

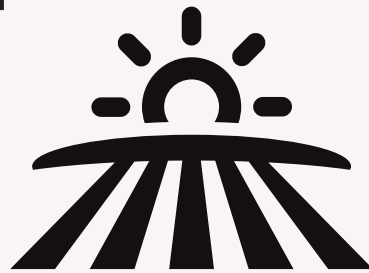
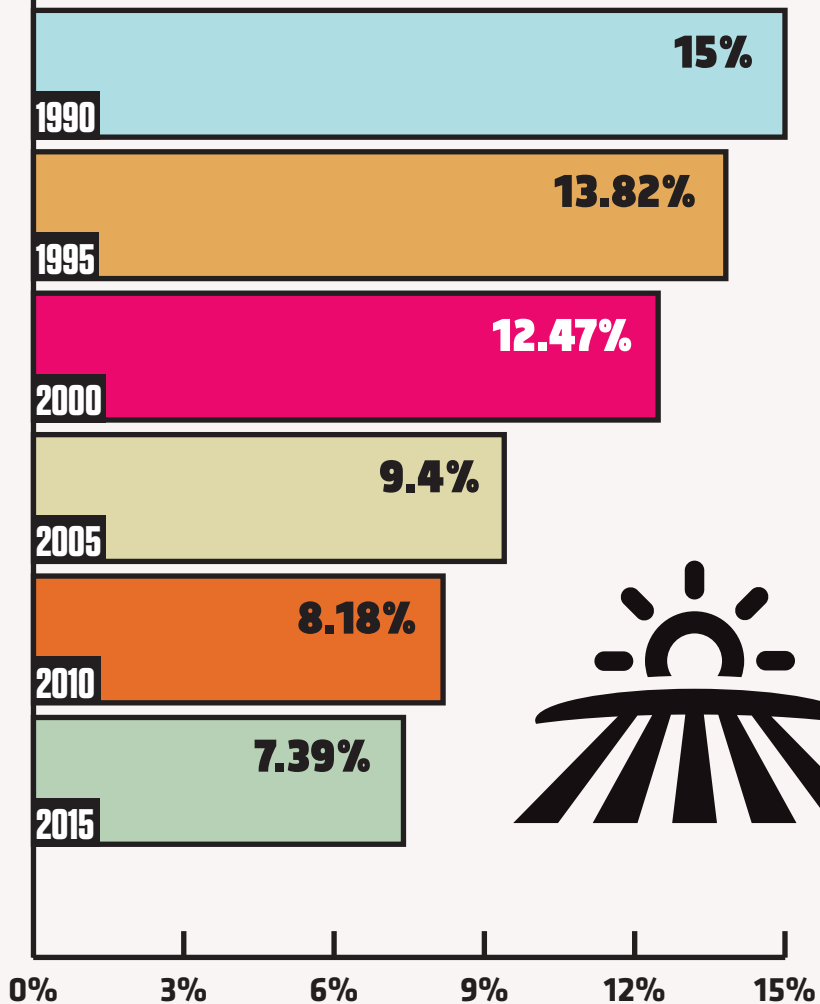
## The Numbers in Latin America

# Better Than You Think

Inspired by Steven Pinker's book *The Better Angels of Our Nature*, we reached out to Darren Hawkins, professor of political science and affiliated faculty for international relations, to guide us through the state of Latin America. How does the region stack up? Across seven indicators, six demonstrate major gains—possibly forcing us to reconsider what we know about this diverse area.

### HUNGER

Latin America has lower rates of malnutrition and hunger than Africa, the Middle East, and Asia. Bars indicate the percent malnourished in Latin America over time.



### MATERNAL MORTALITY

Maternal mortality rates decreased 52% between 1990 and 2015.

Trends in MMR (maternal mortality ratio—maternal deaths per 100,000 births):

1990: 145  
1995: 125  
2000: 105  
2005: 92  
2010: 84

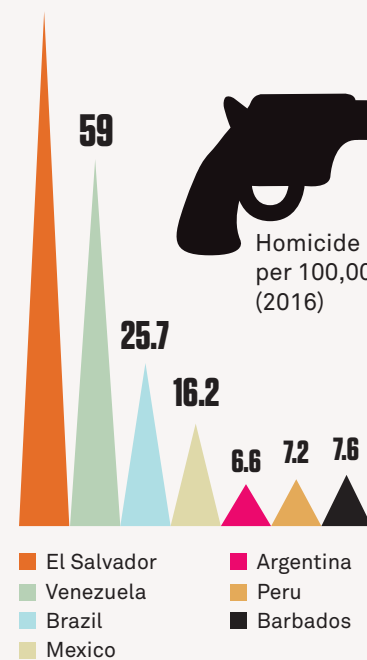
2015:  
**69**

Latin America now has a lower MMR than Africa and Asia.



### HOMICIDES

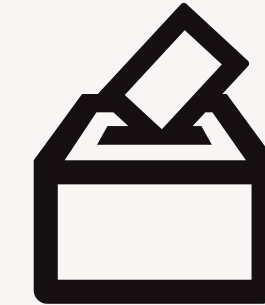
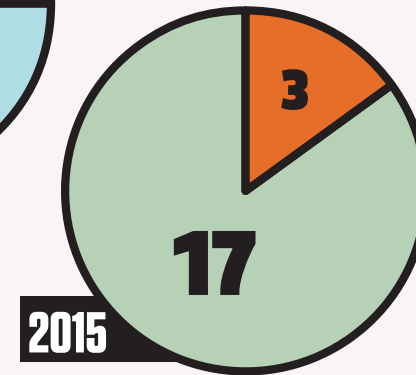
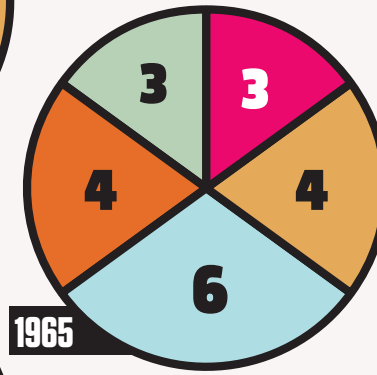
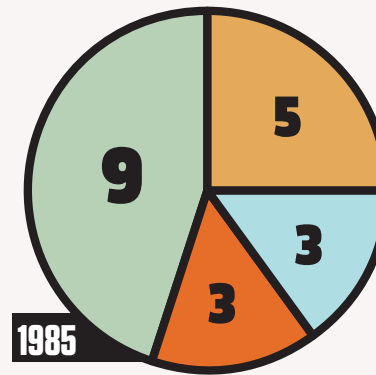
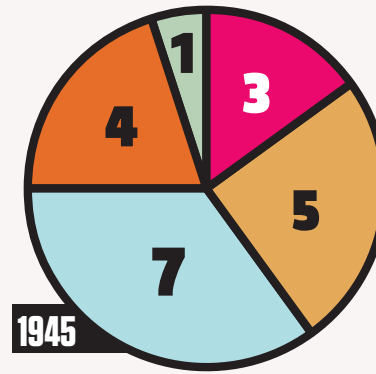
81.2



Homicide rate—per 100,000 (2016)

Most countries are well above the global average rate of 6.2. Only two countries (Chile and Ecuador) are below global average.

### DEMOCRACY



- Colonies
- Autocracies
- Partial Autocracies
- Flawed Democracies
- Full Democracy

### EDUCATION

**96.6%**

Now 96.6% of children complete primary education.



22 out of 29 countries (with data) have achieved gender parity in primary education.

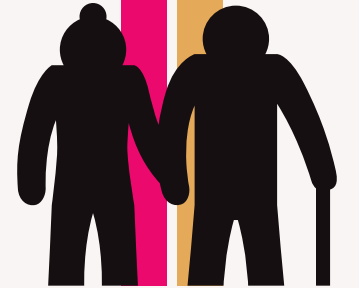
Gross enrollment was below 42% in half the countries in 1990; it rose to 63% by 2000.

Secondary school enrollment rose from 53% in 1990 to almost 81% in 2000.

### LIFE EXPECTANCY

**79 YEARS**  
**73 YEARS**

Latin American life expectancy is now 73 years for males and 79 years for females.



Life expectancy has increased more than 20 years since the 1960s.

Latin American life expectancy is only 1.2 years below the European average.