Research partnership with *La Clínica del Pueblo* and American University: formative research and a pilot intervention among immigrant Latino MSM and transgender Latinas.

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Latinos vulnerable to HIV
- Latino men who have sex with men (MSM) accounted for 72% of all new infections among Latinos in 2011\(^3\)
- Undocumented Latino immigrants experience delays in HIV diagnosis and have lower CD4 cell counts during treatment initiation, compared to authorized Latinos, Blacks and Whites\(^2\)

Fear of deportation as determinant of HIV service use
- Lack of employer-sponsored or public health insurance
- Fear that providers will contact immigration authorities
- Fear of sexual identity discrimination and violence experienced in countries of origin

Formative research in Washington, DC with *La Clínica del Pueblo*

\(^1\)Dang et al, 2012; \(^2\)Poon et al, 2013; \(^3\)CDC, 2011; \(^4\)Rhodes et al, 2015
Formative Research

• In-depth interviews with 17 Latino MSM (chicos gays) and 8 transgender Latinas (chicas trans)

• Participants were from Central America and spent an average of 7 years in U.S.

• 10 people were undocumented; 9 did not reveal documentation status; 2 chicas received asylum

• Our findings suggested that asylum (legal authorization to live in the U.S.) was a contextual determinant of HIV risk for young sexual minority Latino/as
Findings for Chicas Trans

Documentation status was related to three HIV-related risk factors: gender identity, access to services, and relationship power dynamics

Relationship power

“... sometimes without (legal) papers (to live in the U.S.), you do not have confidence to say I want this, I want that and ... when the kids have no family support and are hopping from one ... a couch to another and are sleeping with this guy, and sleeping with that guy, they do not feel empowered to say ‘ah I want to use condoms’. Because they are dependent (on the person) who will pay for lunch ... who buys .. who will give them a place to stay” ~Chica Trans

Access to services

“Well, I’d say my life [after asylum] changed 180 degrees. Because that was why I didn’t go to school, I wasn’t working, and after they approved my asylum case, they sent me a work permit, and even though I didn’t know how to speak English, I went to work, because now they see that my social security number is good. My life changed completely.” ~Chica Trans
NEW GRANT From NIH Centers for AIDS Research

**Aim 1:** To examine fear of deportation and its association with health service use among young immigrant Latino MSM.

**Aim 2:** To assess the feasibility of a structural intervention combining immigration-related legal aid with peer navigation/social support to increase use of HIV-related prevention and care services among young Latino immigrant sexual minorities.
Conceptual Model

Immigration-Related Legal Aid
Education regarding legal rights; legal advocacy

Determinants of Risk
- Structural: Immigration status, Economic stability
- Social: networks and peers

Mediating Influence
- Fear of deportation
- Trust in health care providers
- Social support

HIV Intervention
Peer navigation to social and health services; social support groups

Intervention Outcomes
Service use: Engagement with primary health care provider and STI/HIV testing; linkage to and retention in HIV-related care and social services
HIV risk: UAI, risky sex partners
Plan for collaboration with La Clínica del Pueblo

¡Empodérate! Center
• Serve as a recruitment and interview site
• Staff will help manage the pilot intervention

Participatory research
• Solicit feedback from Community Advisory Board
• Hire culturally and LGBT-sensitive bilingual persons, including LCDP staff, for research