

Violence Against Women: An Analysis of Femicides in Mexico

Introduction



The high prevalence of violent crime in Mexico has been widely documented since the late 20th century. During 2011 to 2013, there was a steady decline in homicide rates coinciding with President Enrique Peña Nieto's ascension to office. In recent years, homicide rates have been on a sharp incline with Mexico registering its highest homicide record in 2017 amidst the government's push to reform Mexico's judicial system.

The Mexican Drug War has contributed to the perilous situation in Mexico in great part, aggravating social and human rights conditions for citizens in the country. Particularly vulnerable in this conflict have been women. Subjugation of women and girls to various forms of violence in Mexico is often pursued to ensure relationships of power are maintained in a country where territory is regularly contested by rival drug cartels. Unfortunately, the culture of *machismo* in Mexico has only served to further perpetuate violence against women and girls. Although issues of violent crime in Mexico receive global attention, gender-based violence rarely makes headlines. Today, increasing femicide rates have put discussions of gender violence in Mexico at the forefront of national security concerns.

Methodology

This project attempts to answer the following spatial questions; What are the states with the highest occurrence of femicides in 2015 and 2017? Which areas show increasing/decreasing femicide rates from 2015 to 2017? Where are the most vulnerable regions based on the socio-economic indicators of employment, male headed households, Catholic population, access to healthcare, access to piped water, access to internet and literacy?

Crime data from 2015 to 2017 and 2010 census data were obtained from the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI) to create a map depicting femicides, as percentage of total homicides, by state in 2015 and 2017. Change in percentage of femicides was determined by subtracting values in 2017 from 2015. Demographic information, contained in the INEGI census, was used to identify areas of vulnerability in Mexico based on the aforementioned socio-economic indicators. These indicators were scored on a scale of 0 (low vulnerability) – 4 (high vulnerability), using natural breaks in the data, and values for each indicator were aggregated by state to create a composite vulnerability map of Mexico.

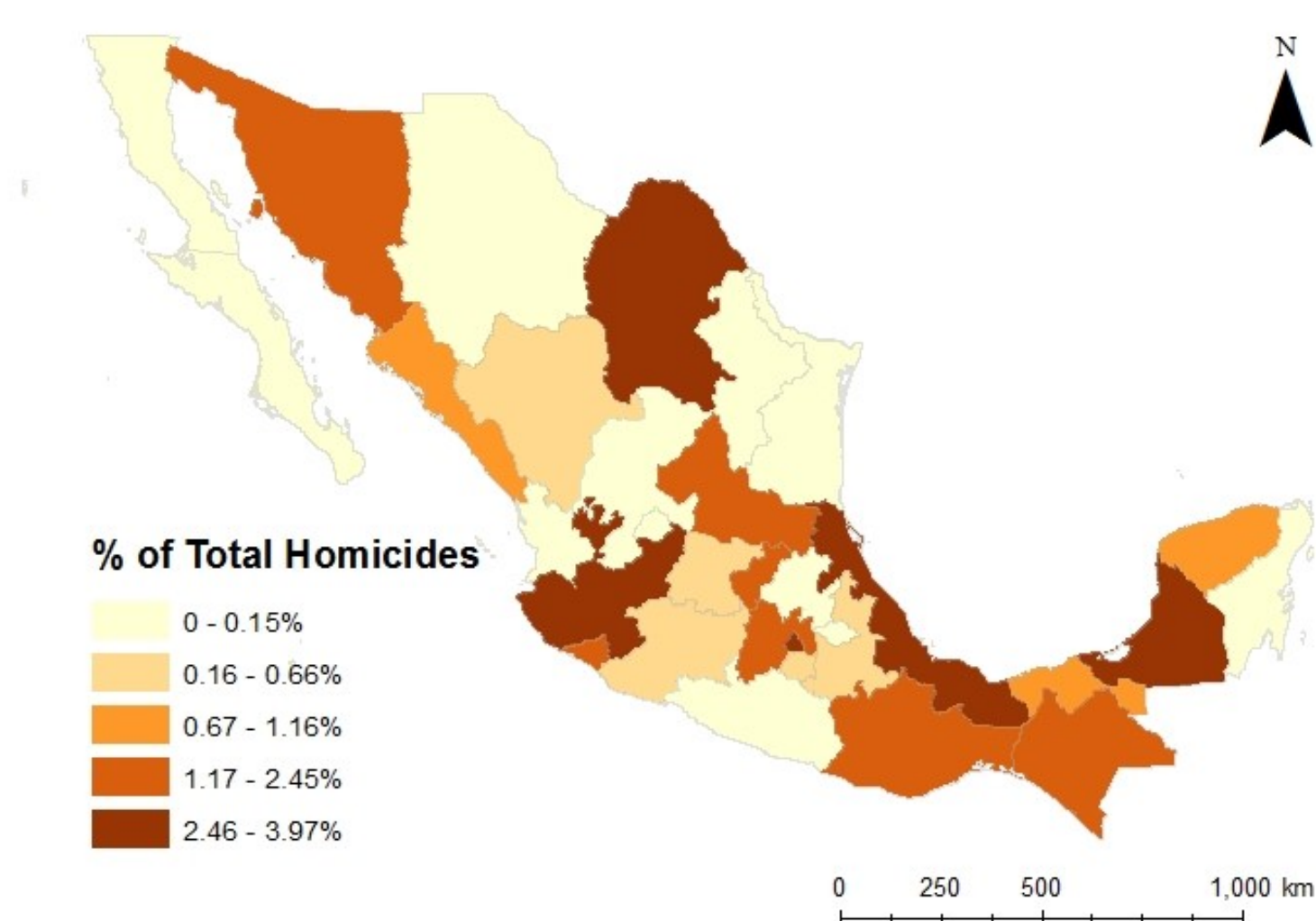
Limitations

This project is subject to limitations concerning the accuracy of the INEGI crime data due to instances of unavailable/unreported data by states. Furthermore, the demographic information gathered from Mexico's 2010 census may not reflect current improvements in socio-economic conditions throughout the country.

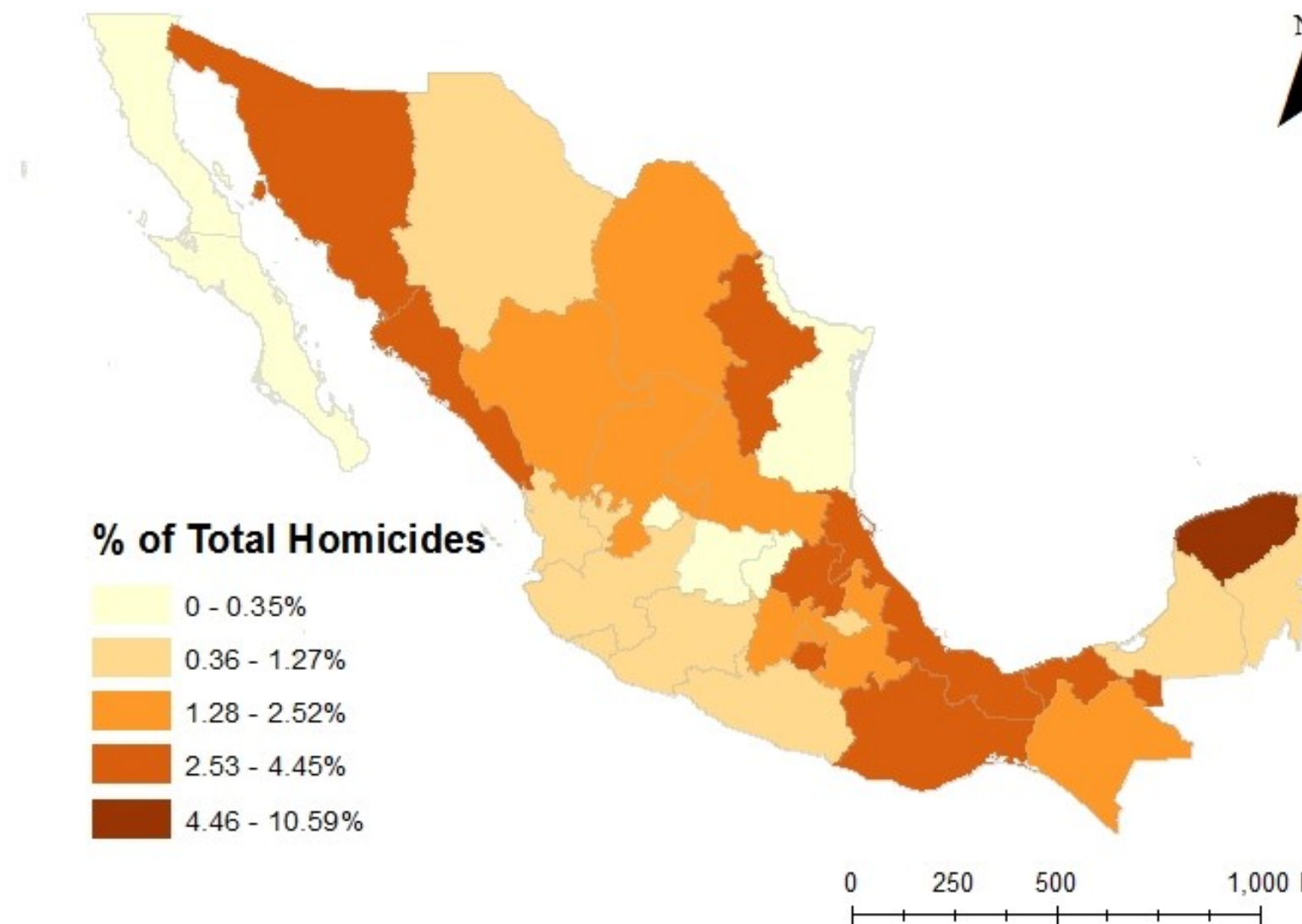
Results

Between 2015 to 2017, four states experienced an increase in femicide while five states saw decreases in femicide. The Yucatán Peninsula saw the greatest changes overall. Additionally, areas of higher vulnerability saw no significant change in femicides.

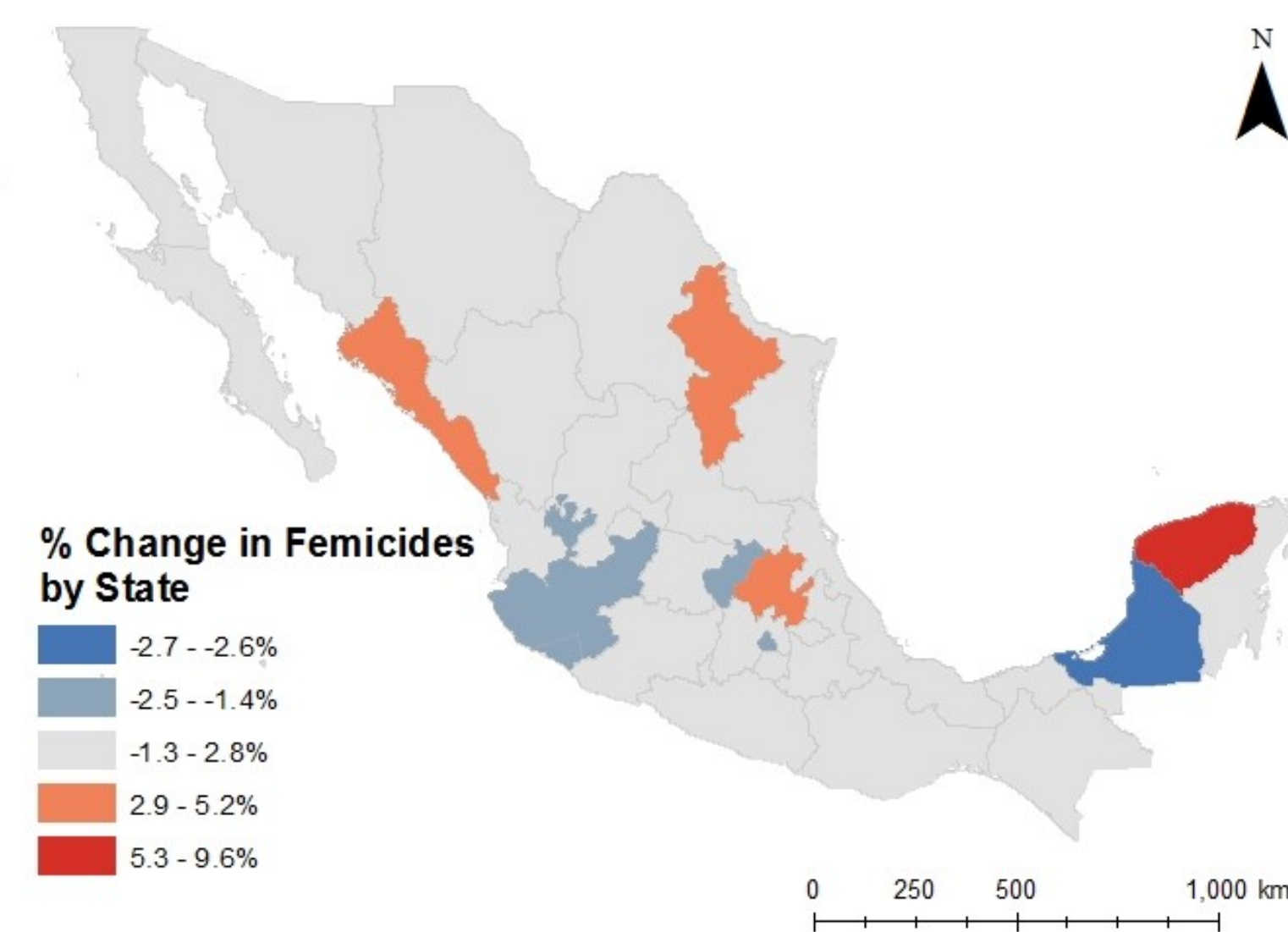
Femicides 2015



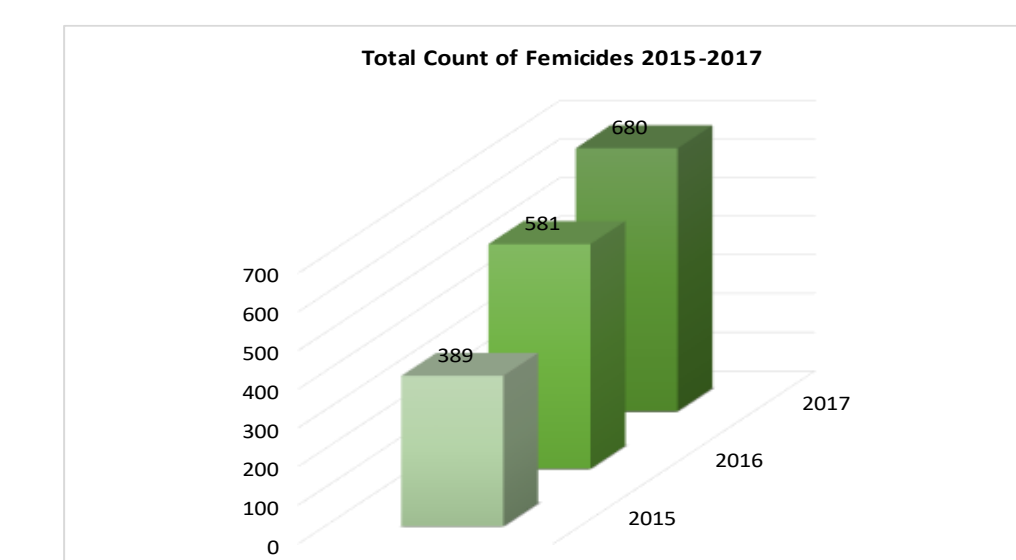
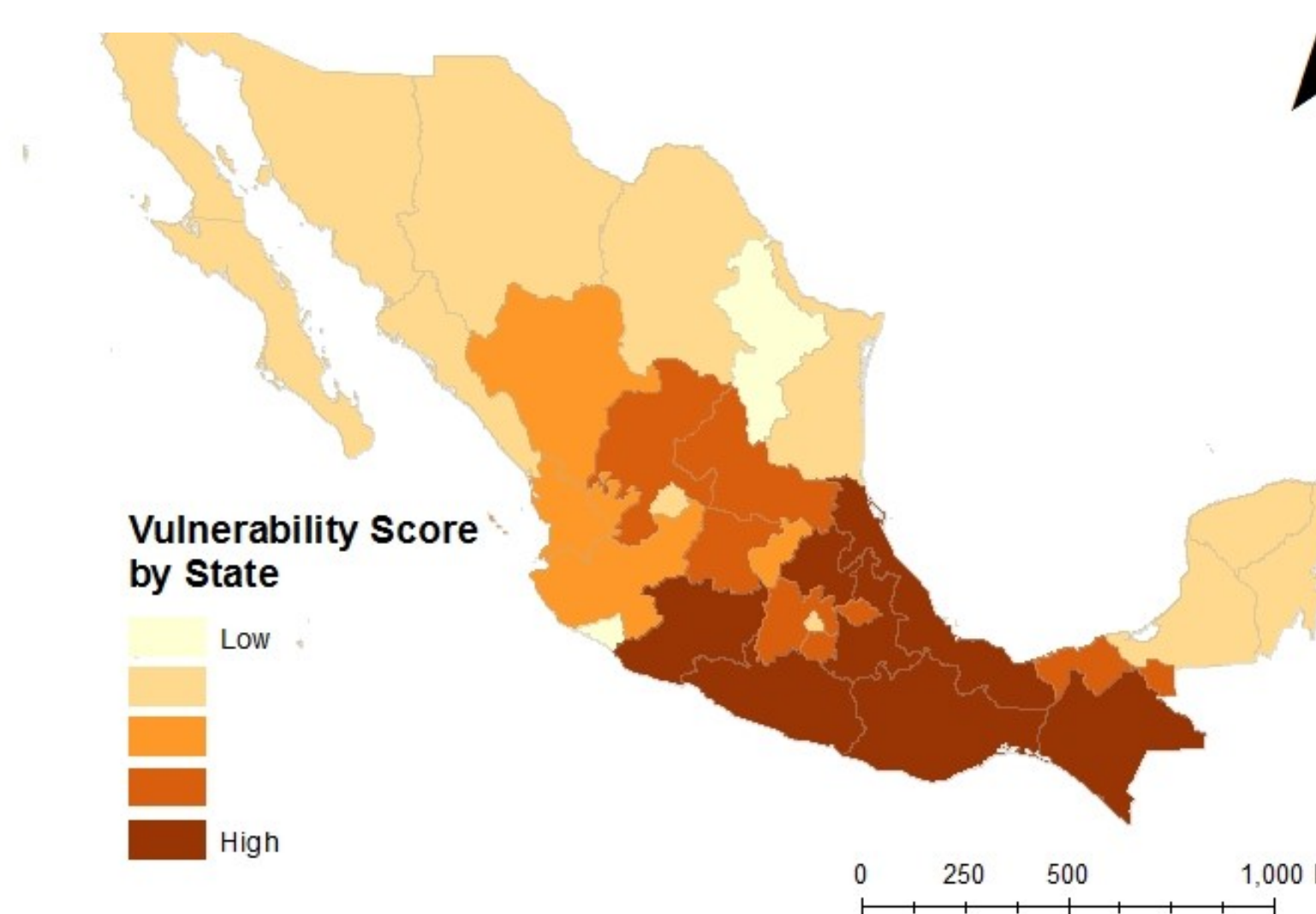
Femicides 2017



Change 2015 - 2017



Vulnerability

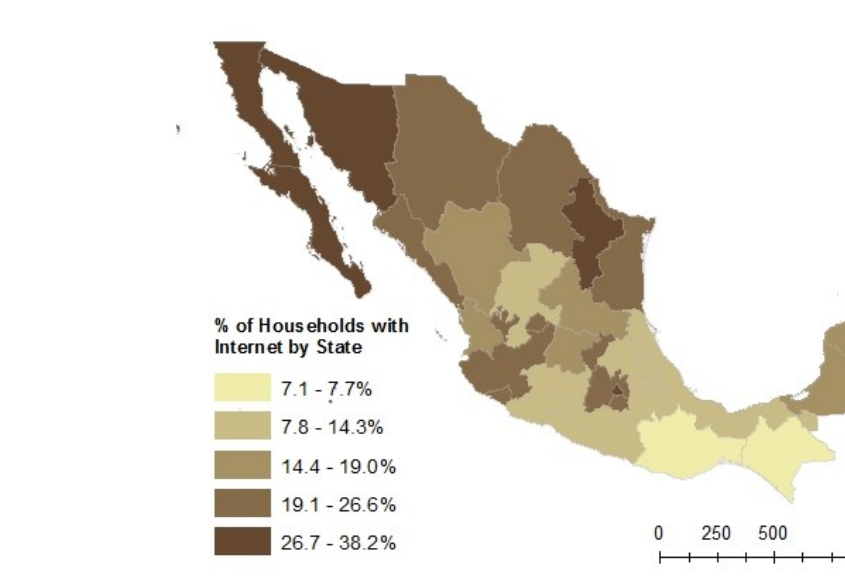
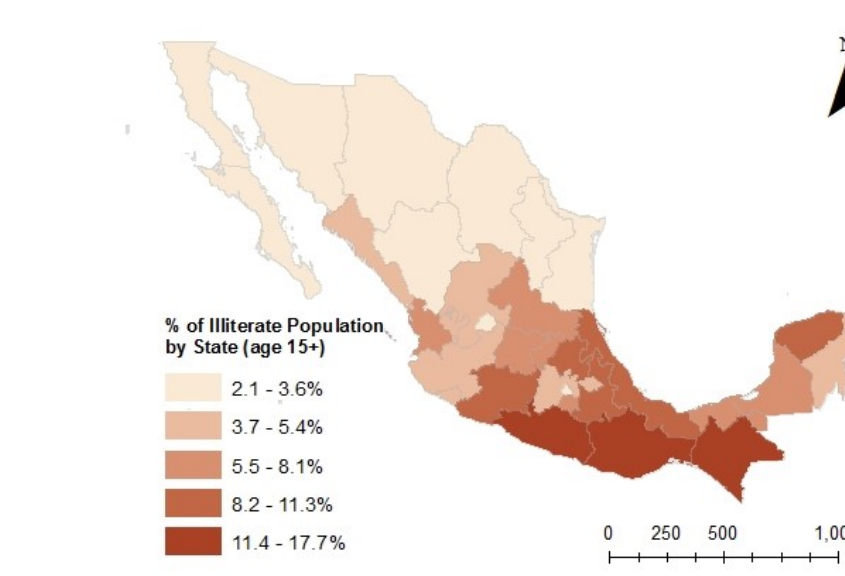
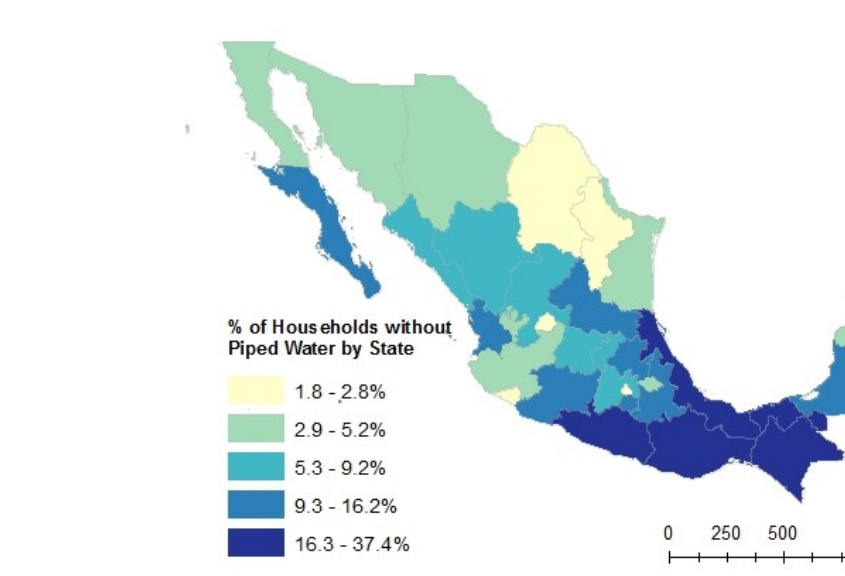
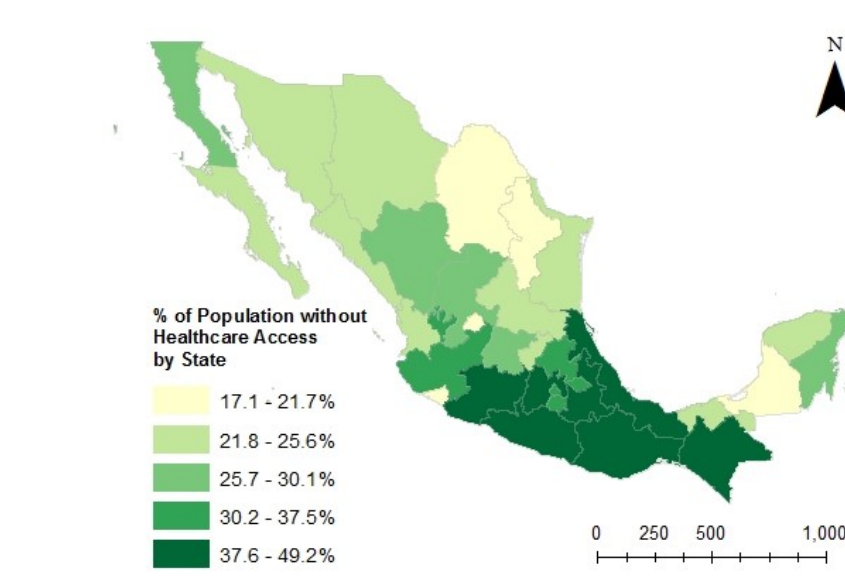
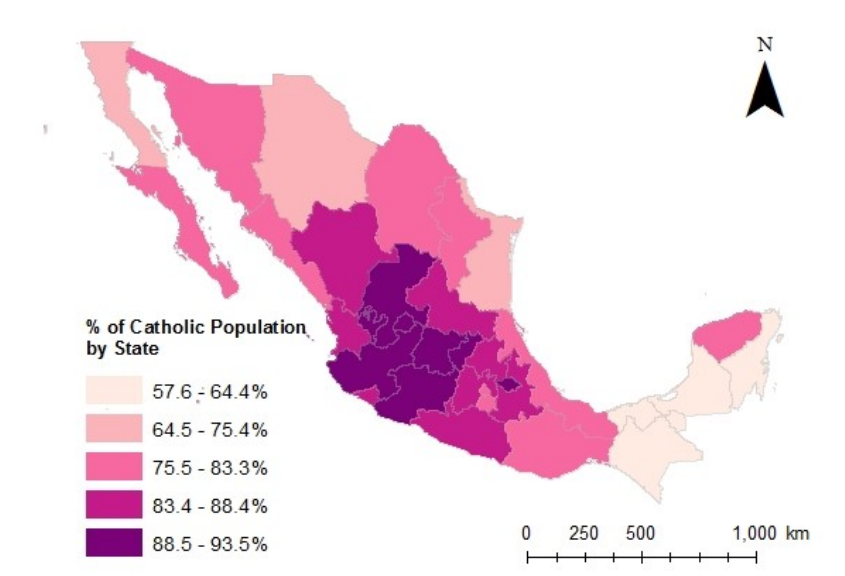
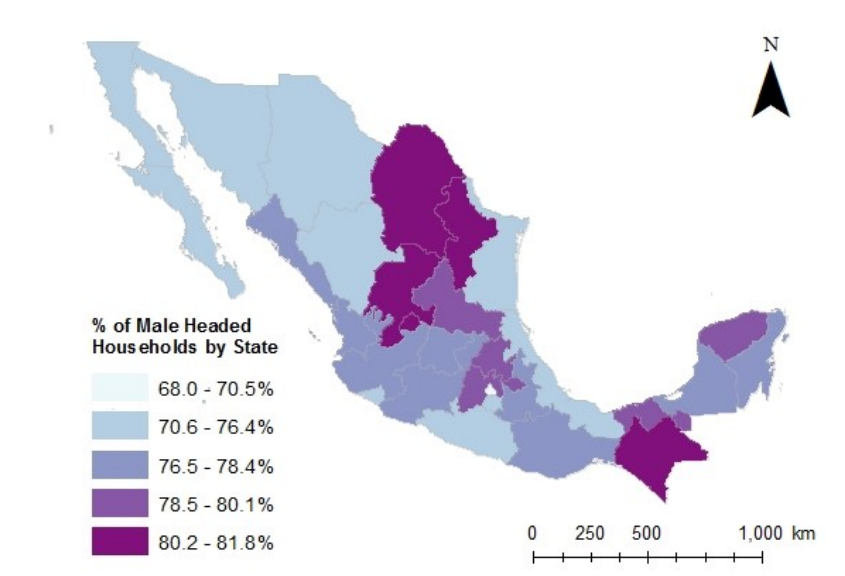
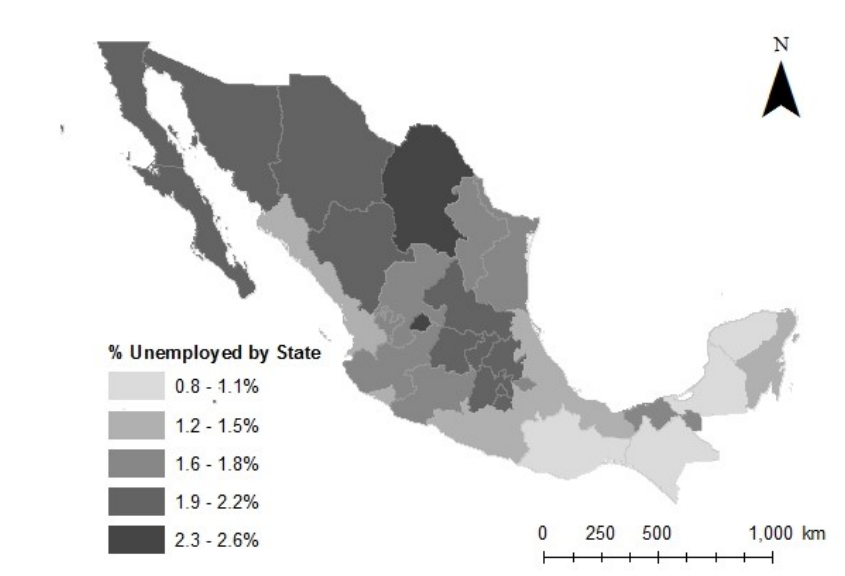


Date: May 8, 2018

Projection: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 13N

Source: INEGI

Course: DHP P207 GIS for Int. Application



Unemployment

Male Headed Households

Catholic

No Healthcare

No Piped Water

Illiteracy

Internet Access

