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Undergraduate Research Symposium 2016

Undergraduate Research Symposium

4-2016

Views on Identity and Services: English-speaking Morris Residents Consider Latino Immigration

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Recommended Citation

Nyquist, Christina and Wahstrom, Hannah, "Views on Identity and Services: English-speaking Morris Residents Consider Latino Immigration" (2016). *Undergraduate Research Symposium 2016*. 4. https://digitalcommons.morris.umn.edu/urs_2016/4

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Views on Identity and Services: English-speaking Morris Residents Consider Latino Immigration



Christina Nyquist & Hannah Wahlstrom

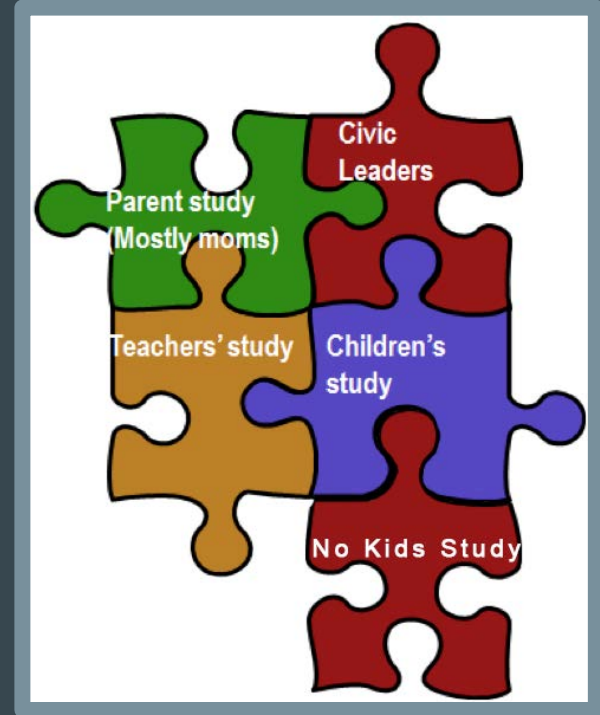
Analysis Question:

What are the perspectives and experiences of English-dominant Morris civic leaders and business owners concerning their own identities, knowledge about and interaction with Morris Latinos, and the challenges of serving Latino community members?

Background:

Hispanic/Latino population in Stevens County increased by about 300% from 2000 to 2010 (U.S. Census Bureau, 2010)

Dr. Cristina Ortiz, Dr. Oscar Baldelomar, Office of Community Engagement



Methods:

Last semester:

- 15 civic leaders & business owners from the Morris community
 - ◆ Convenience sample
- Semistructured interviews
 - ◆ What do you know about the Morris Latino community?
 - ◆ How often do you interact with Latinos?



<https://i.guim.co.uk>

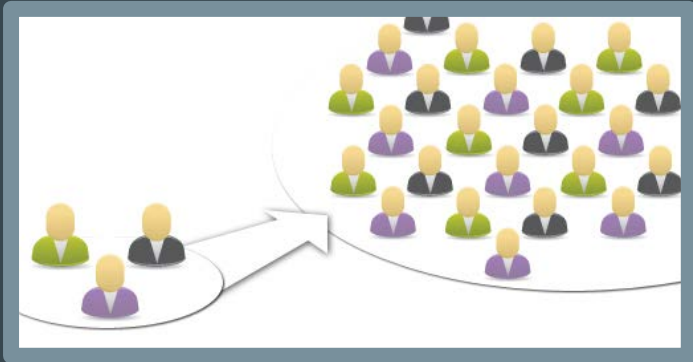
Methods

Our project:

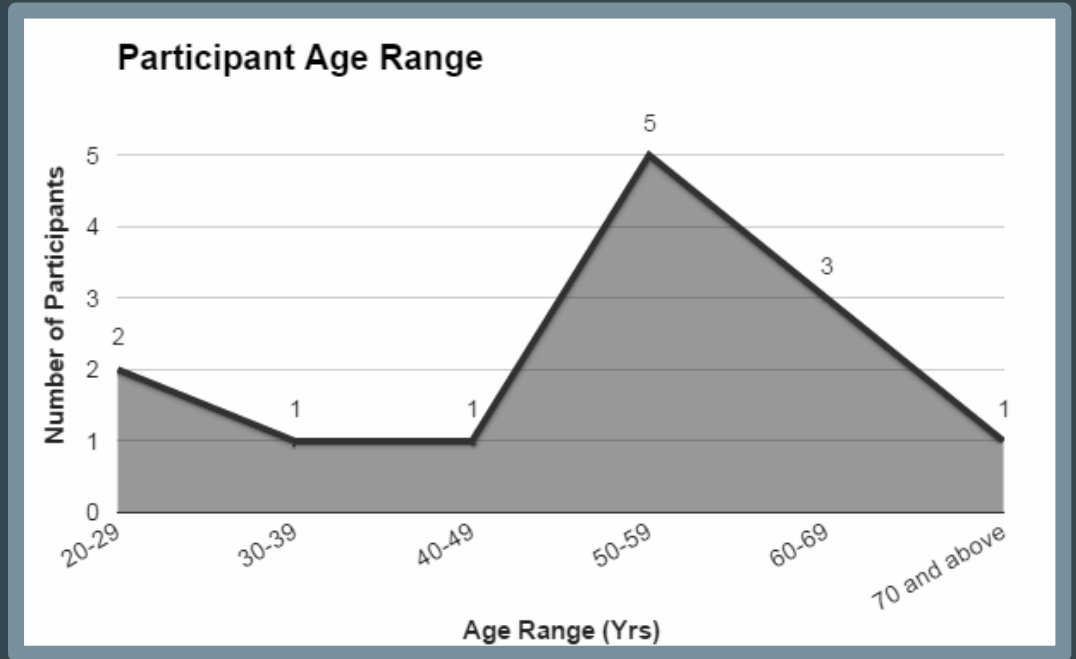
- ◆ Participant understanding of their own identity
- ◆ Participant knowledge & characterization of Morris Latinos
- ◆ Participant interaction with Morris Latinos (quantity, type, location)
- ◆ Participant reported challenges of serving Latino community members
- ◆ Current services related to Latinos & desired changes

Sample:

- 11 Female
- 4 Male



<https://explorable.com>



Participant understanding of their own identity

Activity structure:

1. What terms or labels would you use to describe yourself?
2. What terms or labels would you use to describe your ethnic identity (if different from #1)?

Name	Selected
American	
Anglo-saxon	
White	
European	
European-American	
Western	
Caucasian	✓
English	

African-American	Selected
Asian	
Asian-American	
Black	
Brown	
Chicano/a	
Hispanic	
Latino/a	
Latino-American	
Mexican	
Native American	
Spanish	
Indian	
Other:	

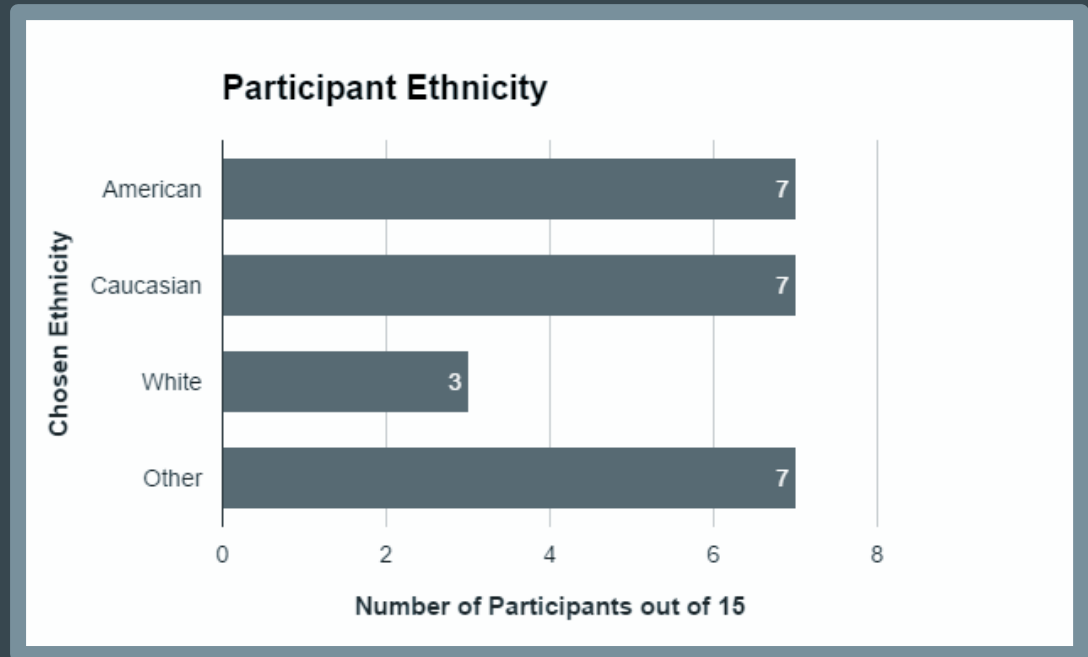
Participant understanding of their own identity

Question 1

Nationality:
More than ½ put American
as 1st ID choice

Race:
13 out 15 identified as
White/Caucasian

Question 2



Characterizations of Latinos:

“I think...”

- (+) • Highly educated/desire education for kids
- Nice / Kind / Friendly
- Hardworking (9 out of 15)
- Diverse

- (-) • Willing to work unpopular jobs
- Private
- State aide/we support them
- “I know that as a rule they’re very family oriented”

“Others think...”

- (+) • Positive feelings

- (-) • Lack of knowledge by community
- “...taking jobs away from locals.”
- Little economic participation
- “They are always in trouble”
- Here for “grunt labor”
- Mixed feelings

Participant Interaction with Morris Latinos

The numbers:

11 said hardly interact (less than 3x a wk.)

8 said they interact frequently

4 later reported infrequent interactions



<http://www.blitzwebdesign.com>

Location of Interactions

Type of interaction:

Most interactions are question-&-answer, greeting, short conversation

“Because we live in Morris, anybody who walks by me, I’m going to say hi”



Participant-Reported Challenges of Serving Latino Community Members

Language Barriers:

10 out of 15 reported language to be a barrier to communication:

- Frustration
- Misunderstanding



<http://languages.com>

“A lot of hand gestures...I will try to talk louder, that doesn't help”

What is Being Done

Community Based:

- 3 people knew/were involved in programs related to Latinos *
- A few didn't know of any programs

Individual/Business based: Spanish resources

- Interpreter: 8 out of 15 (3 relied on children to translate)
- Material resources (apps and translated documents): 5 out of 15

* ESL, community Spanish classes, Latina Women's Support Group, etc.

Desired Changes:

$\frac{1}{3}$ comfortable with the status quo

9 of 15 wanted changes toward better aiding Latinos

- General community
 - More cross-cultural exposure
 - Formal system for welcoming newcomers
- Business/organization related
 - Advertise presence
 - Help with language barrier
 - Desire to learn Spanish

“Of course it would be nice to reach out to someone but if they’re not ready to take your hand...it’s not going to happen anyway.”

“We can always do better.”

Conclusion

What are the perspectives & experiences of English-dominant Morris civic leaders & business owners concerning:

- Their own identities
 - Participants most salient IDs = race & nationality
- Interaction with Morris Latinos
 - Mostly infrequent small interactions with a few dedicated individuals
- Characterizations of Morris Latinos
 - Mostly positive
 - Unaware of resources available
- Challenges of serving Latino community members
 - Language
 - Reliable translation/interpretation

Recommendations:

- More research on ID of English-dominant rural community members
- Increase awareness of available resources
- Opportunities to bring community together
- Reliable translation
- Pool stakeholder resources

“I think that as a community - as a whole - but individually, we all need to do our part.”



<http://www.smesouthafrica.co.za>

Thank You for Coming!

Any Questions?

