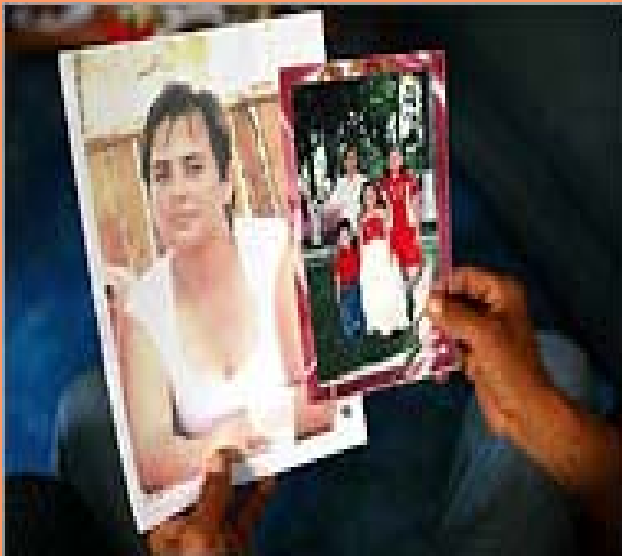


Migration from Latin America: Gendered Patterns and Shifts

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May 2008

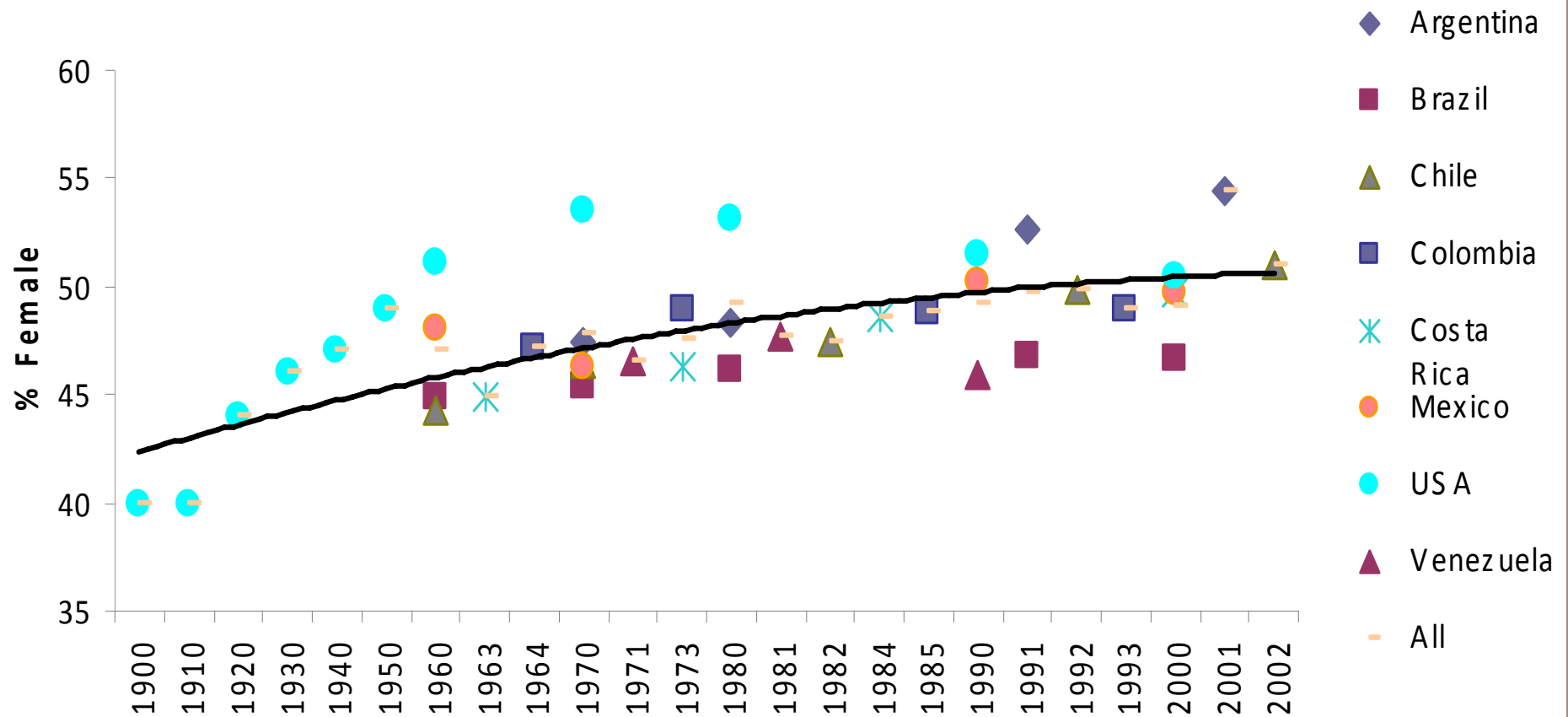


Understanding Gender Differences in National Origins of US Migrants

- **Few studies of gender ratios of international migrants to US, no study that focuses on migration in the Americas**
- **Objective is to document patterns in sex composition of U.S. migrant populations from Latin America, and country-sex differences in migrant attributes (given that most prior studies on gender & migration focus only on MX)**
- **Offer insights about what affects balance of men and women in US migration streams from Latin America**

Shift toward Feminization in 20th Century (except for migrants in Brazil & Venezuela)

Sex Composition of International Migrants by Country of Destination



Source: Integrated Public Use Microdata Series files (IPUMS-USA & IPUMS-International)

Possible Explanations for Gender Variation

- Prior studies point to family structure
 - National origin differences may link to gendered patterns in families
 - Consider MX vs. DR
 - MX: more traditional, patriarchal family structure that emphasizes marriage
 - DR: more consensual unions, marital instability & less tradl family structure

Possible Explanations

- Gender differences in the national origins of U.S. migrants may also link to country differences in migration process
 - Again consider MX vs. DR
 - MX-US migration: largest outmigration, strong social networks, history of agric work in US, linked to capital accumulation for investment in origins, especially in the past when process of circular migration was strong (short stays in US and multiple trips)
 - DR-US migration: long history but little circularity, remittances likely to fund subsistence living in DR, little agric work in US, longer trip duration

Possible Explanations

- Gendered patterns may also link to shifts in US immigration policy and interact with country differences in migration
 - IRCA AND IRIRA (1996) had big effects on migration – especially from MX
 - Raised cost of migration, reduced circular migration
 - IRCA's amnesty to ~ 2M Mexicans, mostly men, women later followed

Expectations

1. Given country differences in family structure: 1) women will represent smaller share of migrants from Mexico vs. other LA, and 2) attributes of women migrants will be different than men's, esp from MX
2. Given country differences in migration process: 1) MX men and women will have more US trips, shorter duration, more agric work than men and women migrants from other LA
3. Given recent US policy shifts: expect fewer country differences in migrant attributes of men and women over time, with MX migrants now more similar to migrants from other nations

Cross-National Comparisons

- Tricky and difficult
- Conditions in flux, making hypotheses difficult
- Without perfect data, only limited generalizations are possible

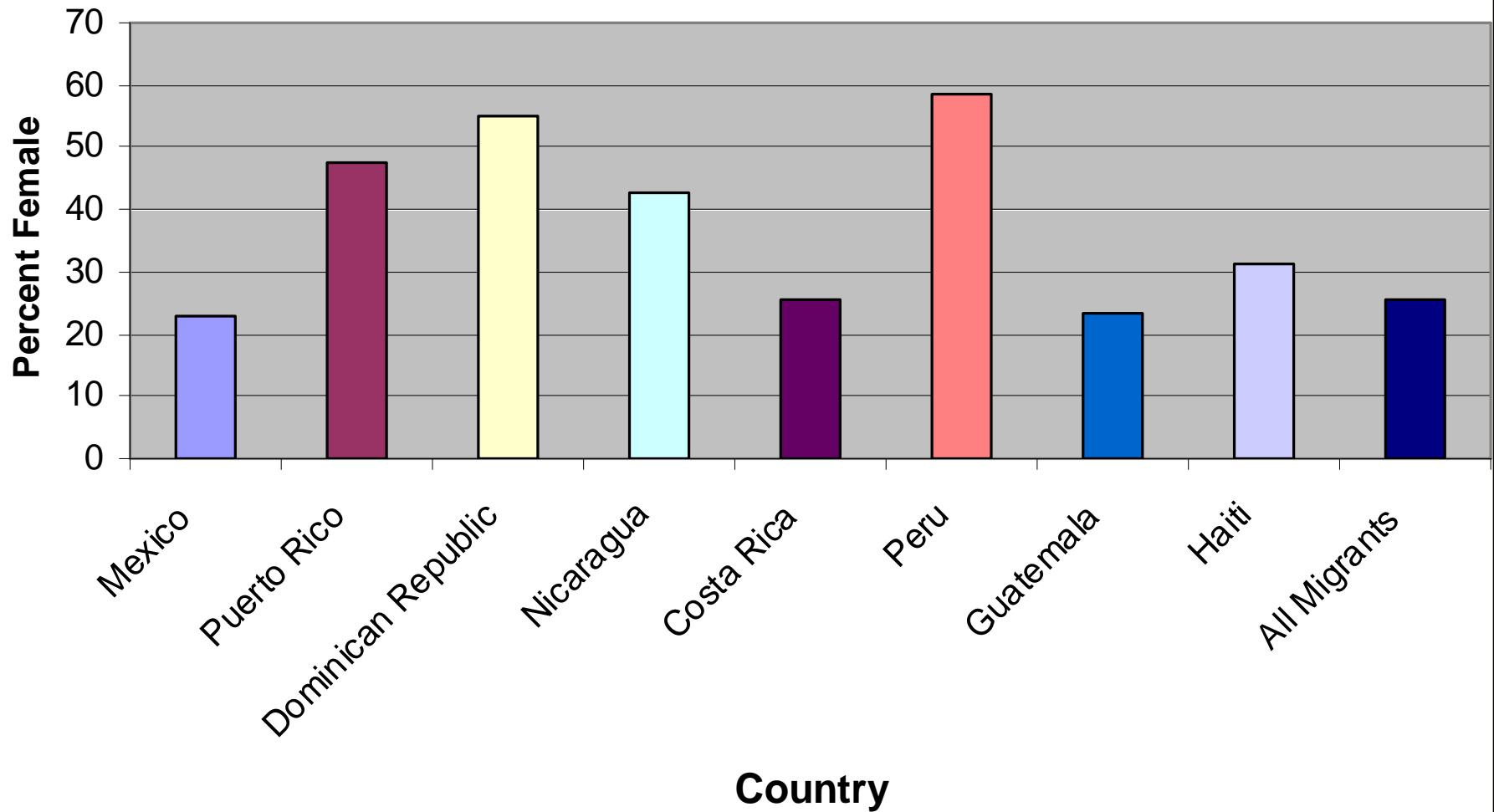
Data and Methods

- Mexican Migration Project (MMP)
- Latin American Migration Project (LAMP)
- Use data from LAMP and MMP communities surveyed between 1998 and 2005
- Include Mexico, Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Peru & Haiti

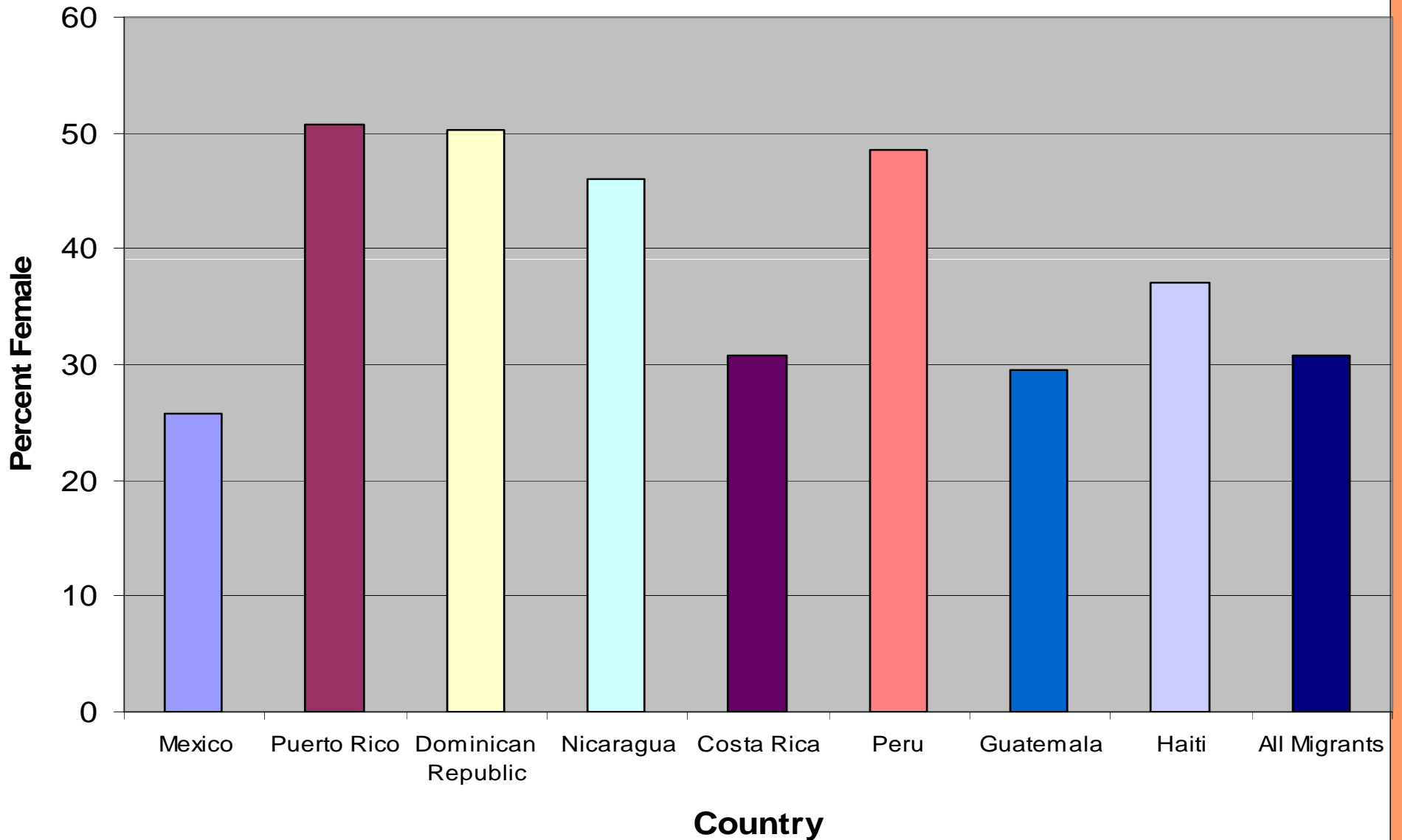
First Question

- How much does the sex composition of US migrants vary across these eight nations?

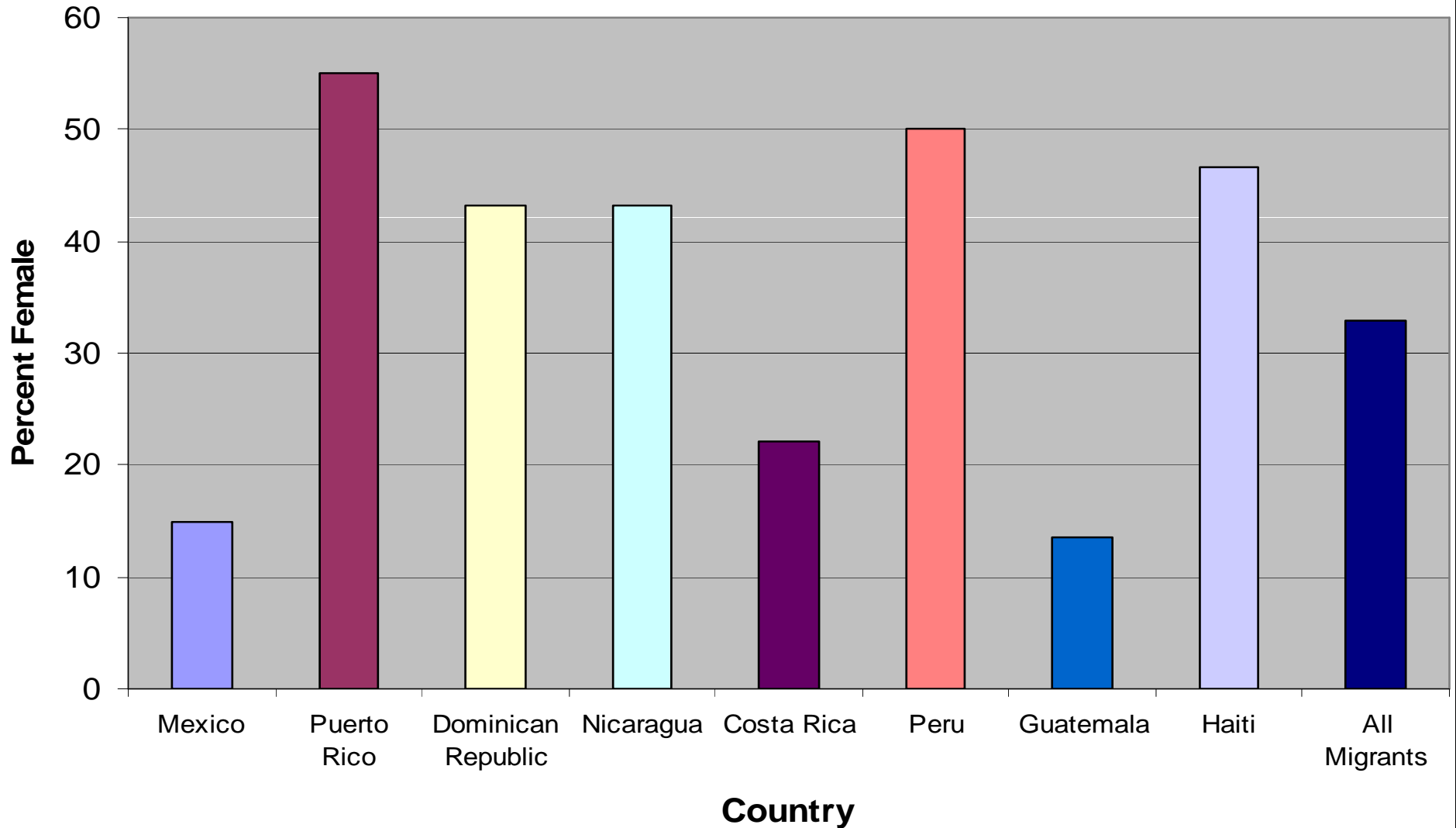
Sex Composition of U.S. Migrants (Ages 15+) from 8 Latin American Nations (migrating within three years of survey)



Sex Composition of U.S. Migrants (Ages 15+) on First U.S. Trips from 8 Latin American Nations



Sex Composition of U.S. Migrants (Ages 15+) on Last U.S. Trips from 8 Latin American Nations (only those with 2+ trips)



Related Question

- Given country variation in women's share of US migrants, how different are men and women in the migration process?

Sex Differences: Migrants on 1st US Trip

	<u>MEXICO</u>	<u>PRS</u>	<u>DREP</u>	<u>NIC</u>	<u>CRICA</u>
MEN (N=5882)					
Age at 1 st trip	24.3	23.5	29.2	29.1	27.6
Education (yrs)	6.8*	10.3*	10.2*	10.6*	8.1*
WOMEN (N=2575)					
Age at 1 st trip	25.4	25.8	28.4	29.9	26.7
Education (yrs)	7.6*	10.7*	10.8*	11.0*	9.8*

*p < .05

Men are younger than women (exc. Dominicans & CRicans)

Women have more years of schooling

Sex Differences: Migrants on 1st US Trip

	<u>MEXICO</u>	<u>PRS</u>	<u>DREP</u>	<u>NIC</u>	<u>CRICA</u>
MEN (N=5882)					
Avg year of entry	1990	1974	1989	1989	1992
% after 1986	62.0	22.0	69.7	72.4	79.7
Duration (mos)	24	84	96	102	24
WOMEN (N=2575)					
Avg year of entry	1992*	1974	1987	1990	1995
% after 1986	69.3*	22.5	51.4*	73.5	80.9
Duration (mos)	54*	96	126	120	42*

*p < .05

Fewer sex diffs, most for Mexico

But women's trip duration longer than men's

Sex Differences: Migrants on 1st US Trip

	<u>MEXICO</u>	<u>PRS</u>	<u>DREP</u>	<u>NIC</u>	<u>CRICA</u>
MEN (N=5882)					
% skilled occ	37.6	31.8	58.7	48.4	44.2
% unskilled occ	35.0	52.5	32.2	38.1	50.2
% agriculture	25.4	7.2	1.9	.8	2.3
% NILF	2.1	8.5	7.2	11.9	3.3
WOMEN (N=2575)					
% skilled occ	17.1*	25.8	29.2*	28.9*	16.1*
% unskilled occ	28.8*	27.3*	47.6*	46.4	53.1
% agriculture	5.9*	1.6*	.4	0.0	.7
% NILF	48.2*	44.9*	22.8*	24.6*	30.1*

*p < .05

More sex diffs but again some variation

More men in skilled jobs

More MX & Pr men in unskilled jobs but reverse for DOMs, NCs & CRs

MX men more likely than women and other national origins to work in agric

Women more likely to be NILF but sex diff narrowest for DRs & NCs

Summary

- Women represent smallest share of migrants from Mexico, largest from PR, Peru, DR & Nicaragua
- Many sex differences in migrant attributes within national origins
 - But variation across countries exists
 - Question is how much

What about Country Differences by Sex?

- Men: Compared to migrants from other countries, MXs younger & less educated, more likely to be undocumented, less likely to be skilled, more likely to work in agric, shorter 1st trips & more likely to make more than 1 trip
- Same is true for women migrants from MX
- Summarize significant diffs between Mexican & other migrants by sex in two tables

Country Differences: Men

DIFFS BETWEEN MEXICO &

	PR	DR	NC	CR
Age at 1 st trip	ns	*	*	*
Education (yrs)	*	*	*	*
% 1987-96	*	*	*	*
% 1997-05	*	*	*	*
Duration (mos)	*	*	*	*
% > 1 trip	*	*	*	ns
% skilled	ns	*	*	*
% unskilled	*	ns	ns	*
% agriculture	*	*	*	*
% new destination	*	*	*	*

*T-test significant at $p < .05$

ONLY 5 OUT OF 40 COMPARISONS WERE NOT SIGNIFICANT!

Country Differences: Women

DIFFS BETWEEN MEXICO &

	PR	DR	NC	CR
Age at 1 st trip	ns	*	*	ns
Education (yrs)	*	*	*	*
% 1987-96	*	ns	*	ns
% 1997-05	*	*	*	*
Duration (mos)	*	*	*	ns
% > 1 trip	ns	*	ns	ns
% skilled	*	*	*	ns
% unskilled	ns	*	*	*
% agriculture	*	*	*	*
% new destination	*	*	*	ns

*T-test significant at $p < .05$

11 OUT OF 40 COMPARISON WERE NOT SIGNIFICANT

Summary

- Attributes of Mexican men and women are different from other migrants
- So questions that remain:
 - Given policy shifts and the large impacts documented for Mexican migrants, how have men's and women's characteristics shifted over time?
 - Will trends reveal fewer country differences?

Shifts in Selected Attributes by Period of Entry: Men

	<u>MEXICO</u>			<u>DOMREP</u>			<u>NICARAGUA</u>		
	<u><87</u>	<u>87-96</u>	<u>97-05</u>	<u><87</u>	<u>87-96</u>	<u>97-05</u>	<u><87</u>	<u>87-96</u>	<u>97-05</u>
% Skilled	27.0	36.1	54.6	57.7	58.2	68.4	54.1	46.3	44.9
% Unskilled	30.7	43.3	30.5	35.6	31.9	15.8	33.8	43.0	32.7
% Agric	40.5	18.2	12.6	0.0	3.5	0.0	1.4	.8	0.0
Trip duration	90	28	26	192	84	26	162	108	26
% > 1 trip	49.0	29.6	13.3	18.6	9.6	5.3	20.8	10.3	8.8

*p < .05

Dramatic shift toward more skilled except for NCs

No change or decline among unskilled, drop in agric for MXs

Big decline in trip duration for all groups

% with more than 1 trip declined

Fewer Differences between MX & DR/NIC by 1997-2005: Men

	<u>DREPUBLIC</u>			<u>NICARAGUA</u>		
	<u><87</u>	<u>87-96</u>	<u>97-05</u>	<u><87</u>	<u>87-96</u>	<u>97-05</u>

% Skilled	*	*	ns	*	*	ns
% Unskilled	ns	*	ns	ns	ns	ns
% Agric	*	*	*	*	*	*
Trip duration	*	*	ns	*	*	*
% > 1 trip	*	*	ns	*	*	ns

*T-test significant at $p < .05$

Illustrates fewer MX/other nation differences over time

Shifts in Selected Attributes by Period of Entry: Women

	<u>MEXICO</u>			<u>DOMREP</u>			<u>NICARAGUA</u>		
	<u><87</u>	<u>87-96</u>	<u>97-05</u>	<u><87</u>	<u>87-96</u>	<u>97-05</u>	<u><87</u>	<u>87-96</u>	<u>97-05</u>
% Skilled	16.6	16.6	18.3	28.5	33.9	12.0	43.9	23.1	24.3
% Unskilled	27.2	28.6	31.1	50.0	40.2	68.0	38.6	50.4	45.9
% Agric	11.8	3.5	3.6	0.0	.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Trip duration	154	75	28	217	82	23	201	112	25
% > 1 trip	24.0	13.4	8.4	10.2	9.4	10.7	8.0	13.0	13.6

*p < .05

Slightly more skilled among MXs but less among Doms & NCs

Shift toward more unskilled, less agriculture among MXs

Trip duration declined

% with more than 1 trip declined for MXs, stagnant for Doms, rises among NCs

Fewer Differences between MX & DR/NIC by 1997-2005: Women

	<u>DREPUBLIC</u>			<u>NICARAGUA</u>		
	<u><87</u>	<u>87-96</u>	<u>97-05</u>	<u><87</u>	<u>87-96</u>	<u>97-05</u>
% Skilled	*	*	ns	*	ns	ns
% Unskilled	*	*	*	ns	*	ns
% Agric	*	*	*	*	*	*
Trip duration	*	ns	ns	*	*	ns
% > 1 trip	*	ns	ns	*	ns	ns

*T-test significant at $p < .05$

Illustrates fewer MX/other nation differences over time

Findings

- Substantial variation in sex composition of US migrants from LA nations (women's share is lowest among MXs but highest among those from PR, DR, Peru & NC)
- Variation in sex differences among migrants from particular countries – MX consistently displayed sex differences in migrant attributes, but other nations less so
- Among men & women separately, country differences revealed those from MX are quite different from other migs
- But some country differences between MX and non-MX migrant men and women eroded by 1997-2005 – suggests that policy impacts well documented for MX migrants (higher costs & less circularity) may have led to more similarity among migrants. By early 21st century, attributes of MXs are now comparable to migrants from DR & NC

What Else To Do

- Want to examine how observed patterns & shifts link to stage of migration in origin communities in particular countries
- Data from more countries
- Examine patterns among internal migrants and/or those migrating to other nations in the Americas