The Effect of Immigration Public Policy and Sentiment on Latina Maternal and Child Health in Chester County: A Longitudinal Study

Miguel Ceballos, WCU Sociology
MCHC 2018 Annual Report

“Chester County is one of the wealthiest counties in the state, yet…

…1 in 4 pregnant women in the county have not received prenatal care visits in the first trimester.”

…over 33,000 (6.5%) residents are uninsured.”

…Latinos are 3 times more likely to lack access to healthcare coverage”
Chester County Postpartum Study, 2003–2013

Healthy Start Participants at Risk of Postpartum Depression by Race and Ethnicity, (EPDS level ≥9)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race/Ethnicity</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Latina</td>
<td>29.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African American</td>
<td>34.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>23.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Results from a multivariate analysis statistically controlling for postpartum depression risk factors:

- Latinas living in communities with majority Latino and African American populations are at higher risk of postpartum depression as compared to those living in communities with a majority white population.
- Latinas with undocumented immigration status living in communities with majority Latino populations have a higher risk of postpartum depression as compared to those with documented status.

Risk factor covariates: history of mental illness, prenatal and postnatal risks, number of children, stress during pregnancy, social support, socioeconomic status, and maternal age.
Do current U.S. immigration policies, and anti-immigrant and anti-Latino sentiments affect Latina maternal and child health, and healthcare access and utilization in Chester County?
The proposed project

- Survey of Healthy Start participants
  - immigration history, socioeconomic background, health behaviors, child health, mental health, health care access and utilization

- Secondary data analysis
  - MCHC health and social data of participants, 2003–2019

- Comparison data from surrounding counties