

Poverty and the Latina Experience

Nora Urrea, MBA, MMF

National Board Member

Catholic Association of Latino Leaders

Many of the social ills that lead to poverty, such as early promiscuity, gang related activity, high dropout rates and single parenthood, could be traced back to brokenness within the family structure. As marriage rates fall, and divorce rates rise, more children are growing up in single parent homes. Unfortunately, the absence of fathers in the home leaves mothers to raise children at or near the poverty level; exemplified as a growing problem in the Hispanic community. Social science data clearly demonstrates that children growing up in intact families exhibit higher levels of mental health, physical health, educational attainment, and earning potential. Strong, healthy marriages and healthy families largely benefit the future economic productivity of individuals and the nation. Any solution to combat poverty in our nation must address the need to heal broken relationships between husbands and wives and encourage the flourishing of the institute of marriage.