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Abstract

- This research aims to provide an intersectional approach to understanding political engagement among Second-generation Latinos in the United States, a growing and rising electorate utilizing the Latino Second Generation (2012-2013) survey from the Inter-University Consortium for Political Research
- Through a qualitative analysis, simple logistic regressions and chi-square tests was utilized to evaluate the political engagement among Second-generation Latinos.
- Findings showed Second-generation Latinos demonstrated low levels of political engagement, regardless of controlling for variables such as education, income, and gender, which is consistent with existing literature and previous research.

Introduction

- Political socialization among immigrant households tends to follow a "bi-directional" model whereby information passes from the children to the parents interchangeably (Wong & Tseng 2008)
- Among Second-generation Latinos, a U-shaped participation pattern exists, whereby they are less likely to engage in any campaign activities or vote (Potochnick 2020)
- Second-generation Latinos spend an average of fifteen hours a week assisting families, an important gateway for family assimilation (Wong 2008)
- Research Question: How does political socialization impact Second-generation Latino students' level of political engagement?**

Methods

- Latino Second Generation (2012-2013) Survey, Inter-University Consortium for Political Research was used to collect responses.
- Second-generation Latinos between 18 and 31 years old, have both parents born outside the US, and were born in the United States themselves.
- Approximately 1,050 eligible respondents were identified and included in the final analysis.
- Qualitative analysis was completed utilizing SAS (Statistical Software Suite)

Results

- The relationship between political engagement and education was insignificant regardless of educational attainment.
- Respondents with "some college or more" were more likely to rely on news sites, television, and internet blogs for political information than those with a "high school education or less."
- Some relationships demonstrated high statistical significance, indicating strong evidence that the relationship between those who engaged in frequent political discussions at home increased the likelihood of political engagement.
- Involvement with community & ethnic organizations was not significant.
- Evidence showed Second-generation Latinos are more likely to engage in non-direct political engagement activities such as wearing a campaign button, campaign stickers, and campaign signs, and utilizing social media to engage in politics rather than direct service such as working or contributing money to either the Democratic or Republican Party.

Table 1. Political Engagement Among Second-Generation Latinos by Educational Attainment

	Every Day	Three times a week or more	Almost every week	One to three times a month	Less than once a month	Never	Mean	Pt.> z
Radio								
High school or less	19.28 (64)	13.55 (45)	16.87 (56)	15.36 (51)	14.16 (47)	20.78 (69)	3.54	0.1048
Some college or more	15.45 (104)	15.16 (102)	14.12 (95)	14.56 (98)	17.24 (116)	23.48 (158)	3.73	
Internet news sites								
High school or less	23.42 (78)	21.32 (71)	19.22 (64)	13.81 (46)	10.51 (35)	11.71 (39)	3.02	0.0301
Some college or more	30.62 (207)	19.97 (135)	17.46 (118)	13.31 (90)	9.02 (61)	9.62 (65)	2.79	
Paper newspapers								
High school or less	11.31 (37)	12.54 (41)	18.04 (59)	15.29 (50)	15.60 (51)	27.22 (89)	3.93	0.9734
Some college or more	10.47 (71)	11.95 (81)	16.52 (112)	18.29 (124)	19.03 (129)	23.75 (161)	3.95	
Television								
High school or less	37.24 (124)	17.12 (57)	16.52 (55)	12.91 (43)	7.51 (25)	8.71 (29)	2.62	0.5656
Some college or more	32.80 (225)	22.30 (153)	15.89 (109)	12.24 (84)	8.75 (60)	8.02 (55)	2.66	
Magazines								
High school or less	7.12 (23)	9.29 (30)	14.86 (48)	13.62 (44)	20.43 (66)	34.67 (112)	4.35	0.8674
Some college or more	6.98 (47)	8.47 (57)	14.12 (95)	15.90 (107)	21.99 (148)	32.54 (219)	4.35	
Internet/blogs								
High school or less	22.49 (74)	13.68 (45)	21.28 (70)	11.85 (39)	8.81 (29)	21.88 (72)	3.36	0.6445
Some college or more	23.51 (158)	16.37 (110)	16.22 (109)	12.95 (87)	11.01 (74)	19.94 (134)	3.31	

Results Cont'd

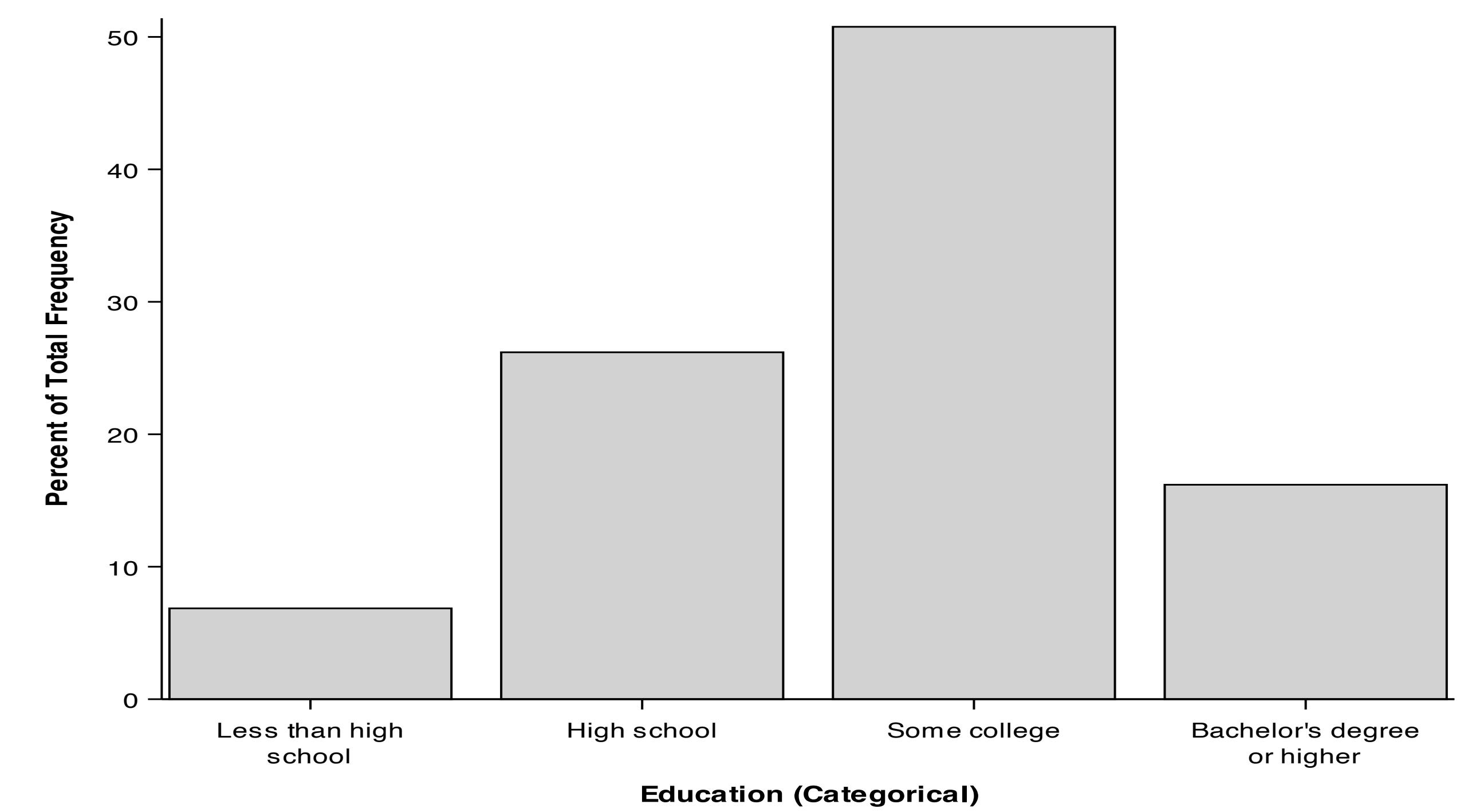


Table 2. Educational Attainment Among Second-Generation Latinos

Conclusions / Future Research

- Findings did not show a notable correlation between variables examined and level of political engagement.
- Future studies should utilize other methods, such as a multivariate regression, to analyze these relationships.
- Encourage research to continue to understand the unique experiences of Latinos across generational status and accessing parents' level of political socialization.

References

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