

Latino Health 2018

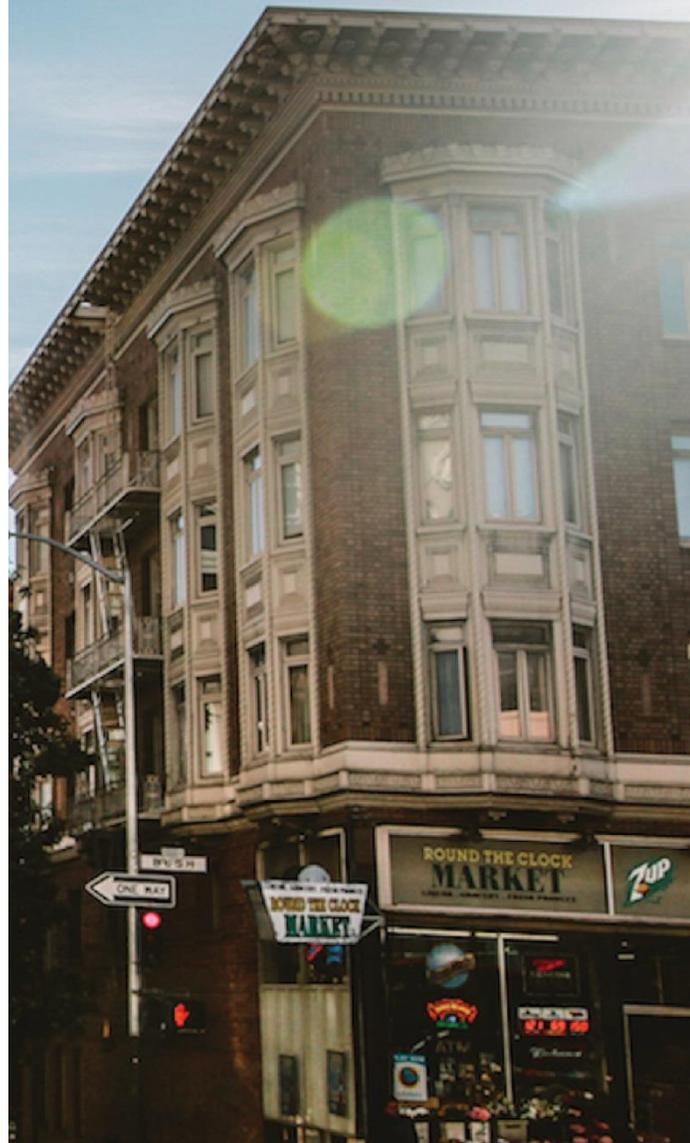
Baltimore City

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Health Empowerment for African Americans and Latinos

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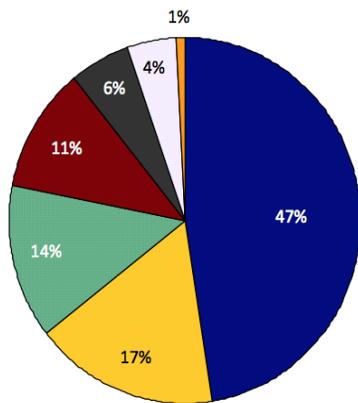


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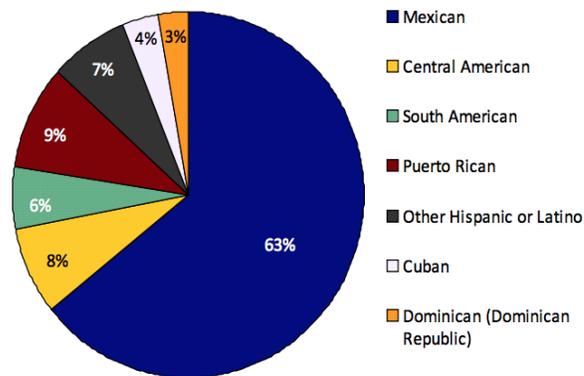
Latinos in Baltimore City- Community Health Assessment

Like throughout the US, the Latino population in Baltimore City has risen significantly in recent years and is projected to continue growing rapidly. According to the U.S. Census, people of Hispanic and/or Latino ancestry make up 5% of the population in Baltimore City, and it is estimated that this ethnic group will increase by up to 50% by mid-century¹. The Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD) found that between 1990 and 2008, the overall population of the city declined by 13%; however, the Latino population increased by more than 50%². As the fastest growing ethnic group in the city, it is necessary that steps be taken to understand the state of Latino health and address current challenges to avoid a future crisis. In 2007, while Mexicans were the largest ethnic group among Latinos in Baltimore City (47%), the proportion of Latinos from Central American countries was over twice the national average (17%)². Additionally, there are more male Latinos (56%) than Latina females (44%) in Baltimore City².

Hispanic or Latino by Origin, Baltimore City, 2007



Hispanic or Latino by Origin, U.S., 2007



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2007 American Community Survey.

"Other Hispanic or Latino" category includes persons who identify as "Spainard," "Spanish," "Spanish American," and also includes all other Hispanic/Latino origins not captured in the defined categories.

Figure 1. National Origins of Latinos Baltimore v. US.

After reviewing multiple sources, three main health challenges have been identified in regard to Latino health in Baltimore city specifically.

1. a lack of current quality information and data on the health of Latinos in Baltimore City.
2. accidents/ unintentional injury as cause of death disproportionately occurs among Latinos in Baltimore.
3. Barriers to access exist for Latinos who are seeking health care.

As a solution that will help address all three of these challenges, it is advised that an Office of Minority Health be created within the Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD) in order to address these health challenges. Other trends in Latino health in Baltimore City include poor adolescent mental health³ and high prevalence of alcohol-induced deaths², but a diabetes prevalence lower than the national average².

“There remains a lack of consistent, reliable data on Latino health in Baltimore City”

Lack of information

There are a variety of concerns with the current data available about the health of Latinos in Baltimore City, including small sample sizes and the lack of recent data. Small sample sizes affect the ability of organizations to develop reliable statistics and estimates on which to base interventions. For example, there were only 62 Latino deaths recorded in Baltimore in 2012³. Additionally, many of the statistics currently used are from 5 or more years ago, but the Baltimore City Latino population has been steadily increasing in that time so actual figures may be very different. This makes the current information somewhat unreliable, and further data collection is necessary.

Accidents/unintentional injury

Accidents were the third leading cause of death among Baltimore City Latinos, comprising almost 11% of deaths compared to 2% of all resident deaths citywide in 2006². Accidents also disproportionately affect Latino men; on average during 2005-2007, Baltimore City Latino men had an age-adjusted accident mortality rate that was 8 times higher compared to Baltimore City Latina women². The high number of deaths caused by accidents in Latino men could potentially be attributed to their occupations. According to the Census' 2005-2007 American Community Survey, in Baltimore City and the U.S., 43% and 27% of Latino males (respectively) worked in "construction, extraction, maintenance, and repair occupations" compared to 15% and 18% of residents citywide and nationwide respectively². These occupations pose different risks than other types of labor; for example, the construction industry has the highest fatal injury rate of any industry in America⁴. A greater proportion of deaths occur due to accidents in Baltimore Latino men than the populations of Baltimore City, the U.S., and U.S. Latinos.

Barriers to care

When asked about access to care for Baltimore City Latinos, the majority of members of that community felt that they faced barriers to receiving health care². The top four reasons given by respondents as deterring care were: high costs, fears over legal status, lack of Spanish-speaking providers, and lack of insurance². Because Latino residents themselves were asked to assess their health, these results can be considered relatively

reliable for the population. Due to a lack of data and adequate statistics, it becomes difficult to obtain the funding to put some more services in place including universal translator services and health care coverage for undocumented immigrants.



Solution- Creation of Minority Health Department within the BCHD

Based on the findings of this report, it is advised that an office of minority health be created within the BCHD. The office would be responsible for surveillance of minority health, which includes

1. Collecting adequate data on incidence and prevalence of health outcomes among Latino, African American, -American and Asian-American residents in Baltimore City
2. Monitoring or providing additional assistance and resources to health centers that serve these populations
3. Monitoring of immigration health,
4. Providing resources and patient information on health disparities prominent in Baltimore City
5. Collaborate with other city departments to ensure new policies or projects implemented are viewed from a health equity lens

In addition to surveillance, a major task would be to address barriers to care, the Office of Minority Health will conduct community health assessments, working specifically with healthcare providers and community members In addition to the growing Latino population African-Americans make up 63% of the population of Baltimore City¹. Significant health disparities exist due to a history of social, racial and political policies and practices that have negatively impacted African Americans in Baltimore City. An office of Minority Health is crucial to initiate necessary steps to achieve health equity.

Success of this new department would require partnership with multiple community, health and governmental organizations to better serve multiple diverse groups. For example, working with the Baltimore City Hispanic Commission⁵. To address deaths from unintentional injuries, assessment and subsequent improvement of work safety conditions in Baltimore City in the fields of “construction, extraction, maintenance, and repair occupations” in partnership with the Baltimore City Labor Commissioner⁶ It is advised that the office work closely with centers that offer care to Latinos and African Americans, including Chase Braxton, Jai Medical. Esperanza Center, and Centro Sol at Johns Hopkins.

We understand the financial burdens within the Baltimore City Health Department. Baltimore city is disproportionately affected by crime and an opioid epidemic which provides also constraints resources. Fortunately, Baltimore City is home to leading academic medical institutions including Johns Hopkins and University of Maryland Partnering with these research medical centers is crucial. The BCHD was also recently awarded a 4.3 million-dollar grant from the Center for Medicaid and Medicare Innovation over five years to, “*Design, implement, and evaluate a city-wide Accountable Health Communities model that will both address beneficiaries’ health-related social needs as well as drive stakeholder alignment with social needs resources.*”⁷ It is possible that the creation of the Office of Minority Health could fit within this project and funding.

We hope the Baltimore City of Department of Health would consider these recommendations

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