

# Engaging the Latina Community through Ottumwa Activa: A Faith-Based Approach



Wensday R. Worth, B.S., Rebecca Bucklin, MPH, Adriana Maldonado, MS, Edith A. Parker, MPH, DrPH, Barbara Baquero, MPH, PhD

Department of Community and Behavioral Health, College of Public Health, University of Iowa

# Background

- Ottumwa has a population of 26,000 and has seen an increase in Latino and other immigrant populations in recent years
- Current physical activity (PA) programming, Active Ottumwa (AO)
  is a community-based participatory research aimed to increase PA
  and park usage within adults
- Programming lacks culturally relevant programming for Latinas within the community
- An estimated 45% of Latinas over the age of 20 are considered obese<sup>1</sup>
- Latinas are at an increased risk of health conditions due to obesity such as diabetes, high blood pressure, heart disease, and cancers<sup>2</sup>

#### **Project Purpose**

The aim of this program is to create a culture change to increase the physical activity levels of Latinas within a faith-based setting.

Ottumwa
Activa
Programming

Increase community participation in PA

Reduce obesity and improve health

## Methods

- Adapted evidence-based intervention called the Faith, Activity, and Nutrition (FAN) Program implemented in African American Methodist Episcopal churches in South Carolina<sup>3</sup>
- Utilized a Community-based participatory research (CBPR) and trained lay-health advisors (LHA) on Motivational & Support strategies
- Provide free physical activities by coordinating with church leaders, PALs, and community partners
- Create a network of social support to then increase PA participation
- Focused on faith-based setting and created culturally relevant materials
  - Monthly Newsletters, Spanish activity calendars

#### Intervention Components Ensure Promote Establish messages Increase PA messages Target guidelines are culturally opportunities through and practices & spiritually church appropriate Ask the Offer walking/ Include 10-Father to talk calendars & PA min PA break about the other materials that activities at into church importance of | Example are designed PA from the the church meetings for Latinas pulpit





## Results

- Developed Manual of Operations
- Program Development with Church Leaders and members
- Programming initiated in February of 2018
- Held trainings for 3 Physical Activity Leaders on the following competencies:
  - Identifying individual needs of participants
  - Using positive reinforcement
  - Establishing "buddy" contracts
  - Reasonable goal setting with participants
  - Creating an active lifestyle mindset
  - Reducing or removing barriers blocking physical activity
  - Providing valuable health education

# Materials



# Results

- Dissemination of paper media through church and PALs
- 3 PALs leading activities twice a week
- 2 locations:
  - Church
  - Local community organization identified by PALs
- 2 types of activities offered:
  - Baila y Vive Relaxation and stretching activities
  - Baila con el Corzaón Cardiovascular activities (e.g. dance or Zumba©)
- 16 activities opportunities to date
- 10 unique participants
- 78 total points of participation

## Discussion

#### **Lessons Learned**

- Must learn what the population values in order to understand what strategies will be most fitting and produce effective results
- Communication between all members is key

#### **Implications**

 Vital in understanding the value of utilizing faith-based setting for physical activity programming in Iowa

#### Limitations

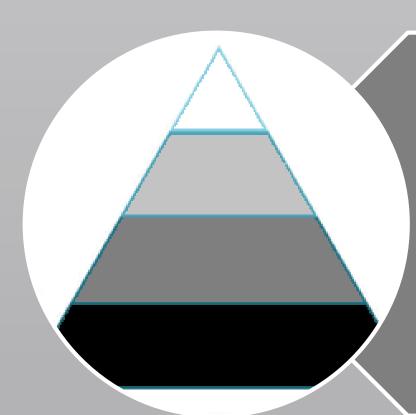
- Generalizability
- Limited evaluation measures
- Short timeline
- No cohort or comparison group

# **HEAL Principles**



### **Cultural Humility**

Maintain openness to other cultures and incorporate input from community leaders with diverse backgrounds on how to develop AO to be mutually beneficial.



## Systems Thinking

Include individual community members, local organizations/ businesses, & area government when developing AO programming



## Community-Based Research

Recruit PALs & participants from community, applying their feedback and utilize their strengths. Training lay persons to increase individual skill set and exposure to research.

# References & Acknowledgments

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- 2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2015). CDC Vital Signs: Hispanic Health. Atlanta, GA: Office for Minority Health
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