

NRC CRIME TRENDS ROUNDTABLE

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On Immigration and Crime: An Update
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REVIEW*

- Time trends
 - Growth
 - Place of birth
 - Legality status
- Spatial
 - In 1960 heavily southwestern United States
 - In 2010 some growth elsewhere still heavily concentrated in southwest, NYC, Chicago and Miami areas.
 - Most Latinos live in 3 states. Most immigrants are Latino.

*Martinez, Ramiro Jr. 2014.

DEFINITIONS

Crime Sources

- Race and Hispanic origin
- Nationality
- Immigration definition

Census Source

- Percent foreign-born
- Year of entry
- Generational
- Place of birth

REVIEW, CONTINUED

- Disaggregation essential.
 - National, county or community
- Regional and urban concentration
- Context matters
 - Population shift
- Other factors
- Direct and indirect effects
- Overtime variations crucial
- Original data access necessary

EXAMPLES

- Thinking back since 2000 should we have assumed a negative or null immigration effect?
 - Macro level effects
 - Group variations
 - Legality status concerns
 - Economic changes
 - What role did Latino/immigrant population play?
 - Immigration rose as homicide declined

NATIONAL LEVEL STUDY

- Start with study of CDC homicide at county level.
- Race/ethnic of decedent. Who codes that?
- Analysis follows Sampson work.
- Imposes minimum threshold.

TABLE 1. NEGATIVE BINOMIAL REGRESSIONS FOR HOMICIDES, U.S. COUNTIES (N=311)

	Total	Black	Latino	White
Disadvantage Index	.148***	.080***	.050***	.014*
Residential stability	.014	-.023	.016	.052
% professional	.000	-.012***	-.014*	-.018***
Immigrant concentration	-.005	-.006***	-.008***	-.003**
Adult/child ratio	-1.873***	-2.362***	-.897	-1.789***
% young male	-.010	-.018	.291***	-.017
% Latino concentration	.223	.197	.291***	.066
Intercept *p<.05, **p<.01, ***p<.001	-8.935***	-7.014***	-8.771***	-9.163***

OTHER THRESHOLDS

- One Latino homicide per year, a minimum of 100,000 persons in each county and 5% percent of county population is Latino.
- Almost 30 million Latinos or 85% of all Latinos across the nation and 92% of all recorded Latino homicides occur in 225 counties.
- Study of Latinos (and immigrants) and violence is probably best done in places where Latinos (and immigrants) reside and violent crime occurs.

WHY STUDY OVERTIME

- Changes important.
 - Racial/ethnic/immigrant population changed.
 - Historical
 - Regional
 - Immigration policy changes
 - Fertility

FIGURE 1. IMMIGRANT/RACIAL/ETHNIC POPULATION: 1960-2010

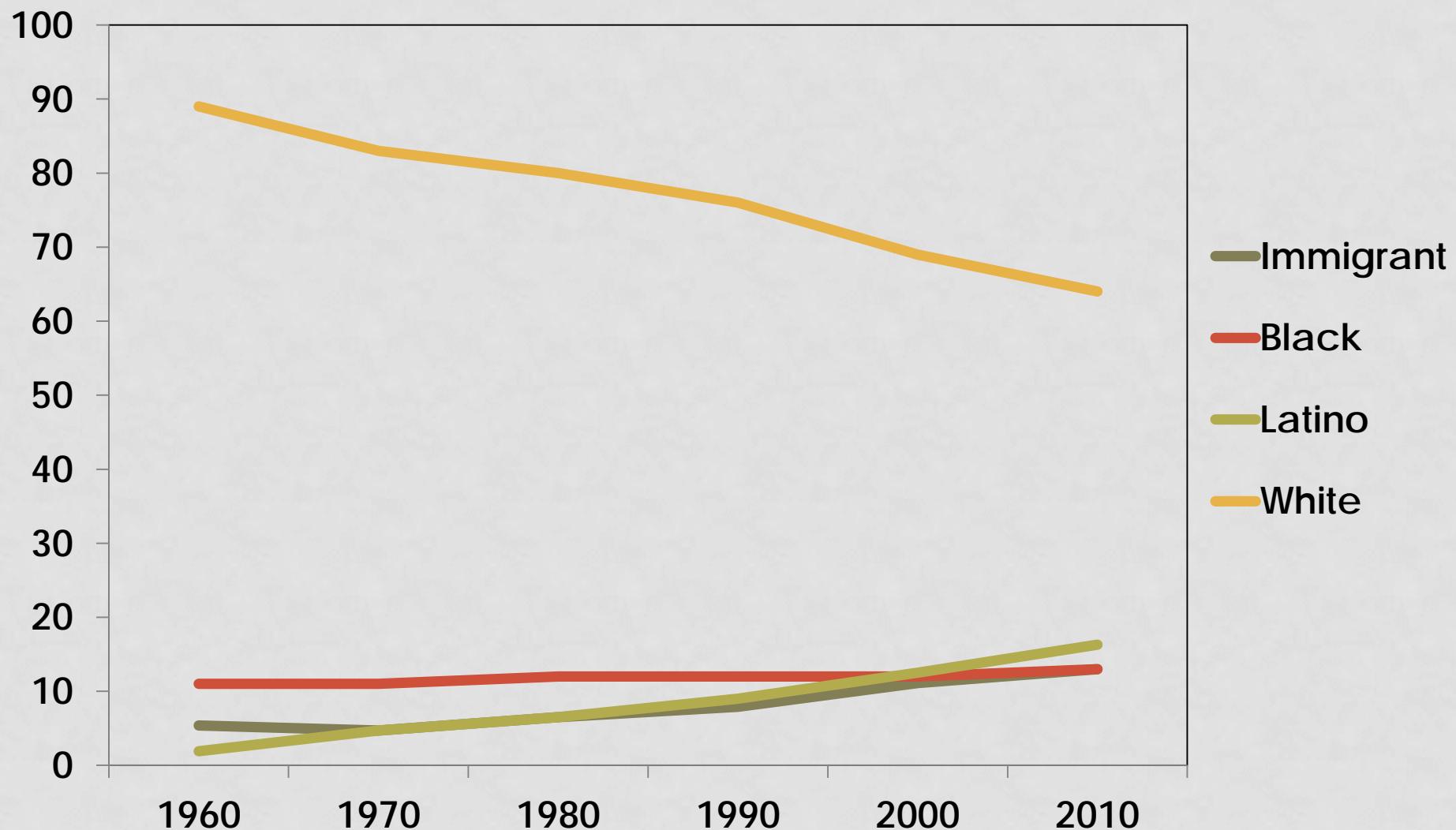
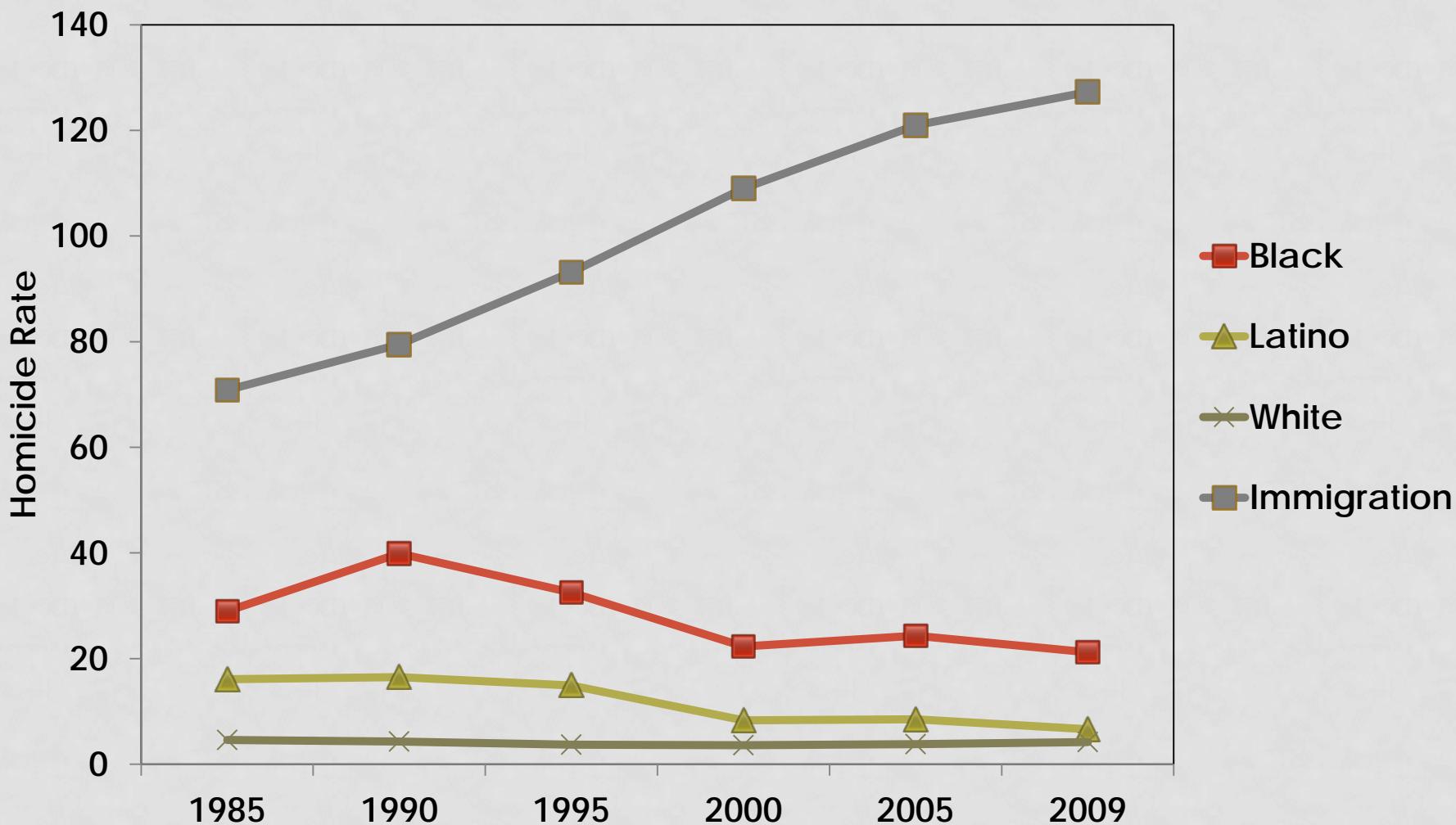


FIGURE 2: NATIONAL IMMIGRATION RATE AND RACE/ETHNICITY HOMICIDE RATES, 1985-2009.



LINKING PAST TO PRESENT

- Two southwestern cities with old and new Latino population.
- What do they tell us immigration and crime over time?
 - Both have old barrios.
 - Both serve populations that move across and through.
 - Both have average levels of crime.

FIGURE 3: RACE/ETHNICITY HOMICIDE VICTIM RATES IN SAN DIEGO, 1960-2011.

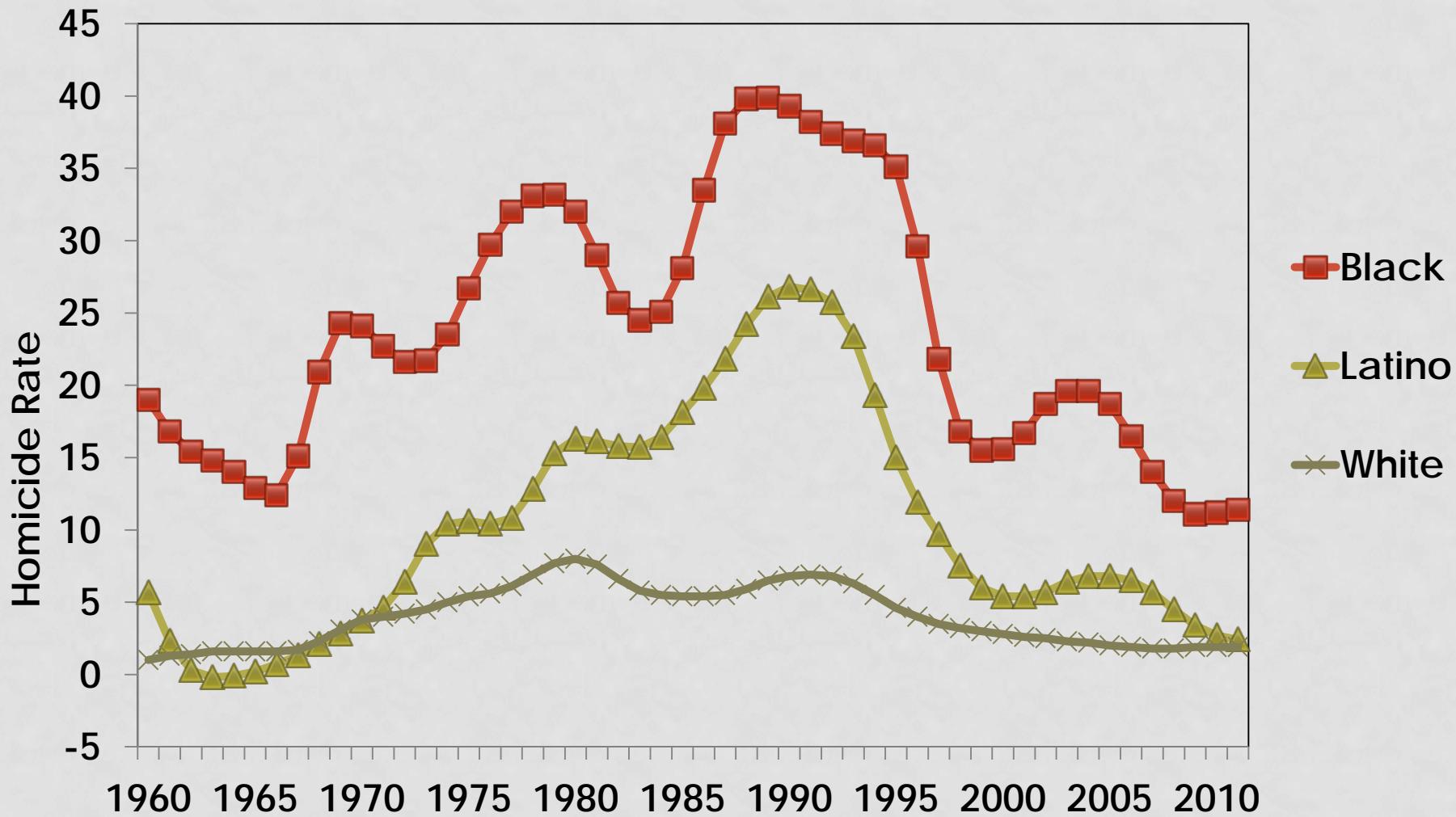
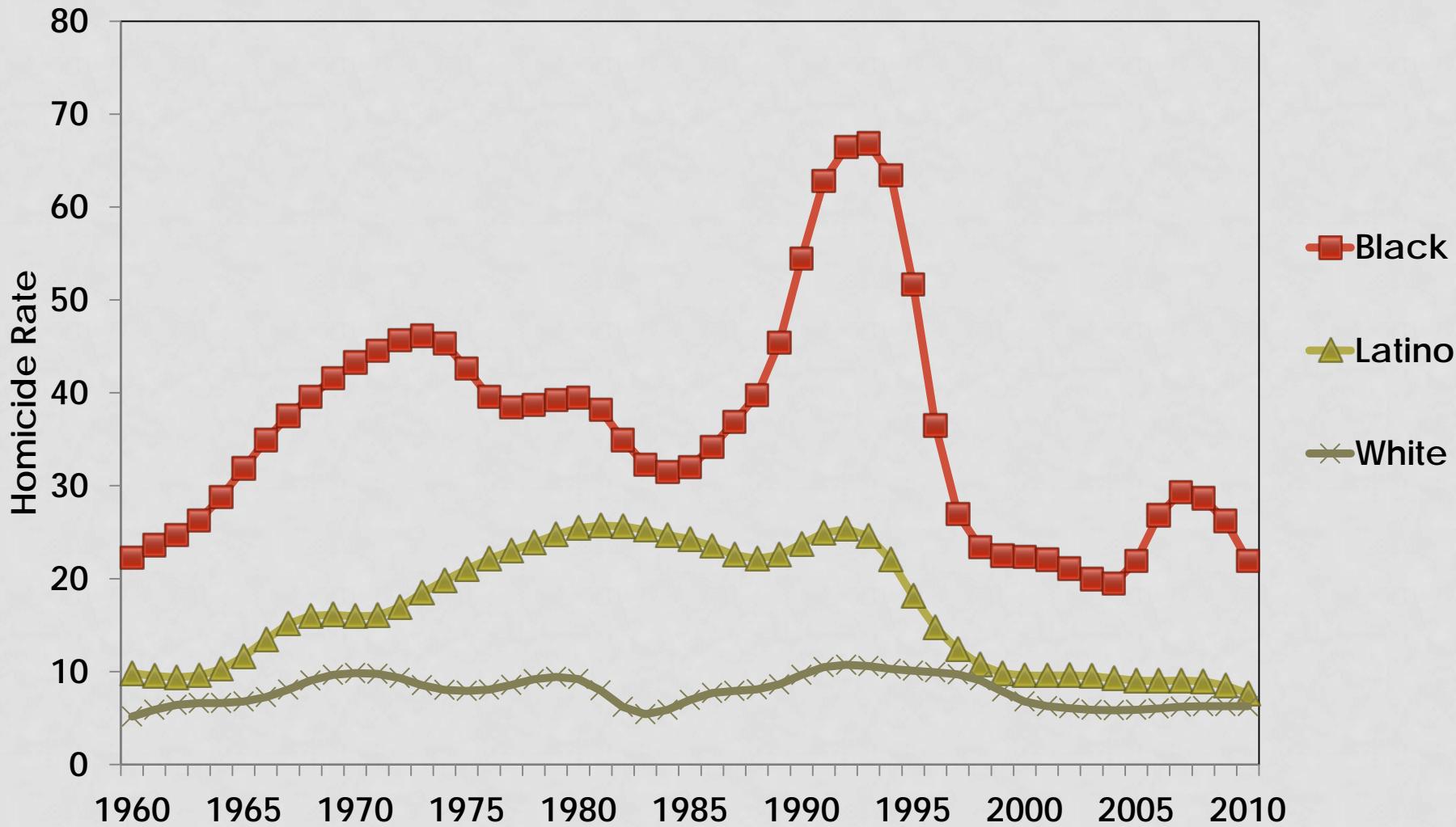


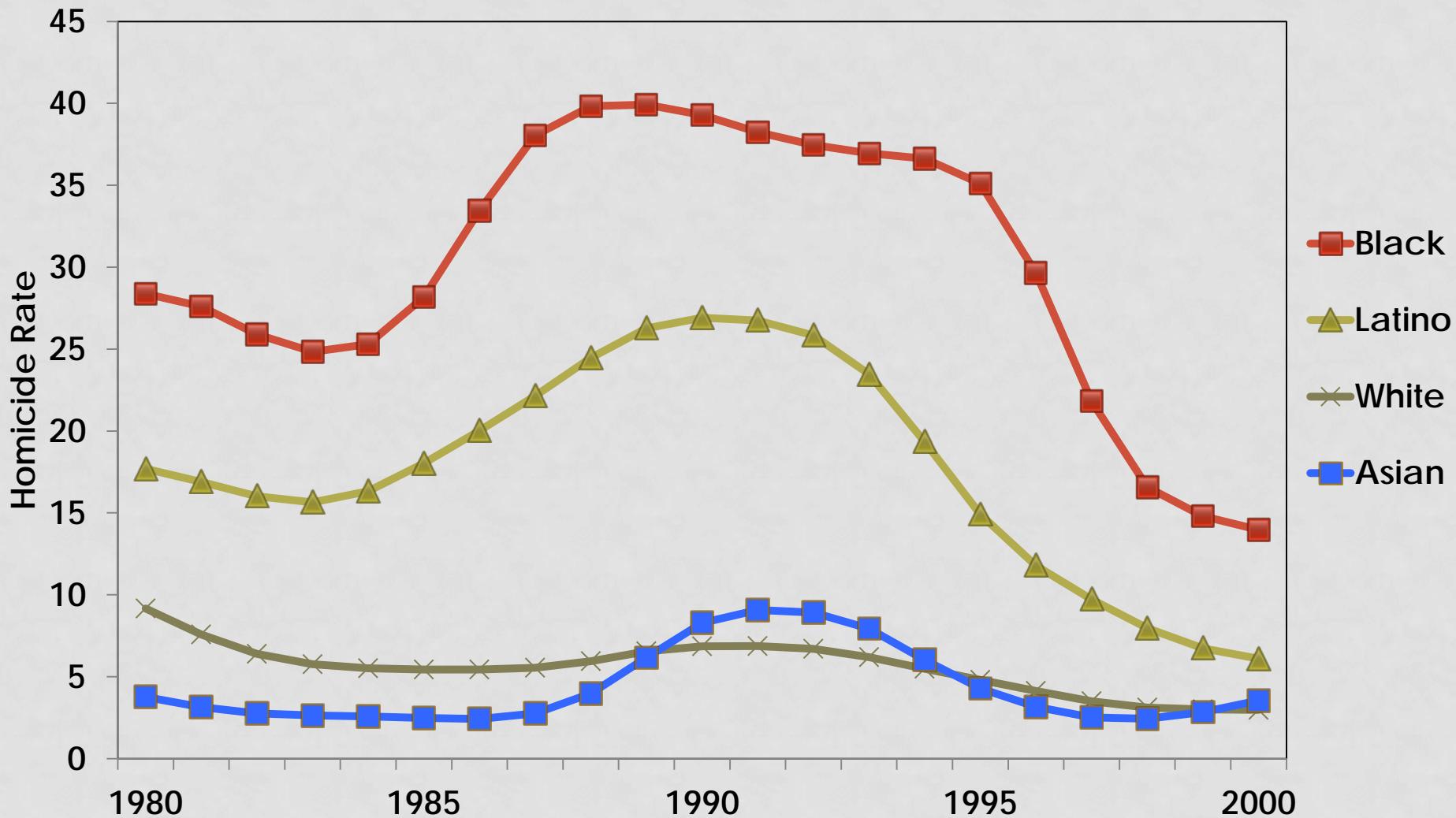
FIGURE 4: RACE/ETHNICITY HOMICIDE VICTIM RATES IN SAN ANTONIO, 1960-2010.



NOT ALL IMMIGRANTS ARE LATINO.

- The city of San Diego and Miami provide interesting studies.

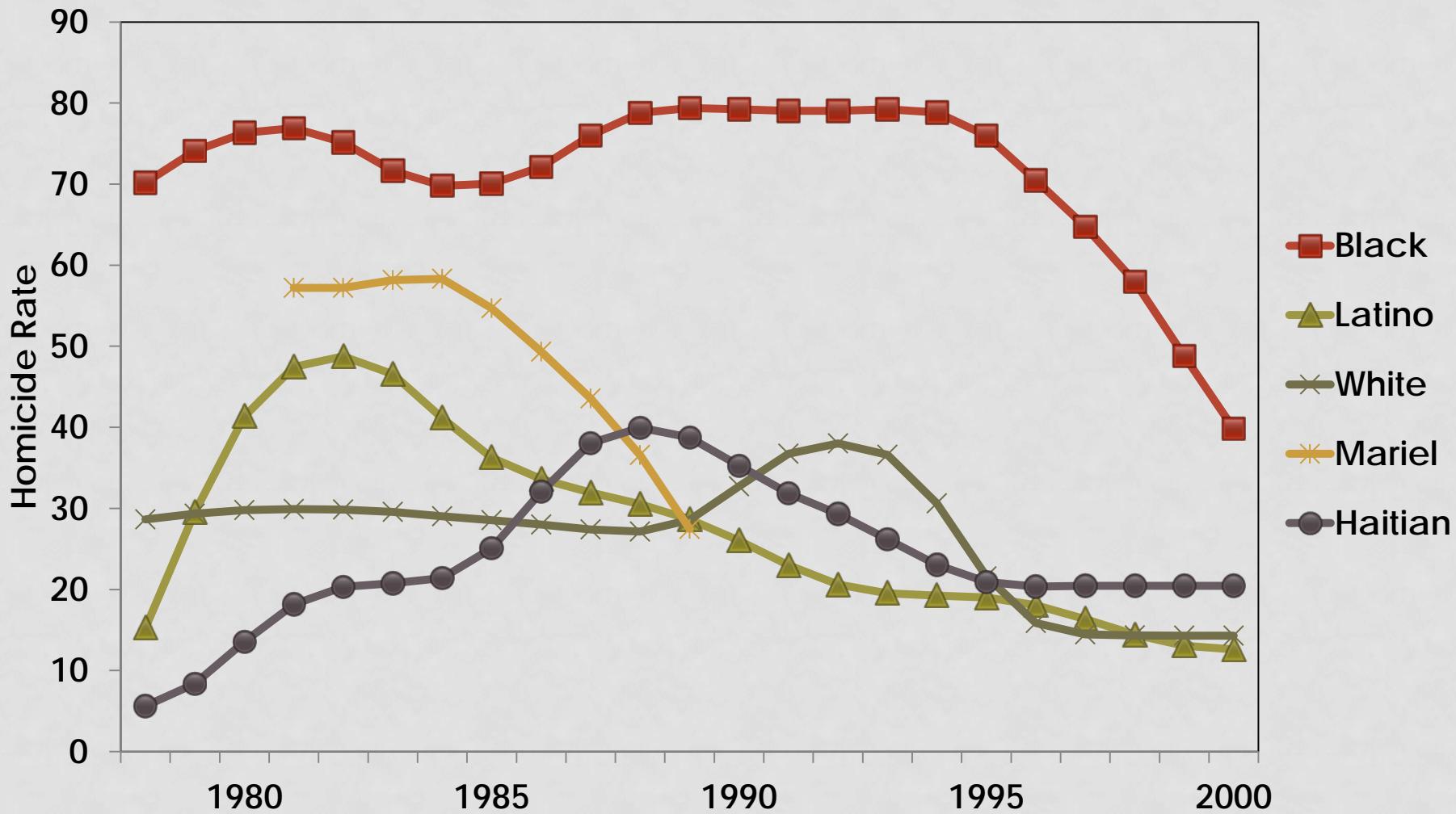
FIGURE 5: RACE/ETHNICITY HOMICIDE VICTIM RATES IN SAN DIEGO, 1980-2000.



A CASE STUDY ON UNDOCUMENTED

- Why go back to 1980?
- Mariel and Haitian exodus.
- Both initially considered “unauthorized” immigrants.
- And immigration

FIGURE 6: RACE/ETHNICITY/IMMIGRANT HOMICIDE VICTIM RATES IN MIAMI, 1978-2000.



LITERATURE CONSENSUS

- Recent research
- Direct and indirect effects
- More immigration less homicide and violence in large areas.

WHY OVERTIME MATTERS?

- Changes in immigration matters when examining changes in homicide.
- Context also matters.

TABLE 2. NEGATIVE BINOMIAL REGRESSION OF HOMICIDE VICTIMS ON NEIGHBORHOOD STRUCTURAL FACTORS, SAN ANTONIO, 1990-2000 (N=242)

Variable	Total	Black	White	Latino
Adult/child ratio	.227***	.035	.101	.073*
Disadvantage index	.823***	.453***	.252	.357***
Stability index	.120**	.082	.052	.145**
Professional employment	-.021**	-.025	-.015	-.020**
Immigration concentration	.074	0.006	-.014**	.004
% young male	-.068**	-.069**	-.010	-.049**
Intercept	-5.990***	-5.253***	-6.896***	-6.896***
*p<.05, **p<.01, ***p<.001				

TABLE 3. FIXED-EFFECTS NEGATIVE BINOMIAL REGRESSION OF HOMICIDE VICTIMS ON NEIGHBORHOOD STRUCTURAL FACTORS, SAN DIEGO, 1970-2000 (N=1,135)

Variable	Total	Black	White	Latino
Adult/child ratio	.010**	.011***	.010**	.005
Disadvantage index	.232***	.161***	.245***	.133***
Stability index	.025	.036	.008	-.045
% Professional employment	-.015*	.000	-.001	-.013
Immigration concentration	-.017*	-.005	-.027**	-.020*
Intercept	-8.160***	-7.579***	-8.727***	-8.010***
*p<.05, **p<.01, ***p<.001				

DISCUSSION

- Immigration or changes in immigration should be part of study of crime changes.
- Direct and indirect measure necessary.
- Level of analysis and disaggregation matters.

WAS CURRENT PERIOD DIFFERENT?

- Need to go back to past and connect to present.
- Argument for revisiting southwest.
- Places with homicide motives?