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Introduction

- This study was designed to:
  - Examine mortality between Hispanic and non-Hispanic Whites living in 4 counties along the Texas-Mexico border

- Aim of my presentation:
  - To compare age-adjusted injury mortality rates using data from the Texas Department of Health
Introduction

- Hispanic-Americans may have a worse socio-economic profile than Anglos
- But they also have lower mortality
  - Lower all-cause mortality
  - Lower chronic diseases mortality
Specifics about the area studied

- Traditionally an agriculture area providing citrus fruit and vegetables to Texas and the Southwest.
- Home to thousands of “Winter-Texans”
- Home to wintering migrant farm workers
- Area of high immigration (legal and not)
Methods

- Rates are age-adjusted to the US 2000 standard population.
Leading Causes of Death (’80-’98)

- Heart Disease
- Cancer
- Stroke
- Injuries
- COPD
- Diabetes

- Texas Whites
- Texas Hispanics
- LRGV Hispanic
Injury Mortality (all cause) ’80–’98

Texas White

Texas Hispanic

LRGV Hispanic

0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100

80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98

Texas White
Texas Hispanic
LRGV Hispanic

APHA, 2001
Traffic Accident Mortality

Graph showing the trend of traffic accident mortality for Texas Whites, Texas Hispanics, and LRGV Hispanics from 1980 to 1998.
Injury from Traffic Accidents Related to Alcohol Use

- Texas
- Cameron
- Hidalgo

1997 vs 1998
Homicide and Injury Purposefully Inflicted on Others

- Texas White
- Texas Hispanic
- LRGV Hispanic
Homicide and Injury Purposefully Inflicted on Others

- Texas White
- Texas Hispanic
- Houston Hispanic
- Dallas/FortWorth Hispanic

Years: 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98
Homicide and Injury Purposefully Inflicted on Others

- Texas White
- Texas Hispanic
- Cameron
- Hidalgo
Suicide Mortality

- Texas Whites
- Texas Hispanics
- LRGV Hispanics

Graph showing suicide mortality trends from 1980 to 1998 for different groups in Texas.
Suicide Mortality by age

- Texas White
- Texas Hispanic
- Cameron
- Hidalgo

Age groups: 10-14, 20-24, 30-34, 40-44, 50-54, 60-64, 70-74
In Summary

- Most Hispanic groups are characterized by low income, low levels of education, and high proportions of unskilled workers.
- However, all-cause mortality are lower than expected, given these risks.
- This picture is paradoxical.
In Summary

- This lower mortality is primarily obvious in chronic disease
- There is little difference in all-cause injury mortality
- Although traffic mortality is similar – the proportion of the population that drives may be different
In Summary

- Homicide deaths are higher among Hispanics than among Whites
  - primarily due to increased homicides in urban areas
- Suicide rates are lower among Hispanics
  - but suicide among Hispanics may be under-reported (however, this is unlikely)
Conclusions

- The paradox is complex varying by:
  - Cause of death
  - Age
  - Urban or rural communities