

Utah Disability Diversity: Hispanic/Latino Communities

Utah's Multicultural
Disability Network



What's the difference?

(pewresearch.org)

Hispanic: This word generally refers to people from Spain or Spanish-speaking countries in Latin America.

Latino: This usually describes people from Latin America, regardless of what language they speak.

Latinx: This is a recent alternative used to describe people from Latin America, with the intention of being more gender- and LGBTQ-inclusive. This descriptor is really only recognized by younger groups, particularly those 3rd+ generation American citizens.

For many, country of origin labels (such as Mexican or Cuban or Ecuadorian) are preferred over these general terms when speaking of an individual.



9.7%

of Utahans with disabilities are

Hispanic/ Latino

(dspd.utah.gov)



Developmental disability diagnosis rates are lowest among Hispanic/Latino individuals.

(Lopez & Oh, 2022)

Whether Hispanic/Latino individuals seek disability services may depend on:



Cultural beliefs

Diverse families may not see needs for services to be as vital as mainstream American families.



Limited information about disabilities & services

Families who were not primarily English speakers were less likely to report unmet needs, even when using less services than other families reporting similar symptoms.

(Nasol et al., 2019)

Research shows that even if parents report similar symptoms, Hispanic/Latino children are less likely to receive a diagnosis for Autism Spectrum Disorder before age 4 than White children.

(Magaña et al., 2013)

Studies on Hispanic/Latino cultural beliefs found that some individuals view having a child with a disability as a punishment from God. Parents of children with developmental disabilities did not share this view. **Parents who educated their community about disabilities felt less stigma.**

(Magaña & Vanegas, 2021)



Looking for resources in Spanish?



Check out the [Utah Parent Center's Spanish page!](#)

Studies found Hispanic/Latino parents of children with developmental disabilities report:



when compared with White parents.

(Magaña & Vanegas, 2021)



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For references, visit ceiutah.com/muldinet-utah



Emma Eccles Jones College of Education & Human Services
Institute for Disability Research, Policy & Practice
UtahStateUniversity.

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