Latina Single Mothers Role in a Small Mid-Western city.

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How does a Latina single mother in a small mid-western town influence her life outcomes?

• Financially
• Children
• Education
It's difficult being both mother and father to them!
Perceptions

• “dysfunctional” single parent lifestyles

• Children of single parents are in a disadvantage in comparison to having both parents that can be there morally and financially for the child.

• Low-income families tend to suffer raising their children because of the poor amount of education they have received in comparison to prosperous ethnicities.
Single-parent (also lone parent, solo parent and sole parent) is a parent who cares for one or more children without the physical assistance of the other parent in the home. "Single Parenthood" may vary according to the local laws of different nations or regions (Wikipedia.org).
Women in Beloit are less likely to graduate from high school, or pursue or complete college programs, than are women statewide.

About 60% of women age 25 and over have a high school diploma or less than high school as their highest level of education.

An additional 20% of women have some college experience, but did not continue to earn a degree.

In Beloit, 16% of women have an Associate’s or Bachelor’s degree, below the statewide average of 25%.
Female-Headed Households & Poverty (Beloit)

- Statewide, female-headed households are disproportionately living in poverty compared to other household types. In the City of Beloit:
  - Among all single-mother (family*) households, more than 1-in-3 (38%) live below the poverty line, making them the most likely type of household to be in poverty, compared to 1-in-4 female-headed non-family* (25%) and 1-in-14 married-couple households (7%).
  - Family households headed by women of color generally face even higher poverty rates. In Beloit, nearly 1-in-2 African American single-mother families (43%) are in poverty, compared to about 1-in-3 White and Hispanic families (both 35%). Data by race not available for Native American and Asian households.

Among all households in Beloit (see charts below):
- Female-headed households account for 40% of all households (family and non-family*), and nearly 70% of the city’s households in poverty.
- Nearly one-quarter (23%) of all households are female-headed “non-family” households* — the most numerous household type among female-headed households. These non-family households account for about one-third (31%) of the county’s households in poverty.
- 17% of all households are female-headed “family” households*—often referred to as single-mother households. These households account for more than one-third (37%)—the largest share—of the city’s households in poverty.

*Notes: All data in this report are compiled from the US Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-year Estimates 2005-2009, unless otherwise noted. The US Census Bureau reports on two types of householders: family and non-family. A family householder is a head of household living with one or more individuals related to him or her by birth, marriage, or adoption. The householder and all people in the household related to him or her are family members. A non-family householder is a head of household living alone or with non-relatives only. na=data not available or unpublished, generally due to small sample sizes among the population being measured.
Conceptual Framework

• The social bond theory was written and proposed by Travis Hirschi in 1969, which later developed into the social control theory.

• Hirschi describes it as elements of social bonding include attachment to families, commitment to social norms and institutions such as school, employment, involvement in activities, and the belief that these things are important” (16).
Methodology

1. Interviews
   - Unstructured
   - Empirical
   - Gendered
2. Transcribe (coding)
3. Visual Data (films)
Interview (participant #1)

- Participant is from Zacatecas, Mexico. Living in Beloit for fourteen years.

- Has three children 2/3 came as immigrants, but all three have finished H.S.

- Not divorced, but has been raising her children alone for over 10 years now.

- Husband in jail. She talks to him often. Is planning to work things out if he has changed.

- Biggest priorities is making sure financially she is providing for her family.

- One thing she wishes she could’ve done is be more involved with her children’s education, but she was always working.
Interview (Participant #2)

-Participant #2 is from Durango, Mexico.

-She fled from her country, and left her 6 children behind in the care of her mother in law.

-Worked 15 hours a week, and still when she got home she iron all of their clothing and cook for the next day. “Si dormía 3 horas era milagro”.

-Husband will leave on his own. Got drug and woman addiction.

-“Yo ni a el, ni a otro, solo a mis hijos”.

-Deception, manipulation, and lack of trust.
Coding, Conceptualizing, and finding themes.

1. Feminist ideologies.
   - Part. #1: “Siempre me quitaba el dinero”.
   - Part. #2: “Ni el, ni con otro, solo para mis hijos”.

2. Education.
   - Part. #1: “Beloit les ayudo en la educación se han graduado de la H.S.”
   - Part. #2: “Les costo porque se vinieron de gran edad....Mi reclamaban que les hacían chiste en la escuela por no saber ingles.

3. One parent’s absence.
   - Part. #1: “A mi hija chiquita le hizo falta, sus consejos y su cariño. Tal vez nunca se hubiera embarazado”.
   - Part. #2: “Mis hijos estaban a mi lado cuando mi esposo comenzó hacer infiel....nunca los separe de su padre, les di oportunidades”
Literature Review

Lynn White, a researcher in marriage and family explains, “Large majorities of the population that are in close contact with their parents, report quite high levels of affection, and perceive their parents as available for support (Rossi & Rossi, 1990).

“The vast majority of single-parent households are headed by women, one-third of all single-parent household are poor, and one-half the young children living in these families are poor” (Hays, 2003, p. 129).
“Between WWII and the late 1960s most children lived with two parents. [...] Then starting in the 1970s, the two-parent family rapidly began to disappear. In 1998 about 68 percent of all children lived with two parents, a drop of 17 percentage points in only three decades” (Lang, Zagorsky, 254).

“Parents, through the choices and decisions they make for themselves and their children, influence how their children grow and develop over time” (Furstenberg et al. 1999).
Limitations

• Time Constrain

• Not being able to refer to enough literature.

• Unable to identify a finding.

• Limited number of interviewees-bias answers.
Bibliography


Thank you!
Questions?