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Hispanics in Chicago and DuPage County, IL: Effects of Income on the Maintenance of the Spanish Language

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Poster Presentation P44

**HISPANICS IN CHICAGO AND DUPAGE COUNTY, IL: EFFECTS OF INCOME ON
THE MAINTENANCE OF THE SPANISH LANGUAGE**

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There is a difference in the income of the Hispanic population and the general population in the city of Chicago and DuPage County, Illinois. This study is an investigation of income variation and its effects on Spanish maintenance in the future. Census data was used to determine a relationship between the level of income and level of English-speaking ability in the Hispanic population. The results show that there is a relationship between low-levels of income and low-levels of English-speaking ability. This discrepancy will result in less maintenance of Spanish in the future and an eventual shift to English. These results contradict fears of proponents of the English-Only Movement that Spanish will cause monolingual English-speakers to be at a disadvantage if they do not learn Spanish.