Transitions in life for Mexican and Mexican-American men in the U.S.

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Structure of the presentation

- Mexicans in the U.S.
- The importance of men's transitions
- Research questions
- Theoretical background
- Data and methods
- Findings
- Conclusions
Hispanic population in the U.S.

The importance of Hispanic fertility


Source: Data from the Pew Research Center, 2008.
Mexicans in the U.S.

- Mexicans 65% of Hispanics
- Net migration close to zero
- Births as main source of growth.
- Have higher and faster fertility than non-Hispanic whites.
- The demographic future of the U.S. will be driven by the Mexican behavior.
The importance of men's transitions

**International guidelines**
- Cairo conference 1994
- Family planning
- Gender equity
- Changing role of men

**Reality**
- Most research explore women's behavior.
- Policies focus on women.
- Need for balance.
What do I want to know?

Are Mexican men different from other ethnic groups in the U.S. in union formation and fertility behavior?

Analytical approach

Analyze men's transition events related to union formation and fertility outcomes. Controlling for other variables.
Theoretical framework

Second demographic transition
- Fertility under replacement
- Disconnection between marriage and procreation
- Greater autonomy and individualism

Assimilation theory
- Adoption of new norms and values
- Second generation more exposed to new values.

Life cycle perspective
- Events in life are influenced by biological, social and cultural contexts.
- Need of affiliation and confirmation adults: conflict with the SDT.

Transitions for the Mexican population in the U.S.
Adopting and adapting their transitions.
Data and methods

2006-2010 National Survey of Family Growth, Male Respondent File

Parametric Accelerated Failure Time models for analyzing the time before the occurrence of the event of interest.

- First union
- First birth*
- Second birth*
Measures

- Months to first union from age 15
- Months to first birth from age 15
- Months to second birth from first birth

Race/Ethnicity
- Non-Hispanic white
- Non-Hispanic black
- Mexican
- Mexican-American

Capital and demographic
- Cohort
- Education
- Work

Background variables
- Childhood
- Previous experiences
Findings

Table A1. Percentage of men who experience the event and duration for the occurrence.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race/ethnic group</th>
<th>First union(^1)</th>
<th>First birth(^1)</th>
<th>Second birth(^2)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Incidence (%)</td>
<td>Length (months)</td>
<td>Incidence (%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Hispanic white</td>
<td>92.6</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>99.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Hispanic black</td>
<td>76.1</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>98.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mexican</td>
<td>74.1</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mexican-American</td>
<td>77.6</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>99.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 From age 15.
2 Since the first birth.
Source: Estimations base on NSFG 2006-2010.
First union

Figure 1. Duration to union by race/ethnic group

Months from age 15

Source: Estimations based on National Survey of Family Growth, 2006-2010
First birth

Figure 2. Duration to first birth by race/ethnic group

Months from age 15

Source: Estimations based on National Survey of Family Growth, 2006-2010
Second birth

Figure 3. Duration to second birth by race/ethnic group

Source: Estimations based on National Survey of Family Growth, 2006-2010
Conclusions

- Mexican population has a different behavior than non-Hispanic whites

- Mexican-Americans are more alike non-Hispanic white men in the U.S., i.e. diverging trajectories.

- Even when Mexicans are delaying their transition to first union, their fertility is earlier in life.

- Mexican fertility is the higher when compared to these groups.
Thank you!