NEXO

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The Midwest's Premier Latino Research Center

The Gap in Socio-Economic Shares

The Well-Being of Latinos in Michigan

By Jean Kayitsinga, Ph.D.

In 2006, Latinos only represented 3.9% of Michigan's total population. However, the Latino population in Michigan increased from 326,931 in 2000 to 393,281 in 2006 — a growth rate of 20.3% in only six years. At the same time, the state's Latino population also experienced a disproportionate number of economic challenges and academic hardships. Compared to other population groups, Latinos have less access to valued resources and rank low on many socioeconomic indicators. They are statistically less educated, poor, unemployed, and have lower household incomes. These social and economic challenges faced by the Latino population are critical to their well-being.

The main research question in this report is "How do Latinos compare to other racial groups[1] on socioeconomic indicators of well-being, including personal earnings, unemployment rates, working poor, household income, and family poverty?" This report examines key socio-economic well-being indicators of the Latino population and other racial groups in Michigan, relying primarily on the 2006 Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) of the American Community Survey (ACS).

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Pubs, Director, and Emphasis

All Things New at JSRI

by Danny Layne, JSRI

MSU and the Julian Samora Research Institute are not immune to the effects of an ever-evolving world, but — for the most part — those changes are welcome news.

With the beginning of the new academic year in September, the changes have already begun altering the image, impact, and direction of the Julian Samora Research Institute here at MSU.

The creation of two new Institute research publications — ***Demography Reports*** and ***Latinos in Michigan*** — provides different mechanisms for distributing and disseminating information accumulated and analyzed by JSRI researchers. The new publications are available online, through the Julian Samora Research Institute's web site <**www.jsri.msu.edu**>, and are intended to refine the emphasis being placed on Latinos — and the importance and value of their presence — in the nation's Midwest.

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Rubén O. Martinez

From the Director

As I assume the helm of the Julian Samora Research Institute, I'm struck by the speed of globalization and its impact on the United States — indeed on the entire world. Anthony Giddens, the British sociologist, noted some years ago that globalization would produce reactionary nationalist movements as forms of resistance to global changes. For more than two decades we have been witness to such movements both here in the United States and abroad.

Globalization is the greatest movement of social change we have experienced since the rise of industrialism in the 19th Century. And like industrialism, which rendered obsolete certain forms of social organization, such as slavery, globalization too will render obsolete certain forms of social organization, namely national economies and markets as we have known them. It will require global markets, both business and labor, and nationalist movements, in the long run, will not stop their emergence.

As globalization integrates economic, cultural, political and social systems on a global plane we will continue to witness the clash between nationalism and globalism. In the 1980's we witnessed the phenomenon of runaway plants—that is, corporations moving plants to other countries in order to reduce the costs of production. This has continued since then, it's just that today we call it outsourcing. We have also witnessed a massive increase in undocumented immigration to the United States despite immigration reform legislation in the 1980's. These immigrants are pulled to this country by economic opportunities in labor and business markets. Indeed, our economy at this time requires both unskilled labor and highly entrepreneurial individuals to fill the voids left behind by declines in large-scale manufacturing.

Americans' reactions to globalization have taken many forms over the past quarter-of-a-century. There have been attempts to stop the movement abroad by American corporations; there have been efforts to reduce imports in order to maintain a demand for American products; and today, there are efforts to stop undocumented immigration under the guise of national security and to seal off our borders from our neighboring countries. Interestingly, as globalization demands increased openness (that is, markets without "borders"), which seems to be working relatively well in Europe, Americans recoil in fear and seek to withdraw from the rest of the world.

All of these dynamics have important impacts on Latinos across the United States. Economic restructuring, which has been the biggest impact of globalization, has diminished labor market opportunities in large-scale manufacturing, increased the size of our immigrant population, and politicized nearly every aspect of public and private life. The tension between globalization and nationalism will continue for several years, until the emergent new order is stabilized and the nation is more fully integrated on the global plane. In the meantime, we at JSRI will continue to conduct research on the challenges facing Latinos and which sheds light on the trajectory of social change, the impact of globalization, and the opportunities and constraints it creates for our communities.

Campus Reps, Educators, Administrators, Community Leaders Welcome Director

Local community and campus representatives — MSU Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Kim A. Wilcox, Trustee Dorothy Gonzales, and Social Science Dean Marietta Baba among them — recently gathered to honor and welcome the Julian Samora research Institute's newly appointed Director, Dr. Rubén O. Martinez, to East Lansing and to MSU.

The social gathering was an opportunity for academic and community leaders to meet and talk with Martinez in an informal setting, and discuss an assortment of issues relating to his vision of JSRI. The event marked the beginning of Martinez's tenure.

He is only the third full-time, Permanent Director in the Institute's 18-year history.

Well-Being of Latinos

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As mentioned, the state's Latino population grew by 20.3% in only a half-dozen years. As of 2006, 80% of the Latino population in Michigan resided in the following counties: Wayne, Kent, Oakland, Ottawa, Macomb, Ingham, Saginaw, Washtenaw, Genesee, Kalamazoo, Lenawee, Allegan, Muskegon, Van Buren, and Berrien. These are ranked in descending order. Among those with at least 5,000 Latinos in 2006, counties with the highest Latino population growth rates include Kent (33.6%), Macomb (32.9%), Berrien (27.6%), Van Buren (27.3%), Oakland (22.3%), Washtenaw (21,7%), and Muskegon (20.1%), respectively.

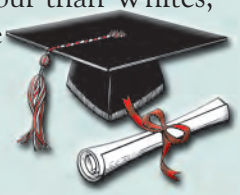
Socio-Economic Well-Being Indicators

Earnings

The descriptive statistics in Table 1 show that — in Michigan — African Americans and Latinos generally have lower earnings than Whites and Asians. The median earnings of Latinos are 0.72 times the median earnings of Whites, suggesting that a Latino earns 72¢ when compared to the dollar a White person earns. The ratios of median earnings for African Americans and Asians to the median earnings of Whites are 0.68 and 1.12, respectively. People living in non-metropolitan[2] areas have lower earnings than those living in metropolitan areas and, among metropolitan areas, people living in the Saginaw Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) have lower median earnings that those in similar areas.

The median earnings of Latinos vary depending on their area of residence. Latinos living in the Niles-Benton Harbor MSA, and those living in the Detroit-Warren-Flint Combined MSA (CMSA), earn about 62¢ for every dollar a White person earns while Latinos in the Grand-Rapids-Muskegon-Holland CMSA earn a comparable 64¢. Latinos living in the Jackson MSA have the lowest median income compared to Latinos in other areas of Michigan. Latinos in the Jackson MSA earn about 44¢ for every $1 a White person earns, according to the statistics. The ratios of median earnings for Latinos to the median earnings of Whites in the Kalamazoo-Portage MSA, Lansing-East Lansing MSA, and Saginaw-Saginaw Township North MSA are 0.75, 0.74, 0.78, and 0.90, respectively.

Other research (data not shown) indicates Latinos — particularly Latinas — earn less per hour than Whites, Asians, and Blacks. Among both male and female wage earners, Asians have higher mean hourly earnings than other racial or ethnic groups.



Educational Attainment

In today's economy, access to good jobs, higher income, and other economic resources generally depends on a person's educational attainment. Table 2 displays the educational attainment level of people, aged 16-64, by racial and ethnic groups. The statistics reveal that Latinos have lower levels of education than Whites, Asians, and African Americans. About 61% of Latinos have a high school education or less, compared with almost 30% of Whites, 48% of African Americans, and almost 23% of Asians. In contrast, Asians are significantly more likely than any other group to have "college or higher" education (61%), followed by Whites (26%), and African Americans (16%).

Considering those with at least *some* college education, it is clear that Latinos and African Americans are less represented than Whites and Asians. About 77% of Asians and about 61% of Whites have at least some college education. Yet only 39% of Latinos and 52% of African Americans are similarly educated.

Table 1. Median Personal Earnings by Race and Ethnicity and Residence, 2006

Residence	Race and Ethnicity					
	Non-Hispanic White	*Non-Hispanic Black*	*Hispanic Latino*	*Asian*	*Other*	*Total*
Niles-Benton Harbor, MSA	$25,392	$13,204	$15,845	$741	$20,314	$22,345
Detroit-Warren-Flint, CMSA	$29,455	$18,282	$18,282	$34,533	$21,329	$26,408
Grand-Rapids-Muskegon-Holland, CMSA	$25,392	$19,298	$16,251	$25,392	$19,501	$24,376
Jackson, MSA	$25,392	$28,439	$11,172	$7,110	$24,376	$25,392
Kalamazoo-Portage, MSA	$24,376	$13,204	$18,282	$8,329	$10,157	$22,243
Lansing-East Lansing, MSA	$27,423	$17,774	$20,314	$8,938	$10,157	$25,392
Saginaw-Saginaw Township North, MSA	$23,361	$10,157	$18,282	$45,705	$6,602	$21,634
Non-metropolitan Areas	$20,314	$12,188	$18,282	$9,141	$14,219	$19,603
MICHIGAN	$25,392	$17,368	$18,282	$28,439	$18,181	$24,376

Well-Being of Latinos

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PUMS data also reveal that education levels vary by area of residency. About 70% of people in the Lansing-East Lansing MSA have at least *some* college education while people living in non-metropolitan areas have the lowest percentage at this level. Latinos living in non-metro areas and those living in the Grand-Rapids-Muskegon-Holland CMSA have a lower percentage of people with "some college education or greater" than those living elsewhere in the state. For African Americans, those living in the Niles-Benton-Harbor MSA have the lowest percentage of people with "at least some college education." For Whites, the lowest percentage of people with at least some college education is in non-metropolitan areas. For Asians, the lowest percentage of people with at least some college is in the Grand-Rapids-Muskegon-Holland area.

Poverty

African Americans — followed by Latinos — are among the poorest people in Michigan (data not shown). In 2006, poverty rates were 31% for African Americans and 25% for Latinos. In contrast, poverty rates for Asians were 11% and about 10% for Whites. Poverty rates for Latinos were slightly higher in the Kalamazoo-Portage MSA (32%) and in non-metropolitan areas than in other areas. Poverty rates for Blacks were highest in the Niles-Benton Harbor MSA (52%) and the Kalamazoo-Portage MSA (43%) than in any other areas. Poverty rates for Whites were highest in the Jackson MSA (15%) and lower (14%) in non-metropolitan areas and the Kalamazoo-Portage MSA than in metropolitan areas. Poverty rates for Asians were highest in the Lansing-East Lansing MSA (34%), the Kalamazoo-Portage MSA (33%), and in non-metropolitan areas (33%).

The percentages presented in Table 3 show that African Americans and Latinos in Michigan are more than twice as likely as Whites to have poverty or near-poverty incomes (less than or 125% of poverty threshold). About 37% of African Americans, and about 32% of Latinos, have been living in or near poverty levels. The statistics also show significant residential differences in near-poverty rates.

At or near-poverty rates for Latinos were higher in the Grand-Rapids-Muskegon-Holland CMSA (37%), Kalamazoo-Portage MSA (36%), the Saginaw area (36%), Niles-Benton Harbor MSA (35%), and in non-metropolitan areas (35%) than in Detroit-Warren-Flint (30%), Lansing-East Lansing MSA (10%), and Jackson MSA (6%). More than half of African Americans in the Niles-Benton-Harbor and Kalamazoo-Portage MSAs did not earn enough to raise themselves out of poverty or near-poverty levels. It is important to understand that some residential differences in poverty are compositional, that is some areas have greater concentrations of people at high risk of being poor regardless of where they live. The age composition of these areas (higher percent aged less than 18 and percent aged 65 or older) contributes to residential differences in poverty and near-poverty rates.

Unemployment

Considering individuals aged 16-64 years in the civilian labor force, African Americans and Latinos were more likely than Whites and Asians to be unemployed[3]. The unemployment rates were 10.7% for Latinos, 16.5% for African Americans, 7.1% for Whites, and 5.7% for Asians. Table 4 also reveals significant differences in unemployment rates by residence, suggesting differences in employment opportunities throughout different areas of Michigan.

Table 2. Educational Attainment by Race and Ethnicity, 2006

Race & Ethnicity	Educational Attainment				
	Less than High School	*High School*	*Some College*	*College or Higher*	*Total*
Non-Hispanic White	9.6%	29.0%	35.7%	25.8%	79.4%
Non-Hispanic Black	15.8%	32.1%	36.0%	16.1%	12.5%
Hispanic or Latino	30.4%	30.8%	25.4%	13.3%	3.8%
Asian	7.9%	15.0%	16.0%	61.0%	2.6%
Other Race	17.3%	29.1%	35.5%	18.3%	1.7%
MICHIGAN	*11.2%*	*29.1%*	*34.8%*	*24.9%*	*100.0%*

Table 3. Poverty Rates* in Michigan by Race and Ethnicity, 2006

Residence	Race and Ethnicity					
	Non-Hispanic White	*Non-Hispanic Black*	*Hispanic Latino*	*Asian*	*Other*	*Total*
Niles-Benton Harbor, MSA	10.20%	59.14%	34.92%	17.52%	35.39%	19.13%
Detroit-Warren-Flint, CMSA	11.58%	35.65%	29.62%	11.89%	20.09%	17.16%
Grand-Rapids-Muskegon-Holland, CMSA	11.70%	40.26%	37.5%	6.69%	28.20%	15.69%
Jackson, MSA	18.60%	27.29%	5.56%	38.21%	59.12%	19.60%
Kalamazoo-Portage, MSA	17.15%	50.70%	36.22%	33.09%	44.81%	22.12%
Lansing-East Lansing, MSA	15.11%	46.22%	10.22%	34.80%	38.56%	18.73%
Saginaw-Saginaw Township North, MSA	15.16%	44.83%	35.72%	8.81%	31.11%	19.70%
Non-metropolitan Areas	18.89%	42.97%	34.95%	35.95%	35.45%	19.99%
MICHIGAN	*13.65%*	*37.34%*	*31.54%*	*14.48%*	*28.41%*	*17.89%*

**At or Below 125% of Income Poverty Threshold*

Well-Being of Latinos

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With regard to unemployment by race, ethnicity, and gender (data not shown), Latinos — particularly Latinas — are more likely to be unemployed than Whites and Asians. Overall, African American males are more likely to be unemployed than other racial or ethnic groups. Asian males, on the other hand, are least likely to be unemployed.

Working Poor

People — ages 16-64 — who were working full-time all year, but whose earnings were 125% below the 2006 official poverty level, constitute the state's "working poor." Nearly 28% of Michigan's Latinos earn wages so low they have difficulty surviving financially (data not shown).

By comparison, about 27% of African Americans, 24% of Whites, and 22% of Asians were "working poor," respectively. The percentage of Latinos with "working poor" earnings was higher in the Jackson MSA than in other areas. For African Americans, a higher percentage of working poor individuals were in non-metropolitan areas and in the Niles-Benton-Harbor MSA. Compared with other areas, a greater percentage of White "working poor" individuals were in non-metropolitan areas and in the Kalamazoo-Portage MSA. Asians living in the Detroit-Warren-Flint and the Grand Rapids-Muskegon-Holland CMSA were less likely to be among the working poor than Asians in other areas.

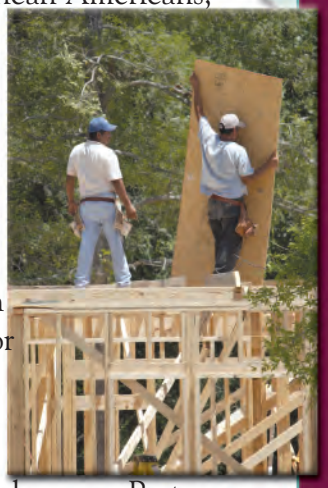

Figure 1 (on Page 13) displays the percent of Michigan's "working poor" by race, ethnicity, and gender. Females are more likely than males across all racial and ethnic groups to be working for incomes 125% below the poverty level.

Latina wage-earners, in particular, are more likely to be among the "working poor" than any other group; about 37% of Latinas were considered "working poor." Among males, African Americans are more likely to be considered "working poor" than other racial or ethnic groups. Asian males have the lowest "working poor" rates among all groups.

Table 4. Unemployment Rates in Michigan *by Race and Ethnicity, 2006*

Residence	Race and Ethnicity				
Non-Hisp. White	*Non-Hisp. Black*	*Hispanic Latino*	*Asian*	*Other*	*Total*
Niles-Benton Harbor, MSA					
8.59	20.10	2.99	4.01	0.00	9.59
Detroit-Warren-Flint, CMSA					
7.08	16.59	12.77	6.08	13.15	9.08
Grand-Rapids-Muskegon-Holland, CMSA					
6.18	18.98	7.17	3.91	6.73	6.98
Jackson, MSA					
6.82	5.44	14.28	14.38	23.01	7.22
Kalamazoo-Portage, MSA					
6.77	16.68	10.79	4.65	20.38	8.04
Lansing-East Lansing, MSA					
4.18	8.61	11.89	1.59	16.43	5.14
Saginaw-Saginaw Township North, MSA					
6.63	19.71	10.41	7.77	22.34	8.22
Non-metropolitan Areas					
8.85	10.59	9.73	5.72	16.75	9.07
MICHIGAN					
7.13	16.53	10.73	5.67	14.54	8.54

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Latino Labor, Migration and Immigration Settlements in Michigan

By Jose G. Moreno, MA, JSRI Research Assistant

Since the mid-19th Century, the Mexican and Latino populations have existed between two worlds because of two primary reasons — the Mexican/American War (1846-1848) and the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. The aftermath of that war divided the Mexican nation and imposed a new border between it and the United States. Since then, Mexicans and Latinos have continually criss-crossed that same border in search of — more often than not — economic survival and a better quality of life.

The Mexican and Latino populations were once able to cross into the newly established "American Frontier" without fear of any political and social repercussions from the U.S. government. But the 1924 Johnson Reed Immigration Control Act altered the political, cultural, and practical contexts of immigration policies and laws in the United States during the rest of the 20th Century. This article contextualizes the historical aspects of Mexican and Latino labor, migration, and immigration settlements in contemporary Michigan.

Early Migration, Labor, and Immigration Settlements

The historical origins and development of Mexican and Latino migration and immigration settlements in the Greater Michigan region emerged early in the 20th Century. The rise of Mexican and Latino migration to Michigan has been partially attributed to America's industrial revolution. U.S. industrialists needed — or wanted — inexpensive working-class laborers (like Mexicans and Latinos) on a rapid and massive scale, especially during periods of war.

America's Industrial Revolution led to the development of Michigan's automobile industry, and the businesses and commercial ventures that supported it. The earlier development of the railroad industry had already lured many Mexican and Latino workers to the Greater Michigan region. The emergence and development of Michigan's modern agricultural business also contributed to rise of migrant and seasonal farmworkers in that area.

These three large-scale industries were among the major contributing factors that led to an increase in Mexican and Latino migration and immigration settlements throughout the state, according to the spackling of research available about the Midwest's Mexican and Latino labor and migration patterns.

The Mexican Revolution and World War I, both of which occurred during the early part of the 20th Century, were important factors that brought enormous amounts of Latino labor — primarily Mexican labor — to the Midwestern region. Many cities and towns throughout the Greater Michigan region experienced varying levels of Latino immigration settlement that changed the very face of that area's demographics.

One of the earliest urban Mexican and Latino immigration settlements was in the city of Detroit. However, there were other Mexican and Latino immigration settlements and colonia developments evolving in the Saginaw Valley, Flint, Pontiac, Holland, Adrian, Highland Park, Lansing, and other areas in the state. Most of the first Mexicans and Latinos to migrate to the Greater Michigan region were from Texas and central Mexico.

In the aftermath of World War I, the state's Mexican and Latino populations increased due to the demand for affordable labor in both the sugar beet and automobile industries. By the "Roaring 20's" there were about 20,000 Mexicans and Latinos that migrated to the Greater Michigan region to work in the sugar beet fields. Migration — from field to field and region to region — was prevalent among Mexican and Latino workers.

It was during that time period that Henry Ford appealed to the immigrants to work in his Detroit-area automobile factories. As result, even more Mexican and Latino workers were lured to the Greater Michigan region.

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Historical Aspects of Latinos in Michigan

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In 1929, the United States' stock market crash led to what was later called the "Great Depression." This event caused an immeasurable decline in U.S. industrial productivity and manufacturing. As a result, Mexican and Latino labor was in less demand by almost every industry in Michigan.

Over the next decade, more than a million Latinos were deported — primarily to Mexico — under the U.S. government's "Repatriation Act." Detroit was among the areas hardest hit by this new "repatriation" legislation because large numbers of Latinos had ventured to and settled in that city. It was also during the early 1930's that renowned Mexican artist Diego Rivera came to Detroit to paint murals in Mexican Town. Rivera, incidentally, openly paid for Mexicans from Detroit to travel back to Mexico to escape the effects of the "Repatriation Act." However, his willingness to aid Mexican immigrants did not stop or hinder the continued systematic deportation of Mexicans and Latinos.

Less than 10 years later, the demand for affordable labor again became a crucial issue in the American economy. The Mexican and United States governments worked to develop a major agricultural "guestworker" program that would be beneficial and acceptable to both nations. This guestworker project soon became known as the "Bracero Program." The worker shortage of World War II — which was estimated to be more than 1 million — led to a new wave of Latino migration and the re-emergence of more immigration settlements throughout the Great Lakes region.

Michigan in the Second Half of the 20th Century

During World War II, there an economic boom in the United States due to the development and modernization of wartime industries. With the labor shortage caused by male workers serving overseas in the military, the demand for affordable, immigrant labor was an important factor in this renewed economic boom. As result, Michigan's agricultural business and other industries in the Greater Michigan region took advantage of the newly established "Bracero Program" to fill the void of absent workers during World War II.

However, even with the successes of the "Bracero Program," the U.S. government continued to deport Mexican and Latino immigrants at an accelerated rate, this time to make room for returning soldiers. This trend of replacing immigrants and migrant workers with returning soldiers continued until the mid 1950's. Over 3 million Mexicans and Latinos were deported to Mexico during this time. The passage in 1954 of the "Occupation Wetback Act" by the U.S. government marked the peak of the deportation of Mexicans and Latinos. However, during those years immediately after World War II, the agricultural sector of the Greater Michigan region began using immigrant labor in record numbers to work in their fields. Up until the 1960's, Michigan became the third largest state with Mexican and Latino migrant labor in the country. In 1964 the U.S. government abruptly ended the "Bracero Program" due to the work of farmworker labor activist and scholar Ernesto Galarza, whose reports on farmworkers and some of the nation's largest and most profitable agricultural businesses revealed the abuses that were occurring in the nation's agricultural fields.

In 1965, the United States government passed the purportedly liberal "Immigration Reform Act," which ended the nation's quota system within the immigration process. The major aim of that act was to end the uneven quotas imposed on immigrant groups coming to the United States. This marked the first time that the Mexican and Latino populations were ever included as a "quota ethnic group." In the aftermath of the "Immigration Reform Act of 1965," scholars have traced the origins and development of yet another wave of Mexican and Latino migration and immigration.

During this era, second- and third-generation offspring of early Latino migrants to the Greater Michigan region were establishing their own social, political, and cultural identities as U.S.-born citizens. The outcome of this led to the distinct development of two types of Mexican and Latino second- and third-generation societies in the state of Michigan. For about 15 years — from the late 1940's until 1965 — there emerged a "Mexican-American" generation that focused its political and social efforts on assimilation and the establishing of roles within the U.S. social and political systems. This generation, according to researchers, tended to believe that social and political reform would effectively alter the nation's mainstream class system. Moreover, the Mexican-American generation advocated for the political right to vote as citizens and for social and political diversity within an emerging modern society.

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Student Run, JSRI Supported

Society for Latina/o Scholarship

In 2003, a group of Latina/o graduate students at Michigan State University were determined to assemble a community of student scholars who could share ideas, encourage academic growth, and support one another while most conducted their studies in a place not "home."

With the support of the Julian Samora Research Institute — which provided startup funds, an environment where student scholars could work independently and free of normal distractions, and an opportunity to excel in their studies — the simple idea of a self-sustaining Latino graduate group became a reality.

In partnership with the JSRI, the "Society of Latino/a Scholars" began sponsoring *Conversaciones*, a "brown bag" research forum that provides graduate students the opportunity to present research, practice and critique their presentations, and become familiar with a variety of research methods. SOLS is an interdisciplinary organization and — in doing so — promotes inclusive perspectives of research relevant to Latino/as. One senior member, for instance, is a doctoral student in history, specializes in 20th Century Contemporary History of Latin America, the Caribbean, and the United States; another has scholarly concentrations in culture, migration, politics, social, women, and gender. Both have research agendas focusing on Latinos in the Americas and both have presented at the brown bags luncheons.

Some SOLS members are lifelong Lansing residents who are active in academics, the university, and Lansing's greater Latino community. Others are not from Michigan, but come to MSU from places like California, Texas, Colorado, and other Midwestern states.

At periodic meetings, the group discusses an assortment of issues, including Latinos in high school, higher adult and lifelong education, and Chicano/Latino Studies.

"One of our main concerns is our 'new' Latino family and we realize the importance of maintaining contact and support as we continue with our lives and studies," said third year graduate student Melanie Mays. "Some of us have developed an academic desire to look at Chicano identity formation, Mexican nationalism, Afro-Latinos, Latino Sociology, and cross-cultural race relations."

In addition to *Conversaciones*, SOLS has organized and hosted conferences, student receptions, and skill-building workshops. They have sponsored events that welcome community members — such as the Southwest Detroit Literary Guild — to campus.

"SOLS is, in many ways, crucial to the completion of our graduate studies by promoting a supportive environment that fosters the sharing of knowledge and a safe haven for critical thought," said Gabriela Saenz, a sociology doctoral student and longtime SOLS member. "We recognize the MSU Latino student population is only about 3%, but we welcome members interested in seeing these undergraduate and graduate student numbers rise."

The SOLS graduate students are not alone in their endeavors either. Their efforts have been supplemented and guided by several faculty advisors that include Chicano and Latino educators, scholars, and mentors. This year, SOLS welcomes the support and leadership of Dr. Rubén Martinez, JSRI's new Director, and hopes to include him in an upcoming Faculty Lecture Series — another new addition to SOLS-sponsored events.

But the group also recognizes that if they are indeed successful in their studies and their work, SOLS members will not remain on campus long. Therefore part of their ongoing efforts includes identifying and recruiting the next generation of Latina/o scholars and SOLS members.

"We always looked forward to a long and rich relationship with JSRI and MSU," added Mays, an African American & African Studies major. "As we develop and succeed, it's inevitable that we pass the torch down to future scholars, educators, and Latinos who are involved in many aspects of social justice."

SOLS meets every other Friday at various campus locations. To learn more, contact:

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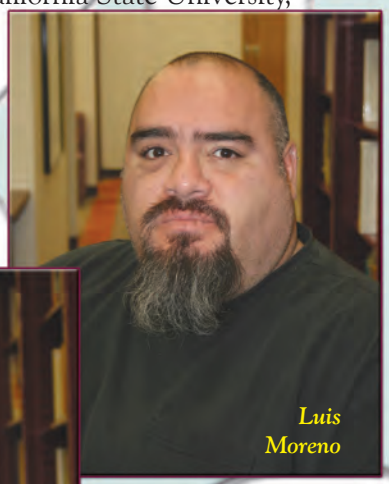
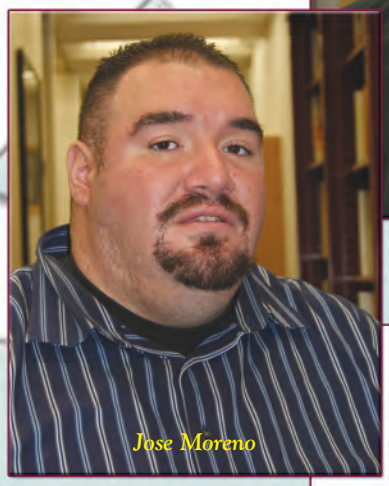
Student Fellows & Employees

Luis Moreno is a Ph.D. student in the new Chicano/Latino Studies Ph.D. program at Michigan State University. He received a B.A. in Chicana/o Studies from San Diego State University and a M.A. in Chicana/o Studies from California State University, Northridge. He has presented his research at a number of community and professional conferences and was an Assistant Archivist under a Department of Education, Hispanic Serving Initiative Grant at CSU-Northridge where he oversaw the processing of Rodolfo F. Acuña Collection, Julian Nava Collection, Mother of East Los Angeles Papers, and other Chicano/Latino collections. His areas of research are grass-root and community activism, development of Chicano Studies, public and oral history and archival preservation.


Luis Moreno

Jose G. Moreno, of Oxnard, was a History and Chicano Studies lecturer at several California universities and colleges. He has a BA in History and Chicano Studies from California State University-Northridge and a Masters in Chicano Studies. Moreno has also organized, presented and participated in professional conferences and forums throughout the nation. He has published various scholarly and popular articles and book reviews for student, professional, and community publications. Moreno has worked toward the development of community-based and public scholarship in the field of Chicano Studies and History. His goal is to help establish Chicano and Latino Studies programs around the U.S.


Jose Moreno

Raquel Arevalo, who is originally from San Juan, Texas, came from a large migrant family that lived in Minnesota and Michigan throughout much of the year. She is currently a sophomore enrolled in the Pre-Nursing Program at Michigan State University; her goal is to remain focused on school and her part-time job at JSRI. When her education is complete, Arevalo hopes to work in Prenatal Care, OB, or Pediatrics.


Raquel Arevalo


Alejandro Gradilla

Alejandro Gradilla is a Doctoral Student in MSU's Department of Sociology. His areas of specialization are in Latina/o Sociology, Race and Ethnicity, and Urban Sociology. In 2005 he received his Bachelors of Arts degree in sociology from California State University, Chico and has been part of the JSRI student workforce for almost two years. He is originally from Los Angeles.

Jose Rosas, an MSU Junior, is majoring in Human Resources & Society and is working toward specializations in Latin America Studies and Chicano/Latino Studies. Originally from Mexico and the son of migrant farmworkers, Rosas began high school in the U.S. in 2002. He is, he proudly proclaims, a first generation college student and enrolled at MSU in 2005 through the university's College Assistant Migrant Program. Since then, he has been joined by two of his younger sisters — Carmena and Elena — at MSU. Rosas is grateful to all the people (professors, advisers, family, friends and co-workers) who have encouraged, supported, and pushed him to continue his educational pursuits or — as he puts it — "to get where I am today." His future goals, aims, and interests include additional training and education, enhanced opportunities to serve his community, and increased commitment to people who come from backgrounds similar to his own.


Jose Rosas

Historical Aspects of Latinos in Michigan

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From the mid-1960's to late the 70's, there was also a rise of political, cultural, and social radicalism within the Mexican and Latino populations in the Greater Michigan region. This reflected, on a smaller scale, the trend toward self-empowerment and social recognition that was sweeping minority communities during this time. The rise of radicalism in Michigan led to the development of the state's "Chicano Power Movement" period. This historical, social, and political movement led many Mexican Americans and Latinos to apply for and attend Michigan universities. This movement in the Greater Michigan region had major implications not only for diversity, but also for greater political and social access for Mexicans and Latinos who called Michigan "home." During this time, there was another measurable increase in Michigan's Mexican and Latino migration and immigration due to the demand for affordable labor during a resurgence in the state and region's agricultural industries, and in other industries requiring hand-labor.

The 1980's bore witness to a "fourth wave" of increased Mexican and Latino migration and immigration. The state's *Agriculture Census of 1982* estimated there were about 58,661 farms in the state employing over 45,000 migrant farmworkers annually. The Western Michigan and Saginaw Valley areas accounted for over half of all migrant workers employed in Michigan's agricultural business during this period. Moreover, the agricultural industry employed mostly Mexican and Latino migrant workers because of shifts in automobile production, industrialization, technological advances, and the immediate availability of workers in the state.

It was during this time that the U.S. labor market radically changed because of "modern globalization," which is the development of an increasingly integrated global economy supported by free trade, the free flow of capital and goods, and the tapping of cheaper foreign labor markets.

Consequently, major American industries and corporations began to move production, labor, and facilities to countries where labor costs were down, regulations were absent or less likely to be enforced, and taxes were lower.

Michigan was one of the major U.S. industrial centers to began experiencing massive economic declines during this time. This downturn in Michigan's industrial arena drastically and negatively affected the Great Lakes region's economy. But immigrants continued to arrive in Michigan anyway.

The 1980's "fourth generation" of Mexican and Latino residents became the "Hispanic" sector, researchers say, due to rise of their professionalism and class status in the United States. This timeframe became known as the "Decade of the Hispanic" and prosperity — for them — became an important

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All Things New

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The two publication series are welcome additions to the Institute's continuously-growing list of research periodicals. Other JSRI publications, the vast majority of which are available online, include **Occasional Papers, Research Reports, Working Papers,** and **CIFRAS (Statistical Briefs).** The renewed public interest in research information has also prompted the revitalization of the Julian Samora Research Institute's newsletter, **Nexo.**

The added emphasis at the Institute is a result of the appointment of its new director, Dr. Rubén O. Martinez, who assumed his role in September. Martinez becomes only the third person to assume the "Permanent Director" position in JSRI's 18-year history. Refugio I. Rochín was the first, from 1995-1998, while Israel Cuellar served in that capacity from 2002-2004. Richard Navarro was originally named the Julian Samora Research Institute's "Founding Director" in 1989.

In between Permanent Directors, JSRI was guided by an ensemble of "Interim" and "Acting" Directors — researchers and scholars in their own right who set aside other teaching, administrative, or research opportunities to ensure the Institute's continued stability. That list includes Joseph Spielberg, Jorge Chapa, Rene Hinojosa, Dionicio Valdes, and Francisco Villarruel, whose temporary assignments lasted between 12 and 24 months.

With Martinez at the helm, JSRI now forges ahead with a renewed sense of invigoration and commitment to its original — and evolving — mission of providing information about Latinos throughout the Midwest.

Searching for Archives in Michigan

By Luis Moreno, MA, JSRI Research Assistant

When conducting research on Chicanos, Mexicans, and Latinos in Michigan, you can find a number of excellent secondary sources on Michigan and the Midwest. For example, there is Dennis Valdes' *Al Norte: Agricultural Workers in the Great Lakes Region, 1917-1970* and Juan Garcia's *Mexicans in the Midwest, 1900-1932*. Beyond secondary sources there are many important primary sources (i.e. archives) located throughout the state of Michigan.

Therefore the real question becomes, "where in Michigan are those archives?" Most, notably, are at the state's communities of high learning.

Michigan State University (MSU) is the depository for many collections on Chicanos, Mexicans, and Latinos at MSU, Michigan and the Midwest. One of those collections is the Julian Samora Papers, which are housed in the University Archives and contain organization files of the Centro de Estudios Chicano Investigaciones Sociales (CECIS). The CECIS files include information on Chicano, Mexican, and Latino culture and history in the Midwest. In addition to the Samora papers, MSU holds — at the University Libraries — the multi-disciplinary and multi-format José F. Treviño Collection. It focuses on archiving and documenting the Chicano, Mexican, and Latino activism at MSU and Michigan. The Treviño Collection is composed of the papers of MEChA/MEXA, Juana & Jesse Gonzales, Pedro & Diana Rivera, Dionicio Valdes, the Xicano Development Center, and others activists and grassroot organizations.

University of Michigan (UM) is the location of two important collections, the *Latin American Solidarity Committee* (LASC) and the *Michigan Migrant Ministry,* which are housed within the Bentley Historical Library. The LASC Collection is composed of press releases, posters, flyers, and other types of documents which supported progressive causes in Latin America and the United States. An important part of this collection are the files on the *Farm Labor Organizing Committee* (FLOC), which organized farmworkers and migrant workers in Michigan and the Midwest. The *Michigan Migrant Ministry* Collection is composed of correspondence, staff reports, and other documents. This collection is important because of the information on the types of crops, numbers of migrant workers, and the activities of the community of laborers in the state of Michigan.

Wayne State University (WSU) is home of the Walter P. Reuther Library (Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs), which is the official depository of the *United Farm Workers* (UFW) papers. The UFW Collection is composed of manuscripts, audio-video materials, oral histories, and other related collections. This collection is important because of its unique relevance to FLOC and the agricultural migrant worker in Michigan.

The collections that have been highlighted are only a handful of archives that tell the story of Chicanos, Mexicans, and Latinos in Michigan and the Midwest. Like a detective, you have to navigate through those collections or find new or emerging collections that chronicle the history of Michigan's Chicanos, Mexicans, and Latinos.

For more information on archives, visit:

MSU Special Collections
http://special collections.lib.msu.edu/index.jsp

UM Bentley Historical Library
http://bentley.umich.edu

WSU Walter P. Reuther Library
www.reuther.wayne.edu

MSU has only a portion of the Julian Samora Papers. Other portions are housed at UT-Austin and at the University of Notre Dame

Historical Aspects of Latinos in Michigan

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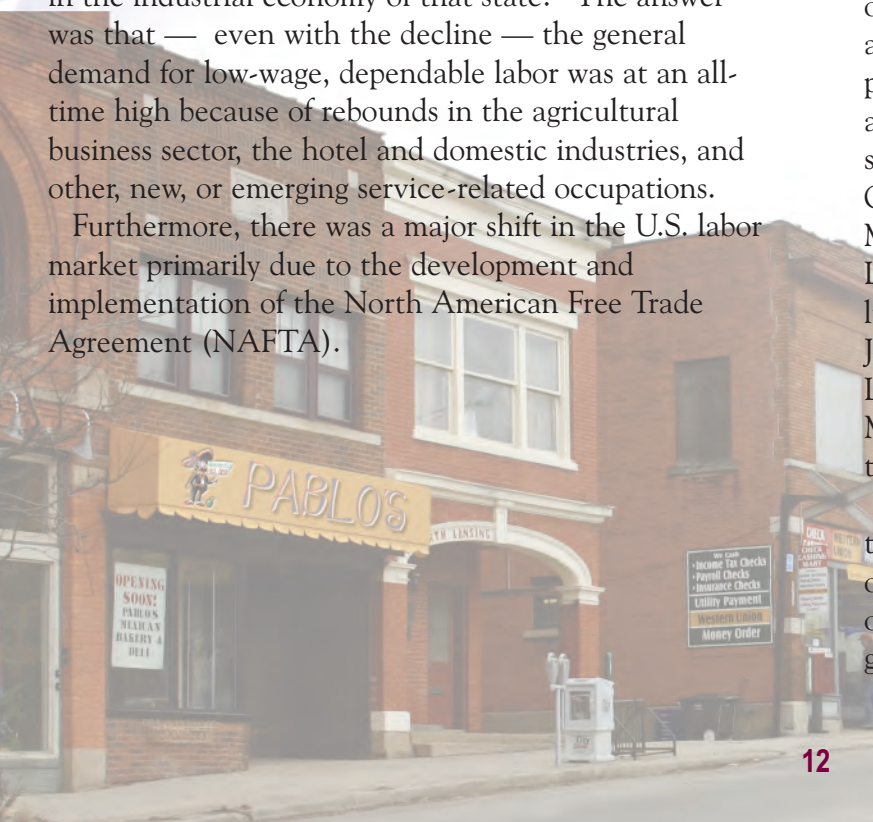
measure of modern society. Moreover, the rise of Hispanics coincided with a rise of opportunity in electoral politics, corporate hierarchy, and other professional institutions in Michigan.

In 1986, the United States government passed the "Immigration Reform and Control Act" (IRCA), which legalized and nationalized many immigrants already living and working in this nation. However, to qualify for the IRCA, immigrants — including Michigan's Latino and Mexican immigrant populations — had to legitimately claim citizenship within one calendar year. Therefore, IRCA effectively imposed limits on the number of people who could legally immigrate to the U.S. annually. This act also led to the development of the I-9 form, which — as part of its completion — requires people to provide proof they are authorized to work in the U.S. as either a native-born or naturalized citizen, as a legal resident, or as an authorized, temporary worker. Moreover, the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 did not — and could not — curtail Mexicans and Latinos from migrating to and through the continental United States.

By 1990, there were almost 200,000 Mexicans and Latinos reportedly living and working in the Greater Michigan region. In one decade alone, Michigan's Latino populations grew by 24.1%. The question soon became, "how could there be a rapid growth of Mexicans and Latino in Michigan if there was a decline in the industrial economy of that state?" The answer was that — even with the decline — the general demand for low-wage, dependable labor was at an all-time high because of rebounds in the agricultural business sector, the hotel and domestic industries, and other, new, or emerging service-related occupations.

Furthermore, there was a major shift in the U.S. labor market primarily due to the development and implementation of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).



With the rise of modern globalization, the general demand for working class Mexican and Latino labor continued to be a major issue within the U.S. During the 1990's, many Mexican and Latino settlements expanded in a state witnessing declines in other sectors of its economy. The "Texas Migrant Stream" continued to be a major gateway in the migration patterns of Mexicans and Latinos venturing to Michigan. However, the nation also experienced an increase in Latino immigration from not only other parts of Mexico, but from other Latin American countries as well. Historians attribute this to the emergence of NAFTA and modern globalization in that part of the world, too.

In the 1990's, Mexicans and Latinos lived in all of the 83 counties and in 588 Michigan cities, towns, and villages. The Mexican and Latino sector made up, at that time, over 10% of the population in Holland, Saginaw, Adrian, Buena Vista, and Shelby. In Fennville, they comprised about 25% of the population. The largest cities experiencing the largest surge in Mexican and Latino populations during this time included Detroit, Lansing, Grand Rapids, Pontiac, and Flint. Latinos became the third largest ethnic group in the state and, despite the Immigration Reform Act of 1996, it did not curtail the flow of Mexican and Latino migration into Michigan.

Michigan in the New Millennium

In the aftermath of the New Millennium, the number of Mexicans and Latinos living in Michigan grew to almost 324,000. This was an increase of 122,000 persons from the previous decade. Latinos represented about 3.3% of the population in the state. But it was selected Michigan counties — like Kent, Wayne, Oakland, Ottawa, Ingham, Saginaw, Genesee, and Macomb — that experienced impressive gains in their Latino populations. During this decade, other counties like Leelanau, Menominee, Mackinac, Luke, and St. Joseph became home to a rapidly-swelling Mexican and Latino population. Moreover, statistics show that Michigan's Latino population increased by 58% over the last decade.

According to 2000 Census data, Michigan has one of the largest Latino populations in the Midwest, second only to the Chicago area. It was Illinois, among all other Midwestern states, that experienced the largest growth in their Mexican and Latino populations.

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Well-Being of Latinos

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Family Poverty

Statistics show that African American families, and then Latinos, are significantly more likely than White and Asian families to be in poverty.[4] Among Latino families, those living in the Jackson MSA were more likely to be poor than Latinos living in other areas. Among African Americans, those living in the Niles-Benton-Harbor MSA and those in the Kalamazoo-Portage MSA were the most likely to live in poverty. Among White families, those in non-metropolitan areas and those in the Kalamazoo-Portage MSA were more likely than those in other areas to live in poverty. Asian families in the Detroit-Warren-Flint CMSA and the Grand Rapids-Muskegon-Holland CMSA were less likely to be poor than Asian families living elsewhere.

Figure 2 displays the percent of families in poverty by the race and ethnicity of the household leader and family structure. Female-headed families were the most likely families to live in poverty; about 29% of Latino female-headed families were living in poverty. By comparison, 32% of African American female-headed families, 21% of White female-headed families, and 18% of Asian female-headed families lived in poverty.

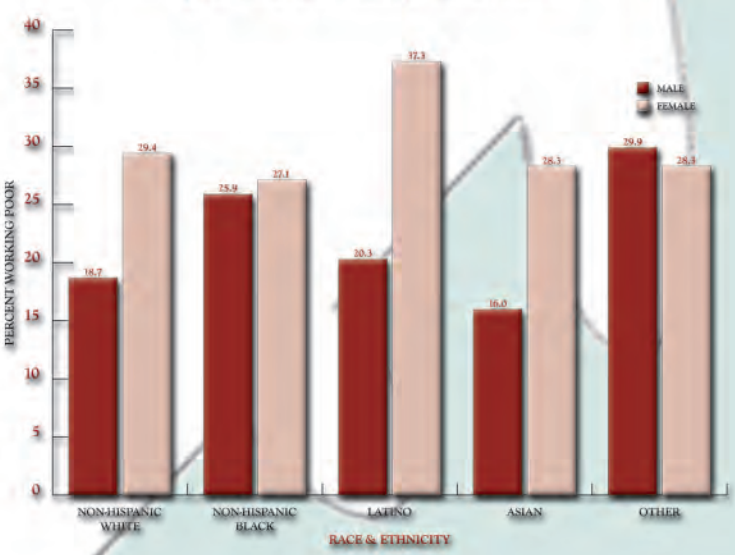
Among male-headed households, African American families were more likely to live in poverty than other group. Among married-couple families, Latino families were the most likely to live in poverty.

Median Family Income

Median family incomes are important to examine by race, ethnicity, and residence. Latino families in Michigan had a median income of $39,713 in 2006. In comparison, the median family income for the state was $63,394. Compared to other racial/ethnic groups, Asians had the highest median income ($79,223), followed by Whites ($68,964). The lowest median family income in Michigan was that of African Americans ($38,596). Median Family incomes also vary by areas of residence.

Families in non-metropolitan areas, followed by those in the Niles-Benton-Harbor MSA, have the lowest measured median family income in Michigan. Among Latinos, the median family income is lower in the Kalamazoo-Portage MSA than in all other areas. African-American families from the Niles-Benton-Harbor MSA have the lowest median family income when compared to those in other areas.

Fig. 1. Michigan's Working Poor
by Race, Ethnicity & Gender

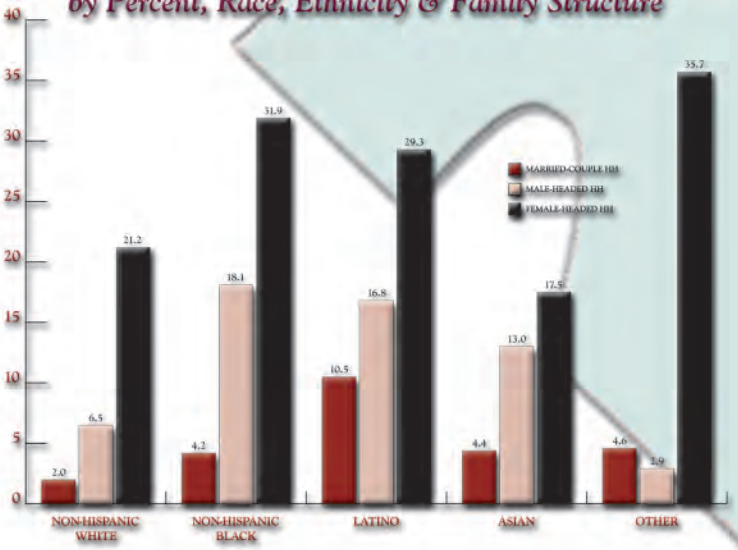


White families in non-metropolitan areas have lower median family incomes than those in metropolitan areas. The median family income for Asian Americans is also lower in the Niles-Benton-Harbor MSA than elsewhere in the state.

Household[5] Income

Census data also show that the median household income of racial and ethnic populations varied in different areas in Michigan. The 2006 total median household income varied considerably by race and ethnicity. The total population had a median household income of $64,191, with White and Asian households reporting incomes above the median. Conversely, Latinos and African Americans show median income levels significantly below the median for the total population's median household income.

Fig. 2. Michigan Families in Poverty
by Percent, Race, Ethnicity & Family Structure



Well-Being of Latinos

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In terms of median household income, factors to consider include the race and ethnicity of the householder and the household structure. Female-headed households, particularly African American and Latino families, have lower median household incomes than other households. Married-couple households across all racial or ethnic groups have higher median household income than others. Among married-households, Asians have the highest median household income while the lowest median household income is among Latinos.

Conclusion and Policy Implications

This report highlights the socioeconomic well-being of Latinos and the disparities that exist between Latinos and other race and ethnic groups in Michigan. What is evident is that Latinos and African Americans have lower access to shared resources than Whites and Asians. Findings in this report show that African Americans and Latinos likewise have lower earnings than Whites and Asians and that these earning gaps vary depending on areas of residence and gender.

Latinos in Michigan have lower levels of education than Whites, Asians, and African Americans. African Americans, followed by Latinos, have higher personal poverty rates than Whites and Asians. Meanwhile, Latinos are also more than twice as likely as Whites to have near-poverty incomes and were more likely than Whites or Asians to be unemployed and working for wages 125% below the poverty level (or "working poor"). Unemployment and working poor rates vary by areas of residency in the state, reflecting place differences in employment opportunities. African American families, followed by Latino families, were significantly more likely than White and Asian families to live in poverty conditions. White and Asian households have a median household income above Latinos while African Americans median household incomes are significantly below the median household income for the total population in Michigan.

The causes of gap in earnings, personal poverty, high unemployment, working for low wages, and family poverty rates and incomes in Michigan are partially explained by individual attributes such as human capital. However, they are also defined by existing economic disadvantages and varying employment opportunities throughout the state. Michigan —with its dependency on manufacturing industries — has lost many good jobs, especially low-skilled, blue-collar ones.

The newly created jobs — in service and information-based sectors of the economy — are usually one of two kinds: (1) those requiring high education and technical skills and (2) those requiring low job skills. Latinos and other minority workers are often concentrated in the latter.

The resulting effects of structural economic changes, including changes in the distribution of jobs, technical advancements, and the outsourcing of homeland jobs overseas, has dramatically increased poverty, joblessness, and reduced real wages for low-skilled minority workers in America. These effects of these changes have disproportionately impacted minority populations.

The gap in socio-economic well-being indicators between Latinos and Whites — and between Blacks and Whites — persist even after considering human capital and the social and structural aspects of areas where people live and work (data not shown). Researchers recognize it is difficult to measure discrimination and other institutional factors when formulating these analyses.

The influx of Latino populations in many communities in Michigan increases the labor pool of workers, who are needed and contribute to local economies, particularly in low-skilled occupations. Simultaneously, the rapid influx of Latinos can present unique challenges for communities that have experienced economic decline or stagnation, and whose dominant groups do not accommodate and integrate newcomers.

The results imply that policy programs aimed at improving community labor market opportunities and support disadvantaged families would reduce racial and ethnic disparities in socio-economic well-being. Such policy programs should target areas with the fewest economic opportunities, then provide special assistance to those in precarious financial needs. Policies should also target and support job creation at the local or community level, jobs that respond to the community's needs — particularly those of Latinos and other minorities.

Historical Aspects of Latinos in Michigan

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Michigan's "Mexican sector" makes up over 70.4% of the Latino population in the state while Puerto Ricans, Central and South American, Cubans, and Dominicans collectively make up the remainder. For most of the last two decades there has been a steady increase in immigrants from ""non-traditional" countries and a major increase of Latino populations in Detroit, Grand Rapids, Flint, and Lansing.

More recently, Grand Rapids has become a major destination point for Latinos. Many say they search for better economic and educational opportunities in Michigan. Detroit Metro continues to be a major migration and immigration settlement center for Mexican and Latino populations, but there remains an ever-increasing development of Mexican and Latinos communities in areas beyond Detroit as well.

Southwestern Detroit's Mexican and Latino populations have experienced their own economic boom of sorts. The redevelopment of Detroit's "Mexican Town" has helped keep the inner-city "alive" during the last two decades while other areas have witnessed dramatic losses in jobs and people.

This emerging Mexican and Latino economic hub has rapidly lost many of its original homes and businesses to national and international corporations that are quickly snatching up lots and acreage. Developers' plans continue to be based on monetary considerations. Michigan is developing another international link to neighboring Canada, from which billions of dollars worth of goods and trade flow, and an existing railway tunnel is being converted into a "tractor-trailer traffic only" passageway beneath the river. It is that tunnel's opening in Michigan that presents the toughest challenge to Latinos' continued existence in Southwest Detroit.

Historic homes have been bought, then razed. Generations of close-knit families have quickly resettled to other areas. Business owners are suddenly finding commercial and leased sites have also been sold and razed, or the rates climbed so high they became as unaffordable as the housing. The Spanish-language signs, the area's cultural identity, and — literally — Hispanics themselves are slowly experiencing the effects of globalization in SW Detroit.

Despite that, Michigan's Latino population continues to grow. According to the last Census, there are over 35.3 million Latinos living the U.S., representing 12.5% of the total population. However, Latino political clout in national and state governments remains hampered. There are only 20 publically-elected Latinos representatives in the Greater Michigan region because only a small portion of Michigan Latinos are even registered to vote. As is happening nationwide, Latinos lack the political representation to make an impact on their own quality of life issues. Furthermore, the House of Representatives passed a bill (HR 4437) in 2005 which led to a new, nationwide movement for the curtailment and control of immigration rights in our modern society. Today, the immigration debate continues to be a hot-topic issues in Michigan and the rest of the United States.

Well-Being of Latinos

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Furthermore, improving the education level of Latinos and African Americans is crucial to improving the economic well-being of the state. In today's economy, a college degree — at least a bachelor's degree — is essential for greater economic stability. Finally, policy programs must invest in the community's social infrastructure and key institutions, thereby creating inclusive, healthy, and integrated communities that address people's needs. Such policies and programs will likely improve the socio-economic well-being of people in many Michigan communities and improve its economy as a whole.

Endnotes

1. *Race and Ethnicity are grouped into four categories: Latinos, non-Latino Whites, non-Latino Blacks, Asians, and other races. Native Americans, Pacific Islanders, and mixed races are included as "other" because of their relative small sizes.*
2. **Metropolitan areas** *are defined by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to include core counties with one or more central cities of at least 50,000 residents or with an urbanized area of 50,000+ and total area population of at least 100,000. Fringe counties (suburbs) that are economically tied to the core counties are also included in metropolitan areas.* **Non-metropolitan counties** *are outside the boundaries of metro areas and have no cities with 50,000+ residents. Non-metropolitan areas are further subdivided into two types: micropolitan areas, centered on urban clusters of 10,000+ persons, and all remaining "non-core" counties (see map of metropolitan areas in Michigan).*
3. *Unemployment Rate equates to the number of people unemployed, divided by the total number of the people in the civilian labor force. According to the U.S. Census, all civilians 16 and older are classified as unemployed if they (1) were neither "at work" nor "with a job but not at work" during the reference week, (2) were looking for work during the last four weeks, and (3) were available to start a job.*
4. *A "family" is classified to be in poverty if the 2006 total family income was at 125% or below the official government poverty threshold for the family size and composition.*
5. *Non-family households were excluded from this analysis.*

Dr. Jean Kayitsinga is a sociologist demographer for JSRI and Visiting Assistant Professor in the Department of Counseling Educational Psychology and Special Education, (MQM Program) at MSU. He received his Ph.D. in Sociology in 1999 and his areas of specialization include rural sociology, sociology of families, demography, research methods, and statistical methodologies.

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