

Sexual Initiation, Parenting Practices and Acculturation in Hispanic 7th Graders

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Presenter Disclosures

Daisy Y. Morales-Campos, PhD

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No relationships to disclose.

Background – Hispanic middle schoolers

- 34% have ever had sex¹
- Among sexually active¹:
 - 5.2% 1st encounter before age 11
 - 9.4% had multiple partners
- Early sexual activity asso. with:
 - Contracting STIs^{2,3}
 - ↑ number sexual partners² and risk of teen pregnancy^{2,3}

¹Shanklin SL, et al. Middle School Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2005. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; 2007. ²Marlowe J, et al. No Time to Waste: Programs to Reduce Teen Pregnancy Among Middle School-aged Youth. Washington, DC: National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy; 2004. ³Kirby D. Emerging Answers 2007: Research Findings on Programs to Reduce Teen Pregnancy. Washington, DC: National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy; 2007.

Background – Hispanic youth

- 2nd highest rates of STIs⁴:
 - Chlamydia: 1,873 per 100,000
 - Gonorrhea: 204 per 100,000
- Highest pregnancy rate: 79.8 per 1,000⁵
- 13% of HIV diagnoses (teens ages 13-19)⁶

⁴CDC. Sexually Transmitted Disease Surveillance, 2008. Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; 2009. ⁵Venura S, et al. Estimated pregnancy rates by outcomes for United States, 1990-2005: An update. *National Vital Statistics Reports*. 2009; 38(4): 1-16. ⁶Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. HIV/AIDS Surveillance in Adolescents and Young Adults (through 2008). Slide 4. *Diagnoses of HIV Infection and Population among Adolescents 13-19 Years of Age, by Race/Ethnicity, 2008 - 17 States*. Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; 2010.

Factors influencing early sexual initiation

Parenting Processes:

Parent-child communication

Parental Monitoring

Acculturation

Study Purpose

To examine the effect of parenting practices on ever having had sex among Hispanic 7th graders, while controlling for acculturation and other recognized covariates

Data Source

- **Main study:**
 - Students from 15 urban middle schools in southeast Texas participated in a randomized, controlled trial to evaluate 2 youth sexual education interventions
 - 78% of students classified as economically disadvantaged
 - Baseline (10/06-02/07) & 1st follow-up (3/07-06/07) data
- **Sub-study:**
 - 655 Hispanic 7th graders across intervention arms who completed baseline and 1st follow-up

Sample Characteristics

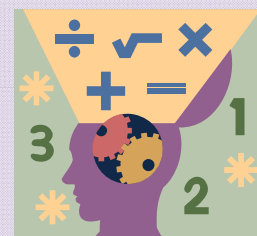
- 79% Mexican origin
- 60% female
- Mean age = 13 (SD = .74)
- 76% U.S.-born
- 66% 2nd generation
- 49% lived with both biological parents
- 60% parent/guardian did not finish HS
- 32% bicultural
 - 34% low acculturation
 - 34% high acculturation

Analysis Variables

Dependent Variable	Independent Variables	Covariates
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ever had sex 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parental monitoring • Parent-child communication 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender • Age • Family structure • Parent/guardian education • Acculturation • Intervention status

Methods

- One-way ANOVAs and chi-square analyses
- 10% change between unadjusted and adjusted odds ratios and the log likelihood test ($p \leq .05$)
- Multivariable logistic regression model



Bivariate Odds Ratios Describing the Association between Parental Monitoring, Parent-child Communication and Ever had Vaginal Sex among Hispanic Seventh Graders in a Large Urban City in Southeast Texas (n = 655).

	Ever had Vaginal Sex (n = 57)
	OR (95% CI)
Parental Monitoring	0.52 (0.38, 0.73) ^a
Parent-child Communication	0.81 (0.52, 1.28)

^a $p \leq 0.01$

Multivariate Model Describing the Association between Parental Monitoring, Parent-child Communication and Ever had Sex among Hispanic Seventh Graders (n = 655)

	Ever had Vaginal Sex (n = 57)
	OR (95% CI)
Gender (Male)	
Female	0.24 (0.13, 0.45) ^a
Age	2.06 (1.38, 3.05) ^a
Acculturation Level (Bicultural)	
Low	0.94 (.046, 1.91)
High	1.11 (0.53, 2.32)
Parental Monitoring	0.51 (0.34, 0.75) ^a
Parent-Child Communication	1.29 (0.76, 2.17)
Parent/Guardian Education (Did not finish high school)	
Graduated high school	1.00 (0.49, 2.03)
Some college, vocational/technical school	1.33 (0.52, 3.41)
Graduated college	0.32 (0.07, 1.47)
Family Structure (Single biological parent only)	
Both biological parents	0.92 (0.46, 1.84)
Single biological parent and another adult	2.02 (0.77, 5.33)
Relative/No Relationship	0.82 (0.32, 2.12)
Intervention Status (Control Group)	
Intervention Group	0.71 (0.39, 1.31)

^a $p \leq 0.01$

Discussion

- With ↑ in parental monitoring, ↓ odds of ever had sex among Hispanic 7th graders
 - Related to safety from threats
- No significant association:
 - Ever had sex and parent-child communication
 - Reluctance or embarrassment RE: sexual topics
 - ↓ knowledge because of ↓ education levels
 - Ever had sex and acculturation

Future Directions

- Determine temporal sequence of variables
- Explore observed differences in parental monitoring by acculturation group
- School-based interventions:
 - Parent educator or online
 - Skill-building for parents
 - Communicating with child RE: sexual topics
 - Sexual health knowledge



Limitations

- Cross-sectional study
- Selection bias
- Information bias
- Measures used
 - Child's self-report vs. Parent's actual behavior
 - Only linguistic acculturation

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