Understanding the Hispanic Mortality Paradox: Variation by Country of Origin

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Research question

"Hispanic Mortality Paradox"

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To what extent does the Hispanic mortality paradox hold for a **range of countries in Central and South America**?

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Past contributions have

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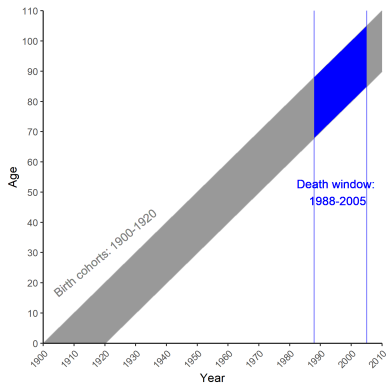
Contribution

Provide precise estimates of a mortality advantage (years lived) of immigrants from over 20 countries in Central and South America
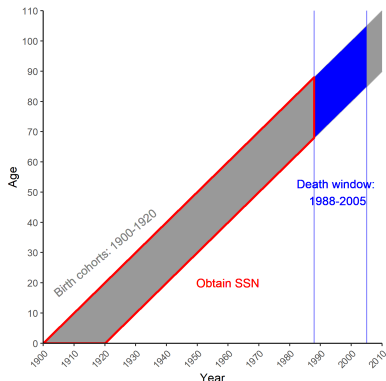
Data: Berkeley Unified Numident Mortality Database (BUNMD)

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- ▶ Native born and 20 immigrant groups from South and Central America ($\approx$7M)

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Important features of BUNMD
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    - ▶ Cannot use survival analysis
- ▶ 1988-2005 death window:
    - ▶ Double truncation of distribution of ages at death
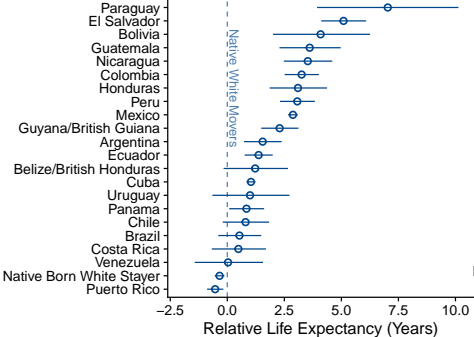   - ▶ Cox-proportional hazards models or linear regression yield biased estimates

Methods: truncated Gompertz model

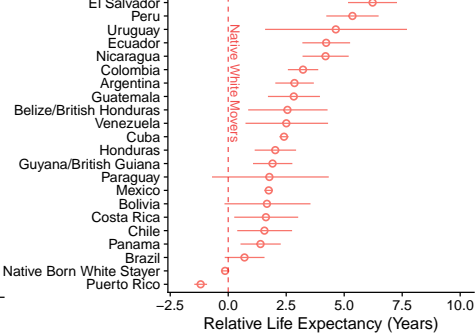$$h_i(x|\boldsymbol{\beta}) = a_0 e^{b_0 x} e^{\beta Z_i}$$

- ▶ Estimate hazard ratios by birthplace
- ▶ Assume the distribution of deaths within a cohort follows a continuous Gompertz probability distribution
- ▶ Maximum Likelihood Estimation (MLE)
- ▶ Reference group: U.S.born non-Hispanic interstate movers
- ▶ Robustness checks: Ordinary least squares

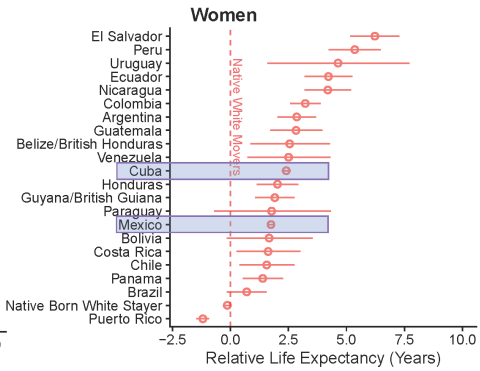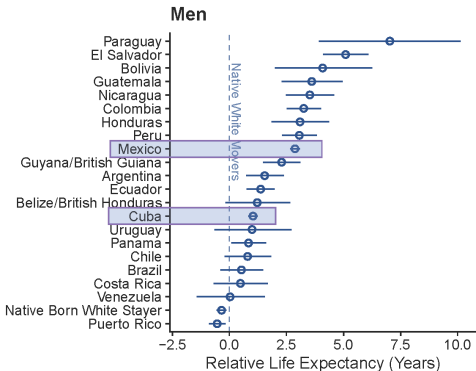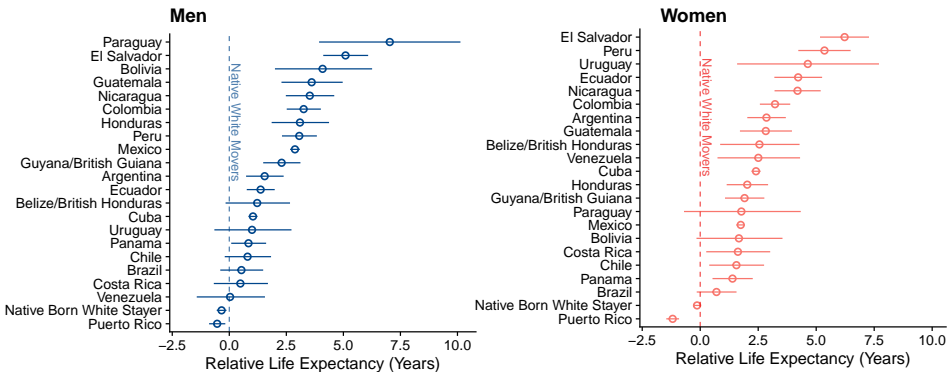# Main results: substantial variation in mortality advantage

▶ Mortality (dis)advantages

Main results: substantial variation in mortality advantage

▶ Mortality advantages larger than from the main sending countries

Main results: substantial variation in mortality advantage

Men

Women

- ▶ Why? **Selective in-migration** (~~selective return migration, cultural factors~~)

Thank you

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