

# HIV/STI and Intimate Partner Violence Prevention for Latinos

---

NILDA (NENA) PERAGALLO MONTANO, DRPH, RN, FAAN;  
NATALIA VILLEGAS , PHD, MSN, RN, IBCLC; ROSINA CIANELLI, PHD, MPH, RN, IBCLC, FAAN;  
MADELINE FERNANDEZ, PHD, RN

Sigma Theta Tau International's 30th International Nursing Research Congress  
Calgary, Alberta, Canada



UNC  
SCHOOL OF NURSING

# Disclosure

---

**Authors:** Peragallo, N. <sup>1</sup>, Villegas, N. <sup>2</sup>, Cianelli, R. <sup>2</sup>, Fernandez, M. <sup>2</sup>

1. School of Nursing, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC, USA

2. School of Nursing and Health Studies, University of Miami, Coral Gables, FL, USA

## Learner Objectives

- The learner will be able to identify risk factors for HIV/STI and intimate partner violence among Latino men and women in the U.S.
- The learner will be able to identify and understand how to design culturally appropriate interventions for HIV/STI prevention and intimate partner violence among Latino men and women in the U.S.

## Conflict of Interest

Research reported in this presentation is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of the National Institutes of Health.



# Introduction

---

- The proportion of newly diagnosed HIV cases has increased in the last 10 years among Latinos, which are the largest ethnic minority group in the U.S. (United States Census Bureau, 2015)
- Hispanics comprise about 24% of Florida's total adult population, and they account for 21% of all people living with HIV and 17% of AIDS cases. Miami-Dade and Broward counties have the highest numbers of AIDS cases statewide (Florida Department of Health, 2015)



# Introduction

---

- The cultural value of machismo promotes male risky behaviors, female acceptance, and community silence about these behaviors. (Cianelli et al., 2013; Ferrer et al., 2015; Gonzalez-Guarda et al., 2012)
- The cultural value of machismo promotes male risky behaviors, female acceptance, and community silence about these behaviors. Understanding how these factors influence Latinos HIV risk is needed to reduce HIV rates among them.
- Community based programs are needed that are both culturally appropriate and accessible for Hispanic women and men.



# Intimate Partner Violence and HIV

---

## IPV increases HIV risk through

- Increase sexual risk behaviors (e.g. lack of condom use) among victims and perpetrators
- Psychological and physiological consequences (e.g., being immunocompromised) of violence that facilitate HIV transmission
- Forced sex with an infected partner
- Limited or compromised negotiation of safer sex practices (cultural barriers)

Latina women tend to have less power than men in their sexual relationships, increasing their risk for HIV



Cummings et al., 2013, Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence, 2012; Gonzalez-Guarda et al., 2012, Peragallo et al., 2012

# Objective

---

The purpose of the proposed study is to identify risk factors for HIV/STI and intimate partner violence (IPV), and to assess effective prevention strategies among Latinos (men and women) in the U.S.



# Methods

---

**Design** – Qualitative descriptive study

## Sample

- 23 Hispanic men and women residing in South Florida between 18 and 50 years old and sexually active in the last 3 months participated in the study:
  - One focus groups included Latino men and women (n=7)
  - One group included men (n=3)
  - One group included women (n=13)



# Methods

---

## Recruitment

- Research team
- Physicians and nurses
- Flyers





# Methods

---

## Participants and Data Collection

### Focus groups

- The facilitators used a semi-structured discussion guide to conduct the focus groups
- The semi-structured discussion guide included related to HIV risk and IPV
- One group was conducted in English and 3 in Spanish
- The groups had a duration of 60 to 120 min, and all the groups were audio recorded.



# Methods

---

## Analysis

- Focus groups were transcribed verbatim in the original language and then analyzed in the original language by the PI and her team.
- Content analysis (conventional) was used to identify and define the major themes that emerged from the focus groups
- We allowed the categories and names for categories to flow from the data using open-ended questions and probes.
- Each group was reviewed by two coders who read the transcripts and code them line-by-line. If there were any discrepancies, a third coder reviewed the interview until 90% agreement was obtained.



# Results

---

- **Age:**  $35.8 \pm 5.9$  (18-50)
- **Years in the U.S.:**  $14.5 + 2.9$
- **Gender**
  - Men n=5 (22%)
  - Women n=18 (78%)
- **Language of preference**
  - English n=5 (22%)
  - Spanish n=18 (78%)
- **Marital Status**
  - In a relationship n=8 (35%)
  - Married n=11 (48%)
  - Single n=3 (13%)
  - Divorced n=1 (4%)



# Results

---

Living with partner	n (%)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Yes</li><li>• No</li></ul>	<p>21 (91)</p> <p>2 (9)</p>
Children	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• One</li><li>• 2 or more</li></ul>	<p>2 (9)</p> <p>21 (91)</p>



# Country of Origin

---

Country	Frequency	Percentage %
United States	5	21.7
Guatemala	4	17.4
Honduras	1	4.3
Mexico	9	39.1
Nicaragua	1	4.3
Colombia	2	8.7
Cuba	1	4.3



# Results

---

Religion	n (%)
Catholic	9 (39.1)
Evangelic Christian	1 (4.3)
Christian	10 (43.5)
None	3 (13)

  

Education	n (%)
≤ HS	16 (69.6)
> HS	7 (30.4)

  

Employment	n (%)
Yes	4 (17.4)
No	19 (82.6)

Health Insurance	n (%)
Insured	5 (21.7)
Uninsured	18 (78.3)

  

Annual Income	n (%)
<\$18,000	11 (47.8)
≥\$18,000	12 (52.2)



# Qualitative Results

---



UNC  
SCHOOL OF NURSING

# Latino Men

---

- Latino men have a lack of knowledge regarding HIV and have not received information about prevention

*“blood, I know you can get it through saliva, being sexually active with a person, you can get it... I mean I’ve heard that people who have it, they don’t even know, which is scary I mean, they don’t know. So many people sleep around out there not knowing this person and they... yea I mean it happens, it happens and... I guess it’s scary, I mean ‘cause this leads to a thing that’s not curable, I mean you could die...”*

- Latino men also mentioned that were scared and they made comments that reflect the stigma that exists towards people living with HIV. In terms of prevention one man said:

*“people should walk around with a health certificate...instead of the Instagram thing, let me see a health certificate...”*





# Latino Men

---

- Most of the men in the group were afraid of getting tested for HIV and go to medical visits.

*“I don’t know...I don’t even go to the doctor, ‘cause I don’t have to. I don’t trust doctors, I don’t trust hospitals...I avoid doctors as much as possible. If I’m sick I just to stay home get some tea whatever, I go to the beach or something, but I don’t go to doctors.”*

- Men said that IPV was common in the community. In addition, they saw it both ways:

*“No matter how much of an asshole you can be, like how can you hit?”*

*“Let me tell you that we see it both, both ways. Not necessarily men, sometimes women are violent to men.”*



# Latino Men

---

- IPV towards men is hard to understand for other men:

*“We have a coworker...he comes in with bruises and cuts and stuff, and I even pulled him to the side and asked ‘Hey, you ok? I mean do you need help? I mean you know I’m here for you, you know.’ But no... he’s masoquista. He likes that, he likes to get hit.”*

- One man also mentioned the importance of getting tested as part of their health and that they could not trust in physical appearance to know if someone has HIV. However this man mentioned that his partner was not getting tested, so trust that the partner is faithful is also common among Latino men.

*“it’s just hard for me to think about this... I get checked twice a year and I’m really cautious with stuff so I just stay away, in line... she [my wife] sees it as if I’m being tested she’s been tested, ‘cause she doesn’t... she’s not sleeping around so...”*



# Latina Women

---

- Some women said that Latinos have received some information but they do not want to use protection because they trust their partners.

*“One as a woman maybe is confident that the husband is only with you, and the husband goes [out] and is with another [person] and does not care... everything is a chain. The thing is care.”*

- Participants do not talk about prevention with their partners

*“they’re scared, people find it so awkward to talk about [HIV] that and its... you know... you’re barely meeting someone for the first time and you “oh I need you to get tested” or “what was your test results?”*



# Latina Women

---

- Hispanic cultural values increase the risk for HIV and IPV

*“The machismo of the man who says ‘Oh no, nothing is going to happen to me, I am the man.’”*

*“One can inform the husband and if the husband refuses [to use condoms] because they feel like ‘Oh that will not happen to me because I do not use a condom, because it does not feel the same’.”*

- Some participants recognized the influence of the cultural values and felt that they needed to take action.

*“I have to take care of myself, I have to inform myself of the consequences, the risks, everything, everything. Because there are cases of women who have been raped... but they did not know that the guy had AIDS... and then even the baby gets involved [gets HIV]... he damaged the life of the woman and the baby...”*



# Latina Women

---

- HIV prevention and IPV are taboo topics among Latinos

*“Too many families suffer domestic violence. Very hard is domestic violence... and not only from the man to the woman, also from the woman to the man, and men do not want to talk because they feel is embarrassing.”*

*“There is a lot of taboo in regards to sexuality...I have seen it in Homestead, I used to live in Miami... there is a lot of taboo in the sexual part. We have to break the silence because for this reason [taboo] we see more diseases.”*



# Latina Women

---

- Condom negotiation is challenging among Latinos

*“He says ‘You are my wife. If I go out to the streets [to have sex] I need to use it [condom]’ ... And then I say to my husband ‘I want to use protection.’ Then he says: ‘Who are you seeing?’ or ‘Are you with someone else?’ Condoms are associated with sex outside home...”*



# Mixed group

---

- Participants identified that men and women are at risk of acquiring HIV in the community.

*“Men and women are at risk... Any person that has a sexual relationship.”*

- Misconceptions about HIV transmission are an important problem in the rural community of Homestead.

*“People who work in nurseries and farms use the same bathroom, men and women. And the bathroom is very dirty, they clean it once a week.”*



# Mixed group

---

- Prevention is challenging because Latino men do not use condoms

*“There are men who say ‘I do not feel with the condom. I do not feel the same.’ It is true.”*

- Men in the group told the women that not all the Latino men are machista. Some of them agree with using condoms but their partners do not want to see them with condoms because they think they are unfaithful.

*“One day they gave me free condoms and my [wife] saw them in my backpack and she got mad at me and asked me where I was... if I was seeing another person and I said ‘No... they were a gift...’. [She said] ‘How can you carry that? If the children see you with that [condoms] it is wrong’ and then I got rid of them.”*





# Prevention strategies among Latinos

---

- No preference in terms of a female or male facilitator

*“It is the same, man or woman, if they have the knowledge.”*

*“[The facilitator] should be open and... professional.”*

- Men and women said that they would feel comfortable sharing SEPA intervention sessions with other men and women but only if their partners were not in the same group

*“Mixed groups, can be any person, that will provide more possibilities for participation and discussion.”*

*“It will be interesting to have mixed groups but it should not be with the partner.”*



# Prevention strategies among Latinos

---

- Men were willing to participate in the intervention as long as it did not interfere with their job and social/family activities

*“It’ll be hard [3 sessions/same day each week] because we all have a different schedule, I mean it depends on our schedule.”*

*“Well I would only be available on weekends.”*

- Participants also talked about the group size

*“[I would participate] depending on how many people, ‘cause I got a little bit of stage fright and stuff, so like I can’t talk to like a big room of people... a table maximum maybe 8 people like 9, something like that.”*



# Prevention strategies among Latinos

---

- Participants felt the need to have information about substance abuse as part of the intervention.

*“yeah, people use a lot of alcohol maybe, alcohol, beers”*



# Discussion

---

- Rates of HIV are high in South Florida. However, several Latino men and women in rural areas do not perceive at risk of acquiring HIV and continue engaging in risk behaviors.
- Risk factors in this group are similar to other groups of Latinos in the U.S.: lack of knowledge, cultural values, lack of partner communication and condom negotiation.
- Latino men and women showed inconsistent condom use and multiple partners.
- Violence was described as prevalent in the community and increases the risk of acquiring HIV.
- Previous SEPA studies have demonstrated IPV predicts inconsistent condom use



# Discussion

---

- Relationship power could be modified
  - Family therapy
  - Couples therapy
  - Education
  - Group therapy
  - Systemic interventions
- Strengthen intervention: Increasing relationship power may increase condom use, and protect against HIV/STI



# Conclusion

---

- To improve individual health and build healthy communities, health care providers need to recognize and address the unique culture, language and health literacy of diverse consumers and communities (HRSA, 2014)
- Culture should be incorporated into the research design
- Researchers must incorporate culture in all the research process



# References

---

- Cianelli, R., Villegas, N., Lawson, S., Ferrer, L., Kaelber, L., Peragallo, N., & Yaya, A. (2013). Unique factors that place older Hispanic women at risk for HIV: Intimate partner violence, machismo and marianismo. *Journal of the Association of Nurses in AIDS Care*, 24(4), 341-354. doi: 10.1016/j.jana.2013.01.009. PMID: PMC3870152.
- Cummings, A. M., Gonzalez-Guarda, R. M., & Sandoval, M. F. (2013). Intimate Partner Violence Among Hispanics: A Review of the Literature. *Journal of family violence*, 28(2), 153–171. doi:10.1007/s10896-012-9478-5
- Gonzalez-Guarda, McCabe, B., Vermeesch, A., Cianelli, R., Florwom-Smith, A., Peragallo, N. (2012). Cultural phenomena and the syndemic factor: substance abuse, violence, HIV, and depression among Hispanic women. *Ann Anthropol Pract.*, November ; 36(2): 212–231. doi:10.1111/napa.12001
- Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County. HIV/AIDS surveillance. [http://miamidade.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/infectious-disease-services/hiv-aids-services/\\_documents/hiv-surveillance-number-of-reported-aids-and-hiv-cases-2012-2014.pdf](http://miamidade.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/infectious-disease-services/hiv-aids-services/_documents/hiv-surveillance-number-of-reported-aids-and-hiv-cases-2012-2014.pdf). Updated 2015.
- Peragallo, N., Deforge, B., O'Campo, P., Lee, S., Kim, Y., Cianelli, R. & Ferrer, L. 2005 "A randomized clinical trial of an HIV-risk-reduction intervention among low-income latina women. ", *Nursing Research*, vol. 54, no. 2, pp. 108-118.
- Peragallo, N., Gonzalez-Guarda, RM., McCabe, B., & Cianelli, R. (2012). The Efficacy of an HIV Risk Reduction Intervention for Hispanic Women. *AIDS and Behavior*, 16(5), 1316-1326. doi: 10.1007/s10461-011-0052-6.
- Unites States Census Bureau. FFF: Hispanic heritage month 2015. <https://www.census.gov/newsroom/facts-for-features/2015/cb15-ff18.html>. Updated 2015

