



Fact Sheet on Health Issues Affecting Hispanics

Advocate for Change: Be Informed ... Become Involved ... Take Action

What are health disparities?

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and a key player in the national effort to eliminate disparities in health defines *health disparities* as “population-specific differences in the presence of disease, health outcomes, or access to health care.” Disparities in health care access are most often associated with barriers of entry into the health care delivery system. Potential barriers to access to care are lack of health literacy and cultural competency. Healthy People 2010 defines *health literacy* as “the degree to which individuals have the capacity to obtain, process, and understand basic health information and services needed to make appropriate health decisions.” They define *cultural competency* as “the design, implementation, and evaluation process that accounts for special issues of select population groups (ethnic and racial, linguistic) as well as differing educational levels and physical abilities.”

REALITY: If the challenges for Latino access to quality health care remain unaddressed and unresolved, the long-term impact in the nation’s health and economic welfare appears inevitable.

Why examine health disparities through the lens of race, ethnicity and nationality?

According to the *National Health Care Disparities Report* from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, racial and ethnic minorities experience inferior health care, even at levels of similar socioeconomic status as non-Hispanic* Whites. Report findings indicate higher instances of substandard treatment, inadequate communication-especially for limited-English proficient (LEP) patients-cultural bias, and lack of preventive outreach contribute to uneven health care experiences between minorities and non-Hispanic Whites.

REALITY: Troubling inequities remain: ethnic biases, stereotyping, and lack of cultural competencies contribute to unequal treatment.

Research-based literature in the book, *Race, Ethnicity and Health* describes a direct link between the acculturation process and health behaviors and access to health care for Hispanic newcomers and generations that follow. According to the *Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured*, language barriers help to explain why Latino children who live in Spanish-speaking families are more likely to be uninsured compared to Latino children who live in English-speaking families (26% compared to 16%, respectively).

REALITY: The barrier of language can lead to serious and potentially life-threatening health consequences in the health care setting, including misdiagnosis, poor medical care, and inappropriate medications and/or hospitalizations.

Health Care Professions

	<u>Total Employed</u>	<u>Hispanics</u>	<u>Ratio</u>
Physicians & Surgeons	877	51	5.8%
Registered Nurses	2778	131	4.7%
Physician Assistants	99	9	9.3%
Pharmacists	243	14	5.9%
Physical Therapists	197	7	3.5%
Respiratory Therapists	109	8	7.4%
Speech-language pathologists	133	8	6.2%

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics. (2008) Retrieved from <ftp://ftp.bls.gov/pub/special.requests/lf/aat11.txt>

DO YOU KNOW?

Along with the language barrier, health care providers lack knowledge of the social support systems, organization and cohesion of the communities where Hispanics live and work. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, although Hispanics make up more than 1 in 7 (15.4%) Americans, they account for only 1 in 17 (5.9%) health care professionals in the U.S.

REALITY: The under-representation of Hispanics in health professions is a growing crisis.

* The terms “Latino” and “Hispanic” are used interchangeably by the U. S. Census Bureau and throughout this document to refer to persons of Mexican, Central and South American, the Caribbean (Cuban, Puerto Rican and Dominican), Spanish and other Hispanic descent; they may be of any race.



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Which health disparities most affect Hispanics within the USA, the State of Ohio, Cuyahoga County and City of Cleveland (Northeast Ohio)?

Synopsis of Hispanics & Health in the United States of America

One in three (32.1%) Latinos had no health insurance in 2007; the number increased from 11.8 million in 2000 to 14.8 million. In the 2003 Census: 10.7% of non-Hispanic Whites were uninsured, compared to 32.4 % of Hispanics, 20.1% of African-Americans and 18.4 % of Asians.

According to the Institute for Healthcare Advancement, 50% of Hispanics have problems with health literacy, and data collection and longitudinal health research on the health status of the country's Hispanic population is lacking. The only completed federal study of Hispanics entitled, the *Hispanic Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (HHANES)*, was conducted more than 25 years ago.

DO YOU KNOW?

There are 45 million Hispanics in the U.S, accounting for more than half of all U.S. population growth since 2000. Currently, 22 million Hispanics are in the labor force, making up 1 in 3 workers in the USA. Projections show that by 2050 the Hispanic population will grow to more than 138 million or 30% of the nation's total population.

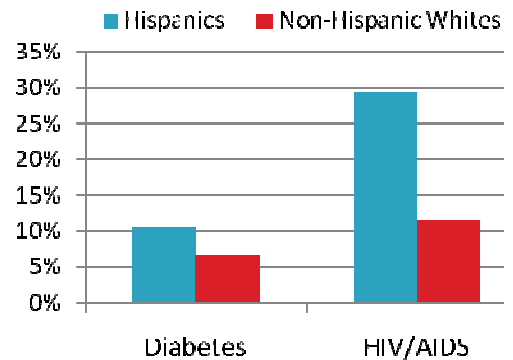
REALITY: Health care reform should ensure those living in the U.S. have access to affordable, quality health care and the opportunity and ability to keep their families healthy.

Top disparate health conditions impacting Latinos nationwide

Diabetes: Hispanics are more likely than Whites to die of diabetes. In 2005, the death rate for Hispanics was (33.6 per 100,000 persons) was nearly 50% greater than Whites (21.5 per 100,000 persons) from diabetes-related conditions.

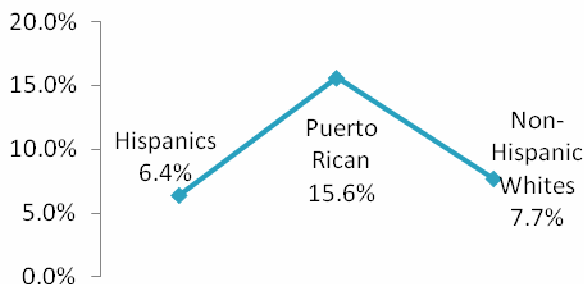
HIV/AIDS: Research estimate that Hispanics have the 2nd-highest rate of HIV infection in the U.S. 29.3% of Latinos are affected by HIV/AIDS compared with 11.5% for Non-Hispanic Whites.

Asthma: Significant exception with Puerto Ricans: twice as likely to have been diagnosed with asthma; two times more likely to report having an asthma attack in the last year than Whites.



Source: National Council of La Raza. 2009 Profiles of Latino Health

Asthma



Source: National Council of La Raza. 2009 Profiles of Latino Health

DO YOU KNOW?

While Latinos disproportionately suffer from health disparities, there exists a complex paradox around most Hispanic groups' low all-cause mortality rate. Understanding this paradox could be beneficial to all (Race, Ethnicity and Health, 2002, p.280).

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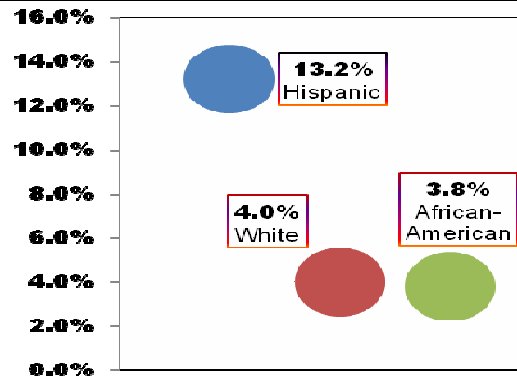
Synopsis of Hispanics & Health in the State of Ohio

According to the US Census, 2007 *Annual Social and Economic Supplement*, 30-39.9% of Hispanics in Ohio had no insurance. *The Center for Community Solutions* reported Ohio uninsured as 11% of non-Hispanic Whites, 24% of Hispanics and 16% of Blacks. In Ohio, the latest *Statewide Latino Health Needs Assessment Survey Project* was conducted in 2004 by the Ohio Latino/Hispanic Health Coalition (OLHHC).

DO YOU KNOW?

Latinos comprise the fastest growing segment of Ohio's population growing 55.4% between 1990 and 2000. In less than 7 years, the Ohio Latino population grew another 30% to total 282,603 in 2007.

Uninsured Children in Ohio



Source: 2008 Ohio Family Health Survey

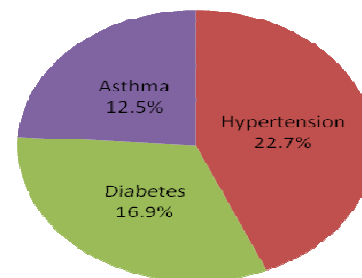
REALITY: US Census Bureau News Release (May, 2009): Almost 34% of the Hispanic population is under age 18 compared with 25% of the total population. Health care reform must include universal health insurance for ALL children living in the USA.

Top disparate health conditions impacting Latinos in Ohio

2.2% of Ohio Hispanics speak little or no English and 1 in 5 has forgone seeking medical advice due to this language barrier.

Also of great concern are smoking rates among U.S.-born Latinos, lack of regular exercise and availability of healthy foods.

Top Three Health Conditions Reported by Latinos Surveyed in Ohio



REALITY: The Statewide Latino Survey reports 34.3% Ohio Latinos are being treated for multiple serious health conditions at once.

Synopsis of Hispanics & Health in Northeast Ohio

The most recent comprehensive study was conducted in 1991 by the Hispanic Community Forum, *Hispanic Health, Knowledge, Attitudes and Practice Project: An Analysis of Hispanic Residents. Cleveland, Ohio Residents*. Important to note, information on Hispanic/Latino specific data could not be accessed on the Cleveland Department of Public Health website.

DO YOU KNOW?

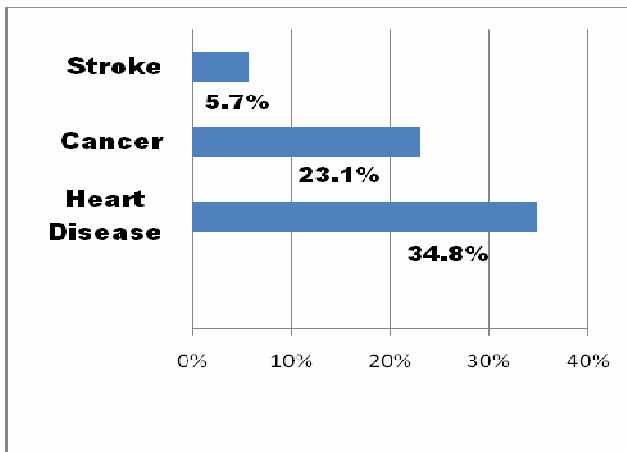
According to 2006 Census data, while the County and City is projected to continue losing population over the next 25 years, the Hispanic community continues to grow. In the City of Cleveland-Elyria-Mentor, the Hispanic population grew by 54%, from 45,900 to 85,000.

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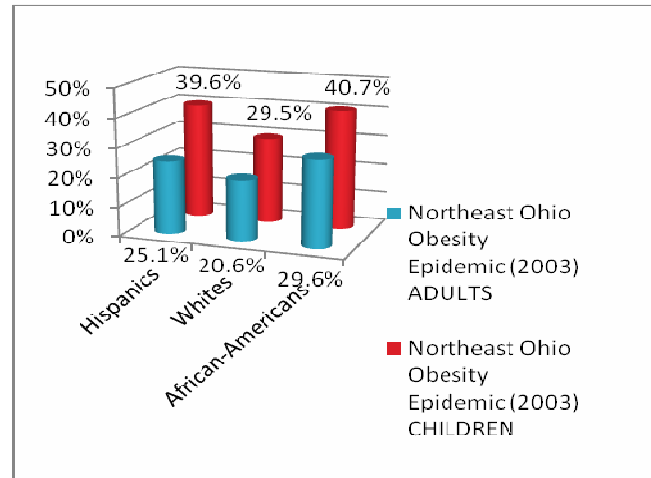
REALITY: Elected officials and other stakeholders must fund projects which collect data and analyze health disparities, and ensure the collection of data on race, ethnicity, and primary language through these health care studies.

Top disparate health conditions impacting Latinos in County & City

Leading Causes of Death in Cuyahoga County (2000 - 2002)
Source: Ohio Department of Health



Obesity in Adults & Children in Northeast Ohio (2003)
Source: Cuyahoga County Board of Health



REALITY: A number of high-disparity diseases including diabetes and heart disease are directly linked to the obesity epidemic in Northeast Ohio.

What steps can we take as members of the Hispanic Alliance to reduce or eliminate health disparities for Hispanics?

- ✓ Attend national and regional conferences on race, ethnicity, health and wellness
- ✓ Promote cultural competency training to healthcare providers
- ✓ Encourage training and hiring of bilingual and bicultural healthcare professionals
- ✓ Advocate for equitable health care reform
- ✓ Sponsor critical dialogues on health issues
- ✓ Become a member of Steps to Healthier Cleveland Community Consortium.
- ✓ Facilitate collaboration for updating comprehensive assessments.
- ✓ Advocate for adequate funding of programs which address health care disparities in Ohio.
- ✓ Support the five Health Area Team Community Resolutions of the 2008 Convencion
- ✓ Provide platform to acknowledge and award champions working to improve Hispanic health by reducing racial/ethnic health disparities.

Hispanic Alliance, Inc. is a 501 (C) 3 nonprofit corporation in the State of Ohio with the purpose of addressing Hispanic/Latino community needs.

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