

STRENGTH IN ADVERSITY

A SURVEY OF 179 LATINO FAMILIES IN RHODE ISLAND

MEET OUR MIXED-STATUS FAMILIES



Mixed-status families are comprised of an unauthorized parent(s), sometimes an unauthorized sibling, and a U.S.-born citizen child. Of the 179 families participating in this study, 49 percent were mixed status. All participating parents are immigrants from Dominican Republic, Mexico, and other countries in Central America, and all children were born in the United States.



In 2010, there were 4.5 million U.S.-born children from mixed-status families.

STRENGTH

EDUCATIONAL EXPECTATIONS



90% of participating children of mixed-status families expect to receive at least a bachelor's degree.

FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS



50% of mixed-status families score above average in parent-child communication, an important contributor to healthy child development.

TWO-PARENT HOUSEHOLDS



83% of unauthorized parents head a two-parent household, an important component of family well-being.

BILINGUAL COMMUNICATION



33% of children in mixed-status families are fully bilingual in English and Spanish, which research has shown to be beneficial for cognitive development.

ADVERSITY



SOCIAL EXCLUSION

A process by which an individual or group is denied access to resources and social networks available to the larger society.



Social Support: Compared with authorized Latino parents, participating unauthorized parents were significantly less likely to have access to people in their social networks who can help with childcare, who can provide economic assistance, and who can help find work.



CHILDCARE

24% no help with childcare



JOBS

44% no job search assistance



FINANCES

57% no economic assistance



POVERTY

88%

have a high school diploma or less

82%

earn under \$2,000/month placing them under the Federal poverty line

92%

ate cheaper food to save money in the last 6 months

41%

skipped a meal to save money in the last 6 months



Social Service Use: Virtually 0% of participating unauthorized parents claim social security income, unemployment benefits, or welfare, proving false the stereotype that undocumented immigrants come to the US for public assistance.

Because of undocumented parents' ineligibility for many forms of social support, their US-born children, who are eligible, are more likely to lack health insurance, to live in overcrowded housing, and to skip early childhood or preschool programs, which have been shown to be instrumental in school readiness and success.



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The data from this infographic comes from a two-year, mixed-methods study on the experiences of Rhode Island Latino immigrant families with US-born children between the ages of 7-10. All participating parents are immigrants from Dominican Republic, Mexico, and other countries in Central America, and all children were born in the United States. One hundred and seventy-nine families were recruited from the urban ring around Providence via school districts, churches, community organizations, and nonprofits. Forty-nine percent of the families were mixed-status (i.e., parent was unauthorized and child US-citizen), permitting comparison between families who differed on the basis of parental authorization status. Each family completed a structured interview first with the parent, and second with the child. All interviews were conducted in the family's language of preference by trained, bilingual researchers. This study is funded by the Foundation for Child Development.



CONTRIBUTOR

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