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The Partnership for Domestic Violence Prevention: *Preventing Intimate Partner Violence Among Hispanics*

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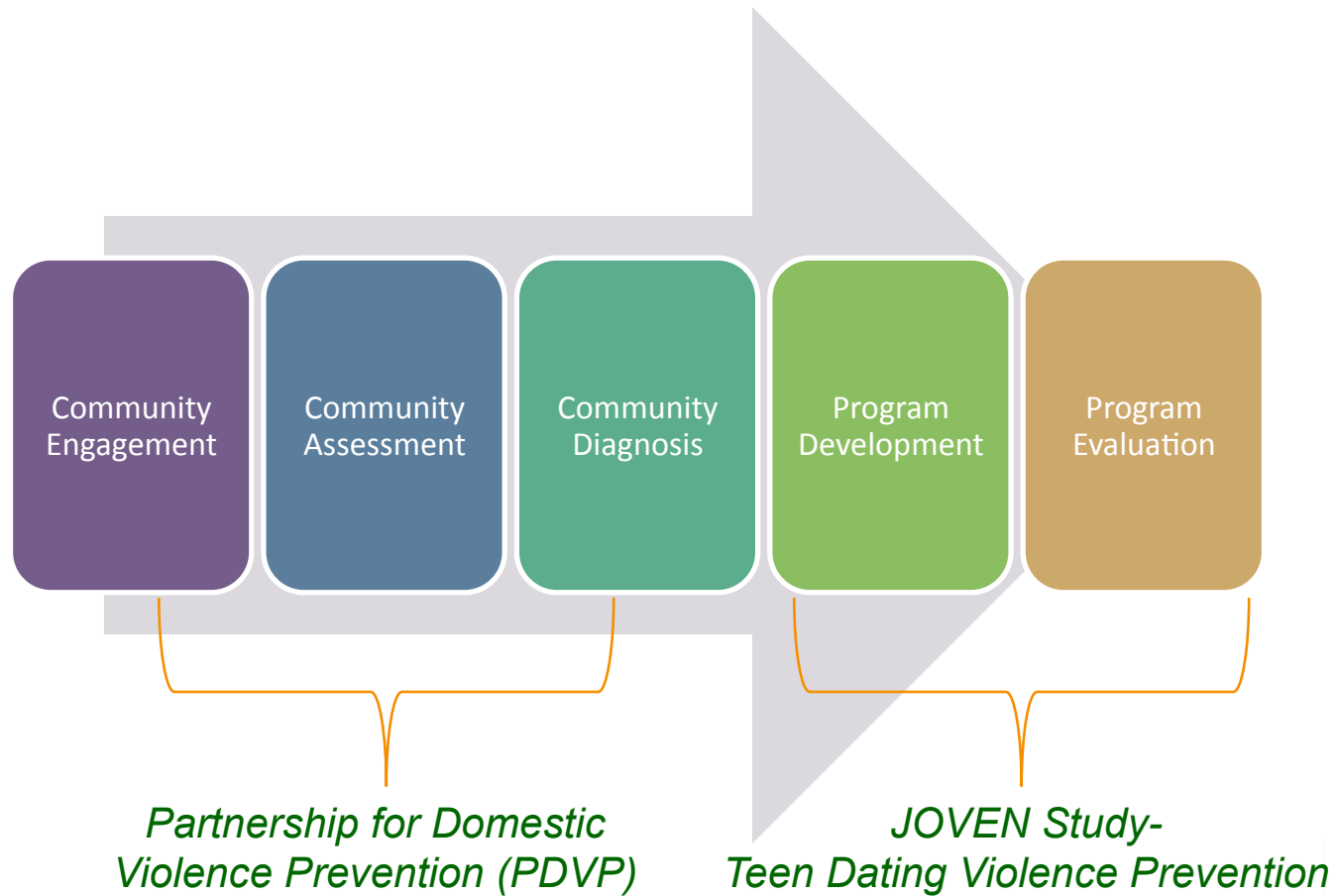
Funded by NCMHD Grant 1P60 MD002266 to Nilda Peragallo, PI
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Objectives

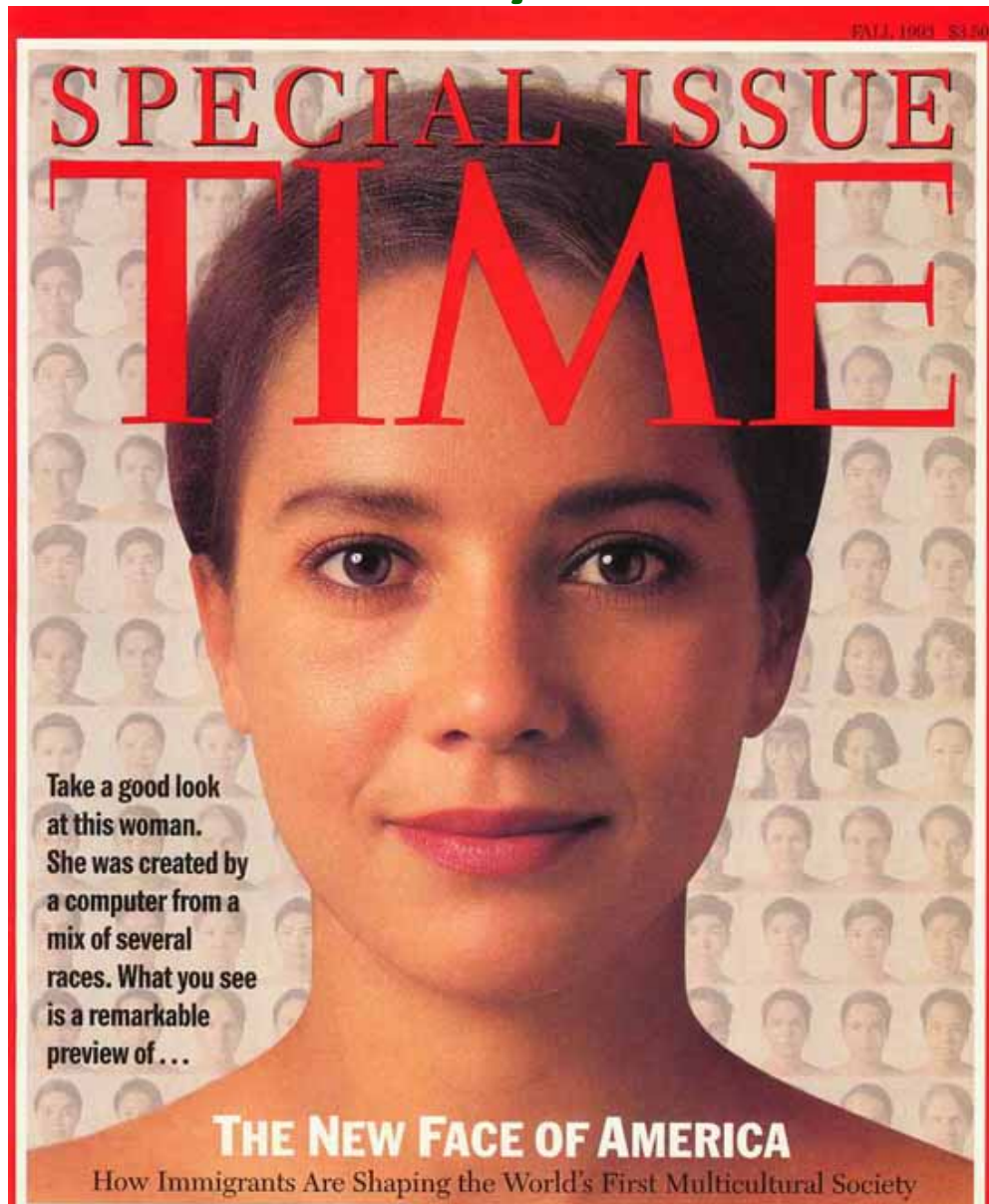
At the end of this session, participants will:

1. Describe the development of a community-based participatory research study aimed at assessing the needs and preferences for preventing intimate partner violence (IPV) among Hispanics in South Florida
2. Identify risk and protective factors for IPV among Hispanics
3. Describe cultural considerations that should be integrated into IPV prevention programs specifically targeting Hispanic youth

Prevention Model



Why Focus on Hispanics?



Time Magazine (1993)

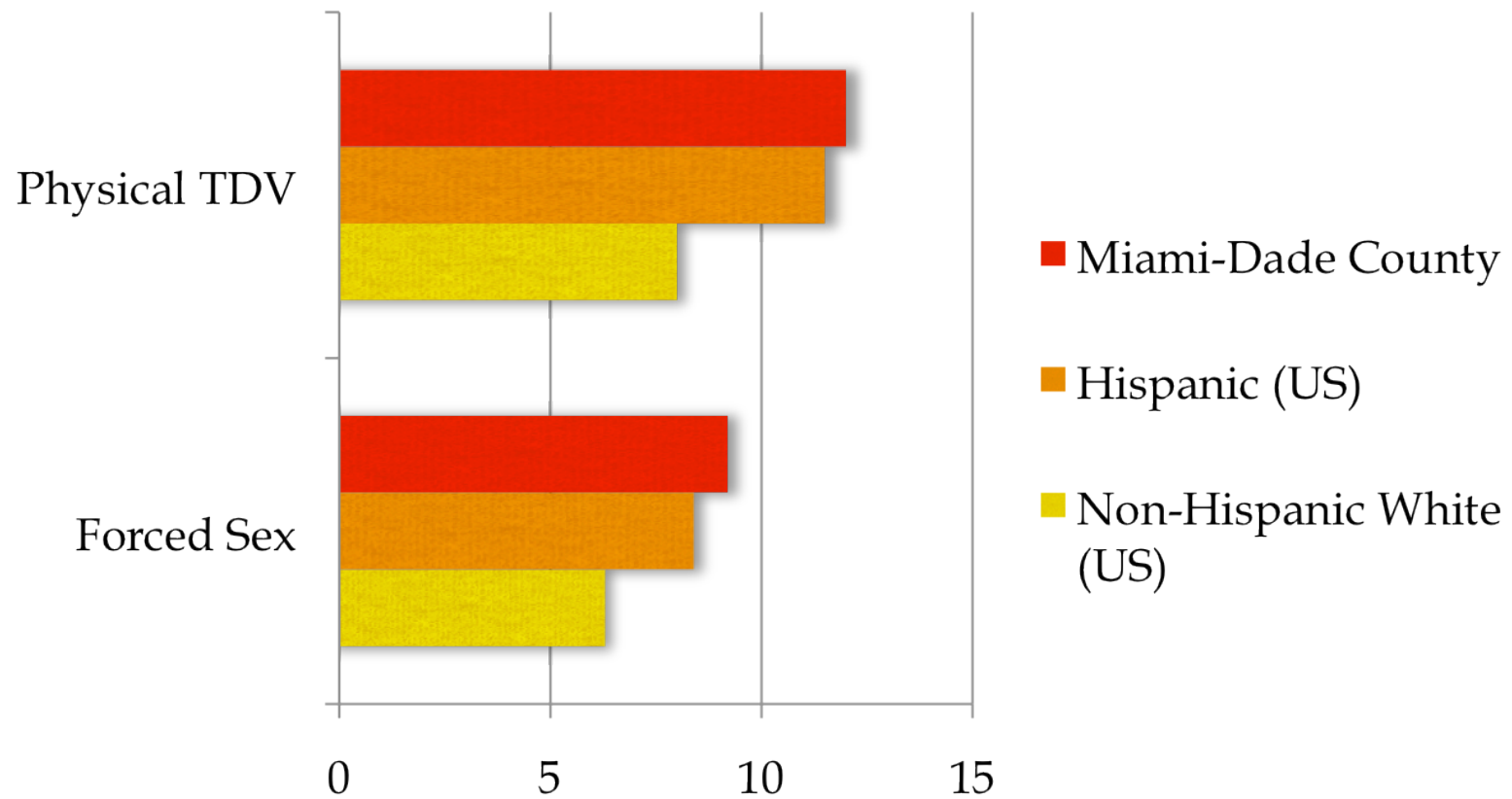
“The future health of the nation will be determined to a large extent by how effectively we work with communities to reduce and eliminate health disparities between non-minority and minority populations experiencing disproportionate burdens of disease, disability, and premature death.”

Office of Minority Health,
CDC (2009)

IPV Health Disparities Among Hispanics

- Hispanics are:
 - 2 times more likely to report IPV
 - More likely to report negative psychological outcomes
 - More likely to report severe forms of abuse

Teen Dating Violence Among Youth



Data from the 2009 Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS), CDC (2012)

The Partnership For Domestic Violence Prevention (PDVP)



*Coordinated Victim Assistance Center (CVAC),
MDC Department of Human Services*

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University of Miami*

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Study Personnel

- Investigators
 - Principal Investigator: Rosa M. Gonzalez-Guarda, PhD, MPH, RN, CPH
 - Co-Investigators: Etiony Aldarondo, PhD & Ivon Mesa, CPA
- Domestic Violence Research Advocate (DVRA)
 - Maria Becerra, BA
- Trust Specialist
 - Karen Pino, MS
- Graduate Assistants
 - Amanda Cummings, Melanie Kempf , Elizabeth Lipman Diaz, Michelle Castro Fernandez, Krithika Malhotra
- Research Assistants
 - Taylor Ann Biancone, Melissa Guatreaux, Jessica E. Lopez, Brianne Neuburger, Shameka Thompson
- Volunteers
 - Wendy Shoaf, Aynar Alvarez, Ana Martinez, Yenifer Sanchez, Yanet Castellanos

Community Advisory Board (CAB)

- Juanita Cendar - Legal Aid Society
- Marcia Ocio - Sisterhood of Survivors (SOS)
- Belinda Paulicin - BFC/Advocate Program
- Carrie Soubal - State Attorney's Office
- Teresa Descilo - Trauma Resolution Center
- Juan Ferreiro - State Attorney's Office
- Heather Winters - Family Counseling Center/ The Journey Institute
- Rosa Placencia - Amigos for Kids
- Maria Jose Fletcher - Florida Immigrant Advocacy Center
- Robert Morgan, Ph.D. - The University of Miami Mailman Center

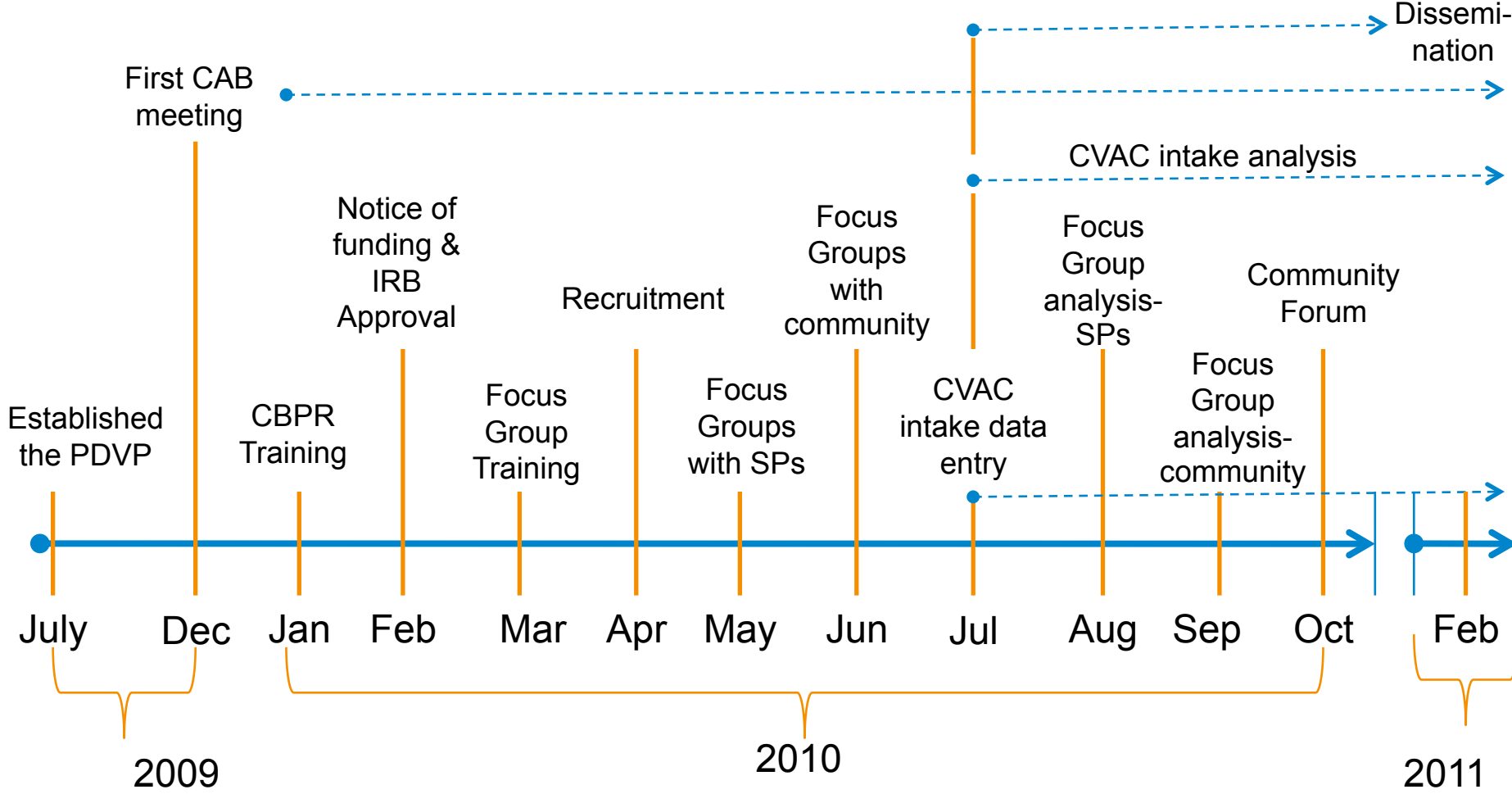
Specific Aims of the PDVP

1. To lay the groundwork for an enduring community-academic partnership to promote the prevention of domestic violence among Hispanics in MDC
2. To assess specific needs and preferences for prevention with regard to domestic violence among Hispanics in MDC

Methods

- Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR)
- 9 Focus Groups (N = 76)
- Community Forum (N = approx. 150)
- Secondary Data Analysis (N = 407)

Overview of Major PDVP Activities



Focus Group Participant Characteristics (N = 76)

Variable	%	Mean (range)	SD
Age		42 (19 -72)	13.04
Years in the US		23 (1-64)	15.49
Education		14 (2 -21)	4.03
Monthly Family Income			
< \$500	9%		
\$500 - \$999	16%		
\$1,000 - \$1,999	16%		
\$2,000 - \$2,999	16%		
\$3,000 - \$3,999	11%		
\$4,000 - \$4,999	8%		
\$5,000 - \$5,999	7%		
≥ \$6,000	9%		
Health Insurance	59%		

Focus Group Participant Characteristics (N = 76)

Variable	%
Hispanic	93%
Race	
	White 68%
	Biracial/Multiracial 19%
	Black 7%
	Asian 1%
	Other 4%
Country of Origin	
	US 27%
	Cuba 25%
	Colombia 16%
	Nicaragua 9%
	All countries in Latin America were identified \leq 5%
	Haiti 3%

Focus Group Participant Characteristics

Variable	%
Male	37%
Marital Status	
Married	37%
Single	23%
Divorced	16%
Separated	15%
In relationship, not legally married	4%
Widowed	1%
Employed	68%
Service Provider	40%
Personally Affected by Domestic Violence	42%

Focus Group Results

*Three major themes emerged**

1. Priority Subgroups
2. Culture as a Double-Edge Sword
3. *Rompiendo el Patron*- Breaking the Pattern

*There was a 4th, but not as relevant to prevention and hence not discussed here

Priority Sub-groups

Immigrants

- Legal status
- Financial barriers
- Language
- Lack of education
- Social isolation
- Lack of trust
- Fear

Youth

- Becoming more violent
- Opportune time to intervene
- Impacted by family at home

Low
Income
Families

- Financial barriers
- Lack of education
- Lack of support

Men

- Without addressing men (perpetrators) there can not be prevention
- Often not addressed
- Unfair treatment

Gay &
Transgender

- More aggressive forms of abuse
- Lack of recognition of DV as problem
- Discrimination & rejection

Vulnerable
Adults

- Elderly
- Pregnant women
- Physical disabilities
- Mental disabilities

Culture as a Double-edged Sword

Family Upbringing

- Protection of the family
- View that women need to be married
- loss of family values
- Repeating patterns of DV
- It's just the way it is
- Encouraging to stay in abusive relationships

Faith

- Marriage is forever
- Faith leaders mishandle families affected by DV
- Promotes inequitable gender roles
- Churches as a good venue for intervention

Gender Roles

- Women as weak: Homemaker, submissive, lack of assertiveness
- Women as strong: Control of household, desire for independence
- Men as a strong : Provider, possessiveness as sign of love, drinker, aggressive

Adapting to American Culture

- Process as a major stressor
- Mixed culture and acculturation levels as a risk
- Isolation

Community Ties

- Mobility of neighbor impedes community relationships
- Recreating families through community
- Resourcefulness of women

Rompiendo el Patron- Breaking the Pattern

Community-wide Response

- Creating intolerance for DV
- Social marketing
- Communicating more effectively
- Making current programs more consistent and accessible
- Universal DV interventions
- Involving businesses
- Train the trainer
- Neighborhood resource units
- Including men

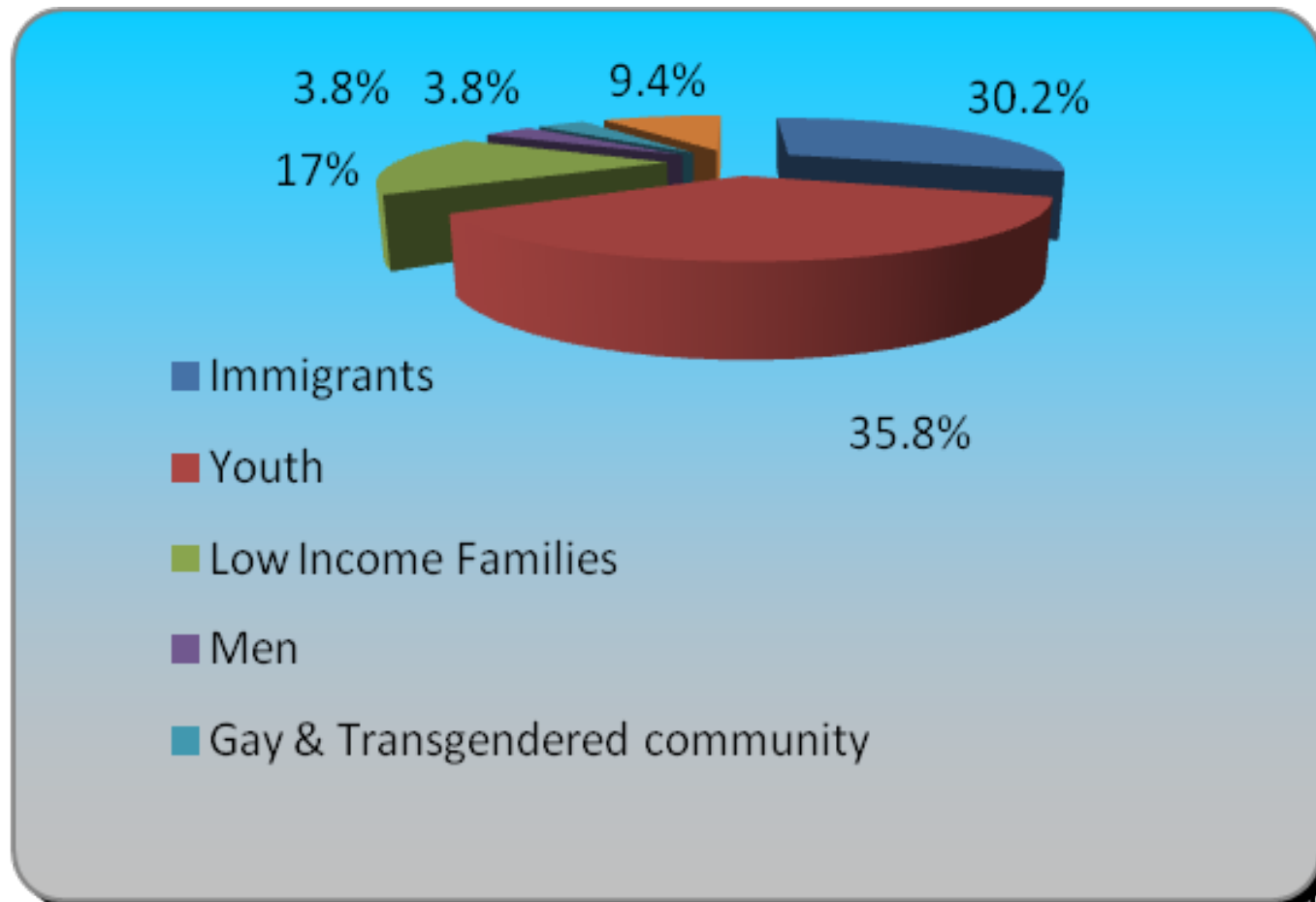
Teen Dating Violence (TDV) Prevention

- Developing a curriculum
- Addressing other types of violence
- Including technology
- Communication
- Needs of both male and females and ages
- Engaging the entire family
- Training of school staff
- Making it attractive
- Delivered by peers and youth (e.g., college students)
- Building upon diverse services and promising programs (e.g., Safe Dates)

Empowering Vulnerable Women

- Creating knowledge about their rights and access to services
- Financial/economic programs that teach independence, balance money, boost self-esteem
- Helping them become independent
- Covering basic needs (employment, shelter, childcare, etc)

Community Forum Results: Highest Priority Subgroups



Community Forum Results:

Percentage of participants that strongly agreed (SA) or strongly disagreed (SD) that specific cultural factors should be included in a prevention program for youth

	SA (%)	SD (%)
Family (n=44)	86	0
Gender Roles (n=49)	82	0
Faith (n=46)	57	12
Adapting to American culture (n=44)	70	5
Community Ties (n=44)	94	9

Project *JOVEN*(YOUTH):
Juntos Opuestos a la Violencia Entre Novios/
Together Opposed to Teen Dating Violence

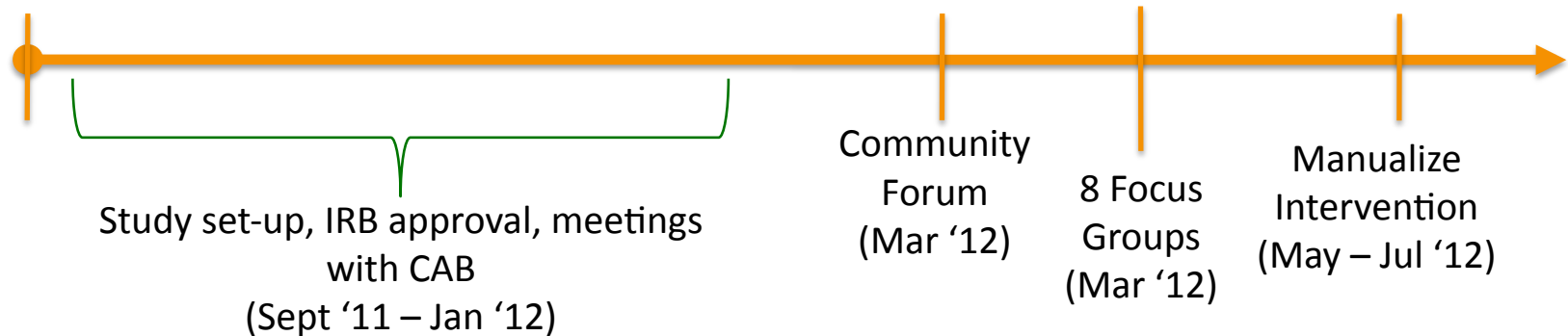
Specific Aims:

1. Develop, refine and manualize a culturally-specific, school-based and theoretically grounded TDV prevention program, JOVEN, for Hispanic 9th graders, including components for parents and school personnel (Phase I)
2. Pilot test the JOVEN program to assess its feasibility & acceptability (Phase II)
3. Evaluate the preliminary efficacy of the JOVEN program when compared to a no-intervention control group in preventing and reducing the occurrence of TDV and affecting mediators or moderators found to be risk or protective factors for TDV (Phase II)

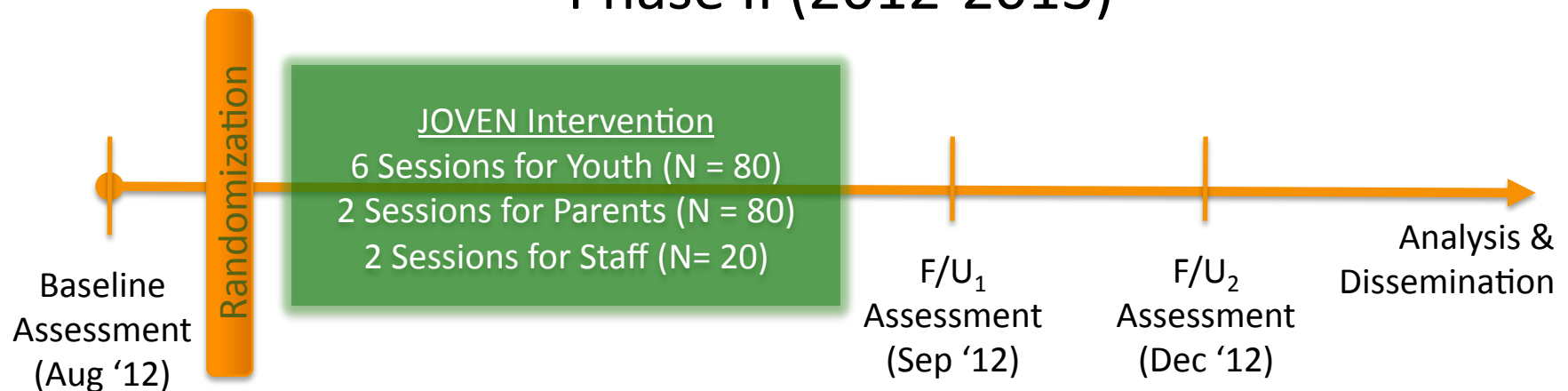
Timeline for Project *JOVEN*

(Not to Scale)

Phase I (2011-2012)



Phase II (2012-2013)



Discussion

- CBPR empowers and motivates communities towards action
- TDV prevention targeting youth is of high priority
- Interventions that promote positive aspects of Hispanic culture are needed to target specific Hispanic sub-groups
- These should be evaluated and disseminated

Contact Information

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