

EVALUATING PERCEIVED STIGMA, QUALITY OF LIFE, RISK BEHAVIORS, AND DISEASE STATUS AMONG HIV+ LATINOS.

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Latinos with HIV may be vulnerable to social stigma reflecting others' fears of transmission, misconceptions about HIV, due to cultural ideologies that may deem the transmission of HIV a result of immoral behavior. This study evaluated the relationship between perceived stigma and quality of life, risk behaviors, and immune status (CD-4 count). A survey was administered to 175 HIV+ patients at San Ysidro Health Center, a community clinic serving a primarily low-income, Latino population. CD-4 counts were measured through standard procedures. Correlation analyses indicated that individuals who perceive greater stigma, experience lower levels of physical and mental functioning and increased difficulties in activities of daily living, engage in more high-risk behaviors, and show a trend toward lower CD-4 counts.