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Injury Mortality in Texas and the Lower Rio Grande Valley, 1980-1998

Jan M. H. Risser

Carrie Shapiro

William Spears

Wright State University, william.spears@wright.edu

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Injury mortality in Texas and in the Lower Rio Grande Valley 1980-1998

Jan Risser

Carrie Shapiro

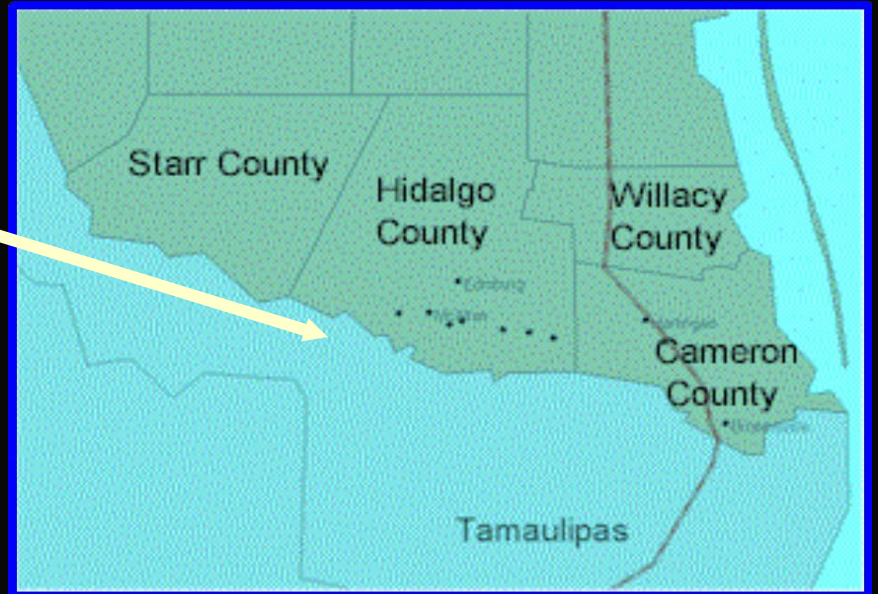
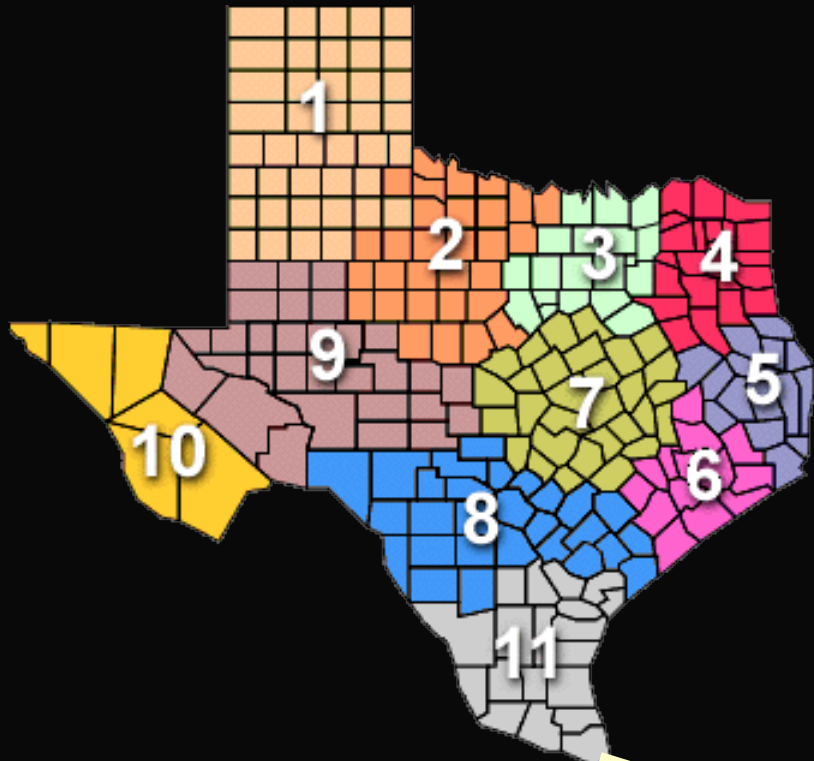
William Spears

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

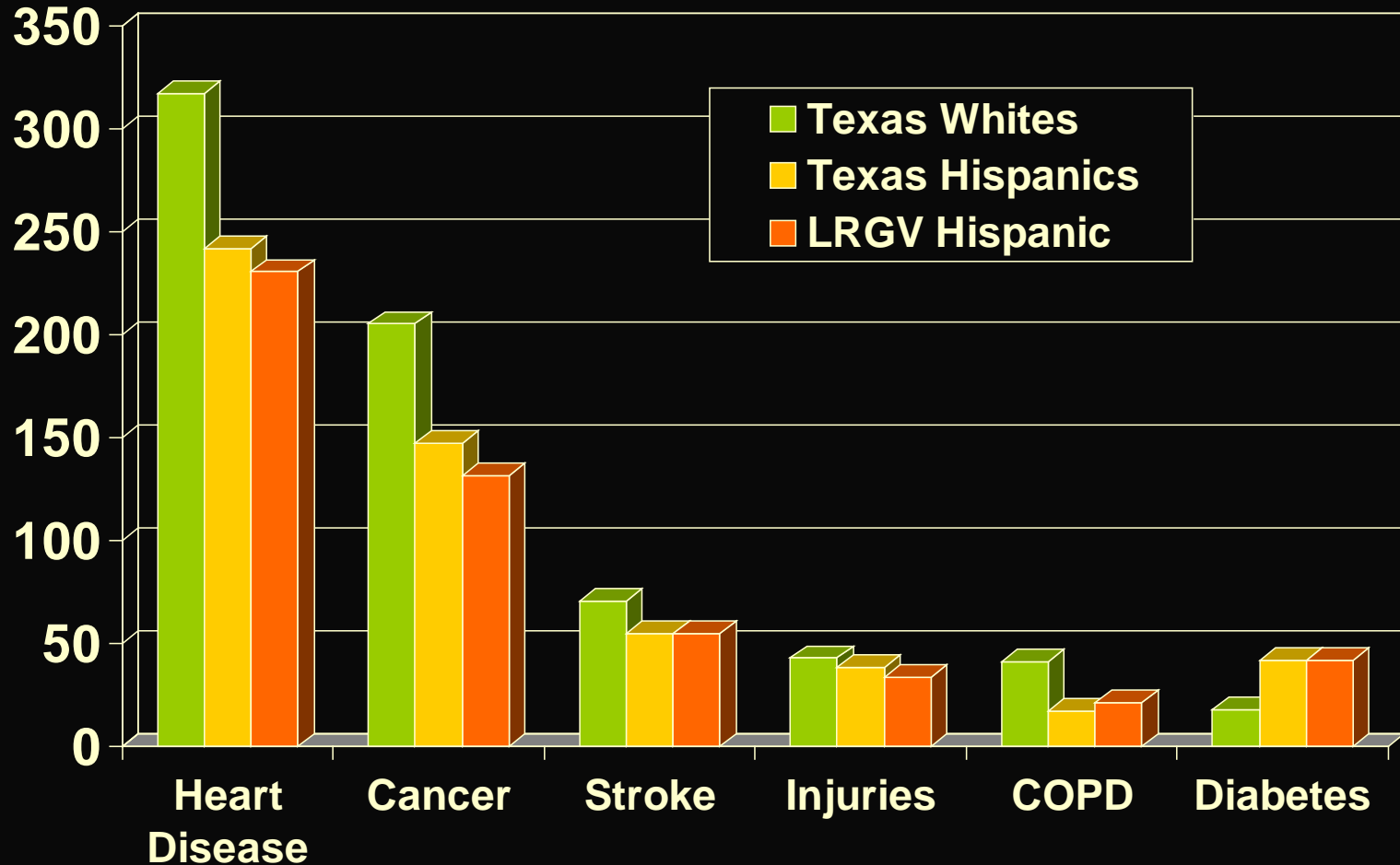
Specifics about the area studied

- 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)

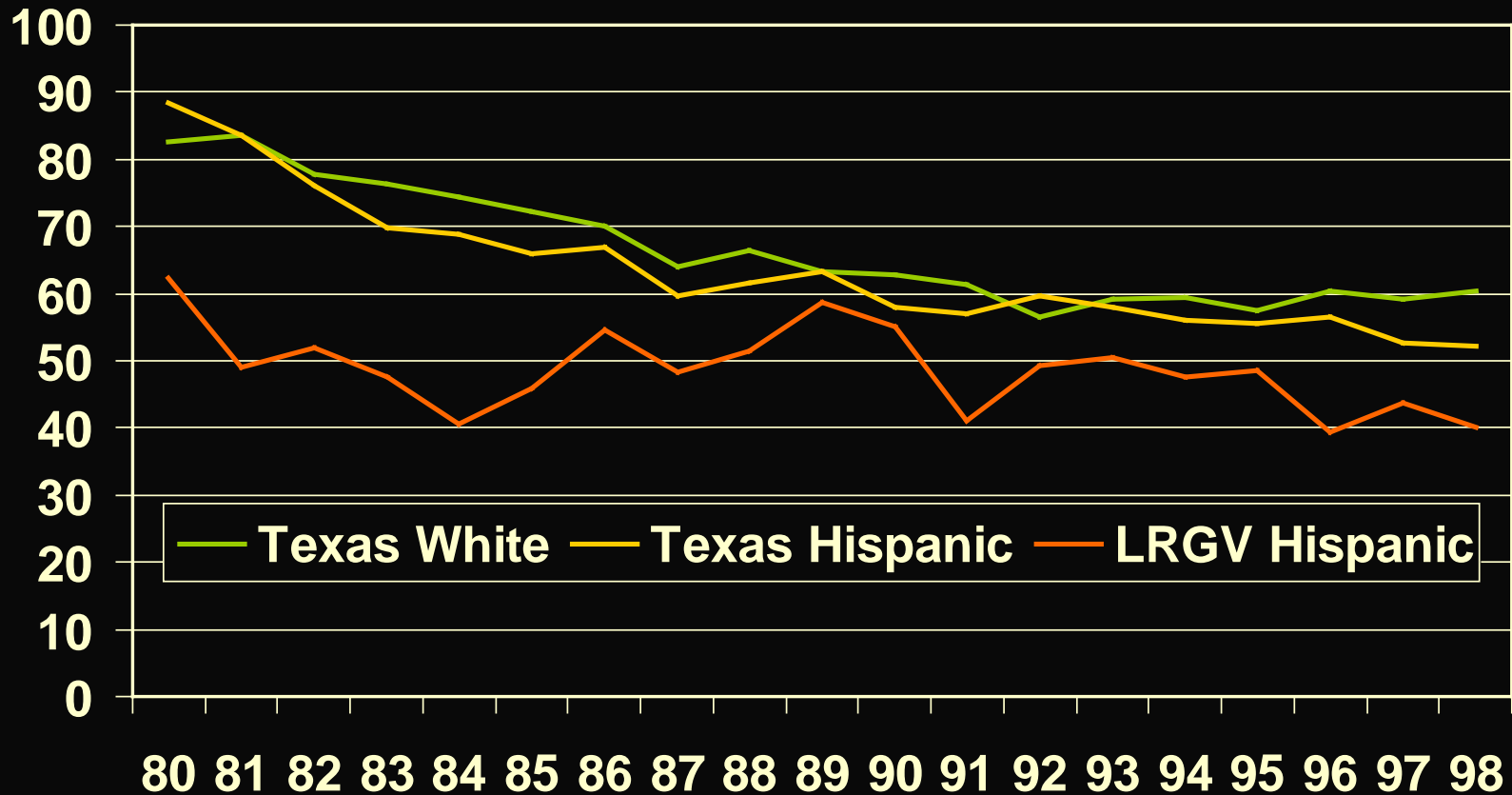
Methods

- Mortality data came from the Texas Department of Health Bureau of Vital Statistics, accessed with the Epigram system
 - (Expert Health Data Programming, Inc. <http://www.ehdp.com>)
- Rates are age-adjusted to the US 2000 standard population.

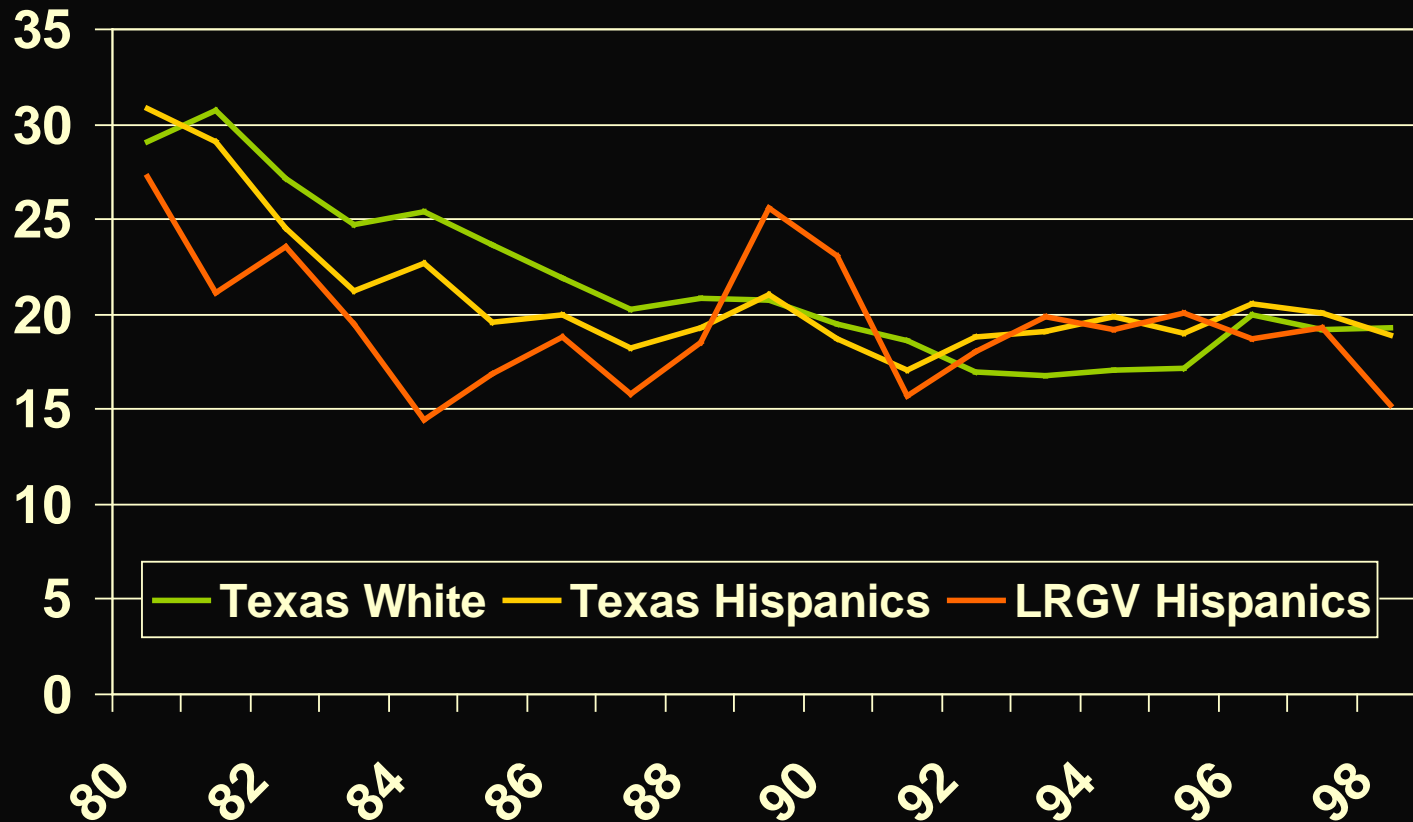
Leading Causes of Death ('80-'98)



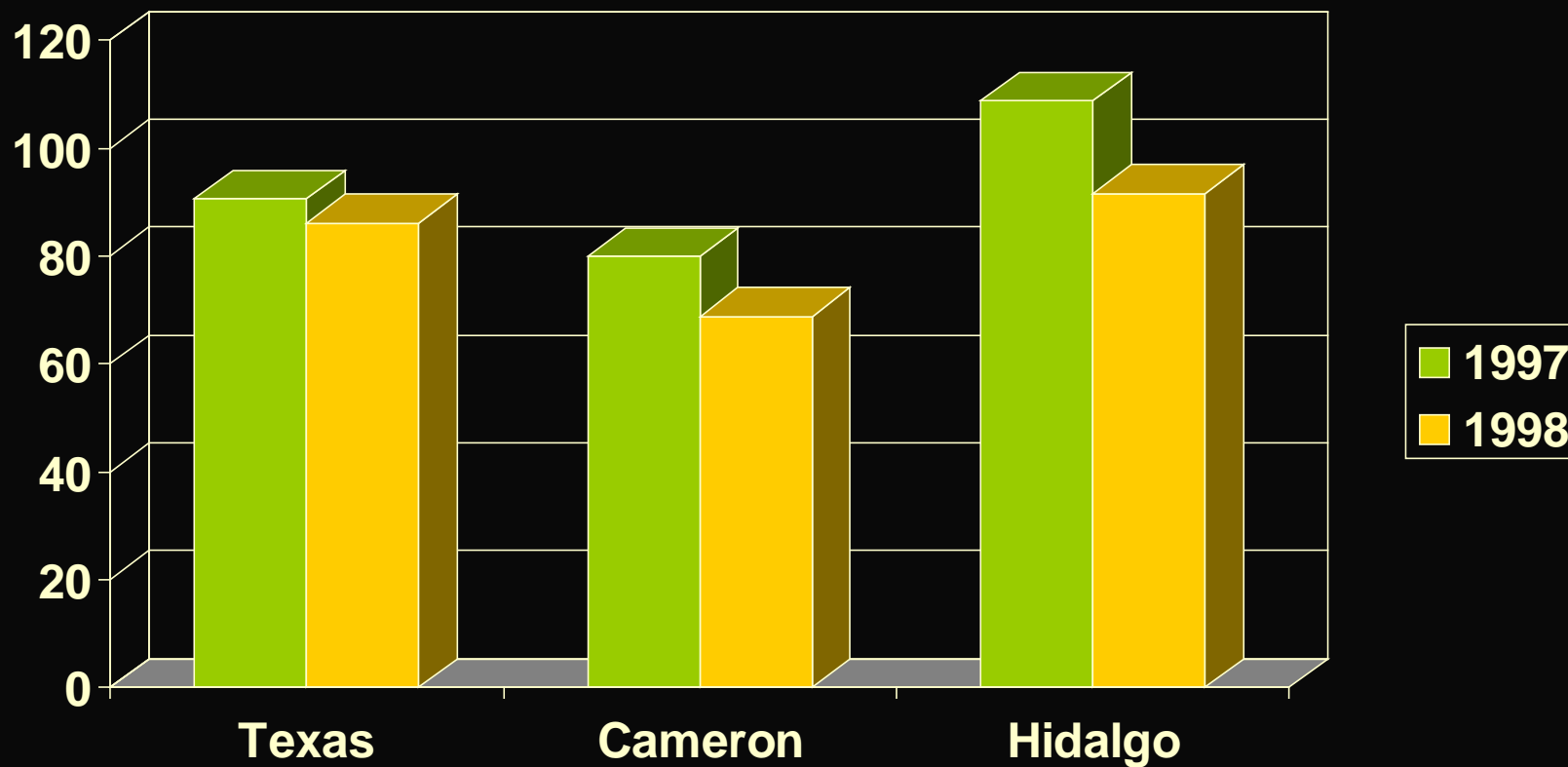
Injury Mortality (all cause) '80-'98



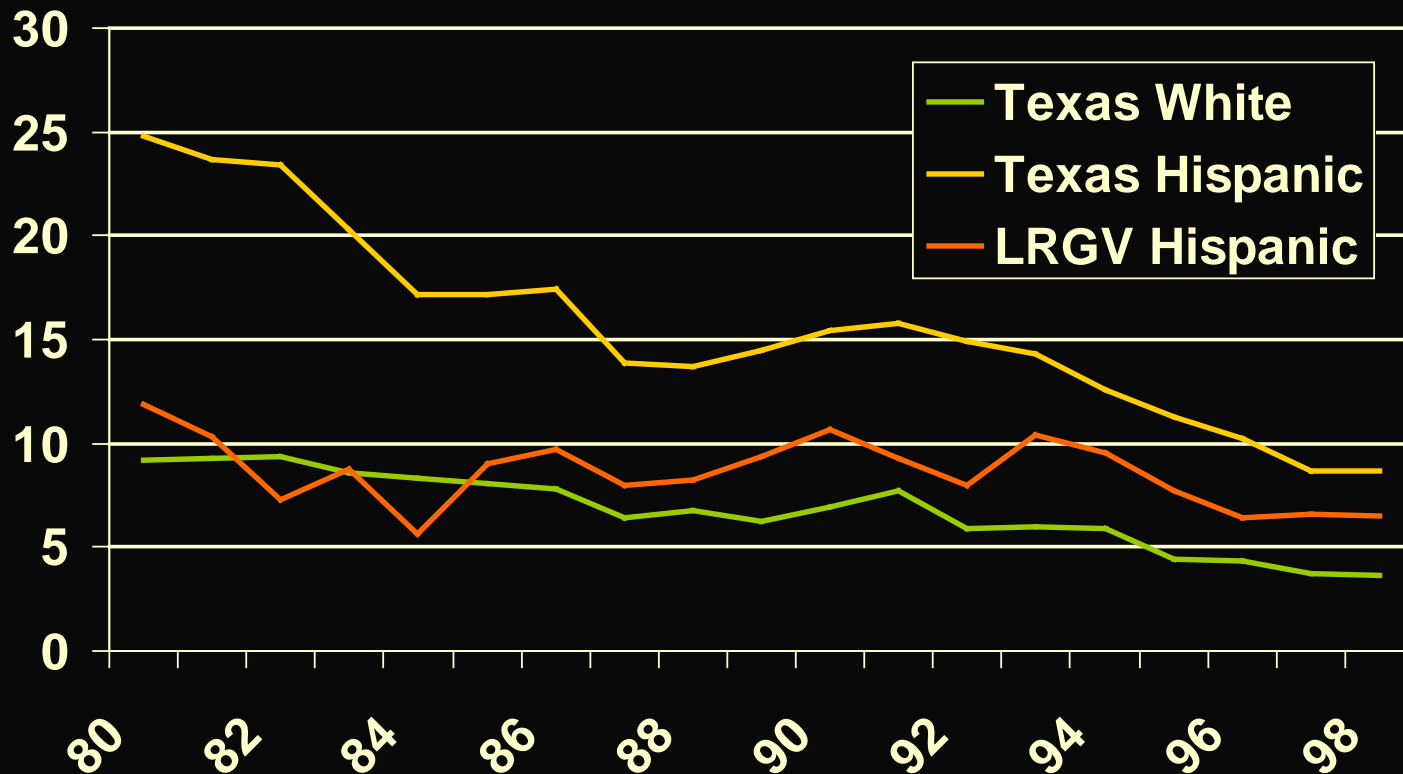
Traffic Accident Mortality



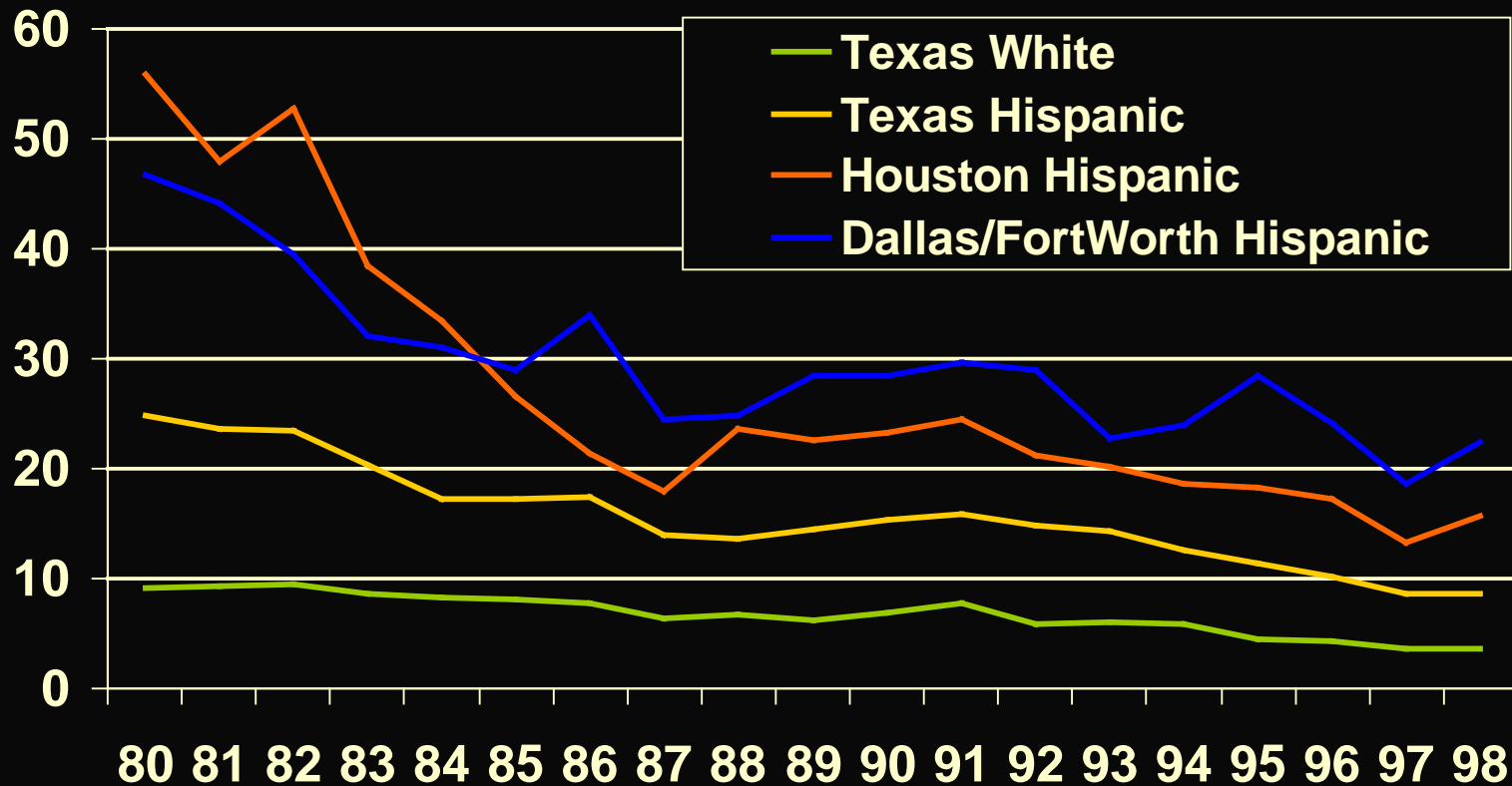
Injury from Traffic Accidents Related to Alcohol Use



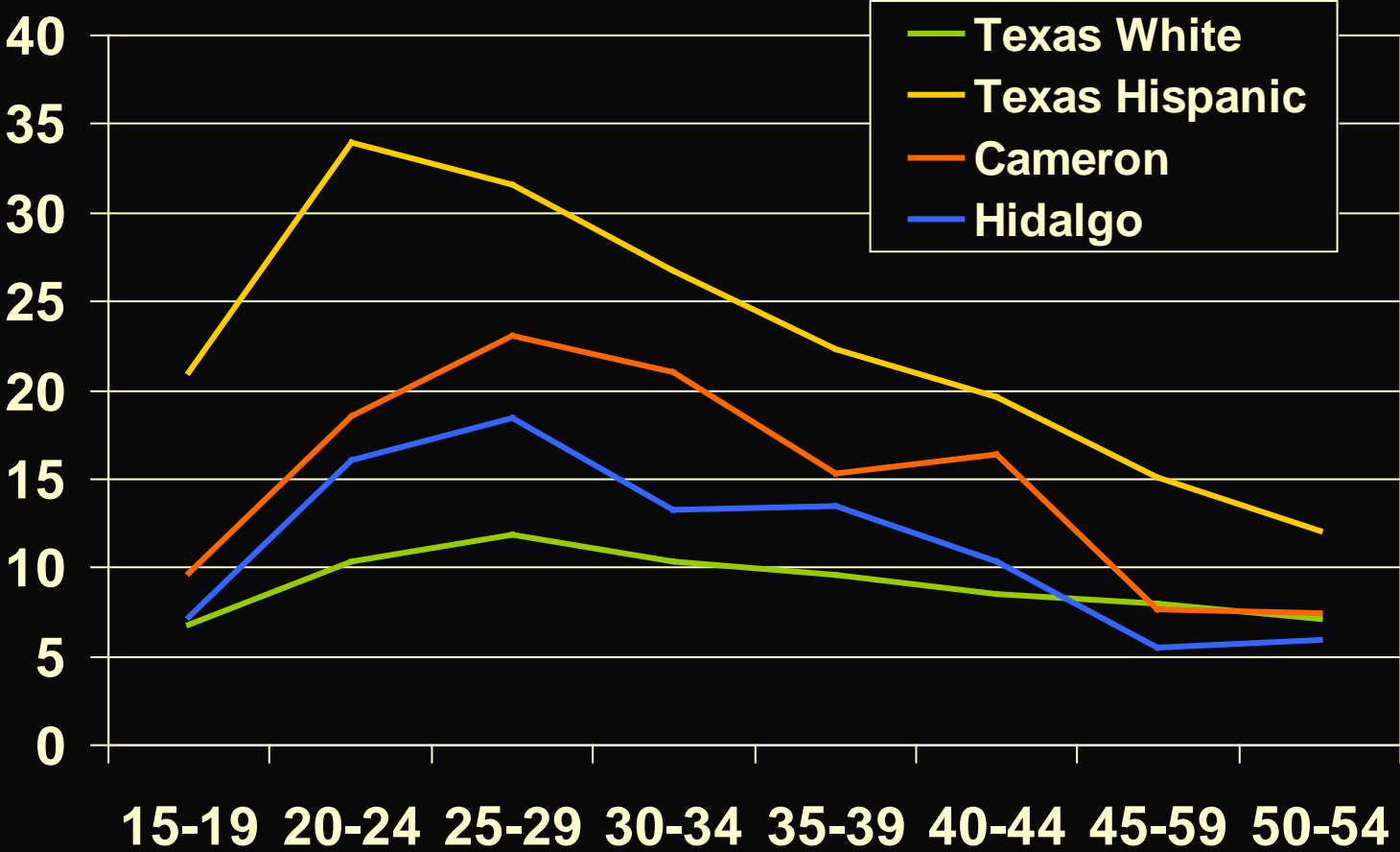
Homicide and Injury Purposefully Inflicted on Others



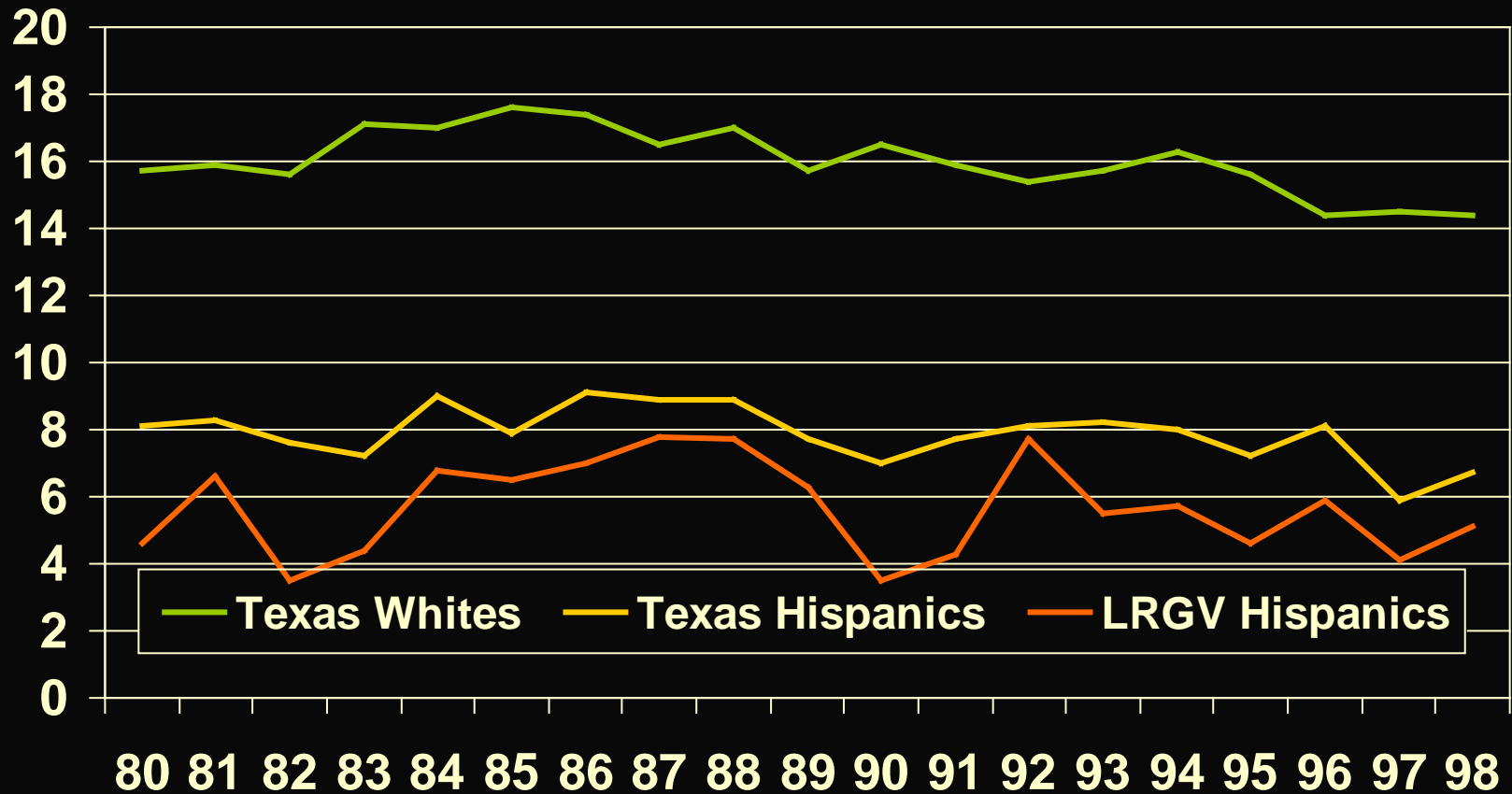
Homicide and Injury Purposefully Inflicted on Others



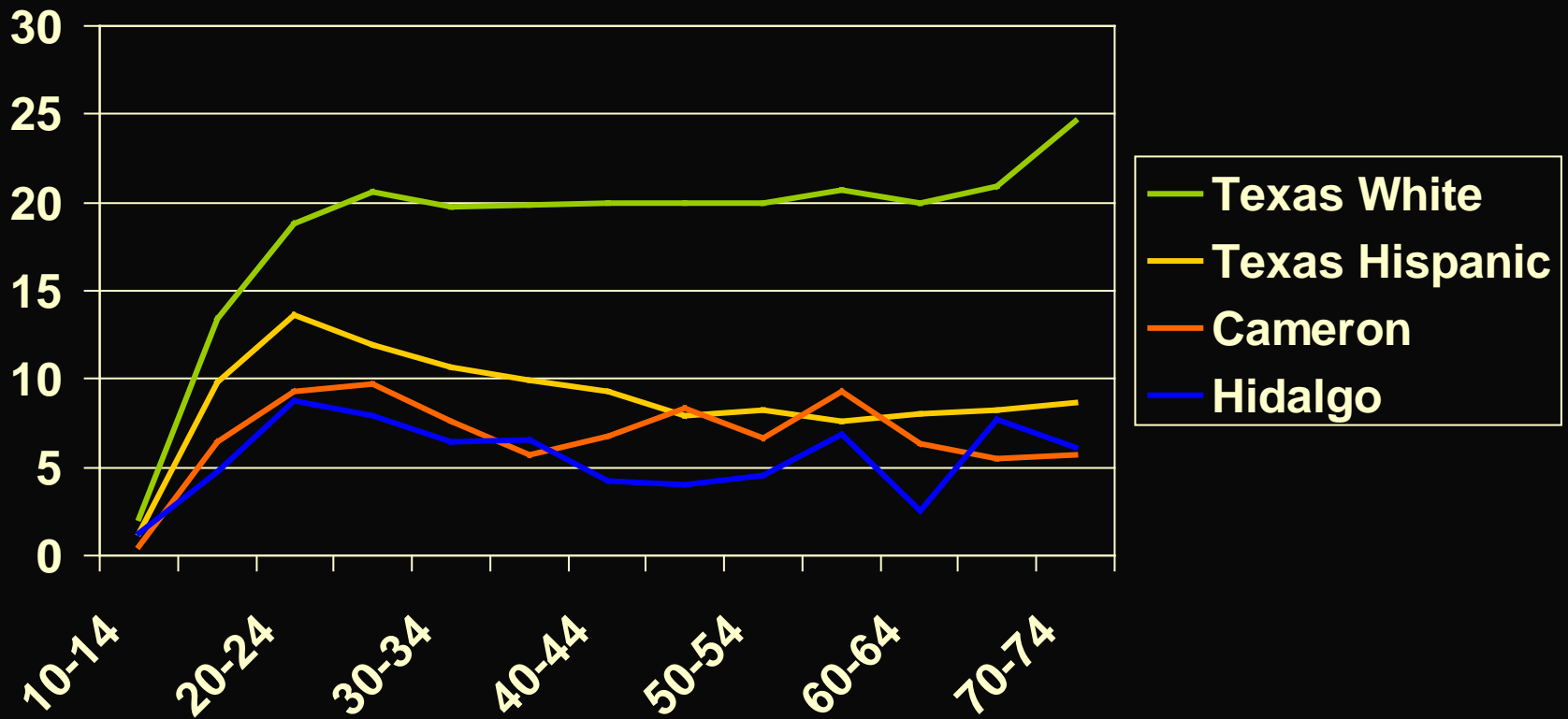
Homicide and Injury Purposefully Inflicted on Others



Suicide Mortality



Suicide Mortality by age



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