

Reducing Cancer Health Disparities: A Colorado Example (2000-05)

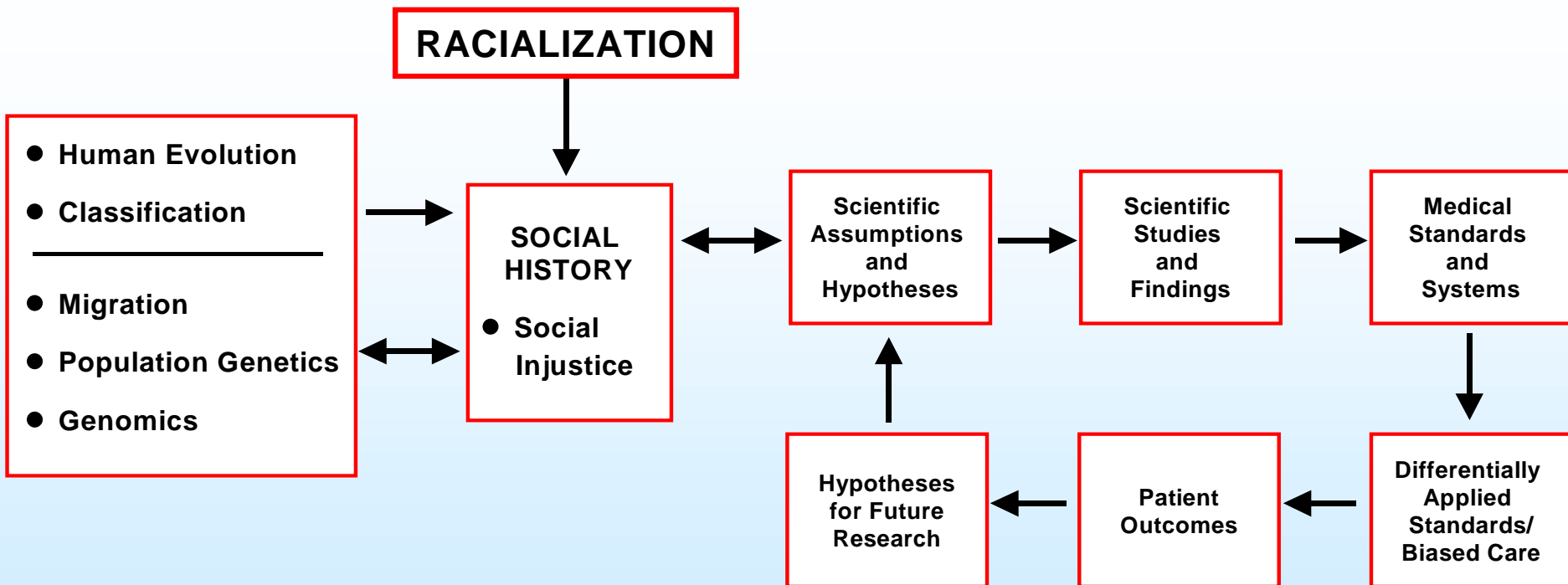
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Impact of Racialization on Social History, Science, and Health Care (Omi and Winant and Freeman)





There is a critical disconnect between what we discover and what we deliver to all American People.

The Importance of Culture...in Health Research and Interventions

- Spanish language maintenance
- Familism: the family is at the core of decision making
- *Respeto*: respect for parents and elders
- *Machismo*: concept is multi-faceted...and *Marianismo*: religious ideals tied to “Mary” in Catholic religion
- Health beliefs: *curanderismo*/folk healers...
- Source: Flores, E., F. Castro & ME Fernandez, 1995 “Social Theory, Social Action and Intervention Research: Implications for Cancer Prevention Among Latinos,” Monograph, No. 18, *Journal of the National Cancer Institute*, Bethesda, Md., June.

A Variety of Health Beliefs

- Some believe: the diagnosis of cancer: “it’s a death sentence!” Contrast with Dr. Von Eschenbach’s statement: “We will reduce suffering and death due to cancer by 2015.”
- Don’t hit your sister in the chest, it will cause cancer! --bruises cause cancer (Chavez et al)
- “Fatalism” illness is a matter of chance or fate....
- *Great Disconnect* between “*Discovery and Delivery*”

Greater Denver Latino Cancer Prevention Network: Staff & Consultants

- Estevan Flores, Ph.D., Principal Investigator
- Paula Espinoza, Ph.D., Co-Principal Investigator

Consultants:

- * Richard Bakemeier, M.D., Consultant, Associate Director – UCHSC Comprehensive Cancer Center
- Jillian Jacobellis, Ph.D., Consultant, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Director, Division of Prevention Services

Staff:

- Chris Armijo, MSPH, Researcher
- Maria Gavier, Project Manager, Adela Samper Imaz, Grant Manager, Neilsun Valenski, MS, web Master, Mary Helen Duran, Outreach worker

1998-2000: Cervical Cancer

(Source: Finch, Colorado Cancer Registry)

Denver Metro	INCIDENT RATE	MORTALITY RATE
White non-Hispanic	5.6	1.5
Hispanic	14.2	3

A Dynamic “Special Populations Network” (SPN)

- **21 Community Network Partners**
- **14 Scientific Partners**
- **Bridging the gap between Discovery and → Delivery**

Origin of Ideas:

1990 NCI funds 5 Latino research projects, common protocol

1992 NCI National Hispanic Leadership Initiative

1997 NCI convenes Hispanic research brainstorming—idea use communities in research endeavors for cancer prevention and clinical trials.

21 Community Partners

1. Centro Bienestar San Jose
2. Colorado People's Environmental & Economic Network
3. Denver Health--Community Health Services
4. La Clinica Tepeyac
5. La Salud Clinics

14 Scientific Partners

1. AMC Cancer Research Center
2. American Cancer Society
3. Colo. Dept. of Public Health & Environment - Prevention Division
4. CU Comprehensive Cancer Center and Office of Diversity
5. Rocky Mountain Cancer Information Service
6. Susan G. Komen Breast Foundation

Goals and Aims

- **Cancer awareness and education activities:** Canc Mono's, Education forums, etc.
- **Cancer Prevention and Diffusion of messages:** Television, radio and newspaper for Dia de la Mujer Latina (screenings), Canc. Mono's., *Latino View*, etc.
- **Develop and fund Pilot Projects (N=5)**
- **Pipeline Activities: with Drs. Bakemeier and Byers (P-20)**

Five Pilot Projects* Funded by NCI

(\$50,000 each)

1. **“Cancer Monologues” Pilot**

Dr. Espinoza, PI – to be completed 9/04

2. **“Colorado Latino Smoking Cessation Study”**

Dr. Arnold Levinson, PI, Preventive Medicine, CUHSC,
Dr. Flores, Co-PI—to be completed 9/04

3. **“Video to Influence Latinas’ Participation in Mammography”**

Dr. Evelinn Borrayo, Psychology Dept., Colorado State University, PI, (5-04 to 3/05)

Pilot Projects (cont.)

4. **“Scale to Measure Latinas Breast Cancer Screening Beliefs”**

Dr. Evelinn Borrayo, CSU (5-04 to 3/05)

5. **“Latina Breast Cancer Survivors: Informational Needs”**

Dr. Lena Sorenson, PI, School of Nursing--CUHSC,
with Co-PI, Dr. Phyllis Graham-Dickerson (5-04 to
3/05)

* Pilots are designed to lead to RO1s--independent
investigator initiated awards

Publications

- Levinson, A., E. Perez-Stable, P. Espinoza, E. Flores and T. Byers “Latinos report less use of pharmaceutical aids when trying to quit smoking,” *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*, 26:2; 105-111, 2004.
- Fernández Esquer, M.E, **Espinoza, P.**, Ramirez, A. G., McAlister, A.L. Repeated Pap Smear Screening among Mexican American Women. *Health Education Research*, 18:4; 1-11, 2003.
- Fernández Esquer, M.E, **Espinoza, P.**, Torres, I. Ramirez, A.G. & McAlister, A.L. A Su Salud: A Quasi-Experimental Study Among Mexican American Women, *American Journal of Health Behavior*, 27(5): 536-545, 2003.
- Flores, E and V. Chavez, “Latinos and Public Health,” forthcoming in *Encyclopedia of Latinos and Latinas in the United States*, D. Gonzalez and S. Oboler (Eds), Oxford Univ. Press, 2004.
- Flores and Espinoza, in preperation:
- “Comedy, Cantinflas and Cancer Prevention,” (with Tony Garcia)
- “Building a Dynamic Latino Cancer Prevention Network”

Projects Developed (Leveraged) Around NCI Network Grant=\$567,000

1. Avon “Comadre” Project (2 years) - \$230,000
Dr. Espinoza, PI – plus \$30,000
2. P-20 NCI Project (3 years) - \$70,000
Dr. Espinoza, Co-PI
3. CDPHE “Tobacco Needs Assessment” (1 year)
Dr. Flores, PI - \$50,000
4. “*Día de la Mujer Latina*,” June 7, 2003 & June 5, 2004
(CDPHE, Lily Inc, ACS, Komen funding, etc.) – both
years, \$87,000
5. Colorado Tobacco Education Prevention Alliance:
“Second Hand Smoke” Project - \$70,000 – current
6. “Denver Latino Cancer Health Disparity Study,”
CDPHE, Dr. Espinoza, PI, \$30,000 - current

Clinical Links

- Denver Health
- Avon “Comadre” Project
- PI: Dr. Espinoza
- Comadres: Mary Helen Duran and Maria Gavier
- 1,400 women recruited
- 800 Mammograms
- 2,800 women educated

Impacts

- Training at UCHSC via Dr. Richard Bakemieir's NCI summer training program: 20% Latino students
- Clinical Trials: revision of NCI's outreach powerpoint (Armijo) and delivery to Network
- Presentations, forums and outreach to community over the 4 and ½ years.
- Dr. Flores's presentation to state legislative health committee
- Both Dr. Flores and Espinoza on NCI's 2003 "Process Review Group," and Dr. Tim Byers

SPN Achievements—Basis for Re-issuance

In three years, SPNs have:

- Increased Community Cancer Awareness
 - **1000+** SPN cancer awareness activities
 - 300+ formal partnerships with community-based organizations, gov't and non-gov't groups
 - 2000+ community/lay health workers trained in cancer awareness
- Conducted New Investigator Training and Research
 - 196 pilot projects submitted - 96 funded

National Minority Advisory Committee to DHHS, 2000-04

- To eliminate ‘racial and ethnic health disparities’
- 12 members, appointed by D. Shalala
- Background research and testimony...
- Report to Secretary Thompson prepared and ready, December of 2003.

Recommendations: 3 areas

- 1. Pipeline issues: the most pressing concerns for the country.
- 2. The U.S.-Mexico Border: the need for public health and intervention.
- 3. Bioterrorism: inclusion of people of color into the networks and resources to combat terrorism.

Status of Report: “sitting on someone’s desk”

- The “politics” of health disparities at DHHS
- OMH Director Dr. Stinson, retired in July, lack of leadership exhibited...
- Terms of members expired, new members not brought in...
- The role of election year politics...

Conclusions

- Addressing health disparities with adequate resources must come from federal level, states must also address HDs, as well as counties and the private sector.
- Health disparities initiatives within DHHS, esp. NIH, must be systematically increased with personnel, programs and resources.
- Community participation in these initiatives is necessary and vital—at all levels.