termed the Hispanic paradox. Recent research suggests that this phenomenon may be partly explained by the areas in which Hispanic people live. Hispanic mothers living in counties with a high proportion of Hispanic people (Hispanic density) have lower rates of infant mortality and smoking during pregnancy. In this paper, we investigate whether or not Hispanic density is associated with better birth outcomes for mothers of other ethnicities.

Design Multilevel analysis of the US Linked Birth and Infant Death Dataset 2000 and US census data at county level.

Setting USA.

Participants 2 274 247 White and 581 151 Black non-Hispanic mothers of singleton births.

Main outcome measures Infant mortality, low birthweight, preterm delivery and maternal smoking during pregnancy.

Results Living in counties with a higher percentage of Hispanic residents was associated with reduced risk of all outcomes for non-Hispanic White and Black mothers and infants in analyses adjusting for individual and area level socio-demographic characteristics. The reduction in odds was greatest for maternal smoking during pregnancy. White mothers living in counties where more than half the residents were Hispanic had their odds of smoking during pregnancy reduced by approximately 80% (OR 0.19 95% CI 0.11 to 0.33), relative to comparable mothers living at Hispanic densities of 0 to 1%. Similar reductions in risk of maternal smoking during pregnancy were found for Black mothers (OR 0.14 95% CI 0.14 to 0.51). Infant mortality was reduced by approximately a third for both Black and White mothers living in counties with a high proportion of Hispanic residents. In addition, higher Hispanic density was associated with modest but significant reductions in the risks of preterm delivery and low birthweight.

Conclusions Living in Hispanic communities appears to have health benefits for those of non-Hispanic origin.

COMPARISON OF DISTRIBUTIONS OF COMMON INDICATORS OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC POSITION BY ETHNICITY AND MIGRATION: PRELIMINARY FINDINGS FROM THE BORN IN BRADFORD BIRTH COHORT STUDY

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Objective To describe and compare the distributions, including extent of missing data, in measures of socio-economic position (SEP) between women of white British and Pakistani ethnicity. We also compare distributions of measures of SEP between Pakistani women born in UK and those born in Pakistan and also compare distributions by the woman's age at migration to the UK.

Design The Born in Bradford birth cohort study recruits pregnant women at 26—28 weeks gestation when they complete a baseline questionnaire; approximately half these women are of Pakistani origin.

Setting Bradford, UK.

Participants Data are currently available for 2005 White British and 2444 Pakistani women.

Main outcome measure Indicators of SEP included in these analyses are: the woman's education and employment, her partner's education and employment and household income.

Results 57% of the Pakistani ethnicity women were born in Pakistan and there was a bimodal distribution of age at migration to the UK with peaks at ages 1 and 18 years. 92% of the White British women were, or had been, in paid employment compared to 51% of the

Pakistani women. This figure was 82% for UK-born Pakistani women, 73% for those born in Pakistan who moved aged 5 or under and 22% for those who moved after the age of 5. Overall 23% of women reported that they didn't know their family income; this varied by ethnicity and country of birth (8% for White British women, 21% for UK-born Pakistani women and 49% for those born in Pakistan). The percentage of women reporting an income of less than £20 000 was highest in Pakistani women, while the percentage of women reporting an income of £20 000 and over was highest for the White British women. 11% of White British women had no educational qualifications compared to 22% of Pakistani women; this figure was lowest for UK-born Pakistani women. The percentage of women with degree level education was higher in Pakistani than White British women (26% and 19%, respectively) and was similar for all Pakistani women irrespective of migration history. The percentage of women's partners with no qualifications was similar between ethnic groups, however the percentage of partners with degree level education was higher for the Pakistani women.

Conclusion These differences in the distributions of SEP measures by ethnicity and migration are important to understand health inequalities and for ensuring appropriate adjustment of SEP confounding.

SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC, HEALTH STATUS, PSYCHO-SOCIAL AND LIFESTYLE PREDICTORS OF SELF-RATED HEALTH IN THE ALL IRELAND TRAVELLER HEALTH STUDY

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Background Irish Travellers have a lower life expectancy than the general Population. Objective health-status indices are consistently poorer in Traveller and Gypsy populations than in other comparably deprived social groups. Self-rated Health (SRH) is established as a valid indicator of objective health status.

Methods As part of an all-Ireland census of 10 618 Traveller families both North and South (response rate 80% overall) employing a novel audio-visual computer interview methodology with peer researchers to overcome literacy barriers, a personal, structured interview was conducted with a random 20% sub-sample of adults (n=2065, 43.5% male). This analysis describes predictors of SRH in those adults, within health domains such as socio-demographic, environmental, lifestyle and psychosocial factors (including those related to culture/identity, and to social capital such as experiences of discrimination). Six models were constructed initially for each domain separately and then a final backwards stepwise logistic regression model was chosen that included 36 potential predictors from all domains of health, with self rated health as a outcome variable dichotomised into categories good (excellent, very good or good) vs fair or poor.

Results SRH was rated as excellent, good or very good by 82.6% of respondents and was age-related. Those who reported limiting disability/long-term illness were excluded. Each separate domain model showed variables predictive of SRH. On adjustment for age-group and sex in the social capital model for instance, experience of discrimination (OR 0.5, p=0.02), low levels of trust (OR 0.6, p=0.04) and worry about getting fair treatment (OR 0.6, p=0.007) were independently inversely associated with good SRH. In the final model, independent positive predictors of good SRH were having a flush toilet (OR 2.2, p=0.02), considering where you live to be