

HOW TO IMPROVE

THE SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH LITERACY OF LATINA IMMIGRANTS IN DURHAM

BACKGROUND + PURPOSE



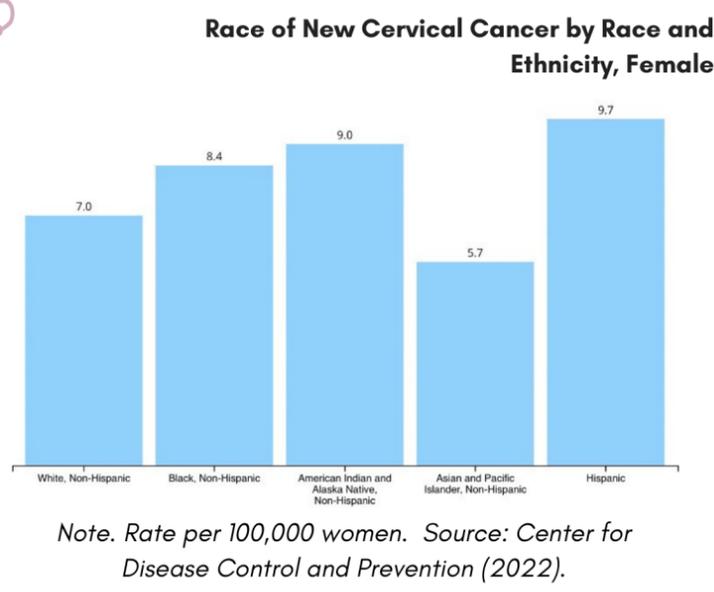
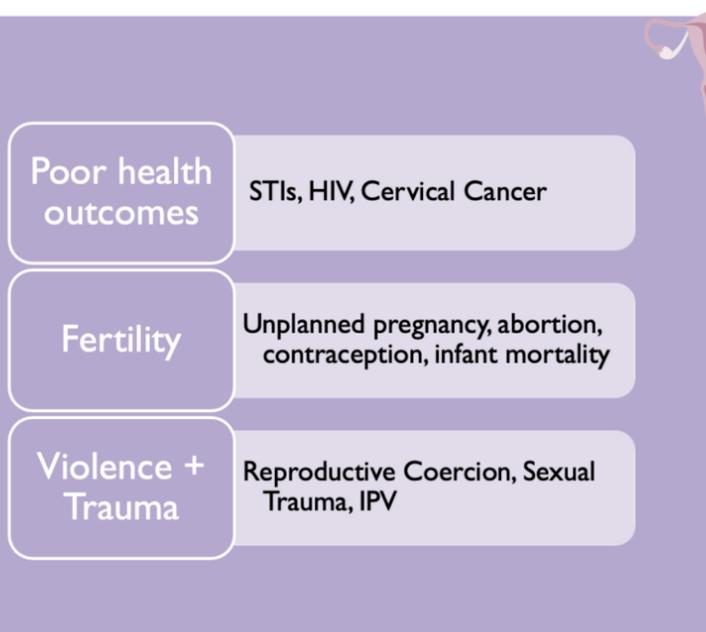
There are about 8,700 Latina immigrant adult women in Durham County (U.S. Census Bureau, 2021). Latina immigrants in NC face many disparities, particularly in sexual and reproductive health outcomes. This group meets unique challenges due to the intersection of their race, sex, socioeconomic, and migrant status. Thus, Latina immigrants need time and resources allocated to their specific needs so that they can truly thrive.

Through health literacy, women can acquire the tools they need (comprehensive SRH education) and understand how to use them within their socio-cultural contexts-- resulting in positive SRH outcomes. Increasing the SRH literacy of Latina immigrants may lead to an increase knowledge about SRH and positive SRH outcomes, as well as foster community and empowerment among this group of women.

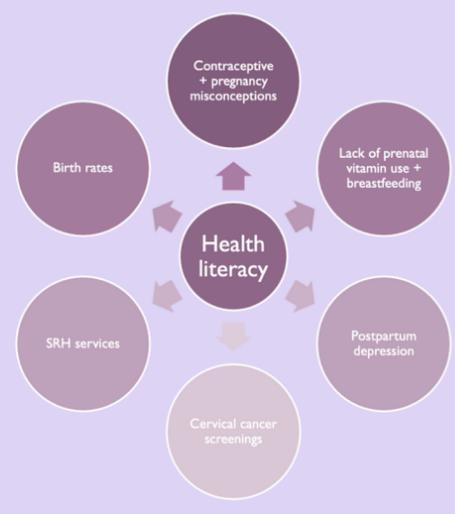
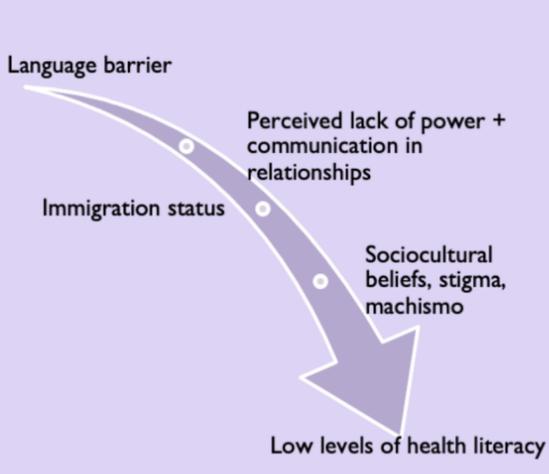
METHOD + JUSTIFICATION

An action-oriented literature review was conducted to ascertain the issues most pressing to the Latina immigrant community both across the United States and in North Carolina. Analysis of the literature led to policy recommendations. My approach is community-centered, orienting both my research and consequent policy recommendations in the Latina immigrant community. Priority was put on literature that discussed community-based interventions. I focus on adult immigrant women, from ages 18 and up. Most research on SRH literacy is focused on adolescents, leaving a gap in the literature that I hope to address.

LATINA IMMIGRANT SRH DISPARITIES



LOW HEALTH LITERACY CAUSES AND CORRELATES



RECOMMENDATIONS

- Latina-specific-- by and for Latinas
- Community oriented
- Feminist theory-oriented
- Flexible
- Spanish
- Online resources
- Access services
- Build confidence
- Social norms

1

DURHAM PUBLIC HEALTH TO WORK WITH EL CENTRO HISPANO TO CREATE A SRH LITERACY PROGRAM

This program would integrate SRH literacy education with a woman's initiative/community group using evidence-based feminist curriculum that promotes community building, women's empowerment, and comprehensive SRH education and literacy.

2

FUNDING TO DURHAM COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH TO INCREASE SRH LITERACY AND POSITIVE OUTCOMES FOR LATINA IMMIGRANTS AND ALL WOMEN IN DURHAM

This funding would go toward facilitating and supporting the SRH literacy program, providing childcare and transportation for participating women, helping Durham Public Health expand Women's Health services and provide educational material in Spanish on where to receive services and what to expect.