Bridging Two Worlds: Working with the Latino Community to Prevent Teen Pregnancy and Improve Reproductive Health

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AMCHP Webinar
May 27, 2009
We’re going to talk about

• Who we are
• Data on Latino teen reproductive and sexual health
• How does acculturation influence Latino teens’ behaviors and attitudes about teen pregnancy?
• What programs work to prevent teen pregnancy – a focus on Latino teens?
The National Campaign’s Mission

• Our mission is to improve the lives and future prospects of children and families and, in particular, to help ensure that children are born into families who are committed to and ready for the demanding task of raising the next generation.

• Our goal: 2 in 10 by 2015!
Why a Latino Initiative?

- Latinos are the **fastest growing** racial and ethnic group in the nation.
- Latinas have the **highest teen birth and pregnancy rates** of all racial and ethnic groups in the U.S.

**53%** of Latinas get pregnant *at least once* before age 20.
Big Picture: Education and Poverty

• Almost half of Latino adults living in the United States do not have a high school diploma.

• Latino teens are more likely to drop out of high school than their peers: ___% of Latina teen moms

• In 2003, 22% of Latinos were living below the poverty level compared to 8% of non-Hispanic whites.

• Almost 30% of all children living in poverty are Latino.
Latino Initiative Five Steps

1. Conduct an environmental scan.

2. Build capacity and partnerships, with guidance of Latino Initiative Advisory Group.

3. Strengthen the research base for action.

4. Offer technical assistance and provide resources for parents, teens, and communities.

5. Reach out to key organizations and sectors, including policymakers, faith leaders, and media.
Diversity of the Latino Community

- Language
- Acculturation
- Theology
- Immigration Status
- Norms
- Origin
- Socioeconomic Status
Country of Origin of Latinos Living in the United States, 2004

- Mexico: 66%
- Puerto Rico: 9%
- Cuba: 4%
- Central America: 8%
- South America: 5%
- Other: 8%

An Overview of National Data on Latinos
Teen Pregnancy Rates

- More than half of all Latina teens will become pregnant at least once before their 20th birthday.
- In 2004, there were 133 pregnancies per 1,000 Latina teens age 15-19; compared to 72 pregnancies per all teen girls age 15-19.
Teen Pregnancy Rates by Race/Ethnicity, 1990-2004

Now, about the teen birth rate...

*Data for 2006 are preliminary.

Teen Birth Rates by Race/Ethnicity 1990-2007*

*Data for 2007 are preliminary.

Teen Birth Rate by Race/Ethnicity and Age Group, 2007*

![Bar chart showing birth rates per 1,000 for different race/ethnic groups and age groups.]

- **Total**: 43 (15-19), 74 (15-17), 22 (18-19)
- **Non-Hispanic White**: 27 (15-19), 12 (15-17), 51 (18-19)
- **Non-Hispanic Black**: 64 (15-19), 36 (15-17), 109 (18-19)
- **Hispanic**: 82 (15-19), 48 (15-17), 137 (18-19)
- **American Indian or Alaska Native**: 59 (15-19), 32 (15-17), 101 (18-19)
- **Asian or Pacific Islander**: 17 (15-19), 8 (15-17), 31 (18-19)

*Data for 2007 are preliminary.

Why is the Latino teen pregnancy rate so high?

- Consider:
  - Age difference between partners
  - Sexual and contraceptive behavior
  - Access to information and/or services
  - Parent-adolescent communication
Age Difference

- Latina teens are more likely to have older sexual partners (4+ years older)

- As the age difference between teen girls & their partners increases:
  - The likelihood of having sex increases, and
  - The likelihood of using contraceptives decreases
Latino Teen Sexual Behavior

- A similar proportion of Latina students have had sex, but Latino boys are more likely to have had sex than their peers.

Proportion of High School Students Who Have Ever Had Sex, YRBS 2007

- Boys: All Students 50%, Hispanic 58%
- Girls: All Students 46%, Hispanic 46%
- All Students: All Students 48%, Hispanic 52%

Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2007; CDC
Lower Contraceptive Use

• Latino teens are less likely to use contraception.
  – 63% of sexually active Latina teens report using any method of contraception at last sex
    » 29% report using a hormonal method
    » 28% report using condoms

Source: Science Says #29, Teen Contraceptive Use.
Condom Use

Latino boys and girls are less likely to use condoms at last sex compared to their peers.

Source: Science Says #29, Teen Contraceptive Use.
Latino Teens and Marriage

Percentage of teens that agree that getting married is better than remaining single, by race/ethnicity and gender.

Source: Science Says #16, Teens' attitudes toward marriage, cohabitation, and divorce, 2002.
A few thoughts on acculturation and diversity

• Generation status
• Language
• Country of Origin

Source: Science Says #35, Acculturation and Sexual Behavior Among Latino Youth.

- Teen interviewed in Spanish
- Parent interviewed in Spanish (teen in English)
- Parent and teen interviewed in English, but report speaking another language at home
- Youth and responding parent only speak English

+ p<0.05
What Latino teens say…

• National Campaign’s Latino Initiative recently conducted a poll with 759 Latino teens and 915 Latino parents— to be released in partnership with NCLR early next year.

• Explore attitudes and beliefs about sex, contraception, and future goals.

• Goal: offer insights to practitioners, counselors, educators, and policymakers to improve TPP programs, interventions, and services for the Latino community.
What Latino teens say… (cont.)

- More than 8 in 10 Latino teens (84%) report that either graduating from college or having a promising career is the MOST important goal for their future.

- 8 in 10 Latino teens (81%) also report that having a child as a teenager would delay/prevent them from reaching their goals for the future.

- 77% of Latino teens report that planning for the future is important and within their control.
Latinos debunk the myths that...

• Latinas want to get pregnant
• Latinos don’t care about school
• Latinos don’t care about a promising career
• Latinos don’t think that planning for their future is important
What can we do?

• Believe in our Latino youth
• Encourage our Latino youth to set goals and chart a “dream” map
• Educate/involve the parents, especially recent immigrant parents who might have different values
• Understand the diversity of the Latino community
Parent-Teen Communication

- Latino parents – and their teens – both say that it is difficult to talk about sex and other related issues.
- 75% of Latino teen boys and girls agree that parents send different messages to their sons and their daughters.
- 70% of Latino teens want more information about both abstinence and contraception.
A word about Science-Based Programs

There are six rigorously evaluated programs that have shown success with Latino teens.

- **Draw the Line. Respect the Line**
- **Safer Choices**
- **¡Cuídate!**

Source: *Science Says: Evaluated and Promising Programs* (National Campaign)
Science-Based Programs (cont.)

- Children’s Aid Society- Carrera Program
- Reach for Health Community
- Poder Latino*

* quasi-experimental design

Source: Copy That and Science Says: Evaluated and Promising Programs (National Campaign)
Promising Programs

- Wise Guys/Jóvenes Sabios
- Plain Talk/Hablando Claro developed by the Annie E. Casey Foundation
- Pathways/Senderos in New Britain, CT

Source: Science Says: Evaluated and Promising Programs (National Campaign)
Youth of Pathways/Senderos
What You Can Do

• Educate and encourage parents to feel more comfortable talking with their teens... teach about the dangers of double-standard messages

• Teen pregnancy is not just a “girl” thing

• Understand the specifics of the L.A.T.I.N.O. community you serve

• Take these diverse factors into account when implementing culturally tailored strategies
What Else Can You Do…

INSPIRE OUR LATINO YOUTH:

“If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader.”

- John Quincy Adams
Thank-you!
TheNationalCampaign.org
StayTeen.org
http://www.myspace.com/latino_initiative
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