65th Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS (PACHA)

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HIV/AIDS, substance abuse disorders, and mental disorders interact in a complex fashion.
- Each acts as a potential catalyst or obstacle in the treatment of the other two— substance abuse can negatively affect adherence to HIV/AIDS treatment regimens; substance abuse disorders and HIV/AIDS are intertwining disorders
- Substance abuse increases the risk of contracting HIV.
  - HIV infection is substantially associated with the use of contaminated or used needles to inject heroin.
- Substance abuse treatment serves as HIV prevention.
  - Placing the client in substance abuse treatment along a continuum of care and treatment helps minimize continued risky substance-abusing practices. Reducing a client’s involvement in substance-abusing practices reduces the probability of infection.
  - Risk reduction allows for a comprehensive approach to HIV/AIDS prevention. This strategy promotes changing substance related and sex-related behaviors to reduce clients’ risk of contracting or transmitting HIV.
SAMHSA seeks to accomplish several goals through its Minority AIDS Initiative (MAI) programs including:

- to provide prevention interventions to those at risk through HIV testing with pre/post-test counseling and education regarding high risk behaviors: both community based and within SUD/MH programs.
- to assure that all identified with HIV infection or at very high risk and in need of prophylaxis get the appropriate referrals from behavioral health programs to appropriate healthcare resources with ongoing care coordination.
- to provide treatment for mental and substance use disorders for those at risk for HIV or living with HIV to reduce risk and improve adherence to treatment with an overall goal of improving the lives of those affected.
- to continue to make SAMHSA’s national network of Technology Transfer Centers (TTCs) available, where training and technical assistance is provided to SUD/MH providers with a goal of improving screening, assessment and treatment of HIV and associated mental and substance use disorders for those in behavioral health programs.
- to provide training and technical assistance to primary healthcare providers regarding the importance of addressing mental and substance use issues/disorders for those at risk for or living with HIV.
Q: Are the specific segments of the Hispanic/Latino population that seem to be more “at risk” than other?

A: Yes, recent research indicates Hispanic/Latino female teens are particularly vulnerable to suicide attempts. In fact, according to the Youth Behavioral Risk Survey 2011 results, compared to other demographic groups, high school-age Hispanic/Latino females reported:

- Nearly 20% higher rates of “seriously considered attempting suicide”,
- 25% higher rate of “having made a suicide plan”,
- Nearly double the rate of having made a suicide attempt,
- Nearly double to rate of having made an attempt requiring treatment by a doctor or nurse

Recent immigrants: Barriers to mental health treatment:

- Immigrants are less likely to access mental health treatment when compared to their U.S. born counterparts; may be more inclined to reach out to informal support networks (family, friends, faith community) thus delaying treatment and waiting till point of crisis
- Stigma and lack of education on mental illness/mental health
- Varied idioms of distress – the way in which an individual talks about illness can impact help seeking, diagnosis, and treatment
- Structural - Cost, lack of insurance, Long wait times,
National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) – Hispanic/Latino Population

Illicit Drug Use in a Lifetime
- Aged 12 - 17: 39.60%
- Aged 18+: 25.20%

Misure of Opioids in Past Year
- Aged 12 - 17: 3.60%
- Aged 18+: 3.50%
Hispanic Overdoses

Opioid Overdose Deaths by Race/Ethnicity: Hispanic, 1999 - 2017

SOURCE: Kaiser Family Foundation's State Health Facts.
Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP)

- **2019 Partnership for Success Grant Programs:**

  - **Pasadena Community Coalition** – Pearland, Texas. This program strives to increase knowledge and develop skills to reduce risk of youth alcohol use and prescription drug misuse to a large immigrant population that is mainly Hispanic/Latino.

  - **Northern New Mexico Strategic Abuse Prevention** – Cochiti Lake, New Mexico. This program will implement life skills training for middle/high school students to achieve personal self-management and drug resistant skills. Social media campaigns will address cultural and social determinants of health contributing to risk behaviors affecting substance use. Hispanics/Latinos comprise 51% of the population of Santa Fe County and 71.3% in Rio Arriba County.
MAT-PDOA grants

**TI081485: Cannyonlands, AZ:** “Population to be Served: The target populations include all adult residents (general public) within the service area who have OUD. This area consists of economically disadvantaged rural and frontier communities. Given the demographic make-up of the counties served, a significant portion of patients will be Native American and Hispanic/Latino.”

**TI081553: Housing Works, NY** “The service area population is mostly Black/African-American and Hispanic/Latino, and suffers from extremely high rates of homelessness, substance use disorders (SUD), mental illness and co-occurring mental and substance use disorders (COD), and chronic diseases, such as HIV and hepatitis C.”

**TI081491: Terros, AZ** “Our Population of Focus is uninsured or under-insured individuals with opioid use disorder (OUD). Within this group, we will be placing an emphasis on reaching racial/ethnic populations, particularly Latinos, given the rapidly rising opioid-related mortality rates within this group nationally, their high rates of un-insurance, and the cultural and linguistic barriers to care faced by this population.”
Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS)

**Minority AIDS Grants (MAI):**

- **Project Health/Project Salud** – Gandara Mental Health Center, Springfield, MA. This program integrates primary & infectious disease care primarily for Hispanic minorities with serious mental illness (SMI) & SUD who are at risk of contracting or are living with HIV/AIDS & Hepatitis.

- **Culturally Competent Mental Health & Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Service Integration with HIV Primary Care and Prevention for individuals with SMI/COD in Hispanic US-MX Border Communities** - The University of Texas, El Paso, TX. This program strives to reduce HIV in minority individuals 18+ with SMI or co-occurring disorder (COD) in El Paso, which is 81% Latino/Hispanic. The goal is to increase access to substance use and mental health treatment and HIV prevention services.

**Comprehensive Community Mental Health Services for Children with Serious Emotional Disturbances (CCMHS-SED) Grants:**

- **Proyecto Iniciativa III** – The Mental Health and Anti-Addiction Services Administration (Single-State Agency), Mayaguez, Puerto Rico. This program expands the family-driven and youth-guided system of care to populations in the Western Health Region by expanding wraparound services to children and youth between the ages of 5-17 diagnosed with a SED and residing in one of the 15 municipalities.

**National Child Traumatic Stress Grants:**

- **La Clinica de La Raza, Inc.** – Community Treatment and Services Centers, Oakland, CA. This program provides services to low income, minority youth across eight School-Based Health Centers (SBHCs). The goal is to expand access to trauma-focused services for youth (ages 12-17) who have been exposed to community violence, physical abuse, domestic violence and/or other traumatic events.
Other Resources

**ASPIRA Association, Inc.**
The ASPIRA Association offers programs and activities dedicated to leadership development and education of Puerto Rican and other Latino youth.

**Hands Across Cultures**
Hands Across Cultures works to improve the health, education, and well-being of the people of northern New Mexico through family-centered approaches deeply rooted in the multicultural traditions of their communities.

**Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Minority Health Resource Center**

**Latin American Youth Center**
The Latin American Youth Center provides outpatient counseling services for Hispanic individuals, families, and groups.

**National Alliance for Hispanic Health**
The National Alliance for Hispanic Health focuses on improving the health and well-being of Hispanics.

**National Hispanic Medical Association (NHMA)**

**National Latino Behavioral Health Association**
The National Latino Behavioral Health Board brings attention to the great disparities that exist in the areas of funding, access, and quality of care for Latino consumers and families needing professional mental health and substance abuse services.

**National Latino Children’s Institute (NLCI)**
The National Latino Children’s Institute focuses the nation’s attention on the contributions and challenges of young Latinos by advocating for their success and well-being through partnerships and programs.

**Pinal Hispanic Council**
The Pinal Hispanic Council: Proyecto Bienestar (Project Well-Being) seeks to provide opportunities for people in recovery and empower them to influence public policy. Its staff is dedicated to honoring and celebrating the positive experience of recovery.

**Puerto Rican Organization for Community Education and Economic Development, Inc. (PROCEED)**
Puerto Rican Organization for Community Education and Economic Development’s mission is to provide and connect people to educational, health, and human services, and enhance the capacity of other organizations to offer quality programs and services to their communities.