



Bridging the Gaps:

Two Programs Increasing Access to
Reproductive Health Care in South Florida

Lillian A. Tamayo
President/CEO

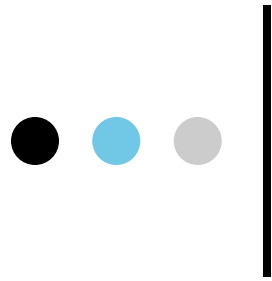




Florida



- In Florida, AIDS-related illnesses are the **9th** leading cause of death for teens.
 - Teens report **31%** of all newly acquired cases of sexually transmitted infections.
- Florida has the **2nd** highest AIDS case rate in the country.
- Florida has the **6th** highest teen pregnancy rate.



Florida's Uninsured

- According to a 2005 U.S. Census Bureau Study, Florida ranks *third* in the nation for highest number of uninsured among the states.
 - The study found that there are *3.6 million uninsured* in Florida.
 - Thus, 20.2% of the state's 18.1 million people are without health insurance.
- In Florida, racial and ethnic minorities are over-represented among the uninsured.
 - Hispanics - 31.6%
 - Black/African Americans - 19.5%
- A disproportionate percentage of uninsured Floridians (20.8%) live in Miami-Dade County.
- Together, the urban South Florida area comprised of Miami-Dade and Broward Counties is home to almost a third of the state's uninsured people.



Racial Disparities and HIV/AIDS



- The 2006 estimated population for Florida is: **64%** white, **15%** black, **19%** Hispanic, and **2%** other.
- Of the AIDS cases reported in 2006, **28%** were among whites, **53%** were among blacks, **18%** were among Hispanics, and **1%** were among other races.
- Of the HIV cases reported in 2006, **30%** were among whites, **49%** were among blacks, **20%** were among Hispanics, and **1%** were among other races.

● ● ● | South Florida and HIV/AIDS

- A total of 2,930 individuals living with **HIV/AIDS cases, ages 13-24** have been reported through 2005, of which 46% were male and 54% were female.
 - **25%** were from Miami-Dade County, **14%** from Broward County and **9%** from Palm Beach County.
- In 2006, **Miami had the highest AIDS case rate in the nation** with 44.9 per 100,000 population, followed by New York City.
- In 2005, the prevalence of people living with HIV/AIDS in **Palm Beach County was 533.9 cases** per 100,000 population; in comparison, for the entire **State of Florida the rate was 454.6**

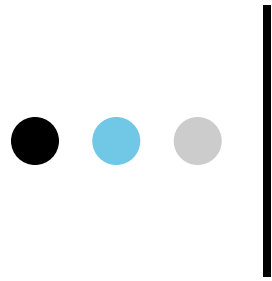




Florida's Youth



- Females make up the majority of teen (ages 13-19) HIV cases throughout the state at 54%.
 - This is higher than the next age group, with only 41% amongst 20-24 year-olds.
- The number cases of HIV that have progressed into AIDS, goes up to 68% in teens, a 14% increase.
 - Amongst 20-24 years olds, there is only a 7% percent increase in cases.
- The prevalence of HIV/AIDS among black youth has increased.
 - The highest percentages of cases occurring amongst teens.
 - Black teenage males are eight times more likely to contract an STI than their white counterparts.
- The prevalence of HIV/AIDS among white youth has decreased while Hispanics has increased.



Florida and Teen Pregnancy

Florida

- In 2004, teen childbearing cost U.S. taxpayers \$9.1 billion of which Florida taxpayers incurred \$481 million of the cost.
 - Federal taxes covered 52% of the costs and the rest came from state and local tax revenue sources.

Miami

- In 2006, the number of teen births in Miami-Dade County was approximately 9.0% of all births in Miami-Dade County and approximately 11.8% of births to teens in Florida.

Palm Beach

- In 2005, almost six percent live births in the county were to young people age 18 and under.
 - 17% of those births were to teens that had given birth at least once before.

Treasure Coast

- In 2006, almost thirteen percent of live births were to young people 19 and under.
 - 33 percent of those births were to teens aged 15-17.
 - African-Americans made up 26 percent of those live births.



The Issues



- Lack of Access to Health Care
- Cultural Barriers
- Language Barriers
- Lack of Proper Sex Education

● ● ● | Our Solutions

- Adult Role Models (ARMs)
- La Promesa



● ● ● | **Adult Role Models (ARMs)**

- Adult Role Models is a proven train-the-trainer program that brings increased awareness of sexual health issues to local communities of color.
- By teaching parent volunteers to provide instruction and outreach to their peers, ARMs fosters the development of leadership skills, an understanding of sexual health issues, and improved parent-child communication.



Who are Adult Role Models?

- o ARMs are parents from diverse communities who have made a commitment to their children and neighbors.



- o Planned Parenthood trains men and women to become ARMs through partnerships with community organizations.

● ● ● | **ARMs must commit to:**

- 75 Hours of training in “the facts of life” and facilitation
- Hold at least two workshops per month in their community.
- Commit one year of service to their referring organization or Planned Parenthood.





ARMs attend 75 hours of training

45 hours are dedicated to attending these topics:

- Talking to your child about sexuality
- Assertiveness/Communication Skills
- Child Development and Gender
- Domestic Violence
- Drug and Alcohol Influence on Behavior
- HIV/AIDS
- Media Influence on Our Children
- Pre-Natal Care and Contraception
- Puberty
- Reproductive Anatomy and Physiology
- Self-Esteem and Body Image
- Sexual Orientation
- Sexuality/Values Clarification
- Sexually Transmitted Infections
- Advocacy

The last 30 hours are dedicated to practice workshops.



Young people need accurate, honest answers...

- At the end of their training, ARMS will have the ability to talk to their child and their community about sexuality.
- Adult Role Models are trusted educators because they are our parents and neighbors.



● ● ● | Crossing Language Barriers

- Workshops are taught in English, Spanish and Creole.



Some of the potential benefits of ARMs include:



- Reduced teen pregnancy
- Decreased sexually transmitted diseases (including HIV/AIDS)
- Better and more responsible decision making
- Improved family communication
- Enhanced knowledge of reproductive healthcare



The Evidence

○ **Community Partnerships**

- The CDC's publication *Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health* validates that forming partnerships with community agencies is a successful tactic for gaining community trust and advancing community-based initiatives to reduce health disparities

○ **Improved Communications**

- Several sex education programs emphasize parent and child communication as an effective means of reducing the occurrence of teen pregnancy.

○ **Peer Education**

- Test results consistently demonstrate a 75% increase or greater in both knowledge gains and instructional skills among Planned Parenthood's role models. These results validate peer education as an effective means of preventing teen pregnancy.



ARMs Outcomes



- **Long term-** Delay onset of sexual activity and decrease the incidence rate of teen pregnancy, HIV/AIDS, and STI's.

- **Short Term**

ARMs

- Increase sexual health knowledge by 80%
- Increase comfort level when talking to kids about sexuality.
- Increase training skills.

Parents

- 80% receive medically accurate information.
- 60% are comfortable starting a conversation.
- 75% are comfortable giving sexual health information.
- 60% report a positive interaction with child.

● ● ● | Last Year Alone...

- Planned Parenthood **trained over 100 Hispanic, Haitian and African American parents** to be the primary sexual health educators for their children.
- These ARMs also provided sexual health workshops for over **7,000 of their peers.**





La Promesa (“The Promise”)

Program Goal:

- *To increase Latinos access to reproductive health services by increasing outreach efforts that are linguistically and culturally competent*



Program Objectives

- To increase and improve access to reproductive health care
- To increase knowledge and awareness of reproductive and family health issues
- To lower the existing late-stage incidence and mortality rate for breast and cervical cancer in Latinas
- To strengthen families by breaking the cycle of high-risk behaviors

● ● ● | Addressing Community Needs

- Latino population growth
- Language Barriers
- Cultural Barriers
- Undocumented population



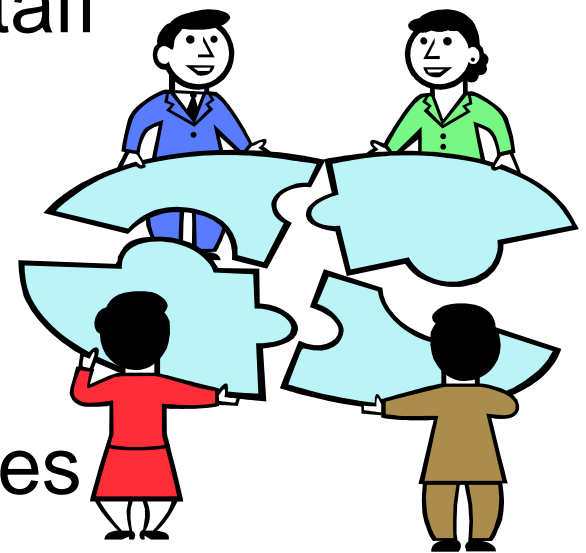
● ● ● | Project Description

- Need for bi-lingual/bi-cultural staff

- Latino Outreach Strategies

- Aggressive marketing of services

- Partnerships with Latino organizations



● ● ● | Advantages of Direct Outreach

- Building Community Trust
- Effective Marketing Strategy
- “Sensing Your Community’s Pulse”





Bi-lingual and culturally sensitive

- Cultural sensitivity training for staff
- Increased comfort level and trust for patients





Language and literacy barriers

- Bi-lingual assistance with medical forms



● ● ● | Health Education

- Empowering patients through education
- Providing tools for achieving control over their health



● ● ● | Assistance for Practitioner

- Accurate exchange of information during examinations and follow-up appointments
- Increased patient satisfaction



● ● ● | Outcomes

- Planned Parenthood reached **16,000 Hispanic community members** through our La Promesa education program.
- Since the inception of La Promesa, there has been an over **129%** increase in number of visits to Health Centers by Latinos.



● ● ● | **Both Programs Awarded!**

- In 2002, we received **Outstanding Community Health Organization** by the American Public Health Association for our success with La Promesa serving the Hispanic community.
- In 2004, we received the PPFA "**Affiliate Excellence Award for Achievements in Diversity**" for the efforts of our Adult Role Models (ARMs) program.
- In 2005, we received the PPFA "**Affiliate Excellence Award for Achievements in Education**" for the efforts of our La Promesa program.





Lessons Learned

- It does not suffice to have “islands” of cultural competence – cross organizational competence is essential.
- Transcreation vs Translation
 - Successful transcreation is based on a thorough knowledge of local environment, culture, practices, and details specific to a given segment of the community.
- There is an opportunity to leverage the individual’s heightened involvement with civic participation and advocacy to increase the community’s access to health care and education.



Thank You!

Any Questions?