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Latinx Immigrants' Healthcare Access: Barriers, Consequences and Strategies for the Future

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Latinx Immigrants’ Healthcare Access: Barriers, Consequences, and Strategies
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Socioeconomic Status and Adverse Consequences (Prenatal and Pediatrics)

- There is disproportionate poverty in the Latino population, with 22% living below the poverty line in 2006 as compared with 10% of white non-Latinos (Nega et al., 2009).
- The proportion of rural racial/ethnic minorities in high-poverty job classifications is startling: 68% of rural Blacks, 62% of rural Hispanics, and 48% of rural Native Americans hold such jobs, compared with 43% of rural Whites (Probst et al., 2004).

Latino Health Status

Disproportionate Health Status

- Latinos are less likely to have health insurance, a regular source of health care, and at least one ambulatory health care visit a year (Timmins, 2010).
- Inadequate communication between patient and provider “can lead to inappropriate or unnecessary testing, clinical inefficiency, misdiagnosis, negative outcomes, and malpractice” (Fortier et al.).

Specialty: Prenatal Care

- 44% of Mexican immigrant women report that language barriers and/or poor communication caused decreased access to prenatal care (Scribner and Dwyer).
- Fewer of the Spanish-speaking minors were found to have health care (Flores et al., 1998).

Adverse Consequences (Prenatal and Pediatrics)

- Parents who spoke little or no English reported poor access to prenatal care (Sherraden and Barrera).
- Fewer of the Spanish-speaking infants of Hispanic descent (Scribner and Dwyer).
- Obstacles faced by the immigrants make them feel reluctant to seek due to the concerns about poor treatment (Derose, Escare & Latui, 2007).

Barriers to Receiving Health Care

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Barriers to Receiving Health Care</th>
<th>Lack of Cultural Competency</th>
<th>Economic Barriers</th>
<th>Language Barriers</th>
<th>Cultural Stigmas</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 in 9 parents didn't bring their child to a physician because the staff didn't comprehend Latino culture (Flores et al., 1998)</td>
<td>1 in 5 Latino parents aren't able to afford health care (Flores et al., 1998)</td>
<td>26% of parents reported that language being an issue (Flores et al., 1998)</td>
<td>15% of parents said that physicians didn't speak Spanish (Flores et al., 1998)</td>
<td>Stigmas faced by the immigrants make them feel reluctant to seek due to the concerns about poor treatment (Derose, Escare &amp; Latui, 2007)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Healthcare Executive Survey on Hispanic Health

Top challenges for healthcare organizations when providing services to the Hispanic population

- Language barrier: 49%
- Hiring culturally competent staff: 40%
- Cost of healthcare: 39%
- Building relationships with the community: 34%
- Access to healthcare: 30%
- Trust, retention, engagement: 29%
- Reaching Hispanic consumers: 28%

References

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