

## 7 Generating Accurate and Unbiased Research

Behavioral and biomedical research plays a powerful role in shaping health care delivery and public health policies that affect Latinas, their families and communities. The National Institutes of Health recognizes that research provides the scientific basis and legitimacy necessary to support efforts aimed at: improving standards of care, formulating better public health policy, changing individuals' health related behaviors, improving health care delivery systems, and creating strategies for overcoming cultural and economic barriers to health care. In addition to research, health data collection allows for the identification of health trends in a given population so that more targeted health interventions can be utilized to ameliorate health problems.

To address the need for accurate and unbiased research on Latina reproductive health issues, the following recommendations are offered:

### Policy Recommendations

- ☑ Establish a research position within the Department of Health and Human Services in each state in order to generate specific research on Latina health that reflects the diversity of nationality, ethnic/racial background, cultural practices, language preferences and immigration status within each state to be compiled in a regional database.
- ☑ Support efforts to provide federal and state level spending on Latina/o health research through community health clinics, hospitals, and *promotora* community health workers.
- ☑ Support efforts by academic institutions at the undergraduate level to build programs or tracks specific to Latina sexual and reproductive health.
- ☑ Support efforts by secondary educational institutions and universities, both private and public, to provide scholarships and fellowships to Latina and Latino students to pursue research careers in sexual and reproductive health.
- ☑ Ensure that research grants issued by government agencies, foundations, and organizations/institutions in the reproductive health, rights and justice community must tie funding to research through a Community Based Participatory Research (CBPR) model where research partnerships include Latinos and their family as equal partners in all phases of research.
- ☑ Advocate for culturally proficient and Latino-led and driven research by ensuring funding streams that support partnerships with Latino community leaders and Latino-based community organizations.