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Introduction

- COVID-19 disparities were identified among immigrant and minority populations early in the pandemic.
- Disparities likely resulted from long standing structural inequities, but language and cultural barriers to COVID-19 information and health services may have also played a role.
- Understanding the experiences of immigrant families with children during the COVID-19 pandemic is needed to inform future public health response in future pandemics to avoid exacerbating disparities.

Methods

We conducted a mixed method study using the following data sources:

Survey:
- patients <18 years of age with SARS-CoV-2 via molecular test between March-December 2020 via existing CHCO repository of patients with SARS-CoV-2.
- orally-administered by phone by a trained research assistant fluent in English and Spanish, 260 parents contacted with 78 completed surveys.
- Analysis was done using Chi-square and Fisher’s exact test for categorical variables and t-test for continuous variables.

Focus Group Discussions
- partnering community organizations recruited Latino immigrant participants from among members of organization programming.
- 3 Spanish language focus group discussions, one via zoom and two in person, with a total of 16 participants.
- Codebook was created utilizing an iterative consensus process by two coders, any discrepancies between coders was reconciled via discussion.

Conclusion

- Financial precarity likely led to immigrant parents being more likely to work outside the home than US born parents, contributing to the spread of COVID-19 in this community.
- Trustworthy information in participants native language was highly valued, but often hard to come by, especially locally-specific information.
- Although internationally born parents were as likely to report a desire to get the vaccine, many barriers to vaccination were identified in this community, both financial and legal.
- There is a need to develop programs and policies to address longstanding inequities in health and opportunity for immigrant families which were exacerbated by the pandemic.

Three Main Themes were identified from qualitative data:

1) The interplay of COVID-19, work and financial stress
   “Even if you are sick, even if there is a danger in the community. So, that's our mentality, you have to go out and work. I think that's what impacted our community, that we had to go out and work to provide for expenses and everything. We couldn't stay at home.”

2) The challenge of information access and discerning misinformation
   “Yes, there is a lot of information, now it is being given, but I see certain multicultural problems in which there are certain communities that only trust an organization or an institution that speaks their language, that identifies itself culturally.”

3) COVID-19 vaccine opinions and access
   “Or, for example, those people who work far away and to go, the time it takes them to get [vaccinated] they lose a whole day. So, they don’t get paid for that day.”

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