

# CHALLENGES AND ADVANCEMENTS IN ASSESSING DATA QUALITY DURING THE GENERATION OF CRIMINAL AND JUSTICE STATISTICS IN MEXICO

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The National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI) generates statistical information and key indicators for the design, observation, and evaluation of public policies. During the generation of statistical data, various limitations have been found; furthermore, the transition from the Traditional to the New Justice System takes place, the registration of cases carried out within either System becomes more complex. In order to guarantee the quality of the data, it was necessary to create instruments that would support the standardization of measurement of the criminal phenomenon at the local, national and international levels.

## Obstacles

### Difference in classifications and catalogs

- 32 State criminal codes, whose crimes and offences, penalties and procedures differ from one State to another.

### Heterogeneity that complicates the comparability of data

- In some states, the reported information can be vastly detailed and in others rather exceedingly general.

### No standardized structure to record and systematize information

- Security and Justice Institutions do not have the capacity to registry information that reflects the situation of the criminal phenomenon within a given time frame.

### Constant enactment of laws and new information requirements

- Transition from the Traditional System to an Oral System, modernization of terms and procedures implies continuous updates and adjustments in the statistical instruments and the information required to observe criminal phenomenon.



- **32** State criminal codes
- A federal Criminal Code and about **53** special laws

## Objective:

Create instruments to establish technical specifications, that allow Security and Justice Institutions to classify the information related to the criminal phenomenon and victimization in a structured, standardized, consistent, compatible and comparable approach; that permits linking this information at all stages of the Justice Process.

Since 1990 different efforts to design statistical instruments for data collection have been done (frameworks, catalogs, classifications, and standards)

## Improvements presented in the Technical Standard for the National Classification of Crimes for Statistical Purposes (2018) compared to the previous:

- Contains, in a single list, all the crimes of the common and federal jurisdiction and incorporates new legal assets and crimes
- Includes the modalities or purposes of specific crimes have been disaggregated -adapted to the international approach-
- Adds variables regarding the characteristics of criminal behavior perpetration and the individuals involved.

## METHOD

Review of the content and legal structure of Federal and state criminal codes and Laws

Review of international classifications of Crime for Statistical Purposes (UN-ICCS)

Prepare a Draft of the Standard and present to technical and Executive committees for examination

Project adjustments

Update and modify previous Classifications

Public consultation through the SNIEG website

Review of the structural and concordance

Create manuals and Implementation Handbook

Legal procedures and approval of the INEGI Governing Board

Publication in the Official Gazette of the Federation (DOF).

## CHARACTERISTICS

Category	Variable	Class	
Attributes of the offence	1. Legal Right protected	Offence	Specific type of offence
	2. Event disaggregation	Forms of execution	Specifications
	3. Geographical characteristics	Geostatistical areas	Denominations
	4. Victim and Perpetrator disaggregation	Description of individuals concerned	Specifications

Less specific More specific

## Facilitates organizing data related to crimes from three approaches:

a territorial, a criminal justice process, and a regulatory approach.

## Structure based on a hierarchical classification:

- from the most aggregated (categories)
- to more detailed (variables) and, if necessary
- its disaggregation (class)

## CONCLUSION

INEGI has made valuable efforts to standardize the information collected of on the phenomenon of crime and justice, these works have improved the quality and comparison of data. However, further efforts are still needed to strengthen statistical tools and data quality, for example:

- Statistical instruments for data collection and The Technical Standard for the National Classification of Crimes for Statistical Purposes should continue to adapt based on legislation changes.
- To strengthen the administrative records of Security and Justice Institutions, to count on them to produce statistical information.

### Sources:

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