The Partnership for Domestic Violence Prevention:

Preventing Intimate Partner Violence Among Hispanics

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4 University of Miami School of Education, Coral Gables, FL
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

Community Engagement

Community Assessment

Community Diagnosis

Program Development

Program Evaluation

Partnership for Domestic Violence Prevention (PDVP)

JOVEN Study-Teen Dating Violence Prevention

UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY
“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

(Caetano et al., 2005; Gonzalez-Guarda et al., 2008, 2009)
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

School of Nursing & Health Studies,
University of Miami

School of Education,
University of Miami
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

- First CAB meeting
- Notice of funding & IRB Approval
- CBPR Training
- Focus Group Training
- Recruitment
- Focus Groups with SPs
- Focus Groups with community
- CVAC intake data entry
- CVAC intake analysis
- Community Forum
- Dissemination

Established the PDVP

- July 2009
- Dec 2009
- Jan 2010
- Feb 2010
- Mar 2010
- Apr 2010
- May 2010
- Jun 2010
- Jul 2010
- Aug 2010
- Sep 2010
- Oct 2010
- Feb 2011
Focus Group Participant Characteristics (N = 76)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Mean (range)</th>
<th>SD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td></td>
<td>42 (19-72)</td>
<td>13.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Years in the US</td>
<td></td>
<td>23 (1-64)</td>
<td>15.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td></td>
<td>14 (2-21)</td>
<td>4.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monthly Family Income</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt; $500</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$500 - $999</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$1,000 - $1,999</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$2,000 - $2,999</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$3,000 - $3,999</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$4,000 - $4,999</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$5,000 - $5,999</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>≥ $6,000</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Insurance</td>
<td></td>
<td>59%</td>
<td></td>
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Focus Group Participant Characteristics (N = 76)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Race</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biracial/Multiracial</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Country of Origin</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cuba</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colombia</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nicaragua</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All countries in Latin America were identified</td>
<td>&lt;5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haiti</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Focus Group Participant Characteristics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marital Status</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Married</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Divorced</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Separated</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In relationship, not legally married</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Widowed</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employed</td>
<td>68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service Provider</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personally Affected by Domestic Violence</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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 week: 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

- Immigrants: 35.8%
- Youth: 30.2%
- Low Income Families: 9.4%
- Men: 17%
- Gay & Transgendered community: 3.8%
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Factor</th>
<th>SA (%)</th>
<th>SD (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Family (n=44)</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender Roles (n=49)</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faith (n=46)</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adapting to American culture (n=44)</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Ties (n=44)</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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)

- Study set-up, IRB approval, meetings with CAB (Sept ‘11 – Jan ‘12)
- Community Forum (Mar ‘12)
- 8 Focus Groups (Mar ‘12)
- Manualize Intervention (May – Jul ‘12)

Phase II (2012-2013)

- Randomization
- Baseline Assessment (Aug ‘12)
- JOVEN Intervention
  - 6 Sessions for Youth (N = 80)
  - 2 Sessions for Parents (N = 80)
  - 2 Sessions for Staff (N= 20)
- Analysis & Dissemination
- F/U Assessment (Sep ‘12)
- F/U Assessment (Dec ‘12)
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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