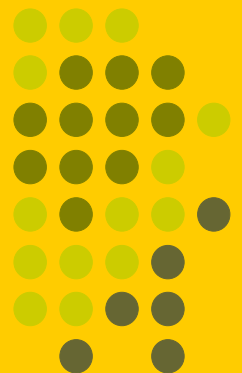


Hispanics On **N**ueva Jersey

Hispanic Federation's Annual Survey

2005 Summary of Findings

Prepared by the Hispanic Federation
Released: July 2005



The Federation is pleased to share the results of its Annual Survey on New Jersey Latinos, which directly informs its annual public policy agenda.

The Hispanic Federation is a service-oriented membership organization that works with 87 Latino health and human services agencies to advance the quality of life for Latinos in the Northeast and beyond. The Federation seeks to educate elected officials, policymakers, the media and funders about the needs and contributions of Latinos, and serves as a public policy advocate for the Latino community on the issues of civic participation, health care, immigration, education, economic development, media coverage and more. The Federation's annual survey provides key stakeholders, including the media, policymakers and elected officials, with a broad understanding of the issues, opinions and concerns of the City's Latino community.

Executive Summary

As one of the largest and fastest growing Latino populations in the nation, New Jersey Latinos represent diverse nationalities that share a common cultural heritage and historical affinity. Another important commonality is one that is shared by all Americans: the desire to build a better life for oneself and a brighter future for one's children. Despite their hard work, aspirations and growing influence, far too many New Jersey Latinos face daunting challenges in securing a quality public education, obtaining a home and a safe environment in which to live, and achieving financial security.

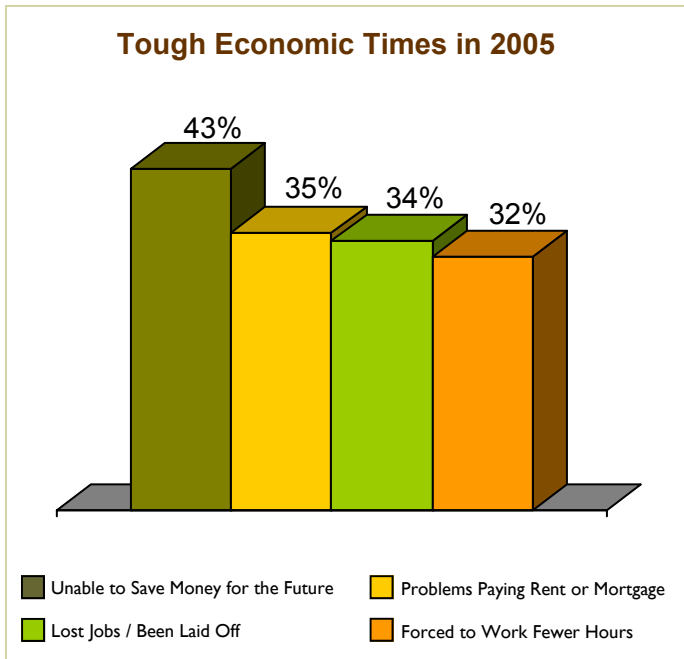
The 2005 *Hispanics on Nueva Jersey* survey reveals that Latinos are deeply concerned about the economy and the state of public schools. Many have lost jobs or had their work hours reduced and face other economic hardships. The economy/ jobs is among the two most important problems confronting Hispanics, say 31% of those surveyed. Public education is the second most frequently cited "top two" problem facing New Jersey Latinos (noted by 29%). Discrimination/racism is named in 2005 as a "top two" problem by 17%, crime by 15%, housing by 14% and immigration by 10%.

Hispanic New Jerseyans say Latinos in other states confront similar problems: 20% feel that jobs/economy are among the two most important issues or problems facing Latinos nationally, followed by schools/education, discrimination/racism and immigration (by 14%, 14%, and 13%, respectively).

The findings outlined in the following pages highlight the attitudes and experiences of New Jersey's emerging Latino community on a wide variety of topics. It is our hope that this report will increase awareness and facilitate communication among legislators, community leaders and other key stakeholders about the issues affecting Latinos in New Jersey.

New Jersey Latinos Hurting Economically

Latinos are hurting economically (as they have reported over the prior two years of Hispanic Federation surveying). In summer 2005, more than one-third of Latinos report that either they or an immediate family member are enduring hard economic times: 43% (39% in 2004) have been unable to save money for the future, 35% (38% in 2004) have had problems paying the rent or mortgage, 34% (43% in 2004) have lost their job/been laid off, and 32% (40% in 2004) have been forced to work fewer hours because of cutbacks.



But State Headed in the Right Direction

Despite economic and other concerns, Latinos are by and large optimistic about the future of the Garden State. Half of Hispanics (49%) see New Jersey headed in the right direction, while 28% believe things are off on the wrong track in New Jersey.

CIVIC INVOLVEMENT AND POLITICS

Latino Potential and Actual Electorates

Latinos in New Jersey are emerging as a powerful and vibrant economic, cultural and political force. The Hispanic population in New Jersey grew from 720,000 in 1990 to 1.2 million in 2003, an increase of more than 71 percent. Hispanics, in fact, made up more than 60% of the total New Jersey population growth over this period of time. Not only

did the Hispanic population grow, its composition changed, with greater diversity in national origin and residential location. Hispanics currently make up 14% of New Jersey's population.

In the 2001 gubernatorial election, Democrat Jim McGreevey defeated Republican Bret Schundler by a 56% - 42% margin, but did even better among Hispanics, receiving an estimated 70% of the Latino vote. In the 2004 presidential election, New Jersey went for Senator John Kerry over President George Bush, 53% to 46%; Latinos were even more blue in their voting, with more than 60% voting for the Democratic presidential nominee John Kerry.

Although the Hispanic population grew in New Jersey, the number of eligible voters lagged: Latinos make up almost 12% of the voting age population (VAP), and 10% of the citizen VAP. While the share of votes cast by Hispanics in New Jersey's general elections are still much lower than their share in the state's population, the voting potential of Latinos is remarkable (more than one in three Latinos indicated in this survey that they were not registered to vote), even when taking into account that a large majority of unregistered Latino voters are ineligible to vote because of their immigration status. Various studies indicate that nearly a quarter of a million unregistered Latino citizens of voting age reside in New Jersey.

Old and new immigrants have produced a large second generation of American-born children who are now coming of voting age. Like young people from all ethnic and racial backgrounds, Hispanic young adults are less likely to vote than their elders. Only as more of those of voting age -- both current citizens and those who will become naturalized -- register to vote and then actually cast ballots, will the power of the Hispanic vote be realized.

Voter Registration

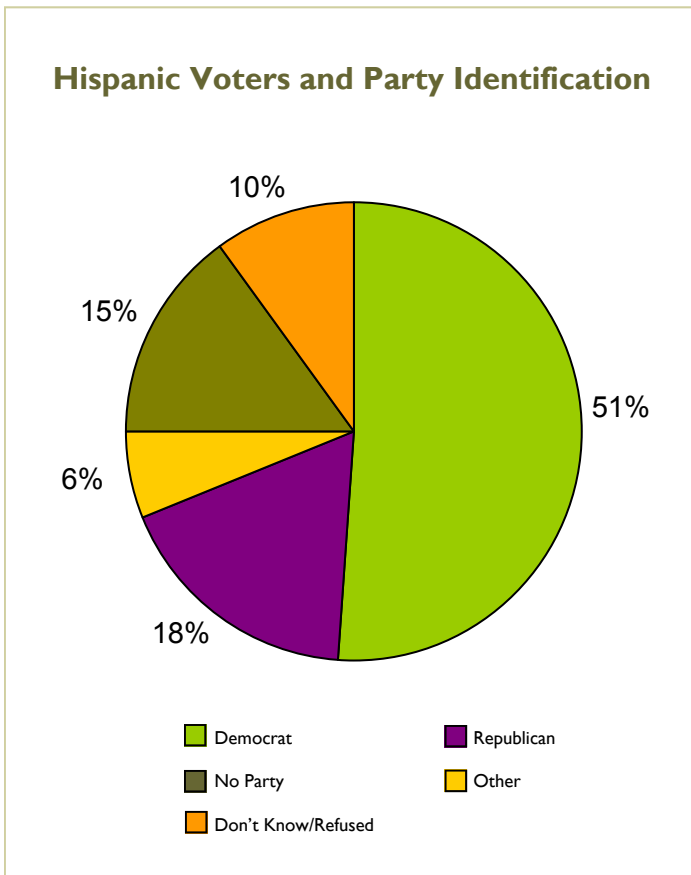
There has been a slow but steady upward trend in Latino voting and electoral participation in New Jersey. This year, more than six in 10 Latinos (63%, up two points from last year) report being registered to vote. However, a significant number (36%) of voting age Hispanics are not registered to vote. The main reason by far, offered by 66%, is that they are not citizens. (New Jersey Latinos are less likely to be citizens than New York City Latinos).

One in 10 Hispanic non-registrants cited dissatisfaction with voting or their vote choices for not registering: 8% either said

they didn't want to vote or that their vote didn't matter, while 2% never like the candidates on the ballot. Another 10% say they intend to register but have not yet had an opportunity to do so.

Party ID: Majority Democrat

Among Hispanics who are registered to vote, half (51%, 55% last year) are Democrats, while 18% are registered Republicans (26% in 2004) and 15% (12% last year) are not registered in a party.



A "Swing Vote"

Latinos in New Jersey as elsewhere have been the focus of much political discussion and analysis. The so-called "Latino vote" has been variously described as "pivotal" or "swing." Indeed, they widely cross party lines, with about three-quarters casting ballots for candidates not of their party: 36% "sometimes," 24% "always," and 13% "usually." Only about one in five (21%) are party loyalists who never vote for opposition candidates.

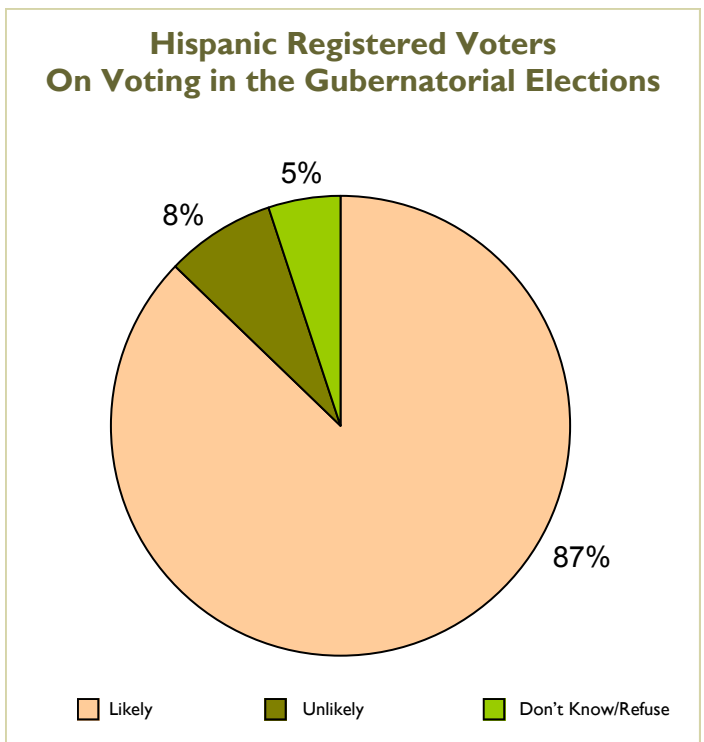
2005 Governor's Race

Why are Latinos who are registered to vote planning to cast a ballot in November for governor? To support the issues they believe in, say 28%, closely followed by to make their voices heard by 25%, and then to improve their economic future by 21%. Another 15% say they will vote to support their favorite political candidate, while 12% volunteer all of the above.

Why aren't other registered Hispanics expecting to vote in November? For a quarter (24%), they volunteer that they haven't decided whether they will vote or not. Another 15% don't like the candidates, while 9% say they don't have time to vote and 7% either never vote or believe that their vote doesn't matter.

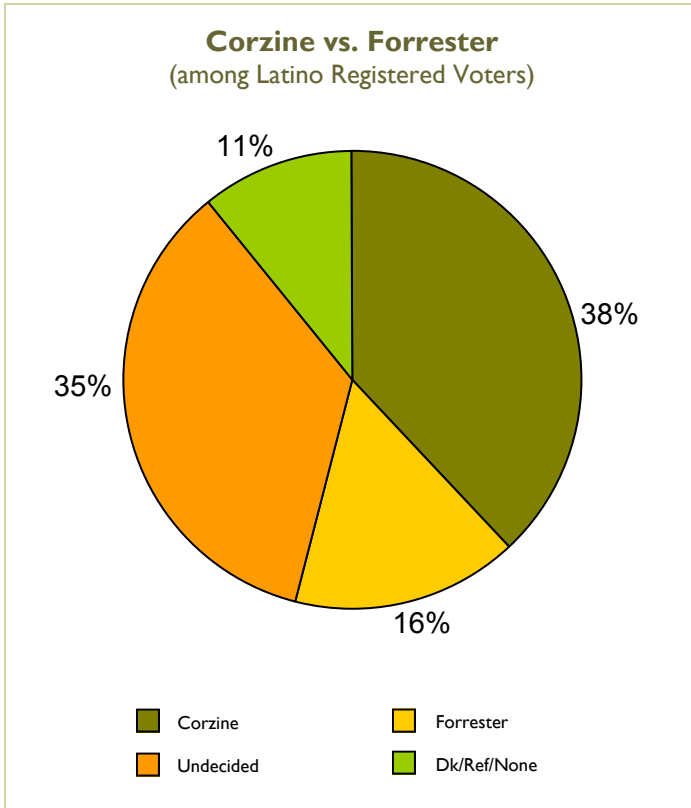
Likely to Vote

The political fortune of New Jersey Hispanics is tied to its ability to engage in the civic life of the state. As they engage in the political process, they move legislators and other policymakers to be more responsive to their needs and aspirations. This year's survey findings point to a promising political future for New Jersey Latinos. Eight in ten Latino registered voters say they are "extremely" or "very" likely to vote in the November election for governor (56% and 23%, respectively), with another 8% "somewhat" likely to cast a November ballot.



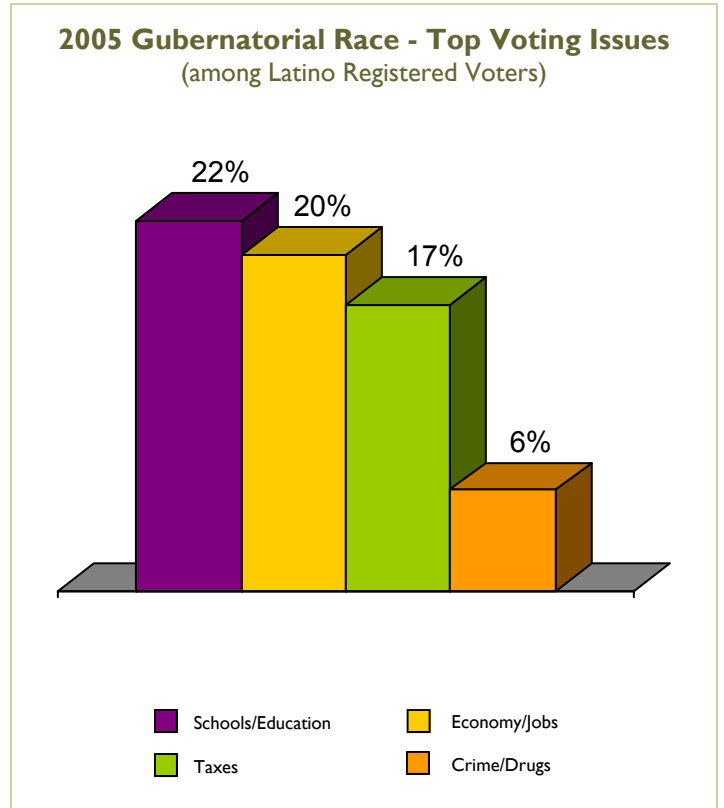
Corzine vs. Forrester

If the gubernatorial election had been held on the day when participants were interviewed, registered voters would have voted for Jon Corzine over Doug Forrester by better than 2 to 1 (38% vs. 16%). However, a large number of Latinos -- 35% -- remain undecided reflecting a need for greater Latino outreach from both candidates.



Voting Issues

Schools/education is the most important issue to Latinos personally in deciding for whom to vote for governor, named by 22%, closely followed by economic issues, cited by 20% and taxes, noted by 17%. Another 17% did not name a "most important" voting issue.



HOW ARE THEY DOING? CODEY, CORZINE, LAUTENBERG, MENENDEZ

Hispanics rate the job performance of their three statewide elected officials – Acting Governor Richard Codey and U.S. Senators Jon Corzine and Frank Lautenberg – favorably but large numbers don't know enough about them to make judgments.

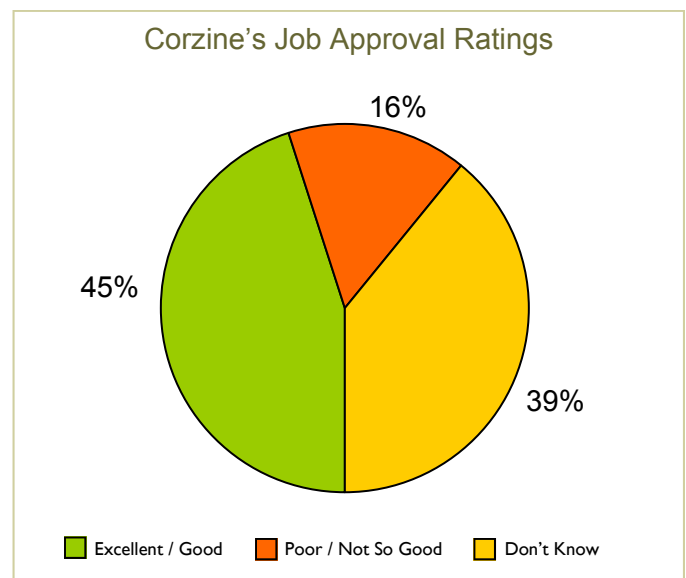
Codey

Acting Governor Richard Codey is getting favorable reviews as governor: 43% say he's doing a good job; 5% say his performance is excellent). That's three times the number of those who rate his job performance negatively: 15% say not so good and 4% say poor. But one-third (33%) offered no opinion on Codey's job performance. Last year in June 2004, Jim McGreevey was given favorable reviews from 52% (vs. 35% unfavorable).

Corzine

A majority of Latinos give New Jersey's senior U.S. Senator Jon Corzine a favorable job assessment: 40% say he's doing a good job; 5% say excellent. Corzine's favorable/unfavorable ratio is also 3 to 1, with 16% characterizing his job performance as not so good (12%) or poor (4%). Again, about four in ten (39%) offered no opinion on Corzine's job performance.

Hispanic views of Senator Corzine reflect to some degree the opinions of other registered voters statewide: 53% approved of the way Corzine is handling his job as Senator, 20% disapproved, with more than one in four – 27% – not offering an opinion, according to a June Eagleton-Star Ledger poll. In the June Quinnipiac poll, New Jersey registered voters approved of the job Corzine is doing as US Senator – 51% to 32%.

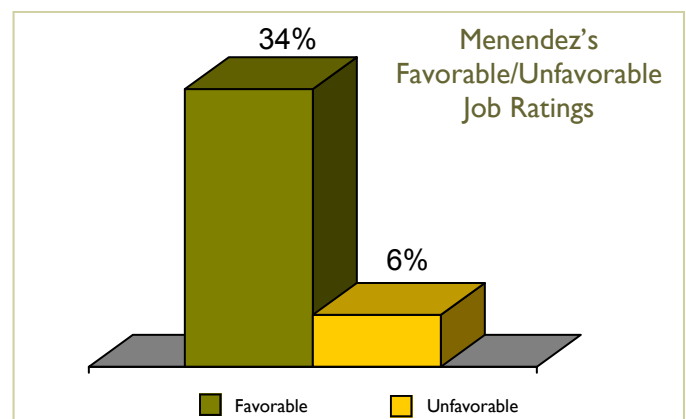


Lautenberg

Frank Lautenberg, the state's junior (and former three term) Senator also gets favorable job reviews from Hispanics: more than one-third say his work has been good (29%) or excellent (5%), while about half that number assess his job performance as not so good (11%) or poor (5%). But the largest number of Latinos (50%) offered no opinion.

Menendez

Congressman Robert Menendez (NJ- 13), the highest ranking Hispanic in Congressional history, has a better than 5 to 1 favorable/unfavorable ratio among Latinos, with 34% giving him a positive assessment and only 6% holding a negative view. Among those with an opinion on Menendez, the Congressman is viewed favorably by 85%. Twenty-five percent of respondents report that they have not heard of him and 27% of Latinos who have heard of him offered no opinion.



EDUCATION/PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Good Grades for Public Schools

Latino children represent nearly 17% of the student population (K-12) in New Jersey. The percentage of Latino students in the public school system increases significantly in the high-minority urban areas of the State. In Newark and Trenton, for instance, the Latino student population is 30%. In Jersey City, the percentage is even higher with Latino children representing 40% of the city's student population.

As in other states, Latinos in New Jersey face numerous social, educational and economic barriers that have resulted in poor academic achievement, high dropout rates and low college enrollment and graduation rates. However, New Jersey Latinos give generally positive grades to local public schools, with about six in 10 characterizing the quality of the public schools in their neighborhood as either good (43%, 41% last year) or excellent (18%, 17% last year). But three in ten are dissatisfied with their local public schools, calling them not so good (21%, 23% last year) or poor (9%, 15% last year). As highlighted in previous sections of this survey, Latinos also indicate that education and the public schools are among the two most important problems they face in the State, and the most important issue in deciding for whom they will vote for Governor.

Education Problems and Priorities

Lack of parental involvement is the first or second most important issue or problem facing Latino school children in New Jersey, say 24 percent. School violence is cited by 15%, lack of bilingual education programs by 13%, while 8% each name lack of resources and the high dropout rate. Another 7% each cite unqualified or underqualified teaching staff, lack of quality after-school programming and lack of quality early childhood education or pre-school programs. One in 10 (10%) say that all of the listed problems were among the top school problems or issues.

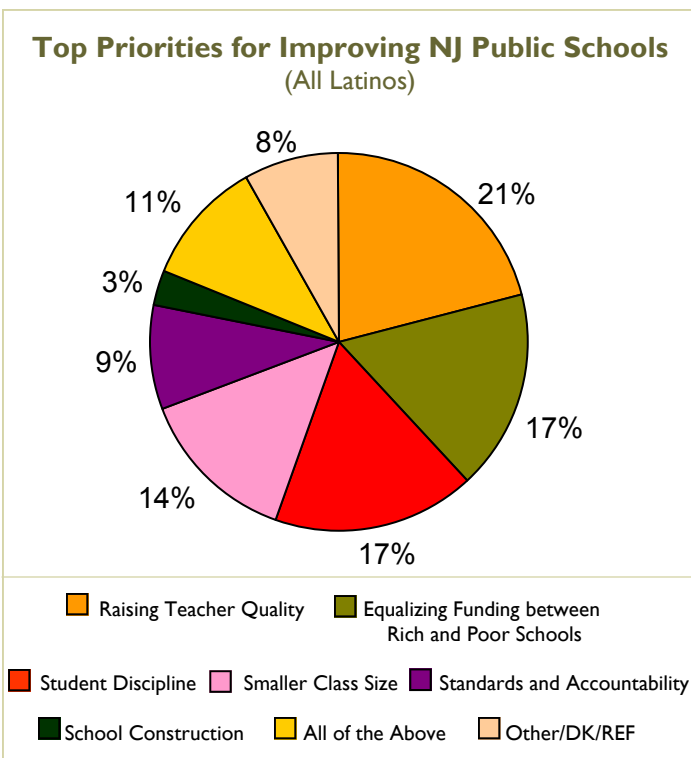
The "most important priority" for improving the public schools is: raising teacher quality (named by 21%), followed closely by equalizing funding between rich and poor districts and student discipline (by 17% each), and smaller class sizes (by 14%). Enhanced standards and accountability is the top education priority for 7% and school construction for 5%.

Involving Parents, Parental Involvement

The New Jersey public schools are doing a good or excellent job of involving parents in their child's education, say half of Latinos (42% and 10%, respectively), while four in ten say parent-involvement efforts are not so good (30%) or poor (9%). Public school parents feel more welcome at their child's school than they did four years ago: 45% feel much more welcome, 13% feel somewhat more welcome, while 9% feel less welcome and 14% see no difference.

How should parents be involved in their child(ren)'s schooling? Meet with teachers and principals to discuss their child's progress, say 23%. Regularly attend PTA meetings and help their child with his or her homework (say 18% and 19%, respectively), participate in a school policy council along with school administrators and teachers (8%), volunteer in their child's school (6%), and become a tutor or mentor for other children (2%). One fifth (19%) say that parents should be involved in all six activities.

How are Hispanic parents involved in their child's schooling? They report helping their children with homework (34%), regularly attending PTA meetings (27%), meeting or speaking with their child's teachers or school administrators (25%), volunteering in their child's school (16%), becoming a mentor (8%), and joining a administrator-teacher-parent policy council (8%). About one in 10 (9%) report that they perform all of the above in support of their children's education.



Favor Bilingual Education

Hispanic children should be taught equally in English and Spanish, say 40% of Hispanics. Another 20% prefer Hispanic children taught first in Spanish, then adding more and more English. Thus, fully six in 10 support some form bilingual instruction. English immersion is favored by 22%, while 16% feel that the language of instruction should depend on the language proficiencies of the child.

Dropping Out/Barriers to College

Lack of parental involvement is the most widely named factor responsible for the high Latino dropout rate in New Jersey, cited by 26% of Latinos surveyed. Gangs and violence are cited by 19%. The need to work and earn money was noted by 19%, family responsibilities by 10% and the lack of English proficiency by 8%. The poor quality of public school education, low expectations of Hispanic children or youth, and under-qualified teaching staff is cited each by 7%.

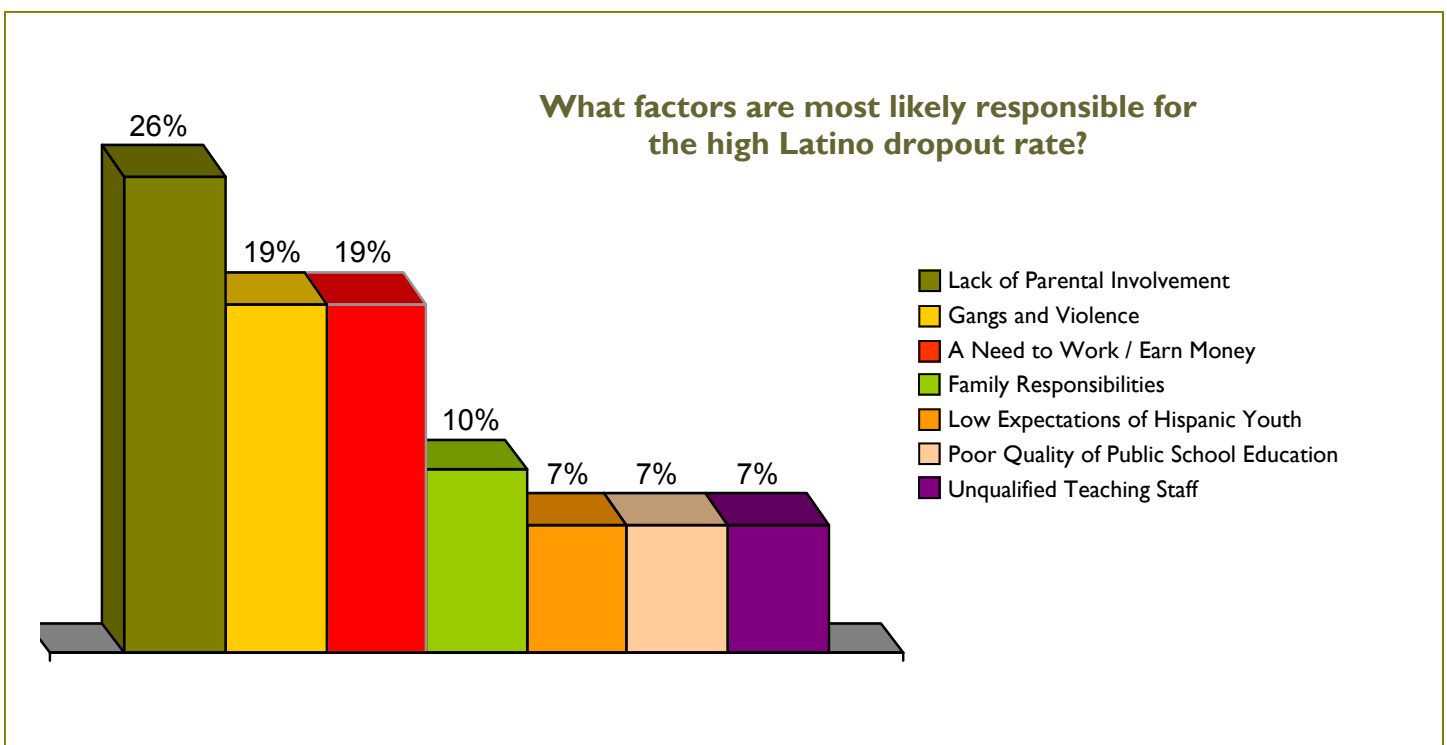
A college education is a major path for socioeconomic mobility in the U.S.. Why don't more Hispanics attend college? Inability to afford a college education is the principal factor preventing college-age Hispanics from attending, say 38% of Hispanics. Other important considerations are the need to work and earn money (23%), lack of information regarding the application process (14%), family responsibilities (11%) Among the other reasons offered: poor K-12 schooling (8%), low

expectations (7%), lack of English proficiency (6%), some Latinos "feel they do not need a college degree to succeed" and discrimination (5% each).

Strongly Support Education Reforms

Overwhelming majorities support universal pre-K, state-funded after-school programs, mandated class size limits and in-state tuition at local colleges for undocumented immigrants graduating from New Jersey high schools.

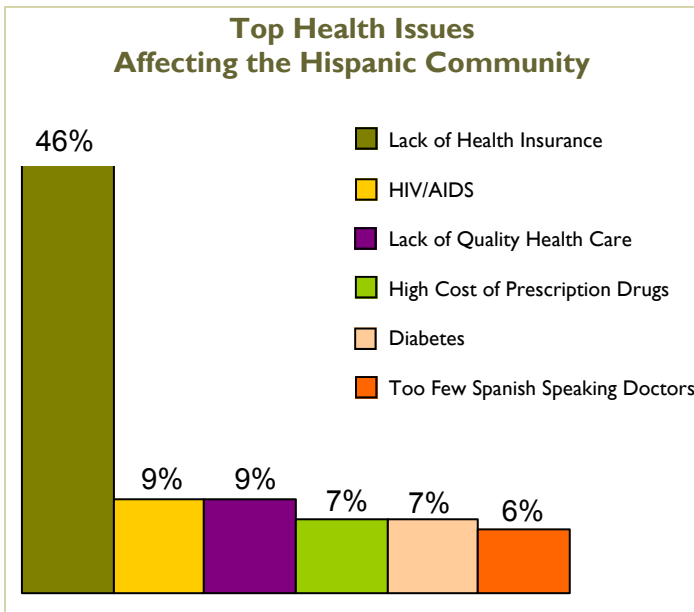
- 94% (77% strongly) support "establishing voluntary, state-funded afterschool programs for all school-age children."
- 91% (73% strongly) favor "establishing voluntary, state-funded pre-school education programs for all children between the ages of two and five."
- 86% (74% strongly) endorse "limiting by law the size of elementary, middle and high school classes to a maximum of 18 to 22 students per class."
- 83% (63% strongly) favor "allowing undocumented immigrants who have graduated high school and lived here at least three years to qualify for in-state tuition at local colleges."



HEALTH AND HEALTH CARE

Health Issues Facing Latinos

Lack of health insurance is, by far, the number one health issue confronting the Hispanic community in 2005, say 46% of Hispanics. The lack of health care and HIV/AIDS are named by 9% each, followed by diabetes, too few Spanish-speaking doctors, and the high cost of health care/prescription drugs (7%, 7%, and 6%, respectively).



Mental Health

Fully four in ten Latinos report that they or someone they know suffers from a mental health condition such as depression, anxiety, or Attention Deficit Disorder. And about one-third say that they (11%) or someone they know (24%) has been treated by a doctor or other healthcare professional for a mental disorder.

Where do they go for such treatment? A hospital-based mental health clinic (37%), the private office of a mental health professional (24%) or a primary care physician's office (also 24%), while 8% received treatment at a community-based agency.

Many Uninsured

Lack of health insurance affects large numbers of Hispanics. Three in 10 (27%) report that they are not covered by any public or private health insurance. Nearly half (48%) are covered by health insurance through work or union or bought by the respondent or by his or her family (8%), while 7% are covered by Medicaid and 9% by Medicare.

Why uninsured

"Too expensive" is the most widely cited reason Hispanics offer for not having health coverage, named by 28%. Another 14% have lost health insurance coverage because they've been laid off, while 10% report they had been refused insurance because of poor health, illness or age. More than one in 10 (13%) report that they don't have health insurance of any type because they are undocumented.

Difficulty in Paying for Health Care

More than a quarter (29%) report that they or some household member in the twelve months prior to June 2005 had postponed seeking health care they felt they needed. Why? Simply, it was too costly. Fully seven in 10, could not afford the cost of care, while 9% did not have the time or could not get off from work and 5% cited language barriers or the lack of Spanish-speaking doctors.

HIV/AIDS

A Very Serious and Widespread Problem

Latinos in New Jersey and elsewhere have been disproportionately affected by the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Not surprisingly, the spread of HIV/AIDS within the Latino community is considered a very serious problem by 80% of Latinos. Another 11% call the spread of HIV/AIDS among Latinos somewhat serious. Only 2% doubt the seriousness of AIDS among Hispanics.

They have first-hand knowledge of HIV/AIDS: 41% personally know someone who has been diagnosed with AIDS, or someone infected with the virus, or has died from AIDS.

HIV Testing

Voluntary HIV testing is an important element in preventing the transmission of HIV. Testing helps people prevent the further spread of the disease, and allows those affected to access life-prolonging HIV treatments. A majority of New Jersey Latinos (58%) report having been tested for HIV/AIDS. Among those not tested, fear that someone might find out if they were tested deterred 39%, while 27% don't believe that they are at risk. Another 6% don't know where to get tested and 5% say they can't afford to be tested.

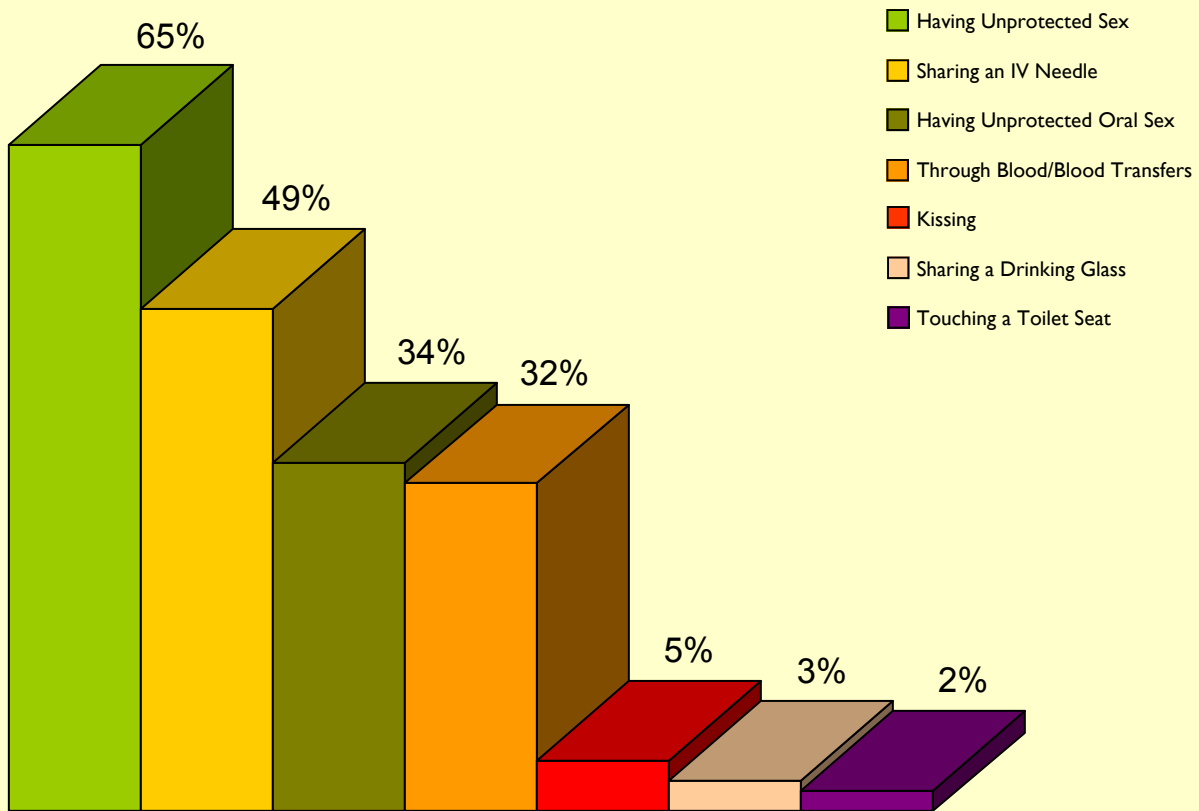
Fatal Ignorance

In the age of AIDS, ignorance can be fatal. Latinos were asked “if kissing, sharing a drinking glass, touching a toilet seat, sharing an IV needle, having unprotected oral sex, having unprotected sex, through blood and blood transfers, or all of these, can transmit HIV/AIDS?”

Having unprotected sex is recognized by 65% as a source of HIV infection, while sharing an IV needle is known as a source to 49%. Thus, a third of Latinos are not aware that unprotected sex is a source of HIV and half do not know that sharing an IV needle can lead to AIDS. Even worse, 66% are unaware that HIV can be transmitted via unprotected oral sex and 68% don't know that blood can transmit HIV/AIDS.

They also mistakenly believe that kissing (5%), sharing a drinking glass (3%) and touching a toilet seat (2%) can transmit HIV. About one in 10 (8%) believe that HIV/AIDS can be transmitted through all these means.

As far as you know, in which of the following ways can a person become infected with HIV?



AIDS Information Needed

Three quarters say that when it comes to HIV/AIDS, they need more information about the following: how to talk to their children about HIV/AIDS (21%), where to get tested for HIV (8%), how to talk to their partner about HIV/AIDS (9%), the different kinds of HIV tests available (9%), how to talk their doctor or health care provider about HIV/AIDS, how individuals can get infected with HIV (8%), and how to use condoms to protect themselves against HIV/AIDS (8%).

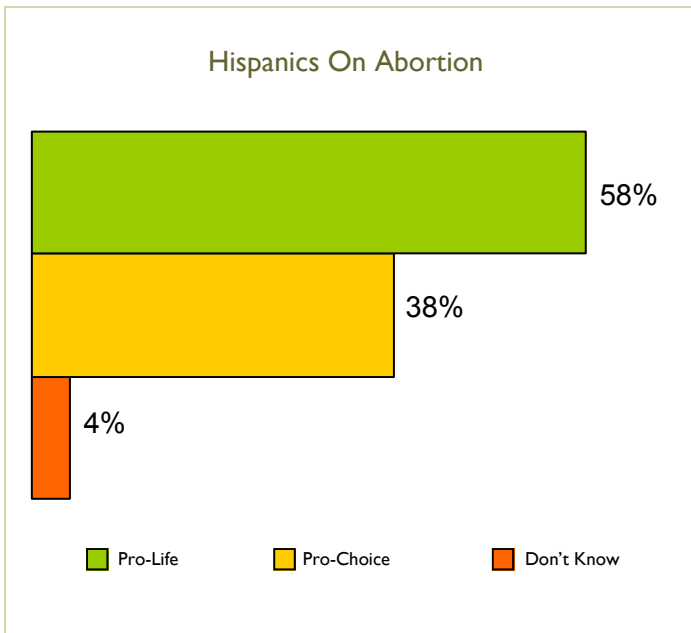
Responses to HIV/AIDS

The most important priority for addressing the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the Latino community is more education in the public schools, according to 28%, while 15% cite the need for increased funding for HIV/AIDS prevention programs and 12% mention increased funding for health services for persons living with HIV/AIDS. More AIDS research is named by 8%, increased attention on how and where to get tested for HIV by 7%, increased news media coverage by 6%, and more needle-exchange programs by 3%.

ABORTION

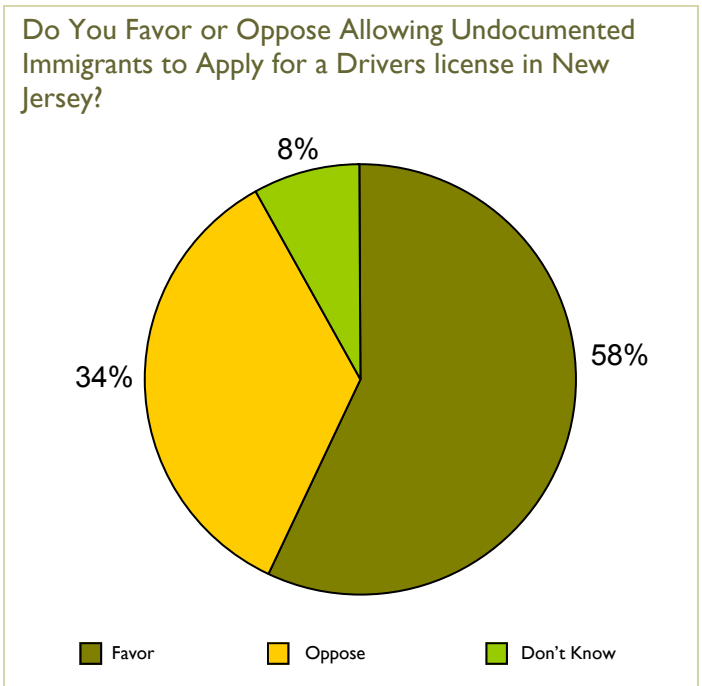
Oppose Abortion

A majority – six in 10 -- hold “pro-life” views. 45% agree that abortion should be legal only in the most extreme cases such as to save the life of the woman and in the cases of rape and incest and 13% believe that all abortion should be illegal. About four in 10 (38%) hold “pro-choice” attitudes: 19% agree that abortion should be legal and generally available and the same percentage hold that regulation of abortion is sometimes appropriate although it should remain legal in most circumstances.



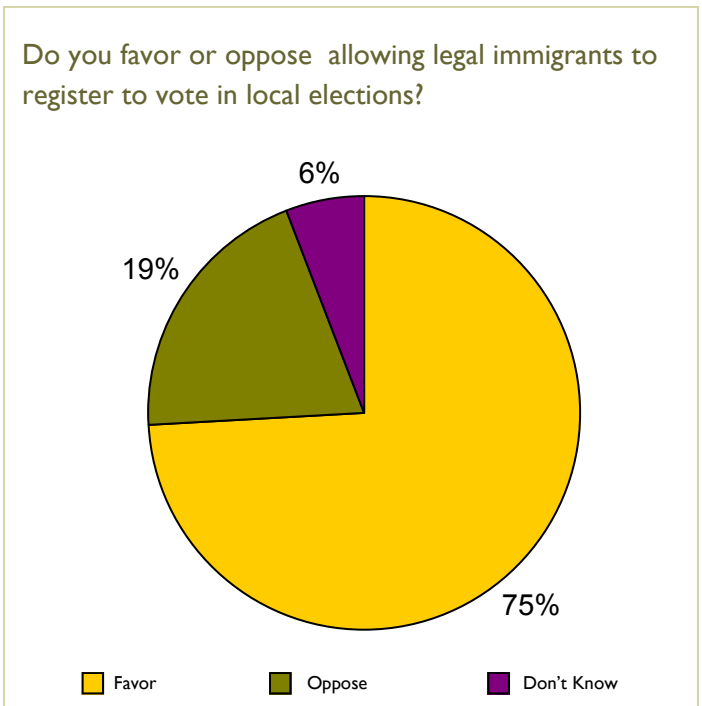
Let Undocumented Immigrants Drive

Nearly six in ten (58%) favor giving undocumented immigrants the opportunity to apply for a driver’s license, with 39% supporting this proposal strongly.



Let Legal Immigrants Vote

Legal immigrants should be allowed to vote in the Garden State, say 75%, with 58% strongly favoring non-citizen voting. About two-in-10 (19%) are opposed.



IMMIGRATION

Strong Support for Immigration Reform

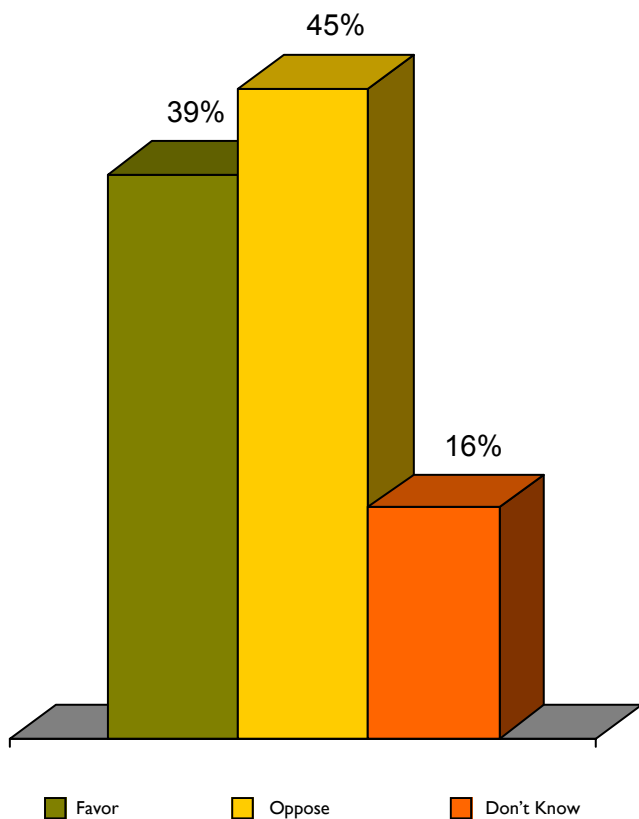
The U.S. Congress is considering a bill which would allow undocumented immigrants to apply for temporary work permits and eventual citizenship. To qualify for work permits, individuals would have to clear a criminal background check, pass an English language test, and pay a \$2,000 fee. Work permits would last for six years, after which time, individuals could apply for permanent resident status. Latinos widely favor this proposal to allow undocumented immigrants the opportunity to apply for temporary work permits and eventual citizenship: about 73% favor the proposal, 49% strongly.

SOCIAL SECURITY

Social Security: Closely Divided

Social Security reform is one of our nation's most heated public policy issues. How do Latinos feel about plans to privatize Social Security? Nearly half (45%) oppose allowing individuals to invest a portion of their Social Security taxes in the stock market, with 18% somewhat opposing and 27% strongly opposing. Nearly 39% favor the proposal, with 20% strongly favoring and 19% somewhat favoring it.

Do you favor or oppose allowing individuals to invest a portion of their Social Security taxes in the stock market?



MEDIA

TV, By Far, Top News Source

Television is the preferred news source for Hispanics. Eight in 10 get the bulk of their "news about the issues of the day" from either network news shows (52%) or local television news (33%). Newspapers are an important news source for 21%.

Internet usage has increased substantially among Hispanics and

a greater proportion of Latinos (14%) say they are using the Web as a principal news source. While radio is a popular medium among Hispanics both locally and nationally, it is the principal source of news for only 10%.

Spanish TV Stations Dominate

The two major Spanish-language stations are being watched widely and more often. WXTV/Channel 41/Univision is the preferred television choice, watched most often by 26% of Latinos. Fifteen percent view WNJU/Channel 47/Telemundo most often. Latinos further split their TV viewing among WYNY/Channel 5 (6%), WABC/Channel 7 (5%), WNBC/Channel 4 (5%), and WB/Channel 11 (4%).

Newspaper Readership

Hispanics are diverse in their newspaper reading, with the Star-Ledger, El Diario-La Prensa, the Daily News, each read most often by about one in 10 (11%, 10%, 9%, respectively), followed by the New York Post (5%) and Hoy and the Wall Street Journal (2% each).

Radio: A Latin Beat

The Hispanic radio audience listens to Spanish-language stations: Mega 97.9 tops with 14%; Hot 97.1/WQHT (4%) and Latino Mix/La Calle (8%). Amor 93.1 (7%) and WADO (6%). About four in 10 Latinos listen most often to Spanish-language radio.

The top English-language radio stations in the state are WKTU (by 4%) and Z-100 WINS (by 3% each).

WHO ARE WE: HISPANICS? LATINOS? SOMETHING ELSE?

In New Jersey, Hispanics are closely divided over what they prefer to be called: 23% wish to be called "Hispanic," 28% favor "Latino," and 20% prefer to be identified with their country of ancestry or origin, while 5% volunteer that they want to be called "American."

NJ HISPANICS: National Origins/Ancestry

	% of all Hispanics	% registered to vote
Puerto Rican	35%	50%
Dominican	10%	9%
Mexican	10%	5%
Colombian	8%	6%
Ecuadorian	7%	6%
Cuban	7%	7%
El Salvadoran	4%	3%
Spanish	3%	3%
Guatemalan	2%	1%
Panamanian	1%	1%
Nicaraguan	1%	*
Costa Rican	1%	*
Honduran	*	1%
Other (South American, Chilean, Peruvian, Argentinian, Venezuelan, Uruguayan, Paraguayan)	5%	7%

Methodology

Miram Global conducted this study among 506 Hispanic adults in New Jersey metro area between June 16th and July 12th, 2005.

The margin of error for the sample is +/- 4.4 percent. The survey questionnaire was developed with the support of Douglas Muzzio, Ph.D of the Baruch College Survey Research Unit and the Hispanic Directors Association of New Jersey.

Demographics

Of the Latino New Jerseyans surveyed, 35% were Puerto Rican, 10% were Dominican, 10% were Mexican, 8% were Colombian, 7% were Ecuadorian, 7% were Cuban and the remaining 23% represented other Hispanic groups. Of the respondents, 50% were male and 50% were female. Almost two-thirds (65%) identified themselves as citizens, 18% were permanent residents, 7% were non-permanent residents and 7% said they were undocumented.

In terms of educational attainment, 35% completed high school, 24% completed some college, and 21% said they were college graduates. Income levels were \$20,000 or less (26%), \$20,000-\$30,000 (14%), \$30,000-\$40,000 (9%), and over \$40,000 (41%). Latinos born in the U.S. accounted for 32%, those born in Puerto Rico (15%), and those born outside of the U.S. (51%).

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