

## YEARS OF LIFE LOST IN THE WAR AGAINST DRUG CARTELS IN MEXICO DURING THE GOVERNMENT OF CALDERON 2006-2012

In Mexico drug trafficking is the fifth largest industry, generating an income similar to the one generated by oil and timber industries. In recent years, the drug trafficking has caused significant problems to the Mexican State. Among them are a wave of extreme violence, murders, extortions, rapes, abductions and trafficking and smuggling of people, weapons and drugs.

With the escalation of violence that occurred in Mexico between 2003 and 2005, in December 2006, President Calderón announced Joint Operation Michoacan, which would be the beginning of a series of operations in the states where indicators of murder, kidnapping, drug trafficking and violence were high. One of the goals was to reduce the number of intentional homicides allegedly linked to drug trafficking.

The overall objective of this paper is to analyze the levels of mortality by homicide, as well as to quantify the years of life lost by those who have died during the War against Narcotics for five states. Our main focus of interest is some states where joint actions have been carried out aiming at reducing drug trafficking (Chihuahua, Michoacán and Tamaulipas) and then contrast with some states where joint actions were not carried out (Distrito Federal and Yucatán).

Since the announcement of Joint Operation Michoacan until December 2013, a cumulative total of 123,955 allegedly intentional homicides related to drug trafficking activities were reported. However, it was in 2011 when the Executive Secretariat of Public Security reported the highest number of intentional homicides which totaled 22,856. For the last report in 2013, 18,143 intentional homicides were recorded.

*Table 1*  
*Homicides at national level, 2006-2013*

<i>Year</i>	<i>Homicides</i>
2006	10,452
2007	8,867
2008	14,006
2009	19,803
2010	25,757
2011	27,213
2012	25,967
<b>Total</b>	<b>132,065</b>

Source: INEGI, 2014.

The table shows that in 2011 occurred the greatest number of homicides in Mexico (27,213), followed by 2010 and 2012, years in which homicide deaths reached 25,967 and 25,757 respectively. The year which had the lowest number of homicides corresponds to 2007 (8,862 deaths).

Homicide mortality rates for men from 2006 to 2012 indicate that the average rate for the period was 3.01 per hundred thousand for the whole country. Table two shows that the rate increased both for the national case as well as for selected states. The state experiencing the highest rate was Michoacán.

State	Año						
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
<i>National</i>	1.73	1.43	2.33	3.26	4.24	4.07	4.02
Chihuahua	3.58	2.77	14.37	20.21	34.42	23.16	30.60
Michoacán	4.39	2.44	2.82	4.06	3.05	3.58	14.08
Tamaulipas	1.98	1.06	1.41	1.51	5.34	5.96	8.06

Source: Elaboration based on vital statistics, INEGI, 2014.

Table 3 shows variation in life expectancies for ten states and for the country. Contrary to expected, there have been some reduction in life expectancy. Although life expectancies depend upon the deaths by all causes, homicide mortality has contributed to variations in this indicator.

State	Años		
	2006	2010	2012
<i>National</i>	72.15	71.05	71.52
Chihuahua	68.15	61.09	68.35
Michoacán	72.99	72.39	72.67
Veracruz	72.65	71.23	70.89

Source: Elaboration based on vital statistics, INEGI, 2014.