

A GUIDE TO THE MEXICAN & LATIN AMERICAN MIGRATION PROJECTS (MMP & LAMP)



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Workshop on Forced Migration Research: From Theory to Practice in
Promoting Migrant Well-Being

Committee on Population & Committee on National Statistics
Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education
The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine



Mexican Migration Project



- ❖ MMP started in 1982, interviewing 4 communities
 - ❖ Result: Return to Aztlan (1987)
- ❖ Douglas Massey and Jorge Durand decided to survey more places systematically using the “ethnosurvey”
- ❖ The MMP has been on the field yearly - without interruption - since 1987



Mexico (MMP)

Mexico	
Communities	170
Survey years	1982 – 2018
Households	
Mexico	27,214
U.S.	1,057
No. PERS	176,701
No. MIG	8,823
PY LIFE	1,388,216
PY SPOUSE	814,885



Latin American Migration Project

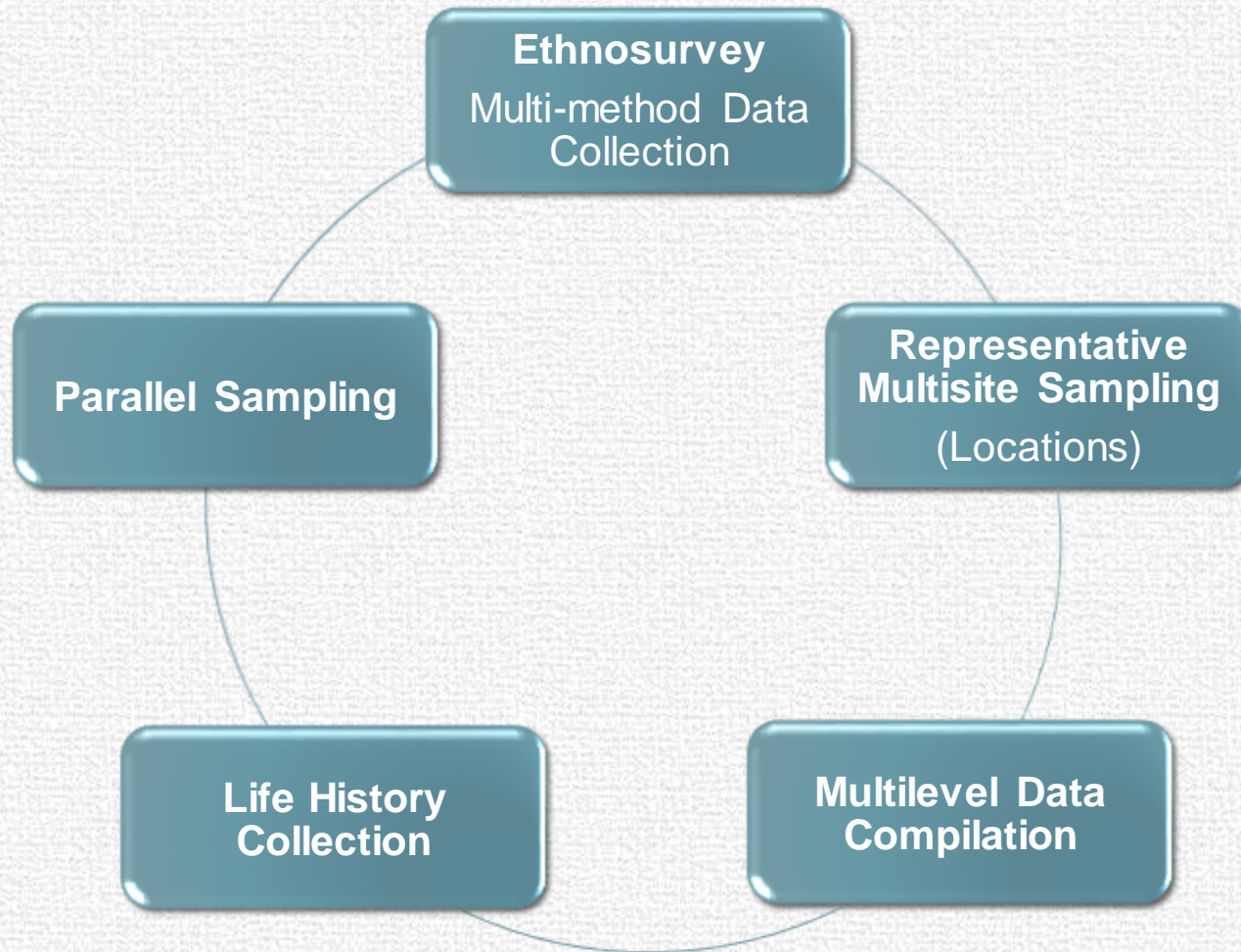


LAMP started in 1998 as an extension of the MMP. Its purpose is to extend this research to migration flows originating in other Latin American countries. LAMP has carried out research in:

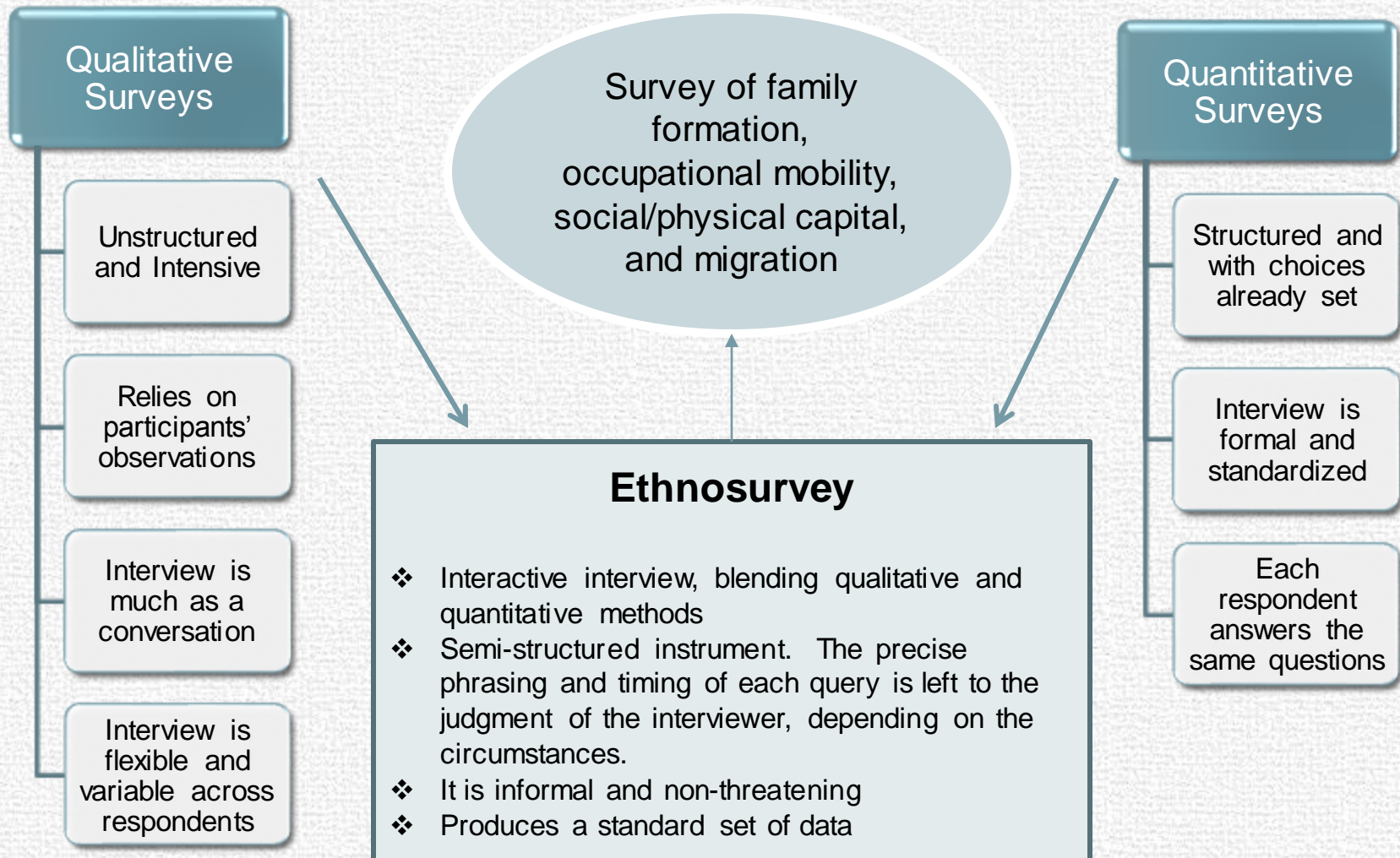
- ❖ **Central America:** Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica
- ❖ **Caribbean:** Haiti, Dominican Republic, and Puerto Rico
- ❖ **South America:** Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Paraguay, and *Uruguay*.



Methodology



Multi-method Data Collection



Representative Multisite Sampling

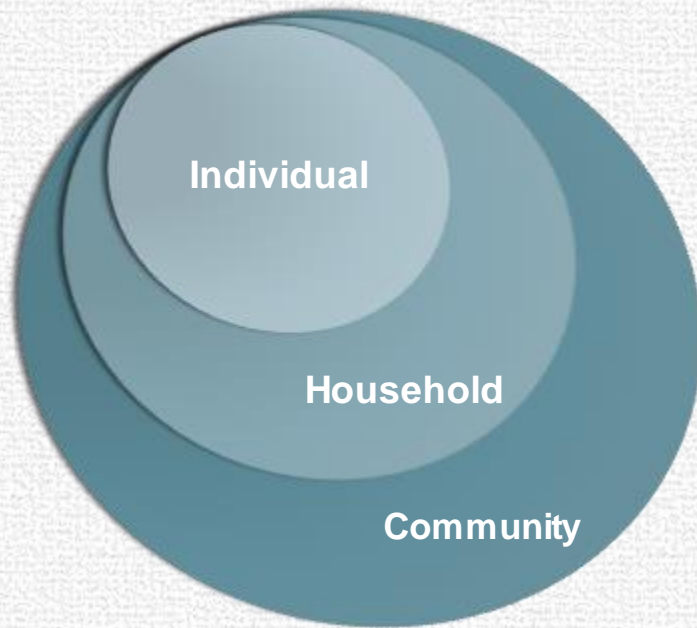
Community Selection

- ❖ Anthropological Methods: observation and personal reconnaissance of the geographic area
- ❖ Out-migration indices and sex ratio
- ❖ *Association with other researchers who know and study the area*

Category	Size	MMP170
Metropolitan Area	>100K persons	17.6%
Mid-sized Cities	10K to 100K persons	20.6%
Towns	2,500 to 10K persons	35.3%
Rural Villages	<2,500 persons	26.5%

- ❖ The MMP includes communities with a wide range of population size, regions, ethnic compositions, and economic basis
- ❖ A variety of sites have been chosen in order to enhance the strength of inference in both qualitative and quantitative analyses

Multilevel Data Compilation



- ❖ Although individuals are the ultimate unit of behavior, decisions are always made within larger social and economic contexts
- ❖ The Ethnosurvey is explicitly designed to provide quantitative data for multi-level analysis. It gathers data at both the individual and household levels
- ❖ Detailed community-level data are compiled and applied to interpret the socioeconomic context within which individuals and households interact

Life History Collection

- ❖ The Ethnosurvey is designed to compile event histories on specific aspects of social and economic life. Each table covers a specific facets of the household head's life:
 - ❖ Employment
 - ❖ Migration
 - ❖ Marriage
 - ❖ Fertility
 - ❖ Property ownership

Parallel Sampling

Parallel sampling involves the gathering of contemporaneous samples of migrants in both sending and receiving societies

Home
country

200 households
per community

Abroad

Snowball sample
(10%)

Applying the Ethnosurvey

Step 1

- Gather basic social and demographic data, starting with the HH
- Identify all household members
- Identify all those who have had either domestic or international migration experience

Step 2

- Year-by-year life histories: household head and spouse
- Gather all information regarding occupational mobility, migration, family formation, and health

Step 3

- Recollect information on HH most recent U.S. migration trip
- Undocumented crossing history
- Social networks, English language acquisition, and job characteristics
- Accumulation of physical capital, remittances, and savings

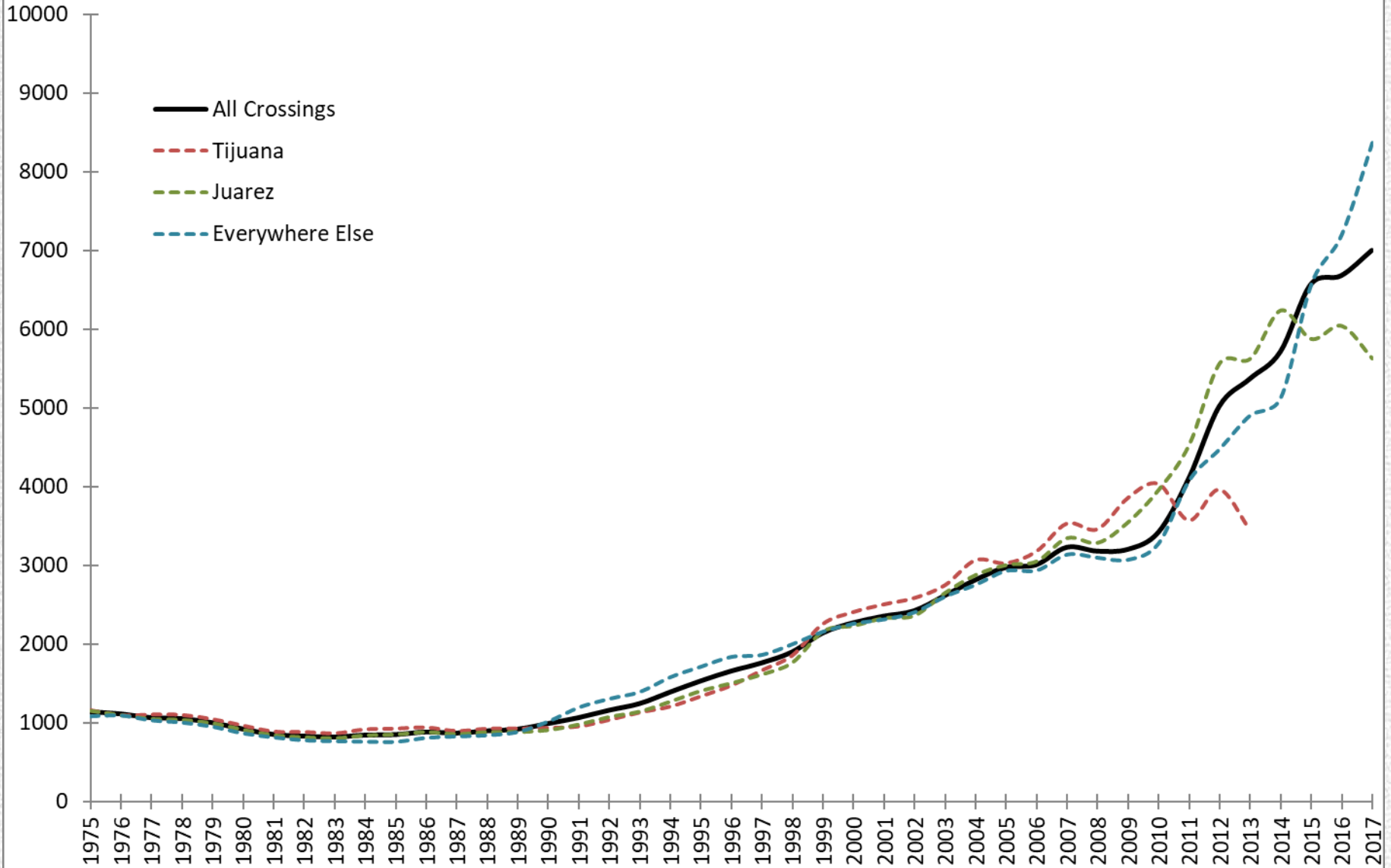
Contributions

- ❖ **Compare** the characteristics and behavior of D and U migrants
- ❖ **Measure trends** in the characteristics of both groups of migrants over time
- ❖ Support **longitudinal analysis** on the migration process
- ❖ Discern the background and characteristics of migrants **before** and **after** they enter the U.S.
- ❖ Undertake detailed cross-tabulations of Mexicans based on large samples
- ❖ **Study transitions** between different legal statuses and model selective movements back and forth across the border
- ❖ Provide an ongoing source of longitudinal data capable of **monitoring the effects** of shifting U.S. and Mexican **policies**

Selected Results

- Most of these results originally appear in the book written by D.S. Massey, J. Durand, and N. Malone (2002) Beyond Smoke and Mirrors: Mexican Immigration in an Era of Economic Integration. New York: Russell Sage Foundation.
- These results are updated every time the MMP releases new data. They are accessible through the MMP's website.

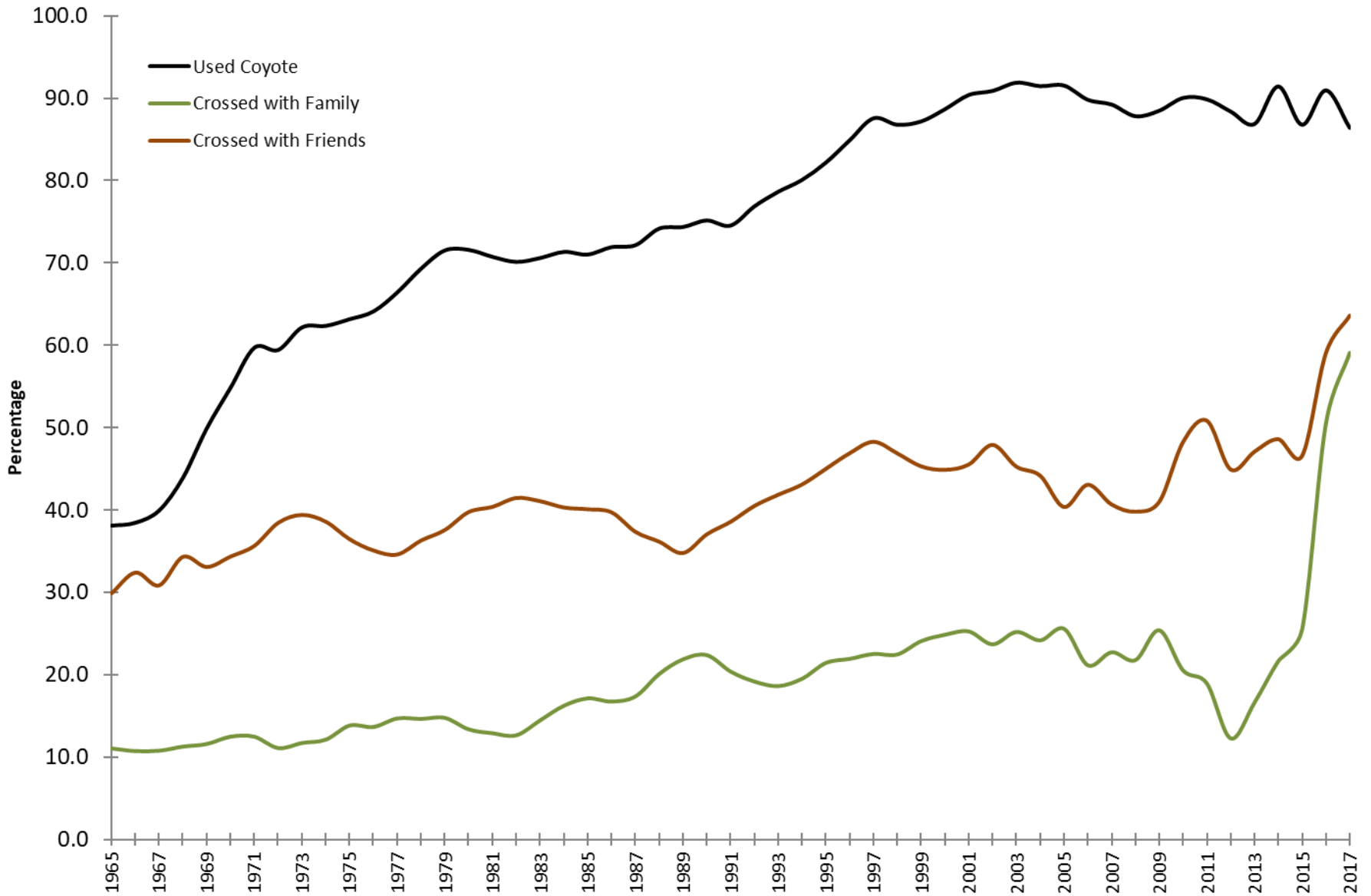
Border Crossing Costs (U.S. Dollars Adjusted to CPI-2018)



Source: MMP170 - MIG & MIGOTHER Files

Elaborated by the Mexican Migration Project (MMP)

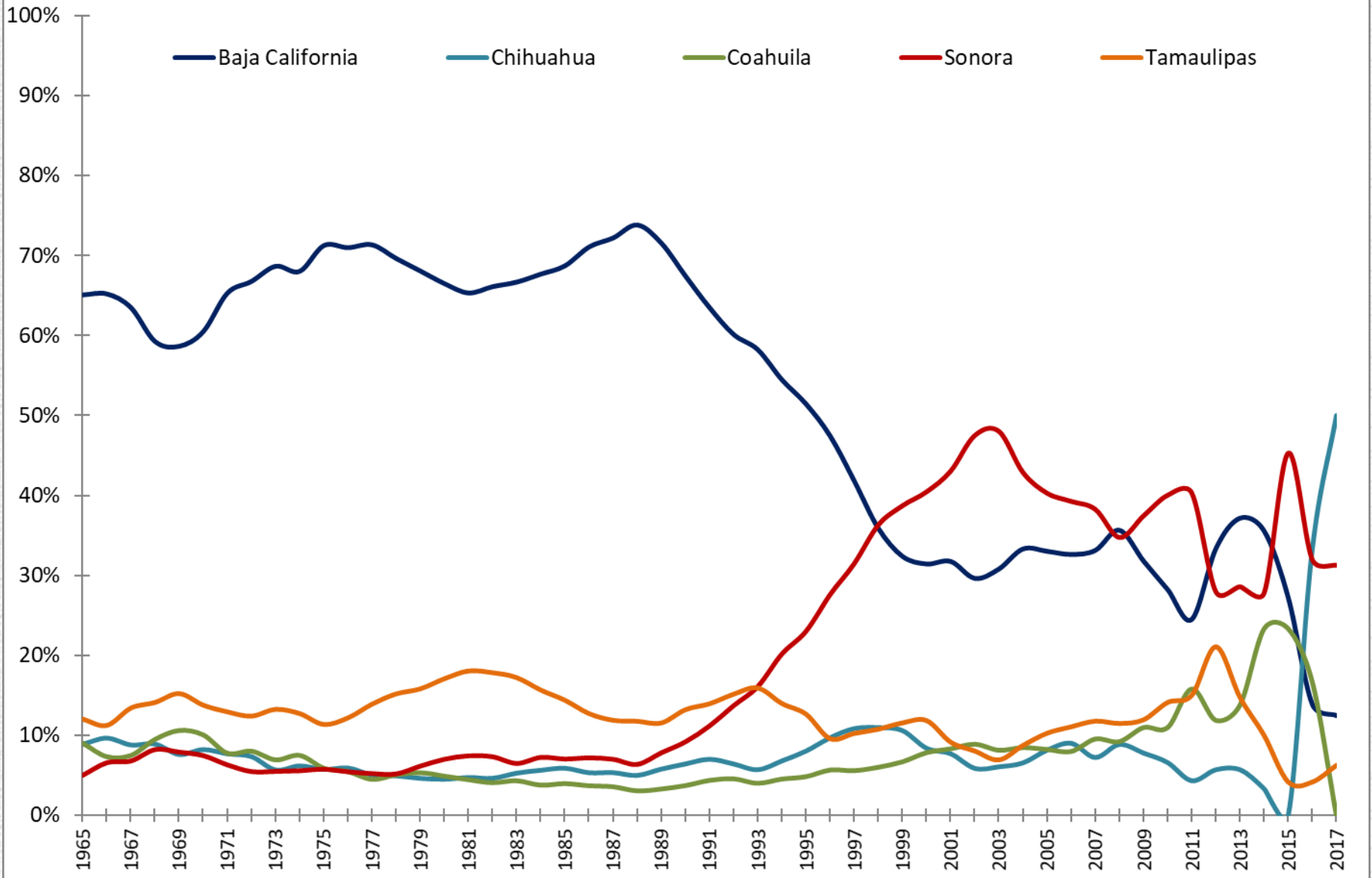
Access to Border Crossing Guides on any Given Undocumented Trip



Source: MMP170 - MIG & MIGOTHER Files

Elaborated by the Mexican Migration Project (MMP)

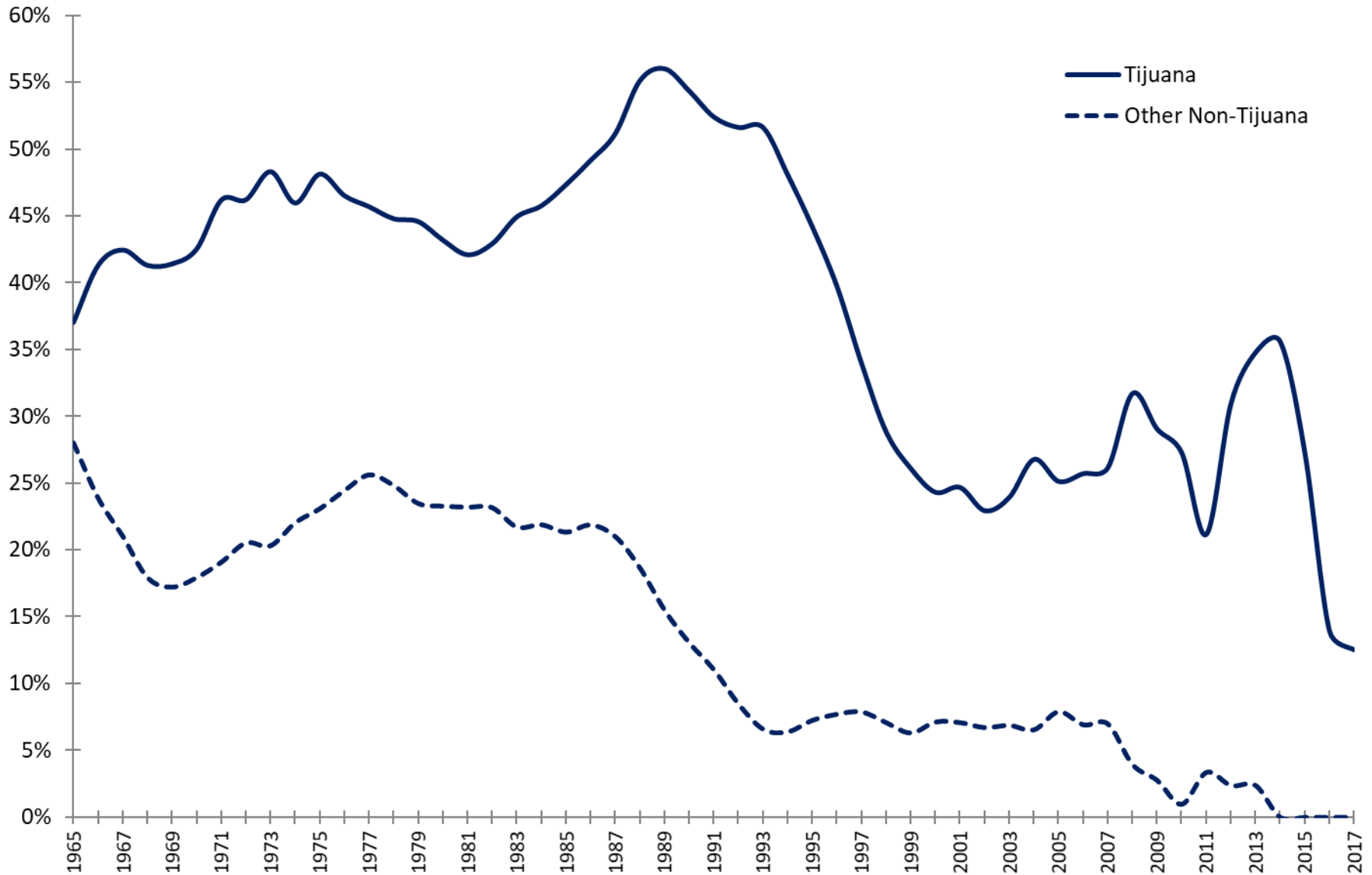
The Geography of Border Crossing: 1965 - 2017



Source: MMP170 - MIG & MIGOTHER Files

Elaborated by the Mexican Migration Project (MMP)

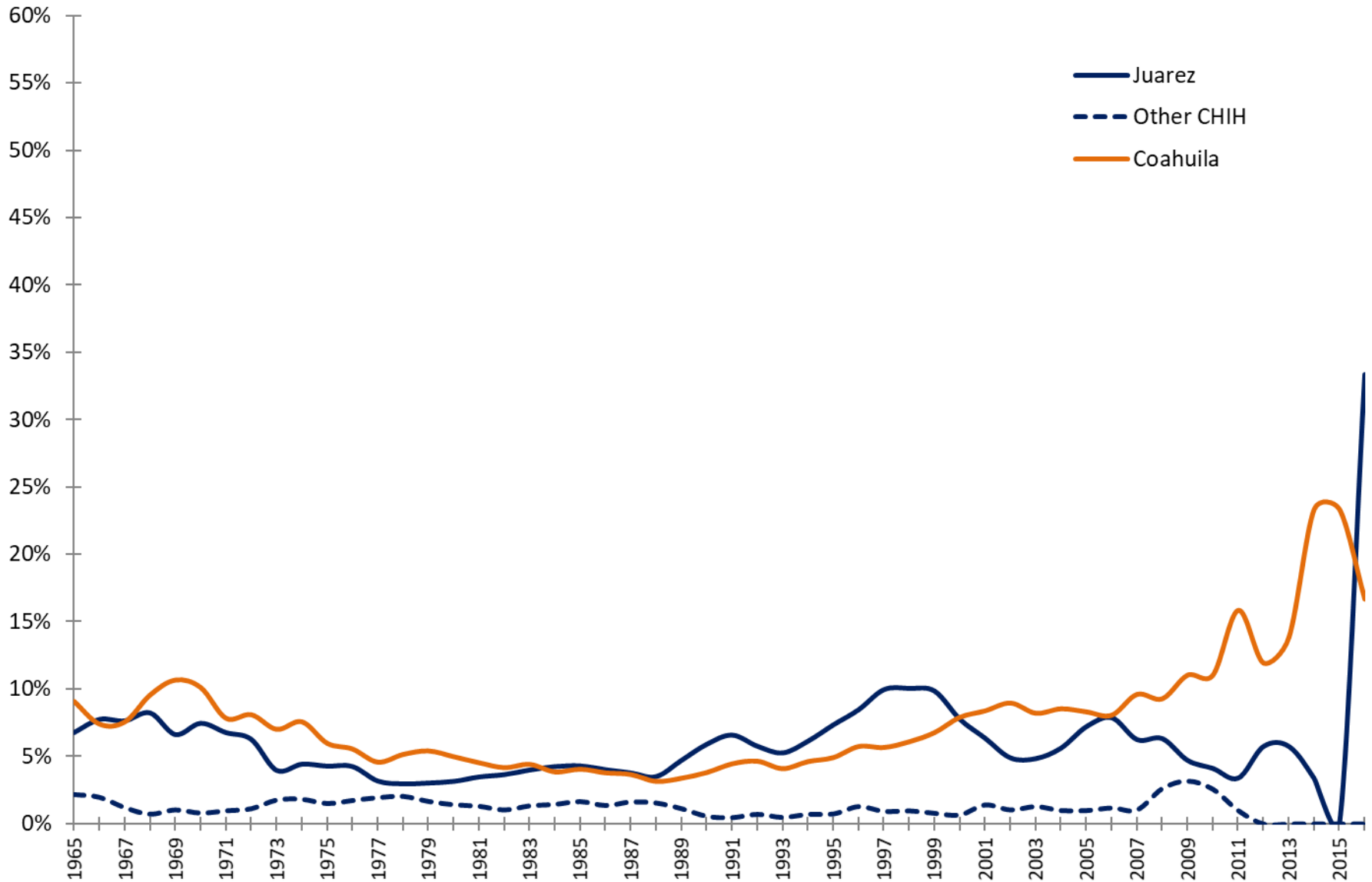
Undocumented Crossings Through the Baja California Border: 1965-2017



Source: MMP170- MIG & MIGOTHER Files

Elaborated by the Mexican Migration Project (MMP)

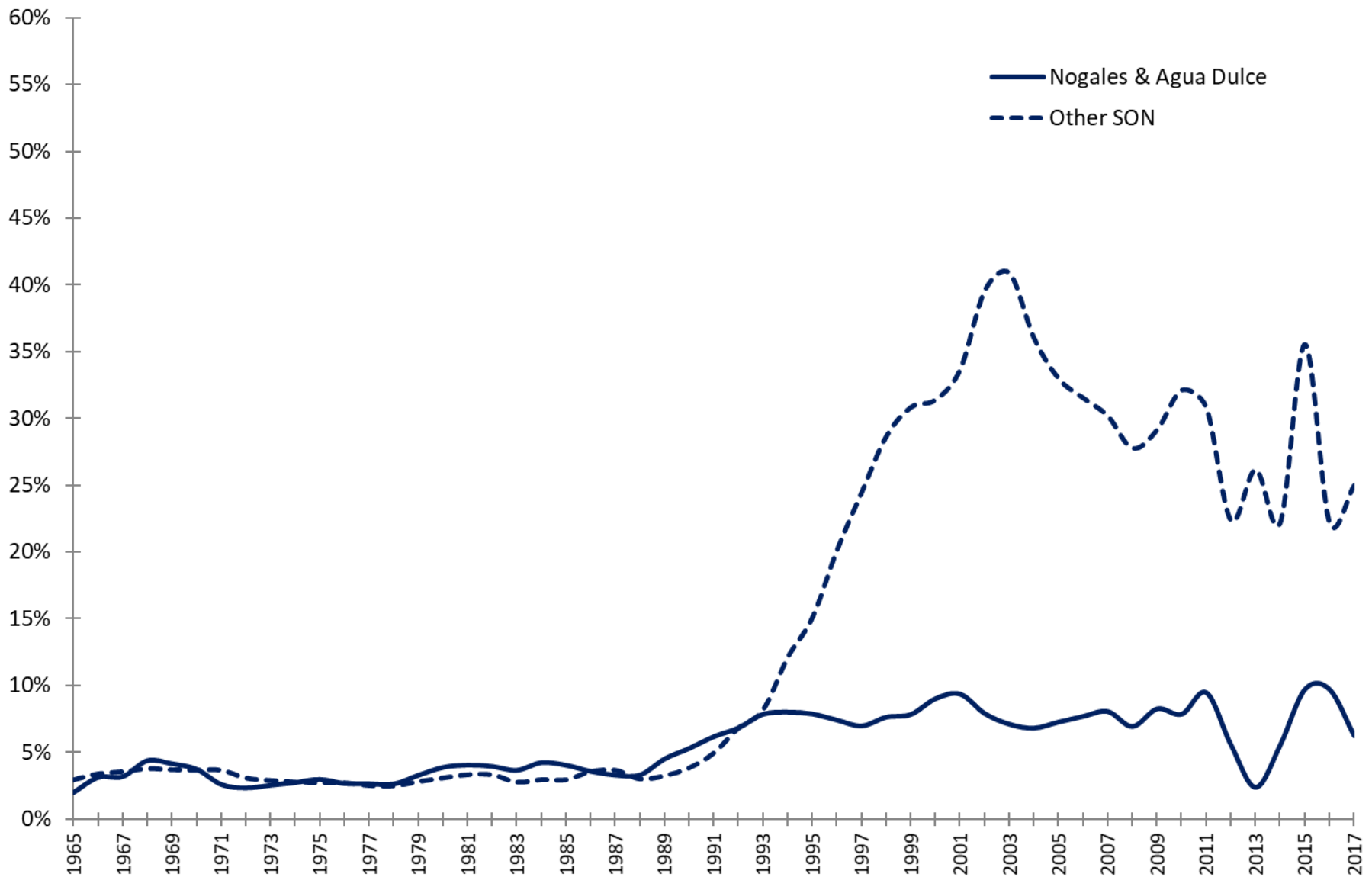
Undocumented Crossings Through the Chihuahua & Coahuila Border: 1965 - 2016



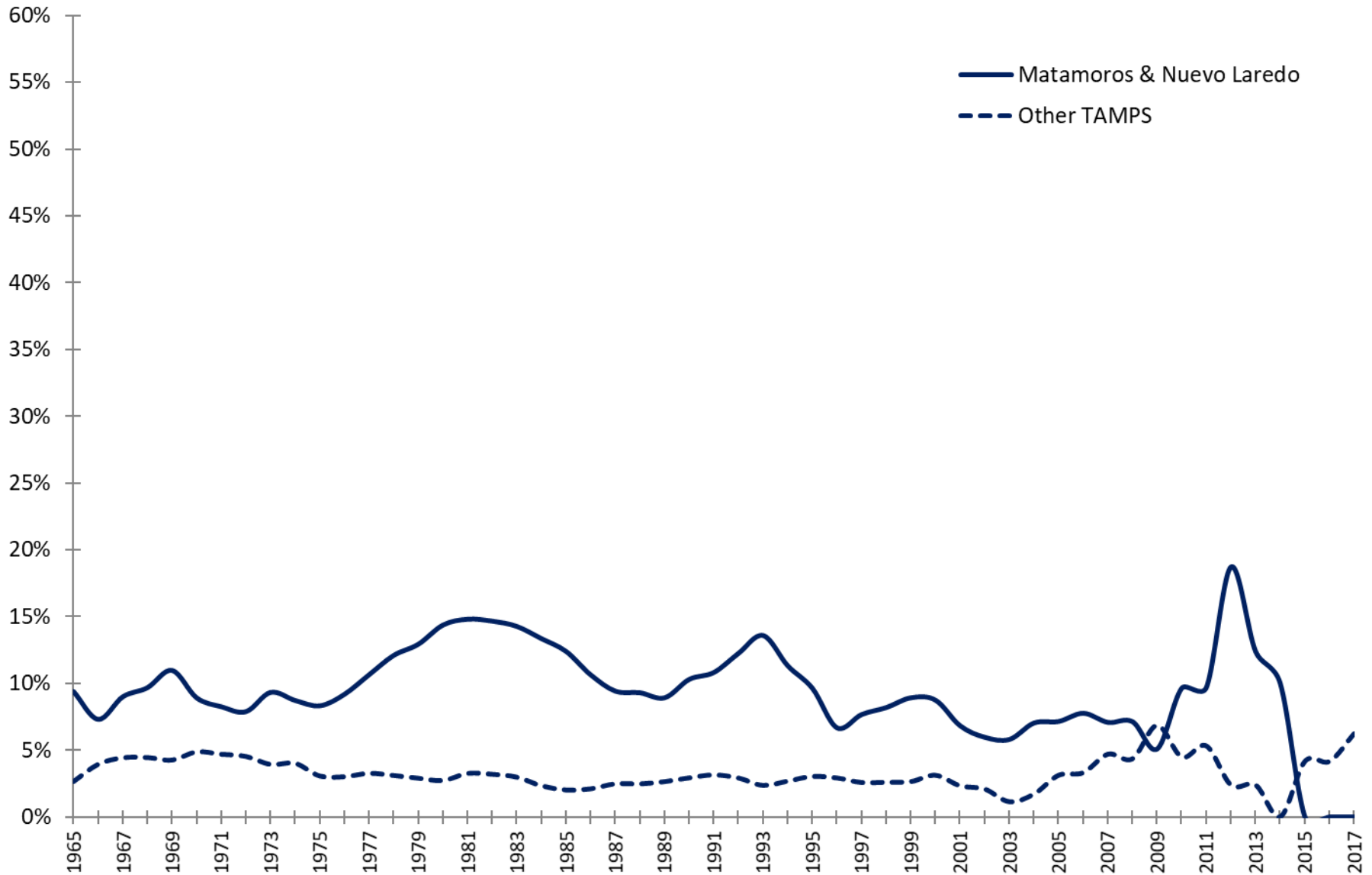
Source: MMP170 - MIG & MIGOTHER Files

Elaborated by the Mexican Migration Project (MMP)

Undocumented Crossings Through the Sonoran Border: 1965 - 2017



Undocumented Crossings Through the Tamaulipas Border: 1965 - 2017

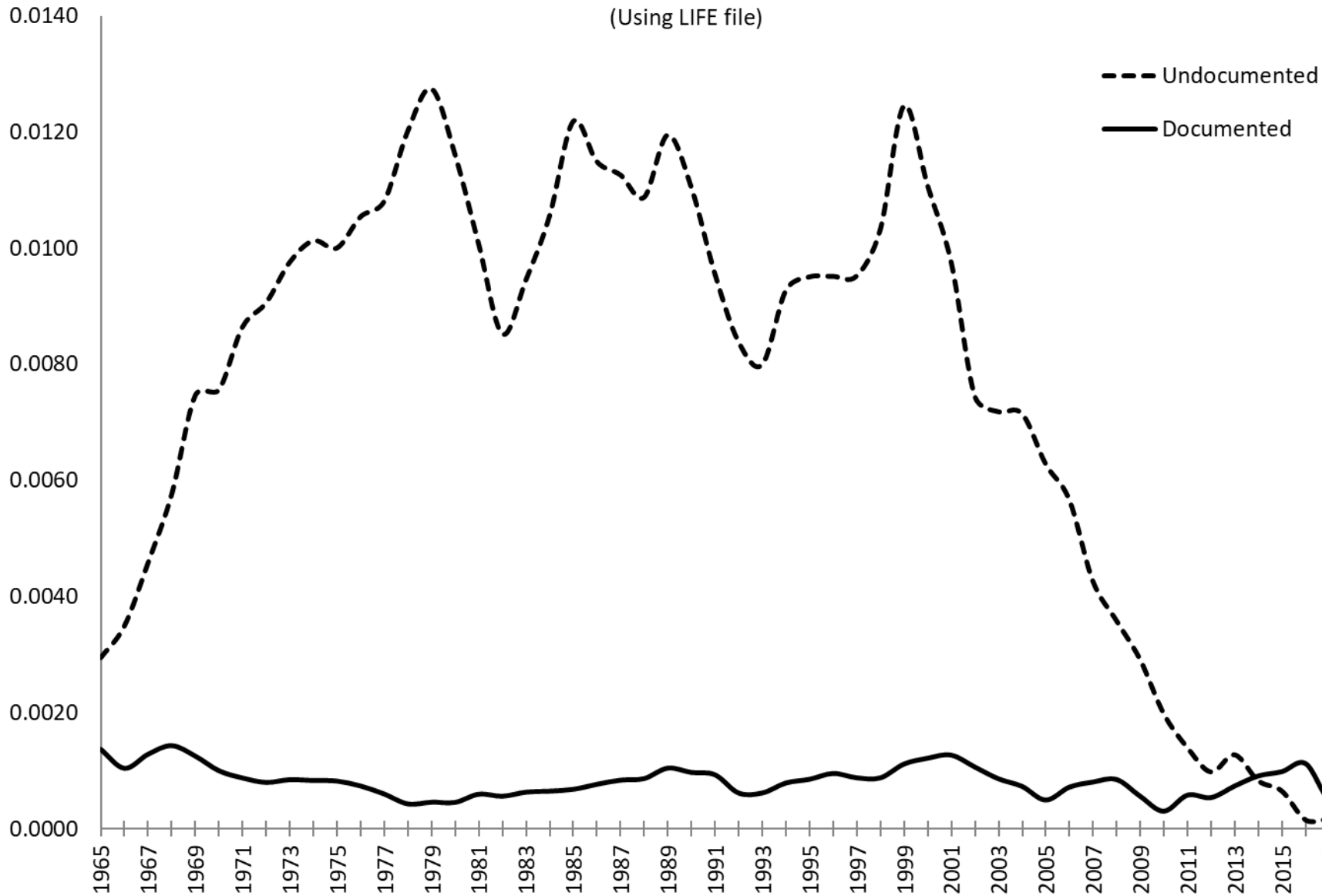


Source: MMP170 - MIG & MIGOTHER Files

Elaborated by the Mexican Migration Project (MMP)

Probability of Taking a First Trip to the U.S.

(Using LIFE file)

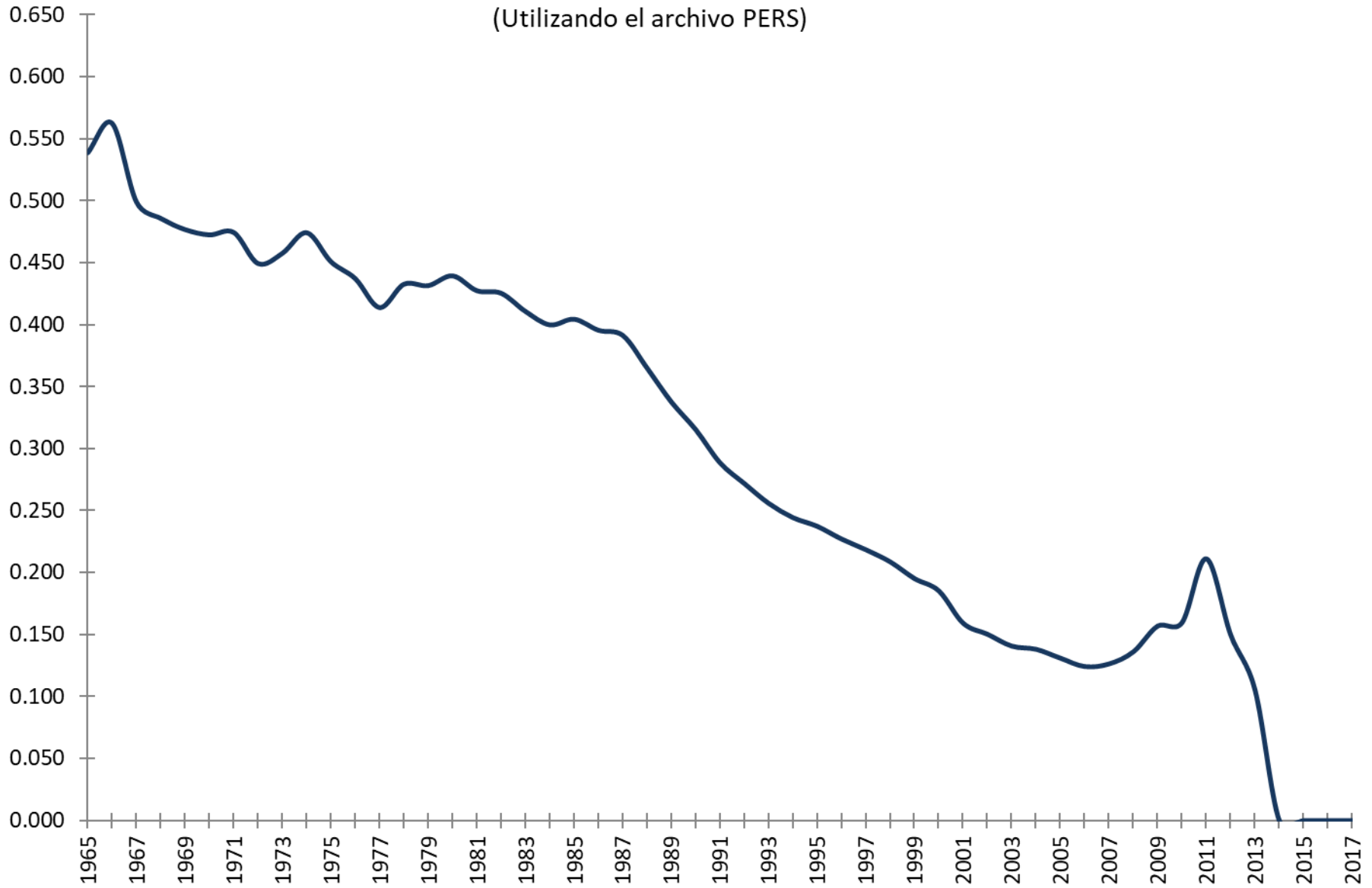


Source: MMP170 - LIFE File

Elaborated by the Mexican Migration Project (MMP)

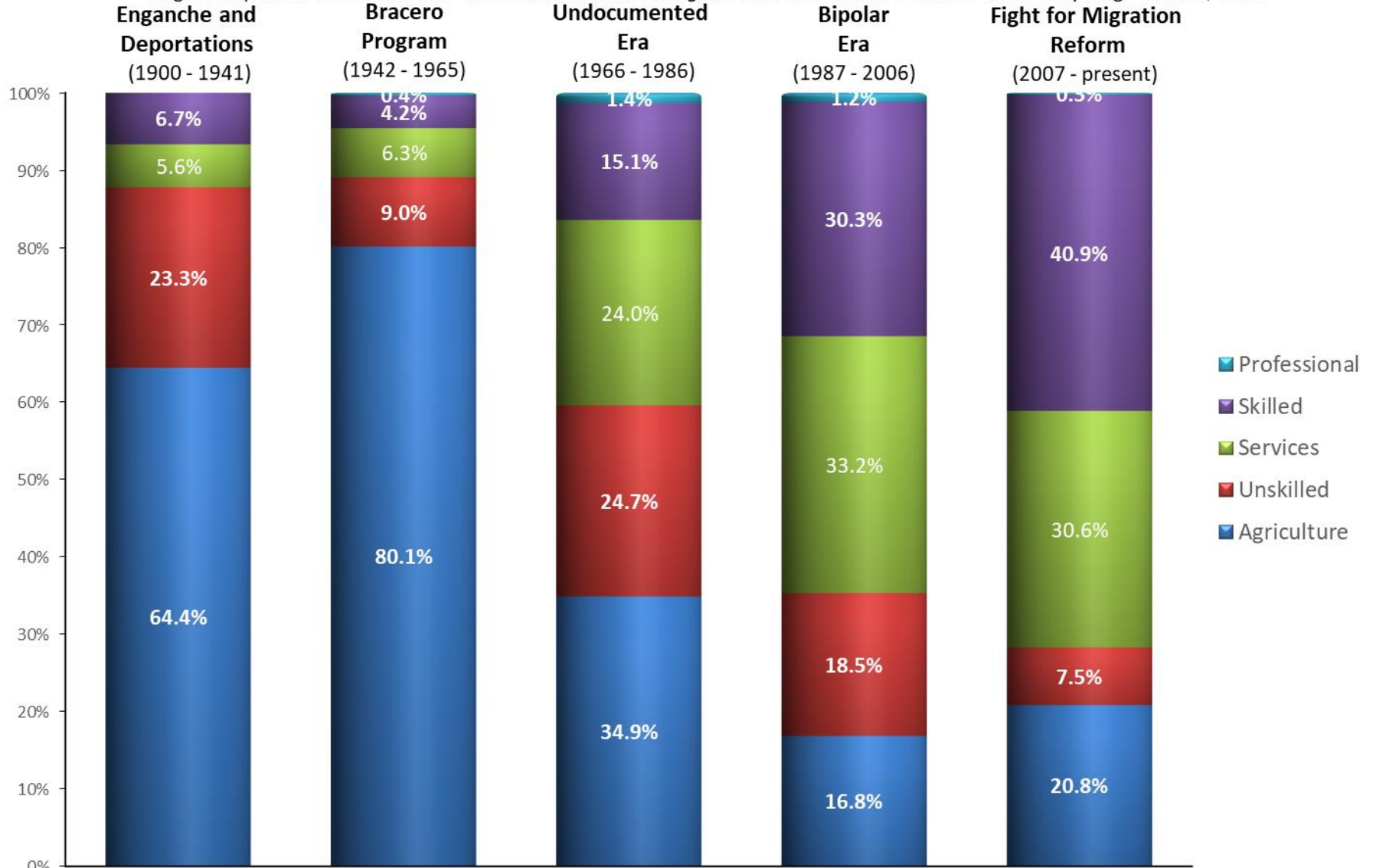
Probabilidad de retorno del primer viaje indocumentado en los primeros 12 meses

(Utilizando el archivo PERS)



Occupation on First Trip by Migration Period*

*Migration periods were based on "*Historia mínima de la migración México-Estados Unidos*" written by Jorge Durand, 2016



MMP Data and Documentation

- MMP data is free to the public through the [OPR Archive](#) page. Email is needed to register.
- The MMP has always had accessible to the public the documentation:
 - Most current survey ([link to PDF](#))
 - Supervisor's manual ([link to PDF](#))
 - Interviewer's manual ([link to PDF](#))

All other documentation and appendices are available at the [Mexican Migration Project Webpage](#).