

How We Built This: Improving Treatment Access and Engagement for Hispanic/Latinx Clients

Lesley Brooks, MD; Heather Ihrig, MSN, MBA; Hans Pearson; Meredith Silverstein, PhD

ASAM Annual Conference, April 1, 2022



#ASAMAnnual2022

Disclosure Information

How We Built This: Improving Treatment Access and Engagement for Hispanic/Latinx Clients. April 1, 2022, 10:30 am – 11:30 am

- ◆ Presenter Lesley Brooks, MD, SummitStone Health Partners, North Colorado Health Alliance. No Disclosures
- ◆ Presenter Heather Ihrig, MSN, MBA, North Colorado Health Alliance. No Disclosures
- ◆ Presenter Hans Pearson, North Colorado Health Alliance. No Disclosures
- ◆ Presenter Meredith Silverstein, PhD, University of Denver. No Disclosures
- ◆ Non-Presenting Author, Kali Jefferson, MSW, University of Denver. No Disclosures
- ◆ Non-Presenting Author, Shaina Riciputi, MS, University of Denver. No Disclosures

This presentation was made possible by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration Grant Number 1H79TI084168-01 awarded October, 2021. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of SAMHSA.



Learning Objectives

- ◆ Goal: Create a welcoming space for open, honest conversation
- ◆ Describe the development and implementation of a care coordination and peer coaching program within a diverse, multi-systemic network of SUD care
- ◆ Understand barriers and facilitators to engaging and retaining Hispanic/Latinx people with SUD in this network
- ◆ Understand and share specific strategies for addressing health disparities among Hispanic/Latinx people with SUD

Prevalence

- ◆ 7.0% or 2.9M Hispanic/Latinx people had an SUD in 2019.¹
- ◆ The good news: Opioid use disorder has significantly declined since 2016 for Hispanic/Latinx people ages 12-17 and continues to slightly decline in all other age groups.¹
- ◆ And yet, Hispanic/Latinx people have lower treatment completion rates than non-Hispanic White people when treatment is accessed.²

1. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. 2019 National Survey on Drug Use and Health: Hispanics. <https://www.samhsa.gov/data/release/2019-national-survey-drug-use-and-health-nsduh-releases>. Accessed February 3, 2022.
2. Saloner B, Lê Cook B. Blacks and Hispanics are less likely than Whites to complete addiction treatment, largely due to socioeconomic factors. *Health Affairs*. 2013;32(1):135-145. doi:10.1377/hlthaff.2011.0983.



Prevalence: Discussion Points

- ◆ What forces create disparate access to care?
- ◆ What and who drives the culture of our systems of care ?
 - ◆ How are our written materials crafted? Who writes them?
 - ◆ What do our physical spaces look like and who would feel welcome there?
 - ◆ What do our staff and care providers look like?

COSLAW: Data-Driven Improvements

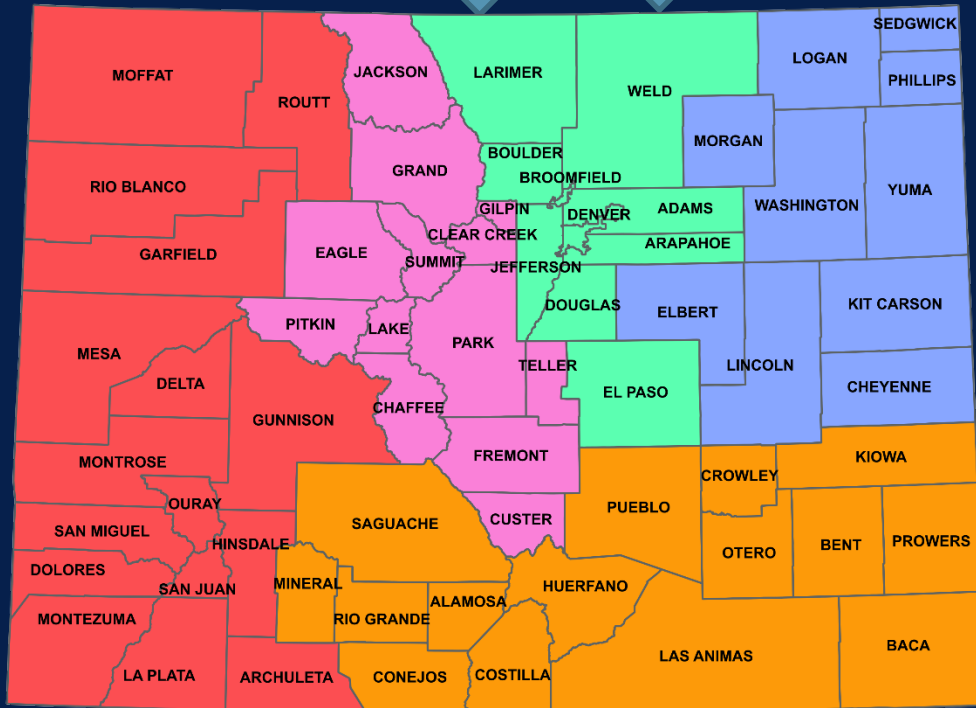
End of year two (Feb. 2019 - Oct. 2020): Fewer Hispanic/Latinx clients than expected engaged with treatment at 6 months post-admission than non-Hispanic/Latinx clients ($n = 168$, $\chi^2(1) = 7.47$, $p < 0.05$).

End of year three (Sept. 2020 - Oct. 2021): There were no differences in 6-month follow-up rates between Hispanic/Latinx and non-Hispanic/Latinx clients ($n = 257$, $\chi^2(1) = 2.11$, $p = 0.15$).

Colorado Opioid Synergy Larimer Weld (COSLAW)

- ◆ Funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), Center for Substance Abuse Treatment, MAT-PDOA program
 - ◆ First award Oct. 2018, three years: \$1.5M
 - ◆ Second award, Oct. 2021, five years: \$2.6M
- ◆ Key initiative of community-based coalition NOCO CARES
 - ◆ Launched in May 2017, focused on broad, community-based response to opioid crisis in Larimer and Weld counties

Where in the world...



Map courtesy of civonline.org

Larimer and Weld Counties, Colorado

- ◆ 6,651 square miles along Colorado's northern border, mostly rural with populations concentrated in Ft. Collins, Greeley, and Loveland.
- ◆ Population grew 19.1% since 2010 in Larimer County and 28.3% in Weld.
- ◆ Nearly 12% of population in Larimer and 30% of population in Weld identify as Hispanic/Latinx.
- ◆ Fatal drug overdose deaths increased 7.8% across Larimer and Weld from 2019 to 2020.³



3. Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. Count of Drug Overdose Deaths Due to Any Drug in Colorado. <https://cdphe.colorado.gov/center-for-health-and-environmental-data/registries-and-vital-statistics/state-unintentional-drug> Accessed Feb 2, 2022.

CO-SLAW

COLORADO OPIOID SYNERGY
LARIMER & WELD

Treat Addiction. Save Lives.



Care Compact: Shared Values

CO-SLAW Mutual Agreement:

*As the CO-SLAW Network, we believe in a **harm reduction model**. We recognize medication-assisted treatment as our priority and hold the following values, which align with current best practices:*

- 1) Primary care, medication for SUD, and counseling work synergistically; every effort will be made to deliver triple integrated care. However, we recognize patients' autonomy and **will refer to an appropriate clinic within our network if a patient opts to forgo any treatment modality.***
- 2) Reduction of opioid use is the primary goal of opioid agonist treatment. While some patients may choose abstinence, **we do not insist on abstinence to continue treatment.***
- 3) Robust compliance monitoring is imperative, but **diversion prevention will be measured along with clinical benefit to determine whether to continue therapy.***

We may not reach the goal with our first attempt but have the diligence to begin again and again. The patient's safety, dignity and autonomy take precedence, and we respect our member practices' unique methods of caring for people with SUD.



COSLAW

- ◆ Team of care coordinators embedded in network practices and transitions of care sites; includes staff with lived experience and certified peer recovery specialists
- ◆ Includes staff who are bilingual/bicultural
- ◆ Patient-centered intensive case management
- ◆ One call does it all! **1-844-944-7529**



**Join at slido.com
#635937**

ⓘ Start presenting to display the joining instructions on this slide.



What do you think are the structural and cultural factors that affect treatment access for and retention of Hispanic/Latinx people in your community?

① Start presenting to display the poll results on this slide.

Structural and Cultural Factors

Key sociocultural factors^{4,5}:

- ◆ Family/Familismo and the importance of social networks
- ◆ Religion and faith
- ◆ Immigration, fear, and mistrust of government systems
- ◆ Heterogeneity of the population
- ◆ Intergenerational substance misuse and polysubstance use
- ◆ Stigma, misperceptions, and negative narratives about SUD
- ◆ Fewer treatment options, language barriers, and lack of representation in treatment programs

4. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. *The Opioid Crisis and the Hispanic/Latino Population: An Urgent Issue*. Publication No. PEP20-05-02-002. Rockville, MD: Office of Behavioral Health Equity; 2020.

5. Pinedo M, Zemore S, Rogers S. Understanding barriers to specialty substance abuse treatment among Latinos. *J Subst Abuse Treat*. 2018;94:1-8. doi:10.1016/j.jsat.2018.08.004



Hearing It Firsthand

- ◆ Video presentation



#ASAMAnnual2022

COSLAW and Peer Coaching

“For many white people, recovery is a redemption story, proof that they were good people all along. For people of color, a known history of drug use might be the only excuse a prospective employer needs to shut the door.” - Recovery advocate Tessie Castillo



Lessons Learned From COSLAW: Reaching Out

- ◆ Connect with Hispanic/Latinx community organizations and leaders.
- ◆ Work with a liaison to connect with the community if you're not representative of the community.
- ◆ Reduce the stigma of SUD in the Hispanic/Latinx community:
Redefine fuerza (strength). Talk about it!
- ◆ Provide language training for SUD professionals.

Lessons Learned From COSLAW: Reaching in

- ◆ Moving beyond diversity, equity, and inclusion training toward becoming an anti-racist organization⁶
 - ◆ Hire representative leadership and staff
 - ◆ Examine recruitment, hiring, and retention practices: Are they equitable? Inclusive?
 - ◆ Share decision-making about what work gets done and how
 - ◆ Encourage discussions of privilege and power
 - ◆ Promote accountability to the communities served
 - ◆ Examine the impact of white-centric culture in your organization
- ◆ Acknowledge your own limitations, biases, and assumptions: It's a process!

<https://www.njjn.org/article/anti-racism-resource-what-it-means-to-be-an-anti-racist-organization->



Ask Me Anything!

① Start presenting to display the audience questions on this slide.

References

1. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. 2019 National Survey on Drug Use and Health: Hispanics. <https://www.samhsa.gov/data/release/2019-national-survey-drug-use-and-health-nsduh-releases>. Accessed February 3, 2022.
2. Saloner B, Lê Cook B. Blacks and Hispanics are less likely than Whites to complete addiction treatment, largely due to socioeconomic factors. *Health Affairs*. 2013;32(1):135-145. doi:10.1377/hlthaff.2011.0983.
3. Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. Count of Drug Overdose Deaths Due to Any Drug in Colorado. <https://cdphe.colorado.gov/center-for-health-and-environmental-data/registries-and-vital-statistics/state-unintentional-drug>. Accessed Feb 2, 2022.
4. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. *The Opioid Crisis and the Hispanic/Latino Population: An Urgent Issue*. Publication No. PEP20-05-02-002. Rockville, MD: Office of Behavioral Health Equity; 2020.
5. Pinedo M, Zemore S, Rogers S. Understanding barriers to specialty substance abuse treatment among Latinos. *J Subst Abuse Treat*. 2018;94:1-8. doi:10.1016/j.jsat.2018.08.004
6. National Juvenile Justice Network. Anti-Racism Resource: What it Means to Be an Anti-Racist Organization? <https://www.njjn.org/article/anti-racism-resource-what-it-means-to-be-an-anti-racist-organization>. Accessed Feb 3, 2022