Immigrant Health Issues: Latino Health in North Carolina

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El Pueblo is a North Carolina non-profit statewide advocacy and public policy organization dedicated to strengthening the Latino Community. This mission is accomplished through leadership development, proactive and direct advocacy, education, and promotion of cross-cultural understanding in partnerships at the local, state, and national levels.
Demographics
Latino/as
Demographics

- Latinos are the largest ethnic minority in the United States with nearly 39 million people living in the country.
- According to the US Bureau of the Census, North Carolina is the fastest growing Latino state in the country (394%)
- The Pew Hispanic Center estimates that 650,000 Latinos live in North Carolina.
Demographics

- 600,913 Latinos in the state (7%) and 27.5% of the population growth*
- 38.2% migrated from another country; 40.2% from another state and 21.6% born in North Carolina
- 55% Documented*
- Latinos**: 65% Mexico, 8.2% Puerto Rico, 1.9% Cuba, 24.8% Other

Source:
- Kenan-Flagler Business School – UNC, Chapel Hill
- US Bureau of the Census, 2000
Population Growth

GROWTH OF HISPANIC POPULATION IN NORTH CAROLINA, 1970-2004

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Working Paper Series No. 56, September 2002; U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000; U.S. Census Bureau, ACS, 2004
Population in North Carolina by Age and Hispanic Origin, 2004

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, ACS, 2004
Why do people move to NC?

- Family reunification
- Industry recruitment
- Quality of life:
  - Socioeconomic
  - Political
  - Education
- Study/Medical care
What is happening in North Carolina?

- High levels of migration
- Relative youth of the immigrant population
- High fertility rates
Latinos: Some Cultural Considerations

- Length of time in the US
- Country of Origin
- Political atmosphere in country of origin
- Socioeconomic background (rural vs. urban)
- How individual/family migrated into US and whether family is in the US
- Occupation
- Education
Challenges of Assimilation

- Language Conflicts
- Acculturation Conflicts
- Intergenerational Conflicts
- Perceived and Actual Discrimination
Latino Health

Challenge: Painting an accurate picture due to differences within the “Latino” communities

Little data - Focus on recent Latino immigrants
Health Disparities

- Certain diseases and conditions disproportionately affect the health and well-being of minorities.
Barriers to Care

- Language
- Cultural Barriers
- Anti-immigrant sentiment and policies
- Lack of familiarity with the "system"
- Clinic / agency hours and long waits
Barriers to Care (cont’d)

- Geographic Isolation
  - Rural populations
  - Low income neighborhoods
- Transportation
- Lack of health insurance coverage
- Loss of pay for losing work
- No one to care for children
Health Concerns

- Dental caries among children
- Rubella
- TB
- Mental health issues
- Asthma
- Violence

- Occupational Issues & Injuries
- Green tobacco sickness
- Pesticide exposure
- HIV/STI’s
- Alcohol abuse

Following national trends, the health of Latinos in NC is likely to suffer the longer they live in the US…
Health Disparities

- Highest birthrates in the US
- High fertility rate

- Latinas give birth at younger ages (but often marry at a younger age)
- Late or no prenatal care and other “risk” factors…BUT good birth outcomes (Mexican paradox)
The Immigration Experience

- Healthy migrant effect:
  Who migrates?
- How does this affect the population?
Resources
Resources

Health:
~ DHHS CareLine: 1 800 662-7030 (eligibility questions)
~ NC Healthy Start Foundation ~ Health Resource Line: 1 800 367-2229
~ North Carolina Association of Free Clinics: www.ncfreeclinics.org
Resources

Health:

- Office of Minority Health: www.omhrc.gov
- National Institutes of Cancer: www.nci.nih.gov
- Susan G. Komen Foundation: www.komen.org
- Medline Plus: http://medlineplus.gov/spanish/
- www.ayudate.org
- NC Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Coalition of NC: www.appcnc.org
- Centers for Disease Control: www.cdc.gov/spanish/
- Healthfinder in Spanish: www.healthfinder.gov/espanol/
Resources

General:
• Governor’s Office for Hispanic/Latino Affairs – Axel Lluch: 1 800 662-7952
• Mexican Consulate: (919) 754-0046
• Farmworker Legal Services: 1 800 777-5869
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