



Violence & Public Security in Mexico

Presentation to the Mexico Institute
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PRESENTATION BY

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OVERVIEW

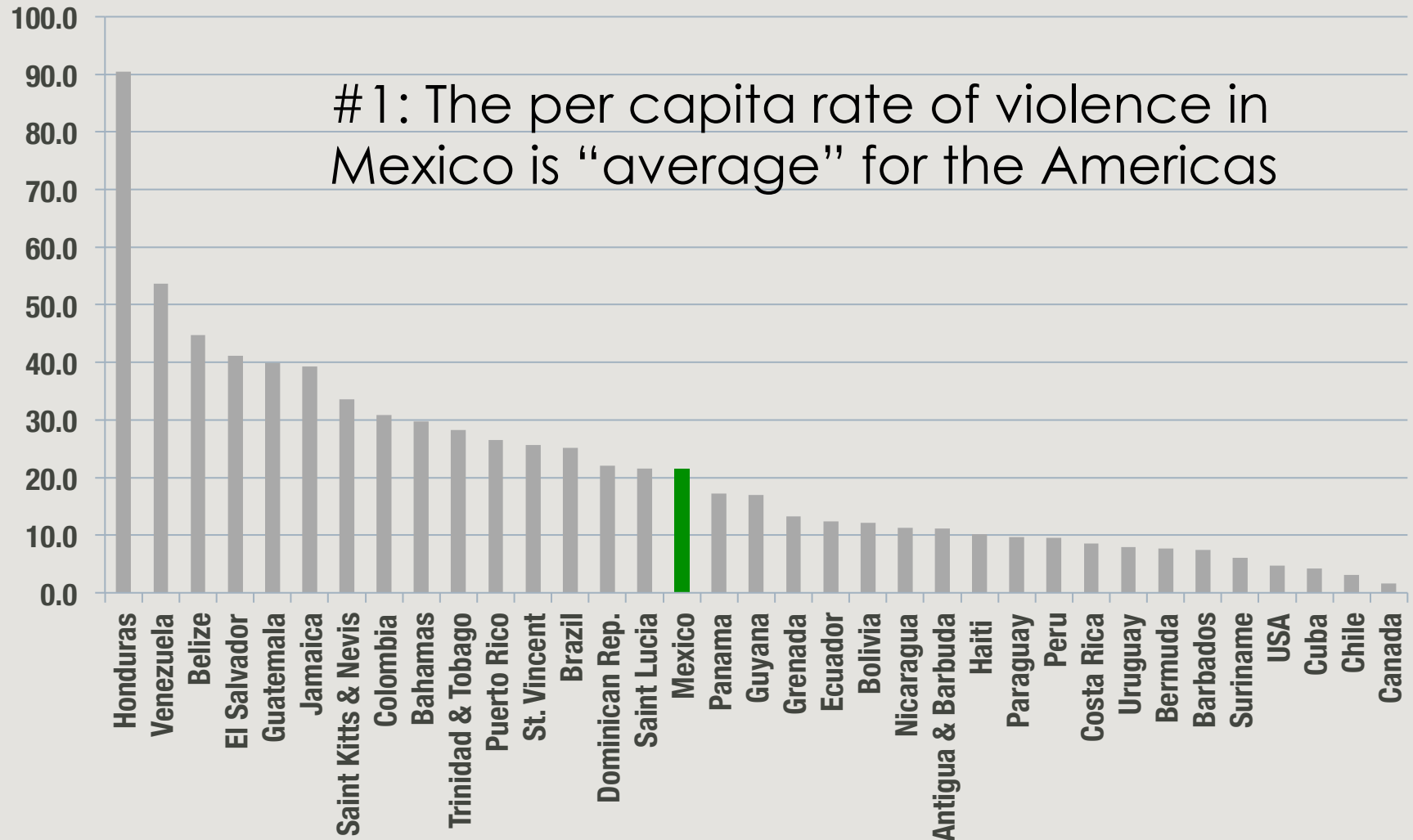
- Long term & recent homicide trends
- Important causal factors
- Evaluating possible responses

10 key points about recent homicide trends in Mexico



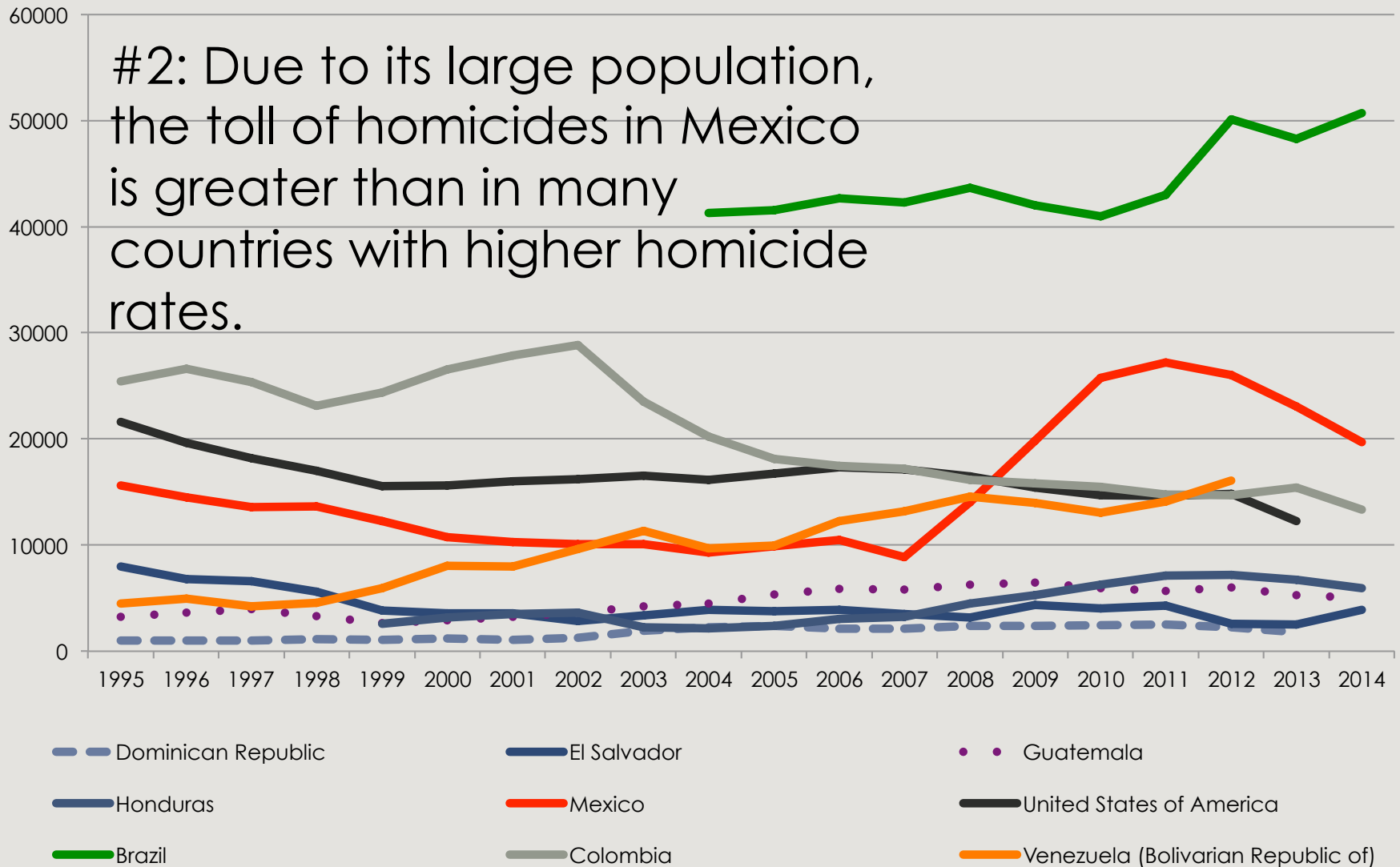
LONG TERM & RECENT HOMICIDE TRENDS

Homicide Rates in the Americas (2014)



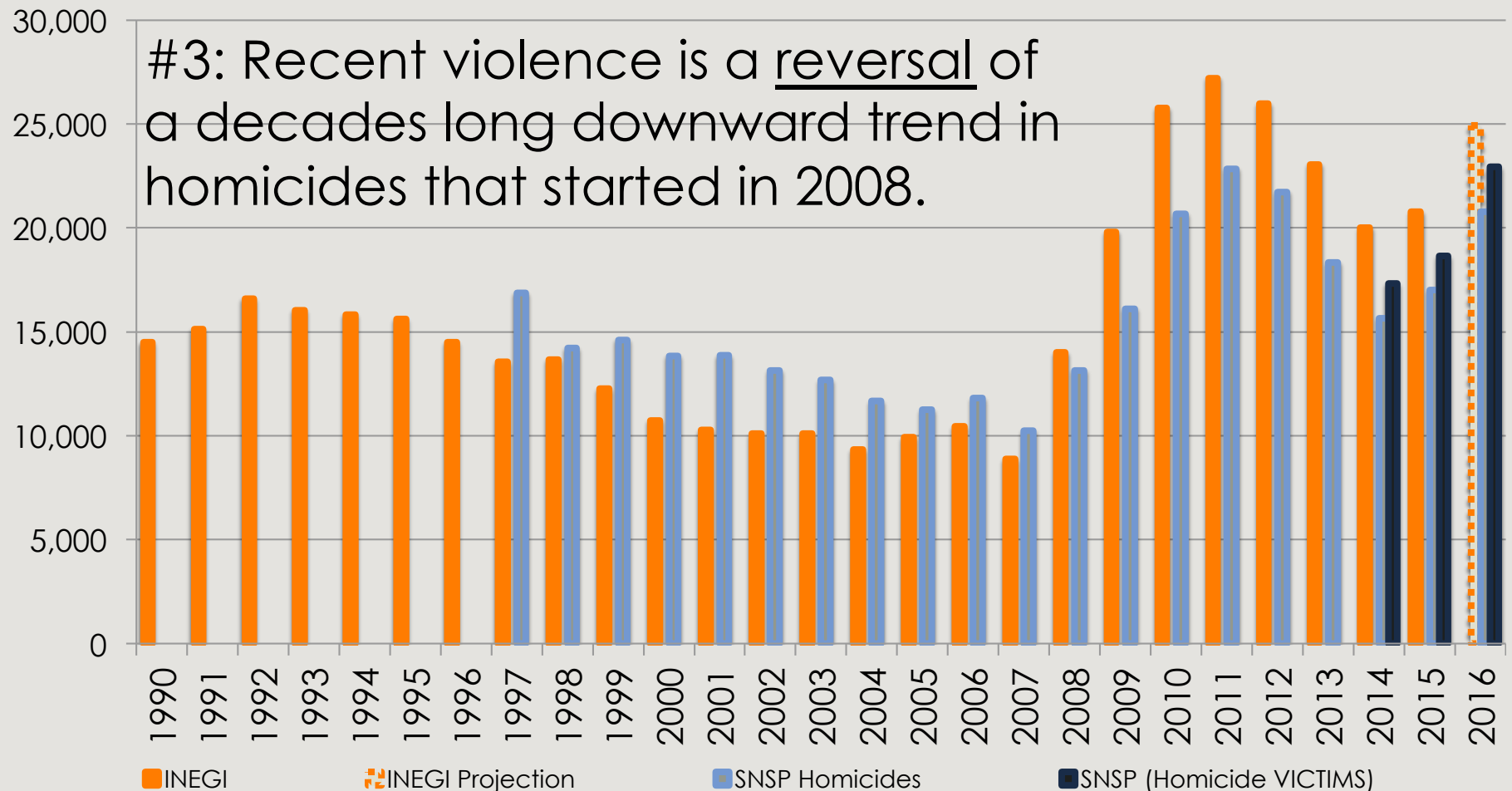
■ Source: UNODC, Intentional homicide rate per 100,000 population (2014).

Total Homicides in Selected Countries (1995-2014)



Source: UNODC, International homicides (1995-2014).

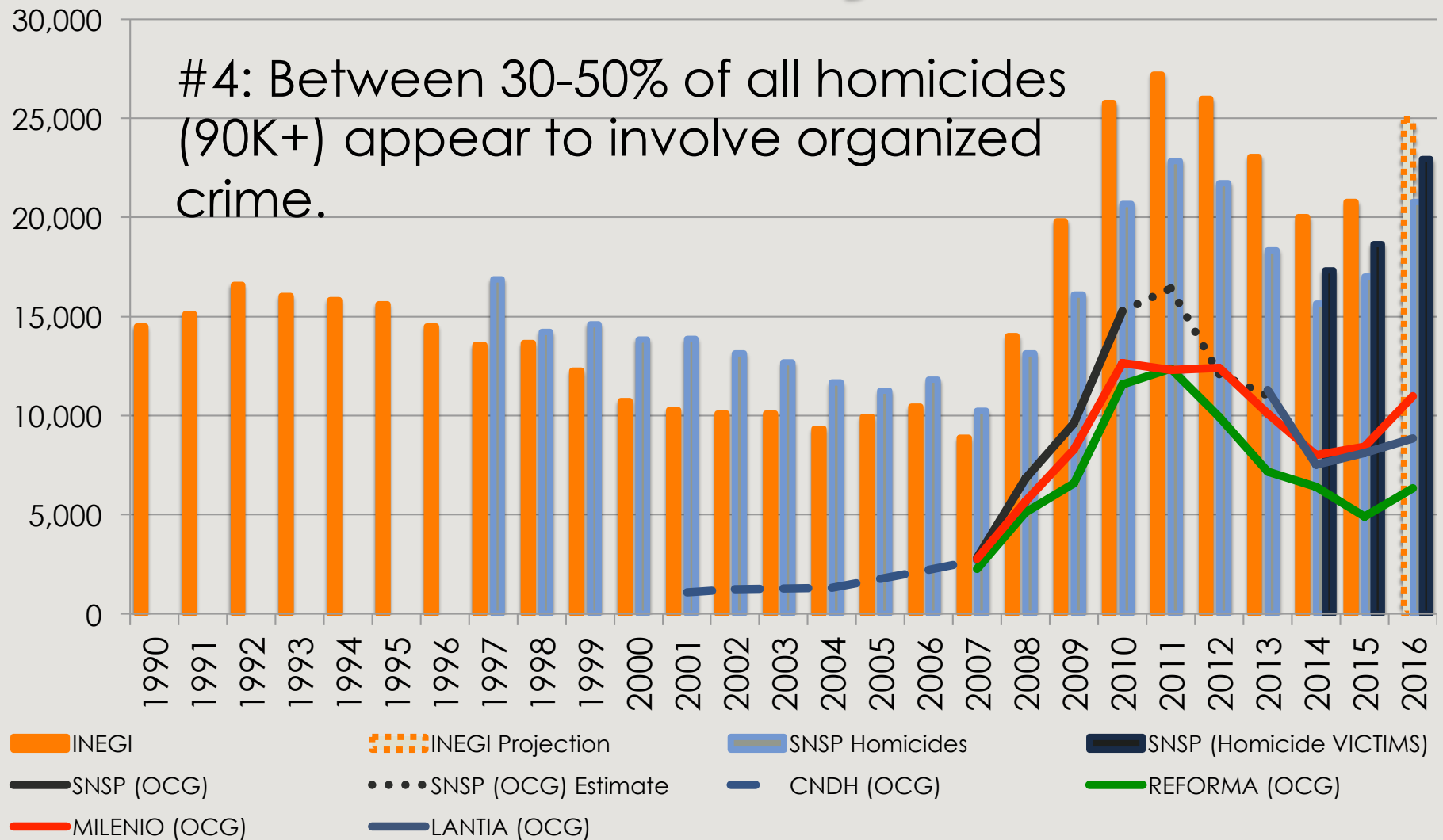
Homicide Trends: Mexico (1990-2016)



Mexico's national statistics agency (INEGI) tracks homicides reported by coroners and medical examiners. The National Public Security System (SNSP) also reports figures on homicide investigations, both by case file and (since 2014) by victim. While INEGI's figures are released annually, SNSP releases its figures monthly.

Homicides vs. OCG-Style Homicides

#4: Between 30-50% of all homicides (90K+) appear to involve organized crime.

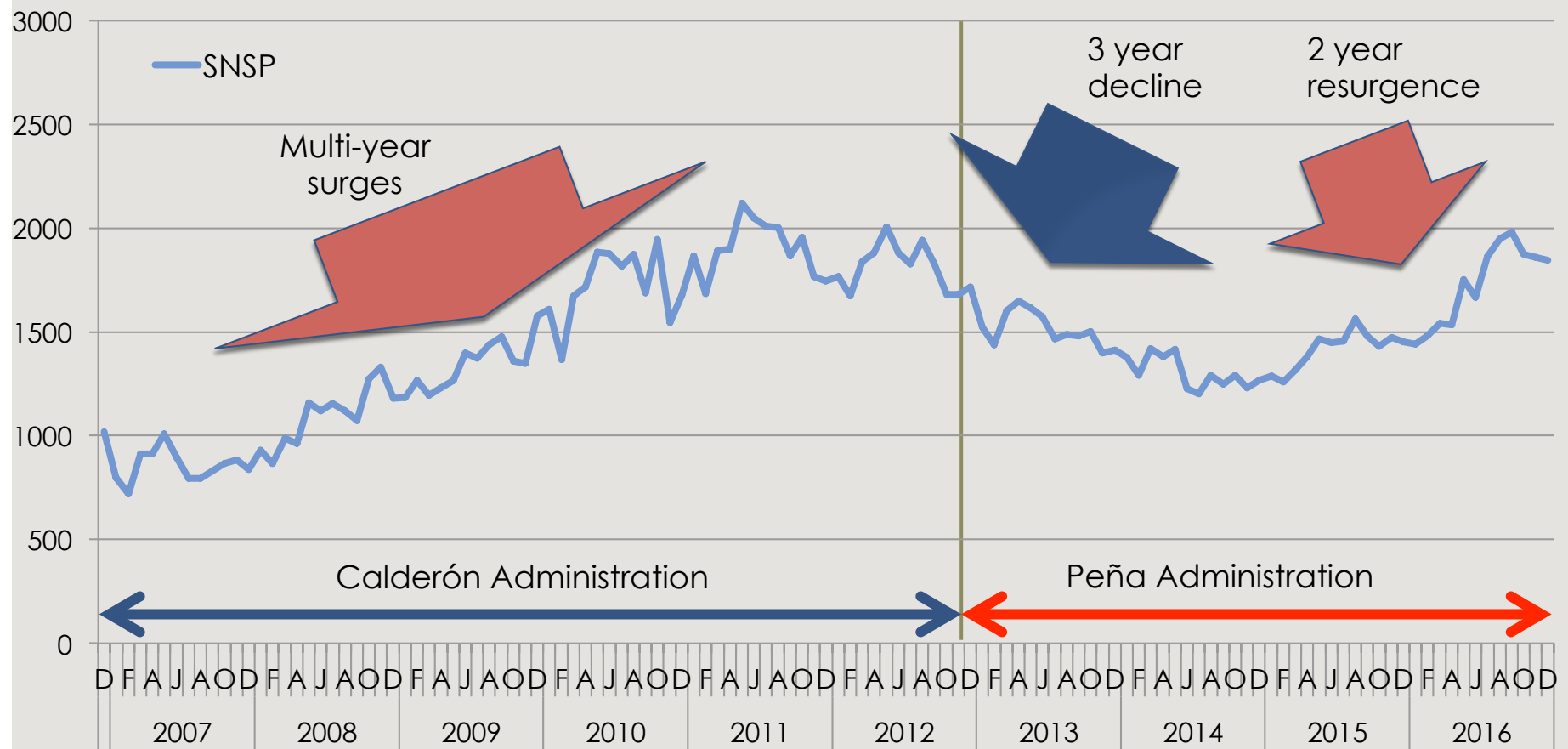


■ Various Estimates for Drug Trafficking and Organized Crime Killings, 2001-2016

■ **Note: 2011 and 2012 SNSP figures include calculations based on Reforma data.*

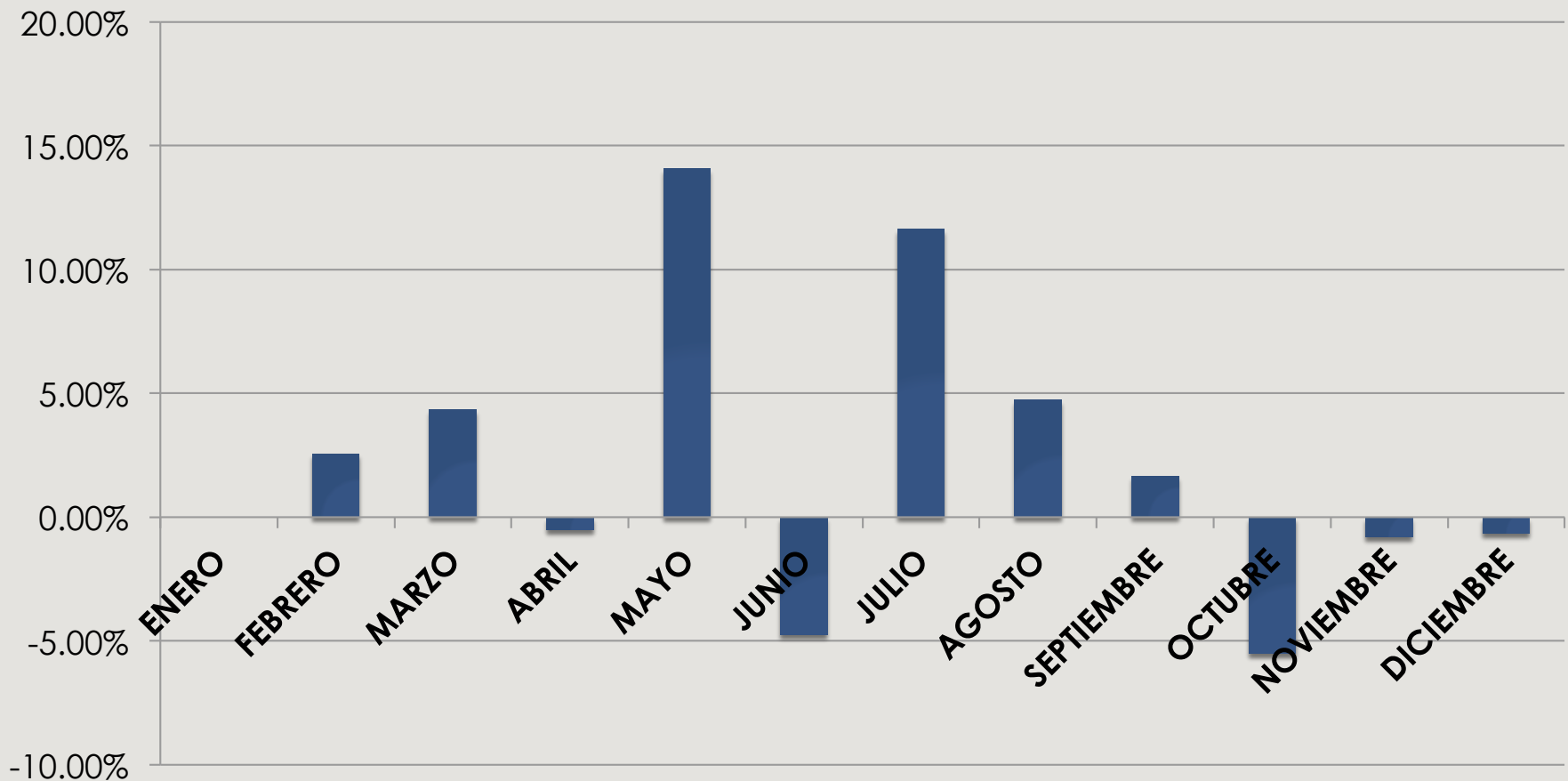
Monthly Comparison: FCH vs. EPN

#5: Despite early decreases under Peña Nieto, violence is on the rise again—in 2015-16 the trend has reversed to reach Calderón era levels.



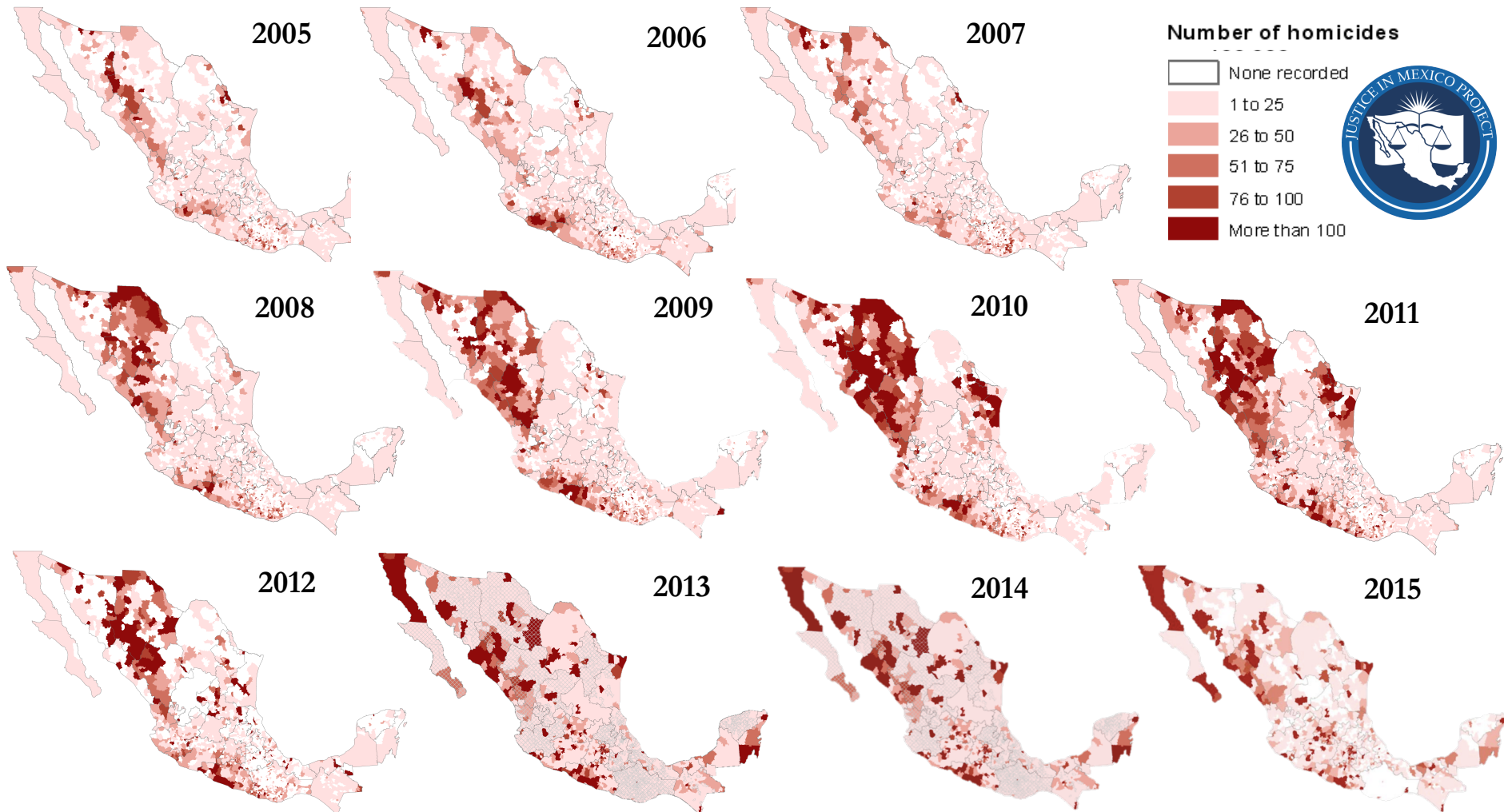
2016: The Summer of Violence

#6: Violence tends to explode—The sharpest % increases in 2016 occurred in the early and middle part of the year, with twin peaks in May & July.



Geographic Distribution (2005-15)

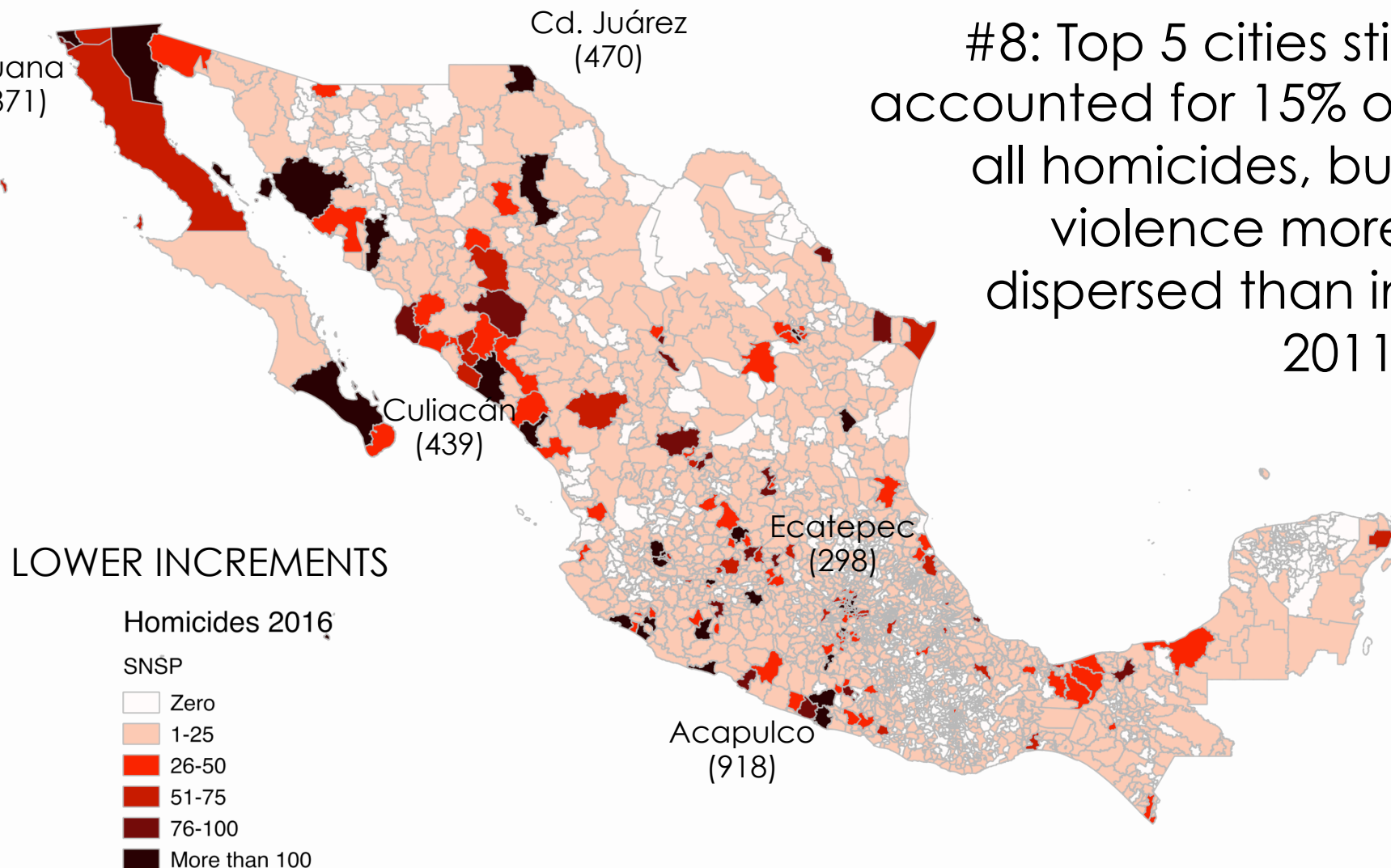
#7: Violence is “clustered” in certain geographic areas, but has also shifted to different areas over time.



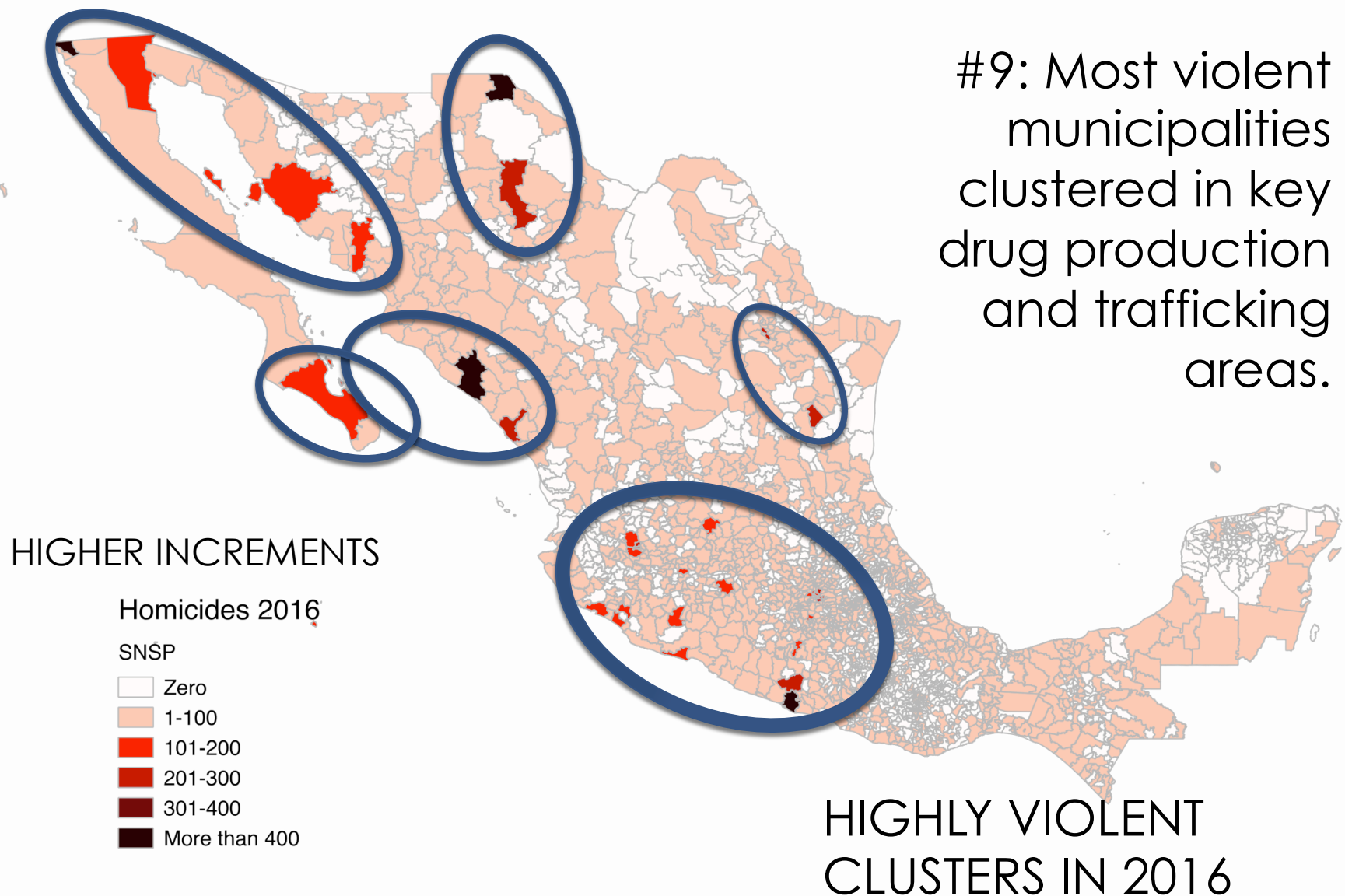
Source: INEGI. Maps generated by Theresa Firestine.

Geographic Distribution (2016)

#8: Top 5 cities still accounted for 15% of all homicides, but violence more dispersed than in 2011.



Geographic Distribution (2016)



Source: SNSP. Maps generated by Octavio Rodriguez.

The Impunity Problem

#10: The vast majority of the 200K+ homicides since 2016 remain unsolved.



September 26, 2014: Dozens of people were killed in a series of events in and around the town of Iguala, Guerrero. Among the people killed were 43 students from the Ayotzinapa Teachers College who protested an event hosted by the wife of the mayor of Iguala. The young men were reportedly detained by police, handed over to the Guerreros Unidos crime group, and murdered and burned in the nearby town of Cocula.



IMPORTANT CAUSAL FACTORS

The Fuel: Socio-Economic Factors

One area of analysis focuses on the “social disorganization” of highly violent communities, drawing attention to the socio-economic roots of violence in Mexico (e.g., Ingram 2014; Muggah & Vilalta 2016).

(Ingram 2014)

Structural Factors

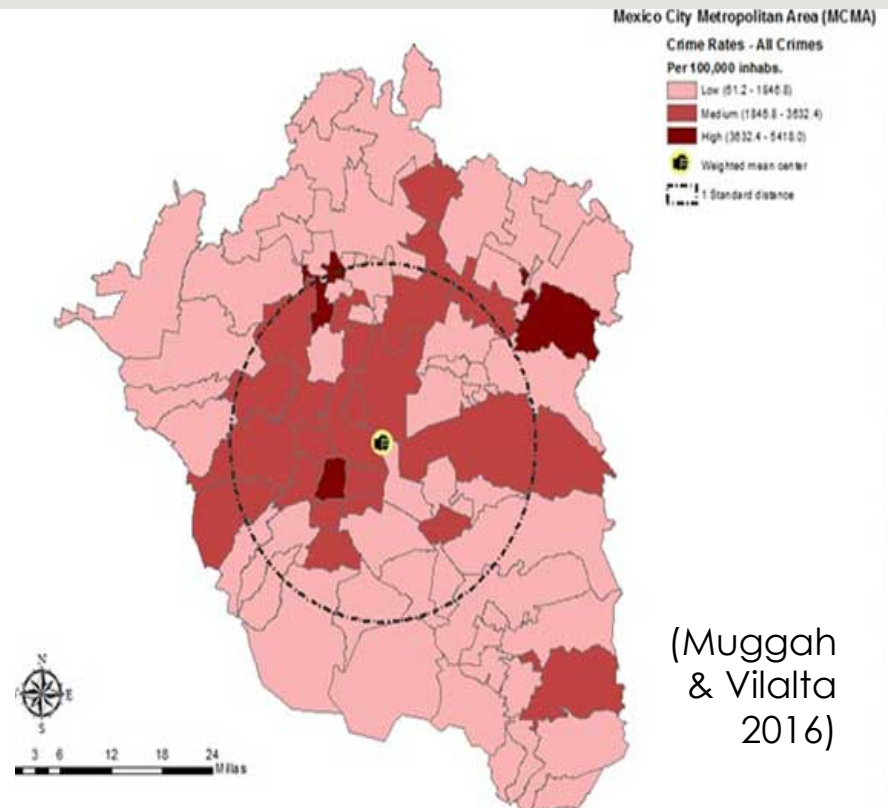
Population pressures
Resource deprivation/affluence
Inequality
Education
Age distribution
Economic activity
Family disruption
Urbanization

Social Factors

Social control of teenage groups
and youth delinquency
Social cohesion/neighborliness
Social/Public trust
Participation in civic life

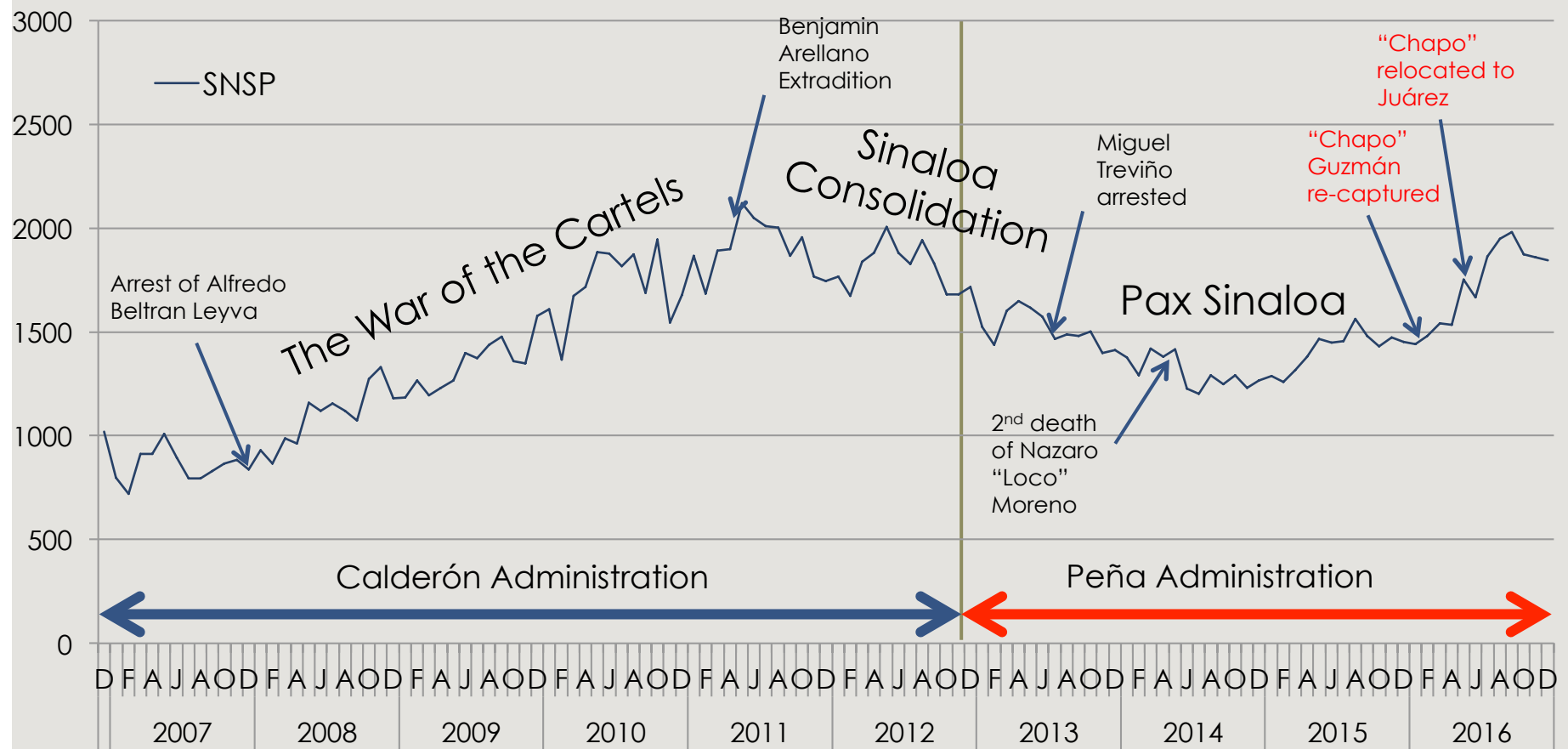
Violence

Crime and violence

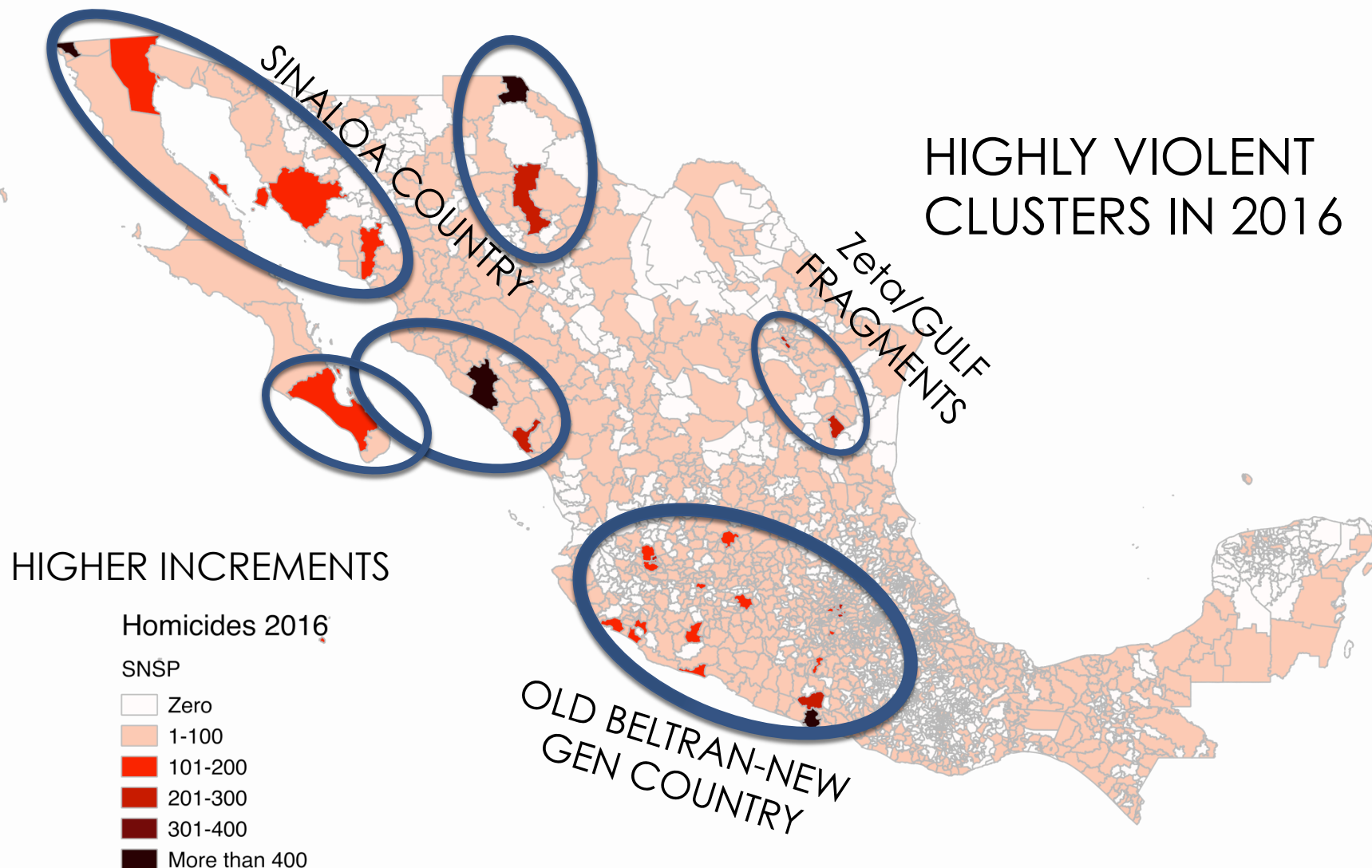


The Spark: Dynamics of Organized Crime

Another area of analysis looks at the dynamics between and among organized crime groups that contribute to significant surges and declines in violence.



Geographic Distribution (2016)



Source: SNSP. Maps generated by Octavio Rodriguez.

Photo Credit: Getty Images



EVALUATING POLICY OPTIONS

Addressing Socio-Economic Factors

Policy options to address chronic societal and structural problems can take decades, but targeted police and community interventions can help to reduce violence in problem neighborhoods and social networks.

Addressing Organized Crime Clashes

Policy options to reduce competition & conflict include: 1) reducing profitability of illicit activities (e.g., legalization), 2) reducing impunity (e.g., actually arresting and prosecuting murderers), and 3) priority targeting of violent groups and/or state tolerance for non-violent crime.



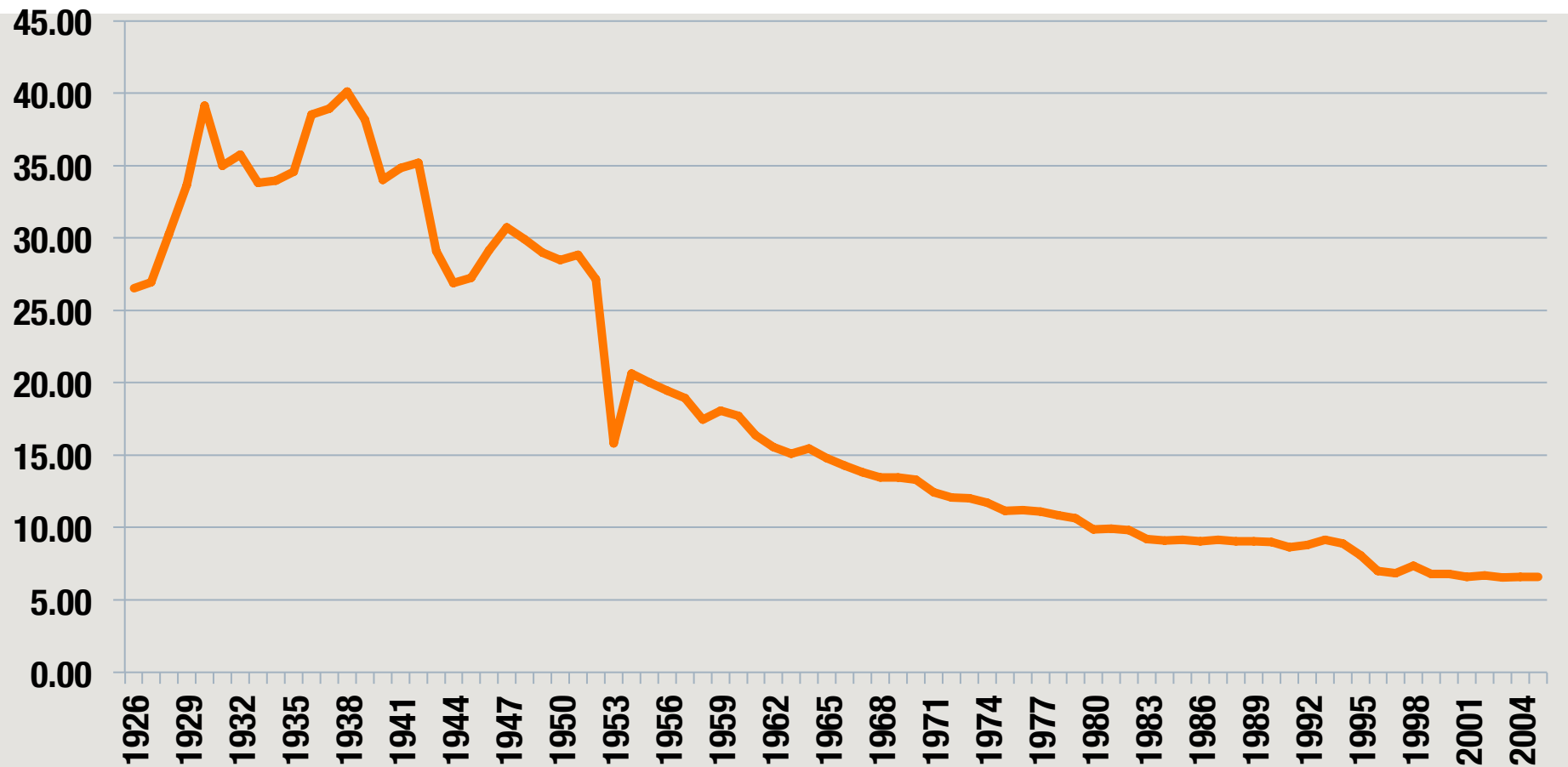
justiceinmexico.org

THANK YOU!



A Century of Falling Homicide in Mexico

Presuntos delincuentes por homicidio (por 100,000 habitantes), Fuero Comun 1926-2005



GENERAL DECLINE IN HOMICIDE SUSPECTS

■ THIS GRAPH USES THE LONGEST AVAILABLE TIME SERIES DATA ON HOMICIDE IN MEXICO

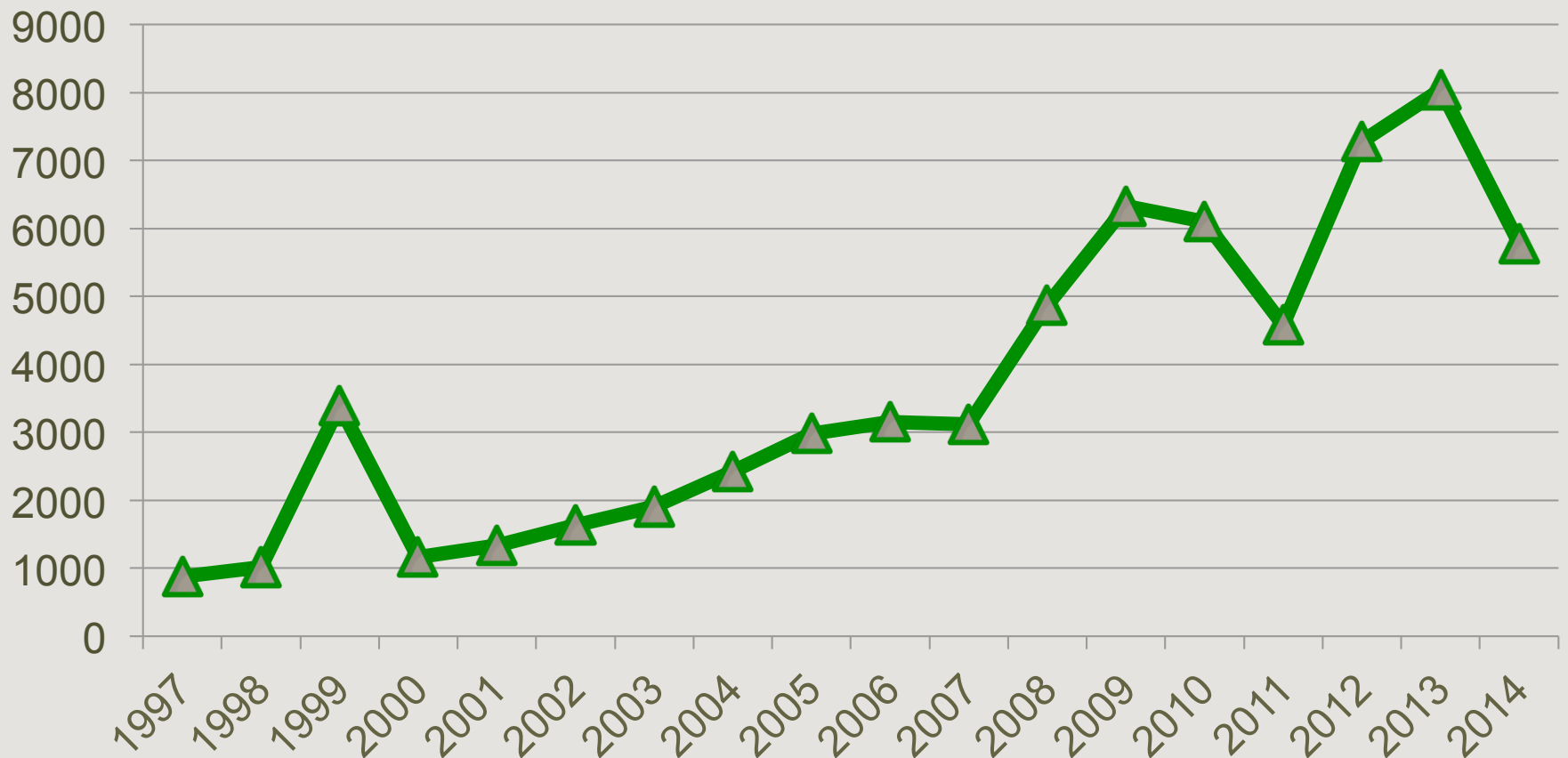


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OTHER VIOLENT CRIMES

Number of Reported Extortion Cases (1997-2014)

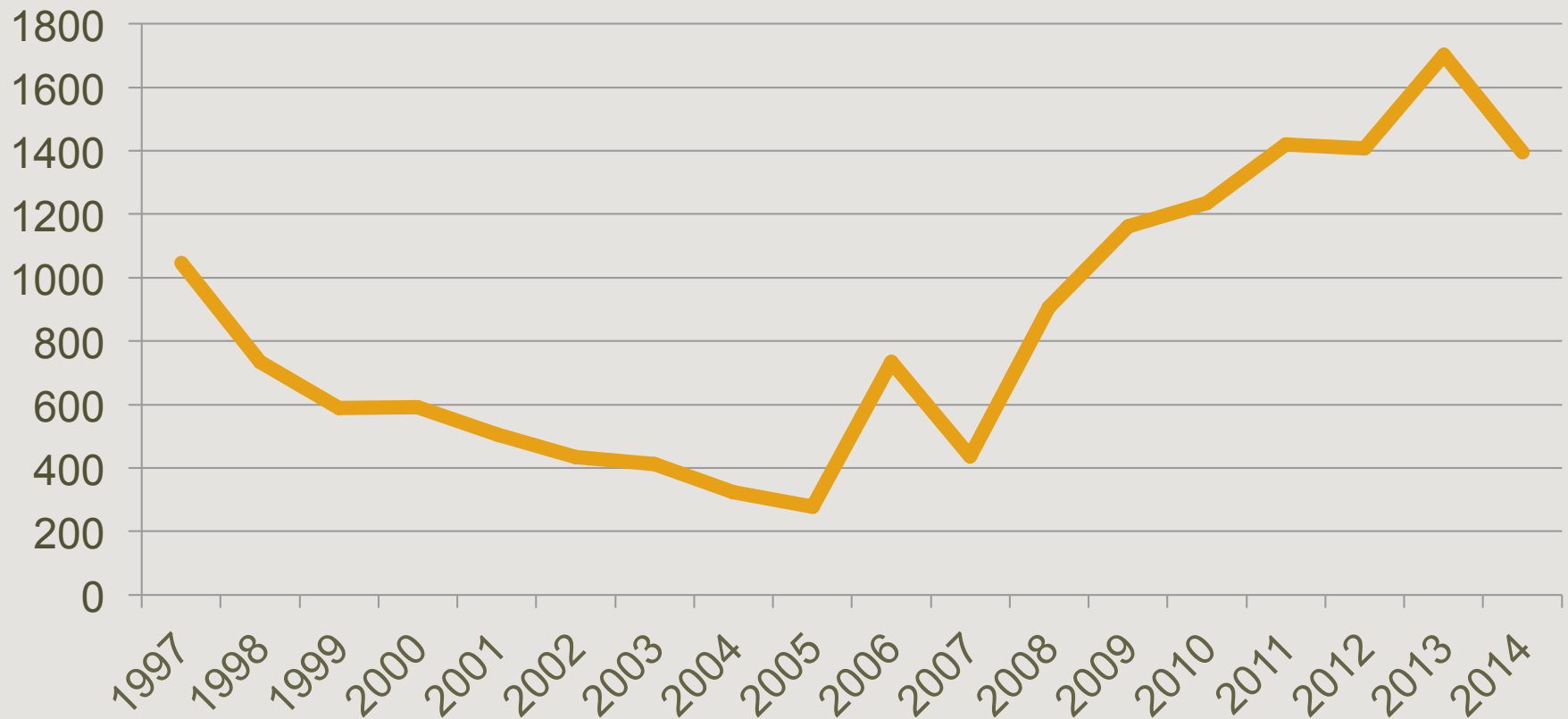
Extortion (SNSP)



Source: SNSP.

Number of Reported Kidnapping Cases (1997-2014)

Kidnappings (SNSP)

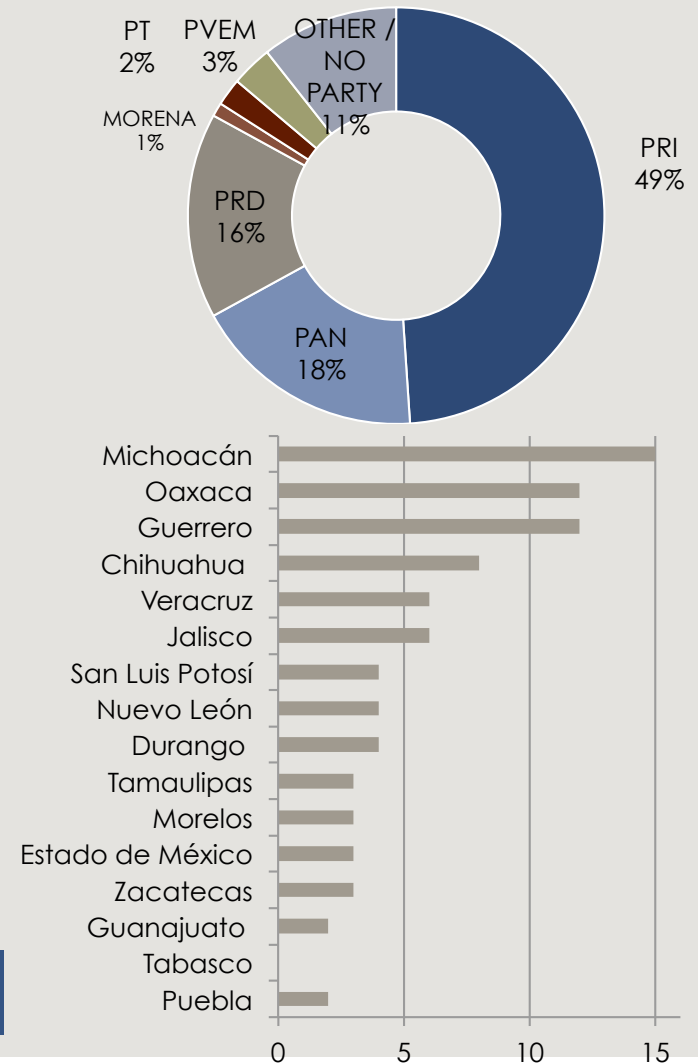


Source: SNSP.

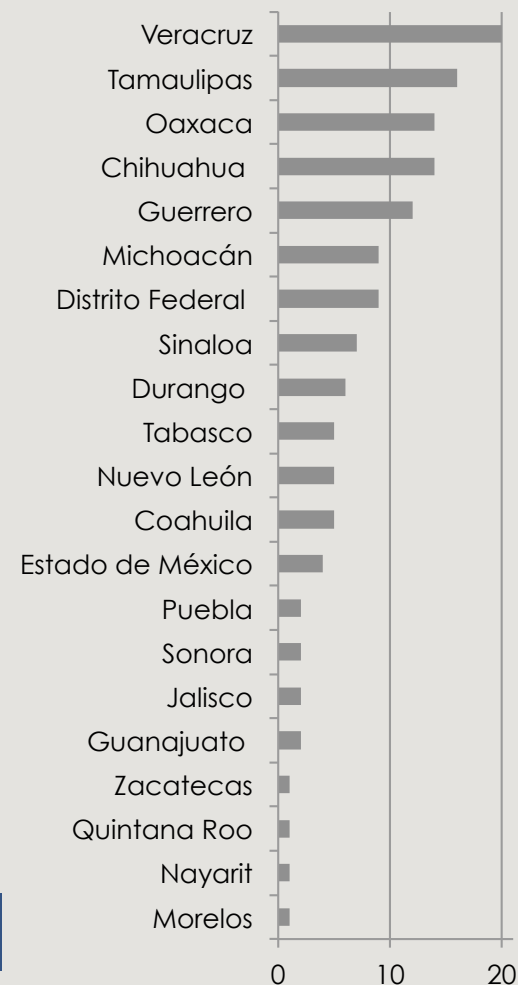
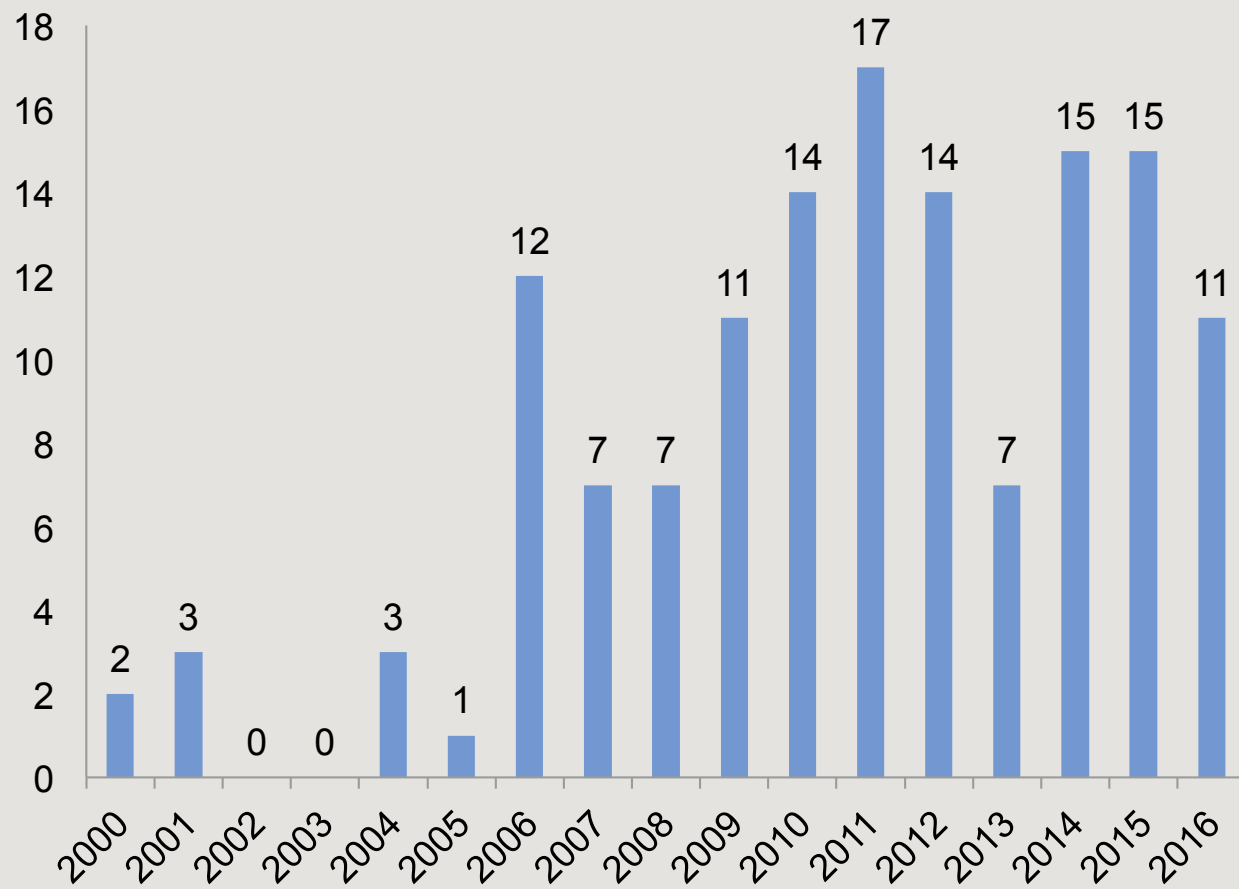
Mayors & Ex-Mayors Killed in Mexico, (2006-2016)



Source: Justice in Mexico *Memoria* dataset.



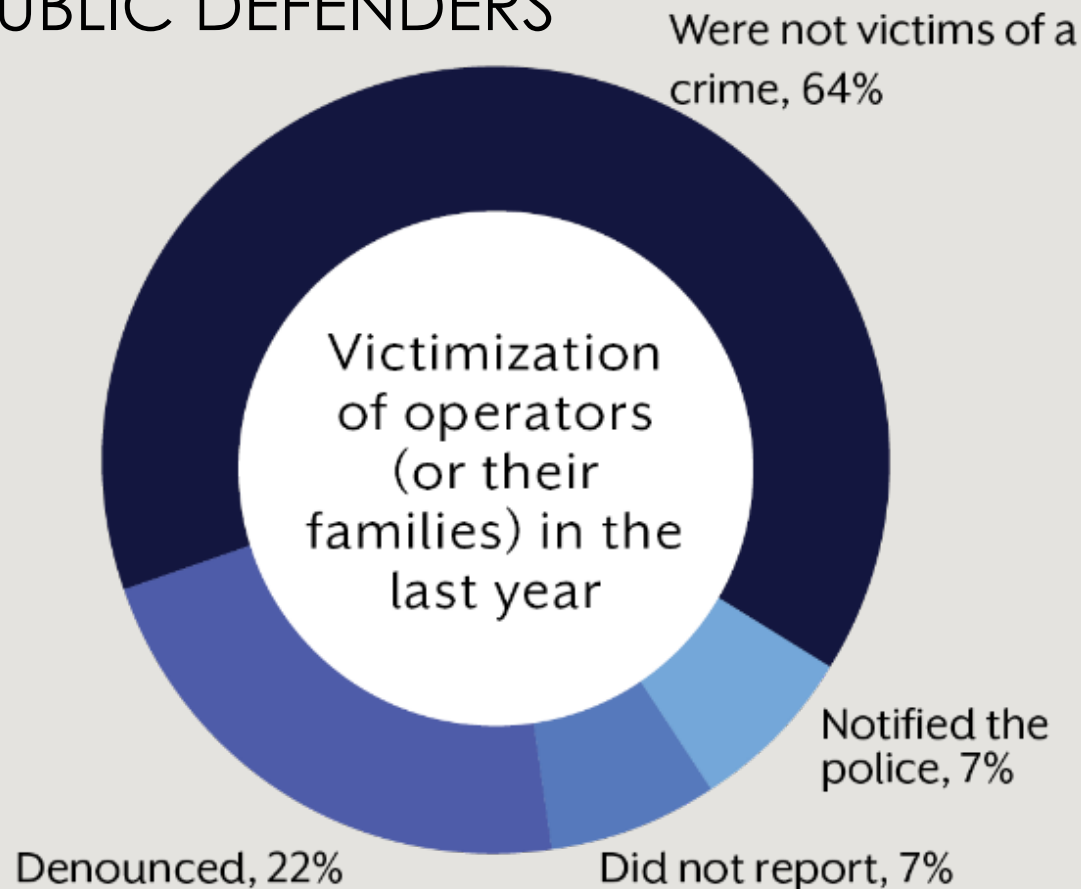
Journalists and Media-Support Workers Killed in Mexico (2006-2014)



Source: Justice in Mexico *Memoria* dataset.

2016 JUSTICE BAROMETER SURVEY

JUDGES, PROSECUTORS, & PUBLIC DEFENDERS

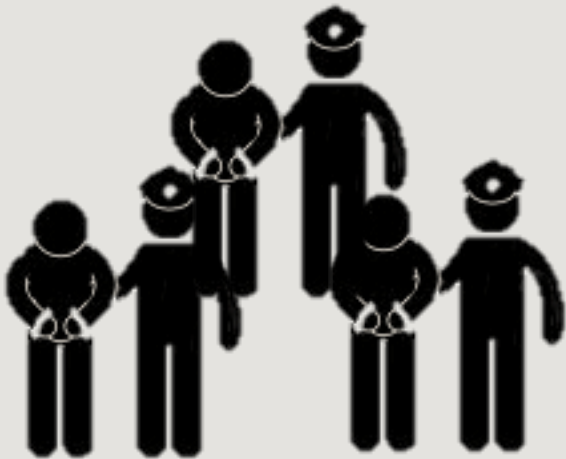


- **36%** of operators (or their families) were victims of a crime in the last year.
- **19%** of operators who were victims of a crime did not report the crime.

BLACK BOX: Operators of the criminal justice system



Public opinion surveys



Victimization surveys



Operators of the criminal justice system



Surveys of prisoners

PERCEPTIONS OF THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM



- Justiciabarámetro tracks the perceptions and opinions of Mexico's criminal justice system held by the operators of the system itself.

2009

Guadalajara
Municipal Police
(4,200+ surveyed)



79% response

2010

9 States
Judges, prosecutors, and
public defenders
(280+ surveyed)



24% response

2011

Cd. Juárez
Municipal Police
(2,400+ surveyed)



79% response

2014

Tijuana
Municipal Police
(1,900 surveyed)



89% response

2016

12 States
Judges, prosecutors, and
public defenders
(700+ surveyed)

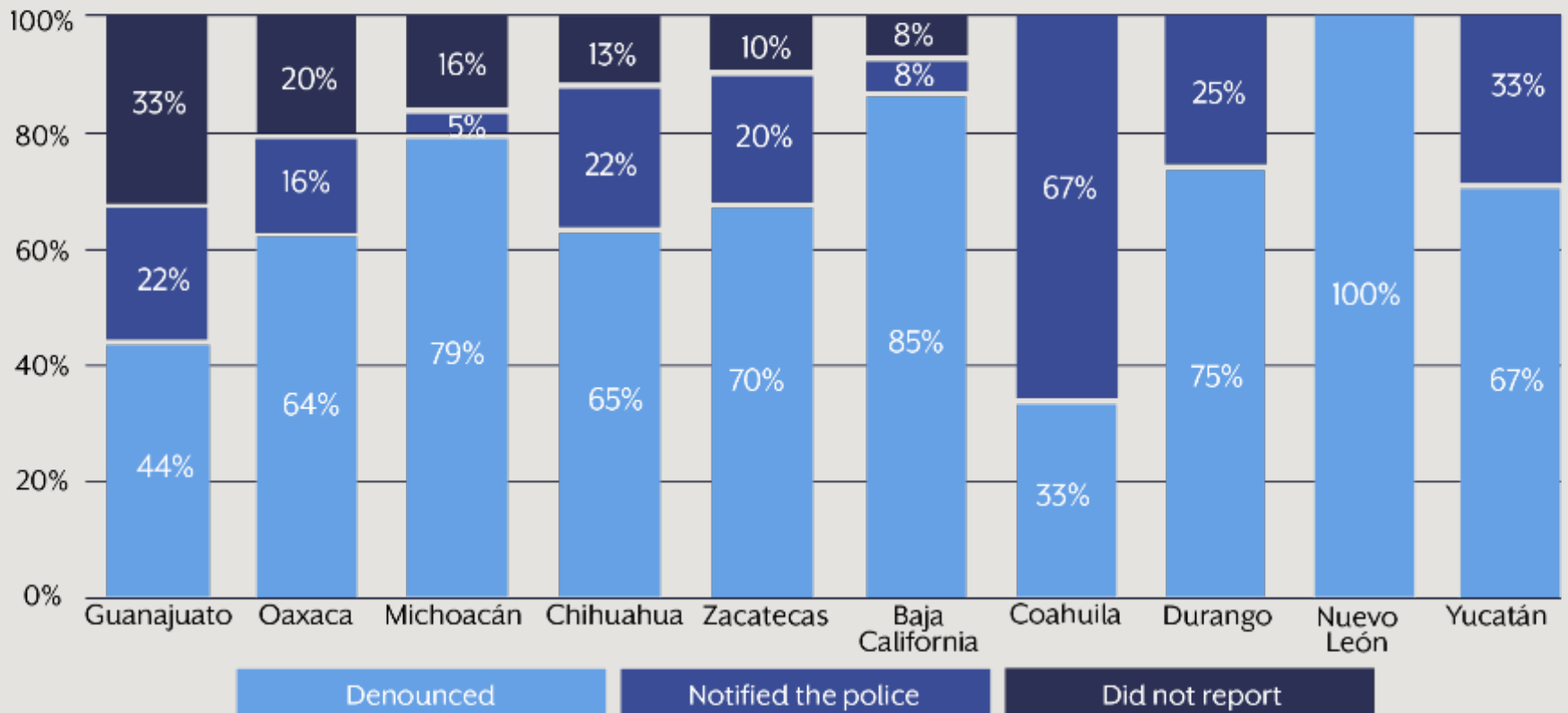


56% response

CRIME



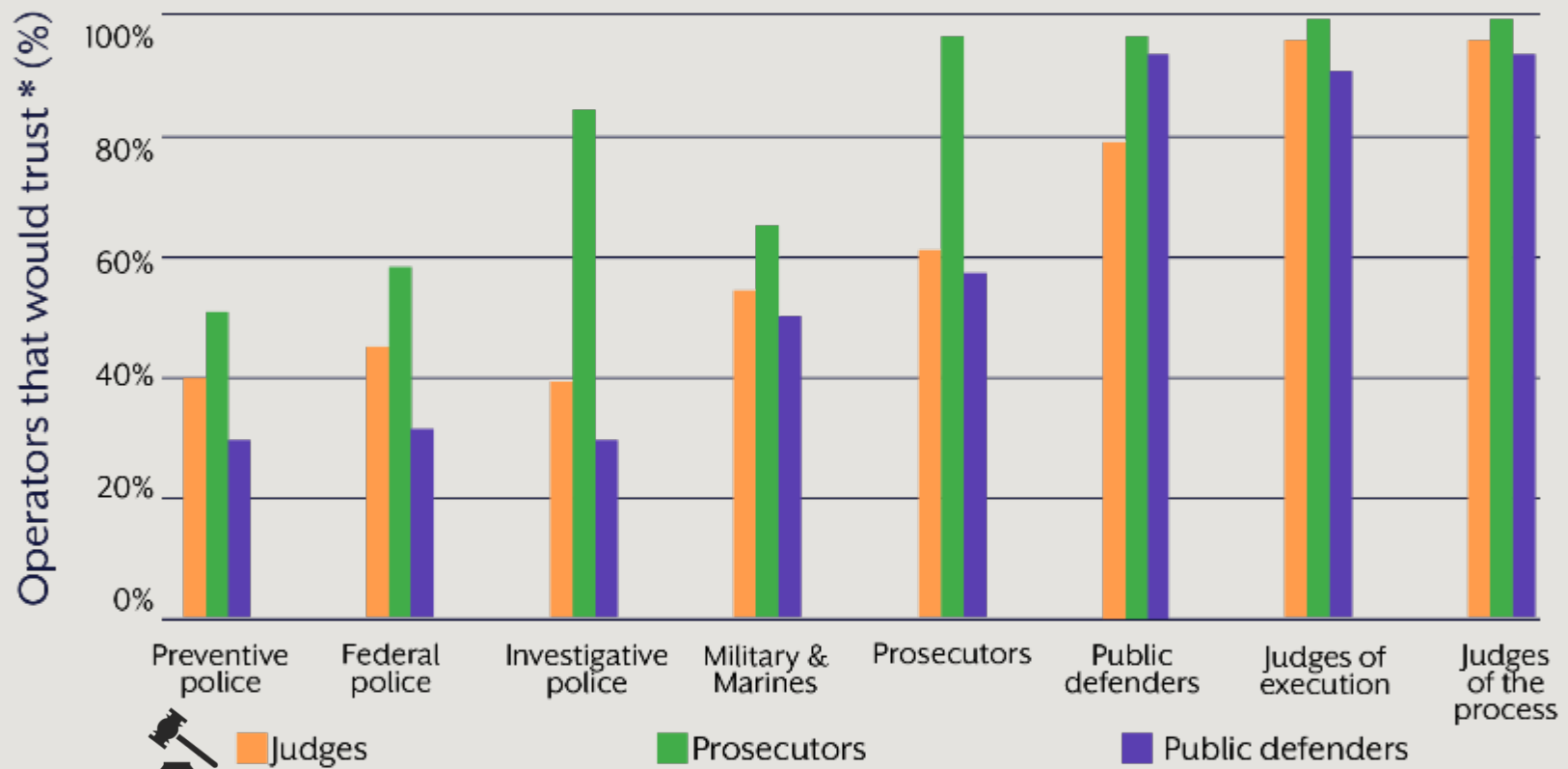
Action taken by judges who were victims of a crime (%)



33% of judges in Guanajuato and 20% in Oaxaca did not report the crime

TRUST AMONG OPERATORS OF THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

If you were arrested, would you trust the following authorities to respect your rights?



* Percentage of the operators who, on a scale of one to seven where one means "would totally mistrust" and seven means "would trust completely," responded five, six, or seven; in other words, maintain a significant level of trust.