



Importance of Healthcare Amongst Older Latino Adults



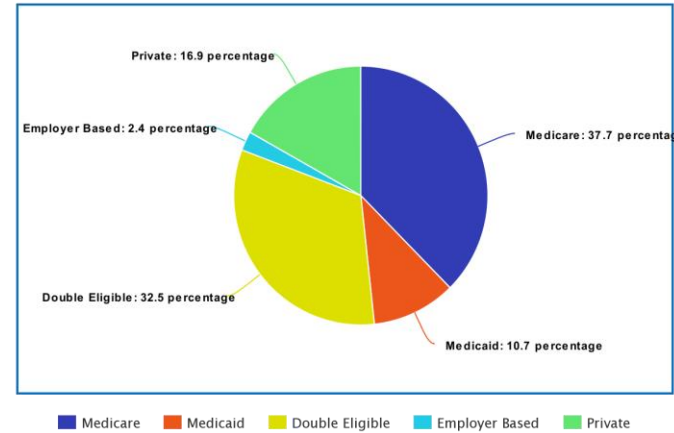
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Introduction

This project focuses on the increasing importance of health insurance. In this study all the participants have some sort of health insurance but that isn't the case in other places with large number of Latin immigrants. There is a mass dependency on health insurance for the people in the study because many have other underlining conditions which require out of pocket costs to be able to see a doctor and get their prescriptions. My presentation will have an emphasis on the older Latin population and the importance health insurance has on this.

Background

In the United States 9 percent (around 5 million of the 63 million) of the people of the people who are enrolled Medicare are Latin. This number is projected to jump up with an aging population of Latin people so by the year 2060 to around 19.9 million people. Many of the people who qualify for Medicare are below the poverty line and are at a higher risk of being disabled due to their population working more in blue collar industries.



Insurance types from study:

Medicare 37.7% (31 people), Medicaid 10.8% (9 people), Double eligible 32.5% (27 people with both Medicare and Medicaid), Employer-based 2.4%, (2 people), Private 16.9%, (14 people), Uninsured 0% (0 people)

Discussion and Conclusion

Within my time of being part of Tiempo Juntos and conducting questionnaires with the participants it's apparent that healthcare is vital to their health. Many of the participants have other conditions like high blood pressure, where they need to go to the doctors for medicine and to get checked on. Even with Medicare or Medicaid or even both there are issues with the number of resources they are available to attain because of their insurance. For instance, in there is a decreased ability to receive effective treatments and the insurance may not be able to cover top brand medicines or services like dental, vision, and hearing. This is an issue because this demographic is more likely need this assistance. This also brings up the issue of needing care 24/7. Medicare does not cover long term care which in cases with demographics that have MCI or Alzheimer's they require care to do their regular tasks. Many families are burdened with taking care of their family members because they can't afford to put their loved one in a nursing home.

Speaking about the imbalances of health care and fixing policies that are currently hurting these demographics is one of the most important things we can do. We can increase the funding for Medicare so that these demographics don't need to pay out of pocket for visits to the doctors and their other basic needs. Also, by increasing the funding it would also be possible to give the people that need the 24/7 assistance, the assistance they need.

References

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Methods

The participants of this study are Latin people who are 55 and older with mild cognitive impairment from the North Philadelphia area who qualified based on the study's criteria. The data represents the different types of health insurance that the participants have. In this study all the participants have had health insurance of some type either of Medicare, Medicaid, both Medicare and Medicaid, employer based or private insurance. This information was taken during the screening and consenting process of the study. The data does not represent all the participants due to the study still going on. By the end of the study the rest of the data should be collected.

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