


Hispanic Health Council



Latino Policy Institute
A Profile of Latino Health in Connecticut

HealthFirst Connecticut Authority
Quality, Access and Safety Workgroup
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- Overview of the Latino population and a snapshot of Latino health in Connecticut
 - Conclusions and Recommendations




AN OVERVIEW OF THE LATINO POPULATION IN CONNECTICUT

- The state's Latino population is growing at a dramatic rate.
- Latinos are now the largest minority group in Connecticut — 10.9% of the state's population.
- Latinos experience the highest poverty rate & the highest unemployment rate of any ethnic group in the state. (23% of all Latinos are living below the poverty level; per capita income of \$18,126).



AN OVERVIEW OF THE LATINO POPULATION IN CONNECTICUT

- The Latino population is young, with a median age of 31.4 years, and nearly 40% are under 20 years of age.
- Only 32% of Latino residents age 25 or older have a high school diploma.



Latinos are playing and will continue to play an increasingly important role in the economic and social progress of Connecticut.

- Latino-owned businesses have increased by 43% since 1997.
- Latino purchasing power in Connecticut was estimated to reach \$7.5 million in 2005.

Latino Health Through the Life Span



The health inequities experienced during critical stages of the life cycle dramatically reflect the failure of our public health and socioeconomic systems to protect the health of those most vulnerable.

- Prenatal Care – highest lack of, or late prenatal care
- Teen pregnancy – highest percentage of teen births, 16.8%
- 36% of Hispanic adults are uninsured
- Less likely to have prescription and dental coverage or seek needed medical care for a non-emergency illness

Latino Health Through the Life Span



- Pediatric asthma rates are 11% for Latinos, compared to 9% for African Americans and 8% for non-Latino Whites.
- Latinos have a 60% higher mortality rate for diabetes and 40% higher mortality rate due to diabetes-related illnesses than non-Latino Whites.
- Obesity rates of CT Latina females (25.5%) are significantly higher than those of White, non –Latina females (16.9%)
- Among the leading causes of death, unintentional injury and HIV are the number 1 and 2 causes of premature mortality for Latinos

Conclusions & Recommendations



A Profile of Latino Health in Connecticut documents pervasive health inequities experienced by Latinos and represents an urgent call to action. The problem at hand is enormous, reflective of systemic root causes that must be addressed through decisive policy change.

- **Lack of Adequate Data on Latino Health**

Current and comprehensive data is needed – on Latinos in general and on the various Latino subgroups in the state.

Conclusions & Recommendations



■ **Poverty**

For real, long-term change in the health status of Latinos to occur, opportunities for livable wage must be created.

■ **Cross Cultural Barriers**

There is still much work to be done for Connecticut's health care system to assure that its care providers are skilled in working effectively with diverse populations. A critical need is the commitment of time and resources to assure a profound training that gets at the fundamental issues at hand and facilitates authentic change.

Conclusions & Recommendations



- **Language Barriers**

Medical interpretation is a necessary and affordable step towards solving the urgent problem of language barriers within health care settings.

- **Health Care Coverage**

Universal Health Care Coverage is an essential step towards solving the health inequities experienced by Latinos in Connecticut.

- **Health Literacy**

Health literacy is critical to elevating the capacity for Latino communities throughout the state to effectively navigate health systems, adhere to health guidance and care for themselves adequately.

Conclusions & Recommendations



For more information visit our website:

www.hispanichealth.com