



Latin@ immigrants use of United States medical and health services

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Abstract

Latin@ immigrants face social and cultural barriers, which can impact use of medical/health services for this population, including language, cultural forces, and fear of deportation. The purpose of this study is to understand human and health services related behaviors among Latin@ immigrants. Spanish speaking participants reported on health information packets and medical literacy items in an anonymous survey. Medical terminology items were used to determine comprehension and knowledge of medical services concerning the Latin@ community in a Southern state. Participants reported on health behavior and utilization of services. Recommendations for policies and providers are explored.

Recommendation

Health professionals should recognize beliefs within the Latin@ culture and policies which target undocumented and Latin@ individuals in order to tailor treatment, communicate effectively, and advocate for immigrant health rights in the United States.

Health Behavior

- Section 287(g) of the Immigration and Nationality act Arizona SB 1070 incite fear
- Public funded services commonly used
- Spanish language preference & strong cultural ties have health benefits

Literature Review

Health Literacy

- English as a Second Language is beneficial
- Low understanding of obesity
- Poor sex education has impacted reproductive health and autonomy of the body

For consideration

Many participants have:

- Resided in the US for over 20 years
- Work full time
- Have children
- Prefer communication in Spanish
- Lack health insurance
- Rarely have an annual exam

Preguntas	<i>Marque con un círculo el número que mejor represente la opinión de la persona sobre cada pregunta.</i>				
	Totalmente en desacuerdo	En desacuerdo	Neutro	De acuerdo	Totalmente de acuerdo
1. ¿Qué piensa de la afirmación: "En el estado de _____ hay un buen sistema de salud"? Piense en el precio y la calidad, las opciones que existen y la facilidad con que se puede recibir atención médica en el estado.	1	2	3	4	5
2. ¿Qué piensa de la afirmación: "El estado de _____ es un buen lugar para tener hijos"? Piense en la calidad y seguridad de las escuelas y los programas de guardería infantil, los programas extraescolares y los lugares en los que los niños pueden jugar en el estado.	1	2	3	4	5

Community Health

- Immigrant Health Paradox
- Fear deportation and discovery
- Perceived discrimination impacts service use and health
- Stigma of mental health limits use