

















International Workshop on

FORMAL AND INFORMAL SYSTEMS OF SUPPORT FOR OLDER PERSONS

IN MEXICO AND THE UNITED STATES,
IN THE CONTEXT OF HEALTH
AND WELFARE REFORM

September 17-18, 2015 Mexico City



Introduction, Goals and Objectives

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Background

- By 2025, at least one-fifth of the population of 15 countries in the Americas will be 60 or older.
- In Mexico, the old-age dependency ratio is expected to triple by 2050 and converge to the same proportion of older to younger people as in the United States.
- While the United States became rich before it became old, Mexico is becoming old before it has become rich.



U.S., Mexico and the Old Age Welfare State

- Population aging has serious consequences for the family, the community, and governmental agencies at all levels as nations struggle to adapt to the needs of rapidly growing older populations while devoting adequate resources to fostering economic development and full employment.
- Longer life spans and increasing female labor force participation have reduced the Latino family's capacity to provide all of the material and instrumental care aging parents need.



Critical Trends

- Local, state, and federal governments are faced with increasing challenges related to the care of vulnerable citizens, both young and old.
- Uncertainty about the disability burden affects government's ability to project and plan for future long-term care services.
- Low levels of institutional care use suggest that in the future Latino communities will need and demand more and better community-based long term care services.



Elder Care-giving in Mexico

- Mexico has far less time to develop institutions and policies that balance the needs of the young and the old, while enhancing its economic productivity in an increasingly globalized world than was the case in the United States.
- The government has responded to the need for health care and income support by expanding or introducing new programs such as Seguro Popular and 70 y Más which have potentially changed the relation between formal and informal caregiving in ways that have as yet not been evaluated.



Politics of the Next America

- Like Mexico, aging populations pose serious problems to U.S. governmental agencies at all levels and to the family.
- The U.S. is an older nation with a young majority-minority population.
- Hispanics are expected to comprise the largest share (28 percent) of the population by 2050.
- Three U.S. states have already shifted to predominantly Hispanic: California, New Mexico and Texas.
- The context of a growing electorate of older and retired people juxtaposed against an increasingly minority, immigrant, and non-English speaking work force is likely to have an impact on the social contract between generations.
- The ethnic age-grading of the life course may lead to potential age-based conflicts in the decades to come.

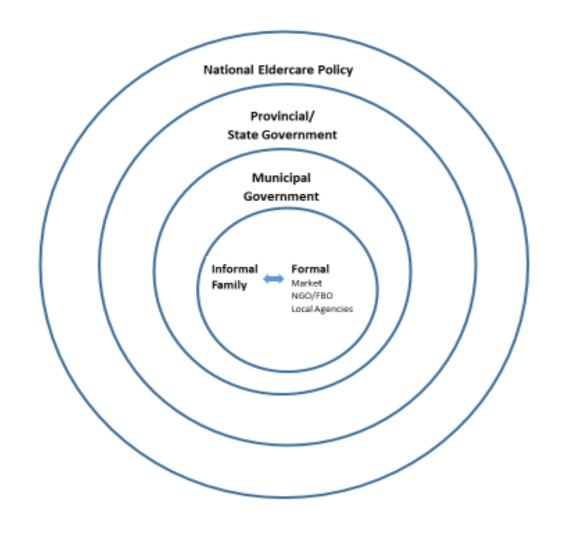


Fiscal Reality

- As in Mexico, older Mexican-origin U.S. citizens are highly dependent on Medicare and Medicaid for basic health care, and increasingly for long-term care, either in institutions or in the community.
- The extent to which fiscal austerity and changes to programs such as Medicare and Medicaid affect the Mexican-origin family as well as their aging parents requires closer attention.



Institutional
Embeddedness of
Family Eldercare:
Formal and
Informal Sources of
Support





Refer to Handout

Research Questions

- 1. What is the optimal mix of formal and informal elder care? What are the five most pressing problems and potential solutions related to articulation of informal and formal care-giving systems?
- 2. What are the best practice models for community-based long-term care currently available in both countries? What are the barriers and facilitators of best practice models for community-based long-term care?
- 3. How do specific national contexts and differences in economics, social, and political systems influence the possibilities in long-term care for the elderly?
- 4. How do Mexico and the U.S. compare in terms of their reliance on state sponsored systems and the family and local community in the care of the elderly?
- 5. What sources of informal care are available in both countries? As both nations age, are traditional NGOs and FBOs redefining their missions to include providing assistance to vulnerable elderly individuals?



Closing Session

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Workshop: Implications for policy and practice

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Dissemination and Future Directions

- Invited papers build upon previous installments of the Conferences Series on Aging in the Americas (CAA) and most recently the International Workshop on Social Support for Older Adults held in Mexico, DF on July 31-August 1, 2014 by the Instituto Nacional de Geriatria and USC Edward R. Roybal Institute on Aging. *Special Issue in selected journal*.
- Latter workshop underscored the dearth of information on the interaction of informal and formal aging networks in both countries.
- Topic will be subsequently addressed at the 2016 ICAA in San Antonio, Texas (USA) with an emphasis on "place" for publication in a special issue of Journal of Aging and Health and a fourth volume in the Springer series on Aging in the Americas: U.S. and Mexico.
- Develop a concrete action plan of how to most effectively bridge across these "levels" of policy-based programs and initiatives to positively impact the "real networks" of aging people.
- Develop an "Aging in the Americas" Statement: what we think, what the priorities are...
- A health policy analysis (policy brief) to be published in Health Policy or any other health policy Journal, such as *American Journal of Public Health*



















GRACIAS POR SU ATENCIÓN

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION