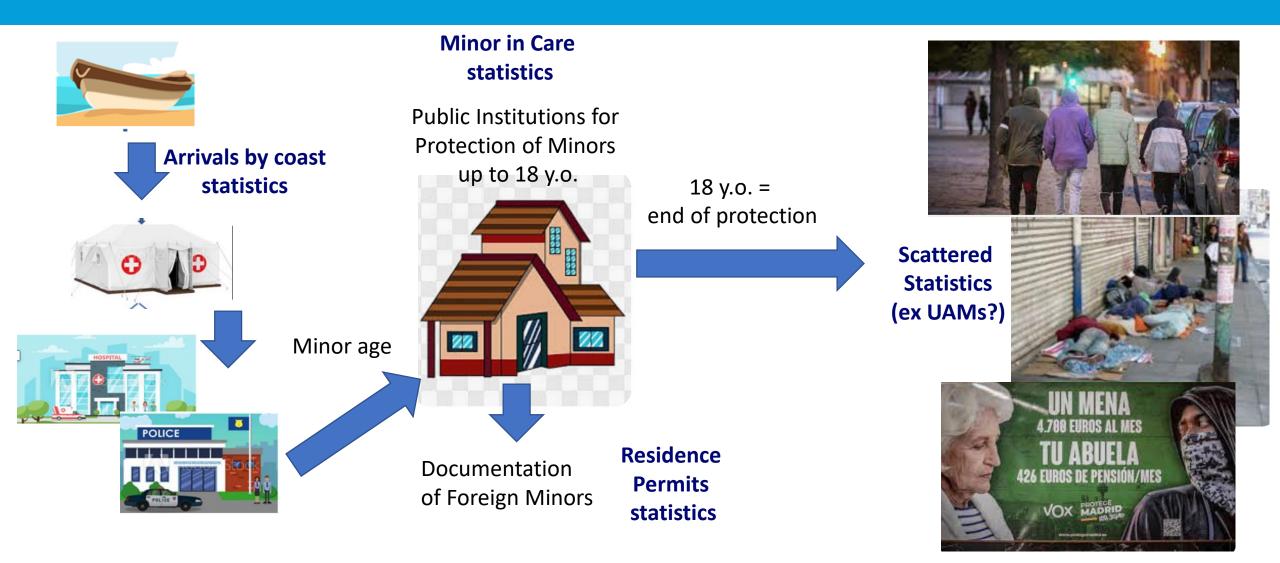
Evaluation of a controversial legal reform: unaccompanied minors and their transition to adulthood in Spain

#### Amparo González & Laura Guerrero & Fco. Javier Ramírez Unit for Migration Analysis Secretary of State for Migrations Spain





#### **Undocumented minors in Spain and transition to adulthood**







# No minor is illegal in Spain because they are minors before than foreigners BUT...

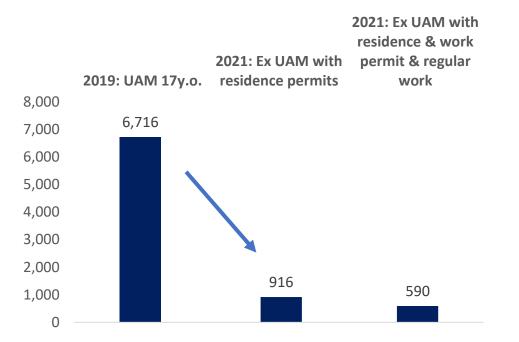
- 1. Administration had a very long period for requesting documentation (9 months plus time of processing)
- 2. Documented minors who reached age 16 were not allowed to work (but Spanish youth were)
- 3. Documented minors who reached age 18:
  - 1. had to demonstrate economic resources (2500€/month) to keep their residence permit
  - 2. had to receive a job contract for one year to obtain a work permit





### (Statistical) Consequences of previous legislation

- Many remained undocumented during childhood because the Administration was too slow (1-2 years) in providing them with papers (residence permits)
- Many reached 18 years old without having received their documentation, which turned them automatically into 'illegals'
- Very few were able to keep documents during adulthood and even fewer managed to work legally







#### **Goals of the reform**

- Simplify & speed up documentation procedure for minors
- Prevent reaching 18 y.o. without being documented
- Provide documental stability in first years of adult life
- Consolidate right to work and labor market integration

Expected increase in the number of documented UAMs

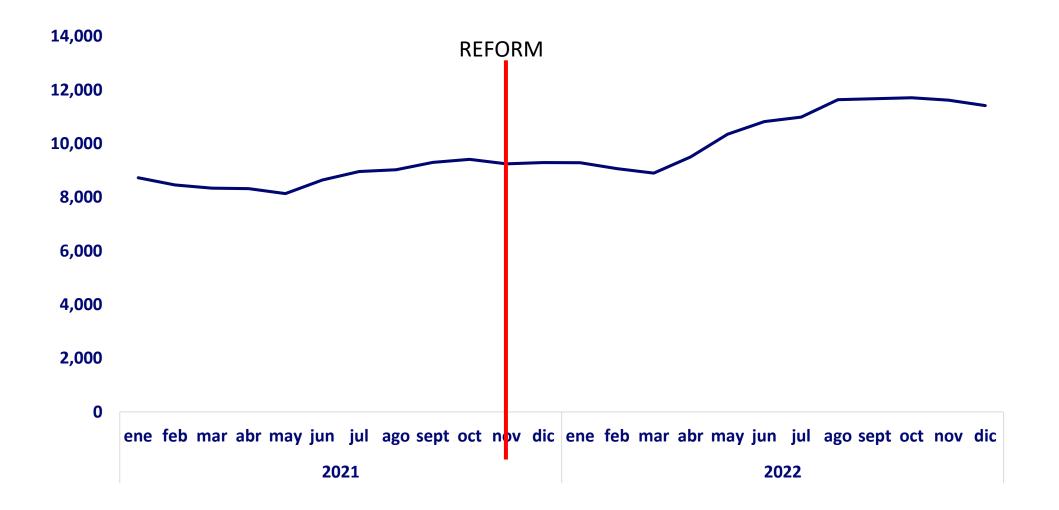
Smooth transition into age 18, no jumps in statistics

> Access since age 16 & remain legally employed after





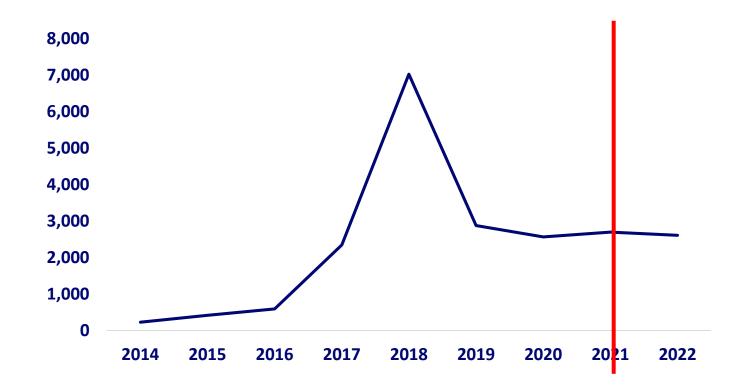
#### Figures from the register of documented UAMs







#### No sign of pulling effect... no increase in annual arrivals of minor

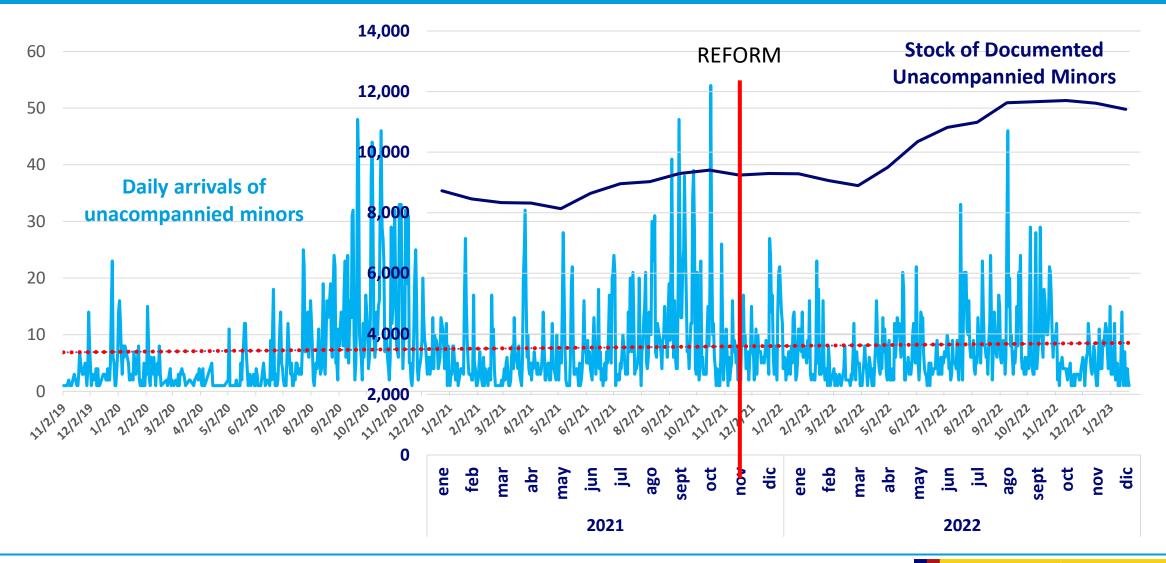


Figures from Border Police: number of undocumented minors arrived by boat



Logo of the organization or affiliation (Optional)

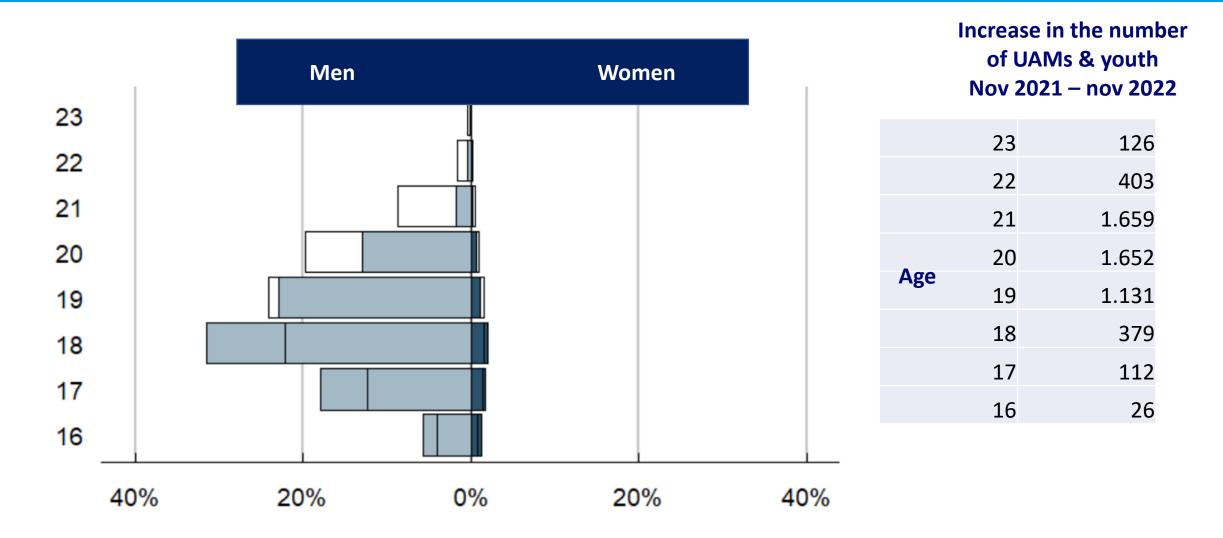
#### New arrivals & new documentation of UAMs



International Forum on Migration Statistics IFMS 2023 24-26 January - Santiago, Chile



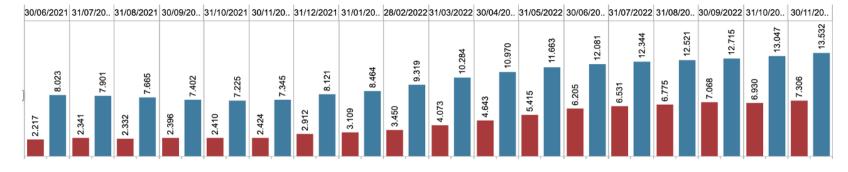
#### Increase of documented youth rather than minors...

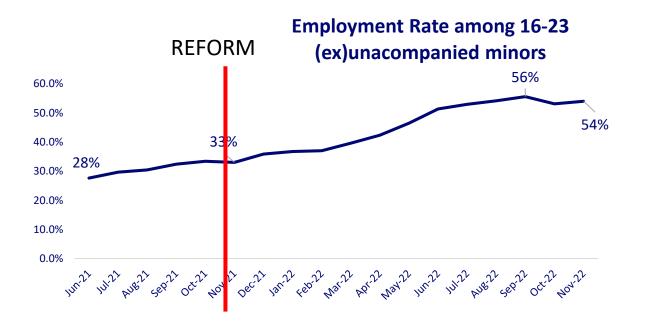


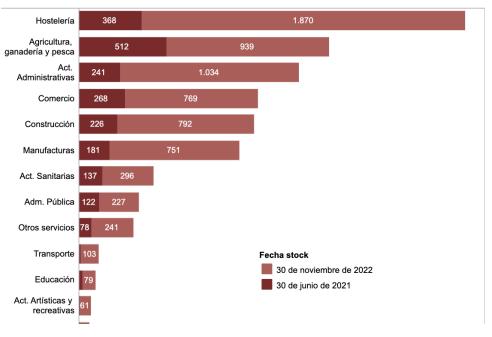




## Effects of the reform on employment rate (legal)











#### Periodical official publication in our website

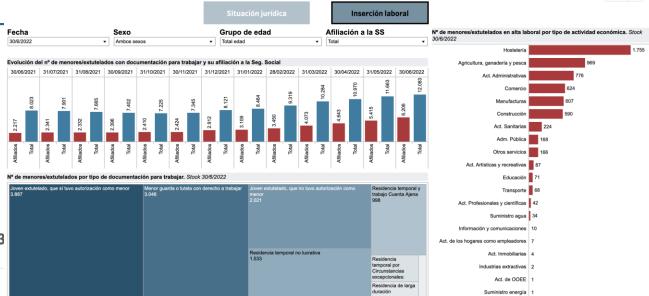


- Número de menores no acompañados y jóvenes extutelados de 16 y más años por sexo, edad y nacionalidad.
- Número de menores no acompañados y jóvenes extutelados de 16 y más años por sexo, edad, tipo de autorización y motivo de concesión.

International Forum

IFMS 2023 24-26 January · Santiago, Chile

on Migration Statistics





#### Check our website & write to us!

#### https://extranjeros.inclusion.gob.es/es/Estadisticas/index.html





