

Dharma E. Cortés, Ph.D. is a Senior Scientist at the Health Equity Research Lab and an Instructor at Harvard Medical School's Department of Psychiatry. She received her Bachelor's degree in Psychology and a Master's degree from the University of Puerto Rico, a Doctorate degree in Sociology from Fordham University, and completed post-doctoral training in culture and mental health services research at Harvard Medical School's Department of Social Medicine. For more than twenty-five Dr. Cortés has been conducting community-based research with Latinos and other minoritized groups in the U.S. focusing on health, mental health, health literacy, and access to healthcare. Her area of expertise is qualitative research methods. She has decades of experience designing interview and focus group guides to elicit rich and thick narratives from lived experience perspectives. She is also a rigorous qualitative data analysis expert with experience using qualitative data analysis software. Dr. Cortés has also conducted hundreds of qualitative interviews and focus groups in both English and Spanish.

Dr. Cortés work has included the development of health interventions to reduce health disparities and understand the impact of health interventions using qualitative research methodologies. Over the years, her work has made major contributions to the understanding of the process of acculturation, cultural, language, and literacy issues— using qualitative and mixed methods research— in health outcomes among Latinos in the United States through peer-reviewed publications and research activities. More recently, she has been involved in the development of mobile health solutions for underserved populations. Dr. Cortés has been principal investigator, co-investigator and consultant to studies funded by the National Institutes of Health, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, and the Robert Wood-Johnson Foundation, among others.