

TITLE: Understanding Latinx parent perceptions and experiences of public-school support during the COVID-19 pandemic across three Oregon counties

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STUDENT SUBMISSION: No

TOPIC/TARGET AUDIENCE: General public health professionals and educators of under-resourced low-income Latinx families.

ABSTRACT: Background: Latinx families across the state of Oregon have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19. This outcome is largely a consequence of systemic racism, anti-immigrant rhetoric and policies that have created barriers to accessing social services among Latinx families. Schools are a protective factor for youth and can serve as a pathway to reduce systemic barriers for families and their children to access needed services. Purpose: This research was designed to understand how Latinx families in three Oregon counties were supported by public schools during COVID-19, their experiences pre/during COVID-19 accessing services, and types of services accessed. Methods: Twenty-eight Latinx parents of elementary children completed semi-structured interviews during June-December 2021 about their experiences with schools and accessing services. Parents also completed a socio-demographic surveys. Results: Preliminary findings reveal that parents accessed multiple services pre/during the COVID-19 pandemic to support their children's learning and family well-being. Additionally, service providers' response varied and was impacted by local policy, funding availability and organizational practices including communication protocols and technology barriers and facilitators. Implications: This study has the potential to improve public health practitioners' models and collaborative programs with local school districts to minimize barriers to accessing health and other social resources among marginalized families.

OBJECTIVE(S): Identify the types of services Latinx families accessed during COVID-19. Describe the ways schools supported Latinx families during COVID-19.
