

Aspirations, Barriers, and Community Strengths: A Qualitative Survey of Urban Chicano Youth and Families

Elizabeth M. Vera

Occasional Paper No. 38

February 2000

ABSTRACT

This presentation describes the content of interviews conducted with Chicano children, adolescents, and their families who reside in an urban community and attend local schools. The goal of these interviews was to have the community identify aspirations it had for the children, barriers, which may impede progress toward these goals, and resources both available and needed, which would serve to enhance community life. The importance of the family, relationships, issues of personal safety, and the school as a central component of the community were among the topics discussed in the interviews. Areas of consensus and divergence among the various participants are highlighted and the implications for prevention planning are discussed.