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GUATEMALA

Youth Case Study





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Context: Political Context

- 36 year-long civil war (1996) over 200,000 casualties.
- “Passive and disengaged” society
- April –September 2015: peaceful demonstrations
- Institutional response?
- Former President and Vice-president, high-level Government Officials all in prison



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Context: Education

- “Universal coverage” at Primary Level
- 27.2% of first graders did not advance to second grade
- Low coverage of secondary education in rural areas
- Youth bulge nation: ~ 70% of the population is under 30, and ~ 60% are poor
- 1.7 million out-of-school youth –OSY– nation-wide aged 15-24.



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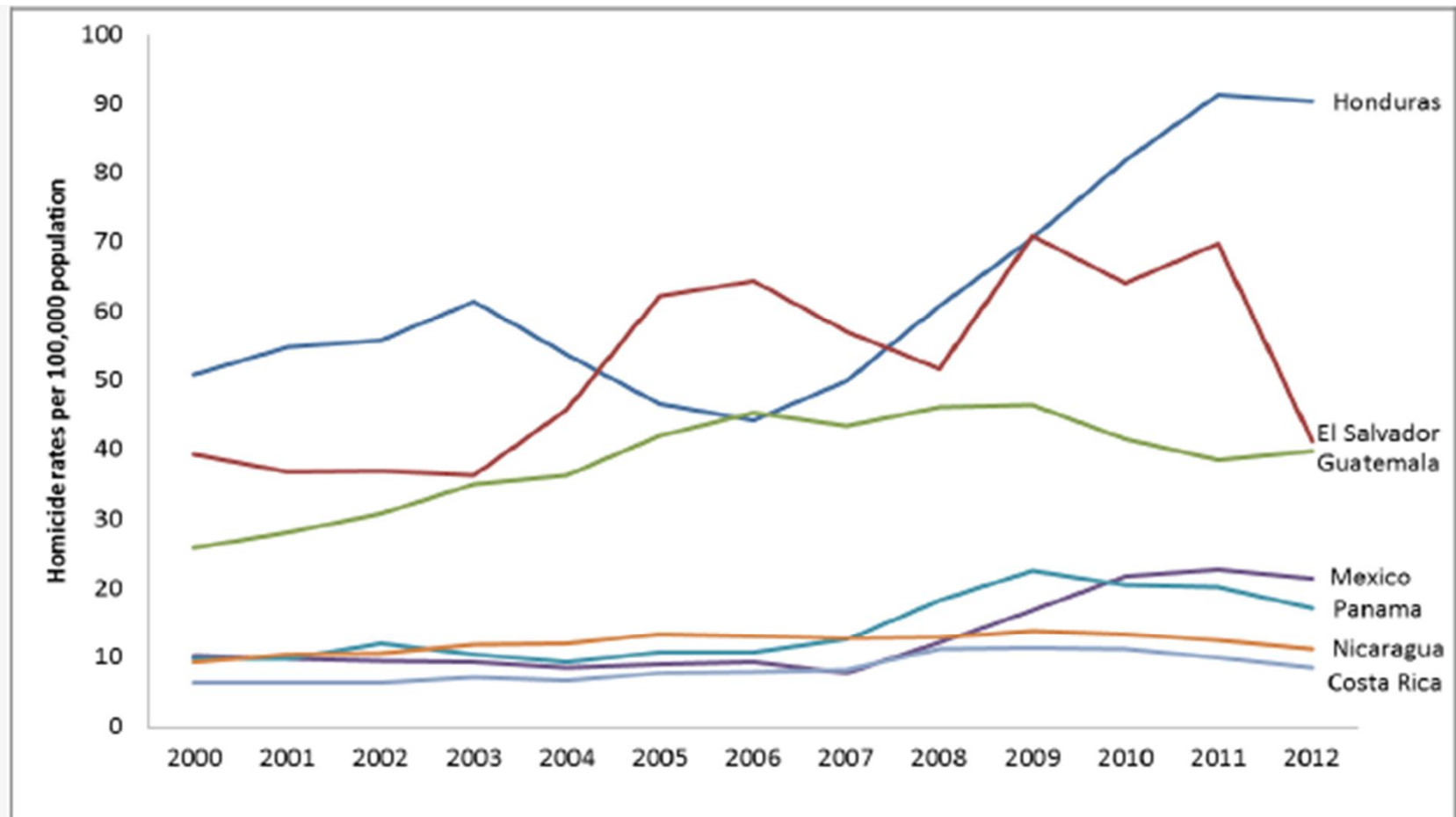
Youth in rural areas

- More than 660,000 OSY live in the Western Highlands (priority geographical area of USAID).
- 80% of all OSY earn less than the minimum legal wage
- 20% of these youth became parents before turning 16 Economic problems and marriage are the two main education barriers



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Violence: The regional perspective in the Northern Triangle



U.S. = 4.7 / 100,000 (2012).

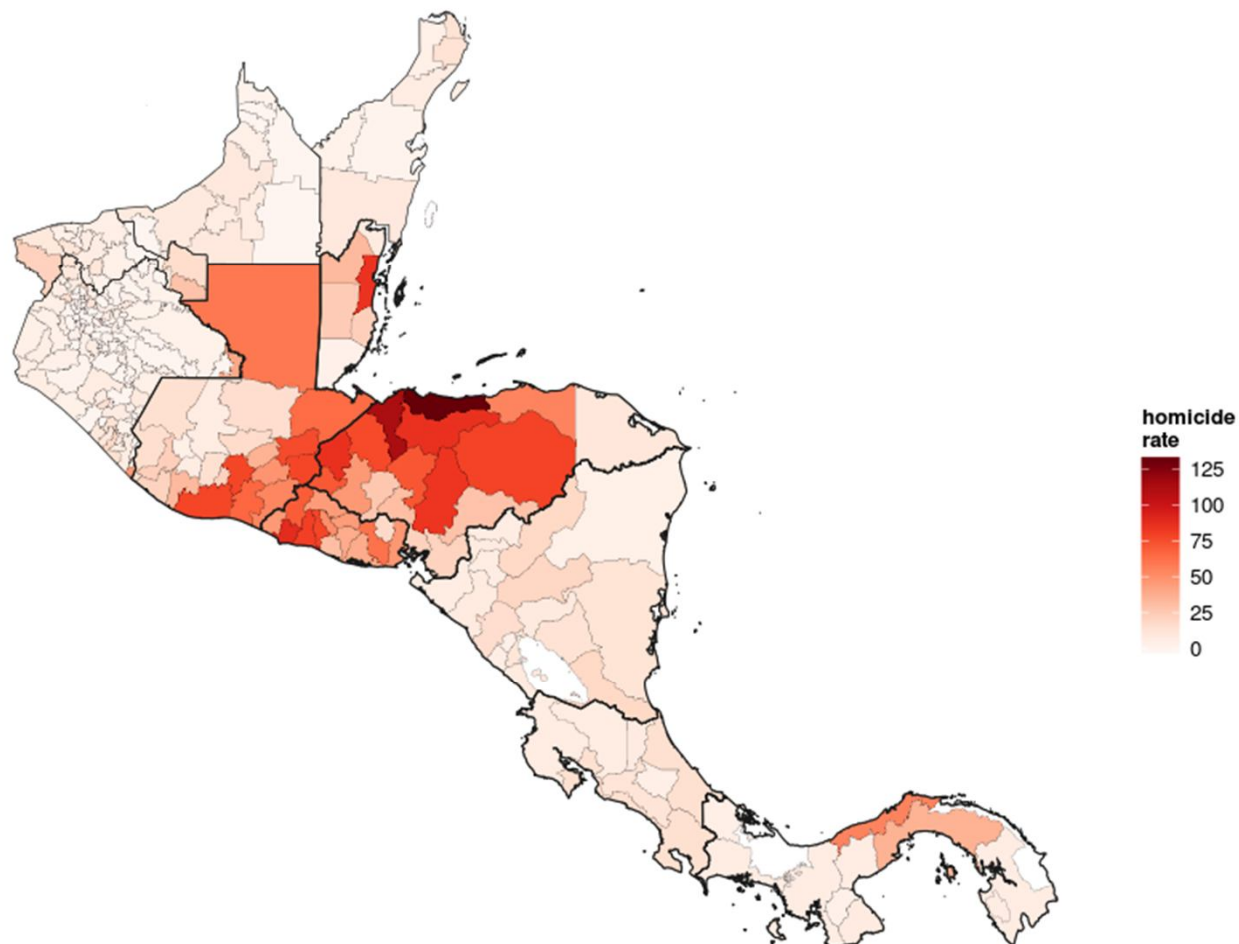
Source: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Homicide Statistics 2000-2012



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Homicide Rates in Southern Mexico and Central America, by Municipality or Department
(Mexican Rates from Vital Statistics)





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- World's highest rate of youth violence
- 70,000 gang members
- Vast majority of current members is 15-24
- ~3/4 **new** gang members are under 15
- ~25% homicides in the region are related to organized crime and gangs.



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Violence: Guatemala

- Crime levels, narco-activity, and gang activity most intense in urban and peri-urban areas
- Victims and perpetrators of armed violence and homicides are mainly male youth, between 18 and 39
- Young women are most affected by rising femicide, rape, domestic, and intra-familial violence

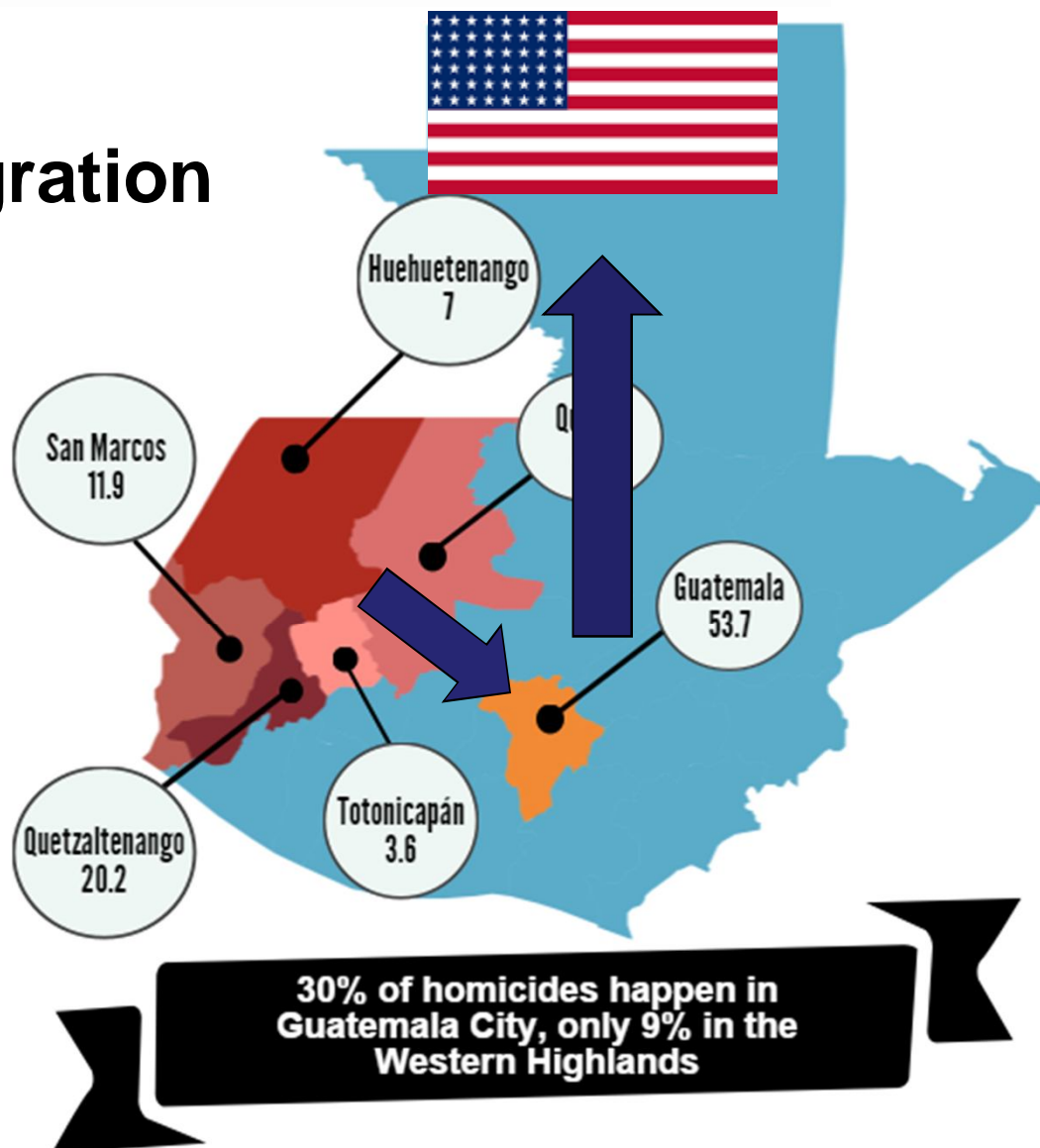


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Homicides and migration

Per 100,000 persons



*Source: Central American Business Intelligence- CABI



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Intervention: Urban youth

- **Address the root causes of crime, rather than deal with crime after it has become endemic.**
- In urban centers the approach is primary prevention of violence.
- Focusing in urban areas where crime and violence have high prevalence.



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Key Findings

**Significant reduction in reports of
crime victimization and violence**

Compared to what would be expected without treatment:

- 51% fewer residents reported being aware of murders
- 51% fewer residents reported being aware of extortion and blackmail
- 26% fewer residents reported being aware of illegal drug sales
- 19% fewer reported being aware of robberies



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Summary

- Lack of response from institutions to provide opportunities for youth could lead to regional instability
- Importance of livelihoods and cross-sectoral work: human development, SEL, PSS
- Youth civic participation > Family and community > Response from country systems and institutions
- Relevant education and sustainability: Youth specific demands and effect on education system (standards, classroom, school management, communities)



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Video

[Ceiba final.mp4](#)