



NEWS RELEASE [2000-I-10]

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HISPANICS: "WE'RE GETTING AHEAD
IN THE FACE OF DISCRIMINATION"

PHOENIX, Ariz. (March 16, 2000) – Latinos in Arizona are mightily upbeat about the headway their community is making in securing better jobs and getting ahead financially, but they trace their gains to their own hard work rather than to any change in the face of discrimination in Arizona.

By a lopsided ratio of 72 to 17 percent, Hispanics across the state say they are making good headway in finding better jobs and gaining financial independence. These views are most fervently held by those who are younger or foreign-born, by Hispanics with limited English language skills and those with the lowest education and income attainment levels.

Equally strong beliefs exist, however, that any gains they have made have come from the sweat of their own brows and have been achieved in the face of considerable discrimination in the workplace and from financial institutions. For instance:

- < 75 percent believe there is still discrimination against Latinos in the workplace. Only 16 percent disagree; even fewer well educated and white-collar Hispanics disagree (10%).
- < 63 percent believe that Hispanics must struggle harder than other people to get ahead on the job, a belief that spikes to 71 percent among Latinos in white-collar jobs, and to over 74 percent among those who have perfected their English language skills or attained college degrees.
- < Finally, 59 percent are of the opinion that it's more difficult for Latinos to get loans for large purchases like homes or vehicles. What's interesting about this is the broad base of agreement that exists on the subject. Whether one is rich or poor, young or old, or in a blue- or white-collar job, the level of agreement with this attitude is just about equal.

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is designed and
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This report is based on a survey of 500 Hispanic heads of household in the urban centers of Arizona and was completed via telephone in December of 1999. The study is a part of the Behavior Research Center's ongoing independent and non-partisan HispanicTRACK™/Latino Poll series. For more information you may visit www.brepolls.com.



When we look beyond age, income and job type, there are some distinctions between Latinos on the subject of advancement and discrimination. Native-born Hispanics, for example, are less likely than immigrant Latinos to believe that their people are getting ahead. It’s possible, of course, that these differences are a result of differing economic expectations between the groups. And it’s just as likely that native-born Hispanics have come to believe there are “glass ceilings” beyond which it is extremely difficult for them to advance.

The differences in attitudes between the two groups are readily apparent. For instance, 80 percent of foreign-born but only 65 percent of native-born Latinos believe they’re making good headway in obtaining jobs and gaining financial independence.

Education also appears to play a role in a person’s attitudes toward advancement. Specifically, the best educated Hispanics are least likely to believe that members of their community are getting ahead (college educated = 69%; high school educated = 74% and grade school or less = 82%).

EDITOR’S NOTE: This report is based on the nineteenth semi-annual wave of Behavior Research Center’s HispanicTRACK™/Latino Poll survey, completed in December of 1999 which includes interviews with 500 Hispanic heads of household. Where necessary, figures for age, sex, race and political party were weighted to bring them into line with their actual proportion in the population. In a sample of this size, one can say with a 95 percent certainty that the results have a statistical precision of plus or minus 4.4 percent of what they would have been had the entire Hispanic adult population been surveyed. The Latino Poll is conducted by the Behavior Research Center of Arizona and is an independent and non-partisan research program sponsored by the Center.

This statement conforms to the principles of disclosure of the National Council on Public Polls.

ENCLOSED: Statistical tables.

STATISTICAL DATA

Behavior Research Center
Rocky Mountain Poll - Arizona
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"Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?"

<u>STATEMENT</u>		TOTAL	NATIVE BORN	FOREIGN BORN
As a whole, Latinos are making good headway in finding better jobs and gaining financial independence.	Agree	72%	66%	80%
	Disagree	17	21	16
	Unsure	11	13	4
There is still a lot of discrimination against Latinos in the workplace	Agree	76	76	79
	Disagree	16	14	19
	Unsure	8	10	2
Hispanics have to work harder than other people to get ahead on the job	Agree	63	76	57
	Disagree	30	22	36
	Unsure	7	2	7
It is more difficult for Latinos to get loans for large purchases like homes or vehicles.	Agree	59	63	60
	Disagree	32	32	34
	Unsure	9	5	6

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