

Undocumented Latino Immigrants: Social and Family Connections



Latino  Decisions
Everything Latino Politics



April 18, 2013

Today's Discussion: Immigrant Perspective

Experience and perspectives of undocumented immigrants often missing in public debate over immigration reform and related policy.

1. Deep personal ties between undocumented immigrants and American citizens
2. Economically vested
3. Optimism about CIR prospects and citizenship

The Research

America's Voice
Education Fund
NALEO
Educational Fund,
and Latino
Decisions

- ❑ 400 Latino adult immigrants
- ❑ Self-identify as:
 - ❑ non-citizens
 - ❑ not “Legal Permanent Residents”
 - ❑ not having any other type of visa or documentation
- ❑ Conducted March 4 - 29, 2013
- ❑ All respondents selected at random
- ❑ Landline and cell-phone only households included
- ❑ Nominal margin of error is +/- 4.9%
- ❑ Interviews in Spanish and English at the subject's discretion

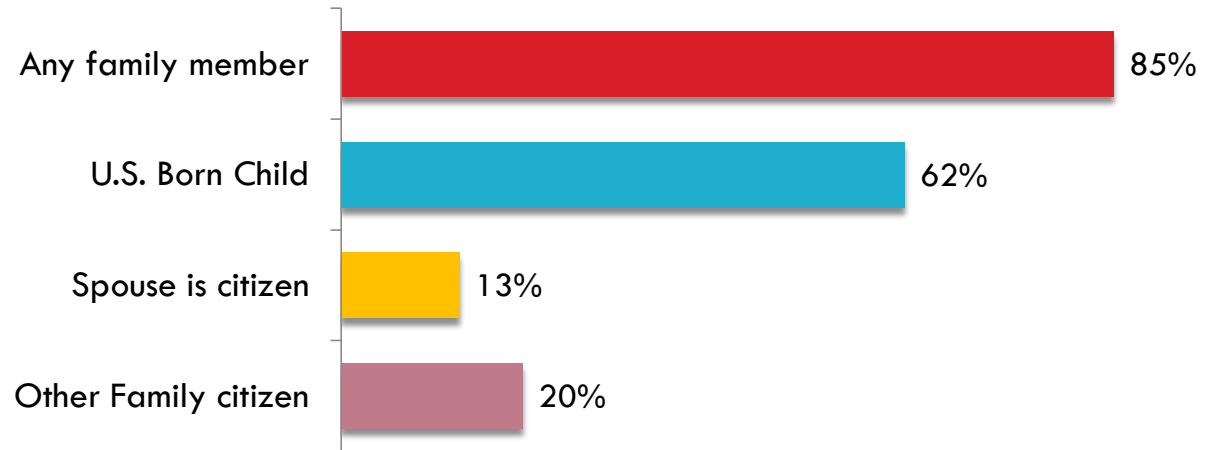
UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS: FAMILY ROOTS AND TIES



Family Ties to U.S. Citizens

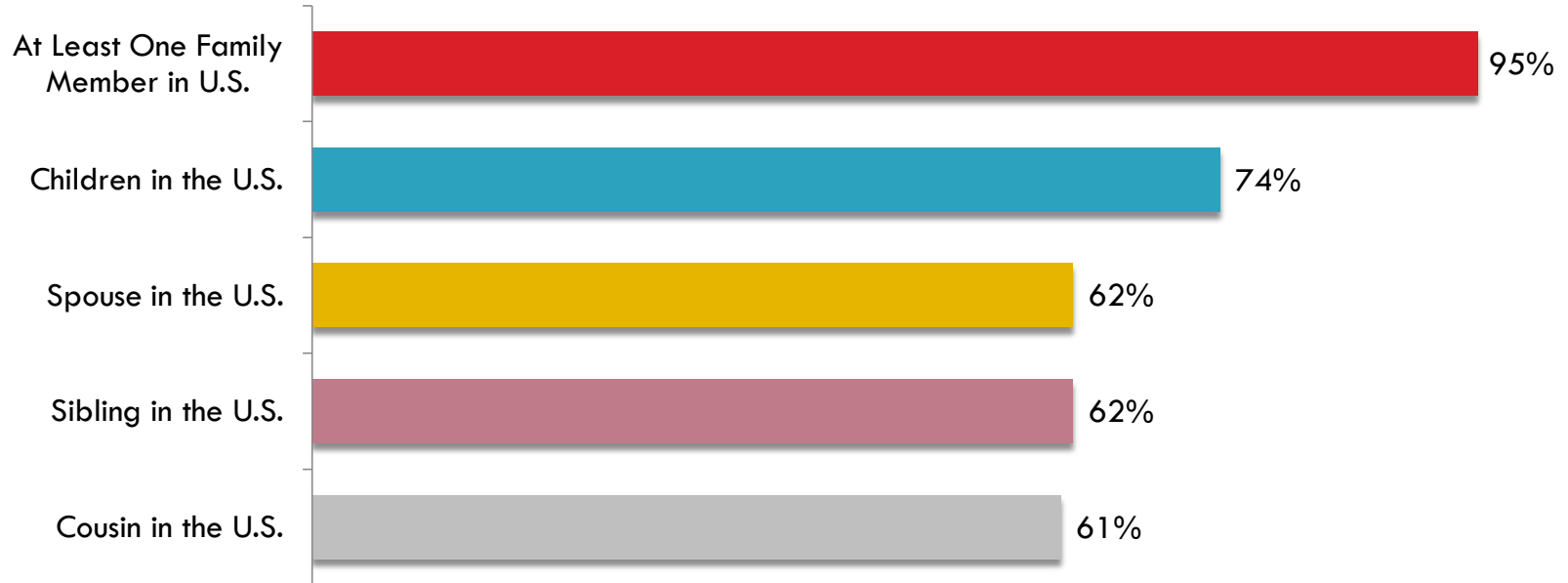
Vast majority of Latino undocumented immigrants have family who are U.S. citizens

Latino undocumented immigrant with U.S. citizen family members



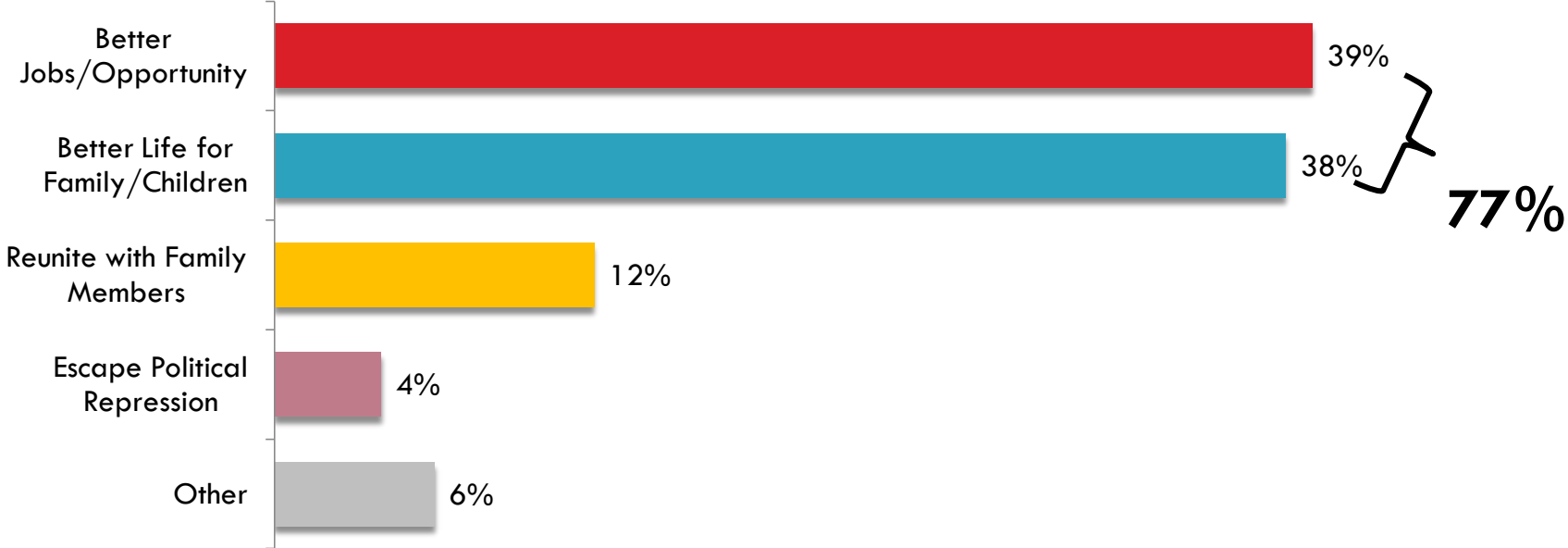
Source: Latino Decisions/NALEO Educational Fund/AVEF Undocumented Immigrant Survey, March 2013 (N=400)

Immigration is a Family Phenomenon



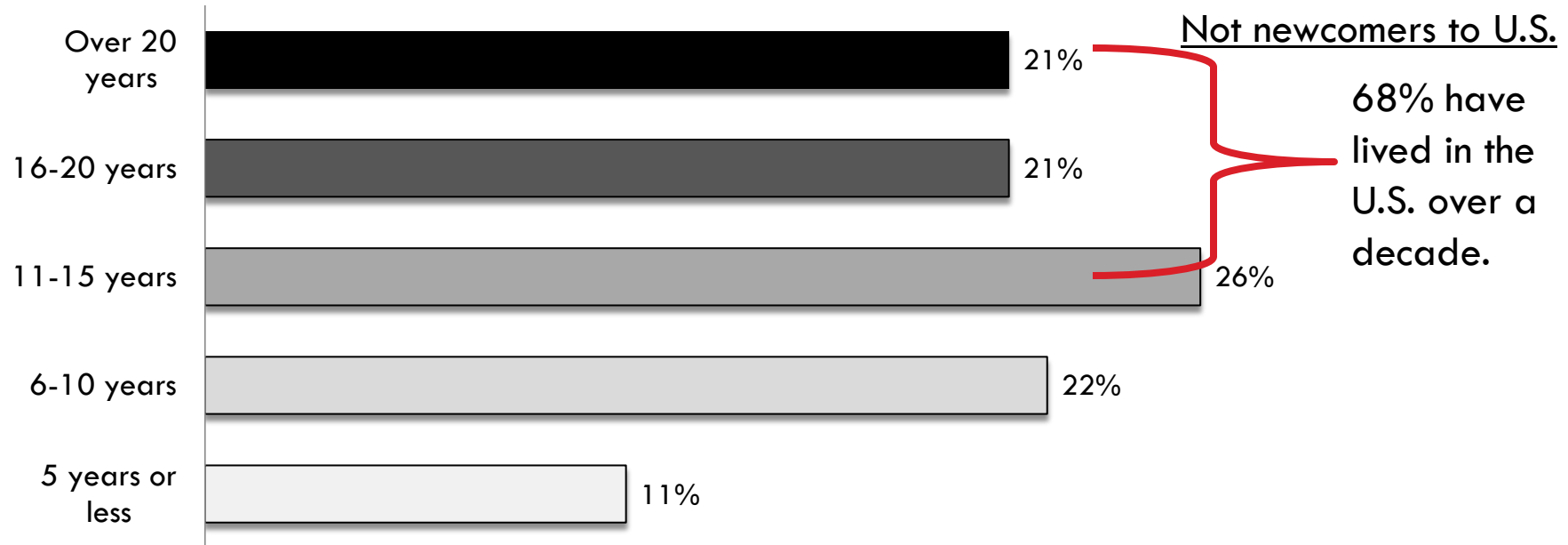
Source: Latino Decisions/NALEO Educational Fund/AVEF Undocumented Immigrant Survey, March 2013 (N=400)

Reason for Migrating to the U.S.



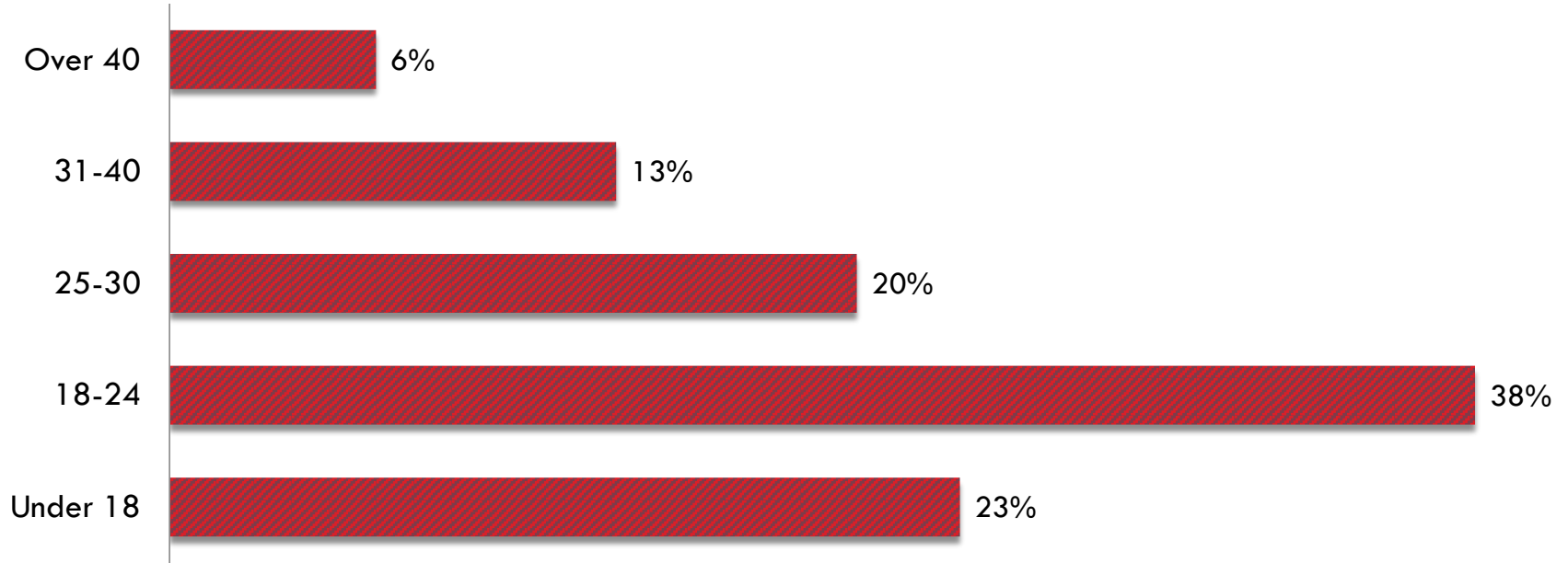
Source: Latino Decisions/NALEO Educational Fund/AVEF Undocumented Immigrant Survey, March 2013 (N=400)

Length of Residence in the U.S.



Source: Latino Decisions/NALEO Educational Fund/AVEF Undocumented Immigrant Survey, March 2013 (N=400)

Age at time of arrival to the U.S.



Source: Latino Decisions/NALEO Educational Fund/AVEF Undocumented Immigrant Survey, March 2013 (N=400)

Integrated into the economy

- 15% own their own home
- 48% personally own a car
- Additional 23% someone in household owns car

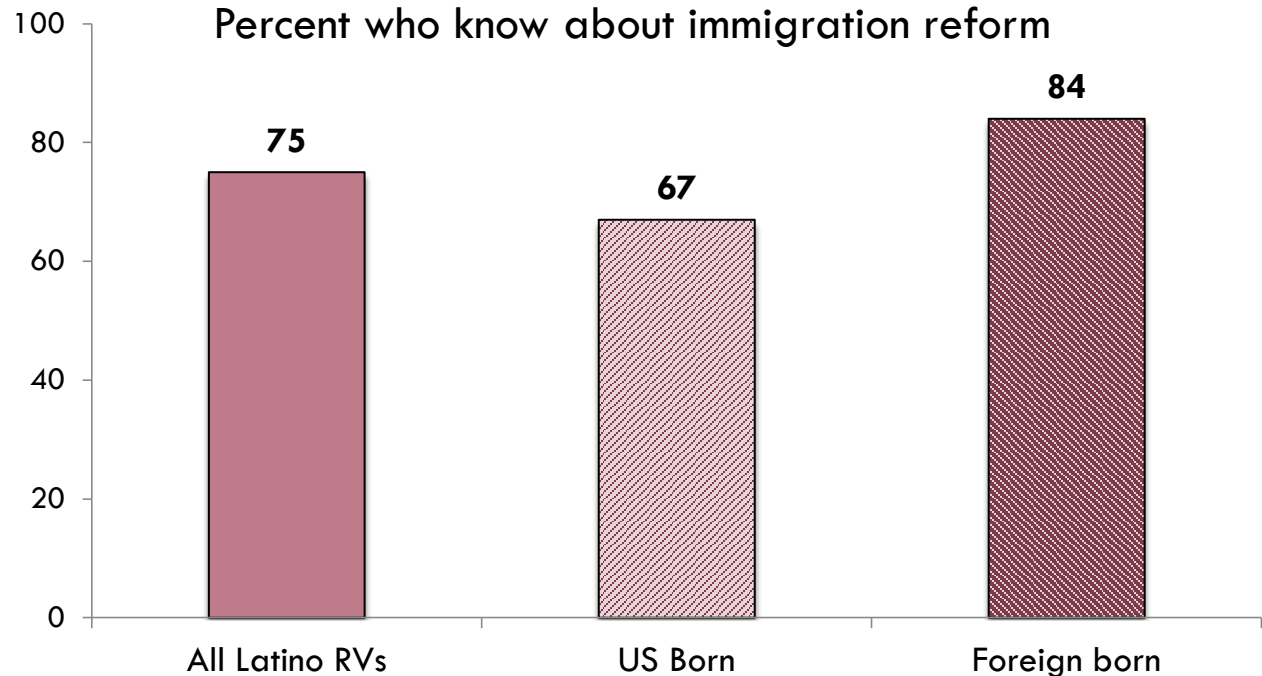
REACTIONS TO IMMIGRATION REFORM

Latino voters &
Undocumented Immigrants



Latino Voters are watching Congress

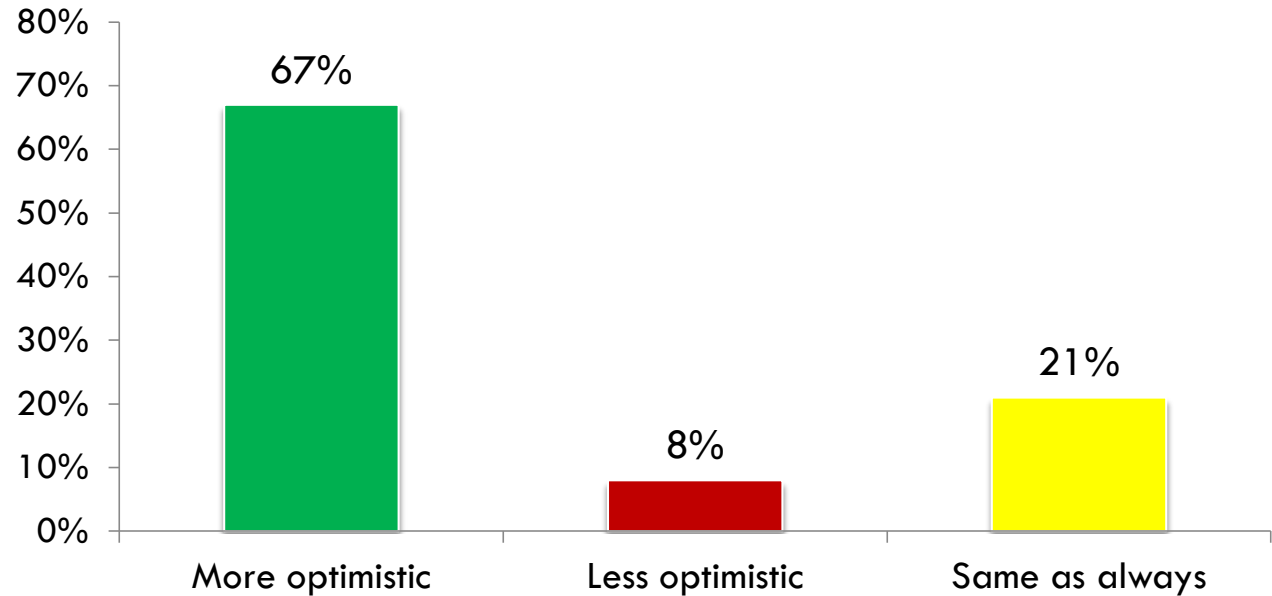
Have you heard or read anything in the news about the immigration reforms Congress is considering?



Latino Undocumented Immigrants

Thinking about the efforts this year: Are you more optimistic, or less optimistic that immigration reform will pass this year?

Optimism towards CIR passing this year



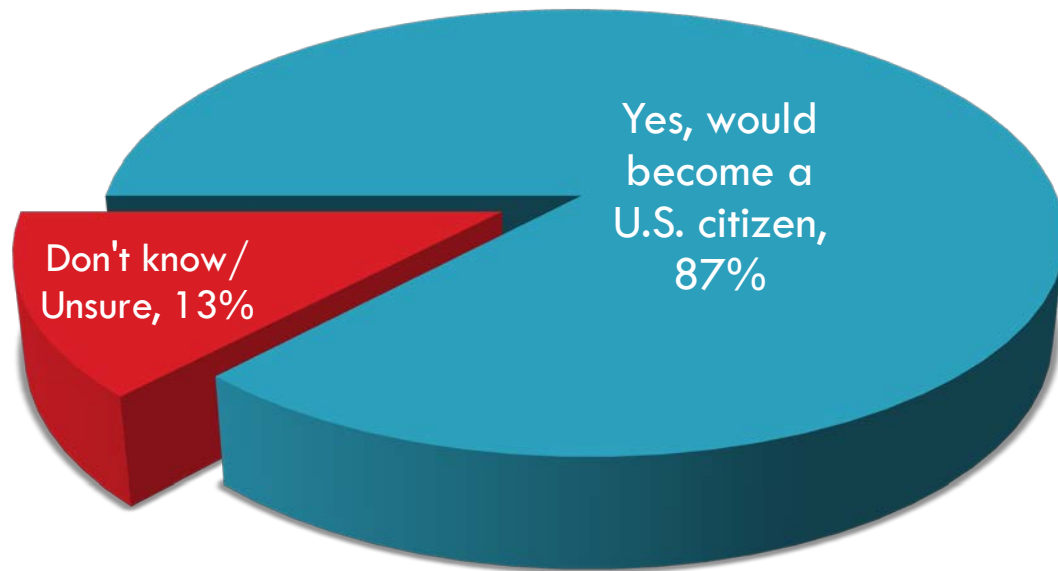
Latino registered voters

- 58% list immigration reform as top issue
- Up from 35% in November 2012
- 74% say extremely or very important that Congress passes CIR in 2013
- 63% of Latino voters personally know an undocumented immigrant

Strong Interest in American Citizenship

Among
undocumented
immigrants:

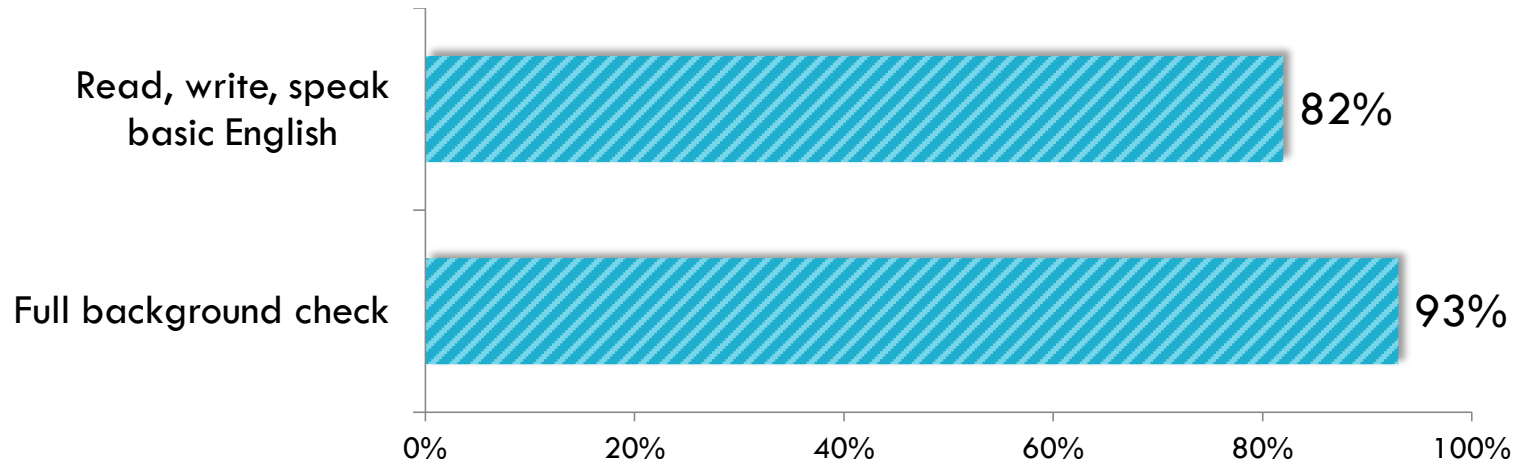
Intentions to
pursue
citizenship if
immigration
bill signed into
law



Source: Latino Decisions/NALEO Educational Fund/AVEF Undocumented Immigrant Survey, March 2013 (N=400)

Support for basic measures

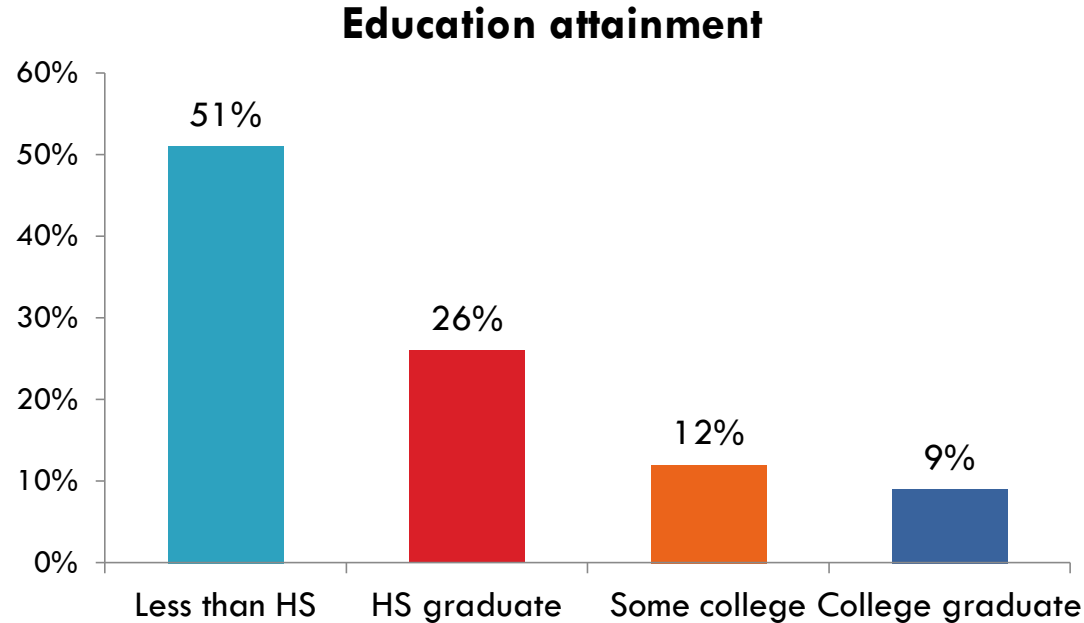
Thinking about your own situation, if you had an opportunity to gain permanent legal residence, and eventually apply for U.S. citizenship, would you find acceptable...



Source: Latino Decisions/NALEO Educational Fund/AVEF Undocumented Immigrant Survey, March 2013 (N=400)

Latino Undocumented Immigrants

While desire to learn English is very high, educational ESL programs will be essential to foster this transition



Source: Latino Decisions/NALEO Educational Fund/AVEF Undocumented Immigrant Survey, March 2013 (N=400)

Undocumented Latino immigrants

□ Employment sector and “work” provision

Construction (19%)

Factory work (13%)

Restaurant (13%)

House cleaning (12%)

Agriculture (10%)

Childcare (8%)

Gardening (5%)

Other category (20%)

Concluding thoughts

1. Undocumented immigrants will feel the impact of immigration reform policy more than any other group. Their perspectives merit consideration.
2. Undocumented Latino immigrants are closely connected to American citizens and legal residents: they are parents, siblings, spouses.
3. Policy should tend to the fact that immigration is a family phenomenon.
4. Undocumented immigrants are not strangers to the U.S. – they own property, are long time residents, it makes sense that they aspire to become U.S. citizens

THANK YOU



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Full topline/results posted at www.latinodecisions.com