

BACKGROUND

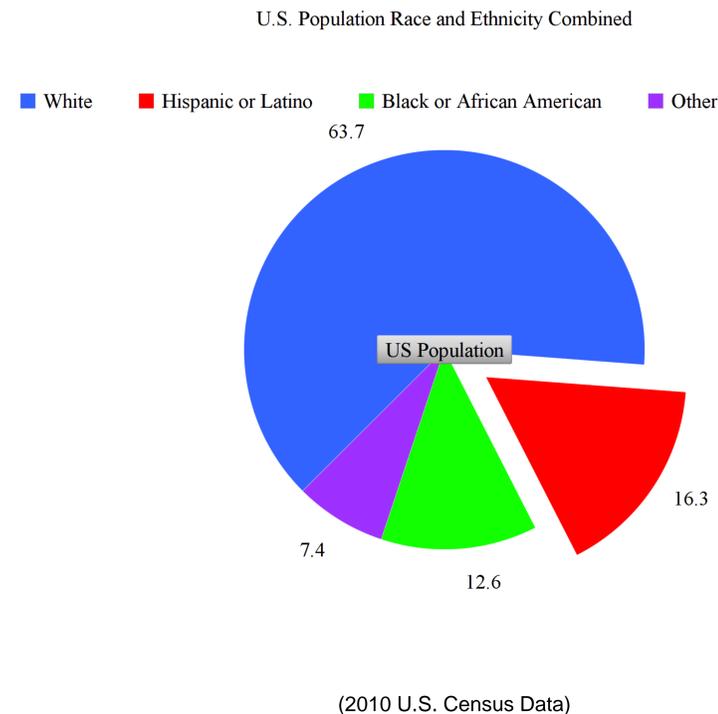
- Research suggests that the prevalence of mental illness in Latinos is not necessarily uncommon and that economic concerns may be an important factor in determining the type of services Latinos are likely to seek (Kouyoumdjian, 2003).
- For Latinos, mental health disorders such as depression and anxiety have higher rates than the general population but the rate at which Latinos seek treatment is strikingly lower (Barrio, 2008).
- Observations regarding treatment engagement rates conclude that Latinos also have significantly higher probability of terminating treatments prematurely (Kouyoumdjian, 2003).
- Aim: to examine the mental health needs and barriers to treatment present in the Latino community of Las Vegas, Nevada.

METHOD

- Participants will be Latina/o adults 18 years or older in the Las Vegas community.
- The Informed Consent document will describe the study as an investigation of mental illness and associated services.
- Survey questions relating to symptoms were taken from the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fifth Edition (DSM-V; American Psychiatric Association, 2013).
- The survey will be analyzed via Fisher's exact test.
- The semi-structured interview gathers information regarding experiences with mental health symptoms, treatment-seeking, and mental health services. It will be coded for themes (e.g., geographic, economic, cultural factors).

For more information, contact Vanessa Diaz at Diazv6@unlv.nevada.edu

U.S. 2010 Population Census



Expected Results

Table 1 Symptoms of DSM-IV disorders

Symptom	% who endorsed symptom			Chi-Square Statistic
	Overall (n = 162)	Women (n = 111)	Men (n = 51)	
Depression	74.1% (n = 120)	74.8% (n = 83)	72.5% (n = 37)	0.01
Gen. Anxiety	57.4% (n = 93)	59.5% (n = 66)	52.9% (n = 27)	0.17
Panic attacks	27.2% (n = 44)	29.7% (n = 33)	21.6% (n = 11)	0.69
Agoraphobia	21.0% (n = 34)	21.6% (n = 24)	19.6% (n = 10)	0.06
OCD	16.7% (n = 27)	18.0% (n = 20)	13.7% (n = 7)	0.34
PTSD	38.3% (n = 62)	38.7% (n = 43)	37.3% (n = 19)	0.01
ETOH abuse	11.7% (n = 19)	3.6% (n = 4)	29.4% (n = 15)	16.54****
Drug abuse	17.9% (n = 29)	13.5% (n = 15)	27.5% (n = 14)	3.09 ⁺

*****p* < 0.0001, **p* < 0.05, +*p* < 0.10

Of those who endorsed, % who sought treatment			
Overall	Female	Male	Fisher's exact test
24.2% (n = 29)	28.9% (n = 24)	13.5% (n = 5)	<i>p</i> = 0.11
17.2% (n = 16)	19.7% (n = 13)	11.1% (n = 3)	<i>p</i> = 0.38
34.1% (n = 15)	45.5% (n = 15)	0.0% (n = 0)	<i>p</i> = 0.01
29.4% (n = 10)	41.7% (n = 10)	0.0% (n = 0)	<i>p</i> = 0.02
29.6% (n = 8)	40.0% (n = 8)	0.0% (n = 0)	<i>p</i> = 0.06
21.0% (n = 13)	27.9% (n = 12)	5.3% (n = 1)	<i>p</i> = 0.05
0.0% (n = 0)	0.0% (n = 0)	0.0% (n = 0)	<i>p</i> = 1.0
13.8% (n = 4)	26.7% (n = 4)	0.0% (n = 0)	<i>p</i> = 0.10

(Cardemil, 2007)

IMPORTANCE

- Research regarding disparities in mental health care can help guide the service delivery system to better meet the mental health needs of the growing number of Latinos in the U.S. (Lopez, 2012).
- By conducting a local needs assessment, we will be able to evaluate the specific mental health needs Latinos in Las Vegas are facing as well as determine barriers specific to this population and location.
- This study will also act as a guide for mental health service providers, community interventions, and educational organizations in the Las Vegas area as a reference when treating Latinos.

DISCUSSION

- With the surging population of Latinos in the U.S., it has become an important objective and priority to accommodate this population's mental health needs.
- Providing culturally competent care, increasing accessibility of affordable care, and increasing provider diversity are ways to help target the disparity.
- Expected results show a large portion of the participants reporting that they have experienced a mental health related problem at some point in their lives as well as low rates of help-seeking for the most commonly endorsed mental health problems are revealed (Cardemil, 2007).
- Limitations include possible sampling biases.
- Future directions are to strategize ways to create an outreach campaign alongside organizations and educational programs.