



Crime statistics in Mexico

I. Objectives

- To compare annual crime statistics in Mexico, for the period 2019- 2021.
- To compare the 2013-2015 and 2007-2009 three-year periods with the first half of the current administration.

II. Data

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

For current administration, nine crimes area analyzed:

- Homicide
- Femicide
- Kidnapping
- Trafficking on person
- Theft
- Vehicle theft
- Domestic violence
- Drug dealing
- Extortion

For the comparison between three- year period, 3 crimes are analyzed:

- Homicide
- Kidnapping
- Extortion

III. Context

To address Mexico's security crisis, it is fundamental to generate statistics and interpretations, which can be trustworthy. However, official crime statistics seriously underestimate 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 true statistics.

IV. Main findings

a) Comparison between 2019- 2021

Some crime registers had decreases from January to December 2021, compared to the same period in 2020: murder (-4%), violent vehicle robbery (-10%) and kidnapping (-22%).

If we add the month of December 2018, when the actual government started, 108,502 murders have been registered, which means an average of 96 per day.

Femicide registered 3% more victims, human trafficking, 10% and extortion, 12%. Reports of domestic violence increased 15%, robbery with violence 9% and drug dealing 7%.

b) Comparison between 2019- 2021 with 2013-2015 and 2007-2013 period

Making a comparison with the 2013-2015 and 2007-2009 three-year periods with respect to intentional homicides, the first half of the current administration registered an increase of 81% with respect to the first, and 126% with respect to the second. In the same order of comparison, kidnapping cases decreased 32% with respect to the three-year period 2013-2015, and an increase of 11% with respect to the three-year period 2007-2009. Extortion increased 30% with respect to the three-year period 2013-2015, and 79% with respect to the three-year period 2007-2009.

It is important to remember that the level of crime is much higher than what is reflected in the SESNSP data, as evidenced by the victimization studies (underreporting of some high-impact crimes, such as femicides, kidnappings and extortion), which emphasizes the institutional crisis in the issue of security.

V. Causa en Común proposes:

Causa en Común calls on the federal and local governments to reverse a militarization that is clearly incapable of addressing the problems of public insecurity and to urgently start to rescue the police forces, the prosecutors' offices and the penitentiary system.

Likewise, it is essential to undertake an authentic security strategy that starts from the inescapable responsibility of confronting criminal organizations.