The Gastón Institute’s Partnership with the Puerto Rican Cultural Center in Springfield, MA

History: 2008 to present

2012 to 2016: NIH P60 - Center for Health Equity Intervention Research (CHEIR) Por Ahí Dicen

• Field work training for five undergraduate students and one graduate student

• 4,000+ households identified for pre-intervention survey

• Transfer of skills and experiences among students and community residents

• Increased capacity to translate research methodologies from the classroom to the field

• Build methods to enhance the validity of data and the applicability of data to promote health equity

2008 to 2010: NIH R03 Para un Futuro Mejor Partnership

• Trained six community residents in basic research tools and field work methods

• Leadership Development Training for Community Advisory Committee Members

• Transfer of skills and experiences among students and community residents

• Increased capacity to work with academic researchers and to seek opportunities for future projects

Recent Project Activities

Community Advisory Committee

Enumeration of Randomly Selected Census Blocks

Development of Survey Questionnaire

Aims for Por Ahí Dicen

Develop a theory-based, culturally responsive, Spanish media campaign to target Puerto Rican mother-child communication about sexuality and sexual health protection.

Implement and evaluate the effectiveness of the media campaign on Puerto Rican mothers’ outcome expectations, self-efficacy, and mother-child communication regarding sexuality and sexual health protection.

Methodology

• Research Literacy – Learning by Doing - Freirian Approach to Learning and Teaching

• Co-production of Knowledge – Bi-directional Learning – Co-authorship of Manuscript

• Building Capacity – Research Embraced as a Vehicle for Community Development

Impacts

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