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## THE CHALLENGES FACING SINGLE HISPANIC PARENTS AND THEIR NEEDS TO IMPROVE FAMILY SERVICES

Gabriela Contreras

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THE CHALLENGES FACING SINGLE HISPANIC PARENTS AND THEIR  
NEEDS TO IMPROVE FAMILY SERVICES

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A Project  
Presented to the  
Faculty of  
California State University,  
San Bernardino

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In Partial Fulfillment  
of the Requirements for the Degree  
Master of Social Work

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by  
Gabriela Contreras

June 2018

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June 2018

Approved by:

Dr. Janet Chang, M.S.W. Research Coordinator

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## ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study was to explore the various challenges and needs single Latino fathers faced in different areas such as the parent-child relationship, personal, physical, mental, and the financial aspect. It also explored the father's perspectives and needs of formal and informal systems. This study used qualitative design using face -to- face interviews. This study found that single Hispanic fathers had a really good relationship with their children despite cultural factors that would enable them to have a challenging relationship such as the lack of acculturation, machismo, and the different fatherhood values between Hispanic and American culture. Another major theme that came up was the use of family support and the need for more formal support from local and state agencies and organizations. This study will help social workers and other professionals learn and understand the needs and challenges single Hispanic fathers face which will help social workers be competent to work with this specific population. It is recommended that more formal support such as access to counseling centers, support groups, and father-child community activities are needed to support and sustain Latino single fathers.

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## CHAPTER ONE

### INTRODUCTION

#### Problem Statement

Latinos in the United States are a fast-growing population. According to the United States Census Bureau (2016), Latinos make up 56.6 million or 17.6% of the U.S population. Latinos are considered the largest ethnic minority in the U.S. It is estimated that the Latino population will more than double by the year 2060 to 119 million or 28.6% (Census Bureau, 2016). Although Latinos in the United States are a fast-growing population and are considered the largest ethnic minority, research on this population is limited. Latinos in the U.S have been marginalized and underrepresented in many areas of research. For example, there is a comprehensible amount of research on Caucasian mothers, some research on single Latina mothers, however, there is limited research available on single Latino fathers raising their children.

In the past and recent years, single-parent households have been a growing phenomenon. According to the National Center for Health Statistics (2014), 813,862 marriages have ended in divorce and separation. Unmarried couples are also adding to the statistics by conceiving and not forming a traditional two-parent household. It is extremely common to see single-parent households headed predominantly by women; changing their role from mother to both mother and father. According to the U.S Census Bureau (2016), 80% of the



12 million single-family households are headed by single mothers. Another growing phenomenon is the rise of single male fathers. Although in the past, male fathers were primarily absent which resulted in an increase in research. It has been found that single-parent households where the male parent was absent were associated with many negative behavioral and mental health problems for the children and for the whole family (Kerns, Aspelmeier, Gentzler, & Grabil, 2001). There is an extensive amount of research investigating the need for more involved male parents.

In recent years there has been an increase in father involvement, and an increase in the number of single fathers with partial and full custody independently raising their children. The rise of single-parent households has increased from less than 300,000 in 1960 to more than 2.6 million in 2011 (Pew Research, 2013). The increase in father involvement is a new growing phenomenon that is in need of more research. However, it is extremely important to also investigate underrepresented and marginalized populations such as Latino fathers. According to Coley (2001), fathers have been obscured from research and are often not considered in policy. Coley (2001) also found that societal views impact social policies; for example, social policies have focused on father's paternal establishment and financial responsibility. The rise of single-parent households headed by women sparked an interest in the federal government. A large number of single mother households applied for government aid; in order to decrease government spending, new laws and policies were

established to force fathers to take responsibility by paying child support and establishing paternity (Coley, 2001). However, because of the lack of research, policies are not developed or tailored to meet the need of single fathers, nonetheless, single Latino fathers. Research is needed to help practitioners and policymakers institute policies to support single fathers, as well as, to better define the role of fatherhood.

The role of the father has been a controversial topic, with many different perspectives shaping the meaning of fatherhood. As previously stated, the government put in place the need for fathers to take financial responsibility, and to establish paternity; however, it is important to view the role of the father to more than just forcing the father to acknowledge his title and being financially responsible. Both mothers and fathers have different views and perspectives of paternal involvement and behaviors that constitute fatherhood (Coley, 2001). Information on Fatherhood perspectives and behaviors have largely been collected from mothers due to lack of accessibility of fathers in research (Coley, 2001). Coley (2001), believes mothers may have misrepresented the paternal behaviors and reported a biased view of fatherhood. Coley (2001), has also found that research on fatherhood only observes concepts such as visitation, custody, and financial support, but does not investigate other important areas such as the father's emotional involvement, level of responsibility, and paternal commitment. Research on father's perspectives and experiences from diverse

racial and ethnic backgrounds can help constitute a clear role and meaning of fatherhood in the United States.

With the help of exploratory research, we can observe the father's perspectives to learn about their challenges, needs, and limitations. Researching the needs of single Latino fathers can help social workers and other professionals understand the fatherhood culture as well as the male expectations that may impede fathers from assuming their fatherhood roles. For example, in the Latino culture there is a strong emphasis on "Familismo" which is the notion that Latinos primarily seek family for support and advise; and do not seek outside sources to deal with their problems (Settersten, Day, Tirado, & Driscoll, 2014). With the help of this study, social workers will have a better understanding and knowledge of the specific challenges and needs single Latino fathers face and be competent to serve their needs and the needs of the family. This study will also fill the gap in research and add to the limited information on the unique needs and challenges single Latino fathers face. Fostering the development of single Latino fathers will create new social perspectives, changes in policy, and changes in methods professionals use to work with single parents.

#### Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study is to examine the various challenges and service needs single Latino fathers face in regards to parenting. After sufficient research is collected and with the help of this study, social workers and other

professionals can use evidence-based research to effectively work with this population. Policy and other social service programs can be developed to minimize the struggles and challenges. The focus on only single mothers needs to change and also include single fathers. This study along with other relevant research can help professionals such as social workers have a more comprehensive knowledge in working with this specific population and work on developing effective cultural programs and services directed specifically towards single Latino Fathers.

According to DeGarmo, Patras, and Eap (2008), single fathers are in need of support and services such as parent-training interventions or clinical practice in which the focus would be the father's specific needs. DeGarmo, Patras, and Eap (2008) believe it will be useful for fathers to learn and develop new skills such as help-seeking, problem-solving, and interpersonal skills building, specifically relevant to parenting. Social workers can help develop interventions specifically tailored to single Latino fathers such as, "Dads for Life", which focuses on the commitment of the parenting role, skills for managing co-parenting, conflicts with a former spouse, as well as, parenting skills to help support fathers in their new roles (Braver, Griffin & Cookstan, 2005). The development of programs for single fathers will help fathers learn to be more emotionally involved with their children and help parents define their role as more than just the breadwinner but also as a nurturer. This study, as well as the

development of other relevant research, studies will fulfill the needs of the community to help families of single fathers improve.

A Qualitative design will be used to specifically understand the subjective reality and process of each individual father, in their parenting role. Using qualitative research in this study will help understand the collective themes and processes through the perspectives of single Latino fathers. Latinos fathers in a caregiving role is a topic that needs to be clearly investigated and understood. Latino fathers face many barriers that may impede them from fulfilling their role as effective caregivers. Many Latino fathers are immigrants and undocumented, that in itself creates many challenges and struggles for single fathers. The majority of Immigrants are low-income, making it difficult for Latinos to have insurance, seek health care, or other social services (Furman, Negi, Iwamoto, Rowan, Shukraft, & Gragg, 2009). The lack of financial stability situates fathers into a work and family conflict. Immigrant fathers have a difficult time finding employment. However, employment that is available for immigrants is low paying high-risk jobs requiring fathers to work odd long shift hours (Taylor & Behnke, 2005). The long shift hours offered to immigrants make it impossible for fathers to interact with their children.

Other factors impeding fathers to fulfill their role as caregivers are language barriers. For example, language can prevent fathers from being involved with their children's social environment. "(Fathers) may be hesitant to attend school functions because they feel unwelcomed, are unfamiliar with the

language, and fear deportation” (Cabrera, Aldoney, & Tanis-LeMonda, 2013, p. 76). Language barriers will impede fathers to partake in the support of education of their children if they cannot effectively communicate with the school or the teachers. Language barriers also impede fathers from seeking and accessing health care services (Escarce & Kapur, 2006). Understanding the health care needs of the children and effectively communicating with doctors and nurses are critical in performing the role of a caregiver. Fathers may feel stressful and frustrated not being able to completely partake and provide for their child’s needs.

Another challenging factor Latino Fathers face is the acculturation process and the cultural differences that drive their parenting role. According to Taylor and Behnke (2005), the cultural clash of values between the father’s homeland and the United States creates internal and interpersonal struggles. Latino fathers must change parenting behaviors to fit the laws and culture of the U.S (Taylor & Behnke, 2005). Latino fathers must adapt to a new system of parenting that may not completely fit with their cultural values. For example, fathers living in Mexico believe that parents in the U.S have better parenting styles because they do not use physical discipline and lead by example (Taylor and Behnke, 2005). However, Latino fathers living in the U.S believe parenting in Mexico is better because there are more family unity and respect for elders (Taylor & Behnke, 2005). The cultural differences between parent and child can positively and negatively affect the parent-child relationship. For example, Familismo can

facilitate a strong connection between parent and child. However, Machismo, the strong cultural masculine ideals may weaken the parent child relationship (Settersten, Day, Tirado, & Driscoll, 2014).

Research on single fathers raising their children is an important issue to investigate. Research is necessary to understand the obstacles and struggles single fathers are going through while co-parenting, and independently raising their children. Through this qualitative research method and snowball sampling design this study will explore the unique needs and challenges single Latino fathers are facing. As researchers and social work professionals, we must create knowledge, and an overall understanding of the issues that may impact both parent and child in a family system. Qualitative research in this specific area can help social workers and other professionals understand the common parenting style of Latinos, as well as, become culturally competent to effectively work with male Latino fathers. With the help of this study, additional research on single Latino fathers will be available and fathers will finally be considered in policy.

#### Significance of the Project for Social Work Practice

With the help of this research, social workers and other professionals will have an overall understanding of the personal perspectives of single Latinos in a fatherhood role. Professionals will also be able to understand the struggles and challenges as well as the needs that impede fathers to reach empowerment and success. With the help of this study, professionals will develop competency to

effectively align their services with the father's cultural needs. This study can also help develop programs to specifically target Latino fathers, and identify barriers that may impede fathers from seeking social support services for themselves or for their families. This study will also direct social workers into providing Latino fathers with the appropriate resources and support services for their needs as single parents.

This study will help social workers and other professionals understand the meaning of fatherhood from a Latino perspective, and hopefully, help change their own perspective of single Latino fathers raising their own children. Some research has discovered that social workers and other professionals working with fathers and families have a systematic disregard for fathers (Brewsaugh & Strozier, 2016). Professionals working directly with fathers have assumed a bias, discriminating against men due to the societal perception that men or fathers are dangerous, usually absent, or unimportant (Scourfield, 2001). Administrative policies and governmental agencies have a lot to do with these negative views. There is a negative perception that fathers can present a risk to the children's safety and well-being enabling workers to rarely contact or engage the father (Brown et al., 2009). Not being completely aware of their own biases and the negative or the lack of interaction with fathers, social workers may have prevented fathers from seeking social services to help them with their needs and overcome their struggles. More studies need to explore fatherhood



from single father's perspectives in order to change the negative social and political views of father's involvement.

There is limited research on single fathers raising their children and yet less information on single Latino fathers. In order for social workers to abide by their national code of ethics and practice the profession's mission and core values, social workers must first understand their population they are working with by using research-informed practice to be culturally competent. In regards to the generalist intervention process in the social work field, this study will largely support social workers to assess and effectively identify the needs of single Latino fathers, as well as, to identify appropriate interventions to fit this specific population. This study will help answer the question of identifying and understanding the challenges single Latino fathers face and learn about their needs to improve the family system.

## CHAPTER TWO

### LITERATURE REVIEW

#### Introduction

Research on single Latino fathers was limited, extensive information was found on single mothers. Information available was on the challenges that parents face such as work and family conflicts. Challenges that fathers face such as the stress of being unemployed and unable to provide for the family. Limited research was available on the struggles immigrant parents face due to their legal status in the U.S and the process of acculturation in regards to parenting. Some information was available in regards to support or the lack of and parenting stress. Some of the research found was useful in that it did take into account the minority population; however, a lot of the research was not specific to Latino fathers living in the U.S; their participants were mainly white Americans.

#### Work and Family Conflicts

The meaning and the importance of fatherhood has been changing in last decades. As society and culture change so does the role of parents and children. Mothers used to be housewives taking care of children and managing home chores; while fathers worked long hours to financially provide for the family. Fathers were considered solely as breadwinners and mothers were considered the nurtures. During the continuous progression of society, mothers had the chance to also work and provide for their families. Today we see both parents

financially providing, and taking time to care and nurture their young ones. However, single Latino parents do not have the opportunity to be the sole providers and the nurturers' children need. Work and family conflicts arise in which fathers are stuck between financially or emotionally providing for their children's needs. In other words, to financially provide for the children or providing the time and nurturance needed. A strong relationship between parent-child is essential for the well-being of the family. However, many factors associated with culture, acculturation, immigration, parenting, service providers, and economics impede single fathers from developing a strong and positive relationship with their children; with many stressful factors, both parent and child may suffer from mental health problems.

Work and family conflicts impede parents from taking on full fatherhood responsibilities. Current social norms advocate for fathers to be more involved with their children; however, work-related concerns pull fathers into spending more time at their jobs (Summer, Boller, & Raikes, 2004). Immigrants specifically must work long hours in physically demanding jobs. Fathers are often placed in a difficult dilemma and are bounded by culture to devote time and energy to their job as a sign of commitment to their family and fatherhood (Summer, Boller, & Raikes, 2004). However, fathers also realize that their job does not give them the opportunity to spend qualitative time with their children. Some parents stated that they wanted to spend more quality time with their children than their parents spent with them (Summer, Boller, & Raikes, 2004). Although Latino fathers have

the hope of being good parents, they are caught between two power struggles, work and family. Summer, Boller, and Raikes (2004), believe these specific cultural and structural factors prevent fathers from being involved with their children and from building close relationship ties with their children. Wilson and Prior (2011), also believe society and culture are factors preventing fathers from involvement with their children. Wilson and Prior (2011), advocate for change in society; they believe that culture needs to change to influence the labor market and focus on improving the overall well-being of employees (parents) and their family. Wilson and Prior (2011), push for a more family-friendly work policy, and practices that support fathers from having flexibility in their work to fulfill fatherhood roles.

In contrast, Taylor and Behnke (2005) found that unemployment is also a barrier to the success of parents to fulfill their fatherhood role. Unemployment will prevent fathers from fulfilling a huge important part of their role as providers. For example, Coley (2001) also agrees that if fathers cannot fulfill their role as providers, mothers and other family members may impede them from being involved with their children. Culturally, the role of the father is to financially provide for the family. However, when fathers are not able to fulfill their role, they will remove themselves from the family and the children due to the shame of not being able to financially provide (Coley, 2001). Specifically, for low-income minority fathers, if they do not have the “human capital”, in other words, important values such as skills and knowledge to be passed on to their children,

then fathers will not work on developing a relationship with their children (Coley, 2001). The stress of unemployment may also affect the relationship between parent and child when fathers lose their job and find themselves in a financial crisis, although they may have more time with their children the quality of time spent together decreases (Coley,2001). The various factors affecting the relationship, access, and involvement between father and child are pertinent to understand as direct social providers for parents and children.

#### Impact of Immigration and Acculturation

Specifically, immigrant Latinos not only stress about unemployment, work, and family conflicts, but also they suffer from other unique factors such as immigration and acculturation issues that prevent them from being fully involved with their children. Immigrant fathers face strenuous factors such as constant fear, stress from loss, isolation, and uncertainty about their future and the future of their children (Dettlaff, Earner, Phillips, 2009). The additional stresses from economic, job- related issues, immigration, and acculturation cause a significant amount of stress to parents. Dettlaff, Earner, and Phillips (2009) have found that children in immigrant families are at risk of maltreatment due to high stress and pressure resulting from immigration and acculturation. Taylor and Behnke (2005) also found that “acculturation among Latinos is related to high parental stress and in return related to harsher and more punitive parenting behaviors” (pg.4). Higher stress and harsher punitive parenting behaviors can be due to a collision of two cultures. According to Taylor and Behnke (2005), the cultural clash of

values between Latino's country of origin and the United States creates internal and interpersonal struggles. The clash of the two cultures is often seen in conflicts between immigrant parents and their acculturated children (Taylor and Behnke, 2005). The differences in beliefs, values, and behaviors between the two cultures, or between parent and child can be a difficult struggle for a single-parent to handle on his own.

### Single Fathers' Challenges

DeGarmo, Patras, and Eap (2008) mentioned there was a lack of studies focusing on social support for single divorced fathers parenting behaviors and needs. DeGarmo, Patras, and Eap (2008) also mentioned the fact that many fathers gave up on the role of fatherhood due to the stressful event of the matrimonial separation, and or due to the lack of preparation to be the primary caregiver. Interestingly, fathers with full custody of their children had no reliance on their former spouse but did rely on new partners to help them adjust to their new social life (DeGarmo, Patras, & Eap, 2008). However, also due to lack of preparation and social support, fathers began to develop serious problems such as role overload and parenting conflicts with their new spouse (DeGarmo, Patras, & Eap, 2008). As additional stressors are added-on, changes in parenting begin to develop for example, DeGarmo, Patras, and Eap (2008) found that the higher the stress, the more conflicts, and the lack of social support can result in a more coercive parenting leading towards negative discipline behaviors such as yelling hitting and other inappropriate disciplines (DeGarmo, Patras, & Eap, 2008). The

higher the chances of stress and coercive parenting, the more likely Latino parents will have contact with the child welfare system. Although the factors for abuse and maltreatment is high in a single Latino family household, Dettlaff, Earner, and Phillips (2009) found that physical abuse, maltreatment, neglect was more prevalent among American citizens. However, Latino children were five times more likely to be sexually abused (Dettlaff, Earner, and Phillips, 2009). Dettlaff, Earner, and Phillips (2009) believe the high prevalence of sexual abuse can be due to the cultural factors such as a patriarchal family structure, the relationships with extended family members and unrelated acquaintances. Raising children and parenting is not an easy task; there are no perfect instructions or guidebooks for parents. The difficulty and the stress levels increase when parenting tasks are divided or switched to only one person. For immigrant Hispanic fathers, the barriers and the difficulties are much more intense.

### Theories Guiding Conceptualization

Theories guiding this study have been developed to critically assess and understand the overall framework of single Latino fathers include Family System Theory, Social Support Theory, and Ecological Theory, and Parenting Theory. These theories work together to understand the father's perspectives and challenges of raising children in a foreign country. Ecological Theory perfectly guides this study because it focuses on the cultural aspect of immigrant fathers,

fatherhood constructions, and the impact of immigration on paternal behaviors and values (Taylor and Behnke, 2005). The Ecological system looks at three different systems the Microsystem which focuses on the parent-child relationship, the mesosystem which focuses on the work and family perspective, and the Macro-system which focuses on the cultural beliefs and geographical location (Taylor and Behnke, 2005). Closely tying into the ecological system, Family System Theory focuses on the transactional and the relationship patterns within the family (Summer, Boller, & Raikes, 2004). Family System Theory also explains the family outcomes, the roles, and the boundaries of the family members within contextual factors (Summer, Boller, & Raikes, 2004). Family Systems Theory explains the various formal and informal support systems surrounding the family. External factors influencing the family system affect the father and in return, the father influences his children, work, and culture (Summer, Boller, & Raikes, 2004). Social Support Theory guides this study as it explains the use or the lack of utilization of formal and informal support systems. Social Support Theory is based on family culture, community norms, or influences from informal support networks. Finally, another theory guiding this study is the Parenting Theory, which focuses on three levels of influences to parenting such as: the personal characteristics of the child, personal characteristics of the parents, and social and contextual influences (Coley, 2001). Parenting Theory takes into consideration social and contextual influences such



as the cultural beliefs of fatherhood and acculturation the new values and beliefs of the foreign country (Coley, 2001).

Social workers must acknowledge that fathers' specifically single Latino fathers also need support and guidance. Living in the U.S as an undocumented immigrant father with language, cultural, and structural barrier is a huge struggle. Also by adding the challenges of parenting fathers might lead towards unhealthy coping strategies such as drugs, and alcohol. Depression and anxiety may result due to the lack of assurance of their financial and permanency in the U.S. With the help of this study social workers will develop competence and skills to help them work with single Latino fathers. By focusing on the father's challenges and needs social workers will have the knowledge and empathy to know how to work with this population. Once social workers understand the marginalization of Latino population action must begin to take place. The extra help and support from society, policy, community members as well as social workers will help increase the involvement of fathers and increase the success to overcome barriers and obstacles due to their status as a single Latino father living in the U.S.

The purpose of this research is to add knowledge to this new growing phenomenon through an exploratory study. This research study is of importance because it focuses on a growing marginalized population. As a society and as social workers we cannot forget that men are also in a caregiving role and need the same support and assistance as single mothers. With the help

of this research study not only will we identify the obstacles and needs of single Latino fathers, social workers will be culturally competent and will be able to understand the fathers struggles to effectively work with Latino fathers.

## CHAPTER THREE

### METHODS

#### Introduction

This section includes a detailed description of the research methods used and the procedures that were carried out to complete the research study. This section will also include the design of the study, sampling methods, data collection, instrument, procedures, protection of the human subject, and methods for data analysis.

#### Study Design

Single Latino fathers are struggling with the challenges of parenting in the United States. The lack of research for this specific population does not give a clear picture of what those needs and challenges are. This research study will explore the main issues that affect single Latino fathers living in Southern California to effectively parent and manage their personal and family life. The purpose of this study is to assess the needs and challenges of single Latino fathers. This study will also help social workers have the competence needed to understand their struggles and help develop programs and services to better serve this marginalized population.

This research study used a qualitative design to explore the various subjective experiences of Latino fathers living in Southern California. A

qualitative study design will help understand the collective themes and processes through the perspectives of single Latino fathers. A qualitative design with open-ended questions will help understand the various experiences and challenges in subjective details. We will be able to have a clear and precise understanding of the needs and challenges fathers face. We will use a non-probability sampling, specifically, snowball sampling and availability sampling. One methodological limitation of this study is the absence of producing generalizable knowledge. The limitation is that Latino fathers will be giving their subjective experiences, their personal perspectives, and views that will be considerably different from the rest of the population and will not be generalizable to all of the single Latino fathers living in U.S. Another methodological limitation is an issue of obtaining reliable and valid information gathered from the participants. Participants may not have the willingness or the comfort of talking about their personal matters. Also, fathers may not want to discuss difficult issues that may consider them to be bad parents. Engagement and trust must first be established to address this specific limitation. It is pertinent to gather information and ask single Latino fathers about their needs and challenges as parents to help improve family services.

### Sampling

Participants were recruited from Riverside and San Bernardino Counties. This study used non-probability sampling, specifically, snowball sampling with the

purpose of having participants refer other qualified participants to interview. Availability sampling will also be used to recruit participants for the study. The sample will consist of seven single Latino fathers with full or partial custody, parenting children less than 18 years old. Latino fathers must be older than 18 years old and must have cared for their child as a single parent for more than 3 months in past 3 years. Latino fathers with the most needs and struggles are the ones that have some custody or full custody of their children and who are parenting on their own without the support of an ex-partner or a new current partner. The selected criterion will help understand the challenges of Latino fathers who are struggling as a single parent without any spousal support, it will also help social workers understand how social services can better support these parents lacking resources and support.

#### Data Collection and Instruments

The data for this study was collected through face to face interviews. Data collected included demographic information, social support, other support systems, health, mental health, and parenting issues. Demographics included questions such as income, age of parent, age of child, number of children in custody, amount of time caring for children. Questions were asked regarding support systems to assess the needs or challenges of receiving or seeking both informal and formal support. This study also addressed issues of both health and mental health symptoms that may have developed or increased as a result of

being a single caregiver. The next issue that was addressed were the needs and challenges of parenting as a single father. Finally, questions were asked to help social workers better engage with Latino fathers and develop programs and services that will retain fathers and help support single fathers in their journey towards fatherhood.

### Procedures

Snowball sampling was used to recruit participants. Data collection occurred from January 2018 to March 2018. Data collection took place at public facilities to address safety concerns, but also offer some privacy for confidentiality purposes. An informed consent was introduced and explained. Interviews were recorded with a tape recorder with the permission of the participants. At the end of the interview, a debriefing statement was given with my contact and the contact of California State University, San Bernardino Social Work advisor, Professor Janet Chang to answer any questions participants may have about the research. After the completion of data collection, data analysis will be conducted in April 2018.

### Protection of the Human Subject

The confidentiality and anonymity of the participants were protected. Clients had the choice and opportunity to not state their name or give a pseudonym. The informed consent was given prior to the interview. The purpose

of the study, voluntary participation, and their right to withdraw from the interview at any time for any reason without any penalties was also explained in detail. The informed consent will also explain their right to refuse to discuss any questions they feel might jeopardize their safety or immigration status. This study will not be manipulative, stressful, nor deceiving to the participants. To protect the confidentiality of the participants, recorded tapes will be in a locked cabinet in a secure location at the faculty office on campus at California State University, San Bernardino, transcribed transcripts will also be stored and protected in a password protected computer. At the end of data analysis all documents, recordings, and transcripts will be properly destroyed.

### Data Analysis

This study utilized a qualitative data analysis method to explore the diverse themes and categories that may arise to describe the needs and challenges that single Latino fathers face living in the United States. Through grounded theory analysis, we will use open coding to develop categories of information. Grounded theory will help analyze the data and find common themes. It is expected to find common themes such as the lack of support from formal and informal systems and reversely the significant amount of support from family and friends in regards to parenting. Themes and categories presumed to be identified are the personal and environmental needs of parents as well as the challenges of parenting. The need for more community resources and programs

may also be a theme that will emerge. The use of a journal will also be helpful during qualitative analysis to document observable characteristics during the interview.

### Summary

The research method for this study is a qualitative interview design with open-ended questions. Participants for this study were recruited from Riverside and San Bernardino Counties. The sample consisted of seven single Latino fathers varying in age with partial and full custody of their children. The Interview questions will cover core concepts of the study such as the major challenges and needs fathers face as a single caregiver, health, mental health, parenting, services, and service providers.



## CHAPTER FOUR

### RESULTS

#### Introduction

This chapter examines the results of the information gathered from seven qualitative interviews and the demographic information from single Latino fathers living in southern California. Participants responded on questions in regards to their challenges and struggles they faced as a single Hispanic father, their support systems both formal and informal, the perspectives and views of the community and family towards single Latino families, and social worker's role or social services are presented in this chapter.

#### Results

Of the seven participants 57% of the Hispanic fathers were born in Mexico, and the other 43% were U.S born. Ages of single Hispanic parents ranged from 23 to 47-years-old with the mean age of 37 years old. Three Hispanic fathers were divorced, three fathers were single and never married, and one father was widowed. Most fathers were raised Catholic, and one father was Christian; a few fathers mentioned their active participation in a church, while others mentioned their lack of practice, but were faithful believers. Three out of the seven father made it through middle school, three were high school graduates, and only one had a college degree. Most evaluated their health as

excellent, very good, or good; while only two evaluated their physical health as fair. Most Hispanic fathers evaluated their mental health as excellent, very good, or good; only one father rated his mental health as poor. All but one father was employed and of those employed, their work hours ranged from 38-55 and the mean hours worked was 43 a week. Two single fathers had one child, four fathers had two children, and one had four children. Three fathers had full custody of all or at least one of their children, five fathers had custody of their children for half of the week. Three fathers have had custody of their children between 5 and 10 years; and four fathers have had custody of their children for less than five years.

The participants were asked about their relationship with their children and how they wished their relationship were. The great majority of the fathers (86%) responded that they had a good relationship with their children and had open communication. For example, one participant stated, "I have a really good relationship with her, obviously dad and daughter it is always like that (Participant 6)." Also, 57% of participants described their relationship as a friendship or an older brother, little brother relationship. However, two parents described their relationship with their children as not sharing similar interest and the other as the child having bad behaviors such as being lazy, not listening, and being a rebel. A couple of parents described having difficulty talking to their children and having open communication when the conversation had to do with women issues. "Yeah we communicate, sometimes things like mom, to daughter. I think those are the

things that I am not comfortable with because I don't know anything about it" (Participant 2).

When participants were asked of how they dealt with the parenting responsibilities on a daily basis, the majority of the parents, specifically, 57% responded that they were constantly aware of their needs and made sure that their needs were being met such as making sure they have food, medical attention, giving them money, time and attention, disciplining them when needed, and giving them advice. One participant stated, "I can't pick them up from school, but I am aware of all of their needs clothes, shoes, gas to take them to school" (Participants 7). Other parents mentioned the challenges of meeting the parenting responsibilities, for example, juggling between life, parenting, and caregiving for his grandparents. One parent stated,

Like I said my grandparents help me out a lot. But my grandparents are elderly 80 and 82. The reason why I moved back with my grandparents was that he was diagnosed with gallbladder cancer. So I was there helping them out taking care of them and taking care of my son and taking care of my life. So the wait can be strenuous but honestly, I don't want to sound like I am preaching but it has all been God. You know because honestly, I would have gone nuts (Participant 3).

Another parent stated his personal challenge,

When I have them with me on my week it is really hard for me. I had to change my work schedule from a morning shift to a grave yard shift

because I was having problems with waking my kids up at 5:30 in the morning and dropping them off at my mom's house and being at work at 6 am, it is just so many things that need to be done in between its not just getting the kids up, it's getting the bag ready for the day getting my daughter's school clothes ready, getting my sons clothes for the day, getting them snacks prepared for them. It's just a whole list of things that made it really hard for me (Participant 6).

When participants were asked about the areas in which the parents felt successful in as a single father, most parents (57%) expressed success in the child's well-mannered behavior and their upbringing. One participant stated, "I would say he has a well-mannered behavior, like I get a lot of compliments from everybody (Participant 5)." Also, 40% of parents felt successful in the open communication they have with their children. For example, one participant stated, "How do I say this, in talking to them, in telling them not to get in trouble, to study so that in the future they would find a good job and not be in a bad path (Participant 2)." A few parents mentioned feeling successful in knowing that they can provide for their children. Only one parent could not identify an area in parenting in which he felt successful, he stated, "I don't think there is anything really to feel successful in, because everything is difficult. There aren't things that you can say I feel proud of doing this and that because all of that stuff happens because you don't do the things right (Participant 1)." When asked about how participants felt once they started caring for their children and how their feelings

have changed since then, most parents (57%) felt scared and nervous at the start of their new role as a single father. Some parents mentioned that they were nervous about the new situation and because they did not know how to do things. One participant said, “Scared because you don’t know how to do things, but like I said it just a scare. It’s scary because you don’t know and you fear that things will go wrong (Participant 1).”

Also, 43% of parents were afraid of things going wrong, being involved with CPS, having their kids removed, or being involved with the police for physically disciplining his children. One participant reported, “I felt kind of scared because I heard from people, if you don’t do something good the social services, the child protective services will get in between and I want to avoid that (Participant 2).” Two parents mentioned feeling overwhelmed with the family and work responsibilities. A couple of parents felt horrible, alone, depressed, and suicidal. “When I would leave my children in their house I would feel so bad, I would even cry because I would leave them home. I felt bad dropping them off, and taking them home, and yeah why do I lie to you, I would cry (Participant 7).”

Parents discussed the change of feelings since then and most parents (71%) felt confident in themselves and in their parenting. They felt that they adapted to their new situation. One participant said, “My feelings have changed a lot. I am more confident in myself I am more confident about everything because I know more things now (Participant 2).” However, one parent still felt lonely, and depressed, but was taking different actions to improve his negative feelings such

as changing his thoughts and praying. “Honestly my feelings haven’t changed, my actions have changed because I still feel the same way. I still feel the same way (depressed and lonely), that I felt when we were separating (Participant 6)”.

When asked about their support systems either formal or informal, all but three fathers mentioned their family as their support system. Two parents mentioned their friends as a support system, one participant stated, “My family supported me; they didn’t leave me. When everything happened, I felt lonely they would support me and they would go with me. My family would say come; they were the Support system that I needed in those moments it’s when you need your friends the most. My Friends also supported me (Participant 4).” However, two fathers mentioned they did not have any support system. “I did not utilize any type of Support. I just had to accept that I couldn’t be with them anymore (Participant 7).”

One father mentioned the school system and the court’s parenting classes as a formal support system. This participant stated, “My daughter the oldest one, we got a psychologist because she had a lot of problems. She was the one that got everything emotionally because she was the oldest. I found services asking the school with the school counselor (Participant 2)”. Three parents mentioned that they would have liked to receive help or more help from a formal system.

Another parent stated that they wished there were more programs to help fathers such as parenting classes, crafts classes, and daycare centers where he

would be able to take his baby boy and not be restricted with policies stating that he is not able to use daycare centers because he is not the custodial parent. One parent said, “I would love parenting classes, I would love some type of classes where they would show you how to be, um ok because we are men, men do not have the instinct to where crafting, where we can do cute little crafts, do little projects or stuff like that. That’s what I would want to do because I don’t mind doing that kind of stuff, I just don’t know how to do it Participant 6”.

When asked about how difficult it is to be a single father in the U.S.A, 71% of fathers stated that it was difficult. Parents believed it was difficult for various reasons, 71% of parents agreed that it is a financial struggle. Another parent stated it was difficult because California was a pro mom state and another parent stated that there was just not enough support for single fathers. Another parent mentioned the lack of family support, “It’s very difficult, I think in Mexico it is very different because you have your mom over there. It is difficult here because here you have to work, if you don’t work you don’t pay bills, you won’t pay anything (Participant 4).”

When asked about how they thought they were perceived by the family or the community, most parents (57%) agreed that they were viewed by the community in a positive manner because of the well-behaved manners of their children. “I am viewed as responsible, because of my well-mannered child (Participant 5)” or “Friends say I am doing a good job (Participant 4)”. However, (43%) of participants agreed that single Latino fathers are viewed negatively by

their Hispanic community. One Participant stated, “Latinos look at you bad, they look at you like a failure (Participant 2)” and another participant stated, “It is difficult because you get backlash from family, because of the culture, it is difficult for others to understand single father’s situation (Participant 6).” Two participants did not have any comments or just stated and they didn’t know or that people didn’t care.

When asked was about the struggles that single fathers face in various aspects of their lives, such as personal, physical, mental, emotional, and financial aspects, their responses varied. On a personal level, one parent stated that they did not have time for themselves or for dating. Another parent stated that a personal challenge that they had was raising their children making sure that they were heading on the right path.

A physical challenge that a father identified was time management, being able to attend school, work full-time, caring for his grandparents and his child. Mentally and emotionally one parent stated the difficulty of explaining to the children the abandonment of their mother.

Most parents (57%) had mental and emotional breakdowns due to stress of parental responsibilities and the challenges of not being with their family. For example, one parent stated, “My most difficult challenge, what I said, that they are not going to see me rot, how do I say it, drinking (Participant 7)”. Another parent stated, “Mentally, I have been going through a lot of things, not so much



lately, but in the beginning I was suicidal. I didn't want to live. I was depressed (Participant 6)".

Financially, the great majority of the participants (71%) stated that they struggled to pay bills, "It is just being a single father is hard because there is no longer two incomes it's just one. I have to somehow find money for activities and entertainment. You know we have to be out at least once a week, kids want to go out somewhere so it's hard, it is hard as hell (Participant 6)".

When the participants were asked about their current struggles, the answers to this question also varied; some parents (57%) agreed that their current challenge is to raise their children and make sure they are safe. One participant stated, "Struggles, I have many, raising my youngest child. I don't have him with me, maybe I need to make sure he is raised well, for me to be with him, but unfortunately I can't because of work (Participant 4)."

Other parents had personal challenges such as not being patient with their children, child wanting a mother, and co-parenting. One participant stated, "He keeps telling me I need to find a girlfriend. I'm like, why do I want a girlfriend for? He is like, so you can get married, and why would I want to do that for? He is like so I can have a mom. So obviously he wants that full unit (Participant 3)". Two parents stated that they have struggled with the child's behavior. One parent stated, "Well, a challenge is that my child doesn't listen, doesn't follow orders. Well, if I had another person with me, if there was two people then it's more likely

that they can help you with that, but everything is more difficult like that (Participant 1).”

When asked about the most difficult part of being a single father the answers all varied. One parent stated that taking care of them and having the children understand the difficulty of raising them was the most challenging. Another parent stated the most challenging part of being a single father was the financial challenge to raise his children. One participant said, “The beginning of the school year, how are you going to manage with the money to buy them their school supplies, clothes, everything. Well, imagine with a check from social security to pay all of that (Participant 2)”. Other parents, (43%) stated that knowing about their child’s need for their mother and for a whole family unit has been the most difficult part. For example, one parent stated, “Not having my family together, definitely hands down not being with my family. Not having the perfect little family (Participant 6).” Another parent discussed that the most difficult part was playing the role of the mother, “Well when they ask for their mother, or when you do the role of the mother, it is very difficult (Participant 4).”

The final question asked parents about how social workers, or how social services could help or support single fathers in managing the care of their children. The majority of the participants (71%) agreed in the need of more support through counseling for the children and counseling for fathers. One participant stated, “If you want me to be really honest, I feel like you guys should open up some type of suicide line. It’s crazy, I feel like you guys should open up

some type of mental health counseling (Participant 6)". Fathers also agreed in the need for more activities and event in the community and at school, targeted to single father, "I feel like you guys need to do more activities for the community for the fathers that actually want to be in the kid's life. I would want arts and crafts class, like a father and daughter day (Participant 6)". However, a parent stated that he has no idea what social workers do and how they could have helped him in his journey as a single father. One participant stated, "I think they could have helped me, but like I'm saying I did not know. I didn't have time to investigate, because I would work. In reality, I don't know what they can help with. In my case I never asked for help, I don't know what type of help they give (Participant 7)."

The results of this study varied with each participant, because their life situation and circumstance were all different. For example, of the seven participants' half were young adults mid thirty and younger, while the other half of single fathers were older on their forties. Also, another circumstance is that half of the younger fathers were U.S born while the older fathers were not. Outside factors also contributed to the varied responses for example, some fathers had informal support from their friends and family, while other parents had no support or very minimal support from their friends and family that would help them with the care and management of their children.

## CHAPTER 5

### DISCUSSION

#### Introduction

The purpose of this study was to explore the needs and challenges of single Hispanic fathers having full or partial custody of their children. This chapter will discuss the major findings of the study presented in chapter 4 and the unique challenges and experiences of the single fathers. Limitations and recommendations for social work practice, policy, and research will also be discussed in this chapter.

#### Discussion

This study identified a positive parent- child relationship with 86% of parents stating that their relationship and communication with their children was good. Many of the parents agreed that their relationship with their child was of a young sibling and an older brother or a friendship style relationship. This finding is not consistent with other literature findings stating negative and unstable involvement with their children (Coley, 2001). For example, previous research states that Hispanic fathers were less likely to have a good positive relationship with their children due to many factors such as acculturation, and the different values between America and the Hispanic culture (Detlaff, Earner, & Phillips, 2009). According to Detlaff, Earner, and Phillips (2009), fathers are more likely to

be strict and rigid with their discipline in order to maintain control despite the influence of a new culture. Also according to Taylor and Behnke (2005), intergenerational values add to the conflicting barriers of a good father-child relationship when the father holds on to their traditional Hispanic values and the child adopts American values. However, it was clear that the father- child relationship had minimal barriers to overcome in this study sample. This finding was consistent with Taylor and Behnke's (2005), study finding stating that acculturated fathers were more likely to have a positive relationship with their child. Their study found a transformation in regards to the father's contemporary perspectives and roles when immersed in the acculturation of American values. Taylor and Behnke (2005), also found that these fathers were redefining machismo through their attitudes and fathering practices.

This study also found that Hispanic fathers (57%) were aware of their parenting responsibilities and their major role as a parent. Fathers in this study stated that they were constantly aware of their children's needs and made sure that their child's needs were met which were specifically, food, shelter, clothes, and medical needs. This finding is consistent with other studies stating that fathers number one role and responsibility is to provide for their children. For example, Miall and March (2005), discussed in their article that culturally, fathers were depicted as being workers with their main role of providing economic security for their family. Coley (2001), also found that fathers who provided

financial resources were identified as having involved and caring adult male behaviors.

The study also revealed that all participants had unique challenges, involving the need for both father and child to want a whole family unit. In this study, one participant was emotionally concerned with his child because of the child's continuous push for him to find a girlfriend and get married. Another participant stated his poor mental health and depression was due to the lack of the family unit. This finding differed from the limited research available of single Hispanic fathers stating the need of a mother figure (Forste, Bartkowski, Jackson, 2009). However, previous research on Familismo, and family system support this major finding (Forste, Bartkowski, Jackson, 2009). Articles available on single Hispanic fathers do not mention any challenges in regards to the need of a mother figure or the need for a family unit. For example, Coley (2001) mention the need for both parents or the need for a father figure to support the development of the child, child's emotion, and child's behavior. Coley (2001), also stated that girl's problematic behaviors were due to the fathers emotional and physical absence.

Another major challenge that was identified in this study was the need for a formal support system. Five participants in this study stated their use of informal support systems such as family members for the support in the caregiving, and friends for emotional support. However, most participants stated that they wished there was more formal support for fathers. For example, some

fathers wanted support from counselors for their children, counseling support for themselves, parenting classes, and community resources to help fathers be more involved with their children. This finding is not consistent with available research on single Hispanic fathers. According to Summers, Boller, and Raikes (2004), men are more reluctant to seek help from formal support systems. Specifically, Hispanic fathers who culturally value familismo are more likely to not want the support from formal systems and are more likely to address their issues within the family or with friends.

Finally, this study found that the most challenging aspect of caregiving as a single Hispanic father is managing work and family. Each participant had a diverse situation and outcomes. For example, fathers in this study discussed struggles such as needing to change their work shifts, having to give up the care of the child to another family member, not being able to pick them up from school, or not having enough days with their children due to their work schedule. This challenge is consistent with research on work and family conflicts. According to Cooklin, Giallo, Strazdins (2015), organizational culture position fathers solely as providers and not as caregivers, constraining their role to meet their parenting responsibilities.

## Limitations

This study has several limitations. First, the sample size of this study was very small with only seven participants. The sample size does not reflect single Hispanic fathers in southern California, specifically, fathers in the Riverside and San Bernardino County. Another limitation is the use of qualitative interviews, which only reflects the individual experiences and does not reflect the experiences of other single Latino fathers. Finally, responses gathered may not have been expressed with detail due to many factors such as trust of the Interviewer, time available for the interview, and some participants had a very difficult time expressing their feeling and thoughts clearly.

## Recommendations for Social Work Practice, Policy, and Research

Based on the findings presented in this study social workers can have a better awareness and understanding of the needs and challenges that Single Hispanic fathers are currently struggling with. Social workers who work with fathers and children in this specific situation can address these challenges to support these families in various professional aspects. For example, social workers can develop programs such as parenting classes, support groups, and father-child events to support fathers in their need to provide their children with more meaningful interactions. Parenting classes and support groups can help fathers learn strategies and techniques from other fathers who are also having or had similar challenges. Social workers in the counseling field can also benefit



from the information provided in this study to be competent in the understanding of the struggles and challenges single Hispanic fathers are facing in southern California. It is recommended that social workers who are currently working or will work with this population focus on influencing other professionals, agencies, and the organizational culture in the United States to also consider and implement family-friendly work environment so that fathers can also be providers and have the time and flexibility to be the nurturers and the caregivers. Social workers can advocate on behalf of fathers for community partners and public services to create a space for fathers and children to build stronger relationships and interactions with each other.

### Conclusion

This chapter analyzed and discussed the main themes that emerged from this study from positive parenting experiences to challenging parent responsibilities. Although fathers were placed in a non-traditional role due to many factors leading them to be single fathers, they have adapted or have at least accepted their situation, and have made the best of their situation to care and provide for their children. Due to lack of research on single Hispanic fathers, this study added to the knowledge base to help professionals in the service sector learn and understand the challenges that single-family households headed by Hispanic fathers face, and help professionals prepare and work with this specific population.

APPENDIX A  
ENGLISH AND SPANISH DEMOGRAPHIC AND INTERVIEW  
QUESTIONNAIRE

## Demographic Questionnaire

1. How old are you?
2. What is your marital status?
3. What is your religion?
4. What is your highest level of education achieved?
  1. Elementary 2. Middle school 3. High school 4. Some college 5. College graduate or higher
5. How do you rate your health?
  1. Excellent 2. Very good 3. Good 4. Fair 5. Poor
6. How do you rate your mental health?
  1. Excellent 2. Very good 3. Good 4. Fair 5. Poor
7. Are you currently employed? If yes, how many hours a week do you work?
8. How many children do you have?
9. What are the ages of child/children?
10. How many kids do you care for?
11. How many hours/days a week do you care for your child?
12. How long have you been caring for your children?

## Questionario Demographica

1. Cual es su edad?
2. Cual es su estado civil?
3. Cual es su religion?
4. Cual es su nivel mas alto de educacion?
5. Como califica su salud?  
1. Excelente 2. Muy bien 3. Bien 4. Razonable 5. Mal
6. Como califica su salud mental?  
1. Excelent 2. Muy bien 3. Bien 4. Razonable 5. Mal
7. Esta actualmente empleado? Si tiene empleo cuantas horas a la semana trabaja?
8. Cuantos hijos tiene?
9. Cuantos hijos cuida?
10. Cuantas horas/ dias cuida de su hijo/s a la semana?
11. Cuanto tiempo tiene cuidando a sus hijos?

### Interview Questions

1. Describe the current relationship you have with your children? How would you like your relationship with your children to be like?
2. How do you handle your parenting responsibilities on a daily basis?
3. What areas in parenting or as a single father do you feel successful in?
4. How did you feel when you started caring for your child as a single father? Have your feelings changed since then?
5. What support systems have you used or will use to support with the caregiving of your children either formal or informal (family, friends, social services, schools, day care centers, parenting classes, support groups, other classes)? How have they been helpful?
6. How difficult is it to be a single father in the U.S, if any?
7. How do you think you viewed as a single father?
8. What are some challenges you have faced as a single father (personal, physical, mentally, emotionally, financially)?
9. What kind of struggles in regards to parenting do you currently have?
10. What is the most difficult part of being a single father?
11. Please tell me about social workers' role or services that could help or support in managing the care of your children?

## Entrevista Questionario

1. Porfavor, describa la relación actual que tiene con sus hijos? ¿Cómo le gustaría que su relación con sus hijos sea?
2. ¿Como maneja sus responsabilidades de crianza diariamente?
3. ¿En qué áreas de crianza o como padre soltero se siente exitoso?
4. ¿Porfavor describa cómo se sintió cuando comenzó a cuidar a su hijo como padre soltero? ¿Han cambiado sus sentimientos desde entonces?
5. ¿Qué sistemas de apoyo ha utilizado o usará para apoyarlo con el cuidado de sus hijos ya sea formal o informal (familia, amigos, servicios sociales, escuelas, guarderías, clases de crianza, grupos de apoyo, otras clases)? ¿Cómo han sido útiles?
6. Porfavor describa qué tan difícil es ser un padre soltero en los Estados Unidos?
7. ¿Cómo crees que eres percivido siendo un padre soltero?
8. ¿Porfavor describa algunos de los retos a los que se ha enfrentado como padre soltero (personal, físico, mental, emocional, financiero)?
9. ¿Qué tipo de desafíos en cuanto a la crianza de los hijos tiene actualmente?
10. ¿Porfavor describa la parte más difícil de ser un padre soltero?
11. Por favor, diga como los trabajadores sociales o los servicios podrían ayudarlo o apoyarlo a criar y/o manejar el cuidado de sus hijos?

APPENDIX B  
ENGLISH AND SPANISH INFORMED CONSENT

**College of Social and Behavioral Sciences**  
*School of Social Work*  
**Informed Consent**

The study in which you are being asked to participate is designed to investigate the needs and the challenges of single Latino fathers caring for their children living in Southern California. This study is being conducted by a graduate student, Gabriela Contreras under the supervision of Janet Chang, Professor in the School of Social Work, California State University, San Bernardino. This study has been approved by the institutional Review Board Social Work Sub-Committee, California State University, San Bernardino.

**Purpose:** The purpose of this study is to understand the challenges facing single Hispanic fathers and their needs to improve family services.

**Description:** Participants will be asked general demographic questions and questions regarding their needs and challenges of caring for their children as a single father, their support system and reasons for using or not using social services.

**Participation:** Your participation is completely voluntary. You can freely withdraw from participation at any time without any consequences.

**Confidentiality:** The confidentiality of the participants will be protected. Participants will have the opportunity to not state their name or give a pseudonym.

**Duration:** The interview will consist of a short questionnaire that will take less than 5 minutes followed by an interview that will last about 45 minutes.

**Risks:** There are no foreseeable risks for participation of this study. However, there may be some discomfort discussing personal issues and challenges related to parenting.

**Benefits:** Participants will enter a \$100 raffle gift card for their participation in this study.

**Audio:** I understand this research will be audio recorded. Initials \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact:** If you have any questions regarding this study, please feel free to contact Dr. Janet Chang, Professor, School of Social Work, at [JChang@csusb.edu](mailto:JChang@csusb.edu) or (909)537-5184.

**Results:** The results of this study can be obtained from Pfau Library Scholar Works (<http://scholarworks.lib.csusb.edu>) at California State University, San Bernardino after December 2018.

**Confirmation Statement:** This is to certify that I read the above and I am 18 years or older.

**Participant's X** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

909.537.5501 · 909.537.7029

5500 UNIVERSITY PARKWAY, SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92407-2393





California State University, San Bernardino  
Social Work Institutional Review Board Sub-Committee  
APPROVED 8/25/2018 VOID AFTER 1/24/2019  
IRB# SW1810 CHAIR *[Signature]*

College of Social and Behavioral Sciences  
School of Social Work  
Consentimiento Informado

El estudio en el que le piden que participe está diseñado para investigar las necesidades y los desafíos de los padres latinos solteros que cuidan a sus hijos en el sur de California. Este estudio está siendo conducido por la estudiante posgrado, Gabriela Contreras bajo la supervisión de Janet Chang, Profesora de la Escuela de Trabajo Social, Universidad Estatal de California, San Bernardino. Este estudio ha sido aprobado por la Junta de Revisión Institucional Sub-Comité Trabajo Social, California State University, San Bernardino.

**Propósito:** El propósito de este estudio es para comprender los desafíos que enfrentan los padres hispanos solteros y sus necesidades para mejorar los servicios familiares.

**Descripción:** A los participantes se les harán preguntas demográficas y preguntas sobre sus necesidades y desafíos al cuidar a sus hijos como padre soltero, su sistema de apoyo y las razones por usar o no usar servicios sociales.

**Participación:** Su participación es completamente voluntaria. Puede retirarse libremente del estudio en cualquier momento sin ninguna consecuencia.

**Confidencialidad:** La confidencialidad de los participantes estará protegida. Los participantes tendrán la oportunidad de no mencionar su nombre o dar un seudónimo.

**Duración:** La entrevista consistirá en un breve cuestionario que tomará menos de 5 minutos, seguida por la entrevista que durará aproximadamente 45 minutos.

**Riesgos:** No existen riesgos previsible para la participación de este estudio. Sin embargo, puede haber cierta incomodidad en la discusión de problemas personales y desafíos relacionados con la crianza de los hijos.

**Beneficios:** Los participantes tendrán oportunidad de participar en una rifa por una tarjeta de regalo de \$100.

**Audio:** Entiendo que esta investigación será grabada en audio. Iniciales \_\_\_\_

**Contacto:** Si tiene alguna pregunta sobre este estudio, no dude en ponerse en contacto con la Dra. Janet Chang, profesora de la Escuela de Trabajo Social, en [JChang@csusb.edu](mailto:JChang@csusb.edu) o (909) 537-5184.

909.537.5501 · 909.537.7029

5500 UNIVERSITY PARKWAY, SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92407-2393

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**College of Social and Behavioral Sciences**  
*School of Social Work*

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**Resultados:** Los resultados de este estudio se pueden obtener en la biblioteca Pfau Scholar Works (<http://Scholar Works.lib.csusb.edu>) en la Universidad Estatal de California, San Bernardino después del 2018 de diciembre.

**Declaración de confirmación:** Esto es para certificar que leí lo anterior y tengo 18 años o más.

**Participantes X's** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

909.537.5501 · 909.537.7029

5500 UNIVERSITY PARKWAY, SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92407-2393

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APPENDIX C  
INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW BOARD APPROVAL

*CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, SAN BERNARDINO  
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK  
Institutional Review Board Sub-Committee*

Researcher(s) Gabriela Contreras  
Proposal Title The Challenges Facing Single Latino Fathers  
and Their Needs  
# SW1810

Your proposal has been reviewed by the School of Social Work Sub-Committee of the Institutional Review Board. The decisions and advice of those faculty are given below.

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Proposal is:

- approved  
 to be resubmitted with revisions listed below  
 to be forwarded to the campus IRB for review

Revisions that must be made before proposal can be approved:

- faculty signature missing  
 missing informed consent  debriefing statement  
 revisions needed in informed consent  debriefing  
 data collection instruments missing  
 agency approval letter missing  
 CITI missing  
 revisions in design needed (specified below)

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Committee Chair Signature

1/25/2018  
Date

Distribution: White-Coordinator; Yellow-Supervisor; Pink-Student

## REFERENCES

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