Is the Latino Paradox Providing a Protective Element Against Crime?


### Research Question
Is the Latino Paradox at work within Camden’s most Hispanic neighborhoods?

### Abstract
This study investigated if a cultural effect is providing a protective element against crime and violence within predominately Hispanic neighborhoods compared with predominately African American neighborhoods in Camden. Results suggested that the census tracts with 70% or more Hispanics had lower rates of violence than the similarly situated African American census tracts even when socio-demographic risk factors were similar. Hispanic respondents described their neighborhoods in more positive terms and reported higher levels in perceptions of public safety. Collective efficacy and more responsive policing practices may be at work in the predominately Hispanic neighborhoods.

### Methodology and Analysis
- Mixed methods (SPSS and NVivo)
- Geocoding via Awesome Table, Google Maps, QGIS
- Police and Prosecutor’s office crime data
- US Census data
- In-depth semi-structured interviews and survey data
- Neighborhood observations
- 2 Hispanic census tracts (n=10,080)
- 2 African American census tracts (n=6,810)

### Participant Locations
![Map of Participant Locations]

### Homicide Rates

| Location | Rate
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Camden's Hispanic</td>
<td>20 per 100,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Camden's African American</td>
<td>25 per 100,000</td>
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### Conclusion
- Quantitative and qualitative support of Latino Paradox
- Homicide, robbery, and shootings of a person rates were lower in the Hispanic census tracts
- First hand accounts of Hispanic residents viewed their neighborhoods as “nicer” and safer than African American respondents
- Collective efficacy and more responsive policing practices may be providing a protective element in Hispanic census tracts

### Future Research
- Examine additional possible structural explanations (e.g., public housing, abandoned homes)
- Examine policing practices
- Examine additional possible cultural effects
- Explore with larger number of census tracts
- Explore with additional crime data

### VOICES FROM AFRICAN AMERICAN RESPONDENTS

“...I’ve seen a lot of the problems first hand. I have experienced those problems first hand: poverty at its worst, violence at its worst and I understood the overall mentality...There was no sense of safety. There was no sense of hope.”

### VOICES FROM HISPANIC RESPONDENTS

“My perspective on my neighborhood was that it was pretty calm. My family and I identified with the people that lived there too because they were similar to us –Hispanic. You would always hear Hispanic music and parties. You would always hear a festive family. My area didn't have a lot of cons.”