

## Mexicans worry about security, government responsiveness

The OECD's new cross-national survey, *Risks That Matter*, examines people's perceptions of social and economic risks and their views on how well government reacts to their concerns. The survey polled a representative sample of 22 000 adults in 21 countries in April 2018 in an effort to understand better what citizens want and need from social policy.

**Mexicans are most worried, in the short run, about crime and violence (Fig. 1).** 62% of Mexicans list crime or violence as a top-three short-term concern – a higher rate than in every other OECD country polled. This share embeds a gender inequality, as **Mexico is the only country where women are more likely than men to list violence or crime as a top risk they face** (66% of women to 58% of men). Mexicans also worry about making ends meet (62% list this as a top-three concern) and becoming ill or disabled (41%) in the next year or two.\*

**When looking beyond the next decade, pensions are by far the most common concern for Mexicans**, as they are in every country surveyed. 71% of people in Mexico list "financial security in old age" as a top-three long-term risk, followed by worries about their children's social mobility and their ability to afford adequate housing.

\*Values sum to exceed 100% because respondents could select up to three answers.

In the face of these concerns, most Mexicans feel their government is not doing enough. Only 16% of Mexicans say they think that they could access public benefits if they needed them, relative to 20% of respondents, on average, across countries. A mere 14% of Mexicans agree that the government incorporates the views of people like them when designing or reforming public benefits (Fig. 2).

**An overwhelming majority of Mexicans want more support from their government (Fig. 3).** 89% of people in Mexico say that government should do more to ensure their economic and social security.

There is also strong support for anti-poverty policies. **67% of Mexicans say that the government should tax the rich more than it currently does in order to support the poor.**

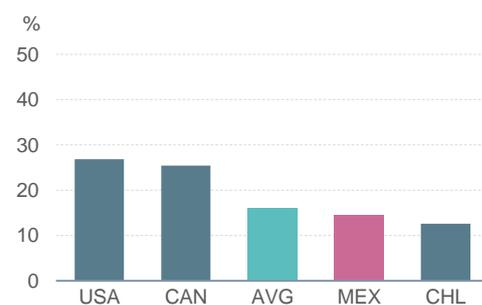
**When asked to compare a range of policy areas, Mexicans are most likely to want to invest in education and health.** 35% of Mexicans say they would pay an extra 2% of their income in taxes and social security contributions to benefit from better provision of and access to education – a high share, relative to other countries – and 36% say they would pay an extra 2% to benefit from better provision of/access to healthcare.

Fig. 1. Many Mexicans are concerned about crime and violence



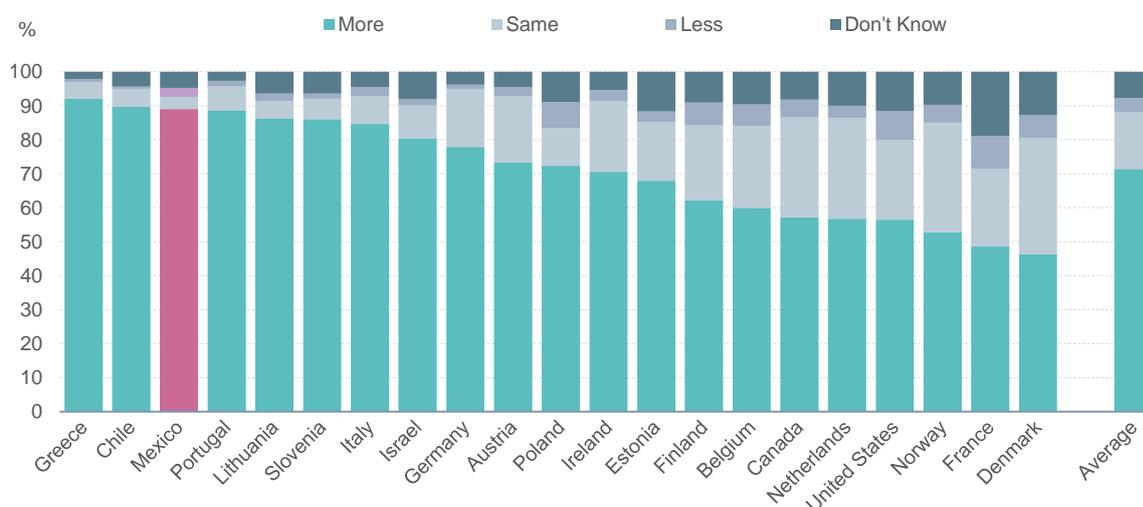
Note: Percent that identify "crime or violence" as one of the top-three greatest short-term risks to themselves or their immediate family

Fig. 2. Few Mexicans feel like their voice is being heard



Note: Percent that agree (or strongly agree) with the statement "I feel the government incorporates the views of people like me when designing or reforming public benefits."

Fig. 3. Nearly 9 out of 10 Mexicans want government to do more to safeguard their economic and social security



Note: Distribution of responses to the question "Do you think the government should be doing less, more, or the same to ensure your economic and social security?"  
Source: OECD (2019), *Main Findings from the 2018 OECD Risks that Matter Survey*, OECD Publishing, Paris.

Contacts: Stefano Scarpetta (stefano.scarpetta@oecd.org), Director, OECD Directorate for Employment, Labour and Social Affairs;  
Valerie Frey (valerie.frey@oecd.org); Monika Queisser (monika.queisser@oecd.org). Information on data for Israel: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888932315602>