

# Facts Sheet 1

ENG

## 1. Sexual exploitation sexual violence on youth: national data (2 target groups 0-18 years old and 18-25 years old)

According to official figures from the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI), by 2020 there are 33.6 million boys and girls between 0 and 14 years old in Mexico. Adolescents and young people between 15 and 29 years old are 32.8 million, representing 52.70% of the total population of the country.

The information compiled by the INEGI mentions that 13.55% are boys and 13.10% are girls. Of adolescents and young people, 13.09% are men and 12.96% are women.

More than half of the population of Mexico is made up of children, adolescents and young people, from 0 to 29 years of age, we are talking about 52.70% of the total population of Mexico.

THE DISTRIBUTION BY SEX IS PRESENTED IN TABLE 1

| AGE RANGNE      | BOYS MAN | GIRLS WOMEN |
|-----------------|----------|-------------|
| 0-14 years old  | 13,55%   | 13,10%      |
| 15-29 years old | 13,09    | 12,96       |

Regarding the crime of trafficking in persons in the general population, the data reported by the National Human Rights Commission (CNDH) and which comes from official sources, identify victims of trafficking in persons in the period covered between August 1, 2017 and July 31, 2021, finding 3,896 victims of the crime of human trafficking. (Graphic 1).

The Executive Secretariat of the National Public Security System (SESNSP), reported that from 2015 to 2017, 505 minors in criminal incidence were due to human trafficking, that is, 17% of the total cases reported by this instance.

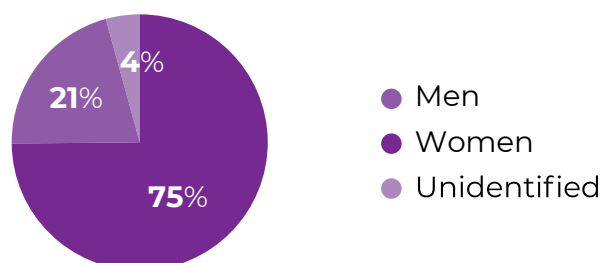
From January to November 2020, the same (SESNSP) the total number of crimes reported in Mexico was 1,687,683, and human trafficking only represented 0.03%, that is, 416 cases. In crimes committed against 89,913 women during the same period, human trafficking represented 0.46%, femicides 0.99%, corruption of minors 1.52% and child trafficking 0.009%.

The Public Consultation of the National Survey on the Dynamics of Relationships in Households (ENDIREH) carried out in 2016, showed that 1 in 10 women reported having suffered some type of sexual violence before the age of 15.

The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) places Mexico in the first place in child sexual abuse, highlighting that this figure of 4.5 million victims per year is unrealistic considering that only 1 case out of 10 is reported.

Without being victims of human trafficking, in 2015, according to a study carried out by the Early Institute, hospital admissions were reported in Mexico of minors for sexual abuse, 308 minors between the ages of 0 and up to 17 years, being boys 12.3% and girls 87.7%.

**Graphic 1.** Total de víctimas de trata de personas identificadas por Procuradurías, Fiscalías y la Fiscalía General de la República. FUENTE: DIAGNÓSTICO SOBRE LA SITUACIÓN DE LA TRATA DE PERSONAS EN MÉXICO. CNDH 2021.



# Facts Sheet 1

ENG

## 2. Background and profile of youth main affected

The individual factors that contribute to child vulnerability include disability, mental health difficulties, maltreatment, coming from a family with an immigrant background and out-of-home care.

Environmental factors – family and community – shape child vulnerability. Family environment, such as material deprivation, parental health and education, as well as intimate partner violence (IPV), play a crucial role in child vulnerability. Community environment, such as schools and neighborhoods, are also major factors.

Schools and early learning, for example, have a pronounced impact on child well-being. On average, just over a third of children under the age of three participate in early learning in OECD countries, with wide variations: for example 62% in Denmark to under 3% in Mexico. However, in many countries children from low-income households are significantly less likely to participate in

early learning despite evidence of its benefits, particularly for vulnerable children. This may, in part, be down to affordability. However, estimates suggest that economic returns on investment in early learning, including higher income, better health and lower crime, are significant.

Risk factors for a child can include material deprivation, parents with low levels of education, parents with negative health behaviors, lack of supportive adults, limited access to leisure activities, high neighborhood crime and high family stress.

According to the Walk Free Foundation, in The Global Slavery Index of 2018, in Mexico the 57.3% of the population is vulnerable to become a victim of human trafficking, taking into consideration the following factors: governance issues, lack of basic needs, inequality, dis-enfranchised groups, effects of conflict.

## 3. At the roots of sexual exploitation and sexual violence

### Economic

The economic situation in Mexico has worsened in recent years as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, according to official figures “the negative impact on the labor market was very significant. According to INEGI, between March and April 2020, 12.5 million jobs were lost.”

The aggravating economic situation makes adolescents and young people prone to fall into deception through social networks in search of job opportunities.

### Social

For many years, the zones of tolerance (places where sexual exploitation regularly occurs) became part of the daily scene, socially accepted, without knowing what was hidden in the background. There continues to be stigma and rejection towards those

who participate in this type of activity, without understanding the circumstances of abuse to which women were subjected.

As a result of the pandemic, violence against women increased by 24% in the country, according to the president of the Human Rights Commission of Mexico City, Nashieli Ramírez Hernández, girls and adolescents are victims in 81.6% of the reported cases. The increase in femicides, according to the Executive Secretariat of the National Public Security System, during 2021 more than 3,462 women were murdered, an average of 10 women a day, 4% more than in 2020.

Social movements and public policies that promote gender equity, the eradication of violence against women, have been a vehicle to point out the situation in which

## Facts Sheet 1

ENG

women are immersed as victims of sexual exploitation. For more than a decade, emphasis has been placed on changing social thinking in this regard.

### **Cultural**

Regions with a high level of lag, present in their uses and customs: the sale of daughters, the sexual exploitation of girls and the sexual abuse of daughters by fathers, brothers, uncles or any member of the family. Practices that have been accepted for generations. According to the OECD,

Mexico is the country who has the first place in the incidence of child sexual abuse, but the problem is greater than reported, since this same body calculates that out of every 10 cases, only one is reported. These practices are derived from the macho culture. As an example, in the state of Tlaxcala, in 40 municipalities out of 60 there are networks of traffickers of women who, according to researcher Oscar Montiel, extend their networks both within the state and abroad, that is, states and even countries.