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## **DRUG TRAFFICKING IN MEXICO**

A drug cartel is any criminal organization with the intention of supplying drug trafficking operations. They range from loosely managed agreements among various drug traffickers to formalized commercial enterprises. The term was applied when the largest trafficking organizations reached an agreement to coordinate the production and distribution of cocaine. Since that agreement was broken up, drug cartels are no longer actually cartels, but the term stuck and it is now popularly used to refer to any criminal narcotics related organization.

The basic structure of a drug cartel is as follows:

- Falcons: considered the "eyes and ears" of the streets, the "falcons" are the lowest rank in any drug cartel. They are responsible for supervising and reporting the activities of the police, the military, and rival groups.

- Hitmen: the armed group within the drug cartel, responsible for carrying out assassinations, kidnappings, thefts, extortions, operating protection rackets, and defending their area from rival groups and the military.

- Lieutenants: the second highest position in the drug cartel organization, responsible for supervising the hitmen and falcons within their own territory. They are allowed to carry out low-profile murders without permission from their bosses.

- Drug lords: the highest position in any drug cartel, responsible for supervising the entire drug industry, appointing territorial leaders, making alliances, and planning high-profile murders.

There are other operating groups within the drug cartels. For example, the drug producers and suppliers, although not considered in the basic structure, are critical operators of any drug cartel, along with the financiers and money launderers. In addition, the arms suppliers operate in a completely different circle, and are technically not considered part of the cartel's logistics.

Mexican cartels, also known in Mexico as la Mafia, usually refer to several rival criminal organizations that are combated by the Mexican government in the Mexican War on Drugs. Drug trafficking organizations are often blamed for the rise in violence in Mexico. Official statistics do not differentiate between drug- or organized crime-related killings and other

homicides, but some types of homicides are characteristic of the criminal and drug trafficking organizations, or DTOs, in Mexico. Homicides involving guns – which accounted for about two-thirds of the homicides in 2017 – have a high probability of being related to organized crime or drug traffickers. Extortion and kidnapping, along with human trafficking and sales of stolen cars, are also associated with DTOs.

The main reasons for the spike in violence are the splintering, restructuring and growing competition among the DTOs and other organized crime groups in Mexico. The current criminal organization landscape is exceptionally fluid. Many groups operate more on a local cell-based level, and their association with other groups may shift with business interests. Many of these groups not only are involved in drug trafficking but also engage in other profitable crimes, including kidnapping, assassination, auto theft, prostitution, extortion, money laundering, software piracy, resource theft and human trafficking. Some criminal organizations have incorporated areas of specialization. For instance, some DTOs on the U.S. border have assumed the role of toll collectors, exacting payment from other traffickers, while other organizations specialize in sourcing cocaine from South America.

In terms of foreign policy, the violence in Mexico will primarily affect its relationship with the United States. Besides the shared border, the U.S. is the main destination for Mexican-produced opium and cocaine transited through Mexico, and is the source of illegal weapons for Mexico's DTOs. The Mexican DTOs are the major wholesalers of illegal drugs in the United States and are increasingly gaining control of U.S. retail-level distribution through alliances with U.S. gangs. Street gangs continue to work with Mexican DTOs in Mexico, along the southwest border, and throughout the United States. These relationships are based more on location and personal and business ties than on strict affiliations with a given gang. Mexican DTOs conduct business with a much lower profile in the U.S. than they do in Mexico to avoid engaging with security officials. In 2017, there has been limited spillover violence in the United States. Violence that does occur is infrequent, limited to the southwest border and mostly among traffickers. Mexican DTO activity in the United States is mainly overseen by Mexican nationals or U.S. citizens of Mexican origin. Those operating in the United States often share familial ties with, or can be traced back to, the natal region of leading cartel figures in Mexico. The rise in violence in Mexico is geopolitically significant because of its potential to affect the trajectory of Mexico's economic development and basic framework of its relationship with the United States. Given the political and resource constraints facing the Mexican government, this level of violence

will likely continue to rise in 2018. The United States will be closely watching for any increase in spillover violence.

Список використаних джерел

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## **POLICE AND CRIME RATES IN CANADA**

Summary There is rising policy concern in Canada over growing policing costs given that crime rates have fallen dramatically in recent years. Between 2001 and 2012, police officers per 100,000 of population in Canada rose 8.7% while the crime rate declined by 26.3%. This was accompanied by growing expenditures and a decline in workload as measured by criminal code incidents per officer. Real per capita police expenditures in Canada between 1986 and 2012 rose 45.5% while criminal code incidents per officer declined by 36.8%. Public debate on rising police costs must be considered in the context of increasing overall public spending in Canada and a more complex society. Policing has evolved beyond just dealing with crime and includes a wider range of problem social behaviours, which are factors in police resource and expenditure growth. As well, there are changes in the technology of both crime and policing as well as other factors affecting staffing such as operational load due to service demand and response time, socio-economic factors such as demographics and crime trends, and strategic directions of police forces in terms of governance and policing methods.

There is substantial variation in the number of police officers per 100,000 of population across the provinces and territories as well as Canadian census metropolitan areas (CMAs). The highest number of police officers per 100,000 of population and the highest real per capita police expenditures are generally found in the sparsely populated territories. Across the provinces, in 2013 the number of police officers per 100,000 of population was the highest in Manitoba at 213 and the lowest in Prince Edward Island at 160.