

The George Washington University

School of Business and Public Management

Department of Public Administration

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For the course of study PAD 209 Capstone Seminar

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Present the research paper:

A Shadow Population: Illegal Immigrants

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The following study will be used by the American Masters of Laws Association (AMOLA) in order to request funds from the Soros Foundations. AMOLA is a non-profit organization based in Washington, D.C and is dedicated to pursuing the following goals on a global level:

- **Facilitating and supporting legal research and education.**
- **Stimulating the involvement of the legal community, government and others in the evolution of Law.**
- **Educating the legal community, industry, government and institutions of higher education concerning the advances in Law.**
- **Promoting education in Law.**
- **Providing a forum for the exchange of knowledge, and to stimulate collaboration among organizations and individuals in pursuit of knowledge in furtherance of the Law**

The goal of the Soros Foundations throughout the world is to transform closed societies into open ones and to protect and expand the values of existing open societies. The concept of open society, at its most fundamental level, is based on the recognition that people act on imperfect knowledge and that no one is in possession of the ultimate truth. Civic engagement is a way to integrate these marginalized groups to participate equally in civil society

This open society institute is a private operating and grant making foundation created by George Soros. This U.S program seeks to strengthen democracy in the United States by addressing barriers to opportunity and justice, broadening public discussion about such barriers, and assisting marginalized groups to participate equally in civil society and to make their voices heard. Therefore, illegal immigrants are a group that is included in the objectives of the Soros Foundations and it is highly probable that AMOLA will be able to obtain some of the funds to continue research about this population.

1. Introduction

Illegal immigrants in the US are the most marginalized work force and citizens. While they provide cheap labor and sustain the US economy, they are denied basic education and are unable to participate in voting. Fears of getting caught, and their lack of awareness of their rights prevent them from engaging civically in their communities. These facts hinder them from integrating into US society. Instead they form a “shadow” society which ultimately contributes to disintegration of society overall.

Lack of awareness regarding U.S. laws means that illegal immigrants often do not know their own rights. This has negative consequences not only for the illegal immigrants themselves, but also to the community where they live because they are impeded from making positive contributions to that community. It is therefore important to find alternative ways to assimilate this population into U.S. society.

The goal of our research is to help these individuals (who do not have rights as citizens but do deserve basic human rights) to learn about the laws of this country and, in spite of being here illegally, the rights and duties which belong to them. The first step is to understand what external factors affect them and to analyze the common profile of illegal immigrants and their tendencies.

2. Research Methods

1) Quantitative Analysis – We conducted a survey in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area. The sample size is 101 and they are selected randomly throughout the metropolitan region. The main purpose of the quantitative analysis is to find out whether there is correlation between their legal status and desire to return to their home country,

desire to obtain US citizenship, level of participation in their communities and level of happiness in the US. The sample includes both legal and illegal immigrants. In this way we are able to compare and contrast two groups of similar ethnic and cultural background but with different immigration status.

2) Qualitative Analysis – In order to improve our understanding of the issues surrounding illegal immigration and considering that more than a half of the illegal population is from Mexico, we conducted an interview with the Minister of Immigration Affairs at the Mexican Embassy in Washington, D.C., Mr. Carlos Felix.

3. Political and Social Background of Immigration Policy

Today changing demographics and positive economic scenarios in both countries suggest that the moment is propitious for a new approach to immigration policy, although this panorama could change with an economic downturn in the United States.

According to research made at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), population growth in the United States is now below the replacement level, creating unprecedented low unemployment rates and a real need for foreign workers in certain sectors of the U.S. economy. Furthermore, the attitude of U.S. unions has become more receptive toward immigration, calling for an amnesty of illegal aliens currently in the United States and an end to sanctions against employers who knowingly hire these aliens. Even Alan Greenspan has recognized the role of immigration in lessening inflationary pressures in the United States. Immigration is modifying the dynamic of ethics politics, ending the days where U.S. politicians played upon fear of immigration for electoral advantage.

However, immigration policy has not caught up with new realities and is torn between economic integration on the one hand and immigration restrictions on the other. Because the U.S. Congress determines the country's immigration policy, it may be useful to

members of the legislatures from the US and Latin American countries to hold special consultative meetings to discuss immigration policy from a different perspective.

Main Problems Regarding Immigration Issues

- 1) Violation of human rights along the border
- 2) Trafficking of illegal aliens across the U.S.- Mexico border
- 3) Risks

Motivation of Illegal Immigration

- 1) To have better salaries
- 2) To send money back to their families
- 3) Improve standard of living

4. The interview with the Minister of Immigration Affairs, Mr. Carlos Felix, at the Mexican Embassy

All over the world, legislation on immigration issues is perhaps the most complex. Current immigration laws and policies are not working anymore, since they are not based on the current immigration reality in the United States.

According to Mr. Felix, there are between 8 million and 11 million illegal aliens living in the United States, and approximately 50% of them are Mexican.

Two million illegal immigrants were legalized in 1996 under the Immigration Reform Control Act (IRCA), establishing at the same time sanctions against employers of illegal immigrants, and reinforcing the border with Mexico. The package was not enough, since it did not reflect the reality of the demand for visas, especially in agricultural and the service sector. Overall, the IRCA measures did not work.

The increased border control implemented through the IRCA has brought catastrophic consequences. Rather than decreasing immigration, immigrants were simply forced to choose more dangerous routes across rivers and deserts to make it past the border. This has resulted in the deaths of more than 2,000 immigrants, according to research by the General Accounting Office (GAO). And in the end, despite increased border patrol agents, illegal aliens continue to cross the border.

The sanctions against employers have not worked either. For example, companies such as Tyson Foods are in constant problems for hiring illegal immigrants, They disputed the charges stating that it is impossible to find workers for those positions. They argue that in order to hire workers other than illegal immigrants they would have to pay salaries that would not allow them to be competitive. The current elements of the immigration policy do not respond to the necessities of employers in the U.S..

Reform has always been treated as a unilateral problem and this has affected policy. The U.S. government decides who enters, when, where and the number of immigrants. This type of unilateral policy has proven ineffective. It is necessary that the countries of origin participate as well. Working together they can approach the problem from two fronts: improving employment opportunities in the countries of origin to decrease immigration, and increasing the number of visas issued by the U.S. so more immigrants can come legally.

For the first time the Bush and Fox Administrations have created a new, high-level group to work on immigration reform. Their discussions are focused on the following five elements:

1. Discuss the option of legalizing 4 million illegal Mexicans that pay taxes and that currently live in a subclass and are being exploited and abused in many ways.
2. To create more temporary worker visas so that they could come to this country legally.

3. Addressing tension and problems caused by disorganized immigration.
4. Security programs along the U.S. – Mexico border.
5. Focus on bilateral responsibility for immigration issues

The city of Tijuana receives more American visitors than any other city outside of the United States. Nearby, along the border, there are serious problems with bands of criminals such as drug traffickers and coyotes. This lack of organization leads to unorganized immigration, which in turn creates cultural tension along the U.S.-Mexico border.

Most illegal immigrants come to the U.S. to work. Current immigration laws create obstacles not only for immigrants, but also for employers. Using a multilateral approach to reform these laws can bring benefits for both immigrants and U.S. employers.

Throughout the history of the United States immigration has always been a problem: first Europeans and Africans, now the Latino population. It is likely that immigration will continue to increase, rather than decrease, and these issues will become even more critical, as sheer numbers amplify the problems and challenges faced today. A successful solution to immigration issues needs to take into account the overall picture. Partial solutions have only short-term affects, and soon or later the same issues rise again.

The U.S. government must look for a solution and national security concerns must be linked to this solution. The U.S. government has no records on the millions of undocumented immigrants in this country. For purposes of National Security, it is better for the INS to have people coming into this country legally.

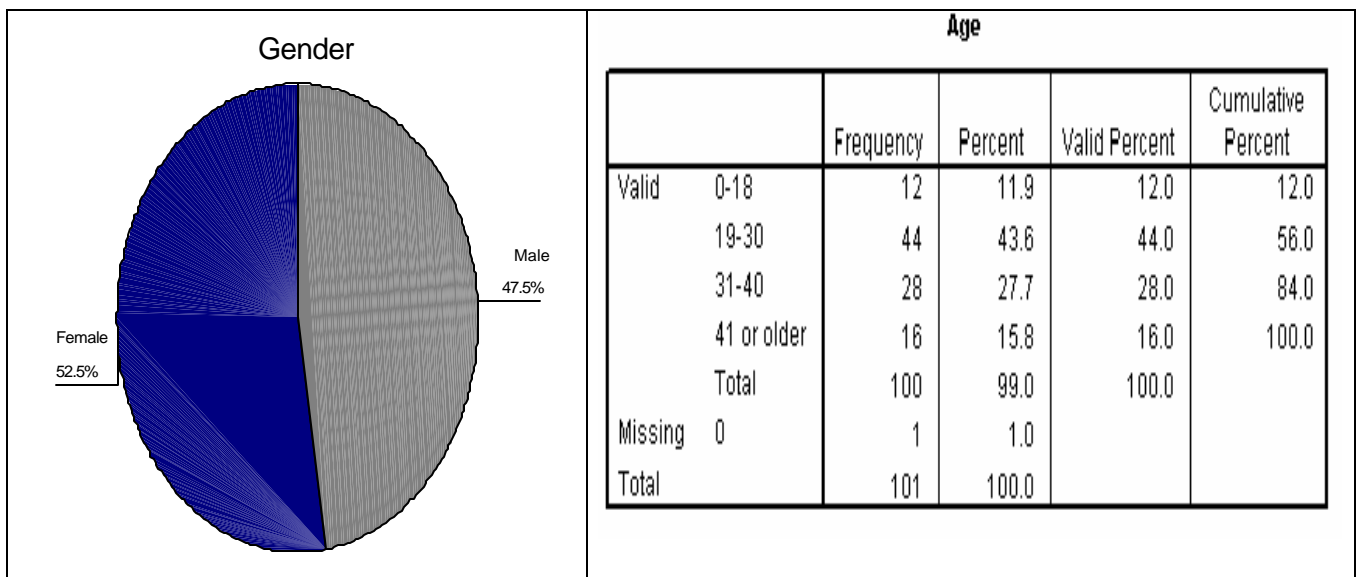
Even the private sector is requesting a change, as seen in the example mentioned previously of Tyson foods. Americans stand to benefit from many different angles by improving immigration policy.

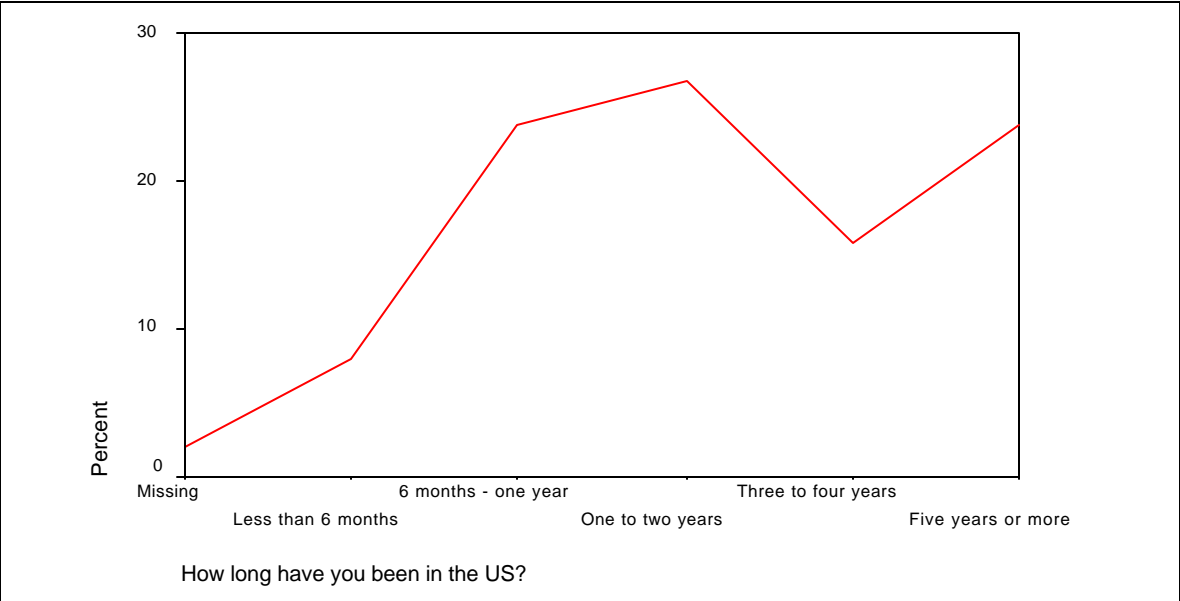
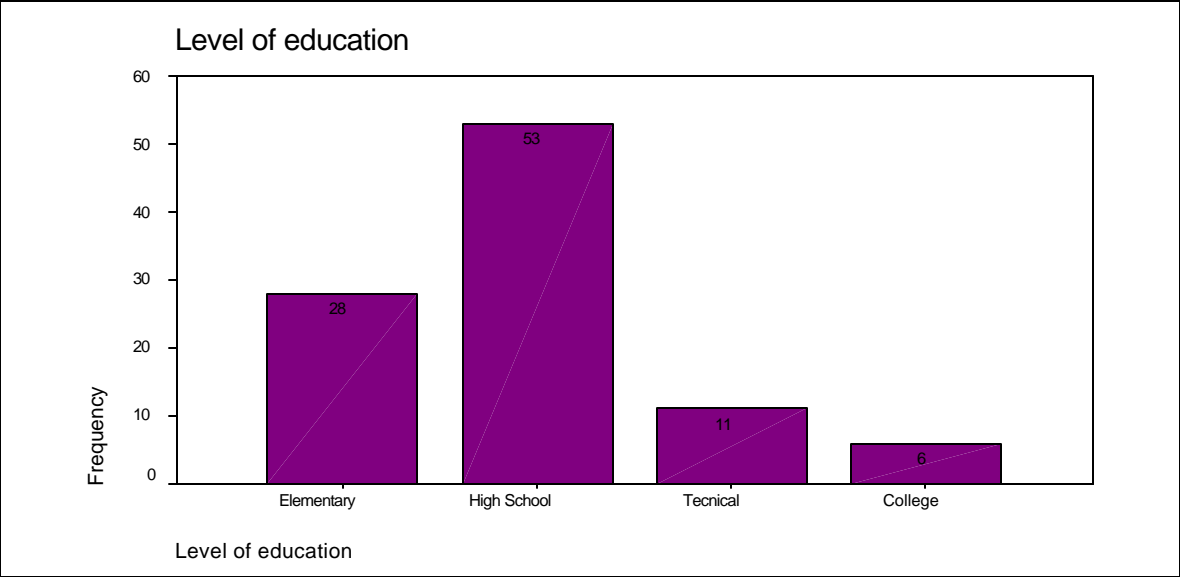
In addition to the numerous obstacles faced by illegal immigrants, they have very few opportunities to learn what options and rights they have in the United States. NGO's and faith based groups try to offer support to this population, as do the embassies of the countries of origin. For example, the Mexican Embassy in the United States provides the following services:

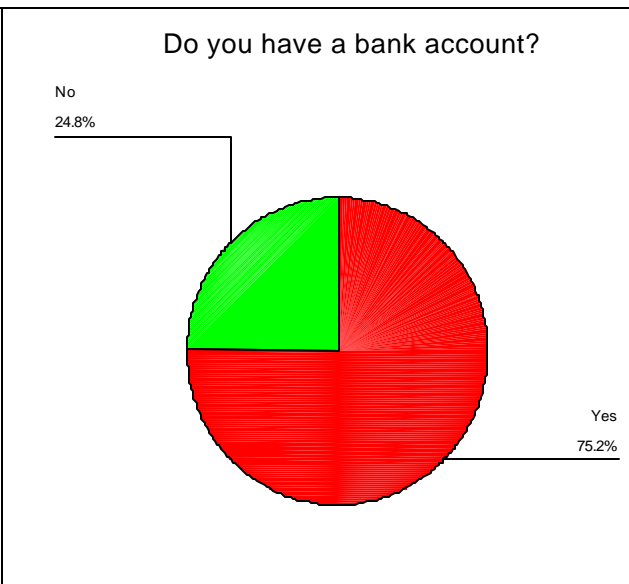
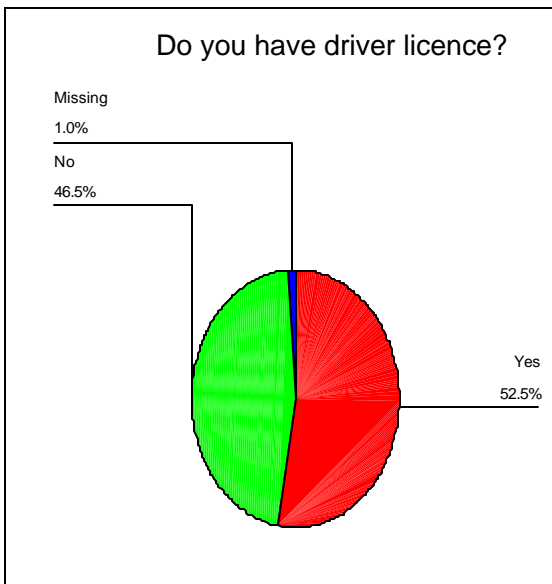
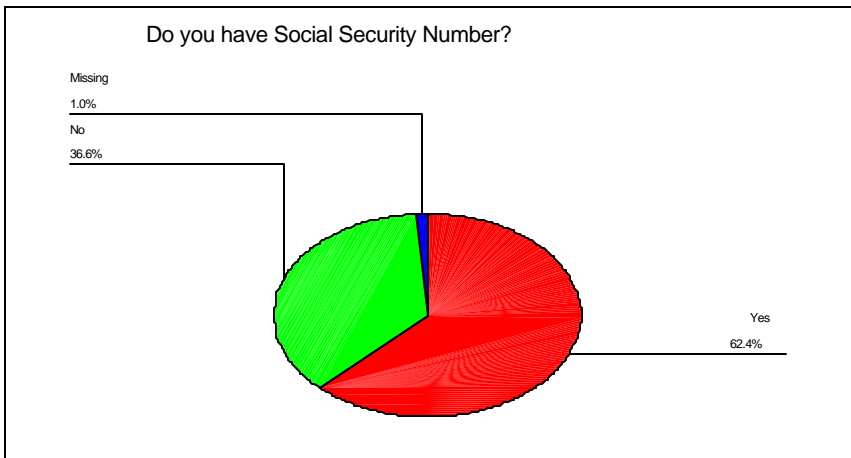
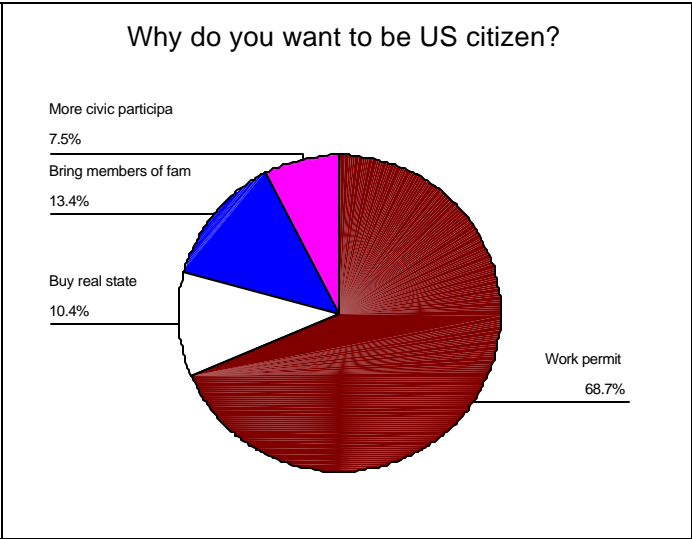
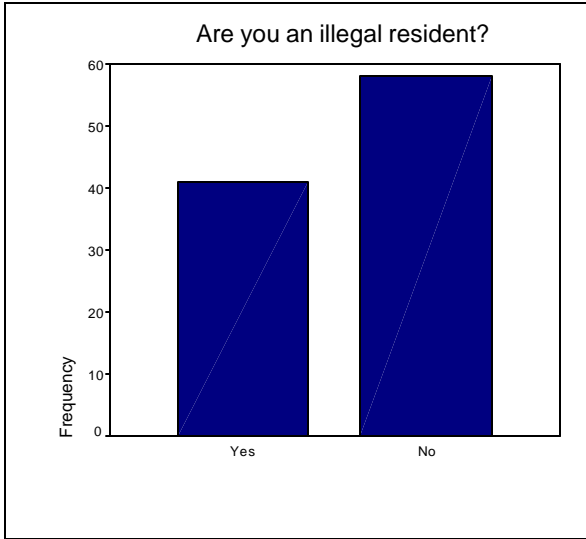
- 1) Lobbying against human rights abuses
- 2) Access to legal services
- 3) Information systems so the Mexicans can be informed.

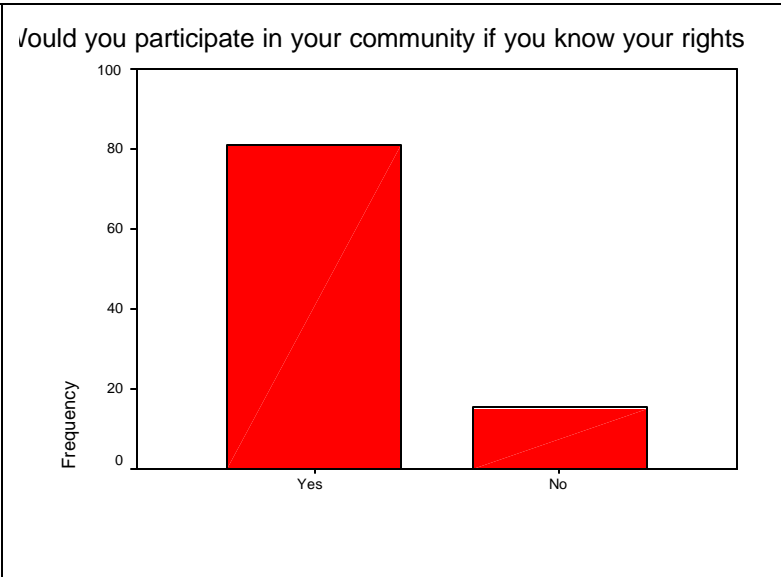
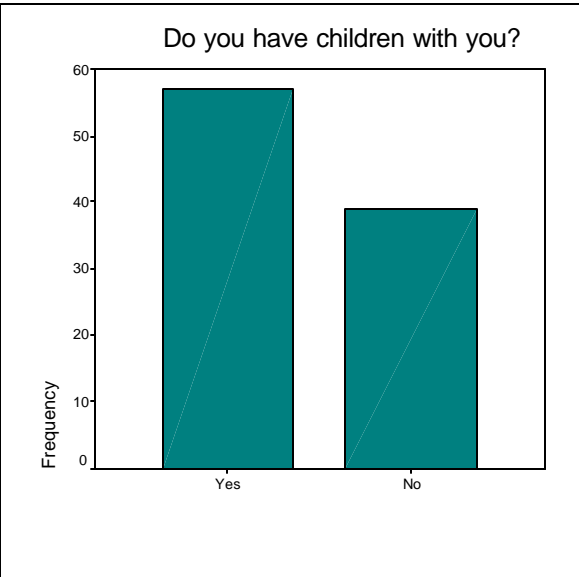
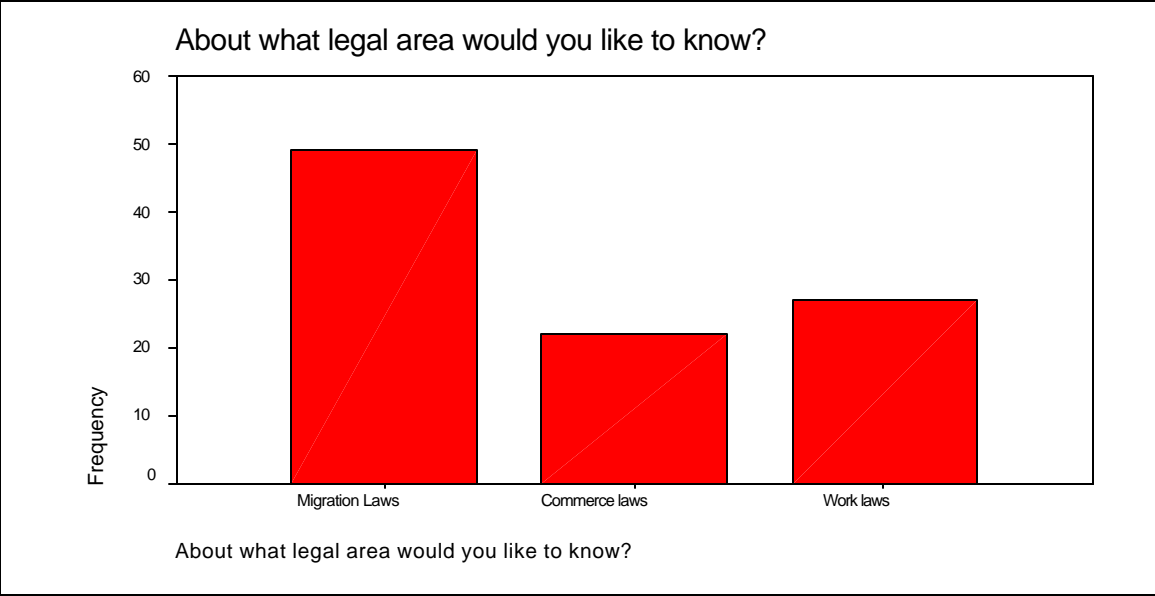
Mexico has the largest consular network in the United States, with 47 Mexican consulates across the country. However, as the numbers of illegal immigrants increase, the resources needed to support them also increase.

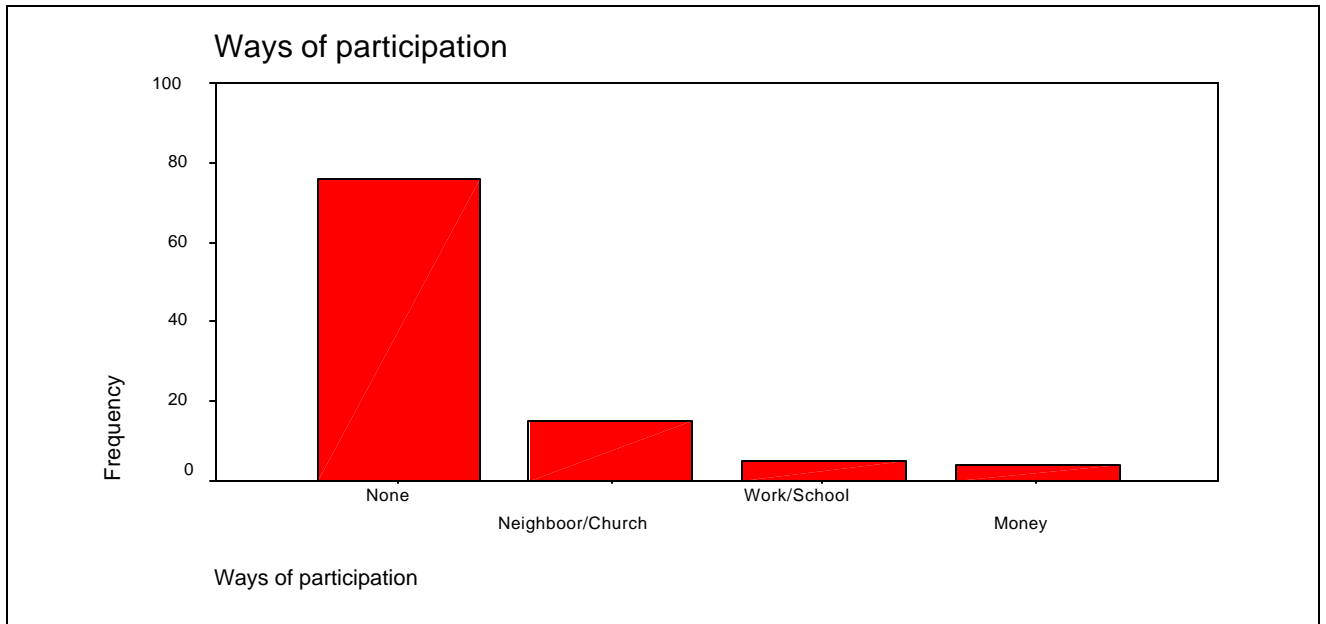
5. Quantitative Analysis: profile of the illegal immigrant in the metropolitan area of Washington DC







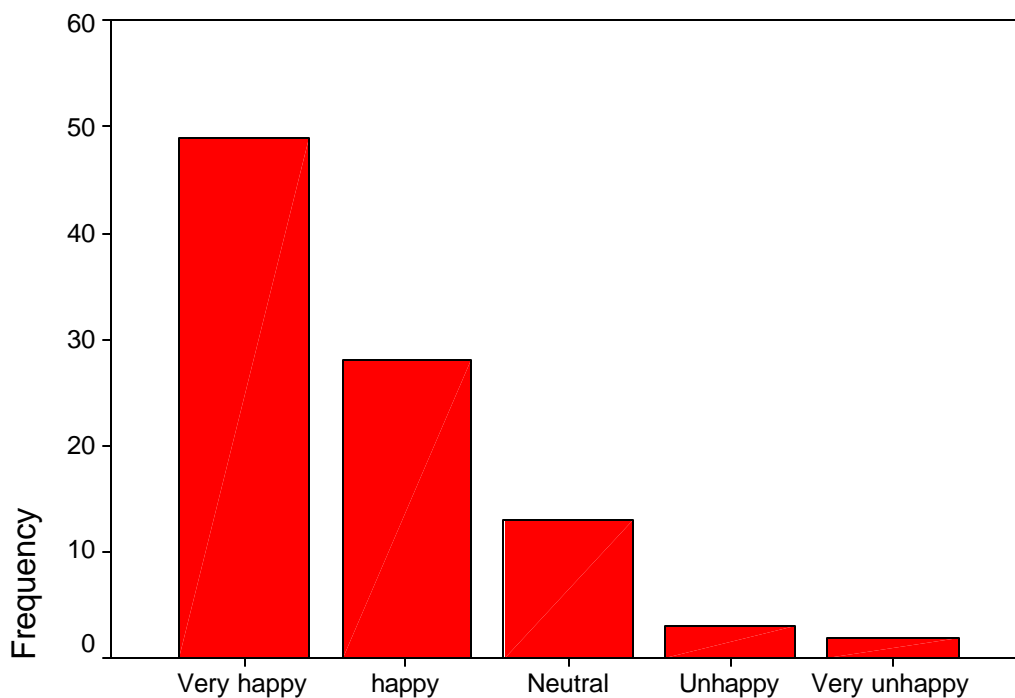




If you are in prison, do you have the right of a public lawyer?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	42	41.6	42.0	42.0
	No	32	31.7	32.0	74.0
	I do not know	26	25.7	26.0	100.0
	Total	100	99.0	100.0	
Missing	0	1	1.0		
Total		101	100.0		

How happy are you here in the US?



How happy are you here in the US?

Here in the US: why you haven't participate in activities related to your community? * In your origin country, have you participated in your community? Crosstabulation

Count

		In your origin country, have you participated in your community?						Total
		Neighborhood	Associations	Unions	Clubs	Others	No, I did not participate	
Here in the US: why you haven't participate in activities related to your community?	Time	18	9	6	3		10	46
	Money	1	6	7	1	2	2	19
	Fear	1	1	2				4
	Language	5	4	2	2		10	23
	I do participate!				1		1	2
Total		25	20	17	7	2	23	94

ou an illegal resident? * If you are in prison, do you have the right of a public lawyer? Crosstabul

			If you are in prison, do you have the right of a public lawyer?			Total
			Yes	No	I do not know	
Are you an illegal resident?	Yes	% within Are you an illegal resident?	82.9%	12.2%	4.9%	100.0%
		% within If you are in prison, do you have the right of a public lawyer?	82.9%	15.6%	7.7%	41.4%
	No	% within Are you an illegal resident?	12.1%	46.6%	41.4%	100.0%
		% within If you are in prison, do you have the right of a public lawyer?	17.1%	84.4%	92.3%	58.6%
Total		% within Are you an illegal resident?	41.4%	32.3%	26.3%	100.0%
		% within If you are in prison, do you have the right of a public lawyer?	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

6. Impressions from the Research Process

We had to overcome several challenges while conducting our research. First, when we approached the illegal immigrants, they were somewhat reluctant to answer our questions. We had to assure them that we were not from any kind of government agency, such as the INS or the police. As soon as we explained our research goal and motivations, they were very cooperative. Some of them were very helpful in identifying other immigrants.

Second, it was hard to tell whether they were legal immigrants or illegal immigrants. Some of those who answered that they were legal immigrants may have lied in fear of getting caught. Therefore, we have to accept that there may be a slight error in our quantitative analysis.

Third, most of the respondents had problems with their basic language skills in reading and writing. They did not have the ability to read and write in both English and Spanish. As a result they face major barriers in accessing information about immigration laws, labor laws, and other civil rights.

Fourth, since this research was conducted with only Hispanic illegal immigrants, there might be some cultural biases. If a similar study were to be conducted of illegal immigrants from Asia, Africa, the Middle East or other parts of the world the results may be different.

6. Findings

The main objective of the survey was to establish a general profile of illegal immigrants and to try to define their status in terms of the society where they are working and (sometimes) even participating. As you can see from the results stated above, illegal immigrants tend to be relatively young (19-30 years old), both male and female, whose highest level of education is probably high school.

They live with a mixture of fear and hope. They look for ways to have the appearance of legality: some of them have false Social Security Numbers or driver's licenses.

Obviously that is related to the time they have been here: most have been here between 6 months and three years, but the more time they have been here, the greater the probability that they have found a way to open a bank account, or found a person who can help them get a false ID.

Are you a legal resident? * Do you have Social Security Number? Crosstabulation

			Do you have Social Security Number?		Total
			Yes	No	
Are you a legal resident?	Yes	% within Are you a legal resident?	95.1%	4.9%	100.0%
		% within Do you have Social Security Number?	62.9%	5.4%	41.4%
	No	% within Are you a legal resident?	39.7%	60.3%	100.0%
		% within Do you have Social Security Number?	37.1%	94.6%	58.6%
Total		% within Are you a legal resident?	62.6%	37.4%	100.0%
		% within Do you have Social Security Number?	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

An interesting point is that people who have been here less time are more eager to go back to their home country. For those who want US citizenship, their main reason is to have a work permit. This is the most important reason for both legal and illegal immigrants. Interestingly, even those who want US citizenship still expect to go back to their home countries some day!

Do you plan to go back to your country? * Do you want to be US citizen? Crosstabulation

Count

		Do you want to be US citizen?			Total
		Yes	No	I do not know	
Do you plan to go back to your country?	Yes	41	15	11	67
	No	26	3	4	33
Total		67	18	15	100

Maybe it is this utilitarian perspective that makes this population so uninterested in civic engagement and from being assimilated into mainstream society. This is also related to the fact that this population is interested in knowing more about migratory laws.

Would you participate in your community if you know your rights and obligations by law?					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	81	80.2	84.4	84.4
	No	15	14.9	15.6	100.0
	Total	96	95.0	100.0	
Missing	0	5	5.0		
Total		101	100.0		

However there is a gray area that we found: the people we surveyed would be willing to participate in their community if they know more about their rights and obligations.

However **there is no correlation between the legal status and level of participation in their communities.** This result was quite contrary to our expectation. We expected that legal immigrants would participate more actively in their communities.

The methodology to find this was doing a chi-square analysis of the responses we got from the survey. We established a 0.05 level of confidence and we cross-tabulated the results between different questions.

Through our analysis we found several interesting relationships. Regretfully the chi-square only shows us whether or not there is a relationship between two variables. It does not tell us if this relationship is positive or negative, but it does provide a good hint of where we should direct further research.

For example, we found that there is a relationship between the immigrants who want to be US citizens and whether their current status is legal or not. Does this mean that people who are illegal are less interested in becoming US citizens? Based on our perceptions we think this is probably the case because this population knows the low probabilities they have of becoming legal residents in the near future.

Are you a legal resident? * Do you want to be US citizen? Crosstabulation

			Do you want to be US citizen?			Total
			Yes	No	I do not know	
Are you a legal resident?	Yes	% within Are you a legal resident?	90.2%	7.3%	2.4%	100.0%
		% within Do you want to be US citizen?	56.1%	16.7%	6.7%	41.4%
	No	% within Are you a legal resident?	50.0%	25.9%	24.1%	100.0%
		% within Do you want to be US citizen?	43.9%	83.3%	93.3%	58.6%
Total		% within Are you a legal resident?	66.7%	18.2%	15.2%	100.0%
		% within Do you want to be US citizen?	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	17.843 ^a	2	.000
Likelihood Ratio	20.218	2	.000
Linear-by-Linear Association	16.504	1	.000
N of Valid Cases	99		

a. 0 cells (.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 6.21.

Another very interesting relationship we found is between the legal status of the people surveyed and their response to the question: “If you are arrested, do you have the right to an attorney?” Based on the current law, regardless of whether you are illegal or legal, here in the US you have the right to an attorney in a case of criminal law. However, we can assume that illegal immigrants do not know about this issue and that is why there is a relationship exists between their migratory status and their knowledge as to their right to an attorney.

Are you a legal resident? * If you are in prison, do you have the right of a public lawyer? Crosstabulation

			If you are in prison, do you have the right of a public lawyer?			Total
			Yes	No	I do not know	
Are you a legal resident?	Yes	% within Are you a legal resident?	82.9%	12.2%	4.9%	100.0%
		% within If you are in prison, do you have the right of a public lawyer?	82.9%	15.6%	7.7%	41.4%
	No	% within Are you a legal resident?	12.1%	46.6%	41.4%	100.0%
		% within If you are in prison, do you have the right of a public lawyer?	17.1%	84.4%	92.3%	58.6%
Total		% within Are you a legal resident?	41.4%	32.3%	26.3%	100.0%
		% within If you are in prison, do you have the right of a public lawyer?	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	50.078 ^a	2	.000
Likelihood Ratio	54.992	2	.000
Linear-by-Linear Association	41.917	1	.000
N of Valid Cases	99		

a. 0 cells (.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 10.77.

Another interesting issue is the fact that there is a relationship between the migratory status of this population and the level of participation in their communities in their countries of origin. We think that illegal immigrants (because their profile is related to pro-activity, risk and hard work) tended to participate more in their communities, especially in associations, unions, etc.

Are you a legal resident? * In your origin country, have you participated in your community? Crosstabulation

			In your origin country, have you participated in your community?					Total	
			Neighbor hood	Associations	Unions	Clubs	Others		No, I did not participate
Are you a legal resident?	Yes	% within Are you a legal resident?	40.5%	8.1%	13.5%	5.4%	2.7%	29.7%	100.0%
		% within In your origin country, have you participated in your community?	60.0%	15.0%	29.4%	28.6%	50.0%	47.8%	39.4%
	No	% within Are you a legal resident?	17.5%	29.8%	21.1%	8.8%	1.8%	21.1%	100.0%
		% within In your origin country, have you participated in your community?	40.0%	85.0%	70.6%	71.4%	50.0%	52.2%	60.6%
Total		% within Are you a legal resident?	26.6%	21.3%	18.1%	7.4%	2.1%	24.5%	100.0%
		% within In your origin country, have you participated in your community?	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	11.266 ^a	5	.046
Likelihood Ratio	11.878	5	.036
Linear-by-Linear Association	.000	1	.994
N of Valid Cases	94		

a. 4 cells (33.3%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is .79.

There is also a relationship between migratory status and reasons for not participation in community activities here in the US. Can we assume that illegal immigrants cannot participate here (even if they want to) because of time, language, money or fear? Here is a question we should research more in order to discover the real causes.

you a legal resident? * Here in the US: why you haven't participate in activities related to your community? Crosstabula

			Here in the US: why you haven't participate in activities related to your community?					Total
			Time	Money	Fear	Language	I do participate!	
Are you a legal resident?	Yes	% within Are you a legal resident?	68.4%	5.3%		23.7%	2.6%	100.0%
		% within Here in the US: why you haven't participate in activities related to your community?	56.5%	10.5%		37.5%	50.0%	40.0%
	No	% within Are you a legal resident?	35.1%	29.8%	7.0%	26.3%	1.8%	100.0%
		% within Here in the US: why you haven't participate in activities related to your community?	43.5%	89.5%	100.0%	62.5%	50.0%	60.0%
Total		% within Are you a legal resident?	48.4%	20.0%	4.2%	25.3%	2.1%	100.0%
		% within Here in the US: why you haven't participate in activities related to your community?	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	14.922 ^a	4	.005
Likelihood Ratio	17.573	4	.001
Linear-by-Linear Association	2.160	1	.142
N of Valid Cases	95		

a. 4 cells (40.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is .80.

A conclusion we arrived at from the results of the survey is that the Hispanic population of this educational level is most likely to prefer learning about immigration laws through lectures in a classroom. Amongst the other methods, such as Internet, mail, video and audio, there was no strong preference.

Are you a legal resident? * Ways to learn about American laws Crosstabulation

Count

	Ways to learn about American laws					Total
	Mail	Classroom	Internet	Television/video	Audio	
Are you a legal resident? Yes	8	18	8	3	1	38
No	11	25	5	11	6	58
Total	19	43	13	14	7	96

We found that the migratory status of this population (Hispanics, low educational level, young and with children) is not an important element in determining their desire to assimilate into society through civic engagement. This is very important because it means that this population is less willing to get out of the “shadows” and prefers to stay in their own environment or individual space. Is this because the hard work, language deficiencies and lack of education become formidable barriers? This is another topic that will require further research to improve our understanding of the true causes.

7. Conclusion

How can we integrate this shadow population? Can we allow the present situation, in which illegal immigrants form a second-class population, to continue? Even though this research is confined to Hispanic illegal immigrants who reside in the Washington D.C. metropolitan area, we can assume illegal populations of different ethnic background face many of the same problems and obstacles such as time, money and language barriers that hinder them from participating in their community activities.

To promote civic engagement of illegal immigrants, the US government should make long term plans to integrate them into US society. The plan should include spending enough resources for primary education, health care and education programs on immigration laws and civil rights.

Simply ignoring the existence of illegal immigrants in the US will only result in disintegration of the illegal immigrants and will further destabilize this society. It is not

logical to blame illegal immigrants when the economy suffers because they are an important source of support for the US economy. Therefore, we consider it important to conduct research into alternative methods to integrate this population. Some possibilities could be partial citizenship, or citizenship in exchange for the fulfillment of certain requirements (such as time spent in the military, AmeriCorps, community service). There is an urgent need for studies aimed at developing serious proposals to help this population come out of the shadows to join mainstream American society and to be able to make contributions to the communities in which they live.

COMMENTS:

The surveys were taken in two downtown D.C. office buildings, on 14th Street Washington D.C, Fairfax County, and two fast food restaurants, one in Arlington Virginia and one in Downtown D.C.

One story: After conducting a survey with an illegal immigrant from El Salvador, we had lunch together and he shared with one of the researchers his journey across the border. What follows is his story:

They started out about four or five in the afternoon—migrants usually leave for the border around then. Three of the men had walked the route before, which had been handed down from one generation to the next. They were not following a trail per se -they were keying off geographical landmarks like mountain ranges.

They walked until midnight without taking a rest. One of them had a flashlight. There was enough ambient light so their eyes grew accustomed to the dark. But even so people would frequently bump into a prickly pear or cholla cactus and have to stop and pull the thorns out of their leg or shoe.

At midnight the migrants rested—as much as possible. They were up by 4:30 a.m., and walked until 8 p.m. If trained and acclimated to the heat, a person would not notice the symptoms until they were quite dehydrated. The muscles become cramped from lactic acid and from the number of hours standing upright. Dizziness and nausea set in. He said he could not hold down water. His water had lasted about 40 miles (65 kilometers) before running out. He said the only way they made it was because it was starting to get cool, and the goal, Interstate 8, was within reach. They could actually hear it miles off. This spurred them on, as did the camaraderie of the group.

Human beings will go to extraordinary lengths in order to find a better life for themselves. This group of immigrants was making this journey in order to feed their families.

He said it is very easy to cross the border without being apprehended, if the immigrant knows what he or she is doing. There are those who believe that if they walk extraordinarily long distances across the desert, 30 to 120 miles (50 to 190

kilometers), they will evade the Border Patrol. They can make it if they can handle the heat and distance—but even so, some get caught.

There are other groups of people who are more knowledgeable. Some cross through a hole in the fence along the border, from Nogales, Sonora (Mexico), to Nogales, Arizona, hire a taxi, and a mile [1.6 kilometers] south of a Border Patrol checkpoint, the riders will get out of the car, walk into the desert maybe a mile [1.6 kilometers], then north for another two miles (3.2 kilometers), and the taxi driver, having gone through the checkpoint, will be waiting alongside the highway or access road off Interstate 19 to pick up the group and take them to Phoenix. They don't run the risk of dying in the desert.

APPENDIX

Survey in Spanish

Gracias por contestar esta encuesta! Su contenido es estrictamente confidencial y sera utilizado unicamente para propósitos de estudio.

1. Sexo: M___ F___ 2. Edad: 0-18___ 19-30___ 31-40___ 41 o mas___
3. Cual fue el ultimo nivel de estudio alcanzado?
Primaria___ Secundaria___ Tecnico___ Universitaria___
4. Cuanto tiempo se encuentra usted en los Estados Unidos?
0-6 meses___ 6 meses- 1 ano___ 1-2 anos___ 3-4 anos___ 5 anos o mas___
5. Tiene usted los papeles necesarios para residir legalmente en los EEUU? Si___ No___
6. Piensa usted regresar en algun momento a su pais de origen? Si___ No___
7. Desea usted obtener la nacionalidad estadounidense? Si___ No___
8. Si la respuesta es SI, explique la razon principal (elija solo una opcion)
___ Permiso para trabajar ___ Participar en la comunidad (votar para Presidente, por ejemplo)
___ Comprar bienes muebles (casa, carro)
___ Traer familia
9. Tiene usted licencia para manejar? Si___ No___
10. Si usted es detenido por la policia por un crimen, tiene derecho a un abogado? Si___ No___
11. Tiene usted Social Security Number? Si___ No___
12. Tiene usted cuenta bancaria o de ahorros? Si___ No___
13. Si se le permitiera, le gustaria saber mas sobre:
___ Leyes relacionadas a migracion
___ Leyes relacionadas a actividades de comercio
___ Leyes relacionadas al ambiente de trabajo
14. De que manera usted participa en su comunidad?

15. En el caso de ser ciudadano de los EEUU, cual es la mejor forma que usted preferiria para aprender sobre sus derechos y deberes?
___ Por correo ___ Por television (video)
___ En un salon de clases ___ Por cassettes o discos (audio)
___ Por internet
16. En su pais de origen, usted ha participado en/ha sido miembro de (elija UNA):
___ Trabajos comunales ___ Clubes

Asociaciones Otros
 Sindicatos/Gremios No he participado en nada

17. Aquí en los Estados Unidos, cual ha sido su principal razón para NO participar en un club, asociación u otros medios en su comunidad:

Tiempo Idioma
 Dinero Otros
 Miedo a que pidan mis papeles Yo si participo en actividades en mi comunidad

18. Tiene Ud. Hijos actualmente viviendo aquí con usted en los Estados Unidos?

Si No

19. Participaría en sus actividades en su comunidad si supiera claramente cuáles son sus derechos y obligaciones según la ley?

Si No

20. Qué tan contento se encuentra usted aquí en los Estados Unidos?

Muy contento Descontento
 Contento Muy descontento
 Neutral

Survey in English

Thank you for answering this survey! Its contents are strictly confidential and will be used only for purposes of study.

1. Gender: M__ F__ 2. Age: 0-18__ 19-30__ 31-40__ 41 or more__

3. What was your last level of education reached?

Elementary__ Secondary__ Technical__ University__

4. How long have you been in the United States?

0-6 months__ 6 months- 1 year__ 1-2 years__ 3-4 years__ 5 years or more__

5. Do you have the necessary papers for legal residence in the US? Yes__No__

6. Do you plan to return some day to your country of origin? Yes__No__

7. Do you wish to obtain US citizenship? Yes__No__

8. If the answer is YES, explain your main reason (choose only one option)

__Work permit __to participate in the community (vote for President, for example)

__To buy goods (house, car)

__To bring family

9. Do you have a driver's license? Yes__No__

10. If you are arrested, do you have the right to an attorney? Yes__No__

11. Do you have a Social Security Number? Yes__No__

12. Do you have a savings or checking account? Yes__No__

13. If possible, you would like to know more about :

__Immigration law

__Laws related to commercial activities

__Laws related to the work environment

14. In what ways do you participate in your community? _____

15. If you are a US citizen, what is the best way for you to learn about your rights and responsibilities?

__By mail

__By television (video)

__In a classroom

__By audio cassette or CD

__By internet

16. In your country of origin, did you participate in/were you a member of (choose ONE):

__Community work projects __Clubs

__Associations

__Other

__Union/guild

__I have not participated in anything

17. Here in the US, what has been the main reason for NOT participating in a club, association or other activities in your community?

Time Language
 Money Other
 Fear they will ask for my papers I do participate in my community

18. Do you have children currently living with you here in the United States?

Yes No

19. Would you participate in activities in your community if you understood clearly what are your rights and obligations according to the law?

Yes No

20. How happy are you here in the United States?

Very happy Unhappy
 Happy Very unhappy
 Neutral

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