

## FACT SHEET: US LATINO HEATH

### Socioeconomic Status

- Latinos comprise more than 15% of the US population.<sup>1</sup>
- Latinos appear to have higher life expectancies than non-Latino Whites, yet most of this advantage is attributable to superior health.<sup>2</sup>
- The high rate of population expansion among Latinos is primarily attributable to fertility and secondarily to immigration.<sup>1</sup>
- It is expected that the Latino population will nearly triple from 2008 to 2050 when Latinos will represent 30% of the U.S. population.<sup>3</sup>
- Currently, almost two-thirds of the US Latino population is of Mexican origin.<sup>1</sup>
- Latinos are very young, with more than 11 million children 12 years of age or younger; US-born Latino children outnumber foreign-born Latino children 10 to 1.<sup>1</sup>
- 58% of Latinos 25 years of age and older had at least a high school education in 2004. 12% held a bachelor's degree or higher in 2004.<sup>4</sup>
- Most Latino immigrants are middle-aged (35 years of age) or older.<sup>1</sup>
- More Latinos were living below the poverty line (22%) in 2006 compared to non-Latino Whites (10%).<sup>4</sup>
- Rates of children residing in high vulnerability areas in the US are currently: Whites 1.7%, Blacks, 20.3%, Latinos 25.3%.<sup>5</sup>

### Disease and Death Disparities

- According to research from AHRQ (Agency for Health Research and Quality),<sup>6</sup> compared to Whites, for US Latinos:
  - Only one-third received pneumococcal vaccine (vs nearly two thirds for Whites)
  - 37% were screened for colorectal cancer (vs 58% for Whites)
  - Only 62% were screened for breast cancer (vs 76% for Whites)
  - Only 9% received adequate treatment of mood, anxiety or impulse disorders (vs 33% for Whites)
- In 2006, 33.3 Latino deaths per 100,000 were attributable to diabetes compared to 24.6 deaths per 100,000 in the general population.<sup>1</sup>
- In 2005, Latinos had homicide rates of 7.5 per 100,000, compared to 2.7 per 100,000 for non-Latino Whites.<sup>1</sup>
- Work-related death disparities between Latinos and all workers persist. In 2006, rates of death for Latinos were 5.0 per 100,000 compared to 4.0 per 100,000 for all workers.<sup>1</sup>
- The current death rate of HIV for Latinos is 4.7 per 100,000, compared to 1.8 per 100,000 for non-Latino Whites.<sup>7</sup>
- In 2005, 13.9 Latino deaths per 100,000 were attributable to liver disease compared to 9 per 100,000 in the general population.<sup>8</sup>

### References

1. Vega, William et al. Health Disparities in the Latino Population. *Epidemiologic Reviews* August 2009.
2. Smith DP, Bradshaw BS. Rethinking the Hispanic paradox: death rates and life expectancy for US non-Hispanic white and Hispanic populations. *Am J Public Health*. 2006; 96 (9): 1686-1692.
3. Population projections. <http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/population/012496.html>. August 14, 2008.
4. Ramirez RR. We the People: Hispanics in the United States. (Census 2000 special report). Washington, DC: Bureau of the Census, US Department of Commerce; 2004.
5. IOM (Institute of Medicine). 2009. Focusing on children's health: Community approaches to addressing health disparities: Workshop summary. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press.
6. AHRQ. 2008. "National Healthcare Disparities Report." Washington DC: Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality.
7. National Center for Health Statistics. Health, United States, 2008, *With Chartbook on Trends in the Health of Americans*. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics; 2008.
8. National Center for Health Statistics. Health, United States, 2007, *With Chartbook on Trends in the Health of Americans*. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics; 2007: 195.