

An Alliance for Healthier and Stronger Communities

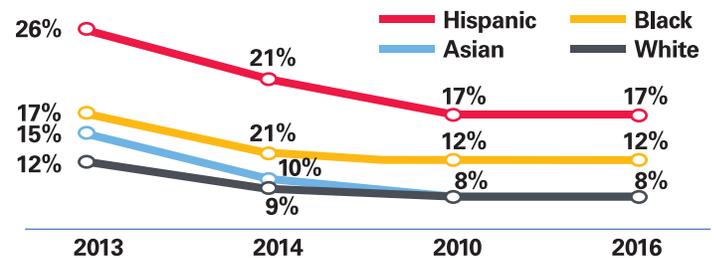
The American Hospital Association, a not-for-profit association of health care provider organizations and individuals, along with UnidosUS, the nation's largest Hispanic civil rights and advocacy organization, formed an alliance to improve the health of communities across the nation and increase diversity in healthcare governance to shape the future of care.



Strength in Diversity

With population and uninsured rates increasing in the Latino community, there is a need to address disparities to improve health equity in the care that they experience. The AHA and UnidosUS understand that it is critical that hospital and health system leadership reflects the growing diversity of their patients and staff - and of our country. Through this new alliance, both organizations will work together to ensure that health care evolves to better understand and address the changing needs of communities.

Uninsured rate among nonelderly individuals by Race/Ethnicity, 2013-2016



Note: Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race but are categorized as Hispanic for this analysis; other groups are non-Hispanic. Includes nonelderly individuals 0-64 years of age.
 Source: Kaiser Family Foundation analysis of March 2014-2017 Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement.

Why?

In addition to high uninsured rates among increasing Latino populations, the CDC states that Hispanics have higher rates of heart disease, cancer and low birth weight compared to other non-Hispanic whites. These trends can be attributed to gaps in care and health disparities.

The AHA and UnidosUS seek to improve these health outcomes through diversity in governance, and by collaborating on solutions around youth violence, prevention and post-trauma support programs that are culturally relevant for diverse communities.

Increasing the number of Latinos in health care governance, leadership development, advancing health equity and eliminating gaps in care that Latinos experience must be a priority. The AHA and UnidosUS share the mission of building stronger and healthier communities—some of the programs that fulfill that shared goal are listed below.



Trustee Match Program

The goal of the Trustee Match Program is to increase diversity in health care governance by connecting UnidosUS leaders with opportunities for consideration by a hospital or health system to serve on a board, committee, or council. Candidates identified for the program will have the opportunity to learn from the fields' experts, gain access to tools and resources, participate in networking opportunities and engage in advancing health for all.

Promoting a Culture of Health

The AHA will work with UnidosUS to foster a culture of health among Latinos through AHA's participation in UnidosUS national advisory committee, a part of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Culture of Health initiative. This initiative states that everyone can "strive together to build a Culture of Health, enabling all in our diverse society to lead healthier lives, now and for generations to come." Together we can build a society of healthy and stronger communities.



Healthy, Equitable, and Resilient (H.E.R.) Communities

The AHA and UnidosUS share the mission of addressing community challenges by finding solutions around youth violence, prevention and posttrauma support. The Healthy, Equitable, and Resilient (H.E.R.) Communities will provide community-based organizations, hospitals and health systems with tools to address these community challenges. This work will identify and share existing programs through AHA's Hospitals Against Violence initiative and UnidosUS's youth leadership programs, such as its Men of Action program. Furthermore, H.E.R. Communities emphasizes sharing lessons learned across organizations, highlighting the program's scalability and impact.

For more information, contact Jay Bhatt, AHA Chief Medical Officer, at jbhatt@aha.org and Rita Carreon, UnidosUS Deputy VP of Health, at rcarreon@unidosus.org