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Healthcare for Hispanics in the United States

Sean Gower and Christina Isabelli*

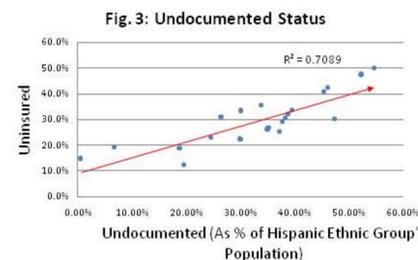
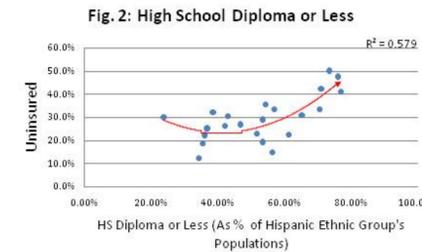
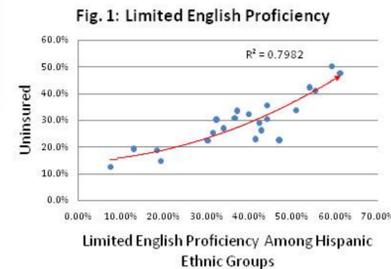
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Introduction

- Many Hispanic adults in the U.S. do not receive adequate healthcare, as they are twice as likely as the general population to lack health insurance. Given the rapidly changing demographics and dramatic growth rate in Hispanic population, this issue will become more prevalent as healthcare reform starts to take shape.
- This study seeks to explore the causes of this phenomenon, analyzing a variety of factors that could potentially be barriers to adequate healthcare.

Research Proposal

- Which factor or factors contribute most to the inadequate healthcare coverage for Hispanics in the US?
- The study hopes to find that inadequate healthcare is caused by a problem that has a viable solution, and that the recent federal healthcare reform legislation will offer Hispanics greater access to health insurance and healthcare.



Methodology

- The main source of empirical research and data analysis was the Census Bureau's 2009 American Community Survey.
- Data was tabulated for all Hispanic ethnic groups, representing 20 countries.
- The investigators performed single variable and multivariable regression analyses, using Microsoft Excel.
- Independent variables included: *Median age, Median Income, Unemployment, Language Preference, Limited English Proficiency, High School Diploma or Less Formal Education, Poverty, Foreign Born, Undocumented Status.*

Results and Conclusions

- The three most significant factors, in both single variable and multiple variable regressions, were Limited English Proficiency, Undocumented Status, and High School Diploma or Less in Formal Education.
- These results support the claims of larger, broader studies in the field, which call for greater funding for effective language assistance in hospitals, greater reimbursement for Critical Access Hospitals that treat the undocumented and uninsured, and better education regarding available healthcare coverage.
- One positive outcome that will help narrow the gap in coverage between Hispanics and the general population is that healthcare reform will seek to reduce the uninsured by 32 million by 2019, but it's important to note that this excludes undocumented immigrants.