

AGA GastroBites: Health Equity for the Latino Community

October 8, 2025

Latinos in Gastroenterology and Hepatology
(La LiGaH)

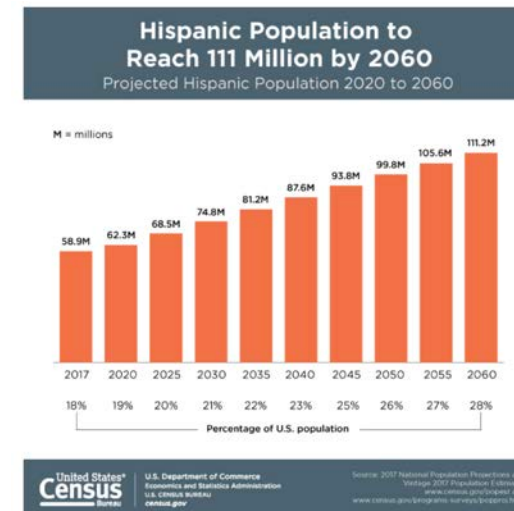


Overview

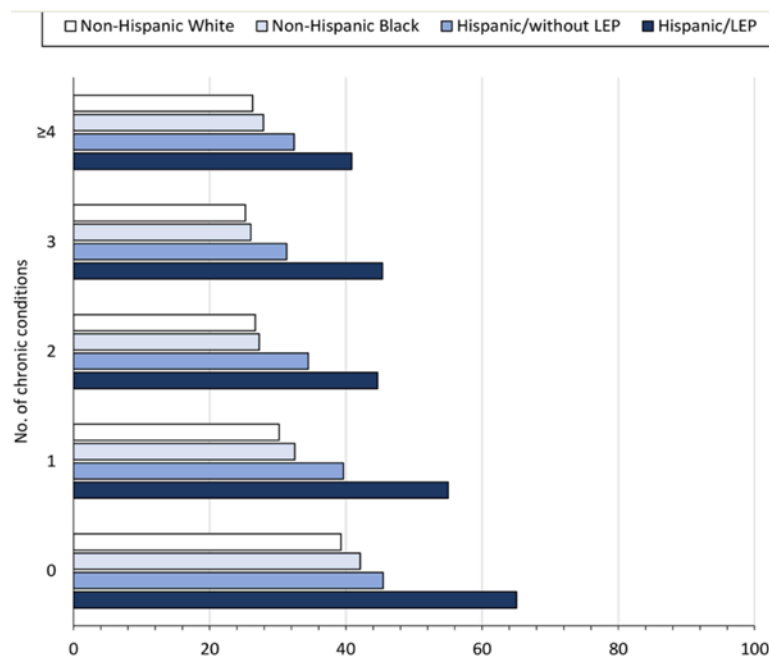
- **Latino GI and Hepatology Health**
- **Health Equity in Latino Communities**
- **La LiGaH**
- **Panel Discussion: Latino Perspectives in GI and Hepatology**
 - Care Delivery
 - Career Development
 - Research Areas

Latino GI and Hepatology Health

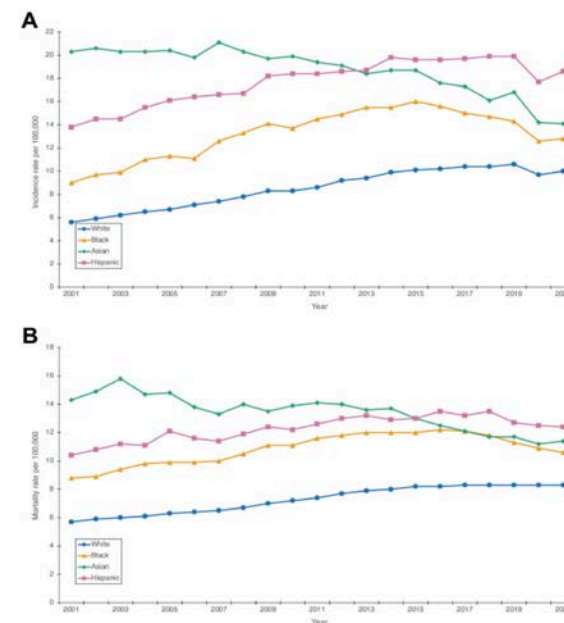
- **Population Health:** Latinos account for ~ **20%** of the US population and is increasing¹
- **Disease Burden:**
 - Colorectal Cancer:** ↓ screening, later stage diagnosis²
 - Chronic Liver Disease:** ↑ prevalence of MASLD/MASH
 - **HCC:** ↑ incidence, later stage diagnosis, ↑ mortality³



Percentage of Adults NOT UTD with CRC Screening

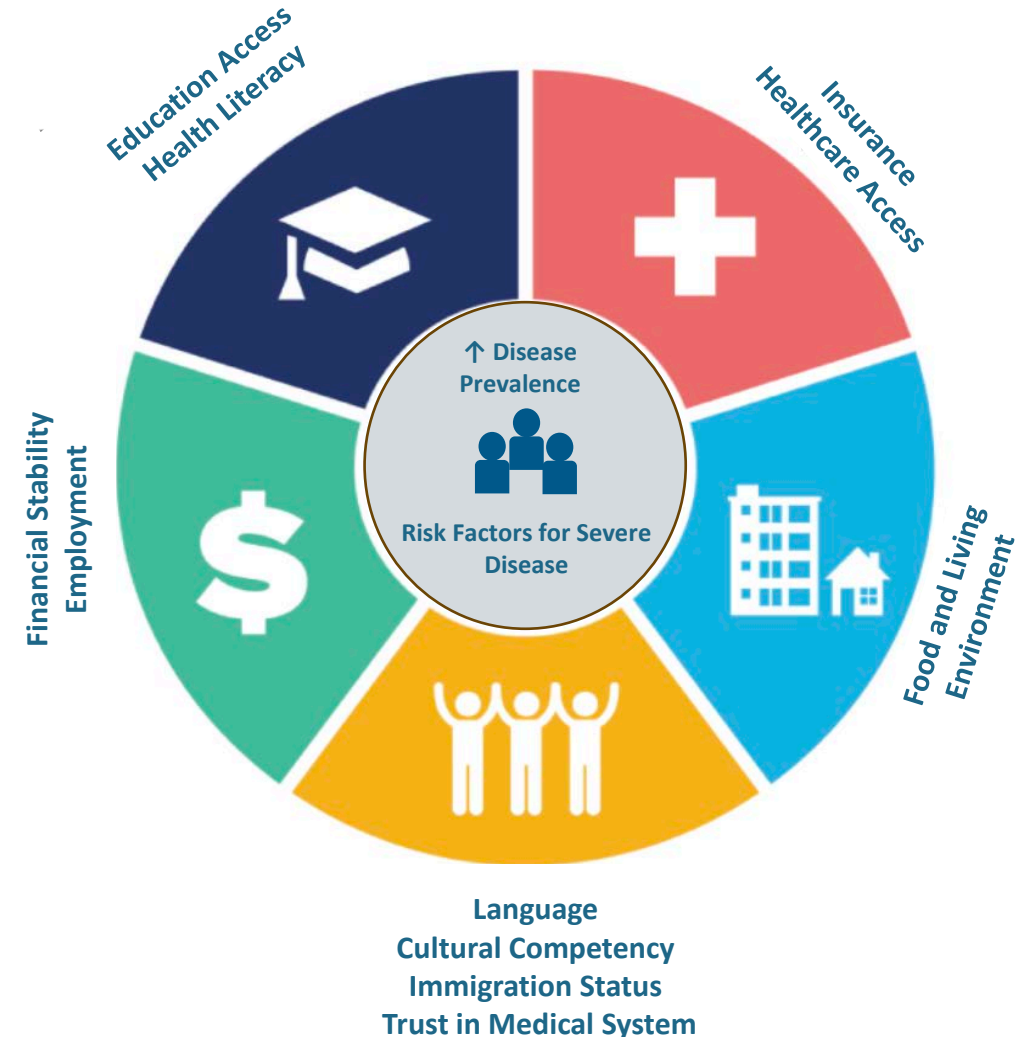


HCC A) Incidence B) Mortality



Health Equity in the Latino Community

- **Health equity as a goal:**
 - Removing obstacles impacting the opportunity to attain optimal health outcomes
- **Factors impacting health equity in Latino Communities¹:**
 - Non-medical drivers
 - Medical drivers



Health Equity in the Latino Community: Interventions

• Improve Access & Screening

- Insurance coverage
- Community-based healthcare and screening programs
- Reduce cost of prescription medications



• Culturally Tailored Education & Care

- Language concordant materials and care
- Community-based partners (i.e. promotoras, other CHW)



• Research & Policy

- Inclusion in clinical trials
- Funding community-based interventions



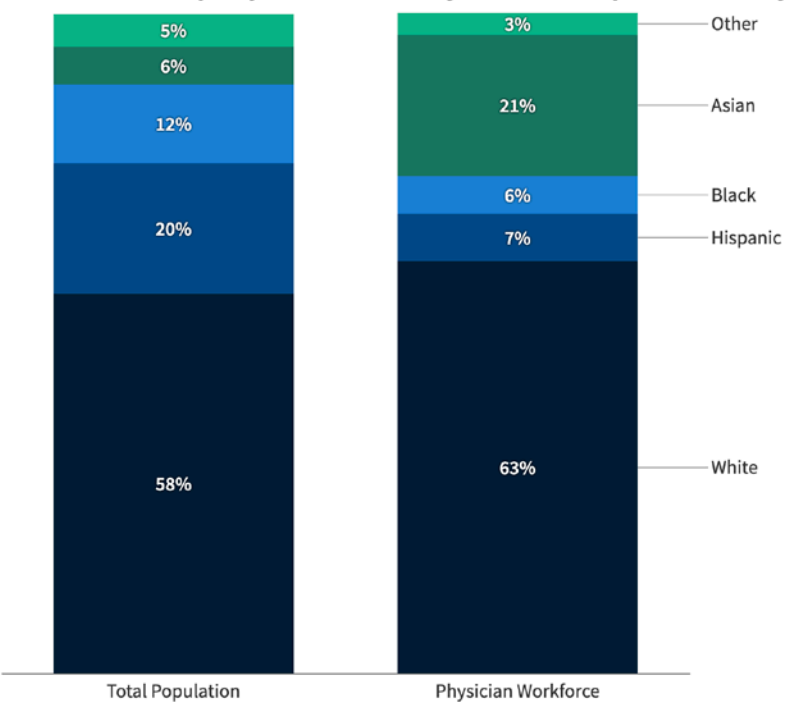
• Workforce & Representation

- Increasing Latino representation in healthcare workforce
- Training providers in culturally appropriate care

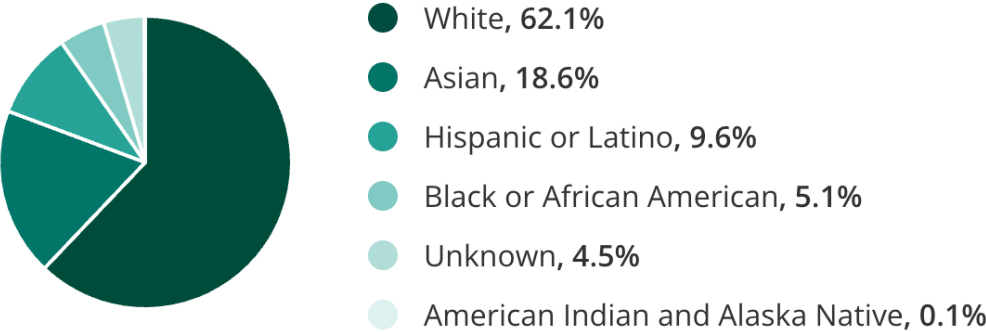


Health Equity in the Latino Community: Workforce

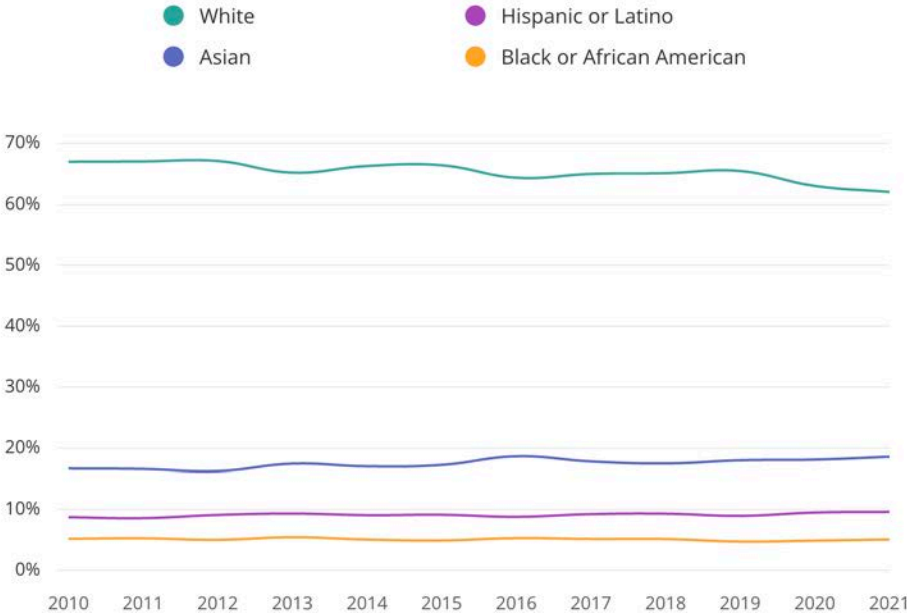
Distribution of People by Race and Ethnicity in the Total Population and Physician Workforce



GI



- Overall Physicians: 7%
- GI: 9.6-10.6%



La LiGaH



- **Membership:**

- GI, hepatology, transplant providers or individuals who work in affiliated areas (i.e. research, pharmacy etc) who self identify as Hispanic/Latino and/or those with an interest in caring for Hispanic/Latino communities

- **Mission Statement:**

- Promote health equity in Hispanic/Latino communities, advance science and facilitate career development for Hispanic/Latino gastroenterologists, hepatologists and scientists.

- **Member Benefits:**

- Professional: networking, peer and senior mentorship, research and educational opportunities, speakers bureau, career development
- Patient Care: patient education, community initiative, find a physician/provider

Panel Discussion: Latino Perspectives in GI and Hepatology

**-Hugo Vargas MD AGAF
Mayo Clinic Arizona**

**-Sandra Quezada MD MS AGAF
University of Maryland**

**-Silvio de Melo MD AGAF
Orlando VA Medical Center**

Panel Discussion: Question Prompts

- What do you see as the biggest challenges the Latino community faces in GI and hepatology care?
- What interventions do you believe would be most impactful to improve health outcomes in GI and hepatology for the Latino community?
- Are there particular misconceptions about digestive or liver health in Latino communities you have encountered in your practice? If so, how have you navigated these?
- How has your Latino culture shaped your professional career development?
- Why is Latino workforce representation important and how can we increase representation?
- What advice would you give Latino trainees considering GI or hepatology?

Thank you for attending

**To participate in La LiGaH
email us at:**

la-ligah@googlegroups.com