

Resource Access for Latin American Immigrants in Colorado

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Background

- Throughout history, many Latin American immigrants have moved to the United States, specifically Colorado, due to different push factors such as violence and financial instability (Mead & Hunt, 2022).
- These immigrants have struggled to access different resources such as healthcare, education, financial, and even labor resources (Klick 2015).
- **Through existing research, the goal of our study was to examine existing resources that immigrants attempted to access, whether successful or not, in order to understand improvements that can be made to social welfare systems.**

Project Topic

The goal of this research project was to assess the level of ease that Latin American immigrants have while attempting to access different resources like financial, educational, medical, and mental health resources.

Our primary question was:

- **What resources have Latin American immigrants accessed, or attempted to access during their transition to the United States?**

Our secondary questions included:

- **What was the reason(s) that you or your family [the Latin American immigrant] immigrated to Northern Colorado?**

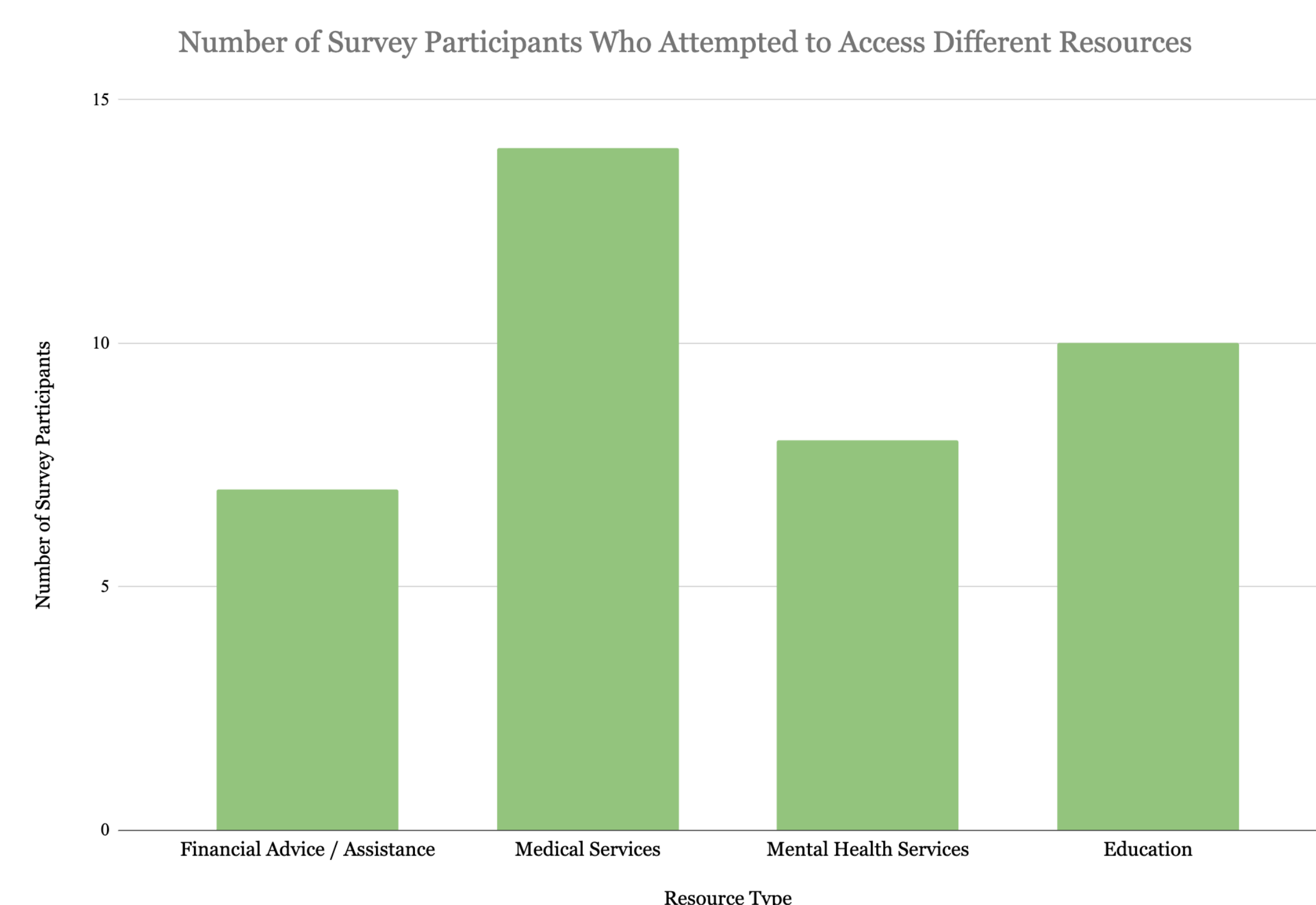


Figure 1: Resources that Latin American immigrants have tried to access, whether it was successful or not.

Methods

- Qualitative and Quantitative methods were used in this research.
- Qualitative methods included in-depth interviews with 6 participants.
- Quantitative methods included a survey via Qualtrics that yielded 21 responses, including demographic and short-answer questions.
- We used quota sampling and snowball sampling to reach out to our participants.

Results

- 90% of our participants immigrated to the United States because of educational reasons and access.
- The other 10% came for other reasons, including job opportunity or to be near family.
- Most of our participants on a scale of 1-100 rated the difficulty of immigration between 50 or 60.
- **Over 88% of our participants have needed some sort of medical, educational, mental health, or financial resources since arriving in Colorado.** Medical resources was the top answer in terms of the resources that were accessed by Latin American immigrants.
- There were mixed findings of how easy it was to get these resources, but mainly we found that participants believed the process was difficult for immigrants due to their status.

Conclusion & Discussion

- The long-term significance of our research would be to use our findings to help develop different social programs. These programs could be lists of different resources and support groups that Latin American immigrants could use to ease their transition to the United States.

Future Directions:

- **The project could evolve to facilitate policy change and increased number of resource sources.**
- How can Latin American immigrants be better supported in their transition to Colorado?
- What changes can be made to existing programs so that Latin American immigrants can feel less alienated in their communities?



Created with Datawrapper

Figure 2: Home countries of Latin American immigrations who participated in our survey

Acknowledgments

We thank Dr. Meagan Todd in the International Studies Department at Colorado State University for aiding and supporting our research project. We thank Greg Wymer from the International Programs Office (CSU) for helping in participant outreach. We also thank El Centro (CSU) for supporting our work and helping in participant outreach. Lastly we thank all of our participants for partaking in our survey and research project.

References

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