

Hispanic/Latino Americans - Countries of Origin

- Argentina
- Belize
- Bolivia
- Chile
- Colombia
- Costa Rica
- Cuba
- Dominican Republic
- Ecuador
- El Salvador
- Guatemala
- Honduras
- Mexico
- Nicaragua
- Panama
- Paraguay
- Peru
- Puerto Rico
- Spain
- Uruguay
- Venezuela

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Hispanic/Latino Americans - Cultural Perspectives

- Country of origin defines subculture, dialect
- The family is paramount
- Western medicine accepted but may also observe:
 - Folk remedies,
 - Spiritual healers
 - Curanderismo

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Hispanic/Latino Americans– Cultural Perspectives

- Cultural differences
 - Nodding of the head is done many times out of respect, and is not necessarily indicative of agreement or understanding
 - Comfortable social distance of Americans is about double that of Hispanics
 - Matriarchal family structure
 - Eldest daughter usually leads



End of Life and Dying

- Thoughts on talking about death:
 - Talking about death might make it happen
 - Talking about death is wishing it will happen
 - Belief that there's always room for a miracle
- Pre-planning funerals may be viewed as announcing death
- Elder Hispanics rarely attend bereavement groups
- Attitudes toward cremation, autopsy, and organ donation



End of Life and Dying

- Low use of hospice
- Remaining at home is often the major concern
- Spiritual affiliations:
 - Roman Catholic – Last rites performed
 - Protestant/Evangelical Christian
- May observe altars, religious symbols

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Honoring culture and preserving patient dignity

- Please remember:
 - Listen more, speak less, **be present**
 - Ask open-ended questions, **be curious**
 - Do not impose your judgment, **be empathic**
 - Respond to how others view the world, **be understanding**

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