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| Asset Accumulation Strategies in 3 New Settlement Communities | | | |
| 12. Investigator Name(s) (Last Name and Initials) | | | |
| Valdivia, C. B.; Dannerbeck (Janku), A. M. | | | |
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| Outputs: | | | |
| <p>Year 2 activities related to the qualitative and quantitative research objectives of the project. First, we organized community forums in each region to share the results of the photovoice project from year 1. The community forum protocol was developed, and evaluations were obtained. The photovoice project is a qualitative research process that was used to help us understand the context of reception from the perspective of the Latino community. Cameras were used to answer two broad questions: (1) which aspects of this community make you feel welcome? and (2) what aspects of the community challenge your integration into the community. They photographed those things that facilitated/challenged their integration. The photovoice research captured the perceptions of newcomers about what made them feel welcomed, and what made it difficult to become part of the community. Panel displays were prepared, and separate forums were held in English and Spanish, to discuss with stakeholders the findings, and to identify strategies to address barriers identified. Six forums were held, hosted by our community partners in each region. The photovoice project results of the three regions were also displayed at 2008 Cambio de Colores in April. Over 200 participants in this conference included members from community organizations, state departments, schools, universities, and people involved with immigration in Missouri. Second, we transcribed 14 case studies, and translated 7 focus groups, 5 case studies and all the photovoice project captions for the displays. Third, we coded the seven focus group interviews along six themes: migration and settlement; acculturation and identity; perceptions of community; racism; social capital; and barriers to integration. Preliminary results were presented at four conferences. Fourth, we tested a conceptual model of economic assets, identity, social capital/networks, and climate, with Census data and racial profiling indicators. This was part of the Principal Papers Session on Immigration at the American Agricultural Economics Association. An article was prepared for publication in the AJAE. Fifth, we developed the survey instrument in English and Spanish, piloted it with subjects from various nationalities and levels of education. A sampling approach for the survey was developed. The instrument, oral consent and the recruitment forms were submitted to Institutional Review Board for approval. The team held two meetings with the Advisory Panel, providing comments to the team on a draft of the household survey instrument, sample frame and recruitment. Research results were presented at several venues. A McNair Student Fellow, mentored by Dr. Flores, presented an analysis of two case studies at Cambio de Colores 2008. Results were presented at the NRI Directors meeting, the AAEE annual meeting, and three conferences, two in the US and one in Latin America. Our research has also been disseminated through newspapers in each region, especially reporting on the photovoice project and community forums. The team mentored one undergraduate student, and one doctoral student.</p> | | | |
| Outcomes/Impacts: | | | |
| <p>Photovoice defined important factors from the perspective of the immigrants that either facilitated or challenged their integration into the community. Primary factors that appeared in all three communities included work, church, health care, law enforcement, education, access to public services and access to commercial services. Health care and law enforcement were described as challenges to integration in B., whereas in M. both were considered facilitating resources. In S. it was unclear whether or not healthcare was a facilitator of integration or a barrier but law enforcement was considered a barrier. Work was the most important facilitator. While some had negative experiences, most described work as their entry point into the community with friends from work being bridges to the receiving community. Education is a facilitator, accessed primarily for their kids, but a challenge beyond high school. Public services such as the driver's license office were often seen as barriers, while others like social security were seen as facilitators. Commercial services were described as both, facilitator and barrier. Church was universally viewed as a facilitator. The community with a "Centro Latino" described it as important to integration. Fear was important in judging whether or not each factor was a facilitator or a barrier; a facilitator if it was accessible and made them feel safe, and a barrier otherwise. Participants indicated that the project forum increased awareness and educated the receiving and newcomer communities, providing knowledge and awareness of common experiences with community institutions. Findings led to discussions about strategies to address barriers. Stakeholders learned how newcomers saw their traditions, and behaviors. Focus group findings: Motives for migration revolve around jobs in the US and lack of these in their communities of origin. Lack of English and proper documentation are critical barriers in finding good jobs. There is limited access to information about services and credit. The latter impacts the ability to purchase assets. Church is a place for strengthening bonding and bridging capital. While there are strong ties with the culture of origin, acculturation is also taking place. Model testing findings: Berry's model of acculturation, in a livelihood strategies and capitals framework was tested. The econometric model of accumulation, a function of social, human, and cultural (identity) capitals, acculturation patterns and context of reception proxy, community climate (racial profiling index), was significant for both foreign born and natives. Being bilingual and the integration path (speaking English at work and Spanish at home) had a positive effect on earnings. Assimilation (speaking only English) had a positive effect only for foreign born, but lower than integration. The social capital index was positive, as well as human capital (education). Being a woman had a negative effect. Our focus on asset accumulation and integration is new to organizations in Argentina and Chile working with immigration. It is also new in the field of economics, as commented by Prof. Huffman at the AAEE.</p> | | | |

Publications:

- Forums Presentations: Jeanetta, S. and C. Valdivia. Forum Photovoice Findings of Community Climate in Milan. (February 2008). Community Center, Milan, MO.
- Jeanetta, S. and C. Valdivia. Forum Photovoice Display of Community Climate in Sedalia (February 2008). Tyson Meeting Rooms, Sedalia, MO.
- Valdivia, C. and S. Jeanetta. Forum de Foto y Voz sobre el clima de la comunidad en Sedalia (April 2008). Amigos de Cristo Church, Sedalia, MO.
- Jeanetta, S. and C. Valdivia. Forum Photovoice Findings of Community Climate in Branson. (April 2008). Golden Corral, Branson, MO.
- Jeanetta, S. Forum Photovoice Findings of Community Climate in Branson. (July 2008). Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church, Branson, MO.
- Valdivia, C. and S. Jeanetta. Forum de Foto y Voz sobre el clima de la comunidad en Branson (July 2008). Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church, Branson, MO.
- Abstracts: Flores, Lisa Y., Corinne B. Valdivia, Stephen C. Jeanetta, and Domingo Martinez. (February 2008) Acculturation and Identity Development among Latino Newcomers in Three Rural Communities in the Midwest. Nuestra America in the U.S., Lawrence, KS.
- Jeanetta, Stephen C., Corinne B. Valdivia, Lisa Y. Flores, and Domingo Martinez. (February 2008). The Role of Social Capital in Latino Immigrants; Efforts to Integrate in Rural Communities in the Midwest. Nuestra America in the U.S., Lawrence, KS.
- Presentations and Papers: Jeanetta, Stephen C., Valdivia, C., L. Y. Flores, D. Martinez and A. Dannerbeck. (November 2007). Asset Accumulation Strategies Research Project Report. Rural Sociology Seminar, Columbia, MO.
- Jeanetta, Stephen C., Corinne B. Valdivia, Lisa Y. Flores, and Domingo Martinez. (February 2008). Acculturation, Community Climate, and Social Capital among Latino Newcomers in Three Rural Communities in the Midwest. Nuestra America in the U.S., Lawrence, KS.
- Valdivia, Corinne, S. Jeanetta, L. Y. Flores, D. Martinez and P. Dozi. (April 2008). Asset Accumulation Strategies in Three New Settlement Communities Year 2. USDA Advisory Board Presentation, Columbia, MO.
- Aguayo, David, L. Y. Flores, C. Valdivia, S. Jeanetta and D. Martinez. (April 2008). Latino Newcomers: Cultural Adaptation and Ethnic Identity. Cambio de Colores Conference 2008, Columbia, MO.
- Jeanetta, Stephen C., Valdivia, C., L. Y. Flores, D. Martinez and A. Dannerbeck. (June 2008). Engaging the Resources of New Immigrants: Social Relationships that Contribute to Community Integration. Community Development Society, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada.
- Valdivia, Corinne, Pedro Dozi, Stephen Jeanetta, Lisa Y Flores, Domingo Martinez and Anne Dannerbeck. The Impact of Networks and the Context of Reception on Asset Accumulation Strategies of Latino Newcomers in New Settlement Communities of the Midwest. (July 2008). 2008 AAEA & ACCI Joint Annual Meeting 2008, Orlando, FL.
- Valdivia, Corinne, Lisa Y. Flores, Stephen Jeanetta, Domingo Martinez, Pedro Dozi, Anne Dannerbeck and Community Partners. (July 2008) Asset Accumulation Strategies in 3 New Settlement Communities. Rural Development Program Project Director Meeting. Rural Sociological Society, Manchester, NH.
- Martinez, Domingo. Activos economicos y sociales en inmigrantes latinos recientes en Missouri: Metodologia y resultados iniciales de investigacion. (Septiembre 2008). Coloquio Internacional Migrantes regionales en las Americas; Casos de Argentina, Brasil, Chile y Estados Unidos. Buenos Aires, Argentina.
- Posters: Valdivia, Corinne, S. Jeanetta, L. Y. Flores, and D. Martinez. Forum Photovoice Display of Community Climate in Sedalia, Milan and Branson (April 2008). Cambio de Colores Conference 2008, Columbia, MO.
- Aguayo, D. (August 2008). Latino Newcomers in Missouri: Cultural Adaptation and Ethnic Identity. Poster Presentation Division 45, American Psychological Association (APA). Boston, Massachusetts.
- Valdivia, Corinne, S. Jeanetta, L. Y. Flores, D. Martinez and A. Dannerbeck. (September 2008). Estrategias de vida de inmigrantes en tres comunidades de Missouri. Coloquio Internacional Migrantes regionales en las Americas; Casos de Argentina, Brasil, Chile y Estados Unidos. Buenos Aires, Argentina.
- In the news: Flores, Rita. 2008 Hispanics: Some places more welcoming than others. Sedalia Democrat, February 1, 2008. http://www.sedaliademocrat.com/news/people_5822___article.html/plac...
- Chan, Tiffany. 2008 Getting plugged into communities. Adelante Magazine, May 4, 2008. <http://x.adelantesi.com/news/story.php?ID=717>
- Chan, Tiffany. 2008 La integracion a ciudades en Missouri. Adelante Magazine, May 4 2008. <http://x.adelantesi.com/news/story.php?ID=712>

Participants:

Individuals: Valdivia, Corinne: Project Director; Jeanetta, Stephen: Co- Principal Investigator; Flores, Lisa: Co-Principal Investigator; Martinez, Domingo: Senior Associate; Gonzalez, Eleazar: Research Assistant; Dozi, Pedro: Field Research Facilitator; Allen, Kawika: Research Assistant - Transcribe and Translate; Ojeda, Lizette: Research Assistant - Interview, Transcribe; Tyler, Carrie: Translator; Janku, Anne: Researcher; Bergin, James: Translator. Partner Organizations: Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church: Community facilitators; Centro Latino of Milan: Community facilitators; Pettis County Community Partnership: Community facilitators; Amigos de Cristo: Community facilitators. Collaborators: Hereen, Cheri: Community facilitator; Mensa, Valentina: Community facilitator; Jones, Rick L.: Community facilitator; Quinn, Christiane: Fiscal support; Statterwhite, Elvera: Community facilitator; Aguayo, David: Transcribe.; Orellana, Alicia: Community facilitator; Sheil, Marla: Community facilitator; Montoya S., Maria M.: Community facilitator; Montoya S., Maria E.: Community facilitator; Wirth, James B.: Community facilitator; Diaz Madrid, Renee: Project Manager; Betzen, Jim: Community facilitator; Fritts, Melissa: Office support; Paule, Aimee: Office support; Delp, Kate: Community facilitator; Copeland, Christy: Fiscal manager. Advisory Board Members: Carranza,Miguel: Research Advisors in Sociology, University of Nebraska; Flora,Jan: Research Advisors in Sociology, Iowa State University; Hobbs, Daryl: Research Advisors in Social and Economic Data, University of Missouri; Jamtgaard, Keith A.: Research Advisors in Social and Economic Data, University of Missouri; Lazos, Sylvia: Research Advisors in Law, University of Nevada Las Vegas; Romitti, Marty: Research Advisor in state, Department of Economic Development State of Missouri; Stull, Donald: Research Advisor in anthropology, University of Kansas; Vasquez Case, Christina: Research Advisors in social work, University of Missouri Extension Alianzas; Dannerbeck-Janku Anne: Research Advisor in social work and state, State of Missouri Courts Research Department. Training or Professional Development: Gonzalez, Eleazar: Training to interview, research and facilitate focus groups and photovoice; Allen, Kawika: Graduate research scholar; Ojeda, Lizette: Training to interview, research and facilitate focus groups and photovoice; Aguayo, David: Undergraduate research scholar Dozi, Pedro: Training to interview, research and facilitate focus groups and photovoice.

Target Audiences:

Professional organizations, to influence the academy about research focusing on assets and strengths in the process of immigration. Community based organizations working with Latino immigrants in rural communities, as our stakeholders who facilitate the process of integration. State offices that provide services to newcomers and the Latino population. Department of Economic Development in the State of Missouri, to inform about the contributions of Latinos and the barriers they may be encountering.

Project Modifications:

Our project has progressed at a slower pace. The immigration policy has contributed to a climate or environment of fear and loss of trust. As a result, engaging people in the research has required that we change our strategy to recruit subjects for the survey. Information about the research is provided through trusted sources of information, rather than announcements through the media. We are working with key community facilitators, who are trusted, and through organizations, and the churches. We also have to bring interviewers from outside the communities. The people in each region prefer to be interviewed by outsiders. We are training people, and taking them to interview during the weekends, when people are not working. This requires close coordination to ensure that we have enough people in the field, and that enough interviews are conducted so transport is cost effective. These additional steps and coordination are taking significant time.

| Approved (Signature) | Title | Date |
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