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**The Hispanic Paradox: Race/ethnicity and Nativity, Immigrant Enclave Residence
and Cognitive Impairment among Older US Adults**

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32 **ABSTRACT**

33 Hispanics, and particularly foreign-born Mexican Americans, have been shown to fare
34 better across a range of health outcomes than might be expected given the generally
35 higher levels of socioeconomic disadvantage in this population, a phenomena termed
36 the “Hispanic Paradox”. Previous research on social disparities in cognitive aging,
37 however, has been unable to address both race/ethnicity and nativity (REN) in a
38 nationally-representative sample of US adults leaving unanswered questions about
39 potentially “paradoxical” advantages of Mexican ethnic-origins and the role of nativity,
40 socioeconomic status (SES), and enclave residence. We employ biennial assessments
41 of cognitive functioning to study prevalent and incident cognitive impairment (CI) within
42 the three largest US REN groups: US-born non-Hispanic whites (US-NHW), US-born
43 non-Hispanic blacks (US-NHB), US-born Mexican Americans (US-MA), and foreign-
44 born Mexican Americans (FB-MA). Data come from a nationally-representative sample
45 of community-dwelling older adults in the Health and Retirement Study linked with the
46 2000 Census and followed over 10 years (N= 8,433). Large disadvantages in prevalent
47 and incident CI were observed for all REN minorities respective to US-born non-
48 Hispanic whites. Individual and neighborhood SES accounted substantially for these
49 disadvantages and revealed an immigrant advantage: FB-MA odds of prevalent CI were
50 about half those of US-NHW and hazards of incident CI were about half those of US-
51 MA. Residence in an immigrant enclave was protective of prevalent CI among FB-MA.
52 The findings illuminate important directions for research into the sources of cognitive
53 risk and resilience and provide guidance about CI screening within the increasingly
54 diverse aging US population.

55 INTRODUCTION

56

57 Despite longstanding interest in the implications of race/ethnicity and nativity (REN) for
58 social stratification of health, little is known about how these factors may intersect to
59 shape cognitive aging of US older adults. Debate about the presence or absence of a
60 Hispanic Paradox – i.e., the finding that Hispanics and particularly foreign-born Mexican
61 Americans have better outcomes on many aspects of health than expected given their
62 generally poor socioeconomic status (SES)¹ -- pursued in other areas of health remains
63 largely unexplored in cognitive aging. Nonetheless, there are profound implications for
64 such disparities given that social and financial burdens for dementia alone are projected
65 to equal or exceed all other top causes of mortality² and that immigrants of Latin
66 American descent replaced Europeans in 2010 as the most prevalent group of older
67 immigrants.³

68

69 A broad literature has explored racial and ethnic disadvantages in cognitive aging
70 finding generally poorer outcomes among African American and Hispanic older adults
71 that are attributed to social and economic disadvantages.⁴ This includes life course
72 accumulation of poor SES conditions, psychological stressors, and compromised
73 cognitive engagement.⁵ Consideration of nativity differences in cognitive aging draws
74 attention to the question of whether sociocultural protections, such as stronger social
75 capital and more salubrious health behaviors,^{1,6-11} may offset these socioeconomic
76 disadvantages. Literature on the Hispanic Paradox suggests that sociocultural
77 protection may be able to offset socioeconomic disadvantages of immigrants,¹ however,
78 those protections will likely vary by the etiology of the health outcome. Given the
79 importance of early life socioeconomic conditions in shaping cognitive reserve,⁵ it is
80 unclear whether potential immigrant sociocultural protections—operating, for example
81 through the psychosocial buffering of strong social support—will be sufficient to offset
82 these risks. Reflective of this uncertainty, the few studies that have explored differentials
83 in cognitive aging by nativity have shown inconsistent or null results, often in the same
84 sample.^{6,7,12-16} A recent innovation in research on the Hispanic Paradox has been to
85 suggest that sociocultural protection may be a fundamental upstream determinant of

86 health that is structured by the places in which people live through, for example, social
87 interactions in neighborhoods.^{1,8-11,17} Unfortunately, evidence considering cognitive
88 aging and ethnic or immigrant enclaves is also sparse with the only two known studies
89 offering conflicting findings.^{15,18}

90
91 In this study we evaluate the relative racial, ethnic and nativity differences in the
92 prevalence and incidence of cognitive impairment (CI) in a nationally-representative
93 sample. We evaluate the extent to which potential cognitive advantages in older
94 Mexican immigrants' incidence of CI may be masked by individual and residential
95 components of socioeconomic disadvantage. We then evaluate the extent to which
96 residence in immigrant-ethnic enclaves might structure immigrant advantages net
97 socioeconomic status.

98

99 **METHODS**

100

101 **Data and measures**

102 We used data from the Health and Retirement Study (HRS), an ongoing nationally-
103 representative, multi-cohort longitudinal survey of US older adults. Our analytic sample,
104 detailed below, came from the HRS cohort selected in 1992 using household probability
105 sampling of non-institutionalized men and women age 51-61, and their partners or
106 spouses, with oversampling of Hispanics, blacks and Florida residents. The initial response
107 rate was 81.6%, and rates for subsequent biennial waves have been above 85%. Our
108 primary data source was the RAND-HRS, a cleaned and streamlined collection of public-
109 use variables.¹⁹ The institutional review board of RAND Corporation approved the
110 study, and all respondents gave informed consent.

111

112 We employed cognition measures from the RAND-HRS to identify the presence of
113 cognitive impairment (CI) among self-reporting respondents as those with a score of 11
114 or less from the 27-point modified English and Spanish version of the Telephone
115 Interview for Cognitive Status (TICS). The TICS evaluates immediate and delayed word
116 call, the serial 7's subtraction test of working memory, and backward counting to assess

117 attention and processing speed. Proxy-reported respondents were categorized as
118 having CI using proxy- and interviewer-assessments of cognition and the instrumental
119 activities of daily living (IADLs). Clinical validation of this CI measurement methodology
120 and the instruments are detailed elsewhere.²⁰ It is noteworthy that the Spanish version
121 of the TICS has been validated in Spanish-speaking populations, as has the Mini-
122 Mental State Examination upon which it is modeled.¹⁸

123
124 We also employed RAND-HRS measures of age at each wave, gender, race, ethnicity,
125 birthplace, highest educational attainment, marital status in 2000, and net total assets in
126 2000 (assessed using a detailed question series with item non-response imputed by
127 RAND-HRS). We identified in sufficient numbers for analysis respondents who were
128 US-born non-Hispanic white (US-NHW), US-born non-Hispanic black (US-NHB), US-
129 born Mexican American/Chicano (US-MA), and foreign-born Mexican American/Chicano
130 (FB-MA).

131
132 Social, economic, and demographic characteristics of the respondents' residential
133 census tract in 2000 were linked using the HRS geographic data file. From the 2000 US
134 Census, we selected previous measures of neighborhood residential homogeneity.^{8-11,21}
135 These included the tract proportion of Hispanics; Mexican Americans, foreign-born
136 individuals, and foreign-born Mexican Americans. They also included the Census
137 Bureau definitions of linguistically isolated households, including the tract proportion of
138 individuals age 5 and older who speak Spanish at home, and households in which all
139 adults speak a language other than English and none speak English very well. In
140 addition, we assessed neighborhood socioeconomic disadvantage using a latent
141 measure of the socioeconomic status of U.S. census tracts (including median
142 household income, education, unemployment, female-headed households, and poverty)
143 developed using exploratory and confirmatory factor analyses described elsewhere.²²
144 We categorized neighborhood socioeconomic status (NSES) by quintile thresholds
145 calculated in the sample of all US tracts.

146 147 **Analysis plan and statistical models**

148

149 The study baseline is the year 2000 (the first wave after TICS was introduced in 1996
150 with contemporaneous US Census data), and we selected US-NHW, US-NHB, US-MA,
151 or FB-MA respondents from the initial HRS cohort (N=8,741). Our sample excluded the
152 older aged Assets and Health Dynamics (AHEAD) cohort, because incident cognitive
153 impairment differentials by race, ethnicity and nativity were weaker, but there was
154 insufficient sample to fully test cohort differences (not shown). It also excluded two
155 cohorts added in 1998 for which mean TICS increased between 1998 and 2000,
156 suggesting second-administration practice-effect bias.²³ After excluding respondents
157 with item non-response (primarily unknown tracts: n=278), the baseline HRS cohort
158 sample entailed 8,433 adults aged 51 and older.

159

160 We modeled the prevalence of CI in 2000 using multivariate logistic regression. Then,
161 among the cognitive normal sample in 2000 (N=7,076), we modeled the incidence of CI
162 using discrete-time hazards analyses. Respondents contributed to the risk pool for each
163 biennial assessment until 2010 and were censored after CI was observed or if they
164 exited the community-dwelling HRS sample (i.e., via unit non-response, entry into
165 institutionalized care, or death). In sensitivity analyses, we also employed a multinomial
166 extension of the above discrete-time hazards model to evaluate the competing-risks of
167 CI, death, or attrition relative to remaining cognitively normal. We evaluated parameter
168 estimates, their standard errors, and (2-sided) tests of statistical significance for the
169 predictors of interest and compared the relative fit of models using the design-based
170 Akaike Information Criterion (dAIC). The dAIC is a modification of the AIC that is valid
171 under complex sampling for which a lower value indicates better fit.²⁴ All analyses
172 employed year 2000 sample weights provided by the HRS to make nationally-
173 representative inferences and adjust for the stratified sampling and clustering of
174 households within neighborhoods. The primary analyses and multinomial sensitivity
175 tests were respectively estimated using survey packages in R and Stata version 13.

176

177 **RESULTS**

178

179 Descriptive statistics in Table 1 show that all individual characteristics and
180 neighborhood census tract characteristics of the HRS cohort of older adults in the year
181 2000 differed significantly by race, ethnicity and nativity. FB-MA, who were, on average,
182 age 62 had the fewest years of education and, along with US-NHB, the fewest assets,
183 although assets were considerably higher among US-NHW than any other group. For
184 both FB-MA and US-MA, the combined rates of marriage and partnership were about
185 70% and substantially higher than for US-NHB (53%) but only slightly lower than for US-
186 NHW (77%). In 2000, FB-MA resided in census tracts with the highest levels of ethnic
187 and linguistic homogeneity (e.g., tracts were on average 57% Mexican American, 29%
188 foreign-born, and 61% Spanish-speaking). FB-MA also resided in tracts with the lowest
189 levels of NSES (i.e., 77% in the bottom two quintiles compared with 68% for US-MA,
190 74% for US-NHB, and 27% for US-NHW), although NSES was low among all REN
191 minorities

192
193 Higher odds of prevalent CI in 2000 were observed for all REN minorities adjusting for
194 age and gender, with US-NHB and FB-MA respectively showing 5 to 7 times the odds of
195 CI and US-MA about 3.5 times the odds of CI as US-NHW (Model 1, Table 2). After
196 adding individual and census tract social and economic factors (Model 2), FB-MA were
197 no longer observed at a disadvantage relative to US-NHW but instead had about half
198 the odds of prevalent CI as US-NHW or as US-MA (odds ratio (OR)=0.54, 95%
199 confidence interval= 0.31, 0.92). The OR of prevalent CI respective to US-NHW was
200 reduced by about half for US-NHB and reduced to statistical non-significance for US-
201 MA. Increased education, wealth and NSES are all strongly protective of prevalent CI.

202
203 We next considered adjustment for residential immigrant-ethnic homogeneity (Model 3)
204 and found that the advantages of FB-MA are reduced to statistical non-significance at
205 about three-quarters the odds of prevalent CI as US-NHW. Moreover, residential
206 immigrant-ethnic homogeneity was independently associated with lower odds of
207 prevalent CI. In considering whether this relationship varied by REN (Model 4), we
208 observed a stronger protective association of residential immigrant-ethnic homogeneity
209 for FB-MA than US-NHW. Although the stronger association of homogeneity for FB-MA

210 did not quite reach statistical significance, the dAIC for Model 4 indicated that this was
211 the best fitting model.

212
213 Analyses of the REN associations with incident CI reflected similar patterns. Adjusting
214 only for age and gender, REN minorities showed disadvantages respective to US-NHW
215 that range from 2.6 to 3.4 times the biennial hazards of incident CI as US-NHW (Model
216 1, Table 3). These disadvantages were reduced for US-NHB and US-MA and reversed
217 for FB-MA by adjusting for individual and census tract socioeconomic status (Model 2),
218 with strong protective associations again observed for increased education, wealth and
219 NSES, and stronger advantages of education among females. FB-MA had a lower
220 hazards ratio (HR) that broached statistical significance compared to US-NHW and a
221 statistically significantly lower HR compared to US-MA, with about half the hazards of
222 incident CI (i.e., HR=0.53, 95% confidence interval: 0.35, 0.80).

223
224 Inclusion of residential immigrant-ethnic homogeneity (Model 3), strengthened the
225 advantages of FB-MA to a statistically significant 64% lower hazards of incident CI than
226 US-NHW, but left the advantages relative to US-MA largely unchanged (i.e., HR=0.51,
227 95% confidence interval: 0.33, 0.77). A significant independent increase in the hazards
228 of incident CI was associated with greater residential immigrant-ethnic homogeneity.
229 Finally, we determined that model fit was not improved by including cross-level
230 interactions for potential REN differences in exposure to residential immigrant-ethnic
231 homogeneity (i.e., Model 4). It is nonetheless noteworthy that the magnitude and
232 direction of these cross-level interactions suggested that increased hazards associated
233 with immigrant ethnic homogeneity in Model 3 may be driven by findings for US-NHW,
234 with immigrant ethnic homogeneity weakly protective of incident CI for FB-MA.

235 236 **Sensitivity Analyses**

237 Several sensitivity tests were conducted (analyses available upon request). We first
238 determined that model fit was not improved by: incorporating age differences in hazards
239 by racial, ethnic and nativity; incorporating racial, ethnic and nativity differences in
240 individual level predictors; or by using alternative indicators of immigrant enclave

241 residential homogeneity. We then determined that sparse data problems on FB-MA at
242 the upper levels of education were not driving findings away from the null. As in the full
243 sample, FB-MA were advantaged relative to US-NHW and US-MA for prevalent and
244 incident CI, respectively, after restricting the sample to respondents with high school or
245 lower education. Finally, analysis of mortality and attrition as a competing risk for
246 incident CI showed no evidence of differential selection of FB-MAs or US-MAs via
247 attrition and no evidence of differential selection via mortality.

248

249 **DISCUSSION**

250

251 Our study provides the first known analysis of the respective advantages and
252 disadvantages in cognitive aging experienced by the largest four REN groups of older
253 adults in the United States. We extended previous research on the marked
254 disadvantages in cognitive aging among non-Hispanic blacks and Hispanics respective
255 to non-Hispanic whites⁴ to show that disadvantages among Mexican Americans depend
256 on their nativity. Consistent with literature on the life course socioeconomic origins of
257 cognitive risk and resilience,⁵ we found that SES disadvantage places all three minority
258 REN groups at significantly higher risk for poor cognitive aging -- especially FB-MA who
259 have accumulated the least amount of education and wealth and are exposed to the
260 highest levels of neighborhood SES disadvantage. SES disadvantages respectively
261 accounted fully and for about half of the increased risk of prevalent CI among US-MA
262 and US-NHB relative to US-NHW, and substantively account for US-MA and US-
263 NHB increased risk of incident CI. The most novel insight is that once SES
264 disadvantage was held constant, FB-MA experienced about half the odds of prevalent
265 or incident CI as US-MA and about half the odds of prevalent CI as US-NHW. This
266 extends to CI similar previous findings for mortality that FB-MA advantages are
267 suppressed by their socioeconomic disadvantage.²⁵

268

269 Although these immigrant advantages are large, especially for prevalent CI, they reflect
270 a pattern referred to as a 'weak' version of the Hispanic Paradox,¹ given their

271 dependence on adjusting for SES. The findings nonetheless strengthen and extend the
272 only previous evidence of immigrant cognitive health advantages,^{6,7} which had been
273 restricted to the subset of FB-MA who migrated during working ages and employed data
274 from Mexican Americans living in Southwestern states.

275
276 Our study found mixed evidence for whether the observed ‘weak’ version of the
277 Hispanic Paradox in cognitive aging might be fundamentally structured by social
278 interactions occurring in immigrant enclaves. Living in an enclave was independently
279 associated with lower prevalence of CI and substantively accounted for FB-MA’s
280 cognitive advantages. Moreover, findings were suggestive of enclave residence offering
281 the most protection for FB-MA. These findings support and extend previous evidence
282 that living in areas with higher percentages of Mexican Americans is protective of
283 cognitive aging.¹⁵ Analyses of incident CI, however, showed little evidence of a
284 protective role for enclaves and in fact enclave residence was associated with an
285 increased risk of developing CI, which appeared to be driven by results for US-NHW.
286 Given that these incident analyses necessarily exclude cognitively impaired adults at
287 baseline who were on average an older subpopulation, we speculate that the protective
288 role of enclaves may be strongest in later older adulthood. A promising area for future
289 research will be to evaluate whether social support and social cohesion provide a
290 mechanism for enclave advantages by buffering against neurological insult related to
291 psychosocial and physical health stressors.²⁸

292
293 Although the HRS is the largest, most recent nationally-representative data source for
294 studying cognitive aging of older US adults, the small sample sizes of Mexican
295 Americans imposed a primary study limitation. . In the prevalent analyses, we observed
296 94 US-MA and 84 FB-MA with CI from a sample of 311 US-MA and 209 FB-MA. In the
297 incident analyses, we observed 98 cases of CI over 872 person-years of observations
298 on 217 cognitively normal US-MA and 71 cases of CI over 487 person-years of
299 observations on 127 cognitively normal FB-MA. Our estimates of REN differentials and

300 the role of enclaves should thus be interpreted with appropriate caution regarding
301 statistical precision and sparse data biasing estimates away from the null. Sensitivity
302 analyses suggest that the findings may be most generalizable to respondents with lower
303 educational attainment. Sample size limitations also impeded us from reliably estimating
304 differentials among US-MA and FB-MA by measures of acculturation. Future research
305 with larger data samples is needed. Another area for future research will be to match
306 analyses of cognitive aging among Mexican American migrants to the US with the
307 trajectories of their counterparts in Mexico who may also include return migrants from
308 the U.S. Such analyses could shed light into the 'healthy migrant' hypothesis that FB-
309 MA advantages are fundamentally determined by migrants being a healthier subset of
310 the origin population.¹ Although such analyses were not possible with the HRS, we were
311 able to determine that FB-MA advantages were not upwardly biased by differential
312 attrition or death.

313

314 **CONCLUSION**

315 Population health planning is needed to address the roughly \$200 billion estimate of
316 total societal costs of dementia and the nearly two-fold increase expected with
317 population aging.² The high risk of prevalent and incident CI documented in this study
318 across REN minority populations underscores the importance of careful clinical
319 screening and outreach into these communities to enhance early detection and
320 treatment of CI. This includes attention to potential language, cultural and health literacy
321 barriers and accurate assessment, referral and treatment.

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Author Contributions: Weden supervised the data analysis and drafted the manuscript. Miles and Peterson performed all statistical analyses and data preparations. Langa provided the study outcome. All authors helped plan the study, interpret the findings, and revise the manuscript.

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TABLES

Table 1. Sample descriptive statistics (means or proportions) for cognitively normal US-born non-Hispanic whites, US-born non-Hispanic blacks, and US-born and foreign-born Mexican Americans aged 51 and older in the Health and Retirement Survey (HRS), 2000 ^a

	Total (N=8,433)	US-born non- Hispanic white (N=6,566)	US-born non- Hispanic black (N=1,347)	US-born Mexican- American (N=311)	Foreign-born Mexican- American (N=209)	Difference by race/ethnicity and nativity <i>P</i> -value
<i>Individual characteristics in 2000</i>						
Age (mean in years)	63.0	63.1	63.2	62.4	61.9	0.001
Female gender	0.53	0.53	0.57	0.49	0.56	0.003
Highest educational attainment (mean in years)	12.5	12.9	11.4	9.7	5.2	<0.001
Marital status						<0.001
Married	0.72	0.75	0.48	0.65	0.66	
Partnered	0.03	0.02	0.05	0.03	0.04	
Separated/divorced	0.11	0.10	0.22	0.16	0.16	
Widowed	0.11	0.10	0.19	0.12	0.12	
Never-married	0.03	0.03	0.06	0.03	0.02	
	11.4	11.8	8.9	9.9	8.9	<0.001

Assets (mean of natural logarithm
in dollars)

Neighborhood census tract characteristics in 2000

Neighborhood socioeconomic status						
Quintile 1	0.14	0.08	0.49	0.44	0.58	
Quintile 2	0.20	0.19	0.25	0.24	0.19	
Quintile 3	0.24	0.25	0.12	0.16	0.13	
Quintile 4	0.22	0.24	0.08	0.11	0.09	
Quintile 5	0.21	0.23	0.07	0.06	0.01	
Percent Mexican American	6.5	4.4	5.4	42.3	57.2	<0.001
Percent foreign-born	8.0	7.0	8.1	20.9	28.9	<0.001
Percent foreign-born Mexican American	2.6	1.7	2.7	15.9	23.6	<0.001
Percent Spanish-speaking	8.4	6.0	8.8	44.8	61.4	<0.001
Percent linguistically isolated Spanish-speaking	13.7	12.8	17.6	21.1	24.9	<0.001

^a Data come from the HRS cohort sampled in 1992. All statistics are sample-weighted and adjusted for the stratified sampling design and clustering of households within census tracts. Standard error denoted in parentheses.

Table 2. Odds of prevalent cognitive impairment by race, ethnicity and nativity adjusting for individual and neighborhood census tract characteristics of U.S. adults age 51 and older in the Health and Retirement Survey (HRS), 2000^a

	Model 1	Model 2	Model 3	Model 4
	OR	OR	OR	OR
	(95% CI)	(95% CI)	(95% CI)	(95% CI)
Age in years	1.08	1.07	1.07	1.07
	(1.06, 1.10)	(1.05, 1.09)	(1.05, 1.09)	(1.05, 1.09)
Race/ethnicity and nativity (reference: US-born non-Hispanic white)				
US-born non-Hispanic black	5.19	2.43	2.40	2.55
	(4.38, 6.16)	(1.97, 2.99)	(1.95, 2.95)	(2.02, 3.21)
US-born Mexican American	3.56	0.99	1.27	1.76
	(2.58, 4.92)	(0.69, 1.42)	(0.86, 1.88)	(0.77, 4.06)
Foreign-born Mexican American	6.78	0.53	0.74	5.04
	(4.70, 9.76)	(0.33, 0.87)	(0.44, 1.26)	(0.53, 48.34)
Female (reference: Male)	0.62	0.57	0.57	0.57
	(0.54, 0.71)	(0.49, 0.67)	(0.49, 0.67)	(0.48, 0.67)
Highest educational attainment in years		0.76	0.76	0.76
		(0.73, 0.78)	(0.74, 0.79)	(0.74, 0.79)
Marital status (reference: married)				

Partnered	1.76 (1.10, 2.84)	1.79 (1.11, 2.87)	1.78 (1.10, 2.87)
Separated/divorced	0.87 (0.68, 1.11)	0.87 (0.68, 1.2)	0.87 (0.68, 1.11)
Widowed	0.95 (0.75, 1.21)	0.95 (0.75, 1.21)	0.96 (0.76, 1.21)
Never married	1.07 (0.68, 1.70)	1.06 (0.67, 1.70)	1.05 (0.66, 1.68)
Assets (natural logarithm of dollars)	0.91 (0.89, 0.93)	0.91 (0.89, 0.93)	0.91 (0.89, 0.93)
<i>Neighborhood census tract characteristics</i>			
Neighborhood socioeconomic status (reference: quintile 3)			
Quintile 1	1.37 (1.07, 1.74)	1.45 (1.13, 1.85)	1.49 (1.16, 1.90)
Quintile 2	1.08 (0.87, 1.34)	1.12 (0.90, 1.39)	1.11 (0.90, 1.38)
Quintile 4	0.68 (0.53, 0.86)	0.67 (0.52, 0.85)	0.67 (0.52, 0.85)
Quintile 5	0.75 (0.56, 0.99)	0.72 (0.54, 0.96)	0.73 (0.55, 0.97)

Log-percent of foreign-born Mexican American			0.87	0.92
			(0.79, 0.96)	(0.82, 1.03)
Log-percent of foreign-born Mexican American *				0.89
US-born non-Hispanic black				(0.71, 1.11)
Log-percent of foreign-born Mexican American *				0.83
US-born Mexican American				(0.60, 1.16)
Log-percent of foreign-born Mexican American *				0.51
Foreign-born Mexican American				(0.24, 1.06)
Model dAIC	6058.1	5298.4	5290.7	5291.1

Abbreviations: OR= odds ratio, CI=confidence interval; dAIC=designed-based Akaike information criterion.

^a Data come from the HRS cohort. All statistics are sample-weighted and adjusted for the stratified sampling design and clustering of households within census tracts. All models employ data on 8,433 unique individuals.

Table 3. Biennial hazards of incident cognitive impairment by race, ethnicity and nativity adjusting for individual and neighborhood census tract characteristics of U.S. adults age 51 and older in the Health and Retirement Survey (HRS), 2000-2010 ^a

	Model 1 HR (95% CI)	Model 2 HR (95% CI)	Model 3 HR (95% CI)	Model 4 HR (95% CI)
Age in years (time-varying)	1.10 (1.09, 1.11)	1.10 (1.09, 1.11)	1.10 (1.09, 1.11)	1.10 (1.09, 1.11)
Race/ethnicity and nativity (reference: US-born non-Hispanic white)				
US-born non-Hispanic black	3.07 (2.67, 3.52)	2.35 (2.02, 2.73)	2.36 (2.03, 2.75)	2.42 (2.02, 2.90)
US-born Mexican American	2.61 (1.99, 3.43)	1.46 (1.10, 1.93)	1.27 (0.94, 1.72)	1.13 (0.47, 2.73)
Foreign-born Mexican American	3.39 (2.45, 4.69)	0.77 (0.55, 1.08)	0.64 (0.45, 0.93)	0.82 (0.23, 2.92)
Female (reference: Male)	0.83 (0.74, 0.92)	0.80 (0.71, 0.90)	0.80 (0.71, 0.90)	0.80 (0.71, 0.90)
Highest educational attainment in years		0.87 (0.85, 0.89)	0.87 (0.85, 0.89)	0.87 (0.85, 0.89)

Female* Highest educational attainment	0.94	0.94	0.94
	(0.91, 0.97)	(0.91, 0.98)	(0.91, 0.98)
Marital status in 2000 (reference: married)			
Partnered	1.16	1.15	1.15
	(0.85, 1.59)	(0.84, 1.58)	(0.84, 1.58)
Separated/divorced	0.98	0.98	0.98
	(0.83, 1.17)	(0.82, 1.16)	(0.82, 1.16)
Widowed	0.90	0.90	0.90
	(0.75, 1.07)	(0.75, 1.07)	(0.75, 1.07)
Never married	1.14	1.13	1.13
	(0.81, 1.59)	(0.81, 1.58)	(0.81, 1.58)
Assets in 2000 (natural logarithm of dollars)	0.95	0.95	0.95
	(0.94, 0.97)	(0.94, 0.97)	(0.94, 0.97)
<i>Neighborhood census tract characteristics in 2000</i>			
Neighborhood socioeconomic status (reference: quintile 3)			
Quintile 1	0.98	0.94	0.94
	(0.83, 1.15)	(0.80, 1.12)	(0.80, 1.12)
Quintile 2	0.95	0.93	0.93
	(0.82, 1.10)	(0.80, 1.08)	(0.80, 1.08)
Quintile 4	0.80	0.81	0.81

		(0.69, 0.93)	(0.75, 1.07)	(0.69, 0.94)
Quintile 5		0.72	0.74	0.74
		(0.61, 0.86)	(0.81, 1.58)	(0.62, 0.88)
Log-percent of foreign-born Mexican American			1.08	1.09
			(1.02, 1.15)	(1.01, 1.17)
Log-percent of foreign-born Mexican American *				0.97
US-born non-Hispanic black				(0.84, 1.11)
Log-percent of foreign-born Mexican American *				1.04
US-born Mexican American				(0.75, 1.46)
Log-percent of foreign-born Mexican American *				0.92
Foreign-born Mexican American				(0.63, 1.36)
Model dAIC	13581.5	13167.1	13162.8	13168.2

Abbreviations: HR= hazard ratio, CI=confidence interval; dAIC=design-based Akaike information criterion.

^a Data come from the HRS cohort. All statistics are sample-weighted and adjusted for the stratified sampling design and clustering of households within census tracts. Model 1 and Model 2 employ data on 7,076 unique individuals with 32,243 biennial person-years of observations.