



Asian American Research Center on Health

Abstract

Title: [Addressing Cultural Determinants of Health for Latino and Hmong Patients with Limited English Proficiency: Practical Strategies to Reduce Health Disparities.](#)

Authors: [Park L](#)¹, [Schwei RJ](#)², [Xiong P](#)³, [Jacobs EA](#)^{4,5}.

Author Information:

1. Department of Medicine, School of Medicine and Public Health, University of Wisconsin Madison, Madison, WI, 53705, USA. linda.park@wisc.edu.
2. Department of Emergency Medicine, School of Medicine and Public Health, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI, USA.
3. School of Medicine and Public Health, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI, USA.
4. Department of Medicine, School of Medicine and Public Health, University of Wisconsin Madison, Madison, WI, 53705, USA.
5. Department of Population Health Sciences, University of Wisconsin- Madison, Madison, WI, USA.

Publication: [J Racial Ethn Health Disparities](#). 2017 Aug 8. doi: 10.1007/s40615-017-0396-3.

Abstract:

We explored how addressing culture may improve patient-provider relationships and reduce health disparities for racial and ethnic individuals with limited English proficiency (LEP). We analyzed qualitative data collected to explore health disparities in preventive cancer screenings for Hmong and Spanish-speaking LEP patients in a large Midwest healthcare system. We interviewed 20 participants (10 from each group) and the audiotaped interviews were transcribed verbatim, then back translated focusing on meaning. Data was analyzed using content analysis. Two themes are: conversation is relational and quality time is valued. Good communication skills involve the amount of conversation, clear explanations, and engaging with the patient. Quality of time meant physical time spent with patient and the task-oriented nature of the encounter. Cultural literacy in healthcare practice helps to understand the whole patient rather than focusing on the symptoms of illness. Patients should not be treated in isolation of their culture. A patient-centered approach to care means physicians should not remain culturally neutral but be more culturally sensitive. We propose steps to reduce disparities by increasing the awareness of cultural literacy for physicians to improve patient-provider relationship.