

11-30-2016

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Recommended Citation

Molyneux, Kevin; Plumb, MD, Ellen; and Ankeny, MEd, Martha Langley, "An Interactive Curricula Experience (iCE) for Latino Immigrant Health" (2016). *CwiC Posters*. 21.

<https://jdc.jefferson.edu/cwicposters/21>

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An Interactive Curricula Experience (iCE) for Latino Immigrant Health

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Background

The Interactive Curricula Experience (iCE) is an educational platform intended for interactive education utilizing multiple forms of media. It is being utilized at Thomas Jefferson University (TJU) in various classes, among them Global Health.

One of the pertinent global-health-at-home topics at TJU relates to Latino immigrant health. Latino immigrants number more than 20,000 in Philadelphia. They are located throughout the city, although the highest concentrations are in North and South Philadelphia. With respect to health care, Latino immigrants are less likely to have a regular health care provider than non-immigrant Latinos.

Education to provide culturally sensitive care to Latino immigrants is vital to establish longer-lasting patient-doctor partnerships and decrease the number of Latino immigrants without a regular health care provider. iCE is an attempt to provide that education by stepping out of the lecture hall and assigned readings, and instead allowing students to engage with the material at their own pace.

iCE Platform

iCE was developed by Thomas Jefferson University with Digital Wave. It is an educational platform optimized for iPad, but is also accessible via desktop. It allows for more interactive learning that incorporates 14 multimedia types, such as YouTube videos, timelines, and PDFs. Content can be shared across multiple classes and instructors. The schematic for building a module is shown in Fig. 1. All information is located in one readily accessible place within the platform (see Fig. 2).

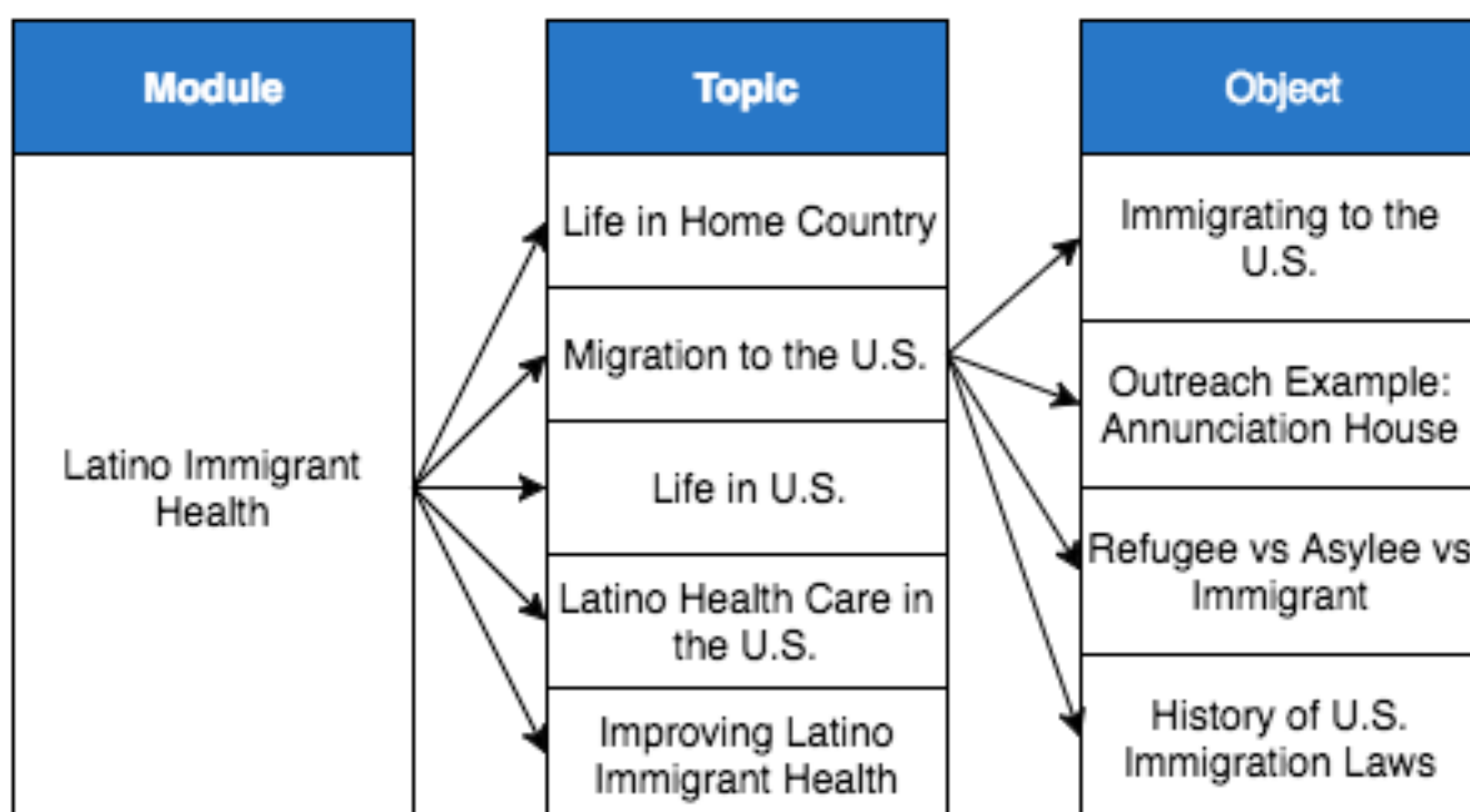


Fig. 1 iCE content organization schematic

Migration to the United States

The topic on migration to the U.S. was included to address some of the psychological and somatic illnesses that can manifest during the process of migration, including: dehydration, separation from family, and assault, among others. There is an object on defining refugees, asylees, and immigrants, in addition to a timeline with a history of U.S. immigration laws so that providers will be up to date on current legal definitions and how they came about.

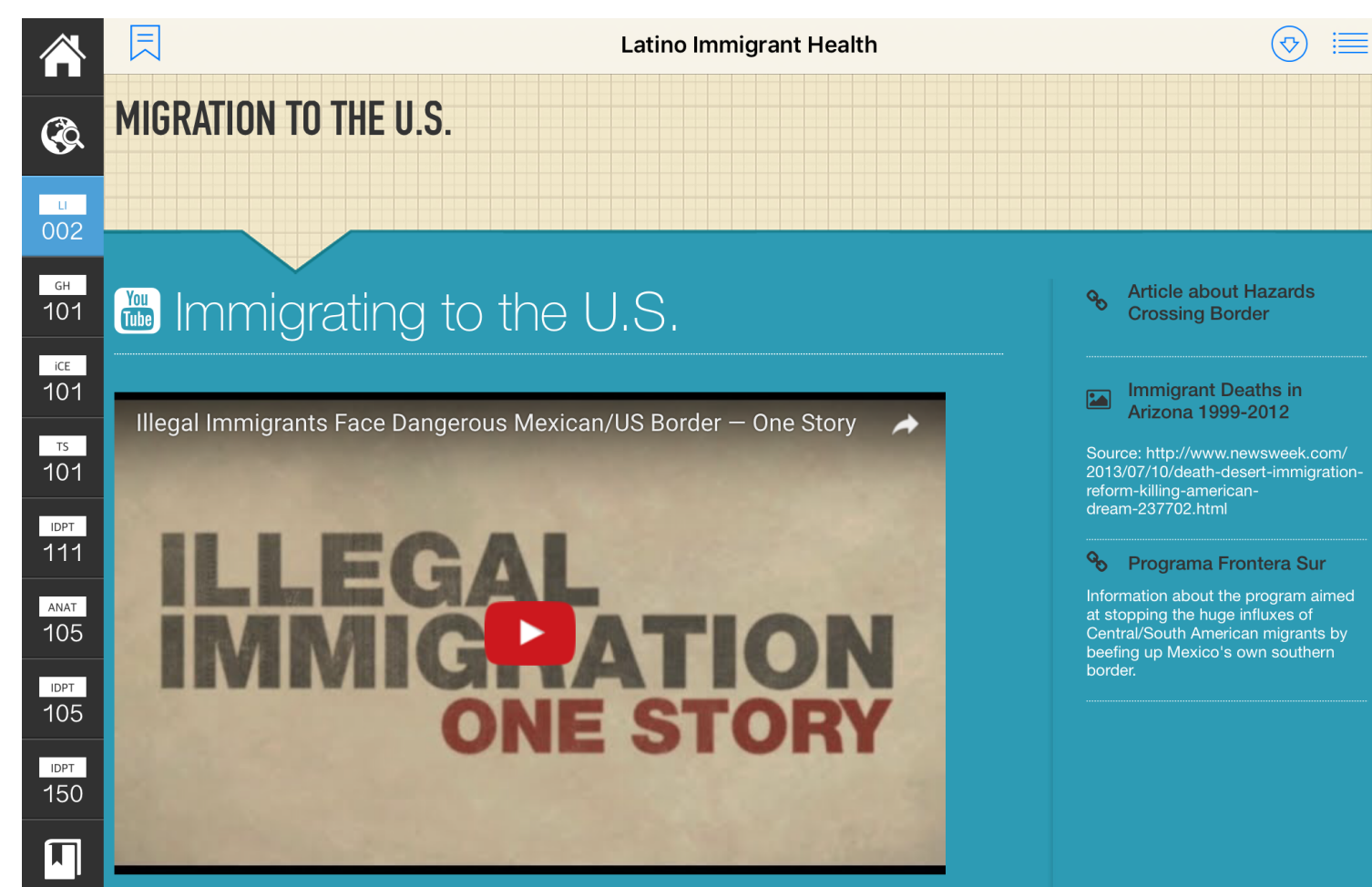


Fig. 2 A sample of the iCE interface as seen on an iPad.

Latino Immigrants Not Seeking Health Care

There are over 19 million foreign-born Hispanics in the U.S., with more than 11 million from Mexico alone.¹ 8 million foreign-born Hispanics lack health insurance.¹ Hispanics as a whole are the least likely racial/ethnic group to visit a healthcare professional.³ Among Hispanics, foreign-born immigrants are the least likely to have a usual health care provider (see Fig 3).³

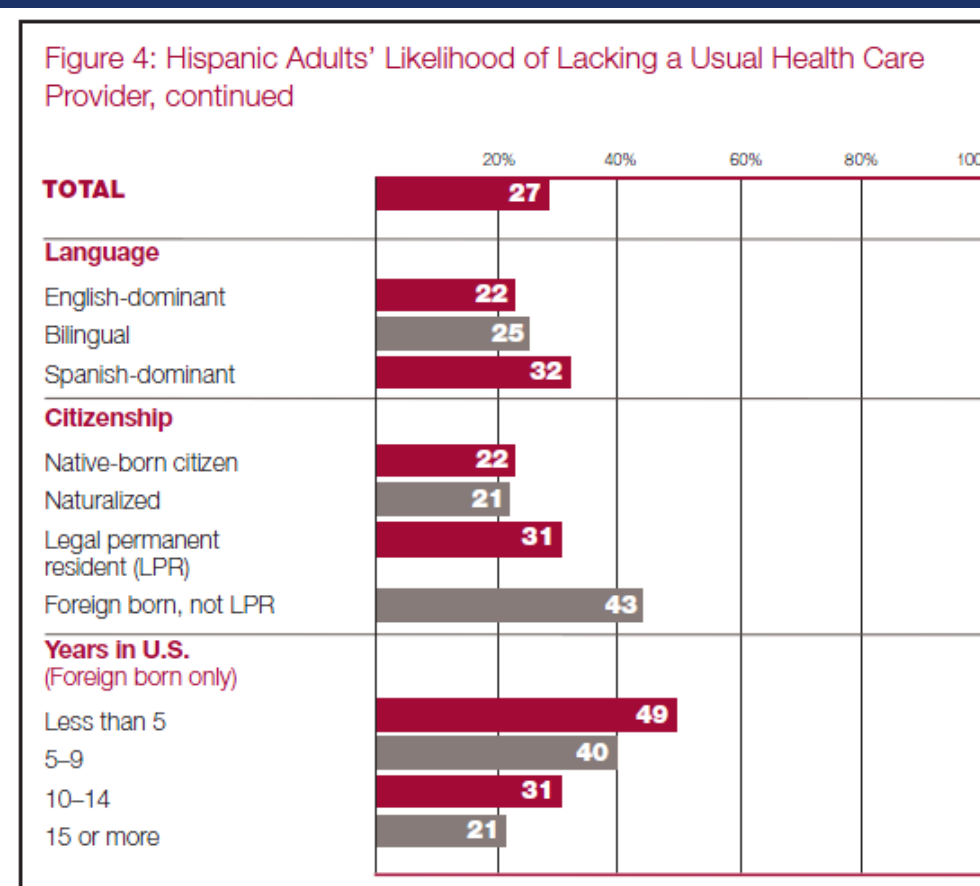


Fig. 3 Hispanics lacking a usual provider.²

Life & Health Care in the United States

Life in the U.S. is a topic meant to address the lives of Latino immigrants in the U.S. The module discusses deportations, raids that leave U.S. citizen children of undocumented parents to care for themselves, and DACA, in addition to demographic information utilizing both national statistics and an iCE-specific interactive hotspot (see Fig. 4).

Latino Immigrant Health Care in the U.S. discusses the Hispanic health paradox, the impact of immigration enforcement on health care utilization, and different models of providing accessible Latino immigrant health care, including Puentes de Salud in Philadelphia. These two topics are intended to give students an understanding of the lives of their patients and some of the attempts to increase Latino immigrant health care utilization.

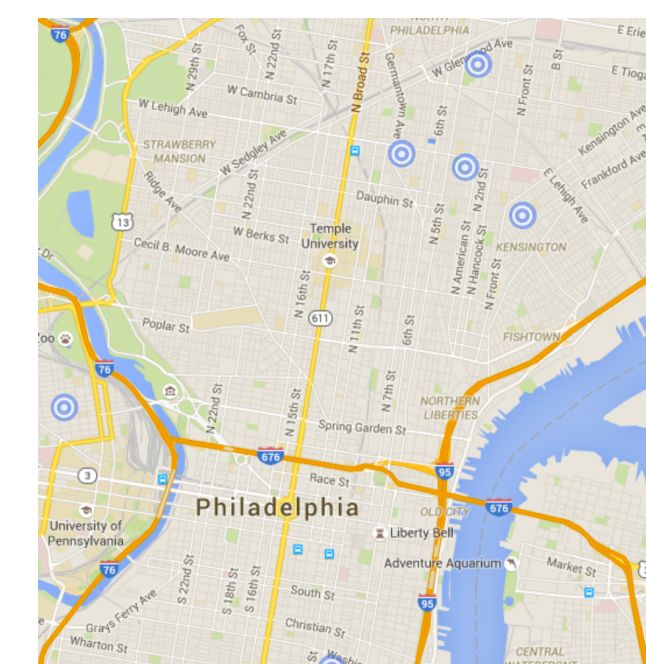


Fig. 4 An interactive iCE hotspot indicating the neighborhoods in Philadelphia with the highest concentrations of Latino immigrants from different countries. Clicking on one of the targets produces a pop-up screen that contains information about the country of origin, size of the population, and location within the city.

Conclusion

Medical professionals and students must be sensitive to the culture of Latino immigrant patients, a population that seeks out health care less often than their non-immigrant peers. The topics presented in this module are meant to provide a foundation of cultural knowledge for people caring for the Latino immigrant community in Philadelphia. Material describing the lives and hardships of patients is better presented through an interactive module like iCE, allowing students to work at their own pace, and better engage the material. This enables them to provide empathetic, culturally sensitive, care for Latino immigrant patients.

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