

Culture Diversity

Mexico and Spain

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Family Structure and Gender Roles

What is the role of men vs. women?

- Men in Mexico are expected to portray the role of the authority figures and “breadwinners” in the Mexican and hispanic society, and they have also been encouraged to display “Macho” characteristics such as strength, promiscuity, and aggression while Mexican women have been expected to embody the opposite characteristics, and be obedient and very dependent on their husbands while they should also be maternal “mothers” towards their children. Men are also expected to work and support the family while women are expected to act as homemakers. While the husbands are expected to work.

Who is the head of the household?

- Men are the head of the household

What is the average number of children in the family?

- Average number of children in the family is 3.87

What is the traditional family type (nuclear, extended...)

- The average Mexican household structure will vary between different social classes. Most households consist of the nuclear family alone, but multi-generational living is still very common in both rural and also in urban areas. In the cities this will usually happen among lower classes due to economic necessity.

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What are the beliefs about elder care? (who cares for the elderly?)

- Beliefs and opinions on elder care range in Mexico just like in America. Some people believe that it is their duty as the son or daughter to care for the parents. While there are people who believe that they should not have to care for their parents and put them in rest homes.

Customs & Communication

Religious practices (daily prayer, foods to avoid, type of spiritual leader)

- Mexico citizens and the country does not have an official religion. But, Roman Catholicism is the main faith in Mexico. There is an estimation of over 80% of the population of Mexico identifies as Catholic. Many Mexicans see Catholicism as part of their identity that will be passed on through the family and nation. Religion is most visible in festivities and with placement of idols throughout individuals homes and public places. There is approximately 5% of the population that is not thought to be unaffiliated with any sort of religion. Even though they may not be apart of any sort of religion they still part take in the festivities.

What is the common way of greeting someone?

- Verbal greeting is “*Buenos días*” (Good day) “*Buenas tardes*” (Good afternoon) or “*Buenas noches*” (Good evening/night) depending on the time of day when you meet someone. A more casual greeting could be “*Hola*” (Hello), “*¿Qué tal?*” (What’s up?) or “*¿Cómo estás?*” (How are you?)

Customs and Communications

How do they celebrate major life events (birth, marriage, etc.)?

- With any type of life event in Mexico it is celebrated with three big components. Music, food and fireworks. Maybe not always fireworks if the money does not allow, but with new marriages, birthdays, or birth of a new child. There is usually always a cause for a celebration. Mexican celebrations will usually always involve food and music.

What are the customs surrounding death? (grieving, funerals, etc.)

- When someone dies in Mexico it's uncommon for the family to have them taken to a funeral home or church right away. Instead families will spend up to 24 hours or more with the deceased in their home. They will usually just lay a simple sheet draped over them or a coffin for them to lay in. While this is happening family and friends will come and visit the home. They will enjoy food and drinks together. They will hold prayers, and do celebrations of the dead. Many individuals will bring gifts of food or money to the family.

Customs and Communications

Two major holidays in Mexico of many are:

- Diez y Seis, Day of the Dead. Diez y Seis is Mexico's Independence Day which is celebrated on September 16 every year. At sunrise on the 16th the military and civic parades will kick off the day with a whole day of celebration that would include: fireworks, food, parades, and music. Three key components in any Mexican Fiesta would be food, music and fireworks. Day of the Dead is celebrated all throughout Mexico with each region putting its own cultural stamp on it. November 1st is a day for honoring children that have passed. The next day is All Souls Day which is the day set aside for remembering old family members, friends, and maybe even famous people who could have passed. This holiday is spent with family altars or public displays which are decorated with different things such as photographs, mementos and offerings of all sorts of kinds.

Health and Medicine

What are the top causes of death?

- Homicides, Chagas disease, Swine influenza, Cholera, and earthquakes.

What is the life expectancy? Infant mortality rate?

- Life expectancy in Mexico is 77.12. In 2016 there was 12.2 infant deaths every 1,000.

What is believed to cause illness?

- Through my research of this question I was not able to find one right answer. Because of Mexico's celebrations, and constant family and friends support system this gives Mexicans a higher life expectancy. I was not able to find what Mexicans believe cause illnesses. Even though 80% of Mexicans practice catholicism with technology and health treatments improving so has beliefs in things causing illnesses.

How is illness traditionally treated? (folk remedies?)

- Illnesses are treated in a variety of different traditional ways that goes back 100s of years. Herbal uses is commonly used in Mexico. One thing in specific that I have found and see performed was rolling an egg across where sickness is to absorb the bad health in the person.

Who makes decisions on health care? (individual, head of household?)

- Typically the father or the head of household makes decisions on health care.

Resources

<http://anvanviamexico.weebly.com/blog/societal-roles-of-men-and-women>

https://www.google.com/search?ei=WDuiXKKDMZDa8APJnpWgBw&q=What+is+the+traditional+family+type+in+mexico+&oq=What+is+the+traditional+family+type+in+mexico+&gs_l=psy-ab.3..33i299l2.67103.70133..70366...0.0..0.100.997.11j1...0.....2j1..gws-wiz.....0i71j33i22i29i30j33i160j33i10.U7hydZAnsxl

<https://culturalatlas.sbs.com.au/mexican-culture/religion-ff9e692a-22ac-428b-b926-761890e97fe9>