

# Do Latino Boys See Bright Futures?: Latino/a Students' Perceptions on College and Financial Aid



**Mari Luna De La Rosa, Ph.D.**

*“That is, today we grapple with our need to thoroughly understand who we are-gifted human beings-and to believe in our gifts, talents, our worthiness and beauty, while having to survive with the constructs of a world antithetical to our intuition and knowledge regarding life’s meaning.”*

*Ana Castillo, Massacre of the Dreamers, 1994*

# Description of High Schools

---

- 9 low-income high schools in the Los Angeles County area.
- Enrollment from 1,000 to 5,000 students.
- 12<sup>th</sup> graders from 133 to 734.
- Teachers (both credentialed and uncredentialed) from 47 to 219.
- College counselors at each school: **1**.
- College preparation programs on each campus from 2 to 7.

# Description of Latino/a Student Respondents

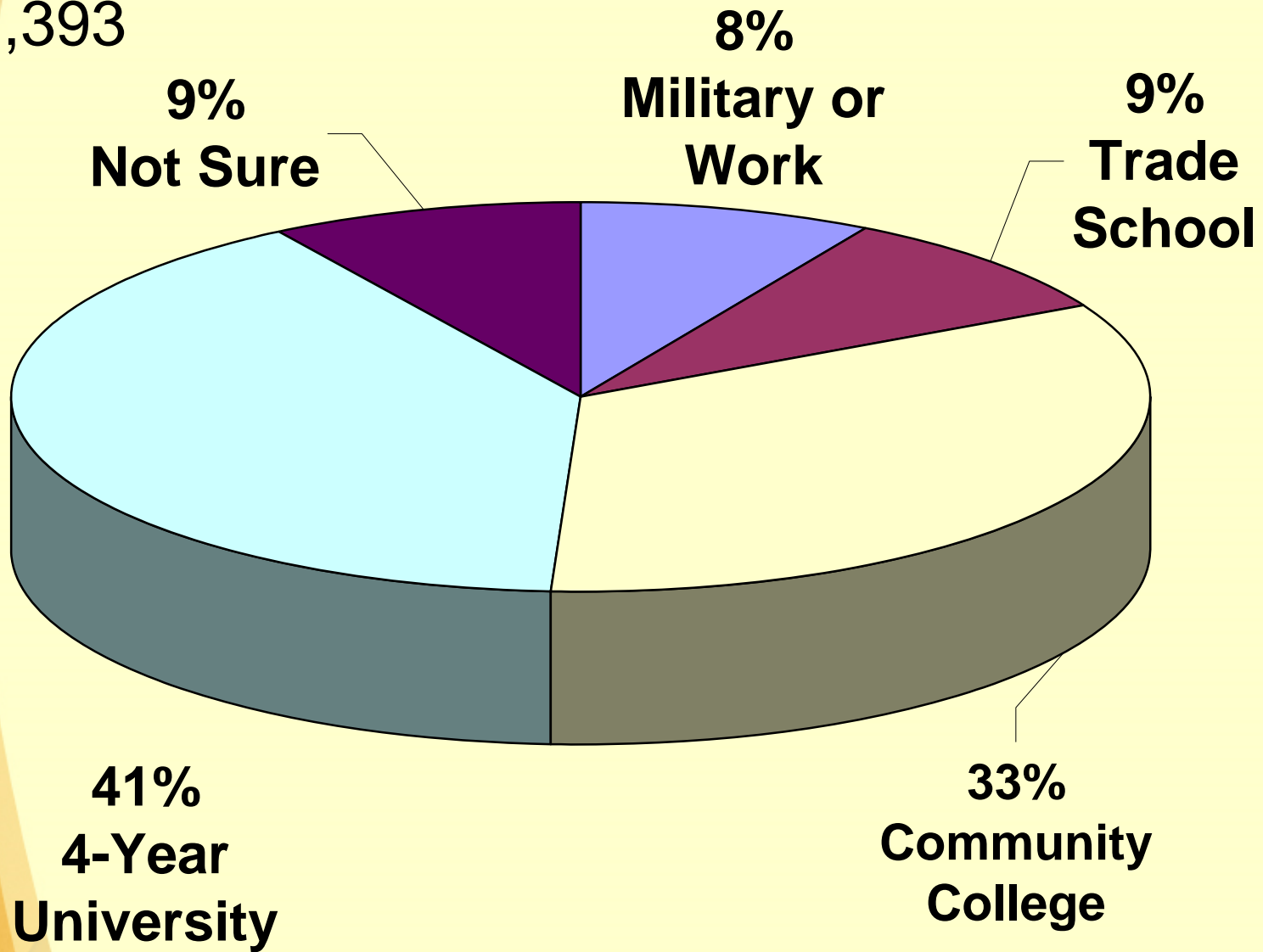
## N=3,032

---

- 46% are male.
- 54% are in the 11<sup>th</sup> grade.
- 84% are 16 to 17 years old.
- 80% are U.S. citizens.
- 96% live with their parents.
- 40% receive mostly C grades.
- 57% first to go to college.
- 67% have parents with some high school education.

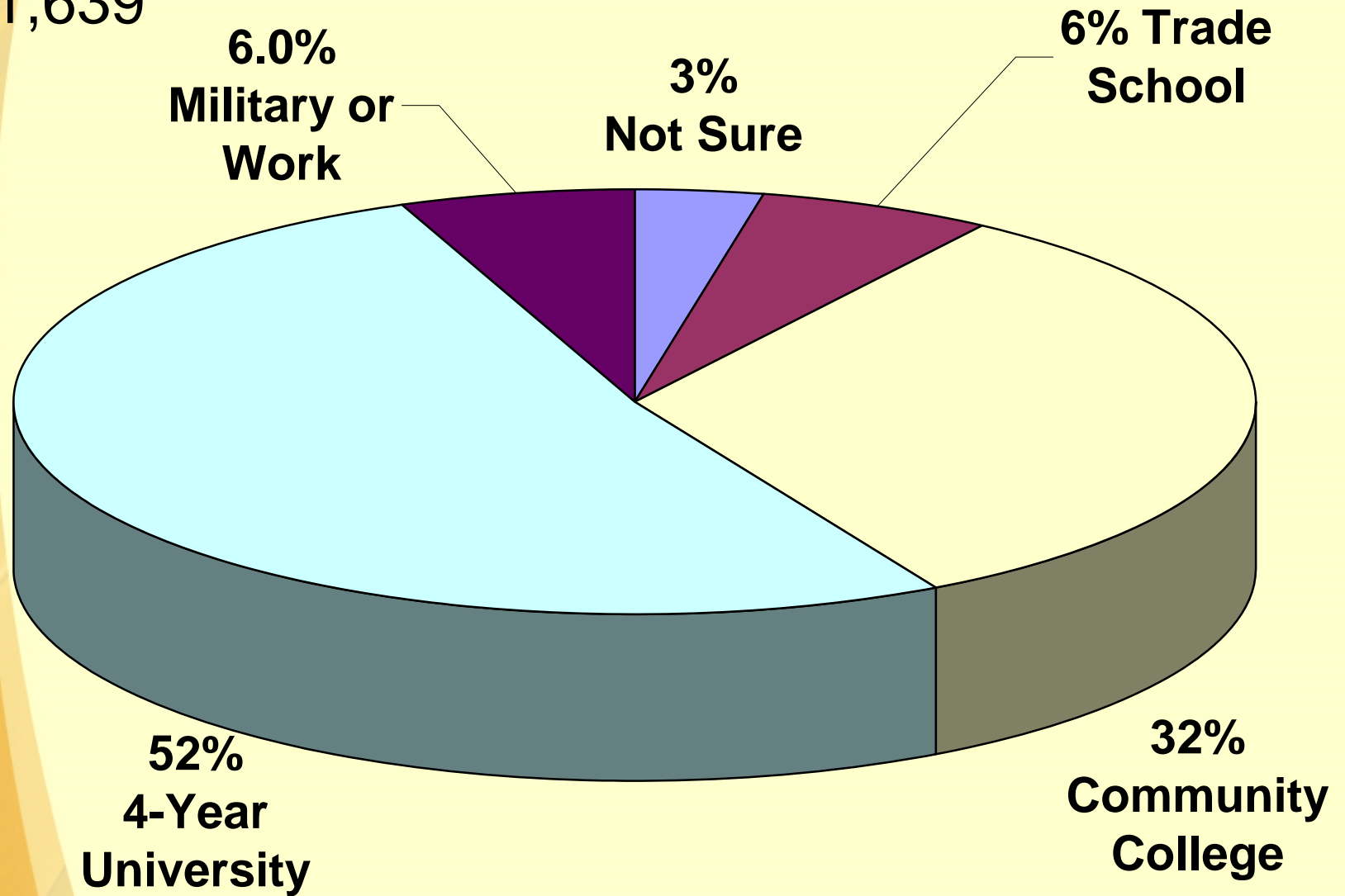
# Latino Boys Plans after High School

N=1,393



# Latina Girls Plans after High School

N=1,639



# “If I Want to Go to College, I Want to Go Because....” (% Very Important)

■ Latino Boys
 ■ Latina Girls



N=3,032

Family Wants Me to Go

Teachers/Counselors Encourage Me

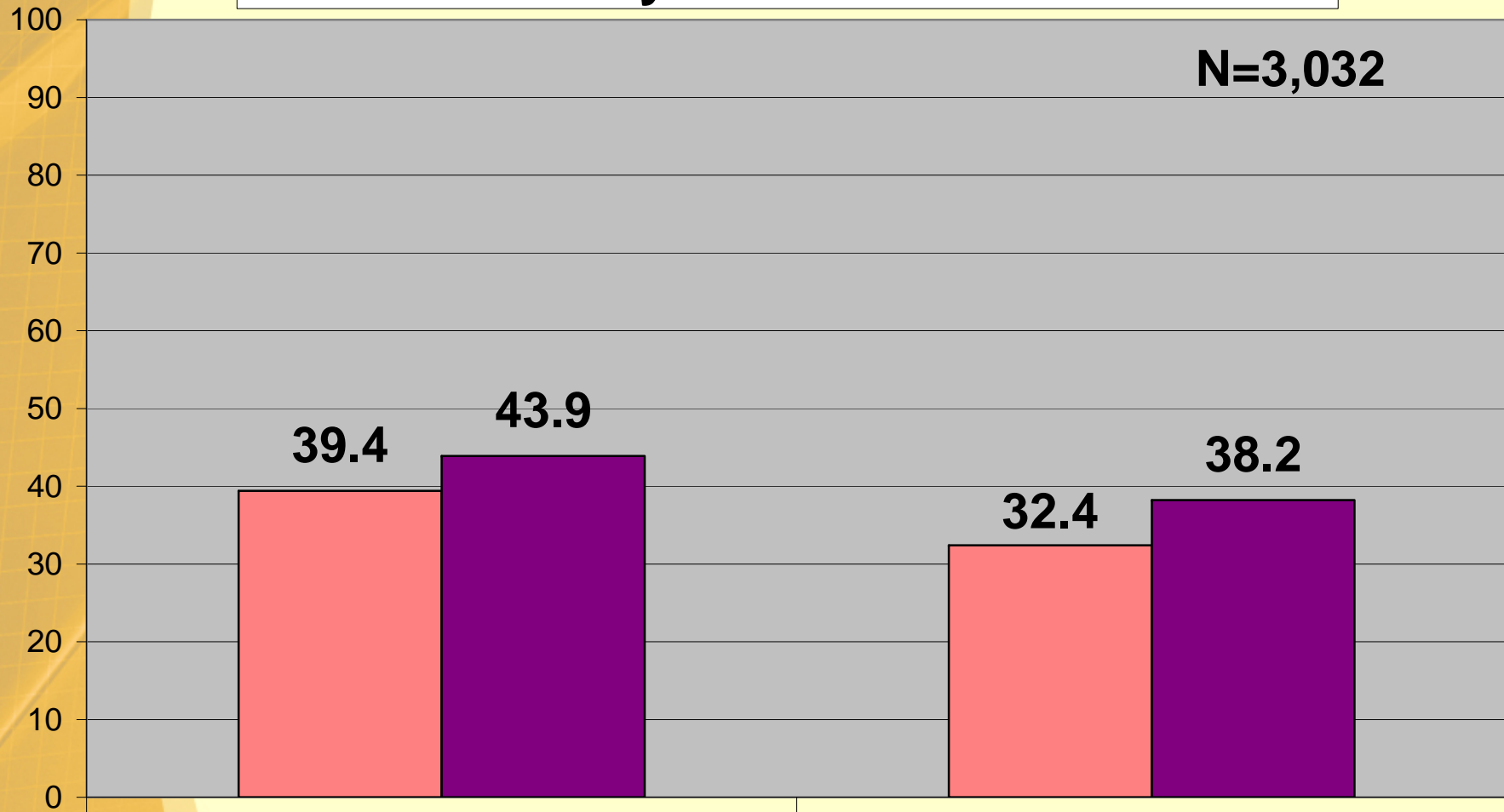
# “When I Think About Paying for College...”

(% who Strongly Agree to Agree)

Latino Boys

Latina Girls

N=3,032





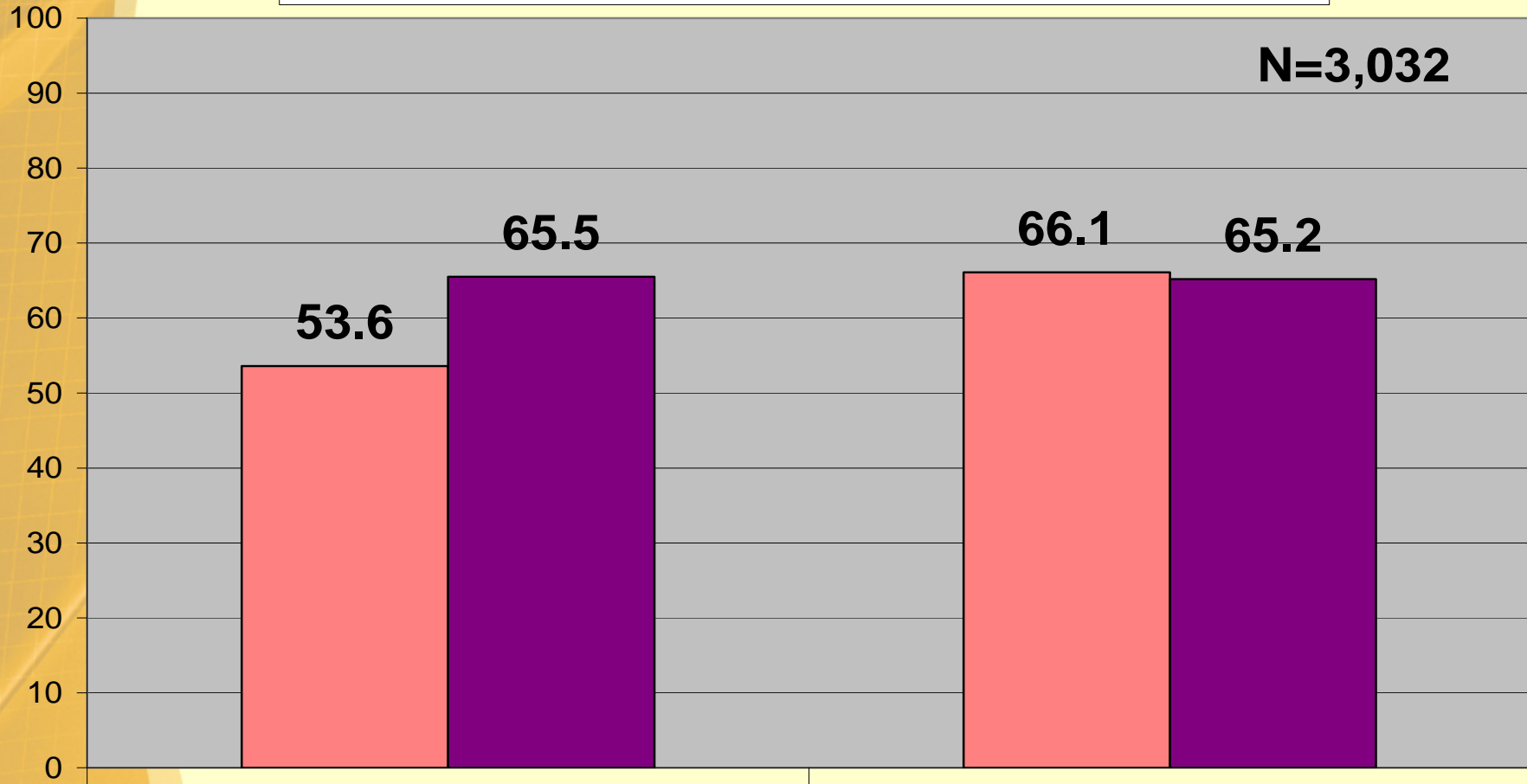
# “I Will Use Financial Aid Information to....”

(% who Strongly Agree to Agree)

Latino Boys

Latina Girls

N=3,032



# Policy Implications

---

- Culture of preparation at high schools shapes college aspiration.
- College and financial aid information framed to create college opportunity.
- Understand the needs of Latino families and their awareness of college opportunity and financial aid.

# Contact Information

---

Mari Luna De La Rosa, Ph.D.  
Postdoctoral Research Associate

[m.lunadelarosa@usc.edu](mailto:m.lunadelarosa@usc.edu)

(213) 821-2131

[www.usc.edu/dept/chepa/](http://www.usc.edu/dept/chepa/)  
Center for Higher Education  
Policy Analysis