Understanding Latino Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Adolescent Patients’ Goal Prioritizations in Patient-Provider Sexual Orientation and Sexual Health Disclosures

Suzanne Burdick, M.A.
Ph. D. student in Interpersonal Communication, Communication Studies, Moody College of Communication
Let’s talk definitions first…

- **Latino/a**: folks in the United States who are of Latin-American and/or Spanish origin
  - Synonymous with “Hispanic” (for the purposes of this study and as discussed by the Pew Research Center)
  - Might be Spanish-speaking and/or English-speaking
Let’s talk definitions first…

- **Lesbian** describes a woman whose enduring physical, romantic, and/or emotional attraction is to other women.
- **Gay** describes a man whose enduring physical, romantic, and/or emotional attraction is to other men.
- **Bisexual** describes a person who is physically, romantically, and/or emotionally attracted to both men and women.  
  (Heartland ALLiance International, 2016)
Let’s talk definitions first…

- 18 to 22-year-olds
- Adolescent and Young Adults (AYAs)
- Emerging Adults
- Millennials
Background

The number of Latinos in the United States has increased more than eight-fold since 1960. (Pew Research Center, 2016)
Nearly six-in-ten Hispanics are Millennials or younger

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ethnicity</th>
<th>Younger than 18</th>
<th>Millennial adults (18-33)</th>
<th>Gen X (34-49)</th>
<th>Boomer (50-68)</th>
<th>Silent/Greatest (69 and older)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Whites, blacks and Asians include only those who are single race and not Hispanic. Hispanics are of any race. Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding. Source: Pew Research Center analysis of 2014 American Community Survey (IPUMS). “The Nation’s Latino Population Is Defined by Its Youth”
What Latino AYAs experience:

• Latino AYAs are disproportionately affected by STDs, such as HIV (CDC, 2011).
• When compared with white AYAs, Latino AYAs experience more than twice the number of cases of Gonorrhea and roughly three times the number of cases of Chlamydia and Syphilis (CDC, 2011).
What Latino LGB AYAs experience:

“The Latino cultural value of ‘machismo’ is an idealized form of masculinity that could be either position (e.g., assertiveness and courage) or negative (e.g., violence and sexual aggression toward women. **Identifying as gay may not be acceptable within Latino culture because of stereotyped perceptions about gay men being less masculine**” (Baig et al., 2016).
What we already know:

Internalized homophobia in sexual minorities and societal homophobia in general create a communication barrier (Eguchi, 2006).
What we already know:

Health disclosures are difficult.

- Many factors influence whether or not patients tell their healthcare providers personal information. (Polek et al., 2008; Caughlin et al., 2009)

- How providers interact with their patients makes a difference. (Beach et al., 2010)
What we already know:

Cultural sensitivity is one of the most widely-accepted principles of praxis in public health and communication (Dutta and Basu, 2011).
What we already know:

Journal of Internal Medicine reported *Differences in Patient-Provider Communication for Hispanic Compared to Non-Hispanic White Patients in HIV Care* (Beach et al., 2010):

– Visits with Latino patients were measured as being less patient-centered with less psychosocial talk than visits with white patients.
What we DON’T know (yet):

What culturally-sensitive communication looks and sounds like when communicating with Latino LGB AYAs.
The National Institute for Minority Health and Health Disparities designated sexual and gender minorities as a health disparity population in October 2016. (Fenway Institute, 2016)

“Research on how to close these gaps is lacking,”
—Eliseo J. Perez-Stable, NIMHD director
Study’s Theoretical Basis
A Multiple Goals Perspective

• A framework that focuses on how interpersonal communicative encounters are shaped by the goals, or purposes, of the communicators.
  
  (Goldsmith, 2014)

• A “goal” is the communicator’s intention or salient priority, rather than an achievable, discrete event or object, such as having a goal of winning a race.
Types of Goals

• **Instrumental**: the task of the communication
  – Example: requesting or sharing information.

• **Identity**: how the speaker enacts their sense of identity through the communication
  – Example: saying things in a polite way to represent oneself as a respectful, kind person.

• **Relational**: the speaker’s concerns of their relationship with the other communicator
  – Example: Avoiding word choices that would offend someone.

(Clark and Delia, 1979)
A Multiple Goals Perspective

• Effective communication doesn’t just accomplished the task at hand but also must sustains or enhances the identity and relational components as well.

• Sophisticated messages attend to more than one goal type. (O’Keefe, 1988)
Reconceptualization:

Shifting from goal conflicts to goal prioritization patterns
Maslow’s (1963) Hierarchy of Needs

- **Physiological needs**: breathing, food, water, shelter, clothing, sleep
- **Safety and security**: health, employment, property, family and social stability
- **Love and belonging**: friendship, family, intimacy, sense of connection
- **Self-esteem**: confidence, achievement, respect of others, the need to be a unique individual
- **Self-actualization**: morality, creativity, spontaneity, acceptance, experience purpose, meaning and inner potential

Retrieved from http://www.researchhistory.org/2012/06/16/mas lows-hierarchy-of-needs/
Research Questions

• RQ1: What instrumental, identity, and relational goals do Latino LGB AYA patients report having when they are asked to disclose SO/SH information to their healthcare providers?
Research Questions

• RQ2: How do Latino LGB AYA patients describe the prioritization patterns of their goals in SO/SH disclosures?
Study Method

- Interviews of Latino LGB AYAs about their experiences and what is important to them

- Content analysis of the interview transcripts for themes, goals, prioritization patterns of attending to goals
Study Implications

✓ Improved patient-provider communication
Study Implications

✓ Feedback for healthcare providers on if/when/how to solicit sexual orientation and sexual health information

– Patient privacy first vs. universal design?
Participant quotes:

“I don’t think they really need to know your sexual orientation. Unless they think you’re at risk for something like HIV. I don’t think they should ask for, just, curiosity. I’d prefer to not be asked. I’d prefer to not have that weird conversation.”

“I think doctors should ask about medical stuff and not ask about your [sexual] identity unless it’s necessary. I think it would make people feel more comfortable to know they’re asking it for medical purposes rather than just prying.”
Participant quote:

“When everyone’s answering, then I wouldn’t feel so weird about it.”
Study Implications

✓ Trust and rapport in patient-provider relationship maintained
Study Implications

✓ Effective gathering of accurate patient information

✓ More accurate Diagnosis

✓ Most effective treatment
Study Implications

✔ Patients’ goals *supported* rather than *threatened* through process of disclosure
OPORTUNIDAD

Si Usted....
...tiene entre 18 y 22 anos
... es Latino o Latina
...es Gay, Lesbiana, o bisexual

¡Queremos escuchar de su experiencia!

Queremos aprender de su experiencia hablando con su doctor o enfermero/a acerca de su salud sexual, y su opinión sobre como pudieran ayudar a hacer de eso una mejor experiencia para Usted. ¿Estaría dispuesto/a a hablar por unos minutos con un investigador individualmente y confidencialmente? Si es así, ¡háganos saber! Llame al 512-471-1950 (la línea es confidencial; se puede dejar un mensaje en Inglés o Español) o mande un correo a suzanneburdick@utexas.edu.
Study Recruitment Info

**************************OPPORTUNITY**************************

Are you...
....18-22 years old?
....Latina or Latino?
....gay, lesbian or bisexual?

If so, we want to hear about your experience!

We want to know more about your experience talking to your doctor or nurse about sexual health, and how they can help make this conversation better for you. Would you be willing to share your thoughts confidentially & briefly one-on-one with a researcher? If so, please let us know at 512-471-1950 (the line is confidential; you can leave a message in Spanish or English) or suzanneburdick@utexas.edu.
Contact info

Suzanne Burdick

suzanneburdick@utexas.edu

(512) 471-1950
References


Images

Meds on leaf: https://www.pexels.com/photo/medical-tablets-pharmacy-cure-50994/
stethoscope: https://static.pexels.com/photos/208556/pexels-photo-208556.jpeg
bloodpressure being taken: https://www.pexels.com/photo/black-and-white-blood-pressure-kit-220723/
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Images (continued)

tin can sharing: https://www.pexels.com/photo/marketing-man-person-communication-362/

Latino young man facing mountain range: https://www.pexels.com/photo/back-boy-bag-guy-26168/

Young woman free to be herself at sunset: https://www.pexels.com/photo/back-boy-bag-guy-26168/

crowd scene: http://www.funnyjunk.com/50+shades+of+green/funny-pictures/5698386/16#16

communication barrier: https://gwynleatro.files.wordpress.com/2011/11/canstockphoto3946329.jpg