ELDERLY HISPANICS AND THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM IN WORCESTER, MA

Presented by Angelica Wzorek
Advised by Professor Ingrid Matos-Nin
Research Questions

➢ Does the Elderly Hispanic Population of Worcester, MA experience difficulty in accessing medical care?

➢ Does income affect the frequency of use of medically related services?

➢ Does language ability affect the frequency of use of medically related services?

➢ What types of sickness are most prevalent among the Hispanic population in Worcester MA?
Hispanic population is more likely to receive poor quality care and have worse access to the health care system \(^1\)

Lack of access to health care services or the limited access to quality health care has been linked to depression among elderly Latinos \(^2\)

32% of Hispanics who lacked a usual healthcare provider have less than a high school diploma, 27% have high school diploma and 19% had some college education \(^3\)

In Massachusetts 23% of Hispanics ages 18-64 live in poverty \(^4\)
51 individuals completed the survey
- twelve were ages 60-65
- nine were ages 65-70
- thirteen were ages 70-80
- thirteen more were 80-90
- four respondents age 90 or more

21 were male and 30 were female

45 respondents, or 88% earned $30,000 or less a year
Aliments Experienced by the Hispanic Elderly by Age

Number of Responses

- **60-65**
- **65-70**
- **70-80**
- **80-90**
- **90+**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>60-65</th>
<th>65-70</th>
<th>70-80</th>
<th>80-90</th>
<th>90+</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High/low blood pressure</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>High/low cholesterol</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Asthma</td>
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<tr>
<td>Heart disease</td>
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<tr>
<td>Diabetes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Obesity</td>
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<tr>
<td>Strong allergies</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Aliments of Hispanic Families as reported by the Elderly

Number of Responses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>Family</th>
<th>Elderly</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>high/low blood pressure</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>high/low cholesterol</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>asthma</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>heart disease</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>diabetes</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>obesity</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cancer</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Characteristics most important to the Latino Elderly in Healthcare

- Affordable prices
- Good service
- Location
- Atmosphere of the office
- Language spoken by the doctor
- Waiting time
Frequency of Medical Visits by Gender

Number of Responses

- everyday
- once a week
- once a month
- once every two to three months
- one a year
- never

- male
- female
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Frequency of Use</th>
<th>Number Reporting</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>everyday</td>
<td>less than 10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>once a week</td>
<td>10,000 - 20,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>once every two or three months</td>
<td>20,000 - 30,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>once a month</td>
<td>30,000 - 40,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>never</td>
<td>40,000 - 50,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SIGNIFICANT FINDINGS

- The elderly suffer from high/low blood pressure and cholesterol the most followed by diabetes and heart disease.

- The elderly reported that heart disease and diabetes were the two most common diseases that they suffer from.

- The elderly identified that good service and the language spoken by the doctor were their two highest priorities in identifying a healthcare provider.
Females were more likely to see a doctor more than once a year than their male counterparts.

Those who earned less than 10,000 dollars a year were more likely to visit the doctor. With increased income the frequency of medical visits decreases.

All of the elderly Hispanics rated the services they have received in Worcester as good to excellent.


SPECIAL THANKS TO
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