

Economic Hardships Latinos face in Rural Areas
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Abstract

The purpose of this study is to focus on the Hispanic immigrant populations living in rural regions of the US, by assessing their economic hardships measured by annual income, educational attainment, employment status, and use of public services, etc. Over the years, the United States has experienced an influx of Hispanic immigrants but also a migration shift within the country from metropolitan areas to nonmetropolitan ones. The methods of collecting data were by conducting short surveys for quantitative responses. The sample populations consist of the Hispanic population from Watauga, Ashe, and Wilkes County. Overall, the findings of this research show regional hardships of the Hispanic populations in the High Country.

Introduction

Immigration to the United States of America is a crucial component of the country's history, since it is a major source of population growth and cultural transformation. Nonetheless, our country has experienced a major increase of immigrants in the past twenty years. The United States population today is comprised of over one tenth immigrant and half of them are of Hispanic/Latin American origin. At first, Hispanic immigrants tended to reside in urban areas but have recently shifted toward rural regions because of greater employment opportunities that are available (Raffaelli et al. 2012). This shift to nonmetropolitan counties increased from 3.6 to 5.5 percent between 1990 and 2000 and have accounted for over 25 percent of growth in the 1990s (Kandel et al. 2011).

The growth of Hispanics in rural areas has imposed important public policy questions: what hardships they are confronted with, are their current conditions better than that of their native country, and how much access they have to public resources. This research study aims to address the hardships Hispanic immigrants face in the rural counties of Avery, Ashe, and Watauga (High Country). For the purpose of this study, hardships are defined by employment status, annual income, educational attainment, ownership of car or house, and access to public services. The quantitative data provides an analysis of the economic hardships Hispanic face in the High Country.

Literature Review

The population of Hispanics in rural areas of America has nearly doubled from 1.5 to 3.2 million and currently makes up for fastest growing sector of rural county residents. Compared to 1980, Hispanic immigrants accounted for just 3 percent of rural areas. Over a span of 20 years, Hispanics have accounted for a 25 percent increase of population of these nonmetropolitan regions (Kandel and Cromartie 2004).

Agribusiness and meat processing companies are largely responsible for the increase of Hispanics in rural areas (Mora et al. 2014). The foreign-born population has shifted to the Midwest and Southeast by 145% increase between 1990 and 2000, while the whole country experienced a 57% increase. These migration movements towards highly rural areas have been a result of the new, numerous job availabilities (Champlin and Hake 2006). In rural regions, a significant portion of Hispanic immigrants is comprised of farmworkers, estimated at 4 million in 2000 (Hiott et al. 2008). The United States depends heavily on migrant farmworkers for the agricultural economy. From this group, 95% were of Mexican origin, 2% from Latin America, 1% from Asia, and only 2% from other foreign nations (Parra-Cardona et al. 2006).

Meatpacking industries have always relied on immigrant workers such as Irish and Germans in the 1800s to the current popular Hispanic workers. This industry is fully driven to increase the number of unskilled jobs and filling these positions with cheap labor. Low agricultural services are common in the U.S. resulting in business employers to hiring cheap migrant workers. This has resulted in economic imbalance for them, with a median annual income of about \$7,500 in 2002 (Parra-Cardona et al. 2006). Immigrants are more likely to have

an income below the poverty line and work in low-wage jobs. Social services that could potentially help new immigrants are less readily available in these rural regions of the Midwest and South (Champlin and Hake 2006).

Work conditions have a possibility of jeopardizing the health and well being of a Latino migrant worker from exposure to chemical such as toxic pesticide or the diverse forms of stressor they face (Parra-Cardona et al. 2006). The most imposing stressor was legality and logistics, which reflected the hardships of working and living in this country. It was measured by five categories including difficulty in finding a place to live, difficulty in migrating to this country, struggle of finding a job, worriedness about not having permit to work and being deported (Hiott et al. 2008).

Their mental health is also affected from stressful work environments causing greater anxiety and depression symptoms. Immigrants often times find themselves socially isolated because they are disconnected from friends and family distantly, also causing these symptoms (Hiott et al. 2008). Rural communities usually have limited social services and resources, which becomes a greater consequence for new immigrants to face social isolation (Mora et al. 2014). Stressful working conditions had the strongest potential effect on depressive symptoms, while social isolation had a stronger potential effect on farmworker anxiety. These anxiety and depressive symptoms and the use of alcohol could be the result of the immigrant's relocation to a new area that does not have a well-established Latino community to help and ease their transition (Hiott et al. 2008).

Workers, such as those in the meatpacking industry, often times perform dangerous and difficult labor for extremely low wages with no opportunity for possible job advancement or job security. Since they are only immigrants and most in time not citizens they have limited rights and little bargaining power. Unlike U.S. workers, in the case of unauthorized workers, they face the reality of not having any rights or bargaining power at all (Champlin and Hake 2006).

Having limited rights causes an almost impossible upward mobility because it meant a possible loss of seniority and job security or less time spent with family because they could be working extra hours to maintain a sustainable income (Valdivia and Flores 2012). With Hispanics predominately having low wages, they turn to resources for aid. However, for some regions it is not the lack of availability of resources but the lack of knowledge of availability within the Hispanic community. They are unaware of programs that are out there that could possibly be beneficial to them. Furthermore, when they do become aware of a program they are often times deterred because of their language barrier, isolation, and fear of authorities. Latino families who are aware of programs may not know the specific eligibility or required documentation needed. Most importantly, Latinos become afraid to use these resources because they fear it will hinder their future chances of becoming permanent U.S. residents or citizens, causing families to be in difficult situation as a result of not using these services (Raffaelli and Wiley 2012).

Since the employment and educational opportunities are usually lower in rural communities, it forces immigrant families to make decisions of their allocations of resources based on total income and human capital (Sano et al. 2011). Economic attainment for Hispanic

immigrants usually depends on their social capital that emphasized their education, English language proficiency, skills and the characteristics or demands the U.S. labor market are searching for. These variables become problematic for the social capital of an immigrant because their home country could value their social capital very differently in comparison to the one they would have in their destination countries. Education or work experience may not translate directly due to differences in evaluations and credentials of human capital (Kandel et al. 2011).

Latina immigrants usually have lower rates of employment compared to that of immigrant men and other non-Hispanic women. They often work shifts for extremely low wages in unskilled service positions such as domestic work and garment manufacturing (Raffaelli et al. 2012). It was reported that women believed they were getting ahead even though their wages had not increased (Valdivia and Flores 2012). Latinas are more likely to be affected by separation of their family causing depressive symptomatology. Researchers concluded that men's mental health was heavily influenced by employment and earning related experiences while women's mental health was influenced more from family-related factors (Arcury et al. 2006).

In conclusion a large number of Latino immigrants move towards rural regions because of increased job opportunities in the agricultural and meatpacking industries (Mora et al. 2014). However, more jobs availability does not necessarily mean they have better job conditions. Many Latinos are faced with challenging issues such as low paying wages, low household incomes, less support from social programs and can sometimes result in poor mental health. Men and women can deal with these issues differently because women are more affected by family matters (Arcury et al. 2006).

According to the United States Census Bureau, in 2010 8.4 percent of Hispanic compromised North Carolina's population, compared to 17.1 percent nationwide. North Carolina alone has experienced an increase of over 300% of the Hispanic population (Kochhar et al. 2005). Together, Avery, Ashe, and Watauga counties have a Hispanic population of 4.4 percent (US Census 2010a, 2010b, 2010c). Similarly to other rural regions, the increase is due in part of the growing agriculture and meatpacking industries. Especially because of the successful Christmas tree farming the High Country provides and the increase of use of the H2A worker program that provides immigrants with a temporary visa to work a 9-month period (Lippard 2010). In order to understand the Hispanic population of the High Country, data was collected to highlight the conditions and hardships Hispanics were encountered with.

Methodology

This research has evaluated the data collected in an attempt to describe the economic hardships of Hispanic immigrants living in the High Country. The population included 28 participants of the Hispanic race. Data was collected between the January and April 2014 of the Hispanic population of Avery, Ashe and Watauga County (High Country). During this time frame, a convenient sample was collected after the Spanish service at St. Elizabeth Catholic Church in Boone. The pastor allowed to me announce that I was collecting data and requested their active participation. Data was also collected at the High Country Community Health, a nonprofit clinic, at Avery County's Health Department. The free clinics were held every Wednesday between 6 p.m. and 8 p.m.

A survey was given to the participants face to face in Spanish. Various participants chose to complete the survey on their own while others had the survey read to them. This survey consisted of 31 close-ended questions and 3 open-ended questions. After the survey collection, data was translated from Spanish to English. Then computed into SPSS for a descriptive analysis.

The data was analyzed by measuring the hardships of the participants. Hardships were represented by multiple variables that described their wellbeing. Those variables included their employment status, homeownership, bank membership, educational attainment, and personal and household annual income. Other variables were examined such as their reason for migrating to North Carolina, services they have used in the past and which one were the most and least difficult to obtain, and their goals for the next five years.

Findings

A descriptive analysis has been an outcome of this short data collection. The sample of 28 Hispanic participants consisted of 59% male and 41% female. Ages ranged between 22 and 53 years olds, with 60% of them being under the age 40. As shown in Table 1, more than half, 64%, of the participants were married. While, 10.7% were single, 14.3% of them were divorced, and 10.7% were in civil union.

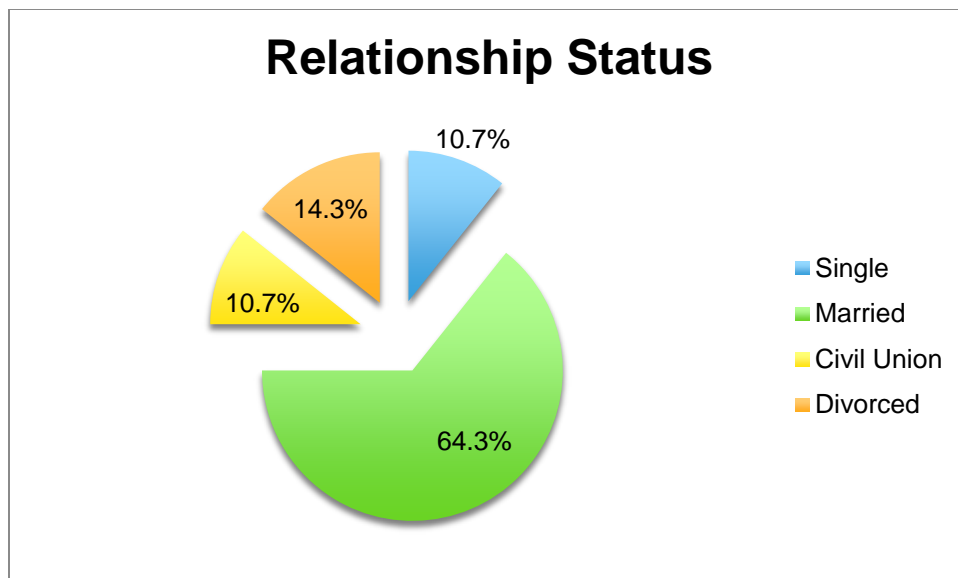


Table 1

When asked about where most of their schooling was completed, only person had attended school in the United States, while the rest attended school in Mexico. The highest degree most of the participants earned was between 6th through 8th grade at 46.4%. A quarter of the participants attended 6th grade or less and 21.4% finished high school. Only one person had completed their associate's degree and another their bachelor's degree.

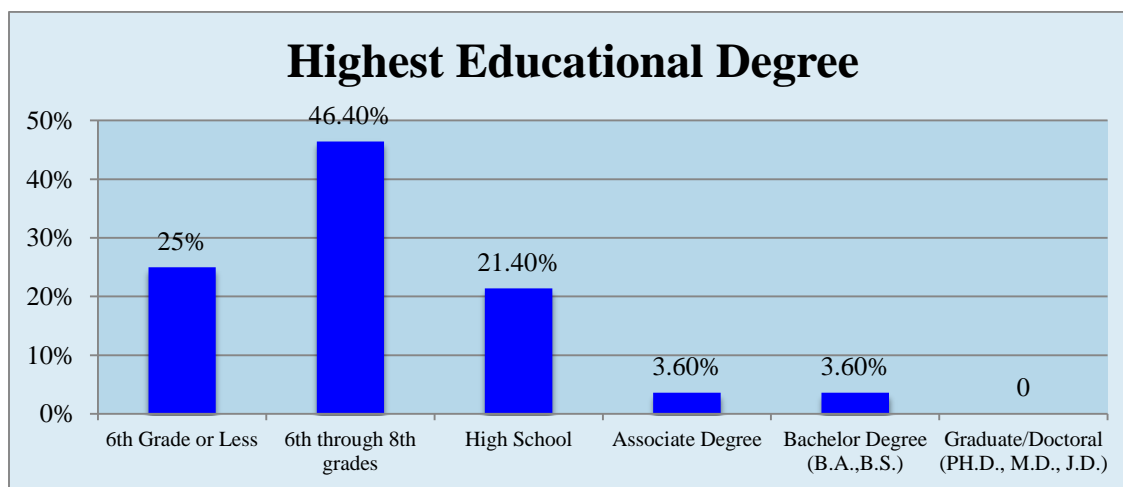


Table 2

About half (48%) of the participants were employed full-time (see Table 3), meaning another 33% were employed part-time. Cumulatively, 82% of the sample was employed whether it is part-time or full-time. Approximately 19% were completely unemployed.

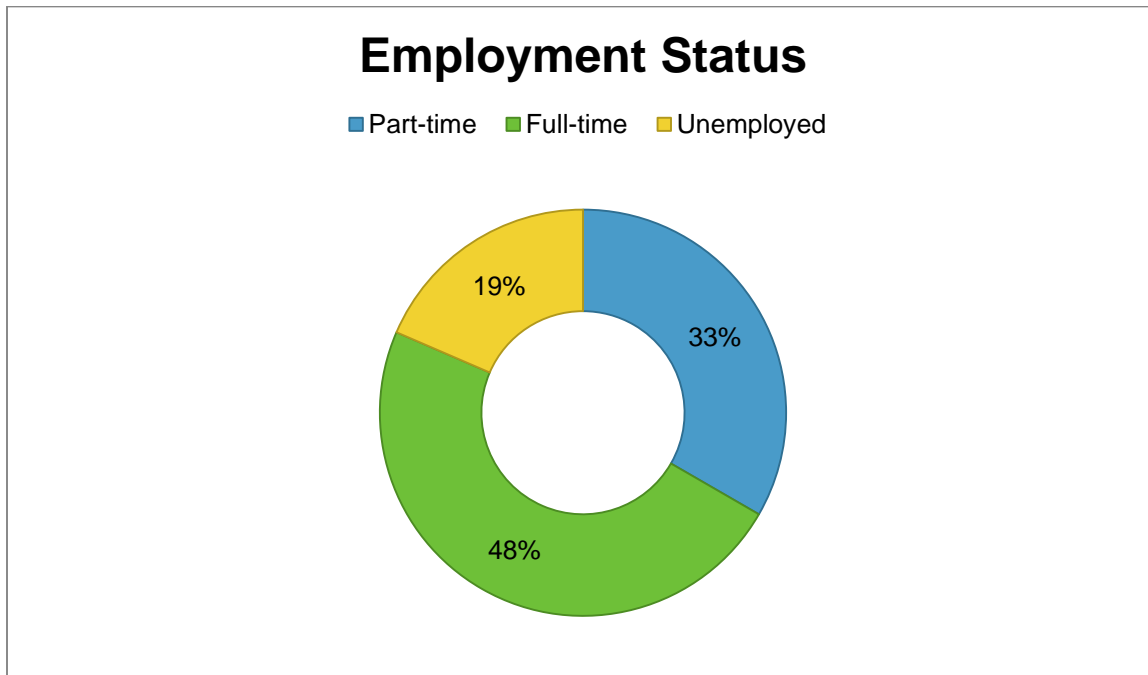


Table 3

When asked about their personal annual income (see Table 4), about 43% of the participants claimed they made less than \$10,000 a year. A cumulative 82% declared they made less than \$20,000 a year. Only one person stated that they made more than \$40,000 a year.

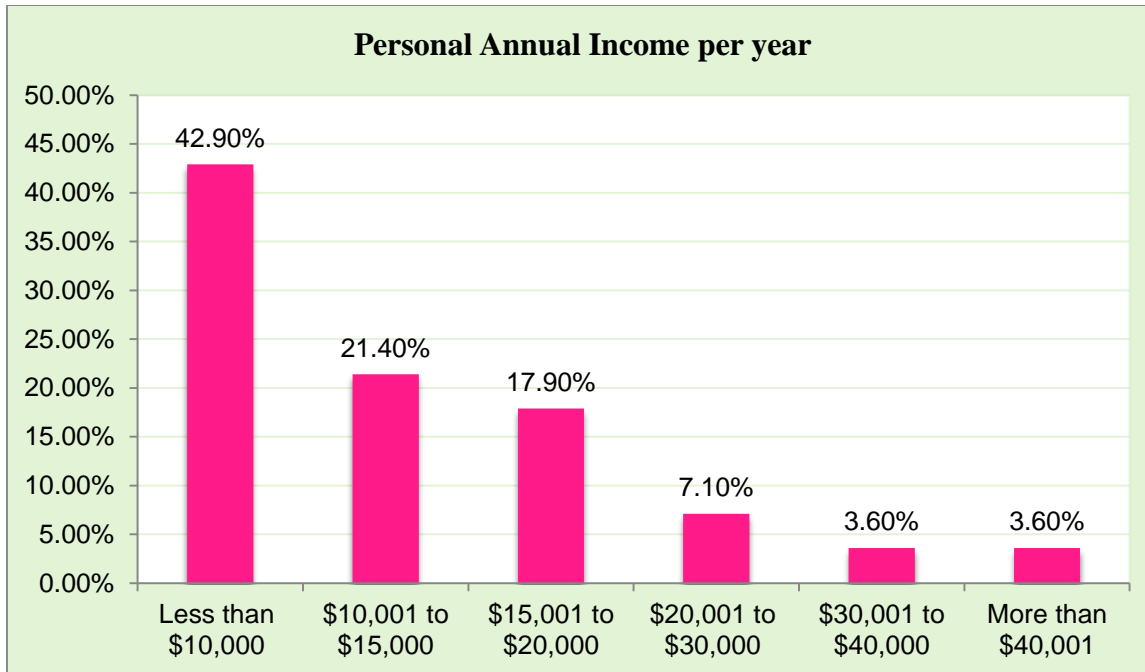


Table 4

Overall, most of the participants answered somewhat higher or much higher now when asked how did their current income compare to the one they had in their country of origin (see Table 5). One person admitted their income was much lower. Another person also said their income was somewhat lower now. Three participants stated that their income was the same now as before. There is an increase in the amount of participants (41.7%) who claimed their income was somewhat higher now. Finally, 37.5% said that their current income was much higher now than the one they had in their home country.

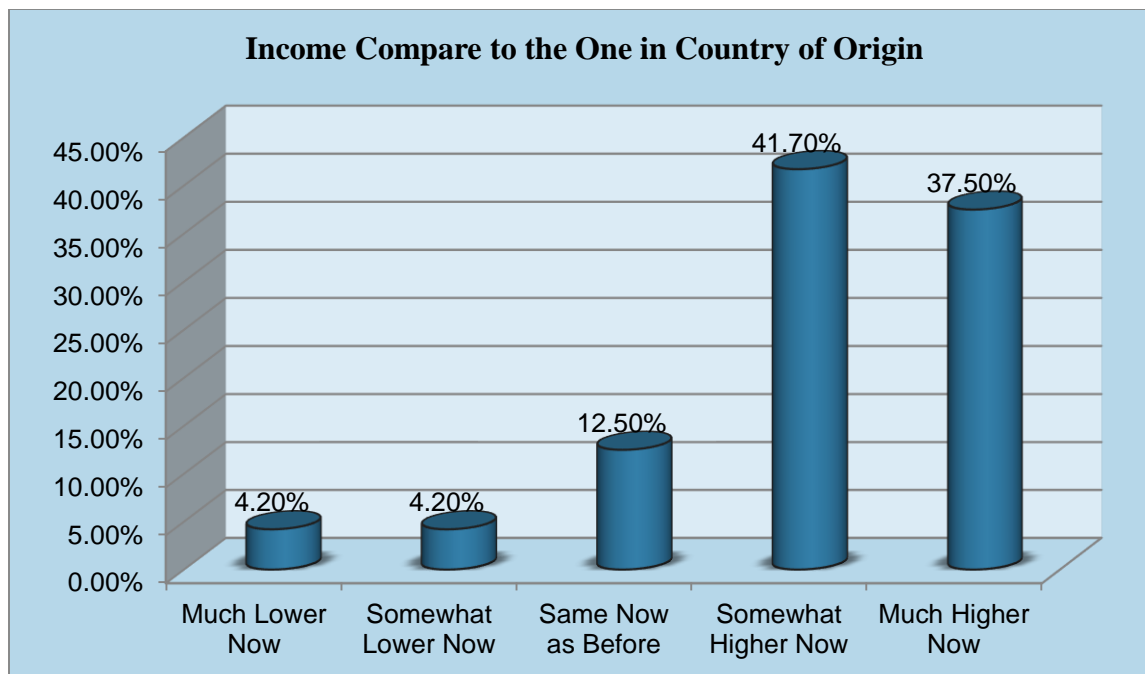


Table 5

After being asked about their personal annual income, they were asked what their total household income (see Table 6). About 63% indicated their total household income to be less than \$20,000 a year. Only a quarter of the participants made \$20,001 to \$30,000 a year in their household. Two out of the 28 participants made \$30,001 to \$40,000 a year and only one person claimed their household makes between \$60,001 to \$80,000 a year.

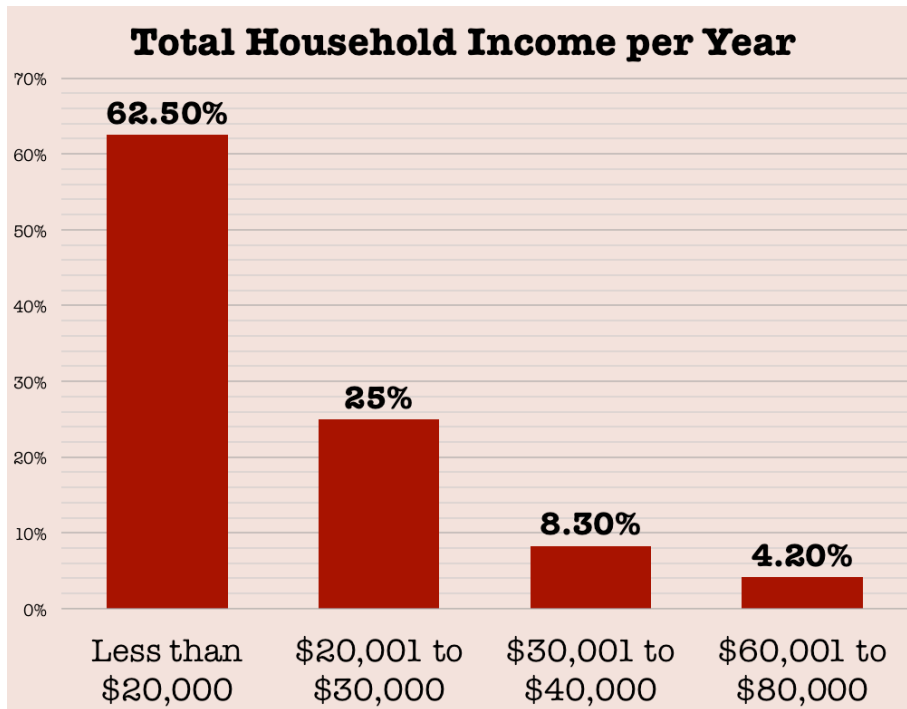


Table 6

In this question, participants were asked whether they rented or owned the place they lived in. Eighty-one percent (see Table 7) rented the place they lived in while, 8% of them owned their own house. More of the participants answered neither (11.5%) meaning that they were temporarily living with someone else.

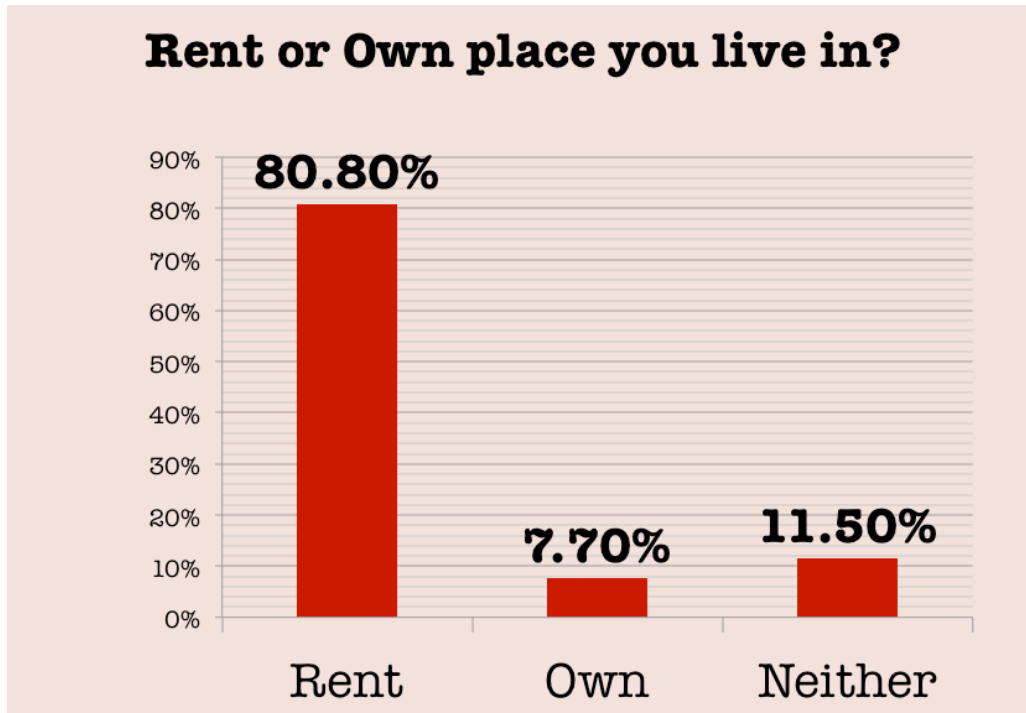


Table 7

When asked what form of transportation they used more often, 75% stated they used their own car. Meanwhile, 21% used their friend or relative's car and the remaining 4% used the bus or other public transportation. Additional options such as bicycle or walking were provided, however no one claimed they used those forms of transportation.

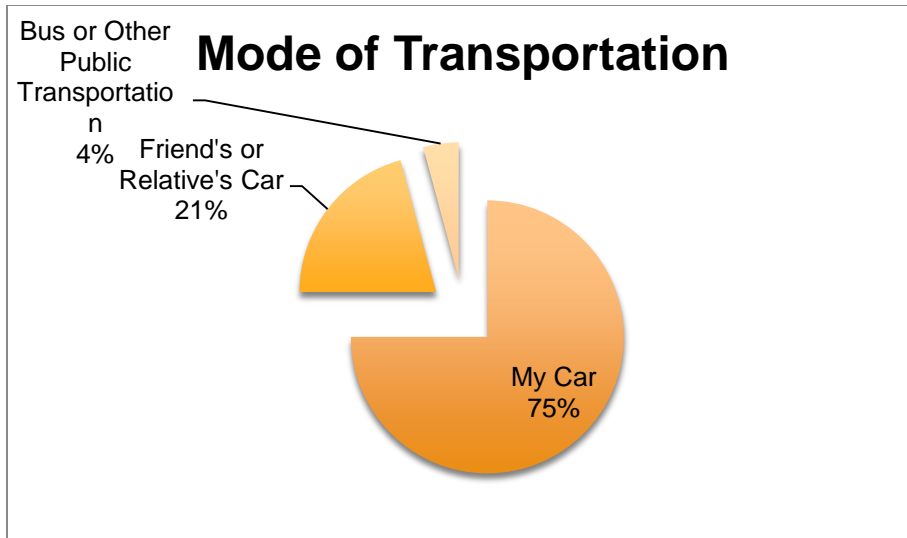


Table 8

More than half of the participants (67%) indicated that they had either a saving or checking's account in the United States. The other 33% claimed that they did not use a bank account.

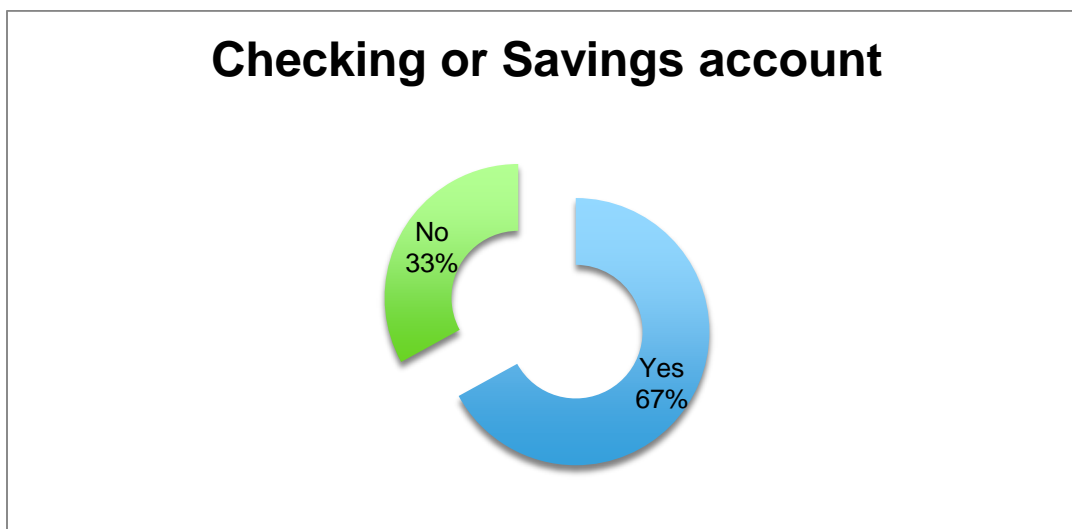


Table 9

The participants were questioned if they sent money to their family, friends, or others in their home country (see Table 8). An astonishing 79% claimed that they did while the other 21% said they did not. They were then asked on average, how much did they send in a month, the answers ranged between \$100 and \$800. A quarter of them claimed they sent a remittance of \$500 a month.

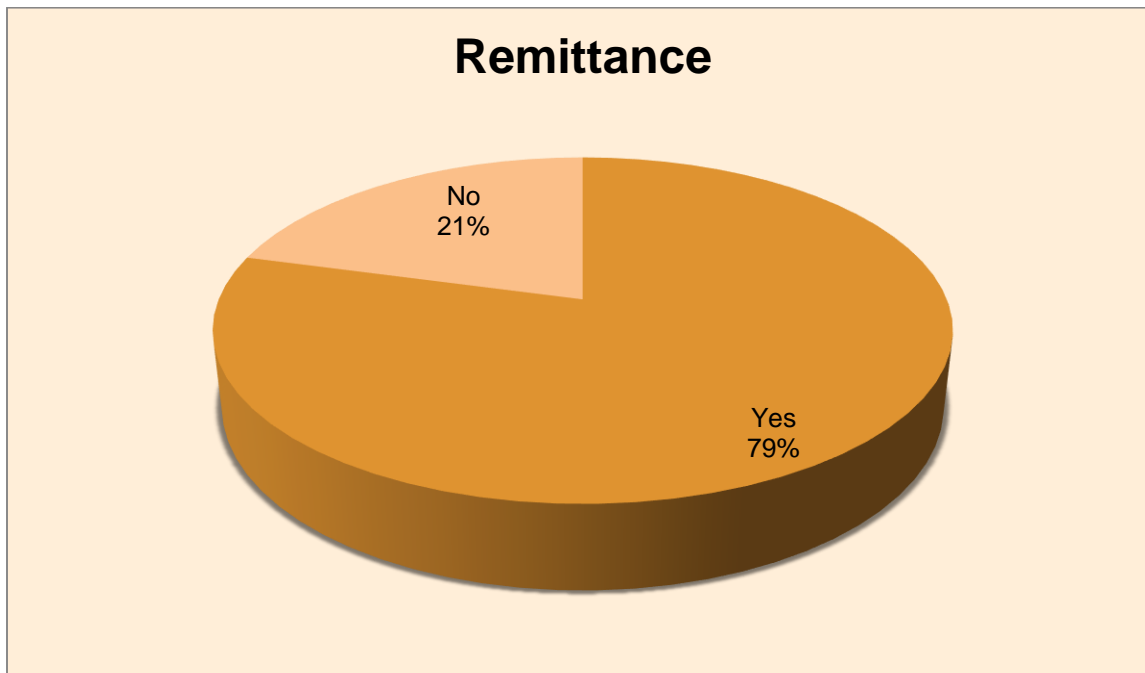


Table 10

When asked what were certain of the reasons for migrating to North Carolina, 85.7% claimed they did for employment opportunities (see Table 11). Whereas, 14.3% stated they migrated to NC to stay with or rejoin with family members and 3.6% because of prejudice in previous place of residence.

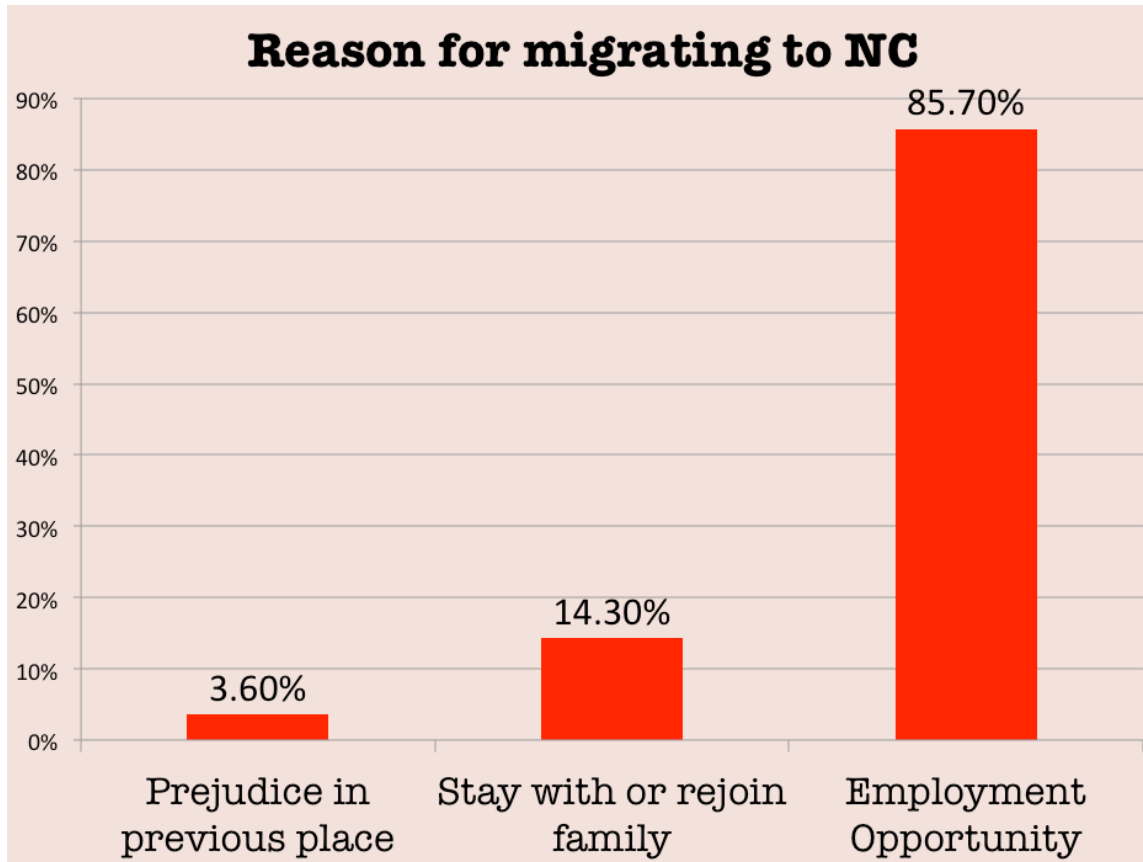


Table 11

Thereafter, they were asked a similar question what was the main reason they were remaining in North Carolina (see Table 12). About 43% stated that employment opportunity were one of the main reasons they remained in NC. Only 3 participants claimed that they remained in the state so they could stay with their family members. While one person answered that they remained because of educational opportunities and another because of the acceptance from local community.

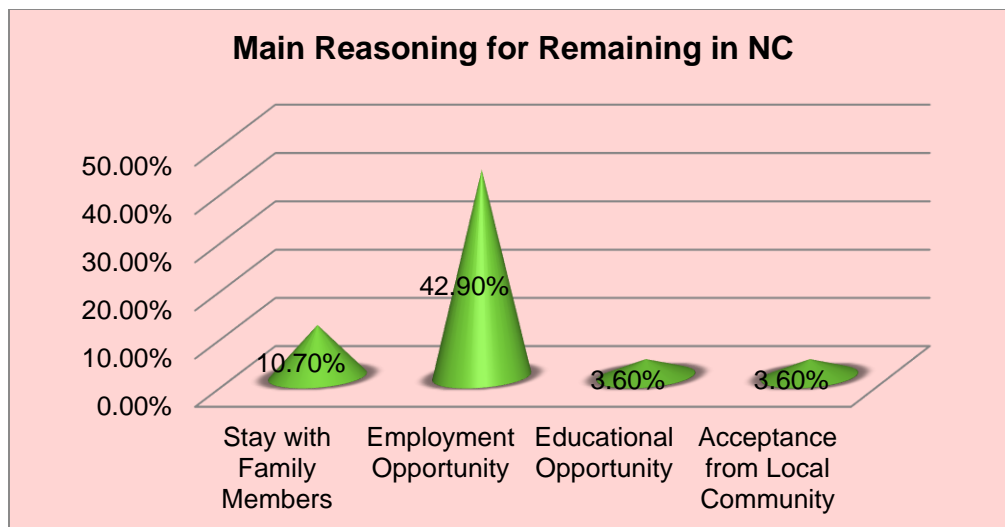


Table 12

When asked how they would pay if they needed medical help, about half (52%) claimed they would pay out pocket (see Table 13). Only one participant said they had health insurance and another had no way to pay for medical help. Fourteen percent would burrow money and another 14% would rely on charity to pay for medical help. The choice other was also provided were 10% said they would pay in payments. Ten out of the 28 respondents claimed they would go to the hospital or emergency room for medical help, while 9 other participants stated they would go to the health department or community care clinic.

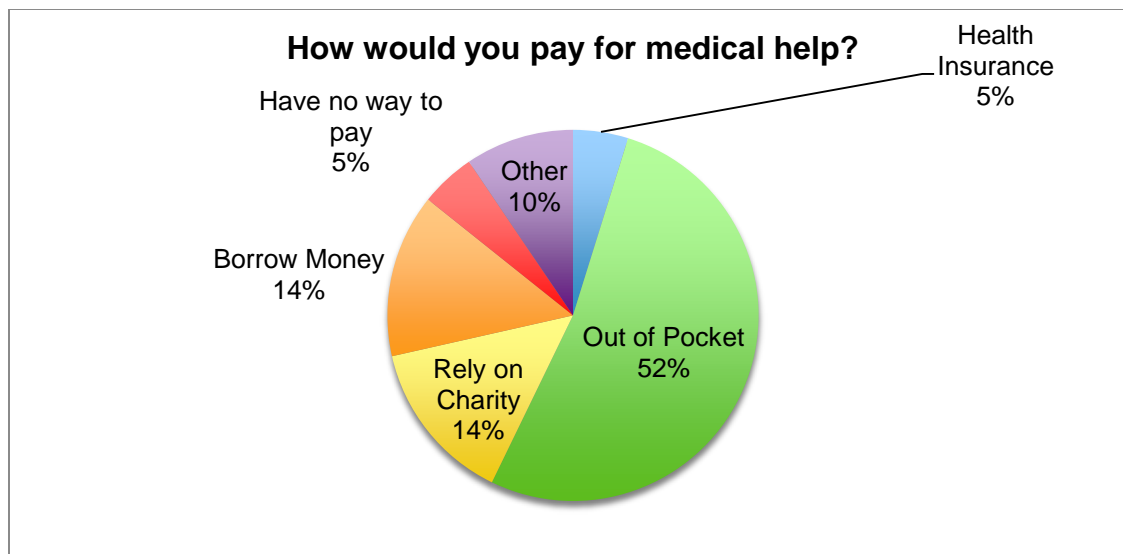


Table 13

The last question in the survey interview asked what were the goals they had for themselves and their family in the next five years (see Figure 1). A majority of the participants indicated they wished for a better and superior education for their children. They hoped to see their children finish college and find professional careers. Others mentioned they hoped to own a home and have a better quality of life. A few participants also answered that they wished to one day be an American resident or citizen.



Figure 1

Results

As one can observe from Table 2, education attainment was not high. A little less than half of the participants completed 6th through 8th grade. Low educational attainment supports that on average the Hispanic population does not have a high educational attainment. Since formal education heavily influences economic outcomes, it demonstrates one of the hardships they are confronted with. Even if someone with a high educational degree from their country of origin, it often does not get interpreted into the same degree in the United States, possibly formulating it as worthless. Without any higher formal education it may create a frustrating dynamic because if they can not read or write in their native language, it may be significantly harder for people to obtain resources in another country where a different language is spoken. For example, a longer period of time in the United States increases language proficiency, which makes individuals

more appealing to potential employers and grants them greater opportunity to find employment outside of their local labor markets or immediate social networks (Kandel et al. 2011).

However, despite of low educational attainment, approximately 80% of the participants are working, either part-time or full-time. This abnormal pattern is consistent with evidence showing that Hispanics move to these rural regions because of the growing abundance of employment opportunities. Majority of the job positions reflected the industries that require low-skill workers (Parra-Cardona et al. 2006). These physically demanding jobs consist of Christmas tree farmworkers, painters, carpenters, construction, housekeepers, and landscaping. The most common job held were the Christmas tree farmworkers, four out of 28, since it is a major agriculture product of the High Country.

Many researchers have stated that the migration from metropolitan areas to rural ones is due to the availability of new jobs (Raffaelli et al. 2012). This definitely supports the findings in Table 11; about 85 percent of respondents claimed they migrated to North Carolina because of the job opportunities. Reiterating again in Table 12, majority indicated employment opportunities were the main reason they continued to reside here. The majority of the participants were employed whether it was full-time or part-time. The employment rate could be associated with the new job availabilities in rural regions of the United States (Champlin and Hake 2006). However, the unemployment rate (see Table 3) is much higher the national rate of 6%. The Hispanic population could face a higher unemployment rate because a lack of proper documentation allowing them to work resulting in low job security (Champlin and Hake 2006).

Concerning the annual income per year for an individual during this analysis plenty of information was concluded. About 43 percent of the respondents, individually live under the federal poverty guideline. That rate is even higher for total household incomes per year (see Table 6); about 63% indicated their total household income to be less than \$20,000 a year. Since immigrants are more likely to work in low-wage jobs, they are also more likely to have an annual income below the poverty line (Champlin and Hake 2006). Yet, when asked how their income compared to the one in their native country, majority responded somewhat higher or much higher now. Implicating that even though the majority is living in poverty, their income is much better than the one in their home country. However, living in poverty can result in poor conditions of living. Only one individual claimed they had health insurance will others who had to pay out of pocket resulting in many of the participants turning to community care clinics and the emergency room for health needs.

Another important variable, home ownership arose in determining hardships of Hispanics from the High Country. Approximately 81 percent (see Table 7) of the participants were renting their home when they responded to this survey. Contrastingly, only about 8 percent own their current home. This may be a consequence of living in poverty because they do not have the economic stability or job security to proceed in purchasing a house. However, when questioned about their mode of transportation, three-quarters responded that they owned their own car. Hispanics in the High Country were more likely to own a car than house.

Conclusion


The purpose of this study was to obtain supplementary information of the Hispanic immigrant populations living in rural High Country, by assessing their economic hardships measured by annual income, educational attainment, employment status, and use of public services, etc. The results in this study suggest that many Hispanics in the High country face various types of economic hardships. The majority is living under the national poverty guideline despite high employment rates, impacting their abilities to basic necessities of life such as a house. It was common that most of them did not attain a higher educational degree past middle school. Furthermore, most did not have the luxury of health insurance. With scarce resources already in place in rural communities, they experience a larger strain on their quality of life. Many of the participants used their money for remittance and paying out of pocket for medical expenses making it difficult to achieve the goals they mentioned.

Nevertheless, the Hispanic population of the High Country consists of hard-working families who have similar dreams that most Americans treasure. For example, when asked about their goals for next five years, majority wished for better living conditions for their family and higher education for their children. Also mentioned, but less common, were hopes of owning a house one and becoming American Citizens. Majority of the Hispanic population of Ashe, Avery, and Watauga claimed they migrated and will remain in this area because of employment opportunities available in the area. Thus, supporting the theory of higher migration rates to nonmetropolitan areas because of the accessibility to jobs.

This study only provided a small demographic insight of the Hispanic population in the High Country. Future researchers could examine a larger population sample in throughout other rural regions of North Carolina. Further analysis can possibly investigate possible disparities of access to public services or economic stability within those Hispanics immigrants who have legal documentation and those who reside in the country illegally. This analysis did not go into detail about participant's legal status in fear of deterring respondents in participating.

Appendix A

Demographic Information

This section covers information concerning who you are and will be helpful in giving us some idea of the variety of Latinos in North Carolina. Please check or write in the appropriate responses for each question. If you choose an answer that has an arrow (), then please answer that question as well.

1. **What is your sex?** 1. Male
2. Female


2. **How old are you (specify in years)?** _____


3. **What is your relationship status (please only check one)?**
 1. Single 3. Civil Union 5. Divorced 7. Other (please specify): _____
 2. Married 4. Widowed 6. Separated

4. **Where was most of your schooling done?**
 1. United States
 2. Country of origin/birth (please specify _____)
 3. Other (please specify: _____)

5. **What is the highest degree you have earned?**
 1. 6th grade or less
 2. 6th through 8th grades
 3. High School
 4. Associate Degree
 5. Bachelor Degree (B.A., B.S.)
 6. Graduate/Doctoral (Ph.D., M.D., J.D.)
 7. Other: Please specify: _____

6. **What is your race or ethnicity?** _____

7. **What is your current employment status?**
 1. Working part-time  **Current occupation(s)/job(s)?**

 2. Working full-time  **Current occupation(s)/job(s)?**

 3. Unemployed
 4. Retired

8. **What was your occupation before arriving to the U.S.?** _____

9. **What is your personal annual income?**
 1. Less than \$10,000 a year
 2. \$10,001 to \$15,000 a year
 3. \$15,001 to \$20,000 a year
 4. \$20,001 to \$30,000 a year

5. ___ \$30,001 to \$40,000 a year
6. ___ More than \$40,000 a year

10. How is your job better than the one you had back in your home country?

11. How is your job worse than the one you had back in your home country?

12. How does your current income compare to the one you had in your country of origin?

1. ___ Much lower now
2. ___ Somewhat lower now
3. ___ Same now as before
4. ___ Somewhat higher now
5. ___ Much higher now

13. What is your total household income (household includes yourself and any one else in your household that earns an income)?

1. ___ Less than \$20,000 a year
2. ___ \$20,001 to \$30,000 a year
3. ___ \$30,001 to \$40,000 a year
4. ___ \$40,001 to \$60,000 a year
5. ___ \$60,001 to \$80,000 a year
6. ___ More than \$80,000 a year

14. Do you (or your family) rent or own the place you live in?

1. ___ Rent
2. ___ Own
3. ___ Neither, I am temporarily living with someone else

15. Which other individuals live with you? (Please check all that apply)

1. ___ spouse/romantic partner
2. ___ children (how many? _____)
3. ___ parents (how many? _____)
4. ___ other relatives (how many? _____)
5. ___ co-workers (how many? _____)
6. ___ friends (how many? _____)

16. How many rooms do you have in your dwelling (count all rooms except bathrooms)?

1. ___ 1 to 2
2. ___ 3 to 4
3. ___ 5 to 8
4. ___ 9 or more

17. How many individuals (including yourself) do you support financially? _____

18. What form of transportation do you most often use?

1. ___ my car
2. ___ friend's or relative's car
3. ___ bus or other public transportation
4. ___ bicycle
5. ___ walk

19. Do you use a checking or savings account here in the U.S.?

1. ___ YES
2. ___ NO

20. Do you send money home to family, friends, or others?

1. ___ YES → **21a. On average, how much do you send in a month?**

2. ___ NO

21. Where were you born? _____

22. Where did you live immediately before coming to North Carolina?

- Which country? _____
- If in the U.S., which state? _____ and city? _____

23. How long have you been in North Carolina? ___ years and ___ months

24. How long do you plan to stay in North Carolina? _____ (years)

25. What is your main reason for migrating in North Carolina? (Please check one)

1. ___ Stay with family members
2. ___ Employment opportunity
3. ___ Educational opportunity
4. ___ Climate
5. ___ Acceptance from local community
6. ___ Other reason (please specify): _____

26. What were some of your other reasons for migrating to North Carolina? (Please check all that apply)

1. ___ Stay with or rejoin family members
2. ___ Employment opportunity
3. ___ Educational opportunity
4. ___ Climate
5. ___ Prejudice in previous place of residence
6. ___ Other _____

27. What is your main reason for remaining in North Carolina? (Please check one)

1. ___ Stay with family members
2. ___ Employment opportunity
3. ___ Educational opportunity
4. ___ Climate

5. ___ Acceptance from local community
 6. ___ Other reason (please specify): _____

28. Have you used the following services during the past year? (check all that apply)

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. ___ general health services | 6. ___ prenatal services |
| 2. ___ dental services | 7. ___ psychological services |
| 3. ___ banking/loans | 8. ___ utilities |
| 4. ___ ESL instruction | 9. ___ education (not including ESL) |
| 5. ___ law enforcement services | 10. ___ rescue /para-medical services |

**29. What type of social/public service is the most difficult to obtain in North Carolina?
 (Please check only one)**

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. ___ general health services | 6. ___ prenatal services |
| 2. ___ dental services | 7. ___ psychological services |
| 3. ___ banking/loans | 8. ___ utilities |
| 4. ___ ESL instruction | 9. ___ education (not including ESL) |
| 5. ___ law enforcement services | 10. ___ rescue /para-medical services |

**30. What type of social/public service is the least difficult to obtain in North Carolina?
 (Please check only one)**

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. ___ general health services | 6. ___ prenatal services |
| 2. ___ dental services | 7. ___ psychological services |
| 3. ___ banking/loans | 8. ___ utilities |
| 4. ___ ESL instruction | 9. ___ education (not including ESL) |
| 5. ___ law enforcement services | 10. ___ rescue /para-medical services |

31. If you needed medical help, where would you go?

32. If you needed medical help, how would you pay?

1. ___ health insurance
2. ___ out of pocket
3. ___ rely on charity organization
3. ___ borrow money
4. ___ have no way to pay
5. ___ other (please specify): _____


33. Who has been most likely to give you information about health services?

1. ___ friends 2. ___ family 3. ___ public agency 4. ___ other: _____

34. What goals do you have for yourself and/or your family 5 years from now?

(Spanish Version of Demographic Questions)

INFORMACIÓN BIOGRÁFICA

Esta sección cubrirá la información referente a quién es usted y ayudará en darnos una idea de la variedad de Latinos en Carolina Norte. Por favor escriba o marque apropiadamente las respuestas en cada pregunta. Si usted elige una respuesta que tenga una flecha (), entonces conteste esa pregunta también.

1. ¿Cuál es su sexo?
 1. ___ masculino
 2. ___ femenino



2. ¿Cuántos años tiene usted? _____

3. ¿Cuál es su estado civil (por favor marque solamente uno)?
 1. ___ soltero/a 3. ___ unión libre 5. ___ separado/a 7. ___ otro (especifique por favor):
 2. ___ casado/a 4. ___ divorciado/a 6. ___ Viudo/aotro

4. ¿Dónde hizo usted la mayor parte de su estudio escolar?
 1. ___ En los Estados Unidos
 2. ___ En el país de origen/nacimiento (especifique por favor _____)
 3. ___ otro (especifique por favor: _____)

5. ¿Cuál es el grado más alto que usted ha completado?
 1. ___ 6mo grado o menos (primaria)
 2. ___ Secundaria
 3. ___ preparatorio or bachillerato
 4. ___ Grado Asociado de nivel universitario (2 años)
 5. ___ Licenciatura Universitaria de ___ (B.A., B.C.) (4 años)
 6. ___ Maestría/Doctorado (Ph.D., M.D., J.D.) (6 - 8 años)
 7. ___ otro (especifique por favor: _____)

6. ¿Cuál es su raza o étnia? _____

7. ¿Cuál es su estado de empleo actual?
 1. ___ Trabajo a medio tiempo  ¿En qué trabaja? _____
 2. ___ Trabajo a tiempo completo  ¿En qué trabaja? _____
 3. ___ desempleado
 4. ___ jubilado

8. ¿Cuál era su trabajo antes de llegar a los EE.UU.? _____

9. ¿Cuáles son sus ingresos anuales?
 1. ___ menos de \$10.000 al año
 2. ___ \$10.001 a \$15.000 al año
 3. ___ \$15.001 a \$20.000 al año

4. ___ \$20.001 a \$30.000 al año
5. ___ \$30.001 a \$40.000 al año
6. ___ más de \$40.000 al año

10. ¿De que manera es su trabajo aquí mejor que su trabajo en su país de origen?

11. ¿De que manera es su trabajo aquí peor que su trabajo en su país de origen?

12. ¿Cómo compara usted su sueldo actual al que ganaba en su país de origen?

1. ___ mucho más bajo ahora
2. ___ algo más bajo ahora
3. ___ iguales ahora que antes
4. ___ algo más alto ahora
5. ___ mucho más alto ahora

13. ¿Cuál es la totalidad de ingresos en su hogar? (incluye el sueldo de usted y el sueldo de cualquier otra persona en su hogar)

1. ___ menos de \$20.000 al año
2. ___ \$20.001 a \$30.000 al año
3. ___ \$30.001 a \$40.000 al año
4. ___ \$40.001 a \$60.000 al año
5. ___ \$60.001 a \$80.000 al año
6. ___ más de \$80.000 al año

14. ¿Alquila usted (o su familia) o es dueño de la casa/apartamento que habita?

1. ___ Alquilo
2. ___ Soy dueño
3. ___ Ninguno de los dos. Estoy viviendo con alguien temporalmente.

15. ¿Quién más vive con usted? (Marque por favor todo lo que sea aplicable)

1. ___ esposo/a, pareja de unión libre
2. ___ hijos (¿Cuántos? _____)
3. ___ padres (¿Cuántos? _____)
4. ___ otros parientes (¿Cuántos? _____)
5. ___ compañeros de trabajo (¿Cuántos? _____)
6. ___ amigos (¿Cuántos? _____)

16. ¿Cuántos cuartos tiene usted en su vivienda? (Cuenta todos los cuartos excepto cuartos de baño)

1. ___ 1 a 2
2. ___ 3 a 4
3. ___ 5 a 8
4. ___ 9 o más

17. ¿Cuántos individuos (incluyéndose usted) apoya financieramente? _____

18. ¿Qué forma de transporte utiliza usted más a menudo?

1. ___ mi coche
2. ___ carro del amigo o pariente
3. ___ el autobús u otra forma de transportación pública
4. ___ bicicleta
5. ___ caminando

19. ¿Usted utiliza una cuenta de cheques o ahorros aquí en los EE.UU.?

1. ___ Si
2. ___ No

20. ¿Envía Usted dinero a su familia, a los amigos, o a otros?

1. ___ Si
 2. ___ No
- **20b. ¿Cuánto envía usted en un mes?**
_____ (promedio)

21. ¿Dónde nació usted? _____

22. ¿Dónde vivió inmediatamente antes de venir a Carolina del Norte?

- ¿Qué país? _____
 ¿Si en los EE.UU., que estado? _____
 ¿y en que ciudad? _____

23. ¿Cuánto tiempo ha estado usted en los Estados Unidos? _____ años y _____ meses

24. ¿Cuánto tiempo planea usted permanecer en Carolina del Norte? _____ (años)

25. ¿Cuál fue su razón principal de emigrar a Carolina del Norte? (Marque uno por favor)

1. ___ Para Reunirme o quedarme con miembros de familia
2. ___ Para Evitar/escapar de ca inestabilidad política
3. ___ Para enviar dinero a la familia en el país de origen
4. ___ Una mejor oportunidad económica para mi o mi esposo/a
5. ___ Una mejor oportunidad económica para los niños
6. ___ Otra razón (especifique por favor): _____

26. ¿Cuáles fueron las otras razones de emigrar a Carolina del Norte? (Marque por favor todo lo que sea aplicable)

1. ___ Reunirse o permanecer con los miembros de familia
2. ___ Oportunidad de empleo
3. ___ Oportunidad de educación
4. ___ El clima
5. ___ Prejuicios en el lugar de residencia anterior
6. ___ Alguna otra razón _____

27. ¿Cuál es su principal razón de permanecer en Carolina del Norte? (Marque uno por favor)

1. ___ Permanecer con miembros de la familia

2. ____ Oportunidad de empleo
3. ____ Oportunidad de educación
4. ____ El clima
5. ____ Aceptación de la comunidad local
6. ____ Alguna otra razón (especifique por favor): _____

28. ¿Ha utilizado usted los servicios siguientes durante el último año?

(Marque todo lo que sea aplicable)

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------|
| 1. ____ servicios médicos en general | 6. ____ servicios prenatales |
| 2. ____ servicios dentales | 7. ____ servicios psicológico |
| 3. ____ actividades bancarias /préstamos | 8. ____ utilidades |
| 4. ____ Ingles como segunda lengua | 9. ____ educación en general |
| 5. ____ servicios de la ley | 10. ____ servicios paramédicos |

29. ¿Qué tipo de servicio social/público es el más difícil de obtener en Carolina del Norte?

(Marque solo uno por favor)

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------|
| 1. ____ servicios médicos en general | 6. ____ servicios prenatales |
| 2. ____ servicios dentales | 7. ____ servicios psicológico |
| 3. ____ actividades bancarias /préstamos | 8. ____ utilidades |
| 4. ____ Ingles como segunda lengua | 9. ____ educación en general |
| 5. ____ servicios de la ley | 10. ____ servicios paramédicos |

30. ¿Qué tipo de servicio social/público es el de menos dificultad en obtener en Carolina del Norte?

(Marque solo uno por favor)

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------|
| 1. ____ servicios médicos en general | 6. ____ servicios prenatales |
| 2. ____ servicios dentales | 7. ____ servicios psicológico |
| 3. ____ actividades bancarias /préstamos | 8. ____ utilidades |
| 4. ____ Ingles como segunda lengua | 9. ____ educación en general |
| 5. ____ servicios de la ley | 10. ____ servicios paramédicos |

31. ¿A donde iría si necesitara ayuda médica? _____

32. ¿Si usted necesitara ayuda médica, cómo pagaría?

1. ____ seguro médico
2. ____ en efectivo
3. ____ confiar en la organizaciones caritativas
4. ____ pide prestado el dinero
5. ____ no tener ninguna manera de pagar
6. ____ otro (especifique por favor): _____

33. ¿Dónde recibe Ud. la mayoría de su información sobre los servicios de salud?

1. ____ Amigos
2. ____ La familia
3. ____ Una agencia pública
4. ____ Otro (especifique por favor): _____

34. ¿Dentro de cinco años, Qué metas (logros) tiene para usted y/o su familia?

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