UN System prepared by the UN Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues,” April 23, 2020, at https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/wp-content/uploads/sites/19/2020/04/Indigenous-peoples-and-COVID_IASG_23.04.2020-EN.pdf

²⁴ Martín de Dios, “The situation of Latin America’s indigenous population and the impact of COVID-19,” United Nations Development Programme in Latin America and the Caribbean blog, May 14, 2020, at <https://www.latinamerica.undp.org/content/rblac/en/home/blog/2020/impacto-y-situacion-de-la-poblacion-indigena-latinoamericana-ant.html>

²⁵ Peter Veit and Katie Reyntar, “By the Numbers: Indigenous and Community Land Rights,” World Resources Institute, March 20, 2017, at <https://www.wri.org/blog/2017/03/numbers-indigenous-and-community-land-rights>.

²⁶ ECLAC, 2014, p. 50.

²⁷ Sophie Chao, *Forest Peoples: Numbers across the world*, Forest Peoples Programme, p. 7, at http://www.forestpeoples.org/sites/fpp/files/publication/2012/05/forest-peoples-numbers-across-world-final_0.pdf.

²⁸ Ibid., pp. 9-10.

²⁹ Philip G. Curtis, Christy M. Slay, Nancy L. Harris, Alexandra Tyukavina, Matthew C. Hansen, “Classifying drivers

In the 2015 report *Indigenous Peoples, Communities of African Descent, Extractive Industries*, the IACHR wrote that “through the implementation of its monitoring mechanisms, the Commission has consistently received information evidencing the human, social, health, cultural and environmental impacts of [extraction, exploitation, and development activities concerning natural resources] on indigenous peoples and Afrodescendent communities. Many extractive and development activities in the hemisphere are implemented in lands and territories historically occupied by indigenous and Afro-descendent communities, which often coincide with areas hosting a great wealth of natural resources.”³⁰

Climate Change

Indigenous peoples are affected by climate change; they are also responding and adapting to it. According to the International Indigenous Peoples Forum on Climate Change (IIPFCC) established in 2008 as the caucus for indigenous participants in the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change processes, indigenous peoples “play a critical role in climate change mitigation and adaptation through their historic and effective role as stewards of much of the world’s remaining forests.”³¹ The U.N. Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples states in a 2018 report that “the rate of tree cover loss is less than half in community and indigenous lands compared to elsewhere. Where community rights to own their lands are legally recognized, the difference is even greater. Worldwide, community lands hold at least a quarter of aboveground tropical forest carbon.”³² A 2017 article cites that 80% of the world’s biodiversity can be found within indigenous territories.³³

The 2019 Global Assessment of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, produced by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), was carried out by over 100 experts analyzing over 15,000 scientific publications and a “substantive body of indigenous and local knowledge.”³⁴ Some of the key messages from this report include “Nature is generally declining less rapidly in indigenous peoples’ land than in other lands, but is nevertheless declining, as is the knowledge of how to manage it.”³⁵ The same is said of the decline in biodiversity.³⁶ The report also found that “72 per cent of indicators developed by indigenous peoples and local communities show ongoing deterioration of elements of nature

of global forest loss,” *Science*, Vol. 361, Issue 6407, pp. 1108-1111, September 14, 2018, at <https://science.sciencemag.org/content/361/6407/1108>. For more information about the Brazilian Amazon, see CRS In Focus IF11306, *Fire and Deforestation in the Brazilian Amazon*, by Pervaze A. Sheikh et al. For more information about illegal logging around the world, see CRS In Focus IF11114, *International Illegal Logging: Background and Issues*, by Pervaze A. Sheikh, Lucas F. Bermejo, and Kezee Procita.

³⁰ Inter-American Commission of Human Rights, *Indigenous Peoples, Communities of African Descent, Extractive Industries*, OEA/Ser.L/V/II, Doc. 47/15, December 31, 2015, at <http://www.oas.org/en/iachr/reports/pdfs/ExtractiveIndustries2016.pdf>, p. 9.

³¹ International Indigenous Peoples’ Forum on Climate Change, “About the International Indigenous Peoples’ Forum on Climate Change,” accessed on January 14, 2020, at <https://iipfcc.squarespace.com/who-are-we-1>

³² Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, “A Letter from the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples” in *Cornered by Protected Areas*, 2018, at <https://www.corneredbypas.com/>

³³ Linda Etchart, “The role of indigenous peoples in combating climate change,” *Palgrave Communications*, 3, article no. 17085, (August 22, 2017).

³⁴ Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, “Summary for Policy Makers” of the Global Assessment of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, 2019, p. 2. Hereinafter IPBES, 2019.

³⁵ IPBES, 2019, p. 14.

³⁶ IPBES, 2019, p. 31.

important to them.”³⁷ The report stresses that the “indigenous and local knowledge systems are locally based, but regionally manifested and thus globally relevant.”³⁸

A 2012 UNESCO publication “provides an overview of the published scientific literature relating to the contribution of traditional/indigenous knowledge to our understanding of global climate change” given that “indigenous knowledge has been widely recognized in fields such as agroforestry, traditional medicine, biodiversity conservation, customary resource management, applied anthropology, impact assessment, and natural disaster preparedness and response.”³⁹

Table A-3 lists resources about indigenous peoples’ lands, natural resources, and climate change in Latin America. While the titles may not exclusively focus on indigenous peoples, the industries’ impact on indigenous people is a part of the analysis of each resource.

Human Rights and Multilateral Instruments

Various international human rights mechanisms protect the rights of indigenous peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean. **Table 3** identifies those countries that have ratified or voted in favor of the following three multilateral instruments on indigenous peoples’ rights:

International Labor Organization’s Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169).⁴⁰ The convention includes sections on land; recruitment and conditions of employment; vocational training, handicrafts and rural industries; and social security and health; education and means of communication.

United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).⁴¹ The 2007 declaration covers such topics as self-determination or autonomy; land and environment; employment; religion; language and media; education; discrimination and violence; and health.

American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (ADRIP).⁴² The 2016 declaration approved by the Organization of American States includes sections on human and collective rights; cultural identity; organizational and political rights; and social, economic and property rights.

³⁷ IPBES, 2019, p. 25.

³⁸ IPBES, 2019, p. 32.

³⁹ Douglas Nakashima, Kirsty Galloway McLean, Hans Thulstrup, Ameyali Ramos Castillo, and Jennifer Rubis, *Weathering Uncertainty: Traditional Knowledge for Climate Change Assessment and Adaptation*, UNESCO and United Nations University, 2012.

⁴⁰ International Labor Organization, “Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169),” 1989, at https://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO::P12100_ILO_CODE:C169.

⁴¹ United Nations, “United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples,” September 13, 2007, at https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/wp-content/uploads/sites/19/2018/11/UNDRIP_E_web.pdf.

⁴² Organization of American States, “American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples,” June 15, 2016, at <https://www.oas.org/en/sare/documents/DecAmIND.pdf>. For more information on the Organization of American States, see CRS Report R42639, *Organization of American States: Background and Issues for Congress*, by Peter J. Meyer.

Table 3. Latin America and Multilateral Instruments on Indigenous Peoples' Rights

Country	Ratified ILO No. 169 ^a	Voted in favor of adopting UNDRIP	Voted in favor of adopting ADRIP
Argentina	X	X	X
Belize	--	X	X
Bolivia	X	X	X
Brazil	X	X	X
Chile	X	X	X
Colombia	X	X ^b	X ^c
Costa Rica	X	X	X
Ecuador	X	X	X
El Salvador	--	X	X
Guatemala	X	X	X
Guyana	--	X	X
Honduras	X	X	X
Jamaica	--	X	X
Mexico	X	X	X
Nicaragua	X	X	X
Panama	--	X	X
Paraguay	X	X	X
Peru	X	X	X
Suriname	--	X	X
Uruguay	--	X	X
Venezuela	X	X	X

Source: Compiled by CRS using the following sources: ILO's web page "Ratifications of C169 - Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169)," the U.N. web page "United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People," and the OAS' official publication of ADRIP.

Notes:

- International Labor Organization, "Ratifications of C169 - Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169)," at https://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:11300:0::NO:11300:P11300_INSTRUMENT_ID:312314.
- From the region, only Colombia abstained from the vote. See U.N. Department of Economic and Social Affairs, "United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People," September 13, 2007, at <https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/declaration-on-the-rights-of-indigenous-peoples.html>.
- In the footnotes, Colombia "breaks with consensus" on paragraphs within Articles XXIII, XXIX, and XXX. See Organization of American States, "American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples," June 15, 2016, at <https://www.oas.org/en/sare/documents/DecAmIND.pdf>.
- Cuba is not a voting member. See Organization of American States, "Member States," accessed on April 22, 2019, at http://www.oas.org/en/member_states/default.asp.

The United Nations has a Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and in 2001 created the Special Rapporteurship on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which promote the rights of indigenous

peoples across the globe.⁴³ In 1990, the Organization of American States created the Rapporteurship on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples to promote the rights of indigenous peoples throughout the Western Hemisphere.⁴⁴ **Table A-4** provides additional resources about the work of international organizations with indigenous peoples.

In a 2000 report, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) wrote “concern for the human rights of indigenous peoples and their members has been a constant feature in the work of the Commission.”⁴⁵ The IACHR has tracked its work involving indigenous peoples. It hosts multiple sessions per year to hold hearings regarding human rights issues affecting a particular country or subregion of the Western Hemisphere. One of the categories for hearings is the rights of indigenous peoples. **Table 4** shows the number of IACHR events by country involving indigenous peoples’ rights. It also shows the number of Inter-American Court of Human Rights legal cases brought by indigenous peoples against countries.

Table 4. Human Rights Events and Legal Cases about the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in the Inter-American System 1996-2020

Country	Events on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples	Legal Cases brought by Indigenous Peoples
Colombia	26	2
Peru	20	0
Guatemala	18	2
Ecuador	13	2
Mexico	13	1
Brazil	11	2
Nicaragua	9	2
Chile	9	2
Argentina	8	2
Panama	8	1
Bolivia	8	0
Honduras	7	2
Venezuela	5	1
Costa Rica	4	0
Paraguay	3	2
Belize	2	1
Suriname	1	2
Guyana	1	0
Regional ^a	33	N/A

⁴³ U.N. Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights, “Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples,” at <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/IPeoples/SRIndigenousPeoples/Pages/SRIPeoplesIndex.aspx>.

⁴⁴ Organization of American States, “Rapporteurship on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples,” at <http://www.oas.org/en/iachr/indigenous/>.

⁴⁵ Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, *The Human Rights Situation of the Indigenous People in the Americas*, OEA/Ser.L/V/II.108, Doc. 62, October 20, 2000, at <http://www.cidh.org/Indigenas/TOC.htm>.

Source: Table created by CRS using available data from the IACHR from sessions 91-175 (February 1996-March 2020). The first column data comes from the webpage “Hearings by Topic: Rights of Indigenous Peoples” and the second column data comes from the webpage “Hearings by Topic: Petitions and Cases.”

Notes: IACHR events include topical hearings, petitions, and precautionary measures, which may or may not be related to a legal case. Legal cases receive an identification number and are counted only once no matter how many events are associated with it. Information is not available for all sessions, particularly before 1996.

- a. The IACHR uses the regional category for hearings that span multiple countries. Where countries were named along with the tag “regional,” the hearing was counted for all entities tagged.

In the appendix, **Table A-5** lists publications that document various human rights issues confronting indigenous peoples. CRS also publishes a number of reports with country-specific information on indigenous peoples’ human rights issues.⁴⁶

⁴⁶ See CRS Report R43813, *Colombia: Background and U.S. Relations*, by June S. Beittel; CRS Report R42580, *Guatemala: Political and Socioeconomic Conditions and U.S. Relations*, by Maureen Taft-Morales; CRS Report R42917, *Mexico: Background and U.S. Relations*, by Clare Ribando Seelke and Edward Y. Gracia; and CRS Report R44841, *Venezuela: Background and U.S. Relations*, coordinated by Clare Ribando Seelke.

Appendix A. Data Sources and Resources Lists

The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and *Fundación para la Educación en Contextos de Multilingüismo y Pluriculturalidad* (the Foundation for Education in Multilingual and Multicultural Contexts or FUNPROEIB) gathered data in 21 Latin American and Caribbean countries in 2009 for its report in two volumes titled *Atlas Sociolingüístico de Pueblos Indígenas en América Latina*. The report notes the limitations of using national censuses.⁴⁷

In 2014, the United Nations’ Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) gathered population data from 17 Latin American countries using national censuses for *Guaranteeing Indigenous People’s Rights in Latin America: Progress in the past Decade and Remaining Challenges*. The report notes that most countries ask people to self-identify as indigenous with the exception of Peru, which asks people if they speak an indigenous language.⁴⁸

In 2015, the World Bank gathered data in 16 countries using national censuses and household survey data in order to publish *Indigenous Latin America in the Twenty-First Century: the First Decade*.⁴⁹ The report notes that the definition of who is indigenous has become increasingly controversial and “underscores the complexity of identifying indigenous people across the region and argues that the conditions of indigeneity vary over time and are, in some cases, context- and country-specific.”⁵⁰

The 2020 edition of *Ethnologue* documents language counts for each country and divides them into indigenous and non-indigenous categories. Indigenous languages figures were used in **Table 2** as non-indigenous is defined as “a language that did not originate in the country, but which is now established there either as a result of its longstanding presence or because of institutionally supported use and recognition.”⁵¹ Only living languages were included in the count, not languages classified as extinct. *Ethnologue*’s “about” section provides details on the methodology, language names, and status of usage.

The World Bank’s Latin America and Caribbean Equity Lab provides data on poverty, access to services, education and labor (last updated in October 2018). The World Bank notes that ethnic identity is based on self-reported data. Statistics may vary from official statistics reported by governments as the World Bank uses SEDLAC, “a regional data harmonization effort that increases cross-country comparability.”

The web page of the Inter-American Commission’s Human Rights Rapporteurship on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples provides detailed information on hearings and court cases related to indigenous peoples’ rights.

The data on drivers of forest loss in Latin America are from: Philip G. Curtis, Christy M. Slay, Nancy L. Harris, Alexandra Tyukavina, Matthew C. Hansen, “Classifying drivers of global forest loss,” *Science*, Vol. 361, Issue 6407, pp. 1108-1111, September 14, 2018, at <https://science.sciencemag.org/content/361/6407/1108>. There are multiple methodologies for each driver of forest loss using map-based estimates and sample-based estimates.

⁴⁷ UNICEF, 2009. pp. vii-ix.

⁴⁸ ECLAC, 2014, pp. 34-36.

⁴⁹ IBRD and World Bank, 2015, pp. 6, 9.

⁵⁰ Ibid.

⁵¹ Gary F. Simons (editor), “Language Information,” *Ethnologue: Languages of the World. Twenty-third edition*, SIL International, 2020, at <https://www.ethnologue.com/about/language-info>.

For each table below, sources are listed in reverse chronological order with the year in parentheses following the title. Multiple sources from the same year are listed alphabetically as are sources without a publication date, such as websites. Some sources are global, with a section dedicated to Latin America.

Table A-1. Resources on Indigenous Languages in Latin America

Title	Author	Resource Type	URL
Languages of the World, Twenty-third edition (2020)	Gary F. Simons (editor), Ethnologue	World language encyclopedia with maps	http://www.ethnologue.com
Celebrating Indigenous Languages (2019)	Google Earth	Interactive website	https://earth.google.com/web/data=CiQSIhlgYTYlY2U1NTk3MzE4MTFIOTkzN2RjN2JkNTNhNDc1ZGI
International Year of Indigenous Languages (2019)	United Nations	Website with map, summary report and more	https://en.iyil2019.org/
Atlas Sociolingüístico de Pueblos Indígenas en América Latina, Volúmenes I and II (2009)	UNICEF and FUNPROEIB Andes	Report in Spanish only	https://www.unicef.org/honduras/tomo_1_atlas.pdf ; https://www.unicef.org/honduras/tomo_2_atlas.pdf

Source: Compiled by CRS.

Table A-2. Resources on Indigenous Socioeconomics

Title	Author	Resource Type	URL
Linking Indigenous Communities with Regional Development (2019)	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development	Report on OECD member countries including Chile and Mexico with some information on non-member countries	https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/urban-rural-and-regional-development/linking-indigenous-communities-with-regional-development_97353723-en
State of the world's indigenous peoples: Education, 3rd volume (2017)	United Nations	Report with a chapter on Latin America and the Caribbean	http://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/wp-content/uploads/sites/19/2017/12/State-of-Worlds-Indigenous-Peoples_III_WEB2018.pdf
Indigenous Latin America in the twenty-first century: the first decade (2015)	International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the World Bank	Report covers statistical numbers, migration, development, poverty, and education	http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/2016/02/24863854/indigenous-latin-america-twenty-first-century-first-decade
The state of the world's indigenous people: Indigenous people's access to health services, 2nd volume (2015)	United Nations	Report with a chapter on Latin America and the Caribbean	https://www.un.org/esa/so-cdev/unpfii/documents/2016/Docs-updates/SOWIP_Health.pdf

Title	Author	Resource Type	URL
Indigenous Peoples	U.S. Agency for International Development	Website with policy, blog, and more	https://www.usaid.gov/indigenous-peoples
LAC Equity Lab: A Platform for Poverty and Inequality Analysis	World Bank	Regional economic data and maps	http://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/poverty/lac-equity-lab

Source: Compiled by CRS.

Table A-3. Resources on Indigenous Land, Natural Resources, and Climate Change in Latin America

Title	Author	Resource Type	URL
Environmental Governance in Latin America (expected spring 2020, appears to be delayed)	World Justice Project	Report	https://worldjusticeproject.org/our-work/research-and-data/special-reports/environmental-governance-latin-america
Authorized to Steal: Organized Crime Networks Launder Illegal Timber from the Peruvian Amazon (2019)	Center for International Environmental Law	Report covers government oversight, laundering, supply chains and recommendations	https://www.ciel.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Authorized-to-Steal-July-2019.pdf
Blood Gold in the Brazilian Rain Forest (2019)	Jon Lee Anderson, The New Yorker	Long article	https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2019/11/11/blood-gold-in-the-brazilian-rain-forest?utm_campaign=aud-dev&utm_source=nl&utm_brand=tny&utm_mailing=TNY_Magazine_Daily_10419&utm_medium=email&bxid=5d5c9101576f2c67c471c6f8&cndid=29183913&esrc=&mbid=&utm_term=TNY_Daily
Global assessment report on biodiversity and ecosystem services (2019)	Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services	Report with discussion of indigenous peoples integrated throughout	https://ipbes.net/global-assessment-report-biodiversity-ecosystem-services
Global Report on the Situation of Lands, Territories and Resources of Indigenous Peoples (2019)	Joji Carino, Loreto Tamayo, Indigenous Peoples Major Group for Sustainable Development	Report with a section on Latin America and the Caribbean	https://www.iwgia.org/images/documents/briefings/IPMG%20Global%20Report%20FINAL.pdf
Rainforest Mafias: How Violence and Impunity Fuel Deforestation in Brazil's Amazon (2019)	Human Rights Watch	Report on Brazilian public and private actors, climate change and public policy	https://www.hrw.org/report/2019/09/17/rainforest-mafias/how-violence-and-impunity-fuel-deforestation-brazils-amazon

Title	Author	Resource Type	URL
Situation of Human Rights of the Indigenous and Tribal Peoples of the Pan-Amazon Region (2019)	Inter-American Commission on Human Rights	Report examines threats to indigenous peoples, challenges to their rights and recommendations	http://www.oas.org/en/iachr/reports/pdfs/Panamazonia2019-en.pdf
Cornered by Protected Areas (2018)	Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, Janis Alcorn, and Augusta Molnar	Website with resources including report with case studies of Panama and Peru	https://www.corneredbypas.com/
Looted Amazon (2018)	Infoamazonia and Amazon Georeferenced Socio-Environmental Information Network	Report covering mercury, protected areas, indigenous territories and conflicts	https://illegalmining.amazoniasocioambiental.org/?lang=en
Organized Crime and Illegally Mined Gold in Latin America (2016)	Global Initiative against Transnational Organized Crime	Report examining seven South American countries	https://globalinitiative.net/organized-crime-and-illegally-mined-gold-in-latin-america/
Conservation and Indigenous Peoples in Mesoamerica: A Guide (2015)	Indian Law Resource Center	Report with three case studies in Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua	https://www.indianlaw.org/sites/default/files/2015-01-12_MesoamericaConservationGuide_ENG.pdf
Weathering uncertainty: traditional knowledge for climate change assessment and adaptation (2012)	UNESCO and United Nations University	Report with chapter dedicated to the Americas	https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000216613_eng
Amazonía Socioambiental	Amazon Geo-Referenced Socio-Environmental Information Network, a consortium of civil society organizations from several countries	Website with maps about the Amazon's protected areas, indigenous territories, deforestation and more (English, Spanish, Portuguese)	https://www.amazoniasocioambiental.org/en/maps/
Environmental Justice Atlas	Autonomous University of Barcelona's Institute of Environmental Science and Technology	Map with information about level of conflict, communities, commodities, companies, and governmental agencies involved, and reference links	https://ejatlas.org/
Indigenous peoples and food security in Latin America and the Caribbean	FAO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean	Website links to additional documents	http://www.fao.org/americas/prioridades/pueblos-indigenas/en/
International Indigenous Peoples Forum on Climate Change		Website for caucus of indigenous peoples participating in United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change	https://iipfcc.squarespace.com/home
Landmark Map	World Resources Institute, International Land Coalition and others	Maps, data, country profiles	https://www.landmarkmap.org/

Source: Compiled by CRS.

Table A-4. Resources on International Organizations and Indigenous Peoples in Latin America

Title	Author	Resource Type	URL
The state of the world's indigenous people: Implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, 4th volume (2019)	United Nations	Report covers Declaration implementation, official statistics, challenges and priorities	https://social.un.org/unpfii/sowip-vol4-web.pdf
Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Portal	World Intellectual Property Organization	Website provides access to publications and events	https://www.wipo.int/tk/en/indigenous/
Indigenous Peoples—OAS	Organization of American States	Website provides access to the Rapporteurship on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, Summits of the Americas, special projects and more	http://www.oas.org/en/topics/indigenous_peoples.asp
Indigenous and tribal peoples	International Labor Organization	Website provides access to projects, publications and supervision of conventions	https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/indigenous-tribal/lang--en/index.htm
United Nations for Indigenous Peoples	United Nations' Department of Economic and Social Affairs	Website provides access to the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, expert group meetings, the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples and more	https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouseoples/

Source: Compiled by CRS.

Table A-5. Resources on Indigenous Peoples' Human Rights in Latin America

Title	Author	Resource Type	URL
Front Line Defenders Global Analysis 2019 (2020)	Front Line Defenders	Report about physical, digital, legal and social attacks against human rights defenders	https://www.frontlinedefenders.org/sites/default/files/global_analysis_2019_web.pdf
Human Rights in the Americas Annual Report 2019 (2020)	Amnesty International	Report with subsection on indigenous peoples for each country	https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/amr01/1353/2020/en/
Indigenous World 2020	International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs	Annual reports from 1986-2020 about developments affecting indigenous peoples, organized by country	https://www.iwgia.org/en/resources/indigenous-world

Title	Author	Resource Type	URL
Indigenous Navigator (2018)	Community-generated data, website supported by the European Union	Website and database	http://nav.indigenousnavigator.com/
Indigenous Women and Their Human Rights in the Americas (2017)	Inter-American Commission on Human Rights	Report with hearings, cases, thematic and country reports that document violations of the human rights of indigenous women	http://www.oas.org/en/iachr/reports/pdfs/IndigenousWomen.pdf
Guaranteeing indigenous people's rights in Latin America: Progress in the past decade and remaining challenges (2014)	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean	Report covers sociopolitical context, territorial rights, and rights to well-being and information	https://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/37051/4/S1420782_en.pdf
Business, Civic Freedoms & Human Rights Defenders Portal	Business & Human Rights Resource Centre	Database of attacks on human rights defenders from 2015 to present, which specifies indigenous victims	https://www.business-humanrights.org/search-human-rights-defenders
Country Reports on Human Rights Practices	U.S. State Department	Annual report covers each country with section "Discrimination, Societal Abuses, and Trafficking in Persons" that includes indigenous peoples	https://www.state.gov/reports-bureau-of-democracy-human-rights-and-labor/country-reports-on-human-rights-practices/

Source: Compiled by CRS.

Appendix B. National Agencies of Indigenous Affairs

Table B-1. Principal National Agencies Overseeing Indigenous Affairs

Country	Agency (parent agency, office)	Website
Argentina	Secretaría de Derechos Humanos, Instituto Nacional de Asuntos Indígenas	https://www.argentina.gob.ar/derechos/humanos/inai
Bolivia	Ministerio de Culturas y Turismo, Viceministro de Interculturalidad & Viceministro de Descolonización	http://www.minculturas.gob.bo/es/articulo/336-viceministro-de-interculturalidad http://www.minculturas.gob.bo/es/articulo/17-viceministro-de-descolonizacin
Brazil	Ministério da Mulher, da Família e dos Direitos Humanos, Fundação Nacional do Índio; Ministério da Agricultura, Pecuária e Abastecimento	http://www.funai.gov.br/ http://www.agricultura.gov.br/
Chile	Ministerio de Desarrollo Social, Corporación Nacional de Desarrollo Indígena	http://www.conadi.gob.cl/
Colombia	Ministerio del Interior, Viceministerio para la Participación e Igualdad de Derechos, Dirección de Asuntos Indígenas, ROM y Minorías	https://www.mininterior.gov.co/mision/direccion-de-asuntos-indigenas-rom-y-minorias
Costa Rica	Comisión Nacional de Asuntos Indígenas	http://www.conai.go.cr/
Ecuador	Consejo Nacional para la Igualdad de Pueblos y Nacionalidades	http://www.pueblosynacionalidades.gob.ec/
El Salvador	Ministerio de Cultura, Departamento de Pueblos Indígenas	http://www.cultura.gob.sv/departamento-de-pueblos-indigenas/
Guatemala	Ministerio Público, Secretaría de Pueblos Indígenas	https://www.mp.gob.gt/noticias/
Guyana	Ministry of Indigenous Peoples' Affairs	https://moipa.gov.gy/
Honduras	Secretaría de Desarrollo e Inclusión Social, Dirección de Pueblos Indígenas y Afrohondureños	http://dinafroh.sedis.gob.hn/
Mexico	Instituto Nacional de los Pueblos Indígenas; Secretaría de Cultura, Instituto Nacional de Lenguas Indígenas;	https://www.gob.mx/inpi

Nicaragua	Asamblea Nacional, Comisión de Asuntos de los Pueblos Originarios, Afrodescendientes y Regímenes Autonómicos; Comisión Nacional de Demarcación y Titulación	http://legislacion.asamblea.gob.ni/Tablas%20Generales.nsf/InfoComision.xsp
Panama	Ministerio de Gobierno y Justicia, Viceministerio de Asuntos Indígenas; Ministerio de Salud, Dirección de Asuntos Sanitarios Indígenas	http://www.mingob.gob.pa/viceministerio-asuntos-indigenas/ http://www.minsa.gob.pa/direccion/direccion-de-asuntos-sanitarios-indigenas
Paraguay	Presidencia de la República, Instituto Paraguayo del Indígena	http://www.indi.gov.py/
Peru	Ministerio de Cultura, Viceministerio de Interculturalidad, Dirección de Políticas indígenas	http://cultura.gob.pe/es/interculturalidad/politicasinigenas
Uruguay	Ministerio del Interior, Área Étnico Racial	https://www.minterior.gub.uy/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=3447
Venezuela	Ministerio del Poder Popular para los Pueblos Indígenas	http://www.minpi.gob.ve/

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