



How to Deal with Latino Data:

A Guide for Montgomery County Service Providers

A Community Based Strategy For Reducing Health Disparities

Latino Health Initiative
Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services,
Maryland

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Background of the Latino Health Initiative

- ❑ Latino Health Initiative
 - ❑ Address health disparities
 - ❑ Engage in an ongoing **community based participatory process**

- ❑ Latino Health Steering Committee
 - ❑ Expert guidance and technical assistance to LHI
 - ❑ **Advocate** on behalf of Latino communities



Blueprint for Latino Health 2002-2006

- ❑ The result of a **community based participatory process**
- ❑ It determines **health priorities** and makes a **set of recommendations**
- ❑ It guides **policy and decision makers**



Latino Data Workgroup

- ❑ Created to improve the collection, analysis, and reporting of health data for Latinos (Blueprint Priority Area A)





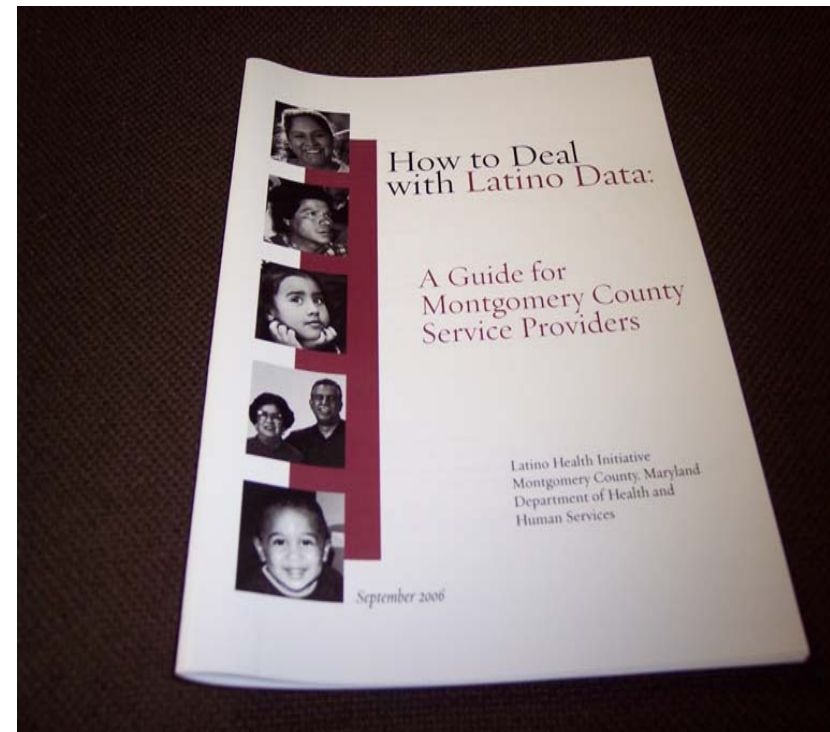
Latino Data Issues

- ❑ Under-estimation
- ❑ Surveys done by phone, in English
- ❑ Combination of sub-populations



Purpose of the Data Guide

- ❑ Meant to be used by **professionals**
- ❑ Meant to help entities **improve data collection, analysis, and reporting efforts**





How to Deal with Latino Data

- ❑ Demographic trends
 - ❑ Latinos in the U.S.
 - ❑ Latinos in Montgomery County



How to Deal with Latino Data

- ❑ Assets within the Latino community
 - ❑ Richness in diversity
 - ❑ Opportunity to make changes



How to Deal with Latino Data

- ❑ Cultural and Linguistic Considerations
 - ❑ Cultural factors
 - ❑ Linguistic factors
 - ❑ Translations
 - ❑ Interpretations



How to Deal with Latino Data

- ❑ Data collection from Latinos
 - ❑ Go to the experts
 - ❑ Trust form the community is key
 - ❑ Research methods
 - ❑ Considerations for survey design, administration and analysis



Take Home Messages

- ❑ Learn about Latinos in your area
- ❑ Explore new information and contacts
- ❑ Train staff to collect information from Latinos
- ❑ Do not rely on stereotypes
- ❑ Ensure meaningful, useful, and reliable data collection



Lessons Learned

- ❑ Data are vital to any community
- ❑ The community is the expert
- ❑ Community generated information is credible
- ❑ Cultural and linguistic issues need to be considered for collection, analysis and dissemination of data



Latino Health Initiative Contact Information

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