

2007

Washington State
Latino/Hispanic Assessment

We all feel **THE NEED FOR SAFETY.**



State Farm encourages you to take a proactive role in your family's safety.

As a community, it's our job to support the dream of education for all. State Farm encourages you to keep this dream alive. State Farm is proud to partner with the Commission of Hispanic Affairs on building a stronger community.

LIKE A GOOD NEIGHBOR



STATE FARM IS THERE.®

Providing Insurance and Financial Services

table of contents

Message from the Chair.....	3
Commissioners and Staff.....	5
Introduction.....	6
2007 Demographics.....	8
2007 Legislative Recap.....	12
Education Report.....	24
Economic Report.....	32
Health Care Report.....	40
Environmental Health Report.....	44
Housing Insurance Report.....	48
Justice and Equity Report.....	54
Voters Participation.....	58
Recommendations.....	61

ABOUT THE COVER: Part of the visual discourse of *En Nuestra Casa No Hay Suficiente Amor, Respeto y Justicia* is to represent how in our society much lip service is given to multiculturalism, inclusion and giving value to all cultures. In this painting I have people with flowers coming out of their mouths to represent the pretty words we say but we are collectively not doing the hard work it takes to actualize an inclusive society. In parts of Mexico there is a saying, “te están echando flores” which usually meant you were being insincerely complimented. I use this saying to visualize the insincere efforts to make our society more just. All the while, our children are being raise with symbolic separation/containment/repression as shown with the razor wire around the child.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Cecilia Concepción Alvarez was born in National City, California. Her mother is Mexicana and her father is Cubano. Cecilia was raised between San Diego, California, USA and Ensenada, Baja California, Mexico. This cultural and political mix inspired much of her work. Cecilia studied Sociology at San Diego State University. Last year she was honored as an Illustrious Alumna, by SDSU’s Chicano Education/Woman Studies. She has worked in Higher Education and in K-12 education for 25 years, as well as being a full-time artist and lecturer.

Ms. Alvarez is a self-taught artist. Her work reflects her perspective on being a Chicana/Latina. She is primarily a painter who has also created large public art. Ms. Alvarez has worked extensively with youth in creating murals and cultural awareness. Cecilia has been invited to lecture on the symbology of her artwork throughout the United States and is featured in many private collections. Her work has been shown regionally, nationally and internationally.

Ms. Alvarez is committed to create discourse through her art, on issues of entitlement, poverty and who is expendable in our collective. She hopes this discourse will create a new and healthier perspective on what is beauty, power and important to our societies.

Ms. Alvarez currently lives in Seattle with her husband and two lovely young adult children.

AFFORDABLE SOCCER FOR ALL BOYS AND GIRLS



Amigos F.C. through support from the Hispanic Community fosters and promotes without exception the cultural values of respect for family, friends and society.

Our commitment is achieved through the universal dance known as "Soccer"



SINCE 1990
www.ligahispana.com

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT SPONSORSHIP AND VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

www.amigosfc.com

info@ligahispana.com

(206) 772-3785

AMIGOS F.C. IS AFFILIATED WITH SEATTLE YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION (SYSA) AND (WSYSA)

message from the chair



As the new Chair of the Commission, I have undertaken a position of leadership and management that is challenging me to be both a leader and a manager — “To do what is right” and “To do it right”. Like my fellow Commissioners, I am unconditionally committed and passionate about the work that we do. I genuinely enjoy working with and for the community. I specifically value the opportunity of being able to participate in the change process, whether it is enhancements in local communities through established channels of communication with local government or working with Legislators and the Governor to institute new policies/laws that are equal and just for all.

It is clear that our duty is to be a “working” commission, consequently, we are held accountable for community involvement and for establishing first-class working relationships with community organizations, community leaders and city officials. This is expressed and demonstrated at our public meetings where our mission is to address issues that are affecting our Hispanic communities; issues such as Education, Access to Justice, Immigration, Farm Workers, Pesticides and Healthcare. Education undeniable is our priority mandate; it includes Parent Outreach, WASL, and Early Learning. Our Strategic Plan outlines several goals and commitments that we have aspired to fulfill during the year, yes, all this in addition to our regular day jobs—evidence of the hard work each and every one of the Commissioners, your representatives, is willing to execute. They truly are the hardest working group of people I have ever worked with. Their efforts to reach out to the community have been extremely successful.

This year the Commission has greatly increased awareness of the issues faced by Hispanics/Latinos in Washington State. As an advocate for Latino issues the Commission has continually demonstrated immense support for organizations with the same focus. In 2007 alone, the Commissioners attended 336 community meetings to discuss the issues at hand. The Commission also heard your concerns and gave advice to our Legislators, state agencies, and the Governor on over 230 occurrences. In addition, the Commission stirred great interest in Hispanic communities; we had spectacular turnout of community members at our public meetings. Our public meeting attendance for the year was over 330 members; a 400+ % increase as compared to attendance in 2004! We couldn't have done it without the great community support. We sincerely hope that **your** support will continue to intensify.

I know that I will continue to meet this dual challenge during the year ahead because I can rely on the continued support of my fellow Commissioners, committee chairs and those who serve along with them, and our committed corps of volunteers who contribute their “free” time professionally. This dynamic motivates me to serve this organization, to serve the Commission and the Washington State Hispanic communities with pride. I am sincerely grateful to CHA staff, volunteers, and those wonderful Commissioners and good friends that left us during the year. We will sincerely miss them, at the same time; I look forward to building and being part of the new team with those that remain and with those newly appointed.

The Commission encourages and invites you to work “Juntos” for a better tomorrow for our families, our children, and our communities. We represent one of the many voices in our state that every day advocates for Hispanics/Latinos residing in the state of Washington. We encourage your input and suggestions and welcome your calls and or emails.

We hope that our annual report is enlightening and beneficial to all.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lourdes Portillo Salazar'.

Lourdes Portillo Salazar



GET YOUR SHARE OF \$29 MILLION.

Last year Washington's Lottery retailers earned over \$29 million in commissions and selling bonuses. Being a Lottery retailer will draw customers into your store for incremental sales. And you could increase your bottom line even more with a retailer selling bonus by selling a winning ticket. The largest retailer bonus ever paid was \$110,000 - now that's a bonus!

Add Washington's Lottery to your business today and watch your sales grow. Contact Washington's Lottery at 1-800-732-5101, option 4.

Overall odds of winning any prize vary by game. Must be 18 or older to purchase or redeem. Be a smart player. Know your limit. Problem Gambling Helpline: 1-800-547-6133. walottery.com



it's good to play

commissioners and staff

COMMISSIONERS



Lourdes Portillo Salazar
Commissioner Salazar is the Chair of the Commission and she works for the city of Bellevue. She serves in the CHA Executive Committee and the Education Committee.



Ty Cordova
Commissioner Cordova is a graduate of New Mexico State University with a degree in Business

Administration and a minor in Marketing. He is on the management team of the Public Affairs and Marketing department for State Farm Insurance in DuPont, WA. His responsibilities include overseeing media, legislative, community and multi-cultural relations for the entire Pacific Northwest zone. Commissioner Cordova is the Executive Director of the Pierce County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, and serves on the City of Lakewood Latino Police Advisory Board



Jorge Ruiz Chacón
Commissioner Chacón has a Doctoral degree in Psychology from The Southern California

University for Professional Studies. Dr. Chacón is a mental health practitioner and administrator who has been involved in the mental health field in the State of Washington for the past 40 years. He has been instrumental in establishing mental health and social services in several cities.



Félix L. Negrón
Commissioner Negrón has over thirty years experience in information technology. He works for the State of

Washington as an Information Systems Technology Specialist. He was the Founder of Image de Rainier, one of Washington State largest Hispanic scholarship award organizations. As a commissioner, he represents Thurston, Grays Harbor, Lewis and Pacific Counties and serves in the CHA Education Committee.



Gabriel Portugal
Commissioner Portugal is a teacher in the Kennewick School District. He is also the Committee Board

President for the Tri-Cities "Cinco de Mayo" Committee. Commissioner Portugal serves in the CHA Executive Committee, Education Committee, and the Personnel Committee.



Ninfa R. Gutierrez
Commissioner Ninfa Gutierrez was the Founder and first Director of the "Casa Hogar de la Doctora Gloria de Martinez" in 1995. Commissioner

Gutierrez has served on the Board of Directors of the Housing Assistance Council in Washington D.C., Rural Community Assistance Corporation in the western United States, the Washington Rural Housing Coalition and the Office of Rural and Farmworker Housing. She was Vice-President of the Washington Rural Housing Coalition and chair-person of the Chicano Foundation for Education.



Víctor Chacón
Commissioner Chacón is Director of Multicultural Services at Walla Community College. He holds advanced degrees in the Arts from the University of Texas and the University of Washington. He is Chair of the CHA Education Committee.



Henry M. Cruz
Commissioner Henry Cruz is an Associate Attorney practicing immigration law at Rios Cantor, P.S., in Seattle, WA. Prior to that he was the Project

Coordinator at Volunteer Advocates for Immigrant Justice, a Seattle-based joint pro bono project of Microsoft Corp. and the American Bar Association. He was also the Coordinating Attorney at the Political Asylum Project of Austin, a non-profit in Austin, TX, providing legal services to immigrants and refugees in Central Texas. He has also served on the Board of the Latina/o Bar Association of Washington as Co-VP of Membership and Services and Co-Chair of its Immigration Committee. He currently serves on the Pro Bono Committee of the Washington Chapter of the American Immigration Lawyers Association. He is a graduate of the University of Texas School of Law.



Rosalba D. Pitkin
Commissioner Pitkin is an ABE, GED, ESL Curriculum Advisor and Program Coordinator for ESL and Latino Outreach at Clark College in Vancouver. She is a graduate of New Mexico State University with a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration.

CHA STAFF



Uriel Iñiguez
Uriel is the CHA Director. Mr. Iñiguez holds a BA in Human Resources Management from Eastern Washington University and a Master's degree in Public Administration from City University.

Alicia Luna, is CHA's Executive Assistant.

2007 Volunteers/Interns

From **Evergreen University**: Jean Bohling, Jared Gum, Zoe Hatzfeld-Hecht, Peou Parker and Chris Wade.

From **South Puget Sound Community College**: Maggie Hooper and Adela Bedolla.

From **St. Martin's University**: Richard Diaz;
Volunteer: Leslie Deaton

Interns that contributed to the research of this report
Paul Cigarruista, attends Oregon State University where he is pursuing his Bachelors degree in Public Policy and Planning.

Donald R Barker II, 2000 Graduate of Northwest University in Kirkland, WA. He holds a Bachelors degree in Business Administration with a minor in Pre-Law. 2007 Graduate from Faith Seminary in Tacoma, Washington. He holds a Master's degree in Theological Studies.

SPONSORS/ADVERTISERS

State Farm Insurance- Print Sponsor (p.23 & IFC)
Amigos FC (p.2)
Comcast Cable (p.11)
Emerald Downs p.(11)

Esparza + Business Communication (p.35)
Fulcrum Foundation (p.29)
KCTS - Veme (p.29)
Latino Community Fund - Washington State (p.19)
WA Lottery (p.4)

ANNUAL REPORT PRODUCED BY:

Esparza + Business Communication
3534 W. Lawton Circle, Seattle, WA 98199
Phone: 206.829.8895
www.esparzaplus.com
info@esparzaplus.com

introduction



Continuacion del Diario que
formó el Alferez graduado de
Fragata D^o Juan Perez, Primer Pi-
loto del Departamento de S^o Blas
con la titulada Santiago, alias
la Nueva Saliccia de su mando,
que comprehende su salida de Hon-
terrey á explorar la Costa Sepen-
trional, y su regreso á este pro-
pio Puerto en 26. de Agosto de
este año de 1774.



Latinos have been instrumental in the development of Washington State since the 1774 Spanish exploration of the Olympic Peninsula. We are currently the largest minority in the United States, 13 percent of the population.

During the past 25 years the state's Latino population has increased dramatically from 118,432 in 1980 to 549,774 in 2005.

With increasing inequitable rates in all aspects of Hispanic/Latino life, it is crucial that improvements be made in key social areas. Hispanics/Latinos still face major challenges similar to those that existed during the Chicano Movement. Latinos are disproportionately affected by high school dropout rates, poor housing facilities, poverty, and mediocre political participation.

The objective of the Commission on Hispanic Affairs is to continue working resolutely to eliminate the disparities in health care, education, access to justice, public safety, housing, environmental health, and other emergent issues that create obstacles to progress.

The Commission recognizes that it is of the essence to stress issues that directly affect the Hispanic/Latino community of Washington State and to respond to the changing needs of the community. The following statistics provide evidence of the rising significance of Hispanics/Latinos in Washington State. They clearly denote the growing impact of this ethnicity:

- Hispanics remained the largest minority group; 44.3 million as of July 1, 2006 - 14.8 percent of the total population. Black was second-largest minority group, totaling 40.2 million in 2006. They were followed by Asian (14.9 million), American Indian and Alaskan native (4.5 million), and Other Pacific Islander (1 million). The population of non-Hispanic whites who indicated no other race totaled 198.7 million in 2006.

- The Hispanic population in 2006 was much younger, with a median age of 27.4 compared with the population as a whole at 36.4. About a third of the Hispanic population was younger than 18, compared with one-fourth of the total population. (US Census Bureau).
- Hispanic/Latinos currently represent 9.1% (581,357) of the population in Washington State (Northwest Area Foundation), and they constitute the largest minority population group.
- By 2010, it is estimated that there will be 626,349 Hispanics/Latinos living in Washington State, with a median age of 24.84 (Provisional Projections of the Total population by age, gender and race for the state of Washington).
- Twenty-eight percent of Immigrants in Washington State are Hispanic/Latino (Northwest Federation of Community Organizations), and between 1990 and 2000, foreign-born Hispanics/Latinos in the state increased by 300% (Growth and Change in Washington State's Hispanic Population).
- Six percent of Washingtonians speak Spanish at home (In Our Own Words: Immigrant's Experiences in the Northwest, Feb 2006, Northwest Federation of Community Organizations).
- Seventy-eight percent of the American unauthorized population in 2005 hails from Mexico and Latin America (PEW Hispanic Research Center).

Hispanic/Latinos living in Washington state face identical issues with other Hispanics/Latinos in different Washington communities: low graduation rates, low Washington Assessment of

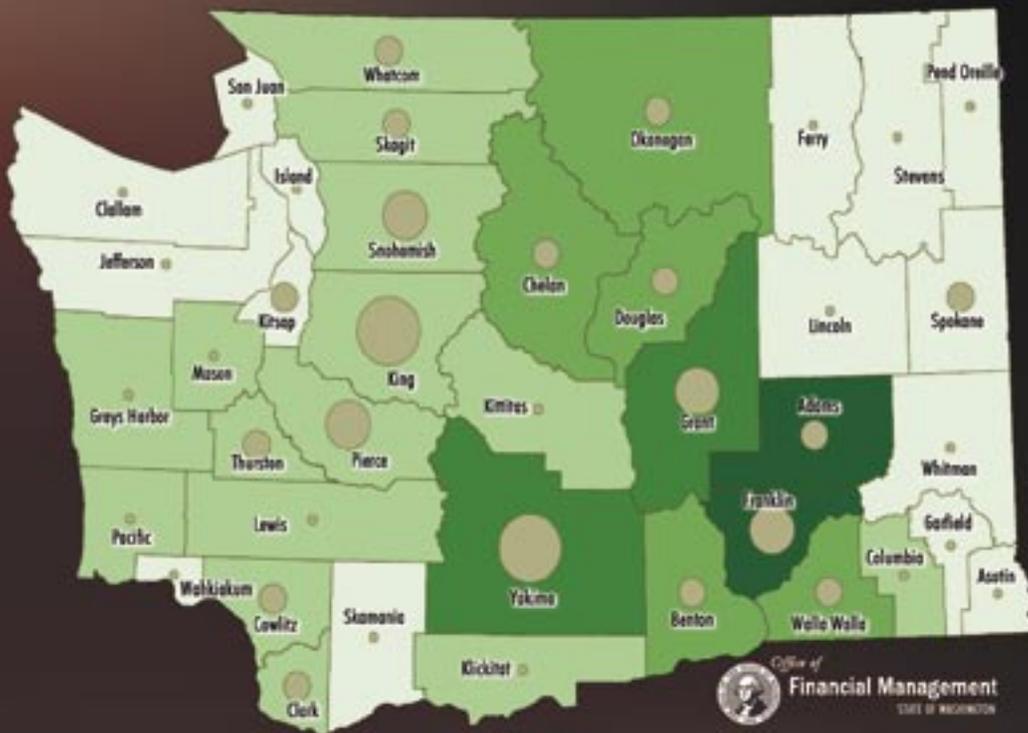
Student Learning (WASL) test scores, lack of health care coverage, farm worker's risks (pesticide exposure and work injuries), inadequate access to interpreters for services, and little progress in economic development. According to Bob Arrington (Assistant Director in Pesticide Management for the Washington State Department of Agriculture), "Housing for migrant workers and housing for non-migrant workers are probably two of the biggest initiatives needing legislative support."

Disproportionate rates and inequity are present in every dimension of Hispanic/Latino lives; however, tangible outcomes and preventative measures do exist. Three major themes consistently appear when searching for a solution to the existing gaps:

1. Knowledge base (e.g. cultural competency).
2. Social strategy to accomplish change.
3. Political will to support change (i.e. generating resources needed to produce change).

The State has been actively working to enhance the services they provide and the means by which they outreach to Hispanics. The Department of Social Health Services (DSHS) and Labor and Industries (L&I) initiated an effort to certify medical and social service interpreters and translators working for state agencies. Measures similar to this must consistently be undertaken if any progress in reducing the issues facing the Hispanic population is to be made. See graph on next page of the total Hispanic/Latino Population in Washington State (OFM 2006).

Hispanic/Latino Population - Washington State 2006



County Name	Total Population	Hisp. Total Population	Percent Share
Adams	17,300	9,040	52.3
Asotin	21,000	470	2.2
Benton	160,00	24,790	15.4
Chelan	70,100	16,530	23.6
Clallam	67,800	2,940	4.3
Clark	403,500	22,640	5.6
Columbia	4,100	300	7.3
Cowlitz	96,800	5,440	5.6
Douglas	35,700	8,340	23.4
Ferry	7,500	220	2.9
Franklin	64,200	36,500	56.9
Garfield	2,400	60	2.5
Grant	80,600	28,220	35.0
Grays Harbor	70,400	4,970	7.1
Island	77,200	3,590	4.7
Jefferson	28,200	750	2.7
King	1,835,300	117,890	6.4
Kitsap	243,400	11,510	4.7
Kittitas	37,400	2,300	6.1
Klickitat	19,800	1,850	9.3
Lewis	72,900	4,980	6.8
Lincoln	10,200	220	2.2
Mason	53,100	3,100	5.8
Okanogan	39,800	6,770	17.0
Pacific	21,500	1,350	6.3
Pend Oreille	12,300	260	2.1
Pierce	773,500	50,030	6.5
San Juan	15,700	370	2.4
Skagit	113,100	15,890	14.0
Skamania	10,600	480	4.5
Snohomish	671,800	37,620	5.6
Spokane	443,800	14,160	3.2
Stevens	42,100	880	2.1
Thurston	231,00	11,860	5.1
Wahkiakum	3,900	110	2.8
Walla Walla	57,900	10,910	18.8
Whatcom	184,300	11,260	6.1
Whitman	42,800	1,410	3.3
Yakima	231,800	95,380	41.1
Washington St.	6,375,800	585,390	8.9

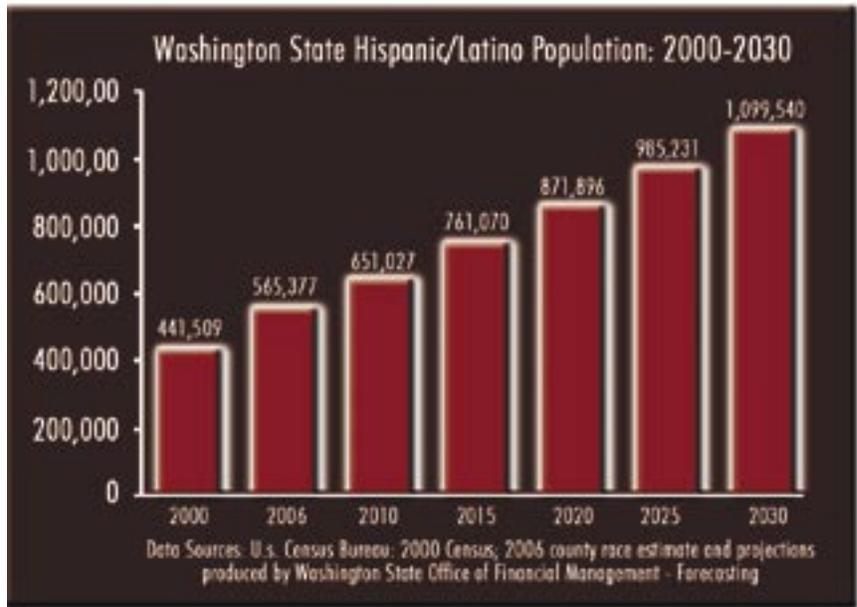
Counties in Washington with the highest Hispanic Population - 2006

County	Rank	%	Hispanic	Overall
Adams	1	52.5	8,864	16,887
Franklin	2	48.4	32,246	66,570
Yakima	3	39.7	92,551	233,105
Grant	4	34.6	28,621	82,612
Douglas	5	22.6	8,094	35,772

Source: NW Area Foundation

2006 County Estimates produced by Washington State Office of Financial Management - Forecasting Division Map by Kyle Reese-Cassal 3-09-07

- The 2005 US Latino student (age 16-24) drop out rate was 22.4% (Indicators.nwaf.org)
- Of the Washington State students that were expected to graduate in 2005, an estimated 74% graduated on time (i.e., in a four-year period) with a regular diploma. Hispanic students had a 60% graduation rate, Black students – 61%, Asian students – 80%, and American Indian – 55%. (OSPI)
- 59 percent of US Hispanics 25 and older had at least a high school education in 2006, 12% percent had a bachelor's degree or higher in 2006 and 839,000 had advanced degrees in 2006. (e.g., master's, professional, doctorate). (US Census Bureau)
- In 2006, the uninsured number and rate among Hispanics both increased in 2006 to 15.3 million and 34.1% from 13.9 million and 32.3% in 2005 while the number of Hispanics/Latinos without coverage remained at 14.1 in 2006. The uninsured rate for non-Hispanic White was statistically



- unchanged at 10.8%. The uninsured rate for Blacks increased in 2006 to 20.5%, from 19% in 2005, while the uninsured rate for Asians decreased to 15.5%, from 17.2% in 2005. (US Census Bureau)
- About 22.1% of Hispanic children did not have any health insurance in 2006, compared with 7.3 % for non-Hispanic White Children, 14.1 % for Black children, and 11.4% for Asian children. Washington uninsured rate (using the 3 year average 2003-2006)

- is 12.5% ; lower than the US uninsured rate (using the 3 year average 2003-2006) which is 15.3%. (US Census Bureau)
- The 2004 Washington State Population Survey of Health Insurance by race/ethnicity reports that Hispanics/Latinos are disproportionately represented among the uninsured compared to non-Hispanics. Roughly 9% of Washington's non-elderly population is Hispanic, but 15%, or approximately 91,000 of the uninsured, are Hispanic/Latino. (WA State Office of Financial Management).



2007 demographics

- 2005 characteristics and median earnings in the past 12 months indicate that the median earnings by Hispanic/Latino men and women are the lowest in the identified ethnic/racial groups. Hispanic/Latino men had median earnings of \$27,380 per year, compared to Asian men who had the highest median earnings in any single race: \$48,693 per year.

Non-Hispanic Caucasian men had the second highest earnings at \$46,807 per year, followed by Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander men at \$35,426 per year. Black, American Indian, and Alaska Native men had earnings of \$33,520 per year. Each of these ethnic/racial groups had higher earnings than Hispanic/Latino men. The pattern observed for woman by ethnicity/race was similar to that of men. Hispanic/Latina women earned less than the other ethnic/race groups with an average of \$23,678 per year.

(US census Bureau)

- Wage growth, while inconsistent across groups, tended to favor minority workers. Median wages for Hispanic/Latino and Black workers, which started at lower levels and remained lower, increased in 2005-2006, while wages of Asian and Caucasian workers declined slightly. However, among foreign-born Hispanics/Latinos, who represent the biggest share in the Hispanic/Latino labor pool, the median wage actually declined. Hispanics/Latinos also still have the lowest median wage of all racial and ethnic groups. (Pew Hispanic Center)

- The maternal mortality rate for Hispanic women was 8.5 deaths per 100,000 births compared to 10.3 per 100,000 in 2004. The ratio of Hispanic-to-non-Hispanic-white maternal mortality rate was 0.9 in 2004 and 1.2 in 2003. (U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)

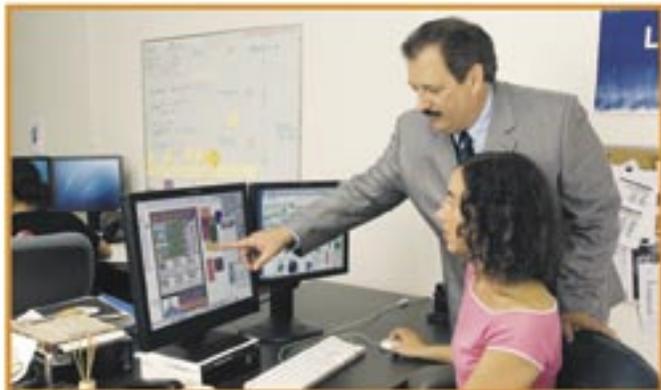


- According to the 2006 Latino Labor Report, the Hispanic/Latino unemployment rate reached an historic low of 5.2% in the second quarter of 2006. The gap between the seasonally-adjusted unemployment rates for Hispanics/Latinos and non-Hispanics/Latinos was just 0.6 percentage points—the smallest since 1973 when employment data on Hispanics/Latinos first became available. (Pew Hispanic Center)

- 1.1 million Hispanics veterans of the U.S. armed forces are serving/served our country. (US Census Bureau)

Situation: CRITICAL

7 newspapers that need to go to press.
4 million hits a year on your websites.
2 T-1 lines that just can't handle the pace.



Pat "PR" Robinson, Director of New Media
Robinson Newspapers, Burien, WA

Solution: COMCAST

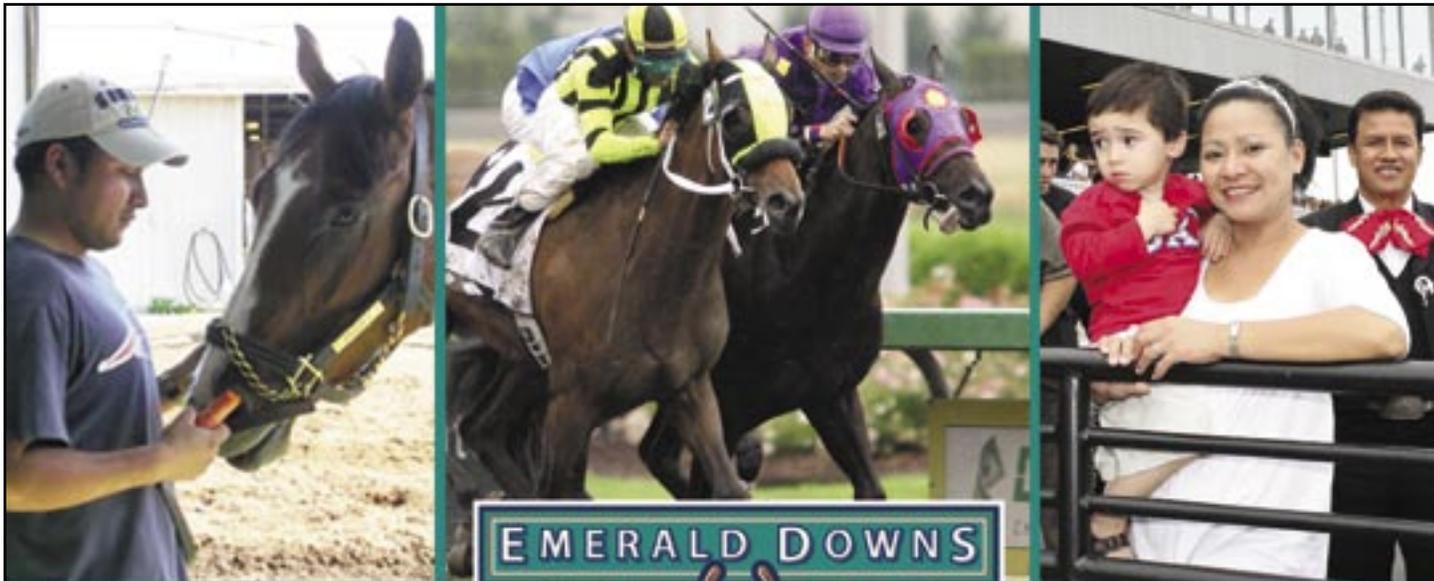
The incredible speed and rock-solid reliability of **Comcast Business Class Internet** allows *Robinson Newspapers* to keep their reporters on top of the story, their websites up to date, and their presses running on time.

Equip your business with Comcast Business Class™ for Internet that's way faster than DSL, plus advanced Digital Voice service with unlimited calling, and informative TV to keep your office sure-footed and sharp.

Call 1-888-824-8231 or visit www.comcast.com/business.



Internet: Compares Comcast 6.0Mbps service to 1.5Mbps standard DSL. Many factors affect speed. Actual speeds may vary and are not guaranteed. Digital Voice: Unlimited package pricing applies only to direct-dialed calls to locations in the U.S., certain U.S. territories, and Canada. No separate long-distance carrier connection available. Digital Voice service (including 911/emergency services) may not function after an extended power outage. Certain customer premises equipment may not be compatible. EMTA required for additional fee. Video: Available for private viewing venues only and is not intended for public viewing areas such as bars, restaurants, and residential addresses. Please call your local Comcast office for restrictions and complete details about service, prices, and equipment. ©2008 Comcast. All rights reserved.



Emerald Downs celebrates the contributions of Hispanic workers to the sport of thoroughbred racing: 80% of employees working directly with the horses and 15% of employees in the grandstand identify themselves as of Hispanic descent. Our gratitude towards an irreplaceable part of the sporting experience at Emerald Downs.

www.emeralddowns.com • 888.931.8400

2007 legislative recap



2007 Legislative Session resulted in various Achievements for the Latino Community, conversely, some significant bills did not pass that would have aided in the development for Hispanics/Latinos.



The Commission on Hispanic Affairs tracked 188 bills, wrote many testimonies, and attended numerous hearings on bills that were relevant to the Hispanic communities of Washington State. The areas of special interest particularly to Hispanics were first and foremost education, health care, farm worker rights, economic development, housing and legal issues. This year's legislative session though grueling and lengthy brought about many successes for the Hispanic community. The successes and challenges will be discussed later in this report.

The Director of the Commission Uriel Iñiguez resumes his focus on education and the need for change in the school system. The Director continues participating in a weekly radio broadcast on Radio KDNA. During his broadcasts he provides updates on bills that are before the House and the Senate, specifically those that will have a positive or negative impact on Hispanics. He also uses this venue to inform/educate Hispanics on other issues such as predatory lending practices, foreclosure fraud, and Commission public meeting dates.

Once again we had a successful Latino Legislative Day which brought Hispanics from throughout the state to Olympia. Over 800 Hispanics gathered on a crisp sunny day in February to join as one and meet with Legislators to communicate their concerns. The large audience drew supportive responses from the Governor's Office and from many Legislators.



The captivating performance of the Mariachi Ayutla in the Rotunda, the presentation of scholarships to two exceptional Latino students and the standing

room only tent attendance to hear Governor Gregoire certainly exemplifies our contributions and commitment to a better tomorrow.



The Hispanic Community will inevitably continue to grow and undeniably the Commission will continue to converse and oblige Legislators to exert more effort to our issues. Today 800, tomorrow 2000; our presence needs to be more visible and in greater numbers not only on Latino Legislative Day but throughout the Legislative session and during the year. Without a doubt, improving the quality of life for Hispanics/Latinos in the State of Washington is a perpetual duty for the Commission, Hispanic leaders, advocates, etc. The Commission on Hispanic Affairs remains dedicated in its efforts to educate both the community and policy makers regarding the significant issues that confront the Hispanic/Latino population.



The Commission would like to recognize and thank each legislator that listened to our concerns, supported/opposed those bills that would have significantly impacted the Hispanic Latino communities of WA State, and who joined us at 2007 Latino Legislative Day. The Commission would also like to thank all advocates, administrators, students and constituents who joined us and helped advance our mission. Last but not least, a heartfelt thanks to the Latino Legislative Committee for their relentless efforts in the carrying out of another successful Latino Legislative Day.

2007 Legislative Session - CHA Priorities

EDUCATION

Encourage the development of additional programs to address the high drop out rate of Hispanic students in our K-12 schools.

Education is essential to the economic health, cultural diversity, civic vitality, and political well-being of Washington State and the nation. Our state education system and all local educational agencies must respond accordingly with resources, programs, and policies that address the factors that impede Hispanic students to reach and gain a meaningful education.

- Implement a grant program for school districts and community organization partnerships that focuses on drop out prevention.
- Create career academics in Washington high schools.
- Expand Navigation 101 to all schools with low performance.
- Create an effective age-appropriate educational pathway or alternative assessment for students who at the end of their senior year are unable to pass the WASL.
- Expand state support for parent and community involvement efforts within diverse communities.



All Teachers need to be prepared to teach in multicultural classroom.

- Encourage bilingual college students to become teachers in Washington State.

School districts face significant difficulties in recruiting, hiring, and retaining a sufficient amount of bilingual teachers. According to OSPI, more than 90% of teachers and administrators are Caucasian; whereas the Hispanic student population in some school districts is over 50%. Bilingual teachers are crucial in advancing the academic success of English Language Learners. CHA supports legislation that will give bilingual college and university students an incentive to become teachers while securing their commitment to work in Washington State.

- Require all current and future teachers to receive extensive information/training on how to teach in a multicultural classroom.

Address barriers faced by English Language Learners in attaining the Certificate of Academic Achievement.

- Only 12% of 10th grade English Language Learner (ELL) students meet the WASL standard in mathematics and only 35% of ELL students meet the WASL standard in reading. School districts must work to address the disparities in the WASL results and help to reduce the barriers faced by ELL students.
- Develop two initial exams for new immigrants: one to evaluate English language skills and one to assess writing and math skills.
- Implement programs that coordinate curriculum, assessment, teacher training and family involvement.

Encourage post-secondary institutions to expand their admission processes to be more comprehensive.

Since 1997, admission of Hispanic students at our state's higher education institutions has not kept up with our population growth. While the Hispanic population comprises roughly 9.1% of the population in Washington State, Hispanic enrollment in the University of Washington's graduate and professional programs is less than 3%. Colleges and universities are becoming less and less diverse while our state general population is becoming more diverse.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Support legislation that addresses the ability of minority and women's business enterprises to access available resources.

Funds shall be used to create jobs and added economic opportunities thereby providing additional resources to the community economic revitalization board's program. CHA also encourages the state investment board to invest in start-up and expanding business programs and to create economic development grant programs.

- Expand the Link- Deposit program (through the allocation of additional funds).
- Develop small business assistance centers.
- Allocate additional funds to the Office of Minority and Women's Business Enterprise (OMWBE) so that they can assist the small business centers .

2007 legislative recap

HEALTHCARE

Encourage the state to expand affordable and accessible healthcare coverage for all Washington State residents.

Although Washington State increased health care access and coverage in the 90's, that progress has eroded over the last several years. Since 2002, nearly 100,000 additional people became uninsured in Washington State; 2004's estimate is over 600,000. Latinos are severely impacted and many lack insurance coverage and or equal access to health care.

Expand Basic Health Plan

There are roughly 100,000 uninsured children in Washington State. Many of these children are currently eligible for Medicaid; however, they are not enrolled. In addition, over 9,000 children are currently on the waiting list for the state Medicaid program for immigrant children. Expansion of this program needs to occur to cover these extremely low-income (<100% FPL) immigrant children who have no other source of coverage.

HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR ALL CHILDREN BY 2010

The Hispanic community envisions Washington as a State in which every child is healthy and ready to learn because they have adequate health care coverage and access to timely care. Currently, 73,000 children in Washington are uninsured; that's enough to fill over 2,500 school classrooms. There are two principle ways to overcome much of this gap given that an estimated 70% of uninsured kids are eligible for existing programs:



- Make sure all children eligible for programs currently available are enrolled. Use outreach and education to make sure parents know about coverage options and how to appropriately access health care for their children;
- Expand the eligibility levels for current federally matched programs like the "State Children's Health Insurance Program" and develop a gap insurance program to allow families with higher incomes to buy coverage.

Require state agencies to provide certain public notices in languages other than English.

Require state agencies to provide public notices regarding public health, safety, or welfare in the appropriate language

of the community that is being addressed. Limited English Proficiency (LEP) households in predominant Washington LEP communities have the same right to be informed about these matters as English-speaking households. In order to be effective, notices such as: placement of sex offender housing, emergency information about water and food safety, or disaster recovery should be available to all people within the community.

Provide funding for a Hispanic/Latino Health Needs Assessment.

This will help advance the Joint Select Committee on Health Disparities Report. This is the first step towards creating a Universal Hispanic Health Care program. Currently, most needs data is based on migrant health issues rather than the broader Hispanic community.

FARM WORKER ISSUES

There are 33.5 million immigrants in the United States today, which represents 11.7% of the entire U.S. population (U.S. Census Bureau 2003). Unauthorized migrants from Mexico account for 6.2 million of the immigrant population in the United States, or 56 percent in 2005 (PEW Hispanic Center, March 2006). Consequently, Mexicans continue to be the largest of any minority group and are also the fastest growing in the country. An unauthorized immigrant is classified as an individual who “overstayed their visas or those classified by the government as entries without inspection” (PEW Hispanic Center, 2006). Agriculture has become a prime industry for Mexican migrants to obtain employment when they arrive in the U.S. Unfortunately there are many downfalls associated with this easy form of employment. They include inadequate housing, lack of clean water, low wages, pesticide exposure, respiratory problems, lack of health insurance and onsite work injuries that they are faced with. Medicaid was a program designed in the United States to cater to low-income parents, children, seniors and people with disabilities that have limited resources to health care. However, many immigrants do not qualify under Medicaid because of their illegal status or if they have not been in the United States for more than 5 years. Studies have shown that an estimated 44 percent of legal Mexican immigrants and 77 percent of undocumented immigrants do not have health insurance. According to the National Center for Farm worker health, Inc., labor jobs in agriculture are ranked among the top three most dangerous jobs in the United States. In 2001, there were 22.8 migrant worker deaths for every 100,000 agricultural workers in the U.S., as opposed to the 4.3 deaths for every 100,000 in the total U.S. workforce (NCFH). The strenuous work hours and conditions that migrant workers live under contribute to the various diseases and health risks they are most at risk for. Without the essential necessities, migrant workers commonly suffer from parasitic infections and tuberculosis.



It is important that these workers receive the same health care opportunities as the rest of the U.S. work force.

Encourage the continued monitoring of Cholinesterase. CHA encourages enhancement of the blood monitoring process for handlers of pesticides that contain the cholinesterase enzymes. Farm workers who thin crops are more likely to have detectable levels of pesticide residues in their homes than other farm workers. Their children are more likely to have detectable levels of pesticides in their urine. Farm workers who believe they have been exposed to pesticides are not likely to seek health care out of fear of retaliation, lack of trust in doctors to diagnose pesticide exposure, and the costs associated with health care.

- Require and fund air monitoring for agricultural pesticides to appropriate state agencies.
- Establish timelines and a process for phasing out the extremely dangerous agricultural pesticides and the phasing in of safer methods for growing food.
- Mandate and fund a study that will identify explicit policies and/or programs that require implementation in order to ensure transition to alternatives. Farm workers must be given a place at the table in this study process.

- Direct state agencies to adopt regulations such as “no- spray zones” that will enhance protection of workers and their children pending transition to alternatives.

Farm Worker Housing

- Increase allocation of Housing Trust Funds for Farm worker Housing. Many farm workers live in substandard housing due to the lack of affordable housing.
- Require state and local agencies that manage/supervise the “housing conditions” of farm worker housing to form partnerships in order to streamline the enforcement of regulations thereby providing a safety net for farm workers who are victims of substandard housing.

FEDERAL ISSUES

Immigration

The Commission will continue to advise our Congressional delegation on the need of a comprehensive immigration reform.

- A reform that addresses the barriers faced by all immigrants to our country, the recently-arrived, the long-term resident and those to come in the future, the farm worker, and the non-farm worker.
- An immigration reform for the families of immigrants that reside within the United States and those outside the United States; and
- A reform that recognizes respect, the dignity of work and protects the immigrant worker and their families just as all other workers are protected.

Support the DREAM ACT.

Hundreds of thousands of children are brought to the United States by parents in the hopes of achieving the American Dream. These children have no alternative/option to remedy or adjust their immigration status and become contributing members of society. For those triumphant immigrant students who graduate from high school and seek higher education to pursue a career, the federal DREAM ACT provides the avenue for achieving this goal as well as adjusting their immigration status. CHA recommends that legislators support this important federal legislation.

2007 legislative recap

Education-Related Bills That Passed

In the 2006 legislative session, lawmakers approved collective bargaining rights for licensed child care providers. Also in 2006, the legislature created an executive-level agency, the Department of Early Learning, and formed a public-private partnership, called Thrive by Five, to build public will and financial support for early learning. A contract, supported by the Children's Alliance, was negotiated and presented to the legislature for approval in 2007. The 2007 legislature was marked by great success for children, including significant budget investments and legislation that represented a culmination of years of work by children's advocates. Children's health coverage and early learning for children received unparalleled state support that will have a direct and immediate impact on children across the state. These historic gains were fueled by consistent advocacy by individuals, organizations, and political leaders working toward a common goal; improving the lives of our children. The 2007-2009 budget includes more than \$130 million in new investment in early learning programs—an enormous commitment on the part of our lawmakers. Additionally, the legislature approved the Children's Alliance's top two priorities for the session: establishment of a voluntary childcare quality rating system and raising the state's reimbursement rate to providers who care for children in low-income families.

Improving mathematics and science education (HB 1906/2SSB 5813)

Creates a math and science instructional coach program; directs the State Board of Education (SBE) to recommend revisions to the learning requirements for math and science.

Enhancing student learning opportunities & achievement (SB 5841/ HB 1872)

Begins to phase in full day kindergarten in highest poverty schools; creates an English Language Learner pilot project and several K-3 demonstration projects; and establishes the Washington Learning Center Program, which provides grants for high-quality before and after school care. (Governor partially vetoed).



Washington assessment of student learning (WASL) (SSB 6023)

Makes improvements to the state assessment system in three ways:

1. Increases the number of alternative assessments available to students
2. Reviews the current assessment (WASL); and
3. Considers end-of-course exams for math and science in high-school.

Diagnostic tests are added to the assessment system, and math and science as graduation requirements are delayed until 2013. (Governor partially vetoed).

Statewide program for comprehensive dropout prevention, intervention, and retrieval (HB 1573/ SB 5497) Established a grant program for school districts to implement comprehensive dropout prevention and retrieval programs. (Governor partially vetoed).

High school completion (HB1051)

Creates a pilot program at two community and technical colleges (CTC) to allow students who meet eligibility criteria to continue their studies at the CTC and earn a high-school diploma. The program is designed for students under 21 who have completed all state and local graduation requirements. (Governor partially vetoed)

School lunches (HB 1128/SB 5140)

The state's 2007-2009 budget includes \$3.6 million to eliminate the 40-cent co-pay for school lunch in kindergarten through the third grade—getting rid of a proven barrier to participation in school meals. A minimum of 2,400 additional low-income students will start eating school lunch and get the nutrition they need to succeed in school. This investment is a solid step towards eliminating the school lunch co-pay for all students.

Hungry children can't focus on learning. Increasing expectations of students make it important that they have every available tool to succeed in school. \$3.3 million is provided to eliminate the reduced price lunch co-pay for low-income students in grades K-3 and \$1.5 million in additional funding for continued elimination of the reduced price co-pay of school breakfast for all low-income students. (Governor partially vetoed).



*Invest
in the
Future!*



Why Invest in the Latino Community?

The Latino population contributes to the region economically, socially, and culturally through its diverse and multinational communities. Investing in the social assets of this resilient and valuable segment of the population will create a better future for all of Washington State.

Of the billions of dollars distributed in 2005 by philanthropic institutions, only 1.3% of the money was invested in the Latino community. While there are many organizations doing great work in the Latino community, they are in need of more funding to be able to improve the lives of more Latino families.

The Latino Community Fund of Washington State (LCF) aims to increase the amount of philanthropic giving to the Latino community and engage Latinos and non-Latinos to invest in our linked futures. Also, LCF aims to maintain low administrative overhead and implement the most cost-efficient systems possible.

Make a difference and invest now!

Donations and further information at
WWW.LATINOCOMMUNITYFUND.ORG

1100 Dexter Avenue North, Suite 100
Seattle, WA 98109

info@latinocommunityfund.org
PHONE: 206-369-2448

2007 legislative recap

Supporting Struggling Students Promoting Academic Success (PAS)

\$49 million are provided to assist high school students who have not passed the WASL.

Skills Center Enrollment (SB 5790/HB 1997)

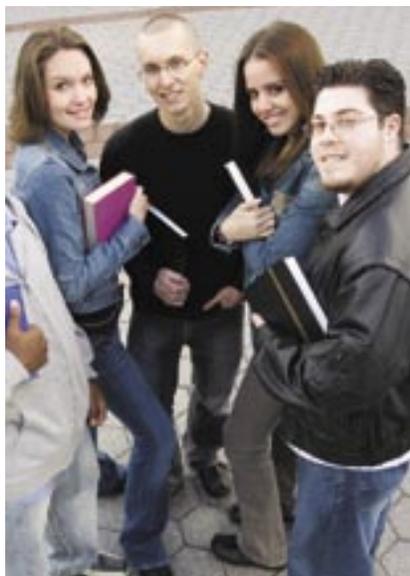
Additional funding is provided to cover the costs associated with students who attend both Skills Center and their resident high-school. (Governor partially vetoed)

Indigenous Learning Pilot Program

The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) received funding to implement a pilot program that provides a curriculum and an online learning program based on the recommended standards in Washington's tribal history. The specific content areas covered by the pilot will include social studies and science. The pilot program will be implemented in a minimum of three school districts in collaboration with Washington tribes and school districts.

After School Math Programs

OSPI will provide up to \$3 million in grants to community organizations that partner with school districts, such as Boys and Girls Clubs, to provide after-school math support programs and activities.



KCTS TV Spanish-Language Public TV Channel

KCTS Public Television will offer Spanish-language programming through V-me, a program service modeled on the current public television model; with children, the arts, history, science, biography, nature, movies, pop culture, and public affairs genres. A bilingual Outreach Coordinator will organize an early learning initiative aimed at supporting Latino families in Washington State, and constructing other activities that support the health and well-being of Latino families. Total monies provided are \$360,000.



Important Education Budget Investments

Campana Quetzal: \$150,000 in funding was provided to the non-profit to address the educational needs of Latino students and families and help fund the demonstration and evaluation of up to three program initiatives. These include:

- 1) Early childhood education for Latino children (Thrive by Five) in partnership with the Puget Sound Educational Service District;
- 2) Parent leadership training; and
- 3) High school success and college prep programs.

This funding will match Gates Foundation and other grants received by Campana Quetzal.

Initiative I-728 Increase: Initiative 728 (I-728), approved by state voters in 2000, transfers a portion of our State General Fund to the Student Achievement Fund (SAF). The SAF is used for class size reduction and other educational needs. The distribution of the I-728 funds is \$450 per FTE student in the 2007-08 school years. New funding totals \$139.0 million.

Health Care

In a state and a country as bountiful as ours no one should go bankrupt because they are sick. We believe employees, employers, and government must share in the responsibility of affordable, quality health care. Every person in Washington should have the right care at the right time.

Colorectal cancer screening (SHB1337/SB 5494)

Beginning July 2008, health insurance plans must cover colorectal cancer screening exams and laboratory test consistent with recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Children's health (SB 5093/HB 1071)

The state, using matching federal funds, will provide coverage to all children in families with income up to 250% Federal Poverty Level (\$51,625 for family of 4), regardless of where the child was born. Effective January 1, 2009, coverage will extend to children in families with income up to 300% FPL.

The bill also establishes three important measures:

1. It links children with a "medical home" essentially a doctor or clinic that can coordinate the services they need to stay healthy;
2. It directs that parents be given information about well-child care, and the importance of good nutrition and physical activity in school.
3. It sets goals for school nutrition and physical activity in school.

Community Development & Economic Prosperity

Several projects were funded to assist economically-distressed communities in rural and urban Washington with capital investments. Legislation was passed to provide opportunities for stronger growth and better prospects so that our cities, towns and rural areas can compete economically in the world and build a greater quality of life.

Centro Latino- \$200,000 in funding for community development, advocacy and integration programs such as: ABE, language empowerment school programs community education and entrepreneurial co-operatives.

Community Development Fund (HB 2325)

Died in Senate, but \$21 million were included in the final capital budget. It was necessary to establish a fund to provide competitive grants to non-profits and local governments for the long-term benefit of communities. The fund will support local economic development initiatives, particularly those that encourage small business sustainability. It will also offer access to services such as health care, education, workforce, development, and placement programs. These projects include:

Centro Latino	—————	\$1,500,000
SeaMar Family	—————	\$1,500,000
CASA Latina	—————	\$1,000,000
El Centro de la Raza	—————	\$821,000
Granger Community	—————	\$500,000
Center/KDNA		
Public Broadcasting V-me	—————	\$360,000

Rural county B&O tax credit for creating jobs (HB 1566/ SB 5573)

The improved rural county B&O tax credit allows businesses easier access to incentives for creating new jobs.

Companies can now apply for credit within 90 days of hiring someone (previously businesses had to apply in advance of hiring). Rural companies now have 120 days to fill a vacant position, as opposed to the previous 30 days, and seasonal workers can be used to apply for credit. (Governor signed)

Federal New Markets tax credit (HB 1430/SB 5630)

Opened the door for local governments to use the federal New Markets Tax Credits Program. Designed to stimulate investments in low-income communities.

Small Business

Small businesses anchor our communities. They hire local workers and cater to local customers. Small businesses provide most of the jobs in our state and are the lifeblood of a community's economic stability. This session passed measures to continue supporting Washington entrepreneurs:



Linked deposit program (HB 1512/SB 5666)

The linked deposit program aims to increase access to business capital for the state's certified minority-owned and women-owned businesses through reduced interest rate loans. The amount for the linked deposit program was increased from \$100 million to \$150 million.

Small works roster contracts to certain small businesses (HB 1328/SB5546)

State agencies and local governments may use the small works roster process to award contracts for public works projects estimated to cost \$200,000 or less. Opened the bidding and contract process to smaller businesses.

Higher Education

High education is tied very closely to economic development. It helps provide financial stability to many families that would otherwise be unable to succeed. This year focused on ways to increase access to our colleges and universities:

Opportunity Grants Program (HB 1096/ SB 5410)

It expands financial aid and support to low-income adults so they can enroll in workforce programs such as allied health, construction, welding, and manufacturing. It also creates the Opportunity Partnership Program, which will provide mentoring, counseling and advising.

State Need Grant eligibility (HB 1179)

It allows students enrolled for at least three quarter credits (or equivalent semester credits) to qualify for the State Need Grant, whereas previously students had to be enrolled at least half-time.

Get Ready for Math & Science Scholarship Program (HB 1779/SB 5555)

It provides scholarships to high-achieving low-and middle-income students. Students must major in a math, science or related field and commit to working for at least three years in Washington in a math, science, or related field. The scholarships can be used

2007 legislative recap

at any accredited college or university in Washington.

The program is a public-private partnership. A private nonprofit corporation will work to match the states investment, dollar for dollar.

Increasing the Housing Trust Fund to \$130 million for the biennium (HB 1092/ SB 5156)

The Governor and House budgets propose a 30% increase in the biennial funding for capital housing needs such as:

- Low-income rental and homeownership opportunities,
- Farm worker housing, and
- Special housing for people with mental illness, developmental disabilities, or victims of domestic violence.

This proposal is part of the capital budget. There were numerous bills that the Commission considers would have aided in closing the achievement gap for Hispanic/Latinos. Unfortunately, many of them did not pass during the 2007 legislative session. Nonetheless, the Commission will continue to work toward improving the education system.

Foster Care Reform

In the 2007 legislative session, Washington State made a six-year commitment to addressing the disproportionately high number of children of color in the child welfare system and to improving outcomes for them. A state-level advisory committee will gather and analyze data, make concrete recommendations for change and report back to the state legislature on progress made towards improving the system for children of color. HB 1472 was a very important bill for minorities in the foster care system. The measure passed both Houses with overwhelming support. It calls for a state-level commission to examine why children of color show up in the foster care system at rates far higher than their presence in the

child population and why they remain in the system so much longer than white children. The commission will provide specific solutions to the legislature by January 1, 2009.

Creating the Passport to College Program (SHB 1131). Provides resources to current foster youth who want postsecondary opportunities and gives financial support to former foster care youth who age out of the system and want to pursue postsecondary opportunities. \$2,686,000 was appropriated in the final budget for implementation of this bill.

Analyzing and remedying racial disproportionality and racial disparity in the in child welfare. (HB 1472) Establishes an advisory committee that will study racial disproportionality and disparities in child welfare system. The advisory committee is tasked with coming up with a plan to address these inequities. \$130,000 was appropriated in the final budget for implementation of this bill.

Modifying foster children placement provisions (HB 1287-SB5245). This bill requires foster parents, pre-adoptive parents, and other care givers be provided notice of their right to be heard in court proceedings for children in out-of-home care. \$264,000 was appropriated in the final budget for implementation of this bill.

Concerning child welfare protections (HB 1333). Requires that certain standards be met by DSHS before returning a child to his or her home. Some of these include ensuring the safety of the home and conducting background checks on persons living in the home. A total of \$1,980,000 was appropriated for implementation of this bill and HB 1334.

Requires the petitioner in a child welfare case to provide the court with relevant documentation. (HB 1334) A total of \$1,980,000 was appropriated for implementation of this bill and HB 1333.



Revising provisions affecting dependent children (HB 1624). Reinstates parental rights for an adolescent who is in state care and has not been adopted and provides immunity for Department of Social and Health Services representatives. A total of \$80,000 is included in the final budget for implementation of this bill.

Creating an independent youth housing program (HB 1922). Creates a youth housing voucher program for youth exiting out of foster care. They are eligible until the age of 23. \$1,000,000 was included in the final budget for implementation of this bill.

Funding for Improved Court Appointed Special Advocates

- \$6 million was included in the final budget to increase CASA Increase to the Behavioral Rehabilitation Services Rate \$6.6 million was included in the final budget to increase the vendor rate by 10% over the biennium.
- Implementation and Compliance with the Indian Child Welfare Act.
- \$1.8 million was included in the final budget to help ensure Washington State's compliance with Federal requirements.



You've worked hard **FOR A DREAM**

And now that you made it a reality starting your own business, we know how important it is for you to safeguard it.

That is why at State Farm we offer Small Business Insurance.

So you can take care of your company while we handle the mishaps.

**LIKE A GOOD
NEIGHBOR**



**STATE FARM
IS THERE**

Providing Insurance and Financial Services

State Farm Fire and Casualty Company, State Farm General Insurance Company - Bloomington, IL; State Farm Florida Insurance Company - Winter Haven, FL; State Farm Lloyds - Dallas, TX.

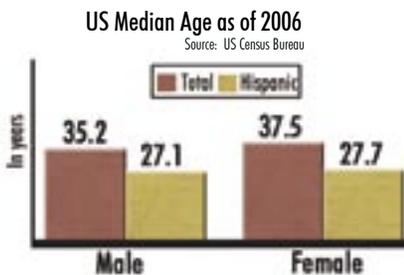


Education is of vast importance to the Hispanic/Latino community of Washington State. The Commission on Hispanic Affairs recognizes that improved quality and accessibility of education remains the primary focus for this expanding population. Achieving this goal within all levels of education is necessary for the acquisition of an equitable future for the State of Washington.



EARLY EDUCATION

The median age of the Hispanic/Latino Population in 2006 was 27.1 for Hispanic/Latino males and 27.7 for Hispanic/Latina women. Hispanic/Latina women have an average of 2.7 children. (Growth and Change in Washington State's Hispanic/Latino Population, Washington State University).



These statistics indicate that many Hispanics/Latinos in Washington State will soon start families, ensuring that early childhood education remains a pertinent issue. Studies show that inequalities within early childhood education lead to significant gaps in educational achievement in future schooling. The Early Childhood Education Longitudinal Study shows that "Black and Hispanic children score substantially below Caucasian children at the beginning of kindergarten on math and reading achievement." In a study produced by Princeton and Brookings, Ron Haskins and Cecilia Rouse approximate that if all Hispanic/Latino children were enrolled in high quality early education programs, this gap could be closed by 36% (The Future of Children, Princeton Brookings). Therefore, the Commission supported the creation of the Washington State Department of Early Learning. The legislation that created this department demonstrates recognition of the importance of a child's early development for future educational success and emotional and social growth. This Department must now work to ensure that Hispanic/Latino children are able to enter kindergarten with a fair and equal chance at attaining the skills necessary for them to succeed.

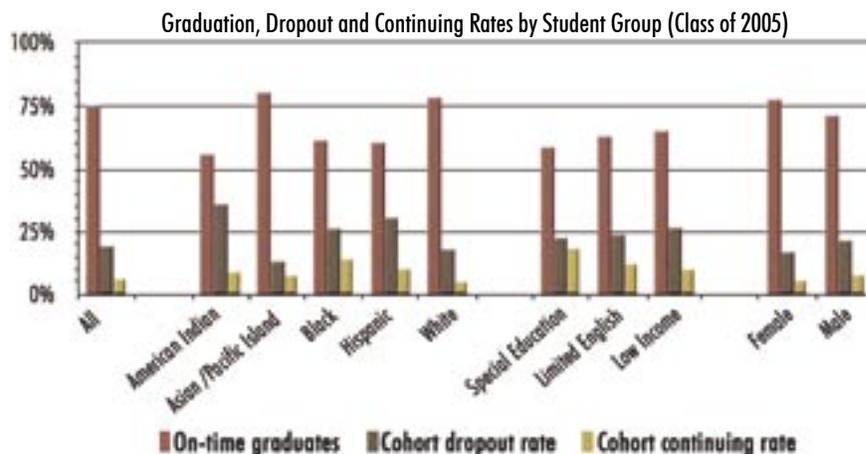
The needs of those children who fail to receive any sort of early education must be addressed. Many Hispanic/Latino children are not incorporated at all into state sponsored or private early education and are entering public schools far behind. Further, a culturally aware study must be conducted to learn how better to incorporate more Hispanic/Latino children into the system. Early education must be accessible to children from low income and non-English speaking families. Education must also be available to parents stressing the importance of early education and quality prenatal care. By encouraging improved care of children from day one, children will have an equal chance at growth and development.

A study conducted by the Brookings Institute stresses the importance of focusing early educational policies on the improvement of young children's aptitude and health. Bilingual childcare training classes and early reading projects in King County are examples of successful programs that have recently been implemented for young children. Jose Marti, a Spanish bilingual preschool in Seattle, was recently accredited as the first Bilingual Child Development Center in Washington State. Efforts such as these are costly and require funding and commitment. Culturally relevant training of educators and childcare providers is also necessary to execute these programs.

It is important to provide these resources to ensure that Hispanic/Latino children will have an equal chance of success. Reduction of the achievement gap currently felt by Hispanics/Latinos through the creation of policies that target children will provide a catalyst for greater social change and improved socioeconomic conditions for the Hispanic/Latino community in Washington State.

K-12 EDUCATION

The number of Hispanics/Latinos enrolled within the Washington State public school system has increased 250% over the past twenty years (OSPI Latino Education Project). In 2005, 134,502 Hispanics made up 12% of the student body within schools in Washington (OSPI Enrollment Comparisons). However, Hispanics/Latinos have just a 60.2% on-time graduation rate (Class of 2005, OSPI). A multitude of complicated issues contributes to this disparity within public schools. A nationwide surveyed group of Hispanics/Latinos listed several reasons for poor graduation rates including lack of parental encouragement, cultural differences and stereotypes, lack of quality teaching and poor English skills (Pew Hispanic Center and Kaiser, 2004). There are also considerable differences within public schools regarding the performance of foreign born and native-born students, further increasing the disparities (Pew Hispanic Center).



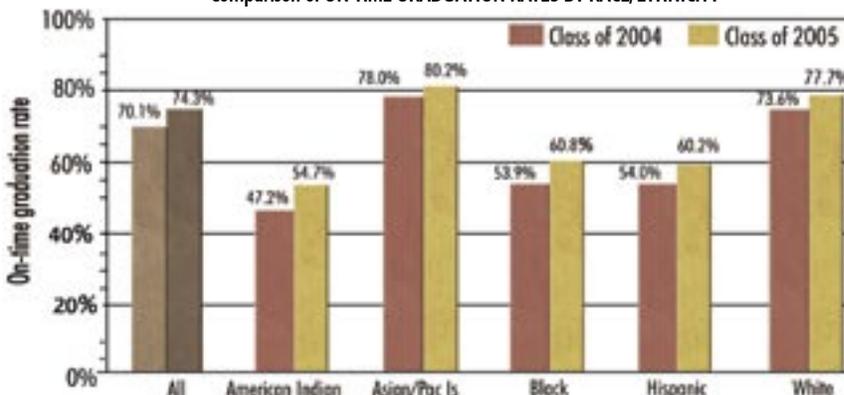
education report

The Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) scores for Hispanic/Latino students continue to lag behind the Washington averages.

66.1% of Hispanics/Latinos passed the reading portion, 25.6% passed math, 68.6% passed the writing, and only 15.5% of 10th grade Hispanics/Latinos passed science (OSPI 2006-07 WASL Statistics). These low WASL scores have the potential to contribute to dropout rates and helplessness felt by students working toward graduation. The Commission supports measures that will provide alternative methods and opportunities for students to obtain their diploma and to continue to use the WASL as a tool of accountability to insure that all school districts provide students quality education. The Commission also encourages further study of assessment requirements and the availability of alternative testing options to ensure that all students despite race and background have an equal opportunity to succeed. It is recognized that increased cultural competency within K-12 education will better provide for diverse school populations.

The Commission encourages forming counseling and alternative education programs to better accommodate this diversity. Partnerships between culturally sensitive educators, parents, and communities will help to create the support that students need within the public school systems. These groups must work together to provide all students the financial resources and support that will enable equality within education.

Comparison of ON TIME GRADUATION RATES BY RACE/ETHNICITY

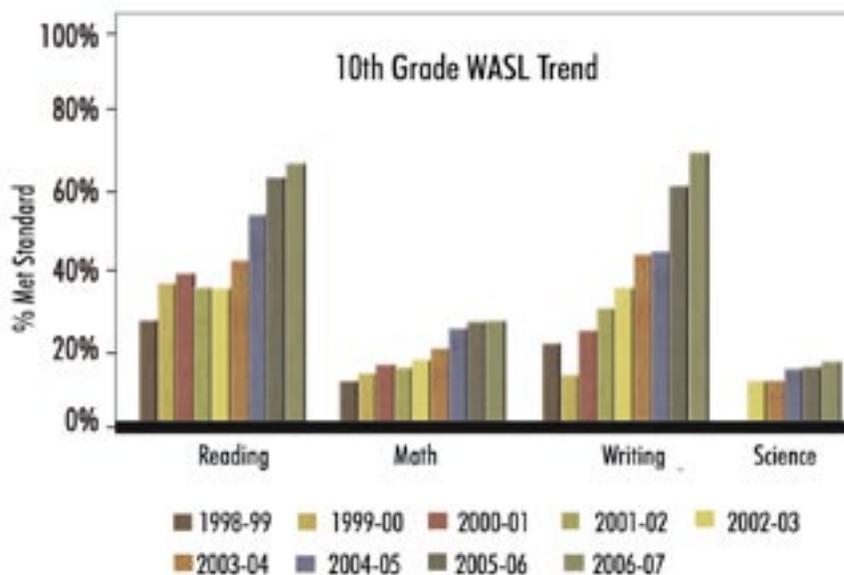


Source: OSPI Web Site

Hispanics/Latinos 10th Grade WASL

Year	Reading	Math	Writing	All 3	Science
1998-99	26.0%	11.6%	20.8%		
1999-00	35.9%	12.6%	12.7%		
2000-01	38.4%	14.6%	23.5%		
2001-02	34.9%	14.3%	29.4%		
2002-03	34.6%	16.2%	34.3%	17.5	11.1%
2003-04	41.3%	19.6%	42.5%	16.0	11.1%
2004-05	53.1%	23.9%	43.7%	20.1	14.2%
2005-06	62.5%	25.4%	59.9%	21.8	14.0%
2006-07	66.1%	25.6%	68.6%	26.8	15.5%

Source: OSPI



The Commission believes that the creation of the Education Ombudsman will encourage and enhance communication regarding education. Also, the creation of community partnership grants that provide funds to community ethnic organizations to encourage minority students is an important acknowledgement of the problems within the schools. Israel Vela of the Kent School District recognizes the importance of a financial dedication to these goals. He states, "We must develop a funding source that will directly work through OSPI and community agencies to specifically meet the needs of Hispanic communities around the state. This would require that this office be implemented with a variety of resources including field representatives that would be responsible for coaching

and mentoring districts around the states to work with their communities and local community colleges/universities to make sure our students work toward a diploma and higher learning opportunities."

Institutional capacity within school districts must be built to reach Hispanics/Latinos. Developing culturally competent staff programs and training will help address the needs of a Hispanic/Latino community containing many levels of acculturation. It must be ensured that the needs of both recently immigrated children and those whose families have lived in the U.S. for generations are met. For example, in the state education system only half of teachers of Limited English Proficient Students (LEPs) have English as a Second Language (ESL) endorsement (OSPI).

"Currently program funding is intended only for K-12 students who have a primary language other than English and whose English language skills must be sufficiently deficient. In this light, it seems that Washington's Transitional Bilingual Instruction Program (TBIP) is intended not to educate bilingually, but rather to transition LEPs as quickly as possible over to the predominant usage of English," (State of the State for Washington Latinos, Whitman College 2005). Increased commitment to establishing quality bilingual education programs will drastically improve the education received by recent immigrants in increasingly diverse school districts. Only through increased cultural awareness and capacity that translates into direct action will necessary educational changes be possible.

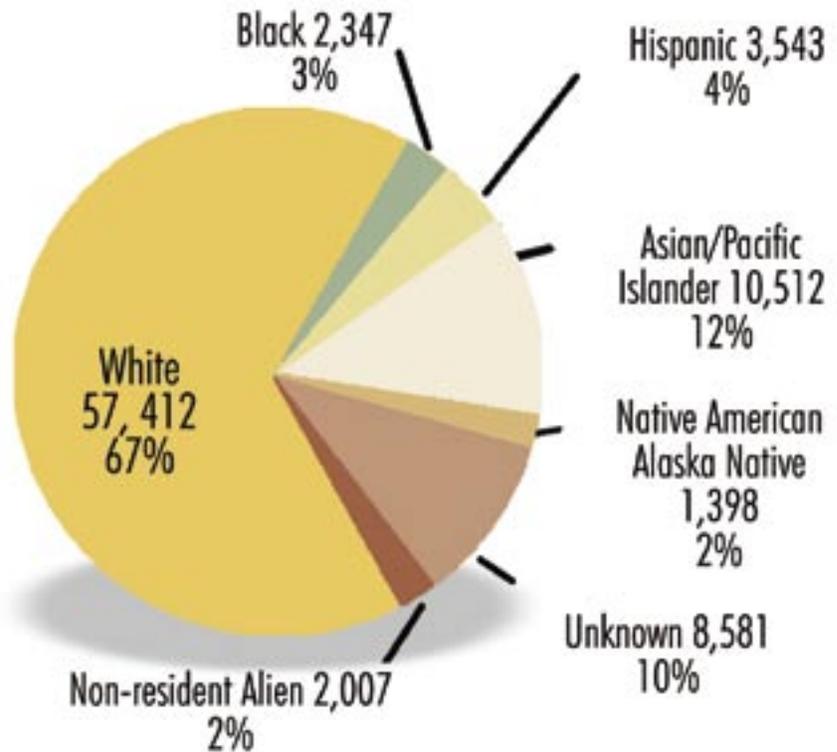


education report

HIGHER EDUCATION

Hispanics/Latinos are more likely than other ethnic groups to enter the workforce after High School graduation and forego the pursuit of higher education (OSPI Washington State Graduate Follow-up Study (GFUS), class of 2004). In 2004, only 15% of Washington Hispanics/Latinos who obtained a high school diploma enrolled in a four year university. Only 3.9% of Washington Public four-year university enrollment and 4.7% of independent four-year university enrollment was Hispanic/Latino. These percentages are far from being equal to the overall population increase of Hispanics/Latinos in Washington State. Retention and graduation rates within these higher education institutes are also low.

Public Four-Year Undergraduate Enrollment Fall 2004



Public Four-Year Institutions Undergraduate Enrollments and Bachelor Degree Compared to Population

	2004 Washington Population Ages 17-48 * % Distribution	Undergraduate Enrollment Fall 2003 (headcount) % Distribution	Bachelor's Degree 2003-04 % Distribution	2020 Population Projections: Ages 17-48 % Distribution
White	76.1%	69.0%	70.5%	69.8
Black	3.7%	2.6%	2.4%	3.6%
Hispanic	9.3%	3.9%	3.7%	13.8%
Asian/Pacific Islander	7.1%	12.2%	11.3%	7.6%
American Indian/Alaska Native	1.6%	1.6%	1.6%	1.7%
Unknown		10.6%	10.5%	
Two or More	2.3%			3.6%

Source: IPEDS (enrollment and degrees); OFM Web Site (population)
 *Ages 17-49 include 98% of Public Four-Year undergraduate enrollments in 2003.
 Note: "Nonresident Alien" not included in enrollment and degree percent distributions.

Catholic schools give
hope to all children
 Fulcrum gives **hope** to Catholic schools

Today's Catholic Schools are about belonging and contributing to our community, the compassion to make a better world, and the opportunity to succeed. To learn more about your local Catholic school or to schedule a personal interview, call 1-866-4-Cath-Ed or on the web at www.seattlearch.org/schools.

Catholic schools in western Washington – especially in our economically challenged communities – need and deserve your support if they are to keep their doors open and to welcome children for generations to come.

The Fulcrum Foundation keeps Catholic schools open and accessible through tuition assistance and grants to schools. To learn how you can help, visit our website: www.fulcrumfoundation.org or contact: Mr. Joe Womac, Executive Director joew@fulcrumfoundation.org or 206-748-7997.





Veme Soñar
 Veme Crecer
 Veme Progresar

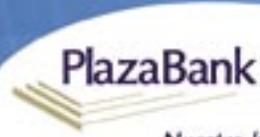
Watch me Dream
 Watch me Grow
 Watch me Thrive



un servicio de



V-me thanks our Premier Sponsor



Nuestro banco

KCTS V-me
 Digital 9.2
 Comcast 119

KYVE V-me
 Digital 47.2
 Charter 297

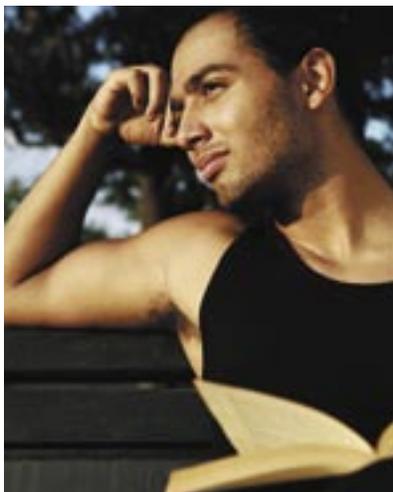
KCTS.org/v-me

education report

Hispanics/Latinos are half as likely as their Caucasian peers to finish a bachelor's degree (PEW Recent Changes in the Entry of Hispanic and Caucasian Youth in College, 2005). In 2004-2005, 3.6% of students earning a bachelor's degree in Washington State were Hispanic/Latino, a .7% increase since 1995. "Even though 71% of Latina/o students who enter a community college desire to transfer to a 4-year university, only 7 to 20% end up transferring" (Journal of Hispanic Higher Education). Statistics also show that few Hispanics/Latinos comprise the faculties of higher education institutions: 3.1% of public two-year, 2.3% of public four-year and 1.9% of independent four-year faculty is Hispanic/Latino.

Lack of college readiness continues to contribute to the above mentioned statistics. Hispanic/Latino graduates in 2005 who took the ACT earned an average composite score of 18.6, behind the national average of 20.9. Thirty-three percent of these Hispanics/Latinos scored above the College Readiness Benchmark in reading, with 24% meeting the mark in math (Hispanic PR Wire, August 17, 2005). Similarly, just over half of Hispanics/Latinos who took the ACT actually completed the recommended high school curriculum for college preparation. Fifty-eight percent of Hispanics/Latinos enrolled in college in Washington must take remedial courses in math and/or reading (OSPI, GFUS 2004). Although 9.6% of the community and technical college student body in 2004 was Hispanic/Latinos, only 18% of two year college Hispanic/Latino entrants continued their education and received a bachelor's degree (PEW, Recent Changes), partly due to lack of college preparation.

Programs must be established that encourage Hispanics/Latinos to pursue further education while still in high school.



Programs that engage Hispanic/Latino students in the educational opportunities available to them will advance access to higher education. Clear paths to universities from high schools and community colleges must be created. College administrators must also create culturally competent university environments. Sean Michael Patrick Gallegos of the Comparative Ethnic Studies Department of Washington State University argues that "We need to, as administrators and students, see the differences in cultures that exist and appreciate them. It's the differences that make us whole. This must be allowed in order to celebrate culture. It doesn't work to celebrate culture by not seeing any of it." Universities must appreciate cultures and embrace the differences that exist in order to accomplish the goal of a diverse educational system.

Per John Valencia, Transition Services Facilitator at Grays Harbor College in Aberdeen, 2nd and 3rd generation inclusive 1st generation are pursuing higher education and are also engaged and involved in their community. Dr. Brewster, President of Grays Harbor College, has provided unconditional support and has embraced our students. Documents have been translated in Spanish and their website will soon be launched in Spanish.

The Title 3 program has also been instrumental in the hiring of a Spanish speaking ELL Coordinator at the off campus branch in Elma and a bilingual Assistant in Aberdeen.

"The force to this community is our young population; they are undeniably portraying a positive image and inspiring others. While there is still much work to be done, we are optimistic, after all the sky is the limit", said John.

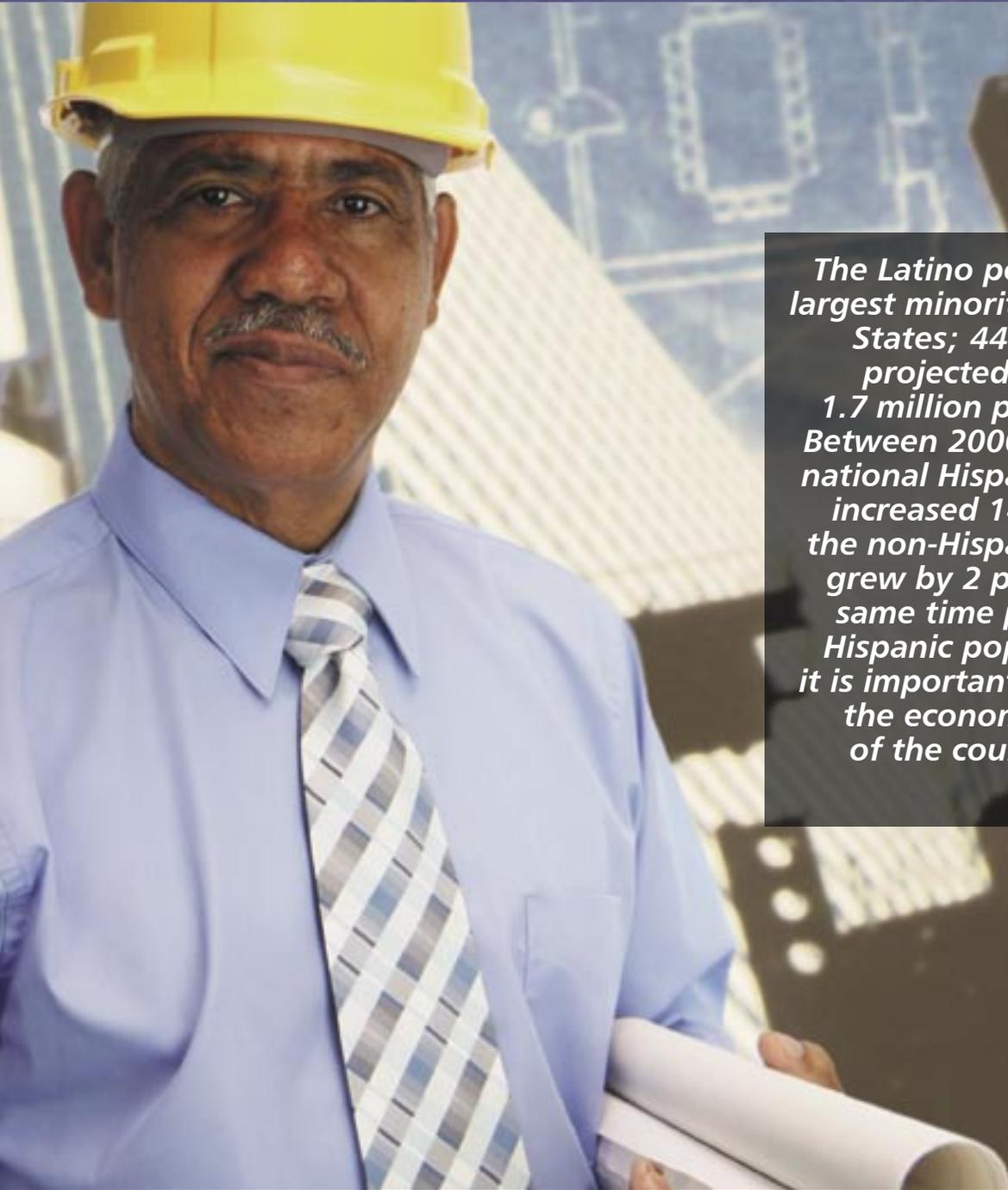
The improvement of the K-12 educational system, through increased college preparation and encouragement of Hispanics/Latinos to continue their education, remains a goal of the Commission. It is also important to ensure that Hispanic/Latino students maintain access to the opportunity of higher education through financial aid. The Higher Education Board of Washington State has received legislative-mandated funding for scholarships for students with bilingual abilities planning on becoming teachers. Programs such as these encourage students to attend college and contribute to the future improvement of schools. Increasing financial aid accessibility will enable higher education to be an attainable goal for many Hispanics/Latinos in Washington State.



RECOMMENDATIONS

- Work to provide state funding for bilingual early education centers.
- Continue to support legislative efforts toward equality within the standardized testing system. This includes culturally competent and relevant counseling and support systems and educational alternatives to help minority and bilingual students.
- Call attention to the low Hispanic/Latino graduation rate and encourage further study and programs that will work toward improving this trend.
- Continue to support programs created to help Hispanic/Latino students' progress toward higher education. This includes further funding and support of programs that encourage students to work toward college and inform Hispanics/Latinos of educational options.
- Work with state agencies and institutions of higher education to provide Hispanic/Latino students with the information necessary to successfully transition from community and technical colleges into universities.
- Increase funding to student based organizations working to encourage Hispanic/Latinos students to continue their education.
- Encourage Hispanic/Latino students to pursue careers in education in order to increase diversity within the school system.
- Increase funding in Washington State for local scholarships for the Hispanic/Latino community that accepts applications from documented and non-documented individuals.





*The Latino population is the largest minority in the United States; 44.3 million and a projected growth rate of 1.7 million people annually. Between 2000 and 2004, the national Hispanic population increased 14 percent while the non-Hispanic population grew by 2 percent over the same time period *. As the Hispanic population grows, it is important to understand the economic implications of the country's changing demography.*

*(U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce 2007).



With increasing immigration from Latin America, the Latino market is rapidly expanding. Latino-owned businesses are well suited to respond to the demands of the Latino community, Senator John Kerry, in his address to the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce in April of 2006, pointed to the importance of entrepreneurship in Latino and other minority communities. Business ownership is a means of socio-economic mobility. As Senator Kerry explained, "Investing in American innovation and business development is the cornerstone of long-term economic advancement in minority communities. . . we can and must do more to foster entrepreneurship in the Latino community" (U.S. Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship 2006). Latino small businesses are important to how Latinos impact our national economy, as well as that of our state. Like our nation's population, Washington's demographic composition is changing. In the year 2000, Washington was among ten states with the largest Latino populations in the country. Of the ten, Washington was unique in having not been on the same list ten years prior (Saenz 2004). As the state develops into a hub of Latino population growth, it is important to consider the implications of these changes. The Washington State Commission on Hispanic Affairs is a governmental institution dedicated to representing the interests and needs of the Latino community. The volunteer commission serves as an advisory body representing this population with the following mission: To improve public policy development and the delivery of government services to the Hispanic community through. . .

- identifying and defining issues concerning the rights and needs of Washington State's Hispanic Community,
- advising the Governor and state agencies on the development of relevant policies, plans and programs that affect Hispanics, advising the legislature on issues of concern to the state's Hispanic community, and
- establishing relationships with state agencies, local governments, and members of the private sector (Washington State Commission on Hispanic Affairs 2007).

The Commission is interested in understanding the role and impact of Latino owned businesses in Washington so it can make informed recommendations to the Governor, legislature and state agencies. With the state's growing Latino population, an expansion of Latino small businesses follows. Through an understanding of the prevalence of Latino-owned businesses, the state will be better equipped to serve and respond to the needs of these businesses and their owners. The Commission on Hispanic Affairs has recently begun actively

pursuing strategies that address the needs of Latino small businesses in Washington. In early 2007, the Commission launched an effort to increase collaboration among state agencies and community-based organizations in their outreach to Latino small businesses. Participating state agencies include the Departments of Licensing, Department of Revenue and Employment Security among others. At present, participating community-based organizations include the Economic Development Association of Skagit County, the Latino Business Retention Expansion Program, and the Thurston County Hispanic Roundtable, with the anticipated addition of others as the collaboration develops. This effort is partly in response to the growing Latino population and its anticipated effects, including the increased demand for state services and programs from the Latino business community. Government can help businesses survive by providing support for:

- (1) Business planning training,
- (2) A competitive regulatory environment,
- (3) Communication and outreach with small businesses, and
- (4) Infrastructure and assistance in small business financing. (GMAP)



Through this group effort we aim to enhance and strengthen the outreach efforts of state agencies and community-based organizations and thereby provide owners with information and access to resources and services for establishing and developing their businesses. This research also serves as a means to enlighten all agencies/organizations of the role of Latino owned businesses in our state, and how the state can better prepare itself to accommodate growth of these businesses. In general, this project intends to provide a broader understanding of the relationship between Latinos and the state economy. One important — but often overlooked — component of the Latino population's economic contributions is by way of small business ownership. In one of his several articles on the topic of minority business ownership, Robert Fairlie (2004) analyzes data from the Current Population Survey to compare business ownership across different racial and ethnic groups from 1979 to 1998. He also explores the causes of differences in self-employment among groups over the twenty-year period. With regard to Hispanic-owned businesses in particular, his analysis reveals that there were 435,000 more Hispanic business owners in 1998 than in 1979, representing a growth rate of 193 percent. The growth in Hispanic businesses translates to the group's ownership of 6.2 percent of all businesses in 1998, which is higher than the ownership of any other minority group. He notes that, similar to trends among whites and African Americans, there was an expansion in Hispanic business ownership in the construction and service sectors. At the same time, growth of Hispanic businesses in the retail trade

distinguishes this group from their white and black counterparts, who saw declines in this sector. In explaining the reasons behind the changes in Hispanic business ownership, Fairlie looks at trends among Hispanic men and women separately. He notes that business ownership among Hispanic males increased, in absolute numbers, by 159 percent (or by 281,000) between 1979 and 1998. He reasons that this growth was due entirely to growth in the male Hispanic workforce. The rate of business ownership within this group, however, decreased from 7.4 percent in 1979 to 6.9 percent in 1998. Estimates indicate that the number of business owners in this group would

have decreased by 12 percent in the same time period were it not for growth of the workforce. Among Hispanic men, there were many more business owners in 1998 than in 1979, but the decreased rate of ownership does not suggest an increasing propensity towards business ownership. The gap in ownership rates between Hispanic and white men was widening, partly as a result in educational gains, which — though increasing — were smaller among Hispanic men than their white counterparts. Among Hispanic women, Fairlie finds that growth in business ownership was partly, though not entirely, a result of increases in the workforce (Fairlie 2004).



Because we are Latino we know Latinos better



**Expertise & access to the
Hispanic/Latino market**

**Effective marketing based on
Hispanic traditions and values that
will connect the Latino consumer with
your products and services**

**International senior level expertise
(Latin America, Europe & US)**

- ▶ **Hispanic/Latino Insight**
Biannual syndicate market research
- ▶ **Fully Integrated
Communication Campaigns**
TV, Radio, Print, Internet,
Direct Marketing and PR
- ▶ **Culturally Relevant
Communication Strategies**
Media Planning/Buying,
Production, Strategic Planning
- ▶ **Event Management**
- ▶ **International Marketing**

***We are your partner in communication
Somos sus socios en comunicación***

www.esparzaplus.com
t 206-829-8895 f 206-956-3587
info@esparzaplus.com

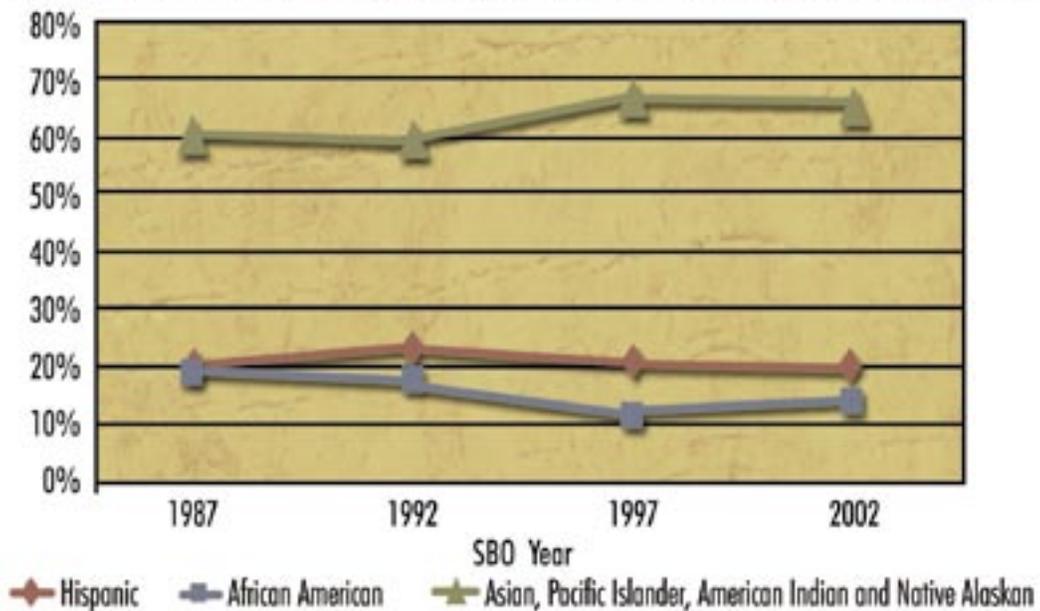
economic report

Kristen Millares Bolt of the Seattle-PI reports on the attention that is being paid to Hispanic/Latino buying power in the Washington State economy. She sites examples such as Home Depot's estimate that the Hispanic/Latino home improvement market is \$30 billion. Bolt also cites Celis, a member of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, as stating that the state's Hispanic/Latino population has grown 200% in the last 20 years. The article titled Retailers start to realize Hispanic buying power also sites Seattle/King county area as the area with the fastest growing rates of Hispanic/Latino people (October 8, 2005). This, in combination with the growing population, means that economically, Hispanics/Latinos are gaining power which can translate into gains in other areas as well.



Growth of Hispanic Population	Number		Percent of State Population
	Year	Count	
	1990	206,108	4.2
	2000	439,841	7.5
	2004	517,645	8.4
	2004	More than 1/3 of population in Adams (51.2%), Franklin (55.8%), Grant (32.8%) and Yakima (38.5%)	

Proportions of Total Minority-Owned Business in Washington State by Race/Ethnicity, 1987-2002



Another issue is the number of Latino businesses operating without a license. There are a number of reasons that Latino businesses might operate without a license. These include business owners not knowing that they need to be licensed, as well as the informality of businesses that are started as a means for survival and immediate income generation. Additionally, business owners who are undocumented are less likely or reluctant to contact government agencies (as would be required to become licensed), therefore, they aren't licensed and/or registered. In order to maintain a comprehensive enumeration of Latino small businesses, those businesses that aren't licensed and/or registered need to be appropriately licensed and registered. The Commission will encourage state agencies to inquire about proven successful programs to reach unlicensed businesses in Washington and also encourage state agencies to enhance and expand their support to help small businesses succeed. The agencies should then pursue the appropriate avenues to apply these programs to the population of unlicensed Latino-owned businesses in the state.

- Self-identified minority and women-owned businesses account for over 40.2 percent of all Washington businesses. They employ over 200,000 residents and have an annual payroll of approximately \$5.09 billion. (US Census Bureau).
- Women-owned businesses contribute more than \$17.4 billion in sales and over \$3.2 billion in payroll annually to Washington's economy. (US Census Bureau).
- Minority-owned businesses contribute

more than \$30 billion in sales and \$5 billion in payroll annually to Washington's economy (UW Business School "Small business Growth Opportunities in Washington").

It is imperative that we ensure Hispanic/Latino workers receive fair wages and the minimum wage rights they are entitled to. Protecting the rights of workers will further the economic vitality of Washington State, consequently, the Commission will continue to work toward this goal.

The Commission recognizes the importance of helping low-income Hispanics/Latinos elevate themselves from poverty. Disparities between Hispanic/Latino migrant workers and permanent residents still exist. The average income for a Hispanic/Latino migrant in Washington State is \$8,000, nearly \$5,000 less than the average income of a permanent resident (Larson Report).

In 2000, a quarter of all Hispanics/Latinos in Washington State lived in poverty, compared with 10% of the total population (Growth and Change in Washington's Hispanic/Latino Population). Thirty-seven percent of Hispanic/Latino children live in poverty and large racial

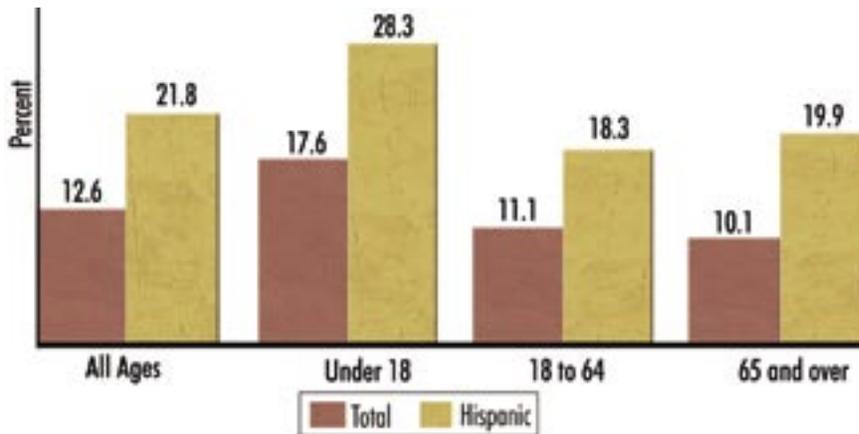
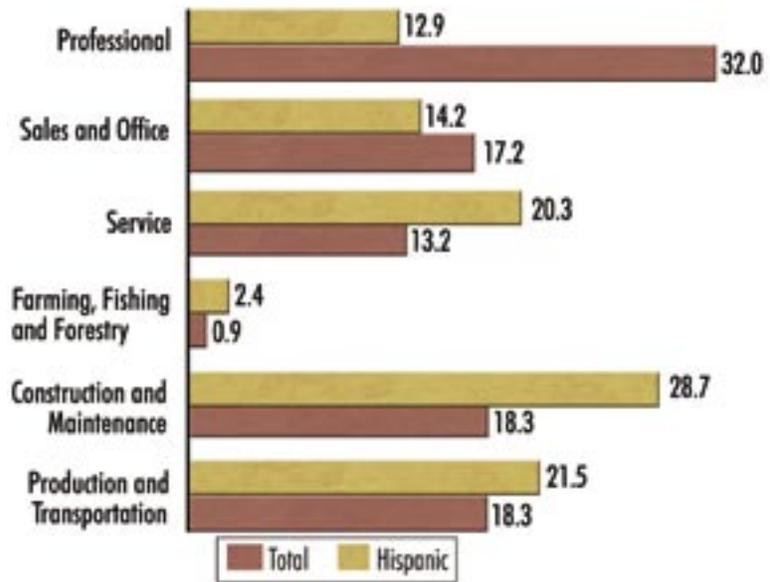


gaps exist in socioeconomic conditions (Future of Children, Brookings Institute). Poverty affects the ability of children to succeed in school and to access proper health care and nutrition, furthering socioeconomic disparity. Ensuring equal access to quality health care and education for all will help those living in poverty. Improving these social conditions and economic opportunities will increase equality and opportunity for Hispanics/Latinos living in poverty.



Percent Distribution of Males by Occupation and Hispanic Origin 2006

Source: Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement 2006- US Census Bureau



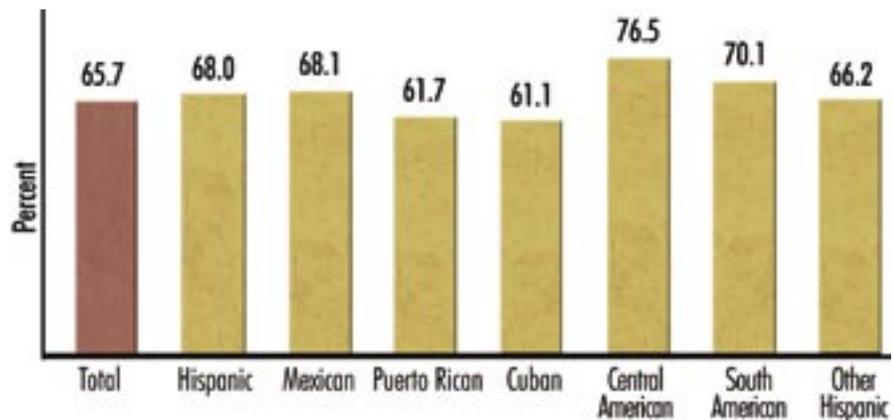
Percent of the Population below the Poverty Level by Age and Hispanic Origin: 2005

Source: Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement 2006 — US Census Bureau

Civilian Labor Force Participation by Type of Hispanic Origin: 2006

(Population 16 years and over in the civilian labor force)

Source: Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement 2006 — US Census Bureau



RECOMMENDATIONS

- Increase collaboration among state agencies and community-based organizations in their outreach to Latino businesses.
- Provide potential Hispanic/Latino business owners with resources and information necessary to create a successful business by funding Hispanic/Latino business programs and conferences.
- Encourage state agencies to assist Hispanics/Latinos in obtaining the training and certifications that will enable them to become business owners through culturally relevant legislation.
- Continue to support measures that will bring about wage equality for Hispanic/Latino laborers.

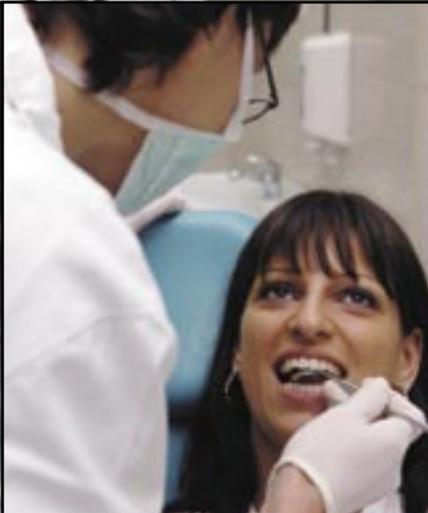


health care report



Nearly two-thirds (62%) of working-age Hispanics/Latinos were uninsured at some point during 2005, compared to 20% of working-age Caucasians. The number of uninsured Washingtonians is growing and this is a barrier to appropriate health care. Urgent identification and development of programs to address health disparities needs to be developed.*

** (M.M. Doty and A.L. Holmgren, Health Care Disconnect, the Commonwealth Fund, 2006).*



Hispanics/Latinos are disproportionately uninsured compared to Caucasians and all other minorities. In 2005, 91,000 Washington Hispanic/Latino residents were without insurance (OFM report, 2005). According to the Institute of Medicine, the following points impact the poorer health of Hispanics/Latinos:

- People without health insurance are more likely to receive little medical care or receive it too late.
- Communication barriers and cultural differences between health care providers and Hispanic/Latino patients can reduce treatment adherence and compromise overall disease management (National Pharmaceutical Council, 2004).
- “Hispanics are less likely to receive or use medications for asthma, cardiovascular disease, HIV/AIDS, mental illness, and pain” (Genes, Culture, and Medicines: Bridging Gaps in Treatment for Hispanic Americans, 2004).
- Furthermore, uninsured adults of any ethnicity have a 25% greater mortality risk than adults with coverage.

This means that Hispanics/Latinos are at a higher risk for many serious illnesses. The top two leading causes of death for Hispanics/Latinos of all ages in the State of Washington (2003) is cancer and heart disease. Accidents are the third leading cause of death among Hispanics. Similarly, the rate of HIV/AIDS infection among Hispanics/Latinos is twice that of Caucasians in King County, while those in extreme poverty are almost four times as likely to contract HIV/AIDS.



Nationally, Hispanics/Latinos have significantly higher rates than Caucasians developing certain illnesses. There are a greater number of Hispanics/Latinos with HIV/AIDS. Finally, they are twice as likely to develop diabetes. Rojelio Riojas, Director of Sea Mar Health Clinic said, “Diabetes among Latinos is a common disease, just as it is in the general public;” however, he explained, the Hispanic/Latino community is less likely to receive benefits due to cultural/language barriers.

Two major concerns for health clinics are the amount of time it takes Hispanic/Latino patients to get coverage and to get proof of citizenship. The Riojas explained thousands of individuals are not served because of this long process. Thirteen percent of the Caucasian population was uncovered by the Basic Health Plan, while 36% of Hispanics/Latinos were uncovered. The Basic Health Plan remains the only avenue for insurance coverage for low-income working Hispanics/Latinos in Washington State. Health care coverage can reduce these ethnic disparities by providing improved access and stability and quality of care. A health care system that is culturally and linguistically appropriate, affordable, prevention-oriented, and accessible needs to be implemented.

King County ranks 14th in lack of health insurance compared to 15 major metropolitan U.S. counties (Health of King county report, 2006). There has been an increase in the uninsured, and substantial disparities persist, intensified by income and race/ethnicity. Uninsured individuals are less likely to get preventive care which increases the likelihood of morbidity and mortality (The State of the State for Washington Latinos, 2005). Hispanics/Latinos are also less likely to seek needed medical care and receive screenings due to cost.

Hispanics/Latinos are significantly less likely to receive regular routine care as compared to other ethnicities. The disparity is even more severe when examined through language. They have less confidence in their doctors because they do not feel they can relate to them (The State of the State for Washington Latinos, 2005). Hispanics are disconnected from the health care system, and as a result, are less likely than Caucasians to:

- Have a regular doctor.
- Have visited a doctor in the past year.
- Feel confident about their ability to manage their health problems (The Commonwealth Fund, August 2006).

health care report

Regular health visits are one of the key factors of preventative care. Along with expanded insurance coverage, policies promoting continuity in patients' relationships with health care providers are also needed to reduce disparities in access. The issue of cultural competence in health care is an added concern inasmuch as medical personnel fail to understand or cannot connect with Hispanic/Latino patients' cultural background.

Uninsured Hispanic/Latino children have greater health risks than insured children.

Insured children are more likely to get regular medical services and preventative care. Among poor children, 36% of uninsured children had an unmet medical need, compared to 9% of children with public insurance. When children get sick, they struggle to concentrate in school or they miss school completely.



Among the many consequences of being uninsured, disruptions in education are immense. One study discovered that uninsured children are 25% more likely to miss school than insured children.

Requiring adequate health care data collection to identify needs is a goal for the Commission. By identifying the disparities, the state will be able to focus on increasing the supply of minority health care providers and diversifying the health workforce. Furthermore, it is important to set cultural and linguistic standards for all health professionals so that they are aware of important differences. More funding and support are needed for community-based clinics

serving the Hispanic/Latino population. Although Hispanics/Latinos make up 14.8% of the total U.S. population, they comprise only 2% of pharmacists, and 1.3% of emergency medical technicians and paramedics. Washington State lacks representation of Hispanics/Latinos in health care, too. In 2000, 7.5% of the state population was reported to be Hispanic/Latino, yet only 2% of doctors, 4.5% of physician assistants, and 1.6% of nurse practitioners are Hispanic/Latino (Office of Financial Management State of Washington, 2006). Measures need to be taken to allow easier access to health insurance coverage and improvements are needed in access to education and health care.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Develop a system of information distribution to help Hispanics/Latinos receive health benefits.
- Require adequate data collection to identify service needs. By identifying the disparities, the state can focus on increasing the supply of minority health providers and diversifying the health workforce.
- Develop a system to connect Hispanics/Latinos to a quality health care system and a regular doctor so they feel confident about their ability to manage their health.
- Support policies promoting continuity in patients' relationships with health care.
- Support a system that is culturally competent and linguistically appropriate, affordable, prevention-oriented, and accessible.



environmental health report



Hispanics/Latinos continue to make up a large percentage of the agricultural industry workforce in Washington State. Workers, their families and other Hispanics/Latinos who live or work near fields and orchards in Washington State experience exposures to agricultural pesticides and face associated risks to health.



Pesticides to which people are exposed are linked to neurological damage, cancer, birth defects, respiratory problems, reproductive impairment, vision loss, and other health problems.

New Information on Exposures and Health Effects. Since the Commission's last report, new studies have increased concerns about potential impacts on health and intelligence as the result of agricultural pesticide exposures. New data highlighted in meetings and materials of the state's Pesticide Incident Reporting and Tracking (PIRT) Panel in the last year include, for example:

- Air monitoring data collected by farm worker community members with assistance from scientists and others at non-profit organizations. The community testing revealed that chlorpyrifos, the neurotoxic key ingredient in the insecticide Lorsban, drifted to the yards of those conducting the tests on each of the 21 days of sampling at each location. Levels of concern for small children exposed for 24 hours were measured on 6 to 8 days in each yard, based on EPA risk assessment methodologies, which farm worker advocates label as inadequately protective. (See *Poisons on the Wind: Community Air Monitoring for Chlorpyrifos in the Yakima Valley* at www.fwpp.org)
- A study published by Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health scientists which found that "Children who were exposed prenatally to the insecticide chlorpyrifos had significantly poorer mental and motor development by three years of age and increased risk of behavior problems." (Rauh et al, *Impact of Prenatal Chlorpyrifos Exposure on Neurodevelopment in the First 3 Years of Life Among Inner-City Children*, *Pediatrics*, 2006, 118(6): 1845-1859; quote is from the School's news release about the study on December 4, 2006.)

- The latest results of Washington State's medical monitoring program for farm workers who handle pesticides. As in prior years of the program, a significant percentage of workers who submitted blood samples before and after handling pesticides experienced depressions of a key nervous system enzyme that triggered a requirement that employers investigate potential causes of exposure. (Approximately 11 % had these audit-triggering depression levels in 2006. See Scientific Advisory Committee for Cholinesterase Monitoring, Final Report. *Cholinesterase Monitoring of Pesticide Handlers in Agriculture: 2004-2006*; Report to the Washington Department of Labor and Industries, November 13, 2006; p. 32)
- Results of air monitoring by Washington State University scientists for MITC, a breakdown product associated with the use of metam sodium (VAPAM) on potatoes. Twelve hour concentration maximum residues equaled the level of concern for acute health effects used by California's environmental health agency. (Hebert, MITC Residential Community Air Assessment; South Franklin County, Washington, Study Number FEQL-NG-0605.) Related research found a ten fold reduction in maximum field averaged concentrations when shank injection application methods were used as compared to chemigation. (LePage, Hebert; "Analytical Summary Report. *Optimizing Fumigant Efficacy While Minimizing Off-target Volatile Emissions*", FEQL Project No. 1106.)

These studies are examples of the latest in a broad array of studies raising concerns about the exposures that workers and community members are experiencing and the potential impacts on health.

Policy Developments. In the last year, there have been important policy developments as well, including ones related to CHA recommendations in 2006.

State air monitoring.

CHA recommended that appropriate state agencies be required and funded to monitor the air for agricultural pesticides. In the spring of 2007, Governor Gregoire signed a state budget which included funding for a two year pilot pesticide monitoring program to be implemented by the Washington State Department of Health, with assistance from Washington State University and the University of Washington. DOH will share monitoring results with policy makers and the public, and will make related policy recommendations regarding the protection of public health.

Notification. The legislature also provided funding for a pilot voluntary notification program to be implemented by the state Department of Agriculture. WSDA had previously proposed mandatory notification prior to applications for the most acutely toxic pesticides to certain neighbors, but withdrew the rule after completing the public comment process. Notification gives neighbors a chance to reduce risk of exposures by closing vents, staying inside or other measures. It lets people know about potential exposures, enabling them to make connections between symptoms if they occur and exposures. EPA registration decisions. CHA recommended in its previous annual report that timelines and a process be established for phasing out the most dangerous agricultural pesticides, and phasing in safer methods for growing food. It recommended that an analysis be mandated and funded to identify specific policies and programs to ensure transitions to alternatives, and that farm workers be given a place at the table in that analysis process. Pending transitions to alternatives, CHA called on state agencies to adopt rules to better protect workers and their children, such as no-spray zones.

environmental health report

A comprehensive and inclusive alternatives assessment process had not yet been launched as this report was being written. There were developments on individual pesticides and classes of pesticides, however in November of 2006, EPA announced that it would allow continued use of Guthion (azinphos methyl) on certain crops, with phase-out deadlines for those uses. For apples, cherries, blueberries, pears and parsley, use will be phased out in 2012. As an interim protective measure, EPA announced that Guthion could no longer be used within 60 feet of houses and other occupied dwellings. EPA has convened a national stakeholder advisory committee to provide input on transitions away from Guthion. The Washington State legislature provided some funding for a program promoting transitions away from certain organophosphate pesticides, such as Guthion.

EPA also made registration decisions for other pesticides commonly used in Washington State. It reauthorized the agricultural use of chlorpyrifos (Lorsban), for example, and has not established an end date for use of this neurotoxic pesticide agriculturally. EPA is currently reviewing registrations for fumigants, including metam sodium (Vapam) which is widely used on potatoes in Washington State.

State Medical Monitoring Program Problems. During the first three years of the state medical monitoring program, blood samples were processed by a laboratory at the Washington State Department of Health. Laboratory services for the program were transferred to a private laboratory in 2007; however, serious problems have resulted during the transition i.e. data quality problems



that have prevented timely access to correct blood test results for workers and agency staff. As this report was written, stakeholders, policy makers and the general public had not received information on the percent of workers in 2007

with significant cholinesterase depressions and other general findings. The Department of Labor and Industries has promised to address data quality problems, make data accessible again, and convene a meeting of scientific and stakeholder advisors in the fall of 2007.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Value and protect health by adopting precaution-based policies that prevent exposures.** The Commission calls upon the Governor, state and federal agencies, legislators, growers, and others to value and protect the health of all Washington residents, including farmers, farm workers, their families, and others who live and work in agriculture. Protection against immediate and delayed health effects must be ensured for the most vulnerable among us, including children and the elderly. Timelines should be established for phasing out the most dangerous pesticides and phasing in the safest alternatives to these. Existing requirements such as federally-mandated no-spray zones for Guthion around dwellings should be enforced. Pending transitions to safer alternatives, new protections should be mandated, such as no-spray zones around unprotected workers, daycares and schools for other highly toxic pesticides.
- **Give meaningful resources to promoting alternatives to the most dangerous pesticides, and ensure full participation of farm workers and other community members in transition processes.** As a first step, the Governor and state legislators should work together to sponsor a comprehensive process to assess alternatives to the most dangerous pesticides, identify policies and programs to promote the safest of these, and adopt those policies and programs. The process must:
 - include farm workers and other community members as valued participants from the outset.
 - examine alternatives in terms of their health and environmental implications, favoring and promoting the least damaging alternatives, and
 - encompass the broad range of pesticides that pose threats to workers and others, as opposed to just certain pesticides or classes of pesticides.

Delayed or subtle health impacts such as birth defects, cancer, and neurological impairment from chronic exposures must be considered in identifying pesticides for the alternatives process.

- **Implement the state's new air monitoring program in a manner which facilitates protection of the most vulnerable populations.** The state Department of Health should place air monitors in locations that gather data on potential exposures among children, farm workers, and others who are at particular risk of exposure and/or particularly vulnerable to impacts. DOH should explain its findings and offer precaution-based policy recommendations with them.
- **Implement the pilot notification program in the short-term, and adopt rules requiring mandatory notification for the long-term.** WSDA should work with DOH and others to use the pilot program in a manner which facilitates notification of particularly vulnerable populations. It should adopt a rule mandating notification for those applying highly toxic pesticides in close proximity to unprotected workers, children at schools and daycares, and others.
- **Restore the state's medical monitoring program.** The Governor should work with L&I and DOH to restore this important state program. Steps must be taken to ensure the quality of laboratory results, and swift access to these for workers and agency staff. Public access to overall data must also be restored.
- **Facilitate participation of farm worker community members in decision-making forums that affect them.** The Commission urges the Governor to appoint community members to state boards and commissions who will provide essential insights and input on health issues. It also recommends that meetings be held in locations accessible to community members at times that are reasonable for them with translation assistance for those who need it.

housing insurance report



*According to data collected in 2005, only 50% of Hispanic/Latino households own their home, compared to 76% of non-Hispanic/Latino Caucasian households*¹. Hispanic/Latino owner-occupied housing is averaged at about 45% in the Northwest region*². This housing gap is due to a number of issues including lower income levels, discrimination within the housing market, lack of information regarding housing process and access to housing finance. The Commission would like to stress the importance of encouraging Hispanics/Latino to invest in housing.*

*1. U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, March 2006.

*2. Larson Northwest Report.

Affordable housing is the key to family stability and the American dream. More and more families are being trapped between soaring housing costs and relatively flat incomes—and not just in King County. We need a comprehensive, long-term vision to ensure that persons and families of all income levels in all parts of our state have access to decent, affordable housing.

Washington Agricultural Families Assistant (WAFA) is a Washington State chartered Federal 501(c) 3 organization developing a ten home farm worker family homeownership demonstration project in the middle of Washington’s farm country. The demonstration project is located in Grant County, Washington and will help meet the needs for affordable farm family housing. Agricultural workers are important contributors to Washington’s economy, yet many still face the challenge of finding a decent place to live. This program will provide new homeowners with desirable housing, strengthen communities, and improve the local tax base.

The new homes are built by quality homebuilder Hayden Homes. Hayden Homes helps provide this homeownership opportunity for agricultural workers as support for our rural communities and Washington State’s important farm economy.

WAFA combines a “turnkey” quality home with down payment assistance from the Washington State Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development, the Housing Authority of Grant County, and the Federal Home Loan Bank. Construction financing is provided by the Washington State Housing Finance Commission and the Washington State Department



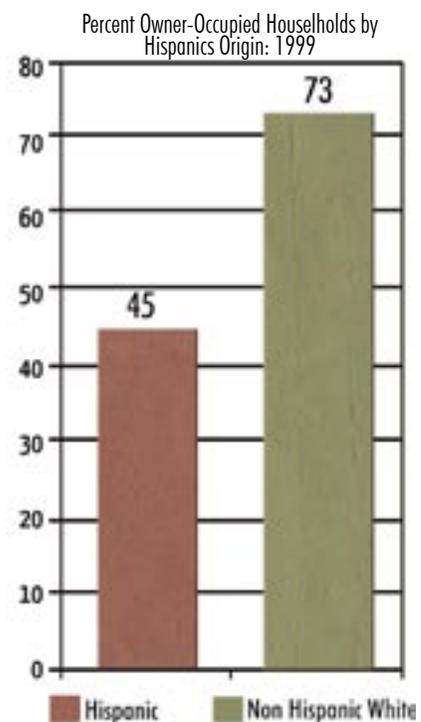
of Community, Trade and Economic Development. Miller Nash, LLP contributes legal services. Americorps VISTA provides valuable staff project support.

WAFA has been meeting with farm workers and agricultural and community organizations for more than two years on farm worker housing. That outreach together with valuable assistance by the Housing Authority of Grant County has helped us develop the WAFA Farm worker Homeownership Program. It is a model for our region and the entire nation. It accomplishes a number of direct and indirect goals, not the least of which is to make it possible for farm workers families to own their own homes in the communities where they live.

Recent Studies Analyze Factors in the Sustainability of Homeownership and the Impact of House Price Increases on Owners’ Assets and Debts

Two reports that elucidate important aspects of home-ownership have recently been published by PD&R. One of the reports, The Sustainability of Homeownership: Factors Affecting the Duration of

Homeownership and Rental Spells analyzes how the nation’s homeownership rate is affected by patterns of home buying, as well as the length of time that households spend as owners or renters. The other, The Impact of House Price Appreciation on Portfolio Composition and Savings, finds that a household tends to save most of the increasing market value of its house; buy also tends to take on more debt by buying consumer goods.



housing insurance report

Duration Affects Rates

The nation's homeownership rate is affected, not just by patterns of home buying, but also by the length of time that households own and the rate at which households exit homeownership to rent or live with parents. The Sustainability of Homeownership analyzes these factors, casting new light on differences in ownership rates among African Americans, whites, and Hispanics.

The study finds that the duration of homeownership differs by race and ethnicity. For white households, the average period of homeownership for first-time buyers is 16.1 years, compared with 9.5 years for African Americans and 12.5 years for Hispanics. The termination rate of homeownership periods by African Americans is 240 percent of that for whites, while the rate for Hispanics is 168 percent of that for whites.

"These differences," the study notes, "combined with longer stays in rental units or living with parents by minorities, result in substantially less time spent as a homeowner. Several recent studies have noted the benefits of homeownership for children, and these benefits are permanently lost if young minority adults rent for a substantial part of the time when they are raising their child." Thus, one of the study's implications is that policy makers need to pay attention to "the gap in the duration of stay in owned homes between whites and minorities. This concern justifies consideration of new policies, specifically ones that address the racial differences in the duration of homeownership. What general policies are called for? Among the most important factors are education and knowledge.

A simple policy is to target those households at risk of quick termination and provide education that raises their level of knowledge about the risks that lead to cessation of homeownership. Obviously, counseling programs fit this description."

The study concludes that, "As a result of the national concern about a decreasing homeownership rate throughout the 1980s and into the 1990s and concern about substantial differences in ownership rates between whites and minorities, substantial effort has been devoted to increasing ownership rates. Many of these policies have focused on increasing the accessibility of first-time home owning. The analysis conducted in this study supports continuing these policies. There are still substantial gaps between whites and minorities in the rate that first-time homeownership is achieved.

However, policies that promote only temporary spells of homeownership will have little impact on the national homeownership rate. To have a lasting impact on overall homeownership rates, policies must promote new ownership spells that are sustainable. Furthermore, policies that lengthen existing ownership

spells also will raise the national ownership rate, even if the rate of attaining a first-time or subsequent spell of ownership is not affected."

The study bases its findings and conclusions on detailed descriptions of homeownership and rental spells, focusing on differences in race, ethnicity, and income. It also includes an econometric analysis of homeownership spell length that explores the role of factors such as education, changes in a household's weeks worked, unemployment rates, and mortgage interest rates. This analysis utilizes a nationally representative data set, the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth, which follows a cohort of individuals for 21 years. The commission will continue to actively pursue ways in which to fix this problem in the upcoming state legislature.

Barriers to Homeownership

HUD Secretary has declared that "Through its programs and initiatives, HUD is breaking down the barriers that lock too many families out of homeownership." But what are these barriers? And how is HUD working to overcome them? While homeownership is at an all-time high, with nearly 70 percent of



all American households owning their own homes, only about half of African-American and Hispanic families are homeowners. Although the minority rate has risen in recent years, it still lags behind that of whites. HUD is particularly determined to address the factors that create this homeownership gap. Barriers high on HUD's action list include:

- Households lacking a down payment;
- Households needing help in understanding the home buying process;
- Households with credit records that preclude qualifying for conventional (prime) loans and which are vulnerable to "predatory lending" within the nonprime (sub prime) mortgage market;
- Neighborhoods, cities, and towns with affordable housing shortages; and
- Government-sponsored financing agencies that could do a better job of serving middle- and low-income housing markets.

HUD is working hard to overcome these barriers. Our goals include expanding zero-down payment mortgages, reforming the sub prime lending market, encouraging greater use of housing counseling, increasing the supply of affordable housing, and instituting reforms at the government-sponsored housing finance agencies.

Expanding Zero-Down payment Mortgages

HUD has backed a variety of measures to supply more down payment assistance for households that could afford mortgage payments, if only a down payment was not required up front.

This year, President Bush's FY 2006 budget request proposed the development of a zero-down payment loan product

under the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) single-family mortgage insurance program (FHA currently requires at least a 3% down payment). This measure follows the Zero Down payment Act of 2004 (H.R.3755), which the Administration supported but which did not reach a floor vote in the House. In 2002, however, Congress passed and President Bush signed the \$200 million-per-year American Dream Down payment Act, expanding the supply of no-down payment mortgages for first-time homebuyers.

Reforming the Sub prime Lending Market

HUD has long been concerned that households with less-than-ideal credit ratings may be limited to unfavorable or even "predatory" loan products in the nonprime mortgage market. As part of an ongoing effort, HUD maintains a web page of information to arm consumers against becoming victims of loan fraud or predatory lenders (www.hud.gov/offices/hsg/sfh/pred/predlend.cfm). The site explains the tactics of predatory lenders, suggests ways to recognize them, and provides links to sources of homeownership education.

Earlier this year, Representatives Robert Ney (R-Ohio) and Paul Kanjorski (D-PA) introduced the Responsible Lending Act (H.R. 1295), a comprehensive bill on sub prime lending. Reflecting HUD's and the housing community's long-standing concerns with predatory lending, the Ney-Kanjorski bill would protect consumers against unfair and deceptive practices in connection

with higher cost mortgage transactions, strengthen consumer remedies, establish uniform lending standards, strengthen housing counseling, improve appraisal standards and oversight, and establish licensing and minimum standards for mortgage brokers. As of May, this bill was still under consideration.

Another bill, H.R. 1182, sponsored by Brad Miller (D-NC) and Mel Watt (D-NC), focuses on predatory lending. There is some debate in the housing advocacy community as to which set of provisions would do a better job of protecting consumers without inadvertently increasing foreclosures and mortgage delinquencies. Low wages, rising joblessness and predatory lending practices by banks and mortgage companies are contributing to a record number of home foreclosures in the United States.



housing insurance report

Foreclosures

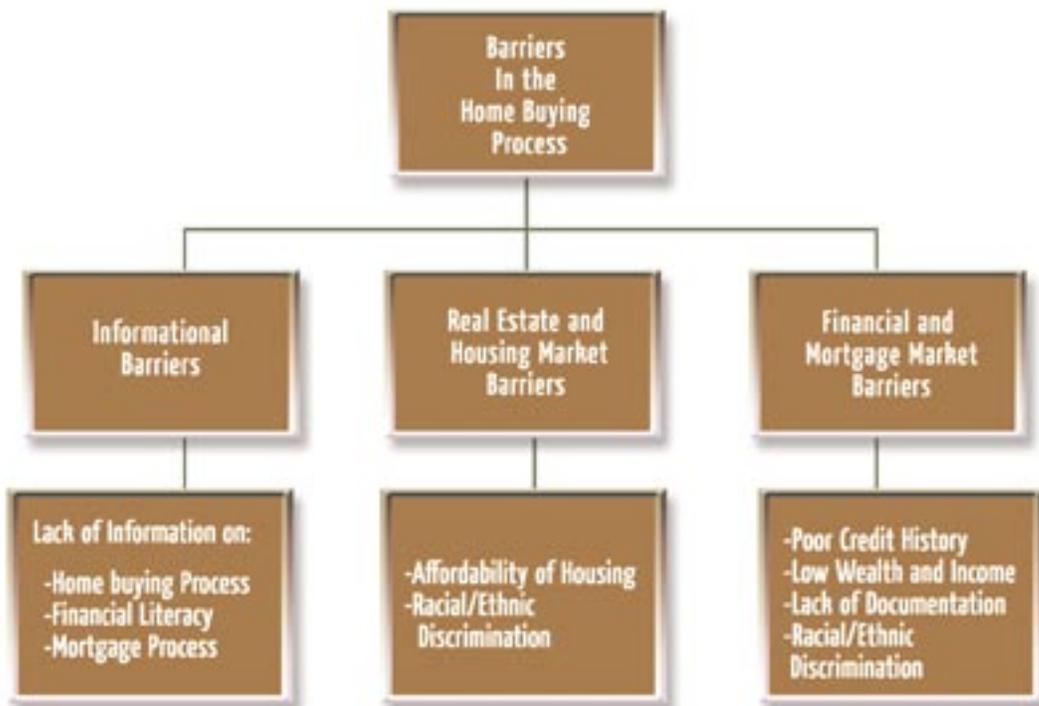
All across the country—in rural, suburban and inner city areas—more and more families are losing their homes. While the Bush administration diverts billions of dollars in tax cuts to the rich and states and cities slash social programs, millions of workers and middle class people are living on the economic edge, only a lost paycheck or two away from being tossed into the street.

Credit refinancing is offered to hard-pressed homeowners as a way out of unmanageable credit card debt. However, short-term relief is often purchased at the cost of putting the borrower's home at risk. A report by Spokane Neighborhood Action Programs published June 12, 2002, documents a "dramatic increase" in foreclosures in eastern Washington State. Foreclosures in the area rose from just 70 in 1993 to 1,000 in the year 2000, a 1300 percent increase. The study indicates that more and more mortgage loans are being taken out, not to purchase new homes, but to refinance existing debt.

The report notes: "Homes that went into foreclosure in 2000 had, on average, nearly twice as many loans per home as the homes foreclosed in 1993. In 1993, the homes that were foreclosed averaged 1.8 loans per home, while the 2000 foreclosures averaged nearly 3 loans per home. In other words, fewer homes were purchased while more loans and foreclosures were filed." (See www.snapwa.org/foreclosures1.htm).

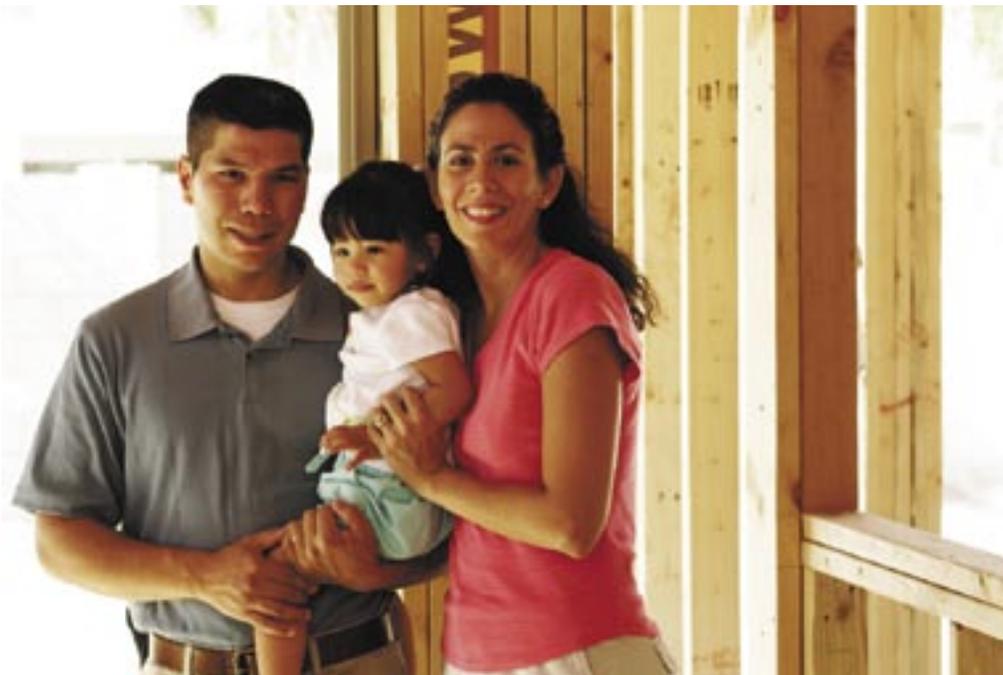
An important factor behind the increase in mortgage foreclosures is the rise of so-called sub prime loans. Sub prime loans are made to borrowers with credit deemed insufficient to qualify for a standard home mortgage. They sometimes entail predatory practices including exorbitant interest rates, additional fees and prepayment penalties that make it virtually impossible for the borrower to escape from debt. Sub prime lending is targeted disproportionately at the poor, and minorities.

The Commission supports efforts by the government and citizens to provide funds and programs for farm workers in need of housing. "About 60% of the migrant population in the United States is considered homeless. When they do have a residence, the physical conditions of the place are substandard. These houses are overcrowded, not well-maintained, and isolated from the rest of the society. Those workers born outside of the United States (49%) are more likely to share their homes with many individuals, five or more persons for example, than those born in the United States (19%)" (State of the State for Washington Latinos, Whitman College 2005). It is important that these farm workers receive the support and resources needed to secure acceptable housing. The Commission supports efforts taken to continue to improve the quality of life for these laborers.



RECOMMENDATIONS

- Create a long-term plan that ensures that people of all income levels have access to decent, affordable housing.
- Support funding for equal housing organizations to provide Hispanics/Latinos with bilingual and competent literature as well counseling, regarding home ownership.
- Continue to support measures taken by the government and private non-profit organizations to provide quality housing for all migrant workers.
- Expand zero-down payment mortgage programs and reform the sub prime lending market.
- Institute reforms at government-sponsored housing financing agencies.





Young Hispanics in Washington State are disproportionately over-represented in the juvenile justice system: The Washington State Department of Corrections reports that 71% of Caucasians make up the confinement population, while 9.8% are of Hispanic origin. Hispanics represent 8.6% of the State's total population.

Lorena Gonzalez, President of the Latino Bar Association, summarized the difficulties Hispanics/Latinos face in the justice system: "Hispanics currently and continually do not have accessibilities [sic] to our justice system."

DISPROPORTIONALLY

"Disproportionally" in juvenile sentencing is defined as the degree to which the demographics composition of juvenile offenders differs from the general at risk juvenile population, youths 10 years and older (Figure 1, 2).

Figure 1: State Juvenile Population 2004

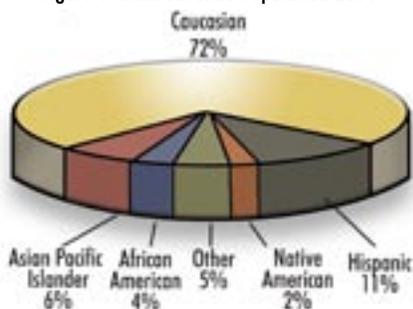
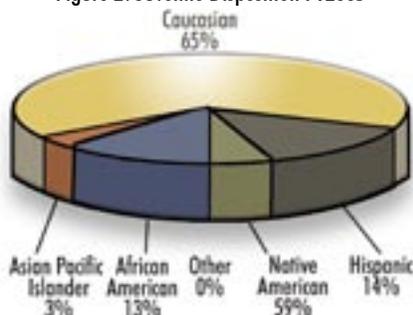


Figure 2: Juvenile Disposition FY2005



Over-representation may arise in many stages of the juvenile justice system. As such, this report summarizes but does not investigate the causes of disproportionality in sentencing. For the use of this report disproportionality is measured by a ratio, the percentage of that group in the population.

Latino youth are disproportionately represented in the justice system and face unequal treatment at every stage of the justice system. This includes police stops, arrest, detention, waiver to adult criminal court, and sentencing.

Latino youth are unjustly sentenced and unnecessarily confined when they may be effectively diverted into community-based programs.

Growing research demonstrates that Latino youth are more harshly treated than white youth even when charged and convicted for the same types of offenses.

Data collection mechanisms do not desegregate ethnicity and race; therefore leaving Latino youth overlooked, deprived of treatment, and severely undercounted.

Most treatment and support programs such as mental health, substance abuse, education, alternatives to incarceration and reintegration services for youth returning to the community after confinement are NOT culturally competent or linguistically appropriate for Hispanic youth and their families.

Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) occurs when the number of minority youth in the justice system represents a higher percentage than their representation in the general population. This can occur in all stages of the juvenile justice system from arrest to secure confinement.

How does it affect the Latino community? Latino youth are often unfairly targeted for police stops, arrested, detained, waived to adult criminal court, and sentenced to serve longer periods of time than their non-Hispanic counterparts. As a result, Latino youth are significantly overrepresented and receive harsher treatment than White youth, even when charged for the same types of offenses.

Recidivism of Juvenile Offenders

During Fiscal Year 2005, Washington courts entered 13,127 juvenile dispositions:

1. Approximately 77% of the offenders were boys.
2. Approximately 76% (9,937) of the dispositions involved offenders who had a history of one or more prior offenses.

For purposes of this report, the term "recidivism" includes any disposition in which the offender's juvenile history contains a disposition. The overall rate of recidivism for boys was 77% compared to 72% among girls (Table 1). Below

Table 1: Demographics

	Total Sentence	Recidivist	Recidivist Rate	% of Juvenile population
Gender				
Female	2,953	2,133	72.23%	48.75%
Male	10,174	7,804	76.71%	51.25%
Race/Ethnicity				
African Am.	1,669	1,303	78.07%	3.94%
Asian Pacific Islander	378	246	65.08%	5.98%
Caucasian	8,178	6,145	75.14%	69.23%
Hispanic	1,824	1,501	82.29%	13.71%
Native American	620	480	77.42%	5.29%

African Americans account for 3.94% of the population in Washington and a disproportionately high 13.11% of all juvenile dispositions, yet had a recidivism rate of 78.07%. The recidivism rate of Hispanics was the highest of all racial groups at 82.29%. Asian/Pacific Islanders experienced the smallest recidivism rate, 65.08%. Caucasians, the largest segment of the general population, 69.23%, accounted for 61.84% of all juvenile dispositions and had a recidivism rate of 75.14%. Asian/Pacific Islander girls received the smallest number of sentences and accounted for the lowest overall recidivism rate, 50.63%. Hispanic boys had the highest rate of recidivism, at 82.97% (See Figure 3 and Table 2).

Figure 3: Recidivism by Race and Gender

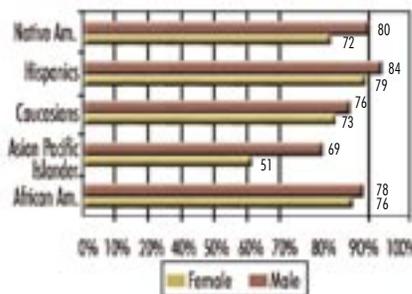
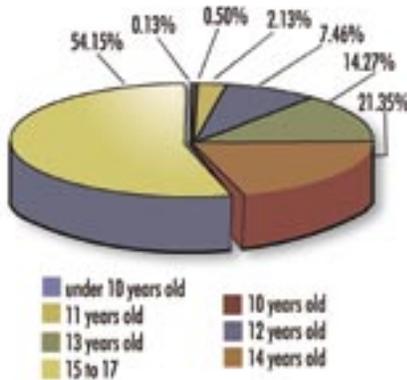


Table 2: Recidivism by Race and Gender

	Recidivist		Recidivism Rate	
	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys
African Am.	315	988	76.27%	78.66%
Asian Pacific Islander	40	206	50.63%	68.90%
Caucasian	1,334	4,811	72.78%	75.82%
Hispanic	239	1,262	78.88%	82.97%
Native American	144	336	71.64%	80.19%

During Fiscal Year 2005, there were 3,190 dispositions involving first time juvenile offenders. Most first time offenders were 15 to 17 years old. This age group accounted for 1,727 of the 3,190 first time offenders' cases (see figure 4).

Figure 4: Age of First Offense



The average age of first time offenders, 15.13 years old, was slightly lower than the average of repeat offenders, 15.90 years old. Girls tended to re-offend at a younger age, 15.83 years old, compared to boys at 15.92 years old. As was the case with first time offenders, the highest percentage of recidivism occurred among offenders between 15 to 17 years old (See Table 3).

Table 3: Age Range of Recidivists

Age Range	Total Sentence	Recidivist	Recidivism rate
Under 10 years old	9	5	55.56%
10 years old	29	13	44.83%
11 years old	97	29	29.90%
12 years old	442	204	46.15%
13 years old	1,137	682	59.98%
14 years old	2,214	1,533	69.24%
15 to 17 years old	9,191	7,464	81.21%

Offense Group

For purposes of this report, offenses are categorized into eleven primary groups: assault, drug, gross misdemeanor, manslaughter, misdemeanor, murder 1, murder 2, property, robbery, sex, and other felonies nearly half of the first time offender's committed gross misdemeanors (Table 4). Property crimes were the second most common offenses committed by first-time offenders. These offenders rarely committed more serious offenses such as robbery and drug offenses.

Table 4: First Time Offender by Offense Group

Crime Type	First Time Offender	Percentage
Assault	197	6.20%
Drug	82	2.58%
Gross Misdemeanor	1,534	48.27%
Manslaughter	5	0.16%
Misdemeanor	215	6.77%
Other Felony	114	3.59%
Property	783	24.64%
Robbery	44	1.38%
Sex	204	6.42%

Similar to the pattern of first offenses, the most frequent prior offenses were misdemeanors and gross misdemeanors, followed by property offenses (Table 5).

Table 5: Recidivism by Type of Offense

Crime Type	Total Sentence	Recidivist	Recidivism rate
Assault	593	396	66.78%
Drug	308	226	73.38%
Gross Misdemeanor	7,253	5,719	78.85%
Manslaughter	10	5	50.00%
Misdemeanor	13,651	11,500	84.25%
Murder1	1	1	100%
Murder2	1	1	100%
Other Felony	410	296	72.20%
Property	2,701	1,918	71.01%
Robbery	137	93	67.88%
Sex	290	86	29.66%

This offense pattern was the same among boy and girl offenders (Table 6).

Table 6: Recidivism by Gender and Type of Offense

Crime	Recidivism		Recidivism percentage	
	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys
Assault	69	370	2.10%	3.30%
Drug	53	191	1.61%	1.70%
Gross Misdemeanor	1,584	4,950	48.13%	44.17%
Manslaughter	1	4	0.03%	0.04%
Misdemeanor	1,221	3,486	37.10%	31.11%
Murder1		1	0.00%	0.01%
Murder2		1	0.00%	0.01%
Other Felony	60	341	1.82%	3.04%
Property	298	1,686	9.05%	15.04%
Robbery	4	91	0.12%	0.81%
Sex	1	86	0.03%	0.77%

As expected, the lowest recidivism rates were found among the more serious offenses such as murder and sex crimes. These offenses were committed at the lowest overall rates of current and past offenses (Table 7).

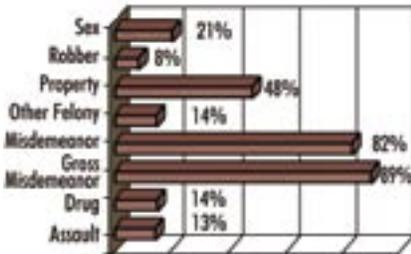
Table 7: Present and Past Sentences by Recidivists

Crime Type	Present Offense	Present Percentage	Prior Offense	Prior Percentage
Assault	439	3.03%	772	3.42%
Drug	244	1.68%	330	1.46%
Gross Misdemeanor	6,534	45.0%	8,797	39.02%
Manslaughter	4,707	32.47%	8,036	35.64%
Misdemeanor	5	0.03%	3	0.01%
Murder1	1	0.01%		
Murder2	1	0.01%		
Other Felony	401	2.77%	751	3.33%
Property	1,984	13.68%	3,478	15.43%
Robbery	95	0.66%	212	0.94%
Sex	87	0.60%	166	0.74%

A subset of recidivists includes a group of offenders whose current criminal behavior was the same type as that committed at least once in the past. These offenders are sometimes referred to as habitual offenders, though state statutes generally apply this term to persons who are repeatedly arrested for any criminal behavior.

As illustrated in figure 5, youths whose current offense fell within misdemeanor and gross misdemeanor crime types were extremely likely to have engaged in the same criminal conduct.

Figure 5: Same Criminal Conduct Offense Group



In the past, property offenders were the next most likely habitual offenders. Robbery recidivists the least likely habitual offenders.

Many youth gangs are sub cultural and have Hispanic/Latino cultural origins (National Youth Gang Center, Gang-Related Legislation in Washington State, 2006). According to a survey done by the National Youth Gang Center, 49% of all gang members in the United States are Hispanic/Latino. Gang involvement and negative peer association continues to be a problem for Hispanic/Latino youth in Washington State. Studies show that certain social conditions predispose gang involvement. Factors such as poverty, lack of school support, exposure to violence, and lower incomes contribute to Hispanic/Latino participation in gangs. Youth gang violence has stunted the social progress of Hispanic/Latino communities. The loss of life and lack of positive opportunity for growth caused by youth gang violence needs to be brought to an end.

The Washington State Office of Financial Management conducted a survey asking populations around the state what types of serious crimes occurred in their neighborhoods in the past 12 months. Eighteen percent of the respondents said people openly sold drugs, 24% reported auto theft, and 31% specified breaking and entering to steal personal property (North

Puget, King County, Puget Metro, and Clark County, Spokane County, and Tri Cities were the areas surveyed). Hispanic children are more likely to live in poverty and in neighborhoods that suffer from poverty. Studies show that living in poverty contributes to family structures that push Hispanic/Latino children to become involved in gangs. Many cases show a lack of adult supervision thus allowing juveniles to be exposed to violent behavior.

An example of the violence we are facing can be seen in the Yakima-Tri Cities region. It was reported that one murder occurred in their neighborhood in the past 12 months. Eleven percent of King County residents and 13% of Yakima-Tri Cities residents reported crimes with guns in their neighborhoods compared to 5% of residents in Puget Metro (Washington State Population Survey, 2005).

Hispanics/Latinos who commit crimes are not successfully being rehabilitated. This is shown in the high recidivism rates. They have the highest probability of reentering the justice system. There is an 82% chance a Hispanic/Latino will commit another crime once he/she has been through the justice system. That means that out of 1,824 total Hispanics/Latinos sentenced, 1,501 were recidivist. African Americans had a recidivism

rate of 78% and Caucasians 75% (sentencing Guidelines Commission in the State of Washington, 2005). In order for Hispanics/Latinos to benefit from the justice system, they must know and understand English as well as have an understanding of the judicial structure and the legal system. While many Hispanics/Latinos have adapted to American culture in many aspects, specific knowledge to these systems and one's rights within them is often lacking. Additionally, there is a short supply of translators and court interpreters, creating difficulties for Hispanics/Latinos in receiving qualified attorneys.

There are only 166 certified Spanish language interpreters in the State of Washington. Information in Spanish about the justice and legal systems is necessary to communicate the rights and needs of those affected. Culturally sensitive staff is also important. These changes are needed immediately in order to reduce the biases and the impacts on ethnic communities.

Washington State has three Hispanic/Latino elected representatives in legislature, one appointed Hispanic/Latino Superior Court Judge, and one Federal District Court Judge. Lack of a diverse workforce in the judicial system compounds the many difficulties Hispanics/Latinos face when seeking these services.



voters participation

Voter Registration

The strength of American democracy hinges upon the full participation of all segments of the population. Latinos are the fastest growing population group in the United States; full participation of Latinos in the American political process is vital to the health and full representation of U.S. democracy.

The U.S. Department of Justice mandated that Yakima County comply with federal voting rights provisions to ensure the full participation in elections of Spanish speakers. While voter registration has increased in Yakima City (one-third Latino), rarely have Hispanic candidates run for City Council elections (Whitman College report 2005). A council that focuses on community interaction and examines the concerns of adequate interpreting and translating services for monolingual Spanish speakers would be beneficial. The Commission encourages gang prevention programs that engage the entire community, especially in larger cities such as Seattle, Spokane, and Yakima.

In partnership with the Washington State Commission on Hispanic Affairs, the NALEO Educational Fund seeks to further our knowledge of Latino political participation in the state and to provide effective strategies for engaging and mobilizing the existing Latino electorate through non-partisan community based programs. We propose a "La Voz del Pueblo" Washington initiative that will help set the foundation for mobilizing the Latino vote during the 2008 Presidential Election.



Community Need

Over the last decade, the Latino population in Washington has increased dramatically. According to figures from the U.S. Census Bureau the Latino population in the state of Washington increased by 106% between 1990 and 2000, increasing from 214,570 in 1990 to 441,509 in 2000. The most recent figures provided by the Bureau estimate that as of 2005 there are more than half a million Latinos residing in the state (541,722). Rapid population growth, however, raises important questions regarding the incorporation of Latinos into the political life of the state. Despite the numbers, are Latinos registering to vote? Are they voting? Where is the Latino vote concentrated? Little information detailing the Latino electorate in Washington is available. As such, it is imperative to seek answers to these questions in order to develop a targeted strategy that will help incorporate this growing population into the state's political landscape. Initial research estimates that of the more than half a million Latinos in the state; 126,379 are registered voters. However, little is known as to the demographic make-up and voting behavior of this electorate.

Additionally, as an extremely recent electorate with a disproportionate share of young and immigrant populations, the Latino vote is challenged by a prevalence of socioeconomic factors that often lead to lower rates of participation in electoral politics. Age, income, education, and language, are all precursor attributes that often dictate the likelihood of voting. Young and new immigrant voters are more likely to lack a strong sense of confidence in navigating the electoral process or in understanding government and the candidates.

The key to increasing the Latino vote in Washington requires community based efforts that seek to engage and mobilize eligible Latinos in the electoral process.

For these reasons, the NALEO Educational Fund, in partnership with the Washington State Commission on Hispanic Affairs and LULAC seek to foster a better understanding of Latino political participation in Washington and further organizational responses to help foster a strong culture of electoral participation within the community.

- Women non-Hispanic White had the highest level of voter turnout in the November 2004 Election — 67%, followed by Black citizens at 60%, Hispanic citizens at 40%, and Asian citizens at 44%. Citizenship is especially important in the consideration of racial and ethnic differences in voting rates. Immigration has contributed to different proportions of non-citizens in various groups — 2% in non-Hispanic White were not citizens compared to 6% of Blacks, 33% of Asians, 41% of Hispanics in 2004.
- The likelihood of registering and voting differed among racial groups and Hispanic. Non-Hispanic whites had the highest registration rate at 75%, 69% of Blacks, 52% of Asians, and 58% of Hispanics were registered in 2004.
- A key to voter turnout is registration, as the majority of registered voters among all racial and ethnic groups voted in the 2004 election. Among the registered citizen population — 89% of non Hispanic Whites, 87% of Blacks, 85% of Asians, and 82% of Hispanics voted.

Project Goals

- Help further the understanding of the Latino electorate in the state of Washington.
- Encourage community based organizational interventions to help mitigate barriers to increased political participation.
- Take the initial steps towards the development of a program to mobilize the Washington Latino vote in 2008.





Isaac Martinez from La Voz del Trabajador is presenting a \$2500 Scholarship to Adriana Lucas at the Capitol Rotunda during Latino Legislative Day, February 21, 2007.



Governor Christine O. Gregoire is speaking to Hispanic constituents at the Capitol Grounds during Latino Legislative Day, February 21, 2007.



Representative Sam Hunt, Democrat 22nd District speaking to Hispanic constituents at the Capitol Rotunda during Latino Legislative Day, February 21, 2007.



Representative Phyllis Kenney, Democrat 46th District speaking to Hispanic constituents at the Capitol Rotunda during Latino Legislative Day, February 21, 2007.



First Annual Latinos Unidos Abriendo Caminos con la Educación event at Tacoma Community College on April 28, 2007.



Latino Legislative Day, February 21, 2007
 Uriel Iñiguez (CHA Director), Alexia Iñiguez (Washington State Hispanic/Latino Legislation Organization Secretary), Alicia Luna (CHA Executive Assistant), and Carlos Jimenez (Washington State Hispanic/Latino Legislation Organization Chair).

RECOMMENDATIONS

As the Commission prepares for the next legislative session, it plans to focus on the following priorities:

- State funding for bilingual early education interests.
- Equality within the standardized testing system.
- Encourage further study and programs that will work toward improving the low Hispanic/Latino graduation rate.
- Wage equality for Hispanic/Latino laborers.
- Health care services for low-income Hispanics/Latinos.
- Culturally competent, linguistically appropriate, affordable, prevention-oriented, and accessible government agencies and services.
- Data collection to identify service needs and disparities.
- Comprehensive safety standards for pesticide use so that Hispanic/Latino farm workers understand necessary precautions.
- Data collection on health impacts of Hispanic/Latino working conditions.
- Government and non-profit measures to provide quality housing for all migrant workers.
- Gang prevention programs that engage the community.
- Spanish documents in the criminal justice system.
- Discourage local law enforcement from enforcing immigration laws. Enforcing federal immigration law is the responsibility of federal government, not of state and local agencies.

The Commission wishes to acknowledge and thank the staff of government agencies and non-governmental organizations that contributed to the Commission's successes. The Commission looks forward to partnering with these groups in the next legislative session to effect substantive change for Washington State's Hispanic/Latino community.





Washington State Commission on Hispanic Affairs
Comisión de Asuntos Hispanos del Estado de Washington
Toll Free Number: 1-800-443-0294
Olympia Number: (360) 725-5661
Fax Number: (360) 586-9501
hispanic@cha.wa.gov