**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 that are 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-July 2019 and January-July 2020*

- o Homicide and domestic violence reports increased 2%; while femicide reports increased by 5%. During the period January-July, 2020, there were more reports of homicides, femicides, and domestic violence than in any other year with registries.
- o Reports of kidnapping, extortion, theft with violence, and vehicle theft with violence, decreased 40%, 8%, 22%, and 19%, respectively. Again, it must be remembered that there is a very high percentage of crimes that are not reported, rendering these statistics as a very poor indicator of the real situation of insecurity in Mexico. Furthermore, the COVID-19 crisis must have had an important downward effect.

| Crime | 2019 Rate | 2020 Predicted Rate* | Total of reports between January and July 2019 | Total of reports between January and July 2020 | Change between total of reports during January-July 2019, and total of reports during January-July 2020 | Percentage change between total of reports during January-June 2019, and total of reports during January-July 2020 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Homicide | 28.3 | 30.1 | 20,713 | 21,060 | 347 | 2% |
| Femicide | 0.8 | 0.8 | 537 | 566 | 29 | 5% |
| Kidnapping | 1.3 | 1.0 | 1,032 | 617 | -415 | -40% |
| Extortion | 7.0 | 6.8 | 5,315 | 4,880 | -435 | -8% |
| Theft with violence | 226.7 | 208.2 | 172,587 | 134,368 | -38,219 | -22% |
| Vehicle theft with violence | 55.6 | 52.1 | 41,998 | 34,188 | -7,810 | -19% |
| Domestic violence | 166.9 | 172 | 121,944 | 123,927 | 1,983 | 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*

- o Querétaro and Tlaxcala reported only one femicide each during the first seven months of 2020. This means a reduction of 83% and 50%, respectively, in the number of femicides registered between the first seven months of 2019 and the same period of 2020.
- o Tlaxcala has not reported any cases of domestic violence in the last two months, and has only registered seven cases so far this year. It is important to note that this state has a very serious problem of human trafficking, especially of women for prostitution.
- o Colima does not have any vehicle theft reports, from January to July 2019; nor from January to July, 2020. Also, Colima has less reports for theft with violence, by 82% between the first seven months of 2019, and the same period in 2020. Strange, since this state has the highest homicide rate of the country.
- o Michoacán and Guanajuato reported a small number of extortions during January and July, 2020. Michoacán reported nine cases, while Guanajuato reported 11. It must be remembered that both states are among the most violent.

### 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. Additionally, rewards and sanctions must be incorporated into the law. Institutional mechanisms must be established to supervise, detect, and sanction those who provide incomplete or false information. To do so, legal, administrative, and budgetary sanctions should be contemplated for

those individuals, corporations, public prosecutors' offices and federal institutions, which hide or manipulate information.