

HIV Risk Reduction in Latino Communities
SEPA Project

Salud/Health
Educación/Education
Prevención/Prevention
Autocuidado/Self-Care

Nilda (Nena) Peragallo, DrPH, RN, FAAN
Dean and Professor
School of Nursing and Health Studies
University of Miami

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Project SEPA

The objective of this study was to evaluate a randomized culturally tailored intervention to prevent high-HIV-risk sexual behaviors for Latinas living in urban areas

Taxonomy of Race and Ethnicity
“Latino” & “Hispanic”

- Terms are too broad
- Combine a number of distinct cultural groups under an umbrella term
- Intra-group variations on numerous constructs are significant

HIV/AIDS Rates in the Latino Community

In 2003 Latinos comprised:

- 14% of the population
- 20% of new HIV diagnoses

Between 1999 and 2003 new AIDS diagnoses demonstrated an:

- 8% increase among Latinos
- 3% decrease among Whites

Kaiser Family Foundation. (2005). *Latinos and HIV/AIDS*

Women at Increased Risk

Percentage of total new AIDS diagnoses:

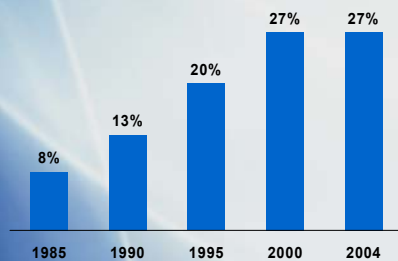
- In 1985, 8% were female
- In 2003, 27% were female

Percentage of new AIDS diagnoses among women:

- 67% African American
- 16% Latina
- 14% White

Kaiser Family Foundation. (2005). *The HIV/AIDS epidemic in the United States.*

Women as Percentage of New AIDS Diagnoses



Note: Data are estimates.
Source: CDC, Data Request, 2006.

Estimated Number of Persons Living with HIV/AIDS, December, 2004

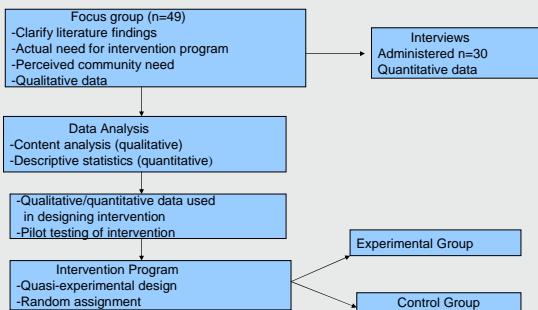


Factors that Increase HIV Risk for Latinas

- Unequal access to health care
- Language barriers
- Cultural characteristics
 - Gender roles, “machismo” and “marianismo”
 - Conceptualization of male sexual roles
 - Religiosity

Peragallo, N. (1996). Latino women and AIDS risk. *Public Health Nursing*, 13(3), 217-222.

Development of the HIV/AIDS Risk Reduction Intervention for Mexican and Puerto Rican Women



Peragallo, N. P., DeForge, B., Rivero, R., Khoury, Z., & Talashek, M. (2002). Latinas' perspective on HIV/AIDS: Cultural issues to consider in prevention. *Hispanic Health Care International*, 1(1), 11-23.

Culture:

Machismo and *Marianismo* perpetuate unsafe sex

- “...we used to see our mother get beat up by our father. Only because my mother took it, but my mother didn't know any better. Cause my mother grew up in an environment where there were like, you know, antique, in Puerto Rico, come on, you stay there you are my wife you marry me, you take whatever comes. No, it's not like that anymore...”
- “... I've heard of even gang bangers, okay, and I've heard that they are with gay guys and I've heard that they're with girls too. And that's around my neighborhood. You know they gotta keep that low profile...”
- “...I used to be embarrassed to say that he had an affair, because you know, we as women are so, especially Latina, we are proud for women, we have the best marriages and we have everything best, but I say it because he's come a long way. And, for him to be Latino man...”

Violence:

Women lack skills to avoid partner abuse

- “...when I had been married only a short while he used to beat me. He wanted me to get pregnant and well I miscarried my first child, and he used to blame me and say that I had taken something and this and that. He wanted me to get pregnant and I couldn't...”
- “...he hit me and I'm not gonna hit him. Cause you are gonna get hit worse. A man, no matter how bad and how big you are, a man is stronger than a woman. Okay?”

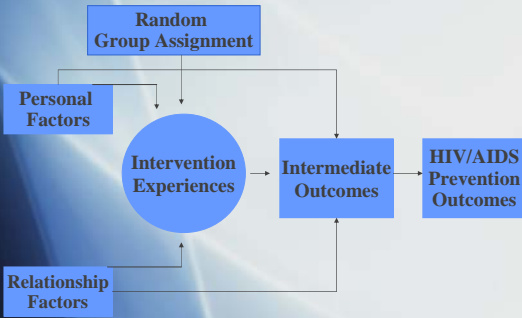
Demographics and Condom Use

Age	Ethnicity	Condom Use in last 12 months
18	Mexican	Never
32	Mexican	Never
31	Puerto Rican	Not sexually active
32	Puerto Rican	Not sexually active
18	Puerto Rican	Always
26	Puerto Rican	Never
21	Mexican	Never
24	Puerto Rican	Not sexually active
30	Puerto Rican	Never
25	Puerto Rican	Always
25	Puerto Rican	Never
27	Puerto Rican	Rarely
23	Puerto Rican	Never
18	Puerto Rican	Always
19	Mexican/ Puerto Rican	Most of the time
20	Puerto Rican	Rarely
18	Puerto Rican	Never
23	Puerto Rican	Never
24	Mexican/ Puerto Rican	Never
30	Mexican	Never
30	Mexican	Not sexually active
28	Mexican	Never
34	Mexican	Never
47	Mexican	Never
29	Mexican	Never
27	Mexican	Always
34	Mexican	Never
21	Mexican	Never

Project SEPA

The objective of this study was to evaluate a randomized culturally tailored intervention to prevent high-HIV-risk sexual behaviors for Latinas living in urban areas

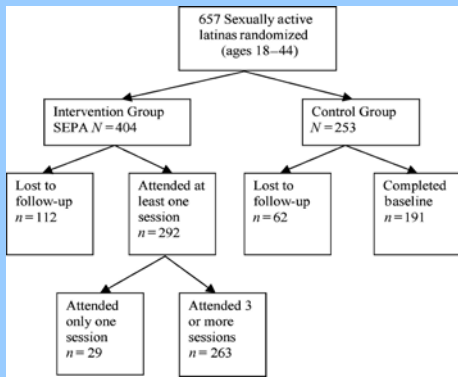
Conceptual Framework



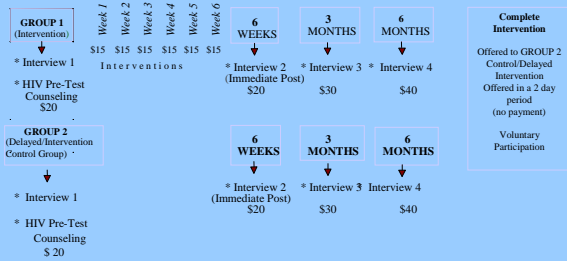
Project SEPA: Participants (n=657)

- Latina/Hispanic women
- Low-income Mexican and Puerto-Rican Latinas residing in the urban Midwest
- Ages 18 to 44
- Sexually active within 3 months prior to enrollment

Project SEPA: Random assignment into groups



Randomized Groups



Intervention

Six weekly sessions for two hours:

- Know your own body
- Skill training on condom use
- Sexual communication / negotiation and problem solving
- Violence prevention /conflict management
- Risk awareness/ risk management
- Peer support for change efforts

**SEPA
participant
engaged in
session**





SEPA group at one of the community sites

**Comparison of Intervention and Control Groups on
Baseline Social and Demographic Characteristics (N=454)**

Characteristics	Intervention ^a (n = 263), n (%)	Control ^b (n = 191) n (%)	χ^2	p
Age			1.01	.909
18-20	18 (6.8)	16 (8.4)		
21-25	59 (22.4)	42 (22.0)		
26-30	69 (26.2)	59 (30.9)		
31-39	87 (33.1)	59 (30.9)		
40+	30 (11.4)	19 (9.9)		
Ethnicity			10.05	.002*
Mexican	235 (89.4)	150 (78.5)		
Puerto Rican	28 (10.6)	41 (21.5)		
Language of interview			6.97	.008*
Spanish	223 (84.8)	143 (74.9)		
English	40 (15.2)	48 (25.1)		
Years in United States			6.00	.200
<2	21 (8.0)	14 (7.4)		
3-5	47 (17.9)	25 (13.2)		
6-10	97 (36.9)	61 (32.2)		
11-20	53 (20.2)	41 (21.7)		
21+	45 (17.1)	48 (25.4)		
Education			1.73	.631
<6 years	53 (20.2)	38 (19.9)		
7-11 years	107 (40.8)	83 (43.5)		
High school	56 (21.4)	32 (16.8)		
Beyond high school	48 (17.6)	38 (19.9)		

^aVaries within the intervention group because of missing data: Education (262), Poverty (255), and Acculturation (256).
^bVaries within the control group because of missing data: Years in United States (188), Lives with partner (190), Poverty (185), Insurance (186), Acculturation (182), and Number of Partners in Lifetime (190).
 * < .01.
 << .05.

Comparison of Intervention and Control Groups on Baseline Social and Demographic Characteristics (N=454)

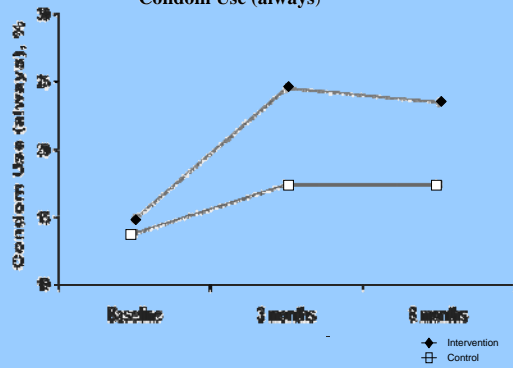
Characteristics	Intervention ^a (n = 263), n (%)	Control ^b (n = 191) n (%)	χ^2	p
Lives w/ partner	234 (89.0)	152 (80.0)	7.048	.008*
Lives alone	29 (11.0)	38 (20.0)		
Employed	65 (24.7)	62 (32.5)	3.295	.069
Yes	198 (75.3)	129 (67.5)		
No	53 (20.0)	30 (16.2)	7.839	.049**
Poverty	122 (47.8)	105 (56.8)		
0%-100%	76 (29.8)	42 (22.7)		
101%-200%	4 (1.6)	8 (4.3)		
Insurance	53 (20.2)	45 (23.9)	10.449	.005*
Private	34 (12.9)	43 (22.9)		
Public	176 (66.9)	100 (53.2)		
Self-pay	17 (6.6)	11 (6.0)	10.145	.006*
Acculturation	190 (74.2)	112 (61.5)		
United States (high)	49 (19.1)	59 (32.4)	4.221	.518
High on both	142 (54.0)	87 (45.8)		
2	47 (17.9)	38 (20.0)		
3	38 (14.6)	25 (13.2)		
4	14 (5.3)	13 (6.8)		
5-6	22 (8.4)	15 (7.8)		
10+	19 (7.3)	12 (6.3)		

^a190 values within the intervention group because of missing data: Education (262), Poverty (255), and Acculturation (256).
^b190 values within the control group because of missing data: Years in United States (188), Lives with partner (190), Poverty (185), Insurance (188), Acculturation (182), and Number of Partners in Lifetime (190).
 * < .05.
 ** < .01.
 *** < .001.

Measures/Instruments

	Developer (s)	Item # or Score Range	Interpretation	Cronbach's α
Condom Use			The percentage of using a condom	
HIV Behavior Knowledge Scale	Heckman et al., 1995	12 true-false items	The higher score, the more knowledge	.75
Modified Health Protective Sexual Communication Scale	Catania, 1995	10 items	The higher score, the more often discussion regarding health protective topics with partner	.82
Safer Sex Peer Norms	Sikkema et al., 1996	4 - 16	The higher score, the more positive health behaviors/ attitudes of safer sex peer norms concerning condom use	.74
Perceived Barriers to Condom Use	Sikkema et al., 1996	4 - 16	The higher score, the more positive health behaviors/ attitudes toward using a condom	.61
Risk Reduction Behavioral Intention	Sikkema et al., 1996	4 - 16	The higher score, the more positive health behaviors/ attitudes toward intention to use condoms	.72

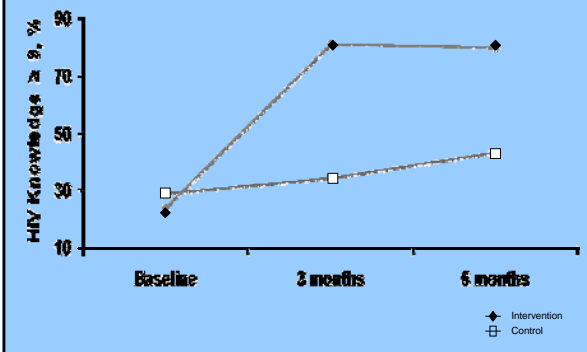
Comparisons of intervention and control group for baseline (N=454), 3-month (N=394), and 6-month (N=422) outcome data for Condom Use (always)



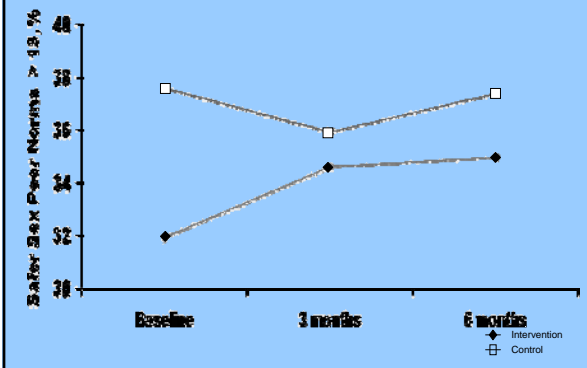
Results Using Multiple Linear & Logistic Regression
Adjusted by Baseline score of each dependent variable,
acculturation, ethnicity, poverty, insurance, lived with partner

Group	OR	CI	p
Condom Use			
3 months	2.018	1.021, 3.985	.043
6 months	2.044	1.292, 3.234	.002

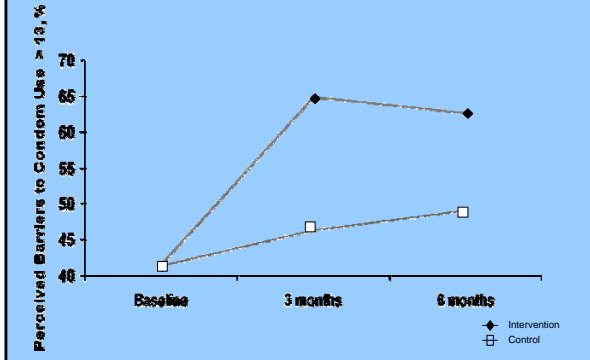
Comparisons of intervention and control group for baseline (N=454), 3-month (N=394), and 6-month (N=422) outcome data for HIV Knowledge ≥ 9



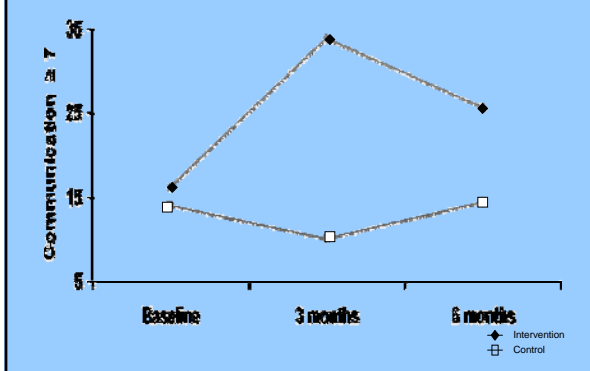
Comparisons of intervention and control group for baseline (N=454), 3-month (N=394), and 6-month (N=422) outcome data for Safer Sex Peer Norms > 13



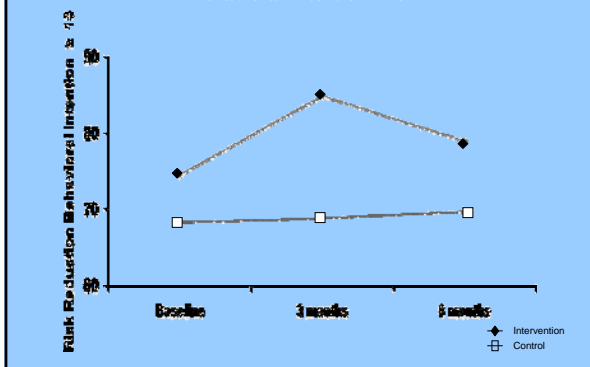
Comparisons of intervention and control group for baseline (N=454), 3-month (N=394), and 6-month (N=422) outcome data for Perceived Barriers to Condom Use >13, %



Comparisons of intervention and control group for baseline (N=454), 3-month (N=394), and 6-month (N=422) outcome data for Communication ≥ 7



Comparisons of intervention and control group for baseline (N=454), 3-month (N=394), and 6-month (N=422) outcome data for Behavioral Intention ≥ 13



Effect Size

	3-month				6-month			
	Mean		Average SD	Effect Size	Mean		Average SD	Effect Size
	Intervention	Control			Intervention	Control		
HIV knowledge	10.74	8.18	2.36	1.08	10.59	8.65	2.25	0.86
Communication with partner	4.52	2.38	3.33	0.64	3.86	2.71	3.31	0.35
Safer sex peer norms	10.91	11.01	3.41	-0.03	11.11	11.35	3.09	-0.08
Risk-reduction behavioral intention	14.46	13.22	2.79	0.46	14.20	13.50	2.69	0.26
Perceived barriers to condom use	13.15	11.88	3.06	0.48	12.90	11.99	3.04	0.30
Condom use	35.85	22.67	39.6	0.33	31.97	25.12	38.63	0.17

Overall Generalized Estimating Equations Results
(N=454; Intervention=263, Control=191)

	χ^2	<i>p</i>
Condom use	7.46	.006
HIV knowledge	83.10	<.001
Communication	15.01	.0001
Risk-reduction behavioral intention	12.10	.0005
Safer sex peer norms	0.78	.376
Perceived barriers to condom use	16.81	<.001

Conclusions & Implications

- Project SEPA was highly successful in increasing condom use, HIV health protective communication, and HIV knowledge and decreasing risk behaviors among low income, primarily Spanish speaking Latinas.
- This study provided evidence that HIV/AIDS prevention interventions must be culturally tailored to the targeted population of the intended program.



SEPA group showing off diplomas

Future Dreams and Clouds



Pucon, Chile
Lake Villarrica and Volcano
