

Contextualizing the Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on the Educational Experiences and Outcomes of Latinx College Students in Texas

(Article) This article assesses the impact of the pandemic on Latinx students' (n = 231) educational experiences and outcomes, including perceptions about institutional resources, coursework outcomes and experiences, and home educational environments.

Keywords: Latinx college students, education, COVID-19 pandemic, student perceptions, virtual learning

Collaborators: Vanessa Errisuriz, Alice Villatoro, Marisol McDaniel

Link: <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/15348431.2022.2052294>

Contextualizing the Impact of the COVID-19 on social determinants of health, well-being, and health behaviors among Latino college students in Texas

(Video presentation)

Keywords: COVID-19, social determinants of health, college students

Collaborators: Vanessa Errisuriz

Link: UNAVAILABLE

Individuals' efforts to sustain education during COVID-19 for Latina/o/x K-12 students

(Poster presentation) This study assesses the educational experiences of Latina/o/x parents and teachers of K-12 students during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Keywords: COVID-19, education, online education, parents, teachers

Collaborators: Pablo Pejlatowicz, Marisol McDaniel

Background

The switch to online education because of the COVID-19 pandemic led to parents of K-12 students adopting additional responsibilities of an educator. A 2020 study sample showed 41.1% of parents experienced a struggle in balancing employment needs, personal work and emotions with supporting their child's at-home learning (Garbe et al., 2020). K-12 teachers faced the challenge of having to adapt curriculum and work hours to support learning but also maintaining the engagement of students and parents. K-12 educators experienced increased stress and workload from having to deliver curriculum virtually without a lack of prior training on utilizing online resources. Surveys collected by the American Education Panel show that 26% of the teachers sampled had moderate need for support with regards to adapting and delivering their curriculum online (Hamilton et al., 2020). This gap in training and delivery of educational material raises the question of the quality of education being provided during the COVID-19 pandemic. For Latina/o/x parents and teachers, language barriers and the technological access barriers pose another concern regarding the quality of education being received by K-12 students during the pandemic (U.S.G.A.O., 2020).

The purpose of the research study was to assess the educational experiences of Latina/o/x parents and teachers of K-12 students during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Voces of a Pandemic

Voces of a Pandemic is a collaboration between the Voces Oral History Center and other higher education institutions. More than 225 interviews are available in the project's YouTube channel. The research team analyzed those interviews in search of the topics that pertain to the Latina/o/x population amidst the pandemic.

Methods

Thematic analysis of in-depth one-on-one interviews conducted with fifteen Latina/o/x individuals that either work in K-12 schools or are parents of children that attended K-12 schools during 2020. We extracted the participants' views rather than predefined views of the researchers. We coded themes using NVivo 1 (2020) software.

Results

"And it's, it's been challenging. As a professional, it's been challenging as like, you know, me just as a person because I'm at school working late. I feel tired. I feel like, you know, this is a lot of work. And um then the fact that I'm a first-year teacher as well it's it gets overwhelming. Now, with those feelings, I'm not saying like, I don't like my job, or I hate it, but it's definitely been harder at times um to feel like okay, like, yes, I'm appreciated, yes um like, what I'm doing is, you know, good work." Bianca (Latina, teacher and parent)

"So, one of the challenges was contacting parents; that was the very first thing that we had to do. We had to reach out to our parents within our classroom to find out who had tech-technology and who had who didn't. And then if they had technology, which many of them would say, 'yes, we have a tablet,' but then they didn't have internet service. So that was a challenge. And then we have the challenge of language difference, you know, barriers." Celeste (Latina, teacher)

"It was just always really tough for teachers because in the mariachi group that I'm in, the majority of the girls are teachers. ...So, they had to deal with being a teacher, online with their students and then they had to deal with being teachers of their own kids... So, I feel really bad for, if the parent, didn't have the support from their parents at home. I mean, if the kid doesn't have the support from the parents at home" Sandra (Latina, parent)

Results (continued)

Themes	Subcategories	Saliency
Increased Responsibilities	Parents as teachers	General (9 of 15)
	Teachers as navigators	Typical (7 of 15)
Barriers to Technology	Internet access	Typical (8 of 15)
	Insufficient # of devices	Variant (3 of 15)



Conclusion

Our findings support promoting digital access for all families in terms of training, devices, and Internet access. Our findings also support adjusting the teachers' resources and requirements for online education, as they differ from in-person pedagogical needs.

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References

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Unintended Consequences of a Pandemic: Health and Well-being of Texas College Students

(Lightning talk) This study investigates the impact of COVID-19 on Texas college students' well-being, mental health, substance use, physical activity, and sedentary behavior.

Keywords: COVID-19, College students, higher education, health, well-being

Collaborators: Vanessa Errisuriz, Alice Villatoro, Marisol McDaniel

Link: <https://utexas.app.box.com/file/742797642917?s=w5hg0galu1fe03xe4laj9udpn950kag6>

LatinXperts Episode 16: How Did COVID-19 Affect College Students' Learning and Financial Stability?

(Podcast) Researchers discuss how COVID-19 drastically impacted Texas Latinx college students' educational experiences, including ability and motivation to learn, academic outcomes, and financial stability.

Keywords: COVID-19, College students, higher education, academic outcomes, financial stability

Collaborators: Vanessa Errisuriz, Marisol McDaniel, and Alice Villatoro

Link: <https://podcasts.la.utexas.edu/latinxperts/podcast/episode-016-how-did-covid-19-affect-college-students-learning-and-financial-stability/>