Occupational Health Disparities Among Latino Immigrants Working in the United States: The Scope of the Problem

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Presentation Overview/Themes

- Why talk about work?
- Work as a public health concern
- Work as a social justice concern
- Research and practice needs
- Resources
The Centrality of Work

- “They’re only here to take our jobs”

- “When you are in a job the most important thing is going to be your pay. It’s always that way because that’s why we came here.”
Mortality and Morbidity - U.S.

Each day:

- 9,000 disabling injuries
- 16 deaths from injuries
- 137 deaths from diseases
US Sources of Mortality

Atlas of US Mortality, 1996, CDC

- Lung Cancer (Lung C)
- Breast Cancer (Breast C)
- Stroke
- Auto Accident (Auto)
- Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)
- Flu
- Diabetes
- HIV
- Suicide
- Homicide
- Occupational (Occ)
Economic Burden of OSH - U.S.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disease</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OSH</td>
<td>171</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AIDS</td>
<td>33</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alzh</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Circul</td>
<td>164</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cancer</td>
<td>170</td>
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Latino Population

- Currently there over 42 Million persons of Latino descent in the U.S.
- Represents growth of 150% in past 25 years
- Almost half are foreign-born
- Recently became largest minority group
- By 2050, 25% of U.S. population will be Latino and make up 15% of the workforce.
Workplace Fatality Rates

- The fatal injury rate for all U.S. Workers is 4.6 per 100,000
- The rate for native-born Latinos is 4.5 per 100,000
- The rate for foreign-born Latinos is 6.1 per 100,000
- Some construction rates 2-3 X
Workplace Injuries

- Underreported
- Paralleling mortalities?
- A body is harder to hide
- Living with injuries and without insurance
Employment by Industry Sector

- Agriculture: 5%
- Construction: 17%
- Manufacturing: 14%
- Wholesale and retail trade: 16%
- Services: 41%
- All others: 7%
This map is one of a series of 14 "Percent of Population" maps with comparable categories for counties. Each of these map categories differ by small amounts among maps in the series to include the U.S. percent for the specific group mapped.

All races:
Hispanic or Latino population as a percent of total population by county


Source: US Census Bureau: Census 2000
Percent change 1990 to 2000 in Hispanic or Latino population by county

Gain of 200 percent or more
100.0 to 199.9
57.9 to 99.9
0.0 to 57.8
-10.0 to -0.1
Loss of more than 10 percent
Fewer than 100 people in county indicating Hispanic or Latino origin in 2000


Source: US Census Bureau: Census 2000
Established vs. Emerging

- **Established**
  - Developed over time
  - Native born and immigrants
  - Concentrated in larger cities
  - Bilingual infrastructure
  - Established communal identity in U.S.

- **Emerging**
  - Rapid Growth
  - Recent immigrants
  - Scattered settlement in suburbs/rural areas
  - Few people speak Spanish (receiving community)
  - Communal identity in flux

Pew Hispanic Research Institute

CDC Workplace Safety and Health
The State of the Literature: A Personal Evaluation

- Chasm exists between surveillance and anecdote
- Bulk of literature focuses on “Old Settlement” areas
- Agriculture is overrepresented
- Overemphasis on “Day Laborers”
- Premature use of quantitative data collection
- Translation problems unrecognized
- Latinas absent in the literature
- Documentation status not directly addressed
Resources

- pewhispanic.org
- cdc.gov/niosh
- cpwr.com
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