



Filling the Data Gap: Lessons from the Migration Information Source

A Project of the
Migration Policy Institute



Migration Policy Institute

- New think tank based in Washington, D.C.
- Created in 2001
- Dedicated to the study of the movement of people worldwide



Global Data Center

- How can we use technology to make migration data more accessible?
- How can we add value to the data that is already available?
- What can we do to explain the limitations of the data?



Theme 1: Start with Simple Improvements.

“How many Mexicans legally enter the United States each year?”



Theme 2: Keep It Timely.

“I am looking for some information on welfare benefits given to asylum seekers in Italy, Denmark, the US, and Canada.”



Theme 3: Be Forward-Looking.

“I find a lot of information on remittances as a whole but can't seem to find anything on remittances by Hispanics from Arizona to Mexico.”



Theme 4: Capacity-Building is Critical.

“Do you have any information on the urban consequences of international migration in developing countries?”



Theme 5: Improve Data on Integration

“I am looking for data about the labor market participation of immigrants in different countries. We would like to compare Sweden to other countries which are more successful in integrating immigrants.”



Theme 6: Anticipate the Political Climate.

"I am based in Santiago, Chile and am working on post-September 11 changes to immigration policies. Can you recommend a good source?"



Theme 7: Migration is a human experience with a profound impact.

"How many El Salvadoran refugees living in the United States may be torture survivors?"



General Challenges

- What kinds of data do we really need in a world of endless data?
- Even given a compelling rationale, what is the best way to build the capacity of countries new to migration data and information?
- Can we protect confidentiality in an increasingly technological world in which personal information is easily available?
- What organization(s) will take the lead in promoting better, compatible, and relevant data?



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