Autism spectrum disorders (ASDs) are a class of complex neurodevelopmental disorders characterized by a range of communication challenges, impairments in social reciprocity, and repetitive behaviors. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimated that one in every 88 children has ASD which is a 23% increase in prevalence since 2009 (CDC, 2012). The reason for this increase is not yet understood, but better diagnostic tools and a greater awareness of the disorder have contributed to more identification of ASDs in children. Although there has been an increasing trend in identification of ASDs, racial and ethnic disparities exist in the diagnosis of Latino and Black children compared to non-Latino Whites. Latino children are diagnosed with ASDs 2.5 years later than non-Latino white children and have more severe symptoms at the time of diagnosis according to Zuckerman et al. The reasons for low rates of ASDs diagnosis and diagnostic delay among Latino children is still poorly understood, but some studies have suggested that limited access to health-care and resources might be a primary factor.

This research poster examines factors other than limited health-care access that may explain delayed diagnosis or lower rates of ASDs in Latino children.

### Question
Why are Latino children diagnosed with Autism spectrum disorders less often and later than non-Latino white children?

### Rationale
Autism spectrum disorders (ASDs) are a class of complex neurodevelopmental disorders characterized by a range of communication challenges, impairments in social reciprocity, and repetitive behaviors. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimated that one in every 88 children has ASD which is a 23% increase in prevalence since 2009 (CDC, 2012). The reason for this increase is not yet understood, but better diagnostic tools and a greater awareness of the disorder have contributed to more identification of ASDs in children. Although there has been an increasing trend in identification of ASDs, racial and ethnic disparities exist in the diagnosis of Latino and Black children compared to non-Latino Whites. Latino children are diagnosed with ASDs 2.5 years later than non-Latino white children and have more severe symptoms at the time of diagnosis according to Zuckerman et al. The reasons for low rates of ASDs diagnosis and diagnostic delay among Latino children is still poorly understood, but some studies have suggested that limited access to health-care and resources might be a primary factor.

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