

TITLE: Applying the Community Health Worker framework to improve educational equity for Latino youth in Oregon: Results from the 2017 -2018 Juntos Program Evaluation

AUTHOR(S): Amy Young, MPH, Andrea Flores, BS, Yuridia Reyes, BA, Daniel Lopez-Cevallos, PhD, MPH

PRESENTER(S): Amy Young, MPH, Andrea Flores, BS, Yuridia Reyes, BA, Daniel Lopez-Cevallos, PhD, MPH

STUDENT SUBMISSION: No

TOPIC/TARGET AUDIENCE: Topic: Social determinants of health, health and educational equity, outcome disparities, stakeholder and community engagement, Latino health
Target audience: Public health professionals working with diverse racial/ethnic communities, program developer and evaluators, researchers, educators and school-based practitioners

ABSTRACT: Educational attainment for Latino youth is a priority for community development and wellness in Oregon. Despite recent improvement in high school graduation rates, disparities persist and are reflected in post-secondary persistence, degree completion, and student well-being. The OSU Juntos program meets a critical need for linguistically- and culturally-responsive pre-college programming which promotes school connectedness for Latino families. Juntos utilizes Popular Education framework (1) to empower families around education and (2) engage school partners in identifying and addressing root causes of educational inequity for Latino youth. Delivery and evaluation frameworks draw on public health practice to facilitate parent support of their children's education and promote cultural responsiveness in spaces where Latinos have traditionally faced barriers to engagement due to lack of appropriate resources and structural bias. Program evaluation assesses learning outcomes of the curriculum and socio-ecological factors impacting Latino students. Participants report barriers including discrimination, structural bias, and first-generation immigration status. After completing Juntos, school connectedness strongly predicted academic support and motivation in youth and parents. In youth, perceived discrimination and school environment also correlate with academic motivation. Positive outcomes from Juntos, at the individual, community, and institutional levels, demonstrate the benefit of collaboration between the health and education sectors.

OBJECTIVE(S): Assess factors impacting educational outcomes for Latino youth at multiple levels of social-ecological influence.

Apply public health theory and practice to implementing and evaluating programming related to social determinants of health.

Discuss with stakeholders way to enhance the cultural responsiveness of programming and institutional climates.
