
Lili Wang, Carlton Yoshioka, Robert Ashcraft

Arizona State University, Phoenix, United States

Hispanic population is the largest minority group in the United States. Their participation in volunteering activities is important to the development of nonprofit organizations and the civil society in large.

Empirical studies on Hispanic volunteering tend to compare it with the volunteering behavior of other racial groups in the United States, such as White, Black, Asian, and others (Hodgkinson & Weitzman, 1996; Sundeen et al, 2008). Few have compared the regional differences in Hispanic volunteering behavior. Acculturation literature shows that immigrants are more likely to involve in community activities or volunteer as they live in the United State for a longer period of time, or even generations (Berry, 1997; Sundeen et al, 2008). In addition, civic engagement and social capital literature shows that people are more likely to participate in a homogenous community, where there are higher percentage of people share the same race/ethnic identity (Putnam, 2000). Since the West and South region of the United States has a larger percent and number of Hispanic population compared to the Midwest and Northeast regions, and since Hispanics have a long residence history in the West and the South, we expect Hispanics in these regions would volunteer or engage in community activities at a different rate from those in other regions. In addition to regional difference, we will also explore other determinants of volunteering behavior, such as social demographics and length of residence in a community.

To test the consistency of findings regarding our hypothesis and to demonstrate how survey methodology could affect the results of analysis, we will compare the Hispanic rate of volunteering and determinants of volunteering of three surveys conducted in the United States around the year of 2007: the AIM survey, the Current Population Survey and the Panel Study of Income Dynamics Philanthropic Module. The research findings will provide additional insights on our understanding of Hispanic volunteering behavior and shed light on how data collection and survey methodology might affect our findings in Hispanic volunteering.

References:


