

# Return migration to Mexico: Policy response, measurement challenges and data needs

**Claudia Masferrer**

*International Forum on Migration Statistics*

*OECD-OIM, Paris, January 15th, 2017*

## Eduardo García's Path: Migrant Worker, Convict, Deportee, Star Chef

Leer en español

By GUY TREBAY FEB. 25, 2017



Eduardo García at Máximo Bistrot, his celebrated restaurant in Mexico City.  
Adriana Zehbrauskas for The New York Times

EUROPA EE UU MÉXICO AMÉRICA LATINA ORIENTE PRÓXIMO ASIA ÁFRICA FOTOS OPINIÓN BLOGS TITULARES »

## El migrante que se suicidó en Tijuana había sido deportado varias veces

Guadalupe Olivas se tiró por un puente al no poder volver a Estados Unidos. Era viudo, tenía tres hijos y había sido detenido por vender marihuana



# Characteristics of Return

- **Rise in return of Mexican immigrants from the U.S.**
  - Decline of circularity and increasing durations of stay
  - Increase in deportations
  - Changing economic conditions in the U.S. → Great Recession and slow recovery

(González-Barrera 2015; Masferrer & Roberts 2016; Parrado & Flippen 2016; Villarreal 2014)

- **New sites of return**
    - Northern border areas, tourist centers, large metropolitan areas
- (Masferrer & Roberts, 2012; Rivera 2011, 2013; Vargas Valle 2015)

# Characteristics of Return

- **Linked migrations**

- Family migration remains a critical pull for return
- Witness an increase in U.S.-born accompanying parents, siblings, and spouses
- “Going to a home you have never been to” creates challenges to integration in various domains, particularly for U.S.-born minors

(Masferrer, Pederzini, Passel & Livingston 2012; van Hook & Zhang, 2011; Medina & Menjívar 2015; Zúñiga & Hamann 2015 Rendall and Torr 2008; Glick and Yabiku 2016 )

**→ Selection into return is changing, accompanied by evolution in the patterns and challenges of resettlement**

# ¿Why is it important to think in the demography and geography of return?

## **Demography**

¿How many?

¿Who?

¿With whom?

¿How and why are they returning?

¿How prepared?

## **Geography**

¿Where?

¿To the community of origin?

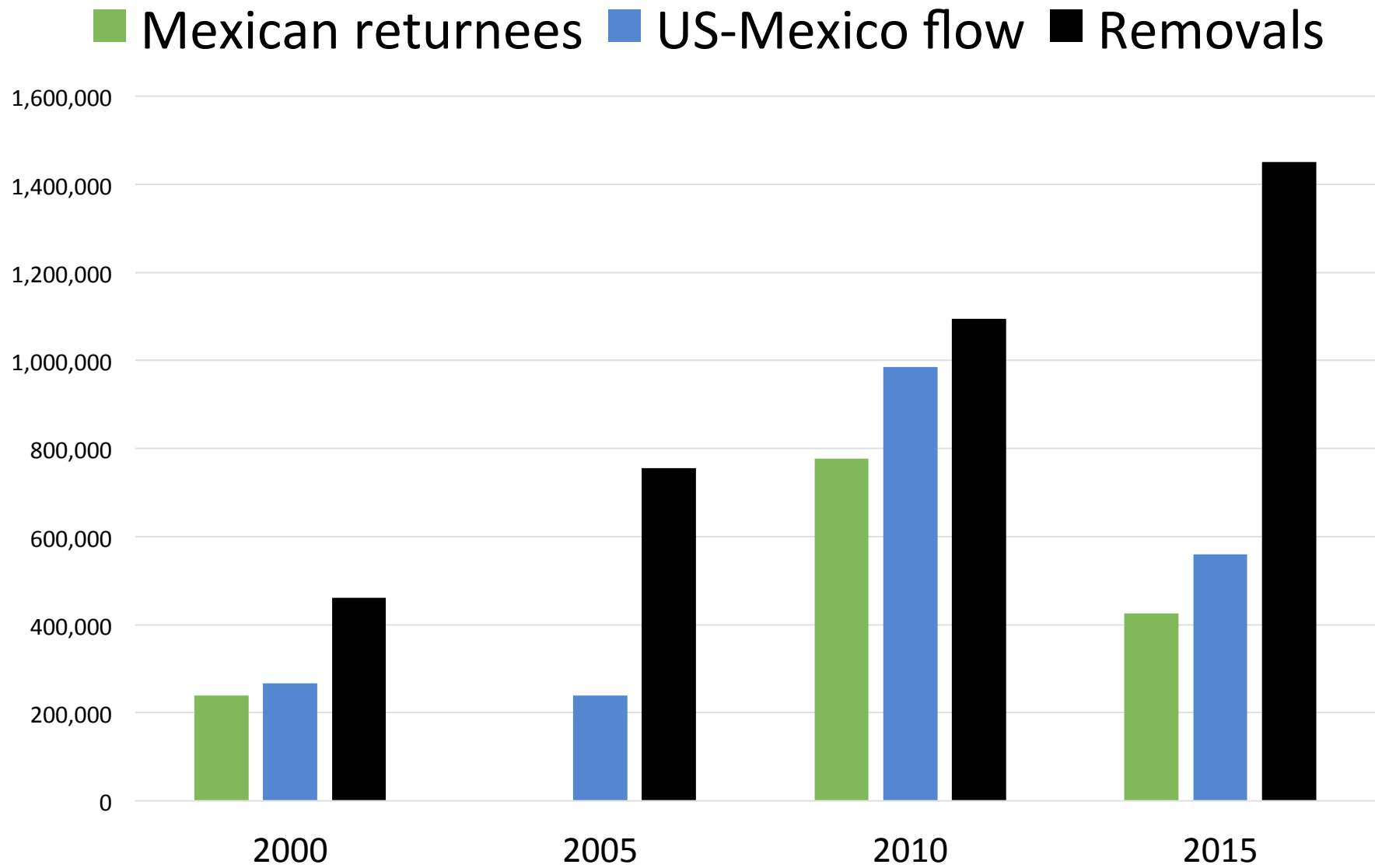
¿What is the context of reception?

¿Why there?



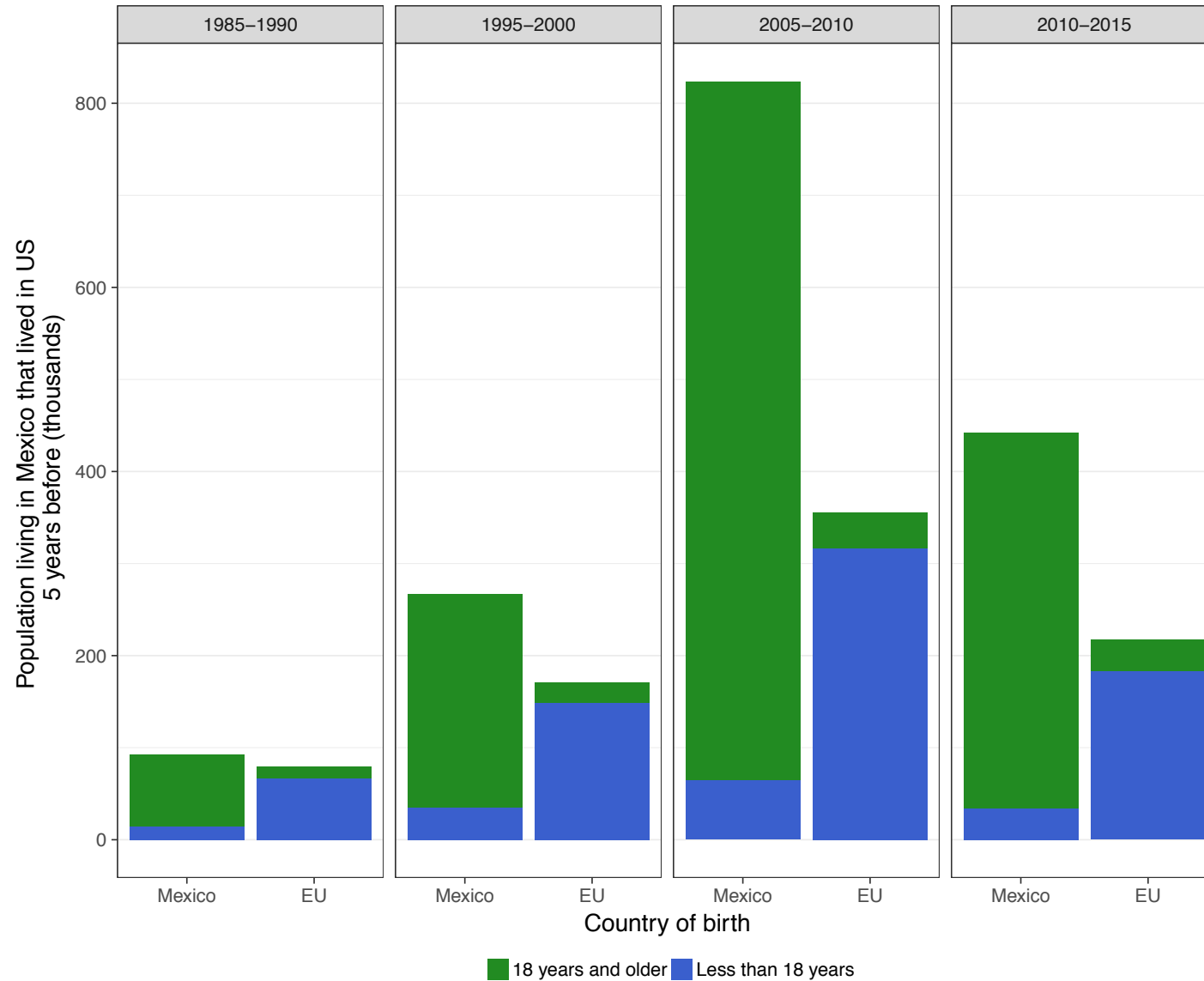
**Focalized public policies**

What is the impact of  
deportation, unpreparedness and  
family return?



Source: Department of Homeland Security (DHS) y own estimates using 2000 and 2010 Mexican censuses, 2005 Count and 2015 Intercensal Survey 2015.

# US-Mexico flows by place of birth and age



Source: own estimates using 1990, 2000 and 2010 Mexican censuses, and 2015 Intercensal Survey 2015.



# US-Mexico flows: Working-age population and minors



Source: own estimates using 2000 and 2010 Mexican censuses, 2005 Count and 2015 Intercensal Survey 2015.

Where are returnees arriving?  
Are they settling in their  
communities of origin?  
Where they there before?

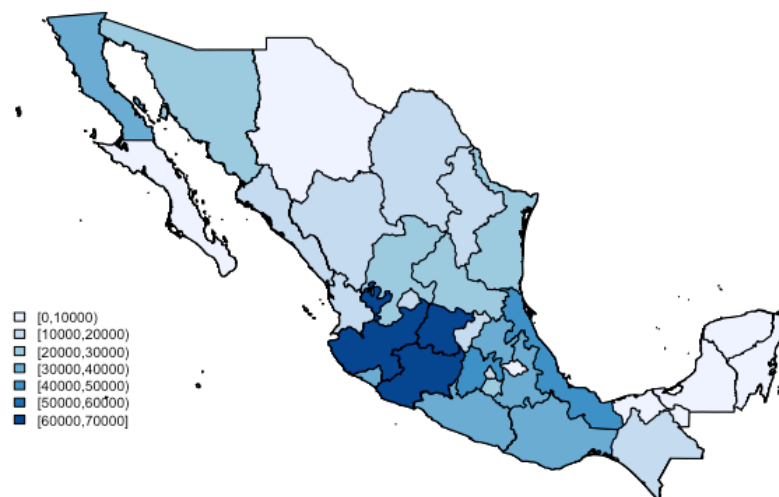
# Returnees by state (total)

2000



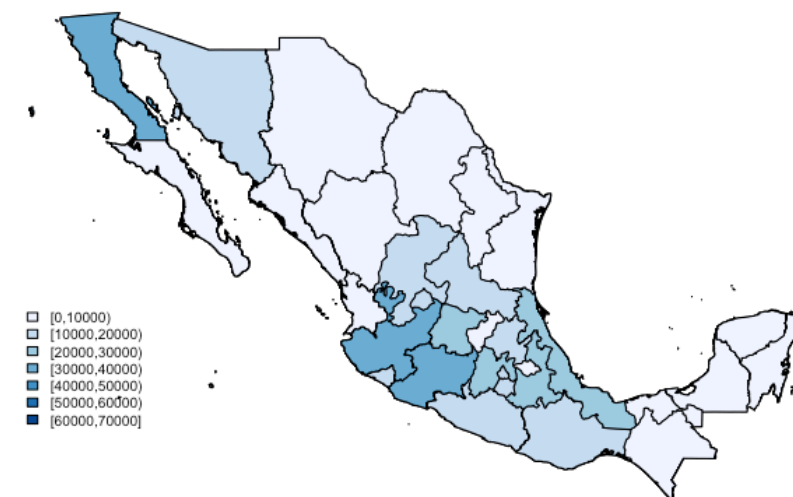
FUENTE: Cálculos propios con base en Censos 2000 y 2010 y EIC 2015, INEGI

2010



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2015



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# Rate of return

- Aims to relate returnees to population at risk of returning  
(Masferrer & Roberts, 2012)
- Calculated for 2005 and 2015, without differentiating by place of birth

$$\text{Rate of return (t, t+5)} = \frac{\text{Population that were living in the US in t, but were in Mexico in t+5}}{\text{Population that left during the period t-5 to t and were in US in t}}$$

Measure	2000	2005	2010	2015
Residence in US 5 years ago (Inter-censal return)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Country of birth	✓		✓	✓
Emigration, return, and non- return (5-year period)	✓		✓	
Rate of return (Return/emigration)		✓		✓

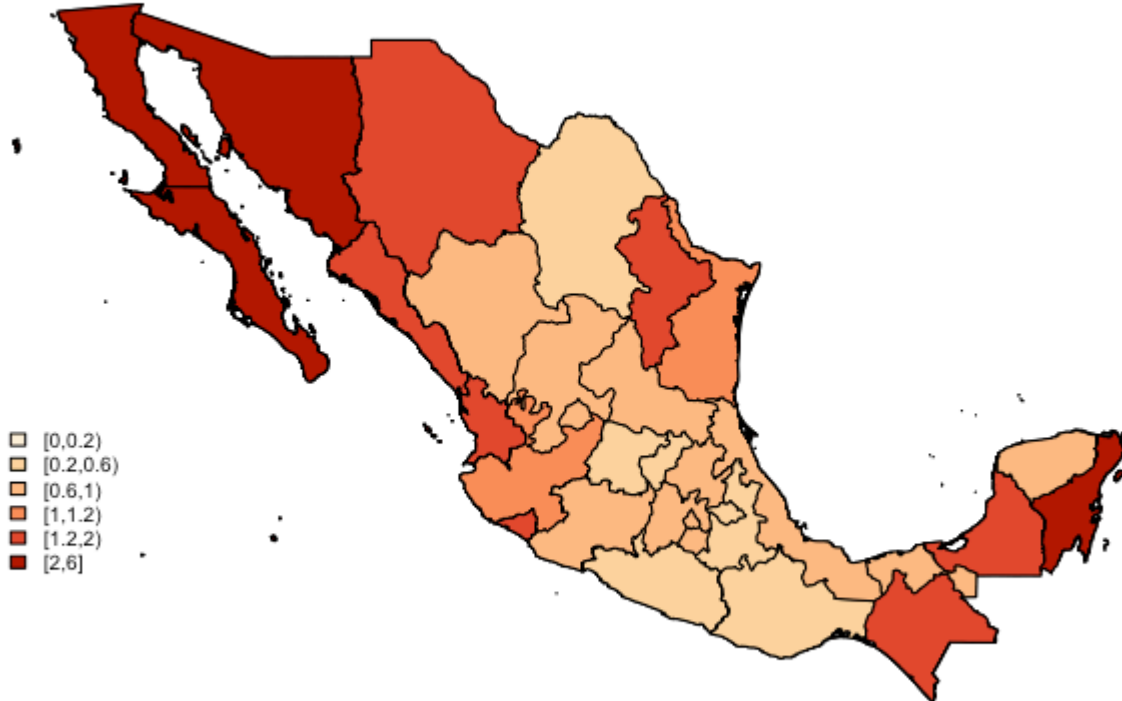
# Rate of return: old and new destinations

2005

2015

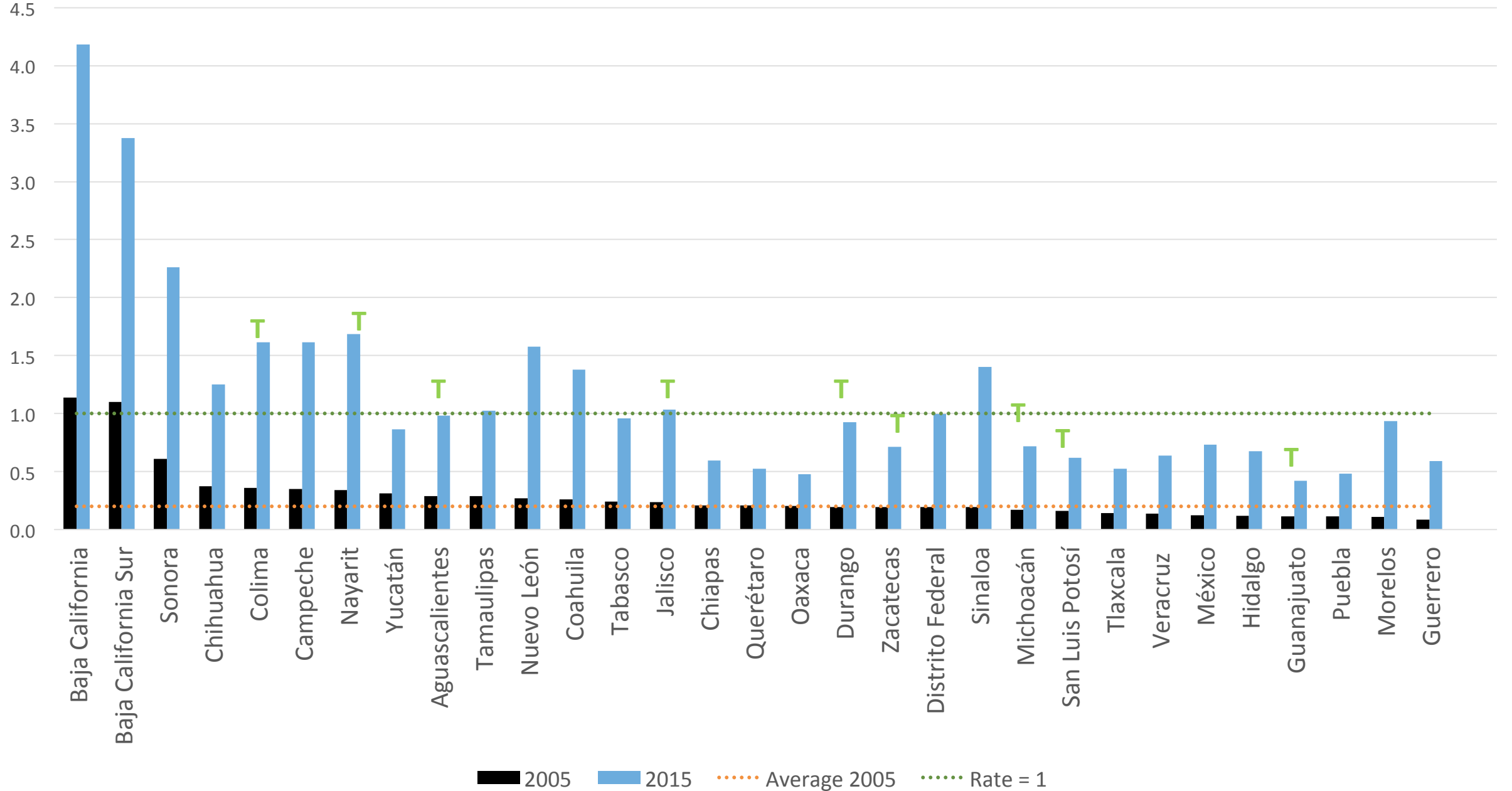


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# Increased rate and variation between states



What explains changes in economic integration and labor market incorporation of returnees?



# Labor Market Incorporation

- **Historically, return migration connected to processes of development**

- Increased likelihood of self-employment
- Skill formation in the U.S.

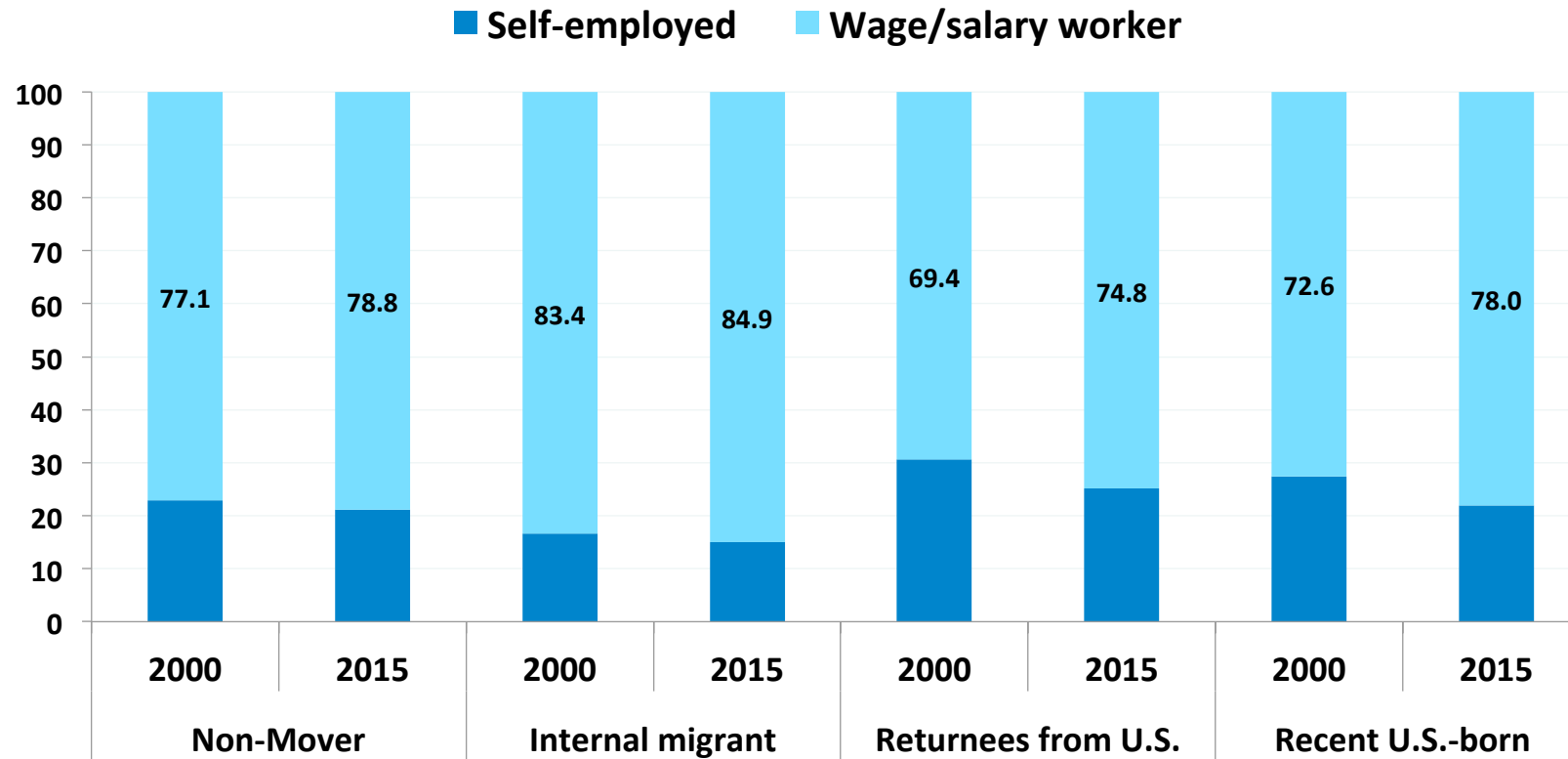
(Hagan, Hernandez-Leon and Demonsant 2015; Lindstrom 2013; Parrado & Gutierrez 2016; Gutierrez & Parrado 2016)

- **Recent returnees engaging differently in the labor market**

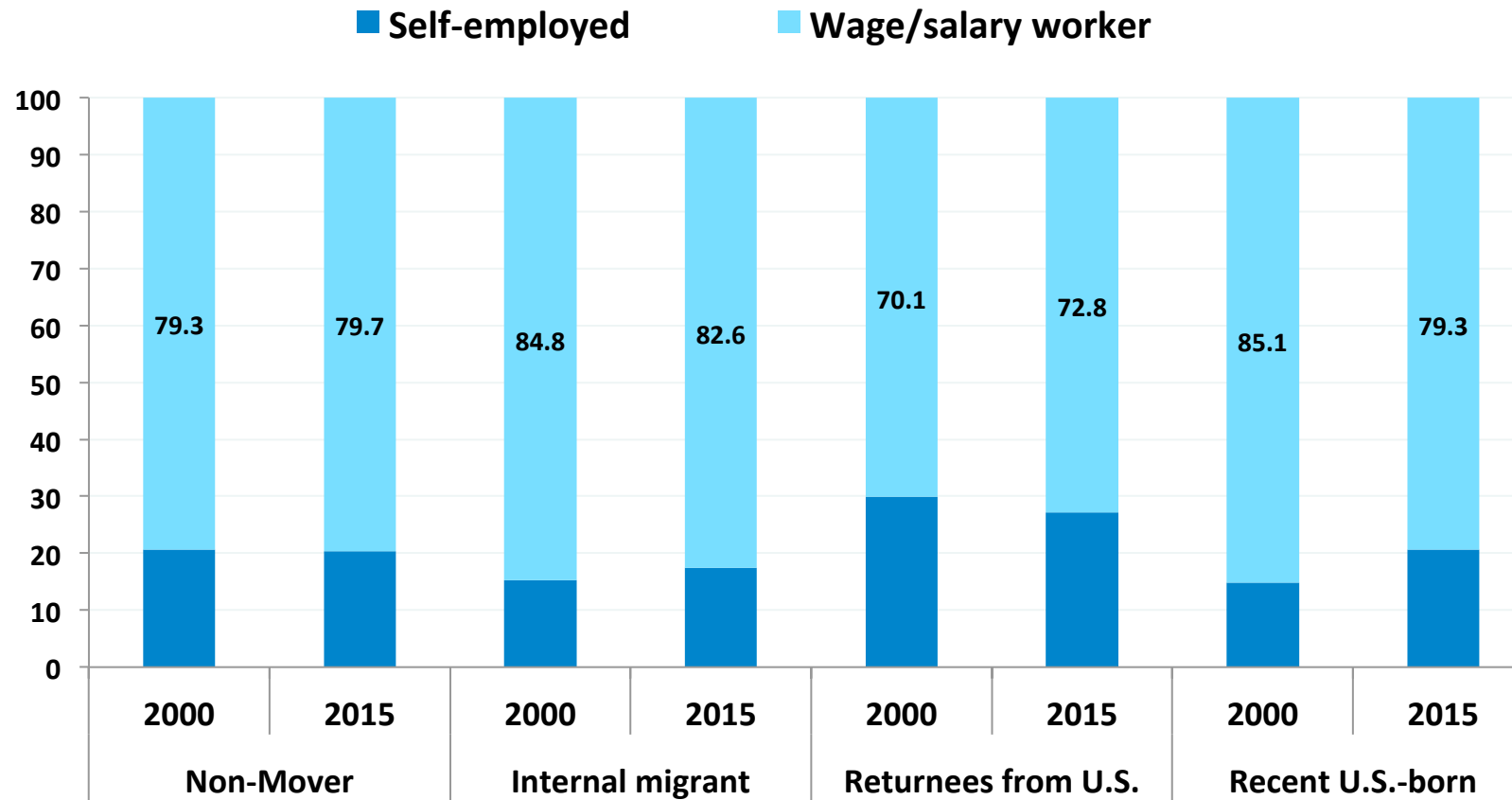
- Lower likelihood of becoming employers and lower earnings for recent arrival cohorts
- For prime-age men, change in earnings related to increasing engagement in the informal sector and occupation

(Parrado & Gutierrez 2016; Gutierrez & Parrado 2016)

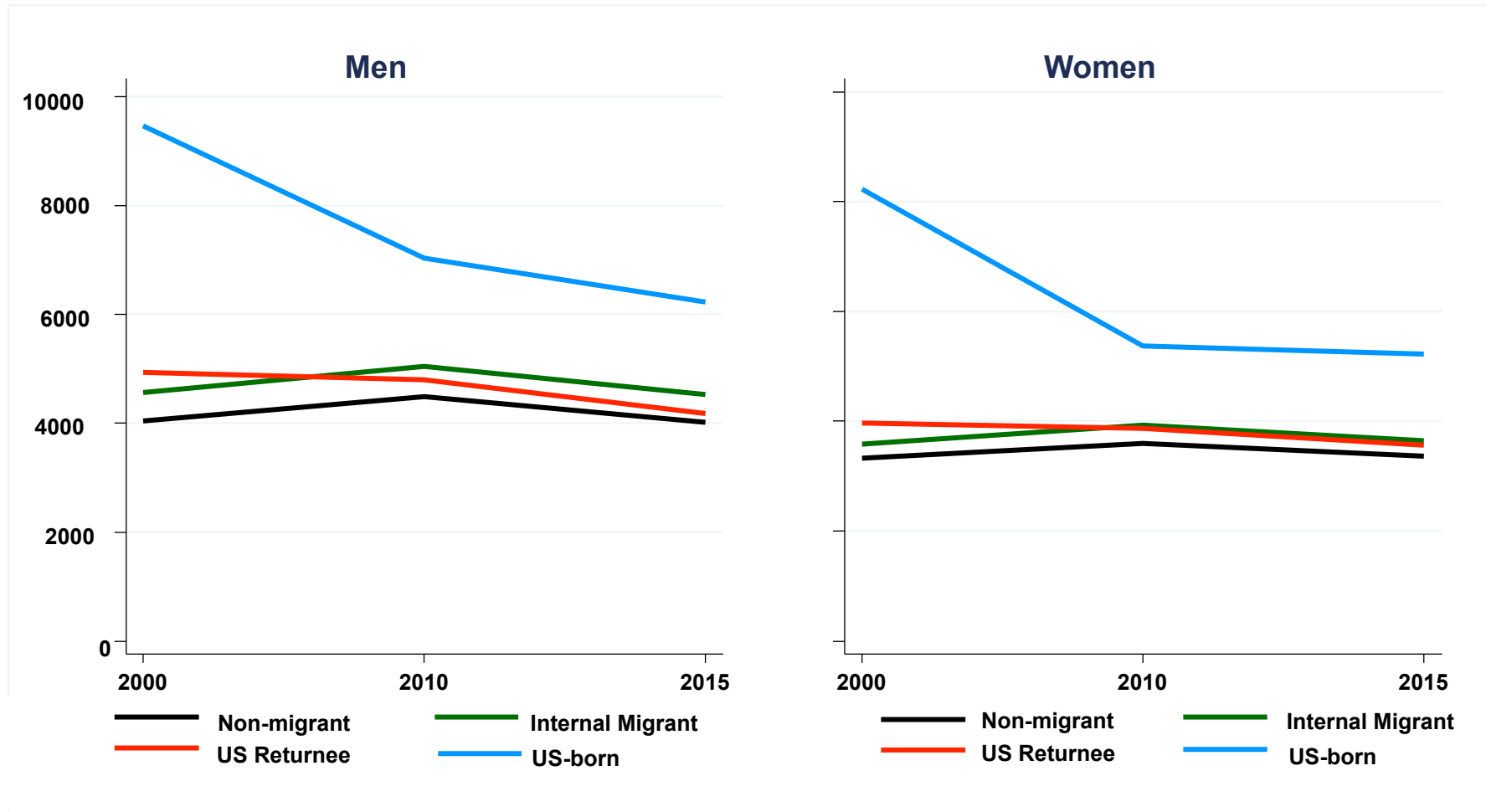
# Employment Status: Men



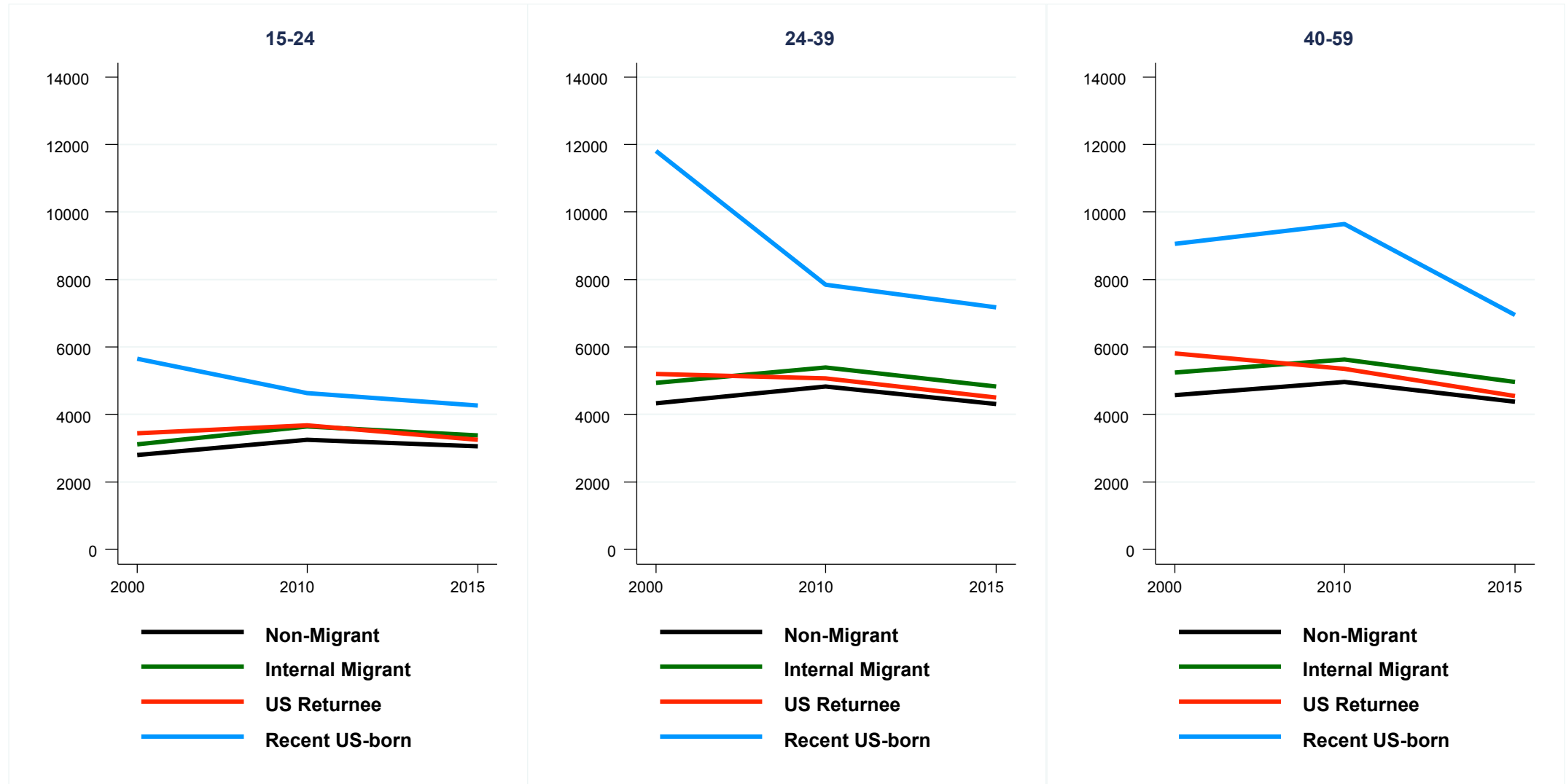
# Employment Status: Women



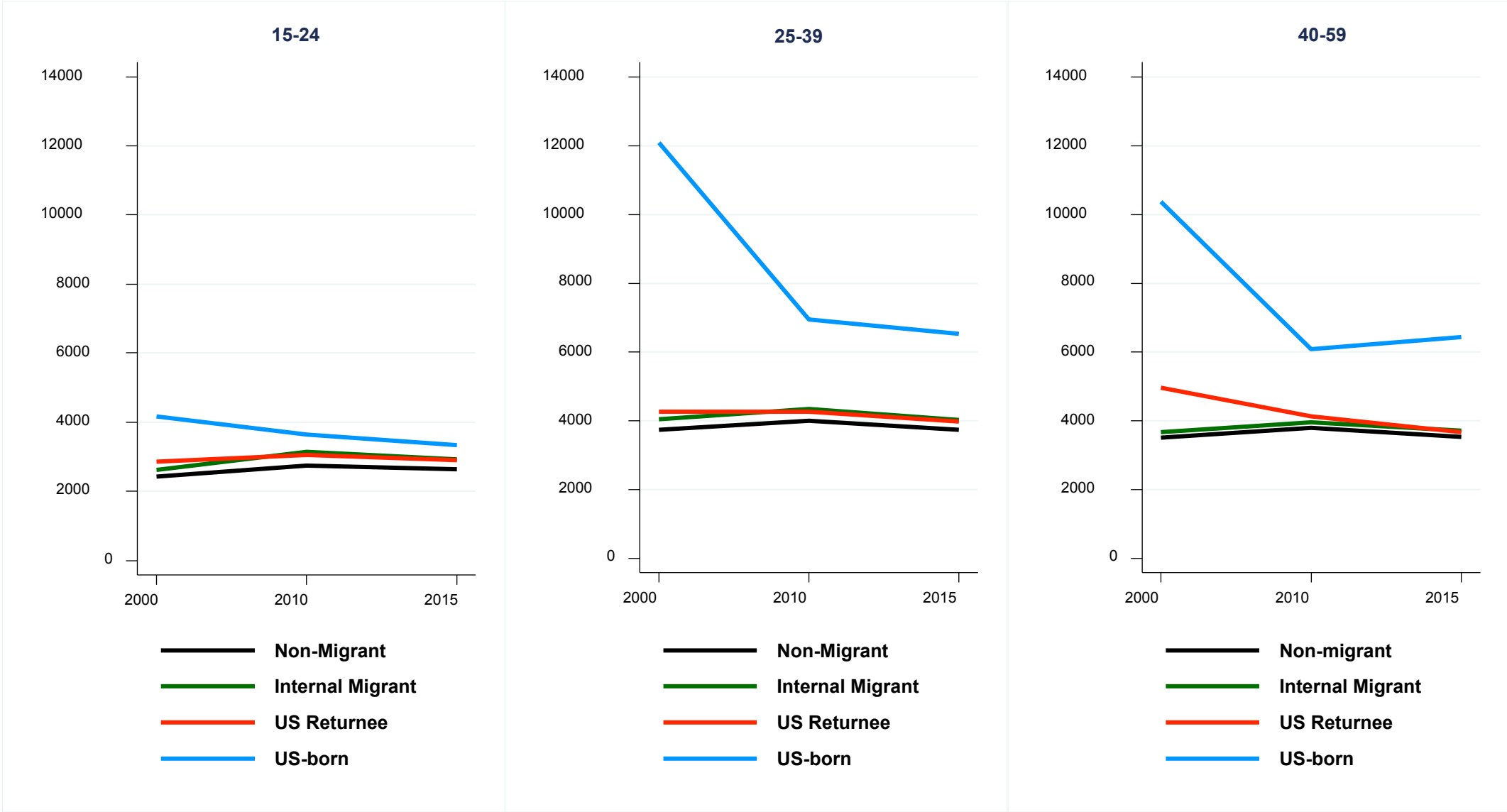
# Adjusted Annual Income: By Gender, 2000-2015



# Deterioration of wages continued after the recession for men.



# The gap closes for women as well. Sharpest decline among those aged 40-59



How are minors integrating?  
How do schooling experiences vary  
by destination, age, and migration  
experience?

# Mexican and US-born minors who migrated recently from the US (2015)

Menores Retornados

Menores Nacidos en EUA



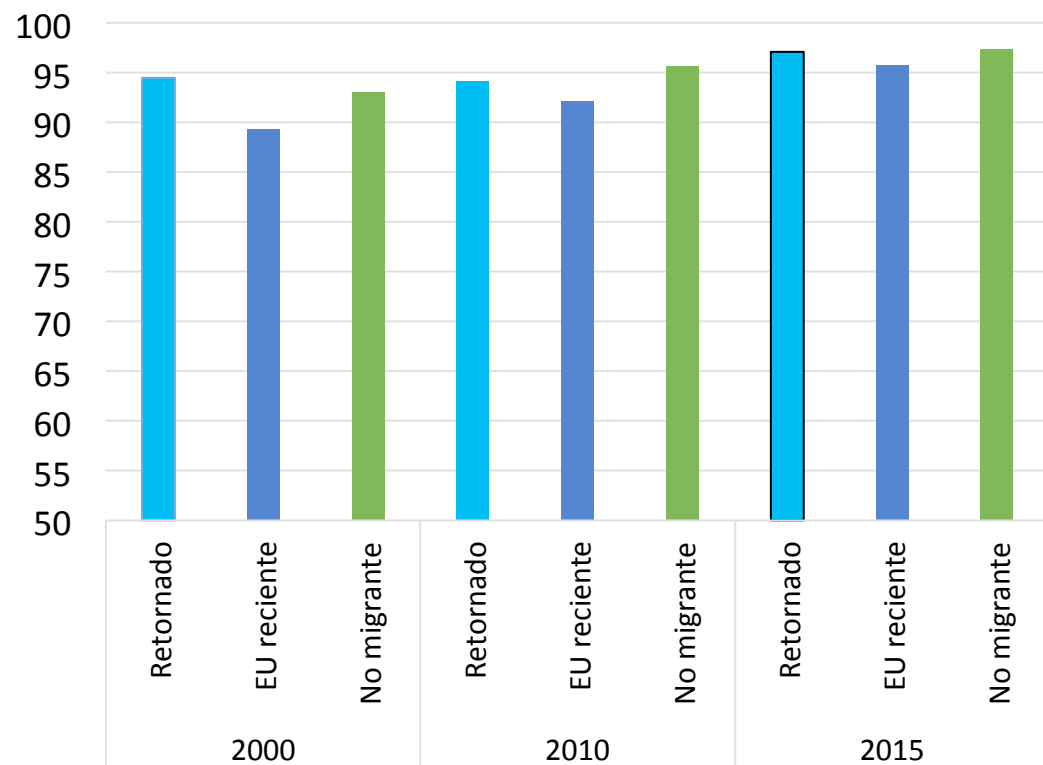
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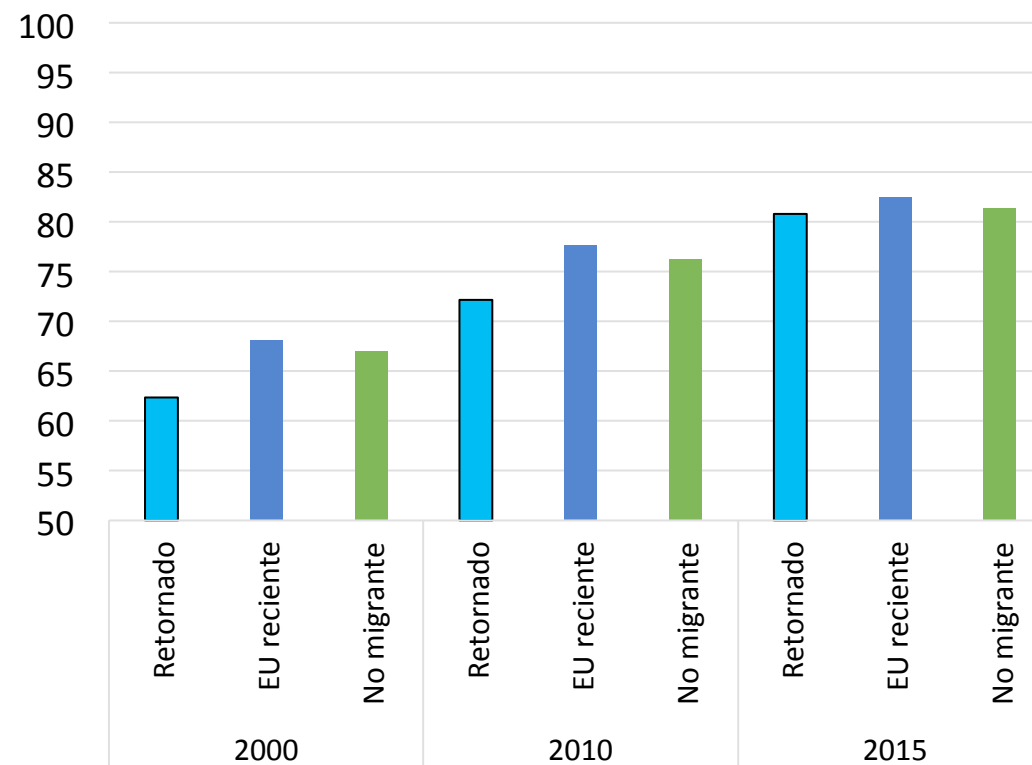


# Small gap in terms of school attendance for returnees, recent US-born, and non-migrants

## 5 - 12 years



## 13 - 17 years



Fuente: Cálculos propios con base en los censos de 2000 y 2010 y la Encuesta Intercensal 2015.

# 'Invisible' Children: Raised In The U.S., Now Struggling In Mexico

November 13, 2016 · 6:01 AM ET



CLAUDIO SANCHEZ



Students engage in a class project at the Escuela 20 Noviembre school in Tijuana, Mexico.



04:29



## Deported Students Find Challenges At School In Tijuana

April 03, 2017

By [Claudio Sanchez](#)

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# Changes in the nature of return

- Demographic changes
  - Different dimensions of integration
  - Mixed status families, family separation and return of complete households
- Geographic changes
  - Emigration and return
  - Going back to a different-new community
    - Local development, remittances, social and human capital
    - Integration rather than reincorporation
    - Policies at destination not at origin: transportation support to go back?

# Challenges and data limitations

- Conceptual definitions of return
  - Residence 5 years ago: 1 year ago is not available
- Place of birth
  - Not available in 2005 and 2015
  - Not available in 2000 or 2010 for non-returnees
  - Problematic because returnees are joined by US-born family members (especially minors)
- Whole-household migrants
  - Out-migration: Omission results in an underestimate of female migrants, child migrants, and migrants from the border (Hamilton and Savinar, 2015)
  - Return migration: captured
- Different influences of geography of return in 2005 and 2015
  - Violence and insecurity
  - Foreign-born population

# Thank you.

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