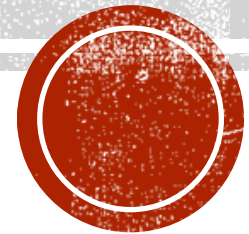# MEASURING IMMIGRATION FROM NORTH AMERICA AND THE NTCA IN MEXICO: ADVANTAGES AND DATA LIMITATIONS

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BACKGROUND

- Over 90% of Mexico's outmigration goes to US. Hence, it is easy to complement data sources on both sides to understand changes in the flow.

- Similarly, 73% of immigrants in Mexico (EIC 2015) come from the US.
  - Children of former Mexican migrants, born in the US who return with their parents, an emerging phenomenon, explains most of the high participation of US born on Mexican immigration.

- Return migration has been constant in the mobility between Mexico and US. It is necessary to consider it, in order to get the whole picture of the migration flows. Mexican data sources, including Census data, are the best way to capture it.

DATA SOURCES FOR IMMIGRATION IN MEXICO

- **Population Census:**
  - Basic questionnaire (Universal)
  - Extended questionnaire (Large samples- 1990, 2000, 2010)

- **Surveys** (on income, demographics and health, labor, among others)
  - Household Surveys (ENADID, EIC2015)
  - Flow Surveys (EMIF)

- **Administrative Records** (from the International Migration Institute)

MEXICAN POPULATION CENSUS

- Population Censuses have been carried out since 1895. (Every ten years since 1900 with the exception of 1920)

- Important questions to measure immigration (basic questionnaire):
  - place of birth (since 1895)
  - residence 5 years prior to the Census (since 1990)

- Universal ∴ suitable to measure characteristics of immigrant population and return migrants (5 years):
  - Accumulated volume
  - Detailed geographical distribution
  - Sociodemographic characteristics
  - Labor characteristics

MEXICAN POPULATION CENSUSES FOR IMMIGRATION ANALYSIS

BASIC QUESTIONNAIRE

Advantages

- UNIVERSAL
- Place of Birth and Residence 5 years before
- Geographical Distribution, Socioeconomic and labor characteristics
- Other indirect measures: remittances

Limitations

- Limited access to microdata
- No year of arrival
- No Residence 1 year before

EXTENDED QUESTIONNAIRE

Advantages

- Large SAMPLE information
- Microdata available: link to other variables and other HH members information
- Information on migrants absent from the HH
- POB of co-resident parents

Limitations

- Not necessarily constant
- Changes from one census to the other (f.e. on causes of migration)
- Little or no information on migration experience (duration, occupation, etc)
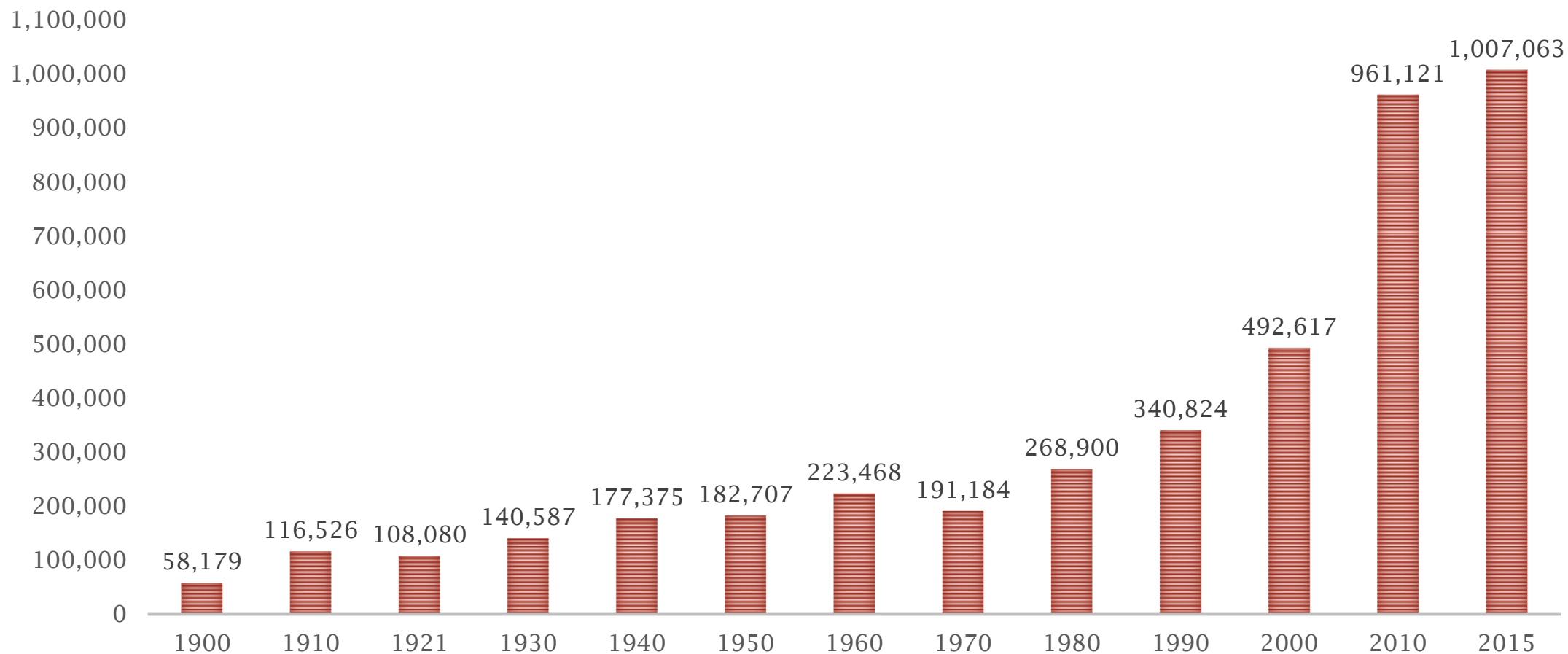- No ancestry beyond co-resident parents

HOUSEHOLD SURVEYS

Generally, small sample size makes household surveys not reliable sources for counting the volume of foreign population since their sample is not big enough.

- ENADID (Demographic Dynamics National Survey)
Sample size: 101 389 dwellings in 2014
  - Representative at the national level, state elvel and for urban and rural populations
  - Includes information of place of residence five years and one year before survey completion.

- ENCUESTA INTERCENSAL 2015 (EIC 2015) with a sample of 6 million dwellings and representative at the municipality level, is suitable for estimation of total migrant population.

- Contains information on place of birth and citizenship.

FOREIGN BORN POPULATION ACCORDING TO CENSUS AND EIC (2015), 1900-2015

Bar chart showing foreign born population by year:

Year	Population
1900	58,179
1910	116,526
1921	108,080
1930	140,587
1940	177,375
1950	182,707
1960	223,468
1970	191,184
1980	268,900
1990	340,824
2000	492,617
2010	961,121
2015	1,007,063

Source: Ernesto Rodríguez Chávez, 2017..

RECENT INTERNATIONAL IMMIGRANTS BY DATA SOURCE, 2000-2015

	Census February 2000	ENADID May 2009	Census May-june 2010	ENADID August-September 2014	EIC 2015 March 2015
Carry Out Date					
Month and year of reference	January 1995	May 2004	June 2005	August 2009	March 2010
Foreign born living abroad five years before	104,732	160,865	215,824	218,050	182,169
US born living abroad 5 years before	65,447	108,721	153,620	162,052	111,808
Non US Foreign Born	39,285	52,144	62,204	55,998	70,361
Foreign born below 5	110,950	155,431	186,770	111,703	113,080
Born in US	106,227	148,908	181,105	104,696	106,603
Born in non US country	4,723	6,523	5,665	7,007	6,477

Source: Giorguli y Angoa, 2016.

FOREIGN BORN AND RECENT IMMIGRANTS

	Census February 2000	ENADID May-09	Censo May-June 2010	ENADID August-September 2014	EIC 2015 Mar-15
Foreign Born	519,707	806,100	968,271	980,874	1,005,466
Recent international Migrants residing abroad 5 years before					
Month and year of reference	Jan-95	May-04	Jun-05	Aug-09	Mar-10
Foreign born living abroad five years before	104,732	160,865	215,824	218,050	182,169
Foreign born below 5	110,950	155,431	186,770	111,703	113,080
Recent international Migrants residing abroad 1 year before					
Month and year of reference	Jan-99	May-08	Jun-09	Aug-13	Mar-14
Foreign Born	NA	412,712	NA	220,765	NA

Source: Giorguli and Angoa, 2016.

CHARACTERISTICS OF IMMIGRANTS IN MEXICO- EIC 2015

	Canada	USA	Guatemala	El Salvador	Honduras
Percentage female	48.9	49.6	54.0	48.7	54.3
Age group					
15 and younger	30.1	67.3	12.0	5.1	8.7
16-64 years	48.8	29.9	82.6	88.1	89.6
65 and older	21.1	2.8	5.3	6.8	1.7
Total	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**
Educational attainment					
Less than high school	8.3	27.7	88.0	64.1	77.3
High School	16.5	26.3	5.1	18.3	12.3
More than High School	75.2	46.0	6.9	17.5	10.4
Total	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**
N	9,816	739,168	42,874	10,594	14,544

Source: Giorguli, Masferrer y García, 2017.

IMMIGRANTS FROM NTCA IN MEXICO DATA FROM CENSUS AND EIC
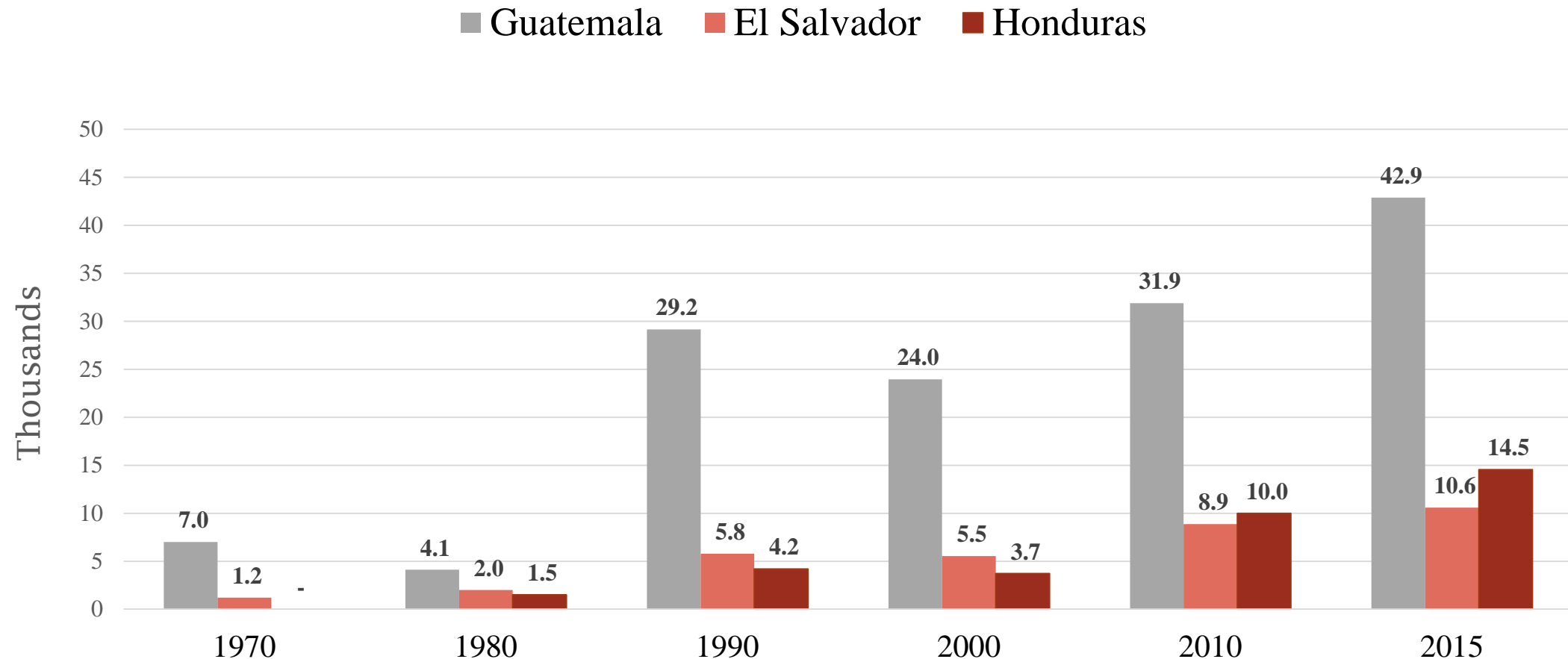
Source: Masferrer y Pederzini, 2017.

FLOW SURVEYS

EMIF (Border International Migratio Survey)

- Northern Border (EMIF NORTE) (since 1999)
- Southern Border (EMIF SUR) (since 2004)

  (Representative of anual and quarterly flows)

The Southern Border EMIF contributes to the understanding of:

 Southern Border flows from Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras

ADMINISTRATIVE REGISTRIES

- Information of documented foreign population in Mexico collected by INM (National Migration Institute) for temporary or permanent residence
- Basic demographic profiles and geographic distribution
- Information on reason for migration
- No information on US or Canadian citizens with shared residency.
- No public anonymous databases (microdata)
- Limited indicators
- Probably large undercount for certain populations

STATISTICS FROM ADMINISTRATIVE REGISTRIES
FOREIGN RESIDENTS
INFLOWS BY NATIONALITY (THOUSANDS)

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Total	**23.852**	**26.180**	**21.992**	**18.153**	**62.990**	**43.481**	**34.406**
United States	2.882	4.026	4.261	3.952	14.420	9.373	7.096
Cuba	1.735	1.847	1.722	1.833	3.249	2.674	2.611
Venezuela	1.310	1.664	1.290	1.173	2.808	2.624	2.235
China	1.958	1.736	1.149	0.841	5.222	2.619	2.226
Colombia	1.898	2.312	1.806	1.411	3.186	2.488	2.050
Honduras	1.406	1.544	1.026	0.410	2.409	2.269	1.798
Canada	0.586	0.748	0.849	0.830	3.465	1.964	1.785
Guatemala	2.080	1.799	1.271	0.479	3.139	2.640	1.609
Spain	0.865	0.969	0.841	0.980	2.607	1.767	1.596
Argentina	1.378	1.443	0.990	0.859	3.232	2.142	1.428
El Salvador	0.796	0.708	0.694	0.361	1.613	1.210	1.136
France	0.512	0.565	0.466	0.379	1.432	1.025	0.721
Italy	0.501	0.550	0.487	0.437	1.529	0.910	0.681
Peru	0.667	0.825	0.550	0.377	1.226	0.932	0.630
Brazil	0.439	0.460	0.370	0.290	1.058	0.733	0.627

Source:Rodríguez Chávez, 2017.

STATISTICS FROM ADMINISTRATIVE REGISTRIES

Table B.1.1.1 Inflows of foreign population by nationality and category for permanent resident

Table B.1.1.1A Inflows of foreign population by nationality and category for temporary resident

2010				Mexico

Category of immigration

	Total	Work	Family	Other
Total	26.180	8.699	8.937	8.544
United States	4.026	0.980	0.761	2.285
Colombia	2.312	0.762	1.016	0.534
Cuba	1.847	0.643	0.938	0.266
Guatemala	1.799	0.103	0.328	1.368
China	1.736	0.911	0.690	0.135
Venezuela	1.664	0.719	0.788	0.157
Honduras	1.544	0.135	0.358	1.051
Argentina	1.443	0.693	0.545	0.205
Spain	0.969	0.440	0.390	0.139
Peru	0.825	0.262	0.300	0.263
Others	8.015	3.051	2.823	2.141

2010						Mexico

Category of immigration

	Total	Work	Family	Humanit.	Students	Other
Total	38.813	16.258	5.300	1.075	4.638	11.542
United States	9.828	4.348	0.695	0.002	0.646	4.137
Canada	2.560	0.826	0.190		0.101	1.443
Venezuela	1.927	0.800	0.617	0.004	0.210	0.296
Spain	1.909	0.926	0.289		0.368	0.326
France	1.861	0.678	0.229		0.572	0.382
China	1.777	0.944	0.258	0.001	0.072	0.502
Colombia	1.666	0.576	0.332	0.051	0.371	0.336
Argentina	1.638	0.785	0.359		0.094	0.400
Germany	1.499	0.469	0.133		0.440	0.457
Cuba	1.169	0.474	0.293	0.003	0.043	0.356
Others	12.979	5.432	1.905	1.014	1.721	2.907

Source: Rodríguez Chávez, 2017.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Where measurement improvement is required?**
  - Outflows
  - Return migration (voluntary and forced)
  - Immigration flows
  - In transit migration
  - Characteristics of migrants, HHs and communities with high migration prevalence.
  - **CHANGES AND TRENDS IN TIIME**

- **What are we missing?**
  - Continuity on special section on migration (Census data and HH surveys)
  - Linkage of migration and places of destination to processes with geographical disaggregarted information:
    - violence
    - environmental events
  - Information on move characteristics (reasons for migrating)

RECOMMENDATIONS

General Challenges for Mexican data sources:

- Keep a basic set of questions on all surveys and census – including data on remittances.
- Complement with administrative records : schools, health records, vital statistics.
- Gauge emigration undercount due to complete HH absence and selectivity
- Use of panel and retrospective data to study:
    - Trasnational HHs
    - Movements below 5 years.
- Gather information on absent members of HHs.
- Analyze and improve complementarity with US data sources.

Challenges for Immigration Data:

- Information on last place of residence or place of residence one year before.
- Improve quality, reliability and accessibility of administrative records
- Study flows using different methodologies
- Information on citizenship