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Social Work and Chicano/Latino Diversity

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Social Work Practice and Chicano(as)/Latino(as)

Rosa Guerrero

Intro to Chicano Culture

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Abstract

- My paper is going to focus on the social work program and whether or not it effectively prepares undergraduate students to work with the Chicano/Latino community. I will be examining basic demographic information about the Latino population within the state of Washington as well as nationally. I will also be analyzing the demographics of staff and faculty that make up the social work program to see if any of them come from diverse backgrounds that understand the socio-cultural factors that Chicano/Latinos face. With the use of peer reviewed articles, I will be analyzing the future needs of Latinos by social work professionals in relation to status, stability, and depression and potential problems that may arise from the lack of preparation to meet the needs of this population. This study will address the importance of preparing future social workers on issues of cultural competency so they can better serve the fastest growing ethnic minority group in the United States.
- Keywords: Social Work, Latinos, Chicano, Diversity, Status, Stability, Depression, Cultural Competency

Songs for radio show

- Los Tigres del Norte-La Jaula de Oro
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LGIK7URpqj8>
- Pobre Juan –Mana
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Mm7GRyvgcl>
- Latinos en Estados Unidos- Celia Cruz
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fCjjodSgeRM>

Chicano(a)/Latino(a) Demographics

- According to U.S. Census Bureau, from 2000 to 2012 there was 43 percent growth for the Latino population-16 percent Latinos(as) overall Latino(a) population.
- From 2000 to 2010 Washington had a total of 71.2 percent growth change in Latino(a) population.
 - 2000 Latino(a) percent was 7.5
 - 2012 Latino(a) percent was 11.2
- By 2050 the total population of Latinos(a) in the United States will be around 31.2 percent

No Services for Undocumented Immigrants

- Personal Responsibility and Work Reconciliation Act of 1996
 - Undocumented immigrants are not eligible for any public service provided at the federal, state, and local level.
- Lack of health care insurance
 - 31 percent of Latino immigrants lack health insurance
 - Highest among Mexican individuals -57 percent
- An estimated 5.5 million children have parents who are undocumented, three-fourths of these children are U.S. citizens (Ayon).

Risks

- Latinos are at risk of:
- Poverty
- Mental
- Low educational accomplishment
- Mental health issues
- Substance abuse
- Exposure to violence
- Have systematic barriers
- Encounter Racism, prejudice, oppression

Chicano(a)/Latino(a) Service Needs

- Mental Health
- Physical Health Care
- Education
- Information and Support Services
- Community Efforts

(study done from Latino Community focus groups)

Mental Health

- Prevention efforts
 - High teen pregnancy
 - Substance abuse
- Counseling
 - Build Self-esteem
 - Strengthen Parent-child ties
- Intervention
 - Domestic violence

Physical Health

- Affordable- not free but affordable to their income
- Comprehensive- include regular check ups, surgery, dental care
- Barriers to access
 - Scare tactic

Education

- Financial help for higher education
 - REAL Hope Act

Info and Support Services

- Immigration law
- Rights of the Undocumented
- Rights of their U.S. citizen children

Community Efforts

- Changing perception of undocumented immigrants
- Participate in political advocacy

Social Work Code of Ethics

- **1.05 Cultural Competence and Social Diversity**
- (a) Social workers should understand culture and its function in human behavior and society, recognizing the strengths that exist in all cultures.
- (b) Social workers should have a knowledge base of their clients' cultures and be able to demonstrate competence in the provision of services that are sensitive to clients' cultures and to differences among people and cultural groups.
- (c) Social workers should obtain education about and seek to understand the nature of social diversity and oppression with respect to race, ethnicity, national origin, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, marital status, political belief, religion, immigration status, and mental or physical disability.

Chicano(a)/Latino(a) Social Workers

- Underrepresentation of Latinos(as) as full-time faculty in social work education programs
- In 2010, only 5.8 percent of full-time Latino(a) faculty in joint undergraduate-graduate in the Social Work programs
- Low number of Spanish speaking caseworkers

- 90 percent of graduate students agreed cultural sensitive practice is very important for preparation to work with Latinos/as
 - Only 40 percent of the faculty believed their students were competent enough
- Latino social workers have a deep commitment for contribution for the Latino community. However they expressed context in direct practice, teaching and field instruction and not serving the needs of the community.
- Social justice, advocacy, and cultural competence are the main key values of social workers

What to Know

- Not a homogenous group, very diverse Latinos
 - National origins: Puerto Rico, Mexico, Caribbean, Central America, South America.
 - variation in speech patterns, vocabulary
- Transmigration- immigrants who constantly move from country to country
 - Treated as reserve of flexible hours, easily deportable
 - Social isolation, minimal social and emotional support
- Acculturation- each individual depending on their own values and generation acculturate differently
- Services Emphasize individualism and personal responsibility
 - Overlooks need as a family
 - First available job-low wage and tough jobs

Latino Values

- Allocentrism: a sense of identity and commitment too a collective group, rather than the individual
- familism: a loyalty and attachment to one's nuclear and extended family

EWU Social Work Program

Social Work Program

- SOWK 381 Practice Theory for Social Work with Diverse Populations
- “Brief descriptive material”
- Faculty- only one professor has interest in cultural diversity

What we need:

- Race and Culture courses
 - profound material
- Latino(a) faculty

Sources

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Thank You

Questions?