



Latino Parent Voices: What Our Families Need Now

The nation's most comprehensive study of COVID-19 impacts on Latino communities and how policy makers should respond



Abriendo Puertas
Opening Doors

INTRODUCTION

83% of parents are worried their students are falling behind.

81% of parents fear their children may experience police violence.

1 in 3 Latino families have seen their businesses negatively impacted.

This report is a collection of data and stories from the most comprehensive national survey of Latino families about COVID-19 to date. This research gives a 360 degree view of the real-life impacts of the pandemic, and details what families say they need to survive, adapt, and grow in these unprecedented circumstances.

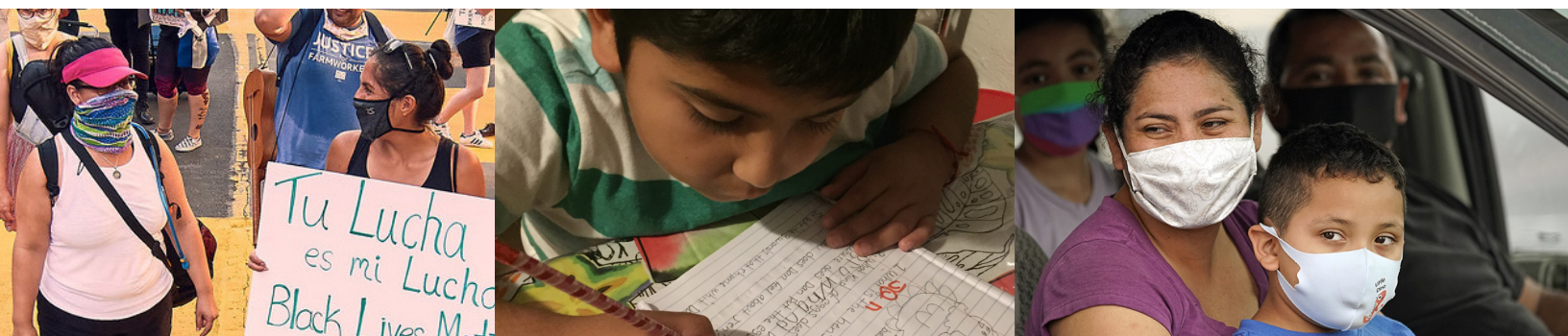
In a matter of months, Latino American lives have drastically changed. Here are the real stories and real solutions.

The coronavirus pandemic has caused catastrophic outcomes worldwide, and continues to worsen across the United States. Latinos are some of the hardest hit by COVID-19—four times more likely to be hospitalized than whites, [according to the CDC](#). However, it's not just the infection rate that has made this health crisis so lethal. The pandemic has revealed deep inequities in the United States' healthcare, social safety net, and education systems. With one of the highest unemployment rates [since the Great Depression in the 1930s](#), Latino families are struggling to pay bills, homeschool their children, and find the healthcare they need.

Additionally, the country is reeling from escalating racist violence, causing historic social uprisings in the name of Black Lives Matter. Thus far in 2020, the American economic and cultural landscape has changed drastically, bringing equity and racial justice to the forefront of the national conversation.

Latino families contribute more than \$700 billion to the economy annually, according to the [U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce](#), and own over four million U.S. businesses. They are the second largest racial group behind white non-Hispanics, according to the [Pew Research Center](#), and make up [28%](#) of public school students. [Studies show](#) working Latino families—entrepreneurs, small business owners, day laborers, skilled workers, childcare providers, and parents—are the linchpin of the United States' economic vitality. **The future of our country is inextricably linked to the wellbeing of Latino families.**

Survey conducted by Latino Decisions in partnership with Abriendo Puertas/Opening Doors.





Education

Latino families are seeing their children fall behind in school using distance learning. However, because Latino communities have been disproportionately affected by COVID-19, parents feel increased anxiety about the health risks of sending their children back to school.

The problems

Latino families do not have adequate internet access or computers, and their children are falling behind in school. Parents struggle to troubleshoot new technologies and support the teaching of new subject matter.



Key Concerns

COVID AND HEALTH



of parents considered not sending their children to school or childcare due to fear of COVID-19

FALLING BEHIND



of families are worried their children are falling behind in school

TECHNOLOGY



of parents report they do not have enough computers, tablets, or laptops to support distance learning

UNFAMILIAR MATERIAL



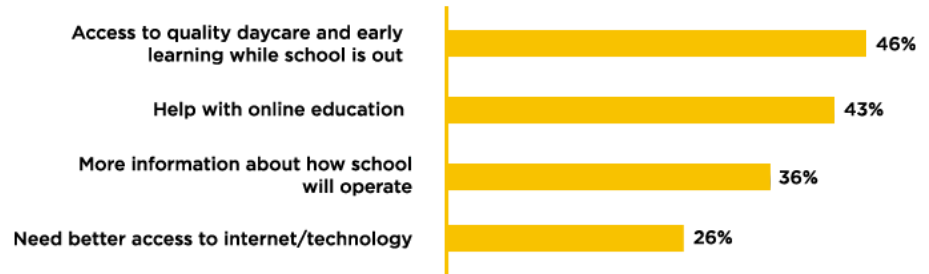
of parents report difficulty helping their children because they are too unfamiliar with class material

INTERNET



of families do not have regular access to the internet; 37% of whom only have access from their cellphones

Most important issues government should address



Top challenges for distance learning

COMMUNICATION WITH TEACHERS

65% of parents feel learning is more difficult now because it is harder to communicate with teachers

CLASSWORK DIFFICULTY

65% of parents feel it is difficult to help kids with online schooling because they are not as familiar with the class subjects and assignments

TECHNICAL ISSUES

58% of parents feel online school work has been difficult because of technical problems, such as websites or programs not working

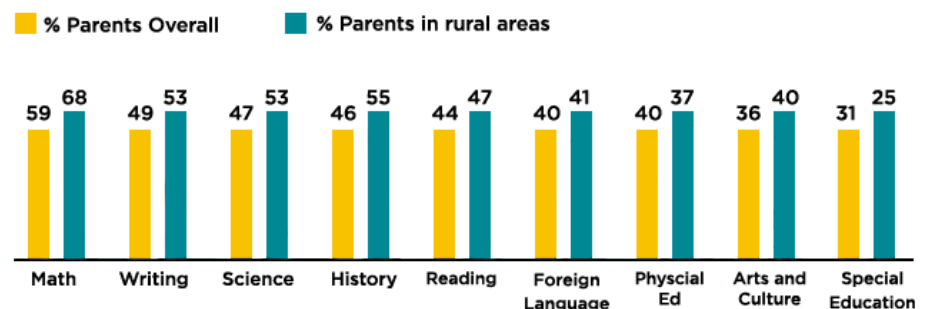
HIGH INTERNET COST

51% of parents find their internet and/or cell phone bill is much higher now because increased usage is needed for online school

LACK OF HARDWARE

50% of parents do not have enough computers, laptops, or tablets for everyone in the household

Subjects parents are concerned their children are falling behind in



The solutions

Latino parents are asking for more direct communication with teachers, better ways to monitor their students' progress, and more tech help for online learning tools.



Biggest Needs

NEED TECH SUPPORT



76%
of parents requested more technical support with learning websites, programs, apps

MORE TUTORING



74%
of parents requested more one-on-one tutoring options for their children

TIME WITH TEACHERS



76%
of parents requested more in-person or virtual time with teachers

MORE DIRECTION



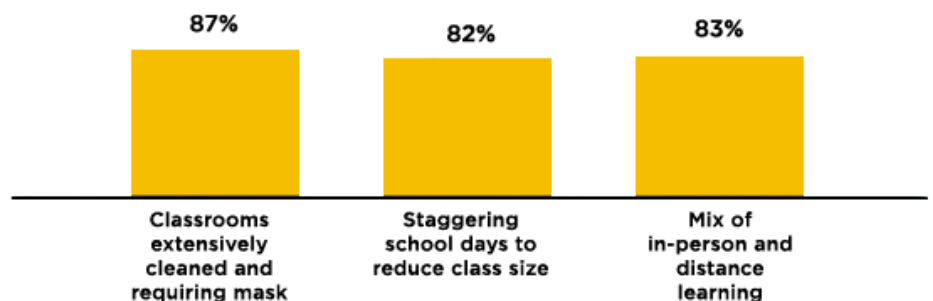
74%
of parents requested more direction on creating at-home learning schedules

BETTER INTERNET



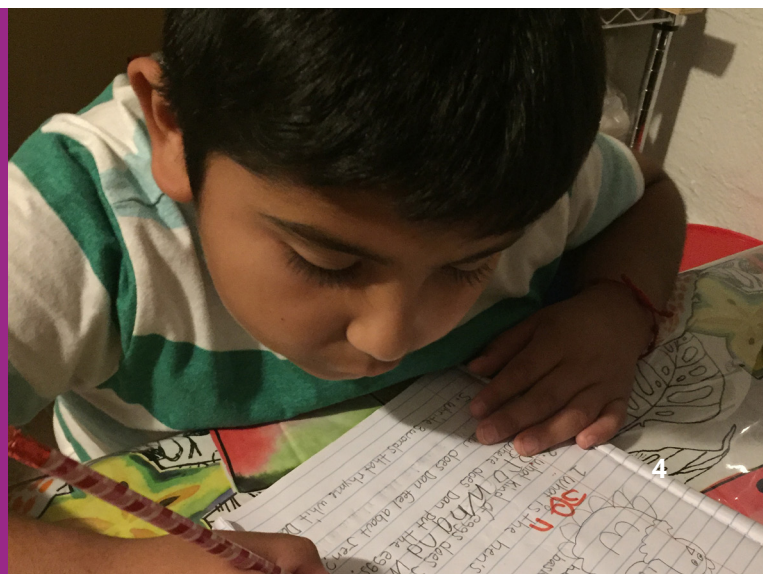
60%
of families requested better or more reliable internet

Solutions parents support to feel safer returning to school during COVID-19

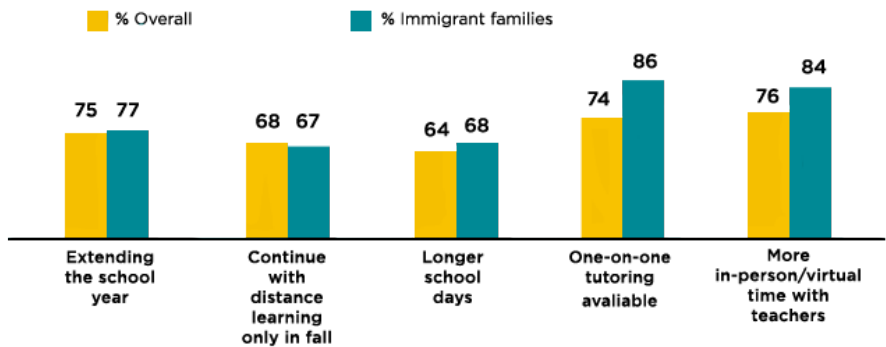


“As parents we have not studied at the same level as teachers and we cannot offer the same level of education at home to our children.”

—Maria Ventura, Brooklyn, NY



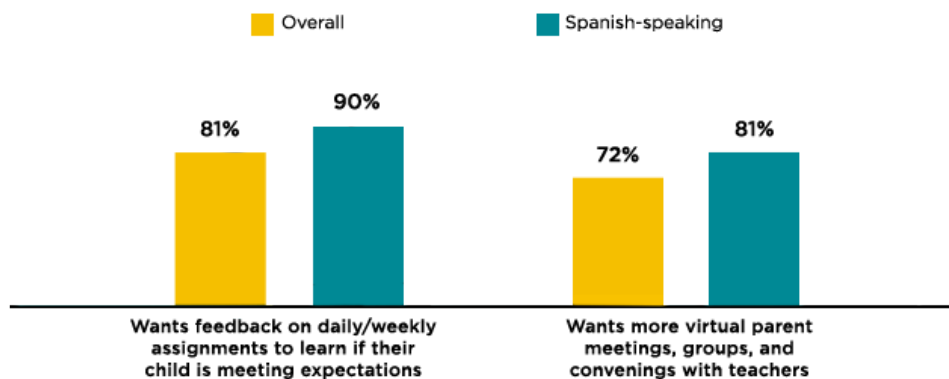
How schools and teachers can best help kids catch up



How to help parents with remote learning

SOFTWARE 77% Parents who need updated software to be compatible with their school's technology	TECH SUPPORT 71% Parents needing more orientation to understand how to use video conferencing (Zoom, Google Hangout etc)
SOCIAL EMOTIONAL SUPPORT 68% Parents who need additional emotional support counseling for their children	Parents who need more technical support with learning websites, programs, apps 70%
Parents who need guidance on how to safely provide social interaction for their children 76%	TUTORING 69% Parents who ask for more tutoring or extra help for their child
INSTRUCTION 75% Parents who request more virtual instruction directly from children's teachers	OFFLINE WORK 68% Parents who ask for more printed materials/assignments that do not require the computer or internet
DIRECTIONS 74% Parents who request more direction on creating at-home learning schedules or lesson plans	PRINTERS 66% Parents who need better printers and/or cartridges
HANDS-ON LEARNING 73% Parents who request more direction on creating at-home learning schedules or lesson plans	COMPUTERS 62% Parents who need a computer provided by the school/do not have one at home

Communication parents need



"In the second month of the pandemic, our internet got cut off. My older children did school through their phones, but the mobile hotspot was not big enough to do a Zoom meeting. Having no wifi made online learning so difficult."

—Joana Perez, Los Angeles, CA

[Click to Read Joana Perez's Story](#)



Economic Security

The job loss in the wake of COVID-19 closures has been catastrophic for Latino communities. Immigrant parents, whose jobs are often essential but unstable, have been the hardest hit. Immigrant and mixed-status families were disqualified from federal stimulus aid, further exacerbating their precarious financial security.

The problems

Many families are struggling to pay rent and find healthcare—and they are draining their emergency savings to stay afloat.



Key Concerns

LOST HEALTH INSURANCE

63%

of families lost employer-provided health insurance; 54% lost coverage for their children as well

EMPTIED SAVINGS

45%

of families report having less than \$1,000 in savings; 20% have less than \$100

CAN'T PAY RENT

71%

of families are concerned they can't keep up with rent/mortgage, utilities, and/or food

LOST SMALL BUSINESS

33%

of families have either seen their business shut down and/or significant drops in revenue

"The fact that 1 in 3 Latino families have seen their businesses negatively impacted by COVID-19 is an inauspicious sign for the economic health of the small-business sector."

—The Brookings Institute

[Click to read the Institutes's story](#)



How COVID-19 affected jobs

52%

Had work hours cut, or pay cut, but kept their job

51%

Continue to go to work outside of the house

41%

Had trouble making rent or mortgage payment

39%

Have lost a significant amount of retirement savings

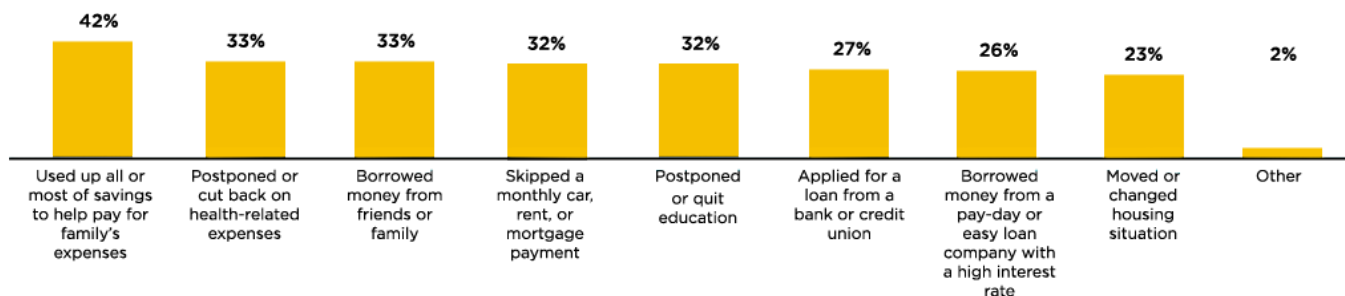
33%

Have had personal business shut down or seen drop in revenue

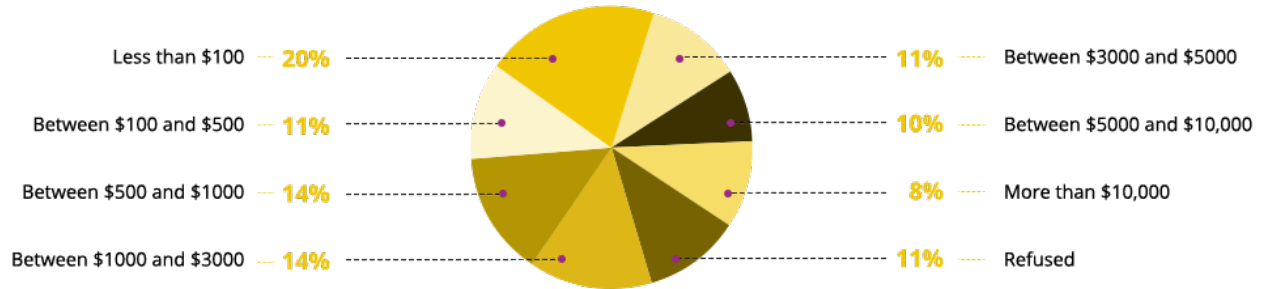
29%

Lost their job

How COVID-19 affected finances



How much money families currently have in savings



Biggest fears

71%

fear they will not keep up with basic expenses like rent/ mortgage, utilities, or food due to layoffs or pay cuts

70%

fear that they or someone in their household will lose their job

67%

fear that they or someone in their household will lose health insurance

"As parents we do not receive any help, and rent just goes up and up. We had some savings, hoping for rent payments to be frozen, but had to use it so we don't get evicted."

—Lucia Cielo, Brooklyn, NY

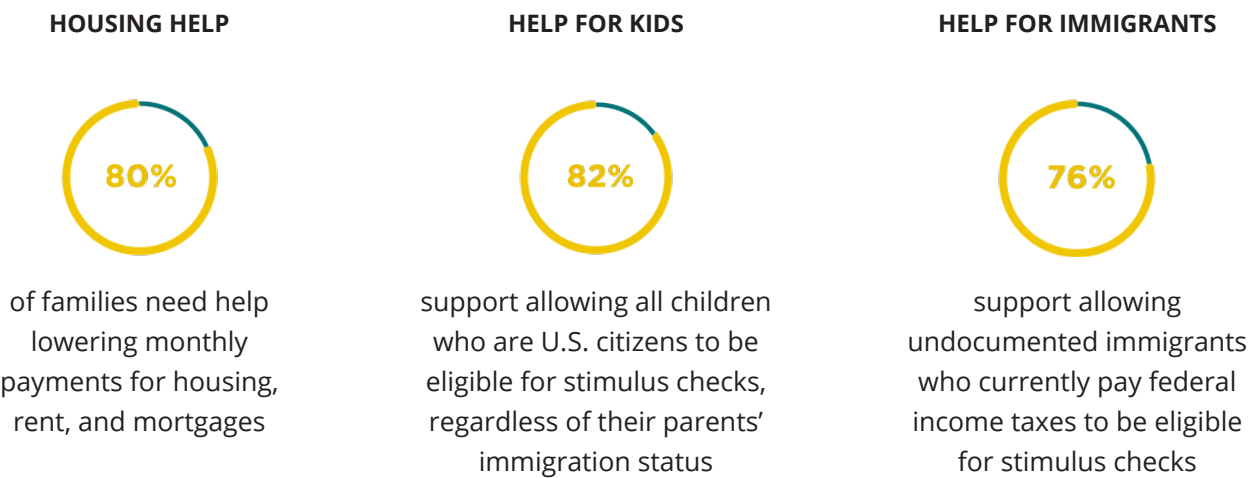


The solutions

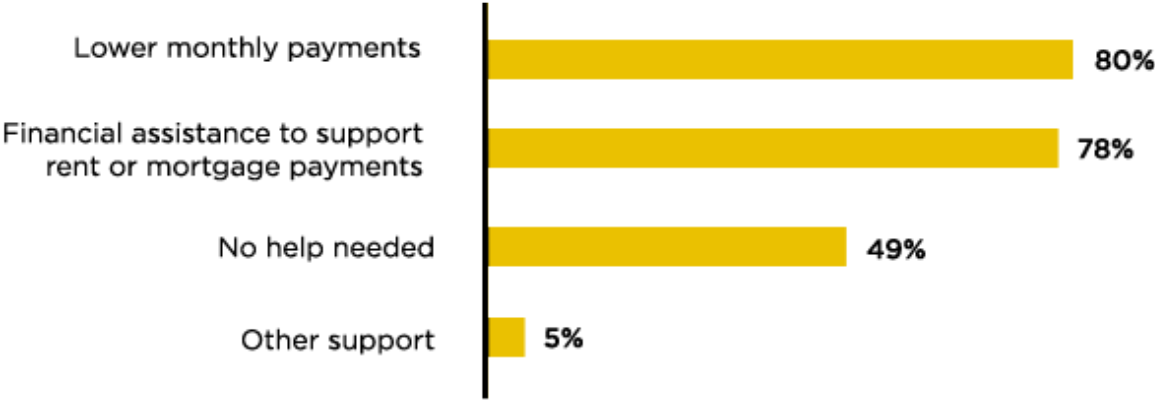
Latino families are asking for more federal, state, and local government aid, regardless of immigration status—especially for housing.



Key assistance needed



How to help stabilize housing insecurity



Solutions families support

INCLUDE UNDOCUMENTED FAMILIES

Allow undocumented immigrants who 76%
currently pay federal income taxes to
be eligible for stimulus checks

Allow all children who are U.S. citizens to 82%
be eligible for stimulus checks, regardless
of their parents' immigration status

SICK LEAVE 81%

Ensure paid sick leave for all workers
– so that those who are sick or have
sick family members can take time off
without losing pay

VIRUS TESTING 80%

Funding for more coronavirus
testing for all

COVID-19 TREATMENTS 80%

Funding for coronavirus treatment for all

BUSINESS LOANS 78%

Create a new fund for small business and
self-employment loans, just for people
who missed out on the first round

VOTING

Funding for states to provide vote-by- 77%
mail or absentee voting for people who
do not want to vote in-person

UNEMPLOYMENT 76%

Expand unemployment insurance so
that people who are still out of work
because of coronavirus will continue
to receive unemployment benefits

STATE FUNDING 75%

Funding for state and local
governments that are running out of
money due to the crisis, so that they
can continue to provide essential
services and will not cut jobs

HOUSING HELP 78%

Financial assistance to support rent
or mortgage payments

CAREER HELP

Additional support for career counseling 61%

Additional support for education 67%
counseling

“The government should provide more help to support workforce and education development of adults, especially undocumented people. I really hope the U.S. continues the DREAM Act, because it was the only way I was able to grow professionally and educationally.”

—Ofelia Bucio, Homestead, FL

[Click to read Ofelia Bucio's story](#)





Racial Justice

African Americans are most likely to be involved in police shootings, with Latinos close behind. Latino men are **1.4 times** more likely to be killed by a police officer than whites. In response to the murder of George Floyd on May 25, 2020, and the resulting protests and civil unrest, Latino parents are taking the opportunity to talk with their families about the similar violence they've experienced, and how Black Lives Matter is a collective struggle.

Many Latino parents have experienced police brutality personally, and are worried their children will also face persecution and violence.



The findings

89%

of parents used the George Floyd video as an opportunity to speak with their children about racism and racial bias

36%

of respondents have experienced an incident of excessive force by law enforcement

81%

of parents are concerned their child may experience excessive force in their lifetime

"The sea of faces included young Latinos who had marched before, during the immigrant rights movement a decade ago...There was no doubt in these protesters' minds: Their fights against racism are bound up together."

—"Latinos Back Black Lives Matter Protests" *The New York Times*

[Click to read the article](#)



How Latinos relate to the pain and frustration of the Black Lives Matter movement

81%

of parents are concerned that their child may experience excessive force by law enforcement at some point in their lives

88%

of families agree that Latinos face similar experiences with law enforcement



"I want my children to learn more about Black history, not just during the month of February. I want to see more Black politicians, law enforcement, and entrepreneurs so that our children know that they can be more than just athletes and music artists."

—Esperanza Olan, Alamo, TX

[Click to read Esperanza Olan's story](#)

Report Compiled by



Latino Decisions

The leader in Latino political opinion research, Latino Decisions is comprised of credentialed research scientists with established publication records, rigorous methodological training, and experience with large-scale collaborative research projects. Latino Decisions produces the most accurate information about Latino political attitudes, experiences, and engagement. More information at latinodecisions.com.

Abriendo Puertas/Opening Doors

Abriendo Puertas/Opening Doors creates parent leadership approaches to assist families in building a strong early childhood foundation for their development in reading, math, technology, and health. The evidence-based program has served over 112,000 families in more than 380 cities, creating stronger parent advocates and better education outcomes for children across the U.S. Find out more at ap-od.org.

Survey Methodology

Latino Decisions collected opinions from 1,195 Latino parents and grandparents using a blended approach that included online surveys, and live telephone interviews conducted via landlines and cell phones. The survey was available in English or Spanish and carries an overall +/- 2.8% margin of error, with larger margins for sub-samples. Upon completion, the data were weighted to match the U.S. Census ACS for parents and grandparents of Latino origin. The survey was conducted from June 12 to June 19, 2020. This survey's results are to our knowledge the most comprehensive study of Hispanic/Latino families regarding COVID-19.

Share this report with your legislators, school district leaders, and lawmakers.



[Click here for further resources and press contacts](#)

Special thanks



A very special thanks to all the parents who lent their voices to this report, and the family-serving organizations who served as trusted liaisons: Esperanza Olan and family, Lucia Cielo and family, Maria Ventura and family, Joana Perez and family, Ofelia Bucio and family, Dr. Gabriel Sanchez and the Latino Decisions team, Cypress Hills Childcare Corporation, Redlands Christian Migrant Association, UTRGV Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership, and St. Anne’s Center.

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