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## **GENDER AND ASSIMILATION AMONG MEXICAN AMERICANS**

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## GENDER AND ASSIMILATION AMONG MEXICAN AMERICANS

### Abstract

This paper uses 1994-2003 CPS data to examine gender and assimilation of Mexican Americans, both within and across generations. We find that source country patterns, particularly the more traditional gender division of labor in the family in Mexico, strongly influence the outcomes and behavior of Mexican immigrants on arrival in the United States. Both male and female immigrants have much lower levels of education than the third-generation, nonhispanic white reference group, and gender differences in educational attainment among immigrants are minimal. Controlling for education and other characteristics, on arrival in the US, immigrant women are more likely to be married spouse present, have higher fertility, and much lower labor supply than the reference group. Male immigrants have somewhat higher labor supply. *Ceteris paribus* wage differences between female immigrants and nonhispanic whites, upon arrival, are less marked than labor supply differences and tend to be smaller than comparable wage gaps for men, though both show a deteriorating wage position of immigrants beginning in the 1980s.

There is dramatic assimilation in labor supply for immigrant women with time in the US, and after twenty years the large initial immigrant hours shortfall has been virtually eliminated. While male immigrant *ceteris paribus* wage gaps decline moderately with exposure to the US labor market, we find no evidence of positive wage assimilation for women. As a less educated group, immigrants of both sexes experience substantial hours (especially for women) and wage shortfalls relative to nonhispanic whites when education is not controlled for. For both men and women, rising educational attainment in the second generation contributes to a considerable narrowing of the raw labor supply (again especially for women) and wage gaps with nonhispanic whites, but we find no evidence of intergenerational convergence in education, labor supply or wages beyond the second generation.

Over time in the US, female immigrants' high marriage rates assimilate towards the native reference group's, but immigrant women and men remain more likely to be married even after long residence, *ceteris paribus*. The remaining *ceteris paribus* marriage gap is eliminated in the second and third generation for both men and women; and, given their lower education levels, raw marriage rates tend to be lower for second- and third-generation Mexican Americans than for nonhispanic whites. In contrast, there is no evidence of assimilation of higher immigrant fertility to the lower nonhispanic white native levels in the first generation: immigrant women's *ceteris paribus* higher fertility actually tends to increase still further with time in the US. And, while the size of the Mexican American-nonhispanic white fertility differential declines across generations, it is not eliminated.

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## **I. Introduction**

A steady flow of new immigration has led the foreign born share of the US population to rise from 4.8 percent in 1970 to 11.1 percent in 2000. Perhaps more dramatically, the percentage of the accumulated foreign born population that came from Europe or Northern America fell from 70.4 to 18.5 percent between 1970 and 2000, with a corresponding increase in the Asian and Latin American share from 28.3 percent in 1970 to 78.2 percent in 2000 (US Bureau of the Census web site://www.census.gov). By far, the largest source of immigration in recent years has been Mexico. For instance, from 1991 to 2000, 24.7 percent (2.25 million) of the 9.095 million immigrants to the US came from Mexico, with the next largest source, the Philippines, sending only 5.5 percent (504,000) of the total. And Mexican immigration has been growing in both absolute and relative terms, as immigration from Mexico was 454,000 (13.7% of the total) in 1961-70.<sup>1</sup> By 2003, people of Mexican heritage comprised fully 8.2% of the US adult population, a figure that is about 70% as large as the incidence of the black nonhispanic population (11.7%).<sup>2</sup>

In addition to making up a large and growing portion of the US population, Mexican Americans are on average poorer and less educated than US residents of European heritage (Browne 1999; Cobb-Clark and Hildebrand 2004). Since it is well known that poverty in the US falls disproportionately on women and children (Blank 1997), a study of gender and labor market outcomes of Mexican Americans could yield important insights into this issue. And, of particular relevance to the issues considered in this paper, Mexican Americans come from an origin country with a much more traditional division of labor in the family and lower relative and absolute female human capital levels than the United States. For example, as of the late 1990s, 39.4 percent of women in Mexico were in the labor force compared to 59.8 percent in the US. Fertility was higher in Mexico than in the US, although the difference has declined considerably in recent years: the total fertility rate in Mexico was 6.5 total births per woman as of 1970 and

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<sup>1</sup> These figures are taken from Department of Homeland Security, Office of Immigration Statistics (2003), Table 2.

<sup>2</sup> Based on data from the March 2003 Current Population Survey.

2.8 as of 1998, compared to US rates of 2.5 and 2.1. Adult illiteracy rates for women in Mexico were 22% in 1980 and 11% in 1998, compared to male rates of 14% and 7% respectively; for the US, illiteracy was below 5% in all cases (Blau, Ferber and Winkler 2002, pp. 384-5). Moreover, according to Mexican census data for 1990, among those age 16-65, men averaged 7.0 years of schooling, compared to only 6.4 for women.<sup>3</sup> Educational attainment rose for both men and women in Mexico between 1990 and 2000: in 2000 men averaged 8.1 years and women 7.6 years. These are of course much lower than average US schooling levels of 13-14 years according to the Current Population Survey (CPS). And, while women's schooling in Mexico grew very slightly faster than men's between 1990 and 2000 (an increase of 1.2 years vs. 1.1 years), a noticeable gender gap in educational attainment among Mexicans remained. In light of these large differences between the labor market status and preparedness of women in Mexico and those in the US, Mexico represents a potentially interesting case in which to examine the assimilation of women into the US labor market. Do Mexican immigrant families exhibit a more traditional division of labor than US families, as Mexican residents do? To what extent do gender patterns in labor market attachment and success among Mexican Americans converge to US native patterns within and across generations?

In this paper, we use the March CPS Annual Demographic Files for 1994-2003 to study the assimilation of Mexican-American women and men, including both Mexican immigrants and the native born of Mexican heritage. The outcomes we consider include: marriage and fertility, labor supply, unemployment and wages. The repeated cross-sections in the CPS allow us to examine issues of assimilation among immigrants from a variety of arrival cohorts using the synthetic cohort approach proposed in Borjas (1985). Moreover, we also study assimilation across generations by analyzing these outcomes for second and third generation Mexican Americans. Examining progress across generations provides a more comprehensive study of assimilation than the traditional immigration literature that has for the most part focused on success at arrival and over time in the US for those born in other countries. The children of

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<sup>3</sup> We are grateful to Chris Woodruff for supplying this information from the Mexican census.

immigrants may do considerably better in the US than the immigrants themselves, and their fortunes need to be taken into account in evaluating the experience of immigrants (Card, DiNardo and Estes 2000; Card 2004).

We begin by examining outcomes for all Mexican-American adults and then consider married individuals separately. This enables us to confirm our aggregate findings for this group—one that is most likely to manifest traditional labor market patterns. Moreover, while, for the most part, research on immigrants has studied the behavior of individuals, analyzing immigrant behavior in a family context makes sense in general and may be particularly relevant to understanding women’s assimilation. Baker and Benjamin (1997) propose a family investment model in which, upon arrival, husbands invest in their human capital, while wives work to provide the family with liquidity during this investment period. With increased time in the destination country, husbands’ labor supply increases rapidly due to their growing skills, while wives’ labor supply falls off in part because they originally took “dead-end” jobs upon arrival in order to finance their husbands’ investments in human capital. Baker and Benjamin provide some evidence consistent with this model using data on Canada over the 1986-91 period. However, using data for the US from the 1980 and 1990 US Censuses, Blau, Kahn, Moriarty and Souza (2003) did not find evidence consistent with the family migration model.<sup>4</sup> Specifically, they find that immigrant husbands and wives both worked less than comparable natives upon arrival and that both had positive assimilation profiles in labor supply, eventually overtaking the labor supply of comparable natives.

In the family migration model, married women are clearly “secondary earners” in the immigrant family. The Blau, Kahn, Moriarty and Souza results for the U.S. suggest more similar economic behavior of men and women within the immigrant family.<sup>5</sup> Although Blau, Kahn,

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<sup>4</sup> Studies by Long (1980), Duleep and Sanders (1993) and McPherson and Stewart (1989) for the US are all at least partially consistent with the idea that married immigrant women are more likely to work while their husbands are investing in human capital. However, unlike Blau, Kahn, Moriarty and Souza (2003), each of these studies is based on a single cross-section of data.

<sup>5</sup> In a recent paper, Duleep and Dowhan (2002) use matched Social Security earnings and 1994 CPS data to track the longitudinal earnings growth of immigrant vs. native women. They find that more recent immigrant cohorts’ earnings start low relative to natives’ but rise quickly with time in the US and eventually catch up to natives’. In

Moriarty and Souza report that labor supply assimilation patterns for men and women in the US were very similar for each major sending region, as a group coming from a source country with highly traditional gender roles, it is possible that patterns for Mexican immigrants would more closely approximate the family investment model. Thus we reexamine this question here.

## **II. Recent Research on Labor Market Outcomes for Mexican Americans**

Several authors have recently examined the assimilation of Mexican Americans into the US labor market both within and between generations, although none has specifically studied gender differences in the assimilation process or assessed the relevance of the family migration model for Mexican Americans. Trejo (1997 and 2003), for example, studied human capital and wages for men of Mexican origin vs. white, nonhispanic native men for 1979 and 1989. He found that although men of Mexican origin earned considerably less than whites, most of these differences were explained by the former's relatively low human capital levels. Moreover, while both the relative human capital levels and the return to investment in human capital rose between the first and second generation, this progress stalled between the second and third generations (Trejo 1997 and 2003). A cross-sectional study of the wages of men and women for a sample of individuals of Mexican origin by Livingston and Kahn (2002) also found some progress of immigrants between the first and second generations that apparently stalled in the third generation.

Corcoran, Heflin and Reyes (1999) summarize trends in labor market outcomes for Mexican-American women using Census data to compare outcomes for Mexican-American women and white, nonhispanic women over the 1970-90 period. They find that the relative wages and employment attachment of Mexican Americans fell over the 1980s, probably reflecting, in part, the growing immigrant share among Mexican-American women. They also

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contrast, earlier cohorts' initial earnings were at least as high as natives' but then either increased only a little or actually dropped. The results for the more recent cohorts are similar to the changes in hourly earnings reported by Baker and Benjamin (1997) for Canada and Blau, Kahn, Moriarty and Souza (2003) for the U.S.

find that, in the cross section, long-term immigrants (i.e., those with over 10 years of US residence) had better wage outcomes and higher employment levels than short-term immigrants, while Mexican-American women born in the US had higher wages and employment incidence than long-term immigrants, although they still lagged considerably behind white, nonhispanic women in this regard. These findings suggest assimilation across generations and either assimilation among immigrants with more time in the US or declining labor market success among more recent cohorts of immigrants.

Baker (1999) provides some additional descriptive information on demographic patterns using the 1970, 1980 and 1990 Censuses. Specifically, while immigrant Mexican-American women were in each year roughly equally likely as white, nonhispanic women to be married, US-born Mexican-American women were less likely to be married than white, nonhispanic women. Moreover, Mexican immigrants had more children than white nonhispanics, and so did US-born Mexican-American women. However, these Mexican-white differentials in fertility were smaller for US-born Mexican Americans and also fell progressively from 1970 to 1990 for each nativity group. Relative fertility levels were thus falling for Mexican-American women over time and across generations.

Unlike the earlier work that studied only men or only women, we explicitly analyze gender differences in demographic and labor market outcomes for Mexican Americans. Moreover, unlike the Livingston and Kahn (2002) study of Mexican-origin workers, we make explicit comparisons with a native base group and also examine a much wider array of outcomes than their focus on hourly earnings. And, in contrast to all of these studies, we will also examine the family context in which these outcomes occur. This means, for example, controlling for family related variables in analyzing individual outcomes. In addition, by making explicit gender comparisons, we are able to arrive at conclusions about assimilation with respect to gender roles.

### **III. Data and Descriptive Patterns**

We use the 1994-2003 March CPS Annual Demographic Supplement files to study gender and Mexican-American assimilation. These files contain information on the respondent's country of birth, the country(ies) of birth of his/her mother and father, and whether the person is of Mexican origin. We can thus construct samples of Mexican immigrants, second generation Mexican Americans (defined as individuals who were born in the US who had at least one parent born in Mexico), and US-born individuals of Mexican origin both of whose parents were born in the US (the "third generation"). Our comparison group is comprised of third generation, US-born, nonhispanic whites ("nonhispanic whites"). Using ten years of pooled cross-sectional data provides us with fairly large samples of Mexican-Americans in each generation (See Appendix Table A1) and allows us to distinguish the impact of immigrant cohort from that of time in the US (Borjas 1985).<sup>6</sup>

Our analyses of intergenerational mobility compare outcomes for immigrants with those of second- and third-generation Mexican Americans. Immigrants observed as of 1994-2003, the time window of our data, may not be representative of the parents of second-generation Mexican Americans also observed at that time, although there is likely to be some overlap. By using the same data to observe all three generations, we are in effect assuming that contemporary Mexican immigrants are in some sense similar to those of the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s when the parents of many of the second-generation Mexican Americans in our sample would have been in the prime working ages. An alternative would be to use data for an earlier period to observe outcomes for the first generation. Each approach has strengths and weaknesses, and recent research suggests they may not produce the same estimates of intergenerational assimilation. For example, Smith (2003) finds more apparent progress in wages and schooling across generations among Hispanic-

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<sup>6</sup> As in all analyses based on pooled cross-section data, we cannot observe return migration. Results may be biased if those who remain in the US are a self-selected group of more or less successful immigrants. In addition, there may be recall errors and ambiguities of interpretation among respondents to the CPS question on when they arrived in the US, since immigrants may enter and leave the US several times. In a paper analyzing such issues using a recently-developed data base that allows one to correct for such factors (the New Immigrant Survey Pilot--NISP), Redstone and Massey (2004) find that traditional analyses of wages and years of US experience yield similar results under the Census and NISP definition of years in the US.

Americans when he pools Census and CPS data for the 1940-1997 period than when he bases his estimate on a single cross section (the 1970 Census).

Looking at one cross-section (or, in our case, a single ten year period) may yield a biased estimate of intergenerational assimilation if unmeasured immigrant cohort characteristics have changed. On the other hand, as Trejo (1997) points out, the time series approach may also be problematic. Between the 1950s-70s and 1994-2003, there were many legal and economic changes that themselves could have influenced the economic success of Mexican-American immigrants. Trejo specifically mentions the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which outlawed discrimination based on national origin (as well as race and sex). Thus, part of any apparent progress of Mexican Americans in general or Mexican-American women in particular across generations between earlier years and the current period may have been due to changes in the legal and social environment that impacted all generations rather than to assimilation of the second generation. Working in the opposite direction, we may note that rising returns to education and unmeasured skills probably had an independent effect lowering the relative fortunes of most Mexican Americans in the 1990s relative to the earlier period. This development would cause us to underestimate true intergenerational assimilation.<sup>7</sup> Finally, the prohibition of sex discrimination by the Civil Rights Act is also relevant to our study since we are interested in gender differences in outcomes, as are the considerable changes in social norms and attitudes about gender roles that have occurred since the earlier period. These developments could have had a differential impact on Mexican-American women's labor force behavior and outcomes relative to a native reference group, although the direction of this bias is unclear. Taking into account these considerations, our approach to measuring the intergenerational assimilation of Mexican Americans is to compare all three generations under the same legal, economic and social environment: the 1994-2003 period. However, by looking at estimated immigrant cohort effects, we will be able to simulate outcomes for the immigrants from an

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<sup>7</sup> For analyses of the returns to education and unmeasured skills in the context of immigrant assimilation, see LaLonde and Topel (1992) and Borjas (1995).

earlier cohort and also to assess the extent to which results are sensitive to which immigrant cohort is used in the simulation.

In interpreting our findings for assimilation across generations, special caution is warranted regarding the third generation. While first- and second-generation individuals may be objectively identified in terms of their own, or their parents' place of birth, third-generation, Mexican Americans must self identify themselves as of Mexican origin. If there is self-selection in reporting, results may be biased.<sup>8</sup> For example, if among third-generation Mexican Americans, those who self-identify as of Mexican origin are less well assimilated than those who do not, assimilation of third-generation, Mexican-Americans relative to the native-born, nonhispanic reference group will be understated.<sup>9</sup>

Table 1 contains some descriptive information on demographic and labor market outcomes for Mexican-Americans and nonhispanic white, third-generation Americans. The entries in Table 1 are predicted levels of these outcomes from regressions controlling for ethnicity/generation, a quartic in age and year. We control for age even at this descriptive stage because there are age differences across samples due to past immigration patterns, and we wish to describe Mexican American-nonhispanic white contrasts net of this compositional factor.<sup>10</sup>

The following regression was estimated separately by gender:

$$(1) \quad y_{it} = b_0 + b_1 \text{age}_{it} + b_2 \text{age}_{it}^2 + b_3 \text{age}_{it}^3 + b_4 \text{age}_{it}^4 + c_1 \text{Meximm}_{it} + c_2 \text{Mexsecgen}_{it} \\ + c_3 \text{Mexthirdgen}_{it} + d_t + u_{it},$$

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<sup>8</sup> Of course, as noted above, even for immigrants biases may arise due to self-selection in return migration, recall bias, and ambiguities in defining length of residence in the US.

<sup>9</sup> For a fuller consideration of these issues, see, for example, Duncan and Trejo (2005).

<sup>10</sup> Within each of the ethnicity/generation subsamples (i.e., third-generation nonhispanic whites, Mexican immigrants, and second- and third-generation Mexican Americans), the average age of men and women was similar, but average age varied across subsamples. Nonhispanic whites averaged 39 years of age, Mexican immigrants 34-35 years (38-39 years for adult immigrants), second generation Mexican-Americans 32 years, and third generation Mexican-Americans 34-35 years.

where  $i$  indexes individuals and  $t$  indexes survey years and  $y$  is a demographic or labor market outcome,  $age$  is the person's age in years,  $Meximm$ ,  $Mexsecgen$ , and  $Mexthird$  are, respectively, dummy variables for Mexican immigrants, and second- and third-generation Mexican Americans,  $d$  is a year effect, and  $u$  is a disturbance term. Two versions of equation (1) were estimated: a) one which included all immigrants; and b) one which included only those who migrated to the US at age 18 or older ("adult immigrants").<sup>11</sup> We show results for adult immigrants, in addition to those for all immigrants, because those who migrated as children are likely to be more assimilated to US labor markets than those who migrated as adults (Friedberg 1993). The sample for equation (1) includes only Mexican Americans and third-generation, nonhispanic whites who were age 16-65, and the entries in Table 1 assume the sample mean for age (39 years) and the 2003 year effect. In all regressions and descriptive statistics, we use CPS sampling weights adjusted so that each year receives the same weight. We consider immigrants (or adult immigrants) as a group now for comparison purposes, although later we will discuss the role of immigrant cohort and time in the US.

The results in Table 1 indicate that, as is well known, Mexican immigrants have much lower levels of schooling than the nonhispanic white reference group: 4.6 to 4.7 years less for all immigrants and 5.5 to 5.6 years for adult immigrants.<sup>12</sup> Assuming a 10 percent rate of return to education (approximately the rate obtained in our wage regressions reported below), this difference in years of schooling is responsible for a wage differential of .46 to .56 log points (i.e., 58-75 percent), a sizable effect. While less well-educated than nonhispanic white natives, Mexican immigrants appear to be positively selected relative to the Mexican population. Table 1 shows that among Mexican adult immigrants (who presumably have largely finished their schooling), men and women have 8.3 years of education.<sup>13</sup> This is higher than the reported years

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<sup>11</sup> Results for second- and third-generation Mexican Americans are based on regressions that include all immigrants, although the findings were similar in regressions with the immigrant sample restricted to adult migrants.

<sup>12</sup> We mapped the CPS education categories into years of schooling using Jaeger's (1997) algorithm.

<sup>13</sup> We confirmed the claim that adult immigrants have largely finished their schooling: controlling for age, year, immigrant cohort, and years since migration and its square, we found that years living in the US had insignificant and small effects on current education levels for adult immigrant and women.

of schooling for men and women in Mexico obtained from Mexican census data for 1990 and 2000: 7.0-8.1 years for males and 6.4-7.6 for females. Moreover, in contrast to the situation in Mexico, Mexican-American men and women immigrants in the US have the same educational attainment.

While Mexican Americans lag behind native nonhispanic whites, there is considerable convergence in education across generations; second-generation Mexican Americans have only 1.07 (males) to 1.19 (females) years less education than the nonhispanic white reference group, while the differentials for the third generation are 1.19 (males) to 1.36 (females) years. The apparent cessation of convergence toward nonhispanic whites' education levels after the second generation is consistent with earlier analyses of labor market outcomes for Mexican-Americans discussed above. In both the second and third generations, the Mexican-American educational shortfall relative to nonhispanic whites is statistically significantly smaller for men than women, and this gender difference increases from the second to the third generations (from 0.07 to 0.17). However, the magnitude of the gender difference in convergence is small—only 0.1 years, and educational attainment of Mexican-American men and women within each generation is virtually identical, in contrast to the 0.5-0.6 year male advantage in Mexico.

Table 1 shows that, overall, both immigrant men and immigrant women are significantly more likely to be married, spouse present (“married”) than are nonhispanic white natives; however, among adult immigrants, men are less likely to be married than the nonhispanic white reference group, while women are still more likely to be married. This suggests that immigration may be disruptive of marriage for Mexican men—either by delaying marriage or causing spouses to live apart—but not for women. Mexican immigrant women are 5 to 7 percentage points more likely to be married than native nonhispanic whites. The higher marriage rates of Mexican immigrant women are consistent with a greater adherence to traditional gender roles in this population, but may also be related to a tendency to migrate jointly with their husbands, perhaps as “tied movers.” By the second and third generations, however, Mexican Americans of both sexes are significantly less likely to be married than nonhispanic whites, with differentials of 3-5

percentage points. As discussed by Angrist (2002), reductions across generations in the likelihood of marriage may be due to marital search problems and the desire to marry within one's own ethnic group.<sup>14</sup> On the other hand, the discrepancy may be explained by measured characteristics, for example the lower levels of education of US-born Mexican Americans. The regression analysis below will shed light on this.

Table 1 also presents results for number of own (biological or adopted) children under age 18 living in the family. While it would be more accurate to have information on number of children ever born, by restricting the age sample for this variable to women no older than 50 and evaluating the variable at age 39, we are likely to obtain a fairly good indicator of cross-group differences in fertility.<sup>15</sup> Since children who live with only one parent are much more likely to live with their mothers than their fathers, we restrict our examination of fertility differences to women. Perhaps reflecting higher fertility rates in the source country, Mexican immigrant women have more children than nonhispanic whites, and, although this differential declines across generations, it remains positive even in the third generation. As noted earlier, as of 1998, the total fertility rate for women in Mexico averaged 2.8, while in the US, the fertility rate was 2.1, a difference of 0.7. While our measure is constructed quite differently, we obtain a very similar differential between Mexican immigrants and nonhispanic whites: Mexican immigrant women average 2.14 to 2.16 children, roughly 0.7 more than the corresponding figure for white nonhispanic women of 1.46. (The gap between the number of own children for Mexican immigrant women and all women residing in the US was also 0.7.) The gap had fallen to 0.39 by the second and 0.27 by the third generation, suggesting an intergenerational assimilation of roughly 60%.

When we stratified the analysis of the number of children by marital status, we found similar patterns across the generations. For all generations, among either single or married individuals, Mexican-Americans have more children, with a declining differential across

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<sup>14</sup> The disproportionately high marriage incidence among immigrant women shown in Tables 1 and 2 for Mexican immigrants is similar to what Angrist (2002) finds for immigrants in general.

<sup>15</sup> Results were similar when the age range was unrestricted.

generations; moreover, the magnitude of the Mexican American-nonhispanic white differential was similar for married and single women. In addition, Mexican-American women were more likely than nonhispanic whites to be single parents, with significant differentials for immigrant (5.3 percentage points), adult immigrant (4.5 percentage points), second-generation (9.6 percentage points), and third-generation Mexican Americans (9.0 percentage points). We expect having larger numbers of children to be associated with less labor market attachment and lower wage offers for Mexican American vs. nonhispanic, white women (Blau, Ferber, and Winkler 2002; Waldfogel 1998).

Table 1 contains several measures of labor force attachment, including whether one is currently employed, total hours of work in the previous year, and whether one is in the labor force. The generational patterns with respect to these three indicators are similar. Among males, immigrants and adult immigrants are roughly equally likely to be currently in the labor force as white nonhispanics, in contrast, among females, both groups of immigrants have much lower participation rates than white nonhispanics. The labor force participation rate was 79.2 percent for white nonhispanic women compared to only 53.6 percent for all female immigrants and 50.3 percent for adult female immigrants. However, Mexican-American men's participation decreased by about 5 percentage points between the first and second generations, while that for women rose dramatically, to 72.5 percent. There is little further change for either group between the second and third generations. Thus, by the second generation, Mexican-American women have nearly caught up to nonhispanic white women, and the Mexican American-nonhispanic white difference in the gender gap in participation has been almost eliminated. In the next section we will consider how much of this assimilation to US gender roles occurs among immigrants with time in the US versus across generations.

The relative labor market attachment of female compared to male Mexican immigrants may be compared to that in Mexico. As noted above, in the late 1990s, the female labor force participation rate was 39.4 percent in Mexico—this was 46.6 percent of the male rate (Blau, Ferber and Winkler 2002). The published figures refer to individuals 15 years of age and older,

so, for purposes of comparison, we computed raw labor force participation figures for individuals 16 years and older in the CPS with no age cutoff at the top. For all Mexican immigrants, the participation rates were 85.7 percent for men and 46.6 percent for women, for a female-to-male ratio of 54.4 percent; and, for adult Mexican immigrants, the rates were 85.8 percent for men, and 43.3 percent for women, for a ratio of 50.5 percent. These figures show that Mexican immigrant women have higher absolute and relative labor force participation than women in Mexico, but the differences are not large. This is suggestive of a strong effect of source country patterns on Mexican immigrants in the US. These observed differences between Mexican immigrants and source country patterns could be a selection effect if migration is selective of relatively more market-oriented women from Mexico; alternatively, exposure to the US labor market may bring Mexican immigrant women into the labor force. Below, we will pursue the latter issue in more detail.

Although all the labor supply measures show similar generational patterns, Mexican-American employment-population rates are consistently lower relative to nonhispanic, white rates than are their labor force participation rates. This difference reflects the considerably higher unemployment rates of Mexican Americans, especially Mexican-American women, compared to nonhispanic whites, though here too there is dramatic intergenerational convergence for women. Mexican-American male unemployment rates were 2.3-3.2 percentage points higher than those of nonhispanic whites (a large differential, considering nonhispanic white males' predicted rate of 4.7 percent), and there is no intergenerational convergence to native whites' levels. In contrast, the Mexican immigrant women's unemployment rate is 7.5 percentage points higher than nonhispanic whites' (11.4 vs. 3.9 percent), and the female adult immigrant unemployment rate is 8.6 percentage points higher; however, the Mexican American-nonhispanic white gap falls steadily across generations, reaching 4.6 percent by the second generation and 2.6 percent by the third generation. It is possible that Mexican immigrant women

have relatively low levels of job seeking skills that prevent their locating a wage offer or that minimum wage floors are especially binding for them.<sup>16</sup>

The final outcome shown in Table 1 is the log of real hourly earnings for full time wage and salary workers.<sup>17</sup> The immigrant wage shortfalls are very large and roughly the same size for men and women: .505 to .517 log points for all immigrants and .634 to .641 log points for adult immigrants. These fall dramatically by the second generation to .135-.175 and then rise several log points to .184-.213 by the third generation. Here we again note the lack of further convergence between the second and third generations noted in previous studies. The male shortfall is 3-4 percent larger than the female shortfall for the second and third generations, implying that the gender wage differential between Mexican Americans born in the US is somewhat smaller than among nonhispanic whites; this is a fairly general pattern among minorities (Blau, Ferber and Winkler 2002).

#### **IV. Assimilation Within and Across Generations: Basic Regression Results**

One of our key objectives is to compare the degree to which Mexican American men and women assimilate to US labor market and family patterns, both within and between generations. While Table 1 provides some important descriptive information on demographic and labor market outcomes for immigrants and later generations, in this section we present the results of regression analyses for selected dependent variables that allow us to more explicitly examine assimilation by controlling for the effect of years since migration on immigrants' outcomes and by including additional covariates which control for the human capital and locational

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<sup>16</sup> For example, the 25<sup>th</sup> percentile of hourly wages among all wage and salary workers (both full and part time) with valid wages was only \$5.27 in 2000 dollars for Mexican-American immigrant women (\$5.11 for adult immigrant women), at a time when the minimum wage ranged from \$4.66 to \$5.42 in 2000 dollars; in contrast, the 25<sup>th</sup> percentile for second and third generation women was \$5.92 and \$6.14 respectively. Corresponding figures for Mexican-American men were: \$6.15 (immigrants), \$6.04 (adult immigrants), \$6.97 (second generation) and \$7.47 (third generation). Thus, the minimum wage cuts into the Mexican immigrant women's wage distribution to a much larger degree than for the other Mexican-American groups.

<sup>17</sup> See the appendix for the construction of the earnings variable.

characteristics of Mexican Americans. This specification enables us to estimate how much assimilation occurs in the first generation with exposure to the US economy and labor market, as well as to identify the impact of measured covariates vs. behavioral changes in the assimilation of Mexican Americans, both within and across generations.

Specifically, to capture the assimilation of immigrants, we augment equation (1) by replacing the immigrant dummy variable with a full set of immigrant arrival cohort dummies, and an indicator of years since migration and its square. The cohort variables refer to arrival before 1961; 1961-70; 1971-80; 1981-90; 1991-96; and 1997-2002. As noted above, since we are pooling ten years of data, we can in principle distinguish the effects of different arrival cohorts from that of time in the US as in Borjas (1985). In our basic models, we also control for human capital (years of schooling) and location (eight Census region dummies, an msa dummy, and dummies for California and Texas, the two states with the largest incidence of Mexican-American in the population<sup>18</sup>), in addition to a quartic in age and year dummies (as above). For comparison, we also estimate models with only the age and year controls, in effect allowing human capital and region to be endogenous.

With respect to immigrants, the two specifications allow us to compare immigrants both to third generation nonhispanic whites in general and also to those with similar measured characteristics, with the former comparison including both compositional and behavioral differences and the latter attempting to isolate the effect of behavioral differences. Similarly, looking across generations, comparison of the two specifications allows us to make inferences about the degree to which assimilation in labor market and family outcomes occurs through changes in the education and location variables vs. behavioral changes. Table 2 shows results controlling for education and location as well as year, while Appendix Table A2 shows corresponding results for models that control only for age and year. Means of the explanatory variables are shown in Table A3. To assist in the interpretation of the regression results, Figures 1-6 show implied assimilation profiles for Mexican Americans. Immigrant outcomes are usually

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<sup>18</sup> California and Texas dummies were used by Trejo (1997 and 2003) in his analyses of Mexican-American men.

evaluated for the 1971-80 arrival cohort. We chose this cohort because it likely contains a large number of the parents of second-generation Mexican Americans in our 1994-2003 sample period. However, where relevant, we also discuss other arrival cohorts, particularly the 1980s cohort, since this was a period of rapidly rising returns to education, a factor that worked against the labor market success of Mexican Americans.

Turning first to the incidence of marriage shown in Table 2 and Figures 1a and 1b, we see that, upon arrival, Mexican immigrant men are less likely and Mexican immigrant women more likely than otherwise similar nonhispanic white natives to be married, spouse present. There is some assimilation for both sexes, with substantial male assimilation into marriage among immigrants with time in the US, and some reduction over time in females' likelihood of being married. This pattern suggests that, for males, immigration may be disruptive of marriage (either by delaying marriage or causing a temporary separation from their wives), whereas marriage may play a positive role in immigration decision of women, with some perhaps arriving as tied movers. Despite assimilation towards the lower marriage incidence of natives with similar characteristics, female immigrants continue to be more likely to be married, spouse present, than the native reference group for all cohorts. For example, the 1971-80 arrival cohort of immigrant women has an 18.2 percentage point higher incidence of marriage upon arrival in the US than the native reference group, and continued to have an 8.4 percentage point advantage after 20 years of residence. Given their positive assimilation, male immigrants in this cohort were projected to overtake their native counterparts after 8 years and to have an 11.0 percentage point higher incidence of marriage after 20 years. Thus, both male and female immigrants are characterized by more traditional marriage patterns than natives. The regression results suggest however that full assimilation to the marriage patterns of otherwise similar third-generation, nonhispanic whites has occurred by the second generation in which Mexican Americans of both sexes are roughly equally likely to be married as comparable natives; by the third generation Mexican-American women are actually slightly (3 percentage points) less likely to be married than the reference group.

Assimilation rates are similar when we do not control for education and location. However, as may be seen in Figures 1a and 1b (see also Tables 2 and A2 ), the characteristics of Mexican Americans lower their marriage propensity. Specifically, we find that education raises the incidence of marriage, while residence in an MSA, or in California or Texas lowers it, and Mexican Americans have lower levels of schooling and are more likely to live in California or Texas and in MSAs (Table A4). Nonetheless, as may be seen in Figure 1b, female immigrants in the 1971-80 arrival cohort remain more likely to be married than natives, even when these controls are omitted. (This is the case for other arrival cohorts as well.) Considering subsequent generations, it appears that education and location factors, rather than a dearth of prospective partners, are sufficient to account for the lower raw marriage rates of second- and third-generation Mexican Americans compared to third-generation, nonhispanic whites observed in Table 1 and Figures 1a and 1b, since, as we have seen, the Mexican American-nonhispanic white differences are virtually eliminated when we control for these factors.

Consistent with higher fertility rates in Mexico than in the US, Table 2 indicates that Mexican immigrant women in all cohorts are estimated to have higher fertility than otherwise comparable natives upon arrival in the US when marital status is not controlled for. The immigrant-native differential upon arrival has been declining with successive arrival cohorts. This trend tracks the sharp declines in fertility that have occurred in Mexico. Some of the immigrant-native differential is due to the greater propensity of immigrant women to be married. Controlling for marital status reduces the estimated immigrant-native differential substantially; however, with the exception of the most recent arrival cohort, immigrants continue to have higher fertility than the reference group, even controlling for marital status. Immigrant women's fertility is found to *increase* relative to natives with time in the US: Table 2 shows significantly positive assimilation profiles for immigrant women in both specifications (see also Figure 2). Thus, like Blau (1992), we find evidence consistent with the notion that that the immigration process disrupts or delays fertility, and thus that immigrant women's fertility increases over time in the US relative to comparable native women—in this case further widening the immigrant-

native fertility differential over time. For the 1971-80 arrival cohort, controlling for education and location, immigrants are estimated to arrive with .26 more children than natives, and this gap rises to .70 children after 20 years of residence. The immigrant-native differences in fertility are larger—rising from .42 to .83 after 20 years—for the model that does not control for education and location, a result consistent with a negative relationship between fertility and education. Note that, as Blau (1992) points out, if the immigration process disrupts fertility, the positive effect on fertility of years since migration does not necessarily mean that no assimilation toward native fertility levels is taking place. That is, the desired number of children could potentially have been reduced by exposure to US norms and labor market opportunities but fertility nonetheless rises over time compared to natives as desired fertility is approached. The problem is that we cannot observe desired fertility.

While, consistent with more traditional gender roles, Mexican immigrant women are a high fertility group relative to the native reference group, with no direct evidence of assimilation towards native levels, there is clear evidence of intergenerational assimilation of Mexican-American fertility toward nonhispanic white levels. Mexican-American fertility does remain higher, however: .37 higher for the second generation and .24 higher for the third generation, even controlling for measured covariates. These differences relative to nonhispanic whites are only slightly affected by whether we control for education (and location), presumably reflecting the smaller education differentials relative to nonhispanic whites for Mexican Americans born in the US compared to Mexican immigrants.

As may be seen in Table 2 and Figures 3a and 3b, upon arrival, the labor supply patterns of Mexican immigrants are much more traditional than those of otherwise similar natives in the reference group. We focus here on annual work hours, including those who worked zero hours, since this variable summarizes both labor force participation and work intensity. Upon arrival, immigrant women's annual hours are considerably lower than those of the reference group, while, for cohorts arriving after 1970, men's annual hours are somewhat higher. Unlike our results for marriage and fertility, however, we find substantial assimilation of immigrant women

to the native reference group's labor supply patterns. Despite their initially higher levels, male hours show some positive assimilation as well. Focusing on the dramatic results for women, we see that, upon arrival in the US, the 1971-80 cohort of immigrant women worked a highly significant 455 fewer hours than comparable white nonhispanics, a large gap compared to the white nonhispanic average of 1281 hours per year.<sup>19</sup> However, there is rapid assimilation: over half of this shortfall is eliminated after ten years, as the gap falls to 219 hours; and nearly all of the rest after 20 years in the US when immigrants are estimated to work 31 hours less. In results not controlling for schooling or location, the labor supply effects for immigrants become much more negative, but the assimilation profiles have similar slopes to those in the models with full controls (see also Table A2). For example, immigrant women in the 1971-80 arrival cohort initially work 839 hours less; after 20 years, this deficit is reduced to 405 hours. Immigrants' low levels of education thus cause them to work much less than white nonhispanic natives of the same age.

Across generations, Mexican-American men appear to be progressively less work-oriented than comparable nonhispanic whites (Table 2 and Figure 3a), with a 105 hour shortfall by the third generation. In contrast, second- and third-generation Mexican American women work about the same number of hours as comparable white nonhispanics: the effects range from a 14 hour shortfall for the second generation that is insignificant to a 21 hour shortfall for the third generation that is significant although still small compared to the average white nonhispanic female labor supply of 1281 hours (Table 2 and Figure 3b). As we have seen, our estimates suggest that the assimilation to the labor supply patterns of otherwise similar women in the white nonhispanic reference group essentially occurs in the first generation. As was the case for immigrants, when we do not control for education or location (see also Table A2), the Mexican-American hours effects become more negative for the second and third generation compared to models with full controls, although the changes in these effects are smaller than for

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<sup>19</sup> Table 2 shows that more recent cohorts of immigrant men increased the hours differential compared to the native reference group, *ceteris paribus*, while the gap for women has stayed about the same.

immigrants (due to later generations' higher education levels). The hours shortfalls for US-born Mexican Americans range from 148 to 177 hours for men and from 112 to 122 hours for women.

The most striking findings in these results is the dramatic assimilation of Mexican immigrant women into the US labor market and the relatively rapid erosion of the highly traditional labor supply pattern exhibited by Mexican immigrants upon arrival in the US. Female immigrants begin with a large *ceteris paribus* shortfall in work hours. However, within 20 years of residence, their work hours are nearly equal to those of women with the same characteristics in the third-generation, nonhispanic white reference group; and this remains the case in the second and third generations. While male immigrants tend to work more than the reference group, *ceteris paribus*, this is no longer the case in subsequent generations. Thus, by the second generation, the labor supply patterns of Mexican Americans exhibit no more gender specialization than do those of third-generation, nonhispanic whites, all else equal. Even without controlling for education, there is still rapid assimilation of Mexican immigrant women into work with time in the US, although a sizable labor supply gap remains. The assimilation process continues across generations as US born Mexican origin women raise their education levels relative to the reference group. However, shortfalls remain for both men and women that are roughly constant between the second and third generations, suggesting a lack of further convergence in annual hours beyond the second generation, a pattern noted in previous work and for other dependent variables.

Although the annual hours measure indirectly reflects Mexican American-nonhispanic white differences in unemployment, we also examine unemployment rates explicitly because they may provide evidence on particular labor market problems facing Mexican Americans. Like the labor supply measure, the unemployment experience of Mexican immigrants differs greatly by sex (see Table 2 and Figures 4a and 4b). For males the immigrant-native difference, controlling for characteristics, tends to be small and men in recent cohorts actually have a lower unemployment rate at arrival than comparable white nonhispanics. There is no significant effect of years since migration on the unemployment rates of immigrant men, and second- and third-

generation, Mexican-American men actually have 1.7-1.9 percentage points' higher unemployment than comparable white nonhispanics. In contrast, immigrant women have a substantially higher unemployment rate than comparable natives at arrival, but this gap falls substantially with time in the US. For example, in the 1971-80 cohort, Mexican immigrant women have a 10.3 percentage point higher unemployment rate at arrival than comparable white nonhispanic natives. After ten years in the US, however, the gap has fallen to 6.4 percentage points; and after 20 years to 3.0 percentage points. Little further assimilation occurs generations, controlling for measured characteristics: the gap is 3.4 percentage points for the second generation and 1.5 percentage points by the third generation. When we control only for age and year, the immigrant-native difference in unemployment rates for women is much larger and remains considerable even after long residence, although substantial assimilation does take place. For example, the unemployment rate of immigrants in the 1971-80 cohort is 14.3 percentage points higher upon arrival in the US and is still 6.5 percentage points higher after 20 years of residence. The differential decreases to 4.7 percentage points in the second generation and 2.6 percentage points in the third generation.

We now turn to the results for wage assimilation in Table 2. Given the deteriorating wage position of immigrants, we have evaluated the regression results for both the 1971-80 (Figures 5a and 5b) and 1981-90 (Figures 6a and 6b) arrival cohorts. The results for immigrant men conform to what would be expected based on the literature. There is a considerable wage gap with otherwise similar natives at arrival that tends to increase across cohorts, as well as some weak evidence of positive wage assimilation with time in the US. The wage gap for men in the 1971-80 (1981-90) cohort is estimated to be .17 (.28) log points on arrival and to fall to .12 (.23) log points after 20 years of residence. The shortfall for immigrants in the 1971-80 cohort after 20 years in the US was comparable to the estimated wage gaps for the second and third generations of .13-.14 log points, although that estimated for the 1981-90 cohort is higher.

The arrival shortfalls for women also tend to increase over time and were .07 log points for the 1971-80 cohort and .16 log points for the 1981-90 cohort. In general, the arrival

shortfalls tend to be smaller than for men, a pattern we noted above for later generations as well. However, for women, there is no evidence of positive wage assimilation. The absence of wage assimilation for women may reflect the limitations of our successive cross-sections for mapping the true longitudinal patterns. Given strong positive assimilation for labor supply, the women in the wage sample in successive years since migration groups will include more new entrants with relatively little labor market experience and hence low wages. They may be a less positively selected group in other ways as well. This is may be the reason for the seeming lack of wage assimilation for women. Again, for women, as for men, we find little further wage assimilation across generations compared to the 1971-80 arrival cohort of immigrants, controlling for education and location, with a wage gap of .08-.09 for the second and third generations. And, similar to men, some intergenerational wage assimilation is suggested for the 1981-90 cohort.

Figures 5a, 5b, 6a and 6b, as well as Table A2, show that the wage shortfalls of each Mexican-American group are much larger when the controls for education and location are omitted; this of course reflects the lower educational attainment of Mexican Americans relative to the reference group of third generation nonhispanic whites. Viewing the data in this way, however, does give a more substantial role for intergenerational wage assimilation due to the increasing educational attainment of Mexican Americans across generations. So, for example, in the 1971-80 cohort, controlling only for age and year, even after 20 years in the US, the pay shortfalls for immigrants are much larger than for later generations: .48 log points for immigrant men and .44 log points for immigrant women versus .18-.21 log points for men and .14-.19 log points for women for later generations. Thus, the increase in education achieved by subsequent generations of Mexican Americans relative to immigrants leads to a substantial closing of the raw pay gap relative to third-generation white nonhispanics. However, we again note a lack of further convergence, in this case for log wages, beyond the second generation.

The results considered above may be biased by changes in the age composition of a specific immigration cohort across successive cross sections (Friedberg 1993). Specifically, more recent cross sections will include more immigrants in the particular cohort who immigrated

as children. The assimilation process is likely to be quite different for those who immigrated as children compared to adult immigrants. For this reason we repeated the analyses in Table 2 with the immigrant sample restricted to adult immigrants (see, Table A4). The results were very similar. One exception was that there was somewhat more positive assimilation with time in the US for men's annual work hours; however, even here, the relationship was much steeper for immigrant women than men.

## **V. The Family Migration Model: Regression Results**

Our data can be used to study the relevance of the family migration model for Mexican-American immigrants. This exercise is additionally of interest because it enables us to ascertain whether we obtain similar findings to those above when we focus on married individuals and explicitly take into account spouses' characteristics. To address these questions, we constructed a file using the CPS data that consisted of married individuals for whom we could identify the ethnicity and nativity of both husband and wife. We restricted the sample to women (men) who were of Mexican origin and to a reference group of women (men) who were themselves third-generation, white nonhispanics and were married to third-generation, white nonhispanics. (The latter constitute the reference category in the female and male regressions.)

As may be seen in Table 3, Mexican Americans of both sexes have a very high probability—82 to 83 percent—of having a Mexican-American spouse. This incidence is particularly high for immigrants, with 92 percent of both men and women having a spouse who is of Mexican origin. Fully 84 percent of female immigrants and 79 percent of male immigrants have spouses who are themselves Mexican immigrants. Although we do not know when these marriages took place, the higher percentage of female than male Mexican immigrants whose spouse is a Mexican immigrant is consistent with our finding above that immigration tends to be a family decision for women and that the incidence of being married (spouse present) is high upon arrival in the US. Of course, marriages to fellow immigrants may also occur in the US or

involve bringing a spouse to the US from Mexico. The probability of having a spouse who is of Mexican origin declines across generations for both women and men: decreasing from 92 percent for immigrants to 74 (70) percent for second-generation women (men), and 70 (66) percent for third-generation women (men). Nonetheless, marriage outside the Mexican-origin group still characterizes only 30-34 percent of third-generation, married Mexican Americans.<sup>20</sup>

Table 4 contains selected regression results for three dependent variables that are of central importance in forming a picture of married women's assimilation and evaluating the family investment hypotheses: the number of children for married women and annual work hours and log hourly earnings for married women and married men. The explanatory variables include both own and spouse characteristics for education, age, migration cohort, and years since migration. In addition, there is a full set of shift terms for each combination of own and spouse Mexican-American generation, as well as dummies for spouse's race and ethnicity. Based on these regressions, Figures 7-9 show assimilation profiles for Mexican immigrant women and men with an immigrant spouse who came to the US at the same time.

We begin by considering the results for annual hours, which are the key variable for the family investment hypothesis, and also the variable for which we obtained the most striking evidence of assimilation for the full sample of Mexican-American women. As may be seen in the table and Figure 7, the results for married women are quite similar to those for the full female population and thus do not support the family migration model. Married immigrant women tend to have large *ceteris paribus* labor supply shortfalls upon arrival in the US and steep positive assimilation with time in the US. So for example, married women in the 1971-80 arrival cohort who have a Mexican immigrant spouse who arrived in the same period are estimated to supply 556 hours less per year when they first come to the US; however, after ten years in the US, the shortfall has been reduced by more than half to 265 hours, and after 20 years, to only 36 hours. Immigrant men also have an hours shortfall at arrival and positive assimilation profiles;

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<sup>20</sup> We again note, however, that third-generation Mexican Americans must self-identify. Marriage outside the Mexican-American community may reduce their propensity to self-identify as Mexican American, or at least be correlated with a reduced propensity to so identify. Again see, Duncan and Trejo (2005).

however, these are both less dramatic than for women: for married men who migrated with a Mexican spouse, the arrival hours shortfall for the 1971-80 cohort is 272 hours, a differential that falls to 109 hours after 10 years and actually becomes a 4 hour excess after twenty years. In earlier work using 1980 and 1990 Census data (Blau, Kahn, Moriarty and Souza 2003), we showed that, among immigrants to the US in general, married men and women had similarly steep assimilation profiles relative to average hours worked by natives. Mexican immigrants in the 1990s and early 2000s stand out from this pattern in that the profile is much steeper for women than men.

Second- and third-generation, Mexican-American women married to second- or third-generation Mexican-American men have smaller deficits (or in some cases, slightly higher work hours) relative to comparable white natives than immigrants from the 1971-80 at arrival or after ten years in the US—Table 4 shows hours effects of  $-8$  to  $+100$  work hours relative to the white nonhispanic reference group. However, as in the case of the full sample, most of the convergence in labor supply patterns to otherwise similar individuals in the white nonhispanic reference groups occurs in the first generation.

Turning to assimilation in log wages we again find similar patterns to those observed for the full sample (see Table 4). Figure 8 shows results for immigrant men and women who migrated from Mexico with their spouse in the 1971-80 or 1981-90 period. Except for women in the 1971-80 arrival cohort, we see large wage deficits with otherwise similar native, nonhispanic whites in the reference group, and wage profiles for the 1981-90 cohort are considerably lower than those for the 1971-80 cohort. As in the full sample, while men's wages rise with time in the US (wage assimilation is actually steeper for married men than for the full sample), there is no evidence of positive wage assimilation for women. This pattern is consistent with the family migration model in that men appear to be investing in their own human capital, while women's wages are seemingly not affected by time in the US. However, as noted above, the lack of evidence of wage assimilation for women should be interpreted in light of their strong, positively-sloped employment assimilation profile (itself a finding inconsistent with the family

investment model). Women with longer US residence are thus likely to include more recent labor force entrants with less experience and may be less positively selected than the female sample of full time workers among recent arrivals. It is likely that the seeming lack of positive wage assimilation among women reflects these sample composition considerations rather than different investment behavior.

As above, we do not find much evidence of wage convergence across generations, controlling for measured characteristics. For example, for immigrant men from the 1971-80 (1981-90) arrival cohort the wage deficit relative to the white nonhispanic reference group falls from .29 (.43) log points at arrival to .14 (.28) after 20 years. For second- and third-generation men married to US-born, Mexican origin women, the pay shortfall for men ranges from .15 to .21 log points, suggesting some evidence of moderate wage assimilation only for the 1981-90 cohort. For women in the 1971-80 cohort, there is hardly any wage gap with relative to comparable white nonhispanics. But for women in the 1981-90 cohort, the gaps are .17 log points at arrival and .20 log points after 20 years. Mexican-American women of later generations married to US born Mexican origin men have *ceteris paribus* log wage deficits of .06 to .12 relative to white nonhispanics. Again, little intergenerational assimilation is implied for the 1971-80 cohort and some modest improvement across generations is suggested for the 1981-90 cohort.

Finally, we may consider evidence of the assimilation in fertility. As was the case for the full sample, married Mexican immigrant women (who migrated with a Mexican spouse) tend to have more children than their counterparts upon arrival in the US, though this difference has been declining with successive cohorts and has recently become negative. Fertility compared to otherwise similar individuals in the white nonhispanic reference group then increases further with time in the US. (Note the own and spouse cohort and ysm effects must be summed to make this comparison.) For example, in the 1971-80 cohort, women have somewhat more (.19) children than comparable white nonhispanic women upon arrival, a gap that rises to .76 after 20 years in the US. The 1997-2002 cohort that begins with .075 *fewer* children than comparable

white nonhispanics, is estimated to have .50 more children after 20 years. The relative fertility of second- and third-generation, Mexican-American women in Mexican-American families falls to .22 to .34 (second generation), and .25-.34 (third generation). However, based on the declining relative fertility of newer cohorts of immigrants, we might expect excess fertility of future second- and third-generation Mexican-American women to be even smaller than this.

The positive relationship between fertility and time in the US that we obtain for immigrants is illustrated in Figure 9 for the 1971-80 arrival cohort. This relationship could be consistent with the family investment model: fertility may be deferred while wives' focus on the labor market in order to support their husband's human capital investments. However, this is unlikely given the strong *positive* assimilation that we have found for wives' labor supply. In light of this, we believe that the pattern of fertility most likely represents a disruption of fertility due to immigration. One factor leading the family to defer fertility may be a desire to postpone at least some childbearing to a time when the family is on a firmer financial footing. But, again, given the labor supply patterns we observe, this is likely to be a time when both spouses are faring better in terms of labor market incomes.

## **VI. Conclusions**

This paper has examined gender and the labor market and demographic assimilation of Mexican Americans, both within and across generations. Published data show a much more traditional gender division of labor in the family in Mexico than in the US, with women in Mexico having considerably lower labor force participation and higher fertility than those in the United States, as well as lower education both absolutely and relative to Mexican men. Our data suggest that these source country patterns strongly influence the outcomes and behavior of Mexican immigrants on arrival in the United States. Both male and female immigrants have much lower levels of education than the native reference group (third-generation, nonhispanic whites), although immigrants of both sexes have somewhat higher levels of education than the

average for Mexico and gender differences in educational attainment among immigrants are minimal. Educational attainment of Mexican-American men and women increases substantially between the first and second generations, but not beyond. Controlling for education and other characteristics including location, on arrival in the US, immigrant women are more likely to be married spouse present, have higher fertility, and much lower labor supply than the native reference group. The key question then is how these patterns change with time in the US of immigrants and over the second and third generations.

Our most striking finding is the dramatic assimilation in labor supply for female immigrants with time in the US. For example, upon arrival in the US, the 1971-80 cohort of Mexican women had a *ceteris paribus* shortfall of 455 hours relative to nonhispanic whites; this fell to 219 hours after ten years of residence and 31 hours after twenty years. The gap remained small in the second and third generations. Consistent with a more traditional division of labor in the first generation, immigrant men's annual hours tended to be somewhat higher than those of nonhispanic whites, all else equal, and showed moderate positive assimilation with time in the US. In contrast, Mexican-American men in later generations actually have somewhat lower labor supply than natives. Taking the male and female results together, Mexican American-nonhispanic white differences in gender specialization in labor supply are very small for long-term immigrants and are entirely eliminated by the second generation.

When we do not control for education and other characteristics, however, immigrants, as a low education group, have hours shortfalls relative to nonhispanic whites for both men and women; the gaps are quite sizable for women and remain large, even with positive assimilation in hours. In the case of women, particularly, there is assimilation between the first and second generation, due to the rising educational attainment, but no further progress between the second and third generation.

Wage differences between female immigrants and nonhispanic whites, controlling for other factors, are far less marked than labor supply differences and tend to be smaller than the immigrant-nonhispanic white wage gap for men, though both show a deteriorating wage position

of immigrants beginning in the 1980s. While male wage gaps decline moderately with exposure to the US labor market, in contrast to the labor supply results, we find no evidence of positive wage assimilation for women. Most likely, this reflects the limitations of the synthetic cohort approach. Positive assimilation in employment means that, as years since migration increase, the wage sample likely includes more new labor market entrants and may be less positively selected in other ways as well. For both men and women, rising educational attainment in subsequent generations contributes to a considerable narrowing of the raw wage gap with nonhispanic whites, but we again find no evidence of convergence beyond the second generation. The lack of further assimilation between the second and third generation thus characterizes our findings for education, labor supply and wages and mirrors results from some earlier studies of Mexican Americans.

Results for assimilation on the demographic outcomes are also mixed. Over time in the US, female immigrants assimilate towards the native reference group but remain more likely to be married, *ceteris paribus*. While male immigrants are actually less likely to be married spouse present than otherwise similar nonhispanic whites upon arrival, their marriage incidence increases with time in the US and, after long residence, they are predicted to be more likely to be married than natives. Across generations, both male and female immigrants assimilate to the patterns in the native nonhispanic white reference group, controlling for characteristics including education, and are no more likely to be married. When controls for education and other characteristics are omitted, second- and third-generation, Mexican-American men and women are both less likely to be married than nonhispanic whites.

While immigrant women have higher fertility than nonhispanic whites, all else equal, the immigrant-native differential upon arrival has been declining with successive arrival cohorts, reflecting sharp declines in fertility in the source country. In contrast to the findings for marriage, however, we find no evidence that the higher fertility of Mexican immigrant women on arrival assimilates towards native levels. Rather, the gap tends to increase still further with time in the US; this is consistent with the hypothesis that that immigration disrupts or delays

immigrant women's fertility causing their relative fertility rise with residence in the US and counterbalancing or obscuring whatever assimilation might have otherwise taken place. While the size of the Mexican American-nonhispanic white fertility differential declines across generations, it is not eliminated.

Finally, we separately examined results for married men and women and confirmed our findings based on the full sample, including the dramatic assimilation in labor supply of immigrant women, for this group. This means further that we did not support the family investment model, which has recently been proposed as a model of the immigrant assimilation process in a family context (e.g., Baker and Benjamin 1997). This view holds that, upon arrival, immigrant husbands invest in their human capital, while wives work to provide the family with liquidity during the investment period. The model predicts rapid positive assimilation in labor supply for husbands and decreases in wives' labor supply over time relative to the native reference group. On the contrary, we found positive assimilation in labor supply for both immigrant husbands and wives, with dramatically faster assimilation for wives.

### **Appendix: Creation of Hourly Earnings Variable**

To analyze hourly earnings, we restrict our sample to wage and salary workers who were employed full time (defined as those with at least 35 usual weekly work hours). Wage and salary workers were defined as those with zero self-employment and zero farm self-employment income in the prior year who were wage and salary workers for their longest job during that year. The CPS reports two wage and salary income variables: one for the main job and one for all other jobs. The main job values were topcoded at \$99,000 for 1994 and 1995; \$150,000 for 1996-2002; and \$200,000 for 2003. The values for all other jobs were topcoded at \$99,999 for 1994 and 1995; \$25,000 for 1996-2002; and \$35,000 for 2003. For the main job earnings variables, we used the following conventions for topcoding: for 1994-2002, we multiplied the topcoded value by 1.45, and for 2003, we forced all topcoded values to equal  $\$150,000 \times 1.45$ . For the other jobs variable, we forced all values above \$25,000 to equal \$25,000 and then multiplied this by 1.45. We then added the adjusted variables to form annual wage and salary earnings. These were converted to hourly earnings by dividing by (weeks worked times usual hours per week). We then defined hourly earnings in 2000 dollars using the Personal Consumption Expenditures GDP deflator. We kept only those values between \$2 and \$200 in 2000 dollars. Results were not sensitive to alternative assumptions about topcoding.

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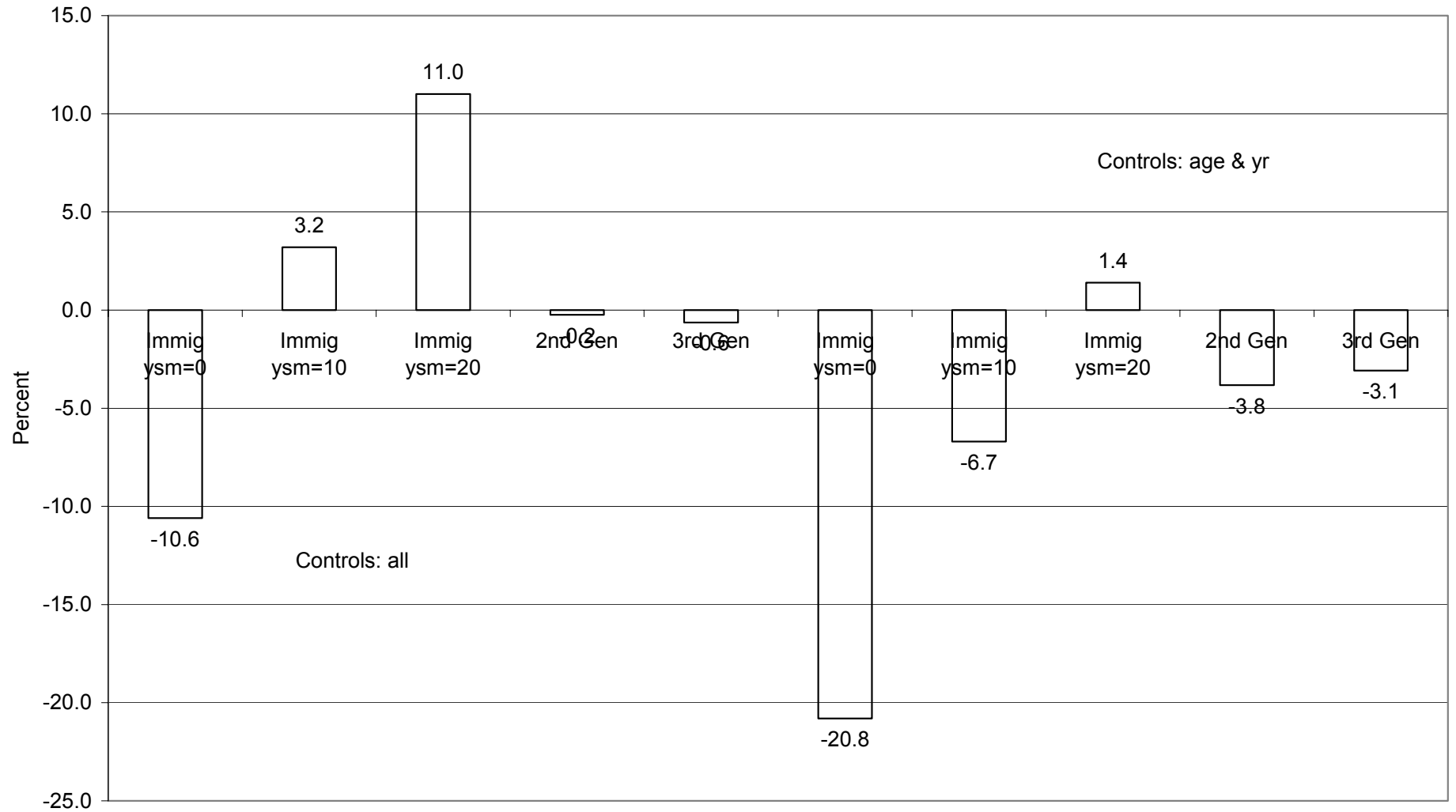
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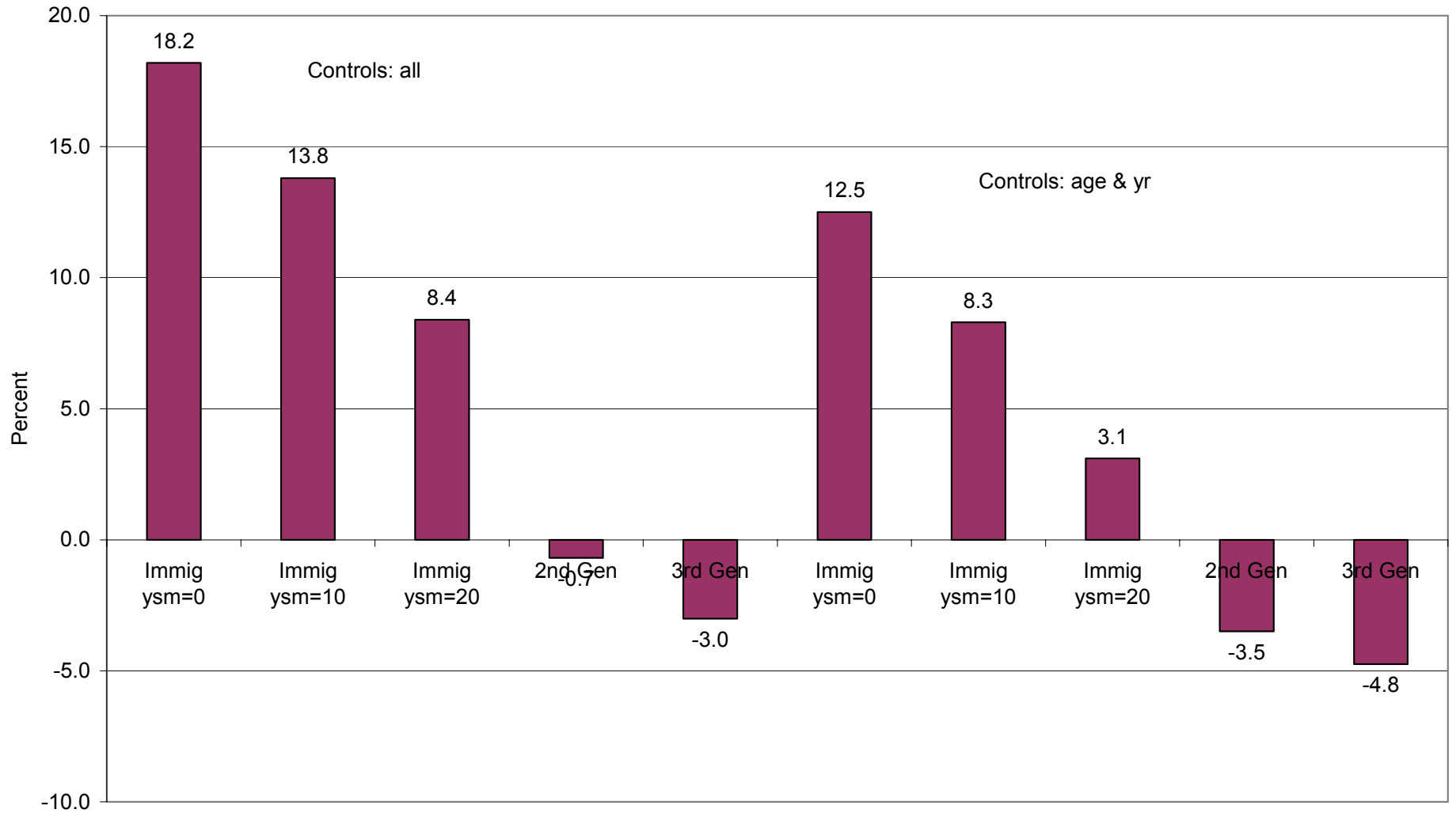
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**Figure 1a: Assimilation of Mexican Americans: Marriage for Men  
(1971-80 Arrival Cohort for Immigrants)**



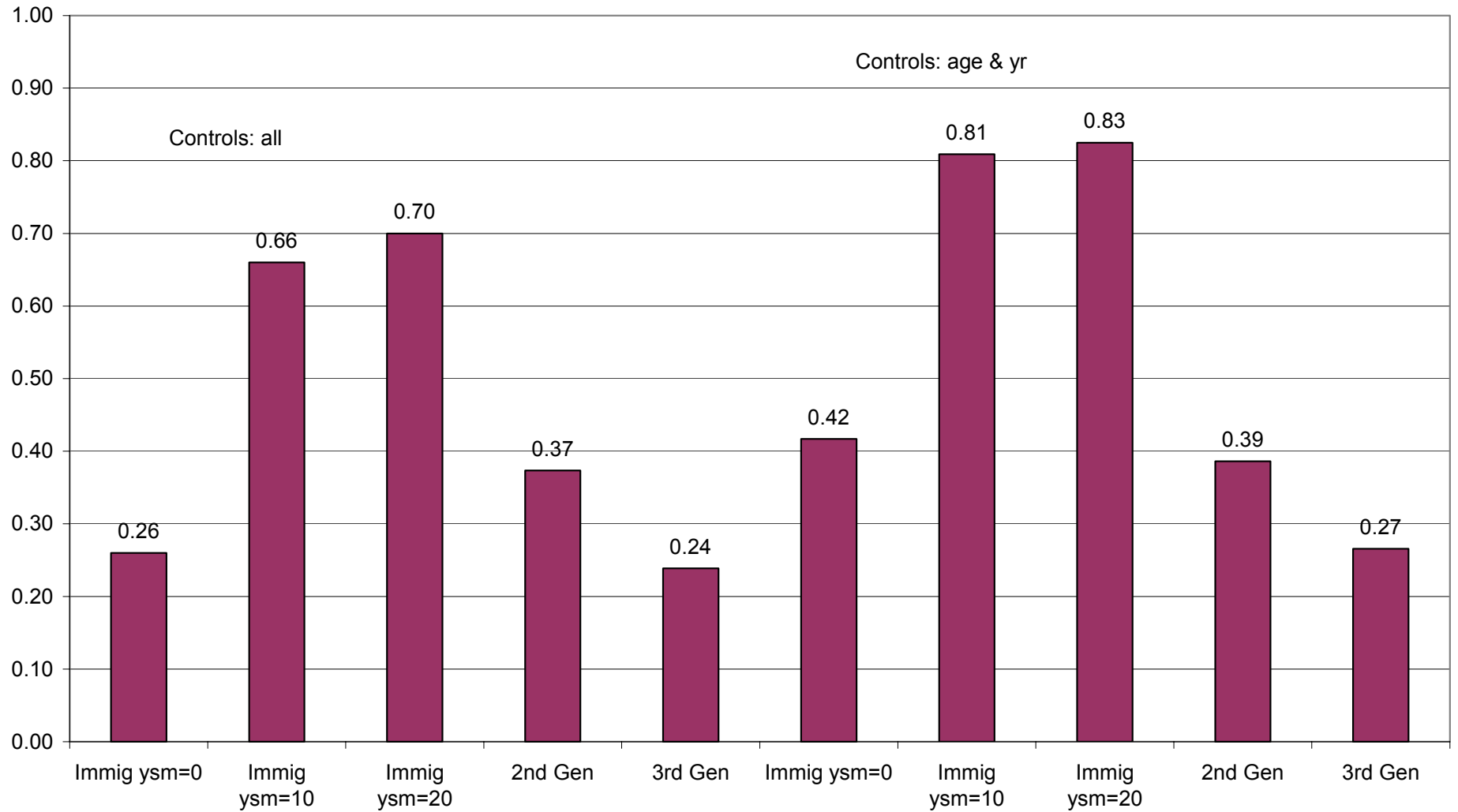
Note: "All" controls include age, yr, educ, region, msa, calif and texas.

**Figure 1b: Assimilation of Mexican Americans: Marriage for Women  
(1971-80 Arrival Cohort for Immigrants)**



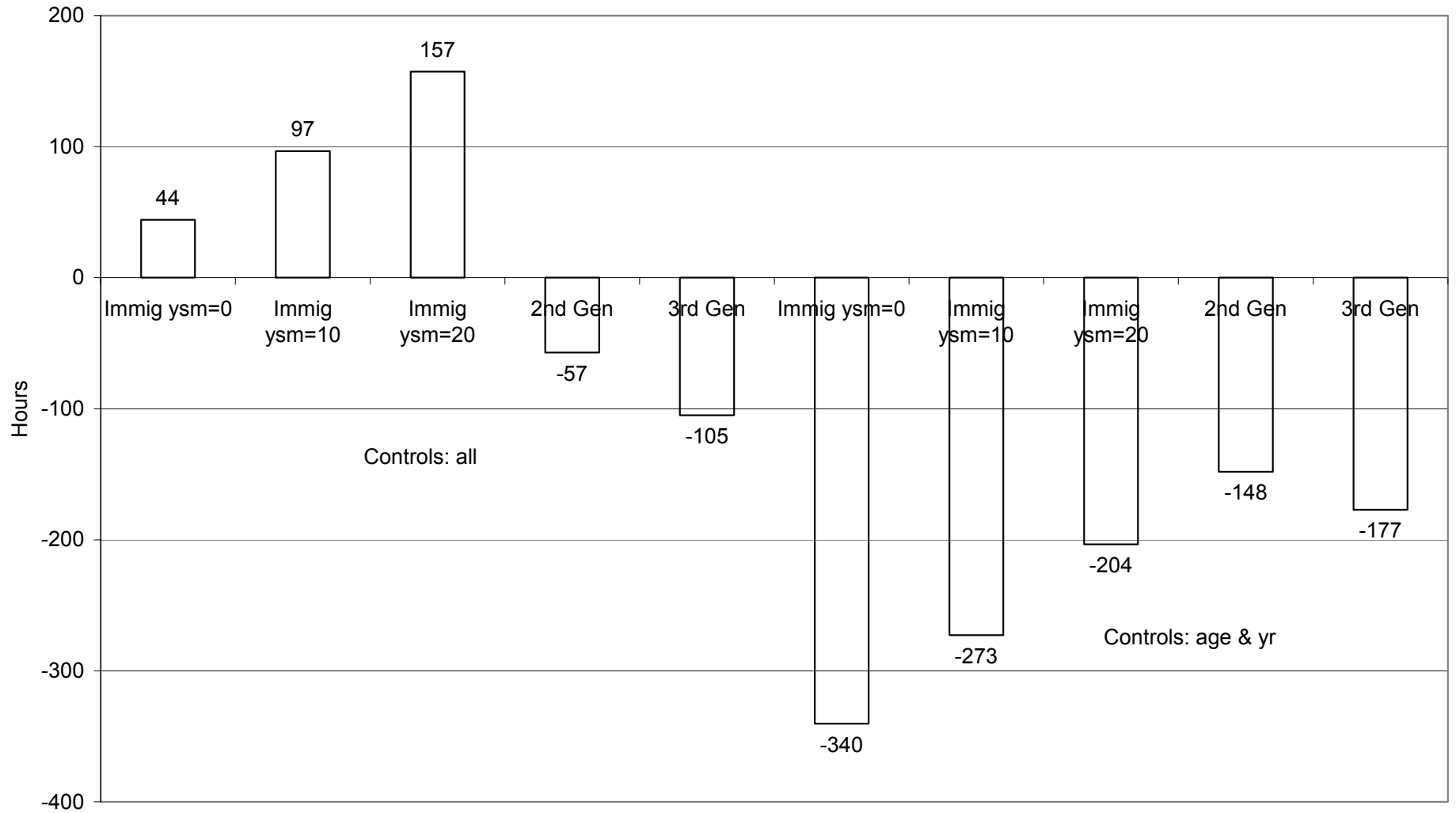
Note: "All" controls include age, yr, educ, region, msa, calif and texas.

**Figure 2: Assimilation of Mexican Americans: Number of Children <18 for Women (1971-80 Arrival Cohort for Immigrants)**



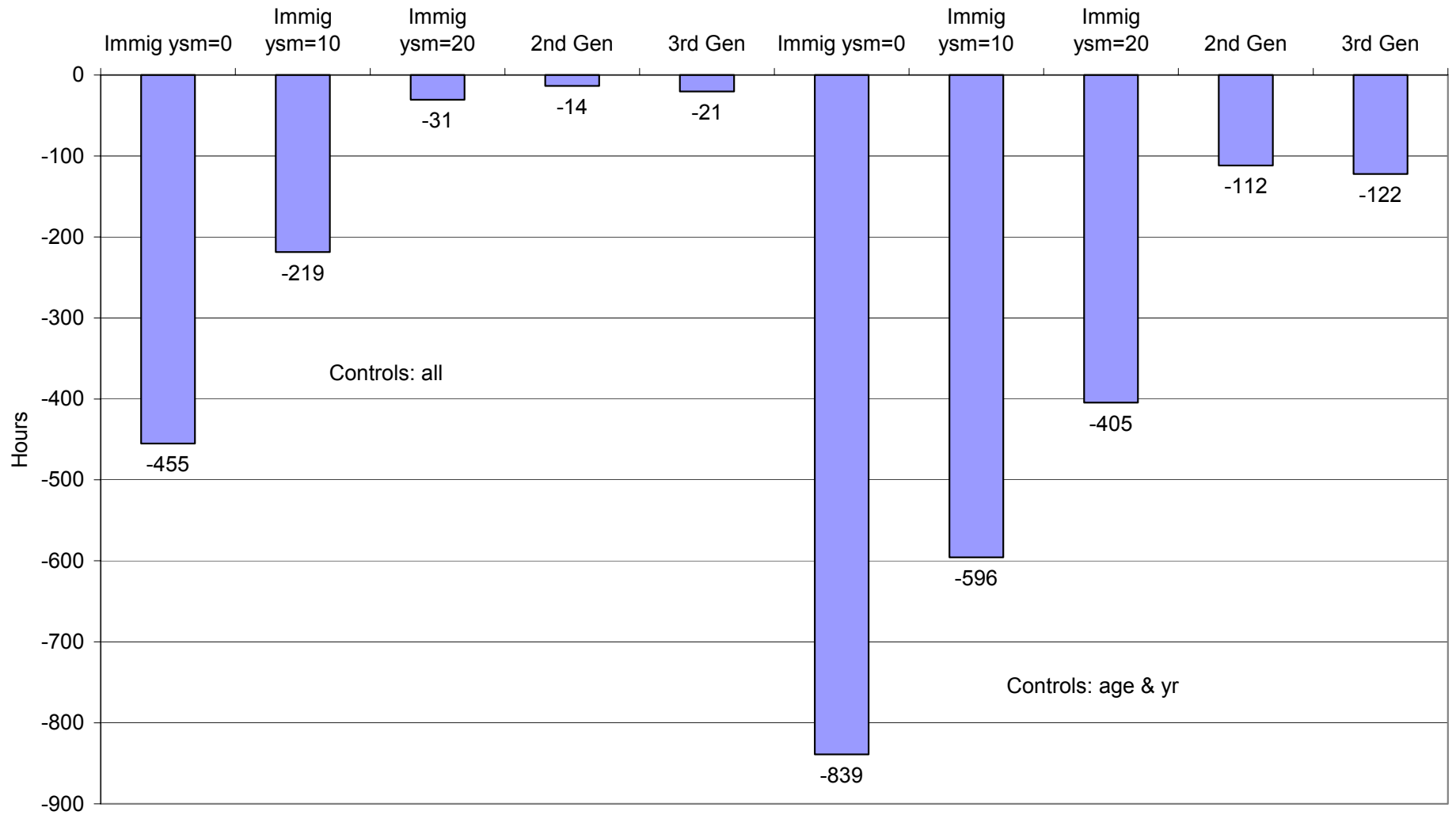
Note: "All" controls include age, yr, educ, region, msa, calif and texas.

**Figure 3a: Assimilation of Mexican Americans: Annual Hours for Men  
(1971-80 Arrival Cohort for Immigrants)**



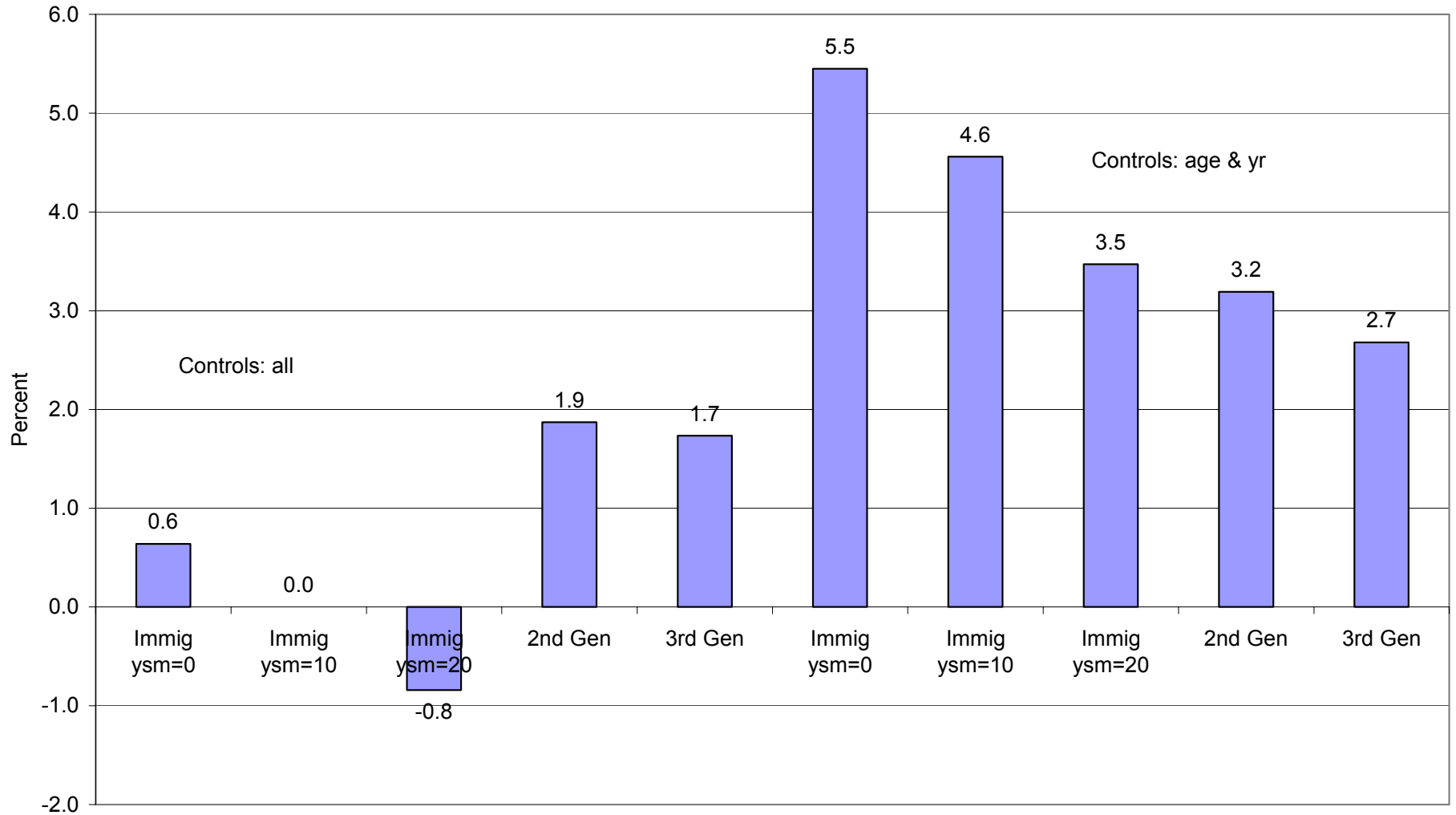
Note: "All" controls include age, yr, educ, region, msa, calif and texas.

**Figure 3b: Assimilation of Mexican Americans: Annual Hours for Women  
(1971-80 Arrival Cohort for Immigrants)**



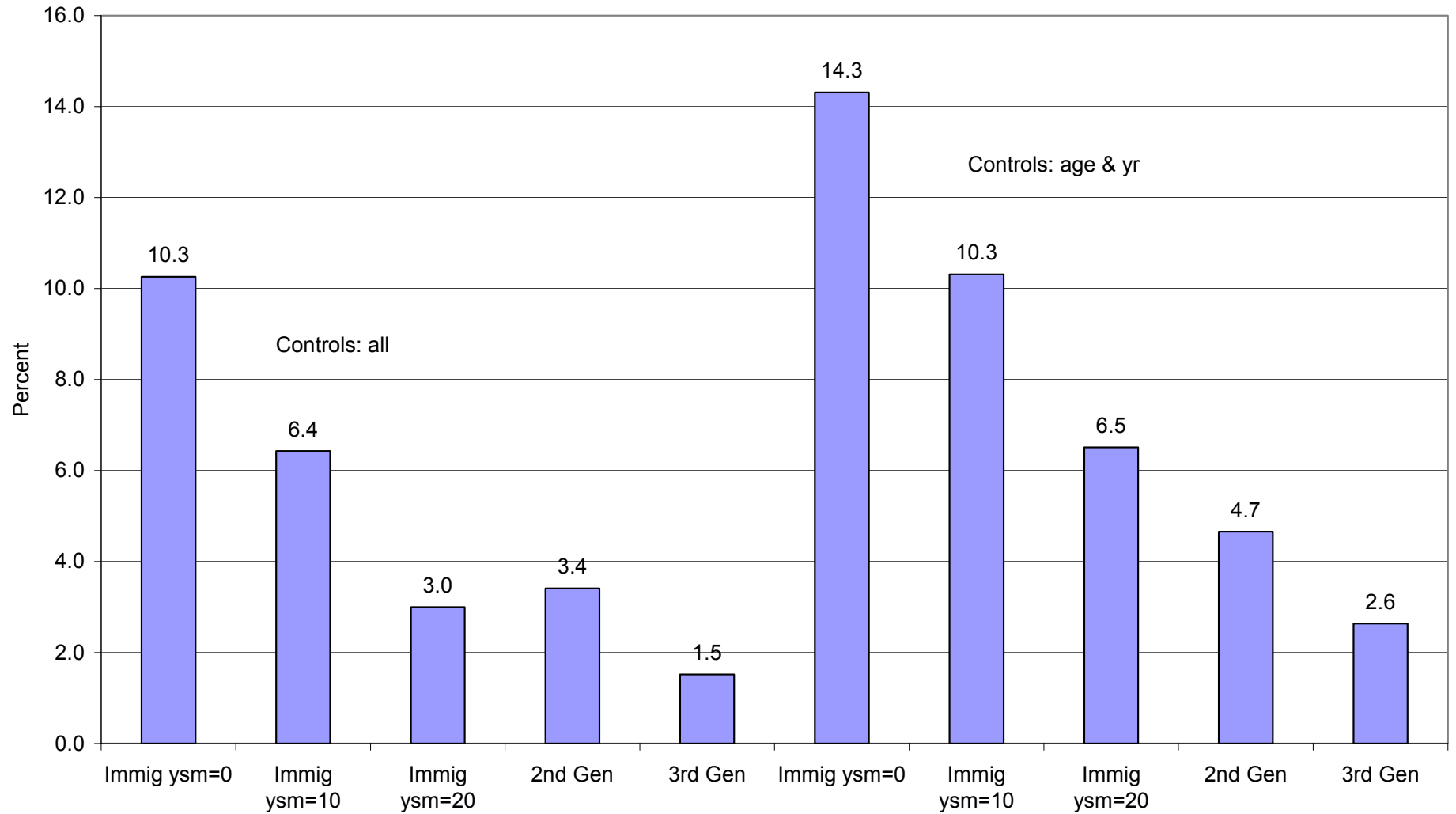
Note: "All" controls include age, yr, educ, region, msa, calif and texas.

**Figure 4a: Assimilation of Mexican Americans: Unemployment Rate for Men  
(1971-80 Arrival Cohort for Immigrants)**



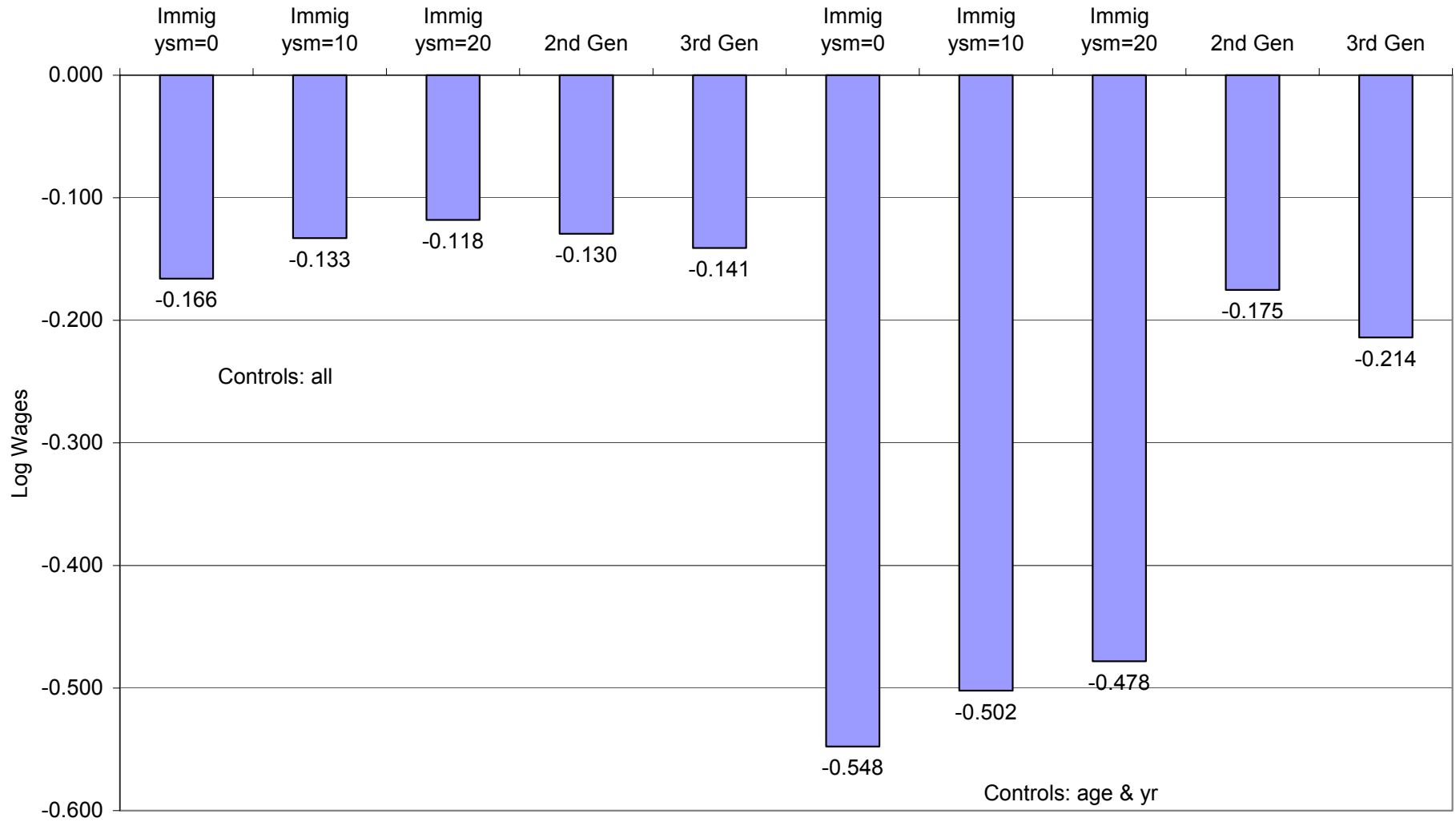
Note: "All" controls include age, yr, educ, region, msa, calif and texas.

**Figure 4b: Assimilation of Mexican Americans: Unemployment Rate for Women  
(1971-80 Arrival Cohort for Immigrants)**



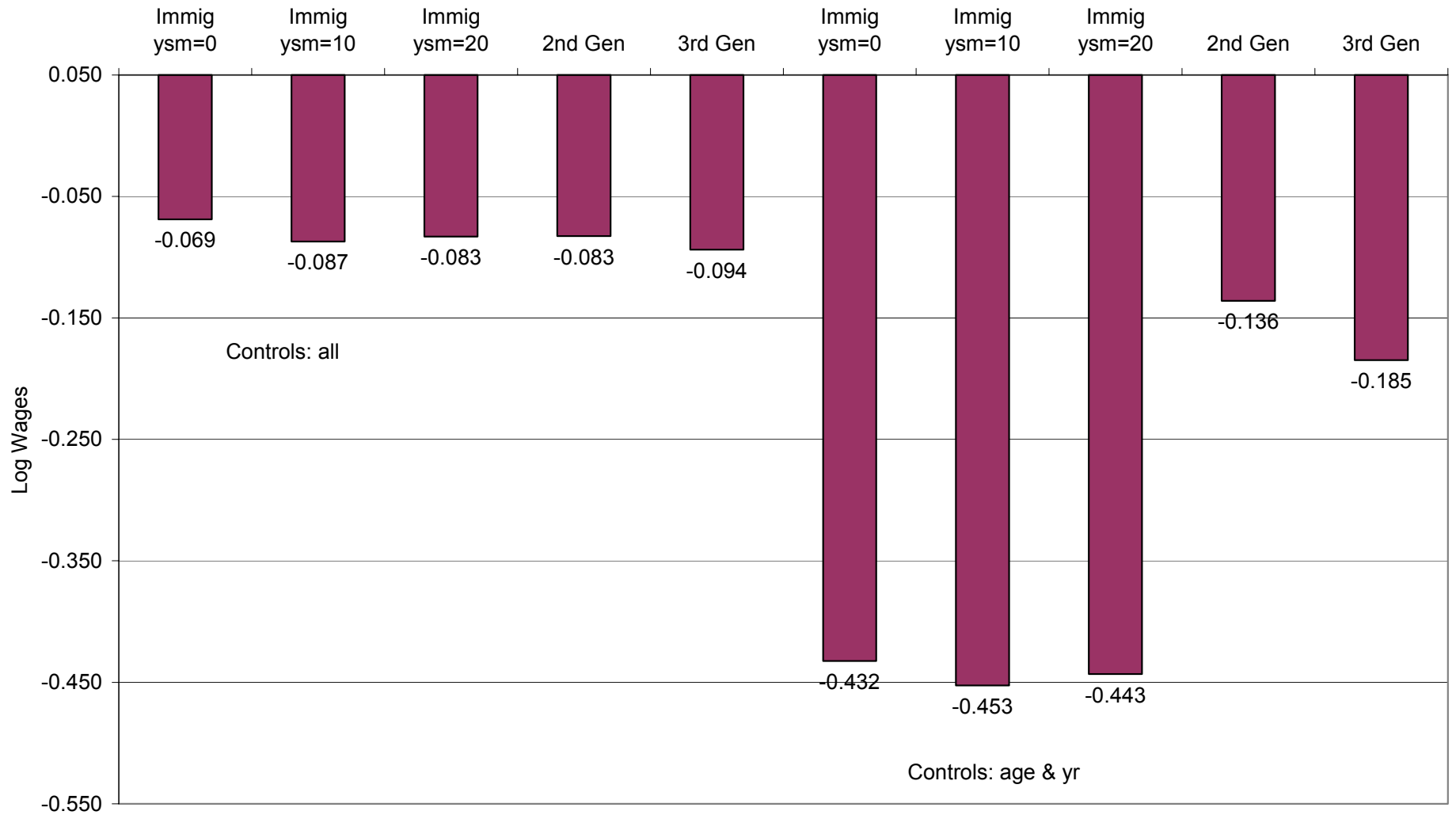
Note: "All" controls include age, yr, educ, region, msa, calif and texas.

**Figure 5a: Assimilation of Mexican Americans: Log Wages for Men  
(1971-80 Arrival Cohort for Immigrants)**



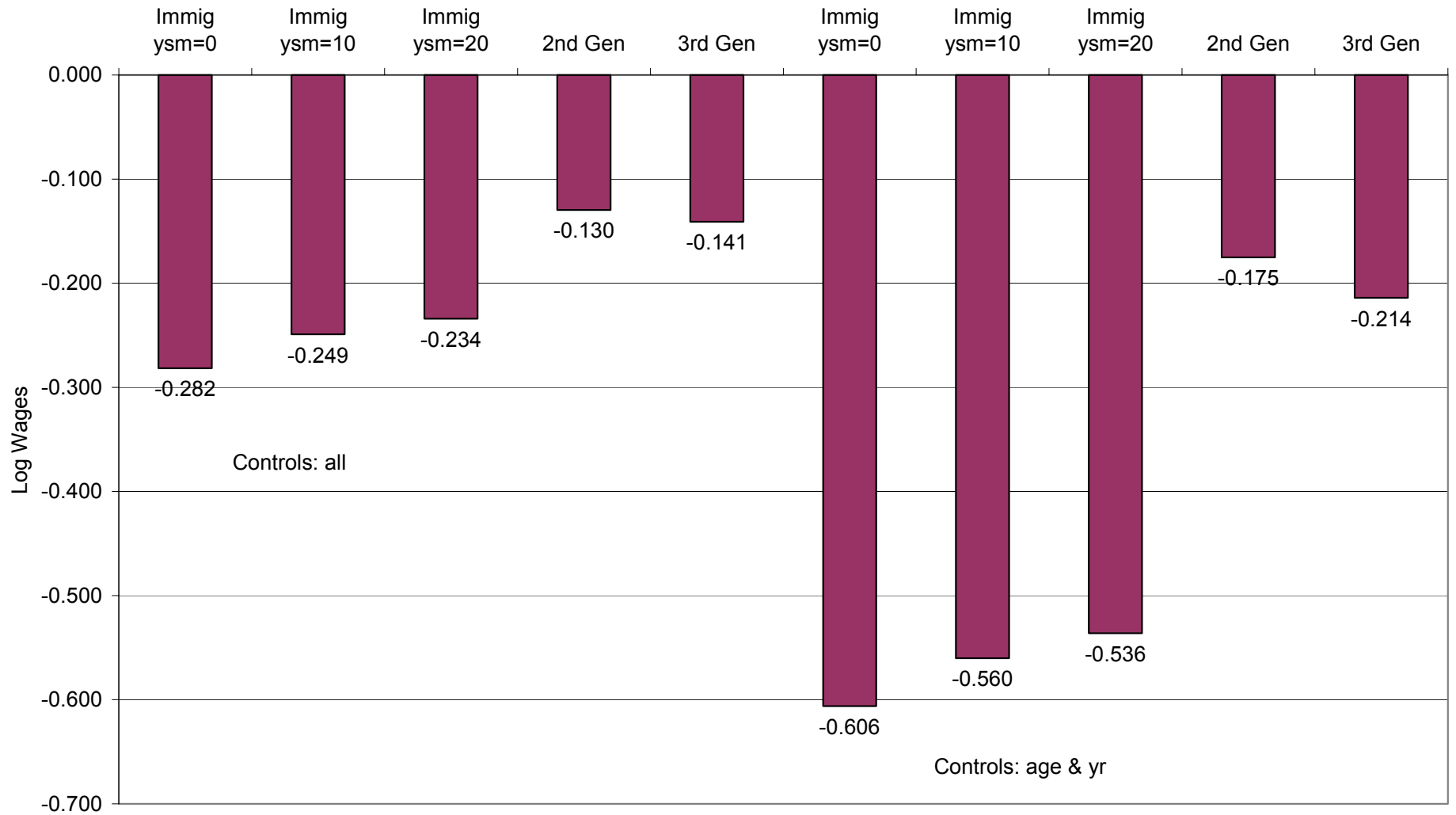
Note: "All" controls include age, yr, educ, region, msa, calif and texas.

**Figure 5b: Assimilation of Mexican Americans: Log Wages for Women  
(1971-80 Arrival Cohort for Immigrants)**



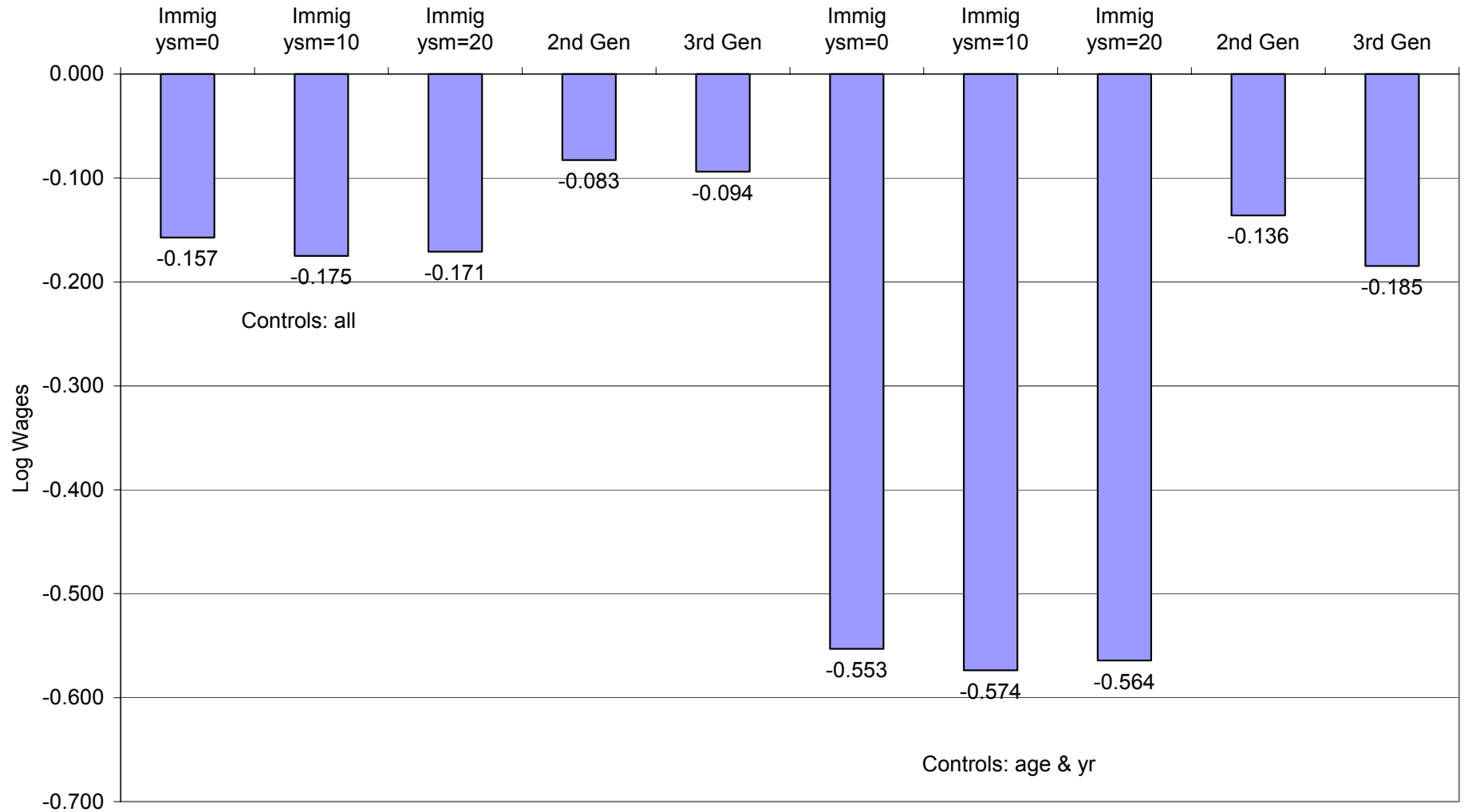
Note: "All" controls include age, yr, educ, region, msa, calif and texas.

**Figure 6a: Assimilation of Mexican Americans: Log Wages for Men  
(1981-90 Arrival Cohort for Immigrants)**



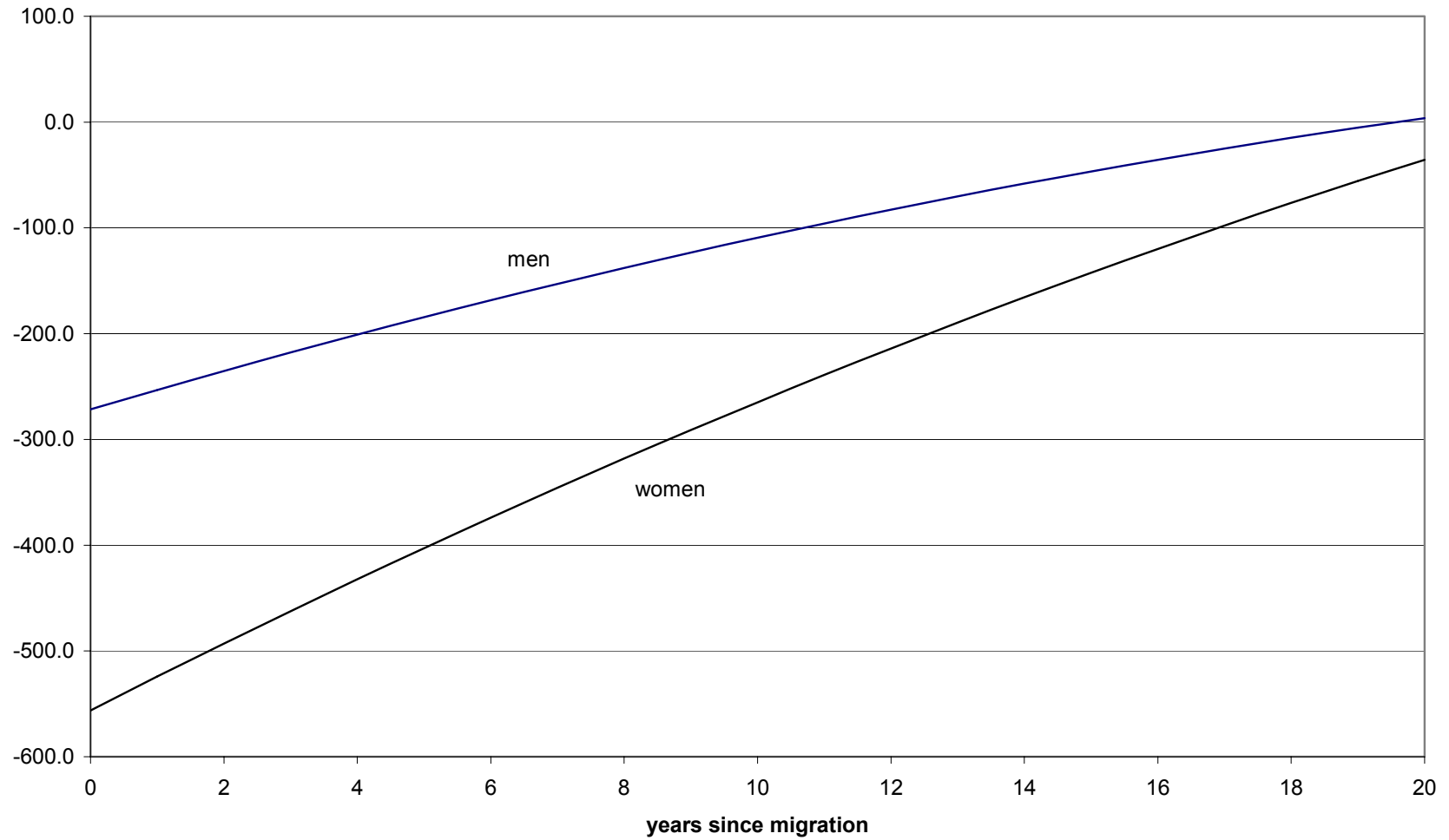
Note: "All" controls include age, yr, educ, region, msa, calif and texas.

**Figure 6b: Assimilation of Mexican Americans: Log Wages for Women  
(1981-90 Arrival Cohort for Immigrants)**

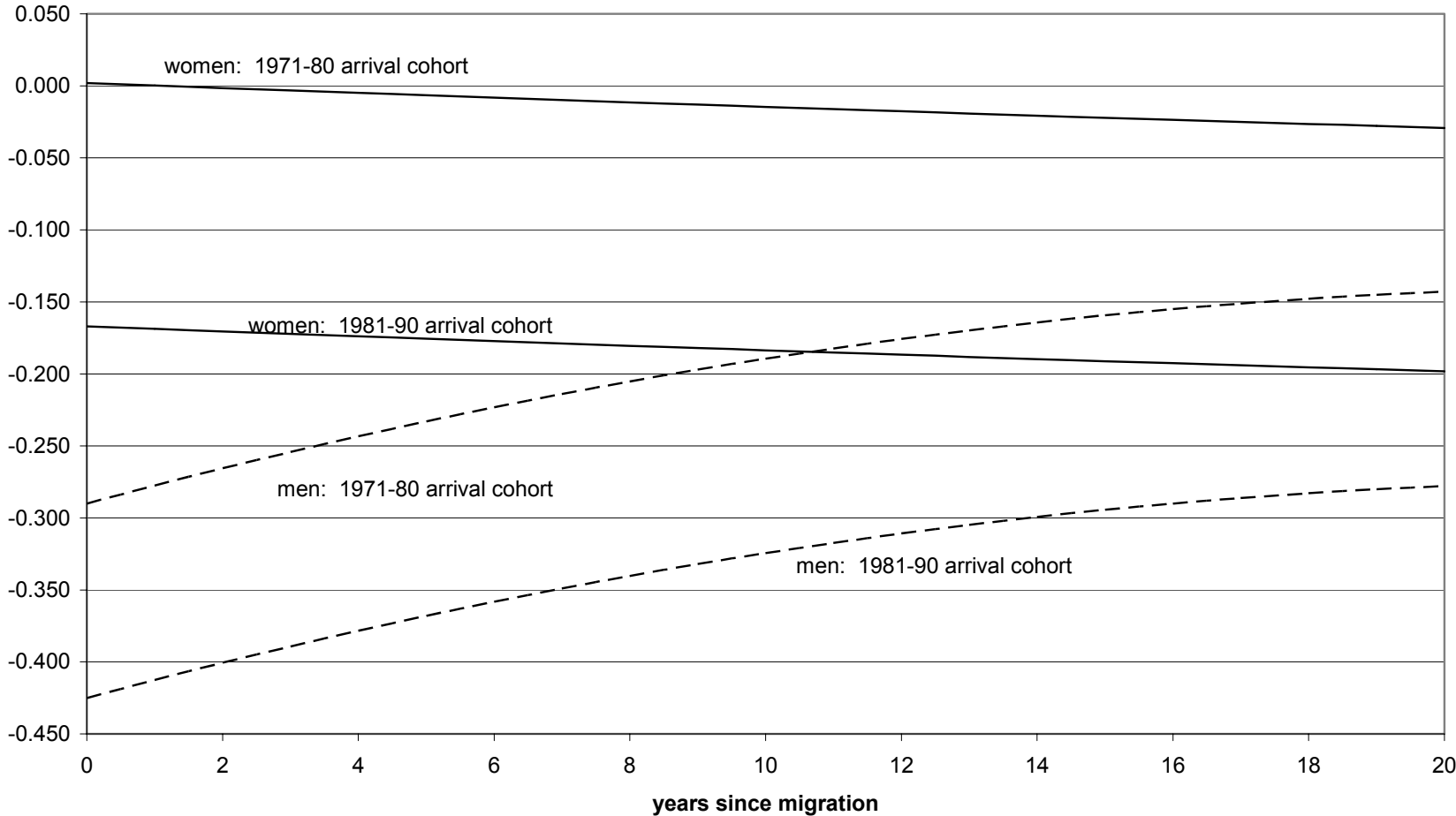


Note: "All" controls include age, yr, educ, region, msa, calif and texas.

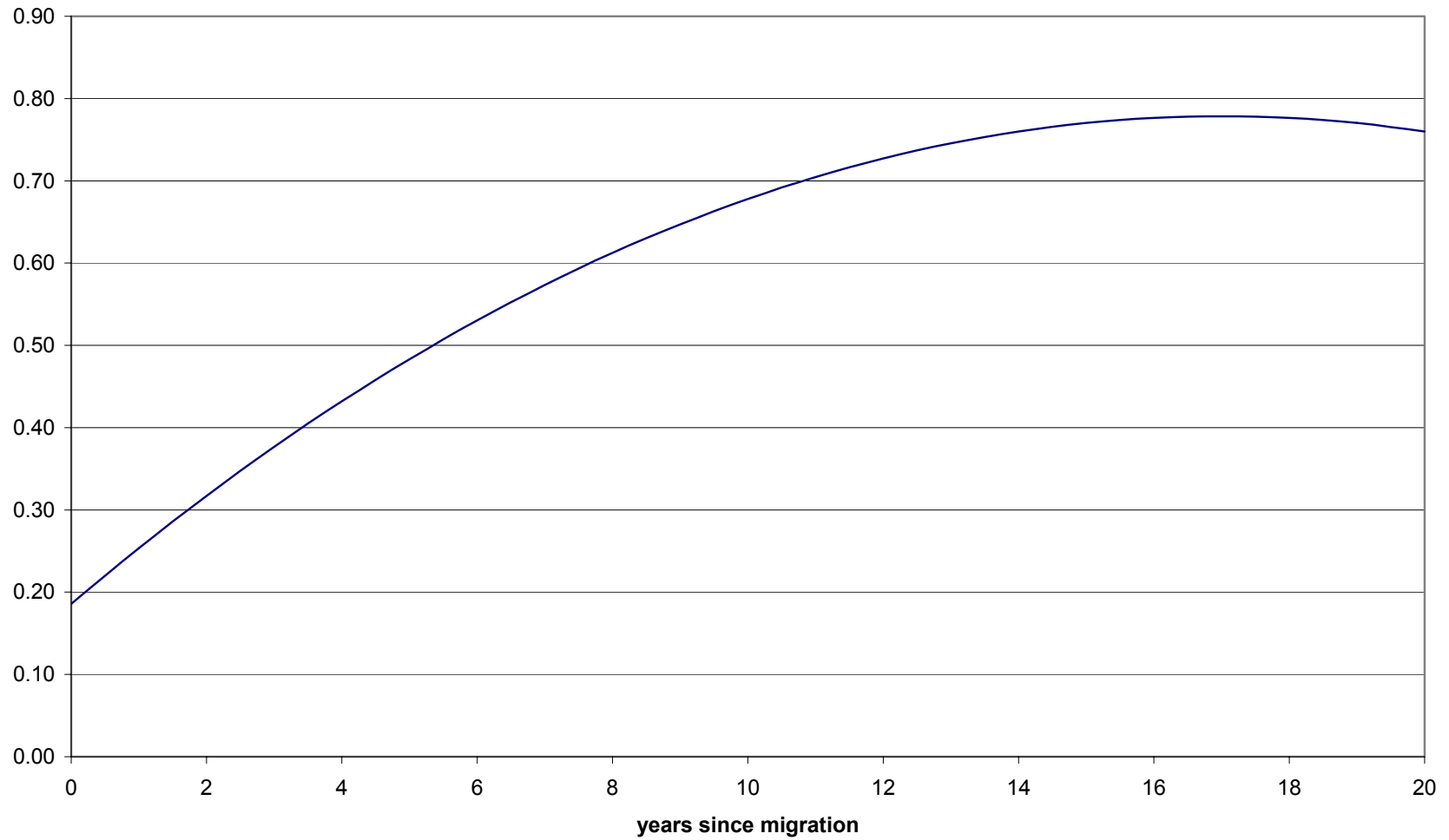
**Figure 7: Assimilation Profiles for Married Mexican Immigrant Men and Women Who Immigrated with Mexican Spouse, Annual Work Hours, 1971-80 Arrival Cohort**



**Figure 8: Assimilation Profiles for Married Mexican Men and Women Who Immigrated with Mexican Spouse, Log Hourly Earnings, Fulltime Wage and Salary Workers, 1971-80 and 1981-90 Arrival Cohorts**



**Figure 9: Assimilation Profile for Married Mexican Immigrant Women Who Immigrated with Mexican Spouse, Number of Children Under 18, 1971-80 Arrival Cohort**



**Table 1: Age and Year-Corrected Levels of Demographic, Human Capital and Wage Outcomes for Mexican-Americans and Native Nonhispanic Whites (Third Generation), 1994-2003**

	Education		Married, Spouse Present		Number of Children <18yrs	
	Level	se	Level	se	Level	se
	Men					
Native, Nonhispanic Whites	13.723	0.015	0.687	0.003	--	--
Mexican-Americans						
All Immigrants	9.094	0.024	0.704	0.004	--	--
Adult Immigrants	8.254	0.028	0.663	0.005	--	--
Second Generation	12.651	0.035	0.650	0.006	--	--
Third Generation	12.533	0.030	0.657	0.005	--	--
	Women					
Native, Nonhispanic Whites	13.856	0.014	0.705	0.003	1.458	0.007
Mexican-Americans						
All Immigrants	9.162	0.023	0.776	0.004	2.159	0.012
Adult Immigrants	8.280	0.027	0.758	0.005	2.138	0.014
Second Generation	12.670	0.031	0.670	0.006	1.845	0.016
Third Generation	12.498	0.026	0.657	0.005	1.724	0.013
	Currently Employed		Annual Work Hours		Currently in LF	
	Level	se	Level	se	Level	se
	Men					
Native, Nonhispanic Whites	0.869	0.002	2096.81	5.17	0.909	0.002
Mexican-Americans						
All Immigrants	0.872	0.004	1963.80	8.03	0.933	0.003
Adult Immigrants	0.863	0.004	1886.38	9.78	0.930	0.004
Second Generation	0.818	0.005	1947.97	11.77	0.878	0.005
Third Generation	0.818	0.004	1919.15	10.10	0.877	0.004
	Women					
Native, Nonhispanic Whites	0.764	0.003	1463.48	5.50	0.792	0.003
Mexican-Americans						
All Immigrants	0.480	0.004	935.22	9.08	0.536	0.004
Adult Immigrants	0.444	0.005	838.42	10.91	0.503	0.005
Second Generation	0.672	0.006	1353.53	12.38	0.725	0.006
Third Generation	0.687	0.005	1342.21	10.51	0.730	0.005
	Unemployed   in LF		Log Wages (FT)			
	Level	se	Level	se		
	Men					
Native, Nonhispanic Whites	0.047	0.001	2.985	0.005		
Mexican-Americans						
All Immigrants	0.070	0.002	2.468	0.007		
Adult Immigrants	0.077	0.003	2.354	0.008		
Second Generation	0.079	0.003	2.810	0.011		
Third Generation	0.074	0.003	2.771	0.009		
	Women					
Native, Nonhispanic Whites	0.039	0.001	2.717	0.005		
Mexican-Americans						
All Immigrants	0.114	0.003	2.213	0.010		
Adult Immigrants	0.125	0.003	2.079	0.012		
Second Generation	0.085	0.003	2.582	0.012		
Third Generation	0.065	0.003	2.533	0.010		

### Notes to Table 1

Based on pooled equations with a quartic in age, year dummies, and dummies for each Mexican-American generation. Results for adult immigrants are based on regression with Native Nonhispanic whites, and the three Mexican-American generations pooled, where the immigrant generation includes only those who migrated at age 18 or older. Sample for number of children under age 18 is restricted to respondents who are age 50 or less; sample for log wages is full-time wage and salary workers. Predictions assume the mean age: 39 years and year=2003. Native, Nonhispanic whites are limited to third generation.

**Table 2: Selected Regression Results for Demographic and Labor Market Outcomes**

Dependent Variable	Marriage				No. Children <18			
	Men		Women		Women		Women	
	coef	se	coef	se	coef	se	coef	se
immig: pre 1961 arrival	-0.083	0.051	0.238	0.056	1.178	0.190	0.954	0.183
immig: 1961-70 arrival	-0.090	0.032	0.216	0.036	0.473	0.100	0.329	0.097
immig: 1971-80 arrival	-0.106	0.024	0.182	0.027	0.260	0.069	0.120	0.067
immig: 1981-90 arrival	-0.024	0.017	0.169	0.020	0.331	0.052	0.201	0.050
immig: 1991-96 arrival	-0.014	0.011	0.232	0.013	0.250	0.035	0.086	0.034
immig: 1997-2002 arrival	-0.079	0.010	0.154	0.012	0.045	0.030	-0.065	0.029
years since mig (ysm)	0.017	0.002	-0.004	0.002	0.058	0.006	0.062	0.005
ysm squared (/100)	-0.028	0.004	-0.005	0.005	-0.184	0.017	-0.184	0.016
second gen Mexican-American	-0.002	0.006	-0.007	0.006	0.373	0.015	0.371	0.014
third gen Mexican-American	-0.006	0.005	-0.030	0.005	0.239	0.012	0.258	0.012
control for marital status?	----	----	----	----	no		yes	

Dependent Variable	Annual Work Hours				Unemployment   in Labor Force			
	Men		Women		Men		Women	
	coef	se	coef	se	coef	se	coef	se
immig: pre 1961 arrival	-187.57	99.45	-642.74	112.38	0.015	0.029	0.155	0.035
immig: 1961-70 arrival	-73.37	63.03	-653.59	73.35	0.041	0.018	0.143	0.023
immig: 1971-80 arrival	44.15	47.43	-454.92	55.59	0.006	0.013	0.103	0.018
immig: 1981-90 arrival	105.85	33.70	-463.57	39.68	-0.005	0.009	0.099	0.014
immig: 1991-96 arrival	172.72	22.20	-479.20	25.83	-0.019	0.006	0.090	0.009
immig: 1997-2002 arrival	217.77	19.32	-417.03	23.89	-0.023	0.005	0.060	0.008
years since mig (ysm)	4.85	3.26	26.02	3.80	-0.001	0.001	-0.004	0.001
ysm squared (/100)	3.55	7.93	-23.87	9.13	-0.001	0.002	0.002	0.003
second gen Mexican-American	-57.09	10.90	-13.66	11.46	0.019	0.003	0.034	0.003
third gen Mexican-American	-105.02	9.24	-20.50	9.63	0.017	0.003	0.015	0.003

Dependent Variable	Log Wages (FT)			
	Men		Women	
	coef	se	coef	se
immig: pre 1961 arrival	-0.150	0.080	-0.075	0.111
immig: 1961-70 arrival	-0.162	0.048	-0.113	0.073
immig: 1971-80 arrival	-0.166	0.036	-0.069	0.059
immig: 1981-90 arrival	-0.282	0.026	-0.157	0.045
immig: 1991-96 arrival	-0.246	0.018	-0.191	0.032
immig: 1997-2002 arrival	-0.209	0.015	-0.182	0.028
years since mig (ysm)	0.004	0.003	-0.003	0.004
ysm squared (/100)	-0.009	0.007	0.011	0.011
second gen Mexican-American	-0.130	0.010	-0.083	0.010
third gen Mexican-American	-0.141	0.008	-0.094	0.008

Other controls include: a quartic in age, years of schooling, 8 Census region dummies, an MSA dummy, dummies for California and Texas, and year dummies.

**Table 3: Ethnicity and Nativity of Marriage Patterns, Married Mexican-American Women and Men**

A. Married Mexican-American Women				
Wife's Generation	Fraction of Husbands Who Were:			
	Mexican Immigrants	Second Generation Mexican Americans	Third Generation Mexican Americans	Mexican American: All Generations
Mexican American Immigrants	0.835	0.057	0.028	0.920
Second Generation Mexican Americans	0.321	0.247	0.172	0.740
Third Generation Mexican Americans	0.098	0.122	0.479	0.699
All Mexican-American Wives	0.540	0.106	0.181	0.827
B. Married Mexican-American Men				
Husband's Generation	Fraction of Wives Who Were:			
	Mexican Immigrants	Second Generation Mexican Americans	Third Generation Mexican Americans	Mexican American: All Generations
Mexican American Immigrants	0.792	0.079	0.045	0.916
Second Generation Mexican Americans	0.219	0.256	0.226	0.701
Third Generation Mexican Americans	0.060	0.099	0.505	0.664
All Mexican-American Husbands	0.512	0.109	0.196	0.817

**Table 4: Selected Results for Demographic and Employment Outcomes, Married Couple Sample**

A. Married Women	No. Children <18 yrs		Annual Work Hours		Log Wages (FT)	
	coef	se	coef	se	coef	se
education	-0.026	0.001	68.49	1.00	0.097	0.001
spouse education	0.0062	0.0006	-8.98	0.43	0.0031	0.0003
immig: pre 1961 arrival	0.476	0.250	-835.70	172.85	0.025	0.160
immig: 1961-70 arrival	-0.079	0.155	-926.21	124.09	-0.061	0.122
immig: 1971-80 arrival	-0.084	0.120	-777.13	101.22	-0.114	0.106
immig: 1981-90 arrival	0.026	0.095	-733.33	77.97	-0.187	0.085
immig: 1991-96 arrival	-0.041	0.073	-729.16	59.08	-0.217	0.065
immig: 1997-2002 arrival	-0.165	0.070	-725.28	57.72	-0.202	0.061
spouse immig: pre 1961 arrival	0.604	0.208	-38.58	155.68	0.045	0.146
spouse immig: 1961-70 arrival	0.298	0.147	89.50	123.06	0.058	0.117
spouse immig: 1971-80 arrival	0.270	0.124	220.94	103.63	0.116	0.101
spouse immig: 1981-90 arrival	0.139	0.098	135.84	79.77	0.020	0.079
spouse immig: 1991-96 arrival	0.106	0.077	161.19	63.00	0.055	0.061
spouse immig: 1997-2002 arrival	0.090	0.077	149.58	63.68	0.077	0.062
years since migration (ysm)	0.050	0.008	43.41	6.27	0.007	0.008
ysm squared (/100)	-0.141	0.023	-54.75	14.07	-0.018	0.017
spouse years since migration (sysm)	0.019	0.008	-11.17	6.01	-0.008	0.006
sysm squared (/100)	-0.064	0.017	23.68	11.15	0.019	0.012
Mex Imm, Spouse 2nd gen Mexican	0.157	0.072	-53.79	56.94	0.016	0.052
Mex imm, Spouse 3rd gen Mexican	-0.012	0.089	-40.70	70.65	-0.030	0.060
2nd gen Mexican, Spouse Mex Immig	0.219	0.063	-70.35	51.43	-0.124	0.041
Both 2nd gen Mexican	0.322	0.050	-8.49	36.69	-0.067	0.029
2nd gen Mexican, Spouse 3rd gen Mexican	0.340	0.055	87.72	43.75	-0.083	0.032
3rd gen Mexican, Spouse Mex Imm	0.304	0.072	-127.66	58.73	-0.111	0.046
3rd gen Mexican, Spouse 2nd gen Mexican	0.252	0.052	99.78	38.80	-0.095	0.028
Both 3rd gen Mexican	0.336	0.026	-3.48	20.26	-0.124	0.016

**Table 4: Selected Results for Demographic and Employment Outcomes, Married Couple Sample (ctd)**

B. Married Men	Log Wages (FT)		Annual Work Hours	
	coef	se	coef	se
education	0.076	0.001	49.97	0.77
spouse education	0.0024	0.0003	2.37	0.34
immig: pre 1961 arrival	-0.222	0.103	-448.36	133.57
immig: 1961-70 arrival	-0.282	0.075	-294.15	103.05
immig: 1971-80 arrival	-0.263	0.063	-141.68	86.72
immig: 1981-90 arrival	-0.326	0.049	-74.30	66.73
immig: 1991-96 arrival	-0.327	0.038	-40.52	51.68
immig: 1997-2002 arrival	-0.241	0.039	-103.89	53.14
spouse immig: pre 1961 arrival	-0.004	0.117	124.85	147.37
spouse immig: 1961-70 arrival	-0.008	0.078	-33.47	105.57
spouse immig: 1971-80 arrival	-0.027	0.062	-129.98	86.06
spouse immig: 1981-90 arrival	-0.099	0.048	-127.36	65.58
spouse immig: 1991-96 arrival	-0.060	0.036	-49.92	49.06
spouse immig: 1997-2002 arrival	-0.115	0.035	-61.23	48.47
years since migration (ysm)	0.018	0.004	11.65	5.24
ysm squared (/100)	-0.033	0.009	1.08	10.38
spouse years since migration (sysm)	-0.005	0.004	7.04	5.21
sysm squared (/100)	0.006	0.009	-25.66	11.28
Mex Imm, Spouse 2nd gen Mexican	-0.003	0.031	-59.82	42.86
Mex imm, Spouse 3rd gen Mexican	-0.053	0.037	-140.93	50.28
2nd gen Mexican, Spouse Mex Immig	-0.107	0.035	27.05	47.90
Both 2nd gen Mexican	-0.146	0.024	-94.26	31.69
2nd gen Mexican, Spouse 3rd gen Mexican	-0.189	0.024	-72.14	33.45
3rd gen Mexican, Spouse Mex Imm	-0.158	0.042	-67.38	57.66
3rd gen Mexican, Spouse 2nd gen Mexican	-0.208	0.027	-171.15	36.93
Both 3rd gen Mexican	-0.185	0.013	-145.14	17.22

Note: controls include age, spouse age, region, msa, calif, texas, and dummies for spouse white nonhispanic, and spouse other non-Mexican origin. Female sample includes white nonhispanic third generation women married to white nonhispanic third generation men and married women of Mexican origin; male sample includes white nonhispanic third generation men married to white nonhispanic third generation women and married men of Mexican origin.

**Table A1: Sample Sizes for Basic Regression Analyses**

Group	Men	Women
Third Generation White, Nonhispanics	286531	300008
Mexican Americans		
Immigrants	20733	18858
Second Generation	7456	8214
Third Generation	11348	12664

**Table A2: Selected Regression Results for Demographic and Labor Market Outcomes, Controlling only for Age and Year**

Dependent Variable	Marriage				No. Children <18	
	Men		Women		Women	
	coef	se	coef	se	coef	se
immig: pre 1961 arrival	-0.171	0.051	0.189	0.056	1.319	0.190
immig: 1961-70 arrival	-0.191	0.033	0.158	0.036	0.598	0.100
immig: 1971-80 arrival	-0.208	0.024	0.125	0.027	0.417	0.069
immig: 1981-90 arrival	-0.117	0.017	0.116	0.020	0.477	0.052
imig: 1991-96 arrival	-0.095	0.011	0.186	0.013	0.396	0.034
immig: 1997-2002 arrival	-0.157	0.010	0.115	0.012	0.184	0.030
years since mig (ysm)	0.017	0.002	-0.004	0.002	0.058	0.006
ysm squared (/100)	-0.028	0.004	-0.005	0.005	-0.188	0.017
2nd gen Mexican-American	-0.038	0.005	-0.035	0.005	0.386	0.014
3rd gen Mexican-American	-0.031	0.005	-0.048	0.005	0.266	0.012

Dependent Variable	Annual Work Hours				Unemployment   in Labor Force			
	Men		Women		Men		Women	
	coef	se	coef	se	coef	se	coef	se
immig: pre 1961 arrival	-482.3	101.2	-949.3	114.4	0.052	0.029	0.191	0.036
immig: 1961-70 arrival	-438.0	64.1	-1000.9	74.6	0.086	0.018	0.179	0.023
immig: 1971-80 arrival	-340.3	48.1	-839.0	56.4	0.055	0.013	0.143	0.018
immig: 1981-90 arrival	-234.4	34.1	-835.0	40.2	0.038	0.009	0.139	0.014
imig: 1991-96 arrival	-130.8	22.4	-839.2	26.0	0.019	0.006	0.127	0.009
immig: 1997-2002 arrival	-82.8	19.4	-751.5	24.0	0.012	0.005	0.092	0.008
years since mig (ysm)	6.6	3.3	26.9	3.9	-0.001	0.001	-0.004	0.001
ysm squared (/100)	1.2	8.1	-25.9	9.3	-0.001	0.002	0.001	0.003
2nd gen Mexican-American	-148.2	10.7	-111.8	11.3	0.032	0.003	0.047	0.003
3rd gen Mexican-American	-177.2	9.0	-122.2	9.3	0.027	0.003	0.026	0.002

Dependent Variable	Log Wages (FT)			
	Men		Women	
	coef	se	coef	se
immig: pre 1961 arrival	-0.402	0.087	-0.335	0.126
immig: 1961-70 arrival	-0.459	0.052	-0.394	0.084
immig: 1971-80 arrival	-0.548	0.039	-0.432	0.068
immig: 1981-90 arrival	-0.606	0.028	-0.553	0.051
imig: 1991-96 arrival	-0.573	0.019	-0.560	0.036
immig: 1997-2002 arrival	-0.541	0.016	-0.563	0.032
years since mig (ysm)	0.006	0.003	-0.004	0.005
ysm squared (/100)	-0.011	0.007	0.015	0.012
2nd gen Mexican-American	-0.175	0.010	-0.136	0.011
3rd gen Mexican-American	-0.214	0.008	-0.185	0.009

**Table A3: Means of Explanatory Variables by Group**

	Nonhispanic Whites				Mexican Americans			
	Third Generation		Immigrants		Second Generation		Third Generation	
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
age	38.90	39.18	34.20	35.21	31.58	31.82	34.14	34.85
age squared	1687.5	1710.7	1298.6	1379.9	1190.9	1207.0	1324.7	1372.4
age <sup>3</sup>	79370.5	80928.9	54159.1	59350.8	52102.3	52987.5	56966.0	59629.1
age <sup>4</sup>	395918	405838	244497	275554	253596	258175	264749	279261
education	7	9	0	6	8	3	1	8
immig: pre 1961 arrival	13.240	13.220	8.670	8.667	11.718	11.683	11.913	11.847
immig: 1961-70 arrival	0	0	0.020	0.023	0	0	0	0
immig: 1971-80 arrival	0	0	0.060	0.068	0	0	0	0
immig: 1981-90 arrival	0	0	0.215	0.218	0	0	0	0
imig: 1991-96 arrival	0	0	0.351	0.323	0	0	0	0
immig: 1997-2002 arrival	0	0	0.218	0.248	0	0	0	0
years since mig (ysm)	0	0	0.135	0.120	0	0	0	0
ysm squared (/100)	0	0	14.34	14.69	0	0	0	0
year=1994	0	0	3.1	3.2	0	0	0	0
year=1995	0.102	0.102	0.085	0.086	0.093	0.087	0.089	0.085
year=1996	0.102	0.102	0.094	0.090	0.093	0.094	0.084	0.085
year=1997	0.102	0.101	0.092	0.093	0.097	0.093	0.089	0.089
year=1998	0.100	0.100	0.099	0.093	0.099	0.095	0.092	0.089
year=1999	0.100	0.100	0.099	0.097	0.105	0.096	0.099	0.096
year=2000	0.100	0.101	0.095	0.097	0.093	0.099	0.110	0.109
year=2001	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.103	0.090	0.102	0.108	0.109
year=2002	0.099	0.099	0.102	0.106	0.097	0.107	0.102	0.112
year=2003 (omitted category)	0.098	0.098	0.117	0.116	0.115	0.111	0.112	0.109
lives in metropolitan area	0.097	0.097	0.118	0.120	0.118	0.115	0.117	0.116
lives in california	0.762	0.762	0.905	0.912	0.900	0.901	0.856	0.861
lives in texas	0.079	0.078	0.460	0.493	0.456	0.450	0.286	0.294
New England Census Division	0.057	0.057	0.200	0.213	0.284	0.302	0.421	0.431
Middle Atlantic Census Division	0.055	0.055	0.002	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.002	0.002
East North Central Census Division	0.133	0.134	0.032	0.023	0.007	0.007	0.006	0.005
West North Central Census Division	0.190	0.190	0.081	0.071	0.073	0.069	0.053	0.050
South Atlantic Census Division	0.092	0.090	0.018	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.022	0.018
East South Central Census Division	0.173	0.173	0.058	0.038	0.022	0.023	0.025	0.023
West South Central Census Division	0.071	0.073	0.006	0.004	0.002	0.002	0.006	0.005
Mountain Census Division	0.099	0.099	0.207	0.218	0.290	0.309	0.431	0.441
Pacific Census Division (omitted category)	0.065	0.064	0.108	0.112	0.116	0.109	0.156	0.145
Sample Size	0.122	0.121	0.488	0.516	0.474	0.465	0.300	0.311
	286531	300008	20733	18858	7456	8214	11348	12664

**Table A4: Selected Regression Results for Demographic and Labor Market Outcomes (Adult Immigrants Only)**

Dependent Variable	Marriage				No. Children <18			
	Men		Women		Women		Women	
	coef	se	coef	se	coef	se	coef	se
immig: pre 1961 arrival	0.036	0.085	0.146	0.088	--	--	--	--
immig: 1961-70 arrival	-0.054	0.046	0.184	0.051	0.706	0.199	0.583	0.192
immig: 1971-80 arrival	-0.100	0.032	0.138	0.035	0.314	0.090	0.197	0.087
immig: 1981-90 arrival	-0.077	0.023	0.100	0.025	0.172	0.066	0.082	0.063
imig: 1991-96 arrival	-0.052	0.015	0.191	0.016	0.150	0.044	0.011	0.043
immig: 1997-2002 arrival	-0.116	0.012	0.132	0.014	-0.005	0.036	-0.103	0.034
years since mig (ysm)	0.022	0.003	-0.002	0.003	0.088	0.008	0.091	0.008
ysm squared (/100)	-0.046	0.008	-0.006	0.008	-0.344	0.031	-0.346	0.030
second gen Mexican-American	-0.0002	0.006	-0.006	0.006	0.377	0.015	0.373	0.014
third gen Mexican-American	-0.005	0.005	-0.030	0.005	0.241	0.012	0.260	0.012
control for marital status?	----	----	----	----	no		yes	

Dependent Variable	Annual Work Hours				Unemployment   in Labor Force			
	Men		Women		Men		Women	
	coef	se	coef	se	coef	se	coef	se
immig: pre 1961 arrival	-79.6	165.0	-378.5	178.4	0.014	0.055	0.151	0.060
immig: 1961-70 arrival	-135.2	90.4	-692.9	102.8	0.085	0.025	0.054	0.032
immig: 1971-80 arrival	-29.1	62.4	-453.2	70.9	0.033	0.017	0.084	0.023
immig: 1981-90 arrival	-20.7	45.2	-471.9	51.4	0.018	0.012	0.087	0.018
imig: 1991-96 arrival	27.1	29.2	-551.5	33.1	-0.009	0.008	0.091	0.012
immig: 1997-2002 arrival	96.4	22.8	-486.1	27.7	-0.019	0.006	0.055	0.009
years since mig (ysm)	17.7	5.0	29.8	5.6	-0.002	0.001	-0.004	0.002
ysm squared (/100)	-22.2	15.2	-27.7	16.9	0.001	0.004	0.004	0.006
second gen Mexican-American	-54.2	10.9	-12.4	11.5	0.019	0.003	0.034	0.003
third gen Mexican-American	-103.5	9.3	-20.6	9.7	0.017	0.003	0.015	0.003

Dependent Variable	Log Wages (FT)			
	Men		Women	
	coef	se	coef	se
immig: pre 1961 arrival	-0.079	0.178	-0.185	0.223
immig: 1961-70 arrival	-0.191	0.071	-0.051	0.102
immig: 1971-80 arrival	-0.172	0.046	-0.007	0.076
immig: 1981-90 arrival	-0.341	0.034	-0.170	0.059
imig: 1991-96 arrival	-0.303	0.023	-0.220	0.042
immig: 1997-2002 arrival	-0.247	0.018	-0.243	0.032
years since mig (ysm)	0.002	0.004	-0.004	0.007
ysm squared (/100)	0.002	0.012	0.013	0.019
second gen Mexican-American	-0.127	0.010	-0.082	0.010
third gen Mexican-American	-0.138	0.008	-0.093	0.008

Other controls include: a quartic in age, years of schooling, 8 Census region dummies, an MSA dummy, dummies for California and Texas, and year dummies.