

Advisory Board Meeting June 2009
Asset Accumulation Strategies Project

Asset Accumulation Strategies in 3 New Settlement Communities



Investigators

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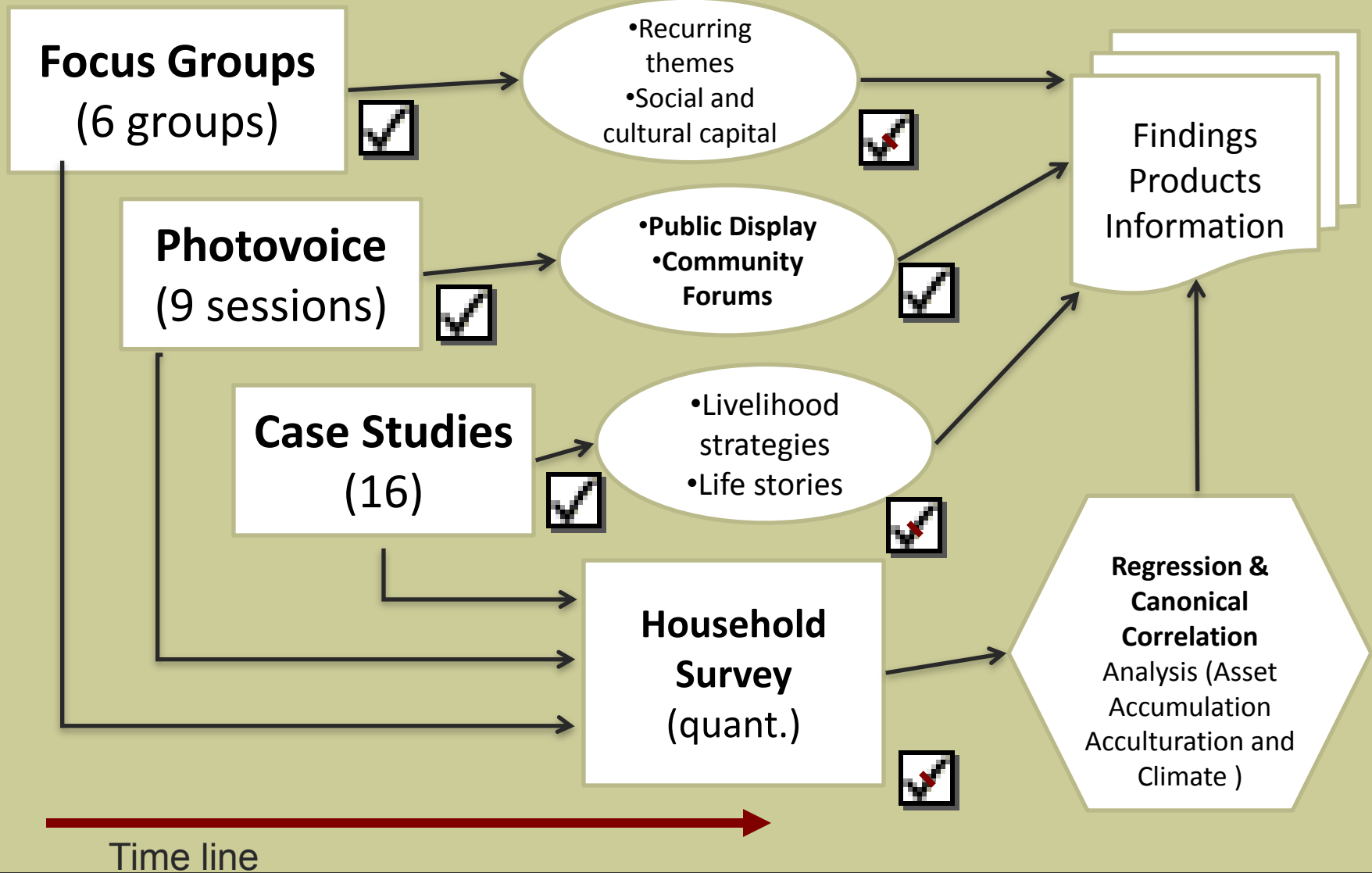
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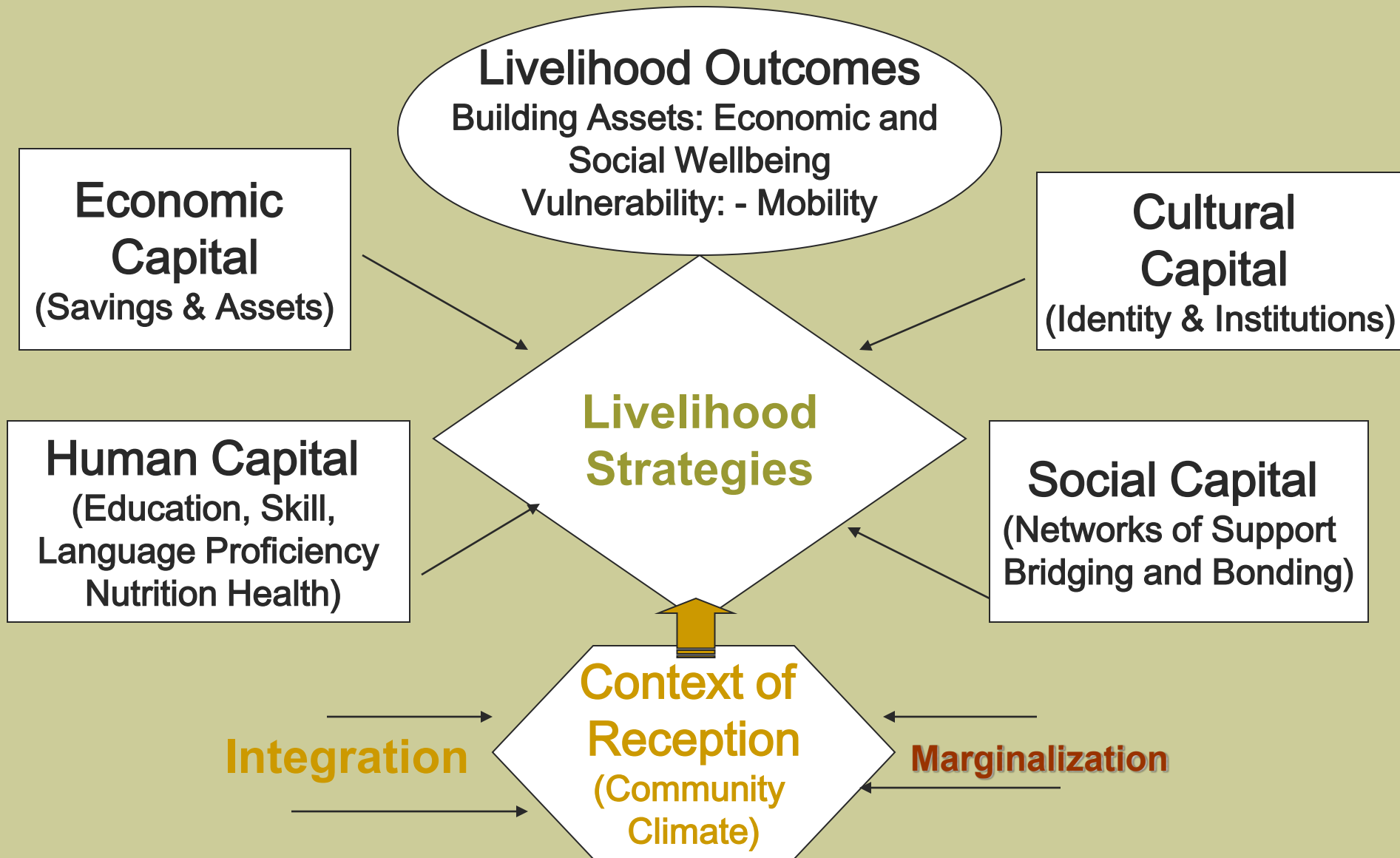
Community Partners

Project Design and Progress to date

Year 3



Framework Strengths Based Model: Livelihoods, Capitals, and the Context of Reception





Focus Groups – 7 in three sites by Gender

Acculturation

Community Climate

Social Capital

Composition: 46 Latino newcomers; 25 female, 21 male, 63% married.

Age: Average 39.93 (SD = 12.11; range = 18-63)

Years in the US: Average 12.04 years (SD = 10; range = 1-44)

Children: Average # 2.79 (SD = 2.18; range = 0-8)

PHOTOVOICE & FORUMS **Community Climate**



Photovoice Prompts

1. What makes it easy and hard to make a living here?
2. What makes it easy and hard to feel like I am a part of the place?

Forum Feedback Themes

1. Impressions
2. New information
3. Strategies



Case Studies

- Completed 14 cases
- Transcribed and translated
- Analysis of case studies of women, paper submitted by Valdivia and Dannerbeck on mobility
- A similar study to analyze mobility in men also needs to be developed

Household Survey: Steps completed

- Model testing
- Survey development
- Pilot testing
- IRB approval
- Best practices for survey administration
- Survey implementation
- 339 completed



Household Survey Phase timeline

- Developed the instrument in English, translated to Spanish, and back translated to English (Sept)
- Pilot Testing (October)
- IRB Sept - Oct approval ****10/30/08****
- Planning and information with partners in communities Nov; Feb; May
- Survey Sedalia (15 11/08 -2/09; Milan 3/09 –on going; Branson 6/1/09 – on going

Household Survey Phase

- Data collected to date:
 - 154 Central region
 - 118 North Missouri
 - 67 South Missouri
- Data processed:
 - 272 surveys; working on last 67
- Data collection: seeking balance
 - Continues in North and South to reach at least 150 adults
 - Additional in Central region – depends on resources



Context of Reception

Lisa Flores

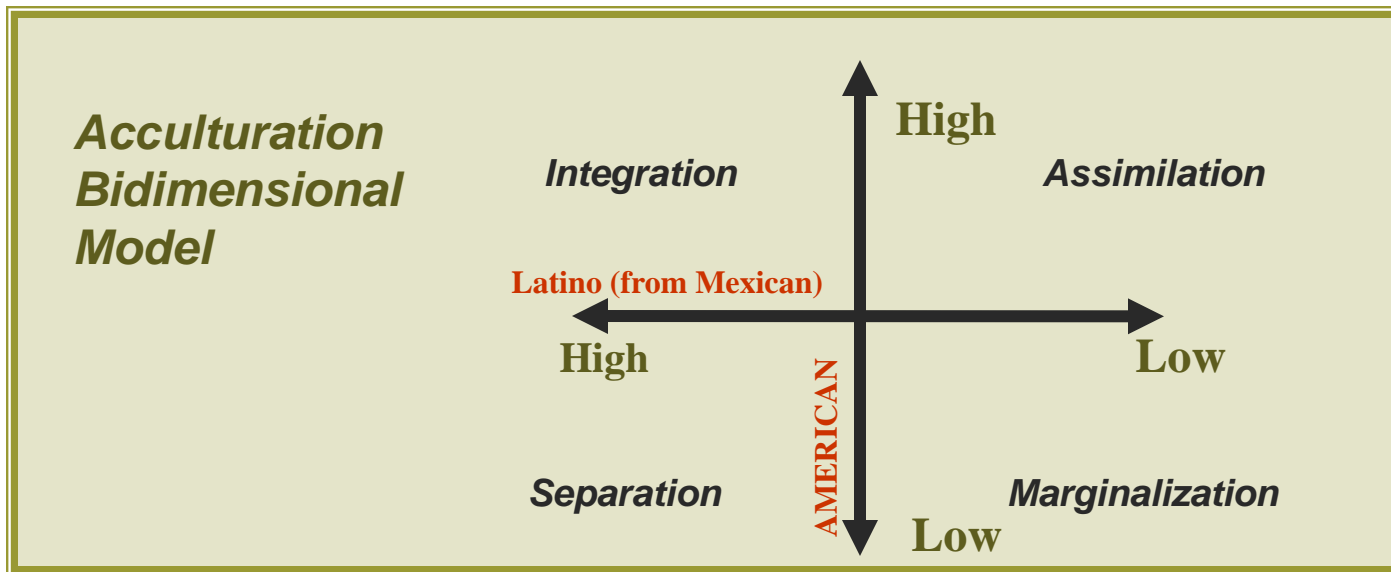
Preliminary Focus Group Analyses: **Acculturation**

- **Individual Level**

- Strong maintenance of ties to culture of origin
- Change and adaptation to host culture

- **Community Level**

- Little interaction between newcomers and receiving community
- Perceived adjustments were occurring on both sides



Climate Themes & Categories

- Perceptions of Community
 - Appeal of host community
 - Good community
 - Raise family/children's education
 - Cost of living
 - Community reception
 - Welcome reception
 - Others are willing to help
 - Unwelcome reception
 - Changing reactions: Cold to acceptance

Climate Themes & Categories

■ Perceived Racism

○ Overt acts of discrimination

- Target of stereotypes
- Housing discrimination
- Mistreatment at work

○ Microaggressions


- Alien in own land
- Color-blindedness
- Criminality/assumption of criminal status
- Second-class citizen

[Research Questions]

- What are participants' perceptions of the community climate for newcomers to the area? (Focus group data)
- Predictors of (a) psychological well-being and (b) job satisfaction. (Household data)

Possible IV to explore:

- Acculturation & Enculturation
- Climate subscales: Social/environmental; Racism/discrimination stress; English competencies
- Acculturative stress
- Hours work per week
- Wages



Social Capital

Steve Jeanetta

Preliminary Focus Group Analyses:

Social Capital

■ Bridging

- Participation in local community through work and church. Barriers include language skills, legal status, and access to resources.
- Neighborhood connections
- Family and Friends connections
- Work connections

■ Bonding

- Proactivity in a Social Context
- Feelings of Trust and Safety
- Family and Friends
- Work Connections

Developing Strategies through the Photovoice Forums

Impacts:
Awareness
Education
Involvement



Model Testing - Results

Variables	Origin	
	Natives	Foreign
Work Experience	0.293	0.202
Acculturation-integration	0.280	0.137
Acculturation-assimilation	0.024 [#]	0.042
Good English and Educ. cross effect	0.061	0.064
Able to speak another language	0.264 [#]	0.461
Racial profiling	-0.046	-0.081
Gender: Female	-0.174	-0.512
Mobility	0.022	-0.018
Age	0.031	0.219
Education	0.064	0.052
Social Capital index	0.174	0.219

- Only significant values presented
- # Not significant

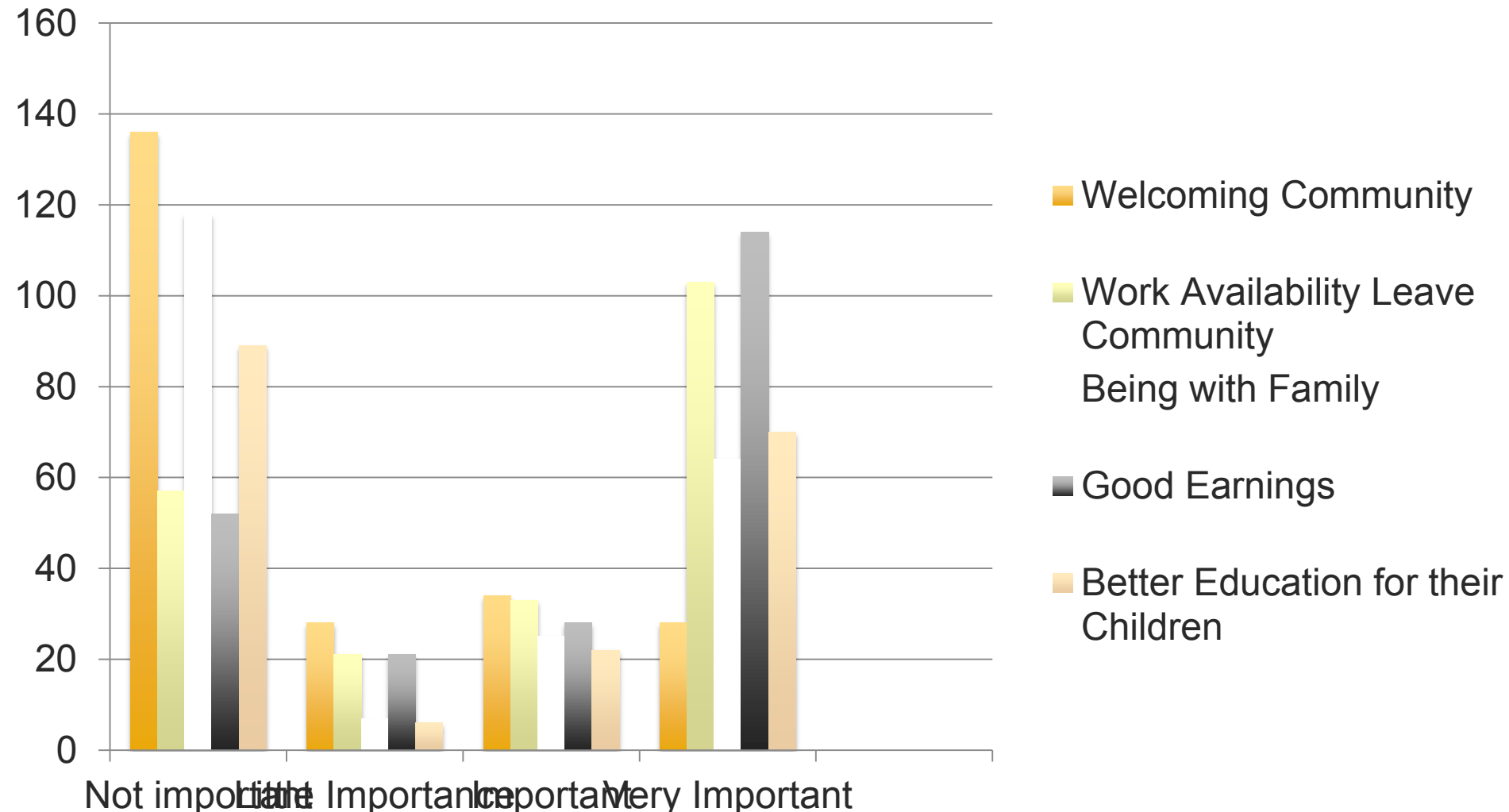


Findings from Asset Accumulation Project

258 Households Surveys

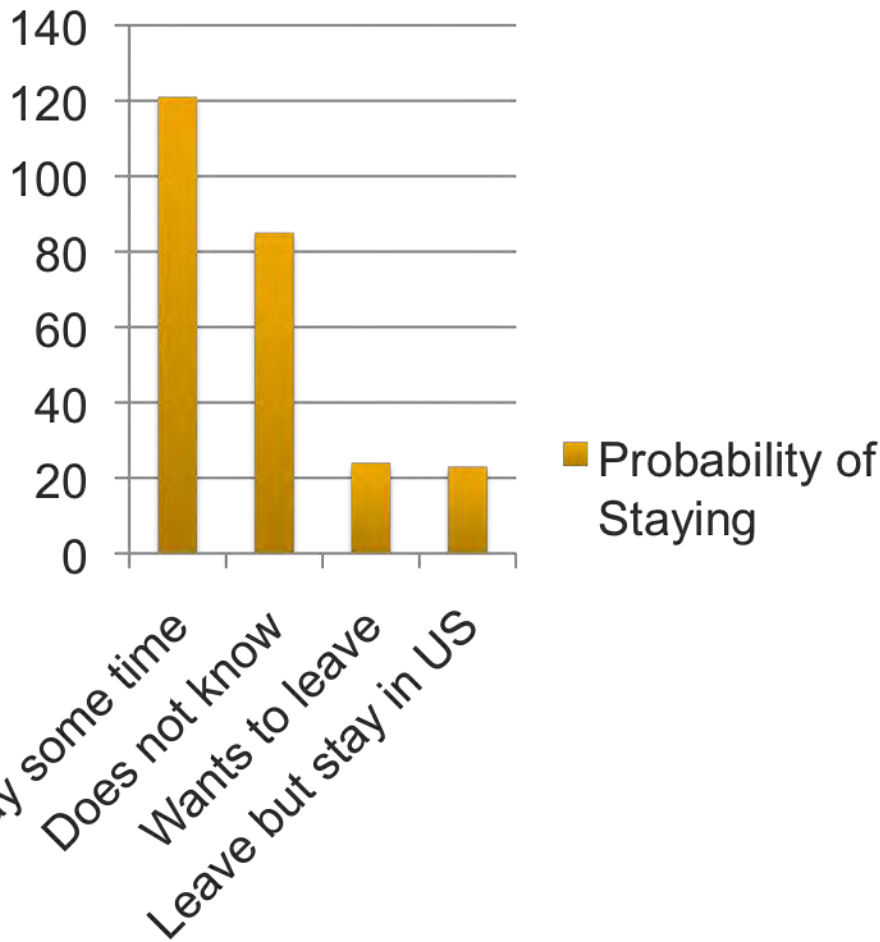
Two regions (North and Central)

How important in your decision to leave your country

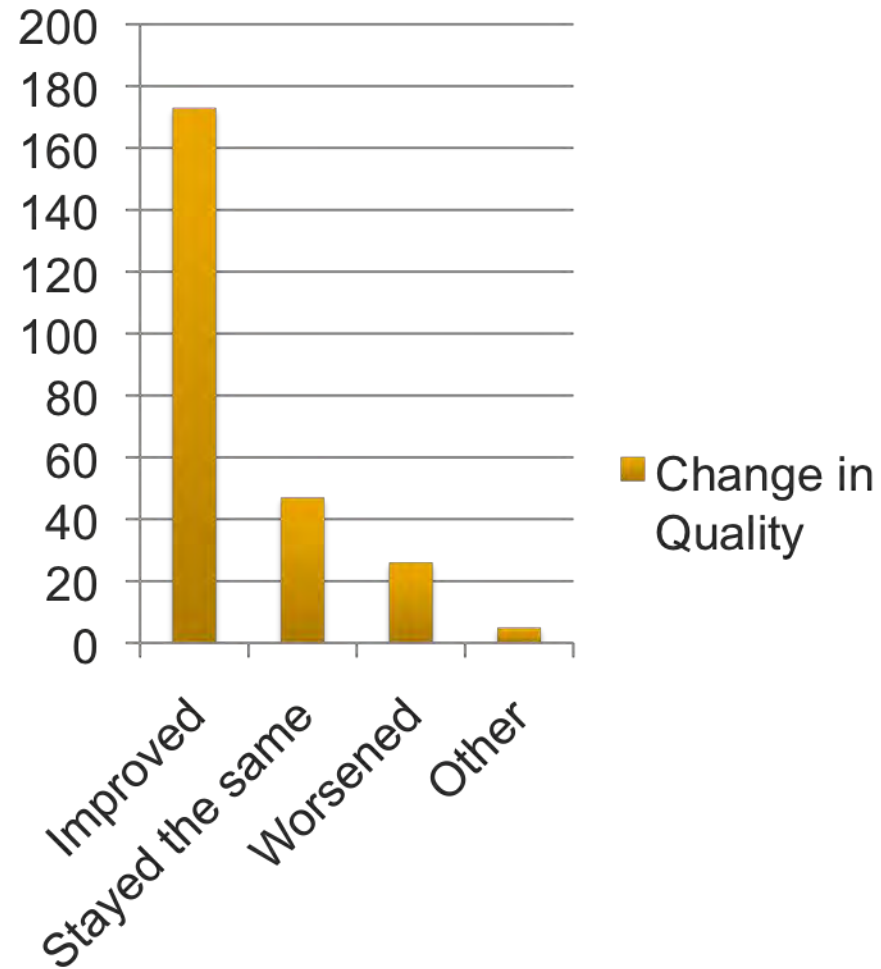


Probability of Staying in this Community & Quality of Life

Probability of Staying



Change in Quality



[Wellbeing - questions]

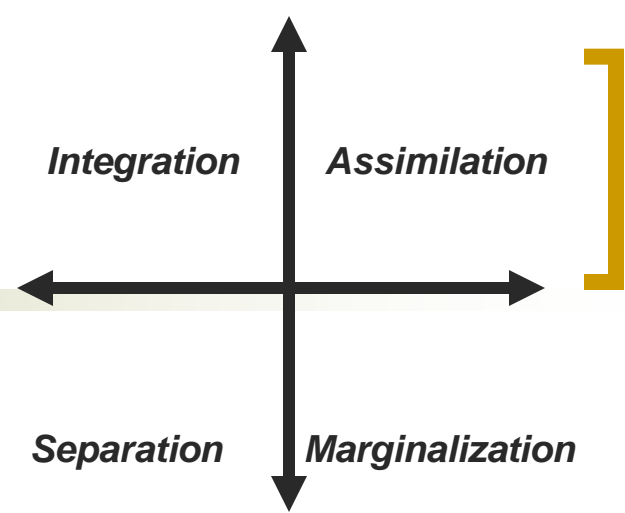
Question Wellbeing Mean and Standard Error	4.9 (0.1)	Integration/ Assimilation	Marginaliz/ Separation
My life is close to my ideal	4.71 (0.1)	4.75 (.2)	4.69 (.1)
Conditions of my life are excellent	4.96 (.1)	5.04 (.2)	4.93 (.1)
Are satisfied with my life	5.59 (.1)	5.61 (.2)	5.58 (.1)
So far I have gotten the important things in my life **	4.97 (.1)	4.95 (.2)	5.03 (.1)
If I could live forever I would change almost nothing	4.26 (.1)	4.41 (.3)	4.24 (.2)

1 is strongly disagree
 4 is neutral
 7 is strongly agree

Mobility Findings

Categories	Total (mean)	Integration	Separation
Age	36	34	37
Education	8-9 th grade	68% HS diploma +	10% HS diploma +
Years in Current Job	3.5	3.3	3.5
Years in this Community & the previous one	6 / 4.8	6.7 / 4.9	5.7/ 4.7
No. Months Unemployed last 12 months	4.8	5.1	4.5
Currently Working %	64%	58%	66%
Mean Monthly Salary \$	1,744	1,912	1,717
Last Year Earnings \$	17,356	21,551	16,705
Remittances\$ (yearly)	287	327	260

[Acculturation



Categories	Total	Integration	Separation
Spanish Mean of 12	3.4	3.5	3.4
English Mean of 12	1.9	3.1	1.6
SCALE 1 - 4			

Acculturation Groups

N = 53 ; 21%

English (mean) > 2.5
Spanish (mean) > 2.5

N = 3 ; 1%

English (mean) > 2.5
Spanish (mean) < 2.5

Integration

Assimilation



Separation

Marginalization

English (mean) < 2.5
Spanish (mean) > 2.5

English (mean) < 2.5
Spanish (mean) < 2.5

N = 192 ; 74%

N = 6 ; 2%



Community Climate & the Context of Reception

Three groups of items measure context of reception

Social
Cultural
Environmental
12 items

Racism &
Discrimination
Stresses
8 items

Language
5 Items

Climate & Context of Reception: Social Cultural Environment

QUESTIONS (7)	3.75	Int.	Sep
This community feels like a cold and uncaring place to me	4.1	NS	
I feel uncomfortable living in this community	3.0	NS	
I feel that I have to change to fit into this community P<.10	3.9	3.5	4.1
This community is an unfriendly place	3.4	NS	

Scale from 1 to 7
 1 is strongly disagree
 4 is neutral
 7 strongly agree

Scores > 4 Negative Context of Reception

Climate & Context of Reception: Racism & Discrimination

QUESTIONS (8)	3.6	Int	Sep
My appearance makes it hard to fit in the community	3.6	NS	
People in this community have stereotypes about my culture P<.1	4.4	3.9	4.6
I have been treated rudely or unfairly because I am a newcomer	3.0	NS	
I have been discriminated against because I am a newcomer	3.0	NS	
People expect me to behave in a certain way because of my race and ethnicity	3.7	NS	

Scale from 1 to 7
 1 is strongly disagree
 4 is neutral
 7 strongly agree

Scores > 4 Negative Context of Reception

Climate & Context of Reception: Language

QUESTIONS (7)	4.4	Int	Sep
I feel pressured to learn English	5.4	4.5	5.6
My language makes it hard to fit into this community	4.5	2.7	5.7
Since I don't speak English well people have treated me rudely or unfairly	3.3	2.8	5.0
I have been discriminated against because I have difficulty speaking English (P<.1)	3.4	2.9	3.5
I bothers me that I speak English with an accent (P<.1)	3.6	2.9	3.8
I feel comfortable being around people who only speak English	3.8	NS	

Scores > than 4 = Negative Context of Reception

Set up of the study of social networks with 258 HH interviewed

- Context and objective
 - There are changing patterns of Latino immigration
 - In light of all these pattern shifts, what is the importance of social networks on wellbeing?
- Two hypotheses guided the study:
 - (a) There is a single dominant indicator of SWB and SK
 - (b) SKs have a significant and positive impact on SWB.
- Analytical approach:
 - SLMS provided the framework for the study
 - Structural equation modeling used for empirical analysis
- Data and variables
 - Recently collected primary data was used from:
 - Region A: a diversified employment community; and
 - Region B: a one main employer community
 - Variables: Subjective Well Being (SWB); Human (HK), Social (SK), Financial (EK), Cultural capitals (CK); and Context of Reception

Assessment and implications

Results:

- Bonding SK; and bridging SK have the largest *effect* on SWB in these regions
- Both SWB and SK are better assessed using multiple latent indicators;
- Only EK and SK are significant in both regions but the effect of SK on SWB is larger than in region B

Possible patterns explaining disparities observed:

- Region B: mostly male, young, single, uncertain of their future, less educated, and most likely to move.
- Region A: has older individuals; more married people; and many have expressed a desire to stay in the community longer.

Thus region A people would tend to see themselves as

- Active members of their town and willing to participate in its development.
- Become part to the “creative class”

Concluding:

- The study suggests that the smaller the region the higher the impact of SK

[Next Steps]

- Analysis of the effect of Mobility, Acculturation and Context of Reception on Income and Life Satisfaction
- Complete surveys in a third region in Missouri
- Return findings to the participating communities and stakeholders
- Publishing - Strategies?



THANK YOU!

Cambio Center

<http://cambio.missouri.edu>

Project Site

<http://www.cambio.missouri.edu/Assets/>