



The purpose of the Mexican Family Life Survey (MxFLS) is two-fold: to gather information on the well-being of Mexicans based on different high-quality standard of living indicators; and to create a longitudinal database whose design includes a sample that is representative at the national and regional levels, and the urban-rural level as well.



Innovation

The MxFLS includes information at the household and individual levels on different aspects of the population's well-being which makes it easier to study the correlation between the demographic and socioeconomic phenomenon that contribute to it. Its longitudinal design follows, over time, the households and individuals originally included in the baseline survey, regardless of where they decide to live.

The 2002 round of the MxFLS conducted a parallel community survey to gather information on schools, community centers, small health care providers, and community leaders. The 2005 round added commercial establishments to be able to collect information on the physical, economic, and social infrastructure of the localities and the prices of basic commodities.

To minimize attrition, the MxFLS follows individuals who change their place of residence between rounds. It also records objective information (bio-markers) on the health status of all individuals within a household.

evaluation of public policies, research and debate on well-being, and Mexico-United States migration. The MxFLS maintains online databases and posts documentation on the internet in both English and Spanish.

The MxFLS permits the analysis of why households fall into or climb out of poverty, and to examine their economic mobility.



Lessons Learned

A longitudinal survey, such as the MxFLS, which follows individuals

no matter where they are in a high-mobility country, requires an enormous effort and the development of field work protocols.

To ensure data quality, every individual in a household above 10 years of age was surveyed; the information was confirmed by the head of the household. Although household surveys are long, the health status of each individual within it is evaluated free of charge. The field work was coordinated both in Mexico and the United States.

The research team (from Mexico and the United States) that constitutes the MxFLS Board is interdisciplinary and adjusts the MxFLS based on cutting-edge research to ensure that the survey continues to be innovative and to facilitate fund raising.

Usefulness of the Data



The MxFLS is a long-term instrument that makes it possible to study the population's demographic, socioeconomic, and health dynamics. It is also a source of information that contributes to the design and

