Villa Guadalupe: A Community Health Needs Assessment in a Resettled Managua Neighborhood

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Background
- Villa Guadalupe is a resettled community of approximately 1000 families in Managua, Nicaragua.
- The resettlement project (completed in 2013) was a joint effort between the City government and Spain’s Agency for International Development Cooperation. The project sought to provide decent housing to former residents of the municipal dump (La Chureca), as well as victims of frequent flooding.
- Although the residents’ situation has improved, problems such as persistent unemployment, poor sanitation and lack of services continue in the new community.
- Manna Project International (MPI) began working with this population in 2004, and continues to provide medical care, supplemental food, and support for female entrepreneurs within Villa Guadalupe.
- Recent research carried out by MPI identified sexual and reproductive health and domestic abuse, as primary areas of need.

Project Goals
1) To assess the reproductive health needs of women in Villa Guadalupe
2) To investigate perceptions and experiences of domestic violence among women in Villa Guadalupe
3) To develop and implement an evaluation of MPI’s child nutrition program
4) To develop a clinical partnership with MPI’s primary care clinic serving Villa Guadalupe

Methods
- Administered 106 house-to-house surveys
- Conducted 20 qualitative interviews on relationships and domestic violence
- Conducted focus groups, key informant interviews, participant observation, and administered 20 satisfaction surveys for evaluation of child sponsorship program

Next Steps
- Continue data analysis
- Synthesize findings to report to MPI
- Prepare manuscripts for publication
- Identify interventions to meet the distinct needs of women in Villa Guadalupe
- Recruit students for GHI team project for Summer 2016

Project Timeframe
- Data Collection: May-July 2015
- Data Analysis: August-November 2015
- Preliminary Report: November 2015
- Possible collaborations for Summer 2016

Expected Outcomes
Data from the CNA will assist MPI to improve their programming, better meeting the needs of women in Villa Guadalupe

Selected Results
- Overall, participants had their first child early (average age 16.5 years old), with high rates of fertility
- Almost half (46%) reported that their initial pregnancy was unwanted/mistimed
- Rates of contraceptive use were high (72%) especially female sterilization (35%). Condom use was less common with only around a quarter reporting having used a condom in their last sexual encounter.
- Breastfeeding was common (86% breastfed their last child) with an average length of 18 months. However, exclusive breastfeeding lasted 4.8 months on average.

Exclusive Breastfeeding of Most Recent Child

Statistics for domestic violence were high; a significant percentage of respondents reported early and frequent emotional and/or physical abuse; one-fifth reported that their partner forced them to have sex.

Psychological/Emotional Abuse

Project Partners
- Manna Project International
Supervisor-Christina Palazzo
Clinician -Dr Liliam Narvaez
Cultural Envoy - Julio Gonzales