

MEXICO — Country Profile

Overview

Mexico is located in North America, bordering the Caribbean Sea and the Gulf of Mexico. It is situated between Belize and the United States and bordering the North Pacific Ocean, between Guatemala and the United States.

The population of Mexico in 2017 was 129 million. Most of the population is found in the middle of the country between the states of Jalisco and Veracruz; approximately a quarter of the population (21.581 million) lives in and around Mexico City. The majority of its citizens are Roman Catholics (82.7%).

The global financial crisis in late 2008 caused a massive economic downturn in Mexico the following year, although growth returned quickly in 2010. Ongoing economic and social concerns include low real wages, high underemployment, inequitable income distribution, and few advancement opportunities for the largely indigenous population in the impoverished southern states. Since 2007, Mexico's powerful drug-trafficking organizations have engaged in bloody feuding, resulting in tens of thousands of drug-related homicides.

Source: *extracted from CIA World Factbook: Mexico; National Survey of Demographic Dynamics 2014 (ENADID 2014)*

Sexual and Reproductive Health

Key findings from the ENADID 2014 on the situation of SRHR in Mexico are as follows:

Maternal Health:

- The maternal mortality rate is 38 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2015.
(source: *WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, World Bank Group, and United Nations Population Division Maternal Mortality Estimation Inter-Agency Group*)

Contraception:

- The overall fertility rate is 2.21 children per woman, a decline from 2.25 in ENADID 2009.
- The fertility rate declines with increasing urbanisation, from 2.81 children among women in the rural localities to 2.04 children among women in the urban areas.
- The median age at first child is 20 years old.
- The ideal number of children for women aged between 15 and 49 is 2.6 children. The reproductive ideals differ according to age. For teenagers aged between 15 and 19, the ideal number is 2.3 children and for women who are at the end of their reproductive life (45 to 49 years old), the ideal is 3.2 children.
- 98.7% of women know at least one contraceptive method.
- 51.6% of women are currently using a method of contraception.

- Among sexually active women, the most commonly used method is the bilateral tubal occlusion (OTB) used by 48.6%, followed by non-hormonal methods or barrier with 30.4%.
- 54.5% of young women aged 15-19 reported using some method of contraception in their first sexual relationship.
- The male condom is the most used method by sexually active adolescents (38.1%), followed by the IUD or device (copper) (26.7%), the contraceptive implant (subdermal) or Norplant (11.1%), contraceptive injections or ampules (10.8%), among others.

Abortion:

- According to the UN Abortion Policies and Reproductive Health around the World (2014), abortion is permitted on all grounds.

Sexual and Reproductive Rights

Child Early & Forced Marriage (CEFM):

- The median age at first sexual intercourse among women aged 15-49 is 17.6 years.
- The age at first union went from 18.8 years in 1976 to 20.2 years in 2014.
- The adolescent fertility rate among women between 15 and 19 years of age is 69.20%.
- Among women aged 15-19, the average age at first child is 17.2 years and age at first union is 16.9 years.

Violence Against Women (VAW):

- According to statistics from 2011, 14% of women aged 15 and older have experienced physical or sexual violence committed by an intimate partner in their lifetime.
(source: *National Survey on the Dynamics of Household Relations 2011*)

Current initiatives in Mexico

- ARROW collaborated with Elige, Red de Jóvenes por los Derechos Sexuales y Reproductivos to review the implementation of the ICPD POA in Latin America and the Caribbean. This monitoring study looks at six countries in the region – Argentina, Brazil, Columbia, Nicaragua, Dominican Republic, and Mexico – and analyses the regional context and the realisation of sexual and reproductive health and rights within this context.