Transportation Limitations for Latino Immigrants

NCERA Webinar
December 4, 2013
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No Car?

Crossing Buford Highway in Atlanta, GA
Source: Creative Loafing Atlanta, Photographer: Joeff Davis
Sarah’s Background

• Dissertation Research:
  – MOBILITY AND ISOLATION: LATINO IMMIGRANT ADJUSTMENT IN ATLANTA, GEORGIA

• Teaching at Drake University, Des Moines, IA
Cars Everywhere

• 1910
  – one car per 200 people

• 2010
  – .87 licensed drivers per registered vehicle
Spatial Organization of Life

This looks west at a subdivision at the eastern end of Cartwright Road in Mesquite, TX.
Alternative Mode of Transit?

Highway Interchange in Atlanta
“[The Mexican participants] that didn’t have cars hoped to buy one; those that had one, wanted a second…”
(p. 73)

Study: Lovejoy, Kristin and Susan L. Handy. 2007. "Transportation Experiences of Mexican Immigrants in California: Results from Focus Group Interviews." Institute of Transportation Studies, University of California, Davis.
Unequal Mobility: Class & Race

- Transport poverty
- Forced car ownership
- Secessionist automobility
- Transportation inequities

Source: http://acewreckersvr.com/towing/wrecker-service/
Mobility of Immigrants

Compared to the US born population, immigrants:

- Have fewer vehicles per household
- Make fewer trips
- Make shorter trips
- Drive alone less

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Drivers</th>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>US Adults</td>
<td>92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Immigrant Men</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Immigrant Women</td>
<td>45%</td>
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</tbody>
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Source: 2001 NHTS; Tabulation by FHA 2006
Vehicle Availability per Adult Among Latino Immigrant and US-born Workers in the Great Plains States

Data Source: American Community Survey 2006-2010 pooled data, from IPUMS
*Frequency weights are applied to estimate the population parameters.
Barriers to Mobility

- Not know how to drive
- Gender
- Expense
- Lack of Credit
- Discrimination
- REAL ID Act
- 287(g) program

Motor Vehicles per 1000 People

Consequences

- Adaptation Strategies
  - Alternate modes of commute
  - Co-ethnic communities and commuting

- Bottleneck to Adaptation
  - English language acquisition
Co-Ethnic Neighborhoods (Atlanta)
Counties of Growth (Atlanta)

- Latino Population Growth
- Employment Growth
Commute Mode in the Great Plains States

Data Source: American Community Survey 2005-2010 pooled data from IPUMS. Frequency weights applied.
Bottleneck to Adaptation

“Lack of transportation may be the biggest barrier to adaptation to the U.S. economy and society that Georgia’s Latino immigrants face.” (20)

“Spaghetti Junction” in DeKalb County, Georgia
Tom Moreland Interchange: Interstate 85 and Interstate 285 in DeKalb County, GA.

Social Consequences of Limited Transportation

• Constrains employment options
• Limits housing options
• Reduces health care utilization
• Prevents pursuit of further education
• Limits participation in children’s school
• Decreases exposure to US society
• Impeded English language acquisition
Latino immigrants in the Great Plains States who speak English proficiently

Data Source: American Community Survey 2005-2010 pooled data from IPUMS. Frequency weights applied.
Commute Modes of Latino Immigrants in Great Plains States

Data Source: American Community Survey 2005-2010 pooled data from IPUMS. Frequency weights applied.
Transportation limitations...

• Form a bottleneck to other forms of adaptation
• Should be seriously considered when working with Latino immigrant groups
Responses

• Social & Organizational

• Land-use choices

• Change Policies