

Faculti Summary

<https://faculti.net/weather-deviations-linked-to-undocumented-migration-and-return-between-mexico-and-the-united-states/>

This video discusses the significant migration flow from Mexico to the United States, particularly how environmental factors, such as extreme weather events like droughts, affect this migration. Over the past 50 years, research indicates that droughts in agricultural communities—historically sending out migrants—lead to an increase in undocumented migration to the U.S. A study focusing on survey data from 50,000 individuals in 84 rural communities highlights that weather shocks impact migration decisions. When these communities experience drought during key agricultural periods (especially influencing corn production), the likelihood of migration increases, whereas those already in the U.S. may be less inclined to return if their home communities face ongoing weather extremes.

The study also emphasizes that while economic opportunities and a culture of migration significantly influence undocumented migration, weather conditions play a crucial role in exacerbating existing challenges. Successful past migration stories reinforce the perception that migrating is a pathway to success. Additionally, the presence of irrigation systems in communities can mitigate migration pressures by giving residents better control over their water sources and crop yields, suggesting that investments in irrigation could help reduce migration driven by environmental factors.