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**Undocumented Mexican Immigrants: An Exploratory Study of Social Workers'
Perspectives on Service Delivery and Implications for Practice**

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

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

By
Carmen S. Venegas
Margaret A. Vásquez-McDaniel

June 1995

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California State University,
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Carmen S. Venegas

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Approved by:




Dr. Teresa Morris, Project Advisor,
Department of Social Work

6/18/95
Date



Dr. Teresa Morris, NASW Local
Representative, Inland Empire Chapter

6/18/95



Dr. Teresa Morris, Chair of Research
Sequence

6/18/95

Abstract

This study was conducted to explore social workers' sensitivity to the undocumented Mexican immigrant (UMI) population. Proposition 187, a California measure to deny undocumented immigrants social and educational services, was overwhelmingly passed by voters in November 1994. The social work profession, which has maintained a philosophy of advocacy, integrity and self-sufficiency, needs to examine this controversial issue. This study used a Critical Theory paradigm with a positivist design. Two separate groups were sampled: a group of social workers, and a group of UMIs. Questionnaire surveys were used to collect the data. It was found that the majority of social workers disagreed with the concept that UMIs have a right to live in the United States, but agreed they would assist them regardless of documentation status. Further, 62.9% of social workers in the sample advocated against Proposition 187. The majority of UMIs' responses appeared to indicate an underutilization of public social services.

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We would also like to thank our families, friends and loved ones who provided unending support and patience throughout this process, especially Ben Atkisson, Michelle and Melissa McDaniel, Henry Vásquez, Frank Acosta, and Mario and Leticia Elisarrarraz. In addition, it is a pleasure to express our appreciation for our rich Mexican-American culture that has provided us with diversity and has enhanced our knowledge, depth and experience as social workers. ¡Muchas gracias!

Margaret A. Vásquez-McDaniel

Carmen S. Venegas

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Introduction

Problem Statement:

In the 1994 California election year, the issue of illegal immigration became highly controversial and widely publicized by the mass media and politicians. The media appeared to focus primarily on Mexican immigrants, as evidenced by extensive discussion on Border Patrol issues. California Governor, Pete Wilson, running for re-election, anchored his political campaign on "illegal immigration", the problems it causes, and his proposed solutions. For instance, Governor Wilson filed a lawsuit against the Federal government to reimburse the state for "illegal" immigrant costs, to provide education, emergency health care, and to imprison felons (Weintraub, 1994). Interestingly, Governor Wilson repeatedly categorized felons with undocumented immigrants who are in this country for legitimate purposes such as finding work.

Californians were recently inundated with newspaper, magazine and television reports emphasizing the negative effects of this social phenomenon. Included among the accusations reported were that undocumented immigrants are the cause of the state's economic woes and that they are abusing the state's social services system. The *San Bernardino County Sun* reported that, "a majority of California voters support a controversial initiative barring 'illegal' immigrants from a variety of social services" ("Many Favor", 1994).

Supporters and dissenters agreed that the issue of undocumented immigration needs to be addressed; however, there continues to be strong disagreement on methods and principles. For instance, the *Riverside Press Enterprise* reported that "The House

Appropriations Committee refused...to forbid illegal immigrants from receiving government jobs or benefits, rejecting a move that sponsors said would save billions of dollars a year" ("House Panel", 1994). In another *Press Enterprise* article, Federal Budget Director, Leon Panetta, remarked that Governor Wilson overestimated the number of immigrants by at least twenty-five percent, although he also pointed out that the issue of immigration remains an important one for the nation as a whole ("Wilson Holds", 1994).

The impact of such reports on many Californians was a feeling of fear and/or hostility toward undocumented immigrants. These actions appeared to be conscious political maneuvers to agitate the public, then introduce anti-immigration legislation that endorsed unfavorable views. Richard Mountjoy, a Republican legislator in the Los Angeles area, sponsored an anti-illegal immigration campaign entitled the, "Save our State" (S-O-S) initiative (later known as Proposition 187), which proposed to exclude "illegal aliens" from public social services, health care, and education benefits, among other things. The *San Bernardino County Sun* reported Proposition 187 appealed to suburbans' unsubstantiated fears that most Mexican immigrants are criminals, drug dealers and/or gang members ("Prop. 187 appeals to suburban fear", 1994). Another *Sun* article reported a majority of voters polled prior to the election favored the proposition because they were tired of their tax money going towards services for "illegal immigrants" ("Poll: Majority wants to deny benefits, 1994). The measure was overwhelmingly approved by voters in the November 1994 elections; however, its implementation has been obstructed by the Federal government on the grounds that it is

unconstitutional. Governor Wilson's office has continued to press forward on the issue, attempting to fight the obstruction. This situation has resulted in a climate of immigrant bashing.

The problem to explore, then, is whether society has a limited understanding of undocumented Mexican immigrants (UMIs) and their impact on the social service delivery system. "Mexican immigration to the United States has been based on public perceptions of the issue, perceptions that have often been biased by the emotional setting that is affected by the internal political and economic environment" (Fernandez & Pedroza, 1982). Because of this ambiguity, millions of undocumented immigrants living in California are at risk of being denied their basic human rights.

To summarize, undocumented Mexican immigration continues to be under a political microscope, and is being blamed by various government officials and the media for the state's current economic problems. Legislators have introduced bills that propose to deny undocumented immigrants and their children, of whom many are legal citizens, public social services, health care and educational benefits. The ramifications of such legislation could be devastating and problematic not only to the immigrants, but also to the United States Latino community, as well as to the social work profession.

Historically, social work practice has maintained a philosophy of advocating integrity and self-sufficiency for those in need. The recent passage of Proposition 187 prompted the California Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) to pass a position statement repudiating the implementation of this legislation. "The Board of Directors believes that Proposition 187 is unconstitutional, immoral, dangerous

to public health and safety, and antithetical to the founding principles of America" (NASW 1995).

Thus, the social work profession needs to examine the controversial issue of undocumented immigration, its impact on services, and the adequacy of services provided to the immigrants. Because there is a sector of society making high demands for legislation that will disenfranchise a whole group of people, this study is necessary to explore and help clarify the service needs and service delivery system for the UMI. It must be emphasized that this human rights issue is complex and is based on a historical class and racial discrimination.

Problem Focus:

The Critical Theory paradigm was used for this study. "The critical perspective holds that knowledge, and the justification given for knowledge claims, must be grounded within a historical context" (Smith, 1990, p. 180). The focus on power relationships based on class and race will be emphasized to review the historical discrimination against Mexican immigrants in the United States.

This study was conducted to be utilized as a form of social and cultural criticism to confront injustice and create an agenda for action. It is important to note the reasoning in using Critical Theory to examine this complicated social dilemma. "Critical theory challenges the separation of research and political activity at two levels. At the manifest level, it has been argued that critical theory is not just for understanding the world, but for acting in it" (Firestone, 1990, p. 118). When oppression of any group is acceptable by the majority, it fosters fear and a sense of power over the oppressed.

The oppressed group must either adjust or create means to change their situation.

Critical theory, "promotes purposeful social action for social and economic transformation" (Kencheloe & McLaren, 1994, p. 141). The objective of this study was to promote awareness and active involvement among those social workers who participated.

The discussion of undocumented immigration is currently volatile, with varying perspectives that are potentially damaging to our society. This study was conducted to evaluate these perspectives in order to issue a different agenda for change that will benefit our political/socioeconomic climate. Other less damaging and pervasive solutions to address undocumented immigration must be sought out. One possibility for change exists in the newly organized North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), which directly fosters the political and socioeconomic relationship between the United States and Mexico, and will serve to develop and stabilize Mexico's suffering economy (Sek, 1993).

Immigration was one of six important issues addressed in the consideration of NAFTA. In a staff study by the Joint Economic Committee (JEC, 1993), it was reported that NAFTA could initially increase the number of Mexicans moving permanently to the United States due to increased demand for farm workers in the U.S., job displacement in Mexico due to elimination of protection for Mexican farmers, and an acceleration of existing migration patterns in Mexico that would bring more displaced Mexican workers to border areas. This increase in migration would be followed by decreases after the

year 2000. These projections, however, may never become reality, as opponents of NAFTA are currently working on Bill HR499 - the NAFTA Withdrawal Act of 1995.

For these reasons, the social work profession must be both reactive and proactive surrounding this issue. The major social work role being addressed in this study is community intervention, however, undocumented immigration affects all arenas of social work practice. The study will provide an avenue for community action in the hope of empowering undocumented immigrants and providing them with access to social workers as their advocates for change. The focus must look to "the ideological distortions inherent in a broad range of historically formed social and cultural conditions" (Smith, 1990).

Mexican migration patterns are unique from other immigrant groups because of historical forces and close proximity to the United States. "U.S. policy on immigration falls into three domains: immigration policy, refugee policy, and 'non-immigration labor' policy" (Morris, 1986). As the United States continued to develop policies to limit immigration from Mexico, ongoing temporary worker programs encouraged migration and an increase in undocumented immigration. The Simpson-Mazoli legislation of 1985 failed to limit "backdoor immigration". "This attempt to limit the illegal migrant population floundered on controversial civil rights issues and lobbying by western growers, Hispanic groups and the labor movement against the guest worker program" (Morris, 1986).

This controversial struggle continues and has been ignited by the political atmosphere of upcoming elections and power control. This study focused on the issue of

undocumented Mexican immigration and their social welfare service needs, with implications for social work practice. The research question addressed the UMI issue and the underlying oppression of this population.

Social workers must address the need for services by this population or risk being part of the problem by not responding. The National Association of Social Workers' (NASW) Policy Manual (1994) includes policies on immigrants and refugees, social services, civil liberties and justice, cultural and linguistic diversity in the United States, and racism. NASW policies continue to embrace fair and humane treatment of all people. How, then, can social workers respond to this dilemma? Understanding the issue and resolving to act in a more cohesive manner is necessary.

Critical Theory takes an ideological position to address any problem. "Critical Theory views reality as context specific and that human activity is generated by the motivations and interests--or ideologies--underlying them" (Smith, 1990, p. 181). In reviewing the literature, a clarification of a historical class and racial oppression of the UMI population was revealed. This oppression has generated common problems amongst documented or United States citizens of Mexican descent. "Mexican-Americans have been the target of restrictionist policies as well. In the 1930s and later 1950s, fears of the so-called 'wetback menace' led to the deportation of almost 4.5 million persons of Mexican descent, many of whom were citizens or legal residents" (NASW, 1994). This historical class and racial oppression affects all systems negatively and continues today.

Mainstream research practices are often unknowingly implicated in gender, race and class oppression. In order to counter the reinforcement of oppression by mainstream research, it is necessary to recognize and acknowledge our own values that result from the inherent ethnocentric research methods that have been used to examine this population. Social work must be at the forefront in self-evaluation in order to respond effectively during these difficult times.

For purposes of this study, the following definitions are provided for clarification of terms:

1. Services: Public social services (i.e., welfare, food stamps, unemployment and social security); health care/medical services (i.e., Medi-Cal, Medicare); educational services (i.e., allowing children of undocumented immigrants to attend public school).
2. Undocumented Mexican Immigrant (UMI): Any person who enters the United States from Mexico without the necessary legal documentation.
3. The System: Federal, state and local government economies.

How can social workers address the continued oppression of the UMIs by the passage of Proposition 187? What are the implications for social work practice concerning the unconstitutionality of Prop. 187 and the social discord between its proponents and opponents? The objective of this study is to stimulate action by the social work profession by encouraging realistic sociopolitical views and by increasing awareness of needed ongoing action. Further, it is anticipated that social workers will

assist in reeducating the general population to eradicate oppressive attitudes and policies.

Literature Review:

A better understanding is needed of what motivates undocumented individuals to continually cross the border and take the risks that they do. Massey (1986) explains that the nature of international migration, "is not something that can be turned on and off", as attitudes towards or against it change; rather, "it is a developmental social process that unfolds according to its own internal logic, with its own momentum."

One has only to review the history books to see how civilizations have continuously migrated from one area to another, invading, settling, intermarrying and subsequently assimilating into the indigenous cultures. From 1500 to 1800, Europeans migrated to the Americas in search of "fortunes for themselves and the governments that supported them," (Day, 1989). This was followed by the westward migration and occupation of Native American and Mexican territory by the United States Government in what they viewed as their, "manifest destiny" (Zinn, 1980). What is not so apparent, however, in most history books, is how the government enacted legislation to ensure occupation of indigenous cultures' land and subsequently began the sociopolitical and economic oppression.

The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo of 1848 is one example of many. California was taken by the United States under this treaty, which guaranteed that, "the land rights of Mexican people now in the United States would be protected, along with personal property rights and religious freedom" (Day, 1989). This would be the beginning of many overt and covert United States' responses to control this area. Because the territory

now known as California once belonged to Mexico, Mexicans were accustomed to migrating to and from this area freely for centuries. This migration was not inhibited by the signing of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, which ultimately created the territorial border between the United States and Mexico (Fernandez & Pedroza, 1982).

According to Massey (1986), "built-in momentum inherent in the social process of Mexican migration suggests that it will continue into the foreseeable future. Given the long history of movement between the two countries, the large numbers of people involved, and the extent to which institutions in both nations have come to depend on migrant labor, there is probably little that either government can do to alter this fact." Massey further states that attempts to stop the flow would entail huge costs which neither country seems willing to pay.

Given this history, why is there currently a huge crusade to intensify the border patrol and keep undocumented Mexican immigrants out of the state? Fernandez and Pedroza (1982) explain that as, "internal economic conditions change, so too does the way in which undocumented Mexican immigration is perceived, defined and resolved."

Massey (1986) conveys that Americans are traditionally ambivalent about immigration. "During periods of labor scarcity," he reports, "immigration is tolerated by the public and encouraged by the government, but during periods of unemployment, means are sought to make immigrants return home." This view is supported by Fernandez and Pedroza (1982), who state that when the "economy is in a state of growth, illegal Mexican immigration is not viewed as a threat...However, as the country enters periods of economic decline, this same phenomenon surfaces in the mass media as a

major "news" item and is perceived and defined as being out of control and highly problematic."

American's wavering attitude towards Mexican immigration is evidenced by the United State's government sponsorship of the Bracero Program, in which approximately four million Mexican nationals were actively recruited and encouraged to enter the country between 1942 and 1964 (Massey, 1986; Fernandez & Pedroza, 1982). "With the economic reversals of the 1970s, however, public opinion turned sharply against immigration. Restrictive laws were passed to limit the entry of new Mexican migrants and growing attention was focused on border enforcement" (Massey, 1986).

Fernandez & Pedroza (1982) contend that the United States' economic setbacks in the 1970s leading to high rates of unemployment and inflation triggered the public into focusing its attention on undocumented immigrants as one of the major causes of the problems. They further claim that the image of undocumented immigration presented in the mass media was threatening to Americans, and that it was, "for the most part, neither informative or objective. On the contrary, the coverage was cursory, predefined, and biased to a great extent by the subjective interpretation of the Border Patrol and other Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) officials."

In their study, Fernandez and Pedroza found the media were "content to take whatever government representatives had to say about illegal Mexican immigration as an accurate representation of this sociological phenomenon." Additionally, they found that the majority of newspaper articles were authored by non-Latinos. This, they claim, resulted in reporters turning to readily available sources for information, albeit these

sources did not always have the most accurate information. Latino reporters, conversely, are often able to go directly to the undocumented Latino immigrants for information because they are more likely to speak their language and thereby develop a trusting relationship with them.

Clearly, the current political climate supports these contentions. Reports by the *Los Angeles Times* and the *San Bernardino County Sun* cited that, like the entire nation, the state of California had also been in the midst of an economic recession, and its governor was struggling to simultaneously balance the budget and face re-election (Weintraub, 1993; Jimenez, 1994). Similar to the 1970s, the mass media deluged the public last year with reports containing their own construction of "social reality" (Fernandez & Pedroza, 1982). Television news broadcasts and news-style documentary programs such as "60 Minutes" targeted the "illegal alien problem" and sent alarming messages to the public that the situation was nearly out of control.

A review of articles published prior to the November 1994 ballot by a local newspaper, *The San Bernardino County Sun*, however, appeared to offer a more balanced view of the situation. Several articles were written by reporters with Latino surnames, and immigration supporters, along with their counterparts, were given an equal voice. Among these articles, local Latino leaders were reported to argue in support of undocumented Mexican immigrants, stating that California actually benefits from their presence; citizens can enjoy affordable clothing, food and homes because undocumented Mexican immigrants fill low-paying jobs that others will not take (Jimenez, 1994). The article further stated that the state receives money from

undocumented Mexican immigrants in the form of gas taxes, sales taxes, income and Social Security taxes.

Other studies have revealed that undocumented persons contribute far more in taxes than they collect in services. A 1978 study conducted by an Orange County (California) Task Force estimated that undocumented workers in that county paid between \$83 million and \$145 million a year in taxes, while the medical services they used cost the county \$2.7 million (Salcido, 1982). Massey (1986) indicates that studies generally reveal low rates of service utilization among immigrants. Further, many undocumented workers are paying into the social security system and Medicare funds, but they do not qualify for coverage (Gelfand & Bialik-Gilad, 1989).

Salcido (1982) reports a clear pattern of low utilization of social human services (i.e., welfare, food stamps, etc.), stating this, "may be a result of various factors such as: fear of being reported to the INS; a strong sense of sentiment of pride which prevent some from asking for services; lack of knowledge about existing services and/or the eligibility criteria."

A more recent study sponsored by the Tomás Rivera Center in Claremont, California, negated several other studies conducted by the Internal Services Department (ISD 1992), Rea and Parker (1992, 1993), the Governor's Office of Immigration and Refugee Affairs (GOIRA 1993), and Huddle (1993). In his review of these studies, Passel (1994) found that they all systematically understated tax collections from immigrants; they all systematically overstated service costs for immigrants; none credited immigrants for the impact of immigrant-owned businesses or the full economic

benefits generated by consumer spending from immigrants; job displacement impacts and costs were overstated; and the size of the immigrant population was consistently overstated. Passel further argued that Huddle's report of the net cost of immigrants (approximately \$42.5 - \$50.9 billion in government service costs, plus \$11.9 billion in costs for workers "displaced" by immigrants, minus \$20.2 billion in taxes collected from immigrants) was incorrect due to a flawed methodology. Passel reported that correct calculations show immigrants pay over \$70 billion in taxes.

Passel further reported that the net loss of native jobs to immigrants is minimal or nonexistent, that immigrants instead create jobs through entrepreneurship and consumer spending, that immigrants increase the aggregate demand for goods and services, and that immigrants very likely generate a surplus of revenue in the range of \$25-30 billion.

Despite these statistics, anti-immigrant sentiments appear to remain high. The *San Bernardino County Sun* reported that prior to the November 1994 elections, local Latino leaders formed coalitions to counter anti-immigrant views, stating that drawing attention to the Mexico-U.S. border hurts the U.S. Latino community and builds hatred for the growing Latino population (Enkoji, 1994). The *Sun* newspaper further reported that state government officials are charging undocumented immigrants with burdening the state economically, and officials are demanding financial assistance from the Federal government to defray the costs. However, the officials reportedly have not hired more labor code inspectors nor have they increased enforcement of labor laws (Jimenez, 1994).

The Immigration Reform and Contract Act (IRCA) of 1986 includes in its provisions that employers will be sanctioned for failing to verify the citizenship of employees (Gelfand & Bialik-Gilad, 1989). The *San Bernardino County Sun* quoted Charles Keely, a professor on immigration at Georgetown University, as stating that immigrants will not come to the United States if there are no jobs. "Where there is a demand for work, they will supply it" (Jimenez, 1994). Gelfand & Bialik-Gilad (1989) assert that, "unless a strong commitment is made to enforcing the employer sanctions of the immigration reform act, the number of undocumented aliens immigrating to the United States will be reduced but far from extinguished."

The implications of the current proposed legislation for discontinuance of services to the large population of undocumented immigrants in California are serious. As Gelfand and Bialik-Gilad (1989) suggest, "Unless the majority of undocumented aliens return to their native country, social workers will find themselves attempting to remedy the effects of an immigration policy that prevents the undocumented alien from attaining satisfactory living conditions...(and)...will have to confront problems involving health care, intergenerational assistance, depression, domestic violence, homelessness, or criminal behavior." Undocumented immigrants who remain and grow older will become part of the low-income elderly who do not qualify for assistance although they have paid into the system throughout their working years. These challenges will become part of the existing ones the social work profession is already painstakingly attempting to meet.

Research Design and Method

Purpose of the Study

This study explored and evaluated social workers' and UMIs' perspectives on the service delivery system so that an action agenda for advocacy could be formulated. It is anticipated that a dissemination of the study's results will provide increased awareness and action-oriented discussion amongst those social workers who participated in the study.

Research Question

A critical theory orientation was selected for this study to review the historical class and racial oppression suffered by the undocumented Mexican immigrant population, and to instigate much-needed changes in the present system that continues to favor those in power.

It is important to discuss the practical implications for choosing this paradigm. Oppression of race and class continues with growing signs of insensitivity to the everyday needs of the undocumented immigrants. Whether or not social workers are adequately addressing the problem is a situation that needs to be clarified in order to empower those disenfranchised by the system. Furthermore, the social work profession as a whole may not yet possess the cultural awareness and sensitivity necessary to advocate for the undocumented immigrant; therefore, how can the social work profession advocate for them?

The following questions were asked: What are social workers' current perspectives regarding undocumented Mexican immigrants? How effectively are they

advocating for the immigrants? What are the immigrants' perspectives of their interactions with social workers and the services they are being provided? What are the immigrants' contributions to the system?

Sampling

Two samples were selected for this study. The first sample was a random sample of social workers who are members of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) in the Inland Empire (N=81). Every seventh name was randomly selected by computer from an NASW mailing list. Demographic information regarding these samples is given in Figure 1. The sample consisted of more women (58%) than men (42%), and was predominantly White (67.9%), with 12.3% Black, 7.4% Latino, 3.7% Asian, 3.7% Native American, 3.7% Filipino, and 1.2% categorized as, "Other" remaining. The chief political affiliation reported was Democrat (66.7%), with 16% declaring themselves as Republican and 17.3% as "Other".

In response to education received, the majority of social workers in the sample reported receiving their Masters in Social Work (MSW) degree (76.3%). The remainder reported receiving a Bachelor's Degree (13.6%) or higher ("Other" - 11.1%). The predominant religious affiliation within the sample was found to be Protestant (40.7%), with 22.2% being Catholic, 14.8% claiming, "Other", 12.3% being Jewish, and 9.9% of the sample claiming, "No Religion". The leading annual income was reported as \$50,000.00 or higher (43.2%). Twenty-one percent of the sample claimed an annual income of \$40,001.00 to \$50,000.00, and an equal 21% claimed an income of \$30,001.00 to \$40,000.00 per year. The remainder of the sample reported their annual

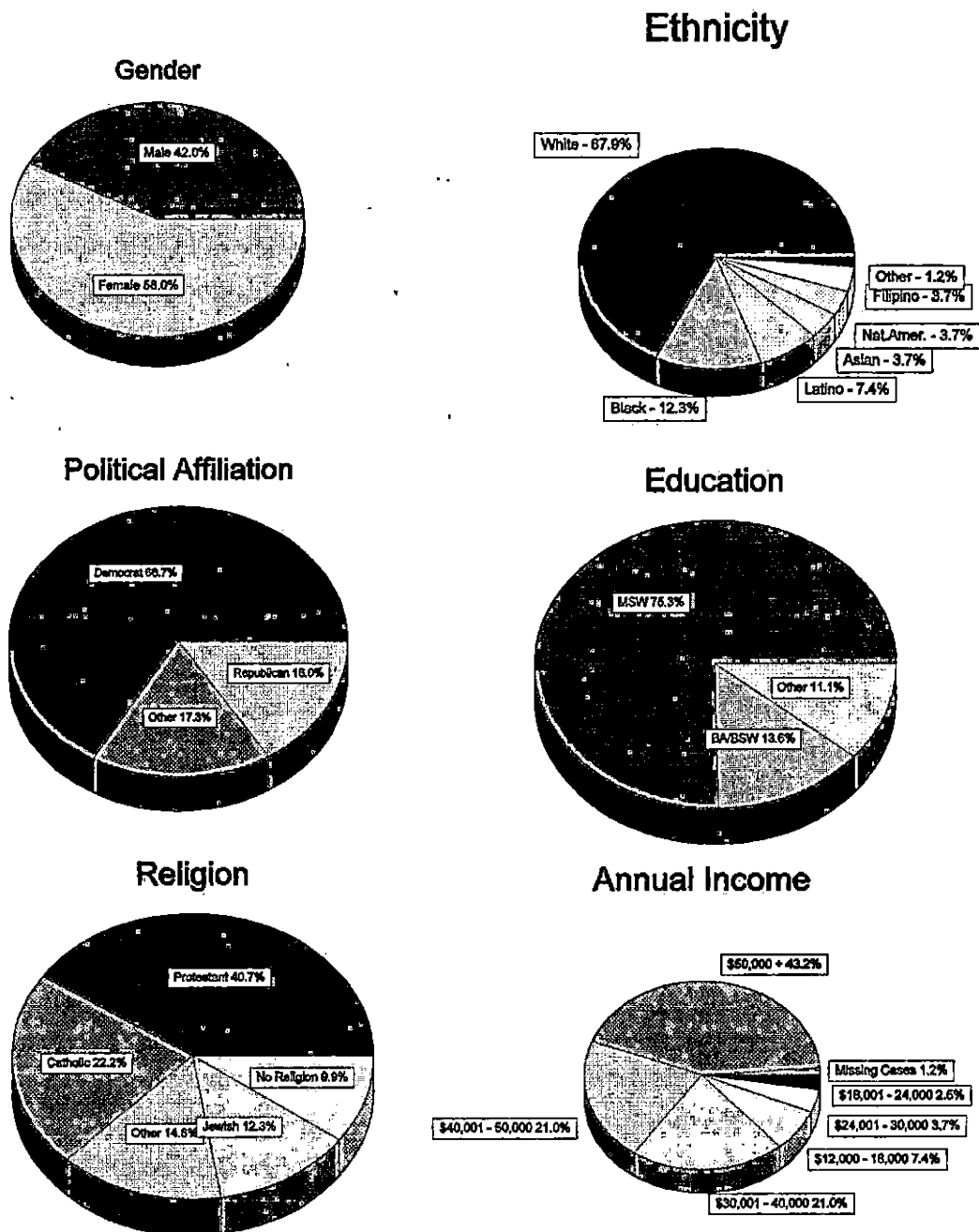


Figure 1. Demographic information for social work respondents (N=81).

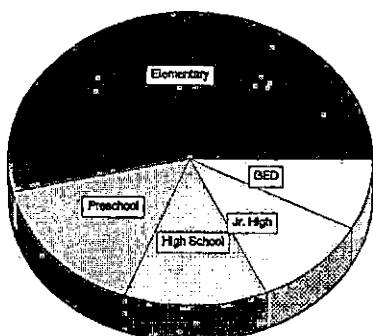
incomes as follows: 7.4% - \$12,000.00 to \$18,000.00; 3.7% - \$24,001.00 to \$30,000.00; 2.6% - \$18,001.00 to \$24,000.00; and 1.2% of the cases did not respond to the question.

The second sample, was a convenience sample of UMIs receiving services from two separate community agencies in the Inland Empire (N=39). The sample consisted of self-selected volunteer clients. Criteria for the selection of immigrant subjects were as follows: subjects must have migrated from Mexico; subjects must have resided in the United States for two years or more; subjects must have been classified as undocumented; and subjects must have been at least age 18 and over.

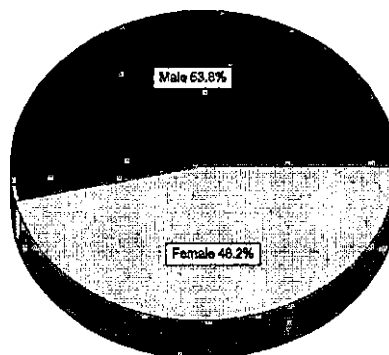
Demographic information regarding this sample is given in Figure 2. The sample was almost evenly split for gender: 53.8% were male, 46.2% were female. Regarding the highest level of education received, an inordinate amount of subjects reported receiving only an elementary school education (53.8%), with 15.4% attending only preschool, 12.8% attending high school, 10.3% going only as far as junior high school, and 7.7% receiving their G.E.D.

In regard to employment status, the majority of respondents reported being unemployed (46.1%). The remainder of respondents reported the following: 23.1% were employed full time; 10.3% were retired; 7.7% were employed part time; 7.7% of subjects did not respond to the question. The sample of social workers was selected because of their interactions with and linkages to UMIs, and because the social work code of ethics directs social workers to be advocates for the oppressed. The sample of UMIs was selected to provide a contrasting perspective on the issue and to acquire

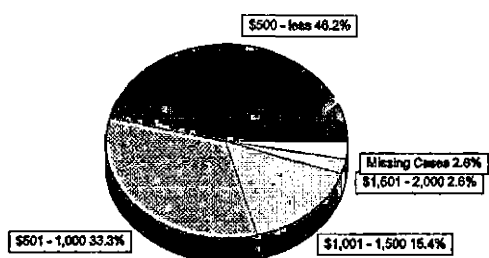
Education



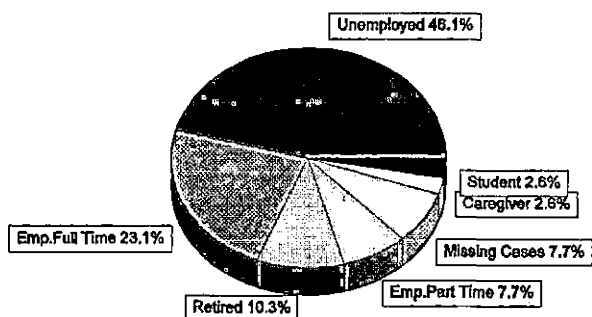
Gender



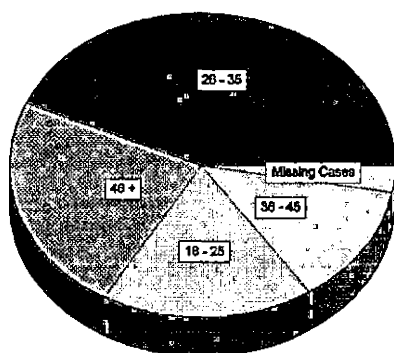
Monthly Income



Employment Status



Age



Religion

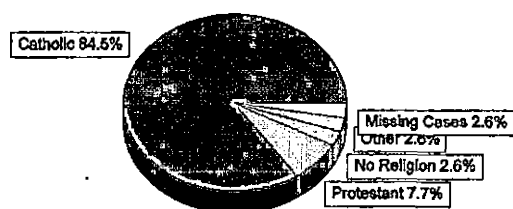


Figure 2. Demographic information on UMIs (N=39).

information that will serve to further educate social workers to ultimately empower the immigrants and activate change.

Data Collection and Instruments

Two survey instruments were constructed for this project (see Appendix A and B). Both survey instruments contained closed-ended questions, whereby subjects were asked to select an answer from among a list provided by the researchers. The response categories were both exhaustive and mutually exclusive. The survey administered to the UMIs was written in Spanish with an English subscript. All surveys were coded numerically for identification purposes.

Section One of each survey requested information regarding age, gender, heritage, religion, etc. Section Two contained questions that would elicit personal perspectives relevant to the UMI issue. Subjects were asked to mark their responses on a five-point Likert scale, with answers ranging from "1-Strongly Agree" to "5-Strongly Disagree", and "0" being "Not known/not applicable".

The survey instruments used were specifically constructed for this study due to the lack of existing material surrounding this subject. Both instruments were pre-tested for face validity and clarity prior to administering them to the samples. This was accomplished by administering each survey on a trial basis to social workers and a group of Spanish-speaking individuals, then comparing the responses for consistency.

The surveys were found to be useful in describing the characteristics of the large UMI population. They enabled the researchers to collect information in a uniform manner, a critical factor when examining two large samples. The surveys were

essentially inexpensive, which made this type of study feasible. Further, the surveys offered flexibility for the analysis by allowing the researchers to ask several questions on a given topic. In reference to the UMI survey, employees of both social service agencies administered the surveys to the UMIs face-to-face; this helped clear misunderstandings and controlled for the context of the interview due to language barriers.

Among their weaknesses, the standardization of questions in the surveys forced subjects to fit their answers into the researcher's categories, a process that precludes sensitivity and range of feelings, orientations, circumstances and experiences. For the purposes of this study, however, only the most salient features of the UMI issue were explored, thereby making the survey an acceptable form of data collection.

Procedure

This study used a positivist survey design. The social work surveys were mailed to a randomly-selected group of names taken from the NASW mailing list. The UMI surveys were dropped off at two local community agencies providing services to UMIs, and were administered face-to-face to self-selected subjects, by bilingual (English/Spanish) employees of the agencies. UMI surveys required approximately 20 minutes to complete. Data for both surveys were collected over the period of approximately two months.

Protection of Human Subjects

The policies and procedures for Review of Research Involving Human Subjects were strictly adhered to at all times in order to assure that the rights and welfare of

participants were adequately protected. The request was made and was granted that the informed consent's signature requirement be waived for the undocumented immigrants, based on the sensitive nature of their anonymity. The informed consent, written in Spanish and English, was presented to the subjects for their review prior to their participation in the study. A debriefing document was provided to all participants.

Data Analysis

Because of the exploratory nature of this study, a quantitative analysis was performed to examine the following research questions: What are social workers' current perspectives regarding undocumented Mexican immigrants? How sensitive are they in advocating for these immigrants? What are the immigrants' perspectives of their interactions with social workers and the quality of services they are being provided? What are the immigrants' contributions to the system? These questions were integrated into the surveys, and the raw data were entered into the SPSS.PC+ statistical analysis program for univariate analysis through measures of Central Tendency. The findings were reported on frequency tables and circle graphs.

The first two research questions regarding social workers' perspectives and advocacy of UMIs were measured by administering a questionnaire survey to the sample of social workers. The questionnaire contained a range of closed-ended questions provided by the researchers.

Section One of this survey consisted of 11 demographic (i.e., information such as age, ethnicity, religious belief, political preference, etc.) variables, each coded for a range of responses. Frequency tables were ran for each variable and subject through

univariate analysis. Variables were summarized according to the value. There were eight nominal variables and three ratio. All variables were ran for Central Tendency, including the mode, median and mean.

Section Two of the survey was used to measure 15 ordinal variables on the Likert scale (i.e., what the social workers' perspectives of undocumented Mexican immigrants are, and how effectively the social workers' are able to advocate for this population).

The final research question regarding UMIs' perspectives of the services they are being provided was explored by a separate questionnaire administered to the sample of UMIs. Section One of this survey consisted of 17 demographic variables, each coded for a range of responses; nine of these focused on financial assistance, residency status and service utilization. Frequency tables were ran for each variable and subject through univariate analysis. Variables were be summarized according to the value. There were 13 nominal variables and five ratio. All variables were ran for Central Tendency, mode, median and mean.

Section Two of the survey was used to measure nine ordinal variables on the Likert scale (i.e., the UMIs' perspectives of the quality of services provided by their social workers). All variables were summarized to report the mode, median, and any other relevant statistics.

Results

Social Worker Survey

Responses to the social worker survey, Questions 12 through 25, were reported through the mode, or most frequently occurring response. Table 1 provides a summary

Table 1.

Social Workers' Perspectives and Sensitivity toward UMI's and Social Service Utilization
(N=81).

SURVEY RESPONSES AND RESULTS							
Ques.#	DK/NA	SA	A	N	D	SD	Missing
12. (N)	1.2% 1	11.1% 9	22.2% 18	9.9% 8	34.6% 28	19.8% 16	1.2% 1
13. (N)	6.2% 5	11.1% 9	22.2% 18	19.8% 16	25.9% 21	13.6% 11	1.2% 1
14. (N)	3.7% 3	38.3% 31	40.7% 33	9.9% 8	4.9% 4	1.2% 1	1.2% 1
15. (N)	2.5% 2	28.4% 23	32.1% 26	4.9% 4	19.8% 16	11.1% 9	1.2% 1
16. (N)	19.8% 16	19.8% 16	24.7% 20	24.7% 20	6.2% 5	3.7% 3	1.2% 1
17. (N)	21.0% 17	12.3% 10	12.3% 10	27.2% 22	18.5% 15	7.4% 6	1.2% 1
18. (N)	17.3% 14	11.1% 9	21.0% 17	22.2% 18	22.2% 18	4.9% 4	1.2% 1
19. (N)	13.6% 11	9.9% 8	19.8% 16	24.7% 20	14.8% 12	16.0% 13	1.2% 1
20. (N)	16.0% 13	6.2% 5	14.8% 12	27.2% 22	16.0% 13	18.5% 15	1.2% 1
21. (N)	6.2% 5	6.2% 5	24.7% 20	24.7% 20	18.5% 15	18.5% 15	1.2% 1
22. (N)	3.7% 3	44.4% 36	18.5% 15	8.6% 7	9.9% 8	13.6% 11	1.2% 1
23. (N)	1.2% 1	25.9% 21	30.9% 25	14.8% 12	12.3% 10	13.6% 11	1.2% 1
24. (N)	4.9% 4	49.4% 40	33.3% 27	3.7% 3	2.5% 2	3.7% 3	2.5% 2
25. (N)	1.2% 1	22.2% 18	37.0% 30	16.0% 13	9.9% 8	9.9% 8	3.7% 3

Note. Top row of figures is presented in percentages; bottom row (N) indicates actual number of responses.

Table 1 Legend: DK/NA = Don't Know/Not Applicable; SA = Strongly Agree; A = Agree; N = Neutral; D = Disagree; SD = Strongly Disagree; Missing = Percentage of cases that did not respond.

of the univariate analysis.

In reference to the research questions asking what social workers' perspectives are regarding UMIs and how sensitively are they advocating for them, it was found that the majority of social workers disagreed that UMIs had any sort of entitlement to either residency or services. However, it was also found that most social workers disagreed UMIs are a drain on government services, and most agreed UMIs deserve at least basic social services.

More ambiguous were social workers' responses to survey questions surrounding their agencies' policies regarding UMIs, and what they themselves would be willing to do to empower the UMIs. Most social workers were not in favor of Proposition 187, and further indicated they would provide services to clients regardless of their clients' documentation status.

The final question on the survey allowed subjects the opportunity to provide comments. For analytical purposes, responses were coded as follows: 1 = Supportive towards UMIs; 2 = Non-supportive of UMIs; 3 = Neutral; and 4 = No Comments. Themes contained in the content of comments were reviewed to determine support or non-support. For example, comments such as, "I regularly work to empower illegal immigrants," and "Proposition 187 is completely a racist issue," were placed in the "supportive" category, whereas comments such as, "I am not in support of giving services to UMIs" and, "Those who drain resources after a long period of time (one year) should be deported", were placed in the, "non-supportive" category. Neutral comments consisted of statements that did not appear to take either side, or that appeared nebulous

in nature about the UMI issue, such as, "I was employed by Orange County Mental Health until October 1994; we served clients without regard to legal status". The statistical analysis (measures of Central Tendency) revealed the mode for Question 26 as being, "4 - No Comments"; therefore, the majority of respondents provided no comments.

UMI Survey

For Questions 19 through 26, the most frequently occurring response (the mode) was reviewed. Table 2 provides results of the univariate analysis.

Regarding the research question asking what UMI perspectives are of their interactions with social workers and the quality of services provided, the majority of UMIs selected responses in the "Don't Know/Not Applicable" category. The only question most UMIs agreed with was that which asked if they travel across the border frequently.

The final question allowed the subjects the opportunity to provide comments; however, no comments were made by any respondents.

Figure 3 presents information on UMIs regarding financial assistance and residency status (N=39). Regarding the research question asking what UMI contributions are to the system, it was found that the majority of UMIs pay Federal income tax (53.9%), do pay State income tax (51.3%), do not receive AFDC or welfare (74.4%), do not receive foodstamps (79.5%), nor do they receive government medical services (69.2%). Most UMIs (43.6%) have only one to three dependents. Most UMIs

Table 2.

UMIs Perceptions of Treatment by Social Workers and Services Available (N=39).

SURVEY RESPONSES AND RESULTS							
Ques. #	DK/NA	SA	A	N	D	SD	Missing
19. (N)	35.9% 14	7.7% 3	30.8% 12	10.3% 4	5.1% 2	10.3% 4	-
20. (N)	33.3% 13	12.8% 5	33.3% 13	5.1% 2	5.1% 2	10.3% 4	-
21. (N)	30.8% 12	10.3% 4	28.2% 11	10.3% 4	2.6% 1	17.9% 7	-
22. (N)	43.6% 17	5.1% 2	17.9% 7	12.8% 5	7.7% 3	7.7% 3	5.1% 2
23. (N)	25.6% 10	17.9% 7	23.1% 9	17.9% 7	10.3% 4	5.1% 2	-
24. (N)	33.3% 13	15.4% 6	30.8% 12	12.8% 5	2.6% 1	5.1% 2	-
25. (N)	38.5% 15	10.3% 4	17.9% 7	15.4% 6	10.3% 4	2.6% 1	5.1% 2
26. (N)	20.5% 8	12.8% 5	30.8% 12	17.9% 7	7.7% 3	10.3% 4	-

Note. Top row of figures is presented in percentages; bottom row (N) indicates actual number of responses.

Table 2 Legend: DK/NA = Don't Know/Not Applicable; SA = Strongly Agree; A = Agree; N = Neutral; D = Disagree; SD = Strongly Disagree; Missing = Percentage of cases that did not respond to question.

(33.3%) are applying for residency status, but a large portion (23.1) are not. Further, 23.1% of UMIs did not respond to this question, 12.8% reported they were "in the process" of applying for residency status, and 7.7% were undecided. It was also found that the majority of UMIs emigrated from southern Mexico (47.4%), and that the number of years they have lived in the United States vary significantly and reveal no particular pattern.

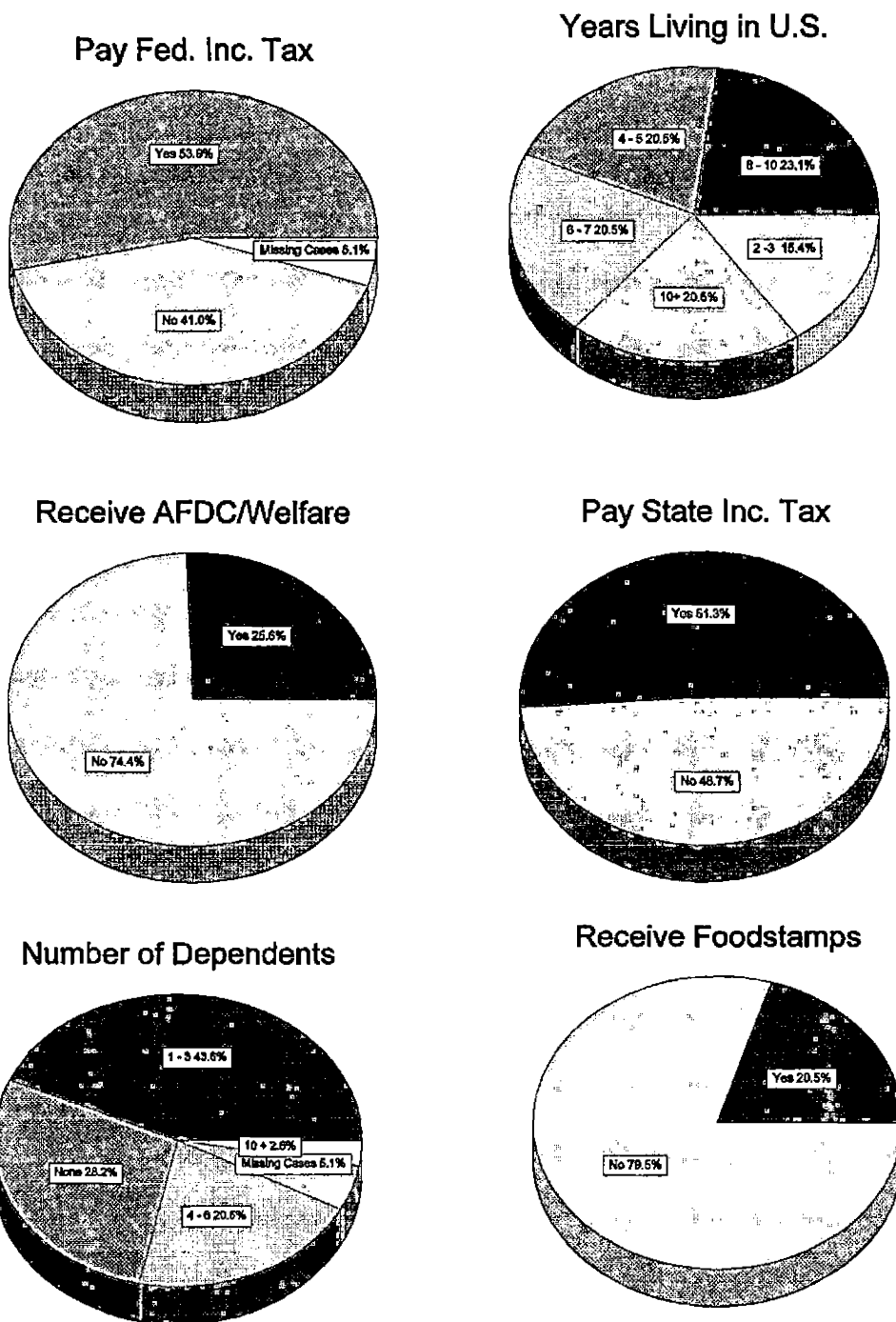
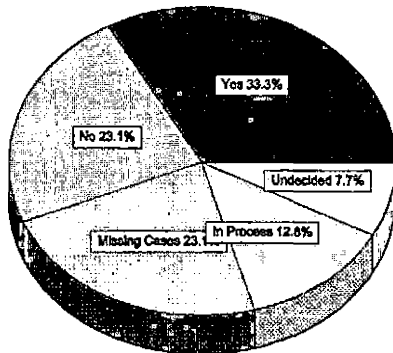
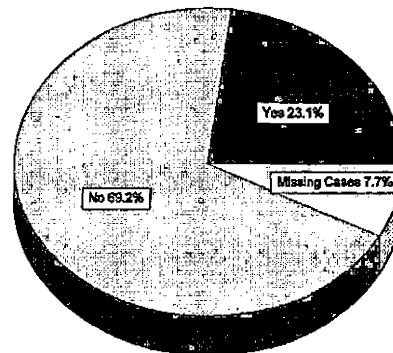


Figure 3. Information on UMIs regarding financial assistance and residency status (N=39).

Applying for Residency



Receive Gov't Medical Svcs.



Region of Mexico Emigrated

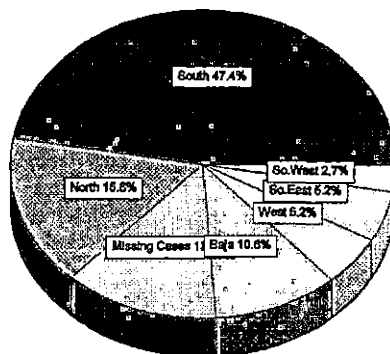


Figure 3. (Continued). Information on UMI's financial assistance and residency status (N=39).

Discussion

The objective of this study was to explore social work practice in regard to the UMI population, and to develop a cohesive agenda for social action and change, based on the belief that the UMI population is not being adequately served due to political philosophies and historical racism. It was anticipated that the data collected for this study would provide more information from social workers and UMIs to help provide an action agenda for this issue.

Social Worker Survey

Regarding our research questions about what social workers' current perspectives are regarding UMIs and how effectively are they advocating for UMIs, it was found that the majority (54.4%) of social workers disagreed UMIs had a right to live in the United States, but agreed (82.7%) they would assist them regardless of documentation status. This finding suggests that, although social workers do not approve of undocumented immigration, most would not allow their political beliefs to impede their ethical ones, those being to recognize the needs and basic human rights of others.

The data analyses revealed most social workers agreed that UMIs come to the United States to work and are not a drain on the system. Support and sensitivity towards UMIs was also found regarding Proposition 187: 44.4% strongly agreed, and 18.5% agreed advocating against this legislation. This may be due to either social workers having compassion for the UMIs, or perhaps to the belief that Proposition 187 would create a negative impact on the social work delivery system and social workers as a whole.

Another significant finding was that, in regard to questions asking if their agency's/employer's policies enabled them to advocate for the UMIs or work towards changing these policies, most social workers responded in the "Neutral", "Don't Know/Not applicable", or "Disagree/Strongly Disagree" categories. Similar responses were observed for questions asking if respondents "could/should do more to assist the UMI population". The ambiguity of these responses may be due to social workers feeling powerless within their agencies; policy change requires action and commitment.

These ambiguous responses may have also resulted from personal feelings based on misinformation, political agendas, apathy, lack of factual information or perhaps a xenophobic intolerance. Of 81 respondents, only 7.4% were Latino. The majority of respondents were White (67.9%), with the remainder being Black (12.3%), Asian (3.7%), Native American (3.7%), Filipino (3.7%) and "Other" (1.2%). As this was only an exploratory study, cross-tabulations between variables were not analyzed (i.e., attempting to find a relationship between race, gender, political status, etc., and support or non-support of UMIs).

UMI Survey

In reference to our research questions about UMIs' perspectives of their interactions with social workers and the services being provided, the majority of UMI responses fell in the, "Don't Know/Not Applicable" category. This finding, coupled with the findings that indicate more than half of UMIs pay Federal and State Income tax and do not receive government assistance/services, suggests UMIs have little contact with social service agencies, contrary to the accusations made by Proposition 187 supporters:

Additionally, although Question 27 allowed subjects the opportunity to provide comments, no comments were made by all 39 respondents.

These noncommittal, guarded responses may also reflect a feeling by the UMIs that, although they may have experienced discrimination or have felt that the system needs improvement, the benefits of living in the United States outweigh the disadvantages. Within the Critical Theory paradigm, it has been established that people without power may not feel the right to voice opinions or believe they are being discriminated against. Furthermore, it seems almost necessary that they do not challenge the status quo as their position here remains rather tenuous.

Responses to Question 17, which asked if subjects were applying for residency documents, were inconclusive in distinguishing a pattern or trend among UMIs regarding citizenship. Although the majority (33.3%) agreed they were applying for citizenship, 23.1% of respondents stated they were not, and 23.1% did not answer the question. Further, 7.7% of respondents stated they were undecided and 12.8% were "in the process".

Reasons for these responses were not clarified within this study. It may be that the process of applying for legal residency is too cumbersome and lengthy, or perhaps that many UMIs do not view the United States as their true home. Another possibility is that applying for documentation poses greater risks of being deported, and they would prefer not to jeopardize their situation.

The majority of UMIs agreed they cross the border frequently. Although, as the data indicate, the majority arrive from southern Mexico (46.2%), the remainder are

emigrating from all other regions as well. This implies that many UMIs are willing to risk danger to escape an atmosphere of socio-political upheaval and poverty. The United States is their refuge. Our final research question, which asked what the UMI contributions were to the system, elicited responses that revealed when UMIs are employed, they pay both Federal and State income tax. In addition, when UMIs are unemployed, very few partake of government services such as AFDC, foodstamps, medical services, educational services, etc. If these findings can be generalized to the larger population, they are then in direct conflict with those of Proposition 187 supporters.

Action Agenda for Change

The results of this study revealed an overall ambiguity or lack of consistency and cohesion amongst social workers regarding the UMI issue. In some instances, responses were contradictory in terms of support and non-support of UMIs. The implications, then, for social work practice, point to the dissemination of facts surrounding this issue, in addition to encouraging action-oriented behavior in all sectors of social work. If social workers are the change-agents of society, it is then our responsibility to learn about controversial issues, fight for what we believe, and educate society.

Increased education and awareness of cultural diversity is also necessary among social workers to enable them to deal more effectively with, and model appropriately for, their clients. The demography of the United States, especially California, is rapidly changing, and so, too, may our definition of mainstream culture. The social work profession must realize this firsthand and project a philosophy of tolerance and

appreciation towards others. Further, the disproportionate number of Latino social workers evident in this study indicates a continued need for programs that encourage and draw people of color toward professional fields of employment. It is necessary that the social work profession be aware of the current conservative movement that is cultivating anti-immigrant sentiments, welfare reform and the removal of Affirmative Action. We must educate all sectors of society to the facts and negative consequences of ongoing political backlash. Finally, the profession needs to promote legislation and policies that assist social workers in advocating for those who are oppressed, including the UMI population. Only then, can we sit back and conscionably refer to ourselves as "social change agents".

APPENDIX A



CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY
SAN BERNARDINO

The California
State University

February 6, 1995

Dear N.A.S.W. Member:

Please let us introduce ourselves: We are Carmen S. Venegas and Margaret A. Vásquez-McDaniel, M.S.W. students at California State University, San Bernardino. As part of the requirement for graduation, we are expected to complete a research project, and we have chosen to study the issue of undocumented immigration.

DEPARTMENT
OF
SOCIAL WORK

909/880-5501

We would strongly appreciate your help in completing the enclosed questionnaire. It should take you no longer than 10 to 15 minutes to complete, and the results of the study could have important implications for social work practice in the future. If you are interested in the results of the study, please refer to the attached, "Informed Consent" for further details.

Please return the questionnaire to us in the enclosed, pre-addressed, stamped envelope by February 25, 1995. Thank you for your time and support in helping us complete this project.

Sincerely,


Carmen S. Venegas


Margaret A. Vásquez-McDaniel

5500 University Parkway, San Bernardino, CA 92407-2397

INFORMED CONSENT

The purpose of this study is to evaluate the social welfare service needs of undocumented Mexican immigrants, and to examine social workers' attitudes towards this population. The study is being conducted by Carmen S. Venegas and Margaret A. Vásquez-McDaniel, Masters in Social Work Students, under the supervision of Dr. Teresa Morris, Associate Professor of Social Work at California State University, San Bernardino. The study will take place between January 1995 and March 1995. It has been approved by the Human Subjects Committee of the Department of Social Work at California State University, San Bernardino.

In this study, you will answer questions regarding your personal background, as well as questions concerning the social welfare needs of undocumented Mexican immigrants. It will take you approximately one-half hour to answer the questions needed for this study.

Please be assured that any information you provide will be held in strict confidence by the researchers. At no time will your name be reported along with your responses. All data will be reported in group form only. At the conclusion of this study, you will be receiving a debriefing document describing the results of the study and any recommendations resulting from the findings. Please understand that your participation in this research is totally voluntary and you are free to withdraw and to remove any data without penalty at any time during the study.

I acknowledge that I have been informed of and understand the nature and purpose of this study, and I freely consent to participate. I also acknowledge that I am at least 18 years of age.

Participant's Signature

Date

Researcher's Signature

Date

Questionnaire Survey on:
**The Social Welfare Needs
of Undocumented Mexican Immigrants (UMIs)**

SECTION ONE: Choose the best answer with a check mark (✓).

1. Your identity will remain anonymous. This survey will assign you a number to identify you.

Number: _____

2. Gender:

- a. Male ☐
b. Female ☐

3. Age:

- a. 21 - 30 ☐
b. 31 - 40 ☐
c. 41 - 50 ☐
d. 51 - 60 ☐
e. 61 and over ☐

4. Education:

- a. Bachelor's Degree ☐
b. Master's Degree ☐
c. Other: _____ ☐

5. Religion:

- a. Catholic ☐
b. Protestant ☐
c. Jewish ☐
d. None ☐
e. Other: _____ ☐

6. Ethnicity:

- a. Black/African-American ☐
b. Latino/"Hispanic" ☐
c. Asian-American ☐

- d. Native American ☐
- e. Filipino ☐
- f. White ☐
- g. Other: _____ ☐
7. Socioeconomic Status:
- a. \$12,000.00 - \$18,000.00/year ☐
- b. \$18,001.00 - \$24,000.00/year ☐
- c. \$24,001.00 - \$30,000.00/year ☐
- d. \$30,001.00 - \$40,000.00/year ☐
- e. \$40,001.00 - \$50,000.00/year ☐
- f. More than \$50,000.00/year ☐
8. Political Party Preference:
- a. Democrat ☐
- b. Republican ☐
- c. Other: _____ ☐
9. Type of Agency Employed With:
- a. Immigration Services ☐
- b. Public Social Services ☐
- c. Private, Non-profit ☐
- d. Other: _____ ☐
10. Location of Employment:
- a. San Bernardino County ☐
- b. Riverside County ☐
- c. Other: _____ ☐
11. Location of Residence:
- a. San Bernardino County ☐
- b. Riverside County ☐
- c. Other: _____ ☐
-

SECTION TWO: Circle the best answer from those provided. Please indicate your degree of agreement or disagreement with each question or statement by using the following scale:

0 = Don't know/Not Applicable (DK/NA)
 1 = Strongly Agree (SA)
 2 = Agree (A)
 3 = Neutral (N)
 4 = Disagree (D)
 5 = Strongly Disagree (SD)

12. Undocumented Mexican Immigrants (UMIs) have every right to live in the United States.

0	1	2	3	4	5
DK/NA	SA	A	N	D	SD

13. UMIs are a drain on our government's social services.

0	1	2	3	4	5
DK/NA	SA	A	N	D	SD

14. The majority of UMIs come to the United States to work.

0	1	2	3	4	5
DK/NA	SA	A	N	D	SD

15. UMIs deserve basic social services such as health care and education.

0	1	2	3	4	5
DK/NA	SA	A	N	D	SD

16. My agency/employer is sensitive to the needs of UMIs.

0	1	2	3	4	5
DK/NA	SA	A	N	D	SD

17. My agency's/employer's policies serve to empower the UMI population.
- | | | | | | |
|-------|----|---|---|---|----|
| 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| DK/NA | SA | A | N | D | SD |
18. My agency's/employer's policies enable me to serve as an advocate for the UMI population.
- | | | | | | |
|-------|----|---|---|---|----|
| 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| DK/NA | SA | A | N | D | SD |
19. More could/should be done by my agency/employer to assist the UMI population.
- | | | | | | |
|-------|----|---|---|---|----|
| 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| DK/NA | SA | A | N | D | SD |
20. I would be willing to work towards changing my agency's/employer's policies to support and empower the UMI population.
- | | | | | | |
|-------|----|---|---|---|----|
| 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| DK/NA | SA | A | N | D | SD |
21. I could/should do more to assist the UMI population.
- | | | | | | |
|-------|----|---|---|---|----|
| 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| DK/NA | SA | A | N | D | SD |
22. I advocated against Proposition 187.
- | | | | | | |
|-------|----|---|---|---|----|
| 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| DK/NA | SA | A | N | D | SD |
23. I am active in communicating the negative implications of Proposition 187 with other social workers, colleagues, family members and the community.
- | | | | | | |
|-------|----|---|---|---|----|
| 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| DK/NA | SA | A | N | D | SD |

24. I am willing to take direct or indirect action for my client(s) regardless of his/her documentation status.

0	1	2	3	4	5
DK/NA	SA	A	N	D	SD

25. I am willing to raise community awareness, directly or indirectly, concerning the negative implications of Proposition 187.

0	1	2	3	4	5
DK/NA	SA	A	N	D	SD

26. Other Comments:

DEBRIEFING STATEMENT

The study you participated in was conducted to examine social workers' attitudes towards the undocumented Mexican immigrant population. A quantitative analysis will be performed to interpret the data collected. We, the researchers, anticipate that the findings will enable us to develop an agenda for action to improve service delivery to the undocumented Mexican immigrant population and to enhance cultural sensitivity amongst the social work profession.

The study was developed as a research project by Carmen S. Venegas and Margaret A. Vásquez-McDaniel, both M.S.W. students at California State University, San Bernardino. If there are any questions regarding your participation in this study, please feel free to contact Ms. Venegas or Ms. Vásquez-McDaniel through the Social Work Department at the university by calling (909) 880-5501. You may also contact the researchers' faculty advisor, Dr. Teresa Morris, at the university number (909) 880-5561.

Thank you for your participation. It is greatly appreciated.



CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY
SAN BERNARDINO

APPENDIX B

The California
State University

6 de febrero de 1995

February 6, 1995

Estimado/a Participante:

Dear Participant:

Quisiéramos presentarnos, Carmen S. Venegas y Margarita A. Vásquez-McDaniel.
We would like to introduce ourselves, Carmen S. Venegas and Margaret A.

Somos estudiantes de Maestría en Trabajo Social de la Universidad Estatal de
Vásquez-McDaniel. We are Masters in Social Work Students at California State

DEPARTMENT
OF
SOCIAL WORK

909/850-3501

California en San Bernardino. Estamos investigando las necesidades de bienestar
University, San Bernardino. We are investigating the social welfare needs of

social de inmigrantes indocumentados de México. Agradeceríamos mucho si usted
undocumented Mexican immigrants. We would very much appreciate it if you

completara la encuesta adjunta. Debería llevarle 10 a 15 minutos, cuando más,
would complete the attached survey. It should take you no longer than 10 to 15

para completarla. Al contestar esta encuesta, usted estará ayudando a familias
minutes to complete. By answering this survey, you could be helping future

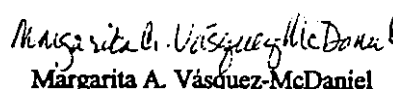
mexicanas a obtener una vida mejor en los Estados Unidos.
families from Mexico have a better life in the United States.

Ya que haya completado esta encuesta, entréguela a la persona que se la repartió.
Once you have completed the survey, please return it to the person who handed it

Gracias por su tiempo en ayudarnos a completar este proyecto.
to you. Thank you for your time in helping us complete this project.

Sinceramente,
Sincerely,


Carmen S. Venegas


Margarita A. Vásquez-McDaniel

5500 University Parkway, San Bernardino, CA 92407-2397

CONSENTIMIENTO
Informed Consent

El estudio en el cual ustedes van a participar está diseñado para investigar las
The study in which you are about to participate is designed to investigate the

necesidades de bienestar social de inmigrantes de México indocumentados. El
social welfare needs of undocumented Mexican immigrants. The

estudio será conducido por Carmen S. Venegas y Margarita A. Vásquez-McDaniel,
study is being conducted by Carmen S. Venegas and Margaret A. Vásquez-McDaniel,

estudiantes de Maestría en Trabajo Social), bajo la supervisión de la Dra. Teresa
Masters in Social Work students, under the supervision of Dr. Teresa

Morris, profesora asociada de Trabajo Social. Este estudio se llevará a cabo durante
Morris, Associate Professor of Social Work. This study will take place between

los meses de Enero de 1995 hasta el Marzo de 1995. El estudio tiene la aprobación
the months of January and March 1995. The study has been approved by

del Departamento de Trabajo Social de la Universidad Estatal de California en San
the Department of Social Work at California State University, San

Bernardino.
Bernardino.

En este estudio, usted contestará preguntas sobre las necesidades de bienestar
In this study, you will answer questions on the social welfare needs

social de inmigrantes de México sin documentación. Durará aproximadamente media
of undocumented Mexican immigrants. It will take you approximately one-half

hora para contestar las preguntas necesarias para el estudio.
hour to answer the questions needed for this study.

Puede estar completamente seguro que cualquier información que usted
Please be assured that any information you

proporciona será mantenida en estricta confidencia por las investigadoras. En ningún
provide will be held in strict confidence by the researchers. At no

momento se reportará su nombre en conexión con sus respuestas. Todos los datos
time will your name be reported along with your responses. All data

serán reportados sólo en forma de grupo. Al concluir el estudio usted puede, si lo
will be reported in group form only. At the conclusion of this study, you may,

solicita, recibir un reporte de los resultados. Usted no necesita proveer su nombre ni
upon request, receive a report of the results. You do not need to provide your name,

su dirección.
nor your address.

Por favor, entienda que su participación en esta investigación es totalmente
Please understand that your participation in this research is totally

voluntaria y usted está libre para retirarse o eliminar cualquier dato provisto en
voluntary and you are free to withdraw and to remove any data without penalty

cualquier momento durante el estudio, sin ser penalizado.
at any time during the study.

Afirmo que he recibido información sobre este estudio y entiendo la naturaleza
I acknowledge that I have been informed of and understand the nature

y propósito del mismo. Libremente, consiento en participar. También confirmo que
and purpose of this study. I freely consent to participate. I also acknowledge that

tengo a lo menos 18 años de edad.
I am at least 18 years of age.

Firma

Fecha

Encuesta Sobre:
Survey On:

Las Necesidades de Bienestar Social de
The Social Welfare Needs of

Inmigrantes de México sin Documentación
Undocumented Mexican Immigrants

Sección Uno:
Section One:

Preguntas: Escoja la mejor respuesta con una marca (✓).
Questions: Choose the best answer with a check mark (✓).

1. Su participación será anónima. Le asignaremos
Your participation will be anonymous. We will assign
un número para identificación en esta encuesta.
you a number to identify you.

Número: _____
Number: _____

2. Género:
Gender:

- a. Masculino ()
Male
b. Femenino ()
Female

3. Educación:
Education:

- a. Prescolar ()
Preschool
b. Primaria ()
Elementary
c. Secundaria ()
Junior High
d. Preparatoria ()
High School

- e. **Equivalencia de Escuela (GED)** ()
GED
- f. **Los dos años primeros de universidad** ()
Junior College
- g. **Universidad** ()
College
- h. **Estudios graduados universitarios** ()
Graduate School
- i. **Ninguna** ()
None
4. **Edad:**
Age:
- a. **18 - 25** ()
- b. **26 - 35** ()
- c. **36 - 45** ()
- d. **46 o más** ()
46 or over
5. **Estado Civil:**
Marital Status:
- a. **Casado/a** ()
Married
- b. **Viudo/a** ()
Widowed
- c. **Divorciado/a** ()
Divorced
- d. **Separado/a** ()
Separated
- e. **Soltero/a** ()
Single
- f. **Cohabitación** ()
Cohabiting
- g. **Soltero/a con hijos** ()
Single with children
- h. **Otro** ()
Other

6. Estado de Empleo:

Work Status:

- a. Desempleado/a ()
Unemployed
- b. Empleado de jornada entera ()
Working full time
- c. Empleado de jornada parcial ()
Working part time
- d. Retirado/a ()
Retired
- e. Amo/a de casa ()
Caregiver in home
- f. Estudiante ()
Student
- g. Otro: _____ ()
Other: _____

7. Ingreso total mensual de la familia:

Total monthly family income:

- a. \$500.00 o menos ()
\$500.00 or less
- b. \$501.00 - \$1,000.00 ()
- c. \$1,001.00 - \$1,500.00 ()
- d. \$1,501.00 - \$2,000.00 ()
- e. \$2,001.00 - \$3,000.00 ()

8. Afiliación Religiosa:

Religious Affiliation:

- a. Católico/a ()
Catholic
- b. Protestante ()
Protestant
- c. Judío/a ()
Jewish
- d. Ninguna ()
None
- e. Otra (indique) ()
Other (specify) _____

9. Condado de Residencia:
County of Residence:
- a. Riverside ()
 - b. San Bernardino ()
 - c. Otro condado ()
Other county
10. ¿Cuántos años ha vivido en los Estados Unidos?
How many years have you lived in the United States?
- a. 2 - 3 ()
 - b. 4 - 5 ()
 - c. 6 - 7 ()
 - d. 8 - 10 ()
 - e. 10 años o más ()
10 years or more
11. ¿Cuántos dependientes tiene, incluyendo sus hijos? ()
How many dependents do you have, including children?
- a. Ninguno ()
None
 - b. 1 - 3 ()
 - c. 4 - 6 ()
 - d. 7 - 9 ()
 - e. 10 o más ()
10 or more
12. ¿Paga usted impuestos federales sobre sus ingresos? ()
Do you pay federal income tax?
- a. Sí ()
Yes
 - b. No ()
No

13. **¿Paga usted impuestos del estado sobre sus ingresos?**
Do you pay state income tax?
- a. **Sí** ()
Yes
- b. **No** ()
No
14. **¿Recibe usted asistencia social (welfare) para familias con niños dependientes (AFDC)?**
Do you receive welfare (AFDC)?
- a. **Sí** ()
Yes
- b. **No** ()
No
15. **¿Recibe usted Estampillas para Alimentos?**
Do you receive food stamps?
- a. **Sí** ()
Yes
- b. **No** ()
No
16. **¿Está usted recibiendo servicios de MediCal, MediCare o otra programa de asistencia médica del gobierno?**
Are you receiving services from MediCal, MediCare, or any other government-assisted medical program?
- a. **Sí** ()
Yes
- b. **No** ()
No
17. **¿Está usted procurando de arreglar sus documentos de residencia?**
Are you attempting to apply for residency documents?

- a. **Sí** ()
Yes
- b. **No** ()
No
- c. **En proceso** ()
In process
- d. **Indeciso/a** ()
Undecided

18. **¿De cuál región de México originó usted?**
From which region of Mexico did you originate?

- a. **Del sur** ()
South
 - b. **Del norte** ()
North
 - c. **Del oeste** ()
West
 - d. **Del este** ()
East
 - e. **Del suroeste** ()
Southwest
 - f. **Del sudeste** ()
Southeast
 - g. **Del noroeste** ()
Northwest
 - h. **Del nordeste** ()
Northeast
 - i. **Baja California** ()
-

Sección Dos:

Section Two:

Indique su grado de acuerdo o desacuerdo de cada pregunta o declaración usando la
Indicate your degree of agreement or disagreement with each question or statement by
escala siguiente:
using the following scale:

- 0 = **No sé/no será aplicable (NS/NA)**
Don't know/not applicable
- 1 = **Estoy de acuerdo fuertemente (AF)**
Strongly Agree
- 2 = **Estoy de acuerdo (A)**
Agree
- 3 = **Neutral (N)**
Neutral
- 4 = **Estoy de desacuerdo (D)**
Disagree
- 5 = **Estoy de desacuerdo fuertemente (DF)**
Strongly Disagree

Ponga usted un círculo alrededor del número de la respuesta más adecuada.
Circle the best answer from those provided.

19. **Los/las trabajadores/as sociales que encuentro en las agencias de bienestar**
The social workers I meet in the social welfare agencies
social me ayudan mucho.
are of great help to me.

0	1	2	3	4	5
NS/NA	AF	A	N	D	DF

20. **Yo he usado los servicios de bienestar social mucho durante el tiempo que he**
I have used social welfare services for much of the time I have
estado en este país.
been in this country.

0	1	2	3	4	5
NS/NA	AF	A	N	D	DF

21. **Cuando necesito los servicios de bienestar social, los obtengo sin problema.**
When I need social welfare services, I get them without a problem.

0	1	2	3	4	5
NS/NA	AF	A	N	D	DF

22. **Parece que mis negocios no le importan a mi trabajador/a social.**
It seems like my social worker is not interested in my affairs.

0	1	2	3	4	5
NS/NA	AF	A	N	D	DF

23. **Me gustaría ver mejoramientos o cambios en las agencias de bienestar social.**
I would like to see improvements or changes in the social welfare agencies.

0	1	2	3	4	5
NS/NA	AF	A	N	D	DF

24. **Cuando visito la agencia de bienestar social, siempre hay alguien que hable Español.**
When I visit the social welfare agency, there is always someone there who can speak Spanish.

0	1	2	3	4	5
NS/NA	AF	A	N	D	DF

25. **Me han discriminado en las agencias de bienestar social.**
I have been discriminated against at the social welfare agencies.

0	1	2	3	4	5
NS/NA	AF	A	N	D	DF

26. **Cruzo la frontera con frecuencia.**
I travel across the border regularly.

0	1	2	3	4	5
NS/NA	AF	A	N	D	DF

27. Otros Comentarios:
Other Comments:

Declaración Sumario

Este estudio tiene el propósito de analizar las necesidades de bienestar social
The purpose of this study is to analyze the social welfare needs
de inmigrantes de México indocumentados en California. Quisiéramos saber que
of undocumented Mexican immigrants in California. We would like to know what
clase de servicios ustedes están recibiendo en efecto y cuales servicios adicionales
kind of services you are actually receiving and what additional services you
necesitan. Cualquier información que usted haya provisto será mantenida en estricta
need. Whatever information you provide will be held in strict
confidencia por los investigadores. En ningún momento su nombre será reportado.
confidence by the researchers. At no time will your name be reported.
Usted no necesita proveer su nombre ni su dirección. Nosotros estamos interesados
You do not need to provide your name nor your address. We are only interested
solamente en datos estadísticos (relacionados con números) y no en nombres de
in statistical data and not in individual names.
individuos. Todos los documentos relacionados con su identificación (si hay alguno)
All documents (if any) related to your personal identification
serán destruidos al final del estudio. Al contestar esta encuesta, usted estará
will be destroyed at the end of the study. By answering this survey, you could be
ayudando familias mexicanas a obtener una vida mejor en los Estados Unidos.
helping future families from Mexico have a better life in the United States.

Al finalizar este estudio, usted puede pedir un reporte de los resultados. Si
At the conclusion of this study, you may request a report of the results. If
usted está interesado, por favor, comuníquese con Carmen S. Venegas o Margarita A.
you are interested, please contact Carmen S. Venegas or Margaret A. Vásquez-McDaniel
Vásquez-McDaniel en el Departamento de Trabajo Social:
at the Department of Social Work:

California State University, San Bernardino
5500 University Parkway
San Bernardino, California 92407
(909) 880-5501

Muchas gracias.
Thank you.

June 4, 1995

Dear N.A.S.W. Member:

Earlier this year, you participated in a study entitled, "Undocumented Mexican Immigrants: An Exploratory Study of Social Workers' Perspectives on Service Delivery and Implications for Practice". We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for participating. The following information summarizes the results of the study.

This study was conducted to explore social workers' sensitivity to the undocumented Mexican immigrant (UMI) population. This study used a Critical Theory paradigm with a Positivist design. Two separate groups were sampled: a group of social workers and a group of UMIs. Questionnaire surveys were used to collect the data. It was found that the majority of social workers disagreed with the concept that UMIs have a right to live in the United States, but agreed they would assist UMIs regardless of documentation status. Further, 62.9% of social workers in the sample advocated against Proposition 187. The majority of UMI responses appeared to indicate an underutilization of public social services.

The results of this study revealed an overall ambiguity or lack of consistency and cohesion amongst social workers regarding the UMI issue. In some instances, responses were contradictory in terms of support and non-support of UMIs. The implications, then, for social work practice, indicate a need to disseminate the facts surrounding this issue, in addition to encouraging action-oriented behavior in all sectors of social work. If social workers are the change-agents of society, it is then our responsibility to learn about controversial issues, fight for what we believe, and educate society.

Increased education and awareness of cultural diversity is also necessary among social workers to enable them to deal more effectively with, and model appropriately for, their clients. The demography of the United States, especially California, is rapidly changing, and so, too, may our definition of mainstream culture. The social work profession must realize this firsthand and project a philosophy of tolerance and appreciation towards others. Further, the disproportionate number of Latino social workers evident in this study indicates a continued need for programs that encourage and draw people of color toward professional fields of employment. It is necessary that the social work profession be aware of the current conservative movement that is cultivating anti-immigrant sentiments, welfare reform and the removal of Affirmative Action. We must educate all sectors of society to the facts and negative consequences of ongoing political backlash. Finally, the profession needs to promote legislation and policies that assist social

workers in advocating for those who are oppressed, including the UMI population. Only then, can we sit back and conscientiously refer to ourselves as "social change agents".

The social work profession, which has maintained a philosophy of advocacy, integrity, and self-sufficiency, needs to examine this controversial issue. It is anticipated that a dissemination of the study's results will provide increased awareness and action-oriented discussion amongst those social workers who participated in the study.

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding this study, you may contact us through the Social Work Department at California State University, San Bernardino by calling (909) 880-5501.

Sincerely,

Carmen S. Venegas

Margaret A. Vásquez-McDaniel

APPENDIX D

HUMAN SUBJECTS REVIEW COMMITTEE
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY SAN BERNARDINO

To: Carmen Venegas & Margaret Vasquez-McDaniel
From: Dr. Morris and Dr. Glick
Project Title: Illegal Immigrants
Project ID: SW-PT94-11
Date: June 18, 1994

- ☐ Exempt review recommended based on category ____.
- ☒ Expedited review recommended based on category _9_.

-
- ☒ Your proposal is approved.
Please notify the HSRC if any substantive changes are made in your research project or any unanticipated risks to participants arise.
- ☐ Your proposal can be approved if you clarify the following points and/or submit the following missing materials
- ☐ Your proposal must be forwarded to a review by the full departmental committee
- ☐ Your proposal has to be forwarded to the campus Institutional Review Board (IRB). Please submit 8 additional copies of your proposal to us to be forwarded to the IRB.

Some Suggestions:

1. Respond to Dr. Morris' comments on the graded copy of the proposal

January 26, 1995

Ms. Bridget Helmer
Catholic Charities
150 E. Olive
Colton, California 92324

Dear Ms. Helmer:

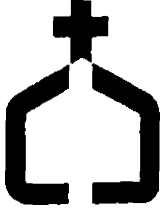
Some time ago I spoke to you over the phone about a research project that my partner, Carmen Venegas, and myself are conducting regarding undocumented immigration. Ms. Venegas and myself are both Master's students in Social Work at California State University, San Bernardino. Essentially, we are interested in how attitudes vary among the helping professions about this particular population, and we desire a better grasp of the exact services this group uses and/or needs. The purpose of our study is not only to gain this information, but also to formulate an agenda for action that will benefit the undocumented immigrants, especially in light of the recently passed Proposition 187.

Enclosed is the questionnaire we plan to administer to the undocumented immigrants. It has been reviewed and approved by the University. The questionnaires are anonymous and pose no risks to the subjects. We would like very much to use your agency, among a few others, as a vehicle to administer the questionnaires. If this is acceptable, we will need your permission in writing before we can proceed. Your response may be mailed to me at the following address: 2176 Catalpa Court, San Bernardino, California, 92404.

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding our study and/or the procedure, please feel free to call me at either (909) 425-7489 on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, or (909) 425-7285 on Tuesday and Thursday. You may also leave a message on my answering machine at (909) 864-6502 and I will return your call. Your willingness to assist us with this project is truly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Margaret A. Vásquez-McDaniel
Margaret A. Vásquez-McDaniel



CATHOLIC CHARITIES
SAN BERNARDINO/RIVERSIDE

ADMINISTRATION OFFICES
150 East Olive St.
Colton, California 92324
(909) 370-0800
370-4488

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY
REGIONAL CENTERS

East Valley
150 East Olive St.
Colton, CA 92324

West Valley
P.O. Box 1242
Quanti, CA 91743

Tuca Valley Center
84300 20 Palms Hwy.
Tucua Valley, CA 92385

RIVERSIDE COUNTY
REGIONAL CENTERS

Palm Springs
450 S. Palm Canyon Dr.
Palm Springs, CA 92264

Indio Center
43149 Smutt St.
Indio, CA 92201

Riverside Center
3040 University Ave.
Ste. 202
Riverside, CA 92501

Moreno Valley
23700 Sunnymead Blvd.
Moreno Valley, CA 92556

Lake Elsinore
113 "P" Main St.
Lake Elsinore, CA 92530

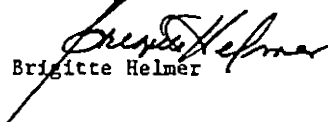
To: Margaret A. Vasquez-McDaniel
Carmen Venegas

From: Brigitte Helmer, Director
Refugee & Immigration Services

Per our telephone conversation, I am giving you permission to distribute your questionnaire to our clients. If is, of course, up to our clients to decide their participation. Your study, "Investigation of Social Welfare Service Needs for Undocumented Mexican Immigrants" sounds interesting, and I look forward to reading your conclusions!

Please let me know what type of procedure for distribution of the questionnaire is best for you and we will do what we can to assist.

Sincerely,


Brigitte Helmer



United Way
Member Agency

Casa Blanca Home of Neighborly Service

7680 CASA BLANCA STREET
RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA 92504
(909) 688-3043

February 8, 1995

Research Committee
MSW Program
California State University, San Bernadino
Department of Social Work
5500 University Parkway
San Bernadino, CA. 92407

Dear Committee Members:

This letter is to state that this agency grants permission to allow the research study by Carmen S. Venegas and Margaret Vasquez - Mc Daniel, both of whom are students in your MSW Program, to be conducted here at the Casa Blanca Home of Neighborly Service.

We are aware that this study will investigate social welfare service needs of the undocumented Mexican immigrant. We look forward to working with this research project.

Sincerely/Yours,



Al Kovar,
Executive Directors



NASW

National Association of Social Workers

CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

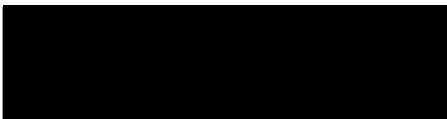
POLICY REGARDING CONFIDENTIALITY OF NASW MEMBERSHIP LIST

After reading the following, please sign below and return:

NASW CALIFORNIA CHAPTER
MEMBERSHIP SERVICES
1016 23RD STREET
SACRAMENTO, CA 95816

NASW membership lists/labels are confidential. In accord with NASW policy, the membership list/labels may not be sold or given away.

I will ONLY use this membership list/labels received for MSW Student Research



Signature

12-5-94

Date

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