Background

- The Hispanic/Latino population in the US has the highest rates of uninsured, and very limited access to health care[1].
- Emerging Latino Communities (ELCs) present added challenges in accessing health care for Latinos:
  - Few bilingual health providers and materials
  - Unfamiliarity with local health service and social support organizations
- In ELCs unfamiliarity with the Latino community is also detrimental for health provider engagement.

How does living in an ELC impact Sexual and Reproductive Health services available to Latino Women?

Study Objectives

- To assess sexual and reproductive health care available to Latinas
- To explore providers’ perceptions of the needs of this population group

Location and Methods

- Monroe County:
  - 3.3% of county population are Latino/Hispanic
  - 95% growth between 2000-2010
  - Anecdotally seem to be growing
- Interviews with key informants, representatives of relevant health services organizations and health professionals (n=7).

Results

- Segmented care and Multiple steps to obtain care
- Possible loss of patients along the way increase in adverse effects of manageable problems (for example-abnormal PAP smear)
- Complicated by language and health literacy issues
- Risk focus and Funding limitations further burden those most vulnerable:
  - Older women with limited English proficiency
  - Uninsured
  - Undocumented
- Providers perceptions of Latina women are affected by this segmentation:
  - Viewed through lens of risk (pregnancy/STI) or victimization (machismo/domestic violence)
  - Limited perception of Latinas as rights bearing or agentive individuals.

Results Summary

Discussion

- SRH services for Latina women in this ELC are difficult and complex to obtain.
- Services are segmented and require understanding of a multi-step process
- The longer the chain of steps, the less likely that women will access care due to limited time and work and family commitments.
- Women who are not currently reproductive (long-term contraceptives and post-menopausal) who are at high risk for preventable and treatable health issues such as cervical and breast cancers are most limited in care options

Future Research

Understanding Latinas experiences accessing SRH care in an ELC

Acknowledgements

Research Participants

References