

YOUTH INCARCERATION IN MEXICO

Transparency and Rule of Law Series

 **16,000**

In 2014, young people were arrested for their participation in diverse types of crimes

In 2014, a study was conducted by Elena Azaola in four Mexican states surveying 70% of their incarcerated youth charged with serious felonies. These states are: Hidalgo, Coahuila, Sinaloa and Morelos.

Demographics

 **78%**

Of inmates interviewed were between the ages of 16 and 18 years old.

 **93%**

were male, while only 7% were female.

Crimes Committed

35%

Robbery with violence.

22%

Homicide.

17%

Carrying prohibited weapons.

15%

Auto theft.

15%

Kidnapping.

10%

Crimes against health.

10%

Organized crime.

Social Treatment

 **41%**

Had regularly suffered some type of mistreatment or abuse during childhood.

 **37%**

Reported that when they were mistreated no one offered support.

 **14%**

Don't trust anyone.

Economic Circumstances

 **17%**

Indicated that there was often no food.

 **26%**

Began to work before the age of 12.

 **64%**

Contributed their wages to maintaining their family.

Abuse by Authorities

 **76%**

Mentioned having been severely beaten when they were arrested by the police.

 **62%**

Said they were never informed of the crime they were accused of.

 **47%**

Said they were never told about the right to have a lawyer.

Their future

 **28%**

Said they have no future and no dreams or aspirations.

 **45%**

Considered that upon leaving the institution they would be the same or worse than when they entered.