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

Miguel Ceballos, WCU Sociology
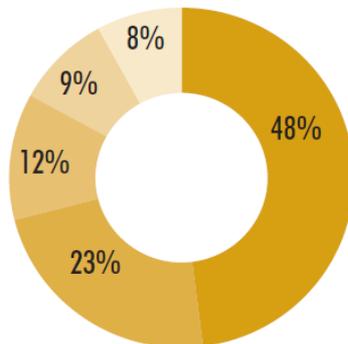
MCHC 2018 Annual Report

"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."

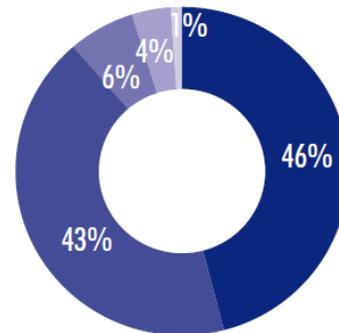…Latinos are 3 times more likely to lack access to healthcare coverage"

Most Frequently Served Communities

- 48%
- 23%
- 12%
- 9%
- 8%

Legend:
- Kennett Sq./Oxford
- Coatesville
- Other
- West Chester
- Phoenixville/Pottstown

"Other" includes MCH Health Insurance Initiative Agency Partners

Population Served

- 46%
- 43%
- 6%
- 4%
- 1%

Legend:
- Latino
- White
- Black/African American
- Other/Unknown
- Asian

Household Income

- 74%
- 25%
- 1%
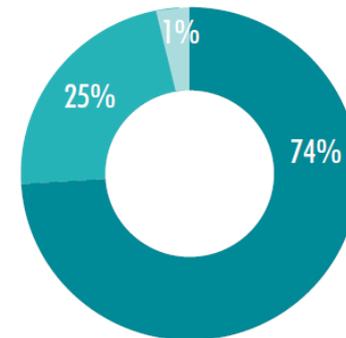
Legend:
- 100% Federal Poverty Level (FPL)
- 200% FPL
- 300% FPL

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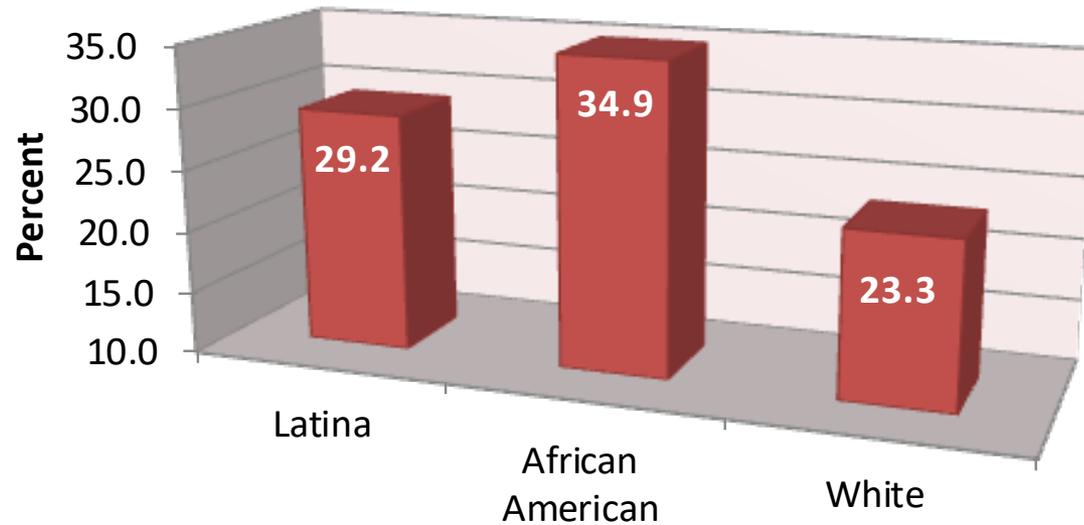
Chester County Postpartum Depression Study Results

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.

Research Question

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