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Perceptions of Latin American  
Immigration Among Rural Nebraskans

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# CENTER FOR APPLIED RURAL INNOVATION

A Research Report\*

## **Perceptions of Latin American Immigration Among Rural Nebraskans**

*2006 Nebraska Rural Poll Results*

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All of the Center's research reports detailing Nebraska Rural Poll results are located on the Center's World Wide Web page at <http://cari.unl.edu/ruralpoll/>

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Manuel Méndez and José Soto translated the English version of the Rural Poll into Spanish and then back into English so that we could have a Spanish version of the Poll and be sure the Spanish version of the Poll accurately reflected the English version.

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## *Executive Summary*

In an earlier Nebraska Rural Poll report (August 2006), rural Nebraskans were asked their opinions of newcomers in general to their community. Some parts of rural Nebraska have seen significant growth of a specific group of newcomers, Latin American immigrants. How do rural Nebraskans view recent immigrants from Latin America? How do they view various immigration policies? Do their views differ by community size, the region in which they live, or their education level?

This report details 2,482 responses to the 2006 Nebraska Rural Poll, the eleventh annual effort to understand rural Nebraskans' perceptions of current issues and conditions. Respondents were asked a series of questions regarding immigrants from Latin America and immigration policies. Comparisons are made among different respondent subgroups, that is, comparisons by age, occupation, region, etc. Based on these analyses, some key findings emerged:

- ***Many rural Nebraskans are aware of recent Latin American immigrants living in their community.*** Over one-half (64%) of rural Nebraskans are aware of recent Latin American immigrants living in their community. (page 4)
  - ✓ *Persons living in or near larger communities are more likely than persons living in or near smaller communities to be aware of recent Latin American immigrants living in their community.* Eighty-three percent of persons living in or near communities with populations of 10,000 or more are aware of recent Latin American immigrants living in their community, compared to approximately 46 percent of persons living in or near communities with less than 1,000 people. (page 4)
  - ✓ *Persons living in the Northeast and South Central regions are more likely than persons living elsewhere in the state to be aware of recent Latin American immigrants living in their community.* Approximately 73 percent of persons living in these two regions are aware of Latin American immigrants living in their community, compared to 45 percent of persons living in the North Central region. (page 4)
- ***Many rural Nebraskans support allowing undocumented workers who have been working and paying taxes for five years or more to apply for citizenship.*** Over one-half (56%) of rural Nebraskans agree with this statement, while 29 percent disagree. (page 9)
  - ✓ *Latino respondents are more likely than non-Latinos to agree with allowing undocumented workers who have been working and paying taxes to apply for citizenship.* Seventy-six percent of Latino respondents agree with this statement, compared to 56 percent of non-Latinos. (page 12)
- ***Most rural Nebraskans express agreement with policies that try to prevent illegal immigration.*** Most rural Nebraskans (87%) agree with the statement that the government should tighten the borders to prevent illegal immigration. Over three-quarters (77%) of rural Nebraskans agree with the statement that businesses that employ undocumented workers should be penalized. Seventy-two percent agree with the statement that

undocumented immigrants should be deported. (page 9)

✓ *Non-Latino respondents are more likely than Latino respondents to agree with statements that penalize or prevent illegal immigration.* Seventy-eight percent of non-Latinos agree that businesses that employ undocumented workers should be penalized, compared to 30 percent of Latino respondents. Seventy-two percent of non-Latinos agree that undocumented immigrants should be deported, while 26 percent of Latino respondents share this opinion. Eighty-seven percent of non-Latinos agree with the statement that the government should tighten the borders to prevent illegal immigration, compared to 45 percent of Latino respondents. (page 11)

- ***Opinions are mixed on creating a “guest worker” program.*** One-half (50%) disagree with the statement that a “guest worker” program should be created to allow immigrants to work in the United States without becoming citizens. Approximately one-third (34%) agree with this statement. (page 9)

✓ *Laborers are the occupation group most likely to disagree that a “guest worker” program should be created.* Fifty-eight percent of laborers disagree with this statement, compared to 40 percent of persons with professional occupations. (page 11)

✓ *Latino respondents are more likely than non-Latinos to favor creating a “guest worker” program.* Over one-half (58%) of Latino respondents agree that a guest worker program should be created, compared to 34 percent of non-Latinos. (page 12)

- ***Many rural Nebraskans disagree with policies that grant citizenship or other benefits to young undocumented immigrants.*** Seventy-two percent disagree with the statement that in-state college tuition should be available to undocumented immigrants under the age of 21 who have been living in the United States for at least five years. Fifty-six percent disagree with the statement that citizenship should be available to undocumented immigrants under the age of 21 who have been living in the United States for five years and are in 7<sup>th</sup> grade or above. (page 9)

✓ *Latino respondents are more likely than non-Latinos to agree with policies that grant benefits to young undocumented immigrants.* Fifty-seven percent of Latino respondents agree that in-state college tuition should be available to undocumented immigrants that meet certain criteria. Only 16 percent of non-Latinos share this opinion. Seventy-two percent of Latino respondents agree that citizenship should be available to undocumented immigrants under the age of 21 who have been living in the United States for five years and are in 7<sup>th</sup> grade or above. Twenty-seven percent of non-Latinos agree with this statement. (page 11)

- ***Most rural Nebraskans do not support allowing families of immigrant workers to come to the United States regardless of other restrictions on immigration.*** Seventy-three percent disagree with the statement that families of immigrant workers should be allowed to come to the United States regardless of other restrictions on immigration. (page 9)

✓ *Latino respondents are more likely than non-Latino respondents to agree that*

*families of immigrant workers should be allowed to come to the United States regardless of other restrictions on immigration. Forty-one percent of Latino respondents agree with this statement, compared to 12 percent of non-Latinos. (page 12)*

- ***Most rural Nebraskans are concerned with recent immigrants learning to speak English.*** The vast majority (94%) of rural Nebraskans agree with the statement that immigrants from Latin America should learn to speak English within a reasonable amount of time. In addition, over two-thirds (69%) *disagree* with the statement that rural Nebraska communities should communicate important information in Spanish as well as English. Twenty percent agree with this statement. (page 5)
  - ✓ *Differences of opinion on language issues occur between Latino and non-Latino respondents.* Just over three fourths (76%) of Latino respondents agree that rural Nebraska communities should communicate important information in Spanish as well as English. Only 20 percent of non-Latinos agree with this statement. When given the statement that immigrants from Latin America should learn to speak English within a reasonable amount of time, 94 percent of non-Latinos agree, compared to 82 percent of Latino respondents. (page 8)
  
- ***Approximately one-half of rural Nebraskans do not see immigration from Latin America as being positive for rural Nebraska.*** Fifty-six percent *disagree* with the statement that in general, immigration from Latin America has been good for rural Nebraska. Fourteen percent agree with the statement. Similarly, one-half (50%) *disagree* with the statement that immigrants from Latin America strengthen rural Nebraska. Sixteen percent agree with this statement. (page 5)
  - ✓ *Persons with higher education levels are more likely than persons with less education to agree that immigration from Latin America has been positive for rural Nebraska.* As an example, 27 percent of persons with at least a bachelors degree agree with the statement that immigrants from Latin America strengthen rural Nebraska, compared to approximately 13 percent of persons without a four year college degree. (page 7)
  - ✓ *Persons who have had close contact with Latin American immigrants (have friends, relatives, close acquaintances or coworkers who are recent Latin American immigrants) are more likely than persons without this close contact to agree that immigrants from Latin America strengthen rural Nebraska.* One quarter (25%) of persons with close contact with recent Latin American immigrants agree with this statement, compared to 14 percent of persons without this contact. (page 7)
  
- ***Opinions are mixed on the reception Latin American immigrants receive from rural Nebraskans.*** Over one-third (38%) of rural Nebraskans agree with the statement that immigrants from Latin America are often discriminated against in rural Nebraska. Twenty-eight percent disagree with that statement. Twenty-eight percent agree with the statement that rural Nebraska communities do a lot to include immigrants from Latin America into the community. Twenty-three percent disagree with that statement. (page 5)

- ✓ *Latino respondents are more likely than non-Latino respondents to say that Latin American immigrants face discrimination and barriers to inclusion in the community. Over one-half (61%) of Latino respondents agree that immigrants from Latin America are often discriminated against in rural Nebraska, compared to 39 percent of non-Latinos. In addition, Latino respondents are more likely than non-Latinos to disagree with the statement that rural Nebraska communities do a lot to include immigrants from Latin America into the community, 46 percent compared to 23 percent. (page 8)*

## *Introduction*

An earlier Nebraska Rural Poll report (August 2006) looked at rural Nebraskans' opinions about newcomers in general to their community. While many rural Nebraskans were aware of new residents in their communities, there were mixed opinions when asked about the impact these newcomers have had on the community. Less than one-third agreed that new residents improve the quality of life in their community while one-quarter disagreed. Just under one-half disagreed that new people moving into the community has been bad for the community.

Opinions were also mixed on the reception new residents receive from the community. While over one-half thought that new residents are made to feel welcome, just over one-third said their community does a lot to include new residents in the community. Almost one half agreed that more people should be encouraged to relocate to their community.

Newcomers to the community (those living in the community for five years or less) were less likely than long-term residents to believe that new residents are made to feel welcome and the community does a lot to include new residents. In addition, one quarter of the newcomers said that new residents are often discriminated against.

Newcomers receiving a lot of media and political attention this past year are immigrants from Latin America (from Mexico, Central America or South America). Latinos have, in the last decades, become the most populous minority group in the United States. As of 2004, Latinos

constituted 14.2 percent of the total U.S. population, and from 2000 to 2004, there was a 14% increase in Latinos compared with a 2% increase in all other groups.

Debates about immigration consumed Congress in its last session. In the end, however, Congress did not pass a major immigration bill and it is clear that the next Congress will again examine legislation to address various issues related to immigration.

This Rural Poll report focuses on perceptions of Latin American immigration in rural Nebraska. Several rural Nebraska communities have seen significant growth of their Latino population since 1990. According to the 2000 U.S. Census, four counties in rural Nebraska had Latino populations representing at least 10 percent of their total population. And, many non-metropolitan counties experienced large growth rates of their Latino population between 1990 and 2000 that exceeded the growth rates of this population in some metropolitan counties. Like for the rest of the country, Latinos are an integral part of Nebraska.

How do rural Nebraskans view immigrants from Latin America? How do they view various immigration policies? Do their views differ by the size of their community, age, or education level? This report addresses these questions.

The 2006 Nebraska Rural Poll is the eleventh annual effort to understand rural Nebraskans' perceptions of current issues and conditions. Respondents were asked a series of questions about immigrants from Latin America and immigration policies.

### *Methodology and Respondent Profile*

This study is based on 2,482 responses from Nebraskans living in the 84 non-metropolitan counties in the state. A self-administered questionnaire was mailed in February and March to approximately 6,200 randomly selected households. Metropolitan counties not included in the sample were Cass, Dakota, Dixon, Douglas, Lancaster, Sarpy, Saunders, Seward and Washington. The 14-page questionnaire included questions pertaining to well-being, community, work, new residents, immigration, and making a living. This paper reports only results from the immigration portion of the survey.

A 40% response rate was achieved using the total design method (Dillman, 1978). The sequence of steps used follow:

1. A pre-notification letter was sent requesting participation in the study.
2. The questionnaire was mailed with an informal letter signed by the project director approximately seven days later.
3. A reminder postcard was sent to the entire sample approximately seven days after the questionnaire had been sent.
4. Those who had not yet responded within approximately 14 days of the original mailing were sent a replacement questionnaire.

Appendix Table 1 shows demographic data from this year's study and previous rural polls, as well as similar data based on the entire non-metropolitan population of Nebraska (using 2000 U.S. Census data). As can be seen from the table, there are some marked differences between some of the demographic variables in our sample compared to the Census data. For example, a smaller percentage of young people

responded to the poll than exist in the community as a whole according to the Census. The poll had more older respondents and more male respondents than in the population as a whole. Certainly some variance from 2000 Census data is to be expected as a result of changes that have occurred in the intervening six years. Nonetheless, we suggest the reader use caution in generalizing our data to all rural Nebraska. However, given the random sampling frame used for this survey, the acceptable percentage of responses, and the large number of respondents, we feel the data provide useful insights into opinions of rural Nebraskans on the various issues presented in this report.

The average age of respondents is 56 years. Sixty-nine percent are married (Appendix Table 1) and 71 percent live within the city limits of a town or village. On average, respondents have lived in Nebraska 48 years and have lived in their current community 32 years. Fifty-two percent are living in or near towns or villages with populations less than 5,000. Ninety-two percent have attained at least a high school diploma.

Twenty percent of the respondents report their 2005 approximate household income from all sources, before taxes, as below \$20,000. Thirty-six percent report incomes over \$50,000.

Seventy-two percent were employed in 2005 on a full-time, part-time, or seasonal basis. Twenty-five percent are retired. Thirty-five percent of those employed reported working in a professional, technical or administrative occupation. Fourteen percent indicated they were farmers or ranchers. The employed respondents who do not work in their home or their nearest community reported having

to drive an average of 31 miles, one way, to their primary job.

*Latino Respondent Profile*

In addition to the standard random sample of rural households, this year’s questionnaire was also sent to a random sample of households with Latino surnames in rural Nebraska. A total of 149 surveys were returned out of 686 mailed, for a response rate of 22 percent. Out of the returned surveys, 102 self-identified themselves as

Spanish, Hispanic or Latino. Those respondents were combined with the 24 self-identified Latino respondents in the random rural sample to make comparisons between Latino respondents and non-Latinos.

The average age of the Latino respondents is 46 years (Table 1). Sixty-nine percent are married and 89 percent live within the city limits of a town or village. On average, the Latinos have lived in Nebraska for 24 years and have lived in their current community 18 years. Forty-four percent of the Latinos were

**Table 1. Demographic Comparisons Between Latino Respondents and Rural Sample Respondents**

	<i>Latino Respondents</i>	<i>Rural Sample Respondents</i>
Average age	46 years	56 years
Percent married	69%	69%
Percent living within city limits	89%	71%
Average years lived in Nebraska	24 years	48 years
Average years lived in community	18 years	32 years
Percent living in or near communities with populations of 10,000 or more	60%	36%
Percent with at least a high school diploma	58%	92%
Percent with household incomes below \$20,000	22%	20%
Percent with household incomes over \$50,000	16%	36%
Percent employed	85%	72%
Percent retired	9%	25%
Percent of employed with professional occupation	24%	35%
Percent of employed that are farmers or ranchers	10%	14%
Percent of employed that are manual laborers	26%	11%

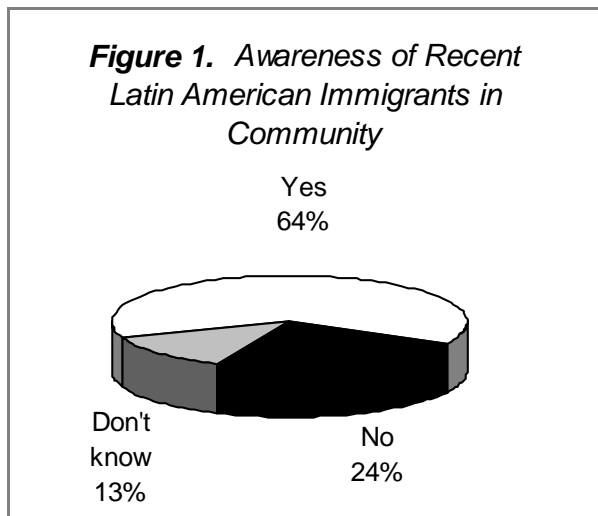
born in the United States. Sixty percent live in or near communities with populations of 10,000 or more. Fifty-eight percent have attained at least a high school diploma.

Twenty-two percent report their 2005 approximate household income from all sources, before taxes, as below \$20,000. Sixteen percent report incomes over \$50,000.

Eighty-five percent were employed in 2005 on a full-time, part-time or seasonal basis. Nine percent are retired. Twenty-four percent of those employed reported working in a professional, technical or administrative occupation. Twenty-six percent are manual laborers and 10 percent indicated they were farmers or ranchers. The employed respondents who do not work in their home or their nearest community reported having to drive an average of 26 miles, one way, to their primary job.

### ***Awareness of Recent Latin American Immigrants***

Over one-half (64%) of rural Nebraskans are aware of recent Latin American immigrants



living in their community (Figure 1). Recent Latin American immigrants were defined as Spanish speaking, from Mexico, Central America or South America, who have moved to the community within the past five years. Twenty-four percent are not aware of recent Latin American immigrants in their community and the remaining 13 percent answered “don’t know.”

Awareness of recent Latin American immigrants in the community differed by most of the characteristics examined (Appendix Table 2).

Persons living in or near the largest communities are more likely than persons living in or near smaller communities to be aware of recent Latin American immigrants living in their community. Eighty-three percent of persons living in or near communities with populations of 10,000 or more are aware of recent Latin American immigrants living in their community, compared to approximately 46 percent of persons living in or near communities with less than 1,000 people.

Regional differences are also detected. Persons living in both the Northeast and South Central regions are more likely than persons living elsewhere in the state to be aware of recent Latin American immigrants in their community (see Appendix Figure 1 for the counties included in each region). Approximately 73 percent of persons living in these two regions are aware of Latin American immigrants living in their community, compared to 45 percent of persons living in the North Central region.

Other statistically significant differences were detected by most of the individual characteristics examined. However, many of

these differences tend to be between groups that are more likely to answer “yes” and those who are more likely to answer “don’t know.”

***Perceptions of Latin American Immigrants***

Respondents were provided a list of statements about immigrants from Latin America and were asked to indicate the extent to which they agree or disagree with each. Rural Nebraskans are concerned with

immigrants learning to speak English. The vast majority (94%) of rural Nebraskans agree with the statement that immigrants from Latin America should learn to speak English within a reasonable amount of time (Table 2). In addition, over two-thirds (69%) disagree with the statement that rural Nebraska communities should communicate important information in Spanish as well as English. Twenty percent agree with this statement.

***Table 2. Opinions About Latin American Immigrants***

	<i>Strongly Disagree</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Neither</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Strongly Agree</i>
Immigrants from Latin America strengthen rural Nebraska.	17%	33%	33%	15%	1%
Wages increase for most people in rural Nebraska communities when undocumented immigrants (sometimes referred to as illegal immigrants or aliens) are hired.	33	41	21	4	1
In general, immigration from Latin America has been good for rural Nebraska.	25	31	30	13	2
Immigrants from Latin America are often discriminated against in rural Nebraska.	7	21	34	33	5
Rural Nebraska communities should communicate important information in Spanish as well as English.	41	28	12	16	4
Immigrants from Latin America should learn to speak English within a reasonable amount of time.	1	1	4	29	65
Rural Nebraska communities do a lot to include immigrants from Latin America into the community.	5	18	49	24	4

Rural Nebraskans are also concerned with the effect illegal immigration may have on wages. Almost three-quarters (74%) disagree with the statement that wages increase for most people in rural Nebraska communities when undocumented immigrants are hired. Only five percent agree with this statement.

At least one-half of rural Nebraskans do not see immigration from Latin America as being positive for rural Nebraska. Fifty-six percent disagree with the statement that in general, immigration from Latin America has been good for rural Nebraska. Fourteen percent agree with the statement. Similarly, one-half (50%) disagree with the statement that immigrants from Latin America strengthen rural Nebraska. Sixteen percent agree with this statement.

Opinions are mixed on the reception Latin American immigrants receive from rural Nebraskans. Over one-third (38%) of rural Nebraskans agree with the statement that immigrants from Latin America are often discriminated against in rural Nebraska. Twenty-eight percent disagree with that statement. Twenty-eight percent agree with the statement that rural Nebraska communities do a lot to include immigrants from Latin America into the community. Twenty-three percent disagree with that statement.

The responses to this question are examined by community size, region and various individual attributes (Appendix Table 3). Some differences are detected.

Persons living in or near larger communities are more likely than persons living in or near smaller communities to agree that communities need to and do include Latin

American immigrants in their community. Thirty-five percent of persons living in or near communities with populations of 10,000 or more agree with the statement that rural Nebraska communities do a lot to include immigrants from Latin America into the community. In comparison, approximately 25 percent of persons living in or near towns with less than 10,000 people agree with this statement. Similarly, almost one-quarter (24%) of persons living in or near the largest communities agree with the statement that rural Nebraska communities should communicate important information in Spanish as well as English. Fourteen percent of persons living in or near towns with less than 1,000 people share this opinion.

A few differences of opinion are detected by region. Persons living in both the Northeast and South Central regions are more likely than persons living in other regions of the state to agree that rural Nebraska communities do a lot to include immigrants from Latin America into the community. Approximately one-third of the residents in these two regions agree with that statement, compared to approximately 20 percent of persons living in both the North Central and Southeast regions.

However, residents from the Northeast region are the regional group most likely to *disagree* with the statement that immigrants from Latin American strengthen rural Nebraska. Fifty-five percent of persons in the Northeast region disagree with this statement, compared to 44 percent of persons living in the Panhandle.

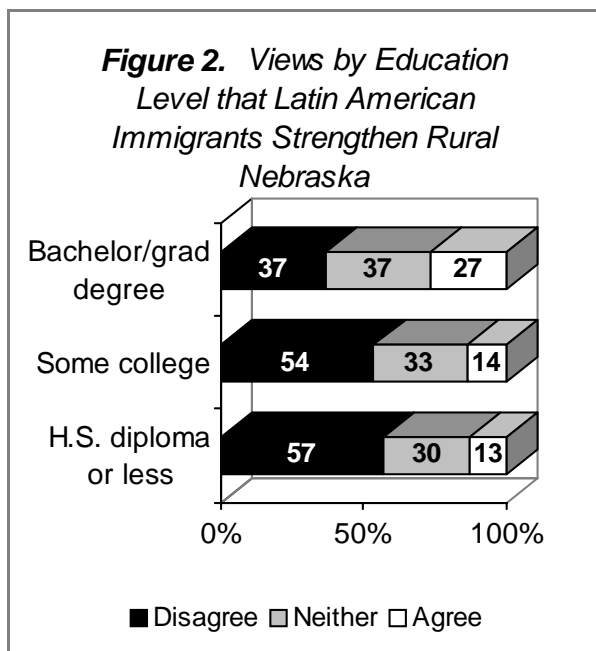
Younger persons are more likely than older persons to agree that immigrants from Latin America are often discriminated against in

rural Nebraska. Over one-half (53%) of persons under the age of 40 agree with this statement, compared to 33 percent of persons age 65 and older.

Younger persons are also more likely than older persons to *disagree* with the statement that rural Nebraska communities do a lot to include immigrants from Latin America into the community. Thirty-three percent of persons age 19 to 39 disagree with this statement, compared to 19 percent of persons age 65 and older.

Persons with higher education levels are more likely than persons with less education to agree with the statement that immigrants from Latin America strengthen rural Nebraska (Figure 2). Twenty-seven percent of persons with at least a bachelors degree agree with this statement, compared to approximately 13 percent of persons without a four year college degree.

Persons with at least a four year college



degree are also the education group most likely to agree with the statement that in general, immigration from Latin America has been good for rural Nebraska. Twenty-two percent of persons with at least a four-year college degree agree with this statement, compared to 12 percent of persons without a four-year college degree.

This same pattern occurs with the responses to the statement that immigrants from Latin America are often discriminated against in rural Nebraska. Forty-seven percent of persons with at least a four-year college degree agree with this statement, compared to 33 percent of persons with a high school diploma or less education.

Persons who have had close contact with Latin American immigrants (have friends, relatives, close acquaintances or coworkers who are recent Latin American immigrants) are more likely than persons without this close contact to agree that immigrants from Latin America strengthen rural Nebraska. One quarter (25%) of persons with close contact with recent Latin American immigrants agree with this statement, compared to 14 percent of persons without this contact.

Persons with professional occupations are more likely than persons with different occupations to agree that immigrants from Latin America strengthen rural Nebraska. Twenty-four percent of persons with professional occupations agree with this statement, compared to 11 percent of laborers.

Persons with professional occupations are also the occupation group most likely to agree with the statement that immigrants from Latin America are often discriminated

against in rural Nebraska. Almost one-half (48%) of persons with professional occupations agree with this statement, compared to approximately 34 percent of laborers or farmers and ranchers.

Many large differences occur by ethnicity. Latino respondents are more likely than non-Latinos to see the benefits of Latin American immigrants. Seventy-two percent of Latino respondents agree with the statement that immigrants from Latin America strengthen rural Nebraska, compared to 16 percent of non-Latinos. Seventy percent of Latino respondents agree with the statement that immigration from Latin America has been good for rural Nebraska, compared to 14 percent of non-Latinos.

Latino respondents are more likely than non-Latinos to say that Latin American immigrants face discrimination and barriers to inclusion in the community. Over one-half (61%) of Latino respondents agree that immigrants from Latin America are often discriminated against in rural Nebraska (Figure 3). Thirty-nine percent of non-

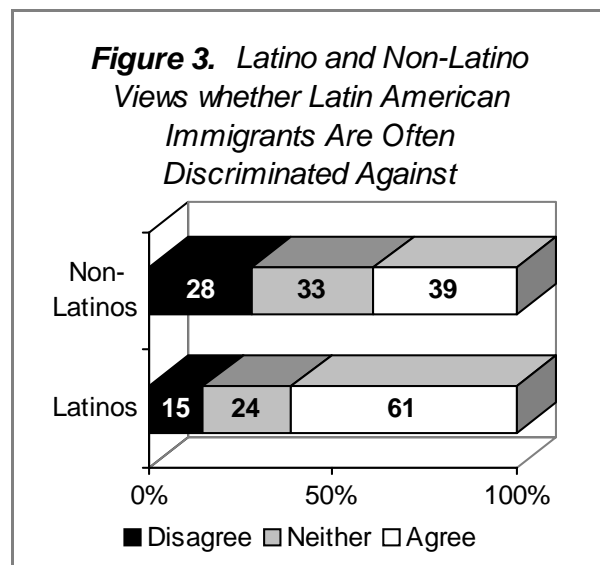
Latinos share this opinion. In addition, Latino respondents are more likely than non-Latinos to *disagree* with the statement that rural Nebraska communities do a lot to include immigrants from Latin America into the community. Almost one-half (46%) of Latino respondents disagree with this statement, compared to 23 percent of non-Latinos.

Differences of opinion on language issues also occur between Latino respondents and non-Latinos. Just over three fourths (76%) of Latino respondents agree that rural Nebraska communities should communicate important information in Spanish as well as English. Twenty percent of non-Latinos agree with this statement. When given the statement that immigrants from Latin America should learn to speak English within a reasonable amount of time, non-Latinos are more likely than Latino respondents to agree. Ninety-four percent of non-Latinos agree with this statement, compared to 82 percent of Latino respondents.

Non-Latinos are more likely than Latino respondents to *disagree* with the statement that wages increase for most people in rural Nebraska communities when undocumented immigrants are hired. Three-fourths (75%) of non-Latinos disagree with this statement, compared to one-half (50%) of Latino respondents.

### *Perceptions of Immigration Policies*

Finally, respondents were given a series of statements about immigration policies debated by Congress or the Nebraska legislature. They were asked to rate the extent they agreed or disagreed with each statement.



Most rural Nebraskans express agreement with policies that try to prevent illegal immigration. Most rural Nebraskans (87%) agree with the statement that the government should tighten the borders to prevent illegal immigration (Table 3). Over three-quarters (77%) of rural Nebraskans

agree with the statement that businesses that employ undocumented workers should be penalized. Seventy-two percent agree with the statement that undocumented immigrants should be deported.

Many rural Nebraskans disagree with

**Table 3. Opinions on Immigration Policies**

	<i>Strongly Disagree</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Neither</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Strongly Agree</i>
In-state college tuition should be available to undocumented immigrants under the age of 21 who have been living in the U.S. for at least 5 years.	42%	30%	12%	14%	3%
Citizenship should be available to undocumented immigrants under the age of 21 who have been living in the U.S. for 5 years and are in 7 <sup>th</sup> grade or above.	29	27	16	24	4
Businesses that employ undocumented workers should be penalized.	3	8	12	36	41
Undocumented immigrants should be deported.	4	8	17	35	37
An undocumented immigrant who has been working and paying taxes for five years or more should be allowed to apply for citizenship.	14	15	16	46	10
The government should tighten the borders to prevent illegal immigration.	3	3	8	33	54
Families of immigrant workers should be allowed to come to the U.S. regardless of other restrictions on immigration.	39	34	15	10	3
A “guest-worker” program should be created to allow immigrants to work in the U.S. without becoming citizens.	27	23	17	26	8

policies that grant citizenship or other benefits to young undocumented immigrants. Seventy-two percent disagree with the statement that in-state college tuition should be available to undocumented immigrants under the age of 21 who have been living in the United States for at least five years. Fifty-six percent disagree with the statement that citizenship should be available to undocumented immigrants under the age of 21 who have been living in the United States for five years and are in 7<sup>th</sup> grade or above.

Almost three-quarters (73%) of rural Nebraskans disagree with the statement that families of immigrant workers should be allowed to come to the United States regardless of other restrictions on immigration.

However, many rural Nebraskans support allowing undocumented workers who have been working and paying taxes for five years or more to apply for citizenship. Over one-half (56%) of rural Nebraskans agree with this statement, while 29 percent disagree.

Opinions are mixed on creating a “guest worker” program. One-half (50%) disagree with the statement that a “guest worker” program should be created to allow immigrants to work in the United States without becoming citizens. Approximately one-third (34%) agree with this statement.

Responses to this question are analyzed by community size, region and various individual attributes (Appendix Table 4). Some differences are detected.

Persons living in the South Central region are more likely than persons living in other

parts of the state to agree that a guest worker program should be created. Thirty-nine percent of persons in the South Central region agree with this statement, compared to 29 percent of persons in the Northeast region.

When comparing responses by household income, persons with household incomes between \$40,000 and \$59,999 are the group most likely to disagree with giving in-state college tuition and citizenship to young undocumented immigrants who meet specific criteria. But persons with the lowest incomes (under \$20,000) are the group most likely to disagree with creating a “guest worker” program. Fifty-five percent of persons with household incomes under \$20,000 disagree with the statement that a “guest worker” program should be created to allow immigrants to work in the United States without becoming citizens. In comparison, 42 percent of persons with household incomes of \$60,000 or more disagree with this statement.

The middle age group (age 40 to 64) is the group most likely to disagree with giving in-state college tuition and citizenship to young undocumented immigrants. Persons under the age of 65 are more likely than persons age 65 and older to agree that businesses that employ undocumented workers should be penalized. Approximately 80 percent of persons under the age of 65 agree with this statement, compared to 71 percent of persons age 65 and older.

Persons with the highest education levels are more likely than persons with less education to agree that a “guest worker” program should be created. Forty-four percent of persons with at least a four-year college degree agree with this statement, compared

to 29 percent of persons with a high school diploma or less education.

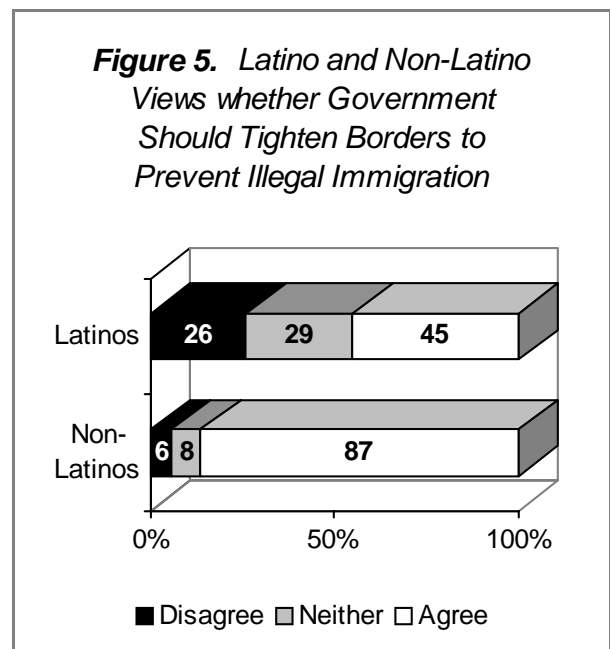
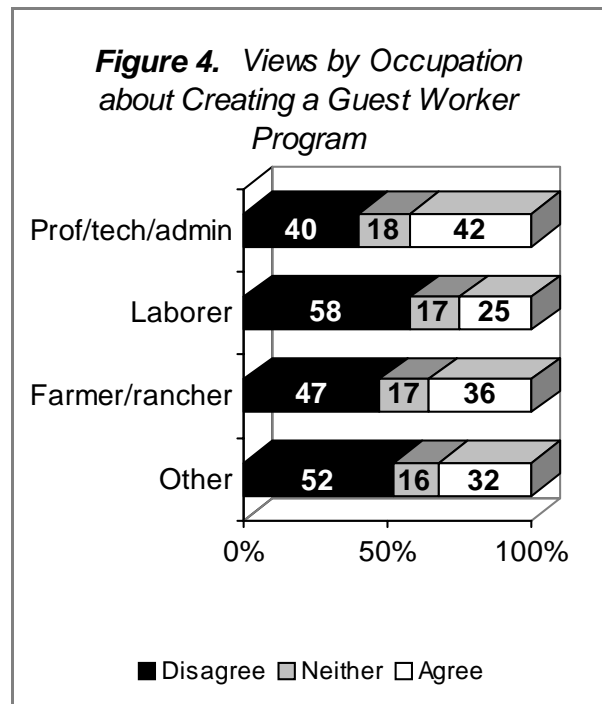
When comparing responses by occupation, the laborers are the group most likely to disagree that a “guest worker” program should be created (Figure 4). Fifty-eight percent of laborers disagree with this statement, compared to 40 percent of persons with professional occupations.

Many differences are detected by ethnicity. Latino respondents are more likely than non-Latinos to agree with policies that grant benefits to young undocumented immigrants. Fifty-seven percent of Latino respondents agree that in-state college tuition should be available to undocumented immigrants who meet certain criteria. Only 16 percent of non-Latinos share this opinion. Seventy-two percent of Latino respondents agree that citizenship should be available to undocumented immigrants under the age of 21 who have been living in the United States

for five years and are in 7<sup>th</sup> grade or above. Twenty-seven percent of non-Latinos agree with this statement.

Non-Latinos are more likely than Latino respondents to agree with statements that penalize or prevent illegal immigration. Seventy-eight percent of non-Latinos agree that businesses that employ undocumented workers should be penalized, compared to 30 percent of Latino respondents. Seventy-two percent of non-Latinos agree that undocumented immigrants should be deported. Twenty-six percent of Latino respondents share this opinion. In addition, 87 percent of non-Latinos agree with the statement that the government should tighten the borders to prevent illegal immigration (Figure 5). In comparison, 45 percent of Latino respondents agree with this statement.

Latino respondents are more likely than non-Latinos to agree with policies that allow workers to apply for citizenship or to work in the United States. Seventy-six percent of



Latino respondents agree that an undocumented immigrant who has been working and paying taxes for five years or more should be allowed to apply for citizenship. Fifty-six percent of non-Latinos agree with this statement. Forty-one percent of Latino respondents agree with the statement that families of immigrant workers should be allowed to come to the United States regardless of other restrictions on immigration. In comparison, 12 percent of non-Latinos share this opinion. Furthermore, over one-half (58%) of Latino respondents agree that a “guest worker” program should be created, compared to 34 percent of non-Latinos.

### *Conclusion*

The Nebraskans who responded to the Poll display nuanced reactions to Latino immigration issues. Moreover, neither Latino rural Nebraskans nor non-Latino rural Nebraskans are unified in what they believe about immigration issues. The responses show that both groups are heterogeneous in their opinions.

Many rural Nebraskans are aware of recent Latin American immigrants living in their community. Larger communities and the South Central and Northeast regions are the places most likely to have residents of Latin American origin.

Regarding policy matters, rural Nebraskans appear, on the one hand, to be supportive of recent federal and state policies that would give illegal immigrants certain rights. On the other hand, they disagree with policies that provide benefits without some actual evidence of contributions to the community.

For example, Nebraskans appear to support

what has been termed “amnesty for workers.” A majority (56%) of the rural respondents support a policy allowing undocumented workers who have been working and paying taxes for five years or more to apply for American citizenship. In other words, those who have been employed tax payers for a period of time should be allowed to become citizens *despite the fact they are currently working without official documents allowing them to do so*. Less than one-third (29%) disagreed with this.

On the other hand, the majority of Rural Poll respondents reject what might be termed “family friendly” policies that grant benefits to those who have not specifically demonstrated their economic contributions. Over one-half (56%) of the respondents disagree with making citizenship available to young (under 21) undocumented immigrants even though they have been living in the U.S. for 5 years or more and are in 7<sup>th</sup> grade or above. A large majority (72%) of rural Nebraskans reject providing the economic benefit of in-state college tuition to non-citizens. Only 17 percent of the respondents are favorable. Perhaps it is because these young people have not yet worked or paid taxes. A similar large majority (73%) disagree that families of immigrant workers should be allowed to come to the U.S. Only 13 percent favor a family reunification policy.

Thus, on the whole, Nebraskans take a strict stance on undocumented immigration. Most rural Nebraskans favor policies that work to prevent illegal immigration, such as tightening the borders, deporting illegal immigrants and penalizing businesses that employ undocumented workers. The respondents also tend to disagree with a policy that would create a legalizing scheme for “guest workers,” with 50 percent disagreeing and

approximately one-third agreeing.

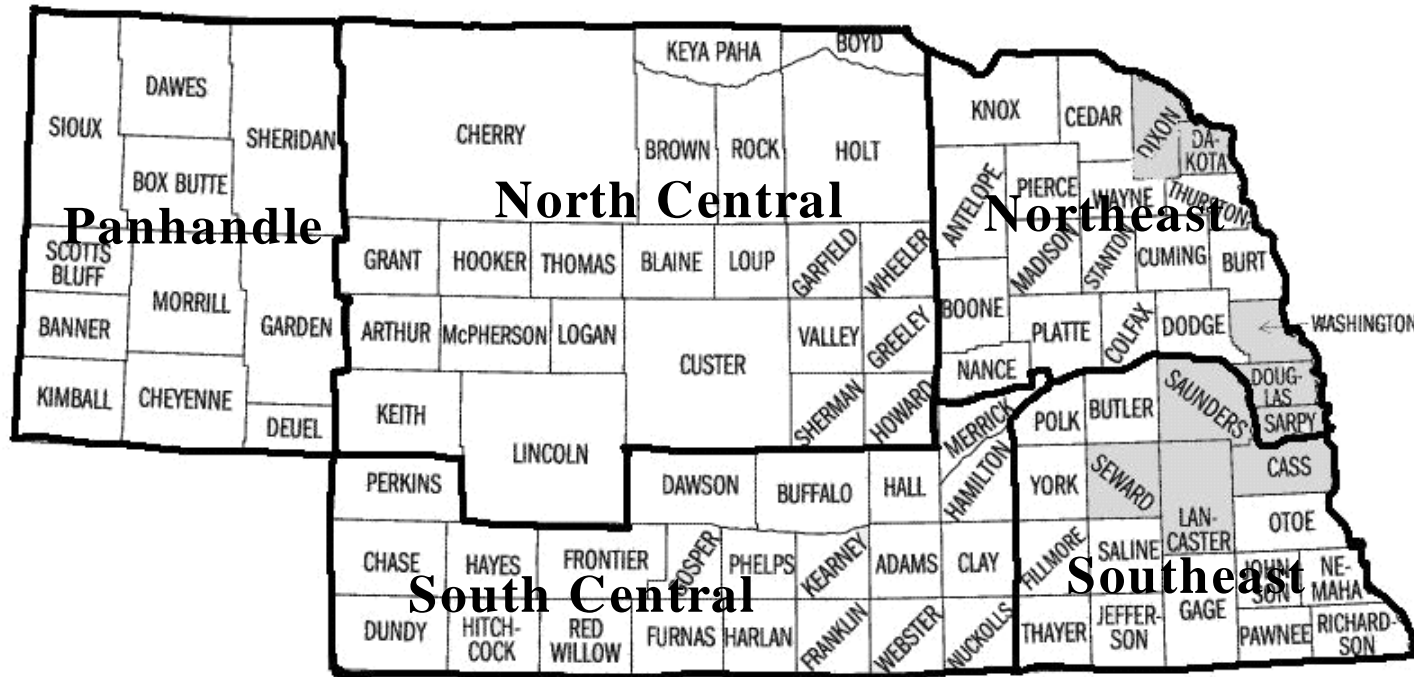
Most rural Nebraskans are concerned about immigrants learning to speak English. The vast majority (94%) feel new immigrants from Latin America need to learn to speak English within a reasonable amount of time. Many (69%) also disagree with having communities communicate important information in both English and Spanish.

A majority (56%) of rural Nebraskans do not think immigration from Latin America has had a positive effect on rural Nebraska. However, these views tend to generally improve as the respondents' education level increases and if they have had close contact with recent immigrants. But, these were modest gains. Even though rural Nebraskans do not think immigration has been positive for their communities, many have said they want more people to move to their

community (see Rural Poll report 06-2, August 2006, "*Newcomers in Nebraska's Rural Communities*," available at [http://cari.unl.edu/ruralpoll/new\\_residents.pdf](http://cari.unl.edu/ruralpoll/new_residents.pdf), showing that about one-half of rural Nebraska residents believe people should be encouraged to relocate to their rural community).

Over one-third of rural Nebraskans agree that immigrants from Latin America are often discriminated against in rural Nebraska. However, over one-quarter disagree with this statement. And, almost equal proportions both agree and disagree that rural Nebraska communities do a lot to include immigrants from Latin America into the community. Yet, over one-half of Latino respondents say these immigrants are often discriminated against in rural Nebraska. This suggests that rural communities might need to do a better job of making these new residents feel at home.

# Appendix Figure 1. Regions of Nebraska



■ Metropolitan counties (not surveyed)

*Appendix Table 1. Demographic Profile of Rural Poll Respondents Compared to 2000 Census*

	<b>2006</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2000</b>
	<b>Poll</b>	<b>Poll</b>	<b>Poll</b>	<b>Poll</b>	<b>Poll</b>	<b>Poll</b>	<b>Census</b>
<b>Age : <sup>1</sup></b>							
20 - 39	16%	15%	18%	18%	16%	17%	33%
40 - 64	52%	51%	49%	51%	51%	49%	42%
65 and over	32%	34%	32%	32%	32%	33%	24%
<b>Gender: <sup>2</sup></b>							
Female	31%	32%	32%	51%	36%	37%	51%
Male	70%	69%	68%	49%	64%	63%	49%
<b>Education: <sup>3</sup></b>							
Less than 9 <sup>th</sup> grade	3%	3%	3%	2%	3%	4%	7%
9 <sup>th</sup> to 12 <sup>th</sup> grade (no diploma)	5%	5%	5%	5%	4%	5%	10%
High school diploma (or equivalent)	32%	33%	34%	34%	32%	35%	35%
Some college, no degree	25%	24%	24%	23%	25%	26%	25%
Associate degree	12%	13%	12%	11%	10%	8%	7%
Bachelors degree	15%	14%	15%	16%	16%	13%	11%
Graduate or professional degree	9%	10%	8%	9%	10%	8%	4%
<b>Household income: <sup>4</sup></b>							
Less than \$10,000	7%	8%	9%	8%	8%	9%	10%
\$10,000 - \$19,999	13%	14%	15%	14%	15%	16%	16%
\$20,000 - \$29,999	14%	16%	16%	16%	17%	20%	17%
\$30,000 - \$39,999	15%	16%	16%	16%	17%	16%	15%
\$40,000 - \$49,999	15%	14%	13%	13%	14%	14%	12%
\$50,000 - \$59,999	11%	10%	11%	11%	11%	9%	10%
\$60,000 - \$74,999	11%	10%	10%	11%	9%	8%	9%
\$75,000 or more	14%	13%	11%	11%	10%	8%	11%
<b>Marital Status: <sup>5</sup></b>							
Married	69%	71%	69%	73%	73%	70%	61%
Never married	8%	7%	9%	7%	6%	7%	22%
Divorced/separated	10%	11%	10%	9%	9%	10%	9%
Widowed/widower	13%	11%	12%	11%	12%	14%	8%

<sup>1</sup> 2000 Census universe is non-metro population 20 years of age and over.

<sup>2</sup> 2000 Census universe is total non-metro population.

<sup>3</sup> 2000 Census universe is non-metro population 18 years of age and over.

<sup>4</sup> 2000 Census universe is all non-metro households.

<sup>5</sup> 2000 Census universe is non-metro population 15 years of age and over.

**Appendix Table 2.** Awareness of Recent Latin American Immigrants in Community by Community Size, Region and Individual Attributes

<i>Are you aware of recent Latin American immigrants living in your community?</i>				
	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Don't know</i>	<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>
<i>Percentages</i>				
<b><u>Community Size</u></b>		(n = 2305)		
Less than 500	45	40	14	
500 - 999	46	35	18	
1,000 - 4,999	55	28	18	
5,000 - 9,999	67	22	11	$\chi^2 = 246.18^*$
10,000 and up	83	11	7	(.000)
<b><u>Region</u></b>		(n = 2405)		
Panhandle	53	33	14	
North Central	45	37	18	
South Central	73	18	10	
Northeast	75	15	10	$\chi^2 = 146.91^*$
Southeast	54	29	17	(.000)
<b><u>Household Income Level</u></b>		(n = 2149)		
Under \$20,000	58	24	18	
\$20,000 - \$39,999	63	25	12	
\$40,000 - \$59,999	65	26	9	$\chi^2 = 31.14^*$
\$60,000 and over	70	22	8	(.000)
<b><u>Age</u></b>		(n = 2367)		
19 - 29	61	31	8	
30 - 39	65	27	9	
40 - 49	64	26	10	
50 - 64	67	22	11	$\chi^2 = 31.95^*$
65 and older	60	23	17	(.000)
<b><u>Gender</u></b>		(n = 2340)		
Male	66	23	10	$\chi^2 = 22.06^*$
Female	58	26	17	(.000)
<b><u>Marital Status</u></b>		(n = 2352)		
Married	65	24	11	
Never married	64	25	11	
Divorced/separated	69	19	13	$\chi^2 = 21.73^*$
Widowed	56	25	19	(.001)

Appendix Table 2 continued.

<i>Are you aware of recent Latin American immigrants living in your community?</i>				
	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Don't know</i>	<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>
<b><u>Education</u></b>		(n = 2332)		
H.S. diploma or less	62	22	16	$\chi^2 = 22.87^*$ (.000)
Some college	65	23	12	
Bachelors degree or more	65	27	8	
<b><u>Occupation</u></b>		(n = 1585)		
Sales	68	19	12	$\chi^2 = 16.38$ (.291)
Manual laborer	71	20	9	
Prof/tech/admin	69	24	8	
Service	68	22	10	
Farming/ranching	59	26	15	
Skilled laborer	63	26	11	
Admin support	66	24	11	
Other	61	25	14	

\*Chi-square statistic is statistically significant at .05 level.

**Appendix Table 3. Opinions Regarding Immigrants from Latin America by Community Size, Region and Individual Attributes**

	<i>Immigrants from Latin America strengthen rural Nebraska.</i>				<i>Wages increase for most people in rural Nebraska communities when undocumented immigrants are hired.</i>			
	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Neither</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Sig.</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Neither</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Sig.</i>
	<i>Percentages</i>							
<b>Community Size</b>	(n = 2283)				(n = 2283)			
Less than 1,000	50	37	13		72	24	4	
1,000 - 9,999	50	34	16	$\chi^2 = 16.0^*$	75	21	4	$\chi^2 = 9.27$
10,000 and up	50	30	20	(.003)	75	19	6	(.055)
<b>Region</b>	(n = 2386)				(n = 2385)			
Panhandle	44	40	16		75	21	4	
North Central	49	37	15		73	23	4	
South Central	51	29	20		76	20	5	
Northeast	55	29	16	$\chi^2 = 24.7^*$	74	20	7	$\chi^2 = 8.74$
Southeast	49	36	15	(.002)	72	23	5	(.365)
<b>Household Income</b>	(n = 2141)				(n = 2146)			
Under \$20,000	51	33	16		70	25	6	
\$20,000 - \$39,999	51	33	16		73	22	6	
\$40,000 - \$59,999	52	30	18	$\chi^2 = 10.36$	78	18	4	$\chi^2 = 12.8^*$
\$60,000 and over	45	34	21	(.110)	78	18	4	(.047)
<b>Age</b>	(n = 2350)				(n = 2348)			
19 - 39	48	33	19		74	22	4	
40 - 64	50	33	16	$\chi^2 = 2.97$	77	19	4	$\chi^2 = 12.8^*$
65 and older	52	32	16	(.563)	70	24	6	(.012)
<b>Gender</b>	(n = 2322)				(n = 2320)			
Male	52	31	17	$\chi^2 = 6.8^*$	77	18	5	$\chi^2 = 23.7^*$
Female	48	36	15	(.034)	69	27	4	(.000)
<b>Education</b>	(n = 2316)				(n = 2315)			
H.S. diploma or less	57	30	13		73	20	7	
Some college	54	33	14	$\chi^2 = 77.6^*$	77	20	4	$\chi^2 = 12.5^*$
Bach./grad degree	37	37	27	(.000)	73	24	4	(.014)
<b>Contact with Immigrants</b>	(n = 2384)				(n = 2383)			
Have as friends, relatives, close acquaintances or coworkers	46	29	25	$\chi^2 = 35.8^*$	76	19	6	$\chi^2 = 2.70$
None	52	34	14	(.000)	74	22	5	(.259)
<b>Occupation</b>	(n = 1582)				(n = 1585)			
Prof./technical/admin	44	33	24		76	21	3	
Laborer	58	31	11		77	18	5	
Farming/ranching	52	33	15	$\chi^2 = 30.5^*$	77	20	3	$\chi^2 = 9.22$
Other	51	32	17	(.000)	76	19	5	(.162)
<b>Race/ethnicity#</b>	(n = 2459)				(n = 2455)			
Non-Latinos	51	33	16	$\chi^2 = 241^*$	75	21	5	$\chi^2 = 38.7^*$
Latinos	10	18	72	(.000)	50	38	12	(.000)

\*Chi-square statistic is statistically significant at .05 level.

# Additional data for race/ethnicity comparisons come from a special random survey of Latino surnames. Other comparisons in this table reflect only the regular random sample of rural households.

Disagree is the combined responses of “strongly disagree” and “disagree”. Agree combines “strongly agree” and “agree.”

Appendix Table 3 continued.

		<i>In general, immigration from Latin America has been good for rural Nebraska.</i>				<i>Immigrants from Latin America are often discriminated against in rural Nebraska.</i>			
		<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Neither</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Sig.</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Neither</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Sig.</i>
		<i>Percentages</i>							
<b>Community Size</b>		(n = 2285)				(n = 2269)			
	Less than 1,000	57	33	11		29	35	36	
	1,000 - 9,999	55	32	14	$\chi^2 = 14.5^*$	27	36	37	$\chi^2 = 5.37$
	10,000 and up	56	27	17	(.006)	29	31	41	(.252)
<b>Region</b>		(n = 2386)				(n = 2364)			
	Panhandle	53	33	15		28	37	35	
	North Central	55	34	11		26	39	35	
	South Central	56	28	16		30	30	40	
	Northeast	58	28	15	$\chi^2 = 10.23$	29	31	40	$\chi^2 = 13.16$
	Southeast	53	33	14	(.249)	27	36	37	(.107)
<b>Household Income</b>		(n = 2145)				(n = 2124)			
	Under \$20,000	56	30	14		31	34	35	
	\$20,000 - \$39,999	53	32	15		28	34	38	
	\$40,000 - \$59,999	57	30	13	$\chi^2 = 4.88$	26	31	42	$\chi^2 = 6.80$
	\$60,000 and over	54	29	17	(.559)	28	31	41	(.340)
<b>Age</b>		(n = 2350)				(n = 2327)			
	19 - 39	54	31	15		21	27	53	
	40 - 64	57	30	13	$\chi^2 = 2.90$	30	34	37	$\chi^2 = 44.3^*$
	65 and older	55	30	16	(.575)	31	37	33	(.000)
<b>Gender</b>		(n = 2323)				(n = 2301)			
	Male	58	27	15	$\chi^2 = 19.9^*$	28	34	38	$\chi^2 = 1.83$
	Female	50	37	14	(.000)	29	31	40	(.401)
<b>Education</b>		(n = 2316)				(n = 2296)			
	H.S. diploma or less	60	28	12		34	33	33	
	Some college	59	30	12	$\chi^2 = 54.3^*$	27	35	38	$\chi^2 = 37.6^*$
	Bach./grad degree	43	35	22	(.000)	22	30	47	(.000)
<b>Contact with Immigrants</b>		(n = 2385)				(n = 2363)			
	Have as friends, relatives, close acquaintances or coworkers	51	28	21	$\chi^2 = 27.7^*$	29	29	42	$\chi^2 = 6.8^*$
	None	57	31	12	(.000)	28	35	37	(.033)
<b>Occupation</b>		(n = 1587)				(n = 1577)			
	Prof./technical/admin	49	31	19		22	30	48	
	Laborer	62	28	11		32	34	34	
	Farming/ranching	59	29	12	$\chi^2 = 23.1^*$	27	38	36	$\chi^2 = 23.6^*$
	Other	58	29	13	(.001)	29	32	39	(.001)
<b>Race/ethnicity#</b>		(n = 2458)				(n = 2436)			
	Non-Latinos	56	31	14	$\chi^2 = 276^*$	28	33	39	$\chi^2 = 25.8^*$
	Latinos	14	16	70	(.000)	15	24	61	(.000)

\*Chi-square statistic is statistically significant at .05 level.

# Additional data for race/ethnicity comparisons come from a special random survey of Latino surnames. Other comparisons in this table reflect only the regular random sample of rural households.

Disagree is the combined responses of "strongly disagree" and "disagree". Agree combines "strongly agree" and "agree."

Appendix Table 3 continued.

	<i>Rural Nebraska communities should communicate important information in Spanish as well as English.</i>				<i>Immigrants from Latin America should learn to speak English within a reasonable amount of time.</i>			
	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Neither</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Sig.</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Neither</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Sig.</i>
	<i>Percentages</i>							
<b>Community Size</b>	(n = 2303)				(n = 2302)			
Less than 1,000	72	14	14		1	6	93	
1,000 - 9,999	69	12	20	$\chi^2 = 20.5^*$	2	4	94	$\chi^2 = 4.32$
10,000 and up	66	10	24	(.000)	2	4	95	(.364)
<b>Region</b>	(n = 2406)				(n = 2405)			
Panhandle	69	12	20		2	6	92	
North Central	69	15	16		2	5	93	
South Central	69	8	23		1	3	95	
Northeast	68	11	21	$\chi^2 = 25.1^*$	2	4	94	$\chi^2 = 7.18$
Southeast	68	16	16	(.001)	2	5	93	(.517)
<b>Household Income</b>	(n = 2155)				(n = 2151)			
Under \$20,000	63	14	24		3	5	92	
\$20,000 - \$39,999	69	11	20		1	5	94	
\$40,000 - \$59,999	71	11	19	$\chi^2 = 9.81$	1	4	95	$\chi^2 = 11.52$
\$60,000 and over	71	11	18	(.133)	2	3	95	(.074)
<b>Age</b>	(n = 2368)				(n = 2367)			
19 - 39	65	14	21		2	7	92	
40 - 64	72	11	17	$\chi^2 = 16.6^*$	2	4	94	$\chi^2 = 8.46$
65 and older	65	12	23	(.002)	2	3	95	(.076)
<b>Gender</b>	(n = 2340)				(n = 2339)			
Male	72	10	18	$\chi^2 = 29.7^*$	2	4	95	$\chi^2 = 8.8^*$
Female	61	14	25	(.000)	2	6	92	(.012)
<b>Education</b>	(n = 2333)				(n = 2333)			
H.S. diploma or less	67	11	23		2	5	93	
Some college	74	10	15	$\chi^2 = 25.8^*$	1	4	95	$\chi^2 = 4.83$
Bach./grad degree	63	14	23	(.000)	1	5	94	(.305)
<b>Contact with Immigrants</b>	(n = 2404)				(n = 2403)			
Have as friends, relatives, close acquaintances or coworkers	65	10	25	$\chi^2 = 14.2^*$	2	5	93	$\chi^2 = 0.75$
None	70	12	18	(.001)	2	4	94	(.689)
<b>Occupation</b>	(n = 1587)				(n = 1585)			
Prof./technical/admin	70	12	19		1	5	94	
Laborer	71	11	18		2	4	94	
Farming/ranching	78	11	12	$\chi^2 = 6.87$	1	4	96	$\chi^2 = 7.31$
Other	69	13	18	(.333)	1	5	95	(.293)
<b>Race/ethnicity#</b>	(n = 2476)				(n = 2476)			
Non-Latinos	69	11	20	$\chi^2 = 220^*$	2	4	94	$\chi^2 = 29.2^*$
Latinos	16	8	76	(.000)	5	14	82	(.000)

\*Chi-square statistic is statistically significant at .05 level.

# Additional data for race/ethnicity comparisons come from a special random survey of Latino surnames. Other comparisons in this table reflect only the regular random sample of rural households.

Disagree is the combined responses of "strongly disagree" and "disagree". Agree combines "strongly agree" and "agree."

Appendix Table 3 continued.

<i>Rural Nebraska communities do a lot to include immigrants from Latin America into the community.</i>				
	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Neither</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Sig.</i>
	<i>Percentages</i>			
<b>Community Size</b>	(n = 2279)			
Less than 1,000	26	52	23	
1,000 - 9,999	24	52	25	$\chi^2 = 34.4^*$
10,000 and up	21	44	35	(.000)
<b>Region</b>	(n = 2378)			
Panhandle	19	54	27	
North Central	26	54	20	
South Central	20	48	32	
Northeast	24	43	34	$\chi^2 = 46.2^*$
Southeast	28	51	21	(.000)
<b>Household Income</b>	(n = 2134)			
Under \$20,000	22	46	32	
\$20,000 - \$39,999	20	53	27	
\$40,000 - \$59,999	28	46	26	$\chi^2 = 15.9^*$
\$60,000 and over	24	47	28	(.014)
<b>Age</b>	(n = 2339)			
19 - 39	33	43	24	
40 - 64	23	49	28	$\chi^2 = 25.8^*$
65 and older	19	51	30	(.000)
<b>Gender</b>	(n = 2312)			
Male	23	49	28	$\chi^2 = 0.26$
Female	23	49	29	(.879)
<b>Education</b>	(n = 2305)			
H.S. diploma or less	20	48	32	
Some college	22	50	28	$\chi^2 = 22.8^*$
Bach./grad degree	30	47	23	(.000)
<b>Contact with Immigrants</b>	(n = 2376)			
Have as friends, relatives, close acquaintances or coworkers	25	40	35	$\chi^2 = 26.3^*$
None	23	51	26	(.000)
<b>Occupation</b>	(n = 1576)			
Prof./technical/admin	28	45	27	
Laborer	22	48	31	
Farming/ranching	18	52	30	$\chi^2 = 12.7^*$
Other	26	49	26	(.049)
<b>Race/ethnicity</b>	(n = 2446)			
Non-Latinos	23	49	28	$\chi^2 = 34.9^*$
Latinos	46	31	22	(.000)

\*Chi-square statistic is statistically significant at .05 level.

# Additional data for race/ethnicity comparisons come from a special random survey of Latino surnames. Other comparisons in this table reflect only the regular random sample of rural households.

Disagree is the combined responses of "strongly disagree" and "disagree". Agree combines "strongly agree" and "agree."

**Appendix Table 4. Opinions About Immigration Policies by Community Size, Region and Individual Attributes**

	<i>In-state college tuition should be available to undocumented immigrants under the age of 21 who have been living in the U.S. for at least 5 years.</i>				<i>Citizenship should be available to undocumented immigrants under the age of 21 who have been living in the U.S. for 5 years and are in 7<sup>th</sup> grade or above.</i>			
	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Neither</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Sig.</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Neither</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Sig.</i>
	<i>Percentages</i>							
<b>Community Size</b>	(n = 2301)				(n = 2289)			
Less than 1,000	73	12	15		56	19	25	
1,000 - 9,999	72	13	15	$\chi^2 = 7.94$	57	16	27	$\chi^2 = 4.24$
10,000 and up	72	10	18	(.094)	57	15	28	(.374)
<b>Region</b>	(n = 2403)				(n = 2391)			
Panhandle	71	12	16		57	15	28	
North Central	74	13	13		59	20	22	
South Central	72	10	18		57	16	27	
Northeast	72	12	15	$\chi^2 = 7.87$	56	16	28	$\chi^2 = 11.77$
Southeast	71	12	18	(.446)	53	16	31	(.162)
<b>Household Income</b>	(n = 2151)				(n = 2146)			
Under \$20,000	66	16	19		52	18	30	
\$20,000 - \$39,999	71	14	16		55	18	27	
\$40,000 - \$59,999	78	8	15	$\chi^2 = 32.1^*$	62	13	25	$\chi^2 = 13.4^*$
\$60,000 and over	73	9	19	(.000)	55	16	29	(.037)
<b>Age</b>	(n = 2365)				(n = 2354)			
19 - 39	70	16	15		54	19	27	
40 - 64	77	8	15	$\chi^2 = 35.7^*$	61	15	24	$\chi^2 = 21.3^*$
65 and older	67	15	19	(.000)	51	17	32	(.000)
<b>Gender</b>	(n = 2337)				(n = 2328)			
Male	75	10	15	$\chi^2 = 14.9^*$	59	16	26	$\chi^2 = 12.6^*$
Female	67	14	18	(.001)	51	18	31	(.002)
<b>Education</b>	(n = 2330)				(n = 2322)			
H.S. diploma or less	71	13	16		54	20	27	
Some college	76	10	14	$\chi^2 = 20.3^*$	61	15	24	$\chi^2 = 25.0^*$
Bach./grad degree	69	10	21	(.000)	54	14	33	(.000)
<b>Contact with Immigrants</b>	(n = 2402)				(n = 2390)			
Have as friends, relatives, close acquaintances or coworkers	70	10	20	$\chi^2 = 10.2^*$	55	16	29	$\chi^2 = 1.57$
None	73	12	15	(.006)	57	17	27	(.455)
<b>Occupation</b>	(n = 1588)				(n = 1584)			
Prof./technical/admin	75	8	17		56	15	29	
Laborer	75	13	12		59	18	23	
Farming/ranching	73	11	16	$\chi^2 = 11.64$	60	20	21	$\chi^2 = 11.18$
Other	76	11	13	(.071)	56	19	25	(.083)
<b>Race/ethnicity#</b>	(n = 2472)				(n = 2461)			
Non-Latinos	73	12	16	$\chi^2 = 148^*$	57	17	27	$\chi^2 = 123^*$
Latinos	26	17	57	(.000)	14	14	72	(.000)

\*Chi-square statistic is statistically significant at .05 level.

# Additional data for race/ethnicity comparisons come from a special random survey of Latino surnames. Other comparisons in this table reflect only the regular random sample of rural households.

Disagree is the combined responses of "strongly disagree" and "disagree". Agree combines "strongly agree" and "agree."

Appendix Table 4 continued.

	<i>Businesses that employ undocumented workers should be penalized.</i>				<i>Undocumented immigrants should be deported.</i>			
	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Neither</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Sig.</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Neither</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Sig.</i>
	<i>Percentages</i>							
<b>Community Size</b>	(n = 2280)				(n = 2262)			
Less than 1,000	10	14	76	$\chi^2 = 10.4^*$ (.035)	10	19	71	$\chi^2 = 8.93$ (.063)
1,000 - 9,999	11	13	76		11	17	72	
10,000 and up	11	9	80		13	14	73	
<b>Region</b>	(n = 2378)				(n = 2363)			
Panhandle	13	11	76	$\chi^2 = 5.65$ (.687)	13	15	72	$\chi^2 = 9.16$ (.329)
North Central	9	11	80		12	13	75	
South Central	11	12	77		12	18	70	
Northeast	11	13	76		10	16	74	
Southeast	10	13	77		11	19	70	
<b>Household Income</b>	(n = 2134)				(n = 2115)			
Under \$20,000	13	14	74	$\chi^2 = 14.5^*$ (.025)	12	14	75	$\chi^2 = 8.88$ (.181)
\$20,000 - \$39,999	11	14	75		12	19	69	
\$40,000 - \$59,999	9	10	81		11	15	74	
\$60,000 and over	10	10	81		12	17	71	
<b>Age</b>	(n = 2341)				(n = 2324)			
19 - 39	9	10	81	$\chi^2 = 27.5^*$ (.000)	13	16	71	$\chi^2 = 5.22$ (.266)
40 - 64	9	10	80		11	16	74	
65 and older	14	16	71		12	18	69	
<b>Gender</b>	(n = 2314)				(n = 2296)			
Male	9	10	80	$\chi^2 = 24.4^*$ (.000)	11	15	74	$\chi^2 = 13.7^*$ (.001)
Female	13	16	71		14	20	67	
<b>Education</b>	(n = 2308)				(n = 2290)			
H.S. diploma or less	13	11	76	$\chi^2 = 11.3^*$ (.023)	10	16	74	$\chi^2 = 18.2^*$ (.001)
Some college	9	12	80		10	16	74	
Bach./grad degree	10	13	78		16	19	66	
<b>Contact with Immigrants</b>	(n = 2377)				(n = 2362)			
Have as friends, relatives, close acquaintances or coworkers	12	11	78	$\chi^2 = 1.57$ (.455)	15	17	69	$\chi^2 = 7.07^*$ (.029)
None	10	12	77		11	16	73	
<b>Occupation</b>	(n = 1582)				(n = 1574)			
Prof./technical/admin	8	11	81	$\chi^2 = 6.22$ (.399)	14	16	70	$\chi^2 = 13.1^*$ (.041)
Laborer	11	10	79		9	16	75	
Farming/ranching	12	14	75		8	21	71	
Other	11	12	78		9	17	74	
<b>Race/ethnicity#</b>	(n = 2448)				(n = 2428)			
Non-Latinos	10	12	78	$\chi^2 = 199^*$ (.000)	11	17	72	$\chi^2 = 177^*$ (.000)
Latinos	50	19	30		50	24	26	

\*Chi-square statistic is statistically significant at .05 level.

# Additional data for race/ethnicity comparisons come from a special random survey of Latino surnames. Other comparisons in this table reflect only the regular random sample of rural households.

Disagree is the combined responses of "strongly disagree" and "disagree". Agree combines "strongly agree" and "agree."

Appendix Table 4 continued.

	<i>An undocumented immigrant who has been working and paying taxes for five years or more should be allowed to apply for citizenship.</i>				<i>The government should tighten the borders to prevent illegal immigration.</i>			
	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Neither</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Sig.</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Neither</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Sig.</i>
	<i>Percentages</i>							
<b><u>Community Size</u></b>	(n = 2304)				(n = 2298)			
Less than 1,000	29	17	54		6	8	87	
1,000 - 9,999	29	15	56	$\chi^2 = 0.85$	6	9	85	$\chi^2 = 2.88$
10,000 and up	28	16	56	(.932)	6	7	87	(.579)
<b><u>Region</u></b>	(n = 2408)				(n = 2404)			
Panhandle	28	15	57		6	6	88	
North Central	27	19	54		6	9	86	
South Central	31	15	55		6	7	87	
Northeast	27	17	56	$\chi^2 = 7.03$	5	9	86	$\chi^2 = 3.75$
Southeast	27	14	59	(.533)	7	7	86	(.879)
<b><u>Household Income</u></b>	(n = 2155)				(n = 2156)			
Under \$20,000	26	16	58		9	7	85	
\$20,000 - \$39,999	26	17	57		6	10	85	
\$40,000 - \$59,999	32	15	54	$\chi^2 = 8.09$	5	7	89	$\chi^2 = 12.8^*$
\$60,000 and over	30	16	54	(.231)	5	7	88	(.047)
<b><u>Age</u></b>	(n = 2369)				(n = 2367)			
19 - 39	27	15	58		4	10	86	
40 - 64	31	16	53	$\chi^2 = 12.7^*$	5	8	87	$\chi^2 = 9.9^*$
65 and older	25	16	60	(.013)	7	6	87	(.041)
<b><u>Gender</u></b>	(n = 2341)				(n = 2340)			
Male	31	15	54	$\chi^2 = 17.9^*$	5	7	88	$\chi^2 = 8.33^*$
Female	23	17	60	(.000)	7	9	84	(.016)
<b><u>Education</u></b>	(n = 2335)				(n = 2333)			
H.S. diploma or less	27	16	57		6	7	87	
Some college	31	15	55	$\chi^2 = 3.06$	5	6	89	$\chi^2 = 13.5^*$
Bach./grad degree	28	17	55	(.547)	6	11	83	(.009)
<b><u>Contact with Immigrants</u></b>	(n = 2407)				(n = 2403)			
Have as friends, relatives, close acquaintances or coworkers	29	13	59	$\chi^2 = 5.32$	6	9	85	$\chi^2 = 1.84$
None	29	17	55	(.070)	6	7	87	(.398)
<b><u>Occupation</u></b>	(n = 1591)				(n = 1588)			
Prof./technical/admin	31	14	55		4	11	85	
Laborer	28	15	56		4	7	89	
Farming/ranching	27	19	54	$\chi^2 = 6.79$	6	7	87	$\chi^2 = 12.39$
Other	30	19	51	(.341)	5	6	89	(.054)
<b><u>Race/ethnicity#</u></b>	(n = 2476)				(n = 2473)			
Non-Latinos	28	16	56	$\chi^2 = 21.2^*$	6	8	87	$\chi^2 = 161^*$
Latinos	14	10	76	(.000)	26	29	45	(.000)

\*Chi-square statistic is statistically significant at .05 level.

# Additional data for race/ethnicity comparisons come from a special random survey of Latino surnames. Other comparisons in this table reflect only the regular random sample of rural households.

Disagree is the combined responses of "strongly disagree" and "disagree". Agree combines "strongly agree" and "agree."

Appendix Table 4 continued.

	<i>Families of immigrant workers should be allowed to come to the U.S. regardless of other restrictions on immigration.</i>				<i>A "guest-worker" program should be created to allow immigrants to work in the U.S. without becoming citizens.</i>			
	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Neither</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Sig.</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Neither</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Sig.</i>
	<i>Percentages</i>							
<b><u>Community Size</u></b>		(n = 2291)				(n = 2301)		
Less than 1,000	72	15	14		49	19	32	
1,000 - 9,999	72	17	11	$\chi^2 = 3.69$	50	17	32	$\chi^2 = 4.80$
10,000 and up	72	15	13	(.449)	49	16	36	(.309)
<b><u>Region</u></b>		(n = 2394)				(n = 2403)		
Panhandle	74	15	11		46	20	34	
North Central	75	15	11		51	16	33	
South Central	73	14	14		46	16	39	
Northeast	72	16	12	$\chi^2 = 7.40$	56	16	29	$\chi^2 = 23.5^*$
Southeast	69	18	14	(.494)	47	20	33	(.003)
<b><u>Household Income</u></b>		(n = 2147)				(n = 2157)		
Under \$20,000	69	14	17		55	15	31	
\$20,000 - \$39,999	70	18	12		49	18	33	
\$40,000 - \$59,999	75	14	11	$\chi^2 = 13.9^*$	49	16	35	$\chi^2 = 16.6^*$
\$60,000 and over	72	15	12	(.031)	42	19	39	(.011)
<b><u>Age</u></b>		(n = 2357)				(n = 2367)		
19 - 39	69	19	12		50	21	29	
40 - 64	74	15	11	$\chi^2 = 13.8^*$	48	17	35	$\chi^2 = 8.31$
65 and older	71	13	15	(.008)	50	15	35	(.081)
<b><u>Gender</u></b>		(n = 2329)				(n = 2338)		
Male	75	14	11	$\chi^2 = 21.3^*$	48	16	36	$\chi^2 = 8.28^*$
Female	66	18	16	(.000)	50	20	30	(.016)
<b><u>Education</u></b>		(n = 2322)				(n = 2331)		
H.S. diploma or less	74	13	13		55	16	29	
Some college	73	16	11	$\chi^2 = 8.12$	52	16	32	$\chi^2 = 62.6^*$
Bach./grad degree	69	18	14	(.087)	35	21	44	(.000)
<b><u>Contact with Immigrants</u></b>		(n = 2393)				(n = 2402)		
Have as friends, relatives, close acquaintances or coworkers	70	16	14	$\chi^2 = 2.35$	46	15	39	$\chi^2 = 9.84^*$
None	73	15	12	(.310)	50	18	32	(.007)
<b><u>Occupation</u></b>		(n = 1584)				(n = 1587)		
Prof./technical/admin	71	18	12		40	18	42	
Laborer	76	16	8		58	17	25	
Farming/ranching	73	14	12	$\chi^2 = 5.18$	47	17	36	$\chi^2 = 36.2^*$
Other	74	15	11	(.521)	52	16	32	(.000)
<b><u>Race/ethnicity#</u></b>		(n = 2463)				(n = 2471)		
Non-Latinos	73	15	12	$\chi^2 = 123^*$	49	17	34	$\chi^2 = 37.5^*$
Latinos	28	31	41	(.000)	22	20	58	(.000)

\*Chi-square statistic is statistically significant at .05 level.

# Additional data for race/ethnicity comparisons come from a special random survey of Latino surnames. Other comparisons in this table reflect only the regular random sample of rural households.

Disagree is the combined responses of "strongly disagree" and "disagree". Agree combines "strongly agree" and "agree."

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