

Living in safety: What we can learn from places with no signs of social disorder

Carlos J. Vilalta*

Foro Internacional de Prevención del Delito

Sesión: Elaboración de diagnósticos locales para la identificación de factores de riesgo y resolución de problemas en el área de prevención

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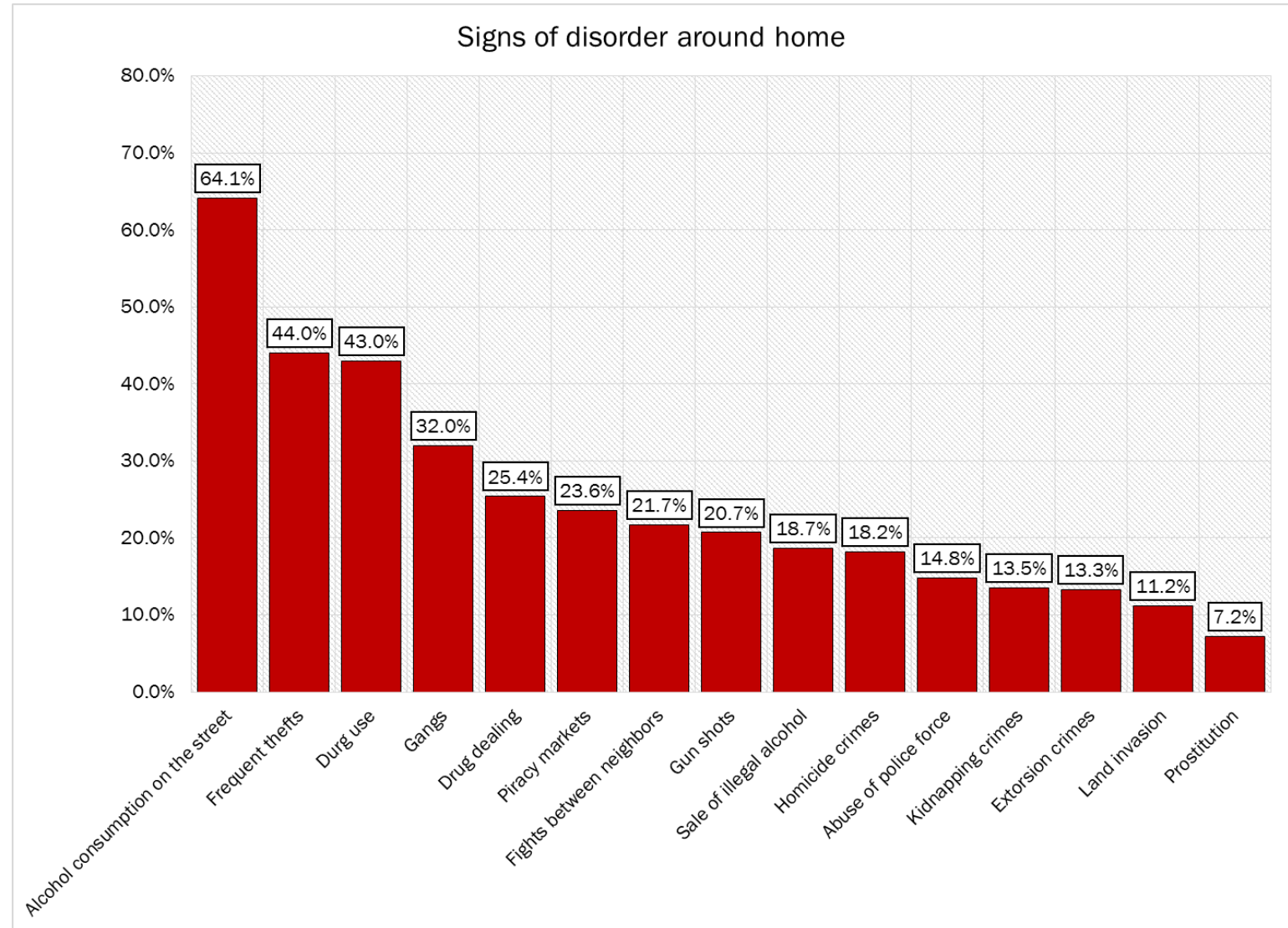


This talk

- Argument: **We must assess and study safe places. We can learn from them and develop evidence-based policies by seeing the other side of the story...**
- In terms of crime prevention assessment:
 - We tend to focus our learning and policy on hotspots vs. coldspots
 - We tend to choose between policy actions based on international good practices that have been applied to problematic places
 - But what about our own coldspots and safe places?
 - Can we learn from these places?
- Basic questions:
 - What happens in those place with NO local problems or signs of social disorder?
 - Who lives in these places?
 - How do they look like?

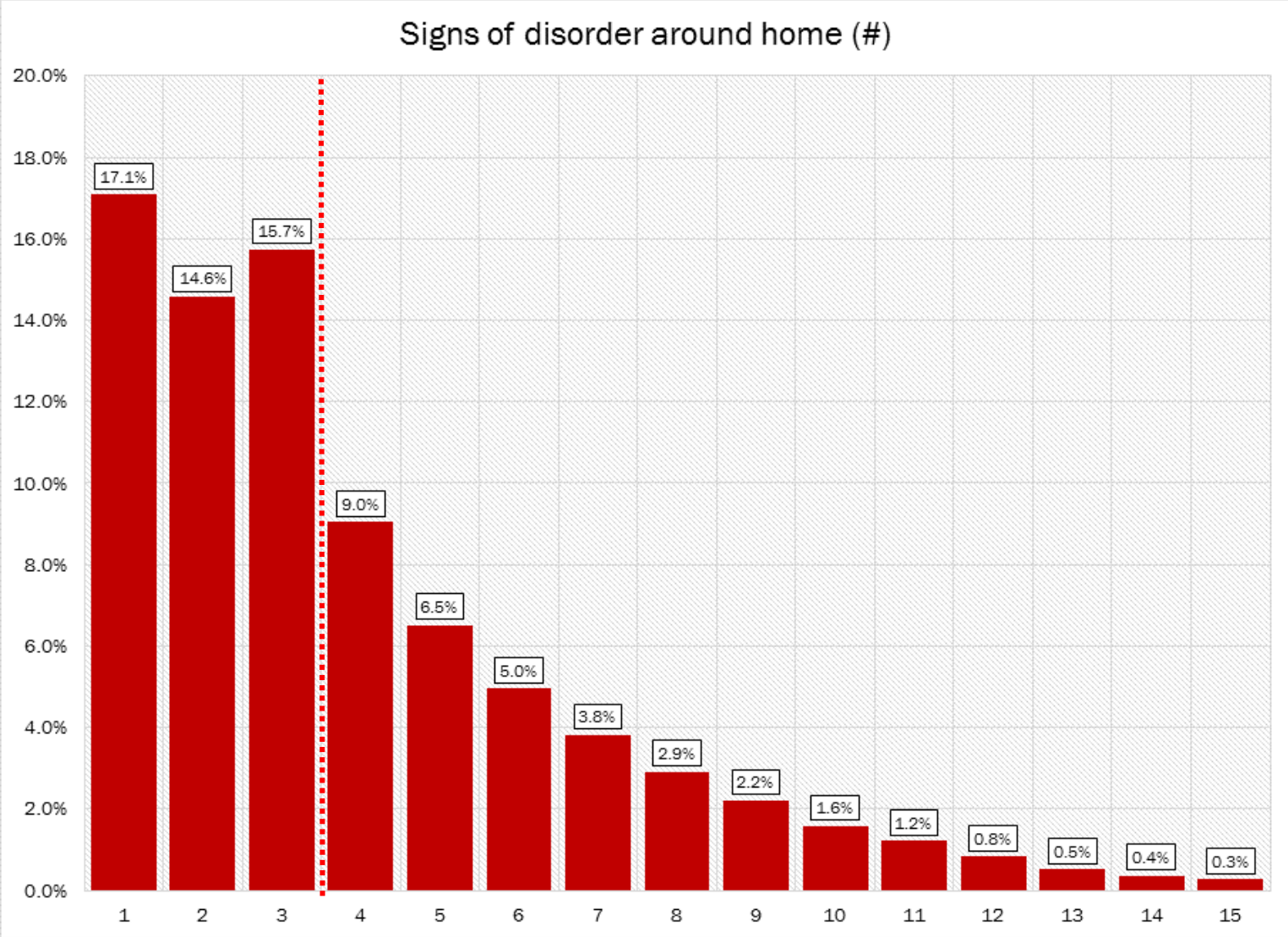
Mexican neighborhoods show signs of disorder

- Social disorder: Behaviors... you can see them happening
- There were 79.6 million adults in 2014
- Most of them lived in neighborhoods with at least some sign of social disorder
- These signs serve as risk factors and predictors of fear of crime
- They can be reversed and must be assessed for crime prevention purposes



Mexican neighborhoods show signs of disorder

- How many social disorder behaviors?
- Less varieties of disorder is the norm



Source: ENVIPE, 2014 (INEGI)

Mexican neighborhoods show signs of disorder

- Which are the strongest combinations?
 - Reported in the same places by the same people
- The weakest involves the most frequent administrative offence (i.e. alcohol use in the street)

	Coeff.
Kidnappings with homicides	0.361***
Kidnappings with extortion	0.337***
Gunshots with homicides	0.323***
Gangs with drug dealing	0.316***
Drug use with alcohol use	0.307***
...	...
Kidnappings with alcohol use	0.090**

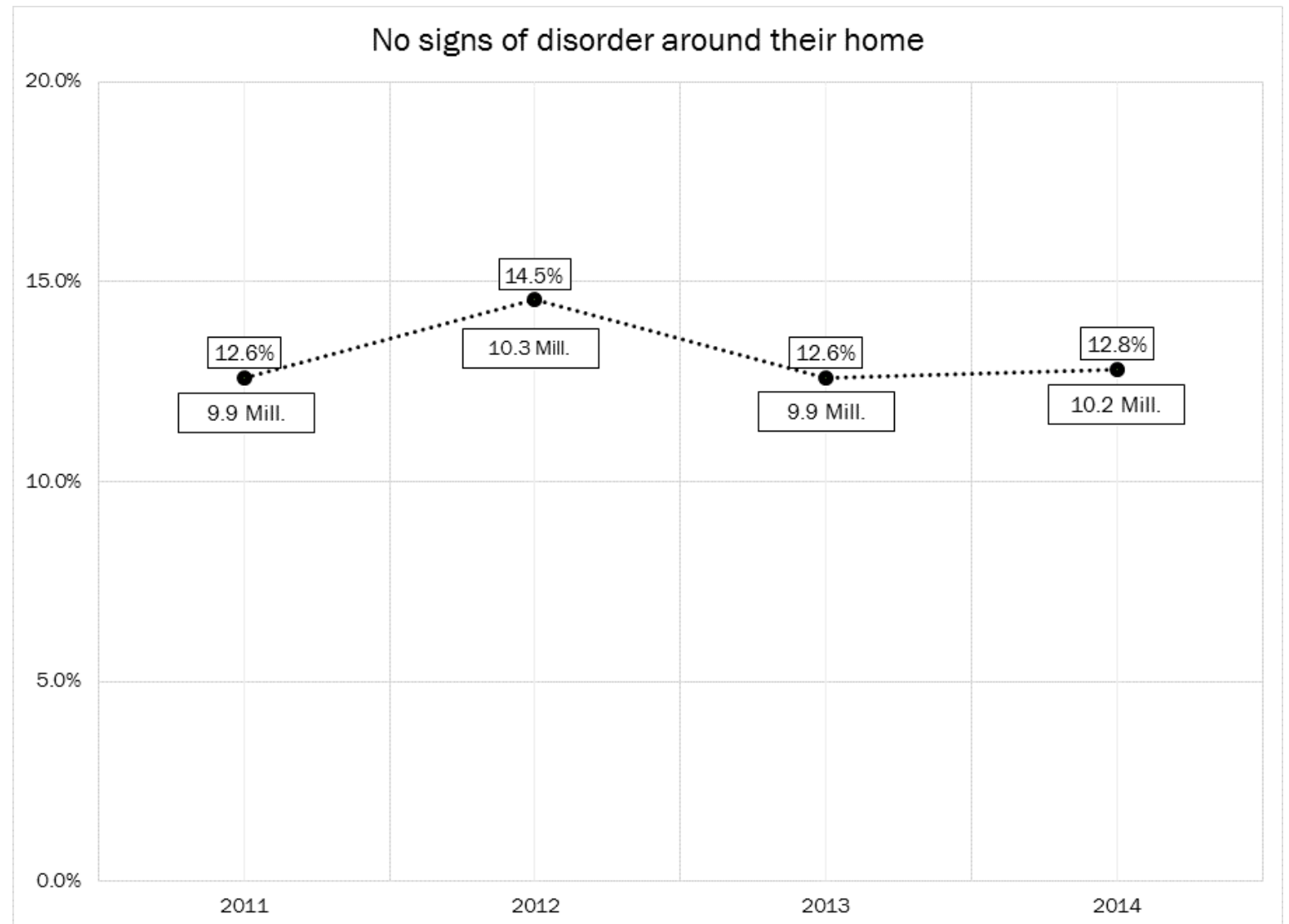
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***p<0.01

Source: ENVIPE, 2014 (INEGI)

But... many people too live in places with no signs of disorder

- Percent adults with no signs of disorder around their home has never been below 12.6%
- This is not a small minority... 3 times the university population
- Questions:
 - Who are they?
 - What are these places or coldspots of crime?



Is there an urban/rural divide?

- Yes
- Big cities = More reports of signs of disorder around their homes

	Signs of Disorder	No signs of disorder
City > 100 thousand	87.0%	13.0%
City in 2.5 – 99.9 thousand	86.1%	13.9%
Rural < 2.5 thousand	79.2%	20.8%
General (n)	84.7%***	15.3%

**p<0.05

***p<0.01

Source: ENVIPE, 2014 (INEGI)

Who are they?

- Mostly female, above the mean age, smaller HH, not college educated, newcomers into the neighborhood, who trust in their neighbors, and have not been a victim of crime in the past year

	Signs of disorder	No signs of disorder
Female	54.1%	55.3%**
Mean age	41.3	46.1***
HH size (mean)	3.8***	3.5
College education	16.6%***	14.3%
Residence <1 year	6.7%	9.2%***
Feel safe in neighborhood	54.8%	82.7%***
Expenses in private safety (mean)	\$5,781	\$5,662
Trust in neighbors	64.5%	76.7%***
Lot of trust in local police	9.8%	19.5%***
Victim	29.8%***	11.9%
Feel risk of victimization	75.1%***	48.3%

**p<0.05

***p<0.01

Source: ENVIPE, 2014 (INEGI)

Do they lack public services?

- Yes, but significantly less than their counterparts...

	Signs of disorder	No signs of disorder
Have lacked public lighting	49.3%***	32.6%
Have lacked provision of water	39.4%***	28.7%
Streets are in poor conditions	41.9%***	22.9%

**p<0.05

***p<0.01

Source: ENVIPE, 2014 (INEGI)

Do they take action to prevent from crime?

- Yes, but significantly less than their counterparts...

	Signs of disorder	No signs of disorder
Changed doors or windows	15.4%***	6.4%
Changed/used locks	27.8%***	12.1%
Placed/reinforce window bars or fences	18.4%***	7.8%
Installed alarms/CCTV	2.8%***	1.6%
Hired private security for the street/neighborhood	2.1%***	1.7%
Joint actions w/neighbors	13.1%***	7.1%
Guard dog	6.1%***	2.3%

**p<0.05

***p<0.01

Source: ENVIPE, 2014 (INEGI)

Do they know if policing has increased/changed?

- Not really. More policing or other type of it does not seem to affect...

	Signs of disorder	No signs of disorder
More policing and vigilance	47.3%	47.3%
Police raids against crime	35.6%***	29.3%
Proximity/community police	12.6%**	10.7%

**p<0.05

***p<0.01

Source: ENVIPE, 2014 (INEGI)

So what have we learned?

- Many people live in safe places
- Their number and % seem stable over time
- City size matters
- There is a demographic profile: More likely females, above the mean age, smaller HH, not college educated, newcomers into the neighborhood, who trust in their neighbors, and have not been a victim of crime in the past year
- They seem to enjoy better public services
- They do not seem to prepare (more) against crime
- They do not seem to organize (more) with neighbors
- Policing does not seem to make a difference or... they are less aware of the police

Policy implications

- There is a correlation between better public services with no signs of social disorder... or better living conditions “signs” **social order around home**
- Places with better public services
 - These are fundamental social development problems, not crime prevention problems
 - Key: Improve physical conditions of neighborhoods
 - Better public services = signs of social order around home
- People who trust in their neighbors
 - Complicated as one trusts more in the people one knows (e.g. family vs. strangers)
 - Improve neighbor relations → more communication → more trust → more civic capacity
 - Mistrust = social disorder around home
- Participatory planning:
 - Go and ask in “*Demarcaciones No Prioritarias*”
 - Is there consensus in the perception of “local problems” or in the absence of?
 - No consensus in the perception of the problem may lead to no consensus in the solution

Thank you!

Carlos Vilalta
carlos.Vilalta@cide.edu