

# In Search of Peace: Assessing the Impact of Violence on Migration from Latin America to the United States

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# Organization

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- Regional focus
- Theoretical foundations
- Cross national crime data
- Data & description of sample
- Methods
- Results
- Discussion
- Limitations & next steps



# Regional focus

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- Mexico



# Regional focus

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- Mexico
- Guatemala



# Regional focus

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- Mexico
- Guatemala
- Nicaragua



## Regional focus

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- Mexico
- Guatemala
- Nicaragua
- Costa Rica



# Theory says...

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- International migration
  - World systems theory may be most applicable
    - Economic/socio-cultural integration



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- Theory on crime in and of itself (Neapolitan 1997)
  - Modernization theory, opportunity theory, dependency theory, culture/historic traditions, micro-level factors





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    - Economic/socio-cultural integration
- Theory on crime in and of itself (Neapolitan 1997)
  - Modernization theory, opportunity theory, dependency theory, culture/historic traditions, micro-level factors
- U.S. migration more strongly predicted by violence than economic conditions (Lundquist and Massey 2005)
  - Violence as proxy for political motivations



# Cross national crime data

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- Quite touchy
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  - (1) Definitions often vary (time and place)
  - (2) Countries' participation varies
  - (3) Inconsistent reporting in overlapping surveys



## Research Question

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  - Household heads
  - Males only
    - First migration overwhelmingly male



# Data

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- Mexican Migration Project (MMP)





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- Latin American Migration Project (LAMP)



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- Ethno-survey of social, demographic, and economic characteristics of household heads in 118 representative communities throughout Mexico
- Retrospective year-by-year life histories of household heads' migration experiences



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# Latin American Migration Project (LAMP)

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- Similar sampling frame as MMP



## Latin American Migration Project (LAMP)

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- Similar sampling frame as MMP
- Incorporates: Guatemala, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica ... among other countries in Caribbean, Central, and South America
  - Costa Rica - 7 communities
  - Guatemala - 11 communities
  - Nicaragua - 9 communities





# Data

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## Homicide data

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- Canvassed all possible data sources to compile year-by-year national level data on homicide rates
  - United Nations
    - Office of Drugs and Crime, Crime Trends Survey
  - World Health Organization
  - Pan American Health Organization (WHO affiliate)
  - INTERPOL
  - National Police
  - Demographic diversity and change in the Central American isthmus , Pebley & Rosero-Bixby (1997)



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- 1979 – 2003
  - Reliable homicide data halts at 2003



# Methodology

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- Discrete time survival analysis



# Methodology

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- Homicide series modifications



# Methodology - homicide

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  - Linear interpolation to fill in gaps for homicide
    - Few holes for Guatemala and Nicaragua



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- (1):
  - Linear interpolation to fill in gaps for homicide
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- (2):
  - Smoothed 3-year moving averages
- (3):
  - Divided by maximum value for each country
    - Placed countries on same scale, 0 - 1.0



## Descriptive Stats

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	Migration		Homicide		Smoothed Homicide		Fractional Homicide	
	Mean	S.D.	Mean	S.D.	Mean	S.D.	Mean	S.D.
Pooled Sample	.0025	.05	33.75	15.14	33.76	13.22	.84	.18
Mexico	.0025	.05	34.14	4.21	34.14	4.03	.89	.11
Costa Rica	.001	.03	10.04	1.43	10.04	1.28	.82	.11
Guatemala	.001	.04	54.48	45.09	54.98	37.29	.43	.29
Nicaragua	.0008	.03	44.05	22.81	44.02	15.79	.62	.22



# Results

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- Pooled sample





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- Country specific samples



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# Results – pooled sample

Violence Indicator	Smoothed Homicide		Fractional Homicide	
	B	S.E.	B	S.E.
S.H. rate	-.012 <sup>†</sup>	.006	////	////
Fractional Hom. Rate	////	////	-.802*	.352

Controls: Age, Age<sup>2</sup>, Minors in household, own farmland, own real estate, own business, years of schooling, spouse's schooling, family in U.S., unskilled manual worker, skilled manual worker, unemployed, spouse employment status, GDP relative to U.S., U.S. Contra involvement, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Nicaragua

† p<.10, \*p<.05, \*\*p<.01, \*\*\*p<.001



## Results – pooled sample

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Violence Indicator	Smoothed Homicide	
	B	S.E.
S.H. rate*Costa Rica	-.0325	.1518
S.H. rate *Guatemala	.0125	.0187
S.H. rate*Nicaragua	.0169	.0247

Controls: Age, Age<sup>2</sup>, Minors in household, own farmland, own real estate, own business, years of schooling, spouse's schooling, family in U.S., unskilled manual worker, skilled manual worker, unemployed, spouse employment status, GDP relative to U.S., U.S. Contra involvement, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Nicaragua

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## Results – pooled sample

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Violence Indicator	Fractional Homicide	
	B	S.E.
F.H. rate*Costa Rica	.2557	1.9426
F.H. rate *Guatemala	-.6623	1.5179
F.H. rate*Nicaragua	.3632	1.2702

Controls: Age, Age<sup>2</sup>, Minors in household, own farmland, own real estate, own business, years of schooling, spouse's schooling, family in U.S., unskilled manual worker, skilled manual worker, unemployed, spouse employment status, GDP relative to U.S., U.S. Contra involvement, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Nicaragua

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# Results

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## Results – Mexico and Costa Rica

Violence Indicator	Mexico		Costa Rica	
	B	S.E.	B	S.E.
Fractional Hom. Rate	-1.091 †	.599	-2.668**	1.080

Controls: Age, Age<sup>2</sup>, Minors in household, own farmland, own real estate, own business, years of schooling, spouse's schooling, family in U.S., unskilled manual worker, skilled manual worker, unemployed, spouse employment status, GDP relative to U.S.

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# Results – Guatemala and Nicaragua

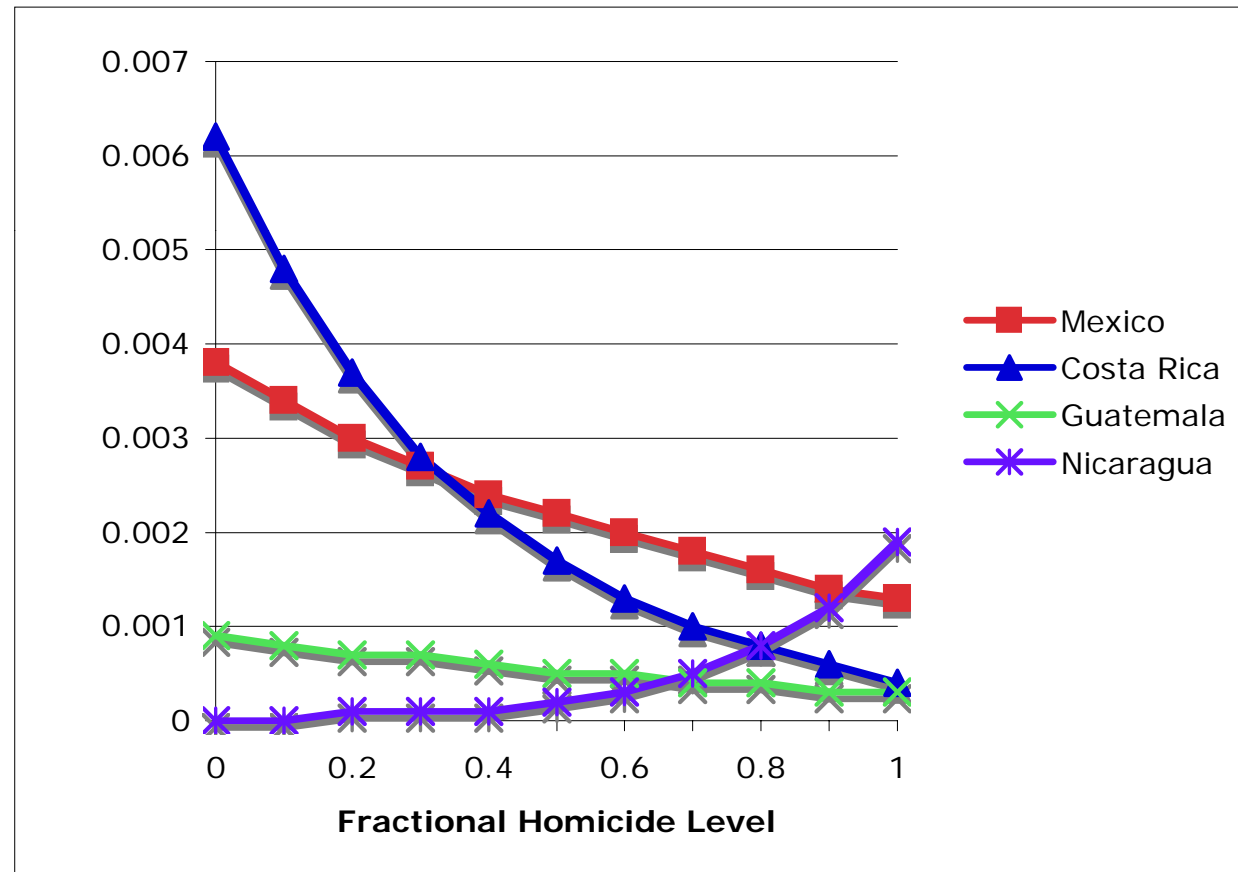
Violence Indicator	Guatemala		Nicaragua	
	B	S.E.	B	S.E.
Fractional Hom. Rate	-1.145	.847	4.238**	1.419
U.S. Contra Involvement	////	////	.008***	.001

Controls: Age, Age<sup>2</sup>, Minors in household, own farmland, own real estate, own business, years of schooling, spouse's schooling, family in U.S., unskilled manual worker, skilled manual worker, unemployed, spouse employment status, GDP relative to U.S.

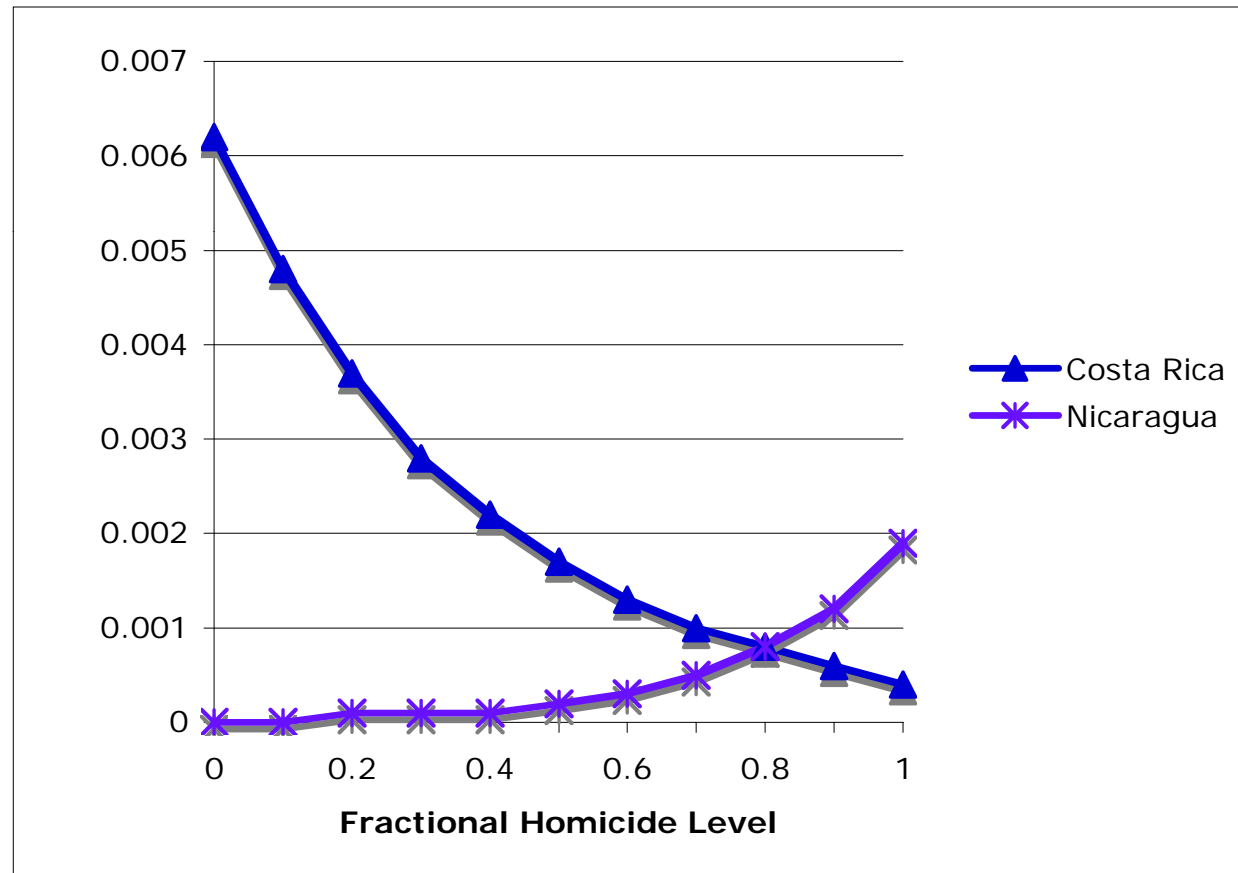
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# Predicted Probabilities of Migration to U.S. by Fractional Homicide Rate



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- Nicaraguan U.S. out-migration may be mediated by refugee status
- Costa Rican out-migration may be to someplace else
- Homicide rate per 100K much smaller in Costa Rica than other countries
  - Change in rate may not be big enough to cause migration to U.S.



## Limitations & next steps

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- Adjust for population structure
  - (e.g. proportion age 15-25)



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- Multilevel survival analysis