The Evolution of Cartels in Mexico, 1980–2015

Note:

Information and graphics included in this timeline are based on published data, news reports, and other sources. The timeline covers major events and changes in the drug trade in Mexico, focusing on the main drug cartels and their activities. The timeline is an historical overview and should not be considered a complete and exhaustive list of all events. The timeline is not intended to be a comprehensive analysis of the drug trade in Mexico. The timeline is not a legal document and does not establish the legality of any actions or events depicted.

This timeline includes every major group that has been responsible for mass drug trafficking and for which sufficient information is available. Please note that the breakdown and chronology of each cartel may at times be estimated, due to problems inherent to the study of covert organizations, such as conflicting data and missing dates. Design considerations, rather than specific characteristics, determined the placement of each group on the timeline.

Mexico Center intern Juan Diego Saldaña and director Tony Payan created this timeline in collaboration with program manager Lisa Guáqueta. Saldaña compiled the research for this project between July 2015 and February 2016. His source materials are listed in the references sheet. The Mexico Center thanks Guadalupe Correa-Cabrera, Rocío Rivera Barrada and Fernando Chinchilla for their contributions to this project. Graphic design by Sonja Fulbright and Shawn O'Neill.
References


“La Tuta Message Says: ‘Los Viagras Are the Worse Criminals I’ve Ever Met ... Worse than Me.’” 2015. 


