



## Illinois Wesleyan University Digital Commons @ IWU

John Wesley Powell Student Research  
Conference

2010, 21st Annual JWP Conference

Apr 10th, 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

# Hypertension and Hispanics: Lower Incidence or Missing Data?

Kelsey Farrell

*Illinois Wesleyan University*

Carolyn Nadeau, Faculty Advisor

*Illinois Wesleyan University*

Follow this and additional works at: <http://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/jwprc>

 Part of the [Other Languages, Societies, and Cultures Commons](#)

Kelsey Farrell and Carolyn Nadeau, Faculty Advisor, "Hypertension and Hispanics: Lower Incidence or Missing Data?" (April 10, 2010). *John Wesley Powell Student Research Conference*. Paper 12.  
<http://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/jwprc/2010/posters/12>

This Event is brought to you for free and open access by The Ames Library, the Andrew W. Mellon Center for Curricular and Faculty Development, the Office of the Provost and the Office of the President. It has been accepted for inclusion in Digital Commons @ IWU by the faculty at Illinois Wesleyan University. For more information, please contact [digitalcommons@iwu.edu](mailto:digitalcommons@iwu.edu).

©Copyright is owned by the author of this document.

Poster Presentation P17

**HYPERTENSION AND HISPANICS: LOWER INCIDENCE OR MISSING DATA?**

Kelsey Farrell and Carolyn Nadeau\*

Hispanic Studies Department, Illinois Wesleyan University

Many studies which sought to find the different rates of hypertension among ethnic groups came to the conclusion that Hispanics have an incidence of hypertension lower than that of non-Hispanic whites. The researchers in many of these studies collected their data by interviewing people and asking, among other demographic questions, "Have you ever been told by a doctor that you have hypertension, also called high blood pressure?" Although this is a good method for finding out the proportions of people who are aware of their hypertension, this is not sufficient for learning how many people actually have hypertension. Since Hispanics are more likely to be uninsured and therefore more likely to go without medical care, they are also more likely to be unaware of their hypertension. This paper seeks to straighten out the conclusions that Hispanics have a lower incidence of hypertension than their non-Hispanic white counterparts, despite a higher incidence of obesity and diabetes, and to find a better method for collecting data on hypertension. To improve the health of Hispanics, future studies should focus on minorities and why the health disparity between them and whites exists. This presentation will be in both English and Spanish.