

2008 National Survey of Latinos

Hispanics See Their Situation in U.S. Deteriorating; Oppose Key Immigration Enforcement Measures

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Executive Summary

Half (50%) of all Latinos say that the situation of Latinos in this country is worse now than it was a year ago, according to a new nationwide survey of 2,015 Hispanic adults conducted by the Pew Hispanic Center.

This pessimism is especially prevalent among immigrants, who account for 54% of all Hispanic adults in the United States. Fully 63% of these Latino immigrants say that the situation of Latinos has worsened over the past year. In 2007, just 42% of all adult Hispanic immigrants—and just 33% of all Hispanic adults—said the same thing.

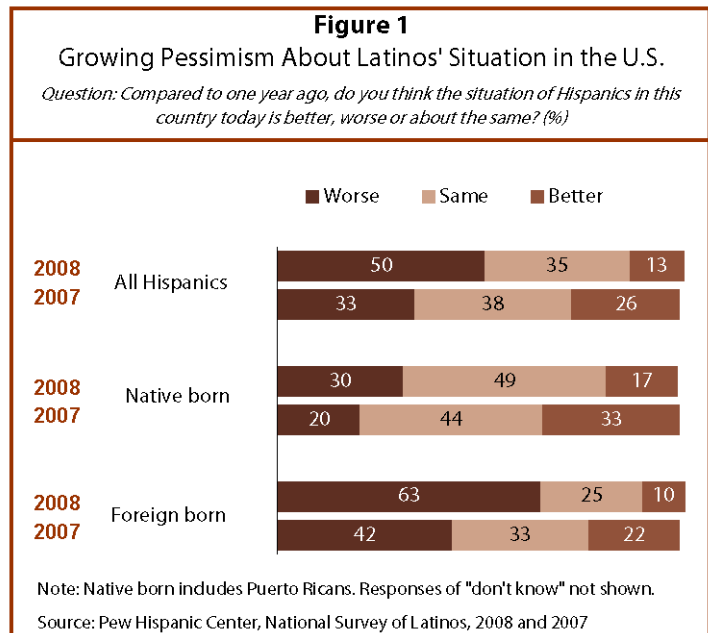
These increasingly downbeat assessments come at a time when the Hispanic community in this country—numbering approximately 46 million, or 15.4% of the total U.S. civilian non-institutional population—has been hit hard by rising unemployment ([Kochhar 2008](#)) and stepped-up immigration enforcement.

In the survey, nearly one-in-ten Hispanic adults—native-born U.S. citizens (8%) and immigrants (10%) alike—report that in the past year the police or other authorities have stopped them and asked them about their immigration status.

Some Latinos are experiencing other difficulties because of their ethnicity. One-in-seven (15%) say that they have had trouble in the past year finding or keeping a job because they are Latino. One-in-ten (10%) report the same about finding or keeping housing.

On the question of immigration enforcement, Latinos disapprove of all five enforcement measures asked about in this survey—and generally do so by lopsided margins.

More than four-in-five Hispanics (81%) say that immigration enforcement should be left mainly to the federal authorities rather than the local police; 76% disapprove of workplace raids; 73% disapprove of the criminal prosecution of undocumented immigrants who are working without authorization; and 70%



disapprove of the criminal prosecution of employers who hire undocumented immigrants. A narrow majority (53%) disapproves of a requirement that employers check a federal database to verify the legal immigration status of all prospective hires.

Most Latinos (63%) say that there has been an increase in the past year in immigration enforcement actions targeted at undocumented immigrants. And, in response to an open-ended question, a plurality (30%) of those who say there has been such an increase cite anti-immigrant sentiment as the biggest cause. Smaller shares cite government or policy-related measures (21%), security-related concerns (11%) or motivations related to the economy (9%).

The survey finds that a majority of Latinos worry about deportation. Some 40% say they worry a lot and an additional 17% say they worry some that they themselves, a family member or a close friend may be deported. This is up slightly from 2007, when 53% of Latino adults said that they worried a lot or some about deportation ([Pew Hispanic Center 2007](#)).

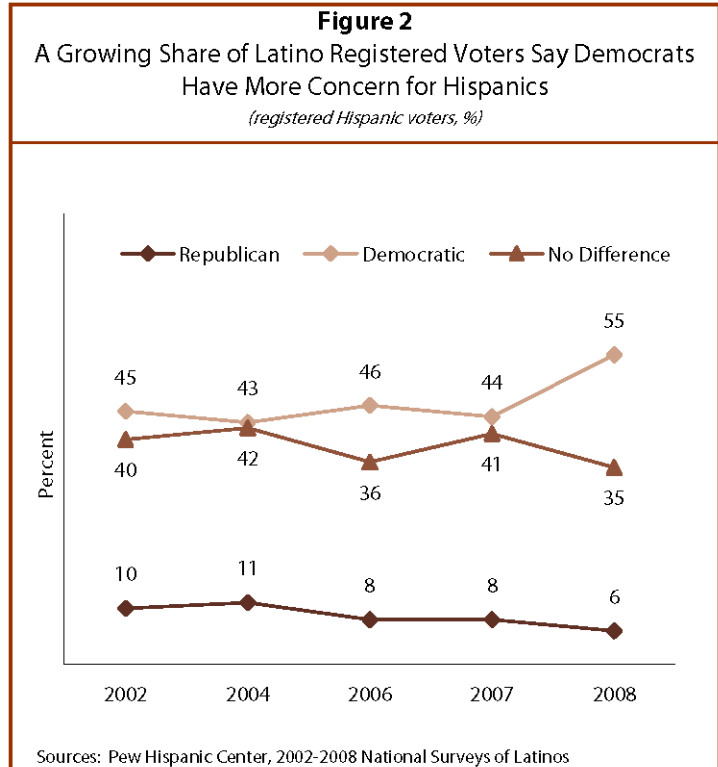
Not surprisingly, worries about deportation and perceptions of discrimination in jobs or housing because of Hispanic ethnicity correlate with the view that Latinos' situation has worsened in the past year. Two-thirds (68%) of Latinos who worry a lot that they or someone close to them may be deported say that Latinos' situation in the country today is worse than it was a year ago, as do 63% of Latinos who have experienced job difficulties because of their ethnicity and 71% of Latinos who report housing difficulties because of their ethnicity.

Hispanics are an important voting group in the November 4th election, and their widespread pessimism about the situation of Latinos as well as their strong opposition to federal enforcement policies could well have consequences in the political arena.

About half (49%) of all Latinos say that the Democratic Party has more concern for Hispanics, while just 7% say the Republican Party has more concern. Since 2004, the share of Hispanics who say that the Democratic Party has more concern for Hispanics has increased by 14 percentage points. Most of this gain for the Democrats comes from a reduction in the share of Latinos who say there is no difference between the parties.

Among Hispanics who are registered voters, a majority say that Democratic presidential nominee Barack Obama is the better candidate for Hispanics (55%) and for immigrants (50%). Just 11% of Hispanic registered voters say that Republican presidential nominee John McCain is better for Hispanics, and just 12% say he is better for immigrants. The remainder see no difference between the two candidates on this front. Overall, Hispanic registered voters support Obama over McCain by 66% to 23% ([Lopez and Minushkin 2008](#)).

This report is based on a bilingual telephone survey of a nationally representative sample of 2,015 Hispanics ages 18 and older. Interviews were conducted from June 9 to July 13, 2008. The margin of error of the survey is plus or minus 2.8 percentage points at the 95% confidence level. For a full description of the survey methodology, see Appendix 1.



About this Report

The 2008 National Survey of Latinos focuses on Hispanic adults' views of immigration enforcement and perceptions of discrimination. The report also explores how Latinos rate the political parties and their presidential candidates on immigration and Hispanic concerns. The survey was conducted from June 9 through July 13, 2008, among a randomly selected, nationally representative sample of 2,015 Hispanic adults, 892 of whom report that they are U.S. citizens and registered to vote. The survey was conducted in both English and Spanish. The margin of error for the full sample is plus or minus 2.8 percentage points; for registered voters, the margin of error is 4.4 percentage points.

A Note on Terminology

The terms “Latino” and “Hispanic” are used interchangeably in this report, as are the terms “foreign born” and “immigrant.”

About the Authors

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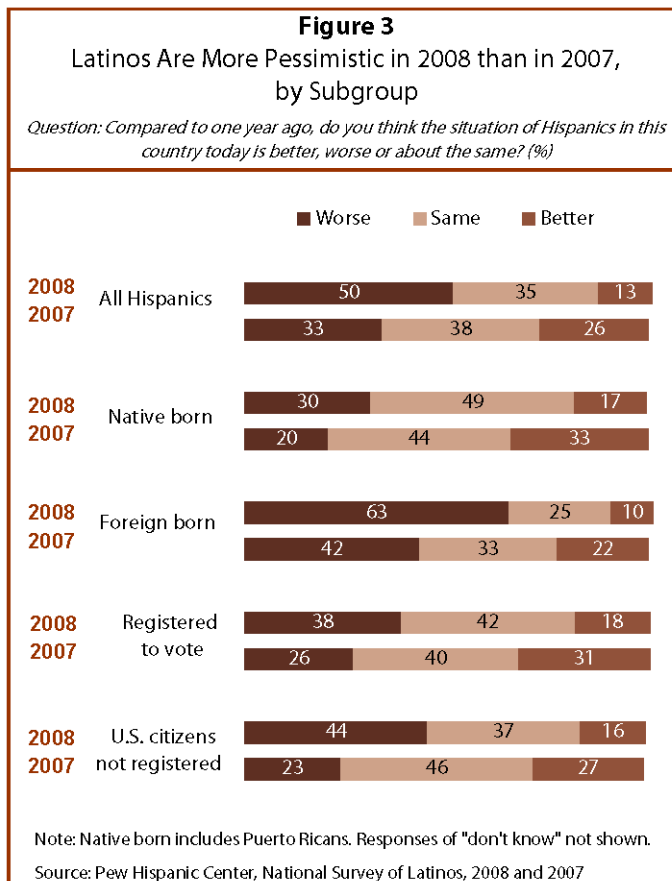
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Latinos' Situation in this Country

Half (50%) of all Latinos say that the situation of Latinos in this country is worse now than it was a year ago. This pessimism is especially prevalent among immigrants, who account for 52% of all Hispanic adults in the United States. Fully 63% of these Latino immigrants say that the situation of Latinos is worse now than it was a year ago. In 2007, just 42% of all adult Hispanic immigrants—and just 33% of all Hispanic adults—said the same thing.

Hispanic registered voters, all of whom are U.S. citizens by birth or naturalization, are more similar to all native-born Hispanics than they are to Hispanic immigrants in their level of pessimism about how things are for Latinos. Nearly four-in-ten (38%) of Hispanic registered voters say the situation for Hispanics has gotten worse. Hispanic registered voters who identify with or lean toward the Democratic Party (41%) are more pessimistic than are Hispanic registered voters who identify with or lean toward the Republican Party (27%).

Hispanics who have lower levels of education and income are more likely than Hispanics with higher levels of education and income to say that the situation for Latinos is worse than it was one year ago. More than six-in-ten (63%) Hispanics with less than a high school education, compared with four-in-ten Hispanics (41%) with at least a high school education, say that Latinos' situation is worse. Similarly, Hispanics with household incomes of less than \$30,000 (57%) are more likely than those whose household incomes are \$30,000 or more (40%) to believe that things have gotten worse for Latinos in the past year.

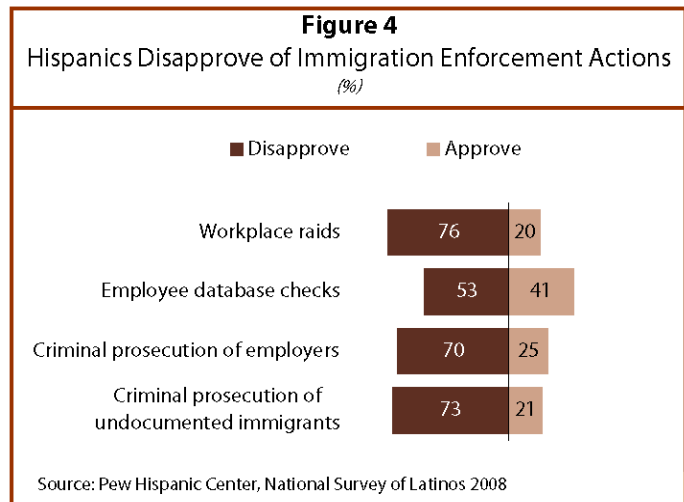


Latinos and Immigration Enforcement

Latinos, both native born and foreign born, disapprove of all five immigration enforcement measures asked about in the survey—and generally do so by lopsided margins.

More than four-in-five Hispanics (81%) say that immigration enforcement should be left mainly to the federal authorities rather than the local police; 76% disapprove of workplace raids; 73% disapprove of the criminal prosecution of undocumented immigrants who are working without authorization; and 70% disapprove of the criminal prosecution of employers who hire undocumented immigrants.

Finally, a narrow majority (53%) disapprove of a requirement that employers check a federal database to verify the legal immigration status of any job applicant they are considering hiring.

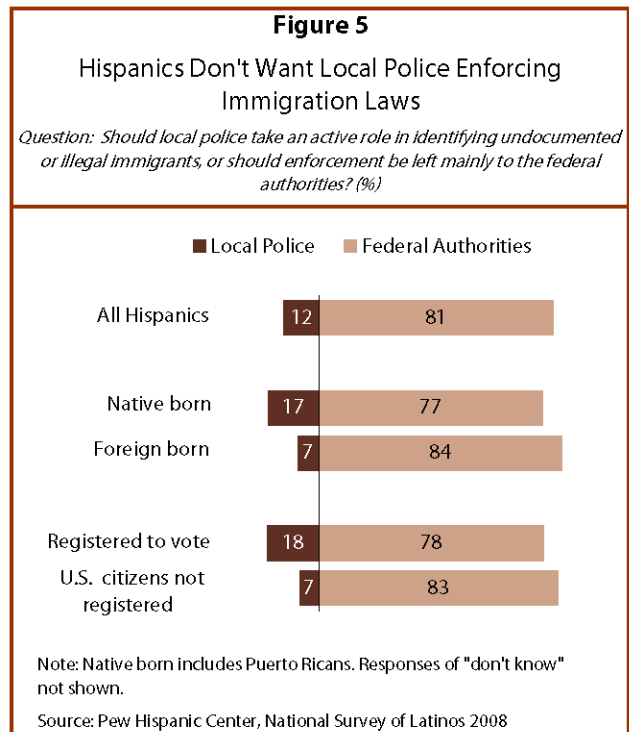


Immigration Enforcement

No major changes to federal legislation regarding immigration policy have passed recently, yet enforcement at all levels of government has stepped up (Pew Hispanic Center 2007). A number of state and local governments are pursuing their own enforcement strategies, including anti-vagrancy laws, mandatory verification of employment eligibility for new hires and police participation in the federal government’s Section 287(g) program, which cross-designates local officers to enforce immigration law, among other strategies. Additionally in recent months, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has conducted a number of high-profile workplace raids to detain and prosecute immigrants not authorized to work in the United States as well as to criminally prosecute employers who knowingly hire undocumented immigrants.

Local Enforcement of Federal Immigration Law

More than eight-in-ten Latinos (81%) believe that the identification of undocumented immigrants should be left mainly to federal authorities, similar to the finding in 2007 (79%) ([Pew Hispanic Center 2007](#)). Among foreign-born Latinos, 84% say that enforcement should be left to federal authorities. Among native-born Hispanic citizens, 77% say the same. Hispanic registered voters also oppose local enforcement of federal immigration statutes. Almost eight-in-ten (78%) Hispanic registered voters say that enforcement should be left to federal authorities.



Local Enforcement through 287(g)*

The federal government enacts immigration law and traditionally only federal authorities enforce violations of immigration statutes. Enforcement authority resides in the Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). However, Section 287(g) of the Immigration and Nationality Act allows ICE to cross-designate local police to enforce immigration law. Currently, more than 60 municipal, county and state agencies nationwide have 287(g) agreements with ICE.

Congress added Section 287(g) to the Immigration and Nationality Act in 1996 as part of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act. Although 287(g) agreements have been part of immigration law for 12 years, all localities that have existing Memoranda of Agreement with the Department of Homeland Security have signed them in the past five years, illustrating the recent step-up in local enforcement of immigration law.

* For more information on U.S. ICE and the 287(g) program, see http://www.ice.gov/partners/287g/Section287_g.htm.

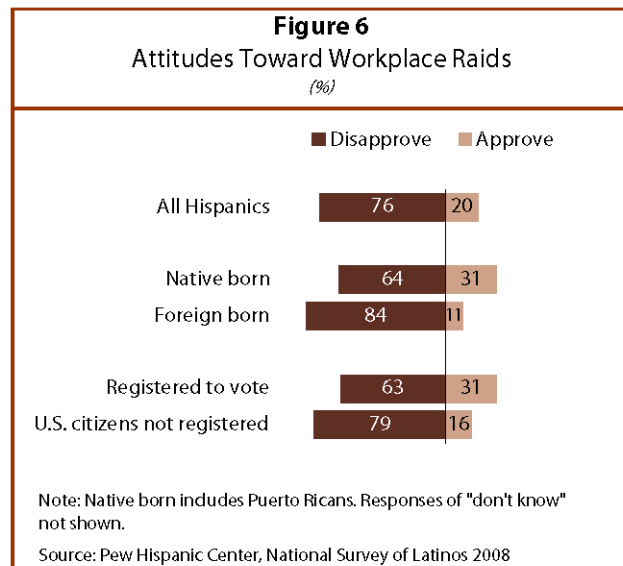
Workplace Raids

Workplace raids by ICE are an enforcement action that has increased in frequency recently ([Pew Hispanic Center 2007](#)). As in 2007, three-in-four Hispanics (76%) in this survey disapprove of the use of workplace raids to discourage employers from hiring undocumented immigrants. Although both foreign-born and native-born Hispanics disapprove of workplace raids, the foreign-born are 20 percentage points more likely than the native-born to oppose this type of enforcement action—84% versus 64%. The share of Latino registered voters (63%) who disapprove is similar to the share of the native born (64%).

However, half (50%) of Latino registered voters who identify with or lean toward the Republican Party approve of workplace raids and 45% disapprove. In contrast, 25% of Latino registered voters who identify with or lean toward the Democratic Party approve of workplace raids and 70% disapprove of them.

Disapproval of workplace raids is greater among younger Hispanics than among Hispanics ages 55 and older. Among Latinos ages 18-29, 83% disapprove of workplace raids; among those ages 30-44, 80% disapprove; and among those ages 45-54, 76% disapprove. Latinos ages 55 and older express a disapproval rate of 61%.

Similarly, among Hispanics with less than a high school education, 83% disapprove of workplace raids; among those who have a high school education only, 81% disapprove; and among Hispanics with some college education or more, 62% disapprove of workplace raids.



Workplace Raids

High-profile workplace raids to detain immigrants who are working without authorization have become more common in recent years (Bazar 2008). Some of the largest raids this year include that of Pilgrim’s Pride in which over 300 immigrants were detained in five states, AgriProcessors in Postville, Iowa, where more than 300 immigrants were detained, and Howard Industries of Laurel, Miss. in which nearly 600 were detained.

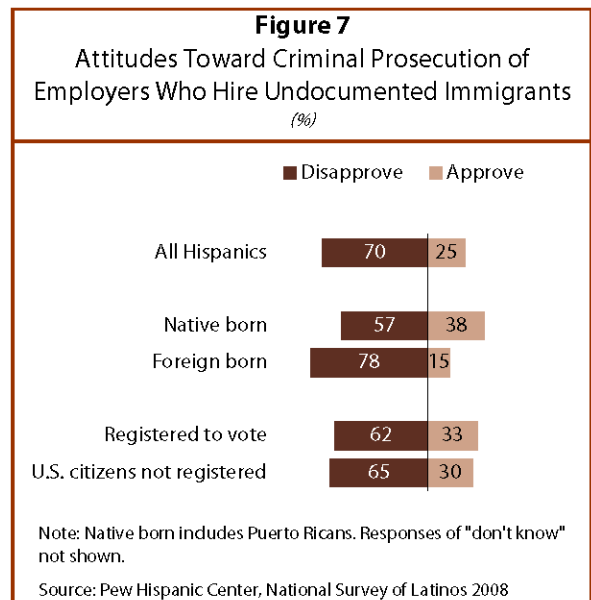
Among Hispanics with household incomes of less than \$30,000, 83% disapprove of workplace raids, compared with 67% of Hispanics whose household incomes are \$30,000 or more.

Criminal Prosecution of Employers Who Hire Undocumented Immigrants

Hispanics disapprove of the criminal prosecution of employers who hire undocumented workers. Among all Latinos, seven-in-ten (70%) disapprove of these actions. Foreign-born Latinos (78%) are 21 percentage points more likely than are native-born Latinos (57%) to disapprove of the criminal prosecution of employers. Among Hispanic registered voters, 62% are against the criminal prosecution of employers.

Republicans and Democrats express different opinions on this issue. Nearly half (48%) of Latino registered voters who identify with or lean toward the Republican Party approve of the criminal prosecution of employers who hire undocumented immigrants, and 48% disapprove. In contrast, 28% of Hispanic registered voters who identify with or lean toward the Democratic Party approve of this measure, and 67% disapprove of it.

Younger, less educated and lower income Hispanics are more likely than other Hispanics to disapprove of criminally prosecuting employers who hire undocumented immigrants. Latinos ages 18 to 29 are 13 percentage points more likely than Latinos ages 55 and older to disapprove of targeting employers for criminal prosecution—75% versus 62%. Those with less than a high school education are 15 percentage points more likely than Latinos with at least some college education to disapprove—74% versus 59%. Hispanics with household incomes of \$30,000 or less are 14 percentage points more likely than Hispanics whose household incomes are \$30,000 or more to disapprove of the criminal prosecution of employers—76% versus 62%.



Prosecuting Employers

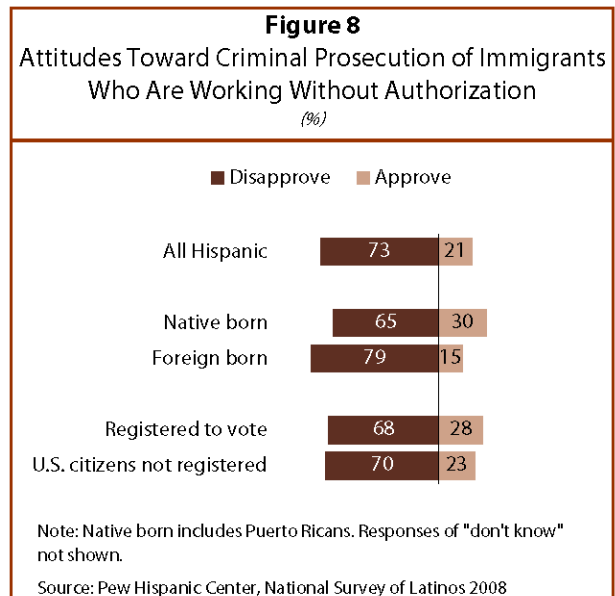
Employment-based immigration violations involve two parties, the employee who is not authorized to work in the United States and the employer who is not permitted to hire undocumented workers. The federal government has stepped up its actions against employers in recent years ([Pew Hispanic Center 2007](#)). Some recent enforcement actions couple workplace raids with the criminal prosecution of employers who are alleged to have knowingly hired undocumented immigrants. Among the high-profile actions of this sort are the filing of charges this year against the owners and managers of AgriProcessors, a meatpacker based in Postville, Iowa, and in 2006 against the managers of IFCO Systems, a wood pallet maker with corporate headquarters in Houston.

Criminal Prosecution of Undocumented Immigrants

Nearly three-fourths of Latinos (73%) disapprove of the criminal prosecution of undocumented immigrants who work without authorization. Among foreign-born Latinos, 79% disapprove of criminal prosecution of undocumented immigrants who are working without authorization, compared with 65% of native-born Latinos who disapprove.

Two-thirds of Latino registered voters (68%) disapprove of the criminal prosecution of undocumented immigrants who work without authorization, while 28% approve.

Republicans and Democrats differ on criminally prosecuting undocumented immigrants. Among Hispanic registered voters who identify with or lean toward the Republican Party, 43% approve, and 53% disapprove, of the criminal prosecution of undocumented immigrants. In contrast, 24% of Hispanic registered voters who identify with or lean toward the Democratic Party approve of criminally prosecuting undocumented immigrants who are working without authorization and 73% disapprove of such prosecutions.



Requirement that Employers Check a Federal Database to Verify Employment Eligibility

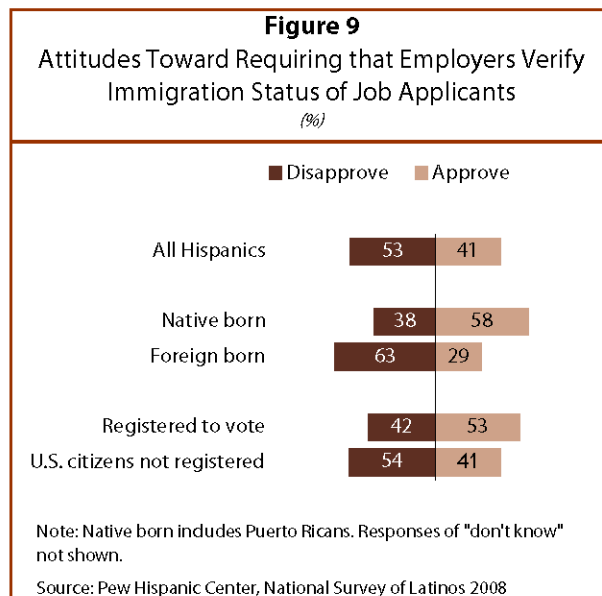
Of all the enforcement actions asked about in the survey, opposition is least widespread to a requirement that employers use a federal database to verify the immigration status of job applicants: 53% of all Hispanics disapprove of this requirement and 41% approve of it.

Foreign-born and native-born Latinos disagree on requiring employers to verify job applicants' employment eligibility. Though 63% of foreign-born Latinos disapprove of this measure, just 38% of the native-born disapprove. In fact, a majority (58%) of native-born Hispanics approve of requiring employers to verify the employment eligibility of any job applicant they are considering hiring, compared with just 29% of the foreign born who approve.

A majority (53%) of Latino registered voters approve of requiring employers to verify the status of job applicants. Nearly two-thirds (63%) of Hispanic registered voters who identify with or lean toward the Republican Party approve of this measure. In contrast to the other four enforcement measures discussed in this report, half (50%) of all Hispanic registered voters who identify with or lean toward the Democratic Party also approve of requiring employers to verify the status of job applicants.

Although Latinos overall show less opposition to requiring the use of a database to verify employment eligibility than to other enforcement measures, significant majorities of younger, less educated and lower income Latinos disapprove of the use of a database by employers to verify employment eligibility. Among Latinos ages 18-29, 55% disapprove, and 40% approve, of requiring employers to verify the employment eligibility of job applicants. In contrast, 45% of Latinos ages 55 and older disapprove of verifying employment eligibility and 48% approve.

Six-in-ten (62%) Hispanics with less than a high school education disapprove of requiring employers to verify that job applicants have work authorization and three-in-ten (32%) approve. Conversely, nearly four-in-ten (37%) Hispanics with



at least some college education disapprove of employment eligibility verification, while six-in-ten (60%) approve.

Six-in-ten (63%) Latinos with household incomes of less than \$30,000 disapprove of employers using a federal database to verify the work eligibility of job applicants and three-in-ten (32%) approve. In contrast, four-in-ten (39%) Latinos with household incomes are \$30,000 or more disapprove of this requirement, and nearly six-in-ten (58%) approve.

The E-Verify Program

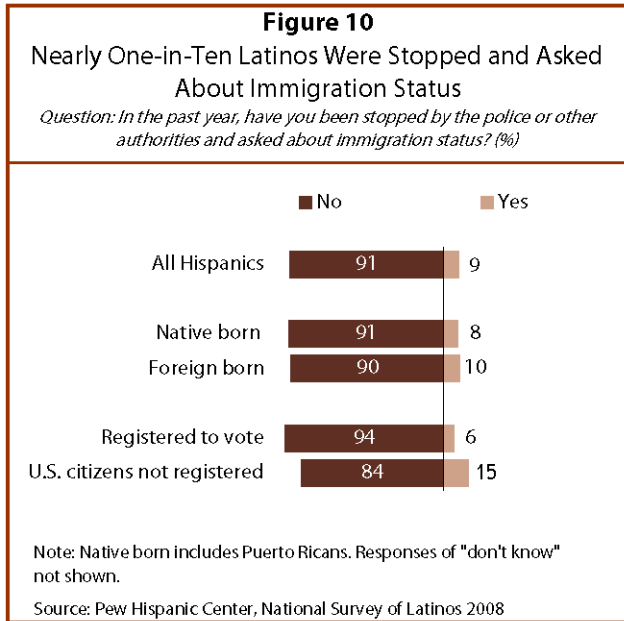
E-Verify is a federal government database operated by the Department of Homeland Security and the Social Security Administration that can be used by employers to check whether the information provided by new hires on their I-9 forms is consistent with the information in DHS and SSA files. More than 69,000 employers are enrolled in the E-Verify program, and more than 4 million queries have been run in fiscal year 2008, which ends September 30.

(Department of Homeland Security,

http://www.dhs.gov/xprevprot/programs/gc_1185221678150.shtm). Unlike the other enforcement actions asked about in the survey, verification of employment eligibility is the only action that would not involve direct enforcement actions by ICE or local authorities. Instead, immigrants whose employment eligibility cannot be verified simply would not be hired.

Experience with Being Stopped by the Authorities and Asked About Immigration Status

In the survey, nearly one-in-ten (9%) Hispanic adults—native-born U.S. citizens (8%) and immigrants (10%) alike—report that in the past year the police or other authorities have stopped them and asked about their immigration status. Young Latinos ages 18-29 (15%) are more likely than are Latinos ages 55 and older (4%) to say they have been stopped by authorities and asked about their immigration status.



Reasons for Increased Enforcement

Most Latinos (63%) say there has been an increase in the past year in immigration enforcement actions targeted at undocumented immigrants. And, in response to an open-ended question, a plurality (30%) of those who say there has been such an increase cite anti-immigrant sentiment as the biggest cause. Smaller shares cite government or policy-related measures (21%), security-related concerns (11%) or motivations related to the economy (9%).

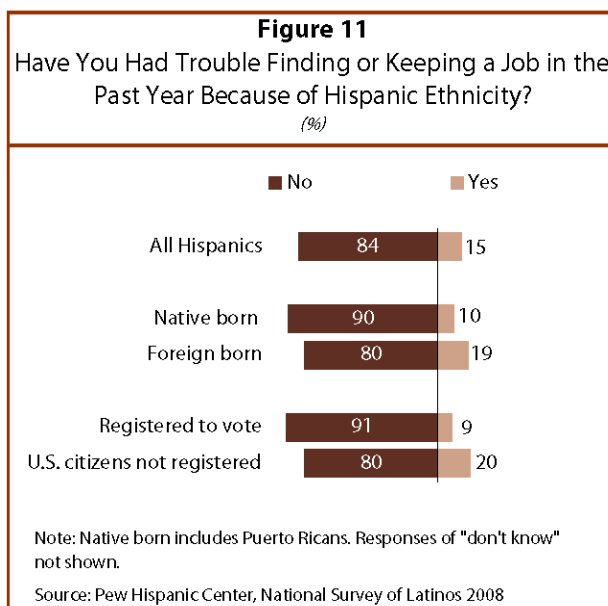
Trouble Finding or Keeping a Job

Hispanics have suffered a larger share of job losses than other groups in today's economy. Much of the disparate impact of unemployment on Hispanics is attributable to the large share of Hispanics working in two sectors that have led the economy in job losses, construction and light manufacturing ([Kochhar 2008](#)).

Overall, more than one-in-seven (15%) Latinos report that, in the past year, they have had trouble finding or keeping a job because of their ethnicity. Latino immigrants are nearly twice as likely as are native-born Latinos to report having employment difficulties because of their ethnicity. One-in-five (19%) Latino immigrants say that they have had trouble finding or keeping a job in the past year because they are Latino, compared with one-in-ten (10%) of the native born.

Hispanic registered voters (9%) are less likely than Hispanics overall (15%) to say they have had trouble finding or keeping a job because they are Hispanic.

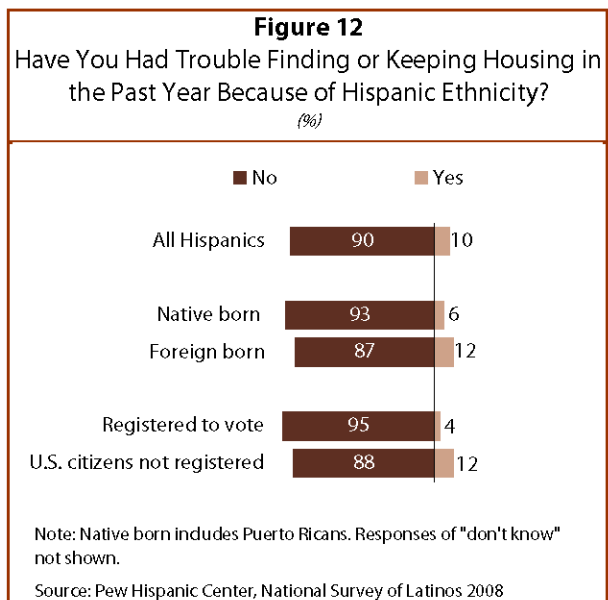
Younger, less educated and lower income Hispanics are more likely than other Hispanics to report difficulties with finding and keeping a job in the past year. One-fifth (21%) of Hispanics ages 18 to 29, compared with 12% of Hispanics ages 40 to 54 and 10% of Hispanics ages 55 and older, say they have had trouble finding or keeping a job in the past year because of their ethnicity. Similarly, Latinos with less than a high school education (20%) and those with a high school diploma (16%) are more likely than Latinos with some college education (6%) to say they had trouble finding or keeping a job because they are Hispanic. Additionally, Hispanics with household incomes of less than \$30,000 (19%) are more likely than Hispanics whose household incomes are \$30,000 or more (8%) to report difficulties with finding or keeping a job because of their ethnicity.



Trouble Finding or Keeping Housing

Fewer Hispanics say they have had trouble finding or keeping housing because of their ethnicity than say the same about jobs. Overall, one-in-ten Hispanics say they have had trouble finding or keeping housing because they are Hispanic. Foreign-born Latinos (12%) are twice as likely as are native-born Latinos (6%) to report such troubles.

Latinos ages 18 to 29 (14%) are more likely than Latinos ages 40 to 54 (8%) or those ages 55 and older (4%) to say they have had difficulty finding or keeping housing in the past year because of their ethnicity. Additionally, Hispanics who have less than a high school education (14%) or have a high school diploma (9%) are more likely than Hispanics with some college education (4%) to say they



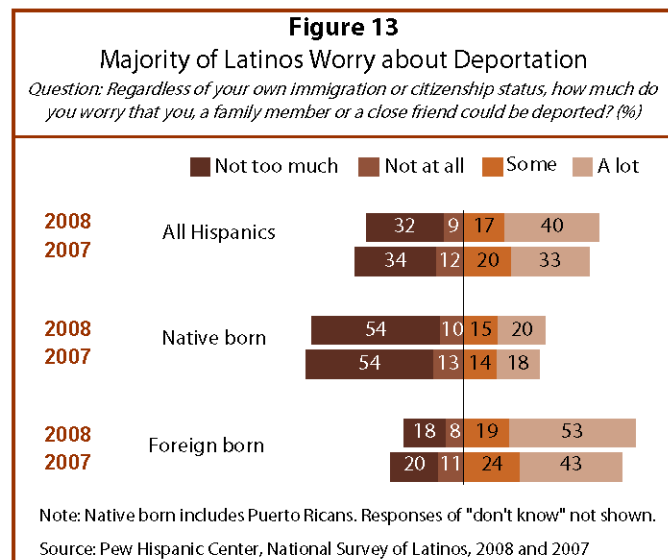
had difficulties in the past year finding or keeping housing because of their ethnicity. And, Latinos from households with incomes of \$30,000 or less (15%) are more likely than Latinos from households whose incomes exceed \$30,000 (3%) to say they have had housing troubles in the past year because they are Latino.

Worries about Deportation

The survey finds that a majority of Latinos worry about deportation. Some 40% say they worry a lot and an additional 17% say they worry some that they themselves, a family member or a close friend may be deported. This is up slightly from 2007, when 53% of Latino adults said that they worried a lot or some about deportation ([Pew Hispanic Center 2007](#)).¹

As expected, many more Hispanic immigrants (53%) than Hispanics born in the United States (20%) worry a lot about deportation of themselves, family members or close friends. Nonetheless, even among Hispanics born in the United States, who are U.S. citizens by birth and who cannot be deported, 35% worry a lot or some about deportation, presumably for family members or close friends.

Deportation anxiety is more common among younger Latinos, particularly those who are ages 30 to 39 (51%), than it is among Latinos ages 55 and older (30%). Hispanics with lower educational levels are also more concerned about deportation than those with higher educational levels—51% of Latinos with less than a high school



¹ In the National Survey of Latinos 2008, two variants of the deportation anxiety question were asked. Half of the sample, randomly selected, was asked the following question (Q38), also asked in 2007 ([Pew Hispanic Center 2007](#)): “Regardless of your own immigration or citizenship status, how much do you worry that you, a family member or a close friend could be deported? Would you say that you worry a lot, some, not much or not at all?” As reported above, 57% of Latino adults said they worry a lot or some about the deportation of themselves, a family member or a close friend. The second randomly selected half of the sample was asked the following question (Q37): “Regardless of your own immigration or citizenship status, how much, *if at all*, do you worry that you, a family member or a close friend could be deported? Would you say that you worry a lot, some, not much or not at all?” The small difference in wording between Q38 and Q37 is indicated in italics. In response to this question (Q37), 52% of Latinos said they worry a lot or some about deportation of themselves, a family member or a close friend. Only results from Q38 are shown in this report

education compared with 20% of Latinos with at least some college education worry about deportation a lot.

Deportation Worries, Discrimination and Latinos' Situation in the Nation

Not surprisingly, worries about deportation or perceptions of discrimination in jobs or housing because of Hispanic ethnicity correlate with the view that the situation of Latinos has worsened in the past year.

Hispanics who worry a lot that they, family members or close friends could be deported are nearly twice as likely as Hispanics who are less worried to say that the situation for Latinos in this country has worsened over the past year. More than two-thirds of Latinos (68%) who worry a lot about deportation say the situation in the country has worsened for Latinos. In contrast, just 36% of Hispanics who say that they worry not much or not at all that they, family members or close friends could be deported also believe that the situation for Hispanics has worsened.

Hispanics who say they have had trouble finding or keeping a job because they are Hispanic are more likely than those who have not had this trouble to say that the situation for Hispanics in this country has worsened over the past year—63% compared with 47%. Similarly, Latinos who say they have had trouble finding or keeping housing because of their ethnicity are also more likely than Hispanics who have not had this trouble with housing to say that things have worsened for Latinos since last year—71% compared with 48%.

Politics and Immigration Policy

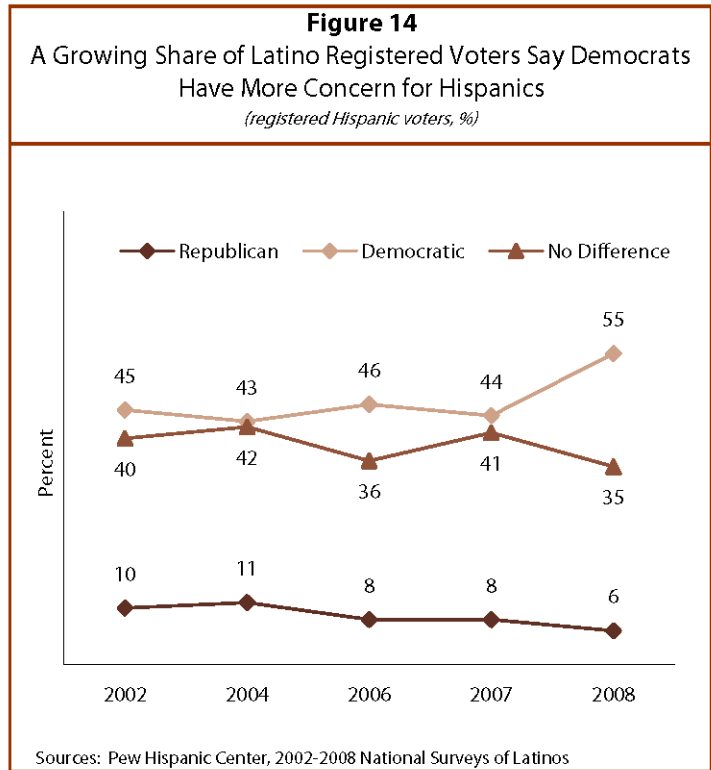
Hispanics are an important voting group in the forthcoming election, and their widespread pessimism about the situation of Latinos as well as their strong opposition to federal enforcement policies could well have consequences in the political arena. This section of the report includes the opinions of all Hispanics, both native born and foreign born, and compares them to the opinions of Hispanic registered voters on how well the political parties and presidential candidates are doing with Hispanics and on the issue of immigration.

Political Parties and Concerns for Hispanics

Today 65% of Latino registered voters identify with or lean toward the Democratic Party, and 26% identify with or lean toward the Republican Party. This 39 percentage point gap in identification between the two parties is the largest observed in the past decade and reflects a growing level of identification

among Latino registered voters with the Democratic Party ([Lopez and Minushkin 2008](#)).

The trend towards increased Hispanic identification with the Democratic Party is echoed in another finding from this survey. About half (49%) of all Latinos say that the Democratic Party, rather than the Republican Party, has more concern for Hispanics. This figure has increased by 14 percentage points since 2004. Most of the gains for the Democrats have come from a reduction in the share who say there is no difference between the parties. Just 7% of Latinos say that the Republican Party has more concern for Hispanics, 2 percentage points lower than in 2004.



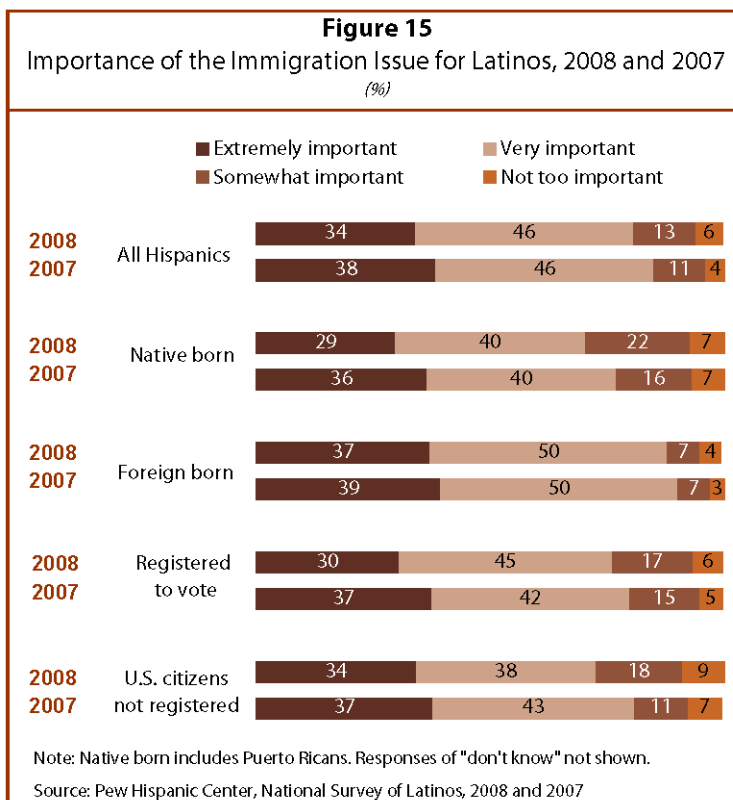
Hispanic registered voters are more likely than are Latinos overall to say that the Democratic Party has more concern for Hispanics. More than half (55%) of registered voters identify the Democratic Party as having more concern for Hispanics, compared with just 6% who identify the Republican Party as having more concern for Hispanics.

The Issue of Immigration

Today, more Latinos than during the last presidential campaign say that the issue of immigration is extremely important to them personally—34% versus 28% in 2004 ([Pew Hispanic Center/Kaiser Family Foundation 2004](#)).

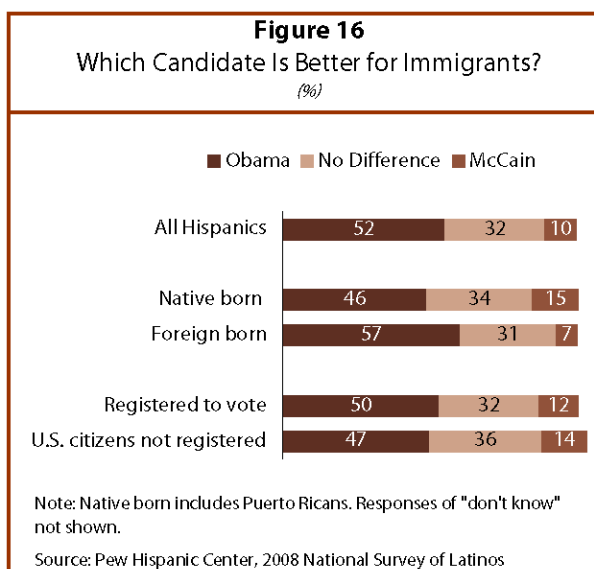
However, slightly fewer say this today than in 2007 (38%), a year when Congress was considering an immigration bill and the media were giving extensive coverage to the issue of immigration ([Taylor and Fry 2007](#)).

Today, immigrant Hispanics are more likely than native-born Hispanics to say that immigration is an extremely important issue for them—37% versus 29%. Three-in-ten Hispanic registered voters say that immigration is an extremely important issue.



Assessing the Candidates on Immigration

Among Hispanics who are registered voters, half say that Democratic presidential nominee Barack Obama is the better candidate for immigrants (50%). Just 12% of Hispanic registered voters say that Republican presidential nominee John McCain is better for immigrants. The remainder see no difference between the two candidates on this front. Overall, Hispanic registered voters support Obama over McCain by 66% to 23% ([Lopez and Minushkin 2008](#))



Immigrant Hispanics (57%) are more likely than native born-Hispanics (46%) to say that Obama is better for immigrants. Similar shares of foreign-born (7%) and native-born (15%) Hispanics say that McCain is better for immigrants. Just about one-third of foreign-born (31%) and native-born (34%) Hispanics believe that there is no difference between the two candidates on who would be better for immigrants.

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Appendix A: Survey Methodology

Results for this study are based on telephone interviews conducted by ICR/International Communications Research, an independent research company, among a nationally representative sample of 2,015 Latino respondents age 18 and older, from June 9 through July 13, 2008. Of those respondents, 711 were native born (including Puerto Rico) and 1,302 were foreign born (excluding Puerto Rico); 892 were registered voters. The margin of error for total respondents is plus or minus 2.8 percentage points at the 95% confidence level. The margin of error for native-born respondents is plus or minus 4.8 percentage points at the 95% confidence level. The margin of error for foreign-born respondents is plus or minus 3.4 percentage points at the 95% confidence level. The margin of error for registered voters is plus or minus 4.4 percentage points.

For this survey, ICR maintained a staff of Spanish-speaking interviewers who, when contacting a household, were able to offer respondents the option of completing the survey in Spanish or in English. A total of 710 respondents were surveyed in English and 1,248 respondents were interviewed in Spanish (and the remaining 57 were surveyed equally in both languages). Any adult male or female of Latino origin or descent was eligible to complete the survey.

Because a growing number of Hispanic households in the U.S. are reachable only by cell phone, the study included interviews from both landline (n=1,254) and cell phone (n=761) sample frames. According to government statistics from the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) during the last six months of 2007, 19.3% of Hispanic adults were reachable only by cell phone, a number that was 4 percentage points higher than it had been one year earlier. Adults who are cell-only are very different demographically from those reachable on a landline. In particular, they tend to be younger, less likely to be married or have children, or to own a home.

Both sample frames were stratified via a disproportionate stratified design. All telephone exchanges in the contiguous 48 states were divided into groups, or strata, based on their concentration of Latino households. For the landline frame, the sample was also run against InfoUSA and other listed databases, and then scrubbed against known Latino surnames. Any “hits” were subdivided into a “surname” stratum, with all other sample being put into other “RDD” strata. Overall, then, the study employed eight strata:

Strata (<i>General Incidence of Reaching a Hispanic Household</i>)	Landline	Cell Phone
Surname	594	--
Very High	294	--
High	187	458
Medium	134	190
Low	45	113

It is important to note that the existence of a surname stratum does not mean this was a surname sample design. The sample is random digit dial (RDD), with the randomly selected telephone numbers divided by whether they were found to be associated with or without a Latino surname. This was done simply to increase the number of strata and thereby increase the ability to meet ethnic targets and ease administration by allowing for more effective assignment of interviewers and labor hours.

A four-stage weighting design was used to ensure an accurate representation of the national Hispanic population. First, an adjustment was made for all people found to possess both a landline and a cell phone, as they were twice as likely to be sampled as were respondents who possessed only one phone type. The sample was then corrected for the disproportionality of the stratification scheme described earlier. Third, the sample was corrected to reflect the percentage that is cell-only, landline-only or reachable by either a landline or a cell phone. NHIS and Pew Research Center data were used to project percentages that the Pew Research Center felt were appropriate for the 2007 population.

Finally, the data were put through a post-stratification sample balancing routine. The post-stratification weighting utilized national 2007 estimates from the Census Bureau’s Current Population Survey, March Supplement, on gender, education, age, region, foreign/native born status, year of entry into the U.S. and Hispanic heritage.

Appendix B: 2008 National Survey of Latinos Topline

The study was conducted for the Pew Hispanic via telephone by ICR, an independent research company. Interviews were conducted from June 9 – July 13, 2008, among a nationally representative sample of 2,015 Hispanic respondents ages 18 and older. Of those, a total of 1,254 were contacted via landline and a total of 761 were contacted on their cell phones. We conducted interviews with 711 native-born Hispanics (Puerto Rico included) and 1302 foreign-born (Puerto Rico excluded). The margin of error for total Hispanic respondents is +/- 2.84 at the 95% confidence level. The margin of error for native-born respondents is +/- 4.86. The margin of error for foreign-born respondents is +/- 3.43. More information about ICR can be obtained by visiting www.icrsurvey.com

S-5. Record Gender

	Male	Female
Total	52	48
Native born	47	53
Foreign born	55	45
Registered Voters	48	52
11/07*	52	48
07/06**	48	52
06/04***	51	49
03/04****	51	49
06/02*****	49	51

*PHC National Latino Survey 2007

**PHC Immigration Latino Survey 2006

***PHC/KFF Latino Survey on Politics

****PHC Hispanic Media Study

*****KFF/Pew Latino Survey 2002

Module 1 – POLITICS and POLITICAL QUESTIONS

WELL-BEING, SATISFACTION, AND OPTIMISM

[People Press – Pew Hispanic Immigration 2006 Q2]

11. All in all, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going in this country today?

	Satisfied	Dissatisfied	Don't know	Refused
Total	25	70	4	*
Native born	28	68	3	*
Foreign born	23	72	4	1
Registered voters	27	70	3	*

12. Compared with 1 year ago, do you think the situation of (HISPANICS/LATINOS) in this country today is better, worse, or about the same?

	Better	Worse	The same	Don't know	Refused
Total	13	50	35	2	*
Native born	17	30	49	3	*
Foreign born	10	63	25	1	*
Registered voters	18	38	42	2	*
11/07*	26	33	38	3	*

17. Now I'm going to read you a list of issues that might be discussed during this year's presidential campaign. For each item I name, please tell me how important this issue is to you personally. Is the issue of (INSERT ITEM) extremely important, very important, somewhat important, or not too important?

g. Immigration

	EXTREMELY/VERY IMPORTANT			Somewhat important	Not too important	Don't know	Refused
	NET	Extremely important	Very important				
Total	80	34	46	13	6	1	*
Native born	69	29	40	22	7	1	*
Foreign born	87	37	50	7	5	1	*
Registered voters	75	30	45	17	6	1	*
11/07*	84	38	46	10	4	1	*
06/04***	73	28	45	19	6	2	*

18. Which candidate do you think will do a better job of dealing with (INSERT NAME)?

g. Immigration

	Barack Obama	John McCain	Neither	Both would do the same job	Don't know	Refused
Total	62	16	7	3	11	1
Native born	55	24	7	3	10	1
Foreign born	67	10	7	3	12	1
Registered voters	59	19	6	3	11	1

29. Which party do you think has more concern for (HISPANICS/LATINOS) – (READ LIST) or is there no difference?

	Democratic Party	Republican Party	No difference	Don't know	Refused
Total	49	7	37	5	1
Native born	51	8	36	5	*
Foreign born	48	7	38	6	1
Registered voters	55	6	35	4	*
11/07*	34	8	43	14	1
07/06**	37	9	37	15	2
06/04***	35	9	47	9	1
06/02****	35	9	46	10	1

30. Which candidate do you think is better for (HISPANICS/LATINOS) – (INSERT NAMES), or is there no difference?

	Barack Obama	John McCain	No difference	Don't know	Refused
Total	57	10	28	4	1
Native born	51	14	31	3	*
Foreign born	61	7	26	5	1
Registered voters	55	11	29	4	*

31. Which candidate do you think is better for IMMIGRANTS – (INSERT NAMES), or is there no difference?

	Barack Obama	John McCain	No difference	Don't know	Refused
Total	52	10	32	5	1
Native born	46	15	34	5	*
Foreign born	57	7	31	5	1
Registered voters	50	12	32	5	*

Module 2 – IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT and ATTITUDES

36. Have any of these things happened to you in the last year, or not? Have you (INSERT)?

a. Been stopped by police or other authorities and asked about your immigration status

	Yes	No	Don't know	Refused
Total	9	91	*	*
Native born	8	91	*	*
Foreign born	10	90	*	*
Registered voters	6	94		*

b. Had trouble getting or keeping a job because you are (HISPANIC/LATINO)

	Yes	No	Don't know	Refused
Total	15	84	*	1
Native born	10	90	*	*
Foreign born	19	80	1	1
Registered voters	9	91	*	*

c. Had trouble finding or keeping housing because you are (HISPANIC/LATINO)

	Yes	No	Don't know	Refused
Total	10	90	*	*
Native born	6	93	*	*
Foreign born	12	87	*	1
Registered voters	4	95	1	*

(Asked of one half of total respondents; Total n = 1009; Native born n = 360; Foreign born n = 648)

37. Regardless of your own immigration or citizenship status, how much, if at all, do you worry that you, a family member, or a close friend could be deported? Would you say that you worry a lot, some, not much, or not at all?

	A LOT/SOME			NOT MUCH/NOT AT ALL			Don't know	Refused
	NET	A lot	Some	NET	Not much	Not at all		
Total	52	36	17	47	12	34	*	1
Native born	31	15	17	68	14	54	*	--
Foreign born	67	51	16	31	11	20	1	1
Registered voters	33	18	15	67	14	53	1	1
11/07* ^a	53	33	20	46	12	34	1	*

^a In 2007 item omitted phrase "if at all."

(Asked of one half of total respondents; Total n = 1006; Native born n = 351; Foreign born n = 654)

38. Regardless of your own immigration or citizenship status, how much do you worry that you, a family member, or a close friend could be deported? Would you say that you worry a lot, some, not much, or not at all?

	A LOT/SOME			NOT MUCH/NOT AT ALL			Don't know	Refused
	NET	A lot	Some	NET	Not much	Not at all		
Total	57	40	17	41	9	32	1	1
Native born	35	20	15	64	10	54	1	*
Foreign born	73	53	19	25	8	18	1	1
Registered voters	40	24	16	59	11	48	*	1
11/07*	53	33	20	46	12	34	1	*

40. Should local police take an active role in identifying undocumented or illegal immigrants, or should enforcement be left mainly to the federal authorities?

	Police take active role	Enforcement left to federal authorities	Don't know	Refused
Total	12	81	6	1
Native born	17	77	5	*
Foreign born	7	84	7	2
Registered voters	18	78	4	1
11/07*	14	79	6	1

40a. Just your best guess, in the past year, has there been an increase, a decrease, or no change in the number of immigration enforcement actions around the country aimed at undocumented immigrants?

	An increase	A decrease	No change	Don't know	Refused
Total	63	6	22	9	1
Native born	63	4	23	10	*
Foreign born	63	7	21	8	1
Registered voters	64	4	21	10	*

(Asked of total Latinos who believe there's been an increase or a decrease in the number of immigration enforcement actions; Total n = 1359; Native born n = 479; Foreign born n = 880)

40b. In your opinion, what's the main reason for this?

	Total	Native born	Foreign born	Registered voters
INCREASE (NET)	73	77	71	77
GOVERNMENT/ENFORCEMENT RELATED (SUBNET)	19	16	21	17
The president/President Bush	2	3	2	3
The election/presidential race/political candidates running	2	1	2	1
Laws/new laws/policies being made	2	2	3	3
Politics/political agendas (general)	4	7	3	6
Police involvement/increased police enforcement	2	*	2	1
There have been more raids	2	*	3	1
There has been a lot of/more people getting deported	3	1	4	1
Increased government measures/were turning more of a blind eye and now are not (general)	1	1	2	1
Other government/enforcement related mentions	1	1	1	1
SECURITY-RELATED (SUBNET)	10	11	9	14
September 11	2	1	2	3
Fear of terrorists/terrorism	2	3	2	3
Protecting the border	1	1	1	2
National security	1	1	1	2
For increased tracking/identifying/information on immigrants	1	1	*	1
Crime/increased crime (gangs, drugs, etc.)	3	3	3	4
Other security related mentions	*	--	*	*
ECONOMY-RELATED (SUBNET)	8	11	6	8
The bad economy	2	3	1	2
Lack of jobs/losing jobs to immigrants (willing to work for less money, etc.)	4	6	3	5
They need too much help/cost taxpayers too much money (no insurance, etc.)	1	2	1	1
Other economy related mentions	*	*	*	*
ANTI-IMMIGRANT SENTIMENT (SUBNET)	28	27	28	26
Are a lot of/too many immigrants/Hispanics here/coming in	6	4	7	5
Are a lot of/too many undocumented immigrants here/coming in	2	2	1	1
Because of the illegal immigrants/are too many immigrants entering illegally/already here	4	5	4	5
Fear of problems immigrants will cause/immigrants cause problems	1	1	1	1
Don't like that immigrants protest their status/have demonstrations/marches	*	*	1	1
People ignorant of/not aware/understanding of/not willing to help immigrant's plight	*	1	*	1
Public complaining/pressure to enforce the laws	1	1	*	1
Discrimination/prejudice/racism	8	8	8	8
To harass the immigrants	1	*	1	1
Anti-immigrant/Hispanic sentiment (general)	4	4	4	4
Other anti-immigrant sentiment mentions	1	1	1	*
The media/increased publicity	3	4	1	4
Increased attention/awareness of them (general)	1	1	*	1
The war/war in Iraq	1	*	2	1

General overpopulation/getting crowded/too many people in U.S.	1	1	--	1
There is not any/much help for the immigrants/immigrants are helpless	*	--	*	--
To try to resolve the immigration problem/crisis (general)	*	*	1	*
Increased enforcement is a good thing	*	*	*	*
Other increase mentions	2	3	2	3
DECREASE (NET)	4	3	4	4
ECONOMY-RELATED (SUBNET)	1	*	1	*
The bad economy	*	--	1	*
Jobs/less jobs available	*	*	*	*
Other economy related mentions	*	--	*	1
IGNORING OF IMMIGRANTS (SUBNET)	1	1	1	1
Segregation in country/they leave immigrants alone	*	--	*	--
They are not helping immigrants/not giving immigrants a chance to make a life here	*	1	--	1
The war/U.S. more focused on war than immigration	*	*	*	*
Other things are going on/are busy focusing on other more important things (general, not specified)	*	*	*	--
Other ignoring of immigrants mentions	*	--	*	*
FEWER IMMIGRANTS/ILLEGALS (NET)	1	1	1	1
Is harder to enter country now/increased border patrols/less immigrants are getting in	*	1	--	1
A lot have already been deported	*	*	*	*
Stricter laws against immigrants (general)	*	--	1	--
More are legal/have been given opportunity to become a legal resident	*	*	*	*
Other fewer immigrants/illegals mentions	--	--	--	--
Immigrants are afraid of authorities/more worried	*	--	*	1
More awareness/activism on our rights	*	--	*	*
Other decrease mentions	*	*	1	1
Misc. comments regarding why immigrants need to come, should be allowed to stay/work, not get deported, etc.	3	3	3	2
Other	*	--	*	--
No reason given	7	7	7	5
Don't know	13	10	15	12
Refused	*	*	*	*

(Total Latinos who believe there's been an increase in the number of immigration enforcement actions; Total n = 1249; Native born n = 453; Foreign born n = 796)

	Total	Native born	Foreign born	Registered voters
INCREASE (NET)	80	91	79	82
GOVERNMENT/ENFORCEMENT RELATED (SUBNET)	21	16	23	18
The President/President Bush	2	3	2	3
The election/presidential race/political candidates running	2	1	2	1
Laws/new laws/policies being made	3	2	3	3
Politics/political agendas (general)	5	7	3	7
Police involvement/increased police enforcement	2	*	3	1
There have been more raids	2	*	3	1
There has been a lot of/more people getting deported	3	1	4	2
Increased government measures/were turning more of a blind eye and now are not (general)	1	1	2	1
Other government/enforcement related mentions	1	1	1	1
SECURITY RELATED (SUBNET)	11	12	10	15
September 11	2	1	3	3
Fear of terrorists/terrorism	3	3	2	3
Protecting the border	1	2	1	2
National security	1	1	1	2
For increased tracking/identifying/information on immigrants	1	1	*	1
Crime/increased crime (gangs, drugs, etc.)	3	4	3	4
Other security related mentions	*	--	*	*
ECONOMY RELATED (SUBNET)	9	12	6	9
The bad economy	2	3	1	2
Lack of jobs/losing jobs to immigrants (willing to work for less money, etc.)	5	6	4	5
They need too much help/cost taxpayers too much money (no insurance, etc.)	2	2	1	1
Other economy related mentions	*	*	*	*
ANTI-IMMIGRANT SENTIMENT (SUBNET)	30	29	31	28
Are a lot of/too many immigrants/Hispanics here/coming in	7	4	8	5
Are a lot of/too many undocumented immigrants here/coming in	2	2	2	1
Because of the illegal immigrants/are too many immigrants entering illegally/already here	5	5	4	5
Fear of problems immigrants will cause/think immigrants will cause problems	1	1	1	1
Don't like that immigrants protest their status/have demonstrations/marches	1	*	1	1
People ignorant of/not aware/understanding of/not willing to help immigrant's plight	1	1	*	1
Public complaining/pressure to enforce the laws	1	1	*	1
Discrimination/prejudice/racism	9	8	9	8
To harass the immigrants	1	*	1	1
Anti-immigrant/Hispanic sentiment (general)	4	4	4	4
Other anti-immigrant sentiment mentions	1	1	1	*
The media/increased publicity	3	5	1	4
Increased attention/awareness of them (general)	1	2	1	1
The war/war in Iraq	1	*	2	1
General overpopulation/getting crowded/too many people in U.S.	1	1	--	1
There is not any/much help for the immigrants/immigrants are helpless	*	--	*	--
To try to resolve the immigration problem/crisis (general)	*	*	1	*

Increased enforcement is a good thing	*	*	*	1
Other increase mentions	3	3	2	3
Misc. comments regarding why immigrants need to come, should be allowed to stay/work, not get deported, etc.	3	3	3	2
Other	*	--	*	--
No reason given	5	6	4	4
Don't know	13	11	14	12
Refused	*	*	*	--

(Total Latinos who believe there's been a decrease in the number of immigration enforcement actions; Total n = 110; Native born n = 26; Foreign born n = 84)

	Total	Native born	Foreign born	Registered voters
DECREASE (NET)	45	62	38	61
ECONOMY RELATED (SUBNET)	8	5	9	5
The bad economy	4	--	6	--
Jobs/less jobs available	3	5	2	3
Other economy related mentions	*	--	1	1
IGNORING OF IMMIGRANTS (SUBNET)	15	27	11	24
Segregation in country/they leave immigrants alone	1	--	1	--
They are not helping immigrants/not giving immigrants a chance to make a life here	5	18	--	15
The war/U.S. more focused on war than immigration	5	6	5	7
Other things are going on/are busy focusing on other more important things (general, not specified)	2	2	2	
Other ignoring of immigrants mentions	2	--	3	2
FEWER IMMIGRANTS/ILLEGALS (NET)	13	27	8	19
Is harder to enter country now/increased border patrols/less immigrants are getting in	5	17	--	11
A lot have already been deported	3	8	2	7
Stricter laws against immigrants (general)	4	--	6	--
More are legal/have been given opportunity to become a legal resident	1	2	1	1
Other fewer immigrants/illegals mentions	--	--	--	--
Immigrants are afraid of authorities/more worried	1	--	1	1
More awareness/activism on our rights	2	--	2	2
Other decrease mentions	6	2	7	10
Misc. comments regarding why immigrants need to come, should be allowed to stay/work, not get deported, etc.	3	5	2	4
Other	1	--	1	--
No reason given	32	28	33	26
Don't know	20	6	26	9
Refused	--	--	--	--

40c. Do you approve or disapprove of the following immigration enforcement actions:

a. workplace raids to discourage employers from hiring undocumented or illegal immigrants

	Approve	Disapprove	Don't know	Refused
Total	20	76	4	1
Native born	31	64	5	1
Foreign born	11	84	3	1
Registered voters	31	63	5	1

b. A requirement that employers check with a federal government database to verify the legal immigration status of any job applicant they are considering hiring

	Approve	Disapprove	Don't know	Refused
Total	41	53	5	1
Native born	58	38	3	*
Foreign born	29	63	7	1
Registered voters	53	42	5	1

c. criminal prosecution of employers who hire undocumented immigrants

	Approve	Disapprove	Don't know	Refused
Total	25	70	5	1
Native born	38	57	4	*
Foreign born	15	78	5	1
Registered voters	33	62	4	1

d. criminal prosecution of undocumented immigrants who are working without authorization

	Approve	Disapprove	Don't know	Refused
Total	21	73	5	1
Native born	30	65	4	*
Foreign born	15	79	5	1
Registered voters	28	68	4	*