



Prenatal Care Utilization and Satisfaction Among Low Income Hispanic Women

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BUSTING MYTHS, BREAKING BARRIERS

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Benefits of prenatal care

- Healthier babies
- Chance to teach about infant health
- Smooth transition to child health care
- Chance to identify potential problems
- Cost-savings from less hospital care



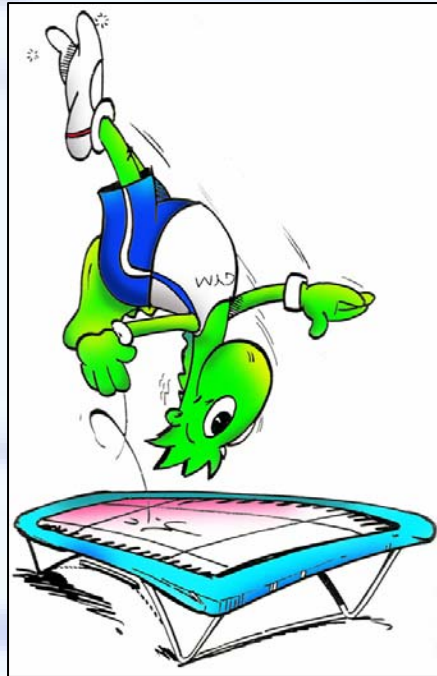
“Traditional” barriers to use of prenatal care

- Low income
- Lack of insurance
- Low education
- Immigrant status
- Lack of access
- Poor treatment
- Unintended pregnancy
- High life stress



Resilience

The ability to bounce back when faced with difficult times and circumstances



Resilience Resources

For Individuals:

- Friends and family
- Cultural connection
- Sense of meaning
- Sense of control
- Helping others

For Communities:

- Neighbors talk
- Work for common good
- Plan for the future
- Focus on assets
- Diversity



Prenatal Care Satisfaction and Resilience Factors in Maryvale and South Phoenix

***Maricopa County Department of Public Health,
The Alliance for Innovations in Health Care
& Arizona State University***

The Goals:

- ✓ Assess utilization and satisfaction with pregnancy care
- ✓ Understand barriers to access
- ✓ Evaluate predictors of utilization and positive experiences

Why focus on Maryvale and South Phoenix?

Previous findings:

- **Worse pregnancy and birth outcomes among low-income and ethnic minority groups**
- **High infant mortality rates**
- **Less use of prenatal care than in the surrounding areas of Phoenix.**

What We Did:

- Interviewed 483 Hispanic women in postpartum unit of hospitals serving Maryvale and South Phoenix
- All women were eligible to receive AHCCCS or FES to cover the cost of the birth.
- All women spoke either Spanish or English, and were at least 18 years old

Study Participants

- Averaged 26 years old
- 55% married/living with partner
- 50% completed High School
- 81% were born in Mexico
- 68% spoke Spanish only

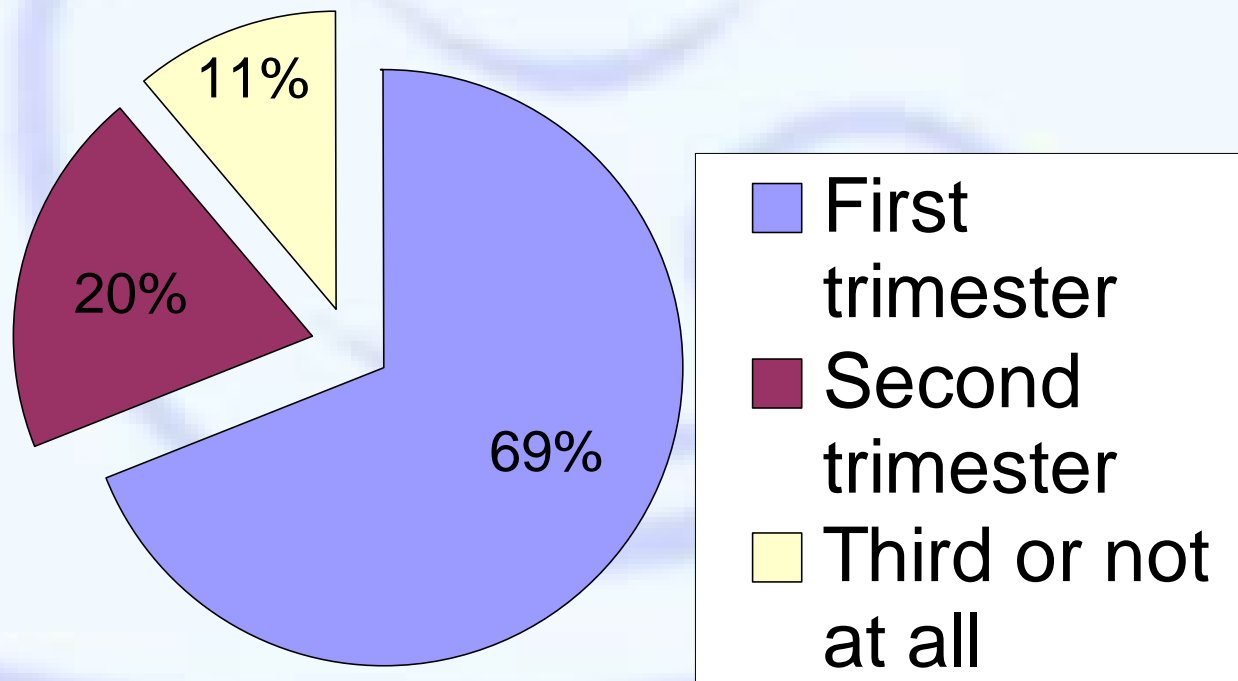


***KEY
FINDINGS...***

Use of Prenatal Care

- *95% reported use of prenatal care*
- *9% attended childbirth classes*

First Prenatal Care Visit



Barriers to use of prenatal care:

- ✓ Lower educated
- ✓ Born in Mexico
- ✓ Low acculturation
- ✓ Single, divorced/separated
- ✓ Unintended pregnancy
- ✓ Distress
- ✓ Stressful life events

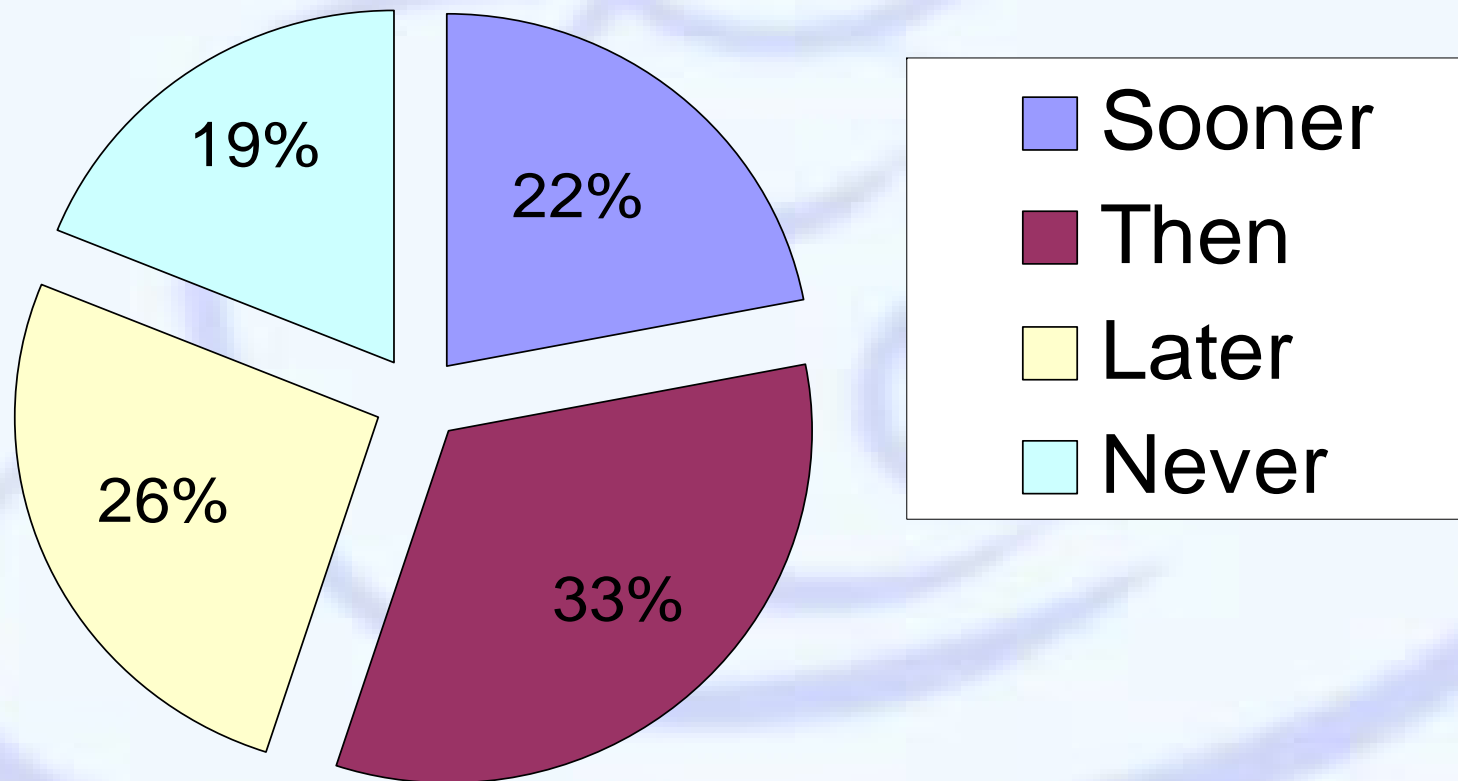


Stressful Life Events

- On average, women reported 2 major life stressors (range 0-12).
- 35% moved at least once, 10% moved more than once, 9% were homeless.
- 16% reported someone close had a bad problem with drinking or drugs
- 19% reported the death of someone close.

Life events and experiences

She wanted to be pregnant...



Among women who received prenatal care, 19% did not receive it as early as they wanted it.

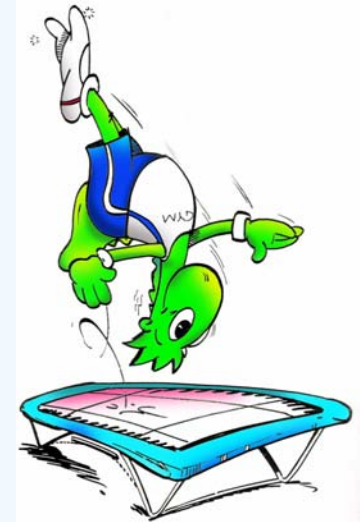
Reasons for the delay:

- 35% cited lack of money or insurance
- 19% did not know they were pregnant
- 4% couldn't find a doctor who would see her
- 19% reported other reasons (mainly difficulty getting on AHCCCS)

RESILIENCE

Predictors of *earlier* entry into PNC:

- Support from family and friends
- Support from the baby's father
- Strong cultural beliefs
- Sense of control/mastery
- Positive feelings about being pregnant
- Religious beliefs and practices



FAMILY AND FRIENDS

- Most were highly satisfied with support from friends, family, and the baby's father.
- 83-85% felt the baby's father would provide financial support and help care for the baby.

9% of women felt they had no close friends or family nearby who could provide support



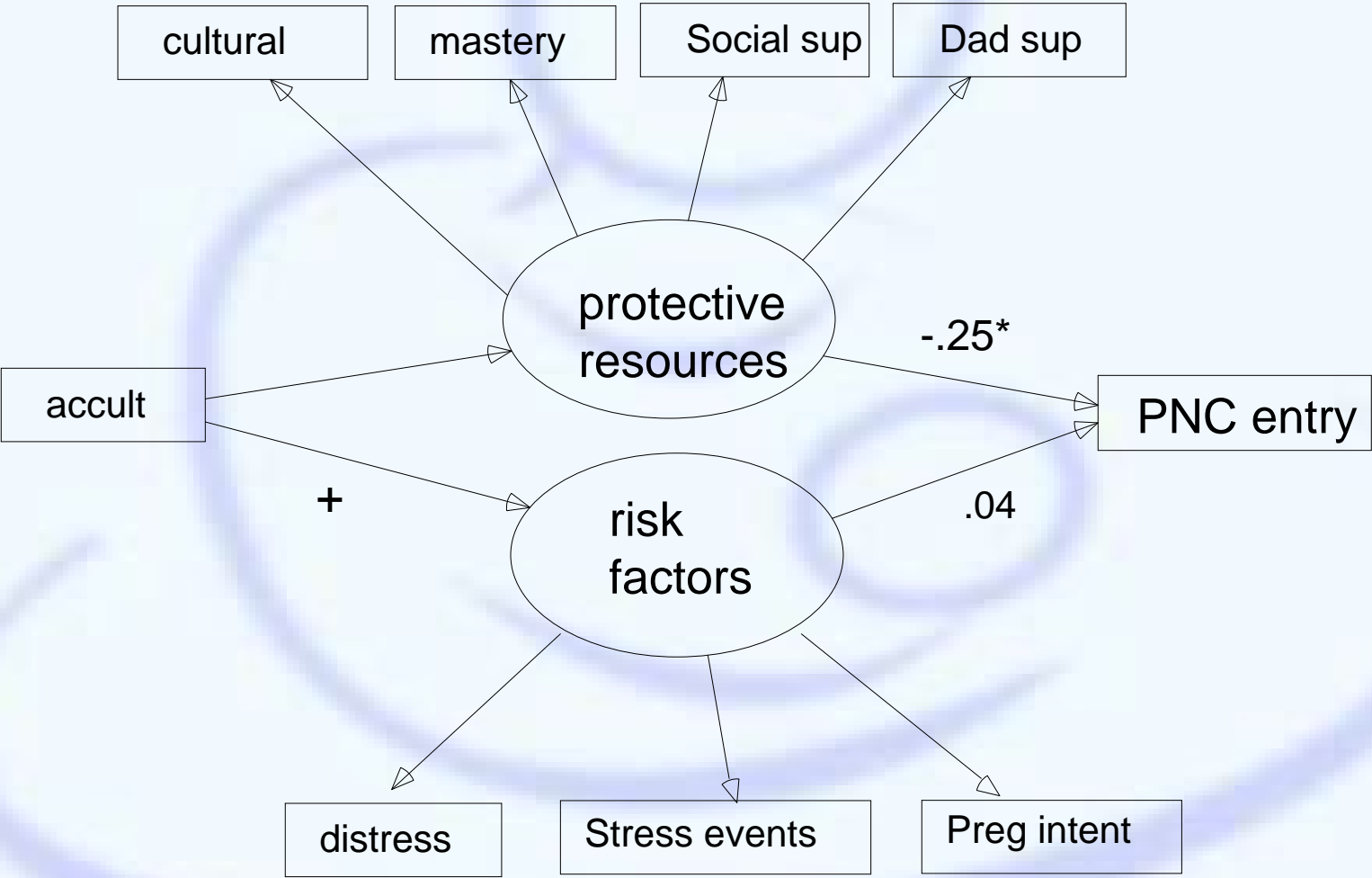
Neighborhood support was generally low

“People in my neighborhood are willing to help their neighbors” (49% agree)

“This is a close-knit neighborhood” (37% agree)

“People in my neighborhood can be trusted” (31% agree)

Combined impact of risk and protective factors on time of entry into prenatal care (PNC)

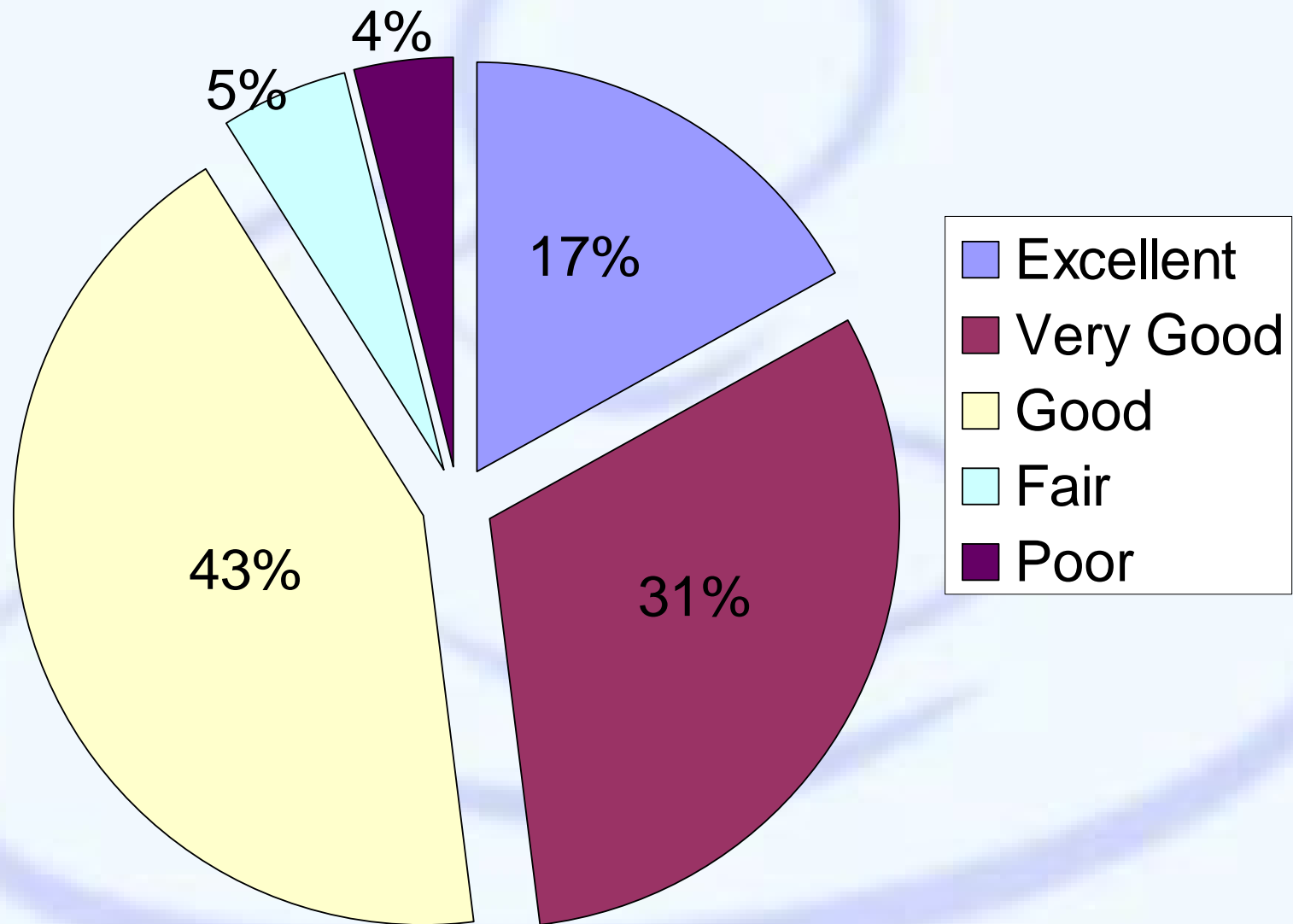


Care quality and satisfaction

Overall ratings tended to be fairly high for the prenatal care facility and prenatal care provider. However:

- 57% reported trouble communicating with their provider due to language differences
- 15% reported that her provider “sometimes”, “rarely”, or “never” went over test results

Provider shows respect and concern



Care quality and satisfaction, cont.

Perceived discriminatory treatment

“I was ignored or discriminated against by a health care worker” (20%)

“Due to how I look or speak, a health care worker mistreated me” (17%)

“A health care worker treated another patient well but treated me badly” (18%)

Provider-level predictors of increased satisfaction with care

- Less wait time
- Provider spent more time with her
- Felt more control over birth experience
- Treated with respect
- Usually seen by same person

Individual-level predictors of increased satisfaction with care

- Fewer stressful life events
- Strong social support
- Low levels of depression and anxiety
- Strong cultural beliefs
- Mother born in Mexico

Care content

23% of women reported that their provider did not discuss what to eat during pregnancy

- 11-14% reported that their provider did not discuss how drinking, smoking, or illegal drugs could affect their baby
- 27% reported that her provider did not discuss domestic violence
- 25% reported they did not discuss HIV

Where to go from
here??



Recommendations

1. Expand use of best practices and develop interventions to increase prenatal care among low-income and culturally diverse women.
2. Asset-based community interventions to build cohesion, social networks, and engagement
3. Focus groups to understand experiences with discrimination, and how cultural beliefs influence use of prenatal care.
4. Culturally relevant provider and community education and outreach focused on access, pregnancy and birth control education, and illegal immigrant fears.

5. Increase depression and social screening during prenatal care visits. Look at prenatal programs available in homeless shelters.
6. Simplify the process of obtaining AHCCCS coverage. Publicize it, with emphasis on Spanish-language media.
7. Work with providers and institutions to improve patient recall of essential information related to good health during pregnancy.



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