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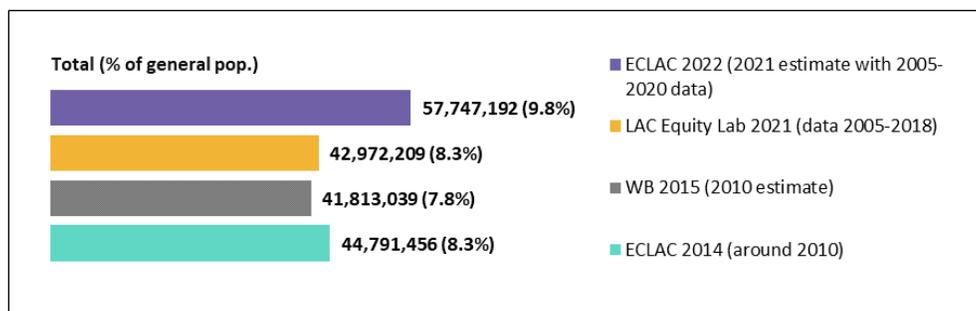
October 27, 2023

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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, the figure below shows four estimates for the Indigenous population of Latin America ranging from 41.8 million to 53.4 million. The statistics vary depending on the source methodology, changes in national censuses, the number of countries covered, and the years examined.

Indigenous Population and Percentage of General Population of Latin America



Sources: Graphic created by CRS using the World Bank’s LAC Equity Lab webpage (last updated in July 2021); ECLAC and FILAC’s 2020 *Los pueblos indígenas de América Latina—Abya Yala y la Agenda 2030 para el Desarrollo Sostenible: tensiones y desafíos desde una perspectiva territorial*; 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 ECLAC’s 2014 *Guaranteeing Indigenous people’s rights in Latin America: Progress in the past decade and remaining challenges*.

Notes: The scope of the sources varies. The World Bank’s LAC Equity Lab webpage covers 14 Latin American countries. ECLAC and FILAC’s report uses national censuses from 17 countries. The World Bank report uses national censuses from 16 countries to estimate the population 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.” The ECLAC report data cover 17 countries, and is based on censuses and estimates, from around 2010. The population percentage is based on the total population calculated in each source.

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.”

This report presents data regarding Argentina, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

A compilation of selected informational resources, covering languages; socioeconomic; land, natural resources, and climate change; international organizations; and human rights, is available in Appendix A. Appendix B lists 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 abroad periodically have been considered in hearings focused on such topics as environmental protection, energy opportunities, and human rights.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. A compilation of informational resources on languages; socioeconomic data; land and resources; international organizations; and human rights are available in **Appendix A**. National agencies that oversee Indigenous affairs in each country are listed in **Table B-1**.

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.” This report examines those living in Latin America.

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, *Energy Opportunities in South America*, 115th Cong., 1st sess., May 17, 2017 (Washington, DC: GPO, 2017); U.S. Congress, Tom Lantos Commission on Human Rights, *The Rights of Indigenous Peoples in the Americas*, 116th Cong., 2nd sess., November 20, 2020 (Washington, DC: GPO, 2020).

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 Rights Institutions*, HR/PUB/13/2, 2013, at <https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/IPeoples/> (continued...)

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

A 2019 U.N. report notes “the persistent invisibility of Indigenous peoples” and “the need for disaggregated data” to address data limitations regarding Indigenous people around the globe. However, the U.N. report notes progress in Latin America: in the 1990 round, “only two censuses included self-identification criteria... but by the 2010 round such criteria were present in 21 of them.”⁴

Despite some advances in data collection, the sources cited in this report contain data limitations, which are discussed in **Appendix A**. The countries listed in each table or graph of this report may differ from others in this report based on the information available in the sources.

Population Data

There are various sources and methodologies for estimating the population of Indigenous peoples in Latin America, including official sources based on national censuses and household surveys, and other kinds of estimates such as population projections or data from non-governmental sources. Latin America is home to an estimated 41.8 million to 53.4 million Indigenous people according to several resources published since 2014.⁵ A 2015 World Bank report acknowledges the gap that may exist between official and unofficial data: “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 World Bank report, however, we will refer to the official—albeit imperfect—numbers provided by the national censuses [41.81 million].”⁶

Census projections forecast increasing Indigenous populations 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 When the U.N. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) published a report with the Development Fund for the Indigenous Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean (Spanish acronym FILAC) in 2020, the censuses reported over 53 million Indigenous people or 9.8% of the region’s total.⁸

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.

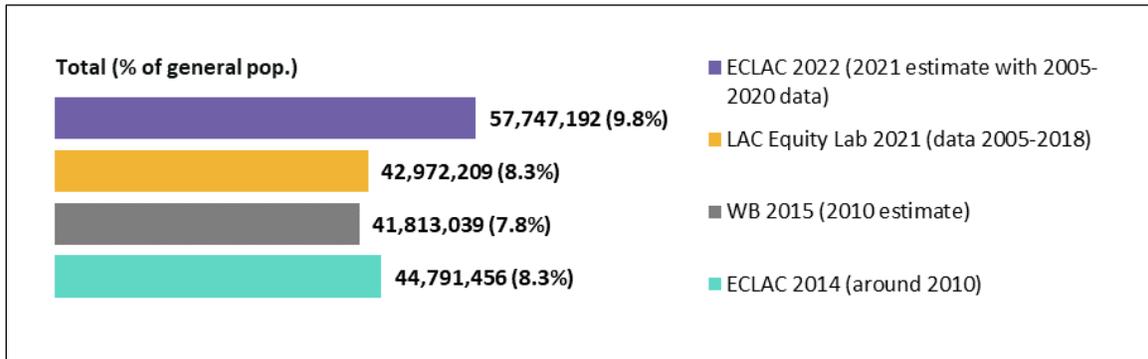
⁶ International Bank for Reconstruction and Development/World Bank, *Indigenous Latin America in the Twenty-First Century: the First Decade*, 2015, at <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/2016/02/24863854/Indigenous-latin-america-twenty-first-century-first-decade>, p. 24. Hereinafter: World Bank,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

⁸ United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Development Fund for the Indigenous Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean (Fondo para el Desarrollo de los Pueblos Indígenas de América Latina y el Caribe), *Los pueblos indígenas de América Latina—Abya Yala y la Agenda 2030 para el* (continued...)

Figure 1 illustrates the total number of Indigenous people in Latin America and their share of the total regional population according to four sources: a 2014 ECLAC report (with population data from 2010), a 2015 World Bank Report (with population data from 2010), the World Bank’s LAC Equity Lab using various resources from 2005-2020, and a 2022 ECLAC report using census data from 2005-2020 to estimate populations in 2021.

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



Sources: Graphic created by CRS using the U.N. Economic Commission on Latin American and the Caribbean’s (ECLAC) 2022 *The sociodemographic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic in Latin America and the Caribbean*; World Bank’s LAC Equity Lab (webpage last updated in August 2021); 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 ECLAC’s 2014 *Guaranteeing Indigenous people’s rights in Latin America: Progress in the past decade and remaining challenges*.

Notes: The scope of sources varies. ECLAC’s 2022 publication covers 17 countries and is based on the self-identifying Indigenous population, according to the latest census and estimates to 2021, with data varying by country from 2005-2020. The World Bank’s LAC Equity Lab webpage covers 14 Latin American countries with figures based on self-reported data from a variety of sources. The 2015 World Bank report uses national censuses from 16 countries to estimate the population 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.” ECLAC’s 2014 covers 17 countries, and is based on the population of Indigenous peoples according to censuses and estimates, around 2010. The population percentage is based on the total population calculated in each source.

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

Desarrollo Sostenible: tensiones y desafíos desde una perspectiva territorial, 2020, at <https://www.filac.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Los-Pueblos-Indigenas-de-America-ILatina-y-la-Agenda-2030-para-el-Desarrollo-SostenibleAutosaved.pdf>. Hereinafter ECLAC and FILAC, 2020.

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

Country	Indigenous Population (% of general population)			
	ECLAC 2014: Indigenous pop. around 2010 ^a	WB 2015: Indigenous pop., 2010 estimate ^b	LAC Equity Lab 2021: Indigenous pop. based on 2005-2020 data ^c	ECLAC 2022: Indigenous pop., 2021 estimates based on 2005- 2020 data ^d
Argentina	955,032 (2.4%)	955,032 (2.4%)	926,003 (2.3%)	1,094,540 (2.4%)
Bolivia	6,216,026 (62.2%)	4,115,226 (41%)	N/A	4,910,670 (41.5%)
Brazil	896,917 (0.5%)	817,963 (0.5%)	821,629 (0.4%)	1,069,967 (0.5%)
Chile	1,805,243 (11%)	788,935 (4.6%)	N/A	2,382,333 (12.4%)
Colombia	1,559,852 (3.4%)	1,532,678 (3.3%)	1,905,617 (4.3%)	2,255,697 (4.4%)
Costa Rica	104,143 (2.4%)	104,143 (2.4%)	101,870 (2.4%)	123,337 (2.4%)
Ecuador	1,018,176 (7%)	1,018,176 (7%)	1,020,330 (7%)	1,252,193 (7%)
El Salvador	14,408 (0.2%)	14,865 (0.2%)	13,730 (0.2%)	13,037 (0.2%)
Guatemala	5,881,009 (41%)	5,880,046 (41%)	6,481,762 (43.6%)	7,956,939 (43.6%)
Honduras	536,541 (7%)	548,727 (7.2%)	601,823 (7.2%)	784,913 (7.8%)
Mexico	16,933,283 (15.1%)	16,836,877 (15%)	23,229,089 (18.5%)	25,280,302 (19.4%)
Nicaragua	518,104 (8.9%)	349,333 (6%)	187,840 (3.6%)	422,250 (6.3%)
Panama	417,559 (12.3%)	417,559 (12.2%)	416,080 (12.2%)	538,934 (12.3%)
Paraguay	112,848 (1.8%)	112,848 (1.7%)	N/A	129,953 (1.8%)
Peru	7,021,271 (24%)	7,596,039 (26%)	6,383,284 (24.8%)	8,673,449 (26%)
Uruguay	76,452 (2.4%)	N/A	158,560 (4.8%)	83,644 (2.4%)
Venezuela	724,592 (2.7%)	724,592 (2.8%)	724,592 (2.7%)	775,034 (2.7%)

Indigenous Population (% of general population)				
Country	ECLAC 2014: Indigenous pop. around 2010 ^a	WB 2015: Indigenous pop., 2010 estimate ^b	LAC Equity Lab 2021: Indigenous pop. based on 2005-2020 data ^c	ECLAC 2022: Indigenous pop., 2021 estimates based on 2005- 2020 data ^d
TOTAL^e	44,791,456 (8.3%)	41,813,039 (7.8%)	42,972,209 (8.29%)	57,747,192 (9.5%)

Sources: Compiled by CRS using the U.N. Economic Commission on Latin American and the Caribbean’s (ECLAC) 2022 *The sociodemographic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic in Latin America and the Caribbean*; World Bank’s LAC Equity Lab (updated in August 2021); 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 ECLAC’s 2014 *Guaranteeing Indigenous people’s rights in Latin America: Progress in the past decade and remaining challenges*.

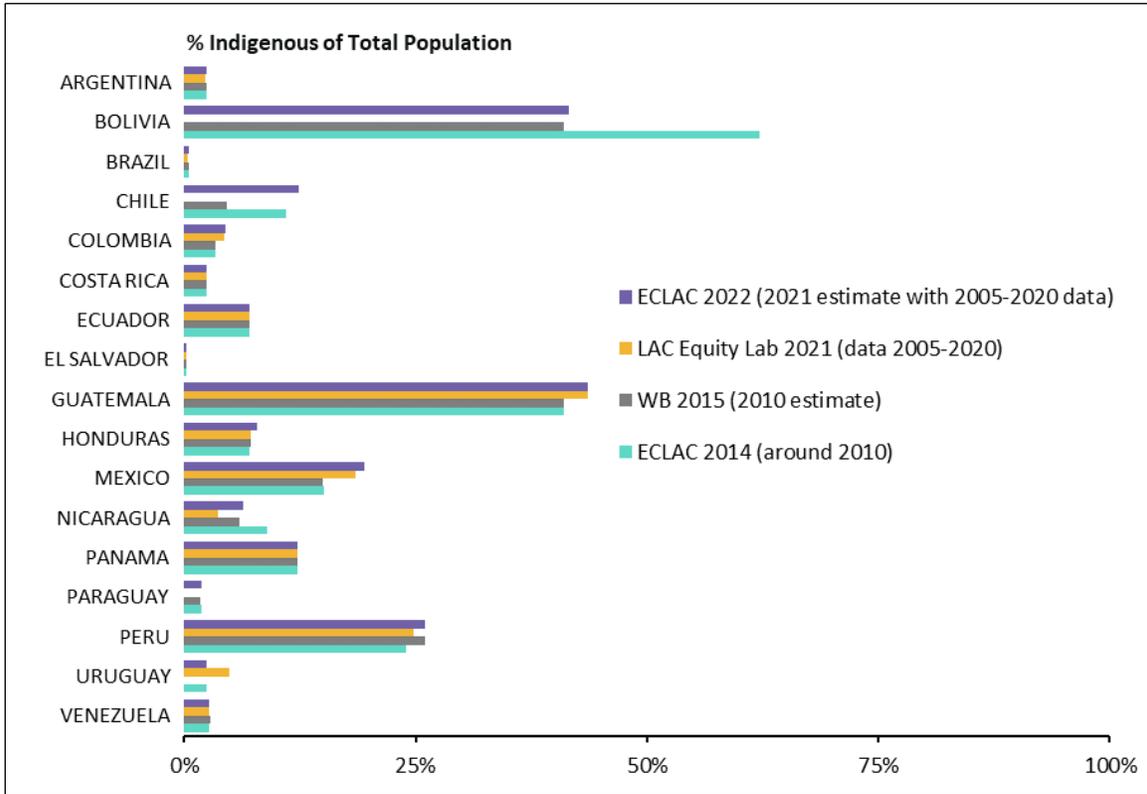
Notes:

- a. ECLAC’s 2014 report covered 17 countries in Latin America with population figures “according to censuses and estimates, around 2010.”
- b. The World Bank’s 2015 report covered 16 countries in Latin America and the estimated population figures vary by country from 2001 to 2012 with some projections for 2010.
- c. The World Bank’s LAC Equity Lab webpage provided data “based on a variety of sources” from 14 countries in Latin America with population figures reported by each country varying from 2005-2020. The webpage was last updated in August 2021.
- d. ECLAC’s 2022 report covered 17 countries in Latin American with “the self-identified Indigenous population according to the most recent census and 2021 estimates,” which data varying by country from 2005-2020.
- e. The total population percentage is based on the total population calculated by each source.

Figure 2 illustrates the range of estimates of the Indigenous population as a percentage of the total 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.⁹ More generally, differences in data collection between censuses and across countries make it difficult to estimate population changes.

⁹ World Bank, 2015, p. 10.

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



Sources: Graphic created by CRS using the U.N. Economic Commission on Latin America and the Caribbean’s (ECLAC) 2022 *The sociodemographic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic in Latin America and the Caribbean*; World Bank’s LAC Equity Lab with webpage last updated in August 2021; 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 ECLAC’s 2014 *Guaranteeing Indigenous people’s rights in Latin America: Progress in the past decade and remaining challenges*.

Note: Data are not available for every country, from each source. The sources note that figures are largely 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.¹⁰ Experts observed that 4 in 10 Indigenous languages around the world are in danger of disappearing yet figures on Indigenous groups and languages vary among sources.¹¹

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...”

—World Bank’s *Indigenous Latin America in the Twenty-First Century: The First Decade*¹²

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 20 countries in Latin America.¹³ The 2014 ECLAC report cites 826 Indigenous groups in Latin America although it does not provide a country breakdown.¹⁴ Of these 826, the report notes that about 200 Indigenous groups live in voluntary isolation, which is defined by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights as groups that “do not maintain sustained contacts with the majority non-Indigenous population.”¹⁵ The World Bank’s 2015 report identifies 774 Indigenous groups in 20 countries Latin America.¹⁶ The report adds “the total number of Indigenous peoples is not conclusive or fixed; rather, it needs to be understood as a variable figure that is continually changing as a result of new forms of indigenization, ethno-genesis, and legal recognition.”¹⁷

¹⁰ 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>.

¹¹ 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>.

¹² IBRD and World Bank, 2015, p. 24.

¹³ 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.

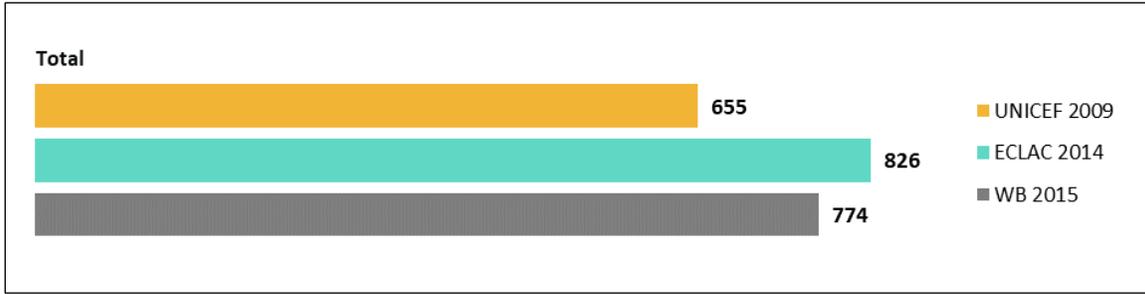
¹⁴ ECLAC, 2014, pp. 38-39.

¹⁵ 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>.

¹⁶ IBRD and World Bank, 2015, p. 26. This figure excludes six Indigenous groups from French Guiana.

¹⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 24.

Figure 3. Number of Indigenous Groups in Latin America

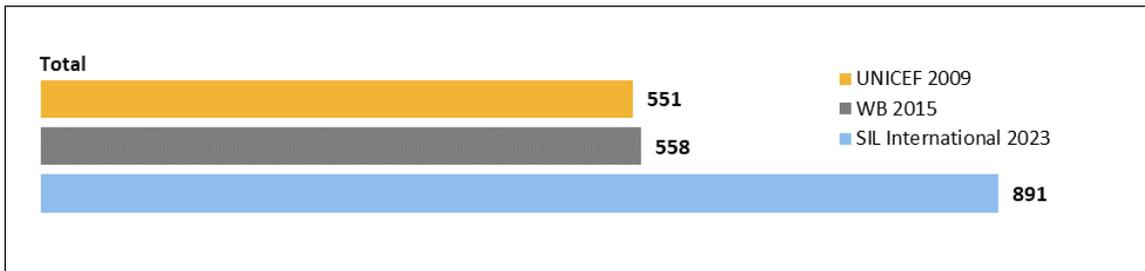


Sources: Graphic created by CRS using UNICEF and FUNPROEIB Andes’ (UNICEF) 2009 *Atlas Sociolingüístico de Pueblos Indígenas en América Latina*; the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and World Bank’s (WB) 2015 *Indigenous Latin America in the Twenty-First Century: The First Decade*; and ECLAC’s 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 no longer speak an Indigenous language (see **Figure 4**). A 2009 UNICEF report found 551 Indigenous languages spoken across 20 countries of Latin America while a 2015 World Bank report found 558, and a 2023 publication by the Summer Institute of Linguistics (SIL International) reported 891 Indigenous languages spoken across the same 20 Latin American countries.¹⁸ Speakers of Nahuatl, K’iche,’ and Aymara number over one million each and over five million people speak Quechua and Guarani.¹⁹ However, a 2021 SIL International graphic shows that 13 Latin American countries categorize 50% or more of their Indigenous languages as endangered.²⁰

Figure 4. Number of Living Indigenous Languages in Latin America



Sources: 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 2023 *Ethnologue: Languages of the World (Twenty-sixth ed.)*.

Note: Numbers do not include extinct 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.

¹⁸ UNICEF, 2009, p. 81. This figure includes six languages in French Guiana. IBRD and World Bank, 2015, p. 26. This figure excludes six languages from French Guiana. Gary F. Simons (editor), *Ethnologue: Languages of the World. Twenty- edition*, SIL International, 2021, at <https://www.ethnologue.com/>.

¹⁹ Gary F. Simons, (editor), *Ethnologue: Languages of the World, twenty-sixth edition*, SIL International, 2023, at <https://www.ethnologue.com/>.

²⁰ Ethnologue, “How many languages are endangered?” accessed October 4, 2023, at <https://www.ethnologue.com/guides/how-many-languages-endangered>.

Table 2 shows a breakdown of Latin America’s Indigenous groups and languages by country according to three sources; the sources each have different publication dates and methodologies. The countries listed in each table may differ from others in this report based on the information available in the sources.

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

Country	UNICEF 2009 Indigenous Groups (languages) ^a	WB 2015 Indigenous Groups (languages) ^b	SIL International 2023 (languages only)
Argentina	30 (15)	30 (15)	— (14)
Belize	4 (4)	4 (4)	— (5)
Bolivia	36 (33)	114 (33)	— (39)
Brazil	241 (186)	241 (186)	— (202)
Chile	9 (6)	9 (6)	— (9)
Colombia	83 (65)	83 (65)	— (83)
Costa Rica	8 (7)	8 (7)	— (8)
Ecuador	12 (12)	32 (13)	— (21)
El Salvador	3 (1)	3 (1)	— (2)
Guatemala	24 (24)	24 (24)	— (25)
Guyana	9 (9)	9 (9)	— (11)
Honduras	7 (6)	7 (6)	— (8)
Mexico	67 (64)	67 (67)	— (284)
Nicaragua	9 (6)	9 (6)	— (9)
Panama	8 (8)	7 (7)	— (8)
Paraguay	20 (20)	20 (20)	— (19)

Country	UNICEF 2009 Indigenous Groups (languages) ^a	WB 2015 Indigenous Groups (languages) ^b	SIL International 2023 (languages only)
Peru	43 (43)	52 (47)	— (91)
Suriname	5 (5)	5 (5)	— (12)
Uruguay	0 (0)	0 (0)	— (1)
Venezuela	37 (37)	50 (37)	— (37)
TOTAL Groups (Languages)	655 (551)	774 (558)	— (891)

Sources: Compiled 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 2023 *Ethnologue: Languages of the World (Twenty-sixth ed.)*.

Notes: This report uses the term “peoples” rather than “tribe,” “nation,” “ethnic minority,” or “sociolinguistic group.”

- While UNICEF 2009 report covered 25 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, French Guiana, Saint Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago are not included in this report as the countries are not covered in other publications.
- 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, almost 20,000 speakers of Indigenous languages from Latin America reside in the United States.²¹

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.²² Regarding the Amazonian region in South America, a 2021 report describes how “the loss of linguistic diversity entails the disappearance of Indigenous knowledge systems concerning environment and social organization, and parallels biodiversity loss.”²³ Additional resources about Indigenous groups and languages can be found in **Table A-1**.

²¹ Languages counted by the U.S. Census Bureau are categorized as Aztec, Sonoran, Misumalpan, Mayan languages, Tarascan, Mapuche, Oto-Manguen, Quechua, Aymara, Arawakian, Chibchan, and Tupi-guarani. See the 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, last revised December 16, 2021 at <https://www.census.gov/data/tables/2013/demo/2009-2013-lang-tables.html>.

²² 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).

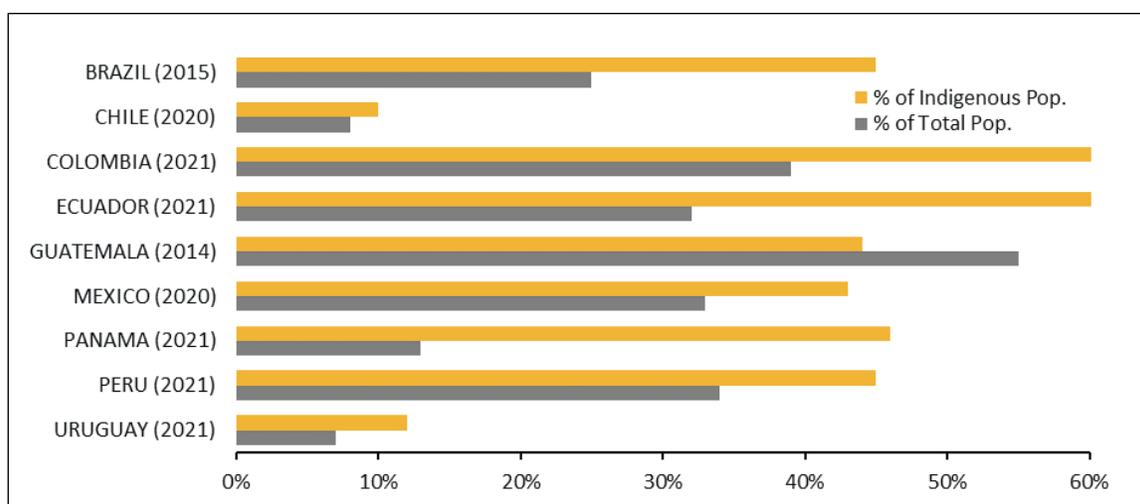
²³ H. van der Voort, C. Rodríguez Alza, T.D. Swanson, and M. Crevels, “Chapter 12 Languages of the Amazon: Dimensions of Diversity,” United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network, *Amazon Assessment Report 2021*, 2021, p. 3.

Socioeconomic Data

According to various sources, rates of poverty among Indigenous peoples in Latin America are greater than those of the non-Indigenous people in the region. In a 2020 publication, the International Labor Organization (ILO) found that 45.5% 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 7.1% are extremely poor (living on less than \$1.90 a day in 2011 PPP prices), more than twice the rates for non-Indigenous people in the region.²⁴

Using the World Bank’s LAC Equity Lab, **Figure 5** illustrates the rates of Indigenous peoples living on less than \$6.85 a day in 2017 PPP compared to the general population in select countries of Central and South America.

Figure 5. Rates of Indigenous People Living on Less than \$6.85 a Day in 2017 PPP 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 Universidad Nacional de La Plata’s Center for Distributive, Labor and Social Studies, which may differ from official statistics. Monetary values are reported in USD 2017 purchasing power parity (PPP) terms. The webpage was last updated May 2023.

Access to Services

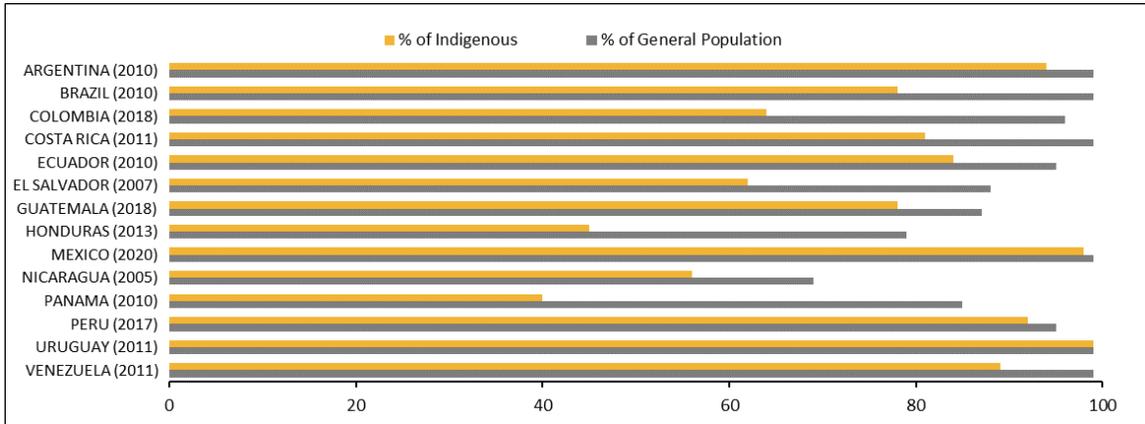
A 2020 ILO report describes that “an important transformation is underway whereby many Indigenous peoples have migrated from their traditional territories to urban areas” due to factors such as “changing aspirations, employment opportunities in agriculture becoming scarce, poor income generation opportunities, a lack of adequate infrastructure, as well as an increasing

²⁴ International Labor Organization, *Implementing the ILO Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention No. 169 Towards an Inclusive, Sustainable and Just Future*, February 3, 2020, at https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/—dgreports/—dcomm/—publ/documents/wcms_735607.pdf, p.96. Hereinafter, ILO, 2020.

resource scarcity related to climate change.”²⁵ The ILO report finds that 52.2% of Latin America’s Indigenous peoples are urban dwellers.²⁶

The World Bank provides statistics on Indigenous peoples’ access to various services in select countries of Central and South America, last updated in August 2021. The following graphs compare Indigenous rates of access to the general population by country (Figure 6, electricity; Figure 7, internet; Figure 8, home ownership; Figure 9, sewage; and Figure 10, water).

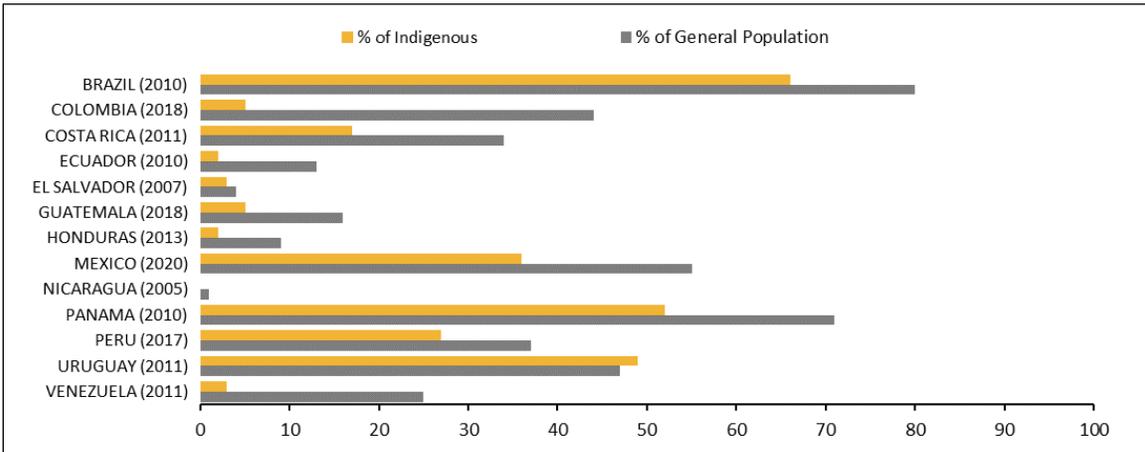
Figure 6. Electricity Access Rates in Select Latin American Countries



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. The webpage was last updated in August 2021.

Figure 7. Internet Access Rates in Select Latin American Countries



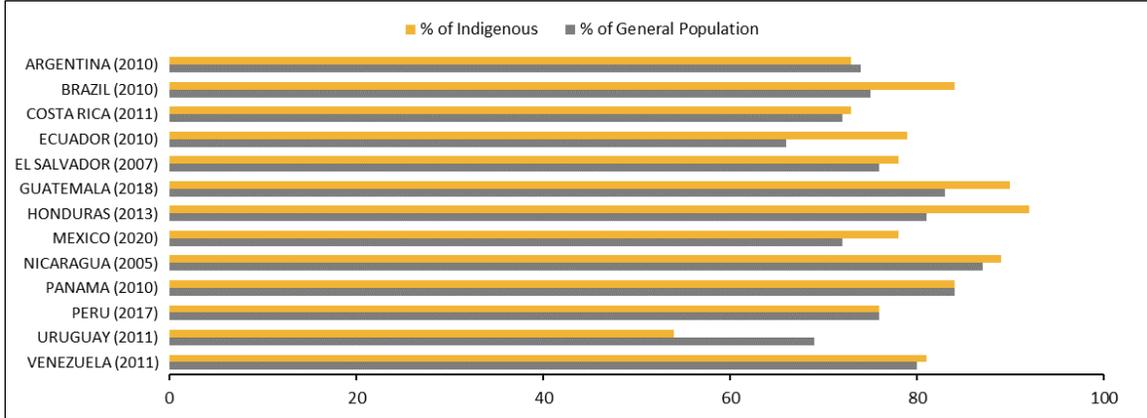
Source: Graphic created by CRS using data from the World Bank’s LAC Equity Lab web page “Ethnicity—Access to Services.”

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. The webpage was last updated in August 2021.

²⁵ ILO, 2020, p. 74.

²⁶ Ibid., p. 57.

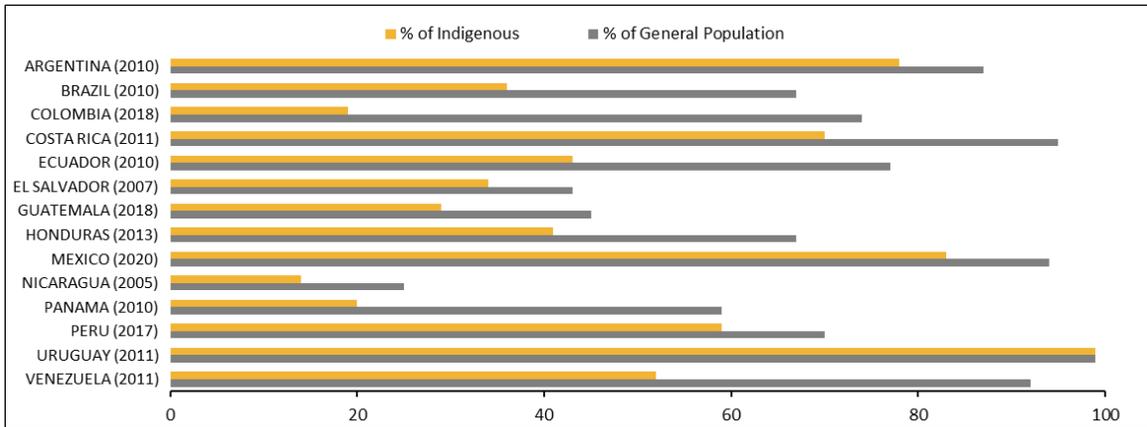
Figure 8. Ownership of Dwelling Rates in Select Latin American Countries



Source: Graphic created by CRS using data from the World Bank’s LAC Equity Lab web page “Ethnicity—Access to Services.”

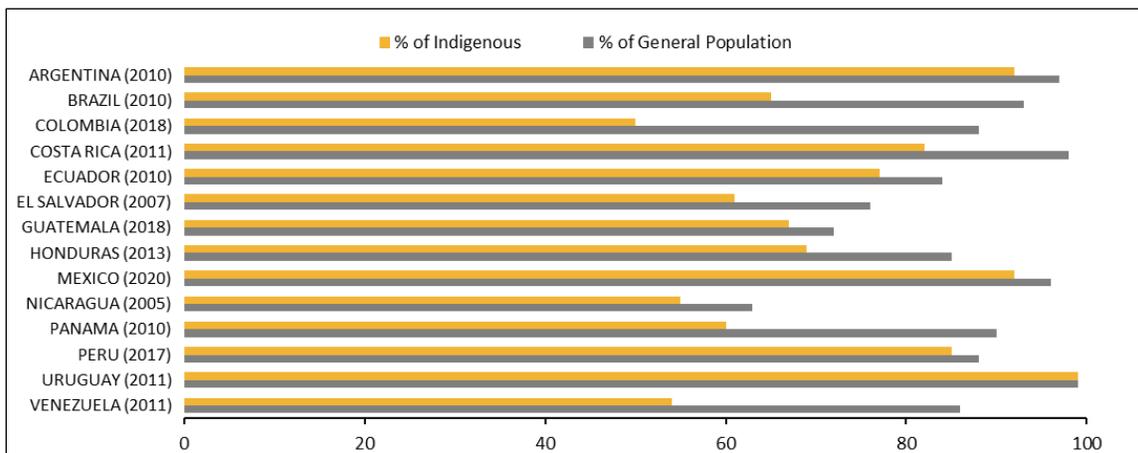
Note: The World Bank notes that ethnic identity is based on self-reported data. The numbers presented are based on a variety of sources, which may differ from official statistics reported by governments and national statistical offices. The webpage was last updated in August 2021.

Figure 9. Sewage Access Rates in Select Latin American Countries



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. The webpage was last updated in August 2021.

Figure 10. Water Access Rates in Select Latin American Countries

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. The webpage was last updated in August 2021.

Access to Education and Work

A 2020 ILO report found that Latin America and the Caribbean has the largest wage gap between Indigenous earnings and non-Indigenous earnings at 31.2%.²⁷ Similarly, the region has the largest informal labor gap of any region in the world, a sector that employs 82.6% of Indigenous peoples and 51.1% of non-Indigenous peoples in Latin America.²⁸ Among the employed Indigenous population of the region, 31.7% have no education, 39.3% have a basic education, 18.7% have an intermediate education, and 10.3% have an advanced education.²⁹

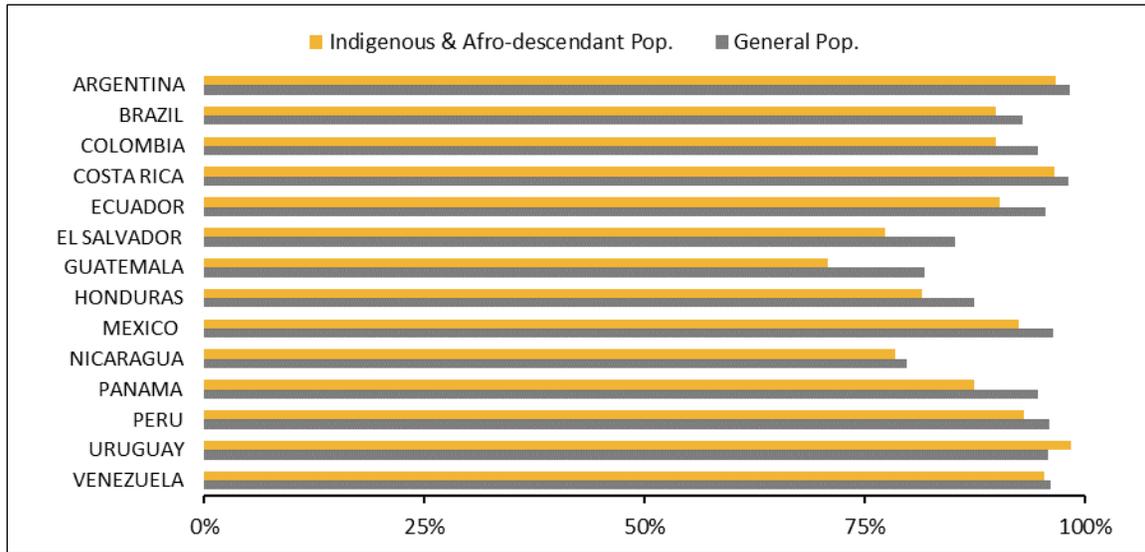
The World Bank provides labor and education statistics for Indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants in select countries of Central and South America, last updated in August 2021. The statistics are presented in combination for both groups together and cannot be separated. The following graphs compare Indigenous and Afro-descendant rates with the general population by country (**Figure 11**, literacy; **Figure 12**, school attendance; **Figure 13**, unemployment; and **Figure 14**, low-skill and high-skill employment).

²⁷ Ibid., p.18.

²⁸ Ibid., p.16.

²⁹ Ibid., p. 81.

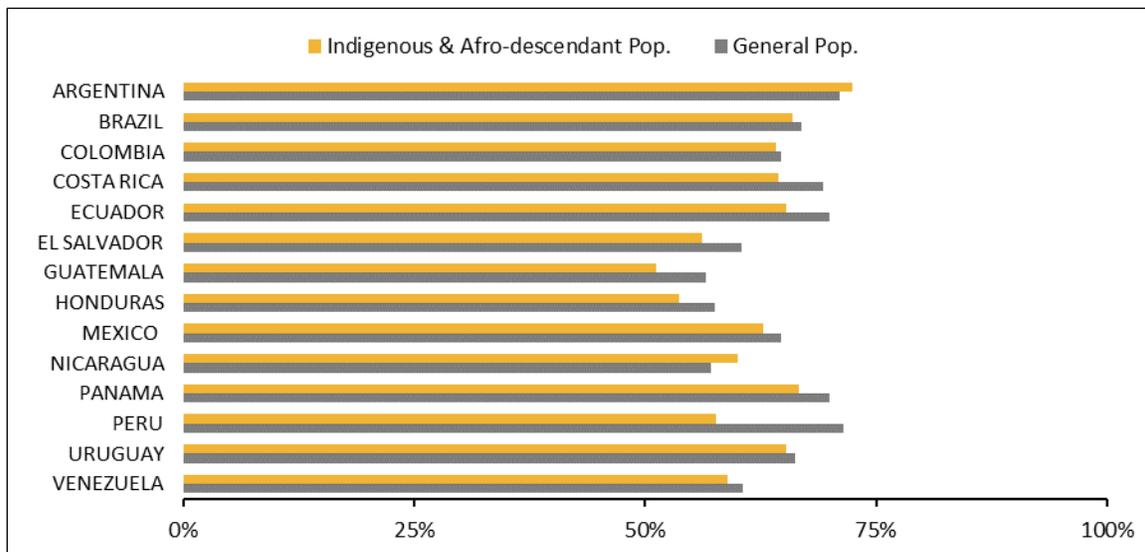
Figure 11. Literacy Rates ages 18-65 in Select Latin American Countries (2021)



Source: Graphic created by CRS using data from the World Bank’s LAC Equity Lab web page “Ethnicity—Socio-demographics.”

Notes: 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. The webpage was last updated in August 2021.

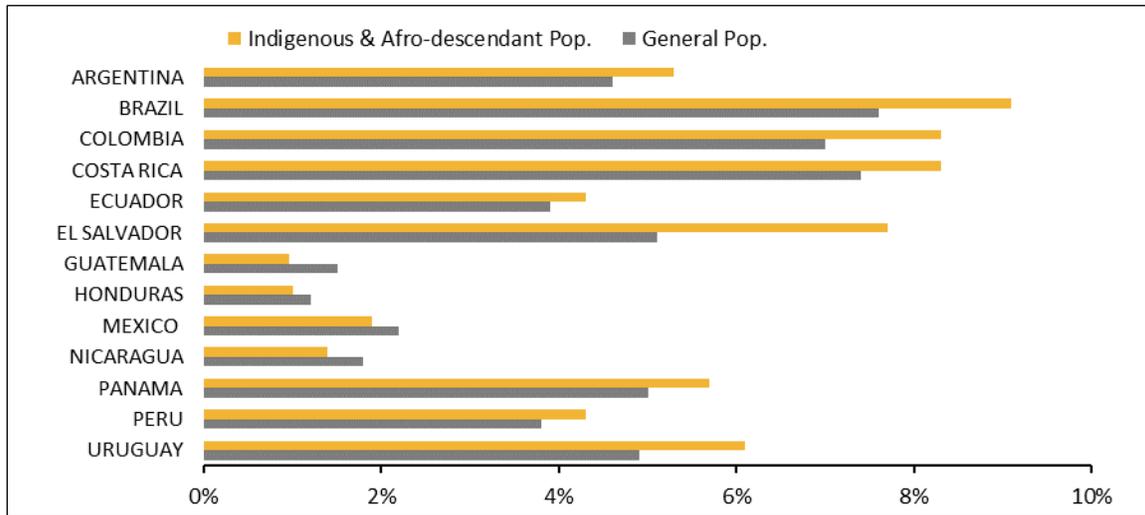
Figure 12. School Attendance Rates ages 6-25 in Select Latin American Countries (2021)



Source: Graphic created by CRS using data from the World Bank’s LAC Equity Lab web page “Ethnicity—Socio-demographics.”

Notes: 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. The webpage was last updated in August 2021.

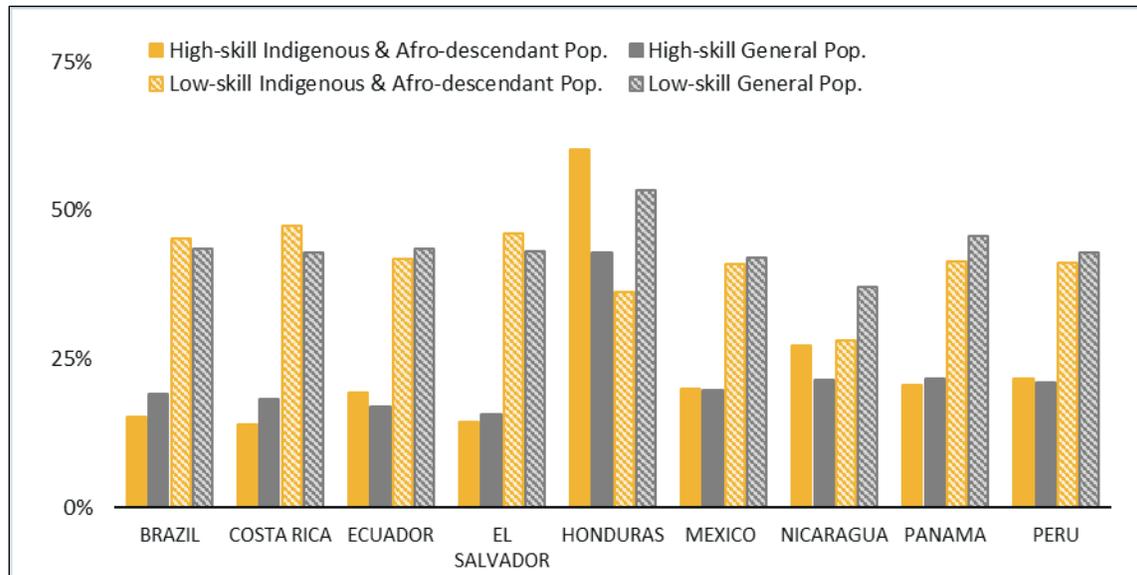
Figure 13. Unemployment Rates ages 18-65 in Select Latin American Countries (2021)



Source: Graphic created by CRS using data from the World Bank’s LAC Equity Lab web page “Ethnicity—Socio-demographics.”

Notes: 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. The webpage was last updated in August 2021.

Figure 14. High-Skill and Low-Skill Occupation Rates ages 18-65 in Select Latin American Countries (2021)



Source: Graphic created by CRS using data from the World Bank’s LAC Equity Lab web page “Ethnicity—Socio-demographics.”

Notes: 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. The webpage was last updated in August 2021.

The socioeconomic challenges faced by Indigenous peoples also impact their health. In light of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, a joint 2021 report from the U.N. and the

Pan-American Health Organization highlights that the “deficiencies in access to services and in living conditions, which prevent an optimal response to the pandemic, intersect with and reinforce the various axes of the social inequality matrix, placing at a particular disadvantage the Indigenous population.”³⁰ A 2022 U.N. report noted that the Ministries of Health of Mexico, Brazil, Colombia and Peru “periodically issues bulletins on the impact of the pandemic on indigenous... [these] show a concentration of the risk of dying from this cause among them, with the highest case fatality rates among indigenous men, followed by indigenous women.”³¹ However, the same report underscores that “although 13 countries have included a variable on belonging to indigenous peoples in COVID-19 records...most of them do not make this information available to the public through open data.”³²

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

Land and Natural Resources

As with other indicators, estimates on land owned by Indigenous peoples or groups varies widely. A 2017 World Resources Institute article stated “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.”³³ A 2023 report by the Rights and Resources Initiative (RRI) found that, at the global level, 18.6% of land is owned by or designated for Indigenous peoples and local communities, while in Latin America it is 20.7% of the land, an increase of 0.9% globally and 1.1% regionally since RRI’s 2015 findings.³⁴

A 2023 Ford Foundation report describes how “Latin America has historically been at the forefront of global efforts to recognize the land and forest rights of Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendant Peoples, and local communities. Despite significant progress, [these groups] are increasingly under threat due to regressive changes in governance, encroachment from government and private actors, and political violence against environmental and human rights defenders.”³⁵ In 2021, several countries, including the United States, together with numerous foundations, committed to providing \$1.7 billion to help Indigenous peoples secure land tenure rights although, a year later the same funding group reported that “only 7% of total funding went directly to organisations led by [Indigenous peoples] or [local communities].”³⁶

³⁰ United Nations’ Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Pan American Health Organization, *Social Panorama of Latin America 2020*, 2021, p. 18.

³¹ United Nations Economic Commission on Latin American and the Caribbean, *The sociodemographic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic in Latin America and the Caribbean*, 2022, p. 85.

³² *Ibid.*, p. 84.

³³ Peter Veit and Katie Reytar, “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>.

³⁴ See Rights and Resources Initiative, *Who Owns the World’s Land? Global State of Indigenous, Afro-Descendant, and Local Community Land Rights Recognition from 2015–2020*, 2nd ed., June 2023. See also Rights and Resources Initiative, *Who Owns the World’s Land? A global baseline of formally recognized indigenous and community land rights*, September 2015.

³⁵ Ford Foundation, Forest Tenure Funders Group, Indufor, *Forging Resilient Pathways: Scaling up Funding in Support of Indigenous Peoples’ and Local Communities’ Tenure and Forest Guardianship in the Global South*, September 2023.

³⁶ See United Nations Climate Change Conference, United Kingdom 2021, “COP26 IPLC Forest Tenure Joint Donor Statement,” November 2, 2021, at <https://ukcop26.org/cop26-iplc-forest-tenure-joint-donor-statement/>. See also *Forest* (continued...)

The U. N. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean's (ECLAC) 2014 report 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.”³⁷

In its 2015 report, the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights wrote that it “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 Afro-descendent communities.”³⁸ For example, a 2020 report from the World Resources Institute found that “industrial mining concessions and illegal small-scale mining occur on more than 20 percent of Indigenous lands in the Amazon.”³⁹ A 2023 study of 1,044 global environmental conflicts involving Indigenous communities showed that 78% of these conflicts were caused in by mining, fossil fuels, dam projects, and the agriculture, forestry, fisheries, and livestock sector with impacts including landscape loss (56% of cases), livelihood loss (52%), and land dispossession (50%); Latin American Indigenous communities make up 6 of the top 10 communities most frequently involved in conflicts (Quechua, Mapuche, Aymara, Nahua, Kichwa, and Guaraní).⁴⁰

Climate Change

Indigenous peoples are particularly affected by climate change; they are also adapting to it and participating in high-level policy discussions regarding climate change responses. According to the International Indigenous Peoples Forum on Climate Change (IIPFCC), the caucus for Indigenous participants in the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change, Indigenous peoples “are especially vulnerable to, and disproportionately impacted by, climate change.”⁴¹ The impact of climate change on Indigenous peoples is no surprise when considering that that 80% of the world’s biodiversity can be found within Indigenous territories.⁴²

Global organizations are also consulting Indigenous peoples about managing the climate change impact on biodiversity. In the 2015 U.N. Paris Agreement, Article 7 established the “global goal on adaptation of enhancing adaptive capacity, strengthening resilience and reducing vulnerability to climate change,” which “should be based on and guided by the best available science and, as appropriate, traditional knowledge, knowledge of Indigenous peoples and local knowledge systems.”⁴³ The Convention on Biological Diversity published a draft of the Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework in December 2022, which states that it “acknowledges the important

Tenure Funders Group, Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Forest Tenure Pledge, annual report 2021-2022, November 2022.

³⁷ ECLAC, 2014, p. 50.

³⁸ Inter-American Commission of Human Rights, *Indigenous peoples, Afro-descendent communities, and natural resources: Human rights protection in the context of extraction, exploitation, and development activities*, OEA/Ser.L/V/II, Doc. 47/15, December 31, 2015, p. 9.

³⁹ World Resources Institute, *Undermining Rights: Indigenous Lands and Mining in the Amazon*, October 2020.

⁴⁰ Arnim Scheidel et al., “Global impacts of extractive and industrial development projects on Indigenous Peoples’ lifeways, lands, and rights,” *Science Advances*, vol. 9, no. 23 (June 7, 2023).

⁴¹ International Indigenous Peoples’ Forum on Climate Change, “About the International Indigenous Peoples’ Forum on Climate Change,” accessed on October 18, 2023, at <https://iipfcc.squarespace.com/who-are-we-1>.

⁴² Linda Etchart, “The role of Indigenous peoples in combating climate change,” Palgrave Communications, 3, article no. 17085, (August 22, 2017).

⁴³ United Nations, “Paris Agreement,” 2015, at https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/english_paris_agreement.pdf.

roles and contributions of indigenous peoples and local communities as custodians of biodiversity and partners in the conservation, restoration and sustainable use. Its implementation must ensure their traditional rights...including through their full and effective participation in decision-making.”⁴⁴ A key message from the 2019 Global Assessment of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services is that the “Indigenous and local knowledge systems are locally based, but regionally manifested and thus globally relevant.”⁴⁵ As for climate change solutions, a 2023 U.N. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report states that “cooperation, and inclusive decision making, with local communities and Indigenous Peoples, as well as recognition of inherent rights of Indigenous Peoples, is integral to successful adaptation across forests and other ecosystems (*high confidence*).”⁴⁶

Table A-3 lists resources about Indigenous peoples’ lands, natural resources, and climate change in Latin America. The titles may focus exclusively or in part on Indigenous peoples.

Human Rights and Multilateral Instruments

Various international human rights mechanisms are designed to protect the rights of Indigenous peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean. **Table** 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).⁴⁷ 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).⁴⁸ 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).⁴⁹ 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.

⁴⁴ Convention on Biological Diversity, “Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, Draft recommendation submitted by the Co-Chairs,” CBD/WG2020/5/L.2, December 5, 2022, <https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/409e/19ae/369752b245f05e88f760aeb3/wg2020-05-l-02-en.pdf>

⁴⁵ IPBES, 2019, p. 32.

⁴⁶ Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, *Climate Change 2023: Synthesis Report. Contribution of Working Groups I, II and III to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change*, 2023.

⁴⁷ 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.

⁴⁸ 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.

⁴⁹ 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

Sources: 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 the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Notes: "X" denotes yes or in favor and "—" denotes no or against.

- 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>.

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.⁵⁰ 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.⁵¹ **Table A-4** provides additional resources about the work of international organizations with Indigenous peoples.

In a 2000 report, IACHR wrote “concern for the human rights of Indigenous peoples and their members has been a constant feature in the work of the Commission.”⁵² 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 3** shows the number of IACHR events by country involving Indigenous peoples’ rights. It also shows the number legal cases brought by Indigenous peoples against countries in the Inter-American Court of Human Rights.

Table 3. Human Rights Events and Legal Cases about the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in the Inter-American System 1996-2023

Country	Events on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples	Legal Cases regarding Indigenous Peoples
Colombia	30	2
Peru	25	1
Guatemala	18	3
Ecuador	16	2
Brazil	15	3
Mexico	13	5
Chile	11	1
Bolivia	10	0
Nicaragua	10	3
Argentina	9	2
Honduras	8	2
Panama	8	2
Costa Rica	4	0
Venezuela	4	1
Paraguay	3	3
Belize	2	1
Suriname	1	3
Guyana	1	0
Jamaica	1	0

⁵⁰ 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>.

⁵¹ Organization of American States, “Rapporteurship on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples,” at <http://www.oas.org/en/iachr/Indigenous/>.

⁵² 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>.

Country	Events on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples	Legal Cases regarding Indigenous Peoples
Regional ^a	32	N/A

Source: Table created by CRS using available data from the IACHR sessions 91-187 (February 1996- July 2023) as well as the Rapporteurship on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Notes: “Events” include topical hearings, petitions, and precautionary measures hosted by IACHR, 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 two or more countries.

In Appendix A, **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.⁵³

⁵³ See CRS In Focus IF11325, *Bolivia: An Overview*, by Clare Ribando Seelke; CRS Report R46236, *Brazil: Background and U.S. Relations*, by Peter J. Meyer; CRS Report R43813, *Colombia: Background and U.S. Relations*, by June S. Beittel; CRS In Focus IF11218, *Ecuador: Country Overview and U.S. Relations*, by June S. Beittel and Ramon Miro; CRS In Focus IF12340, *Guatemala: An Overview*, by Karla I. Rios; CRS Report RL34027, *Honduras: Background and U.S. Relations*, by Peter J. Meyer; CRS Report R42917, *Mexico: Background and U.S. Relations*, by Clare Ribando Seelke; CRS In Focus IF12372, *Peru: Country Overview and U.S. Relations*, by June S. Beittel and Ramon Miro; and CRS Report R44841, *Venezuela: Background and U.S. Relations*, coordinated by Clare Ribando Seelke.

Appendix A. Data Sources and Resources Lists

Below are notes on the data sources most consulted for this report followed by resource lists regarding Indigenous languages; socioeconomics; land, natural resources and climate change; international organizations; and human rights.

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.⁵⁴ While an older report, it continues to be cited by more recent publications.

In 2014, the U.N. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) collected 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.⁵⁵

In 2015, the World Bank published data from 16 countries using national censuses and household surveys in *Indigenous Latin America in the Twenty-First Century: the First Decade*.⁵⁶ The report noted that the definition of 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.”⁵⁷

In 2020, ECLAC and the Development Fund for the Indigenous Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean (Fondo para el Desarrollo de los Pueblos Indígenas de América Latina y el Caribe) published *Los pueblos indígenas de América Latina—Abya Yala y la Agenda 2030 para el Desarrollo Sostenible: tensiones y desafíos desde una perspectiva territorial*. The report’s focus on the U.N.’s Sustainable Development Goals notes the advances in including Indigenous peoples in official statistics and lists data from 17 national censuses.

In 2020, the International Labor Organization’s *Implementing the ILO Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention No. 169 Towards an Inclusive, Sustainable and Just Future* presented multi-faceted statistics on the working conditions of Indigenous peoples with a special emphasis on gendered dimensions of labor. The report noted the “continued ‘invisibility’ of Indigenous and tribal peoples in official data and statistics.”⁵⁸ The data provided are global and regional only.

The 2023 edition of *Ethnologue* counted languages for each country and divided 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.”⁵⁹ Only living languages were included in the count, not

⁵⁴ UNICEF, 2009. pp. vii-ix.

⁵⁵ ECLAC, 2014, pp. 34-36.

⁵⁶ IBRD and World Bank, 2015, pp. 6, 9.

⁵⁷ Ibid.

⁵⁸ ILO, 2020, p. 44.

⁵⁹ 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>.

languages classified as extinct. *Ethnologue's* “about” section provides details on the methodology, language names, and status of usage.

The World Bank’s LAC Equity Lab provides national data on poverty (last updated in May 2023), socio-demographics, access to services, education and labor (last updated in August 2021). Some subnational data are also available although not covered in this report. 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.”⁶⁰

The web page of the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights “Sessions by Topic: Rights of Indigenous Peoples” provides detailed information on hearings and court cases related to Indigenous peoples’ rights and is updated several times a year.⁶¹ The Rapporteurship on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples’ web page on “Reports on Petitions and Cases” has information on some additional cases.⁶²

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-I. Resources on Indigenous Languages in Latin America

Title (publication year)	Author	Resource Type
Languages of the World, Twenty-sixth edition (2023)	Gary F. Simons(editor), Ethnologue, SIL International	World language encyclopedia with maps
Celebrating Indigenous Languages (updated 2020)	Google Earth	Interactive global website
2022-2032 International Decade of Indigenous Languages (2022)	United Nations	Website with global map, summary report and more
The International Year of Indigenous Languages: Mobilizing the International Community to Preserve, Revitalize and Promote Indigenous Languages (2021)	United Nations	A global report. See also the corresponding website International Year of Indigenous Languages (2019).
Atlas Sociolingüístico de Pueblos Indígenas en América Latina, Volúmen I and Volúmen II (2009)	UNICEF and FUNPROEIB Andes	Regional report in Spanish only

Source: Compiled by CRS.

⁶⁰ World Bank’s LAC Equity Lab, “Overview,” accessed July 27, 2021, at <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/poverty/lac-equity-lab1>.

⁶¹ Inter-American Commission of Human Rights, “Sessions by Topic: Rights of Indigenous Peoples,” accessed July 27, 2021, at <https://www.oas.org/es/cidh/audiencias/TopicsList.aspx?Lang=en&Topic=17>.

⁶² Inter-American Commission of Human Rights, “Rapporteurship on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: Reports on Petitions and Cases,” accessed October 4, 2023, at <https://www.oas.org/en/IACHR/jsForm/?File=/en/IACHR/R/DPI/cidh.asp>

Table A-2. Resources on Indigenous Socioeconomics

Title (publication year)	Author	Resource Type
Norte de Centroamérica y Nicaragua: Derechos económicos, sociales, culturales y ambientales de pueblos indígenas y afrodescendientes tribales (2023)	Organization of American States	Report on El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras y Nicaragua (Spanish only)
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
State of the World's Indigenous Peoples: Education, 3 rd volume (2017)	United Nations	Global report with a chapter on Latin America and the Caribbean
Indigenous Latin America in the Twenty-First Century: The First Decade (2015)	International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the World Bank	Regional report covers statistical numbers, migration, development, poverty, and education
State of the World's Indigenous People: Indigenous People's Access to Health Services, 2 nd volume (2016)	United Nations	Global report with a chapter on Latin America and the Caribbean
Indigenous Peoples	U.S. Agency for International Development	Website with policy, blog, and more
LAC Equity Lab: A Platform for Poverty and Inequality Analysis	World Bank	Regional economic data and maps

Source: Compiled by CRS.

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

Title (publication year)	Author	Resource Type
Climate Change 2023: Synthesis Report. Contribution of Working Groups I, II and III to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (2023)	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change	Global report with summary for policymakers, a longer report, figures, and annexes
Deforestation in the Amazon: past, present and future (2023)	Sibélia Zanon, Infoamazonia	Regional article with maps, tables, and graphs
Who Owns the World's Land? Global State of Indigenous, Afro-descendant, and Local Community Land Rights Recognition from 2015–2020 (2023)	Rights and Resources Initiative	Global report with regional and country statistics; updates findings from 2015 report
The role of Amazonian Indigenous Peoples in fighting the climate crisis (2022)	Paulo Moutinho, et al, Science Panel for the Amazon, U.N. Sustainable Development Solutions Network	Policy brief
Amazon Assessment Report 2021 (2021)	Science Panel for the Amazon, U.N. Sustainable Development Solutions Network	Global report

Title (publication year)	Author	Resource Type
EcoCrime Data (2021)	Igarapé Institute and InSight Crime	Mapping tool for environmental crime in the Amazon including deforestation, illegal mining, and cattle, soy, and oil activity
Forest governance by indigenous and tribal peoples. An opportunity for climate action in Latin America and the Caribbean (2021)	U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization and the Fund for the Development of the Indigenous Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean	Regional report
State of the World's Indigenous Peoples: Rights to Lands, Territories and Resources, 5 th volume (2021)	United Nations	Global report
Environmental Governance Indicators for Latin America and the Caribbean (2020)	Inter-American Development Bank and World Justice Project	Regional report
Undermining Rights: Indigenous Lands and Mining in the Amazon (2020)	World Resources Institute	Regional report
Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (2019)	Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services	Global report with discussion of Indigenous peoples integrated throughout
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	Global report with a section on Latin America and the Caribbean
Situation of Human Rights of the Indigenous and Tribal Peoples of the Pan-Amazon Region (2019)	Inter-American Commission on Human Rights	Regional report examines threats to Indigenous peoples, challenges to their rights and recommendations
At a Crossroads: Consequential Trends in Recognition of Community-Based Forest Tenure from 2002-2017 (2018)	Rights and Resources Initiative	Global report
Cornered by Protected Areas (2018)	Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, Janis Alcorn, and Augusta Molnar	Website with global resources including report with case studies of Panama and Peru
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)
Environmental Justice Atlas	Autonomous University of Barcelona's Institute of Environmental Science and Technology	Global map with information about level of conflict, communities, commodities, companies, and governmental agencies involved, and reference links
Indigenous peoples and food security in Latin America and the Caribbean	FAO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean	Website links to additional regional documents

Title (publication year)	Author	Resource Type
International Indigenous Peoples' Forum on Climate Change	United Nations	Website for global caucus of Indigenous peoples participating in U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change
Landmark Map	World Resources Institute, International Land Coalition and others	Global maps, data, country profiles

Source: Compiled by CRS.

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

Title (publication year)	Author	Resource Type
Implementing the ILO Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention No. 169 Towards an inclusive, sustainable and just future (2019)	International Labor Organization	Global report on income and employment with regional statistics and a focus on gender differences
State of the world's Indigenous peoples: Implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, 4 th volume (2019)	United Nations	Global report covers Declaration implementation, official statistics, challenges and priorities
Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Portal	World Intellectual Property Organization	Website provides access to global publications and events
Indigenous Peoples	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 regional projects and more
Indigenous and tribal peoples	International Labor Organization	Website provides access to global projects, publications and supervision of conventions
Indigenous Peoples	U.N. Department of Economic and Social Affairs	Website provides access to the global 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

Source: Compiled by CRS.

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

Title (publication year)	Author	Resource Type
Annual Report 2022/23: The State of the World's Human Rights (2023)	Amnesty International	Global report, see "Americas Regional Overview"

Title (publication year)	Author	Resource Type
Front Line Defenders Global Analysis 2022 (2023)	Front Line Defenders	Global report about physical, digital, legal and social attacks against human rights defenders with section on the Americas
The Indigenous World 2023 (2023)	International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs	Annual global report since 1986 about developments affecting Indigenous peoples, organized by country
Indigenous Women and Their Human Rights in the Americas (2017)	Inter-American Commission on Human Rights	Regional report with hearings, cases, thematic and country reports that document violations of the human rights of Indigenous women
Guaranteeing Indigenous people's rights in Latin America: Progress in the past decade and remaining challenges (2014)	U.N. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean	Regional report covers sociopolitical context, territorial rights, and rights to well-being and information
Civic Freedoms & HRD Data	Business & Human Rights Resource Centre	Global database of attacks on human rights defenders from 2015 to present, which specifies Indigenous victims
Country Reports on Human Rights Practices	U.S. State Department	Annual global reports cover each country with a section "Discrimination, Societal Abuses, and Trafficking in Persons" that includes Indigenous peoples
Indigenous Navigator	Community-generated data, website supported by the European Union	Website and global database

Source: Compiled by CRS.

Appendix B. National Agencies of Indigenous Affairs

Table B-I. Principal National Agencies Overseeing Indigenous Affairs

Country	Parent Agency	Indigenous Affairs Agency
Argentina	Ministerio de Justicia y Derechos Humanos, Secretaría de Derechos Humanos	Instituto Nacional de Asuntos Indígenas
Belize		Ministry of Human Development, Families and Indigenous Peoples' Affairs
Bolivia		Ministerio de Culturas, Descolonización y Despatriarcalización
Brazil	Ministério dos Povos Indígenas	Fundação Nacional dos Povos Indígenas
Chile	Ministerio de Desarrollo Social y Familia	Corporación Nacional de Desarrollo Indígena
Colombia	Ministerio del Interior	Dirección de Asuntos Indígenas, ROM y Minorías
Costa Rica		Comisión Nacional de Asuntos Indígenas
Ecuador		Consejo Nacional para la Igualdad de Pueblos y Nacionalidades
El Salvador	Ministerio de Cultura ^a	Dirección General de Multiculturalidad
Guatemala	Ministerio Público	Secretaría de Pueblos Indígenas ^b
Guyana		Ministry of Amerindian Affairs
Honduras	Secretaría de Desarrollo Social	Coordinación Nacional de Pueblos Originarios y Afrohondureños
Mexico	Secretaría de Cultura	Instituto Nacional de los Pueblos Indígenas Instituto Nacional de Lenguas Indígenas
Nicaragua	Asamblea Nacional	Comisión de Asuntos de los Pueblos Originarios, Afrodescendientes y Regímenes Autonómicos Comisión Nacional de Demarcación y Titulación
Panama	Ministerio de Gobierno Ministerio de Salud	Viceministerio de Asuntos Indígenas Dirección de Asuntos Sanitarios Indígenas
Paraguay		Instituto Paraguayo del Indígena
Peru	Ministerio de Salud Ministerio de Cultura	Dirección de Pueblos Indígenas u Originarios Base de datos de Pueblos Indígenas u Originarios
Uruguay		Institución Nacional de Derechos Humanos y Defensoría del Pueblo
Suriname	Ministerie van Regionale ontwikkeling en sport	Duurzame Ontwikkeling Inheemsen
Venezuela		Ministerio del Poder Popular para los Pueblos Indígenas

Source: Compiled by CRS.

- a. El Salvador's Ministry of Culture mentions Indigenous peoples only in its list of responsibilities "Ejercer la rectoría de los procesos relacionados con el desarrollo socio cultural de los pueblos indígenas."
- b. Found under the tab "Administrativo" towards the bottom of the webpage.

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