

Limited English Proficiency Populations

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**TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY
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Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Speakers in United States

1. Spanish	(16,258,571)
2. Chinese (including Mandarin, Cantonese)	(1,838,859)
3. Vietnamese	(875,369)
4. Korean	(571,995)
5. Tagalog (including Filipino)	(532,076)
6. Arabic	(438,182)
7. Russian	(392,583)
8. Haitian	(330,168)
9. Portuguese	(276,824)
10. French (including Cajun)	(251,821)

Source: <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=ACSDT5Y2019.B16001&tid=ACSDT5Y2019.B16001>

LEP Speakers in US South

(Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, West Virginia)

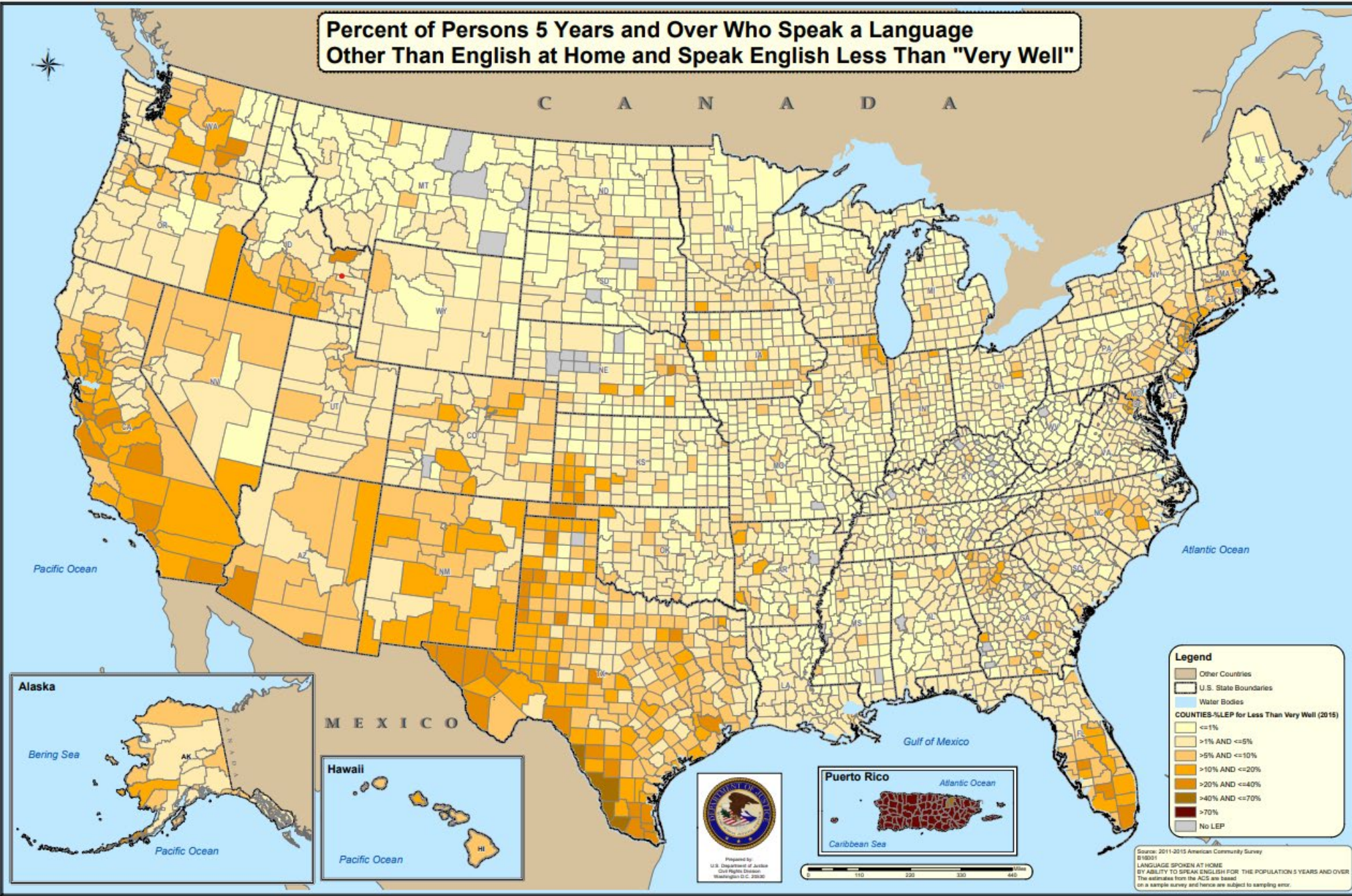
Most common languages with high amounts of LEP speakers in the region:

1. Spanish	(15,525,548 total speakers)
2. Haitian	(492,015)
3. Vietnamese	(480,790)
4. Chinese (including Mandarin, Cantonese)	(423,600)
5. Arabic	(278,221)
6. Portuguese	(158,495)
7. Korean	(151,925)
8. Gujarati	(111,937)
9. Tagalog (including Filipino)	(86,439)
10. Russian	(84,223)

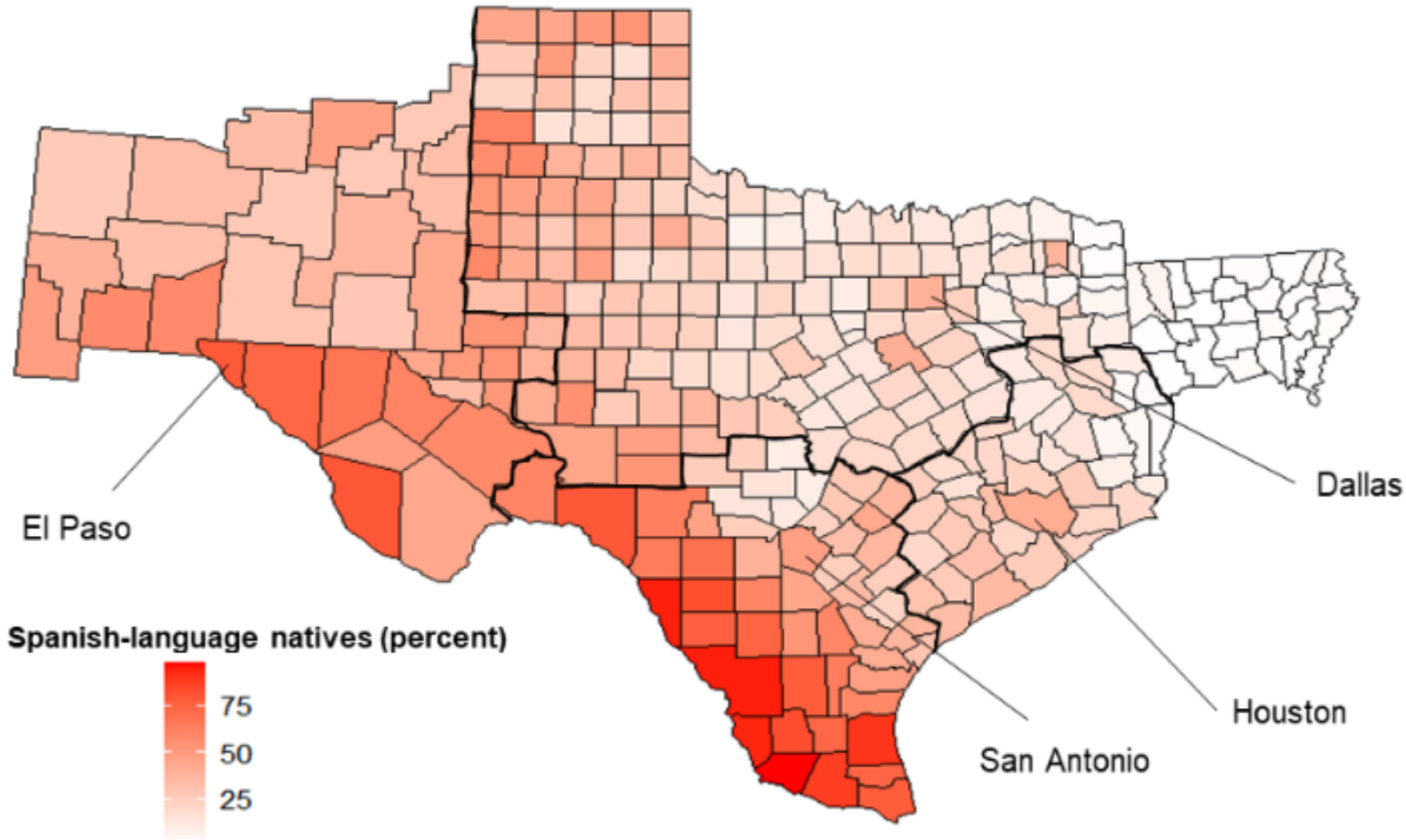
Languages with the highest rate of LEP speakers in the US South region:

1. Vietnamese	(55.5%)
2. Chinese (including Mandarin, Cantonese)	(48.6%)
3. Amharic, Somali, or Other Afro-Asiatic Languages	(48.1%)
4. Korean	(47.3%)
5. Spanish	(41.5%)
6. Nepali, Marathi, or Other Indic Languages	(41.4%)
7. Russian	(40.1%)
8. Arabic	(39.1%)
9. Tagalog (including Filipino)	(38.1%)
10. Portuguese	(37.6%)

Percent of Persons 5 Years and Over Who Speak a Language Other Than English at Home and Speak English Less Than "Very Well"



Native Spanish Speakers Well-Represented Along Border, in Metro Areas of Eleventh District



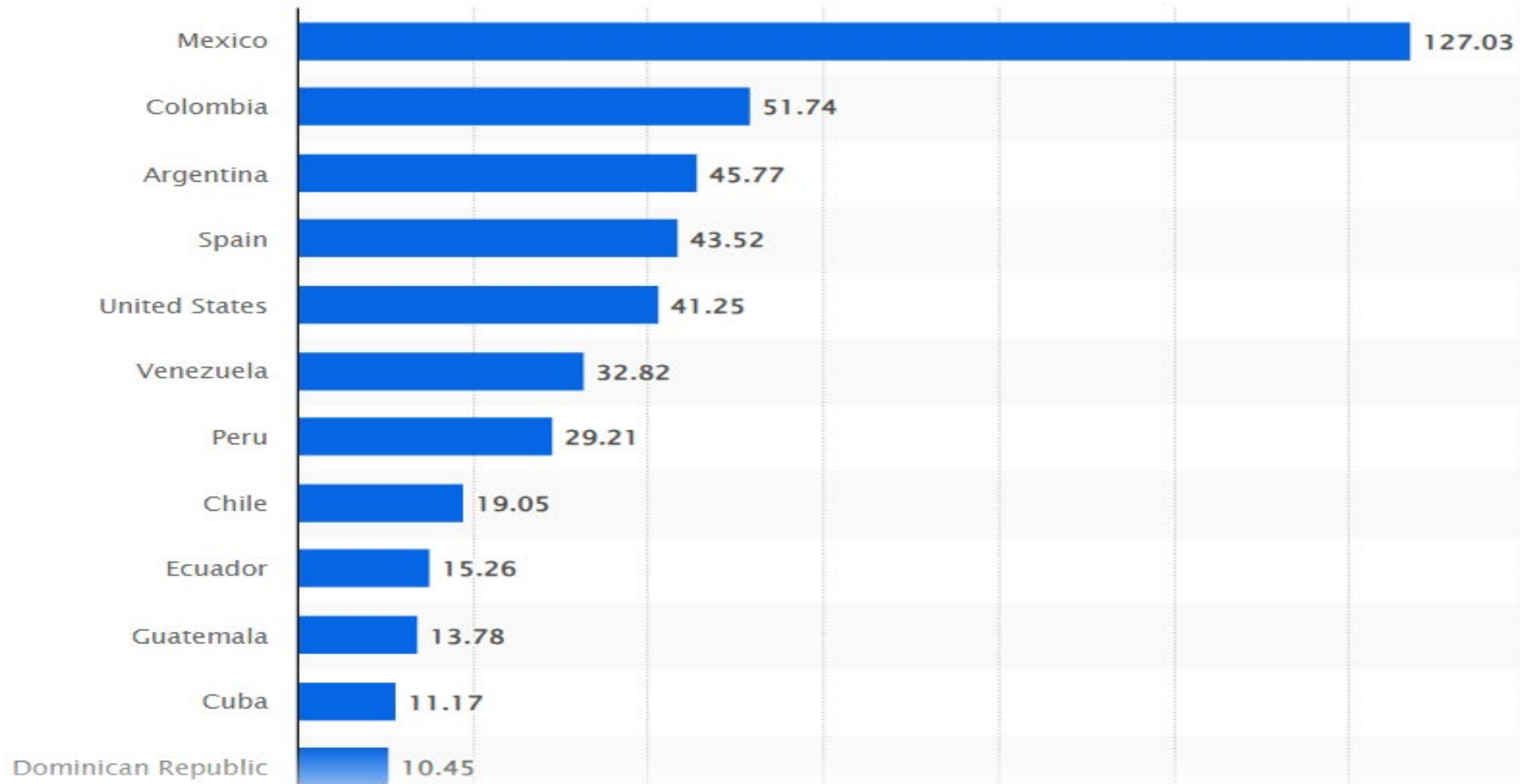
NOTES: A Spanish-language native speaks Spanish at home or lives in a household where Spanish is the dominant spoken language. The map shows the counties included in the Dallas Federal Reserve district, and the dark lines represent the boundaries of the head office and its branches.

SOURCES: Census Bureau, 2019 American Community Survey; authors' calculations.

Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas

Countries with the largest number of native Spanish speakers

(in millions)



Source: Statista Research Department. (2023, August 8). Countries with the largest number of native Spanish speakers worldwide in 2022.

<https://www.statista.com/statistics/991020/number-native-spanish-speakers-country-worldwide/>

Narrative Review Findings

People with (LEP)* are associated with low patient satisfaction which in turn reduces access to care, promotes mistrust of the healthcare system, resulting in delayed care and thus more likely to present with advanced disease

- A survey that assessed satisfaction among Latinx patients with LEP and kidney disease reported an association between **poor patient clinic satisfaction and increased risk of hospitalization** which **could not otherwise be explained by medication non-adherence, hemoglobin A1c, or blood pressure.**
- Interviews with patients with LEP demonstrated that compared to patients with high satisfaction, **those with low satisfaction were less likely to return to the emergency department for care.**
- Another study found that compared to non-Latinx White patients, Latinx patients are more likely to present with more advanced cancer at the clinic.
- ***(LEP)= Limited English Proficiency**

Defining the problem

The U.S. Census Bureau defines “Hispanic or Latino” as a person of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish Culture or origin, regardless of race

According to the U.S. Census Bureau’s American Community Survey (ACS) population estimates, in 2022 almost 63.6 million Hispanics/Latinos lived in the United States accounting for 19.1% of the US population



In 2023, the ten states with the largest percentage of Hispanics/Latinos were Puerto Rico (98.7%) New Mexico (48.6%) California (40.4%) Texas (39.8%) Arizona (31.6%) Nevada (29.9%) Florida (27.4%) Colorado (22.7%) and New York (19.8%).

According to 2022 ACS estimates, 68.2% of Hispanics/Latinos (of any race) age 5 years and older speak a language other than English at Home, with 28.0% reporting they speak English “less than very well”

Hispanics/Latinos are the nation’s second-largest racial or ethnic group after non-Hispanic whites!

Narrative Review Findings

Patients with LEP have more difficulty following through medical care. This leads to frustration, confusion and perception of poor care. High Spanish language proficiency from clinicians is perceived as more responsive, capable to address patient concerns, and empower patients in their care

- Among 1344 patients who were surveyed in a public health department clinic, **25% of patients with LEP reported difficulty scheduling appointments**, and **29% of Spanish-speaking patients, compared to 10% of English-speaking patients, did not report resolution of medical conditions after a doctor's appointment** ($P < 0.001$)
- Interviews with 20 Latinx patients with LEP identified 3 similar themes which contributed to inferior care: misidentifying the patient in records, lack of Spanish language services, and perceived discrimination
- Interviews with 2921 foreign-born Latinx patients found that **language discordance was the best predictor of confusion, frustration, and perception of poor care.**
- A study of 116 Latinx patients, **clinicians with higher self-ratings of Spanish language proficiency** and cultural competency were reported to be **more responsive** to patients and **better able to elicit patient concerns**, explain health conditions, and **empower patients.**
- A study of Latinx patients in North Carolina demonstrated a trend of patients seeking care from not only language-concordant clinicians but also ethnically concordant clinicians.

Narrative Review Findings

Clinical implications of LEP patient care is tightly related to the limitations in patient expression of health concerns, and problems from clinicians identifying key components of the patient history. This results in poor patient adherence to their care plan and worsens health outcomes.

- An analysis of 38 outpatient clinic conversations between Spanish- or English-speaking patients and their clinicians found that compared with English-speaking patients, **Spanish-speaking patients were less likely to mention symptoms, feelings, expectations, and thoughts**
- **Spanish-speaking patients were less likely to have comments facilitated** (for example, “Do you think your dry cough is related to smoking?”) and more likely to have comments dismissed by clinicians (“A dry cough is normal for people who smoke”)
- A retrospective analysis of insulin and oral medication adherence among patients with diabetes compared pharmacy dispensary records of 3205 Latinx LEP patients, 5755 English-speaking Latinx patients, and 21,878 English-speaking non-Latinx White patients. This study demonstrated that **LEP is associated with lower oral diabetic medication and insulin adherence.**
- 1605 Latinx patients with LEP and diabetes demonstrated that **when LEP patients transition from a language-discordant provider to a language-concordant provider, they achieve improved glycemic and lipid control**, compared to patients who transition to a second language-discordant provider.

In summary...

Given the substantial and rising Hispanic/Latinx population in the US, the use of the Spanish language is becoming more relevant in today's society.

The application of the language is not limited to the field of healthcare. It's been well documented that issues arising from LEP patients' interactions with unprepared healthcare workers and clinicians has detrimental implications for clinical performance, communication, trust, and health outcomes for the patients.

Therefore, **developing educational resources that aid students from all healthcare professions to attain a higher level of Spanish fluency will result in more competent healthcare providers that could bridge the gap in communication with their LEP patients while also fostering trust and compliance.**

