Exploring Racial and Ethnic Inequalities in New Mexico

Gabriel R Sanchez
Professor of Political Science
Executive Director, RWJF Center for Health Policy
University of New Mexico

Principal, Latino Decisions
Historical Context of Race in NM

• Although the data I will present are contemporary, it is critical to situate all of these numbers within the historical context in New Mexico.

  • Colonization across several generations and under authority of multiple nations.
  • Role of race in the slow acceptance of NM as a state by US government that reinforced racial hierarchy.
  • Early division of power across business and political leadership that is reflected in diversity across these sectors today and concentration of power/inequality.
  • Severe economic hardship leading to a culture of “scarcity” and internalized racism.
Examples of Economic Inequality by Race-Median Income

- The median income is the middle point in household income for households, below are the numbers by race for NM in 2014:
  - $53,422 for White, non-Hispanic households
  - $37,773 for African American households
  - $38,236 for Hispanic households
  - $31,592 for American Indian households

- The average income of the top 20% of households is 9.9 times the average income of the bottom 20% in NM - worst inequality in the nation.
• In New Mexico, median income for a woman with a full-time, year-round job is $32,473, but $41,561 for a man.
  • This means that women in New Mexico are paid 78 cents for every dollar paid to men.
• Latinas are paid only 55 cents for every dollar paid to white, non-Hispanic men.
  • Spread out over a career, Latinas in NM will lose up to 1 million dollars in potential income due to this inequality!
• This inequality holds at every education level and across just about all sectors of the economy, and is driving several negative social and economic outcomes in our state.
According to the National Partnership for Women and Families, if the annual wage gap were eliminated a working woman in New Mexico would have enough money for approximately:

- 66 more weeks of food for her family (more than one year’s worth);
- Eight more months of mortgage and utilities payments or nearly 12 more months of rent.

These researchers estimate that women in New Mexico collectively lose more than 2.3 Billion dollars due to this inequality!
• Leading research suggests that structural discrimination explains most of the inequality we see in economic data, not individual career decisions.

• A recent study we conducted among parents of young children in rural New Mexico found that 34% of parents have turned down opportunities for career advancement due to lack of child care.

• This is a critical area for NM given that the majority of NM households are led by single mothers.

• The percentage of births to single mothers in New Mexico increased from 26.4% in 1985 to 51.8% in 2013.
ACA/Medicaid Expansion Critical to New Mexico
• **ACA repeal would be devastating for New Mexico.**
  - NM experienced the greatest gains in health insurance coverage in the nation, significantly reducing racial disparities in access to coverage.
  - If the ACA were to be dismantled the number of Native Americans who would be uninsured would triple!

• **Health care is a rare positive in the labor sector in NM, and the state will lose over 30,000 jobs, and over $2.3 billion in federal health care dollars under repeal scenarios.**
  - That drop in jobs would be 4% of all jobs in NM-highest in nation.
Do you feel there is definitely/some what of an anti-immigrant or anti-Hispanic environment today, or, do you think no such environment exists today?

Definitely anti-Hispanic/immigrant  Somewhat anti-Hispanic/immigrant  No such environment exists

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Definitely anti-Hispanic/immigrant</th>
<th>Somewhat anti-Hispanic/immigrant</th>
<th>No such environment exists</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US Born</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immigrant</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spanish</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18-34</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35-59</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60+</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: RWJF Center for Health Policy
Have you ever avoided [activity from list] because you don't want to be bothered or asked about your citizenship status? Percent reporting “yes”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Talking to police or reporting crime</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renewing or applying for a driver's license</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Traveling by airplane / picking up family at the airport</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Using public transportation</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Driving a car</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visiting a doctor or clinic</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Talking with school teachers or school officials</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smoking cigarettes or drinking alcohol</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: RWJF Center for Health Policy
How do other people usually classify your race in the United States? Would you say that others usually view you as:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Latino</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mexican</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Puerto Rican</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immigrant</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cuban</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle Eastern</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We have found that being misclassified as Mexican leads to more discrimination and poorer education and health outcomes.

Source: RWJF Center for Health Policy
How concerned are you about the following policy changes in light of the recent presidential election of Donald J. Trump?

- The Affordable Care Act or Obamacare being shut down or repealed?
  - Not at all: 45%
  - Not Very: 13%
  - Somewhat: 33%
  - Very: 9%

- The Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals or DACA policy being reversed, putting millions of immigrants at risk of deportation?
  - Not at all: 71%
  - Not Very: 21%
  - Somewhat: 5%
  - Very: 4%

Thank You / Questions?

Gabriel Sanchez, PhD
Executive Director
RWJF Center for Health Policy at UNM
sanchezg@unm.edu
Trust in Government Varies by Race

NEW MEXICAN TRUST IN STATE GOVERNMENT TO DO WHAT IS RIGHT

- Always Trust: 58%
- Sometimes Trust: 20%
- Never Trust: 3%

THE IMPACT OF RACE ON NEVER TRUSTING THE STATE GOVERNMENT TO DO WHAT IS RIGHT

- White: 18%
- Hispanic: 19%
- Native American: 28%

Source: RWJF Center for Health Policy