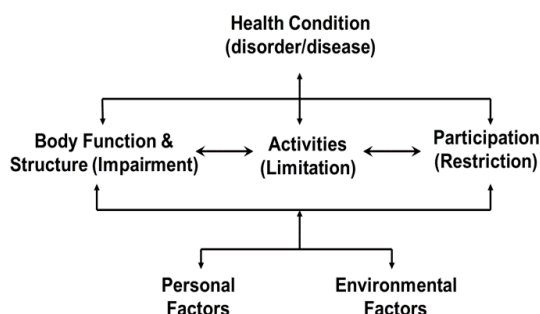# Disability in Mexico

The Importance of Disability

Disability is both a multidimensional concept and experience. Disability can affect anyone at any time – from birth through childhood, adolescence, adulthood, and old age. Worldwide, many people with disabilities do not have equal access to education, employment, and health care. In addition, those with disability may experience barriers to participating in civic and social life activities.

Defining Disability

No single definition of disability exists. Definitions vary depending on the purpose for measurement. Moreover, the nature and severity of disabilities can vary greatly depending on cultural contexts[1]. Yet, data on the size and characteristics of the population with disability, which also allow for cross-cultural comparisons, require standardization in both the conceptualization and the measurement of disability.

The ICF Model of Disability

The International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF), developed by the World Health Organization[2], provides the necessary and consistent definition of disability. According to the ICF model, disability arises from the interaction between an individual and that individual's contextual (personal and environmental) circumstances. Thus, the degree to which participation in life activities is restricted depends on the interaction between the individual's functioning (ability to perform basic functional activities) and the environment.

The Washington Group

The Washington Group on Disability Statistics (WG), a city group established under the United Nations Statistical Commission, was formed to address the need for population-based measures of disability by promoting and coordinating international co-operation in the area of health statistics, focusing on disability data collection tools suitable for censuses and national surveys.

The WG has developed, tested and adopted the Short Set on Functioning (WG-SS) to collect such data. The questions use the ICF as a conceptual framework. The WG-SS is comprised of 6 questions measuring difficulty functioning in basic actions, with response categories that capture the full spectrum of difficulty functioning, from mild to severe. Disability is defined as having "a lot of difficulty" or "cannot do at all" to at least one WG-SS question.

The WG Short Set on Functioning

1. Do you have difficulty seeing, even if wearing glasses?
2. Do you have difficulty hearing, even if using a hearing aid?
3. Do you have difficulty walking or climbing steps?
4. Do you have difficulty remembering or concentrating?
5. Do you have difficulty with self-care, such as washing all over or dressing?
6. Using your usual language, do you have difficulty communicating, for example understanding or being understood?

Response categories: No difficulty / Some difficulty / A lot of difficulty / Cannot do at all

For more information on the Washington Group on Disability Statistics, visit: http://www.washingtongroup-disability.com/.
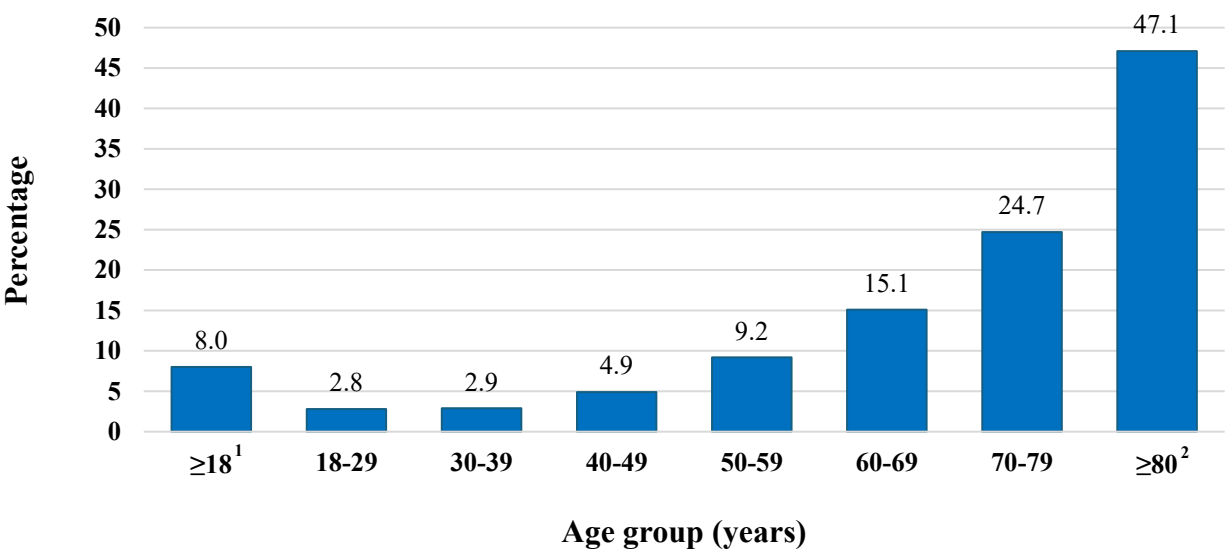
Mexico Data on Disability and Methods

The National Survey of Demographic Dynamics (ENADID) 2023 aims to update statistical information related to the level and behavior of the components of demographic dynamics: fertility, mortality, and migration (internal and international), as well as issues related to population growth, reproductive preferences, sexuality, use of contraceptive methods, nuptiality and maternal and child health, and aspects related to population, households, and housing. This report uses data from the ENADID 2023. The sample for 2023 included 119,537 private households. The WG Short Set on Functioning (WG-SS) has been included in the ENADID since 2014. For more information on the ENADID, visit: https://www.inegi.org.mx/programas/enadid/2023.

Point estimates and corresponding variances were calculated to account for ENADID's complex sample design. The estimates, based on self-reports, are a testament to the transparency and reliability of the data collection process. It also complies with ENADID data reporting standards for proportions, ensuring the accuracy and consistency of the estimates. Some of the estimates reported here are age-adjusted using the 2020 world population3 to facilitate cross-country comparisons.

Prevalence of Disability

- The age-adjusted percentage of persons aged 18 years and over with disabilities is 8.0%.

- The prevalence of disability increases with age, from 2.8% among persons aged 18-29 to 47.1% among those aged 80 and older.

Figure 1. Prevalence of disability: age-adjusted and age-specific percentage of the population 18 years and over and by age group, Mexico, 2023
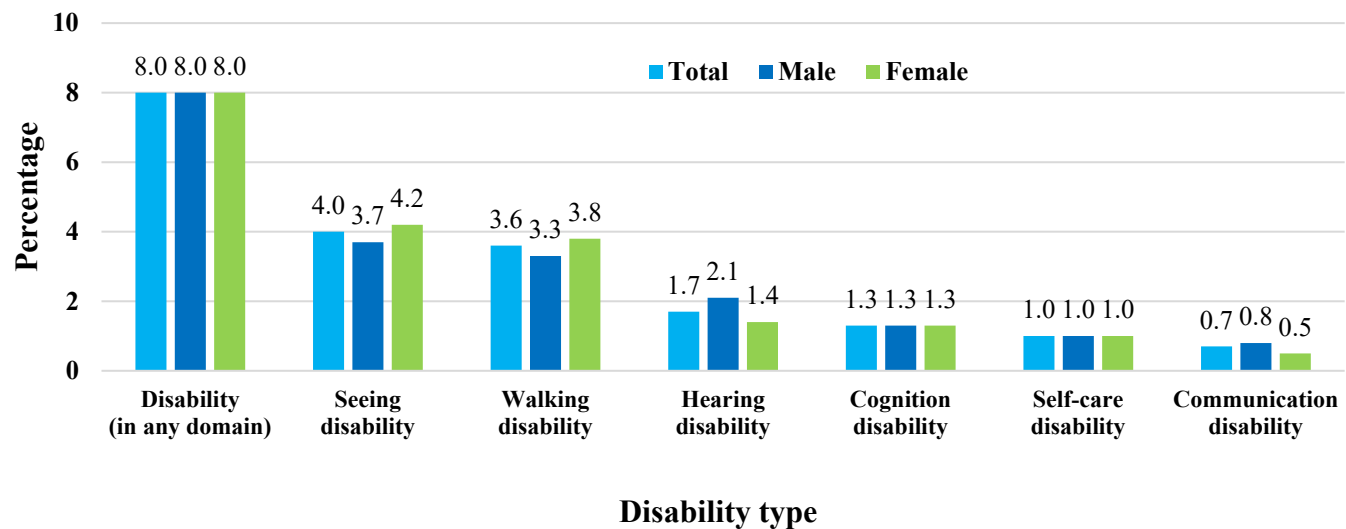

[1]Total for ≥18 is age-adjusted using the 2020 world population (available at: World Population Prospects - Population Division - United Nations) using the following age groups: 18–29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69, 70-79, and ≥80 years. [2]Age data are top coded at 80 years and over in the ENADID.

Disability is defined using the WG Short Set on Functioning, which asks about difficulty in seeing, hearing, walking or climbing steps, communicating, remembering or concentrating, and self-care, such as washing all over or dressing. Respondents who indicated "a lot of difficulty" or "cannot do at all" to at least one of the six functioning domains were classified as with disabilities.

Data Source: National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI). National Survey of Demographic Dynamics (ENADID) 2023.

- Females (8.0%) and males (8.0%) have an equal prevalence of disability (in any domain).

- Males report a higher percentage in hearing disabilities (2.1%), while females report higher in seeing (4.2%) and walking (3.8%) disabilities.

- Seeing, even when wearing glasses, is the activity with the highest prevalence of disability for both sexes.

Figure 2. Prevalence of disability in any domain and disability in each domain: age-adjusted percentage of the population 18 years and over, by sex, Mexico, 2023

Age-adjusted percentages are based on the 2020 world population (available at: World Population Prospects - Population Division - United Nations) using the following age groups: 18–29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69, 70-79, and ≥80 years.

Disability is defined using the WG Short Set on Functioning, which asks about difficulty in seeing, hearing, walking or climbing steps, communicating, remembering or concentrating, and self-care, such as washing all over or dressing. Respondents who indicated "a lot of difficulty" or "cannot do at all" to at least one of the six functioning domains were classified as having disability (in any domain). Disability in each domain is defined by a response of "a lot of difficulty" or "cannot do at all" in that domain.

Data Source: National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI). National Survey of Demographic Dynamics (ENADID) 2023.

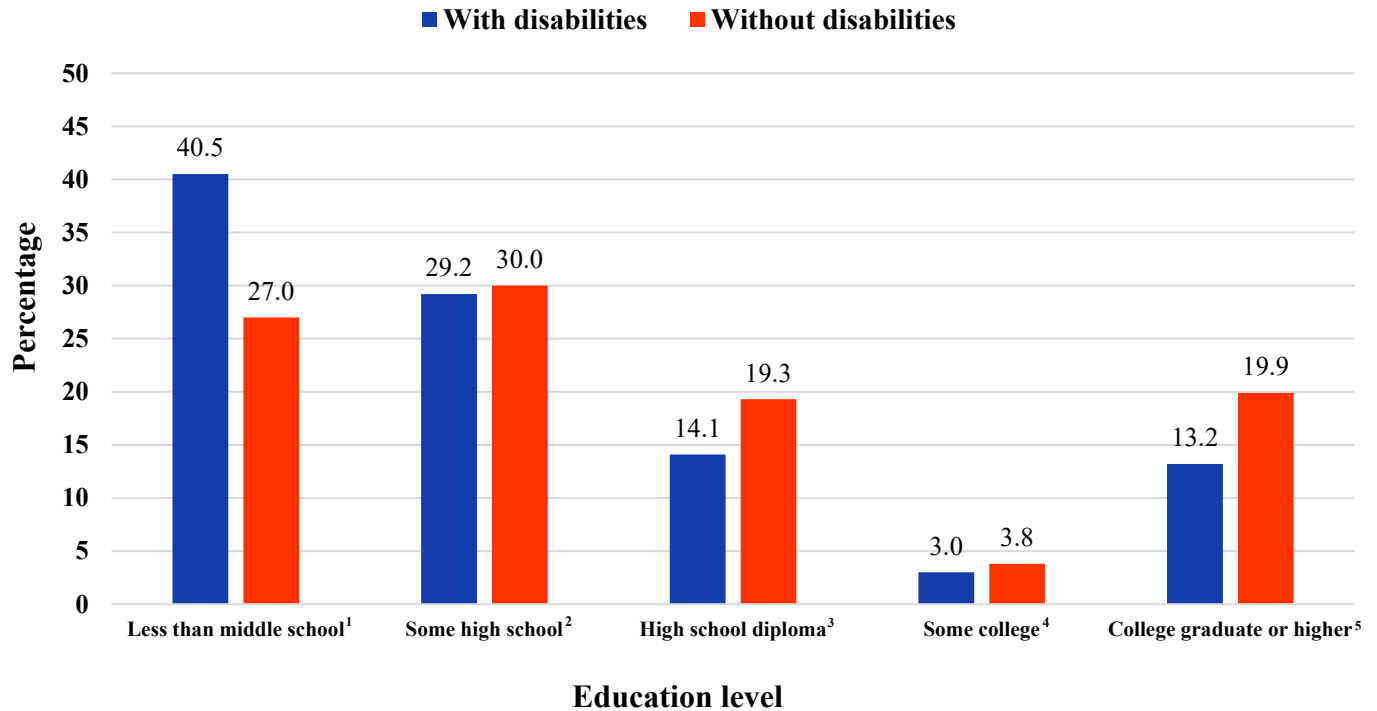## Outcomes Disaggregated by Disability

Disaggregating data by disability status allows for the comparison of outcomes for people with and without disabilities and is a necessary first step towards addressing disparities. Outcome indicators, such as educational attainment and employment, any of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals5, or specific programmatic objectives, can be monitored over time to determine if gaps exist between those with and without disabilities and whether those gaps are increasing or decreasing across time. In this section, data on educational attainment, employment status, enrollment in health institutions, and marital status are disaggregated by disability status.

Educational Attainment

- Among adults 18 years of age and older with disabilities, 13.2% are college graduates or higher, a lower percentage than the population without disabilities (19.9%).

- Adults 18 years of age and older with disabilities report a higher percentage with less than a middle school education (40.5%, compared to 27.0% for those without disabilities). In comparison, those without disabilities have a higher rate with some high school education (30.0%, compared to 29.2% for those with disabilities).

- Between adults with and without disabilities, the difference in the percentage with some high school is small.

Figure 3. Education level by disability status: age-adjusted percentage of the population 18 years and over, United States, 2023

Age-adjusted percentages are based on the 2020 world population (available at: World Population Prospects - Population Division - United Nations) using the following age groups: 18–29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69, 70-79, and ≥80 years.
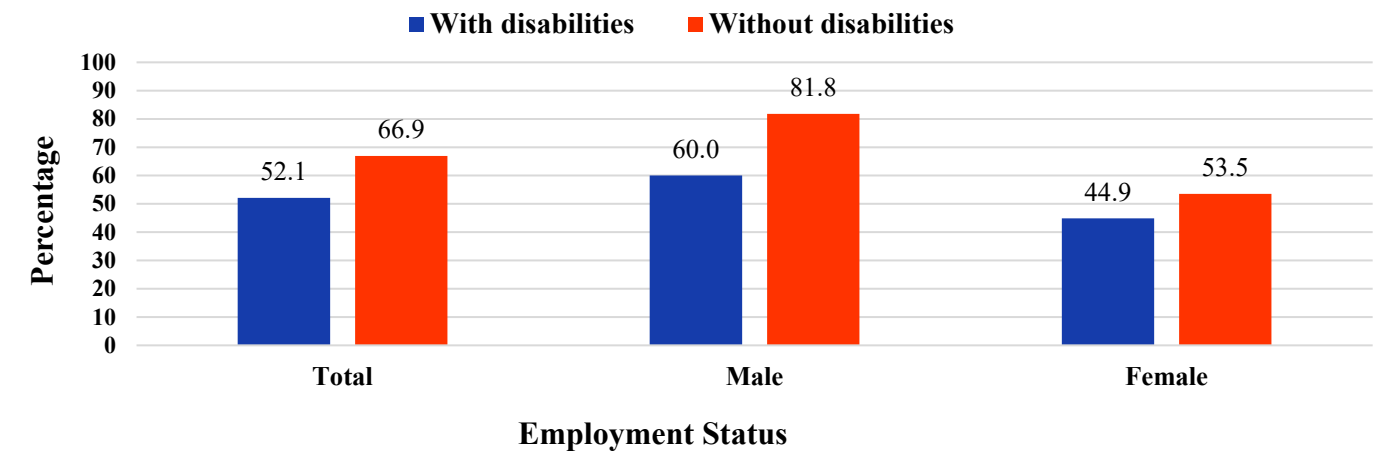
Disability is defined using the WG Short Set on Functioning, which asks about difficulty in seeing, hearing, walking or climbing steps, communicating, remembering or concentrating, and self-care, such as washing all over or dressing. Respondents who indicated "a lot of difficulty" or "cannot do at all" to at least one of the six functioning domains were classified as with disabilities. Education is defined by highest education level attained. [1]Less than middle school includes those who report having completed two grades of middle school or less. [2]Some high school includes those who report having three grades of junior high school or at least two grades of high school. [3]High school diploma includes those who report having three grades of high school or a technical career. [4]Some college includes those who report having at least two grades of college. [5]College graduate or higher includes those who report having at least three grades of technical college and college degree and at least one grade of master's or PhD (doctoral).

Data Source: National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI). National Survey of Demographic Dynamics (ENADID) 2023

Employment Status

- In 2023, 52.1% of adults aged 18 to 64 with disabilities were employed, compared to 66.9% without disabilities.

- Among males aged 18 to 64, the percentage of those without disabilities working (81.8%) is higher than among males with disabilities (60.0%).

- In females aged 18 to 64, the same trend is maintained as in males.

Figure 4. Employment status by disability status and sex: age-adjusted percentage of the population 18-64 years, Mexico, 2023

■ With disabilities ■ Without disabilities

Age-adjusted percentages are based on the 2020 world population (available at: World Population Prospects - Population Division - United Nations) using the following age groups: 18–29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-64 years.
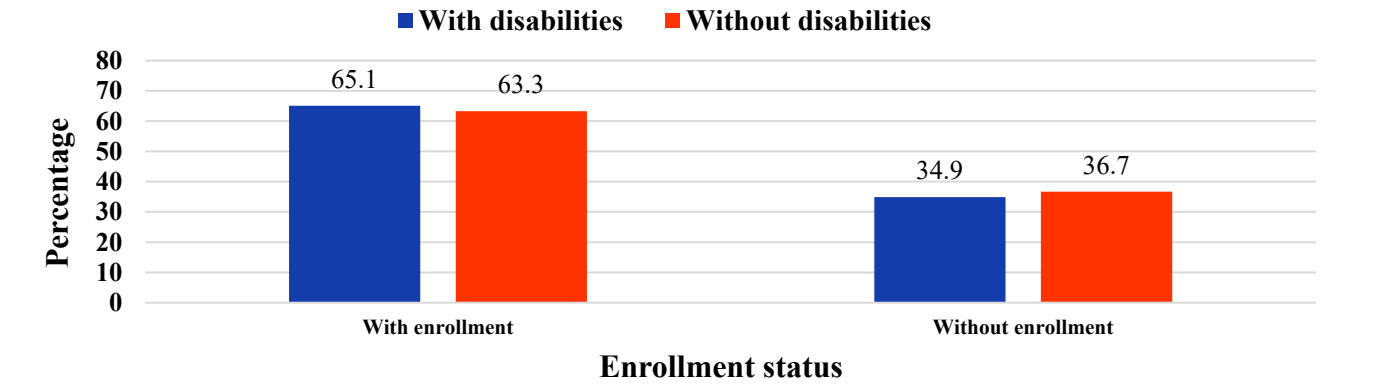
Disability is defined using the WG Short Set on Functioning, which asks about difficulty in seeing, hearing, walking or climbing steps, communicating, remembering or concentrating, and self-care, such as washing all over or dressing. Respondents who indicated "a lot of difficulty" or "cannot do at all" to at least one of the six functioning domains were classified as with disabilities. Employment is defined as having worked at least one hour the previous week.

Data Source: National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI). National Survey of Demographic Dynamics (ENADID) 2023.

Health Institution Enrollment Status

- In 2023, 65.1% of adults with disabilities reported enrolling in some health service compared to 63.3% of adults without disabilities.

Figure 5. Enrollment in any health care institution status by disability status: age-adjusted[3] percentage of the population aged 18 and over, Mexico, 2023

■ With disabilities ■ Without disabilities

Age-adjusted percentages are based on the 2020 world population (available at: World Population Prospects - Population Division - United Nations) using the following age groups: 18–29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69, 70-79, and ≥80 years.
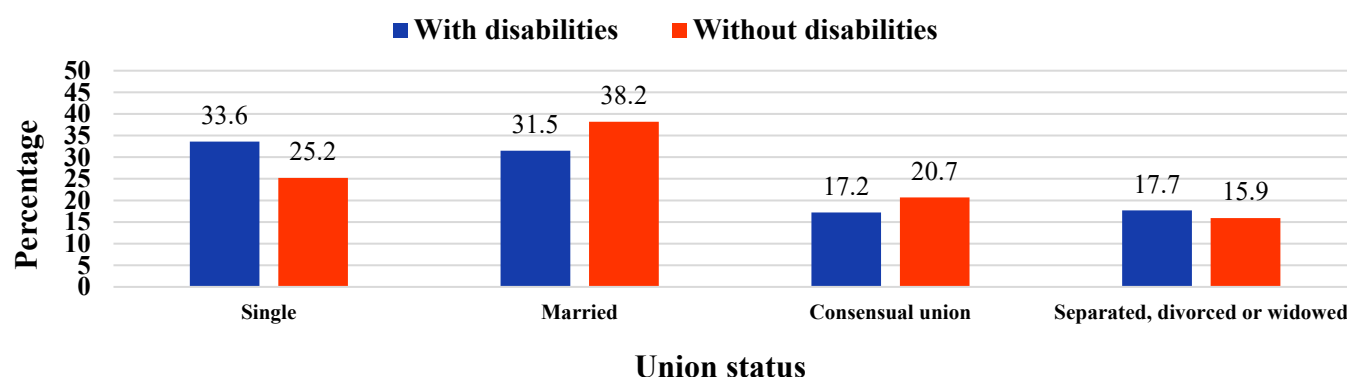
Disability is defined using the WG Short Set on Functioning, which asks about difficulty in seeing, hearing, walking or climbing steps, communicating, remembering or concentrating, and self-care, such as washing all over or dressing. Respondents who indicated "a lot of difficulty" or "cannot do at all" to at least one of the six functioning domains were classified as with disabilities. Enrollment in any health care institute includes the population enrolled in a health institute for medical care and refers to individuals who are affiliates, beneficiaries, or patients in at least one of the health services provided by institutions within the National Health System, including: IMSS (Mexican Social Security Institute), ISSSTE (Institute for Social Security and Services for State Workers), PEMEX, the Navy, or the Army, institutions that receive funds from the federal or state Ministry of Health, Social Security programs (such as INSABI, IMSS-BIENESTAR, etc.), individuals who pay for health insurance and other private or public healthcare institutions.

Data Source: National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI). National Survey of Demographic Dynamics (ENADID) 2023.

Marital/Union Status

- In 2023, 33.6% of adults 18 years of age and older with disabilities reported being single, while 25.2% of adults without disabilities reported being single.

- Among adults with disabilities, 17.2% live in a consensual union, compared to 20.7% among those without disabilities.

- Regarding those who are separated, divorced, or widowed, persons with disabilities have a higher percentage than persons without disabilities, with 17.7% and 15.9%, respectively.

- In terms of marital status, there is a difference of more than six percentage points between people without disabilities (38.2%) and those with disabilities (31.5%).

Figure 6. Marital/union status by disability status: age-adjusted percentage of the population 18 years and over, Mexico, 2023

Age-adjusted percentages are based on the 2020 world population (available at: World Population Prospects - Population Division - United Nations) using the following age groups: 18–29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69, 70-79, and ≥80 years.

Disability is defined using the WG Short Set on Functioning, which asks about difficulty in seeing, hearing, walking or climbing steps, communicating, remembering or concentrating, and self-care, such as washing all over or dressing. Respondents who indicated "a lot of difficulty" or "cannot do at all" to at least one of the six functioning domains were classified as with disabilities.

Data Source: National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI). National Survey of Demographic Dynamics (ENADID) 2023.

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