



2025-2026 FEDERAL
POLICY SERIES

**Environmental
Justice**



hispanicfederation

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INTRODUCTION

The 119th Congress and the new Administration have triggered dynamic and often forceful debates on the direction of national policy. From economic opportunity to immigration to health care, these debates are poised to trigger drastic reorganizations of American life in ways that are likely to influence Latino communities in particular. At a time when Latino issues are front and center, Hispanic Federation's Federal Policy Series provides an opportunity for decision-makers across the federal landscape to hear directly from the Latino community regarding their values and policy priorities. The 2025 Federal Policy Series will focus on nine issues important to Latinos across the United States, with standalone chapters, each addressing a specific challenge faced by the Latino community.

As the nation's premier Latino nonprofit membership organization, Hispanic Federation works directly with its network of 850 organizations across 43 states and territories, including Puerto Rico, the District of Columbia and the US Virgin Islands; the policy proposals outlined in this series are reflective of this depth of community experience.

Hispanic Federation's greatest strength lies in its deep roots in Latino communities and relationships with grassroots leaders, nonprofits, public officials, policymakers, media, small business owners, and private sector leaders. Our policy and advocacy work aims to advance Latino opportunity and equity by focusing on three pillars: Civil Rights, Justice, Equity and Empowerment. Our methodology in driving policy change is to work with community on the ground to identify inequities and develop solutions. Latinos are a dynamic and diverse population that is actively reshaping the course of this nation. Latinos/Latinas/Latines/Latinx can be Black, White, Indigenous, Asian, Arab and/or Mestizo, among other ethnicities. As such, the recommendations embedded within our summer policy series are wide-ranging, covering everything from civil rights to housing, and outline proposals grounded in research and experience to support communities from rural farm workers to urban businessowners and everyone in between.



2025-2026 FEDERAL POLICY SERIES: Environmental Justice

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

*“If we destroy nature blindly, it is a boomerang which will be our undoing.”
–George Melendez Wright.¹*

It is clear that shifting weather patterns are bringing a greater array of disastrous climatic events to the United States. The last calendar year alone has seen devastating wildfires, tornadoes, hurricanes, and flash flooding events that have strained state, local, federal, and philanthropic resources. These disasters have compounded preexisting environmental risks, amplifying potential harm from pollution, inadequate access to safe outdoor spaces, and insufficient municipal infrastructure. Latinos are at an environmental disadvantage in the United States that is only aggravated by culturally- and linguistically-unfavorable support systems. Rectifying these disadvantages will strengthen communities, expand economies at the local and national level, and save lives. Doing so, however, will require everything from broad investments into novel energy solutions, to federal partnerships with municipal authorities and community organizations to develop healthy neighborhood spaces. In exchange though, our families and the country at large will be rewarded with more resilient, productive, and stable communities.

Since 2017, Hispanic Federation has played a leading role supporting local communities in Puerto Rico, Florida, California, and the Dominican Republic respond and recover from natural disasters, oftentimes leading the way in disaster recovery efforts in times of crisis—even before government intervention. Through programs like LA Ayuda, Hispanic Federation has connected vulnerable community members with the flexible, timely resources they need to maximize individual, household, and community recoveries.² Most importantly, HF’s work does not start and end with recovery work. Instead, we are committed to the long-term resiliency and empowerment of communities across Puerto Rico, Florida, and the rest of the United States. This commitment informs our policy agenda and recommendations, which consider the environment—both its reach and its consequences—capaciously. We lay out here a vision for advancing place-based justice, increasing the reach of renewable energy, and developing a more equitable and therefore effective disaster preparation and recovery process.

WE LAY OUT HERE A VISION FOR ADVANCING PLACE-BASED JUSTICE, INCREASING THE REACH OF RENEWABLE ENERGY, AND DEVELOPING A MORE EQUITABLE AND THEREFORE EFFECTIVE DISASTER PREPARATION AND RECOVERY PROCESS

SITUATION REPORT

Between scorching temperatures, devastating hurricanes, and unpredictable local weather, it's clear that climate change in some form or fashion has arrived. The coming years and decades will produce incredible—in some cases insurmountable—challenges, but growing investment in tackling environmental challenges, from angles ranging from the psychological to the geological, provides great opportunities as well. A Pew survey from 2021 highlights striking environmentalist sentiment within the Latino community compared to the U.S. population at large.³ At a top level, ~20 percent more U.S. Latinos stated that “addressing global climate change” was either an important or top concern, compared to the non-Latino community. Climate and the environment are clearly issues of major concerns to the Latino community.

It is no surprise that Latinos are concerned about climate change given that our community stands to suffer much of its brunt. From 2001 to 2011, “five times as many people were affected by natural catastrophes as was the case from 1960 to 1970.”⁴ Over that period, virtually all hurricanes and tropical storms which caused severe damage to US communities impacted communities with a high density of Latinos.⁵ In 2021, the EPA produced a comprehensive report on expected consequences of climate change across the United States at the thresholds of 2°C and 4°C above previous temperatures.⁶ The report suggests the Latino community is more vulnerable than any other racial-ethnic group in the United States under extreme climate change scenarios.⁷

LATINOS ARE NOT ONLY MORE LIKELY TO BE EXPOSED TO POLLUTION, BUT ALSO THAT THIS EXPOSURE CAN BE LINKED TO INCREASED DISEASE PREVALENCE WITHIN THE LATINO COMMUNITY

Climate risks are compounded by hazards in our local communities. Studies have repeatedly demonstrated that Latinos are not only more likely to be exposed to pollution, but also that this exposure can be linked to increased disease prevalence within the Latino community.⁸ These risks are only worsened for those working in dangerous fields like construction or farmwork.⁹ From municipal challenges, to widening disasters, and potential climate breakdown, Latinos are on the front lines of environmental justice.

ASKS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Local Environment

- Pollution remediation:** Studies have repeatedly demonstrated that Latinos face greater exposure to potentially harmful air pollution, leading to increased disease prevalence in the Latino community.¹⁰ Increased federal funding intended specifically for Latino communities to redress disproportionate contamination levels offers a clear and direct road to improvement.¹¹ Congress must fund enhanced detection and cleanup programs for environmental pollutants, including more novel threats like PFAS. Remediation must include implementation of robust federal standards for pollution in consultation with leading community figures.
- Farmworker Pesticide protections:** Over one-third of farmworkers may be facing deleterious levels of toxic exposure stemming from the workplace.¹² To protect America's food supply and those who produce it, Congress and the Departments of Labor and Agriculture must devise and enforce new environmental protection for farmworkers, particularly against workplace exposure to pesticides. Hispanic Federation demands the passage of new environmental laws and regulations to ensure the health of those whose work provides food to American families.
- Exposomic Research Funding:** Barely a decade after the Human Genome Project was completed, physicians, epigeneticists, toxicologists, and epidemiologists have embraced the task of uncovering a person's lifelong environmental exposure—their exposome.¹³ There exists bipartisan sentiment that it is past time that the federal government do more to protect Americans from the health consequences of chemical exposure.¹⁴ Exposomic research offers lawmakers, industries, and community groups the opportunity to precisely target those compounds with the greatest relevance. With Latinos disproportionately exposed to air and water pollution,¹⁵ it is urgent for our communities that Congress act to support this next frontier of medical research. Consequently, we urge Congress to take steps to fund exposomic and epigenetic research, with particular attention to exposomic disparate impacts.
- Community Consultation in Development:** Research has shown that Latino communities—and Latinas in particular—are seldom consulted in decisions over the development of the built-environment, resulting in economic inefficiencies and concomitant health challenges.¹⁶ In turn, studies demonstrate that development projects which obligate consultation with community leaders who are representative of affected populations result in faster, more effective development. In turn, Hispanic Federation exhorts the federal government to preferentially disburse funding to projects which include mandatory consultation with local leaders or unity councils.
- Transit:** Latinos face environmental inequities in transit access which quickly exacerbate other environmental injustices. Access to reliable transportation is one of the most important tools in attaining reliable employment as well as life satisfaction; as such it is essential that the federal government act to address shortfalls in public transit.¹⁷ So long as inequalities persist in Latino access to public transit, not only will they be deprived access to employment and urban amenities, but also will face worsened local environmental safety outcomes. To that end, Hispanic Federation advises Congress take measures to protect and expand public transit access, rooted in addressing obstacles to crime and safety, affordability, equal access, system legibility, and reliability.¹⁸

OVER ONE-THIRD OF FARMWORKERS MAY BE FACING DELETERIOUS LEVELS OF TOXIC EXPOSURE STEMMING FROM THE WORKPLACE

- System illegibility exacerbates distance between the Latino community and transit opportunities. In turn, such obstacles divide Latinos from transit systems, reducing ridership, and thereby justifying systemic choices not to serve the community in developing transit schema. Hispanic Federation demands that the federal government take steps to increase system legibility for all transit users.
- Likewise, transit costs can often be a striking barrier to use by Latinos. Largely fueled via flat rate fares, transit systems represent a financially regressive service to communities. Financial constraints reduce Latinos' access to personal vehicles, and in turn rendering our communities more dependent on public transportation.¹⁹ Likewise, Latino families are, on average, larger than non-Hispanic peers, further increasing the cost per trip.²⁰ Thus, transit fares are disproportionately expensive for the Latino community. In turn, affordability and reliability combine to severely proscribe freedom of movement in the Latino community, creating transit-enforced segregation. Hispanic Federation exhorts the federal government to take steps to subsidize use of public transit by lower-income populations to ensure that they do not become an economically inefficient poverty tax.
- **Freedom of Movement:** Freedom of movement is a recognized civil right under the fourteenth amendment, upheld by the Supreme Court under *Paul v Virginia and Saenz v Roe*. Unfortunately, a combination of hostile location registration policies, erosion of due-process norms, and geographic-economic redlining have conspired to undermine this right for Latinos. Consequently, our communities face sharper barriers to accepting jobs in different locations,²¹ applying to colleges,²² and even attending doctor's appointments.²³ Hispanic Federation urges Congress to adopt legislation reaffirming the constitutional right to freedom of movement by superseding state and local laws that impose unfair and unrealistic burdens to movement, and by overturning federal regulations which have had the same effect.
- **Disparate Impact Doctrine:** Since the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the disparate impact doctrine has been an essential component of civil rights law, anchored in the principle that a policy need not be facially or explicitly discriminatory in order to have discriminatory outcomes. In 1968, Congress extended similar protections to housing through the passage of Titles VIII and IX of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, better known as the Fair Housing Act. The ideals underpinning the disparate impact doctrine have been upheld through Supreme Court precedent,²⁴ and their ongoing salience is clear.²⁵ Hispanic Federation demands that the federal government take all appropriate steps to codify and strengthen the disparate impact standard to protect future generations from insidious forms of housing discrimination.

Climate Change Mitigation

- **The Paris Agreement:** On January 20, 2025, the United States initiated steps to exit the Paris Climate Agreement.²⁶ The Paris Agreement has paved the way for meaningful reductions in carbon emissions.²⁷ In recent years, China's annual carbon emissions have blown past those of the United States, with India's rapidly on trajectory to surpass the U.S. as well. Participation in the Paris Climate Agreement therefore was not only a tool to combat climate change, but also a vital forum by which the United States may serve as a check on the potentially illegal industrial policies of emerging geopolitical rivals with the support of the broader international community.²⁸ By abandoning the Paris Agreement, the US unnecessarily sacrificed an avenue for geopolitical engagement, and consequently the Agreement should be reentered.
- **Energy transition:** Surveys confirm that Latinos support rapid and robust investment into clean, renewable energy.²⁹ Ultimately, humanity must divest from polluting

**SURVEYS CONFIRM
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and carbon-emitting fuel sources if we are to escape the worst of climate change's effects. This transition should approach energy from a full spectrum approach, combining wind power, solar energy, and net metering, and energy permitting reform.³⁰ Hispanic Federation and our partners have ardently fought for renewable energy in places like Orlando and Puerto Rico. These advances combine community buy-in with long-term economic gains, and Hispanic Federation implores Congress to make future investments along their contours.

- **Climate resilience:** In 2021, the EPA offered hope that many of the worst consequences of climate change can be prevented by investing in mitigation strategies, ranging from seawalls to fire-proofed buildings.³¹ These measures would bring the added benefit of defraying some of the worsening insurance crises in states most impacted by climate change like Florida and California, and should be pursued as both proactive disaster prevention and economic investment.

Disaster Relief

- **Disaster relief outreach, planning, and resiliency:** To counteract inequalities in disaster preparedness, Congress must equip state and local officials with sufficient resources to conduct linguistically and culturally effective outreach and coordination with Latino households and community leaders. Our work in Puerto Rico, Florida, North Carolina, California, and New York State confirms the urgency of these recommendations to ensure that our communities are not left behind.³² These programs must include:

- Augmentation of short-term preparedness assistance like sandbags and fresh water
- Greater communication with Latino elected officials and community leaders who can serve as effective interlocutors for disaster preparations.
- Long-term investment in shelters and evacuation routes that are designed specifically to support majority-Latino neighborhoods.
- Equitable investment of recovery funds from bodies like FEMA and the Small Business Administration to support long-term recovery of Latino-owned businesses and homes.
- Drastic increases in disaster legal aid support for our community.³³

CONGRESS MUST EQUIP STATE AND LOCAL OFFICIALS WITH SUFFICIENT RESOURCES TO CONDUCT LINGUISTICALLY AND CULTURALLY EFFECTIVE OUTREACH AND COORDINATION WITH LATINO HOUSEHOLDS AND COMMUNITY LEADERS

- **Weather Service Access:** The National Oceanic and Atmosphere Administration and the National Weather Service are essential in supporting community responses to catastrophic weather. During the 2024 hurricane season, NOAA's forecasting models were the best in the world, and individuals across all levels of the country relied on free access to their information to plan their responses. Despite the immense public utility these tools provide, there continue to be plans to privatize NOAA and the National Weather Service.³⁴ Hispanic Federation therefore demands the federal government reject any moves to privatize access to life-saving information.
- **Immigrants and Disaster Relief:** Immigrant workers are essential to short- and long-term disaster relief and recovery efforts in affected regions, but are ineligible for one of the key sources of federal aid. The vulnerable, essential workers who labor to rebuild others' houses and restore normalcy deserve federal assistance, yet it is precisely this population that is excluded from the Individual and Household program. Hispanic Federation exhorts the expansion of FEMA's Individual and Household program to DACA recipients and TPS designees, those on H-2A, H-2B, U- and Student Visas, as well as undocumented residents.

- Likewise, Hispanic Federation calls for expanded appropriations for USCIS and the State Department to address immigration-derived shortages in the labor supply to ensure that hard-hit communities have people ready to do the work that these communities need to ensure a prosperous recovery. Facilitating these applications would not only increase tax revenue but also free businesses employing them to fully participate in FEMA and SBA recovery programs.
- Additionally, we urge Congress to use its authority to increase the cap for H-2B visas with specific caveats that these additional visas be reserved for businesses working in regions devastated by natural disasters. Doing so will not only increase the available supply of workers in these areas, but also increase Congressional oversight of recovery-related labor in targeted areas.
- **Community Involvement Provisions:** Effective disaster relief is a complex process, and can only be reasonably accomplished with federal resources. However, those resources cannot be meaningfully deployed without consultation with local communities.³⁵ Hispanic Federation has led the way in encouraging and participating in community-involved disaster preparedness and recovery groups. Our work in these spaces aligns with research demonstrating that when you bring in community voices, disaster recovery is faster, cheaper, and more effective. Hispanic Federation calls upon Congress to codify requirements that disaster preparedness and relief oversight committees incorporate representatives from local communities to support disaster response efforts across the country.

DATA SUPPORTING ASKS

Local Environment

- Reports demonstrate that Latino children are particularly vulnerable to pollution exposure through PM_{2.5} pollution, as well as lead and pesticides, likely in response to their greater dependence on public green spaces for recreation.³⁶
- There is growing evidence that the Latino community also faces elevated exposure to PFAS through contaminated water supply, notably through wastewater and military operations.³⁷
- Hispanic Federation's work with Orlando OUC affirms the extent to which all cleanup efforts must be guided by community-engagement, led by those who are most attuned to the problems and opportunities in their own environments.
- On average, Latinos have less access to public transit that comes at a greater relative cost, and is less suited to their daily needs than their peers. This reality comes on top of an already absurd shortcoming in public transit infrastructure in the United States where “a typical job... is accessible by public transit within 90 minutes or less by only 27% of the surrounding workforce when considering the 100 largest metropolitan areas in the nation.”³⁸ These challenges often stem from transit headway planning that deprioritizes marginalized communities, including Latinos.
- Empirical studies and surveys both have illustrated that, when transit generally aligns with their transportation needs, Latinos are inclined to do so at higher rates than their non-Hispanic peers.³⁹
- The Latino community exhibits lower rates of automobile ownership than other demographics in the U.S., highlighting the need for better public transit to serve their needs. Simultaneously, some Latino individuals, particularly low-income immigrants, exhibit a strong preference for automobile use when transit is an option, suggesting that even when proximity to public transit exists, it is inadequate for their needs.⁴⁰
- Not only does existing transit not tend to serve the interests and needs of Latino communities, but some studies have also shown a *decrease* in transit access for Latino neighborhoods over the past two decades.⁴¹
- Multiple studies concur with the salience of safety in aggravating Latino transit injustice.
 - In one survey, “everyone knew someone else who had been robbed or assaulted,” while taking public transit, clarifying that there is a pervasive sense that Latino-serving transit—where it exists at all—is unsafe.⁴²
 - Another survey noted that safety concerns do not always stem from unnamed robbers or muggers, but can come from police themselves, who discriminatorily question minority transit and cycle users, while one further suggested that some undocumented immigrants were deterred from establishing transit accounts from fears of their being used to build deportation cases against them, underscoring that, insofar as crime is a deterrent to equitable transit use, it must be addressed in ways that do not otherwise exacerbate longstanding tensions between the Latino and other minority communities and law enforcement.⁴³
- Particularly in smaller metropolitan areas, transit instructions are often available only in English, rendering them of drastically limited utility for individuals who only speak other languages.⁴⁴

LATINO CHILDREN ARE PARTICULARLY VULNERABLE TO POLLUTION EXPOSURE THROUGH PM_{2.5} POLLUTION, AS WELL AS LEAD AND PESTICIDES

- Even when multilingual printed information does exist, it's rare that transit operators speak any language other than English, such that, if any component of a trip goes awry or otherwise needs clarification, non-English speakers are once again left to their own devices.⁴⁵
- Lack of outreach can render a system wholly inaccessible; in one case, an immigrant living in Burlington was entirely unaware of the existing public transportation network, and therefore had no ability to take advantage of it.⁴⁶
- Among the Latino community, the relationship between wealth and mass transit dependence is exacerbated, as wealth is inversely coordinated with nativity or documentation, and many jurisdictions still do not permit undocumented immigrants to obtain driver's licenses, thereby further increasing dependence upon cash-fare public transit.⁴⁷

Climate Change Mitigation

- Perceptions of being outside the intended demographic for broader environmentalist movements leads to Latinos acting through informal networks, which can tend to limit their reach to powerbrokers. And when Latinos do engage in informal, communitarian climate and environmental activism, they are often dismissed as non-experts.⁴⁸
- In 2021, the EPA produced a comprehensive report on expected consequences of climate change across the United States at the thresholds of 2°C and 4°C above the mean temperature from 1986-2005.⁴⁹ The report examined the likely consequences of climate change through the lenses of 1) increased childhood asthma risk, 2) increased temperature mortality, 3) labor hours lost due to extreme temperatures, 4) hours lost per annum to traffic due to coastal road flooding, 5) property loss due to coastal flooding, and 6) property loss due to inland flooding.⁵⁰
 - Of these categories, Latinos were most vulnerable to lost labor hours, coastal flooding traffic delays, and coastal flooding property loss—relative to the general population.⁵¹ Across each of these three categories, the Latino community is more vulnerable than any other racial-ethnic group in the United States with the exception of AAPI communities facing coastal flooding losses at the 4°C level.⁵²
 - For instance, by 2035, the EPA estimates that Houston, TX, residents will lose an extra 154 hours per year to traffic delays from flooding. These elevated vulnerabilities stemmed from a combination of regional vulnerability (i.e. where Latinos live in the U.S.), their occupations, and the resources their communities possess to implement climate-facing adaptations on their own.
 - Thus, the Latino community is poised to suffer not simply extreme but *uniquely inequitable* consequences from medium-long term climate change.
- Latino households are disproportionately likely to reside in domiciles deemed inadequate housing by HUD according to data from the census bureau.⁵³ Lower quality housing increases risks from climate change.

LATINO HOUSEHOLDS ARE DISPROPORTIONATELY LIKELY TO RESIDE IN DOMICILES DEEMED INADEQUATE HOUSING BY HUD ACCORDING TO DATA FROM THE CENSUS BUREAU

Disaster Relief

- Latino vulnerability to disasters is a consequence of where Latinos live in the United States. This problem is unlikely to naturally dissipate as these regions are those “where the Hispanic population is growing fastest.”⁵⁴
- What targeted research out there that does exist indicates that the Latino community is more vulnerable to natural disasters than their neighbors, even when accounting for education and income.⁵⁵
- Latino communities, especially noncitizens of any immigration status, have an almost 50% greater likelihood of living in inadequate housing than non-Hispanic Whites according to Census data. Such shelters are therefore more vulnerable to storm systems like Hurricanes Sandy, Helene and Milton, and are commensurately more susceptible to being rendered uninhabitable.
- Latinos are more likely to get news about disaster from resources like friends and family than from official government sources, risking the coherence and tone of official information as it wends its way through unofficial information networks. ⁵⁶

THE LATINO COMMUNITY IS MORE VULNERABLE TO NATURAL DISASTERS THAN THEIR NEIGHBORS, EVEN WHEN ACCOUNTING FOR EDUCATION AND INCOME

CONCLUSION

There is a growing sense that environmental problems are messy and complicated; as such, their solutions demand entangled, innovative approaches. These problems are complex, and at times even seem intractable, as divergent interests clash over competing visions for the built and natural environment. Latinos are, and will continue to be, on the front lines of these battles. From hurricanes to headways, environmental challenges impose unconscionable medical and economic tolls on our communities. However, this exposure means that our communities have in turn developed the expertise required to lead on environmental issues.

Hispanic Federation has led the way in developing and empowering the environmental expertise of Latino communities. In turn, we understand not only what is at stake in this fight, but also how best it can be won. Proactive investments, restorative policies, and responsive relief efforts will all be required in the years to come, but they will reap rewards far in excess of their costs. By embracing the challenges of environmental justice in all its forms—and by listening to the communities most affected—the federal government has the ability to support a future in which all American communities benefit from clean air, connected spaces, and resilient infrastructure. It is imperative that this opportunity not be missed.

Learn more about Hispanic Federation's policy priorities by scanning the QR code at right.



Endnotes

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- 4 Raoul Kaenzig and Etienne Piguet, "Migration and Climate Change in Latin America and the Caribbean," in, *People on the Move in a Changing Climate: The Regional Impact of Environmental Change on Migration*, Vol. 2, 20214. 155-176. 5, citing CRED 2012.
- 5 Melinda L. Lewis et al., "Stay or Go! Challenges for Hispanic Families Preceding Hurricanes: Lessons Learned," *Journal of Family Strengths*, Vol. 19: Issue 1, Article 3. 2019. 6-9. Friedman et al., "Hispanic Disaster Preparedness," 1.
- 6 Specifically the mean temperature from 1986-2005. 3.6°F and 7.2°F, respectively. Note that this mode of calculating climate change temperature increases differs from the Cop26 style of reporting degrees centigrade above *pre-industrial averages*. Thus, the time-scales of the 2021 EPA report are a) greater than those informing common conventions like the Paris Accords goals of 1.5°C above pre-industrial averages, and are similarly more of a 'worst-case scenario.'
- 7 With the exception of AAPI communities facing coastal flooding losses; EPA, *Report*, 2021, 78-80.
- 8 Adulhaman Jbaily, Xiodan Zhou, Jle Liu, et al., "Air pollution exposure disparities across US population and income groups," *Nature*, Vol. 601: 2022.
- 9 <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC7879472/> (Accessed 5/2/25)
- 10 This incidence only worsens with decreased income, exacerbating disparate outcomes. Adulhaman Jbaily, Xiodan Zhou, Jle Liu, et al., "Air pollution exposure disparities across US population and income groups," *Nature*, Vol. 601: 2022. For instance, Jbaily et al., found that Latinos as a whole more are exposed to PM_{2.5} than the U.S. population as a whole, and that the relative degree of exposure has been steadily increasing. Jbaily, et al., "Air pollution," 2022. 236-237. This greater exposure among Latino children for instance has been linked to a higher prevalence of "asthma, lead and mercury poisoning.. and certain cancers." Olivia Carter-Pokras et al., "The Environmental Health of Latino Children," *J. Pediatric Health Care*, 21(5), 2007; 307-314. 1.
- 11 Liddie, "Communities of Color and PFAS Exposure."
- 12 Mariana Portela de-Assis et al., "Health problems in agricultural workers occupationally exposed to pesticides," *Rev. Bras. Med. Tab.* Vol. 11, 2021.
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- 14 <https://www.pewresearch.org/science/2023/06/28/3-majorities-of-americans-say-too-little-is-being-done-on-key-areas-of-environmental-protection/> (Accessed 12/19//25.)
- 15 See: Jbaily, Liddie, de-Asses, etc., above.
- 16 Gerardo Francisco Sandoval and Roanel Herrera, "Transit-Oriented Development and Equity in Latino Neighborhoods: A Comparative case Study of MacArthur Park (Los Angeles) and Fruitvale (Oakland)," *Transportation Research and Education Center*, 2015; Cathy Yang Lieu and Gary Painter, "Travel Behavior among Latino Immigrants: The Role of Ethnic Concentration and Ethnic Employment," *Journal of Planning Education and Research*, vol. 31, no. 1, 62-80. Brian S. McKenzie, "Neighborhood Access to Transit by Race, Ethnicity, and Poverty in Portland, OR," *City and Community*, vol. 12, no. 2, 2013; Elisa Borowski et al., "Disparity of Access: Variations in Transit Service by Race, Ethnicity, Income, and Auto Availability," presented at the 98th Annual transportation research board meeting, Jan. 2019.
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- 19 Barajas, Chatman, and Agrawal, 2016. 26. Lieu and Painter, 2011.
- 20 This affordability concern of course comes on top of already documented complications that arise from having children while being bound to public transit.
- 21 For instance, Daniel T. Lichter and Kenneth M. Johnson, "Opportunity and Place: Latino Children and America's Future," *Annals AAPSS*, 2021; Yongjun Zhang and Siwei Cheng, "mobility-Based Segregation in U.S. Metropolitan Areas," *Demography*, vol. 65, No. 4, 2025.
- 22 Sandra E. Black, Kalena E. Cortes, and Jane Arnold Lincove, "Apply Yourself: Racial and Ethnic Differences in College Application," *Education Finance and Policy*, 2018.
- 23 <https://www.npr.org/sections/shots-health-news/2025/02/10/nx-s1-5290063/migrants-chicago-delayed-health-care-immigration-crackdown-fears> (Accessed 12/22/25.)
- 24 For instance, in *Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs v The Inclusive Communities Project*.
- 25 One need not strain to conceive of conditions in which marketing in the current environment would constitute a key element of discrimination either in intent or in disparate impact. Indeed, look no further than the Fair Housing Act's prohibition of discrimination based on limited-English language proficiency as a proxy for national origin. An intentional choice to advertise exclusively within English language media markets within a region that contains many families that speak a language other than English within the home could represent a legitimate business decision based upon limited advertising resources, could comprise a disparate impact violation, or could be evidence of a discriminatory intent. See, for instance: <https://www.justice.gov/archives/opa/pr/justice-department-files-statement-interest-fair-housing-act-case-alleging-unlawful-exclusion> (Accessed 6/27/25), and <https://www.hud.gov/sites/documents/lepmemo091516.pdf> (Accessed 6/27/25.)
- 26 <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/putting-america-first-in-international-environmental-agreements/> (Accessed 5/2/25)
- 27 <https://ace-usa.org/blog/research/research-foreignpolicy/failures-and-successes-of-the-paris-agreement/> (Accessed 5/2/25)
- 28 <https://www.cfr.org/background/paris-global-climate-change-agreements> (Accessed 5/2/25)
- 29 <https://climatepower.us/news/new-polling-shows-latinos-support-investing-in-clean-energy-to-address-high-cost-of-living/>
- 30 <https://www.niskanencenter.org/permitting-reform-within-reach-a-review-of-major-energy-permitting-legislation/> (Accessed 5/2/25).
- 31 However, the EPA also warned that the Latino community may be poised not just to benefit less but even suffer greater climatic deprivations if future mitigation approaches are informed solely by return on investment.
- 32 These have totaled tens of millions across private, philanthropic, and government aid managed through HF's efforts, informing not only our sense of the vitality of these efforts but also of core opportunities for improvement. <https://www.hispanicfederation.org/our-work/recovery-and-resiliency/> (Accessed 5/2/25) Similarly, Hispanic Federation's LA Ayuda emphasized strength and resiliency across affected communities "leaving no one behind—especially our most vulnerable neighbors." <https://www.hispanicfederation.org/news/la-ayuda/> Accessed 5/2/25

- 33 Because of enrollment in programs like DACA, migrant visas, and employment authorization, Latinos are unusually entangled within the federal bureaucracy. In the best of times, complications with subcontract labor or the immigration system can be exacerbated by cultural and linguistic barriers. Amidst natural disasters, such bureaucratic touchpoints are likely to be lost in the cracks, jeopardizing immigration status, employment rights, and others. Linda Delp, Laura Podolsky, and Tomás Aguilar, "Risk Amid Recovery: Occupational Health and Safety of Latino Day Laborers in the Aftermath of the Gulf Coast Hurricanes," *Organization & Environment*, vol. 22, no. 4, 2009, pp. 479-490. Indeed, immigration law enforcement may inhibit effective hurricane preparedness (Lewis 9, ref: Lindsay 2011); LanzDuret-Hernandez, "We have the Right," 2024.
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- 50 Of these, categories 4, 5 and 6 were the most arcane, in that their definition of vulnerability referred to the likelihood that property or roads would be excluded from adaptation to rising sea levels/flood risk in the event that such adaptations were made according to a cost vs. risk vs. benefit. EPA, 46.
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