

PRATIO: Introduction

This file contains the variables for annual migration prevalence ratio, which were described for the first time by Douglas Massey, Luin Goldrin, and Jorge Durand in their article "Continuities in Transnational Migration: An Analysis of Nineteen Mexican Communities." *American Journal of Sociology* Vol. 99, No. 6 (May, 1994), pp. 1492-1533.

Massey et. al. define the prevalence ratio "as the number of people with international migratory experience divided by the total number of people alive." By using the MMP – PERS174 file, the prevalence ratio was calculated retrospectively for any year for every person in the community interviewed using their date of birth and the date of his/her first trip to the U.S. "This ratio, when calculated for different years within a community, provides a simple indicator of how widespread migratory experience has become at any point in time. It serves as a proxy for the extent of a community's involvement in the migratory process and allows us to compare communities at very different stages of migratory development. In this way, the prevalence ratio partially controls for the effect of differences in the history and timing of migration. In essence, it standardizes the units of comparison." pp. 1495.

PRATIO Data File: Variable list and specification

Variable	Format	Label
Identifier information:		
COMMUN	4.0	Community number
YEAR	4.0	Year
Prevalence ratio:		
PRATIO	6.2	Community: Prevalence ratio
MRATIO	6.2	Community: Male prevalence ratio
FRATIO	6.2	Community: Female prevalence ratio
PFEMIG	6.4	Community: Proportion of females among migrants

PRATIO Data File: Variable Codes

Variable	Label	Value	Definition
<i>Identifier Information</i>			
COMMUN	Community number		(See Appendix A for codes and descriptions)
YEAR	Year	nnnn	Year
<i>Community Prevalence Ratio:</i>			
PRATIO	Community: Prevalence ratio	nn.nnnn	Ratio
MRATIO	Community: Male prevalence ratio	nn.nnnn	Ratio
FRATIO	Community: Female prevalence ratio	nn.nnnn	Ratio
PFEMIG	Community: Proportion of females among migrants	nn.nnnn	Proportion