

THE IMPACT OF U.S. MIGRATION ON MEXICAN CHILDREN'S EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

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Abstract

Few studies have quantitatively examined whether the intended beneficiaries of temporary labor migration – typically children and spouses migrants leave behind – experience improved socioeconomic outcomes beyond higher levels of consumption. In this analysis, I examine the impact of labor migration on children's educational attainment. Although remitted earnings are significantly higher than earnings from domestic employment in rural communities, labor migration produces conflicting and often negative influences on children's educational progress.

I apply event history analysis to match household and personal characteristics across years in which Mexican children attended school to see how international and internal migration within the household affects the likelihood they leave school. The data come from randomly selected household surveys in three distinct communities in a migrant-sending Mexican state. I specifically isolate the financial impact of U.S. migration and also consider the impact of migrant destination, sibling versus household head migration, recent trips versus accumulated migration experience, and children's own experience in the U.S. during schooling.

Keywords: *Mexico, United States, Labor migration, Children's educational attainment.*