



THE CENTER
at Sierra Health Foundation

**SAN JOAQUIN
VALLEY**
HEALTH FUND

San Joaquin Valley Census Research Project Briefing for California Complete Count Committee



February 20, 2019

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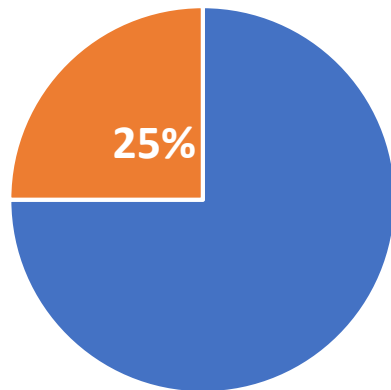
SJV Census Cluster Project: Overall Strategy



Where We're At: Research/Knowledge Base Latino Immigrants and Their Social Networks

8 Counties – 31 Communities – 104 Venues

418 Latino surveys completed



■ Foreign Born ■ US born

Foreign Born Latinos Surveyed

- 49% undocumented
- 36% legal residents
- 15% naturalized citizens

- **4 Latino Focus Groups**
 - Indigenous community (Madera)
 - U.S.-born Latino youth with immigrant parents (Fresno)
 - Latino DACA recipients (Tulare)
 - Latino Head Start parents (Stanislaus, Merced, Madera)
- **Data Analysis**
 - Report 1: Impact of citizenship question and other barriers to census participation
 - Report 2: Cascade model identified 4% undercount
 - Report 3 (upcoming): Analysis of qualitative and focus group data
- **174 surveys completed of other ethnic groups**
 - SE Asian
 - Arab
 - Sikh
 - Sub-Saharan African
- **Additional Focus Groups**
 - Sikh
 - Syrian refugees

Dramatic Reduction in Willingness to Respond if CQ is Added

Willingness To Respond	Willing to Respond to Census without the CQ (N=406)	Willing to Respond to Census with the CQ (N=404)
All Latino respondents	84%	46%
Undocumented (N=147)	80%	25%
Legal Residents (N=108)	85%	63%
Naturalized Citizens (N=44)	89%	70%
US-born Citizens-2 nd gen (N=97)	89%	49%

Strong Opposition to Participate in Proxy Interviews

“NONE OF MY BUSINESS!”

Proxy interviews are a key component of NRFU process

- accounted for 24% of NRFU interviews in Census 2010 and 27% in 2018 NRFU testing

19%

Willingness to
respond
without CQ

“I think it's an issue of privacy. I don't think I have the right to give people's information away. Maybe if I ask them first.”

“I would not give it, why should it be my job to answer? It's not my obligation.”

“No, because I do not know who the neighbors are. I will tell the person to go to the house [himself].”

8%

Willingness to
respond
with CQ

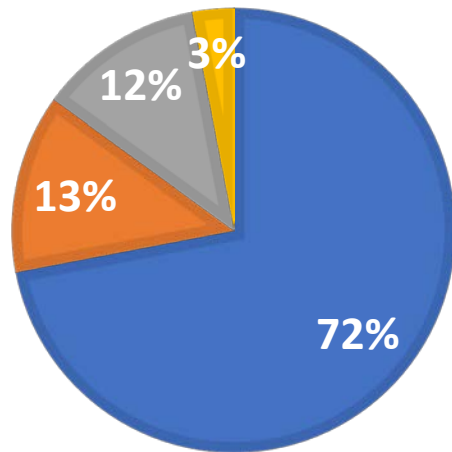
“I do not want to do any harm by giving that personal information.”

“I will not give the information, I do not want to get people in trouble. It's very private. The government should not ask it.”

28% of Latino Households Surveyed Do Not Have Standard Mail Delivery

LATINO IMMIGRANT MAIL ACCESS

- Own mail access
- PO Box
- Shared mailbox
- Other or none

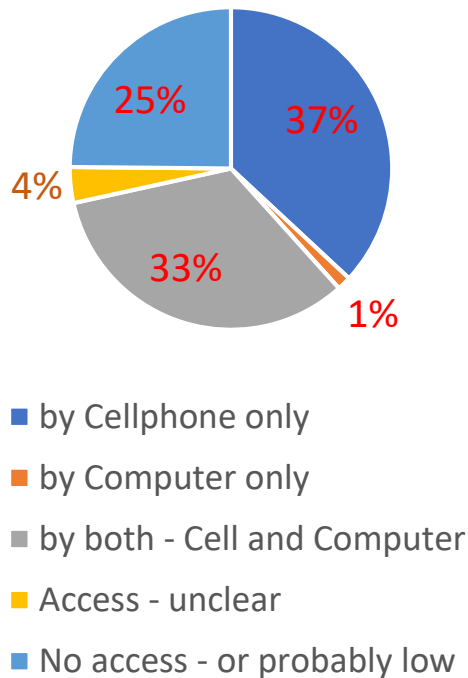


Opportunities for Procedural Advocacy

- Improve the enumeration process for households with impaired mail access
- Identify distinctive issues for each mail arrangement
- Address issues of successful delivery of bilingual questionnaires

Internet Access is a Barrier to Response

% Latino Immigrants' Internet Access (n=414)



- More than one-quarter of survey respondents have no access or marginal Internet access
- Those most willing to respond (older legal residents and naturalized citizens) have least access to the Internet
- 37% of Internet access through cell phone only-Interface needs to be **extremely** user-friendly for populations with limited digital literacy
- Community facilities for online access needed and also strong campaigns needed to encourage people to make use of them
- Promise of mobile QAC's

Challenges In Enumerating Complex HHs: Multiple Family Units Living Under the Same Roof



- Over one-fifth of the Latino immigrant HHs (22%) are complex HH's or compounds. The “extra” people in these HHs are very likely not to be included in HH census responses.
- Living arrangements often violate housing codes and “extra” individuals are, in many cases, undocumented. It's not surprising they may be left off a HH census response—especially with the CQ on the census.
- It's not clear to what extent messaging will be useful here. It will be useful to encourage and facilitate online (NID) response by the “extra” individuals and households in these living situations

Recurring Themes in Surveys and Focus Groups

- Distrust in federal government leads to distrust in Census Bureau assurances about confidentiality.
- Disbelief in confidentiality is not absolute – but how information might perhaps be used is of grave concern. Many are weighing risks vs. benefits and some are willing to take risk, others not.
- If the census is meant to count the population, why ask personal information and, especially, why add the citizenship question?
- Widespread perception that the citizenship question is divisive, racist and bad social policy
- Many who WILL respond believe that others won't.
- Some plan to skip the CQ



Building on Findings : Advocacy and Legal Arguments

- Non-response and resulting differential undercount have geographic impacts. We can now estimate expected Latino undercount. Implications for statewide undercount may be controversial—but certainly relevant to discussion.
- Evidence of irresponsible under-funding of NRFU may be factor in litigation for post-censal statistical adjustment.
- SJVCRP research is relevant to the CA litigation in providing support for the argument that very serious differential non-response cannot be cured in the course of NRFU.
- SJVCRP research also provides the basis for arguing that there are major non-financial, non-electoral negative impacts on civic life and immigrant integration efforts.



Beyond Litigation About the CQ: Advocacy in 2019

- Earlier CVIIC research on unconventional and hidden housing units missing from MAF supports LA Region collaboration with community-based organizations in targeting and conducting 2019 in-field address canvassing.
- Census 2019 Test of CQ Vigorous state advocacy for breakout of Census Bureau split-panel survey research findings for California (not just national) and detailed analysis on CQ impact in census tracts with concentrations of non-citizens.
- Even if CQ is removed, how restore confidence/enthusiasm re census participation
- Dramatic CQ suppression of Latino immigrant response supports advocacy for adequate Census Bureau funding for NRFU and flexibility for LA Region in deploying workforce and expanding U/L
- Higher-than-expected non-response provides basis for hiring non-citizen enumerators and for revised training/supervision to allow enumerators to persuade reluctant respondents
- Barriers to census response—mail delivery, Internet access, and living in a complex HH or hidden housing unit support advocacy for more U/L, mobile QACs, community QACs and focus on NID—especially for those in complex housing arrangements
- Priority for State of California: Further applied research on likely neighborhood effects via non-formal social networks to strengthen projections of statewide impact

2021 and Beyond: State Litigation Necessary

- If Dept. of Commerce still seeks block-level tabulations, crucial need to prohibit tabulations below census block-group level. Track EPIC litigation on this issue.
- State/local government need to prepare for and deploy independent research as basis for post-Census litigation seeking statistical adjustment—beginning right now!
- Independent evaluation of Census 2020 requires full logic model—monitoring implementation in California (focus on multiple facets of NRFU) as well as post-hoc coverage measurement.
- Go beyond standard PES-based coverage measurement to measure differential undercount (including immigrant undercount not just racial/ethnic populations).
- A crucial role for ethnographic research and collaborations with community-based organizations used by independent researchers (SJVCRP, IFS, Marcelli, CRLA 2010).
- Mid-decade census statutorily authorized but never implemented—possible legal option for response to the problem of a full decade of flawed data.



Where We Are: Census Advocacy Grants

- 10 SJVHF census advocacy grants: Feb. 1 start date (\$15k/1 year)
- Monthly cohort calls—substantive peer brainstorming as well as coordination and resource-sharing. Work on procedural advocacy as well as messaging and promoting census participation
- Vision: Strengthened local action/advocacy network
 - Research informed
 - Second round of advocacy grants – new and supplements
 - Outreach complemented, partnerships enhanced
- Expected impacts: Advocacy → more civic engagement in accurate Census 2020—for benefit of local communities and state





Questions and Answers





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Thank You!

CONTACT INFORMATION

Ellen Braff-Guajardo ebraff-guajardo@sierrahealth.org

Ed Kissam edkissam@me.com

Cindy Quezada cindy.cviic@gmail.com