

Between Two Worlds

How Young Latinos Come of Age in America

MILLENNIALS

A PORTRAIT OF GENERATION NEXT

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This publication is part of a Pew Research Center report series that looks at the values, attitudes and experiences of America's next generation: the Millennials. Find out how today's teens and twentysomethings are reshaping the nation at: www.pewresearch.org/millennials.

The Pew Hispanic Center is a nonpartisan research organization that seeks to improve public understanding of the diverse Hispanic population in the United States and to chronicle Latinos' growing impact on the nation. It does not take positions on policy issues. The Center is part of the Pew Research Center, a nonpartisan "fact tank" based in Washington, D.C., and funded by The Pew Charitable Trusts, a Philadelphia-based public charity. All of the Center's reports are available at www.pewhispanic.org. The staff of the Center is:

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About this Report

This report is the work of the entire Pew Hispanic Center staff. The overview (Chapter 1) was written by the Center's Director Paul Taylor, who also served as overall editor. Chapters 2 and 5 were written by Associate Director for Research Rakesh Kochhar. Chapters 4 and 8 were written by Senior Researcher Gretchen Livingston. Chapters 3 and 7 were written by Associate Director Mark Hugo Lopez. Chapter 6 was written by Kochhar and Lopez. Chapter 9 was written by Rich Morin, Senior Editor of the Pew Research Center's Social & Demographic Trends project (www.pewsocialtrends.org), and Senior Research Associate Richard Fry. Senior Demographer Jeffrey S. Passel tabulated immigration statistics and provided guidance on the demographic portions of this report. The topline was compiled by Daniel Dockterman and Gabriel Velasco. The report was copy-edited by Marcia Kramer of Kramer Editing Services. It was number checked by Daniel Dockterman, Gabriel Velasco and Wendy Wang.

Lopez took the lead in developing the survey questionnaire, assisted by the colleagues listed above and also by Ana González-Barrera, Jennifer Medina, Cristina Mercado and Kim Parker. The authors also thank González-Barrera for helping to compile demographic statistics and Mercado for helping to coordinate the focus groups and transcribe focus group recordings. Daniel Dockterman and Gabriel Velasco provided outstanding support for the production of the report.

About the Survey

The 2009 National Survey of Latinos was conducted from Aug. 5 through Sept. 16, 2009, among a randomly selected, nationally representative sample of 2,012 Hispanics ages 16 and older, with an oversample of 1,240 Hispanics ages 16 to 25. The survey was conducted in both English and Spanish, on cellular as well as landline telephones. The margin of error for the full sample is plus or minus 3.7 percentage points at the 95% confidence level. The margin of error for respondents ages 16 to 25 is plus or minus 4.6 percentage points, and the margin of error for respondents ages 26 and older is plus or minus 4.8 percentage points.

Interviews were conducted for the Pew Hispanic Center by Social Science Research Solutions (SSRS).

A Note on Terminology

The terms "Latino" and "Hispanic" are used interchangeably in this report.

The term "youths" refers to 16- to 25-year olds unless otherwise indicated. In this report, the terms "Latino youths," "young Latinos" and "young adults" are used interchangeably.

All references to whites, blacks, Asians and others are to the non-Hispanic components of those populations.

“Foreign born” refers to persons born outside of the United States to parents neither of whom was a U.S. citizen. Foreign born also refers to those born in Puerto Rico. Although individuals born in Puerto Rico are U.S. citizens by birth, they are included among the foreign born because they are born into a Spanish-dominant culture and because on many points their attitudes, views and beliefs are much closer to Hispanics born abroad than to Latinos born in the 50 states or the District of Columbia, even those who identify themselves as being of Puerto Rican origin.

“Native born” or “U.S. born” refers to persons born in the United States and those born abroad to parents at least one of whom was a U.S. citizen.

Unless otherwise noted, this report uses the following definitions of the first, second, and third and higher generations:

First generation: Same as foreign born above. The terms “foreign born,” “first generation” and “immigrant” are used interchangeably in this report.

Second generation: Born in the United States, with at least one first-generation parent.

Third and higher generation: Born in the United States, with both parents born in the United States. This report uses the term “third generation” as shorthand for “third and higher generation.”

Language dominance is a composite measure based on self-described assessments of speaking and reading abilities. Spanish-dominant persons are more proficient in Spanish than in English, i.e., they speak and read Spanish “very well” or “pretty well” but rate their English speaking and reading ability lower. Bilingual refers to persons who are proficient in both English and Spanish. English-dominant persons are more proficient in English than in Spanish.

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About the Focus Groups

The Pew Hispanic Center conducted seven focus groups during the summer of 2009 to help inform the development of the survey questionnaire and to ask young Latinos about the issues that are important to them. Mark Hugo Lopez, Cristina Mercado, Ana González-Barrera and Jennifer Medina moderated the

focus groups. Focus groups were held in Los Angeles; San Jose, Calif.; Chicago; Orange, N.J.; Silver Spring, Md.; Langley Park, Md.; and the District of Columbia. Diego Uriburu of Identity Inc. of Gaithersburg, Md., helped to organize the Silver Spring and Langley Park focus groups, and the Congressional Hispanic Caucus helped to organize the one in Washington, D.C. All groups were composed of Latinos between the ages of 16 and 25. Focus group participants were told that what they said might be quoted in the report, but we promised not to identify them by name. The quotations interspersed throughout the report are drawn from these groups.

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1. Overview and Executive Summary

Hispanics are the largest and youngest minority group in the United States. One-in-five schoolchildren is Hispanic. One-in-four newborns is Hispanic. Never before in this country's history has a minority ethnic group made up so large a share of the youngest Americans. 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.

This report takes an in-depth look at Hispanics who are ages 16 to 25, a phase of life when young people make choices that—for better and worse—set their path to adulthood. For this particular ethnic group, it is also a time when they navigate the intricate, often porous borders between the two cultures they inhabit—American and Latin American.

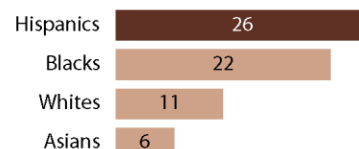
The report explores the attitudes, values, social behaviors, family characteristics, economic well-being, educational attainment and labor force outcomes of these young Latinos. It is based on a new Pew Hispanic Center telephone survey of a nationally representative sample of 2,012 Latinos, supplemented by the Center's analysis of government demographic, economic, education and health data sets.

The data paint a mixed picture. Young Latinos are satisfied with their lives, optimistic about their futures and place a high value on education, hard work and career success. Yet they are much more likely than other American youths to drop out of school and to become teenage parents. They are more likely than white and Asian youths to live in poverty. And they have high levels of exposure to gangs.

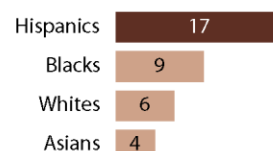
These are attitudes and behaviors that, through history, have often been associated with the immigrant experience. But most Latino youths are *not immigrants*. Two-thirds were born in the United States, many of them descendants of the big,

Figure 1.1
For Young Latinos, a Difficult Passage to Adulthood
(%)

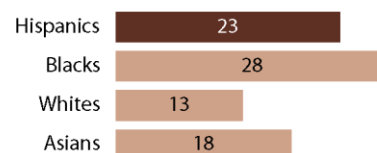
Females age 19 who are mothers



High school dropout rate



Living in poverty



Notes: Whites, blacks and Asians include only non-Hispanics. Asians includes Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders. The high school dropout rate is the share of 16- to 24-year-olds who have not received a high school diploma or equivalent and are not enrolled in school or college. Poverty rate is estimated for 16- to 25-year-olds.

Sources: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations of Current Population Survey data from 2004, 2006 and 2008 (June fertility supplements) for motherhood and March 2009, Annual Social and Economic Supplement, for the dropout and poverty rates

ongoing wave of Latin American immigrants who began coming to this country around 1965.

As might be expected, they do better than their foreign-born counterparts on many key economic, social and acculturation indicators analyzed in this report. They are much more proficient in English and are less likely to drop out of high school, live in poverty or become a teen parent.

But on a number of other measures, U.S.-born Latino youths do no better than the foreign born. And on some fronts, they do worse.

For example, native-born Latino youths are about twice as likely as the foreign born to have ties to a gang or to have gotten into a fight or to have carried a weapon in the past year. They are also more likely to be in prison.

The picture becomes even more murky when comparisons are made among youths who are first generation (immigrants themselves), second generation (U.S.-born children of immigrants) and third and higher generation (U.S.-born grandchildren or more far-removed descendants of immigrants).¹

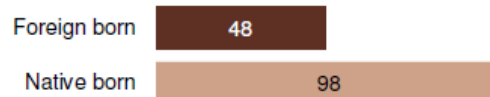
For example, teen parenthood rates and high school dropout rates are much lower among the second generation than the first, but they appear higher among the third generation than the second. The same is true for poverty rates.

Identity and Assimilation

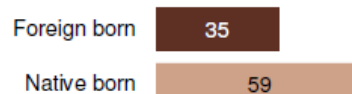
Throughout this nation's history, immigrant assimilation has always meant something more than the sum of the sorts of economic and

Figure 1.2
Native-Born Young Latinos Do Better Than Foreign Born on Some Measures...
(%)

Proficient in English



Enrolled in high school or college



Notes: Foreign born refers to those born outside of the U.S. including Puerto Rico. Proficient in English refers to those 16- to 25-year-olds who can carry on a conversation, both understanding and speaking, very well or pretty well. High school enrollment is tabulated for 16- to 24-year-olds. Sources: Pew Hispanic Center, 2009 National Survey of Latinos, and tabulations from the March 2009 Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement

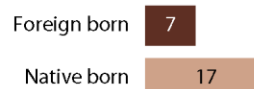
Figure 1.3

... But Native-Born Young Latinos Do Worse Than Foreign Born on Other Measures
(%)

Knows someone in a gang



Got into a fight in the last year



Notes: Foreign born refers to those born outside of the U.S. including Puerto Rico. Figures refer to 16- to 25-year-olds. Source: Pew Hispanic Center, 2009 National Survey of Latinos

¹ In this report when we refer to the third and higher generations of Latinos, we are describing a group with diverse family histories vis-à-vis the United States. We estimate that 40% of this group are grandchildren of immigrants. The rest are more far removed from the immigrants in their families. And a small share comes from families that never immigrated at all—their ancestors were living in what was then Mexico when their land became a part of the United States in the 19th century as a result of war, treaty, annexation and/or purchase.

social measures outlined above. It also has a psychological dimension. Over the course of several generations, the immigrant family typically loosens its sense of identity from the old country and binds it to the new.

It is too soon to tell if this process will play out for today's Hispanic immigrants and their offspring in the same way it did for the European immigrants of the 19th and early 20th centuries. But whatever the ultimate trajectory, it is clear that many of today's Latino youths, be they first or second generation, are straddling two worlds as they adapt to the new homeland.

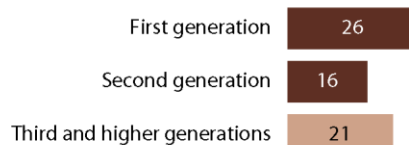
According to the Pew Hispanic Center's National Survey of Latinos, more than half (52%) of Latinos ages 16 to 25 identify themselves first by their family's country of origin, be it Mexico, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador or any of more than a dozen other Spanish-speaking countries. An additional 20% generally use the terms "Hispanic" or "Latino" first when describing themselves. Only about one-in-four (24%) generally use the term "American" first.

Among the U.S.-born children of immigrants, "American" is somewhat more commonly used as a primary term of self-identification. Even so, just 33% of these young second generation Latinos use American first, while 21% refer to themselves first by the terms Hispanic or Latino, and the plurality—41%—refer to themselves first by the country their parents left in order to settle and raise their children in this country.

Only in the third and higher generations do a plurality of Hispanic youths (50%) use "American" as their first term of self-description.

Figure 1.4
Different Generations, Different Outcomes among Young Latinos
(%)

Females ages 18 and 19 who are mothers



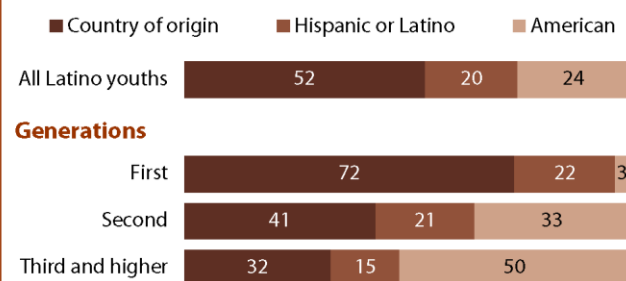
High school dropout rate



Notes: First generation refers to persons born outside the 50 states or the District of Columbia, including those born in Puerto Rico. Second generation refers to persons born in the U.S. with at least one first-generation parent. Third and higher generations refers to persons born in the U.S. with both parents born in the U.S. The high school dropout rate is the share of 16- to 24-year-olds who have not received a high school diploma or equivalent and are not enrolled in school or college.

Sources: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations of Current Population Survey data from 2004, 2006 and 2008 (June fertility supplements) for motherhood and March 2009, Annual Social and Economic Supplement, for the dropout rate

Figure 1.5
The First Term Latino Youths Use to Describe Themselves
Question: In general, which of the terms that you use to describe yourself is the term you use first? (%)



Notes: "Youths" refers to 16- to 25-year-olds. First generation refers to persons born outside the 50 states or the District of Columbia, including those born in Puerto Rico. Second generation refers to persons born in the U.S. with at least one first-generation parent. Third and higher generations refers to persons born in the U.S. with both parents born in the U.S.

Source: Pew Hispanic Center, 2009 National Survey of Latinos

Immigration in Historical Perspective

Measured in raw numbers, the modern Latin American-dominated immigration wave is by far the largest in U.S. history. Nearly 40 million immigrants have come to the United States since 1965. About half are from Latin America, a quarter from Asia and the remainder from Europe, Canada, the Middle East and Africa. By contrast, about 14 million immigrants came during the big Northern and Western European immigration wave of the 19th century and about 18 million came during the big Southern and Eastern European-dominated immigration wave of the early 20th century.²

However, the population of the United States was much smaller during those earlier waves. When measured against the size of the U.S. population during the period when the immigration occurred, the modern wave's average annual rate of 4.6 new immigrants per 1,000 population falls well below the 7.7 annual rate that prevailed in the mid- to late 19th century and the 8.8 rate at the beginning of the 20th century.

All immigration waves produce backlashes of one kind or another, and the latest one is no exception. Illegal immigration, in particular, has become a highly-charged political issue in recent times. It is also a relatively new phenomenon; past immigration waves did not generate large numbers of illegal immigrants because the U.S. imposed fewer restrictions on immigration flow in the past than it does now.

The current wave may differ from earlier waves in other ways as well. More than a few immigration scholars have voiced skepticism that the children and grandchildren of today's Hispanic immigrants will enjoy the same upward mobility experienced by the offspring of European immigrants in previous centuries.³

² These estimates do not include U.S. residents born in Puerto Rico. However, in the rest of the report, people born in Puerto Rico are included among the foreign born because they are from a Spanish-dominant culture and because on many points their attitudes, views and beliefs are much closer to Hispanics born abroad than to Latinos born in the 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia.

³ See, for example, Gans (1992) and Portes, Fernandez-Kelly and Haller (2008).

Their reasons vary, and not all are consistent with one another. Some scholars point to structural changes in modern economies that make it more difficult for unskilled laborers to climb into the middle class. Some say the illegal status of so many of today's immigrants is a major obstacle to their upward mobility. Some say the close proximity of today's sending countries and the relative ease of modern global communication reduce the felt need of immigrants and their families to acculturate to their new country. Some say the fatalism of Latin American cultures is a poor fit in a society built on Anglo-Saxon values. Some say that America's growing tolerance for cultural diversity may encourage modern immigrants and their offspring to retain ethnic identities that were seen by yesterday's immigrants as a handicap. (*The melting pot is dead. Long live the salad bowl.*) Alternatively, some say that Latinos' brown skin makes assimilation difficult in a country where white remains the racial norm.

It will probably take at least another generation's worth of new facts on the ground to know whether these theories have merit. But it is not too soon to take some snapshots and lay down some markers. This report does so by assembling a wide range of empirical evidence (some generated by our own new survey; some by our analysis of government data) and subjecting it to a series of comparisons: between Latinos

Table 1.1 Three Great Waves of Immigration to the United States			
Era & Country	Total (thousands)	Share of Immigrants (%)	Immigrants per 1,000 Population
Modern Era (1965 to 2008)			
Total	39,847	100	4.6
Mexico	11,468	29	---
China	2,070	5	---
Philippines	1,782	4	---
India	1,696	4	---
Vietnam	1,203	3	---
Korea	1,189	3	---
Former USSR	1,162	3	---
El Salvador	1,051	3	---
Cuba	994	2	---
Dominican Republic	789	2	---
<i>Region totals</i>			
Latin America	20,013	50	---
South & East Asia	10,048	25	---
Europe & Canada	5,621	14	---
Mideast (Asia & Africa)	1,531	4	---
Southern/Eastern Europe Wave (1890-1919)			
Total	18,244	100	8.8
Italy	3,764	21	---
Austria-Hungary	3,690	20	---
Russia & Poland	3,166	17	---
Germany	1,082	6	---
Ireland	917	5	---
United Kingdom	1,170	6	---
Other Northern Europe	1,581	9	---
Other South-Eastern Europe	757	4	---
Canada	835	5	---
Latin America	551	3	---
Asia	631	3	---
Northern Europe Wave (1840-1889)			
Total	14,314	100	7.7
Germany	4,282	30	---
Ireland	3,209	22	---
United Kingdom	2,586	18	---
Other Northern Europe	1,620	11	---
South-Eastern Europe	1,058	7	---
Canada	1,034	7	---
Latin America	101	1	---
Asia	296	2	---

Notes: Persons from Puerto Rico not included. China includes Hong Kong, Taiwan and Macao. Data for 1965-2008 include legal and unauthorized immigrants. Data for 1840-1919 include only legal admissions. Immigrants per 1,000 population is estimated separately for each five-year period in the interval. The figure shown is the numeric average of the five-year rates.

Sources: 1965-2008—Pew Hispanic Center tabulations from Integrated Public Use Microdata Samples for 1980, 1990, and 2000 Censuses and 2008 American Community Survey. 1840-1919—Table 2 from Office of Immigration Statistics, Yearbook of Immigration Statistics, 2008

and non-Latinos; between young Latinos and older Latinos; between foreign-born Latinos and native-born Latinos; and between first, second, and third and higher generations of Latinos.

The generational analyses presented here do *not* compare the outcomes of individual Latino immigrants with those of their own children or grandchildren. Instead, our generational analysis compares today's young Latino immigrants with today's children and grandchildren of yesterday's immigrants. As such, the report can provide some insights into the intergenerational mobility of an immigrant group over time. But it cannot fully disentangle the many factors that may help explain the observed patterns—be they compositional effects (the different skills, education levels and other forms of human capital that different cohorts of immigrants bring) or period effects (the different economic conditions that confront immigrants in different time periods).

Readers should be especially careful when interpreting findings about the third and higher generation, for this is a very diverse group. We estimate that about 40% are the grandchildren of Latin American immigrants, while the remainder can trace their roots in this country much farther back in time.

For some in this mixed group, endemic poverty and its attendant social ills have been a part of their families, *barrios* and *colonias* for generations, even centuries. Meantime, others in the third and higher generation have been upwardly mobile in ways consistent with the generational trajectories of European immigrant groups. Because the data we use in this report do not allow us to separate out the different demographic sub-groups within the third and higher generation, the overall numbers we present are averages that often mask large variances within this group.

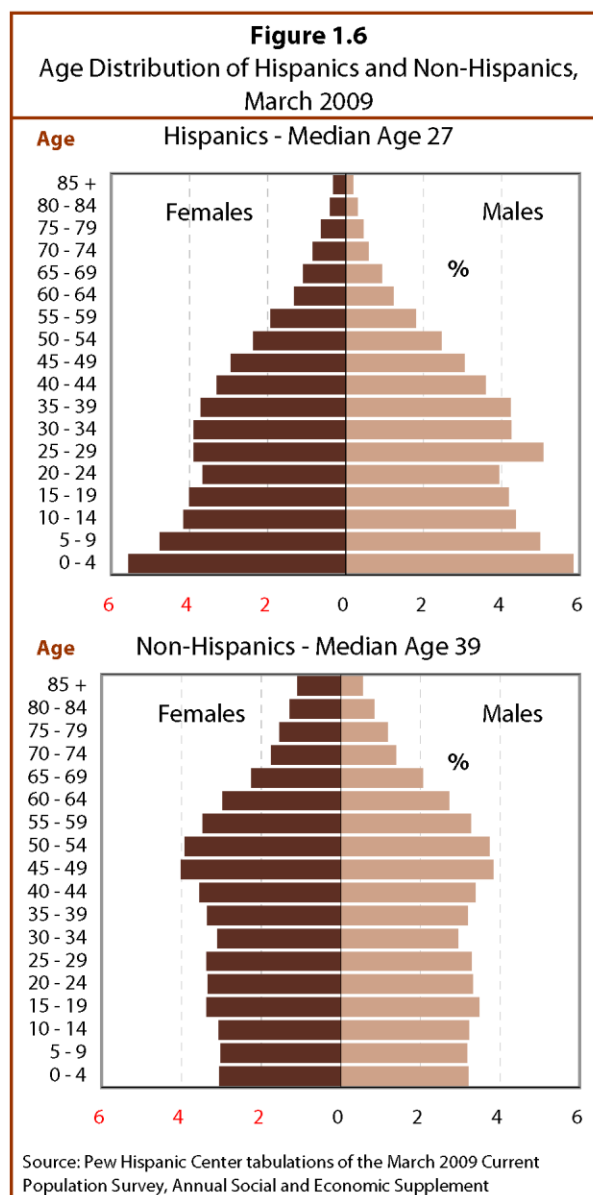
A summary of the major findings of the report:

Demography

- Two-thirds of Hispanics ages 16 to 25 are native-born Americans. That figure may surprise those who think of Latinos mainly as immigrants. But the four-decade-old Hispanic immigration wave is now mature enough to have spawned a big second generation of U.S.-born children who are on the cusp of adulthood. Back in 1995, nearly half of all Latinos ages 16 to 25 were immigrants. This year marks the first time that a plurality (37%) of Latinos in this age group are the U.S.-born children of immigrants. An additional 29% are of third-and-higher generations. Just 34% are immigrants themselves.
- Hispanics are not only the largest minority population in the United States, they are also the youngest. Their median age is 27, compared with 31 for

blacks, 36 for Asians and 41 for whites. One-quarter of all newborns in the United States are Hispanic.

- About 17% of all Hispanics and 22% of all Hispanic youths ages 16 to 25 are unauthorized immigrants, according to Pew Hispanic Center estimates. Some 41% of all foreign-born Hispanics and 58% of foreign-born Hispanic youths are estimated to be unauthorized immigrants.
- Latinos make up about 18% of all youths in the U.S. ages 16 to 25. However, their share is far higher in a number of states. They make up 51% of all youths in New Mexico, 42% in California, 40% in Texas, 36% in Arizona, 31% in Nevada, 24% in Florida, and 24% in Colorado.
- More than two-thirds (68%) of young Latinos are of Mexican heritage. They are growing up in families that on average have less “educational capital” than do other Latinos. More than four-in-ten young Latinos of Mexican origin say their mothers (42%) and fathers (44%) have less than a high school diploma, compared with about one-quarter of non-Mexican-heritage young Latinos who say the same.



Identity and Parental Socialization

- Asked which term they generally use *first* to describe themselves, young Hispanics show a strong preference for their family’s country of origin (52%) over American (24%) or the terms Hispanic or Latino (20%). Among the U.S.-born children of immigrants, the share that identifies first as American rises to one-in-three, and among the third and higher generations, it rises to half.

- Young Hispanics are being socialized in a family setting that places a strong emphasis on their Latin American roots. More say their parents have often spoken to them of their pride in their family's country of origin than say their parents have often talked to them of their pride in being American—42% versus 29%. More say they have often been encouraged by their parents to speak in Spanish than say they have often been encouraged to speak only in English—60% versus 22%. The survey also finds that the more likely young Latinos are to receive these kinds of signals from their parents, the more likely they are to refer to themselves first by their country of origin.
- By a ratio of about two-to-one, young Hispanics say there are more cultural differences (64%) than commonalities (33%) within the Hispanic community in the U.S. At the same time, about two-thirds (64%) say that Latinos from different countries get along well with each other in the U.S., while about one-third say they do not.
- Most young Hispanics do not see themselves fitting into the race framework of the U.S. Census Bureau. More than three-in-four (76%) say their race is “some other race” or volunteer that their race is “Hispanic or Latino.” Young Hispanics also do not see their race in the same way as Hispanics ages 26 and older. Only 16% of Hispanic youths identify themselves as white, while nearly twice as many (30%) older Hispanics identify their race as white.

Language

- About one-third (36%) of Latinos ages 16 to 25 are English dominant in their language patterns, while 41% are bilingual and 23% are Spanish dominant.
- The language usage patterns of Latinos change dramatically from the immigrant generation to the native born. Among foreign-born Latinos ages 16 to 25, just 48% say they can speak English very well or pretty well. Among their native-born counterparts, that figures doubles to 98%.
- For the children of immigrants and later generations, embracing English does not necessarily mean abandoning Spanish. Fully 79% of the second generation and 38% of the third report that they are proficient in speaking Spanish. These figures are below the share of immigrant youths who are proficient in Spanish (89%), but they demonstrate the resilience of the mother tongue for several generations after immigration.
- For both native-born and foreign-born young Hispanics, the boundaries between English and Spanish are permeable. Seven-in-ten (70%) say that

when speaking with family members and friends, they often or sometimes use a hybrid known as “Spanglish” that mixes words from both languages.

Teenage Parenthood

- Young Hispanic females have the highest rates of teen parenthood of any major racial or ethnic group in the country. According to the Center’s analysis of Census data, about one-in-four young Hispanic females (26%) becomes a mother by age 19. This compares with a rate of 22% among young black females, 11% among young white females, and 6% among young Asian females.
- Notwithstanding those numbers, the rate of births to Hispanic females ages 15 to 19 declined by 18% from 1990 to 2007. But among the full population, the rate of births to teenagers in this age group declined by 29% during the same period.
- A heavy majority of older Latinos (81%) and Latino youths (75%) say that more teenage girls having babies is a bad thing for society. Even higher shares of the full U.S. population say the same thing—94% of all adults and 90% of all 18- to 25-year-olds.
- About seven-in-ten (69%) Latino youths say that becoming a teen parent prevents a person from reaching one’s goals in life; 28% disagree.
- Native-born Latino youths have a somewhat more negative view of teen parenthood than do the foreign born. Some 71% of the second generation and 78% of the third say teen parenthood interferes with one’s goals in life. Just 62% of foreign-born youths agree. The pattern is the same on the question of whether more teen parenthood is bad for society.
- On average, Hispanic females are projected to have just over three children in their lifetime. In comparison, African-American women are projected to have an average of 2.15 children in their lifetime, and for whites this number is 1.86.

Life Priorities and Satisfaction

- Like most youths, young Latinos express high levels of satisfaction with their lives, with half saying they are “very” satisfied and 45% saying they are “mostly” satisfied. They are also optimistic about their futures. More than seven-in-ten (72%) expect to be better off financially than their parents, while just 4% expect to be worse off. Optimism on this question runs a bit higher among native-born Latinos (75%) than among the foreign born (66%).

- Even more so than other youths, young Latinos have high aspirations for career success. Some 89% say it is very important in their lives, compared with 80% of the full population of 18- to 25-year-olds who say the same.
- Other life priorities rank a bit lower among Latino youths. About half say that having children (55%), living a religious life (51%) and being married (48%) are very important to their lives; about a quarter (24%) say the same about being wealthy. All of these ratings are very similar to those made by non-Latino youths.
- Latinos believe in the rewards of hard work. More than eight-in-ten—including 80% of Latino youths and 86% of Latinos ages 26 and older—say that most people can get ahead in life if they work hard.
- Nearly four-in-ten (38%) young Latinos say they, a relative or close friend has been the target of ethnic or racial discrimination. This is higher than the share of older Latinos who say the same (31%). Also, perceptions of discrimination are more widespread among native-born (41%) than foreign-born (32%) young Latinos.

Educational Expectations and Attainment

- The high school dropout rate among Latino youths (17%) is nearly three times as high as it is among white youths (6%) and nearly double the rate among blacks (9%). Rates for all groups have been declining for decades.
- The high school dropout rate for the second generation of Latino youth (9%) is higher than the rate for whites (6%) and Asians (4%) but comparable to the rate for blacks (9%).
- Nearly all Latino youths (89%) and older adults (88%) agree with the statement that a college degree is important for getting ahead in life. However, just under half of Latinos ages 18 to 25 say they plan to get a college degree.
- The reason most often given by Latino youths who cut off their education before college is financial pressure to support a family. Nearly three-quarters of this group say this is a big reason for not continuing in school. About half cite poor English skills; about four-in-ten cite a dislike of school or a belief that they do not need more education for the careers they plan to pursue.
- Native-born Latino youths go much farther in school than do their foreign-born counterparts. Among 16- to 24-year-olds who were born abroad, just 21% are enrolled in high school. Among their native-born counterparts,

38% of second-generation and 32% of third-generation young Latinos are enrolled in high school.

- The high school completion rate (89%) and the college enrollment rate (46%) for second generation Latino youths are similar to those of whites in this cohort, 94% of whom have completed high school and 46% of whom are enrolled in college. However, second generation Latinos who attend college are only about half as likely as white college students to complete a bachelor's degree ([Fry, 2002](#)).

Economic Well-Being

- The household income of young Latinos lags well behind that of young whites and is slightly ahead of young blacks. Poverty rates follow the same pattern: Some 23% of young Latinos live in poverty, compared with 13% of young whites and 28% of young blacks.
- The poverty rate among young Latinos declines significantly from the first generation (29%) to the second (19%). The rate for the third and higher generations is 21%.
- Foreign-born Latino youths are more likely to be working or looking for work than the native born (64% versus 56%) and have lower rates of unemployment (17% versus 23%). Labor market activity and unemployment among foreign-born Latino youths match that of all youth.
- Foreign-born Latino youths are much more likely than their native-born counterparts to be employed in lower-skill occupations. More than half (52%) of all employed foreign-born youths are in food preparation and serving; construction and extraction; building, grounds cleaning and maintenance; and production occupations, compared with 27% of native-born Latino youths. The native born are more dispersed across occupations, including in relatively high-skill occupations.

Gangs, Fights, Weapons, Jail

- About three-in-ten (31%) young Latinos say they have a friend or relative who is a current or former gang member. This degree of familiarity with gangs is much more prevalent among the native born than the foreign born—40% versus 17%.
- The same pattern applies to other risk behaviors explored in the survey. Some 17% of native-born Latino youths say they got into a fight in the past year, compared with just 7% of foreign-born youths. Some 7% of the native born say they carried a weapon in the past year, more than double the 3% share of foreign born who say the same. And 26% of the native

born say they were questioned by police for any reason in the past year, compared with 15% of the foreign born.

- Mexican-heritage young Latinos have more experience with gangs than other young Latinos. More than half (56%) say gangs were in their schools, while just four-in-ten (40%) other young Latinos say the same. In addition, young Latinos of Mexican origin are nearly twice as likely as other young Latinos to say that a friend or a relative is a member of a gang—37% versus 19%.
- About 3% of young Hispanic males (ages 16 to 25) were incarcerated in 2008, compared with 7% of young black males and 1% of young white males. Native-born young male Hispanics are more likely than their foreign-born counterparts to be incarcerated—3% versus 2%.

2. Demography

Hispanics are not only the largest minority population in the United States, they are also the youngest. Consequently, they account for especially large shares of the young adult and child populations in the U.S. While growth in the Latino population in the recent past has been driven by the flow of immigrants (the first generation), the children of those immigrants now account for the plurality of the Latino youth population. This trend is projected to intensify in the coming years as the first-generation share continues to shrink and the second and higher generations of Latino youths come to the forefront.

The second generation of Latinos is still very young. Within the 16- to 25- age cohort that is the focus of this report, the majority of second-generation Latino youths are ages 16 to 19. They are much younger than the first generation, the majority of whom in this cohort are ages 22 and older. The Pew Hispanic Center also estimates that the majority of foreign-born youths lack legal status. The relative ages of the two generations and the high share of unauthorized immigrants in the first generation have a bearing on their relative educational and economic status.

Persons who self-identify as being of Mexican origin account for about two-thirds of the Latino youth population in all generations. In terms of family heritage, the most notable difference across the generations is that relatively more youths in the first generation trace their origin to Central and South American countries and relatively fewer are of Puerto Rican or other Spanish origins.

The U.S. Population

The United States was home to 300.5 million residents in March 2009.⁴ Hispanics, 47.4 million strong, are the largest minority, accounting for 15.8% of the total. Of other racial and ethnic groups, whites total 196.5 million, or 65.4% of the population; blacks, 36.5 million, or 12.1%; Asians and Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders, 13.7 million, or 4.6%.

Hispanics, by a wide margin, are the youngest of the major racial and ethnic groups. Their median age (27) makes them younger than blacks (31), Asians and Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders (36) and whites (41).

⁴ This estimate, from the March 2009 Current Population Survey, is for the civilian, noninstitutional population.

The relative youth of the Hispanic population is driven by the emergence of the second generation. That is evident from the age and gender structures of different generations of Hispanics. The age structure of the first generation shows a marked bulge in the middle, a clear sign that most Latino immigrants arriving in the U.S. are older than 20. The median age of the first generation of Hispanics is 38, approaching the median age of the white population.

However, the age structure of the second generation of Latinos shows a striking concentration at the bottom. The median age of this generation is only 14, indicating that almost half of this population has yet to enter the teenage years. Some 37.5% of the Latino second generation is younger than 10.

The third generation of Hispanics is older than the second generation but, with a median age of 20, still relatively young. The relative concentration at the bottom of the distribution—29.0% are younger than 10—most likely reflects the growing presence of the grandchildren of the modern wave of Latino immigrants.

Because minorities are relatively young, the youth population in the U.S.—ages 16 to 25—skews toward Hispanics and blacks. Hispanics account for 7.5 million, or 18.1%, of the 41.7 million young adults in the U.S. Blacks account for 5.9 million, or 14.3%. Whites have a smaller share (60.9%) in the youth population than in the overall population.

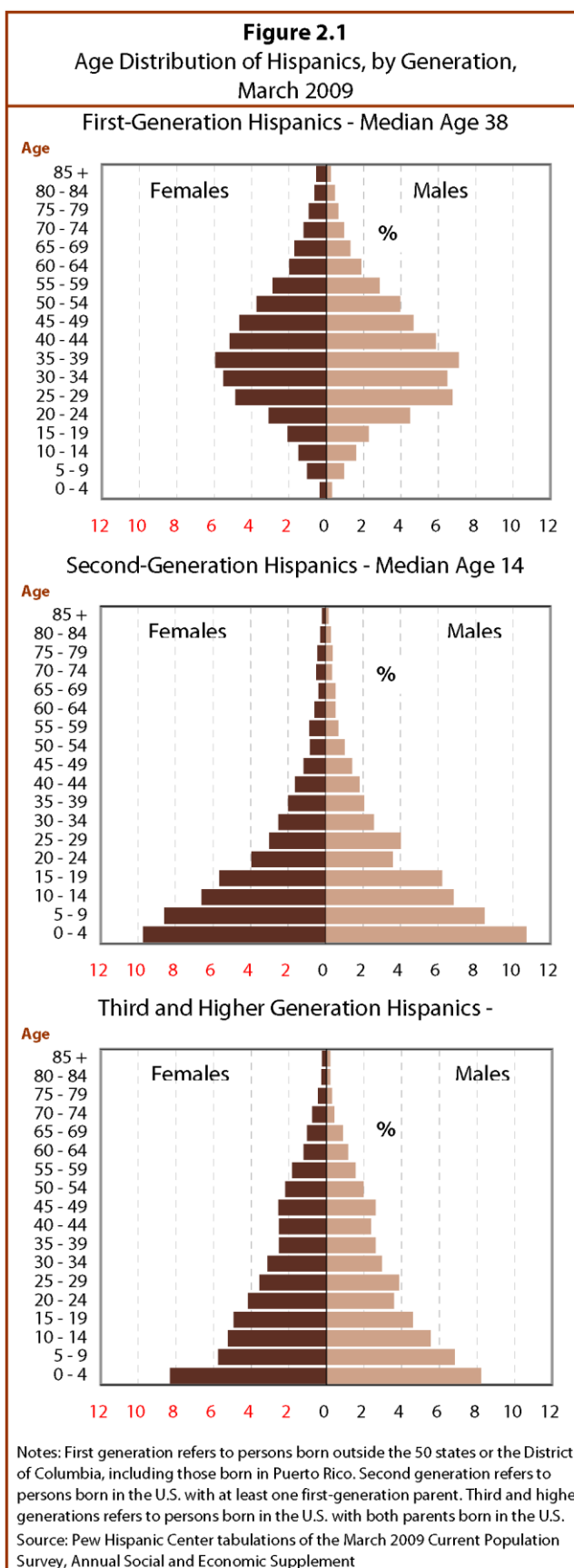


Table 2.1 Age and Gender Characteristics of the U.S. Population, by Race and Ethnicity, March 2009						
	All	Hispanics	Whites	Blacks	Asians	Others
Population (thousands)	300,544	47,395	196,506	36,467	13,708	6,468
Median Age (years)	36	27	41	31	36	23
Population, by Age (thousands)						
0 - 15	65,459	14,810	36,198	9,285	2,768	2,397
16 - 25	41,709	7,544	25,388	5,948	1,743	1,086
26 and older	193,377	25,041	134,920	21,234	9,198	2,985
Population Distribution, by Age (%)						
0 - 15	21.8	31.2	18.4	25.5	20.2	37.1
16 - 25	13.9	15.9	12.9	16.3	12.7	16.8
26 and older	64.3	52.8	68.7	58.2	67.1	46.1
Population, by Gender (thousands)						
Male	147,231	24,306	96,269	16,921	6,522	3,213
Female	153,313	23,089	100,236	19,546	7,187	3,255
Population Distribution, by Gender (%)						
Male	49.0	51.3	49.0	46.4	47.6	49.7
Female	51.0	48.7	51.0	53.6	52.4	50.3
Notes: Asians includes Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders. Numbers may not total due to rounding. Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations of the March 2009 Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement						

Overall, youths ages 16 to 25 account for 13.9% of the U.S. population. The share of youths is higher among Latinos (15.9%) and blacks (16.3%). Hispanics and blacks also have more young children “in waiting.” Almost one-third (31.2%) of the Hispanic population and 25.5% of the black population is younger than 16, compared with 21.8% of the U.S. population. And when it comes to newborns, fully 25% in 2007 were born to Hispanic mothers ([Hamilton, Martin, and Ventura, 2009](#)).

There is another key demographic difference between Latinos and other groups: Latinos are the only majority male population. Among Latinos, males had a 51.3% share of the population. The share of males in the overall population is 49.0%. This divergence may be attributed to the relative youth and foreign-born status of the Hispanic population.⁵

⁵ Females, because of their greater longevity, comprise greater shares of older populations. Also, the incoming stream of Hispanic migrants is predominantly male.

The Young Adult Population

The young adult population in the U.S. consists of 17.1 million teens ages 16 to 19, a share of 41.0%; 8.1 million young adults ages 20 to 21, comprising 19.3%; and 16.6 million young adults ages 22 to 25, accounting for 39.7%. The distribution of the young adult Hispanic population is virtually identical. The nation's 7.5 million Hispanic young people include 3.1 million teens (41.1%); 1.3 million ages 20 to 21 (17.7%); and 3.1 million ages 22 to 25 (41.3%).

Table 2.2						
Age and Gender Characteristics of the Youth Population, March 2009						
	All Youths	All Hispanics	Native-born Hispanics	HISPANICS BY GENERATION		
				First	Second	Third and Higher
Population (thousands)	41,709	7,544	4,995	2,549	2,786	2,209
Population, by Age (thousands)						
16 - 19	17,083	3,099	2,406	693	1,427	980
20 - 21	8,057	1,333	855	478	460	396
22 - 25	16,569	3,113	1,734	1,379	900	834
Population Distribution, by Age (%)						
16 - 19	41.0	41.1	48.2	27.2	51.2	44.3
20 - 21	19.3	17.7	17.1	18.7	16.5	17.9
22 - 25	39.7	41.3	34.7	54.1	32.3	37.7
Population, by Gender (thousands)						
Male	21,100	3,942	2,477	1,464	1,426	1,051
Female	20,609	3,603	2,518	1,085	1,360	1,158
Population Distribution, by Gender (%)						
Male	50.6	52.3	49.6	57.4	51.2	47.6
Female	49.4	47.8	50.4	42.6	48.8	52.4
Notes: Youth refers to 16- to 25-year-olds. First generation refers to persons born outside the 50 states or the District of Columbia, including those born in Puerto Rico. Second generation refers to persons born in the U.S. with at least one first-generation parent. Third and higher generations refers to persons born in the U.S. with both parents born in the U.S. Numbers may not total due to rounding.						
Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations of the March 2009 Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement						

However, there are major differences in the age and gender structure of the native-born and foreign-born Hispanic young adult populations. Foreign-born Latinos are older—54.1% are ages 22 to 25, compared with 34.7% of native-born Latinos. Conversely, only 27.2% of foreign-born Latinos are ages 16 to 19, compared with 48.2% of native-born Latino youths. Within the native born, the second generation is younger still. Most second-generation Latino youths (51.2%) are still in their teenage years.

With regard to gender, a sizable majority (57.4%) of foreign-born Latino youths are male. That is much higher than the male share in the second generation of Hispanic youths (51.2%) or third and higher generations of Hispanic youths

(47.6%). The relatively high share of males in the foreign-born Latino young adult population reflects the fact that in many cases, male immigrants come first, followed by their families.

Countries of Origin of Hispanic Youths

More than two-thirds of Hispanic youths, regardless of nativity or generation, self-identify as being of Mexican origin.⁶ That share is similar to how all Hispanics in the U.S. identify their origin. There is, however, one notable difference across generations of Hispanic youths. The share of youths who identify Central or South America as their origin increases sharply from the third and higher generations (3.9%) to the second generation (18.3%) and then to the first generation (23.8%).

Table 2.3					
Countries of Origin of the Hispanic Youth Population, March 2009					
	All Hispanics	Native-born Hispanics	HISPANICS BY GENERATION		
			First	Second	Third and Higher
Population (thousands)	7,544	4,995	2,549	2,786	2,209
Population, by Country of Origin (thousands)					
Mexican	5,135	3,446	1,689	1,864	1,582
Puerto Rican	710	552	158	241	311
Cuban	212	133	78	94	39
Central or South American	1,200	595	606	509	86
Other Spanish origin	287	268	19	78	190
Population Distribution, by Country of Origin (%)					
Mexican	68.1	69.0	66.3	66.9	71.6
Puerto Rican	9.4	11.1	6.2	8.7	14.1
Cuban	2.8	2.7	3.1	3.4	1.8
Central or South American	15.9	11.9	23.8	18.3	3.9
Other Spanish origin	3.8	5.4	0.7	2.8	8.6
Notes: "Youth" refers to 16- to 25-year-olds. First generation refers to persons born outside the 50 states or the District of Columbia, including those born in Puerto Rico. Second generation refers to persons born in the U.S. with at least one first-generation parent. Third and higher generations refers to persons born in the U.S. with both parents born in the U.S. Numbers may not total due to rounding. Country of origin is based on self-described family ancestry or place of birth in response to questions in the CPS. It is not necessarily the same as place of birth. Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations of the March 2009 Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement					

⁶ Country of origin is based on self-described family ancestry or place of birth in response to questions in the Current Population Survey. It is not necessarily the same as place of birth. For example, a person born in Los Angeles may identify his or her country of origin as Mexico. Likewise, some people born in Mexico may identify another country as their origin depending on the place of birth of their ancestors.

Legal Status of Foreign-born Hispanic Youths

The modern wave of Hispanic immigration has included large numbers of unauthorized migrants. The Pew Hispanic Center estimates that 7.9 million unauthorized Hispanic migrants were in the U.S. in March 2008. They accounted for 41% of all foreign-born Hispanics in the country.⁷ But the share of unauthorized migrants in the foreign-born Latino youth population is even higher. One reason is that the journey across the border is more likely to be made by those relatively young. Another reason is that older foreign-born Hispanics include those who have acquired legal status through amnesty or other means. Thus, 58% of foreign-born Latino youths were estimated to be unauthorized migrants in March 2008. A similar share of foreign-born Latinos younger than 16 is unauthorized. By contrast, 37% of foreign-born Latinos ages 26 and older are unauthorized.

Generations of Latino Youths

The second generation of Latino youths—the children of immigrants—outnumbers the other generations. In March 2009, there were 2.8 million second-generation Hispanic youths, followed by 2.5 million first-generation (foreign-born) youths and 2.2 million third and higher generations of youths (see Table 2.2).

The share of the second generation in the Latino youth population has grown steadily over time. In 1995, nearly half (47.3%) of Latino youths were foreign born and the second generation accounted for less than a third (31.2%).

Table 2.4
Legal Status of the Foreign-born Hispanic Population, March 2008
(numbers in thousands)

	All Foreign Born	IMMIGRATION STATUS		Percent Unauthorized
		Legal	Unauthorized	
Total	19,289	11,344	7,945	41.2
By Age				
0 - 15	1,340	567	773	57.7
16 - 25	2,849	1,207	1,642	57.6
26 and older	15,100	9,570	5,529	36.6

Note: Numbers may not total due to rounding.
Source: Pew Hispanic Center estimates from the March 2008 Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement

Table 2.5
The Hispanic Youth Population, by Generation, 1995 to 2009

	HISPANICS BY GENERATION			
	All	First	Second	Third and Higher
Population (thousands)				
2009	7,544	2,549	2,786	2,209
2005	7,132	3,081	2,295	1,756
2000	6,463	2,897	1,970	1,596
1995	4,776	2,261	1,490	1,025
Population Distribution (%)				
2009	100.0	33.8	36.9	29.3
2005	100.0	43.2	32.2	24.6
2000	100.0	44.8	30.5	24.7
1995	100.0	47.3	31.2	21.5

Notes: "Youth" refers to 16- to 25-year-olds. First generation refers to persons born outside the 50 states or the District of Columbia, including those born in Puerto Rico. Second generation refers to persons born in the U.S. with at least one first-generation parent. Third and higher generations refers to persons born in the U.S. with both parents born in the U.S. Numbers may not total due to rounding.

Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations of March 1995 to 2009 Current Population Surveys, Annual Social and Economic Supplements

⁷ This share would be higher if persons born in Puerto Rico were not included as part of the foreign born population.

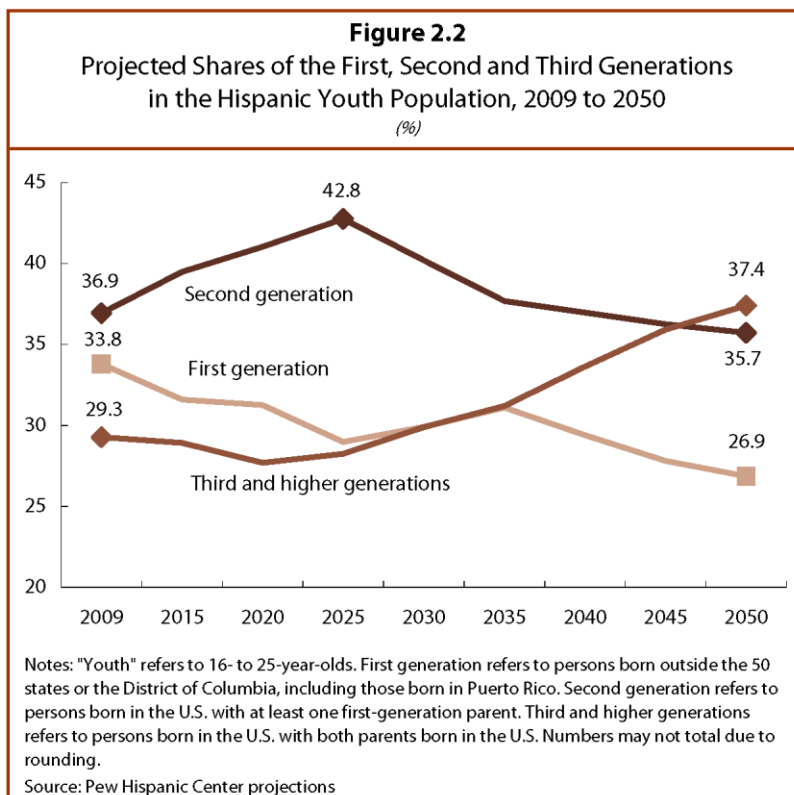
However, the share of the foreign born has diminished steadily, partly because the earlier wave of migrants are now having children and partly because the wave of migration itself has abated. Thus, in March 2009, it is estimated that 33.8% of Latino youths were foreign born, compared with 36.9% of Latino youths who were members of the second generation.

The share of the second generation in the Hispanic youth population is expected to peak in 2025.

The Pew Hispanic Center projects that the second

generation will comprise 42.8% of the Hispanic youth population in 2025.

However, the second generation will yield to the third and higher generations over time, and its share is expected to drop to 35.7% in 2050. The third and higher generations are projected to boost their share from 29.3% in 2009 to 37.4% in 2050, with most of this increase coming after 2025. The share of foreign-born Latino youths, the first generation, is projected to slip from 33.8% in 2009 to 26.9% in 2050.



3. Identity

Hispanics in the United States have several options when it comes to describing their identity. They can use an ethnic label such as “Hispanic” or “Latino”; they can use their family’s country of origin; or they can call themselves “American.” The National Survey of Latinos finds that most have used all of these descriptors at one time or another. But it also finds that their first choice by far is their family’s country of origin.

This chapter explores the many ways Latino youths identify themselves, including by race, ethnicity, and nationality. It also examines how they have been socialized by their parents in ways that relate to their sense of identity. And it reports their views about whether or not there is a common culture among Hispanics in the U.S.

The Terms Hispanics *Ever* Use to Describe Themselves

When asked about the terms they ever use to describe themselves, 94% of Latinos ages 16 to 25 say they have used their family’s country of origin, 87% say the terms “Hispanic” or “Latino,” and 67% say “American.” There are small differences in these shares between younger respondents and those who are ages 26 and older, but the basic pattern is the same.

Not surprisingly, the use of the term “American” is more prevalent among native-born Latino youths than among the foreign born. Virtually all (96%) third-generation Latino youths and nearly nine-in-ten (89%) second-generation Latino youths say that they have described themselves as American. Among foreign-born Latino youths, fewer than three-in-ten (29%) say the same.

To foreign born Latinos ages 16 to 25, citizenship is correlated with a stronger U.S. identity; those who are U.S. citizens are more than twice as likely as those who aren’t to describe themselves as American: 53% versus 19%. This pattern

Table 3.1 How Latinos Describe Themselves <i>Question: People choose different terms to describe themselves. Please tell me whether you have ever described yourself using any of the following</i>			
	By Family's Country of Origin	As Hispanic or Latino	As American
All	92	84	61
Age			
16 to 25	94	87	67
26 and older	92	82	59
Generation (ages 16 to 25)			
First	97	88	29
Second	92	88	89
Third and higher	90	82	96
Primary Language (ages 16 to 25)			
Spanish dominant	99	89	28
Bilingual	95	90	66
English dominant	86	82	92
Notes: First generation refers to persons born outside the 50 states or the District of Columbia, including those born in Puerto Rico. Second generation refers to persons born in the U.S. with at least one first-generation parent. Third and higher generations refers to persons born in the U.S. with both parents born in the U.S. Source: Pew Hispanic Center, 2009 National Survey of Latinos			

holds even once the number of years an immigrant has been in the United States is taken into account.

Use of the term “American” also varies with patterns of language dominance. More than nine-in-ten (92%) young Latinos who predominantly speak English say they use the term to describe themselves. This share falls to two-thirds (66%) among predominantly bilingual young Latinos and to less than three-in-ten (28%) among young Latinos who predominantly speak Spanish.

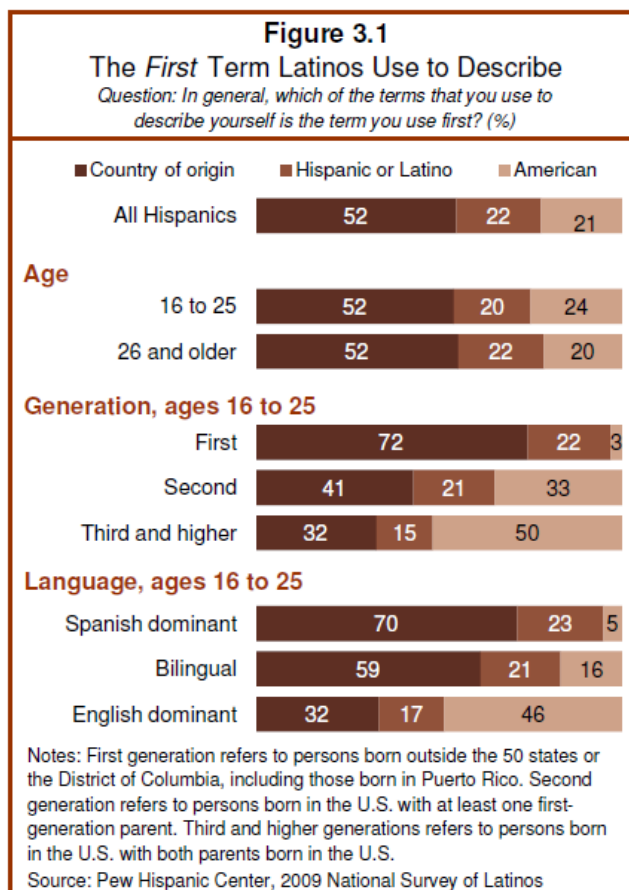
Terms Latinos Use *First* to Describe Themselves

Asked which term they generally use first to describe themselves, young Hispanics show a strong preference for their family’s country of origin (52%) over American (24%) or Hispanic or Latino (20%). There is virtually no difference on this question between Hispanic youths and Latinos ages 26 and older.

As might be expected, the term young Latinos use first is strongly related to their generation. More than seven-in-ten (72%) foreign-born young Latinos say they describe themselves first by their country of origin. Yet significant minorities of native-born young Latinos also say they use their country of origin first when describing their identity. A plurality of second-generation (41%) and nearly one-third (32%) of third-generation young Latinos say this.

It is only among third-generation young Hispanics that the term “American” becomes the first option. Within this group, half (50%) say they use American first, while one-third (33%) of the second generation and virtually no (3%) foreign-born young Hispanics say the same.

These patterns in the first use of the terms “country of origin” and “American” are also linked to language dominance patterns. Seven-in-ten (70%) Spanish-dominant young Latinos say they use their country of origin first, compared with six-in-ten (60%) bilingual young Latinos and nearly a third (32%) of English-dominant young Latinos. A similar, but reversed, pattern holds regarding the use of “American.” Nearly half (46%) of English-dominant young Latinos say they

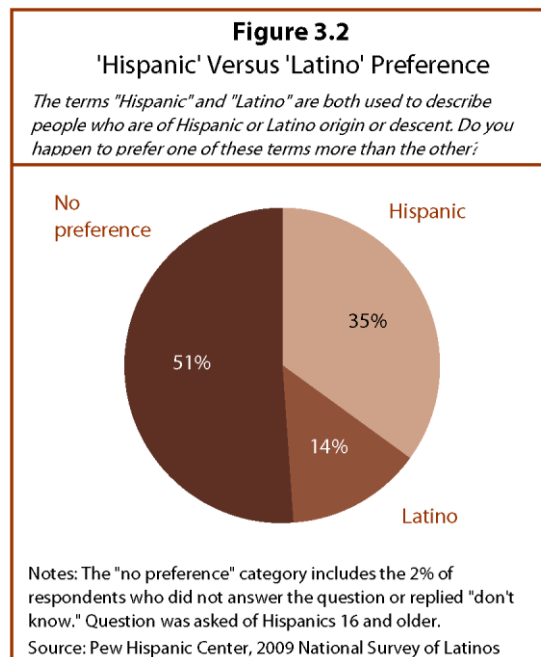


use “American” first, while just 16% of bilingual and 5% of Spanish-dominant young Latinos say the same.

Hispanic or Latino? Many Don't Care

Most Latinos (84%) say they have used the terms “Hispanic” or “Latino” to describe themselves, but they don’t appear to have a strong attachment to either one. Asked which of the two they prefer, half (51%) say they have no preference, one-in-three (35%) say they prefer “Hispanic” and one-in-seven (14%) say they prefer “Latino.” The large “no preference” response is not surprising in light of the fact that only about one-in-five Latinos say that either term is their first option when identifying themselves.

“Hispanic” and “Latino” are terms used by the U.S. Census Bureau and other government agencies as well as by the media, civic groups, political leaders, and scholars in this country. These terms are not as widely used in any of the world’s Spanish-speaking countries.



“My dad and his whole side of the family...[are] diehard Cubans. My mom’s family is pretty much...white Anglo Saxon...and my dad never taught me or my sister Spanish. So....we go to family dinners...and it’s like you can’t even communicate with your family.”

19-year-old Hispanic male

“America, like the culture, it’s so varied. So many different people from so many different countries. But if you say you’re Dominican, then you get into more like who we are...the food, the music...”

25-year-old Hispanic female

“I’m Mexican...that’s what I call myself all the time. Always has been and always will be.”

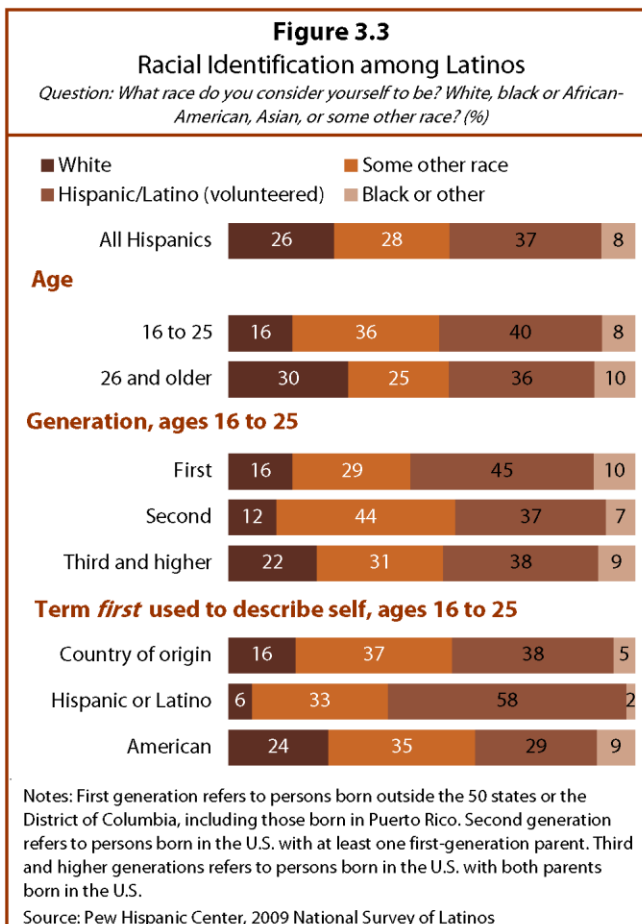
18-year-old Hispanic male

Racial Identification

A large majority of young Latinos do not see themselves fitting into the categories of race used by the U.S. Census Bureau. When asked “What race do you consider yourself to be: white, black or African-American, Asian, or some other race?” more than three-in-four (76%) young Latinos say they are some other race (36%) or volunteer that their race is Hispanic or Latino (40%).⁸ Fewer than one-in-five (19%) say their race is either white (16%) or black (3%).⁹

Young Hispanics see their racial identity somewhat differently than do older Hispanics. While only 16% of young Hispanics say their race is white, nearly twice as many (30%) Hispanics ages 26 and older identify their race as white. Yet even among these older Hispanics, a majority say their race is either Hispanic or Latino (36%) or some other race (25%).

Patterns of racial identification vary among Latino youths. More than four-in-ten (44%) second-generation young Latinos identify their race as “some other race.” This is higher than the share of first-generation young Latinos (29%) or third-generation young Latinos (31%) who say the same. In contrast, 45% of foreign-born young Latinos volunteer that their race is Hispanic or Latino, compared with 37% of second-generation and 38% of third-generation young Latinos. In all cases, very few young Latinos identify their race as white or black.



⁸ “Hispanic” and “Latino” are terms meant to describe an ethnic group (i.e., one that shares a common culture, language and heritage) rather than a racial group (i.e., one that shares certain distinctive physical and genetic characteristics). But as this and other surveys attest, many Americans see their identities in ways that do not neatly conform to the classification systems used by the Census Bureau and the media.

⁹ This pattern of racial identification is similar to that reported in the 2002 National Survey of Latinos ([Pew Hispanic Center/Kaiser Family Foundation, 2002](#)), but different from that reported in the 2000 U.S. Census, where nearly half (48%) of all Hispanics identified their race as white ([Tafoya, 2004](#)).

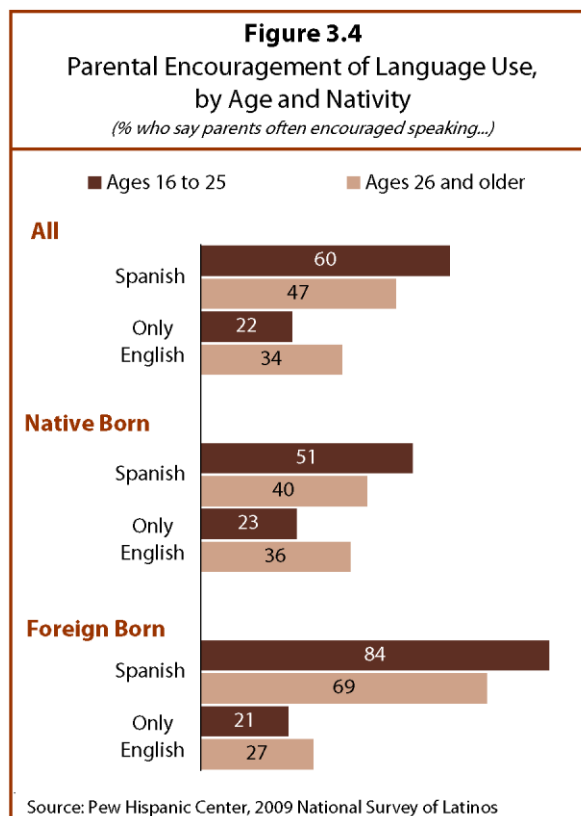
The Parental Socialization of Young Latinos

The way today's young Latinos choose to describe themselves is linked to a series of identity and cultural signals they received from their parents.

Young Latinos are more likely than older Latinos to say their parents socialized them more with a Hispanic focus than an American focus. Six-in-ten (60%) young Latinos say their parents often encouraged them to speak Spanish, compared with less than half (47%) of older Latinos who say that. At the same time, just 22% of young Latinos say their parents often encouraged them to speak only English, compared with more than a third (34%) of older Latinos who say the same.

These differences in parental encouragement of language use persist even when controlling for immigrant status. Young native-born Latinos are more likely than older native-born Latinos to have been encouraged often by their parents to speak Spanish—51% versus 40%. Among the foreign born, more than eight-in-ten (84%) young immigrant Latinos say their parents often encouraged them to speak Spanish, while only about seven-in-ten (69%) older immigrant Latinos say the same.

The survey also finds that today's older Latinos report being raised by their parents with a stronger sense of pride in being American than today's younger Latinos report receiving from their parents. Nearly four-in-ten (39%) Latinos ages 26 and older say their parents talked often about their pride in being American; fewer than three-in-ten (29%) young Latinos (ages 16 to 25) say the same.



“Growing up...I didn’t speak a lot of Spanish because my dad had...always told me... ‘Speak English because I want you to do well in school,’ and ... ‘I don’t want you to have an accent or people judge you.’”

20-year-old Hispanic female

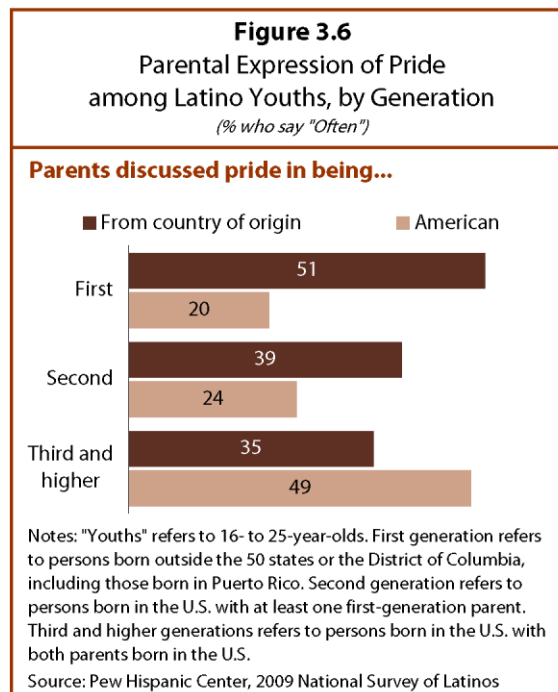
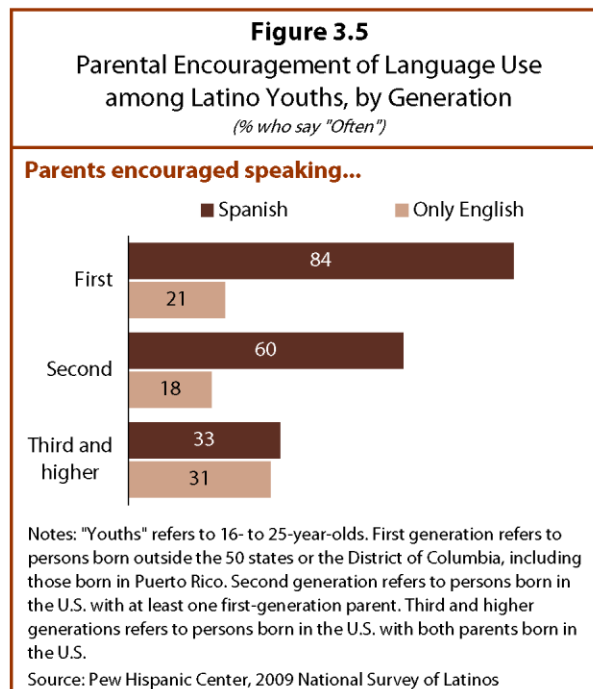
Parental Socialization and Generational Differences

Among young Latinos, differences in parental socialization are evident by generation. Not surprisingly, the parents of foreign-born young Latinos are more likely to often encourage them to speak Spanish than are the parents of native-born young Latinos. More than eight-in-ten (84%) immigrant youths say their parents encouraged them to speak Spanish often. Six-in-ten (60%) second-generation young Latinos and one-in-three (33%) third-generation young Latinos say the same.

While large shares of first- and second-generation Latinos say their parents encouraged them often to speak Spanish, significantly smaller shares say their parents encouraged them to speak only English. Just 21% of immigrant young Latinos and 18% of second-generation young Latinos say their parents often encouraged them to speak only English. Among third-generation young Latinos, more than three-in-ten (31%) say the same.

As expected, young foreign-born Latinos are more likely than native-born young Latinos to say their parents often emphasized pride in their country of origin. More than half (51%) of immigrant young Latinos say this, compared with less than four-in-ten (39%) second-generation Latinos and 35% of third-generation Latinos who say the same.

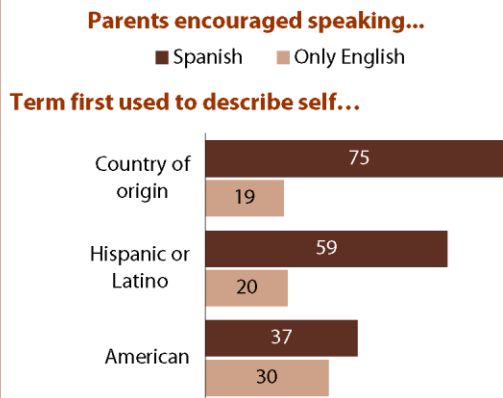
In contrast, third-generation young Hispanics are more likely than first- or second-generation young Hispanics to say their parents often talked about their pride in being American. Nearly half (49%) of third-generation young Hispanics say this, compared with less than one-quarter (24%) of second-generation and one-in-five (20%) immigrant young Hispanics who say the same.



Parental Socialization and Identity

Young Latinos who say they first describe themselves by their family's country of origin have had a different parental socialization experience than young Latinos who first describe themselves as American. Unsurprisingly, three-quarters (75%) of young Latinos who use their country of origin first to describe themselves say their parents often encouraged them to speak Spanish. Among young Latinos who use Hispanic or Latino as their first identifier, less than six-in-ten (59%) say the same. And among those who use American first, just 37% say their parents often encouraged them to speak Spanish.

Figure 3.7
Parental Encouragement of Language Use among Latino Youths, by Term *First* Used to Describe Self
(% who say "Often")



Note: "Youths" refers to 16- to 25-year-olds.

Source: Pew Hispanic Center, 2009 National Survey of Latinos

Yet no matter which term young Latinos use first to describe themselves, fewer say their parents encouraged them often to speak only English than say their parents encouraged them to speak Spanish. This gap is smallest among young Latinos who call themselves American first. Some 30% of this group says their parents encouraged them to speak only English, while 37% say their parents often encouraged them to speak Spanish. As for those who first identify by their family's country of origin or as Hispanic or Latino, only about one-in-five Latino youths say their parents often encouraged them to speak only English.

Reasons for Coming to the United States

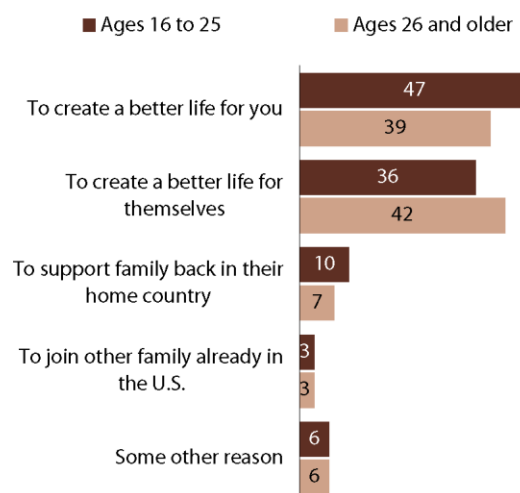
Asked why they and/or their families immigrated to the United States, survey respondents most often cited a desire to create a better life for themselves or their children. Among young immigrant Hispanics, a significant share also say they came here to help support family in their home country.

Family Motivations

The survey asked native-born Hispanics and foreign-born Hispanics who were younger than 16 when they arrived in the U.S. about their parents' or family's motivation for coming to the U.S. Among young Hispanics, almost half (47%) say

Figure 3.8
Why Immigrant Families Come to the U.S.

Question: What is the most important reason why your parents or family first came to the U.S.? (asked among those who are U.S. born or came to the U.S. before the age of 16, %)



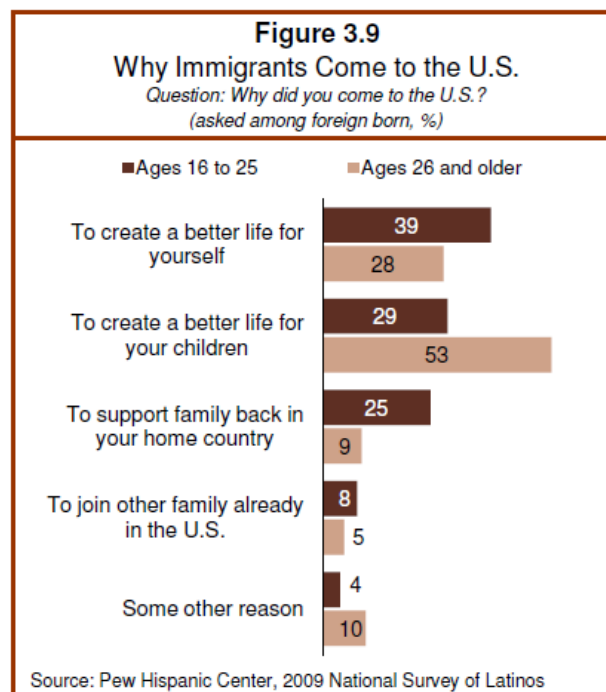
Source: Pew Hispanic Center, 2009 National Survey of Latinos

their families came to “create a better life for you,” and 36% say their parents or other family members came to “create a better life for themselves.” Among older Hispanics, more than four-in-ten (42%) say their families came to the U.S. “to create a better life for themselves” and 39% of older Hispanics say their families came to “create a better life for you.”

Personal Motivations

Among immigrants 16 to 25 years old, a slightly different mix of motivations is cited. Nearly four-in-ten (39%) young immigrants say they came to the U.S. to make a better life for themselves. This is followed by 29% who say they immigrated to make a better life for their children and 25% who say they came to help support family in their home country.

Older immigrants, 26 and older, express a similar set of motivations, but ranked differently. More than half (53%) say they came to the U.S. to make a better life for their children. This is followed by 28% who say they came to the U.S. to make a better life for themselves and just 9% who say they came to the U.S. to support family in their home country.

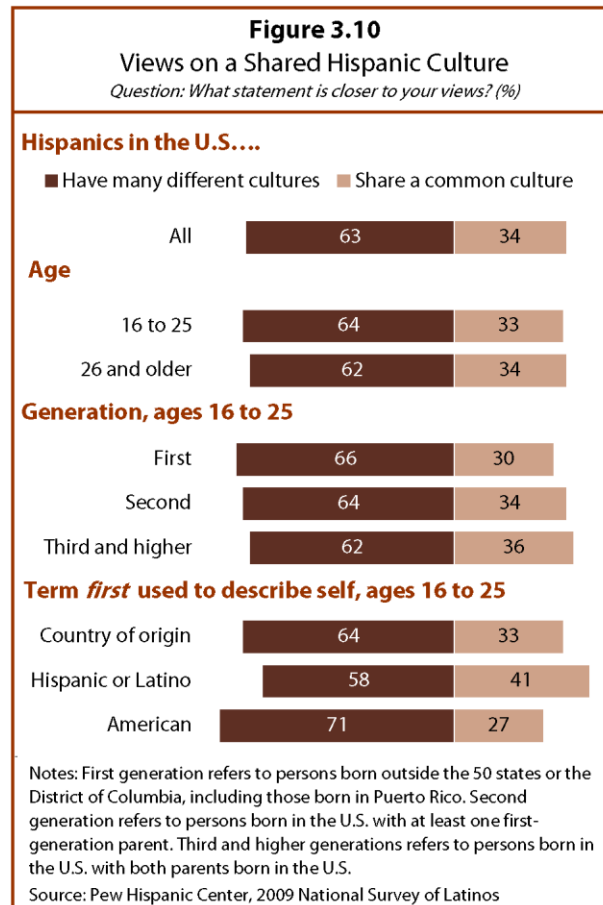


“My mom didn’t get into details [of why they came to the U.S.], but we know why they did it.”
21-year-old Hispanic male

Skepticism about a Shared Culture

For Latinos, the question of ethnic and racial identity is complicated by the fact that a large majority see more cultural differences than commonalities among Latinos who live in the United States.

Asked to choose between two statements about Latinos—one asserting their shared culture and the other asserting their different cultures—young Latinos picked the second statement by a ratio of nearly two-to-one (64% versus 33%). There are virtually no differences on this question by age group or by immigrant generation among young Latinos. Not surprisingly, young Latinos most inclined to see a shared culture among Latinos are those who use the terms “Hispanic” or “Latino” first when describing themselves. However, even among this group, nearly six-in-ten (58%) say they see more internal differences than commonalities among Hispanics in the U.S.



How Well Latinos Get Along

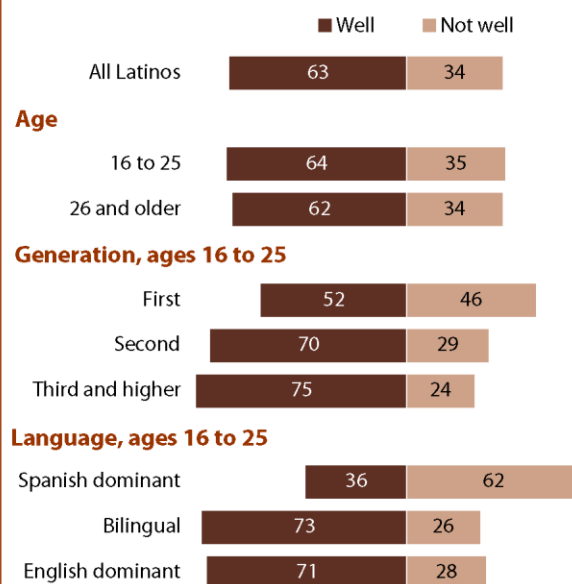
Nearly two-thirds of Hispanics in the U.S. are from the same country of origin—Mexico—while the remaining third trace their roots to any of about two dozen Spanish-speaking countries ([Pew Hispanic Center, 2009](#)). Given this diversity, how well do Hispanics from different backgrounds get along with one another?

Overall, young Hispanics see more harmony than conflict; nearly two-thirds of Hispanic youths (64%) say Latinos from different countries of origin get along well, while more than a third (35%) say they do not. Similar shares of adult Hispanics say the same.

However, there are some sharp variances on this question—especially by language usage. Among young Latinos who predominantly speak Spanish, just 36% say that Hispanics from different countries of origin get along well. In contrast, more than seven-in-ten of those who are bilingual (73%) or predominantly speak English (71%) see harmony among Hispanic communities from different countries of origin.

Young Latinos from families with more generations in the U.S. are more likely than immigrants to say that Hispanics are getting along well these days. More than seven-in-ten second-generation (70%) and third-generation (75%) young Hispanics say this, while just over half (52%) of foreign-born young Hispanics say the same.

Figure 3.11
How Well Do Latinos from Different Countries of Origin Get Along Today?
(%)



Notes: First generation refers to persons born outside the 50 states or the District of Columbia, including those born in Puerto Rico. Second generation refers to persons born in the U.S. with at least one first-generation parent. Third and higher generations refers to persons born in the U.S. with both parents born in the U.S.

Source: Pew Hispanic Center, 2009 National Survey of Latinos

“My race is Dominican.”

21-year-old Hispanic male

“For me...the whole race dynamic is interesting...I look at my grandpa...[he] is black. I look at my other grandpa, he’s really indigenous...hair, features...very very indigenous. It’s this hybrid blood.”

19-year-old Hispanic female

“I had a problem when, on applications they [ask]...White, African American, Asian, other. There was no Hispanic...I always have a problem when there is no Hispanic or Latino or anything...”

20-year-old Hispanic female

4. Language Use

In their use of language, Latinos in the United States are following a trajectory well known to immigrant groups around the world and through the ages—from one generation to the next, immigrant families grow more proficient with their new language and less with their old ([Hakimzadeh and Cohn, 2007](#); [Pew Hispanic Center, 2004](#)). The 2009 National Survey of Latinos finds that these generational shifts are quite dramatic among Latino youths. For example, among foreign-born 16- to 25-year-olds, 48% can carry on a conversation in English,¹⁰ but among their native-born counterparts, the likelihood of speaking proficiently in English more than doubles, to 98% for the second generation and 97% for the third generation.

However, as this march toward English dominance unfolds across generations, young Latinos are not abandoning the Spanish language. About nine-in-ten immigrant youths and eight-in-ten second-generation youths are fluent in Spanish. Even among third-generation youths, nearly four-in-ten (38%) retain the ability to speak and understand Spanish, despite the fact that they were born in the United States to native-born parents who are mostly English dominant. And when it comes to music, some 30% of third-generation Latino youths report that at least half of the songs they listen to are in Spanish.

As these numbers suggest, the boundary between English and Spanish can often be porous for Latinos of all ages and immigrant generations. Indeed, seven-in-ten (70%) Latino youths say that when conversing with family and friends they use a fusion tongue known as “Spanglish” that mixes words from both languages—a practice that exists among the third and higher generations as well.

“I was at a T.J. Maxx with my Columbian friend, and we were talking in Spanish, and this white person said ‘You’re supposed to speak English in America.’ And I said, ‘Oh really? So you need to learn Spanish because this is a changing country. Get over it.’”

25-year-old Hispanic female

“Sometimes we speak Spanish to hide things from other people that don’t understand the language.”

16-year-old Hispanic male

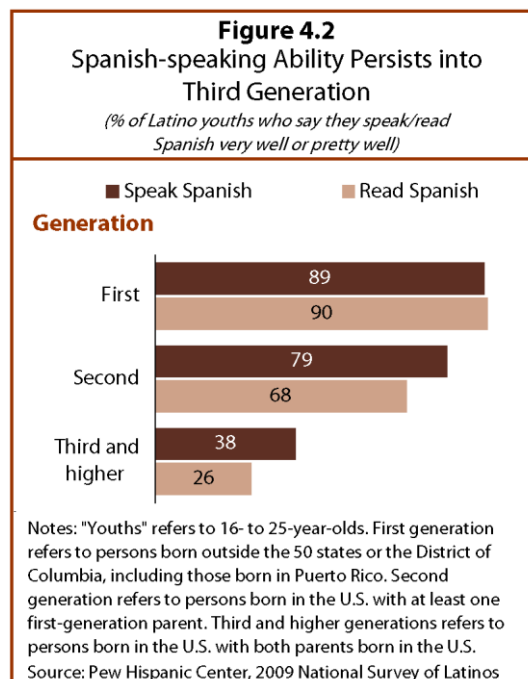
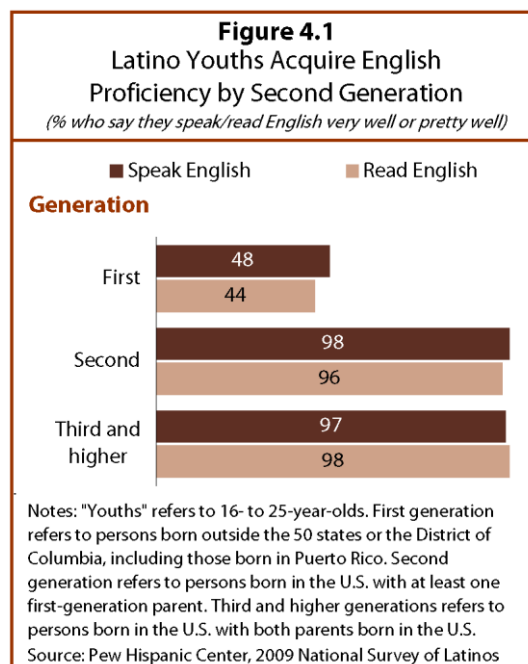
¹⁰ In discussing speaking and reading abilities, phrases and words denoting proficiency, fluency, conversance and ability to speak and read are used interchangeably to represent people who report that they can speak/read “very well” or “pretty well.”

Speaking and Reading

More than three-fourths of all Latino youths ages 16 to 25 can read and speak English with a high degree of proficiency. Some 78% report that they can carry on a conversation in English either very well or pretty well, while 76% say the same about reading a newspaper or book in English. Their rates of proficiency in Spanish are similar. When asked if they can carry on a conversation in Spanish, three-fourths (75%) of respondents report that they can do so either pretty well or very well, and when asked a similar question regarding their ability to read in Spanish, 68% say that they can do so.

There are marked differences in English ability by nativity among Latino youths. English proficiency for immigrants increases the longer they live in the U.S. Just under half (48%) of foreign-born youths report that they are conversant in English. This number drops slightly (44%) when immigrants are asked about their ability to read English-language newspapers or books. By the second generation, however, English proficiency among Latino youths jumps to 98% for speaking and 96% for reading and writing. These high rates of proficiency persist among the third generation, 97% of whom report proficiency in speaking English and 98% of whom report proficiency in reading and writing English.

Not surprisingly, nearly all immigrant Latino youth are facile in Spanish. Some 89% report being conversant in the language, and a similar share (90%) report being able to read and write very well or pretty well in Spanish. The number of second-generation Latinos who are fluent in Spanish—79%—does not differ significantly from the share of immigrants who are fluent. While speaking ability is retained in the second generation, the share who can read and write in Spanish drops significantly to 68%. The decline in Spanish reading and writing skills is more dramatic between the second and third generations, with about one-fourth (26%) of the third generation retaining those skills. However, spoken language retention is more resilient, with



almost four-in-ten (38%) third-generation youths reporting that they speak Spanish either very well or pretty well.

Spanish speaking and reading proficiency is very similar among Latinos ages 26 and older. Some 80% speak Spanish very well or pretty well, and when it comes to reading and writing in Spanish, 76% report that they can do so very well or pretty well. Older Latinos are less likely to report proficiency in speaking or reading English. Fifty-eight percent report that they are conversant in English, and a similar share say they can write proficiently in English. However, these differences in English ability are driven entirely by the fact that there are more foreign born among older Latinos. If older Latinos had the same nativity profile as Latino youths, their English language ability would be identical.

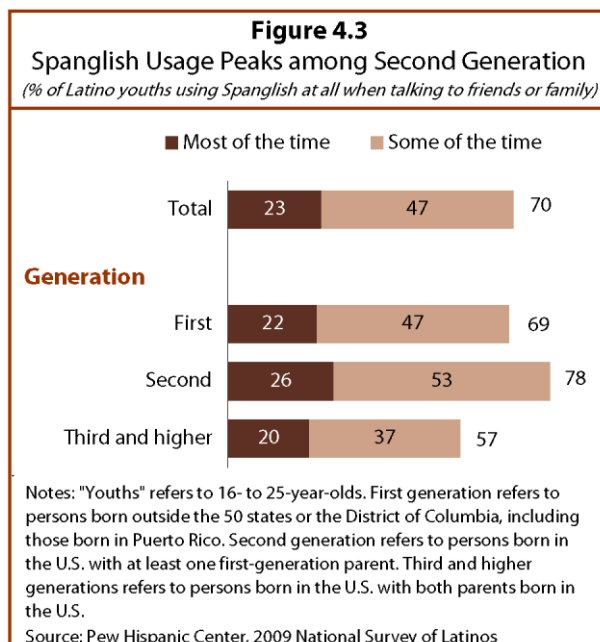
Primary Language

The Pew Hispanic Center has developed a “primary language” measure that combines all four dimensions of English and Spanish reading and speaking ability. Among youths, more than one-third (36%) are classified as English dominant according to this measure, while 41% are considered bilingual, and the remaining 23% are Spanish dominant.

In the first generation, only 7% of youths are classified as English dominant, while 40% are bilingual and 53% are Spanish dominant. By the second generation, English dominance spreads rapidly to 44% of the population, while 54% are bilingual and only 2% are Spanish dominant. In the third generation, some 80% have English as their primary language, while 15% are bilingual and again, a small share—5%—remains Spanish dominant.

Use of Spanglish

Over time, the bilingual preferences and proficiencies of so many Hispanics have led to the development of “Spanglish,” an informal hybrid of English and Spanish. While being bilingual in Spanish and English implies the ability to read, write and converse in either language, using Spanglish typically implies using Spanish and English words interchangeably within one conversation or piece of writing. Survey respondents were asked how often, if at all, they used Spanglish when speaking with their family or friends. Some 23% of youths report using Spanglish most of the



time, and an additional 47% report using it some of the time.

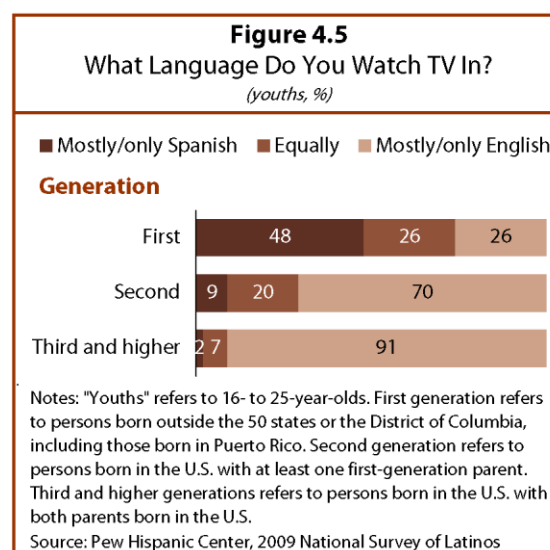
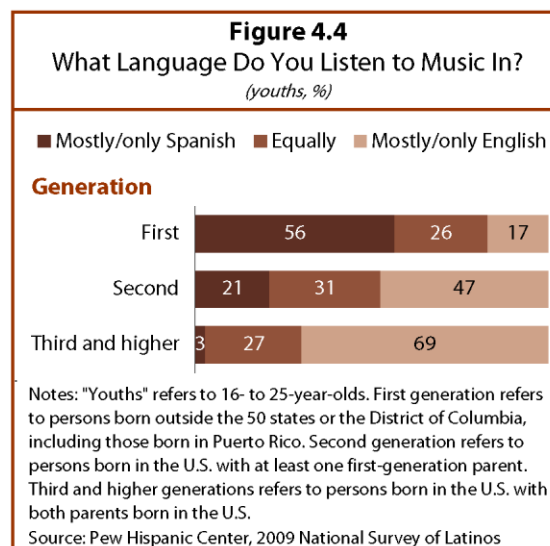
There are some small variances in these patterns by immigrant generation. More than two-in-ten (22%) immigrant youths report using the language hybrid most of the time, and 47% report using it some of the time. Adoption of Spanglish peaks in the second generation; 26% report that they use it most of the time, and 53% report that they use it some of the time. The likelihood of using any Spanglish is lower among the third generation, though 20% use it most of the time, and 37% use it some of the time.

Music and Television

When asked about media usage, about a third of Latino youths state that when they listen to music, they do so only (8%) or mostly (23%) in Spanish. An additional 29% listen equally in Spanish and English, 27% listen mostly in English, and 13% listen only in English.

The shift toward English-language music occurs rapidly across generations, but the shift is incomplete, with a notable minority (30%) of even the third generation listening to at least half of their music in Spanish. Among immigrant youths, 56% listen to music only or mostly in Spanish. The likelihood of listening primarily in Spanish declines to 21% among the second generation and 3% among the third generation. The likelihood of listening to music equally in Spanish and English is similar across generations—26% of immigrants, and 31% of second-generation and 27% of third-generation Latino youths report as much. However, there is a rapid increase across generations in the likelihood of listening mostly or only in English. The share doing so rises from 17% among immigrants to 47% among the second generation, and 69% among the third generation.

Watching television in English is more prevalent among Latino youths than listening to music in English. Some 6% of Latino youths report that they only watch television in Spanish, while another 17% report watching mostly in Spanish. Two-in-ten (20%) report that they are



equally likely to watch television in English or Spanish. Just under one-third (32%) of Latino youths report that they mostly watch TV in English, and an additional 24% report watching TV exclusively in English.

While the movement toward listening to predominantly English music occurs across three generations of Latino youths, the switch to English-language television (and the switch away from predominantly Spanish programming) is more rapid, and more complete. Just under half (48%) of immigrant youths report watching TV primarily in Spanish, and this number plummets to 9% among the second generation, and 2% among the third generation. Some 26% of immigrants report watching TV equally in both languages. Among the second generation, this share is 20%, and among the third generation it is 7%. And while just over one-fourth (26%) of immigrant youths report watching TV primarily in English, by the second generation, this share jumps to 70%; by the third generation, 91% of Latino youths report watching TV primarily in English.

“I’m like half and half, but when I turn on the radio I’m most likely to go to a Spanish station, then I’ll go to an English station.”

15-year-old Hispanic female

“There’s certain things that I prefer watching in Spanish. Like if there’s a good soccer game on, but it is only available in English, I might not watch it.”

19-year-old Hispanic male

“[Spanglish]...for example...right now I’d be speaking in English y después empiezo hablar Español. You start the sentence in one language and then all of a sudden switch to another language...with my brothers I speak Spanglish, and we switch back and forth all the time.”

20-year-old Hispanic female

5. Economic Well-Being

The economic well-being of any group of youths ages 16 to 25 depends in part on the economic status of the households in which they live and in part on their own personal engagement with the labor market. On both fronts, Latino youths lag well behind white youths. But they surpass black youths on most measures of economic well-being and are more active in the labor market than Asian youths.

Among Latino youths, there are significant differences on most of these measures by nativity. Foreign-born Latino youths on average live in households with lower incomes than those of the native born. The foreign born also are more likely than the native born to live in poverty, less likely to live in owner-occupied homes, more likely to lack health insurance and more likely to have a lower-skill job.

But compared with native-born Latino youths, foreign-born Latino youths are more active in the labor force and a smaller share is unemployed. This is partly because foreign-born Latino youths are relatively older (they skew more toward the upper end of the 16-to-25 age range) and less likely to be enrolled in school.

Household Well-Being

Latino youths are more likely than other youths to live in families whose income is below the poverty level. The U.S. government calculates poverty based on a combination of household income and the number of people living in the household. For instance, a family of four, including two related children, with an

Table 5.1
Economic Well-Being of Youths
(%)

	All Youths	All Hispanics	Whites	Blacks	Asians
Family Income, 2008					
Below poverty level	18	23	13	28	18
1 to 2 times poverty level	20	29	16	25	18
2 times or higher than poverty level	62	48	70	47	64
Household Income, 2008					
Less than \$25,000	18	23	13	30	18
\$25,000 to \$49,999	24	30	21	30	20
\$50,000 to \$74,999	19	20	20	15	19
\$75,000 to \$99,999	14	12	15	11	14
\$100,000 or more	25	15	31	13	30
Living in Owner-occupied Home, 2009	59	47	66	44	58
No Health Insurance, 2008	26	41	20	30	27

Notes: "Youths" refers to 16- to 25-year-olds. Whites, blacks and Asians include only non-Hispanics. Asians includes Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders. A household may consist of one or more families. Numbers may not total due to rounding.

Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations of the March 2009 Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement

income of less than \$21,834 in 2008 was defined to be living below the poverty threshold.¹¹

Some 23% of Latino youths lived in families whose income was below the poverty level in 2008. That was less than the share of black youths (28%) who lived in poverty but was well above the shares of white (13%) and Asian (18%) youths who lived in poverty.

Another yardstick of well-being is household income. In 2008, more than half of Latino youths (53%) lived in households with incomes less than \$50,000, compared with 34% of white youths, 38% of Asian youths and 60% of black youths. Some 15% of Hispanic youths lived in households with incomes of \$100,000 or more, about the same as black youths but much below the shares of white (31%) and Asian (30%) youths.

Likewise, Latino youths are less likely than average to live in owner-occupied homes—47% versus 59% of all youths—and more likely than average to lack health insurance—41% compared with 26% of all youths.

Table 5.2						
Economic Well-Being of Latino Youths, by Generation						
	(%)					
	HISPANICS BY GENERATION					
	All Youths	All Hispanics	Native-born Hispanics	First	Second	Third and Higher
Family Income, 2008						
Below poverty level	18	23	20	29	19	21
1 to 2 times poverty level	20	29	27	34	29	23
2 times or higher than poverty level	62	48	53	36	52	55
Household Income, 2008						
Less than \$25,000	18	23	21	26	21	22
\$25,000 to \$49,999	24	30	27	35	29	25
\$50,000 to \$74,999	19	20	21	18	22	20
\$75,000 to \$99,999	14	12	13	11	14	12
\$100,000 or more	25	15	18	10	15	21
Living in Owner-occupied home, 2009	59	47	56	30	57	54
No Health Insurance, 2008	26	41	31	61	34	28

Notes: "Youths" refers to 16- to 25-year-olds. First generation refers to persons born outside the 50 states or the District of Columbia, including those born in Puerto Rico. Second generation refers to persons born in the U.S. with at least one first-generation parent. Third and higher generations refers to persons born in the U.S. with both parents born in the U.S. Numbers may not total due to rounding.

Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations of the March 2009 Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement

¹¹ Poverty thresholds, as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau, are available at <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/threshld/thresh08.html>.

Among Latino youths, the household well-being of foreign-born youths lags behind the household well-being of native-born youths by wide margins. Some 29% of foreign-born Latino youths lived below the poverty line in 2008. That is markedly higher than the poverty rates among the second generation (19%) or the third and higher generations (21%).

Similar outcomes are evident with respect to household income, homeownership and health insurance. Six-in-ten (61%) of foreign-born Hispanic youths live in households with incomes of less than \$50,000, compared with 48% of native-born youths. Only 30% of the foreign born live in owner-occupied homes, compared with 56% of native-born Latino youths. And 61% of foreign-born Latino youths lack health insurance, compared with 31% of the native born. The differences between second- and third-generation youths are not large.

Labor Market Outcomes

The Great Recession has been hard on young workers, and Latino youths are no exception. The unemployment rate for Latino youths reached 20.4% in the third quarter of 2009, three points higher than the rate for all youths (17.5%).¹² The national unemployment rate at the same time was 9.6%.

Table 5.3 Labor Force Status of Youths, by Race and Ethnicity, Third Quarter, 2009 <i>(thousands, unless otherwise noted; non-seasonally adjusted)</i>					
	All Youths	Hispanics	Whites	Blacks	Asians
Population	41,701	7,558	25,313	5,940	1,796
Employed	21,140	3,542	14,177	2,221	737
Unemployed	4,486	907	2,435	869	138
Not in labor force	16,074	3,109	8,702	2,850	920
Labor force participation rate (%)	61.5	58.9	65.6	52.0	48.7
Employment rate (%)	50.7	46.9	56.0	37.4	41.0
Unemployment rate (%)	17.5	20.4	14.7	28.1	15.8
Notes: "Youths" refers to 16- to 25-year-olds. Whites, blacks and Asians include only non-Hispanics. Asians includes Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders. Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations of Current Population Survey data for July, August and September 2009					

¹² Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) data show that Hispanic youths last experienced unemployment rates higher than 20% in 1983. Other youths and all workers in general are also experiencing the highest unemployment rates in nearly three decades. BLS data are for ages 16 to 24, slightly different than the 16-to-25 age group that defines youths in this report.

Underneath the aggregate statistic are notable differences in labor market experiences between foreign-born and native-born Latino youths. Those who are foreign born are more likely to be active in the labor force, and a smaller share of them is unemployed. That is because they are relatively older and less likely to be enrolled in school. But young foreign-born workers are concentrated in a handful of lower-skill occupations, a likely consequence both of their low levels of education and of the fact that more than half are in the country illegally.

This section explores the labor market outcomes of Latino youths during the third quarter of 2009, more than 1½ years into the ongoing recession. The unemployment rate (or the share of the labor force that is looking for work) is but one indicator of labor market outcomes. Two other key indicators examined in this section are the labor force participation rate—the share of the population that is either employed or looking for work—and the employment rate—the share of the population that is employed.

Latino youths are nearly as active in the labor market as all youths. Some 58.9% of Latino youths participate in the labor market, compared with 61.5% of all youths. Labor force participation among young Hispanics exceeds that among blacks and Asians but falls short of the rate (65.6%) among whites. Consistent with these trends, a greater share of Latino youths (46.9%) is employed than black (37.4%) or Asian (41.0%) youths. However, the employment rate among white youths is higher (56.0%).

With respect to unemployment, the rates for black youths tend to run much higher than those of others groups, and this is true both in good and bad economic times. The unemployment rate for black youths (28.1%) in the third quarter of 2009 is well above that of Hispanic (20.4%), Asian (15.8%) and white (14.7%) youths.

Among Latino youths, labor market outcomes for the foreign born appear better than for the native born by most measures. In the third quarter of 2009, the unemployment rate for first-generation Latino youth—16.7%—was six percentage points less than the rate for native-born youth—22.6%.

Foreign-born Latino youths are also more active in the labor market than their native-born peers. Of the 7.6 million Latinos ages 16 to 25, some 58.9% were active in the labor force in the third quarter of 2009.¹³ However, 64.2% of foreign-born Latino youths were participating in the labor force, compared with 56.1% of native-born youths. Likewise, a greater share of the foreign-born Latino youth population is employed—53.5% for the foreign born, compared with 43.4% of the native born.

¹³ The population estimates in this section differ slightly from preceding estimates in this report that are derived from the March 2009 Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement.

Table 5.4
Labor Force Status of Youths, by Nativity, Third Quarter, 2009
(thousands, unless otherwise noted; non-seasonally adjusted)

	ALL YOUTHS			HISPANIC YOUTHS		
	All	Native Born	Foreign Born	All	Native Born	Foreign Born
Population	41,701	37,347	4,354	7,558	4,957	2,601
Employed	21,140	18,963	2,177	3,542	2,152	1,391
Unemployed	4,486	4,085	400	907	627	280
Not in labor force	16,074	14,298	1,776	3,109	2,178	930
Labor force participation rate (%)	61.5	61.7	59.2	58.9	56.1	64.2
Employment rate (%)	50.7	50.8	50.0	46.9	43.4	53.5
Unemployment rate (%)	17.5	17.7	15.5	20.4	22.6	16.7

Notes: "Youths" refers to 16- to 25-year-olds. Foreign born includes persons born in Puerto Rico.

Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations of Current Population Survey data for July, August and September 2009

The greater engagement of foreign-born Latino youths with the labor market is most likely a result of their age and school enrollment—they are both older and less likely to be in school. With respect to age, the majority of foreign-born youths in the 16-to-25 cohort—54.1%—are ages 22 to 25, compared with only 34.7% of native-born youths (Table 2.2 above). As shown in Table 5.5, labor market outcomes improve steadily with age, for Hispanic youths as well as for all youths.

With respect to school enrollment, foreign-born Latino youths are less likely to be enrolled in high school or college than are native-born Latino youth—34.3% versus 58.9% in March 2009 (Table 6.2 below). That gap also contributes to observed differences in labor market outcomes because those enrolled in school, especially those enrolled full time, are less engaged with the labor market.

Table 5.5
Labor Force Status of Youths, by Age, Third Quarter, 2009
(non-seasonally adjusted, %)

	AGE			
	16 - 17	18 - 19	20 - 21	22 - 25
All Youths				
Labor force participation rate	28.9	54.7	67.9	79.0
Employment rate	21.5	41.6	56.4	68.0
Unemployment rate	25.7	23.9	17.0	13.9
Hispanic Youths				
Labor force participation rate	23.0	51.7	69.7	76.1
Employment rate	15.0	36.5	56.2	64.4
Unemployment rate	34.6	29.4	19.4	15.3

Note: "Youths" refers to 16- to 25-year-olds.

Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations of Current Population Survey data for July, August and September 2009

For example, only 18.2% of Latino youths enrolled full time in high school in the third quarter of 2009 participated in the labor force. That compares with participation rates of 41.8% among part-time high school attendees, 46.7% among full-time college enrollees and 79.5% among those attending college part time.

The participation rate among Latino youths not enrolled in either college or high school is 70.1%. Because native-born Latino youths are more likely to be of high school age and more likely to attend school than foreign-born youths, they are more restrained in their labor market activities.

Table 5.6					
Labor Force Status of Youths Ages 16 to 24, by School Enrollment, Third Quarter, 2009					
(non-seasonally adjusted, %)					
	SCHOOL ENROLLEES				NOT ENROLLED
	High School		College		
	Full time	Part time	Full time	Part time	
All Youths					
Labor force participation rate	23.5	47.7	49.1	78.2	74.0
Employment rate	17.5	26.7	42.5	68.9	59.9
Unemployment rate	25.4	44.1	13.4	11.8	19.1
Hispanic Youths					
Labor force participation rate	18.2	41.8	46.7	79.5	70.1
Employment rate	11.6	23.7	37.9	69.2	55.6
Unemployment rate	36.0	43.3	18.8	13.0	20.7
Note: Estimates are restricted to ages 16 to 24 because that is the universe for the school enrollment data from the Current Population Survey.					
Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations of Current Population Survey data for July, August and September 2009					

Foreign-born Latinos differ from native-born youths in one other important aspect—their occupational status. While they are less likely to be without a job, the majority of foreign-born youths with a job—52.4%—are employed in only four lower-skill occupations—food preparation and serving; building and grounds cleaning and maintenance; construction and extraction; and production.¹⁴ Lower levels of education and unauthorized status are likely reasons that foreign-born Latino youths face a limited choice of jobs.

In contrast, native-born Latino youths are more dispersed across occupations, including in white-collar occupations. The occupational distribution of native-born Latino youths closely resembles the occupational distribution of all U.S. youths. Sales and related occupations are the most popular choice for both cohorts of employed youths. And native-born youths, in general or Latinos in particular, are much less likely than their foreign-born peers to work in construction or production occupations.

Within the population of native-born Latino youths, there is little difference in labor market outcomes between the second generation and the third and higher

¹⁴ Another 10.8% of foreign-born Latino youths are in sales and related occupations, implying that nearly two-thirds work in just five occupations.

generations. The second generation of youths is somewhat less likely to participate in the labor force—53.8% versus 59.0% for the third and higher generations. Consequently, a smaller share of the second generation (41.4%) is employed compared with the third and higher generations (46.0%). However, the unemployment rate across these generations is virtually identical—23.0% for the second generation and 22.1% for the third and higher generations. Overall, the differences between native-born and foreign-born Latino youths are more acute than are differences across native-born generations.

Table 5.7 Occupational Distribution of Youths, by Nativity, Third Quarter, 2009 <i>(employed persons only; non-seasonally adjusted, %)</i>				
	ALL		HISPANICS	
	Native Born	Foreign Born	Native Born	Foreign Born
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Management, business and financial	5.9	4.3	4.0	2.6
Computer, architecture and scientific	3.0	4.4	1.2	1.1
Legal and social services	1.4	0.8	0.9	0.7
Arts, entertainment, sports and media	2.1	1.0	1.9	0.8
Education, training and library	3.5	2.4	3.7	1.6
Health care	6.2	3.5	5.0	1.4
Sales and related	17.0	13.3	19.7	10.8
Office and administrative support	14.2	10.4	18.6	8.8
Protective services	2.7	1.4	2.3	0.8
Personal care and services	6.0	3.9	4.6	2.6
Food preparation and serving related	16.2	14.0	14.4	15.3
Building, grounds cleaning and maintenance	3.9	8.2	3.8	11.4
Construction and extraction	4.1	10.8	4.2	15.0
Installation, maintenance and repair	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.9
Production	3.8	8.8	4.4	10.7
Transportation and material moving	5.9	6.9	7.3	8.2
Farming, fishing and forestry	1.1	2.8	0.8	4.2

Notes: "Youths" refers to 16- to 25-year-olds. Foreign born includes persons born in Puerto Rico. Numbers may not total due to rounding.

Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations of Current Population Survey data for July, August and September 2009

"You're bilingual so that you have a major opportunity in jobs. So you know, most jobs nowadays...the Hispanic population is getting so much bigger that [jobs] are requiring people who know two languages...so you have an advantage over whites and blacks."

25-old-Hispanic female

Table 5.8
Labor Force Status of Hispanic Youths,
by Generation, Third Quarter, 2009
(thousands, unless otherwise noted; non-seasonally adjusted)

	HISPANIC GENERATIONS		
	First	Second	Third and Higher
Population	2,601	2,799	2,158
Employed	1,391	1,160	992
Unemployed	280	346	281
Not in labor force	930	1,294	885
Labor force participation rate (%)	64.2	53.8	59.0
Employment rate (%)	53.5	41.4	46.0
Unemployment rate (%)	16.7	23.0	22.1

Notes: "Youths" refers to 16- to 25-year-olds. First generation refers to persons born outside the 50 states or the District of Columbia, including those born in Puerto Rico. Second generation refers to persons born in the U.S. with at least one first-generation parent. Third and higher generations refers to persons born in the U.S. with both parents born in the U.S. Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations of Current Population Survey data for July, August and September 2009

6. Education: The Gap Between Expectations and Achievement

Latino schooling in the U.S. has long been characterized by high dropout rates and low college completion rates.¹⁵ Both problems have moderated over time, and across generations, though a persistent educational attainment gap remains between Hispanics and non-Hispanics.¹⁶ Yet, despite lower enrollment and attainment rates, young Latinos are just as likely as other youths to say a college education is important for success in life.

This chapter¹⁷ analyzes educational outcomes for youths using data from the March 2009 Current Population Survey.¹⁸ It also presents findings from the 2009 National Survey of Latinos and other surveys that explore young people's attitudes toward education.

School Enrollment

Nearly half (48.9%) of Latinos ages 16 to 24 were not enrolled in either high school or college in March 2009, while 30.6% were enrolled in high school and 20.5% were enrolled in college.

Not being enrolled in school is less common among non-Hispanic youths. Overall, 41.6% of the nation's youths were not enrolled in school. The share of youths not enrolled in either high school or college was 40.4% among whites, 41.5% among blacks and 27.1% among Asians.

¹⁵ [Kewal Ramani, Gilbertson, Fox and Provasnik, 2007.](#)

¹⁶ For more background, see the Pew Hispanic Center report "[The Changing Pathways of Hispanic Youths into Adulthood](#)" (Fry, 2009).

¹⁷ Many of the findings in this chapter were presented in a Pew Hispanic Center report, "[Latinos and Education: Explaining the Attainment Gap](#)," published Oct. 7, 2009. That report was prepared for the Latino Children, Families, and Schooling National Conference sponsored jointly by the Education Writers Association, the Pew Hispanic Center and the National Panel on Latino Children and Schooling. The conference was held Oct. 6, 2009 at the Pew Hispanic Center in Washington, D.C.

¹⁸ The CPS-based analysis is restricted to ages 16 to 24 because that is the age range the CPS uses to collect and present data on school enrollment. The estimates in this section will differ slightly from official government estimates, which are typically based on the October 2009 CPS. That is because school enrollment and attainment measures are subject to seasonal fluctuations.

There is little difference between young Hispanics and other youths in the shares enrolled in high school. Just as with young Hispanics, about 30% of all groups of youths are enrolled in high school. However, the share of non-Hispanic youths enrolled in college is higher: 30.4% for whites, 24.6% for blacks and 44.4% for Asians.

Table 6.1 School Enrollment of Youths Ages 16 to 24, by Race and Ethnicity, March 2009 (%)					
	All Youths	Hispanics	Whites	Blacks	Asians
Enrolled in High School	30.2	30.6	29.3	33.9	28.5
Full time	97.8	96.1	98.2	97.9	99.0
Part time	2.2	3.9	1.8	2.1	1.0
Enrolled in College or University	28.2	20.5	30.4	24.6	44.4
Full time	85.3	76.3	87.6	80.6	90.1
Part time	14.7	23.7	12.4	19.4	9.9
Not Enrolled	41.6	48.9	40.4	41.5	27.1

Notes: Estimates are restricted to ages 16 to 24 because that is the universe for the school enrollment data from the Current Population Survey. Whites, blacks and Asians include only non-Hispanics. Asians includes Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders. Numbers may not total due to rounding.

Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations of data from the March 2009 Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement

Among those enrolled in college, Latino youths are more likely to attend on a part-time basis. Nearly one-in-four (23.7%) Latino college students attend only part time, much higher than the national average of 14.7% and nearly double the rate among whites (12.4%). Almost all youths enrolled in high school attend on a full-time basis.

A primary reason Latino youths trail other youths on enrollment measures is the relatively low rate of school enrollment among the foreign born. Nearly two-thirds (65.7%) of foreign-born Latino youths are not enrolled in either high school or college, compared with 41.6% of all youths. Native-born Latino youths (41.1%), meanwhile, are no more likely than all youths to not be enrolled in either high school or college.

There are two differences in the pattern of school enrollment between native-born Hispanic youths and all youths. First, there are relatively more native-born Hispanic youths in high school—35.3% versus 30.2%—and relatively fewer in college—23.6% versus 28.2%. That is because native-born Hispanics, even within the 16-to-24 cohort, are younger than average. In other words, native-born Hispanics are more likely to be of high school age than college age.

Further, native-born Latino youths, like foreign-born youths, are less likely to be enrolled full time in either college or high school. Some 22.8% of native-born and

27.0% of foreign-born Latino youths in college are part-time students. That compares with 14.7% for all youths.¹⁹

	All Youths	All Hispanics	Native-born Hispanics	HISPANICS BY GENERATION		
				First	Second	Third and higher
Enrolled in High School	30.2	30.6	35.3	20.6	38.0	31.8
Full time	97.8	96.1	96.1	96.0	96.5	95.5
Part time	2.2	3.9	3.9	4.0	3.5	4.5
Enrolled in College or University	28.2	20.5	23.6	13.7	25.1	21.7
Full time	85.3	76.3	77.2	73.0	74.1	81.8
Part time	14.7	23.7	22.8	27.0	25.9	18.2
Not Enrolled	41.6	48.9	41.1	65.7	36.8	46.5

Notes: Estimates are restricted to ages 16 to 24 because that is the universe for the school enrollment data from the Current Population Survey. First generation refers to persons born outside the 50 states or the District of Columbia, including those born in Puerto Rico. Second generation refers to persons born in the U.S. with at least one first-generation parent. Third and higher generations refers to persons born in the U.S. with both parents born in the U.S. Numbers may not total due to rounding.

Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations of data from the March 2009 Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement

Within the cohort of native-born Latino youths, the children of immigrants, or the second generation, show greater engagement with schooling than the third and higher generations. Only 36.8% of second-generation Latino youths are not enrolled in either high school or college. That share is lower than the share for all youths (41.6%) and the shares of white (40.4%) and black (41.5%) youths who are not enrolled in school. However, among those in college, second-generation young Latinos are more likely than the third and higher generations to attend part time—25.9% versus 18.2%.

Educational Attainment

The educational attainment of youths is difficult to define unambiguously because so many youths ages 16 to 24 are still in the process of completing their schooling. This section presents evidence on three indicators in common use in the education literature. The first is the so-called status dropout rate. That is simply the share of youths who have not received a high school diploma or an equivalency certificate and are not enrolled in school or college.

¹⁹ Also, it is the case that Latino youths are more likely to attend two-year colleges and less likely to attend four-year colleges than other youths ([Fry, 2005](#)).

A second measure is the “status completion rate.” This statistic, used by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), measures the high school completion rate for youths ages 18 to 24.²⁰ Age 18 is the lower bound for this measure because most high school graduates have earned the diploma by that age.

Table 6.3
Educational Attainment of Youths, by Race and Ethnicity, March 2009
(%)

	All Youths	Hispanics	Whites	Blacks	Asians
High school dropout rate (ages 16-24)	8.3	17.2	5.7	9.3	3.7
High school completion rate (ages 18-24)	89.7	77.2	93.5	87.3	94.7
College enrollment rate (ages 16-24 with at least a high school diploma)	45.6	38.8	46.4	43.1	66.0

Notes: Estimates are restricted to ages 16 to 24 because that is the universe for the school enrollment data from the Current Population Survey. Whites, blacks and Asians include only non-Hispanics. Asians includes Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders.

Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations of data from the March 2009 Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement

The final indicator is a college enrollment rate, the share of those who have finished high school and are enrolled in college. Because this rate is defined only for those with a high school diploma or equivalency certificate, it differs from the enrollment patterns for the entire population of youths as reported in the preceding section.

Latino youths have much higher dropout rates than other youths. In March 2009, some 17.2% of Latino youths had not received a high school diploma or equivalent and were not enrolled in school, compared with only 8.3% of all youths. The dropout rate for Latino youths was nearly twice as high as the rate for black youths (9.3%), three times the rate for white youths (5.7%) and more than four times the rate for Asian youths (3.7%).

Correspondingly, the high school completion rate among Latino youths ages 18 to 24 was much lower than average—77.2% compared with 89.7% for all youths. And among those who have graduated from high school, only 38.8% of Latinos ages 16 to 24 were enrolled in college. That was lower than the rates for all youths (45.6%), whites (46.4%), blacks (43.1%) and Asians (66.0%).

The high dropout rate among Hispanic youths is driven by the foreign born. Some 32.9% of foreign-born Latino youths are high school dropouts. In contrast, 9.9% of native-born Latino youths are high school dropouts. Compared with other racial and ethnic groups, the dropout rate of native-born Latino youths is similar

²⁰ The status completion rate is defined for 18- to 24-year-olds who are no longer enrolled in high school.

to the rate for black youths, but it is nearly double the rate for white youths and almost three times the rate for Asian youths. Notably, the second generation of Latino youths has a lower dropout rate than the third and higher generations—8.5% versus 11.6%.

Foreign-born Latino youths are also the primary reason that the high school completion rate for all Hispanics is below average. The high school completion rate for foreign-born Latino youths ages 18 to 24 is only 60.3%, well below the rate for native-born young Latinos (87.0%). The second generation of Latino youths has a high school completion rate of 89.1%, higher than the third and higher generations and matching the national completion rate, but trailing the white completion rate of 93.5%.

Likewise, there is not a large difference between native-born Hispanics and other youths in the shares of high school completers who are enrolled in college. Some 42.7% of native-born Hispanic high school completers are enrolled in college, compared with 45.6% of all youths and 46.4% of white youths. Among native-born Hispanics, the college enrollment rate is higher among the second generation than among third and higher generations—46.2% versus 38.3%. Foreign-born Latino youths have the lowest college enrollment rate (29.1%) and account for the relatively low enrollment rate observed for all Hispanics.

Table 6.4
Educational Attainment of Hispanic Youths, by Generation, March 2009
(%)

	All Youths	All Hispanics	Native-born Hispanics	HISPANICS BY GENERATION		
				First	Second	Third and higher
High school dropout rate (ages 16-24)	8.3	17.2	9.9	32.9	8.5	11.6
High school completion rate (ages 18-24)	89.7	77.2	87.0	60.3	89.1	84.4
College enrollment rate (ages 16-24 with at least a high school diploma)	45.6	38.8	42.7	29.1	46.2	38.3

Notes: Estimates are restricted to ages 16 to 24 because that is the universe for the school enrollment data from the Current Population Survey. First generation refers to persons born outside the 50 states or the District of Columbia, including those born in Puerto Rico. Second generation refers to persons born in the U.S. with at least one first-generation parent. Third and higher generations refers to persons born in the U.S. with both parents born in the U.S.

Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations of data from the March 2009 Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement

The Importance of Education

Despite their relatively low high school completion and college enrollments rates, nearly all young Latinos believe that it is necessary to have a college education to get ahead in life. According to the 2009 National Survey of Latinos, fully 89% of young Hispanics say this, similar to the share of all young people (82%) ([Pew Social & Demographic Trends, 2009](#)). Moreover, all Hispanics ages 16 and older are more likely than the overall U.S. population ages 16 and older to agree that a college degree is important for getting ahead in life—88% versus 74%.

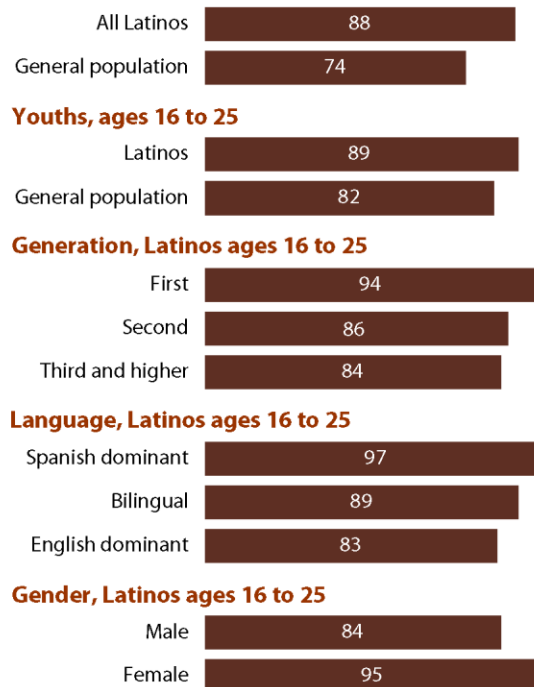
There are small differences on this question by nativity, language use and gender. Foreign-born young Latinos are more likely than second- or third-generation young Latinos to say a college education is important—94% versus 86% and 84%, respectively. Nearly all (97%) Spanish-dominant young Latinos say a college education is important, compared with 89% of bilingual youths and 83% of English-dominant young Latinos. Also, there is a gender gap on this question: fully 95% of young Hispanic females agree that a college education is important for success, compared with 84% of Hispanics males who say that.

Latino youths are not the only ones to place a great emphasis on a college education; so do their parents. More than three-quarters (77%) of Latinos ages 16 to 25 say their parents think going to college is the most important thing for them to do after high school. Just 11% report that their parents think the most important thing for them to do after high school is to get a full-time job.

Figure 6.1

A College Education Is Important

Question: "In order to get ahead in life these days, it's necessary to get a college education." (% who agree)



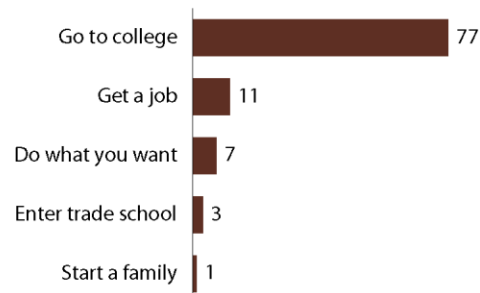
Notes: Estimates are for persons 16 and older. First generation refers to persons born outside the 50 states or the District of Columbia, including those born in Puerto Rico. Second generation refers to persons born in the U.S. with at least one first-generation parent. Third and higher generations refers to persons born in the U.S. with both parents born in the U.S.

Sources: Pew Hispanic Center, 2009 National Survey of Latinos for Latino; Pew Social & Demographic Trends, 2009 America's Changing Workforce Survey for the general U.S. population

Figure 6.2

Latino Parents' Views on What Children Should Do after High School

Question: What do/did your parents think is/was the most important thing for you to do right after high school? (% among Latinos ages 16 to 25)



Source: Pew Hispanic Center, 2009 National Survey of Latinos.

Educational Expectations

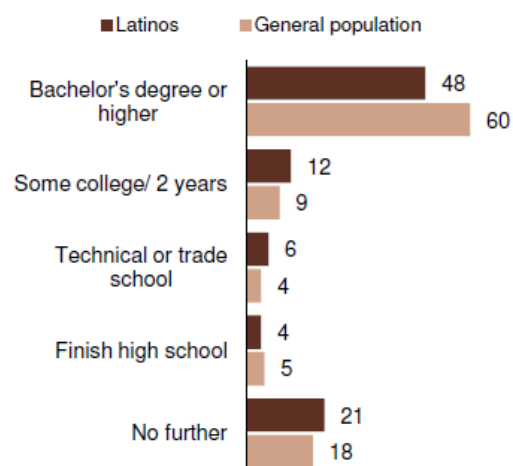
The value that young Latinos place on a college education is not nearly matched by their own personal expectations for educational advancement. Some 48% of young Latinos ages 18 to 25 say they expect to get a college degree or more, compared with 60% of the overall U.S. population of non-Hispanic youths ages 18 to 25.²¹

This gap is largely explained by the relatively low educational expectations of young immigrant Latinos. Fewer than one-in-three (29%) say they plan to get a bachelor's degree or more, compared with 64% of second-generation Latino youths and 54% of the third and higher generations.

A similar gap appears between young Latinos who primarily speak Spanish and those who are bilingual or who primarily speak English. About one-quarter (24%) of Spanish-dominant young Latinos say they plan to obtain a bachelor's degree or more, while about half (49%) of bilingual young Latinos and more than six-in-ten (62%) English-dominant young Latinos say the same. Along these same lines, nearly four-in-ten (38%) Spanish-dominant young Latinos ages 18 to 25 say they have no further plans to continue in school. Almost one-in-five (18%) bilingual young Latinos and 12% of English-dominant young Latinos say the same.

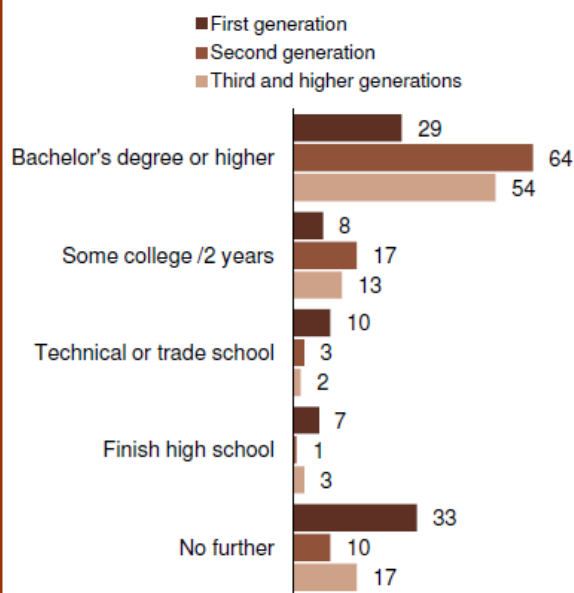
Plans to continue in school are closely related to the current enrollment status of young Latinos ages 16 to 25. Among Latino youths who are currently enrolled in high

Figure 6.3
Educational Expectations
among Latino Youths and All Youths
Question: How much further in school do you plan to go?
(% 18- to 25-year-olds)



Sources: Pew Hispanic Center, 2009 National Survey of Latinos; The Pew Research Center for the People and the Press, 2007 Generation Next Survey for all youth sample

Figure 6.4
Educational Expectations
among Latino Youths, by Generation
Question: How much further in school do you plan to go?
(% 18- to 25-year-olds)



Notes: First generation refers to persons born outside the 50 states or the District of Columbia, including those born in Puerto Rico. Second generation refers to persons born in the U.S. with at least one first-generation parent. Third and higher generations refers to persons born in the U.S. with both parents born in the U.S.
Source: 2009 National Survey of Latinos

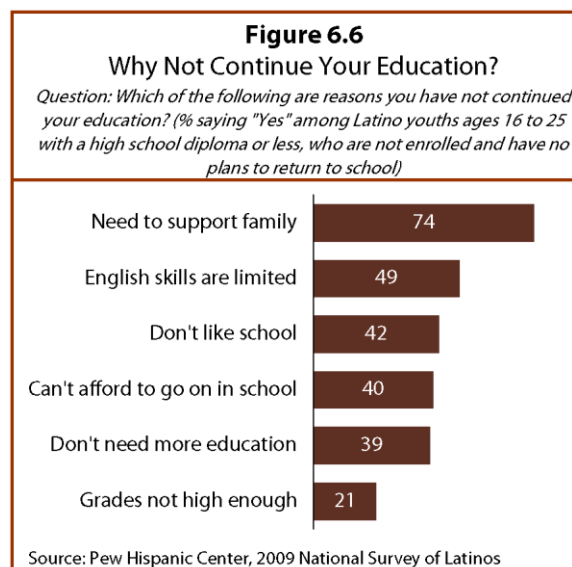
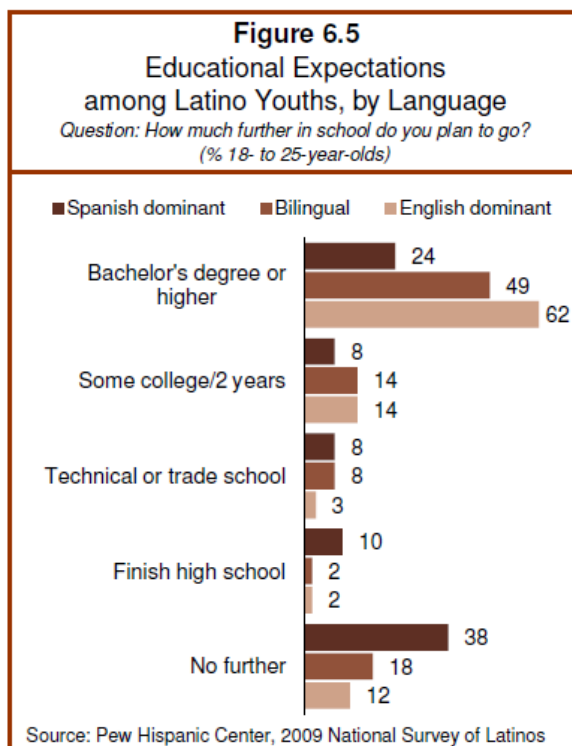
²¹ For more background on the general U.S. young adult population ages 18 to 25, see the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press report "[How Young People View Their Lives, Futures and Politics: A Portrait of 'Generation Next'](#)" (2007).

school, nearly six-in-ten (57%) say they plan to obtain a bachelor's degree or more, while just 15% say finishing high school is as far as they plan to go in school. Among Latino youths who are currently in college, 87% say they plan to obtain a bachelor's degree or more. Among Latinos ages 16 to 25 who are not currently enrolled in school, nearly three-in-ten (29%) say they plan to obtain a bachelor's degree or more. However, 38% say they do not plan to return to school.

Why Don't Young Latinos Continue Their Education?

The biggest reason for the gap between the high value Latinos place on education and their more modest expectations to finish college appears to come from financial pressure to support a family. Nearly three-quarters (74%) of all 16- to 25-year-old survey respondents who cut their education short during or right after high school say they did so because they had to support their family. Other reasons include poor English skills (cited by about half of respondents who cut short their education), a dislike of school and a feeling that they don't need more education for the careers they want (each cited by about four-in-ten respondents who cut their education short).

The foreign born make up 34% of all Latino youths, and they are much more likely than native-born Latino youths to be supporting or helping to support a family, either in the U.S. or in their native country. In 2007, 29% of all immigrant female Hispanics ages 16 to 25 were mothers, compared with 17% of native-born female Hispanics and 12% of white females ([Fry, 2009](#)). In addition, nearly two-thirds (64%) of all immigrant Hispanics ages 18 to 25 say they send remittances to family members in their country of origin, compared with just 21% of their U.S. born counterparts ([Lopez, Livingston and Kochhar, 2009](#)). In short,



young immigrant Hispanics appear to have financial commitments that limit their ability to pursue more education, even though they see a college education as important for success in life.

The Latino Education Achievement Gap

Not only are young Hispanics less likely than all young people to be enrolled in high school or college, but Latinos who are in middle school or high school have a significant gap in reading and mathematics achievement compared with white and Asian students, according to results from the National Assessment of Educational Progress.²²

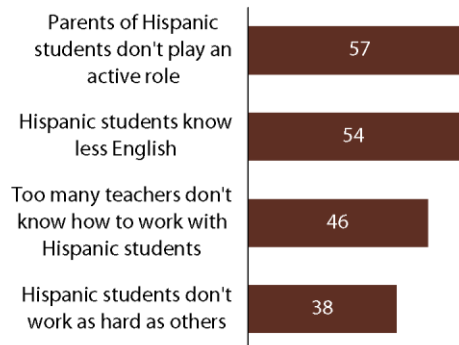
When asked a question that presented a number of possible reasons that Latinos do not do as well as other students in school, more respondents blamed poor parenting and poor English skills than blamed poor teachers. The explanation that Latino students don't work as hard as other students was cited by the fewest survey respondents; some 38% see that as a major reason for the achievement gap.

There are differences by age in several of these attitudes. For example, 61% of older Latinos (ages 26 and older) say the failure of parents to play an active role in helping their children succeed in school is a major reason for Latino students' lagging educational achievement, compared with less than half (47%) of Latino youths who feel that way.

Figure 6.7

Why Don't Hispanic Students Do as Well as Others in School?

*Question: Please tell me if you think each of the following is a major reason, a minor reason, or not a reason that Hispanic students are not doing as well as other students.
(% of all Latinos ages 16 and older who say "major reason")*

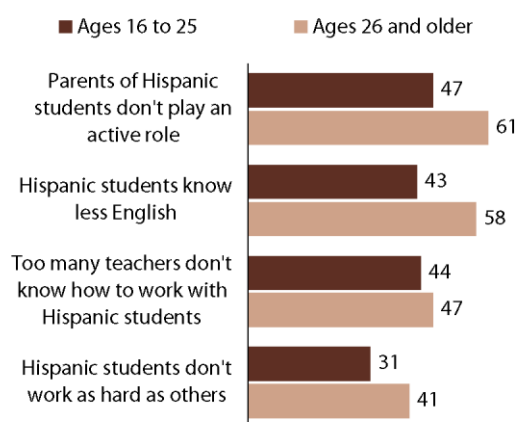


Source: Pew Hispanic Center, 2009 National Survey of Latinos

Figure 6.8

Why Don't Hispanic Students Do as Well as Others in School?

*Question: Please tell me if you think each of the following is a major reason, a minor reason, or not a reason that Hispanic students are not doing as well as other students.
(% of Latinos who say "major reason")*



Source: Pew Hispanic Center, 2009 National Survey of Latinos

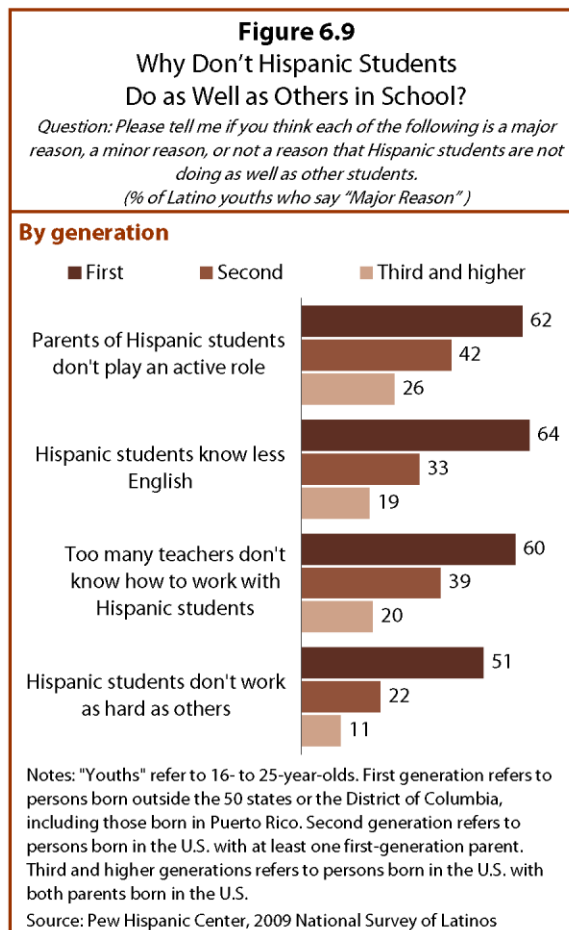
²² According to the National Center for Education Statistics, among eighth-graders, a smaller share of Hispanic students (15%) than non-Hispanic white (39%) or Asian/Pacific Islander (40%) students scored at or above proficient on the reading assessment of the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) in 2005. On the 2005 mathematics assessment of the NAEP, among eighth-graders, a smaller percentage of Hispanic (13%) students than non-Hispanic white (39%) or Asian/Pacific Islander (47%) students scored at or above proficient levels ([Kewal Ramani, Gilbertson, Fox and Provasnik, 2007](#)). Among high school twelfth-graders in 2008, Hispanic students scored 9% lower than non-Hispanic white students on the NAEP reading assessment, and Hispanic students scored 7% lower than non-Hispanic white students on the NAEP mathematics assessment ([Planty et al., 2009](#)).

In addition, nearly six-in-ten (58%) older Latinos say the limited English skills of Hispanic students is a major reason; some 43% of Latino youths agree.

Older Latinos are also more likely than young Latinos to say Hispanic students not working as hard as other students is a major reason that Hispanics students are not doing as well in school as other students—41% versus 31%.

Immigrant young Latinos are about as likely as adult Latinos to blame parents, the English skills of Hispanic students, and student themselves for the poor academic performance of Hispanic students. For example, 62% of immigrant youths say parents of Hispanics students are a major reason that Hispanic students do not do as well in school as others, similar to the share (61%) of older Latinos who say the same.

Yet foreign-born young Latinos are more likely than second- or third-generation young Latinos to identify parents, the English skills of Hispanic students, teachers, and Hispanics students themselves for the poor performance of Hispanics students relative to other groups. More than half (51%) of immigrant young Latinos say Hispanics students not working as hard as others is a major reason that Hispanic students do not do as well in school as others. This is more than twice the share (22%) of second-generation young Latinos, and nearly five times the share (11%) of third-generation young Latinos who say the same.



"Parents expect so much and it gets...overwhelming. You have to support your family and take care of your brothers and sisters... [and] some people gotta grow up [quick and] basically never really have a childhood."

15-year-old Hispanic male

"Our parents are exhausted every time they come home. They don't have time to be 'oh you need help with your homework?'"

21-year-old Hispanic male

7. Life Satisfaction, Priorities and Values

Large majorities of Hispanics, whether young or old, native born or foreign born, are satisfied with their lives. They are also optimistic about their futures. A majority of young Latinos say they expect to be better off financially than their parents, and a majority of older Latinos say they expect their children will be better off than they are.

When it comes to their core social values, young Latinos who are either immigrants themselves or whose dominant language is Spanish tend to be more conservative and family-oriented than young Latinos who are in the third and higher generation. Latinos who are second generation typically fall in between.

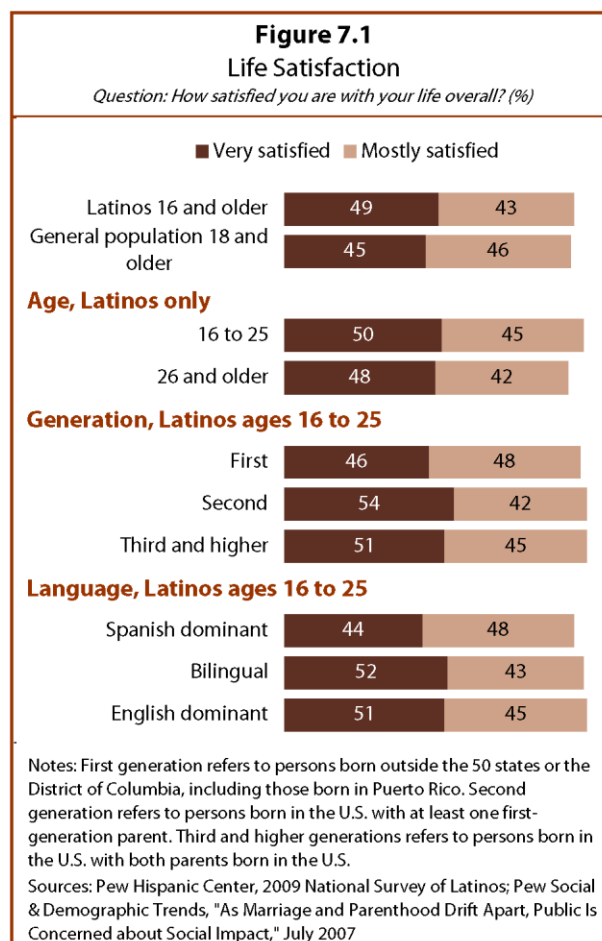
Satisfied and Optimistic

In their overall satisfaction with life, Hispanics look very much like the U.S. population as a whole. More than nine-in-ten (91%) Hispanics say they are very or mostly satisfied with their lives overall, while 91% of the general public says the same ([Taylor, Funk and Clark, 2007](#)). Life satisfaction is high among all groups of Hispanics—young as well as old.

Optimism about the future is also high among young Hispanics. Nearly three-in-four (72%) young Hispanics expect to be better off financially than their parents, and an additional one-in-five expect to do at least as well as their parents.

Native-born young Latinos are more optimistic about their upward mobility than are foreign-born young Latinos. Nearly eight-in-ten (78%) third-generation young Latinos and 74% of second-generation young Latinos say they will be better off than their parents financially. Among immigrant young Latinos, just two-thirds (66%) say the same.

A similar pattern is evident among young Latinos when these responses are analyzed by language use. Three-in-four young Latinos who speak primarily



English (76%) or who are bilingual (73%) say they expect to be better off financially than their parents. Among young Latinos who speak predominantly Spanish, 62% say the same.

The belief in a better future for the next generation is also widespread among older Hispanics, 75% of whom expect their children to be better off financially than themselves.

Perceptions of Discrimination

Notwithstanding their satisfaction with life and optimism about the future, a sizable minority of Hispanics say that they or someone they know has been the target of racial or ethnic discrimination. Nearly four-in-ten (38%) young Hispanics and 31% of older Hispanics say this has happened to them, a family member or a close friend in the past five years.

Perceptions of discrimination are more common among native-born young Latinos than among those who are foreign born. More than four-in-ten (42%) third-generation young Latinos and 40% of second-generation young Latinos say they or someone they know experienced racial or ethnic discrimination in the last five years. Among immigrant young Latinos, less than a third (32%) say the same.

Racial self-identity is linked with perceptions of discrimination. Some 26% of young Latinos who say their race is white say they, a family member or friend has been the target of discrimination, compared with 36% who describe their race as Hispanic or Latino and 43% who identify their race as “some other race.”

Table 7.1
Being Better Off Financially Than Their Parents,
among Latino Youths

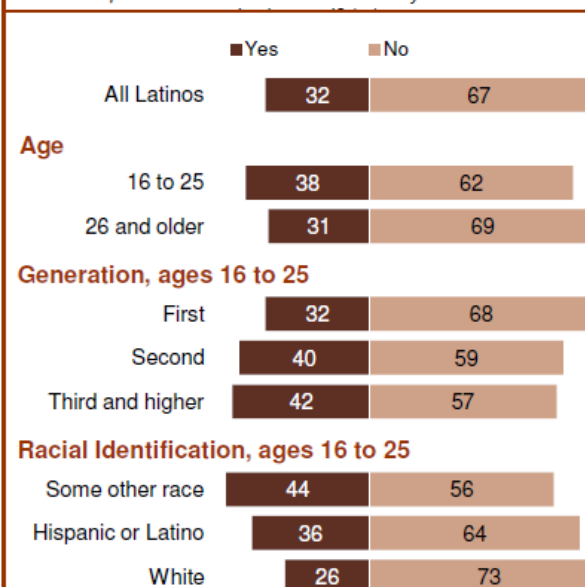
Question: Do you think in your lifetime, you will be better off, about the same, or less well-off financially than your parents? (%)

	Better Off	About the Same	Less Well Off
All Latino Youths	72	22	4
Generation			
First	66	24	8
Second	74	22	1
Third and higher	78	18	3
Language			
Spanish dominant	62	25	11
Bilingual	73	22	2
English dominant	76	20	2

Notes: “Youths” refers to 16- to 25-year-olds. First generation refers to persons born outside the 50 states or the District of Columbia, including those born in Puerto Rico. Second generation refers to persons born in the U.S. with at least one first-generation parent. Third and higher generations refers to persons born in the U.S. with both parents born in the U.S.
Source: Pew Hispanic Center, 2009 National Survey of Latinos

Figure 7.2
Experience with Discrimination

Question: During the last 5 years, have you, a family member, or close friend experienced discrimination because of your racial or ethnic identity?



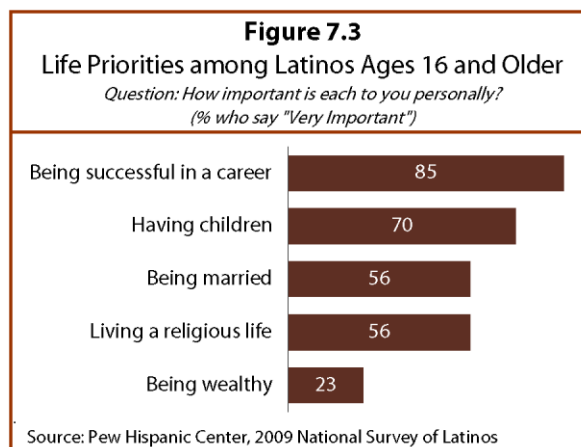
question was volunteered by respondents. First generation refers to persons born outside the 50 states or the District of Columbia, including those born in Puerto Rico. Second generation refers to persons born in the U.S. with at least one first-generation parent. Third and higher generations refers to persons born in the U.S. with both parents born in the U.S.

Source: Pew Hispanic Center, 2009 National Survey of Latinos

Perceptions of discrimination may also have an impact on life satisfaction. Among young Hispanics who say they or someone they know has experienced discrimination, 7% say they are dissatisfied with their lives, while among those who have not experienced discrimination just 3% say the same. This gap in life satisfaction is similar among native-born young Hispanics. Some 6% of the native born who say they or someone they know has experienced discrimination say they are dissatisfied with life, while only 2% of the native born who have no experience with discrimination say the same.²³

Life Priorities—Career, Family, Religion

Asked how much value they place on different types of goals and priorities in life, Latinos ages 16 and older generally rate career success higher than they rate marriage, children and religion—and much higher than they rate wealth. More than eight-in-ten (85%) Hispanics ages 16 and older say success in a career is very important to them. Seven-in-ten (70%) say the same about having children; 56% say the same about being married and about living a religious life; and just 23% say the same about being wealthy.



A 2008 Pew Research survey ([Taylor et al., 2008](#)) that presented this same battery of questions to the full U.S. population (18 and older) found much smaller gaps between the importance of career success (61% very important), having children (61%), being married (53%) and being religious (52%). In short, while Latinos ascribe more value to each of these priorities than does the U.S. population as a whole, they also are more disposed than the population as a whole to place career success on a higher pedestal than their other life priorities.

Some of this difference is attributable to the fact that Latinos ages 16 and older are much younger than the U.S. adult population—and career success tends to be a very high priority among younger adults. In fact, when one compares the 2009 responses of young Latinos ages 16 to 25 with the 2008 responses of all young adults ages 18 to 25, the rankings tend to converge. Being successful in a career is by far the top priority for both groups. Nearly nine-in-ten (89%) young Latinos say it is very important, as do eight-in-ten (80%) young adults in the full population.

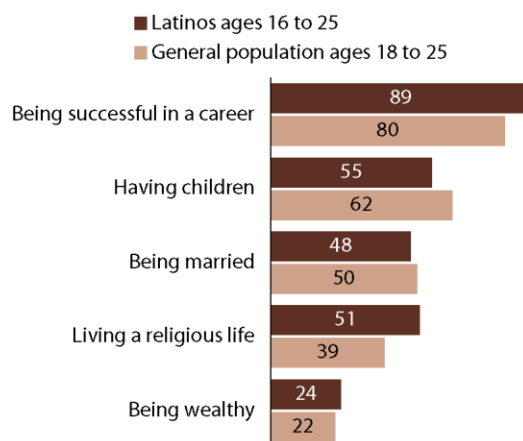
²³ Some of these differences fall short of statistical significance.

All groups of young Latinos, irrespective of generation, share the view that being successful in a career is a high priority. On other priorities, however, immigrant young Latinos differ from second- and third-generation young Latinos. Six-in-ten (60%) foreign-born young Latinos say living a religious life is very important. This is higher than the share of second-generation (48%) and third-generation (40%) young Latinos who say the same. On being married, more than half (53%) of immigrant young Latinos say it is very important, while 46% of second-generation and 41% of third-generation young Latinos say the same.

The generational patterns involving children and wealth are not as linear. When it comes to having children, the second generation sees it as somewhat less of a life priority than does either the first or third generation. This difference in priorities may reflect the relative youth of the second generation even among those ages 16 to 25 (see Table 2.2). And when it comes to wealth, this priority peaks among the second generation, though the differences here are so small that they fall short of statistical significance.

Figure 7.4**Life Priorities among Youths**

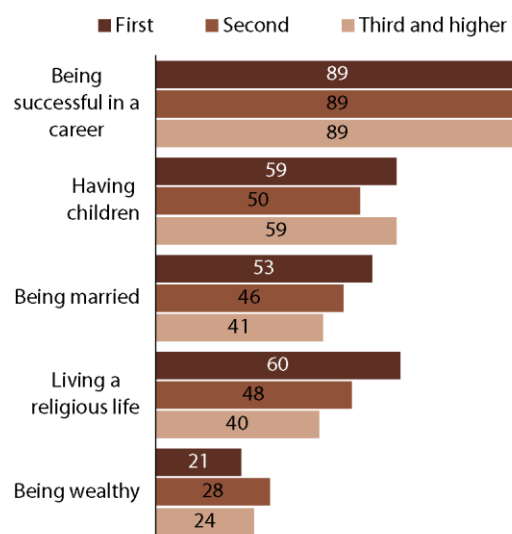
Question: How important is each to you personally?
(% who say "Very Important")



Source: Pew Hispanic Center, 2009 National Survey of Latinos, and the Center's tabulations from a Pew Social & Demographic Trends survey of the U.S. adult population conducted from January 24 to February 9, 2008 (see Pew Research Center, "Inside the Middle Class: Bad Times Hit the Good Life," April 2008)

Figure 7.5**Life Priorities among Latino Youths, by Generation**

Question: How important is each to you personally?
(% who say "Very Important")



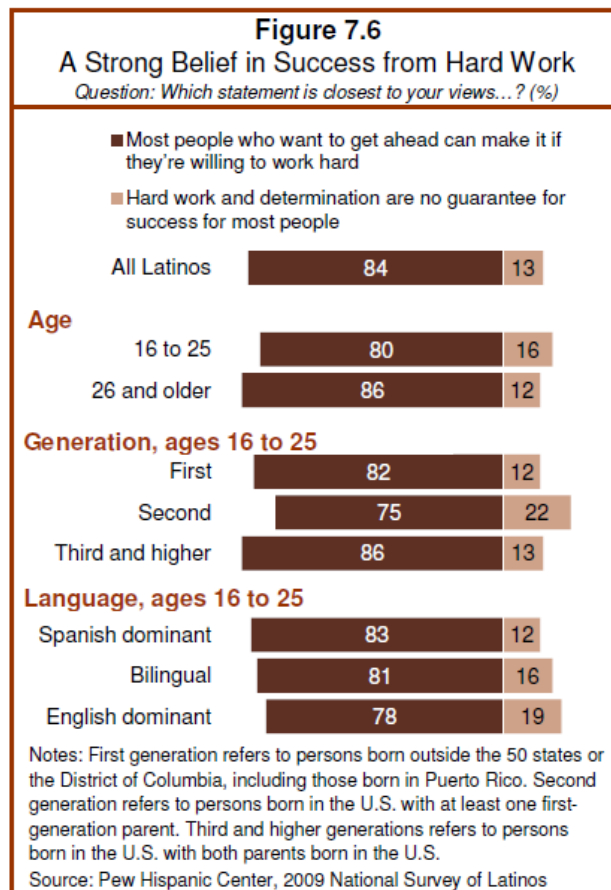
Notes: "Youths" refers to 16- to 25-year-olds. First generation refers to persons born outside the 50 states or the District of Columbia, including those born in Puerto Rico. Second generation refers to persons born in the U.S. with at least one first-generation parent. Third and higher generations refers to persons born in the U.S. with both parents born in the U.S.

Source: Pew Hispanic Center, 2009 National Survey of Latinos

The Rewards of Hard Work

When asked which of two statements comes closer to their views about the rewards of hard work—that one can get ahead by working hard or that hard work and determination are no guarantee for success—Latinos are more likely than the general U.S. population to say that one can get ahead by working hard. More than eight-in-ten (84%) Latinos ages 16 and older say this, while just 64% of all adults (ages 18 and older) said the same in a 2006 survey ([Kohut, Keeter, Doherty, Suro and Escobar, 2006](#)).

Opinions about working hard to get ahead are similar across all groups of Latinos. Eight-in-ten young Latinos ages 16 to 25 and 86% of Latinos ages 26 and older say most people can get ahead if they work hard. Similarly, more than eight-in-ten (82%) young Latino immigrants, 75% of those in the second generation and 86% of those in the third generation say that one can get ahead by being willing to work hard.



Family Values

Gender Roles

Latino cultures around the world are known for a streak of paternalism. But a question in the 2009 National Survey of Latinos about whether the husband should generally have the final say in family matters finds mixed attitudes among Latinos living in the United States. Only about four-in-ten (43%) Latinos agree with the statement, while 56% disagree.

Here again, there are some age differences; 37% of all Latino youths agree with the statement, versus 45% of older Latinos who agree. And among foreign-born older Latinos, half (50%) agree with the statement.

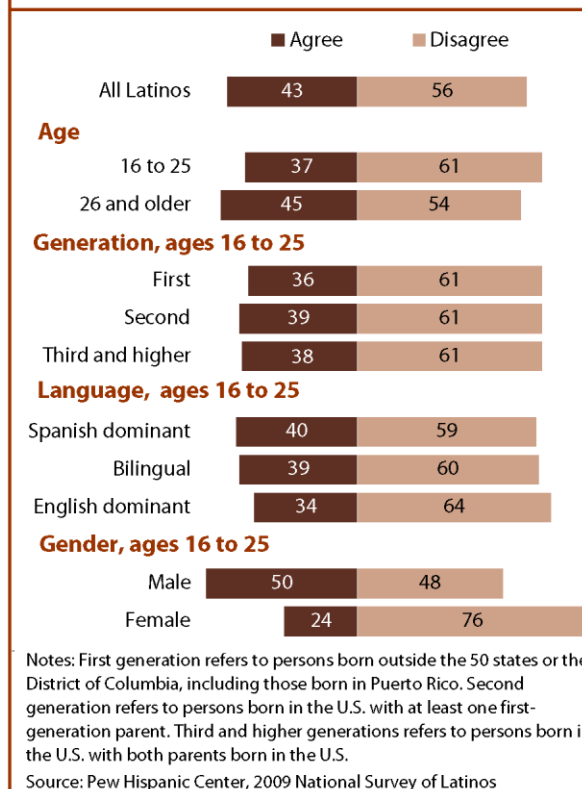
But the bigger difference by far is by gender. Young Hispanic males are twice as likely as young Hispanic females to agree with the statement—50% versus 24%. Among older Latinos, there is virtually no gender gap. Some 46% of older Hispanic males and 43% of older Hispanic females agree that husbands should have the final say in family matters.

When this same question was posed on a Pew Hispanic survey in 2002 ([Pew Hispanic Center/Kaiser Family Foundation, 2002](#)), just 36% of all respondents said that the husband should be the lead family decision-maker.

Children Living at Home

Another question designed to explore the strength of traditional family values asks whether it is better for children to live in their parents' home until they get married. Nearly seven-in-ten (69%) Latinos say that it is, but there are significant differences on this question by age and generation. More than six-in-ten (61%) young Latinos feel this way, compared with seven-in-ten (72%) older Latinos.

Figure 7.7
Husbands Should Have
Final Say in Family Matters
(%)

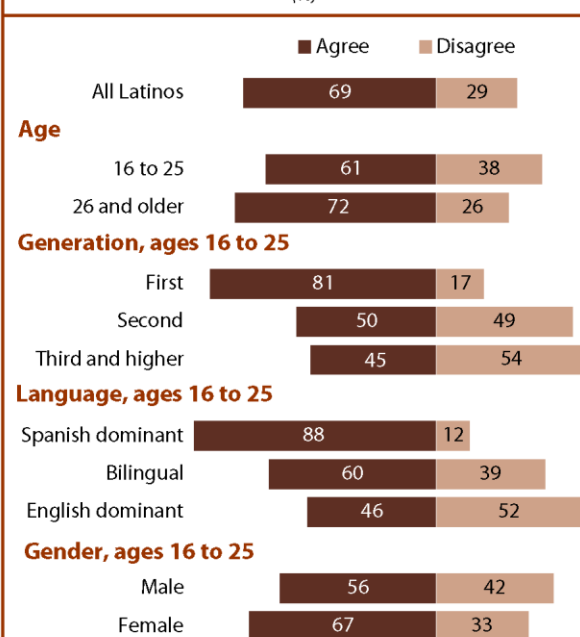


Among young Latinos, those who predominantly speak Spanish are most likely to agree with the statement. Eighty-eight percent of Spanish-dominant young Latinos agree, while six-in-ten (60%) bilingual young Latinos and 46% of English-dominant young Latinos say the same.

By generation, young Hispanic immigrants are most likely to agree that children should live at home with their parents until they get married. More than eight-in-ten (81%) foreign-born young Hispanics say this, compared with half (50%) of those in the second generation and less than half (45%) of those in the third and higher generation.

The view that children should live with their parents until they marry is especially widespread among older foreign-born Hispanics. Some 72% feel this way, compared with just 54% of native-born older Hispanics.

Figure 7.8
It Is Better for Children to Live in Their Parents' Home Until They Get Married (%)



Notes: First generation refers to persons born outside the 50 states or the District of Columbia, including those born in Puerto Rico. Second generation refers to persons born in the U.S. with at least one first-generation parent. Third and higher generations refers to persons born in the U.S. with both parents born in the U.S.

Source: Pew Hispanic Center, 2009 National Survey of Latinos

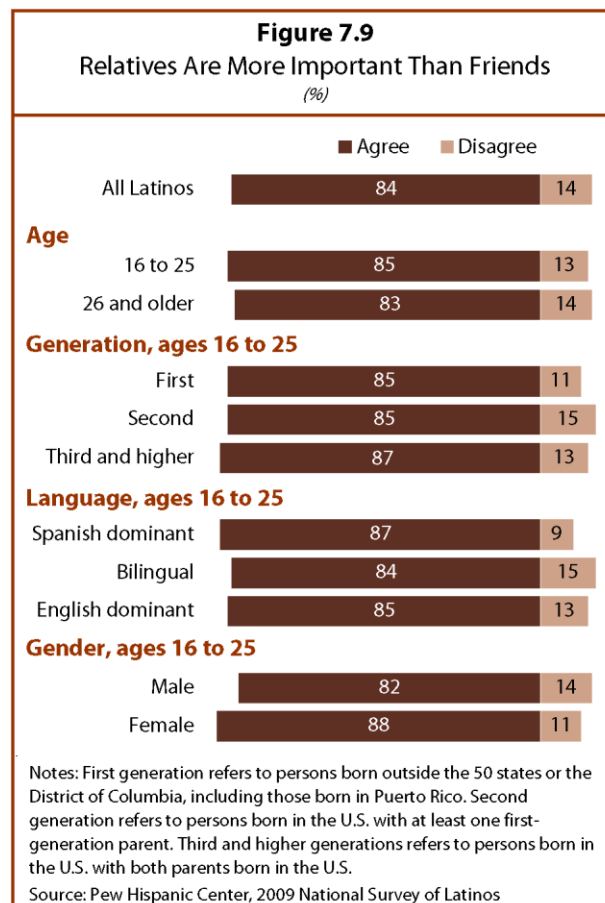
"[In] Caucasian culture, you're expected to be out of your house when...you're done with high school. 18. And Latinos...no! We are expected to be with our parents until we get married."
21-year-old Hispanic male

"With us [Latinos], our grandmother lives in the house, our grandfather is there, our uncle lives with us and we can stay in the house till whenever. They [parents] don't ever ask you to move out. [They'll say] 'Until you get old enough, you're good, you help us pay some bills. You don't have to leave.' Its like 'You're living with us.'"

25-year-old Hispanic female

The Importance of Relatives

A large majority of Latinos (84%) agree that relatives are more important than friends. This is similar to the share (89%) of Latinos who said the same in 2002 ([Pew Hispanic Center/Kaiser Family Foundation, 2002](#)). The view that relatives are more important is held by all groups of Latinos. Among young people, 85% agree that relatives are more important than friends, while among older Latinos, 83% say the same.



Religion

Attendance at Religious Services

Hispanics are very similar to the general U.S. population in their frequency of attending religious services. Overall, 37% of Hispanics and 37% of the adult U.S. population say they attend a church or other house of worship at least weekly. Among youths, 35% of Hispanics ages 16 to 25 and 35% of all youths ages 18 to 25 say they attend religious services weekly.²⁴

Among young Hispanics, immigrants attend church services more regularly than do the native born. Four-in-ten (40%) young immigrants say they attend church weekly, while one-third (33%) of second-generation and 31% of third-generation young Hispanics say the same. Church attendance falls off most steeply among the third generation, nearly one-in-five (19%) of whom say they never attend.

Table 7.2 Religious Services Attendance <i>Aside from weddings and funerals, how often do you attend religious services? (%)</i>			
	Weekly	Sometimes	Never
All Latinos	37	50	10
Latinos, by Age			
16 to 25	35	49	13
26 and older	37	51	9
Latino Youths, by Generation			
First	40	45	11
Second	33	54	13
Third and higher	31	49	19
Latino Youths, by Primary Language			
Spanish dominant	42	42	14
Bilingual	38	52	9
English dominant	29	52	17
General Population, by Age			
18 to 25	33	53	15
18 and older	37	49	12

Notes: "Youths" refers to 16- to 25-year-olds. First generation refers to persons born outside the 50 states or the District of Columbia, including those born in Puerto Rico. Second generation refers to persons born in the U.S. with at least one first-generation parent. Third and higher generations refers to persons born in the U.S. with both parents born in the U.S.

Sources: Pew Hispanic Center, 2009 National Survey of Latinos, and Pew Research Center Aggregated Surveys, 2009

"[For Hispanics] everything is 'god forbid' or 'god willing'"

16-year-old Hispanic female

"We do a Rosario once a month and who ever offers [their home] gets to have the Virgin Mary [statue] in their home. And then who ever offers the house, gets to keep [the Virgin Mary] for a month, and everyone brings food and prays for an hour."

25-year-old Hispanic female

²⁴ Results for the general population are from tabulations of Pew Research Center Aggregated Surveys, 2009.

Religion Preferences among Latinos

A majority (60%) of Hispanics identify as Catholic. Among young Hispanics, this figure falls to 56%, and among second- and third-generation young Latinos, just under half (49%) say they are Catholic.

Language usage is related to religious identity. Two-thirds (67%) of Spanish-dominant young Latinos say they are Catholic, while only 57% of bilingual and only 47% of English-dominant young Latinos say the same.

Table 7.3 Religious Identity among Latinos <i>Question: What is your religion? (%)</i>					
	Catholic	Protestant	Evangelical	Other	No Religion
All Latinos	60	3	14	14	6
Age					
16 to 25	56	4	15	16	7
26 and older	62	3	13	14	6
Generation (ages 16 to 25)					
First	66	1	13	10	7
Second	49	7	18	19	5
Third and higher	49	5	14	21	10
Primary Language (ages 16 to 25)					
Spanish dominant	67	1	13	4	11
Bilingual	57	4	18	15	5
English dominant	47	6	14	25	6
Notes: First generation refers to persons born outside the 50 states or the District of Columbia, including those born in Puerto Rico. Second generation refers to persons born in the U.S. with at least one first-generation parent. Third and higher generations refers to persons born in the U.S. with both parents born in the U.S. Source: Pew Hispanic Center, 2009 National Survey of Latinos					

Opinions on Social Issues

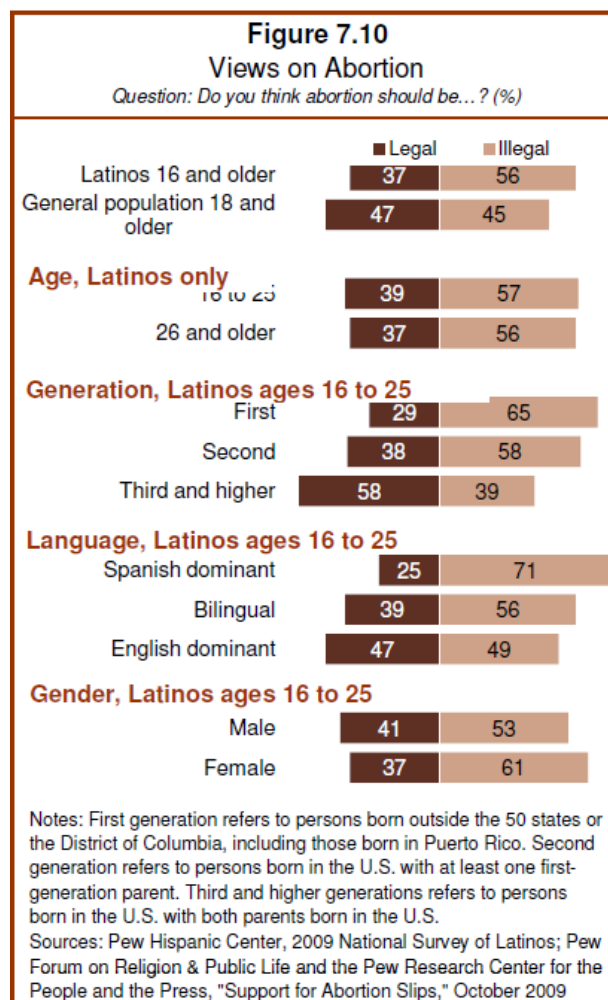
Latinos tend to be more conservative than other Americans on social issues such as abortion and gay marriage. Among young Latinos, there are notable differences by generation, with the foreign born and second generation more conservative than the third and higher generations.

Abortion

Hispanics overall hold a more conservative view than the general U.S. population about abortion rights. More than half (56%) of Hispanics ages 16 and older say abortion should be illegal in most or all cases, compared with less than half (45%) of the adult U.S. population that says the same ([The Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life and The Pew Research Center for the People and the Press 2009a](#)).²⁵

Among young Latinos, opinions about abortion vary strongly with generation. Nearly two-thirds (65%) of foreign-born young Latinos and 58% of second-generation young Latinos say abortion should be illegal. In contrast, less than four-in-ten (39%) third-generation young Latinos say the same.

Differences in opinion about abortion are also strongly correlated with language usage. More than seven-in-ten (71%) young Hispanics who predominantly speak Spanish say they oppose abortion. Opposition among bilingual young Hispanics is lower, but still more than half (56%) oppose it. Among those who predominantly speak English, just under half (49%) say abortion should be illegal.

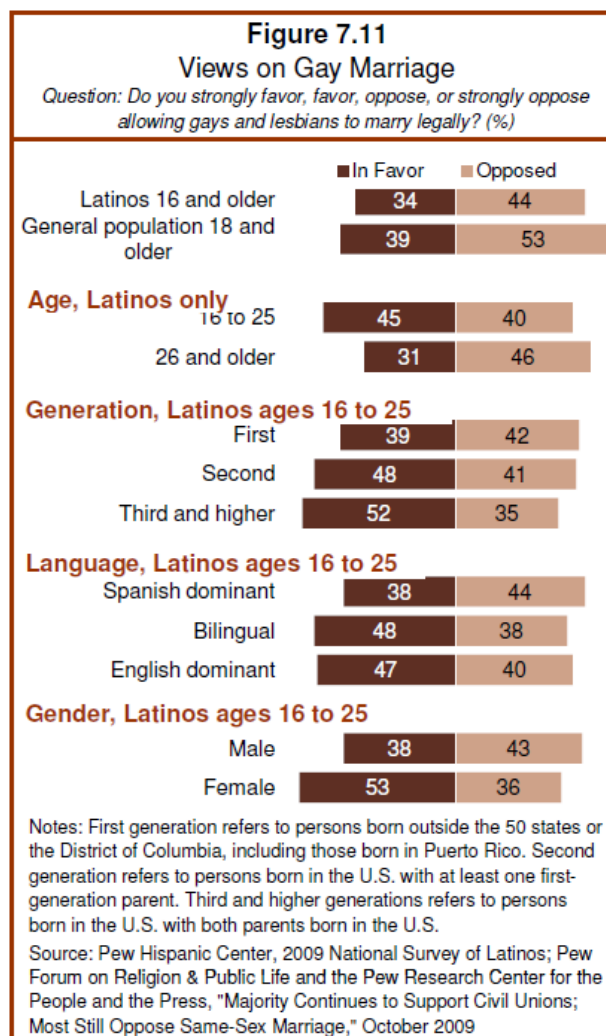


²⁵ The phrasing of this question on abortion rights is "Do you think abortion should be legal in all cases, legal in most cases, illegal in most cases or illegal in all cases?" The responses "legal in all cases" and "legal in most cases" are grouped as "legal." And the responses "illegal in most cases" and "illegal in all cases" are grouped as "illegal."

Gay Marriage

Just as they do with abortion, Latinos tend to hold somewhat more conservative views than the general U.S. population on the subject of gay marriage. More than a third (34%) of Latinos ages 16 and older in the 2009 National Survey of Latinos say they favor gay marriage, an opinion shared by nearly four-in-ten (39%) of the general population of adults, according to a recent survey of the U.S. population ([The Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life and The Pew Research Center for the People & the Press 2009b](#)). Yet while Latinos are less likely to favor gay marriage, they are also less likely than the general U.S. adult population to oppose it. Less than half (44%) of Latinos ages 16 and older say they oppose gay marriage, while more than half (53%) of the general adult population says the same. This apparent paradox is explained by the fact that more than one-in-five (21%) Latinos ages 16 and older refuse to answer the question or have no opinion, compared with just 8% of the general U.S. adult population.

Young Hispanics have a more favorable attitude toward gay marriage than do older Hispanics—45% versus 31%. But among young Hispanics, support varies. Almost four-in-ten (39%) young immigrant Hispanics say they favor gay marriage, as do 48% of second-generation young Hispanics. In contrast, among third-generation Hispanics, more than half (52%) favor gay marriage. In addition, young Hispanic females are more favorable toward gay marriage than are young Hispanic males—53% versus 38%.



Unmarried Women Having Children

More than half (56%) of Latinos see the growing trend in unmarried women having children in the U.S. as a bad thing for society, while about a third (35%) say it doesn't make much of a difference. Overall, young Latinos and older Latinos hold similar views on this trend. More than half of young Latinos (53%) and 57% of older Latinos say the trend is bad for society.

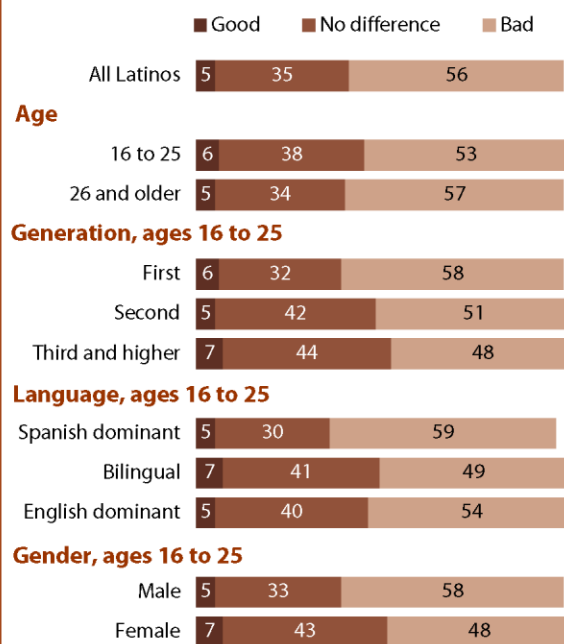
There are some differences on this question by generation. Young foreign-born Latinos are somewhat more likely than either second- or third-generation young Latinos to see this trend as bad for society. Nearly six-in-ten (58%) young immigrant Latinos say this. In contrast, 51% of young second-generation Latinos and 48% of young third-generation Latinos say more unmarried women having children is bad for society.

A difference in viewpoint also exists by gender. Young Hispanic females overall are less likely than young Hispanic males to say that more unmarried women having children is bad for society—48% versus 58%.

Figure 7.12

Are More Unmarried Women Having Children Good or Bad for Society?

Question: Do you think unmarried women having children is generally a good thing for our society, a bad thing for our society, or doesn't make much difference? (%)



Notes: First generation refers to persons born outside the 50 states or the District of Columbia, including those born in Puerto Rico. Second generation refers to persons born in the U.S. with at least one first-generation parent. Third and higher generations refers to persons born in the U.S. with both parents born in the U.S.

Source: Pew Hispanic Center, 2009 National Survey of Latinos

8. Family, Fertility, Sexual Behaviors and Attitudes

Hispanics start having children at much younger ages than non-Hispanics. More than one-fourth (26%) of Hispanic females are mothers by the time they reach age 19, compared with 22% of blacks, 11% of whites and 6% of Asians. Among Hispanics, teen parenthood is most widespread in the immigrant generation. Some 26% of foreign-born females ages 18 and 19 have children, compared with 16% of the same age cohort of second-generation Hispanic females and 21% of third-generation Hispanic females.

Not only do Latinos have children at younger ages than non-Latinos, they also marry at younger ages. Some 15% of Latinos ages 16 to 25 are married, compared with 9% of non-Latinos in that age group. The higher marriage rate for Latinos is driven primarily by immigrant youths, 22% of whom are married. Marriage rates among native-born Latinos—10% for the second generation and 11% for the third generation—don't differ markedly from the rate for non-Latinos.

Despite their relatively high rate of teen parenthood, most Latino youths do not look favorably upon having children prior to age 20. Three-fourths (75%) say that the prevalence of teens having babies is not good for society, an opinion shared by 90% of the overall youth population in the U.S.

Nearly seven-in-ten Latino youths (69%) say that teen parenthood hinders the ability to achieve one's life goals. However, Latino youths are more inclined than other youths to favor parenthood at a relatively young age. Latinos say that the ideal age for a woman to have a child is 24, and for a man it is 25. Among all youths, these figures are 26 for a woman and 28 for a man.²⁶

Among young Latinos, there is only a small difference in the likelihood of having had sexual intercourse prior to age 20 by nativity. Nor does the likelihood of having engaged in teen sex differ between Latino youths and their older counterparts. However, Latino youths are far more likely than older Latinos to report that they engaged in sex prior to the age of 16.

Latino youths are more tolerant of teen sex within a serious relationship or of teen sex that involves using protection; Latinos older than 25 are markedly less accepting of teen sexual activity no matter what the context.

²⁶ These estimates are medians of the ideal age provided by respondents.

Marriage and Living Arrangements

The living arrangements and family structures of Latino youths differ markedly from those of their non-Hispanic counterparts. Latinos marry at younger ages than other groups. Some 15% of Latino youths are married, compared with 9% of the non-Hispanic population (Table 8.1). The likelihood of living together is similar between the two groups—7% for Latinos and 8% for non-Latinos.

Table 8.1 Marital Status of Youths (%)							
	NON-HISPANICS			HISPANICS			
	All	Whites	Blacks	All	First Generation	Second Generation	Third and Higher Generations
Marital Status							
Married, spouse present or absent	9	11	5	15	22	10	11
Widowed, divorced or separated	2	2	2	2	3	2	3
Cohabiting	8	9	5	7	9	5	9
Never married and no partner	81	79	88	76	66	83	77

Notes: "Youths" refers to 16- to 25-year-olds. Whites and blacks include only non-Hispanics. First generation refers to persons born outside the 50 states or the District of Columbia, including those born in Puerto Rico. Second generation refers to persons born in the U.S. with at least one first-generation parent. Third and higher generations refers to persons born in the U.S. with both parents born in the U.S. Numbers may not total due to rounding.
Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations of the March 2009 Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement

Immigrant Latino youths have much higher rates of marriage than those who are native born, but there is little difference in marriage rates between the second and third generations. About two-in-ten (22%) Latino immigrant youths are married, a rate that is twice as high as the rates for native-born generations. Some 10% of the second generation and 11% of the third generation are married—rates that are comparable to non-Hispanic youths. The cohabitation rate is 9% for immigrants and the third generation, and 5% for the second generation.

While 61% of non-Hispanic youths live with their parents, this share drops to 57% among Latino youths (Table 8.2). However, Latinos are twice as likely as non-Hispanics to reside with a relative other than their parents, spouse or partner. While only 5% of non-Latinos are in this living arrangement, the share rises to 10% for Latinos, due entirely to the high proportion of immigrants living in this type of arrangement. Despite the fact that they are more likely to be married and have children, Hispanics are no more likely than non-Hispanics to be the head of household (or spouse or partner of the head of household); 27% of each group live in this type of arrangement.

The plurality of foreign-born Latino youths (34%) are the head of a household or the spouse of a head of household. Among the second generation, 20% are a head of household, or the spouse of one who is, and among the third generation, this share is 27%—the same as in the non-Hispanic youth population.

Immigrant Latino youths are far less likely than their native-born counterparts to be living in a home with their parents. More than one-third (38%) of the first generation are living with a parent, compared with 72% of second-generation Latino youths. Once again, the third generation mirrors the non-Latino population, with 61% living with a parent.

Though immigrants are less likely to be living with a parent, they are more likely than the second or third generations to be residing with relatives other than a parent or spouse. Some 16% of the first generation lives as such, while only 6% of the second generation and 7% of the third generation are living in this type of arrangement.

Most notable is the fact that immigrants are far more likely than their native-born counterparts to be living with nonrelatives. While 13% of immigrants are living with nonrelatives, only 2% of the second generation and 4% of the third generation fall into this category.

Table 8.2 Living Arrangements of Youths (%)							
	NON-HISPANICS			HISPANICS			
	All	Whites	Blacks	All	First Generation	Second Generation	Third and Higher Generations
Living Arrangement							
With parents	61	61	63	57	38	72	61
Independently as head, spouse or partner	27	28	23	27	34	20	27
With other relatives	5	4	10	10	16	6	7
With other nonrelatives	7	8	4	6	13	2	4

Notes: "Youths" refers to 16- to 25-year-olds. Whites and blacks include only non-Hispanics. First generation refers to persons born outside the 50 states or the District of Columbia, including those born in Puerto Rico. Second generation refers to persons born in the U.S. with at least one first-generation parent. Third and higher generations refers to persons born in the U.S. with both parents born in the U.S. Numbers may not total due to rounding.

Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations of the March 2009 Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement

Fertility

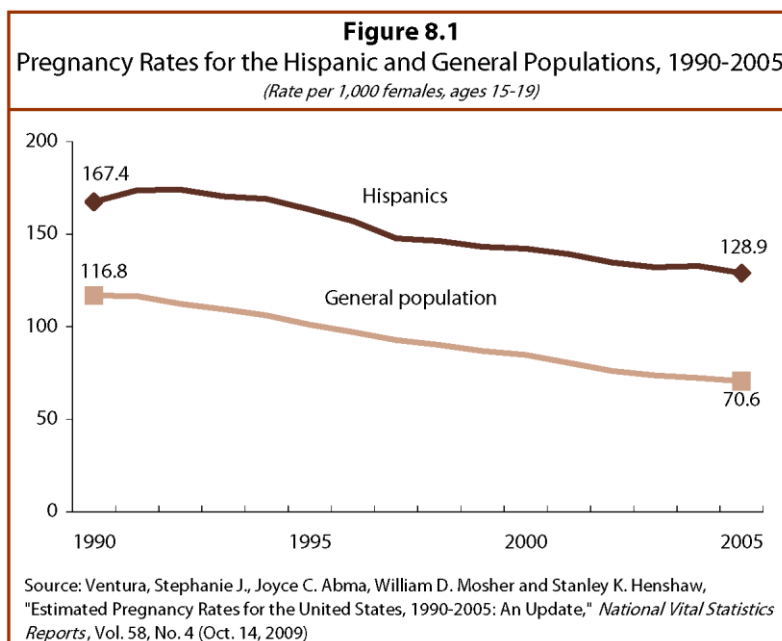
Hispanic females tend to have more children than their non-Hispanic counterparts and to start having children at younger ages. On average, Hispanic females give birth to just over three children. In comparison, black females are projected to have an average of 2.15 children, and for whites the number is 1.86.²⁷

The high fertility and youthful profile of Hispanic mothers is reflected in high birthrates for Hispanic females ages 16 to 25. In 2006, 140 of every 1,000

²⁷ Based on Pew Hispanic Center tabulations of the National Center for Health Statistics' 2006 Natality Public Use File and the Census Bureau's 2006 American Community Survey.

Hispanic females in this age cohort gave birth—more than double the rate for white females in the same age group (60 births per 1,000) and markedly higher than the rate for black females (110 births per 1,000).²⁸ Immigrant Hispanic youths have particularly high levels of fertility; their annual birthrates are 50% higher than those of their native-born peers.²⁹

Despite sharp declines in recent decades, pregnancy rates³⁰ remain relatively high among Hispanic teens. In 2005, almost 129 of every 1,000 Hispanic females ages 15 to 19 experienced a pregnancy. In comparison, the number of similarly aged females in the general population experiencing pregnancies was almost half that: 71 of every 1,000. Between 1990 and 2005, there was a 23% decline in pregnancy rates among Hispanic females ages 15 to 19 and a 40% decline among all females ages 15 to 19 ([Ventura, Abma, and Mosher, 2009](#)).



The story is similar when examining births to teens (Figure 8.2).³¹ In 2007, 82 of every 1,000 Hispanic females ages 15 to 19 experienced a birth compared with 43 of every 1,000 females ages 15 to 19 in the general population. From 1990 to 2007, the rate of births to Hispanic females ages 15 to 19 declined by 18%. Among all females in that age group, there was a 29% decline ([Hamilton, Martin, and Ventura, 2009](#)).

²⁸ Based on Pew Hispanic Center tabulations of the National Center for Health Statistics' 2006 Natality Public Use File and the Census Bureau's 2006 American Community Survey.

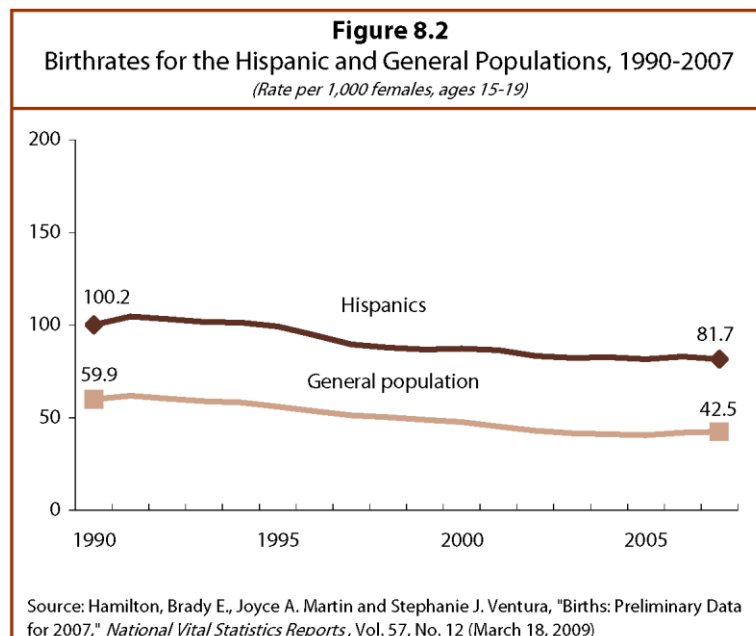
²⁹ Based on Pew Hispanic Center tabulations of the 2005, 2006 and 2007 American Community Surveys.

³⁰ The pregnancy rate is the number of pregnancies occurring in a given year in a given population divided by the number of women in that population, multiplied by 1,000.

³¹ The birth rate is the number of births occurring in a given year in a given population divided by the number of women in that population, multiplied by 1,000.

More than one-fourth (26%) of 19-year-old Hispanic females are already mothers.³² In comparison, 22% of 19-year-old black females have already had a child. Both of these rates are markedly higher than the 11% of 19-year-old white females who are mothers.

For Hispanic females, rates of teen motherhood are particularly high for immigrants. Among those ages 18 and 19, 26% of immigrants are mothers.³³ This share drops to 16% for the second generation and 21% for the third generation.

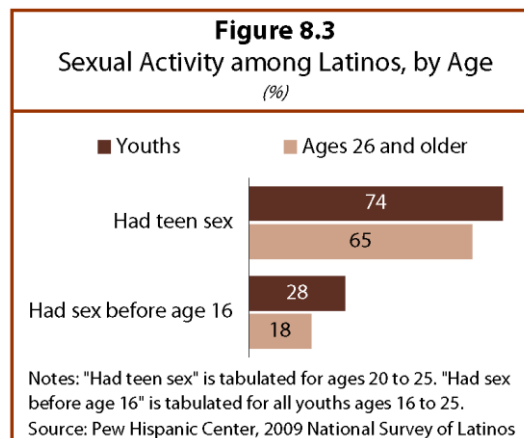


Sexual Behaviors and Attitudes

Sexual Activity

In the 2009 National Survey of Latinos sample of youths ages 16 to 25, 77% report that they have had sexual intercourse, and 28% say they had sex prior to turning 16.

Among respondents ages 20 to 25, some 74% report first having had sexual intercourse as a teen (Figure 8.3).³⁴ Some 65% of older Latinos report as much. However, older Latinos are less likely to report having sex at very young ages. Whereas 28% of Latino youths ages 16 to 25 report having had sex prior to the age of 16, this share falls to 18% among older Latinos.



³² Pew Hispanic Center tabulations of the 2004, 2006 and 2008 Current Population Survey June Fertility Supplements. Note that these are underestimates of completed teen fertility, because some 19-year-olds will go on to give birth prior to reaching age 20.

³³ This sample includes ages 18 and 19 to elicit sample sizes large enough to analyze. Again, the results are underestimates of completed teen fertility.

³⁴ Anyone who had sex prior to age 20 is considered as having had sex as a teen, though in a few cases respondents first had sexual intercourse prior to becoming teenagers.

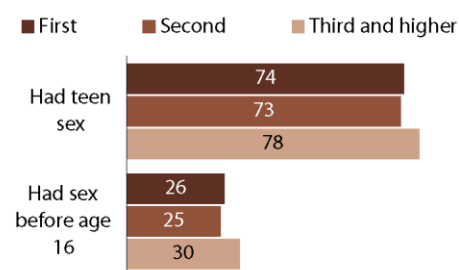
The likelihood of engaging in sexual intercourse is similar between Latino high school students and a nationally representative sample of students enrolled in high school. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention's [2007 National Youth Risk Behavior Survey](#) found that 48% of all high school students reported having had sexual intercourse. In comparison, 45% of the Latino high school students who participated in the Pew Hispanic Center survey report having had sexual intercourse.

Among Latinos ages 20 to 25, the 2009 National Survey of Latinos finds a small but not statistically significant difference between the native born and the foreign born in the probability of having had sex as a teenager. Some 74% of immigrants report having had sex as a teen, compared with 73% of the second generation and 78% of the third generation. A similar pattern holds when looking at the likelihood of first having had sex prior to age 16. Some 26% of Latino immigrant youths report doing so, in comparison with 25% in the second generation and 30% in the third generation.

Similar shares of male and female Hispanic youths report having had sex—78% for males, 75% for females. When the sample is limited to youths who have completed their teen years, there are no gender differences in reports of first having sex as a teenager—74% of males report this, as do 75% of females. The share of people first having sex at a very young age does vary by gender, however. While 36% of males report having first had sex prior to age 16, this number falls by half—to 19%—among Hispanic females.

Overall, 27% of survey respondents ages 20 to 25 report that they became a parent in their teenage years.³⁵ This number does not differ significantly from the rate among older Latino survey respondents, 23% of whom report having been a teen parent.

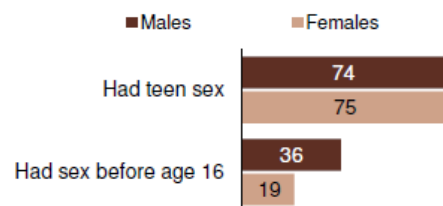
Figure 8.4
Sexual Activity among Latino Youths,
by Generation
(%)



Notes: "Had teen sex" is tabulated for ages 20 to 25. "Had sex before age 16" is tabulated for all youths ages 16 to 25. First generation refers to persons born outside the 50 states or the District of Columbia, including those born in Puerto Rico. Second generation refers to persons born in the U.S. with at least one first-generation parent. Third and higher generations refers to persons born in the U.S. with both parents born in the U.S.

Source: Pew Hispanic Center, 2009 National Survey of Latinos

Figure 8.5
Sexual Behavior among Latino Youths,
by Gender
(%)



Notes: "Had teen sex" is tabulated for ages 20 to 25. "Had sex before age 16" is tabulated for all youths ages 16 to 25.
Source: Pew Hispanic Center, 2009 National Survey of Latinos

³⁵ Some 20% of those ages 16 to 25 report they became a parent in their teens.

Discussing Sex and Birth Control

Just over half of Latino youths (53%) report that their parents talked to them about sex when they were growing up. A smaller share—39%—report that their parents talked to them about birth control. In contrast, among Latinos older than 25, only 31% report that their parents discussed sex with them when they were growing up, and just one-fourth (25%) report that their parents discussed birth control.

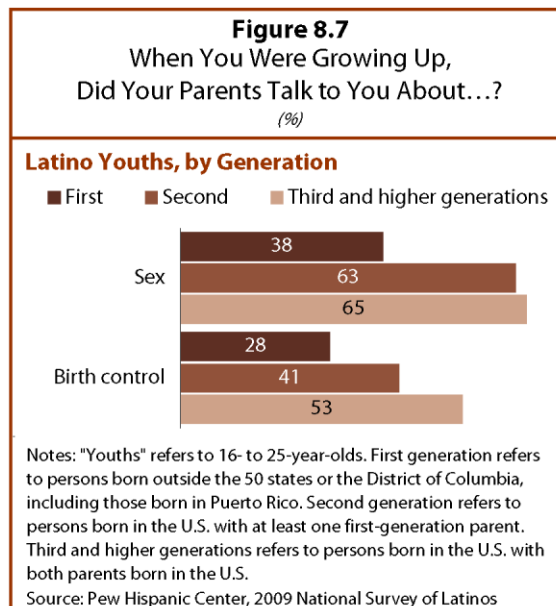
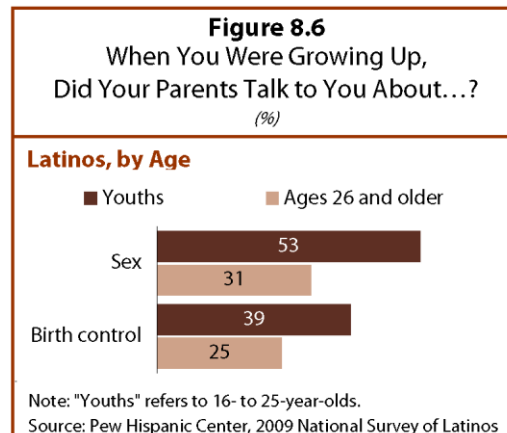
Immigrant youths are significantly less likely than their second- and third-generation counterparts to report ever discussing sex with their parents. Some 38% of immigrant youths report that their parents talked with them about sex when they were growing up, compared with 63% of second-generation youths and 65% of those in the third generation. The likelihood of ever talking with parents about birth control increases significantly between the first and third generations. Among immigrant youths, 28% report discussing birth control with their parents. This number is 41% among the second generation, and then rises to 53% for third-generation Latino youths.

The likelihood of ever talking with parents about birth control increases significantly between the first and third generations. Among immigrant youths, 28% report discussing birth control with their parents. This number is 41% among the second generation, and then rises to 53% for third-generation Latino youths.

Attitudes Regarding Teen Sex

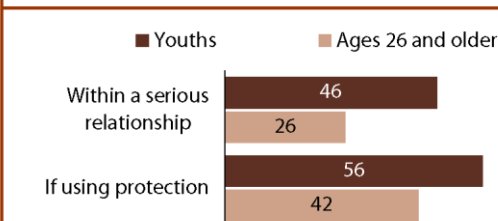
Latino youths are much more accepting of teen sex than are older Latinos. While about 46% of Latino youths agree or strongly agree with the idea that teen sex is OK if those involved are in a serious relationship, only 26% of older Latinos feel this way. And whereas more than half (56%) of Latino youths agree that it is OK for teens to have sex if they use protection, only 42% of older Latinos agree with the statement.

Among Latino youths who are immigrants, 38% agree or strongly agree that teen sex within a serious relationship is OK. This share is 50% among the second generation and 53% among the third generation. When it comes to teens having sex while using protection, the approval ratings among immigrants increase markedly. Some 57% of immigrant youths agree or strongly agree that it is OK to have sex as a teen if protection is used. This number is also 57% among the second generation and 51% among third-generation youths.



Female Hispanic youths are less likely than male Hispanic youths to approve of teen sex in either of these scenarios. While just over half (52%) of Hispanic males agree or strongly agree with the notion that teen sex is OK if two people are in a serious relationship, only 39% of Hispanic females feel that way. More than six-in-ten (63%) Hispanic males think teen sex is OK if the participants use protection, but this share drops to 48% among Hispanic females.

Figure 8.8
Acceptability of Teen Sex among Latinos, by Age
(% who think it is OK for teens to have sex...)



Note: "Youths" refers to 16- to 25-year-olds.

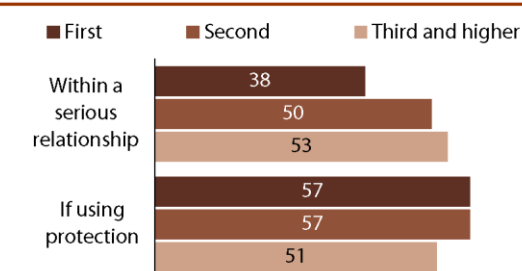
Source: Pew Hispanic Center, 2009 National Survey of Latinos

"A lot of...Hispanic girls just...get pregnant at a really young age and it makes it difficult for them 'cause usually the father of the baby might not even stay with them."

"I feel like Latino parents in general...and I don't know very straightforward with what sex can lead to and how 'Just don't have sex!'"

"Everybody in that school, every girl, whether Hispanic either there's a first child, second, third, fourth...they're age, 16, 17, there is a lot of pregnancy. It's ridiculous"

Figure 8.9
Acceptability of Teen Sex among Latino Youths, by Generation
(% who think it is OK for teens to have sex...)



Notes: "Youths" refers to 16- to 25-year-olds. First generation refers to persons born outside the 50 states or the District of Columbia, including those born in Puerto Rico. Second generation refers to persons born in the U.S. with at least one first-generation parent. Third and higher generations refers to persons born in the U.S. with both parents born in the U.S.

Source: Pew Hispanic Center, 2009 National Survey of Latinos

Attitudes Regarding Teen Parenthood

Three-quarters of Latino youths—75%—report that the prevalence of U.S. teens having babies is bad for society. An additional 20% think that it makes no difference, and 2% think teen parenthood is good for society. Among older Latinos, some 81% perceive an increase in teen births as problematic for society, and 11% think it makes no difference to society. In the general population, 90% of youths think that more teens having babies is bad for society, and 8% think that it makes no difference.³⁶

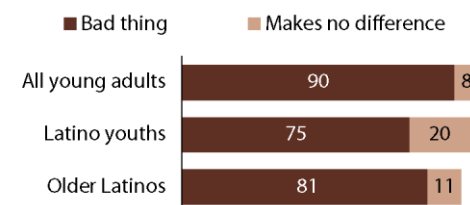
As far as the individual impact of teen parenthood, 69% of Latino youths believe that becoming a parent while still a teenager prevents people from reaching their goals in life, while 28% don't think this is the case.

Among foreign-born youths, 70% report that more teenagers having babies is a bad thing for society. This share is 74% among the second generation and 87% among the third generation. When queried about the perceived impact of teen parenthood on achieving one's goals, the pattern persists. Some 62% of immigrant youths think that becoming a teen parent prevents people from achieving their goals; 71% of the second generation and 78% of the third generation agree.

Attitudes regarding whether an increase in teen births is problematic for society do not differ by gender among Hispanic youths. Some 72% of males think teen births are a bad thing for society, and 23% think they don't make much of a difference. Among females, 78% think more teen births are bad for society and 17% think they don't make much of a difference. There are gender differences in perceptions of how teen parenthood affects individuals. While 63% of Hispanic females think becoming a teen parent prevents people from achieving their goals, this number is 74% among Hispanic males.

Figure 8.10
Perceived Impact of Teen Births on Society

Question: Do you think more teenage girls having babies is generally a good thing, a bad thing or doesn't make much difference for our society? (%)



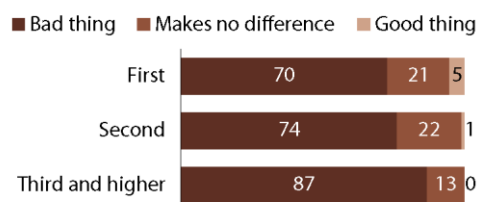
Notes: "All young adults" refers to the general population ages 18 to 25. "Older Latinos" refers to people 26 and older. "Latino youths" refers to 16- to 25-year-olds. In analyses limiting the Latino youth sample to ages 18 to 25, results were similar to those shown here.

Sources: Pew Hispanic Center, 2009 National Survey of Latinos, and Pew Social & Demographic Trends 2009 Fertility Survey

Figure 8.11

Perceived Impact of Teen Births on Society among Latino Youths, by Generation

Question: Do you think more teenage girls having babies is generally a good thing, a bad thing or doesn't make much difference for our society? (%)



Notes: "Youths" refers to 16- to 25-year-olds. First generation refers to persons born outside the 50 states or the District of Columbia, including those born in Puerto Rico. Second generation refers to persons born in the U.S. with at least one first-generation parent. Third and higher generations refers to persons born in the U.S. with both parents born in the U.S.

Source: Pew Hispanic Center, 2009 National Survey of Latinos

³⁶ Pew Hispanic Center tabulations from the Pew Social & Demographic Trends 2009 Fertility Survey. The sample for the general population includes people ages 18 to 25. In analyses limiting the 2009 National Survey of Latinos sample to ages 18 to 25, 75% said that more teen births were bad for society, and 19% said they made no difference.

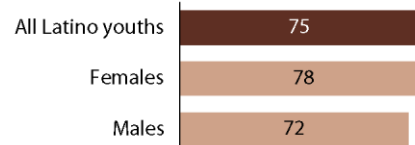
Some 56% of respondents ages 20 to 25 who became a parent as a teenager report that teen parenthood impedes achieving goals, compared with 72% of respondents in that age group who did not have this experience. Conversely, 39% of teen parents specifically state that teen parenthood does not limit the achievement of goals, compared with 26% of respondents who were not teen parents.

Ideal Age for Parenthood

The ideal age to become a parent, as perceived by Latino youths, is a few years younger than the ideal age perceived by youths in the general population. The median ideal age to become a mother is 24, according to Latino youths. Looking at the data a bit differently, the plurality of Latino youths (46%) believe that the ideal time for a woman to have her first child is between ages 22 and 25. An additional 31% feel that having a child before age 22 is ideal for women, and 16% believe that having a first child after age 25 is ideal. In comparison, a 1999 survey³⁷ found that for youths in the general population, the ideal age for a woman to have a child was 26. Only 8% of youths in the general population thought the ideal age for a woman to have a baby was prior to age 22; 34% thought ages 22 to 25 were ideal; and about half—49%—thought that women should have their first child sometime after age 25.

Respondents to the Pew Hispanic Center survey believe that men should wait a bit longer than women to have their first child, though generally Latino youths still favor younger ages for fatherhood than do youths in the general population. The median ideal age for a man to have a child is 25, according to Latino youths, while according to youths in the general population, the ideal age is 28. Furthermore, more than one-in-five Latino youths (21%) think that

Figure 8.12
Perceived Impact of Teen Births on Society,
Latino Youths by Gender
(% who say more teenage girls having
babies is generally a bad thing for our society)



Note: "Youths" refers to 16- to 25-year-olds.

Source: Pew Hispanic Center, 2009 National Survey of Latinos

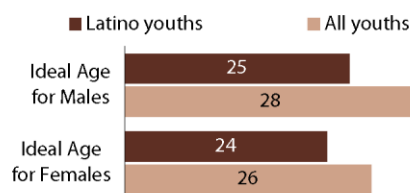
Figure 8.13
Perceived Impact of Teen Births on Teen
Achievement, Latino Youths by Gender
(% who say becoming a teen parent prevents
people from reaching their goals in life)



Note: "Youths" refers to 16- to 25-year-olds.

Source: Pew Hispanic Center, 2009 National Survey of Latinos

Figure 8.14
Median Ideal Age to Have Children
(years)



Note: "Latino youths" refers to 16- to 25-year-olds, "all youths" refers to 18- to 24-year-olds.

Sources: Pew Hispanic Center, 2009 National Survey of Latinos; Virginia Slims Survey, 1999

³⁷ 1999 Virginia Slims Survey; results shown only for respondents ages 18 to 24. In analyses limiting the Latino sample to ages 18 to 24, 31% thought the ideal age for a woman to have her first baby was younger than 22, 46% thought it was between 22 and 25, and 17% thought it was older than 25. Some 21% thought the ideal age for men to become a father was less than 22, 42% thought it was between 22 and 25, and 32% thought it was older than 25.

becoming a dad prior to age 22 is ideal, while only 5% of youths in the general population concur. The plurality of Latinos (44%) favor men becoming fathers between the ages of 22 and 25, compared with 22% of youths in the general population who consider that the ideal age. And finally, while 29% of Latino youths think men should wait until after age 25 to have a child, well over half (61%) of youths in the general population feel that way.

9. Gangs, Fights and Prison

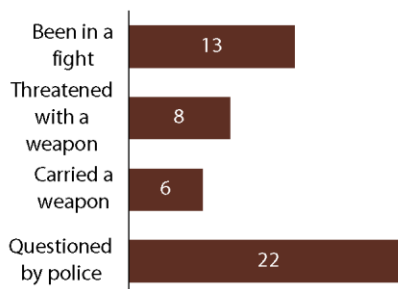
Parents all around the world don't need social scientists to tell them what they already know: Adolescence and early adulthood are stages of life when their children are prone to make bad decisions.

In the case of Latino youths in America, there's a notable demographic twist in the pattern of risky behaviors at this phase of the life cycle. Among 16- to 25-year-olds, native-born Hispanics are roughly twice as likely as immigrant Latino youths to engage in behaviors that involve weapons, fights and gangs. They are also more likely to land in jail or prison.

Among all Latino youths surveyed, 13% say they got into a fight in the past year, 8% report they were physically threatened with a weapon and 6% say they carried a gun, knife or some other type of weapon.³⁸

Big differences emerge when these responses are broken down by generation. For example, just 7% of Latino youths who are themselves immigrants report that they got into a fight in the past year, compared with 16% percent of second-generation Latino youths and 18% of the third and higher generations of Latino youths. The survey also finds that exposure to gangs varies sharply by generation. Third generation young Latinos are twice as likely as young Latino immigrants to say a family member or friend has been in a gang (37% versus 17%). Similar patterns exist for the other risk behaviors tested.

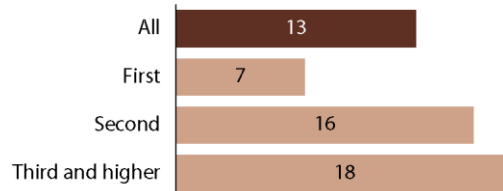
Figure 9.1
Have Any of the Following Things Happened in the Past Year?
(% of Latino youths who answer "yes")



Note: "Youths" refers to 16- to 25-year-olds.
Source: Pew Hispanic Center, 2009 National Survey of Latinos

Figure 9.2
Been in a Fight in the Past Year?
(% of Latino youths who were in a physical fight)

Latino Youths, by Generation



Notes: "Youths" refers to 16- to 25-year-olds. First generation refers to persons born outside the 50 states or the District of Columbia, including those born in Puerto Rico. Second generation refers to persons born in the U.S. with at least one first-generation parent. Third and higher generations refers to persons born in the U.S. with both parents born in the U.S.

Source: Pew Hispanic Center, 2009 National Survey of Latinos

³⁸ Because this survey was conducted only among Latino youths, it is not possible to compare these results with responses to the same questions among non-Latino youths. However, other data sources allow for racial and ethnic comparisons on some of these measures. For example, while Hispanics make up about 15% of the total U.S. population, the [2009 National Youth Gang Survey Analysis](#) prepared by the federally funded [National Gang Center](#) estimates that 49% of all gang members nationally are Hispanic, 35% are black and 7% are of another other race or ethnicity.

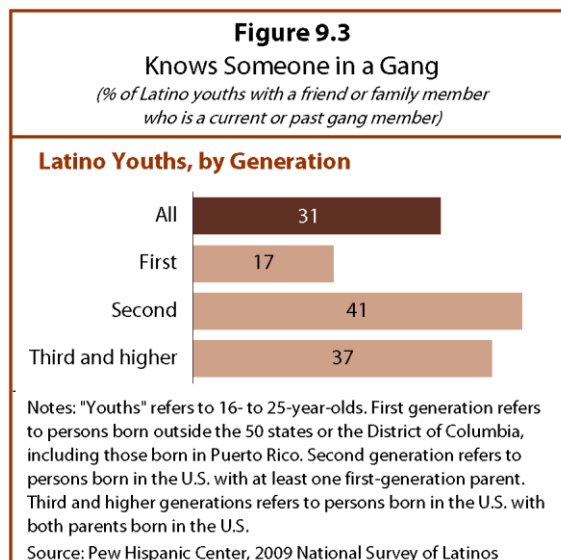
There are also sharp differences in risk-taking by Latino youths according to their age, religiosity and gender. Education, too, has an impact, but only among the native born. Within that group, high school graduates are less likely to engage in risky behavior than are those who lack diplomas. But among young immigrants, the relationship between education and risk behaviors vanishes.

Differences in age of just a few years appears to have an impact on the likelihood that a young Latino will report experience with dangerous behaviors. Hispanics in their early 20s are significantly more likely to have been at risk or been questioned by the police than those who are a just a few years younger.

For example, fully 14% of all those ages 20 or 21 report they had been threatened with a weapon in the past 12 months. In contrast, only 7% of those 16 or 17 years old and 6% of those 24 or 25 say they were threatened—an age pattern apparent in varying degrees on each of at-risk behaviors or experiences asked about in the survey.

Why are the late teens and early 20s particularly hazardous years? These data can only partially answer that question. But the survey suggests that the younger group (ages 16 to 17) is more likely to be in school than are those in their early 20s. At the same time, slightly older Hispanics are more likely to be establishing families and careers, conditions that may reduce their exposure to risk behaviors or the temptations of the street.

Not surprisingly, the survey finds big gender differences on these questions. Young Hispanic males are significantly more likely than young Hispanic females to have engaged in risky behaviors such as fighting (19% versus 7%) or carrying a weapon (9% versus 3%). The survey also finds that more religious Latino youths are less likely to report engaging in risky behaviors than are their less-religious peers. Moreover, religion may help explain why immigrants, who tend to be more religious than native-born Latinos, are less likely to tempt fate by carrying weapons, getting into fights or joining gangs.



About two-in-ten young Latinos (22%) say they were questioned by police in the past year—a response that could encompass positive or benign contacts with law enforcement as well as more negative experiences.³⁹

The survey also asked Latinos about the presence of gangs in local high schools and the impact they have on community life. Only 3% of Latinos ages 16 to 25 say they are now or have ever been in a gang. But slightly more than three-in-ten (31%) say they have relatives or friends who are current or former gang members. The proportion who say they know someone who is now or has been in a gang swells to 40% among Hispanic youths born in the United States.

Latinos who trace their heritage to Mexico—a group that comprises more than six-in-ten Hispanics in the U.S.—are more likely than other Latinos to say a friend or relative is a current or former gang member. However, Latinos of Mexican descent are no more likely than other Hispanics to report that they are or have been in a gang. Mexican-American also are no more likely than other Latino to say they have been in a fight or involved with weapons in the past year.

The judgment of young Latinos ages 16 to 25 on the impact of gangs on their communities is unequivocal. Seven-in-ten say gangs make life worse for Hispanics, and an additional 25% believe gangs have no impact. Only 2% see gangs as beneficial.

The remainder of this section examines in greater detail how such factors as nativity, age, education, religiosity and gender, together and separately, increase the likelihood that Latino youths will engage in risky behaviors. It will also examine how these core demographic groups view the impact of gangs on life in their communities.

The Immigrant Paradox

Researchers call it the “Immigrant Paradox,” the tendency of Hispanic immigrants to be healthier than their U.S.-born children, have lower divorce rates, experience fewer mental or emotional problems, have lower rates of incarceration and otherwise outdo the second generation on a variety of measures of well-being.⁴⁰ Consistent with this earlier research, the Pew Hispanic Center survey finds significant differences on the proclivity for risk behaviors between young foreign-born Latinos and those born in the United States.

³⁹ The survey finds that young people who report experiences with violence or risky behaviors—fighting, carrying weapons, being in a gang—also are more likely to report they were questioned by police in the previous year than those who did not have these experiences.

⁴⁰ Summaries of the latest research into the Immigrant Paradox were presented at Brown University in March 2009 at the conference “The Immigrant Paradox in Education and Behavior: Is becoming American a developmental risk?” Videos and slides from the presentations are available online at <http://www.brown.edu/Departments/Education/paradox/>

Second-generation Latino youths are more likely to carry a weapon (8% versus 3%), to have become involved in a fight (16% versus 7%) or to have been threatened by a weapon (10% versus 5%). Second-generation Latinos also are more likely than their foreign-born peers to say they have been questioned by police (26% versus 15%).

These generational differences sharpen when a slightly different analytic question is asked: What percentage of second-generation Latinos have direct experience in the past year with *any* of the three risky behaviors tested in the survey?

Overall, young second-generation Latinos are twice as likely as young immigrants to say they had experienced at least one of the three risky behaviors in the past year (22% versus 11%) and almost than three times as likely to say they have experienced two or more (11% versus 4%).

When contact with police is included in the analysis, fully a third of all second-generation Latinos (35%) had at least one of the four experiences in the past year, compared with 22% of their immigrant peers.

The High-Risk Years

Even within the relatively narrow 16-to-25 age range targeted in this survey, experience with risky behaviors varies sharply by age.

The years immediately after their 18th birthdays—the age at which most young people have graduated from high school but before they begin to settle down—are particularly risky for young Latinos, these data suggest. On question after question, the youngest members of this age cohort—those 16 and 17 years old—and the oldest (23 to 25) are less likely than those 18 to 22 to have engaged in risky behaviors or been questioned by the police.

About one-of-six Latinos ages 18 to 22 (17%) say they were in a fight in the past year, compared with 12% of those younger than 18 and 9% of those older than 22. Latinos ages 18 to 22 are about twice as likely as either younger or older Latino

Figure 9.4

Carried a Weapon in the Past Year?

(% of Latino youths who carried a weapon such as a gun or knife)

Latino Youths, by Generation



Notes: "Youths" refers to 16- to 25-year-olds. First generation refers to persons born outside the 50 states or the District of Columbia, including those born in Puerto Rico. Second generation refers to persons born in the U.S. with at least one first-generation parent. Third and higher generations refers to persons born in the U.S. with both parents born in the U.S.

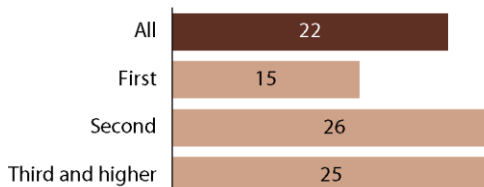
Source: Pew Hispanic Center, 2009 National Survey of Latinos

Figure 9.5

Questioned by Police in the Past Year?

(% of Latino youths questioned by police for any reason)

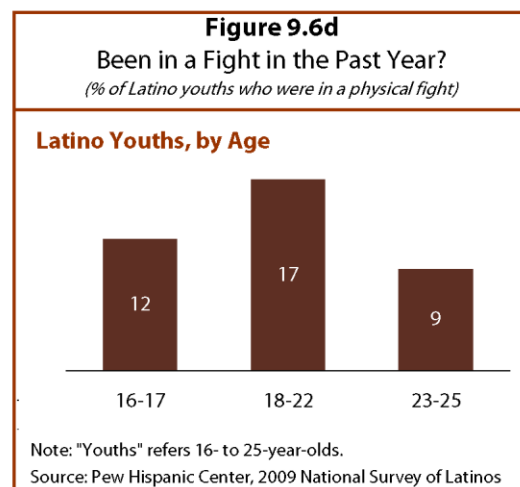
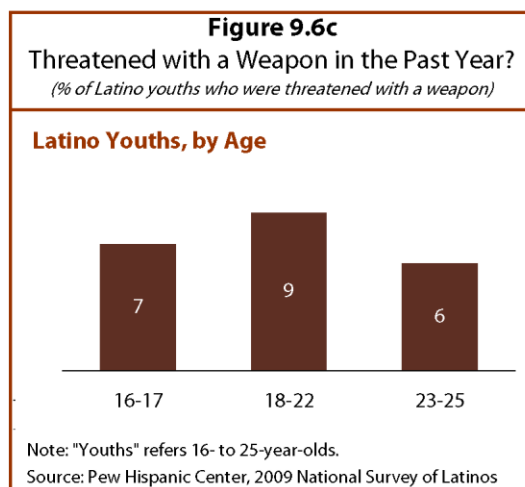
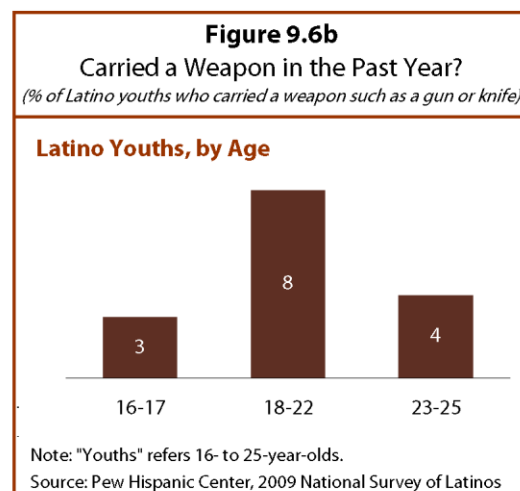
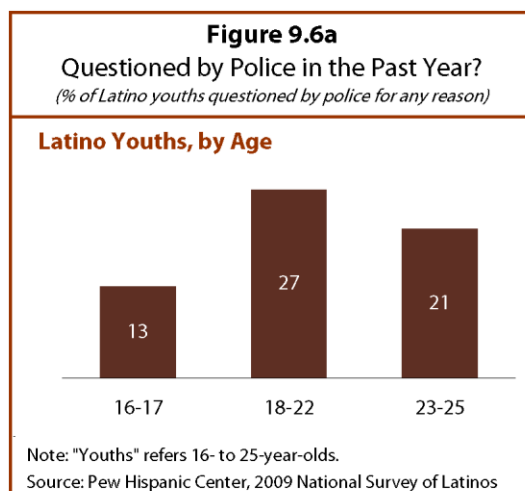
Latino Youths, by Generation



Notes: "Youths" refers to 16- to 25-year-olds. First generation refers to persons born outside the 50 states or the District of Columbia, including those born in Puerto Rico. Second generation refers to persons born in the U.S. with at least one first-generation parent. Third and higher generations refers to persons born in the U.S. with both parents born in the U.S.

Source: Pew Hispanic Center, 2009 National Survey of Latinos

youths to say they carried a weapon (8% for those ages 18 to 22, compared with 3% of all 16- or 17-year-olds and 4% of those ages 23 to 25). They also were slightly more likely than older Latino youths to have been threatened with a weapon and nearly twice as likely as younger Latinos to have been questioned by police (27% versus 13%).



When the results of the three questions measuring exposure to at-risk situations—carrying a weapon, being threatened with a weapon, fighting—are combined, the age pattern among young Latinos again sharpens. Slightly less than a quarter of all 18- to 22-year-olds (23%) have experienced at least one of the three risk behaviors in the past year, compared with 17% of Latino youths younger than 18 and 13% of Latino youths 23 or older.

What makes relatively younger and older Hispanic youths less susceptible to risk situations than 18- to 22-year-olds? These data cannot answer that question directly, though they do suggest that schooling as well as marital and employment status play prominent roles.

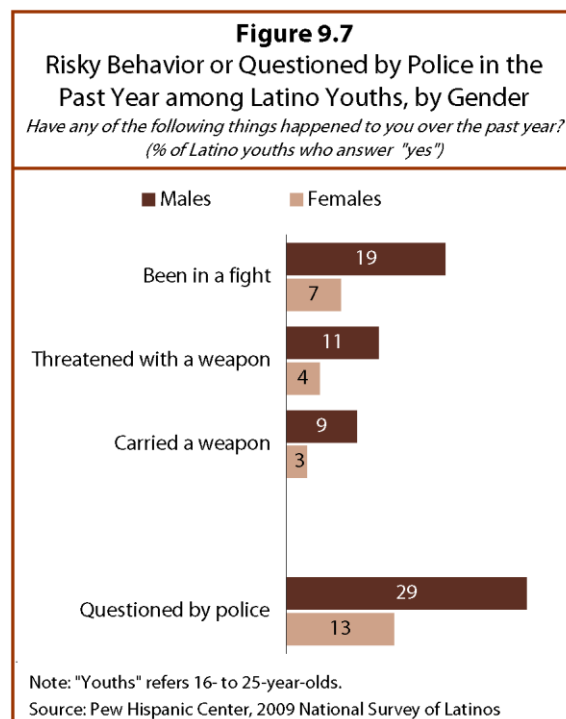
The overwhelming majority (79%) of 16- and 17-year-old Latinos are attending high school. Hispanics still in high school are less likely than Latinos who are not in school to have engaged in risky behavior in the past year (26% versus 33%).

Marriage and career may be among the reasons that Hispanics ages 23 to 25 are less prone to find themselves involved in risky situations. Latinos in this age group are significantly more likely to work full time and to be married than those just a few years younger, factors that this survey and other research suggest reduce a person's likelihood of engaging in harmful behaviors.

Fights, Weapons and Gender

Young Latino males are at least twice as likely as young Hispanic females to have experienced any of the three risky behaviors tested in this survey or to report being questioned by police in the past year.

For example, young Hispanic males are about three times as likely as young Hispanic females to report they have carried a weapon such as a gun or knife in the past year (9% versus 3%), to have engaged in a fight (19% versus 7%) or to say they were threatened with a weapon (11% versus 4%). Young males also are twice as likely as young females to say they had been questioned by police for any reason (29% versus 13%).



Second-generation Hispanic males ages 16 to 25 are particularly likely to say they had these experiences in the past year. In this generation, males are five times as likely as females to say they were threatened with a weapon (16% versus 3%) and nearly four times as likely to say they had gotten into a fight (26% versus 6%). Second-generation Hispanic males also were three times as likely as females to say they carried a weapon in the past year (12% versus 4%).

Given these findings, it may not be surprising that among second-generation Latinos, nearly four-in-ten (37%) males report they were questioned by police in the past year, compared with 15% of females.

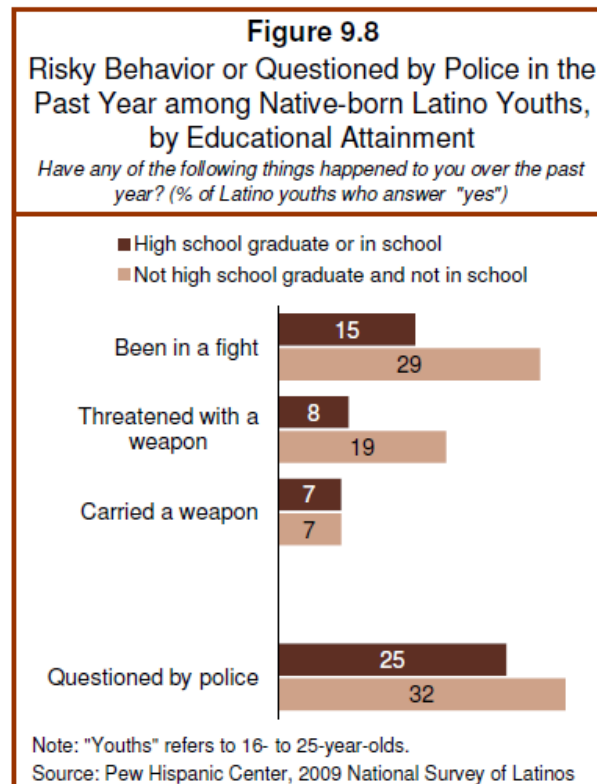
This gender pattern is also apparent among immigrants, but with one familiar difference: Young immigrants are significantly less likely than their second-generation peers to put themselves in potentially risky situations.

Among young Latinos, second generation males are twice as likely as those born abroad to have carried a weapon (12% versus 5%) or to report they were threatened with one in the past year (17% versus 7%). About a quarter of all second-generation Latino males say they had gotten into a fight in the past 12 months, more than double the proportion of immigrant males (26% versus 11%). Similarly, second-generation Hispanic females are twice as likely as foreign-born Hispanic females to say they had gotten into a fight (6% versus 3%).

Does Education Matter?

At first glance, education seems to have little relationship to risk behaviors. Overall, 13% of young Latinos with at least a high school diploma report that they got into a fight in the past year—and so did 14% of those who never completed high school.⁴¹ High school graduates and those without a diploma also are about as likely to say they carried a weapon (6% versus 4%), had been threatened with a weapon (7% versus 9%) or were questioned by police for any reason (22% versus 21%).

However, a deeper look reveals a strong association between education and risky behaviors among young Latinos born in the United States but none at all when the analytic lens is focused on immigrants. Because immigrants are significantly less likely than the native born to report having any of the experiences tested in the survey, combining the two groups together masks the impact of education.



⁴¹ For purposes of this study, those with a high school diploma include students still in school, while non-graduates only include those who did not graduate from high school and are no longer attending classes.

A specific example may help clarify this finding. Fully 30% of young, native-born Latinos who failed to graduate from high school report they were in a fight last year—double the proportion of young native-born Hispanics (15%) with at least a high school diploma. But among younger Latinos born in another country, the link between education and fighting largely vanishes: 8% of those with high school diplomas and 5% of those who never finished high school got into a fight. A similar pattern emerges on questions asking whether respondents had been threatened with a weapon or questioned by police.

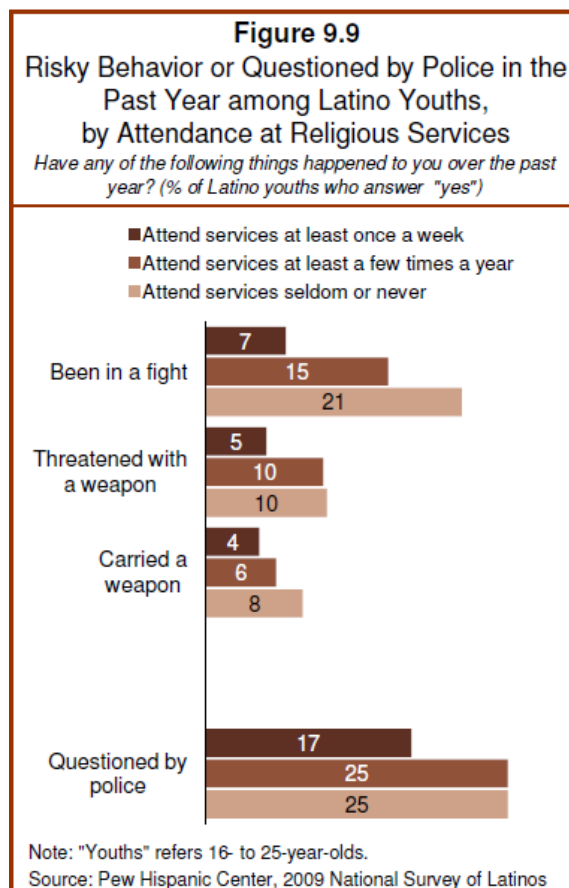
Religion and Risk

Young Hispanics who are highly religious are significantly less likely than others to engage in risky behaviors or to report they had been questioned by police. In fact, the survey suggests that religiosity may be one reason young Latino immigrants are less prone to unsafe behavior than their generally less religious native-born counterparts.

To measure the strength of their religious belief, respondents were first asked their religion and then asked how often they attended religious services: once a week, at least a few times a year, or seldom or never. Attendance at religious services was used in the analysis as a proxy for religiosity. While not perfect, this measure is often used in survey research to measure the strength of religious belief.

Overall, the survey found that young Latinos who attend services at least once a week are less likely to say they have had brushes with violence in the past year or contact with police. For example, only about 7% of young Latinos who attend religious services regularly say they got into a fight in the previous year, compared with 15% of those who go at least a few times a year and 21% who rarely or never attend services.

Similarly, Latinos who frequently attend religious services are only about half as likely to say they had carried a weapon as non-attenders (4% versus 9%), or to report they had been threatened with a weapon (5% versus 9%).



Regular attendees of religious services also are less likely to say they have ever been in a gang (2% versus 7%) or to have been questioned by police in the past year (17% versus 25%).

Latinos born outside the U.S. are significantly more likely to say they attend religious services at least once a week compared with second generation or later (41% versus 31%). When differences in attendance at religious services are taken into account, the “risky behaviors gap” between young immigrants and their native-born peers narrows or disappears.

For example, identical proportions of young foreign-born and native-born Latinos who attend religious services frequently report they were threatened with a weapon in the past year (5% for both groups). However, among infrequent attendees, a somewhat different picture emerges: Young Hispanics born in the United States are more than twice as likely as their foreign-born peers or more religiously observant native-born Latinos to say they had been threatened (12% versus 4%).

Experience with Gangs

Only 3% of young Hispanics say they are or used to be in a gang, but 31% say they have friends or family members with gang involvement. Among Hispanics ages 26 and older, only about 16% report ties to a current or former gang member.⁴²

In particular, young adults of Mexican heritage—a group that makes up about six-in-ten Latinos in the U.S.—are significantly more likely than other Hispanics to have a friend or family member who is or was involved in a gang (37% versus 19%).

Table 9.1
Personal Exposure to Gangs
(% of Latinos who say...)

	There are/were gangs at their high school*	Family/friend is/was in a gang
All	51	20
Gender		
Male	53	32
Female	49	29
Age		
16-17	55	31
18-22	54	33
23-25	44	30
26 and older	n/a	16
Generation		
First	37	8
Second	60	35
Third and higher	54	38

NOTES: Asked only of Latinos ages 16 to 25. Question asking about gang involvement of friends or family was asked of all Latinos. First generation refers to persons born outside the 50 states or the District of Columbia, including those born in Puerto Rico. Second generation refers to persons born in the U.S. with at least one first-generation parent. Third and higher generations refers to persons born in the U.S. with both parents born in the U.S.

Source: Pew Hispanic Center, 2009 National Survey of Latinos

⁴² While these numbers may suggest that the proportion of Hispanics who are involved in gangs has increased dramatically, another finding from this survey suggests otherwise. About 3% of all Hispanics ages 16 to 25 acknowledge that they are or have been gang members, virtually identical to the 2% of older Hispanics who acknowledge current or former gang involvement.

To measure the presence of gang activity in the schools, the Pew Hispanic Center asked slightly different questions of young Latinos based on their education level. Respondents who are still in high school were asked, “Are there gangs in your high school?” Latinos ages 16 to 25 who say they had graduated from high school or no longer were taking classes were asked a slightly different question, “Were there gangs in your high school?”

Table 9.2
Ties to Gangs, by Age and Origin
(% of Latinos who say family or friend is or has been in a gang)

	AGE	
	16 to 25	26 and older
Origin		
Mexican	37	18
Non-Mexican	19	13

Source: Pew Hispanic Center, 2009 National Survey of Latinos

About half (51%) of young Hispanics say there are youth gangs in the high school they currently go to or the one they formerly attended. The survey further suggests that gangs are more common in predominantly Hispanic high schools than in those where Latinos make up less than half the student body.

While the sample of current high school students in the survey is too small to draw firm conclusions, about six-in-ten Latinos who currently attend a high school where at least half the students are Hispanic report that there are gangs at their school. But gangs are less prevalent in schools where less than half the students are Hispanic.

One caveat: Because gangs with different racial or ethnic makeup often exist at the same school, it cannot be inferred that respondents were thinking about only Hispanic gangs or other type of gangs when they answered the question.

The survey found that exposure to gangs varies dramatically by generation. Young Latinos who are native born are twice as likely as immigrant youths to say a family member or friend has been in a gang (40% versus 17%). Younger immigrants also are less likely than Latinos born in the United States to say there are gangs at their high school (43% for immigrants versus 54% for second-generation young Hispanics and 60% for third generation and higher).

Table 9.3
Hispanic Youths Say Gangs Hurt Their Community
(% of Latinos who say gangs in their community make life...)

	Better	Worse	No Impact
All	3	73	18
Gender			
Male	4	72	19
Female	3	73	16
Age			
16-17	3	66	29
18-22	2	66	29
23-25	3	75	18
26 and older	4	74	15
Generation			
First	4	77	12
Second	4	68	25
Third and higher	1	65	24

Notes: First generation refers to persons born outside the 50 states or the District of Columbia, including those born in Puerto Rico. Second generation refers to persons born in the U.S. with at least one first-generation parent. Third and higher generations refers to persons born in the U.S. with both parents born in the U.S.

Source: Pew Hispanic Center, 2009 National Survey of Latinos

The Impact of Gangs on the Latino Community

Fully seven-in-ten Latinos (73%) say that gangs have a negative impact on their communities, while just a tiny sliver (3%) say that gangs make life better for Hispanics where they live and 18% say gangs have little impact on their quality of life.

Hispanic youths younger than 20 are less likely than those ages 20 to 25 to believe gangs are harmful to Hispanics in their community (62% versus 74%). At the same time, these younger Latinos are more likely to say gangs have little or no impact (33% versus 20%).

While majorities of each generation agree that gangs harm the Latino community, there is considerable disagreement among young Hispanics about whether gangs have no impact. Among young third-generation Latinos, fully 43% say gangs have no effect one way or another on Hispanics in their areas. That's higher than the proportion of the second generation (27%) and significantly larger than the share of the foreign born who say gangs have no effect on Latinos. But the generations do agree on this: Gangs do not help the community; overall, only 2% of the second and third generation, and 3% of the first generation say gangs make life better for Hispanics in their area.

Incarceration Rates

Census data indicate that about 3% of young Hispanic males were institutionalized in 2008 (Figure 9.4). The overwhelming preponderance of these young men is in federal, state and local correctional facilities. The young Hispanic male incarceration rate exceeded the rate of young white males (1%) but is less than the rate of young black males (7%).

Studies ([Butcher and Piehl, 2007](#); [Bailey and Hayes, 2006](#); and Fry, 1997) based on Census data report that immigrant adults are less likely to be incarcerated than their native-born counterparts. Young Hispanic males fit this pattern. In 2008 about 3% of young Hispanic males born in the United States were incarcerated, compared with 2% of young Hispanic males born outside the United States.

About 70% of young Hispanic males behind bars were born in the United States, but the nativity of Hispanic inmates varies, depending on the type of prison. More than 70% of Hispanics sentenced in federal courts were not U.S. citizens (a reflection of federal enforcement of immigration law), so the vast majority of Hispanic inmates in federal prisons were born outside the United States ([Lopez and Light, 2009](#)). Many more Hispanics were incarcerated in state and local correctional facilities, and most of the Hispanic inmates in these facilities were born in the United States.

Young men are more likely to be behind bars in 2008 than was the case in 1980. Young Hispanic men have not been an exception. In 1980 about 2% of young Latino males were incarcerated, lower than the 3% incarceration rate in 2008. Compared with 1980, Hispanic incarceration rates have increased among both native-born and foreign-born youths.

More recently, young male incarceration rates have not changed in uniform fashion. Rates of incarceration have declined since 2000 for young black males, young white males and young Hispanic males who were born in the United States. However, incarceration among young immigrant Hispanics has increased since 2000.

Table 9.4					
Incarceration Rates among Male Youths, 1970, 1980, 1990, 2000 and 2008 (%)					
	1970	1980	1990	2000	2008
All	1.5	1.4	2.2	2.8	2.2
Hispanics	1.5	1.8	2.9	2.9	2.7
Native born	1.5	2.1	3.6	4.9	3.1
Foreign born	1.6	1.2	2.2	0.9	2.1
Whites	1.1	1.0	1.3	1.5	1.2
Blacks	4.4	4.1	6.7	9.2	6.5

Notes: "Youths" refers to 16- to 25-year-olds. Incarceration rate refers to the institutionalization rate. Foreign born includes persons born in Puerto Rico.
Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations from Decennial Censuses and the 2008 American Community Survey (ACS), Integrated Public Use Micro Samples (IPUMS)

"I heard a lot of friends who are from around here say 'Maybe you should let the white guy drive because the police will pull you over and search your car.' I've been searched twice...and they put me in handcuffs...and put me on the sidewalk and didn't find anything and let me go."
19-year-old Hispanic male

"[There's] problems with kids who go and say they're in a gang, and other kids are in another gang, and if someone does something to the other group...they get mad...and they retaliate...and a lot of people end up dying, and people on their MySpaces they'll have all these names of friends that they know who died because of gang wars."
21-year-old Hispanic female

"What's happening with gangs is that as Hispanics are becoming...teenagers...they are realizing that they have that gap between how they feel they are [and] how their parents expect them to be....when they are having family problems...they don't really feel like they can fit in anywhere...but gangs say...'We are your family now.'"
20-year-old Hispanic female

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Appendix A: Hispanic Population by State

Table A.1
U.S., Hispanic and Youth Populations, by State, 2008

	ALL			YOUTHS (Ages 16-25)			SHARE OF YOUTHS	
	Total Population	Hispanic Population	Percent Hispanic	All	Hispanic	Percent Hispanic	In Total Population	In Hispanic Population
Alabama	4,661,900	128,586	2.8%	666,391	22,127	3.3%	14.3%	17.2%
Alaska	686,293	37,420	5.5%	115,497	8,508	7.4%	16.8%	22.7%
Arizona	6,500,180	1,964,625	30.2%	870,976	314,882	36.2%	13.4%	16.0%
Arkansas	2,855,390	155,309	5.4%	404,128	27,061	6.7%	14.2%	17.4%
California	36,756,666	13,434,896	36.6%	5,561,581	2,334,710	42.0%	15.1%	17.4%
Colorado	4,939,456	993,198	20.1%	686,090	161,521	23.5%	13.9%	16.3%
Connecticut	3,501,252	424,191	12.1%	468,062	69,972	14.9%	13.4%	16.5%
Delaware	873,092	62,506	7.2%	125,214	9,389	7.5%	14.3%	15.0%
District of Columbia	591,833	51,260	8.7%	104,174	7,993	7.7%	17.6%	15.6%
Florida	18,328,340	3,846,267	21.0%	2,340,859	551,257	23.5%	12.8%	14.3%
Georgia	9,685,744	780,408	8.1%	1,382,215	119,322	8.6%	14.3%	15.3%
Hawaii	1,288,198	108,663	8.4%	190,668	20,350	10.7%	14.8%	18.7%
Idaho	1,523,816	159,257	10.5%	221,570	29,803	13.5%	14.5%	18.7%
Illinois	12,901,564	1,961,843	15.2%	1,881,819	322,925	17.2%	14.6%	16.5%
Indiana	6,376,792	322,148	5.1%	876,938	52,169	5.9%	13.8%	16.2%
Iowa	3,002,557	124,030	4.1%	449,250	23,140	5.2%	15.0%	18.7%
Kansas	2,802,134	268,964	9.6%	410,167	48,225	11.8%	14.6%	17.9%
Kentucky	4,269,245	100,366	2.4%	564,044	16,584	2.9%	13.2%	16.5%
Louisiana	4,410,796	152,781	3.5%	669,029	25,849	3.9%	15.2%	16.9%
Maine	1,316,456	12,700	1.0%	163,496	2,892	1.8%	12.4%	22.8%
Maryland	5,633,597	372,650	6.6%	795,594	57,149	7.2%	14.1%	15.3%
Massachusetts	6,497,967	556,573	8.6%	936,696	103,815	11.1%	14.4%	18.7%
Michigan	10,003,422	408,695	4.1%	1,418,109	67,984	4.8%	14.2%	16.6%
Minnesota	5,220,393	217,551	4.2%	743,264	37,039	5.0%	14.2%	17.0%
Mississippi	2,938,618	56,632	1.9%	446,200	11,782	2.6%	15.2%	20.8%
Missouri	5,911,605	182,059	3.1%	834,561	32,580	3.9%	14.1%	17.9%
Montana	967,440	31,093	3.2%	146,970	4,008	2.7%	15.2%	12.9%
Nebraska	1,783,432	147,968	8.3%	258,691	19,550	7.6%	14.5%	13.2%
Nevada	2,600,167	672,393	25.9%	333,181	103,313	31.0%	12.8%	15.4%
New Hampshire	1,315,809	39,123	3.0%	172,289	6,954	4.0%	13.1%	17.8%
New Jersey	8,682,661	1,424,069	16.4%	1,128,382	213,109	18.9%	13.0%	15.0%
New Mexico	1,984,356	895,150	45.1%	291,984	147,946	50.7%	14.7%	16.5%
New York	19,490,297	3,232,360	16.6%	2,874,897	543,827	18.9%	14.8%	16.8%
North Carolina	9,222,414	678,023	7.4%	1,270,030	101,070	8.0%	13.8%	14.9%
North Dakota	641,481	13,634	2.1%	115,968	2,962	2.6%	18.1%	21.7%
Ohio	11,485,910	296,059	2.6%	1,563,780	48,865	3.1%	13.6%	16.5%
Oklahoma	3,642,361	278,676	7.7%	533,451	47,505	8.9%	14.6%	17.0%
Oregon	3,790,060	417,152	11.0%	501,791	67,412	13.4%	13.2%	16.2%
Pennsylvania	12,448,279	588,950	4.7%	1,712,604	98,487	5.8%	13.8%	16.7%
Rhode Island	1,050,788	120,662	11.5%	162,123	20,731	12.8%	15.4%	17.2%
South Carolina	4,479,800	177,999	4.0%	640,675	31,043	4.8%	14.3%	17.4%
South Dakota	804,194	22,420	2.8%	115,838	3,954	3.4%	14.4%	17.6%
Tennessee	6,214,888	234,868	3.8%	819,510	37,188	4.5%	13.2%	15.8%
Texas	24,326,974	8,815,582	36.2%	3,564,395	1,423,906	39.9%	14.7%	16.2%
Utah	2,736,424	323,938	11.8%	480,327	49,398	10.3%	17.6%	15.2%
Vermont	621,270	6,651	1.1%	89,640	1,796	2.0%	14.4%	27.0%
Virginia	7,769,089	528,002	6.8%	1,100,659	85,382	7.8%	14.2%	16.2%
Washington	6,549,224	642,959	9.8%	888,068	103,517	11.7%	13.6%	16.1%
West Virginia	1,814,468	21,400	1.2%	234,147	4,347	1.9%	12.9%	20.3%
Wisconsin	5,627,968	286,382	5.1%	790,125	47,558	6.0%	14.0%	16.6%
Wyoming	532,668	43,385	8.1%	79,132	7,993	10.1%	14.9%	18.4%
Total	304,059,728	46,822,476	15.4%	43,195,249	7,700,849	17.8%	14.2%	16.4%

Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations from the 2008 American Community Survey (1% IPUMS)

Appendix B: 2009 National Survey of Latinos, Survey Methodology and Topline

ABOUT THE SURVEY

Results for this study are based on telephone interviews conducted by Social Science Research Solutions (SSRS), an independent research company, among a nationally representative sample of 2,012 Latino respondents ages 16 and older,⁴³ from Aug. 5 to Sept. 16, 2009. Of those respondents, 1,002 were native born (excluding Puerto Rico) and 1,008 were foreign born (including Puerto Rico). For results based on the total sample, one can say with 95% confidence that the error attributable to sampling is plus or minus 3.7 percentage points for total respondents.

We conducted interviews with 1,240 respondents ages 16 to 25 and 772 respondents ages 26 and older. The margin of error for respondents ages 16 to 25 is plus or minus 4.6 percentage points, and the margin of error for respondents ages 26 and older is 4.8 percentage points.

Taken together, there were 711 native-born Hispanics ages 16 to 25, 529 foreign-born Hispanics ages 16 to 25, 291 native-born Hispanics ages 26 and older and 479 foreign-born Hispanics ages 26 and older. The margin of error for native-born youths (ages 16 to 25) is plus or minus 6.2 percentage points; for foreign-born youths, it is plus or minus 6.5 percentage points. For second-generation youths, the margin of error is plus or minus 7.6 percentage points, and for third-generation youths, the margin of error is plus or minus 11.1 percentage points. For native-born respondents ages 26 and older, the margin of error is plus or minus 8.1 percentage points, and for foreign-born respondents ages 26 and older, it is plus or minus 5.9 percentage points.

For this survey, SSRS maintained a staff of Spanish-speaking interviewers who, when contacting a household, were able to offer respondents the option of completing the survey in Spanish or English. A total of 1,128 respondents were surveyed in English, 842 respondents were interviewed in Spanish and 42 were interviewed equally in both languages. Any male or female of Latino origin or descent was eligible to complete the survey.

According to government statistics from the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) during the last six months of 2008, 25% of Hispanic adults lived in households reachable only by cell phone. Adults who are cell-only are very different demographically from those reachable on a landline. In particular, they tend to be

⁴³ Respondents younger than 18 were interviewed only with the permission of their parent or legal guardian.

younger, less likely to be married or have children, or to own a home. To address the growing number of Hispanic households in the U.S. that are reachable only by cell phone, the study included interviews from both landline ($n=1,360$) and cell phone ($n=652$) sample frames.

Both sample frames were stratified via a disproportionate stratified design. All telephone exchanges in the contiguous 48 states were divided into groups, or strata, based on their concentration of Latino households. For the landline frame, the sample was also run against InfoUSA and other listed databases, and then scrubbed against known Latino surnames. Any “hits” were subdivided into a surname stratum, with all other sample being put into other RDD strata.

The landline sample was divided into 10 mutually exclusive strata: five strata denoted by the likely incidence of Hispanic residence, each divided into listed and unlisted samples. Listed samples refer to phone numbers that could be matched with available lists, indicating the presence of persons between the age of 16 and 25 in the household. This design was intended to allow oversampling in high-incidence Hispanic areas and targeting of households that were likely to include persons 16 to 25 years of age, while assuring that all Latino households in the U.S. had a known probability of selection.

Because incidence in the low stratum was anticipated to be extremely low, an alternative sampling method was employed, randomly selecting from a pool of thousands of households previously interviewed in SSRS’s omnibus Excel survey that were known to be Latino households in general (for the general component), or Latino households with 16- to 25-year-olds present (for the listed component).

Overall, then, the study employed 13 strata:

Strata (<i>General Incidence of Reaching a Hispanic Household</i>)	Landline		Cell Phone
	General	Listed 16-25	
Surname	X	X	
Very High	X	X	
High	X	X	X
Medium	X	X	X
Low	X	X	X

SSRS applied quotas within each stratum to ensure the overrepresentation of Latinos between the ages of 16 and 25. Furthermore, to accumulate a sufficient number of responses from Latinos ages 16 and 17; this age group was disproportionately selected over all other age groups.

It is important to note that the existence of a surname stratum does not mean this was a surname sample design. The sample is RDD, with the randomly selected telephone numbers divided by whether they were found to be associated with or without a Latino surname. This was done simply to increase the number of strata and thereby increase the ability to meet ethnic targets and ease administration by allowing for more effective assignment of interviewers and labor hours.

A five-stage weighting design was used to ensure an accurate representation of the national Hispanic population:

- An adjustment was made for all persons found to possess both a landline and a cell phone, as they were twice as likely to be sampled as were respondents who possessed only one phone type.
- The sample was corrected for the disproportionality of the stratification scheme described earlier.
- The sample was corrected for the likelihood of within-household selection, which depended upon the likelihood that the respondent's age group would be selected, and that within that age group, the particular respondent would be selected.
- The sample was corrected to reflect the percentage that is cell-only (25%), landline-only (21%), or reachable by either a landline or a cell phone (53%), based upon estimates for Hispanics from the 2008 National Health Interview Survey.
- Finally, the data were put through a post-stratification sample balancing routine. The post-stratification weighting utilized national 2007 estimates from the Census Bureau's Current Population Survey, March Supplement, on gender, education, age, region, foreign/native-born status, year of entry into the U.S. and Hispanic heritage. Post-stratification was conducted separately for the 16- to 25-year-old group and the 26 and older age group, to increase the accuracy of the population distributions within these age categories. The post-stratified age groups were then merged in proportion to their population distribution.

2009 National Survey of Latinos Topline

S-5. Record Gender

	Male	Female
Total	50	50
Ages 16-25	52	48
Foreign born	52	48
Native born	52	48
2nd gen.	51	49
3rd gen.+	53	47
Ages 26+	49	51
Foreign born	47	53
Native born	51	49
2008 NSL	52	48
2007 NSL	52	48
2006 ILS	48	52
2004 NSL/KFF	51	49
2004 HMS	51	49
2002 NSL/KFF	49	51

(Q.1D HH1)

HH1. How many people, including yourself, live in your household?

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8+	Don't know	Refused
Total	11	19	18	18	16	9	4	3	1	*
Ages 16-25	4	12	16	26	19	13	4	4	1	1
Foreign born	6	9	14	24	18	17	4	3	3	1
Native born	3	14	18	27	19	11	4	4	*	*
2nd gen.	2	14	15	26	22	9	5	6	*	*
3rd gen.+	3	14	23	29	14	13	2	1	*	*
Ages 26+	14	22	19	15	15	7	4	3	2	*
Foreign born	14	19	18	16	14	8	5	2	2	-
Native born	14	26	21	14	16	6	2	-	*	*

(Q.1D HH2)

HH2. How many of these are children under the age of 16?

	No Children	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8+	Don't know	Refused
Total	50	16	17	9	3	2	*	*	*	3	*
Ages 16-25	41	24	18	7	2	1	*	*	*	5	1
Foreign born	35	23	20	9	3	1	*	*	*	6	2
Native born	45	25	17	6	2	*	-	-	*	5	1
2nd gen.	38	26	19	6	3	*	-	-	*	6	1
3rd gen.+	58	22	12	4	1	*	-	-	-	2	1
Ages 26+	53	13	16	10	4	2	*	-	-	2	*
Foreign born	52	11	17	10	4	2	-	-	-	3	-
Native born	54	18	14	9	3	2	*	-	-	-	-

ETHNICITY SCREENING QUESTIONS

1. Just to confirm, are you, yourself of Hispanic or Latino origin or descent?

	Yes	No	Don't know	Refused
Total	100	-	NA	-
Ages 16-25	100	-	NA	-
Foreign born	100	-	NA	-
Native born	100	-	NA	-
2nd gen.	100	-	NA	-
3rd gen.+	100	-	NA	-
Ages 26+	100	-	NA	-
Foreign born	100	-	NA	-
Native born	100	-	NA	-
2008 NSL	100	-	-	-
2007 NSL	100	-	-	-
2006 ILS	100	-	NA	-
2004 NSL/KFF	100	-	NA	-
2003 HMS	100	-	NA	-
2002 NSL/KFF	100	-	NA	-

3. The terms Hispanic and Latino are both used to describe people who are of Hispanic or Latino origin or descent. Do you happen to prefer one of these terms more than the other? (GET ANSWER, THEN ASK: Which term do you prefer, Hispanic or Latino?)

	Hispanic	Latino	No Preference	Don't know	Refused
Total	35	14	49	1	1
Ages 16-25	38	11	49	2	*
Foreign born	37	13	46	4	-
Native born	38	10	51	1	*
2nd gen.	32	12	55	1	1
3rd gen.+	50	6	43	*	-
Ages 26+	34	15	50	1	1
Foreign born	36	16	47	1	1
Native born	31	13	55	*	1
2008 NSL	36	21	43	1	*
2007 NSL	42	20	36	1	*
2006 ILS	23	11	66	-	-
2004 NSL/KFF	35	14	51	-	-
2004 HMS	34	16	51	-	-
2002 NSL/KFF	34	13	53	-	-

4. Now I want to ask you about you and your family's heritage. Are you Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Dominican, Salvadoran or are you and your ancestors from another country?

	Total	Ages 16-25	Foreign born	Native born	2 nd Gen.	3rd Gen.+	Ages 26+	Foreign born	Native born
Mexican	62	65	65	66	62	73	61	59	65
Puerto Rican	10	9	4	12	13	12	10	8	14
Cuban	4	3	2	3	4	1	5	6	3
Dominican	5	6	8	4	6	0	5	6	3
Salvadoran	5	5	6	4	6	1	4	6	1
Other Central American	4	3	5	2	2	1	4	4	4
Other South American	4	2	5	1	1	1	5	6	2
Other	6	6	5	6	5	7	6	5	7
Don't know	1	1	-	2	*	5	*	*	1
Refused	*	*	-	1	1	-	-	-	-

	2008 NSL	2007 NSL	2006 ILS	2004 NSL/KFF	2004 HMS
Mexican	62	63	64	64	64
Puerto Rican	9	9	11	9	9
Cuban	4	4	10	4	4
Dominican	2	3	1	3	3
Salvadoran	3	3	1	2	4
Other Central American	7	6	1	6	5
Other South American	7	7	2	6	6
Jamaica	NA	NA	NA	NA	1
Trinidad/Caribbean Islands	1	NA	NA	NA	1
Italy	NA	NA	NA	NA	*
Africa	NA	NA	NA	NA	-
USA	NA	NA	NA	NA	1
Other North American	2	2	NA	NA	NA
Other European	2	2	NA	NA	NA
Other	1	1	5	3	4
Don't know	1	*	3	*	*
Refused	*	*	*	*	*

5. Were you born on the island of Puerto Rico, in the United States, or in another country?

	Puerto Rico	U.S.	Another country	Don't know	Refused
Total	4	41	55	*	*
Ages 16-25	2	60	38	-	-
Foreign born	4	-	96	-	-
Native born	-	100	-	-	-
2nd gen.	-	100	-	-	-
3rd gen.+	-	100	-	-	-
Ages 26+	5	34	60	*	*
Foreign born	8	-	92	-	-
Native born	-	100	-	-	-
2008 NSL	4	38	59	*	*
2007 NSL	4	38	58	*	*
2006 ILS	2	43	55	NA	*
2004 NSL/KFF	5	38	57	NA	-
2004 HMS	3	39	58	NA	-
2002 NSL/KFF	5	37	58	NA	-

(Asked of total Latinos born outside the United States; Total n = 1,008; Ages 16-25 n = 529; Age 26+ n = 479)

5a. In what country were you born?

	Total	Age 16-25	Ages 26+	2008 NSL	2007 NSL	2006 ILS	2002 NSL/KFF
Argentina	*	-	1	1	1	1	1
Barbados	*	*	-	-	-	-	-
Belize	*	-	*	*	*	-	*
Bolivia	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Brazil	*	*	1	1	1	1	*
Chile	1	*	1	*	*	*	*
Colombia	2	2	3	4	3	4	4
Costa Rica	1	*	1	*	*	1	*
Cuba	6	2	7	4	5	4	7
Dominican Republic	7	9	6	3	4	4	7
Ecuador	2	1	2	1	1	3	1
El Salvador	7	6	7	4	5	5	7
Falkland Islands	-	-	-	*	-	*	-
Guatemala	2	5	2	4	3	4	1
Guyana	-	-	-	*	*	*	*
Haiti	*	-	*	*	*	-	*
Honduras	2	1	3	2	3	1	1
Mexico	63	67	62	67	65	66	68
Nicaragua	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Panama	1	*	1	1	*	*	*
Paraguay	*	*	-	-	*	*	-
Peru	2	2	2	1	2	2	1
Portugal	-	-	-	-	*	*	*
Puerto Rico	-	-	-	*	*	*	-
Spain	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Suriname	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Uruguay	-	-	-	*	*	*	*
Venezuela	1	*	1	*	1	1	*
French Guyana	-	-	-	*	-	-	-
Jamaica	-	-	-	1	1	-	*
Trinidad/Caribbean Islands	-	-	-	*	*	*	*
Italy	-	-	-	*	*	*	*
Africa	-	-	-	-	-	-	NA
Other	1	*	1	2	1	1	1
Don't know	*	1	*	1	*	*	-
Refused	*	*	-	*	*	*	-

Total Latinos

	Total	Age 16-25	Ages 26+	2008 NSL	2007 NSL	2006 ILS
Argentina	*	-	*	*	*	1
Barbados	*	*	-	-	-	-
Belize	*	-	*	*	*	-
Bolivia	*	*	*	*	*	*
Brazil	*	*	*	*	*	*
Chile	*	*	1	*	*	*
Colombia	1	1	2	2	2	2
Costa Rica	*	*	*	*	*	*
Cuba	3	1	4	3	3	2
Dominican Republic	4	4	4	2	2	2
Ecuador	1	*	1	1	1	2
El Salvador	4	2	4	2	3	3
Falkland Islands	-	-	-	*	-	*
Guatemala	1	2	1	2	2	2
Guyana	-	-	-	*	*	*
Haiti	*	-	*	*	*	-
Honduras	1	*	2	1	2	1
Mexico	34	26	38	39	38	36
Nicaragua	1	*	1	*	*	*
Panama	*	*	*	*	*	*
Paraguay	*	*	-	-	*	*
Peru	1	1	1	1	1	1
Portugal	-	-	-	-	*	*
Puerto Rico	-	-	-	*	*	*
Spain	*	*	*	*	*	*
Suriname	-	-	-	-	-	-
Uruguay	-	-	-	*	*	*
Venezuela	*	*	*	*	*	1
French Guyana	-	-	-	*	-	-
Jamaica	-	-	-	*	1	-
Trinidad/Caribbean Islands	-	-	-	*	*	*
Italy	-	-	-	*	*	*
Africa	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other	*	*	1	1	1	*
Don't know	*	*	*	*	*	*
Refused	*	*	-	*	*	*
United States	41	60	34	38	38	43
Puerto Rico	4	2	5	4	4	2

6. How many years have you lived in the (continental) United States?

Total Latinos born outside of the United States or who were born in Puerto Rico;

Total n = 1,010 ; Ages 16-25 = 529; Ages 26+ = 481

	Less than 1 year to 5 years	6-10 years	11-20 years	More than 20 years	Don't know	Refused
Total	15	19	26	39	*	1
Ages 16-25	31	31	30	8	*	*
Foreign born	31	31	30	8	*	*
Native born	-	-	-	-	-	-
2nd gen.	-	-	-	-	-	-
3rd gen.+	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ages 26+	12	17	25	46	*	1
Foreign born	12	17	25	46	*	1
Native born	-	-	-	-	-	-
2008 NSL	19	16	28	36	1	1
2007 NSL	16	19	28	36	1	*

Total Latinos

	Less than 1 year to 5 years	6-10 years	11-20 years	More than 20 years	Born in the U.S.	Don't know	Refused
Total	9	11	15	23	41	*	*
Ages 16-25	12	12	12	3	60	*	*
Foreign born	31	31	30	8	-	*	*
Native born	-	-	-	-	100	-	-
2nd gen.	-	-	-	-	100	-	-
3rd gen.+	-	-	-	-	100	-	-
Ages 26+	8	11	17	30	34	*	*
Foreign born	12	17	25	46	-	*	1
Native born	-	-	-	-	100	-	-
2008 NSL	12	10	17	22	38	*	*
2007 NSL	10	12	17	22	38	*	*

7. Was your mother born on the island of Puerto Rico, in the United States, or in another country?

	Puerto Rico	U.S.	Another country	Don't know	Refused
Total	7	24	68	1	*
Ages 16-25	5	27	68	*	*
Foreign born	3	2	94	*	*
Native born	6	43	50	*	*
2nd gen.	9	15	76	*	-
3rd gen.+	-	100	-	-	-
Ages 26+	8	23	68	1	-
Foreign born	8	3	90	-	-
Native born	9	61	27	3	-
2008 NSL	7	23	70	*	*
2007 NSL	6	22	72	*	*

8. Was your father born on the island of Puerto Rico, in the United States, or in another country?

	Puerto Rico	U.S.	Another country	Don't know	Refused
Total	7	22	70	1	*
Ages 16-25	5	26	68	1	*
Foreign born	3	3	94	1	-
Native born	6	42	52	1	*
2nd gen.	8	13	78	*	-
3rd gen.+	-	100	-	-	-
Ages 26+	8	20	71	1	-
Foreign born	7	3	90	-	-
Native born	10	53	33	3	-
2008 NSL	8	20	72	1	*
2007 NSL	6	20	74	1	*

(Asked of total Latinos born outside of the country; Total n = 1,008; Age 16-25 n = 529; Ages 26+ n = 479)

9. Are you a citizen of the United States?

	Yes	No	Don't know	Refused
Total	40	58	*	2
Ages 16-25	28	71	*	1
Foreign born	28	71	*	1
Native born	100	-	-	-
2nd gen.	100	-	-	-
3rd gen.+	100	-	-	-
Ages 26+	43	55	-	2
Foreign born	43	55	-	2
Native born	100	-	-	-
2008 NSL	34	66	*	*
2007 NSL	36	62	1	1
2006 ILS	36	63	1	1
2004 NSL/KFF	26	72	2	*
2004 HMS	26	70	1	3
2002 NSL/KFF	31	68	1	-

Q5/5a/9 Citizenship Combination Table

	US Born/Citizen	Not a citizen	Don't know/Refused
Total	67	32	1
Ages 16-25	72	27	*
Foreign born	31	68	1
Native born	100	-	-
2nd gen.	100	-	-
3rd gen.+	100	-	-
Ages 26+	65	33	1
Foreign born	48	51	2
Native born	100	-	-

9a. What is your age?

	16-17	18-25	26+	Don't know	Refused
Total	5	20	73	*	1
Ages 16-25	21	76	-	*	3
Foreign born	15	79	-	1	6
Native born	25	74	-	*	2
2nd gen.	26	72	-	*	1
3rd gen.+	21	76	-	-	3
Ages 26+	-	-	100	-	*
Foreign born	-	-	100	-	*
Native born	-	-	100	-	*

	18-29	30-39	40-54	55+	Don't know	Refused
2008 NSL	30	23	26	16	*	4
2007 NSL	30	24	25	16	*	4
2006 ILS	26	26	19	17	-	12
2004 NSL/KFF	33	25	24	16	-	2
2004 HMS	33	25	26	14	-	2
2002 NSL/KFF	32	26	25	17	-	-

EDUCATION

10. Please tell me how satisfied you are with your life overall – would you say you are...?

	-----SATISFIED-----			-----DISSATISFIED-----			Don't know	Refused
	NET	Very	Mostly	Net	Very	Mostly		
Total	91	49	43	7	4	3	1	*
Ages 16-25	95	50	45	4	2	2	1	*
Foreign born	93	46	48	5	3	3	1	-
Native born	96	53	43	4	2	2	*	*
2nd gen.	96	54	42	3	3	1	*	*
3rd gen.+	96	51	45	4	1	3	-	-
Ages 26+	90	48	42	8	5	3	1	*
Foreign born	90	47	42	8	5	3	2	1
Native born	91	50	41	9	6	2	*	-
2007 SDT*	91	45	46	6	2	4	3	-

*SDT Marriage and Family 2007 Q.1 – dk/ref combined

(Asked of Latinos who are age 16-25 and currently enrolled in school; n = 571; native born = 415; foreign born = 156)

15. How much further in school do you plan to go?

	Finish high school	Technical, trade, or vocational school	Attend college, no degree or 2-year/associate degree	Attend college, bachelor's degree	Graduate or professional school or degree	No further	Other	Don't know	Refused
Ages 16-25	7	6	11	39	33	1	1	3	*
Foreign born	5	2	11	41	36	*	1	4	-
Native born	13	17	10	32	23	1	*	3	1
2nd gen.	5	2	12	44	32	*	*	4	-
3rd gen.+	3	3	9	36	44	1	2	3	-
*2006 age 18-25	2	4	10	34	47	1	*	2	-

**GenNext 2006 Age 18-25 Q.23 – dk/ref combined*

(Asked of Latinos who are age 16-25 and are not currently enrolled in school; n = 596; native born = 276; foreign born = 320)

16. Do you ever plan to return to school?

	Yes	No	Don't know	Refused
Age 16-25	62	35	2	*
Native born	71	27	2	-
Foreign born	54	43	3	*
2nd gen.	75	24	1	-
3rd gen.+	63	33	4	-
*2006 age 18-25	68	28	4	-

**Modified from GenNext 2006 Age 18-25 Q.RSCHL – dk/ref combined*

(Asked of Latinos who are age 16-25 and plan to return to school; n = 349; native born = 181; foreign born = 168)

17. How much further in school do you plan to go?

	Finish high school	Technical, trade, or vocational school	Attend college, no degree or 2-year/associate degree	Attend college, Bachelor's degree	Graduate or professional school or degree	Other	Don't know	Refused
Age 16-25	8	10	22	27	20	1	12	*
Native born	5	6	27	27	26	*	9	-
Foreign born	12	15	16	26	13	1	16	1
2nd gen.	3	7	29	24	32	*	5	-
3rd gen.+	9	3	23	36	12	1	17	-
*2006 Age 18-25	10	7	13	39	24	2	5	-

*GenNext 2006 Age 18-25 Q.RSCHL2 – dk/ref combined

15/16/17. Combo Table

Base = Total Latinos who are age 16-25; n = 1167; native born = 691; foreign born = 476

	Finish high school	Technical, trade, or vocational school	Attend college, no degree or 2-year/associate degree	Attend college, bachelor's degree	Graduate or professional school or degree	No further	Other	Don't know	Refused
Age 16-25	6	6	12	27	23	20	*	6	*
Native born	4	3	14	32	29	12	1	5	-
Foreign born	8	11	9	20	12	32	*	7	1
2nd gen.	4	3	16	33	29	10	*	4	-
3rd gen.+	4	2	11	31	29	15	1	6	-

18/19. Summary Table

Base = total Latinos who are age 16-25 who are currently enrolled in HS or who have completed at least the 9th grade and are not currently in HS; n = 1,085; Native born = 683; Foreign born = 402)

18/19. About what portion of people in your high school are/were (HISPANICS/LATINOS) like yourself?

	All of them/most of them	About half of them	Some/few of them	Did not attend high school	Don't know	Refused
Age 16-25	46	20	30	1	2	1
Foreign born	60	16	20	2	1	1
Native born	39	22	35	*	3	1
2nd gen.	43	21	31	*	3	1
3rd gen.+	29	24	45	1	1	-

[NEW MODIFIED FROM NSL 2003 EDUCATION Q67]

22. Some studies show that (HISPANIC/LATINO) students are not doing as well in school as other students. Please tell me if you think each of the following is a major reason, a minor reason, or not a reason that (HISPANIC/LATINO) students are not doing as well as other students. How about (INSERT ITEM)?

a. (HISPANIC/LATINO) students do not work as hard as others

	Reason (NET)	Major	Minor	Not a reason	Don't know	Refused
Total	58	38	19	36	6	1
Age 16-25	55	31	23	42	3	1
Foreign born	70	51	19	23	6	1
Native born	44	18	26	54	1	*
2nd gen.	52	22	30	45	2	1
3rd gen.+	29	11	18	71	*	*
Age 26+	59	41	18	34	7	1
Foreign born	69	54	15	22	8	1
Native born	39	15	24	56	5	-

- b. Parents of (HISPANIC/LATINO) students don't play an active role in helping their children succeed in school

	Reason (NET)	Major	Minor	Not a reason	Don't know	Refused
Total	77	57	20	18	4	1
Age 16-25	73	47	26	24	3	*
Foreign born	79	62	17	17	4	*
Native born	69	36	32	29	2	*
2nd gen.	74	42	33	22	3	*
3rd gen.+	58	26	32	41	1	*
Age 26+	79	61	17	16	4	1
Foreign born	83	71	12	12	4	1
Native born	71	42	29	25	4	1

- c. (HISPANIC/LATINO) students know less English than other students

	Reason (NET)	Major	Minor	Not a reason	Don't know	Refused
Total	76	54	23	19	4	1
Age 16-25	74	43	31	22	4	*
Foreign born	83	64	19	14	4	*
Native born	68	29	40	27	4	*
2nd gen.	73	33	40	24	3	-
3rd gen.+	58	19	39	35	7	*
Age 26+	77	58	20	18	4	1
Foreign born	77	65	13	17	4	1
Native born	76	44	32	20	3	-

- d. Too many teachers don't know how to work with (HISPANIC/LATINO) students because they come from different culture

	Reason (NET)	Major	Minor	Not a reason	Don't know	Refused
Total	70	46	24	24	6	1
Age 16-25	66	44	23	30	3	*
Foreign born	74	60	14	21	5	*
Native born	61	33	28	36	2	*
2nd gen.	64	39	25	33	3	-
3rd gen.+	57	20	36	43	*	*
Age 26+	71	47	24	21	6	1
Foreign born	73	55	18	17	8	2
Native born	67	31	37	29	4	-

[NEW, NCES ELS 2002 Student Questionnaire First Follow Up Q.46 a-e, 1]

(Asked of Latinos who are age 16-25 and completed high school or less and are not currently in school and do not plan to return to school; n = 166; native born = 50; foreign born = 116)

24. Which of the following are reasons why you have not continued your education? Would you say you have not continued your education because (INSERT)?

a. You don't like school

	Yes	No	Don't know	Refused
Age 16-25	42	57	1	*
Foreign born	39	59	1	*
Native born	47	53	-	*
2nd gen.	36	64	-	-
3rd gen.+	59	40	-	1

b. Your grades or your college admissions scores are not high enough

	Yes	No	Don't know	Refused
Age 16-25	21	67	10	2
Foreign born	22	62	14	2
Native born	20	80	-	*
2nd gen.	14	86	-	-
3rd gen.+	25	74	-	1

c. You won't need more education for the career you want

	Yes	No	Don't know	Refused
Age 16-25	39	55	6	*
Foreign born	41	50	9	-
Native born	33	66	-	*
2nd gen.	34	66	-	-
3rd gen.+	33	66	-	1

d. You can't afford to go on in school

	Yes	No	Don't know	Refused
Age 16-25	40	59	1	*
Foreign born	44	55	1	-
Native born	31	69	-	*
2nd gen.	35	65	-	-
3rd gen.+	26	73	-	1

e. You need to help support your family

	Yes	No	Don't know	Refused
Age 16-25	74	21	1	5
Foreign born	76	16	1	6
Native born	68	31	-	*
2nd gen.	64	36	-	-
3rd gen.+	73	26	-	1

f. Your English skills are limited

	Yes	No	Don't know	Refused
Age 16-25	49	49	2	*
Foreign born	65	32	3	-
Native born	14	85	-	*
2nd gen.	8	92	-	-
3rd gen.+	21	78	-	1

(Asked of Latinos who are age 16-25 who are currently enrolled in high school; n = 248 ; native born = 184 ; foreign born = 64)

26. What do your parents think is the most important thing for you to do right after high school?
Would you say...?

	Go to college	Get a full-time job	Enter a trade school or apprenticeship program	Do what you want	Start a family	Other	Don't know	Refused
Age 16-25	83	11	1	4	*	-	1	-
Foreign born	72	20	2	1	*	-	4	-
Native born	87	7	1	5	-	-	*	-
2nd gen.	85	8	1	6	-	-	-	-
3rd gen.+	90	5	2	2	-	-	1	-

[NEW modified from ELS2002 Q.43]

(Asked of Latinos who are age 16-25 who are not currently enrolled in high school and less than grade 9 isn't the last grade that was completed in school; n = 837 ; native born = 499; foreign born = 338)

27. When you were in high school, what did your parents think was the most important thing for you to do right after high school? Would you say...?

	Go to college	Get a full-time job	Enter a trade school or apprenticeship program	Do what you want	Start a family	Other	Did not attend high school	Don't know	Refused
Age 16-25	75	11	3	8	1	1	1	*	*
Foreign born	73	13	2	8	2	1	1	1	*
Native born	77	10	4	8	*	1	*	-	*
2nd gen.	80	11	2	6	*	*	*	-	-
3rd gen.+	70	7	9	11	*	1	1	-	*

26/27.Summary Table

Base = total Latinos age 16-25 who are currently enrolled in HS or who are not currently enrolled in HS and less than 9th grade isn't the last grade that was completed in school; n = 1085; native born = 683; foreign born = 402

	Most important to go to college	Most important to get a full-time job	Most important to enter a trade school or apprenticeship program	Most important to do what you want	Most important to start a family	Most important to do something else	Did not attend high school	Don't know	Refused
Age 16-25	77	11	3	7	1	*	*	1	*
Foreign born	73	14	2	6	2	1	1	1	*
Native born	79	9	3	7	*	*	*	*	*
2nd gen.	81	10	1	6	*	*	*	-	-
3rd gen.+	75	7	7	9	*	1	1	*	*

23. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: In order to get ahead in life these days, it's necessary to get a college education.

	Agree	Disagree	Don't know	Refused
Total	88	11	1	*
Age 16-25	89	10	1	*
Foreign born	94	3	2	*
Native born	85	14	1	*
2nd gen.	86	14	*	-
3rd gen.+	84	15	1	*
Age 26+	88	11	1	*
Foreign born	91	6	2	*
Native born	80	19	*	1
SDT 2009	74	24	2	-

SDT 2009 GENERATION GAP Q.37 – dk/ref combined

IDENTITY AND ASSIMILATION

28. People choose different terms to describe themselves. I'm going to read you a few different descriptions. Please tell me whether you have ever described yourself as any of the following...?

a. (INSERT 'COUNTRY OF ORIGIN')

	Yes	No	A different term for origin	Don't know	Refused
Total	92	7	*	*	*
Ages 16-25	94	6	-	*	1
Foreign born	97	1	-	*	2
Native born	91	9	-	*	*
2nd gen.	92	8	-	*	-
3rd gen.+	90	10	-	-	*
Ages 26+	92	7	*	1	-
Foreign born	96	3	-	1	-
Native born	83	16	1	*	-
2006 NSL	91	8	NA	1	NA
2002 NSL/KFF	88	12	NA	1	NA

b. A (LATINO/HISPANIC)

	Yes	No	Don't know	Refused
Total	84	15	1	1
Ages 16-25	87	13	*	*
Foreign born	88	11	1	*
Native born	86	14	*	*
2nd gen.	88	12	*	-
3rd gen.+	82	17	*	*
Ages 26+	82	16	1	1
Foreign born	87	11	1	1
Native born	73	26	*	1
2006 NSL	85	15	1	-
2002 NSL/KFF	81	19	*	NA

c. An American

	Yes	No	Don't know	Refused
Total	61	38	1	*
Ages 16-25	67	32	*	1
Foreign born	29	68	1	2
Native born	92	8	*	*
2nd gen.	89	10	*	-
3rd gen.+	96	4	-	*
Ages 26+	59	39	1	*
Foreign born	42	55	2	1
Native born	91	9	*	-
2006 NSL	50	49	1	*
2002 NSL/KFF	53	46	1	NA

29. You have said that you describe yourself as an [American, a Latino/Hispanic, and as a (INSERT COUNTRY OF ORIGIN)]. In general, which of the terms that you use to describe yourself is the term you use first?

	Respondent /parent country of origin	Latino/ Hispanic	American	Depends	Don't know	Refused	No term used to describe themselves
Total	52	22	21	3	1	*	1
Ages 16-25	52	20	24	2	1	*	1
Foreign born	72	22	3	1	*	-	2
Native born	38	19	39	2	2	-	-
2nd gen.	41	21	33	2	2	*	*
3rd gen.+	32	15	50	2	*	*	1
Ages 26+	52	22	20	3	1	*	*
Foreign born	62	24	9	4	1	*	-
Native born	34	20	41	3	2	*	-
2006 NSL	48	26	24	NA	1	1	NA
2002 NSL/KFF	54	24	21	NA	1	NA	NA

30. Please listen to the following statements and tell me which comes closer to your view.

	Hispanics/Latinos in the U.S. share a common culture	Hispanics/Latinos in the U.S. have many different cultures	Don't know	Refused
Total	34	63	3	1
Ages 16-25	33	64	3	*
Foreign born	30	66	4	1
Native born	34	64	2	*
2nd gen.	34	64	2	-
3rd gen.+	36	62	2	*
Ages 26+	34	62	3	1
Foreign born	37	58	4	1
Native born	28	70	2	1

LANGUAGE

33. Would you say you can carry on a conversation in Spanish, both understanding and speaking, - very well, pretty well, just a little, or not at all?

	-----WELL-----			Just a little	Not at all	Don't know	Refused
	NET	Very	Pretty				
Total	79	52	26	16	5	*	*
Ages 16-25	75	48	27	19	6	-	*
Foreign born	89	67	22	10	1	-	*
Native born	65	35	30	25	9	-	*
2nd gen.	79	45	34	17	4	-	*
3rd gen.+	38	16	21	42	20	-	*
Ages 26+	80	54	26	14	5	*	1
Foreign born	90	62	28	8	1	1	1
Native born	61	37	24	26	13	*	-
2002 NSL/KFF	86	74	12	10	4	*	-
1999 WP/Kaiser/HLS	87	76	11	8	5	*	-

34. Would you say you can read a newspaper or book in Spanish -- very well, pretty well, just a little, or not at all?

	-----WELL-----			Just a little	Not at all	Don't know	Refused
	NET	Very	Pretty				
Total	74	50	24	15	10	-	1
Ages 16-25	68	44	25	20	12	-	*
Foreign born	90	65	25	9	1	-	*
Native born	54	30	25	27	19	-	*
2nd gen.	68	38	31	19	12	-	-
3rd gen.+	26	14	12	43	31	-	*
Ages 26+	76	52	24	14	9	-	1
Foreign born	89	64	24	8	2	-	2
Native born	52	27	24	25	24	-	-
2002 NSL/KFF	74	49	25	16	10	*	-
1999 WP/Kaiser/HLS	71	48	23	19	10	*	-

35. Would you say you can carry on a conversation in English, both understanding and speaking -- very well, pretty well, just a little, or not at all?

	-----WELL-----			Just a little	Not at all	Don't know	Refused
	NET	Very	Pretty				
Total	63	51	12	25	11	*	*
Ages 16-25	78	64	14	17	5	*	*
Foreign born	48	31	17	40	12	1	*
Native born	98	86	12	2	*	-	*
2nd gen.	98	87	11	2	*	-	-
3rd gen.+	97	84	14	2	*	-	*
Ages 26+	58	46	12	28	14	*	*
Foreign born	39	26	13	41	20	*	*
Native born	93	83	10	5	2	-	-
2002 NSI/KFF	60	51	9	29	11	*	-
1999 WP/Kaiser/HLS	62	51	11	28	10	*	-

36. Would you say you can read a newspaper or book in English -- very well, pretty well, just a little, or not at all?

	-----WELL-----			Just a little	Not at all	Don't know	Refused
	NET	Very	Pretty				
Total	63	52	11	24	13	*	*
Ages 16-25	76	64	12	17	7	-	*
Foreign born	44	29	15	39	17	-	*
Native born	97	87	10	3	*	-	*
2nd gen.	96	85	11	4	*	-	-
3rd gen.+	98	89	10	1	-	-	*
Ages 26+	58	48	10	26	15	*	*
Foreign born	39	26	13	37	23	*	1
Native born	94	89	5	5	1	-	-
2002 NSI/KFF	59	44	14	27	15	-	-
1999 WP/Kaiser/HLS	59	46	12	29	12	*	-

Combo 33/34/35/36 – Language dominance

	English dominant	Bilingual	Spanish dominant
Total	26	39	35
Ages 16-25	36	41	23
Foreign born	7	40	53
Native born	56	41	3
2nd gen.	44	54	2
3rd gen.+	80	15	5
Ages 26+	23	38	40
Foreign born	5	37	58
Native born	57	40	3
2008 NSL	28	38	34
2007 NSL	24	36	40
2007 Health	24	35	41
2006 ILS	25	29	46
2004 NSL	25	29	46
2003 NSL	27	33	40
2002 NSL/KFF	25	28	47

37a. When you listen to music is it...

	----SPANISH MOSTLY----			----ENGLISH MOSTLY----			Both Equally/ About the same (vol.)	Don't know	Refused
	Spanis h NET	Only in Spanish	More in Spanish than in English	English NET	More in English than Spanish	Only English			
Total	37	14	23	38	26	12	25	1	*
Ages 16-25	31	8	23	39	27	13	29	1	*
Foreign born	56	17	39	17	13	4	26	*	*
Native born	15	2	13	54	36	18	30	1	*
2nd gen.	21	3	18	47	33	14	31	1	*
3rd gen.+	3	*	3	69	43	26	27	1	*
Ages 26+	39	16	22	37	25	12	23	1	*
Foreign born	53	24	30	22	18	4	24	*	*
Native born	11	2	8	65	40	26	22	2	-

37b. When you watch television is it...?

	----SPANISH MOSTLY----			----ENGLISH MOSTLY----			Both Equally/ About the same (vol.)	Don't know	Refused
	Spanish NET	Only in Spanish	More in Spanish than in English	English NET	More in English than Spanish	Only English			
Total	28	11	17	51	31	21	20	*	*
Ages 16-25	23	6	17	57	32	24	20	*	*
Foreign born	48	16	32	26	20	6	26	*	*
Native born	7	*	7	77	41	37	16	*	*
2nd gen.	9	-	9	70	41	29	20	*	*
3rd gen.+	2	-	2	91	39	51	7	*	*
Ages 26+	30	12	18	50	30	19	20	*	*
Foreign born	44	18	25	32	25	7	23	1	1
Native born	4	1	3	83	40	43	13	-	-

38. Some people use both Spanish and English words interchangeably in their conversations. This is often referred to as Spanglish. How often, if at all, do you use Spanglish in your conversations with friends and family? Do you use it most of the time, only some of the time, or not at all?

	Most of the time	Only some of the time	Not at all	Don't know	Refused
Total	19	44	36	1	*
Ages 16-25	23	47	29	*	*
Foreign born	22	47	30	*	*
Native born	24	48	29	-	*
2nd gen.	26	53	22	-	-
3rd gen.+	20	37	43	-	*
Ages 26+	18	42	39	1	*
Foreign born	16	41	42	1	1
Native born	22	44	33	1	-

ECONOMICS/FINANCES

39. I'm going to read you a list of things that some people value in their lives but other people say are not important. Please tell me how important each is to you personally -- very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important. How about (INSERT)?

- a. Being successful in a career

	-----IMPORTANT-----			-----NOT IMPORTANT-----			Don't know	Refused
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not too	Not at all		
Total	96	85	11	4	3	2	*	*
Ages 16-25	98	89	9	2	2	*	*	*
Foreign born	96	89	8	3	3	1	*	*
Native born	99	89	10	1	1	*	-	*
2nd gen.	99	89	10	1	1	1	-	-
3rd gen.+	98	89	9	2	2	-	-	*
Ages 26+	95	83	12	5	3	2	*	*
Foreign born	96	88	9	4	2	2	*	-
Native born	92	75	17	7	5	2	-	*
SDT 2008*	94	61	33	5	4	1	1	-

**SDT Middle Class Survey 2008 Q.11 a-f-- dk/ref combined*

- c. Being married

	-----IMPORTANT-----			-----NOT IMPORTANT-----			Don't know	Refused
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not too	Not at all		
Total	79	56	24	19	11	8	1	*
Ages 16-25	79	48	32	20	13	7	1	*
Foreign born	81	53	28	17	11	6	2	*
Native born	78	44	34	22	14	7	*	*
2nd gen.	81	46	35	19	12	7	-	-
3 rd gen.+	74	41	33	25	17	9	*	*
Ages 26+	80	58	21	19	11	8	2	*
Foreign born	80	60	20	18	8	9	2	*
Native born	79	55	23	20	15	6	1	-
SDT 2008*	80	53	27	19	12	7	1	-

**SDT Middle Class Survey 2008 Q.11 a-f-- dk/ref combined*

d. Living a religious life

	-----IMPORTANT-----			-----NOT IMPORTANT-----			Don't know	Refused
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not too	Not at all		
Total	80	56	24	19	10	8	1	1
Ages 16-25	78	51	27	21	12	9	1	*
Foreign born	86	60	26	14	10	4	*	*
Native born	74	45	28	26	14	12	1	*
2nd gen.	73	48	25	26	14	12	*	-
3rd gen.+	75	40	35	24	13	11	1	*
Ages 26+	81	58	23	18	10	8	1	1
Foreign born	84	63	21	14	7	7	1	1
Native born	75	46	28	25	15	10	-	*
SDT 2008*	80	52	28	18	11	7	2	-

*SDT Middle Class Survey 2008 Q.11 a-f - dk/ref combined

e. Having children

	-----IMPORTANT-----			-----NOT IMPORTANT-----			Don't know	Refused
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not too	Not at all		
Total	89	70	19	10	6	3	1	*
Ages 16-25	86	55	30	13	8	5	1	*
Foreign born	87	59	28	11	7	4	2	*
Native born	85	53	32	14	9	6	*	*
2nd gen.	88	50	37	12	8	4	*	-
3 rd gen.+	81	59	22	19	10	9	*	*
Ages 26+	90	75	16	9	6	3	1	*
Foreign born	91	76	15	7	5	2	1	*
Native born	89	73	16	11	6	5	*	*
SDT 2008*	84	61	23	15	9	6	1	-

*SDT Middle Class Survey 2008 Q.11 a-f - dk/ref combined

f. Being wealthy

	-----IMPORTANT-----			-----NOT IMPORTANT-----			Don't know	Refused
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not too	Not at all		
Total	55	23	32	43	28	16	1	1
Ages 16-25	60	24	35	39	29	11	-	*
Foreign born	49	21	28	49	34	15	2	*
Native born	67	27	40	33	25	8	-	*
2nd gen.	66	28	39	34	26	8	-	-
3 rd gen.+	69	24	44	31	24	8	-	*
Ages 26+	53	22	31	45	27	17	1	1
Foreign born	48	23	25	49	31	17	2	1
Native born	62	20	43	37	20	17	*	*
SDT 2008*	56	13	43	43	33	10	1	-

*SDT Middle Class Survey 2008 Q.11 a-f – dk/ref combined

41. Are you now employed full-time, part-time or not employed?

	EMPLOYED			Not employed	Don't know	Refused
	NET	Full-time	Part-time			
Total	61	45	16	39	*	*
Ages 16-25	57	30	27	43	*	*
Foreign born	62	37	25	38	*	*
Native born	53	25	28	47	-	*
2nd gen.	53	25	28	47	-	-
3rd gen.+	53	25	28	47	-	*
Ages 26+	62	50	12	37	*	*
Foreign born	62	48	14	37	1	*
Native born	63	54	9	37	-	-
2008 NSL	65	52	13	31	*	3
2007 NSL	63	50	13	34	*	3

42. Do you have any children of your own?

	Yes	No	Don't know	Refused
Total	72	27	*	*
Ages 16-25	36	64	-	*
Foreign born	53	47	-	*
Native born	24	76	-	*
2nd gen.	24	76	-	-
3rd gen.+	26	74	-	*
Ages 26+	86	14	*	-
Foreign born	87	12	1	-
Native born	83	17	-	-

(Asked of total Latinos who have children; n =1,142; Ages 16-25 = 470; Ages 26+ = 672)

43. At what age did you have your first child?

	<18	18-20	21-25	26-30	31+	Don't know	Refused
Total	14	28	33	15	7	2	1
Ages 16-25	24	44	30	1	-	1	1
Foreign born	22	42	32	-	-	1	4
Native born	25	46	26	-	-	2	1
2nd gen.	28	51	18	-	-	2	1
3rd gen.+	18	36	43	-	-	2	2
Ages 26+	13	25	33	18	8	2	1
Foreign born	13	25	34	17	8	2	1
Native born	12	26	33	20	8	1	-

[Adapted from Money and the American Family Survey 2000]

(Asked of total Latinos Ages 16-25; n = 1,167; Native born = 711; Foreign born = 529)

44. Do you think in your lifetime, you will be better off, about the same, or less well-off financially than your parents?

	Better off	About the same	Less well-off	Don't know	Refused
Ages 16-25	72	22	4	2	*
Foreign born	66	24	8	1	*
Native born	75	21	2	2	*
2nd gen.	74	22	1	3	-
3rd gen.+	78	18	3	1	*

(Asked of total Latinos Ages 26+; n = 762; Native born = 286; Foreign born = 474)

45. Do you think in their lifetime, your children will be better off, about the same, or less well-off financially than you?

	Better off	About the same	Less well-off	Don't have children/don't plan to have children	Don't know	Refused
Ages 26+	75	12	6	4	3	1
Foreign born	76	15	5	2	2	*
Native born	74	8	7	6	4	1
01/2000*	67	18	7	NA	8	-

*Money and the American Family Survey 2000 – dk/ref combined

SOCIAL VALUES

[Modified SDT 2007, Q 43]

53. As you know, more unmarried women are having children today. Do you think this is generally a good thing for our society, a bad thing for our society, or doesn't make much difference?

	Good thing for society	Bad thing for society	Doesn't make much difference	Don't know	Refused
Total	5	56	35	3	1
Ages 16-25	6	53	38	2	*
Foreign born	6	58	32	3	1
Native born	6	51	42	2	*
2nd gen.	5	51	42	2	*
3rd gen.+	7	48	44	1	*
Ages 26+	5	57	34	3	1
Foreign born	4	57	34	3	1
Native born	5	58	34	2	*

54. Do you strongly favor, favor, oppose, or strongly oppose allowing gays and lesbians to marry legally?

	FAVOR			OPPOSE			Don't know	Refused
	NET	Strongly Favor	Favor	NET	Oppose	Strongly Oppose		
Total	34	9	26	44	26	19	14	7
Ages 16-25	45	14	31	40	23	17	12	3
Foreign born	39	10	29	42	24	18	16	4
Native born	49	17	32	39	23	16	10	2
2nd gen.	48	16	32	41	26	15	9	3
3 rd gen.+	52	19	33	35	16	19	13	*
Ages 26+	31	7	24	46	26	19	15	9
Foreign born	25	3	23	48	29	19	15	11
Native born	40	15	25	42	22	20	13	4
PP-Pew Forum 2009 (ages 18+)	39	14	25	53	31	22	8	-
SDT 2007 (ages 18+)	32	12	20	57	38	19	11	-

PP-Pew Forum 2009, Q146a – dk/ref combined

SDT 2007, Q 45 – dk/ref combined

55. Do you think abortion should be...?

	LEGAL			ILLEGAL			Don't know	Refused
	NET	Legal in all cases	Legal in most cases	NET	Illegal in most cases	Illegal in all cases		
Total	37	10	27	56	24	32	5	2
Ages 16-25	39	11	28	57	27	30	4	1
Foreign born	29	8	22	65	28	36	5	*
Native born	45	14	32	51	26	25	3	1
2nd gen.	38	12	26	58	30	28	3	1
3 rd gen.+	58	17	41	38	19	20	3	1
Ages 26+	37	10	27	56	22	33	5	2
Foreign born	30	6	25	62	22	40	5	3
Native born	49	19	31	43	23	20	7	1
PP-Pew Forum 2009 (ages 18+)	47	16	31	45	27	17	8	-
10/06 Religion NSL	38	12	26	57	25	32	6	-
2004 NSL/KFF	42	14	28	52	22	30	5	1
2002 NSL/KFF	34	9	25	64	31	32	2	-
1999 WP/Kaiser/HLS	40	12	27	58	24	33	3	-

PP-Pew Forum 2009, Q240 – dk/ref combined

56. For each of the following statements, please tell me whether you agree strongly, agree somewhat, disagree somewhat or disagree strongly. How about (INSERT)?

a. In general the husband should have the final say in family matters

	-----AGREE-----			-----DISAGREE-----			Don't know	Refused
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly		
Total	43	18	24	56	24	32	1	1
Ages 16-25	37	15	23	61	26	35	1	*
Foreign born	36	16	20	61	31	30	2	-
Native born	38	14	25	61	23	38	*	*
2nd gen.	39	16	23	61	23	38	*	*
3rd gen.+	38	10	29	61	23	38	*	*
Ages 26+	45	20	25	54	23	31	1	1
Foreign born	50	24	26	48	22	26	1	1
Native born	34	11	23	65	24	41	*	*
2002 NSI/KFF	36	19	18	63	26	36	1	-
1999 WP/Kaiser/HLS*	38	24	14	61	21	40	1	-

*WP/Kaiser/Harvard Latino Survey 1999 included "Some equality in marriage is a good thing, but..."

b. It is better for children to live in their parents' home until they get married

	-----AGREE-----			-----DISAGREE-----			Don't know	Refused
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly		
Total	69	47	22	29	17	12	1	1
Ages 16-25	61	35	26	38	20	18	1	*
Foreign born	81	56	25	17	10	7	2	-
Native born	48	22	26	51	27	25	*	*
2nd gen.	50	22	29	49	26	23	*	*
3rd gen.+	45	23	22	54	28	27	1	*
Ages 26+	72	51	21	26	16	10	1	1
Foreign born	82	62	19	16	11	5	*	1
Native born	54	30	24	45	24	21	2	-
2002 NSI/KFF	78	61	18	21	12	9	1	-
1999 WP/Kaiser/HLS	74	60	15	25	14	11	1	-

c. Relatives are more important than friends

	-----AGREE-----			-----DISAGREE-----			Don't know	Refused
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly		
Total	84	59	25	14	8	6	2	1
Ages 16-25	85	55	30	13	7	6	2	*
Foreign born	85	59	26	11	5	6	4	*
Native born	85	53	32	14	8	6	*	*
2nd gen.	85	55	30	15	7	8	*	*
3rd gen.+	87	50	37	13	10	3	*	*
Ages 26+	83	60	23	14	8	6	2	1
Foreign born	83	61	22	15	7	7	1	1
Native born	82	58	24	15	10	5	3	*
2002 NSL/KFF	89	75	14	10	7	3	1	-
1999 WP/Kaiser/HLS	82	66	16	17	11	6	1	-

57. I'm going to read you a pair of statements. Tell me whether the FIRST statement or the SECOND statement comes closer to your own views — even if neither is exactly right.

	Most people who want to get ahead can make it if they're willing to work hard	Hard work and determination are no guarantee for success for most people	Neither/both equally	Don't know	Refused
Total	84	13	2	*	*
Ages 16-25	80	16	2	1	*
Foreign born	82	12	3	2	1
Native born	79	19	2	*	*
2nd gen.	75	22	2	*	*
3rd gen.+	86	13	1	*	*
Ages 26+	86	12	2	*	*
Foreign born	85	12	2	*	*
Native born	87	11	1	*	-
2006*	64	33	3	-	-

*Modified People & the Press/Pew Hispanic Center Immigration 2006 Q.8b – neither/dk/ref combined

IMMIGRANT EXPERIENCE

61. Just your best guess, what is the most important reason why your (parents/family first) came to the U.S.?

	To support family back in their home country	To create a better life for themselves	To create a better life for you	To join other family already in the U.S.	Some other reason	Don't know	Refused
Total	8	40	42	3	6	6	1
Ages 16-25	10	36	47	3	6	4	*
Foreign born	10	17	63	2	8	3	*
Native born	9	43	40	3	6	5	*
2nd gen.	10	40	47	2	6	3	*
3rd gen.+	8	49	27	4	5	9	*
Ages 26+	7	42	39	3	6	7	2
Foreign born	10	32	56	*	9	2	2
Native born	6	46	34	4	5	9	2

(Asked of total Latinos born in Puerto Rico or another country and who arrived in the U.S. at age 16 or higher; n = 504; Ages 16-25 = 125; Ages 26+ = 379)

63. Why did you come to the U.S.?

	To support family back in your home country	To create a better life for yourself	To create a better life for your children	To join other family already in the U.S.	Some other reason	Don't know	Refused
Total	10	29	50	6	9	*	*
Ages 16-25	25	39	29	8	4	-	1
Foreign born	25	39	29	8	4	-	1
Native born	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2nd gen.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3rd gen.+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ages 26+	9	29	52	6	10	*	*
Foreign born	9	28	53	5	10	*	*
Native born	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

DISCRIMINATION

65. During the last 5 years, have you, a family member, or close friend experienced discrimination because of your racial or ethnic background, or not?

	Yes	No	Don't know	Refused
Total	32	67	*	*
Ages 16-25	38	62	*	*
Foreign born	32	68	*	*
Native born	41	58	1	*
2nd gen.	40	59	*	*
3rd gen.+	42	57	1	*
Ages 26+	31	69	*	*
Foreign born	25	75	*	*
Native born	41	58	*	1
2007 NSL	41	58	1	*
2002 NSL/KFF	31	68	1	NA
1999 WP/Kaiser/HLS	40	59	1	NA

[Modified SDT RACE 2007 Q.7b]

- 64c. How well do you think (HISPANICS/LATINOS) from different countries of origin get along with each other these days – would you say very well, pretty well, not too well, or not at all well?

	-----WELL-----			-----NOT WELL-----			Don't know	Refused
	NET	Very	Pretty	NET	Not too	Not at all		
Total	63	22	41	34	30	4	3	*
Ages 16-25	64	19	45	35	30	4	1	*
Foreign born	52	24	28	46	38	8	1	1
Native born	72	15	56	27	25	2	1	*
2nd gen.	70	17	54	29	26	3	*	*
3rd gen.+	75	12	62	24	24	1	1	*
Ages 26+	62	22	40	34	30	4	3	*
Foreign born	59	27	32	39	33	6	2	*
Native born	69	14	55	25	23	2	6	-

CRIME AND VIOLENCE

(Asked of total Latinos Ages 16-25; n = 1,167; Native born = 691; Foreign born = 476)

66. Please tell me if the following things have happened over the last year. How about (INSERT)?

a. You carried a weapon such as a gun or knife

	Yes	No	Never	Don't know	Refused
Ages 16-25	6	94	*	-	*
Foreign born	3	96	*	-	-
Native born	7	92	*	*	*
2nd gen.	8	92	*	-	*
3rd gen.+	6	93	-	-	1

b. You were threatened with a weapon

	Yes	No	Never	Don't know	Refused
Ages 16-25	8	92	*	*	*
Foreign born	5	95	*	-	-
Native born	10	90	-	*	*
2nd gen.	10	90	-	*	*
3rd gen.+	9	91	-	-	*

c. You were in a physical fight

	Yes	No	Never	Don't know	Refused
Ages 16-25	13	87	*	-	*
Foreign born	7	93	-	-	-
Native born	17	83	*	-	*
2nd gen.	16	84	*	-	*
3rd gen.+	18	81	-	-	*

d. You were questioned by the police for any reason

	Yes	No	Never	Don't know	Refused
Ages 16-25	22	78	*	*	*
Foreign born	15	84	*	*	-
Native born	26	74	*	-	*
2nd gen.	26	73	*	-	*
3rd gen.+	25	74	-	-	*

(Asked of total Latinos Ages 16-25 who are currently enrolled in high school; n = 248; Native born = 184; Foreign born = 64)

67. Are there gangs in your high school?

	Yes	No	Don't know	Refused
Ages 16-25	53	44	3	-
Foreign born	43	56	1	-
Native born	57	39	5	-
2nd gen.	54	39	6	-
3rd gen.+	60	39	1	-

(Asked of total Latinos Ages 16-25 who are not currently in high school and have completed at least some high school (grade 9 or more); n = 837; Native born =499; Foreign born = 338)

68. Were there gangs in your high school?

	Yes	No	Did not attend high school	Don't know	Refused
Ages 16-25	51	45	*	3	*
Foreign born	35	60	*	4	*
Native born	59	37	*	3	*
2nd gen.	62	33	*	4	*
3rd gen.+	52	47	1	1	*

67/68. Combo Table

Base = Total Latinos age 16-25; n=1,085; Native born=683; Foreign born=402

	Yes	No	Did not attend high school	Don't Know	Refused
Ages 16-25	51	45	*	3	*
Foreign born	37	59	*	3	*
Native born	59	38	*	3	*
2nd gen.	60	34	*	5	*
3rd gen.+	54	45	1	1	*

69. Do you have any family members or friends who are or have been in a gang?

	Yes	No	Don't know	Refused
Total	20	79	1	*
Ages 16-25	31	68	1	*
Foreign born	17	82	1	-
Native born	40	59	1	*
2nd gen.	41	58	1	*
3rd gen.+	37	62	*	1
Ages 26+	16	83	1	*
Foreign born	6	94	*	*
Native born	35	63	2	*

71. How about you? Are you currently or have you been in a gang?

	Yes	No	Don't know	Refused
Total	2	97	*	*
Ages 16-25	3	97	-	*
Foreign born	2	98	-	-
Native born	4	96	-	*
2nd gen.	5	95	-	*
3rd gen.+	3	97	-	*
Ages 26+	2	98	*	*
Foreign born	1	99	*	*
Native born	4	96	*	*

72. Thinking about where you live, overall would you say [INSERT 1ST ITEM] or [INSERT 2ND ITEM] or [INSERT 3RD ITEM]?

	Gangs make life better for (Latinos/ Hispanics) in your community	Gangs make life worse for (Latinos/ Hispanics) in your community	Gangs have little impact on (Latinos/ Hispanics) in your community	There aren't gangs where I live	Don't know	Refused
Total	3	73	18	4	2	1
Ages 16-25	2	70	25	1	1	1
Foreign born	3	79	13	1	1	2
Native born	2	63	33	1	*	*
2nd gen.	2	69	27	1	1	*
3rd gen.+	2	53	43	2	*	*
Ages 26+	4	74	15	5	2	*
Foreign born	4	77	12	5	2	*
Native born	3	68	21	5	2	*

TEEN PREGNANCY AND SEXUAL ACTIVITY

[Time/CNN/Harris Interactive 2002]

85a. What do you think is the ideal age for a woman to become a mother?

	<18	18-20	21-24	25	26-30	31+	Don't know	Refused
Total	*	20	27	27	15	2	5	3
Ages 16-25	0	21	32	25	15	1	4	2
Foreign born	*	24	33	28	9	1	3	2
Native born	*	18	32	22	20	1	5	2
2nd gen.	*	19	35	18	19	*	6	3
3rd gen.+	1	17	26	30	22	1	3	*
Ages 26+	*	20	25	28	15	2	5	4
Foreign born	*	26	22	29	12	2	5	3
Native born	1	9	32	25	19	3	6	4

[NEW – Modified Time/CNN/Harris Interactive 2002]

85b. What do you think is the ideal age for a man to become a father?

	<18	18-20	21-24	25	26-30	31+	Don't know	Refused
Total	*	11	20	26	29	6	4	3
Ages 16-25	0	14	25	26	27	3	4	1
Foreign born	-	17	24	30	23	1	3	2
Native born	1	12	25	23	28	4	5	1
2nd gen.	1	13	27	20	28	4	6	2
3rd gen.+	*	11	21	30	30	4	3	*
Ages 26+	*	10	18	26	30	8	4	3
Foreign born	*	10	17	29	30	7	3	4
Native born	-	9	21	21	31	10	6	2

[Modified BYP Q.H23 Q.H25]

86. Please tell me whether you strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree with the following statements. How about (INSERT)?

a. It is okay for teenagers to have sex if they are in a serious relationship

	-----AGREE-----			-----DISAGREE-----			Don't know	Refused
	NET	Strongly Agree	Agree	NET	Disagree	Strongly Disagree		
Total	31	12	19	65	19	46	2	2
Ages 16-25	46	14	31	52	22	30	2	1
Foreign born	38	14	24	58	25	34	3	1
Native born	51	15	36	47	20	27	1	*
2nd gen.	50	16	35	48	24	24	1	*
3 rd gen.+	53	12	40	47	13	33	*	*
Ages 26+	26	11	15	69	18	52	2	3
Foreign born	25	12	12	69	18	50	3	4
Native born	28	9	19	71	16	55	*	1

b. It is okay for teenagers to have sex if they use protection

	-----AGREE-----			-----DISAGREE-----			Don't know	Refused
	NET	Strongly Agree	Agree	NET	Disagree	Strongly Disagree		
Total	46	24	21	52	14	38	1	1
Ages 16-25	56	25	31	42	17	25	1	1
Foreign born	57	29	28	40	15	24	*	3
Native born	55	22	32	44	18	26	1	*
2nd gen.	57	23	33	41	19	23	1	*
3 rd gen.+	51	21	31	48	17	31	-	1
Ages 26+	42	24	18	55	13	43	1	1
Foreign born	45	28	17	52	11	40	2	2
Native born	36	17	19	63	15	48	*	1

[Modified SDT Fertility 2009 Q.3B]

87. Thinking about teenage pregnancy, do you think more teenage girls having babies is generally a good thing for our society, a bad thing for our society, or doesn't make much difference?

	Good thing for society	Bad thing for society	Doesn't make much difference	Don't know	Refused
Total	2	80	13	3	2
Ages 16-25	2	75	20	2	1
Foreign born	5	70	21	2	2
Native born	1	78	19	1	1
2nd gen.	1	74	22	2	1
3rd gen.+	*	87	13	*	*
Ages 26+	2	81	11	3	2
Foreign born	2	77	13	5	3
Native born	2	89	8	*	1

[NEW, Modified NCTPTP LATINO INITIATIVE 2009]

89. Do you think that becoming a teen parent prevents people from reaching their goals in life or do you think it has no effect on their ability to reach their goals in life?

	Prevents people from reaching their goals in life	Has no effect on their ability to reach their goals in life	Don't know	Refused
Total	68	26	4	2
Ages 16-25	69	28	2	1
Foreign born	62	34	3	1
Native born	73	25	2	*
2nd gen.	71	27	2	*
3rd gen.+	78	20	2	*
Ages 26+	68	25	5	2
Foreign born	64	28	5	2
Native born	75	20	4	1

[Modified NCTPTP LATINO INITIATIVE 2009]

82. When you were growing up, did your parents talk to you about (INSERT)?

a. Sex

	Yes	No	Don't know	Refused
Total	37	62	1	*
Ages 16-25	53	46	*	1
Foreign born	38	61	-	1
Native born	64	36	*	*
2nd gen.	63	36	*	*
3rd gen.+	65	35	-	*
Ages 26+	31	67	1	*
Foreign born	27	72	1	*
Native born	40	58	1	*

b. Birth control

	Yes	No	Don't know	Refused
Total	29	70	1	1
Ages 16-25	39	60	1	1
Foreign born	28	70	1	1
Native born	46	53	1	*
2nd gen.	41	57	1	*
3rd gen.+	53	47	-	*
Ages 26+	25	73	1	1
Foreign born	21	78	1	1
Native born	33	65	2	*

[2007 YOUTH RISK BEHAVIOR SURVEY Q.69]

83. Have you ever had sexual intercourse?

	Yes	No	Don't know	Refused
Total	86	9	1	4
Ages 16-25	74	22	*	3
Foreign born	76	18	*	5
Native born	73	25	*	2
2nd gen.	73	24	1	2
3rd gen.+	75	25	-	*
Ages 26+	91	4	1	4
Foreign born	90	4	1	4
Native born	91	4	1	5

[2007 YOUTH RISK BEHAVIOR SURVEY Q.70]

(Asked of total Latinos who have ever had sexual intercourse; n = 1,646; Ages 16-25 = 937; Ages 26+ = 709)

84. How old were you when you had sexual intercourse for the first time?

	<16	16	17	18	19-21	22+	Don't know	Refused
Total	22	11	12	14	20	12	3	6
Ages 16-25	34	17	17	11	13	3	2	3
Foreign born	31	13	18	11	17	3	3	4
Native born	39	20	16	10	9	2	2	3
2nd gen.	38	18	18	9	9	1	3	3
3rd gen.+	39	23	10	13	8	4	*	3
Ages 26+	18	9	11	15	22	15	3	7
Foreign born	16	8	9	14	26	18	1	7
Native born	22	12	15	16	15	8	7	6

PARENT SOCIALIZATION

(Asked of Latinos ages 16-19 who were born in the U.S. or who came to the continental U.S. at age 15 or younger; n = 470; Native born = 346; Foreign born = 124)

90. How often have your parents (INSERT)?

- a. Talked about their pride in being (INSERT COUNTRY OF ORIGIN/HISPANIC/LATINO)

	-----OFTEN SOMETIMES-----			-----RARELY/NEVER-----			Don't know	Refused
	NET	Often	Sometimes	NET	Rarely	Never		
Age 16-19	69	39	30	30	19	11	*	1
Foreign born	80	56	24	14	10	4	2	4
Native born	65	34	31	35	21	13	-	*
2nd gen.	65	32	33	35	23	12	-	*
3 rd gen.+	67	40	27	32	17	16	-	*

- b. Taken you to (HISPANIC/LATINO) cultural celebrations (INTERVIEWER: If needed, mention "cultural events like posadas [poe-SAH-das], quinceneras [KEYNS-ah-NARE-ahs], rosarios [row-SAH-ree-ohs], or baptisms")

	-----OFTEN SOMETIMES-----			-----RARELY/NEVER-----			Don't know	Refused
	NET	Often	Sometimes	NET	Rarely	Never		
Age 16-19	68	27	41	31	18	13	*	1
Foreign born	78	35	43	17	5	12	*	4
Native born	65	25	40	35	21	14	-	*
2nd gen.	67	25	42	33	21	12	-	*
3 rd gen.+	60	25	35	40	22	18	-	*

e. Encouraged you to speak in Spanish

	-----OFTEN SOMETIMES-----			-----RARELY/NEVER-----			Don't know	Refused
	NET	Often	Sometimes	NET	Rarely	Never		
Age 16-19	72	54	18	27	12	15	-	1
Foreign born	88	81	7	7	3	4	-	6
Native born	67	45	22	33	15	18	-	*
2nd gen.	71	52	19	29	16	13	-	*
3 rd gen.+	58	27	30	42	11	31	-	*

(Asked of Latinos ages 16-19 who were born in the U.S. or who came to the continental U.S. at age 15 or younger; n = 470; Native born = 346; Foreign born = 124)

91. Still thinking about your parents, how often have they (INSERT)?

a. Encouraged you to speak only in English

	-----OFTEN SOMETIMES-----			-----RARELY/NEVER-----			Don't know	Refused
	NET	Often	Sometimes	NET	Rarely	Never		
Age 16-19	38	19	20	59	16	44	1	1
Foreign born	45	22	22	51	10	41	-	5
Native born	36	17	19	62	17	44	2	*
2nd gen.	35	12	23	64	19	45	1	*
3 rd gen.+	40	28	12	57	14	42	4	*

d. Talked about their pride in being American

	-----OFTEN SOMETIMES-----			-----RARELY/NEVER-----			Don't know	Refused
	NET	Often	Sometimes	NET	Rarely	Never		
Age 16-19	49	25	24	50	19	31	*	1
Foreign born	37	18	19	58	17	42	-	5
Native born	52	27	25	48	20	28	*	*
2nd gen.	42	18	24	57	25	32	*	*
3 rd gen.+	77	49	27	23	7	17	-	*

(Asked of Latinos ages 20 or older who were born in the U.S. or who came to the continental U.S. at age 15 or younger; n = 943; Ages 20-25 = 570; Ages 26 and older = 373)

92. Thinking about when you were growing up, how often did your parents (INSERT)?

a. Talked about their pride in being (INSERT COUNTRY OF ORIGIN/HISPANIC/LATINO)

	-----OFTEN/SOMETIMES-----			-----RARELY/NEVER-----			Don't know	Refused
	NET	Often	Sometimes	NET	Rarely	Never		
Total ages 20+	62	41	22	35	14	21	2	1
Age 20-25	68	44	23	31	14	18	1	*
Foreign born	66	49	18	33	8	25	*	-
Native born	68	42	26	30	17	14	1	*
2nd gen.	73	48	24	25	14	11	2	1
3 rd gen.+	61	31	30	39	20	19	-	-
Ages 26+	60	39	21	36	14	22	2	2
Foreign born	70	44	25	26	7	19	3	2
Native born	57	38	19	39	16	23	2	2

b. Taken you to (HISPANIC/LATINO) cultural celebrations (INTERVIEWER: If needed, mention "cultural events like posadas [poe-SAH-das], quinceneras [KEYNS-ah-NARE-ahs], rosarios [row-SAH-ree-ohs], or baptisms")

	-----OFTEN SOMETIMES-----			-----RARELY/NEVER-----			Don't know	Refused
	NET	Often	Sometimes	NET	Rarely	Never		
Total ages 20+	63	40	23	36	16	20	*	1
Age 20-25	66	37	29	34	18	16	-	*
Foreign born	67	34	33	33	17	16	-	-
Native born	65	39	26	34	19	16	-	*
2nd gen.	67	41	25	33	19	14	-	*
3 rd gen.+	64	36	29	36	19	17	-	-
Ages 26+	62	41	21	37	16	22	*	1
Foreign born	59	41	17	41	18	23	-	-
Native born	63	41	22	36	15	21	*	1

e. Encourage you to speak in Spanish

	-----OFTEN/SOMETIMES-----			-----RARELY/NEVER-----			Don't know	Refused
	NET	Often	Sometimes	NET	Rarely	Never		
Total ages 20+	66	52	14	31	9	22	1	2
Age 20-25	80	67	12	19	6	13	1	*
Foreign born	96	86	10	4	2	2	-	-
Native born	71	57	14	27	7	20	1	*
2nd gen.	82	69	13	15	6	9	2	1
3rd gen.+	55	38	16	45	9	36	-	-
Ages 26+	61	47	14	36	10	25	1	2
Foreign born	81	69	13	15	6	9	2	2
Native born	55	40	15	43	12	31	*	2

(Asked of Latinos ages 20 or older who were born in the U.S. or who came to the continental U.S. at age 15 or younger; n = 943; Ages 20-25 = 570; Ages 26 and older = 373)

93. Still thinking about when you were growing up, how often did your parents...

a. Encourage you to speak only in English

	-----OFTEN SOMETIMES-----			-----RARELY/NEVER-----			Don't know	Refused
	NET	Often	Sometimes	NET	Rarely	Never		
Total ages 20+	46	32	15	52	12	40	1	1
Age 20-25	42	26	15	57	14	43	1	*
Foreign born	32	20	12	68	11	57	*	-
Native born	47	30	18	51	16	35	1	*
2nd gen.	44	26	18	53	19	34	2	1
3rd gen.+	51	34	17	49	13	36	-	-
Ages 26+	48	34	14	50	11	39	1	1
Foreign born	46	27	19	54	12	42	-	-
Native born	49	36	13	49	11	38	1	2

d. Talk about their pride in being American

	-----OFTEN SOMETIMES-----			-----RARELY/NEVER-----			Don't know	Refused
	NET	Often	Sometimes	NET	Rarely	Never		
Total ages 20+	61	37	24	36	12	25	1	1
Age 20-25	52	33	19	48	15	32	*	*
Foreign born	35	21	14	64	9	55	*	-
Native born	61	39	22	38	18	20	*	*
2nd gen.	53	31	22	46	23	22	*	1
3rd gen.+	72	50	23	28	11	17	-	-
Ages 26+	64	39	26	32	10	22	2	1
Foreign born	60	38	23	39	15	23	1	-
Native born	66	39	27	30	9	22	2	2

Combination 90/92

(Asked of Latinos ages 16 or older who were born in the U.S. or who came to the continental U.S. at age 15 or younger; n =1,413; Ages 16-25 = 1,040; Ages 26 and older = 373)
90/92. How often have your parents (INSERT)?

a. Talked about their pride in being (INSERT COUNTRY OF ORIGIN/HISPANIC/LATINO)

	-----OFTEN SOMETIMES-----			-----RARELY/NEVER-----			Don't know	Refused
	NET	Often	Sometimes	NET	Rarely	Never		
Total	63	40	23	34	15	19	1	1
Ages 16-25	68	42	26	31	16	15	1	1
Foreign born	71	51	20	26	9	17	1	2
Native born	67	38	29	33	19	13	1	-
2nd gen.	68	39	29	30	19	11	1	-
3rd gen.+	64	35	29	36	18	18	-	-
Ages 26+	60	39	21	36	14	22	2	2
Foreign born	70	44	25	26	7	19	3	2
Native born	57	38	19	39	16	23	2	2

- b. Taken you to (HISPANIC/LATINO) cultural celebrations (INTERVIEWER: If needed, mention “cultural events like posadas [poe-SAH-das], quinceneras [KEYNS-ah-NARE-ahs], rosarios [row-SAH-ree-ohs], or baptisms”)

	-----OFTEN SOMETIMES-----			-----RARELY/NEVER-----			Don't know	Refused
	NET	Often	Sometimes	NET	Rarely	Never		
Total	64	38	26	35	17	19	*	1
Ages 16-25	67	32	34	33	18	15	*	1
Foreign born	71	34	37	27	13	15	-	2
Native born	65	32	33	35	20	15	-	*
2nd gen.	67	32	35	33	20	13	-	*
3rd gen.+	62	31	32	38	20	18	-	*
Ages 26+	62	41	21	37	16	22	*	1
Foreign born	59	41	17	41	18	23	-	-
Native born	63	41	22	36	15	21	*	1

- e. Encouraged you to speak in Spanish

	-----OFTEN SOMETIMES-----			-----RARELY/NEVER-----			Don't know	Refused
	NET	Often	Sometimes	NET	Rarely	Never		
Total	67	52	15	31	10	21	1	1
Ages 16-25	76	60	15	23	9	14	-	1
Foreign born	93	84	9	5	2	2	-	2
Native born	69	51	18	30	11	19	1	-
2nd gen.	76	60	16	23	12	11	1	-
3rd gen.+	56	33	22	44	10	34	-	-
Ages 26+	61	47	14	36	10	25	1	2
Foreign born	81	69	13	15	6	9	2	2
Native born	55	40	15	43	12	31	*	2

Combo 91/93

(Asked of Latinos ages 16 or older who were born in the U.S. or who came to the continental U.S. at age 15 or younger; n =1,413; Ages 16-25 = 1,040; Ages 26 and older = 373)

91/93. Still thinking about your parents, how often have they (INSERT)?

a. Encouraged you to speak only in English

	-----OFTEN SOMETIMES-----			-----RARELY/NEVER-----			Don't know	Refused
	NET	Often	Sometimes	NET	Rarely	Never		
Total	45	29	16	53	13	40	1	1
Ages 16-25	40	22	18	58	15	43	1	1
Foreign born	36	21	15	62	10	51	-	2
Native born	41	23	18	57	17	40	2	-
2nd gen.	39	18	21	59	19	40	2	-
3rd gen.+	46	31	15	52	13	39	2	-
Ages 26+	48	34	14	50	11	39	1	1
Foreign born	46	27	19	54	12	42	-	-
Native born	49	36	13	49	11	38	1	2

d. Talked about their pride in being American

	-----OFTEN SOMETIMES-----			-----RARELY/NEVER-----			Don't know	Refused
	NET	Often	Sometimes	NET	Rarely	Never		
Total	59	35	24	39	13	26	1	1
Ages 16-25	50	29	21	49	17	32	*	1
Foreign born	36	20	16	62	12	50	-	2
Native born	56	33	24	43	19	24	-	-
2nd gen.	47	24	23	52	24	28	-	-
3rd gen.+	74	49	25	26	9	17	-	-
Ages 26+	64	39	26	32	10	22	2	1
Foreign born	60	38	23	39	15	23	1	-
Native born	66	39	27	30	9	22	2	2

DEMOGRAPHICS

98. In politics today, do you consider yourself a Republican, a Democrat, an Independent, or something else?

	Republican	Democrat	Independent	Something else	Don't know	Refused
Total	13	38	20	13	8	8
Ages 16-25	14	33	23	15	11	5
Foreign born	10	28	23	18	14	7
Native born	16	35	22	13	9	4
2nd gen.	10	39	21	15	10	5
3rd gen.+	28	27	25	10	7	2
Ages 26+	13	40	19	13	7	9
Foreign born	11	34	19	16	9	11
Native born	15	51	20	7	2	5
2008 NSL	12	40	30	8	8	2
2007 NSL	12	31	36	9	10	2
2006 ILS	14	31	25	9	14	7
2004 NSL/KFF	14	35	26	12	12	2
2003 HMS	15	32	31	11	8	3
2002 NSL/KFF	16	35	28	10	11	NA

(Asked of total Latinos who do not consider themselves a Republican or Democrat; n = 955;
Ages 16-25 = 620; Ages 26+ = 335)

99. Do you consider yourself closer to the Republican party or the Democratic party?

	Republican	Democrat	Neither	Other	Don't know	Refused
Total	13	30	30	1	16	11
Ages 16-25	15	35	26	2	17	5
Foreign born	14	31	28	3	16	8
Native born	17	39	24	1	17	2
2nd gen.	17	33	26	1	22	2
3rd gen.+	17	53	19	*	6	4
Ages 26+	12	28	32	*	15	13
Foreign born	13	27	31	*	17	11
Native born	8	29	38	-	9	17
2008 NSL	20	43	22	1	12	2
2007 NSL	12	27	47	2	10	2
2006 ILS	19	32	36	1	12	*
2004 NSL/KFF	23	35	27	6	8	1
2003 HMS	31	36	20	-	11	1
2002 NSL/KFF	24	34	36	*	6	NA

98/99. Leaned Party Combination Table

	Leaned Republican	Leaned Democrat	Independent	Something else	Don't know	Refused
Total	19	53	8	8	5	7
Ages 16-25	22	52	6	9	7	4
Foreign born	18	47	9	12	8	5
Native born	24	54	5	6	7	4
2nd gen.	19	56	5	7	9	5
3rd gen.+	36	51	3	5	3	2
Ages 26+	18	53	9	7	4	8
Foreign born	19	49	9	9	5	10
Native born	17	61	11	5	2	5
2008 NSL	22	61	8	4	5	1
2007 NSL	19	46	20	5	9	2
2006 ILS	19	39	12	9	14	7
2004 NSL/KFF	22	48	10	6	12	2
2003 HMS	28	47	9	5	8	3
2002 NSL/KFF	22	44	12	10	11	2

101. Are you currently married, do you have a partner, are you widowed, divorced, or separated, or have you never been married?

	Married/Have Partner			Widowed	Divorced	Separated	Never been married	Don't Know	Refused
	NET	Married	Have a partner						
Total	56	45	11	4	8	5	25	-	2
Ages 16-25	32	18	15	1	3	2	60	-	1
Foreign born	45	29	16	1	3	4	46	-	2
Native born	24	10	14	1	3	2	70	-	*
2nd gen.	22	11	11	1	4	2	71	-	*
3rd gen.+	28	10	19	1	2	1	66	-	1
Ages 26+	65	55	10	5	10	6	12	-	3
Foreign born	67	55	12	5	8	8	11	-	2
Native born	61	55	6	5	13	3	14	-	4
2008 NSL	59	49	9	4	6	6	22	*	3
2007 NSL	58	49	9	4	8	6	22	1	3
2006 ILS	NA	48	9	5	7	5	21	NA	5
2004 NSL/KFF	NA	47	11	5	8	6	23	NA	1
2003 HMS	64	54	10	2	7	4	22	NA	1
2002 NSL/KFF	NA	53	9	4	8	5	20	NA	NA

[PHC Religion 2006 Q.8]

104. What is your religion— Catholic, Protestant, Evangelical Christian, or something else?

	Catholic	Protestant	Evangelical Christian	Other religion	No religion	Don't know	Refused
Total	60	3	14	14	6	*	2
Ages 16-25	56	4	15	16	7	1	1
Foreign born	66	1	13	10	7	1	2
Native born	49	6	17	20	7	1	1
2nd gen.	49	7	18	19	5	1	1
3rd gen.+	49	5	14	21	10	-	1
Ages 26+	62	3	13	14	6	*	3
Foreign born	66	2	14	10	6	*	2
Native born	53	5	12	21	6	-	4

	Catholic	Protestant or Evangelical Christian	Other religion	No religion	Don't know	Refused
2008 NSL	61	18	10	6	1	5

[PHC Religion 2006 Q.23]

105. Aside from weddings and funerals, how often do you attend religious services – more than once a week, once a week, once or twice a month, a few times a year, seldom, or never?

	EVER						Never	Don't know	Refused
	NET	More than once a week	Once a week	Once or twice a month	A few times a year	Seldom			
Total	87	11	25	19	20	11	10	*	3
Ages 16-25	85	12	24	19	21	10	13	*	2
Foreign born	86	14	26	20	15	11	11	*	3
Native born	84	10	22	18	25	9	15	*	1
2nd gen.	87	12	20	19	28	7	13	*	1
3rd gen.+	81	6	26	17	19	13	19	-	1
Ages 26+	88	11	26	19	19	12	9	*	3
Foreign born	89	12	29	23	15	10	7	1	3
Native born	84	10	20	12	26	16	12	-	4
2008 NSL	85	13	26	18	17	11	10	*	5

(Asked of total Latinos age 16-39; n = 1,426; Ages 16-25 = 1,167; Ages 26+ = 259)

112. What was the last year of school your mother completed? If you were raised by a stepmother or some other female relative, please answer for that person.

	Less than high school (NET)	No high school	Some high school	High school graduate	Some college+ (NET)	Some college	College graduate	Graduate or professional school degree	Don't know	Refused
Total	37	25	12	22	17	6	8	3	20	4
Ages 16-25	36	23	13	24	19	8	9	3	19	2
Foreign born	47	36	11	19	9	3	5	1	24	2
Native born	30	15	14	27	25	10	11	4	17	1
2nd gen.	35	18	17	23	23	10	10	3	18	1
3rd gen.+	19	9	10	35	29	10	14	5	13	3
Ages 26+	37	27	10	21	16	6	8	2	20	7
Foreign born	44	37	7	13	12	4	7	2	24	7
Native born	26	10	16	34	21	9	9	4	12	6
2006*	25	14	11	31	29	12	12	5	12	3

*2006 National Civic and Political Health Survey

(Asked of total Latinos age 16-39; n = 1,426; Ages 16-25 = 1,167; Ages 26+ = 259)

113. What was the last year of school your father completed? If you were raised by a stepfather or some other male relative, please answer for that person.

	Less than high school (NET)	No high school	Some high school	High school graduate	Some college+ (NET)	Some college	College graduate	Graduate or professional school degree	Don't know	Refused
Total	37	26	11	18	18	5	8	5	22	5
Ages 16-25	38	25	14	17	22	7	10	4	22	2
Foreign born	43	32	10	13	13	5	7	2	29	3
Native born	36	20	16	19	27	9	12	6	17	1
2nd gen.	42	26	16	17	22	10	8	4	18	1
3rd gen.+	23	9	14	24	35	7	19	10	14	3
Ages 26+	36	26	10	19	15	3	7	5	23	7
Foreign born	39	33	6	14	12	2	5	4	27	8
Native born	31	15	15	26	21	4	9	8	16	6

(Asked of total Latinos age 16-39; n = 1,426; Ages 16-25 = 1,167; Ages 26+ = 259)

114. When you were growing up, for the most part did you live in a household where both of your parents were present, only your mother was present, only your father was present or neither parent was present?

	Both parents were present	Only mother was present	Only father was present	Neither parent was present	Don't know	Refused
Total	66	25	2	3	*	3
Ages 16-25	66	26	2	4	*	2
Foreign born	67	24	2	4	-	2
Native born	65	28	2	4	*	1
2nd gen.	67	28	2	2	*	1
3rd gen.+	60	27	2	8	1	3
Ages 26+	67	23	2	3	*	4
Foreign born	70	22	2	2	-	3
Native born	61	25	3	4	1	6

(NSL 2006 Q.S-11)

110. What race do you consider yourself to be? White, Black or African-American, Asian, or some other race?

	White	Black	Asian	Some other race	Mixed race	Hispanic/Latino	Don't know	Refused
Total	26	2	*	28	1	37	2	3
Ages 16-25	16	3	*	36	2	40	1	2
Foreign born	16	4	*	29	1	45	1	3
Native born	16	3	*	40	2	37	1	2
2nd gen.	12	3	-	44	1	37	1	1
3rd gen.+	22	3	*	31	3	38	-	3
Ages 26+	30	2	*	25	1	36	3	4
Foreign born	33	1	*	21	1	38	3	3
Native born	25	3	*	31	3	32	2	5
2006 ILS	34	4	*	16	NA	41	-	4
2004 NSL/KFF	40	5	*	19	NA	35	NA	1
November 2003	28	5	*	20	NA	45	NA	2
2002 NSL/KFF	30	3	1	20	NA	46	NA	NA
1999 WP/Kaiser/HLS	25	14	1	16	NA	43	NA	NA