

Border closing, border opening, migrants' health

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- “In general, evidence shows that restricting the movement of people and goods during public health emergencies is ineffective in most situations...”
- “... in certain circumstances, measures that restrict the movement of people may prove temporarily useful, such as in settings with few international connections...”

People in movement... interrupted

- Mixed flows (from CA, Mexico, other regions)
 - Combination of reasons for migration: fleeing violence/disasters (seeking asylum), economic. Structural violence
 - 25-30% female, 10-20% minors
 - 14,000-60,000 persons
- Mexican deportees (returned)
 - 30% long term in USA (source: EMIF 2019)
- Commuters (trans-border workers, students, families)

Health-related consequences of closure

Mexican deportees (returned)

- In detention: risk of transmission of SARS-CoV-2
- Upon return: reduced access to healthcare, mental health issues

Mixed flows

- Delaying of asylum processes
 - More time in Mexican border cities (limited access to care / hygienic measures)
 - Mental health consequences
 - Reduced income/resources
- NGOs and volunteers face difficulties to provide support

We have few data on COVID among migrants



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MIGRANTS IN TRANSIT AND ASYLUM SEEKERS IN MEXICO: AN EPIDEMIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

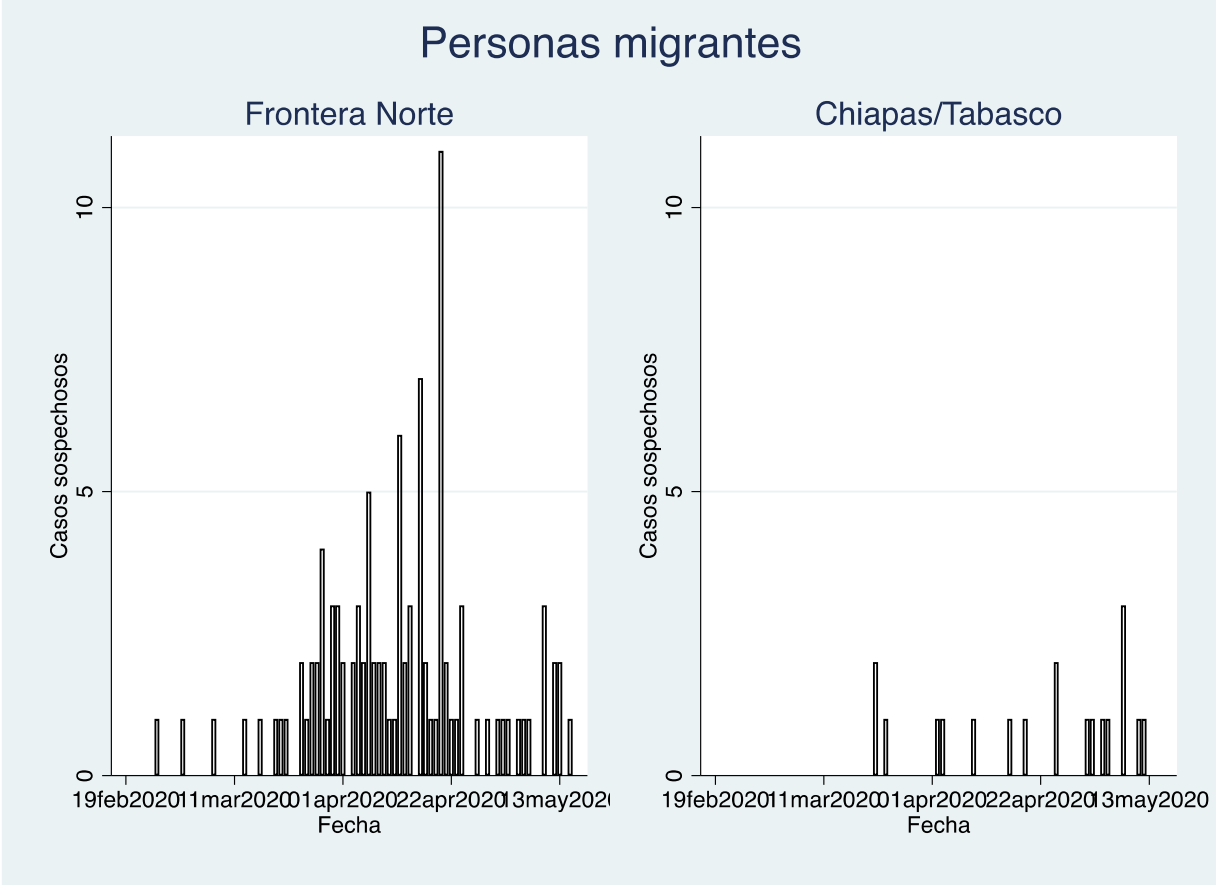
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This article is a preprint and has not been peer-reviewed [what does this mean?]. It reports new medical research that has yet to be evaluated and so should not be used to guide clinical practice.

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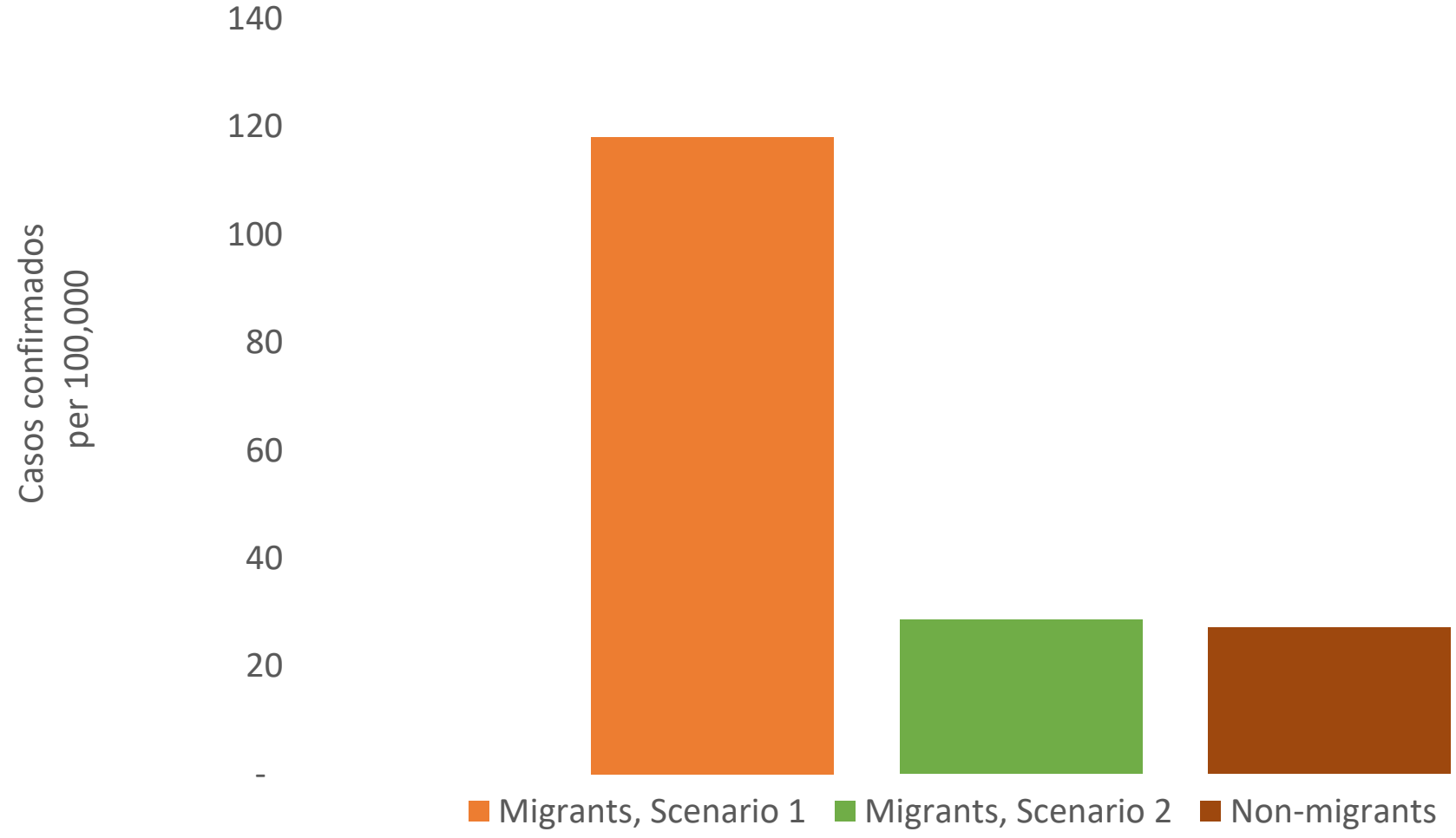


Source: <https://datos.gob.mx/busca/dataset/informacion-referente-a-casos-covid-19-en-mexico> 17/mayo/20

Are migrants at risk of COVID-19?

	Migrants ¹				People of Mexican nationality			
	0-17 (n=13) ²	18-49 (n=47)	50+ (n=14)	Total (n=74)	0-17 (n=798)	18-49 (n=9,082)	50+ (n=4,307)	Total (n=14,187)
Positive cases, n (%)³	0	5 (10.9)	5 (38.5)	10 (13.9)	70 (9.5)	2070 (26.0)	1315 (36.4)	3455 (28.0)
Hospitalized cases, n (%)	0	5 (10.6)	3 (21.4)	8 (10.8)	319 (40.0)	1513 (16.7)	2090 (48.5)	3922 (27.7)
Risk conditions, n (%)								
Hypertension	0	3 (6.4)	3 (21.4)	6 (8.1)	6 (0.8)	1004 (11.1)	1895 (44.2)	2905 (20.6)
Diabetes	0	2 (4.3)	0	2 (2.7)	5 (0.6)	717 (7.9)	1421 (33.1)	2143 (15.2)
Obesity	0	0	1 (7.1)	1 (1.4)	5 (0.6)		255 (6.0)	323 (2.3)

Are migrants at risk of COVID-19?



Border closing, migration and transmission

- Border closure has not been proved to be an effective measure to stop transmission
- Migrants are not the only ones on the move
- If migrants (or anyone) reside in concentration, the likelihood of transmission increases
- Migrants in shelters and camps are at increased risk of:
 - transmission of respiratory infections
 - COVID outbreaks in shelters
 - Health consequences of border closing and other measures