

Hispanic/Latino views on Undocumented/Illegal Immigration

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Introduction

In 1996 America's 42nd president, Bill Clinton decided he would take on the responsibility of managing immigration issues. Bill Clinton signed the Illegal Immigration Reform and Responsibility Act, (commonly known as IIRIRA). This bill was designed to specifically prevent the flow of undocumented aliens into the United States. Today, in result of this bill and the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, we find an increased number of border patrol officers along with more surveillance. Not only is there more security measures on our borders and airports, but penalties for alien smuggling have become much tougher. Illegal immigrants caught inside the U.S. borders, will receive very high fines or imprisonment, often both (much higher for those who have been involved in any kind of criminal mischief). There are many restrictions on alien employment, benefits, and assistance programs.

There is still a flow of illegal or undocumented immigrants in the US each year, it is estimated that 700,000 new illegal immigrants enter America each year and remain in the country. After this recent election, illegal or undocumented immigration is seen as a crisis in America, and the 45th President Donald Trump assures citizens that he will “crackdown” on immigration. The idea of deportation spreads fear across America. Trump told America that the only individuals he would be deporting were those who had criminal charges, but immigration raids have left many families torn apart.

Hypothesis

We came up with a total of three hypotheses, the first was, those in the survey with a High School Diploma (or GED) or less are more likely to view undocumented or illegal immigration as a positive impact on the Hispanics/Latinos in the U.S. This hypothesis stems from the initial idea that those with lower education are more likely to have close and/or immediate family members who are illegal or undocumented. The second hypothesis was, those in the survey who are not U.S citizens are more likely to view undocumented or illegal immigration as a positive impact on the Hispanics/Latinos in the U.S. Those who are not U.S citizens are familiar with immigration, they are familiar with the benefits not only their family members bring to America but themselves included. Last, we hypothesized that those in the survey who ranked their financial situation as fair or worse are more likely to view undocumented or illegal immigration as a negative effect on Hispanic/Latinos already living in the U.S. Immigration in the U.S has been accused for taking jobs away from Americans. If this is indeed true, we expect that those competing in the same fields as illegal or undocumented immigrants, to have lower levels of financial satisfaction, and perhaps are blaming this unsatisfactory on illegal/undocumented immigration.

Methodology

The data set we used was the “2013 Survey of Hispanics”, this data set was found on the Pew Research Center website, and was conducted by Social Science Research Solutions, also known as SSRS. SSRS sampled 701 Hispanic/Latinos ages 18 and older, during October 16,

2013 to the 3rd of November of 2013. Out of the 701 participants 315 were U.S born (including Puerto Rico), and 386 were foreign born.

We had 1 dependent and 3 independent variables. Our dependent variable was “Overall, what is the effect of undocumented or illegal immigration on Hispanic/Latinos already living in the U.S.? Would you say it is...?”. The dependent variable is nominal and responses were “A positive effect”, “A negative effect”, and “Has had no effect” and last those who said they “don't know/refused” or they refused.

The first independent variable is “Your view of your financial standing”. This independent variable is ordinal, meaning we will use a bar graph. This variable ranks individual's financial standing “Excellent shape”, “Good shape”, “Only fair shape”, “Poor shape”. Our second independent variable is ordinal and will have a bar graph. Our second variable is “What is the highest level of education you have obtained”. This variable has the categories “Less than High School”, “High School Diploma/Some College”, “Associate's or Bachelor's Degree” or “Postgraduate/Professional Degree”. Last, we will be using “Are you a citizen of the U.S.” as an independent variable, this is Nominal, and respondents answered “Yes” or “No”, instead of using a bar graph like our last two independent variables we will be using a pie graph.

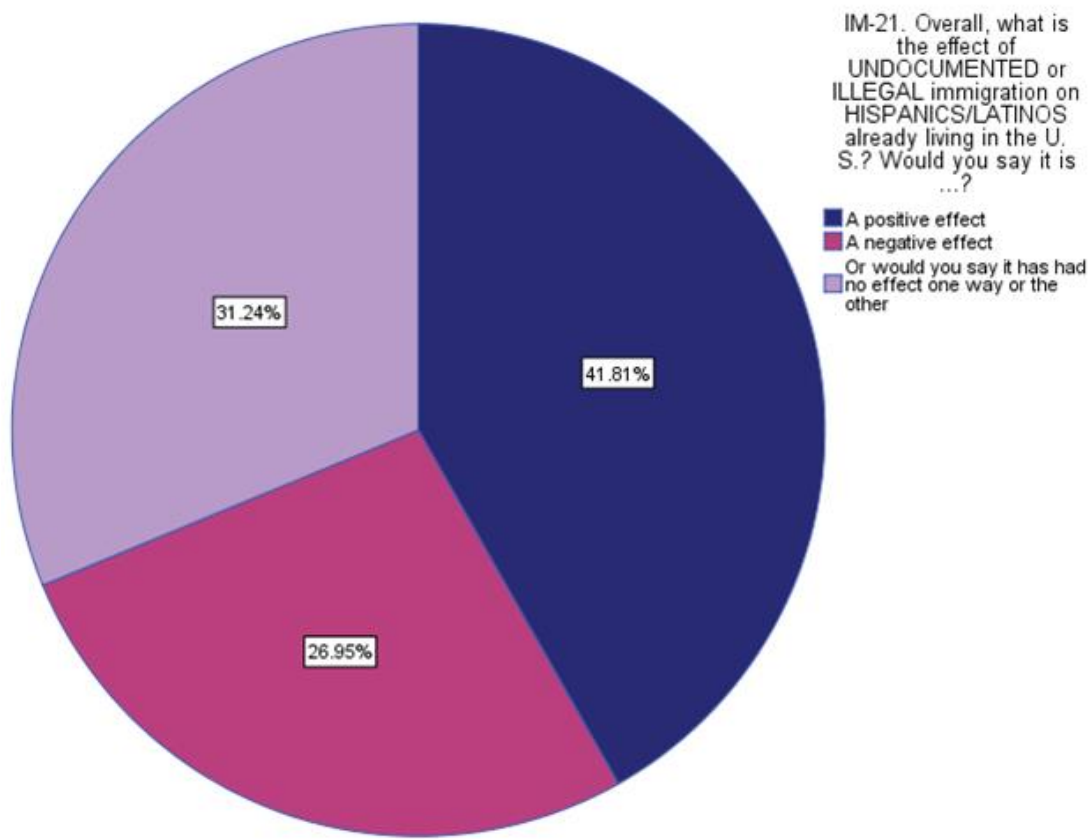
Variables recorded were “Overall, what is the effect of undocumented or illegal immigration on Hispanic/Latinos already living in the U.S.? Would you say it is...?” to remove the “don't know/ refused” individuals. The 3 responses were then “A positive effect”, “A negative effect”, and “Has had no effect”. All of our independent variables also were recoded to take out any missing information or anyone who refused to answer (or didn't know the answer).

Variables

Our dependent variable is the overall effect of undocumented or illegal immigration on Hispanics/Latinos already living in the US. The responses are “a positive effect”, “a negative effect” and “would you say it has had no effect one way or the other”. We discontinued those who did not know the effect of undocumented or illegal immigration on Hispanic/Latinos already living in the US. There were 653 participants taken into account. 41.8 percent answering that the effect of undocumented or illegal immigration on Hispanics/Latinos already living in the United states, said it had a positive effect. While 27 percent said it had a negative effect, and 31.2 said it has neither a negative or a positive effect one way or the other. This variable is nominal and the mode is “A positive effect.”

IM-21. Overall, what is the effect of UNDOCUMENTED or ILLEGAL immigration on HISPANICS/LATINOS already living in the U.S.? Would you say it is ...?

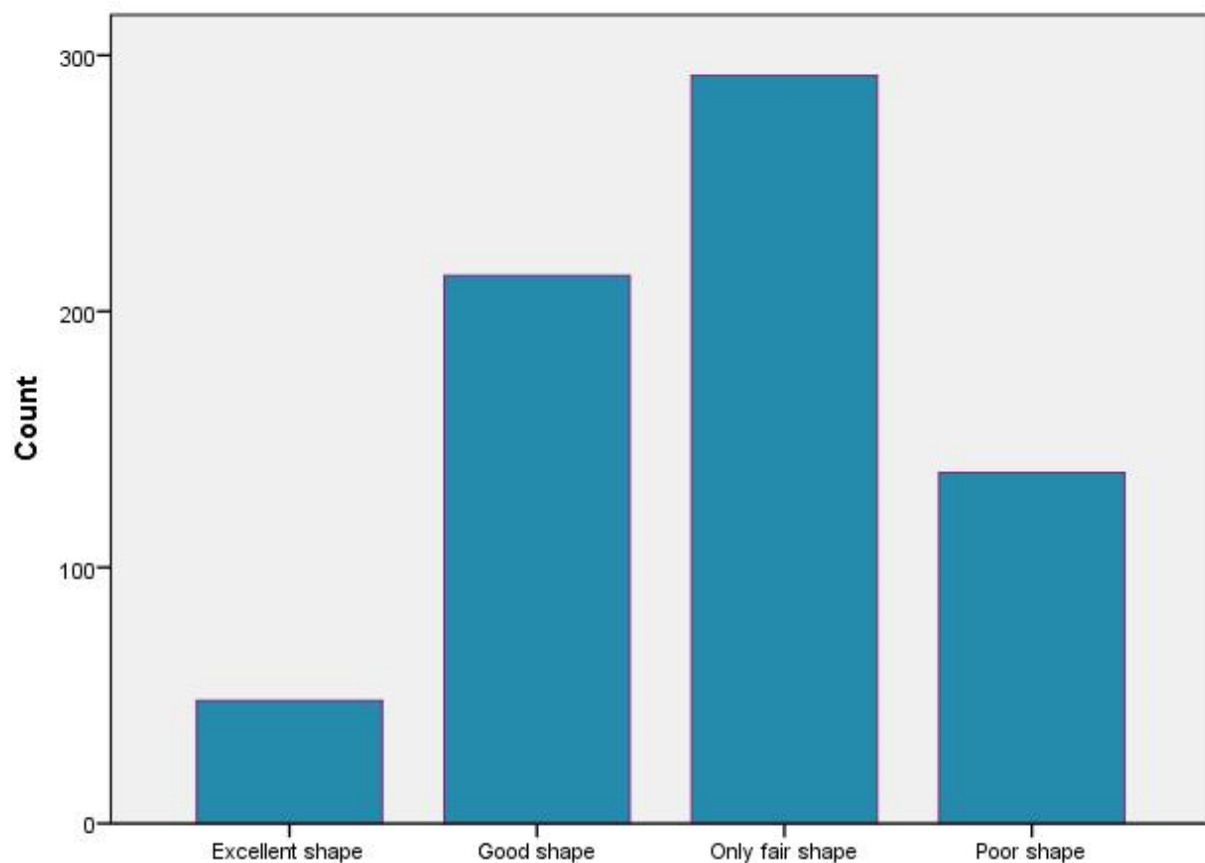
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	A positive effect	273	38.9	41.8	41.8
	A negative effect	176	25.1	27.0	68.8
	Or would you say it has had no effect one way or the other	204	29.1	31.2	100.0
	Total	653	93.2	100.0	
Missing	System	48	6.8		
Total		701	100.0		



Our first independent variable is the financial situation of the participants. The question asked how would each participant rate their own personal financial situation. This variable is ordinal and the median and mode are “Only Fair Shape.” The frequency distribution shows that 42.3% of the participants ranked their financial situation as being “Only Fair Shape” and the cumulative percent rank their financial situation as being “Only Fair Shape” or better. Only 19.8% responded that their financial situation is in “Poor Shape.” The N for this variable is 691, not considering those who did not respond.

**FINSIT. How would you rate your own personal financial situation?
Would you say you are in excellent shape, good shape, only fair
shape or poor shape financially?**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Excellent shape	48	6.8	6.9	6.9
	Good shape	214	30.5	31.0	37.9
	Only fair shape	292	41.7	42.3	80.2
	Poor shape	137	19.5	19.8	100.0
	Total	691	98.6	100.0	
Missing	System	10	1.4		
Total		701	100.0		

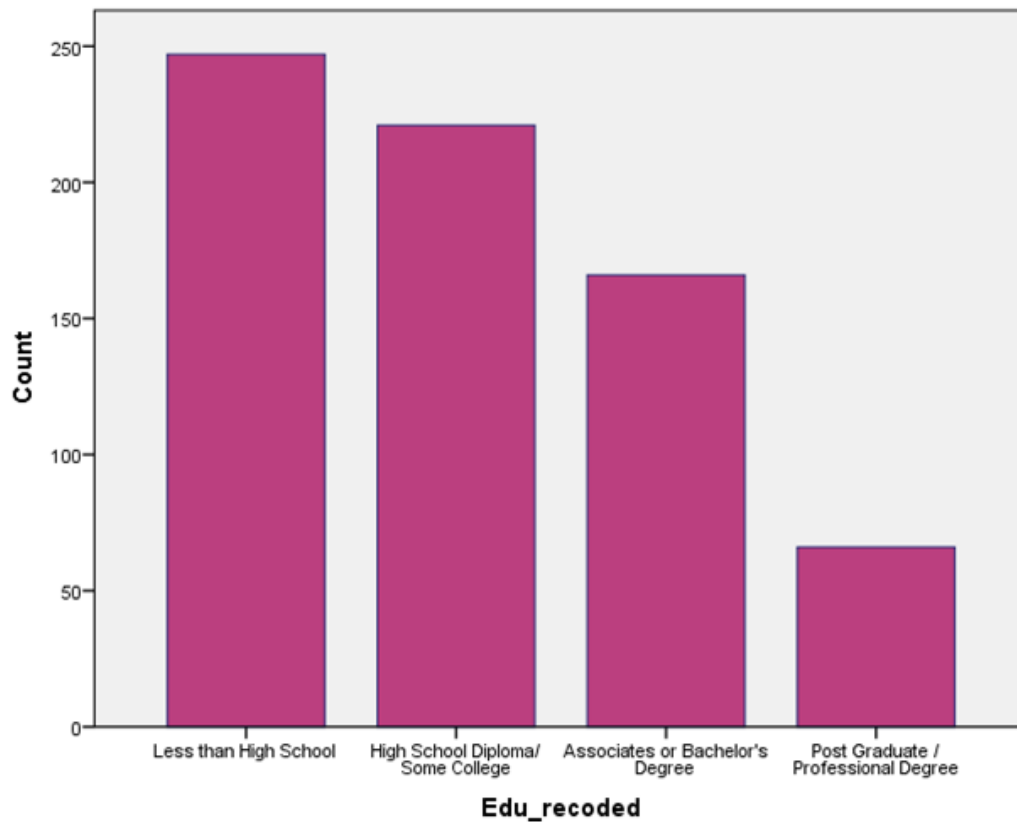


**FINSIT. How would you rate your own personal financial situation? Would
you say you are in excellent shape, good shape, only fair shape or poor
shape financially?**

Those in the survey with a High School Diploma (or GED) or less are more likely to view undocumented or illegal immigration as a positive impact on Hispanic/Latinos already in the U.S. The graph below shows the number of individuals in our survey that identify with the categories “Less than High School”, “High School Diploma/Some College”, “Associate's or Bachelor's Degree” or “Postgraduate/Professional Degree”. Out of 700 participants (not considering the 1 missing person) 35.3 percent of them recorded having an education less than high school. Those who have a high school diploma/ some college make up a valid percent of 31.6. Associate's or Bachelor's degrees came to 23.7 percent and last, postgraduate/professional degrees are 9.4 percent. 66.9 percent of our study has a high school diploma/some college or less. For the variable Education, the median is “High School Diploma/ Some College or less” and the mode is “Less than High School”.

Edu recoded

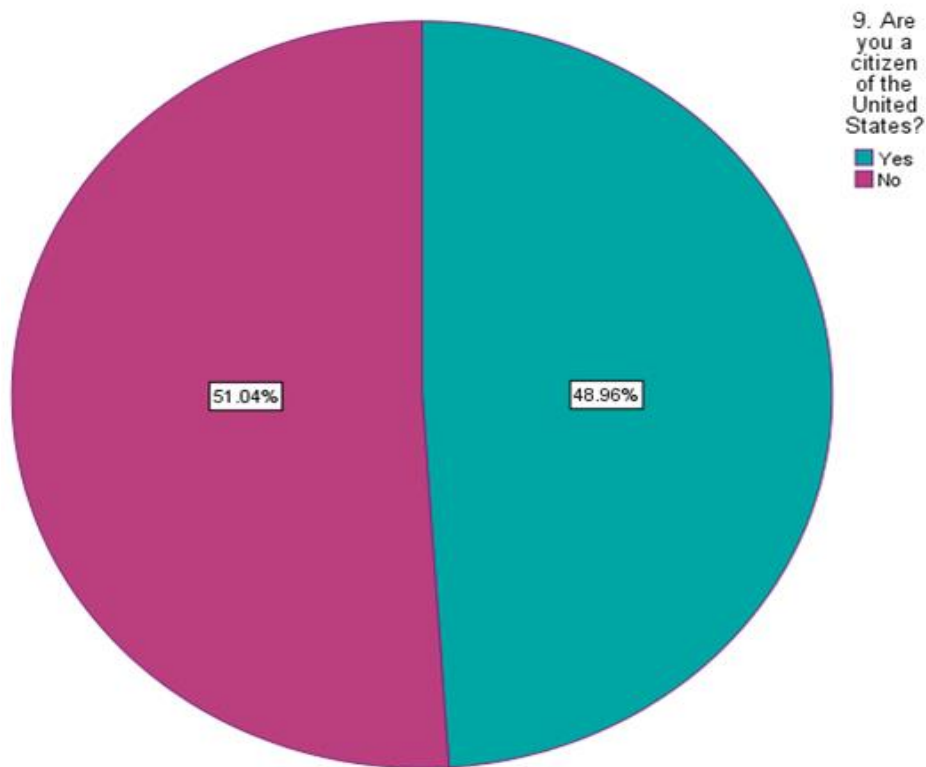
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Less than high school	247	35.2	35.3	35.3
	High School diploma/ Some college	221	31.5	31.6	66.9
	Associate's or Bachelor's Degree	166	23.7	23.7	90.6
	Post Graduate/Professional Degree	66	9.4	9.4	100.0
	Total	700	99.9	100.0	
Missing	System	1	.1		
Total		701	100.0		



The variable for “Are you a citizen of the United states” makes up a total of 384 participants (not considering the 317 missing). The number of individuals in our study were almost split down the middle, those answering “yes” came to a valid percent of 49.0, while those answering “no” made up the other 51 percent. This variable is nominal and the mode is “No.”

9. Are you a citizen of the United States?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	188	26.8	49.0	49.0
	No	196	28.0	51.0	100.0
	Total	384	54.8	100.0	
Missing	System	317	45.2		
Total		701	100.0		



Findings

We found that those who have “less than high school” education are more likely to believe that illegal or undocumented immigration has a positive effect on current Hispanic/Latinos living in the United States. The number of “positive effect” responses by “less than high school” educated participants was 50.7 percent. Out of the “High School/some college” participants, 39.4 percent of them said there was “positive effect”. 71 percent of those in our study who are less educated thinks this immigration is positive ($113+82/273=71.4\%$). 31.9 percent of those with associate's/ bachelor's degrees say illegal or undocumented immigration has a positive impact on Hispanics/Latinos already in America, 44.3 percent of the post graduate/ professional degree participants say, “positive effect”. 28.5 percent of those in our study who are more educated (associated degree or higher) thing illegal or undocumented immigration has a

positive effect on Hispanic/Latinos already in the U.S. Before we can decide if our hypothesis is supported or not we had to calculate our chi square in SPSS. Our Chi square value is 23.7775, with a degree of freedom of 6, with a significance score of .001, lower than the alpha level 0.5. We can confirm that our hypothesis is correct, and there is a significance between the effect of undocumented or illegal immigration on Hispanic/Latinos already living in the U.S. and their level of education. We reject the null hypothesis.

IM-21. Overall, what is the effect of UNDOCUMENTED or ILLEGAL immigration on HISPANICS/LATINOS already living in the U.S.? Would you say it is ...? * Edu_recoded Crosstabulation

			Edu_recoded				Total
			Less than High School	High School Diploma/ Some College	Associates or Bachelor's Degree	Post Graduate / Professional Degree	
IM-21. Overall, what is the effect of UNDOCUMENTED or ILLEGAL immigration on HISPANICS/LATINOS already living in the U.S.? Would you say it is ...?	A positive effect	Count	113	82	51	27	273
		% within Edu_recoded	50.7%	39.4%	31.9%	44.3%	41.9%
	A negative effect	Count	42	53	61	19	175
		% within Edu_recoded	18.8%	25.5%	38.1%	31.1%	26.8%
	Or would you say it has had no effect one way or the other	Count	68	73	48	15	204
		% within Edu_recoded	30.5%	35.1%	30.0%	24.6%	31.3%
Total	Count	223	208	160	61	652	
	% within Edu_recoded	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	

Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	23.775 ^a	6	.001
Likelihood Ratio	23.622	6	.001
Linear-by-Linear Association	1.310	1	.252
N of Valid Cases	652		

a. 0 cells (0.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 16.37.

We found that 45.8% of participants who are citizens say the overall effect of undocumented immigration on Hispanic/Latinos already living in the U.S. is a positive effect. Similarly, we found that 52.8% who are not citizens say the effect of undocumented immigration

on Hispanic/Latinos is a positive effect. Overall 49.4% of participants say undocumented immigration is a positive effect compared to 23.1% of those who say it is a negative effect. The chi square value is 1.863 with a degree of freedom of 2 and a significance score of .394. The significance score is higher than the alpha level 0.5, meaning it is not significant. We can confirm that our hypothesis is incorrect, and there is no significance between the effect of undocumented or illegal immigration on Hispanic/Latinos already living in the U.S. and their citizenship status. We can't reject the null hypothesis.

IM-21. Overall, what is the effect of UNDOCUMENTED or ILLEGAL immigration on HISPANICS/LATINOS already living in the U.S.? Would you say it is ...? * 9. Are you a citizen of the United States? Crosstabulation

			9. Are you a citizen of the United States?		Total
			Yes	No	
IM-21. Overall, what is the effect of UNDOCUMENTED or ILLEGAL immigration on HISPANICS/LATINOS already living in the U.S.? Would you say it is ...?	A positive effect	Count	77	94	171
		% within 9. Are you a citizen of the United States?	45.8%	52.8%	49.4%
	A negative effect	Count	43	37	80
		% within 9. Are you a citizen of the United States?	25.6%	20.8%	23.1%
	Or would you say it has had no effect one way or the other	Count	48	47	95
		% within 9. Are you a citizen of the United States?	28.6%	26.4%	27.5%
Total	Count		168	178	346
	% within 9. Are you a citizen of the United States?		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	1.863 ^a	2	.394
Likelihood Ratio	1.865	2	.394
Linear-by-Linear Association	1.000	1	.317
N of Valid Cases	346		

a. 0 cells (0.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 38.84.

We found that 43.2% of participants with an excellent financial situation say the overall effect of undocumented immigration on Hispanic/Latinos already living in the U.S. is a positive effect. 38.9% of those with a good financial situation say it is also a positive effect. 45% with only a fair shape financial situation say it is positive effect while 24% of those in fair shape say it is a negative effect. 38.6% with a poor financial situation say it is a positive effect while only 28.3% of those in poor shape say it is a negative effect. The chi square value is 3.374 with a degree of freedom of 6 and a significance score of .761. The significance score is higher than the alpha level 0.5, meaning we can't reject the null hypothesis. We can confirm that our hypothesis is incorrect, and there is no significance between the effect of undocumented or illegal immigration on Hispanic/Latinos already living in the U.S. and their financial situation.

IM-21. Overall, what is the effect of UNDOCUMENTED or ILLEGAL immigration on HISPANICS/LATINOS already living in the U.S.? Would you say it is ...? * FINSIT. How would you rate your own personal financial situation? Would you say you are in excellent shape, good shape, only fair shape or poor shape financially? Crosstabulation

			FINSIT. How would you rate your own personal financial situation? Would you say you are in excellent shape, good shape, only fair shape or poor shape financially?				
			Excellent shape	Good shape	Only fair shape	Poor shape	Total
IM-21. Overall, what is the effect of UNDOCUMENTED or ILLEGAL immigration on HISPANICS/LATINOS already living in the U.S.? Would you say it is ...?	A positive effect	Count	19	79	122	49	269
		% within FINSIT. How would you rate your own personal financial situation? Would you say you are in excellent shape, good shape, only fair shape or poor shape financially?	43.2%	38.9%	45.0%	38.6%	41.7%
	A negative effect	Count	13	60	65	36	174
		% within FINSIT. How would you rate your own personal financial situation? Would you say you are in excellent shape, good shape, only fair shape or poor shape financially?	29.5%	29.6%	24.0%	28.3%	27.0%
	Or would you say it has had no effect one way or the other	Count	12	64	84	42	202
		% within FINSIT. How would you rate your own personal financial situation? Would you say you are in excellent shape, good shape, only fair shape or poor shape financially?	27.3%	31.5%	31.0%	33.1%	31.3%
Total		Count	44	203	271	127	645
		% within FINSIT. How would you rate your own personal financial situation? Would you say you are in excellent shape, good shape, only fair shape or poor shape financially?	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	3.374 ^a	6	.761
Likelihood Ratio	3.396	6	.758
Linear-by-Linear Association	.074	1	.786
N of Valid Cases	645		

a. 0 cells (0.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 11.87.

Conclusion

While conducting the necessary research we expected to find 3 significant relationships. A relationship between “effect of undocumented or illegal immigration on Hispanic/Latinos already living in the U.S.” and the participants level of education. A relationship between the “effect of undocumented or illegal immigration on Hispanic/Latinos already living in the U.S.” and their citizenship status. The last relationship we expected to find to support our third and last hypothesis was a relationship between “effect of undocumented or illegal immigration on Hispanic/Latinos already living in the U.S.” and the participants’ financial situation (or in other words their level of financial satisfaction).

In hopes to find three relationships, we only found one significant enough to reject the null hypothesis. The relationship significant enough was in support of our first hypothesis, that those in the survey with a High School Diploma (or GED) or less are more likely to view undocumented or illegal immigration as a positive impact on the Hispanics/Latinos in the U.S. Education does relate to views on illegal/undocumented immigration. Our second hypothesis, that those in the survey who are not U.S citizens are more likely to view undocumented or illegal immigration as a positive impact on the Hispanics/Latinos in the U.S, had no significant relationship. The third and final hypothesis, that those in the survey who ranked their financial situation as fair or worse are more likely to view undocumented or illegal immigration as a negative effect on Hispanic/Latinos already living in the U.S, had no significant relationship. One out of the three hypothesis was correct.

There were some discrepancies present in our study. To begin, not every participant in the study answered every question. We also noticed the study was not a big sample size. The

survey was conducted with 701 participants. Not only was it not a big sample, it was not a random sample. The sample consisted of Hispanic contacts from the 2013 Pew Research Center's National Survey of Latinos (n=401) and Hispanic respondents interviewed through SSRS's general Omnibus population (n=300). This survey used recontacted participants who already participated in another survey.