

Bridging Barriers to Care for Latinx Older Adults in Ohio

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INTRODUCTION

- Latinx older adults in Ohio are a growing population but remain underserved in aging services.
- This project examines structural and cultural barriers to care and explores strategies to enhance culturally responsive service delivery.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- What prevents Latinx older adults from accessing aging services in Ohio?
- Are current services physically and culturally accessible?
- How does language impact service utilization?
- What outreach strategies are most effective?

METHODS

- Literature review of Latinx aging populations
- Reviewed ODA resources and service models
- Examined accessibility of local aging agencies
- Identified common themes in barriers to service access

MAJOR FINDINGS

Primary Barriers

- Language accessibility gaps
- Limited culturally responsive programming
- Transportation challenges
- Low awareness of services
- Mistrust or fear of institutions

Service System Gaps

- Few bilingual staff members
- Limited Spanish-language outreach materials
- Minimal targeted outreach to Latinx older adults
- Underrepresentation in aging service participation

DISCUSSION

- Access to services is not only a matter of availability, but also cultural relevance and trust.
- Bridging these barriers can improve health outcomes, service utilization, and quality of life for Latinx older adults.

Latinx older adults in Ohio encounter significant and unique barriers that restrict access to aging services, including:

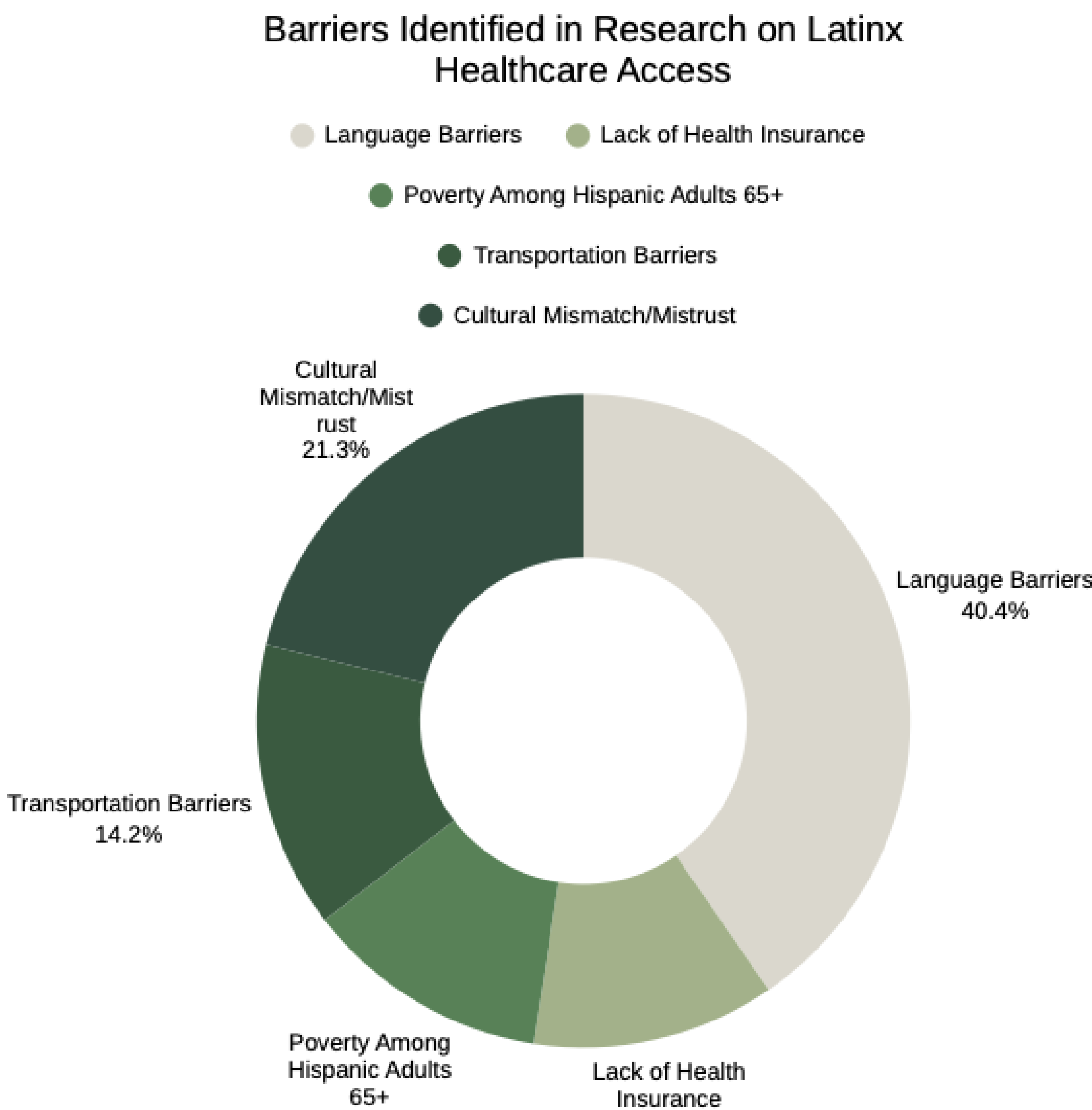
- *Lack of culturally responsive programming*
- *Fear or mistrust of systems*
- *Spanish-language resources*
- *Transportation challenges*

Recommendations

- Increase bilingual staffing and interpreter services
- Develop culturally responsive programming
- Partner with trusted community organizations & churches
- Improve outreach through Spanish-language media
- Provide transportation support options

WHY THIS MATTERS

- Growing aging Latinx population
- Increased risk of social isolation
- Health disparities
- Importance of culturally competent social work



References & Acknowledgements

1. Ohio Department of Aging
2. U.S. Census Bureau
3. Administration for Community Living
4. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Minority Health
5. Lourdes University, Department of Social Work
6. Ohio Scholars in Aging Program Mentors
7. MemoryLane Care Services



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OAGE
Ohio Association of Gerontology and Education