

**Diabetes Care: Prevention and Treatment in New Jersey's
Latino Community
Press Conference: January 28, 2007
North Hudson Community Action Health Center
5301 Broadway, West NY
10:30 am**

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Buenos dias

Gracias por invitarme esta mañana. Es un placer para mi compartir el tema de la diabetes y su importancia en la comunidad latina.

Sen. Menendez

Congressman Sires

Mayors

Public/Private Partnerships:

- I want to thank the North Hudson Community Action Center and Dr. Vereza for graciously agreeing to host today's conference and diabetes screening
- Thanks also go to former Congressman Bob Franks and the Health Care Institute of NJ for being such **incredible corporate citizens** and for being such a powerful voice for NJ's strong life sciences industry
- I also want to acknowledge the great advocacy work of the Latino Leadership Alliance and Martin Perez
- UMDNJ and generous corporate sponsors especially Horizon
- **In times of limited public resources govt needs public/private partnerships MORE THAN EVER**
- On job only 3 weeks
- Very excited one of my very first public appearances deals with one of the fastest growing health issues affecting the Latino community.
- **March 19 Diabetes Summit will bring together medical experts, Latino leaders, community groups & govt to discuss self-management, prevention & access to care with an emphasis on cultural competence**

- **One out of five Latino adults live with diabetes—one-third are uninsured so they may be ignoring disease because unable to afford to see a doctor**

That's why today's health screenings are so important. This clinic is so important.

- According to ADA, patient ed is critical to enable Latinos to control their diabetes & reduce likelihood of complications like limb amputations, blindness & kidney disease
- Bringing Latino leaders & medical community together will help us **raise awareness of this disease, its risk factors and symptoms & encourage folks to get screened & manage their weight & eat a healthy diet & get exercise to help manage disease**

Stats

- **Latinos are 40 percent more likely to die from diabetes than whites**
- **Earlier onset among Latinos**
- Disproportionate impact **on all minority & multicultural populations—including African Americans & Asian Americans**

Commitment to Continue DHSS Core Mission of Reducing/Eliminating Disparities

- Eliminating disparities is the core mission of DHSS
- Important focus of DHSS
- As commissioner pledge continued commitment to improve health outcomes in our minority & multicultural populations.

NJ's Cultural Diversity:

- Live in state rich in state rich in cultural diversity;
- **More than two million New Jersey residents speak a language other than English in their home.**
- 5th in %age of foreign-born (1.3 m of 8.2 m)
- First State in nation to require cultural competency training as condition of MD licensure
- Immigrants make up 18 percent of NJ pop (vs. 11.2 US)
- Address health care challenges in a way that respects cultural, ethnic and language differences.

Diabetes Collaborative

- Like asthma collaborative, designed to improve health outcomes

Four objectives:

1. document health outcomes for underserved populations
 2. Transform clinical practice through new evidence-based models of care
 3. Develop infrastructure, expertise and multi-disciplinary leadership to improve health status
- and
4. Build strategic partnerships with faith-based groups, community-based organizations and social service agencies that can help us deliver prevention messages.
 - based on principle that everyone at every level of patient contact works together to better manage a patient's diabetes and to educate the patient in how he or she can take charge of their own care and help control their own disease.
- Systemic approach to health care quality improvement.

Collaborative will help reduce disparities in access

Grants

- DHSS gives NJPCA \$238,000 to support the diabetes, asthma, and obesity collaborative programs
- OMMH gives DHSS Chronic Disease program \$627,000 for diabetes and asthma grants to minority community based organizations.

Accomplishments

- **First Diabetes summit last march to Improve the Quality of Diabetes Care**
- **Language Access Initiative:** increasing the amount of translated health education information & and other material to help health care professionals provide more culturally competent care. So far, the initiative has:
 - Distributed (to hospitals & FQHCs) a bilingual English/Spanish Communication Board designed to provide culturally and linguistically appropriate medical care to patients with Limited English Proficiency (LEP)—(Partnership with NJHA).

- Expanded access to Spanish language health education documents on DHSS web site as well as a limited number of other documents in Hindi, Mandarin Chinese and Haitian Creole.
- Designed pilot “Healthcare Interpreter Training Program” which trains community & faith-based groups to provide culturally & linguistically appropriate medical care to patients with LEP.
- Spanish language portal on OMMH website. *“Portal a la Salud”*

- Standardized collecting/reporting of racial/ethnic data to compare data/trends

- Developed mentoring program for DHSS minority employees to have access to senior level managers

- Chronic Disease Self-Management Program gave mini-grants to eight community- and faith-based organizations statewide.
- “Barbershop Program” to increase the number of African American men who get screened for prostate cancer.

- Diabetes is one of the fastest growing health issues facing the Latino Community.

- Research of the healthcare needs of the Latino Community indicates that a startling two million (or approximately 10.2% of all Latinos in the United States aged 20 years or older) already have diabetes.

- Diabetes is the sixth primary cause of death among Latinos; and the fourth principal cause of death in women and Latino senior citizens

- Hispanics (31.9) are nearly 1.4 times more likely to die from diabetes than the white population.

- **Conclusion:** Diabetes, with its acute and chronic complications can lead to very high rates of health care resource utilization, poor quality of life and increased mortality at younger ages for people with diabetes.

Call to Action:

- I invite service providers, Latino leaders, civic, community based and faith based organizations, to work in partnership with DHSS to ensure treatment, quality services