“FALLING THROUGH THE CRACKS”

COVID-19 AND LATINO IMMIGRANTS

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The Leadership Scholars Certificate Program is a two-year selective, interdisciplinary certificate program that prepares Rutgers undergraduate women to be informed, innovative, and socially responsible leaders.

Leadership Scholars design and implement social action projects to expand their understanding of issues and problems and to develop leadership skills.

This project gives Scholars the opportunity to apply the theoretical knowledge they have gained about leadership, advocacy, and social change with the practical and experiential knowledge they have developed about a particular policy issue or problem through the field site placement. It also further develops leadership skills by giving undergraduates the opportunity to practice leadership through action.

To find out more please visit the Institute for Women’s Leadership’s website at http://iwl.rutgers.edu.
MISSION

The goal of “Falling Through the Cracks” is to bring awareness to the social and economic effects of COVID-19 on urban Latino immigrant communities in New Jersey.

My podcast focuses on two central themes:
● The lack of a social safety net for immigrants
● Latina immigrants and domestic work

In this podcast we take a look at the experiences of Latino immigrants during the pandemic and how they leveraged community resources in a time of need.

Feminist Leadership
● Researching and prioritizing the gendered impacts of COVID-19
● Most interviewees are women
01 RESEARCH
KEY FINDINGS

Latina immigrants had the highest jobless rate of all racial and ethnic groups, 22% (Gelatt, 2020).

29% of domestic workers are Latina. Latinas make up 62% of house cleaning occupation and 51% of them are noncitizens (National Domestic Workers Alliance. 2020).

Half of all Latina mothers are the key breadwinners for their families (Center for Women and Work, 2021).

In NJ, 81% of immigrants live in households where a member of the household lost their job during the pandemic (Make the Road NJ, 2020).

Amongst immigrants:
- 85.3% were worried about being able to pay for food for themselves or their families
- 77.3% were worried about being able to buy medicine for themselves or for their families (Make the Road NJ, 2020)
02
OUTREACH & COMMUNICATION
OUTREACH MATERIAL

SE BUSCA PARTICIPANTES PARA ENTREVISTAS SOBRE COVID-19


Busco entrevistar a Latinas que trabajan en limpieza y servicio doméstico. Las entrevistas son a través de Zoom o por llamada telefónica.

Si estás interesada en participar, por favor contáctame a través de WhatsApp: (973) 886-0785

Communication:
● Emails
● WhatsApp group chats
● Facebook
ORGANIZATIONS

CENTER FOR LATINO ARTS AND CULTURE

FIG 1: Map of NJ
MY VISIT TO MAKE THE ROAD NJ IN ELIZABETH
KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Drastic policy changes are needed!
- Local resources are essential
- Informing people about their rights and the resources available to them
- Women advocates and community members are at the forefront of this issue

LESSONS LEARNED

- Adaptability
- Constant and consistent communication
- Be patient
- Be an active listener
FUTURE IMPACT

- This project will be able to debunk misinformation about the immigrant community and raise awareness about how current policies actually function
- Inspire people to engage with the community
- Keep pushing for pro-immigrant legislation

BUILDING ON THE PODCAST

- Room to cover more topic ideas
- Collaborate with more local organizations
Researched and followed the news on the #Recovery4All movement

MAY-AUG.

Made changes to project: reduced the number of episodes

SEPT.

Purchased equipment

OCT.-NOV.

Drafted questions and consent & release forms with Dr. Lilia Fernandez

Reached out to organizations for interviews and recruited participants

DEC.-JAN.

Interview remaining individuals, finish editing, and publish my podcast
THANK YOU!


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