2005 Population Association of America Annual Meeting, March 31 to -april 2, 2005. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA

Patterns of Economic participation of Mexican-origin women in United States of America.

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Using the Current Population Survey, data from March 2003 and logistic regression models, this paper explore the factors that affect the economic participation across generations of Mexican-origin women in the United States. The main purpose of this study is to show that there are different patterns of economic participation in the labor force of mMexican-origin women depending on the generational status, and three dimensional issues: individual and human capital, the family characteristics and the characteristics of the place of residence. In the same way, this study attempts to compare the pattern of Mexican-origin women with the American mainstream (white non-Hispanic natives) and to explain the differences between profiles using the perspective of assimilation. The evidence obtained showed that the economic participation profile from third generation was similar to the white non-Hispanic ones, probably because they were more assimilated to the American mainstream, in opposite to other generations.

The Mexican migration to the United States of America (U.S.) is a continuous phenomenon which started at the end of the XIX century. It increased dramatically in the last quarter of the XX century and seems it will increase during this century. In the specific case of mexican women, although they traditionally moved to United States to joined with their husbands or parents, nowadays, and by economic causes, most of them have the intention to work in this country. Mexicans are the largest immigrant group to U.S. and the most numerous ethnic group in this country. In the year 2000, Bean and Stevens (2003), reported that approximately 7.5% of total population in U.S. was constituted by Mexican-origin people[1]. Thus, one of the most relevant question in the immigration field refers to how rapidly the new immigrants become part of the American mainstream. This study broaches to this question trying to explore the process of incorporation[2] to U.S. of the Mexican-origin group by means of the labor force participation.

[1] We mean origin as a synonym of ethnicity, just like Bean & Stevens (2003) stated: "it denotes a social identity deriving from group membership based on common race, religion, language, national origin, or some combination on this factors".

[2] Beans & Stevens (2003) denotes the term of incorporation like "the broader process by wich new groups establish relationships with host societies. Assimilation is one type of incorporation process".

Most studies about labor force participation have showed that there are some differences related to the economic participation between immigrants. These are expressed in dissimilarities of human capital, individual and family characteristics, labor markets and the local characteristics of the communities where they live (Stier and Tienda,1992; Greenlees and Saenz; Powers y Seltzer, 1998). Moreover, in the case of Mexican immigrants in U.S., the differentials of economic participation within this group can be explained because of the lenght of time they live in the United States. Then, people who had spent more time in that country have better opportunities of employment than those who have arrived recently (Greenlees and Sáenz, 1999; Borjas,1983; Bean and Tienda, 1987; Chiswick,1979). Allensworth (1999) added that mexican women in U.S. have traditionally had much lower rates of labor force participation than black or white women because ther are willing to play the traditional roles. But, ¿what about the differences with their descendants? Allensworth (1999) points out the first generation women have closed relationship about traditional roles compared with the U.S. born mexican women, reason that makes clear these dissimilarities.

This situation has forced the current work to consider the heterogeneity of the Mexican-origin group. It is well known that the Mexican-origin population in United States has two principal components: on one side, women born in Mexico who have subsequently moved to the United States and, on the other side, women born in the United States who can trace their ancestry to Mexico. This paper attempts to consider that both groups can be broken down in two subgroups: the immigrant group (women born in Mexico) is denoted as *first generation*, can be separated in two subgroups relying on the time spent in U.S. Women who have lived in the USA at least sixteen years are called *first generation of long arrival*. Consequently, women who have lived there less than sixteen years are named *first generation of short arrival*. The first subgroup of descendents is called *second generation*, and it denotes the U.S. born women who have at least one parent born in Mexico. The second descendant subgroup is the *third generation:* it identifies the U.S. natives whose parents are also natives, but they identifies themselves as Mexican-origin people. Given the great interest to explore the incorporation process of Mexican-origin women to the U.S., this study uses the *Non-Hispanic White group (NHW)*, as a representative group of the

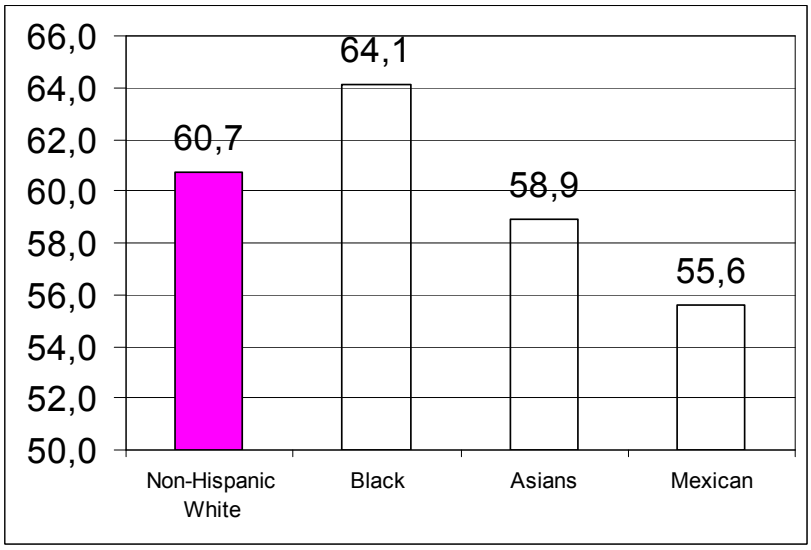
American mainstream. It includes white American native women nor immigrants or Hispanics.

This work also explores the factors what influencing the female employment participation of the most important ethnic group in U.S.: the Mexican. This study is important because it incorpores immigrants and its descendants grouped by time spent in US, nativity and ethnic adscription (first generation long arrival, first generation short arrival, second generation, third generation). Their principal purpose was to build models of female labor force participation to examine the effects of a set of factors (three dimensions: individual and capital human, household and community´s characteristics) on labor force participation and to provide one pattern on labor force participation for each group of the Mexican-origin population. Other aim was to prove if controlling for the three dimensions above mentioned there are differences on labor force participation across generation compared to American mainstream.

THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVE

The research on inmigrant women`s labor force activity over past years (Stier y Tienda, Schoeni, 1999; Greenlees and Saenz, 1999) focuses on their variations, revealing significant differences in women's work participation, both within and across US ethnic population. The figure 1 shows these differences on women's work participation according to the ethnic or racial origin. We can see that the Black and Non-Hispanic White women Anglo have the highest rates on labor force participation than the immigrant groups.

Figure 1. Women's labor force participation rates by ethnic origin in U.S. 2001



Source: Own calculus based on Current Population Survey, March Supplement 2001.

The scholars of the women's labor force participation have proposed many dimensional issues to explain this kind of variations within and across ethnic population in U.S. This study uses the approach that proposes three dimensions to explain the labor force participation of women in US : 1) the individual and human capital resources, 2) the household characteristics and 3) characteristics of structural area (employment opportunities available). This proposal combines both the theoretical explanations and the current debates with respect to the integration of immigrants and its descendants.

Theoretical approaches on immigrant integration

The assimilation theory was the first theory that explained the immigrant and ethnic integration and upward mobility. It assumed when the immigrants move to other country, slightly and over time, they became "americanized" and discarded their original language, traditions, and values to be integrated into the American mainstream (Beans y Stevens, 2003; Powers y Seltzer, 1998, Lindstrom and Giorguli, 2002).

The assimilation theory and its modifications demonstrate the new immigrants start out at a disadvantage for lack of education, english language skills and the little knowledge of the host society. Meanwhile, time is going on, they gain experience in the host society, become more acculturated and integrated, and adopt the values, norms and attitudes toward

the work of host society (Borjas, 1983, Chiswick, 1979). However, this perspective received a lot of criticism because it does not explain the behavior of ethnic and ratial minorities, such as black minority. Therefore, new perspectives have appeared. Cultural pluralism suggests that immigrants will not move unilaterally from original culture to "American" culture (Powers y Seltzer,1998). The differences between assimilationists and pluralist created the actual controversy over the immigration in the US and its benefits and costs on the host society. In this work we adopted a new perspective, the "selective assimilation" or "accomodation without assimilation". Bean and Stevens (2003) points up under this perspective the immigrants adopt strategies to achieve their economic success and to promote certain grade of cultural integration that satisfying the host society requeriments, but maintain their ethnic identity.

Empirical studies according to this perspective indicate that women who have had greater exposure to U.S. cultural values have higher work rates than those who maintain lies with their sending countries, where traditional norms are more likely to women's traditional domestic roles. The nativity status, adscription to ethnic origin and duration of US residence are often used as proxies for integration because immigrants typically maintain stronger lies from origin customes and weaker ties with American customes (Hazuda et al, 1988; Stier y Tienda,1992; Stier y Tienda, 1996). However, it does not always mean that women lost at all their cultural origin's values. In the case of Mexican women, adopting the American behavior to labor force participation is a strategy to achieve the economic but not the sociocultural integration. The anterior statement can be one response (but it is not the only) to the different labor force participation rates across Mexican generations. Thus, we have to explore if other issues are affecting the economic activity's condition of women in U.S.

Human capital

In the economic literature, the human capital theory points out the immigrants with greater human capital (or work-related skills) are more successful than those with less human capital. Variables such as educational attainment, english proficiency, lenght of residence, age and work experience or work-related skills have been explored as factors as influencing the women's labor force participation

The importance of educational attainment in determining the labor force participation is well documented and it needs little elaboration (Borjas, 1983; Mincer, 1967; Greenlees and Sáenz, 1999; Stier and Tienda, 1992). Women with higher educational attainment will be more competitive for employment than those with low educational attainment. Empirical results indicate that mexican women in U.S. have lower levels of education compared with native american women and other ethnic and racial minorities (Levine,1997).

The length of residence in the United States posits great influence to the women labor force participation (Borjas, 1983; Chiswick, 1979; Allensworth,1997; Greenlees and Sáenz, 1999; Stier and Tienda,1992; Powers y Seltzer, 1998). Its effects on employment was pointed out in the prior section.

The age is a variable that affects the likelihood to enter in the laboral market. Research done in U.S. and Mexico notes the point transition (marriage, children) that occurs within an individual trajectory, has different consequences, depending on where they ocurred during the individual life-course. Marriage and children have direct effects would predict the lowest labor force's rates would be women who are married with children still in the home (Moen, 1991, Oliveira and Ariza, 1999, Garcia and Oliveira, 1994). These results can be extended to Mexican immigrant women and their descendants.

But the human capital explanations cannot completely explain the labor force participation outcome yet. Thus, we explore the characteristic of household composition.

Household characteristics

A sizeable body of research focus its attention on effects of household characteristics on ethnic and generational women's employment. The household composition plays an iteresting role in the female economic activity. A great number of individuals in a reduced household budget can be increased the women's probability (wife, daughter or other member) to enter to market activity (Stier and Tienda, 1992). The presence of the age and the number of children at home have different effects in the women's work opportunities as muchas as childcare availability. Younger children in the household constraint the opportunities for mothers to enter to the labor market. Inversely, older children affect positively the laboral mother's opportunities because they assisting

with the domestic responsabilities (Stier y Tienda, 1992). The household structure is specially important for immigrants women's economy. Since the foreign born are more likely to maintain traditional household arrangement that may include living with extended kin. Non-nuclear family members may contribute to the family's income, thereby reducing the need for female employment, or they may provide domestic support (Read, 2004). Traditionally, the household income (including husband's or householder's income and other nonlabor income), husband's work status, presence and age of childre, and the availability of childcare play a major role in the women's labor force participation, but still no offer the complete explanation to female labor force participation. We need to explore the effects of the labor force markets.

Labor market structural factors

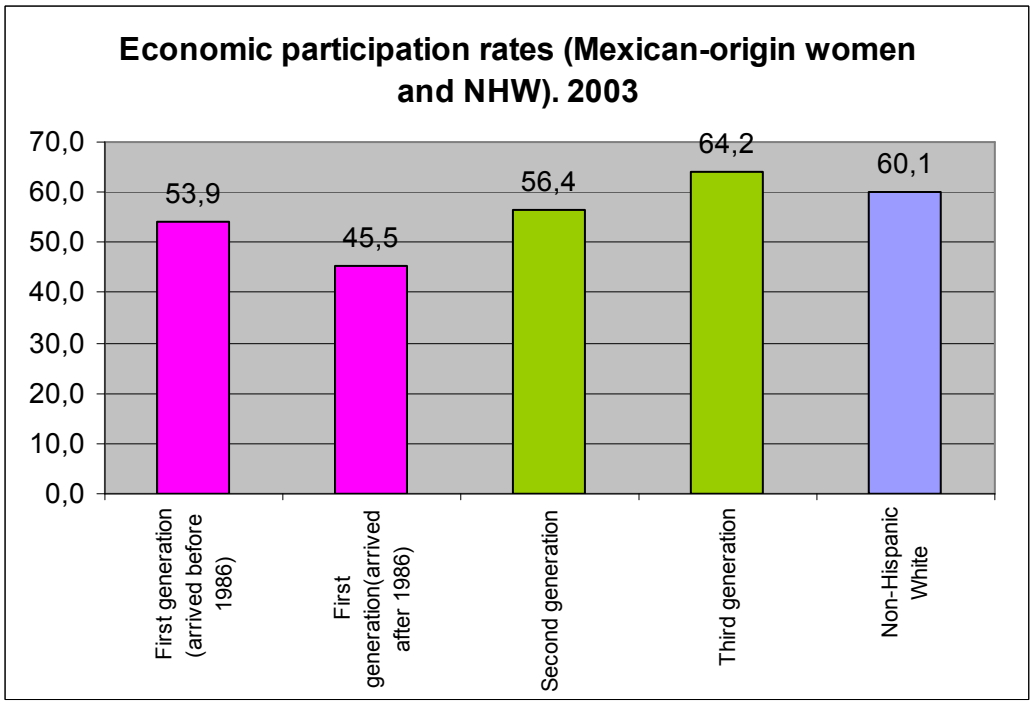
One of the explanations to female labor force participation focuses on the employment on ethnic groups in metropolitan labor markets. Green and Saenz (1999) stress that the immigrants in US who decided to enter the labor market do that in larger urban areas where the employment opportunities are greater. The occupations in urban or metropolitan areas was caused by the increase of service sector. Services occupation offered hard conditions and low wages, but there are a great options to laborer, particularly to younger, immigrants or women (Sassen, 2003).

Similarly, immigrants in U.S. choose areas what depending on the immigrant work. We should remember the Mexican immigrants concentration in particular regions or states was provocated by the employment opportunities availables in these regions in the past time. The presence of ethnic networks, ethnic enclaves or ethnic niches help to compensate immigrant disadvantages (low human capital, poor English fluency, unknown of the labor market) to obtain an employment (Portes, 1985; Wilson,1999; Rosenfeld and Tienda, 1999). Consequently, we expected Mexican immigrants women and its women descendants will have more opportunities of employment in the regions with more percentages of Mexican immigrants, or in the urban or metropolitan areas more than rural .

EMPIRICAL QUESTIONS

The Figure 2 shows the differences across generation to women's labor force participation of Mexican-origin women and Non-Hispanic White's women. We can see in it figure that the women on third generation have higher labor participation rates than other mexica-origin groups and that women's non-Hispanic White (NHW). This differences are the base of to proposal the aims of this study.

Figure 1. Women's labor force participation rates of Mexican-origin women across generation in U.S. 2003



Source: Own calculus based on Current Population Survey, March Supplement 2003.

1. To analyze the impact experimented on labor force participation of the Mexican-origin women in the USA compared to non-Hispanic women living there.
2. To explore the kind of factors which support or constraint the economic participation in the labor force of the Mexican-origin women.
3. To identify if these factors are the same or different inside each group of the female Mexican-origin group controlling by generation.
4. To obtain patterns of economic participation from Mexican-origin women by generation.

Thus, this study supposes that the first generation women who have lived in the US (long arrival) will show more probabilities to participate in the labor force than those who have stayed less time (short arrival) in this country. It occurs because the long arrival group has more human capital, more experience in the labor market and they also know the host society more than the short arrival women. In the same way, it is supposed that the second generation group will have less probabilities to get a job than the third generation one. This is because the second generation born in U.S. is in touch with the values and behaviors related to the female work in Mexico. It does not occur in the third generation women, because they are more assimilated to the American system of values and behaviors.

The questions to solve in this work point out three dimension sets of factors influencing the labor force participation of Mexican-origin women by generation: human capital and individual characteristics that encourage or discourage employment outside home, the household issues that can constraint or push either women toward home production or the workplace and the community characteristics where they live, as a proxy variable to labor market structure. Although these set of factors will account for some, but not all of these differences, the effects of nativity and time spent in US will have influence on labor force participation of each generation. Therefore, these questions are posed:

1. After controlling for human capital and individual's, household's and community characteristics, are there differences across labor force participation of Mexican-origin women and non-Hispanic White women?. The likelihood of labor force participation by generation will be lower than non-hispanic white women, except for the third generation women whose likelihood will be aproximately equal than non-hispanic white women.
2. Inside Mexican-origin women group, after controlling by human capital and individual, household's and community's characteristics, are there differences in the likelihood of employment for each group?. The likelihood of first generation short arrival will be significantly lower than long arrival, the first generation long arrival's likelihood will be lower than second generation and so on. Then, the third generation's likelihood will be higher than other Mexican-origin generations.
3. What are the effects of the human capital and individual's, household's and community's characteristics on the the likelihood of female labor force participation

of long arrival group compared to short arrival group, second and third generation?. We expected that the influence of these issues characteristics on the likelihood of female labor force participation could differ across generations. It could be explained by the distinct profiles of women of each generation.

DATA AND METHODS

Data

Data for this study came from the Current Population Survey, March supplement, year 2003 (U.S Bureau of Census and Labor Statistics). It contains demographic, household and labor aspects of the population in the Usand it is representatives to national level. Moreover, it has information of population based on country of birth, country of birth of parents and ethnic adscription, it allows us to build the three generations. The unit of analysis was the individual. The universe of this study were Mexican-origin and non-Hispanic white women aged 15 years old and over who lived in the US in 2003. We excluded people who were in the ARMY in this year.

The sampling frame consisted of 59,468 cases, 5703 were mexican-origin women and 53,765 were Non-Hispanic Whites women. The table 1 shows the sample composition.

Table 1.
Mexican-origin and Non-Hispanic White women aged 15 years old and over in United States. (2003)

	Frequency	Percent
First generation of long arrival (arrived before 1986)	1072	1.8
First generation of short arrival (arrived between 1986 and 2002)	1851	3.1
Second generation	1095	1.8
Third generation	1685	2.8
Non Hispanic Whites	53765	90.4
Total	59468	100.0

The dependent variable was the labor force of participation (either employed or not) and the independent variables were grouped into three dimensions: individual and human capital characteristics (age, marital status, education, relationship at home and generational status); household characteristics (presence of children at home, presence of female aged 16 and over, adults aged 65 and over and other earner at home; and the characteristics of the

place where they lived in 2003 (locality with high or low Mexican immigrant concentration and the size of the place of residence). The statistical method was logistic regression because the dependent variable was dichotomus (employed or not).

The statistical treatment of information was divided into two phases. In the former, it was solved if after controlling for the three dimensions above mentioned still existed the differences in the economic participation across the three generations in opposite to White non-Hispanic women. In this phase it could be confirmed if the third generation is still different to the American mainstream. Also, if it can be explained by the ethnic adscription. In the latter, the factors wich support or constraint the female's economic participation were explored to know if they varied across generations. Four models of female economic participation were taken into account to know in what way those factors operated through generations. This phase allowed obtain the distinct patterns of Mexican-origin economic participation. Table 2 provides detailed information about the variables used in the analysis.

Table 2.

Operacionalizations of variables used in the analysis

Variable	**Operational description**
Dependent Variable:	
Labor force participation	1 = Employed in 2003, 0 = Not employed in 2003
Independent Variables	
Individual and Human capital characteristics	

Variable	Operational description
Generational status	
First generation of long arrival (arrived before 1986)	Coded 1 if in category, 0 if not
First generation of short arrival (arrived between 1986 and 2002)	Coded 1 if in category, 0 if not
Second generation	Coded 1 if in category, 0 if not
Third generation	Coded 1 if in category, 0 if not
Non-Hispanic White	Reference category
Mexican generational status	
First generation of long arrival (arrived before 1986)	Coded 1 if in category, 0 if not
First generation of short arrival (arrived between1986 and 2002)	Coded 1 if in category, 0 if not
Second generation	Coded 1 if in category, 0 if not
Third generation	Reference category
Marital Status	
Never married	Coded 1 if in category, 0 if not
Married	Reference category
Divorced, separated or widow	Coded 1 if in category, 0 if not
Age	
16-24 years	Reference category
25-34 years	Coded 1 if in category, 0 if not
35-44 years	Coded 1 if in category, 0 if not
45-54 years	Coded 1 if in category, 0 if not
55-64 years	Coded 1 if in category, 0 if not
65 and older years	Coded 1 if in category, 0 if not
Education	
Less than High School	Reference category
High School	Coded 1 if in category, 0 if not
More than High school	Coded 1 if in category, 0 if not
Position in the household	
Head of Householder	Coded 1 if in category, 0 if not
Spouse of the Head	Coded 1 if in category, 0 if not
Children of the head	Coded 1 if in category, 0 if not
Other household member	Coded 1 if in category, 0 if not
Household characteristics	
Children aged less than 6 years old in home	Coded 1 if in category, 0 if not
No children younger than 6	
Presence of children	
Children aged 6- 15 years old in home	Coded 1 if in category, 0 if not
No children between 6 and 15 years old	
Presence of children 6-15 years old	
Presence of female aged 16 years and over (not householder nor spouse of householder)	Coded 1 if in category, 0 if not
No women 16 years old and older	
At least one woman 16 years old and over	
Adults aged 65 years and over in home (not householder nor spouse of householder)	Coded 1 if in category, 0 if not
No adults aged 65 years and over	
At least one adult aged 65 years and over	
Other earner at home (not householder nor spouse of householder)	Coded 1 if in category, 0 if not
No other earner at home	
At least one other earner at home	
Community characteristics	

Variable	Operational description
Size of locality	
Less than 100,000.	Coded 1 if in category, 0 if not
100,000 to 249,999	Coded 1 if in category, 0 if not
250,000 to 1 million	Coded 1 if in category, 0 if not
1 million and over	Reference category
Region with immigrant Mexican concentration	
Low	Reference category
High	Coded 1 if in category, 0 if not

Variables

- Dependent variable.

Labor Force Participation, is dichotomus: (1) Employed (woman who worked at any time in 2003), (2) Woman not employed at anytime in 2003.

- Independient variables.

There are four variables inside the individual and human capital characteristics.

Generational status. It has five categories: (1) First generation of long arrival (arrived before 1986); (2) First generation of short arrival (arrived before 1986); (3) Second generation; (4) Third generation; (5) Non-Hispanic White. This is a control variable to account the probability of employment between two groups with different ethnic origins: the Mexican-origin group and Non-Hispanic White women.

Mexican generational status. It has four categories: (1) First generation of long arrival (arrived before 1986); (2) First generation of short arrival (arrived before 1986); (3) Second generation; (4) Third generation. This is a control variable to account the probability of employment across mexican generations which involves time living in U.S., nativity and ethnic adscription. We propose 1986 as the point cut because it was an inflexion point in the mexican immigration to United States.

Marital status. It is a recoded variable from original. This has three categories: (1) Never married; (2) married; (3) divorced, separated or widow. We included this variable to count the effects of married women on the employment and to identify the adscription to traditional roles of spouse and mother.

Age. It has six categories: (1) 16-24 years; (2) 25-34 years; (3) 35-44 years; (4) 45-54; years; (5) 55-64 years; (6) 65 and older years. These categories explore the distinct intervals of age across generations.

Education. It has three categories: (1) less than High School; (2) High School; (3) More than High School. Education measures the women human capital and its influence on labor force participation.

Position in the household. It has four categories: (1) Head of Householder; (2) Spouse of the Head; (3) Children of the head; (4) Other household member. This variable explores what category has more influence in labor force participation across generation.

The home characteristics involve the following five variables:

Presence of Children aged less than 6 years old in home. It's a dichotomus variable: (0) No children younger than 6; (1) Presence of children. This variable explores the negative/positive effect on labor force participation across generation.

Presence of Children between 6 and 15 years old in home. It's also a dichotomus variable: (0) No children between 6 and 15 years; (1) Presence of children 6-15 years old. It explores the negative/positive effect on labor force participation across generation.

Presence of women older 16 years old in home (not householder nor spouse od householder). It's other dichotomus variable: (0) No women 16 years old and over; (1) At least one woman 16 years old or older. This explores if there are women who replaces the householder o spouse of householder to take care the children or elderly adults at home.

Presence of adults older 65 years old in home (not householder nor spouse od householder). It's a dichotomus variable: (0) No adults aged 65 years and over; (1) At least one adult aged 65 years and over. Which explores the taking care effects on adults at home.

Presence of other earner (not householder nor spouse od householder). It's another dichotomus variable: (0) No other earner at home; (1) At least one other earner at home. This variable explores the effects that an aditional income can do in household.

The community's characteristics include two variables.

Size of locality. It has four categories. (1) Less than 100,000; (2) 100,000 to 249,999; (3) 250,000 to 1 million; (4)1 million and over. This is a proxy variable to measure the effec of metropolitan, urban or rural city on labor force participation across generations.

Region with immigrant Mexican concentration It is a dichotomus variable. (1) Low; (2) High. It's a dichotomus variable wich measures the social networks of immigrants.

ANALYSIS

Before the description of the models, we will describe the social and demographics characteristics of the sample used for this study (see Table 3).

Descriptive Results

Table 3.
Percentual distribution of variables among Non-Hispanic White and Mexican-origin women (by generation)

		First generation of long arrival (arrived before 1986)	First generation of short arrival (arrived between 1986 y 2002)	Second generation	Third generation	Non-Hispanic white (NHW)
Individual and Human capital characteristics						
Age						
	16-24 years	4.0%	23.9%	38.3%	24.9%	14.1%
	25-34 years	15.8%	40.8%	23.0%	24.2%	14.9%
	35-44 years	28.5%	22.9%	12.7%	19.0%	18.7%
	45-54 years	24.6%	7.5%	7.9%	17.4%	18.8%
	55-64 years	15.0%	3.0%	6.5%	7.4%	13.6%
	65 and older years	12.1%	1.9%	11.5%	7.1%	19.8%
	Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Marital Status						
	Never married	11.7%	24.2%	40.8%	31.9%	20.6%
	Married	66.0%	65.6%	41.1%	48.2%	55.5%
	Divorced, separated or widow	22.4%	10.2%	18.1%	19.9%	23.8%
	Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Education						
	Less than High School	52.3%	51.2%	16.5%	13.1%	5.1%
	High School	32.6%	35.7%	49.1%	49.9%	41.3%
	More than High school	15.1%	13.1%	34.4%	37.0%	53.6%
	Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Position in the household						
	Head of Householder Householder	42.2%	30.4%	36.1%	38.7%	46.1%

		First generation of long arrival (arrived before 1986)	First generation of short arrival (arrived between 1986 y 2002)	Second generation	Third generation	Non-Hispanic white (NHW)
	Spouse of the Head	41.7%	38.6%	24.3%	30.4%	35.9%
	Children of the head	3.2%	9.6%	27.3%	16.3%	10.6%
	Other household member	12.9%	21.4%	12.3%	14.6%	7.4%
	Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Household characteristics						
Children aged less than 6 years old in home						
	No children younger than 6	95.3%	86.4%	91.6%	92.9%	96.0%
	Presence of children	4.7%	13.6%	8.4%	7.1%	4.0%
	Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Children aged 6- 15 years old in home						
	No children between 6 and 15 years old	56.8%	49.0%	63.9%	66.9%	77.8%
	Presence of children 6-15 years old	43.2%	51.0%	36.1%	33.1%	22.2%
	Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Presence of female aged 16 years and over						
	No women 16 years old and older	56.1%	52.1%	46.4%	53.4%	71.0%
	At least one woman 16 years old	43.9%	47.9%	53.6%	46.6%	29.0%
	Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Adults aged 65 years and over in home						
	No adults aged 65 years and over	83.2%	95.6%	82.9%	87.8%	75.9%
	At least one adult aged 65 years and over	16.8%	4.4%	17.1%	12.2%	24.1%
	Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Other earner in home						
	No other earner at home	57.4%	58.1%	57.4%	59.8%	71.2%
	At least one other earner at home	42.6%	41.9%	42.6%	40.2%	28.8%

		First generation of long arrival (arrived before 1986)	First generation of short arrival (arrived between 1986 y 2002)	Second generation	Third generation	Non-Hispanic white (NHW)
	Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Community characteristics						
Size of location						
	Less than 100,000.	10.0%	9.0%	10.4%	16.8%	26.4%
	100,000 to 249,999	7.8%	4.6%	9.7%	10.8%	7.4%
	250,000 to 1 million	21.5%	20.2%	27.8%	25.3%	24.2%
	1 million and over	60.7%	66.1%	52.1%	47.1%	42.0%
	Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Region with immigrant Mexican concentration[3]						
	Low	4.9%	15.1%	7.6%	12.1%	62.6%
	High	95.1%	84.9%	92.4%	87.9%	37.4%
	Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	N	**1072**	**1851**	**1095**	**1685**	**53765**

The central purpose in this sudy was to generate different profiles of labor force participation among Mexican origin women. The Table 3 shows this distribution. Looking at the age composition, more than 50% of the first generation of both Mexican and NHW women are concentrated at 35 to 54 years old. The aged structure to second and third generation is younger than in first generation, because they concentrate a half of their contingent from 16 to 34 years old. NHW women have an aged structure more diversified. The predominant marital status is married, but the percentual distribution is different among Mexican-origin generations because of the aged structure. The first women generation had the highest percentages for married women compared with the other generations and the NHW group. Conversely, second and third generations had highest never married percentages of all sample.

[3] It includes New York, Texas, New Jersey, California, Florida, Illinois, Oregon, Colorado, Arizona, Nevada and New México.

About education, the first women generation again exhibited highest percentages of low education. Second and third generation exhibited intermediate levels of escolarity and the NHW group have percentages over 50% or more than high school.

Turning to the status in home the more pronounced differences were in the category of daughters: 3.2% for first generation long arrival women , 9.6% for first generation short arrival women, 27.3% for second and 16.3% for third women generation. For the whole sample, the categories of householder and its spouse computed over than 50%.

The first generation short arrival women had the highest percentages of children younger than 6 years old (13.6%) and children between 6 and 15 years old (51.0%) compared to other groups. These results are consistent with their life-course position. The second and third generations showed the same results.

Looking at the composition of household, the 53% of second generation had women 16 years older in their home. There were no pronounced differences among first and third generation of women older 16 years older (the percentages varies between 43% to 48%). The NHW's group is completely different to the mexican-origin group (their percentage exhibit lower than 30%). Moreover, most of the household in the whole sample did not presented elderly adults. This situation is very strong in first generation of short arrival (only 4.4% of households have adults older than 65 years old). Finally, exploring about the other earner present in the home there wasn´t any significant percentual difference across the generations (their values oscillates from 40.2% to 42.6%). The NHW women have less than 30% for this category.

About the size of locality of residence, the Table 3 shows that the Mexican- origin people groups are concentrated in locations from 250,000 to one million and over; they also are in the localities with high immigrant Mexican concentration (over 80%). This is not the case for the NHW group, which has a more uniform distribution in size and immigrant concentration.

Multivariate Results and discussion

The logistic regression coefficients and odd ratios for the effects the three dimensions on labor force participation are presented as following (see Table 4). The Model 1 examines the effects of generational status of mexican-origin women compared to

Non-Hispanic Whites women (NHW). The Model 2 examines the effects of the Mexican generational status across generations. Models 3,4,5 and 6 test the effects of three dimensions to labor force participation. Model 3 examines the first generation of long arrival. Model 4 analyze the first generation of short arrival. Model 5 explore the effects of all variables in labor force participation using the second generation's population. The third generation and its relationship with the work is showed in the Model 6.

Results in *Model 1* (Mexican-origin women and NHW women) indicate that after controlling by three dimensional issues, only was significant the first generation of short arrival, which had considerably less likelihood than Non-hispanic Whites women to participate in the labor force. We think the discrimination by ethnic origin is the explanation of these differentials. Unfortunately, this model didn't give information about the other generations. Particularly to third generation, we couldn't find any statistical evidence to compare with NHW. But we think that their labor force participation´s rates, and their demographical characteristics can be used to explore the economic integration to American mainstream.

In the *Model 2* (only Mexican-origin women), again only the more recent immigrant group (first generation of short arrival) had significant level to be considered in the explanation of labor force participation of Mexican-origin women. We can't say anything about the other groups because their coefficients weren´t significatives. Thus, after controlling by three dimensional issues, the short arrival group had the lower likelihood compared to the third generation. This result supports the statement that the country of birth (nativity) plays an important role to make clear the differential.

Table 4.
Effects of the human capital and individual´s, household's and community's characteristics on female labor force participation. NHW and Mexican-origen women (by generation).

	Model 1		Model 2		Model 3		Model 4		Model 5		Model 6	
	Beta	Odds Ratio	Beta	Odds Ratio	Beta	Odds Ratio	Beta	Odds Ratio	Beta	Odds Ratio	Beta	Odds Ratio
Generational status												
1st (arrived before 1986)	-.0211	.9791										
1st (arrived between 1986 and 2003)	-.5458[a]	.5794										
2nd generation	-.0496	.9516										
3rd generation	.0163	1.0164										
NHW	-------	-------										
Mexican generational status												
1st (arrived before 1986)			-.1026	.1025								
1st (arrived between 1986 and 2002)			-.6380[a]	.5284								
2nd generation			-.0751	.9277								
3rd generation			--------	-------								
Marital Status												
Never married	.3295[a]	1.3903	.4750[a]	1.6080	.3510[a]	1.4205	.9762[a]	2.6544	.3615	1.4355	.1622	1.1761
Divorced, separated or widow	.3346[a]	1.3974	.7530[a]	2.1233	.3488[a]	1.4173	.9561[a]	2.6015	1.0956[a]	2.9910	.4595	1.5832
Married	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	---------	--------	---------	--------	---------	--------	--------
Age												
16-24 years	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	---------	--------	---------	--------	---------	--------	--------
25-34 years	.6093[a]	1.8392	.5393[a]	1.7147	.3623[a]	1.4366	.5826[a]	.0694	.8991[a]	2.4574	.1409[a]	1.1513
35-44 years	.5727[a]	1.7730	.5804[a]	1.7867	.2452[a]	1.2779	.5813[a]	1.7883	1.3594[a]	3.8939	.2335[a]	1.2630
45-54 years	.4294[a]	1.5364	.3223[a]	1.3803	-.2010[a]	.8179	.2986[a]	1.3479	.5532[a]	1.7389	.3803[a]	1.4627
55-64 years	-.4592[a]	.6318	-.7369[a]	.4786	-1.0043[a]	.3663	-1.1395[a]	.3200	-.9188[a]	.3990	-.7709[a]	.4626
65 and older years	-2.5062[a]	.0816	-2.6604[a]	.0699	-2.2350[a]	.1070	-2.3011	.1001	-3.1572[a]	.0425	-3.0836[a]	.0458

	Model 1		Model 2		Model 3		Model 4		Model 5		Model 6	
	Beta	Odds Ratio	Beta	Odds Ratio	Beta	Odds Ratio	Beta	Odds Ratio	Beta	Odds Ratio	Beta	Odds Ratio
Education												
Less than High School	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	---------	--------	---------	--------	---------	--------	--------
High School	.8751 [a]	2.3563	.5358 [a]	1.7088	.4036 [a]	2.6825	.4070 [a]	1.5023	.4196	1.5214	1.1363 [a]	3.1151
More than High school	1.3520 [a]	3.8652	1.1729 [a]	3.2312	.8054 [a]	2.4742	.9800 [a]	2.6645	1.5370 [a]	4.6508	1.5544 [a]	4.7325
Position in the household												
Head of Householder Householder	-.0340	.9666	.0880	1.0290	.0615	1.0634	.1002	1.1053	.1486	1.1602	.1309	1.1399
Children of the head	-.8722 [a]	.4180	-.9905 [a]	.3714	-.9049 [a]	.4285	-1.0541 [a]	.3485	-.8234	.4389	-.6879	.5026
Other household member	-.4774 [a]	.6588	-.3312	.7180	-.3939 [a]	.6467	-.6021 [a]	.5477	-.2040	.8155	-.0596	.9421
Spouse of the Head	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	---------	--------	---------	--------	---------	--------	--------
Children aged less than 6 years old in home												
No children younger than 6	1.0534 [a]	2.8674	.9080 [a]	2.4793	.9026 [a]	2.4659 [a]	1.1219 [a]	3.0708 [a]	.9718 [a]	2.6427 [a]	.6206 [a]	1.8600 [a]
Presence of children	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	---------	--------	---------	--------	---------	--------	--------
Children aged 6- 15 years old in home												
No children between 6 and 15 years old	.3145 [a]	1.3695	.3000 [a]	1.3499	.5005 [a]	1.6495	.3829 [a]	1.4665	.3145	1.3696	.0883	1.0923
Presence of children 6-15 years old	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	---------	--------	---------	--------	---------	--------	--------
Presence of female aged 16 years and over												
No women 16 years old and over	.4683 [a]	1.5972	.3304 [a]	1.3915	.0528 [a]	1.0542	-.0015 [a]	.9985	1.1045 [a]	3.0178	.6922	1.9981
At least one woman 16 years old	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	---------	--------	---------	--------	---------	--------	--------
Adults aged 65 years and over in home												

	Model 1		Model 2		Model 3		Model 4		Model 5		Model 6	
	Beta	Odds Ratio	Beta	Odds Ratio	Beta	Odds Ratio	Beta	Odds Ratio	Beta	Odds Ratio	Beta	Odds Ratio
No adults aged 65 years and over	.4312 [a]	1.5392	.2956	1.3439	.9030 [a]	2.4671	-.1575	.8543	.3322	1.3940	.0270	1.0274
At least one adult aged 65 years and over	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------
Other earner in home												
No other earner at home	1.0776 [a]	.3404	.8634 [a]	.4217	.5433 [a]	.5808	.7480 [a]	.4733	1.3923 [a]	.2485	1.0147 [a]	.3625
At least one other earner at home	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------
Size of location												
Less than 100,000.	-.0268	.9736	-.0394	.9614	.3256	1.3848	-.0463	.9548	-.2083	.8119	-.1353	.8735
100,000 to 249,999	.0353	1.0360	-.0182	.9819	-.1608	.8515	-.2852	.7514	.0093	1.0093	.1603	1.1738
250,000 to 1 million	-.0188	.9814	-.0217	.9876	.2212	1.2476	.0505	1.0518	-.1873	.8292	-.1955	.8224
1 million and over	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------
Region with immigrant Mexican concentration												
Low	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------
High	-.0723 [a]	.9302	-.1010	.9040	.0334 [a]	.9047	-.2474	.7808	-.1799	.8353	.0622	1.0642
Constant	-1.4963		-1.088		-1.5283		-1.3035		-1.4398		-.8834	
% Correct Pred	77.02%		70.83		76.95%		76.24%		75.84%		74.49%	

Notas:
----- Denotes reference categories;
[a] p = <.01

The *Model 3* (first generation of long arrival) indicated that women immigrants which have lived more time in the United States and that were single or divorced, separated or widow had more probabilities to be employed than married women. Both categories were 1.4 times more likely to be employed than the reference group. About age, women in their working age years (ages 25 to 44) were more likely to be employed than the younger group (16-24 years old) and than the older women (ages 55 and more). About human capital resources, it is clear that more education enhanced women´s likelihood of labor force participation. But in this case, the high school level increased 2.6 times the likelihood to participate in labor force; and the category more than high school, increased the probability only 2.4 times in opposite to the less than High school cathegory. To be children of householder's head and other household member are factors that also decreased the likelihood to work compared with the spouse of householder. The category children of head decreased 0.4 times this likelihod, meanwhile other member of the household diminished 0.6 times the women's likelihood on labor force participation. To be householder was not significant. The absence of children younger than 6 year olds, children between 6 to 15 years old and adults older than 65 years old at home increased 2.4, 1.6 and 2.4 times the labor force activity of this women group. In the same way the absence of women older 16 years old increased the probability to enter to the labor force of this group of women, such as the presence of other earner at home increased the probability of women to enter to labor force. The size of community was not significant, and the place of residence inside a region with high mexican immigrant concentration had an positive influence in the likelihood to enter labor force compared to region with low mexican migrant concentration.

Results in the *Model 4* found that short arrival group which were single, divorced, separated or widow increased 2.5 times their likelihood of employmment compared with married women. In this model, the likelihood to be employed was highest for the 35 to 44 years old group. It could be result that life-cycle of this women group. Also, women with more than High School had highest likelihood to attach to labor force than women with less educational levels. The results also pointed out women who were spouses of householder had more likelihood to work than children's head and that other member of household. The presence of children older than 6 constrained considerably the women´s probability of this

group to work, and the presence of children between 6 to 15 years old was less inhibitor than the variable above described. Moreover, the absence of women older 16 years old and the presence of other earner in home were factors that constrained the labor force activity for women in this group. We noted the presence of older elderly people at home, size of location and the region with immigrant Mexican concentration in this model were not significants.

The *Model 5* (second generation) reported as follow. The variable marital status revealed that the second generation women's likelihood increased almost 3 times more than reference category if the woman was divorced, separated o widow. The never married category wasn't significant. Model 5 also demonstrated the importance to belong to working age interval (25-54 years old) to increment women´s employment compared with women younger and older women. Women with more than high school level were considerably more likely to participate in the labor force than their lower-educated peers. The position in home was't significant in this model. The absence of children at preschooling ages put a positive effect on women´s opportunities to enter the labor force. In this model, the absence of children from 6 to 15 years old, the presence of elderly adult in the household, size of location and region with immigrant Mexican concentration weren't significants. The absence of women older than 16 years old increased 1.1 times the probability of this group to work, and the absence of other earner in home can be a factor that no difficult the women's labor force participation of this group.

The Model which explored the effects of all variables on labor force participation for third generation was *Model 6*. The marital status wasn´t significative. The age group with higest likelihood to participate in the labor force was 35-44. The model found that the third generation women which were more educated had 4.7 times to work compares with their lesser-educated peers to participate in the labor force. In the same way of second generation, the position in the home variable wasn't significant to explain labor force participation of this group. Other important result of this model was the positive effect on the women´s economic activity when the absence of children in preschooling ages is considered. The presence of other earner in home had a negative effect on the women´s labor force participation of this group. We note that children between 6 to 15 years old , women older 15 years old, adult older than 65 years at home, size of location and region

with immigrant Mexican concentration old variables weren't significantly related to the women's employment.

The general results obtained with the empirical confirmed that married status was a factor constrained the women´s labor force participation for all mexican-origin groups.

About the age-groups, results indicated that highest probability to work increased in working ages (25-54 years old) and decreased to 16 to 24 years old or 55 years old and over. The educational attainment had an important impact on first, second and third generation women´s labor force participation.

The composition of householder had an important impact on the labor force participation of women. Being children, daughter or other member at home were categories that diminished the probability to be employed for some generation groups. Particularly, belong to the daughter`s or other member of household`s categories were factors that constraint the work behavior only of first generation (long and short arrival). This variable was not significant for second and third generation. Aditionally, the absence of children in preschooling ages was a factor that increased women´s opportunities to enter the labor force for all women. The results of Models 3 to 6 show that the absence of children lost importance while the time in U.S. passed and increased the generation. It could be explained to an integration to U.S. to mexican-origin women. The absence of women older 16 years old at home only constraint the labor force participation of the first generation of short arrival. It could be explained to a major adscription to traditional roles to mother and spouse as the same way that in Mexico. The presence of elderly people in householder was important to explain the women´s employment of the first generation of long arrival exclusively. In the case of the other groups, it was not significant. The presence of other earner at home restricted the female economic participation for all the generations, and we suppose that the explanation rests in the fact of economic conditions of mexican-origin household, that is very low compared to Non-hispanic Whites women. The community characteristics and the residence in a region with mexican immigrant concentration weren´t significantly across generations except for the first generation of long arrival. We suppose that in this case the presence of networks

In sum, our empirical results allowed to build four different patterns of labor force participantion to Mexican-origin group.

The ***first generation of long arrival women*** with high probability to be employed in 2003 in United States can be describe as following: single, in the age group 25-34 years old, with High School level, they weren't household head or the spouse of head of household, did not have children younger than 16 years old, nor women older 16 years old nor elderly adult older than 65 years old nor other earner at home and they lived in a region with high immigrant Mexican concentration.

Have been done single, in the age group of 35 to 44 years old, whit educational level higher than High School, did not have children younger 16 years old, nor elderly adult older than 65 years old nor other earner at home; moreover female presence older than 16 years old at home were the characteristics that describe the labor force participation pattern of ***first generation of short arrival*** women with the most highest probabilities to participate in the labor force.

The pattern with the highest likelihood to be employed to ***second generation group*** satisfied the next statements: be separated, divorced or widow, being in the age group 35-44 years old, have more than High School level, don´t have children older 6 years old, nor women older than 16 years old nor other perceptor at home.

Finally, ***the third generation group*** with the highest probability to be employed in 2003 is distinguished by: being in the age group 25-34 years old, have more than High School educational level, don´t have children older than 6 years old nor other earner at home.

Before concluding, we need to mention that the empirical results of the models indicated that we should to work in the community's characteristics issues, because they weren´t significants for anyone model. It would improve the understanding the labor force participation of the Mexican-origin women.

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