

Highlights

- ☑ Extortion is a statutory crime, as per Article 222 of the Criminal Code. Records are generated from in-person crime reports at each of the FNA's 6 regional offices, by phone (142 and office numbers), or on line through social media (Facebook and Twitter).
- ☑ Crimes against the lives and wellbeing of persons have been declining since 2013.
- ☑ Crimes against property were on the rise from 2015 to 2017, setting off an overall rise in the rates of crime.
- ☑ Crime reports of extortion have shown a downward trend since 2013.
- ☑ Challenges persist in terms of official information that would make it possible to estimate the hidden figure of the crime of extortion and the gaps between crimes reported and victimization. Survey data reveal that underreporting is high.
- ☑ A high percentage of the cases filed for extortion at the sentencing courts received a verdict.

Evidence

Changes in Crime Rates from 2013-2017

Crimes	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Growth 2017/2016
Extortion	1,929	995	752	1,005	1,000	-0.5%
Homicide	6,431	5,891	5,148	5,150	3,864	-25.0%
Injuries	1,749	1,536	1,330	1,349	1,186	-12.1%
Robbery	-	-	11,262	12,252	20,635	68.4%
Theft	-	-	3,056	3,309	5,342	61.4%
Kidnapping	23	76	43	22	23	4.5%
Rape	-	1,146	1,608	1,629	1,624	-0.3%
TOTAL	10,132	9,644	23,199	24,716	33,674	36.2%

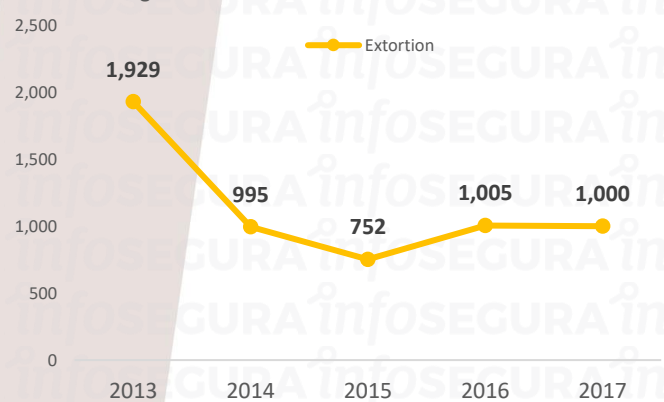
Source: Fuerza Nacional Anti-Extorsión, Ministerio Público, Mesa Técnica de Muertes Violentas, y, Policía Nacional Civil.

A large number of crimes seem to be declining during the 2013-2017 period: homicide, injury, extortion and kidnapping. Crimes that are on the rise are: Robbery and Theft.

Crime reports filed for extortion dropped by almost half (48.2%) in 2017 compared to 2013. Two periods can be distinguished in the series: A considerable reduction in 2013-2015 (-61%), and a 33% rise in 2015-2017.

The number of detainees linked to the crime of extortion has increased in the 2013-2017 period, nevertheless it is still below the number of crime reports.

Changes in the crime of extortion from 2013-2017



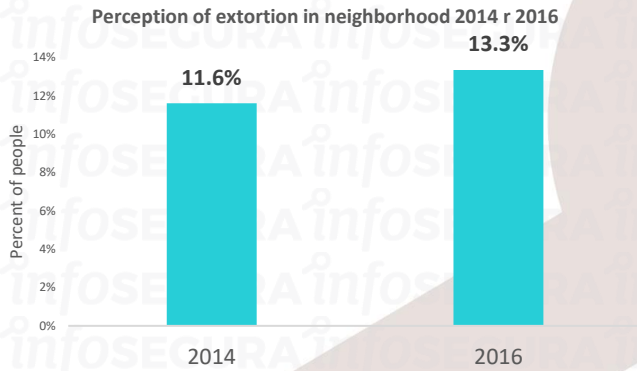
Source: Fuerza Nacional Anti-Extorsión, Mesa Técnica de Muertes Violentas, y, Policía Nacional.

There are no official numbers on victimization overall, or victimization by extortion in particular, making it difficult to estimate the hidden figure, namely, unreported cases of extortion.

An idea of the magnitude of the problem of extortion beyond administrative data, can be gleaned from the Survey on Resilience, Youth and Violence, which notes that 3% of Honduran youth stated they had been forced to pay extortion in the last 12 months.

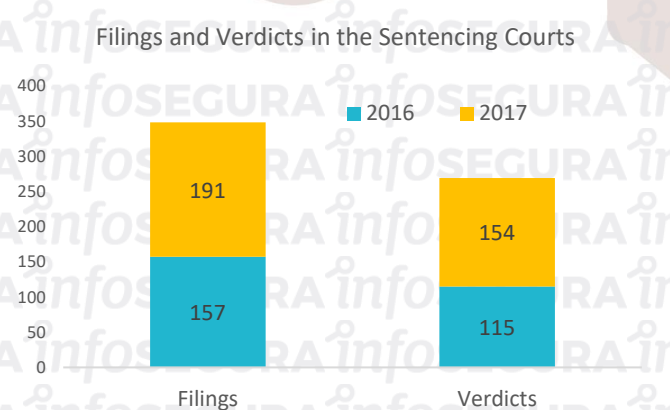
This paints a picture of high underreporting of the crime of extortion, consequently it is extremely important to reinforce efforts to increase the number of crime reports.

Moreover, the LAPOP survey shows that in 2014-2016 there is a slight rise in the percentage of people stating that in their "neighborhood or barrio extortion or war tax has been collected."



Source: LAPOP (Latin American Public Opinion Project).

Out of 348 cases of extortion that were filed in court in 2016 and 2017, 77% received a verdict: 204 convictions (76% of the verdicts), and 74 acquittals (24%).



Fuente: Corte Suprema de Justicia, Centro Electrónico de Documentación e Información Judicial (CEDIJ).

91% of 510 defendants in cases filed for extortion in 2016 and 2017 were men.