**IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON TORONTO'S SPANISH-SPEAKING LATIN AMERICAN POPULATION**

Study by CMHA-Toronto and Wellesley Institute on the challenges faced by Spanish-Speaking Latin Americans in the GTA during COVID-19

156,455 (3%) Latin Americans in Toronto

11,197 (8%) Of all COVID-19 cases in Toronto were Latin Americans

Literature Highlights¹

- Second-highest mortality rate among Canadian immigrants
- Lower early vaccination rates compared to non-racialized residents
- Lower mental health rates compared to other racialized groups
- Higher unemployment rates

Study Findings

- Lack of access to Spanish language information and services
- Barriers to online health services
- Increased mental health challenges for caregivers
- Increased exposure to the virus due to overcrowded housing, employment in essential roles, and a lack of paid sick days
- Healthcare barriers for the uninsured:
  - clinic rejections and a lack of provider awareness about healthcare eligibility
  - fear of deportation and family separation

Study Sample

- 15 Participants
  - Had Covid-19 or cared for someone with it

- 10 Participants
  - Latin American service providers

2022
RECOMMENDED POLICY DIRECTIONS

Language Support
Increase the number of professional interpreters in healthcare and standardized language interpretation services in Ontario’s healthcare system

Digital Access
Invest in internet access and devices for underserved communities and train healthcare providers for culturally appropriate virtual care

Caregiver Support
Establish financial support and comprehensive programs for mental health and caregiver assistance

Uninsured Healthcare
Reinstate and standardize the Physician and Hospital Services for Uninsured Persons Program across Ontario hospitals

Funding for Community Health
Increase funding for community health centers and uninsured clinics to enhance primary healthcare access

Professional Training
Enhance awareness and training for healthcare professionals caring for uninsured populations

1 Literature Sources: