



Latinos In Desperate Need

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Research Question

How are social media and other online sites empowering Latinos searching for support to meet financial challenges caused by serious illness? Abstract

Major studies have been made, for example by the Kaiser Family Foundation and other large foundations, about the quantity of people without health insurance in the United States. Within the past few years, while the numbers of uninsured have declined Latinos have remained #1 lacking health insurance. In the present day, the numbers have increased drastically with people (including many being Latinos) searching for help to pay off medical and funeral bills, however, this challenge goes back for a long time. Sites like GoFundMe, social media, and other websites have been one, and if not the most powerful tools that uninsured Latinos have to help pay off these large expenses and also while seeking help spiritually. Pew Research finds the majority of Latinos are religious in the United States. It is not surprising that they would also search for prayers within their community in times of hardship, including medical issues.

Results of Research

“I was scared, I was worried, and mostly embarrassed”- Jose Flores

The screenshot displays two GoFundMe fundraising pages. The first page, titled "Help me Save my Parents Lives!", features a goal of \$244,200 and has raised \$144,240. It includes a photo of a person in a hospital bed and a list of donors, including one anonymous donor of \$25 and Mariana Dimcheva of \$20. The second page, titled "In Memory of my Mother Maxmina Flores", has a goal of \$15,000 and has raised \$2,305. It includes a photo of a family standing in front of a police car and a list of donors, including one anonymous donor of \$20 and Cuahutemoc Cedamanos of \$100.

Conclusion

Latinos are being forced to go out and seek for financial help on their own.

While having to cope with the problem of burying or saving a relative, they are having an unnecessary problem on top of that.

The system is failing our people, Latinos, Native Americans, and African Americans. The system is failing their duty of protecting the human life.

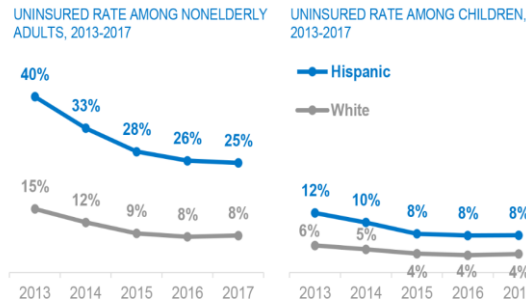
Being ignored is causing a personal impact on people having them turn to their religion and also seeking for spiritual help.

Methods of Inquiry

- Peer Reviewed Journals
- Online social media survey
- Personal Interview

Bibliography

The uninsured rate declined for Hispanics under the ACA, but they still remain more likely to be uninsured than Whites.



Annotated Bibliography

- Portales, Marco, "Hispanics and the American Media." *Crowding Out Latinos*, Temple University Press, 2000, pp. 52–65. *JSTOR*, www.jstor.org/stable/j.ctt14bswkk.9. Accessed 24 Apr. 2020. The author of this book talks about Latinos in the United States but uses one chapter to talk about how media is being used to help represent Latinos. They state how media does not have space for Latinos, meaning they are not important enough to be paid attention to when trying to speak up. They also claim that when Latinos are given space in the media, for example the news, they show negative aspects of the Latino community. Latinos are now having to find their own ways to seek attention throughout the media. The Author uses statistics throughout the years to show how not much is being done through the media to help Latinos.
- Bauer, Ingrid, Guerra, Juan, "Physicians' knowledge and communication about traditional, complementary and alternative medicine use among Latino patients at Kaiser Permanente, Oakland CA", *Field Actions Science Reports* [Online], Special Issue 10 | 2014, Online since 21 March 2014, connection on 25 April 2020. <http://journals.openedition.org/factsreports/3221>. In this article, the authors talk about Latinos health care beliefs. The study they did with 10 physicians, all identifying as Latinos or Hispanics. The survey included questions about their patient's health belief and questions about the use of commonly used herbs in their patients. The numbers show if the patients have knowledge, some knowledge or no knowledge of health and illnesses. In conclusion, the physicians used this information to help them communicate more with their patients to inform them and be able to openly talk to them.
- Ransford, H, Edward, et al. "Health Care-Seeking among Latino Immigrants: Blocked Access, Use of Traditional Medicine, and the Role of Religion." *Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved*. Vol. 21 no. 3, 2010, p. 862-878, *Project MUSE*, <https://muse-jhu-edu.proxy.lib.wayne.edu/article/389043>. The authors of this journal wrote about the barriers that Latinos have to health care. Some barriers are communication, health insurance, and financial eligibility. Technology can help communication by either helping to translate or by seeking someone who they can communicate with. Technology has help financially because people tend to ask for help on social media. The authors used interviews to explain better how Latinos feel about the situation and how they are finding their own solutions.
- Flores, Maria "In Memory of my Mother Maximina Flores." *GoFundMe.com* https://www.gofundme.com/f/in-memory-of-my-mother-maxmina-flores?utm_source=customer&utm_medium=copy_link-tip&utm_campaign=p_cp+share-sheet. Accessed April 28, 2020. This is a site used by many people who are in need of financial help. On this page, we can see how a daughter writes about her need of money to be able to pay for her mother's funeral bills. Maria, the daughter, explains how her

mother lost the battle to Coronavirus. Maximina was a mother of 4 and wife. Her family is now reaching out to the public to help financially. Aside from mourning the death, they have to worry about the funeral bills. This shows that there are many situations that force Latinos having to put aside their pride to be able to pay off their debts that the system is refusing to help them with.

Flores, Jose. Personal Interview (By phone). April 28, 2020. This interview was with an author of a fundraiser on GoFundMe.com. Jose Flores is a Mexican mariachi that lived in Miami, Florida. Unfortunately, he was accused of crime he did not commit. Because of the stress he was under trying to prove his innocence, his body was starting to react to the stress. Jose needed to go the emergency room when he received a facial paralysis. Jose needed to find a way to now pay a medical bill aside from paying a lawyer for his case. Jose was in desperate need for money, he had no family in Miami and was barely working due to his facial paralysis. Jose was forced to put his pride aside and create a GoFundMe account and ask the community for money. He posted this page on his social media hoping people would share his story and help him.

The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation. 2020. *Health And Health Care For Hispanics In The United States*. <https://www.kff.org/infographic/health-and-health-care-for-hispanics-in-the-united-states/>. Accessed 29 April 2020. This website provides graphs on studies made in the United States. KFF provided a graph of uninsured groups in the United States including Latinos and Whites. In the graph you can see from the years 2013 to 2017, Latinos have had the most people uninsured than whites. Even though you see a decrease in the numbers, Latinos remain number one on being uninsured. The graph also shows the number of children uninsured and the results are the same, more Latino children are uninsured.

Latinos SOS. "Latinos SOS MB." *GoFundMe.com*. April 8, 2020. Accessed April 28, 2020. <https://www.gofundme.com/f/latinos-sos-mb>. The authors of this page is an organization aiming to help Latinos. They created a fundraiser to collect money for Latinos who need financial help with medical bills. They state that the government is currently not giving financial relief to Latinos that they are giving to everyone else. Latinos are not receiving funds and are being overlooked. This is a current fundraiser going to any Latino families who reaches out to them with medical or funeral bills. This organization is trying to stand with the community to help in times of crisis when Latinos have no where else to go for help because they cannot count on the system in the United States.