WORKING WITH HISPANIC/LATINX COMMUNITIES AFFECTED BY HIV

GUILLERMO CHACÓN
Latino Commission on AIDS, President
Hispanic Health Network, Founder
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†
ABOUT THE COMMISSION

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- Local, regional, national programming in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.
- Multi-disciplinary, multicultural and bilingual professional staff of 42.
- 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
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
Barriers to adequate health care

- Lack of knowledge about the health care challenges faced by Hispanics/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
the current state of the HIV epidemic among Latinos in the U.S.
## New HIV Cases by Race/Ethnicity

**United States**
January through December 2017 (preliminary)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race/Ethnicity</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>10,117</td>
<td>5.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AA/Black</td>
<td>16,690</td>
<td>41.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>9,461</td>
<td>16.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian/PI</td>
<td>942</td>
<td>5.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>9.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Am Indian/Alaska Native</td>
<td>212</td>
<td>8.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multiple</td>
<td>871</td>
<td>12.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>38,281</td>
<td>11.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Cumulative HIV and AIDS Cases by Race/Ethnicity

**United States**

Through December 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race/Ethnicity</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>443,701</td>
<td>34.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AA/Black</td>
<td>515,685</td>
<td>40.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>266,602</td>
<td>20.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian/PI</td>
<td>10,340</td>
<td>0.81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander</td>
<td>851</td>
<td>0.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Am Indian/Alaska Native</td>
<td>3,578</td>
<td>0.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multiple</td>
<td>40,944</td>
<td>3.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Totals</strong></td>
<td>1,281,787</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Diagnosis of HIV Infection and Persons Living with HIV in Latinos

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>New Diagnosis 2017</th>
<th>Rate of New Diagnosis in 2017</th>
<th>Persons Living with HIV 2016</th>
<th>Rate of People Living with HIV 2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NE</td>
<td>1,800</td>
<td>5.4</td>
<td>70,543</td>
<td>874.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MW</td>
<td>609</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>13,671</td>
<td>259.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOUTH</td>
<td>4,123</td>
<td>7.8</td>
<td>69,034</td>
<td>320.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEST</td>
<td>2,929</td>
<td>5.2</td>
<td>61,591</td>
<td>269.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TERR.</td>
<td>447</td>
<td>14.2</td>
<td>31,422</td>
<td>242.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
States with Highest HIV and AIDS Diagnosis by State among Latinos

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>2016 Year End HIV Diagnosis</th>
<th>2016 Year End-AIDS Diagnosis</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>46,251</td>
<td>26,273</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York</td>
<td>44,524</td>
<td>26,942</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>27,494</td>
<td>14,729</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>25,134</td>
<td>12,662</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Puerto Rico</td>
<td>16,782</td>
<td>9,070</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Jersey</td>
<td>10,053</td>
<td>5,241</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illinois</td>
<td>6,826</td>
<td>3,698</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pennsylvania</td>
<td>6,050</td>
<td>3,396</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Massachusetts</td>
<td>5,380</td>
<td>3,109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arizona</td>
<td>4,686</td>
<td>2,264</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In 2017, 9,908 Latinos were newly diagnosed with HIV in the U.S. That is approximately 27 per day.
In 2017, Latinos represent 18% of the U.S. population but account for 25.6% of all new HIV diagnoses and 21.9% of all new AIDS diagnoses.
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.
53% of Latinos have never been tested for HIV in their lifetime.
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
About 1 in 4 Latina Trans Woman is estimated to be living with HIV.
In 2017, 52% of Latinos diagnosed with HIV who disclosed their place of birth were foreign-born.

- 48% Born in the U.S.
- 52% Foreign-born

78% of all foreign-born were Latino MSM.
Unequal access to PrEP, a daily pill to prevent HIV, puts Latinos at higher risk (2016)

White users: 73%
Latino users: 13%
Black users: 11%
Other: 7%
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*.

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

**Number of Hispanic/Latinx Persons Living with HIV, 2016**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Range</th>
<th>Color</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5 - 8</td>
<td>5 - 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 - 12</td>
<td>9 - 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 - 18</td>
<td>13 - 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 - 26</td>
<td>19 - 26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27 - 36</td>
<td>27 - 36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37 - 54</td>
<td>37 - 54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55 - 92</td>
<td>55 - 92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>93 - 166</td>
<td>93 - 166</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>167 - 468</td>
<td>167 - 468</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>469+</td>
<td>469+</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SOURCE: AIDSvu
Commission's strategy to respond to the HIV epidemic among Latinos
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
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.
Homegrown Initiative:

The Commission developed “Construyendo tu YO ideal”: a 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.
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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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
HIV Diagnosis among Latinos Adults and Adolescents in 2011 (rate per 100,000 people)

Source: Centers for Disease Control
LATINOS IN THE SOUTH: HIV Diagnosis

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

Source: Centers for Disease Control
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
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
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.
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
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
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

• 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
Early 2018-2019 Activities:

- 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.
“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
ZERO HOMOPHOBIA
MAY 13-19

ZERO TRANSPHOBIA
NOV 4-10

Latino Commission on AIDS
24 West 25th Street, 9th Floor, New York, NY 10010
212-675-3288 | www.latinoaids.org
gchacon@latinoaids.org
Final Thoughts

With Latinos growing in numbers, many of them are still alienated from the health system: Latinos represent only 13% of PrEP users, 1 in 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.