

TITLE: Behavioral health disparities in community sample of a COVID-19 intervention study to mitigate low SARS-Cov-2 testing in Latinx population in Oregon

AUTHOR(S): Veronica Oro; Jorge Ramirez Garcia; Elizabeth Budd; Stephanie De Anda; Dave DeGarmo; Leslie Leve

PRESENTER(S): Veronica Oro

STUDENT SUBMISSION: No

TOPIC/TARGET AUDIENCE: Policy makers, researchers, evaluators

ABSTRACT: Background. Empirical findings are urgently needed to better understand the behavioral health - and social vulnerabilities of community members during the COVID-19 pandemic. COVID-19's behavioral health consequences may parallel disparities in physical health minoritized groups, such as Latinx populations, likely have fared worse than non-minoritized groups in psychological distress and/ or substance use. Objectives. With a sample of community participants (age 18 and older; N~1,443) in of a COVID-19 public health intervention trial conducted in 38 Oregon community sites in 9 counties, we will: 1) test for disparities between Latinx and non-Latinx White, European American participants in self-reported behavioral health, and 2) conduct multivariate analyses to examine how Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) influence the relation between ethnicity and behavioral health. Approach. The sample diversity will be considered in the study objectives by examining the role of gender identity and at home language use (English vs Spanish). Multi-level statistical modeling will be used to assess the role of the clustering of participants within sites and to complement self-reported SDOH with population level SDOH indices. Summary. Our empirical data are vital for the planning and implementing of interventions that can impact population health inclusive of behavioral health and of minoritized sub-populations.

OBJECTIVE(S): Define population behavioral health policy and program implications based on behavioral health disparities and social determinants of health empirical findings in community sample of COVID-19 public health intervention participants
