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UCLA: Low-paid Hispanic men lower overall wages

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The higher the percentage of recently arrived Hispanic men in a market, the lower the overall wages, according to a study by the University of California at Los Angeles.

The lower rates of pay affected not just Hispanic males but all workers in the job categories, according to the study's author, Lisa Catanzarite of the UCLA Chicano Studies Research Center.

"Results show that in occupations with many newcomer Latino incumbents, other workers earn lower wages than would be expected," the study says. "That is, there are substantial wage penalties in local brown-collar occupations; significantly larger penalties for minorities than for whites; and reduced monetary returns to schooling in brown-collar fields."

But the study says there is another side to the situation.

"Many brown-collar fields thrive precisely because of the availability of immigrant labor. For example, if cheap immigrant labor were not abundant, labor-intensive manufacturing would relocate overseas and household cleaning and gardening would be performed by family members," the study says.