

Exploring HIV/AIDS Needs Of A South Florida Latino Community

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PURPOSE: Few effective systemic HIV/AIDS interventions currently exist that are designed to meet the needs of Latinos, a population that has been disproportionately affected by HIV/AIDS. The current study aims to identify the HIV/AIDS prevention needs of a Latino community in South Florida. **METHODS:** As part of ongoing Community-Based Participatory Research, 20 semi-structured interviews were conducted with community leaders and four focus groups were conducted with 36 Latina participants. Interviews and focus groups assessed participants' HIV/AIDS community awareness; their knowledge, beliefs, and attitudes toward HIV/AIDS, as well as strategies to prevent transmission; and the existing HIV prevention resources available in the community. **RESULTS:** Few participants acknowledged the extent of HIV in the community but identified community factors that place them at risk for becoming infected or transmitting the disease, including lack of community resources for HIV prevention and community settings that increase the likelihood of engaging in HIV risky behaviors. In general, most participants recognized unprotected sex as the primary route of HIV transmission, but reported inconsistent condom use. Specifically, the participants identified many individual factors (e.g., low self-efficacy, poor communication skills, lacking skills needed to negotiate condom use) and socio-cultural factors (e.g., stigma, machismo, negative attitudes and perception toward condom use) associated with high risk sexual behaviors. **CONCLUSION:** Results suggest that intensive interventions to address condom use barriers among members of this community need to be incorporated and adapted into evidence-based HIV prevention interventions targeting Latina immigrant women in South Florida.

Latino Pre- To Post-Immigration Risk Behavior Trajectories

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PURPOSE: The dramatic increase in the US Latino population coupled with disparities in HIV/AIDS and alcohol use-related consequences experienced by this group accentuate the public health importance of understanding the underlying factors affecting these conditions. The Recent Latino Immigrant Study was the first longitudinal study to document the pre- and post-immigration alcohol use/HIV risk behaviors of recent Latino immigrants and to examine underlying sociocultural determinants contributing to these trajectories. **METHODS:** Retrospective pre-immigration baseline data was collected from 527 recent Latino immigrants (less than one year in the US) ages 18-34. Two follow-up assessments (12 months apart) reported on post-immigration behaviors. Data on alcohol use and HIV risk behaviors in the past 90 days was collected. **RESULTS:** Growth curve analyses results indicated decreases in pre- to post-immigration alcohol use among men, with no significant changes among women. Decreases in pre- to post-immigration HIV risk behavior were found among men, whereas women's trajectories increased over time. Results also revealed various demographic and

sociocultural determinants as potential risk/protective factors in pre- to post-immigration alcohol use/ HIV risk trajectories. **CONCLUSION:** Findings suggest that for some subsets of Latino immigrants, the well-documented rise in alcohol use/HIV risk behavior as their time in the US increases may not hold. Knowledge gained from this study could identify important predictors of pre- to post-immigration risk behavior trajectories in this population. This information can enhance existing prevention programs and guide the development of new prevention programs that identify, sustain, and incorporate sociocultural assets into culturally grounded interventions.

Using Social Networks To Reduce Hiv In Latina Migrant Workers

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PURPOSE: The large and growing migrant worker (MW) community includes approximately 125 million people. Substance abuse and HIV/AIDS health disparities are on the rise among MWs yet their health risk behaviors remain relatively unknown. Social networks have been recognized as a potential avenue for HIV prevention and drug use intervention. We will present a social network theoretical approach with a community-based sample of Latina MWs. This approach aims to reduce substance abuse and HIV risk behavior trajectories by promoting changes in four egocentric features: dyadic interactions, social network structures, social support, and social network stressors occurring at the relationship, social life and recreation, and neighborhood levels. **DESIGN:** The development of this social network theoretical framework included a literature review and interviews with experts in social networks and leaders from community organizations working with MWs. **RESULTS:** This framework includes 20 egocentric networks of Latina MW leaders, each composed of approximately 13 members. HIV/AIDS and substance abuse preventive messages are introduced in these egocentric networks using an innovative approach including one 4-hour session focusing on developing group cohesion, HIV education, motivational enhancement, and goal setting; the development of a personal risk-reduction plan; broadcast of a television soap opera (telenovela); and peer counseling from community leaders using fotonovelas as a tool. **CONCLUSION:** We present an innovative approach to understanding the effect of structural characteristics of social networks and capitalizing on the positive—and addressing the negative—influence of MWs' social networks on sexual risk behaviors and substance abuse.

Influence of Mother-Daughter Attachment on Substance Use: A Longitudinal Study of a Latina

Presenter: Hui Huang, Florida International University (huanhu@fiu.edu)

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Over the past two decades, significant knowledge has been gained regarding the familial factors that influence substance use behaviors of Latinos. While these studies identify the link between attachment and the substance use behaviors of adolescent and adult Latinas, no longitudinal studies exist that have explored the influence of mother-daughter attachment on changes in the heavy alcohol and illegal drug use behaviors of adult Latina women in U.S. Advancing our initial, cross-sectional study, which showed that adult Latinas' mother-daughter attachment relates to their substance use, the current, longitudinal study tests whether mother and daughter attachment scores at baseline predict their substance use over time. We analyzed data from a convenience sample of 133 Latina adult mothers (age mean=52, SD=10) and 133 Latina adult daughters (age mean=27, SD=9) at baseline and five-year and six-year follow-ups after baseline (attrition rate=16%). Multilevel longitudinal modeling was used to examine the effect of mother-daughter attachment at baseline on their substance use over time. Our findings show that each unit of increase in the attachment score at baseline is associated with a 0.28 drink decrease in monthly alcohol use ($p<.05$), and a lower likelihood of being a heavy alcohol or drug user ($\exp(\beta)=0.97$, $P<.01$), compared to average attachment score at baseline (mean=91.52, SD=18). Time and older age at baseline are associated with decreased substance use. Being born outside of the United States is associated with decreased risk of heavy alcohol or drug use. Being a mother is associated with increased substance use. The findings of this longitudinal study on adult Latinas indicate that mother-daughter attachment has long-lasting effects on substance use trajectories among adult Latinas. Future research should focus on (a) investigating social and cultural factors mediating this relationship and (b) greater substance use among Latina mothers compared to daughters.

Facilitating the Recruitment and Assessment of Young Adult Latina Women Who Recently Immigrated to the United States

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Foreign-born Latina women living in the US report lower socioeconomic status and decreased use of health care services compared with US-born Latino women. Similar disparities exist between Latino and non-Latino young adults. During the first years after immigration, foreign-born Latinos are at a particular disadvantage in part because they may lack knowledge about health care services and/or have difficulty obtaining health insurance. Despite the need to address these health disparities, participation of Latinos in health-related research is low. This study aimed to confirm burgeoning knowledge as well as introduce new facilitative experiences and challenges in recruiting and assessing recent immigrant Latina women (aged 18-23 years) in health disparities research concerning health risk behaviors (e.g., sexual risk, alcohol and drug use). Participants were four research staff members who recruited and interviewed 530 participants for a longitudinal research study. Consensual qualitative research methods were used and responses were categorized into two domains and 24 core ideas. Results suggest that (a) recruitment of young adult Latino women who are recent immigrants into studies of sexual activity, HIV/AIDS, and substance use was not affected by stigma concerning these behaviors; (b) that questions regarding

sensitive topics (i.e., sexual behaviors, illicit drug use) were probed with little difficulty; and that varying Spanish dialects were not a barrier for assessments involving dyads of differing Latina ethnicities. Respondent-driven sampling was an effective method for recruiting this population, while recruitment at fairs, restaurants, and community events was not effective. Fear of deportation was reported as a barrier to participation. Understanding the barriers and facilitators to research with recent Latina immigrants can enhance our use of resources, improve the efficacy of our work, and help to decrease health disparities.