Alcoholism in Hispanic Males Compared to the General population in Massachusetts

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What is a Health Disparity?

As defined by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) as “the difference in the incidence, prevalence, mortality, and burden of disease and other adverse health conditions that exist among specific population groups in the United States,” when compared in contrast to a larger group (general population).
High Rates of Drinking are Found in Hispanics Compared to other Ethnic Groups in Massachusetts
What is Alcoholism?

Alcoholism = Alcohol Use Disorder = Medical Condition

When drinking to extreme causes an inability to control amount of alcohol consumed
A drinking pattern that brings a person's blood alcohol concentration 0.008 g/dl or above.

Happens when 4 or more drinks are consumed within 2 hours.

What is Binge Drinking?
Alcoholism is a Disease

Diseases of the liver

Loss of control

Cravings

Negative emotional state
Diseases Caused by Alcoholism

- Heart Disease
- Brain Damage
- Liver Disease
Let's Examine!
Averaged health insurance costs $343 a month (without subsidy)

Average monthly income $883

Uninsured in MA by Percentage

Hispanic 5%
Caucasian 3%

Healthcare
Researchers found that alcohol outlets were concentrated among low-income areas.
### Grocery Stores in Dorchester

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Store Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Americas Food Basket</td>
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<tr>
<td>Americas Food Basket</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shaw's</td>
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<tr>
<td>Super Stop &amp; Shop</td>
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<tr>
<td>Super Stop &amp; Shop</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kam Man Food</td>
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Figure 1: Distribution of Liquor Licenses by Type

[6 grocery stores & over 30 liquor stores](http://www.bostonplans.org/getattachment/bbe06972-5b3e-4072-a30f-94db36138f33)
They are Interconnected.
Treatment

Behavioral Treatment

Medication

Mutual Support Groups
Treatments in Massachusetts

- Elliot Community Service
  (Everett, Ma)
  Care: Mental Health Treatment

- Berkshire AA intergroup
  (Pittsfield, Ma)
  Care: Alcoholism Treatment Center

- PIER Recovery Center of Cape Cod
  (Hyannis, Ma)
  Care: Addiction Treatment Center

- Banyan Treatment Centers
  (Wilmington, Ma)
  Care: Addiction Treatment Center
Health insurance

Being involved with the criminal justice system

Studies show Hispanics are less likely to receive treatment

Wait longer to access treatment

Once they enter treatment are less satisfied

Disparity in Treatment
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Solutions

Maintain government control on alcohol sales to avoid privatization

Use pricing strategies like increasing alcohol taxes

Enforcing stronger laws on underage drinking and alcohol impaired driving
THANK YOU!

Any Questions?  
Or Comments?