

The Challenges of Caring for Unauthorized Pregnant Migrants

Jack Ludmir, MD

Senior VP Physician Engagement and Integration

Associate Provost Community and Global Initiatives

Executive Director Philadelphia Collaborative Health Equity

Professor Obstetrics & Gynecology

Thomas Jefferson University and Jefferson Health

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Objectives

- Describe the current situation with unauthorized immigrants in USA and in Philadelphia
- Understand the consequences of no prenatal care
- Discuss the challenges of providing prenatal care to unauthorized migrants
- Discuss initiatives to provide access to care

The Right to Health



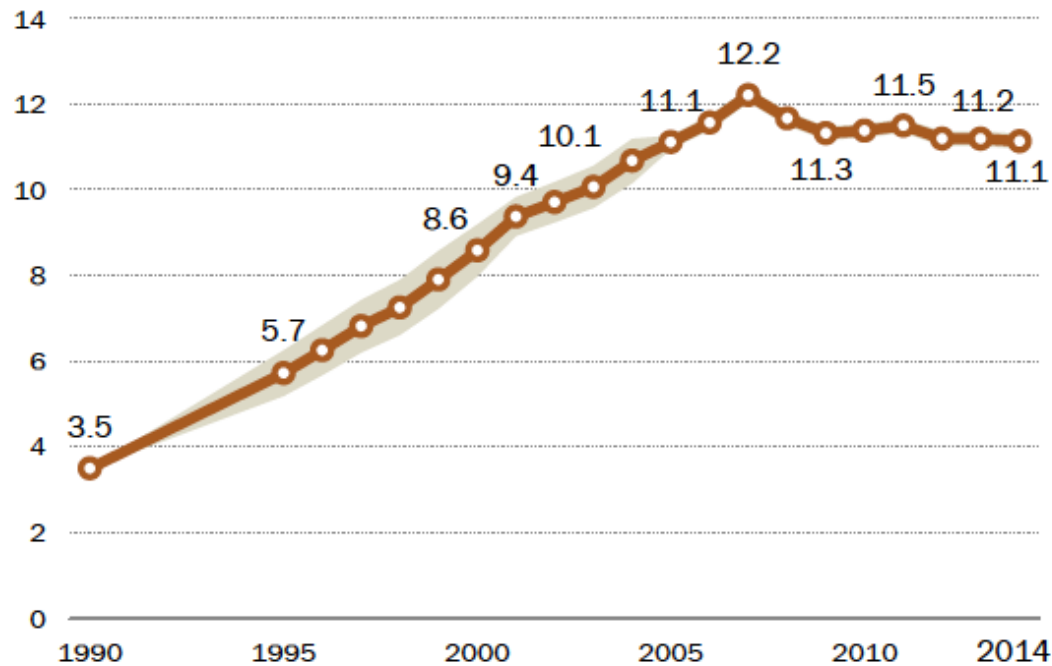
“It is my aspiration that health finally will be seen not as a blessing to be wished for, but as a human right to be fought for.”

—United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan

Unauthorized Immigrants

Estimated unauthorized immigrant population in the U.S. rises, falls, then stabilizes

In millions

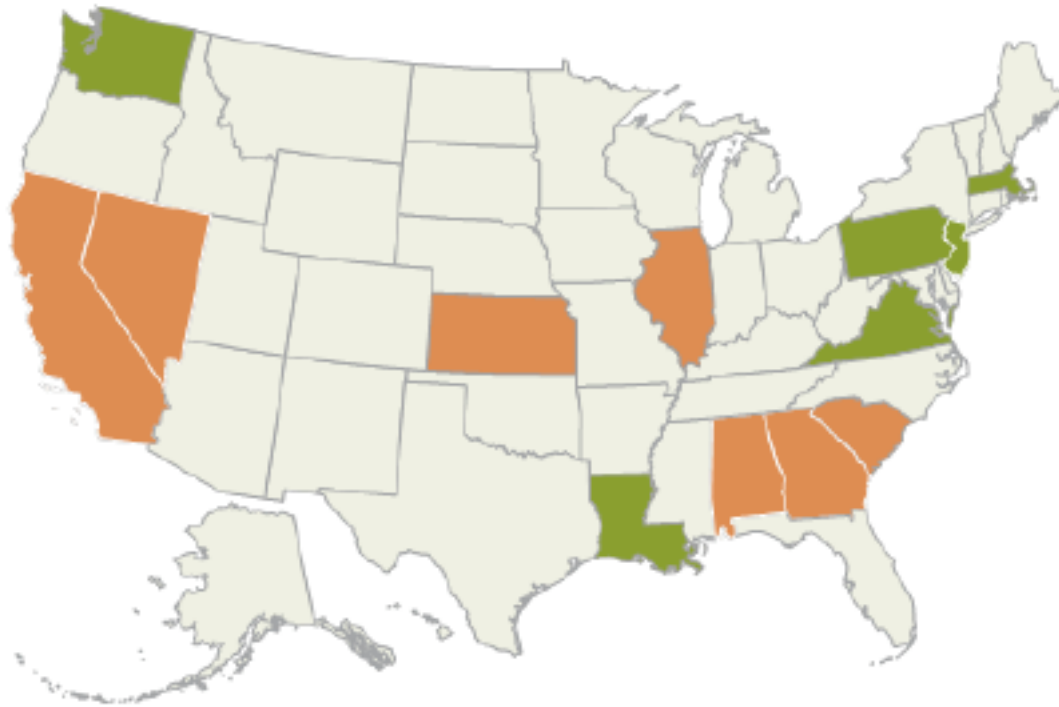


Passel and Cohn, Pew Research Center 2016

Unauthorized Immigrants

Estimated unauthorized immigrant populations grew in six U.S. states, declined in seven from 2009 to 2014

■ INCREASED ■ DECREASED ■ NO CHANGE

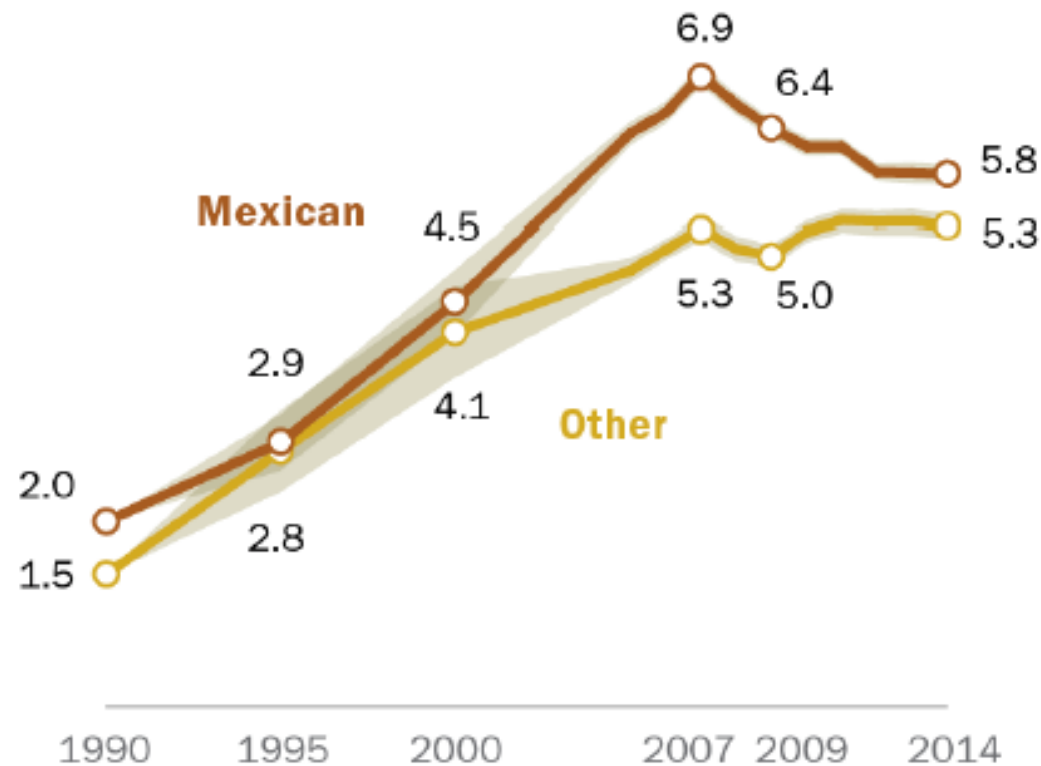


Passel and Cohn, Pew Research Center 2016

Unauthorized Immigrants

Among unauthorized immigrants, a decline from Mexico but rise from elsewhere since 2009

In millions



Passel and Cohn, Pew Research Center 2016

Where do the children come from?

> 95% of undocumented children have emigrated from Central America:

- Guatemala
- Honduras
- El Salvador

Why?

58% had fear sufficient to merit protection under international law

77% reported violence as the main reason for fleeing their country

Pew Hispanic Center

Honduras: Highest Homicide Rate in the World! Pew Research Center

- Honduras leads the world with the highest homicide rate: In 2012, some 90 people were murdered for every 100,000 inhabitants.
- Twice the rate in El Salvador and Guatemala, and more than four times the rate in Mexico.





Why is access to prenatal care for undocumented immigrants important?

- ❖ Prenatal care is fundamental to women's reproductive health and to infant health.
- ❖ Undocumented immigrants in the U.S. are less likely to have adequate prenatal care, compared to other immigrants and U.S. born citizens. The reasons for this gap include a lack of means to pay for prenatal care, lack of access to sources of prenatal care, and mistrust of the health care system .Other barriers that undocumented immigrants face when seeking health care include:
 - Difficulty navigating safety-net health care systems
 - Language and literacy
 - Inability to take time off from work
 - Misinformation about the immigration related consequences of using health care services
 - Perceived and actual risks of encountering immigration authorities or local law enforcement [5]

Lack of access to prenatal care: health consequences for undocumented women and their children

Lack of access to prenatal care increases the risk of premature birth and low birth weight, and may be a factor in a range of poor health outcomes experienced by undocumented pregnant women and their babies, including higher rates of labor and delivery complications such as: precipitous labor, excessive bleeding, breech presentation, cord prolapse, and fetal distress.

These risks and outcomes have consequences for:

- ❖ the viability and health of newborns
- ❖ infant and child development
- ❖ the health of mothers
- ❖ costs associated with treating medical conditions that could have been prevented or detected and managed before birth

Impact of No Public Funding of Prenatal Care

	No Prenatal care	Yes Prenatal care	RR; 95% CI
Low birthweight infant	18.5%	6.1%	3.8 [2.03-7.05]
Prematurity	34.8%	7.5%	7.4 [4.35-12.5]
Neonatal cost	\$5588 more		

Elimination of public funding of prenatal care for undocumented immigrants in California: A cost/benefit analysis. Lu et al 2000. Am J Obstet Gynecol

An estimated 4 million US born “citizen children”
have undocumented parents. Most live in mixed
status families

Pew Hispanic Center

Access to prenatal care for women who are undocumented immigrants varies widely across the United States due to differences in state policies and differing state level interpretations of federal policies that fund health services for pregnant women.

ACA 2012

- No coverage for unauthorized immigrants including pregnant women
- In Pennsylvania unauthorized pregnant women do not qualify for medical assistance for routine prenatal care

The Emergency Medical Treatment and Active Labor Act (EMTALA)

EMTALA prevents hospitals from turning away uninsured patients in need of emergency treatment.

❖ EMTALA encompasses labor and delivery. Most “emergency” health care services used by undocumented immigrants are related to childbirth.

❖ State-level emergency Medicaid programs provide some reimbursement to hospitals for treatment provided under EMTALA .

❖ Undocumented immigrants may account for 99% of Emergency Medicaid expenditures in some states; approximately 80% of these costs relate to childbirth or to complications in pregnancy and labor.

It is not a mechanism for access to routine prenatal care that could prevent or monitor pregnancy-related complications.

State and local policy provisions covering prenatal care for undocumented immigrants

- ❖ Most states provide some access to prenatal care for undocumented immigrants through state funded policy mechanisms such as Medicaid.
- ❖ Some states explicitly exclude undocumented immigrants from coverage for prenatal care. The scope of services and length of coverage for prenatal care varies from state to state; local level provisions also vary.
- ❖ Health care professionals should know current policy concerning access to prenatal care in the state where they practice.

Original Research

Expanding Prenatal Care to Unauthorized Immigrant Women and the Effects on Infant Health

Jonas J. Swartz, MD, MPH, Jens Hainmueller, PhD, MPA, Duncan Lawrence, PhD, MA, and Maria I. Rodriguez, MD, MPH

Obstet Gynecol 2017

EMA expansion of prenatal care associated with:

Reduction infant mortality

Reduction low birth weight infant

Latino Migrants in Philadelphia

Rapidly growing immigrant population from Mexico (Puebla) established in South Philadelphia.

2000: 6,200

2007: 15,000 – 18,000

2011: > 30,000

2013: A significant increase in young women from Guatemala and Honduras fleeing violence, rape and killings

Undocumented Pregnant Migrants in Philadelphia

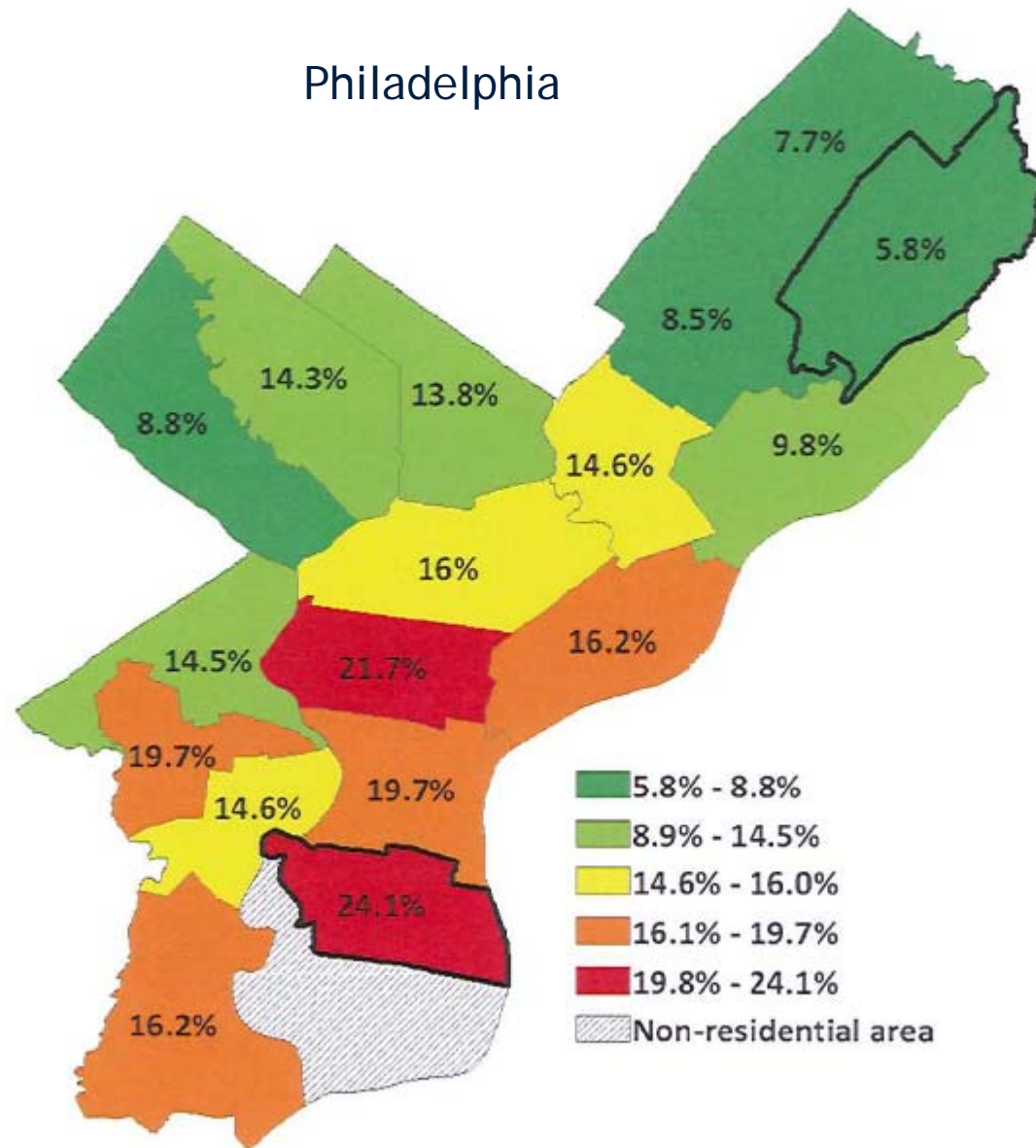
City of Philadelphia	Total Deliveries	Undocumented Deliveries (%)
2003	21,313	1028 (4.8%)
2005	22,038	1324 (6.1%)
2007	22,052	1587 (7.2%)
2009	23,379	1870 (8.0%)
2014	22,373	1578- 2591 (7.05-11.58)



JULY 2013

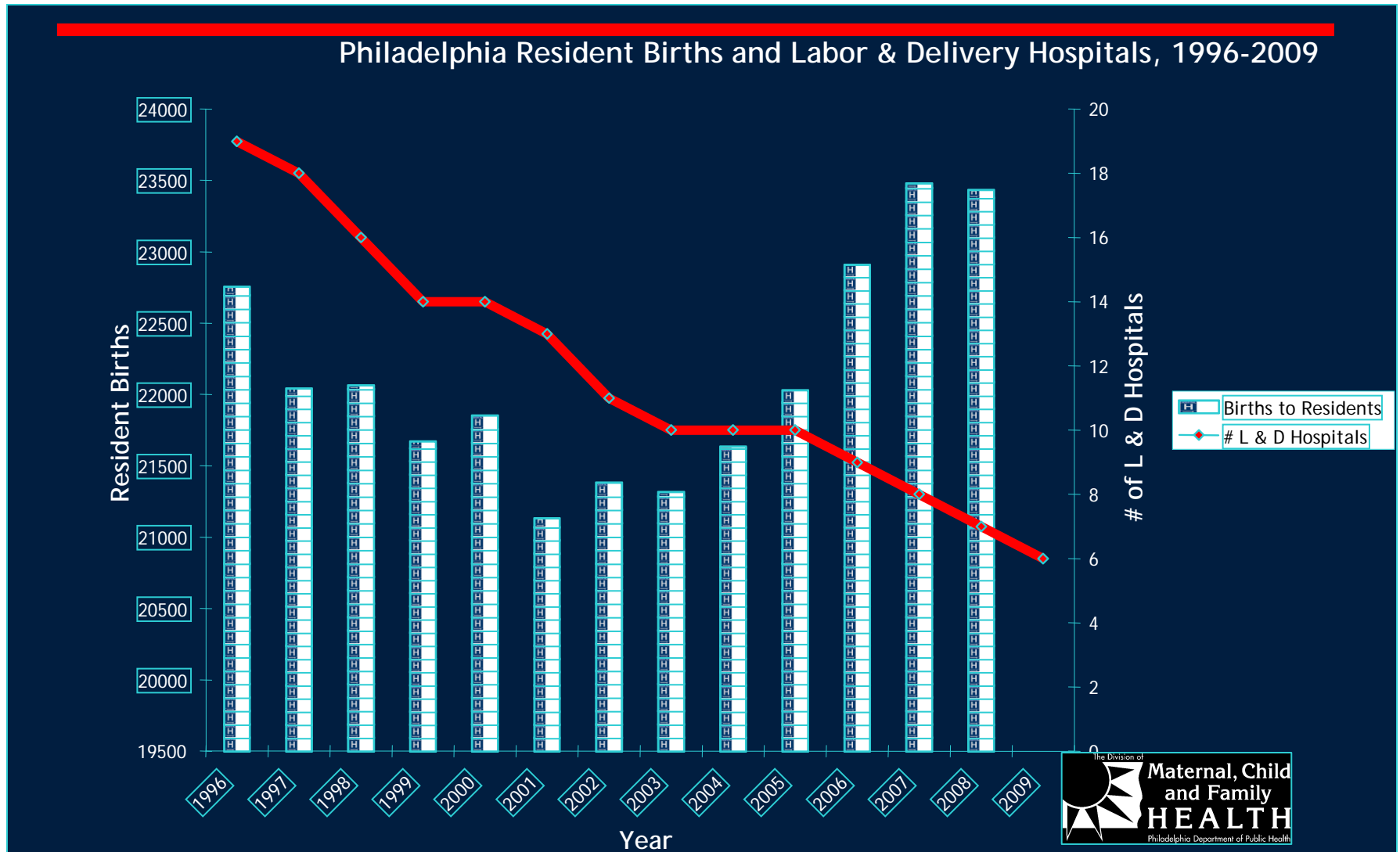
Late or no prenatal care (2010)

Philadelphia



Source: Vital statistics

Obstetric services closures in Philadelphia



Source: Philadelphia Department of Public Health, Division of Maternal, Child and Family Health

Puentes de Salud Model

Figure 1.



» DIVULGAN INFORMACIÓN Y DAN SERVICIOS DE SALUD Y PLANIFICACIÓN FAMILIAR A INMIGRANTES.

Una ayuda para dar vida

Servicios de Salud para la Mujer Latina en el centro de la ciudad ayuda a mujeres inmigrantes de bajos recursos durante todo su embarazo.

ADRIANA ARVIZO
adrianas@delisinc.com

"Cuando me enteré que estaba embarazada, en mi mente sólo era ¿Cómo voy a pagar? Me habían dicho que aquí las cuentas de hospital eran muy caras y yo de dónde iba a sacar 'tantísimo' dinero", dijo Susana Galicia.

Fue un jueves por la tarde cuando esta mujer originaria de México acudió a The Children's Hospital a una consulta gratuita en donde le dijeron que estaba embarazada de su primera hija.

"Me dijeron que le tenía que dar seguimiento a mi embarazo y me recomendaron ir a un centro de salud ubicado en las calles Washington y 8",

dijo. "Pero ya casi al final de mi embarazo me enteré del programa de Servicios de Salud para la Mujer Latina ubicado en las calles 8 y Spruce y me gustó mucho más", agregó.

Este programa dirigido por el doctor de origen peruano Jack Lufmir y la enfermera Rebecca Bixby tiene el propósito de proveer servicios de planificación familiar y cuidado prenatal a mujeres que no tienen seguro social.



ACCESO A
Salud

Puentes de Salud: Latina Community Health Services (LCHS) and Jefferson Latina Clinic (JLC) Goals and Objectives

- 1) **Providing access** to continuous, high quality, culturally competent, low-cost prenatal and gynecologic health care
- 2) **Enhancing contraceptive** decision-making through birth-control options counseling and assisting in contraceptive selection
- 3) **Offering educational** classes/sessions on relevant topics
- 4) **Collaborating with community** partners in assisting this population in identifying and accessing other available health-related resources. Our **Promotoras de Salud**, promoters of health play a major role

In the last 14 years we have been responsible for close to **2000 pregnancies**, including a significant number of high risk patients: Diabetes, Hypertension, Thyroid, multiples, anomalies...

Jefferson Latina Program: March 7 2017



Promotoras de Salud
(Promoters of Health)

The effect of an outreach program among a low income population on post partum follow up

	WCHS (n=582)	LCHS (n=118)	p value
RACE			<0.01
African American	385 (66.2%)	1 (0.9%)	
Hispanic	62 (10.7%)	116 (98.3%)	
White	59 (10.7%)	1 (0.9%)	
Other	76 (13.1%)	0	
INSURANCE			<0.01
Uninsured	4 (0.7%)	110 (93.2%)	
Public	442 (75.9%)	6 (5.1%)	
Private	96 (16.5%)	0	
Not available	40 (6.9%)	2 (1.7%)	
PAST MEDICAL HISTORY			
Diabetes mellitus	20 (3.4%)	0	0.041
Chronic hypertension	42 (7.2%)	0	0.003
PIH	26 (4.5%)	1 (0.9%)	0.063
Other *	42 (7.2%)	5 (4.24%)	

Post Partum visit rate:

WCHS: 59.9%

LCHS: 82.3%

P < 0.01

OR 3.2 (1.9-5.3)



La Rosa et al. Int J Preg & Child 2017



María 2007

Eva 2009

Jenin 2013

Rosario 2017



2017-18: Pregnant Women

- Scared and frightened
- Concerns about showing up for prenatal care
- Deportation concerns: splitting up families
- Increase demand for abortions

Advocacy: get involved

“Prenatal care is a service ‘for which there is such a clear consensus regarding [its] effectiveness and [its] importance to good health, that it should no longer be considered acceptable that an individual is denied access to [prenatal care] for any reason.’”¹⁷⁶ All women, including undocumented immigrants, deserve to have healthy pregnancies and babies. Not only are undocumented immigrants vital to the United States’ economy, they are also integrated members of American families and communities. They work, go to school, pay taxes, and raise families here. Although recent federal health care and immigration legislation indicates that Congress is not willing to give undocumented immigrants access to public benefits, the exceptions established in the Welfare Reform Act and adopted by the Affordable Care Act show that there are certain services that Congress views as important and effective enough to warrant universal access. Prenatal care is a very narrow exception that would effectively protect and benefit the health of both the undocumented mother and her United States citizen baby, while saving the government a significant amount of money on future medical costs. History has proven that incremental improvements can lead to

HBO DOCUMENTARIES

“Clinica de Migrantes”

