2010-04-01

Making it: A Comparison of Hispanic and Asian Immigrants' Annual Income

Ben Harrison
Deborah Erickson
Ham Mitala
Lauren vanderHorst

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/fhssconference_studentpub

Part of the Sociology Commons

The Annual Mary Lou Fulton Mentored Research Conference showcases some of the best student research from the College of Family, Home, and Social Sciences. The mentored learning program encourages undergraduate students to participate in hands-on and practical research under the direction of a faculty member. Students create these posters as an aide in presenting the results of their research to the public, faculty, and their peers.

BYU ScholarsArchive Citation
Harrison, Ben; Erickson, Deborah; Mitala, Ham; and vanderHorst, Lauren, "Making it: A Comparison of Hispanic and Asian Immigrants' Annual Income" (2010). FHSS Mentored Research Conference. 175.
https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/fhssconference_studentpub/175

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Family, Home, and Social Sciences at BYU ScholarsArchive. It has been accepted for inclusion in FHSS Mentored Research Conference by an authorized administrator of BYU ScholarsArchive. For more information, please contact scholarsarchive@byu.edu, ellen_amatangelo@byu.edu.
**Abstract**

Research indicates that the number of immigrants in U.S. in 2006 was 37.5 million. The purpose of this study was to examine if Asian or Hispanic immigrants had a higher income and the factors that influenced these differences. To gain a foundation on the subject the researchers reviewed literature completed on Asian and Hispanic immigrants to the U.S. They discovered that Asians are considered the model minority by the American public. The researchers then looked at the New Immigrant Survey (NIS) from Princeton University done in 2003 and 2004. The variables explored are ethnicity, income, education, documentation, gender, and English fluency. A regression analysis and means comparison was used to analyze the data. Our findings support our hypothesis that Asian immigrants earn more annually than Hispanic immigrants.

**Hypothesis**

Asian immigrants will have a higher annual income than Hispanic immigrants due to factors such as English fluency, education, visa attainment, gender, and ethnicity.

**Methods**

Sample
- Sampling frame is new arrival immigrants and adjustee immigrants over the age of 18 with various kinds of documentation

Instruments
- Secondary analysis of data collected by the New Immigrant Survey (NIS) from Princeton University in 2003

Data
- Independent Variables
  - Hispanic
  - Asian
- Dependent Variable
  - Income
- Control Variables
  - Gender
  - Education
  - English Fluency
  - Documentation

**Findings**

Regression Table
- Asian respondents earned approximately $12,000 more than Hispanic respondents.
- For each level of education, the immigrant earned approximately $9,000 more.
- Legal status had little effect on immigrant income.
- Male immigrants earn more than female immigrants.

Means Comparison Table
- The average income for Asian immigrants is twice as large as Hispanic immigrants.
- Asian immigrants received one level higher of education than Hispanic immigrants.
- The majority of Hispanic respondents did not have a visa, while the majority of Asian immigrants did.
- Gender and English class enrollment had little significance on average income level.

**Conclusion**

The findings supported our hypothesis that Asians make more money than Hispanics
- Asians had higher education levels, increasing their earnings
- As in other studies, males of both ethncities had higher incomes than females.

**Table 1: Linear Regression of Gender, Education Received, English Class Enrollment and Visa Attainment on Hispanic and Asian Immigrant Income.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristics</th>
<th>Beta Coefficients</th>
<th>t</th>
<th>p-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ethnicity</td>
<td>0.12750.121</td>
<td>0.091</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education Received</td>
<td>0.0433.366***</td>
<td>0.186</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender</td>
<td>0.1006.701**</td>
<td>0.311</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English Class Enrollment</td>
<td>0.1100.328</td>
<td>0.600</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visa Attainment</td>
<td>-0.2076.275</td>
<td>0.112</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Constant</td>
<td>-0.0089.696</td>
<td>0.920</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

R²: 0.071

*p < 0.05, **p < 0.01 ***p < 0.001 (2-tailed tests).

**Table 2: Mean Comparison of Hispanic and Asian Immigrants by Demographic Characteristics**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristics</th>
<th>Hispanic</th>
<th>Asian</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Income</td>
<td>21,871.87***</td>
<td>43,118.28***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>3.77 ***</td>
<td>4.87 ***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visa Attainment</td>
<td>0.82 ***</td>
<td>0.90 ***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender</td>
<td>0.57</td>
<td>0.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English Class Enrollment</td>
<td>0.89</td>
<td>0.90</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data Source: New Immigrant Survey, Adult Sample 2003
Note: Hispanic, n = 827, Asian, n = 561.
*p < 0.05, **p < 0.01 ***p < 0.001 (2-tailed tests).