

Engaging the Hispanic population in the U.S. to overcome challenges and perceptions



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Agenda

1. Share information from a strength based perspective
2. Share some facts on the “state” of Latinos in the U.S
3. Have a discussion on promising opportunities in early childhood education

Nation Alliance for Hispanic Families Vision

To affirm and advance Hispanic families so that children may reach their greatest potential and achieve their greatest dreams, making our communities and country stronger and prosperous.

We do this by:

By raising the awareness of Americans about the state of Hispanics in the U.S. today

Promoting and advancing policies that strengthen and support Hispanic children and families

harnessing public and private resources to promote comprehensive programs

Expanding and enhancing direct service to effectively address today's challenging environment.

At the NAHF we focus on 3 priorities:

1. Early childhood education and its impact on the future U.S. economy.
2. Developing a research-driven policy agenda that focuses on the strengths of the Hispanic family.
3. Identifying, cultivating and developing Hispanic leadership.

Reproduction of Questions on Hispanic origin and Race

Is this Person of Hispanic, Latino or Spanish Origin?

No

Yes, Mexican, Mexican Am., Chicano

Yes, Puerto Rican

Yes, Cuban

Yes, another Hispanic

Reproduction of Questions on Hispanic origin and Race

What is this person's race?

White

Black, African Am. Or Negro

American Indian or Alaska Native

Asian Indian

Chinese

Japanese

Korean

Filipino

Vietnamese

Other Asian

Native Hawaiian

Guamanian or Chamorro

Samoaan

Other Pacific Islander

Some other race

POLL

Answers

1. Education – 55%
2. Jobs and the economy – 54%
3. Healthcare – 50%
4. Immigration – 34%

The PEW Hispanic Research Center found that immigration is only the **4th** priority for the majority of Hispanic's after education, the economy and health.



In 2010, Hispanics had the highest birth rates—80 births per 1,000 women of childbearing.

Fully one-in-three (33%) Hispanics are school age (under 18).

recession “hit them harder” than other groups.

The unemployment rate among Hispanics peaked at 12.3% in 2010,

Why is this important?

Break the stereotype

Improve the overall quality and coordination of services

Ensure the child and their families education and economic success

Educating and informing

By informing practice and policy that is culturally appropriate

By understanding how poverty and economic self sufficiency impact Hispanic families

21st century demographics:

In 1980 Hispanics made up just 6.5% of the total U.S. population.

By 2050, the Hispanic population will increase to nearly 24.4 percent of the total population.

= 102.6 million Latinos in America

POLL

Answers

1. About three – quarters state financial pressure to support a family
2. About half cite poor English skills
3. About four-in-ten cite a dislike of school or a belief that they do not need more education

Two things to keep in mind

1. Most Latino youths are ***not immigrants***



2. Latina females are the most vulnerable group in the U.S.



About one-in-four young
Hispanic females (26%)
becomes a mother by age 19

Latino schooling in the U.S. has long been characterized . . .

By high dropout rates

Low college completion rates

Least likely to attend ECE

Why is ECE critical for Hispanic children and families?

Positive impacts of participating in ECE

Social and economic well being of America

By force of numbers alone, the kinds of adults these young Latinos become will help shape the kind of society America becomes in the 21st century.

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Hispanics are the largest and youngest minority group in the United States

one in four children in the U.S. is now Hispanic
roughly one-third of Hispanic children is living in poverty
One in three children will be Hispanic by 2050



Overall Hispanics are less likely to participate in a pre-kindergarten program.

Thirty-eight percent in Head Star

21 percent served in child care



Key findings from research

Enter kindergarten ready to learn and fared well academically through the end of the third-grade year.

Enter kindergarten scoring above national averages in the areas of pre-academic and social-behavioral skills.

Latino children classified as dual-language learners who attended public-school pre-K were more proficient in English

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Keep in mind . . .

Not all Dual Language Learners are Hispanic or vice versa

Why is this critical to understand?

Because of the inextricable link between culture, language and learning.

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Program Challenges

Lack of valid and reliable assessment tools

Supporting transitions between child care arrangements and public school.

Attracting and retaining bilingual staff and those that understand the culture

Being unable to communicate and help families particularly when multiple languages and cultures are present

Parents stated that they were unable to fully participate in their children's education

Recommendations

Program leadership must be dedicated to implementing a program wide, comprehensive plans.

Enhance professional development opportunities to strengthen staff's knowledge and skills related to serving young Latino children and their families.

Coordinate with other local agencies to help support families by implementing MOUs that outline specific tasks, decision making and accountability.

Consider Two – generation approaches

Keep it local.

Gracias and in the words of Cesar Chavez

Si Se Puede



Questions

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