

# **Mortality disparities and health priorities of Latinos in the San Joaquin Valley, California, 1999-2001**

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## **Abstract**

**Objectives:** To identify disparities in mortality burden and priority health issues of Latinos in the San Joaquin Valley (SJV), California.

**Methods:** We analyzed California Department of Health Services, Death Statistical Master File data for 1999-2001. We calculated average annual, age-adjusted mortality rates for 12 causes of death in the general population and Latinos in eight regions of the State. We compared them with the rates in California and with the Healthy People 2010 Objectives (HP).

**Results:** In comparison with California and the HP, the SJV had significantly higher mortality rates due to motor vehicle crashes, unintentional injuries, coronary heart disease, drug-related, and diabetes. Similarly, in comparison with California Latinos and the HP, SJV Latinos had significantly higher mortality rates for the same causes as above except coronary heart disease.

**Conclusions:** We identified four causes of death that are disproportionately higher in SJV Latinos. These mortality disparities should be given priority attention for further disease and injury prevention research and policy development.

## **Learning Objectives:**

1. List the 12 mortality indicators selected for identifying health priorities.
2. Recognize four causes of death that are higher in SJV Latinos than in all California Latinos and the Healthy People 2010 Objectives.
3. Identify four mortality indicators for which SJV Latinos have rates similar to, or lower than, the rest of California Latinos and the Healthy People 2010 Objectives.