World War II Veterans recognized at the special tribute by Congressman Joe Baca at the Community Leadership Awards: (not in order) Anthony C. Acevedo, prisoner of war in slave labor camp, Thomas Aucutt, Edward Belohovek, Robert Boyd, Tuskegee Airman, awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor, Luis Contreras, Ralph Flores, Graciano Gomez, Pedro Holguin, prisoner of war, Henry L. Hooks, Brownie Jones, Robert Kocurek, Ramon D. Martinez, Sr., Everett Marshall, Roy McKeel, Pearl Harbor survivor, Frank Mena, Jr., Nick Montano, Almadge Newkirk, Joseph Nieto Gomez, Airman, awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor, Luis Contreras, Ralph Flores, Graciano Gomez, Pedro Holguin, prisoner of war, Henry L. Hooks, Browne Jones, Robert Kocurek, Ramon D. Martinez, Sr., Everett Marshall, Roy McKeel, Pearl Harbor survivor, Frank Mena, Jr., Nick Montano, Almadge Newkirk, Joseph Nieto Gomez, awarded the Silver Star (received by widow, Trini Gomez), John Petrie, prisoner of war, Joe Ramirez, Willie Roberts, E.G. Rodriguez, Phil Rossi, Carl Willeck, and Gilbert Zamorano, recipient of the Purple Heart.

In a sea of veterans' caps and a jubilant crowd of approximately 450 community, labor, education, and broad representation of citizens, Congressman Joe Baca celebrated the Annual Community Leadership Awards and a special tribute to World War II veterans.

San Bernardino Mayor Pat Morris welcomed the audience to the City of San Bernardino and paid special tribute to the World War II veterans in the community, labor, education, and their continued contribution to their communities through veteran's organizations.

Debra Bowen, California Secretary of State, was guest speaker, who spoke on the current status of the voting in the state, stating that election returns in 2008 will be delayed for an extended time due to the change to paper balloting. She also paid tribute to the World War II veterans by name, and awarded a special medallion with the special tribute to World War II veterans recognized at the special tribute by Congressman Joe Baca at the Community Leadership Awards: (not in order) Anthony C. Acevedo, prisoner of war in slave labor camp, Thomas Aucutt, Edward Belohovek, Robert Boyd, Tuskegee Airman, awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor, Luis Contreras, Ralph Flores, Graciano Gomez, Pedro Holguin, prisoner of war, Henry L. Hooks, Brownie Jones, Robert Kocurek, Ramon D. Martinez, Sr., Everett Marshall, Roy McKeel, Pearl Harbor survivor, Frank Mena, Jr., Nick Montano, Almadge Newkirk, Joseph Nieto Gomez, Airman, awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor, Luis Contreras, Ralph Flores, Graciano Gomez, Pedro Holguin, prisoner of war, Henry L. Hooks, Browne Jones, Robert Kocurek, Ramon D. Martinez, Sr., Everett Marshall, Roy McKeel, Pearl Harbor survivor, Frank Mena, Jr., Nick Montano, Almadge Newkirk, Joseph Nieto Gomez, awarded the Silver Star (received by widow, Trini Gomez), John Petrie, prisoner of war, Joe Ramirez, Willie Roberts, E.G. Rodriguez, Phil Rossi, Carl Willeck, and Gilbert Zamorano, recipient of the Purple Heart.

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Congressman Baca recognized 25 veterans by name, and awarded a special medallion with the inscription: 'a veteran of World War II, your sacrifices to God and Country are not forgotten.' He stated that 'they answered the call to defend our country and made history with their courage and bravery. To recognize them is to revive a part of our past as Americans.'

Congressman Baca presented the Community Leadership Award to Judith Battey, long-time community volunteer; Anthony Bocanegra, executive director of the Sinfonia Mexicana; Faye Coates, official soloist, City of Rialto; Dr. Arlene Piazza, school board member, Fontana Unified School District; and Dr. Antonio Flores, president of Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities presented the award to Frank Reyes, Executive Director of Government Relations, San Bernardino Community College District. Special award was presented to the Inland Empire Hispanic News, Dr. Antonio Flores, president of Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities presented the award to Frank Reyes, Executive Director of Government Relations, San Bernardino Community College District. Special award was presented to the Inland Empire Hispanic News for its 20th year of publication.

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CELEBRATING A SOLDIER’S RETURN HOME

(NAPS)—When a family member returns home from serving abroad, it’s truly cause for celebration. But experts say it’s important to remember that feelings of joy could be accompanied by worries caused by the many changes returning soldiers face.

“Research suggests that reunions are often more stress inducing than experts say it’s important to truly cause for celebration. But whenever there’s a change in a family, children work to find out whether it might mean any loosening of limits. Together, apply rules fairly and consistently.

• Don’t force talk about the experience of war, but be open to it when the time is right. It’s often a better idea for the service member to talk through any tough experiences with a chaplain, a family service center counselor, or another trusted adviser or friend. If you do talk about painful experiences as a couple, try hard to listen with judgment.

• Be supportive in activities that you enjoy and that help you relax. You may need to be flexible to fit these activities into the new family schedule, but do your best to find a way.

• Don’t give up activities that you and your spouse take on household tasks at a pace that’s comfortable for both of you.

• Spend time talking with each other. You’ve both been through separate experiences and you’ve both changed in some ways as a result. Talking can help you to get to know each other again, to regain the intimacy you had before and to rebuild family routines that include you both.

• Don’t force talk about the experience of war, but be open to it when the time is right. It’s often a better idea for the service member to talk through any tough experiences first with a chaplain, a family service center counselor, or another trusted adviser or friend. If you do talk about painful experiences as a couple, try hard to listen with judgment.

• Take time to celebrate. It’s a good time to talk about the positive aspects of your marriage and your future together. Think about what you’d like to do for your anniversary, and make sure your relationship is the focus of your celebration.

• Expect your children to test the rules. You may need to be flexible to fit these activities into the new family schedule, but do your best to find a way.

• Remember that it is hard for children to control their excitement. Let them give and get the attention they need from both of you before you try to have quiet time alone as a couple. Also, children’s reactions to their soldier’s return will differ according to their ages.

Families

• Watch your spending. Now that your family is back together as a family you’ll have some added expenses (another adult mouth to feed, for one thing). Don’t lose control of the budget celebrating your partner’s return.

• Seek professional help if you think there is a problem. Some anger and some tears can be expected after a long or difficult deployment, but excessive anger, mean-spirited fighting, and violence are signs that you need help. Don’t feel that you have to solve serious emotional problems on your own.

More Information

The Army Reserve Family Programs Office helps soldiers and families deal with the issues surrounding a military member’s homecoming. For more information and tips, visit www.arfp.org.

TOO MANY LATINO MEN ARE LIVING IN PRISON

By RYAN S. KING and ANGELA MARIA ARBOLEDA

Largely obscured by the rancorous debate surrounding U.S. immigration policy is the emergence of a trend that should be a cause of concern to all Latino communities: The explosion of the number of Latinos in prison.

There were 55,000 Latinos doing time in the United States in 1985. That figure has increased by more than 400 percent in 20 years, a substantially steeper rate of increase than for whites or blacks.

Currently, there are more than 450,000 Latinos in U.S. prisons or jails.

With one-in-six Latino males born today expected to spend some time in prison during their lives, the future portends devastating consequences for Latino communities.

This incarceration data stands in stark contrast to a growing body of research suggesting that Latinos, who now make up more than one of every five persons held behind bars, are less likely than other groups to commit crime and that the immigration of the 1990s may have been partially responsible for the historic declines in crime.

Causes for rising Latino incarceration are complex, but an important explanatory factor is the “war on drugs.” Despite using drugs at a rate proportionate to their share in the general population, Latinos are twice as likely as whites to be sentenced to a state prison on a drug charge. Nearly one in four Latinos sitting in prison has been convicted of a drug offense.

Different patterns in law enforcement — where the police choose to pursue the war on drugs — play a greater role in determining who is arrested and sentenced to prison than general trends in drug use.

Add to that the collateral consequences from a felony conviction.

These can include barriers to employment, denial of certain licenses, lack of access to education and housing aid, loss of voting rights, and, in some cases, deportation.

Such “invisible punishments” create substantial obstacles to a successful re-entry to the community and increase the likelihood of recidivism.

Despite this spate of distressing news, there are efforts that can be undertaken to stem the tide of disproportionate Latino incarceration.

First, lawmakers should heed the wisdom of our current drug control policies. It’s a much more effective tool to produce than warehousing people.

It takes a toll on communities of color while doing little to address the underlying causes of drug abuse. Investing in proven prevention and treatment strategies is far more productive than warehousing people. It’s a much more effective tool to enhance public safety.

Secondly, state legislatures should expand upon the reforms implemented in 22 states since 2004 and reconsider such punitive sentencing provisions as mandatory minimums that expose individuals to punishments grossly disproportionate to the conduct for which they have been charged.

Forbidding discretion to sentencing judges would permit full consideration of the circumstances of the offense. This could prevent the reoccurrence of cases like that of first-time offender Weldon Anglos, who, because of inflexible sentencing enhancements, was sentenced to prison for 55 years.

His offense? Three marijuana sales while possessing a weapon he never used. The criminal justice system does not exist in a vacuum. Crime and its associated costs generally reflect a failure to provide equal access to resources such as education, employment, housing and health care. Inequalities in the criminal justice system extend far beyond policing, courts and corrections.

True reform can be achieved only when we seek to bring a broad range of community stakeholders to the table, and invest not merely in police and prisons but in neighborhoods and people.

King is a policy analyst with The Sentencing Project. E-mail him at rking@sentencingproject.org. Arboleda is associate director, criminal justice policy, with the National Council of La Raza. E-mail her at arboledad@nclr.org.
Inland Empire Hispanic News
Wednesday, November 28, 2007

CONGRESSMAN BACA SCHEDULES ANNUAL EDUCATION SUMMIT

Congressman Joe Baca presents “No Child Left Behind, Time for a New Federal Response” at California State University, San Bernardino, in association with Art Delgado, Superintendent, San Bernardino Unified School District; Donald Averill, Chancellor, San Bernardino Community College District; Herbert Fischer, County Superintendent, San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools; and Albert Karnig, President, Cal-State-San Bernardino, invites business, government, education, and the community to attend on the impact of the No Child Left Behind legislation on classrooms in San Bernardino County.

The Education Summit will be held on Friday, November 30, 2007, from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at CSUSB-Charles and Shelby Obershaw Dining Room (Upper Commons). Registration-continental breakfast at 8:00 a.m., program at 8:30 a.m.

PREPARING YOUR CHILD—AND YOURSELF—FOR PRESCHOOL

(NAPS)—Your child’s first day of preschool may be just around the corner, but you may already be concerned that she won’t make it into college because she hasn’t perfected counting to 10... in French.

With morning TV shows doting on pint-size geniuses and neighbors prepping their tots for topnotch private school “interviews,” many parents are feeling the heat to get their child’s academic career off to a good start. If your child is still a few ABC’s away from your comfort zone, don’t worry, there are other tips and tricks for ensuring preschool readiness:

• Ease separation anxiety. If your child hasn’t experienced much time away from you, think about arranging a weekend with Grandma, or a few nights with a babysitter. If you aren’t able to help your child adjust to the separation in advance, talk to your child’s teacher about allowing you to linger during his first few days in school.

• Enforce a schedule at home. Preschools usually follow a predictable routine: story time, snack, art time, playground, music time. If your child doesn’t keep to a schedule and each day is different from the last, it can help to standardize her days a bit before she starts preschool. Start by offering meals on a regular timetable. You can also plan to visit the park each afternoon, or set—and stick to—a bedtime routine.

• Introduce your child to technology. Today’s schools are more wired than ever as technology becomes an increasingly integral part of life. And chances are your child is already more familiar with your television remote control, DVD player, computer and cell phone than you are. But there are other, more age-appropriate technology products out there designed just for preschoolers. LeapFrog’s ClickStart My First Computer is one example of a safe way to introduce 3-6-year-olds to early keyboarding and musical skills on a keyboard that plugs into the TV.

• Practice playing with others. Many preschool activities, such as “circle time,” give children a chance to play and learn together, but also require them to sit still, listen to stories and sing songs. If your child isn’t used to facilitated group activities, you can start introducing them yourself. Take her to story time at the library, or sign her up for a class to help her get used to playing with other children.

Learn more at www.leapfrog.com.

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ENRIQUE R. ACÚÑA - A NEW LEGAL FACE IN THE INLAND EMPIRE

Inland Empire Latino Lawyers staff and volunteers, (l to r) Esther Torres, Claudia Saldivar, Enrique R. Acuña, Emaresdale Huizar, Laura Price, Fred Vasquez, Mike Carlin, and Abely Ros. Photo by IEHN

In 2006. He was admitted to practice law in the States of California, Nevada and New York in 2007, and in May, 2007, appointed director of the Inland Empire Latino Lawyers Association (IELLA).

He was appointed field representative by then-Assemblyman John Longville in 2000. “I acquired extensive knowledge in this position. Primarily, I became aware of the tremendous need to help people with legal issues. I realized that this is how I wanted to make my mark and serve my community,” he said.

During his tenure in law school in New York, Acuña was appointed field representative by then-Assemblyman John Longville in 2000. “I acquired extensive knowledge in this position. Primarily, I became aware of the tremendous need to help people with legal issues. I realized that this is how I wanted to make my mark and serve my community,” he said.

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Enrique Acuña has served as the Executive Director for the Inland Empire Latino Lawyers Association (“IELLA”) since May of this year. In these past seven months, Enrique has helped to move IELLA forward as an organization through his participation at many community events and his leadership in the office. Enrique has been instrumental in the creation of a new clinic at the City of Riverside’s Eric M. Solander Center, as well as coordinating two fundraisers to support the clinic’s operational costs. IELLA is very lucky to have Enrique - he is smart, has seemingly limitless energy and a determined passion for providing legal aid to the indigent communities of Riverside, Colton and Ontario.

Rina Gonzales, Chair, Inland Empire Latino Lawyers Association

Next Issue of the IEHN
December 12th
Arthur Marques Orona was born at March Air Force Base where his father, Arthur Orona, was stationed, and grew up in Fontana, graduating at March Air Force Base where his was of duty in Iraq, the couple decided she would become a stay at home mother, and was discharged as a second lieutenant.

Orona was deployed to Iraq on October 31, 2006 for a year of duty. While on combat duty, he was injured as a result of a mortar explosion. The injuries resulted in severe facial wounds. His recovery at C.A.S.H. (hospital in Iraq), lasted for many months, he was later returned to duty. Orona received the Purple Heart on July 21, 2007. He also received an Army Commendation Medal on July 4, 2007. While continuing to serve in Iraq, he adopted Melissa’s daughter, Brittany and re-enlisted for six years.

The wound has left scars on the side of his face, and he has severe hearing difficulties.

Orona returned to the United States on October 30, 2007, and on January 1, 2008, will be stationed at Fort Rucker, Alabama. He will be trained to become an Aircraft System Repairer and promoted to the rank of sergeant.


“We, the family, are very proud of Arthur. After being badly wounded, he is still dedicated to his country and re-enlisted to make the service his career. What more can our country ask of a dedicated soldier,” his wife, Melissa Orona stated.

ON THE STREETS

Last week, the National Alliance to End Homelessness released a report that found that one out of four homeless are veterans, many of them from the Vietnam War. The report suggested that veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan “may experience homelessness sooner than their counterparts in Vietnam.” By conservative estimates, the Iraq War already has cost almost $500 billion. 2007 is so far the bloodiest year, with 857 soldiers dead. And yet, the average American has had to sacrifice little, not money, and not peace of mind: It took a fight from a Delaware professor to even get the Pentagon to release images of coffins.

In that context, Arlington Miami was more than a tribute or a protest. It was a radical act of remembering, founded on the hope that a war conceived of abstraction and lies will crumble before the truth of a single death.

Just after 5 p.m. Monday, volunteers began to read the names of the Florida dead, starting with Lance Cpl. Brian Rory Buesing, of Delaware professor to even get the Pentagon to release images of coffins.

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UCLA INSTITUTE REPORTS CALIFORNIA'S K-12 ACHIEVEMENT GAP DUE TO NATIONAL OPPORTUNITY GAP AND RACIAL OPPORTUNITY GAP

Professor Jeannie Oakes presented findings at Achievement Gap Summation on November 14

Los Angeles - A new report published by UCLA's Institute for Democracy, Education, and Access (UCLA IDEA), and the University of California's All-Campus Consortium on Research for Diversity (UC ACCORD) suggests that California's well-publicized racial achievement gap is best understood as a product of the lack of educational opportunities across the state as well as the unequal distribution of these opportunities.

In August 2007, Superintendent Jack O'Connell called for greater public attention to the racial achievement gap in education, highlighting evidence that white and Asian students in California consistently outperform their African American and Latino peers. Some commentators assert that the persistent racial gap in achievement scores is simply a product of cultural differences that must be addressed if the gap is to be closed. This cultural argument suggests that this is because of cultural deficit on the part of American and Latino students are 22 times as likely as majority white and Asian students in California to experience a severe shortage of qualified teachers. The overall problems in California's public schools are compounded by the unequal distribution of resources and learning conditions. Schools attended mainly by African American and Latino students are more crowded than other schools and have fewer college preparatory courses. Middle schools that enroll 90% or more African American and Latino students are 22 times as likely as majority white and Asian middle schools to experience a shortage of qualified teachers. Truly closing the gaps that divide those students who are more deprived of fundamental learning conditions. Jeannie Oakes, director of UC ACCORD and co-director of UCLA IDEA, presented findings from the Educational Opportunity Report at Jack O'Connell's Achievement Gap Summit in Sacramento.

For more information and to obtain copies of the full report, please visit www.edopp.org

HOUSE PASSES BILL TO HONOR BEA WATSON
Bill Introduced by Rep. Baca Would Rename Fontana Post Office to Commemorate Public Servant

Washington, DC – House of Representatives passed legislation introduced by Congressman Joe Baca (D-Rialto) to honor the late Bea Watson, a dedicated public servant in the Fontana community. The bill, H.R. 3569, would designate the Post office at 16731 Santa Ana Avenue in Fontana, California, as the Beatrice E. Watson Post Office Building, and was unanimously passed by the House.

“With her kind words and smile, Bea Watson was a positive role model who led by example and a tireless friend to the people of Fontana,” said Rep. Baca. “From organizing the Fontana Days parades and annual prayer breakfasts, to her many works as an officer of the Women’s Club and Fontana Historical Society, her efforts touched the lives of all of us in the Inland area.”

Bea Watson died on August 5, at the age of 83. In over 45 years of life in Fontana, she served as an elected city councilmember and clerk, Historical Society officer, Women’s Club president, Chamber of Commerce, and organizer of annual parades and festivals. Because of her dedication to the community she loved, Bea was known to the many who admired her as “Mrs. Fontana.”

Senators Diane Feinstein and Barbara Boxer have introduced a Senate counterpart to H.R. 3569, S. 2290. If the Senate passes the legislation, the bill will go to the desk of the President and await his signature to become public law.

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A PLAY DAY AT CHILDREN'S MUSEUM WAS SUCCESSFUL EVENT
By Janet Egan

"A Play Day at a Special Place Museum" on Saturday, November 17, 2007 was a great success for approximately 400 children and their family members in attendance at the Perris Hill Park, San Bernardino.

The structured theme was for families and children to develop interrelationships, and for parents to become acquainted with the multi-service agencies and related resources that are available in the area. An added incentive was to give children of all ages a full day of fun and play and enjoyment of a variety of health foods.

Thanks to Children's Fund for providing the nice lunch. In addition, fruit donated by Farmers Market in San Bernardino with dessert and refreshments donated by Hometown Buffet in Loma Linda. San Bernardino County Public Health provided a healthy snack and important health and nutrition information. San Bernardino County Department of Children's Services assisted in planning, serving lunch, recruiting foster parents and supervising children's activities.

Children's Network distributed jump ropes and safety information and held a raffle for the families. Terrance Stone from Young Visionaries was an entertaining emcee for the event; Team Kids provided ID cards and many sporting activities. Thanks to Operation Phoenix staff for coordinating numerous details and extra help with the sporting activities.

Goodwill Southern California provided useful employment information for parents and crafts for kids. A Special Place Museum staff provided stimulating activities and supervised children. Community volunteers helped with barbecuing, food distribution, raffle items, and assisting with children's sporting activities. A Special Place Museum staff provided stimulating activities and supervised children. Community volunteers helped with barbecuing, food distribution, raffle items, and assisting with children's sporting activities.

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The National Alliance for Human Rights (NAHR) announced at a press conference on Wednesday, November 21 in the City of San Bernardino the results of the “First Leadership Parliament of Mexicano Leaders in the United States” that was held in Mexico City on November 16 and 17, 2007.

The more than 450 delegates from throughout the U.S. were joined by their Mexicano counterparts for the purpose of identifying issues of mutual concern and accordingly, developing future strategic action. The specific areas of discussion were: (1) Immigration, (2) Prosperity, and (3) National Security and Defense of All Earned Rights.

Of greatest importance was the development and approval of a bi-national plan, which includes the establishment of a Bi-National Parliament comprised of the more than 450 delegates. In an effort to kick-off the process, a national planning committee was established that includes two representatives from the Inland Empire, Rosa Marta Zarate and Daniel Morales. The resolutions and particulars of the plan will be presented in future press conferences.

NAHR Coordinator Armando Navarro stated, “The results of the First Bi-National Parliament are truly historically unprecedented. They will contribute to a further unification and coordination of efforts in the promotion of human rights between Mexico and Mexicanos in the United States.”
CATHOLICS IN ALLIANCE STATEMENT ON "FAITHFUL CITIZENSHIP"

Catholics in Alliance for the Common Good released the following statement after the U.S. Catholic bishops approved a political responsibility statement at their fall meeting in Baltimore, MD.

Washington, DC - Catholics in Alliance for the Common Good welcomes the U.S. bishops' statement on political responsibility as an essential call for a new kind of political engagement that challenges Catholics to be guided by moral convictions and a commitment to the common good rather than partisan loyalty.

"As the divisive battles of another election year approach, the bishops have offered a powerful message for people of faith to raise a clear moral voice for the common good rather than partisan loyalty," said Alexia Kelley, executive director for Catholics in Alliance for the Common Good "We are called as Catholics not to simply follow partisan political agendas, but to draw wisdom and guidance from the fullness of Catholic social teaching with its focus on peace, justice and the common good."

Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship, issued every four years before a presidential election, clearly articulates the broad range of issues found at the heart of Catholic teaching. Abortion, human cloning, racism, torture, genocide and the targeting of non-combatants in acts of terror or war can never be justified, according to the bishops' document.

"Building a consistent culture of life requires supporting women and families, ending an unjust war, ensuring workers are paid a living wage and immigrants are treated with dignity," Kelley added. "Being pro-life is about making real in the world Jesus' command to love our neighbors as ourselves not about a single issue or a sound-bite used for political gain."

Catholics in Alliance for the Common Good also calls attention to an Iraq war statement released at the bishops' meeting from Bishop William Skylstad, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

"Our nation must focus more on the ethics of exit than on the ethics of intervention," Bishop Skylstad said. "The morally and politically demanding but carefully limited goal of responsible transition should aim to reduce further loss of life and address the humanitarian crisis in Iraq, the refugee crisis in the region, the need to help rebuild the country and human rights, especially religious freedom."

The full statement about Iraq can be read at http://www.usccb.org/comm/archives/2007/07-186.shtml

ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS NOT U.S. HEALTH CARE BURDEN-STUDY

CHICAGO - (Reuters) - Illegal Latino immigrants do not cause a drag on the U.S. health care system as some critics have contended and in fact get less care than Latinos in the country legally, researchers said on Monday.

Such immigrants tend not to have a regular doctor or other health-care provider yet do not visit emergency rooms — often a last resort in such cases — with any more frequency than Latinos born in the United States, according to the report from the University of California's School of Public Health.

The finding from Alexander Ortega and colleagues at the school was based on a 2003 telephone survey of thousands of California residents, including 1,317 undocumented Mexicans, 2,851 citizens with Mexican immigrant parents, 271 undocumented Latinos from countries other than Mexico and 852 non-Mexican Latinos born in the United States.

About 8.4 million of the 10.3 million illegal aliens in the United States are Latino, of which 5.9 million are from Mexico, the report said.

"One recurrent theme in the debate over immigration has been the use of public services, placing an unreasonable burden on the public. Despite a scarcity of well-designed research ..., use of resources continues to be a part of the public debate," they said.

The researchers said illegal Mexican immigrants had 1.6 fewer visits to doctors over the course of a year than people born in the country to Mexican immigrants. Other undocumented Latinos had 2.1 fewer physician visits than their U.S.-born counterparts, they said.

"Low rates of use of health-care services by Mexican immigrants and similar trends among other Latinos do not support public concern about immigrants' overuse of the health care system," the researchers write.

"Undocumented individuals demonstrate less use of health care than U.S.-born citizens and have more negative experiences with the health care that they have received," they said.

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FBI REPORT DOCUMENTS HATE CRIMES AGAINST LATINOS AT RECORD LEVEL

Hate crimes rise as anti-immigrant campaigns fill the airwaves and fuel anti-immigrant local ordinances

By Peter Zamora


The report shows a sharp increase in the number of hate crimes reported against Hispanics based on their ethnicity or national origin to the highest levels since the reports were first mandated by the Hate Crimes Statistics Act.

According to the report, in 2006, Hispanics comprised 62.8% of victims of crimes motivated by a bias toward the victims’ ethnicity or national origin. In 2004, the comparable figure was 51.5%. Since 2004, the number of victims of anti-Hispanic crimes increased by 25%.

"Anti-immigrant hatred heard on the radio and cable shows reaches America’s neighborhoods with real consequences," stated MALDEF President and General Counsel John Trasvina. "Heightened anti-immigrant sentiment has blocked immigration reform and seeks to turn local police into immigration law enforcers thus making it more difficult for victims to report crimes. The FBI report should serve as a wake up call to our nation’s leaders to take action on comprehensive immigration reform, reduce tensions and safeguard the basic civil rights and liberties of all Americans."


Peter Zamora can be reached at 202-293-2828