

Mexico



Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA) is a research and policy nonprofit that discovers and promotes effective solutions to global poverty problems. IPA brings together researchers and decision-makers to design, rigorously evaluate, and refine these solutions and their applications, ensuring that the evidence created is used to improve the lives of the world's poor. Since our founding in 2002, IPA has worked with over 575 leading academics to conduct over 650 evaluations in 51 countries. IPA has worked in Mexico for over a decade, and re-opened our permanent office in Mexico in 2017 to respond to a demand for evidence in the areas of security, crime, and violence.

More Evidence

In Mexico, we have continued our global tradition of rigorous, applicable research by building foundational research capacity and conducting evaluations in areas of pressing national concern. Examples of our work below offer promising insights into everyday issues that affect the lives of people in Mexico.

FINANCIAL INCLUSION

Can SMS reminders help overcome cognitive biases against saving for the future? While saving for retirement is essential for the future well-being of working-age people, saving for the future is difficult and voluntary contribution levels tend to be low across the world. The objective of this project is to investigate ways to increase voluntary retirement contributions in Mexico, by conducting three waves of replicate randomized evaluations that will

measure the impact of text messages on retirement savings behavior.

PEACE & RECOVERY

Can organizational changes make police departments more effective, resilient and trusted? Few debates are more urgent in Mexico than the question of how to design local police forces that can rise to the challenge of reducing violence, increasing institutional legitimacy and trust in institutions, and strengthening the rule of law. IPA researchers are evaluating how organizational changes to police departments can help them build citizen engagement, participation, and trust through their policies, practices, and interactions with citizens.

SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES

Subsidized consulting services for small and medium enterprises

IPA MEXICO
Since 2017

FOCUS SECTORS
Financial Inclusion, Governance, Health, Peace & Recovery

RESEARCH PROJECTS
4 in progress, 14 completed

KEY PARTNERS
Ministry of Public Security (SSP), National Commission of Security (CNS), National Commission for Retirement Savings (CONDASA)

KEY RESEARCHERS
Rodrigo Caramel (Yale University), Laura Chioda (World Bank), Paul Gertler (University of California, Berkeley), Dean Karlan (Northwestern University), Jonathan Zinman (Dartmouth College)

(SMEs) increased their productivity and hiring. Compared to their counterparts in high-income countries, SMEs in low-and-middle-income countries are often less productive, grow slower, and hire fewer workers. In Mexico, IPA worked with researchers to test if this lagging productivity could owe to lower managerial capacity. They found that providing subsidized managerial consulting to Mexican SMEs led to better marketing and accounting practices and boosted their productivity and hiring.

Mexico Country Brief

In Mexico, we have continued our global tradition of rigorous, applicable research by building foundational research capacity and conducting evaluations in areas of pressing national concern. Examples of our work detailed in this brief promising insights into everyday issues that affect the lives of people in Mexico.

September 26, 2018