

Do Age at Migration and Time in the U. S. Mean Worse Health Among Hispanics?

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What Do We Know?

- Duration of U.S. residence is associated with health outcomes among Hispanic immigrants
- Prior research has found that recent Hispanic immigrants are in better health than those with longer duration of U.S. residence
- Longer duration of U.S. residence is also associated with increased risks of smoking, drinking, illegal drug use and unhealthy diet
- One possible explanation for the duration effect is “acculturation” - suggesting that over time Hispanic immigrants adopt harmful health behaviors
- This duration effect is also referred to as the “**negative acculturation hypothesis**”

What Do We Not Know?

- Whether health behaviors and access to health care vary by age at migration and duration of U.S. residence
- For example, Hispanic immigrants who migrated early in life may have different health behaviors and access to health care than those migrated at older ages
- Whether these differences vary by type of health behavior or indicators of access to health care

Research Questions

- Does the relationship between duration of U.S. residence and health behaviors and access to health care among Hispanic immigrants vary by age at migration?
- Do these associations vary by types of health behavior and access to health care?

Data and Sample

- Data are pooled from the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) 1999-2011
- Study population: non-Hispanic whites, U.S.-born and foreign-born Hispanics ages 25-64 (N=17,365)

Measurement and Strategy

Study Outcomes: **Positive** and **Negative**

- **Has a regular source of health care (Yes/No)**
- **Has health insurance (Yes/No)**
- **Recent rigorous/moderate physical activity (Yes/No)**
- **Current smoking (Yes/No)**
- **Moderate/heavy drinking (Yes/No)**
- **Obese (BMI ≥30) (Yes/No)**

Explanatory variables:

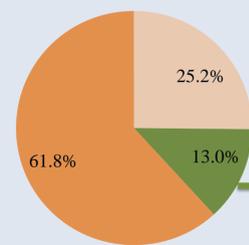
- Age at migration: Migrated before age 25, or at age 25 or above
- Duration of residence: <10, 10-19 or 20+ years
- Age, sex, education, poverty income ratio and marital status

Statistical strategy

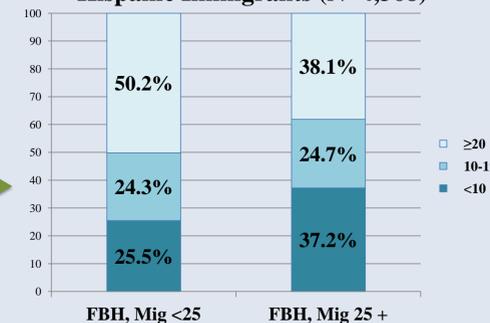
- Logistic regression accounting for NHANES sampling design

Descriptive Results

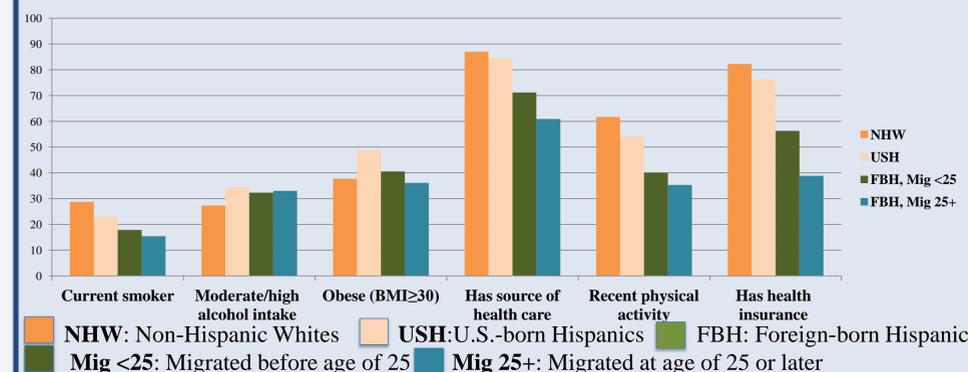
The Study Sample (N=17,365)



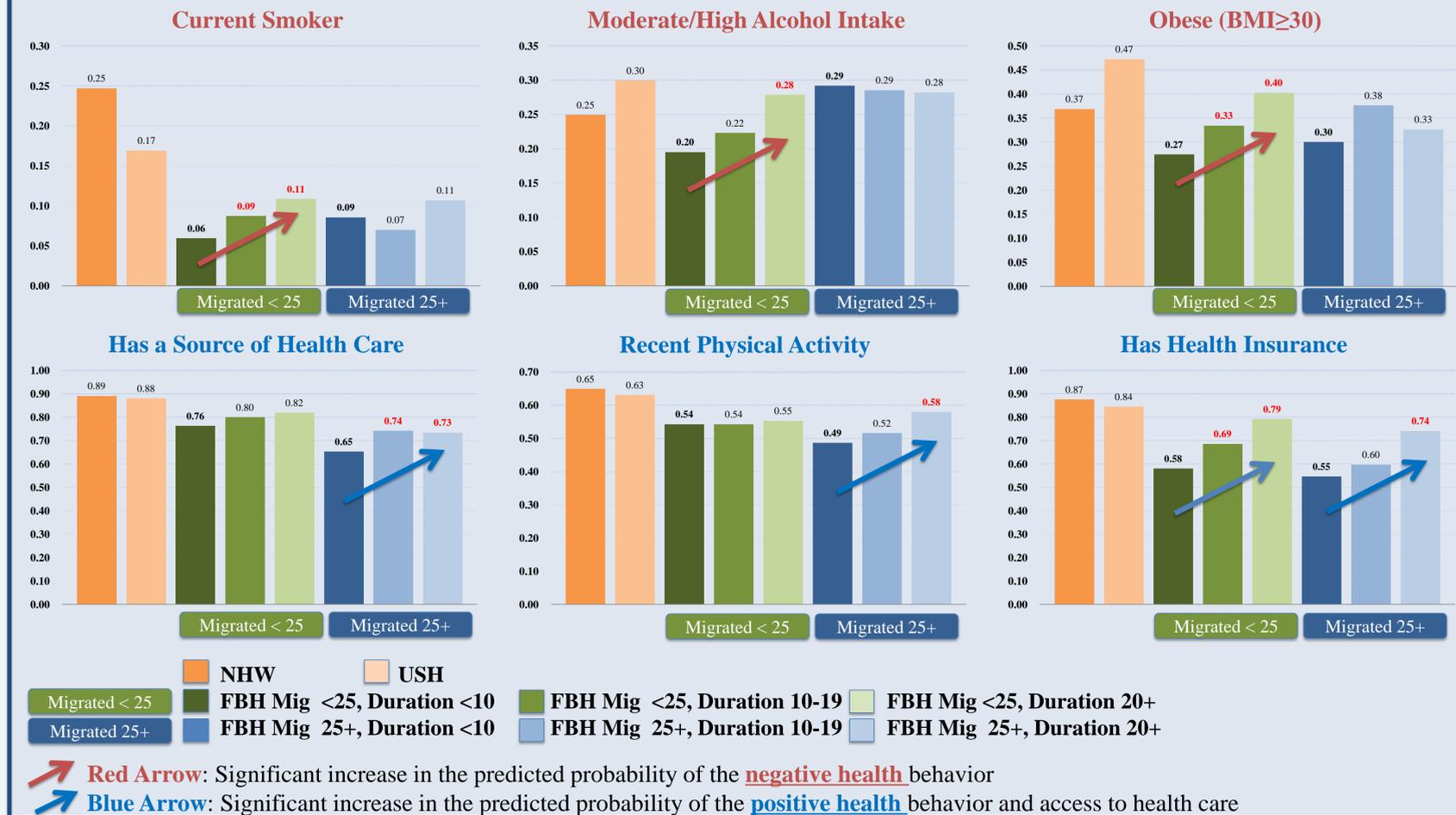
Duration and Age at Migration among Hispanic Immigrants (N=4,368)



Age-Standardized Rates of Positive and Negative Outcomes



Multivariate Results : Predicted Probabilities of Study Outcomes by Duration and Age at Migration



Conclusions and Discussion

Those who migrated below age 25:

- ✓ A significant increase in ALL risky health behaviors (smoking, alcohol use, obesity).
- ✓ A significant increase in health insurance coverage.

Those who migrated at ages 25+:

- ✓ No significant change in all risky health behaviors.
- ✓ A significant increase in ALL positive outcomes.

Future research should consider age at migration and the nature of health outcomes in studying the impact of duration of U.S. residence among immigrants.