



behavior research center's

Latino Poll

NEWS RELEASE
HTLP 2003-I-06

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ALLERGY PAIN SUFFERERS COMMON AMONG HISPANICS –
ONE-THIRD OF FAMILIES ARE UNINSURED

Phoenix, Arizona, January 22, 2003. Nearly half of Hispanic families in Arizona contain one or more persons suffering from allergies and three of every ten households report that one or more members of the family are suffering from chronic pain. Other health care issues, such as respiratory and digestive problems, have incidences in the 20 percent range, while vision, dental and weight-related health problems register at between 30 and 42 percent. Overall, in eight of ten Hispanic consumer households, at least one person suffers from one or more of these conditions.

At the same time, 32 percent of Hispanic families report that they have no medical insurance to meet their medical needs and must pay for all their medical expenses in cash, a figure that rises to 46 percent within the lowest income segments and within blue-collar households. It also appears that uninsured Hispanic households may be significantly higher in Maricopa County (41%) than in Pima County (24%).

Of particular interest in the recent study is that Hispanic women are more likely to report having problems with allergies and chronic pain than are men. For example, while in the overall Hispanic community 46 percent contain allergy sufferers, the figure rises to 54 percent among women respondents while simultaneously subsiding to 37 percent among men. A similar pattern is found among chronic pain sufferers: the overall family reading is 32 percent, but rises to 36 percent for women and only 28 percent among men.

The incidence of allergies rises sharply the longer one has lived in Arizona. Thus, the figure rests at approximately 30 percent for Hispanics who have lived here for five or fewer years, rises to 39 percent for those who have lived here six to ten years and then rises dramatically to 54 percent for the longest-term Hispanic residents. The study also finds that Hispanics in white-collar occupations are noticeably more likely to report allergy problems (58%) than those in blue-collar jobs (42%). The reasons behind this disparity are not clear and it seems counter-intuitive that people more likely to be in indoor jobs would have a higher incidence of allergies than those who are more likely to have jobs out-of-doors.

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The findings outlined in this report are based on a survey of 505 Hispanic heads of household across Maricopa and Pima Counties, conducted between October 16 and November 2, 2002, by the Behavior Research Center of Arizona as part of the Center's independent and non-partisan Rocky Mountain Poll series. The public is welcome to visit www.brcpolls.com to read this and other recent polls.

The survey also explored the manner in which Hispanic consumers seek help in dealing with medical problems such as allergies, dental or eye care, chronic pain and respiratory or digestive problems. The results show that 77 percent usually approach the problem by seeking professional medical help, but 17 percent self-medicate and five percent simply live with their problem.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: This Rocky Mountain Poll Arizona (2003-I-06) is based on 505 telephone interviews with Hispanic heads of household across Maricopa and Pima Counties, conducted from October 16 through November 2, 2002 throughout Arizona. In the overall sample, one may say with 95 percent certainty that the results have a statistical precision of plus or minus 4.4 percent of what they would have been had the entire adult population been surveyed. The Rocky Mountain Poll is conducted by the Behavior Research Center of Arizona and is an independent and non-partisan research program.

This statement conforms to the principles of disclosure of the National Council on Public Polls.

BELOW: Statistical data

For this and other polls. See www.brcpolls.com/results

STATISTICAL DATA

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“Which of the following problems or needs have you or someone in your household had in the past 12 months?”

INCIDENCE OF HEALTH PROBLEMS AMONG HISPANICS
(Base = 505)

	TOTAL	GENDER	
		Men	Women
Allergies	46%	37%	54%
Chronic Pain	32	28	36
OTHER HEALTH PROBLEMS			
Dental problems	42	36	48
Vision problems	36	33	39
Weight gain health problems	30	22	39
Breathing problems	20	15	26
Digestive problems	20	18	21

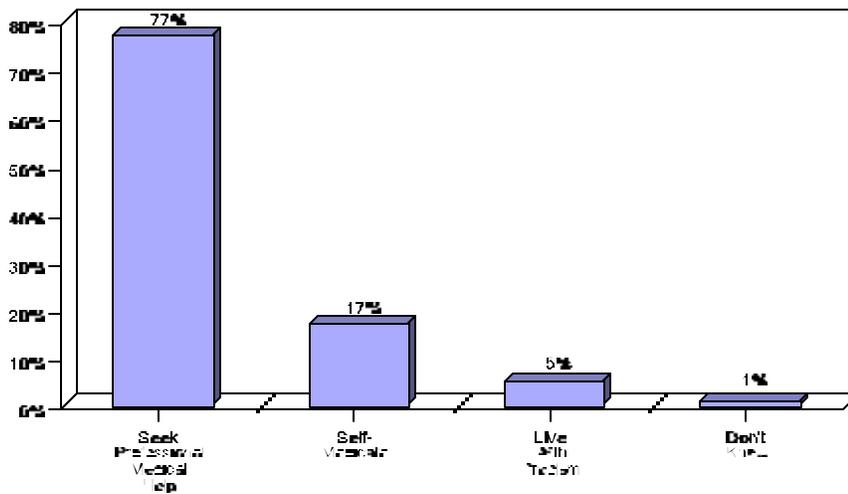
STATISTICAL DATA

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“When you or someone in your household has had health problems, such as the ones we just spoke about, do you usually seek medical help, do you self-medicate yourself or live with the problem?”

**SOURCES SOUGHT FOR HEALTH PROBLEMS
 (Among Those With Health Problems = 426)**



“Do you have medical insurance or do you pay out of pocket for medical services.”

**HOW HISPANICS PAY FOR MEDICAL SERVICES
 (Among Those With Health Problems = 426)**

	TOTAL	INCOME			OCCUPATION		COUNTY	
		Under \$15K	\$15K - \$23.9K	\$24K+	Blue Collar	White Collar	Maricopa	Pima
Have medical insurance	68%	60%	71%	76%	60%	80%	59%	76%
Pay out of pocket	32	40	29	24	40	16	41	24

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