

**TITLE:** Addressing educational equity for Latino youth in Oregon: The OSU Open Campus Juntos Program experience

**AUTHOR(S):** Amy Young, MPH; Yuridia Reyes, Daniel Lopez-Cevallos, PhD

**PRESENTER(S):** Amy Young, MPH; Yuridia Reyes, Daniel Lopez-Cevallos, PhD

**STUDENT SUBMISSION:** No

**TOPIC/TARGET AUDIENCE:** Target audience:

Public health professionals working with diverse racial/ethnic communities, program developer and evaluators, researchers, educators and school-based practitioners

Topic:

Social determinants of health, health and educational equity, outcome disparities, stakeholder and community engagement, Latino health

**ABSTRACT:** During the 2015-2016 academic year, Oregon's rapidly growing Latino population represented 23% of K-12 enrollment. From a socio-ecological perspective, educational efforts are needed towards increasing health equity for Latino Oregonians.

In schools, lack of linguistically- and culturally- appropriate resources and structural biases may inhibit academic motivation and outcomes for Latino youth. OSU Open Campus Juntos Program engages learners, schools, and community partners in promoting high school completion and post-secondary access within the socio-cultural context of Latino families.

Evaluation assessed program and educational experience for 31 statewide Juntos cohorts. Participants reported widespread experiences of discrimination in their daily lives, including 46% of youth at school. Barriers to parental engagement are evident in lower measures of school connectedness and discomfort discussing their children's education outside family. After completing Juntos, participants report higher academic motivation and positive attitudes about school. Parent indicate stronger school connectedness and expanded networks for school engagement.

Empowering families in this context enhances their capacity to provide academic support for Latino youth. However, individual behavioral gains may have limited effect on educational outcomes in the absence of a concerted effort by schools and local communities to support Latino families and engage in systemic efforts towards institutional equity gains.

**OBJECTIVE(S):** Assess the school climate for Latino youth/families and discuss institutional barriers for high school completion and post-secondary access.

Explain the significance of addressing educational inequity for Latinos in the context of the social determinants of health.

**PRIMARY CONTACT INFORMATION:**

amy.young@oregonstate.edu, OSU Open Campus, Juntos Program