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Jan M. H. Risser

Carrie Shapiro

William Spears
Wright State University, william.spears@wright.edu

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Jan Risser
Carrie Shapiro
William Spears

University of Texas
School of Public Health
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

- Mortality data came from the Texas Department of Health Bureau of Vital Statistics, accessed with the Epigram system
- 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
Traffic Accident Mortality

- Texas White
- Texas Hispanics
- LRGV Hispanics
Injury from Traffic Accidents Related to Alcohol Use

- Texas
- Cameron
- Hidalgo

Year:
- 1997
- 1998

Y-Axis:
- 0
- 20
- 40
- 60
- 80
- 100
- 120

X-Axis:
- Texas
- Cameron
- Hidalgo

Legend:
- Green: 1997
- Yellow: 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
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 rates from 1980 to 1998.
Suicide Mortality by age

- Texas White
- Texas Hispanic
- Cameron
- Hidalgo
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