A telenovela intervention to increase Mexican American elders’ home care use: 6 studies addressing Latino families’ and elders’ health disparities

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Objective

Demonstrate how past studies in a program of research is the basis for a current culturally sensitive intervention with a vulnerable population
Context: Use of Home Care Services (HCS): Mexican American Elder Disparity

- MA elders: the fastest growing group of elders in the US: are more functionally impaired at younger ages than either Anglo elders or elders in other Latino groups.
- 22% of Latino elders live in poverty, in contrast to 12% of all elders in the US who live in poverty.
- MA elders use HCS disturbingly less than other groups (Centers Medicare/Medicaid, 2003).
Theoretical Perspective

- Critical Social Theory (Habermas)
- Vulnerability: Inequitable access (Aday)
- Asset Development (McKnight)
- Participatory Research (Flaskerud; Wallenstein)
- Constructivist Learning (Cunningham & Duffy)
  & Narrative Pedagogy (Diekelmann & Ironside: Indiana Univ)
Study 1: Dissertation: Interpretive Phenomenology
FUNDED NRSA: 1997-1999 OHSU

- The meaning for elders of receiving family care

- Sample: 9

- Findings:
  - Incorporation of illness and help
  - Positive relationships with carers
  - Incorporation and positive relationships
  - Balance--care needs with autonomy

Study 2: Ethnography
U of A CON: Dean’s Research Fund

- Research questions:
  - Is under-use perceived as a problem in the Mexican American culture?
  - If so, what are the barriers?

Sample: 9 MA elders, 9 family caregivers, 30+ providers

- Under-use is a problem in our community
- Barriers included:
  - “Expectations of Familism” and
  - “Experiences of Discrimination”

(Crist, J.D., 2002; Public Health Nursing)
Study 3: Grounded Theory: Decision-Making Process whether to Use HCS
U of A Vice President’s Faculty Small Grant

(N=22) MA elders and family caregivers

Accommodating the Stranger en Casa: When Mexican American Elders and Caregivers Interact with Formal Services

(Crist, J. D., Garcia-Smith, Phillips et al. (2006); Research and Theory for Nursing Practice)
Study 4: Instrument Development: ILE: Perceived Experiences of Discrimination
CON: Emmons Award

- Cultural equivalence: Translate, back-translate, bilingual tests (N=29)

Tested with 60 MA/56 Anglo elders: No Significance

Focused Ethnography → discrimination is seen as happening to someone else → Revised the ILE

Tested with 100 MA and 120 Anglo elders with POMS, Hispanic Stress, Social Desirability → Significant relationships
Study 5: R15
NINR-funded 5 F31 NR07385-02
Mexican American Elders’ Use of Home Care Services:

Predictors of HCS Use

- **CONTEXTUAL and ATTITUDINAL FACTORS**
  - Health Event Trajectory (E) (+)
  - Functional Ability (E) (-)
  - Service Awareness (B) (+)

- **SOCIAL STRUCTURAL FACTORS**
  - Financial Access (B) (+)

- **PERSONAL FACTORS**
  - Impression Management (B) (-)
  - Caregiving Burden (C) (+)

- **CULTURAL/ETHNIC FACTORS**
  - Acculturation (B) (+)
  - Expectations of Familism (B) (-)
  - Perceptions of Experiences of Discrimination (B) (-)

(JTN; Research and Theory in Nursing Practice; Public Health Nursing; Applied Nursing Research)
Results: Elders

- **CONTEXTUAL FACTORS**
  - Elders’ Health Event Trajectory (+)
  - Elders’ Functional Ability (-)
  - Elders'/CGs’ Service Awareness (+)

- **SOCIAL STRUCTURAL FACTOR**
  - Elders'/CGs’ Financial Access (+)

- **PERSONAL FACTORS**
  - Elders'/CGs’ Impression Management (-)
  - Caregiving Burden (+)

- **CULTURAL/ETHNIC FACTORS**
  - Elders'/CGs’ Acculturation (+)
  - Elders'/CGs’ Expectations of Familism (-)
  - Elders'/CGs’ Perceived Experiences of Discrimination (-)

- **ATTITUDINAL FACTORS**
  - Elders'/CGs’ Confidence in Home Care Services (HCS) (+)

- **OUTCOME FACTORS**
  - USE OF HCS (Yes or No)

Figure 1. Mexican American Elders’ and Family Caregivers’ Use of Home Care Services Theory. Hypothesized direction of factors’ effect on use depicted with (+) or (-) and dotted lines.
Results: Caregivers

- **CONTEXTUAL FACTORS**
  - Elders’ Health Event Trajectory (+)
  - Elders’ Functional Ability (-)
  - Elders’/CGs’ Service Awareness (+)

- **SOCIAL STRUCTURAL FACTOR**
  - Elders’/CGs’ Financial Access (+)

- **PERSONAL FACTORS**
  - Elders’/CGs’ Impression Management (-)
  - Caregiving Burden (+)

- **CULTURAL/ETHNIC FACTORS**
  - Elders’/CGs’ Acculturation (+)
  - Elders’/CGs’ Expectations of Familism (-)
  - Elders’/CGs’ Perceived Experiences of Discrimination (-)

**OUTCOME FACTORS**

- USE OF HCS (Yes or No)

Figure 1. Mexican American Elders’ and Family Caregivers’ Use of Home Care Services Theory. Hypothesized direction of factors’ effect on use depicted with (+) or (-) and dotted lines.

(Crist, Kim et al. (2007). *Applied Nursing Research*)
To test the efficacy of the intervention to increase use of HCS.

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Theoretical Component: Learning by:
1) Identifying with role models; 2) Social dialogue; 3) Multiple perspectives

**Intervention Theoretical Construct:**
Confidence in HCS Service; Awareness; Familism

**Intervention Modality:** Recognition of like family characters; Dialogue based on similar situation within family context; Recognition of **familism**

**Application to Telenovela Intervention:**
Confidence in HCS (2 dimensions):
(1) confidence/trust in HCS and (2) fear/worry about HCS.

Service Awareness (3 dimensions): (1) knowing that services exist, (2) how HCS apply, and (3) ability to access services.

**Family** watches the telenovela together to learn information; Guided dialogues promote collaborative, comprehensive, learning in a **family** context.

The story models, and the dialogue invites, sharing of multiple views to support **familism:** HCS supports, not replaces, family; i.e. it promotes, through teaching and support of all family members, positive familial relationships, family unity, social support, and interdependence in meeting elders’ needs.
Mexican American elder with home care nurse
Our Biggest Challenge

- Recruitment in the hospital
3. Plans for continuing to seek support for research/scholarship

- ANF or R03: Explore Familism, Caregiving Burden: Questions: funding, sites, Co-Investigators, ethnicities?

- R01: Test the effectiveness of telenovela in the community;
  - Questions: sites? outcomes? fotonovela?

- Transfer all of this to other groups underusing HCS: e.g.: American Indian, other ethnicities?
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Questions/Recommendations Welcome