

Development of a Theater Intervention to Promote Latino Parent-Adolescent Sexual Communication

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Background. There are reproductive health inequities between Latinas and their non-Latina counterparts which contribute to chronic illnesses for themselves and their children. Nationally, 52% of Latina adolescents will become pregnant by age 20 compared with 19% of non-Hispanic whites. In Jackson County, Oregon, the 2009 teen pregnancy rates for Latina teens are nearly double (92.5 per 1000 girls aged 15-19) those for non-Hispanic whites (49.6 per 1000 girls aged 15-19).

Objectives. The purpose of this exploratory study is to evaluate the acceptability of a culturally-relevant parenting intervention using interactive theater to facilitate Latino parent-adolescent communication about sexuality and pregnancy prevention. The specific aims of this study are to 1) assess the acceptability, perceived benefits, and deficits of a theater-based intervention to improve Latino parent-adolescent communication about sexuality and pregnancy prevention; and 2) estimate preliminary intervention impact on parent self-efficacy, comfort with communication, intention to communicate and amount of parent communication about sexuality and pregnancy prevention.

Methods. The proposed study will use a three-month prospective design. Seventy-five Latino parents of adolescent children ages 12-15 will be invited to participate in the theater-based intervention. The intervention uses teen actors to educate parents of adolescents in an interactive community theater setting, consisting of performance and active participation. Acceptability and perceived benefits and deficits of the intervention will be assessed with both qualitative and quantitative process evaluations. Spanish measures of parental communication (self-efficacy, comfort, intention to communicate and parent-child sexual communication) will be employed at baseline and 3 months. Psychometrics of these measures will be reported during this exploratory study.