



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 by its acronym in Spanish), 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-September 2019 and January- September 2020

- Domestic violence reports increased 3%; while homicide reports increased by 1%. During the period January-September, 2020, there were more reports of domestic violence and homicides than in any other year with registries.
- Reports of kidnapping, extortion, theft with violence, and vehicle theft with violence, decreased 38%, 8%, 22%, and 18%, 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 September 2019	Total of reports between January and September 2020	Change between total of reports during January-September 2019, and total of reports during January-September 2020	Percentage change between total of reports during January-September 2019, and total of reports during January-September 2020
Homicide	28.3	29.3	26,692	26,955	263	1%
Femicide	0.8	0.8	721	724	3	0%
Kidnapping	1.3	0.9	1,276	796	-480	-38%
Extortion	7.2	6.8	6,895	6,368	-527	-8%
Theft with violence	228.7	192.6	218,901	171,412	-47,489	-22%
Vehicle theft with violence	55.6	48.8	53,008	43,285	-9,723	-18%
Domestic violence	166.9	174.3	159,604	163,868	4,264	3%

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

b) Extreme cases of crime under-estimation or manipulation

- Aguascalientes reported only one femicide during the first nine months of 2020. This means a reduction of 75%, in the number of femicides registered between the first nine months of 2019 and the same period of 2020.
- Tlaxcala has not reported any cases of domestic violence in January, March, April, June and July 2020, and has only registered nine 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.
- Colima does not have any vehicle theft reports, from January to September 2019; nor from January to September 2020. Also, Colima has less reports for theft with violence, by 77% between the first nine months of 2019, and the same period in 2020. Strange, since this state has the highest homicide rate of the country.
- Guanajuato, Michoacán and Chihuahua reported a small number of extortions during January and September, 2020. Guanajuato has 14 registries, and Michoacán and Chihuahua, 18. It must be remembered that both states are among the most violent.

V. Causa en Común proposes:

- To reverse the current trend towards increased militarisation, and to implement a long-term development plan for local police corporations and public attorneys' offices.
- To promote reports by citizens, creating permanent campaigns for that purpose; to multiply the mechanisms and channels for making reports; and to provide special support to vulnerable people, such as women and children victims of domestic violence.
- Training courses can be provided in all states to improve the collection of crime statistics. Legal, administrative, and budgetary sanctions should also be contemplated for those individuals, corporations, public prosecutors' offices and federal institutions, which hide or manipulate information.