

Successful Strategies to Improve Intergenerational Sexual Health Communication Among Hispanics

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Background

El Paso County, TX

- 725,000 residents in ~232,000 households
- 44% <24 years
- >28,000 grandparents reside with grandchildren
 - 50% provide care full or part time
- 76% speak Spanish at home



Background (cont.)

El Paso County, TX

- 17% of middle school students have had sex
 - 30% before age 12
- Births to teen mothers
 - >90% are to Hispanics; 66% nonmarital; 25% are repeat births
- Highest cervical cancer rate in the state
 - TX ranks 5th in US



Purpose

To develop an effective culturally and linguistically appropriate Spanish-language sexual health curriculum for parenting adults

Curriculum

La salud de mis nietos es primero
based on a successful Spanish language sexual
health curriculum for *promotores* – community
health workers



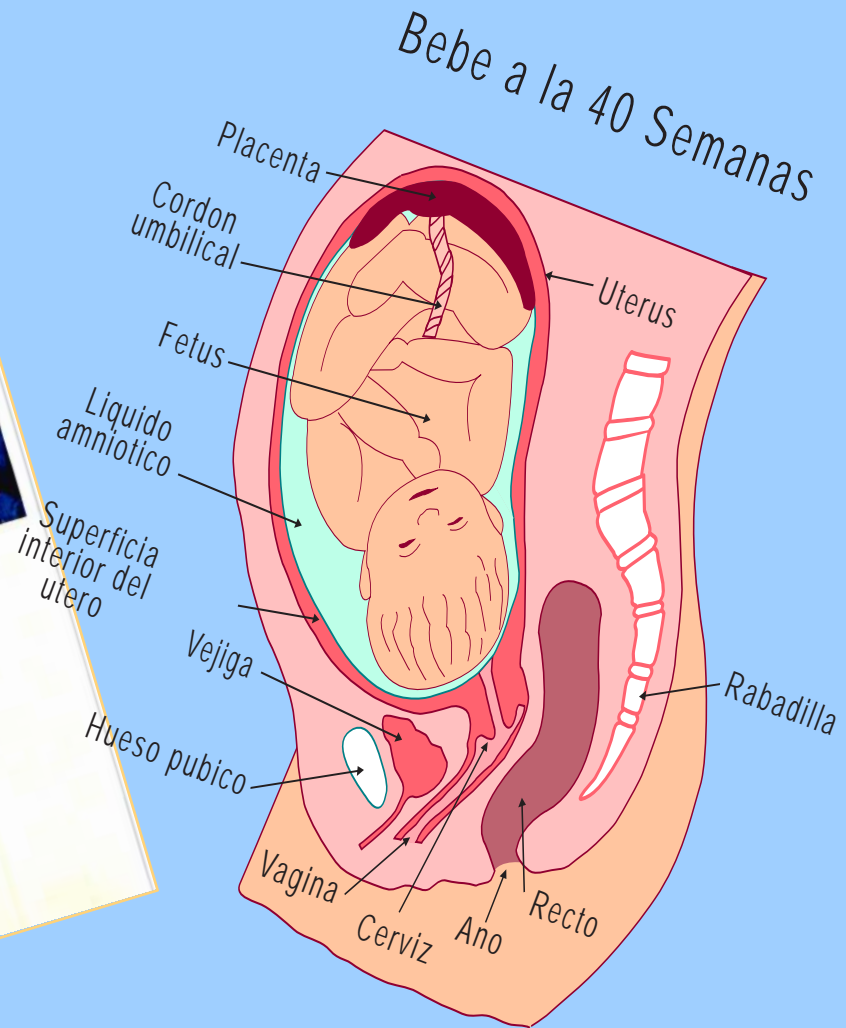
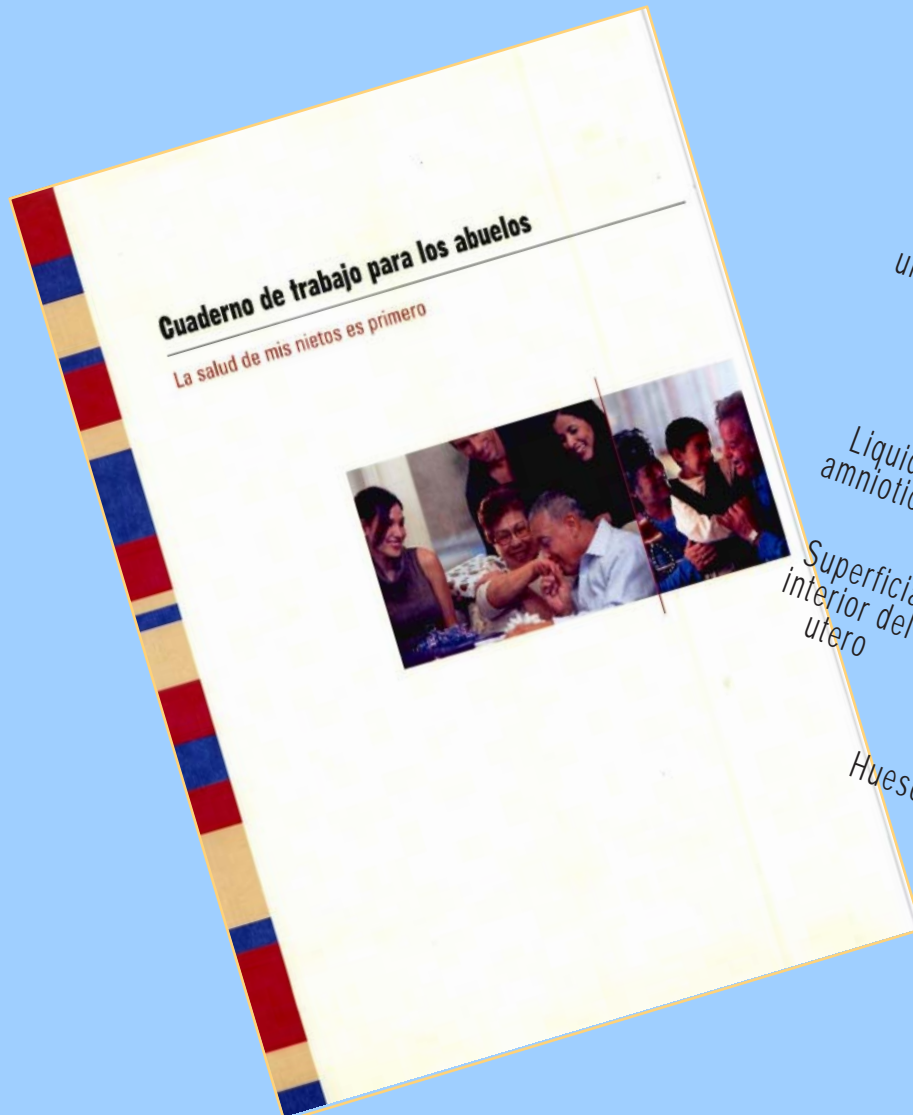
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Objectives

- Increase parenting adult knowledge of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) and nonmarital pregnancy (NMP)
- Improve parenting adult-child communication on sexual health issues

Methods: Instruction

- 8 hour training in Spanish
 - reproductive anatomy
 - STDs, NMP, contraceptives
 - parent-child communication
 - effective decision making
 - cuentos
- Participant workbook
- Anatomy flip charts



Methods: Evaluation

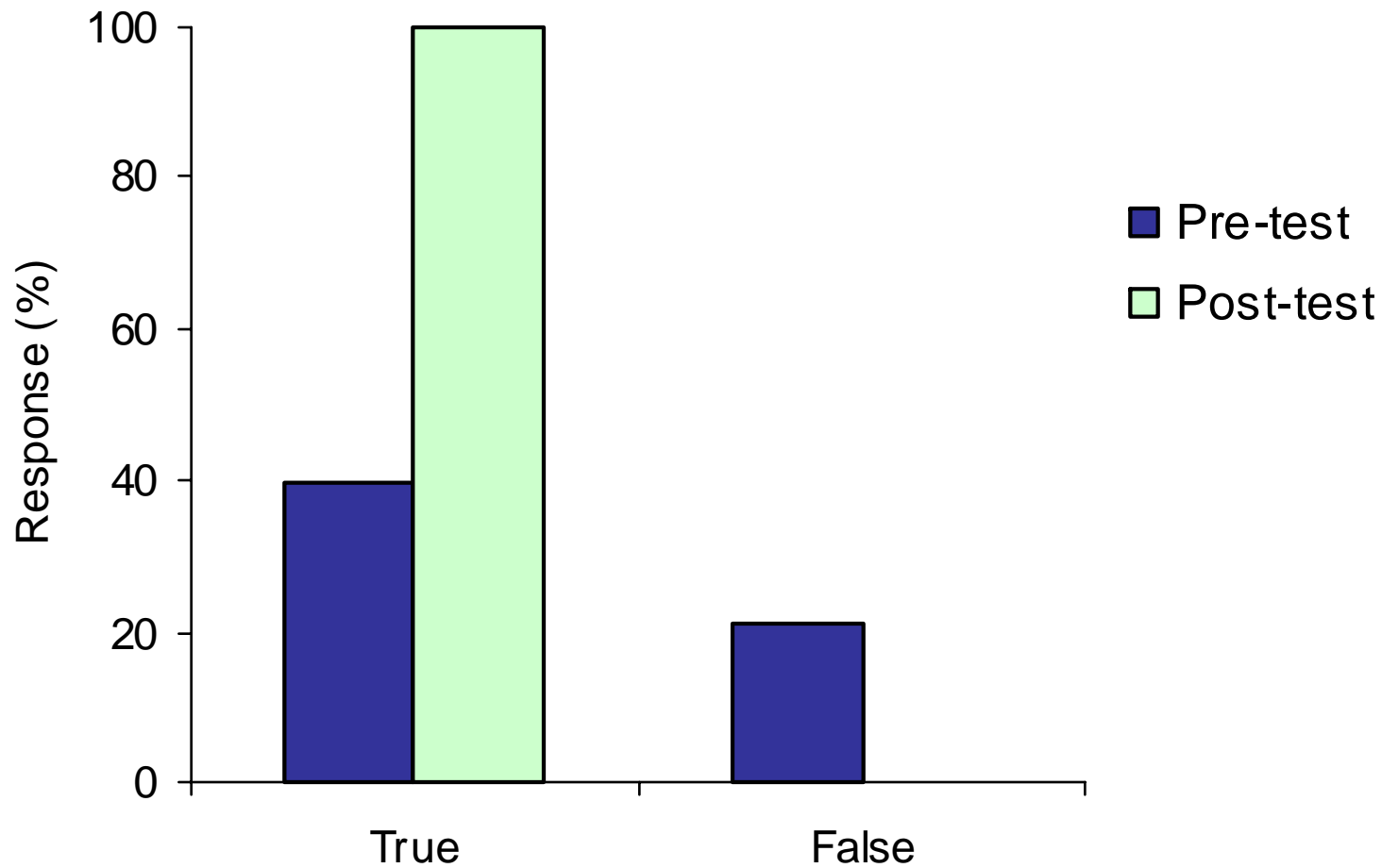
Pre- and post-tests on sexual health

- Knowledge
- Attitudes
- Behaviors

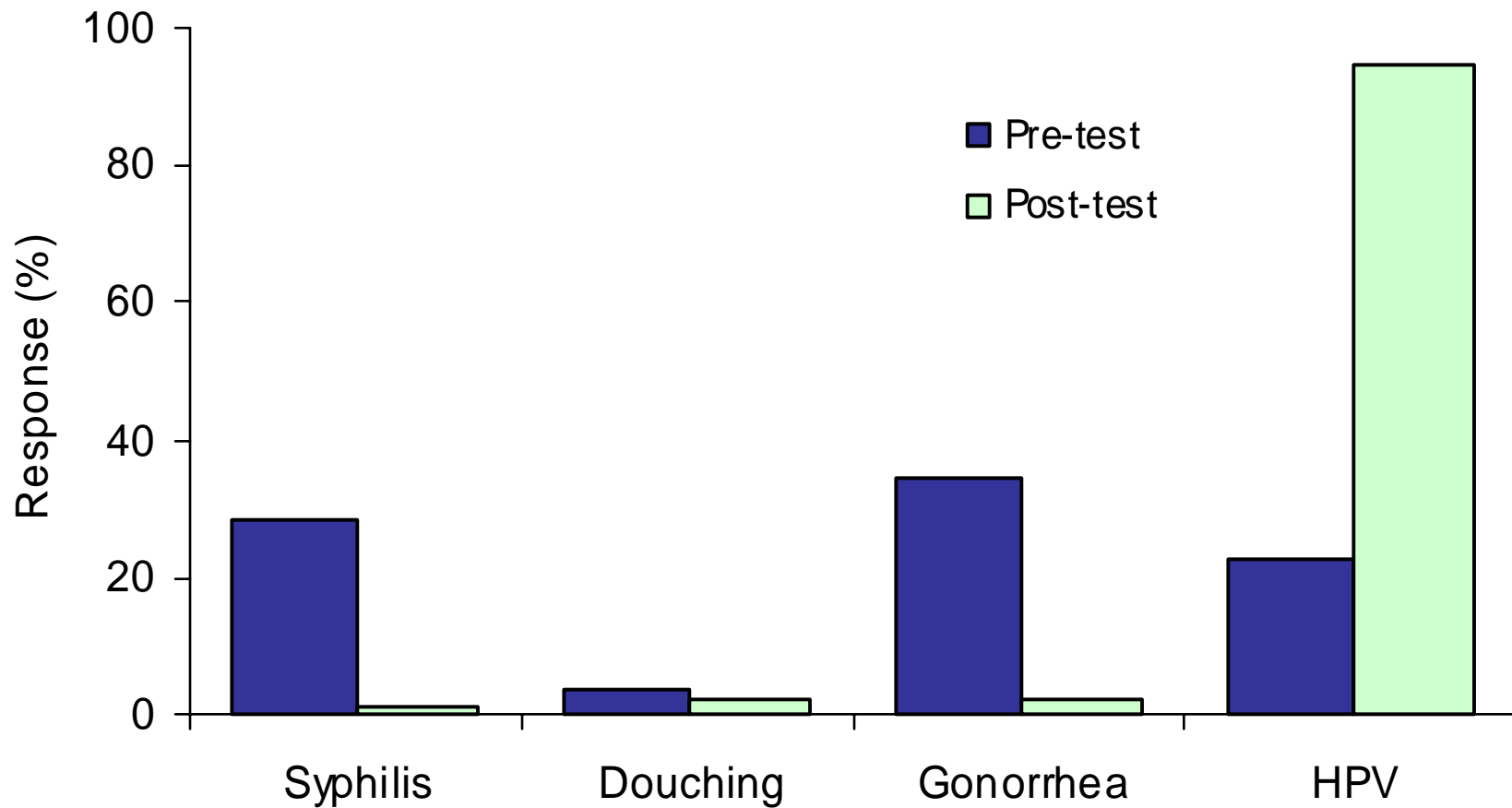
Findings

- 101/103 attendees completed pre- & post-tests
- Median age 49 yrs (range 26-73 yrs)
- 73% had grandchildren in middle or high school
- Significant increases post training
 - knowledge of NMP/STD morbidity/prevention
 - comfort levels during sexual health discussions
 - frequency of communication with peers and children

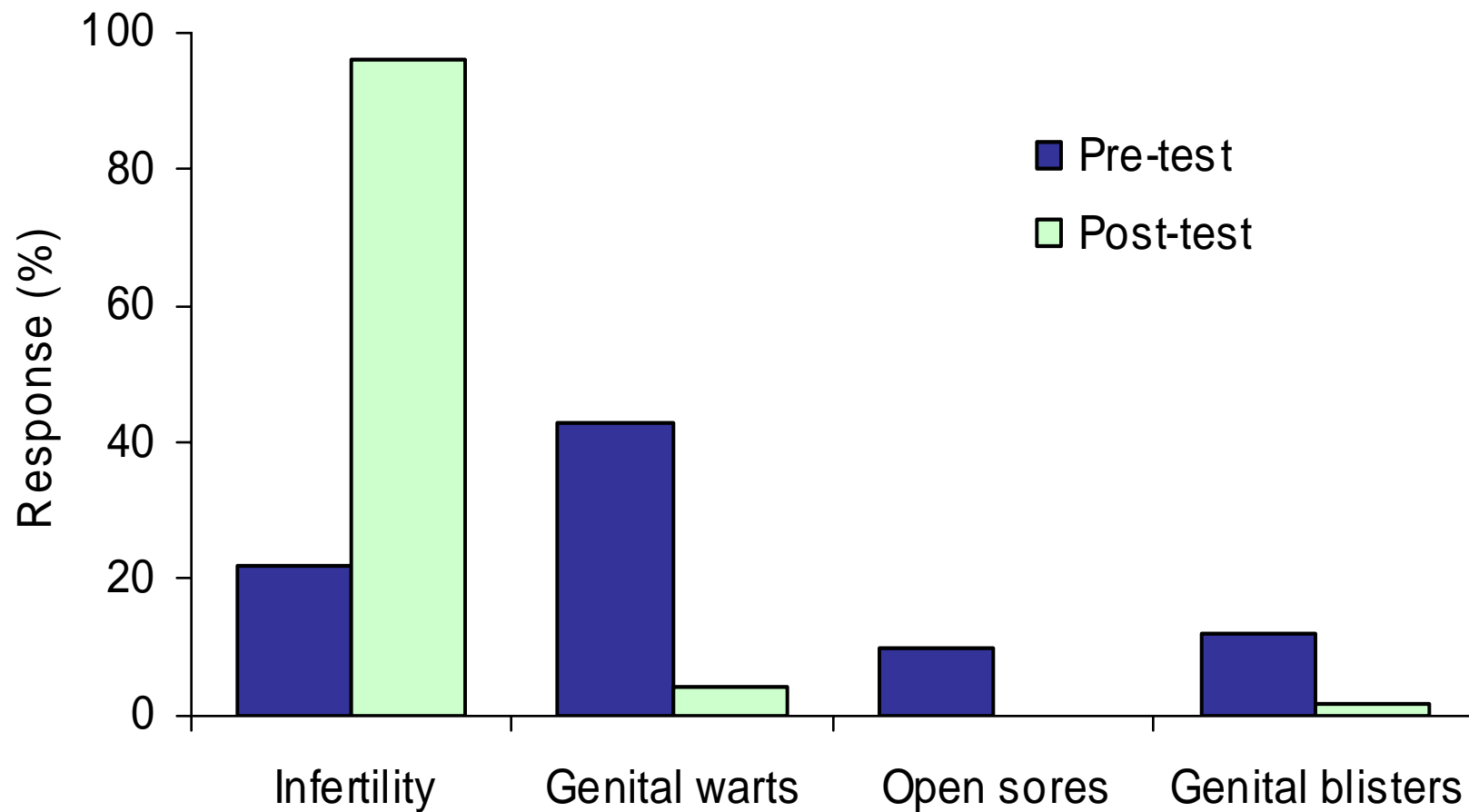
Cervical Cancer is a Significant Problem in El Paso



Cause of Cervical Cancer



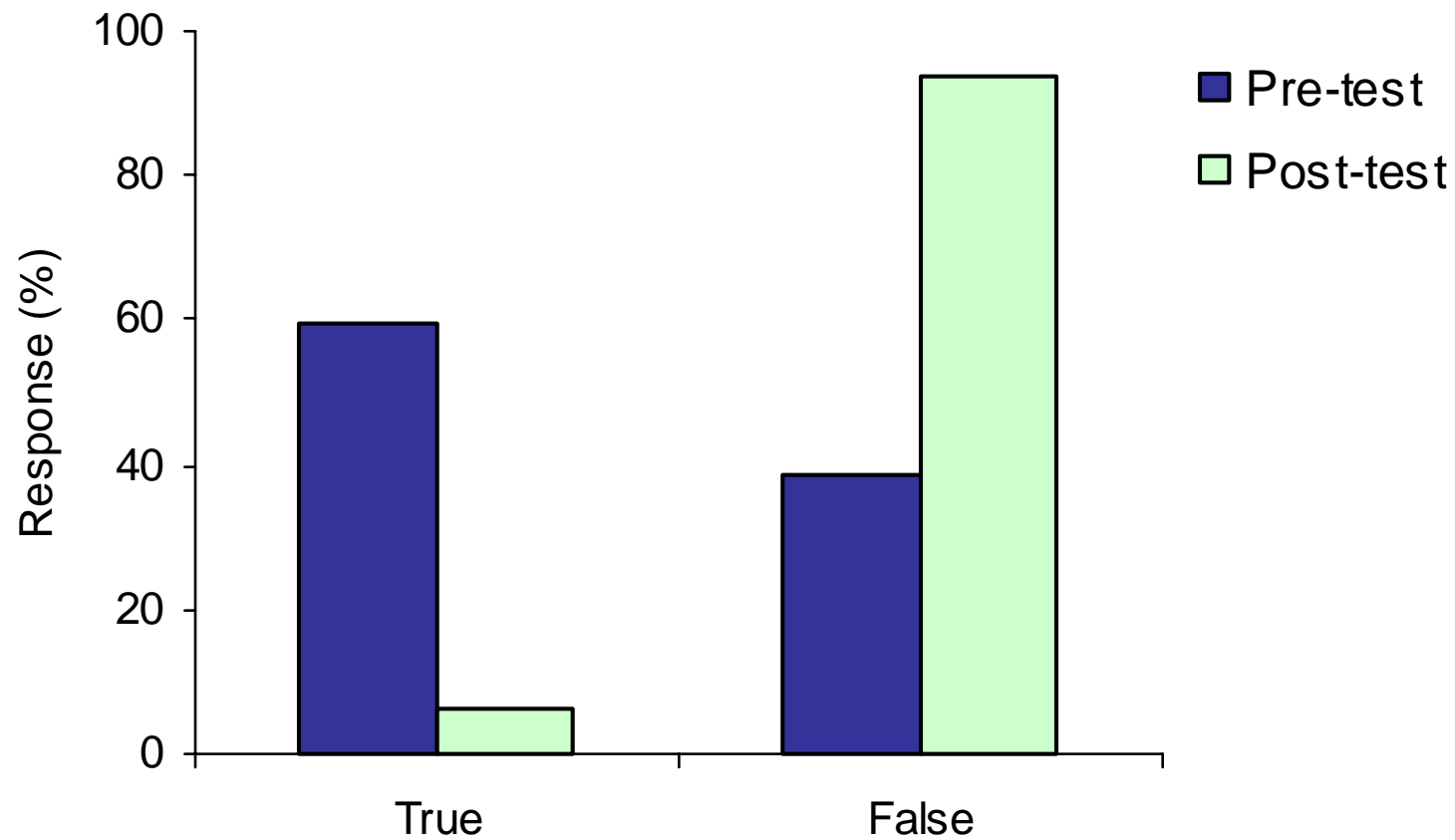
Chlamydia Complications



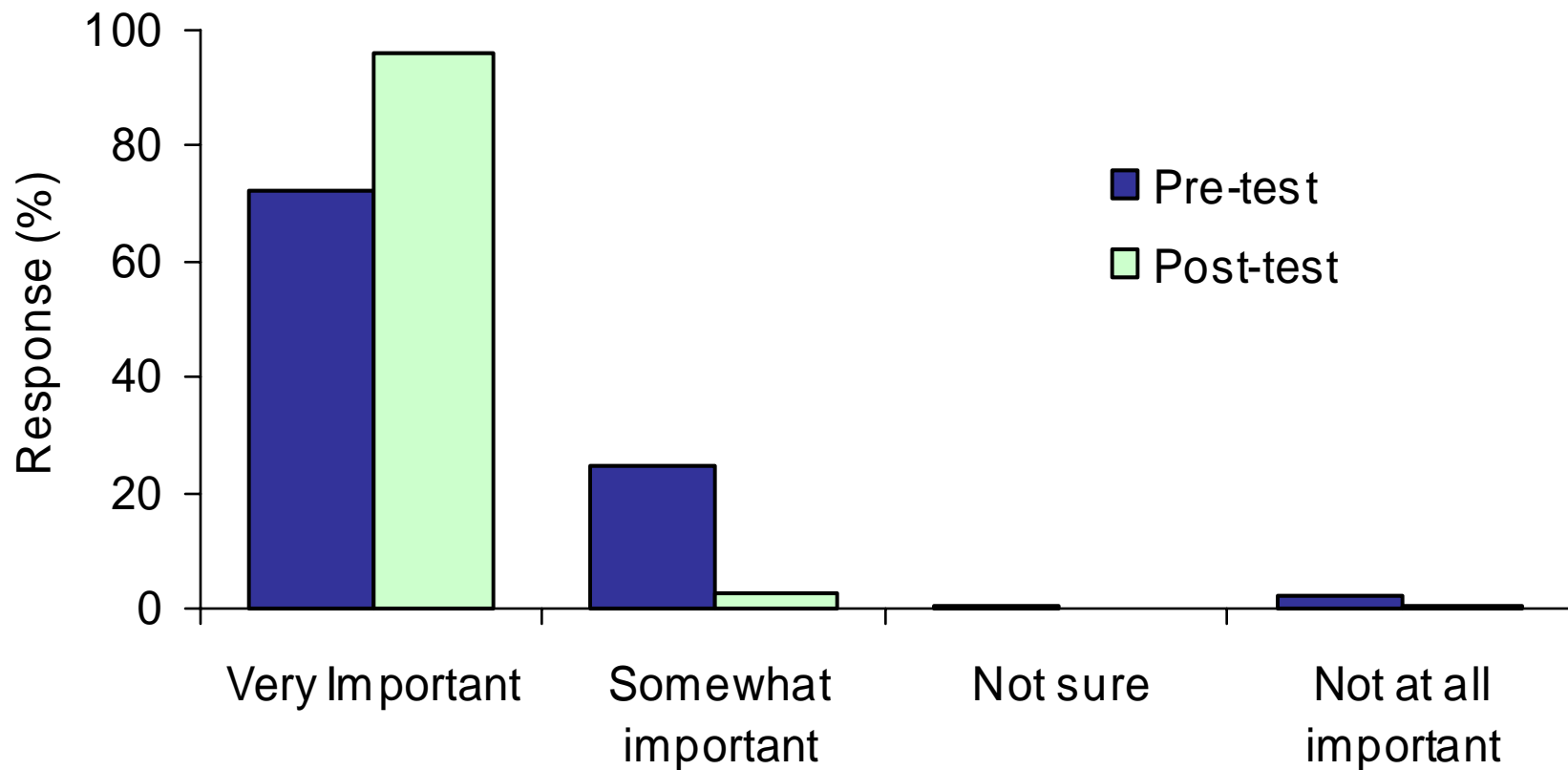
Change in Knowledge

	Pre-test	Post-test
In the last 5 years, the number of people in El Paso with STDs has increased	56%	98%
Most of the births to adolescents in El Paso in 2002 were in Hispanics	78%	100%
Most of the births to adolescents in El Paso in 2002 were outside marriage	77%	100%
Herpes can be spread through oral sex	69%	96%

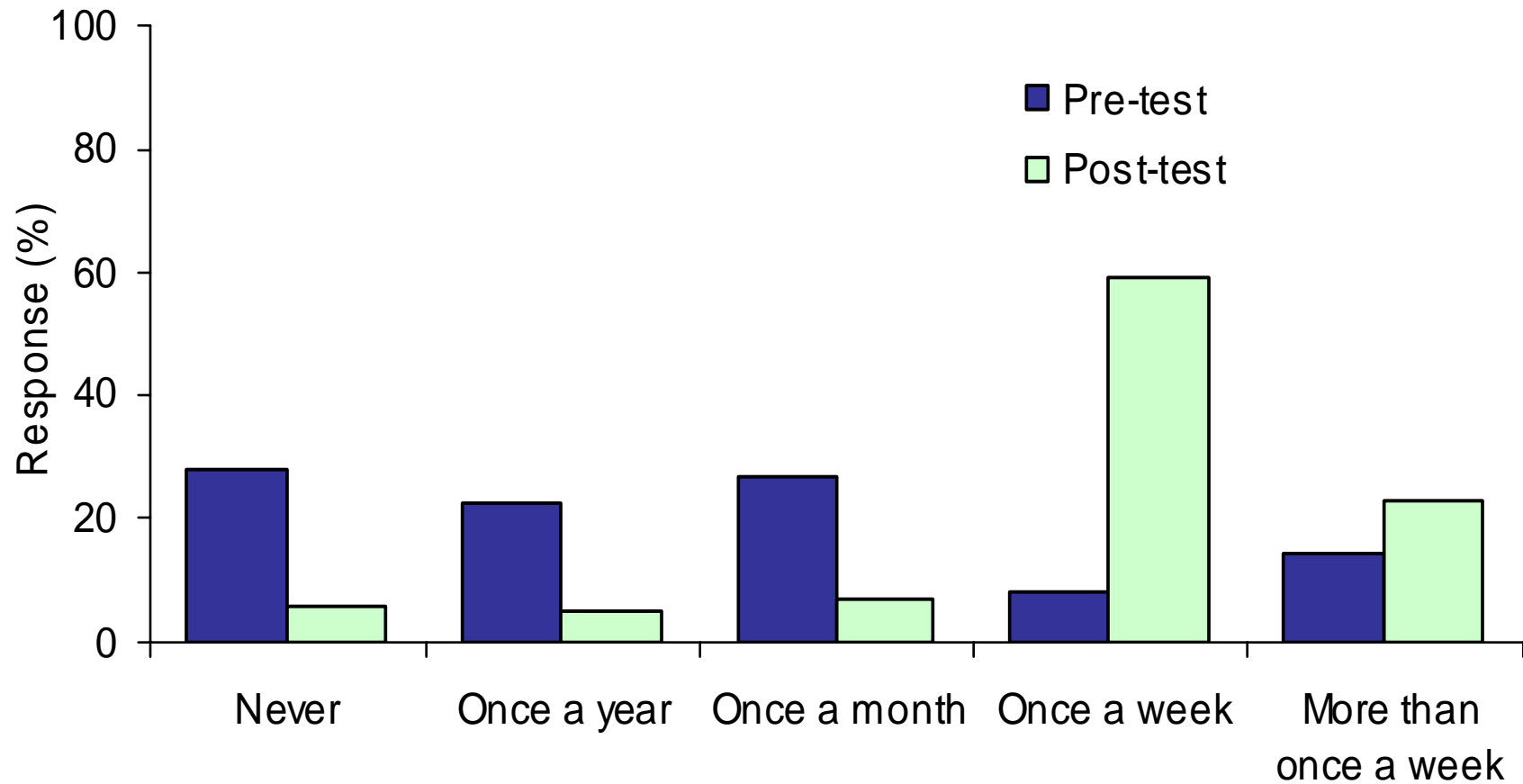
Oral Sex is Safe for Adolescents



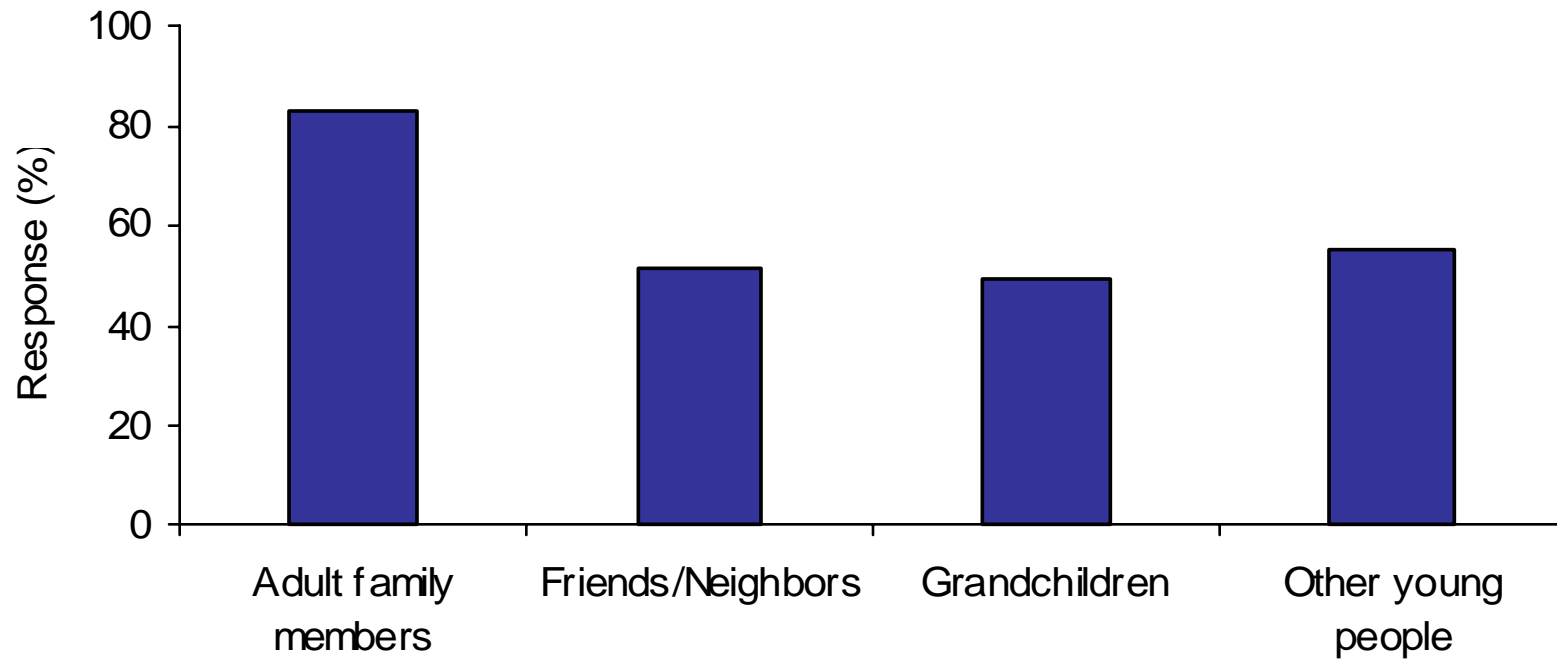
Children Should Not Have Sex Before Marriage



Frequency of Sexual Health Discussions with Grandchildren



Shared Class Information With. . .



Challenges

- Quality of Spanish-language materials
 - cultural and linguistic appropriateness
- Participation
 - recruitment and retention of participants
- Understanding of instructional content
 - sites of fertilization and fetal development

Challenge: Quality of Spanish-Language Materials

- **Problem:** Ensure Spanish-language materials are culturally and linguistically appropriate
- **Solution:** Develop materials in Spanish rather than translate English materials
 - hire local health educator
 - review by professional translator

Challenge: Participation

- **Problem:** Recruitment
- **Solution:** Collaborate with community partners
 - senior activity centers – grandparents
 - school district parent liaisons – parents



Challenge: Participation

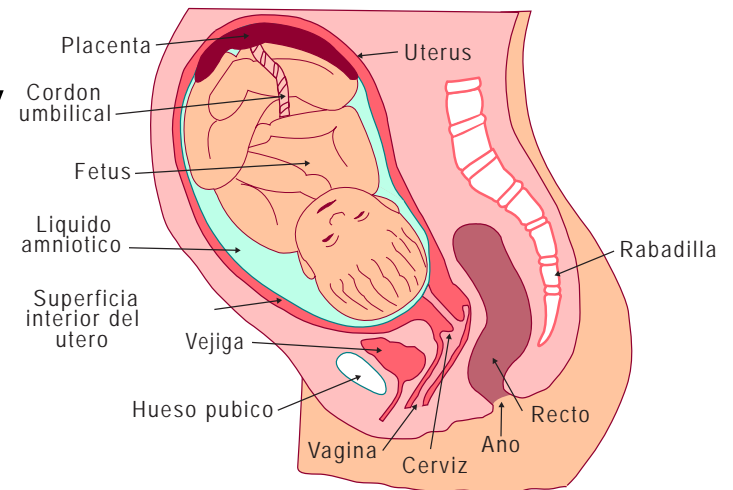
- **Problem:** Retention of participants/8 classes
- **Solution:** Incentives
 - class sessions
 - snacks
 - raffle tickets for submitting “cuentos”
 - graduation ceremony
 - lunch
 - certificate



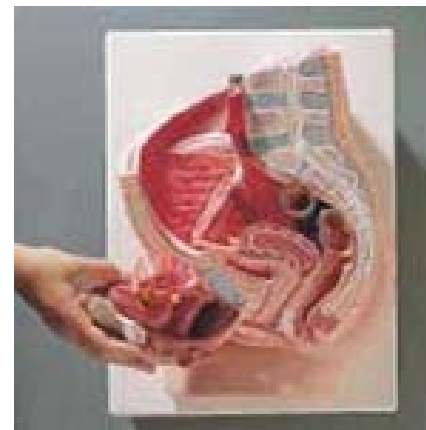
Challenge: Understanding of Instructional Content

- **Problem:** 2-D illustrations
Participants unable to identify
 - site of fertilization
 - site of fetal development

Bebe a la 40 Semanas



- **Solution:** Additional visual aids
 - 3-D models
 - animation



Conclusion

Creative solutions to challenges developed for

- Quality of Spanish materials
- Participation
- Understanding of content

Adults who received training demonstrated increased

- Knowledge of sexual health issues
- Communication with children and peers

Acknowledgement

This project was carried out with funding from the
Texas Department of State Health Services

Building on Success

CDC funding for capacity building: 2006-2011

- Develop evidence-based curriculum for parenting adults in English and Spanish
- Add modules on sex abuse/domestic violence and effective parenting
- Train community trainers throughout US
- Provide training materials free of charge via Internet

Building on Success

HHS-ACF funding for community-based sexual health education project: 2006-2011

- Rural school districts with high teen pregnancy
- Partner with community (CAGs)
- Collaborate with schools
- Develop & implement curricula
 - school-based: middle and high school
 - parent
- Evaluate results: geocode STI & pregnancy data



