



## Crime statistics in Mexico

### I. Objectives

- To compare monthly crime statistics in Mexico, for the period 2019-2020.
- To identify each month examples of under-estimations or manipulations of crime statistics.

### II. Data

The present analysis considers the monthly crime statistics released by the Executive Secretariat of the National Public Security System (SESNSP), which, in turn, is based on local prosecutors' offices information. Seven crimes are analyzed:

- Homicide
- Femicide
- Kidnapping
- Extortion
- Theft with violence
- Vehicle theft with violence
- Domestic violence

### III. Context

To address Mexico's security crisis, it is fundamental to generate statistics, which can be trustworthy. However, official crime statistics seriously under-estimate some crimes, because there is a very low rate of reports by citizens, because federal and local authorities do not promote citizens' complaints or reports, because they do not inspire citizens' confidence, and/or because they manipulate the information. The percentage of crimes, which is not reported, is extremely high, with an average, in serious crimes, above 90%. This is why it is essential to promote reports and to generate statistics, which actually reflect Mexico's reality.

### IV. Main findings

#### ***a) Comparison between January-June 2019 and January-June 2020***

- Homicide and domestic violence reports increased 2%; and femicide reports increased by 9%. During the period January-June, 2020, there were more reports of homicides, femicides, and domestic violence than in any other year with registries.
- Reports of kidnapping, extortion, theft with violence, and vehicle theft with violence, decreased 37%, 7%, 22%, and 18%, respectively. Again, it must be remembered that there is a very high percentage of crimes, which are not reported, rendering these statistics as a very poor indicator of the real situation of insecurity in Mexico. Furthermore, the COVID-19 crises must have had an important downward effect.

| <i>Crime</i>                       | <i>2019 Rate</i> | <i>2020 Predicted Rate*</i> | <i>Total of reports between January and June 2019</i> | <i>Total of reports between January and June 2020</i> | <i>Change between total of reports during January-June 2019, and total of reports during January-June 2020</i> | <i>Percentage change between total of reports during January-June 2019, and total of reports during January-June 2020</i> |
|------------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|---|---|--|---|
| <i>Homicide</i>                    | 28.3             | 30.5                        | 17,653  | 17,982  | 329  | 2%  |
| <i>Femicide</i>                    | 0.8              | 0.8                         | 448   | 489   | 41   | 9%  |
| <i>Kidnapping</i>                  | 1.3              | 1.0                         | 856   | 537   | -319   | -37%  |
| <i>Extortion</i>                   | 7.0              | 6.8                         | 4,460   | 4,143   | -317   | -7%   |
| <i>Theft with violence</i>         | 226.7            | 214.7                       | 148,179   | 115,113   | -33,066  | -22%  |
| <i>Vehicle theft with violence</i> | 55.2             | 53.6                        | 35,914  | 29,383  | -6,531   | -18%  |
| <i>Domestic violence</i>           | 164.4            | 170.2                       | 102,709   | 104,331   | 1,622  | 2%  |

\*The 2020 rates are predictions based on a statistical model. **Source:** *Causa en Común*, based on SESNSP crime statistics

#### **b) Some extreme cases of crime under-estimation or manipulation**

- Tlaxcala only has two reports of femicide between January and June, 2019, and one report of femicide between January and June, 2020. This state only reports 11 cases of domestic violence between January and June 2019, and 7 between January and June 2020. It is important to note that this state has a very serious problem of human trafficking, especially of women for prostitution.
- Michoacán only has one report of extortion between January and June, 2019; and only has seven reports of extortion between January and June, 2020. It must be remembered that Michoacán is one of the most violent states in the country.
- Colima does not have any vehicle theft report from January to June, 2019; nor from January to June, 2020. Strange, since this state has the highest homicide rate of the country.

#### **V. Causa en Común proposes:**

- To promote complaints by citizens, creating permanent campaigns for that purpose; to multiply the mechanisms and channels for complaints; and to provide special support to vulnerable people, like women and children that suffer domestic violence.
- Training courses can be provided in all states, to improve the collection of crime statistics. To do so, incentives and consequences must be incorporated in the law. Institutional mechanisms must also be established to supervise, detect and sanction those who provide incomplete or false information; a possibility is to contemplate legal, administrative and budgetary sanctions to individuals, corporations, public prosecutors' offices and federal institutions, which manipulate information.