GUN VIOLENCE IN THE AMERICAS

FOCUS: MEXICO

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GUN VIOLENCE:

FOCUS ON MEXICO, FOCUS ON THE GUN

The gun’s licit and illicit movement from the US to Mexico
GUN VIOLENCE AND PUBLIC HEALTH SCIENCE

• High risk groups: youth, women

• Agent/vehicle: bullets/guns

• Environment: communities in Mexico
PUBLIC HEALTH APPROACH TO GUN VIOLENCE

• **Malaria**
  - Agent: biologic: vivax
  - Vector: Mosquito
  - Environment: Water
  - Host: children

• **Gun shot wound**
  - Agent: physical: kinetic energy/bullets
  - Vector/Vehicle: Gun
  - Environment: Homes, parks, streets, dealers, communities
  - Host: home owner, youth, women
5.56 NATO
5.56 NATO

Lateral view. Bullet travelled right to left.

Top view. Bullet travelled right to left.
FOCUS: MEXICO, GUNS, PUBLIC HEALTH

- Policies, programs
- Research
- Leadership of Civil Society
Militarization, gun violence and human rights abuses in Mexico

Natalia Báez Zamudio
Researcher, CMDPDH
The war on drugs

“an all-out war to free Mexico from the clutches of organized crime, violence and drugs, and mainly, to prevent our youth falling into the clutches of addiction” (Felipe Calderón, 2006)

- Increased militarization of public security to combat drug trafficking
- Merida Initiative (2008)
- National Guard (2019)
- Increased violence and human rights crisis
Between July and December 2019, 74,437 National Guard soldiers have been deployed for law enforcement.

The National Guard is staffed with military, naval and federal police forces.
Between 2006 and 2019:

Deployment of **658,148 army** and **115,360 navy** soldiers in support of police to combat drug trafficking.

**Military deployment in public security**
“[Mexico] being a country that is not in the middle of a conflict, the figures are simply shocking”
Former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, 2016

- 99.3% of crimes are not investigated
- Mexico is the country Latin America with the highest impunity rate
- #1 importer of US firearms in Latin America
- Murders are the leading cause of death among young people and adults between 15 and 44 years of age
The role of militarization

Budget for Mexican armed forces in US dollars

- 2006
- 2012
- 2013
- 2018

Navy
Army
The role of militarization

Production of firearms in Mexico (2012-2018)

- 2012-2013: 4,000
- 2013-2014: 11,000
- 2014-2015: 13,200
- 2015-2016: 16,600
- 2016-2017: 23,600
- 2017-2018: 44,500

FX-05 Rifles
The role of militarization

Firearm acquisitions by type of end user 2010-2016
Armas adquiridas por la SEDENA entre 2007 y 2017
Porcentaje de compras por marcas y país

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>País</th>
<th>Marca</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>México</td>
<td>Heckler &amp; Koch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mendoza</td>
<td>Colt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estados Unidos</td>
<td>SIG Sauer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alemania</td>
<td>Beretta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Israel</td>
<td>Ceska</td>
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<td>República Checa</td>
<td>Beretta</td>
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<tr>
<td>Austria</td>
<td>Glock</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italia</td>
<td>Baretta</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Weapons lost and stolen from police

Graph showing the number of weapons lost and stolen from police from 2006 to 2019. The graph distinguishes between handguns and long guns.
Homicides

- Homicides
- Gun Homicides

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Homicides</th>
<th>Gun Homicides</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>11,806</td>
<td>3,610</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>10,253</td>
<td>4,040</td>
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<td>2008</td>
<td>13,155</td>
<td>5,085</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>16,118</td>
<td>8,804</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>20,143</td>
<td>11,987</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>22,409</td>
<td>12,615</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>21,459</td>
<td>11,391</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>18,106</td>
<td>9,774</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>15,520</td>
<td>8,589</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>17,886</td>
<td>9,210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>22,545</td>
<td>12,478</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>28,871</td>
<td>16,891</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>33,743</td>
<td>20,078</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>34,582</td>
<td>20,529</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
At least 13,000 people have been subjected to torture and ill-treatment
- 18 condemnatory court rulings
- 60,000 forcibly disappeared persons
  - 1,144 criminal investigations
  - 13 condemnatory court rulings
Missing persons per year

**Personas Desaparecidas: Cada Año**

*Por Registro Nacional de Personas Desaparecidas y No Localizadas*
Tahuato Massacre 2015

- Federal police “confrontation” with armed groups (allegedly Jalisco Nueva Generación Cartel)
- Excessive use of force
- Manipulation of evidence
- Torture and ill-treatment of civilians

Tlatlaya Massacre 2014

- Army confrontation with armed groups
- Alteration of crime scene
- 12 to 15 arbitrary executions
- Torture

Deprivation of life in the context of military intervention in law enforcement has no consequences
How can we confront the violence crisis?

- Demilitarize public security
- End the Merida Initiative
- Reduce legal firearms exports to Mexico to levels before the war on drugs
  - High risk of diversion
- Criteria for end users of legally exported firearms
  - Efficient tracing mechanisms from producers to end users
and that use violence as their main method of persuasion.
THANK YOU!

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Gun Violence Prevention in Central America and Mexico

Image from Ciudad Juarez Public Fast, January 2011

John Lindsay-Poland, Stop US Arms to Mexico
How do we understand violence prevention and public health? For whom?
Illegal Gun Traffic: Prohibited but Easy
About 180,000 cars and trucks cross from the United States to Mexico every day.
Guns Trafficked to Central America and Mexico
Percentage of U.S.-Sourced Guns Recovered and Traced, 2014-2018

Source: Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives
Where in the U.S. do guns recovered in Mexico come from?

Figure 5: Top Source States for Firearms Seized in Mexico of U.S. Origin and Numbers Seized, 2009-2014
U.S. Assault Weapons in Mexico...

A grieving family in Tijuana, Baja California.
Guns recovered in Mexico and firearms dealers in U.S. border states

www.stopusarmstomexico.org/firearms-recovered-in-mexico-2010-2018
Texas gun shows: No background check needed on assault rifle sales
Assault weapons at “Suppressed Tactical Solutions” gun shop in Edinburg, TX.

Note 50-caliber gun in corner.

Edinburg, town of 75,000, has 20 licensed firearm dealers. 15 miles to border.
Southwest Hay & Feed, Mission, TX
(3 miles to border, 2 blocks to a high school)

“Essential activities”?
COVID19 panic: run on U.S. guns

Line at gun store in Culver City, California, February 2020
High-capacity ammunition magazines:
Over 112,000 recovered in Mexico since 2011
House should vote on H.R. 1186 to ban high-cap mags
Guns and ammo in Academy Sports, Laredo, Texas

Assault rifle bullets, box of 420. “American Made * Military Grade”

Two blocks from Mexico border. Still open as “essential business”
Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala have among highest gun homicide rates in world

Mexico now a transit country due to deterioration in the “northern triangle.”
Weapons push Central Americans and other migrants seeking refuge toward the northern border of Mexico.
Mexican National Guard: formed in 2019 ‘to fight organized crime,’ then tasked to stop migrants

Mexican migration agent detaining family in Chiapas, April 2019
Exposing migrants to danger

- “Remain in Mexico” program (MPP)
- “Safe third country” agreements
- “Metering” asylum applications
- Excluding gang violence and domestic violence as bases for granting asylum
More armed groups:

• Border Patrol, ICE, U.S. law enforcement
  – CBP ordered up to $85 million of Glock handguns in 2019
  – CBP purchased 33 million 9mm bullets in October
  – U.S. courts allow CBP to fire onto Mexican side

CBP officers on bridge between Juarez and El Paso on afternoon of Feb. 28 court ruling against MPP. “Just observing.”
Where Asylum Seekers are Waiting; More Mexicans Seeking Asylum

Source: Strauss Center, University of Texas, “Metering Update,” November 2019
Migrants deported to /forced to wait in sites flooded with U.S. guns

Asylum seekers sent back to Mexico by the US are living in a makeshift camp by the international bridge between Matamoros, Tamaulipas, Mexico, and Brownsville, Texas.
Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas: Most migrants returned to Nuevo Laredo are victims of violence
What can we do?

• Support federal ban on assault weapons and high-capacity magazines
• Challenge narratives of Mexicans, Central Americans, and migrants as threats or a security issue
• Call for migrants awaiting asylum hearings in northern Mexico to be paroled into U.S.
• Attend further webinars: April 4, April 5, April 21: www.stopusarmstomexico.org/events
• Urge Mexican consulates in U.S. to hold events for Mexican community on firearms traffic: unitedwedream.org/list-of-mexican-consulates
Gun Violence in Mexico: Questions

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Resources for Further Information

Stop US Arms to Mexico: stopusarmstomexico.org
Forum on Arms Trade: forumarmstrade.org
Mexican Commission for Defense and Promotion of Human Rights: cmdpdh.org
Consortium of Universities for Global Health: cugh.org
Comprehensive Injury Center, Medical College of Wisconsin