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**Poster:**

**Advances in the standardization of homicide data registration and classification quality in Mexico**

**Topic:** 5. Processes: editing in a process-oriented set up, standardisation and meta-data driven processes

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## **I. Introduction**

To analyze the effects on the quality and comparability of homicide data of one of the two official sources in Mexico, as a result of the methodological changes on registration, classification, and reporting of crimes and victims therein implemented, as well as to present the estimation possibilities offered by having administrative data based on approved registration standards.

In Mexico, there are. On one side, the Executive Secretariat of the National Public Security System publishes monthly information on the crimes and victims recorded in the justice system investigations. On the other, the National Statistical Office of Mexico (National Institute of Statistics and Geography, INEGI) reports data annually through the mortality statistics on deaths due to homicide following an exhaustive process. The latter collects and contrasts information on both death certificates issued by the health system and justice system records. This methodology enables to report information on the characteristics of the situation and the victims in line with the *International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems*, 10<sup>th</sup>. edition (ICD-10) by the World Health Organization (WHO).

Before 2015, the two official sources about homicides differed in the unit of measurement. The Executive Secretariat of the National Public Security System (criminal justice system) used to report only information on the crimes of homicide, as well as the number of homicides; the National Statistical Office of Mexico (National Institute of Statistics and Geography, INEGI) reports data annually through the mortality statistics on deaths due to homicide following an exhaustive process, that collects and contrasts information on both death certificates issued by the health system and justice system records.

However, it was in that year when the Executive Secretariat changed its methodology for registering, classifying, and reporting crimes and victims, based on the Technical Standard for the National Classification of Crimes of Common Law for Statistical Purposes of the National Statistical Office (INEGI). By doing so, this agency reports a more comprehensive range of crime types and provides information about the victims.

## **II. Standardization of homicide data registration and classification quality**

### **A. Two official sources**

In Mexico, homicide information is available on both criminal justice and public health systems. On one side, the Executive Secretariat of the National Public Security System publishes monthly information on the crimes and victims recorded in the justice system investigations. On the other, the National Statistical Office of Mexico (National Institute of Statistics and Geography, INEGI) reports data annually through the mortality statistics on deaths due to homicide following an exhaustive process. The latter collects and

contrasts information on both death certificates issued by the health system and justice system records. This methodology enables to report information on the characteristics of the situation and the victims in line with the *International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems*, 10<sup>th</sup>. edition (ICD-10) by the World Health Organization (WHO).

Before 2015, these figures differed in the unit of measurement. The Executive Secretariat used to report only information on the crimes of homicide, as well as the number of homicides, recorded in cases of investigation (in Mexico they are called previous investigations or investigation folders) reported by the Attorney General's Office and Attorney General's offices of the federal entities.

In October 2018, the Technical Standard for the National Classification of Crimes of Common Law for Statistical Purposes of the National Statistical Office (INEGI), with the aim of establishing the technical specifications, for statistical purposes, to registering, classifying, and reporting crimes and victims, the administrative records about crimes. The new classification allows a structured, standardized, consistent, compatible and comparable registry in accordance with the provisions of the International Classification of Crimes for Statistical Purposes (ICCS).

This Classification was the base for, as of 2014, the Executive Secretariat or preparing and publishing administrative homicide records, developed and implemented a new methodology for the registration and classification of crimes and victims for statistical purposes. This new methodology was applied since 2015 for the executive secretariat of the national public security system.

With this methodology, the Executive Secretariat reports a more comprehensive range of crime types and provides both the information of homicide crimes, which were previously reported, and information about the victims by sex and age groups.

The new methodology extends the categories of crimes from 42 to 82 crimes grouped into nine levels according to the legal assets affected:

1. Life and bodily integrity
2. Personal freedom
3. Freedom and sexual security
4. Heritage
5. The family
6. The society
7. Other legal assets affected

A new recruitment instrument was also implemented that assumes greater internal consistency when specifying the characteristics of the incidents, regardless of the legal definitions established in each local legislation, by means of an equivalence of the crimes based on the criminal conduct, with the objective of homologate, as far as possible, the registrations between the states.<sup>1</sup>

This change makes it possible to directly compare the information of homicide victims with the data of homicides deaths reported by the National Statistical Office of Mexico from the health system.

## **B. Advantages of the new classification**

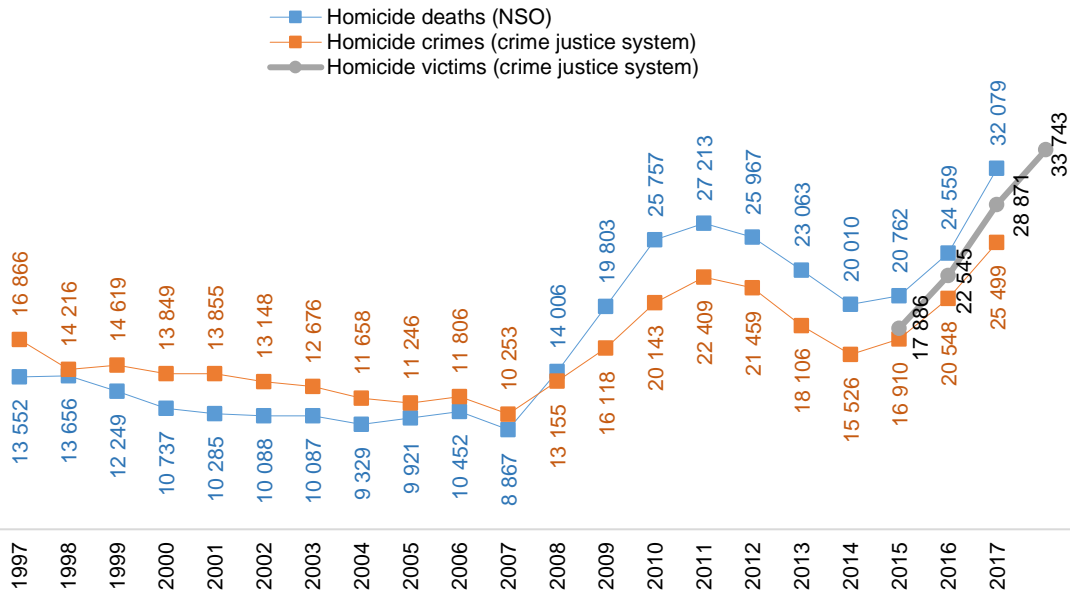
By homologizing the criteria for registering crimes and beginning to register victim information, the difference between public safety system data and National Statistical Office of Mexico health records decreased. With this change the correlation coefficient increased from 0.9936, using the information of homicide crimes, to 0.9978 using the information of homicide victims (Graph 1).

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<sup>1</sup> Executive Secretariat of the National Public Security System. Instrument for the Registration, Classification and Report of Crimes and Victims CNSP / 38/15. Filling manual. (Mexico, 2018)

**Homicide deaths and homicide crimes per year**  
Annual series 1997 to 2017

Graph 1

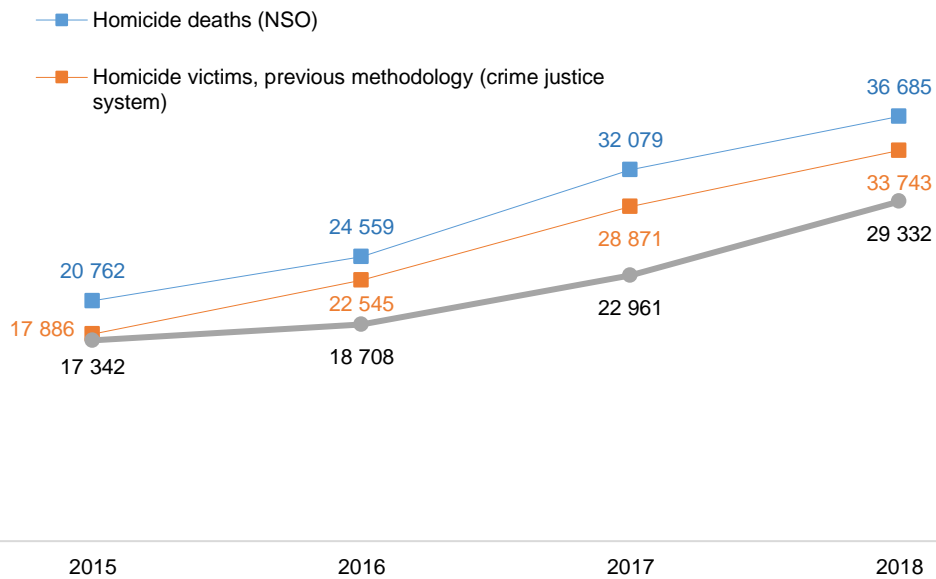


Source: INEGI. Mortality statistics.  
SESNP. Report of crime incidence as of December 2017 - previous methodology  
SESNP. Report of crime incidence as of December 2019.

Because the SESNSP presents monthly information, it is possible to have an advanced estimate of the total homicides that are registered in the country, since approximately the public security system has a sub-registration of 2760 homicide victims (average) annually, if compared with the health figures, but which has declined from the change in registration methodology (Graph 2). Similarly, the years that the executive secretariat reported victim information using the above methodology had a correlation coefficient 0.9953, that is less than the one recorded with the victim data of the new methodology (0.9978).

**Homicide deaths and homicide victims per year**  
Annual series 2015 a 2018

Graph 2



Source: INEGI. Mortality statistics.  
SESNP. Report of crime incidence as of December 2019.  
SESNP. Victims, delictava incidence of the common jurisdiction, previous methodology

As observed, these changes allowed the comparability of the figures offered by the two sources of information. Furthermore, the monthly opportunity of Executive Secretariat's data has two advantages for the figures of the National Statistics Office. First, it is a tool to validate the information captured through the justice system. Second, it enables to precise estimates on the number of deaths that will take place within a year.