

Those left uninsured from the Oregon healthcare reform

AUTHOR(S): Cesar E Higgins Tejera, Linda Roman, Alberto Moreno

PRESENTATION FORMAT: Oral Presentation

TOPIC/TARGET AUDIENCE: Health care, health disparities/health practitioners, public health practitioners, health industry leaders, and community health workers.

ABSTRACT:

Despite the latest gains in health care coverage across the state, there still exists important barriers for the Latino community to obtain health insurance, and hence, access to primary care services. Health care coverage is considered a social determinant of health, and its absence can deteriorate the well-being of both individuals and populations. Even after the implementation of the Affordable Care Act and the expansion of Medicare, undocumented families cannot purchase health insurance in the Oregon's market exchange.

One proposal for ensuring that all Oregonians have access to health insurance and medical services is lifting the restrictions for undocumented families to purchase health insurance in the market exchange. There are at least 140,000 individuals in Oregon who would benefit from such a measure, because undocumented individuals are more likely to lack health coverage and the financial means to buy it in the private market. This particular health policy could also have a positive impact in reducing health disparities across the state by ensuring that anyone, regardless of their citizenship status, can get primary health care. Guaranteeing health care coverage is the cornerstone of a strong healthcare system, in part because access to care has the potential of reducing documented health care disparities.

OBJECTIVE(S):

- Describe the rationale for providing health care insurance to undocumented immigrants.
- Discuss racial/ethnic disparities in primary prevention across the state and how access to insurance coverage could help alleviate them.
- Discuss the implications and consequences of being undocumented and uninsured for people's health.

PRIMARY CONTACT INFORMATION:

Cesar Higgins Tejera, MPH
Portland, OR
9719984412 | cesar.higgins@gmail.com