



CHILD AND FAMILY MIGRATION TO THE UNITED STATES: CONTINUING FLOWS AND EVOLVING RESPONSES



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Logistics

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**Marc R.
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Marc R. Rosenblum is Deputy Director of MPI's U.S. Immigration Policy Program, where he works on U.S. immigration policy, immigration enforcement, and U.S. regional migration relations.

Dr. Rosenblum returned to MPI, where he had been a Senior Policy Analyst, after working as a specialist in immigration policy at the Congressional Research Service. He was a Council on Foreign Relations Fellow detailed to the office of U.S. Sen. Edward Kennedy during the 2006 Senate immigration debate and was involved in crafting the Senate's immigration legislation in 2006 and 2007. He also served as a member of President-elect Obama's Immigration Policy Transition Team in 2009.

He has published more than 60 academic journal articles, book chapters, and policy briefs on immigration, immigration policy, and U.S.-Latin American relations. He is the coeditor (with Daniel Tichenor) of *The Oxford Handbook of International Migration* (Oxford University Press).

Dr. Rosenblum earned his B.A. from Columbia University and his Ph.D. from the University of California, San Diego, and is an Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of New Orleans.

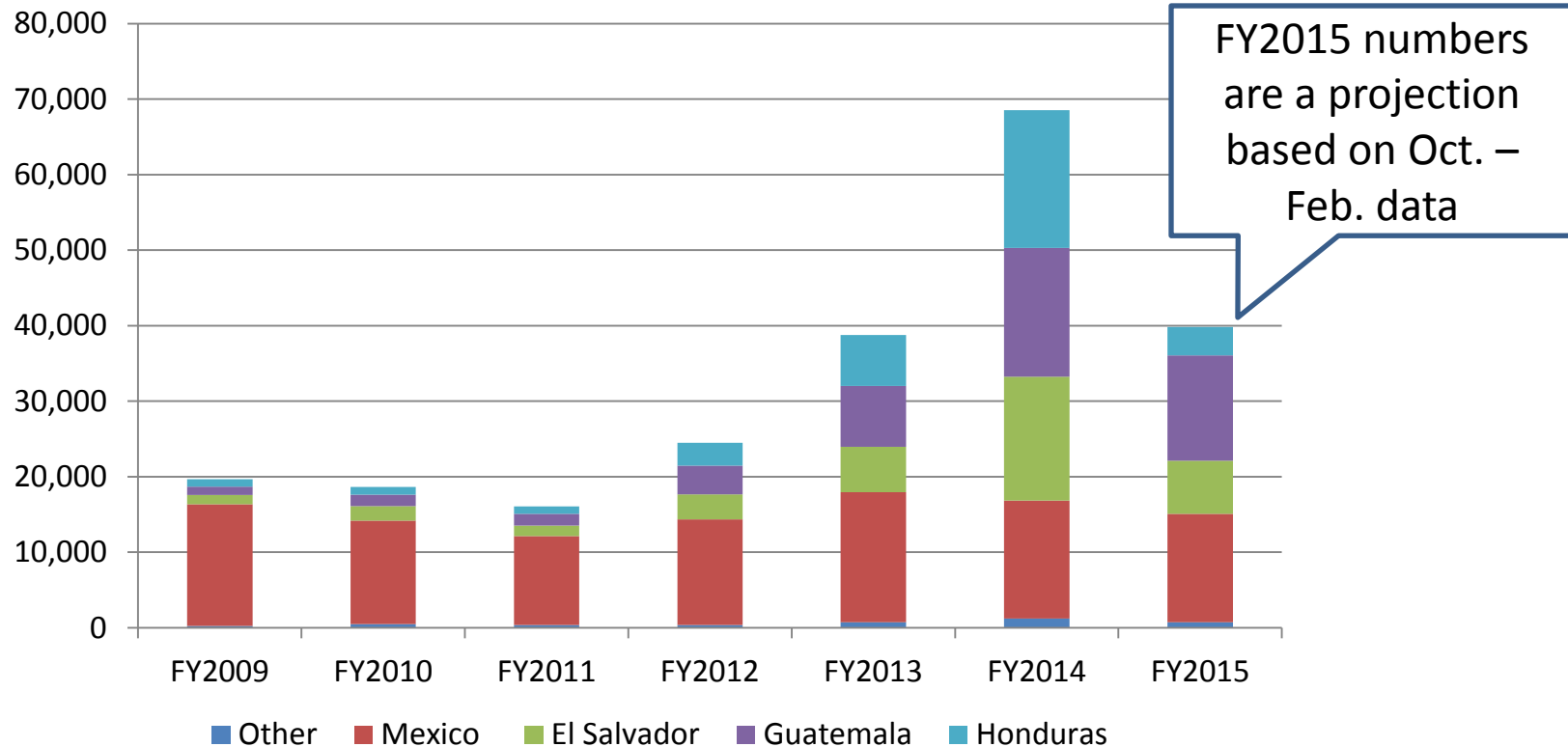


Overview

- Child and Family Migration Phenomenon
- U.S. Policies: Enforcement and Protection
- What Explains the Recent Surge?
- Policy Challenges and Responses
- Discussion and Recommendations: Federal and International issues
- State and Local Impact and Policy Issues

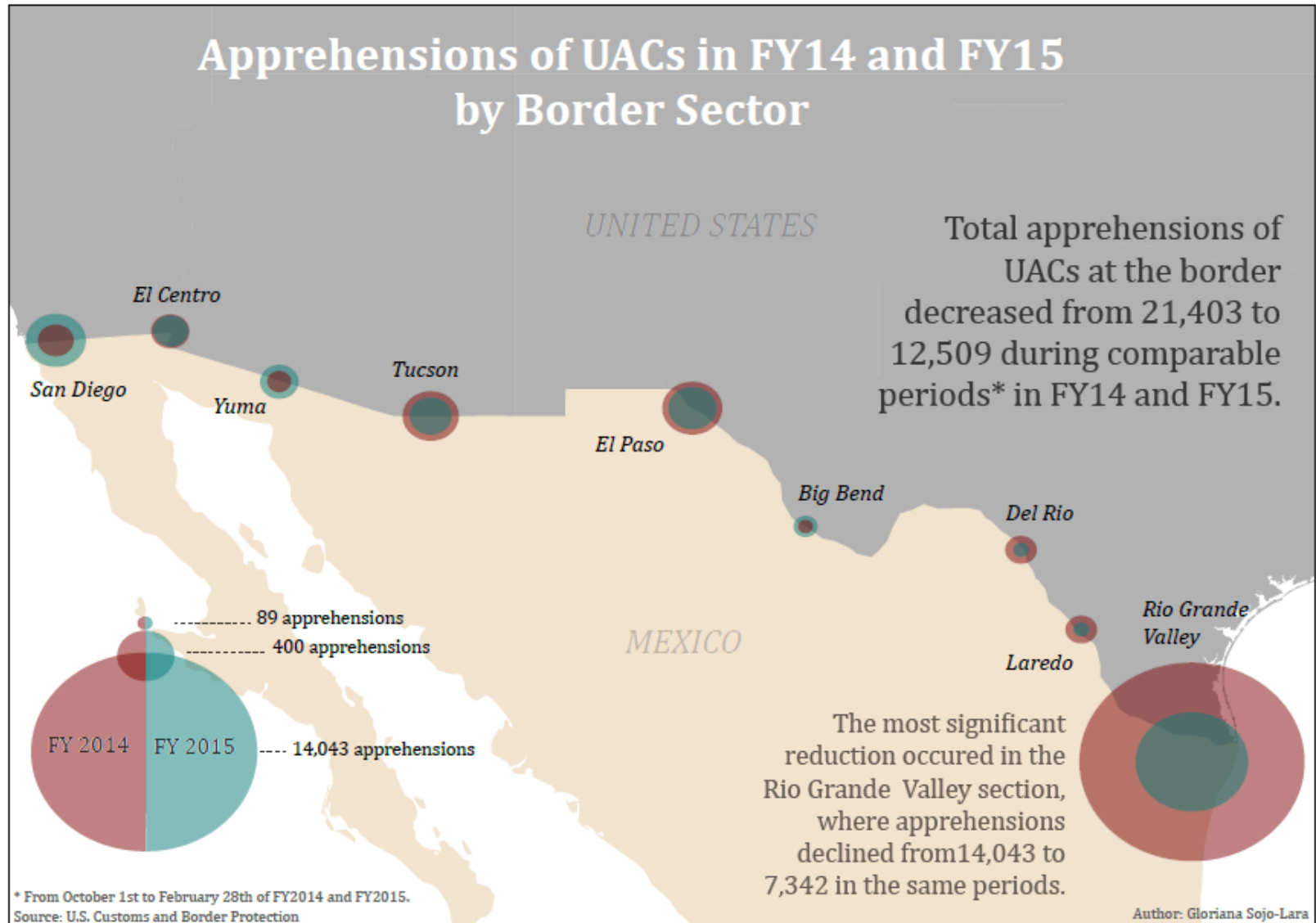
Unaccompanied Child Migration

- Apprehension of UACs, by Nationality



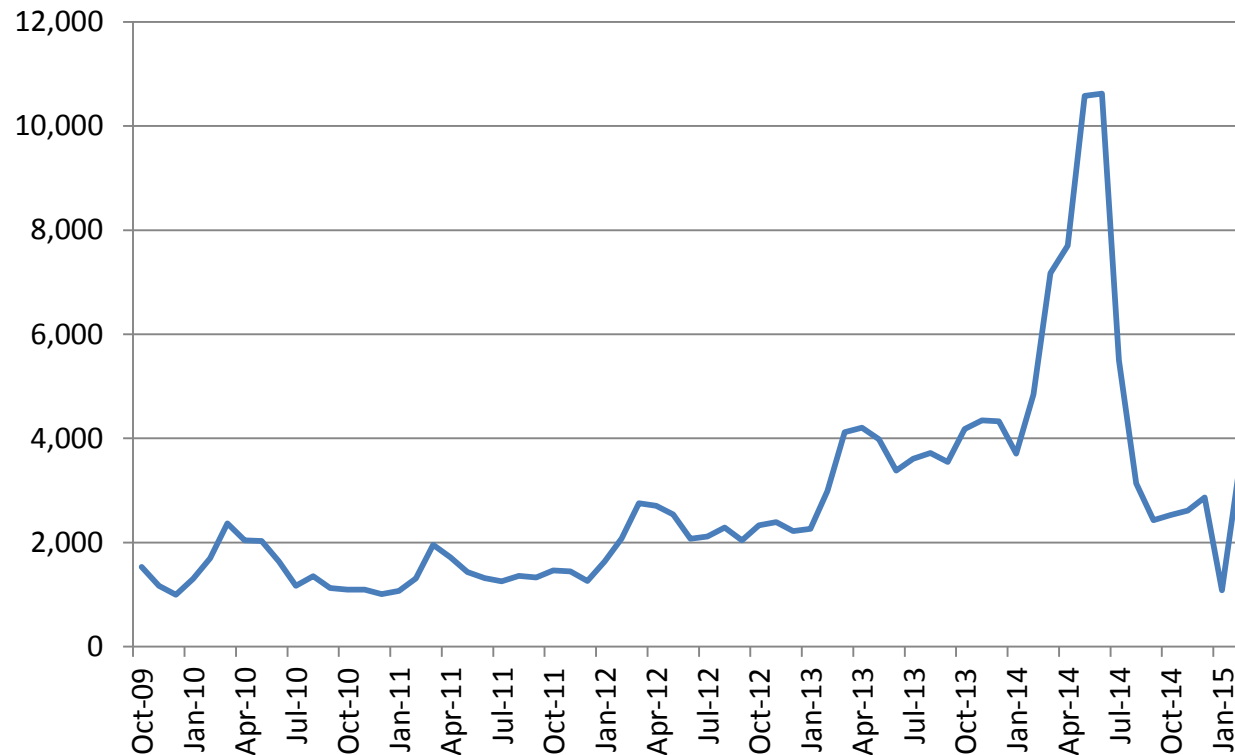
Source: U.S. Customs and Border Protection

Unaccompanied Child Migration



Unaccompanied Child Migration

- Monthly UAC Apprehensions, FY2010-FY2015

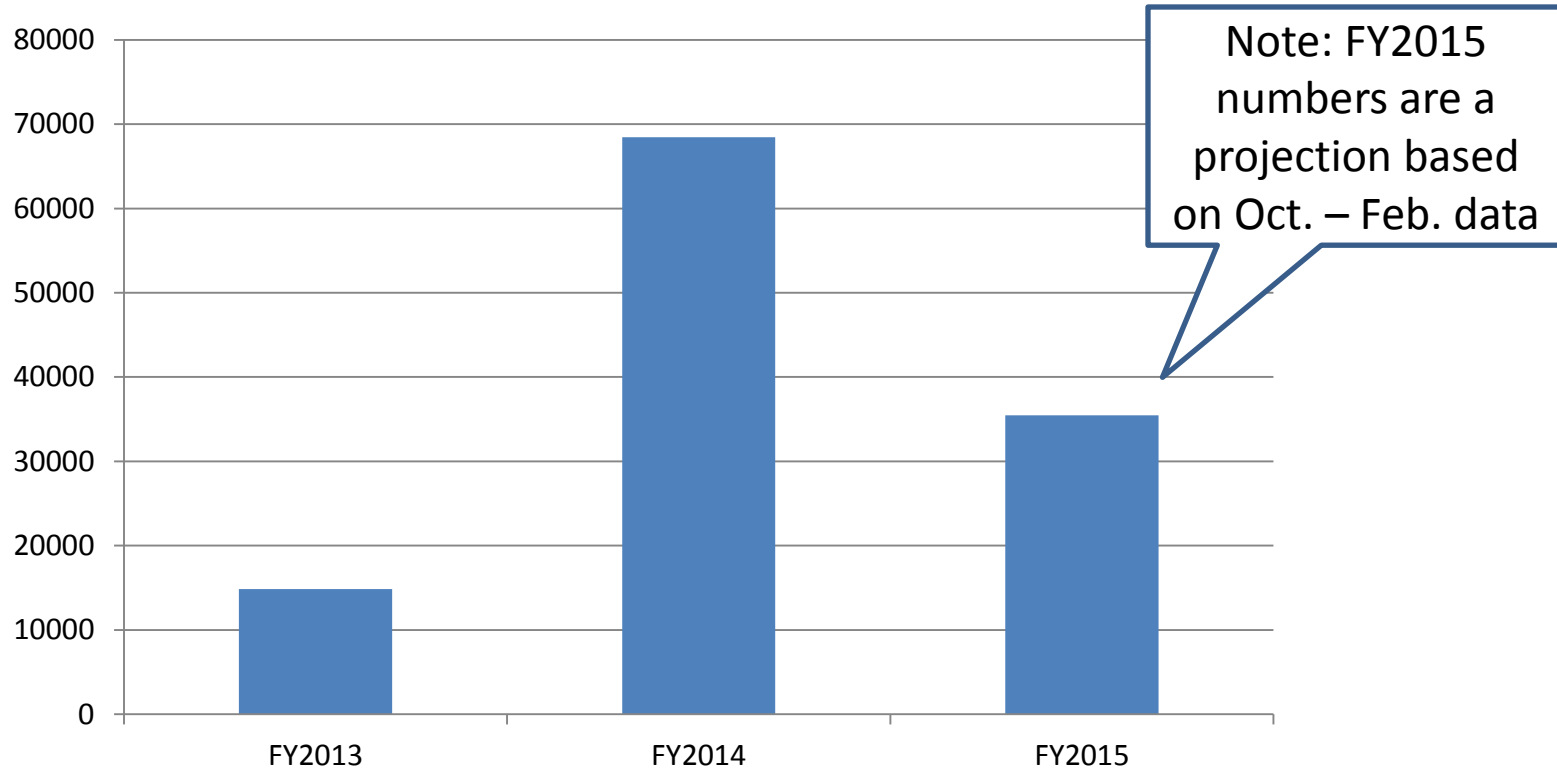


Source: U.S. Customs and Border Protection



Mothers and Children (Family Units)

- Family Unit Apprehensions, FY2013-FY2015

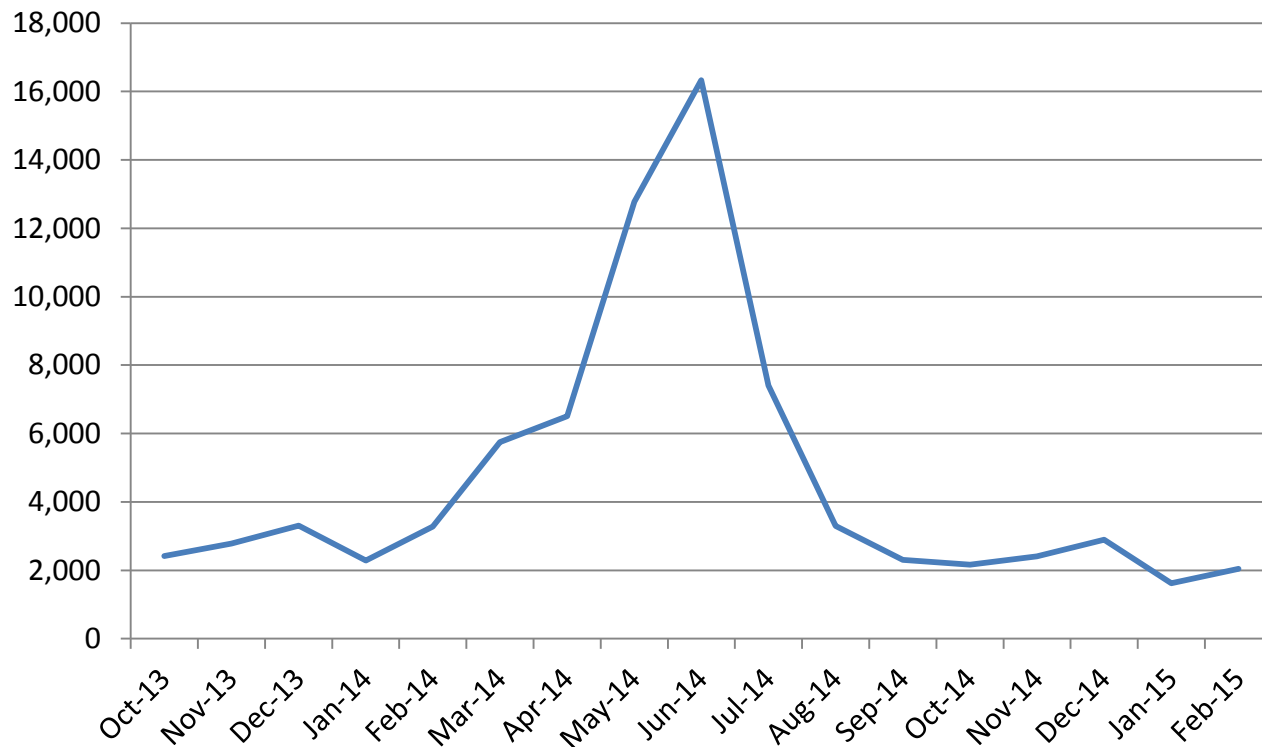


Source: U.S. Customs and Border Protection



Mothers and Children (Family Units)

- Monthly Family Unit Apprehensions, FY2014-FY2015



Source: U.S. Customs and Border Protection



U.S. Immigration Control Policies

- Enforcement vs. Protection
 - Removal and Return
 - Immigration Detention
 - Asylum and Special Immigrant Juvenile (SIJ) Status



U.S. Immigration Control Policies

- Immigration Screening and Adjudication
 - Border adjudication (CBP)
 - Asylum Corps (USCIS)
 - Immigration Judges (EOIR)



U.S. Immigration Control Policies

- Special Rules for Unaccompanied Children
 - Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (TVPRA) of 2008
 - Rules for UACs from contiguous countries (Mexico and Canada)
 - Screening by CBP
 - Rules for all other UACs
 - Screening by CBP
 - Adjudication (EOIR)
 - Detention (HHS – ORR): least restrictive setting in best interest of the child



U.S. Immigration Control Policies

- Special rules for family units
 - 1997-2005: released
 - 2005-2009: detained
 - 2009-2014: released
 - June 2014- February 2015: detained
 - Currently: released



What Explains the Recent Surge?

- Structural push and pull factors
- Limits and unintended consequences of U.S. policy
- Immigrant smugglers and social networks



What Explains the Recent Surge?

- Structural push and pull factors
 - Violence in Central America
 - Economic insecurity
 - Family reunification



What Explains the Recent Surge?

- Limits and unintended consequences of U.S. policy
 - Average processing time to complete immigration adjudication = 483 days (Feb. 2015; TRAC)
 - Average wait time (including pending cases) = 597 days (Feb. 2015; TRAC)
 - Implications for immigration enforcement
 - Implications for immigrant protection



What Explains the Recent Surge?

- Immigrant smugglers and social networks
 - Change in smuggler business model
 - Interaction with U.S. adjudication problems
 - Misinformation campaign



Policy Challenges and Responses

- The challenge of responding to mixed flows
 - Policy challenges
 - Political challenges



Policy Challenges and Responses

- Policy responses in 2014-15
 - Institutional reforms
 - Enhanced enforcement
 - Changes to adjudication process
 - Information campaign to deter exits
 - In-country processing



Discussion and Recommendations

- Limitations of recent policy changes
 - Failure to address basic drivers of migration
 - Much greater focus on enforcement than protection



Discussion and Recommendations

- Policies to address drivers of migration:
 - Investments in security and economic development
 - Plan for the Alliance for Prosperity in the Northern Triangle
 - U.S. support
 - Changes to facilitate legal flows from Central America
 - Short-term reforms
 - Long-term reforms



Discussion and Recommendations

- Policies to balance enforcement and protection
 - U.S. in-country processing
 - Screening/adjudication in Mexico and Central America
 - Adjudication in United States
 - By USCIS
 - Immigration court reform
 - Alternatives to detention

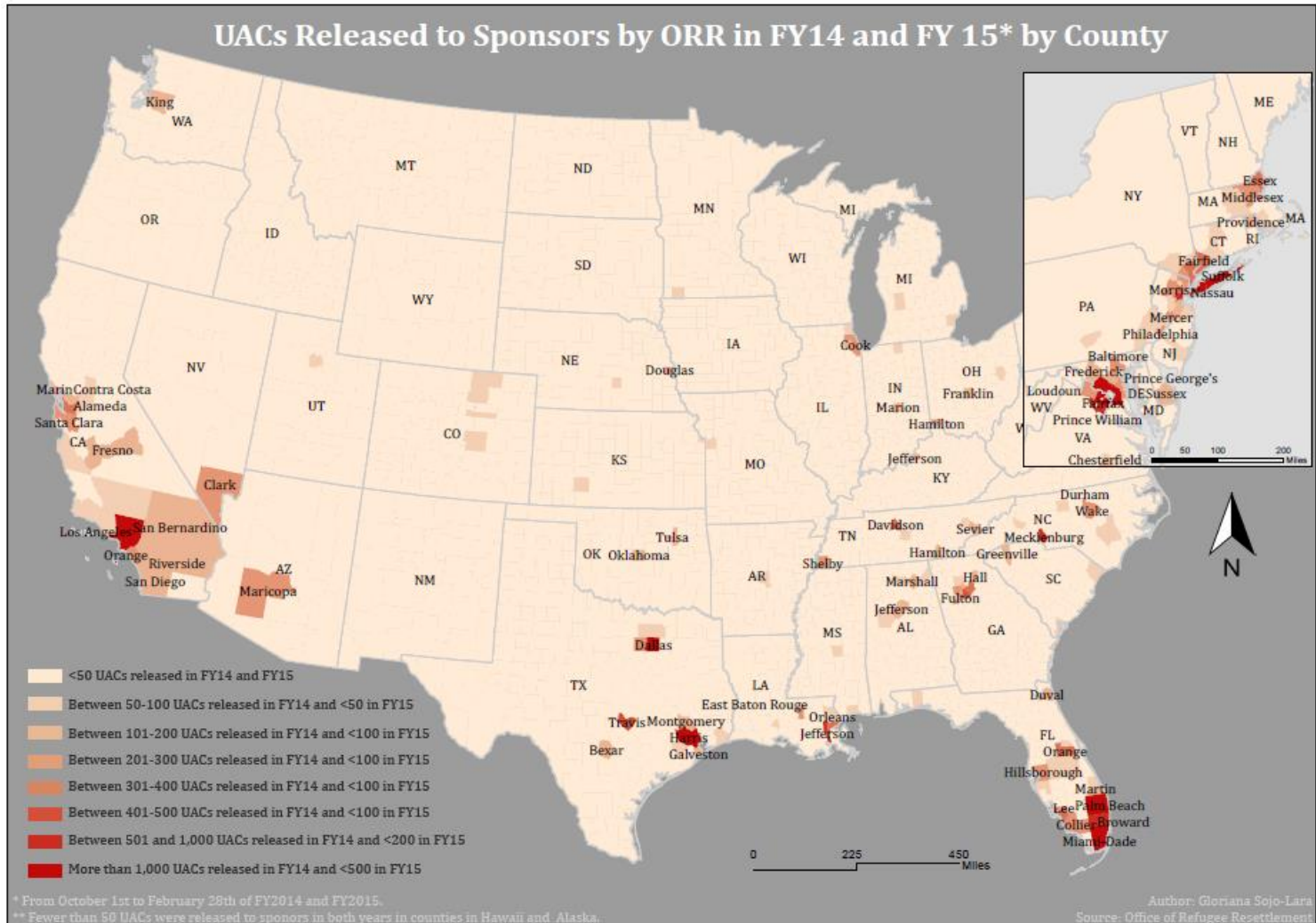


Margie McHugh
Director,
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Margie McHugh is Director of the Migration Policy Institute's National Center on Immigrant Integration Policy. The Center is a national hub for leaders in government, community affairs, business and academia to obtain the insights and knowledge they need to respond to the challenges and opportunities that today's high rates of immigration pose for communities across the United States. It provides in-depth research, policy analysis, technical assistance, training and information resource services on a broad range of immigrant integration issues.

Ms. McHugh's work focuses on education quality and access issues for immigrants and their children from early childhood through K-12 and adult, post-secondary and workforce skills programs. She also leads the Center's work seeking a more coordinated federal response to immigrant integration needs and impacts, and more workable systems for recognition of the education and work experience immigrants bring with them to the United States.

UACs Released to Sponsors by County 2014-15



Top Counties for UACs Released to Sponsors 2014-15

State	County	Total Number of Unaccompanied Children Released in FY 2014 and FY 2015 (OCT. 2014 – FEB. 2015)
TX	Harris County	4,544
CA	Los Angeles County	3,454
NY	Suffolk County	1,778
FL	Miami-Dade County	1,702
NY	Nassau County	1,559
MD	Prince George's County	1,522
VA	Fairfax County	1,514
FL	Palm Beach County	1,366
TX	Dallas County	1,320
MD	Montgomery County	1,265

Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Refugee Resettlement, "Unaccompanied Children Released to Sponsors by County" <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/unaccompanied-children-released-to-sponsors-by-county>.



Unaccompanied Children's Placement

- Child transferred to care and custody of the Office of Refugee Resettlement (within HHS)
- Care and placement provided through ORR-contracted agencies
- Placement based on least restrictive setting that is in best interests of child
- Case managers interview prospective sponsors and verify identity
- Most children are released to immediate family members



State and Local Impacts

- **Health and Mental Health**

- Trauma related to journey, country conditions
- Family reunification dynamics
- Challenges of acculturation

- **K-12 Education**

- Many secondary schools are ill prepared to serve late arriving students
- SIFE students pose unique challenges
- Education costs a major point of contention: compulsory service; funded mainly by local taxes

- **Family Unit Impacts on Horizon**



Possible Solutions

- **Revitalize Emergency Immigrant Education Program (under ESEA reauthorization)**
 - *However, formula driven and low per pupil amount*
- **HR5611: Public School Emergency Relief Act**
 - *Up to \$12,000 per student for a range of education, health and counseling costs (\$720m for 60,000)*
- **Special appropriation: \$14 million for LEAs**
 - *Included in December 2014 budget resolution; 35 states with significant increase eligible; roughly \$233 per student if calculated on base of 60,000*



Possible Solutions

- **11.21.14 Presidential Memorandum** established White House Task Force on New Americans; charged with creating National Integration Plan
- **Select Recommendations:**
 - Multi-stakeholder group creates goals and benchmarks for effective integration of late-arriving refugee and immigrant youth; and
 - Establishes cost ranges for services effective in supporting desired educational and socio-emotional outcomes; and
 - Suggests new federal funding approach for essential academic and non-academic supports



Q&A

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