METHODOLOGY

- This project was a collaboration between Equity for Children, StoryCenter, Voces Latinas, and the 26 participants.
- It provides original data about hard-to-reach populations living in New York City that are often excluded and rendered invisible in city surveys and adult education programs.
- The project incorporates Digital Storytelling (DST) within the parameters of Critical Race Theory (CRT) and de-Colonial Theory to overcome binary, atomistic, and individual knowledge production with co-creative inquiry.
A webinar explaining the methodology and consent details for potential participants.

Four storycircles conducted

Ten scripts and refined voices recordings.

Six new storytellers with edited videos.

Participants discussed about the power of their stories as an advocacy tool.
The four Story Circles had 26 participants: 24 were women, including two trans women; 19 were mothers. On average, they have been in the United State for 15 years.

The majority do not have a bachelor's degree or education certificate, and most of their jobs are in essential services and caring activities.

All are Voces Latinas clients who receive a variety of services there.

The average age is 43 years old, and the primary nationalities are Ecuador (6) and México (4), and then Colombia, El Salvador, Venezuela, Bolivia, and Puerto Rico, with two people each.
CONCLUSION 1: CROSS-CUTTING DIMENSIONS

- Gender
- Migration story
- Sense of community
- Choosing NYC
- Impact of COVID-19
CONCLUSION 2: BARRIERS TO SOCIAL COHESION FOR LATINX WOMEN

- Discrimination
- Language
- Domestic Abuse/Sexual Violence
- Food insecurity
- Housing insecurity
- Informal jobs
- Unemployment
- Loneliness
- Mental Health
- Physical Health
CONCLUSION 3:
LISTENING TO WHAT THE VOICES TELL US

- Humanization behind the numbers

- Four main aspects that the stories reveal:
  1. Facing serious traumatic situations at their places of origin
  2. Difficult and painful illegal immigration
  3. Barriers, adaptation, and opportunities shaped by supporting networks
  4. Growth in their personal and social situation as well as of their children on what could be viewed as positive change or ‘post-traumatic growth' (storytelling)
CONCLUSION 4: MOVING FORWARD

- The follow-up survey confirmed that the process of telling their stories develops the ability to be "aware" of their stories and "embrace them," closing the gaps in their own stories.

- The process encouraged the participants to help others to overcome barriers.

- The project open new avenues for research and provided educational materials to the academic community.
CONCLUSION 5: 
LEVERAGING THE POWER OF STORYTELLING

- Listening to people’s stories:
  1. Boosts community bonds
  2. Inspires people to take action for social change
  3. Builds individuals’ literacy, writing and video skills
RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Develop educational and advocacy materials** for education, researchers, NGOs, policy makers, and activists.

- **Advocate with NGOs, policy makers, and others:** The DST and research results can be used to sensitize decision-makers through digital and artistic audiovisuals that transition from fixed numbers to the faces and stories of humans. It will be possible to show barriers as described by the people themselves, giving voice to them in the policy process.

- **Explore other social and economically vulnerable groups for action and an advocacy agenda:** The experience can be recreated with adaptations for different populations, such as children or recent migratory groups. It could be expanded to others within the Latinx community.