

DOH Latino, Latina, and Latinx Community Partner Space Minutes

June 16th, 2022

I. Welcome & Introductions – Bella Mendez

- Meeting participants:
 - Aida Hidalgo, Latino Center for Health
 - Cyndi Cantu, Benton-Frankling Health District
 - Esmael Lopez, Northwest Justice Project
 - Griselda Guevara-Cruz, OSPI
 - Lupita Zamora, Lupita Zamora Consulting
 - Mario Zavaleta, Latino Northwest Communications
 - Pedro Bartes, Salem Media Seattle
 - Raul Sandoval, La Súper Deportiva
- Meeting support:
 - Bella Mendez, DOH
 - Fathiya Abdi, DOH
 - Cole Thomas, DOH
 - Eric Allen, DOH
 - Vanessa Rojas, DOH
 - Sydney Boothe, WithinReach

II. Updates from the group

- Guelaguetza Celebration in Seattle originally on 6/26 has been postponed until a later date in August. New date and location are to be determined.
- LatinoNW.com video portal goes live on 21st. It will have useful, bilingual information about COVID-19 by and for Latinos.
- If there is information that partners would like to share with OSPI's migrant youth education programs, please share it with Griselda. Groups run from June 21st to mid-July.
- There will be a championship soccer match on June 26th at Valley Ridge Field in SeaTac.
- If partners have events that they want shared on the WA Portal, please send them to us at vax.collaborative@doh.wa.gov so we can post them on the Collaborative calendar.

III. Latinx COVID-19 Vaccination Breakdown – Cole Thomas, Data Analyst at DOH

- Latinx Washingtonians are the lowest vaccinated group in the state by demographic. Only 54% have completed their primary COVID-19 vaccination series.
- The Washington Latinx population is a little over 1 million people, which accounts for over 10% of the population. Increasing the vaccination rate in this group will require a lot of manpower.
- The top three counties with the most Latinx people are King, Yakima, and Pierce County. The top three counties with the highest proportion of Latinx people are Adams, Yakima, and Franklin County.

- Among Latinx people, the vaccination rate in the northeast counties is only 20-30%. DOH is trying to increase their presence there by working with community members and hosting events, like the Care-A-Van.
- A lot of the counties where vaccination rate is higher for Latinx people for the primary vaccine series are lower for booster rates.
 - This could be due to access, cultural barriers, or many other factors.
 - Conversely, in some counties where vaccination rates among Latinx people were lower, those who were able to access the vaccine at a higher rate were also able to access boosters.
- There is a gender gap for the COVID vaccine among Latinx people, but this gap is consistent across different demographics.
- While case rates have been consistently high among Latinx people, the death rate has been much lower than the rest of the state.
- Contrary to DOH's assumption that high SVI (Social Vulnerability Index) would indicate low vaccination rates, SVI was not shown to be correlated with vaccination rate at the county level.
- When looking at origin of Latinx people, most come from North America, with most coming from Mexico and a small percentage coming from the Caribbean. The next most common origins were South America and Spain, which generally follow the size of those countries for that group.
- 63% of the Latinx population speaks English, about 2/3rds speak English at a decent level. About 1/3rd speak Spanish. There is a significant number of people who are monolingual and require outreach to provide resources to them.
- For type of employment, management and business are less represented industries while food preparation, construction, maintenance, and farming are more common jobs among Latinx people.
 - These jobs also are less likely to provide health insurance, which may explain why Latinx people are less likely to have health insurance than an average Washinton resident, according to the 2020 census.
- Because there has been decreased federal funding for COVID (both testing and vaccination), those costs fall to the provider instead of being covered federally. This may impact Latinx people the most.
- Partner feedback:
 - *The data may be unclear for people who are unfamiliar with interpreting these kinds of graphs.*
 - *This information should be taken with a grain of salt because it is based on census data, which may not cover all undocumented Latinx people and may be outdated to a degree.*
- Discussion questions:
 - What top 3-4 infographics are the most important for sharing with community members?
 - How many people are vaccinated

- Percentage of Latinx children (under 5 or under 18 and 24-35)
- Number of hospitalizations and deaths between unvaccinated vs vaccinated people
- Proportion of people experiencing long COVID in vaccinated vs unvaccinated people
- What information would you like them to include? How would you like this to look like (I.e. graphs)?
- How frequently should they be updated?
- What other details would you like them to include?
- Was this information helpful? Was there anything that was missing that was not reflected in the presentations that you'd like to learn more about?
 - Long COVID information – resources and data for vaccinated vs unvaccinated
- **Links shared by DOH:**
 - COVID Vaccination Data Tracker by Demographic: <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#vaccination-demographic>
 - COVID Data Dashboard: <https://doh.wa.gov/emergencies/covid-19/data-dashboard>
 - COVID-19 Treatment Information (English): <https://doh.wa.gov/emergencies/covid-19/treatments>
 - COVID-19 Treatment Information (Spanish): <https://doh.wa.gov/es/emergencies-covid-19/tratamientos-contr-el-covid-19>

IV. **Wrap up and next meeting**

- Next meeting: Bella will invite a DOH lead to present on the COVID vaccine outreach plan for 6 months to 4-year-old age group.
- Meet every two weeks for one hour to complete this work by late summer
 - Additional meetings will occur through the end of August. A calendar invite will be sent for these dates soon.