

Gun Violence in the Americas

Focus: Mexico

March 24, 2020

Moderator



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GUN VIOLENCE IN THE AMERICAS

FOCUS: MEXICO

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GUN VIOLENCE:

FOCUS ON MEXICO, FOCUS ON THE GUN

The gun's licit and illicit movement from the US to Mexico

GUN VIOLENCE AND PUBLIC HEALTH SCIENCE

- High risk groups: youth, women
- Agent/vehicle: bullets/guns
- Environment: communities in Mexico

PUBLIC HEALTH APPROACH TO GUN VIOLENCE

- *Malaria*

- Agent: biologic: vivax
- Vector: Mosquito
- Environment: Water
- Host: children

- *Gun shot wound*

- Agent: physical: kinetic energy/bullets
- Vector/Vehicle: Gun
- Environment: Homes, parks, streets, dealers, communities
- Host: home owner, youth, women



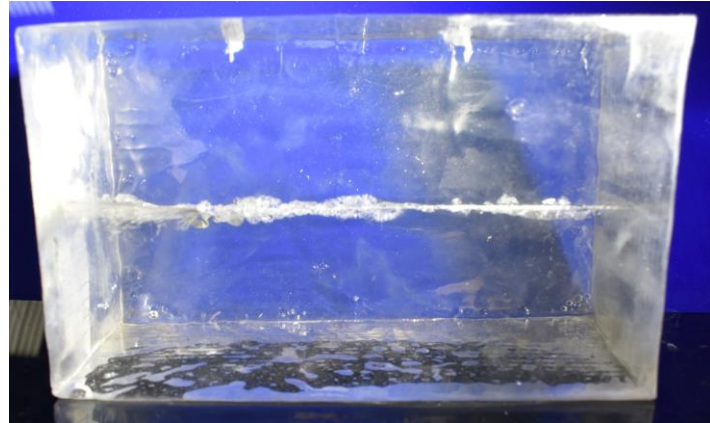
5.56 NATO



5.56 NATO



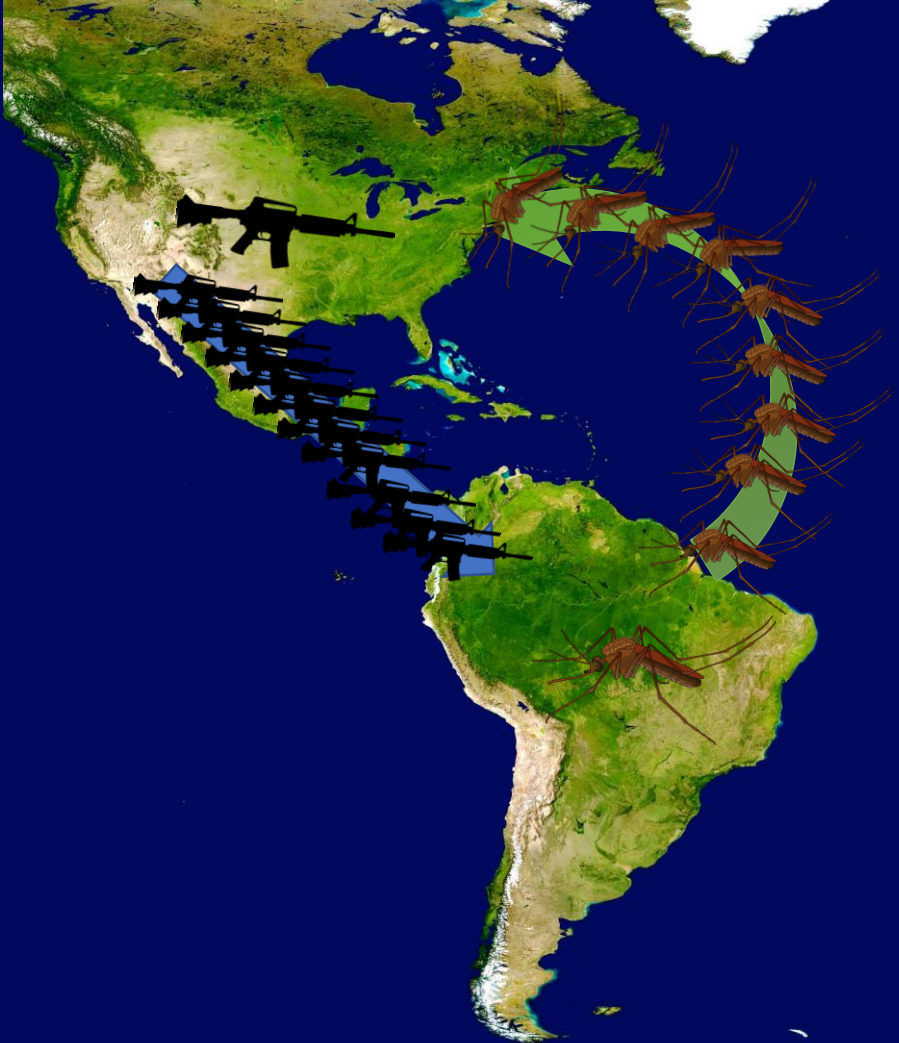
Lateral view. Bullet travelled right to left.

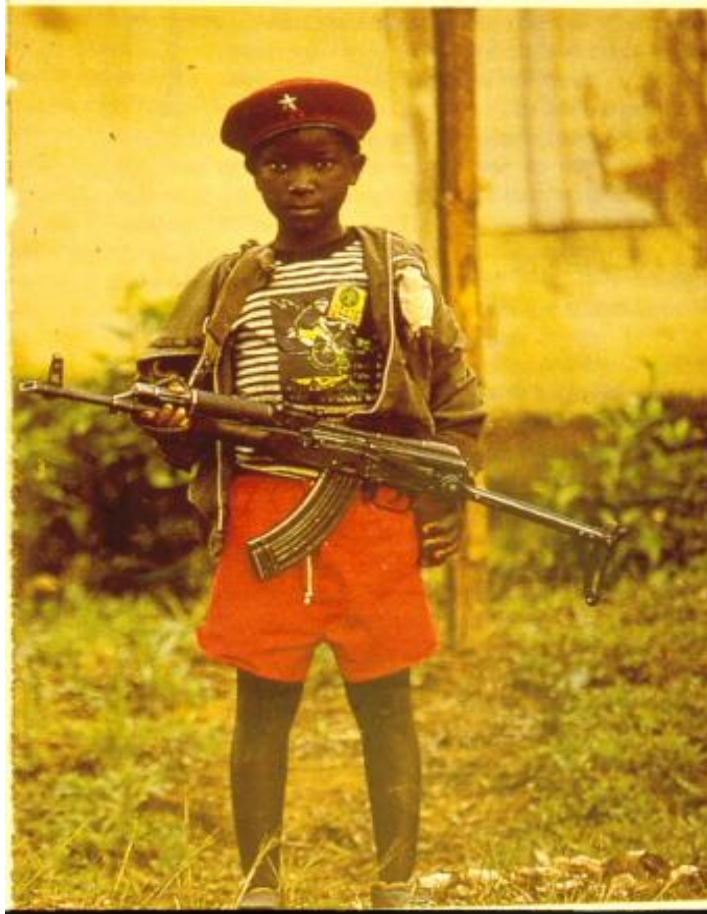


Top view. Bullet travelled right to left.

FOCUS: MEXICO, GUNS, PUBLIC HEALTH

- Policies, programs
- Research
- Leadership of Civil Society







CMDPDH

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Promoción de los Derechos Humanos

Militarization, gun violence and human rights abuses in Mexico

Natalia Báez Zamudio

Researcher, CMDPDH



The war on drugs

“an all-out war to free Mexico from the clutches of organized crime, violence and drugs, and mainly, to prevent our youth falling into the clutches of addiction” (Felipe Calderón, 2006)

- ▶ Increased militarization of public security to combat drug trafficking
- ▶ Michoacán Joint Operation (2006)
- ▶ Merida Initiative (2008)
- ▶ Internal Security Law (2017)
- ▶ National Guard (2019)
- ▶ Increased violence and human rights crisis



A photograph of National Guard soldiers in full combat gear, including helmets and tactical vests, standing on the back of a white pickup truck. The truck is parked on a paved road. The soldiers are looking towards the right. The background shows a clear blue sky and a yellow curb.

NATIONAL GUARD

- ▶ Between July and December 2019 74,437 National Guard soldiers have been deployed for law enforcement.
- ▶ The National Guard is staffed with military, naval and federal police forces.



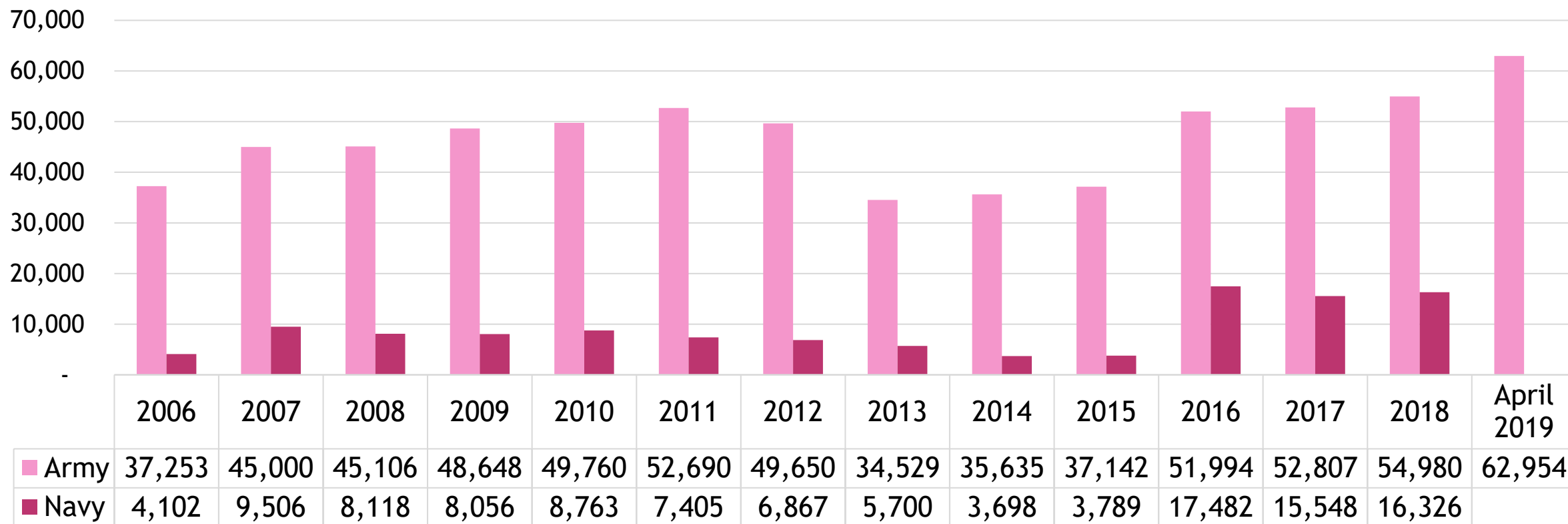
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► Between 2006 and 2019:

Deployment of **658,148** army and **115,360** navy soldiers in support of police to combat drug trafficking.

Military deployment in public security



“[Mexico] being a country that is not in the middle of a conflict, the figures are simply shocking”

Former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, 2016

- ▶ 99.3% of crimes are not investigated
- ▶ Mexico is the country Latin America with the highest impunity rate
- ▶ #1 importer of US firearms in Latin America
- ▶ Murders are the leading cause of death among young people and adults between 15 and 44 years of age



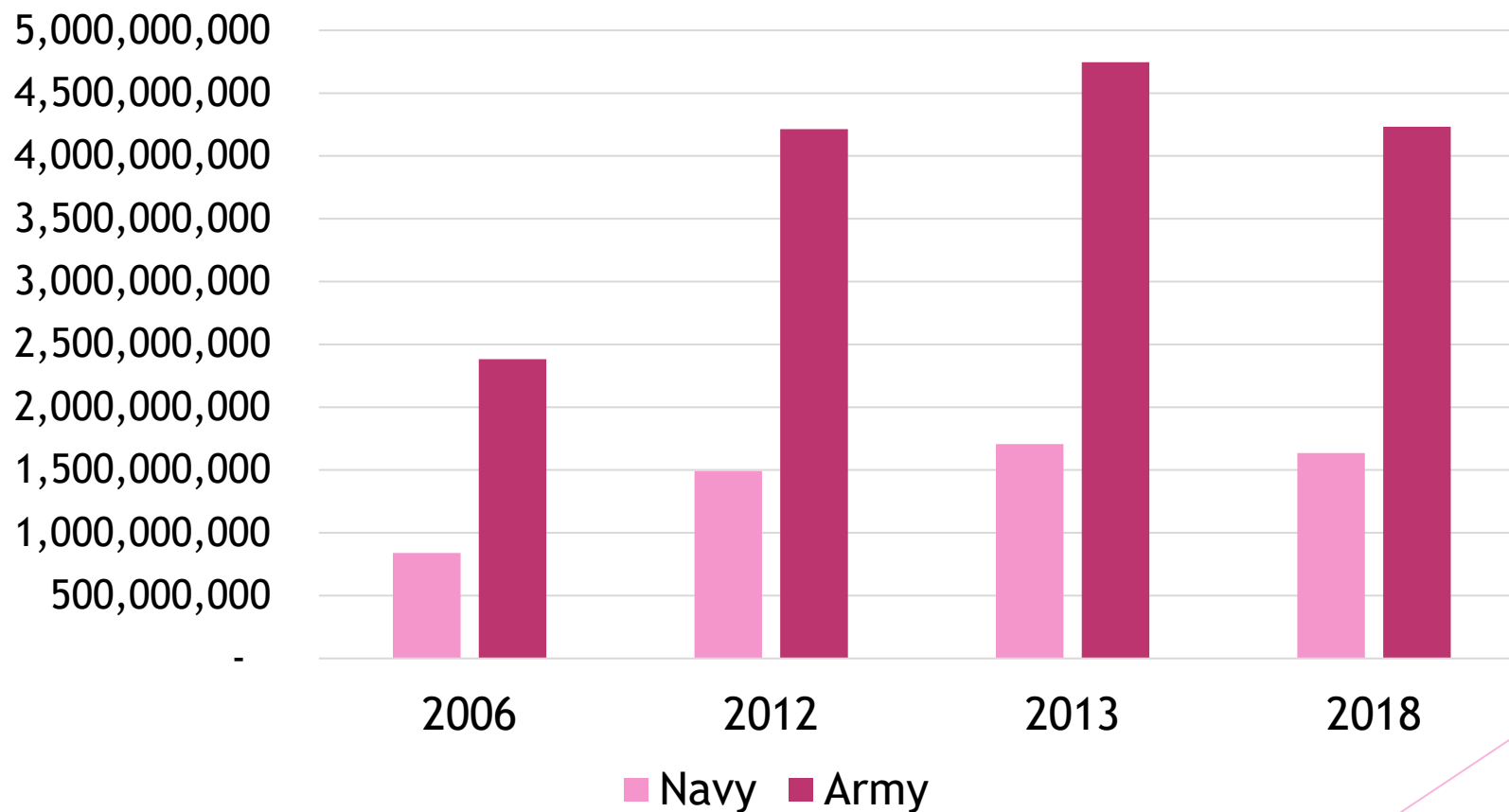


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The role of militarization

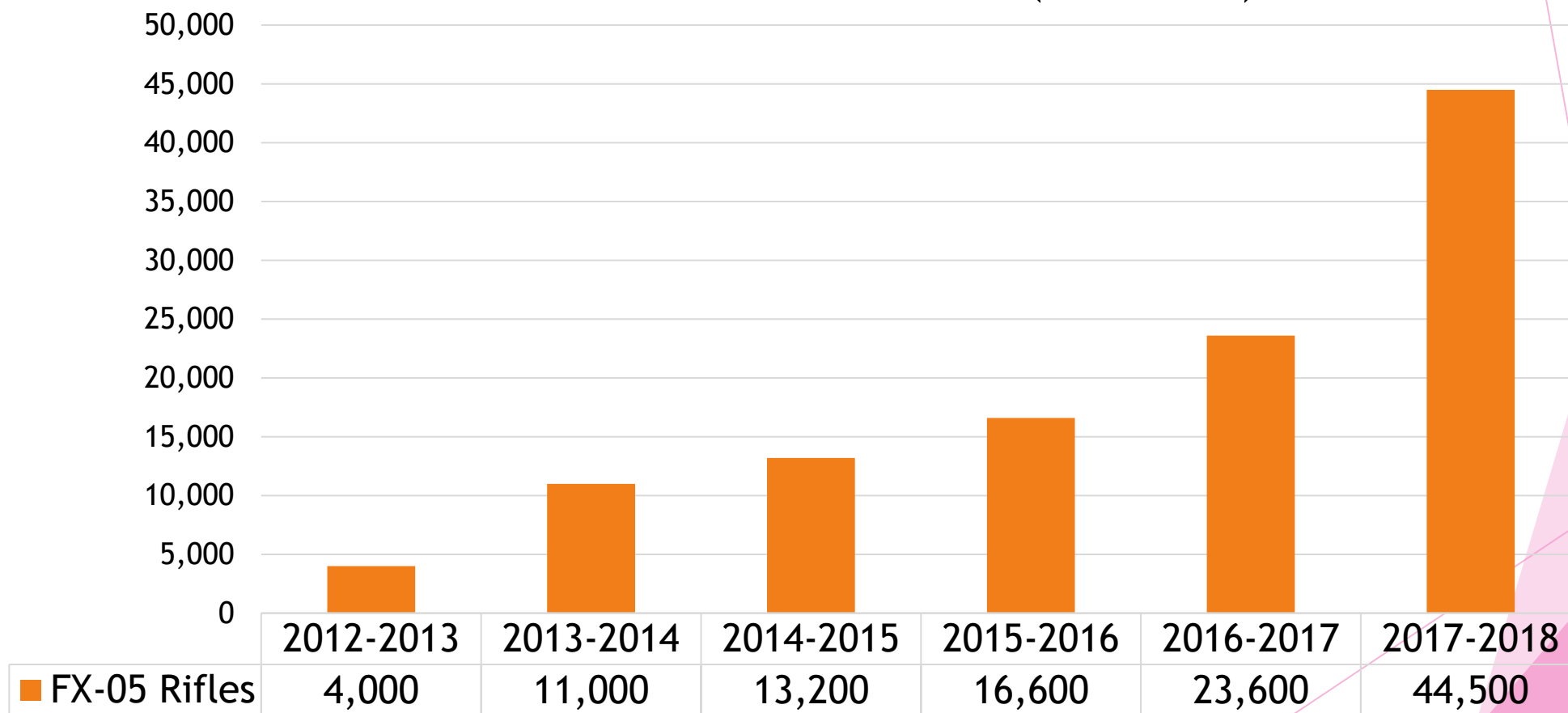
Budget for Mexican armed forces in US dollars





The role of militarization

Production of firearms in Mexico (2012-2018)



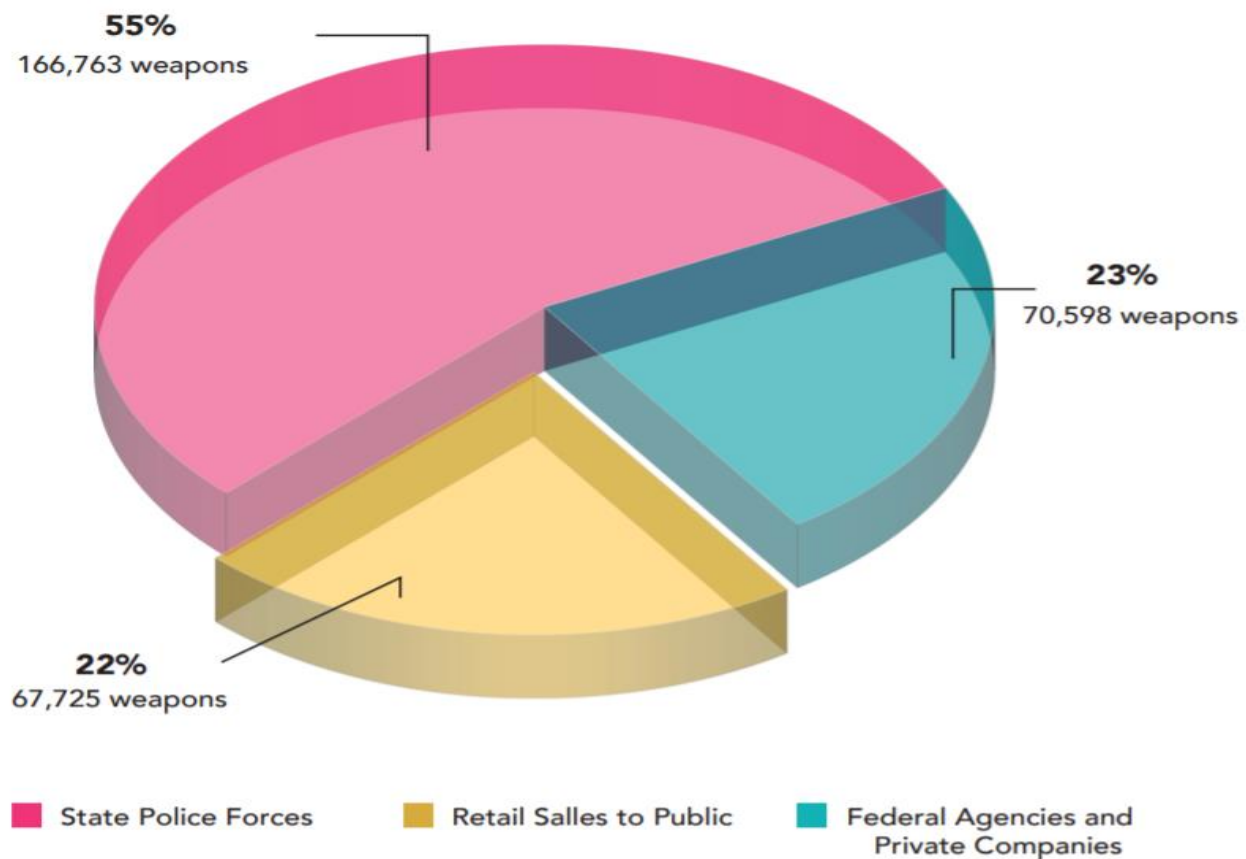


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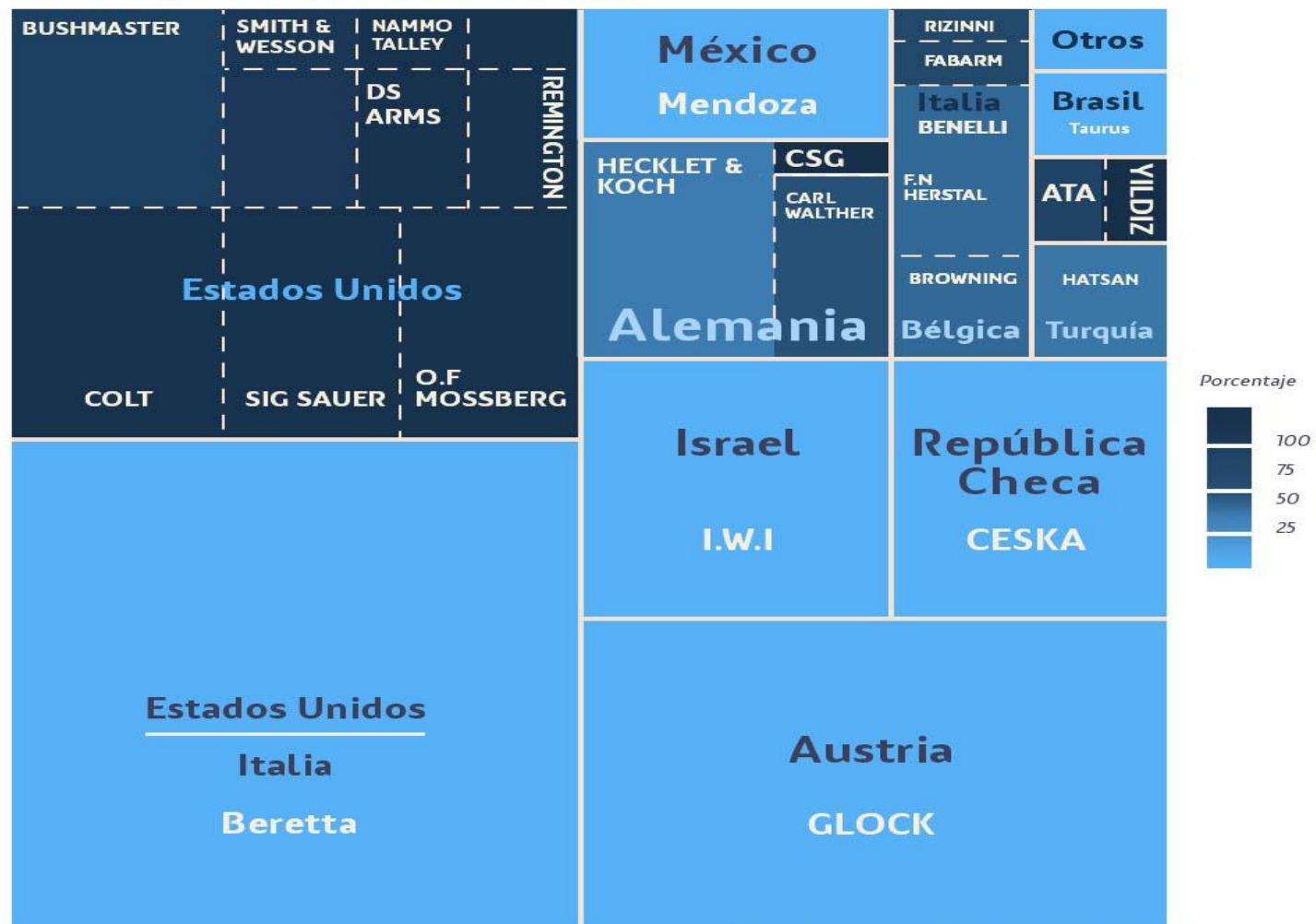
The role of militarization

Firearm acquisitions by type of end user 2010-2016





Armas adquiridas por la SEDENA entre 2007 y 2017 Porcentaje de compras por marcas y país

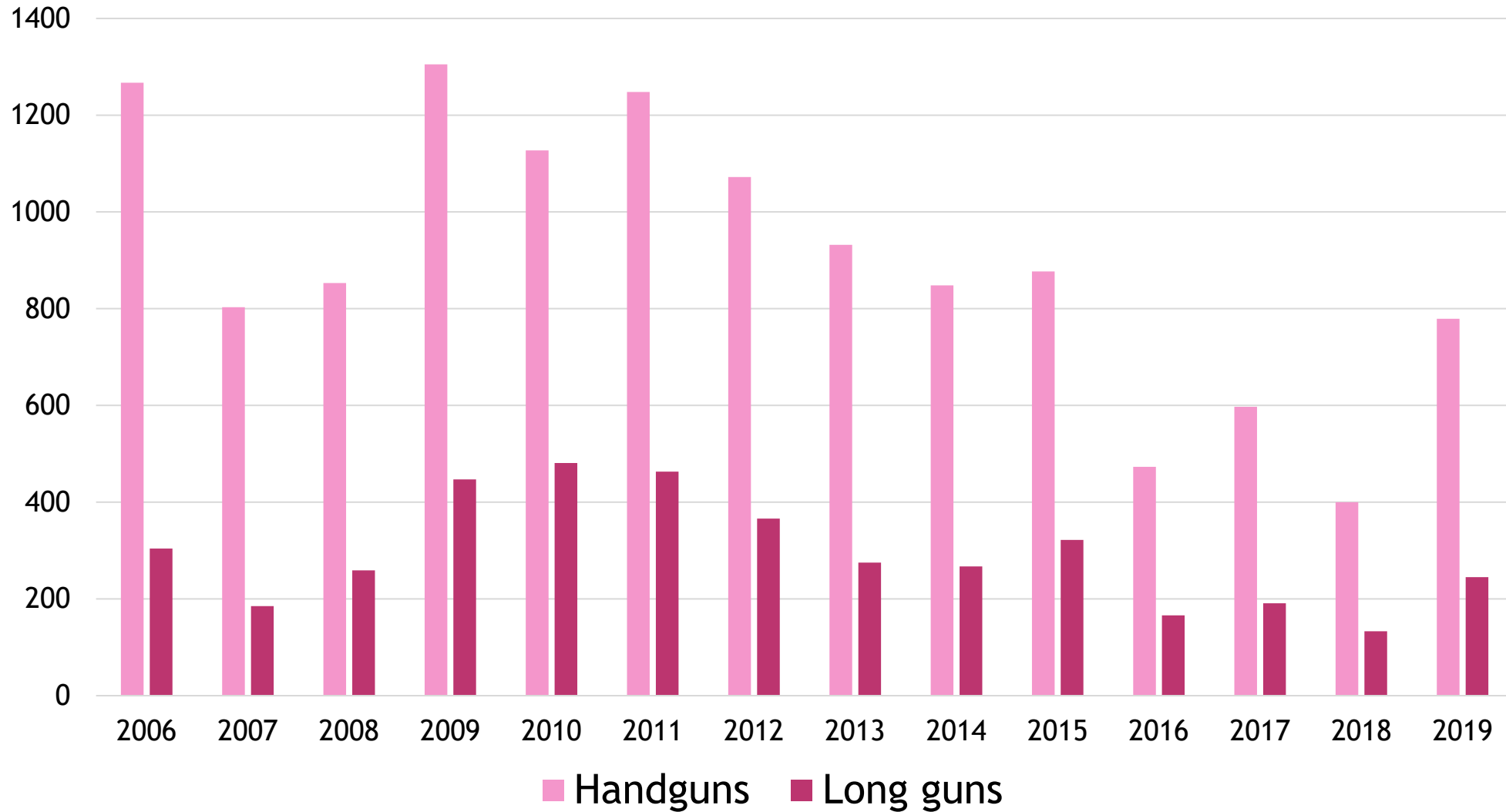




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Weapons lost and stolen from police

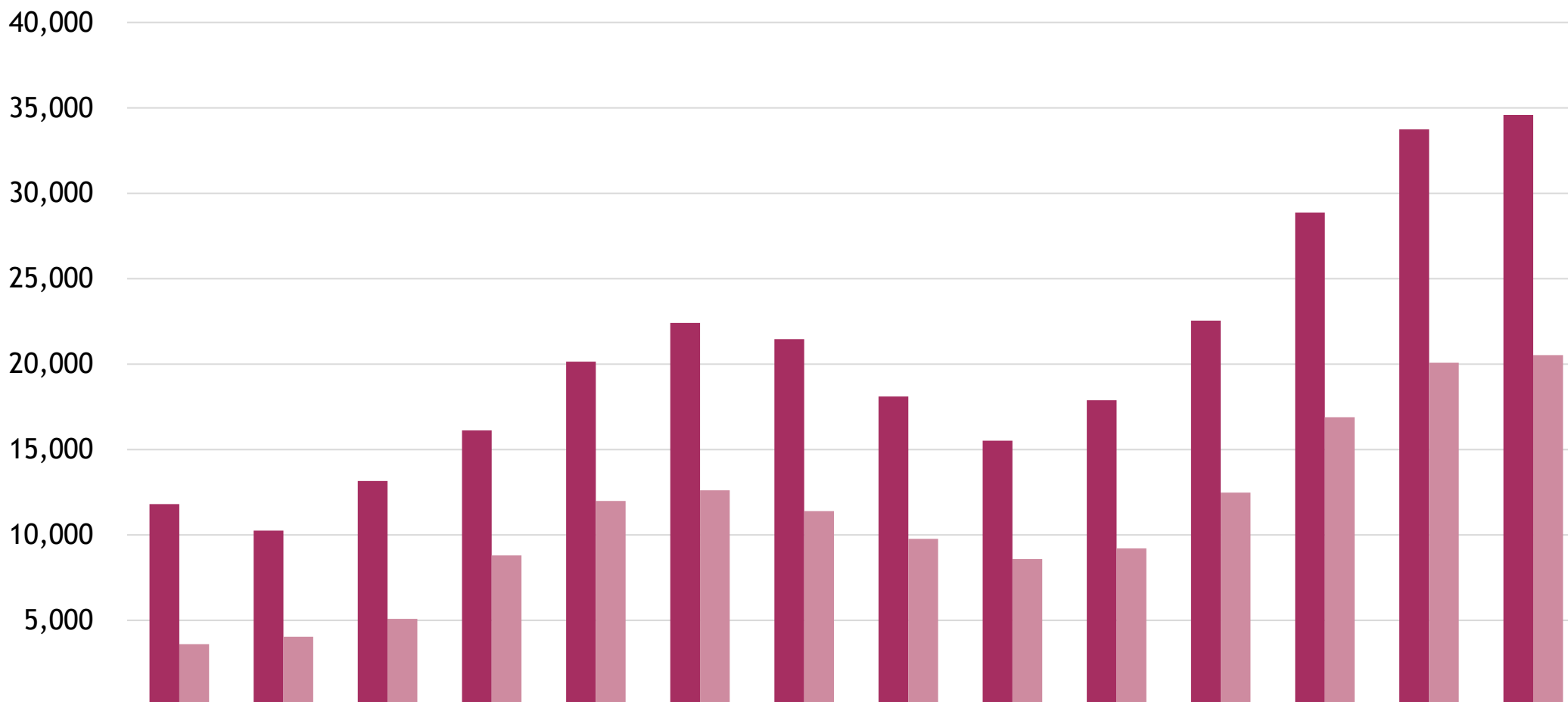




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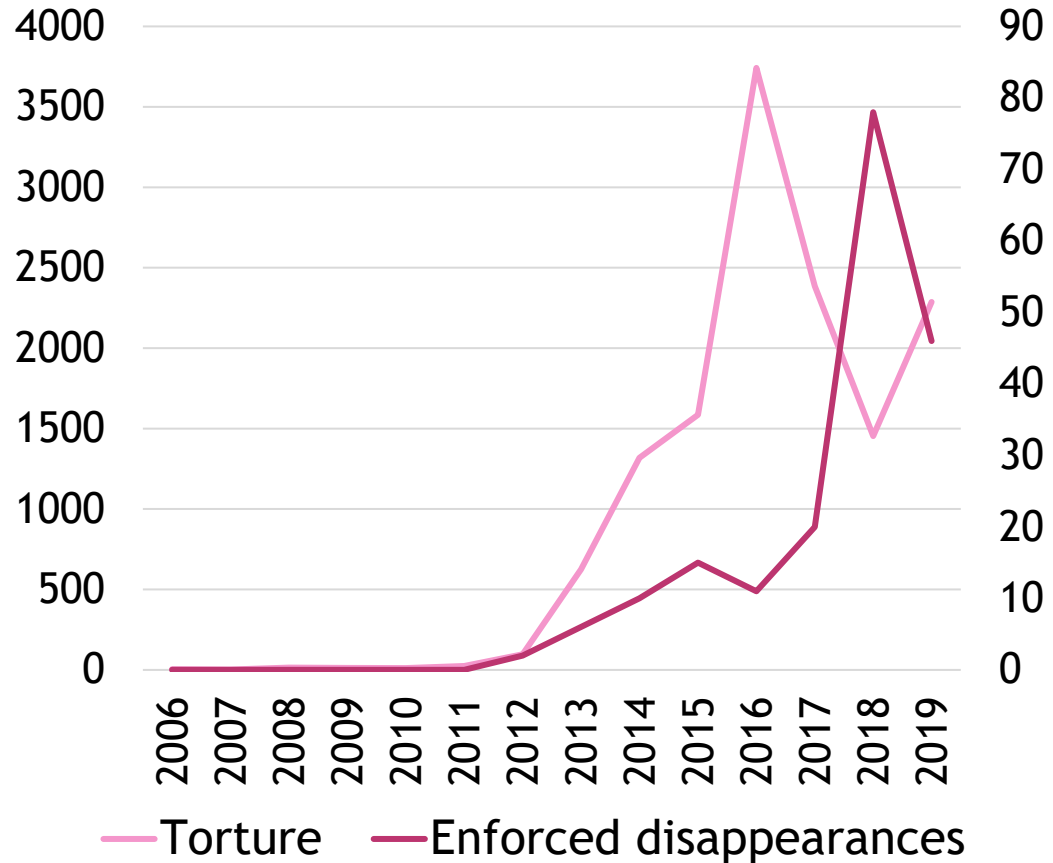
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Homicides



	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
■ Homicides	11,806	10,253	13,155	16,118	20,143	22,409	21,459	18,106	15,520	17,886	22,545	28,871	33,743	34,582
■ Gun Homicides	3,610	4,040	5,085	8,804	11,987	12,615	11,391	9,774	8,589	9,210	12,478	16,891	20,078	20,529

Human rights related criminal investigations

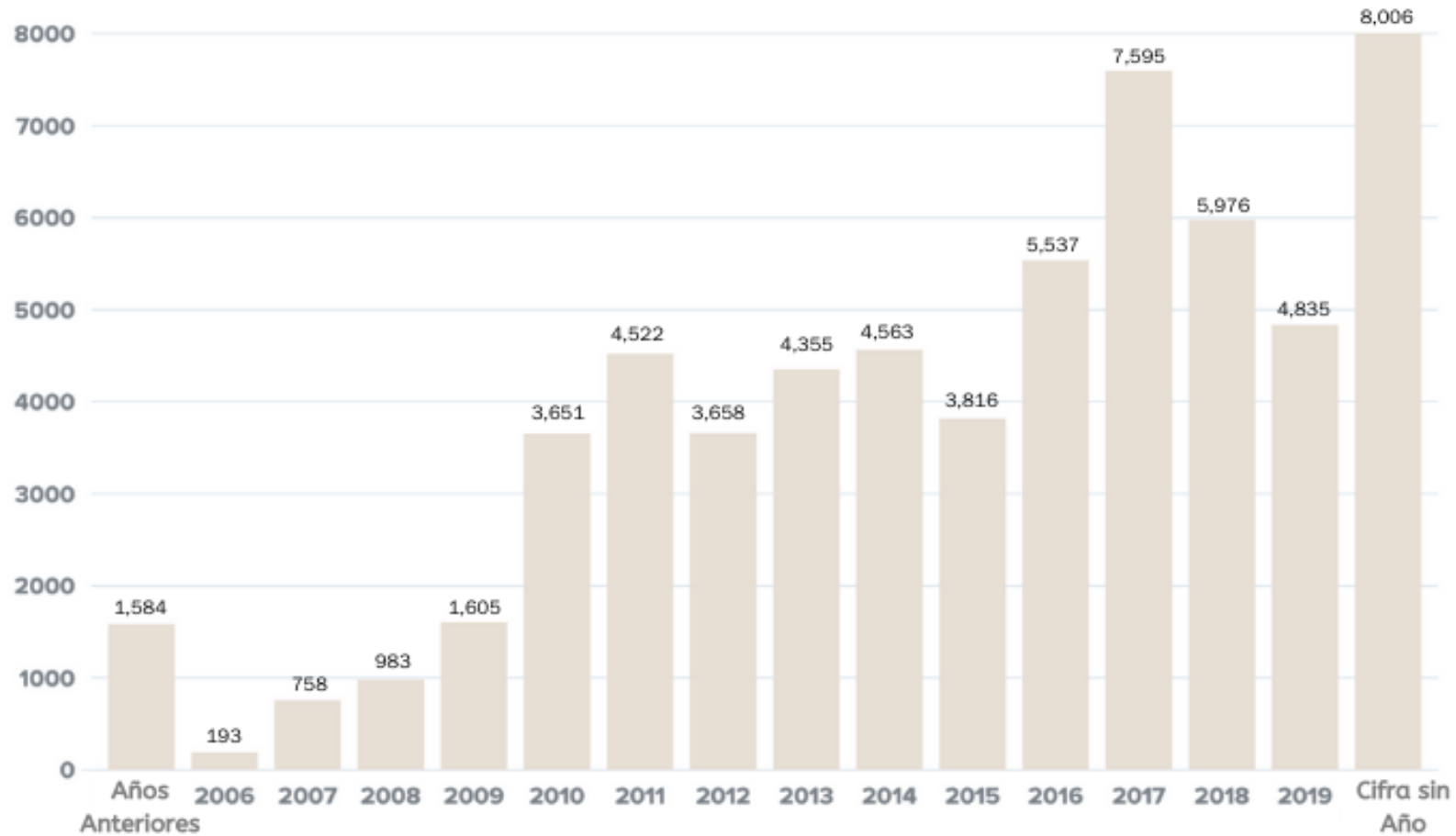


- ▶ At least 13,000 people have been subjected to torture and ill-treatment
 - ▶ 18 condemnatory court rulings
- ▶ 60,000 forcibly disappeared persons
 - ▶ 1,144 criminal investigations
 - ▶ 13 condemnatory court rulings

Missing persons per year

Personas Desaparecidas: Cada Año

por Registro Nacional de Personas Desaparecidas y No Localizadas





Tahuato Massacre 2015

- ▶ Federal police “confrontation” with armed groups (allegedly Jalisco Nueva Generación Cartel)
- ▶ excessive use of force
- ▶ manipulation of evidence
- ▶ torture and ill-treatment of civilians

Tlatlaya Massacre 2014

- ▶ Army confrontation with armed groups
- ▶ Alteration of crime scene
- ▶ 12 to 15 arbitrary executions
- ▶ Torture



Deprivation of life in the context of military intervention in law enforcement has no consequences



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How can we confront the violence crisis?

- ▶ Demilitarize public security
- ▶ End the Merida Initiative
- ▶ Reduce legal firearms exports to Mexico to levels before the war on drugs
 - ▶ High risk of diversion
- ▶ Criteria for end users of legally exported firearms
 - ▶ Efficient tracing mechanisms from producers to end users



YouTube

Buscar



INICIAR SESIÓN



and that use violence as their main method of persuasion.



0:25 / 3:45





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THANK YOU!

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Gun Violence Prevention in Central America and Mexico

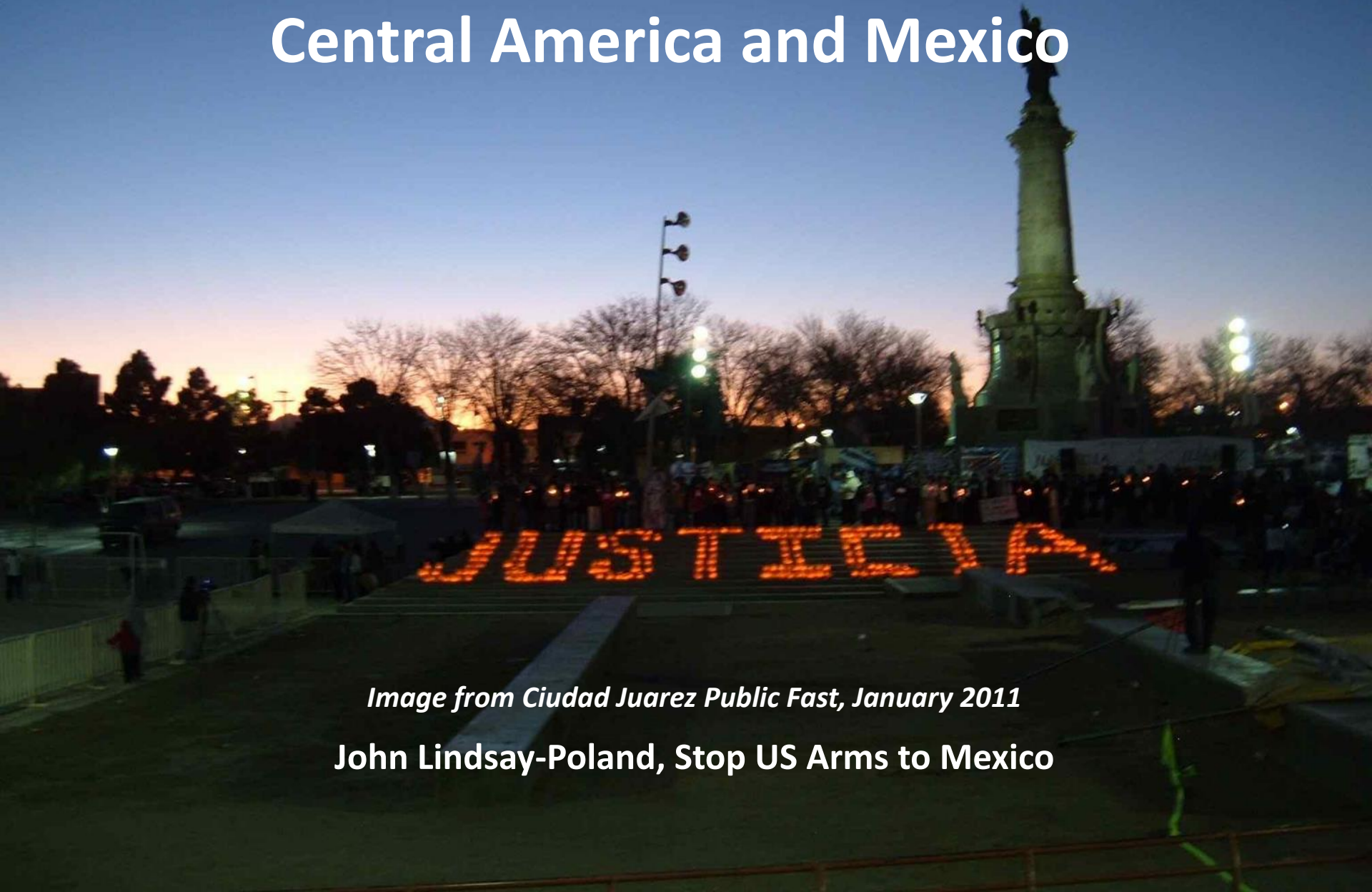


Image from Ciudad Juarez Public Fast, January 2011

John Lindsay-Poland, Stop US Arms to Mexico

How do we understand violence prevention and public health? For whom?



Illegal Gun Traffic: Prohibited but Easy

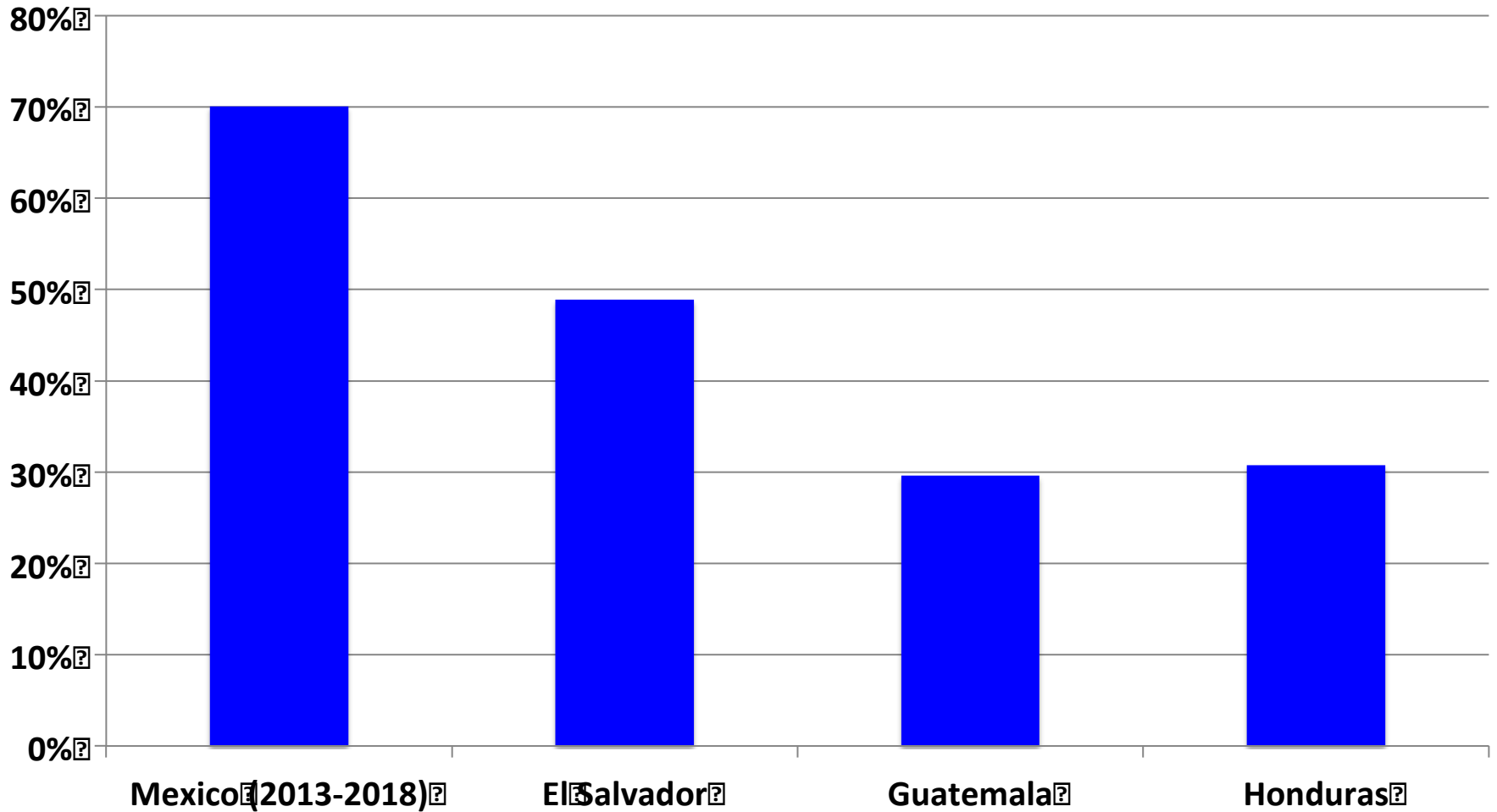




About 180,000 cars and trucks cross from the United States to Mexico *every day*.

Guns Trafficked to Central America and Mexico

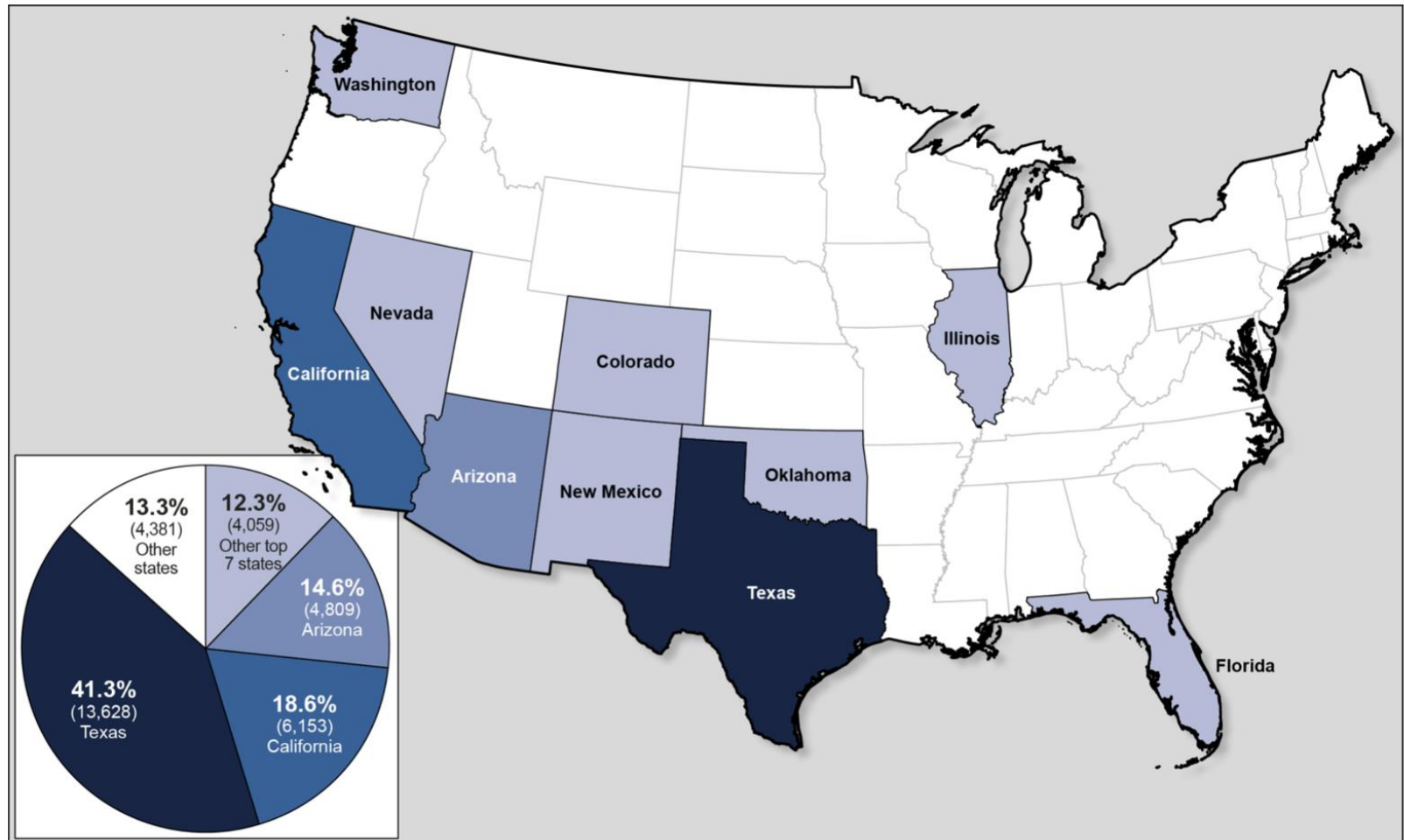
Percentage of U.S.-Sourced Guns Recovered and Traced, 2014-2018



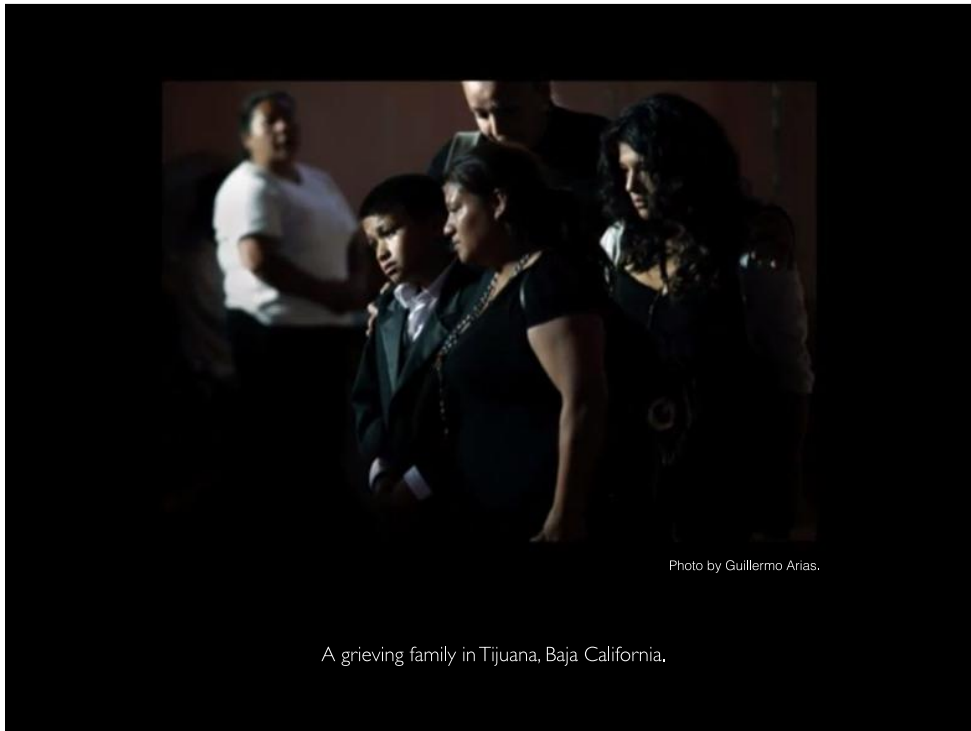
Source: Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives

Where in the U.S. do guns recovered in Mexico come from?

Figure 5: Top Source States for Firearms Seized in Mexico of U.S. Origin and Numbers Seized, 2009-2014



U.S. Assault Weapons in Mexico...



LAS MÁS USADAS

➤ Según lo decomisado por la Procuraduría General de la República a la delincuencia organizada, 72.7 por ciento de las armas son largas.



Fuente: PGR | Información: Ignacio Alzaga | Gráfico: Moisés Butze



**Texas gun shows:
No background
check needed on
assault rifle sales**



Assault weapons at
“Suppressed Tactical
Solutions” gun shop in
Edinburg, TX.

Note 50-caliber gun in
corner.

Edinburg, town of 75,000,
has 20 licensed firearm
dealers. 15 miles to border

Southwest Hay & Feed, Mission, TX

(3 miles to border, 2 blocks to a high school)



“Essential activities”?



COVID19 panic: run on U.S. guns



Line at gun store in Culver City, California, February 2020

High-capacity ammunition magazines:

Over 112,000 recovered in Mexico since 2011

House should vote on H.R. 1186 to ban high-cap mags



Guns and ammo in Academy Sports, Laredo, Texas

Assault rifle bullets, box of 420.
“American Made * Military Grade”



Two blocks from Mexico border.
Still open as “essential business”

Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala have among highest gun homicide rates in world

Mexico now a transit country due to deterioration in the “northern triangle.”



Weapons push Central Americans and other migrants seeking refuge toward the northern border of Mexico



HOMICIDE CLUSTERS IN MEXICO FROM MAY 2018 TO OCTOBER 2018



Mexican National Guard: formed in 2019 'to fight organized crime,' then tasked to stop migrants



Mexican migration agent detaining family in Chiapas, April 2019

Exposing migrants to danger

- “Remain in Mexico” program (MPP)
- “Safe third country” agreements
- “Metering” asylum applications
- Excluding gang violence and domestic violence as bases for granting asylum

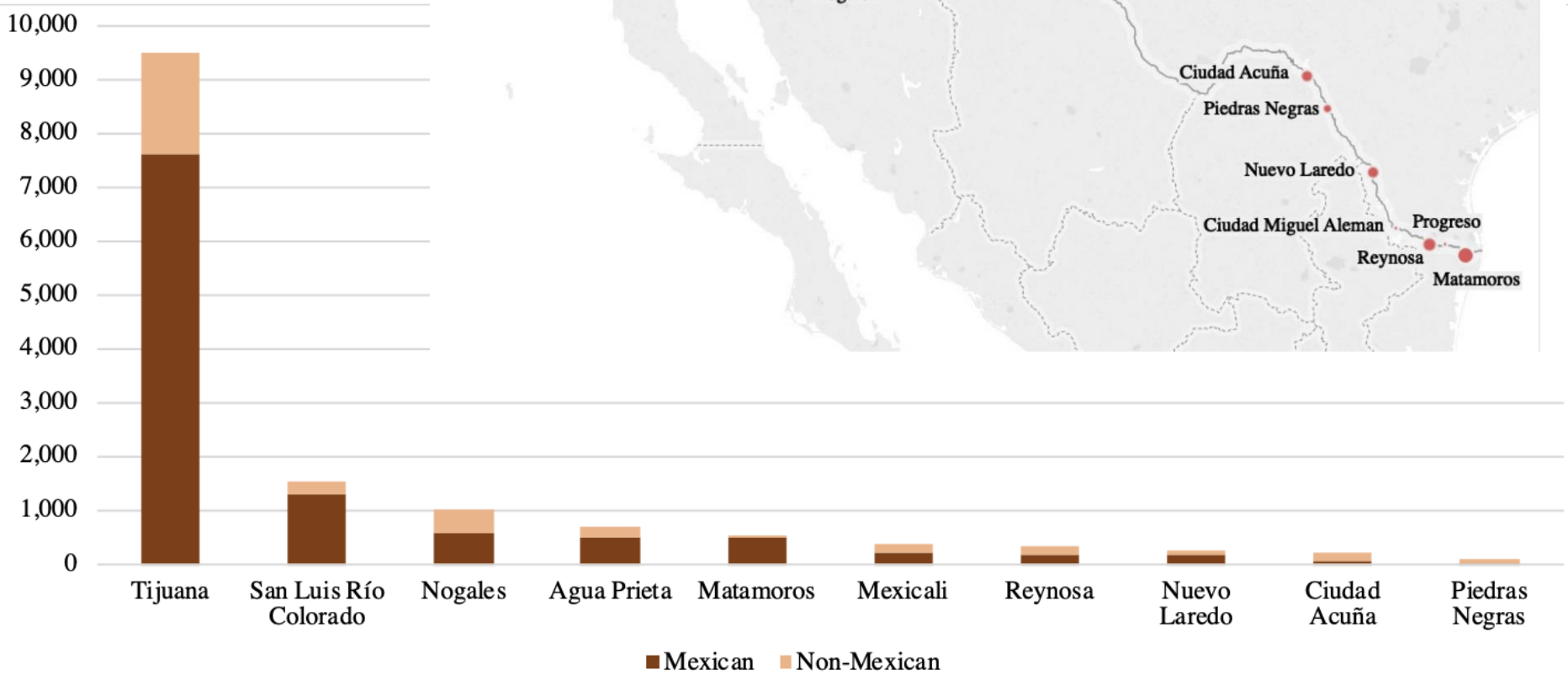
More armed groups:

- Border Patrol, ICE, U.S. law enforcement
 - CBP ordered up to \$85 million of Glock handguns in 2019
 - CBP purchased 33 million 9mm bullets in October
 - U.S. courts allow CBP to fire onto Mexican side



CBP officers on bridge between Juarez and El Paso on afternoon of Feb. 28 court ruling against MPP. “Just observing.”

Where Asylum Seekers are Waiting; More Mexicans Seeking Asylum



Source: Strauss Center, University of Texas, "Metering Update," November 2019

Migrants deported to /forced to wait in sites flooded with U.S. guns



Asylum seekers sent back to Mexico by the US are living in a makeshift camp by the international bridge between Matamoros, Tamaulipas, Mexico, and Brownsville, Texas.

Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas: Most migrants returned to Nuevo Laredo are victims of violence



What can we do?

- Support federal ban on assault weapons and high-capacity magazines
- Challenge narratives of Mexicans, Central Americans, and migrants as threats or a security issue
- Call for migrants awaiting asylum hearings in northern Mexico to be paroled into U.S.
- Attend further webinars: April 4, April 5, April 21:
www.stopusarmstomexico.org/events
- Urge Mexican consulates in U.S. to hold events for Mexican community on firearms traffic:
unitedwedream.org/list-of-mexican-consulates

Gun Violence in Mexico: Questions



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Resources for Further Information

Stop US Arms to Mexico: stopusarmstomexico.org

Forum on Arms Trade: forumarmstrade.org

**Mexican Commission for Defense and Promotion of Human Rights:
cmdpdh.org**

Consortium of Universities for Global Health: cugh.org

Comprehensive Injury Center, Medical College of Wisconsin