

COMUNIDADES LATINAS UNIDAS EN SERVICIO



Sexual Health Program



CONTEXT

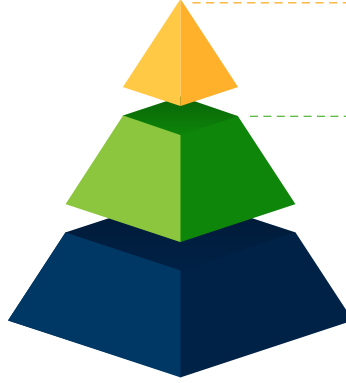
Goal: Comunidades Latinas Unidas en Servicio (CLUES) contributes to closing the gap in sexual health for Latinx communities in Minnesota, with a focus on the 7-county Twin Cities area.

Causes: Racism and discrimination have caused long-standing disparities in education, employment, income/wealth, housing, neighborhood conditions, access to health care, transportation, social connections and support that directly affect health.

Population: Approximately 208,000 non-white Hispanic people live in the 7-county Twin Cities area.

Issue: Every day in Minnesota, approximately 10 teens become pregnant. The vast majority of these pregnancies are unintended. Even though the greatest number of adolescent births in Minnesota are to white females, Minnesota youth of color have significantly higher birth and pregnancy rates than their white counterparts.

APPROACH



Offering culturally responsive sexual health education to Latinx parents/caregivers and youth.

Expanding the program's activities to cities outside the Twin Cities metro area using innovative educational methods.

ROOT CAUSES/ CONDITIONS FOR HEALTH

Addresses the social and economic conditions for health (also known as the social determinants of health). This often happens by changing local, regional or state policy, changing the way systems work or changing the environment.

ORGANIZATIONAL/ INSTITUTIONAL CHANGE

Addresses a health area by changing policies or systems in a school, clinic, hospital, etc. to support healthy behaviors and individual risk/protective factors.

HEALTH PROMOTION/ DIRECT SERVICE

Addresses individual or family-level risk/protective factors through health education, programming, case management, etc.

"I didn't have information about sexuality, I didn't have someone to guide me, to answer my questions. And I want my kids to have that, to have someone."

– parent participant, 2017

IMPACT

- 300 individuals reached during the grant year
- 97% of participants indicated a better understanding of sexual development throughout childhood and adolescence
- 90% of adults and 95% of teen participants indicated they are more aware of community sexual health resources

96% of parent participants learned **concrete skills** to better communicate with their children



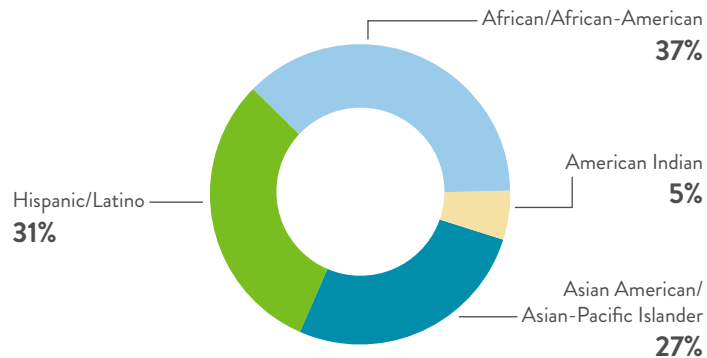


CLUES uses a two-generation approach to teen pregnancy prevention by engaging both a “parents as sexuality educators” model and providing sexuality education courses for Latinx adolescents.

PRIORITY HEALTH AREA SPOTLIGHT

In 2016, Minnesota reported 3,004 pregnancies among 15- to 19-year-olds. Rates of teen pregnancies among American Indians (56.1 per 1,000 pregnancies) and African Americans (39.6 per 1,000 pregnancies) were among the highest in the state. Disparate rates of unemployment, poverty, adverse childhood experiences, and access to comprehensive sexual health education directly affect sexual health and increase the likelihood of early pregnancy.

Collective Impact: 52,974 individuals were reached through the work of fourteen grantees addressing this priority health area in 2017-18. The proportions of individuals reached by race/ethnicity are shown in the figure below.



EHDI grantees addressing teen pregnancy prevention identified common measures to track and report. Collective results include:

- ★ 86% of program participants know where to access sexual health care
- ↑ Increased comfort talking about sex and birth control with partners
- ↑ Increased number of young people who reported having adults in their lives with whom to talk about sexual health issues

MDH ELIMINATING HEALTH DISPARITIES INITIATIVE

The Eliminating Health Disparities Initiative (EHDI) grant program was created to address health inequities for populations of color and American Indians across eight different priority health areas. Since 2001, the EHDI approach has been to support organizations and projects run by and for communities of color and American Indians to develop and implement strategies that are effective in reaching their communities. Every few years, the program reallocates the competitive grants to organizations and tribes across the state of Minnesota. The current grant cycle is from 2016-2019.