

Mapping the weapons smuggling routes from the US to Mexico

Pedro Armengol

According to several authors, remarkably Dube A., Dube O., & García-Ponce (2011), there is an illegal flow of weapons from the United States (US) to Mexico. That supply of weapons has been contributing to the high violence rates that Mexico has been experiencing from the past decade until our days.

Pérez E. & Weigend (2015), had found that several armories in the US change their location, mainly, from northern to southern states. Among their hypothesis is the change of state weapons policies as well as the reallocation of resources in order to satisfied the increase of the demand in Mexico.

On his side, Border et. Al. (2013), has estimate that there is a gap between the weapons demand and supply in the US (through weapons possession surveys), showing a systematic supply surplus in the last years. An illegal smuggling of that surplus to Mexico is his main conclusion.

At last, the controversial operation of Fast and Furious of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) admittedly smuggle thousands of weapons from Mexico to the US, arguably, to dismantle weapons smuggling bands (another proof of the existence of this phenomenon). However, after several deaths related to those smuggled weapons (including several innocent students) the operation was severally criticized by its collateral damage.

This project is intended to depict through interactive maps and well thought infographics the role that the US weapons smuggling is playing into the Mexico's war on drugs. For this purpose, I'm planning to use two sources of information:

- 1) Firearms Manufactures and Exports Report: this dataset, made annually by the ATF, has business/license, address, category and number of weapons produced by year.
- 2) State firearms law: this dataset, made by a Research team of Harvard, has information of the 133 most recent state policy changes about firearms regulation across the states in the US.

Bibliography

- Dube, A., Dube, O., & García-Ponce, O. (s.f.). Cross-Border Spillover: U.S Gun Laws and Violence in Mexico. *American Political Science Review*, 107(3).
- McDougal, T., Shirk, D. A., Muggah, R., & Patterson, J. H. (2013). Border, The Way of the Gun: Estimating Firearms Traffic Across the U.S.-Mexico.
- Pérez E., D., & Weigend, E. (2015). The Illegal flow of firearms from the United States to Mexico: a state level propensity analysis. *Journal of trafficking, Organized Crime and Security*, 115-125.