

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.

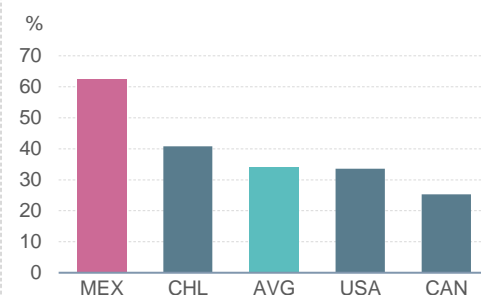
In the face of these concerns, most Mexicans feel their government is not doing enough. Only 16% of Mexicans say they think that they could access public benefits if they needed them, relative to 20% of respondents, on average, across countries. A mere 14% of Mexicans agree that the government incorporates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

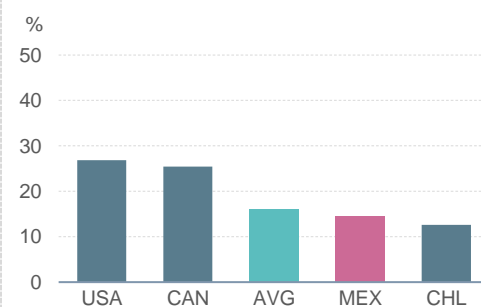
When asked to compare a range of policy areas, Mexicans are most likely to want to invest in education and health. 35% of Mexicans say they would pay an extra 2% of their income in taxes and social security contributions to benefit from better provision of and access to education – a high share, relative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



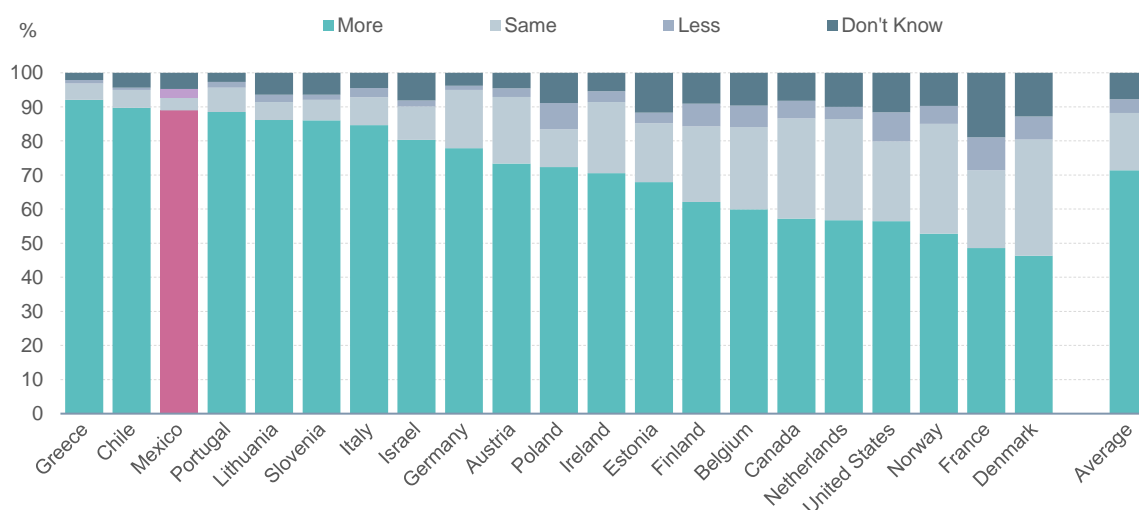
Note: Percent that identify "crime or violence" as one of the top-three greatest short-term risks to themselves or their immediate family

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.

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