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Lessons from the management of the COVID-19 crisis in the generation of sociodemographic statistics

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Countries that concluded

The 2020 census round



Population Census planned for 2020

• 53 countries planned to conduct their census in 2020.

- Mexico is one of only eight countries in the world that managed to carry it out.
- And one of the first to publish results.

Source: UNSD, February 2021

Lessons learned



Evidence-based decision making

- Analyzed statistical and historical information from previous pandemics.
- During 1918-1919 it affected mostly young adults aged 20-40 years.
- About 500 million people were infected and at least 50 million died.



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Severe respiratory acute syndrome demonstrated how quickly an infection spreads in a mobile and interconnected world.

Probable cases of SARS by week of onset Worldwide* (n=5,910), 1 November 2002 - 10 July 2003



SARS spread in 2002 and 2003

Number of probable cases between November 2002 and July 2003





01-Nov-02 22-Nov-02 13-Dec-02 03-Jan-03 24-Jan-03 14-Feb-03 07-Mar-03 28-Mar-03 18-Apr-03 09-May-03 30-May-03 20-Jun-03 11-Jul-03 date of ons et

World Health Organization (2003). Consensus document on the epidemiology of severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), p. 15

- The international collaborative effort allowed health experts to quickly contain its spread.
- Just over 8,000 people became ill, of whom about 1,000 died.





Excess of Mortality 2020



Source: "Statistical bulletin on excess all-cause mortality during the COVID-19 emergency". Num. 10. Inter-agency group SSA, INSP, IMSS, CONAPO, RENAPO, OPS & INEGI.

Epidemiological Week



Context



In the last quarter of 2019, the SARS-CoV-2 virus spread worldwide.



In Mexico, the first case was reported in March 2020. Non-essential activities were suspended.



The generation of statistical information through face-to-face surveys and censuses was suspended.



Actions were implemented to
 minimize damage to statistical production.



Main Impacts of COVID-19 on the 2020 Census



- $\bullet \bigcirc \bullet$
 - **Primary activity :** Enumeration was achieved within the planned timeframe.
 - In the last week: there was an increase in non-response and isolated assaults on enumerators.
- Secondary activities :
 - Verification: first week was completed, remaining two weeks rescheduled (June to August).
 - Non response follow up and integrated into the second phase of verification.
 Questions to identify March 2020 residents were added to the census questionnaire.
 - The post-enumeration survey was cancelled. However, the Sampling Survey for Focused Estimation of Coverage (ENCOBER) was conducted in the municipalities with the greatest differences in population with respect to historical indicators and estimates.
- Of the 100% of the dwellings identified as inhabited, 96% were interviewed.

Guidelines for fieldwork



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In coordination and constant dialogue with the Health Ministry, guidelines were developed, and measures were implemented for the mitigation and prevention of COVID-19 in field operations that have the approval of the country's health authorities.

At all times, **priority was given to the safety of the personnel** as well as the general population.





Diffusion strategy • • •

- Once the confinement period began, the diffusion campaign started, promoting participation through self-enumeration, focusing efforts on the municipalities with the greatest number of slopes.
- The first days of the confinement
 were impacted by the excess
 of people communicating to
 the call center, in the case of
 the Internet the communication
 was stable.





Percentage of interviews according to mode of collection





Printed Questionnaires 2.0%

Self-enumeration 0.3%

Almost **1.6 million letters of invitation to self-enumeration were delivered**, of which just over 97,000 (6%) responded to the questionnaire.



Importance of planning

- Planning the Census and its technification favored the speed of its data capture, validation, and processing processes, even during the pandemic.
- Due to its technification, a considerable part of our work was oriented to planning, design, and technological development.



Impact of the pandemic on Sociodemographic Surveys



Context of the COVID-19 pandemic on surveys

During the pandemic, household surveys had three different scenarios:

- Those that were able to adjust their methodology and continue.
- ✓ Those that were created to account for the situation that was being experienced due to the health crisis.
- ✓ Those that had to be postponed until better conditions.







ENOE and **ENCO**



- The National Occupation and Employment Survey (ENOE, in Spanish) & National Consumer Confidence Survey (ENCO, in Spanish) were suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Replaced by telephonic surveys to maintain the generation of their most important indicators of the labor market and perception of the economic situation.
- Maintained the same conceptual design but different operational strategy and collection methodology.
- The new methodological designs **imply changes** in:
 - The size of the samples.
 - The resources for their application.
 - The interpretation of the results.
- The statistics generated from the telephonic surveys were comparable with the original series.

ENOE and **ENCO**



- On 15 June 2020, face-to-face interviews were resumed in the states where the number of infections decreased.
- On 17 July 2020, face-to-face surveys were allowed throughout the country.
- From that date on, the collection of information for the surveys is carried out in a combined manner: partly face-to-face and partly by telephone, this scheme was extended nationwide.

After three months of collecting information by telephone, it was possible to identify advantages of this methodology: vulnerable personnel collecting information remotely, avoiding exposure to the virus, among others.

Telephone interviews were an emerging measure; however, their effectiveness was such that they went from being a reactive alternative to an approved methodology for the ENOE survey in the new normality.

ENOE^N (New Edition)

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Public Consultation to incorporate telephone interviews, update catalogs, classifiers and migration to digital tools, from the ENOE. October 8 to November 30 (2020).

Valid combination

- Results' analysis of the strategic indicators shows that there are no statistically significant changes in the strategic indicators of occupation and employment.
- Improve the statistical accuracy of the results.

Sampling design

- Telephone interviews' sample was taken from the 2020 first quarter ENOE sample.
- Face-to-face interviews' sample was taken from 2020 third quarter Housing sample.
- Adjustment by calibration was not necessary.



ECOVID-ML & ECOVID-ED



During the health crisis, *ad hoc* household surveys were conducted to ascertain the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the most affected sectors, such as education and the labor market.



Surveys design

Stratified sampling of telephones based on the National Numbering Plan of the Federal Telecommunications Institute.



Capture method Telephone interview using a paper questionnaire.

COVID-19 and Labor Market Telephone Survey (ECOVID-ML, in Spanish)

• **Objective:** generate **complementary information to the** Telephone Occupation and Employment Survey **(ETOE)**.

Survey for Measuring the Impact of COVID-19 on Education (ECOVID-ED, in Spanish)

• Objective: It seeks to know how the student population concluded the last school year, what educational resources they face in the current school year, how learning is supported from home, among other topics.

Statistics based on Administrative Records



Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on Administrative Records



- Administrative Records as a source of statistical information have numerous shortcomings in developing countries, as the methods for obtaining them are archaic.
- The context of the pandemic made even more challenging to generate statistics from Administrative Records due to the lack of personnel considered non-essential in the public offices.
- They represent, however, invaluable information for determining the number of deaths during the pandemic.







Background

Starting in **2020** and due to the **pandemic caused by COVID-19**, there is a **need for more timely information** to **measure excess mortality**.



The excess mortality caused by the COVID-19 pandemic has generated a need for information on the behavior of deaths registered at the national level.



Excess mortality from all causes allows us to **estimate deaths** and **monitor the evolution** of the pandemic at different geographic levels.



Excess mortality is estimated by considering the **deaths that occurred** (observed) during the pandemic, **minus the expected deaths** for the same period, based on the historical trend of deaths.



Information cross-checks with the Health Ministry (HM)

Four groups



Subject to epidemiological surveillance (including COVID-19)

Maternal deaths



Deaths of children under five years of age

Aggressions (homicides)

- **INEGI** and **HM** jointly carry out a **rigorous and continuous process of confrontation**.
- INEGI is the official source and releases the definitive measurement of deaths after the confrontation process.





Excess mortality (Jan 2020 - Sep 2021^p)

According to the information recorded during the 2015-2019 period, from January 2020 to September 2021^p nationwide, 1,288,669 deaths were expected, and 1,941,722 occurred. Based on these results, there is excess mortality from all-causes of 653,053, equivalent to 50.7 percent.



EXCESS MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES

Source: Registered death statistics, 2020, January - September 2021^p Note: ^p Preliminary information.

Leading causes of death by sex 2020 to June 2021

Leading causes of death by sex 2020

Rank	Total	Male	Female
1	Heart diseases 218,703 In 2019 were 156,041	COVID-19 128,802	Heart diseases 97,132 In2019 were 72,768
2	COVID-19 200,270	Heart diseases 121,556 In 2019 were 83,258	Diabetes mellitus 72,094 In 2019 were 52,643
3	Diabetes mellitus 151,019 In 2019 were 104,354	Diabetes mellitus 78,922 In 2019 were 51,711	COVID-19 71,463
4	Malignant tumors 90,603 In 2019 were 88,680	Malignant tumors 44,476 In 2019 were 43.296	Malignant tumors 46,125 In 2019 were 45,384
5	Influenza and pneumonia 58,037 In 2019 were 31,081	Influenza and pneumonia 35,657 In 2019 were 17,034	Influenza and pneumonia 22,375 In2019 were 14,046
6	Liver diseases 41,492 In 2019 were 40,578	Aggressions (homicides) 32,336 h 2019 were 32,530	Cerebrovascular diseases 18,072 In 2019 were 17,659
7	Cerebrovascular diseases 37,020 In 2019 were 35,303	Liver diseases 30,300 In 2019 were 29,692	Liver diseases 11,189 In 2019 were 10,879
8	Aggressions (homicides) 36,773 h 2019 were 36,661	Accidents 25,343 In 2019 were 25,758	Chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases 10,055 In 2019 were 11,269
9	Accidents 32,356	Cerebrovascular diseases 18,946	Accidents 6,992
10	Chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases 21,949 In 2019 were 23,768	Chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases 11,894 In 2019 were 12,499	Renal insufficiency 6,618 In 2019 were 6,359
He	art diseases Diabetes Malignant mellitus tumors	Other non-communicable Accidents	Aggressions (homicides) Communicable diseases

Leading causes of death by sex, January-June 2021

Rank	Total	Male	Female		
1	COVID-19	COVID-19	COVID-19		
	145,159	89,716	55,437		
2	Heart diseases	Heart diseases	Heart diseases		
-	113,899	62,617	51,276		
2	Diabetes mellitus	Diabetes mellitus	Diabetes mellitus		
5	74,418	38,355	36,056		
4	Malignant tumors	Malignant tumors	Malignant tumors		
	44,197	21,482	22,714		
5	Influenza and pneumonia	Liver diseases	Cerebrovascular diseases		
	20,956	15,041	9,161		
6	Liver diseases	Aggressions (homicides)	Influenza and pneumonia		
	20,644	14,880	8,242		
7	Cerebrovascular diseases	Accidents	Liver diseases		
	18,843	13,130	5,602		
Q	Aggressions (homicides)	Influenza and pneumonia	Chronic obstructive pulmonary		
U	16.972	12.713	4.232		
•	Accidents	Cerebrovascular diseases	Accidents		
9	16.012	0.691	2 769		
	Chronic obstructive pulmonary	Chronic obstructive pulmonary	Denelingufficiency		
10	diseases	diseases	Renal insufficiency		
	9,152	4,920	3,033		
Heart diseases Diabetes mellitus Tumor Other non-communicable Accidents Aggressions (homicides) Communicable diseases					
C	COVID-19				

Small Area Estimation (SAE) Techniques



Application of **SAE** statistical models

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Statistical models were built using combined information from different sources to generate indicators of interest with a higher level of disaggregation.

Estimate at the municipal level the percentages of the main comorbidities associated with COVID-19: Obesity, Hypertension, and Diabetes.

Continuity of labor statistics by measuring the impact of COVID-19 on the labour market. Percentages of: Economically Active Population, Employed, Informally Employed, and Underemployed

The supply of information supported decision-making and allowed measurements at the local level.







SAE on Health

- The prevalence of Obesity, Hypertension and Diabetes was estimated for municipalities using SAE techniques. There is no source of information with such a level of geographic disaggregation.
- The dependent variables are the percentage of population of 20 years and older with obesity, either with a previous diagnosis of hypertension or diabetes.*
- The auxiliary variables were selected from Mortality Statistics, the Intercensal Survey of 2015 and population projections.
- This complements the statistical information from primary sources that only provide national o state data (or bigger domains than the municipality).



SAE on Labour Force

- The percentage of the Economically
 Active Population (PEA), the Employed
 Population, the Informally Employed
 Population, and the Underemployed
 Population were estimated using SAE
 techniques, for each country's states, for
 the second quarter of 2020.
- Estimates were obtained considering the historical behavior of the ENOE and the results of the ETOE.





Experiences and lessons learned

Lessons learned



• The generation of official statistics as an essential activity

INEGI did not stop its statistical production, aware of the importance of maintaining the continuity of the most important indicators and the creation of new ones to meet the information needs of decision-makers and other interested parties.

• The challenge of maintaining a relationship of trust with the target population This would not have been possible if INEGI had not good reputation with individuals and organizations both nationally and internationally.

• Extending the use of ICTs

One of the reasons that made possible to conclude the Census was the change from paper to Mobile Computing Devices (MCDs), which allowed several phases of the Census to be more agile and efficient. This valuable experience is in the process of being applied in different surveys.

Lessons learned

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Robust Risk Management

High-Level Officers

- **NSOs** should **perform robust Risk Management** (RM) that:
 - Includes all phases of a census and the process of statistical generation.
 - Considers **all types of risks**, even those that are unlikely.
 - High impact risks: Epidemic, pandemic (AH1N1, COVID-19), natural disasters (floods, hurricanes, and earthquakes), political and civil conflicts.
- A complete RM must be carried out for all statistical projects.
- Risk analysis will make it possible to adopt a clear position in the face of a crisis and to have a predefined course of action.
- To have high-level officers with managerial skills and experience in:
 - Decision-making within organizations.
 - □ Statistical and operational matters, but also...
 - Knowledgeable of other phenomena, such as social, environmental, political, and economic phenomena at national and international levels.

THANK YOU

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