






Presentation Summary and Recommendations for Community Practice and Action

Date and Title	October 10, 2019: Panel Discussion on the Impact of HIV/AIDS in the Latinx Community
 SUMMARY	<p>In recognition of the National Latinx Awareness Day, the Los Angeles County Commission on HIV (COH) convened a panel of community stakeholders to discuss the impact of HIV/AIDS in the Latinx community. The discussion included the cultural, linguistic, and historical diversity of the Latinx community. Several challenges contribute to the HIV epidemic in Latinx communities, including poverty, stigma and discrimination, limited access to health care, and language or cultural barriers in health care settings. In addition, immigration hurdles and implicit/explicit bias are some of the core challenges faced by Latinx community.</p>
 KEY TAKEAWAYS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As the largest and fastest growing ethnic minority group in the U.S., addressing HIV in the Latino community takes on increased importance in efforts to address the epidemic across the country. • While the dominant culture and those who are not from the Latinx community often perceive the Latinx community as one monolithic group, the community is far from homogenous. The community is multi-generational, with many of whom who come from indigenous backgrounds, and intersecting identities that include HIV status. • One speaker noted that the term “Latinx” may not necessarily encompass indigenous communities or resonate with some individuals within the Latino/a community. • There continues to be a large gap in HIV knowledge because HIV remains stigmatized and not openly discussed in the Latinx community. Culturally centered education strategies such conducting outreach in <i>carnicerías</i> should be considered for this population. • Recognize that religion and gender behavior concepts such as <i>machismo</i>, play a role in not disclosing HIV status, seeking care or testing services, or learning about HIV. • Women are often dismissed or forgotten in HIV prevention and treatment services. They may be subject to additional risk factors such as exposure to violence or reliance on a male figure for survival. • While certain organizations have supported HIV prevention and treatment efforts in Latinx communities in Los Angeles County, those agencies have remained the same agencies for last decade. • Service providers should address trauma first to engage the community in a meaningful and trusting relationships with service providers. • Family is important in the Latinx community. Give families the tools and language to discuss HIV, sexual identities, sexual health, and gender norms in a loving and non-threatening way to encourage supportive family conversations. One panelist noted, “if it’s not in our homes, it does not exist.” Conversations in family circles would help reduce stigma, shame and fear. • For older people with HIV, survival is challenging, given newer technologies and difficulties in gaining employment. Integrate the needs of the young and older Latinx in services. • The Latinx community is extremely resilient, with inspiring stories from generations of families establishing roots and presence in the United States.
 IDEAS FOR ACTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use trauma-informed care lenses in all services, not just HIV. • Support family planning services and regard them as sexual and human rights as they provide a critical access point for the Latinx community. • Address medical mistrust in the community and families.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give service providers the flexibility and permission to implement programs differently that respond to the needs of the Latinx community. • Expand HIV prevention messages and public faces beyond gay men. Because ciswomen, cismen, and transgender individuals, are often not seen in prevention campaigns and messages, they do not see themselves at risk for HIV.
 <p>RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COMMISSIONERS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve relationships and communication among Commissioners and model supportive relationships for the community. • Keep an open mind to other people’s personal stories and journeys. Show compassion and understanding for Latinx members who identify as transgender or non-binary. • Support interventions that build upon community resilience and family support systems.
 <p>VIDEO LINK</p>	<p>To view the video of the presentation, visit: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLEB64iMMVDIizWWzfZ0cLxt8-Dp0cT-mj Special thanks to Jorge Diaz, Bienestar; Thelma Garcia, East Los Angeles Women’s Center; Carlos Moreno, Children’s Hospital Los Angeles; Johanna Padilla Trans Wellness Center; and Jose Vasquez, Unaffiliated Consumer and HIV Elders (HIVE), APLA participant.</p>