Impact of Violence and Development in Central America’s Northern Triangle on Unaccompanied Alien Child (UAC) Migration to the United States

UACs leave in greater numbers from areas experiencing **recent increases in homicides** rather than areas with persistent violence.

In areas with **100 or more homicides per year**, per 100,000 residents, 1 additional homicide per year results in approximately **1.5–2 additional UAC apprehensions per year**.

Analysis of data on 178,825 UAC apprehensions in the U.S. from 893 Northern Triangle municipalities between 2011 and 2016 shows that:

1 additional homicide/year\(^2\) leads to roughly 1 additional UAC apprehension/year\(^3\)

Increased UAC apprehensions are driven by recent spikes in homicides roughly as much as by **persistent negative economic conditions**, but not by recent economic shocks.

UAC migration is much **higher from areas with lower poverty**, all else equal, as well as modestly **higher from areas with higher average incomes**, where families can financially support migration.

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1. El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras
2. Over a 4-year period
3. Or 3.7 cumulative UACs over 4 years
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