

Palliative Care Education in Monterey County: Perspectives of Community Members

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Background

Latinos make up 59% of the Monterey County population. As a vulnerable population with a long history of disparate outcomes, this study sought to understand the best approach to meeting the needs of an aging and disadvantaged population.

Methods

Data was collected through a survey and focus groups. An 18 item survey (English and Spanish) and focus groups were used to collect data. Seven (7) focus groups were conducted in English and Spanish (n=46). Researchers used a thematic analysis to identify themes.

Funding support provided by:

Our Community Wants:



Empathetic, Caring Providers and Culturally Competent Care & Interpretation

Results/findings

378 survey respondents; 76% had a family member diagnosed with a serious or life-threatening illness; of those, 25% report having been informed of palliative care services by a family member.

Ethnicity	%
Latino/Hispanic	51.7%
Non-Latino/non-Hispanic	45.5%
Prefer not to answer	2.8%

Findings from focus groups and supported by survey data revealed Latino family members want:

- **Empathetic and caring providers**
- **Skilled language interpretation**
- **Culturally competent providers** who communicate with the whole family
- **More access to palliative care services and information**

Conclusions

There is a demonstrated need for community-based education and training on palliative care, access to health care services and resources, and resources for health promotion. Findings from this study will be used to guide the development of future palliative education and training in Monterey County.

