## Proving for our own, protecting all: Latinx grassroots community organizations rapid response to the COVID-19 virus pandemic



Patricia Tellez-Giron MD 2020 Family Medicine Midwest Virtual Conference

#### DISCLOSURES

NOTHING TO DISCLOSE

I LOVE MY COMMUNITY!

## Objectives

- To bring awareness to the barriers faced by Latinx communities in the reception of quality and culturally sensitive services for the COVID-19 virus pandemic.
- To describe the development and deployment of various initiatives currently addressing the most significant needs encountered with the COVID-19 virus pandemic in the Latinx Community of Dane County, Wisconsin.
- To demonstrate how the collaborative efforts of communities' grassroots organizations can be effective in providing needed services for minority communities.

## Latinos: Fastest growing population in US



- ❖ 18% of total US population (60.8 millions)
- 24.4 % of US
   population by year 2050
- ❖ Youngest ethnic group in the US (36 % under 18 years of age)

#### **LATINOS**

- Majority are Mexican-Americans (64%); rest: Puerto Ricans, Central Americans, Dominicans, Cubans, South Americans
- Some commonalities of language and cultural values
- Health and mental health of Latinos will have major impact on the US health system for coming decades

### **COVID** in the Latinx population



As the threat of the COVID 19 virus arrived in the United States, it was evident that the Latinx Community was at a greater risk. As we anticipated, to date Latinx have been very disproportionately affected by COVID-19 and represent the highest percentage of cases locally and statewide.

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**HEALTH** 

# A third of the coronavirus cases in Wisconsin involve Latino or Hispanic patients

**Ashley Luthern** Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

Published 6:23 p.m. CT May 28, 2020 | Updated 12:46 a.m. CT May 29, 2020

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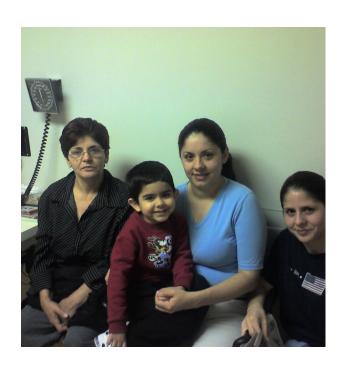


## **Evidence of Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Healthcare**

- Disparities consistently found across a wide range of disease areas and clinical services
- Disparities are found even when clinical factors, such as stage of disease presentation, co-morbidities, age, and severity of disease are taken into account
- Disparities are found across a range of clinical settings, including public and private hospitals, teaching and non-teaching hospitals, etc.
- Disparities in care are associated with higher mortality among minorities (e.g., Bach et al., 1999; Peterson et al., 1997; Bennett et al., 1995)

### DISPARITIES

- Higher incidence of children obesity
- Higher incidence of Diabetes
- Higher rates of teen pregnancy
- ❖ Higher rates of STI's
- Higher incidence of depression in adolescents



### Challenges

- Immigration status
  - ➤ Housing
  - ➤ Health access
  - > Employment
    - ✓ Discrimination / Abuse
    - ✓ Fear of deportation/family separation
  - > Education
    - ✓ Higher dropout rates (16-18 yrs 21% vs 8 % White)
      - Language
      - Teen pregnancy
      - Unable to continue to college/work in the future

#### Access to care barriers

- Language:
  - ❖ 52 millions (19.4) spoke a language other than English at home
  - 32 millions (12%) Spanish
  - Lack of bilingual-bicultural staff
  - ❖ Lack of services=language-culture sensitive
- ❖ Lack of Latino health professionals
- Lack of knowledge about system
- Lack of insurance/resources
- Transportation

#### Access to care barriers: COVID

- Previous disparities are still present.
- Latinx are overrepresented in essential jobs like medical facilities, janitorial jobs, hospitality industry, food and agricultural industries, factories, etc. These are jobs that are not possible to do from home.
- Latinx have a higher level of poverty and many cannot take advantage of the usual social safety nets, forcing them to have to continue working, even if sick or infected with the virus.
- The current system, with some exceptions, has not provided us with culturally and linguistically relevant support for education, testing, surveillance and follow up.

### **Community Assets**

- ✓ Resilience
- √ "Traditional" health habits
- ✓ Strong family/social networks
- ✓ Willingness to adapt to any employment opportunity
- ✓ Grassroots community organizations

## Dane County Latino Community Organizations

#### LATINO SUPPORT NETWORK

LATINO HEALTH
COUNCIL

& FAMILY COUNCIL

LATINO EDUCATION
COUNCIL

VOCES DE LA FRONTERA

- SPANISH MEDIA
- •CENTRO HISPANO
- •CENTRO GUADALUPE
- •UNIDOS
- •ACADEMIA LATINA
- LATINOCHAMBER OF COMERCE
- **•LATINO PROFESSIONALS**

**ASSOCIATION** 

- •FAITH BASED ORGANIZATIONS
- **•UW FAMMED**
- •ACHC
- **•UNITED WAY**

## Latino Health Council of Dane County

The mission of the LHC is to promote and support the health and wellbeing of the Latino community through education, advocacy, consulting, and networking.



#### **LHC Community Activities**

- Annual Latino Health Fair
- Latino Chronic Disease Community Conference
- Latino Mental Health Community Conference
- Latino Health Teen Bash
- "Nuestra Salud" Spanish Health Education Radio Program

### • Latinx Consortium for Action (LCA) Relief Fund

- Over a million dollars
  - ➤ Undocumented individuals/families
  - > Small businesses

#### **COVID-19 Education Campaign**

- \* Radio programs, Facebook live and various community groups presentations
- **❖** Multimedia Youth education campaign
- **❖** Social Media: Latino Health Council Facebook page ,YouTube, twitter and other

#### LE INVITAMOS A SEGUIRNOS EN NUESTRAS REDES SOCIALES



videos educativos y de salud mental información de nuestros eventos temas INTERESANTES Y DE ACTUALIDAD



**a**latinohealthcouncil



@lhc\_madison



**Latino Health Council** 



www.latinohealthcouncil.

org

#### **Mental Health Support**

-General strategy: Motivational/educational videos, locally produced for local needs and from local, well-known and respected, mental health experts with messaging that is language, culturally, and situational relevant. An average of two videos per week have been produced since the intervention started.

#### **Mental Health Support**

-Individual strategy: This intervention aims to provide brief emotional and social support, education and assessment for Spanish speaking individuals that may be at risk of mental health complications due to Covid -19 and provide appropriate referrals as necessary.

- **❖** GENERAL STRESS
- ♦ +COVID TEST
- **❖** PARENTAL/OTHER FAMILY MEMBERS SUPPORT

#### ¿Su prueba de COVID salió positiva?

¿Está preocupado y necesita hablar con alguien?



Llame a cualquiera de las siguientes organizaciones para solicitar ayuda.

SE HABLA ESPAÑOL

No importa su estatus legal.

UNIDOS (608)256-9195

Centro Hispano (608) 255-3018

Academia Latina (608) 310-4573

Cámara de Comercio Latina (608) 712-3522

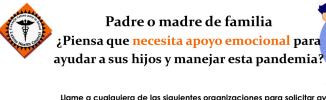
Centro Guadalupe (608)441-3257 ext. 110





Se ofrece de manera gratuita y confidencial.

apoyo emocional de corto plazo en respuesta a la crisis del Corona Virus.



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### Community Testing Advocacy

We have been working closely with the Public Health Madison Dane County, advocating and serving as subject matter experts, providing a very detailed plan to establish a long-term testing site for the Latinx Community in Madison and other at-risk rural areas in Dane County.



El Consejo Latino para la Salud en colaboración con Salud Pública de Madison y el Condado de Dane se complacen en anunciar que a partir del lunes 17 de agosto vamos a tener un sitio bilingüe para hacerse los exámenes gratuitos del COVID-19 y si necesita otros recursos.

Le recomendamos hacer una cita por teléfono al (608) 243-0302 operadores bilingües estarán disponibles los Lunes, Martes, Jueves y Viernes de 8 a.m. a 4 p.m. y los Miércoles de 12 p.m. a 8 p.m.

Las puertas estarán abiertas hasta el 30 de septiembre y esperamos seguir con este u otro lugar en el sur de Madison después del 1 de octubre.

#### Lugar:

2230 S Park St, Madison, WI 53713

#### Días y Horario:

Lunes: 8 a.m. a 4 p.m. Miércoles: 12p.m. a 8p.m. Viernes: 8 a.m. a 4 p.m.

También puede venir sin cita previa, pero le recomendamos una para que sea menos la espera.



## Safe Business/Organizations Campaign

As businesses could start reopening, we identified another gap: educating the Latinx business owners as well as their employees and their clients about the importance of observing the recommended COVID-19 prevention measures, particularly the importance of wearing a mask.



### **Further Advocacy Needs**

- ✓ Improve data collection
- ✓ Increase number of Latino professionals in health care

- ✓ Advocacy to improve/increase services
- ✓ More collaboration amongst other "at large" community organizations



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