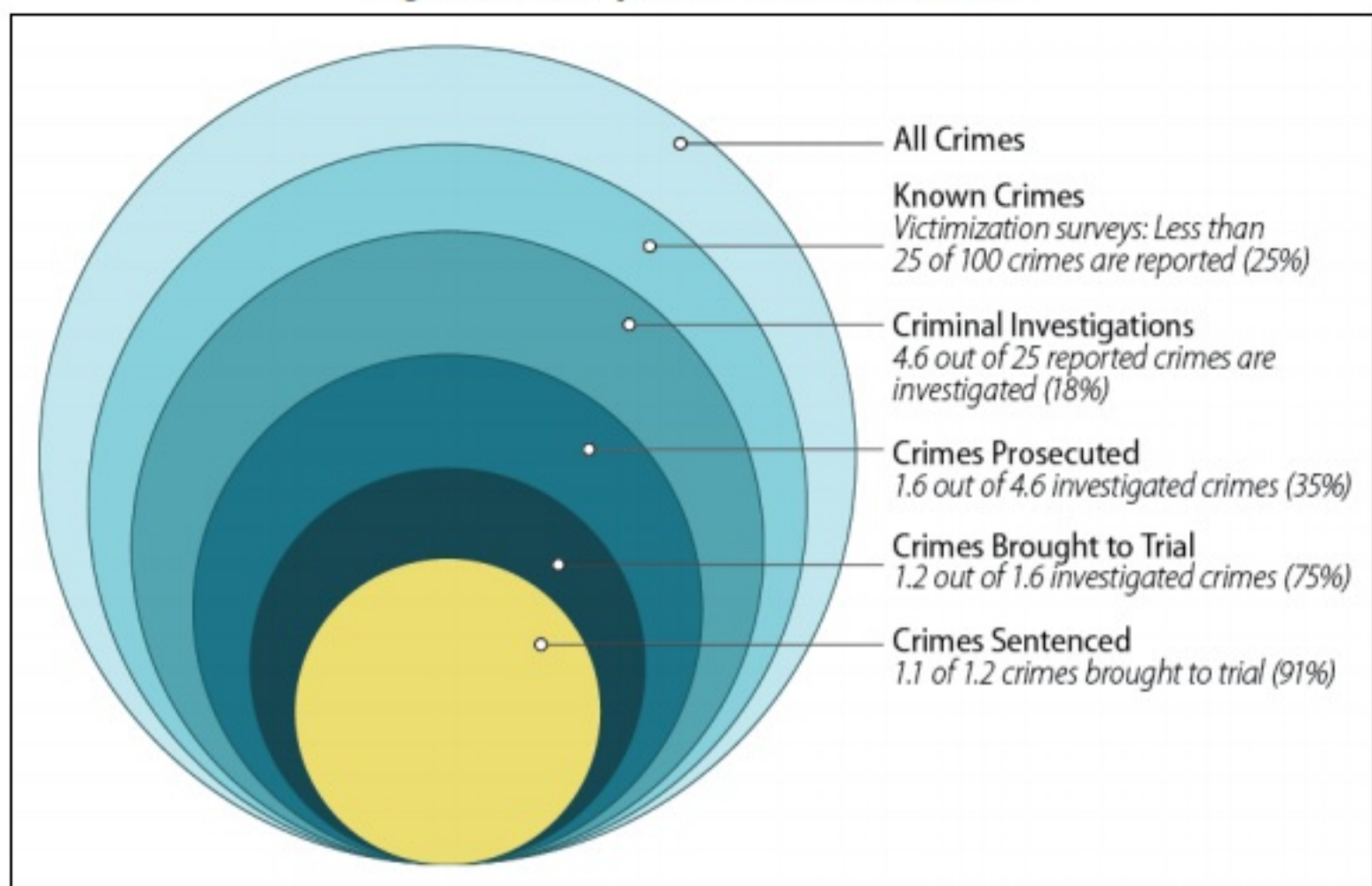


# MEXICO'S PRISON REFORM

## CRIME IN MEXICO

Figure 1. Life Cycle of Crimes in Mexico



Source: Guillermo Zepeda Lecuona, *Crimen Sin Castigo: Procuración de Justicia Penal y Ministerio Público en México* (Fondo de Cultural Económica, 2004).

Note: This graphic is still widely cited as a representation of the life cycle of a crime in Mexico under the traditional justice system. It depicts data from before any states had begun operating under the new system.

## PRISON POPULATIONS



5.2%

of inmates in 2014 were women.



42%

of inmates in 2014 were pre-trial prisoners.

## IMPLEMENTATION

Figure 2. Stages of Judicial Reform Implementation in Mexico's States

November 2012



Source: Government of Mexico, Ministry of the Interior, Technical Secretariat of the Coordinating Council for the Implementation of the Criminal Justice System (SETEC), November 2012.

According to a study done by USAID in November 2012

- States that have implemented the judicial reform have reduced rates of pre-trial detention. However, preventative detention remains highly criticized by the global community and a focus on future reform efforts.

## PRE-TRIAL DETENTION

- Arraigo:** Those suspected of involvement in organized crime can be held by the authorities for 40 days without access to legal counsel, with a possible extension of another 40 days.

## HUMAN RIGHTS CONCERNS

Mexico's National Human Rights Commission's annual report found a number of concerns when observing 152 of Mexico's prisons. Including:

- A "growing system of self-government" within prisons
- Overcrowding
- Food shortages
- Absence of prison guards
- Failure to properly separate accused from the convicted
- Existence of warring mafia groups that lead to detention violence

Source: Supporting Criminal Justice System Reform in Mexico: The U.S. Role report from the Congressional Research Service