



Honoring the Medical Wishes of Those We Love: A Latino Community Perspective

Background:

- A recent [report by the Montgomery County Latino Health Initiative](#) highlights the diversity within the Latino population, which represents people from many different countries with different histories, climates, geographies and ways of living. One common factor is speaking Spanish.
 - 8 of 10 Montgomery County Latino residents speak Spanish, and 25% report that they do not speak any English or do not speak it well.
- The report also found that Latinos are more likely to die from serious or chronic conditions like cancer and diabetes. Other county data indicates that Latinos die from these illness at a higher rate than their non-Hispanic white neighbors. (Health Equity Report 2008-2017)
- [Recent COVID 19 data](#) shows that the death rate from COVID 19 for Latino Montgomery County residents is almost twice that of non-Hispanic whites.
- ACP is a tool used to facilitate discussion of goals and wishes for medical care. While this is an important conversation for all adults, ACP is especially important if one has a serious or advance illness and may be facing end of life.
- Unfortunately research also suggests that participation in [ACP for Latino's lags behind other demographic groups](#). Identified factors for this disparity include culturally and linguistically appropriate tools and conversations.

The Coalition's April 16, 2021 National Healthcare Decisions Day Program began a conversation about facing decisions associated with serious and advance illness or end of life from the perspective of our Latino community. [See this link to view the Spanish language recording of webinar, and click this link to view the English language recording of the webinar.](#)