WORKING WITH HISPANIC/LATINX COMMUNITIES AFFECTED BY HIV

GUILLERMO CHACÓN

Latino Commission on AIDS, *President*

Hispanic Health Network, *Founder*

LATINO COMMISSION ON AIDS

about the commission

- Founded in 1990 to address the impact of HIV and AIDS, viral hepatitis, and health disparities in Hispanic/Latinx communities.
- Local, regional, national programming, including Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands
- Multi-disciplinary, multicultural/bilingual professional staff of 42
- Formerly led by Dennis de Leon, national AIDS activist, 1994-2009†

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- Formerly led by Dennis de Leon (1994 human rights lawyer and AIDS activist
- Led by Guillermo Chacon since 2009 with a focus on coalition building, community mobilization, and media presence.

COMMISSION'S MISSION

- The Commission is a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving and expanding access to health care; addressing viral hepatitis, HIV, AIDS, STIs; and creating community mobilization to address health disparities

- The Latino Commission is the founder of the Hispanic Health Network

core services

Our community health model embraces **five core and complementary services:**

1. Health Education & Awareness
2. Prevention and Access to Care
3. Capacity Building Assistance
4. Health Policy & Community Action
5. Hispanic Health Behavioral Research

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Barriers to adequate health care

- Lack of knowledge about the health care challenges faced by Hispanos/Latinos
- Lack of understanding about diversity within the Hispanic community (U.S. born vs. foreign born)
- Limited linguistic and culturally competent services
- Discrimination and racism
- Lack of Hispanic healthcare workforce and service providers
- Challenges faced by new immigrants
- Lack of Latino representation on research and health studies
- Challenges proper of aging on elderly Hispanics that live with HIV and chronic comorbidities

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the current state of the HIV epidemic among Latinos in the U.S.

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new HIV cases by race/ethnicity

Race/Ethnicity	United States January through December 2017 (preliminary)	
	Number	Rate
White	10,117	5.1
AA/Black	16,690	41.1
Hispanic	9,461	16.1
Asian/PI	942	5.1
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	57	9.9
Am Indian/Alaska Native	212	8.8
Multiple	871	12.6
Total	38,281	11.8

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Cumulative HIV and AIDS cases by race/ethnicity

Race/Ethnicity	United States Through December 2017	
	Number	Percent
White	443,701	34.6
AA/Black	515,685	40.2
Hispanic	266,602	20.7
Asian/PI	10,340	0.81
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	851	0.06
Am Indian/Alaska Native	3,578	0.28
Multiple	40,944	3.19
Totals	1,281,787	100.0

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Diagnosis of HIV Infection and Persons Living with HIV in Latinos

	New Diagnosis 2017	Rate of New Diagnosis in 2017	Persons Living with HIV 2016	Rate of People Living with HIV 2016
NE	1,800	5.4	70,543	874.4
MW	609	3.2	13,671	259.9
SOUTH	4,123	7.8	69,034	320.4
WEST	2,929	5.2	61,591	269.6
TERR.	447	14.2	31,422	242.4

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States with Highest HIV and AIDS Diagnosis by State among Latinos

State	2016 Year End HIV Diagnosis	2016 Year End-AIDS Diagnosis
California	46,251	26,273
New York	44,524	26,942
Texas	27,494	14,729
Florida	25,134	12,662
Puerto Rico	16,782	9,070
New Jersey	10,053	5,241
Illinois	6,826	3,698
Pennsylvania	6,050	3,396
Massachusetts	5,380	3,109
Arizona	4,686	2,264

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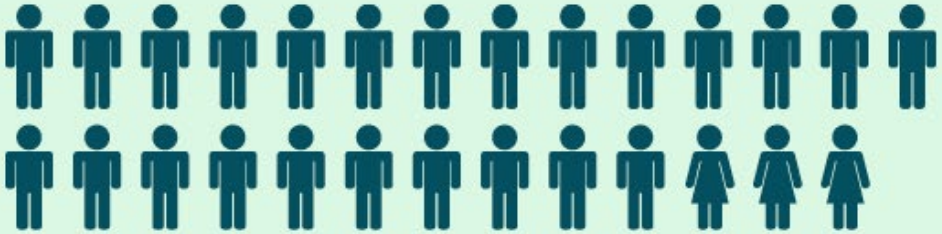
IN 2017, **9,908 LATINOS** WERE NEWLY DIAGNOSED WITH **HIV** IN THE U.S.

- THAT IS APPROXIMATELY -

27 PER DAY



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IN 2017, LATINOS REPRESENT 18% OF THE U.S. POPULATION

- BUT ACCOUNT FOR -

25.6%
OF ALL NEW HIV DIAGNOSES

21.9%
OF ALL NEW AIDS DIAGNOSES

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1 IN 6 LATINOS LIVING WITH HIV ARE UNAWARE THEY HAVE IT

LATINOS WHO ARE UNAWARE CANNOT TAKE ADVANTAGE OF HIV TREATMENT AND MAY UNKNOWINGLY TRANSMIT HIV TO OTHERS.

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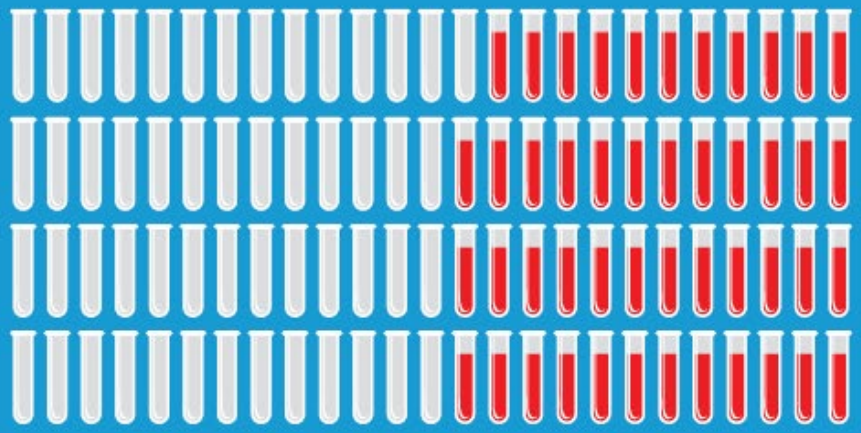
53% OF LATINOS HAVE NEVER BEEN TESTED FOR HIV IN THEIR LIFETIME

NEVER TESTED 53%



EVER TESTED 47%

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IF CURRENT HIV RATES PERSIST:

1 IN 5
LATINO MSM

1 IN 48
LATINO MEN

1 IN 227
LATINA WOMEN

MAYBE DIAGNOSED WITH HIV IN THEIR LIFETIME

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ABOUT 1 IN 4 LATINA TRANS WOMAN IS ESTIMATED TO BE LIVING WITH HIV

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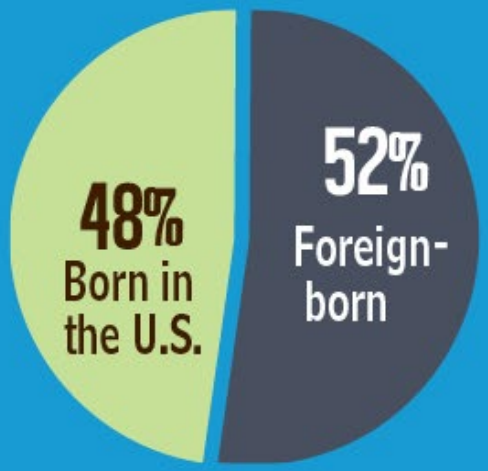
IN 2017, 52% OF LATINOS DIAGNOSED WITH HIV WHO DISCLOSED THEIR PLACE OF BIRTH WERE FOREIGN-BORN;



78% of all foreign-born were Latino MSM

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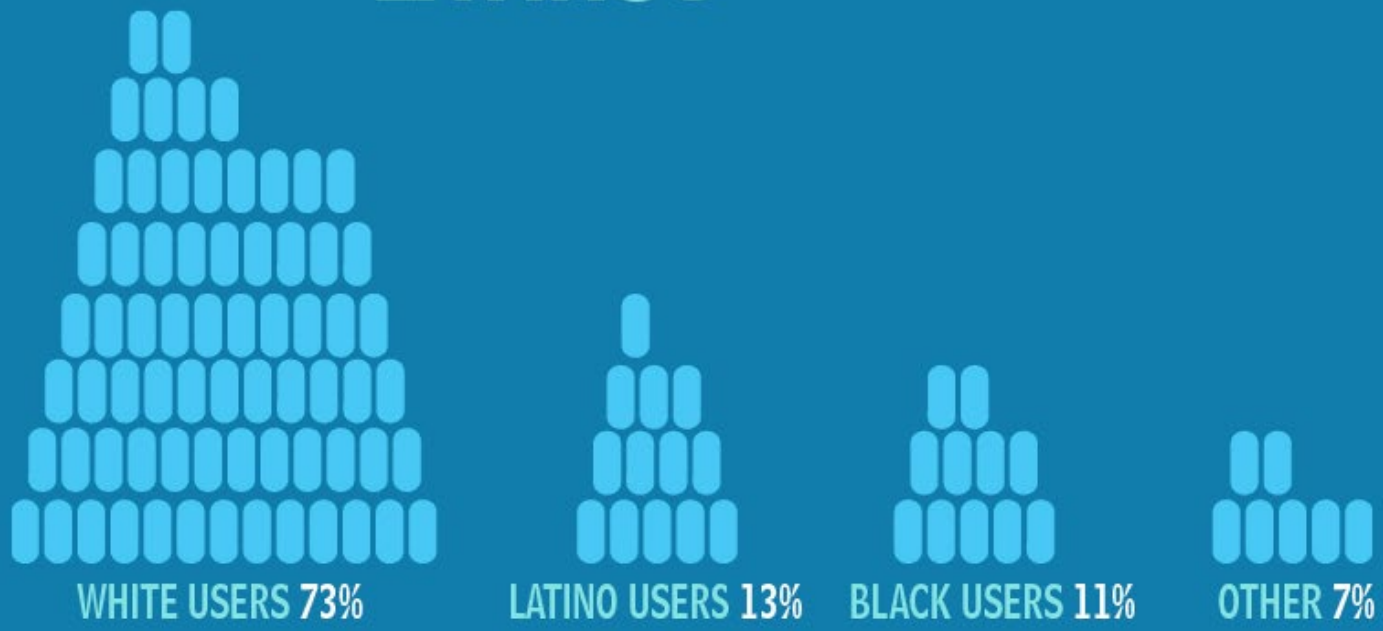
UNEQUAL ACCES TO PrEP, A DAILY PILL TO PREVENT HIV, PUTS LATINOS AT HIGHER RISK (2016)



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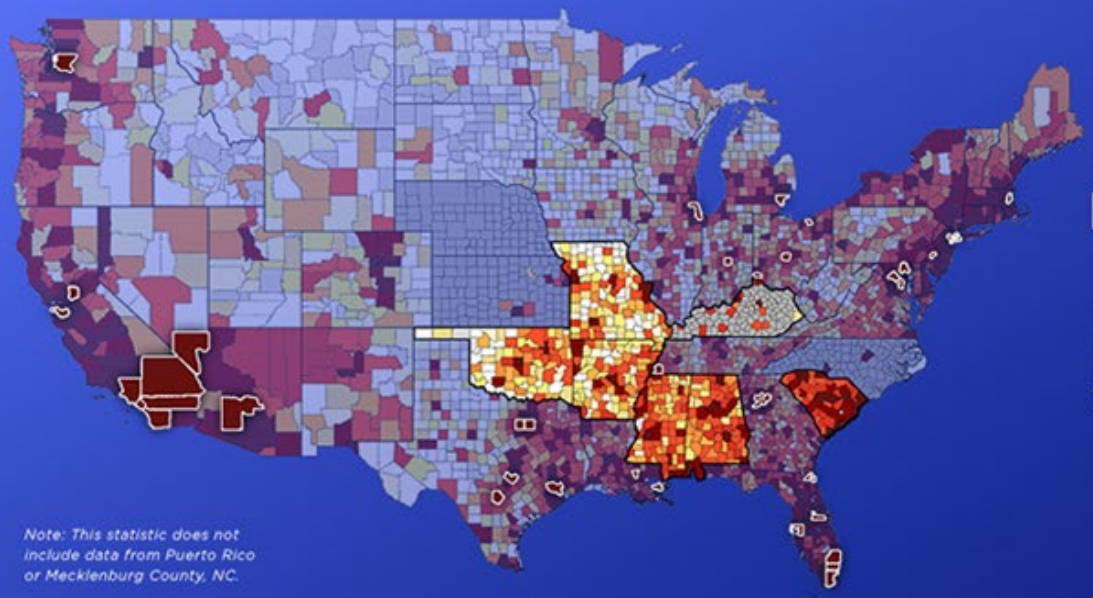

Note: This statistic does not include data from Puerto Rico or Mecklenburg County, NC.

In 2016, **65%** of all **Hispanic/Latinx people living with HIV** resided in the 57 jurisdictions targeted by the HHS initiative *Ending the HIV Epidemic: A Plan for America.*

Number of Hispanic/Latinx Persons Living with HIV, 2016

5 - 8	9 - 12	13 - 18	19 - 26	27 - 36	37 - 54	55 - 92	93 - 166	167 - 468	469+

SOURCE: AIDSVu

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Commission's Strategy to Respond to the HIV Epidemic among Latinos

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Strategies, Partnership and Innovative Programs

- The Latino Commission on AIDS works locally, regionally and nationally **with partners** including Puerto Rico & the U.S. Virgin Islands.

- Some of programing and strategies we are engaged in:
  - Oasis LGBTQ Wellness Center
  - Latino Religious Leadership Program
  - Latinos in the South
  - Capacity Building Assistance
  - National Latino AIDS Awareness Day
  - National Hispanic/Latinx Health Leadership Summit 2020

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Oasis Latino LGBTQ Center

Oasis aims to reduce new infections, increase access to care and promote health equity by providing a safe space for gay, bisexual and transgender people.

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Oasis Latino LGBTQ Center

Homegrown Initiative:

The Commission developed "Construyendo tu YO ideal": three-day retreat where participants identify their self-esteem, internalized homophobia & transphobia, as well as social isolation & support to overcome all of them.

Piloted CDC new EBI:

The Commission became one of the first CBO's to implement *Sin Buscar Excusas*, a video-based behavioral intervention that aims to increase sexual safety and HIV testing. Through this intervention, the agency recruited 56 clients in 2018.

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Latino Religious Leadership Program

The Latino Religious Leadership Program was founded in 1995 to provide a leadership role to faith-based communities in addressing HIV and AIDS and educating religious leaders about the most pressing health concerns in our communities.

The program facilitates the process to establish church settings as another venue for health promotion and addressing stigma.

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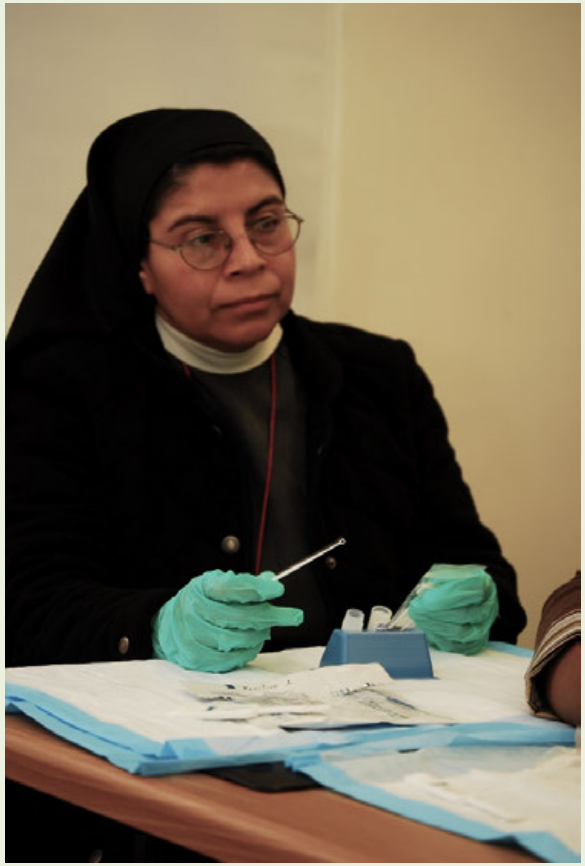
Latino Religious Leadership Program



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The Leadership Model

- The Commission works with the leadership of congregations or denominations, in order to create a domino effect within the faith communities.

- Develop health leadership at all levels.

- **Ministers, faith leaders and congregations take a role in reaching healthy communities**

LATINO RELIGIOUS LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

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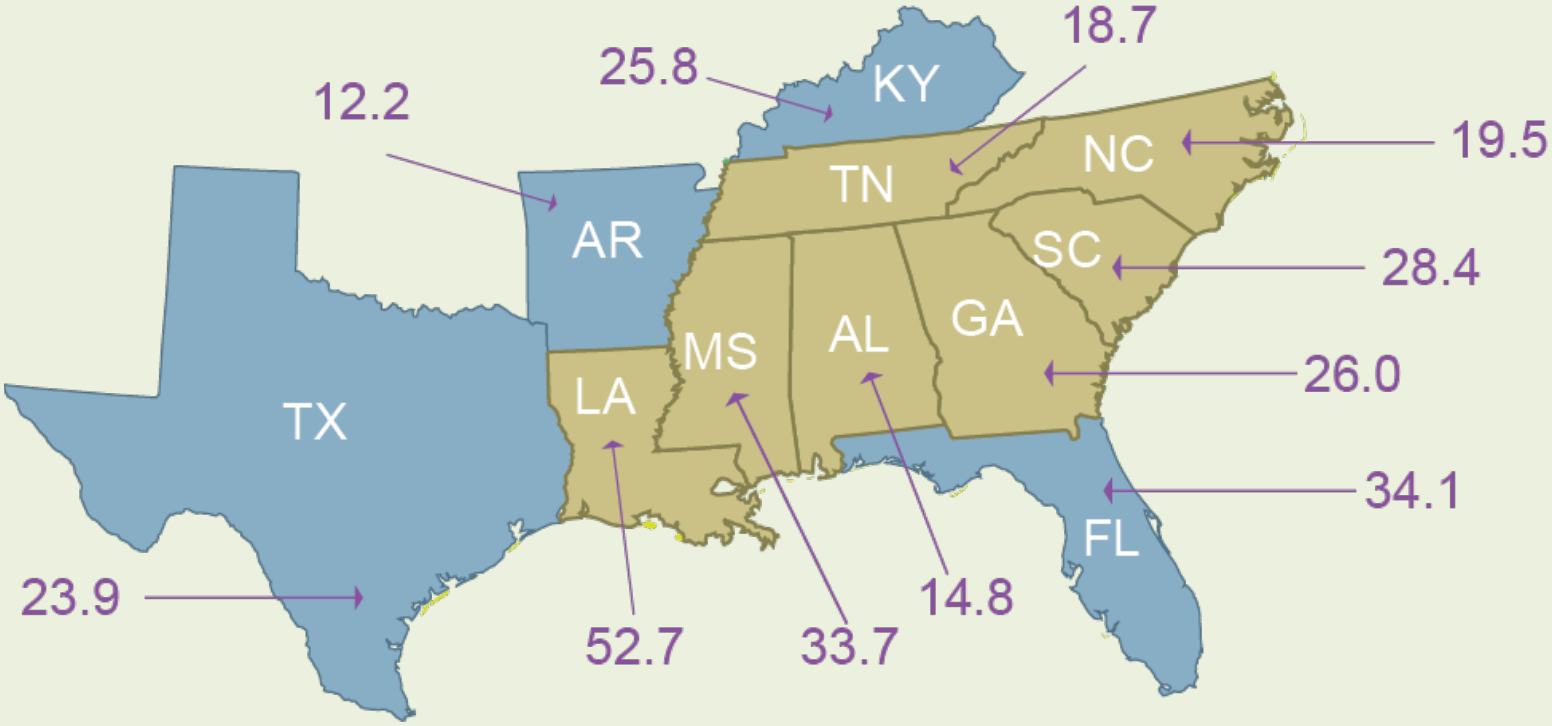
Latinos in the South: HIV Diagnosis

HIV Diagnosis among Latinos Adults and Adolescents in 2011 (rate per 100,000 people)



Source: Centers for Disease Control

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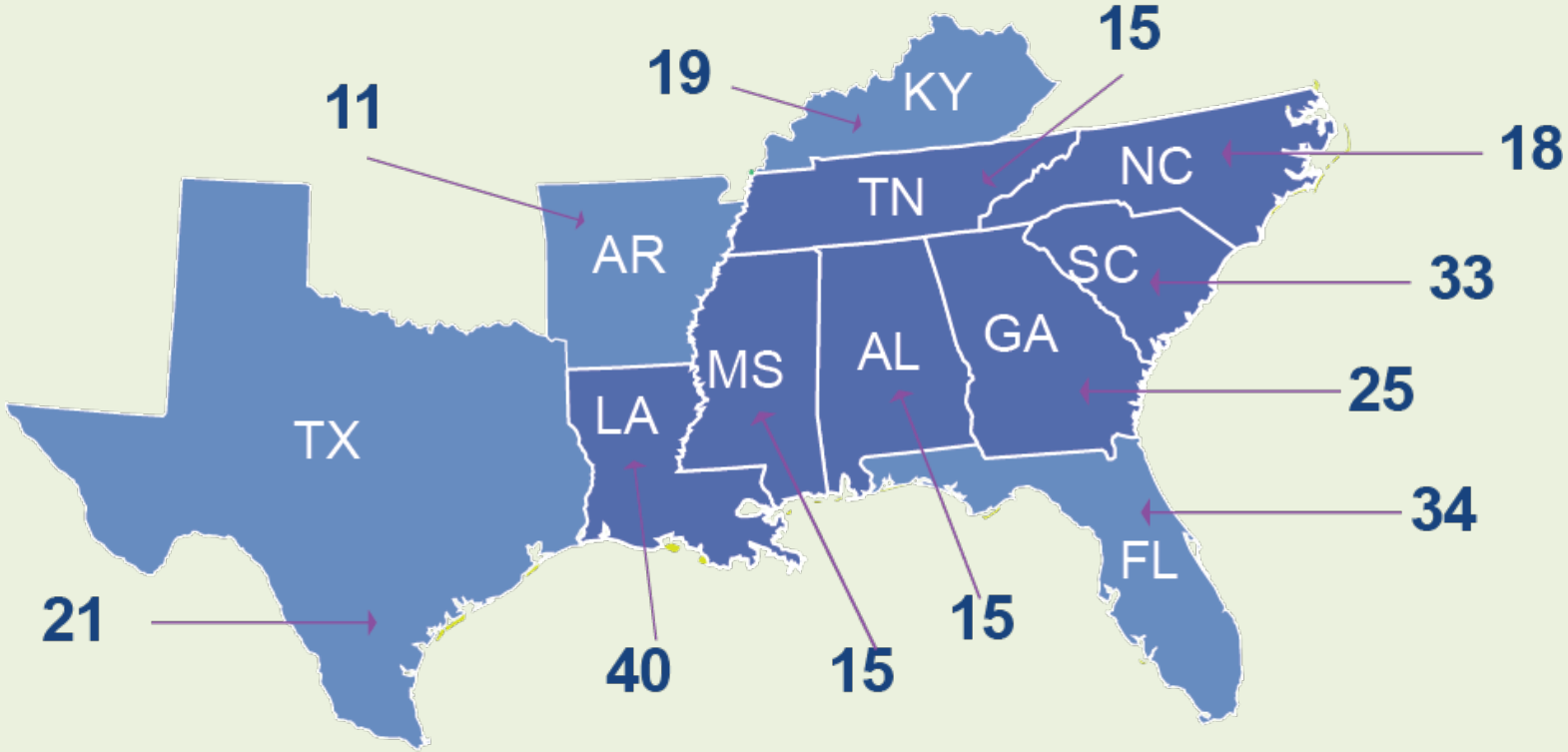
Latinos in the South: HIV Diagnosis

Rates of Latinos Newly Diagnosed with HIV in 2017 (per 100,000 people)



Source: Centers for Disease Control

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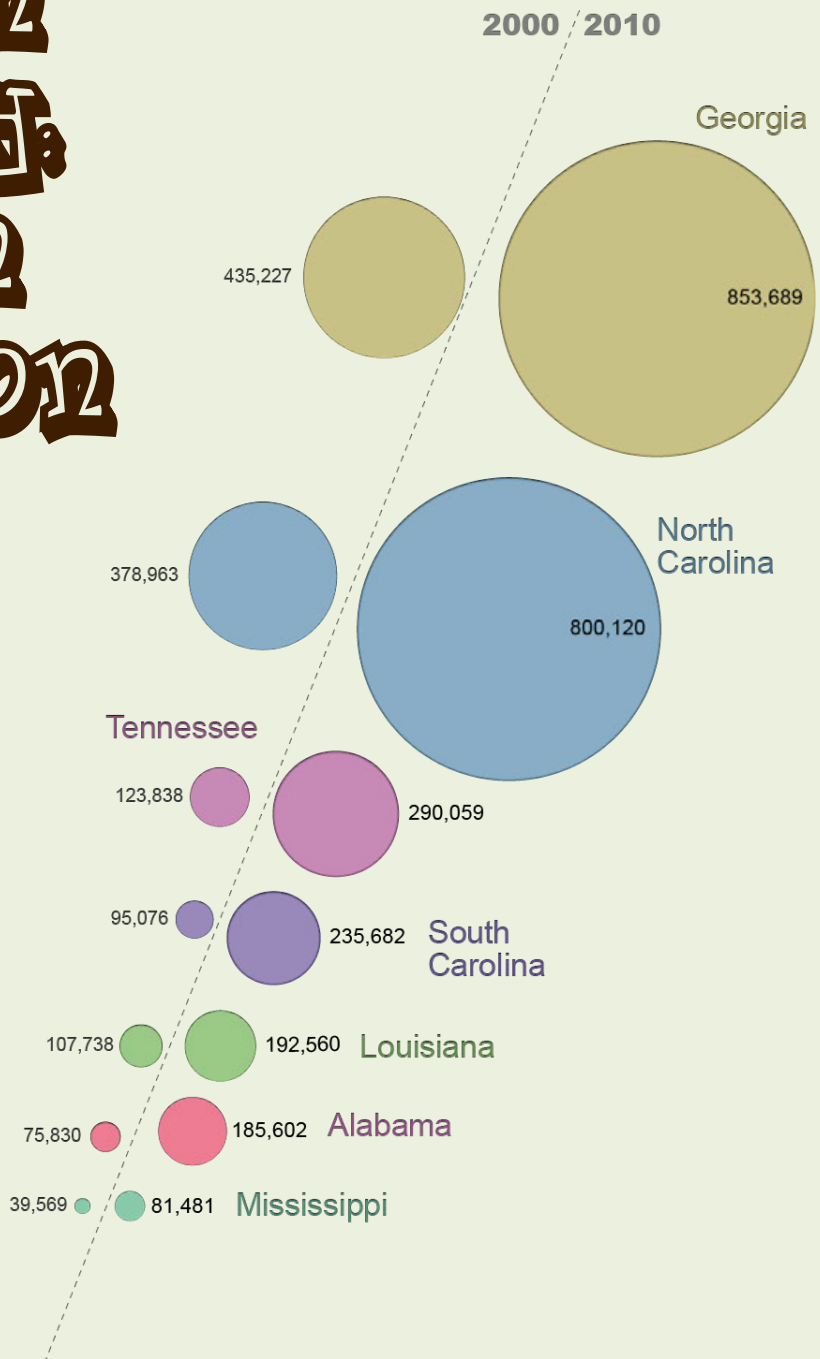
Latinos in the South: Growth in Population

Latino population 2000-2010 in 7 states of the deep south

1'256,241 in 2000
2'639,193 in 2010



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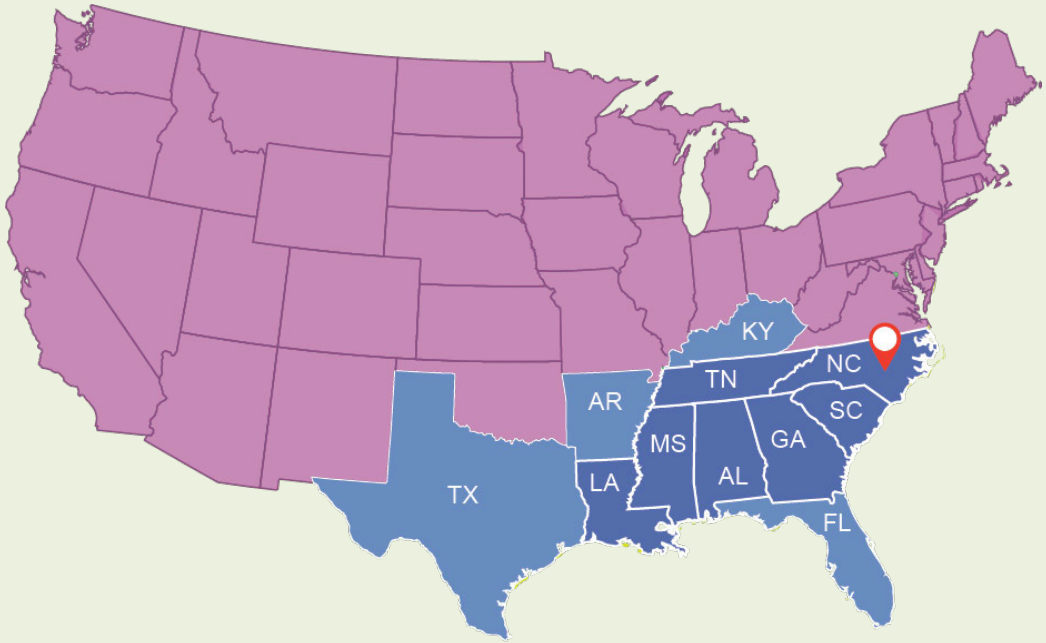
Latinos in the South Program

- **Community Organizing & Leadership Development**
  - Dennis de Leon Leadership Institute
  - Regional Latinx Assessment
  - Alianza Latinx LGBTQ
  - Encuentro Summit
- **Community Based Participatory Research**
- **Capacity Building Assistance (CBA)**
  - Provided CBA across the Deep South to CBO's, Health Depts. among others



Latinos in the Deep South Program since 2007
Latinos in the Deep South Program expanded reach from 2011-2013
Latinos in the Deep South Program home since 2012

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Capacity Building

Hands United
Manos Unidas

- **Funded by CDC:** Southern region
- **Focus:** Strengthen HIV prevention and capacity of CBOs
- **Experience:** Know-how of 16 years

Directed by distinguished behavioral specialists, public health leaders, organizational development specialists with expertise on stigma, evaluation, social marketing, linkage & navigation to care, PrEP and HIV prevention services

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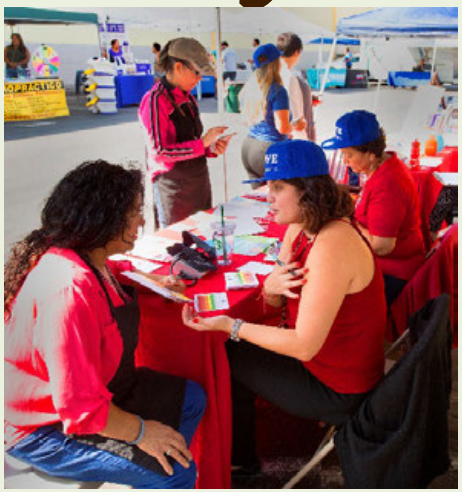
national Latino aids awareness Day (nLaaD)



- Over 80,000 Latinos/as tested for HIV since 2003
- Mobilize 350 CBOs and health departments in 250 cities/40 States & territories
- Built and maintain a national network of CBOs, Health Departments, federal agencies, and other partners
- Promotes HIV testing, PrEP, Condoms use, HIV treatment, U=U

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Prevention & Education

- National Hispanic HIV Hepatitis Conference
- Mobilize CBOs, health departments in many Cities/States
- Working on building and maintaining a national network of CBOs, Health Departments and people impacted by HIV, HCV and SUD
- Valley AIDS Council, Texas

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- Partnership with regional organization such Valley AIDS Council in Texas to develop health education programs
- Launching initiatives to educate at-large community about homo-transphobia and stigma

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National Hispanic/Latinx Health Leadership Summit 2020

Early 2018-2019 Activites:

- Organizations begin to work together and strategize on how to address increasing incidence of HIV in our communities
- Decision was made to work together and develop a National Steering and Planning Committee towards 2020
- Call to action letter to CDC/DHAP signed by over 160 organizations nationally and over 180 individuals
- National Health Policy Agenda and Summit in early 2020

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National Hispanic/Latinx Health Leadership Summit 2020

"Setting Our National Health Agenda"

- The agenda setting will focus on health policy and encourage broad community engagement to address national issues: HIV, viral hepatitis, substance use, and other health disparities.
- October/November work group calls: →
- National Hispanic/Latinx Health Leadership Summit will be on March 2020. For more information, please visit Hispanicnet.org

- **Prevention**
- **The South**
- **Mental Health**
- **Immigration and Migration**
- **Substance Use**
- **Access to Care**
- **Research & Data**
- **Ending the HIV Epidemic 2030**
- **Puerto Rico**
- **Stigma**

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ZERO HOMOPHOBIA

MAY 13-19 | WEEK AGAINST HOMOPHOBIA

ZERO TRANSPHOBIA

NOV 4-10 | WEEK AGAINST TRANSPHOBIA

Latino Commission on AIDS

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Final thoughts

With Latinos growing in numbers, many of them are still alienated from the health system: Latinos represent only 13% of PrEP users, 1in 4 trans Latina live with HIV, just to name a few. These challenges are worrisome and we react to them with innovative programs, partnerships, by moving our workforce where the epidemic is growing.

The impact we aim to make is one that improves the health and wellness of Latinos and by that, of all Americans.

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