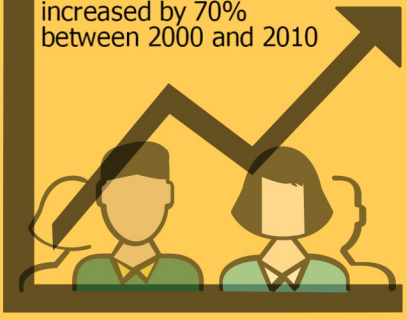
Latino Community Assessment: What We Did

Overview

The Latino population in Allegheny County has increased by 70% between 2000 and 2010



It is important to better understand the unique dreams and barriers of the growing Latino population so that the community can help them to achieve their goals.

Latino Family Center and Casa San Jose used an approach for engaging communities developed by Casa de Esperanza in Minneapolis called 'Fuerza Unida'

Methods

Latino Family Center & Casa San Jose recruited 9 Latino parents to lead listening sessions

'Platicas Comunitarias' were held in 11 Allegheny County neighborhoods

At each location, 2 listening sessions were held; 1 for men and 1 for women. Childcare was provided during sessions

Analysis and report writing

Jul 2015 — Aug 2015 — Sept 2015 — Oct 2015 — Nov 2015 — Dec 2015 — Jan-Mar 2016 — Apr 2016

Facilitator and note-taker training

Topics Discussed

* Concerns
* Successes
* Supports available
* Dreams and what is needed to accomplish these dreams

Wrap up meeting for facilitators, participants, and partners

Verify results with participants during 2 sessions at Latino Family Center and in Beechview

Participants

66 community members participated in the listening sessions:

44 women

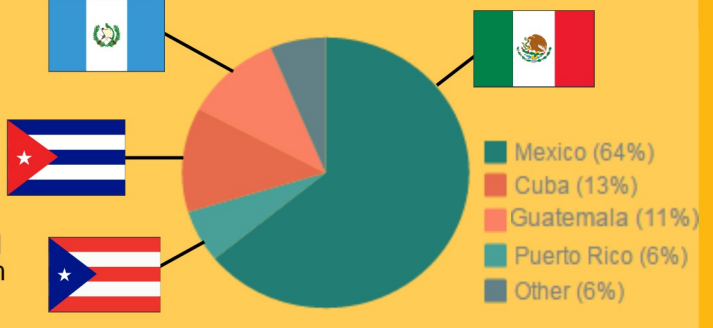
18 men

83% of participants reported having at least one child

67% of participants are married or live with a partner

Almost 50% of participants reported belonging to a church

Participants by Country of Origin



What We Heard

LATINO FAMILY CENTER

Casa San Jose

Dreams

Family Reunification

Desire to be reunited with their family, including the kids they left behind

32% stated they have children back in home country

Education

Desire for kids to do well in school and get to higher education

"They say she is doing well, but apparently she is not doing well since she can't read and has trouble saying a couple of things"

Financial Success

Desire for financial stability and own a personal business

On owning a car: "It is something that has helped us get to where we are"

Barriers

"A community that was navigating a world that they didn't always understand and didn't always understand them."

Lack of Information

A strong theme that showed up was the limited access to information about local resources. The Latino community in Allegheny County is concerned about, "how things work" and how to orient locally and culturally.

How to access WIC?

How to ride the bus?

How to write a check?

How to see a doctor?

"What's frustrating is that there are [organizations offering services] but nobody knows they exist."

Lack of Bilingual Services

"...we alone cannot go to the doctor. We cannot speak English so we need help from someone who is bilingual and who understands the English and Spanish language, to help interpret with the doctor. That is what we are interested in and what we truly need."

Fear of Deportation

Will I be taken away from my family today?

"I say, my God, if they stop me and I cannot arrive to where my children are, that is my daily preoccupation."

Lack of Insurance

How will I pay for medical emergencies?

"Incredible how one suffers to find health insurance when you don't have legal documentation"

Violence at the Home

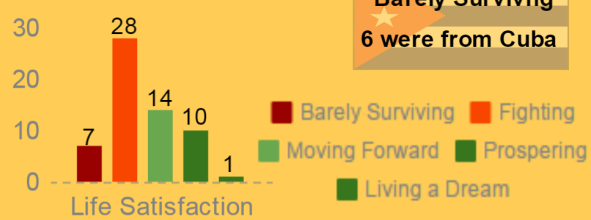
How can I be safe? Who could help?

"So I had to endure over 7, 8 years that maltreatment because I was afraid of reporting him. I didn't know many things, many rights in this country."

Life Satisfaction

High Satisfaction	Living a Dream Prospering Moving Forward
Low Satisfaction	Fighting Barely Surviving

60 responses



7 people = Barely Survivng

6 were from Cuba

Produced by students at the Graduate School of Public Heatlh at the Univerisity of Pittsburgh