



Disparities in Health Care Coverage and Use

Expanding Access to Health Care for Hispanic Construction Workers and their Children

*Xiuwen Dong, Knut Ringen, and Alissa Fujimoto.
Expanding Access to Health Care: A Management Approach.
Terry F. Buss and Paul N. Van de Water, eds., 2009.
Chapter 16, pages 321-343.*

Overview

Health care coverage among the Hispanic population is lower than among white, non-Hispanics. While this disparity is well-documented, little research covers the disparities that are shared by Hispanic construction workers and their children. Using data from the Medical Expenditure Panel Survey, the CPWR researchers found that health care disparities exist not only for Hispanic construction workers, but extend to their children as well.

Key Findings

- More than three out of five Hispanic construction workers were uninsured in 2004, compared to one out of five of their white, non-Hispanic counterparts.
- While 53% of Hispanics in construction were offered health insurance by their employers, 78% of white, non-Hispanics had such offer.
- Just 20% of Hispanic construction workers were covered by employer-provided health insurance for the entire year; for white, non-Hispanics, the proportion reached 52%.
- Only 30% of Hispanic construction workers had a usual source of care, less than half the proportion for white, non-Hispanic workers (69%).
- Among the children of Hispanic construction workers, 23% were uninsured compared to 10% of white, non-Hispanic children.
- About 55% of Hispanic children were covered by public health insurance alone, compared to 26% of their white, non-Hispanic counterparts.
- Only 22% of Hispanic children received private health insurance coverage compared to 65% of their white, non-Hispanic counterparts.

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See book description:

<https://bit.ly/3ChWyr1>

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