

Lessons from Two Latino Communities Working with Academic Partners to Increase Access to COVID-19 Testing

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What Is the Purpose of this Study?

- To understand community partners' experiences and process of engagement in a community–academic partnership that implemented COVID-19 testing and access in two majority Latino communities.

What Is the Problem?

- There has been limited examination of the voices of community partners in a community–academic partnership responding to the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly among marginalized, under-resourced communities.

What Are the Findings?

- Participants shared that having community partners from another site provided an essential source of support as they developed plans for their COVID-19 testing events.
- Latino COVID-19 Collaborative strategies tapped into leadership and activities that were present in the sites prior to COVID-19.
- Participants felt that holding study activities in Spanish contributed to the relationships and capacity building of Latino COVID-19 Collaborative partners.

Who Should Care Most?

- Researchers interested in community–academic partnerships.
- Community-based organizations.
- Providers.
- State and local policymakers.

Recommendations for Action

- Relationships among community partners can lead to unique and important insights into the challenges and opportunities faced by residents in accessing COVID-19 testing.

- Community-academic partnerships should uplift existing community capacity, ongoing leadership development is critical, particularly in geographically based interventions.
- Future development and implementation of testing, vaccine, and outpatient treatment strategies should consider moving beyond traditional approaches to engage community partners.