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Healthcare Access Among Low-Income Latinx Communities: A Culturally Sensitive and Intersectional Approach

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Introduction

Access to healthcare is a fundamental right for everyone yet it is an obstacle for many. Despite the many initiatives to improve healthcare access, the Latinx population still faces barriers when accessing healthcare. Structural and personal barriers affect Latino communities' access to healthcare, especially for undocumented immigrants (Ayon et al., 2020).

The literature review consists of six articles in which they can be grouped under one of the following: effect of immigration status, unique barriers for older adults, low-income communities, and obstacles with health insurance literacy.

Hypothesis

The use of culturally sensitive healthcare that addresses intersectional factors, results in improved health outcomes and better access to healthcare compared to standard healthcare

Method

Design: Quasi-experimental

Independent variable: Culturally sensitive healthcare

Dependent variable: Access to healthcare and health outcomes

Participants

- 400 low-income Latinx in Los Angeles, CA residing in low-income neighborhoods, ages 18+

Procedure

- Pre-study surveys will be administered to gather demographic information, health history, healthcare utilization, patient satisfaction, barriers and challenges, and open-ended comments.
- Participants will possibly receive care that is either culturally sensitive or not depending on the randomization of the group they were placed in
- Post-study surveys, conducted after 12 months, will include the same elements as the pre-study surveys, along with health outcomes, feedback, and overall satisfaction.

Results

- Data collection on demographic information, healthcare utilization, patient satisfaction, health outcomes and impact of intersectional factors.
- Descriptive statistics, frequency distributions, Chi-squared tests, regression analysis
- Limitations: Potential generalizability issues, selection bias, recall bias, inability to observe long-term impacts

IRB

This proposal will seek IRB approval

Conclusion

In conclusion, this research underscores the need for healthcare equity in Latino communities, demonstrating the barriers encountered, such as immigration status, age-related challenges, and health literacy. The study seeks to address these issues by implementing culturally sensitive healthcare interventions to improve access, utilization, and patient satisfaction. Despite its limitations, including potential selection bias, the research follows ethical guidelines to protect participants. Achieving healthcare equity for low-income urban Latinos should be a priority as it is a necessity for all.



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