

# Latino immigrant families and their communities: Family and cultural issues

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Presented at the National Public Policy Education Conference

Fayetteville, Arkansas

September 18, 2006

# Acknowledgement

I would like to thank my colleagues who have served as my partners in my different research projects. I would like to thank Becky Kleves my research assistant for contributing to the literature review of this presentation and developing the powerpoint presentation. I also wanted to thank all the families, school personnel and community members of Northwest Ohio and Eastern North Carolina who participated in my different research projects.

# Objectives

Provide an overview of the literature

Describe Latino immigrant families and their culture in Northwest Ohio and Eastern North Carolina

Describe challenges Latino immigrant families face related to:

- Food systems

- Other social systems

Describe implications for family, educational, health, and immigration policy

# Previous Research

Immigration and Food Systems

Waves of migration and immigration

Community Transformation: Giving and  
receiving

Labor Realities

# Previous Research

## Immigration and Food Systems

Transnational families

Latino family resiliency and adaptation

Latino youth and children place in “El Norte”

Latino families space in Rural America

Economic Impact

Cultural and Religious Impact

Social and Political Impact

# Theoretical Foundation

## Ecological Systems Theories

### Latino Immigrant Family Systems in the United States

1. Economic Systems
2. Political Systems
3. Educational Systems
4. Health Systems
5. Other Social Systems

# Regions

“Down East” Eastern North Carolina  
Migration Patterns and Reasons  
Industries in the Region

Northwest Ohio  
Migration Patterns and Reasons  
Next Door Neighbors: Rural and Urban  
Communities  
Industries in the Region

# Latino immigrant families and their culture

Familial immigration experience

The voyage

Economic hardships

The interface between familism and  
immigration



# Latino immigrant families and their culture

Acculturation and assimilation within a Latino  
immigrant family context

Intergenerational realities

Spousal relationships

Culture, language, and religion

# Latino Immigrant Families, Food Systems and Other Social Systems

Community Issues

Cultural Relations

Religious Issues

Economic and Labor Issues

# Latino Immigrant Families, Food Systems and Other Social Systems

## Educational Issues:

Educacion and Education

Familial Involvement

Family-School Partnerships: Changing Faces

State Standardized Examination

Language and Cultural Factors

# Latino Immigrant Families, Food Systems and Other Social Systems

## Health Issues

Changing Food Habits

Traditional Foods Availability

Food Preparation and Food Safety

Acculturation and Assimilation

Latino Immigrant Families and At Risk  
Health Conditions

# Implications for Family Policy

Dream Act

Immigration Reform

Acculturation Education

# Implications for Educational Policy

No Child Left Behind

Cultural Competence and School Personnel  
Preparation

State Standardized Examination

Pipelines to Higher Education

# Implications for Health Policy

Healthcare Access

Public Health Education

# Implications for Immigration Policy

Immigration Reform

Dream Act

Labor Reform



# Conclusion

Lessons from the past and questions for the future.

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