

**La Migración y las Condiciones Socioeconómicas
en Edades Mayores**

(Migration and Socioeconomic Conditions of Older Adults)

by

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Abstract

The paper examines the long-term consequences of Mexico-U.S. migration, by focusing on the conditions of population at middle and old age. Using data from the Mexican Demographic Survey 1997 on the cohorts born prior to 1950, the paper examines the impact of a previous international migration to the U.S. on the current socioeconomic conditions of the population that is now residing in Mexico (return migrants). The following current outcomes are examined: having a source of income, having medical insurance coverage, having good dwelling conditions, and living in poverty according to household income.

Overall, the multivariate results show that past migration to the U.S. is associated with better socioeconomic conditions of individuals at middle and old age, but a disconnection from the Mexican system of social insurance may occur as a result of migration. Also, there is heterogeneity in the migration experience of returning migrants and this makes a difference; the length of stay in the U.S. and the time since last return affect the outcomes examined. Controlling for age, sex, education, marital status, urban/rural residence, and number of adults living in the household, the results show that a greater number of *years spent in the U.S.* is associated with better socioeconomic conditions (measured by individual and household income and dwelling conditions), and with a lower propensity to have health insurance coverage. On the other hand, a greater number of *years back in Mexico* is associated with an increased propensity to have institutional health care coverage.