



VIRTUAL
2020 NATIONAL
RYAN WHITE
CONFERENCE ON
HIV CARE & TREATMENT

Primer Yo: A Participant-Driven Group Empowering Latina Women Living With HIV to Find Their Voice

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Program

Disclosure



- Presenters have no relevant financial or non-financial interest to disclose
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At the conclusion of this activity, participants will be able to:

1. Discuss culturally-sensitive needs of Latina women living with HIV
2. Describe a participant-driven group model to promote engagement in HIV services
3. Share outcomes of implementing a participant-driven support group model

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Mission

Through research, clinical care and education, to constantly improve the care and treatment of HIV-infected and affected women, children and youth and to prevent new HIV infections.

Our mission is accomplished through a multidisciplinary team approach that provides high-quality, comprehensive, culturally-competent, accessible medical care, health promotion, HIV prevention and family-centered social services in San Diego County.

Location & Geographic Reach

- Outpatient Ryan White Clinic with wraparound services and research site in a university health system
 - 1. Pediatrics (including exposed infants)
 - 2. Youth (≤ 25 years)
 - 3. Women (Fem Owen)
 - 4. Obstetrics
- San Diego County
 - Only pediatric and obstetric providers for people with HIV
 - More than 70 miles long
 - Situated on the international border

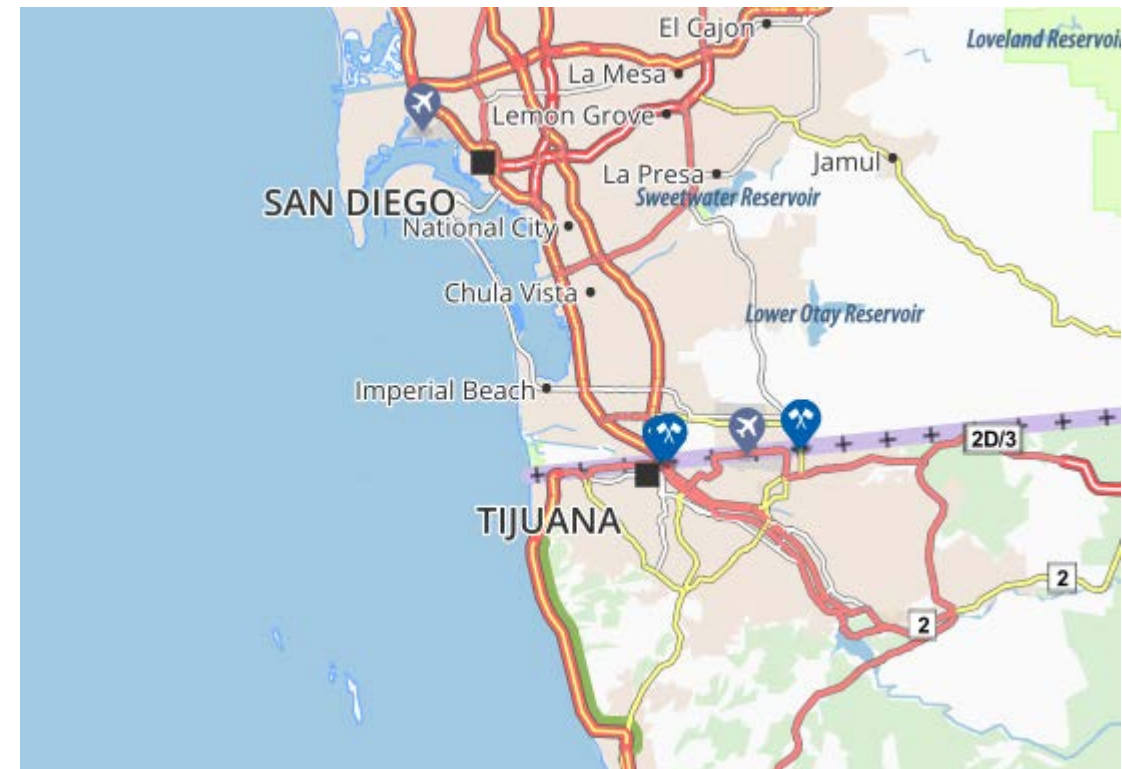


Population



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- 42% of women recently diagnosed with HIV in San Diego County were Latina (2013-2017) (SDC, 2018)
- Largest population served at our clinic are Monolingual Spanish Speakers
- In San Diego, Spanish is the top foreign language spoken (Census, 2019)
- San Ysidro port of entry is the busiest land border crossing in the Western Hemisphere (Snibbe, 2019)
- Latinos are the second largest ethnic group in San Diego County (Census, 2019)



Group Structure



- A participant-driven group was created to offer peer support and information on community resources to promote engagement in HIV services.
- Created at the request of Latina women living with HIV receiving services at our agency
- Co-facilitated in Spanish by two bicultural-bilingual case managers.
- Driven by participant-input
- Needs assessment identified service and knowledge gaps to identify group content and presentations
- Ongoing feedback elicited at the close of each weekly session

Case Study



- 65 year-old Mexican cis-gender woman
- Diagnosed with HIV in the late 80's
- Language and cultural barriers
- Complex medical picture

Case Study Cont.



- Prior to group:
 - Isolated, never disclosed HIV diagnosis, high fear of stigma, low participation in case management and mental health services, low advocacy and self-efficacy
- Post Group:
 - Participates in multiple groups, disclosed HIV diagnosis,
 - community advocate, peer, attends HIV County meetings and events,
 - participates in panels, high advocacy, high self-efficacy, enrolled in
 - individual therapy

Outcomes



- Group members represent a diverse age range and include women adjusting to new diagnoses and long-term survivors
- All participants achieved viral suppression
- Two-thirds of members engaged in individual mental health therapy through referrals facilitated by group participation
- Participants included women who had never engaged in psychosocial support services or disclosed their status outside of their medical team
- Increased community advocacy, regularly attending county meetings to advocate for and provide feedback on HIV services across San Diego

Covid-19



- Virtual group on Zoom
- Utilization of group for Covid-19 resources and education
- High attendance and participation
- Continue having presenters join group
- Tech support provided prior to group going virtual
- Supplies available for participants

Lessons Learned



- Empowerment
- Peer engagement
- Community outreach
- Funding

Questions



References



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