PIII-27: Community-Based Participatory Research: Approaching Mental Health Among Low-income Latinos in Rural Areas

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Introduction: Guided by a community-based participatory research (CBPR) approach, the purpose of this study was to assess depressive symptoms and stressors among a rural population of low-income Latino mothers/children and identify culturally appropriate approaches to treatment that would be supported by the community. Study aims were to: 1) Build collaborative partnerships with rural Latino community leaders to inform the recruitment process and collect culturally relevant data about mental health needs of Latino mothers and children (8-17 years old) in a rural community in North Florida; 2) Describe depressive symptoms, stressors, and culturally appropriate approaches for addressing depression among this population.
**Method(s):** This is an ongoing exploratory-descriptive study, based on the principles of CBPR. Two samples and strategies for recruitment were used in this pilot: convenience and snowball. The Advisory Board assembled for this study is composed of 8 Latino community leaders involved in different organizations in Levy County/FL. Content analysis was used to interpret scribe notes from Advisory Board meetings. Instruments used with women (N = 60) were the Patient Health Questionnaire-Short Version, a Demographic Questionnaire-W, and the Rosenberg Self-Esteem Scale. Instruments used with Latino children (N = 60) were a PI-developed brief Demographic Questionnaire-C, the Children’s Depression Inventory, and the Piers-Harris Children's Self-Concept Scale, 2nd Edition.

**Results:** Categories identified from scribes’ notes were: “Community Knowledge,” “Being Culturally Appropriate,” “Caring for the Community” and “Community Members’ Roles.” Further analysis will include descriptive statistics, t-tests and Pearson correlations to identify/compare depressive symptoms, stressors, and culturally appropriate approaches for addressing depression in Latino mothers and children.

**Discussion & Conclusions:** CBPR studies present new opportunities for recruitment of hard-to-reach populations and for implementation/sustainability of mental health community-based interventions with minorities. This study will generate data for development of a larger CBPR study to address depression and stressors among low-income Latino mothers and children in rural areas.

**Abstract History:**
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