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A Research Report*

Perceptions of Latin American Immigration Among Rural Nebraskans

2006 Nebraska Rural Poll Results

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Table 1. Demographic Comparisons Between Latino Respondents and Rural Sample Respondents


	<i>Latino Respondents</i>	<i>NRP 2006 Respondents</i>
Average age	46 years	56 years
Percent married	69%	69%
Percent living within city limits	89%	71%
Average years lived in Nebraska	24 years	48 years
Average years lived in community	18 years	32 years
Percent living in or near communities with populations of 10,000 or more	60%	36%
Percent with at least a high school Diploma	58%	92%
Percent with household incomes below \$20,000	22%	20%
Percent with household incomes over \$50,000	16%	36%
Percent employed	85%	72%
Percent retired	9%	25%
Percent of employed with professional occupation	24%	35%
Percent of employed that are farmers or ranchers	10%	14%
Percent of employed that are manual laborers	26%	11%

Table 2. Opinions About Latin American Immigrants

Opinions About Latin American Immigrants	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither	Agree	Strongly Agree
Immigrants from Latin America strengthen rural Nebraska.	17 %	33 %	33 %	15 %	1 %
Wages increase for most people in rural Nebraska communities when undocumented immigrants (sometimes referred to as illegal immigrants or aliens) are hired.	33	41	21	4	1
In general, immigration from Latin America has been good for rural Nebraska.	25	31	30	13	2
Immigrants from Latin America are often discriminated against in rural Nebraska.	7	21	34	33	5
Rural Nebraska communities should communicate important information in Spanish as well as English.	41	28	12	16	4
Immigrants from Latin America should learn to speak English within a reasonable amount of time.	1	1	4	29	65
Rural Nebraska communities do a lot to include immigrants from Latin America into the community.	5	18	49	24	4

Table 3. Opinions on Immigration Policies

	<i>Disagree Strongly</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Neither</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Agree Strongly</i>
In-state college tuition should be available to undocumented immigrants under the age of 21 who have been living in the U.S. for at least 5 years.	42 %	30 %	12 %	4 %	3%
Citizenship should be available to undocumented immigrants under the age of 21 who have been living in the U.S. for 5 years and are in 7th grade or above.	29 %	27 %	16 %	24 %	4%
Businesses that employ undocumented workers should be penalized.	3 %	8 %	12 %	36 %	41%
Undocumented immigrants should be Deported.	4 %	8 %	17 %	35 %	37%
An undocumented immigrant who has been working and paying taxes for five years or more should be allowed to apply for citizenship.	14 %	15 %	16 %	46 %	10%
The government should tighten the borders to prevent illegal immigration.	3 %	3 %	8 %	33 %	54%
Families of immigrant workers should be allowed to come to the U.S. regardless of other restrictions on immigration.	39 %	34 %	15 %	10 %	3%
A “guest-worker” program should be created to allow immigrants to work in the U.S. without becoming citizens.	27 %	23%	17 %	26 %	8%



**Experience with new immigrants
and the empirical effects of
immigration do not provide much
explanation of attitudes toward
immigration and immigrants.**

Table 4. First Order Partial Correlations - Controlling for Size of Population

N=580		Zip Code Characteristic				
Zip Code Characteristic	Hispanic/Latino Population 2000	% Hispanic/Latino Population 2000	% of Population > 5 Speaking English Only	% of Population Living in Another Country/Country 1995	% of Population Living in Another Country 2000	Foreign Born Persons
Median HH Income 1999	-0.079*	0.029	-0.074*	0.048*	0.082*	-0.082*
Per Capita Income	-0.238*	-0.196*	0.222*	-0.06*	-0.247*	-0.158*
Percent of Population in Poverty 1999	<u>0.328*</u>	<u>0.261*</u>	-0.228*	0.164*	0.182*	0.159*
Percent of Households with Public Assistance	<u>0.36*</u>	<u>0.313*</u>	-0.251*	-0.014	0.176*	0.254*
Average Public Assistance per Household with Public Assistance	0.142*	0.159*	-0.183*	0.044*	0.142*	0.076*
Per Capita Public Assistance Income	<u>0.332*</u>	0.279*	-0.25*	0.013	0.19*	0.193*
Income Inequality Index	0.268*	0.38*	-0.447*	0.286*	0.464*	0.151*
Labor Force Participation Rate	-0.094*	-0.053*	0.003	0.21*	-0.004	0.039
Average Wage per Wage Worker	0.151*	0.28*	-0.237*	-0.186*	0.107*	-0.04

*Significance = $p < .05$

Table 5. First Order Partial Correlations - Controlling for Size of Population

N=2,288

Respondents' Zip Code Characteristic

Poll Question	Hispanic/Latino Population 2000	% Hispanic/Latino Population 2000	% of Population > 5 Speaking English Only	% of Population Living in Another Country/Country 1995	% of Population Living in Another Country 2000	Foreign Born Persons
Immigrants strengthen rural Nebraska	-0.024	-0.019	0.023	0.037	-0.018	0.031
Wages increase when undocumented immigrants are hired	-0.006	-0.003	0.004	0.011	0.008	0.005
Immigration from Latin America has been good for rural Nebraska	-0.030	-0.026	0.024	0.037	-0.033	0.018
Immigrants from Latin America are often discriminated against in rural Nebraska	-0.022	-0.024	0.012	0.006	-0.016	-0.019
Rural Nebraska communities should communicate information in Spanish as well as English	0.016	0.022	-0.025	0.049	0.015	0.050
Immigrants from Latin America should learn to speak English in a reasonable amt of time	0.023	0.012	-0.009	0.000	0.017	-0.009
Rural Nebraska communities do a lot to include immigrants from Latin America into the community	0.098*	0.104*	-0.099*	0.015	0.086*	0.022

*Significance = $p < .05$

Acknowledgements

- Funding for this project was provided by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension, the Agricultural Research Division of the Institute for Agriculture and Natural Resources, and the Center for Applied Rural Innovation.
- Additionally, considerable in-kind support and contributions were provided by a number of individuals and organizations associated with the Partnership for Rural Nebraska, the University of Nebraska Rural Initiative, the University of Nebraska Public Policy Center and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Survey, Statistics and Psychometrics (SSP) Core Facility.
- Many people have been generous with their time and expertise on this Report. From challenging us to helping us to solve technical or conceptual problems to making sure we were confident in our questions and analyses, these individuals assisted our efforts. Of course, they were only giving us their input; we bear the responsibility for any errors or failings in this report.
- We would like to thank: Tarik Abdel-Monem, Senator Ray Aguilar, Mindy Anderson-Knott, Rene Bautista, Paul Breitreutz, Gus Carlo, Deb Cottier, Linda Crump, Gary Cunningham, Elissa Dahlberg, Norma DeLaO, Lourdes Gouveia, Janet Harkness, Cecilia Huerta, Jean Karlen, Margaret Kohl, Natalie Malmberg, Jamie Marincic, Mary Kate McCarney, Marilyn McGary, Carlos Monzón, Liz Neely, Yolanda Chavez Nuncio, Ray Otero, Theresa Palacio, Teri Perkins, Sandy Scofield, Ray Screws, José Soto, Walter Stroup, and Darcy Tromanhauser.
- Manuel Méndez and José Soto translated the English version of the Rural Poll into Spanish and then back into English so that we could have a Spanish version of the Poll and be sure the Spanish version of the Poll accurately reflected the English version.
- A special note of appreciation is extended to the staff at the Pierce County Extension Office for the space needed to conduct this survey and to the Nebraska Library Commission for use of the laptop computers.
- NRP Center Research Report 06-5 November 2006- *Perceptions of Latin American Immigration Among Rural Nebraskans*, is available at:

<http://cari.unl.edu/ruralpoll/immigration.pdf>
- All of the Center's research reports detailing Nebraska Rural Poll results are located on the Center's Web page at: <http://cari.unl.edu/ruralpoll/>