



OFFICE OF PLANNING, RESEARCH, AND EVALUATION, ACF/DHHS
CURRENT RESEARCH PROJECTS ADDRESSING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES WHO ARE HISPANIC
April 2013

Several projects sponsored by the Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation (OPRE) focus on Hispanic populations or on issues with particular relevance for Hispanic communities in the U.S., including children who are dual language learners, children in immigrant families, or families employed in migrant and/or seasonal industries. Information about all of OPRE's projects can be found online at: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/opre>.

1. **Hispanic Research Work Group** (ongoing) brings together experts in a wide range of content areas relevant to ACF's mission to assist ACF/OPRE in identifying research priorities concerning low-income, Hispanic families, to encourage open dialogue about ACF/OPRE's ongoing research and how it could better engage and reflect the experiences of Hispanic communities, and to identify priorities for future research that is more inclusive of and culturally responsive to Hispanic communities.
2. **An Exploratory Study: Implications of Immigration Enforcement Activities for the Well-Being of Children in Immigrant Families** (2012-2014) explores current issues regarding how immigration enforcement activities, particularly detention and deportation policies, may be affecting the well-being of children in immigrant families, most of whom are U.S. citizen children. The study looks at the nexus between family health and social services programs and immigration enforcement activities by conducting a program and policy scan, as well as secondary analysis of available administrative and survey data.
3. **Poverty, Inequality, & Mobility among Hispanics Grants.** In 2012, OPRE funded a research initiative focused on low-income Hispanic populations through the Stanford Center on Poverty and Inequality. The Center funded nine projects examining a variety of topics, including monitoring and explaining basic trends; associations between socioeconomic status and health; and the roles of neighborhood poverty and immigration policies on the mobility and well-being of Hispanic populations in the U.S.
4. **Expert Meeting: Improving Research on Economic Mobility For Low-Income Hispanic Families.** On March 27, 2012, OPRE will bring together a small group of outside experts – including researchers, scholars, and practitioners - for a one day meeting to identify priorities for future research, including ACF-sponsored research, related to efforts to promote upward economic mobility for low-income Hispanic populations.
5. **Health Professions Opportunity Grants Evaluation** (HPOG, 2010-2014) is a multi-pronged evaluation strategy to assess the success of the HPOG demonstration projects focused on TANF recipients and other low-income individuals. These research activities aim to provide information on program implementation, systems change, outcomes and impact. Many HPOG grantees have adopted specific strategies to reach out to Hispanic populations.
6. **Innovative Strategies for Increasing Self-Sufficiency** (ISIS, 2007-2015) project is testing strategies to promote employment and self-sufficiency among economically disadvantaged families, including those receiving, or at risk of receiving, TANF. The team is working with partner organizations that are operating promising career pathways programs, including two serving primarily low-income Hispanic families.

7. **Supporting Healthy Marriage Evaluation** (SHM, 2003-2013) is testing strategies to support healthy marriages and relationships among lower-income married couples with children to improve outcomes for adults and children. The programs involve skills-based marriage and relationship educational sessions as well as case management to support participation and link couples to other services, as needed. Overall, Hispanics represent a little over 40% of the research sample. Hispanics represent almost 90% in a quarter of the programs.
8. **Hispanic Healthy Marriage Initiative: Grantee Implementation Evaluation** (HHMI, 2007-2012) is an implementation study of selected ACF Healthy Marriage grantees that serve Hispanic families, addressing a key programmatic question of the HHMI: how are healthy marriage programs being implemented in order to effectively reach and serve Hispanic families? This project aims to reveal lessons that may assist other sites seeking to provide healthy marriage education services to Hispanic populations.
9. **Study on the Status of Dual Language Learner (DLL) Children Participating in Head Start and Early Head Start Programs** analyzed existing data on children who are dual language learners and their families participating in Head Start and Early Head Start programs. The Report to Congress and an Executive Summary describe the characteristics and developmental progress of DLL children and their families and the services they receive through the Office of Head Start.
10. **Center for Early Care and Education Research: Dual Language Learners** (CECER-DLL, 2009-2011) was established as a cooperative agreement between ACF and the Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. The primary goal of the Center is to advance the research field to improve assessment, child care, and education for dual language learners (DLLs) from birth through five years of age. Related resources are available at CECER-DLL's website <http://cecerdll.fpg.unc.edu/document-library>, including a series of research briefs, annotated bibliographies, and summaries of listening sessions with key stakeholders.
11. **Head Start-University Partnerships Grant Program focusing on English Language Learners** (2007-2011) supported research projects planned in close collaboration with Head Start or Early Head Start programs. These eight research projects are developing culturally valid interventions, reliable child assessments, and measures of family processes, and expanding the overall knowledge base regarding culture and school readiness among young children who are dual language learners.
12. **Design phase for a Migrant and Seasonal Head Start Survey** (2007-2009) developed a research plan to gather periodic information describing the Migrant and Seasonal Head Start (MSHS) programs and participating families. This project brought together a multidisciplinary team of academic experts and representatives from MSHS programs, families, and communities to design a survey to consider the unique characteristics of MSHS programs and the families they serve.
13. **Migrant and Seasonal Head Start CARES project (Classroom-based Approaches and Resources for Emotion and Social skill promotion)** (2007-2013) is an implementation study involving program developers, academic experts, and the MSHS community collaborating to adapt Preschool PATHS, an evidence-based social-emotional program enhancement, for use within Migrant and Seasonal Head Start settings.