Información de Salud: Improving the Health Literacy of Kentucky's Hispanic Population

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A sample survey of Kentucky's growing Hispanic population brought to our attention health literacy needs which we hoped to address with existing resources. With funding from the National Network of Libraries of Medicine, we sought to increase that population's awareness of Spanish language, web-based consumer health resources, while improving their access to the Internet. Partnering with faith-based Hispanic community centers, we provided an Internet-ready computer and demonstrated MedlinePlus, healthfinder.gov, NOAH and familydoctor.org.

UK UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY Libraries
see blue.

Southern Kentucky AHEC
Improving health through education.

NEEDS ASSESSMENT

A community health needs assessment of local Hispanics revealed a lack of access to health information. In 2004, Kentucky had the fourth fastest growing Hispanic population in a non-border state.

PROJECT AIM

To improve the health literacy of the local Hispanic population by improving access to web-based Spanish language consumer health information.

• Obtained funding through the National Network of Libraries of Medicine

• Selected four counties in our region with the largest Hispanic populations

• Partnered with local Hispanic groups to house a free computer and provide Internet access

• Provided training sessions on computer basics, Internet basics and a demonstration of four Spanish language consumer health websites

CONSUMER HEALTH RESOURCES

• http://medlineplus.gov/spanish/

• http://healthfinder.gov/espanol/

• http://familydoctor.org/online/famdoces/home.html

• http://www.noah-health.org/

Display board used at health fairs

Consumer health resources websites

PARTNERS

• Outreach Fellowship Church, Somerset, KY (Pulaski County)

• St. Thomas Lutheran Church and Mujeres Unidas, Richmond, KY (Madison County)

• Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church and Board of Education's English as a Second Language program, Danville, KY (Boyle County)

• Somerset Community College's Project BEAM (Bringing Education and Achievement to Migrants), Monticello, KY (Wayne County)

OUTCOMES

• One computer placed in each of three counties

• Eight training sessions conducted in four counties (2 each)

• 78 participants trained on the use of the computer, Internet and websites

PROJECT TIPS

• Translate ALL materials into Spanish, including all class handouts, promotional flyers and giveaways

• Partner with existing Hispanic community groups including faith-based, educational and community service

• Provide simultaneous interpreting during training sessions

• Network with Hispanic community leaders when planning computer installation and training

Instructor (left), & internet class partcipants