



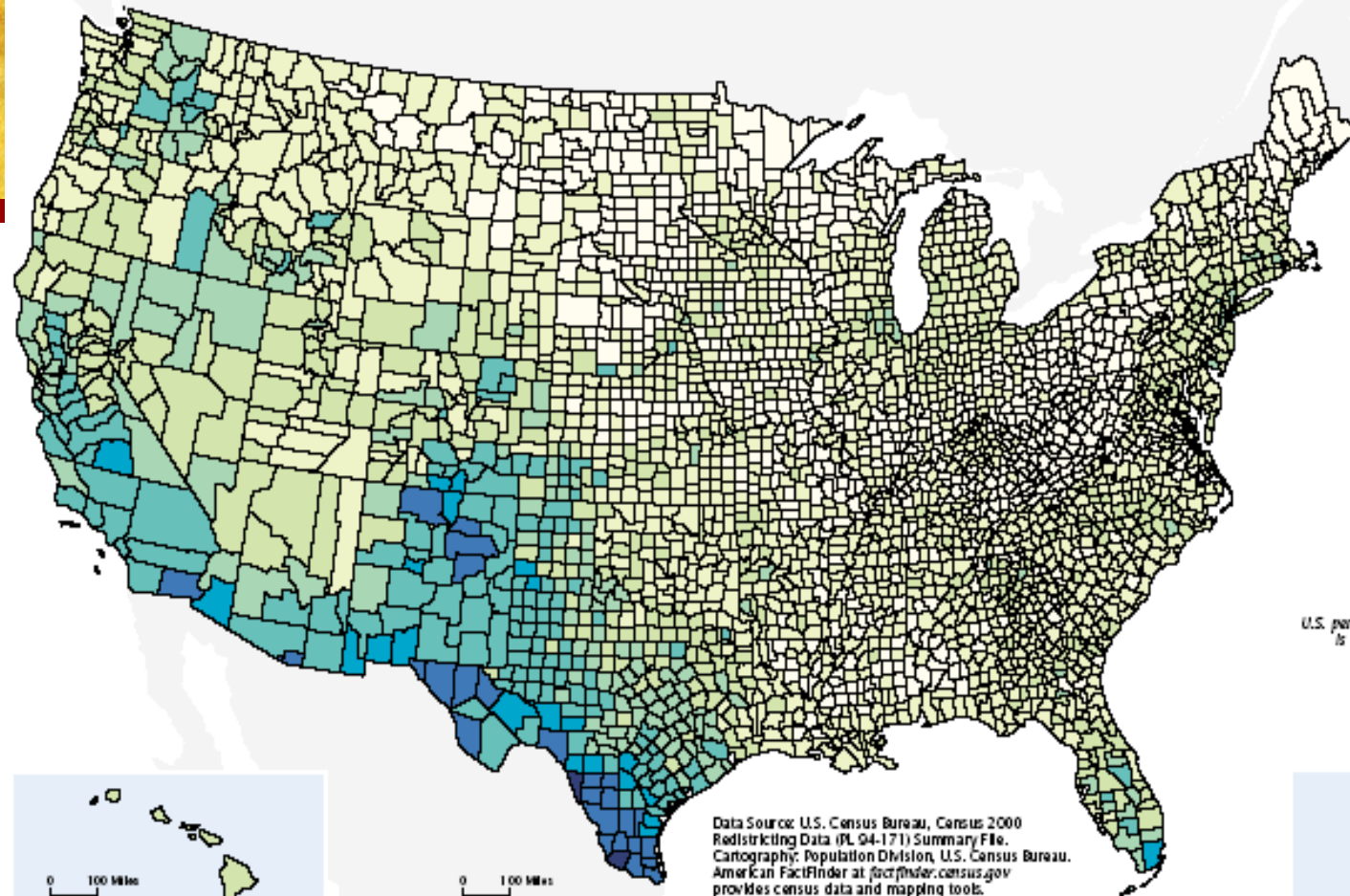
Measuring Integration, Acculturation, and Satisfaction



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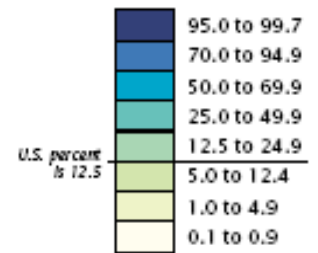
Introduction

- Rapid growth of foreign-born population
- 11% of the U.S. population, most (53%) of whom come from Latin American countries
- Psychology can contribute valuable knowledge regarding the immigrant experience
- Lags behind other disciplines (e.g., sociology) in producing scholarship on immigrants



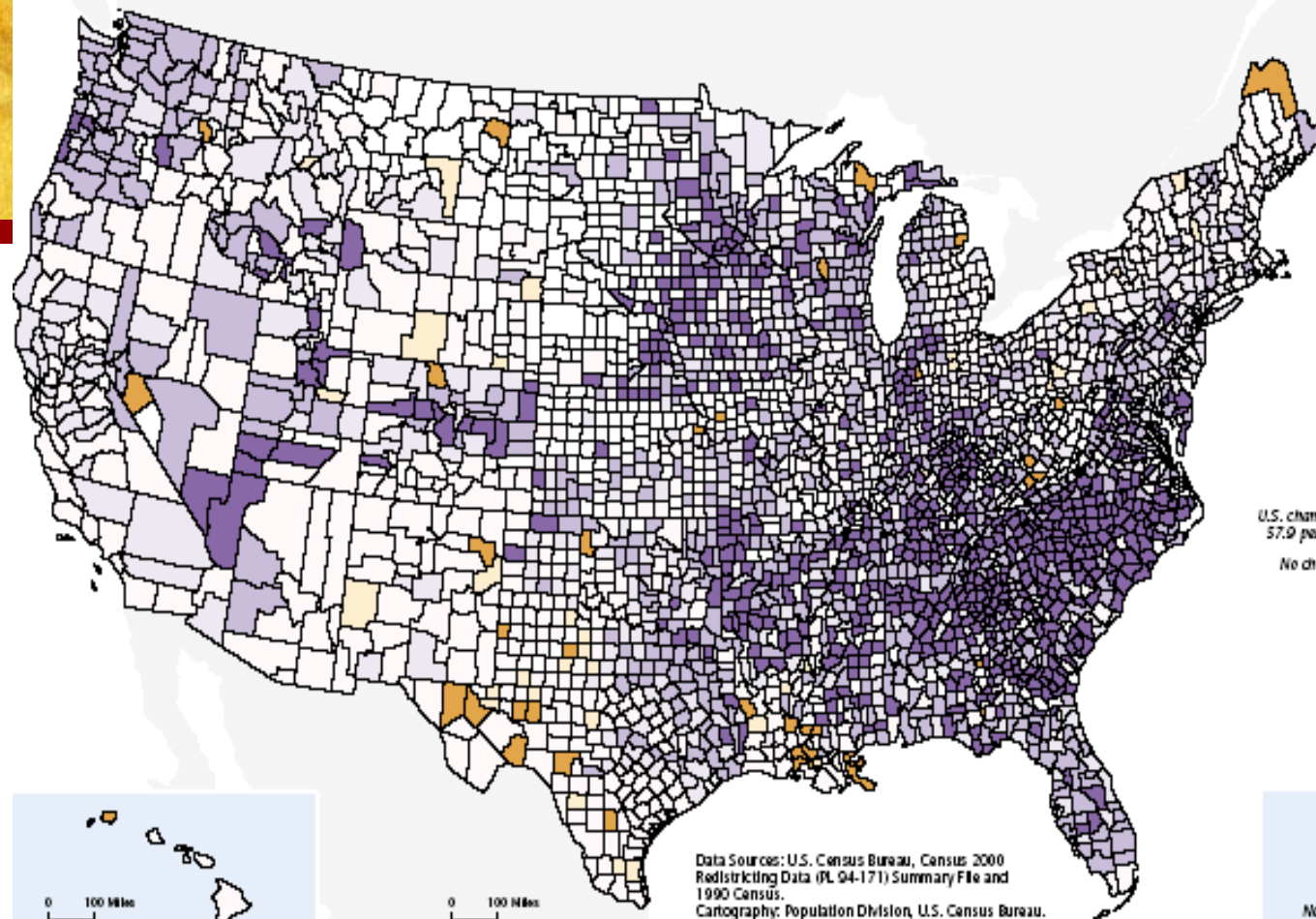
This map is one of a series of 14 "Percent of Population" maps with comparable categories for counties. Breaks defining map categories differ by small amounts among maps in the series to include the U.S. percent for the specific group mapped.

All races:
Hispanic or Latino population as a percent of total population by county



Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Redistricting Data (PL 94-171) Summary File.
Cartography: Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau.
American FactFinder at factfinder.census.gov provides census data and mapping tools.

Concentration of Latino/as across the U.S. Source: US Census Bureau, 2000



Change in Latino/a Population across US between 1990-2000 Source: US Census Bureau, 2000

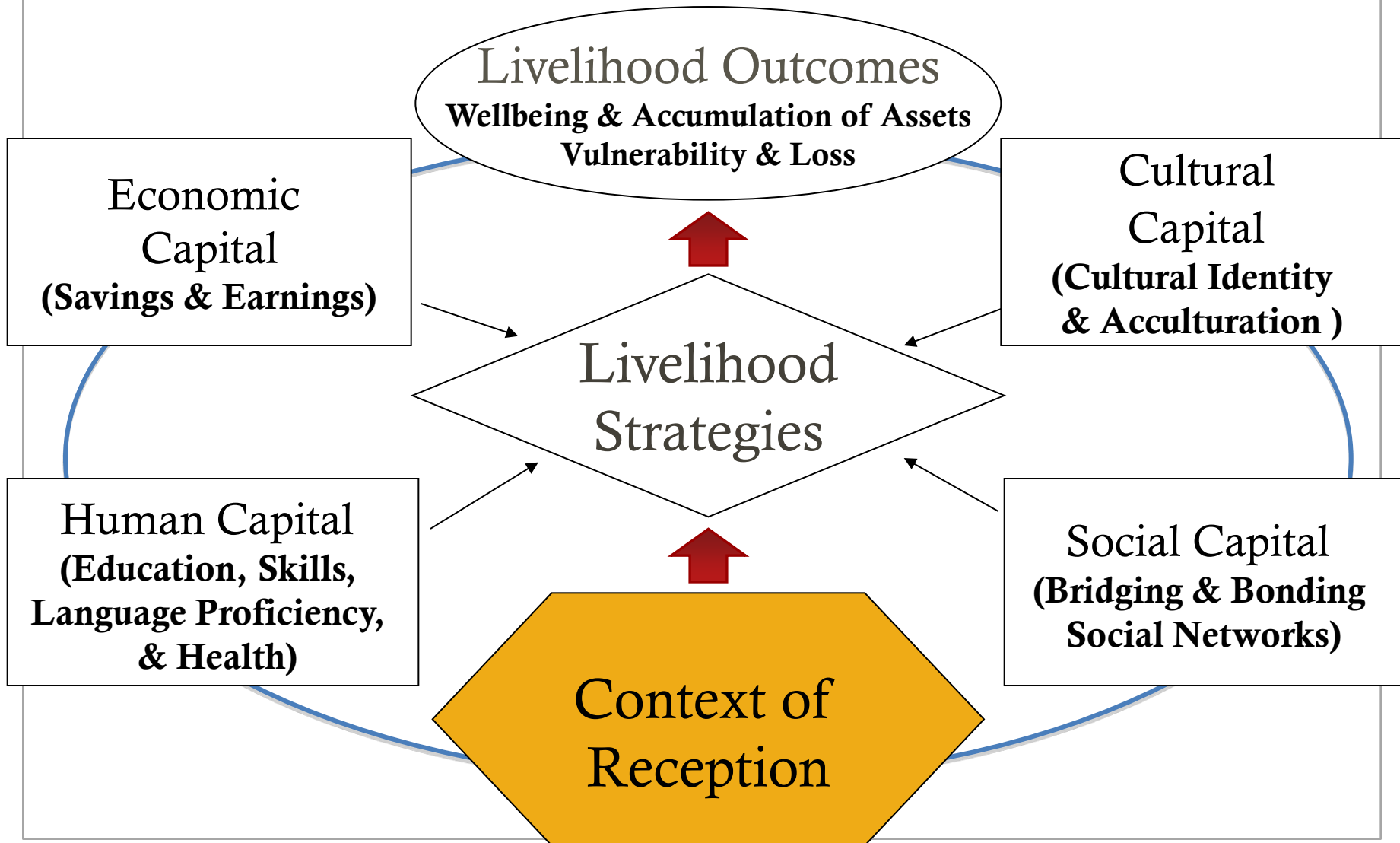
Introduction, cont' d

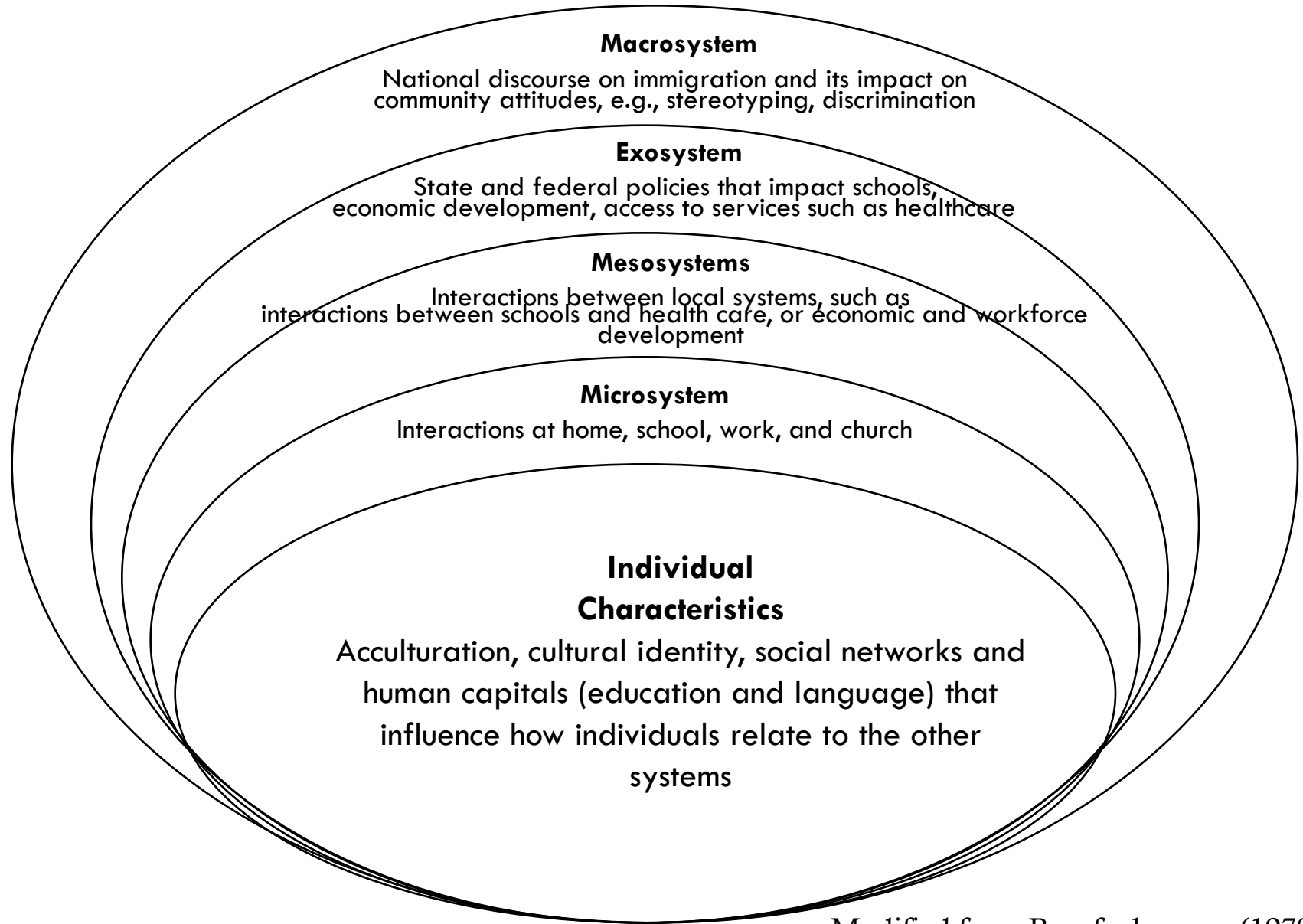
- Immigrants' mental health and adjustment, often studied from a pathological perspective
- Understanding immigrants' perceptions of the environments in which they are settling and their support systems are important areas for study
 - Can advance knowledge regarding the integration process
 - Can promote community-based research

Goals of Larger Project

- These three studies are part of a larger project that sought to examine the strategies newcomers use to accumulate assets, minimize vulnerabilities, and to integrate in their communities
- Funded by National Research Initiative of the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES), U.S. Department of Agriculture

Livelihood Strategies Model





Macrosystem

National discourse on immigration and its impact on community attitudes, e.g., stereotyping, discrimination

Exosystem

State and federal policies that impact schools, economic development, access to services such as healthcare

Mesosystems

Interactions between local systems, such as interactions between schools and health care, or economic and workforce development

Microsystem

Interactions at home, school, work, and church

**Individual
Characteristics**

Acculturation, cultural identity, social networks and human capitals (education and language) that influence how individuals relate to the other systems

Procedures

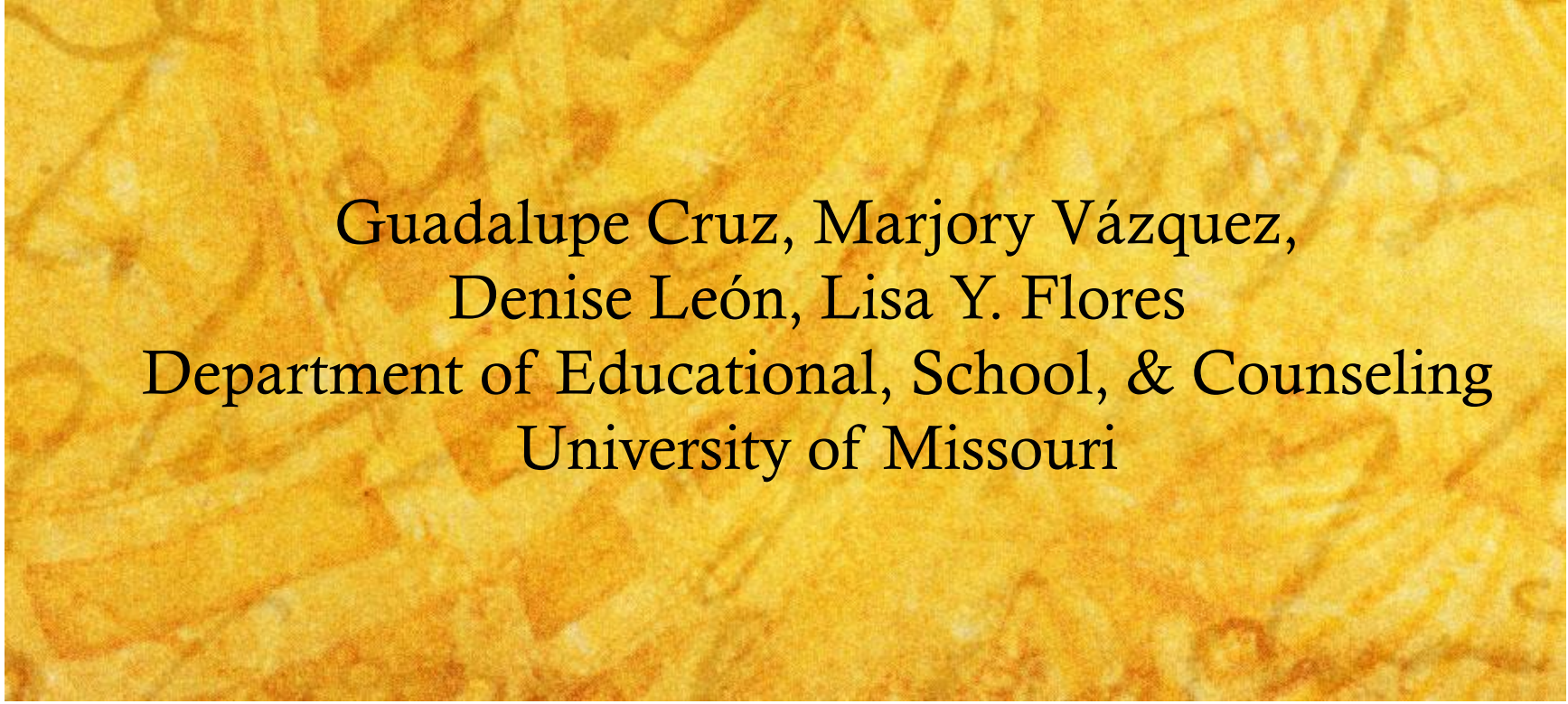
- Worked with trusted organizations (churches, community centers) and gatekeepers in the immigrant community
- Interviewers administered the survey one-on-one
- All interviews conducted in Spanish
- Interviews took 45 minutes to 1 hour

Communities

- Community A
 - Population of 1,960; 45.3% Latino
 - Agricultural, processing firms
- Community B
 - Population of 21,387; 9% Latino
 - Manufacturing, services and retail
- Community C
 - Population of 10,520; 8.8% Latino
 - Hospitality industry, retirement centers, construction



The Influence of Community Perception and Acculturation on Latina/o Immigrants' Support Seeking



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Hostile Environment

- Introduction of Anti-Immigrant Laws (Arizona SB 1070, Alabama HB 56)
- Increased involvement of police in immigration enforcement has heightened Latinos' fears of the police
 - 70% of undocumented immigrants vs. 44% of Latinos reported they are less likely to contact law enforcement authorities if they were victims of a crime
 - Contributes to a reduction of public safety (Theodore, 2013)

Acculturation Stressors

- Anti-immigrant policies and negative attitudes create a hostile environment for Latina/o immigrants settling in rural communities (Yakushko, Watson, & Thompson, 2008)
- Physical health is negatively associated with acculturation stressors (Finch & Vega, 2003)
- Acculturative stress was associated with higher levels of anxiety and depressive symptoms (Crockett et al., 2007)

Supports

- Cultural values within Latino families include warmth, affection, cohesion, commitment and emotional support (Seccombe, 2002)
- Positive physical and mental health outcomes associated with family/friend support and neighborhood cohesion within Latinos (Alegria, Sribney, & Mulvaney-Day, 2007)
- Community resilience through church support (Marin & Vazquez, 2012)
- Support changes depending on the setting:
 - Friend support more significant impact on mental health for Latino college students than family support (Rodriguez, Mira, Myers, Morris, & Cardoza, 2003)

Purpose of the Study

- Important to understand the support seeking behaviors among Latina/os living in predominantly White, heterogeneous, rural areas
- Limited research focuses on Latino immigrants living in the Midwest and how their perceptions of their community affects their support seeking behaviors

Research Question

- What are the influences of community perception, Anglo acculturation, and Latina/o acculturation on Latina/o immigrants' support seeking behaviors?

Participant Information

- 340 Latino immigrants
- 45% (n=153) male; 55% (n=187) female
- Mean age = 35.23 years (SD = 10.8; 18-77 years)
- 65.6% from Mexico, 15.9% from El Salvador; 7.1% from Guatemala; 5.6% from Honduras; 5.3% Other

Measures

- Bidimensional Acculturation Scale for Hispanics (Marin & Gamba, 1996)
 - Latino acculturation subscale (12 items)
 - Anglo acculturation subscale (12 items)
- Perceptions of the Community Scale (Flores, Aguayo, & Harvath, 2012) – 17 items
- Support Seeking (Financial Matters) Measure- 4 different resources (friends, family, church, employer) – 7 items per source

Data Analysis

- Multivariate multiple regression
 - Independent variables: Latino acculturation, Anglo acculturation, Perception of the community
 - Dependent variables: Support Seeking (Financial Matters) from Family, Friends, Church, Employer)

Results

- Perceptions of the community had an effect on Latino immigrants support seeking behaviors (financial matters) from friends
 - The more positive perceptions of the community, the more likely to seek support on financial matters from friends
- Perceptions of the community had an effect on Latino immigrants support seeking behaviors (financial matters) from church
 - The more positive perceptions of the community, the more likely to seek support on financial matters from church
- Neither Anglo acculturation nor Latino acculturation had an effect on any of the sources of support seeking behaviors (financial matters)

Implications

- Undocumented immigrants are often emotionally, physically, and economically abused or neglected by their employers, government or social service systems (Yakushko, 2008)
- Campaigns, efforts and beliefs against immigration:
 - Midwest Coalition to Reduce Immigration- “Working to Protect American Jobs and the Environment”
 - Kris Kobach (one of the Authors of Arizona SB 1070)
 - Perceived competition for scarce resources (Fennelly & Federico, 2007)

Implications, cont' d


- Optimistic expectations and availability of support are associated with more positive outcomes for immigrants (Escobar et al. 2000)
- “Comadre” - another female that is sister-like and considered a close friend, advisor, and confidant (Santiago-Rivera, Arredondo, & Gallardo-Cooper, 2002)
 - Support for daily struggles; connection simulates family connection
- Catholic Church presence in new Latino settlement areas substantially lowers violence against Latinos (Shihadeh & Winters, 2014)

Recommendations

- Advocate for immigrants to obtain legal residency and citizenship (Immigration Reform)
 - 400,000 unauthorized immigrants have been deported annually since 2009 under Obama's administration (Lopez, Gonzalez-Barrera & Motel, 2011)
- Make public announcements of community events while having close relationships with Latino epicenter communities- especially in churches
- Educate “receiving communities” on the economic benefits of immigration and third world country issues to nullify negative stereotypes and myths



Relations of Support Seeking and Life Satisfaction among Latina/o Immigrants in the Midwest



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Stressors Immigrants Face

- Pre-immigration and migration trauma (Pumariega, Rothe, Pumariega, 2005)
- As a result of the many traumas and stressors, they are at high risk for mental health problems (Keyes, 2000)
 - For adults, the main problems are depression & anxiety disorders, particularly (PTSD) (Maddern, 2004)
- Acculturation related stressors
 - The cultural transition process for adult immigrants is difficult given their solidified ethnic identity (Pumariega, Rothe, Pumariega, 2005)
 - Mexican immigrants who experience elevated levels of acculturative stress may be at risk for experiencing critical levels of depression and suicidal ideation (Hovey, 2000)

Stressors Immigrants Face, cont' d

- Mexican immigrants report higher levels of stress than Mexican Americans non-immigrants (Cuellar et al., 2004)
- Higher rates of depression among unemployed Latina/o immigrants with limited support (Shobe et al., 2009)

Satisfaction with Life and Well-Being

- High well-being and life satisfaction significantly improve life within the four areas of health and longevity, work and income, social relations, and societal benefits (Diener & Biswas-Diener, 2008)
- Practical and emotional support is associated with increased life satisfaction (Rafaelli et al., 2012)
- Latina mothers whose families face adversity express lower levels of life satisfaction (Rafaelli et al., 2012)

Social Support

- Latina/o immigrants report having strong family and religious networks of support (Dunn & O' Brien, 2009)
- Latina/os' with more social support are more likely to be employed (Shobe et al., 2009)
- Latina/o immigrants' relationships tend to be with individuals who share similar immigrant experiences (Ayon & Naddy, 2013)

Support Seeking

- Having Social ties and networks is linked to many positive health outcomes and can serve as a buffer for stressful events (Kawachi and Berkman, 2001)
- Since Latino immigrant males are separated from their families, they may be more likely to seek family and religious support than other Latino males (Dunn & O' Brien, 2009).
- Non-Mexican immigrants are more likely to seek social support than Mexican immigrants (Shobe et al., 2009).

Acculturation

- The effects of acculturation on the mental health of Latinos are not well understood (Lara et al. 2004)
- Acculturation may impact mental health conditions in the following ways:
 - Macro: Voluntary or involuntary migration (1993); Maintaining ties to home country; Conditions of the migration process (Murphy, 2009)
 - Micro: English language acquisition, finding meaningful work through career development
- Level of acculturation affects the structure of social support (Ayon & Naddy, 2013)
- Achievement and fulfillment can diminish the effects of acculturative stress in Latina/o immigrants (Cuellar et al., 2004)

Purpose of the Study

- This study aims to understand:
 - The role of Latino acculturation, Anglo acculturation, and social support (family, friends, church, and employer) on Latina/o immigrants' satisfaction with life

Research Question

- Do Anglo and Latino acculturation and support seeking behaviors related to one's well-being (family, friends, church, and employer) influence Latina/o immigrants' life satisfaction?

Participant Information

- 345 Latino immigrants (Female: 45.2%, Male: 54.8%)
- Mean age = 35.2 years (SD = 10.8; range = 18-77)
- 65.5% from Mexico, 15.7% from El Salvador; 7.2% from Guatemala; 5.5% from Honduras; 6.1% Other

Measures

- Satisfaction with Life Scale (Diener, Emmons, Larsen, & Griffin, 1985; Pavot & Diener, 1993) - 5 items
- Support Seeking (Well-Being) Measure- 4 different resources (friends, family, church, employer) – 6 items per source

Data Analysis

- Standard Multiple Regression
 - Independent Variables: Anglo acculturation, Latino acculturation, support seeking (well-being) from 4 sources (family, friends, church, employer)
 - Dependent Variable: Satisfaction with Life

Results

- Support seeking from Family and Church, and Latino acculturation were significantly related to Latino immigrants' satisfaction with life
 - Family and Latino acculturation were positively related
 - Church was negatively related
- Support seeking from Friends and Employer, and Anglo acculturation were not significantly related to Latino immigrants' satisfaction with life
- Collectively, these variables explained about 6% of the variance of Latino immigrants' satisfaction with life

Discussion/Implications


- Findings coincide with literature focused on how social capital is overall positively associated with life satisfaction among Latina/o immigrants in rural settings (Raffaelli et al., 2012).
- Extended agents of support such as friends and employers may not be significant given Latina/o immigrants settlement in rural Missouri where they may experience a lack of connection to community members of different backgrounds.

Discussion/Implications, cont' d

- Characteristics of church were unknown
 - Are the services in Spanish?
 - Orientated for Latino/a Families?
- Latino Acculturation
 - Importance of keeping their culture
 - What is the community doing to ensure that?



Initial Development of a Scale on Immigrants' Perceptions of the Community



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Purpose of the Study

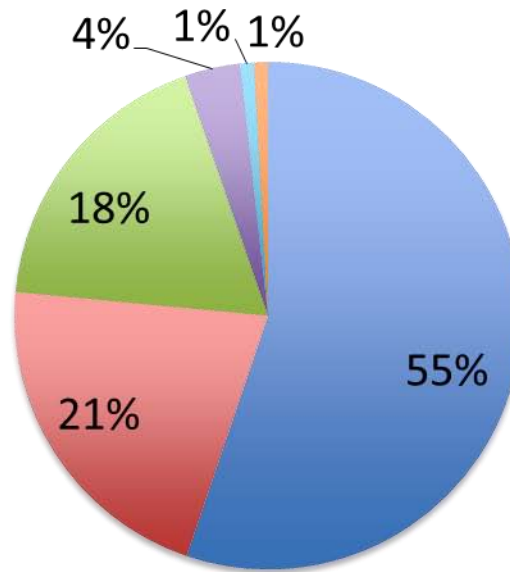
- To develop a reliable and valid measure to assess immigrants' perceptions of the community

Participants

- 459 Latino immigrants
- 49.5% (n = 227) male; 50.5% (n = 232) female
- Mean age 35.52 years (SD = 10.95; 18-80 years)
- Average household size 4.28 (SD = 1.80; 1-12)
- Mean length of residence in community 5.99 years (SD = 4.01; 0-28 years)

Marital Status

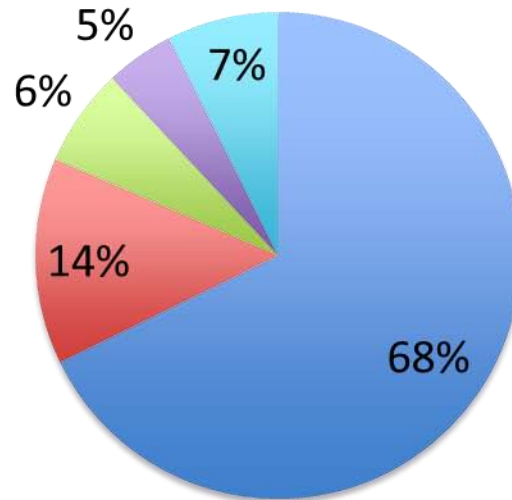
- Married
- Single
- Living with Partner
- Separated
- Divorced
- Widowed



Country of Origin

Country of Origin

■ Mexico ■ El Salvador ■ Guatemala ■ Honduras ■ Other



Perceptions of the Community Scale Development

Reviewed related measures

- Academic environments
 - University Environment Scale (Gloria & Robinson-Kurpius, 1996)
 - Minority Student Stress Scale (Smeldy, Myers, & Harrell, 1993)
 - Cultural Congruity Scale (Gloria)
- Acculturative Stress
 - Social, Attitudinal, Familial, and Environmental Acculturation Stress Scale (Mena, Padilla, & Maldonado, 1987)
 - Multidimensional Acculturative Stress Inventory (Rodriguez, Myers, Mira, Flores, & Garcia-Hernandez, 2002)
 - Minority Status Stress Scale (Saldaina, 1994)

Perceptions of the Community Scale Development

- 27 items modified from other measures
 - *I feel valued as a member of this community*
 - adapted from UES “I do not feel valued as a student on campus”
 - *I feel accepted in this community*
 - adapted from MASI “I don’ t feel accepted by Whites”
 - *People in this community have stereotypes about my culture*
 - adapted from MSS “White people expecting me to be a certain way because of my race i.e., stereotyping”
- 7-point Likert response options: 1 = *strongly disagree*; 2 = *disagree*; 3 = *slightly disagree*; 4 = *neither agree nor disagree*; 5 = *slightly agree*; 6 = *agree*; 7 = *strongly agree*

Scale Items

- SOCIAL/ENVIRONMENTAL/CULTURAL
 - I feel valued as a member of this community
 - People in this community have been willing to help me
 - There are services available for me in the community
 - This community values newcomers like me
 - This community feels like a cold, uncaring place to me
 - I feel uncomfortable living in this community
 - I feel accepted in this community
 - I feel that I have to change to fit into this community
 - The community is an unfriendly place
 - There are negative relationships between different ethnic groups in this community
 - People in this community don't respect my cultural values
 - I don't have any close friends in this community

Scale Items, cont' d

- RACISM AND DISCRIMINATION STRESS
 - People in this community have stereotypes about my culture
 - My appearance (or the color of my skin) makes it hard to fit into this community
 - Community members have negative attitudes of newcomers to this community
 - Community members treat newcomers to this community negatively
 - I have been treated rudely or unfairly because I am a newcomer
 - I have been discriminated against in this community as a newcomer
 - People in this community expect me to be a certain way because of my race/ethnicity
 - People in this community lack respect for newcomers

Scale Items, cont' d

■ LANGUAGE

- I feel pressure to learn English
- I have a hard time understanding others when they speak English
- My language makes it hard to fit into this community
- Since I don' t speak English well, people have treated me rudely or unfairly
- I have been discriminated against in this community because I have difficulty speaking English
- It bothers me that I speak with an English accent
- I feel uncomfortable around people who only speak English

Results

- Exploratory factor analysis using SPSS 17.0
 - Principal axis factoring
 - Oblique (promax) rotation
- 17:1 ratio (participants per item)
- Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin (KMO) measure was .88
- Examined eigenvalues (> 1.0) and scree plot
 - Explored 1, 2, 3, and 4 factor solutions
- Retained items that loaded on a single factor greater than .50 and cross-loadings less than .15

Item	Factor 1	Factor 2	Factor 3	Factor 4
Community members have negative attitudes of newcomers in this community	.56	.31	.04	-.02
Community members treat newcomers to this community negatively	.61	.23	-.01	-.04
I have been treated rudely or unfairly because I am a newcomer	1.00	-.15	.00	-.12
I have been discriminated against in this community as a newcomer	.95	-.13	-.07	-.13
People in this community expect me to be a certain way because of my race/ethnicity	.54	.24	-.01	-.01
People in this community lack respect for newcomers	.74	.10	-.08	-.10
Since I don't speak English well, people have treated me rudely or unfairly	.63	-.12	.01	.31
I have been discriminated against in this community because I have difficulty speaking English	.68	-.15	.01	.36

Item	Factor 1	Factor 2	Factor 3	Factor 4
This community is an unfriendly place	-.04	.53	-.10	.06
There are negative relationships between different ethnic groups in this community	.09	.54	.03	-.02
People in this community don't respect my cultural values	.17	.53	-.04	-.03
This community values newcomers like me	-.09	.08	.76	-.01
People in this community have been willing to help me	-.03	-.09	.69	.07
There are services available for me in the community	-.01	.08	.67	-.12
I feel pressure to learn English	.07	-.09	.01	.67
I have a hard time understanding others when they speak English	-.20	.06	-.08	.85
My language makes it hard to fit into this community	.03	.09	-.05	.75

Internal Consistency Reliability

- **Full Scale**
 - 17 items; alpha = .85
 - 51.39% of variance of construct explained by all factors
- **Factor 1: Experiences with discrimination**
 - 8 items; alpha = .92
 - 29.2% of variance of construct explained by Factor 1
- **Factor 2: Community climate**
 - 3 items; alpha = .68
 - 9.98% of variance of construct explained by Factor 2
- **Factor 3: Community acceptance**
 - 3 items; alpha = .77
 - 6.86% of variance of construct explained by Factor 3
- **Factor 4: Language pressures**
 - 3 items; alpha = .81
 - 5.35% of variance of construct explained by Factor 4

Factor	Experiences with Discrimination	Community Climate	Community Acceptance	Language Pressures
Experiences with Discrimination	---			
Community Climate	.66	---		
Community Acceptance	-.30	-.36	---	
Language Pressures	.39	.38	.01	---

Discussion & Next Steps

- The perceptions of the community scale evidenced good internal consistency reliability and a 4-factor structure
- Collect additional psychometric data on the scale scores
 - Confirm factor structure with an independent sample
 - Examine temporal stability (test-retest reliability)
 - Explore factor stability across immigrant subgroups (i.e., gender group)

Future Research Applications

- Assess perceptions of immigrants among the receiving community concurrently to understand dynamics within communities
- Examine psychological outcomes (mental health, psychological well-being) related to community perceptions

For More Information...

- The Assets Project: *Asset Accumulation Strategies in 3 New Settlement Communities*
 - <http://www.cambio.missouri.edu/Assets/>
- The Integration Project: *Immigrant Integration & Sustainable Rural Development: Linking Receiving & Newcomer Communities*
 - <http://www.cambio.missouri.edu/Integration/>
- University of Missouri Cambio Center
 - <http://www.cambio.missouri.edu/>

¡Muchas gracias!