



Occupational Health Disparities Among Latino Immigrants Working in the United States: The Scope of the Problem

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Disclaimer

The findings and conclusions in this presentation have not been formally disseminated by NIOSH and should not be construed to represent any agency determination or policy.



Presentation Overview/Themes

- Why talk about work?
- Work as a public health concern
- Work as a social justice concern
- Research and practice needs
- Resources



The Centrality of Work

- “They’re only here to **take our jobs**”
- “When you are in a job the most important thing is going to be your pay. It’s always that way because **that’s why we came here.**”



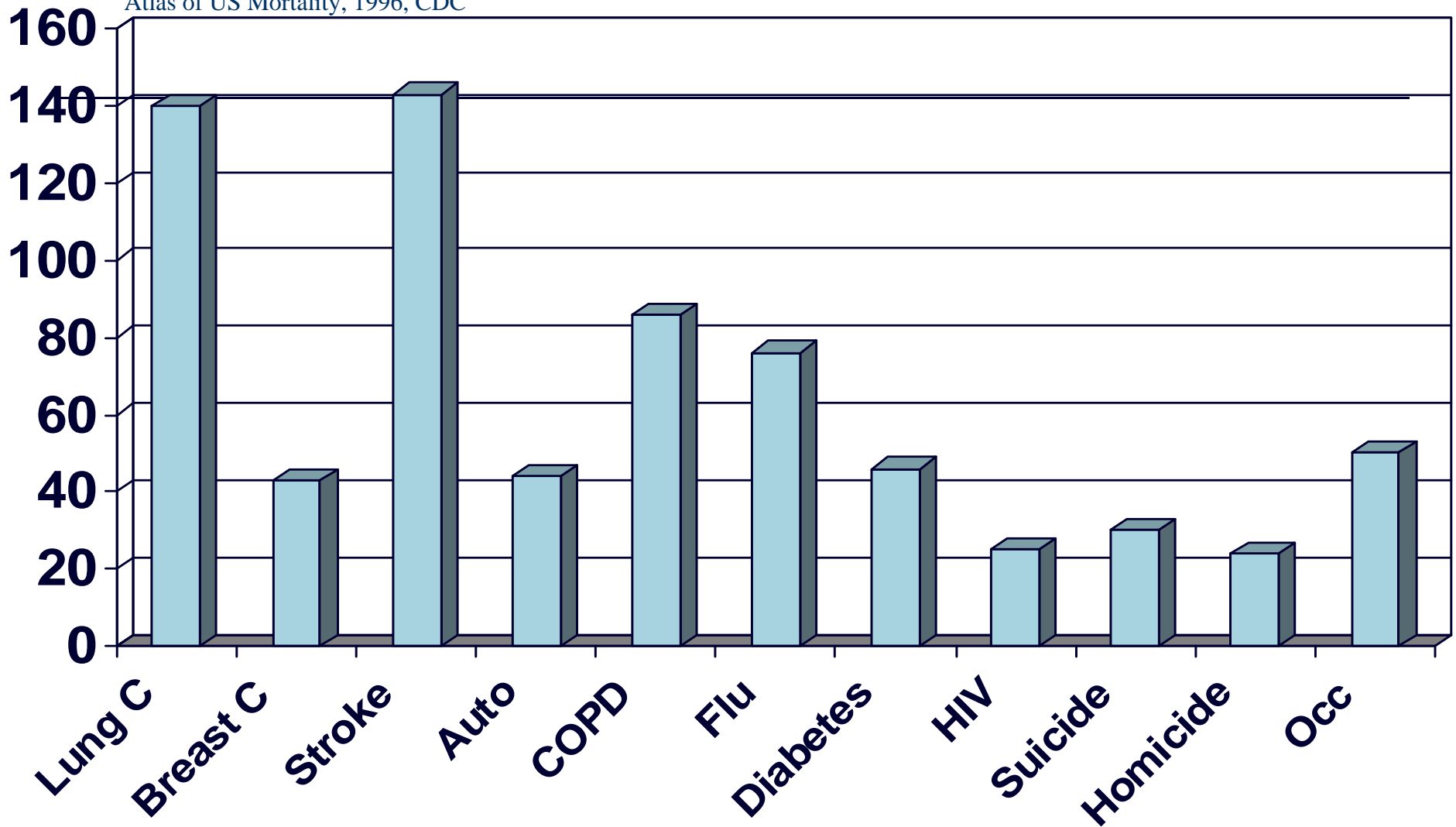
Mortality and Morbidity - U.S.

Each day:

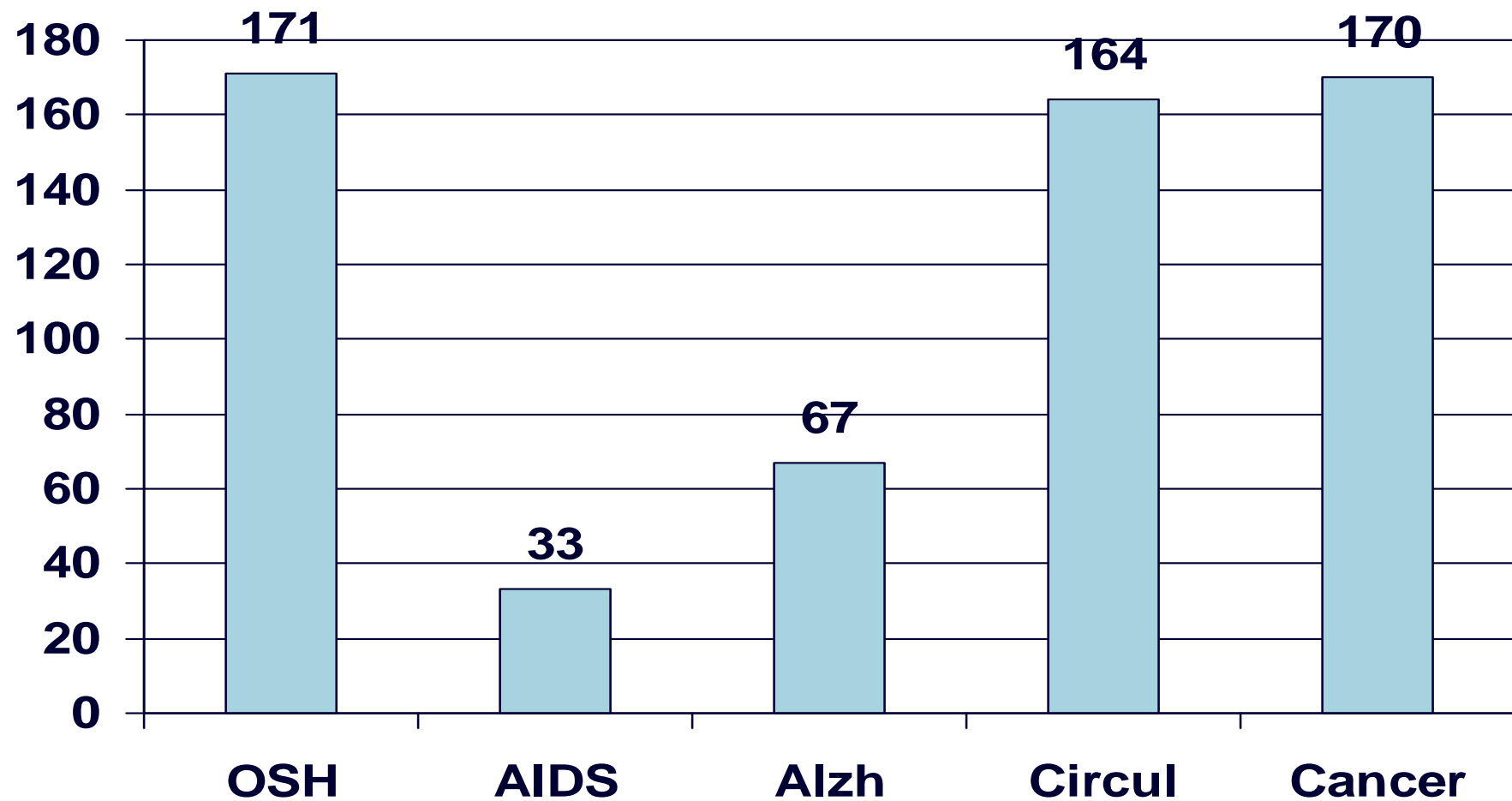
- 9,000 disabling injuries
- 16 deaths from injuries
- 137 deaths from diseases

US Sources of Mortality

Atlas of US Mortality, 1996, CDC



Economic Burden of OSH - U.S.





Latino Population

- ❑ Currently there over 42 Million persons of Latino descent in the U.S.
- ❑ Represents growth of 150% in past 25 years
- ❑ Almost half are foreign-born
- ❑ Recently became largest minority group
- ❑ By 2050, 25% of U.S. population will be Latino and make up 15% of the workforce.



Workplace Fatality Rates

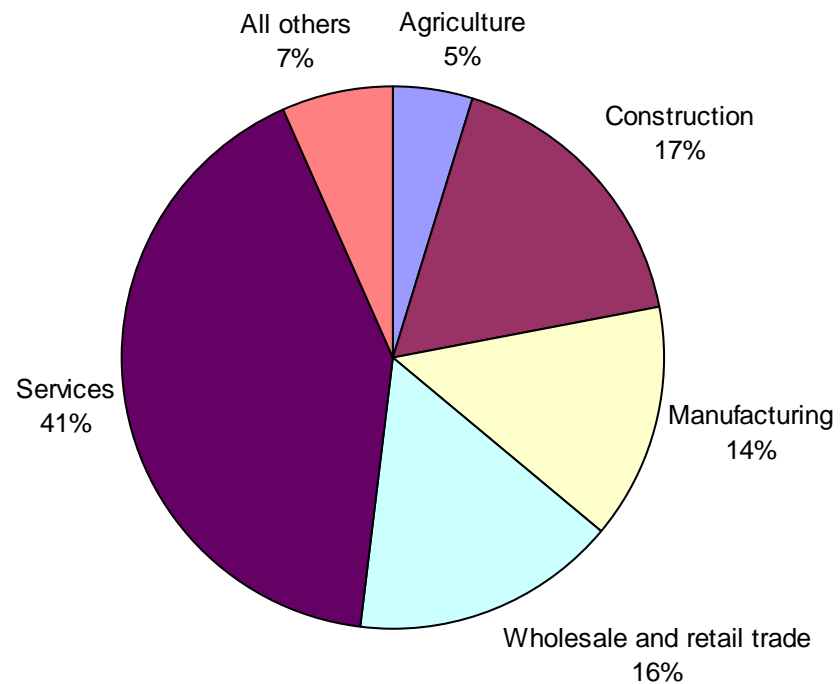
- ❑ The fatal injury rate for all U.S. Workers is 4.6 per 100,000
- ❑ The rate for native-born Latinos is 4.5 per 100,000
- ❑ The rate for foreign-born Latinos is 6.1 per 100,000
- ❑ Some construction rates 2-3 X

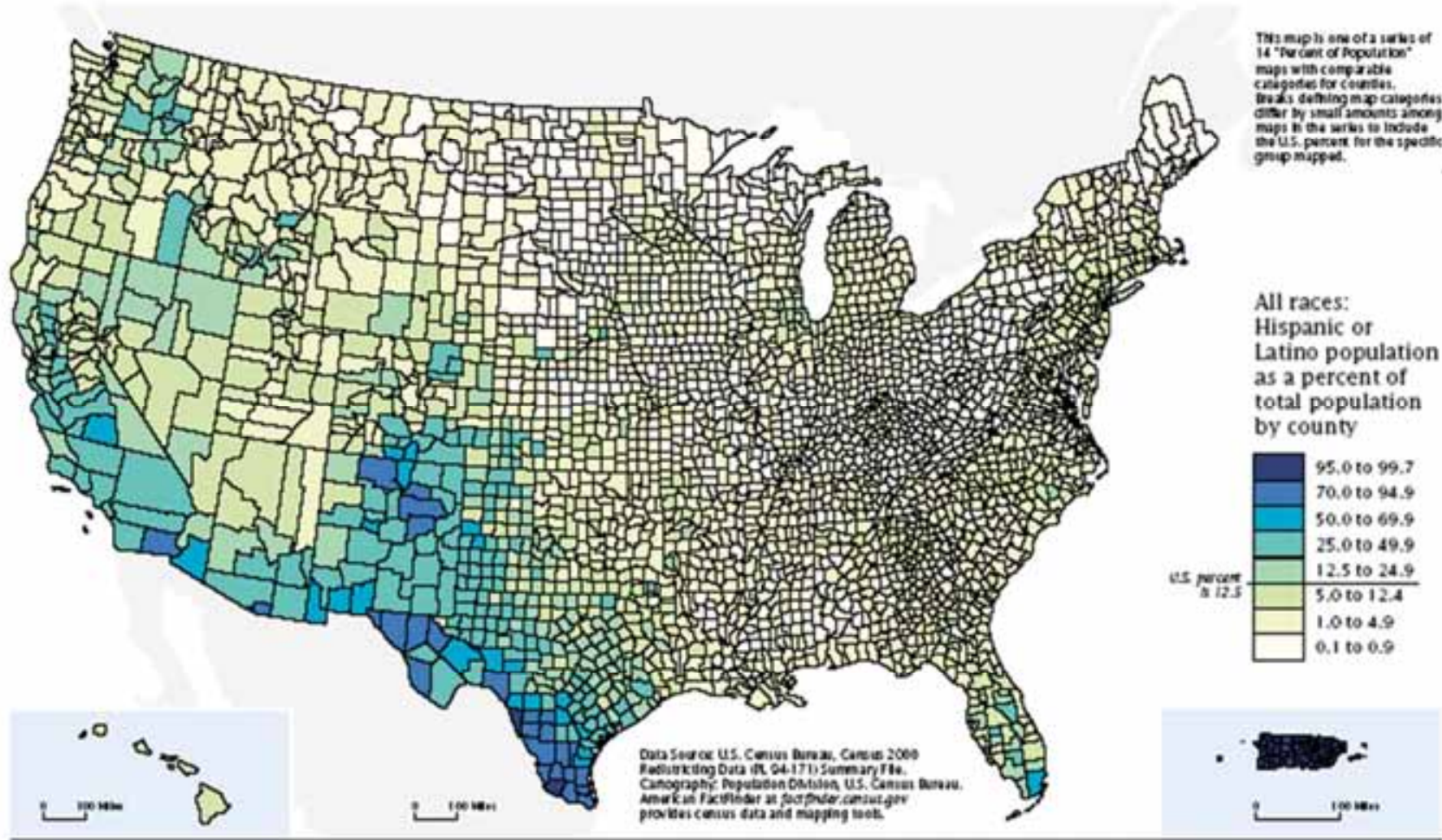


Workplace Injuries

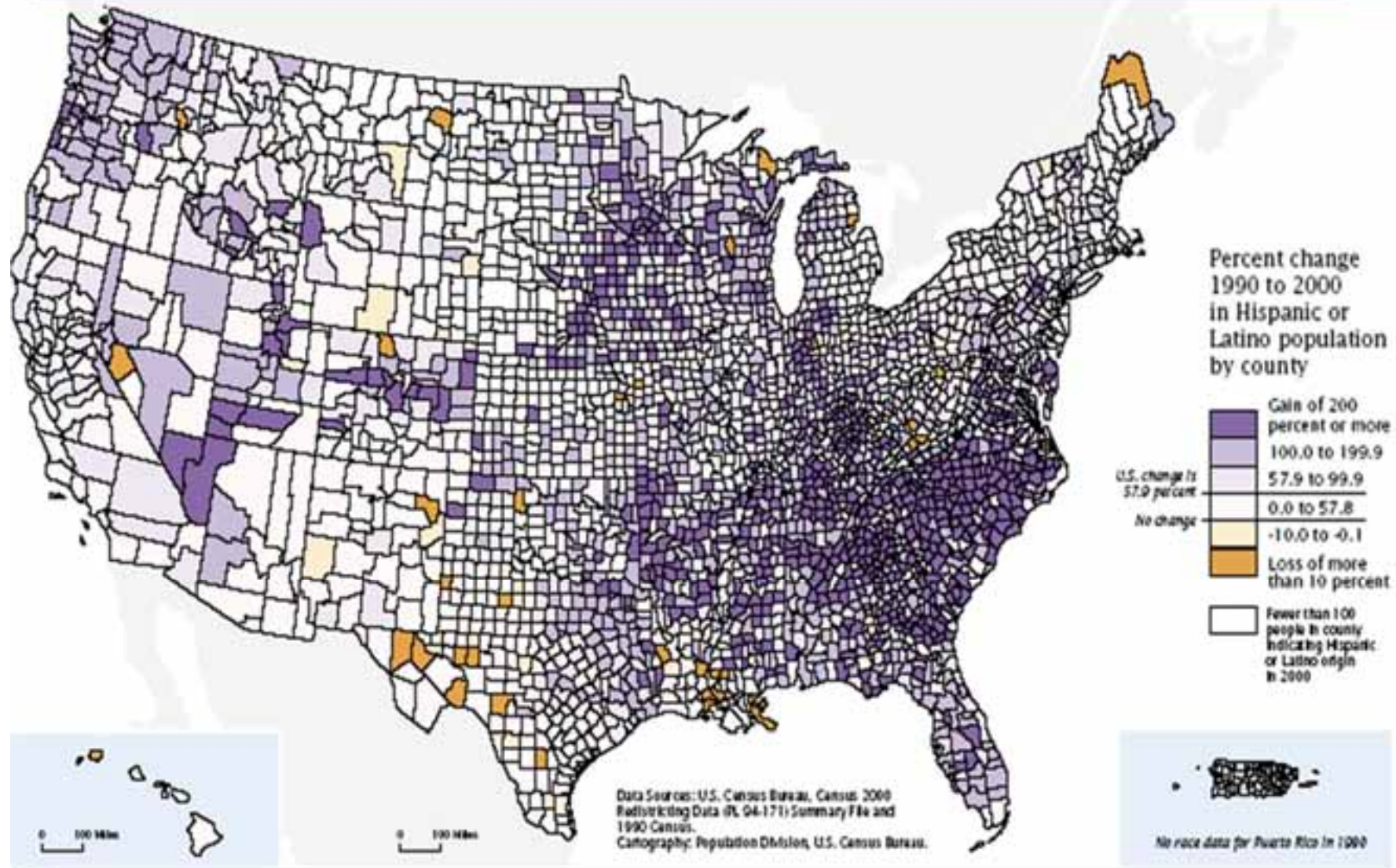
- ❑ Underreported
- ❑ Paralleling mortalities?
- ❑ A body is harder to hide
- ❑ Living with injuries and without insurance

Employment by Industry Sector





Source: US Census Bureau: Census 2000



Source: US Census Bureau: Census 2000

Established vs. Emerging

- Established
 - Developed over time
 - Native born and immigrants
 - Concentrated in larger cities
 - Bilingual infrastructure
 - Established communal identity in U.S.
- Emerging
 - Rapid Growth
 - Recent immigrants
 - Scattered settlement in suburbs/rural areas
 - Few people speak Spanish (receiving community)
 - Communal identity in flux

Pew Hispanic Research Institute

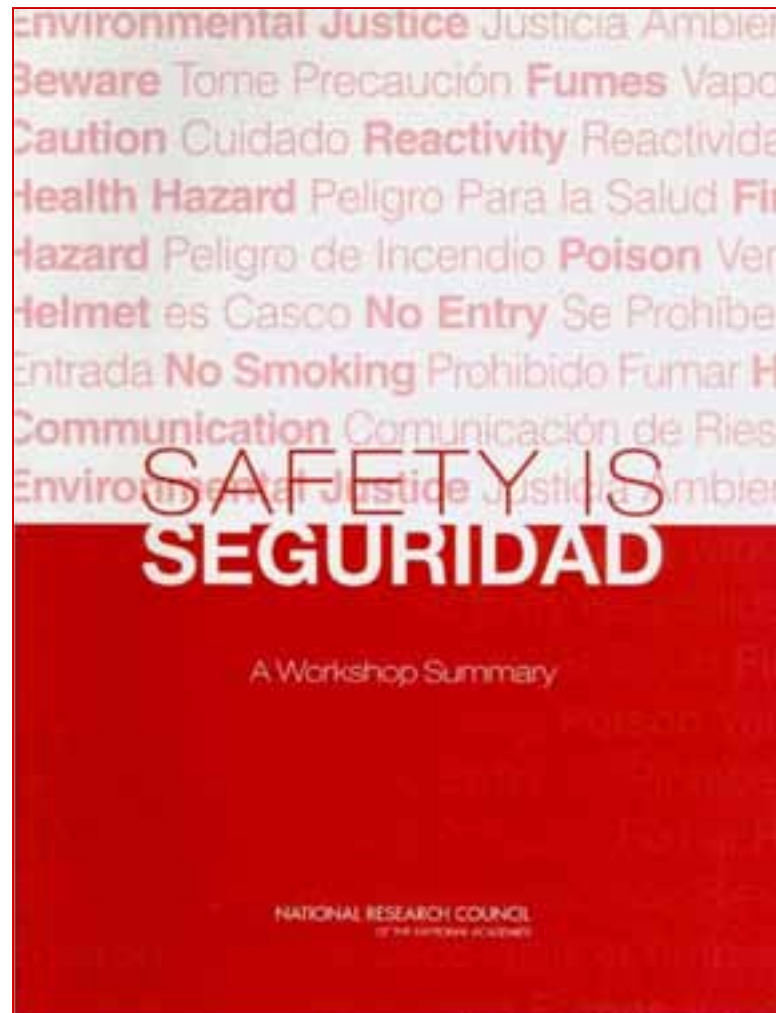


The State of the Literature: A Personal Evaluation

- ❑ Chasm exists between surveillance and anecdote
- ❑ Bulk of literature focuses on “Old Settlement” areas
- ❑ Agriculture is overrepresented
- ❑ Overemphasis on “Day Laborers”
- ❑ Premature use of quantitative data collection
- ❑ Translation problems unrecognized
- ❑ Latinas absent in the literature
- ❑ Documentation status not directly addressed

Resources

- pewhispanic.org
- cdc.gov/niosh
- cpwr.com





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