

# **Social Inclusion and Citizenship: Civil Registry, Rights and Identity in Latin America and the Caribbean**

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**Inter-American Development Bank**

*Workshop on Explicit Guarantees in the  
Implementation of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights*

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## Background

- ✓ **Rights and Development Initiative: IDB, ECLAC, DFID, World Bank**
- ✓ **IDB Social Inclusion Initiative**
- ✓ **IDB research on identity and civil registration**
- ✓ **OAS, Unicef, IDB collaborative efforts on birth registration**

# Presentation:

1. Rights Tradition/Context in Latin America and the Caribbean
2. Focus on Right to Identity
  - Identity and Exclusion
  - Regional Challenges and Experiences with Identity/Civil Registration

## Rights Research Base:

**About the concept (Victor Abramovich)**

**History and trends of rights in LAC (Sara Gordon)**

**Financing and Implementation of rights in Latin America  
(Ricardo Ffrench Davis)**

**Rights and inequality (Andres Solimano)**

**Incorporation of the concept of economic, social and  
cultural rights in the work of CEPAL (Carmen Artigas)**

**What's in a Name: Case Studies on Right to Identity  
(Acosta, Burstein)**

*available on [www.iadb.org/sds/soc](http://www.iadb.org/sds/soc)*

# What do we mean by rights?

## *Traditional approach:*

- ✚ Level 1: Political, Civil Rights
- ✚ Level 2: Social, Economic, and Cultural Rights

## *But to advance development...*

- ✚ Found indivisibility and interrelationships of both levels of rights (Abramovich)

*Some key historical and cultural perspectives for rights in LAC....*



# Historical context

- ✓ Colonialist tradition
- ✓ Slavery tradition
- ✓ Exclusive/corporativist pattern of economic development

**Post WWII: legalistic and corporatist tradition**

**+**

**Socioeconomic context: high levels of inequality,  
poverty, and exclusion**

**=**

**rights “for the few”**

# A Skewed Rights Tradition

1) **Post WWI Corporativism** → labor rights became principle sphere for citizen rights

+

2) **Clientelistic political and economic relations** → lack of transparency and equity in the distribution and provision of services (e.g. judiciary, health services)

(Sara Gordon, UNAM, December 2004)

*add*

3) **Economic changes: Globalization +  
subsequent privatizations + growth of  
informal and temporary employment**

=

**....rights in LAC transformed into  
privileges for a few**

# Advancing rights principles in Latin America and the Caribbean based on:

- **universal application of rights**
- **nondiscrimination**
- **accessibility to all**
- **cultural identity**
- **Citizens = responsibility**
- **States = accountability**

# Right to Identity

“accessing a full range of economic,  
social and cultural rights”

# Right to Identity:

*“right to have rights”*

## Civil and Political Rights

- Vote
- Access and protection of civil rights via judiciary
- Free movement (internal & external)
- Register key public acts (e.g. marriage, birth)

## Economic, Social and Cultural

- Own property, obtain credit, formal employment
- Access to public services (e.g. education, health)

## **Right to Identity:** *Some development dimensions*

- Eligibility for essential services to improve human capital
- Enabling majority to access “tools” of development and economic advancement: credit, land, housing, services
- Enabling better targeting and improved administration of social programs and services.
- Key for measuring development effectiveness, improved national statistics.

# Identity on paper:

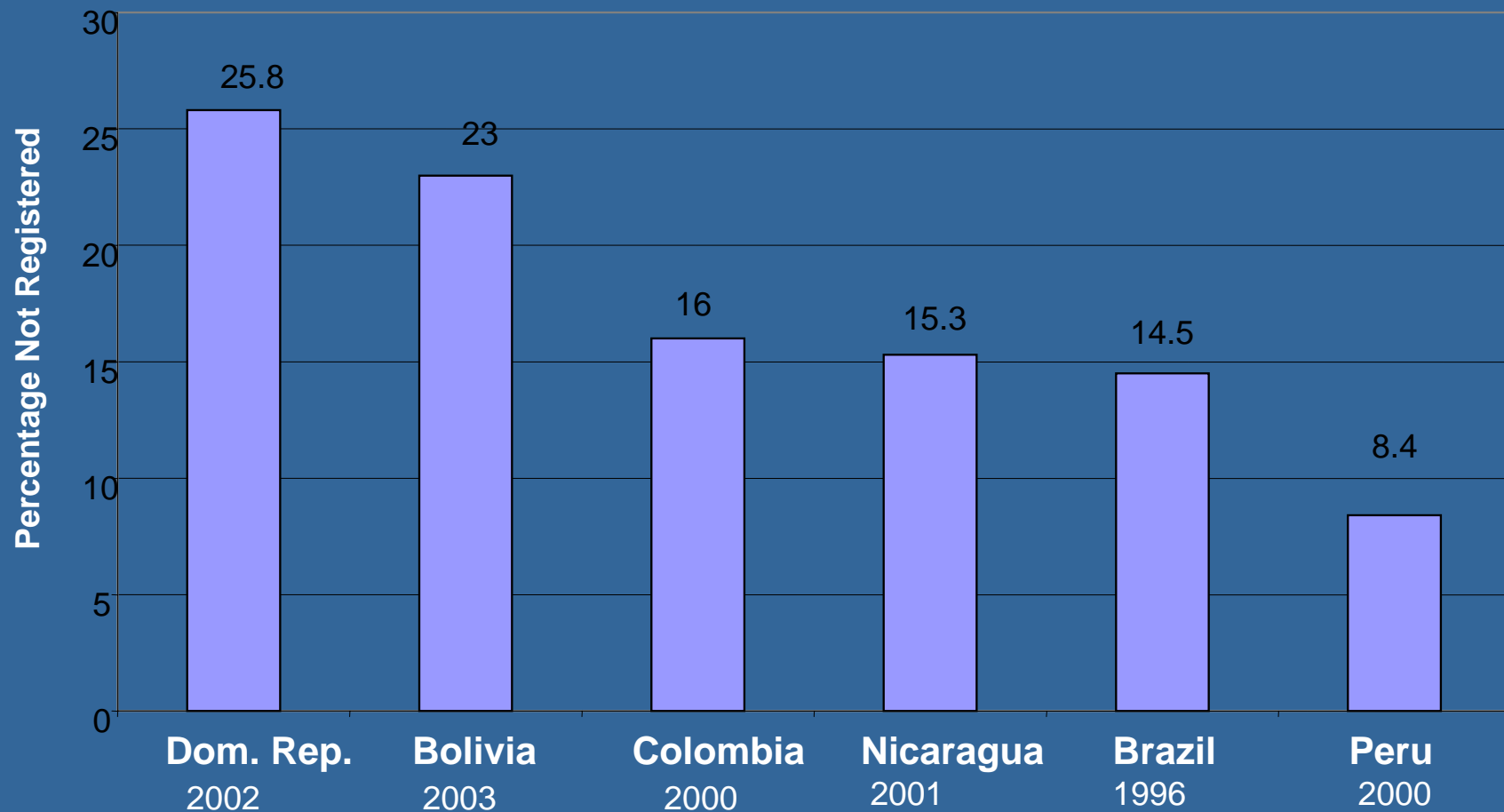
- Begins with Birth Registration
- Linked to:
  - National identity documents/passports
  - Other nationally-recognized IDs

# Dimensions to Underregistration of Births

IDB study by S.Duryea, L.Stone and  
A. Olgati (2006)

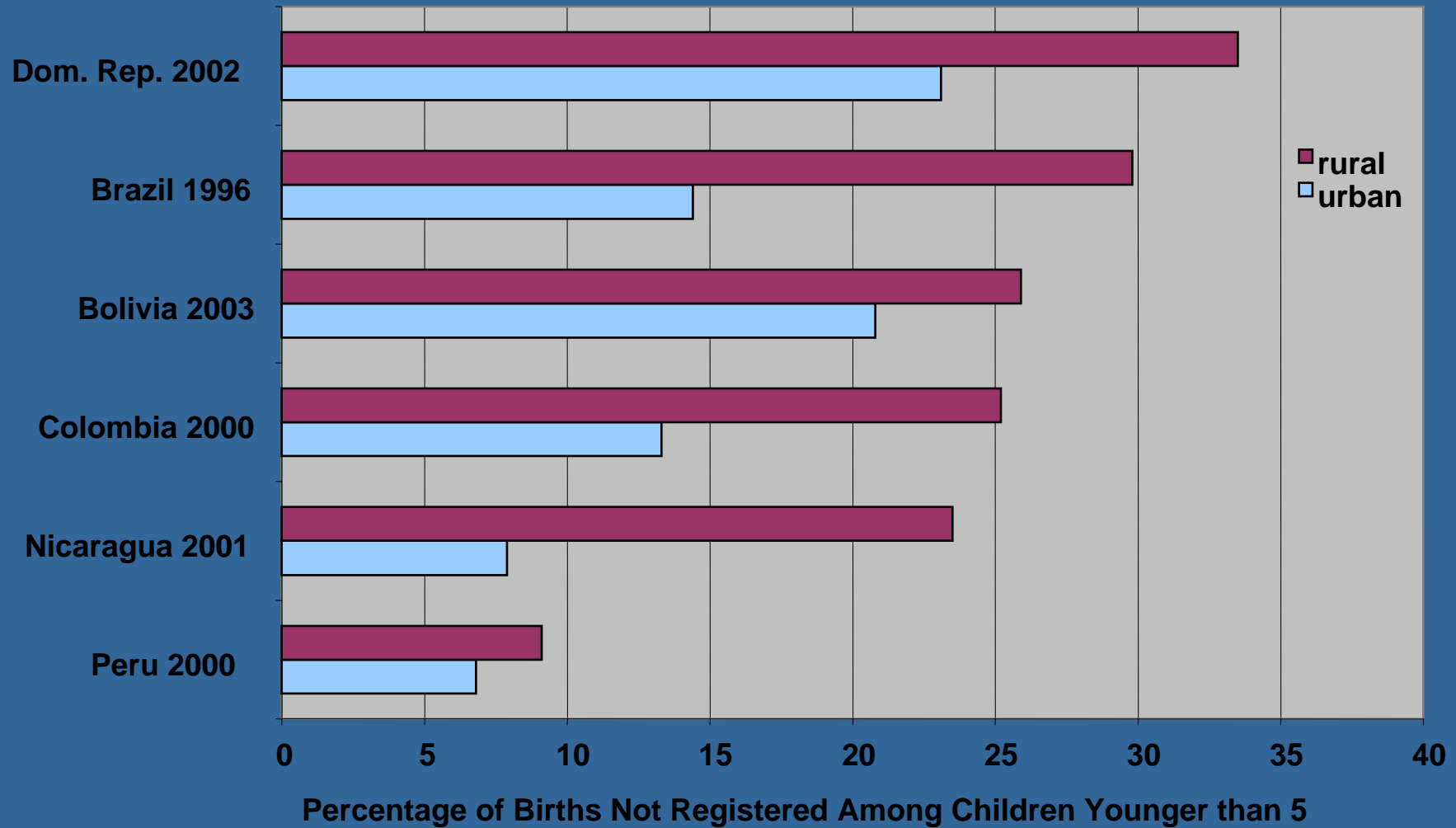
# Under-registration by Country: Substantial Variation by Country

Children Under 5 Not Registered



# Urban/Rural Differences

Under-registration of Births by Geographic Area



# Reasons for not registering (Colombia)

<b>URBAN</b>		
Reason child not registered	Freq.	Perce
parent lacks identification	114	27.4
lack of time	85	20.3
there wasn't proper stationary	48	11.5
other	31	7.53
child too young	24	5.68
father absent temporarily	22	5.19
father hasn't wanted yet	20	4.81
cost too much	19	4.5
problems at register place	15	3.48
register place far away	11	2.59
wait until father recognize him	8	1.84
ilness/hospitalization	5	1.22
father died	5	1.14
father left them	4	0.99
wait after baptisim	0	0.8
didn't want to pay penalty	2	0.57
don't know where to register	2	0.44
Total	417	100

<b>RURAL</b>		
Reason child not registered	Freq.	Perce
lack of time	69	17.9
cost too much	66	17.1
parent lacks identification	64	16.7
register place far away	52	13.4
there wasn't proper stationary	37	9.55
child too young	20	5.25
father hasn't wanted yet	15	3.93
problems at register place	14	3.57
other	13	3.47
father absent temporarily	7	1.71
wait until father recognize him	0	1.69
wait after baptisim	5	1.4
don't know where to register	5	1.39
didn't want to pay penalty	5	1.36
father left them	4	0.93
ilness/hospitalization	2	0.62
Total	384	100

# Reasons for not enrolling in school (Brazil)

<b>Main Reason for Not Enrolling</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Sickness or disability	48,130	16.45
Lack of vacancy at school	43,495	14.87
No interest	28,531	9.75
School doesn't exist close to home	26,926	9.21
Lack of money for school related expenses	25,276	8.64
<b>Lack of documentation</b>	<b>22,571</b>	<b>7.72</b>
Parents do not want	19,381	6.63
Lack of transportation to school	6,327	2.16
No one to accompany/transport	3,210	1.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>292,495</b>	<b>100</b>

# Exclusion and Underregistration: populations most affected

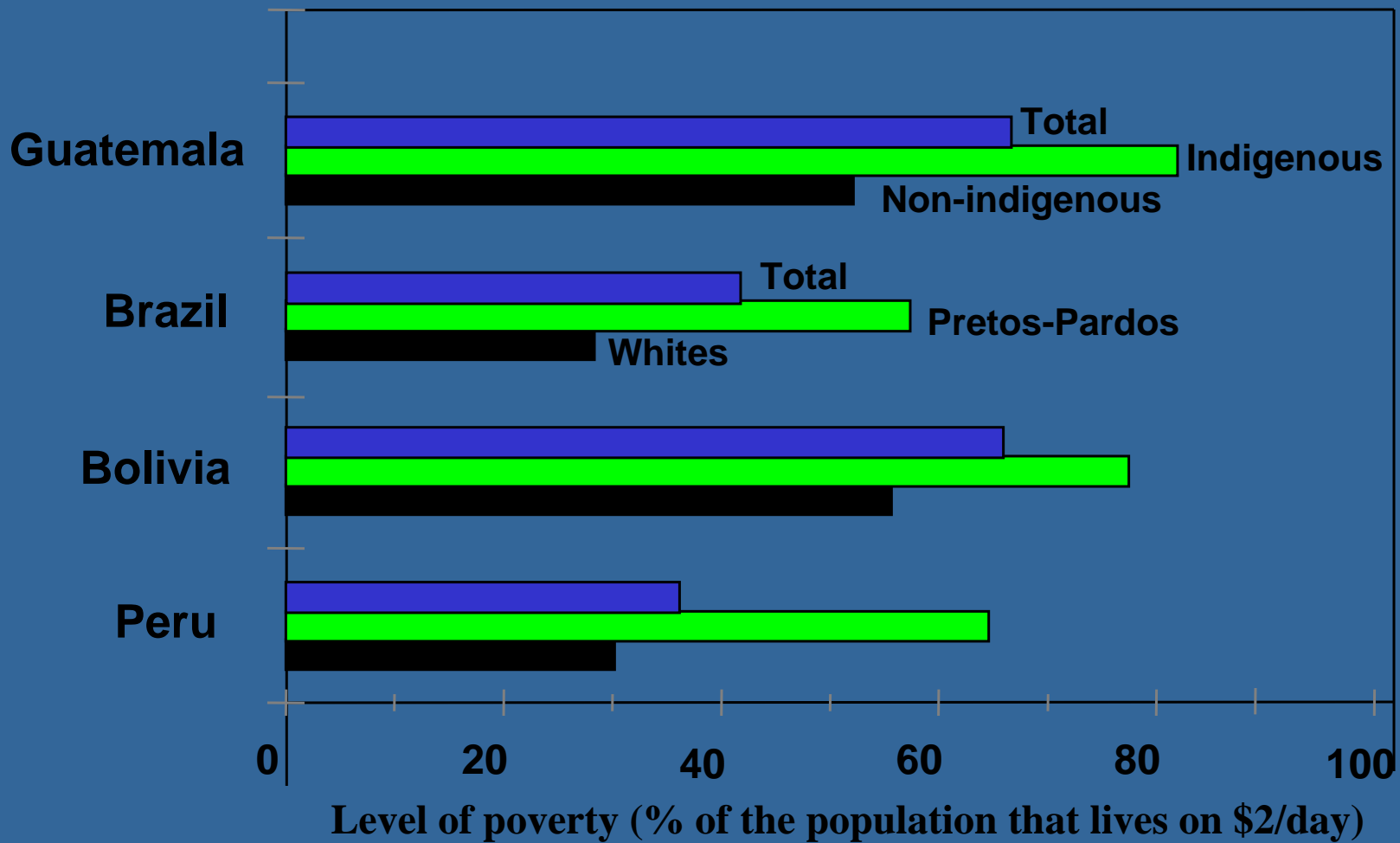
- Rural (most countries)
- Indigenous peoples
- Afrodescendents
- Population affected by political violence (Colombia, Perú)
- Regional migrants
- border areas (Mexico, Ecuador, Honduras)

## **Social exclusion is multi-dimensional:**

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- **more than the lack of sufficient income ...**
- **discrimination in the labor market, justice sytem**
- **lack of access to adequate health and education services**
- **geographic isolation**
- **low political representivity**

# Poverty is concentrated in excluded groups



# greater barriers to registration for the excluded

- Economic
- Legal
- Administrative
- Geographic
- Cultural and lingual

# Achieving right to identity...

## **1. Universal and accurate birth registration in LAC**

*- eliminating financial and other barriers*

## **2. Universal national identity coverage**

*- reforming and modernizing civil registry systems*

## **3. Integrating identity within development and civil management functions**

*- rethinking role of civil registries*

# Regional challenges ...

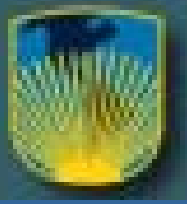
- Limited recognition, data
- Poor bureaucratic/institutional mechanisms
- Very distinct civil registry models/systems
- Antiquated systems, processes
- Poor linkages of registries as development and civil management instrument

## 2 development entry points (national):

- **Supply:** via institutional reform when modernized registration processes and institutional relationships key
- **Demand:** Integration within social programs, particularly useful in increasing system coverage; combine with strengthened role of civil society

# Region-wide tasks

- Need to initiate greater process of regional learning and exchange
- Importance in giving public visibility to registration challenge in region



**Muchas gracias!**