

*HPV Vaccine and Cervical
Cancer Policy Opportunities
and Implications:
School Mandate's Impact on
Latina Women and Girls*

APHA 135th Annual Meeting

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Overview

- Mission of National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health
- Cervical Cancer Rates for Latinas
- Uninsured Rates for Latinas
- Access to HPV Vaccine
- School Mandate Policy....lost opportunity?
- **Cuídate, Ármate, Edúcate:** Latinas for Cervical Cancer Prevention



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National Latina Institute

- The mission of the National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health is to ensure the fundamental human right to reproductive health for Latinas, their families and their communities through public education, policy advocacy, and community mobilization.



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Context: Who are Latinos?

- 40% of Latinos are Foreign-Born
- 43% of entered the US in the 1990's
- In March 2002, Latinos were 17 million of foreign-born population
 - Only 6.7% have US citizenship
- Primary language among immigrants is Spanish
- 72% of immigrant Latinos speak **only** Spanish
- 24% are bilingual
- **Latinas:** In 2000, Latina women are 12.5% of U.S. *female* population (over 17 million of 143 million women in U.S.)



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Cervical Cancer Rates for Latinas

- According to American Cancer Society:
 - 10,000 cases and 3,700 deaths from cervical cancer in U.S. per year
 - Latina women have the **highest** rates of cervical cancer amongst all racial/ethnic groups in the U.S.
 - Latinas women get cervical cancer at a rate **twice as high** as white women
 - Latina women have the **2nd highest mortality** rate (after Black women)
 - Although Latinas on the Texas-Mexico border have higher rates of mortality than in other regions



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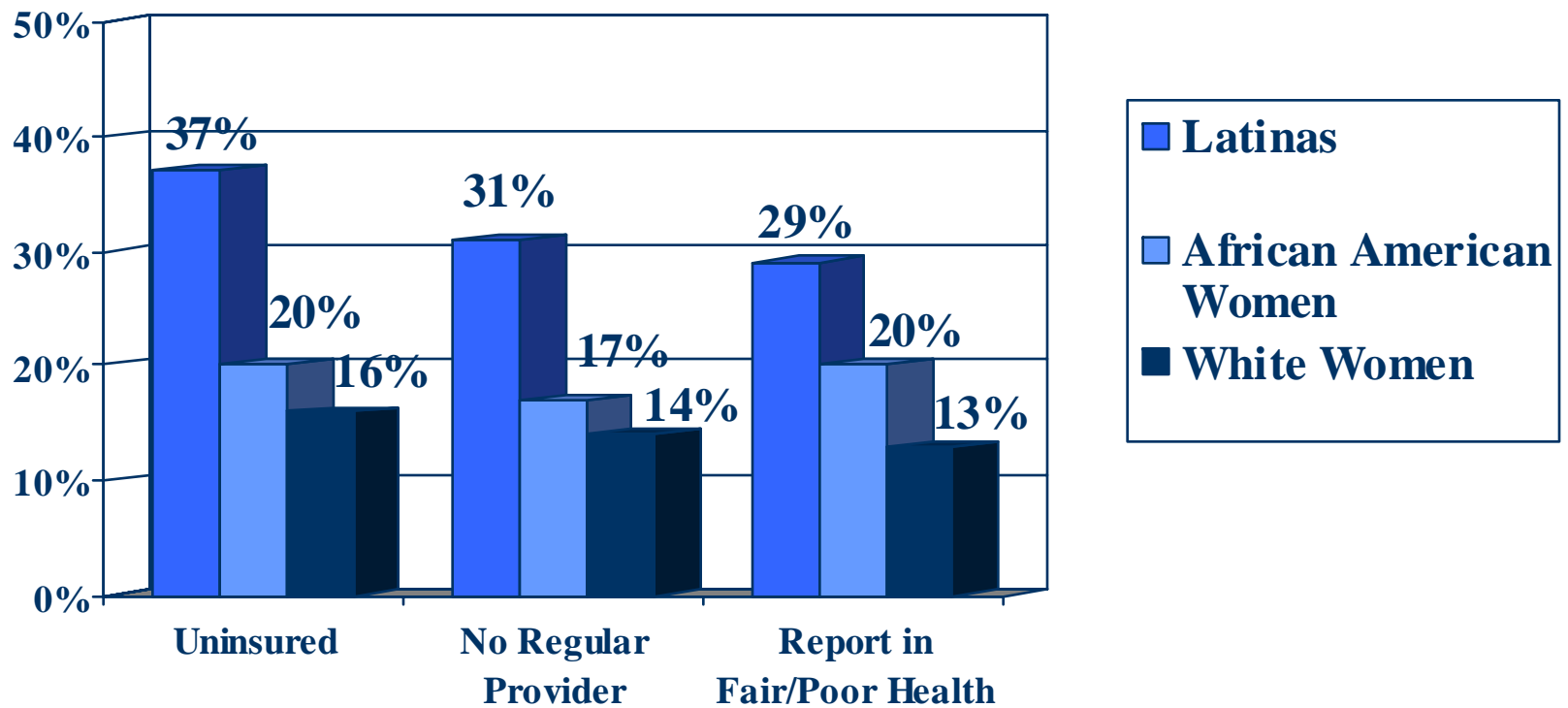
Lack of Access to Basic Health Care

- Latinas have the highest uninsured rate (41%) among racial/ethnic groups
- Almost 60% of low-income Latina immigrants of reproductive age are uninsured
- Almost half of all Latinas lack health insurance for part of the year
- Almost 25% of Latinas have not visited a physician in the last year
- Almost one-third of Latinas do not have a regular health care provider
- Lack of transportation and geographic isolation affect access



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Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Women's Access to Health Care



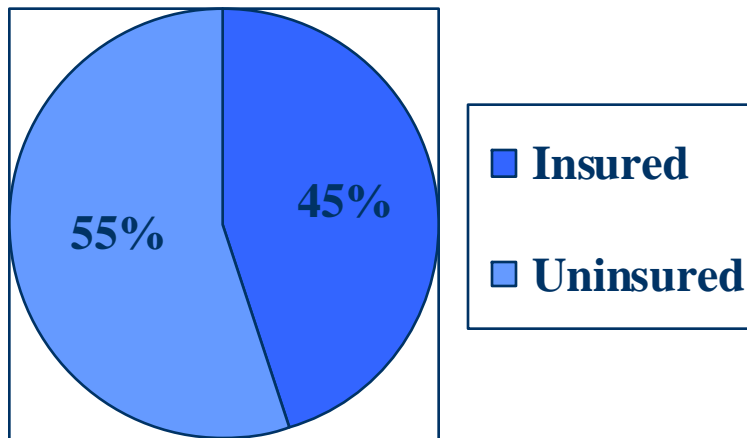
Findings from the 2001 Kaiser Women's Health Survey.



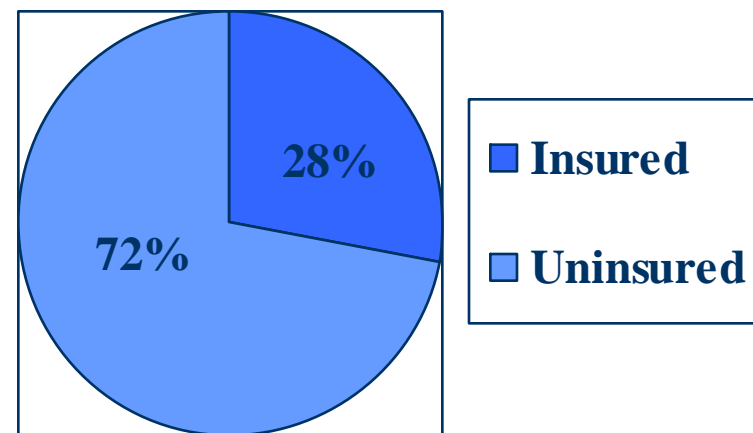
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Health Insurance Status of Latino Immigrants

Non-Citizen English-Speaking Latinos



Non-Citizen Spanish-Speaking Latinos



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Limited Access to Cervical Cancer Screenings

Pap Tests/Cervical Cancer Treatment:

- 33% of Latinas did not receive a pap smear in one given year
- Immigrant Latinas are least likely to get pap test and mammogram
- Latinas often detect cervical cancer at advance stages because of their lack of access to regular pap smears
- Undocumented immigrants may be excluded from public health programs that provide treatment (only covered for screening)



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Access to HPV Vaccine

- The **Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP)** recommends administering the vaccine to girls between 11 and 12 years of age, before they become sexually active.
- The CDC announced that the HPV vaccine is available through the federal **Vaccines for Children (VFC) program**
 - VFC provides vaccines for children ages nine to 18 who are covered by Medicaid, Alaskan-Native or Native American children, and some underinsured or uninsured children.
- Limited access to public funding for the vaccine for women 19 to 26



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School Mandate Policy...lost opportunity?

According to the **National Conference of State Legislatures:**

- Even after recommendations by the ACIP, school vaccination requirements are decided mostly by **state legislatures**.
 - Decide on funding
- Legislators in at least **41 states and D.C.** have introduced legislation to require, fund or educate the public about the HPV Vaccine
- At least **17 states** have enacted this legislation, including **Colorado, Indiana, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Minnesota, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Virginia and Washington.**



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School Mandate Policy...lost opportunity?

- February 2, 2007: **Texas** became the first state to enact a mandate--by executive order from the governor
- Legislators in Texas passed H.B. 1098 to override the executive order and the governor withheld his veto.
- **Virginia** the only state with a school requirement for the vaccine.
- In 2007, at least **24 states and D.C.** introduced legislation to specifically mandate the HPV vaccine for school (California and Maryland withdrew their bills).



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School Mandate Policy...lost opportunity?

- Arguments:

- Promiscuity
- Abstinence-only education
- Age: too young
- Vaccine for Boys
- Pharmaceutical lobby
- History of sterilization/coercion against Women of Color



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Cuídate, Ármate, Edúcate: Latinas for Cervical Cancer Prevention

- October 2007: NLIRH introduced the **Cuídate, Ármate, Edúcate: Latinas for Cervical Cancer Prevention** campaign
- Promote and foster dialogue in our community
- Activist-driven
- Postcard campaign
- ‘Cafecitos’
- Development of local health resource guides
- Virtual ‘Cafecito’ conference call: **Wednesday, November 7th, 3 pm EST-** to RSVP, contact: miriam@latinainstitute.org



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Cuéntale a alguien. Mandatory vaccinations. Human Papillomavirus. Cervical Cancer. *Vacunas.* 11 year olds. Prevention. *Papanicolaos.* \$360. Gardasil™ 3700 deaths a year. I want to be one less. Parent's rights. Sex Education. *Niñas.* Skin to skin contact. *Prevención.* Pharmaceutical lobby. *Sin documentos.* Latinas. Pap Smears. *¿Seguro Medico?* HPV test. Controversy. *Salud Pública.* Legislation. Access. *Cáncer Cervical.* Education. Boys? *Virus del Papiloma Humano.* Undocumented. African-American women. *¿Niños?* FDA. Side effects? 10 years. *Salud Reproductiva.* Booster? Genital warts. HPV. *Educación Sexual.* Antibodies. CDC. Abstinence? Public health. 20,000 girls tested. *VPH.* Three injections. Insurance? Opt-out. Women of Color. Dialogue. **Cuídate Ármate. Edúcate.**

Cervical cancer is almost 100% preventable.

Why are 3700 women in the United States still dying every year?

www.latinainstitute.org



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Dear _____

Did you know that Latinas have the highest rate of cervical cancer among all racial/ethnic groups and the 2nd highest mortality rate from cervical cancer? Not only can cervical cancer be fatal, but it is also linked to the Human Papillomavirus (HPV).

The important thing about cervical cancer is that it is almost entirely **PREVENTABLE**. Routine pap smears can catch cancerous cells early enough to treat them, and now research shows that the HPV vaccine can prevent up to 70% of cervical cancers. That's why it's important to:

Cuidate. Take care of yourself and the women in your life. Make sure you get regular pap smears and screenings for sexually transmitted infections.

Ármate. Ensure that you and others in your community can access the important tools needed to prevent cervical cancer. Support initiatives on the local and state level that expand public funding for cervical cancer screenings and access to the HPV vaccine.

Educate. Educate yourself about cervical cancer and HPV, and share that information with the people in your life, family and community.

Together we can keep our community informed and healthy. Join us.

Sincerely,

Name _____

City, State, Zip _____



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References

- National Conference of State Legislatures
- American Cancer Society
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Kaiser Family Foundation
- The National Women's Law Center
- The Alan Guttmacher Institute
- The National Health Law Program
- The Institute for Reproductive Health

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