

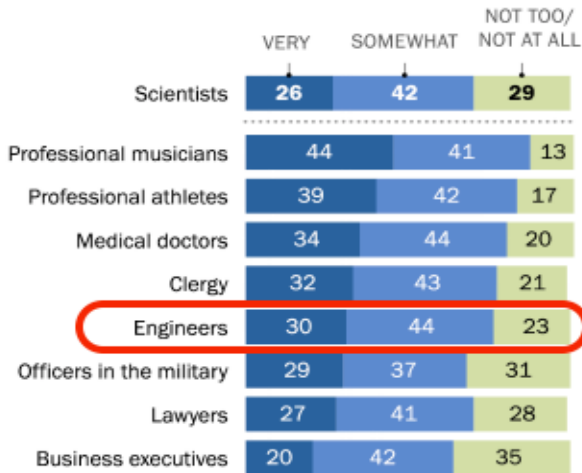
https://www.pewresearch.org/science/2022/06/14/hispanic-americans-trust-in-and-engagement-with-science/?utm_source=Pew+Research+Center&utm_campaign=6b1e35c2a2-Weekly_2022_06_18&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_3e953b9b70-6b1e35c2a2-399872153

Hispanic Americans' Trust in and Engagement with Science

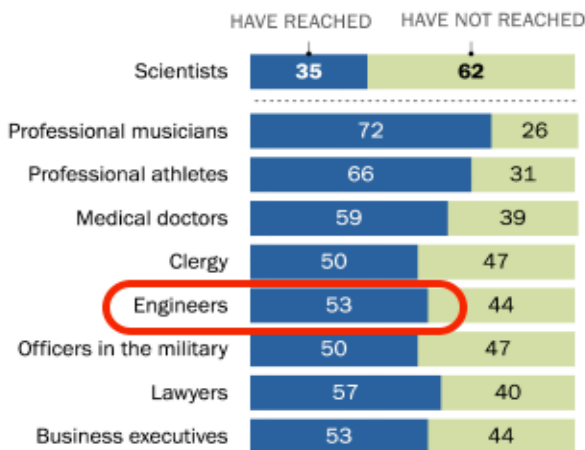
Relatively few Hispanic adults see scientists as welcoming to Hispanic professionals in these jobs

% of Hispanic adults who say ...

Each professional group is ___ welcoming of Hispanic people in these jobs



Hispanic people ___ highest levels of success



Note: Respondents who did not give an answer are not shown.
Source: Survey conducted Nov. 30-Dec. 12, 2021.
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Increasing representation in science seen as important for attracting more Hispanic people to science
Report June 14, 2022

Hispanic Americans are one of the fastest growing groups in the nation, a trend that now extends far beyond historic Hispanic population centers to every region and state across the nation. Hispanic Americans are a diverse population, tracing their roots to the island of Puerto Rico, Mexico and more than 20 other nations across Central and South America, with experiences and views about American society often differing widely depending on whether they were born in the United States or immigrated to the country....

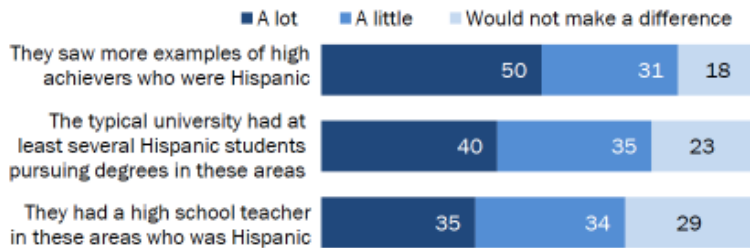
Hispanic Americans are glaringly underrepresented among the ranks of scientists and those in allied professions. Hispanic adults make up 17% of the U.S. workforce but just 8% of those working in a science, technology, engineering or math (STEM) job. Since 2010, there has been an increasing share of Hispanic students attending and graduating from college as well as a rise in the share earning a bachelor's degree in a STEM field. Even so, Hispanic students remain underrepresented among college graduates and among master's and doctoral degree-earners in STEM.

The survey findings suggest that most Latinos see scientific professions as potentially "unwelcoming" to Latino people. For example, just 26% of Latinos feel that scientists as a professional group are very welcoming of Latinos in these jobs; another 42% say they are somewhat welcoming. About three-in-ten (29%) view scientists as not too or not at all welcoming of Latinos in their ranks....

Hispanic adults also express a sense that Hispanic people are not visible at the highest levels of success in science careers. About six-in-ten say that Hispanic people have not reached the highest levels of success as scientists; fewer (35%) believe that they have.

Half of Hispanic adults think having more Hispanic high achievers in STEM would help a lot to attract more to these degree programs

% of Hispanic adults who say young Hispanic people would be ___ more likely to pursue college degrees in STEM if ...



Note: Respondents who did not give an answer are not shown.
 Source: Survey conducted Nov. 30-Dec. 12, 2021.
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Perceptions of Hispanic achievement as engineers and medical doctors are relatively more positive: 53% and 59%, respectively, think Hispanic people have reached the highest levels of success in these professions.

One focus group participant put the connection between representation and trust this way: "I think we need to know more Latino scientists. I think ... well, actually, I don't know any Latino scientists that I would say, "Oh yes. That's that scientist ... So maybe if we knew some scientists that made a discovery that was Latino we would trust science more." – Latina, age 25-39

The survey highlights greater visible achievement among Hispanic Americans as a potential driver of STEM engagement among Hispanic Americans, including the pursuit of college degrees in these fields.

A large majority of Hispanic adults say that seeing more examples of high achievers in STEM who are Hispanic would help a lot (50%) or a little (31%) to encourage more young Hispanic people to pursue college degrees in STEM fields.

Majorities also say young Hispanic people would be at least a little more likely to pursue college degrees in STEM if the typical university had at least several Hispanic students in STEM degree programs and if Hispanic students had a high school STEM teacher who was Hispanic.

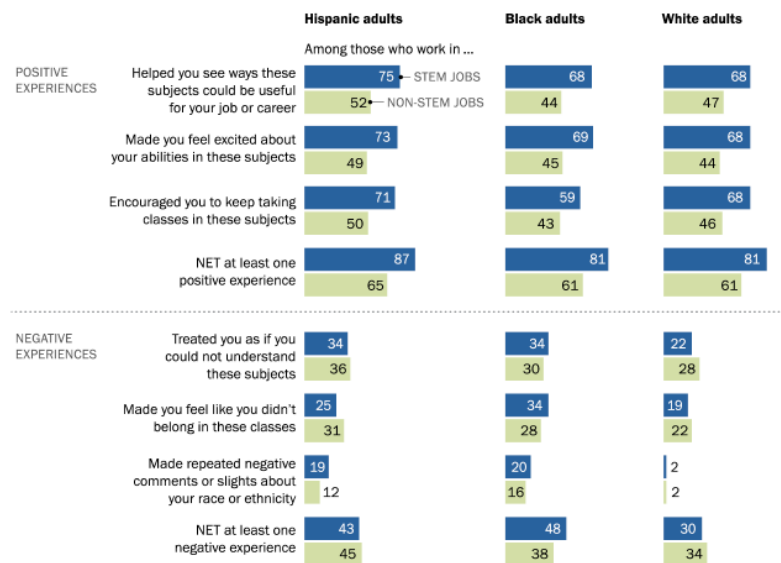
A sizable share of Hispanic college students are the first in their immediate family to attend college. The survey finds first-generation Hispanic college students are especially likely to view representation in the form of more examples of high-achieving Hispanic people in STEM as a catalyst for greater engagement: 60% think this would make young Hispanic people a lot more likely to pursue STEM degree programs.

When thinking about ways to increase engagement with science among Hispanic Americans, focus group participants frequently raised the issue of representation.

"More of us. We need to see more of our people." – Latino, age 25-39

Hispanic college graduates working in STEM are more likely than their non-Hispanic White counterparts to recall mistreatment in STEM schooling

Among employed adults with a college degree or more education, % who say in their most recent STEM schooling, they had someone who ...



Note: Respondents who gave other responses or did not give an answer are not shown. Hispanic adults includes those of any race. Black adults refers to all those who self-identify as Black (inclusive of those who identify as single-race, multiracial and Black Hispanic). Those who self-identify as both Hispanic and Black are included among both Hispanic adults and Black adults. White adults refers to those with a single-race identity as White and non-Hispanic.
 Source: Survey conducted Nov. 30-Dec. 12, 2021.
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“Just that, incorporate more Latino people in it, starting with school, involve kids in technology and science, and develop more projects about strategies, those type of things, for the kids to get more interested and see it more like a game and therefore begin to have a love for science.” – Latina, age 40-65

Past experiences with STEM schooling can play a pivotal role in whether or not people engage with science or pursue further training or a job in STEM. The survey paints a mixed picture when it comes to Latinos’ past experiences in the classroom.

Most Hispanic college graduates working in STEM fields can recall positive experiences from their most recent educational experiences in science, technology, engineering and

math – such as someone who encouraged them to keep taking classes in these subjects.

However, Hispanic college graduates working in STEM jobs are significantly more likely than non-Hispanic White college graduates in these positions to say they faced mistreatment in their most recent STEM schooling. For instance, 34% say they can recall someone treating them as if they could not understand the subject matter – significantly higher than the share of non-Hispanic White adults working in STEM who say this (22%).

In all, 43% of college-educated Hispanic STEM workers say they had at least one of the three negative experiences asked about in the survey. The experiences of Hispanic college graduates in this regard are similar to those of Black college graduates, who are also far more likely than non-Hispanic White college graduates to recall any of these three negative experiences in their STEM schooling.

The survey, conducted Nov. 30 to Dec. 12, 2021, includes 3,716 Hispanic adults; findings based on all Hispanic adults surveyed have a margin of error of plus or minus 2.6 percentage points.

The questions asked in the survey were informed by a set of six focus groups among Hispanic adults, conducted virtually in July 2021, that elicited views about the COVID-19 pandemic, experiences and beliefs about the health and medical care systems, as well as people’s interests in science topics and their thoughts about ways to increase trust and engagement with science in Hispanic communities. The study also drew guidance from a panel of advisers with expertise on Hispanic and Black Americans’ views and experiences in American society broadly and in connection with science, health and STEM education....