



**PARENTING PRACTICES IN
THE INDIANAPOLIS
HISPANIC COMMUNITY**

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**“IF YOU DON’T BEHAVE, THE
DOCTOR WILL GIVE YOU A
SHOT!”**



BACKGROUND

- Problems specific to Hispanic families
 - Living between cultures
 - Cultural misconceptions
 - Limited educational resources
 - Language barrier



BACKGROUND



- Original idea: Brochure
 - What to include?
 - What is the best way to communicate ideas with Hispanic immigrant parents?
 - What is being done already?
 - Will it actually be read and implemented?

- Paucity of literature on the subject



PURPOSE

- To identify:
 - the successes and challenges of parenting children in American society.
 - perceptions, beliefs and educational needs.
 - what type of communication would be most effective and best received.
 - health care provider concerns and perceptions.



METHODS

- Four focus groups
- Two for Parents (12 participants total)
 - Hispanic Immigrants
 - La Plaza, John Knox Presbyterian
- Parent Interview Guide
 - Series of 8-10 questions regarding perceptions and trends in Hispanic parenting practices.
 - Presented sample brochure and parents asked to comment on it



METHODS

- Two Provider Groups (17 participants total)
 - Doctors, nurses, Midtown counselors, medical assistants that care for Hispanic patients
 - Pecar and Wishard PCC
- Provider interview Guide
 - Handed out survey to physicians before hand
 - Asked about 8-10 questions regarding Hispanic parenting practices and counseling experiences
 - Presented sample brochure and providers were asked to comment on it.



ANALYSIS

- Focus groups were recorded and transcribed, and field notes taken.
- Transcripts and field notes were analyzed using a thematic analysis.
- Key themes were identified.
- Looked for inter-relationships between themes and across groups.



RESULTS – KEY THEMES

1. Cultural Differences
 - Corporal punishment
 - Parenting
2. Two sides of the provider-parent interaction
3. Two sets of recommendations



CULTURAL DIFFERENCES

- Corporal punishment is no longer acceptable.
- “I mean there’s times where everybody is in agreement that ... somebody needs to do something about this kid. And so maybe he does need some type of discipline but because of that fear[of deportation], [discipline is] not there anymore.”
- “... realizing they don’t want to do physical punishment but not necessarily knowing alternatives to that.”



CULTURAL DIFFERENCES

○ Hispanic parents are primarily concerned about deportation

- “Es una ley, estricto, en el sentido de que el miedo que se siente de que si uno infringe la ley...pues inmediatamente lo van a deportar . . . parece que las leyes contra el abuso de los niños es una de las más serias, en todo el estado.”
- *“It is a strict law, in the sense a person fears that if he should break the law . . . they will immediately deport him . . . it seems like the laws against child abuse are one of the most serious in the whole state.”*



CULTURAL DIFFERENCES

- Hispanic parents disapprove of the way American children are raised.
 - “como dicen es el país de las libertades, verdad, es lo que es la diferencia en la cultura de nosotros, que ellos aprenden eso y pues a veces quieren experimentarlo , y...si están mal orientados son...los problemas...pues...pueden venir.”
 - *“like they say, it is the country of freedoms, right? That is the difference with our culture, that they learn this and then sometimes want to experiment with that freedom, and... if they are misguided... the problems ... can come.”*



CULTURAL DIFFERENCES

Too much independence

- La diferencia es en la independencia desde pequeños...o sea parece que es la cultura americana, les enseñan a valerse por sí solos desde pequeños... que vivan independientes.
- *The difference is in the independence from a young age ... that is to say that it seems like it is the American culture, it teaches them to value themselves as individuals from the time they are very young ... to live independently.*



CULTURAL DIFFERENCES

- “...es cierto, a veces yo he oído la expresión, que los crían hasta...salen del “High School” y ya a la universidad y bueno ya se van, ya cumplí mi misión y ya difícilmente regresan a la casa, en cambio los latinos...”
- “los sobreprotegemos...”
- “... sometimes I hear the expression that they raise them until ... they’re out of high school and then ...I’ve completed my mission and now rarely will they return home. Hispanics are different ...”
- “we over protect them ...”



CULTURAL DIFFERENCES

- Too many “rights” as children.
- “... algunos niños llegan al grado de ... no de encararse, si no que decirle a los padres, cuando uno los va a corregir, si me pegas te llaman a la policía. Es bueno o es malo. Es bueno ser bien orientado y es malo porque el niño se abusa pues...de eso.”
- “... *sometimes a kid will reach the point of ... telling the parents, when they go to discipline them, ‘If you hit me, they’ll call the police.’ It can be good or bad. It’s good to be aware, and it’s bad because the kid takes advantage of it.*”



PATIENT-PROVIDER INTERACTIONS

- Parents do not want education on child rearing from American doctors.
 - *Hispanic parent: “American parenting practices ... would not benefit me, because with all that I’ve seen, I say ... ‘What discipline? What parenting? What information do they have that they could possibly give us?’”*
 - Hispanic provider: “I think a lot of families feel more comfortable being able to tell me stuff because they say, well you’re one of us, you grew up in the same culture as me.”



PATIENT-PROVIDER INTERACTIONS

- Providers find difficulty in knowing how their counsel is being received
 - “I don’t know if we [providers] ever really know the truth about what they think because in almost every single Hispanic family I’ve ever seen, they’re very, very polite and careful about offending us.”
 - “It’s hard to know because [Hispanic families are] always very grateful for the help but a lot of times I suspect that they’re thinking, “This is stupid, this isn’t going to work.’ And so they don’t actually try the techniques that we give them.”

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Providers want resources to help counsel efficiently and effectively in clinic.
 - 67% of physicians counsel <1/4 of their patients on an average day on discipline
 - 53% of physicians not satisfied with the quality of their counseling
- Perceived to be helpful:

● 1)Extra staff member	73%
● 2)Pamphlet	67%
● 3)DVD	40%
● 4)Weekend class	27%



RECOMMENDATIONS

○ Parents wanted group chats/classes.

- “Así conversación, como estamos, le da uno más prioridad más importancia, más confianza también de preguntar.”
- “También podrían ser casos específicos, en la conversación acaso ya puntual...”
- “casos reales...”
- *“Conversation like this, like we are doing now, a person gives it more priority, more importance, more confidence to ask questions.”*
- *“Also, there can be specific situations in the conversation that could be very timely . . .”*
- *“Real situations . . .”*



CONCLUSIONS

- Hispanics find American cultural and parenting practices less than ideal
- Disconnect between what parents and providers think will help
- Lack of tools to counsel on discipline.



QUESTIONS?

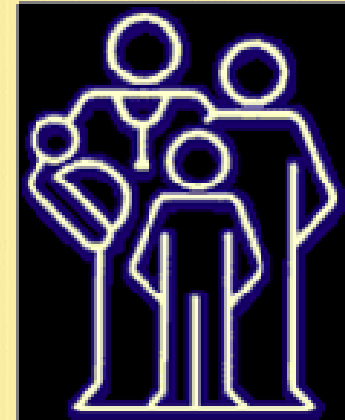


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