Breaking Barriers: Caring for an immigrant population

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Unauthorized Immigrant Population, by Gender and Age, 2003-08
(millions)

- Adult men: 6.3
- Adult women: 4.1
- Children: 1.5

Note: Adults are ages 18 and older.
Share of Adults Without Health Insurance, by Status, 2008
(% of adults in status group without health insurance in previous year)

- U.S. born: 14%
- Legal immigrants: 24%
- Unauthorized immigrants: 59%

Immigrants and Health Care

- 12 million illegal
- 17 % of 46 million uninsured
- 1996 welfare reform
## Impact of No Public Funding of Prenatal Care

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>No Prenatal care</th>
<th>Yes Prenatal care</th>
<th>RR; 95% CI</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Low birthweight infant</td>
<td>18.5%</td>
<td>6.1%</td>
<td>3.8 [2.03-7.05]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prematurity</td>
<td>34.8%</td>
<td>7.5%</td>
<td>7.4 [4.35-12.5]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neonatal cost</td>
<td>$5588 more</td>
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NPHHI: Uninsured

- 10% inadequate prenatal care
- 9% low birth weight infants compared to 7.7% in the general USA population
- Only 19% took vitamins (folate) during periconceptional period

Most common barriers to prenatal care:
- Lack of insurance
- Lack of transportation
- Language barriers

Suggested Policy Options

- Extend coverage to all pregnant women
- Promote cultural competence in prenatal practices
- Address transportation barriers
- Target a public health initiative to women of childbearing age
Mexican Immigrants in Philadelphia

Rapidly growing immigrant population from Mexico (Puebla) established in South Philadelphia.

2000: 6,200
2003: 12,000
2007: 15,000 - 18,000
## Undocumented Pregnant Immigrants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City of Philadelphia</th>
<th>Total Deliveries</th>
<th>Undocumented Deliveries (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>21,313</td>
<td>1028 (4.8%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>21,585</td>
<td>1133 (5.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>22,038</td>
<td>1324 (6.1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>21,987</td>
<td>1458 (6.6%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>22,052</td>
<td>1587 (7.2%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Undocumented Deliveries

## Philadelphia

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2003</th>
<th>2004</th>
<th>2005</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Poor Prenatal care</td>
<td>25.2%</td>
<td>25.4%</td>
<td>25.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preterm Del.</td>
<td>9.5%</td>
<td>10.1%</td>
<td>9.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term Del.</td>
<td>90.5%</td>
<td>89.9%</td>
<td>90.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In 2008, 11% (572) deliveries at Pennsylvania Hospital were to uninsured undocumented pregnant women.
Sylvia

Health Care Special Issue: Foreign Bodies
“Seriously, the answer doctor is to compell illegal aliens to return to their countries of origin by employer sanctions and fines......It is now estimated there are more likely 30 million illegals sucking our taxpayers benefits dry. We need to take care of our own first, doctor...”
Puentes de Salud

- Community partnership model derived from public health nursing.

- Health promotion and disease prevention is prioritized.

- Multiple partners including: Women’s and Children’s Health Services, Juntos, St. Thomas Aquinas Church, Univ of Penn, Mexican Consulate
Guiding Principles

1) Work collaboratively with communities and stakeholders

2) Operate in multidisciplinary professional teams

3) Address social determinants of health
What are we doing to provide prenatal care?

- **Women and Children’s Health Services**: not for profit organization providing care to women from our community and indigent population.
- **Latina Community Health Program** established in September of 2008 (First Foundation Grant for 3 years)
- Care provided by volunteer physicians, nurse-practitioners, midwives, students. 70-100 pts a month
- Nurse coordinator liason between community and clinic. Close relationship with Puentes de Salud
- Ultrasounds and High Risk Obstetric consultations by dedicated staff. 600 scans per year
Working with family and community to improve prenatal care
Success!!! Triplets delivering at Term

Healthy babies going home with mom
Unas ayuda para dar vida

Servicios de Salud para la Mujer Latina en el centro de la ciudad ayuda a mujeres inmigrantes de bajos recursos durante todo su embarazo.

ADRIANA ARMS
admin@alexia.com

"Cuando me enteré que estaba embarazada, en mi mente sólo era ¿Cómo voy a pagar? Me habían dicho que aquellas cuentas de hospitales son muy caras y yo de donde iba a sacar 'mintimo dinero', dijo Susana Galicia.

Fue un juez por la tarde cuando esta mujer originaria de México acudió a The Children’s Hospital a una consulta gratuita en donde le dijeron que estaba embarazada de su primera hija.

"Me dijeron que le tenía que dar seguimiento a mi embarazo y me recomendaron ir a un centro de salud ubicado en las calles Washington y 4", dijo. "Pero ya casi al final de mi embarazo me enteré del programa de Servicios de Salud para la Mujer Latina ubicado en las calles 6 y Siqueix y me gustó mucho más", agregó.

Este programa dirigido por el doctor de origen peruano Jack Ludmer y la enfermera Rebeca Baily tiene el propósito de proveer servicios de planificación familiar y cuidado prenatal a mujeres que no tienen seguro social.