Revisiting the Invisible Latino HIV Crisis: Examining Progress and Identifying Remaining Gaps in the National Response

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Disclosures

Dr. Guilamo-Ramos reports grants and personal fees from ViiV Healthcare; and he serves as a member of the US Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS, as member of the CDC/HRSA Advisory Committee on HIV, Viral Hepatitis and STD Prevention and Treatment, as the Vice Chair of the Board of Directors of the Latino Commission on AIDS, and as member of the Board of Directors of the HIV Medicine Association.
The Latino HIV Epidemic in the United States: Progress and Remaining Gaps

Latino Prevention and Treatment Disparities: Implications for the EHE Initiative

The Latino Community Response to HIV: Four Priority Areas for the National Strategy
The Latino HIV Epidemic in the United States: Progress and Remaining Gaps
Number of Latinos living with diagnosed HIV:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>5 - 6</th>
<th>7 - 10</th>
<th>11 - 12</th>
<th>13 - 18</th>
<th>19 - 26</th>
<th>27 - 38</th>
<th>39 - 62</th>
<th>63 - 114</th>
<th>115 - 314</th>
<th>315+</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Sources: AIDSVu, aidsvu.org; CDC Atlas, cdc.gov/nchhstp/atlas/index.htm; CDC HIV Surveillance Supplemental Report 2021;26(No. 2)

HIV among Latinos in the United States

294,200 Latinos in the United States are estimated to be living with HIV.

48,200 are estimated to not be aware of their HIV status.

In 2019, 10,112 Latinos were newly diagnosed with HIV, and 2,702 Latinos living with HIV died.
Latinos are a Fast-Growing Priority Population in the U.S. HIV Epidemic

Increase in the Estimated Number of People Living With HIV 2010–2019 (Diagnosed and Undiagnosed), Overall and by Ethnic/Racial Group

Overall: +20%
Black: +19%
White: +13%
Latino: +33%

Source: CDC Atlas, cdc.gov/nchhstp/atlas/index.htm
The Invisible US Hispanic/Latino HIV Crisis: Addressing Gaps in the National Response

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In his February 5, 2019, State of the Union Address, President Trump promised to reinforce national efforts to end the US HIV/AIDS epidemic by 2030. However, the national public health agenda has neglected the accelerating HIV/AIDS crisis in Hispanic/Latino communities. Progress in the fight against HIV is reflected in aggregate data for the United States, but data released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) raise alarming concerns about widening, yet largely unrecognized, HIV infection disparities among Hispanics/Latinos.1,2

THE INVISIBLE HIV CRISIS AMONG HISPANICS/LATINOS

Although progress in reducing HIV incidence and new diagnoses has been achieved for specific Hispanic/Latino subpopulations, increases among key transmission and age groups reflect a largely unrecognized Hispanic/Latino HIV crisis.3 CDC estimates of HIV incidence suggest that the number of new HIV infections in Hispanic/Latino communities is escalating. Although estimated HIV incidence in the United States has declined overall by 6% since 2016, it has increased among Hispanics/Latinos by 14% or more.3 Similarly, surveillance data show that the annual number of Hispanics/Latinos newly diagnosed with HIV has increased by 7% between 2012 and 2016, in contrast to overall annual new HIV diagnoses in the United States, which have decreased by 4% (Figure 1).4 The increase in estimated HIV incidence and new diagnoses among Hispanics/Latinos is best illustrated by considering the specific Hispanic/Latino populations most heavily affected by HIV/AIDS—namely, women who have sex with men (MSM), in particular, young Hispanic/Latino MSM, transgender Latina/gays, and recent Hispanic/Latino immigrants. MSM represent the largest affected population in the current Hispanic/Latino HIV crisis, accounting for approximately 80% of estimated HIV incidence among Hispanics/Latinos.5,6

Overall, since 2016, the estimated number of new annual HIV infections has increased by 30% for Hispanic/Latino MSM and, notably, by 68% for Hispanic/Latino MSM aged 25 to 54 years (Figure 2).5 Similarly, since 2012, around new HIV diagnoses for young Hispanics/Latinos aged 13 to 24 years have remained constant, whereas overall general trends lead elsewhere.7

CDC HIV Data 2010–2019

Change in Annual New HIV Diagnoses

-15%  -19%  -20%  +3%

Change in Estimated Annual New HIV Infections

-12%  -15%  -7%  +6%

Overall  Black  White  Latino

Source: CDC Atlas, cdc.gov/nchhstp/atlas/index.htm
Latinos Continue to Experience HIV Disparities Despite Progress Reflected in Data for 2019

Notably, the federal **Ending the HIV Epidemic Initiative** was launched on February 5, 2019.

Source: CDC Atlas, cdc.gov/nchhstp/atlas/index.htm
Alignment of EHE Priority Jurisdictions and the Latino HIV Epidemic

EHE priority jurisdictions account for 61% of new HIV diagnoses among Latinos in the U.S. in 2019*


* Priority counties and states; Latino case data was unavailable in 2 jurisdictions
Hotspots in the Latino HIV Epidemic Outside of EHE Priority Jurisdictions, 2019

17 of 50 local jurisdictions with most new HIV diagnoses among Latinos are not designated EHE priority jurisdictions.

They account roughly 1 of 10 new Latino HIV diagnoses nationally.

EHE Priority Jurisdictions vs. Non-EHE Latino Priority Geographies: Heterogeneity in 2018–19 Change of New HIV Diagnoses among Latinos

Change in Aggregate New HIV Diagnoses among Latinos, 2018–2019

- EHE priority jurisdictions*
- 17 counties with highest Latino HIV diagnoses not included as EHE priority jurisdictions

Change in New HIV Diagnoses among Latinos by Geography, 2018–2019

- Median percent change: 
  - -7.1%
  - +1.2%

*Calculations for EHE priority jurisdictions based on 47 EHE counties and 7 priority states due to missing or suppressed data for Latino populations.

Source: CDC Atlas, cdc.gov/nchhstp/atlas/index.htm
Outlier Counties With Large Increases in 2018-19 HIV Diagnoses among Latinos

Five counties (4 EHE, 1 non-EHE) represent outliers of significant 2018-19 increases in HIV diagnoses among Latinos.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County, State</th>
<th>Number of 2018 Cases, Latinos</th>
<th>Number of 2019 Cases, Latinos</th>
<th>2018-19 Change, Latinos</th>
<th>2018-19 Change, Non-Latinos</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>EHE Priority Jurisdictions</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mecklenburg County, NC</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>+100%</td>
<td>+2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prince George's County, MD</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>+65%</td>
<td>-14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shelby County, TN</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>+47%</td>
<td>-13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gwinnett County, GA</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>+44%</td>
<td>+39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Non-EHE Counties</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pinal County, AZ</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>+129%</td>
<td>+38%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: CDC Atlas, cdc.gov/nchhstp/atlas/index.htm
HIV High Transmission Clusters Have Been Linked to Spikes in Local Transmission Dynamics Across the US

Molecular HIV Surveillance by Census Region, 2018-2019

The CDC reported the identification of 136 high HIV transmission clusters across 19 U.S. states from 2018-2019.

Priority clusters were defined as those with ≥5 diagnoses in the preceding 12 months.

Prior research showed transmission rates substantially above the national average in high transmission clusters.

In 11 out of 19 states (58%) where HIV high transmission clusters were identified in 2018-19, Latinos were overrepresented* among people in high transmission clusters.

Revisiting the Invisible Latino HIV Crisis: Progress and Remaining Gaps

1. Latinos are a fast-growing priority population in the U.S. HIV epidemic.

2. Latinos have experienced HIV disparities over the past decade, despite accelerated progress in 2019.

3. EHE priority jurisdictions account for >60% of new HIV diagnoses among Latinos, but some hotspots in the Latino HIV epidemic have not been designated priority jurisdictions.

4. Reductions in new HIV diagnoses among Latinos are geographically heterogeneous, but greater in EHE priority jurisdictions than in important non-priority jurisdictions.

5. Latinos are overrepresented in HIV high transmission clusters in the majority of states where clusters have been identified.
Latino Prevention and Treatment Disparities: Implications for the EHE Initiative
Key Strategies for Ending the Epidemic by 2030 from a Latino Perspective

The federal Ending the HIV Epidemic initiative outlines **5 key strategies** in the fight against HIV until 2030, which warrant consideration from a Latino perspective.

5 Key Strategies:
- Diagnose
- Protect
- Treat
- Respond
- Workforce Development
82% Of Latinos have not tested for HIV in the past 12 months.

49% Of Latinos have never been tested for HIV.

Among Latinos who have never tested for HIV, 1 in 3 report never having been offered a test (no perceived risk was the most common reason for never testing, ~60%).

Protect people at risk for HIV using potent and proven prevention interventions, including PrEP, a medication that can prevent HIV infections.

Studies show that healthcare providers are less likely to offer PrEP to ethnic/racial minorities.

45,648
Latinos prescribed PrEP in 2020 (Q1-Q3)

85.4%

312,820
Latinos with indications for PrEP in 2020

14.6%

Treat the infection rapidly and effectively to achieve sustained viral suppression.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Receipt of Care</th>
<th>Retained in Care</th>
<th>Viral Suppression (at last VL)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Denominator: Latinos</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>diagnosed with HIV, 2019</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denominator: Latinos</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>living with diagnosed</td>
<td>~50%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and undiagnosed HIV, 2019</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Latinos are overrepresented in HIV high transmission clusters in most states where 2018-19 clusters have been identified, indicating elevated network prevalence.


No HIV infection
Acute HIV infection
Established HIV infection
HIV HealthForce will establish local teams committed to the success of the Initiative in each jurisdiction.

**Latino Healthcare Workforce in the U.S.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>U.S. Latino Population</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physicians</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physician Assistants</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nurse Practitioners</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registered Nurses</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthcare Social Workers</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIV Care Providers (MD/DO, PA, NP)</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Latino Community Response to HIV: Four Priority Areas for the National Strategy
In response to the US HIV epidemic among Latinos, more than 100 Latinos health and social service organizations nationwide convened a community consensus building process in 2018.

August 2018 Meeting Between the Latino Community and the CDC

HISPANIC/LATINX CALL TO ACTION

The National Hispanic Medical Association facilitated a consensus-building meeting between the Hispanic/Latinx Delegation on HIV/AIDS and the CDC that was initiated in August 2018 to establish open channels of communication and collaboration between federal Latino community stakeholders.

Priority Areas for Improving the National Response to HIV in Latino Communities

The steering committee of the Hispanic/Latinx Delegation on HIV/AIDS identified *four priority areas* for increased national efforts by the CDC and federal, state, and local partner agencies.

1. Stigma Reduction
2. Prevention & Treatment
3. Hispanic/Latino Specific Research
4. Hispanic/Latino Community Engagement
The Center for Latino Adolescent and Family Health (CLAFH) at Duke University School of Nursing (DUSON) has ongoing projects addressing the four priority areas.

1. Stigma Reduction
2. Prevention & Treatment
3. Hispanic/Latino Specific Research
4. Hispanic/Latino Community Engagement

**NO FEARS:**

Nurturing Ourselves: Family Education and Activities to Reduce Stigma

**Instituto DILES**
DILES (TELL THEM) INSTITUTE
CLAFH Project #1: NO FEARS – A family-based stigma reduction intervention

The NO FEARS intervention program provides Latino adolescents and young adults living with HIV and their families with:

- Guidance on how to support stigma reduction and antiretroviral medication adherence
- Strategies for supporting youth development into healthy, fulfilled adults.

HIV Stigma Reduction in Latino Communities

Nurturing Ourselves: Family Education and Activities to Reduce Stigma

NO FEARS Intervention Components:

Family Workbook

Supplemental Online Videos

The NO FEARS intervention program provides Latino adolescents and young adults living with HIV and their families with:

- Guidance on how to support stigma reduction and antiretroviral medication adherence
- Strategies for supporting youth development into healthy, fulfilled adults.
Look out for the release of all segments of the NO FEARS workbook and video series and at: https://clafh.nursing.duke.edu/
The Instituto DILES is a 12-month program that builds leadership skills among fellows in order to drive meaningful change in their communities toward ending the HIV epidemic for Latinx men.

Curriculum for DILES fellows consists of several components:

- Webinars with expert speakers on HIV topics and areas of leadership
- Individualized mentoring sessions
- Leadership resources
- Real-world applied leadership projects

Fellows’ applied leadership projects will focus on prevention/treatment, research, or advocacy projects in their local communities.

Applications are now open!
Why Does This All Matter?

Latinos are the largest and youngest minority population in US.

The US Latino population in 2020 is projected to nearly double by 2060.

In 2014, 1 in 5 people in need of HIV prevention services were Latino.

By 2060, 1 in 3 people in need of HIV prevention services will be Latino.

Sources: US Census Bureau; Pew Research Center; Sullivan, PS et al. (2021). The Lancet. doi: 10.1016/S0140-6736(21)00395-0
Thank You!

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Please send any questions to:

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Duke University School of Nursing
Center for Latino Adolescent and Family Health

Visit: https://clafh.nursing.duke.edu/
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