

# Contextualizing the Latino experience: A new perspective of Latino health disparities and policy implications

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# Objectives

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- Identify past approaches to Latino health disparities;
- Understand the importance of contextualizing the Latino experience; and
- Identify the policy implications to reduce health disparities.

# Past Approaches to Examining Disparities

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- Methodological issues
- Non-theoretical approaches

# Disparities in Latino Health

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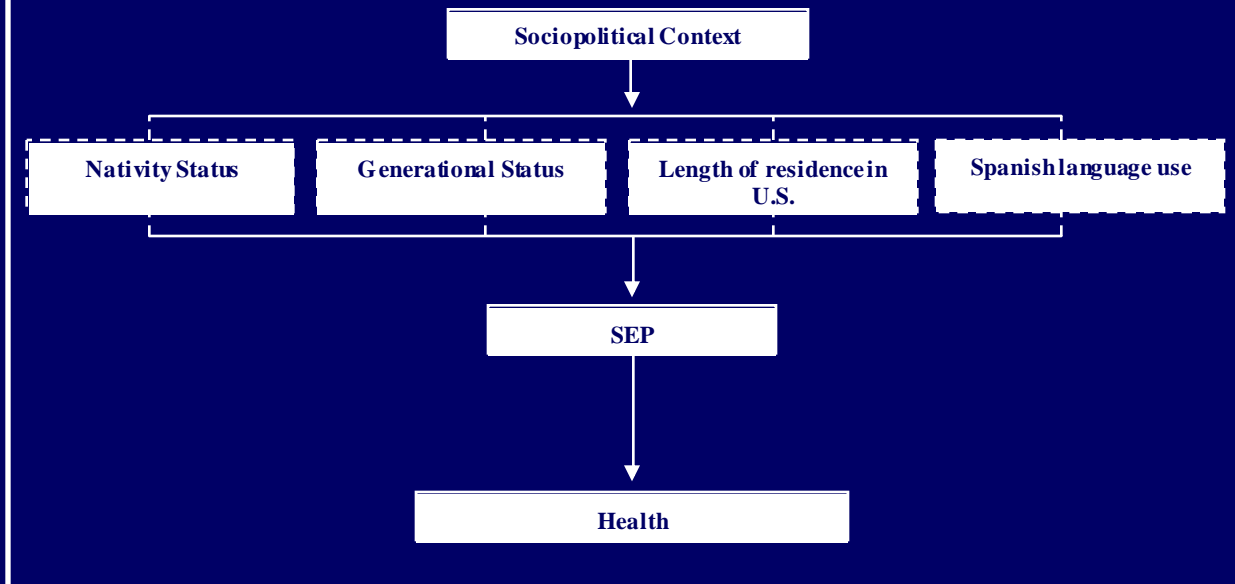
- Latinos in the Black/White paradigm
- Intra-group comparisons

# Latino Health Today

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- Mixed nature of health outcomes
- Measurement limitations of studies examining aggregated populations
- Further disentangling heterogeneity

**Figure 1. Conceptual Framework for Examining Pathways from Sociopolitical Context to Health in Latino Populations**



# Navigating Segmented Pathways

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- Nativity status
- Generational status
- Length of residence in U.S.
- Spanish language use





# Policy Implications

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- Medicare
- Medicaid
- Immigration reform

# Recommendations

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- Appropriate study sampling to test intra-group differences, also facilitating inter-group comparisons

# *Thank you.*

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- Latino Caucus
- Dr. Barbara Israel, Department of Health Behavior and Health Education, University of Michigan School of Public Health
- Dr. Amy J. Schulz, Department of Health Behavior and Health Education, University of Michigan School of Public Health
- Dr. Sandro Galea, Department of Epidemiology, University of Michigan School of Public Health
- Dr. Hector Gonzalez, Institute of Gerontology & Department of Family Medicine, Wayne State University