

TBI Fact Sheet: Social Trust and the Rule of Law in Mexico
Compiled by Dr. David Shirk (Director, Trans-Border Institute)

High Rates of Crime Victimization and Low Rates of Reporting



According to a recent ICESI survey:

- Nearly two-thirds of Mexicans claim that they feel “safe” (49%) or “very safe” (18%).
- However, over a third (37%) feel that they may be victimized by crime in the next year, and almost half of Mexicans live in households where someone was victimized by crime in the last year.
- Also, only about one in four Mexicans report most crimes.
- Only one in ten sexual assaults in Mexico are reported to authorities.
- Slightly more Mexicans (45%) believe that police do a poor job of combating crime, compared to 43% who are satisfied.

Perceptions of Corruption in Mexico: Not Good, But About Average for Latin America

Transparency International Corruption Perception Index of Selected Latin American Countries, 2005

Chile	7.3
Uruguay	5.9
Costa Rica	4.2
El Salvador	4.2
Colombia	4
Cuba	3.8
Belize	3.7
Brazil	3.7
Mexico	3.5
Panama	3.5
Peru	3.5
Dominican Republic	3
Argentina	2.8
Honduras	2.6
Nicaragua	2.6
Bolivia	2.5
Ecuador	2.5
Guatemala	2.5
Venezuela	2.3
Paraguay	2.1
Average:	3.5

- **Transparency International** produces an index based on elite perceptions of corruption (CPI) in selected countries (the higher CPI score the lower the perceived corruption).
- Mexico ranks at the average level of perceived corruption in Latin America.
- In 2003, ICESI found that 12% of Mexicans were asked for a bribe, yet less than one in ten victims reported the incident to authorities.

Source: Transparency International, Corruption Perceptions Index

Low Overall Confidence in Authorities:

In the fight against crime, Do you think the Federal (State, Local) Government is effective?

	Good performance	Bad Performance	No Opinion	Total
Federal Government	31%	45%	24%	100%
State Government (Includes Federal District)	36%	42%	22%	100%
Local Government (Municipalities)	43%	37%	20%	100%

Source: Reforma newspaper, Mexico City. July 30-31, 2005, National phone survey

Epecially Low Confidence in Legislators and Police:

Rating of Trust in Mexican Institutions, Scale of 10

Las universidades	8.1
La Iglesia	7.7
El Ejército	7.7
La Comisión Nacional de Derechos Humanos	7.4
El Instituto Federal Electoral	7.1
Los medios de comunicación	6.9
El Presidente de la República	6.2
La Suprema Corte de Justicia	6.1
Los empresarios	5.3
Los partidos políticos	5.1
Los Senadores	5
La policía	4.9
Los sindicatos	4.7
Los Diputados	4.5

Source: Consulta Mitofsky, "Confianza en Instituciones," Encuesta Nacional en Viviendas," July 2005, p. 3.