Integration of Latino Immigrants in Small Midwestern Communities

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Overview

Immigrant integration is a dynamic, two-way process in which the newcomers and receiving community work together to build safe, vibrant, and unified communities.

Strategic Pathways to Integration

- Communitywide Planning
- Language & Education
- Health, Well-being, and Economic Mobility
- Equal Treatment and Opportunity
- Social and Cultural Interaction
- Citizenship and Civic Participation

Immigrant Latino Parent Interviews

- 6 counties served by the Child Care Resource Service Central Illinois
- Spanish speaking immigrant parents

Sample Demographics

- N = 72 (93% mothers)
- 91% born in Mexico
- 56% employed outside home

Immigrant Latino Parent Interviews

- Variety of recruitment strategies
  - Direct solicitation at community and service events, posting of flyers, agency referrals, participant referrals
  - Individual interview with bilingual interviewers
  - Broad-based needs assessment

Sample Demographics

- N = 72 (93% mothers)
- 91% born in Mexico
- 56% employed outside home
Education

- 81% went to school in Mexico
- 46% have 8 or fewer years education
- 37% have completed high school

Would you say that you can carry on a conversation in English, both understanding and speaking?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Difficulty</th>
<th>Not at all</th>
<th>Just a little</th>
<th>Pretty well</th>
<th>Very well</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percentage</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Together 77%

How difficult is for your family to find Spanish-language services?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Difficulty</th>
<th>Not at all</th>
<th>A little difficult</th>
<th>Somewhat difficult</th>
<th>Quite difficult</th>
<th>Very difficult</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percentage</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Together 76%

“Nobody speak Spanish. It is hard and frustrating that nobody can help us”

“Interpreters are expensive, we have to pay for the service, their food, and then for the gas”.
Social and Cultural Interaction

- Social Networks
- Community Connections
- Country of Origin Connections

Respondents with 2 or less persons who give them support

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Practical</th>
<th>Emotional</th>
<th>Advice</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Few or some Latinos</td>
<td>Mostly or all Latinos</td>
<td>(in the neighborhood)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46%</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>57%</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>59%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

How many relatives and in-laws do you have living near by?

- 2 or fewer: Few or some Latinos 77%, Mostly or all Latinos 63%, (in the neighborhood) 37%
- 3 or more: Few or some Latinos 23%, Mostly or all Latinos 60%, (in the neighborhood) 46%

How many adults, other than relatives do you know in your neighborhood?

- 2 or fewer: Few or some Latinos 62%, Mostly or all Latinos 26%, (in the neighborhood) 38%
- 3 or more: Few or some Latinos 26%, Mostly or all Latinos 74%

Country of Origin connections

- 57% talk at least once a week
- 36% have gone back to visit within last 2 years

Well Being

“If we are doing bad here, it is worse in Mexico”
Life Satisfaction is Generally High

- 68% Life close to ideal
- 63% Life conditions excellent
- 75% I am satisfied with my life
- 74% Have important things in life
- 68% Would change nothing

Next Steps

- Finish data collection
- Examine social and community factors linked to immigrant integration
- Identify sources of strength for Latino immigrants