



Perceptions of Undocumented Immigrants by Bay Area Residents

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INTRODUCTION

In the last few years, undocumented immigration has become a very politicized topic. Our current president, Donald J. Trump, discusses the issue often, using hate speech and promoting fear of undocumented immigrants in his speeches and tweets. Many Americans are concerned about immigration because they see immigrants as a threat to their version of an American identity. (Willis-Esqueda, Delgado, & Pedroza, 2017, p. 120). Immigrants often change the ethnic demographics in areas they inhabit, and they are seen as a source of labor market competition. (Garcia & Davidson, 2013, p. 83). The majority of Latin Americans who immigrate to the U.S. do so because they would not be able to survive in their countries due to extreme poverty and the violence of drug cartels, which the U.S. considers terrorist organizations. (Drake, 2014, p. 132). To help make a positive impact, data regarding the perceptions that Bay Area residents have of undocumented immigrants was collected. This data will be used to create a social media campaign to try to change the negative perceptions.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGIES

January
23, 2019

survey was conducted on University Avenue in Palo Alto; 8 people participated

friends and family were asked to take the survey, the survey link was sent to Ms. Chute to share with Paly and Gunn students

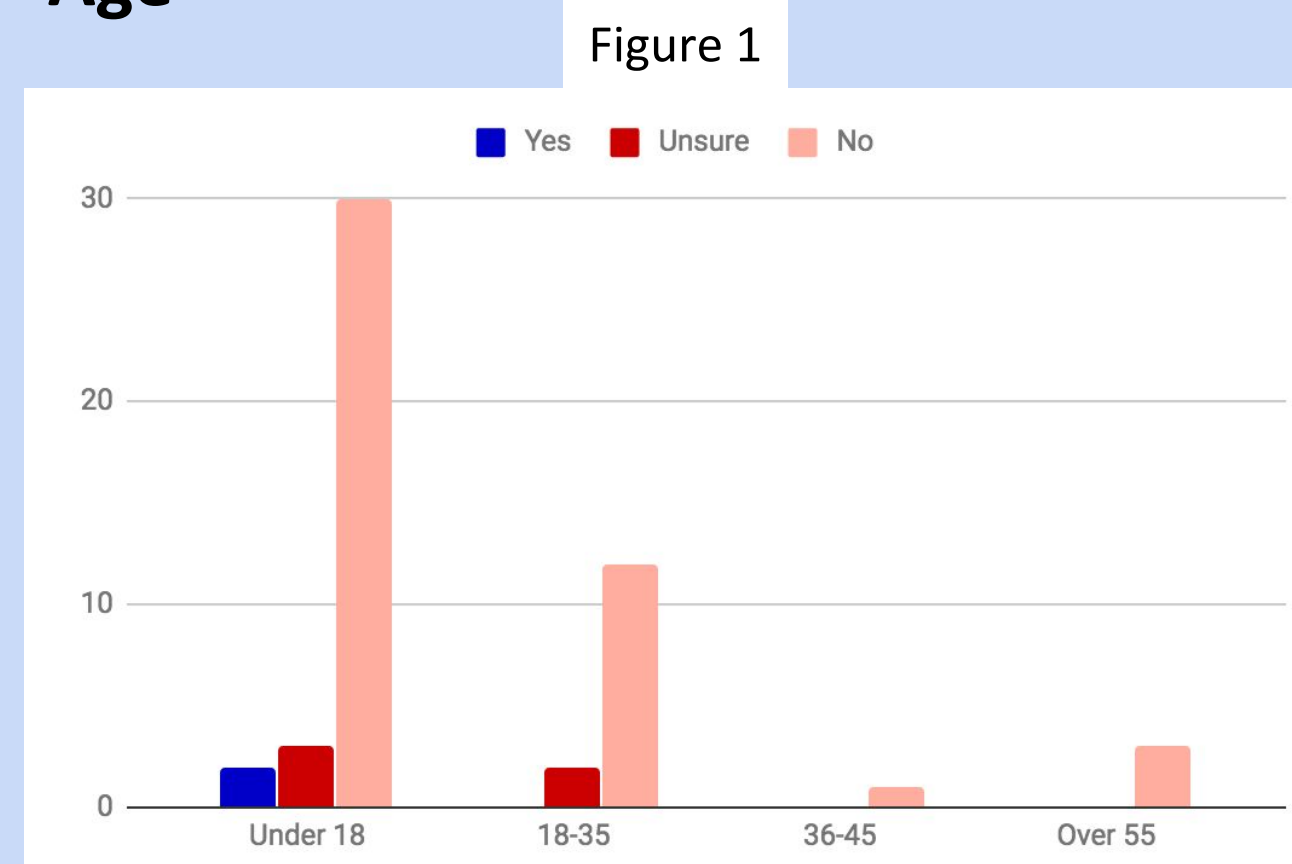
February
12, 2019

survey remained open until 2/12 and got 52 survey responses total

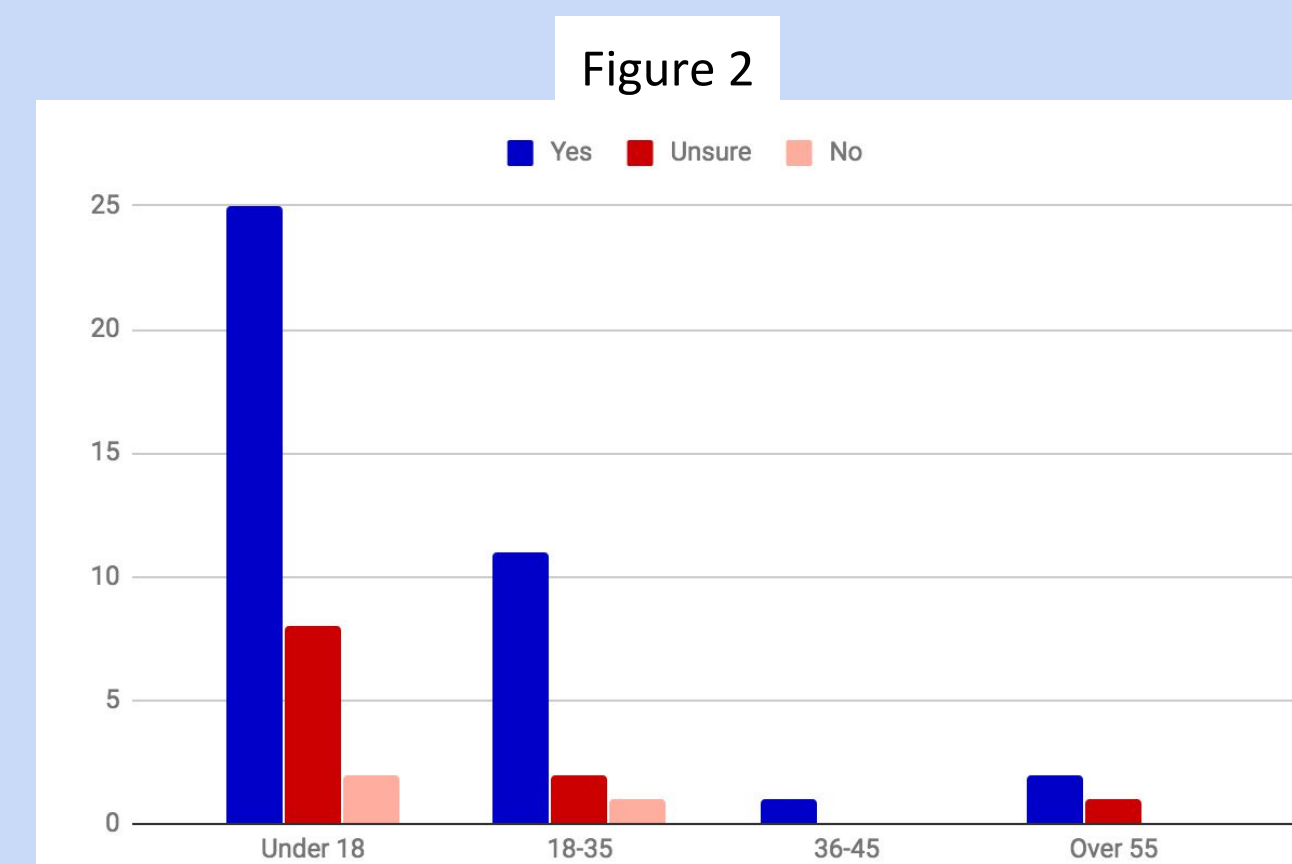
DATA AND FINDINGS

After disaggregating the opinion questions by different demographic factors such as age, race/ethnicity, and daily contact with Latin American immigrants, the responses were compared to find patterns between the factors.

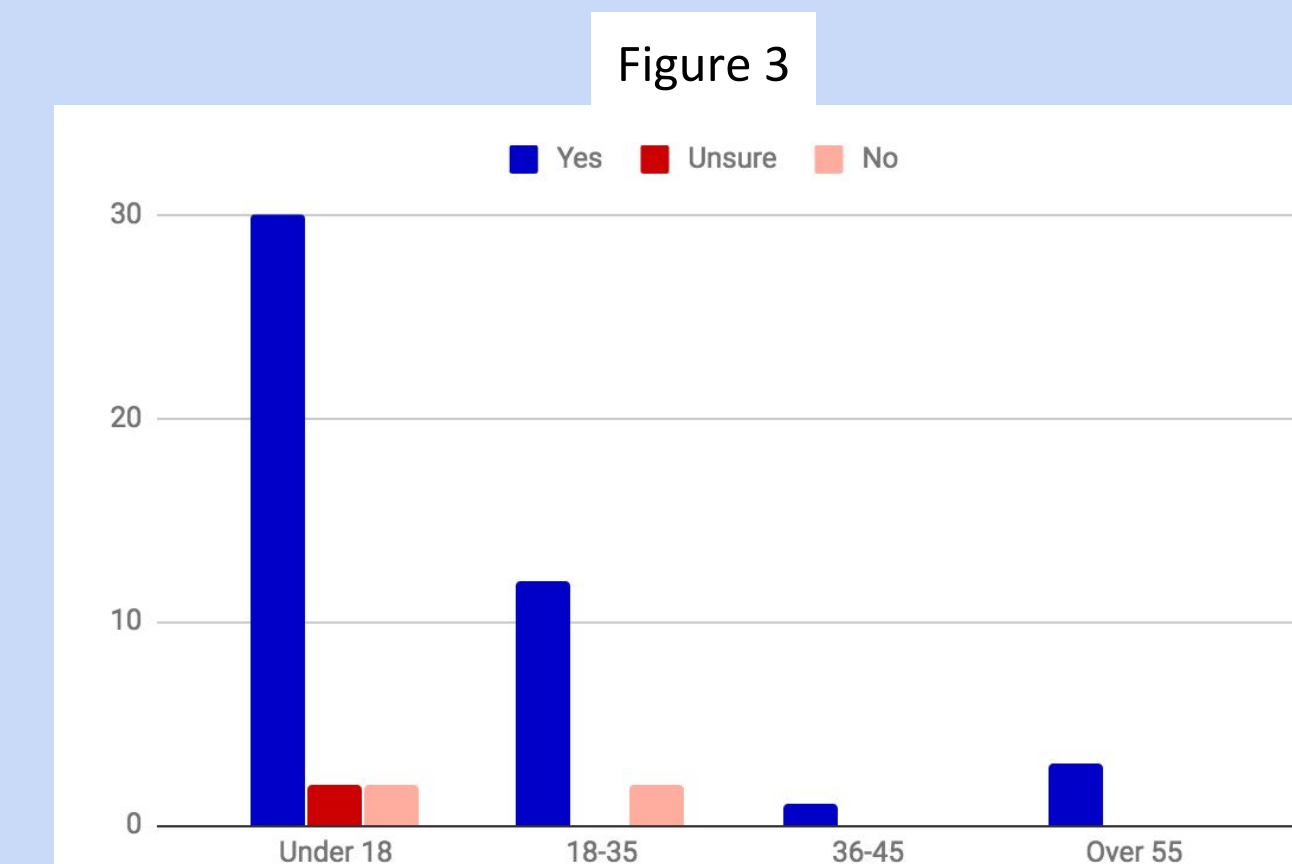
Age



A comparison between the respondent's age and whether they believe that all undocumented immigrants should be deported

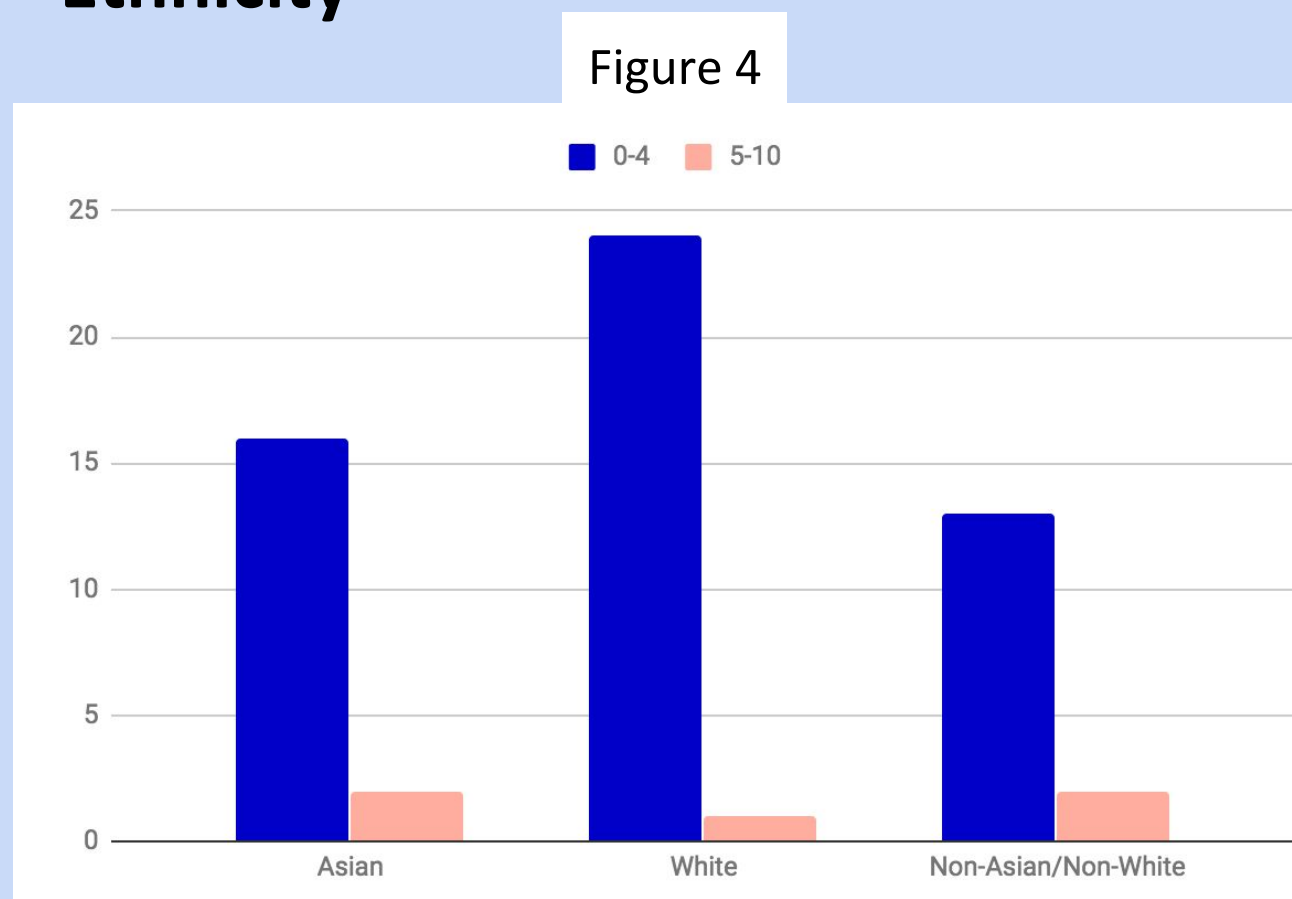


A comparison between the respondent's age and whether they believe that most undocumented immigrants contribute to the economy

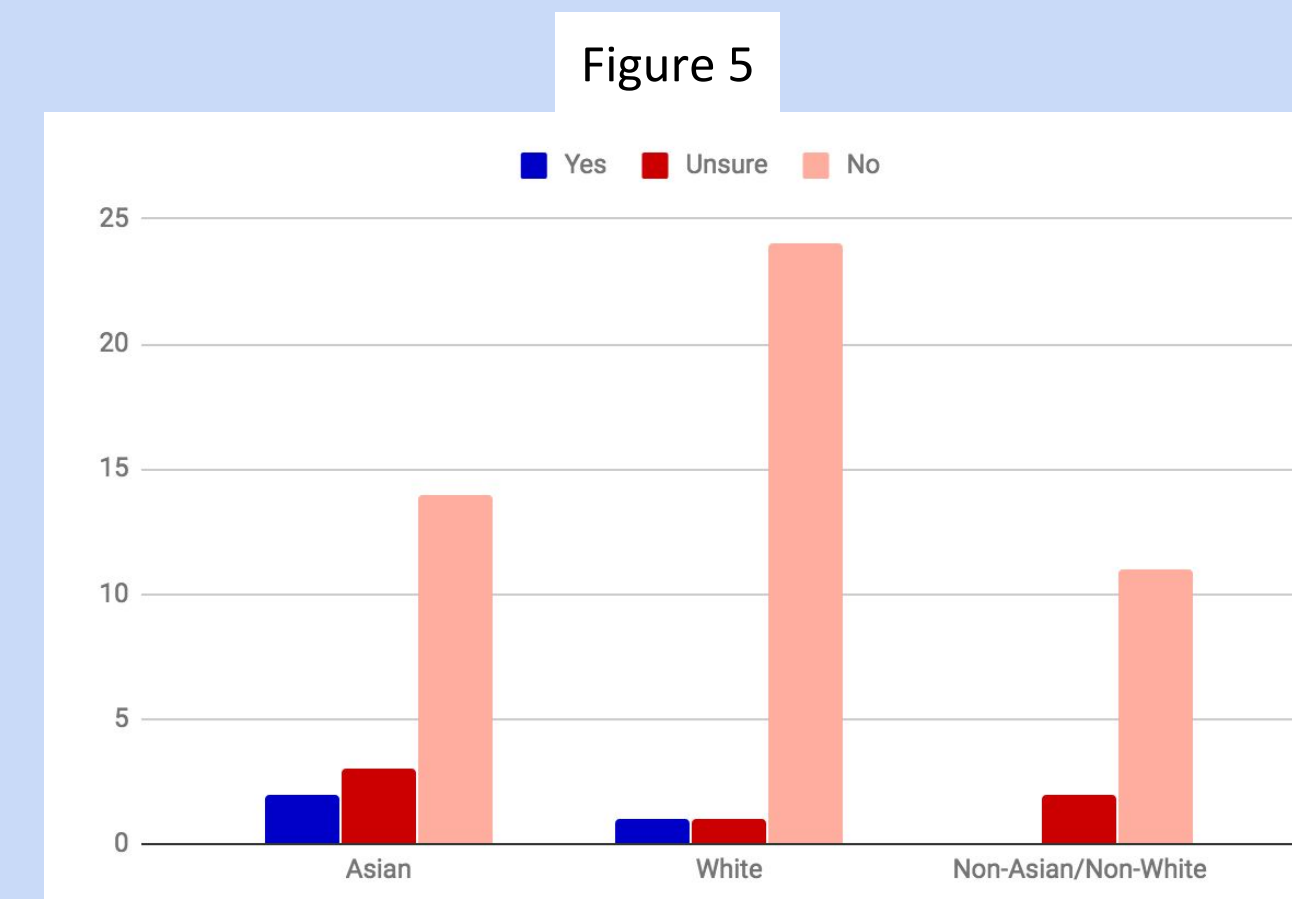


A comparison between the respondent's age and whether they believe that undocumented immigrants should be granted legal status under some circumstances

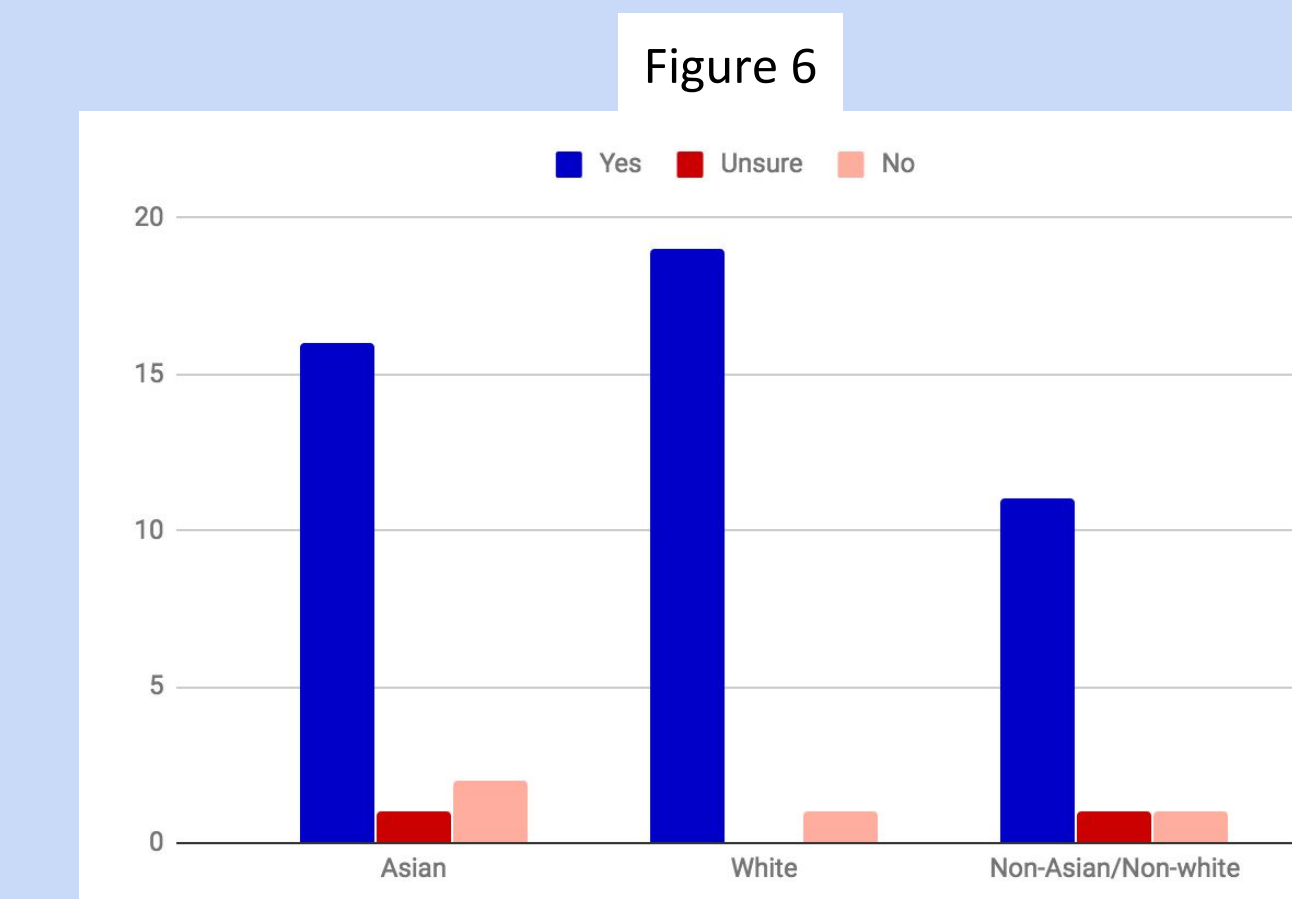
Ethnicity



A comparison between the respondent's ethnicity and how much they feel that Latin American immigrants negatively impact traditional American customs and values

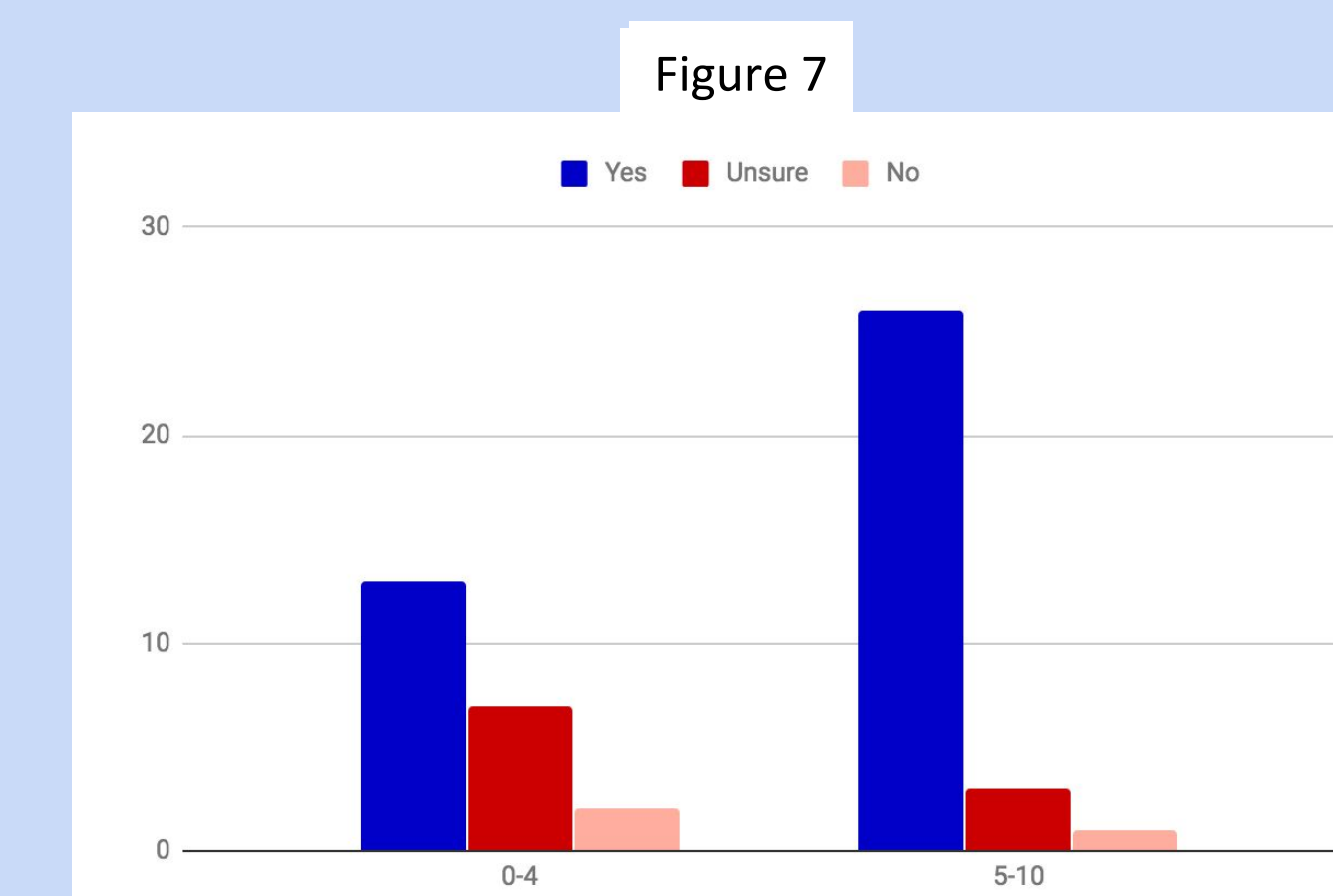


A comparison between the respondent's ethnicity and whether they believe that all undocumented immigrants should be deported



A comparison between the respondent's ethnicity and whether they believe that undocumented immigrants should be granted legal status under some circumstances

Amount of Daily Contact with Latin American Immigrants



A comparison between the amount of daily contact the respondent has with Latin American immigrants and whether they believe that most undocumented immigrants contribute to the economy

CONCLUSIONS AND ANALYSIS

The majority of Bay Area residents surveyed had positive perceptions of Latin American immigrants. The data was inconclusive, as there was no statistically significant correlation between the opinions of people in different age groups, races/ethnicities, whether they or their parents are immigrants or not, what continent they or their parents immigrated from, and how much daily contact they had with Latin American immigrants. When comparing both ethnicity and age and whether undocumented immigrants should be granted legal status under some circumstances, the majority of participants across all age groups and ethnicities believed that undocumented immigrants should be granted legal status under some circumstances. The majority of participants believed that undocumented immigrants contribute to the economy. The majority of participants across age groups responded "no" to the question of "Do you believe that all undocumented immigrants should be deported?", and the only responses of "yes" that I received were in the age group of under 18. When responses to the amount of daily contact with Latin American immigrants and whether the respondents believe that undocumented immigrants contribute to the economy were compared, the respondents who had more contact with Latin American immigrants were more likely to believe that undocumented immigrants contribute to the economy and less likely to think that undocumented immigrants do not contribute to the economy. The majority of respondents do not believe that all undocumented immigrants should be deported, and the demographic group that had the most responses of "yes" to whether or not all undocumented immigrants should be deported was people of Asian ethnicity.

IMPLICATIONS & NEXT STEPS

These findings are important because they show that a majority of the sample group have a positive view of Latin American immigrants and undocumented immigrants. The research was limited due to the fact that the sample group was not completely random, since it was pushed out mostly to Palo Alto High School students and staff members on University Avenue in downtown Palo Alto. If this project is continued, different methods of sample selection should be employed to try to get a more randomized sample group. A more widespread sample, potentially of the entire U.S., would have been preferable, but that was not possible for this project.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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