




A Historical and Demographic Outlook of Migration from Central America's Northern Triangle

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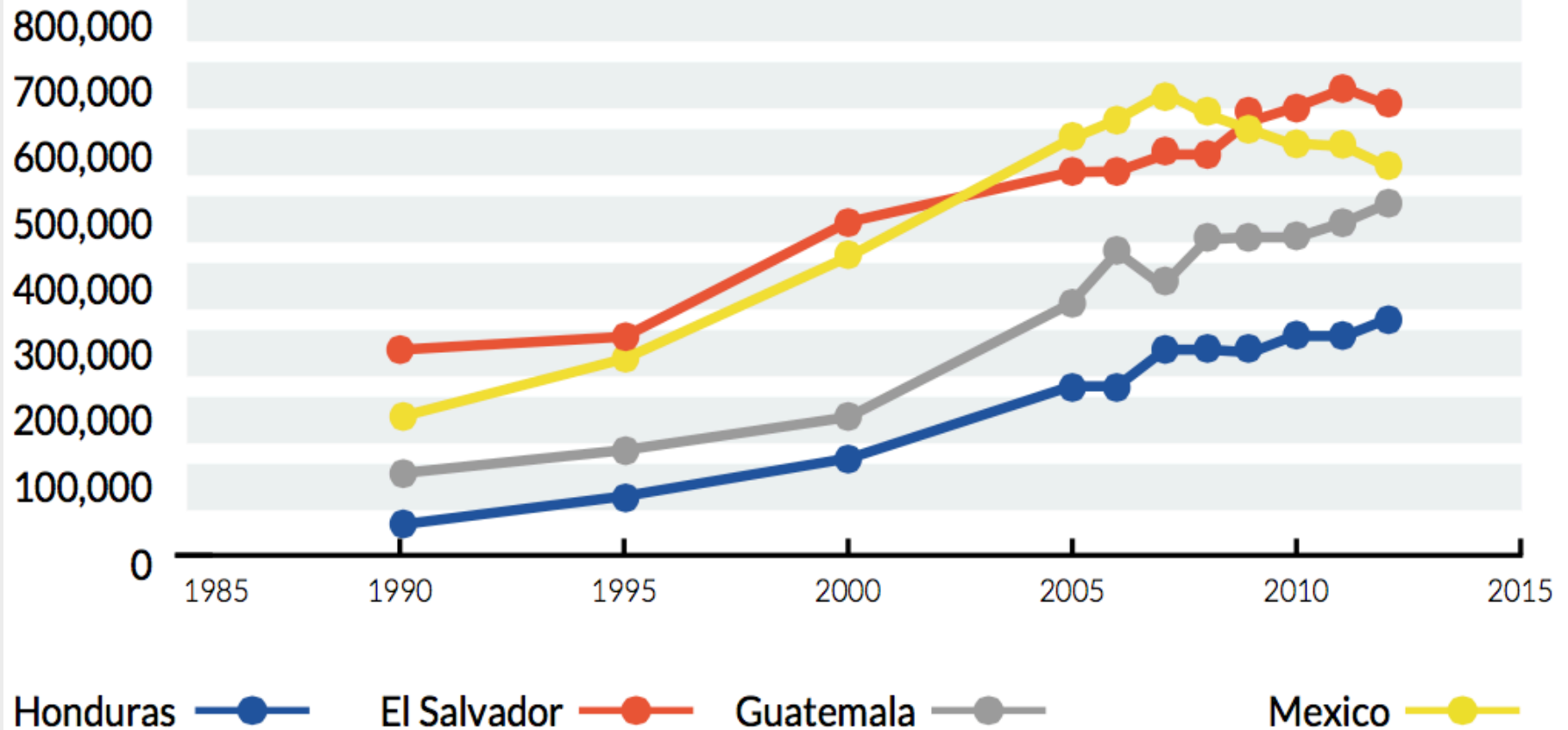


Persistent growth of the NTCA-born population in the U.S., despite:



- Economic crisis and slow recovery in the U.S.
- Rising number of deportations from U.S. interior
- Steady/growing number of NTCA nationals apprehended at the border or “removed” from U.S. interior
- Increasing risks and costs of transit through Mexico
 - Tougher immigration controls and higher apprehensions
 - Increased violence and insecurity throughout the journey
- Decreased emigration from Mexico to the U.S.

Unauthorized NTCA immigrant stocks grow while Mexican stocks diminish



Note: Mexican amounts are divided by ten.

Source: <http://www.pewhispanic.org/2014/12/11/unauthorized-trends/>. Last accessed



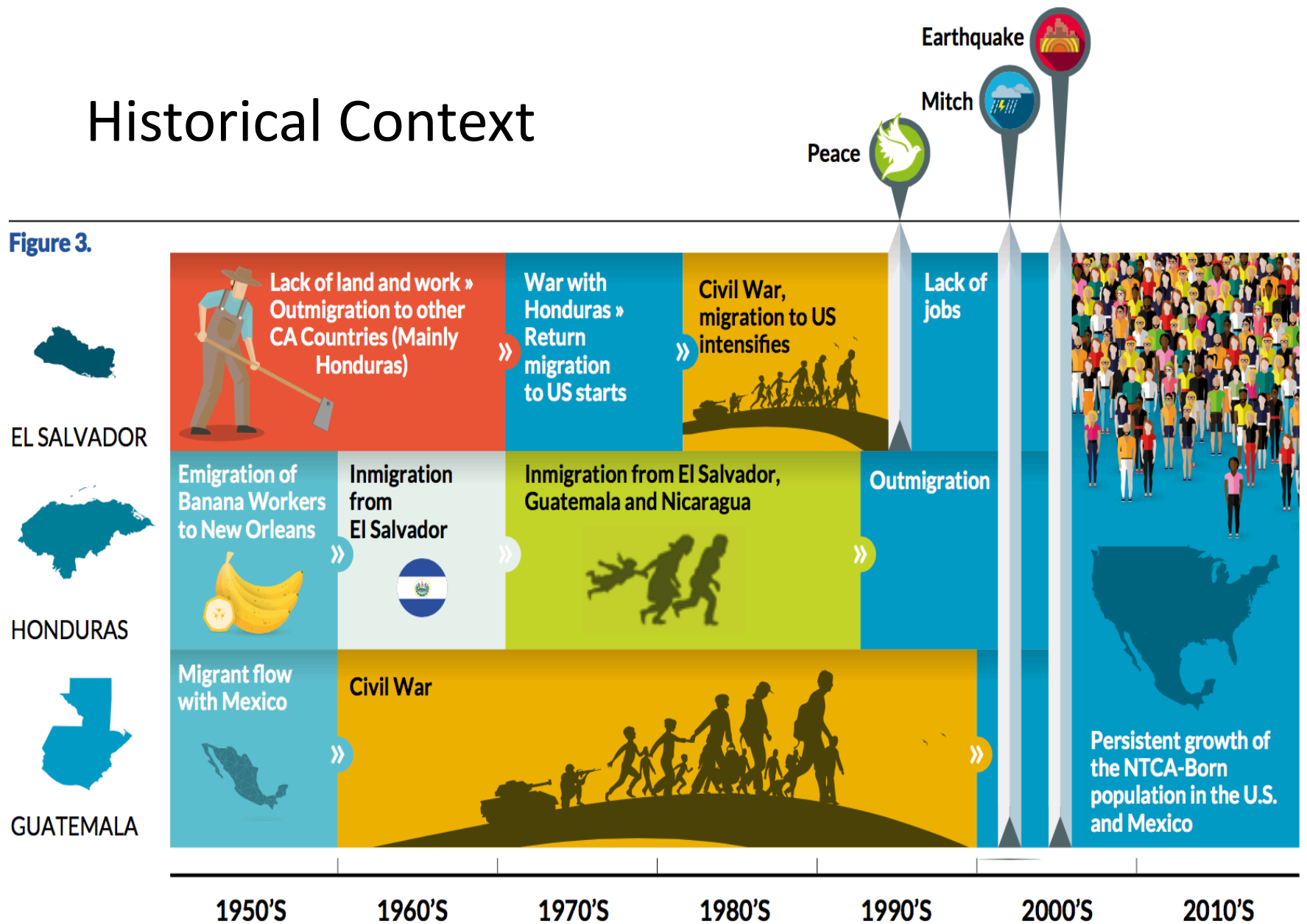
Outline



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1. Historical context and international migration dynamics from the NTCA
 2. Mexico as a destination and place of transit
 3. U.S. as destination country
 4. Demographic profile of NTCA migrants in Mexico and U.S.
 5. Discussion and policy recommendations

Historical Context

Figure 3.





Intra-regional migration responses



“Export-oriented” political economy based on basic agricultural commodities favored:

- Large domestic producers at El Salvador and Guatemala
- Foreign investment

Guatemala: Historical migration flows to SE Mexico

El Salvador: Dislocated peasants to Honduras

Honduras: Large flow of immigrants during 1980s and 1990s



From Intra-regional to International Migration



Guatemala:

Refugee camps ran by UNHCR in Mexico

Migration flows to US

- ## El Salvador:

During the conflict: Onset of migration flow to US

After pacification: Emigration rekindled due to:

- Longstanding economic problems and political confrontation
- Hurricane Mitch (1998) and earthquake (2001)
- Increasing gang violence since beg. of 21st Century

Honduras:

Highest rate of recent migration to the US refueled by drug and gang related violence



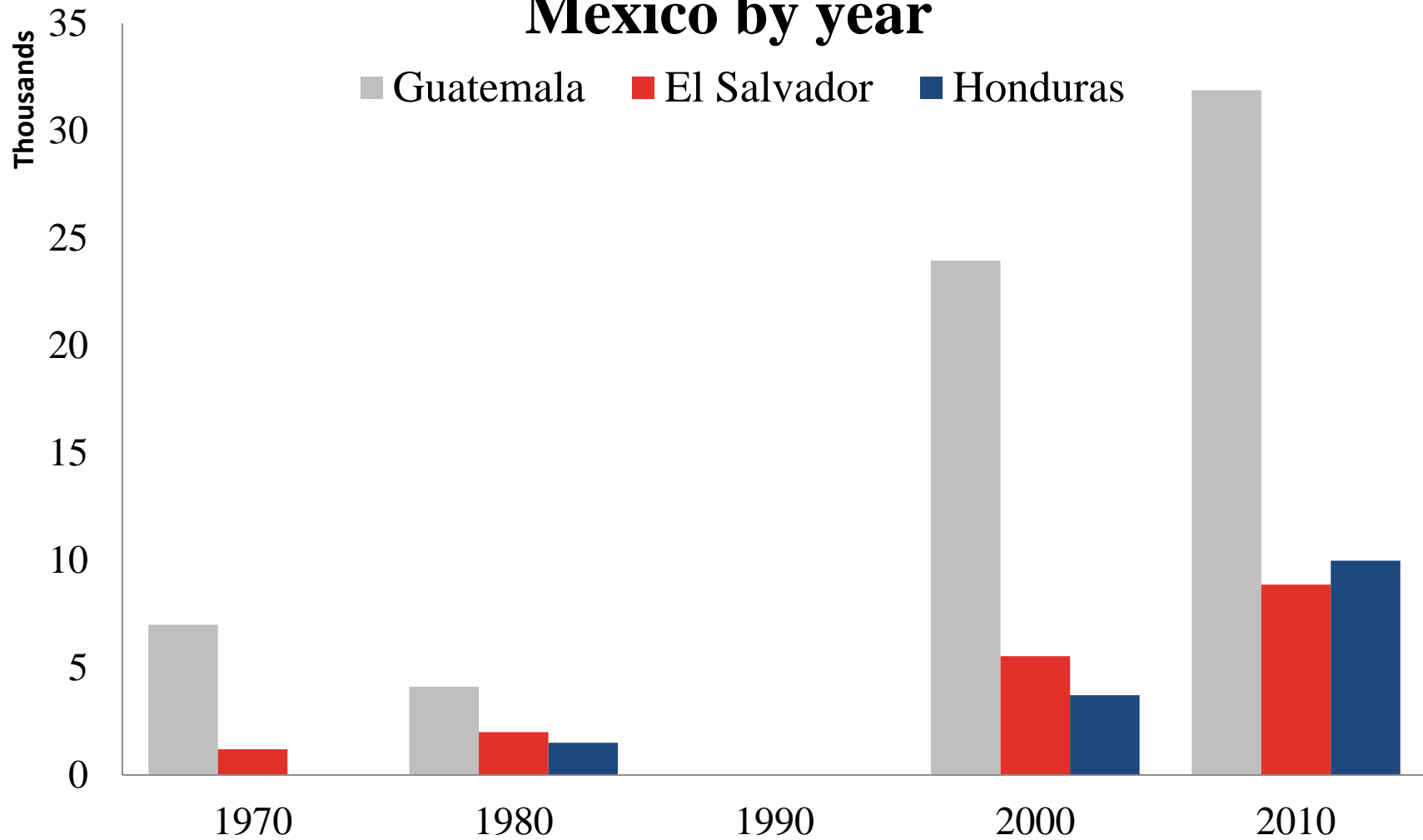
Destination: Mexico



- Mexican asylum “policy” challenged at end of 1970s
 - Commission for Aid to Refugees (COMAR)
 - Limited to attention to Guatemalans due to budget constraints
- Creation of the *Instituto Nacional de Migración* (1993)
 - Changes Control and migration management
- Increased violence toward migrants and human rights violations lead to the adoption of a new Migration Law (2011).
 - facilitates immigrant regularization and the granting of permanent residence for high-skilled immigrants,
 - limited options for Central Americans.



Population born in the NTCA living in Mexico by year



Source: Estimates for 1970 and 1980 are taken from CEPAL (1999); 2010 and 2010 from Mexican censuses.



Transit through Mexico



- Increasing trend since the mid-1990s to 2005
Highest point in 2005 = Between 390,000 and 430,000 migrants.
 - Slowdown 2006-2009
 - Stabilization 2010-2011
 - Since 2012 increase again (Honduras at the top)
- After 2009 increased proportion of unaccompanied minors detained by Mexico and the U.S.

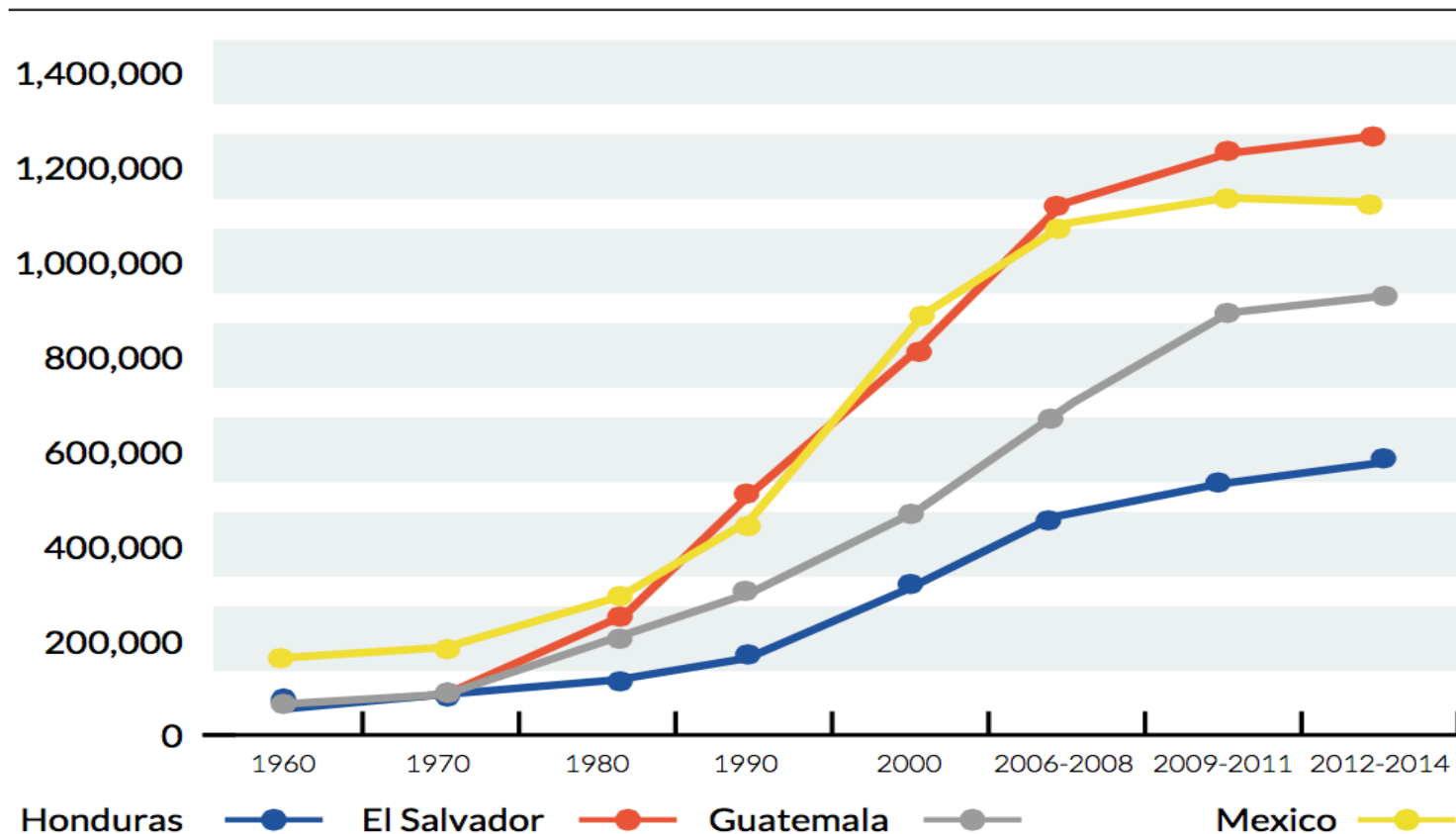


Destination: United States



- Immigration Reform and Control Act (IRCA)
 - 136,000 Salvadorans and 50,000 Guatemalans legalized through IRCA (around 1/5th of the population in 1990)
- Limited legal refuge and asylum options
 - TPS a mechanism for temporary but renewable relief from deportation
- Increase in irregular inflows
 - U.S. labor demand
 - Family reunification
 - Immigration policy towards low-skilled

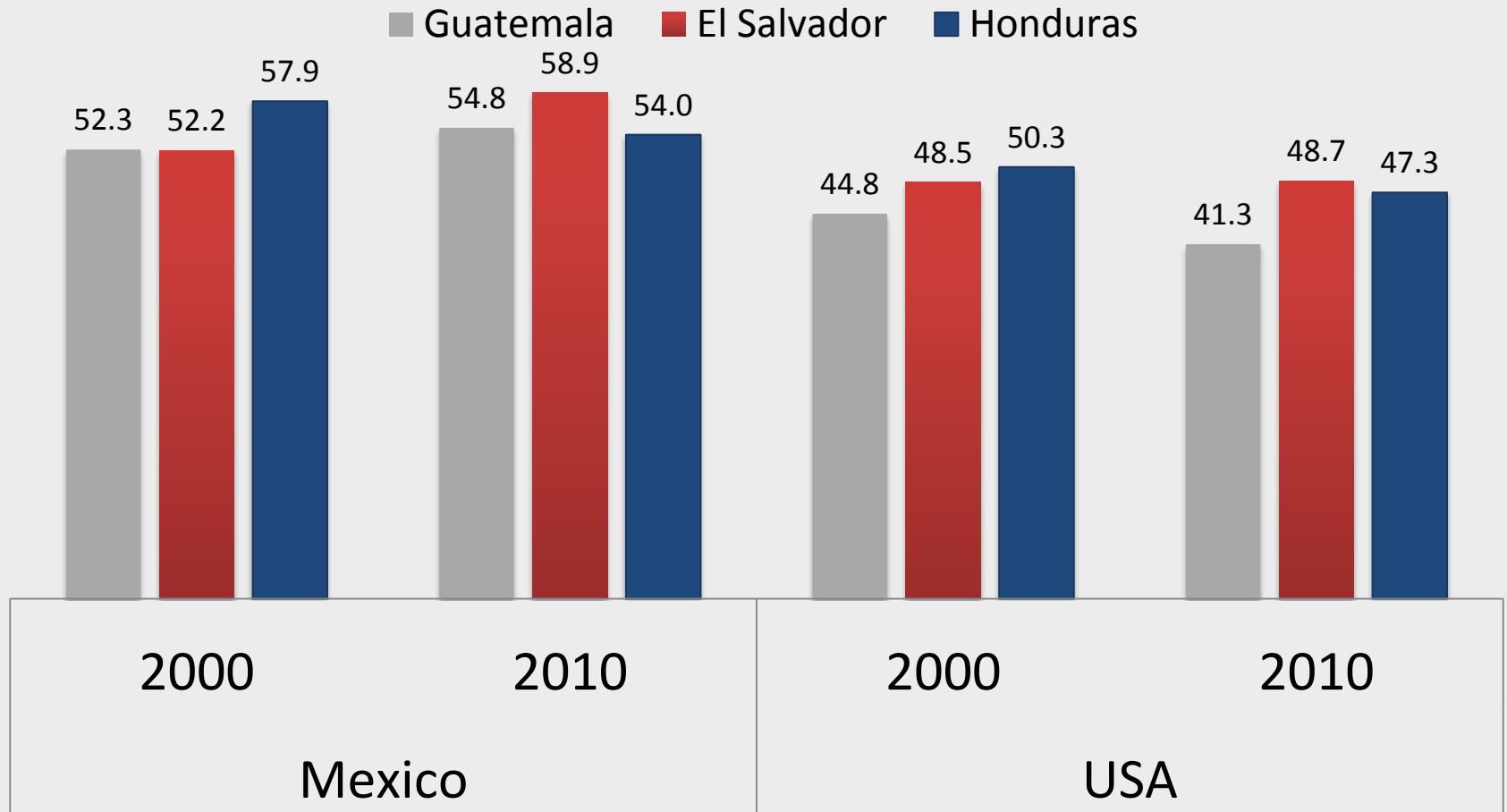
Steady growth of Immigrant stocks in the US



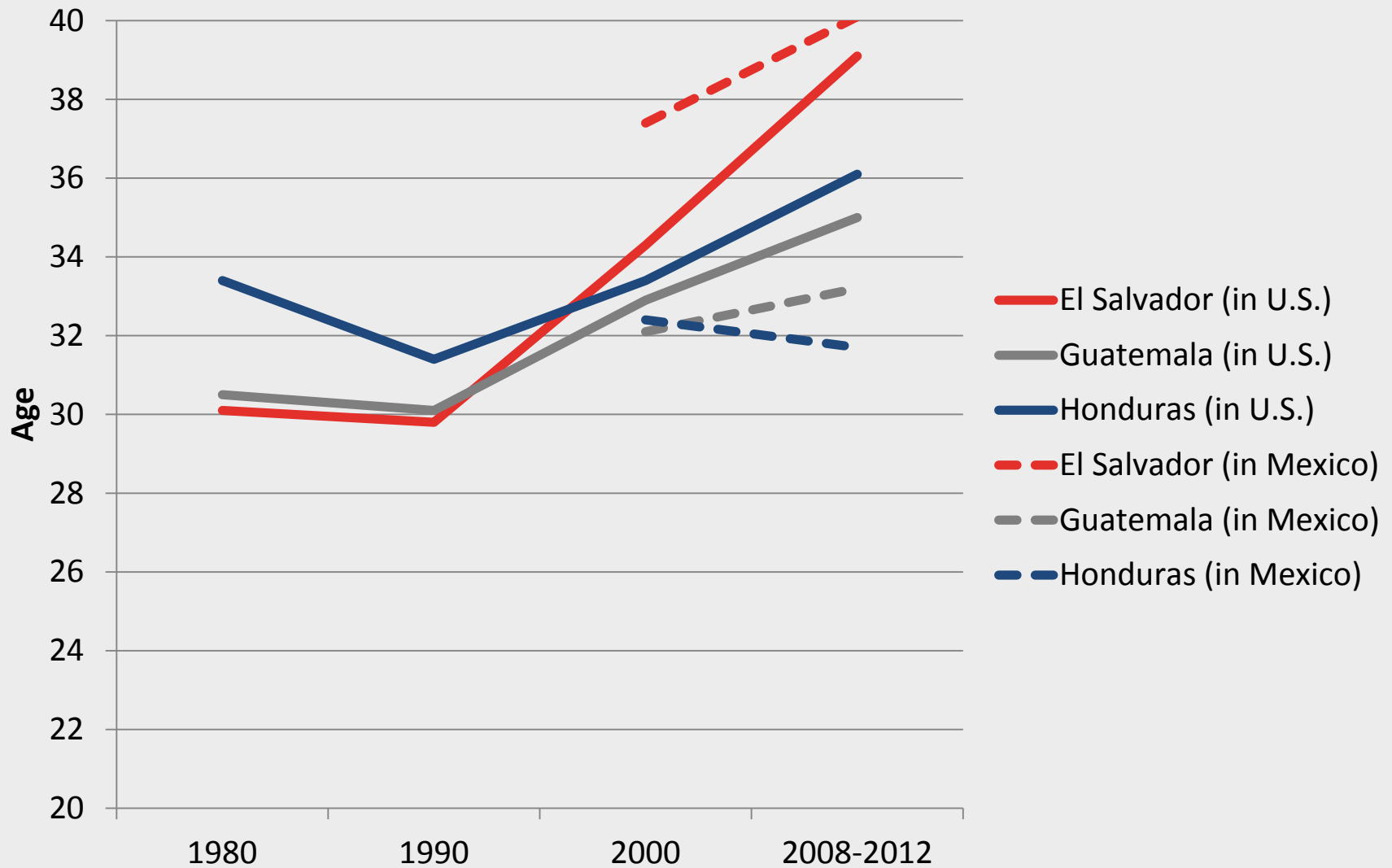
Note: Mexican amounts are divided by ten.

Source: Authors' calculation from data from 1960-2000 based on decennial census data long forms; data from 2006-2008 through 2012-2014 based on three-year averages from the 2006-2014 American Community Surveys.

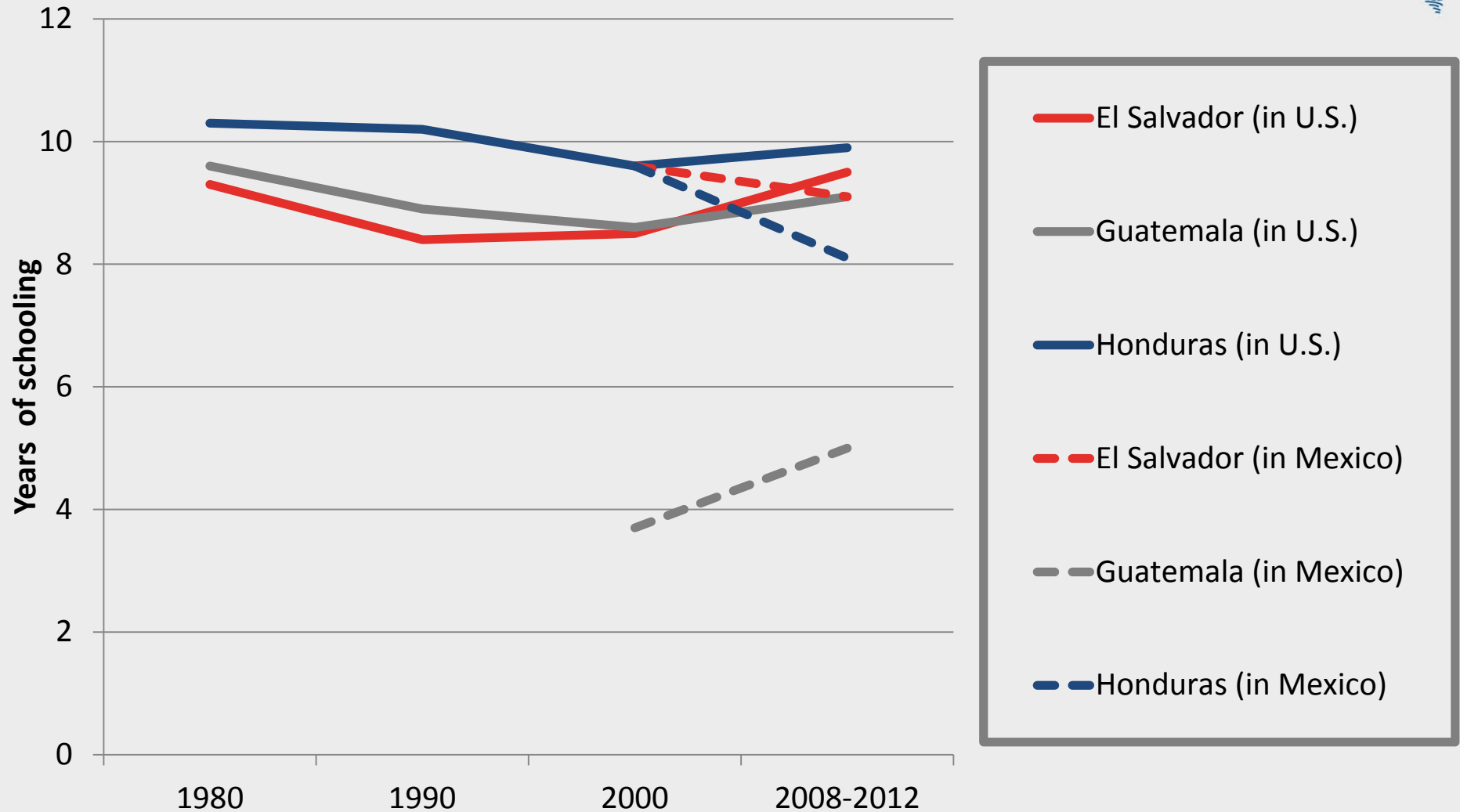
Greater feminization in Mexico



Older Salvadorans



Years of Schooling in Mexico and U.S.



Summary



- Persistence of emigration from the NTCA, rooted in a historical and geo-political context defined by violence, insecurity and hard economic conditions
 - Civil wars in the past
 - Gang and drug-related violence today
- Consequences of immigration enforcement from the U.S. and Mexico
 - Challenges for re-integration
 - Vicious cycle: emigration – return – violence/insecurity

Policy recommendations



- Formal recognition of the shared responsibilities between NAFTA and NTCA countries
- To countries of destination
 - Formal recognition of violence, insecurity, and persecution as motivations for migration
 - Revise/create processes for refugees and asylum seekers
 - Respect the application of non-refoulement
 - Revise provisions for Temporary Protected Status (TPS)
- To countries of transit
 - Provisions of legal status and documentation for transit
 - Legal framework, budget, and creation of bureaucratic channels

Policy recommendations (cont.)



- To sending countries
 - Reduce “push factors”
 - Ease reintegration upon return
 - Improve data collection on migration that captures the complexity of the phenomenon
 - Year of arrival, date of first emigration
 - Place of residence 1 and 5 years prior
 - Cause of migration
 - Share existing and future data and create repositories of regional comparative data