



# Researching the arms trade

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Stop US Arms to Mexico

#### Structure

- Introduction to methods of empirical social research
- How to first start/approach your research
- How to choose your research question
- ► (Re)sources
- Example: Arms Trade Report
  - Mexican National Transparency Platform
  - US Census Bureau
- Group activities
  - How to do an interview

## Qualitative and quantitative methods of empirical social research

Qualitative	Quantitative
Generation of theories	Verification of theories
Understanding	Explaining
Inductive, descriptive, explorative	Deductive explanation
Reconstruction of facts	Assumption, premises
Differentiate between cases and their intrinsic logic, holistic view	Isolate variables and their effects; ex post holistic reconstruction
(generalizable) individual cases	(representative) samples
Capture novelties and special features	Capture characteristic values and generalizations
Interpretation, generalization	Measure, count, analysis of correlations and causalities

### What are we facing?

- Difficult political contexts
  - Militarization of public security (crimes against humanity)
  - Increased homicide rates
  - Gross human rights violations
  - Violence against journalists and human rights defenders
    - ▶ 2,375 aggressions against the press in Mexico during the government of Enrique Peña Nieto (2012-2018).
  - generalized impunity of crimes 99.3% (Global Impunity Index, 2018)
- Those who commit the crimes are authorities
- ► Those who obstruct justice are authorities

## How to choose our research question?

- National (local) and international (global) context analysis
- Availability of sources
- Previous interest or knowledge of the research territory

⇒chose a topic that you consider important or interesting, in order to be able to know your research area and find out possible gaps or contradictions in the work that has already been done in that area.

#### How relevant is our research question?

#### **CONTEXT**

- urgent political and societal issues
- Trending topics, collective preferences

#### APPROACH/PERSPECTIVES

- When doing research, it is not only important to select the object of research (concept specification), but also take into account the many different approaches/perspectives that can be taken to look at that specific issue.
- The specific, more profound stories behind the numbers. Sometimes in academia people forget how to look differently at the topics of research.
  - Distance between the human suffering and academic research

#### **AUDIENCE**

- Who is the audience for our message?
  - ▶ Decision makers, legislators, Congress, academia, etc.

#### **PURPOSE**

- What is the intention behind your research question?
  - Advocacy, legislative changes, accountability, awareness raising, etc.

# How can we assess if our research question can be answered empirically?

Availability of resources

- Information. What type of data is accessible and available.
- Time. How much time do we need/have for the investigation and analysis
- Finances. How much money do we want to spend or have available to get resources, analyze them, etc.
- ► Know-How and technology. Are we alone or do we have a group of researchers, analysts; which technological support do we have available.

#### Availability of Information

#### **Public information:**

- National Transparency Platform
- Reports from governmental authorities
- Official newsletters
- Polls and inquiries from National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI)

- Context Analysis
- Qualitative analysis
- Quantitative analysis

Recommendations from the National Ombudsman

#### Open sources:

- Press
- Reports from civil society and academia

Diagnosis
Advocacy work
Publications
Public policy proposals
Legislative changes
Institutional design

# **Gross Human** Rights Abuses The Legal and Illegal **Gun Trade to Mexico** Stop US Arms to Mexico

## Example -Arms trade report

#### Main Sources:

- Mexican National Transparency Platform
- US Census Bureau
- International Trade Commission





## Using Mexico's National Transparency Platform (IFAI) for govmt. documents

http://www.plataformadetransparencia.org.mx/web/guest/inicio



### Getting a response

- Posted on PNT website
- Accessible through entering the previously assigned folio number
- Available to anyone
- Mostly in (scanned) PDF format, sometimes Excel
- Read carefully to see whether agency responded to requests

#### Getting a response



SECRETARÍA DE LA DEFENSA NACIONAL

Hoja de Respuesta a Solicitudes de Información.



LUGAR Y FECHA:

LOMAS DE SOTELO, CIUDAD DE MÉXICO, A 2 DE MARZO DE 2018.

No. DE FOLIO:

0000700024618

MODALIDAD DE ENTREGA DE LA INFORMACIÓN: MEDIO ELECTRÓNICA

De conformidad con el artículo 129 de la Ley General de Transparencia y Acceso a la Información Pública, las áreas consideradas en los artículos 42 y 50 del Reglamento Interior de la Secretaría de la Defensa Nacional, correspondientes a las Direcciones Generales de Materiales de Guerra y Administración, le otorgan las siguientes respuestas:

REQUERIMIENTO No. 1:

"...SOLICITO SABER CUÁNTAS ARMAS HA COMPRADO LA SEDENA DEL 01 DE DICIEMBRE DE 2006 AL 31 DE DICIEMBRE DE 2017. ESTO LO REQUIERO DESAGREGADO POR AÑO, TIPO DE ARMA ADQUIRIDA (CORTA, LARGA), EMPRESA QUE PRODUJO LA ARMA (SIG SAUER, BERETTA, COLT, DILLON, AERO, SEDENA, ETC.), COSTO, E IDENTIDAD DEL PROVEEDOR (NOMBRE, PAÍS)..." (SIC)

RESPUESTA AL REQUERIMIENTO No. 1:

SE HACE DE SU CONOCIMIENTO QUE LAS ARMAS ADQUIRIDAS EN EL PERIODO QUE REFIERE, SON LAS SIGUIENTES:

PAÍS	NÚMERO DE ARMAS	TIPO DE ARMA	EMPRESA	MONTO	
		EN EL AÑO 2006, NO	SE ADQUIRIÓ ARMAMENTO.		
\$		ADQUISICION	NES EN EL AÑO 2007		
SUDÁFRICA	240	ARMA LARGA	RIPPEL EFFECT WEAPON SYSTEMS	1'305,600.00 USD	
BÉLGICA	31	ARMA CORTA	FN HERTAL, S.A.	54,828.80 €	
BÉLGICA	150	ARMA LARGA	LARGA FN HERTAL, S.A.		
		ADQUISICION	NES EN EL AÑO 2008		
E.U.A.	4 ARMA LARGA U.S. ORDANCE INC.		U.S. ORDANCE INC.	47,980.00 USD	
E.U.A.	10	ARMA LARGA	EUROSPORTS, LLC	96,300.00 USD	
ALEMANIA	10	ARMA CORTA	HECKLER Y KOCH GMBH	14,430.00 €	
E.U.A.	184	ARMA CORTA	SIG SAUER, INC.	111,688.00 USD	

REQUERIMIENTO No. 4:

"...4. NÚMERO DE ARMAS COMERCIALIZADAS POR AÑO A CADA ENTIDAD FEDERATIVA Y EL MONTO DE COMPRA: AÑO, ENTIDAD FEDERATIVA, NÚMERO DE ARMAS, MONTO DE LA COMPRA...."

RESPUESTA REQUERIMIENTO No. 4: AL SE LE PROPORCIONA EL NÚMERO DE ARMAS COMERCIALIZADAS DEL AÑO 2010 AL 2016, COMO SE TIENE EN ESTA SECRETARIA, COMO A CONTINUACIÓN SE INDICA:

ENTIDAD FEDERATIVA.	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
AGUASCALIENTES	140	561	156	983	134	197	60
BAJA CALIFORNIA	844	390	260	1,320	664	96	310
BAJA CALIFORNIA SUR	618	173	439	141	72	120	30
CAMPECHE	58	279	36	35	252	111	14
CHIAPAS	541	644	9	- 1	352	670	138
CHIHUAHUA	2,531	904	1,617	1,240	413	1,042	2,347
COAHUILA	439	54	3	183	1,129	594	174
COLIMA	241	274	299	81	145	56	104
DURANGO	1.213	707	395	422	114	403	0
GUANAJUATO	1,427	2,117	1,650	810	590	1,165	416
GUERRERO	459	232	582	354	522	1,447	463
HIDALGO	1,660	313	3	116	200	1,433	521
JALISCO	2,010	1,080	486	1,078	2,744	1,692	925
EDO, MÉXICO	2,744	3,169	2,005	2,636	4,943	2,438	4,085
MICHOACÁN	8,362	476	368	440 .	1,200	958	0
MORELOS	983	295	513	58	656	821	100
NAYARIT	771	1,612	341	286	0	0	63
NUEVO LEÓN	684	338	2,290	90	3,875	843	1,103
OAXACA	385	1,429	484	832	63	154 🛊	353
PUEBLA	1,515	227	680	0	0	957	794
QUERÉTARO	554	1,027	557	763	550	471	45
QUINTANA ROO	300	217	668	447	189	788	10
SAN LUIS POTOSÍ	316	844	999	571	408	409	15
SINALOA	422	498	1,260	1,349	213	585	89
SONORA	192	2,438	655	621	1,088	0	0
TABASCO	1,074	913	1,130	131	408	826	273
TAMAULIPAS	348	223	35	760	691	0	771
TLAXCALA	120	241	762	178	361	96	1
VERACRUZ	1,442	990	2,653	1,979	902	453	780
YUCATÁN	232	203	-8	2	672	212	0
ZACATECAS	242	365	180	1,002	1,592	524	146
CD. DE MÉXICO	0	935	3,296	1,760	1,901	1,456	2,050

# Organizing data



•	● ● ● ☐ Armas comercializadas 2010-2016.xlsx									
<u>e</u>	2									
A	Home Layout	Tables	Charts	SmartArt	Formulas	Data	Review			
	A2 🛊 🕄 🛇 (* fx Aguascalientes									
	ļ.	4		В	С		D	E	F	
1				2010	203	l1	2012	2013	2014	
2	Aguascalientes		,	140	56	51	156	983	134	
3	Baja California	844	39	90	260	1,320	664			
4	Baja California S	618	17	73	439	141	72			
5	5 Campeche			58	27	79	36	35	252	
6	Chiapas			541	64	14	9	1	352	
7	Chiihuahua			2,531	90	)4	1,617	1,240	413	
8	Coahuila			439		54	3	183	1,129	
9	Colima			241	27	74	299	81	145	
10	Durango			1,213	70	)7	395	422	114	
11	Guanajuato			1,427	2,13	L7	1,650	810	590	
12	Guerrero			459	23	32	582	354	522	
13	Hidalgo			1,660	33	L3	3	116	200	

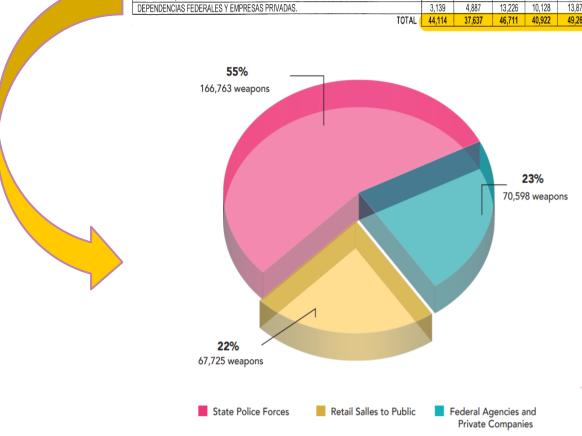
### Making data visually legible

**REQUERIMIENTO No. 3:** 

"...3. NÚMERO TOTAL DE ARMAS COMERCIALIZADAS POR AÑO Y MONTO DE LA COMPRA DESAGREGADO POR USUARIO FINAL (ENTIDADES FEDERATIVAS, PARTICULARES, EMPRESAS DE SEGURIDAD PRIVADA, BANCO DE MÉXICO, USO PROPIO DE SEDENA)..." (SIC)

RESPUESTA REQUERIMIENTO No. 3: AL EL NÚMERO TOTAL DE ARMAS DE FUEGO COMERCIALIZADAS DEL AÑO 2010 AL 2016, COMO SE TIENEN EN ESTA SECRETARÍA, DESAGREGADO POR TIPO DE USUARIO FINAL ES COMO A CONTINUACIÓN SE INDICA:

TIPO DE COMPRADOR.	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
SOBIERNOS DE LOS ESTADOS DE LA REPUBLICA.	32,867	24,168	24,819	20,669	27,043	21,017	16,180
/ENTAS DE MOSTRADOR AL PÚBLICO EN GENERAL, QUE INCLUYE TIRADORES DEPORTIVOS, CAZADORES, PROTECCIÓN PARCELARIA Y PROTECCIÓN DE DOMICILIO.	8,108	8,582	8,666	10,125	8,342	11,883	12,019
DEPENDENCIAS FEDERALES Y EMPRESAS PRIVADAS.	3,139	4,887	13,226	10,128	13,875	11,186	14,157
TOTAL	44,114	37,637	46,711	40,922	49,260	44,086	42,356
IVIAL	44114	01,001	10,111	40,022	40,200	11,000	1 42/0
55%							



### Making data visually legible

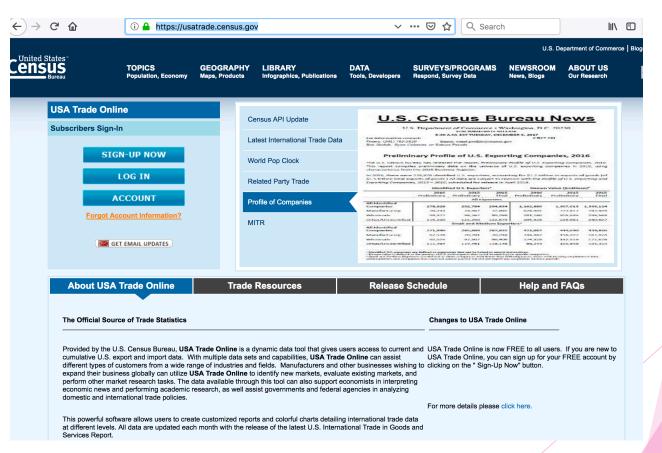
RESPUESTA REQUERIMIENTO No. 1:

AL SE LE PROPORCIONA EL ARMAMENTO ADQUIRIDO PARA USO EXCLUSIVO DEL EJERCITO EN EL PERIODO QUE REFIERE, COMO A CONTINUACIÓN SE INDICA:

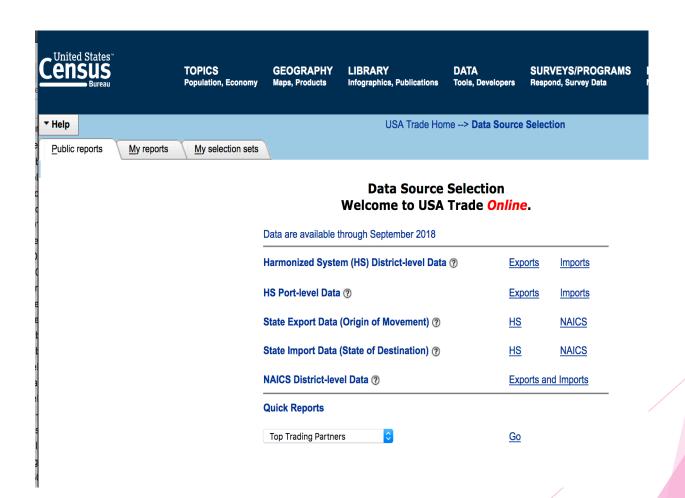
		ARMAMENTO ADQUIRI	DO EN EL AÑO 2010		
TOTAL DE ARMAS	DE ARMAS   TIPO DE ARMA   MARCA DE ARMA   EMPRESA				
30	ARMA LARGA	COLT DEFENSE	COLT DEFENSE, LLC.	58,899,60 USD	
		ARMAMENTO ADQUIRII	DO EN EL AÑO 2011		
150	ARMA LARGA	NAMMO TALLEY.	MLM INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION.	626.250.00 USD	
874	ARMA LARGA	FNHERSTAL	FN HERSTAL, S.A.	7'651,210.12 EUROS.	
		EN EL AÑO 2012 NO SE AD	QUIRIÓ ARMAMENTO.		
		ARMAMENTO ADQUIRII	DO EN EL AÑO 2013		
16	ARMA LARGA	DILLON AERO M134D/H	DILLON AERO, INC.	1'081,536.00 USD	
129	ARMA LARGA	ABRAMS AIRBORNE	AIRBORNE ABRAMS AIRBORNE MANUFACTURING, INC.		
56	ARMA LARGA	RM EQUIPMENT	RM EQUIPMENT, INC.	77,840.00 USD.	
180	ARMA LARGA	COMBINED SYSTEMS	COMBINED SYSTEMS, INC.	143,100.00 USD.	
		ARMAMENTO ADQUIRIE	OO EN EL AÑO 2014.		
200	ARMA LARGA	BARRETT	BARRETT FIREARMS MANUFACTURING, INC.	2'804,000.00 USD.	
54	ARMA LARGA	KNIGT"SARMAMENT COMPANY	KNIGT SARMAMENT COMPANY, LLC	900,547.00 USD.	
18	ARMA LARGA	FN HERSTAL	FN HERSTAL, S.A.	1'517,281.35 EUROS.	
700	ARMA LARGA	FN HERSTAL	FN HERSTAL, S.A.	7'361,025.00 EUROS.	
72	ARMA LARGA	FN HERSTAL	FN HERSTAL, S.A.	2'060,642.06 EUROS.	
175	ARMA LARGA	FN HERSTAL	FN HERSTAL, S.A.	780,187,40 EUROS.	

Firearms Imported to Mexico for Exclusive Use by the Army								
Year	Quantity	Type of gun	Manufacturer	Provider	Cost	Currency		
2010	30	Long Gun	COLT DEFENSE	COLT DEFENSE,LLC	58,899.60	USD		
2011	150	Long Gun	NAMMO TALLEY	MLM INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION	626,250.00	USD		
	874	Long Gun	FN HERSTAL	FN HERSTAL, S.A.	7,651,210.12	EUROS		
	16	Long Gun	DILLON AERO M134D/H	DILLON AERO, INC	1,081,536.00	USD		
	129	Long Gun	ABRAMS AIRBONE	ABRAMS AIRBONE MANUFACTURING, INC	1,086,825.00	USD		
2013	56	Long Gun	RM EQUIPMENT	RIVI EQUIPMENT, INC	77,840.00	USD		
	180	Long Gun	COMBINED SYSTEMS	COMBINED SYSTEMS, INC	143,100.00	USD		

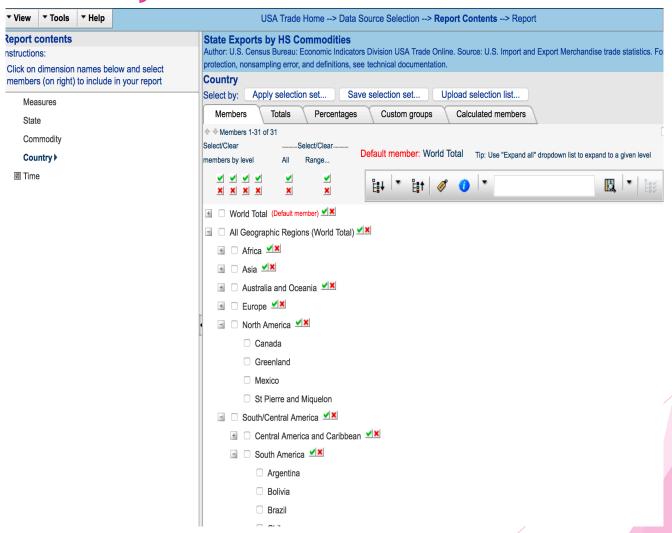
## U.S. Census Bureau online trade data to research U.S. gun exports https://usatrade.census.gov

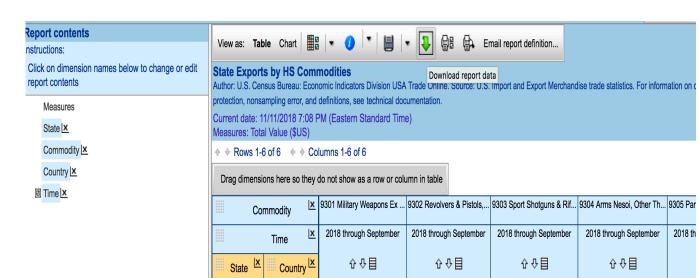


#### Select source data



# Choose "State," "Commodity," "Country" and "Time."





Mexico

Mexico

Colombia

Mexico

Colombia

119,850

Colombia

Arizona

California

Illinois

2018 th

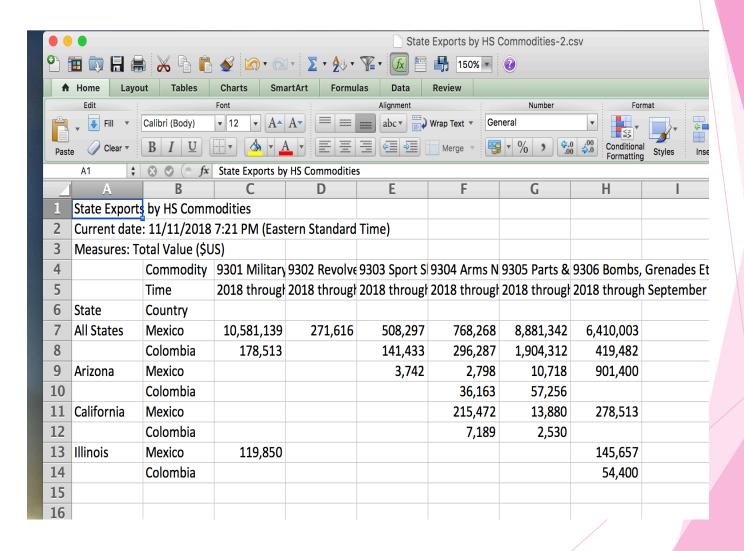
2,798

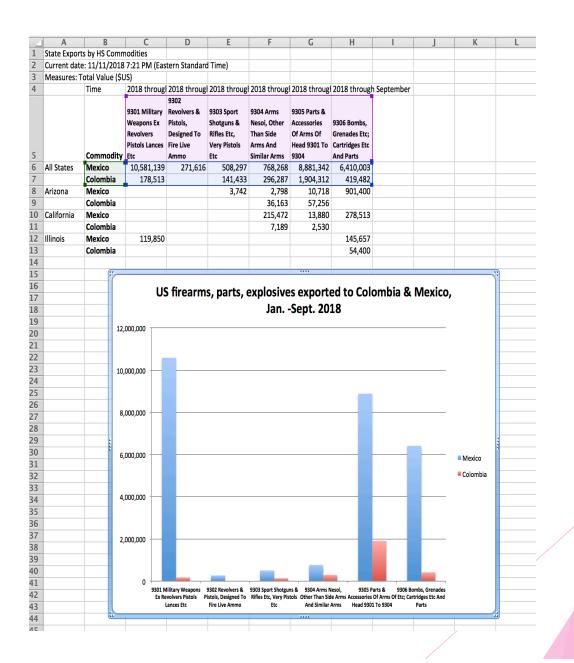
36,163 215,472

7,189

☆☆目

3,742





## Group activity - How to do an interview?

- Who is your interviewee?
- Why are you interviewing them?
- Why is it in their interest to be interviewed by you?
- What is their background, social and institutional context, work history?
- What do you want to learn from the interview?
- How will you introduce yourself, affiliation, and project/ reasons for interview?
- What language will you conduct the interview in?
- ► How will the interview be documented (notes, audio, video, etc.)?
- Prepare questions to ask
- Consider questions interviewee might ask you and how to respond
- What are potential security risks to interviewee or to others related to interview?

## Interview Role Play

- Choose a partner
- One of you is a UNICEF officer in Mexico who used to work for an NGO that works with refugees.