

**Con Confianza:
The Potential of Cervical Cancer
Screening Group Visits Among Various
Latino Subgroups**

Patricia I. Documét, MD, DrPH,
Jean F. Nutini, MA,
Jeannette E. South-Paul, MD

Department of Behavioral and Community Health Sciences
University of Pittsburgh

**Background:
The burden of cervical cancer**

Mexican and Central American	Latinas	Non-Hispanic Whites
2005 age-adjusted incidence per 100,000 (confidence interval) ¹	12.4 (11.8-13.0)	7.7 (7.6-7.9)
2005 age-adjusted mortality per 100,000 (confidence interval) ¹	3.1 (2.8-3.4)	2.2 (2.1-2.3)
Had a Pap test within the past 3 years (2005) ²	75.5%	77.7%

Sources: ¹ CDC, United States Cancer Statistics, <http://apps.nccd.cdc.gov/uscs>
² CDC, NCHS, Health United States 2008, <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/hus/08.pdf#090>

Background: Pap test screening

Latino subgroups are not homogeneous:

- Percentage of women screened
- Barriers to screening
 - Cost or lack of insurance
 - Logistics
 - Cultural

Background: A collective perception of health care

- Latinos use their social networks to obtain information and make decisions about health and health care ¹⁻⁴
- Increased utilization of screening related to social support or social network ⁵⁻⁸

1 Danigelis et al 2001
2 Larkey et al 2001
3 Documét & Sharma 2004
4 Documét et al, 2008

5 Larkey et al 2006
6 Suarez et al 2000
7 Katapodi et al 20028
8 Larkey, 2002

Background: The idea of group visits emerges from the community

- A group of women who know each other attend a visit together; they all stay in the waiting room while each enters the exam room individually
- If I am with my sisters and friends
 - I have less embarrassment
 - I am not scared to ask questions
 - They can ask my questions if I forget

Documét et al, 2008

Objective

Explore the acceptance of group visits among Latino subgroups

Methods

- Data collection: Focus groups
 - 4 focus groups designed to assess training materials
 - 2 mostly Mexicans and Central Americans
 - 2 mostly Puerto Ricans
 - A fifth focus group added: South Americans
 - 41 participants
- Analysis:
 - Constant comparison analysis

Results: Demographics by type of group

	Mexican and Central American	Puerto Rican	South American
Number of participants	13	16	12
Age <45	90.9%	68.8%	83.3%
Years in the U.S. <5	23.1%	18.8%	33.3%
Has a partner	76.9%	73.3%	75.0%
Education >=High School	15.4%	46.7%	75.0%

Results: Three main themes

- *Confianza*
- Responsibility
- Privacy

Results: *Confianza* – Similarities

- Feeling of trust and familiarity that develops in an intimate social circle

All

- Provide support
- Increase strength
- Decrease embarrassment
- Provide a welcomed diversion

Results: *Confianza*

“..because support, especially [...] somebody that feels with *confianza*. Well, that feels she has trust in the person, that is not a stranger.”

“...porque apoyo especialmente [...] alguien que se sienta con *confianza*. Bueno que le tenga *confianza* a la persona que no sea una extraña.”

Mexican Focus Group, April 2008

Results: *Confianza*

Alone “you won’t have enough strength to tell [the doctor] how you feel.”

Sola ... “no vas a tener la suficiente fuerza para expresarle [al doctor] tú como te sientes.”

South American Focus Group, April 2009

Results: *Confianza*

"If it's my friend, come; if it's my aunt, come; whoever, come. Because, first there is the wait [...] in the meantime, you are talking, having fun, not occupying your mind in thinking about what will happen, or that you are nervous. 'Oh, what will the doctor say, if I have this [disease].' [...] [W]hen you leave the exam room after the doctor sees you, your friend is obviously waiting. You come out and if it is good news, great, you go for a cup of coffee, whatever. And if it was bad news, well, you have an arm to cry on and say, 'I am going through this, what do I do?'"

South American Focus Group, April 2008

Results: *Confianza*

"Si es mi amiga ven, si es mi tía ven, quien sea, ven. Porque primero, la espera [...] Mientras tanto tú estás conversando, te estás distrayendo y no estás ocupada la mente en que te va a pasar o estás nerviosa. "Ay que me irá decir el doctor, si tengo esto, ya." [...] [C]uando sales del doctor, ya el doctor te ve, tu amiga obviamente espera, pero sales y bueno si es una buena noticia qué chévere se van a tomar un café luego, yo que sé y si es algo malo pues tienes un brazo donde llorar y decirle, "me está pasando esto, ¿qué hago?"

South American Focus Group, April 2008

Results: *Confianza*

"There will always be somebody that follows up on you. 'How did it go? What were the results?' and perhaps it is supposed to be like that. That's the idea of a group and friends and family: that one shares, that I take an interest for what happens to you, that I call you, that I follow up."

"Siempre va a ver alguien que va estar bien pendiente de uno, "¿cómo te fue? ¿cómo saliste?" y quizá esa, bueno se supone que sea así. Esa es la idea del grupo y de las amistades y de familias que uno pues comparta, que yo me interese por lo que usted ya pasó, que la llame, que le dé seguimiento"

Puerto Rican Focus Group, July 2008

Results: *Confianza – Differences*

- Feeling of trust and familiarity that develops in an intimate social circle

Puerto Ricans

- Important for young women

South Americans

- Necessary for newcomers

Results: *Responsibility – Similarities*

- Felt duty to take action regarding health

All

- Personal: Responsibility to self

All

- Interpersonal: Responsibility to others in their social circle

Results: *Responsibility*

"Let's look at the help you are giving the other person. That woman will be totally grateful if she goes for the first time to a gynecologist or to have a Pap test."

"Veámoslo por la ayuda que le estamos dando a la otra mujer. Esa mujer va a estar totalmente agradecida toda la vida contigo desde que si fue su primera vez de ir a ver un ginecólogo o hacerse un Papanicolaou."

South American Focus Group, April 2009

Results: Responsibility

"I've accompanied my sisters in law, who are younger than me; sisters in law that are slightly older than me; friends that are younger or older than me to get their Pap test, because they were sexually active and they did not know they needed the Pap test and I've known how to support them. Sometimes I say I go as an interpreter, but in reality I go as an interpreter and to support her because she is my sister in law, relative or friend."

Puerto Rican Focus Group, July 2008

Results: Responsibility

"Yo he acompañado a cuñadas que son menores que yo, cuñadas que son un poquito mayores que yo, amigas que son menores o mayor[es] que yo a hacerse un Papanicolaou porque ya iba activa sexualmente y no sabían que se tenían que hacer un chequeo y yo si he sabido apoyarlas, ir con ellas. A veces digo que voy de intérprete, pero en verdad voy de intérprete para ella y para apoyarla también porque es mi cuñada, o un familiar, una amiga."

Puerto Rican Focus Group, July 2008

Results: Responsibility – Differences

- Felt duty to take action regarding health

South Americans and Puerto Ricans

- **Social:** Responsibility to the Latino community in abstract terms

Puerto Ricans

- **Activism:** Challenge the system (providers and researchers) to be truthful and ethical

Results: Responsibility

"I think that is important for the Latino community to be united in all respects, especially when they are not in their country. [...] We are content with listening to the one that knows the least and has never had the experience."

"Yo pienso que es importante que la comunidad latina se mantenga unida en todo aspecto más cuando uno está fuera de su país. [...] Nos conformamos con escuchar del que menos sabe o del que nunca ha tenido esa experiencia."

South American Focus Group, April 2009

Results: Responsibility

"I mean, the statistics say we have a number of diseases and I say we are dying more because of behavior than because of viruses or bacteria. Because there is diabetes, yes? [...] and lung cancer that has metastases and goes to other places. Why? Because of smoking. I say please, pretty please, we need to be conscious, especially Hispanics, that we need better health standards; we will have a much better lifestyle."

Puerto Rican Focus Group, July 2008

Results: Responsibility

"O sea, por estadísticas estamos, o sea como una cantidad de enfermedades que yo digo nos estamos muriendo más por comportamiento que por virus y bacterias. Porque está diabetes, ¿sí [...] y el cáncer de pulmón que hace metástasis y va a otros sitios, ¿por qué? por fumar. Yo digo, por favor, por favorcito nos hacemos conscientes sobre todo los hispanos de que necesitamos tener estándares de salud, vamos a tener un estilo de vida mucho mejor."

Puerto Rican Focus Group, July 2008

Results: Responsibility

“My suggestion is that if you will have this program, you are doing some research. Then don't leave some loose ends, do you understand?”

“Mi sugerencia es porque si ustedes van a hacer un programa, está realizando la investigación. Entonces, no se dejen estas lagunitas, ¿me entiende?”

Puerto Rican Focus Group, 7/26/2008

Results: Privacy – Differences

- Concerns that others attending the visit may be involved in a process that should be kept confidential

Puerto Ricans

- Screening is something personal

Puerto Ricans

- Other women in group visit may learn and/or divulge information about visit attendance or test results

Results: Privacy

“To me, I always go out with my friends in a group, but when it comes to health, I don't like anybody's company. It is something personal and don't share it, not even with my mom.”

“A mí, yo siempre salgo en grupo con mis amistades, pero en cuestión de la salud, no me gusta que nadie me acompañe. Eso es algo personal y ni lo comparto ni con mi mamá.”

Puerto Rican Focus Group, 7/26/2008

Results: Privacy

“I believe in support of a friend or someone whom you trust, but also you have to know who you take with you. Do you understand? Because, you know, it is something personal; if it is fine, glory be to God, but if not, you don't want everybody to know. So, support is good, but it depends on with whom [you go].”

“Creo en el *support* de una amiga o de alguien que tú confíes, pero también tú tienes que saber a quién tú te llevas, ¿entiende? Porque tú sabes es algo personal que si tú puedes, si sale bien, Gloria a Dios, pero si no pues, tú no quieres que todo el mundo lo sepa. *So*, si está bueno el *support*, depende de quién.”

Puerto Rican Focus Group, 7/26/2008

Results: In summary

	Mexican and Central American	South American	Puerto Rican
Confianza	Increase support Increase strength Decrease embarrassment Provide a welcomed diversion		
		Newcomers	Young women
Responsibility	Personal Interpersonal		
		Social	
			Activism
Privacy			It's personal Group can divulge info

Discussion

- Responsibility and *confianza* bring women together to group visit
- Collectivism: emphasis on group rather than individual action or identity
 - Favor the group's interest
 - Well-delimited group boundaries
 - Not well-delimited individual boundaries

Hofstede & McCrea, 2004

Discussion

- Group visits have the potential to increase
 - Social support
 - Positive attitudes
 - Self-efficacy
- Differences may stem from
 - Acculturation
 - Health care access
 - Group's culture

Discussion

- Groups may require
 - Family and close friends for all; an emphasis on family and close friends for Puerto Ricans
 - Special care in determining logistics (interpreter, paperwork, cost)
 - Clear terms to preserve trust

Discussion

- Limitations:
 - Not all Latino subgroups included
 - Small sample
 - Differences in education by subgroup

Conclusions: Group visits...

- ... have the potential to
 - Improve compliance with screening guidelines
 - Prevent disease and deaths
- ... need to be tailored to each Latino subgroup

Thank you!

Questions? Comments?
pdomet@pitt.edu