

Barriers Latine Families Face for Autism Services

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Agenda

- Ice breaker
- Autism in the Latine community
- Barriers and Perspectives from Latine Parents
- Suggestions from parents from studies
- What can we do?

Ice Breaker

"I am _____"

(Fill in the blank)



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Autism and the Latine Community



Latine Community

- Largest ethnic group in the United States
- Projected to grow in Texas and California by 2050 (U.S. Census Bureau, 2017)
- Spanish is the second common language in the U.S. (U.S. Census Bureau)
- Important that services are culturally responsive

Autism and the Latine Community (Cont.)



Autism & Latines

- Underrepresented in the literature
- New research shows diverse children identified with autism more (CDC, 2023)
- Hispanic children was 3.2% higher than White children.
 - Improved screening & autism services
 - Increased awareness

Diagnosing and Accessing Services

Perception and Knowledge of Autism

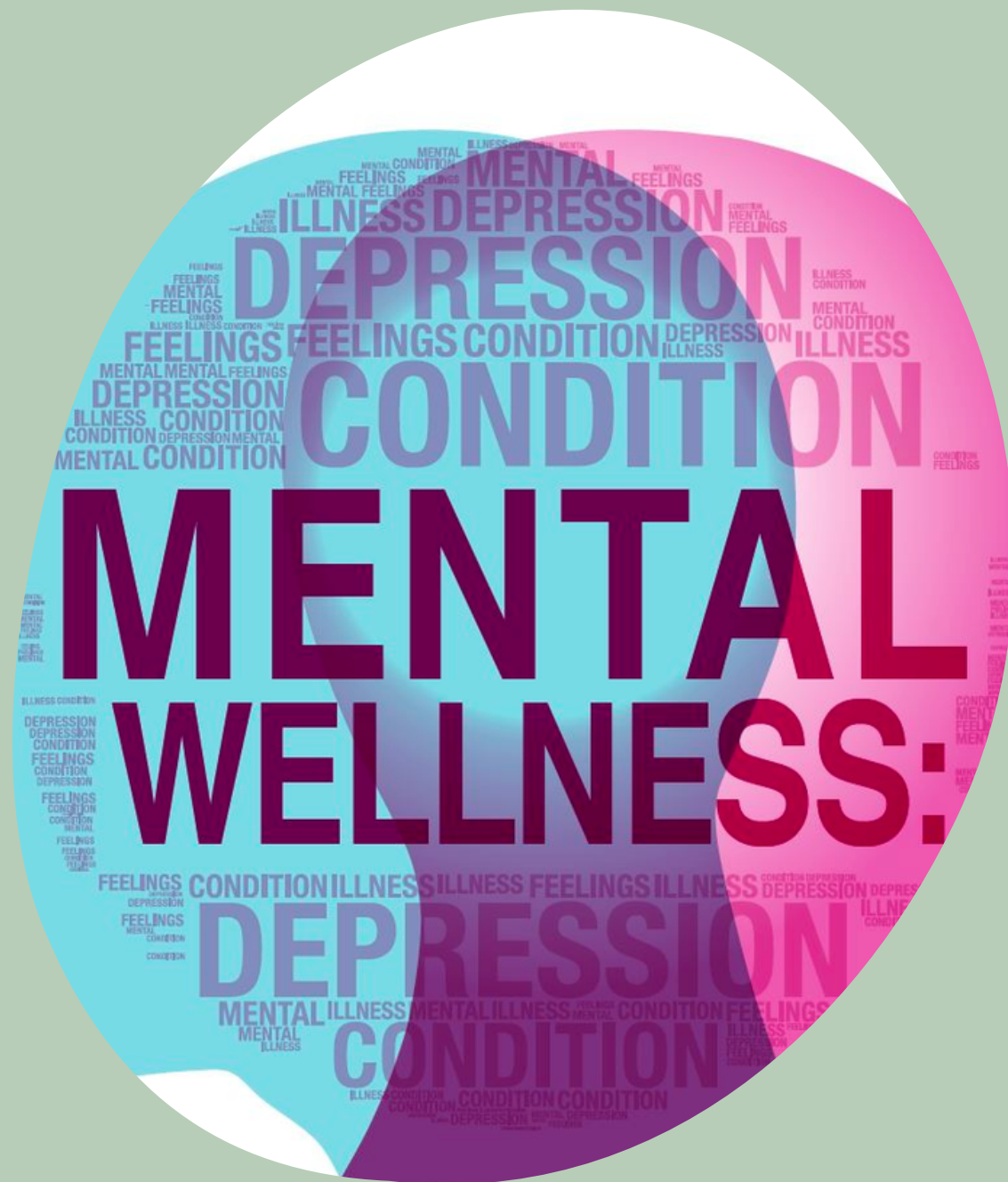
- Many Latine families have heard little information about autism (Zuckerman, 2014)
- Cultural differences in milestones
- Mental health stigma (Bucacy-Harari et al., 2020)
- Religion (Sobotka, 2022)
 - May play a role in delaying access to care, increase in conflicts

Barriers to Autism diagnosis in the Latine Community

Common Barriers

(Sobotka, 2022)

- Communication barriers
 - Provider communication and access to language services
 - Limited bilingual services
 - Unmet therapy expectations/needs
- Immigration status
 - Limited knowledge of the healthcare system
- Limited access services
 - Financial concerns



Mental Health Stigma

Latine individuals have been more likely to seek provider care for physical pain, rather than attend mental health services (Bucay-Harari et al., 2020).

Perceptions on barriers to autism identification included: Embarrassment, shame rejection.

"In Mexico, you often see that parents, instead of helping their child and teaching people about the problem that their child has, that he is a special child or that he has autism, **they hide or cover them, so that people don't look at them, they don't take them outside to play at the park or do different activities**, and for me, that is bad."

"I think they would have **fear of rejection** more than anything. They want to cover it up: "Oh, my son is not well, but, I don't want anyone to know. I will be **ashamed.**"

"Because sometimes there are moms who don't want to realize that their children have this problem. I know a mom of a girl, and I said to her "she has a problem, you need to go [to the doctor]," and she said "no, no, she doesn't have anything." It's like, **she doesn't want to accept it**"

(Zuckerman et al., 2014)

Suggestions

Suggestions for Improvement

(Zuckerman et al., 2014)

- Early signs of autism
 - Doctor visits
 - Explaining the symptoms of autism
 - Prenatal advice
- More information on autism
 - Parenting classes and accessibility
 - Written at a low level/translated in Spanish/made into a video format
- Health care
 - More interpreters
 - Knowledge and confidence in discussing autism with families

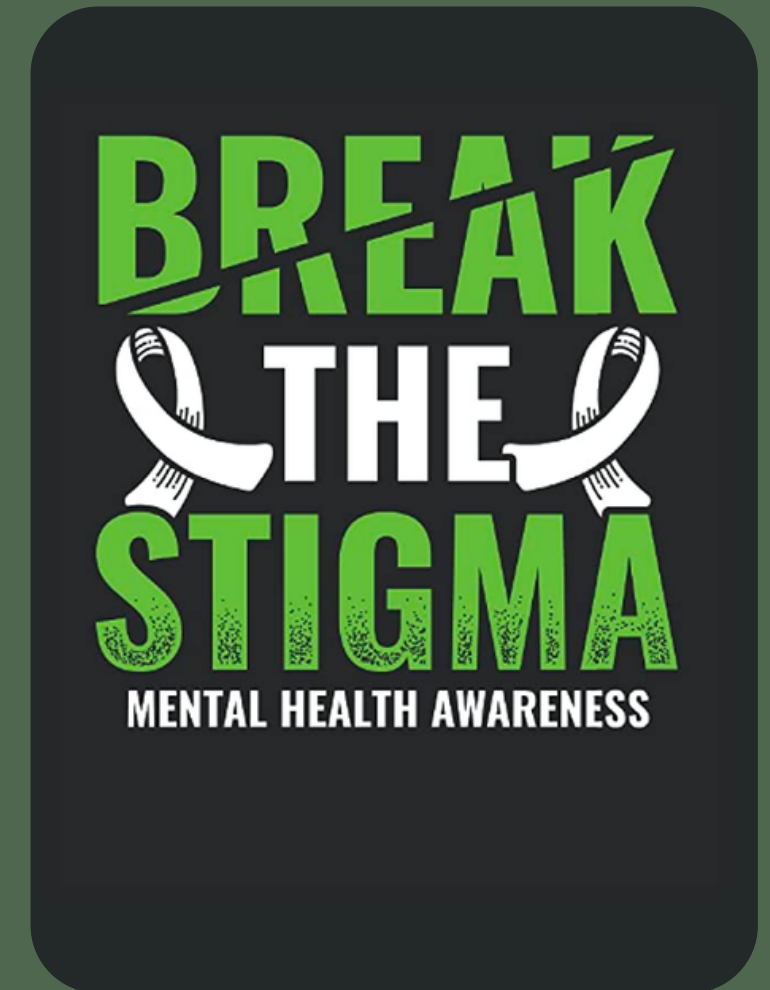
What
can we
do?



Advocate



Give family's a voice



Break the stigma