



# NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH 2021 HHS FACT SHEET

## RECOGNIZING LATINO HEALTH DISPARITIES

- There are 62.1 million Latinos currently in the U.S. They represent the largest minority population at 18 percent of the total U.S. population. [[Census](#)]
- Unfortunately Latinos also have the highest uninsured rate of any racial or ethnic group in the U.S. Almost 19 percent of Latinos are uninsured compared to almost 6 percent for non-Hispanic Caucasians. [[CMS OMH](#)]
- Health disparities also differ among the various Latino subgroups. Mexicans and Puerto Ricans are twice as likely to die from diabetes than Caucasians, and smoking is higher among Puerto Rican males (26 percent) and Cuban males (22 percent) than overall rates among all Latinos (14 percent). [[CMS OMH](#)]

## INCREASING ACCESS TO CARE

The Biden-Harris Administration has made health equity a key priority and are working to ensure more Latinos experience the peace of mind that comes with health insurance coverage.

- Thanks to the Affordable Care Act (ACA) 4 million Latinos have gained health insurance coverage. [[ASPE](#)]
- Thanks to the American Rescue Plan (ARP), more Latinos are gaining affordable coverage through the Marketplaces and the Special Enrollment Period.
  - Under the American Rescue Plan (ARP), 69 percent of Latino uninsured adults have access to a zero-premium plan and 80 percent have access to a plan for less than \$50 a month. [[ASPE](#)]
  - According to the latest uninsured data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Center for Health Statistics, Exchange-based coverage was higher among Latino persons (4.2 percent) than non-Latino Caucasians (3.7 percent) and non-Latino Blacks (2.6 percent). [[CDC](#)]
- The Biden-Harris Administration continues to encourage states that have not yet expanded Medicaid coverage to their eligible populations to do so. If the remaining non-expansion states were to expand Medicaid under the ACA, an additional 1.1 million uninsured Latino adults would gain eligibility for health coverage. [[ASPE](#)]
- 37 percent of the 28.6 million patients served at community health centers nationwide are Latinos. Community health centers deliver comprehensive, high-quality preventive and primary health care to patients regardless of their ability to pay. [[HRSA](#)]

## INCREASING LATINO REPRESENTATION IN THE HEALTH WORKFORCE

- The Biden-Harris Administration is strengthening Latino representation in the public health workforce to close gaps that presently exist in terms of limited health data reporting at the state and local levels.
  - The Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) invited Latino-serving institutions, as well as other colleges and universities, to apply for \$75 million in funding to train the next generation of public health data scientists. [[ONC](#)]

## FIGHTING COVID-19 THROUGH THE EQUITY LENS

- The Biden-Harris Administration, through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), launched a program to directly allocate COVID-19 vaccine to HRSA-supported health centers and to ensure vaccination among underserved communities and those disproportionately affected by COVID-19. [[HRSA/CDC](#)]
- As of late August, close to 40 percent of the total 14.3 million COVID-19 vaccines administered by all health centers were to Latinos. [[HRSA](#)]
- The Office of Minority Health (OMH) awarded \$250 million to 73 local governments to implement evidence-based health literacy strategies that are culturally appropriate to enhance COVID-19 testing, contact tracing and/or other mitigation measures among Latino and other racial and ethnic minority populations and socially vulnerable populations. [[OMH](#)]

- HHS Office of Minority Health (OMH) and the American Heart Association (AHA) in partnership with the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) launched the National Hypertension Control Initiative to increase the number of adult patients with controlled hypertension, and reduce the potential risk of COVID-19 related health outcomes in racial and ethnic minority populations. Of the 350 Health Centers, 158 (45 percent) are serving a Latino population patient-base of equal or greater than 25 percent per the Uniform Data System. [OMH]
- To help communities disproportionately affected by COVID-19, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) is funding \$29 million in additional grants from American Rescue Plan for the NIH Community Engagement Alliance (CEAL) Against COVID-19 Disparities. [NIH]

## COMMITMENT TO UNIFYING FAMILIES

- The Biden-Harris Administration is committed to ensuring the care and well-being of children in the Office of Refugee Resettlement's (ORR) custody, through a network of licensed shelters, influx care facilities, and Emergency Intake Sites.
- The majority of the children in ORR care are from three countries: Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador.
- ORR has increased case management services to unify children safely and expeditiously with family members or a vetted sponsor. As of September 2021, there were fewer than 13,400 children in ORR care, down from a high of over 23,000 in late April 2021. View the latest state-by-state data of unaccompanied children released to sponsors.

## RESOURCES FROM THE OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR HEALTH

- The newly-established [Office of Climate Change and Health Equity](#) addresses the impact of climate change on the health of Americans, especially vulnerable communities who disproportionately bear the brunt of pollution and climate-driven disasters, such as drought and wildfires, at the expense of public health. Read and share resources from the Office for Human Research Protections in English and [Spanish About Research Participation](#) to help educate the public about research and research participation. The library includes:
  - Short [informational videos](#) on research participation
  - [Infographics](#) on the history of human research protection
  - List of [questions to ask](#) about research participation
- Find Women's Health information on the Spanish site of the [Office on Women's Health: https://espanol.womenshealth.gov](#).
- Go to [HIV.gov](#) to learn about the federal response to help end the HIV epidemic in the U.S. and the resources available to educate the public: [www.hiv.gov/federal-response/espanol](#).
- Join the [HIV Challenge](#), which seeks innovative and effective approaches to increase the use of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) medication and antiretroviral therapy (ART) among racial and ethnic minority individuals who are at increased risk for HIV or are people with HIV and is open to individuals and organizations
- Visit the [Spanish Move Your Way microsite](#) to find content for adults, parents, and pregnant and postpartum people. Consumers can find fact sheets, interactive tools, and videos to encourage them to get moving and find activities they enjoy.
- [MyHealthFinder](#) (Mi Buscador de Salud) offers Spanish language resource for consumers to find tailored results on [recommended preventive services](#) for them. They can also browse information on [health topics](#) like nutrition, physical activity, mental health and relationships, sexual health, and safety.

## RESOURCES FROM THE AGENCY FOR HEALTHCARE RESEARCH AND QUALITY (AHRQ)

- The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) will soon launch the QuestionBuilder mobile app en Español, to allow Spanish-speaking users to keep track of their upcoming medical appointments, compile lists of questions to ask their doctors, and link to important resources, including information on COVID-19. [AHRQ]
  - Identification of a referent group, or a group to which a subpopulation is compared to assess the level of difference in access, use, and outcomes to determine the disparate population(s).
  - Awardees may choose to compare data for the anticipated access, use and outcomes of their project to that of the total populations of the catchment area, the national population, or a larger group that allows for within-group comparison.

## RESOURCES FROM CENTERS FOR MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES OFFICE OF MINORITY HEALTH (CMS OMH)

- Read CMS OMH's, [Understanding the Health Needs of Diverse Groups of Latino Medicare Beneficiaries](#), which examines the future medical needs and challenges of a fast growing Latino population.
- Review the [2021 Racial, Ethnic, and Gender Disparities in Health Care in Medicare Advantage](#) stratified report, which looks at racial and ethnic differences in health care experiences and clinical care for Medicare Advantage beneficiaries.
- Download and share our *Rural Health Strategy: 5 Key Objectives* in [Spanish](#) and [English](#), which provides five objectives to help move rural health providers and their patients forward.
- Learn about the [Guide to Developing a Language Access Plan](#) to ensure your organization provides high quality and appropriate language services.
- Hear from others by reading [Providing Language Services to Diverse Populations: Lessons from the Field](#).
- Revisit [A Practical Guide to Implementing the National CLAS Standards: For Racial, Ethnic and Linguistic Minorities, People with Disabilities and Sexual and Gender Minorities](#).
- Read and share [A Culturally and Linguistically Tailored Type 2 Diabetes Prevention Resources Inventory](#), a catalog of diabetes prevention resources tailored to various audiences, including racial and ethnic minorities, LGBTQ communities, people with disabilities, and people with limited English proficiency.
- Download and share [Coverage to Care](#) (C2C) resources which are all available in both English and Spanish.
- Share [Connected Care](#) resources, such as the "Connecting the Dots" patient animated videos, available in both [Spanish](#) and [English](#), to help individuals living with multiple chronic conditions learn more about the benefits of chronic care management services.

## RESOURCES FROM THE SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATION (SAMHSA)

- Learn about SAMHSA's Technology Transfer Centers offer providers and administrators direct consultation and support:
  - <https://mhttcnetwork.org/centers/national-hispanic-and-latino-mhttc/home>
  - <https://pttcnetwork.org/centers/national-hispanic-latino-pttc/home>
  - <https://attcnetwork.org/centers/national-hispanic-and-latino-attc/home>
- SAMHSA also has numerous publications that address the Latino community:
  - [https://store.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/SAMHSA\\_Digital\\_Download/PEP20-05-02-002\\_0.pdf](https://store.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/SAMHSA_Digital_Download/PEP20-05-02-002_0.pdf)
- A compiled list of Spanish Language resources:
  - <https://www.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/spanish-language-resources-obhe-10202020.pdf>