



Grief and Immigration Challenges

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Grief's Journey Services

- Support Groups
 - Monthly
 - 8-Session
 - CARE: Serious Illness & Injury
- Family Days
 - Spring/Summer
 - Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead)
 - Tinsel & Tears
- Camp Hope: A Retreat for Grieving Teens
- Adults Helping Adults
- Bilingual (English/Spanish) programs

Grief and Immigration Challenges

- Developing program to address grief and immigration challenges
 - When families/loved ones are separated due to immigration issues
 - Response to long-time community need
 - Committed to developing strong curriculum
- Grief and Immigration Challenges Task Force
 - Justice for Our Neighbors
 - Omaha Public Schools
 - Mental/Behavioral Health Professionals

National Statistics

- Within the past 30 years, the Latino population has more than tripled in the U.S. from 14.6 million to 48.4 million in 2009
- 30% of the more than 68 million young adults (ages 18-34) in the U.S. were reported to be foreign born or of foreign born parents in 2009
- The Latino population accounts for over 40% of the 81 million people added to the population in the U.S. between 1980-2009

National Characteristics

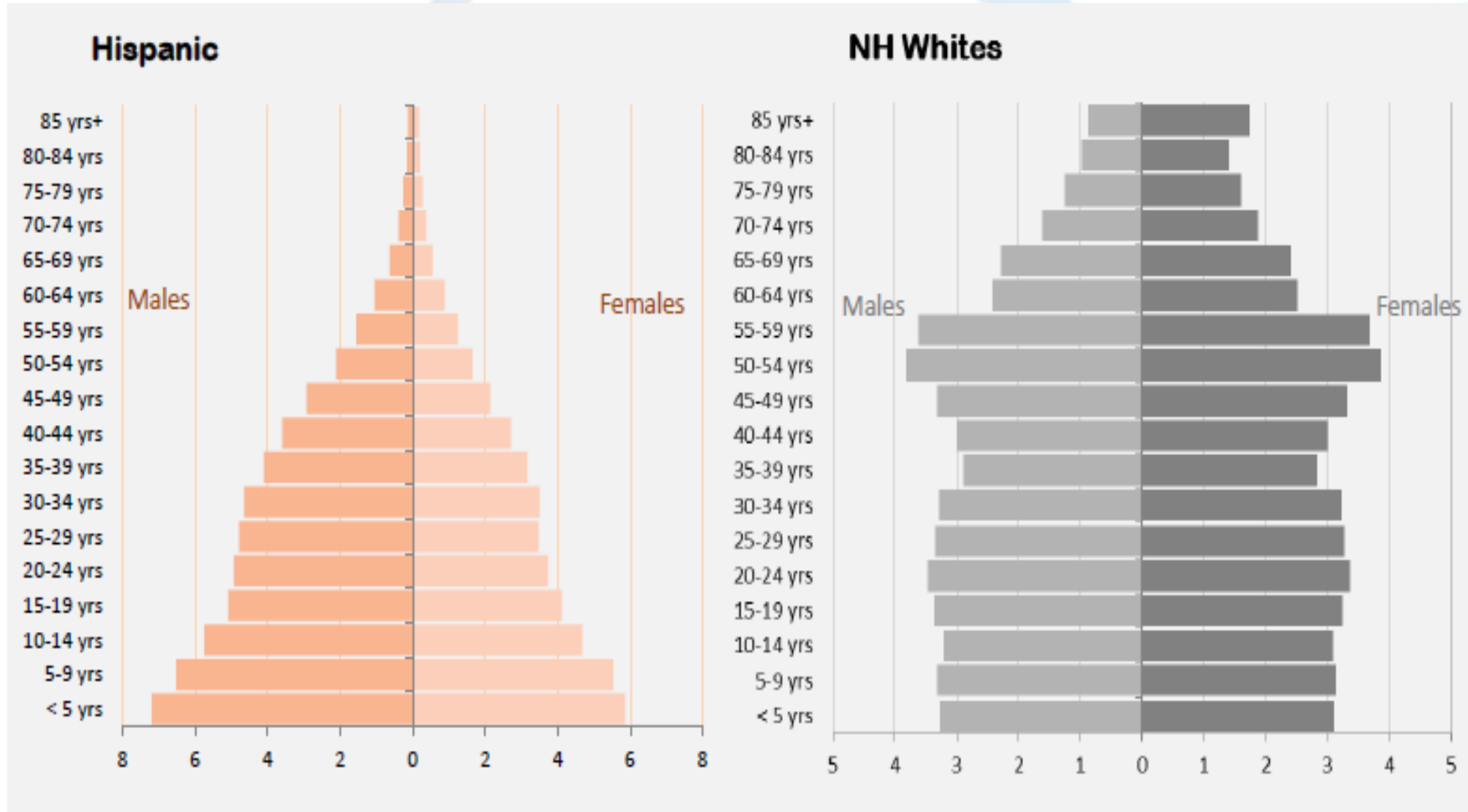
- 2009: Median age of Latinos-29, Whites-41
 - 5 times the number of children under 15 years old compared to persons 65 and older
 - High percentage of childbearing age
 - Latina women on average have 3 births, 1 more compared than White, Asian, and Black women
- *63% of Latinos are born in the United States (population growth due to natural increase)***

Nebraska: A Reflection of the Bigger Picture

- In Nebraska the Latino population has jumped from 28,025 in 1980 to over to 160,000 Latinos in 2011
- Latinos are an even younger population in Nebraska compared to the nation, with an average age of 23 compared to 27 for Blacks and 39 for Whites in 2009
- In the last 15 years the Latino student population has doubled – from 20,000 to over 40,000 in 2010

Latino Population in Nebraska

Age-Sex Pyramids for Latinos and Non-Hispanic Whites, Nebraska 2012

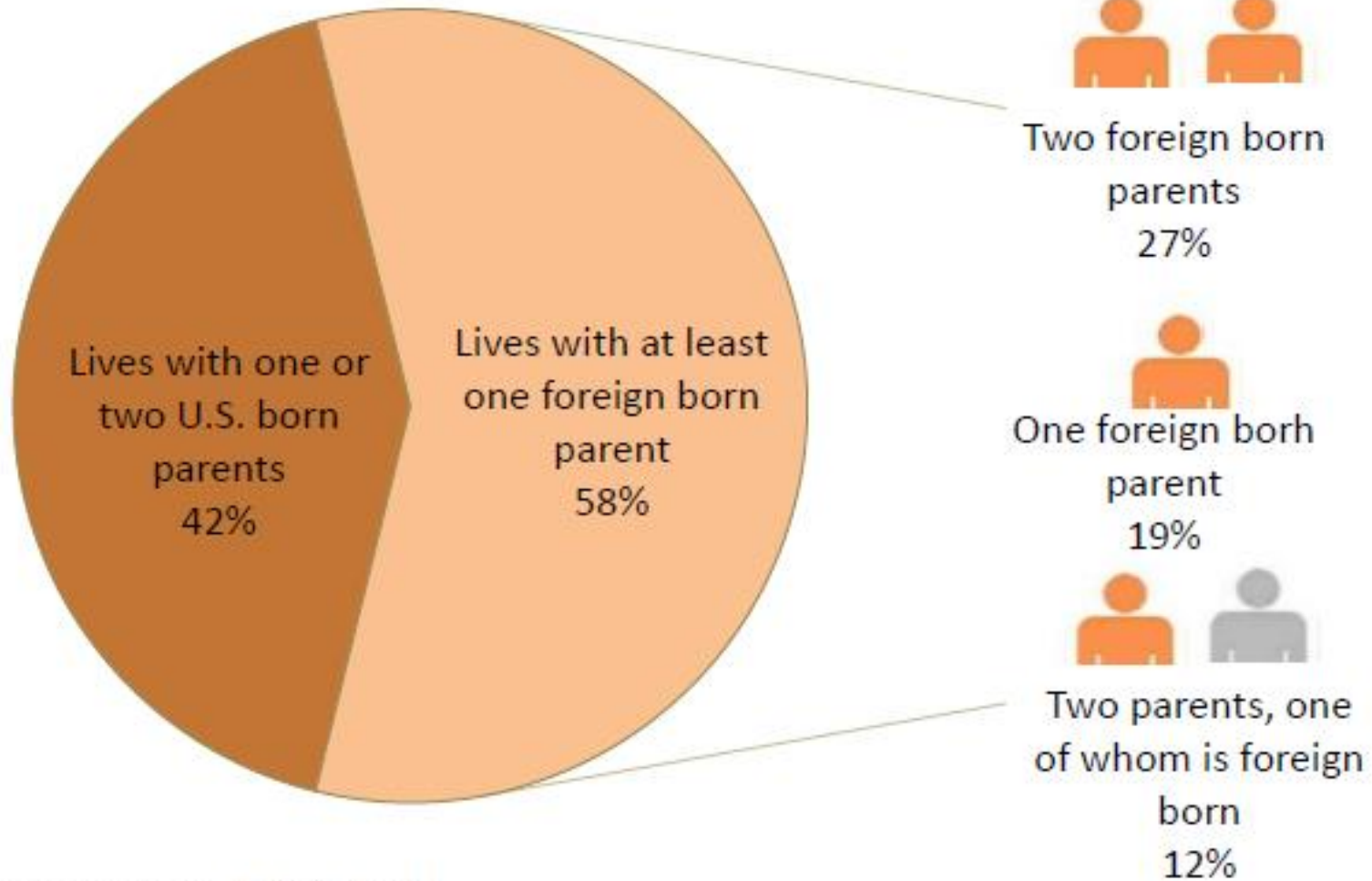


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-2012 American Community Survey

Latino Population in Nebraska

- Three-in-five Latinos living in Nebraska were born in the United States. Two out of these three U.S.-born Latinos are Nebraskans by birth
- A significant proportion of U.S.-born Latino children depend on immigrant parents

Latino Population in Nebraska



Source: ACS 2008-2012

Latinos and Immigration Challenges

- In 2014, there was an estimated 12 million undocumented Latino immigrants living in the U.S.
- Estimated that 4.5 million children of undocumented parents are U.S. citizens
- 65,000 undocumented students graduate high school per year nationally
 - Undocumented students most often identify with U.S. culture, rather than culture of birthplace

Latinos and Immigration Challenges

- Over 3 million personas have been deported over the last 8 years
- 2006: 70% of individuals in formal removal proceedings lived in the U.S. for an average of 14 years
- For every 2 undocumented immigrants deported, 1 U.S. citizen child is directly affected

Latinos and Immigration Challenges

- Child welfare concerns:
 - Latino children are the fastest growing population in the Child Welfare System
 - 10% of Child Welfare cases involve a child with an undocumented primary caregiver
 - 2012 data shows up to 200,000 children were separated from a parent due to deportation
 - Child welfare departments tend not to place children with undocumented relatives, but rather in the Foster Care system

Grief and Immigration Challenges

- Impact of immigration challenges on children and families can lead to many emotions:
 - Abandonment
 - Trauma
 - Fear
 - Anxiety
 - Depression
 - Anger
 - Confusion
 - Withdrawal
 - Stigma
 - Culture shock
 - Substance abuse
 - Promiscuity
 - Insecurity
 - Aggression
 - Poor school performance
 - Attachment disorder

Grief and Immigration Challenges

- Huge impact on students:
 - Economic hardship
 - Development and Speech delay
 - Academic decline
 - Truancy
 - Motivation
- Parental separation as a life event is associated with increased behavioral/emotional problems in youth
 - Has also been found to strongly influence quality of family relationships even 2 decades after separation

What Can We Do?

- No matter what individual views on immigration are, we can still help support our community
- Language matters
 - No human is “illegal”; the process of not obtaining legal paperwork is illegal – not the person
 - Experts, including the Associated Press, prefer the term “undocumented immigrant” to maintain the personhood of the individual

What Can We Do?

- Be informed:
 - UNO: Office of Latino/Latin American Studies (OLLAS)
 - South Omaha Community Care Council
(<http://soccouncil.org/>) *3rd Wednesday of odd months
 - Justice for Our Neighbors
- Let students know you are a safe person to talk to for help
- Can refer students/families to services without worry that they will be reported to Homeland Security
 - Many undocumented families avoid doctors, police, counselors, social workers, CPS, lawyers, and paper work – out of fear of being deported

Final Thoughts & Questions?

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