

Latino Youth & Families: Creating a Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program that Works

Engaging the Latino Community: Opportunities for Success

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ON THE ISSUES SPEAKER SERIES

THE IOWA INITIATIVE TO REDUCE UNINTENDED PREGNANCIES

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MAY 13TH, 2010

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Points to Cover

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- Values that promote the prevention of too early parenthood;
- Social Norms that need to be changed or adapted;
- Efforts to include Latino males as part of the solution to preventing teen pregnancy.

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Conocimiento: Who am I

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- Who am I professionally?
- Where do I work
- What I do?
- Your organizations:
 - Mission
 - Values
 - Goals

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Conocimiento

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- What is the logic model your organization operates from?
- What is the theory of change it operates from?
- Who does your organization serve?
- Why did you choose to work at this organization?

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The Real Conocimiento

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- Who am I?
- Why did I choose the work that I do?
- What influenced the that choice?
- What is your personal:
 - Mission
 - Values
 - Goals
- What change do you hope to bring about?

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The Real Conocimiento

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- What is your core belief about people?
- What is your personal logic model?
- What is your personal theory of change?

- Who do you choose to serve?
- Why did you choose to do the work you do?

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Why is Conocimiento Important?

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- Serves as basis of interaction;
- Can build bridges based on common experiences and goals;
- When I know who you are I understand where you are coming from.

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Why is Conocimiento Important?

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- Conocimiento serves as the foundation for the social lubricant that leads to a deeper understanding of:
 - Personalismo
 - Respeto
 - Familismo
 - Humildad

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Values: Latinos love Children, but...

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- Todo a su tiempo... Everything at its time;
- Latino parents want children to succeed but struggle to navigate "systems" that enhance success;
 - × Education/School
 - × General & Reproductive Health Services
 - × Social, Housing, Support Services often overlooked
- Historically everyone married at an earlier age, Latinos too. But is this the best thing for their children?
- Do not confuse excitement for a new baby for excitement of having a child out of wedlock or out of a committed relationship.

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Value: Relationships...

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- Are a core Latino value.
- Social service providers are NOT just “providers.”
- Attitudes of Medical Staff can make or break success.
- Maintaining a relationship creates the social lubricant to address increasingly personal and private matters.

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Norm: Sex is a difficult topic

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- Most families do not have a historical template on how to introduce sex as a topic of discussion.
- Families often have an older aunt or cousin to introduce and share information with young women.
- Guys are often left to their own devices.
- There has been success in opening lines of dialogue regarding sex and TPP.

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Norms: Boys & Girls... Rethinking

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- Boys were given more license to venture outside the home.
- Girls were provided limited opportunities outside the home.
- Helping parents understand the reality that their children will live in is important.
- Helping young men and women understand the concern their parents have.
- **REALITY: Supervision and guidance for BOTH Girls & Boys is important!!!!**

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Realities of Latino Immigrant Families

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- US Citizens, Legal Immigrant or Undocumented Immigrant
- Parental Power v. Power of Child
- Fathers and Mothers
- Faith Leaders
- Educators
- The Goal: Harmony & Balance

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US Citizen, Legal or Undocumented Immigrant... it makes all the difference

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- How long have Latinos families been in the U.S., in your community;
- Are parents US citizens or legal residents? Or undocumented?
- Are children are US born...
- AND does the community they reside in want them there as community members or laborers?

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The Role of Faith Leaders

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- Respected by Latino families;
- Can be the voice that helps them understand the norms that are of great value;
- Help them understand the expectations that the US has of parents and families;
- Can be a conduit between marginalized parents and families and the education and social service organizations that exist in the community.
- Maintain realistic expectations of what they can do.

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Role of School & Educators

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- Help Latino parents understand the requirements of the U.S. school system;
- Recognize that education is seen as important by Latinos but the map on how to navigate the education system is often nonexistent;
- Educators are respected but often lose the trust of parents.
- HINT: Recognize that two types of education exist in Latino culture.

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Parental Power v. Power of Child

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- Traditionally parents wield great power and authority;
- When legal status is in question and children are US citizens children can:
 - Be protective of their parents
 - Ignore parental authority because they understand their parents fear of discovery and deportation.
- How does affect a parents ability to set limits to activities and actions? Curfews and dating

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The Goal: Harmony & Balance

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- Programs that help parents prevent too early pregnancy among their daughters **AND** sons;
- Develop efforts to integrate Latino families into the social fabric of the community; and
- Helping Latino families identify the values and norms that help them and their children grow and prosper;
- Help Latino families identify the values and practices that harm their children; and
- And assure them that their identity will not be lost in the process.

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Discussion Questions

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- What do you find effective in working with Latino teens? With Latino parents?
 - What messages are effective?
 - What program components are effective?
- What are some challenges?
- Have you experienced differences among subgroups of Latinos (different generations? different countries of origin?)

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Creating New Traditions

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Your handout has three boxes:

- Familial Tradition or Value A
- Familial Tradition or Value B
- Observed Tradition or Value

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