



Media Aid

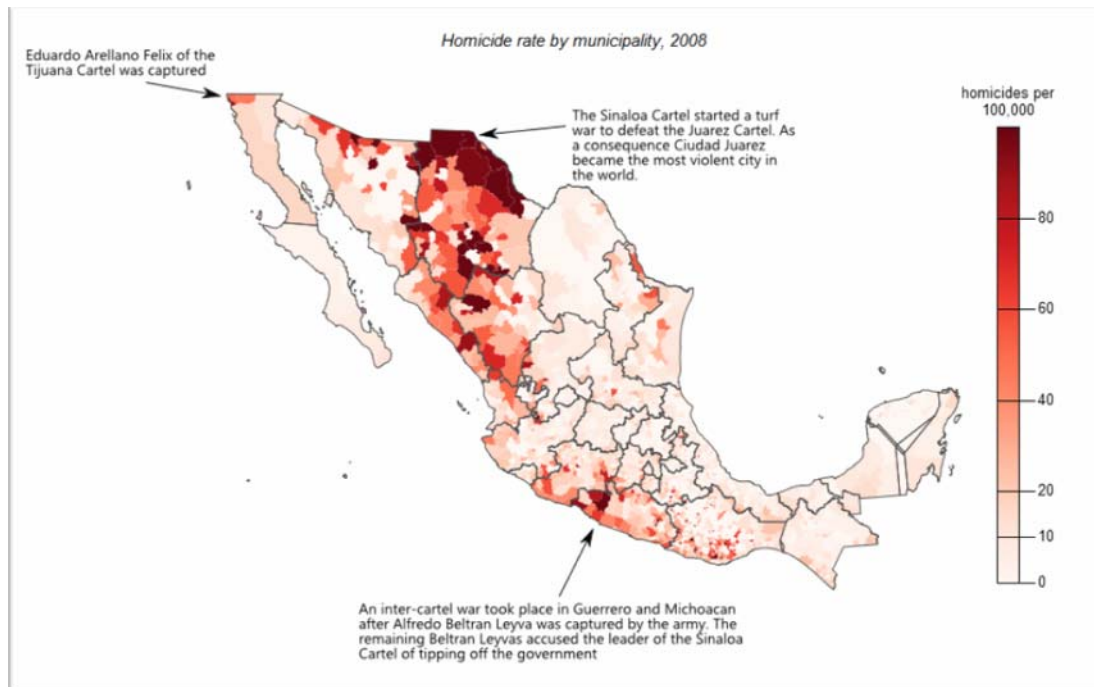
Mexico – Diegovalle Blog Provides Textual, Visual Drug War Analysis

The diegovalle.net English-language blog provides statistical and geographic analysis specific to the drug war in Mexico. Analysis includes static and interactive maps depicting trends in violence, graphics of homicide rates and violence-prone hotspots, and other data points pertinent to understanding drug-related violence. The well sourced blog provides other reference-type information such as a spreadsheet containing methamphetamine laboratory locations reported in open sources.

Blog Site Content Depicts Drug War Trends

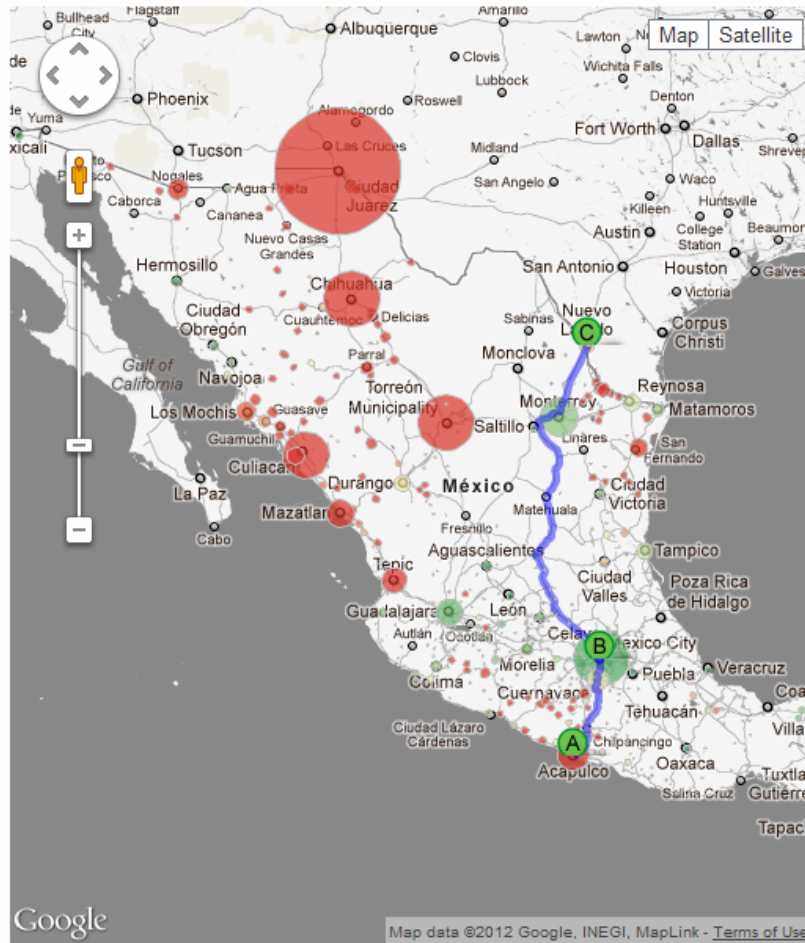
Since early 2010, content on *blog.diegovalle.net* has focused solely on trends in Mexico's drug war, such as statistical and geographical data, and articles examining the correlation between Mexico's overall homicide rate and internal drug cartel events.

- The first post entitled "Statistical Analysis and Visualization of the Drug War in Mexico¹" was uploaded on 15 June 2010. The post includes various charts, graphs, and maps that illustrate trends and patterns dealing with the aforementioned topics. (for more details, see map below and appendix "Sample of Maps, Graphs")



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- A post detailing "Drug War Hotspots²" was uploaded on 16 March 2011 and also contains valuable mapping of analyses and trends in the Mexican drug war (see below).



2007 2008 2009 **2010**

Drugs Enter Here:

Waypoints:

(Ctrl-Click for multiple selection)

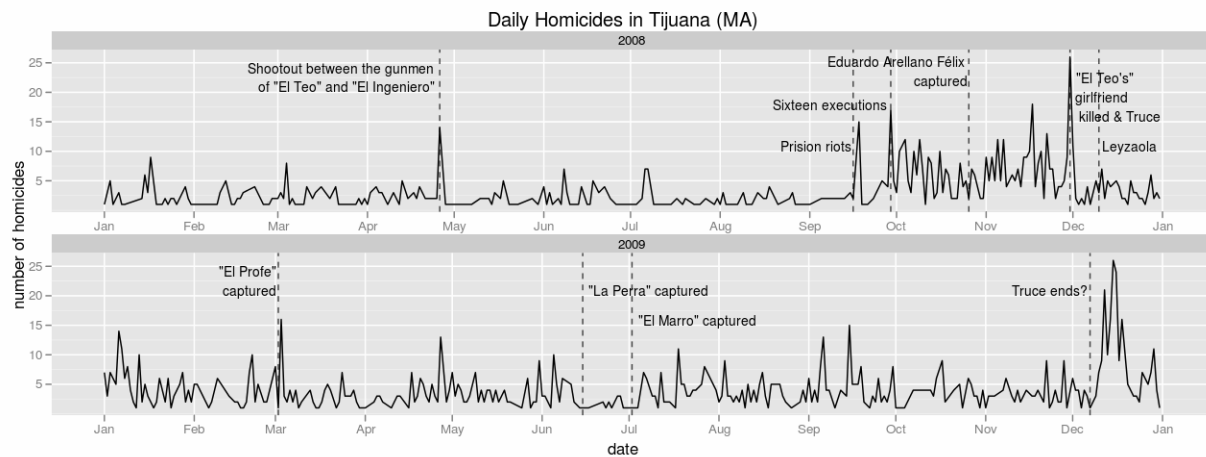
Exit:

The map above displays drug related homicide hotspots in Mexico during 2010. The color of the circle corresponds to higher rates as a percentage of the total population: green

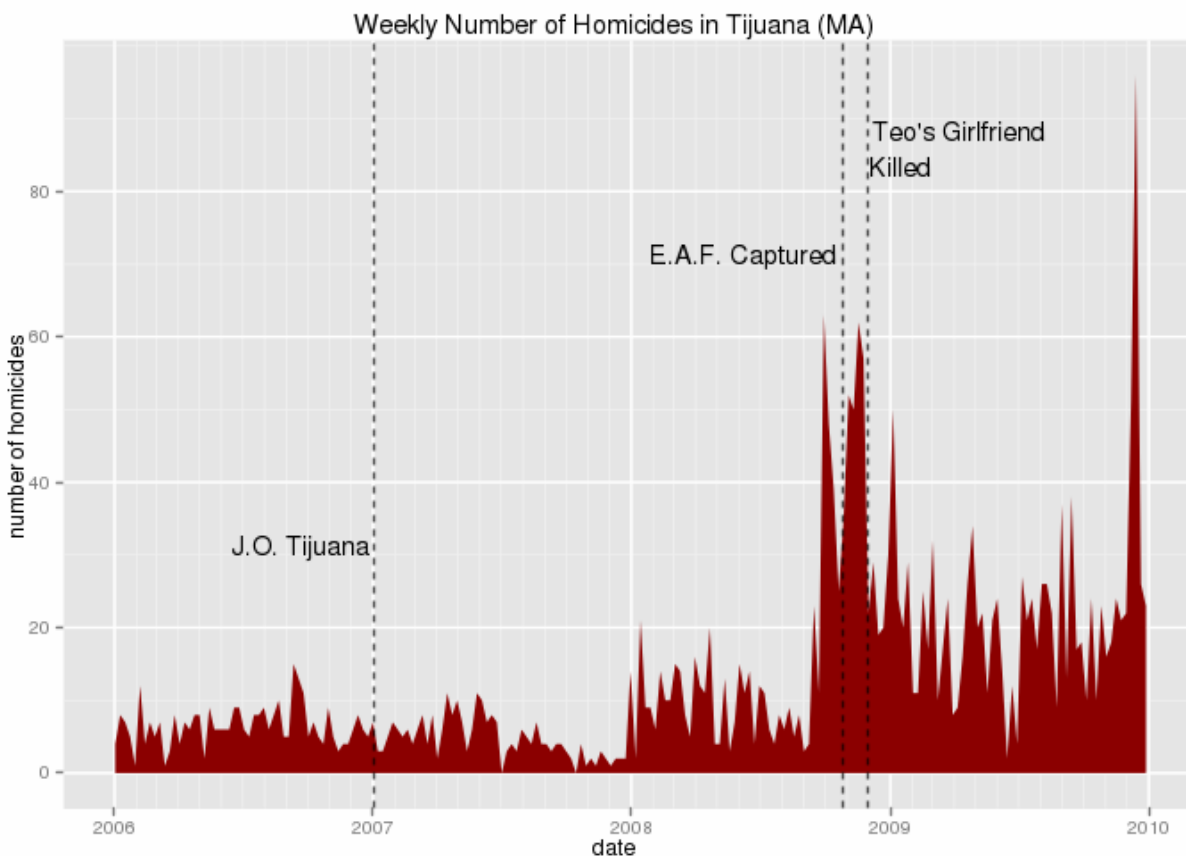
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representing lower rates and red higher. The size of the circle corresponds to the total number of incidents. The blue line and the positions marked "A", "B", and "C", represent an example of how the interactive map can be used to map potential ingress and egress points for illicit drugs.

- Another interesting and recent post from 31 March 2011 entitled "Tijuana More Violent than Ever³" attempted to correlate violence with internal cartel dynamics. The post analyzed the consequences observed shortly after a high-level operative of the "Tijuana Cartel" left and began a self-run operation with support from the "Sinaloa Cartel." The post contains graphs of homicide rates compared with important cartel changes and events (example below).

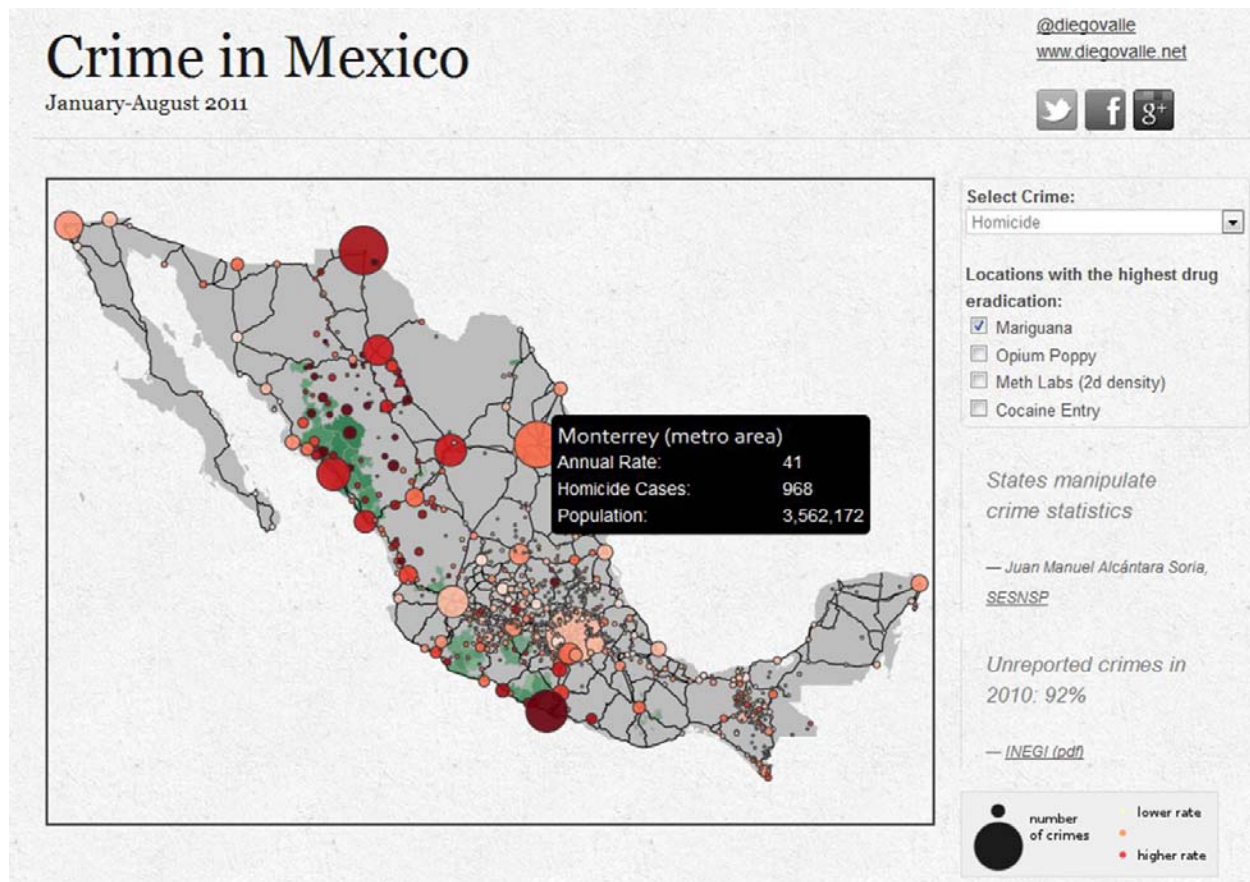


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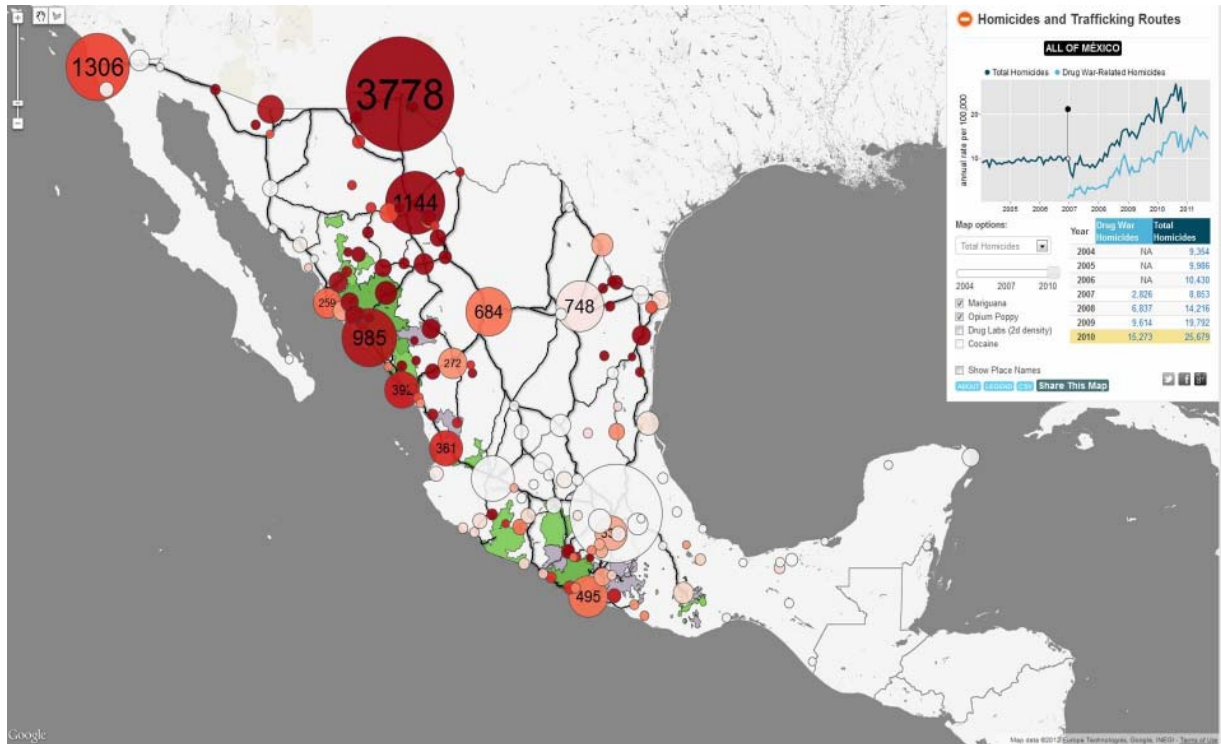
- A recent post from 2 November 2011 titled "Crime at the Municipal Level⁴" focused specifically on local crime. The analysis utilized crime data released by Mexican authorities for the year 2011. An interactive map plots criminal activity including homicides, extortions, kidnappings, violent robberies, non-violent robberies, and intentional harm. The map also plots locations with the highest drug eradications of marijuana, poppy, meth labs, and cocaine entry points (see an example in the map below). The blog points to data sources for meth lab locations and crime information.

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- The most recent post "Interactive map of the drug war in Mexico⁵" from January 25, 2012 highlighted a newly created interactive map of the drug war in Mexico. The map allows users to compare drug violence by year between 2007 and 2010, and switch the display between drug-related homicides and total homicides. The chart that accompanies the map is updated dynamically depending on user input. The map also shows major growing regions for marijuana, opium poppy, cocaine, and the location of drug labs.

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The map above is a snapshot of the interactive map of the drug war in Mexico posted to blog.diegovalle.net January 25 2012.

Other Blog Posts Span Range of Drug War Issues

The site provides an extensive look at many aspects of the drug war, including the Mexican military, cartel descriptions, homicide rates, drug laws, and gun regulation.

- The post "One less general⁶" focuses on the rise in violence that often accompanies military operations against cartels in specific regions. The post also highlights several attacks on Mexican Military Generals and their associates.
- The post "Tijuana is more violent than ever⁷" takes an in-depth look at the potential causes of the ebb and flow of violence in Tijuana. The post breaks down changes in cartel leadership that may have played a role in the increases and decreases of violence. The post's main point is that that contrary to some media reporting praising Tijuana Police Chief Julian Leyzaola, it is possible that any reduction in violence in Tijuana has been the result of truces formed between cartels and the under counting of homicide numbers in police reports.

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- The post "Strengths and weaknesses of crime data in Mexico⁸" highlights pros and cons of government and media databases that tally homicide and executions rates in Mexico. The information provided can help with the process of assessing open source data for analytical purposes.
- The post entitled "The most violent metropolitan area in Mexico⁹" contains a graph comparing homicide rates for selected municipalities in Mexico. It provides a snapshot of how violence has increased at different rates in select cities.
- The post "Maps of drug-related homicides¹⁰" displays drug related homicides over time, and analyzes their subsequent visual patterns. The post suggests that the occurrence of major events such as the capture of cartel leaders can help explain changes in the patterns of violence throughout the country.
- "Homicides in Mexico 2006-2009¹¹" breaks down trends in homicides in Mexico for the years 2006-2009. The data is graphed and analyzed by variables such as state, gender, municipality, age, marital status, homicide location, education level of the victim, time of day, and day of the week.
- "Femicides in Mexico 2006-2008¹²" analyzes trends in femicides throughout Mexico. One interesting finding was that in Mexico the overall femicide rates in 2007 were less than in the US. The femicide rate is graphed and analyzed by state, month, year, percentage committed with a firearm, gender, education, marital status, and other variables.
- "The dead of Juarez¹³" focuses on statistical trends for homicide trends in Ciudad Juarez. Charts are created highlighting trends for several variables.

Authoritative data sources

Blog.diegovalle.net cites data from governments, non-profit organizations, and thinktanks including the following:

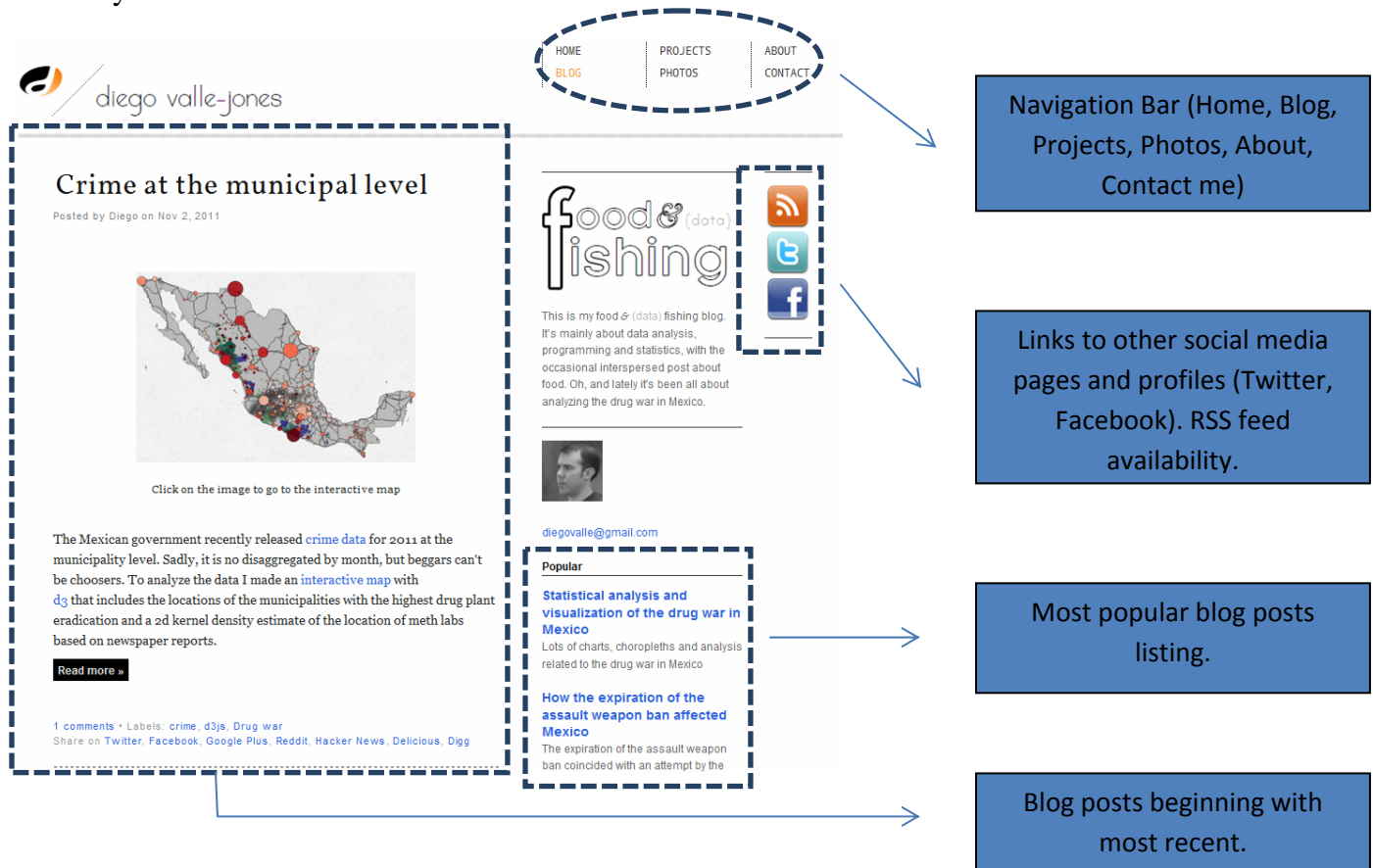
- "Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Geografía (INEGI – National Institute of Statistics and Geography)

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- "Instituto Ciudadano de Estudios Sobre la Inseguridad, A.C" (ICESI – Citizen Institute for Security Studies)
- "Comite Interinstitucional de Estadistica e Informacion de Seguridad" (CIEISP – Inter Agency Committee on Security Statistics and Information)
- "Grupo Reform" (National newspaper and online news group)
- Homicides with firearm data from "Sistema Nacional de Informacion en Salud" (SINAIS – National Health Information System)
- Violence statistics from "Sistema Nacional de Seguridad Publica (SNSP – National Public Security System).

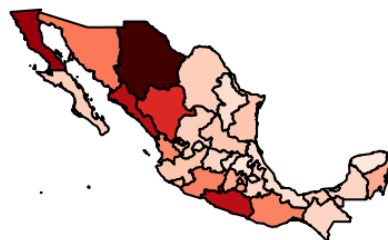
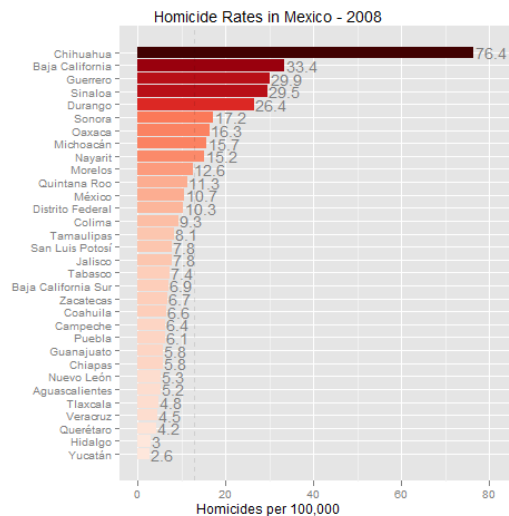
Layout for blog.diegovalle.net

The layout for *blog.diegovalle.net* consists of a main page listing the most recent blog posts. Users can click on a post preview in order to read the post in its entirety. To see older posts users must click "older posts" near the bottom of the main page. The layout is consistent for each blog post. The graphic on the following page provides a preview of the site's layout.

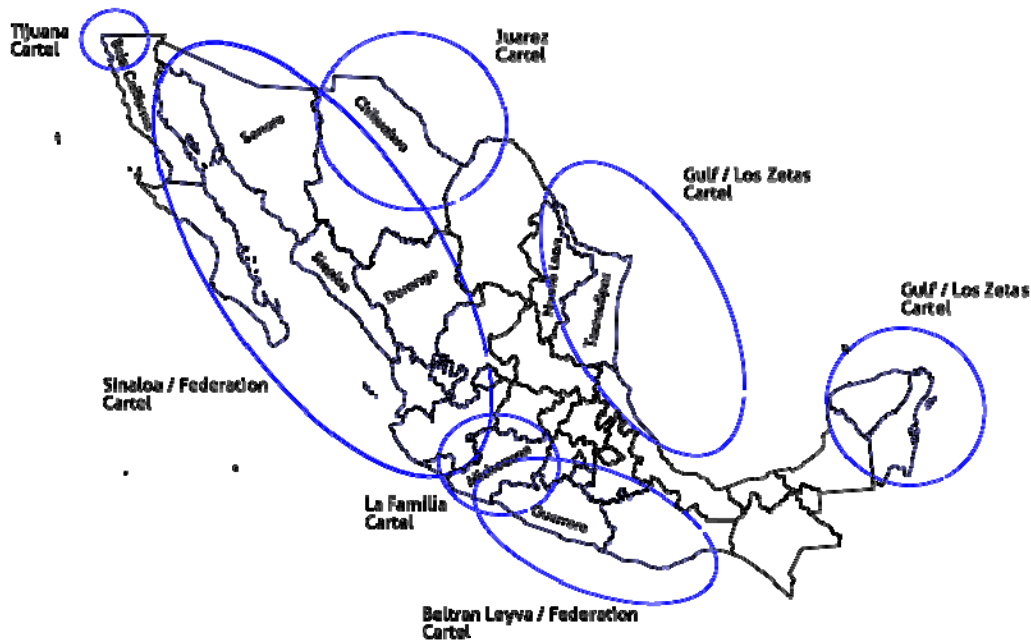


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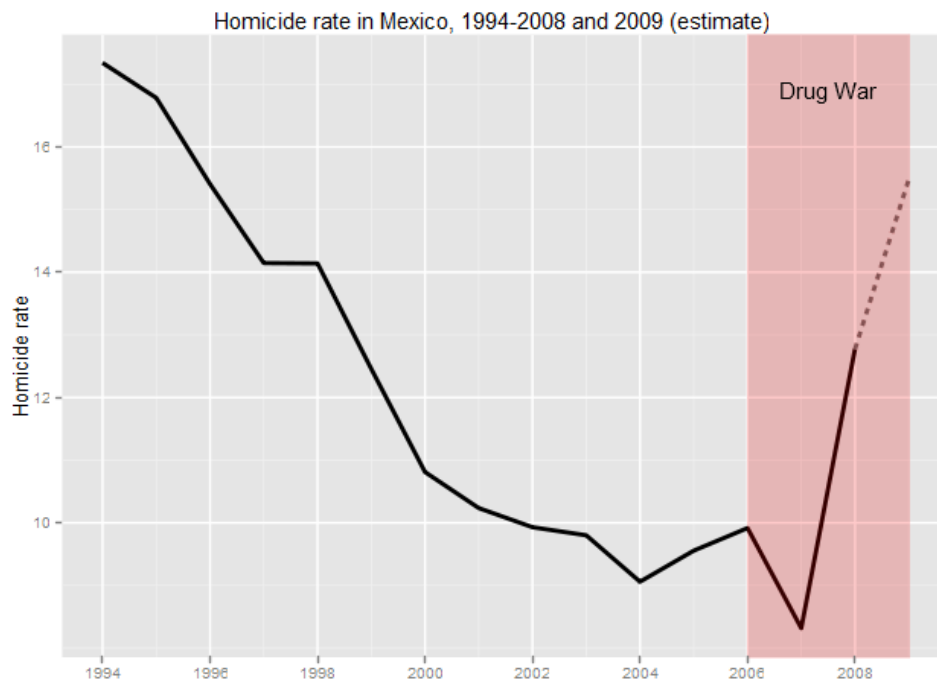
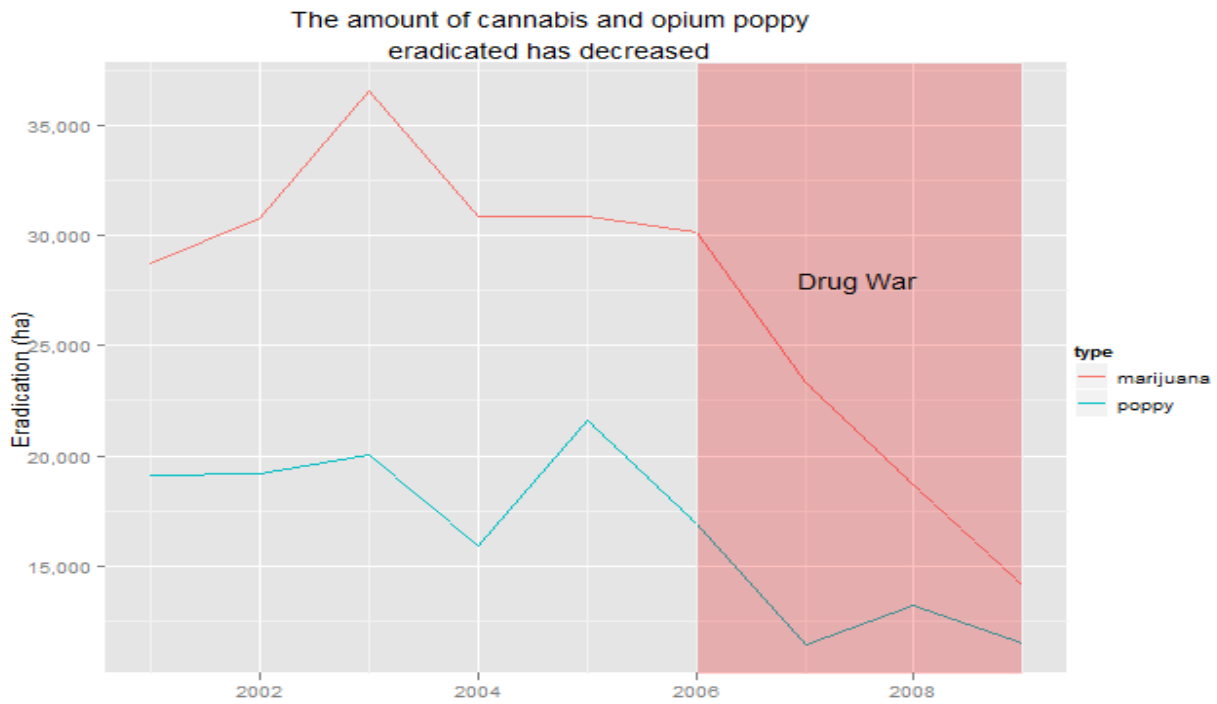
Appendix: Sample of Maps, Graphs from *blog.diegovalle.net*



Main Cartels Operating in Mexico - 2008



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¹ [Internet Site | | blog.diegovalle.net | Statistical Analysis and Visualization of the Drug War in Mexico | 15 June 2010 | | <http://blog.diegovalle.net/2010/06/statistical-analysis-and-visualization.html> | 1 December 2011 |]

² [Internet Site | | blog.diegovalle.net | Drug War Hotspots | 16 March 2011 | | <http://blog.diegovalle.net/2011/03/drug-war-hotspots.html> | 15 November 2011 |]

³ [Internet Site | | blog.diegovalle.net | Tijuana is more violent than ever | 31 March 2011 | | <http://blog.diegovalle.net/2011/03/tijuana-is-more-violent-than-ever.html> | 15 November 2011 |]

⁴ [Internet Site | | [blog.diegovalle.net](http://www.diegovalle.net) | Crime in Mexico | 2 November 2011 | | <http://www.diegovalle.net/maps/d3/crime-2011-aug.html> | 15 November 2011 |]

⁵ [Internet Site | | blog.diegovalle.net | Interactive map of the drug war in Mexico | 25 January 2012 | | <http://blog.diegovalle.net/2012/01/interactive-map-of-drug-war-in-mexico.html> | 26 January 2012 |]

⁶ [Internet Site | | blog.diegovalle.net | One less general | 25 May 2011 | | <http://blog.diegovalle.net/2011/05/one-less-general.html> | 15 November 2011 |]

⁷ [Internet Site | | blog.diegovalle.net | Tijuana is more violent than ever | 31 March 2011 | | <http://blog.diegovalle.net/2011/03/tijuana-is-more-violent-than-ever.html> | 15 November 2011 |]

⁸ [Internet Site | | blog.diegovalle.net | Strengths and weaknesses of crime data in Mexico | 10 February 2011 | | <http://blog.diegovalle.net/2011/02/strengths-and-weaknesses-of-crime-data.html> | 15 November 2011 |]

⁹ [Internet Site | | blog.diegovalle.net | The most violent metropolitan areas in Mexico | 9 February 2011 | | <http://blog.diegovalle.net/2011/02/most-violent-metropolitan-areas-in.html> | 15 November 2011 |]

¹⁰ [Internet Site | | blog.diegovalle.net | Maps of drug-related homicides | 4 February 2011 | | <http://blog.diegovalle.net/2011/02/maps-of-drug-related-homicides.html> | 15 November 2011 |]

¹¹ [Internet Site | | blog.diegovalle.net | Homicides in Mexico 2006-2009 | 27 January 2011 | | <http://blog.diegovalle.net/2011/01/homicides-in-mexico-2006-2009.html> | 15 November 2011 |]

¹² [Internet Site | | blog.diegovalle.net | Femicides in Mexico 2006-2008 | 11 November 2010 | | <http://blog.diegovalle.net/2010/11/femicides-in-mexico-2006-2008.html> | 15 November 2011 |]

¹³ [Internet Site | | blog.diegovalle.net | The dead of Juarez | 4 November 2010 | | <http://blog.diegovalle.net/2010/11/dead-of-juarez.html> | 15 November 2011 |]

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