

# Diving into Disparity: Mental Health Diagnoses in the Latino Population of South Carolina

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## Background

- Anxiety, phobia, major-depressive, substance abuse, and impulse control disorders are the most prevalent psychiatric disorders in America.<sup>7</sup>
- The National Latino and Asian American Study (NLAAS) showed overall prevalence of psychiatric disorders for Latino men to be 28.1% and for females 30.2%.<sup>1</sup>
- Factors affecting rates of psychiatric disorder include ethnicity, English language proficiency, age at immigration, generational status, years in the united states, and nativity status.<sup>1</sup>
- Psychiatric disorders were more likely among third generation Latino men and women. <sup>1</sup>
- Latinos were more likely to reach inpatient care for mental disorders through emergency services, and significantly less-likely to self-refer.<sup>3</sup>

## Goals

- ✓ Determine the prevalence of mental and behavioral disorders among Latinos in South Carolina.
- ✓ Identify payor trends across ethnic/racial groups in South Carolina.

## Materials and Methods

- Data used from 2008 – 2014 Health and Demographics Section of the Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office in Columbia, South Carolina
- Data set includes unidentified inpatient, outpatient, emergency department and other services diagnoses of International Classification of Diseases - 9 (ICD-9) code 290 – 319 (mental and behavioral disorders) and payor source of ICD-9 records.
- SAS 9.4 was used for data analysis.

## Results

- Across all races, *anxiety, dissociative and somatoform disorders, nondependent abuse of drugs, and depressive disorder, not elsewhere classified*, were the top three contributors to mental health diagnoses.
- Latinos had over three times the diagnoses for acute reaction to stress compared to Whites and Blacks.
- Overall prevalence of psychiatric disorder diagnosis for Latino men in South Carolina is greater than their female counter parts
- Females had higher prevalence of Anxiety, Depression and other somatoform disorder diagnoses than their male counterparts across all races

### Anxiety, Depression, and Substance Use Prevalence Across Ethnicities in South Carolina between 2008 and 2014

ICD-9 Diagnosis	Hispanic/Latino	White	Black
	% of total diagnoses	% of total diagnoses	% of total diagnoses
Anxiety, dissociative and somatoform disorders	13.81	17.15	9.96
Nondependent abuse of drugs	51.60	44.47	54.99
Depressive disorder, not elsewhere classified	10.40	12.91	8.38

- Workers compensation was the primary payor for Latinos nearly 3 times as often as Blacks and twice as often as Whites
- Across all races females are more likely to have Medicaid or Medicare as their primary payor than their male counterparts
- Latino males are nearly twice as likely to have Primary Payor be Self-Pay than their female counterparts

### Primary Payor for ICD-9 Diagnoses in Columbia SC between 2008 and 2014

Payor Method	Hispanic/Latino	White	Black
	%	%	%
Self-Pay	41.13	21.93	27.91
Medicare	11.87	29.29	24.87
Medicaid	19.41	13.81	19.90
Commercial Insurance	14.79	21.41	16.28
Worker's Comp.	1.16	.63	.39

## Discussion

- Consistent with national trends, anxiety, depression, and substance use disorders are some of the most prevalent mental health disorders in South Carolina.<sup>6</sup>
- Diagnoses to population ratio for Latinos: ~1:5; for Whites: ~1:1; for Blacks: ~1:1.<sup>7</sup>
- Lower prevalence may be due to environmental influence vulnerability, stress due to cultural transitions, attitudes towards mental health services, and country of origin.<sup>1</sup>
- Cost, lack-of insurance, and low level of English language proficiency negatively affect service utilization.<sup>2, 5</sup>
- Limitations to this study include only having access to diagnoses numbers and inability to sort diagnoses by age of patient

## Conclusion/Recommendation

- In South Carolina, men are more likely to receive diagnoses related to substance use/abuse
- Diagnostic disparities among minority groups are prevalent – namely lower ratio of diagnoses to population
- Determine age at diagnosis to narrow priority population
- Investigate into quality of mental health care services for Latinos in South Carolina
- Collect individual attitudes among Latinos to better understand diagnoses and service disparities

## References and Acknowledgements

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