



Purpose

Describe the experience of Mexican parents of mixed-status families living in Flagstaff, Arizona to understand what factors and motives drove them to seek legal help from a local legal clinic.

Research Methods

- Data Collection: Inductive approach. Nine semi-structured interviews to Mexican parents of mixed status families. Purposive sampling.
- Data Analysis: Grounded Theory analysis through open coding.

Relevance

- Immigration status had disrupted traditional family dynamics.
- 16.7 million people are members of in mixed-status families in the US (2019).
- Between 2008 and 2018, the Latino share of the total U.S. population increased from 16% to 18%.
- The number of U.S.-born children with at least one unauthorized immigrant parent has more than doubled since 2000 (2019).

Open coding results

Deciding When To Seek Legal Advice, Speaking English As A Tool To Feel Safe, The Possession of Legal Documents, and Being a "Good Person".

Discussion

The understanding of this population, their attitudes and motives could be used to improve the procedures of legal clinics and help to provide better and more efficient services to mixed-status families. Importance of a clear understanding of the population at risk before making recommendations on the procedures.

Future directions

Research on legal clinics in other parts of the US. Work in different communities and within legal organizations to help and support the immigrants in our nation.

US - Mexico Border

References

- Castañeda, Hedi. 2019. *Borders Of Belonging: Struggle And Solidarity In Mixed-Status Immigrant Families*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press.
- Pew Research Center - <https://www.pewresearch.org/hispanic/>