

Migration Trends and Transnational Families in North America: Parenting Practice and Policies

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**CHILD, YOUTH AND
FAMILY STUDIES**

11 November 2023



OVERVIEW

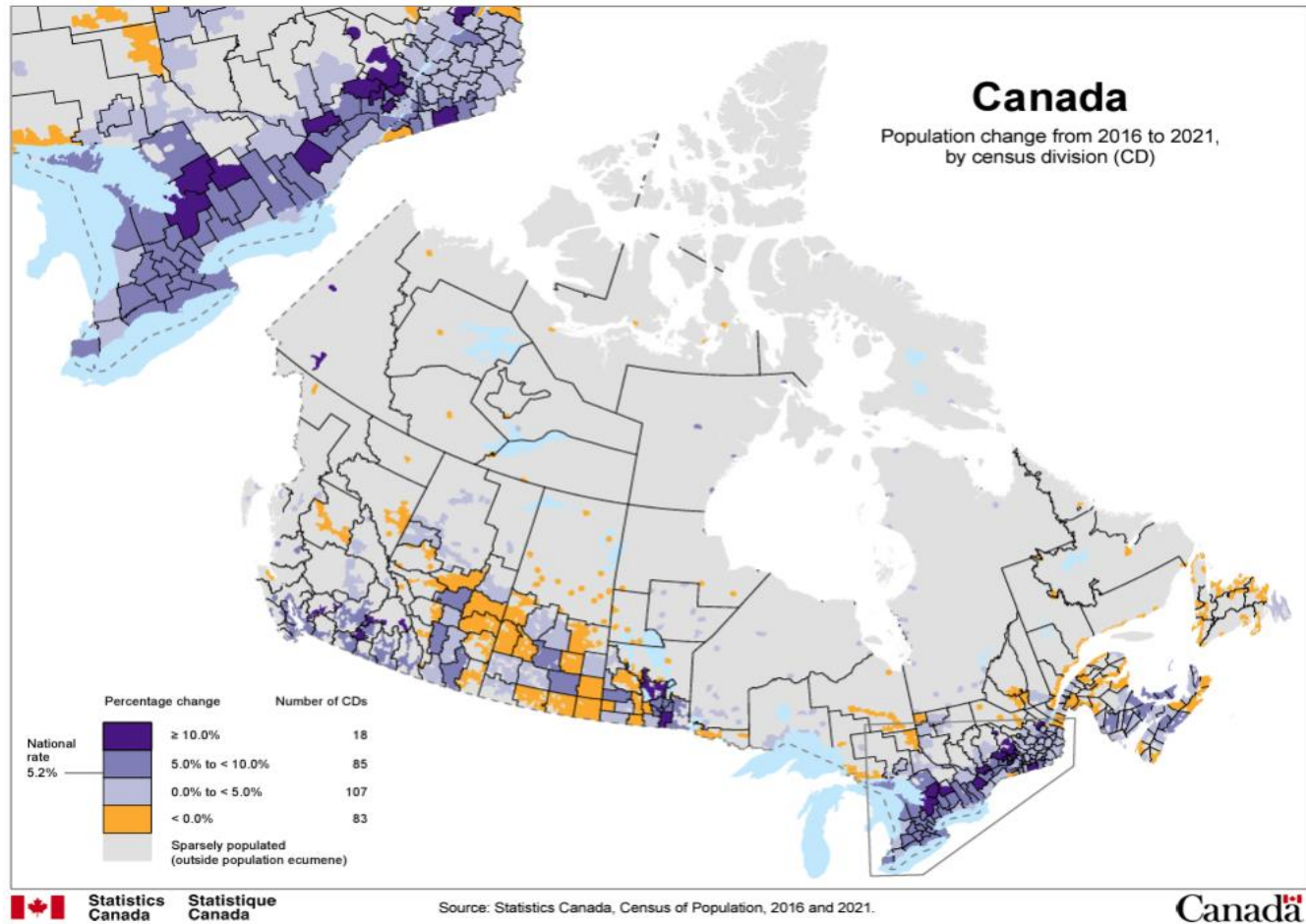
This presentation reviews recent trends of regional migration and changing demographics in North America. It also reviews the literature on the experiences of transnational families, parenting across distance, related mental health issues, and a preliminary comparison of the reunification policies of Canada and the United States, and Mexico.

REGIONAL MIGRATION TRENDS

Canada

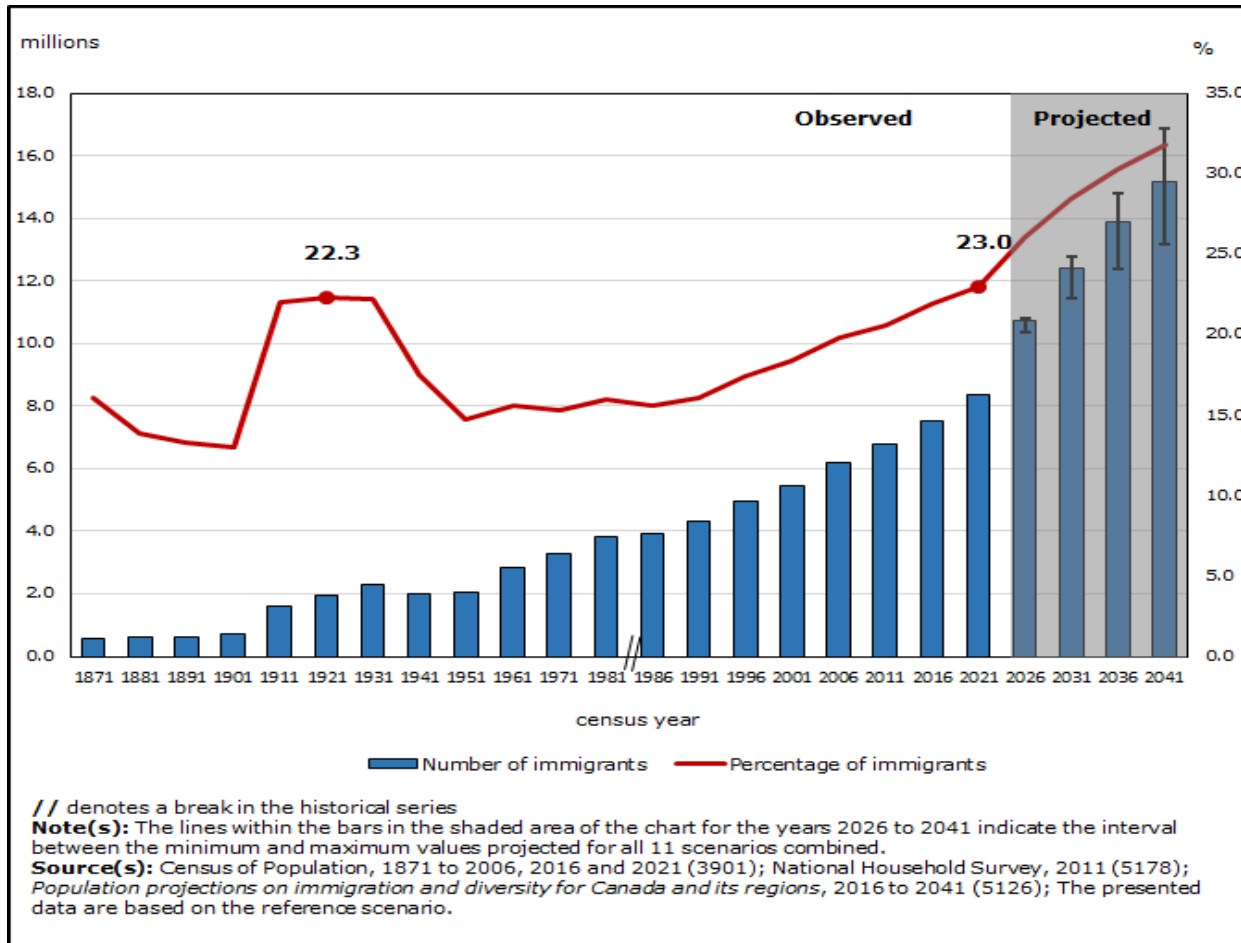
- Currently, estimated population of 40 million people.
- Largest ethnic groups of people born outside of Canada migrated from India, China, and the Philippines.
- Non-permanent residents 20-34 years old accounted for 60.1% of the NPR population in 2021.
- About 1 and 4 residents are immigrants.
- Approximately 500,000 undocumented migrants.

CANADA MIGRATION TRENDS



Source: Statistics Canada, Census Division, Population change from 2016 to 2021. Available at <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/geo/maps-cartes/thematicmaps-cartesthematiques/pd-pl/map-eng.cfm?lang=E&mapid=1&dguid=2021A000011124>

CANADA MIGRATION TRENDS



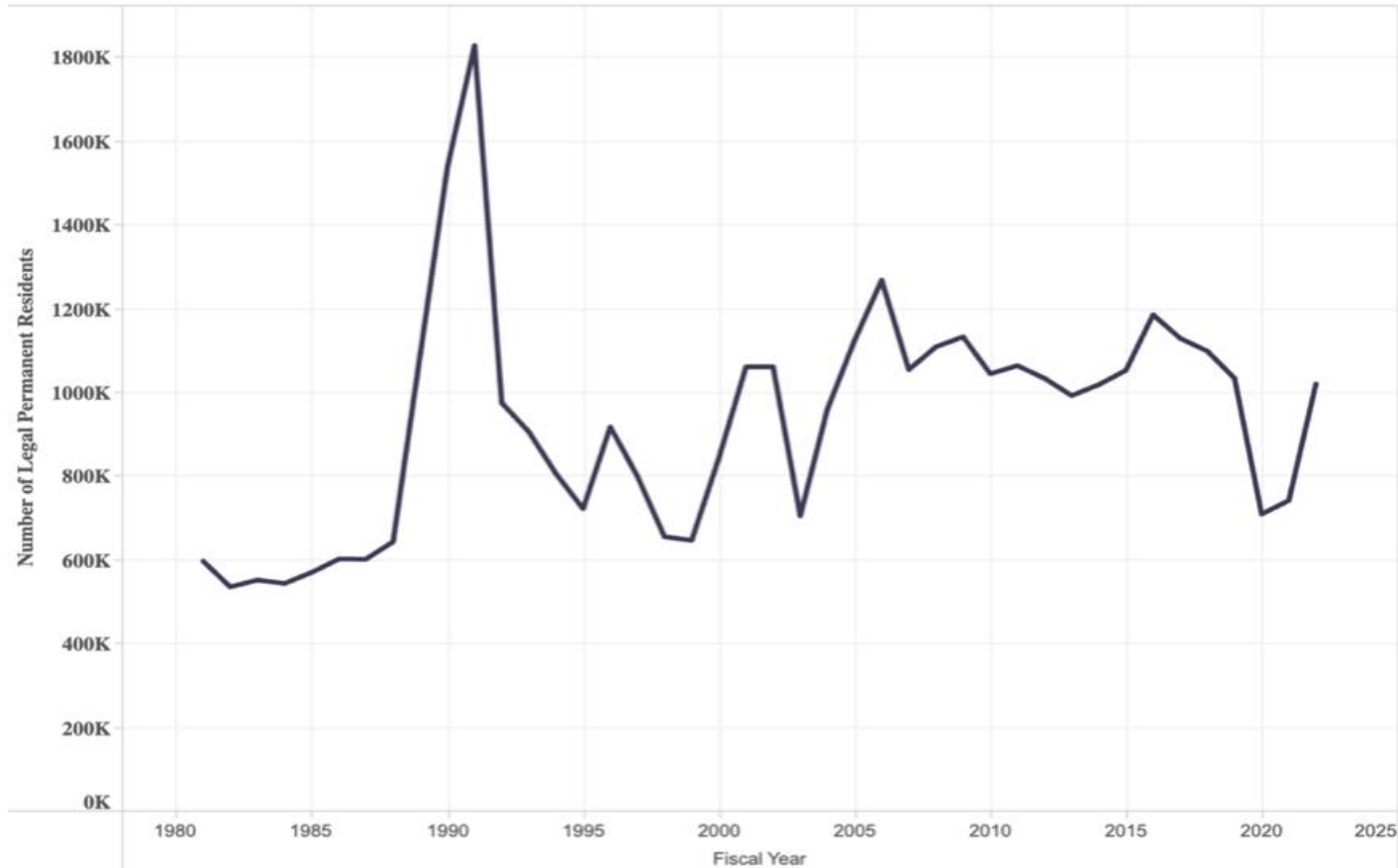
Source: Statistics Canada.
 Available at <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/221026/g-a001-eng.htm>

REGIONAL MIGRATION TRENDS

United States

- 1 in 4 children are with at least one immigrant parent in the U.S.
- 13.9% of the population in the U.S. was foreign-born in 2022.
- On average, the U.S. resettles 73,300 refugees annually through its resettlement program.
- The annual number of new legal permanent residents (LPRs; including green card holders) has been fluctuating for decades.
- Regional economic status, financial opportunities, and other family-related reasons impacted within-country migration trend in the U.S.

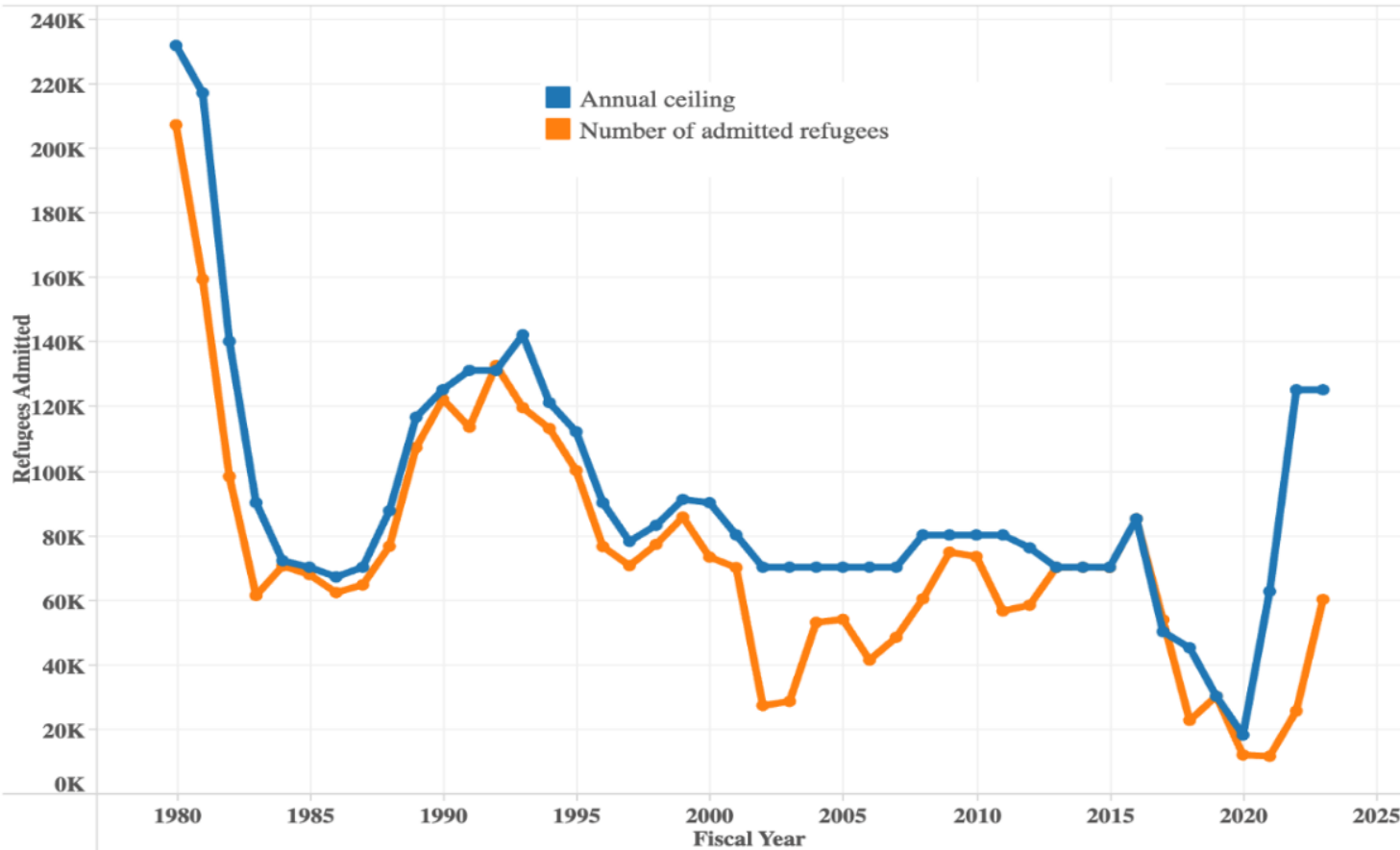
U.S. MIGRATION TRENDS



Source: Migration Policy Institute. Tabulations of U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Office of Immigration Statistics, Yearbook of Immigration Statistics (various years). Available at www.dhs.gov/files/statistics/publications/yearbook.shtm.

Annual Number of U.S. Legal Permanent Residents (LPRs), Fiscal Years 1980-2022

U.S. MIGRATION TRENDS



Source: Migration Policy Institute (MPI). Analysis of WRAPS data from the State Department Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration. Available at www.wrapsnet.org/admissions-and-arrivals/.

U.S. Refugee Admissions & Refugee Resettlement Ceilings, Fiscal Years 1980-2023

REGIONAL MIGRATION TRENDS

Mexico

- As of July 1, 2022, the U.S. Hispanic population had reached 63.7 million, making it the largest racial or ethnic immigrant group.
- Nearly one in six people in the U.S. being born outside the country, and among these immigrants, Mexican-born individuals account for 25% of the total.
- The decline in Mexican immigrants in the U.S. has been due mostly to a decrease in the undocumented immigrant population from Mexico, in accordance with stricter enforcement of U.S. immigration laws.
- Economic factors represent a significant driver of migration, with many people and families pursuing enhanced job opportunities and a higher quality of life. Equally important is the desire for family reunification.

MEXICO MIGRATION TRENDS

2018

Indicator ^{/a}	Percentage
	2018
Search for work or work	67.7
Meeting with the family	14.1
Studies	12.2
Public insecurity or violence	0.8
Immigration regularization	0.2
Another reason	0.0
Not specified	5.0

Notes and Calls:

From August 2013 to October 5, 2018.

Fountain:

National Survey of Demographic Dynamics (ENADID) (/programas/enadid/2018/)

Available at
<https://www.inegi.org.mx/temas/migracion/>

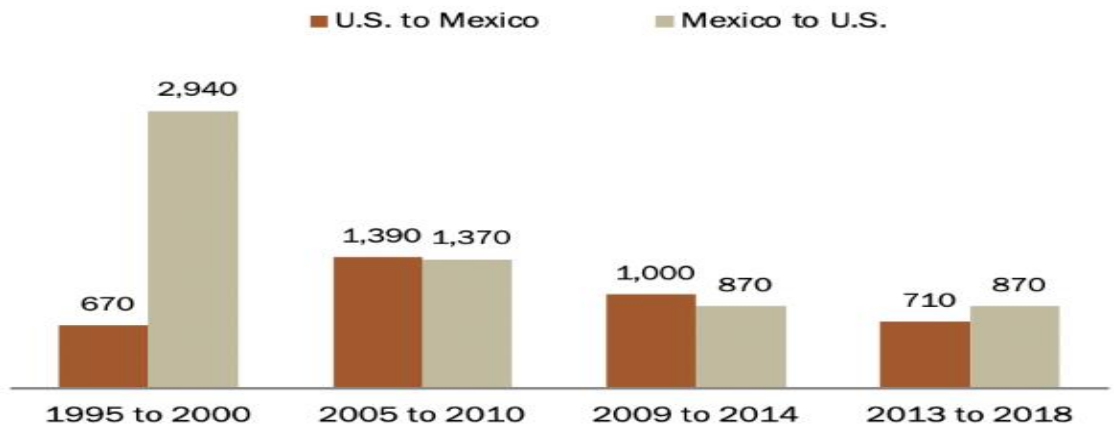
Percentage Distribution of International Emigrants Due to Emigration

Figure 8. Net Migration from Mexico to U.S. returned to positive between 2013-2018

MIGRATION TRENDS: NORTH AMERICA

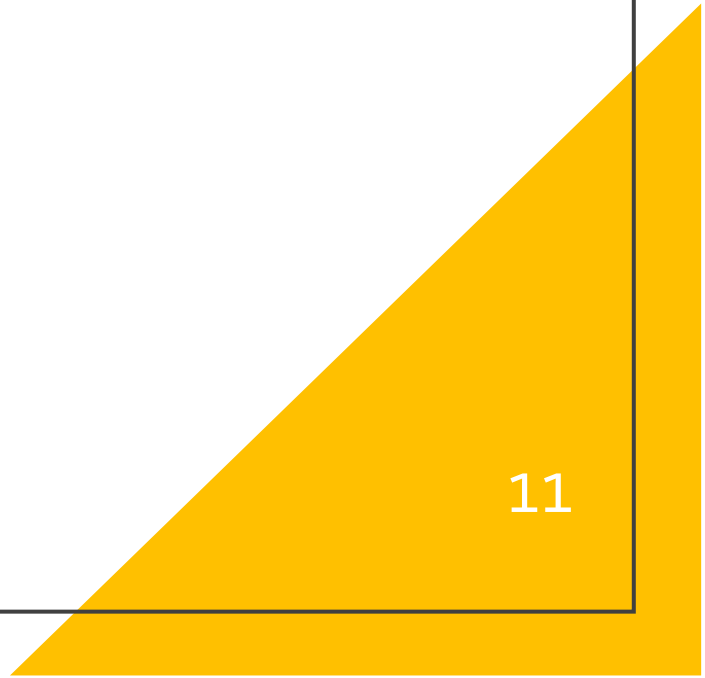
NET MIGRATION FROM MEXICO TO U.S. RETURNED TO POSITIVE BETWEEN 2013-2018

In thousands



Note: Figures are rounded to the nearest 10,000. Estimates are for February 1995 through February 2000, June 2005 through June 2010, August 2009 through August 2014, and August 2013 through August 2018. Migration from the U.S. to Mexico includes persons born in Mexico, the U.S., and elsewhere; Mexico to U.S. includes Mexican-born persons only. Source: 1995-2000 and 2005-2010: Passel, Cohn and Gonzalez-Barrera (2012); 2009-2014: Gonzalez-Barrera (2015); 2013-2018 U.S. to Mexico: Pew Research Center estimates from population, household and migrant microdata samples of 2018 ENADID; Mexico to the U.S.: based on Pew Research Center estimates from augmented March supplement to the 2013-2018 Current Population Survey and augmented 2013-2018 American Community Survey. Estimate for 2018 based on the American Community Survey is preliminary.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER



TRANSNATIONAL FAMILIES

- Four major reasons for family separation and migration -- economic opportunity, sociopolitical crisis, personal crisis, and normative cultural practice in pursuing education (de Guzman et al, 2018).
- Refugee families face limited access to resources, cultural adaptation, financial difficulties, and emotional distress from family separation (Lim, 2009).
- Transnational couple relationship often experiences shifting power to women in a new sociocultural, economic context of gendered ideologies.

TRANSNATIONAL FAMILIES

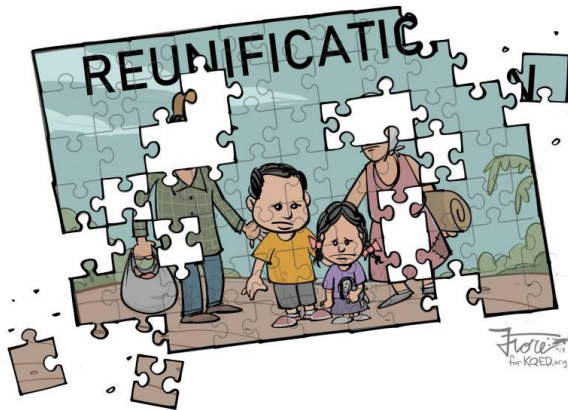
- Recent transnational families with **left behind children (LBC)** experience:
 1. Reconfiguration of the family
 2. Parenting through digital technology
 3. Kinship care and care rearrangement for children
 4. Conflicts upon reunification between family members

LBC inevitably face increased developmental risks due to their parental absence; they have higher risks for depression and anxiety, feeling unwanted, and dropping out of school than children with accompanied parents (Delgado, 2020).

TRANSNATIONAL MOTHERHOOD, FAMILIES, AND MENTAL HEALTH

- Transnational motherhood pertains to the efforts made by migrant mothers to meet their maternal responsibilities by providing their children with essential support (e.g., financial assistance, emotional care).
- Transnational mothers are involved in parenting whether they are physically present or not.
- Migrant mothers who are socialized into the gendered role may feel they abandoned their children and thus have a strong feeling of guilt.

TRANSNATIONAL MOTHERHOOD, FAMILIES, AND MENTAL HEALTH



- Mother-child separation during the migration process has various negative impacts and add stressors and negative effects on both mothers' mental health and children's development.
- The left-behind children (LBC) in their homelands due to mothers' migration have been found to face multiple risks for poor well-being and having a hard time navigating new life when they were **reunited** with their mothers in the U.S.. These children continued to struggle in their adolescence.

REUNIFICATION POLICY COMPARISON

- Both Canada and the U.S. have adopted new immigration measures to reunite families who are currently separated by borders.
- In the past 10 years, the United States has used Family Reunification Parole Process programs to bring separated family members in different countries to the U.S.
- Canadian government reunites families with simple and quick procedures and use the reunification program to relieve the lack of workers in labor markets.



REUNIFICATION POLICY COMPARISON

- Since January 2023, Mexico and U.S. have joined on migration initiatives via a set of additional measures to address the humanitarian context at the shared border and in the region.
- Both countries are willing to expand legal pathways while the U.S. intends to welcome as many as 100,000 individuals from Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador under the family reunification parole processes.
- Mexico will keep accepting migrants from Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua, and Venezuela on humanitarian grounds.



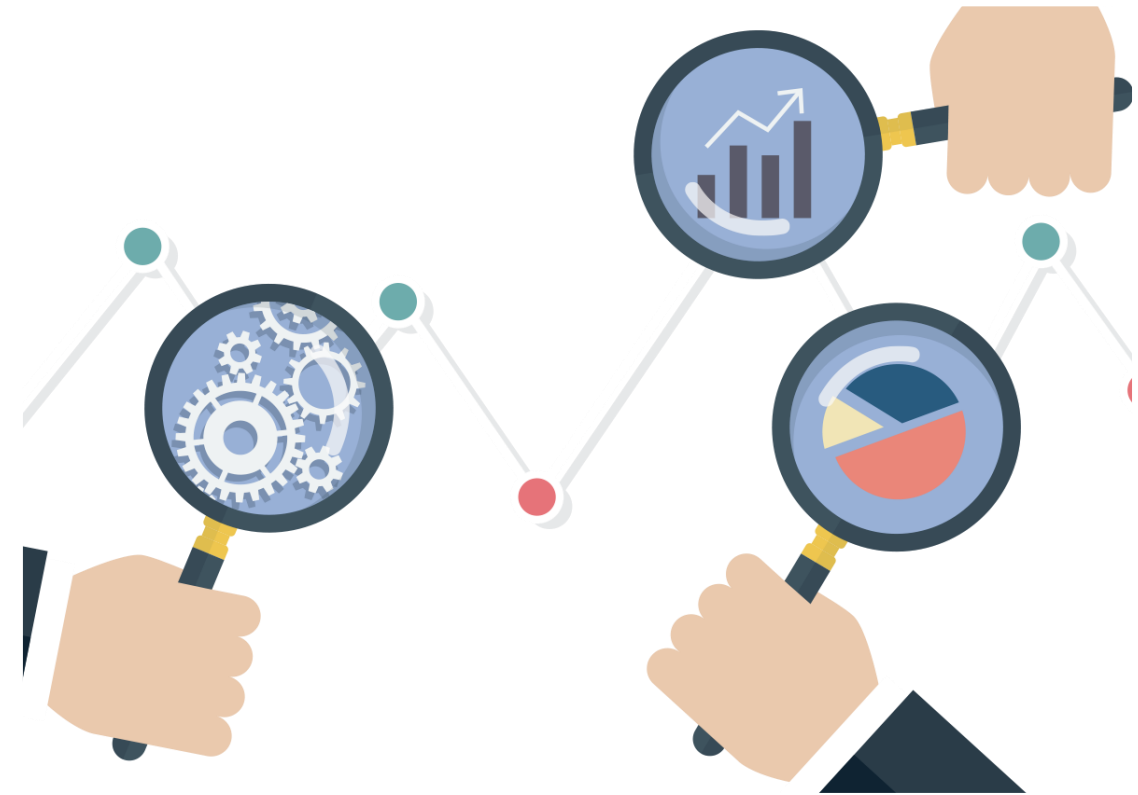
RECOMMENDATION #1

Take a **holistic approach** by establishing a standing interagency that integrates, coordinates, and synchronizes the reunification collaboration between and with federal agencies and NGOs.



RECOMMENDATION #2

Adopt policies that address **both family reunification and labor shortage** by uniting family members faster and providing a path for newcomers to support themselves upon their arrival.



RECOMMENDATION #3

Collaborate between governments in addressing the challenges in the reunification of transnational families.



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