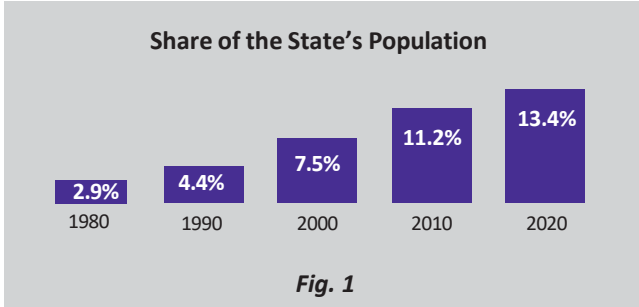


Who We Are

The Latino Center for Health (LCH) is the **only research center in Washington (WA) state** focusing on the health of the state’s Hispanic/Latino communities. The center launched in April 2014 with a mission to provide leadership at the state and regional levels for community-engaged population health research. Rooted in action, we are committed to informing policy through practice and producing work that leads to sustained improvements in the health and wellbeing of our state’s growing Hispanic/Latino communities. LCH also plays a vital role at the University of Washington and other higher education state institutions in preparing the next generation of leaders in Latino health.

LCH’s work is critical to ensuring the health and wellbeing to Washington State’s growing Hispanic/Latino population. The Hispanic/Latino population in the state has grown to more than 1 million in 2021 (13.4%, as seen in *Fig. 1*) and projected to exceed 1.6 million by 2040. Disaggregated, 28% of the Hispanic/Latino population are foreign-born, 61% speak Spanish at home, and 65% are under the age or 35 years. Currently, Hispanic/Latino children make up 25% of children in K-12 public schools. Maintaining healthy and productive Hispanic/Latino communities is critical to Washington State’s future.



Hugo Ludeña - Latino Center For Health ©

Key Accomplishments



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Community member receives COVID-19 vaccination – Fall, 2020.

1. LCH conducted a landmark study in 2020 addressing the growing shortage of **Latino physicians in Washington state**. **This study provided critical data and analysis to support the passage of HB 1129 and SB 5228.**
2. LCH partnered with *SeaMar Community Health Centers* to conduct an important study of the COVID-19 pandemic's impacts on health and wellbeing of Hispanic/Latino patients. This research study resulted in policy brief on topics ranging from: **a) vaccine hesitancy, b) vaccination rates, c) economic impacts, and d) mental health impacts.** Results of this study were discussed in a state-wide symposium in October of 2021.
3. LCH has partnered with the *Information school (iSchool) at University Washington* to co-create **Adiós COVID**. The **Adiós COVID** team, along with the *WA State Department of Health* and *community-based organizations*, worked to provide access to COVID-19 vaccinations, COVID-19 testing kits and **piloted a 'test-to-treat' program that is now implemented state-wide.**



Health sciences student group discussion lead by Dr. Gino Aisenberg.

4. LCH is mentoring and supporting the **next generation of leaders in Latino Health**. **a.** The LCH Graduate Student Fellowship Program offers \$2,500 with 1:1 matching for up to 12 students annually in the health sciences at the *University of Washington, Heritage University and Washington State University*. A total of **36 graduate student fellows** have participated since its inception. **b.** The small grants program offers two \$15,000 research grants to UW faculty for community partnered research on Latino health in our state.
5. LCH is continuing to address the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic by partnering with the *Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic, SeaMar Community Health Centers* and the *Allen Institute for Immunology* to **study Long COVID in Latino communities across Washington state**. The study will bring together the community and university resources, utilizing innovative scientific methods to better understand and address the impact of Long COVID among Hispanics/Latinos in the state.

6. LCH is promoting access to evidence-based mental health in the **Yakima Valley for rural Hispanic/Latinos with depression and helping develop an indigenous workforce**. In partnership with the *Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic and Heritage University*, three cohorts of bachelor students in social work have received specialized curriculum and supervised training in the telephone delivery of a culturally tailored, manualized cognitive behavioral intervention for patients struggling with depression. It is the first and only BSW program in the country that provides such specialized training and care.

For more information about our work, contact us at:



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