



Notes from the Field: Improving Healthcare Outcomes in Hispanic Communities

January 2014

Overview

By 2060, the Hispanic population in the United States is expected to more than double to 128.8 million, accounting for more than 30 percent of the overall population.¹ This trend has focused increased attention on health and healthcare issues of particular concern to Hispanics. Hispanic Americans are more likely to be uninsured than any other ethnic group and have a higher prevalence of chronic illnesses, such as diabetes, and report more challenges communicating with their healthcare providers than whites.² Even Hispanics who have health insurance and are aware of treatment options are less likely than whites to treat their illnesses.³

By engaging the Hispanic community in all aspects of the research process, PCORI seeks to ensure that the comparative effectiveness research that we fund addresses high-priority health and healthcare issues and generates evidence-based, trustworthy, and useful information that can lead to better-informed health and healthcare decisions within this community.

What We've Heard

Roundtable discussions are among the many channels we use to engage a broad range of healthcare stakeholders in our work. In 2012, we invited Hispanic [women](#) and [men](#) representing all healthcare stakeholder groups and major US geographic regions to participate in two roundtables to identify health and

FAST FACTS

- PCORI's [authorizing legislation](#) requires that our research take into account "the potential for differences in the effectiveness of health care treatments used with various subpopulations." We consider Hispanics to be among these subgroups.
- Under our [National Priorities for Research](#), we are funding nearly dozen research projects that focus on health and healthcare issues of particular concern to Hispanics.
- PCORI is funding [Pipeline to Proposal](#) projects to build capacity for various groups, including those within the Hispanic community, to later develop a research project in their areas of interest.
- We have held two roundtables with Hispanic community representatives ([women](#) and [men](#)) to seek their help in identifying pressing health issues and promote community involvement in patient-centered outcomes research.
- Several of the issues discussed at these workshops and identified through ongoing interactions with the Hispanic community are informing our research agenda.

healthcare challenges in their communities, build partnerships to increase patient and community engagement in research, and start discussing ways to promote the dissemination and implementation of the results of our funded research within Hispanic populations.

Participants identified areas where there are gaps in research on health and healthcare issues of concern to Hispanics, including:

- Mental illnesses
- Asthma
- Depression and other health conditions among caregivers for Hispanic patients
- Cultural sensitivity in healthcare delivery

Participants recommended that PCORI fund studies in these areas as well as examine the value of community health workers, known as *promotoras*, in helping patients manage symptoms, follow treatment plans, and navigate the healthcare system.



Thoughtful conversations at PCORI's roundtable events focused on Hispanic health issues. (Clockwise, starting above left) Dr. Kathleen Page, patient partner Zara Urgiles, patient partner Jose Maldonado, Dr. William Vega, and health advocate Richard Zaldivar.

What We're Doing

PCORI is building a portfolio of patient-centered outcomes research projects that address Hispanic health. As of December 2013, we have funded two dozen projects that support this focus. For example, our first targeted funding announcement invited proposals for research to improve patient-centered outcomes among African Americans and Hispanics with uncontrolled asthma—and five of the eight funded projects focus on Hispanics.

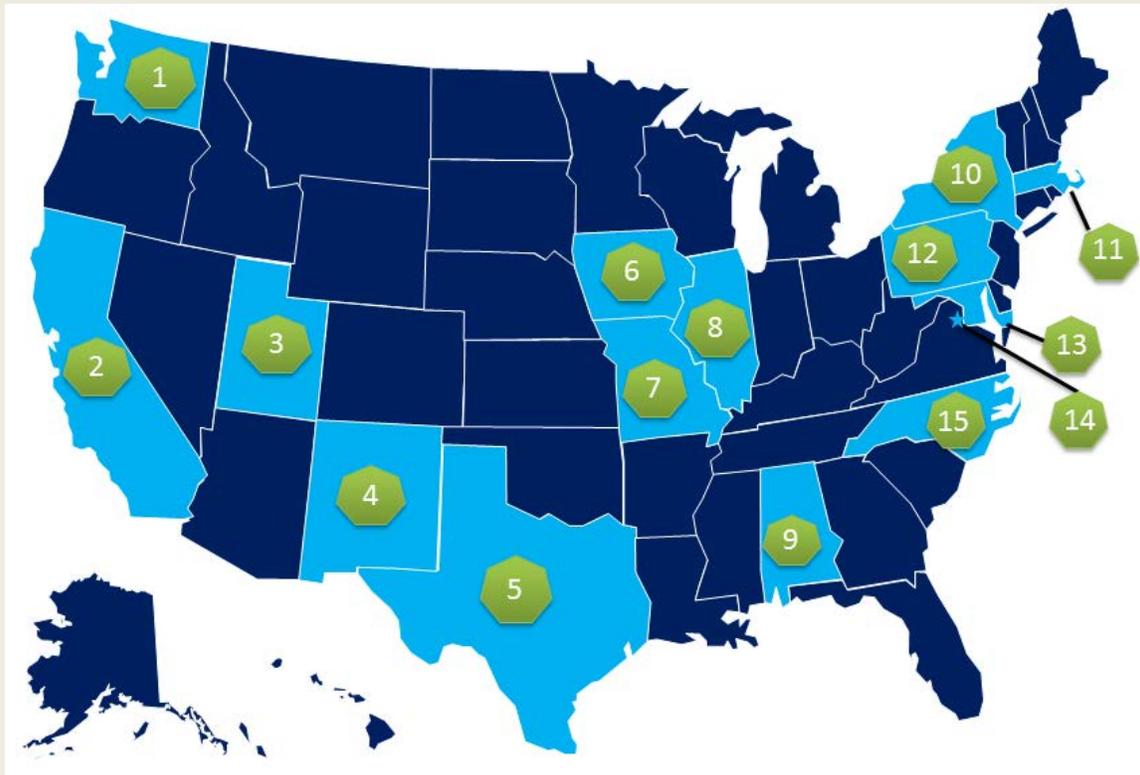


Other projects, selected through our broad funding announcements, that address concerns raised in the Hispanic roundtables include studies of:

- Depression, dementia, and other serious mental illnesses.
- Stress, depression, and other health conditions among caregivers for Hispanic patients.
- Culturally adapted interventions that address heavy drinking, diabetes prevention and care, and advance-care planning and medical decision making.

PCORI is funding not only research projects but also proposals intended to build capacity for community groups to later develop a patient-centered comparative effectiveness research projects in their areas of interest. Five of the first set of these [Pipeline to Proposal awards](#) went to groups with a Hispanic focus.

PCORI-FUNDED RESEARCH AND COMMUNITY CAPACITY-BUILDING PROJECTS WITH A FOCUS ON HISPANIC POPULATIONS (AS OF JANUARY 2014)



1. **Washington:** Guidelines to Practice (G2P): Reducing Asthma Health Disparities through Guideline Implementation
2. **California:** Ovarian Cancer Patient-Centered Decision Aid ; A Helping Hand (AHH) to Activate Patient-Centered Depression Care among Low-Income Patients; Randomized Trial to Increase Adherence to Cervical Cancer Screening Guidelines for Young Women; Imperial County Asthma Comparative Effectiveness Research Project; Is MyPlate.gov Approach to Helping Overweight Patients Lose Weight More Patient-Centered?; Preparing Spanish-speaking Older Adults for Advance Care Planning and Medical Decision Making; Addressing Obesity in Latino Adolescents with Spina Bifida*
3. **Utah:** Development of a Community Partnership for Patient Centered Outcomes Research in Type 2 Diabetes*

(project list continues on next page)

4. **New Mexico:** Culturally Appropriate Options for Diabetes Prevention and Care for Low-Income Latinos*; Mobilizing Community Engagement for Health in a Southern New Mexico Border Region Colonia*; Engaging Native American and Spanish-Speaking Families and Sharing Family Wisdom to Reduce Childhood Obesity*
5. **Texas:** Evaluating Methods to Engage Minority Patients and Caregivers as Stakeholders; Cultural Adapted Brief Motivation Interventions for Heavy-Drinking Latinos
6. **Iowa:** Extension Connection: Advancing Dementia Care for Rural and Hispanic Populations
7. **Missouri:** Implementation of Patient-Centered Contraceptive Provision in Community Settings
8. **Illinois:** The Coordinated Healthcare Interventions for Childhood Asthma Gaps in Outcomes (CHICAGO) Trial; Integrated Care and Patient Navigators for Latinos with Serious Mental Illness
9. **Alabama:** Individualized Patient Decision Making for Treatment Choices among Minorities with Lupus
10. **New York:** Collaborative Care to Reduce Depression and Increase Cancer Screening among Low-Income Urban Women; Clinic-based versus Home-based Support to Improve Care and Outcomes for Older Asthmatics; Northern Manhattan Hispanic Caregiver Intervention Effectiveness (NHICE) Study
11. **Massachusetts:** Comparing Patient-Centered Outcomes after Treatment for Uterine Fibroids
12. **Pennsylvania:** Using Information Technology to Improve Access, Communication, and Asthma in African-American and Hispanic/Latino Adults; Increasing CRC Screening among Hispanic Primary Care Patients
13. **Maryland:** Advancing Stated-Preference Methods for Measuring the Preferences of Patients with Type 2 Diabetes
14. **District of Columbia:** *Nueva Vida* Intervention: Improving Quality of Life in Latina Breast Cancer Survivors and their Caregivers; Parent-Centered Innovations to Improve Adherence in At-Risk Youth with Asthma
15. **North Carolina:** *Padres Efectivos* (Parent Activation): Skills Latina Mothers Use to Get Health Care for Their Children

*Projects receiving pilot [Pipeline to Proposal awards](#).

For more information, see pcori.org/pfaawards.

Future Research Possibilities

We will continue building a portfolio of patient-centered comparative effectiveness research projects that address issues of importance to Hispanics. In preparing targeted funding announcements and evaluating proposals submitted under our broad funding announcements, we will consider topics suggested by attendees at our two Hispanic health roundtables and other sources. For example, one of our multi-stakeholder advisory panels has recommended we invite proposals that compare the effectiveness of health communication models on improving outcomes in populations that include people with limited English proficiency.

PCORI is also building partnerships within the Hispanic community to fulfill our commitment to “research done differently.” Participants in our Hispanic workshops have since served as reviewers for the pilot [Pipeline to Proposal Awards Initiative](#) and as panelists for workgroup meetings on high-priority topics. We will continue to encourage members of the Hispanic community to become active participants in our research process—inviting patients, caregivers, researchers, clinicians, and other stakeholders to identify potential areas of research, serve as merit reviewers, and submit applications for research funding and our [Eugene Washington PCORI Engagement Awards](#). We look forward to the opportunity to share milestones and findings from our growing portfolio of projects addressing Hispanic health and health care.

References

1. U.S. Census Bureau (2012). *U.S. Census Bureau Projections Show a Slower Growing, Older, More Diverse Nation a Half Century from Now*¹. Retrieved June 9, 2013.
2. J.J. Escarce and Kapur, K. (2006) *Access to and Quality of Health Care*². *Hispanics and the Future of America*. National Research Council Panel on Hispanics in the United States. National Academies Press, Washington, DC.
3. C. Reyes et al. (2004) *Genes, Culture and Medicines: Bridging Gaps in Treatment for Hispanic Americans*³. National Alliance for Hispanic Health, Washington, DC.

¹ Available at census.gov/newsroom/releases/archives/population/cb12-243.html

² Available at ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK19910/

³ Available at hispanichealth.org/assets/resource_library/hispanic_report04.pdf

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