



World Justice  
Project

World Justice Project

Mexico States  
Rule of Law  
Index 2020-2021

## Insights

*Results and trends*



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The Mexico States Rule of Law Index recognizes that there are multiple dimensions of the rule of law, so it is organized into eight factors:

Constraints on Government Powers



Absence of Corruption



Open Government



Fundamental Rights



Order and Security



Regulatory Enforcement



Civil Justice



Criminal Justice



## Introduction

The *Mexico States Rule of Law Index 2020-2021* is the third edition of the most comprehensive measurement of the rule of law in Mexico's 32 states.

Over more than a decade, the World Justice Project® (WJP) has developed the most comprehensive tool for measuring the rule of law around the world. Based on surveys conducted in over 120 countries, the *WJP Rule of Law Index*® captures the experiences and perspectives of the general population and experts on different aspects of the rule of law and presents a complete overview of institutional trends, strengths, and weaknesses on this subject around the world.

The *Mexico States Rule of Law Index 2020-2021* is the third edition of the only subnational index produced by the WJP and measures the adherence to the rule of law in each of the country's 32 states. The *Mexico States Rule of Law Index* uses the same conceptual framework and methodology that the WJP has used around the globe, but it has been adapted to take into account the institutional architecture and competencies of different levels of government. The *Mexico States Rule of Law Index 2020-2021* captures the perspectives and experiences of more than 25,000 people throughout the country, as well as more than 2,300 experts in civil justice, criminal justice, labor justice, and public health, who were surveyed between July and October 2020, in addition to the results of a multiplicity of surveys and databases from other recognized institutions (third-party sources). This information reveals the circumstances of different demographic sectors, including people in vulnerable groups, and enables an analysis of each of the 32 states.

The *Mexico States Rule of Law Index* acknowledges that the rule of law is multidimensional, so it is organized by eight factors: 1) Constraints on Government Powers, 2) Absence of Corruption, 3) Open Government, 4) Fundamental Rights, 5) Order and Security, 6) Regulatory Enforcement, 7) Civil Justice, and 8) Criminal Justice. These factors disaggregate into 42 sub-factors.

The Index is aimed at a wide audience that includes decision-makers at the state and federal level, legislators, civil society organizations, academia, and the media, among others. Its potential as a decision-making tool is highlighted by the citations of the *Mexico States Rule of Law Index* in multiple state and national government planning documents to inform their respective diagnoses and strategies, as well as to measure advances in the rule of law. Our intention is that this tool is used to identify strengths and weaknesses, as well as changes and trends in each state, and to promote public policies that strengthen the rule of law in Mexico.

***The Index captures the perspectives and experiences of more than 25,000 people throughout the country, as well as more than 2,300 experts in civil justice, criminal justice, labor justice, and public health, who were surveyed between July and October 2020, in addition to the results of a multiplicity of surveys and databases from other recognized institutions (third-party sources).***

## Main Findings 2020-2021

*Mexico States Rule of Law Index 2020-2021: Insights* provides a photograph of the states in a year in which the strengths of some states were tested, and the weaknesses of others were highlighted.

The results of the *Mexico States Rule of Law Index 2020-2021* show a stagnation in the country's progress towards strengthening the rule of law, with marginal changes in the general scores of most states since the 2019-2020 edition of the Index. Notwithstanding the above, the data show some changes in some aspects of the rule of law. The COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent response measures disrupted the functioning of government institutions. In most states, judicial institutions were particularly affected by this situation, as shown by decreases in the scores of Factor 8. The data also show a weakening of freedom of the press and a shrinking civic space in most states (with decreases in sub-factor 1.5 scores), continuing a trend that began before the pandemic and deepened during the public health crisis. As in previous editions, public safety continues to be one of the greatest challenges in Mexico, although many states recorded a decrease in crime incidence and prevalence rates (with increases in sub-factor 5.2 scores).

The Index presents data organized into eight factors of the rule of law: 1) Constraints on Government Powers, 2) Absence of Corruption, 3) Open Government, 4) Fundamental Rights, 5) Order and Security, 6) Regulatory Enforcement, 7) Civil Justice, and 8) Criminal Justice. The scores of the eight factors are disaggregated into 42 sub-factors, which reflect the perspectives and experiences of more than 25,000 citizens from all over the country and more than 2,300 specialists in civil justice, criminal justice, labor justice, and public health (who were polled between July and October of 2020), as well as the results of a variety of surveys and databases on topics related to the rule of law (third-party sources).

The gap between the states' scores and the ideal score (the Index uses a scale from 0 to 1, where 1 indicates the highest adherence to the rule of law) is still substantial, which implies that all states face challenges to strengthen the rule of law. The states with the highest scores in the *Mexico States Rule of Law Index 2020-2021* are Yucatán (0.47), Coahuila (0.45), and Campeche (0.44). Yucatán has been at the top of the ranking in the three editions of the Index, while Coahuila and Campeche improved from the 6th and 4th place from the previous edition, respectively. The states with the lowest scores are Quintana Roo (0.34), Puebla (0.35), and Morelos (0.36).

Since the last edition of the *Mexico States Rule of Law Index* (2019-2020), scores increased modestly in seventeen states (Baja California Sur, Campeche, Chihuahua, Coahuila, Guanajuato, Guerrero, Michoacán, Nayarit, Querétaro, San Luis Potosí, Sinaloa, Sonora, Tabasco, Tamaulipas, Tlaxcala, Yucatán, and Zacatecas), decreased in five (Aguascalientes, Baja California, Oaxaca, Quintana Roo, and Veracruz), and remained unchanged in ten (Chiapas, Colima, Durango, Hidalgo, Jalisco, Mexico City, Morelos, Nuevo León, Puebla, and State of Mexico).

On the other hand, four states stand out for showing significant progress in general scores of the *Mexico States Rule of Law Index* in the three editions since 2018: Baja California Sur (from 0.35 in 2018 to 0.43 in 2020- 2021), Guerrero (from 0.29 to 0.36), Sonora (from 0.36 to 0.40), and Nayarit (from 0.37 to 0.42).

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<sup>1</sup> Scores are rounded to two decimal places.

### *Advances and Setbacks of the Rule of Law in Mexico*

The main challenge of the rule of law during the public health crisis was undoubtedly the criminal justice system. The score for Factor 8: Criminal Justice decreased in 16 states since the previous edition of the Index (Aguascalientes, Baja California Sur, Chiapas, Colima, Durango, Guanajuato, Michoacán, Morelos, Nayarit, Oaxaca, Quintana Roo, San Luis Potosí, Sinaloa, State of Mexico, Veracruz, and Zacatecas). The sub-factor with the highest decreases in scores were sub-factor 8.2, which measures the efficiency and effectiveness of the systems of prosecution and administration of justice, and sub-factor 8.4, which measures whether due process of law for the accused is effectively guaranteed (including the presumption of innocence, the principle of equality in the criminal process, absence of discrimination, the treatment received by detained people, the right to an adequate defense, and the right to a public trial before a competent and impartial judge). With unique data collected during the pandemic, this finding reflects the experiences and perspectives of criminal justice specialists across the country.

The data suggest that criminal justice systems were affected by the lack of timely and appropriate Open and Digital Justice measures to enable access to citizens by remote and collaborative means. In fact, most of the country's jurisdictional bodies were forced to suspend their operations for a significant period of time, despite that all federal and local judicial activity was categorized as essential by health authorities. Also, the country still faces challenges in criminal investigation. In the three editions of the Index, most states have their lowest scores in sub-factor 8.1, which measures whether the police and the Prosecutor's Office (Ministerio Público) investigate crimes efficiently. This is largely due to the 'dark figure', or the number of crimes that are not reported or recorded by the police. INEGI estimates this figure at 92.4% nationally, according to the National Survey on Victimization and Perception of Public Security (ENVIPE) 2020.

Security continues to be one of the greatest challenges in Mexico, highlighted by the homicide rates (sub-factor 5.1), the perceptions of insecurity (sub-factor 5.3), and the decrease in scores in absence of corruption in the safety and law enforcement systems (sub-factor 2.3) in twenty states, according to the experiences of specialists polled during 2020. However, there were improvements in crime incidence and prevalence indicators in most states. Scores of sub-factor 5.2, which measures absence of crime, increased in 26 states due to decreases in crime incidence and prevalence rates of ENVIPE 2020, which measures crimes that occurred in 2019.

Finally, the Index data show a continuous weakening of the freedom of the press and a shrinking civic space, reflected in the decreases of sub-factor 1.5 scores in sixteen states. Despite this decline, civil society and the press are the most effective check and balances on state governments for the third time, well above the legislative branch, the judiciary, oversight and control agencies, and human rights commissions.

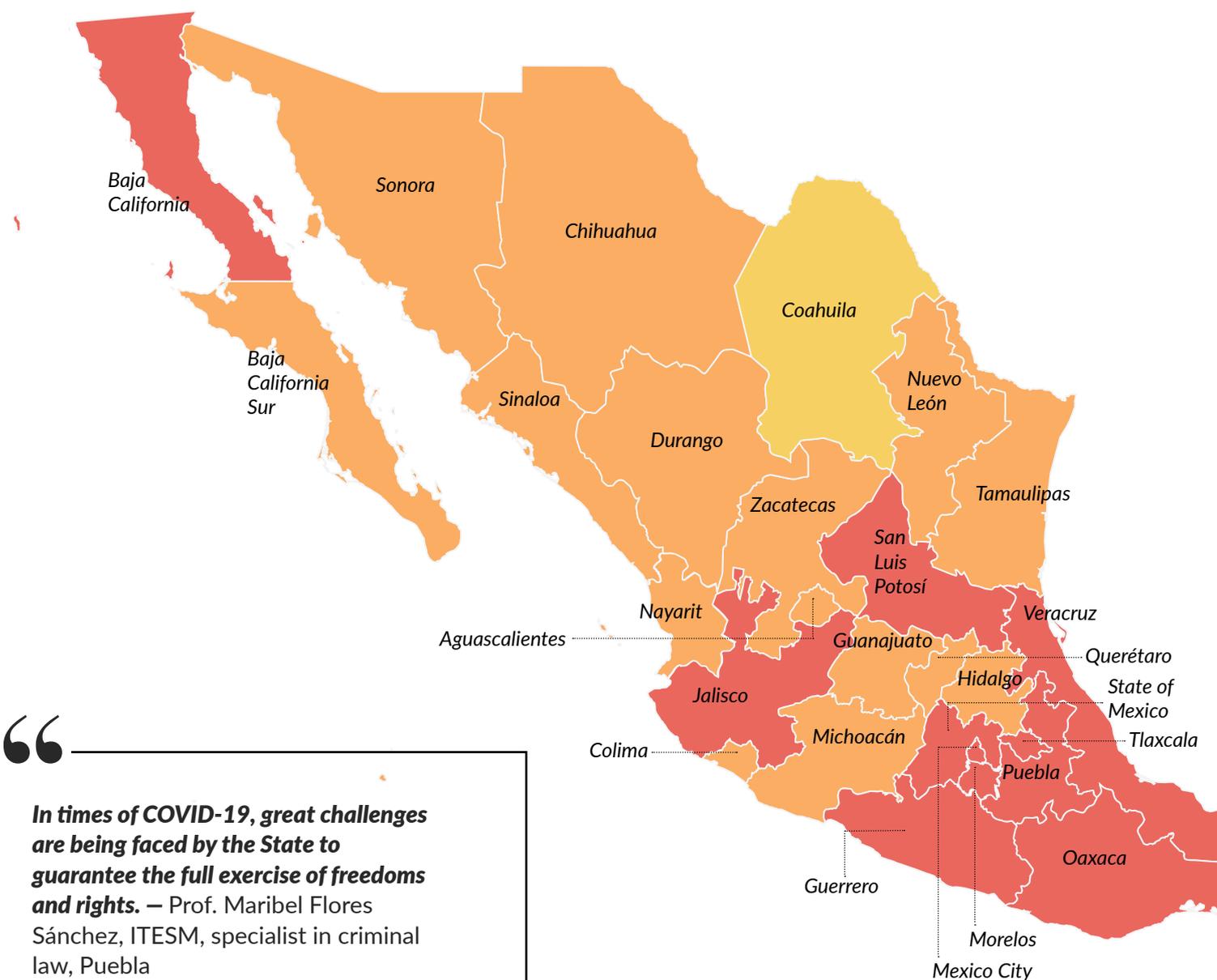
<sup>2</sup> A study from Transparencia Mexicana and Tojil, to monitor plans, programs and budgets in the framework of COVID-19, monitored the delivery of eight justice services in the 32 states during the pandemic: reception and processing of demands; receipt of non-initial promotions; consultation of agreements; notification; holding hearings; electronic court; digital signature for online services; and publicity of criminal hearings in real time. Of the 16 states that decreased their Factor 8 scores, 12 provided three or fewer justice services through digital means during the pandemic, and they were those that suffered the most substantial decreases. Study available at: <https://www.tm.org.mx/justiciadigitalpostcovid-episodio2/>. For more details on the justice services provided by each state and their Factor 8 score, refer to the section Decline in Factor 8. Criminal Justice and Interruption of Justice Services During the COVID-19 Pandemic (page 26) of this report.

<sup>3</sup> Agreement establishing extraordinary actions to address the health emergency generated by COVID-19, published on March 31, 2020 in the Official Gazette of the Federation (Diario Oficial de la Federación). Available from: [https://dof.gob.mx/nota\\_detalle.php?codigo=5590914&fecha=31/03/2020](https://dof.gob.mx/nota_detalle.php?codigo=5590914&fecha=31/03/2020).

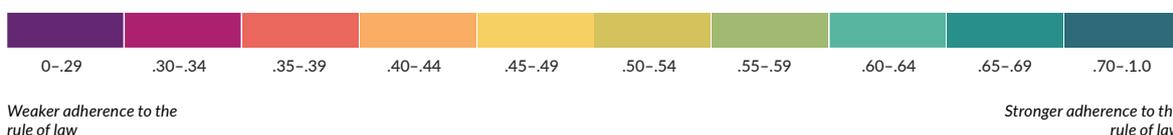
## Summary Table: Scores and Rankings

Like in the previous edition, states generally show substantial gaps in reaching the ideal score in the *Mexico States Rule of Law Index 2020-2021*.

The following map and table present the scores and rankings of the *Mexico States Rule of Law Index 2020-2021*. Scores range from 0 to 1, with 1 indicating the strongest adherence to the rule of law. With a score of 0.47, Yucatán is ranked first for the third consecutive time. On the other hand, Quintana Roo is at the bottom of the ranking, with a score of 0.34. Baja California Sur (+0.04) and Guerrero (+0.03), show significant score increases compared to the previous edition of the Index.



***In times of COVID-19, great challenges are being faced by the State to guarantee the full exercise of freedoms and rights.*** — Prof. Maribel Flores Sánchez, ITESM, specialist in criminal law, Puebla

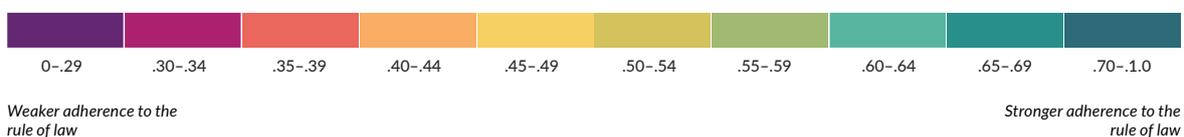


\*Scores are rounded to two decimal places.

Rank	State	Score*	Change 2019-2020–2020-2021*
1	Yucatán	0.47	0.01
2	Coahuila	0.45	0.02
3	Campeche	0.44	0.01
4	Querétaro	0.44	0.01
5	Zacatecas	0.44	0.01
6	Aguascalientes	0.44	-0.01
7	Nuevo León	0.43	0.00
8	Guanajuato	0.43	0.01
9	Baja California Sur	0.43	0.04
10	Sinaloa	0.43	0.01
11	Durango	0.43	0.00
12	Hidalgo	0.42	0.00
13	Nayarit	0.42	0.02
14	Colima	0.41	0.00
15	Chihuahua	0.41	0.01
16	Tamaulipas	0.40	0.01
*	<i>Average of the 32 states</i>	0.40	
17	Sonora	0.40	0.02
18	Michoacán	0.40	0.01
19	Oaxaca	0.39	-0.01
20	Baja California	0.39	-0.01
21	San Luis Potosí	0.39	0.01
22	Chiapas	0.38	0.00
23	Tabasco	0.38	0.01
24	Tlaxcala	0.38	0.01
25	Jalisco	0.37	0.00
26	Veracruz	0.37	-0.01
27	State of Mexico	0.36	0.00
28	Mexico City	0.36	0.00
29	Guerrero	0.36	0.03
30	Morelos	0.36	0.00
31	Puebla	0.35	0.00
32	Quintana Roo	0.34	-0.01



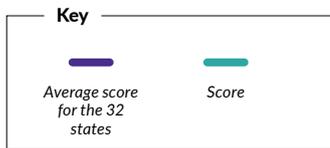
\* Scores rounded to two decimal places



# Changes in the Scores of the Mexico States Rule of Law Index Over Time, at the State Level

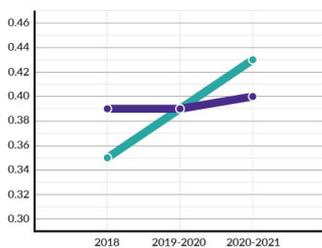
Scores of the *Mexico States Rule of Law Index* for the 32 states in the 2018, 2019-2020, and 2020-2021 editions. The graphs include the trend of the average of the 32 states as a reference.

Mostly, state scores have remained stable throughout the three editions of the *Mexico States Rule of Law Index*. However, despite the COVID-19 pandemic, two states stand out for showing significant increases: Guerrero and Baja California Sur. Additionally, Sonora and Nayarit managed to maintain their upward trend. On the other hand, Baja California, Chiapas, and Quintana Roo decreased their scores both in 2019-2020 and in 2020-2021.

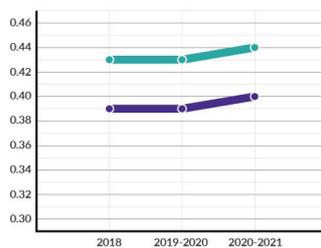


## States that Increased from 2018 to 2020-2021

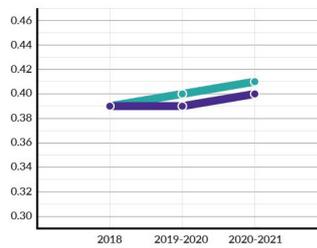
**Baja California Sur**



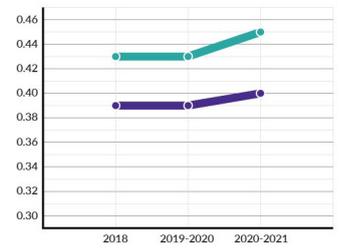
**Campeche**



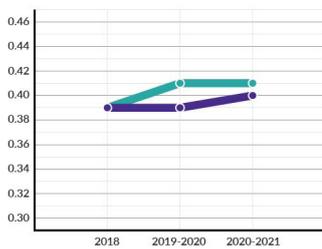
**Chihuahua**



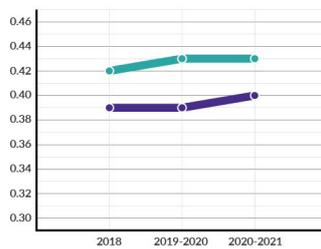
**Coahuila**



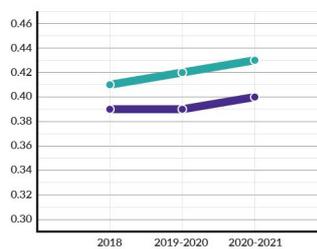
**Colima**



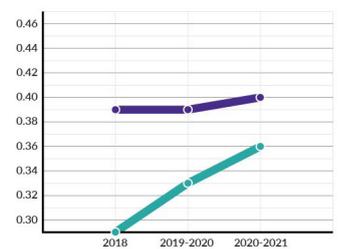
**Durango**



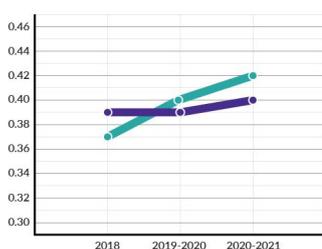
**Guanajuato**



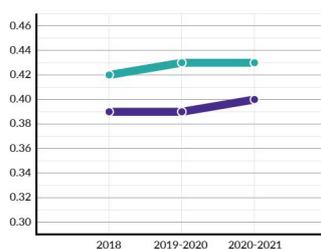
**Guerrero**



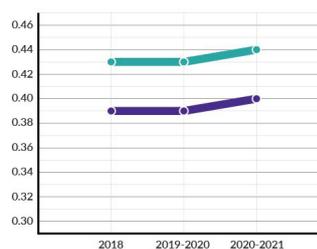
**Nayarit**



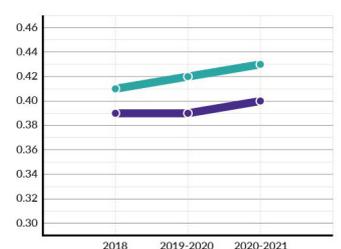
**Nuevo León**



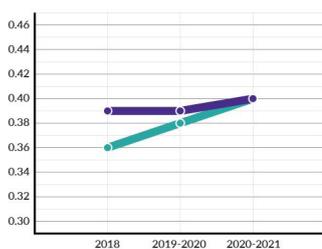
**Querétaro**



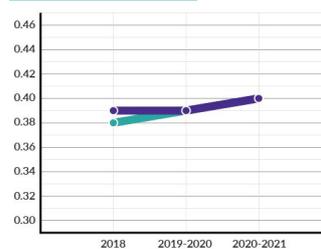
**Sinaloa**



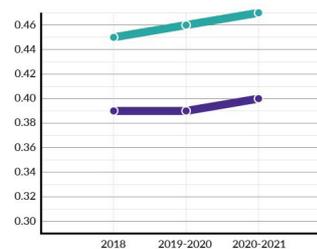
**Sonora**



**Tamaulipas**



**Yucatán**

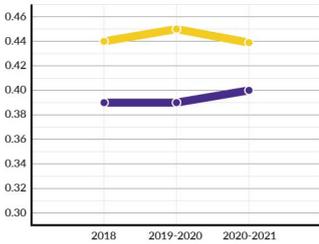


Note: The Index uses a scale from 0 to 1, where 1 indicates the highest adherence to the rule of law.



### States that Remained Unchanged from 2018 to 2020-2021

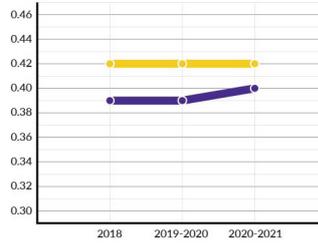
**Aguascalientes**



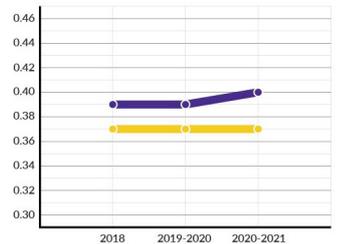
**State of Mexico**



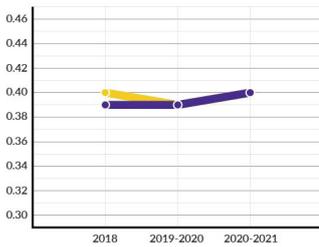
**Hidalgo**



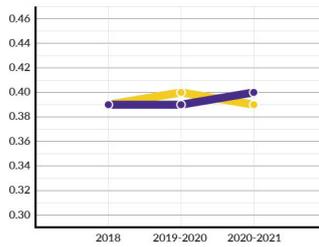
**Jalisco**



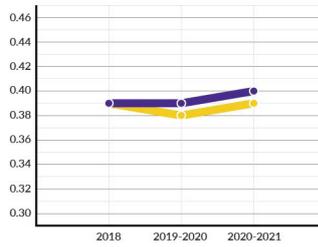
**Michoacán**



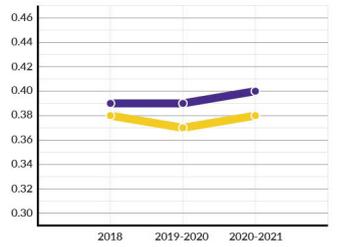
**Oaxaca**



**San Luis Potosí**



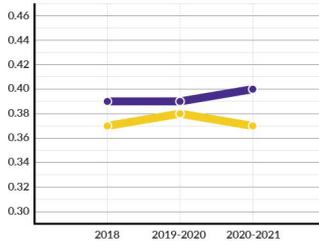
**Tabasco**



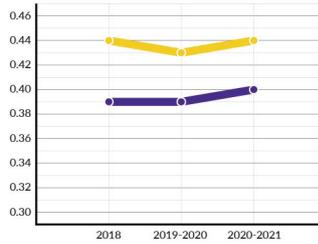
**Tlaxcala**



**Veracruz**

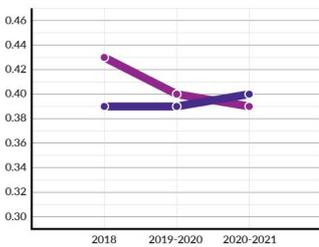


**Zacatecas**

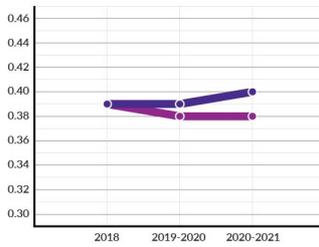


### States that Decreased from 2018 to 2020-2021

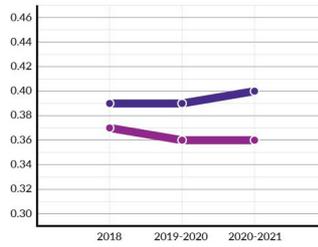
**Baja California**



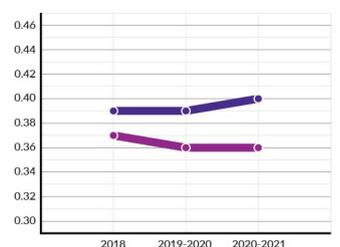
**Chiapas**



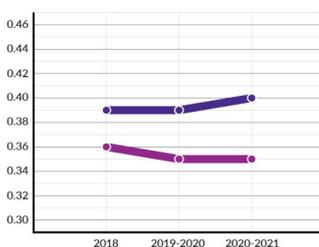
**Mexico City**



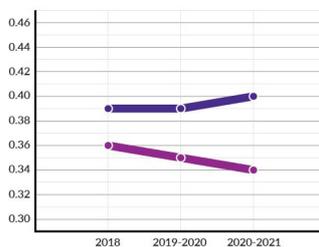
**Morelos**



**Puebla**



**Quintana Roo**

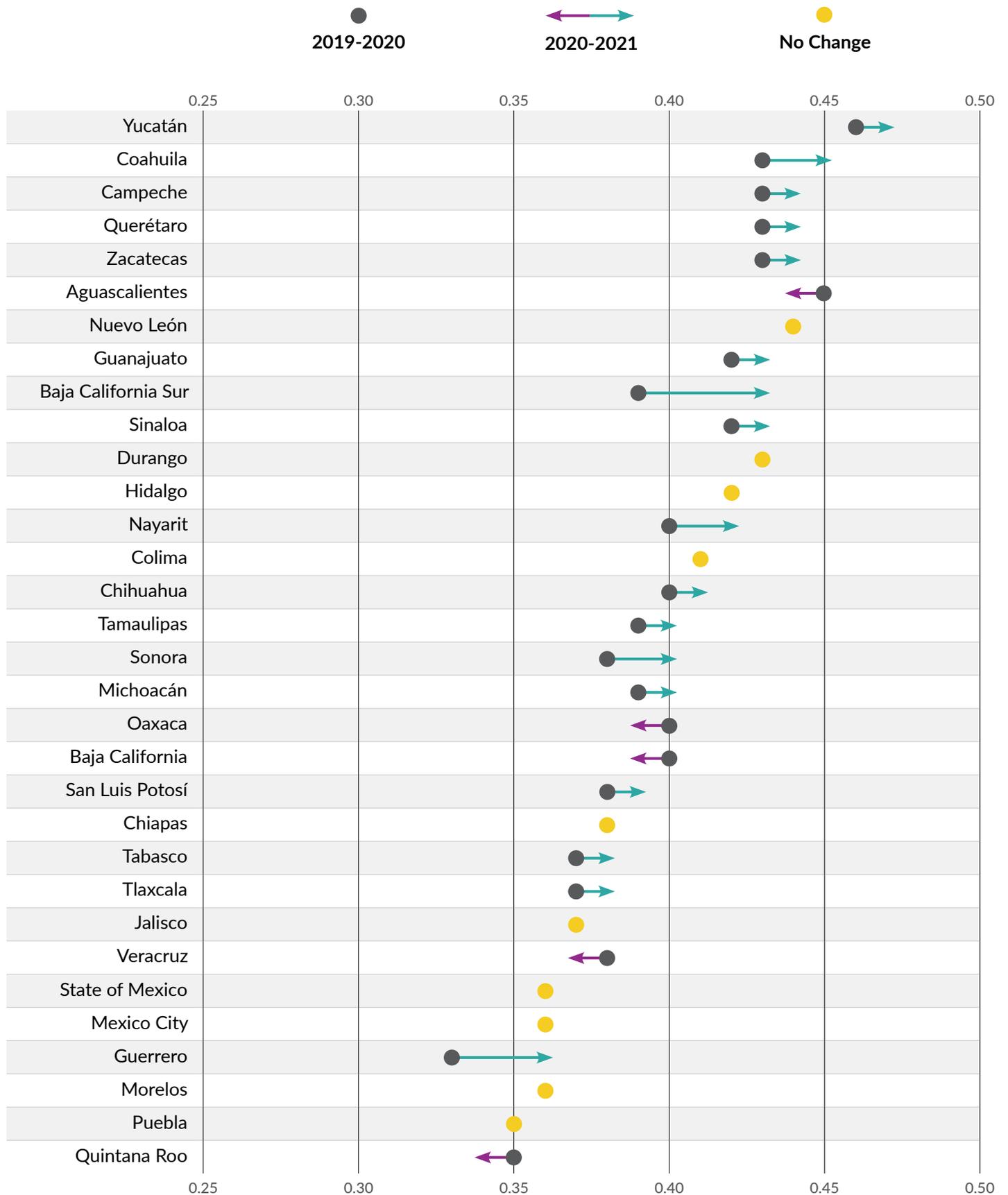


Note: The Index uses a scale from 0 to 1, where 1 indicates the highest adherence to the rule of law.

# Advances and Setbacks of the Rule of Law in Mexico, at the State Level

Changes in the score of the *Mexico States Rule of Law Index*, from the 2019-2020 to the 2020-2021 edition, by state.

Scores of the *Mexico States Rule of Law Index* increased in 17 states, decreased in 5, and stayed the same in 10.

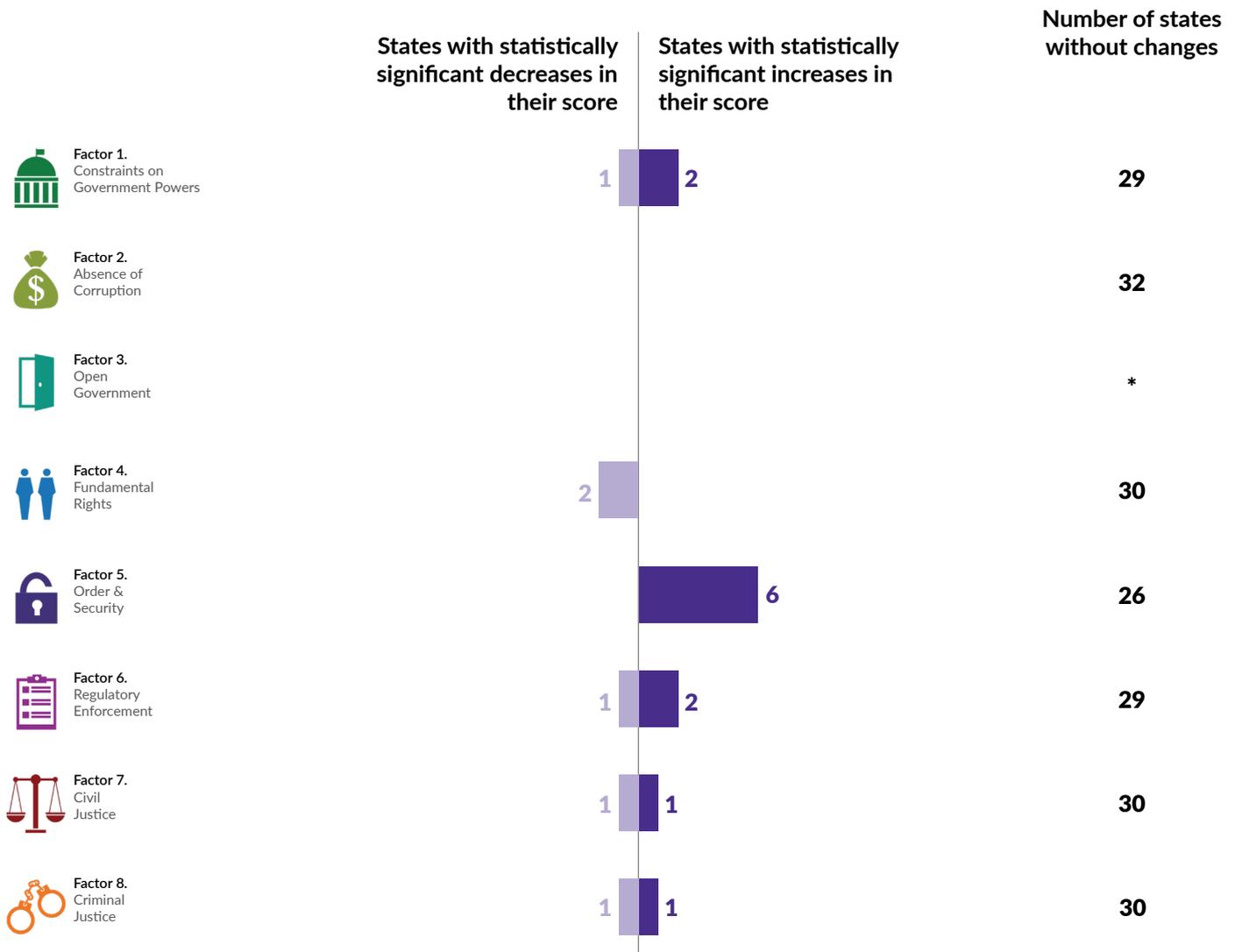


Note: The Index uses a scale from 0 to 1, where 1 indicates the highest adherence to the rule of law.

## Advances and Setbacks in the Mexico States Rule of Law Index 2020-2021, by Factor

The following graph shows the number of states with statistically significant changes in each factor of the *Mexico States Rule of Law Index*, from the 2019-2020 edition to the 2020-2021 edition.

The factor with most changes is Factor 5. Order and safety, with six states showing statistically significant increases, mainly due to a decrease in crime prevalence and incidence rates (Campeche, Chiapas, Guerrero, Nayarit, Sonora, and Yucatán).



**The results of the Mexico States Rule of Law Index 2020-2021 show a stagnation in the country's progress towards strengthening the rule of law, with marginal changes in the general scores of most states since the 2019-2020 edition of the Index.**

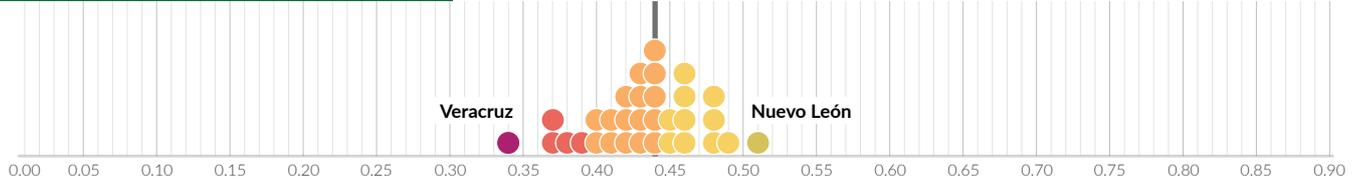
\*Factor 3 did not change from the 2018 edition of the Index. For more details, refer to the Methodology section of the *Mexico States Rule of Law Index 2020-2021* report.

# Scores of the Mexico States Rule of Law Index 2020-2021, by Sub-factor

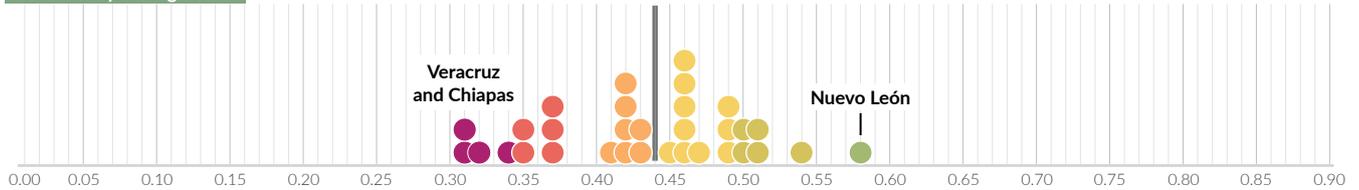


Factor 1

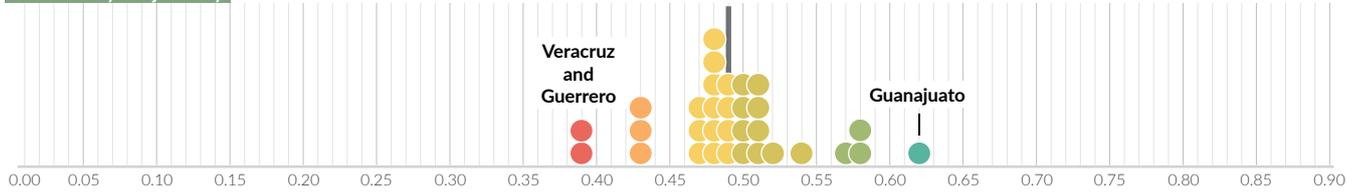
## Constraints on Government Powers



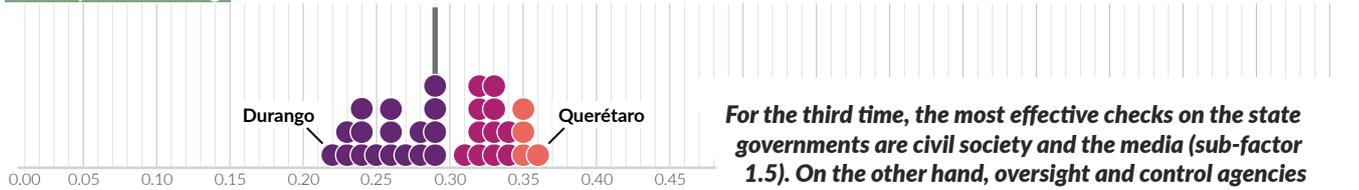
### 1.1 Limits by the legislature



### 1.2 Limits by the judiciary

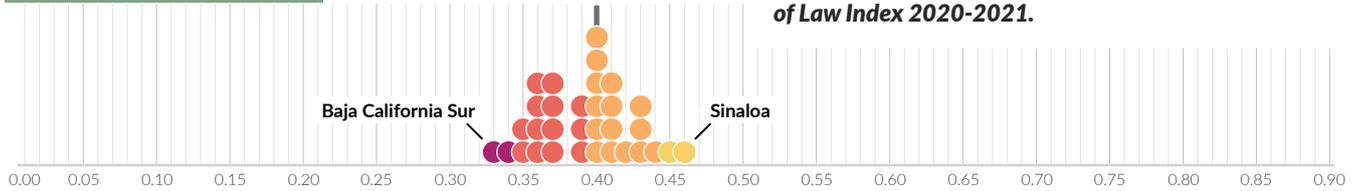


### 1.3 Independent auditing

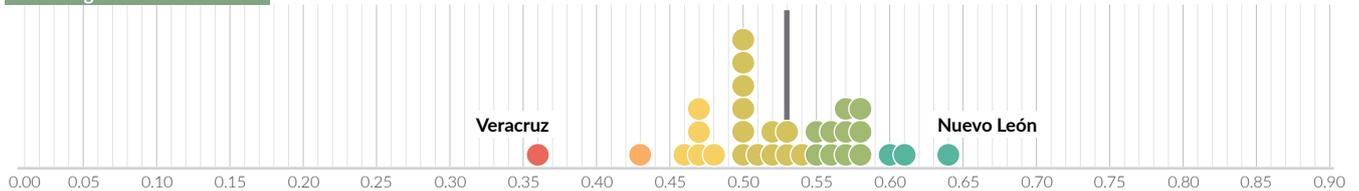


**For the third time, the most effective checks on the state governments are civil society and the media (sub-factor 1.5). On the other hand, oversight and control agencies (particularly state comptrollers' offices) (sub-factor 1.3), are the checks with the lowest scores in the Mexico States Rule of Law Index 2020-2021.**

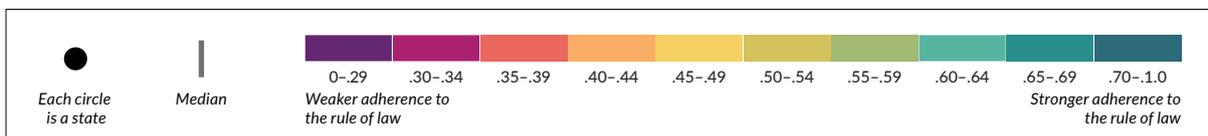
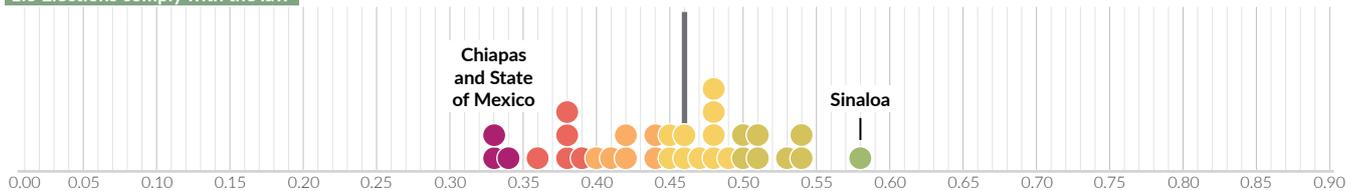
### 1.4 Sanctions for official misconduct



### 1.5 Non-governmental checks



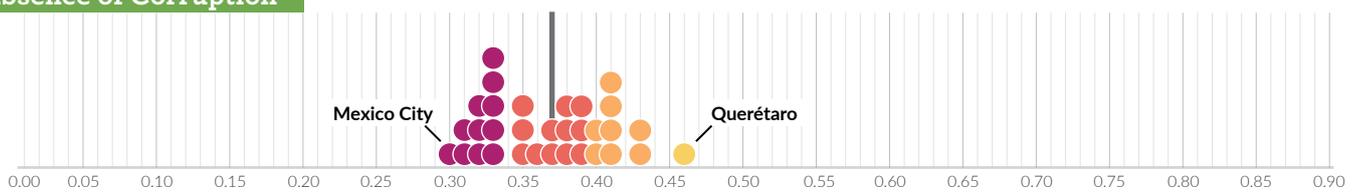
### 1.6 Elections comply with the law



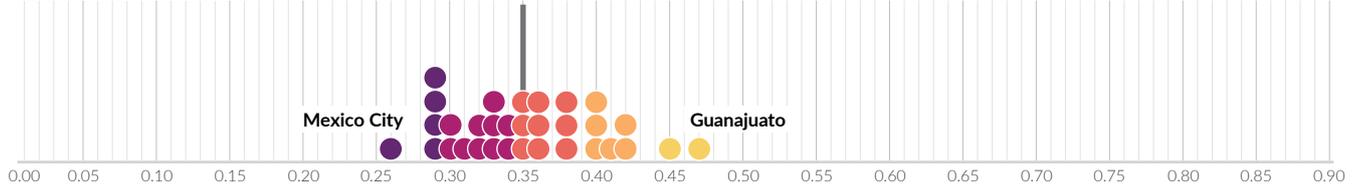
Note: The Index uses a scale from 0 to 1, where 1 indicates the highest adherence to the rule of law. The states with the highest and lowest scores for each indicator are shown. Scores are rounded to two decimal places.

**Factor 2**

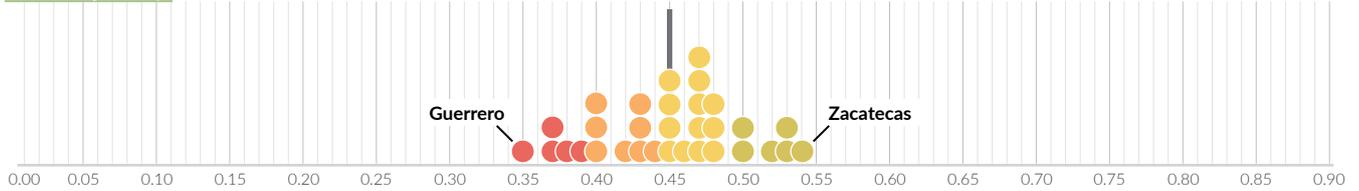
**Absence of Corruption**



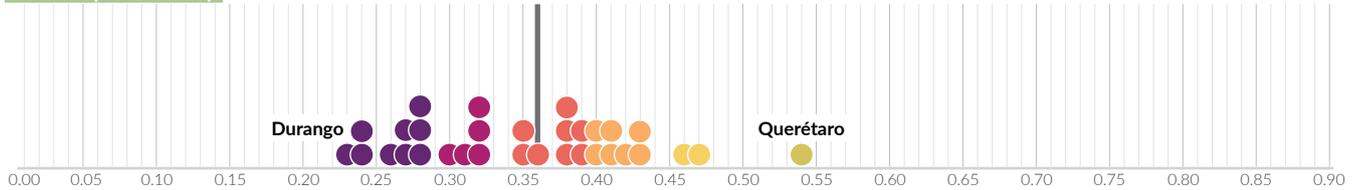
**2.1 In the executive branch**



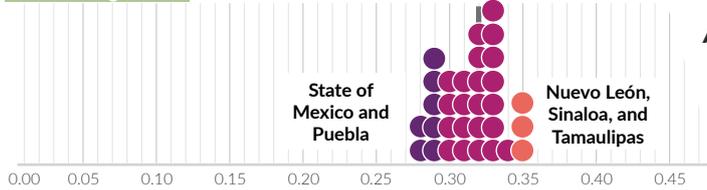
**2.2 In the judiciary**



**2.3 In the police/military**



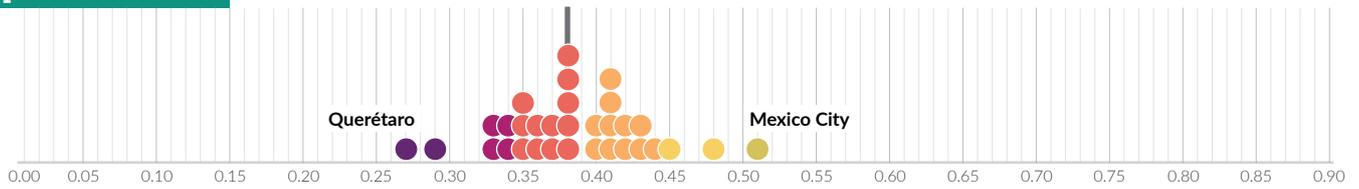
**2.4 In the legislature**



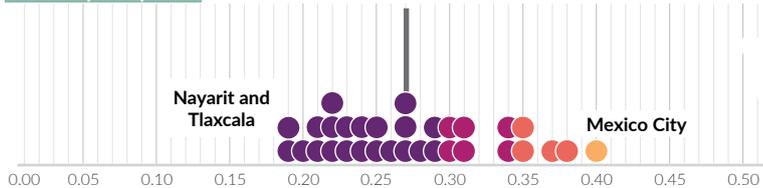
**Absence of corruption in the judiciary (sub-factor 2.2) has the highest scores in most states, according to the Mexico States Rule of Law Index 2020-2021. Corruption in the legislature (sub-factor 2.4) has the lowest scores in Factor 2 for the third time.**

**Factor 3**

**Open Government**

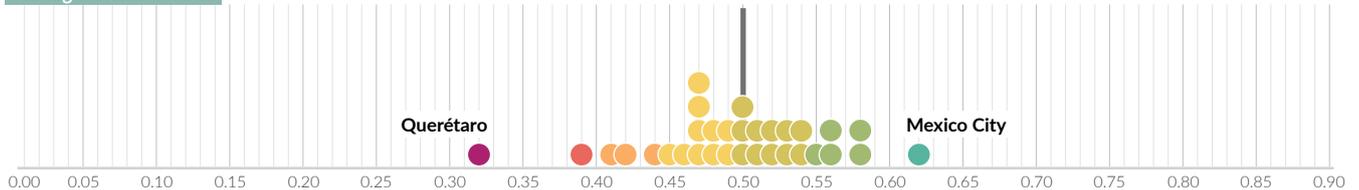


**3.1 Civic participation**



**In Open Government, the indicator that measures access to information (sub-factor 3.2) is strong, while the indicator that measures citizen participation (sub-factor 3.1) has the greatest challenges.**

**3.2 Right to information**

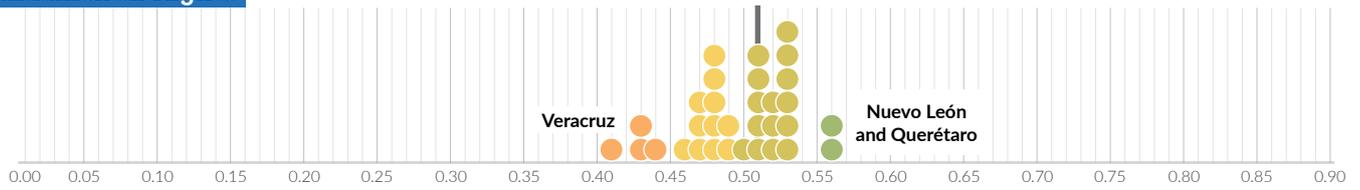


Note: The Index uses a scale from 0 to 1, where 1 indicates the highest adherence to the rule of law. The states with the highest and lowest scores for each indicator are shown. Scores are rounded to two decimal places.

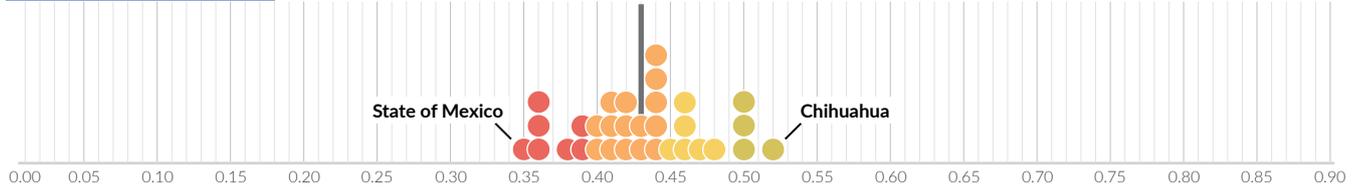


Factor 4

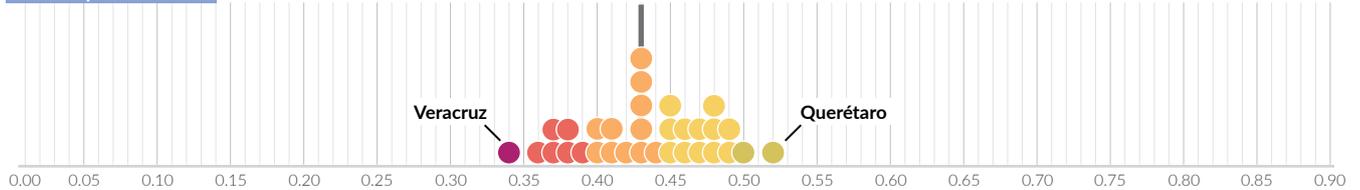
Fundamental Rights



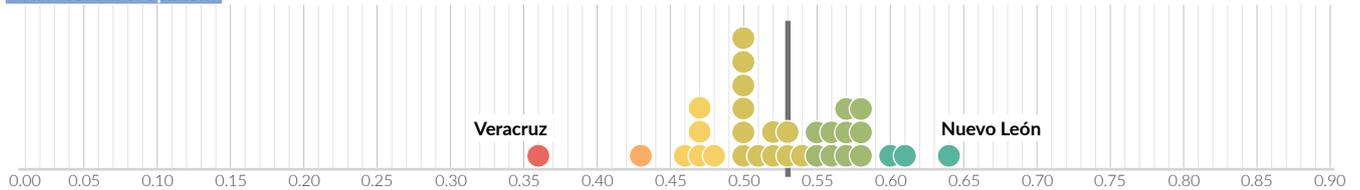
4.1. Absence of discrimination



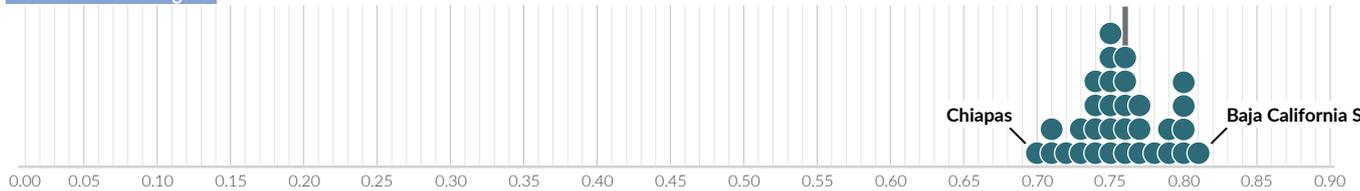
4.3. Due process of law



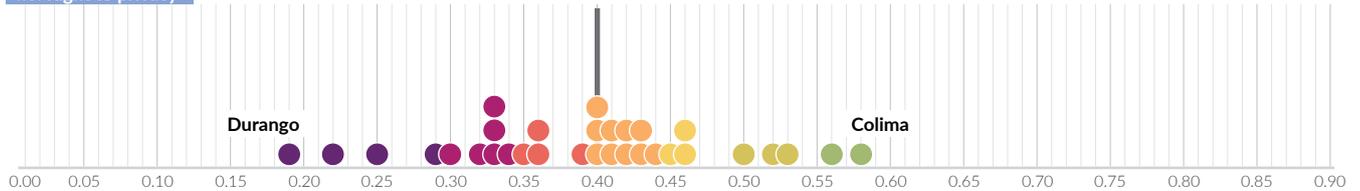
4.4. Freedom of opinion



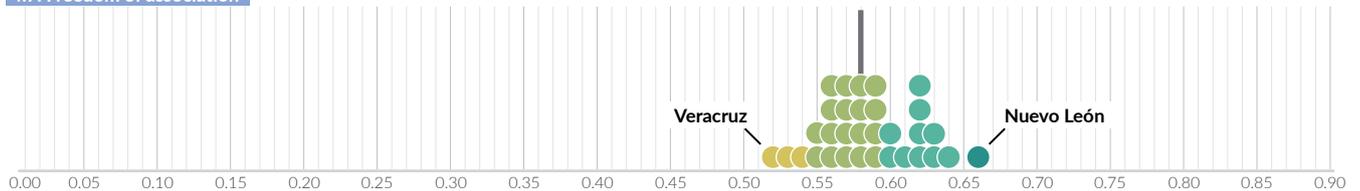
4.5. Freedom of religion



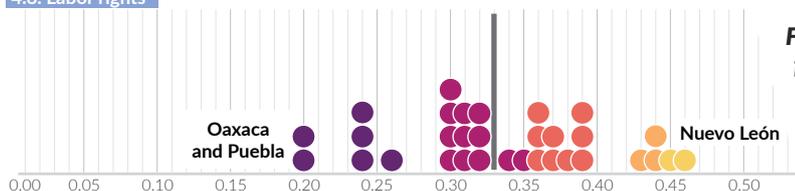
4.6. Right to privacy



4.7. Freedom of association



4.8. Labor rights

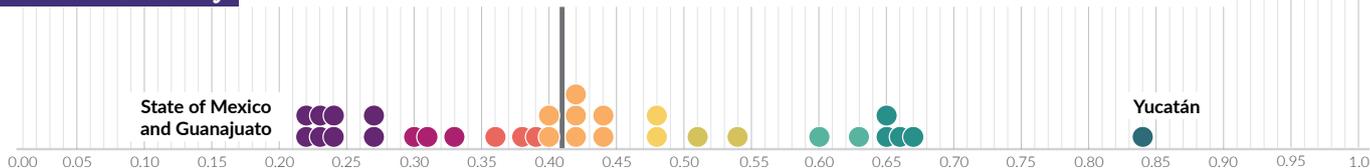


**Freedom of religion (sub-factor 4.5) is one of the sub-factors with the highest scores in Mexico States Rule of Law Index 2020-2021. Labor rights (sub-factor 4.8) show the greatest areas of opportunity in Factor 4.**

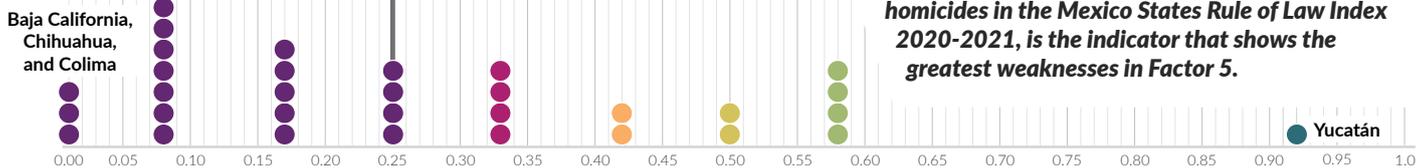
Note: The Index uses a scale from 0 to 1, where 1 indicates the highest adherence to the rule of law. The states with the highest and lowest scores for each indicator are shown. Scores are rounded to two decimal places.

**Factor 5**

**Order and Security**

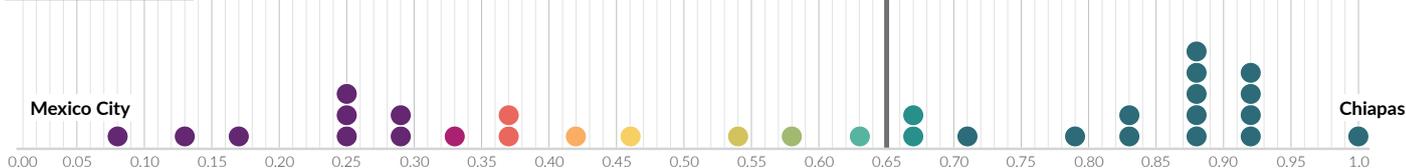


**5.1 Absence of homicides**

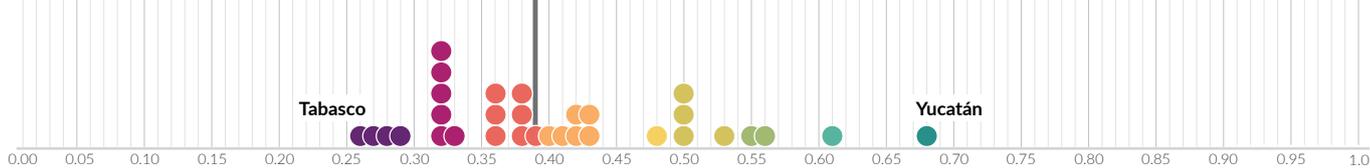


**Subfactor 5.1, which measures the absence of homicides in the Mexico States Rule of Law Index 2020-2021, is the indicator that shows the greatest weaknesses in Factor 5.**

**5.2 Absence of crime**



**5.3 Perception of safety**



Note: The Index uses a scale from 0 to 1, where 1 indicates the highest adherence to the rule of law. The states with the highest and lowest scores for each indicator are shown. Scores are rounded to two decimal places.

## The Security Challenge in Mexico

Security continues to be one of Mexico's greatest challenges, considering homicide rates, crime rates, and the perception of insecurity. Nonetheless, crime rates and perception of security show slight improvements. The below data is pulled from the Mexico States Rule of Law Index (MSI).

### Homicides per 100,000 population

# of states with 12 or fewer homicides per every 100,000 inhabitants (equivalent to a score equal or higher than 0.50 in the IEDMX)	MSI 2018	23	9
# of states with more than 12 homicides per every 100,000 inhabitants (equivalent to a score lower than 0.50 in the IEDMX)	MSI 2019-2020	24	8
	MSI 2020-2021	25	7

Note: Homicide average per 100,000 population, at the national level for 2017 was 26, 29 in 2018, and 29 in 2019.

Source: Homicide deaths: 2017, 2018 y 2019, INEGI.

### Victims per 100,000 population

# of states with 24 thousand crime victims or less per 100,000 inhabitants (equivalent to a score equal or higher than 0.50 in the IEDMX)	MSI 2018	17	15
# of states with more than 24 thousand crime victims per 100,000 inhabitants (equivalent to a score lower than 0.50 in the IEDMX)	MSI 2019-2020	17	15
	MSI 2020-2021	13	19

Note: Sub-factor 5.2 also includes data from crime incidence, which is not included in this graph.

Note 2: The national average for crime prevalence in ENVIPE 2018 was 29,746 per 100,000 population; in ENVIPE 2019 was 28,269 per 100,000 population, and in ENVIPE 2020 was 24,849 per 100,000 population.

Note 3: ENVIPE captures crimes that occurred on the previous year of its publication (for example, ENVIPE 2020 includes data from crime from 2019).

Source: ENVIPE 2018, 2019 and 2020, INEGI.

### Perception of insecurity in the state (%)

# of states where 60% or less of the population feels unsafe in their state (equivalent to a score equal or higher than 0.40 in the IEDMX)	MSI 2018	26	6
# of states where more than 60% of the population feels unsafe in their state (equivalent to a score lower than 0.40 in the IEDMX)	MSI 2019-2020	28	4
	MSI 2020-2021	24	8

Note: Sub-factor 5.3 also averages the perception of security in other public or private spaces, the data is not shown in this graph.

Note 2: The percentage of the population that reported feeling unsafe in their state were 79.4% (ENVIPE 2018), 78.8% (ENVIPE 2019), and 78.6% (ENVIPE 2020).

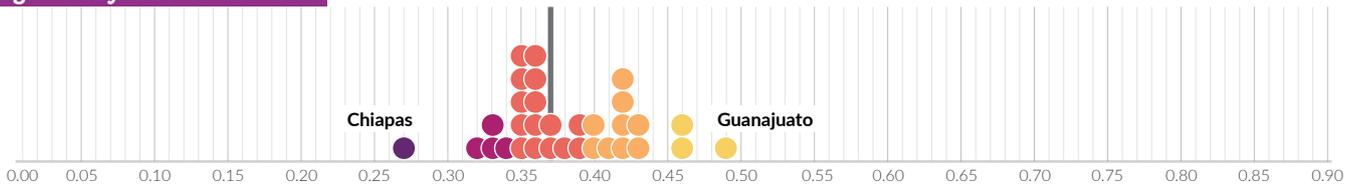
Note 3: ENVIPE captures the insecurity perceptions of the population of the year of the collection of the data (for example, ENVIPE 2020 captures perceptions of the population in 2020).

Source: ENVIPE 2018, 2019 and 2020, INEGI.

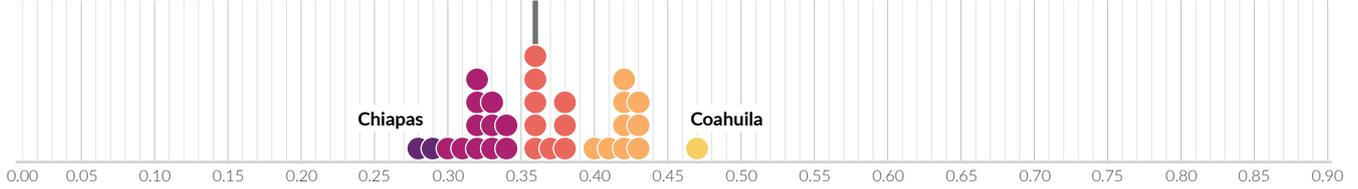


**Factor 6**

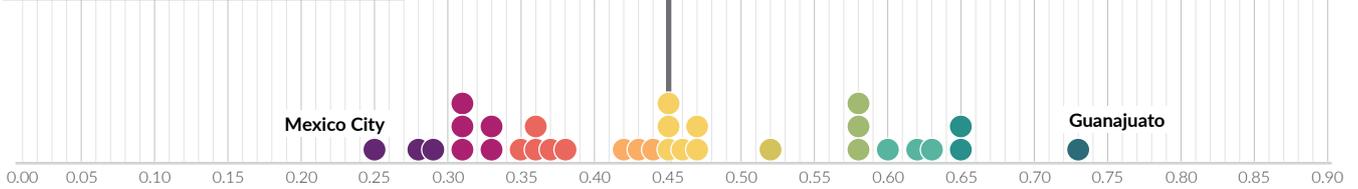
**Regulatory Enforcement**



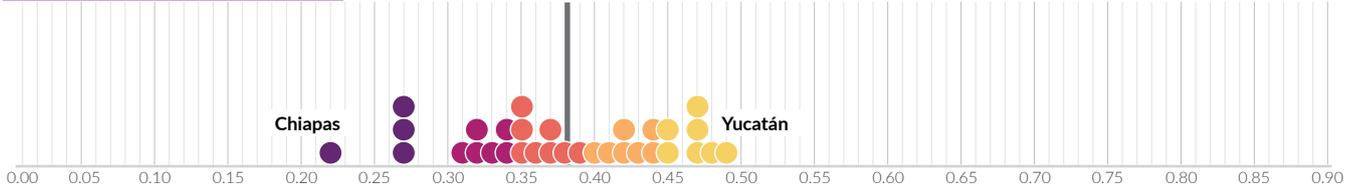
**6.1 Efficient regulatory enforcement**



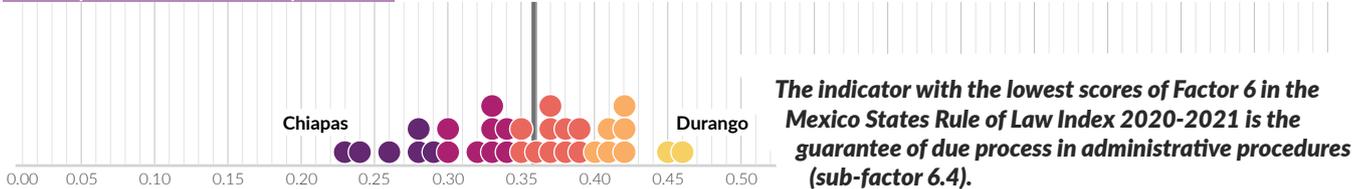
**6.2 Regulatory enforcement free of corruption**



**6.3 Efficient administrative procedures**

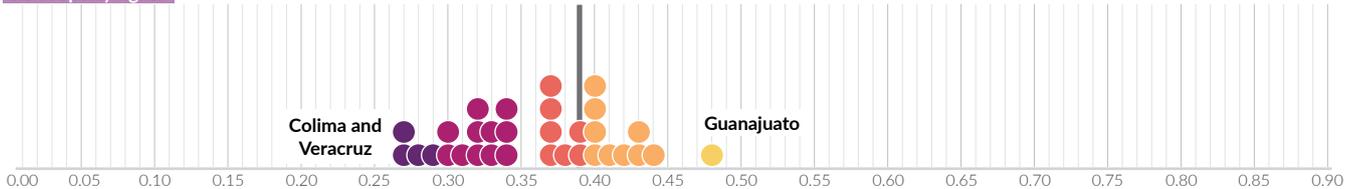


**6.4 Due process in administrative procedures**



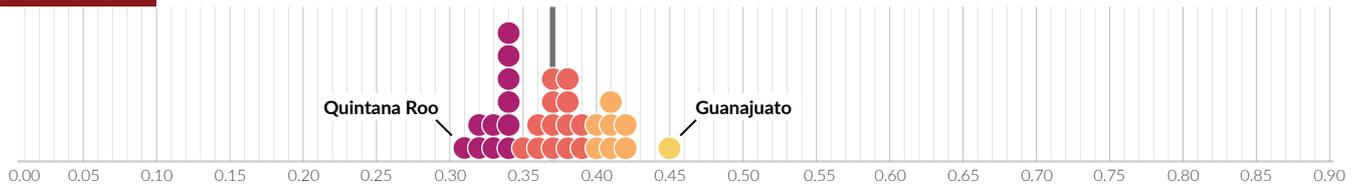
*The indicator with the lowest scores of Factor 6 in the Mexico States Rule of Law Index 2020-2021 is the guarantee of due process in administrative procedures (sub-factor 6.4).*

**6.5 Property rights**

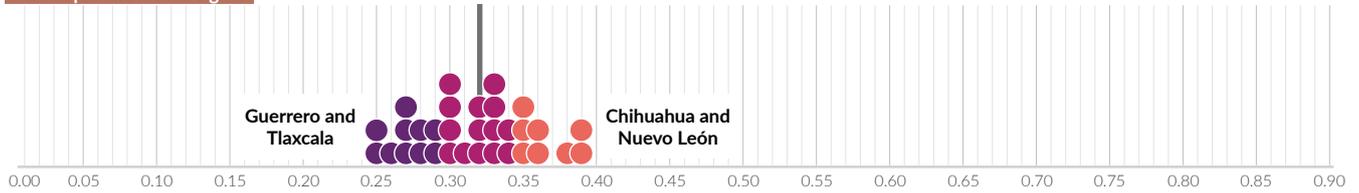


Note: The Index uses a scale from 0 to 1, where 1 indicates the highest adherence to the rule of law. The states with the highest and lowest scores for each indicator are shown. Scores are rounded to two decimal places.

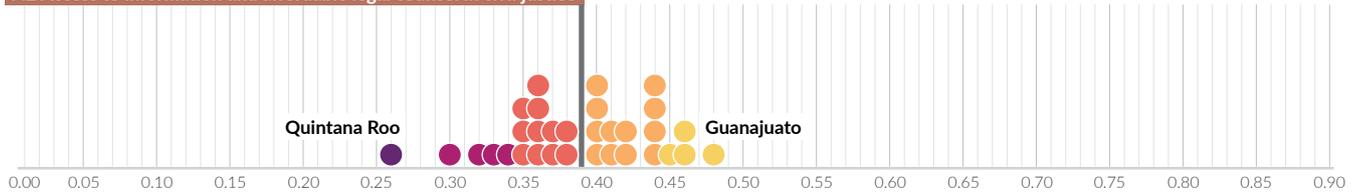
**Factor 7**  
**Civil Justice**



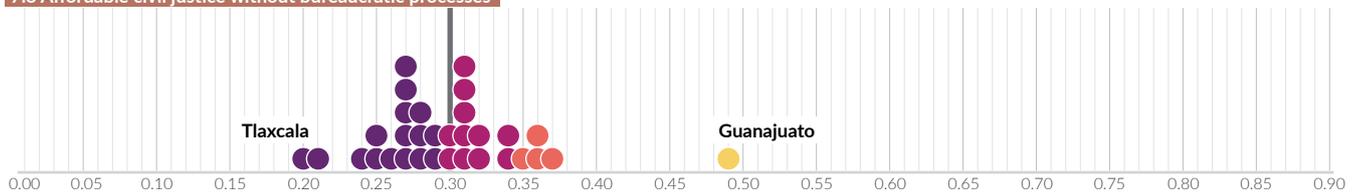
7.1 People know their rights



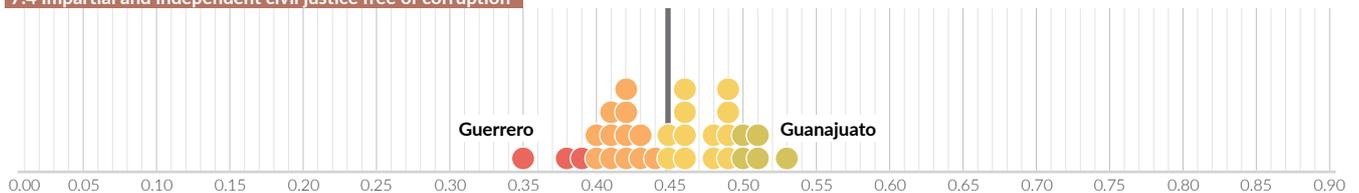
7.2 Access to information and affordable legal counsel in civil justice



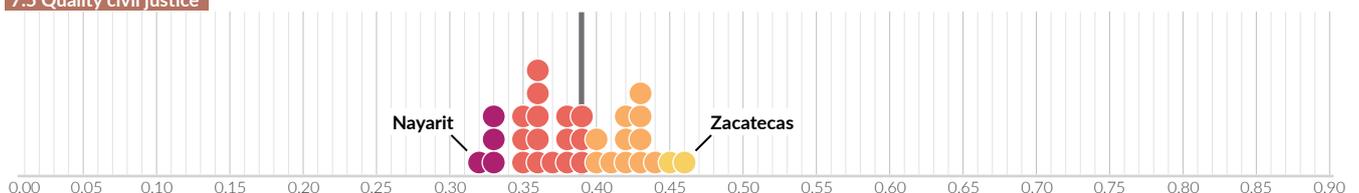
7.3 Affordable civil justice without bureaucratic processes



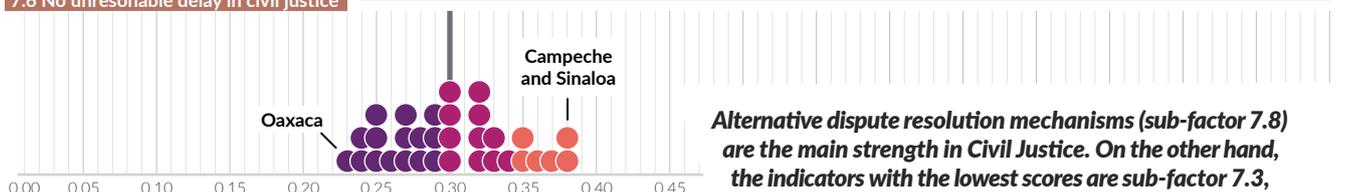
7.4 Impartial and independent civil justice free of corruption



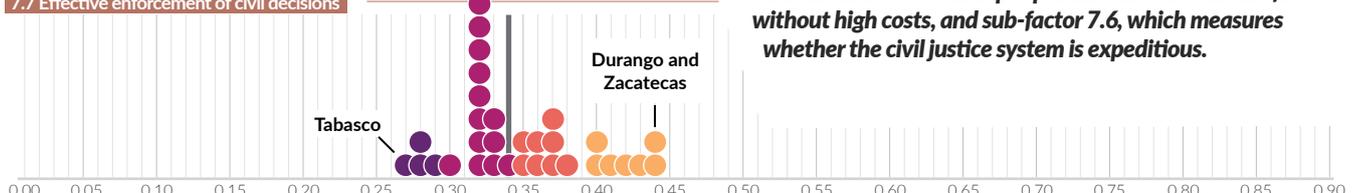
7.5 Quality civil justice



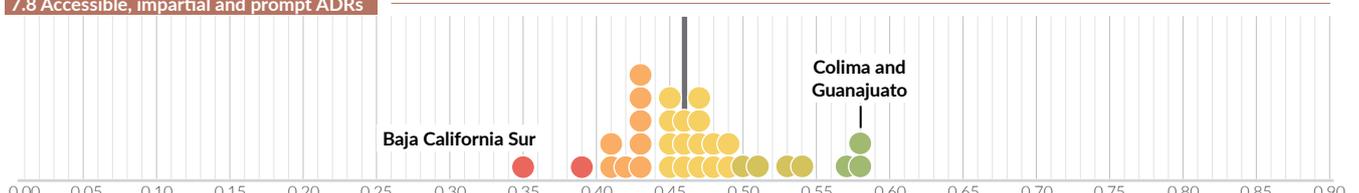
7.6 No unreasonable delay in civil justice



7.7 Effective enforcement of civil decisions



7.8 Accessible, impartial and prompt ADRs



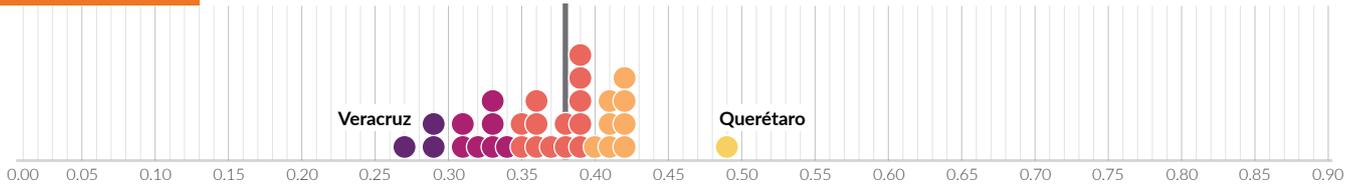
**Alternative dispute resolution mechanisms (sub-factor 7.8) are the main strength in Civil Justice. On the other hand, the indicators with the lowest scores are sub-factor 7.3, which measures whether people can resolve their conflicts without high costs, and sub-factor 7.6, which measures whether the civil justice system is expeditious.**

Note: The Index uses a scale from 0 to 1, where 1 indicates the highest adherence to the rule of law. The states with the highest and lowest scores for each indicator are shown. Scores are rounded to two decimal places.

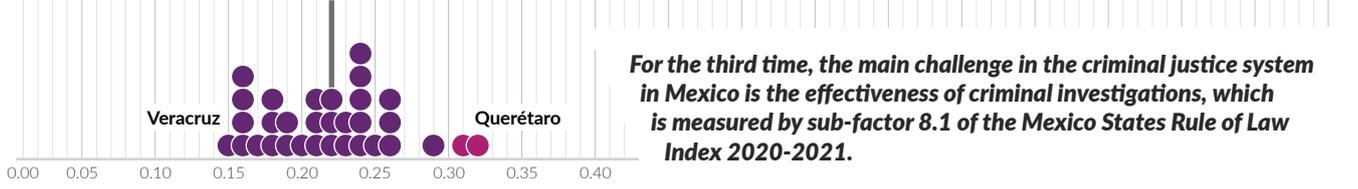


**Factor 8**

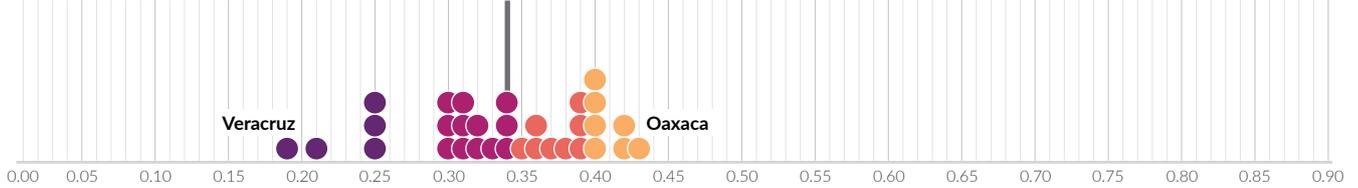
**Criminal Justice**



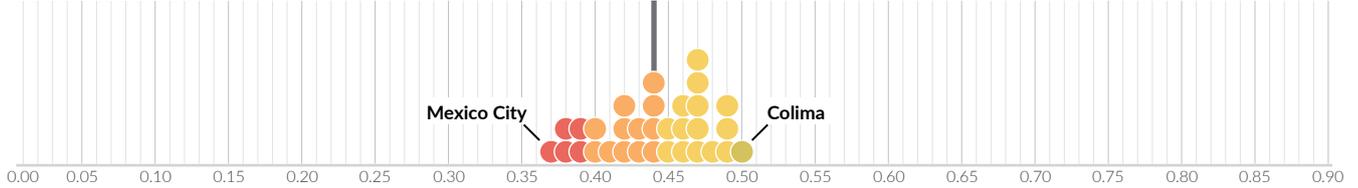
**8.1 Effective criminal investigations**



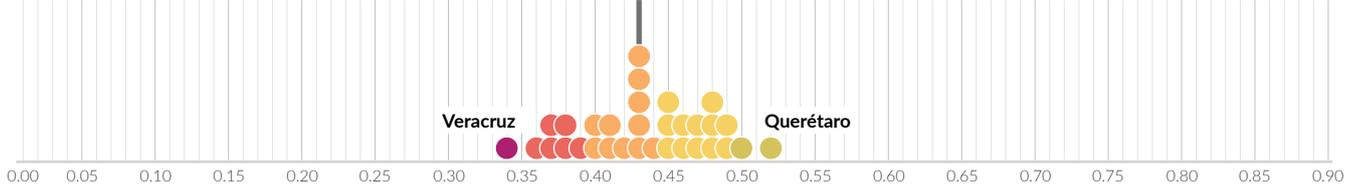
**8.2 Effective and efficient criminal adjudication**



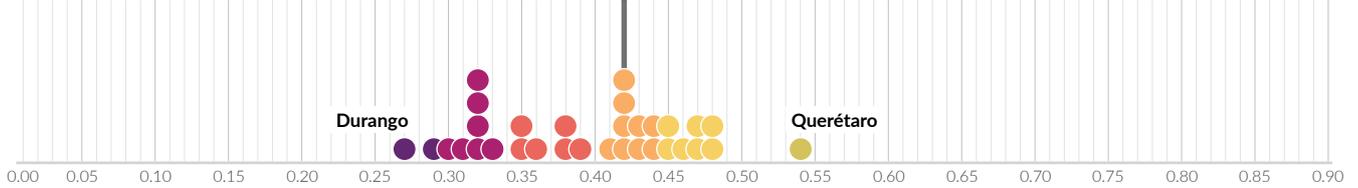
**8.3 Rights of victims**



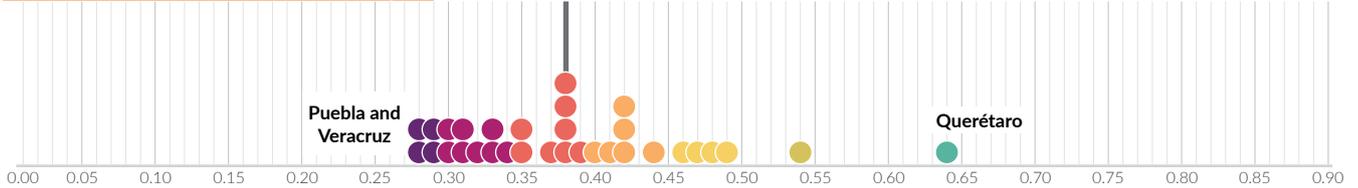
**8.4 Due process of law**



**8.5 Impartial and independent criminal justice free of corruption**



**8.6 Safe prison systems that respect human rights**



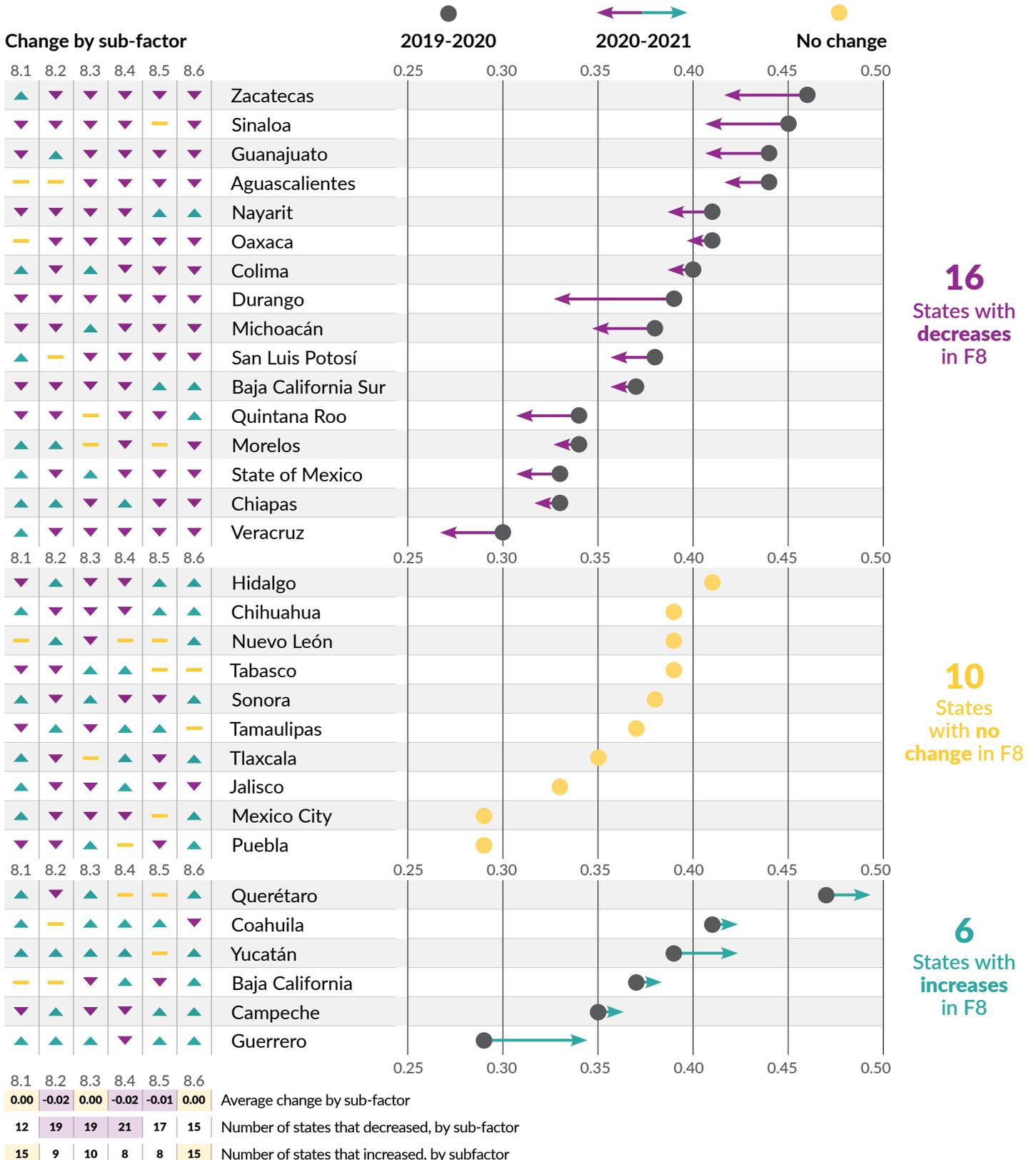
Note: The Index uses a scale from 0 to 1, where 1 indicates the highest adherence to the rule of law. The states with the highest and lowest scores for each indicator are shown. Scores are rounded to two decimal places.

## Decreases of Factor 8. Criminal Justice

Changes in scores of Factor 8. Criminal Justice, and its six sub-factors, from the 2019-2020 to the 2020-2021 edition, by state.

Since the previous edition of the Index, Factor 8 decreased in 16 states, increased in 6, and remained the same in 10.

The sub-factors with the highest decreases are sub-factor 8.2, which measures the efficiency of the criminal justice system, and sub-factor 8.4, which measures the respect for due process (including presumption of innocence, dignified treatment, adequate defense and access to a public trial in front of a competent and impartial judge. Sub-factor 8.2 decreased in 18 states, and sub-factor 8.4 decreased in 20 states. In both, the average difference in score since the last edition of the Index is -0.02. With unique data collected during the pandemic, this finding reflects the experiences and perspectives of criminal justice specialists across the country.



Sources: Mexico States Rule of Law Index 2020-2021, 2019-2020 and 2018.

# Word Clouds

## What do you associate with the phrase “Rule of Law”?

In the general population survey, administered to 25,600 people throughout the country, respondents were asked about the three words they associate with the phrase “Rule of Law.” The most common answers are presented below, by age range.

18 TO 35 YEARS OLD



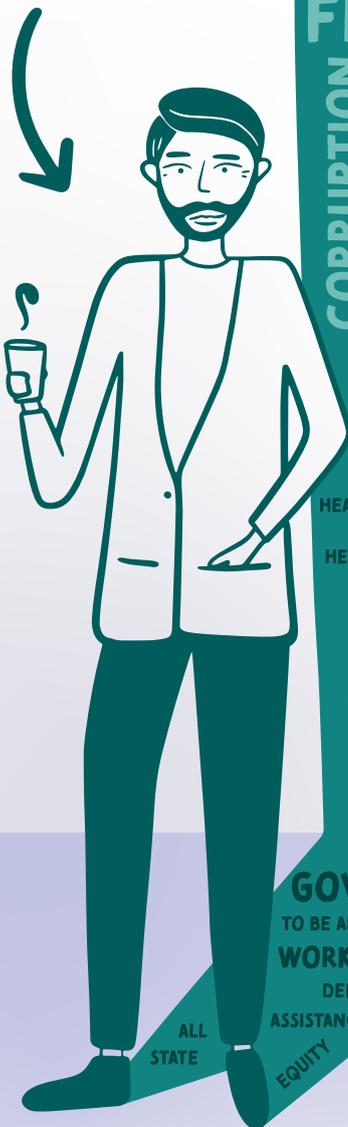
A → A

\*\*\*Simulated text to show proportion of mentions through text size.



48% DON'T KNOW

36 TO 59  
YEARS OLD



52% DON'T KNOW

60 OR MORE  
YEARS OLD



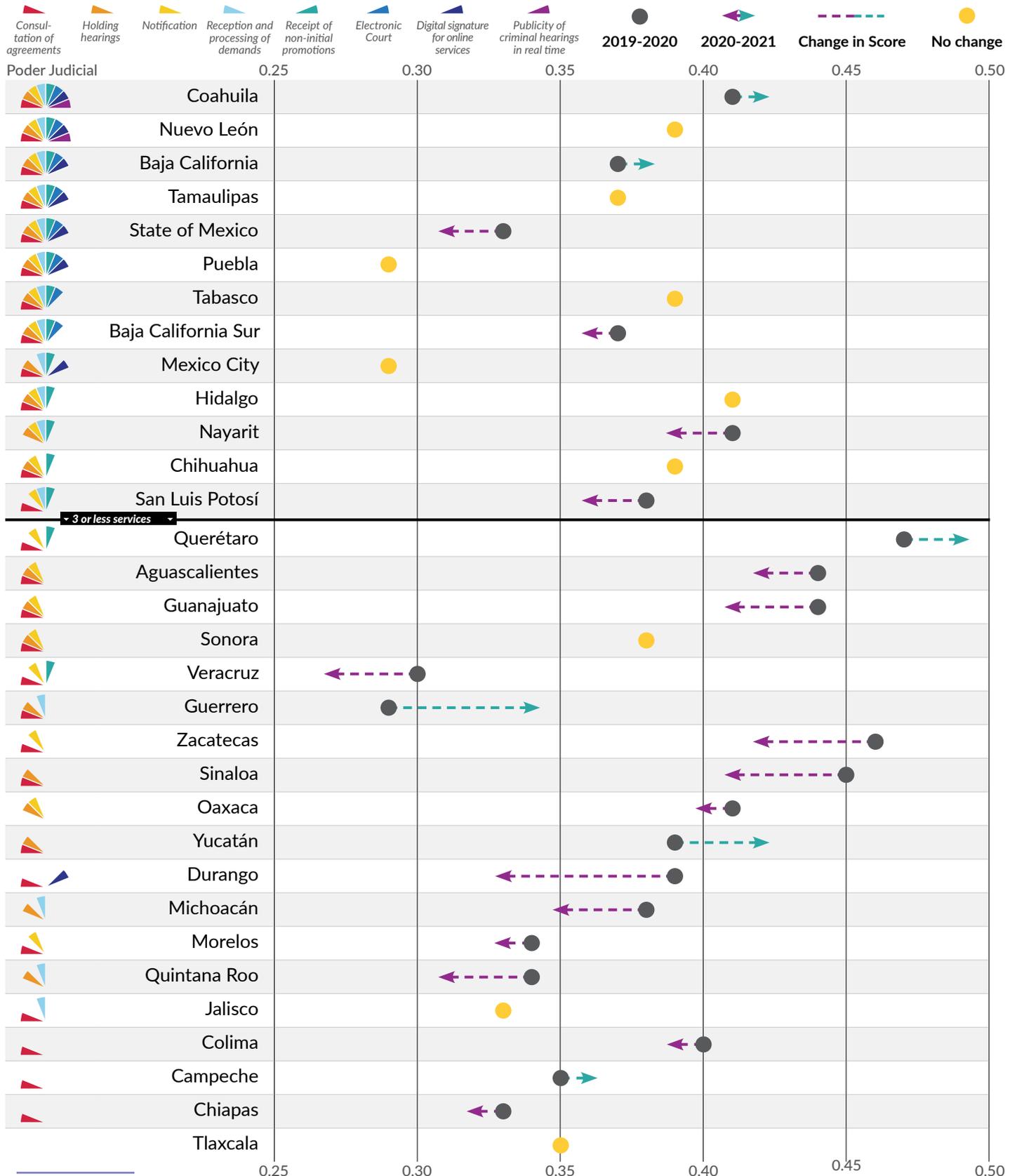
59% DON'T KNOW

# Decline in Factor 8. Criminal Justice and Interruption of Justice Services During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Changes in Factor 8. Criminal Justice scores, from the 2019-2020 to the 2020-2021 edition, by state, and the justice services that each state had available during the pandemic.

Of the 16 states that decreased their Factor 8 score from the previous edition of the *Mexico States Rule of Law Index*, 12 had 3 or fewer online services during the pandemic.<sup>4</sup> The data suggest that criminal justice systems were affected by the lack of timely and appropriate Open and Digital Justice measures, to enable access to citizens by remote and collaborative means, which were necessary during confinement and the health emergency.

## Justice Services

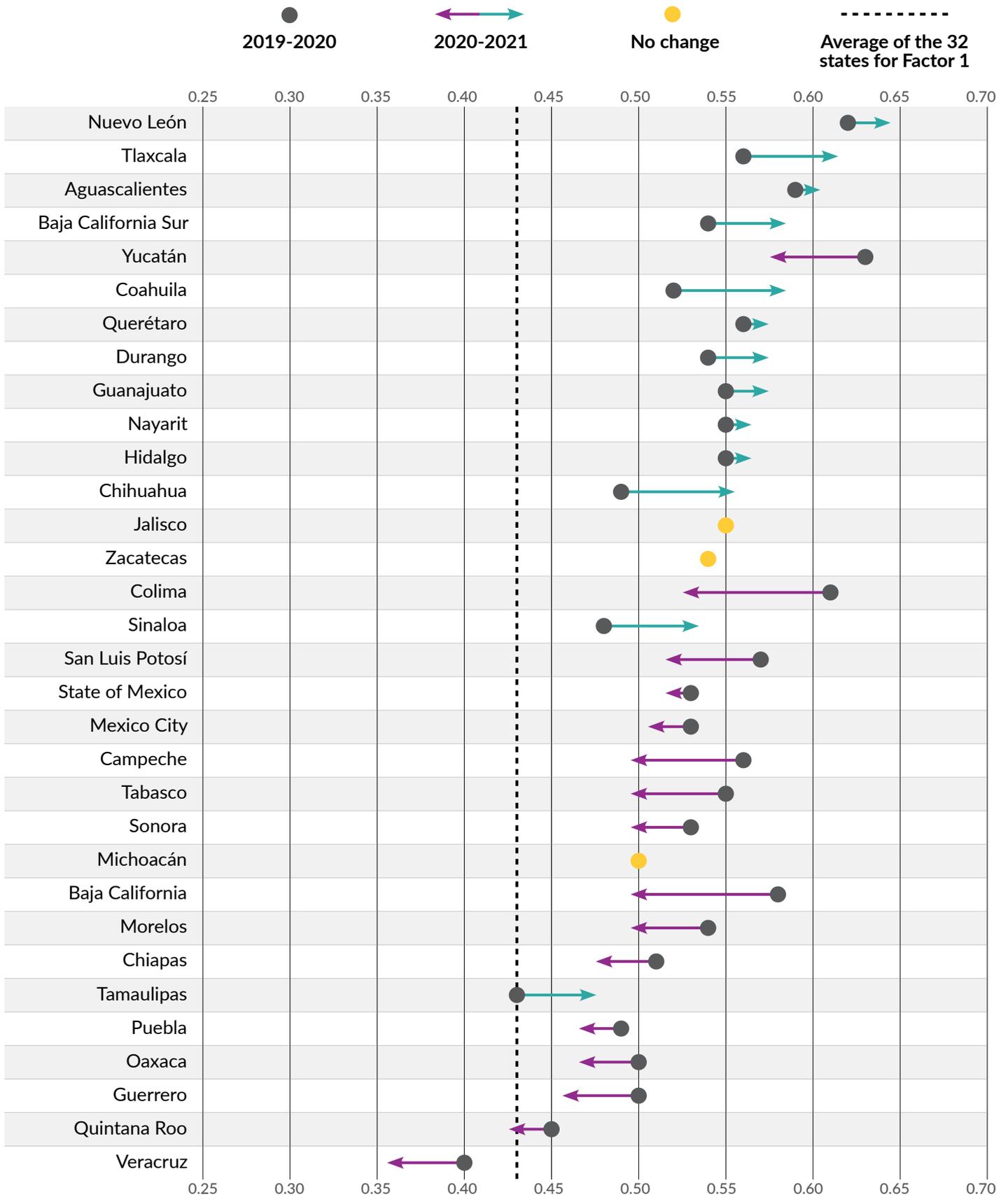


4 Agreement establishing extraordinary actions to address the health emergency generated by COVID-19, published on March 31, 2020 in the Official Gazette of the Federation (Diario Oficial de la Federación). Available from: [https://dof.gob.mx/nota\\_detalle.php?codigo=5590914&fecha=31/03/2020](https://dof.gob.mx/nota_detalle.php?codigo=5590914&fecha=31/03/2020). Sources: Mexico States Rule of Law Index 2020-2021, 2019-2020 and 2018. Monitoring mechanism for plans, programs and budgets in the context of COVID-19, from Transparencia Mexicana y Tojil, 2020, available at: <https://www.tm.org.mx/justiciadigitalpostcovid-episodio2/>.

# Reduction of the Civic Space and the Decline of the Press as an Effective Check on State Governments

Changes in the scores of sub-factor 1.5 from the 2019-2020 to the 2020-2021 edition. Civil society and the media continue to be the most effective checks on state government power.

The most effective checks on government power are civil society and the media (sub-factor 1.5); however, 16 states saw a reduction in their scores.

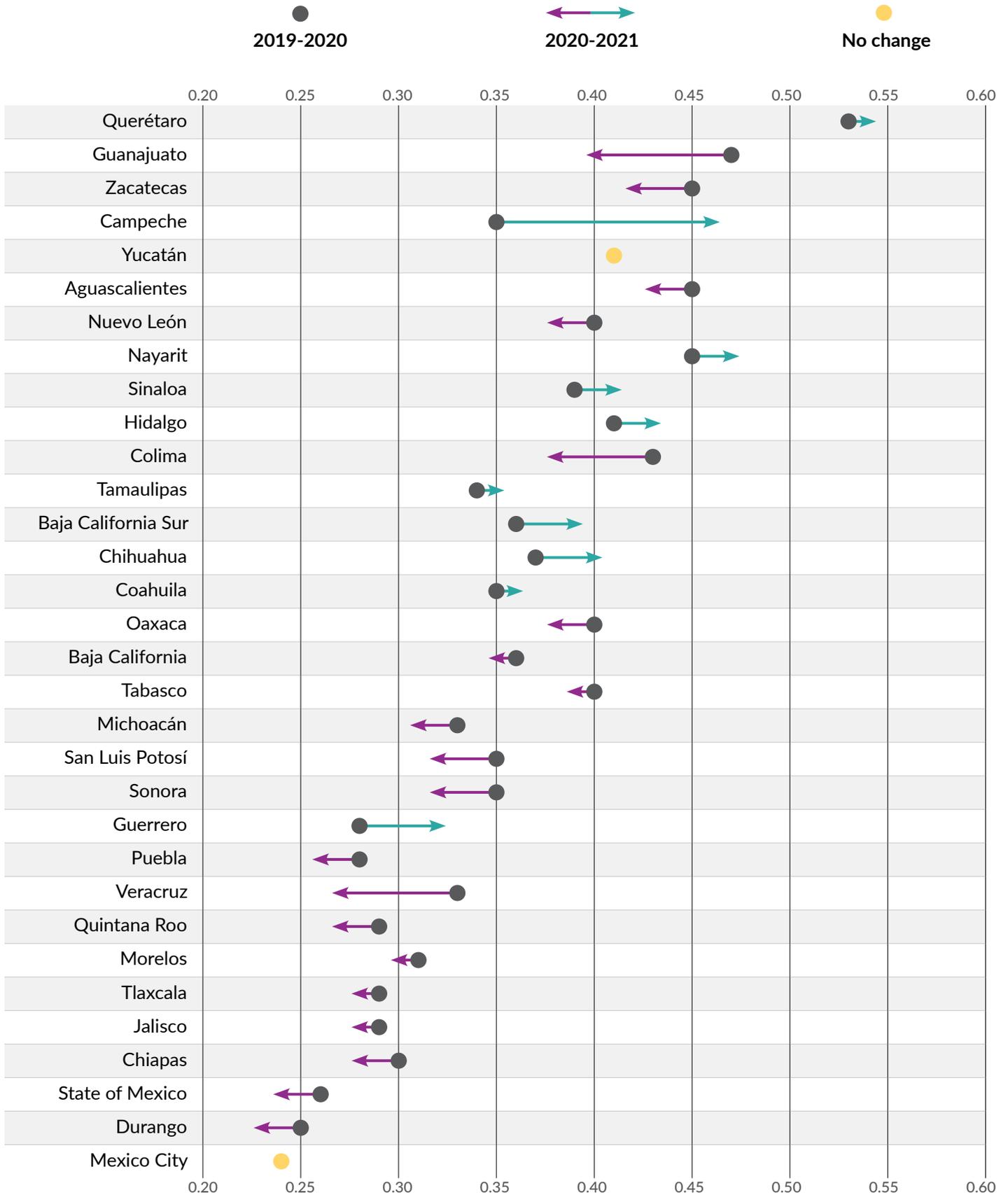


Note: The Index uses a scale from 0 to 1, where 1 indicates the highest adherence to the rule of law. Scores are rounded to two decimal places.

# Decline of Control of Corruption in Security and Law Enforcement Forces

Changes in the scores of sub-factor 2.3 Absence of corruption in the security and law enforcement systems, from the 2019-2020 to the 2020-2021 edition of the *Mexico States Rule of Law Index*, by state.

There is a decline in the absence of corruption in the security and law enforcement systems. Since the previous edition of the Index, 20 states decreased, increased in 10, and remained the same in 2.

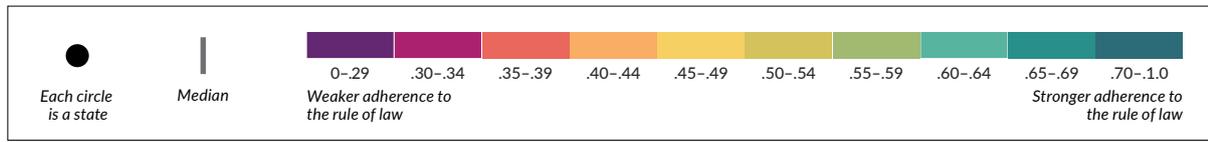


Note: The Index uses a scale from 0 to 1, where 1 indicates the highest adherence to the rule of law. Scores are rounded to two decimal places.

# Challenges in Environmental Regulatory Enforcement

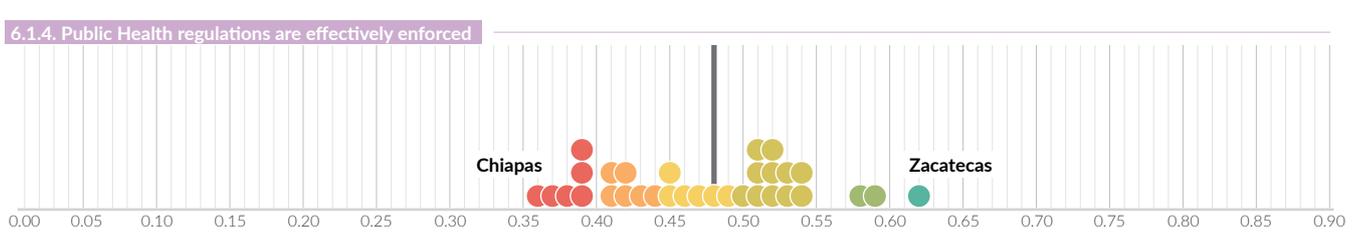
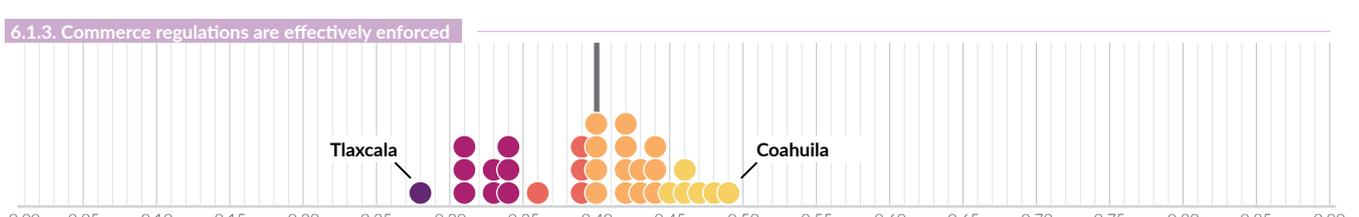
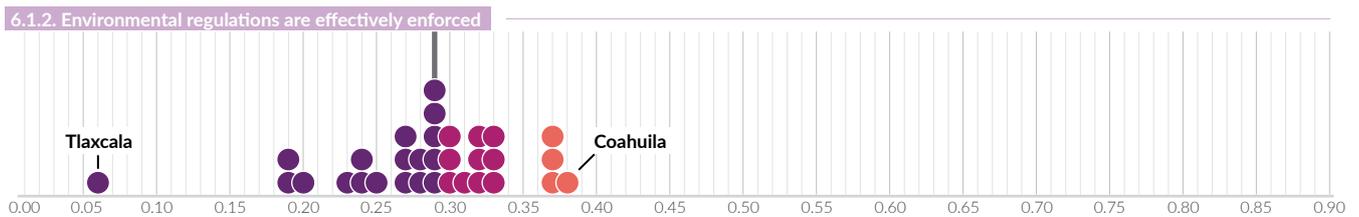
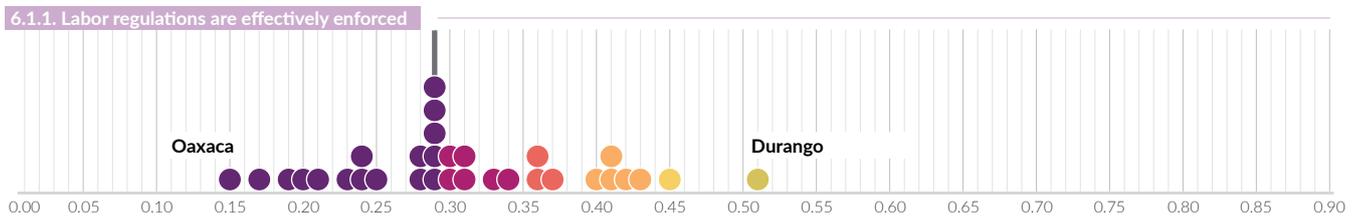
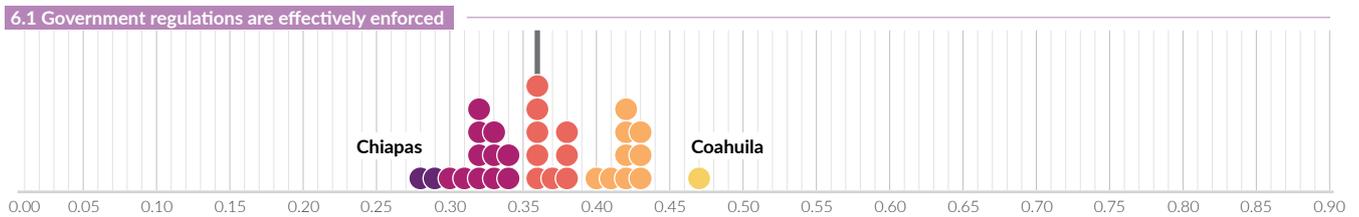
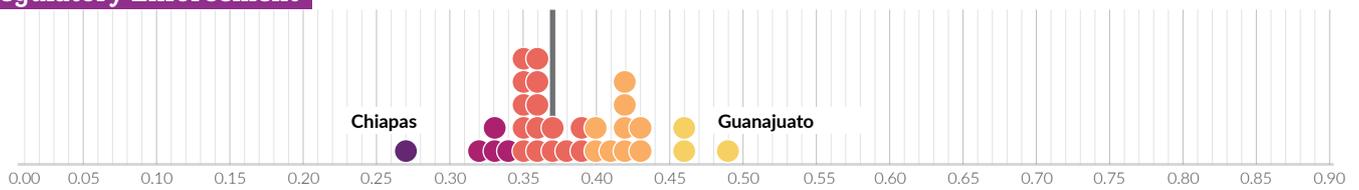
Scores of sub-factor 6.1, which measures whether government regulations such as labor, environmental, commercial, and public health are effectively enforced, in the *Mexico States Rule of Law Index 2020-2021*.

Environmental regulatory enforcement (indicator 6.1.2) is the area with most challenges in all states. In contrast, public health and commercial regulatory enforcement had the highest scores.



## Factor 6

### Regulatory Enforcement



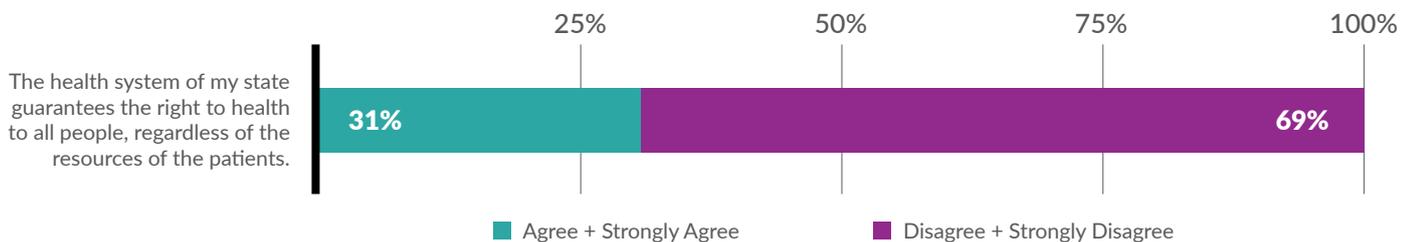
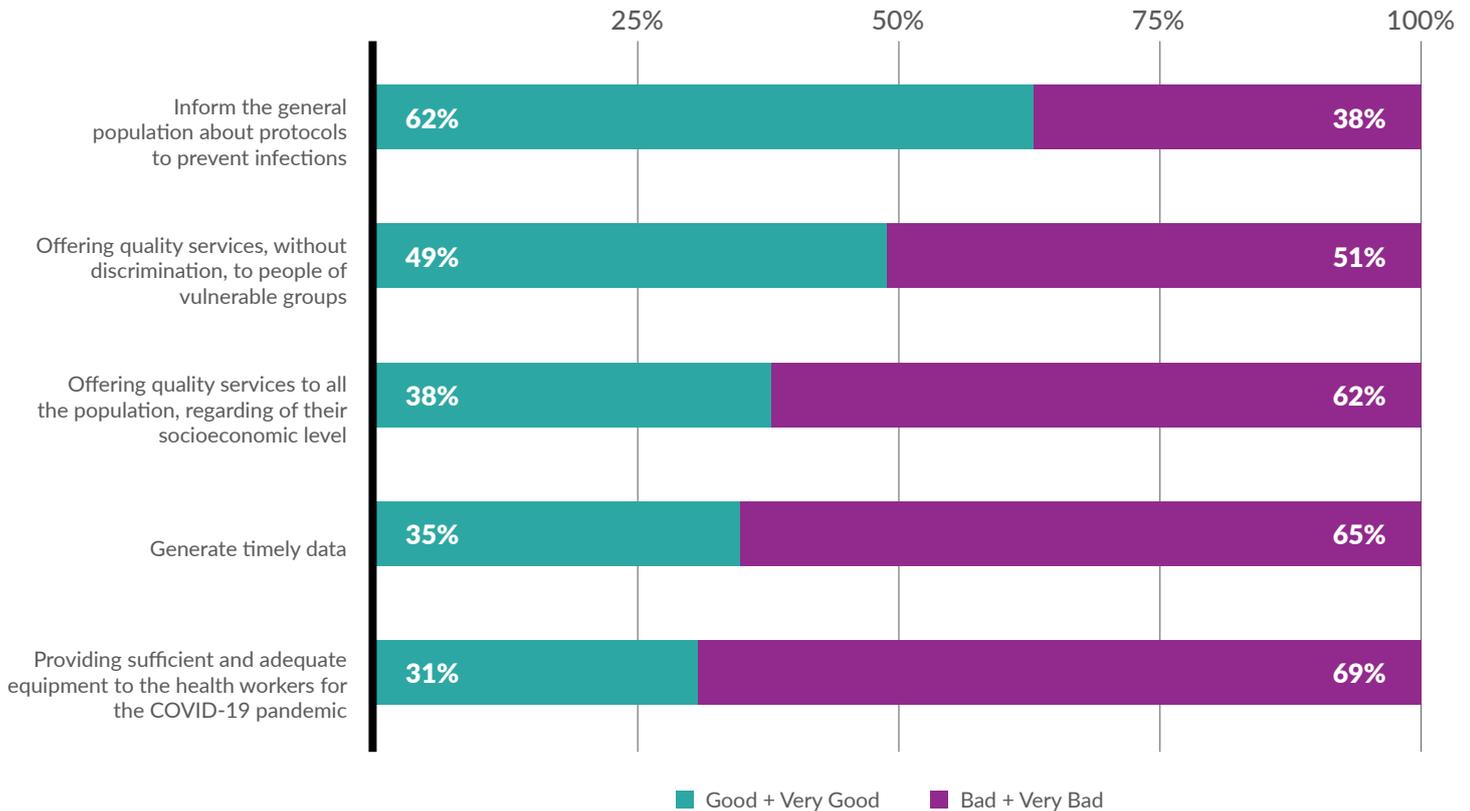
Note: The Index uses a scale from 0 to 1, where 1 indicates the highest adherence to the rule of law. Scores are rounded to two decimal places.

## Rule of Law and Public Health During Pandemics

We polled 347 public health specialists across Mexico between July and October 2020 and obtained insights about the ability of state health systems to react to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Most specialists think that the state public health services have succeeded in informing the population during the pandemic but have had trouble offering quality care to the entire population, providing sufficient and adequate material to health personnel to address the crisis, and generating reliable data in a timely manner.

### How would you rate the capacity of the state health systems or the Health Ministry to...?



**The pressure of the COVID-19 pandemic on the public health system shows its structural weaknesses.**

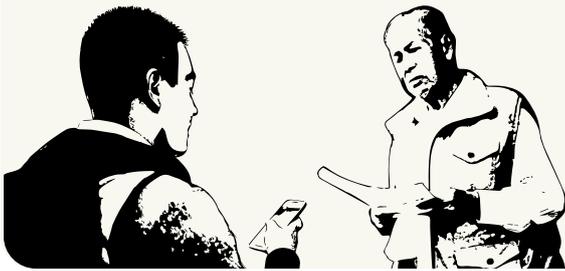
# Factors and sub-factors of the Mexico States Rule of Law Index 2020-2021

The *Mexico States Rule of Law Index* includes data organized in eight factors, which are disaggregated in 42 sub-factors, which reflect the perspectives and experiences of people in the 32 states.

 <p><b>Constraints on Government Powers</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.1 Government powers are effectively limited by the local legislature</li> <li>1.2 Government powers are effectively limited by the local judiciary</li> <li>1.3 State government powers are effectively limited by independent auditing and review</li> <li>1.4 State government officials are penalized when they abuse their powers or fail to comply with regulations</li> <li>1.5 State government powers are subject to non-governmental checks from civil society, political parties, and the press</li> <li>1.6 Elections are free, clean, and transparent</li> </ul>
 <p><b>Absence of Corruption</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2.1 Government officials in the state executive branch do not commit acts of corruption</li> <li>2.2 Government officials in the judicial branch do not use public office for private gain</li> <li>2.3 Government officials in the safety and law enforcement systems do not use public office for private gain</li> <li>2.4 Government officials in the legislative branch do not use public office for private gain</li> </ul>
 <p><b>Open Government</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3.1 Civic participation in decision-making</li> <li>3.2 The right to public information is effectively guaranteed</li> </ul>
 <p><b>Fundamental Rights</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4.1 Equal treatment and absence of discrimination</li> <li>4.2 The right to life and security of the person is effectively guaranteed</li> <li>4.3 Due process of the law and rights of the accused are effectively guaranteed</li> <li>4.4 Freedom of opinion and expression is effectively guaranteed</li> <li>4.5 Freedom of belief and religion is effectively guaranteed</li> <li>4.6 The right to privacy is effectively guaranteed</li> <li>4.7 Freedom of assembly and association is effectively guaranteed</li> <li>4.8 Fundamental labor rights are effectively guaranteed</li> </ul>
 <p><b>Order &amp; Security</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5.1 Absence of homicides</li> <li>5.2 Absence of crime</li> <li>5.3 Perception of safety</li> </ul>
 <p><b>Regulatory Enforcement</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6.1 Government regulations are effectively enforced</li> <li>6.2 Government regulations are applied and enforced without corruption</li> <li>6.3 Administrative proceedings are conducted effectively and efficiently</li> <li>6.4 Due process is respected in administrative proceedings</li> <li>6.5 The state government does not expropriate without lawful process and adequate compensation</li> </ul>
 <p><b>Civil Justice</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7.1 People know their rights and trust civil justice institutions</li> <li>7.2 People have access to information and affordable quality legal counsel when facing legal problems or disputes</li> <li>7.3 People can resolve their legal problems easily and without high costs or bureaucratic procedures</li> <li>7.4 The civil justice system is impartial, independent, and free of corruption</li> <li>7.5 The civil justice system guarantees a quality process</li> <li>7.6 The civil justice system is not subject to unreasonable delay</li> <li>7.7 Resolutions of civil and administrative courts are effectively enforced</li> <li>7.8 Alternative dispute resolution mechanisms are accessible, impartial, and effective</li> </ul>
 <p><b>Criminal Justice</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8.1 The police and the public ministry investigate crimes effectively</li> <li>8.2 The criminal adjudication system is timely and effective</li> <li>8.3 Victim's rights are effectively guaranteed</li> <li>8.4 Due process of the law for the accused is effectively guaranteed</li> <li>8.5 Criminal justice system is impartial, independent, and free of corruption</li> <li>8.6 The prison system guarantees the safety and rights of detained people</li> </ul>

# Methodology

## 1. CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK AND SURVEYS



The *Mexico States Rule of Law Index 2020-2021* uses a conceptual framework and methodology that are very similar to those used by WJP around the world, but has adapted the concepts and surveys to the Mexican context in order to provide a comprehensive summary of the rule of law situation in each of the states

The WJP team conducted an exhaustive consultation with academia and experts to design five surveys: one General Population Poll (GPP) and four Qualified Respondent Questionnaires (QRQs).



## 2. DATA COLLECTION

Three sources of information were used:

### I. GENERAL POPULATION POLL

**25,600 face-to-face interviews**

800 interviews in each state

Representative sample of the population of 18 years and above.



### II. QUALIFIED RESPONDENT QUESTIONNAIRES

**2,351 interviews** with experts in:

- Civil Justice
- Criminal Justice
- Labor Justice
- Public Health



WJP invited more than 16,000 experts to take an online poll.



In some states, a telephone follow-up was performed.



Their responses were received.

### III. THIRD-PARTY SOURCES

**12 indicators** of administrative information and survey databases representative at the state level



## 3. DATA CLEANING AND SCORE COMPUTATION

WJP cleaned and processed the data:



607 variables were codified



Average scores were calculated for every state



Scores for the eight factors and 42 sub-factors were calculated



Scores for the factors were aggregated to calculate the scores for the *Mexico States Rule of Law Index 2020-2021*



## 4. VALIDATION

Data were validated with:



- Over 20 quantitative and qualitative indicators from other organizations
- News media and qualitative reports.
- Review with a diverse group of experts from a variety of fields

## About the Mexico States Rule of Law Index 2020-2021

The *Mexico States Rule of Law Index 2020-2021* is the third edition of the only subnational index produced by the WJP and is one of the most complete measurements of institutional performance in the country. The Index presents new data organized into eight factors that are disaggregated into 42 sub-factors. To present an accurate portrait of how the rule of law is experienced from a citizen perspective, each score is calculated using two original sources of data collected by the WJP in each state:

- ▶ A General Population Poll administered to a representative sample of 800 adults in each state, yielding a total of 25,600 surveyed individuals.

- ▶ A Qualified Respondents' Questionnaires (QRQs) aimed at attorneys specialized in: i) civil, administrative, and commercial law; ii) criminal law; iii) labor law; and to health personnel specialized in iv) public health.

The WJP also compiled administrative information and state representative surveys addressing rule of law issues to complement the WJP's other sources of information.

For the complete methodology and more detailed information on each state, see the report of the *Mexico States Rule of Law Index 2020-2021*, available at [www.worldjusticeproject.org](http://www.worldjusticeproject.org) and [www.worldjusticeproject.mx](http://www.worldjusticeproject.mx).

### Four Universal Principles of the Rule of Law

For the WJP, the rule of law is a principle of governance in which the following four principles apply:



#### 1. Accountability

The government as well as private actors are accountable under the law.



#### 2. Just Laws

The laws are clear, publicized, stable, and just; are applied evenly; and protect fundamental rights, including the security of persons and property and certain core human rights.



#### 3. Open Government

The processes by which the laws are enacted, administered, and enforced are accessible, fair, and efficient.



#### 4. Accessible & Impartial Dispute Resolution

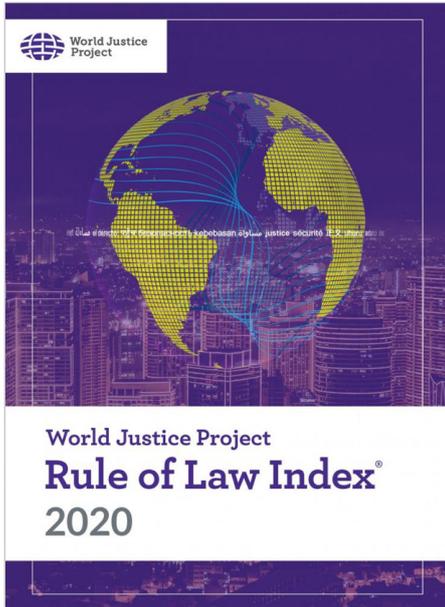
Justice is delivered timely by competent, ethical, and independent representatives and neutrals who are accessible, have adequate resources, and reflect the makeup of the communities they serve.

## About the World Justice Project

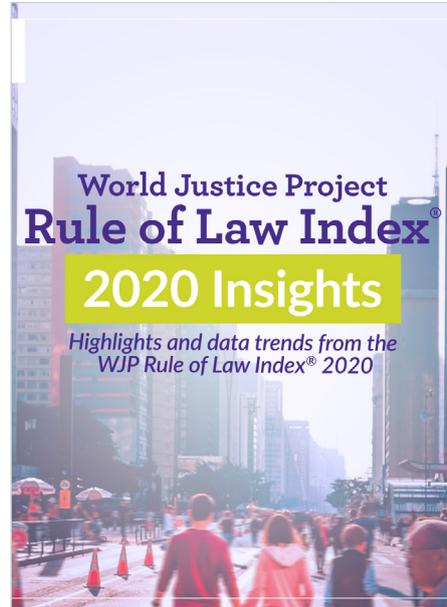
The World Justice Project® (WJP) is an independent, international, and multi-disciplinary organization working to advance the rule of law around the world. The rule of law is the foundation for communities of equity, opportunity, and peace - underpinning development, accountable government, and respect for fundamental rights. For more information, visit: [www.worldjusticeproject.org](http://www.worldjusticeproject.org) and [www.worldjusticeproject.mx](http://www.worldjusticeproject.mx).

# Other Publications from the World Justice Project

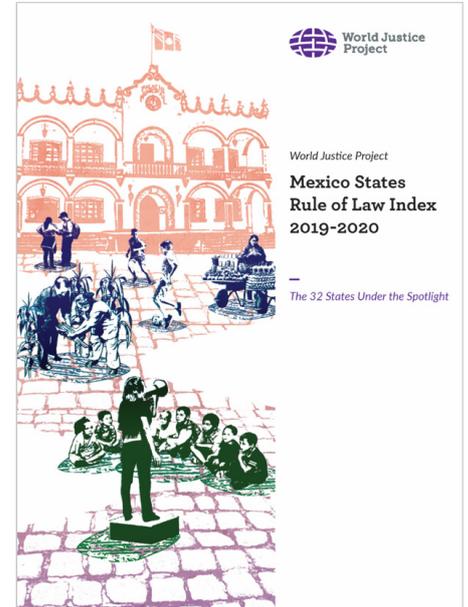
For more information, visit: [worldjusticeproject.org](http://worldjusticeproject.org) and [worldjusticeproject.mx](http://worldjusticeproject.mx)



**Rule of Law Index 2020**  
(Available in English and Spanish)



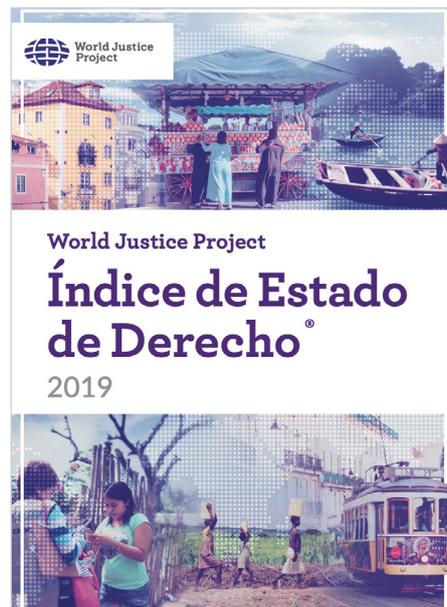
**World Justice Project: Rule of Law Index 2019** —Highlights and data trends from the WJP Rule of Law Index 2020



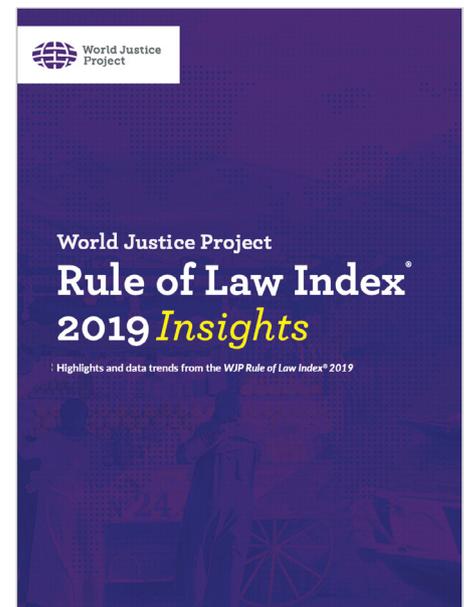
**Mexico States Rule of Law Index 2019-2020: The 32 States Under the Spotlight**  
(Available in English and Spanish)



**Mexico States Rule of Law Index 2019-2020: Insights**  
(Available in English and Spanish)



**Mexico States Rule of Law Index 2019**  
(Available in English and Spanish)



**World Justice Project: Rule of Law Index 2019** —Highlights and data trends from the WJP Rule of Law Index 2019



**Failed Justice: Prevalence of Torture in Mexico's Criminal Justice System 2006-2016**  
(Available in English and Spanish)



**Memoria estadística de la transición entre dos Méxicos: Logros y retos del Nuevo Sistema de Justicia Penal**  
(32 volumes, only available in Spanish)



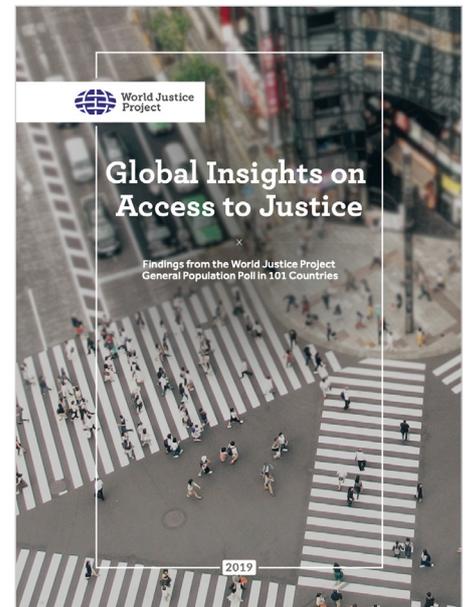
**Mexico States Rule of Law Index 2018: Perceptions and experiences in 32 states**  
(available in English and Spanish)



**Mexico's New Criminal Justice System: Substantial Progress and Persistent Challenges 2018** (Available in English and Spanish)



**Realizing Justice For All World Justice Forum Report 2019**



**Global Insights on Access to Justice 2019**



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