

# Occupational Selectivity among Migrants from Latin America

Preliminary findings

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# Introduction

- Studies have shown that legal immigrants from Latin America and the Caribbean are less likely to transfer their human capital acquired through formal education than those immigrants from Europe, Australia and Canada (Redstone 2006).
- Migrants often find themselves not able to utilize such human capital because of.....
- ....their lack knowledge of the English language.
- ....the difference in the educational system between the two countries.
- ... their unlawful status in the U.S.
- Lack of knowledge of how the system works?
- (among other reasons).

# Research Questions

- To do a historical analysis of the educational level, occupation and documented status of first time migrants.
- Explore the predictors of getting a professional, skilled, service, or unskilled occupation during the first trip to the U.S. by country.
- Are there any differences with regards to human capital transfer between Latin American countries?

# Methodology

- Latin American Migration Project data from Guatemala, Costa Rica, Nicaragua and Mexico.
- For Mexico only used communities surveyed between 1998 and the present to be more compatible with the LAMP survey years.
- PERS file
- Those members of the household who participated in the labor force when they arrived to the U.S. over the age of 15.
- Only look at type of occupations during first migration trip
- Ran GENMOD procedure in SAS in order to control for any possible clustering among the household members.

# Dependent Variables

- Worked in a Professional Occupation during the first trip
- Worked in a Skilled Occupation during the first trip
- Worked in a Service Occupation during the first trip
- Worked in a Unskilled Occupation during the first trip

# Independent Variables

- Demographic variables

Sex (if male=1)

Age at the time of first trip (continuous variable).

Age squared

Marital status

# Years of Education

- 0 to 3
- 4 to 6 (finished grammar school)
- 7 to 9 (finished junior high)
- 10 to 12 (finished high school)
- 13 to 15 (some college or technical school)
- 16+ University and graduate school

# Documentation during first trip

- Undocumented
- Tourist visa
- Legal status (green card or any other work visa or temporary permit).
- U.S. citizen
- Refugee

\*\*\*\*\*

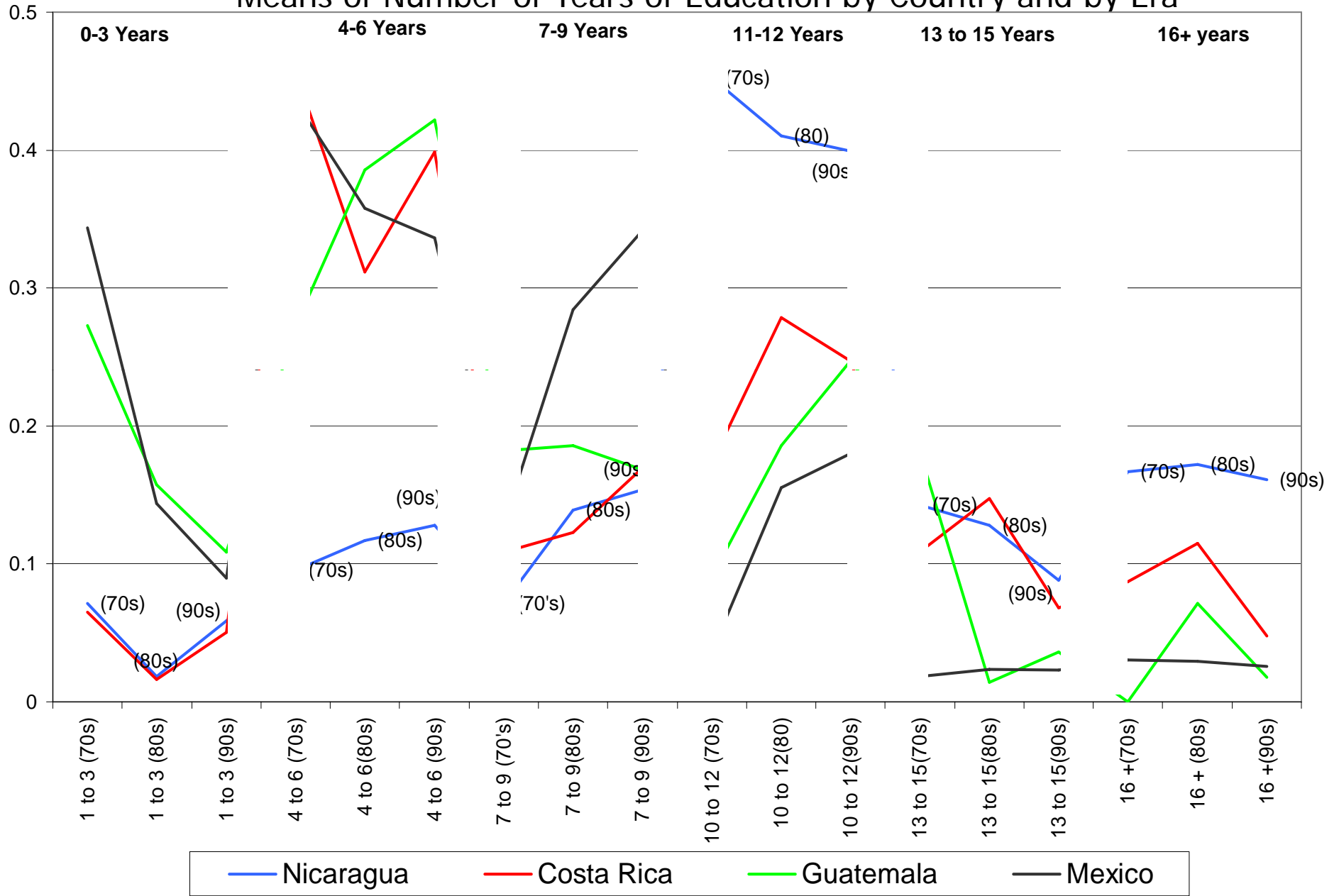
- Number of domestic trips



# Time periods

- (1970s) before 1979
- (1980s) between 1980 and 1989
- (1990s) between 1990 and the survey year

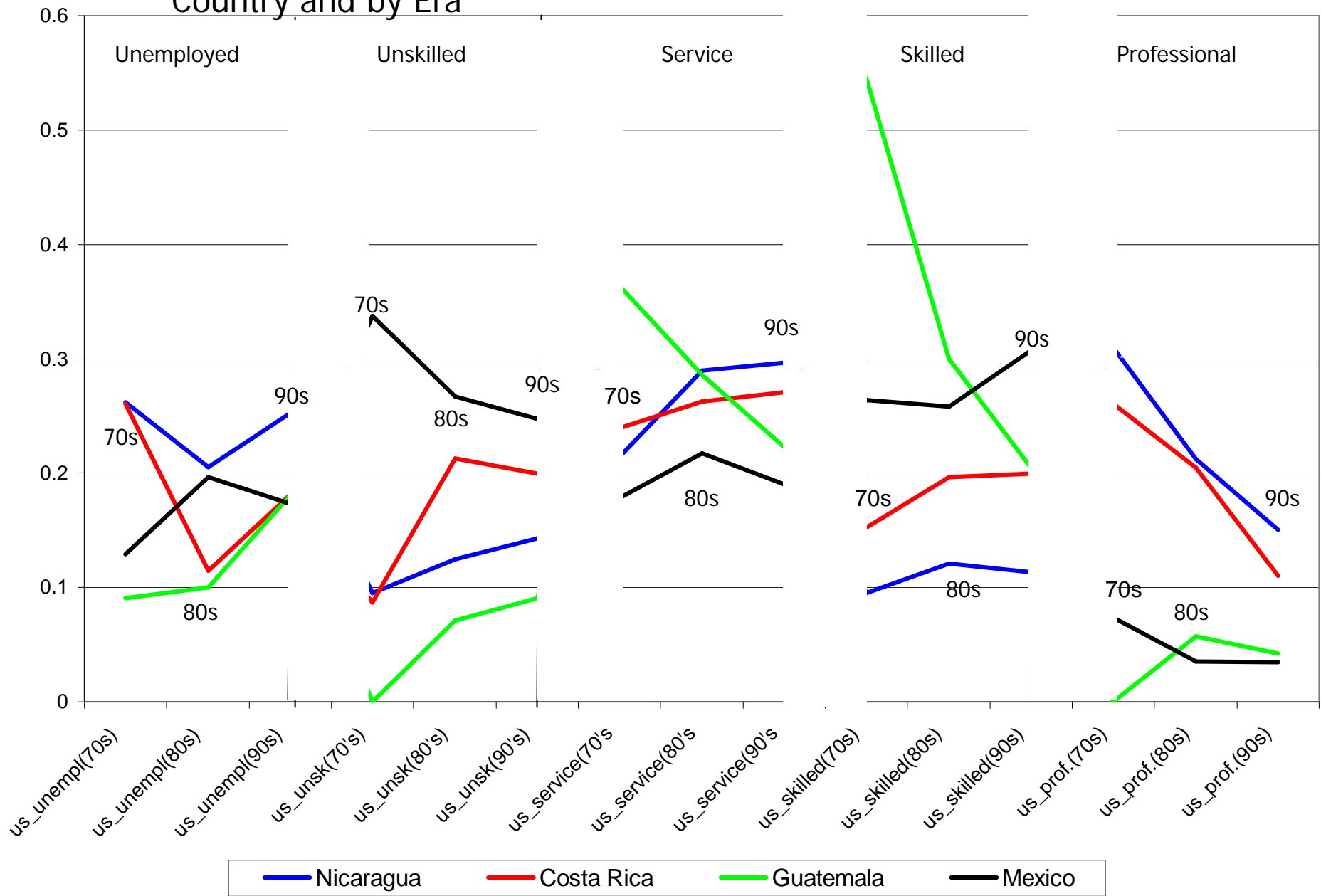
### Means of Number of Years of Education by Country and by Era



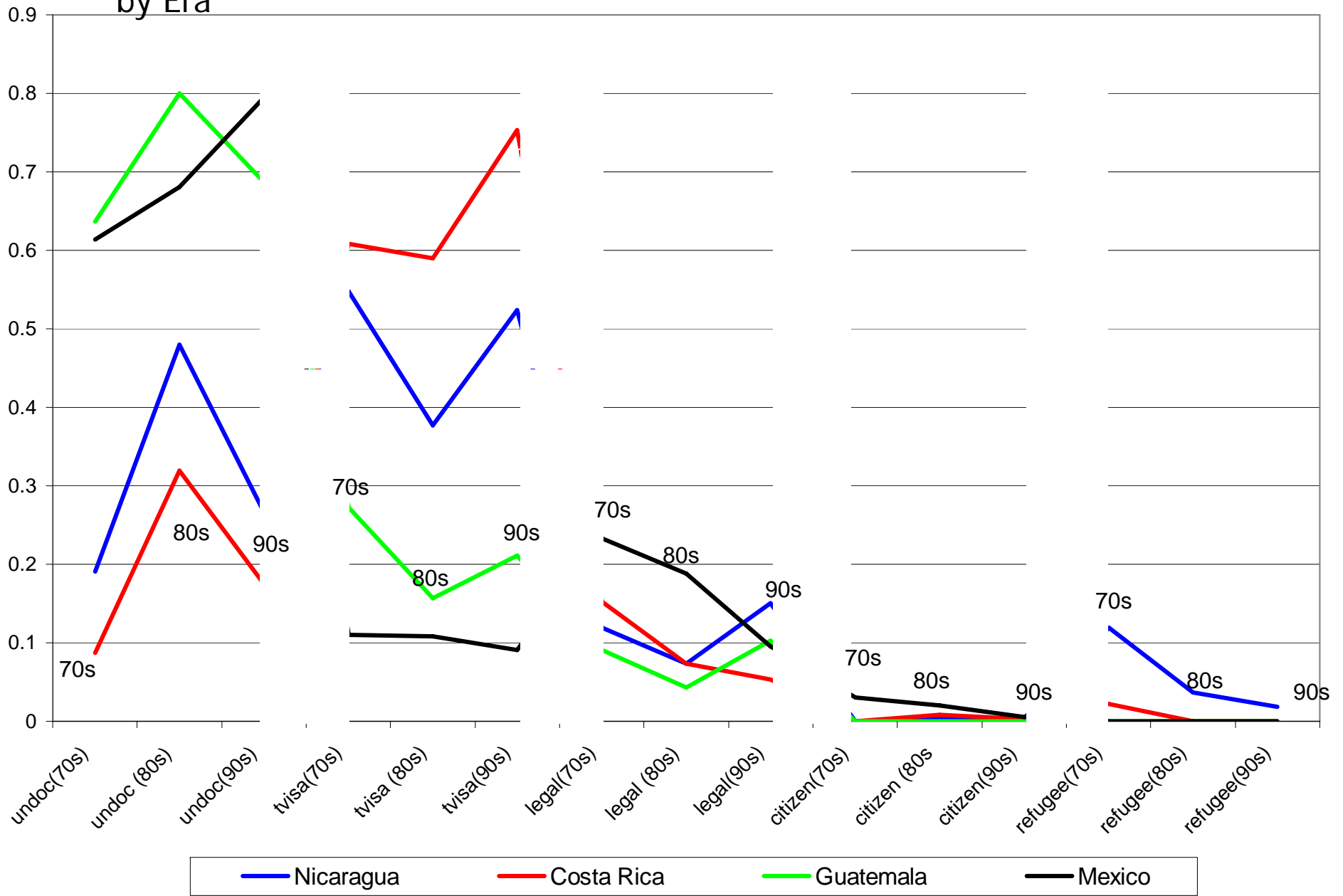
# Nicaragua (WHY?)

- Less educated migrants from Nicaragua go to Costa Rica.
- More educated migrants go to the United States.
- In Costa Rica the prevalence of number of years completed is greater than in other countries

# Means of types of Occupations during the first trip to the U.S. by Country and by Era



# Means of Documentation during the first trip to the U.S. by Country and by Era



# Pooled Model (Professional Occ)

- Reference Category Mexico

## Odds Ratio

- Nicaragua 1.080\*\*\*
- Costa Rica 1.086\*\*\*
- Guatemala 1.005\*\*\*
- Male 1.023\*\*\*
- Edyrs10-12 1.099\*\*\*
- Edyrs13-15 1.127\*\*\*
- Edyrs 16 1.364\*\*\*
- Refugee (und. Ref.) 1.161\*\*\*
- Dotrips 1.018\*\*\*
- 1970's (90's ref) 1.068\*\*\*

Chi-square 215.97

P<.01=\*\*\*

# Pooled Model (Skilled Occ)

- Reference Category Mexico

Odds Ratio

- Nicaragua .8935\*\*\*
- Costa Rica .9489\*\*
- Guatemala .9718
- Male 1.247\*\*\*
- Edyrs7-9 1.079\*\*\*
- Edyrs10-12 1.091\*\*\*
- Tvisa .9598\*\*
- Citizen .8304\*\*

Chi Square 560.44

P < .01 = \*\*\*; P < .05 = \*\*

# Pooled Model (Service Occ)

- Reference Category Mexico

Odds Ratio

- Nicaragua 1.034
- Costa Rica 1.032
- Guatemala 1.039
- Male .9016\*\*\*
- Married .9615\*\*
- Edyrs 7-9 1.056\*\*
- Edyrs 10-12 1.097\*\*\*
- Edyrs 13-15 1.138\*\*\*
- Edyrs 16+ 1.094\*\*\*
- Tvisa 1.041\*\*

Chi Square 551.36

P < .01 = \*\*\*; P < .05 = \*\*



# Pooled Model (Un-skilled Occ)

- Reference Category Mexico

Odds Ratio

- Nicaragua .9919
- Costa Rica .9954
- Guatemala .8459\*\*\*
- Male 1.254\*\*\*
- Edyrs 4-6 .9244\*\*\*
- Edyrs 7-9 .8742\*\*\*
- Edyrs 10-12 .8382\*\*\*
- Edyrs 13-15 .7877\*\*\*
- Edyrs 16+ .7905\*\*\*
- Legal .9595\*

Chi Square 508.17

P< .01=\*\*\*; P<.05=\*\*, P<.07\*

# Mexico (Professional Occ.)

## Odds Ratio

- Edyrs13-15 1.109\*\*\*
- Edyrs 16+ 1.449\*\*\*
- 1970's 1.027\*\*

# Guatemala (Professional Occ.)

## Odds Ratio

- Edyrs10-12 1.126\*\*\*
- Edyrs 16+ 1.493\*\*\*

# Nicaragua (Professional Occ.)

	Odds Ratio
• Married	1.112***
• Edyrs10-12	1.153**
• Edyrs16+	1.292***
• Tvisa	.937*
• Dotrips	1.044***
• 1970's	1.132**

# Costa Rica (Professional Occ.)

	Odds Ratio
•	
• Edyrs 10-12	1.292***
• Edyrs 16+	1.500***
• Dotrips	1.238**

# Skilled Occ. by country

Mexico	Guatemala	Nicaragua	Costa Rica
Male +	Male +	Male +	Male +
	Married +		
		ed 4 -6 +	
ed 7-9 +	ed 7-9 -		
ed 10 -12 +			
	T Visa -		
	Legal -		
	1970s +		

# Service Occ. by country

Mexico	Guatemala	Nicaragua	Costa Rica
Male -		Male -	Male -
Married -			
	ed 4-6 +		
ed 7-9 +	ed 7-9 +		
ed 10 -12 +			
ed 13-15 +	ed 13-15 +	ed 16+ +	
		T Visa +	
Legal +			
Citizen -			
1980s +			
		Dotrips -	

# Un-skilled Occ. by country

Mexico	Guatemala	Nicaragua	Costa Rica
Male +		Male +	Male +
			Married +
ed 4 -6 -			
ed 7-9 -			
ed 10 -12 -			ed 10-12 -
Ed 13-15 -			
Ed 16+ -		ed 16+ -	
<b>Citizen +</b>			
Legal -		Legal -	
			1970s -