

Changing the Way We Reach and Support Latino/Hispanic Families Having Children with Disabilities

Jessica Gutierrez, BS; Tinisha Poitier, BA; Sarah Swanson, MPH; and Becky Skoglund, MA.
Munroe-Meyer Institute, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE 68198

Abstract

Research indicates that Latino/Hispanic families experience many health disparities and this is also true for Latino/Hispanic (all ethnicities) families that have children with disabilities (Ratto, et. al, 2017). Historical barriers have included professionals' level of cultural competency, differing values, literacy attainment, material provided in non-native languages, families' social economic status, legal status and health literacy. According to the 2015 Census, there are almost 56.5 million Hispanics living in the United States. This group represented 16% of the population in 2010 and increased to 17.6% of the U.S. total population in about 5 years (Office of Minority Health, 2019). It is estimated that the non-white population will become the majority in the United States by 2050 (Pew Research, 2008). With the U.S.' changing demographics, identifying ways to address these historical barriers will become a more pressing issue as we strive to improve both individual and community health outcomes.

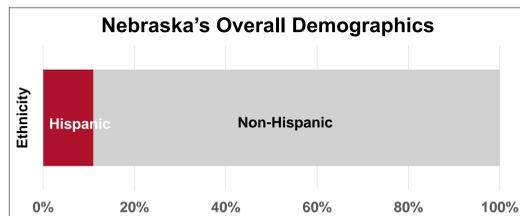
Family Care Enhancement Project

The Family Care Enhancement Project (FCEP) at the UNMC Munroe-Meyer Institute employs 10 Parent Resource Coordinators (PRCs- Parents of children with disabilities who have specialized training) in seven different clinic locations across the state of Nebraska.

The PRCs:

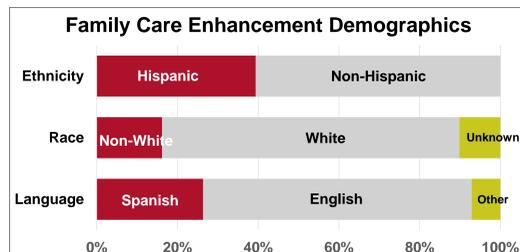
- ❖ Receive referrals, contact and connect the person/family with resources from the community and the state.
- ❖ Provide support, advocacy and educate the person/family.
- ❖ Record demographics, general data and track referrals.

Demographics



Nebraska's Population
In 2019 Estimates
1,929,268
US Census Bureau

Nebraska's Latino/Hispanic
Population 2019
Estimates 214,483
Represents 11.1%
of Nebraska's total population
US Census Bureau



The FCEP supported 39% of the
Latino/Hispanic families
compared with 61% from other
Non-Hispanic populations

In the period between October 1, 2018 and September 30, 2019, the FCEP supported 858 families and made over 2,768 referrals to community resources. Of the 858 families, 338 were Hispanic.

Identifying Barriers

Common Barriers/ Identifying social determinants of Health



Interventions to Overcome Barriers

Families of children from minority populations experience health disparities. Latino/Hispanic population, is one of the largest minority that encounter many barriers in getting health care, educational and community services for their children with disabilities and special health care needs.

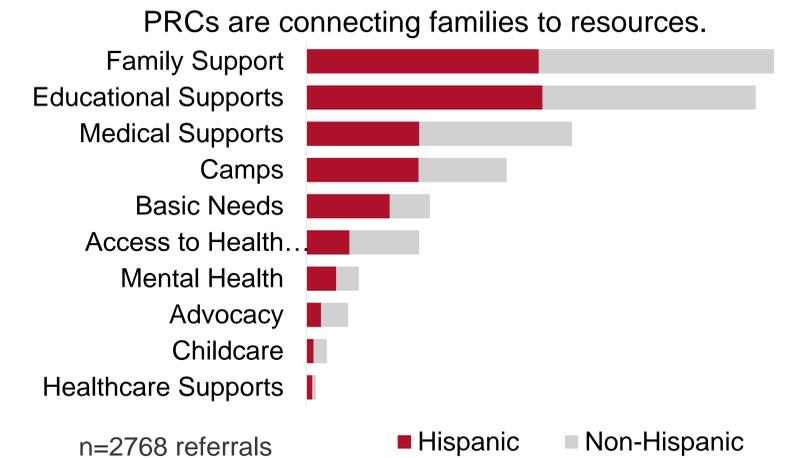
Main Strategies used to overcome common barriers:

- ❖ Bilingual PRCs are placed in hospitals and primary care clinics.
- ❖ Trading card with a picture and mini-biography of each Bilingual PRC is available for Latino/Hispanic families in Spanish.
- ❖ Parent Resource Coordinators are parents or relatives of children with disabilities offering peer-to-peer supports.
- ❖ Ongoing trainings to maintain competence in cross cultural interactions.
- ❖ Monthly Spanish support group for families with children of special needs with childcare, available to discuss resources and events.
- ❖ PRCs provide courtesy calls to follow up with families.

References

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Addressing Barriers



Discussion

- ❖ Latino/Hispanic population needs extra support with resources, advocacy, education and guidance to overcome barriers.
- ❖ The interventions from the PRCs have a positive impact the Latino/Hispanic families having children with disabilities.
- ❖ Latino/Hispanics account 39% of the total families served by the FCEP.
- ❖ The FCEP Database recorded a total of 2768 referrals in a year, approximately 50% of the total referrals were made for the Latino/Hispanic families.
- ❖ Having the majority of the referrals for the Latino/Hispanic population indicates that this population is experiencing more barriers than other populations.

Conclusions

- ❖ Interventions are needed to identify the social determinants of health and assist Latino/Hispanic families overcome barriers.
- ❖ We need to prioritize in identifying ways to remove those barriers by improving community services and healthcare to have better health outcomes in the Latino/Hispanic population.
- ❖ The Family Care Enhancement Project is one program that is positively impacting Latino/Hispanic families that have children with disabilities in the state of Nebraska.
- ❖ Programs as the FCEP and role of Parent Resource Coordinators could be implemented as an innovation of best practice across the nation to support minorities.