



March 31, 2009

Dear Consultation Participant,

On behalf of the Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention (DHAP), I would like to thank you once again for your participation in CDC's first national consultation on HIV prevention among Hispanics – *HIV/AIDS Prevention in the Hispanic/Latino Community: Consultation with Leaders from the Latino Community*, on April 1-2, 2008 in Decatur, GA. The consultation helped to generate many new ideas and opportunities for HIV prevention among Hispanics/Latinos, while identifying important gaps and barriers that can hinder our prevention efforts. The valuable recommendations drawn from your knowledge and experience have laid the foundation for the Division's development of a National Plan of Action for preventing HIV/AIDS among Hispanics/Latinos.

A summary report compiled from the presentations, discussions, and recommendations from the 2008 consultation is now available. In addition to the summary report, please take a few minutes to visit the Consultation web page at <http://www.cdcnpin.org/scripts/HispanicLatino/index.asp>. The web page contains informative materials from the consultation including slides from the plenary presentations, relevant reports and journal articles, and links to other useful CDC resources on the Internet. The web page is also available in Spanish and will be updated periodically.

The Division's Hispanic/Latino Executive Committee (HLEC) is currently engaged in developing a *National Plan of Action* that will guide the Division's efforts for HIV/AIDS prevention among Hispanic/Latino populations over the next 3 to 5 years. This plan of action will fit within, and be built upon the context of CDC's current HIV prevention strategic goals (<http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/resources/reports/psp/index.htm>). The plan will include specific strategies to help address the barriers and increase the success of CDC's HIV/AIDS prevention efforts; together with specific targets and metrics to ensure accountability and measurable progress.

I would also like to take this opportunity to inform you of several recent CDC efforts to address HIV prevention with at-risk Hispanic/Latino populations. Each activity listed below has occurred as a result of your recommendations at the consultation meeting.

- To improve public-private collaboration, partnership and communication, HLEC has facilitated numerous media and communication activities, including presentations at national and local HIV prevention conferences.
- CDC staff are currently developing web resources for Hispanic/Latino populations, and exploring different ways to effectively communicate about these Spanish language resources with our partners.
- Several HIV behavioral interventions supported by the CDC's Diffusion of Effective Behavioral Interventions (DEBI) project are now available in Spanish, and DHAP is in the process of increasing the number of DEBIs available for Hispanic/Latino populations. Three DEBI projects (!Cuidate! for Latino youth, CONNECT for Latino couples, and SEPA for Latinas) designed specifically for Hispanic/Latinos are currently being packaged. The DEBI

project is also currently disseminating 2 evidence-based interventions for Latinos: VOICES/VOCES for STD clinic patients and Modelo de Intervención Psicomédica (MIP), a motivational interviewing model program, for injection drug users.

- Several recently published reports from CDC explore the HIV/AIDS epidemic among various Hispanic/Latino subpopulations, including a special supplemental HIV surveillance report on race/ethnicity. CDC staff have also recently published papers focusing on the demographic characteristics of HIV infected Hispanics; HIV testing behaviors of Hispanics; and risk factors among Hispanic migrants. HLEC members are currently working on a systematic review of HIV behavioral interventions evaluated in Latin American countries.
- CDC is collaborating with the U.S. Census Bureau and community partners to identify alternative data sources that can be used to compute HIV/AIDS case rates for Puerto Rico according to race/ethnicity.
- In October 2009, a special supplement of *AIDS Education and Prevention* sponsored by HLEC, will be published that highlights the epidemiology, behavioral and socio-ecological influences of HIV risk, and best practices of HIV prevention among Hispanic/Latino populations.

As evident in this letter, with the focused efforts of the Hispanic/Latino Executive Committee, DHAP has enhanced its response towards the continued threat of HIV/AIDS in the Hispanic/Latino community. However, we cannot do this alone. As Dr. Kevin Fenton pointed out during the consultation – the consultation was not the end, but a beginning to improved communication and relationship with the U.S. Hispanic/Latino community. In rising to meet the myriad challenges posed by this epidemic, we look forward to continued collaboration with you and new partners who share our enthusiasm and dedication to this issue.

We look forward to working closely with you in pursuit of our common goal – the elimination of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the United States. As in the past, please feel free to share with us your voice and your input on the report and other issues affecting our efforts to improve our ability to monitor the epidemic and stop its further spread.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to HIV prevention.

Atentamente,

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