

Latinos and HIV in Alabama

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Faculty

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AIDSAlabama
Housing Is Healthcare

Latinos in U.S.

- Data collected from the 2010 U.S. Census indicate that Latino / Hispanic communities now stand at more than 50.5 million (or 16%) strong

Latinos in U.S.

- Reports show growth propelled by a surge in births in the U.S., rather than immigration
 - Points to growing generational shift in which Latinos / Hispanics continue to gain political clout
- By 2050, Latinos / Hispanics projected to make up third of U.S. population

Latinos / Hispanics in Alabama

- According to U.S. Census data, the majority (75%) of Latinos / Hispanics live in:
 - Arizona
 - California
 - Colorado
 - Florida
 - Illinois
 - New Mexico
 - New Jersey
 - New York
 - Texas

Latinos / Hispanics in Alabama

- Data also indicates we are amidst a geographical shift
 - From 2000-2010, the Southeast, in particular, Kentucky, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, South Carolina, and North Carolina, experienced the highest increase of Latinos / Hispanics

Latinos / Hispanics in Alabama

- Alabama's Latino population is among the fastest-growing in the South
 - Attracted by jobs in agriculture, construction, landscaping and other services, and some manufacturing jobs

Demographic Data Latinos / Hispanics in Alabama

- Total Latinos / Hispanic population is 186,000
 - 4% of the state's population

– U.S. Census Bureau, 2010

Demographic Data Latinos / Hispanics in Alabama

- Alabama saw a 145% increase in its Latino population between 2000 and 2010
 - Second-highest Latino growth rate in the nation after South Carolina

– U.S. Census Bureau, 2010

Demographic Data Latinos / Hispanics in Alabama

- The median annual personal earning of Latinos / Hispanics is \$17,700
 - Compared to \$30,000 for non-Hispanic Whites

– Pew Hispanic Center, 2009

Demographic Data Latinos / Hispanics in Alabama

- 39% of Latinos / Hispanics do not have health insurance
- 40% of Latinos / Hispanics 17 years old and younger live in poverty

– U.S. Census Bureau, 2010

– Pew Hispanic Center, 2009

Demographic Data Latinos / Hispanics in Alabama

- 47% of live births among Latinos / Hispanic mothers were associated with late or no prenatal care
 - Compared to 10% for non-Hispanic white mothers and 25% for non-Hispanic black mothers

– The Hispanic population in Alabama Center for Demographic Research Auburn Montgomery Outreach May 2012

Latinos / Hispanics Heads of Household

- Tend to be:
 - First generation immigrants
 - Primarily from Mexico
 - Spanish-language dominant
 - Lacking immigration documents

Geographic Isolation and Lack of Political Power

- In certain jurisdictions, left southern Latinos / Hispanics are uniquely vulnerable to structural, social, and economic oppression
 - May increase vulnerability to HIV and other STIs

Latinos / Hispanics Living with HIV

- In July 2012, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released a comprehensive analysis indicating that only 80% of Latinos / Hispanics living with HIV are aware of their HIV positive status
 - 26% have the virus under control

Latinos / Hispanics Living with HIV

- These estimates demonstrate a gap in care and retention and serve as a clear call for stakeholders to make measurable steps in addressing the continuum of care from diagnosis to viral suppression

Latinos / Hispanics Living with HIV

- CDC estimates approximately 20% of Latinos / Hispanics living with HIV are undiagnosed
- Among those who are HIV positive, CDC data indicate over a third of Latinos (36%) were tested for HIV late in the course of their illness

Latinos / Hispanics Living with HIV

- The percentage of undiagnosed HIV cases among Latinos / Hispanics can be ascribed to a gap in testing services and grave lack of culturally and linguistically relevant information targeting this population

Latinos / Hispanics Living with HIV

- **Latinos are 3 times more likely than Caucasians to become infected with HIV**
- **1 in 36 Latino men and 1 in 106 Latina women estimated to be diagnosed with HIV at some point in their lives**

- The Center for Disease Control and Prevention

Latinos / Hispanics Living with HIV

- **2010**
 - **17,329 total cases of HIV/AIDS**
 - **278 are Latinos / Hispanics**
- **June 2012**
 - **18,120 cases reported in Alabama**
 - **308 are Latinos / Hispanics**

- Alabama Department of Health

Latinos / Hispanics Living with HIV

- **Latinos / Hispanics not only represent a disproportionate number of new cases of HIV, they also test at later stages after infection, and experience higher rates of premature death due to AIDS when compared to their counterparts in other racial / ethnic communities**

- Losina et al. 2009

Latinos / Hispanics Living with HIV

- **These undesirable health outcomes are rooted in persistent structural barriers to health, including socioeconomic inequalities**

Latino Structural Oppression and HIV

- **Southern-based Latino's marginalized status makes them less likely (and often less able) than other ethnic groups to access:**
 - **Prevention programs**
 - **Substance abuse treatment**

Latino Structural Oppression and HIV

- **Mental health counseling**
- **Domestic violence services**

- Hough, et al., 1987; Snowden and Yamada, 2005; Vega, et al., 1999

Challenges

- Interpretation is a constant problem, and bilingual employees must sometimes be borrowed
 - A typical scenario for AIDS providers is a single bilingual case worker whose responsibilities extend into 23 counties

Challenges

- Impact of multilayered stigma on HIV testing, access to care, and adherence to treatment
- Need for community-based participatory research
- Need for community mobilization and leadership among Latinos

Challenges

- Limited resources for Latino-focused HIV/AIDS services
- Transportation as a barrier services
- Lack of cultural competency on local and state levels

Challenges

- Findings in several interviews with HIV Latinos / Hispanics in Alabama:
 - Lack of services (HIV/AIDS, mental health, and substance abuse) culturally and linguistically appropriate for Latinos
 - Few interpreters or none in care facilities

Challenges

- Issues that make it difficult to Latinos to access HIV-related services:
 - Ethnic discrimination, transportation, problems communicating with health care providers, and not having health insurance

Immigration

- It is estimated more than 10 million undocumented immigrants in the U.S. will not receive any benefit from the implementation of the Affordable Care Act

Immigration

- **Newly arrived and undocumented immigrants are prohibited from purchasing insurance from the exchanges, receiving subsidies for exchange coverage, or enrolling in full-scope Medicaid or Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP)**

Immigration

- **Access to primary and other forms of outpatient care will depend on the ability and willingness of local safety net providers, such as community health centers, to serve them**
 - **Will likely vary from area to area**

Immigration

- **A November 2011 report by the Florida Association of Community Health Centers found crackdown fears kept workers from getting care at centers in Alabama, Florida, and Georgia**
 - **82% indicate incidents of farmworkers or immigrants being arrested while accessing healthcare services in the last year**

Immigration

- **AIDS Service Organization in Birmingham, Alabama witnessed a significant increase in the number of missed appointments among Latinos after the passage of Alabama’s immigration bill**

Immigration

- **One undocumented immigrant who reluctantly showed up for this appointment stated he had “prayed for weeks” to know whether he would be arrested and deported for accessing services at the ASO**
- **Health Clinics previously filled with patients receiving health services have seen reduced clientele**

Recommendations

- **Ensure that culturally appropriate medical adherence support, through peer and professional counseling, is provided for Latinos / Hispanics living with HIV/AIDS**

– National Latino / Hispanic HIV/AIDS Action Agenda

Recommendations

- **Public health and social service systems must reflect and respond to the diversity of this group and unique needs of each individual to effectively reduce the impact of HIV/AIDS on Latino / Hispanic communities**

Recommendations

- **Recruit, retain, and support the participation of Latinos / Hispanics in advisory boards, community planning groups, and coalitions**
- **Increase internal cultural and linguistic competency by actively recruiting, training, and retaining Latino / Hispanic staff**

Recommendations

- **Enhance and promote confidentiality of HIV test results and medical records in order to encourage and support individuals to be:**
 - **Tested**
 - **Learn their status**
 - **Enter services if HIV-positive**

Recommendations

- **Having health insurance coverage increases access to preventative services, such as testing and medical treatment, for people affected with HIV**

Recommendations

- **Serve as a mentor or guide for Latinos / Hispanics in your community, particularly young people, newly diagnosed HIV-positive individuals, and recent immigrants**

Recommendations

- **Encourage religious leaders in your community to support HIV/AIDS prevention efforts and to develop multi-denominational collaborative ministries that focus on HIV/AIDS from a spiritual, medical, public health, and ecumenical point of view**

Recommendations

- **Develop outreach efforts for Latinos / Hispanics integrating HIV testing and prevention information within other health and social concerns**
 - e.g., diabetes and high blood pressure

Recommendations

- **Provide paid or volunteer opportunities for HIV+ and HIV- young people, transgender individuals, and new immigrants to work in community-based organizations and community health centers, particularly as peer educators and counselors**

Recommendations

- **Cultural, linguistic, and family appropriate prevention and treatment initiatives**
- **Partnerships with existing local Latino institutions**
 - CBOs, soccer leagues, churches, area businesses

Recommendations

- **Importance of Spanish language radio as a communication tool**
- **Advocacy**
 - Anti-immigrant initiatives
 - Access to treatment

– Duke, M. University of Memphis, Calvo, M., Latino Memphis(2012)

Alabama Latino AIDS Coalition Mission

- **ALAC seeks to improve STI and HIV knowledge, services, and prevention efforts among the Latino community in Alabama**



ALAC Efforts in Numbers

- **2012**
 - 130 Latinos tested in Ora Quick testings
 - 832 Latinos received HIV prevention presentations / orientations in health fairs
- **Collaboration with agencies, AIDS Alabama services, interpreting, referrals**

ALAC Efforts in Numbers

– 60 attended the Alabama Latino
AIDS Coalition meeting

First National Latino AIDS Awareness Day



The American Dream

"The American dream is not a sprint, or even a marathon, but a relay. OUR families don't always cross the finish line in the span of one generation. But each generation passes on to the next the fruits of their labor. My grandmother never owned a house. She cleaned other people's houses so she could afford to rent her own. But she saw her daughter become the first in her family to graduate from college. And my mother fought hard for civil rights so that instead of a mop, I could hold this microphone."

- Julian Castro, Mayor, San Antonio, Texas
Keynote Speech at the 2012 Democratic National Convention (9/4/12)