

Latinos and Education: Explaining the Attainment Gap

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Nearly nine-in-ten (89%) Latino young adults¹ say that a college education is important for success in life, yet only about half that number—48%—say that they themselves plan to get a college degree, according to a new national survey of Latinos by the Pew Hispanic Center, a project of the Pew Research Center.

The biggest reason for the gap between the high value Latinos place on education and their more modest aspirations to finish college appears to come from financial pressure to support a family, the survey finds.

Nearly three-quarters (74%) of all 16- to 25-year-old survey respondents who cut their education short during or right after high school say they did so because they had to support their family. Other reasons include poor English skills (cited by about half of respondents who cut short their education), a dislike of school and a feeling that they don't need more education for the careers they want (each cited by about four-in-ten respondents who cut their education short).

Latino schooling in the U.S. has long been characterized by high dropout rates and low college completion rates ([Kewal Ramani, Gilbertson, Fox, and Provasnik, 2007](#)). Both problems have moderated over time, but a persistent educational attainment gap remains between Hispanics and non-Hispanic whites.²

The Pew Hispanic Center survey finds that there actually are two different gaps in the educational aspirations of the young. One is between Hispanic young adults ages 18 to 25 and the general U.S. population of that age group. Some 48% of the former group expects to get a college degree or more, compared with 60% of the latter group.³

But a second gap is even bigger, and it largely explains the first gap. It is between young Latinos who are immigrants and those who are native born. Less than one-in-three (29%) immigrant Latinos ages 18 to 25 say they plan to get a bachelor's

¹ In this report, the terms “young adults” and “youths” are used to describe those who are ages 16 to 25 unless otherwise indicated.

² For more background see the Pew Hispanic Center report “The Changing Pathways of Hispanic Youths into Adulthood” by Richard Fry, 2009.

³ For more background on the general U.S. young adult population ages 18 to 25, see the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press report “[How Young People View Their Lives, Futures and Politics: A Portrait of Generation Next](#)” (2007).

degree or more, half the share (60%) of native-born young Latinos who say the same.

The foreign born make up 35% of all Latino youths, and they are much more likely than native-born Latino youths to be supporting or helping to support a family, either in the U.S. or in their native country. In 2007, 29% of all immigrant female Hispanics ages 16 to 25 were mothers, compared with 17% of native-born female Hispanics and 12% of white females (Fry, 2009).⁴ In addition, nearly two-thirds (64%) of all immigrant Hispanics ages 18 to 25 say they send remittances to family members in their country of origin, compared with just 21% of their U.S. born counterparts ([Lopez and Livingston, 2009](#)). In short, young immigrant Hispanics appear to have financial commitments that limit their ability to pursue more education, even though they see a college education as important for success in life.

According to data from the Census Bureau, 33% of Latinos ages 18 to 24 are enrolled in school, compared with 42% of all young adults ages 18 to 24. And according to results from the National Assessment of Educational Progress, Latinos who *are* in middle school have significant gap in reading and mathematics achievement with their non-Hispanic white and Asian student counterparts.⁵

When asked why Latinos on average do not do as well as other students in school, more respondents in the Pew Hispanic Center survey blame poor parenting and poor English skills than blame poor teachers. The explanation that Latino students don't work as hard as other students is cited by the fewest survey respondents; fewer than four-in-ten (38%) see that as a major reason for the achievement gap.

This report is based on a bilingual telephone survey of a nationally representative sample of 2,012 Hispanics ages 16 and older, with an oversample of 1,240 young Hispanics ages 16 to 25. Interviews were conducted from Aug. 5 to Sept. 16, 2009. The margin of error for the complete sample of Hispanics is plus or minus 3.7 percentage points at the 95% confidence level. The margin of error for respondents ages 16 to 25 is plus or minus 4.55 percentage points, and the margin of error for respondents ages 26 and older is plus or minus 4.76 percentage points.

⁴ Fry (2009) defines foreign-born Latinos as Latinos born in another country, in the outlying U.S. territories, or on the island of Puerto Rico. In this report, only Hispanics born in another country are classified as foreign born; Hispanics born on the island of Puerto Rico or in outlying U.S. territories are classified as native born. However the gap in motherhood between foreign-born and native-born Latinos is not sensitive to the nativity classification of Hispanics born in Puerto Rico.

⁵ According to the National Center for Education Statistics, in 2005 among eighth-graders, a smaller share of Hispanic students (15%) than non-Hispanic white (39%) or Asian/Pacific Islander (40%) students scored at or above proficient on the reading assessment of the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). On the 2005 mathematics assessment of the NAEP, among eighth-graders, a smaller percentage of Hispanic (13%) students than non-Hispanic white (39%) or Asian/Pacific Islander (47%) students scored at or above proficient ([Kewal Ramani, Gilbertson, Fox and Provasnik, 2007](#)).

Among the key findings:

Hispanics say a college education is important for getting ahead in life:

- Nearly nine-in-ten (88%) Hispanics agree that a college degree is important for getting ahead in life, greater than the share (74%) of the general public that says the same ([Pew Social & Demographic Trends, 2009](#)).
- Young Hispanics (89%) are more likely than all young people (84%) to agree that a college degree is important for getting ahead in life than all young people ages 16 to 25.
- Virtually identical shares of Hispanic adults ages 26 and older (88%) and all Hispanics ages 16 to 25 (89%) say a college degree is important for getting ahead in life. By contrast, there is an age gap on this question among the overall U.S. population—74% of adults ages 26 and older and 82% of youths ages 16 to 25 agree that a college degree is important for getting ahead in life ([Pew Social & Demographic Trends, 2009](#)).

Latino youths report that their parents place a great emphasis on the need to go to college:

- More than three-quarters (77%) of Latinos ages 16 to 25 say their parents think going to college is the most important thing to do after high school. Just 11% say their parents think getting a full-time job after high school is the most important thing to do.

Educational aspirations of Hispanic youths do not match the level of importance Hispanics place on college, and trail those of all youth:

- Just under half (48%) of Latinos ages 18 to 25 say they plan to obtain a bachelor's degree or more. By contrast, 60% of all young adults ages 18 to 25 say they want to obtain a bachelor's degree or more ([The Pew Research Center for the People and the Press, 2007](#)).
- Among native-born young Latinos ages 16 to 25, six-in-ten (60%) say they want to obtain a bachelor's degree or more, matching the share of all youths who say the same (60%).

- Among foreign-born young Latinos ages 16 to 25, nearly three-in-ten (29%) say they plan to obtain a bachelor's degree or more. However, a higher share (36%) of foreign-born young Latinos says they do not want to continue their education.
- Among Latino youths who are currently enrolled in high school, nearly six-in-ten (57%) say they plan to obtain a bachelor's degree or more. Just 15% say finishing high school is as far as they plan to go in school.
- Among Latino youths who are currently in college, 87% say they plan to obtain a bachelor's degree or more.
- Among Latinos ages 16 to 25 who are not currently enrolled in school, nearly three-in-ten (29%) say they plan to obtain a bachelor's degree or more. However, 38% say they do not plan to return to school.

According to Census Bureau data, Latino youths are less likely to be enrolled in school than all youths:

- Latinos ages 18 to 24 are less likely to say they are currently enrolled in school than all young adults ages 18 to 24—33% versus 42%.
- Native-born Latinos ages 18 to 24 are more likely to say they are enrolled in school than foreign-born Latinos in the same age group—40% versus 20%.
- More than one-third (36%) of Hispanic females ages 18 to 24 say they are enrolled in school. In contrast, 30% of Hispanic males ages 18 to 24 say they're in school.
- Among Latinos ages 18 to 24, about one-quarter (24%) say they are enrolled in college or graduate school. More than one-third (34%) of all young adults ages 18-24 say the same.

Latino adults (ages 26 and older) see a mix of reasons that Latinos students do not perform as well as other groups in school:

- More than six-in-ten (61%) say a major reason is that parents of Hispanic students do not play an active role in helping their children succeed.
- Nearly six-in-ten (58%) say the limited English skills of Hispanic students is a major reason.

- Almost half (47%) say the different cultural backgrounds of Hispanic students and their teachers is a major reason.
- More than four-in-ten (41%) say Hispanic students not working as hard as other students is a major reason.

Fewer Latino youths (ages 16 to 25) than Latino adults cite all of these reasons to explain why Hispanic students are not doing as well as other students in school:

- Less than half (47%) say parents of Hispanic students not playing an active role in helping their children succeed is a major reason.
- More than four-in-ten (44%) say the different cultural backgrounds of Hispanic students and their teachers is a major reason.
- More than four-in-ten (43%) say the limited English skills of Hispanic students is a major reason.
- Less than a third (31%) say Hispanic students not working as hard as other students is a major reason.

Latino youths generally give positive evaluations of their high schools and the roles their parents play or played in their education:

- Two-thirds (66%) of Latino youths strongly agree that they are receiving or received a good education at their high school.
- More than six-in-ten (62%) Latino youths strongly agree that teachers in their high school are working or worked to help them succeed.
- Almost two-thirds (65%) of Latino youths strongly agree that their parents play or played an active role in their education.

Latino youths ages 16 to 25 in college, or with college experience, also rate their colleges and universities highly:

- Among current and former Latino college students ages 16 to 25, eight-in-ten (80%) strongly agree that they are receiving or received a good education.
- When asked about their professors or college instructors, 57% of current and former Latino college students say they strongly agree that their professors help or helped with their success.

- Six-in-ten (60%) current and former Latino college students say their parents play or played an active role in their college education.

Among Latino youths who have a high school education or less and are not currently enrolled in school, the reasons they give for not continuing their education are:

- Nearly three-quarters (74%) say they need to help support their family.
- Half (49%) say their English skills are limited.
- More than four-in-ten (42%) say they didn't like school.
- Four-in-ten (40%) say they cannot afford to go to school.
- Almost four-in-ten (39%) say they don't need more education for the career they want.
- More than two-in-ten (21%) say their grades were not high enough.

About this Report

This report was prepared for the Latino Children, Families, and Schooling National Conference sponsored jointly by the Education Writers Association, Pew Hispanic Center and National Panel on Latino Children and Schooling. The conference was held on Tuesday, Oct. 6, 2009 at the Pew Hispanic Center in Washington, D.C.

The 2009 National Survey of Latinos asked Hispanics ages 16 and older about their educational goals, experiences with high schools and colleges, and their opinions about educational institutions. The survey was conducted from Aug. 5 through Sept. 16, 2009, among a randomly selected, nationally representative sample of 2,012 Hispanics ages 16 and older, with an oversample of 1,240 Hispanics ages 16 to 25. The survey was conducted in both English and Spanish. The margin of error for the full sample is plus or minus 3.7 percentage points at the 95% confidence level. The margin of error for respondents ages 16 to 25 is plus or minus 4.55 percentage points, and the margin of error for respondents ages 26 and older is plus or minus 4.76 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.”

“Foreign born” refers to people born outside of the United States, Puerto Rico or other U.S. territories to parents neither of whom was a U.S. citizen.

“Native born” refers to people who are U.S. citizens at birth, including those born in the United States, Puerto Rico or other U.S. territories and those born abroad to parents at least one of whom was a U.S. citizen.

About the Author

Mark Hugo Lopez is the associate director of the Pew Hispanic Center. Prior to joining the Center, Lopez was research director of the Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement as well as an assistant professor at the University of Maryland’s School of Public Policy. His areas of expertise include youth, crime, labor economics, civic engagement, and voting behavior. He received his Ph.D. in economics from Princeton University.

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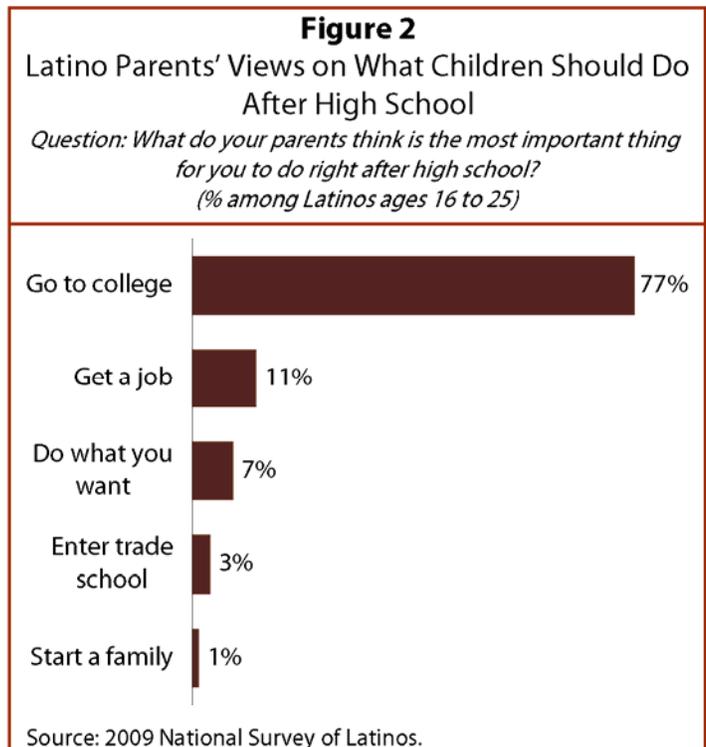
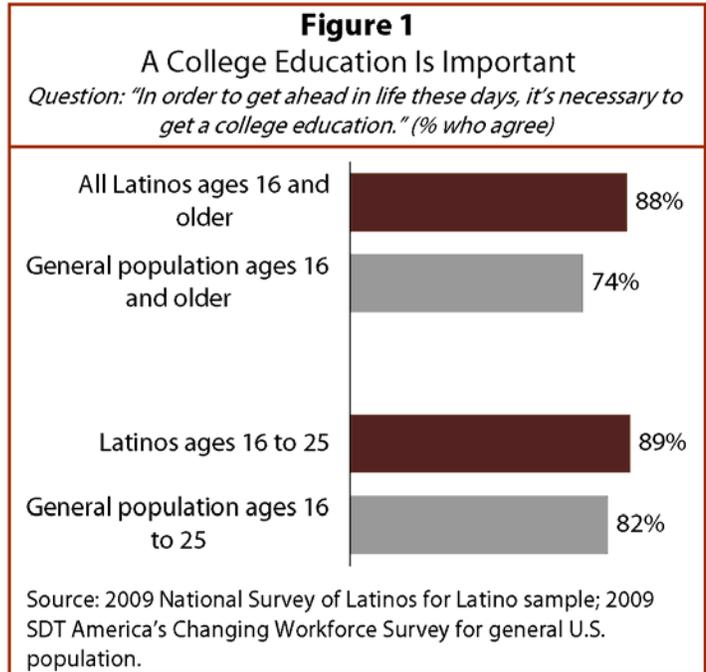
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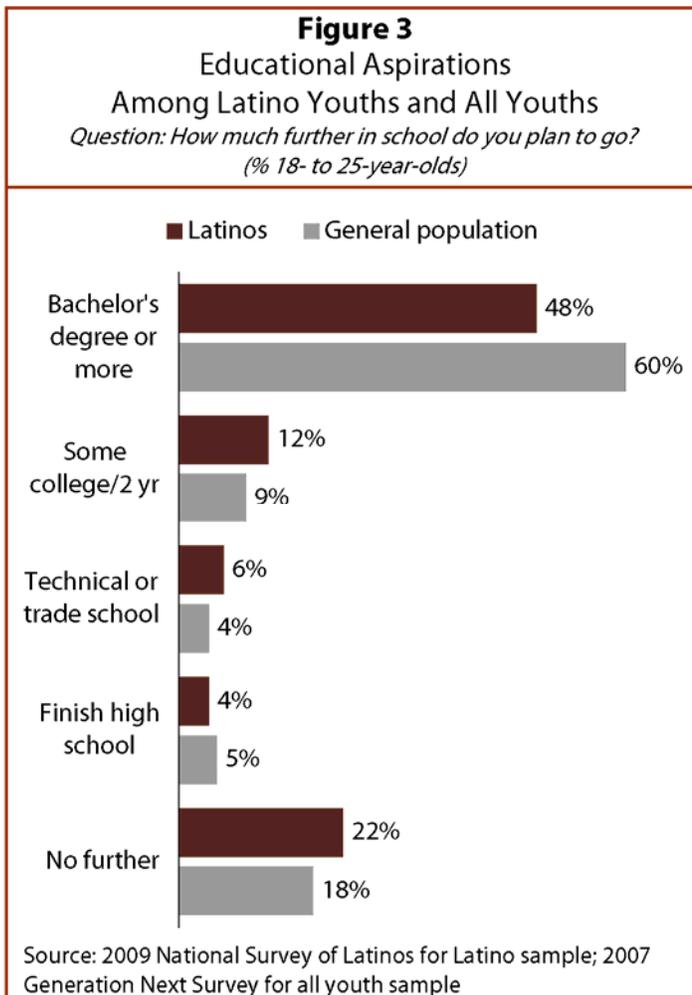
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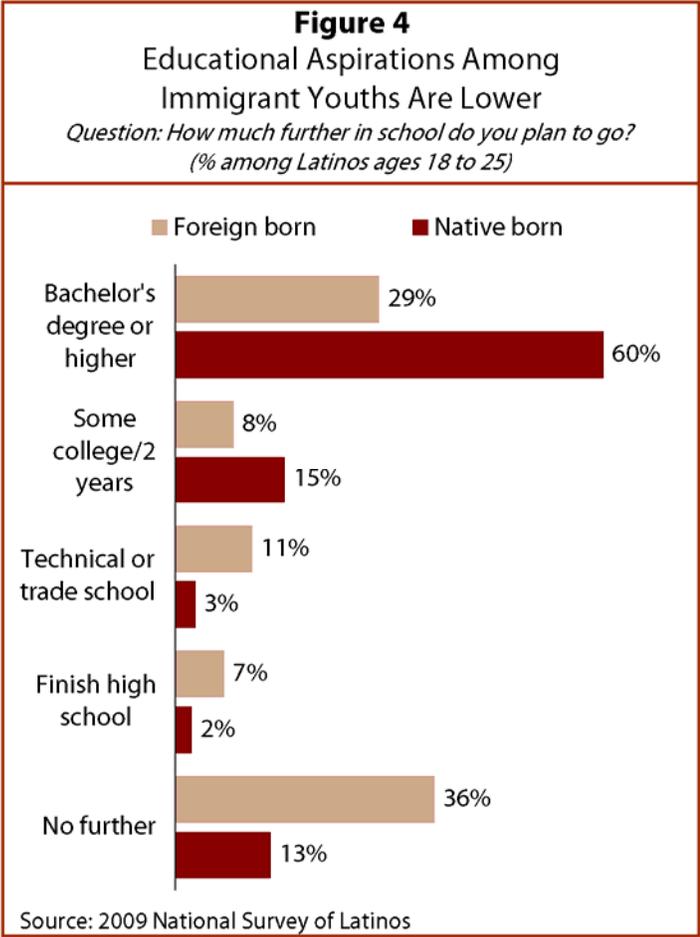
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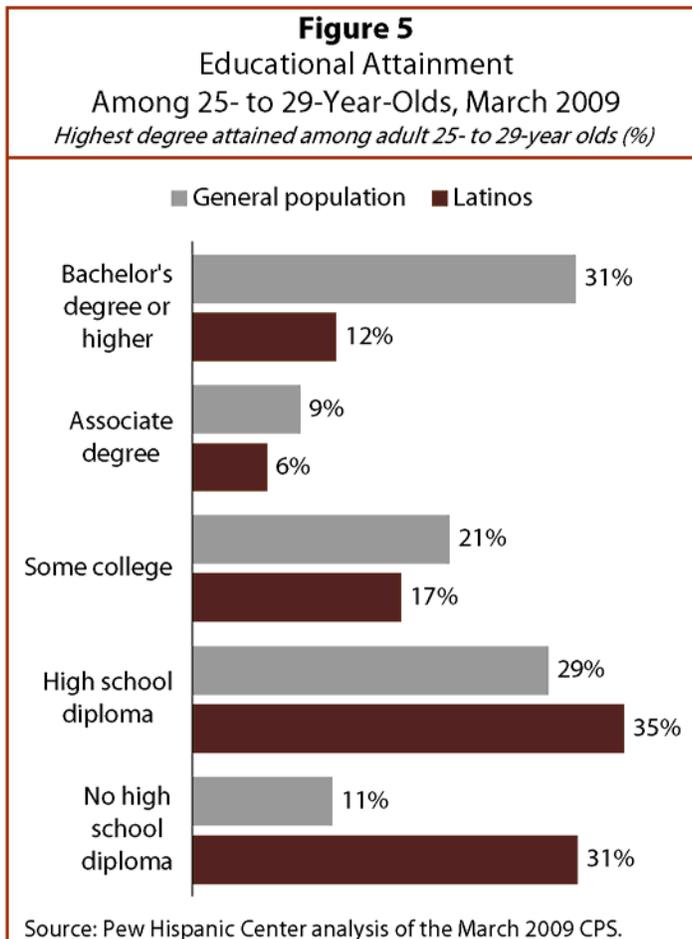
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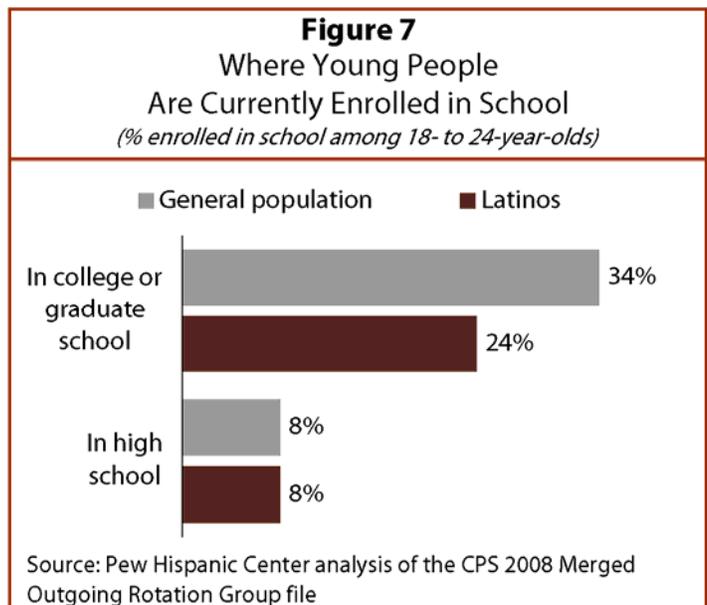
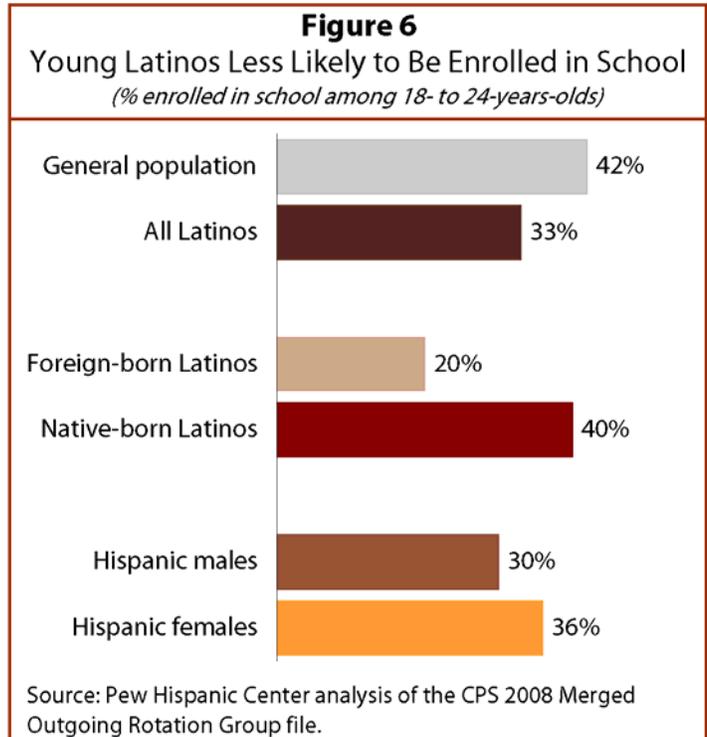




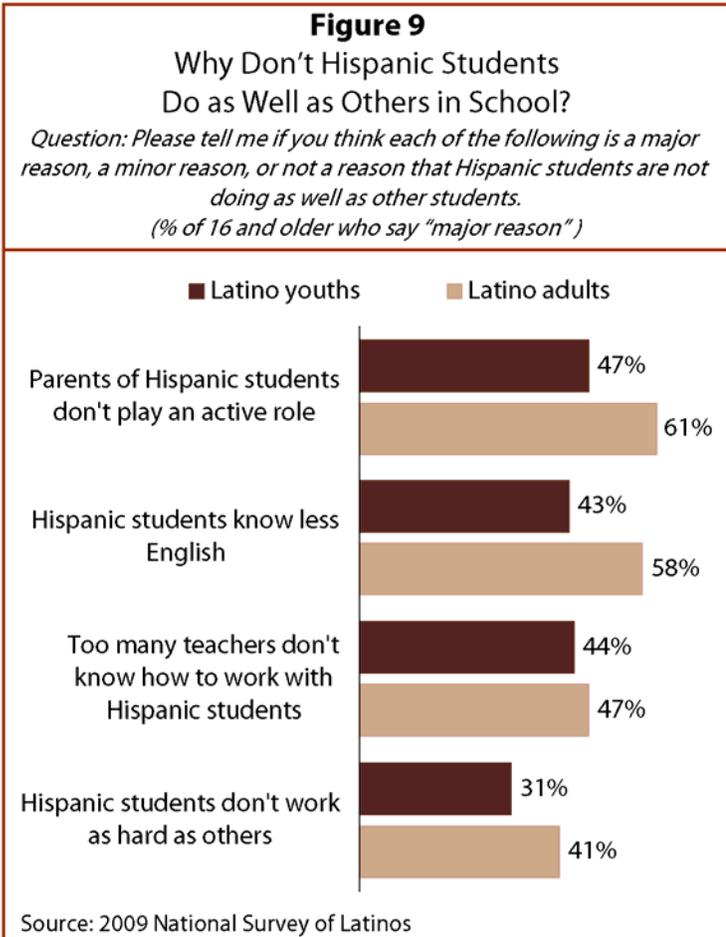
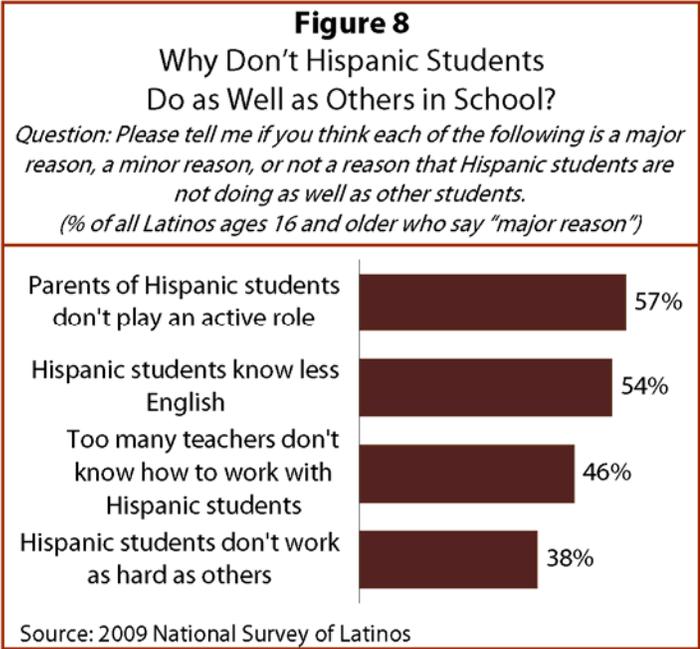


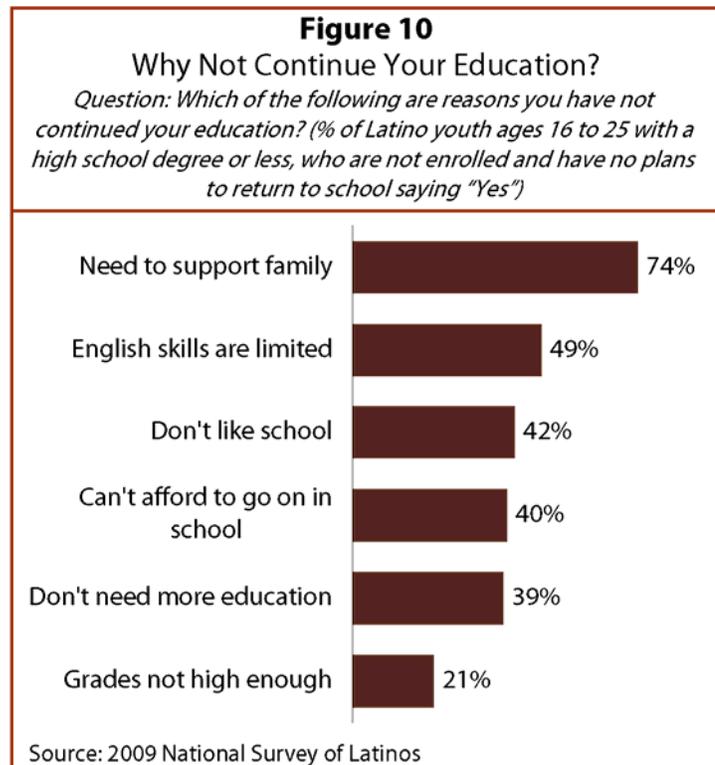
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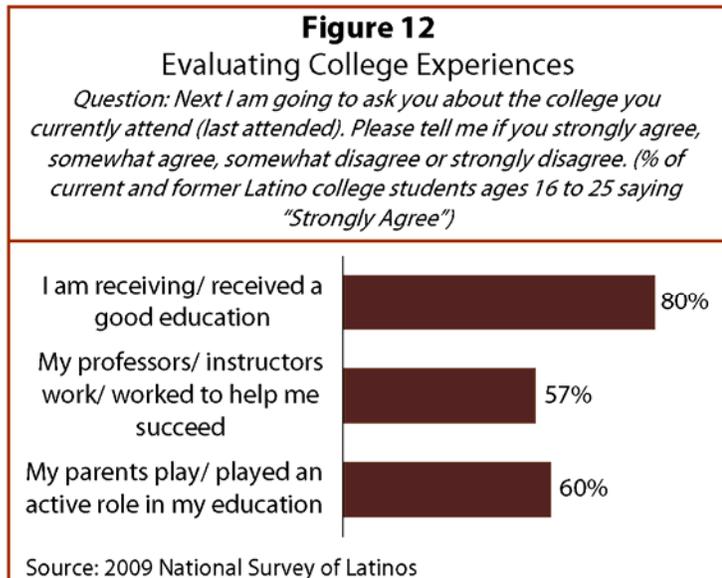
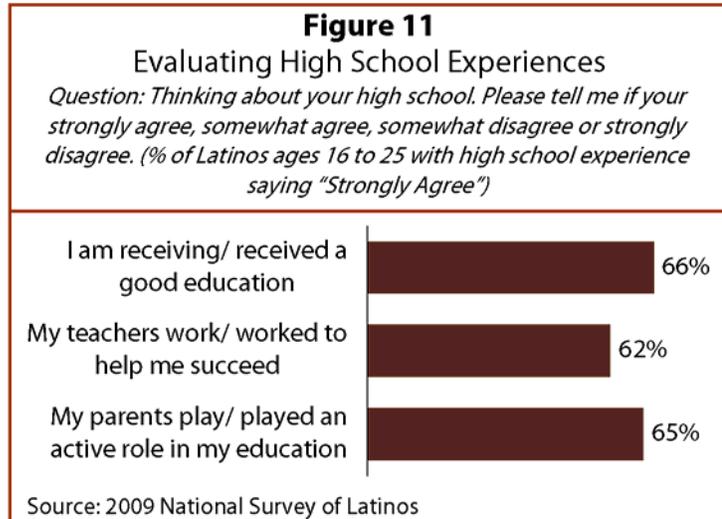


3. Explaining the Latino Education Achievement Gap





4. Young Latinos' Evaluations of High Schools and Colleges



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Appendix A: 2009 National Survey of Latinos Topline

The study was conducted for the Pew Hispanic via telephone by SSRS/ICR, an independent research company. Interviews were conducted from Aug. 5 to Sept. 16, 2009 among a nationally representative sample of 2,012 Hispanic respondents age 16 and older. Of those, a total of 1,360 were contacted via landline and a total of 652 were contacted on their cell phones. We conducted interviews with 1,079 native-born Hispanics (Puerto Rico included) and 931 foreign-born (Puerto Rico excluded). We also conducted interviews with 1,240 respondents age 16 to 25 and 772 respondents age 26 or older. The margin of error for total Hispanic respondents is +/- 3.70 at the 95% confidence level. The margin of error for native-born respondents is +/- 5.27. The margin of error for foreign-born respondents is +/- 5.18. The margin of error for respondents age 16 to 25 is +/-4.55, and the margin of error for respondents age 26+ is +/-4.76.

More information about SSRS can be obtained by visiting www.ssrs.com

13. What is the last grade or class that you completed in school?

	Total	Native Born	Foreign Born	Ages 16 to 25	Ages 26 and older
Less than high school (NET)	41	28	52	45	39
None, or grade 1-8	19	5	30	11	21
High school incomplete (grades 9-11)	22	23	22	34	18
High school graduate (NET)	29	30	28	28	30
High school graduate (grade 12 or GED certificate)	26	28	25	26	26
Technical, trade, or vocational school AFTER high school	3	2	4	1	4
Some college + (NET)	30	42	20	27	31
Some college, no 4-year degree (including associate degree)	18	26	11	22	16
College graduate (B.S., B.A., or other 4-year degree)	9	12	6	3	11
Postgraduate training or professional schooling after college (e.g., toward a master's degree or Ph.D.; law or medical school)	3	4	3	1	4
Don't know	*	*	*	*	-
Refused	*	*	*	*	*

	07/08*	11/07**	07/06***	06/04****	03/04*****	06/02*****
High school or less (NET)	38	39	69	72	68	74
None, or grade 1-8	19	20	20	20	20	19
High school incomplete (grades 9-11)	19	19	18	21	21	24
HS grad	31	30	25	24	25	26
GED	25	27	2	2	2	2
Some college (NET)	2	2	NA	NA	NA	NA
Business, technical, or vocational school after high school	3	2	5	4	3	3
Some college, no 4-year degree	27	28	14	17	17	16
College + (NET)	17	17	10	10	10	9
College graduate	8	9	8	7	7	7
Postgraduate training or professional schooling after college	3	2	2	3	2	2
Refused	4	3	6	2	2	NA

	Less than HS	HS grad (grade 12 or GED certificate)	Some college, no 4-year degree (including associate degree)	College grad (B.S., B.A., or other 4-year degree)	Don't know/refused
*2006 ages 18 to 25	13	39	21	27	*

*GenNext 2006 Age 18-25 Q.EDUC

(Asked of Latinos who are Ages 16 to 25; n = 1167; native born = 713; foreign born = 454)
 14. Are you currently enrolled in school?

	-----YES-----					No	Don't know	Refused
	NET	In high school	In technical, trade or vocational school	In college (undergrad)	In graduate school			
Ages 16 to 25	48	21	2	24	1	51	*	-
Native born	59	25	2	31	1	41	*	-
Foreign born	31	15	3	12	*	69	*	-
*2006 ages 18-25	46	8	3	32	3	56	*	--

*GenNext 2006 Ages 18 to 25 Q.SCHL – dk/ref combined

(Asked of Latinos who are Ages 16 to 25 and have completed high school or more or are currently enrolled in tech school, college or grad school; n = 744; native born = 479; foreign born = 265)

14a. Have you ever attended a 2-year college or a community college?

	Yes	No	Don't know	Refused
Ages 16 to 25	45	55	*	-
Native born	50	50	*	-
Foreign born	31	69	-	-

(Asked of Latinos who are Ages 16 to 25 and currently enrolled in school; n = 571; native born = 422; foreign born = 149)

15. How much further in school do you plan to go?

	Ages 16 to 25	Native Born	Foreign Born	*2006 Ages 18 to 25
Finish high school	7	5	13	2
Technical, trade, or vocational school	6	2	17	4
Attend college, no degree or 2-year/associate degree	11	11	10	10
Attend college, bachelor's degree	39	41	32	34
Graduate or professional school or degree	33	37	22	47
No further	1	*	1	1
Other	1	1	*	*
Don't know	3	4	3	2
Refused	*	-	1	--

*GenNext 2006 Age 18-25 Q.23 – dk/ref combined

9a/14/15. Combo Table

Base = Total Latinos who are Ages 16 to 25; n = 1167; native born = 713; foreign born = 454

	Ages 16 to 25	Native Born	Foreign Born
Currently enrolled in school (NET)	48	59	31
Plan to finish high school	3	3	4
Plan to go to technical, trade, or vocational school	3	1	5
Plan to attend college, no degree or 2-year/associate degree	5	6	3
Plan to attend college, bachelor's degree	19	24	10
Plan to go to graduate or professional school or degree	16	22	7
Plan something else	*	*	*
Do not plan to go any further	*	*	*
Not currently enrolled in school	51	41	69
Don't know	*	*	*
Refused	-	-	-

(Asked of Latinos who are Ages 16 to 25 and are not currently enrolled in school; n = 596; native born = 291; foreign born = 305)

16. Do you ever plan to return to school?

	Yes	No	Don't know	Refused
Ages 16 to 25	62	35	2	*
Native born	71	27	2	-
Foreign born	53	44	3	*
*2006 ages 18-25	68	28	4	--

*Modified from GenNext 2006 Ages 18 to 25 Q.RSCHL – dk/ref combined

(Asked of Latinos who are ages 16 to 25 and plan to return to school; n = 349; native born = 190; foreign born = 159)

17. How much further in school do you plan to go?

	Ages 16 to 25	Native Born	Foreign Born	*2006 Ages 18 to 25
Finish high school	8	6	11	10
Technical, trade, or vocational school	10	5	16	7
Attend college, no degree or 2-year/associate degree	22	26	16	13
Attend college, bachelor's degree	27	28	25	39
Graduate or professional school or degree	20	25	13	24
No further	-	-	-	*
Other	1	*	1	2
Don't know	12	9	17	5
Refused	*	-	1	--

*GenNext 2006 Ages 18 to 25 Q.RSCHL2 – dk/ref combined

14/16/17. Combo Table

Base = Total Latinos who are ages 16 to 25; n = 1167; native born = 713; foreign born = 454

	Ages 16 to 25	Native Born	Foreign Born
Not currently enrolled in school (NET)	52	41	69
Plan to return to school (subnet)	32	29	37
Plan to finish high school	3	2	4
Plan to go to technical, trade, or vocational school	3	2	6
Plan to attend college, no degree or 2-year/associate degree	7	8	6
Plan to attend college, bachelor's degree	9	8	9
Plan to go to graduate or professional school or degree	7	7	5
Plan something else	*	*	*
Do not plan to return to school	18	11	30
Currently enrolled in high school	21	25	15
Currently enrolled in technical/trade/vocational school	2	2	3
Currently enrolled in college	24	31	12
Currently enrolled in graduate school	1	1	*

(Asked of Latinos who are ages 16 to 25 and currently enrolled in high school; n = 248; native born = 187; foreign born = 61)

20a. Still thinking about your school. Please tell me if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with the following statements. How about (INSERT)?

a. I am receiving a good education

	Ages 16 to 25	Native Born	Foreign Born
Agree (NET)	97	98	97
Strongly	73	71	78
Somewhat	25	27	19
Disagree (NET)	3	2	3
Somewhat	2	2	-
Strongly	1	-	3
Don't know	-	-	-
Refused	-	-	-

b. My teachers are working to help me succeed

	Ages 16 to 25	Native Born	Foreign Born
Agree (NET)	96	96	97
Strongly	72	73	69
Somewhat	24	23	28
Disagree (NET)	4	4	3
Somewhat	2	3	-
Strongly	2	1	3
Don't know	-	-	-
Refused	-	-	-

c. My parents play an active role in my education

	Ages 16 to 25	Native Born	Foreign Born
Agree (NET)	87	90	80
Strongly	65	70	52
Somewhat	22	20	29
Disagree (NET)	12	10	18
Somewhat	7	8	4
Strongly	5	1	14
Don't know	1	*	2
Refused	-	-	-

(Asked of Latinos who are ages 16 to 25 and have completed at least 8th grade and currently enrolled in tech school, college or grad school or are not currently enrolled in school; n = 837; native born = 517; foreign born = 320)

20b. Still thinking about the high school you attended. Please tell me if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with the following statements. How about (INSERT)?

a. I received a good education

	Ages 16 to 25	Native Born	Foreign Born
Agree (NET)	93	92	94
Strongly	64	60	70
Somewhat	29	31	24
Disagree (NET)	6	7	4
Somewhat	3	2	3
Strongly	4	5	1
Did not attend high school	1	*	1
Don't know	*	*	*
Refused	*	*	*

b. My teachers worked to help me succeed

	Ages 16 to 25	Native Born	Foreign Born
Agree (NET)	90	90	92
Strongly	60	59	61
Somewhat	31	31	31
Disagree (NET)	9	10	6
Somewhat	4	6	2
Strongly	4	4	4
Did not attend high school	1	*	1
Don't know	*	*	1
Refused	*	*	*

c. My parents played an active role in my education

	Ages 16 to 25	Native Born	Foreign Born
Agree (NET)	88	86	91
Strongly	65	59	76
Somewhat	23	27	15
Disagree (NET)	12	13	8
Somewhat	7	8	4
Strongly	5	5	4
Did not attend high school	*	*	1
Don't know	*	*	*
Refused	*	*	*

20aa/ba. Summary Table

Base = total Latinos ages 16 to 25 who are currently enrolled in HS or who have completed at least the 8th grade and are not currently in HS; n = 1085; native born = 704; foreign born = 381)

	Ages 16 to 25	Native Born	Foreign Born
Agree that I am receiving/have received a good education (NET)	94	93	95
Strongly	66	63	72
Somewhat	28	30	23
Disagree that I am receiving/have received a good education (NET)	5	6	4
Somewhat	2	2	3
Strongly	3	4	1
Did not attend high school	*	*	1
Don't know	*	*	*
Refused	*	*	*

20ab/bb. Summary Table

Base = total Latinos ages 16 to 25 who are currently enrolled in HS or who have completed at least the 8th grade and are not currently in HS; n = 1085; native born = 704; foreign born = 381)

	Ages 16 to 25	Native Born	Foreign Born
Agree that my teachers are working/did work to help me succeed (NET)	92	91	93
Strongly	62	63	62
Somewhat	29	29	31
Disagree that my teachers are working/did work to help me succeed (NET)	7	8	5
Somewhat	4	5	1
Strongly	4	3	4
Did not attend high school	*	*	1
Don't know	*	*	1
Refused	*	*	*

20ac/bc. Summary Table

Base = total Latinos ages 16 to 25 who are currently enrolled in HS or who have completed at least the 8th grade and are not currently in HS; n = 1085; native born = 704; foreign born = 381)

	Ages 16 to 25	Native Born	Foreign Born
Agree that my parents play/played an active role in my education (NET)	88	87	89
Strongly	65	62	71
Somewhat	23	25	18
Disagree that my parents play/played an active role in my education (NET)	12	12	10
Somewhat	7	8	4
Strongly	5	4	6
Did not attend high school	*	*	1
Don't know	*	*	1
Refused	*	*	*

(Asked of Latinos ages 16 to 25 and currently enrolled in tech school, college, or grad school; n = 323; native born = 235; foreign born = 88)

21a. You mentioned earlier that you are currently enrolled in school. Next I am going to ask you about the (technical school or vocational school/college or university) you currently attend. Please tell me if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with the following statements. How about (INSERT ITEM)?

a. I am receiving a good education

	Ages 16 to 25	Native Born	Foreign Born
Agree (NET)	97	98	93
Strongly	83	85	77
Somewhat	14	13	16
Disagree (NET)	1	1	1
Somewhat	1	1	-
Strongly	*	*	1
Don't know	2	1	6
Refused	-	-	-

b. My (professors/instructors) are working to help me succeed

	Ages 16 to 25	Native Born	Foreign Born
Agree (NET)	93	95	85
Strongly	57	58	55
Somewhat	35	37	29
Disagree (NET)	5	3	12
Somewhat	1	1	1
Strongly	4	2	10
Don't know	3	2	4
Refused	-	-	-

c. My parents play an active role in my education

	Ages 16 to 25	Native Born	Foreign Born
Agree (NET)	78	76	86
Strongly	57	53	69
Somewhat	21	22	17
Disagree (NET)	21	23	13
Somewhat	13	15	3
Strongly	8	8	10
Don't know	1	1	1
Refused	-	-	-

(Asked of Latinos who are Ages 16 to 25 and completed tech school or higher or have ever attended a 2 year college/community college and are not currently enrolled in school; n = 192; native born = 124; foreign born = 68)

21b. Now, thinking about the school you last attended after high school, please tell me if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with the following statements. How about (INSERT ITEM)?

a. I received a good education

	Ages 16 to 25	Native Born	Foreign Born
Agree (NET)	96	95	99
Strongly	73	72	74
Somewhat	24	23	24
Disagree (NET)	3	4	1
Somewhat	2	2	1
Strongly	1	2	-
Don't know	-	-	-
Refused	1	1	-

b. My (professors/instructors) worked to help me succeed

	Ages 16 to 25	Native Born	Foreign Born
Agree (NET)	91	87	99
Strongly	58	51	69
Somewhat	34	37	29
Disagree (NET)	9	13	1
Somewhat	8	12	1
Strongly	1	1	-
Don't know	-	-	-
Refused	-	-	-

c. My parents played an active role in my education

	Ages 16 to 25	Native Born	Foreign Born
Agree (NET)	88	85	92
Strongly	68	61	78
Somewhat	20	24	14
Disagree (NET)	11	13	8
Somewhat	6	7	4
Strongly	5	6	4
Don't know	1	2	-
Refused	-	-	-

21aa/ba. Summary Table

Base = total Latinos ages 16 to 25 and are currently enrolled in tech school, college, or grad school or who have completed have completed tech school or higher or have ever attended a 2 year college/community college and are not currently in school; n = 515; native born = 359; foreign born = 156)

	Ages 16 to 25	Native Born	Foreign Born
Agree that I am receiving/have received a good education (NET)	97	97	96
Strongly	80	81	76
Somewhat	17	16	20
Disagree that I am receiving/have received a good education (NET)	2	2	1
Somewhat	1	1	1
Strongly	1	1	1
Did not attend high school	--	--	--
Don't know	2	1	3
Refused	*	*	--

21ab/bb. Summary Table

Base = total Latinos ages 16 to 25 and are currently enrolled in tech school, college, or grad school or who have completed have completed tech school or higher or have ever attended a 2 year college/community college and are not currently in school; n = 515; native born = 359; foreign born = 156)

	Ages 16 to 25	Native Born	Foreign Born
Agree that my teachers are working/did work to help me succeed (NET)	92	93	91
Strongly	57	56	61
Somewhat	35	37	29
Disagree that my teachers are working/did work to help me succeed (NET)	6	6	7
Somewhat	3	4	1
Strongly	3	2	6
Did not attend high school	--	--	--
Don't know	2	2	2
Refused	--	--	--

21ac/bc. Summary Table

Base = total Latinos ages 16 to 25 and are currently enrolled in tech school, college, or grad school or who have completed have completed tech school or higher or have ever attended a 2 year college/community college and are not currently in school; n = 515; native born = 359; foreign born = 156)

	Ages 16 to 25	Native Born	Foreign Born
Agree that my parents play/played an active role in my education (NET)	81	78	89
Strongly	60	56	73
Somewhat	21	23	16
Disagree that my parents play/played an active role in my education (NET)	18	20	11
Somewhat	10	13	3
Strongly	7	7	7
Did not attend high school	--	--	--
Don't know	1	1	1
Refused	--	--	--

22. Some studies show that (HISPANIC/LATINO) students are not doing as well in school as other students. Please tell me if you think each of the following is a major reason, a minor reason, or not a reason that (HISPANIC/LATINO) students are not doing as well as other students. How about (INSERT ITEM)?

a. (HISPANIC/LATINO) students do not work as hard as others

	Total	Native Born	Foreign Born	Ages 16 to 25	Ages 26 and Older
Reason (NET)	58	42	71	55	59
Major	38	19	55	31	41
Minor	19	23	16	23	18
Not a reason	36	54	20	42	34
Don't know	6	4	7	3	7
Refused	1	*	1	1	1

b. Parents of (HISPANIC/LATINO) students don't play an active role in helping their children succeed in school

	Total	Native Born	Foreign Born	Ages 16 to 25	Ages 26 and Older
Reason (NET)	77	72	81	73	79
Major	57	42	70	47	61
Minor	20	30	12	26	17
Not a reason	18	25	13	24	16
Don't know	4	3	5	3	4
Refused	1	*	1	*	1

c. (HISPANIC/LATINO) students know less English than other students

	Total	Native Born	Foreign Born	Ages 16 to 25	Ages 26 and Older
Reason (NET)	76	74	78	74	77
Major	54	41	64	43	58
Minor	23	33	14	31	20
Not a reason	19	22	16	22	18
Don't know	4	4	4	4	4
Refused	1	*	1	*	1

d. Too many teachers don't know how to work with (HISPANIC/LATINO) students because they come from different cultures

	Total	Native Born	Foreign Born	Ages 16 to 25	Ages 26 and Older
Reason (NET)	70	66	73	66	71
Major	46	33	56	44	47
Minor	24	32	17	23	24
Not a reason	24	31	17	30	21
Don't know	6	3	8	3	6
Refused	1	*	2	*	1

(Asked of Latinos who are ages 16 to 25 and completed high school or less and are not currently in school and do not plan to return to school; n = 166; native born = 55; foreign born =111)

24. Which of the following are reasons why you have not continued your education? Would you say you have not continued your education because (INSERT)?

a. You don't like school

	Yes	No	Don't know	Refused
Ages 16 to 25	42	57	1	*
Native born	46	54	-	*
Foreign born	40	59	1	*

b. Your grades or your college admissions scores are not high enough

	Yes	No	Don't know	Refused
Ages 16 to 25	21	67	10	2
Native born	21	79	-	*
Foreign born	21	62	15	2

c. You won't need more education for the career you want

	Yes	No	Don't know	Refused
Ages 16 to 25	39	55	6	*
Native born	31	68	-	*
Foreign born	43	49	9	-

d. You can't afford to go on in school

	Yes	No	Don't know	Refused
Ages 16 to 25	40	59	1	*
Native born	33	66	-	*
Foreign born	43	56	1	-

e. You need to help support your family

	Yes	No	Don't know	Refused
Ages 16 to 25	74	21	1	5
Native born	70	30	-	*
Foreign born	76	16	2	7

f. Your English skills are limited

	Yes	No	Don't know	Refused
Ages 16 to 25	49	49	2	*
Native born	17	83	-	*
Foreign born	65	32	3	-

13/14/16/24. Combo Table

Base = Total Latinos ages 16 to 25; n = 1167; native born =713; foreign born = 454

	Ages 16 to 25	Native Born	Foreign Born
Completed high school or less and are not currently in school and do not plan to return to school	15	8	26
Because they don't like school	6	4	10
Because their grades/college admission scores are not high enough	3	2	6
Because they don't need more education for the career they want	6	2	11
Because they can't afford to go to school	6	3	11
Because they need to help support their family	11	5	20
Because their English skills are limited	7	1	17
Completed tech school or higher and are currently enrolled in school or plan to return to school	85	92	74

(Asked of Latinos who are ages 16 to 25 and completed some college or college grad and are not currently enrolled in school; n = 87; native born = 52; foreign born = 35)

25. Which of the following are reasons why you are not currently enrolled in school? Would you say you have not continued your education because (INSERT)?

a. You completed the degree or certificate that you wanted

	Yes	No	Don't know	Refused
Ages 16 to 25	39	60	*	-
Native born	25	75	-	-
Foreign born	58	41	1	-

b. You had academic problems

	Yes	No	Don't know	Refused
Ages 16 to 25	11	89	-	-
Native born	9	91	-	-
Foreign born	14	86	-	-

c. You don't like school

	Yes	No	Don't know	Refused
Ages 16 to 25	29	70	-	1
Native born	30	68	-	2
Foreign born	27	73	-	1

d. You need to help support your family

	Yes	No	Don't know	Refused
Ages 16 to 25	62	35	3	-
Native born	65	32	3	-
Foreign born	58	40	3	-

e. You can't afford to go on in school

	Yes	No	Don't know	Refused
Ages 16 to 25	51	49	-	-
Native born	55	45	-	-
Foreign born	45	55	-	-

13/14/25. Combo Table

Base = total Latinos ages 16 to 25; n = 1167; native born = 713; foreign born = 454

	Ages 16 to 25	Native Born	Foreign Born
Completed some college/college grad and are not currently enrolled in school	6	6	8
Because they completed the degree/certificate they wanted	3	1	4
Because they had academic problems	1	1	1
Because they don't like school	2	2	2
Because they need to help support their family	4	4	4
Because they can't afford to go on in school	3	3	3
Have not completed some college/college grad or are currently enrolled in school/dk/ref	94	94	92

(Asked of Latinos who are ages 16 to 25 who are currently enrolled in high school; n = 248; native born = 187; foreign born = 61)

26. What do your parents think is the most important thing for you to do right after high school? Would you say...?

	Go to college	Get a full-time job	Enter a trade school or apprenticeship program	Do what you want	Start a family	Other	Don't know	Refused
Ages 16 to 25	83	11	1	4	*	-	1	-
Native born	87	7	1	5	-	-	*	-
Foreign born	72	21	2	1	*	-	4	-

(Asked of Latinos who are ages 16 to 25 who are not currently enrolled in high school and less than grade 9 isn't the last grade that was completed in school; n = 837; native born = 517; foreign born = 320)

27. When you were in high school, what did your parents think was the most important thing for you to do right after high school? Would you say...?

	Go to college	Get a full-time job	Enter a trade school or apprenticeship program	Do what you want	Start a family	Other	Did not attend high school	Don't know	Refused
Ages 16 to 25	75	11	3	8	1	1	1	*	*
Native born	77	9	4	8	*	1	*	*	*
Foreign born	71	13	2	8	3	1	1	1	1

26/27. Summary Table

Base = total Latinos ages 16 to 25 who are currently enrolled in HS or who are not currently enrolled in HS and less than 9th grade isn't the last grade that was completed in school; n = 1,085; native born = 704; foreign born = 381

	Most important to go to college	Most important to get a full-time job	Most important to enter a trade school or apprenticeship program	Most important to do what you want	Most important to start a family	Most important to do something else	Did not attend high school	Don't know	Refused
Age 16 to 25	77	11	3	7	1	*	*	1	*
Native born	80	9	3	7	*	*	*	*	*
Foreign born	71	15	2	7	2	1	1	1	*

23. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: In order to get ahead in life these days, it's necessary to get a college education.

	Agree	Disagree	Don't know	Refused
Total	88	11	1	*
Native born	83	16	*	1
Foreign born	92	6	2	*
Ages 16 to 25	89	10	1	*
Age 26+	88	11	1	*
SDT 2009	74	24	2	--

SDT 2009 GENERATION GAP Q.37 - dk/ref combined