

NLPD 2026 Press Release

Fifth Annual National Latino Physician Day on October 1st, 2026, Highlighting the Critical Shortage of Latino and Latina Physicians across the United States

In the United States less [than 7%](#) of all physicians are Latino or Latina, despite 19% of the U.S. population identifying as [Latino](#). California and [Texas](#) have an even higher number of Latino's, reaching [40%](#) or more of the population, with future increases projected to be approximately 50% by the year 2050 in California. Across the U.S., it is expected that 1 in 3 Americans will be of Latino descent by the [year 2050](#). In California, nearly one in two babies (48%) born are of Latino descent. There are significant health care barriers, inequalities, and [poorer outcomes](#) in the Latino/Latina/Latinx/Hispanic patient population. Furthermore, the lack of Latino physician representation provides additional barriers to culturally and linguistically concordant care, leading to worse healthcare outcomes. [Less than one in four](#) Latino adults reported sharing a racial, ethnic, or language background with their physician.

In response to close this gap a large grassroots movement aimed to raise awareness regarding the critical shortage of Latino Physicians has been undertaken by Latino and Latina attending physicians, resident physicians, medical students and premedical students across the U.S. "National Latino Physician Day" (NLPD) which was first celebrated on October 1st, 2022, and gained significant traction yearly. Again, on October 1st this effort will be undertaken with sponsorship of national non-profit organizations and medical societies celebrating multiple virtual and live events.

A strategic aim of NLPD is to help create the narrative of the crisis regarding the lack of community and physician workforce ethnic/racial and cultural concordance. Evidence shows that cultural and linguistic concordance leads to better patient outcomes, and improved trust and communication between doctors and patients. Having Latinos better represented in medicine is necessary for the Latino community and for the future of medicine in the United States.

This year's National Latino Physician Day also highlights three urgent issues:

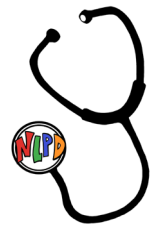
1. **Worsening United States physician shortage**, projected to reach up to 86,000 doctors by 2036, exacerbated by student loan caps, research funding cuts, and dismantled pipeline programs that disproportionately affect underrepresented students.
2. **Historic Medicaid cuts**, reducing coverage for millions, including one in three Latinos who rely on Medicaid, placing safety-net hospitals and community clinics at risk while destabilizing the entire healthcare system.
3. **Expansion of immigration enforcement**, with increased immigration raids and access to Medicaid data has created a climate of fear that prevents Latino patients from seeking care.

These combined crises threaten to further reduce access to culturally and linguistically concordant care, making the mission of NLPD more urgent than ever.

Together with Latino and Latina physicians across the U.S., NLPD has garnered the support of a significant number of non-profit organizations and hospital centers. Media days for the multiple events will again take place across the U.S.

More information for NLPD can be found at: www.nationallatinophysianday.com The movement can be followed on [Instagram](#) and with these hashtags: #nationallatinophysianday #nationallatinaphysianday #nationallatinxphysianday #NLPD #NLPD2026

National Latino Physician Day (NLPD)



Representation Heals

NLPD Mission Statement

To address the Latino physician shortage crisis, the mission of National Latino Physician Day is to improve the quality of care for the United States Latino patient population by increasing the number of Latino physicians who provide culturally and linguistically concordant care.

NLPD Background

National Latino Physician Day was established on October 1st as a day to celebrate Latino and Latina physicians in the United States, which represent 6% of the physician workforce while recognizing the critical shortage Latino physicians when compared to the U.S. Latino population (19%). We believe that public awareness of this underrepresentation will generate systemic change and inspire the next generation of Latino physicians.

Our mission is further inspired by historical - and existing - health disparities disproportionately affecting the Latino community, which include distinguishing examples - specific to the Latino patient population - such as non-English speaking patients and the undocumented community. Healthcare disparities in the Latino community have worsened during the COVID-19 pandemic adding urgency to the need for Latino physician representation in the U.S. workforce.

Beyond raising awareness of Latino and Latina physician representation and healthcare disparities, NLPD represents an urgent "Call to Action", for hospitals, academic medical centers, educators and legislative leaders, to incorporate structural changes to improve Latino representation in the U.S. physician workforce.

National Latino Physician Day (NLPD)



NLPD Fact Sheet

- <7% Latino/a physicians are not enough for the diverse populations of the United States.
[https://www.aamc.org/data-reports/data/2022-physician-specialty-data-report-executive-summary#:~:text=In%202021%2C%2063.9%25%20of%20practicing,Other%20Pacific%20Islander%20\(0.1%25\).](https://www.aamc.org/data-reports/data/2022-physician-specialty-data-report-executive-summary#:~:text=In%202021%2C%2063.9%25%20of%20practicing,Other%20Pacific%20Islander%20(0.1%25).)
- 2% of physicians in the United States are Latina.
[https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/34524137/#:~:text=Results%3A%20According%20to%20the%20ACS,only%202.4%25%20\(24%2C411\).](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/34524137/#:~:text=Results%3A%20According%20to%20the%20ACS,only%202.4%25%20(24%2C411).)
- 19% of the United States population is Latino.
<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/US/PST045221>
- 40% of California and Texas is Latino.
<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/CA>
<https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2022/09/23/key-facts-about-u-s-latinos-for-national-hispanic-heritage-month/>
- 48% of California is projected to be Latino by the year 2050.
<https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2015/06/04/will-california-ever-become-a-majority-latino-state-maybe-not/>
- 52% of California is projected to be Latino by the year 2050.
Center for American Progress
https://dornsife.usc.edu/assets/sites/242/docs/2050_la.pdf
- 1 in 3 Americans will be Latino by 2050.
<https://www.pewresearch.org/hispanic/2008/02/11/us-population-projections-2005-2050/#:~:text=Racial%20and%20Ethnic%20Groups,compared%20with%2014%25%20in%202005.>
- 48% of babies born in California are of Latino descent.
California Surgeon General. Lecture title: A call to action: the opportunity for anesthesiologists to improve maternal morbidity and mortality. California Society of Anesthesiologists annual meeting. San Diego, CA 2023
- Only 1% of academic surgeons are Latina.
[https://www.journalofsurgicalresearch.com/article/S0022-4804\(20\)30228-6/fulltext](https://www.journalofsurgicalresearch.com/article/S0022-4804(20)30228-6/fulltext)