A Culturally Responsive Community Care Model for Latinos With Cancer
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Purpose: The early utilization of palliative care after a cancer diagnosis can significantly improve quality of life. Although cancer is the leading cause of death for Latinos in the U.S., they face serious health disparities in palliative and end of life care, especially in rural regions of the country.

Methods: To address these disparities, evidence-based interventions that engage community leaders in bridging the gap between palliative care teams and persons with cancer have been promising. This study is part of a larger participatory action research project that focused on advance care planning and home symptom management for Latinos with cancer. This project will present results obtained from three focus groups (N=15) with Latino leaders who completed a palliative care training program in 2020 to explore cancer burden and how Latinos talk about death and dying. A 9-member research team, located in eastern North Carolina, was composed of community and university partners. Transcripts were read multiple times by all team members and coded based on the Ethnocultural Gerontological Nursing Model.

Results: Thematic analysis was conceptualized as Four Kinds of Hard and characterized in four themes: 1) Receiving an Eviction Notice, 2) Getting in the Good Book, 3) Talking is (Sometimes) Taboo, and 4) Seeing Their Pain Makes Us Suffer. These themes captured fears of deportation, coping with cancer through faithfulness, minimal advance care planning, and a desire to spare families from suffering.

Conclusion: While all people confronting cancer must deal with hardships, some Latinos do so while living in the shadows without access to services and confronting the prejudice and discrimination stemming from negative stereotypes. Specific strengths of this study included further refinement of the Ethnocultural Gerontological Nursing model to nursing research and practice by an interprofessional team in collaboration with Latino leaders. This study suggests strategies to improve conversations about end-of-life wishes in preparation for serious medical illness and death. Study findings also aided in approaches for improving palliative care for Latinos with advanced cancer living in emerging rural communities.
Abstract Summary:
Latinos in the United States have less access to palliative care resources due to numerous sociocultural factors. We explored the meaning of cancer and death among Latino leaders who completed a palliative care training program to serve Latinos with cancer.

References:
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**Author Summary:** Marianne Congema is a senior Honors College nursing student at East Carolina University College of Nursing in Greenville, North Carolina. Congema developed a passion for global health nursing after a study abroad trip to Guatemala where she worked in a malnourished hospital for children, taught health lessons to Guatemalan children, and helped with the implementation of a free health clinic. Since then, this passion has been expressed through research involving Latinos in eastern North Carolina.

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**Author Summary:** Kim Larson has worked many years in Central America and Mexico to develop an understanding of the local knowledge and culture. This work has generated community collaboration to complete local and global health research. She has developed strategies to examine health beliefs and practices to improve health outcomes among immigrant Latinos. As a bilingual nurse scientist, her community-
based participatory research with Latino leaders and interprofessional teams supports an action-orientation to change health policy for Latinos.