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Stratford Campus Research Day

25th Annual Research Day

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May 6th, 12:00 AM

### COVID-19 Resources for Speakers of Other Languages (COVID ReSOL)

Ali Harb  
*Rowan University*

Irvin Santiago-Bautista

Sulleymarie Sanchez

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Harb, Ali; Santiago-Bautista, Irvin; and Sanchez, Sulleymarie, "COVID-19 Resources for Speakers of Other Languages (COVID ReSOL)" (2021). *Stratford Campus Research Day*. 28.  
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## Background

- Across the nation, racial and ethnic disparities in health outcomes have negatively impacted Black and Hispanic Americans regarding the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. <sup>1-4</sup>
- Age adjusted case and mortality rates for New Jersey's Hispanic residents collected by the NJ Department of Health via the Communicable Disease Reporting and Surveillance System (CDRSS) shows a direct suffering from COVID-19 significantly disproportionate to the percentage population in the state (double to triple the rates of the state's white and Asian residents). <sup>5</sup>

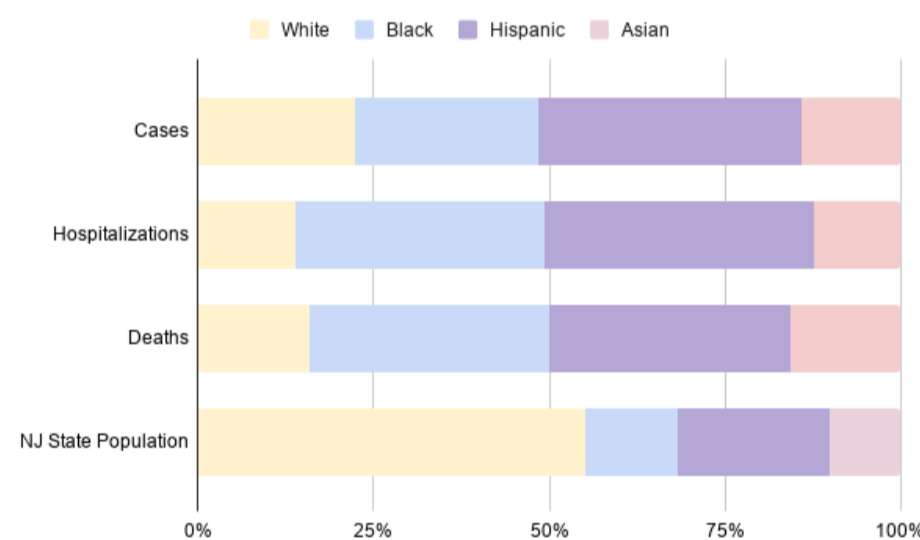


Figure 1. Age-adjusted Percentages of Total COVID-19 Cases, Hospitalizations, and Deaths Compared to Representation in State Population as of April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021. <sup>5</sup>

- Among the Hispanic population, patients with limited English proficiency (LEP) are among the most vulnerable - experiencing higher rates of medical errors, worse clinical outcomes, and lower quality of care when compared to English-proficient patients. <sup>6</sup>

## Objectives

- To identify barriers to COVID-19 testing and vaccination in NJ Hispanics with LEP
- To develop resources targeted towards vaccination for Hispanic NJ residents and communities in Atlantic, Camden, and Cumberland county
- To share evidence-based information regarding the COVID-19 pandemic and disease spread prevention

## Proposed Intervention Plan

### Proposed Intervention Methods:

- Conduct a needs assessment via review of journal published literature and community partner interviews to identify barriers to COVID-19 care for the Hispanic NJ resident population with LEP
- Create community resources in collaboration with Rowan University institutional partner Shore Area Health Education Center (Shore AHEC) - Spanish Community Center (SCC)

### Suggested Interventions:

- Confirm existence of barriers to COVID-19 testing and vaccination for the NJ Hispanic population with LEP in Atlantic, Camden, and Cumberland county such as: <sup>7,8</sup>
  - A lack of resource availability in the language of proficiency (Spanish)
  - Misinformation and mistrust regarding vaccination
  - Lack of awareness of locations for testing sites, vaccination sites, and eligibility criteria for vaccination
  - Transportation to points of distribution (PODs) for vaccine
  - The relative impact of insurance and immigration status as it relates to receipt of vaccination
- Advocate for increased support and resource availability at Rowan SOM for the NJ Hispanic community, and develop a task force for the implementation of diversity and inclusion (DEI) efforts at the COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic in Stratford, NJ, and community-based clinics throughout the state
- Develop a video-walkthrough of the COVID-19 vaccination clinic in Stratford, NJ in both English and in Spanish for patients
- Develop bilingual informational flyers and coloring pages as community resources to address identified barriers (as listed above)

## Conclusions

- Barriers to equitable COVID-19 care for NJ Hispanics with LEP may include but is not limited to resource availability in Spanish, misinformation about COVID-19, a lack of understanding about where and how to get tested and/or vaccinated, and transportation accessibility
- Increased efforts for providing equitable access to vaccination and testing are needed in our NJ communities to combat the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on Hispanic residents (ex. community-based vaccination clinics)

### Limitation:

- This study proposes obtaining no direct data from community members (patients). As a result, identification of barriers may be skewed by queried sources. Alternatively, important barriers not identified may also exist.

## Acknowledgements / Support

*This was a student run project within the National Ambassadors Program of the Health Careers Opportunity Program (HCOP) at Rowan University's School of Osteopathic Medicine (SOM).*

A special acknowledgement to the following individuals for their assistance in the development and implementation of this project: Mary Duggan, Rachel Fletcher-Slater, Kyle Soldevilla, Daniel Casal, Maryanna Schweininger, Jhon Alexander Orozco Arismendy, and Arlene Muñoz

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