

# Documenting Migration Across Borders: The United States and Canada

**Betsy Guzmán, Kevin Deardorff**

**US Census Bureau**

**Margaret Michalowski**

**Statistics Canada**

# North American Migration Working Group (Background)

- Growing importance of international migration
- Discussion among Canada, the United States, and Mexico on the applicability of UN recommendations to the North American experience
- Necessary first step
  - Documentation (metadata) project

# Documentation (Metadata)

- Variables of interest
  - Do they exist for all countries?
- Definitions
  - Are they the same across countries?
- Collection of information
  - Sources of data?
  - Availability?

# Outline

## Documentation (Metadata) Project

- Framework
  - Characteristics
  - Border Crossings
  - Timing

# Outline (continued)

## Characteristic

- Legal Status
  - Temporary Migrants
    - Size
    - Attributes
    - Impact

# Characteristics

- Who are migrants and what are their characteristics?

## Shared

- age, sex, marital status, surname, occupation, education, place of birth, ancestry, citizenship, etc.

## Limited Availability

- Social Security Number, Alien Registration Number, year of landing, year of entry, etc.

# Outline (continued)

## Characteristic

- Legal Status
  - Temporary Migrants
    - Size
    - Attributes
    - Impact

# Importance of Temporary Migration

- Top five countries of birth for temporary migrants (2000/2001)

## United States

1. India
2. China and Taiwan
3. Japan
4. Canada
5. Korea

## Canada

- United States
- China
- South Korea
- Japan
- United Kingdom

## Table 1. Temporary Migrants in the United States and Canada

Country	Temporary Migrants	Foreign-Born Population	Total Population	Proportion of Temporary Migrants	
				Foreign-born Population (%)	Total Population (%)
United States					
April 1990	487,500	19.8 million	248.7 million	2.5	0.2
April 2000	781,500	31.1 million	281.4 million	2.5	0.3
Canada					
June 1991	223,400	4.6 million	26.7 million	4.9	0.8
May 1996	166,700	5.1 million	28.5 million	3.2	0.6
May 2001	198,600	5.7 million	29.6 million	3.5	0.7

**Source:** Cassidy, Rachel and L. Pearson, 2001. "Evaluating Components of International Migration: Temporary (Legal) Migrants. (Population Division Working Paper #60). US Census Bureau; Statistics Canada. Immigration and Citizenship. Ottawa: Supply and Services Canada, 1992 and unpublished data.

# US Methodology

- No direct data collected on migrant status
- Limitations of administrative data
- Using only Census 2000
- Model visa categories
  - Criteria
  - Evaluate each case

# Population at Risk

## Keep households

- with a foreign-born householder
- where the spouse of the householder is foreign born
- **NEED MORE INFO**

# Outline (continued)

## Characteristic

- Legal Status
  - Temporary Migrants
    - Size
    - Attributes
    - Impact

# Application of Theme

- Temporary migrant estimates (United States and Canada) **(WE DON'T SHOW CANADIAN FIGURES)**
  - Foreign students
  - H-1B workers
- Data available
  - Stock
  - Algorithm for modeling

# Criteria for Estimates of Foreign Students

- Criteria applied to population at risk
  - Entered since 1997
  - Enrolled in an educational institution
  - At least a HS diploma
  - Not in the labor force
  - If employed, working less than 20 hours per week
  - Salary for the previous year under \$7,000
- Maximum estimate: 436,000

# Sensitivity Testing

<u>First Alternative</u>	<u>Second Alternative</u>
Revised criteria: Entered since 1990, in college or graduate school, entered when at least 17 and spouse not working full time	Revised criteria: Entered since 1994, and in college or graduate school
New estimate: 406K	New estimate: 426K

# Criteria for Estimates of H-1B Visa Workers

- Criteria applied to population at risk:
  - Entered since 1997
  - Civilian employment
  - At least a BA degree
  - Private industry
  - High-tech occupation (engineering, computers, etc.)
- Maximum estimate: 142,000
- **WHY DOES THIS NOT MATCH ORIGINAL CRITERIA**

# Sensitivity Testing

## First Alternative

Revised criteria: Changed order of education criterion with private industry criterion

New estimate: 142K

# Future Directions for Project

- Complete documentation of the US and Canadian methodologies
- Evaluate criteria for simulated visa categories
- Reapply criteria to Census 2000
- Develop methodology to apply annually to the American Community Survey (ACS)

# Future Directions for NAMWG

- Continue development of metadata project and prepare comparative tabulations for release
- Evaluate standards to maintain reliability and validity of statistics
- Compare census editing procedures
- Create web site for North American migration exchanges
- Develop North American recommendations on international migration

# Contact Information

- US Census Bureau ([www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov))
  - Betsy Guzmán ([betsy.guzman@census.gov](mailto:betsy.guzman@census.gov))
  - Kevin Deardorff ([kevin.e.deardorff@census.gov](mailto:kevin.e.deardorff@census.gov))
- Statistics Canada ([www.statcan.ca](http://www.statcan.ca))
  - Margaret Michalowski  
([margaret.michalowski@statcan.ca](mailto:margaret.michalowski@statcan.ca))