



Catholic Schools' Importance for Recent Immigrants

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“Most of us were once foreigners”—Pope Francis

- Urban Catholic schools excel at moving immigrants out of poverty



The Three L's

- Latinos
- Leadership
- Learning excellence: not just a religious school, but a great school



The current paradox

- Nearly 70% of practicing Catholics under 30 are Latino
- Only 3% send their children to Catholic schools
- Catholic schools are more likely to close in Hispanic neighborhoods than African American.

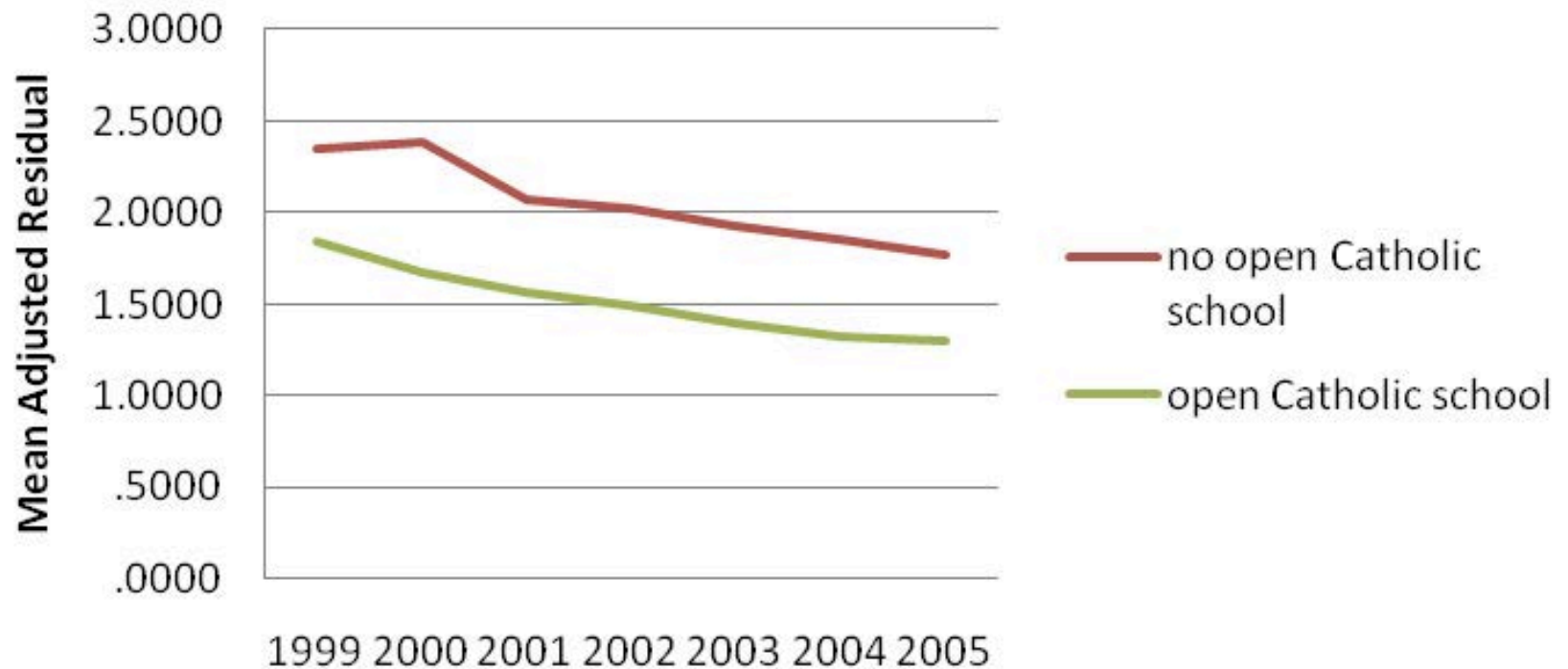


Catholic Schools Benefit Neighborhoods

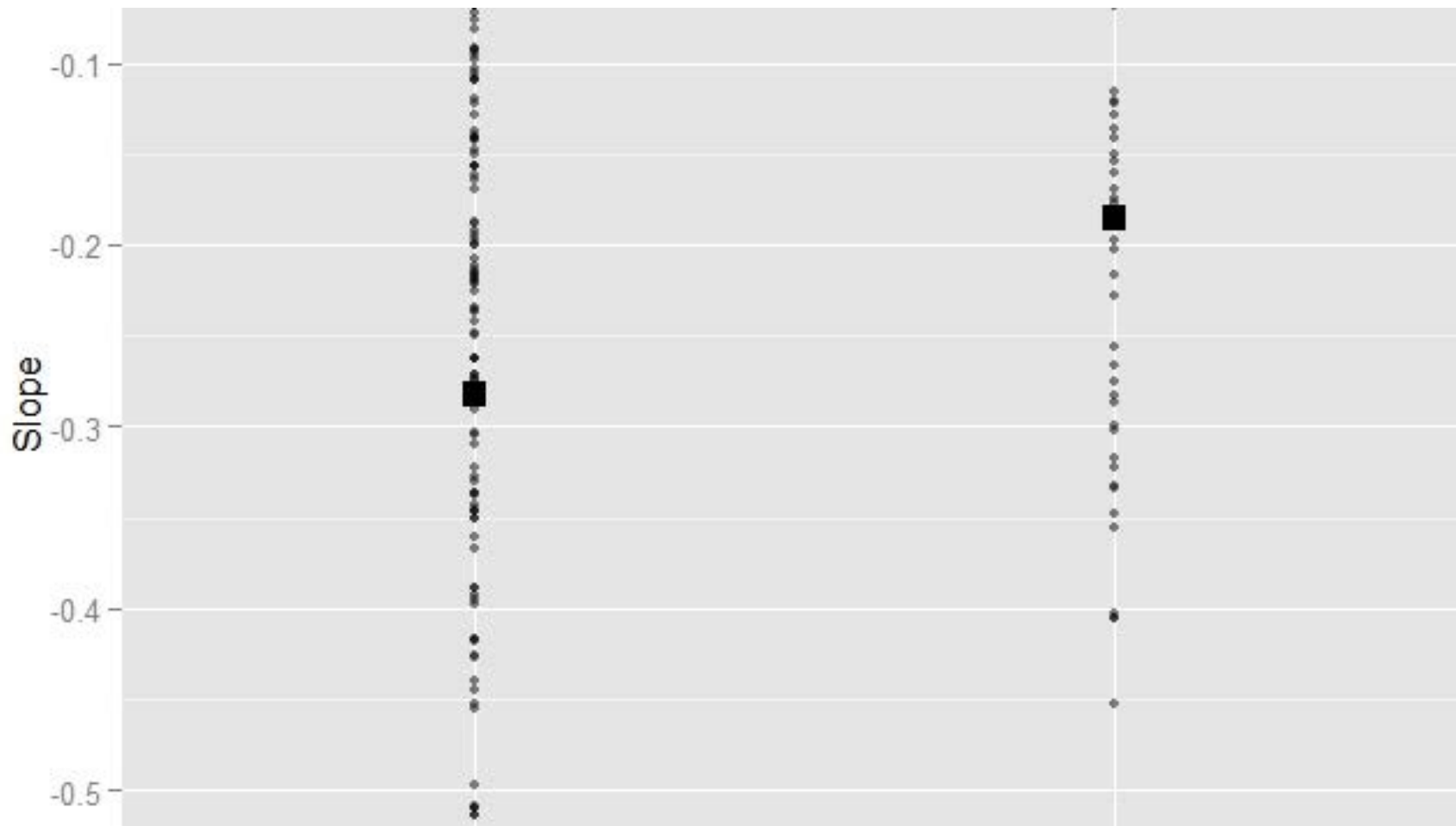


- In urban neighborhoods, Catholic schools keep trust alive when nothing else does
- When Catholic schools close, trust (social capital) declines
- With declining trust, crime increases
- Charter schools don't (yet?) have this powerful network effect

Comparison of Crime Rates with and without Catholic School



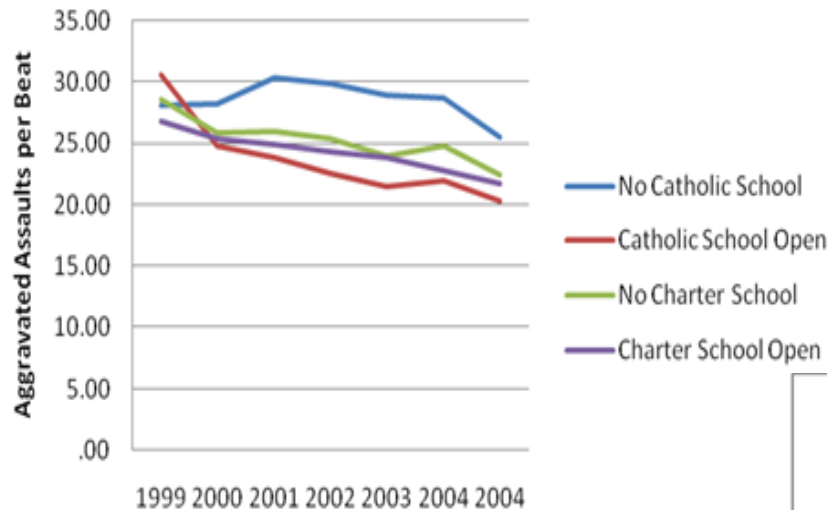
Effect of Closed Schools on Crime Rates



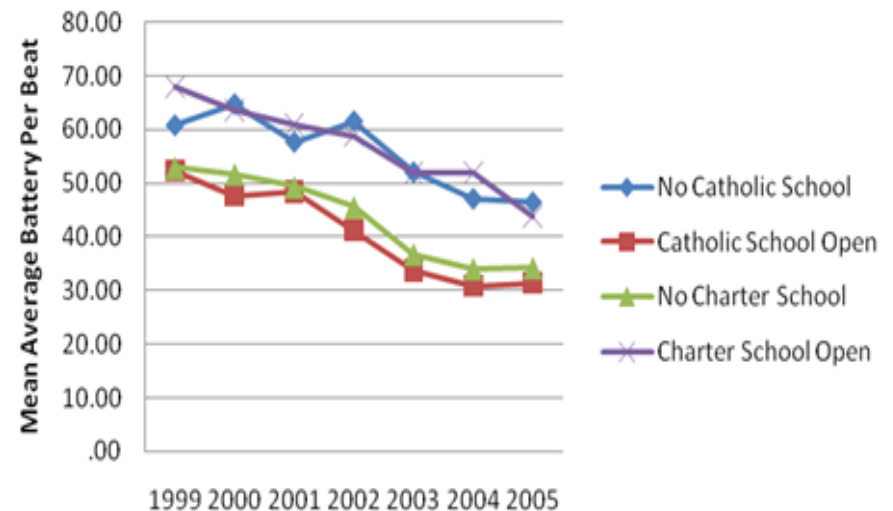
Preliminary Results: Catholic and Charter Schools



Aggravated Assaults



Aggravated Battery



Leadership and school closings



Variable	B	Exp(B)
irregularity in the parish	-2.304 (.160)**	10.010
years priest has been ordained	-0.012 (.004)**	1.012
share Black in census tract 1990	-2.189 (.149)**	8.923
share Hispanic in census tract 1990	-2.266 (.182)**	9.645
poverty rate in census tract 1990	-1.629 (.342)**	5.099
Constant	-2.758 (.163)**	.063

School Closing and Social Capital (Trust)



Table 2. Variables Predicting Perceived Neighborhood Social Disorder

	Unstandardized Coefficients	Standardized Coefficients
(Constant)	2.170 (.080)**	
Catholic school in neighborhood closed before 1995	.157 (.023)**	.121
share Black in census tract, 1990	.034 (.050)	.021
share Hispanic in census tract, 1990	.261 (.067)**	.123
median family income in census tract, 1990	.000 (.000)**	-.410

More hope

- Programs to help better serve Latinos:
<https://ace.nd.edu/catholic-school-advantage/>
- <https://ace.nd.edu/academies/>
- Twenty-three states including Arizona (and DC) now have tuition funding through scholarships, tax credits for scholarship donations, and educational savings plans
- Other communities, including, for example, Tucson, have private philanthropic support



Archdiocese of Chicago schools



- Largest nonpublic school system in United States, about 96,000 students currently. The number of schools shrank from around 400 in 1984 to 267 in 2004.
- Questions:
 - Did school closings affect neighborhoods as well as students?
 - Does social cohesion predict less crime, and disorder predict it? (Nicole, the “Broken Windows” hypothesis)
 - Do charter schools affect social cohesion like Catholic schools?