

# **Health Coverage and Access to Care for Hispanics in “New Growth Communities” and “Major Hispanic Centers”**

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Reporter Briefing

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Figure 1

## **Study Goals**

- Examine growth of Hispanic population by geographic location.
- Compare health insurance coverage and access to care for Hispanics living in “new growth communities” with those living in “major Hispanic centers.”
- Compare coverage and access to care for Hispanics with non-Hispanic whites in “new growth communities.”

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Figure 2

## Methodology

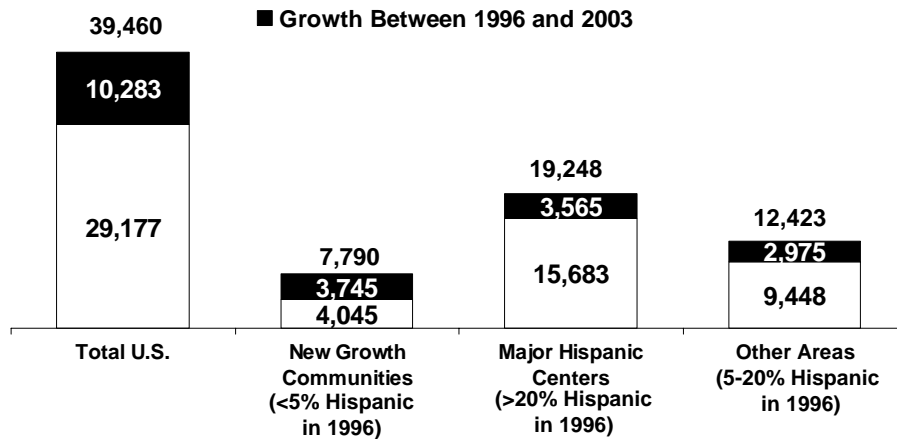
- Data from Community Tracking Study (CTS) household surveys conducted between 1996-2003.
  - Measures health insurance coverage, access to care, and use of care
  - Representative for the U.S. population and 60 randomly selected communities in 34 states and DC
- 60 CTS communities classified based on percent of population that was Hispanic in the 1996 survey round.
  - “Major Hispanic Centers” had more than 20% Hispanic (e.g., Miami, Los Angeles, Houston, New York)
  - “New Growth Communities” had less than 5% Hispanic (e.g., Knoxville, Columbus, Greenville, Syracuse)

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Figure 3

## The Hispanic Population by Community, 2003

Number of People in thousands:

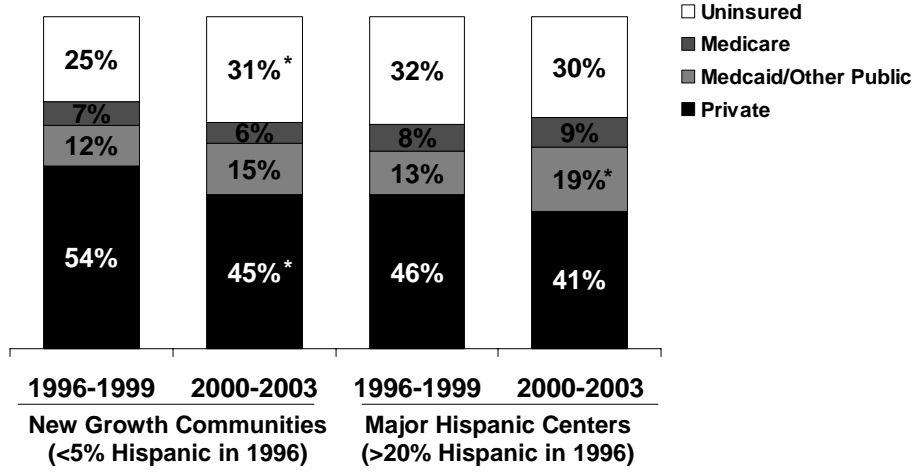


Source: Community Tracking Study household surveys.

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Figure 4

## Changes in Health Insurance Coverage Among Hispanics by Community, 1996-2003

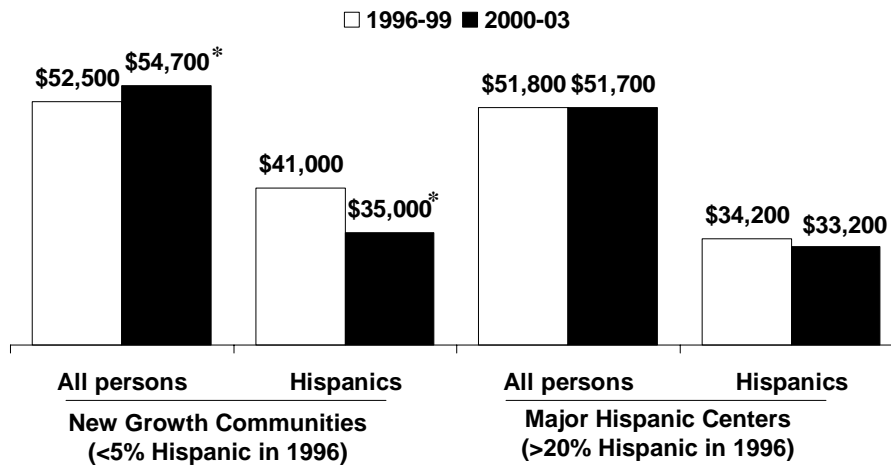


\* denotes change from 1996-1999 period is statistically significant at .05 level.  
 Note: Medicaid includes SCHIP and other state-funded coverage  
 Source: Community Tracking Study household surveys.

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Figure 5

## Change in Annual Family Income by Community, 1996-2003

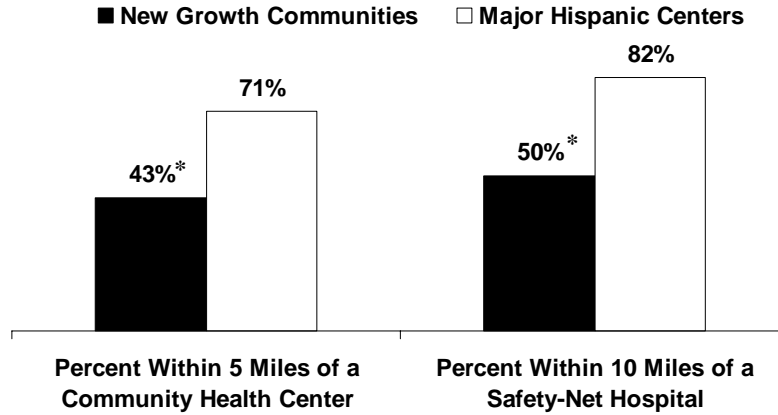


\* denotes change from 1996-99 is statistically significant at .05 level  
 Note: All estimates in 2002 dollars.  
 Source: Community Tracking Study household surveys.

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Figure 6

## Availability of Safety Net Providers for Hispanics by Community, 2000-2003



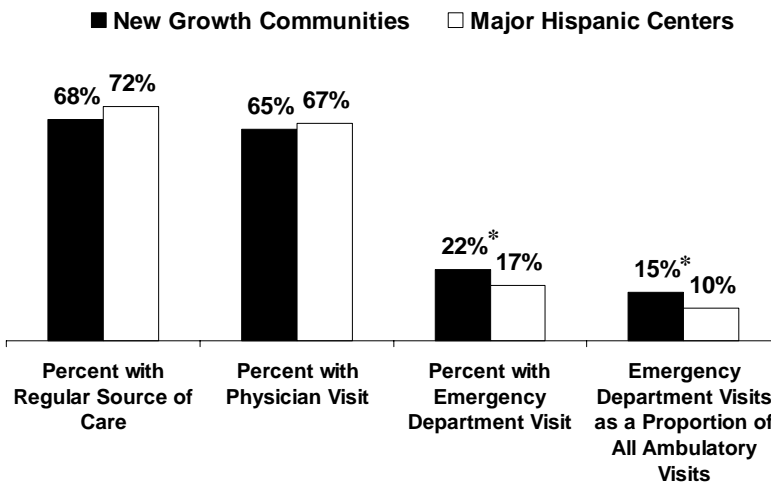
\* denotes difference from Major Hispanic Centers is statistically significant at .05 level.  
Note: Safety-net hospitals defined as all public hospitals, as well as private non-profit hospitals that treat a high proportion of Medicaid patients.

Sources: Data from the Community Tracking Study household surveys linked to data from the Bureau of Primary Health Care (HRSA) Uniform Data System and the American Hospital Association Annual Survey.

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Figure 7

## Access to Care for Hispanics by Community, 2000-2003

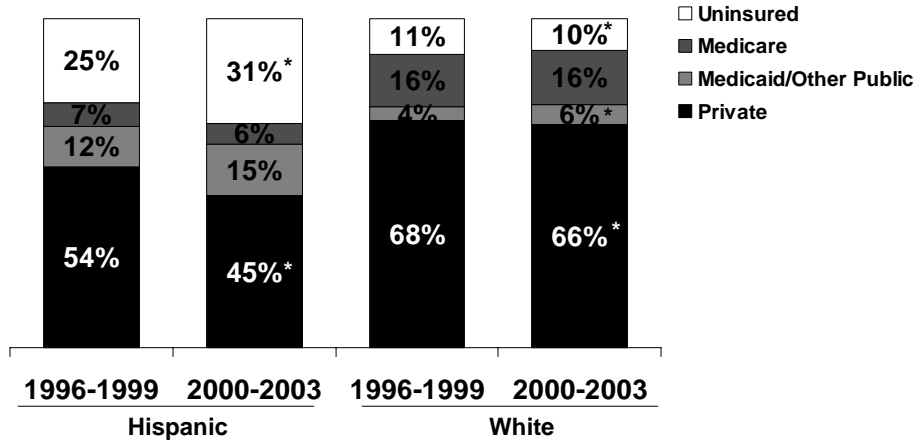


\*denotes difference with Major Hispanic Center is statistically significant at .05 level  
Source: Community Tracking Study household surveys.

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Figure 8

## Changes in Health Insurance Coverage in New Growth Communities by Ethnicity, 1996-2003

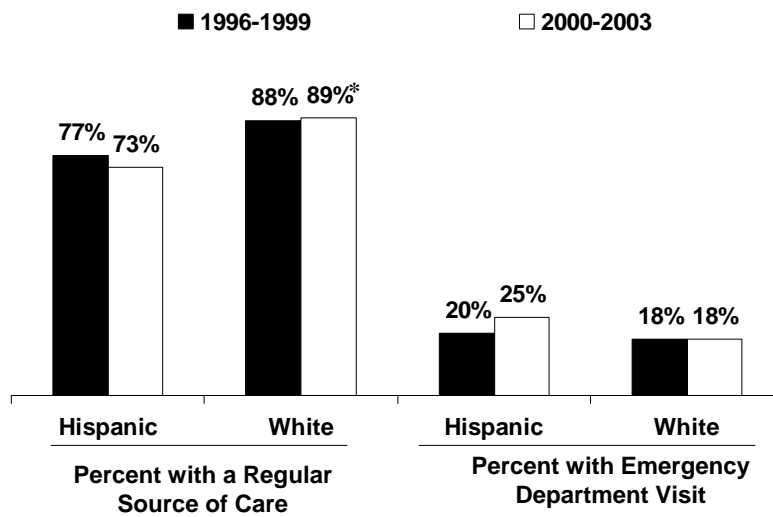


\* denotes change from 1996-1999 period is statistically significant at .05 level.  
 Note: Medicaid includes SCHIP and other state-funded coverage  
 Source: Community Tracking Study household surveys.

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Figure 9

## Changes in Access to Care in New Growth Communities, by Ethnicity, 1996-2003



\* denotes change from 1996-1999 period is statistically significant at .05 level.  
 Source: Community Tracking Study household surveys.

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Figure 10

## Review of Major Findings

- The Hispanic population nearly doubled in new growth communities but still represented less than 5% of the total population in these areas.
- The uninsured rate for Hispanics in new growth communities increased over time to about the same level as in major Hispanic centers, driven by a fall off in private coverage.
- Hispanics in new growth communities were less likely to live near a safety-net provider and more likely to use the emergency room than those in major Hispanic centers.
- The uninsured rate for whites in new growth communities did not change over time, and they experienced slight improvements in some measures of access.

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Figure 11

## Implications

- Hispanics face greater barriers to care than other groups due to high uninsured rates and language and cultural barriers.
- Communities experiencing the largest growth in their Hispanic population have little experience caring for a diverse population.
- As the Hispanic population grows in new areas, more communities may need to develop strategies to address the coverage and access challenges faced by Hispanics.

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