Hypothoses

The following hypotheses have been presented regarding suicidal behavior among Hispanics:

- Family needs are placed above individual needs and respect to the parents and elders is of major importance
- Suicidal behavior among Hispanic females may be related to the stress cause by the expectation of obligation to the family
- Family closeness and good relations with parents have been found to be a resiliency factor for suicidality among Latino males and females
- Hispanic adolescents may also experience stress with the conflict between placing family needs above individual needs and what is taught in the mainstream culture about the importance of individuality
- Recently immigrated Hispanic families may not fully understand the health care system and may be reluctant to seek help in fear of being reported as undocumented
- Hispanic families may avoid seeking mental health help because they feel that suicide should be dealt with by the family or faith community first
- Language differences are a barrier in seeking mental help

Overview

- In 2012, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention reported that the suicide rate for all Hispanic Americans was 5.36 per 100,000 compared to 14.41 for Non-Hispanics.
- The rate for Hispanic adolescents aged 15 to 19 was 5.75 per 100,000 compared to 9.03 for all Non-Hispanic adolescents.
- The highest rate was found among males aged 80-84 (20.82 per 100,000) compared to Non-Hispanic males aged 80-84 (40.58 per 100,000).

Source: The information for this fact sheet was gathered from the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (NCIPC) website (http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/wisqars/default.html) operated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).