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Hispanic Social Needs Survey

New Orleans Metropolitan Area

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University of New Orleans Survey Research Center

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Background and Purpose

The Latin American and Caribbean Studies Advisory Council desired a baseline survey of the social needs of Hispanics in the New Orleans metropolitan area. Such information about Hispanics could, when compared to national indicators, provide information about the most important social needs of Hispanics. As such, the study represents the first comprehensive metropolitan area survey of Hispanics. The survey was funded by the Greater New Orleans Foundation.

The "Mini Census"

The study began with a "mini census" of Hispanics in which the SRC estimated the percent of households with Hispanics in a nine-parish area: Orleans, Jefferson, St. Tammany, St. Bernard, Plaquemines, St. John, St. James, St. Charles and Tangipahoa. Nine hundred and sixty households were contacted and an adult was asked, "Are you or any person in your household of Spanish or Hispanic origin?" Thirty-five Hispanic households were found using this method, which amounts to 3.6% of the contacted households. This estimate is very close to the 1990 U.S. Census estimate of 3.9%, so we concluded that, using this simple method of self-identification, this estimate is accurate. Of course, we suspect that some Hispanic households were not identified because of the respondent's suspicion about the source of the call and concerns about immigration status. Such biases also affect the U.S. Census, so it is likely that both studies underestimate the number of Hispanics. How much they affect results cannot be determined.

The U.S. Census

The 1990 U.S. Census estimates that 4.3% of the population (as opposed to households) of the New Orleans MSA is of Hispanic origin. This is less than half the percent of Hispanics in America as a whole (9%). According to the Census, Hispanics in the greater New Orleans area are concentrated in Jefferson Parish, particularly in Metairie (70002 and 70006), Kenner (70065), and Gretna (70056). There is also a pocket of Hispanic population in St. Bernard (70085). Hispanics are more evenly distributed in Orleans Parish, but uptown (70019) has a slightly higher percentage than the rest of the city.

The Sample

In order to conduct the survey of Hispanic social needs, a sample was drawn that would yield a higher percent Hispanic than the 3.9% Hispanic among metropolitan area households. A sample of *Spanish surname households* was drawn from the telephone company's listed households. Survey Sampling, Inc. of Fairfield, CT randomly selected a sample of Spanish surname households to be used for the social needs survey. This sampling frame excludes Hispanics without Spanish surnames and is thus less than ideal, but it was the only practical way to locate Hispanics, who are geographically dispersed, for a telephone survey. Below is the parish distribution of the Spanish surname sample, which provides an estimate of the nine-parish distribution of the Hispanic population.

<i>% of area Hispanics, by parish</i>		
Jefferson 48.2	St. Bernard 7.7	Plaquemines 1.4
Orleans 27.0	Tangipahoa 3.9	St. John 1.3
St. Tammany 8.9	St. Charles 2.2	St. James 0.4

When using the Spanish surname sample, respondents were still asked the same filter question about whether there was anyone in the household of Spanish or Hispanic origin. Thus, just having a Spanish surname alone did not qualify a respondent to be included in the survey; he or she also had to acknowledge Hispanic origins.

Using these procedures, 443 Hispanics were interviewed in July, 1997, 35 from the mini-census and 408 from the Spanish surname sample. The final sample consisted of 53% females, 55% Jefferson Parish residents, and 27% New Orleans residents, with an overall median age of 45. Sampling error is 4.6%.

Purpose of Social Needs Survey

The Greater New Orleans Foundation funded the Hispanic Social Needs Survey in order to identify the needs of this population in the areas of health, economic status, employment, household finances, crime, language, discrimination, and political and social integration.

In designing the survey, the National Opinion Research Corporation's annual General Social Surveys were used as a model. These studies include measures of the social needs of Americans generally. Many of the questions in the Hispanic Social Needs Survey are taken directly from the GSS questionnaires, so that ***appropriate comparisons can be made to urban/suburban whites and blacks in America as a whole***. We also make some comparisons to local populations when data are available.

Summary of Findings

Hispanics in this metro area are not an isolated, marginalized minority group. Their economic status, their fluency in English, and their many years in this country have produced a high level of integration into American society.

New Orleans area Hispanics are ***long-term residents*** who have come primarily from Central America and the Caribbean. They are generally satisfied with their lives in this country and are quite patriotic.

Hispanics are diverse educationally, but over a third have college degrees.

There is a "gender gap" in the educational level of Hispanics, with males being significantly better educated. The gap extends to occupation, where Hispanic females are most likely to be in service occupations.

Hispanics do not reach the income level of urban whites in America even when they have the same educational level, but, at the same time, their financial satisfaction is higher than urban American whites.

Job satisfaction among Hispanics is high, partly because the status of their occupations is slightly higher than that of urban/suburban whites in the national sample. They are less likely than urban whites or blacks to have experienced a period of unemployment in the past ten years.

Two-thirds of Hispanics believe that there is discrimination against Hispanics in the job market.

Hispanics are less likely to have medical insurance than Americans as a whole.

Hispanics' fear of crime and levels of victimization are similar to whites, but lower than that of blacks.

The social needs of Hispanics identified in the survey concern job discrimination, medical insurance and English fluency, all of which are related.

Hispanics who are better in Spanish have lower socio-economic status and experience more discrimination. In a multivariate analysis, fluency in English is the second best predictor of income, after education.

Hispanics who are better in Spanish are more concentrated in the service occupations which are less likely to carry benefits like health insurance.

Finding #1: Background and Origins. About three-fourths of New Orleans Hispanics were born outside of the U.S., and about 80% have parents born outside of the U.S. In contrast to America as a whole where two-thirds of the people of Hispanic origins are from Mexico, most of the Hispanics in the New Orleans metro area are from Central American and Caribbean countries. Honduras, Nicaragua and Guatemala are the the most common central American countries of origin, and Cuba is the most common Caribbean origin.

New Orleans Hispanics came to this country at a relatively young age; most came before the age of 30. This is typical of most voluntary migrations; younger people are most likely to be willing to leave their country, home, friends and language.

New Orleans area Hispanics have been in the U.S. for an average of 23 years.

Eighty-three percent of the sample have been in the U.S. more than ten years, and 55% have been here more than 20 years.

TABLE 1			
COUNTRY WHERE BORN			
	Respondent	Father	Mother
USA	27.8%	15.6%	19.9%
Honduras	16.7	17.4	18.1
Cuba	14.4	13.8	13.5

Nicaragua	8.4	9.5	9.5
Guatemala	7.4	7.2	7.7
Mexico	5.4	8.1	7.2
Puerto Rico	3.4	5.6	3.6
El Salvador	2.9	3.8	3.2
Dominican Republic	2.3	1.8	2.0
Columbia	2.3	2.7	2.3
Costa Rica	1.8	2.0	2.3
Spain	1.4	5.0	3.2
Ecuador	1.1	1.4	1.6
Venezuela	1.1	1.4	0.9
All Others	3.6	4.7	5.0
	(443)	(443)	(443)

TABLE 2	
AGE WHEN CAME TO U.S.	
(Among those not born in U.S.)	
	<u>%</u>
1 - 12	13.8
13 - 19	25.8
20 - 30	35.2
31 - 40	15.4
41 and over	9.8

(318)

Finding #2: Education. Hispanics are very difficult to describe educationally, primarily because they are such a heterogeneous group. On the one hand, twenty percent have no high school diplomas, which is approximately the same as for the black population in New Orleans, but higher than for whites in the national sample and in Jefferson Parish.

On the other hand, over a third of Hispanics have college degrees, which is very similar to the white population in Jefferson and whites in other urban/suburban areas.

As with most Americans, Hispanics are more educated than their parents, and the fathers of these Hispanics are more likely to be educated than their mothers. Twenty percent of the fathers have college degrees, which is comparable to whites= fathers in the national survey. The mothers of our Hispanic respondents are less educated; 36% have no high school diploma and only 12% have a college degree.

TABLE 3					
HIGHEST LEVEL OF EDUCATION ATTAINED BY RESPONDENT					
	Metro	New Orleans ^a	Jefferson Parish ^b	National Urban/Suburban ^c	
	Hispanics	Blacks	Whites	Whites	Blacks
0-8 Grades	12%	6%	2%	4%	6%
9-11 Grades	8	12	7	9	20
High School Grad	22	27	29	27	28
Some College	24	31	31	29	29
College Grad	34	24	30	30	18
DK-Ref		1			1
^a Source: 1997 Black Attitudes Survey, Survey Research Center, University of New Orleans. ^b Source: 1996 Quality of Life Survey, Survey Research Center, University of New Orleans. ^c Source: 1996 General Social Survey, National Opinion Research Corp., Chicago, IL.					

TABLE 4						
HIGHEST LEVEL OF EDUCATION ATTAINED BY RESPONDENT'S FATHER AND MOTHER						
	Father			Mother		
	Metro	National Urban/Suburban ^a		Metro	National Urban/Suburban ^a	
	Hispanics	Whites	Blacks	Hispanics	Whites	Blacks
0-8 Grades	24%	20%	29%	30%	14%	20%
9-11 Grades	6	9	10	6	10	15
High School Grad	23	29	20	28	41	26
Some College	10	11	11	8	14	15
College Grad	20	20	5	12	14	6
DK-Ref	18	11	25	16	9	19

^a Source: 1996 General Social Survey, National Opinion Research Corp., Chicago, IL.

Finding #3 Gender and Education. There is a "gender gap" in the educational levels of Hispanic males and females which may be a result of the patriarchal Latin tradition.

Many more of the males have college degrees than the females (41% vs. 28%)

Such a large educational gender gap does not exist for whites or blacks in the national General Social Survey.

Hispanic males in this area are quite well educated, with more college graduates than white urban/suburban males in the national sample.

TABLE 5						
GENDER AND EDUCATION						
			National Urban/Suburban ^a			
	Metro Hispanics		Whites		Blacks	
	Males	Females	Male	Female	Male	Female

0-8 Grades	9%	15%	4%	4%	5%	6%
9-11 Grades	8	8	9	10	17	21
High School Graduate	21	23	27	28	30	26
Some College	21	25	28	29	32	27
College Degree	41	28	32	29	17	19
DK-Ref				1		1
^a Source: 1996 General Social Survey, National Opinion Research Corp., Chicago, IL.						

Finding #4 Income. The income level of Hispanics is closer to that of blacks than that of whites; that is, while more Hispanics have incomes above \$50,000 than blacks, far more whites in the national survey have these incomes. This indicates that Hispanics do not get the same income return from an education that whites do.

Table 7 confirms that Hispanics do not reach levels of income comparable to whites, even when they have the same level of education. Hispanics with college degrees have family incomes significantly lower than similarly educated whites, but higher than similarly educated blacks.

TABLE 6				
FAMILY INCOME				
	Metro	New Orleans ^a	National Urban/Suburban ^b	
	Hispanics	Blacks	Whites	Blacks
0-\$10,000	10%	15%	8%	21%
\$10,000-\$19,999	23	19	11	21
\$20,000-\$29,999	17	18	13	14
\$30,000-\$39,999	14	11	14	10
\$40,000-\$49,999	6	10	9	8
\$50,000 and above	19	12	34	14

DK-Ref	11	15	10	10
^a Source: 1997 Black Attitudes Survey, Survey Research Center, University of New Orleans. ^b Source: 1996 General Social Survey, National Opinion Research Corp., Chicago, IL.				

TABLE 7			
COLLEGE DEGREE AND INCOME			
	Metro Hispanics with College Degree	New Orleans Blacks with College Degree ^a	National Urban/Suburban Whites with College Degree ^b
0-\$9,999	3%	2%	5%
\$10,000-\$29,999	21	22	6
\$30,000-\$49,999	24	33	32
\$50,000 and above	38	29	51
DK-Ref	13	14	6
^a Source: 1997 Black Attitudes Survey, Survey Research Center, University of New Orleans. ^b Source: 1996 General Social Survey, National Opinion Research Corp., Chicago, IL.			

Finding #5 Home Finance. On several measures of economic status, Hispanics seem to be doing well:

The vast majority have personal checking accounts, own a car, and have a credit card.

Two-thirds own their homes, which is comparable to white Americans in other urban areas, but much higher than the proportion among urban blacks.

Two-thirds report being able to save money.

Regardless of their level of education, Hispanics in this area report that their job status exceeds or equals their father's job status, an indication of the economic boost of migrating to the U.S.

TABLE 8			
WORK STATUS			
	Metro	National Urban/Suburban ^a	
	Hispanics	Whites	Blacks
Full Time	57%	57%	59%
Part Time	11	12	6
Not Working	4	5	5
Retired/House-keeper/In School	27	25	27
Other	1	1	3

^a Source: 1996 General Social Survey, National Opinion Research Corp., Chicago, IL.

TABLE 9		
HOME FINANCE		
	Metro Hispanics	
	Yes	
Able to Save Money?	62%	
Have Personal Checking Account?	85%	
Own a Car?	91%	
Have a Credit Card?	92%	

TABLE 10

OWN HOME OR RENT?			
	Metro	National Urban/Suburban ^a	
	Hispanics	Whites	Blacks
Own or Buying?	65%	62%	35%
Pay Rent?	33	32	57
Other?	2	3	2
DK-Ref		3	6

^a Source: 1996 General Social Survey, National Opinion Research Corp., Chicago, IL.

TABLE 11		
STATUS OF RESPONDENT=S JOB RELATIVE TO FATHER		
	Metro Hispanics	Metro Hispanics with No High School Diploma
Much Higher Than Father	26%	28%
Higher Than Father	19	22
About Equal with Father	23	18
Lower Than Father	19	22
Much Lower Than Father	8	8
Never Had a Job	1	
DK-Ref	4	2

Finding #6 Occupation and Satisfaction. Job satisfaction among Hispanics is high; 86% report satisfaction, which is comparable to urban and suburban whites in America.

Part of the reason for Hispanics' job satisfaction is that the prestige of their occupations is comparable to that of urban and suburban whites as measured by the NORC scale of occupation prestige.

About a third of Hispanics and whites is Managerial or Professional, in contrast to the 19% of urban and suburban blacks who are in that category.

Metro Hispanics are less likely than either whites or blacks to be in the lowest occupational category of laborer.

Metro Hispanics are more likely than whites in the U.S. to have jobs in the service area.

TABLE 12			
HOW SATISFIED ARE YOU IN YOUR JOB?			
		National Urban/Suburban ^a	
	Metro Hispanics	Whites	Blacks
Very Satisfied	40%	44%	36%
Moderately Satisfied	46	38	41
A Little Dissatisfied	9	10	14
Very Dissatisfied	5	4	6
DK-Ref		4	4
^a Source: 1996 General Social Survey, National Opinion Research Corp., Chicago, IL.			

TABLE 13			
RESPONDENT'S OCCUPATION			
		National Urban/Suburban ^a	
	Metro Hispanics	Whites	Blacks
Managerial/Professional	32%	34%	19%
Technical and Sales	12	14	13
Administrative Support	12	16	14
Service	23	14	29

Precision, Production, Craft and Repair	13	11	6
Operatives, Fabricators and Laborers	7	12	19
Farming, Forest and Fishing	1		
^a Source: 1996 General Social Survey, National Opinion Research Corp., Chicago, IL.			

Finding #7 Occupation and Gender. The gender gap in Hispanics= educational levels that we have already noted is reflected in occupational differences as well.

Hispanic females in our metro area are less likely to be professionals than are the Hispanic males.

Five times as many Hispanic females are in service occupations than are Hispanic males.

The prestige of Hispanic males' occupations equals that of urban and suburban white males in the national sample.

The prestige of Hispanic females' occupations is significantly below that of white females in the national sample.

TABLE 14				
RESPONDENT'S OCCUPATION BY GENDER				
	Metro Hispanics		National Urban/Suburban ^a	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
Managerial/Professional	39%	26%	33%	34%
Technical and Sales	10	13	13	15
Administrative Support	8	16	5	25
Service	7	38	11	16
Precision, Production, Craft and Repair	22	4	21	2

Operatives, Fabricators and Laborers	11	3	17	8
Farming, Forest and Fishing	2			
^a Source: 1996 General Social Survey, National Opinion Research Corp., Chicago, IL.				

Finding #8 Household Composition.

The median size of Hispanic households is 3, which is larger than both white and black households in urban America. Hispanics are less likely than whites or blacks to live alone, and more likely to live in a household of five or more people.

About half of the Hispanics in our sample reported having children, and 11% have three or more children in the household. In this respect, metro Hispanics are more like the blacks in the national sample than the whites.

Hispanics rely heavily on the public school system.

TABLE 15				
NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN HOUSEHOLD				
	Overall Number of People			Number of Hispanics
		National Urban/Suburban ^a		
	Metro Hispanics	Whites	Blacks	Metro Hispanics
1	14%	27%	29%	26%
2	27	35	26	23
3	18	15	18	16
4	20	15	15	17
5	13	5	7	12
6 or more	8	4	4	7
Median # of Individuals	3	2	2	3

^a Source: 1996 General Social Survey, National Opinion Research Corp., Chicago, IL.

TABLE 16			
NUMBER OF CHILDREN, 18 YEARS OLD OR LESS			
		National Urban/Suburban ^a	
	Metro Hispanics	Whites	Blacks
0	53%	67%	53%
1	17	14	20
2	18	13	17
3	10	4	6
4	1	1	3
5 or more		1	2
Median Number of Children among respondents with Children	2	2	2

^a Source: 1996 General Social Survey, National Opinion Research Corp., Chicago, IL.

TABLE 17		
ARE CHILDREN IN PUBLIC OR PRIVATE SCHOOL?		
	Metro Hispanics	
Public	74%	
Private	23	
Both	2	

DK-Ref	1	
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Finding #9 Job Problems. Hispanics have about the same low probability of experiencing problems on the job as whites in the national sample, which is to be expected given that they are concentrated in white collar, managerial, and service occupations. Within the past year, job problems, such as being laid off, being demoted, or experiencing a pay cut, are relatively rare among Hispanics.

Hispanics are *less likely* than either the whites or blacks in the national sample to have experienced a period of unemployment in the past 10 years.

TABLE 18		
JOB PROBLEMS IN PAST YEAR		
		National Urban/Suburban ^a
	Metro Hispanics	Whites
Fired/laid off	6%	6%
Demoted	3%	2%
Cut in Pay	6%	6%
Trouble w/Boss	5%	4%
Spouse Fired	3%	4%
Spouse Cut in Pay	5%	7%
Spouse Unemployed	5%	8%

^a Source: 1991 General Social Survey, National Opinion Research Corp., Chicago, IL.

TABLE 19			
UNEMPLOYMENT			
		National Urban/Suburban ^a	
	Metro Hispanics	Whites	Blacks
At anytime in past 10 years, have you			

been unemployed for as long as a month?	24%	33%	41%
^a Source: 1996 General Social Survey, National Opinion Research Corp., Chicago, IL.			

Finding #10 Financial Satisfaction. Hispanics are more satisfied with their present financial situations than are either the whites or blacks in the national sample. This finding is interesting since Hispanics' family incomes are lower than that of whites. Of course, satisfaction is a subjective phenomenon, and it may be that ***Hispanics' financial expectations are lower than those of whites in America.*** Most of our sample of Hispanics were not born in the U.S., so they, or their parents, remember life in a developing country.

TABLE 20			
SATISFACTION WITH PRESENT FINANCIAL SITUATION			
		National Urban/Suburban ^a	
	Metro Hispanics	Whites	Blacks
Pretty Well Satisfied	33%	30%	17%
More or Less Satisfied	50	44	43
Not Satisfied at All	17	26	40
^a Source: 1996 General Social Survey, National Opinion Research Corp., Chicago, IL.			

Finding #11 Household Problems. The general satisfaction of Hispanics can be seen in their answers to an open-ended question about the most important problem faced by their household in the past year. ***One-third spontaneously said that they faced "no problem"***.

The most common problem faced by Hispanic households was a financial problem (18%).

The second most common problem faced by Hispanic households was a health or medical care problem (12%).

When we asked about specific financial problems, the most common one was not being able to afford medical care, but even this problem was experienced by only 11% of the respondents in the past year.

Hispanics reported an inability to afford medical care more frequently than the whites in the national sample. This difference is probably due to the lower incomes of Hispanics, and to the fact that metro Hispanics are less likely than Americans in general to have health insurance (see table 23).

TABLE 21	
MOST IMPORTANT PROBLEM IN HOUSEHOLD IN PAST YEAR	
	Metro Hispanics
Finances/Expenses	18%
Illness/Lack of Medical Care	12%
Death Family/Friend	3%
Problems w/ Child or Child=s School	4%
Work Related Problem	5%
Crime in Neighborhood/Victim	3%
>No Problems=	32%

TABLE 22		
FINANCIAL PROBLEMS IN PAST YEAR		
	Metro Hispanics	National Urban/Suburban ^a
		Whites
Bankruptcy	1%	1%
Repossession	0%	1%
Pawn Valuables	1%	4%
Pressured to Pay Bills	8%	13%
Utilities Shut Off	4%	2%
Could not Afford Medical Care	11%	6%
Could not Pay Phone Bill	5%	NA
^a Source: 1991 General Social Survey, National Opinion Research Corp., Chicago, IL.		

Finding #12. Medical Problems.

Twenty-three percent of metro Hispanics report having no health insurance, a figure that is higher than the 14% of all Americans reported by the 1993 Clinton White House report on health care reform. This is consistent with the higher percent of Hispanics in service occupations which are less likely to carry benefits.

Compared to the whites in the national sample, Hispanics are slightly less likely to have been hospitalized or disabled in the past five years -- possibly because fewer of them are covered by insurance.

TABLE 23			
MEDICAL AND HEALTH PROBLEMS			
		National Urban/Suburban ^a	United States ^b
	Metro Hispanics	Whites	
Hospitalized or Disabled in past 5 years	30%	35%	
No Health Insurance	23%	NA	14%

^a Source: 1994 General Social Survey, National Opinion Research Corp., Chicago, IL.

^b Source: 1993 The President's Report to the American People, Published by the White House Domestic Policy Council.

Finding #13 Government Aid. The vast majority of Hispanics in the New Orleans metro area have never received government aid such as welfare, SSI, unemployment insurance, or food stamps.

TABLE 24				
GOVERNMENT AID				
		Metro Hispanics		
		Yes		
Ever received welfare or unemployment?		20%		
Ever received AFDC, SSI, GA or Food Stamps?		17%		

Finding #14 Crime and Fear. Hispanics in this metro area feel about as safe as urban/suburban whites in the national sample, but significantly safer than blacks. Furthermore, their rate of victimization is similar to that of whites, but less than that of blacks.

36% of Hispanics say there is some place near their home where they are afraid to walk alone at night, compared to 41% of whites and 57% of blacks.

Almost all Hispanics feel safe at home at night (90%), compared to just over half of the blacks in New Orleans (57%).

Hispanics are less likely to be crime victims than either the blacks in the national sample or blacks in New Orleans.

Hispanics have about the same, low probability of being victimized as whites in the national sample.

TABLE 25				
FEAR AND CRIME				
		New Orleans ^a	National Urban/Suburban	
	Metro Hispanics	Blacks	Whites	Blacks
Any place afraid to walk alone at night near home?	36%	NA	41% ^b	57% ^b
Feel safe at home at night?	90%	57%	NA	NA
Any break-ins in last year?	6%	10%	4% ^c	10% ^c
Anyone take something from you by force?	4%	14%	2% ^c	10% ^c
Were you charged by police in past year?	5%	NA	NA	NA
^a Source: 1997 Black Attitudes Survey, Survey Research Center, University of New Orleans.				
^b Source: 1996 General Social Survey, National Opinion Research Corp., Chicago, IL.				
^c Source: 1994 General Social Survey, National Opinion Research Corp., Chicago, IL.				

Finding #15 Abilities in English. The majority of Hispanics (60%) say that they are quite comfortable with the English language, that is, they are either better in English or equally able in both languages. The remaining 40% who are better in Spanish are more likely to have a variety of problems:

They are concentrated in service occupations.

They are less likely to be managers or professionals.

They are less likely to have a college degree.

They have lower incomes.

They are more likely to have experienced discrimination in the past year.

TABLE 26		
ABILITY IN SPEAKING SPANISH		
	Metro Hispanics	
Don't Know Spanish	7%	
Much Better in English	12	
Better in English	11	
No Difference	30	
Better in Spanish	21	
Much Better in Spanish	19	

TABLE 27			
CORRELATES OF ENGLISH ABILITY			
	Better in English	Same in Both	Better in Spanish
Managerial	46%	42%	16%
Technical	13%	20%	4%

Service	13%	8%	42%
College Grad	37%	47%	25%
Income over \$50,000	24%	25%	11%
Perceive >a lot= of Job Discrimination	18%	23%	36%
Have experienced discrimination in past year	13%	14%	27%

Finding #16 Attitudes Toward English. For many Hispanics the language barrier is troublesome. Most would like to see government services provided in Spanish as well as English, most do not believe that employers should have the right to require that English be spoken on the job, and nearly all believe that U.S. residents should all learn English.

TABLE 28		
ATTITUDES TOWARDS SPANISH AND ENGLISH		
	Metro Hispanics	
Government should provide services in Spanish	75%	
Businesses have the right to require that employees speak only English during working hours	28%	
All citizens and residents of the U.S. should learn English	92%	

Finding #17 Determinants of Income. A multivariate analysis predicting Hispanic family income revealed the following:

Education, of course, is the best predictor of Hispanic income.

The second best predictor is *fluency in English*.

English fluency is slightly more important than occupation in determining Hispanic family income.

Those born in the U.S. have slightly lower incomes, probably because they are younger.

Number of years in the United States does not significantly influence Hispanic family income.

TABLE 29		
DETERMINANTS OF INCOME		
(Regression Analysis)		
y = Family Income		
Determinant	Beta	
Education	.51*	
English Ability	.20*	
Occupation	.17*	
Born in U.S.	-.13*	
Born in Nicaragua	-.11*	
Years in U.S.	.01	
R ² = .43		
* b associated with beta is significant at p<.05 or better		

Finding #18 Discrimination.

Two-thirds of Hispanics believe that there is discrimination against Hispanics in the job market, a perception that is reinforced by the previous finding that Hispanics receive less income than whites with the same education.

Fewer than half think there is anti-Hispanic discrimination in housing.

An index of discrimination which combines respondents' answers to four questions about actual experiences with discrimination over the past five years indicates that the vast majority (82%) had no discrimination experience. ***Those with less fluency in English experienced more discrimination than those comfortable with English.***

TABLE 30	
PERCEIVED DISCRIMINATION IN JOBS AND HOUSING	
"How much discrimination is there that hurts the chances of Hispanic Americans to get good paying jobs? / to	

buy or rent housing?"			
	Metro Hispanics		
	Jobs	Housing	
A Lot	26%	11%	
Some	39	30	
Only a Little	15	17	
None	12	24	
DK-Ref	9	19	

TABLE 31				
EXPERIENCES WITH DISCRIMINATION				
	Metro Hispanics	Discrimination Index (0-4)	All Hispanics	Hispanics Better in Spanish
In the past five years have you been discriminated against trying to get a loan at a bank or other financial institution?	5%	0 experiences	82%	72%
In the past five years have you been discriminated against trying to get into school or get your children into school?	5%	1 experience	13	20
In the past five years have you been discriminated against trying to get a job?	10%	2 experiences	4	6
In the past five years have you been discriminated against trying to buy a house or rent an apartment?	6%	3 or more experiences	1	2

Finding #19 Political and Social Integration. Hispanics in this metro area are very well integrated politically into America, as measured by citizenship, voter registration, political efficacy and feelings of patriotism.

Three quarters are U.S. citizens.

77% of the Hispanics who are citizens are registered to vote. This figure is higher than the 71% of eligible citizens registered to vote in Louisiana.

Half of the Hispanics are members of a a voluntary organization (includes church).

Almost half of Hispanics read a daily newspaper, which is higher than daily readership in the U.S. as a whole.

Hispanics are quite patriotic; nearly all say that they feel "close" to America.

Hispanics have higher levels of political efficacy than either whites or blacks in America as a whole. This difference may reflect the perspective of immigrants from a non-democratic political system; i.e., they are more appreciative of democratic government, imperfect as it may be.

TABLE 32			
POLITICAL AND SOCIAL INTEGRATION			
	% Saying Yes	Hispanic Citizens	Louisiana Adults ^a
Are you currently a U.S. citizen?	74		
Are you registered to vote?	59	77	71
Are you a member of a Community or Social organization?	21		
Are you a member of a Business or Professional organization?	24		
Are you a member of a Religious organization?	36		
Do you belong to any organization?	49	U.S. Adults	
Do you read a daily newspaper?	47	32 ^b	
^a Source: Louisiana Dept. of Election and Registration.			
^b Source: 1996 National Election Study, ICPSR.			

TABLE 33		
CORRELATES OF CITIZENSHIP		
Group	% Citizens	
0-11 Grades	56%	
High School Grad and Some College	74%	
College Degree	88%	
Below \$20,000	58%	
Over \$50,000	88%	
Better in English	93%	
Better in Spanish	56%	
5-10 years in U.S.	26%	
More than 15 years in U.S.	77%	

TABLE 34			
FEELING OF CLOSENESS TO NEIGHBORHOOD AND AMERICA			
	Neighborhood	America	
Very Close	38%	66%	
Close	34	28	

Not Very Close	24	3	
Not Close at all	4	1	
DK-Ref	1	2	

TABLE 35			
POLITICAL EFFICACY			
		% Disagree National ^a	
	% that Disagree	Whites	Blacks
People like me do not have any say about what the government does	52	46	43
I do not think public officials care much what people like me think	41	26	18
Sometimes politics and government seem so complicated that a person like me cannot understand what is going on	42	30	25

^a Source: 1996 National Election Study.

Finding #20 Newspaper Readership. The mainstreaming of Hispanics can clearly be seen in their pattern of newspaper reading.

Three quarters read the Times/Picayune.

Less than 10% read the ethnic Hispanic newspapers.

TABLE 36		
NEWSPAPER READERSHIP		
	% That Read	
Times/Picayune	78	

La Prensa	7	
Aqui New Orleans	5	
Gambit	2	
LA Weekly	0	
National Paper	4	

Finding #21 Index of Political and Social Integration. An index of political and social integration was created by combining the items above plus a variable measuring closeness to one's own neighborhood. This index ranges from zero, indicating a "no" response to all seven questions, to 7, indicating a "yes" response to all questions.

The average Hispanic scored 4.4 on the index, indicating a high degree of political and social integration.

Economic status plays an important role in political and social integration. All of the status variables are related significantly to the index, and together they explain nearly one third of the variation.

In addition, those who have been in the U.S. the longest and those fluent in English are more integrated into society.

Hispanics in New Orleans are not an isolated, marginalized minority group. Their economic status, their fluency in English, and their many years in this country have produced a high level of integration into American society. In fact, their level of integration is greater than would be predicted given their incomes alone.

TABLE 37		
DETERMINANTS OF INDEX OF POLITICAL AND SOCIAL INTEGRATION		
(Regression Analysis)		
y = Index of political and social integration		
Determinant	Beta	
Education	.15*	
Income	.29*	

Ability in English	.12*	
Years in U.S.	.27*	
Working Full Time or Not	.02	
Occupation	.20*	
Age	.09	
Perception of Job Discrimination	.07	
Gender	.02	
$R^2 = .54$		
* b associated with beta is significant at $p < .05$ or better		