

## Integration of Latino Immigrants in Small Midwestern Communities

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## Overview

Immigrant integration is a dynamic, two-way process in which the newcomers and receiving community work together to build safe, vibrant, and unified communities.



## Strategic Pathways to Integration

- Communitywide Planning
- Language & Education
- Health, Well-being, and Economic Mobility
- Equal Treatment and Opportunity
- Social and Cultural Interaction
- Citizenship and Civic Participation

## Immigrant Latino Parent Interviews

- 6 counties served by the Child Care Resource Service Central Illinois
- Spanish speaking immigrant parents

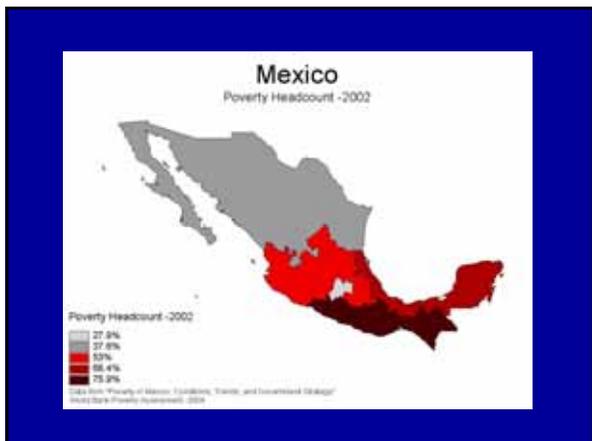


## Immigrant Latino Parent Interviews

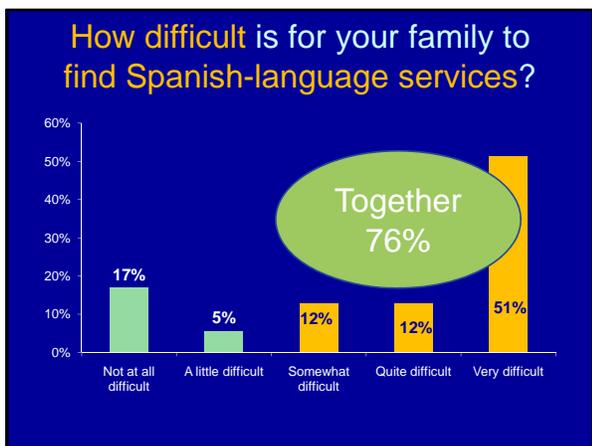
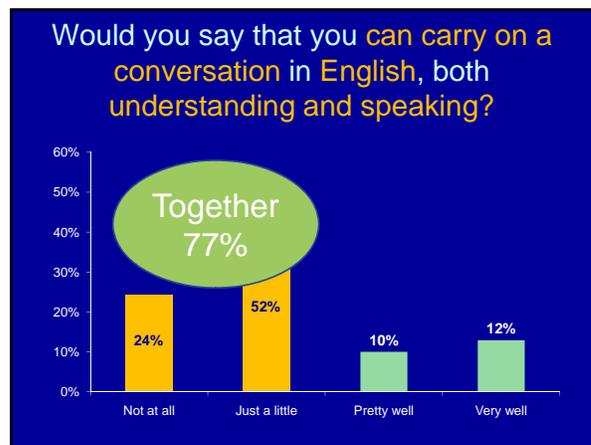
- Variety of recruitment strategies
  - Direct solicitation at community and service events, posting of flyers, agency referrals, participant referrals
- Individual interview with bilingual interviewers
- Broad-based needs assessment

## Sample Demographics

- $N = 72$  (93% mothers)
- 91% born in Mexico
- 56% employed outside home



- ### Education
- 81% went to school in Mexico
  - 46% have 8 or fewer years education
  - 37% have completed high school



"Nobody speak Spanish. It is hard and frustrating that nobody can help us"

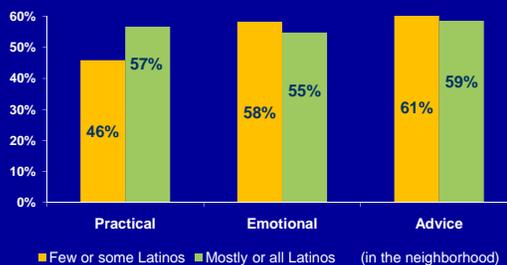
"Interpreters are expensive, we have to pay for the service, their food, and then for the gas".

## Social and Cultural Interaction

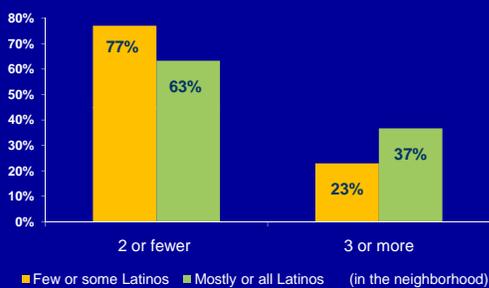
- Social Networks
- Community Connections
- Country of Origin Connections



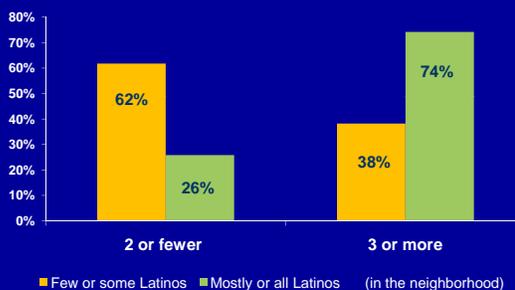
## Respondents with 2 or less persons who give them support



## How many relatives and in-laws do you have living near by?



## How many adults, other than relatives do you know in your neighborhood?



## Country of Origin connections

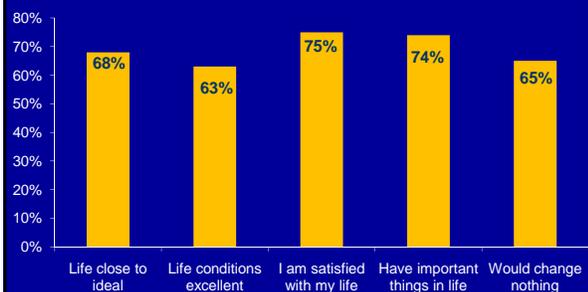
- 57% talk at least once a week
- 36% have gone back to visit within last 2 years

## Well Being

“If we are doing bad here, it is worse in Mexico”



### Life Satisfaction is Generally High



### Next Steps

- Finish data collection
- Examine social and community factors linked to immigrant integration
- Identify sources of strength for Latino immigrants

