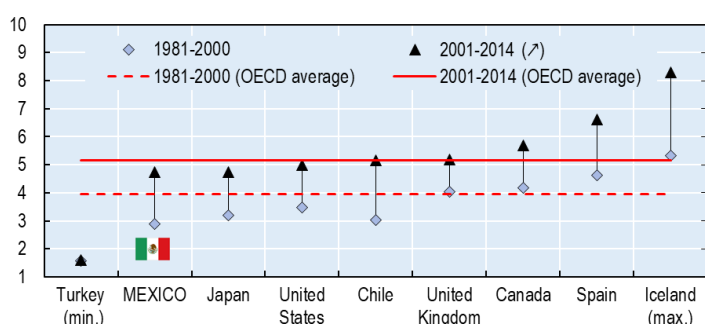




The 2019 edition of *Society at a Glance* examines trends in social well-being across the OECD. It features a special chapter on lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people: their numbers, how they fare in terms of their economic situation and well-being, and what policies can improve LGBT inclusivity. It also includes a special chapter based on the 2018 OECD Risks That Matter Survey on people's perceptions of social and economic risks and the extent to which they think governments address those risks. The publication also presents 25 indicators on general context, self-sufficiency, equity, health and social cohesion.

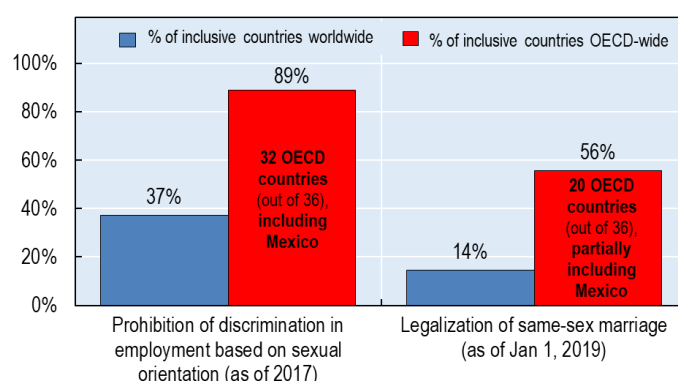
Fig.1. Despite improvements, acceptance of homosexuality remains limited



Note: Acceptance of homosexuality is measured on a scale from 1 to 10, where 1 means that homosexuality is never justifiable and 10 means that it is always justifiable.

Source: [Figure 1.6 of OECD Society at a Glance 2019]

Fig.2. There is still a long way before sexual and gender minorities meet full-fledged legal recognition, and Mexico is no exception



Note: Same-sex marriage is legal in only some parts of the territory in Mexico.

Source: [Figure 1.18 of OECD Society at a Glance 2019]

A SPOTLIGHT ON LGBT PEOPLE

Mexico is one of the 15 OECD countries that have included a question on self-identification as heterosexual, homosexual, or bisexual in at least one of their nationally representative surveys. According to the National Survey on Discrimination by INEGI, the share of LGB people in Mexico amounted to 1.9% in 2017. In other OECD countries where estimations from different survey rounds are available, the share of LGB people is on the rise [Figure 1.4 of the OECD Publication *Society at a Glance 2019*]. Increasing disclosure of an LGB identity is likely to continue in the future since it is driven by younger cohorts. As most OECD countries, Mexico does not yet collect information on the share of transgender people among the adult population.

Attitudes toward LGBT people are improving worldwide and have consistently been more positive in OECD countries than elsewhere. However, there remains substantial room for progress. Mexico is no exception: Mexican citizens are only halfway to full social acceptance of homosexuality, scoring nearly five on a 1-to-10 acceptance scale (in line with the average OECD score) [Figure 1 above].

Low acceptance of LGBT people puts them at risk of discrimination. Representative survey data (that do not cover Mexico) reveal that LGBT people are penalised with respect to employment status and labour earnings [Figure 1.12]. Experimental data confirm that this penalty at least partly reflects labour market discrimination: with the same curriculum vitae, homosexual applicants are 1.5 times less likely to be invited to a job interview than heterosexual applicants when their sexual orientation is conveyed through their volunteer engagement or work experience in a gay and lesbian organisation [Figure 1.13].

A range of policies can help improve LGBT inclusivity. Making LGBT individuals and the penalties they face visible in national statistics is a prerequisite for their inclusion, suggesting that Mexico could collect information on sexual orientation in a broader range of surveys, including the Mexican labour force survey and the Mexican census, and start collecting information on gender identity as well.

Legally prohibiting anti-LGBT discrimination and ensuring equal rights for LGBT individuals is also essential to improve their situation. While Mexico is among the 32 OECD countries that prohibit discrimination in

employment based on sexual orientation, same-sex marriage is only legal in Mexico City and in 13 of the 31 Mexican states [Figure 2 above]. In the United States, for instance, same-sex marriage policies caused a reduction by nearly 15% of suicide attempts among adolescents who self-identify as gay, lesbian or bisexual.

Finally, educating people in countering their unconscious bias is a key component of any policy package aiming to better LGBT inclusion. Evidence shows that these interventions can be highly effective, even when they are short.

OECD Risks that Matter survey suggests Mexicans worry about government responsiveness

The Risks that Matter survey, conducted in spring 2018, revealed that Mexicans were concerned about crime, violence, and financial security. 62% of Mexicans listed crime or violence as one of their top-three concerns in the next year or two – a higher rate than in every other OECD country polled [Figure 3.1]. When looking beyond the next decade, pensions were the top worry: 71% of people in Mexico listed “financial security in old age” as a top-three long-term risk, followed by worries about social mobility and the ability to afford adequate housing [Figure 3.2].

In the face of these concerns, most Mexicans felt that their government was not doing enough. Only 16% of Mexicans said they think they could access public benefits if they needed them [Figure 3.3]. A mere 14% said that the government incorporates their views when designing and reforming public benefits [Figure 3.5]. And nearly nine in ten (89%) said that the government should do more to ensure their economic and social security [Figure 3.6].

OVERVIEW OF OTHER SOCIAL INDICATORS

Low income and high inequality

Mexico has the lowest median disposable income in the OECD (4 900 US PPP in 2016), corresponding to only about 20% of the OECD average and below median incomes in Chile, Colombia and Costa Rica [Figure 4.1]. **Income inequality is higher in Mexico than in any other OECD country**, even though inequality remains lower than in other Latin American countries (like Brazil, Colombia and Costa Rica). The average income of the 10% richest Mexicans is 21 times higher than the income of the 10% poorest, compared with 9.3 on average across OECD countries [Figure 6.1].

Housing remains affordable

With 59% of the households owning their dwelling outright, home ownership is more widespread in Mexico

than in OECD countries on average (44%). Even for low-income people the housing cost burden remains bearable. Less than one in five low-income households in Mexico spent over 40% of their disposable income on a mortgage or rent in 2016/17, one of the lowest shares among OECD countries [Figure 6.14].

High AIDS rates

Mexico had the highest AIDS reporting rates among OECD countries in 2016, with 11 new cases per 100 000 people, followed by Chile, Latvia and the United States at around 6 new cases per 100 000 population [Figure 7.8]. Unlike in most other OECD countries, AIDS reporting rates have considerably risen over the past decade (up from only 6 new cases per 100 000 people in 1995). Death rates related to HIV/AIDS were also second highest in Mexico (behind Latvia) at four to five deaths per 100 000 population [Figure 6.9].

Low suicide rates

The suicide rate in Mexico is comparatively low, with 6 suicides per 100 000 persons in 2015. This rate is half of the OECD average of 12 and well below the suicide rate in Chile (11). Men are more likely to commit suicide than women – five times as likely in Mexico compared with four times in the OECD on average [Figure 7.10]. Unlike in the majority of OECD countries, Mexican youth (15-29 years) are more likely to commit suicide than older Mexican (70 years or more) [Figure 7.12].

Limited internet access

In 2017/2018, only 65% of the adult Mexican population had access to internet, the lowest rate among OECD countries. While Chile and Costa Rica had higher rates, the rate was lower in Brazil. Internet uptake is also the lowest in Mexico among 16-25 year-olds at 89% and among 55-74 year-olds at 28% only [Figure 8.13].

Mexicans feel unsafe on the street

Nearly 60% of Mexican women and 51% of Mexican men do not feel safe walking alone at night in the city or area where they live in. These shares are the highest among OECD countries, though below the rates in some other Latin American countries, like Argentina and Brazil, and comparable to Chile and Colombia [Figure 8.9].

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