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RESEARCH ARTICLE

EXAMINING DRUG TRAFFICKING AS SUPPLEMENTAL INCOME AMONG HISPANIC IMMIGRANTS: A CULTURAL PERSPECTIVE

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ABSTRACT

North Carolina is ranked as the 10th most impoverished state for children in the US. Over 40% of the Latino populations under 18 live in poverty in eastern North Carolina. Each family member must contribute resources, playing an essential role supplementing the household income. Many families work in the tobacco and produce fields, yet must earn additional income to survive. Migrant families need children to contribute to the income. As a result, children may suffer multiple consequences including absenteeism from school during harvest season, pesticide and tobacco poisoning and loss of family income. Migrant families seldom receive adequate medical care, proper protective gear, sanitary conditions and nutrition while working in the fields. Individuals may not be supplied with proper protective gear while working in the fields and/or simultaneously despite being exposed to harmful pesticides daily. Some families may view drug trafficking as a necessary alternative to the daily exposure to dangerous chemicals. Families may be living in the shadows of the law as undocumented, migrant workers; including those workers who are legal face issues of prejudice and discrimination, placing them in the assumed threat of deportation. However, illegal activity is a more optimal and expeditious method of contributing to their economic household. Thus drug trafficking is a seemingly more profitable and safer means for supplementing to the children, their family and on their community. This systematic literature review will examine existing literature regarding drug trafficking among Hispanic Immigrants as a means of providing supplemental family income. From the perspective of the families, drug trafficking is a means of survival, which in turn ensures their overall health and can provide a channel for societal and economical advancement. Finding substantive research is challenging due to the illegal hiring of immigrants by farmers and corporations and the risks that are posed against the immigrant population and employers. Implications for social work practice are discussed and strategies for designing, advocating and implementing programs surrounding ethical issues that reduce the isolationism of the Hispanic Immigrant populations with the goal of establishing positive community supportive networks.

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INTRODUCTION

In recent year the number of Latino Immigrants has increased and caused numerous issues at the US-Mexico border and several political debates. According to the Human Rights Watch reports, at these borders many children are separated from their families and are left in the United States without the guidance of their parents or guardians who came with them, numerous permanent residents of the United States have been deported due to minor and outdated drug offenses and those that remain are still left to live in the shadows. Latin Migrants have a high distrust of the legal system and those who wear a uniform to protect them, as many are afraid of deportation or insufficient attention to their concern. Corporations are now

being linked to human traffickers in order to bring in people to work in different types of labor, including farm work, construction, and often forced into more dangerous livelihoods such as sex and drugs. Many are afraid of the risk of deportation should an act of violence occur against them or a major health concern arises. Documented or undocumented these individuals have rights to job and social safety as well as medical care, yet these rights are not always known, discussed or advocated. Either due to lack of fair play jobs or immigration status the living conditions for many immigrants are poor. The buildings are often dilapidated and unsanitary. They are often without heat or A/C, running water, a cooking space or even a bathroom. As mentioned in one HRW examination a teenager recounts about his living conditions when he first came to the US and began working in the tobacco field. He states that his two parents and three sibling

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lived in a warehouse with two combines and a small coal grill for over two years. Not only are living conditions and the looming poverty threshold of concern there are numerous field labor risks associated with Latino farmworkers. Many laborers work with their families in tobacco and produce fields. Suffering from pesticide poisoning, poor medical care, decreased working health standards, tobacco poisoning and numerous others. The working conditions are bad for everyone, but have particular, potential long-term damage associated with the children, minors and pregnant women who are working in the field as well. There is a strong cultural value with in Latino families often referred to as "familismo." It is a display of the dedication to family and their well-being seen in how each member plays an integral role in the family success both in the economically and socially. In 2009 Jargowsky found that immigrant families living with minor children were more likely to be living below the poverty threshold. This is particularly important and of concern in US politics today. North Carolina is the tenth highest impoverished state for children in the US. Over forty percent of the Latino populations under the age of 18 live in poverty in ENC (Mitchell, 2013). A seemingly less harmful and more profitable means of survival may be drug trafficking as many of the families and individuals have a mistrust of law enforcement. These families are already living within the shadows of the law by as undocumented, migrant workers; including those workers who are legal face issues of prejudice and discrimination, placing them in the unnerving threat of deportation. At some point a means supplemental income as a means of survival is imperative. Drug trafficking is often a more profitable means for supplementing income than local flea markets or crafts.

Purpose and Rationale

The purpose of this paper is to review the presenting challenges that Latino face in contributing to both their family's well being and their own academic success. This paper will provide an exploratory perspective on drug trafficking and how it impacts the survival of these families and communities. Methods will be delineated and analyzed that will demonstrate how social workers can effectively intervene, provide strategies and propose policy implementations. This topic is significant because Eastern North Carolina alone utilizes a large number of seasonal workers and many of these Hispanic workers are being targeted by politicians and local communities as the source for the increase in illegal activities along the 85, 95 and 40 corridors (Camp, 2015). Often in these debates the health of these children and adolescents are not taken into consideration. There is even less consideration for medical care for these adolescents and children. Evidenced by long working hours in places that does not meet working health standards; including, places to wash their hands, bathrooms, proper safety attire, and exposure to pesticides (Wurth, 2014; Coursen, 2010). The goals of this paper will focus on the existing literary data that analyze, define and finally propose effective methods to build a network of local entities that are supportive of this population and willing to assist the Latino and immigrant population. This paper seeks to invoke further discussion of the need to focus on Hispanics and immigrant populations who are not receiving appropriate medical care and who are exposed on a daily basis to harmful pesticides as well as violence in the drug trafficking sub culture. Even though there

are national and state level initiatives they are irregularly implemented or if at all. Thus the research question is, How many scholarly, peer reviewed articles in the past ten years research Hispanic immigrants using drug trafficking as supplemental income from a cultural perspective?

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Before beginning the review several potential problems were identified. Due to the sensitivity of the subject ranging from possible political and racial biases to lack of substantive number of pertinent articles. The Cochrane Systematic review method was chosen to address the issues in order to ensure the most reliable data. The Cochrane review is an eight-step process and was used for this review (Figure 1). The purpose is to synthesize and review what literature is available in academia and the final review question was derived from Figure 1, "How many scholarly, peer reviewed articles in the past ten years research Hispanic immigrants using drug trafficking as supplemental income from a cultural perspective?" Encompasses many of the limiters used for Step two of the Cochrane system. The population identified is Hispanic Immigrants and intervention used by the population would be supplemental income due to poverty achieved by drug trafficking. The cultural perspective was added to ensure non-bias of the articles and problem development; if there were any biases they would be recognizable and defined from the cultural perspective of the article. The search engines utilized through the East Carolina University databases were (SocINDEX with Full Text, Anthropology Plus, Clase and Periódica, Criminal Justice Abstracts with Full Text, Education Research Complete, Humanities International Complete, North American Women's Letters and Diaries, PsycARTICLES, PsycINFO, Social Work Abstracts, Women's Studies International) and duplicates were automatically removed from the search results. These databases were chosen due to cultural sensitivity, a rounding of biopsychosocial approaches, economics and international policy ensuring relevancy and an encompassing, holistic approach. The databases pulled articles from various disciplines and thus varied in studies conducted as qualitative; through ethnography, historical and policy implications, and quantitative; giving enlighten to economic basis for drug trafficking and the drug industry, as well as criminal justice relationships to drugs and Hispanics. Once the original search was conducted separate limiters were added for scholarly peer reviewed journals and articles as well as articles published within the past ten years to obtain the most recent, reliable sources (N = 24). From there a face validity test was conducted eliminating 12 articles due to the following factors; an editors introduction to a journal, literature reviews, articles that did not address all of the keywords those that offered duplicate information and one regarding a language barrier, Portuguese (n = 12). After the face validity was conducted (n = 12) articles remained. Thus 12 articles were analyzed and summarized. From this analysis four prevalent themes were identified: policy and diplomacy geographic disbursement, economic factors and immigration.

RESULTS

The number of scholarly, peer-reviewed article over the past ten years that research Hispanic immigrants using drug trafficking as supplemental income from a cultural perspective is 24.

Table 1. Literature Review Matrix

Study	N	Activities	Research Design	Measures	Statistical Analysis	Outcomes
The Dangerous Drug Offender in Federal Court: Intersections of Race, Ethnicity, and Culpability	1692	Comparison in charge or previous charges (possession, trafficking, weapon), gender and race/ethnicity with length of sentence	Quantitative	Geographical, history, gender, charge variables, race/ethnicity, sentence length	Regression analysis	Blacks receive longer sentences than other races. Yet, Hispanics are still high showing some prejudice
Drugs and development: The global impact of drug use and trafficking on social and economic development	N/A	Analyze and synthesize statistics and reports from global organizations	Qualitative	Violence, sustainability, economic growth, drug trends, children, pharmaceutical, health issues, political involvement	N/A	Correlation between growing global economies and lucrative illegal drug trafficking and use
Presentación	N/A	Synthesis and introduction of the decriminalization and legalization of drugs, trafficking and history the Americas	N/A	N/A	N/A	Introduction of the variables associated with drug trafficking; political corruption, violence, danger and social consequences
Lapenalización de drogas en América Latina desde el marco legal y constitucional	10 countries	Compare and contrast Latin American drug policies and penal systems	Qualitative	For each country; history, policy, laws, penalties, consumers, agriculture and overall involvement with illicit drugs	N/A	Countries split into 3 segments: most conflict and consumerism (Mexico & US); agricultural and distribution (Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia); decriminalizing legislation (Argentina, Chile, Uruguay, and Brazil).
Exploring Narco-Sovereignty/Violence: Analyzing Illegal Networks, Crime, Violence and Legitimation in a Peruvian Cocaine Enclave	N/A	Long term ethnography: informal interviews, observation, and conversation	Qualitative	History, local definitions, ethnographic 'thick descriptions', outline of the illegal hierarchy and network, and economic development	Ethnography	Legal and illegal domains are intertwined via economic interests and social functions. Both could benefit from legalization, specifically through decreased violence.
Los intentos de reforma de las políticas sobre drogas en América Latina	N/A	Historical policy analysis	Qualitative	Policy changes, parties involved, global trends, historical contexts	N/A	Policy makers do not take into account the most vulnerable populations that are affected by the implementation of the new policies. Drug policy reform should begin on a small scale and then expand.
The 'Pre-Colombian' Era of Drug Trafficking in the Americas; Cocaine, 1945-1965	N/A	Historical context	Qualitative	Historical contexts, laws, profit incentives, demand, war, drug trends	N/A	Cold War politics enhanced the cocaine industry along with other illicit drugs
Narcogeografías	N/A	Review of narcotic maps created by US government organizations	Literature Review	Cultural contexts, repercussions, bias, political investments, foreign influence	N/A	The maps created by the US government agencies are biased and misleading. They are not a reflection of the true geographic area and are highly influenced by political agendas
La conexión cubana: Narcotráfico, contrabando y juego en Cuba entre los años 20 y comienzos de la Revolución	N/A	Review of Historical Narrative	N/A	Looks at the dynamics between China, Cuba, France and the US	N/A	Highlights the rise in drug trafficking as an effort to undermine the US anti-socialism campaign.
Urban segregation and the US heroin market: A quantitative model of anthropological hypotheses from an inner-city drug market	N = 21 MSA (Metropolitan Statistical Areas) Others varied from STRIDE data	Participant Observation, informal interviews, statistical analysis,	Mixed methods: Qualitative (ethnography) and Quantitative Analysis	Segregation, ethnicity, geographic disbursement, purity and price of heroin	Correlations	Higher purity and decreased price was found amongst urban areas with a larger segregated population of Puerto Ricans. No correlation was found for purity or cost in African American communities.

Latin America's Drug Problem	N/A	Policy and historical review	N/A	N/A	N/A	Drug trafficking is a global issue and should be handled from a multicultural and collective approach. Anti-drug abuse in America has been successful yet transitioning it into an effective international policy is unlikely
El debate sobre políticas de drogas en América Latina	N/A	Historical and political analysis	Literature review	N/A	N/A	Highlighted the numerous rebellions, genocides, revolutions and guerilla wars that began due to the War on Drugs. The author is in favor of the legalization for marijuana at various political levels, citing this as a positive move towards the future.
Immigrants and Neighborhoods of Concentrated Poverty: Assimilation or Stagnation	N ≈ 4000 per neighborhood	Census data	Quantitative	Country of origin, US arrival, race and ethnicity, socioeconomic assimilation	Regression analysis	Immigrants move from high to low poverty neighborhoods when cultural institutions are similar and English is proficient. Mexican immigrants do not transition as fast.
Who Are the Latino Baby Boomers? Demographic and Economic Characteristics of a Hidden Population	N ≈ 3,992,849	Existing demographic statistics and an additional questionnaire	Quantitative	Questionnaire. Sex, marital status, education, homeownership, disability, poverty, income	Macro-level statistical analysis	Latino baby boomers had lower economic advantages and increased hardship compared to their counterparts. Although citizenship seemed to make a considerable positive difference
Moving Up in Rural America: Economic Attainment of Nonmetro Latin Immigrants	N = unclear	Data pulled from existing demographic data from 2000 and 2006-2007	Quantitative Multivariate Analyses	Economic mobility, employment type, home ownership and poverty status	Logistic regression	Prior to 2000 Latino Immigrants had higher rates of economic success in rural areas. Since then the advantage has tipped towards urban success.
Economic Insecurity and Access to the Social Safety Net among Latino Farmworker Families	N = 10,469	Predictors of social welfare participation from the National Agricultural Workers Survey 2005-2009	Quantitative	National Agricultural Workers Survey 2005-2009 Multivariate Analyses	Logistic Regression	Decrease in English language, recent immigration, poverty, social integration, legal status, family composition and types of employment effect the Latino immigrant's access to social support systems
Latino Confidence in the Police: The Role of Immigration Enforcement, Assimilation, and Immigration Status	N = 2,015	Telephone survey	Quantitative	Questionnaire, weight adjustments	Logistic Regression	Latinos have less confidence in police to provide for their safety and protection
Teens of the Tobacco Fields	N = 33	Interviews	Qualitative	Informal interviews, observation	N/A	Teens were not given protective gear or were able to follow the protective measures in the field resulting in health concerns. Many worked in order to help provided for the family
Social Work Practice with Latinos: Key Issues for Social Workers	N/A	Interviews and literature review	Qualitative	Variables include heterogeneity, transmigration, acculturation, workplace and job satisfaction, health disparities and concerns, welfare system, values and skills.	N/A	Emphasis on the working alliance and the need for cultural knowledge, sensitivity and bilingual practitioners.

Walking Out of One Culture Into Another: Health Concerns of Early Adolescent Latinos	N = 26	Informal interviews, focus groups, survey	Qualitative	Snowball sampling, questionnaire. Health concerns, gender disparities, language, and acculturation	N/A	Teenage girls seem to assimilate faster than boys due to the preference and acquisition of the English language. Latinas are placed at a higher risk of sexual violence.
You Don't Have Rights Here	N = 35	Interviews	Qualitative	Asylum seeking individuals from Honduras	N/A	Asylums seeking individual rights are violated when they are sent back to their countries. Children rarely come to the US without family.
A Price Too High	N/A	Census data and interviews	Qualitative	N/A	N/A	Drug reform should include immigration reform
Turning Migrants into Criminals	N = 35	Court records, interviews	Qualitative	N/A	N/A	Immigration and crime connection, Loopholes for serious threats, Asylum seekers, Legal avenues
The Impact of Local Immigration Enforcement Policies on the Health of Immigrant Hispanics/Latinos in the United States	Unclear	Existing data from 287 (g) county, focus groups, interviews	Qualitative and Quantitative	Prenatal care, questionnaire and existing data	Regression analysis	Seven themes were uncovered. 1. Immigration enforcement policies are not well understood. 2. Immigration enforcement policies compound existing distrust of services. 3. Immigration enforcement policies are perceived as condoning racism. 4. Immigration enforcement policies create practical barriers to accessing and utilizing health services. 5. Immigration enforcement policies reduce physical and mental health. 6. Immigration enforcement policies profoundly compromise child health. 7. Immigration enforcement policies lead to use of nonstandard and risky contingencies for care.
Family Obligation Across Contexts: Hispanic Youth in North Carolina and Southern California.	N = 552	Survey, questionnaire	Quantitative Multivariate Analysis	Family obligation: helping parents, family future and marital intentions (6 in total), ethnic identity	Regression analysis	North Carolinian youth, Geographic variation and demographic dispersion, and Ethnic identity positively correlate with Family Obligation. Local context and geographic areas do not affect Family obligation

Table 2. Synthesis of Keywords (drug, culture, Hispanic and Immigration) for Systematic Literature Review (SLR)

Years	Keywords	Limiters	Number of Articles
1982-2015	Drug trafficking + Hispanic		n = 81
1989-2015	Drug trafficking + Hispanic	Scholarly	n = 34
2006-2015	Drug trafficking + Hispanic	Past 10 years	N = 24
2006-2015	Drug trafficking + Hispanic	Face validity	n = 12

Engine Searches: SocINDEX with Full Text, Anthropology Plus, Clase and Periódica, Criminal Justice Abstracts with Full Text, Education Research Complete, Humanities International Complete, North American Women's Letters and Diaries, PsycARTICLES, PsycINFO, Social Work Abstracts, Women's Studies International

Table 3. Face Validity for Key Articles

Keywords	Limiters	Number of Articles
Drug trafficking + Hispanic	Search Engines, Peer Reviewed, 10 years (2006-2015), (-) Duplicates	N = 24
Drug trafficking + Hispanic	Articles were editor's introductions, or literature reviews	n = 21
Drug trafficking + Hispanic	(-) Article content did not address keywords	n = 15
Drug trafficking + Hispanic	(-) Duplicated information	n = 13
Drug trafficking + Hispanic	(-) Language restriction	n = 12

Table 4. Synthesis of Key Articles (From Face Validity)

Author/Date	Type of Study	Purpose	General Comments	Strengths and Limitations
Cevallos, (2013)	N/A	Synthesis and introduction of decriminalization and legalization of drugs, trafficking and history the Americas. This includes variables associated with drug trafficking; political corruption, violence, danger and social consequences	Good breakdown for various articles and history. Focused on other variables related to drug trafficking as a global whole.	+ Adds to the existing literature regarding drug trafficking, history, geography and policy - Brief synthesis of articles contained in editorial
Diaz, (2013)	Qualitative Comparative	Compare Latin American country's drug policies	Breaks the countries into 3 segments: most conflict and consumers (Mexico & US); agricultural and distribution (Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia); decriminalizing legislation (Argentina, Chile, Uruguay, and Brazil).	+ Geographic breakdown (concentration areas and countries), policy explanation, history and origin - Slight bias shown towards some countries (i.e. Mexico vs. Colombia vs. Argentina, all drug-war torn, yet separated in the article.)
Dun, (2014)	Qualitative Long-term ethnography	Provide a detailed and broad understanding of the cocaine industry in Peru: the operators, legal officials and villagers	Economic, Geographic, social, and legal connections were discovered and outlined. Before and After picture from turf wars and legislation.	+ Example of intricately woven illegal and legal drug spheres. + Local definition of terms and culture - Little historical background and perspective from the villagers
Garrido, (2013)	Qualitative	Description and analysis of global drug policy reform, outlining how and when each occurred, the characteristics, results, effects and implications.	Historical coverage beginning with 1910 opioids to the Reagan administration to current day. Focuses on US, Colombia, Uruguay, Bolivia Ecuador, Mexico and Peru	+ Outline of intentions of policies and how they played out with various organizations and influences - Weak implications and suggestions for the future.

Gootenburg, (2007)	Qualitative Meta-Historical analysis	Recount drug trafficking in the “Pre-Columbian Era,” in order to uncover root causes and reflect possible future industry trends and key players	In depth historical recount. Focus on cocaine industry, little mentioned about marijuana	+ Numerous primary and secondary sources from journals, newspapers and interviews. + Breakdown by country + Identified Cold War politics as a key contributor to the growth of the cocaine industry - Future Implication were not given - Lacks US analysis + Provides a counter cultural perspective - Only reviews four articles, not comprehensive.
Lander, (2008)	Literature Review	Further explanation of geographic-narcotic maps produced by the US governmental agencies	Adds traditional drug use and origins Provides a counter cultural perspective Questions the intentions a validity of the produced maps	+ Combination of Qualitative and Quantitative data + Multidisciplinary Perspective - Validity tests and nonrandom data pools (STRIDE sourced data) - Further explanation of data and variables is needed.
Rosenblum et al, (2013)	Mixed methods: Qualitative (ethnography) and Quantitative Analysis	Determine geographic areas in Hispanic neighborhoods and the correlation with Columbian heroin, increase in price, purity and how it came into the US.	An in-depth attempt to quantify numerous qualitative data and variables.	+ Substantiate data + Shows the multiple variables that lead to drug trafficking problems on an international and national scale. - Author writes with a strong bias against the US
Rovner, (2005)	Historical Literature Review	Highlight and reveal the key players and events that led up to the Cuban revolution and rise in drug trafficking.	Argues that the Cold War ideologies fueled the Cuban revolution and increased drug trafficking	+ Defines the problem from multiple angles and with cultural relativism and sensitivity + Provides a successful example for overcoming drug abuse - No clear stance on legalization or decriminalization
Shifter, (2007)	Policy and Historical Literature Review	To define and uncover the main issues in drug trafficking in order to refocus and combat the problem	Drug trafficking is a global issue and should be handled from a multicultural and collective approach. Anti-drug abuse in America has been successful yet transitioning it into an effective international policy is unlikely.	-Lacks statistical data to back up the quantitative analysis or a good explanation as to why illegal drug trafficking correlates with the economic development
Singer, (2007)	Qualitative, Meta-Analysis of Global data.	Outline “development efforts within the context of globalism and global drug capitalism, this article examines the significant health and social impact both legal and illegal drugs have on international development efforts”	Effective correlations between development and the rise of psychotropic drug use and trafficking.	
Spohn, Sample, (2013)	Quantitative Statistical analyses	To explore relationship between dangerousness of the individual and violent crimes intersecting with the context of criminal charges and sentences for racial/ethnic and gender	The study revealed that Black receive longer sentences than Hispanics or Whites Showed that there is an ethnic and gender stereotype	+ Study piggyback off of a previous study using updated data. + Cross sections race gender and age - Seems to be slightly biased as their requirements for dangerousness and potential violence was a prior trafficking charge or the use of a weapon during the criminal offense - Only includes a few states
Youngers, (2013)	Political Analysis	Expose the negative consequences from the War on Drugs as evidence against US current drug policy and influence towards international drug policy	Highlighted the numerous rebellions, genocides, revolutions and guerilla wars that began due to the War on Drugs. Review of other Latin American Country drug policies; pros and cons Reviews the changes since the legalization of marijuana	+ Clear implications for further policy makers in the US + Review of pros and cons for legalization of marijuana - Lacks policy recommendations for countries in Latin American

Table 5. Prevalent Themes in Key Articles

Themes	n	Authors
Policy and Diplomacy	10	Cevallos, (2013); Diaz, (2013); Garrido, (2013); Gootenburg, (2007); Lander, (2008); Rosenblum et al, 2013; Rovner, (2005); Spohn and Sample, (2013); Singer, (2007); Youngers, (2013)
Immigration	3	Garrido, (2013); Gootenburg, (2007); Rovner, (2005)
Economic factors	4	Dun, (2014); Gootenberg, (2007); Rosenblum et al, (2013); Singer, (2006)
Geographic disbursement	6	Diaz, (2013); Dun, (2014); Garrido, (2013); Gootenburg, (2007); Lander, (2008); Rosenblum et al, (2013); Shifter, (2007)

Figure 1. Cochrane Systematic Review

1. Defining the review question and developing criteria for including studies	How many scholarly, peer reviewed articles in the past ten years research Hispanic Immigrants using drug trafficking as supplemental income from a cultural perspective?
2. Searching for Studies	Search Engines: Anthropology Plus, Clase and Periódica, Criminal Justice Abstracts with Full Text, Education Research Complete, Humanities International Complete, North American Women's Letters and Diaries, PsycARTICLES, PsycINFO, Social Work Abstracts, SocINDEX with Full Text, Women's Studies International; Keywords: Drug Trafficking + Hispanic; Limiters: Scholarly peer-reviewed journals in the past ten years
3. Searching studies and collecting data	Removed duplicates and duplicated information, editor introductions and reviews, articles not addressing key words and foreign language (Portuguese).
4. Assessing risk of bias in included studies	In attempts to eliminate risk of bias the literature review was conducted using the most relevant databases.
5. Analyzing data	4 prevalent themes were found among studies; majority of studies addressed history, diplomacy and immigration
6. Addressing and reporting biases	Only access was to university provided databases; only used articles focused on key words and eliminated articles using face validity
7. Presenting results and "summary of findings table	Table 1 = Face Validity, Table 2 = Keyword/Database Search, Table 3 = Prevalent Themes
8. Interpreting results and drawing conclusions	Economic, geographic, policy factors and war-torn countries have impacts on the rates of Immigration and the means used for survival.

Citation for Cochrane Systematic Review

The synthesis of the key words (Table 2), drug trafficking and Hispanic, found a total of 81 articles, which was then reduced by adding a scholarly, peer-reviewed limiter (n = 34) and finally a time limit of 10 years was introduced and producing 24 articles. After a face validity check (Table 3) twelve articles were removed due to the following factors; an editors introduction to a journal, literature reviews, articles that did not address all of the keywords those that offered duplicate information and one regarding a language barrier, Portuguese (n=12) From there synthesis of the 12 key articles was conducted (see Table 4). Information from all references included in tables 1 and 4 and was then combined, reviewed (Appendix 1) and qualitatively assessed for trends, implications, themes and key points. From this evaluation four themes emerged: policy and diplomacy, geographic disbursement, economic factors and immigration. Policy and Diplomacy was the most prevalent theme (n = 10), followed by geographic disbursement (n =6), economic factors (n = 4) and immigration (n = 3). As a whole the research points to international and overreaching national drug policies as the main contributors to poor economic and social factors. These negative factors are derived from war torn countries that led to increased immigration into the United States. Geographic disbursement is outlined in the literature on a micro (metro area) and macro (international or national) level. At the local level legal, social and economic arenas are intertwined with the drug industry, which can affect the type of drug found, purity, or price. On a national and international level, illicit drugs can be traced back to specific countries of origin through agriculture and commercial/illegal trafficking (Diaz, 2014).

Limitations of the Study

This study was limited in three main areas access to databases outside of the university, limited literature and time. Databases outside of the university might encompass more statistical evidence regarding the specific research question. It is clear that more academic research is needed in this area as a whole. There is a plethora in the nonacademic literature (Human Rights Watch, etc...) and in the news that detailing the daily life of immigrants and the issues they face. Yet, little to no research has been done regarding drug trafficking amongst Hispanic Immigrants in the nonacademic and academic spheres. This research is imperative in order to

inform the general public and the policy makers on local, state, national and international levels.

DISCUSSION

The professional/academic literature is limited in content breadth and depth as compared with the literature conducted by outside entities (HRW). This may be due to funding resources or IRB restrictions as Hispanic immigrants may be considered an at risk population. The study decided (n = 24) scholarly, peer-reviewed articles conducted in the last 10 years research Hispanic Immigrants using drug trafficking for supplemental income. It is clear that more research needs to be conducted in this area. This is imperative not only for the population to be studied, but also for sound studies in which policy makers may base future legislation concerning immigration and drug culture.

Summary and Interpretation of Findings

The available literature combined with the key articles painted a picture of life in Latin America and the reasons many migrate to the United States. There were four prevalent themes that emerged during this study: economic factors, geographic disbursement, policy and diplomacy and immigration. International support, the US declaration of the War on Drugs policy left devastating impacts in Latin America (Singer, 2008). As outlined in the HRW articles war-torn countries have direct impacts on the rates of immigration seen in at the Mexican-America border. When the families are either denied or split due to faulty legislation the individuals often enter into the US in the shadows and must find means for survival. Relying on seasonal work has an effect on the entire family (Yahirun, 2014). Each individual in the family plays a key role for family support and there is a strong cultural tradition regarding providing for one's family (Yahirun, 2014). The families and workers often experience high levels of stress, educational delays and a significant drop from the poverty threshold for families with young children (Yahirun, 2014). Future Research should expand upon socio-economic factors, access to social services, intervention and the effectiveness of new policies on the individuals and groups directly affected.

Application to Social Work Policy and Practice

Implications are discussed on an agency, practitioner and educational level. It is important for the any practitioner to be culturally aware, knowledgeable and sensitive. At an agency level, the organization can incorporate mental health services by licensed practitioners who are bilingual & culturally sensitive. Topic-based focus groups are helpful. Suggested topics; acculturation, transition and assimilation, education about legal rights as individuals, contingency intervention plans and prevention of future health disparities and legal disputes. Flexible hours are imperative. Onsite (in home) groups and transportation important as well (Furman, 2009). Practitioners are encouraged to evaluate any personal biases and 'use of self' are necessary for the practitioner to interact with this population and create a trust based alliance. It is also imperative for the practitioner to have a list of resources, networks and working knowledge of the legal processes and implications for this community. Keeping an open mind of survival and that there may be many biopsychosocial and cultural issues (Furman, 2009). Lastly, education is key. Both the practitioner and agencies need to be aware and updated on current movements, bills and education pushes at the policy level. By being fluent in the new and existing policies more social support can be gathered and the client/s will have better outcomes (Furman, 2009). In an effort to do so networking with local nonprofit or other agencies is beneficial.

Policy Reform and Changes

As mentioned in each Human Rights Watch Report, any change in immigration policy or drug policy requires a change in the other. With the long history of each reform policy littered with torn families, countries, death and identity it is imperative that a holistic approach be taken. With respects to immigrant children, it is a disservice and a violation of human rights to separate them from their families and leave them to navigate their new environment on their own. It is imperative that asylum seeking immigration reform be undertaken in America and a sufficient and detailed due-process extradition proceeding take place.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the plight of the Latino immigrants is one with specific features. Due to economic deprivation and policy affecting every detail of their life it is important to have substantiated academic research to better inform policy makers in the future. Nelson Mandela and Cesar Chavez both said it best, "It's ironic that those who till the soil, cultivate and harvest the fruits, vegetables, and other foods that fill your tables with abundance have nothing left for themselves," and from Mandela, "When a man is denied the right to live the life he believes in, he has no choice but to become an outlaw."

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