Trans-Border Institute Justice in Mexico Project University of San Diego

TBI Fact Sheet: Kidnapping Trends in Mexico

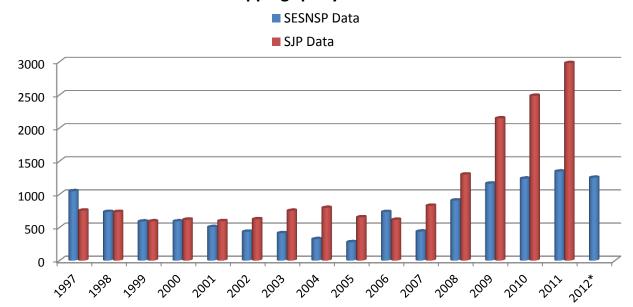
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Kidnappings at a Glance

- There has been a steady increase in the number of kidnappings throughout Mexico since 2006, the same time that former President Felipe Calderón was in office (December 2006 - November 2012).
- According to the Executive Office of the National Public Security System (Secretariado Ejecutivo del Sistema Nacional de Seguridad Pública, SESNSP) within the Interior Ministry (Secretaría de Gobernación, Segob), 12,003 cases of kidnapping were reported from 1997-2012, of which 7,070 were recorded in 2006-2012, almost 60%.
- It is widely believed that the large majority of kidnappings are not reported for fear of reprisal against the victim's family or friends, and because of the general lack of trust civilians have in the government and public security officials.

- While SESNSP data dates back to 1997, SJP data covers kidnappings from 1971-2011, a time frame during which it recorded 20,453 cases of kidnapping.
- SJP reports that from 1971-2011, 1,383 of the 20,453 individuals kidnapped were also murdered, which is almost 7% of the victims (6.76%).

Kidnappings per year in Mexico

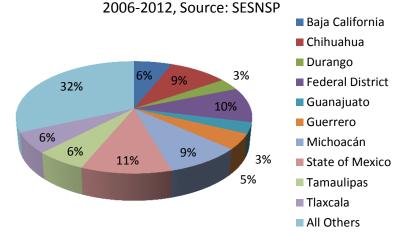


*SJP data not available for 2012

Kidnappings by State

SESNSP data indicates that from 1997-2005 there was a consecutive decrease in the total number of kidnappings. However, from 2006-2012, the total number of cases increased every year with the exception of 2007.

Top 10 States with Highest Rate of Kidnappings,



Top 10 States with Highest Rate of Kidnappings, 2006-2012, Source: SESNSP

State	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	Total
State of Mexico	42	52	136	127	171*	103	131	762
Federal District	92	118*	139*	84	160	54	65	712
Chihuahua	10	13	120	233*	147	95	46	664
Michoacán	16	35	88	98	136	130*	135	638
Baja California	38	0	115	103	79	64	30	429
Tamaulipas	17	20	21	52	47	129	141*	427
Tlaxcala	408*	0	5	3	1	3	3	423
Guerrero	21	28	38	51	43	62	75	318
Durango	0	3	5	37	79	67	50	241
Guanajuato	6	12	38	78	53	27	12	226
All Others	83	157	202	296	320	610	562	2,230
TOTAL	733	438	907	1,162	1,236	1,344	1,250	7,070

*State with highest number of kidnappings that year

Recent Legal Reform Addressing Kidnapping

In 2010, Mexico enacted the Anti-Kidnapping Law (Ley General para Prevenir y Sancionar los Delitos en Materia de Secuestro), which states that

- kidnappers could be sentenced between 20 and 40 years in prison, or between 25 and 50 years if other conditions are met, including if the victim was sexual assaulted, tortured, subjected to violence, or died during captivity, among others.
- there should be a support organization for victims and the offended, and a national program for the prevention, persecution, and sanction of the crime of kidnapping.

Kidnappings Under Peña Nieto's Administration

Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto (2012-2018), who took office in December 2012, expressed concern during his presidential campaign over the rise of kidnappings from 2006 to present, claiming that upon taking office his administration would tackle kidnappings head-on to reduce the growing number of cases. However, in his first six months in office, there have been no major developments to address the problem despite pressure from civil society and the general public.

Sources:

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