

PROJECT BRIEF

Piloting a Community Based Participatory Research Approach to Investigate the Health Issues and Resource Needs of Latinas Living with HIV

Background

HIV/AIDS is becoming more concentrated in ethnic/racial minorities, women, and the poor even as these subgroups have less and less access to effective therapy, health care, and prevention services. In Wisconsin, rates of HIV infection among Hispanic women are 19-fold greater compared to White women. Hispanics comprise 3.6% of the state's female population, but account for 13% of reported cases of HIV in women. Relatively few US investigations have focused on Latinas living with HIV. There is a need for systematic attention to the ways in which cultural factors such as language, acculturation, and meaning of HIV illness affect Latinas.¹

Purpose

A community solidarity-building approach like community based participatory research (CBPR) holds great promise for developing and implementing culturally competent research and for devising policies and programs to reduce health disparities. In the tradition of liberationist movements, practitioners of CBPR work with community stakeholders as co-researchers to facilitate the production of knowledge directly useful to the groups themselves.

Goal

Pilot a CBPR approach to investigate the health issues and resource needs of urban HIV-infected Latinas residing in Milwaukee.

Specific Aims

1. Explore the impact of HIV in the lives of 15 HIV-infected Latinas through qualitative interviews (conducted in the participant's primary language)

2. Integrate the dynamic involvement of a community advisory board throughout all stages of the study including:
 - Research design
 - Sample recruitment
 - Data collection
 - Data translation
 - Data analysis
 - Dissemination of results

Timeline

May 1, 2007 – December 31, 2009

Progress to Date

- All interviews, conducted with participants in Spanish, are complete.
- Sophisticated narrative data analyses complete.
- Regular meetings of the CBPR team have been held.
- Seeking funding to disseminate study findings using interactive Social Theatre.

Key Partners

Center for Urban Population Health

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UW-Milwaukee College of Nursing

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Professor

Center for Urban Population Health

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Director for Community Partnerships

Virginia Zerpa-Uriona, M.P.H., Outreach
Specialist

The *Community Advisory Board* consists of
community members and individuals from
the following organizations:

Sixteenth Street Community Health Center

Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin

United Migrant Opportunity Services

The Healing Center

A community member affected by HIV

Funding Source

Center for Urban Population Health's
Center Scientist Development Program
through the Wisconsin Partnership Fund

Academic Accomplishments

Zerpa-Uriona, V. (2008). Preliminary study
findings were presented in Spanish at
the *Breaking the Silence on HIV/AIDS*

Conference, sponsored by Planned
Parenthood to commemorate Latino
HIV Awareness Day (October).

Zerpa-Uriona, V. & Stevens, P. (2009).
Struggles and Victories of 15 Latina
Women Infected with HIV in Milwaukee.
*33rd Annual Women's Studies
Conference/4th Annual LGBTQ
Conference*, sponsored by the University
of Wisconsin System Institute on Race
and Ethnicity, Madison, WI (April).

Stevens, P., Zerpa-Uriona, V., Barker, M.,
Toscano, M., Brautigam, A., Ward, J.,
Galvao, L., & Frazer, D. (2010).
Challenges of Translating Research
Findings to Social Action in Community-
Based Participatory Research Studies.
*11th Community-Campus Partnerships for
Health Conference*, Portland,
Oregon (May)

References

¹Statistics cited are from *The epidemic of HIV infection
in Wisconsin: Review of case surveillance data collected
through 2006*, Neil Hoxie, M.S., Epidemiologist,
AIDS/HIV Program, Wisconsin Division of Public
Health.

The Center for Urban Population Health is a partnership among the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health, the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and Aurora Health Care, Inc. Our mission is advancing population health research and education to improve the health of urban communities.