

**EFFECTIVE LATINO TARGETED PREVENTION
RESOURCES**

**REPORT TO THE TASK GROUP ON THE INVOLVEMENT OF LATINO
MEN WITH THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM**

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INTRODUCTION

This report was drafted in response to a request to identify effective prevention programs that could assist in reducing crime among Latinos in Lancaster. We conducted an extensive search using a variety of internet search engines and scholarly indexes. From that search we identified the following:

- A list of programs run by Latino advocacy, research and service organizations that specifically target Latino populations and that address risk factors associated with the development of criminal behavior. These risk factors include drug and alcohol abuse, parenting difficulties, attraction of young people to gangs, poor educational performance, and inadequate preparation for entry into the workforce and for assumption of productive adult roles.
- Several scholarly articles that describe prevention programs targeting Latino populations.
- The transcript of a webinar that discussed gang prevention strategies for Latino youth.
- A number of websites that describe prevention programs for which there is strong evidence of effectiveness. These programs do not necessarily target Latinos but are likely to have good outcomes if implemented appropriately.

LATINO-ORIENTED PREVENTION PROGRAMS

Bilingual/Bicultural Counseling and Support Services

http://www.nrepp.samhsa.gov/legacy_fulldetails.asp?LEGACY_ID=41

Bilingual/Bicultural Counseling and Support Services provide counseling and educational services and individual and group activities for at-risk youth at the agency site in Mountain View, CA. The program also provides individual counseling, group counseling, gang prevention groups and parent education and support groups using the STEP program at various school sites. Outcomes include reduction in alcohol and drug use for youth in the program, improved classroom behavior and development of non-physical means to resolve conflict. More information is available from the program developer, Monique Kane, M.A., M.F.T., Executive Director Community Health Awareness Council (CHAC), Mountain View, CA (mkane@chacmv.org)

Centro de la Familia de Utah

<http://www.cdlfu.org/>

This is a private, nonprofit organization whose mission is to strengthen the Latino family by promoting self-sufficiency through culturally competent social services. All of the center's programs focus on youth. These programs include:

- A substance abuse prevention program that is delivered directly to youth and their families in their homes. Youth who are at a high risk for substance abuse or gang involvement are referred from schools, juvenile courts, and private and public agencies and many families refer their youth directly to the program.
- Staff also work with youth in after-school clubs with a gang, substance abuse, and HIV/AIDS prevention focus. Youth learn leadership, communication, decision-making, and negotiating skills; attend cultural events; and interact with adult Latino role models.
- The center also has a long history of working with youth in state custody. Those under the custody of the Division of Youth Corrections or the Division of Family

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Services are placed in the homes of proctors who provide a stable environment and prepare youth for a return to their natural families or independent living. Mental health, academic, and vocational tracking services are also provided.

Congreso de Latinos Unidos

<http://www.congreso.net/home.php>

Congreso is a nationally recognized, community based non-profit organization that primarily serves the neighborhoods of Eastern North Philadelphia where the majority of the city's Latino population resides. This area is a culturally vibrant community challenged by issues of poverty, access to health care, low educational attainment and unemployment. Founded in 1977 as a grassroots organization providing health services to the region's Puerto Rican community, Congreso now provides services in four areas: education, workforce development, family support, and health. Its main office is at 216 West Somerset Street, Philadelphia, PA 19133. Phone: (215) 763-8870.

Dando Fuerza a La Familia Project

<http://casat.unr.edu/bestpractices/view.php?program=28>

The Dando Fuerza a La Familia project was developed to reduce the risk factors in children of substance abusing parents (COSAPS) by improving the family environment and the parents' abilities to nurture and provide appropriate learning opportunities for their children. Parents who are substance abusers have substantial parent and family relations problems. To make lasting changes, several elements were necessary for an effective intervention. The intervention was long in duration (14 weeks) and trainers modeled appropriate responses to the children they coached the parents in better parenting behavior. The children learned pro-social skills through a culturally appropriate curriculum.

Latin American Youth Center Washington DC

<http://www.layc-dc.org/>

The Latin American Youth Center (LAYC) is a multicultural community-based organization that supports youth and their families in their determination to live, work, and study with dignity, hope, and joy. LAYC programs include educational enhancement, advocacy, social services, and workforce preparation. Educational enhancement programs provide participants with different educational settings and activities to critically enhance their learning and leadership skills. Workforce Investment & Social Enterprise offers a holistic program of job skills and life skills training, job placement services, GED preparation, and support services for out-of-school youth ages 16-24.

Latino Health Access Santa Ana California

<http://www.latinohealthaccess.org/communityprograms.shtml>

Latino Health Access is an award winning, non-profit, 501c3 organization that was established in 1993. Latino Health Access assists in improving the quality of life and health of uninsured, under-served people through quality preventive services and educational programs, emphasizing full participation in decisions affecting health. One of the programs that Latino Health Access runs is called the "Latino Children and Youth Initiative." It provides activities that are designed to, among other things, increase resilience and leadership skills, strengthen families and improve academic performance. Youth in the program learn about nutrition, physical activity, injury

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prevention, mental health, and sibling care. They coordinate and plan activities after school and in apartment buildings and courtyards. Siblings and families needing medical or mental health services are referred to the resources they need.

Latino Parent Empowerment Program at Sligo

<http://www.education.umd.edu/mimaue/features/projects/lpep>

This is a program based in Maryland that focuses on the problems and barriers Latinos face when dealing with their child's education. Barriers include: their level of education, language/inability to communicate with school officials and differences in cultural norms. The program offers Latino parents several workshops conducted in Spanish about their child's education, issues involving the school, diet and nutrition, as well as newsletters to keep the parents involved. The Latino Parent Empowerment Program (LPEP) aims to increase Latino parent involvement in their child's school and improve teacher/parent communication. By increasing parent involvement, parent communication with teachers, and the quality of parent involvement with homework, the expectation is that student achievement will increase.

Maryland Institute for Minority Achievement and Urban Education (MIMAUE)

<http://www.education.umd.edu/mimaue/about/missionvision/>

This is an academic association, an action-oriented collaborative and educational center. Its central goals are the improvement of minority achievement, the elimination of the achievement gap, and the improvement and reform of urban education. The Institute seeks to develop and disseminate basic knowledge and to generate and apply research and expert knowledge to local needs and concerns. It works in concert with local partners to construct mutually productive efforts to help solve problems and meet urban education challenges. It involves local schools and school systems, post-secondary institutional partners, state and national organizations, and others whose interest and expertise serve the mission of the Institute.

National Council of La Raza (NCLR)

<http://www.nclr.org/section/about/>

NCLR is the largest national Hispanic civil rights and advocacy organization in the United States – works to improve opportunities for Hispanic Americans. To achieve its mission, NCLR conducts applied research, policy analysis, and advocacy, providing a Latino perspective in five key areas – assets/investments, civil rights/immigration, education, employment and economic status, and health. Founded in 1968, NCLR is a private, nonprofit, nonpartisan, tax-exempt organization headquartered in Washington, DC. NCLR serves all Hispanic subgroups in all regions of the country and has operations in mainland United States and in Puerto Rico.

National Latino Children's Institute (NLCI)

<http://www.nlci.org/common/index2.htm>

NLCI focuses the nation's attention on policies, programs, and community initiatives that lead to the full and healthy development of Latino children.

Sembrando Salud

http://www.nrepp.samhsa.gov/legacy_fulldetails.asp?LEGACY_ID=1044

Sembrando Salud is a culturally sensitive, community-based tobacco- and alcohol-use prevention program specifically adapted for migrant Hispanic/Latino adolescents and their families. The

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program is designed to improve parent-child communication skills as a way of improving and maintaining healthy decision making. Designed for youth 11 to 16 years of age, the 8-week curriculum for adolescents and their families is delivered by bilingual/bicultural college students in classrooms and meeting rooms in school-based settings. The program interventions are a mix of interactive teaching methods including group discussions led by a leader, videos, demonstrations, skill practice, and role-playing. Adolescents are exposed to how problems can be identified and analyzed, solutions generated, and decisions made, implemented, and evaluated. There is also a focus on developing parental support for the healthy discussions and behaviors of adolescents through enhanced parent-child communications. Parental communication skills, such as listening, confirmation, and reassurance, also are developed. The program develops new behavioral skills, such as refusing alcohol and tobacco offers, and communicating with peers and adults alike. Program Development Support The National Cancer Institute, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, funded development of Sembrando Salud.

ARTICLES/PRESENTATIONS DESCRIBING SUCCESSFUL PROGRAMS TARGETING LATINOS

Nievary, M Angela, Jacobson, A. and S. Dier. "Home Visiting for At-Risk Preschoolers: A Successful Model for Latina Families. Online Submission, Paper to be presented at the Annual Meeting of the National Council on Family Relations (70th, Little Rock AR, Nov 5-8, 2008) <http://eric.ed.gov/> ERIC #: ED502647

The Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPPY) program promotes school readiness by providing services directly to parents through home visitation. This study describes the outcomes of the HIPPPY program for Latino immigrant families in a large Southwestern city. A quasi-experimental design compared 48 families on the program waiting list with 48 families who had completed at least 6 months of home visits. All participants spoke Spanish, although 3% were bilingual. The researchers found a positive program effect on the home environment and on the children's receptive vocabulary. The researchers believe that the positive effect on the home environment is consistent with the program's effort to empower parents as their children's first teacher. Home visiting helped immigrant parents prepare their children for the American school environment. The researchers also think that this program's success is partially due to having native Spanish speakers provide the program.

Prado, Guillermo, José Szapocznik, Mildred M. Maldonado-Molina and Seth J. Schwartz and Hilda Pantin. 2008. "Perceiving the risks of substance abuse: the role of nativity, acculturation and family support among Hispanic children." *Journal of Drug Issues* 38(1).

This article examines drug abuse in the Hispanic population and discusses the use of the Hispanic culture in the treatment of individuals for drugs, which has yielded positive results. An important focus of the article is the ecodevelopmental theory, which indicates that a "mismatch" between a person's culture and the country they live in can create parental isolation, thus cutting the parents and children off from services. The authors address the prevention programs developed specifically for Latinos:

- Family Effectiveness Training (<http://www.cfs.med.miami.edu/Docs/Miscellaneous/FET.pdf>)

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- Familias Unidas (<http://www.familias-unidas.org/index.php>)
- Parent Preadolescent Training for HIV Prevention (http://eric.ed.gov/ERICWebPortal/custom/portlets/recordDetails/detailmini.jsp?_nfpb=true&_&ERICExtSearch_SearchValue_0=EJ781538&ERICExtSearch_SearchType_0=no&accno=EJ781538)
- Keepin' it REAL (<http://keepinitreal.asu.edu/>)
- Nuestras Familias (http://aia.berkeley.edu/direct_service_programs/directory/nuestras_familias.php)

Santisteban, Daniel A.; Coatsworth, J. Douglas; Perez-Vidal, Angel; Kurtines, William M.; Schwartz, Seth J.; LaPerriere, Arthur; Szapocznik, José. “Efficacy of brief strategic family therapy in modifying Hispanic adolescent behavior problems and substance use.” *Journal of Family Psychology*. Vol 17(1), Mar 2003, 121-133.

This study investigated the efficacy of brief strategic family therapy (BSFT) with Hispanic behavior problem and drug using youth, an underrepresented population in the family therapy research literature. One hundred twenty-six Hispanic families with a behavior problem adolescent were randomly assigned to 1 of 2 conditions: BSFT or group treatment control (GC). Results showed that, compared to GC cases, BSFT cases showed significantly greater pre- to post-intervention improvement in parent reports of adolescent conduct problems and delinquency, adolescent reports of marijuana use, and observer ratings and self reports of family functioning. These results extend prior findings on the efficacy of family interventions to a difficult to treat Hispanic adolescent sample. See also -- <http://www.brief-strategic-family-therapy.com/about-fttm>

Gang Prevention Strategies in Latino Communities

<http://learn.aero.und.edu/pages.asp?PageID=123806>

This is a National Center for Mental Health Promotion and Violence Reduction sponsored webinar during which two experts in the field gave an overview of current gang-related issues, and presented successful strategies for prevention and intervention. The National Center for Mental Health Promotion and Youth Violence Prevention provides technical assistance and training to 83 school districts and communities that receive grants from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

WEB-BASED GUIDES TO EFFECTIVE PREVENTION PROGRAMS

Blueprints for Violence Prevention: Model Programs

(<http://www.colorado.edu/cspv/blueprints/index.html>) This website presents information on programs that have been validated by competent research studies. There are eleven “blueprint” programs that have been found effective in addressing adolescent violent crime, aggression, delinquency, and substance abuse. These programs are:

- Big Brothers Big Sisters of America (BBBS)
- Functional Family Therapy (FFT)
- Life Skills Training (LST)
- Multisystemic Therapy (MST)

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- Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP)
- Multidimensional Treatment Foster Care (MTFC)
- Olweus Bullying Prevention Program (BPP)
- Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies (PATHS)
- The Incredible Years: Parent, Teacher and Child Training Series (IYS)
- Project Towards No Drug Abuse (Project TND).

Delinquency Prevention Initiative

<http://www.pccd.state.pa.us/pccd/cwp/view.asp?A=1430&Q=573828&pccdNav=|33711|33762|>

The Pennsylvania Council of Crime and Delinquency promotes programs that are recognized by the Blueprints for Violence Prevention programs, and currently supports 160 research based programs in the area of violence prevention. One particular program that is popular is the Communities That Care (CTC) which is a risk-focused prevention strategy that assists communities that are working to decrease risk factors and increase protective factors to enable their young people to grow and develop in a healthy environment.

National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Practices (NREPP)

<http://nrepp.samhsa.gov>.

The National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Practices (NREPP) is a service of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). NREPP is a searchable database of interventions for the prevention and treatment of mental and substance use disorders. SAMHSA has developed this resource to help people, agencies, and organizations implement programs and practices in their communities. It is possible to use this database to search for programs that specifically target Latinos.

Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention – Model Programs Guide (MPG)

<http://www.dsgonline.com/mpg2.5/prevention.htm>

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's Model Programs Guide (MPG) is designed to assist practitioners and communities in implementing evidence-based prevention and intervention programs that can make a difference in the lives of children and communities. The MPG database of evidence-based programs covers the entire continuum of youth services from prevention through sanctions to reentry. The MPG can be used to assist juvenile justice practitioners, administrators, and researchers to enhance accountability, ensure public safety, and reduce recidivism. The MPG is an easy-to-use tool that offers a database of scientifically-proven programs that address a range of issues, including substance abuse, mental health, and education programs.