

HISPANIC OUTREACH



Epilepsy affects over 3 million Americans.

What is epilepsy??

Epilepsy is a neurological condition. A seizure is a symptom of epilepsy. A diagnosis of epilepsy is generally given after a person experiences two or more unprovoked seizures.

Known causes of epilepsy include head injuries, stroke, brain tumors, poisoning, problems in brain development before birth, and serious infections such as encephalitis or meningitis. However, more than half the time, the cause of epilepsy is unknown.

The Epilepsy Foundation has a network of affiliates nationwide that provide services in their local communities. To locate an affiliate in your area, call us toll-free or visit our website's home page and type in your zip code under 'community connections.'

For more info contact:

Program Objectives

More than 400,000 Hispanics in the U.S. have epilepsy. In 2006, a survey was conducted by the Epilepsy Foundation and the results revealed that a large proportion of Hispanics in the United States fear epilepsy. In some cases, Hispanics continue to relate seizures to death and over half are not ready to disclose that a family member has the disorder.

Culture and educational background can determine individuals' perceptions about epilepsy. Many Hispanics believe that a seizure results from substance abuse and spiritual causes. These cultural beliefs, lack of knowledge, lack of education and lack of access to services can prevent individuals from seeking effective medical support.

The ***Hispanic Outreach Program** is designed to dispel these myths and fears of epilepsy within the Hispanic communities.

The objectives of the program are: 1) educating family and caregivers on seizure recognition and treatment options, and 2) increasing the awareness of the prevalence of epilepsy in the Hispanic community.

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Available Resources



- *The Epilepsy Training for Community Health Workers, Promotores* and the *Epilepsy Training for Medical Interpreters* can be found on the Foundation's website at www.epilepsyfoundation.org/trainings.
- The Foundation also hosts a website specifically targeted for Hispanics at www.fundacionparalaepilepsia.org.
- The Epilepsy Foundation in collaboration with the National Center for Farmworker Health (NCFH) has created a "Call for Health" program to provide information and referrals to Spanish-speaking callers via the Foundation's toll-free Spanish telephone line at 866-748-8008. Callers are also referred to the Epilepsy Foundation affiliates in their territories.