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TABLE OF CONTENTS

SECTION 1

Introduction.....Page 4

SECTION 2

Methodology.....Page 6

SECTION 3

Highlights.....Page 7

Adult Survey
Leader Survey
Youth Survey
Focus Groups

SECTION 4

Summary of Findings Page 13

Adult Survey/Leaders

Quality of Life 13
Issues 14
Health 16
Housing..... 21
Economic / Employment..... 22
Culture 24
Judicial 25
Participation..... 26
Demographics..... 28

Youth Survey	
<i>Education</i>	31
<i>Health</i>	32
<i>Activities</i>	36
<i>Leadership/Involvement</i>	36
<i>Future</i>	36
<i>Culture</i>	37
<i>Demographics</i>	38

Focus Group Session

<i>Quality of Life</i>	39
<i>Issues</i>	40
<i>Health Care</i>	41
<i>Housing</i>	42
<i>Economic / Employment</i>	43
<i>Needs</i>	45
<i>Judicial</i>	45
<i>Participation</i>	47
<i>Youth</i>	48
<i>LPRAC</i>	49

SECTION

5

Appendix.....	Page 51
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- Survey Instruments*
- Crosstabulation Table*
- Focus Group Guidebook*

1 INTRODUCTION

The Center for Research & Public Policy (CRPP) is pleased to present the results of a Socio-Economic Study conducted among Hispanics throughout the State of Connecticut.

The Latino Socio-Economic Study was commissioned by the Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission.

The study measures current social and economic status of Hispanics living in Connecticut. The study will assist the Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission understand needs, health status, concerns, and issues important to Hispanics in the State.

Surveys among adult Hispanics were also conducted in 1997, 2000, and 2002. Where similar questions were posed, tracking information from previous years is also presented. Similarly, a Hispanic youth survey was conducted in 2002. Where similar questions were posed, results for 2002 and 2007 are presented side-by-side.

The comprehensive study included: a survey among 800 adult resident Hispanics statewide, 50 in-person, in-depth surveys among Hispanic youth, a survey among 200 Hispanic leaders and three focus groups held with Hispanic residents.

Adult residents qualified to participate for the survey and focus groups if they were Hispanic, and eighteen years of age or older. In the case of Hispanic youth, respondents qualified if they were of Hispanic background, and were currently attending middle or high school or were between the ages of 13 and 18. Leaders were selected from a list of opinion leaders maintained by the Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission.

The survey instrument employed for the Study among adult Hispanics included the following areas for investigation:

- Quality of Life;
- Issues of Concern;
- Current Health Status;
- Awareness of Health Insurance Features;
- Views on Housing;
- Current Employment and Economic Status;
- Views on Hispanic Culture;
- Opinions of the Judicial Court System;
- Participation in Community Organizations; and
- Demographics.

Areas for investigation among Hispanic leaders included:

- Quality of Life;
- Issue of concern to Hispanics;
- Health Status of Hispanics;
- Housing;
- Economic / Employment issues;
- Needs among Hispanics;
- Views on Culture;
- Perceptions of Hispanic Views on the Courts; and
- Participation in the Community among Hispanics.

Among Hispanic Youth, the areas of investigation included:

- Views on education;
- Current health status;
- Activity involvement;
- Leadership involvement;
- Outlook on their futures;
- Views on Hispanic culture; and
- Demographics.

The primary areas for investigation for the focus groups included:

- Perception of quality of life;
- Issues of concern;
- Awareness of health insurance characteristics;
- Views on housing;
- Views on current economic and employment situation;
- Current needs;
- Opinions of the judicial court system;
- Participation in community organizations; and
- Views on Hispanic youth today; and
- Awareness of the Connecticut Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission.

This report summarizes statistics collected from telephone surveys of Hispanic adults and youth conducted in October 2007. The three focus groups were conducted in Hartford, New Haven and Bridgeport on October 30, November 1 and November 6, 2007.

Following this Introduction, a Methodology Section explains the methodologies employed margins for error and the confidence level for the statistics collected. Section III contains Highlights while Section IV holds a Summary of Findings – a narrative account of the data. The Appendix to the report contains a copy of the survey instrument, a crosstabulation table and the focus group guidebook.

METHODOLOGY

The Center for Research & Public Policy utilized both a qualitative and quantitative research design to collect current views on a wide range of issues. CRPP staff completed 800 surveys with Hispanic adults living in Connecticut. Additionally, in-person interviews were conducted with 50 Hispanic youth while phone surveys were conducted with 200 Hispanic leaders.

Focus group sessions were held among Hispanic adults in Hartford, Bridgeport and New Haven on October 31, November 1 and November 2, 2007.

Both youth and adult Hispanic residents were interviewed between 5:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. weekdays and 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. on weekends. Hispanic leaders were interviewed during typical working hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. unless other “call back” times were arranged. Residential focus group participants were provided with \$100.00 each as a “small token of appreciation for their time”.

Completion rates are a critical aspect of any telephone survey research. Efforts were made to call sample members back up to eight times to ensure inclusion in the survey. Call backs were arranged when a respondent suggested a more convenient time to call.

A high completion rate means that a high percent of the residents within the original sample were actually contacted and the resulting sample is not biased on potential audience. CRPP maintained a 72% completion rate on all calls made during the Latino Socio-Economic Study.

CRPP utilized a super random digit sampling procedure, for the residential surveys, allowing the inclusion of unlisted households within the sample.

All telephone interviews were conducted from CRPP headquarters in Trumbull, Connecticut. All facets of the study were completed by CRPP’s senior staff and researchers. These aspects include: survey design, sample design, pre-test, fielding, coding, editing, data entry, verification, validation, computer analysis, analysis, and report writing.

Statistically, a sample of 800 survey respondents represents a margin for error of +/-3.5% at a 95% confidence level. In theory, this sample of Hispanic residents will differ no more than +/-3.5% than if all Hispanic residents in Connecticut were interviewed and included in the Study. The margin for error for the Hispanic leader survey is +/-6% at a 95% confidence level.

HIGHLIGHTS

Overview...

- Overall, there exist a significant number of indications that Connecticut Hispanics are currently experiencing a declining quality of life and standard of living.

Indicators suggesting a declining quality of life and unhealthy standard of living include:

- Adult Hispanics suggesting their quality of life is better today than two years ago has declined from 56.4% in 2002 to 33.4% in 2007.
- Those suggesting they are better off financially today than two years ago declined from 68.1% in 2002 to 50.1% in 2007.
- Hispanic research respondents self-reporting excellent, very good or good current health status moved from 82.6% in 2002 to 80.4% in 2007.
- Those enjoying health insurance paid by their employer dropped from 68.3% in 2002 to 57.9% in 2007.
- While increased, home ownership among adult Hispanic respondents moved minimally (5.0%) higher over the five year period of 2002 – 2007.
- Hispanics reporting that housing is affordable dropped significantly from 74.5% in 2002 to 51.5% in 2007.
- Those working full and part-time decreased from 78.4% in 2002 to 71.0% in 2007.
- Hispanic survey respondents currently working two jobs moved from 7.5% in 2002 to 13.0% in 2007. And, those working three jobs increased from 0.5% in 2002 to 0.7% in 2007.
- Employer support for Hispanics in three areas appears to have declined as well. Those reporting they had training programs available moved from 71.2% in 2002 to 66.9% in 2007. Those suggesting college reimbursement was available from their respective employers dropped from 47.0% in 2002 to 45.2% in 2007. And, those who said their employer offered a “culturally accessible workplace” moved from 78.0% in 2002 to 74.8% in 2007.
- Significantly, those indicating that their salary or income has increased over the past year moved from 65.9% in 2002 to 57.4% in 2007.

- And, those reporting they are currently on or have been on state welfare moved from 14.9% in 2002 to 16.5% in 2007.
- The percent of those reporting having been or having been at risk of being homeless moved from 10.5% in 2002 and 12.8% in 2007.

Indicators suggesting areas of improvement included:

- Health care coverage moved higher – from 78.2% in 2002 to 85.1% in 2007.
- Those reporting they have a personal care physician (PCP) increased from 87.1% to 89.0%.
- Adult Hispanics suggesting that they currently smoke moved downward from 23.1% in 2002 to 15.9% in 2007.
- Computer familiarity increased somewhat from 75.0% in 2002 to 78.6% in 2002.
- Those reporting they are registered to vote increased from 66.9% in 2002 to 68.6% in 2007.
- And, trust in the State of Connecticut Judicial Court System moved from 22.4% in 2002 to 41.5% in 2007. Still a low percent, but a significant increase.

Adults and Leaders

On Quality of Life...

- In 2007, 33.4% suggested their overall quality of life was better than two years ago. And, those suggesting their quality of life was “better” or “the same, but good” was 88.4%.
- Among Hispanic leaders surveyed, 23.5% indicated the quality of life of Hispanics was better. And, those suggesting the quality of life of Hispanics was “better” or “the same, but good” was 40.5%.
- Those able to report being better off financially today than two years ago was 50.1%.

On Issues...

- Issues of most concern to Hispanic adults included (in declining order): high taxes, health insurance costs, poor education in schools, high cost of living, unemployment, high gas prices, lack of affordable housing, crime and high utility costs.

- Among only Hispanic leaders, the issues they perceive as most affecting the quality of life of Hispanics included (in declining order): poor education, health care, lack good jobs, affordable housing, immigration, language barriers, and high college costs.

On Health...

- The cumulative total for those reporting their health status as excellent, very good, or good was 80.4%.
- And, those reporting they currently have health care insurance coverage was 85.1%.
- Respondents utilizing the HUSKY Program provided a positive rating of 85.5% for the health care plan.
- Just 48.5% of Hispanic leaders suggested that Hispanics were satisfied with HUSKY.
- Three quarters of insured respondents, 73.1%, said their plan covered mental health care.
- In 2007, 89.0% indicated they have a primary care physician, family doctor or provider they see for regular medical care.
- And, 15.7% suggested there was a time over the last twelve months when they needed to see a physician but could not because of the cost. And, 18.4% indicated there was a time over the last twelve months when they needed prescription medication, but could not due to associated costs.
- It appears the number of those who smoke has moved to 15.9% in 2007 from 23.1% in 2002.
- Those reporting having their blood cholesterol (last five years) and blood pressure (last two years) checked was 81.9% and 93.1% respectively.
- Those suggesting they wear seat belts “always” is unchanged between 78.9% in 2002 and 78.6% in 2007.
- Self-reported participation in physical exercise such as running, walking, working out or biking over the past month was 70.1%.
- Impressively, those female Hispanics reporting having a mammogram within the last two years moved from 47.8% in 2002 to 69.1% in 2007.
- And, awareness of HIV/AIDS is at 95.1% in 2007.

On Housing...

- Over half of all respondents, 54.0%, indicated they currently own their own home.
- Just over one half of all respondents, 51.5%, suggested that housing was very or somewhat affordable.
- Among Hispanic leaders, 13.0% believe that housing for Hispanics is very or somewhat affordable.

On Economics / Employment...

- Nearly two thirds, 61.1%, report working full time in 2007.
- Among those working part-time, 46.4% said they would prefer full time work.
- Just over one half of all respondents, 57.4% indicated that their salary or income has increased over the past year.
- Computer familiarity increased to 78.6% in 2007 from 75.0% in 2002.
- And, those reporting being on City Welfare moved to 16.5% in 2007 from 14.9% in 2002.

On Needs...

- Hispanic leaders were asked to name, in an open end format question, needs among Hispanics. The following needs were named most frequently (in declining order): health care, better education, affordable housing, good jobs, higher wages and lower cost of living, more social services, child care, immigration solutions and college cost support.

On Culture...

- It appears that Hispanics are becoming more likely to say they are equally comfortable in both Spanish and English – up to 65.5% in 2007 from 49.1% in 2002.
- Preserving Spanish / Hispanic culture in communities remains strongly or somewhat important to 94.1.0% of all adult respondents.

On the Judicial Court System...

- Two fifths (41.5%) of all adult respondents provided a cumulative positive trust rating for the Connecticut Court System. While low, this is an increase from 22.4% a positive trust rating in 2002).

On Participation...

- More than two thirds, 68.6%, suggested they were currently registered to vote.
- Hispanics self-identified their political philosophy as: liberal (16.6%), conservative (20.8%) and moderate (35.8%).
- Participation in community organizations is strongest in local parent/teacher groups (11.9%) and local social organizations (15.4%).

Youth

On Education...

- The average overall positive rating for ten different school programs or services measured was 64.7% -- a decline from 67.8% in 2002. Most organizations strive to attain satisfaction ratings in the high eighties.
- A large majority of Hispanic youth interviews, 88.0%, noted they are very or somewhat interested in attending college.
- One quarter of all respondents, 23.8%, suggested that college costs will be unaffordable.
- A large percent, 82.0% believed that college was accessible for Hispanic youth today.
- And, 90.0% said they were very or somewhat likely to be accepted into the college of their choice.

On Health...

- Ten percent (10.0%) of all respondents said they rarely or never wear seat belts.
- A growing number of Hispanic youth report driving with someone under the influence of alcohol one time within the last 30 days – up to 18.0% in 2007 from 9.5% in 2002.
- Some youth, 4.0%, reported not going to school once over the past 30 days because they felt unsafe at or on the way to school.
- Over one tenth, 12.0%, indicate they currently smoke cigarettes some days.
- And, 14.0% said they have had at least one drink on anywhere from 1 – 10 days over the last 30 days.

- Participation in vigorous physical activity declined to 54.0% in 2007 from 67.1% (participation in activity anywhere from 3-7 days in an average week).
- And, associated with a decline in physical activity is the finding that 48.0% of Hispanic youth are watching three or more hours of TV on an average school day. Further, 38.0% said they play one to four hours of video games on the average school day.
- Those suggesting they have been taught about HIV/AIDS moved to 92.0% in 2007 from 71.4% in 2002.

On Activities...

- Over half of Hispanic youth, 52.0%, indicated they participated in sports.

On Their Future...

- A large majority of respondents, 94.0% indicated having a very strong or somewhat strong sense of self-esteem.
- And, 94.0% felt very or somewhat optimistic about their own future.

4 SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The following section presents results to surveys conducted on behalf of the Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission among Hispanic Adults, Leaders and Youth.

Many results among Hispanic leaders are found as final columns within tables presented. Hispanic leaders, many times, are speaking on behalf of Connecticut Hispanics. Copies of all survey instruments are include within the appendix to this report.

When “like” or similar questions were presented in 1997, 2000, and 2002, these results are also presented with 2007 data.

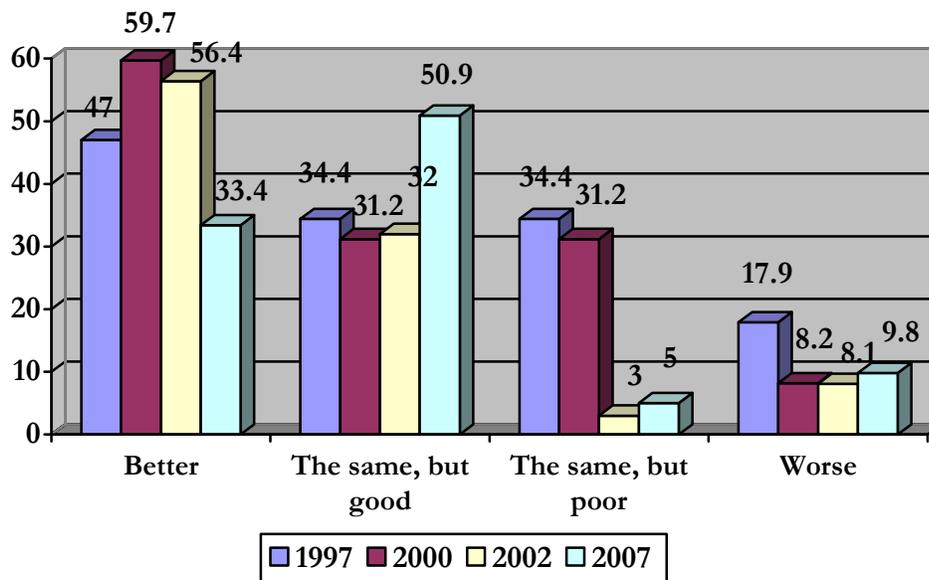
Hispanic Adult and Leader Surveys

Quality of Life

In 2007, all adult respondents were asked if, overall, their quality of life was better, the same but good, the same but poor, or worse than it was two years ago. A total of 84.3% suggested their quality of life was better or “the same, but good.”

Quality of Life	1997	2000	2002	2007	Leaders 2007
Better	47.0%	59.7%	56.4%	33.4%	23.5%
The Same, but good	34.4*	31.2*	32.0	50.9	17.0
The Same, but poor			3.0	5.0	26.5
Worse	17.9	8.2	8.1	9.0	23.0

* For the 1997 and 2000 Surveys, only three options were provided: Better, The Same, or Worse



In 2007, significantly fewer Hispanic residents in Connecticut reported they are better off financially today than two years ago. Results are presented in the following table.

Better off Financially?	1997	2000	2002	2007	Leaders 2007
Yes	62.9%	79.4%	68.1%	50.1%	32.0%
No	35.9	19.6	31.6	46.5	54.0

Issues

In an open end format question, all adult respondents were asked to name the issues they feel affect their quality of life. The following are the issues named most frequently. Multiple responses were accepted.

Top Issues	2007
High taxes	20.0%
Health insurance costs	16.0
Poor education in schools	14.8
High cost of living	12.3
Unemployment	12.0
High gas prices	10.6
Lack of affordable housing	9.6
Crime	8.8
High utility costs	7.5

Other issues named with less frequency included: helping other nations when we need it here, financial problems, low pay rates, social security, a lot of car accidents, taking GOD out of everything, lack of Latinos in politics, global warming, child care costs, high cost of prescriptions, low wages, lack of social services, benefits ending, war, lack of morals, not enough services for disabled, economy, college costs, drunk driving, risk of being homeless, gang violence, Hispanics not learning English.

And, others included: drugs, terrorism, youth issues, police harassment, too much traffic, immigration, lack of public transportation, lack of police presence, no help for the working class, lack of job training, corrupt politicians, under age drinking, lack of faith, environmental

Among only Hispanic leaders, the issues they perceive as most affecting Hispanics Quality of Life are presented within the following table.

Issues	2007
Poor education	46.0%
Health care	37.5
Lack good jobs	28.5
Affordable housing	24.0
Immigration	15.5
Language barriers	9.0
High college costs	8.0

Other issues named by Hispanic leaders with less frequency included: lack of job training, unemployment, child care more social services, more adult education, high cost of living, low wages and higher cost of living, need more Hispanics in government, lack of youth recreation, discrimination, high school drop out rates, homeless, need for food, help with home buying, lack of community, high taxes, lack of transportation, financial planning support, drugs, media presenting negative stereotypes, crime, high utility costs, domestic violence, HIV/AIDS prevention, not learning English.

Hispanic leaders were asked how concerned Hispanics are about eighteen different issues. Each was asked to use a scale of one to ten where one was very concerned and ten was not at all concerned. The following table presents the cumulative totals for those providing ratings of one through four.

Issue/Concern	Ratings 1 – 4
Crime	79.5%
Unemployment	87.5
Low wages	88.5
Drugs on our streets	84.0
Poor education for our youth	85.0
Taxes	57.0
Lack of health insurance	91.5
Lack of health care	92.0
Lack of affordable housing	87.0
Violence	86.5
Language discrimination	77.5
Immigration problems	80.5
Lack of childcare	78.5
Lack of youth programs	77.0
Securing credit and mortgages	71.0
The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan	54.0
The environment	43.0
Terrorism	44.5

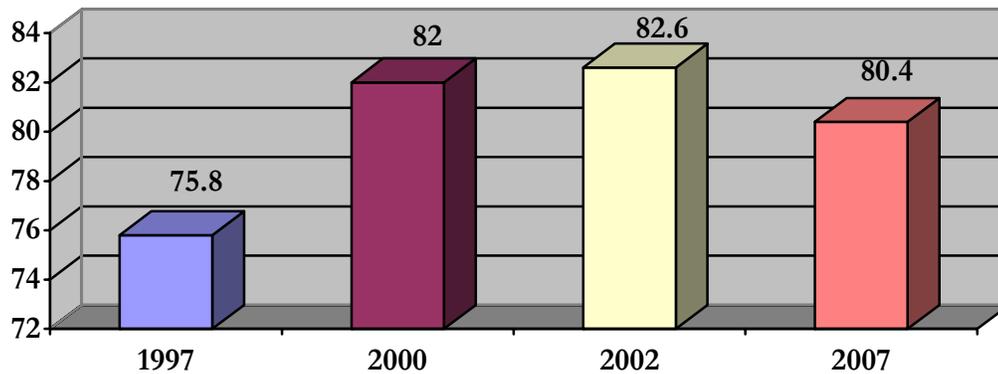
Health Status

All respondents were asked if, in general, their health was excellent, very good, good, fair or poor. The following table presents the results as collected.

Those reporting their health as excellent, very good, or good moved to 80.4% in 2007.

Health Status	1997	2000	2002	2007
Excellent	28.5%	23.3%	26.5%	14.9%
Very Good	25.5	35.0	28.3	36.1
Good	21.8	23.7	27.8	29.4
Fair	18.5	14.6	14.2	13.9
Poor	5.8	3.5	3.3	5.8
Total: Excellent, Very Good, Good	75.8	82.0	82.6	80.4

Excellent, Very Good, and Good Health Status



Researchers asked all respondents if they had any kind of health care coverage, including health insurance, pre-paid plans such as HMO's or government plans such as Medicare.

The following results were collected.

Health Care Coverage	1997	2000	2002	2007
Yes	87.0%	75.9%	78.2%	85.1
No	13.0	23.0	21.8	14.9

Those with insurance were asked to report the source of the coverage. The following table presents the results.

Source of Insurance Coverage	1997	2000	2002	2007
Employer	39.1%	46.8%	68.3%	57.9
Someone else's employer	7.6	11.6	13.4	7.5
The Husky / Medicaid Plan	18.2	13.8	11.2	17.2
Medicare	10.8	10.9	2.7	10.6
A self paid plan	4.8	3.6	2.4	2.1
Other source	0.0	9.2	1.9	2.6
Military Plan	0.8	0.0	0.0	2.1

Respondents in 2007 who utilized the HUSKY Program (N=117) were asked to rate their satisfaction of the plan as very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, somewhat dissatisfied or not at all satisfied.

The cumulative totals for those suggesting very (56.4%) and somewhat satisfied (29.1%) was 85.5%. Another 9.4% indicated they were somewhat dissatisfied (4.3%) or not at all satisfied (5.1%).

Among Hispanic leaders, 48.5% believed Hispanics are very or somewhat satisfied with the HUSKY Program.

Almost three quarters, 73.1% (up from 70.6% in 2002), of respondents with health insurance reported their plan covered mental health care.

A large majority, 88.4% (85.7% in 2002), of respondents with health insurance, said their plans covered some or all of their routine dental care.

An increasing number of Hispanics are reporting they have a primary care physician, family doctor or provider they see for regular medical care. In 2007, 89.0% indicated they had a primary care physician. This is up from 87.1% in 2002, 73.9% in 2000 and 56.6% in 1997.

All respondents were asked how long it had been since they last visited a doctor or medical care provider for a routine check-up.

The following table presents the results as collected.

Last Routine Check Up	2000	2002	2007
Within the past year	81.0%	80.5%	80.1%
Within the past two years	10.5	13.4	14.3
Within the past five years	4.1	3.1	3.1
Five or more years	3.5	2.0	1.3
Never	1.3	0.1	0.4

More than one tenth of all respondents, 15.9% (18.0% in 2002), of all Hispanic adult respondents said there was a time over the last twelve months when they needed to see a doctor but could not because of cost.

A Time Could Not See Physician Due to Cost?	2000	2002	2007
Yes	24.6%	18.0%	15.9%

In 2007, 18.4% suggested there was a time, over the last twelve months, when they needed prescription medication but could not get it because of cost.

Researchers asked respondents if they smoke cigarettes every day, some days or not at all. A declining percent of Hispanics, 15.9% (23.1% in 2002) reported smoking every day or some days.

Smoke?	1997	2000	2002	2007
Every Day	12.7%	11.7%	13.7%	10.4%
Some Days	7.6	5.1	9.4	5.5
Not at all	79.7	83.2	76.6	84.1

Researchers asked respondents if they have had their blood cholesterol checked within the past five years.

The following table displays the results.

Blood Cholesterol Checked?	1997	2000	2002	2007
Yes	65.3%	76.5%	74.0%	81.9%

A similar question was presented regarding blood pressure testing over the past two years. Results are presented within the following table.

Blood Pressure Checked?	1997	2000	2002	2007
Yes	82.9%	87.6%	91.0%	93.1%

Researchers asked respondents how often they wear seat belts when driving in a car. A growing number of Hispanics are wearing their seatbelts always or nearly always – 92.6% in 2007. Results are presented in the following table.

Seat Belt Wearing	1997	2000	2002	2007
Always	54.3%	75.2%	78.9%	78.6%
Nearly Always	14.3	8.0	11.1	14.0
Sometimes	9.1	11.7	7.1	3.6
Seldom	2.5	2.1	0.8	0.6
Never	9.1	2.1	1.8	1.8
Total: Always/Nearly Always	68.6	83.2	90.0	92.6

Nearly three quarters, 70.1%, indicated they did participate in physical activities or exercises such as running, walking, working out or biking over the past month

Participated in Physical Activities such as running, walking, working out or biking	2000	2002	2007
Yes	68.4%	65.2%	70.1%

Among female Hispanics, 69.1% having a mammogram over the past two years – a large increase from 2002.

Had Mammogram	1997	2000	2002	2007
Yes	56.9%	49.6%	47.8%	69.1%

Respondents remain very aware of HIV/AIDS. Each was asked if they were very aware, somewhat aware, somewhat unaware or not at all aware of HIV/AIDS. A large majority, 95.1% indicated they were very or somewhat aware of HIV/AIDS in 2007. Results are presented here.

Awareness of HIV/AIDS	1997	2000	2002	2007
Very aware	75.8%	75.6%	73.4%	82.8%
Somewhat aware	18.0	20.6	21.2	12.4
Somewhat unaware	3.2	1.6	2.8	0.1
Not at all aware	2.4	2.5	1.2	2.9
Total: Very and Somewhat Aware	93.8	96.2	94.6	95.2

Hispanic leaders suggest that 79.0% of Hispanics are very or somewhat aware of the HIV Virus or AIDS.

In 2002, over three quarters of all respondents, 82.6% (74.4% in 2002), reported being very (62.8%) or somewhat (19.9%) aware of the health problems caused by lead poisoning.

Hispanic leaders believe 54.5% of Hispanics are very or somewhat aware of lead poisoning.

While 81.1% (86.2% in 2002) of respondents suggested there was no member of their household with a disability, another 15.9% (13.4% in 2002) did report they or a household member had a disability.

Of this group, a declining percent, 66.9% (84.3% in 2002) suggested that services for disabled people were very (17.2%) or somewhat (49.7%) accessible. Another 24.9% reported services were somewhat inaccessible (15.9%) or not at all accessible (9.0%).

Under half of Hispanic leaders, 45.5% believe that service for disabled Hispanics are very or somewhat accessible.

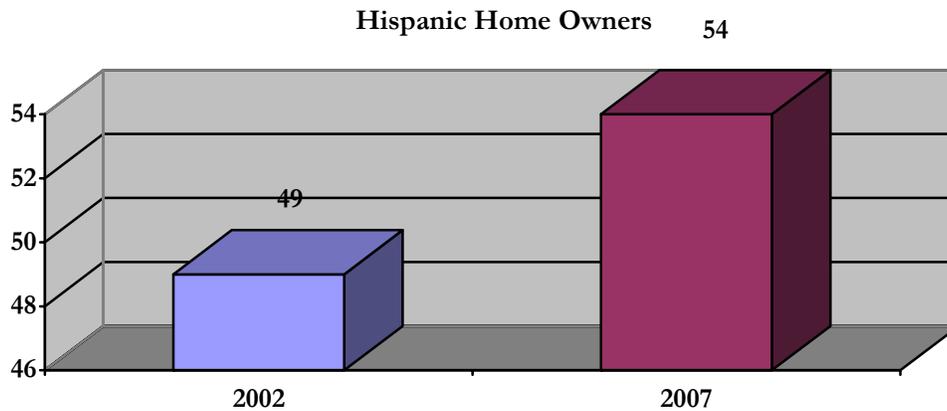
And, 12.8% (10.5% in 2002) of all respondents, report they have been at risk of being (9.9%), have been (2.6%) or currently are (0.3%) homeless.

Housing

All respondents were asked to describe the type of current home they live in. The following table presents the results as collected.

Type of Housing	2000	2002	2007
Single family	32.5%	41.6%	45.6%
Multiple family	26.1	27.3	26.4
Apartment complex	33.0	25.2	21.8
Condo	7.4	6.0	6.3
Mobile home	0.0	0.0	0.0
Home shelter	0.8	0.0	0.0

Over half, 54.0% (49.0% in 2002), of all respondents reported owning their home.



Just over one half of all Connecticut Hispanic adults in 2007, 51.5% (74.6% in 2002), suggested that current housing today is very (17.1%) or somewhat (34.4%) affordable. This figure represents a significant drop in those suggesting housing is affordable.

Among Hispanic leaders, 13.0% suggest that housing for Hispanics is very or somewhat affordable.

Economics / Employment

Nearly two thirds of all respondents, 61.1% (61.6% in 2002), report working full-time – still higher than 55.1% in 1997, but slightly lower than 63.7% in 2000.

Employment situations were described by respondents as follows:

Current Employment Status	2000	2002	2007
Working full-time	63.7%	61.6%	61.1%
Working part-time	11.5	16.8	9.9
Unemployed, looking for work	5.8	6.8	4.8
Disabled / Unable to work	3.1	4.6	11.9
Homemaker	4.7	4.2	1.3
Retired	7.8	3.2	7.9
Unemployed, not looking	2.6	1.8	1.4
Student	0.5	0.7	1.0

Those working part-time were asked if they would prefer to be working full-time. While one half of these respondents (50.0%) reported they did not prefer full-time work, 46.4% of respondents did.

The large majority of working respondents, 84.9% (92.0% in 2002), hold one job while 13.0% (7.5% in 2002) report holding two jobs and 0.7% (0.5% in 2002) say they work more than two jobs.

The following are the types of work currently held by respondents.

Types of Work	2000	2002	2007
Professional	11.7%	37.5%	27.5%
Unskilled labor	9.3	15.9	6.0
Skilled craftsman / technical	17.8	11.1	13.7
Manager / Official / Administration	9.4	10.2	10.9
Office work	15.0	10.1	14.3
Service / Maintenance	10.9	7.8	13.3
Sales	6.2	5.6	5.1
Protective services	0.1	1.5	1.1
Other	19.5	0.4	7.9

Researchers asked all working respondents if their employer offered them training programs, reimbursement for college courses, technology training and/or, a culturally accessible workplace. The following table summarizes the results obtained.

Benefit Offered by Employer	2002	2007
Culturally accessible workplace	78.0%	74.8%
Training programs	71.2	66.9
Technology training	49.7	49.3
Reimbursement for college courses	47.0	45.2

Just over one half of respondents in 2007, 57.4% (65.9% in 2002) indicated that their salary or income has increased while 3.5% noted a decline. Another 37.7% (23.3% in 2002) reported their income has remained the same over the past year.

Among Hispanic leaders, 10.0% suggest salaries of Hispanics have increased while 9.0% suggested they have declined over the past year. Another 56.0% indicated they believed salaries have remained low while 13.5% suggested they remained fair.

While those Hispanics reporting owning their own business moved from 3.0% in 2002 to 5.5% in 2007, these are both down from 7.2% in 2000 and 12.1% in 1997. Further, 43.3% (44.7% in 2002) say they “wish to own their own business someday”.

Of this group, just over one half, 53.6 (44.4% in 2002) say they would know where to go or where to get advice or financial help in a new business effort.

In 2007, three quarters of all respondents, 78.6% (75.0% in 2002), say they are very (49.9%) or somewhat (28.9%) familiar in the use of computers.

Further, a slightly increasing number of Hispanic residents, 16.5% (14.9% in 2002), say they are currently (9.5%) or have been (7.0%) on State or City Welfare over the past five year period. Of the group no longer on welfare, over one half, 55.4% (48.3% in 2002) indicated having a job lined up when they went off welfare.

Needs

Hispanic leaders, in an open end format question, were asked to suggest social, family, or economic needs among Hispanics that are not being met or adequately met.

The following table presents those needs most frequently named. Multiple responses were allowed.

Needs Among Hispanics	2007
Health care	30.0%
Better education	26.5
Affordable housing	21.0
Lack of good jobs	12.0
Low wages and high cost of living	8.0
More social services required	7.0
Child care	6.0
Immigration solutions	5.0
College costs high	5.0

Other needs named by Hispanic leaders less frequently included: more English lessons, mental health services, slowing domestic violence, help with utility costs, reducing crime, drugs, help with financial planning, family basic needs, more feeling of community, reduce high school drop out rates, more youth recreation, less discrimination, job training, programs to keep families together, job training, unemployment, more adult education, more family activities.

Culture

All respondents were asked if they were most comfortable speaking English, Spanish or equally comfortable in both languages. The table below summarizes the results.

Best Reflects Preference	2000	2002	2007
Most comfortable speaking in English	17.1%	26.9%	17.9%
Most comfortable speaking in Spanish	29.0	24.1	16.5
Equally comfortable	53.4	49.1	65.5

Researchers read eight statements to respondents and asked each if they strongly agreed, somewhat agreed, somewhat disagreed or strongly disagreed with each statement. The following table presents the cumulative totals for those strongly and somewhat agreeing with each of the eight statements.

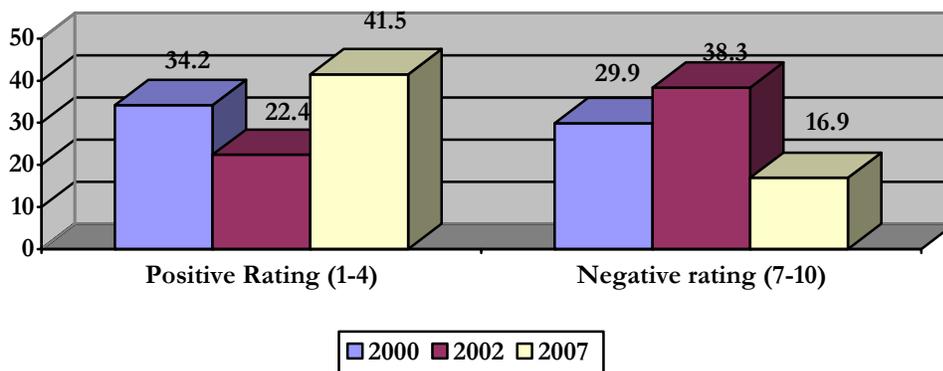
Best Reflects Preference	2000	2002	2007	Leaders 2007
Preserving Spanish/Hispanic culture in communities is important.	97.1%	95.1%	94.1%	98.0%
Multi-lingual education for Hispanic children is important.	94.5	86.6	91.0	87.5
Computer training is available to Hispanic children.	76.8	76.8	76.6	N/A
Employment and continuing education opportunities are available to Hispanics.	86.0	73.9	81.0	62.8
There are a growing number of Hispanics in the education profession.	76.2	62.1	76.3	66.0
When I see my family physician or go to my usual health care facility – Spanish speaking professionals are available as needed.	68.6	59.6	62.9	N/A
There are a growing number of Hispanics in government.	73.1	53.8	73.9	63.0
Employment training and continuing education opportunities are affordable for Hispanics.	70.1	51.3	66.9	42.5

Judicial Court System

Researchers read the following question: “Please think about the Connecticut Court System for a moment. Please tell me how much trust you have that the Connecticut Court System is delivering justice in a fair manner. Please use a scale of one to ten where one means a great amount of trust and ten means no trust at all.”

Two fifths, 41.5% (22.4% in 2002 and 34.2% in 2000), provided a cumulative positive trust rating of one through four, while 16.9% provided a negative rating of seven through ten.

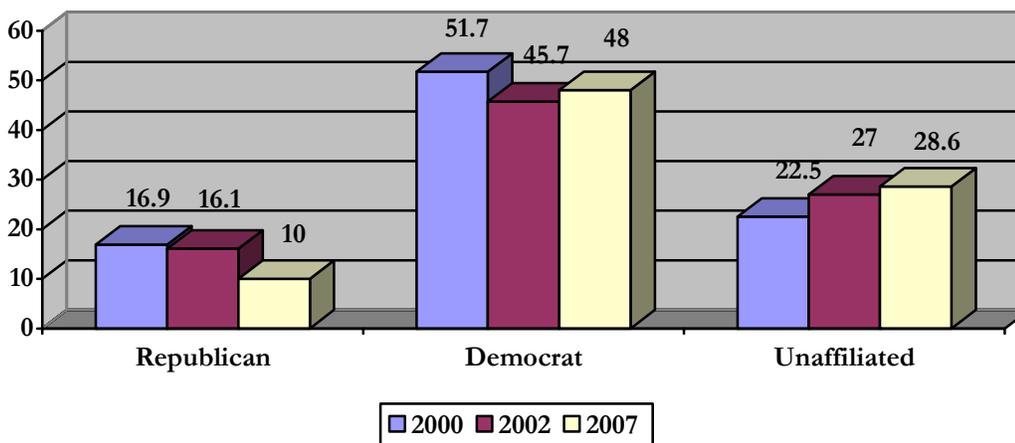
CT Court System



Just 16.0% of Hispanic leaders believed Hispanics place “great trust” (ratings 1-4) in the Court System. And, 48.5% suggested Hispanics held little or no trust in the system (ratings of 7-10).

Participation

Two thirds of all respondents, 68.6% (66.9% in 2002), reported being registered to vote in Connecticut. Of this group 10.0% report being registered Republican, 48.0% as Democrats and 28.6% as unaffiliated



A majority of respondents, 79.1 noted they had voted in the 2004 Presidential election (in 2002, 81.3% noted they had voted in the 2000 Presidential election)

In 2007, respondents were asked if the immigration issue has made them more active, less active or not made a difference in how active they are in their respective communities. Two thirds, 66.3% suggested the issue has made no difference in their levels of activity while 18.6% said they are more active as a result and 4.5% indicated “less active.”

Among the registered voters, 16.6% (16.9% in 2002) reported being liberal while 20.8% (27.0% in 2002) note that they are conservative and 35.8% (41.3% in 2002) report being moderate in political philosophy.

Hispanic leaders described the political philosophy of Hispanics as: 18.5% liberal, 16.5% conservative, 45.0% moderate with 9.5% unsure.

Two fifths of all respondents, 46.6% (29.1% in 2002), indicated knowing the name of some Hispanic local or state official.

Further, over half of all respondents, 50.8% (31.0% in 2002), suggested being very (18.1%) or somewhat (32.6%) satisfied with the number of Hispanic representatives in local and state government. One quarter, 28.4% noted being somewhat dissatisfied or not at all satisfied.

More than one half, 55.4 (55.1% in 2002), have a local place of worship – both lower than 60.3% in 2000.

Researchers asked respondents if they were members of seven different types of organizations. The results are presented here.

Organizations	2000	2002	2007
Social organizations	13.4%	15.2%	15.4%
Parents / teacher organizations	10.3	13.5	11.9
Community improvement groups	6.4	11.4	10.0
Men's and Women's groups	8.1	9.4	10.6
Charity committees	10.5	8.5	14.5
Political clubs	2.7	5.1	3.0
Tenant or homeowner groups	2.2	2.2	3.9

Demographics

Resident of Connecticut	2000	2002	2007
Permanent	89.9%	95.2%	95.9%
Temporary	8.5	4.5	2.5

Born in the U.S.	2000	2002	2007
Yes	40.9%	48.2%	50.5%
No	59.0	51.7	48.9

Are you a U.S. Citizen	2000	2002	2007
Yes	68.1%	80.7%	75.5%
No	30.4	19.3	23.0

Heritage	2000	2002	2007
Puerto Rican	59.6%	73.0%	63.4%
Cuban	4.0	2.4	3.5
Mexican	5.6	5.7	1.3
Latin American	2.1	3.9	3.6
Argentinean	0.0	0.9	2.4
Colombian	8.7	4.7	1.8
Salvadoran	1.2	2.0	3.1
Dominican	4.8	0.2	4.3
Nicaraguan	0.9	0.5	0.1
Spaniard	2.1	1.4	3.3
Other	11.1	4.5	7.8

Children at home under 18	2000	2002	2007
None	37.0%	41.9%	43.8%
One	22.9	16.8	23.5
Two	26.5	28.0	17.6
Three	10.3	8.0	10.8
Four	2.6	4.7	1.9
Five	0.7	0.2	2.5
Six	0.1	0.5	--

Enrolled in employment training	2002	2007
Yes	43.8%	42.6%
No	55.9	55.3

Age	2000	2002	2007
18 to 25	14.1%	13.6%	10.0%
26 to 35	30.6	31.8	20.5
36 to 45	27.5	27.4	28.1
46 to 55	11.7	17.7	19.9
56 to 65	8.4	5.9	10.3
66 to 75	5.6	1.6	5.3
76 or older	1.7	1.0	2.9

Access to the Internet	2000	2002	2007
Yes	43.4%	69.8%	74.0%
No	55.7	29.7	24.5

Income	2000	2002	2007
Under \$9,999	8.8%	5.0%	8.9%
\$10,000 to less than \$25,000	25.3	14.9	7.8
\$25,000 to less than \$40,000	20.0	10.1	11.9
\$40,000 to less than \$50,000	8.9	8.5	9.6
\$50,000 to less than \$60,000	4.6	7.2	3.8
\$60,000 to less than \$75,000	2.0	4.3	4.1
\$75,000 to less than \$100,000	2.2	7.6	8.3
\$100,000 or more	2.7	5.7	5.6
Don't know	2.5	11.1	5.8
Refused	23.1	25.7	34.4

Marital Status	2002	2007
Married	52.3%	51.0%
Divorced	7.1	11.4
Widowed/widower	3.3	4.8
Separated	4.7	4.1
Single	30.3	26.3
RF	2.3	2.5

Gender	2000	2002	2007
Male	42.1%	46.1%	42.1%
Female	57.9	53.9	57.9

County Code	2007
Fairfield	22.9%
Hartford	33.3
Litchfield	1.6
Middlesex	4.6
New Haven	25.6
New London	7.5
Tolland	0.5
Windham	4.0

Hispanic Youth Survey

Education

All Hispanic youth interviewed, 100% (95.2% in 2002), reported attending school on a regular basis.

Researchers presented ten different programs or services to the group that attending school on a regular basis, and asked if these programs were available in their schools. For those that were available, researchers also asked respondents if they are very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, somewhat dissatisfied, or very dissatisfied with each program.

The average satisfaction rating for all ten services measured dropped to 64.7% from 67.8% in 2002. The following table summarizes the results.

Programs or Services	Yes 2002	Very and Somewhat Satisfied 2002	Yes 2007	Very and Somewhat Satisfied 2007
Counseling support	85.0%	64.7%	80.0	62.5
School Sports	80.0	81.3	90.0	66.7
Computer classes	75.0	86.7	80.0	47.5
Tutoring when needed	75.0	73.3	66.0	69.7
Bi-lingual education	75.0	66.7	50.0	64.0
After-school programs	75.0	60.0	66.0	75.8
Music	70.0	71.4	50.0	56.0
College preparation help	45.0	55.6	56.0	82.1
School clubs	45.0	55.6	56.0	50.0
Health Clinic	40.0	62.5	66.0	72.7
Average	---	67.8	---	64.7

Researchers asked all youth respondents how interested they were in attending college. A large majority, 88.0%, indicated that they were very (54.0%) or somewhat likely (34.0%) to attend college. In 2002, 100% suggested they were either very (71.4%) or somewhat interested (28.6%) in attending college.

Further, almost four fifths of all youth respondents, 82.0% (61.9% in 2002), noted college was very (24.0%) or somewhat (58.0%) accessible for Hispanic youth today.

Almost all youth respondents, 90.0% (90.5% in 2002), reported they were very (36.0%) or somewhat (54.0%) likely to get into the college of their choice. A few, 4.8%, said it would be somewhat unlikely.

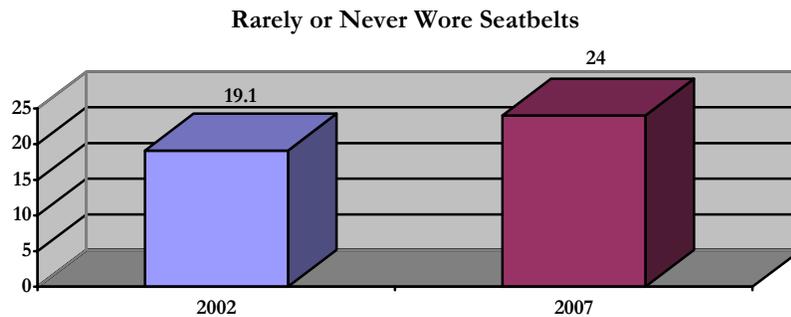
A majority of youth respondents, 52.0% (57.1% in 2002), indicated knowing where to go to find out information about financial aid or funding for college.

Nearly three quarters, 70.0% indicated that college will be very (12.0%) or somewhat affordable (58.0%) for them.

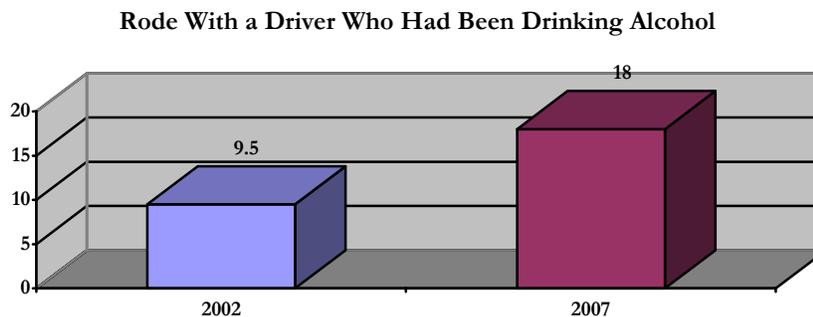
Health

One quarter (24.0%) of Hispanic youth interviewed, indicated never (2.0%), rarely (8.0%) or only sometimes (14.0%) wearing a seatbelt when riding in a car driven by themselves or someone else.

How Often Worn a Seatbelt	2007
Never	2.0%
Rarely	8.0
Sometimes	14.0

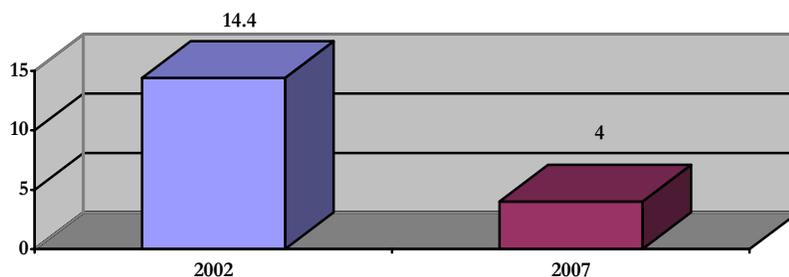


Less than two thirds, 62.0% (90.5% in 2002), reported not once, in the past 30 days, riding in a car driven by someone who had been drinking alcohol. Another 18.0% (9.5% in 2002) noted being driven by someone under the influence of alcohol, one time, in the past 30 days. Some, 16.0% suggested it occurred 2 – 3 times and a few, 4.0%, were unsure.



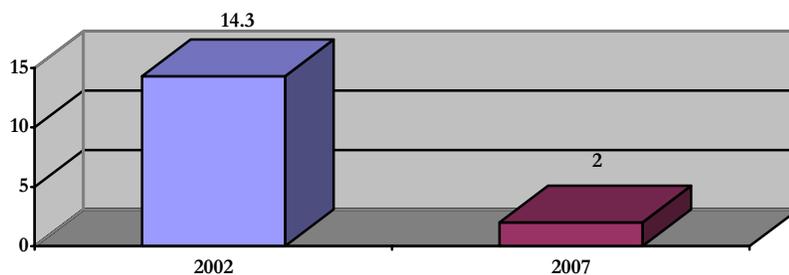
Some youth, 4.0% (14.4% in 2002), reported not going to school, because they felt unsafe at school or on their way to or from school, once in the past 30 days,

Felt Too Unsafe to Go to School



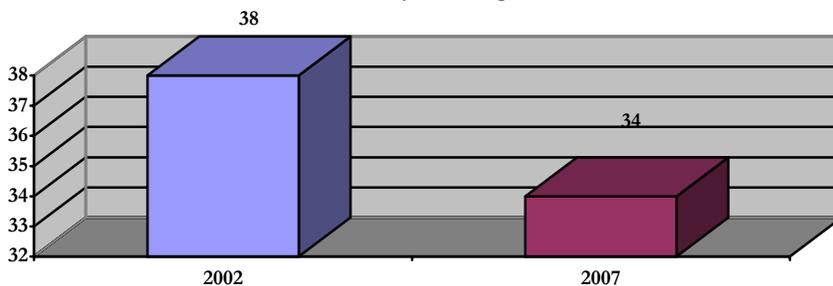
Meanwhile, another 2.0% (14.3% in 2002), reported being threatened or injured with a weapon -- such as a gun, knife, or club -- in school, at least once in the past 12 months.

Threatened or Injured with a Weapon on School Property



One third of Hispanic youth, 34.0%, indicated being in physical fights anywhere between one to five times in the past 12 months.

In a Physical Fight



Some youth respondents, 6.0% (33.3% in 2002), reported there being at least one time in the past 12 months when they stopped doing some of their usual activities, because they felt sad or hopeless every day for two weeks or more. Another 78.0% suggested they had not and 16.0% were unsure.

Further, one tenth (12.0%) of Hispanic youth, smoke cigarettes some days. This is down from 33.3% in 2002.

Researchers asked all respondents how many days, in an average month, had they had at least one drink of alcohol.

The table below depicts the results.

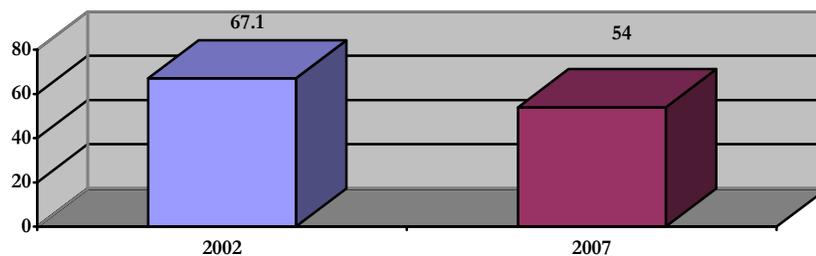
Days Had At Least One Drink of Alcohol	2007
1 – 10	14.0%
11 – 20	--
21 -31	--
None	84.0
DK or RF	2.0

Almost one tenth of all Hispanic youth, 6.0% (14.3% in 2002), suggested they were very or slightly underweight. More than two thirds, 68.0% (61.9% in 2002), indicated their weight was about right. And almost a quarter, 24.0% (23.8% in 2002), noted they were slightly overweight.

Researchers asked respondents the following: “On how many of the past 7 days did you exercise or participate in physical activity for at least 20 minutes that made you sweat and breathe hard, such as basketball, soccer, running, swimming laps, fast bicycling, fast dancing, or similar aerobic activities?”

Nearly one third of all respondents, 28.0% (33.3% in 2002), suggested one to two days, while more than half, 54.0% (67.1% in 2002), indicated working out 3 to 7 days in the past week.

Participated in Vigorous Physical Activity 3 to 7 Days in a Week



Researchers asked youth respondents, how many hours a day they watch TV, on an average school day.

Nearly half of all youth interviewed, 48.0% are watching three or more hours daily. The table below depicts the results.

Hours Watch TV on Average School Day	2007
1	14.3%
2	19.0
3	23.8
4	19.0
5 or more	19.0
Do not watch TV	4.8

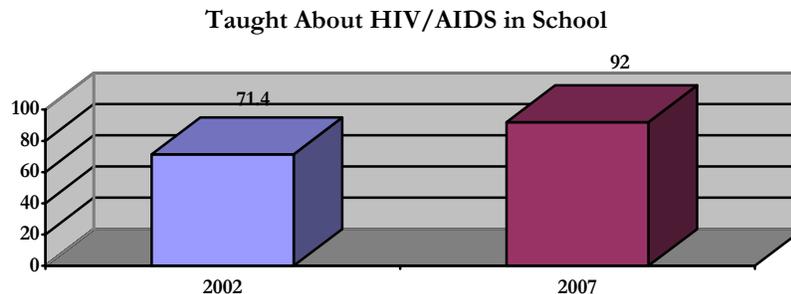
Over one third of 2007 respondents, 38.0% indicated they play one to four hours of video games on the average school day. Another 8.0% suggested they play less than one hour and 50.0% said they do not play video games on the average school day. Others, 4.0% were unsure.

Researchers asked respondents how many days a week they attend physical education classes.

The following table summarizes the results.

Days in PE on Average School Week	2002	2007
1	23.8%	14.0%
2	23.8	42.0
3	14.3	10.0
4	9.5	8.0
5	14.3	4.0
None	14.3	22.0

A large majority of youth surveyed, 92.0% (71.4% in 2002), suggested being taught about AIDS or HIV infection in school.



Activities

Researchers read youth respondents eight different activities, and asked which they currently participated in, whether at school or in their community.

The table below depicts the results for activity participation.

Activities	2002	2007
Playing video games	61.9%	40.0%
Sports	57.1	52.0
Religious activities	52.4	18.0
Youth groups/clubs	28.6	44.0
Volunteer time	28.6	16.0
Music	28.6	30.0
Hispanic organizations	19.0	16.0
Drama	--	12.0

Leadership / Involvement

One tenth of youth surveyed, 10.0% (28.6% in 2002), suggested knowing names of local or state Hispanic elected officials.

Almost half of respondents, 48.0% (61.9% in 2007), reported being very (12.0%) or somewhat (36.0%) satisfied with the number of Hispanic representatives in local and state government.

One in ten respondents, 10.0% (42.9% in 2002), suggested being very likely (6.0%) or somewhat likely (4.0%) to someday run for elected office.

Future

A large majority of respondents, 94.0% (95.2% in 2002), indicated having a very strong (64.0%) or somewhat strong (30.0%) self-esteem, while 6.0% were unsure.

Further, another majority, 94.0% (85.7% in 2002), felt very (54.0%) or somewhat (40.0%) optimistic about their own future.

Culture

One third of Hispanic youth, 30.0% (57.1% in 2002) learned how to speak Spanish at home before learning English.

However, 58.0% (47.6% in 2002) of all respondents suggested feeling most comfortable speaking in English, while 2.0% indicated feeling most comfortable speaking in Spanish. Finally, another 36.0% (47.6% in 2002) noted feeling equally comfortable speaking either language.

Demographics

Age	2002	2007
13	28.6%	10.0%
14	23.8	20.0
15	--	10.0
16	19.0	26.0
17	14.3	30.0
18	14.3	4.0

Grade	2002	2007
7 th	19.0%	8.0%
8 th	23.8	6.0
9 th	19.0	22.0
10 th	9.5	12.0
11 th	14.3	30.0
12 th	14.3	20.0

Resident of CT?	2002	2007
Permanent	95.2%	90.0%
DK	4.8	4.0

Born in the US	2002	2007
Yes	71.4%	88.0%
No	28.6	10.0

US Citizen	2002	2007
Yes	83.3%	83.3%
No	16.7	16.7

Gender	2002	2007
Male	57.1%	44.0%
Female	42.9	56.0

Focus Group Sessions

On Quality of Life...

While focus group participants held mixed perceptions regarding their overall quality of life and standard of living, the large majority see both declining.

“I say the same because it is becoming very expensive to live here. It is the cost of living, they claim that there is no inflation but if you really understand what is going on there has been inflation for a while now so your disposable income is declining.”

“I can agree – declining. The real estate taxes, the UI bill is outrageous and because of all these increases our raises (the same as Victoria) they are not compatible to the increase.”

“I say mine is improving a little bit. It’s been improving as a single parent, struggle at the beginning, learning how to budget and everything like that. I’m getting there so I think it is improving for me.”

“I would have to definitely say declining.”

“My quality of life is pretty good even though I was born in the Ghettos of NY and I worked my way through school and I achieved what I wanted to achieve; so my quality is pretty good but I can see that other peoples environment and quality of life is just degrading; there is no opportunities for anybody especially if you are a Latino or Hispanic.”

“They are looking for the Hispanics who may be a little higher up and I think they should be looking at the Hispanic who more on the lower poverty level and try to push those people because I think the Hispanics who are in the middle are achieving their way.”

“Well, I can tell you I’m employed by Connecticut Transit, nineteen years and I think the quality of life has declined.”

“I am that person that is goal oriented and I always set my goals every year. If I want more I need to put more into it so quality of life is more what you want for yourself.”

“Don’t let anybody tell you because you are Hispanic you can’t do it, you go out there and prove to people and knock on wood my kids saw what I went through and they did it and I’m very proud of both of them.”

“I am in a good place I’m married and I have a wonderful husband; I have a house and two cars, I have the whole shebang, I just need my own education for my own sake.”

“I think it is improving too, the quality of life, because all the streets in Bridgeport are changing, they are fixing the streets, no companies (inaudible) in Bridgeport, they have more programs for the kids in Bridgeport too. Before they make a lot of complaints the kids it’s boring. Now they can find baseball playing, wrestling stuff like that.”

“The jobs that are here they aren’t paying enough money and also because of the cost of the taxes a lot of companies are moving out of here and then there are fewer jobs.”

“Because now a days, it is supposed to go like this, you are supposed to live in a house and it is supposed to be more expensive to live in a house than it is an apartment but now it is becoming the same. Its \$1,000 to live in an apartment and its \$1,000 or 13 for a mortgage so I think it is declining.”

“I think it is declining, I’m from Trumbull but I’ve been employed in Bridgeport for many years and I think it is declining as far as rent, it’s very high. Education I think the schools are definitely not on the same level as other towns and it’s a big problem.”

“I would like to see more in the way of tax relief. I’m a homeowner and I am fortunate enough to have a halfway decent paying job but I see a lot of it going to taxes and not seeing much in return for what I pay in taxes.”

“Because of the same thing that other people said before because the jobs are mostly starting off at a minimum wage instead of a little bit higher. It is getting harder to find; not enough local places hiring all the time.”

“There are not enough jobs and there are not enough low paying jobs.”

“It’s the same, it stays the same to me because you get paid the same amount of money but everything is going up, so in a ways it’s probably getting worse.”

“So for me my financial situation has declined I was employed and then I lost my job and now I’m actively seeking employment every day. I applied for a job at St. Vincent’s and I received a notice saying that I’ve exceeded the amount of times I could apply for a job because I applied maybe for 10 positions so I think that is pretty bad.”

On Issues...

Participants discussed many issues but were most concerned about educating Hispanic youth, health (insurance/care) costs, cost of living and discrimination.

“Education for the teenagers.”

“I was just watching on TV last night that were at least 14 schools were classified as drop out schools.”

“Medical insurance. That’s outrageous.”

“A lot of people without medical insurance, they are struggling to either eat or pay for the doctor’s visit or to buy the medication. It is a big struggle.”

“Immigration. Over the last 5 or 6 years I have seen such an influx of non citizens come into CT. You look in Stamford, Wallingford, Meriden and she’s right. They are driving around without insurance, they are taking all the jobs because they take the lesser paying jobs so where does that leave the people that have been here who deserve the rights as a US citizen?”

“The crime, how many people get killed, it’s just crazy.”

“Well as a intern in the Hartford school system I’ve seen how they have let bilingual students pass on to another grade just because; it was sad because of the lack of services available to bilingual students or the people that wanted to take the bilingual troubled low functioning kids.”

“Not only the kids losing their roots I will say again it’s education, they are in and out, too many kids that should be in school and nobody does anything about it. They are just hanging around, they just decide not to go school or go inside of school and then come back out; you drop them off at school and two hours later you see them going to the mall or something like that. They are not enforcing the law as far as where the kids should be.”

“A lot of my other Puerto Rican friends definitely say that they don’t even want to call themselves Puerto Rican in their neighborhoods because of what the neighbors do or how many problems they cause.”

“Violence.”

“I would have to say transportation. We have one of the poorest transit systems in the country for the amount of people that we have in this area. I would like to see an improvement in the trains.”

“As far as being a Hispanic it’s the misconception of Hispanics. When a Hispanic shows some degree of success, accomplishments what have you; you get reactions like wow for a Hispanic that’s pretty good. Why can’t it just be good for a person? Hispanics are just as worthy and just as capable of accomplishing things as any other segment of society.”

On Health Care / Insurance...

Most participants are satisfied with their respective health insurance coverage. However, several cited significant financial burdens related to receiving required medical care.

“Even the health insurance companies don’t have a lot of people that speak Spanish or are bi-lingual to help the people that speak Spanish go in the right direction.”

“Very good, excellent.”

“I’m paying \$29 a week and I think that is too much money and sometimes when I go I have to pay co-payments and sometimes the insurance doesn’t pay things. I went for an X-ray and it came out to \$400 and the insurance paid nothing so now I have a big bill and I went there because I was thinking I had insurance and it was going to be free.”

“I have allergies and I had to pay \$80 and they only covered \$15 of the pills that I was supposed to buy.”

“I’m not crazy about the premiums but I’m satisfied with the service. The service has actually improved from a couple of years ago.”

“It seems to cover everything; I haven’t had a problem with them not covering anything.”

“Because my daughter has a problem where she lost half of her lung and she is on medication, the same medication for more than five years, they don’t want to pay for the medication when my daughter needed it.”

“No, Wal-Mart he gives you the medication for \$4.00 so now I started to go to Wal-Mart and I take my medication.”

“Now a days the clinics all over the city most of the time they have Spanish people working there so it isn’t a problem having someone explain.”

“That is happening to my father basically; he got neglected basically he is not getting the support is supposed to be getting right now, he is being treated for cancer. They don’t want to take his case; they basically want to kick him in the (inaudible) and just let him die with cancer, they don’t want to help him they don’t want to take his case for anything.”

On Housing...

Respondents reported, generally, that housing (rental and home ownership) was expensive and can be prohibitive.

Most said loans were easy to secure, perhaps too easy. Many believe Hispanics were taken advantage of and are in trouble today.

Many saw financial planning/credit counseling as a serious need among Hispanics.

“I just wanted to say that they just came out with this new program at the bank of Wachovia, or something like that. It is a new program and that is how I am going to buy my house, I am working on that so hopefully by December I will be in my house. Not that we are saving because the taxes are too high. It is a good program, you just have to search.”

“And it goes back to jobs and education and if you don’t make the money you don’t have the credit, you have to have credit to make credit.”

“If you have good credit and you have the money and income to pay for the mortgage you can obtain a mortgage.”

“It’s easy to get a mortgage without a doubt.”

“I don’t know if you have seen it lately the foreclosures and all of that. Okay. A lot of Hispanics were caught in that mess because they were offered very low interest rates that within 6 months they would triple. It has been horrible. Most of the Hispanics were taking advantage of because of that. They didn’t know enough.”

“I think it is hard for young people in general just coming out of school, not Hispanic, not Black, not White because they have their school bills they have to pay, entry level job position, they are not getting as much as they should and rents are going to stay the same no matter what race you are.”

“We are supposedly one of the highest paid per capita income. Because we have so many rich people living in CT. Yes, but we can’t afford the apartments.”

“We see places and we say this is not safe for the child; it’s been a year and it’s very hard and very expensive.”

“Sometimes you have to take it because it’s all you can find.”

“Exactly and then we find some and they are over \$700 and \$900 and we say oh my God.”

“When I was working in Hartford the Hispanics were complaining that they were not getting mortgages or realtors were not showing them the houses they wanted to see.”

“I wanted to come to see what they were doing? They were doing that? I went as a Hispanic hey I need a house, I don’t have any money, can you give me a mortgage? It’s there.”

“I just purchased so here we go back to the house again. I had a white broker who was recommended by my bank and I don’t know if this justifies anything but it was all military related: I did a VA loan, second property, better credit score and that maybe changed the scope but I saw houses that I wanted to see, I always got phone calls back, they were prompt, they were astute. I don’t think it has anything to do personally; my race never came into play.”

“I think as a Hispanic they don’t teach you that when you’re young; you know that credit is important.”

“I think it is easy to find an apartment now; all over the city of Bridgeport you see signs Apartment for Rent because nobody wants them because the rent is \$1,000 or \$1,500 so no one can afford them.”

“It cost you about \$4,000 just to get in.”

“Some of the houses here are poor when it comes to being clean; they have roaches, mice and bed bugs. You aren’t going to live somewhere where you can get sick or your kids can get sick.”

“I disagree, I think it is easy. I think the problem is a lot of people don’t have good credit, me included. A lot of people were never taught when they were younger how to manage their credit so that when they are done with college and they get to a certain age they can obtain a mortgage but I think it is pretty easy to obtain a mortgage.”

On Economics / Employment

Many participants enjoy their jobs and see jobs available. However, most see many jobs offering low wages and promotions rare.

Others note that credit may be too accessible and some see discrimination in the workplace.

“Right where I work, I tried to apply for an upgrade, I tried for two years, and they don’t want to give it to me. Not because I’m not qualified, they just don’t think. I don’t know if it is because of the way that I speak or whatever they just don’t feel that I am qualified for that.”

"I think I have. I have been discriminated against. At Yale I applied to do sanitary and they tried to tell me I wasn't qualified to do sanitary work. I wanted to flip on the dude, you trying to tell me I wasn't qualified to do sanitary work. That is kind of low."

"Yea when I first started looking for a job or something and they thought I was black I would go to Spanish places looking for a job and they would say oh no you can't but when they heard me speak Spanish and then they would try and call me back but I would just walk away."

"They never understand that Hispanics are a multicolor. They don't get it."

"I was discriminated on the job because I was talking Spanish on the phone, my supervisor said you are in America don't talk Spanish, just like that."

"I think jobs are available, they are out there, you just have to go out there and get them. In certain jobs and I've been saying it all night and believe me I'm going to repeat it, it's not what you know it's who you know."

"But the jobs are available not only for the whites, the black, the Hispanic for everybody; the jobs are out there and you just have to go out and search them because I do a 4:00 run and most of my riders are Hispanic going to South Windsor, going to Manchester where there are better paying jobs but of course they put them on their early shifts and they go out there and make more money, mainly Hispanic, they make more money then working in Hartford but the jobs are out there."

"Jobs are definitely out there and I don't think it is a cultural thing; I think its like you said, there out there and if you have the experience people will hire you."

"I actually just lost my job as a (inaudible) because of racism. I was bold enough to actually to the boss and tell the boss that since day one I had been receiving racial slurs and remarks; they waited a week and then said bye, bye. That was one job but I felt I wasn't able to keep my job because of that."

"I think that there are a lot of jobs out there."

"You post your resume and all your information and trust me they are going to email you back."

"I think there are a lot of jobs out there like she was saying but I think there are a lot of jobs for doctors, lawyers, engineers; people with a high education. I think people with a high school diploma it is hard for them to find a job out there, maybe sweeping floors or something like that."

"I have to agree there are a lot of jobs out there. You can go on to Monster.com or anyone of those search engines and you can find a lot of jobs. One of things I see and I'm going back to the transportation issue is being able to get to those jobs because you can find a lot of jobs; you'll find jobs up in Danbury but how do you get from here to there unless you have transportation."

"I work at UPS and it's very hard; you have to be there for seniority and I've only been there about two months and it is low pay."

"I am satisfied because I have a job like I said it's twenty hours, 21 1/2, it's \$18.75 an hour and I take care of my own kids, I take care my house and I go to school and then I'm prepared because now a new company and we don't know what happened but we have to have something."

“It’s too easy, I don’t take credit but my husband applied for one credit card and after that credit card he got twenty credit cards; they keep sending them and I rip all of them when they come because he didn’t apply and they give him and he take it and then it could be a problem.”

“I got two credit cards in one company plus I got another with another company. They send me letters to apply for more cards.”

On Needs...

Participants cited and commented on many needs among Hispanics including:

- **Asthma support for kids**
- **Education on diabetes**
- **Medical support for Hispanics**
- **Job and interview training**
- **Health insurance**
- **Housing**
- **School programs for children**

“Medical insurance, housing.”

“School programs for Hispanic children.”

“Oh yes, job training. Let me talk about that issue there are a lot of people that had been on state assistance and when they are requesting cash assistance they have to go to a training which I always thought that it was they couldn’t go to school, they are going to teach them to be nurses aide, cook or whatever, something that they can work.”

“I think environmental issues are the problem here in Connecticut, I really do. Asthma in kids has really increased.”

“I think there has to be more education on Diabetes; it’s the number one killer of Hispanics. A lot of people but I’m more concerned with Hispanics.”

“I believe, not just for Hispanics but also others, you shouldn’t just be able to get insurance.”

On The Judicial System...

General perception of Connecticut Courts among participants is discriminatory, unfair and slow.

“They are a mess.”

“Too slow.”

“Not fair.”

“I haven’t seen a lot of Hispanics there.”

"I guess they are not fair with everybody not just Hispanic."

"In the jails there are more blacks and more Hispanics then anything. So they look at us different."

"When you read in the paper there is a Hispanic who is selling drugs on the street; they get caught and they go to jail for 10 years. But let me tell you about the white one who is selling the drugs on the opposite corner, he gets caught with maybe more drugs than the Latino here, this one gets two or three years and this one is getting 10 years."

"My opinion is the sad truth is if you are not educated, if we don't educate ourselves, if we don't talk without an accent, if we don't talk properly like people want us to talk then they are going to look down on us and they are going to say oh, you are a Hispanic, you're a Puerto Rican go away. If you talk the way they want you to then you are okay and you can get the jobs, you can get the education; it is sad but it is the truth."

"You will find that people with less education are much more discriminating against Hispanics then people who are educated. It's the truth, if they are ignorant, who will tell her you are like Saddam Hussein; that's stupid it doesn't make any sense at all."

"I thank God that I never had to deal with it but I believe it is a joke; I have a friend they have arrested him, he has a job and they had arrested him for not paying the child support and now they arrested him and sent him to jail for 45-90 days and now he lost his job."

"Just from what I view when I sit in the courtroom, you see a white guy dressed up in a suit and all nice and professional, and they basically they say don't do it again. And to other people they don't have their insurance card on them just say and it happened to be a Hispanic but they had insurance and they were giving them proof and they were like your license is suspended. I saw a lot of it and I don't know if it was just that judge that day."

"Appearance its 90% appearance."

"If you need a lawyer individually who can afford a good defense lawyer? I don't think it's racial I think it's fair."

"I just had jury duty about two weeks ago; first of all I'm a part timer and they don't pay you so I'm losing a day of work and that is over \$100 off my check; to have me sit over there and listen to whether it was a criminal it was going to be either one but I made my way out of it because I can't afford to sit and not get paid."

"Sometimes it's fair sometimes it's not. I like the concept of the professional juror because what you are going to get if you force somebody, force people, that don't want to be there you might not get the quality of judgment on a case that you expect; that person may be quick to judge one way or the other just to get out of there quickly."

On Participation...

Participants most enjoyed very local, community or neighborhood community involvement.

"I'm registered but I don't vote."

"Because I can't stand politics."

"Of course, all of them are liars; they promise you today taxes are not going up but they are not going down, they will stay the same. Everything that they promise in their campaign they don't do anything, but still there are other people that are working with them that, if we vote, and we stay with these people we are going to better our lives too."

"I probably should get involved, there are a lot of immigrants coming here and they do a lot labor work but I don't have any time to do that. Not right now, not in my situation."

"I love politics I am on my cell phone all the time checking news seeing what's going on and me not voting is from my perspective is a statement because I recognize the importance of a vote and nobody can have it."

"As a woman it was not too long ago that it was given to us, the right to vote, so I utilize my right to vote and even though it may not count. At least I can put in my say on it. So I'm the opposite."

"I'm in agreement with her she just said a whole mouthful."

"I'm part of the neighborhood watch our street is (inaudible) I kind of look out for children, it's not that much of a problem except when the teenagers come out."

"I'm involved in the neighborhood and I'm involved in my kid's school. I'm just involved in my street, believe me if you are an outsider we'll let you know."

"I belong to the NASW, I'm on the Corner Foundation, I do guest speaking and I volunteer for the (inaudible)."

"I try to be a good neighbor; the neighbors that I surround myself with are good people and if they need a hand or if I need a hand we have that relationship that if I need to bother this tool to fix this or they need my hands to help them put up a fence we have that kind of relationship."

"I go to church on Tuesday and Thursday and I think that having God in our life is the best way to help our community. I am trying to find God and work hard; this will be the best way to fix the problems that we are facing in this day – crime, race and drugs and all kinds of stuff."

On Hispanic Youth...

Nearly all participants support full day kindergarten and free pre-k schooling. They offered compelling reasons in support of each.

Many commented on the disparity between rich and poor school systems.

"It would give the parents the opportunity to go get fulltime employment."

"They are on the bus longer than they are in half day Kindergarten. They are on the bus more than they are at school, trying to get home for half a day."

"Again because it will give the parents the opportunity to go work full time and be able to take care of the home. If they have to pay for daycare their paycheck goes to daycare. \$175 a week."

"I think it will help the kids because some kids are home and the parents are so frustrated because they don't have a job; they have these problems so this poor kid is either getting slapped or sit down. The kids will learn more."

"They just let you slide; they don't emphasize any of the work, anything that's taught. If you don't get it, you don't get it."

"I think children are sponges and they should be given the opportunity, the earlier the better. Why give them half a day and then do what for the other half a day."

"I think the kids would learn more. I would support it."

"I'm a bad speller because I wasn't taught properly, I learned myself but these kids don't pay attention and teachers don't care. Reading and writing are what you need to make it in this life."

"As a parent it is your responsibility to be involved in your child's homework, in your child's daily activities."

"I feel that too but more tutors I think our kids need tutors. Either in the high, or in the middle or in the library; they need tutors."

"Education they need to start as early as they can."

"And it would be easier for the parents."

"Because parents have to work and they have to pay more for babysitting and they don't get the education from babysitting. If I had to pay for full time kindergarten I would and I don't have little kids; my kids 18 and 20 years old. But I know a lot of friends they have to pay \$150 for babysitting and they make \$200."

"I support it. I have a daughter in kindergarten right now and I think it benefits her; not only because she is in school and I'm working but I would rather her be in school all day learning than to have her pick up stuff on TV while I'm working where she is learning nothing but cartoons."

“At home with a babysitter they can get neglected, they can get beaten, they watch TV, they can go to sleep they really aren’t doing anything. Now a days we need education a lot I support even pre school not just kindergarten but pre school so I think a full day of kindergarten is very good for the kids.”

“I want to say too because they are more secure in the kindergarten; there more responsible people then when you leave your kids at somebody’s house that you don’t know the people.”

“Like I said earlier so they can get a head start to learning so they can get prepared so when they start real school it is not new to them and they are not lost.”

“I think there are too many kids in one room and I guess only the bright ones, the smarter ones, will pick up and be able to pass the grade with good grades and the ones who go slow they stay behind and in the future they will drop out.”

“If you go in Danbury High School they have everything, everything including inside the school for playing basketball, for football in side the school, we don’t have that in Bridgeport. They get whatever they want, our kids in Bridgeport they don’t have that. I went to Westport High School, those people they live in Heaven, we don’t have that in Bridgeport; our kids don’t have anything in Bridgeport that’s why they are bored and they do what they are doing because they don’t support kids in school in Bridgeport.”

On the Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission...

Few have heard of the Commission. Nearly all, however, asked to receive information about the Commission and their mission.

“Nothing.”

“They don’t exist.”

“Never heard of it.”

“I’ve heard the name thrown out there once in awhile but there is no information about it.”

“Who is the Commissioner of that commission? Who is in charge of it? I bet it is not a Hispanic.”

“We don’t know anything about them?”

“I don’t know about it, we have been honest and truthful, this is the first time I hear about it. But I think their goal probably is to help Hispanic people.”

“There is a website.”

“They represent us.”

“It would have been a good idea to have some handouts today so that we would know.”

“I would say that it is to help the Hispanics, to find out all this information and find a way to help the Spanish people. That’s what I would think.”

“How long has the commission been in existence? That’s what I want to know.”

“Based on our conversation today I would think it is just for bettering the life of Latinos in CT. Just based on what we are talking about I don’t know anything about them.”

“To educate, I know it is educating the State of Connecticut on Hispanic Culture and Diversity.”

“I read about that and I forgot.”

“It is empowering us.”

“I think it is empowerment too.”

“Recognizing Latinos in the community with awards and bringing a lot of people together and working with each other.”

“To help the education situation, the economic situation, everything that is going on; to improve not just Latinos but everybody in general.”

“Maybe because of the fact that we don’t have enough people out there maybe they should be speaking out for us, for those that don’t talk and our not heard, maybe use our voice to actually go out there and talk and say what we want to say but don’t have the guts to say it.”

5 APPENDIX
