

Seeking Cancer Information: The Implications of Hispanic Ethnicity and Spanish Language

Robin Vanderpool¹, DrPH, CHES; Julie Kornfeld¹, MPH; Lila J. Finney Rutten², PhD, MPH; Linda Squiers², PhD

¹NCI's Cancer Information Service - Southern Cluster; ²National Cancer Institute (NCI)

Statement of Problem

Hispanic populations may not readily seek cancer information compared with non-Hispanics, which may contribute to health disparities.

Purpose

- Explore differences in cancer information-seeking among Hispanics who responded to the 2005 Health Information National Trends Survey (HINTS) survey in English, Hispanics who responded in Spanish, and non-Hispanic respondents.

- Provide an evidence base for the development of strategies to facilitate cancer information-seeking among Hispanics.

Methods

Data Source 2005 HINTS

Data Collection February 2005 - August 2005
Random Digit Dial

Representative sample of US household

Response Rates Household screener: 34.0%
Extended interview: 61.3%

Sample 5491 adults

Survey Items

- Ethnicity (Hispanic, non-Hispanic)
- Language of interview (English, Spanish)
- Sociodemographic variables
- Trust in various information sources
- Actual and preferred sources of cancer information
- Cancer information-seeking experiences
- Confidence in their ability to obtain cancer information

Data Analysis

SUDAAN was used to calculate population estimates. Cross tabulations and chi-square statistics were used to compare differences in sociodemographic and information-seeking characteristics among ethnic/language groups.

Results with $p \leq 0.05$ were considered statistically significant and are summarized herein.

Results

Table 1. Sociodemographics

	Total (n=6368)		Non-Hispanic (n=4866)		Hispanic Ethnicity English Language (n=230)		Hispanic Ethnicity Spanish Language (n=266)		P-value
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	
Gender									0.0138
Male	1648	47.1	89	54.9	102	52.0			
Female	3218	52.9	141	45.1	164	48.0			
Age Group									0.0010
18-34	804	28.4	74	43.7	114	53.0			
35-49	1263	29.9	89	36.7	91	28.9			
50-64	1398	24.7	35	11.3	40	12.0			
65-74	744	9.8	21	6.7	14	4.7			
75+	648	7.3	10	2.6	7	1.5			
Household Income									0.0000
Less than \$25,000	993	20.8	68	26.0	134	61.9			
\$25,000 to < \$50,000	1108	25.7	52	26.6	55	22.8			
\$50,000 to < \$75,000	861	22.7	38	21.6	21	13.1			
\$75,000 or more	1092	30.8	52	25.8	4	2.3			
Education									0.0000
Less than High School	462	10.3	43	19.8	166	64.2			
High School Graduate or Some College	2774	64.1	125	63.3	86	41.3			
College Graduate	1614	25.6	62	16.9	13	4.5			
Born in the USA									0.0000
Yes	4626	94.3	161	73.0	16	7.5			
No	240	5.7	69	27.0	250	92.5			

Table 2. Sources of Cancer Information and Trust in Sources

	Non-Hispanic		Hispanic Ethnicity English Language		Hispanic Ethnicity Spanish Language		P-value
	n	%	n	%	n	%	
Looked for cancer information from any source (n=5348)							0.0001
Yes	2706	52.2	95	37.1	56	16.7	
No	2146	46.8	135	62.9	210	83.3	
Source of most recent search (n=2778)							0.0001
Health care provider	675	23.0	20	21.7	720	23.6	
Internet	1151	49.3	48	60.5	1200	48.5	
Books or brochures	321	10.9	11	8.1	348	11.4	
Other	486	16.8	12	9.7	510	16.5	
Source preferred for next search (n=5292)							0.0000
Health care provider	2738	53.4	128	57.5	189	72.6	
Internet	1380	32.7	70	29.1	29	14.8	
Books or brochures	118	2.1	5	1.3	12	3.9	
Other	572	11.8	25	12.2	26	8.7	
Trust in cancer information from doctor/HCP (n=5335)							0.0052
A lot	3381	69.4	140	57.9	163	58.7	
Some or a little	1403	29.4	87	41.3	96	39.4	
Not at all	58	1.3	2	0.8	5	2.0	
Trust in cancer information from family (n=5331)							0.0011
A lot	991	21.7	47	18.8	91	37.2	
Some or a little	3580	72.8	169	76.4	149	54.6	
Not at all	289	5.5	14	4.8	22	8.2	

Table 3. Ever Go Online

	Non-Hispanic		Hispanic Ethnicity English Language		Hispanic Ethnicity Spanish Language		P-value
	n	%	n	%	n	%	
Ever go online to use the Internet, WWW, or send/receive email (n=5359)							0.0000
Yes	2991	66.4	137	57.9	39	21.2	
No	1872	33.6	93	42.1	227	78.8	

Percentage of respondents who reported that they had ever visited an Internet site to learn about cancer and ratings of Usefulness of Internet cancer information did not differ by subgroup.

Figure 1. Cancer Information Seeking Experiences – Agree Responses

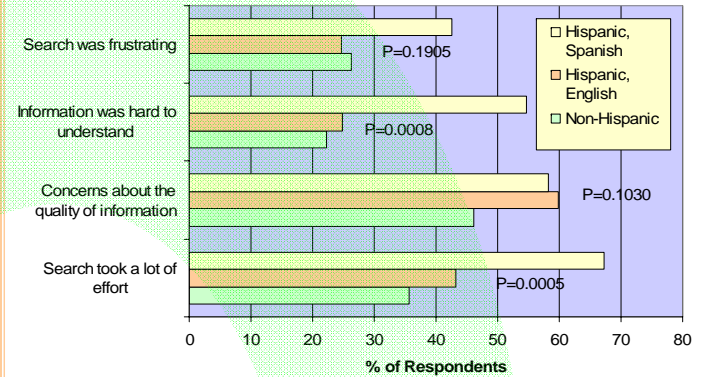
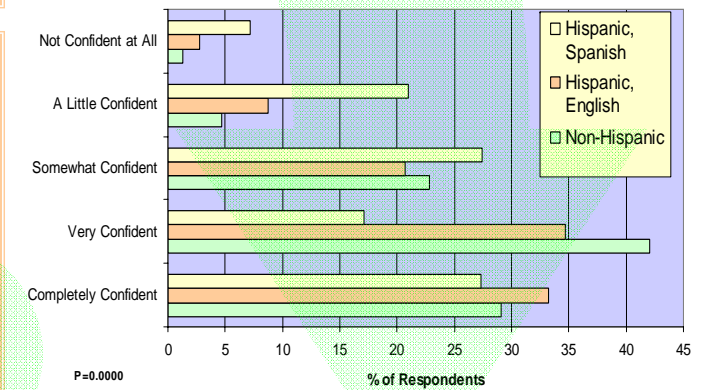


Figure 2. Confidence in Obtaining Cancer Information



Conclusions

There are important differences between Hispanics and non-Hispanics related to cancer information-seeking, especially when language is considered.

Overall, Hispanics fared worse on socioeconomic measures and were more likely to encounter negative cancer information-seeking experiences compared to non-Hispanics.

Respondents who answered the survey in Spanish demonstrated further disparities suggesting that language may contribute significantly to cancer health disparities and should be addressed in the design, implementation and dissemination of cancer information.