

How Distance Matters:
Comparing the Causes and
Consequence of Emigration from
Mexico and Peru

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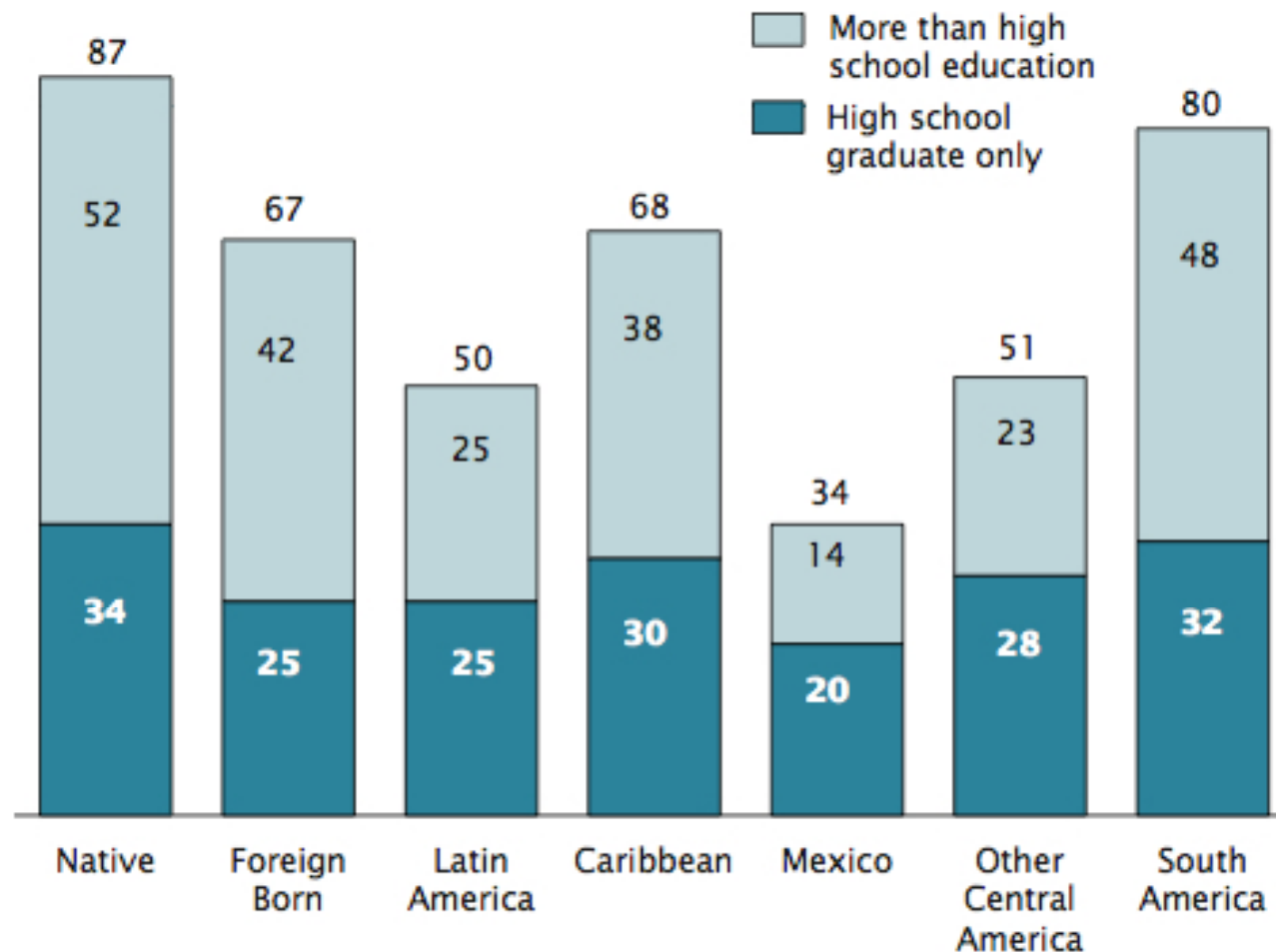
May 2008

“Latino” migrants are heterogeneous

Figure 3.

High School or Higher Education by Nativity and Region of Birth of the Foreign-Born Population: 2000

(Percent of the population 25 years and older)



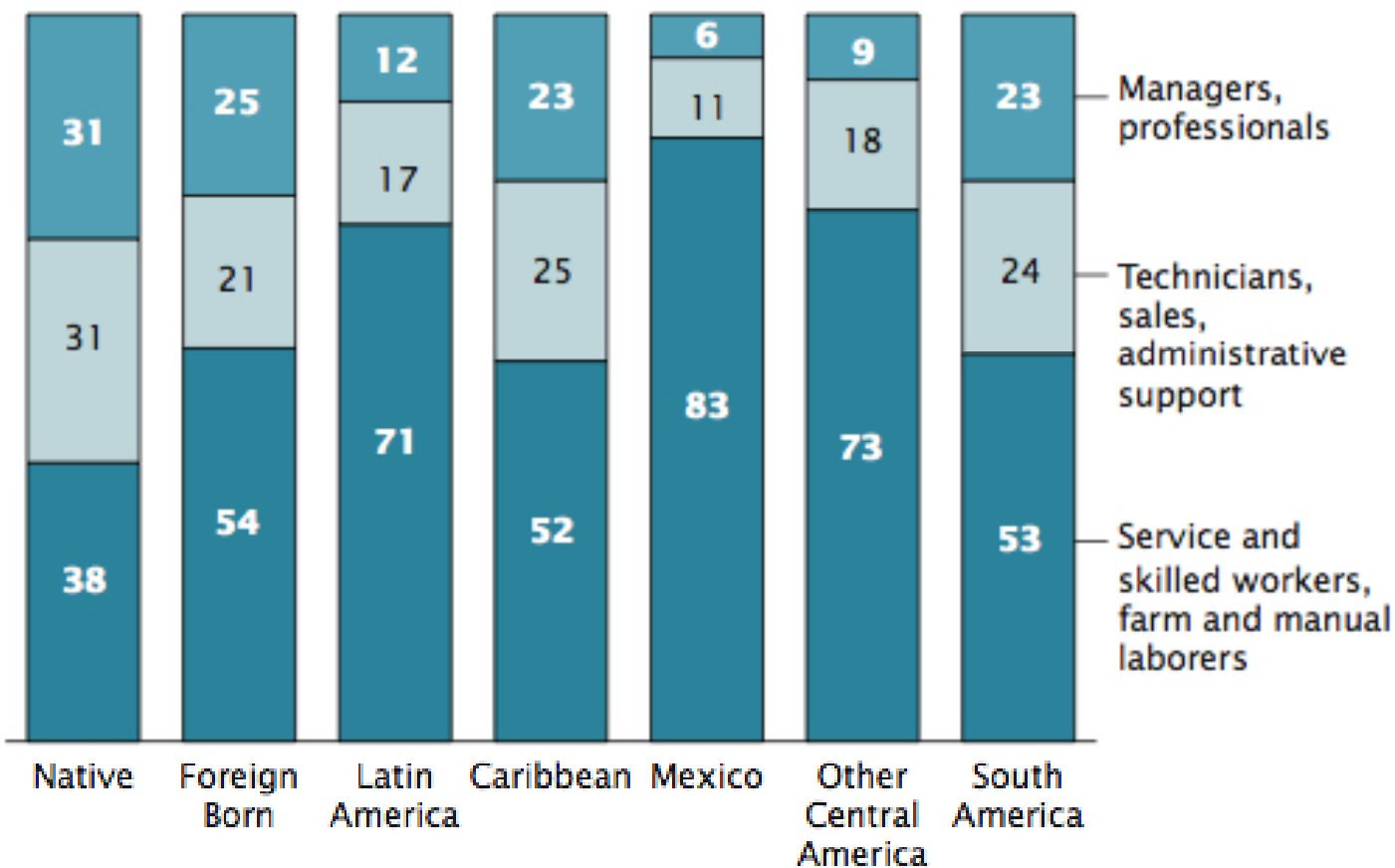
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, P23-206, Figures 14-1 and 14-2, Table 13-1D.

“Latino” migrants are heterogeneous

Figure 4.

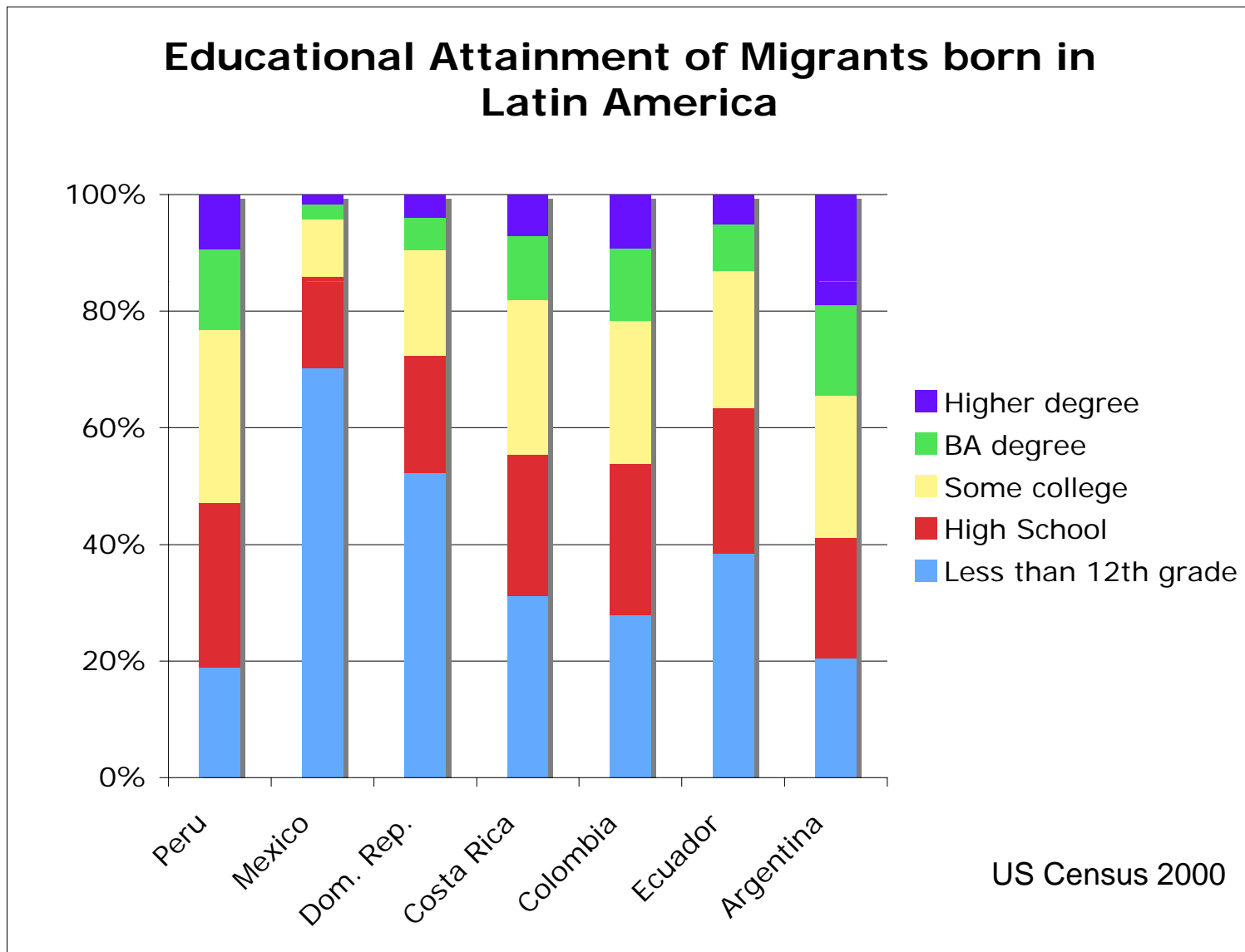
Occupational Distribution by Nativity and Selected Regions of Birth of the Foreign-Born Workers: 2000

(Percent distribution)

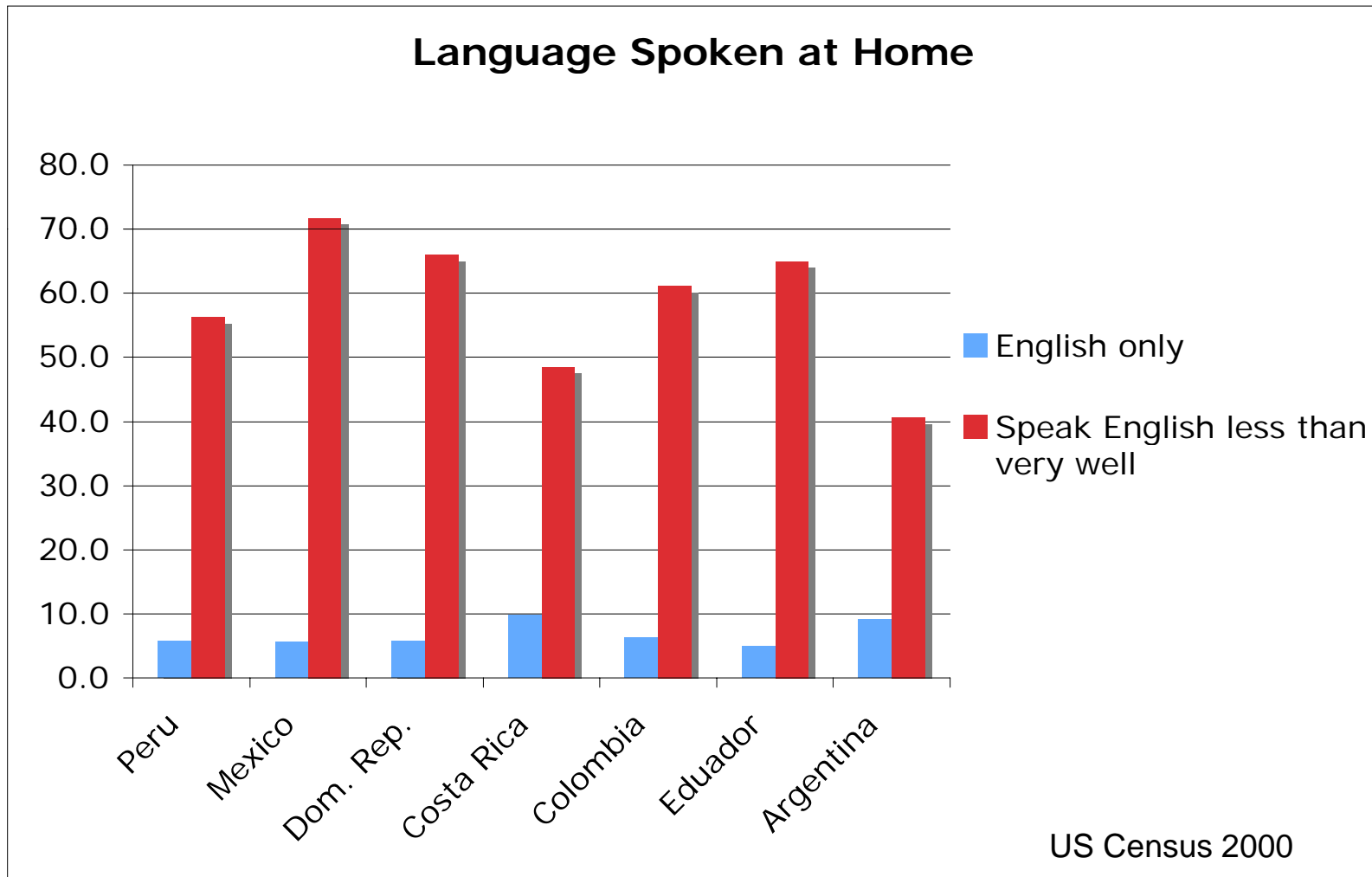


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, P23-206, Figures 16-1 and 16-2.

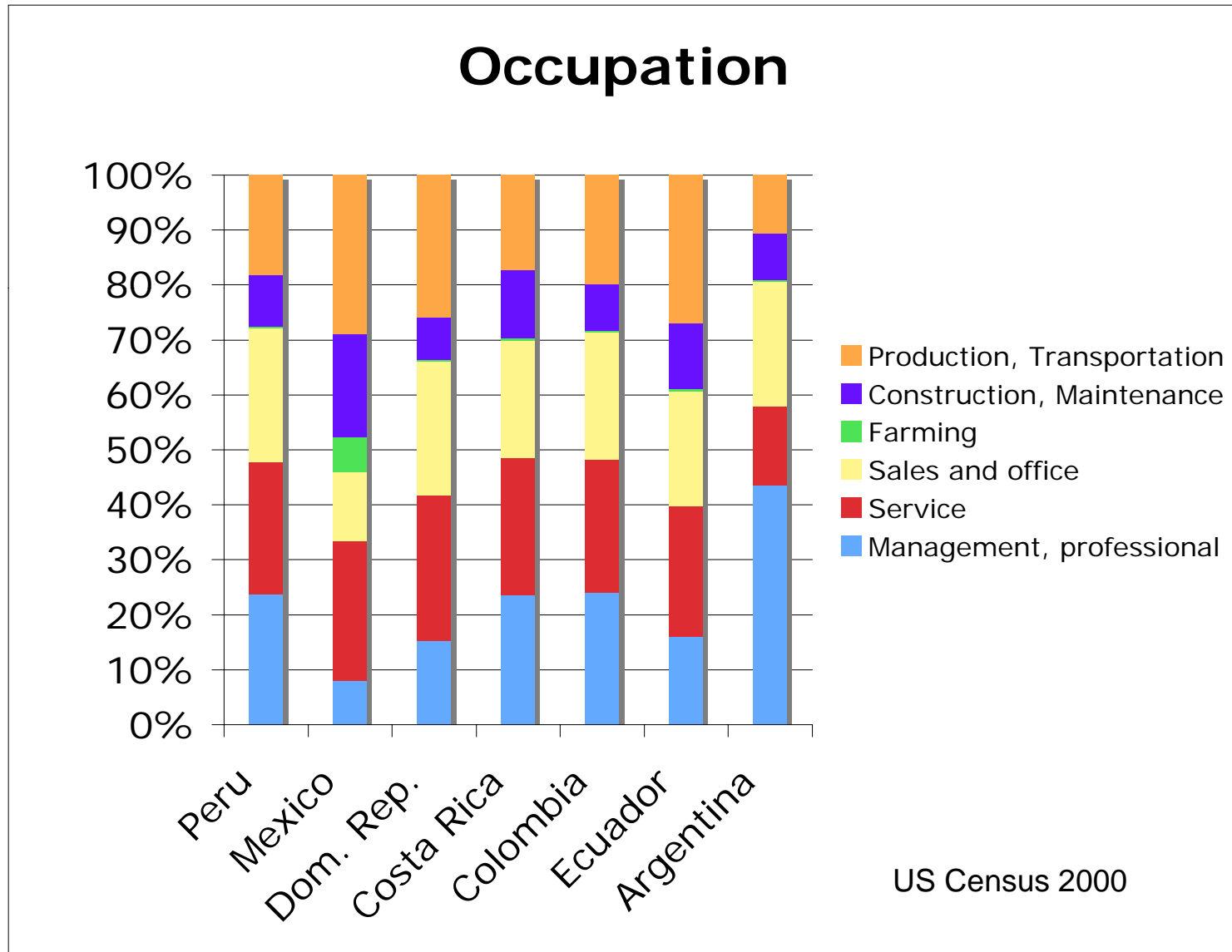
“Latino” migrants are heterogeneous



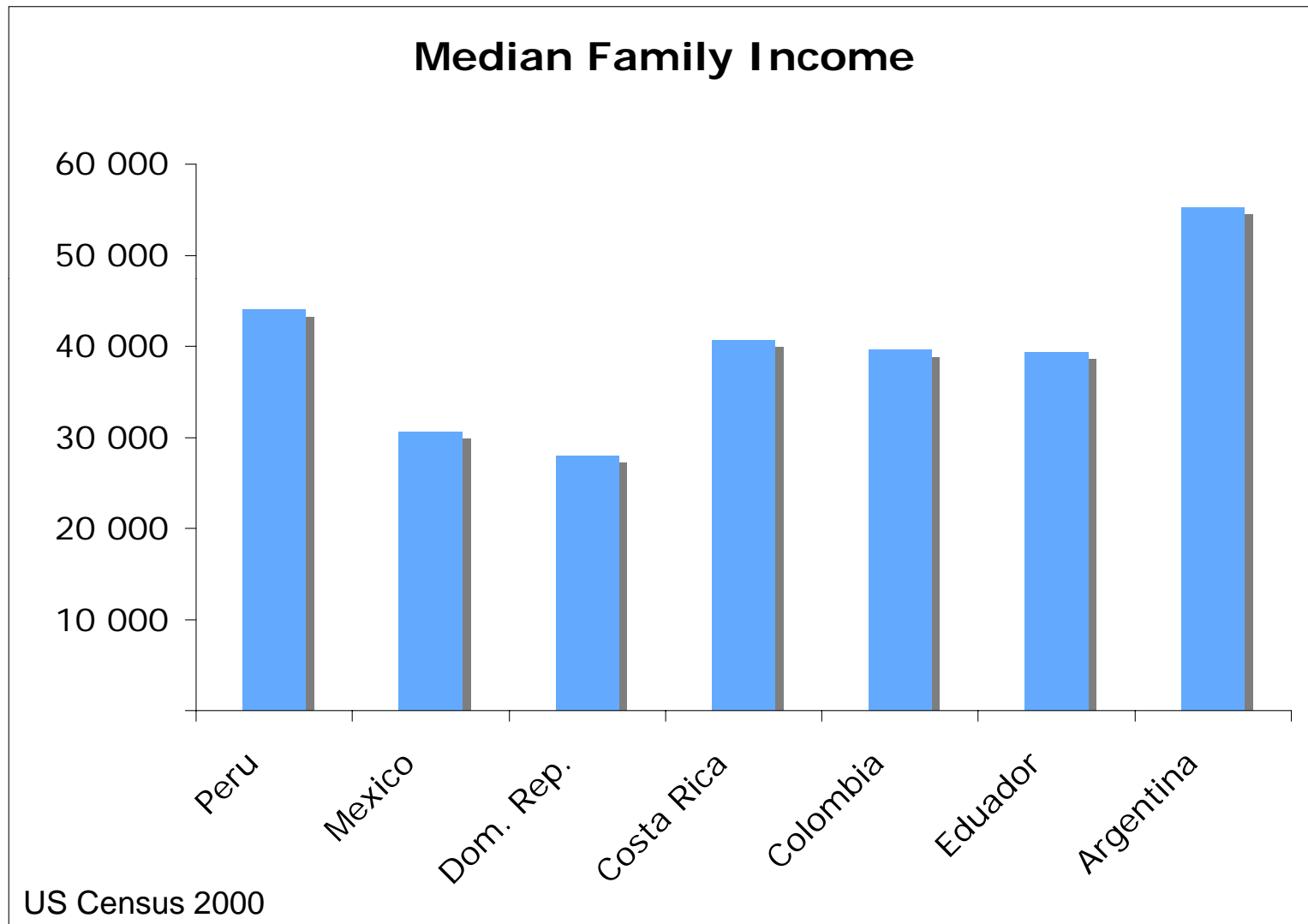
“Latino” migrants are heterogeneous



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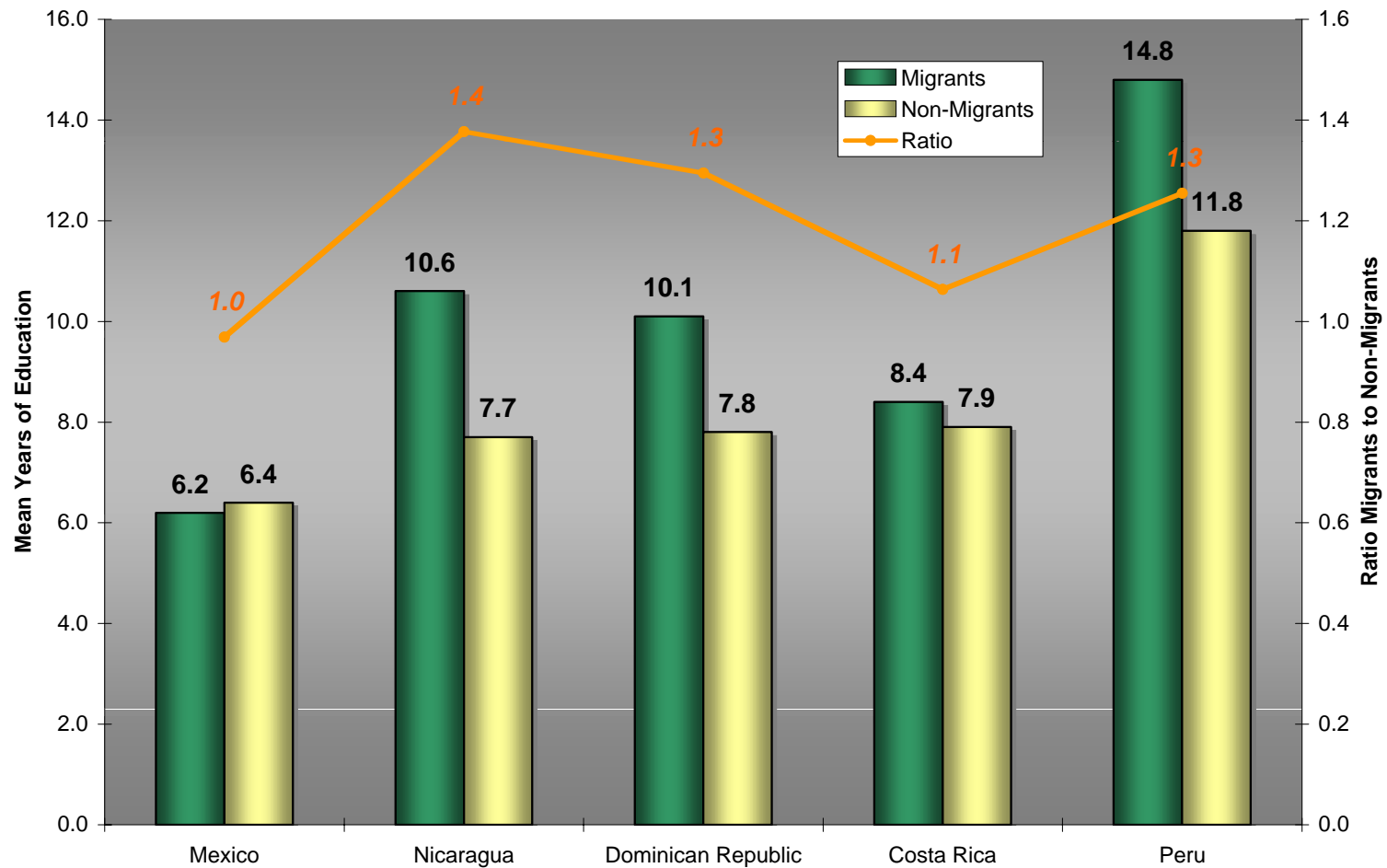


“Latino” migrants are heterogeneous



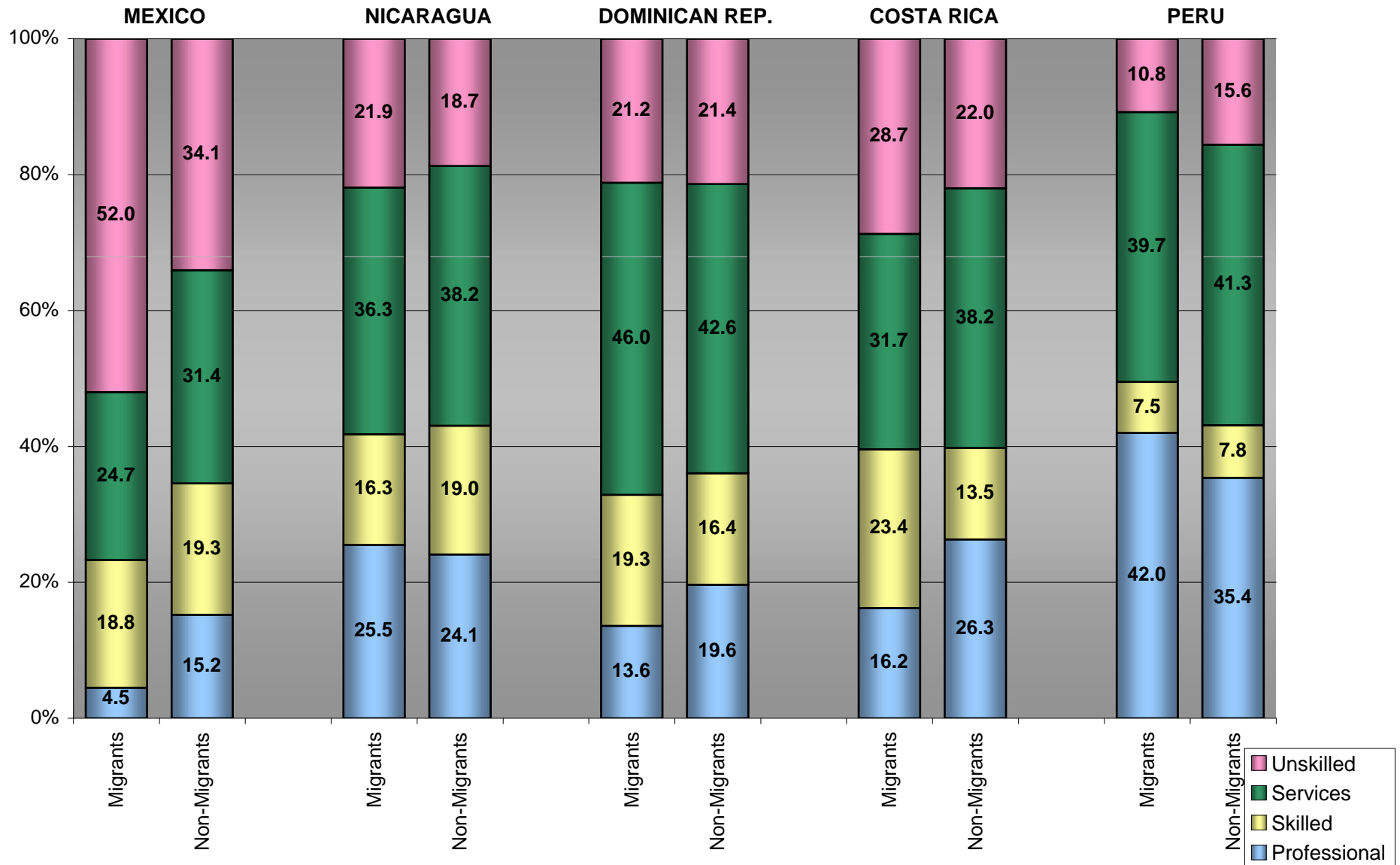
LAMP - Peruvian migrants are highly educated, esp. compared to Mexicans

Mean Years of Education:
Migrants, Non-Migrants and Ratio Between the Two
(All: people aged 6 years or older)



More Peruvian migrants engage in professional work

Occupational Distribution of Migrants & Non-Migrants
(for employed people aged 12 and older)



Why Peruvian migrants are more educated than Mexican migrants?

Possible Reasons:

- Distance -- barriers to, and costs of, migration (requires more human capital)
- Urban origin of migrants (they tend to be more educated; rely less on social networks)
- More recent migration -- absence of explicit labor recruitment programs, except for sheep herders (absence of networks; higher levels of education in general)

Why Peruvian migrants are more educated than Mexican migrants?

Implications:

In general....

- Human capital matters when barriers to migration are high (greater distance)
- Human capital matters in the absence of social capital (urban migration, recent migration)
(Human capital is inversely related to social capital.)
- As social capital expands (migration becomes more prevalent), human capital should matter less over time.

Research Questions

- Who emigrates from Peru in comparison to Mexico and under what circumstances?
- How does human capital matter in migration in relation to other types of capital (financial, physical, social)?
- How does distance matter in explaining selectivity of migrants?

Data

LAMP-Peru

- When: 2000-2005
- Where: 5 communities
in Lima
- Who: total sample of
295 migrants
4,134 non-migrants

MMP

- 2000-2005
- 12 urban communities &
more recent regions
of emigration
(4 in Ciudad Juarez, 4 historic
communities, and 4 from Central
Mexico)
- 1,301 migrants
11,477 non-migrants

Table 1. Characteristics of International Migrants		
	Mexico	Peru
Demographic Characteristics		
Mean Age		
Migrants	38.9	41.3
Non-Migrants	30.2	33.9
Percentage Male		
Migrants	74.4	55.1
Non-Migrants	46.2	48.7
Percentage Married		
Migrants	74.6	62.5
Non-Migrants	47.3	39.3
Migration Characteristics		
Total Sample		
Migrants	1301	295
Non-Migrants	11477	4134
Migration Rate		
Household Level	24.0%	15.5%
Person Level	10.2%	6.7%
Months of Experience Abroad		
Mean	90.9	89.2
Median	48.0	48.0
Number of Trips Taken		
Mean	1.4	1.2
Median	1.0	1.0
% Migrants Remitted Money	75.1%	55.7%

NOTE: Data from Mexico and Table 1, column 10, URBAN, 1995-2000.

**Figure 1. Mean Year of Education:
Migrants & Non-Migrants (All Persons aged 6+)**

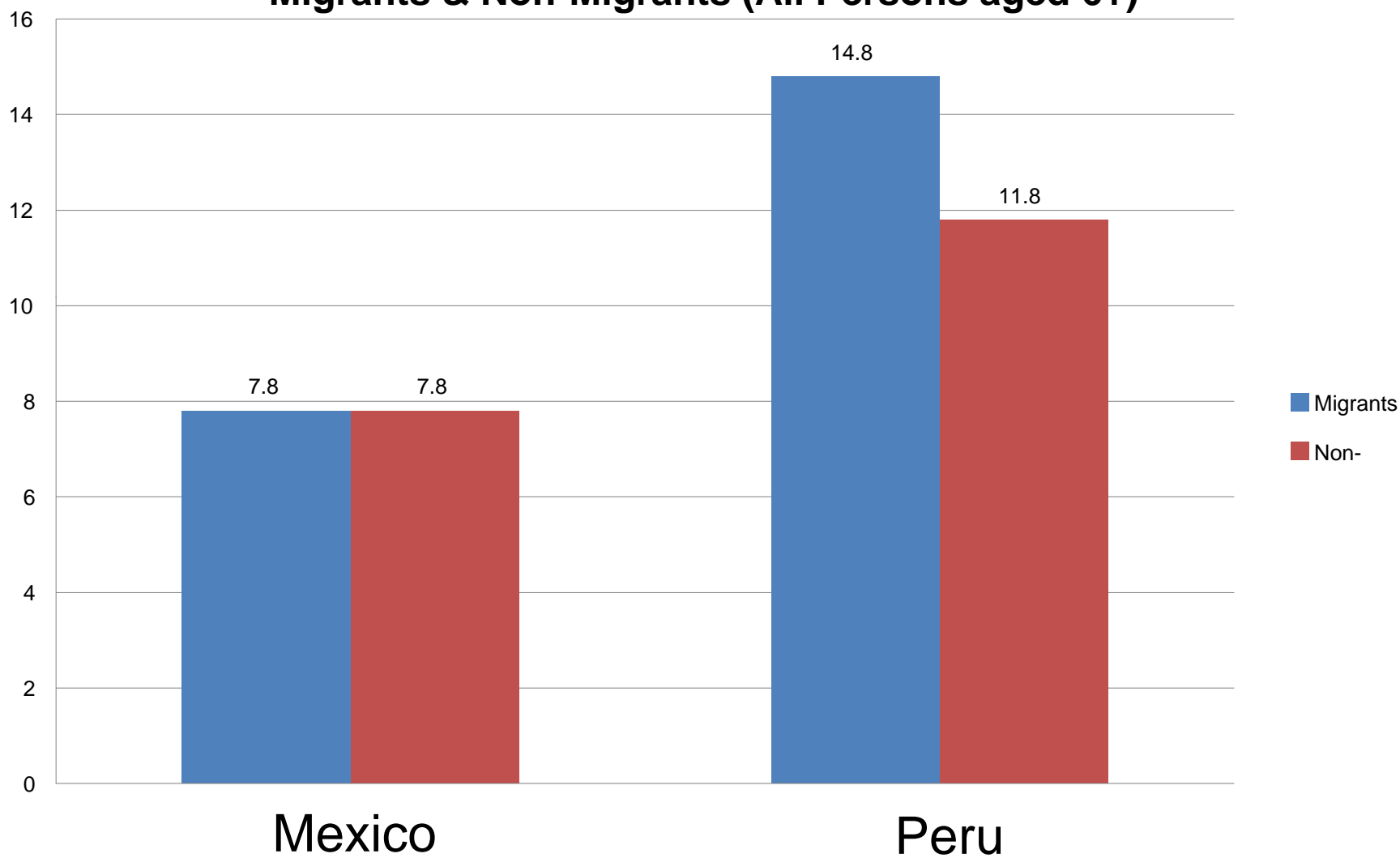
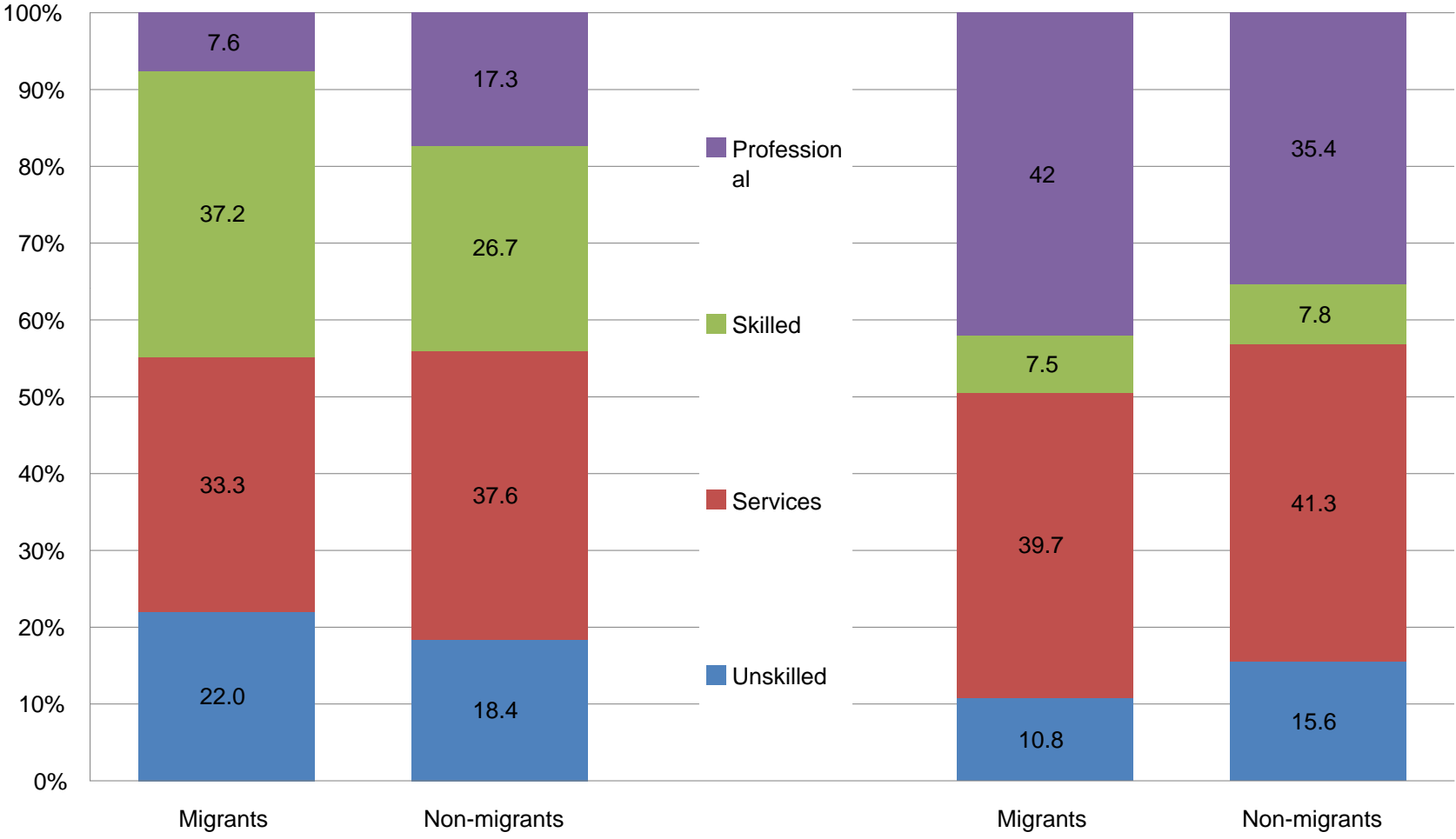


Figure 2: Occupational Distribution of Migrants & Non-Migrants (Employed people aged 12+)



Mexico

Peru

Analyzing the Determinants of Emigration

(likelihood of taking a first trip abroad)

		PERU		MEXICO	
Independent Variables		B	SE	B	SE
Demographic Characteristics	Age	-0.01	0.76	0.04	0.01
	Married	0.08	0.01	0.31*	0.14
Human Capital	Education	0.12***	0.04	-0.00	0.00
	Occupation in Services	0.47	0.57	-0.34**	0.15
	Skilled	-0.02	0.77	-0.27*	0.14
	Professional	0.14	0.61	-0.50*	0.24
Social Capital	Spouse Migrant	1.67**	0.47	0.72**	0.26
	Extended Family Migrant	0.04**	0.01	0.01***	0.01
Physical Capital	Property in Home Country	-0.10	0.27	0.05	0.12
	Business in Home Country	0.37	0.31	-0.63**	0.22
Intercept		-7.9	0.76	-3.76	0.16

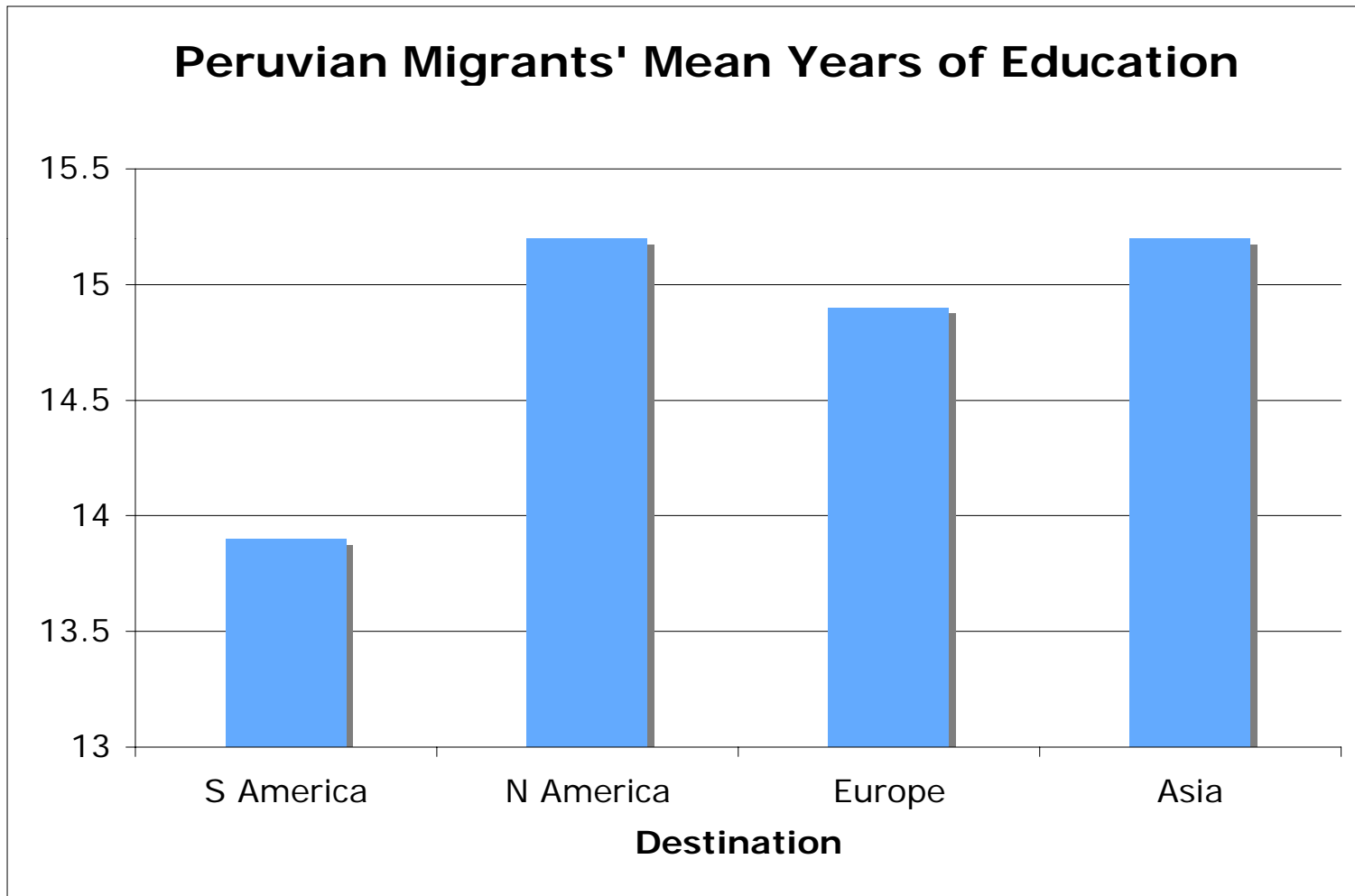
*p < .10 **p < .05 ***p < .01 ****p < .001

Analyzing the Determinants of Emigration Over Time

	PERU		MEXICO	
	Pre-1990	Post-1990	Pre-1990	Post-1990
Demographic Characteristics	Age	Age	-Age	-Age
	Married	Married	Married	Married
Human Capital	Education	Education	Education	Education
	Occupation in Services	Occupation in Services	Occupation in Services	-Occupation in Services
	Skilled	Skilled	-Skilled	Skilled
	Professional	Professional	Professional	Professional
Social Capital	Spouse Migrant	Spouse Migrant	Spouse Migrant	Spouse Migrant
	Extended Family Migrant	Extended Family Migrant	Extended Family Migrant	Extended Family Migrant
Physical Capital	Property in Home Country	Property in Home Country	Property in Home Country	Property in Home Country
	Business in Home Country	Business in Home Country	Business in Home Country	Business in Home Country
Intercept				

Statistically significant at $p < .05$

It is not just distance matters: Peruvian Migrants across countries are more educated than non-migrants

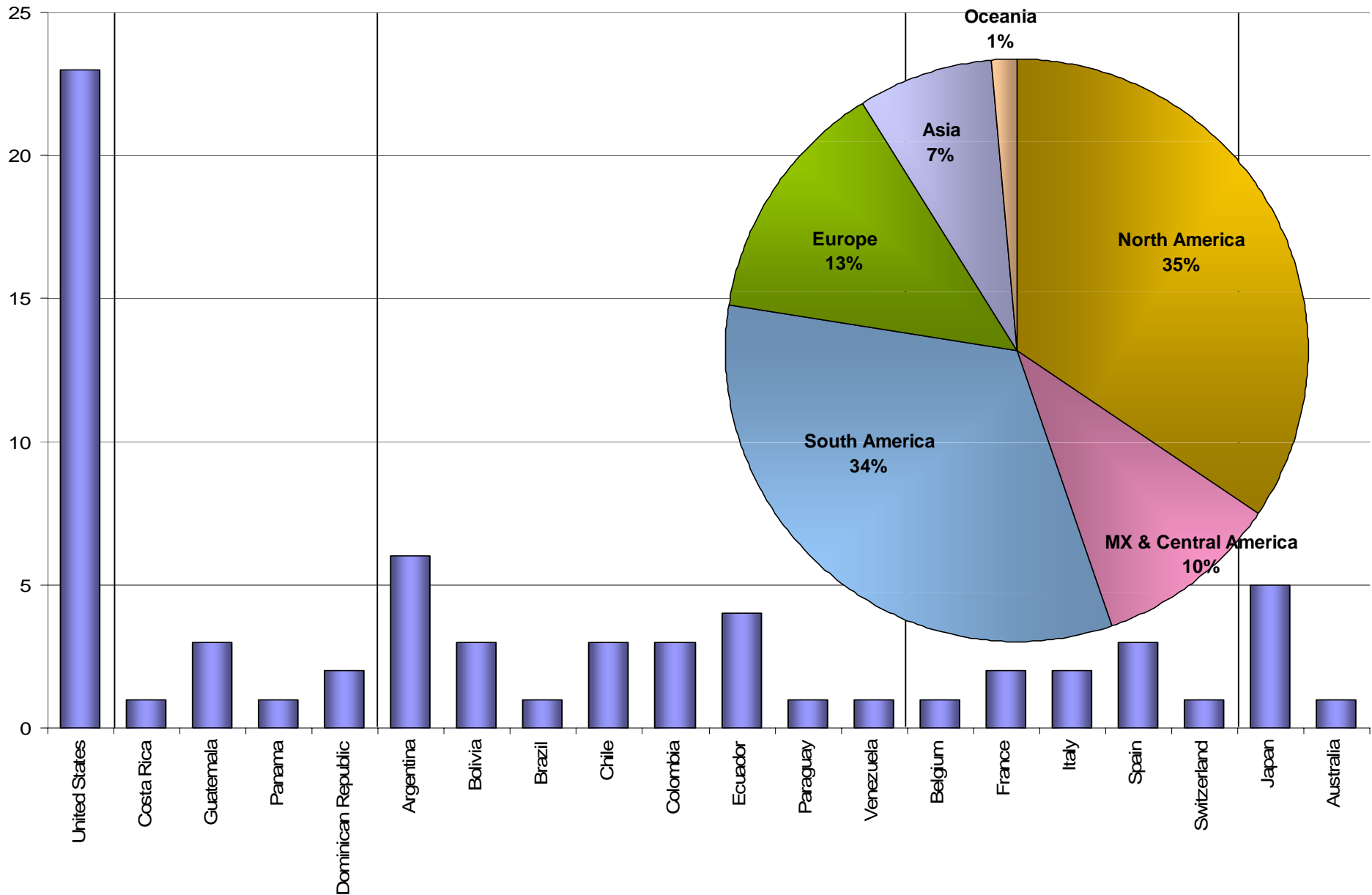


Structural problems in the home country also matter in explaining migrants' selectivity.

	Mexico	Peru
GDP Per Capita	\$10,751	\$6,039
Poverty Rate	18%	53%
GINI	46	52
School Enrollment Ratio		
Primary	98%	96%
Secondary	65%	70%
Tertiary	20%	29%

Stronger “push” factor from Peru?

Peruvians are geographically dispersed



Summary and Conclusions

Research Question

- In comparison to Mexico, who emigrates from Peru and under what circumstances?

Some Preliminary Findings

- Social capital is a stronger explanatory factor of emigration from Mexico, but it also matters in Peru and becomes more salient over time (as migration becomes more prevalent).
- Human capital matters in emigration from Peru, especially at the beginning, but not from Mexico (even from urban communities) - migration is positively selected from Peru and negatively selected from Mexico.
- Distance increases the salience of human capital, but social capital matters regardless of distance.
- Migration is a network-driven social process, but where barriers are high, human capital matters more, especially in poorer countries with high average levels of educational attainment