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**STRENGTH IN ADversity**

**A Survey of 179 Latino Families in Rhode Island**

Mixed-status families are comprised of an unauthorized parent(s), sometimes an unauthorized sibling, and a U.S.-born citizen child. Of the 179 families participating in this study, 49 percent were mixed status. All participating parents are immigrants from Dominican Republic, Mexico, and other countries in Central America, and all children were born in the United States.

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**Social Exclusion**

A process by which an individual or group is denied access to resources and social networks available to the larger society.

- **Social Support:** Compared with authorized Latino parents, participating unauthorized parents were significantly less likely to have access to people in their social networks who can help with childcare, who can provide economic assistance, and who can help find work.

  - **Childcare:** 24% no help with childcare
  - **Jobs:** 44% no job search assistance
  - **Finances:** 57% no economic assistance

- **Social Service Use:** Virtually 0% of participating unauthorized parents claim social security income, unemployment benefits, or welfare, proving false the stereotype that undocumented immigrants come to the US for public assistance.

Because of undocumented parents’ ineligibility for many forms of social support, their US-born children, who are eligible, are more likely to lack health insurance, to live in overcrowded housing, and to skip early childhood or preschool programs, which have been shown to be instrumental in school readiness and success.

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**Poverty**

- 88% have a high school diploma or less
- 82% earn under $2,000/month placing them under the Federal poverty line
- 92% ate cheaper food to save money in the last 6 months
- 41% skipped a meal to save money in the last 6 months

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**Data from this infographic comes from “An Exploratory Study of the Experiences of US-Born Children in Latino Immigrant Families” directed by Dr. Kalina Brabeck, an Associate Professor at Rhode Island College. The two-year, mixed-methods study was sponsored by the Foundation for Child Development, and explored the experiences of Rhode Island Latino immigrant families from Central America, Mexico, and Dominican Republic with US-born children between the ages of 7-10. Other Sources: Pew Research Center Hispanic Trends Project: A Nation of Immigrants (2013)**

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Strength in Adversity
A SURVEY OF 179 LATINO FAMILIES IN RHODE ISLAND

The data from this infographic comes from a two-year, mixed-methods study on the experiences of Rhode Island Latino immigrant families with US-born children between the ages of 7-10. All participating parents are immigrants from Dominican Republic, Mexico, and other countries in Central America, and all children were born in the United States. One hundred and seventy-nine families were recruited from the urban ring around Providence via school districts, churches, community organizations, and nonprofits. Forty-nine percent of the families were mixed-status (i.e., parent was unauthorized and child US-citizen), permitting comparison between families who differed on the basis of parental authorization status. Each family completed a structured interview first with the parent, and second with the child. All interviews were conducted in the family’s language of preference by trained, bilingual researchers. This study is funded by the Foundation for Child Development.

CONTRIBUTOR
Kalina M. Brabeck, Ph.D., is a licensed psychologist and Associate Professor in the Department of Counseling, Educational Leadership and School Psychology at Rhode Island College. She is an affiliated faculty with the Center for Human Rights and International Justice at Boston College and a Foundation for Child Development Young Scholar. Her work focuses on immigrant families and the intersections among socio-structural challenges (e.g., poverty, unauthorized immigration status), family processes, and individual academic and health and wellbeing.