



Esmeralda Melgoza

Postdoctoral Scholar, Emergency Medicine

Bio

BIO

Esmeralda Melgoza, PhD, MPH, CHES is a postdoctoral researcher in the Department of Emergency Medicine at Stanford University's School of Medicine. Her research examines health inequities in the U.S. healthcare system, with a focus on emergency medical services provided in the prehospital setting and the emergency department. She centers her research on the experiences of underserved populations, including Latine/Hispanics, older adults, and people with limited English proficiency. She is trained in both quantitative and qualitative methods. Her research has been published in peer-reviewed journals, including JAMA Network Open, Medical Care, the Journal of the American Heart Association, Health Affairs Scholar, Prehospital Emergency Care, and SSM-Qualitative Research in Health, among others. She is a current recipient of grants from the CARESTAR Foundation and the Stanford Center for Innovation in Global Health.

Dr. Melgoza received her PhD in Community Health Sciences from the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health and a minor in Gerontology from the USC Leonard Davis School of Gerontology. Her dissertation research was funded by an R36 grant from the National Institute on Aging. Dr. Melgoza is a former Senior Research Analyst at the UCLA Latino Policy and Politics Institute and an alumna of the Yale Ciencia Academy at Yale University. She is bilingual in English and Spanish. In her spare time, she enjoys spending time with her family, traveling, mentoring, and hiking.

INSTITUTE AFFILIATIONS

- Member, Maternal & Child Health Research Institute (MCHRI)

HONORS AND AWARDS

- R36 Dissertation Award, National Institute on Aging (2024)

BOARDS, ADVISORY COMMITTEES, PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

- Co-Chair, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Research Subcommittee, National Association of Emergency Medical Services Physicians (2023 - present)
- Global Health Postdoctoral Affiliate, Stanford Center for Innovation in Global Health (CIGH) (2026 - present)
- Member, Society for Academic Emergency Medicine (2025 - present)
- Member, American Heart Association (2025 - present)
- Member, American Public Health Association (2020 - present)

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

- Doctor of Philosophy, University of California Los Angeles (2024)
- Doctoral Minor, USC Leonard Davis School of Gerontology , Gerontology (2022)
- Master of Public Health, University of California Los Angeles (2017)

- CHES, National Commission for Health Education Credentialing , Health Education (2017)
- Bachelor of Arts, University of California LA Honors (2015)

STANFORD ADVISORS

- Jennifer Newberry, Postdoctoral Research Mentor
- Jennifer Newberry, Postdoctoral Faculty Sponsor

Publications

PUBLICATIONS

- **Cost-Related Delayed or Forgone Care and Emergency Department Visits Among Latino Adults.** *JAMA network open*
Melgoza, E., Falk, D. S., Bustamante, A. V., Newberry, J. A.
2026; 9 (3): e260237
- **Barriers and Facilitators for Bystander Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation and Automated External Defibrillator Use in Diverse and Underserved Cities in Los Angeles County, California.** *Journal of the American Heart Association*
Toy, J., Melgoza, E., Santana, E., Zaragoza, G., Wilhelm, K., Gausche-Hill, M., Bosson, N., Schlesinger, S., Goolsby, C., Cheng, T.
2026: e046962
- **Factors Associated with EMS Clinician Preparedness to Provide Care for Patients with Limited English Proficiency.** *Prehospital emergency care*
Melgoza, E., Farcas, A., Powell, J. R., Gage, C. B., Crowe, R., Bosson, N., Joiner, A., Haamid, A., Schlesinger, S., Panchal, A. R.
2025: 1-10
- **Bridging language barriers: Access to primary care for Medicaid Managed Care patients with limited English proficiency in three metropolitan areas.** *Health affairs scholar*
Bustamante, A. V., Melgoza, E., Ismail, A., Majano, R., Félix Beltrán, L.
2025; 3 (2): qxaf025
- **A Qualitative Mystery Shopper Study That De(codes) The Experiences Of English And Spanish-Speaking Patients Who Call To Schedule A First-Time Primary Care Appointment In The Los Angeles, Houston, and New York Metropolitan Statistical Areas** *SSM - Qualitative Research in Health*
Melgoza, E., Ismail , A., Felix-Beltran, L., Majano , R., Vargas Bustamante , A.
2025; 7
- **Health care use gaps by citizenship status among Latino adults aged 26–49 in California under a new federal immigration environment** *Journal of Health Equity*
Vargas Bustamante, A., Felix Beltran, L., Melgoza, E.
2025
- **Emergency Medical Services Provider-Perceived Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias in the Prehospital Setting** *Western Journal of Emergency Medicine*
Melgoza , E., Cardenas , V., Beltran-Sanchez , H.
2024; 26 (1)
- **Dementia Trends and Health Care Access Among Older Latinx Adults During the COVID-19 Pandemic** *Older Mexicans and Latinos in the United States*
Flores Morales , J., Archuleta , J., Melgoza, E., Ponce , J.
Springer, Cham. .2024
- **A Systematic Literature Review of Hispanic Adults' Experiences With the Emergency Medical Services System in the United States Between 2000 and 2021.** *Medical care*
Melgoza, E., Cardenas, V., Enguídanos, S., Vargas Bustamante, A., Beltrán-Sánchez, H.
2023; 61 (3): 150-156
- **Injury-Related Emergency Medical Service Calls, Traffic Accidents, and Crime in Mexico City Before and During the COVID-19 Pandemic.** *Prehospital and disaster medicine*
Melgoza, E., Beltrán-Sánchez, H., Vargas Bustamante, A.

2023; 38 (1): 73-80

- **Emergency Medical Service Use Among Latinos Aged 50 and Older in California Counties, Except Los Angeles, During the Early COVID-19 Pandemic Period.** *Frontiers in public health*

Melgoza, E., Beltrán-Sánchez, H., Bustamante, A. V.

2021; 9: 660289