Strong Ties as a Family Adaptive Strategy:
An Examination of the Social Support Networks of
Rural Low-Income Latino Families

E. Brooke Kelly, David R. Imig, Dennis R. Keefe, Mary McDonald, Nancy Lees, Karen Varcoe, Martha L. Lopez, and Beth Hilberg

Abstract:

In the context of welfare reforms, low-income families draw from a limited pool of economic and social service resources. Social support networks represent a family adaptive strategy for bridging the gaps between crucial needs, such as childcare and transportation, and economic resources. Utilizing Granovetter’s discussion of “strong ties,” the authors rely on qualitative in-depth interviews to illustrate the strong, close-knit networks within which rural, low-income Latino families exchange resources. Although the use of these networks represents a family adaptation, exchanging with others in similar economic circumstances can also incur a cost.

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1. This paper was presented at the annual meeting of the National Council on Family Relations in November of 2002.
2. E. Brooke Kelly, Michigan State University, Department of Sociology, 316 Berkey Hall, East Lansing, MI, 48824; David Imig, Dennis Keefe and Mary McDonald, Michigan State University, Department of Family and Child Ecology, 107 Human Ecology, East Lansing, MI 48824; Nancy Lees, University of California, 143 Highlander Hall-C, Riverside, CA 92521; Karen Varcoe, University of California, 139 Highlander Hall-C, Riverside, CA 92521; Beth Hilberg, Oregon State University, 322 Milam Hall, Corvallis, OR 97331-5102
5. This research was supported in part by The Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station. Data were collected in conjunction with the cooperative multi state research project NC-223 Rural Low-Income Families: Monitoring Their Well-Being and Functioning in the Context of Welfare Reform. Cooperating states are California, Colorado, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, New York, Ohio, Oregon, New Hampshire, and Wyoming. However, this paper focuses on seventy-three Latino respondents from California, Michigan, and Oregon.