

Spanish Language and the Hispanic/Latino Population

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Page 1: Overview

Background

The background of exploring this topic has to do with thinking my fluency in Spanish and my youngest brother’s fluency in Spanish who is ten years younger. While I noticed my fluency is sufficient, my brother’s fluency is noticeably low and struggles to communicate with my parents. I wanted to explore if this is the case with the immigration generation and age range of Hispanic/Latino population.

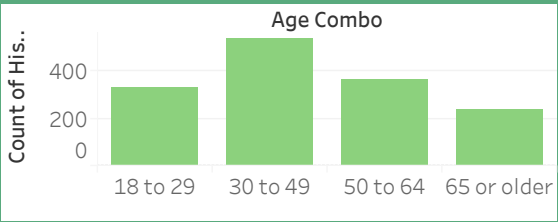
Data

The data used for the data story comes from the Pew Research Center, a non-partisan think tank that provides the public, information about trends that shape the world. From the Pew Research Center, I obtained a survey from 2015 called “2015 National Survey of Latinos.” The survey focused on identity, political views, assimilation, the economy, internet use, Hispanic/Latino as a distinctive group, parents’ view on being Hispanic/Latino, and the advantages of being one. Since the research focuses on the Spanish language, the topic of identity is the most important, and the data of other topics remain hidden in Tableau.



Photo by [Jon Tyson on Unsplash](#)

Hispanic/Latino Population by Age Group
(Excluding Teens and Children)



Count of Hispanic/Latino for each Age Combo. The data is filtered on Age, which keeps non-Null values only. The view is filtered on count of Hispanic/Latino, which includes everything.

Research Questions

Here are the two research questions upon investigating the data:

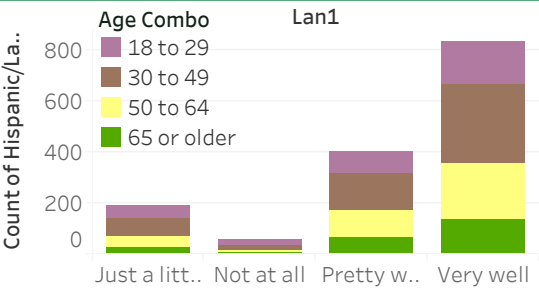
- 1.Is there a decline in fluency in Spanish for age range and immigration generation or is there a significant trend related to the language and the population?
2. How does the population see the language, is it important to preserve it in the future, and is it necessary to learn it to be Hispanic/Latino?

These are the research questions I seek to answer.

Spanish Language and the Hispanic/Latino Population

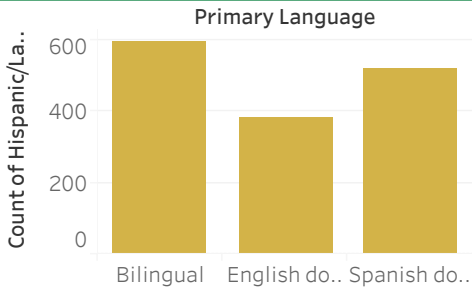
Page 2: Spanish Fluency and Understanding by Age Range

Latino/Hispanic Population Spanish Fluency and Understanding by Age Range



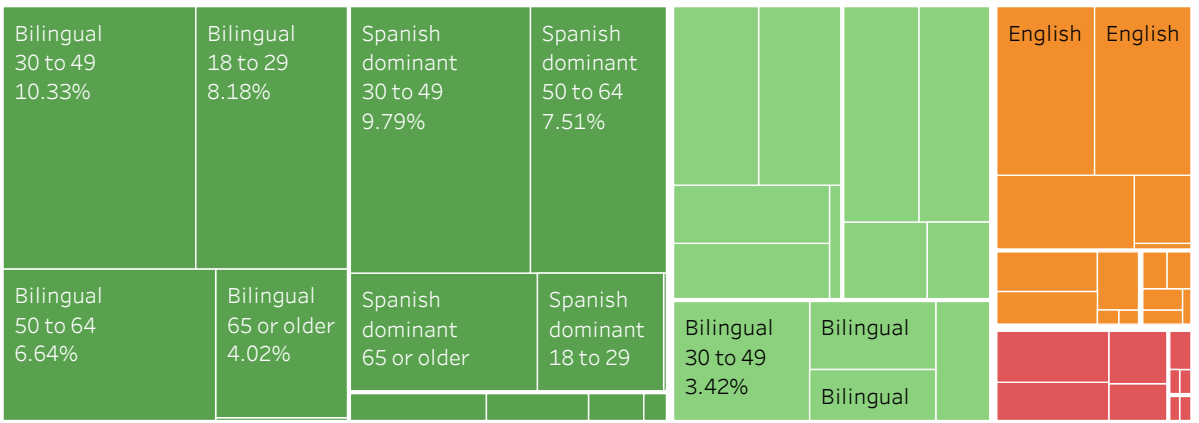
With the distribution in mind, most of the population understand Spanish and are fluent in Spanish. The distribution of level of understanding and fluency seems to be even per each age range.

Primary Language for Latino/Hispanic Population



Looking at the distribution of the primary language for the Latino/Hispanic population, most of the population are bilingual, with Spanish dominated speakers coming in a close second. The gap between English speakers and Spanish speakers is noticeable.

Primary Language and Spanish Fluency and Understanding by Age Range



Lan1

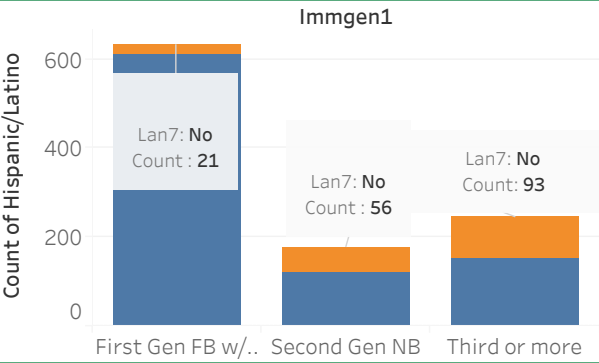
- Just a little
- Not at all
- Pretty well
- Very well

The treemap shows the distribution of the language fluency and understanding based on the age range and the primary language the population uses. Those who tend to be very fluent are either bilingual or primarily speak Spanish, and for the most part they're in the 30 to 49 age range.

Spanish Language and the Hispanic/Latino Population

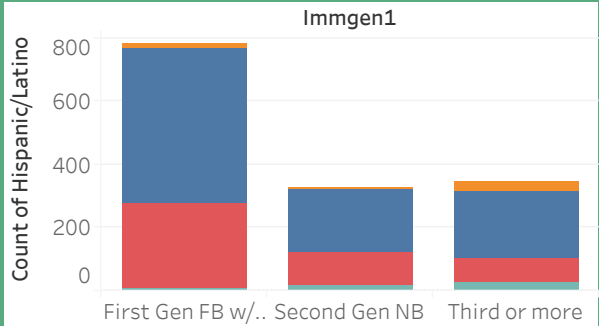
Page 3: Spanish Language and Hispanic/Latino Population by Immigration Generation

Does the Population Speak Spanish to their Children By Immigrant Generations



The bar graph shows the first generation or foreign born immigrants mostly speak Spanish to their children. This trend is starting to go down as the second generation or native born population mostly speak the language to their children, there are more who don't speak it than the first generation. This downward trend continues with third or more generation where about a third of the population say they don't speak the language to their children.

Do Parents Speak Spanish by Immigration Generation

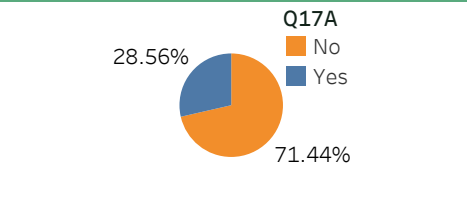


The bar graph shows if the populations' parents speak Spanish by immigration generation. There seems to be a general consensus that their parents speak the language to them and it's followed up with both of their parents speaking the language.

Spanish Language and the Hispanic/Latino Population

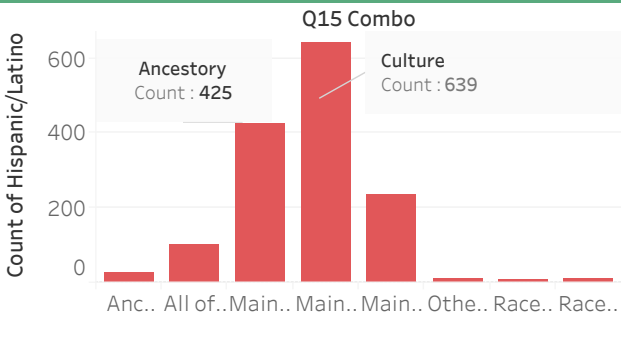
Page 4: Importance of Identity

Is it Necessary to Know Spanish to Be Hispanic/Latino



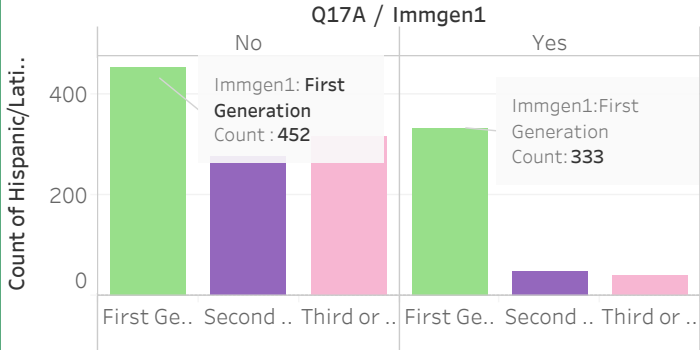
Looking at the pie chart, we see that about 71 percent of the population say that it's not necessary to know Spanish to be Hispanic/Latino and about 28 percent of the population believe it's necessary.

What Defines being Hispanic/Latino According to the Population



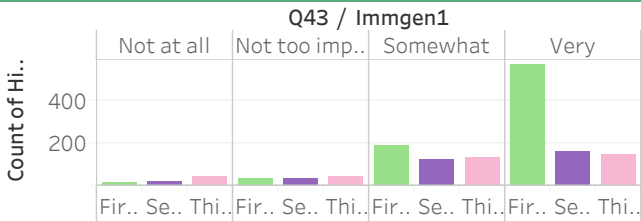
According to the population, most of the them mainly find that it's the matter of culture that defines being Hispanic/Latino. The runner up of this visualization is ancestry, and then race.

Is Speaking Spanish Considered Hispanic/Latino by Immigration Generation



By seperating the question of know the language to be Hispanic/Latino by immgration generation, we see that there a noticable divide between the foreign born or first generation immigrants who say it's not necessary and those that say it's necessary, This is divide is not present from the other generations.

Importance of Future Generation of Hispanic/Latino in the US Speaking Spanish by Immigration Generation



The data shows how even by generation that the majority of the population believes it's important for future generations in the US to speak Spanish and those who think it's not too important or not at all important are in the minority.

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Page 5: Conclusion and Next Steps

Conclusion

1. Is there a decline in fluency in Spanish for age range and immigration generation or is there a significant trend related to the language and the population?
- The gap of fluency and understand the Spanish language between age range is not so big after all, in fact most of population are bilingual. Even those who are English dominant can for the most part understand and be fluent in the language.
2. How does the population see the language, is it important to perserve it in the future, and is it necessary to learn it to be Hispanic/Latino?
- While the majority say learning Spanish is not part of the identity, most say it should be important for future generations to speak it as a way preserving the language and that is including those in native born generation and further generations. However, there is a divide among first generation immigrants who say that learning the language is necessary to be Hispanic/Latino and those who say it's not, the same cannot be said for other generations as the majority believe it's not necessary.

Next Steps:

If the language is not part of the identity it's the culture. The next step is to explore on what part of the culture is important and that includes roles, values, thoughts, and/or behaviors.

References:

2015 National Survey of Latinos: <https://www.pewresearch.org/hispanic/dataset/2015-national-survey-of-latinoa/>

Pew Research Center: About: <https://www.pewresearch.org/about/>



Photo by Paola Andrea on Unsplash