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Apr 10th, 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

## **Barriers to Accessing the U.S. Health Care System for Hispanics**

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Poster Presentation P55

**BARRIERS TO ACCESSING THE U.S. HEALTH CARE SYSTEM FOR HISPANICS**

Patricia Troxell and Carolyn Nadeau\*

Hispanic Studies Department, Illinois Wesleyan University

Despite the efforts of past health care reform measures in the United States, which have sought to provide insurance coverage for a greater number of residents, across socioeconomic, age, and educational demographics, Hispanics are consistently more likely to be uninsured and to be in fair to poor health by comparison to other racial and ethnic groups. This presentation will discuss the disparities Hispanics face in accessing the U.S. health care system, explain the methods by which disparities in access are measured, describe the consequences of this trend, and propose reasons for the inequalities observed. Additionally, information will be available regarding the manner in which the U.S. Senate Health Care Reform Bill will affect the Hispanic community. As health care costs continue to rise and as the composition of the U.S. population changes it will become increasingly important to understand and respond to barriers which limit access to the health care system not only for the wellbeing of individuals but for the wellbeing of the community as a whole. Esta presentación también será en español.