

Aspirations, Barriers, and Community Strengths: A Qualitative Survey of Urban Chicano Youth and Families

Elizabeth M. Vera

Occasional Paper No. 38

February 2000

ABSTRACT

This presentation will describe the content of interviews conducted with Chicano children, adolescents, and their families who reside in an urban community and attend local schools. The goal of these interviews was to have the community identify aspirations it had for the children, barriers which may impede progress toward these goals, and resources both available and needed which would serve to enhance community life. The importance of the family, relationships, issues of personal safety, and the school as a central component of the community were among the topics discussed in the interviews. Areas of consensus and divergence among the various participants will be highlighted and the implications for prevention planning will be discussed.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Elizabeth M. Vera received her Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology from The Ohio State University. She has been an Assistant Professor in the Department of Counseling Psychology at Loyola University-Chicago, where she teaches courses in Multicultural Counseling, Community-Based Interventions, Family Therapy, Adolescence, and Substance Abuse. Dr. Vera has extensive training and experience in the prevention and treatment of problems of children and their families and has worked primarily within Latino and African American communities. Her primary professional interests include developing community-based prevention strategies, multicultural training, ethnic identity development, and the prevention of health-compromising behaviors in children.