

A Call for A Reprioritization of Metrics to Evaluate Illicit Drug Policy

Werb D;^{1,2}

Preparing for UNGASS 2016

21 January 2016, 13:15 – 14:30

UN Headquarters, New York

1. International Centre for Science in Drug Policy, Toronto
2. Division of Global Public Health, University of California, San Diego



**INTERNATIONAL CENTRE
FOR SCIENCE IN DRUG POLICY**

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OUTLINE

1. ICSDP Open Letter

2. Case Study: Mexico

- a) Context for drug policy reform in Mexico
- b) Legal specifics of the drug policy reform
- c) Tijuana as a case study

3. Conclusions

UNGASS ZERO DRAFT

Prepared by the UNGASS Board for consideration by the CND

DRAFT OUTCOME DOCUMENT (14 JANUARY 2016)

UNGASS 2016: Our joint commitment in addressing the world drug problem

We, heads of State and Government and representatives of States and Governments, assembled at the United Nations, from 19 to 21 April 2016, for the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, convened in accordance with resolution 67/193 of 20 December 2012, to review the progress in the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, including an assessment of the achievements and challenges in countering the world drug problem, within the framework of the three international drug control conventions and other relevant United Nations instruments,

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- (g) Encourage the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to consider identifying additional quantifiable indicators in the sphere of drug demand and supply reduction, where appropriate, as well as to consider requesting the development of new guidelines and update existing ones;



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OPEN LETTER: _____

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JANUARY 21, 2016

TO: _____

UN Member States Delegations
Mr. Ban Ki-Moon, Secretary-General, United Nations
Mr. Mogens Lykke, President of the UN General Assembly
Mr. Arthayudh Srisamoot, Chair of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs
Mr. Yuri Fedotov, Executive Director, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
Dr. Margaret Chan, Director-General, World Health Organization
Dr. Michel Sidibé, Executive Director, Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
Mr. Anthony Lake, Executive Director, UNICEF
Ms. Helen Clark, Administrator, UN Development Program
Mr. Dainius Pūras, UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Health



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We call on all national and international stakeholders (including UN member states and agencies) to commit to a formal revision of the metrics used to evaluate drug control policies, and to prioritize indicators that provide specific evidence on the impact of drugs and drug policies on communities. Further, this commitment to revising the set of priority indicators used to monitor the impact of drugs and drug policies should be an official outcome of the 2016 UNGASS process.



TABLE 1: Preliminary set of potential drug policy indicators

HEALTH

- Level of coverage and access to interventions identified by WHO/UNODC/UNAIDS as part of the comprehensive package for HIV prevention, treatment and care for PWID* 74
- Level of coverage for evidence-based treatment for substance use disorders
- The incidence of fatal overdose
- Drug-related emergency room presentations or hospitalizations
- The frequency of use of contaminated or unsterile injecting equipment
- The proportion of people who use drugs with access to adequate supplies of sterile injecting equipment
- The proportion of people with opioid dependency that have access to evidence-based substitution treatment
- The prevalence and incidence of blood-borne disease transmission, including HIV and hepatitis C, among people who use and inject drugs
- The frequency of first responder calls for emergencies that include mention of drugs
- Essential health services for people who use drugs included under universal health coverage
- Level of access to essential health services among people who use drugs (e.g., HIV and HCV treatment, OST, naloxone, etc.)

* NSP; OST, HIV testing and counseling; prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted infections; condom programmes for PWID and their sexual partners; targeted information, education and communication for PWID and their sexual partners; prevention, vaccination, diagnosis and treatment for viral hepatitis; prevention, diagnosis and treatment of tuberculosis

PEACE & SECURITY

- The incidence of drug market-related homicide
- The incidence of drug market-related violence
- Drug use-related injuries
- Traffic accidents and other fatalities due to the influence of drugs



DEVELOPMENT

- Poverty in drug cultivation regions
- Access to legal markets in illegal drug cultivation regions
- Human Development Index⁷⁵ score for drug cultivation regions
- Illicit drug use production and trafficking as proportion of national GDP
- Annual value and composition of illicit drug production by country and region
- Proportion of people with drug dependence that have access to stable housing

HUMAN RIGHTS

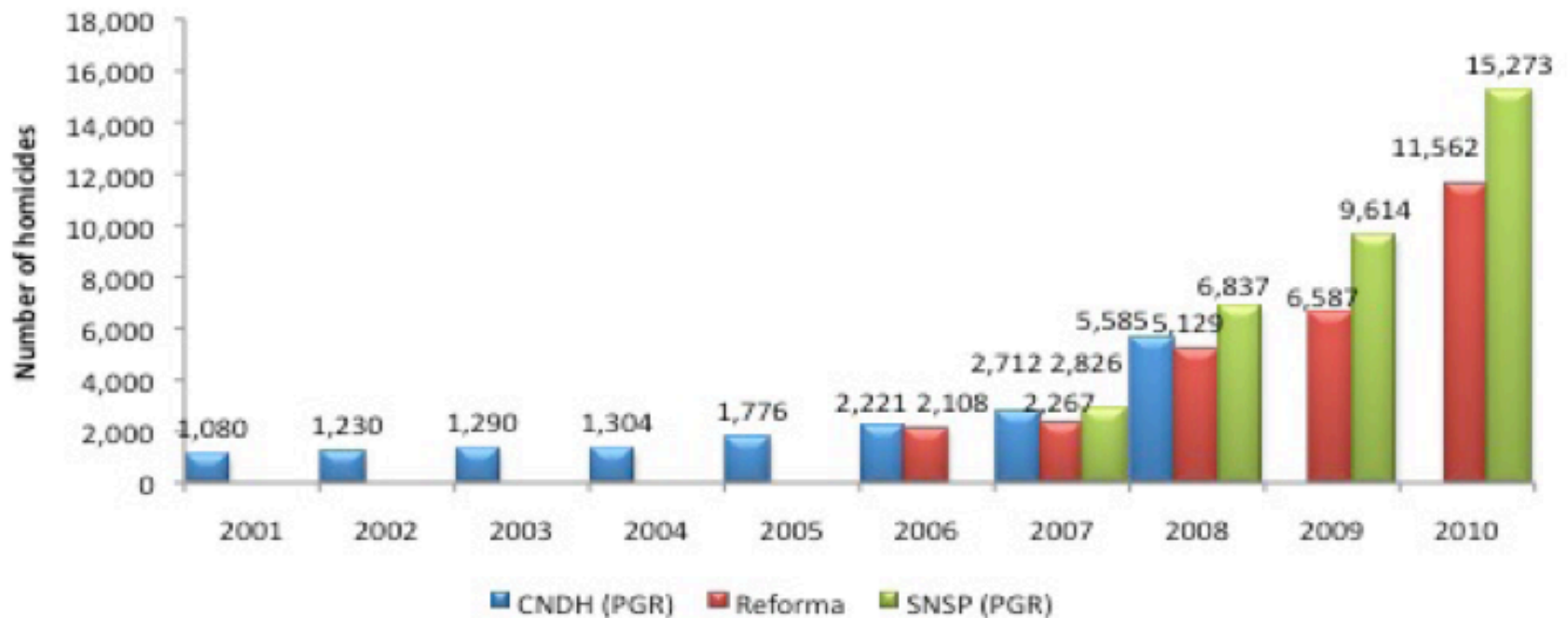
- Proportion of prisoners incarcerated for non-violent drug crimes
- Number of individuals sentenced to death for drug offences
- Proportion of population with a criminal record for non-violent drug possession or use
- Level of access to essential health services for people who use drugs while incarcerated or detained
- Number of individuals detained in compulsory drug detention centers⁷²
- Incidence of physical or sexual abuse experienced by drug-dependent individuals by law enforcement or while incarcerated
- Level of access to medically appropriate analgesic medicines for palliation
- Inclusion of affected communities in drug policy and program-making and evaluations
- Level of gender-sensitive service provision

THE DRUG PROBLEM IN MEXICO

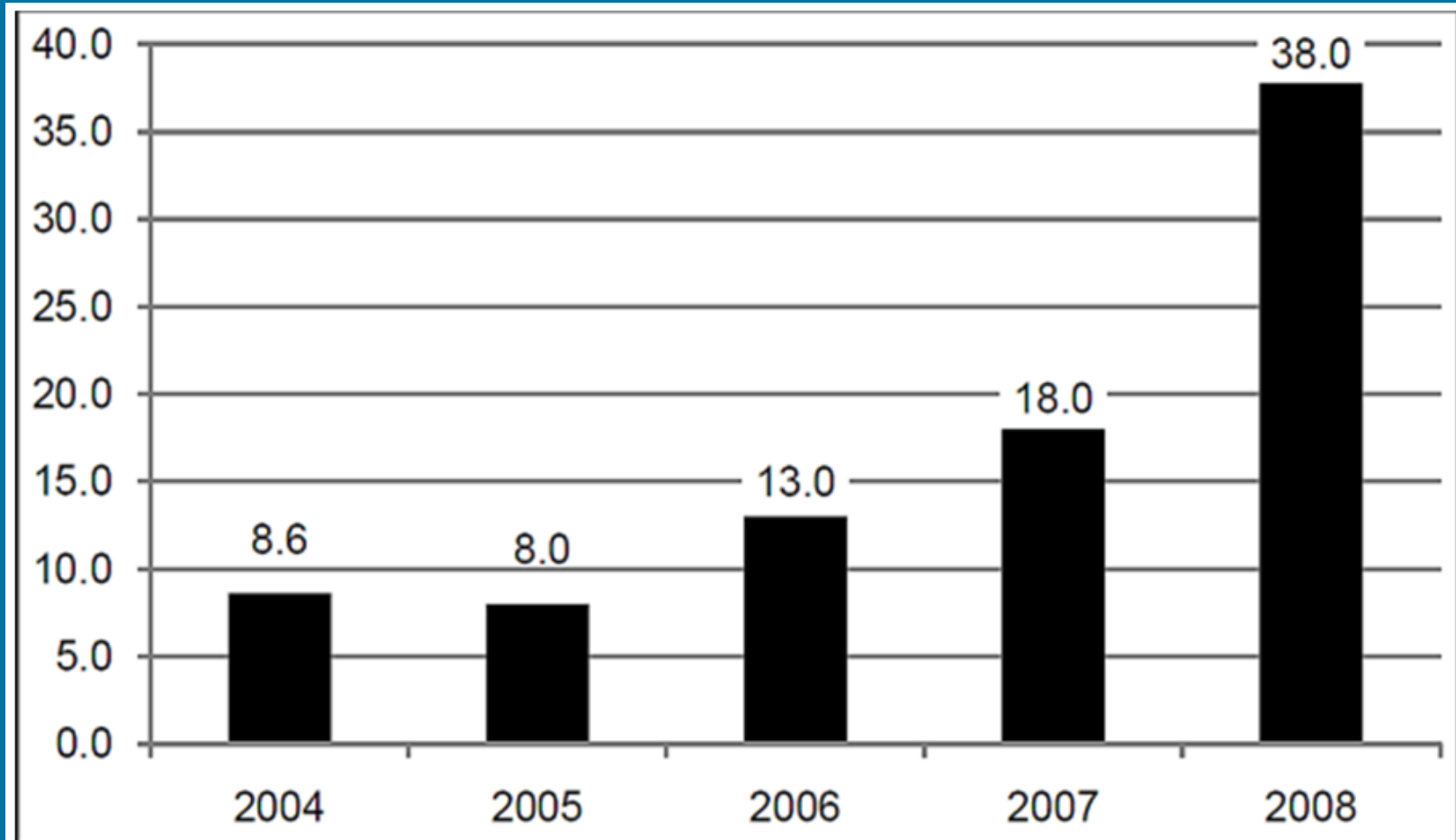
1. Mexican cartels vertically integrated coca business after destruction of Colombian cartels
2. Main transit point for drugs into US
3. Former President Calderon launched drug war in 2006

THE DRUG PROBLEM IN MEXICO

Figure 1. Drug-Related Killings in Mexico, 2001-2010



Heroin Production in Mexico: 342% increase over 5 years



Source: U.S. Department of Justice National Drug Intelligence Center *National Drug Threat Assessment 2010*
<http://www.justice.gov/ndic/pubs38/38661/heroin.htm>

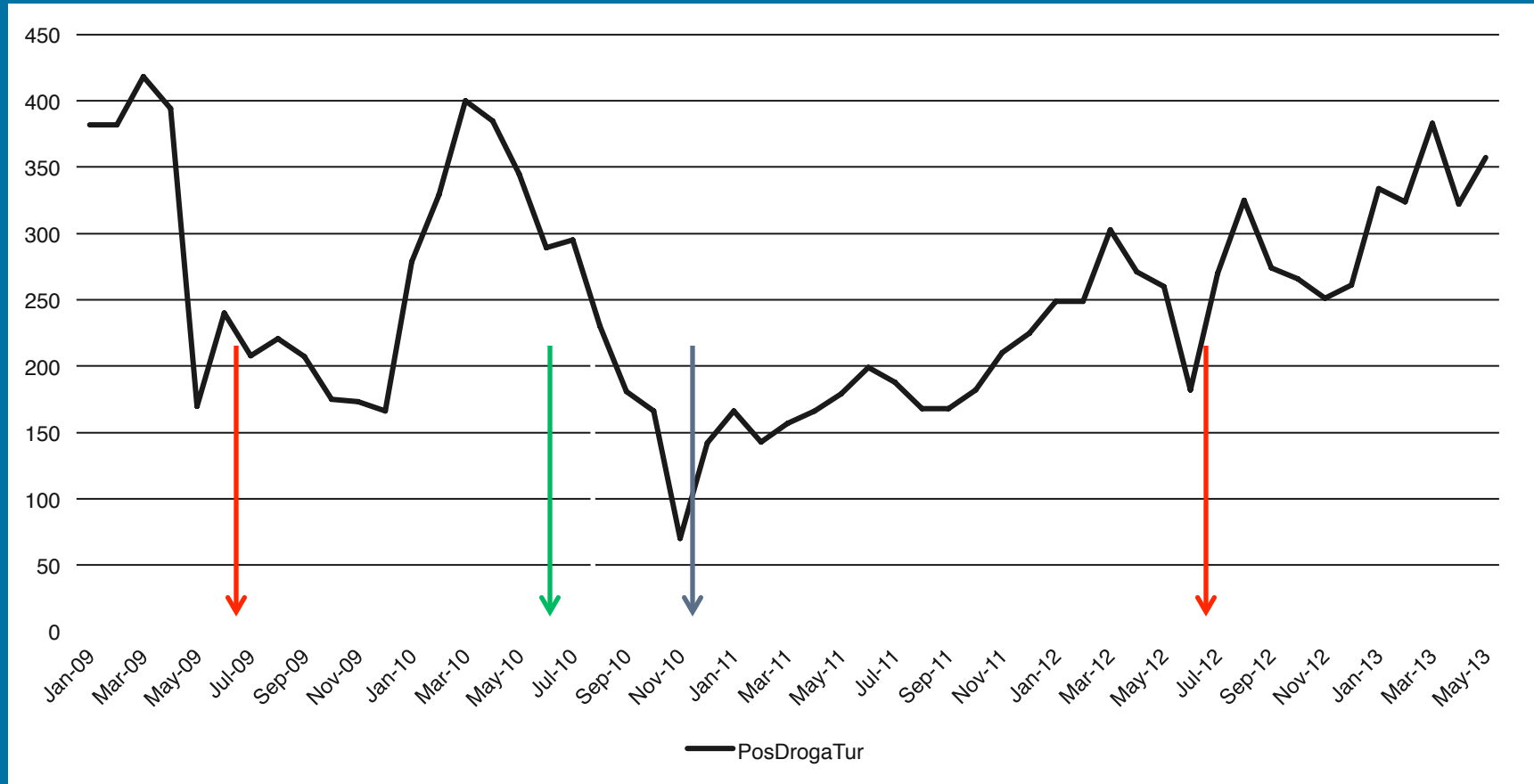
Mexico: Policy Setting

- *Ley de Narcomenudeo* (2009)
 - Decriminalized small amounts of drugs
 - Three-strike framework (referral to treatment)
 - Referral of drug cases to state courts
 - Laws on drug trafficking remain the same
 - Included provisions to scale up treatment

Case Study: Tijuana, Baja California

- Baja California passed ley de narcomenudeo in August 2010
- Tijuana: major site of drug-related harms
- PWID population: 10k, potentially higher
- HIV prevalence among PWID = 6.5%
- HCV prevalence = ~100%
- Massive site of deportation from the US.
 - As many as 350 deportations to Tijuana *per day* in 2010

Tijuana Police: Drug Possession Data



Jul 2009 Federal Election
Jul 2010 Local Election

Law legally
enacted in
TJ

New Local
Government

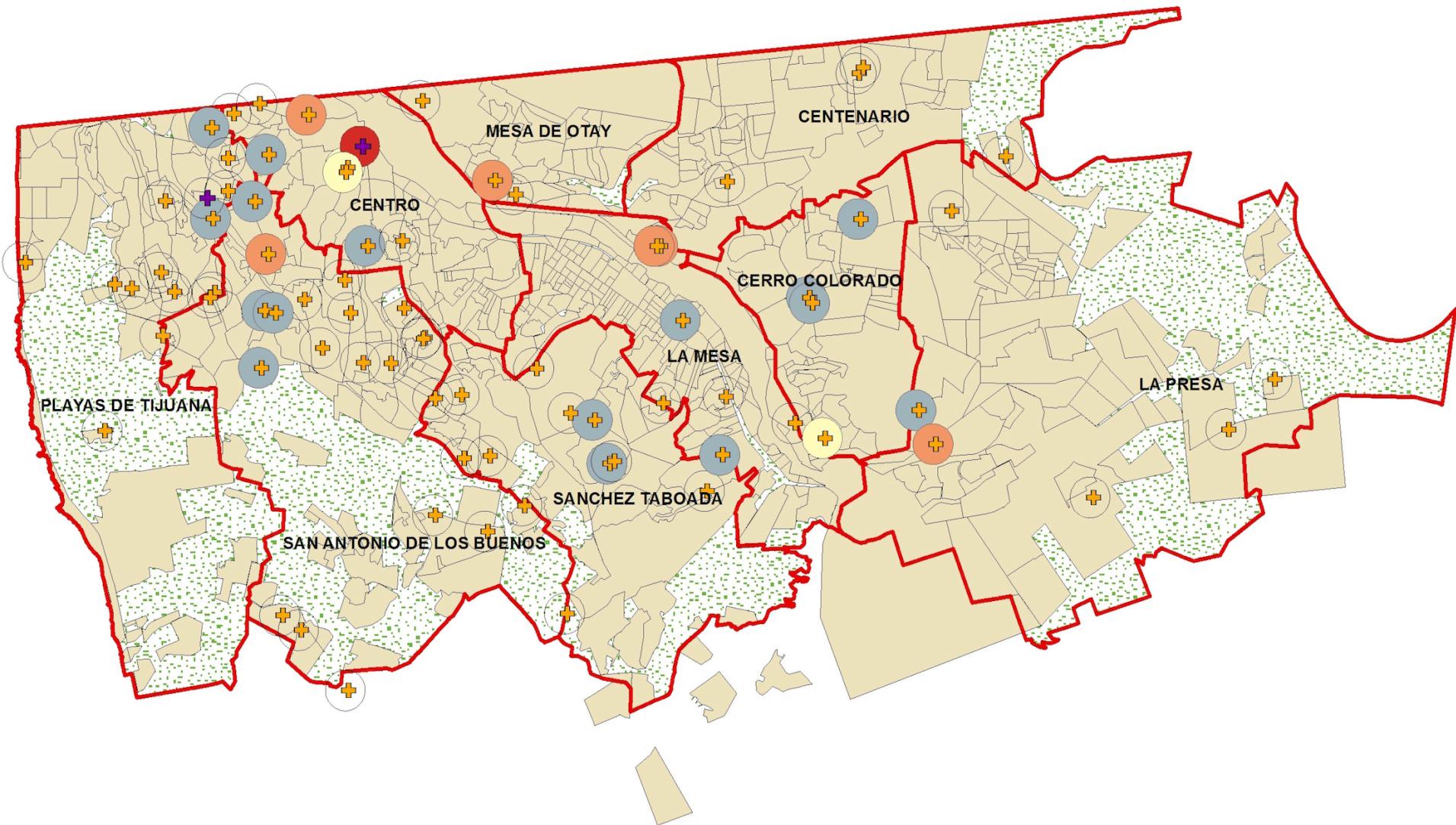
Police extortion and access to methadone

- Two major, linked issues: ongoing discretionary policing and lack of scale up of treatment services
- Policing of drug-related crimes appears to continue
- Is policing directly associated with access to treatment?
- Only three MMT sites in Tijuana
- All charge about 6USD a day (78 pesos)
- We wanted to see whether experiencing extortion was impacting access to MMT

Extortion and access to methadone

- In 56 (39.2%) cases, MMT enrolment ceased within the same six month period
- The majority of participants (69.1%) reported ceasing MMT enrolment because MMT was too expensive
- 20.0% cited difficulties in making daily visits to a MMT clinic.

Extortion and access to methadone



Policy reform without development

The federal idea is not bad. The problem is that it is a law, which directs the state to take responsibility for something without the money or tools to do it. That is why I predict it will not work...The idea is not bad, the problem is that the Federation gives the responsibility to the states without resources. Even the Federals, with information and money, cannot handle these responsibilities of the country. But now, they move the responsibility to the State without money.

- State (Baja California) Justice Department

Development & Metrics

- Drug policies are inextricably linked to development
- Gap between “law on the books” and “law on the streets” is universal, but especially pronounced when policies are not sufficiently resourced
- Drug policy metrics must include development
 - Lack of measurement of development can critically cripple policy
 - Drug policy outcomes, particularly in production and trafficking regions, overlap substantially with development
- A formal UNGASS commitment to a wide set of metrics is required

Thanks for listening



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