**The upsurge of homicides is erasing gains in life expectancy and increasing life span inequality among Mexican males, SDU research reports**

**(Increase of homicides in Mexico offset expected gains in life expectancy and increased life span inequality)**

New study published in a leading journal of public health shows that the upsurge of homicides in Mexico slowed down life expectancy gains for young males. Mexico’s homicide rate declined from 1995 to 2006, according to an analysis conducted by Aburto, but the number of homicides per 100,000 people more than doubled between 2007 and 2012, from 17 per 100,000 people to 46 per 100,000. Certain states in Mexico experienced especially staggering homicide rates, the paper noted. In 2010 and 2011, for example, 8,943 men aged 15 to 50 in Chihuahua, a state in northwestern Mexico, were murdered — three times the number of deaths among U.S. troops in in Iraq from 2003 and 2006, when 2,706 military members were killed. The study highlights the need to recognize and correct the detrimental consequences in health and human rights that suppressive and drug-prohibition policies have had on the population. Rather than military action against drug cartels the government should re-focus on improving social and human capital through education, community support and employment programs.

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**Authors:**

José Manuel Aburto – PhD candidate – Interdisciplinary Centre on Population Dynamics, University of Southern Denmark,

<http://findresearcher.sdu.dk/portal/en/persons/jose-manuel-aburto(34dcae96-a13a-4c4d-a941-985152180869).html>

E-mail: jmaburto@sdu.dk

Hiram Beltrán Sánchez– Associate professor at [UCLA Fielding School of Public Health](https://ph.ucla.edu/)