Hispanic Active Relationships Project (HARP)

of Cameron County

Project Year 4 Semi-Annual Report
Evaluation Section

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**HARP Cameron County Semi-Annual Report
Evaluation Section**

The research team is monitoring project milestones through the use of a reporting form that is submitted electronically each week by project staff to the evaluation team. The following represent data submitted and analyzed on project milestones for the first half Project Year 4.

Workshops held:
- . 15 Active Communication
- . 5 Active Money Personalities
- . 2 Romance & Intimacy
- . 2 Active Relationships for Young Adults
- . 3 Active Adults
- . 3 Active Choices
- . 1 Active Military

Attendance at special events:
> HARP Cameron County continues to host special events that have drawn close to 1,400 people since its inception. During February 2010, 162 people attended a Matrimonio Magnifico event, which is the third time the project has held this particular celebration for couples in the community.

Evaluating Workshops

The evaluation team has been gathering information on program attendees, as well as tracking changes in knowledge and behaviors of participants who attend HARP Cameron County workshops. This information is gathered through pre/posttest surveys of participants who have signed informed consents approved by the Baylor University Institutional Review Board.

Workshops for Couples
The HARP Cameron County Project provides a series of workshops to couples that are married, engaged, dating or in serious relationships including Active Communication, Active Money Personalities, Romance & Intimacy, Active Military and Active Living. Couples workshops, regardless of their primary content, all aim to improve marital or relationship satisfaction; therefore, couples workshops measure the following outcomes:

Marital Satisfaction
> The item used to measure **marital satisfaction** is a modified version of the Locke-Wallace marital satisfaction question – "Please rate how happy you are in your present marriage. A 7 point Likert scale measures this item, making "14"

the highest possible couples score.

Commitment
To measure **increased commitment to one's present relationship**, the question "Please rate how committed you will be to staying in your marriage" is being used. A 7 point Likert scale measures this item, making "14" the highest possible couples score.

Conflict Resolution
The ENRICH Conflict Resolution subscale is used to assess change in **conflict resolution** skills among couples. This nine-item measure uses a 5 point Liker scale; making "90" the highest possible couples score.

Communication
The ENRICH Communication subscale is used to assess change in positive **communication** skills. This eight-item scale uses a 5 point Likert scale, making "80" the highest possible couples score.

Negative Interactions
The BSRF Negative Interaction scale is used to assess change in **negative interactions** among couples. This eight-item scale uses a 5 point Likert scale. However, on this score, improvement is actually indicated by a decrease in scores. Couples scores range from 16 – 80, with the "best" possible couple score being a 16.

Workshops for Premarital Individuals, Single Adults and Youth
HARP of Cameron County also offers additional workshops including Active Choices for engaged, seriously dating couples, ARYA for high school students and young adults, and
Active Adults for parents of 9th to 12th graders enrolled in ARYA. The research team worked with project staff to develop items that are consistent with the outcomes of the Healthy Marriage Initiative. The items are designed to assess acquisition of specific knowledge and tools.

Active Communication

Data were received from 15 Active Communication and Active Marriage workshops during the first half of Project Year 4; all of which were 8 hours in length. At the time of this report, data from 12 workshops had been entered and were included in analysis. Surveys were returned by 255 persons who attended these workshops. Of these participants, 228 or 114 couples completed both the pre and posttest. The background information provided below, as well as analysis of program outcomes is based on data from these attendees; missing data is excluded from results.

Description of Participants

Participants ranged in age from 18 to 89 years, with a mean age of 34.31 (sd = 12.07) years. Over half (54.7%, n = 111) of the participants were married, 38.9% (n = 79) were engaged, while the remaining 6.4% reported another status. Almost one-fourth (22.0%, n = 42) of these attendees had been married prior to the current relationship. Less than one-fifth (18.5%, n = 36) indicated they had no children. Others reported having from 1-6 children.

Almost two-thirds (64.7%, n = 130) of these Active Communication attendees preferred to speak in Spanish. The vast majority of attendees were Hispanic/Latino (97.0%, n = 195).

Over half this group was either first (29.8%, n = 57) or second generation (24.1%, n = 46) immigrants.

The educational and income background of participants is seen in the following table.

Sample Characteristics	%
Highest Level of Education	
Junior High	18.9
Some High School	14.4
High School/GED	27.4
Some college/technical	26.4
Four year college	10.0
Graduate/professional	3.0
Annual Household Income	
Less than 10,000	18.8
10,000-19,999	20.8
20,000-29,999	22.1
30,000-39,999	17.5
40,000-49,999	5.2

50,000-74,999	10.4
75,000-99,999	3.9
100,000+	1.3

Pretest/Posttest Change

Findings below reflect couple scores from Active Communication workshops in the current Project Year. The measures **in bold** indicate changes that were statistically significant ($p < .05$).

Active Communication: Pretest-Posttest Change

Objective	Measure	Pretest Mean	(sd)	Posttest Mean	(sd)
Increase marital satisfaction	**Happiness with present relationship questi**	10.59	(2.72)	12.33	(2.50)
Increase commitment to present relationship	**Commitment to present relationship questi**	12.39	(2.17)	13.34	(1.56)
Improve conflict resolution skills	**ENRICH Conflict Resolution Subscale**	59.12	(8.10)	64.42	(6.99)
Increase positive communication	**ENRICH Communication Subscale**	60.68	(11.8)	68.62	(9.55)
Decrease negative interaction	**BSRF Negative Interaction Scale**	43.31	(12.7)	34.52	(12.71)

Additional Measures

Knowledge Questions
Participants also answered four items on the posttest to measure knowledge acquired of specific material delivered during the workshop. Participants indicated how much they agreed or disagreed with the following statements using a 5-point Likert scale. Results are seen in the table below; blank cells indicate no responses in that category.

Question	% Strongly Ag	% Agree	% Neither Agr Disagree	% Disagree	% Strongly Dis
I can change my t from negative to p	68.4	26.7	3.1	.9	.9
Dealing with my a will improve my relationships.	65.3	24.0	3.1	1.3	6.2
It is important to optimistic view ab world/people arou	68.6	26.7	4.9	.4	.4
I can communicate	57.3	35.6	4.0	2.7	.4

honestly with my ... without hurting hi...				

Workshop Satisfaction
All but five participants either strongly agreed (87.6%) or agreed (10.2%) that they would recommend this workshop to a friend.

Active Money Personalities

Data from 5 Active Money Personalities workshops were received during the first half of Project Year 4, all of which were 12 hours in length. At the time of this report, data from 64 individuals attending 3 of the workshops had been processed. Complete data (pre and posttests) were received by 58 individuals or 29 couples. The background information provided below, as well as analysis of program outcomes is based on data from these attendees; missing data is excluded from results.

Description of Participants

Participants ranged in age from 18 to 61 years, with a mean age of 35.25 (sd = 12.03) years.
Just over two-thirds (69.0%, n = 40) of these couples were married, with close to one-fourth (22.4%, n = 13) indicating a current engagement. One-fourth had been married previously (25.0%, n = 13); 17.2% (n = 10) indicated they had no children.

Just over half (57.6%, n = 31) of these Active Money Personalities participants preferred to speak in English, while 42.6% (n = 23) indicated a preference for Spanish. The vast majority of attendees were Hispanic/Latino (98.2%).

Almost half of this group was either first (18.9%, n = 10) or second generation (28.3%, n = 15) immigrants.

The educational and income background of participants is seen in the following table.

Sample Characteristics	%
Education Level	
Junior High	13.2
Some High School	18.8
High School/GED	28.3
Some college/technical	22.6
Four year college	13.2
Graduate/professional	3.8

Income	
Less than 10,000	13.0
10,000-19,999	26.1
20,000-29,999	10.9
30,000-39,999	17.4
40,000-49,999	13.0
50,000-74,999	8.7
75,000-99,999	4.3
100,000 and higher	6.5

Pretest/Posttest Change

Findings below reflect couple scores from Active Money Personalities workshops in the current Project Year. The measures **in bold** indicate changes that were statistically significant ($p < .05$).

Active Money Personalities: Pretest-Posttest Change

Objective	Measure	Pretest Mean (sd)		Posttest Mean (sd)	
Increase marital satisfaction	**Happiness with presen relationship question**	9.95	(2.87)	12.23	(2.83)
Increase commitment to pr relationship	**Commitment to presen relationship question**	12.36	(1.94)	12.95	(1.70)
Improve conflict resolutio	**ENRICH Conflict Reso Subscale**	60.08	(9.56)	63 35	(9.44)
Increase positive commur	**ENRICH Communicat Subscale**	60.78	(15.87)	67.43	(11.70)
Decrease negative interac	**BSRF Negative Inter Scale**	39.29	(3.09)	33.83	(2.47)

Workshop Satisfaction
All but one participant either strongly agreed (94.4%, n = 51) or agreed (3.7%, n = 2) that they would recommend this workshop to a friend. One person neither agreed nor disagreed with this (1.9%).

Romance & Intimacy

Data from 2 Romance & Intimacy workshops were received during Project Year 4, both of which were 12 hours in length. Data from one workshop is included in this report. For this workshop, surveys were returned by 30 individuals/15 couples. Because analysis of outcomes is based on data from only 14 couples, findings should be interpreted with caution.

Description of Participants

Participants ranged in age from 18 to 56 years, with a mean age of 31.34 (sd = 10.69) years. The majority (65.5%, 19) participants reported being married, with another 24.1% (n = 7) indicating they were engaged. One person indicated they were dating and another 2 that they were in a common law marriage. Of these attendees, 29.6% (n = 8) had at least one prior marriage, with 69.0% (n = 20) indicating they had children.

Most participants (82.8%, n = 24) preferred to speak in English. The vast majority of attendees were Hispanic/Latino (96.7%, n = 2).

The educational and income background of participants is seen in the following table.

Sample Characteristics	%
Highest Level of Education	
Junior High	3.4
Some High School	13.8
High School/GED	24.1
Some college/technical	37.9
Four year college	13.8
Graduate/professional	6.9
Annual Household Income	
Less than 10,000	8.3
10,000-19,999	20.8
20,000-29,999	25.0
30,000-39,999	16.7
40,000-49,999	16.7
50,000-74,999	8.3
75,000-99,999	4.2

Pretest/Posttest Change

Findings below reflect couple scores from Romance & Intimacy workshops in the current Project Year. The measures **in bold** indicate changes that were statistically significant (p < .05).

Romance & Intimacy:
Pretest-Posttest Change

Objective	Measure	Pretest Mean (sd)		Posttest Mean (sd)	
Increase marital satisfaction	**Happiness with present relationship question**	10.75	(2.42)	12.42	(1.83)
Increase commitment to present relationship	Commitment to present relationship question	13.15	(1.14)	13.69	(0.86)
Improve conflict resolution	**ENRICH Conflict Resolution Subscale Unable to calculate due to missing data**				
Increase positive communication	ENRICH Communication Subscale	67.58	(9.41)	71.83	(6.90)
Decrease negative interaction	**BSRF Negative Interaction Scale**	38.43	(12.97)	33.50	(8.65)

Workshop Satisfaction
Most participants either strongly agreed (96.4%, n = 27) that they would recommend this workshop to a friend.

Active Relationships for Young Adults (ARYA)

These workshops were primarily attended by high school youth and young adults. Data were received from 2 ARYA workshops held in the first part of Project Year 4, both of which were 13 hours offerings. Surveys were received from a total of 60 participants. Analysis below is based on responses from the 38 participants for whom both pre and posttests were received, as well as appropriate consents; findings exclude missing data.

Description of Participants

Attendees were 60.5% male compared to 39.5% female and were, on average, 17.26 (sd = 2.62) years of age. Most (89.2%) were in school and 40% reported having a girl/boyfriend. Almost all ARYA participants (92.1%) lived with their parents, grandparents, or guardian.

Almost two-thirds (62.2%) of these young adults reported a preference to speak in Spanish; 94.7% were Hispanic/Latino and 75% indicated their families were originally from Mexico. Additional characteristics of attendees are presented in the following table.

Sample Characteristics	%
Age	
Fourteen (14)	18.4
Fifteen (15)	10.5
Sixteen (16)	5.3
Seventeen (17)	21.1
Eighteen (18)	15.6
Nineteen (19)	18.4
Twenty (20) +	10.5
Highest Grade Completed	
7th	3.2
8th	6.5
9th	25.8
10th	48.4
11th	9.7
12th	6.5
How long in current relationship	
0-6 months	22.6
7-12 months	6.5
1-3 years	9.7
More than 3 years	6.4
Not applicable	54.8

Pretest/Posttest Change

Participants rated their level of agreement using a 4 point Likert scale on 20 items designed to measure change in knowledge, attitude and knowledge before and after the workshop.

Scores declined slightly from pre to posttest on two measures - "I believe healthy relationships require commitment from both partners" and "If I have a baby with someone, the state will hold me responsible for caring for that child". However, neither decline was statistically significant. There was no pre-posttest score change on two other items – "I have skills to solve disagreements in a respectful way" and "I can name some behaviors that are related to relationship violence".

The remaining 16 items demonstrated positive score movement. The measures **in bold** in the table below indicate the change was statistically significant (p < .05).

ARYA: Pretest-Posttest Score Change

Measure	Pretest		Posttest	
	Mean	(sd)	Mean	(sd)
I can use good speaking and listenin to improve communication.	3.26	(.67)	3.35	(.77)
I can name some benefits of hav healthy marriage.	2.81	(.67)	3.25	(.60)
I can name some predictors of h marriages.	2.58	(.65)	3.08	(.65)
It is important to know that the trait partner are reliable before I marry a have children.	2.94	(.96)	3.22	(.59)
I can name some of my personal str	3.06	(.58)	3.11	(.82)
I have the skills necessary to bu healthy relationships.	2.94	(.75)	3.27	(.67)
I know how to make a budget.	2.74	(1.07)	3.03	(.79)
I can respectfully discuss money ma if/when I am in an intimate relations	2.94	(.75)	3.08	(.77)
I believe living on a budget is essent creating a healthy marriage.	3.00	(.64)	3.14	(.77)
I understand the legal responsibilitie being a parent including the possibil	3.06	(.87)	3.23	(.77)

having to pay child support until the 18.				
If I have a baby with someone, the has the right to take money from me support that child.	2.97	(.82)	3.20	(.80)
I can define verbal, physical, and em abuse.	3.14	(.94)	3.43	(.61)
I know that the chemical high o hormones can lead to making p relationship decisions.	3.03	(.71)	3.40	(.65)
I know specific characteristics t for in a person to increase my cl of developing a healthy, long-te relationship.	3.03	(.75)	3.37	(.69)
I can notice signs of anger in my before it grows.	2.97	(.94)	3.28	(.70)
I know some positive ways to co my anger.	2.86	(.96)	3.31	(.58)

Active Adults

These workshops are intended for parents of those young adults who attended ARYA workshops. During the first half of Project Year 4, data were received from 3 Active Adults workshops. One workshop was 10 hours long, one was 12 hours in length, and the third was 12 hours. Surveys were received from 266 participants. Analysis below is based on responses from the 119 participants who completed both pre and posttests.

Description of Participants

Attendees were overwhelmingly female (97.4%) and were, on average 39.22 (sd = 9.21) years old, ranging from 19 – 68. Most participants (86.1%) preferred to communicate in Spanish, with the remaining 13.9% preferring English. The vast majority of attendees were Hispanic/Latino (96.6%); 69.0% indicated their family was originally from Mexico.

Additional characteristics of attendees are presented in the following table.

Sample Characteristics	%
Marital Status	
Married	71.6
Divorced/Separated	12.7

Single	9.8
Widowed	2.0
Other	3.9

Highest Level of Education	
Junior High	25.5
Some High School	22.4
High School/GED	17.3
Some college/technical	19.4
Four year college	13.3
Graduate/professional	2.0

Annual Household Income	
Less than 10,000	29.8
10,000-19,999	22.3
20,000-29,999	18.1
30,000-39,999	11.7
40,000-49,999	7.4
50,000-74,999	8.5
75,000-99,999	2.1

Active Choices

During the first half of Project Year 4, data were received from 3 Active Choices workshops all of which were 8 hours long. Pre and posttests were received from 20 participants. Due to the limited number of cases, findings must be interpreted with caution.

Description of Participants

Eleven of the attendees were female (55.0%) versus nine males (45.0%) and were, on average 28.90 (sd = 8.60) years old, ranging from 19 – 49. Most participants (80.0%, n = 16) preferred to communicate in Spanish, with the remaining 20.0% (n = 4) preferring English. The vast majority of attendees were Hispanic/Latino (95.0%, n = 19); 70.0% indicated their family was originally from Mexico.

Additional characteristics of attendees are presented in the following table.

Sample Characteristics	%
Marital Status	
Engaged	90.0

Other	10.0
Highest Level of Education	
Junior High	20.0
Some High School	15.0
High School/GED	20.0
Some college/technical	25.9
Four year college	20.0
Annual Household Income	
Less than 10,000	30.0
10,000-19,999	20.0
20,000-29,999	10.0
30,000-39,999	20.0
40,000-49,999	0.0
50,000-74,999	20.0
75,000-99,999	0.0

Pretest/Posttest Change

Participants rated their level of agreement using a 4 point Likert scale on 20 items designed to measure knowledge and attitudinal changes from before to after the workshop. Scores improved on all 20 measures; those measures demonstrating statistically significant change ($p < .05$) are see **in bold.**

Active Adults: Pretest-Posttest Score Change

Measure	Pretest		Posttest	
	Mean	(sd)	Mean	(sd)
I believe healthy relationships requir strong commitment from both partn	3.63	(.60)	3.74	(.45)
I can use good speaking and listenin to improve communication.	3.45	(.51)	3.70	(.47)
I have skills to solve disagreeme a respectful way.	3.00	(.50)	3.60	(.60)
I can name some benefits of having healthy marriage.	3.42	(.51)	3.58	(.51)
I can name some predictors of h marriages.	3.17	(.38)	3.61	(.50)

It is important to know that the trait partner are reliable before I marry a have children.	3.45	(.51)	3.70	(.57)
I can name some of my personal str	3.35	(.57)	3.55	(.51)
I have the skills necessary to build h relationships.	3.45	(.51)	3.60	(.60)
I know how to make a budget.	2.95	(.76)	3.35	(.59)
I can respectfully discuss money ma if/when I am in an intimate relations	3.05	(.76)	3.30	(.73)
I believe living on a budget is essent creating a healthy marriage.	3.15	(.67)	3.45	(.69)
I understand the legal responsibilitie being a parent including the possibil having to pay child support until the 18.	3.65	(.49)	3.70	(.47)
If I have a baby with someone, the : will hold me responsible for caring fo child.	3.45	(.51)	3.60	(.60)
If I have a baby with someone, the : has the right to take money from me support that child.	3.20	(.62)	3.55	(.51)
I can define verbal, physical, and en abuse.	3.53	(.61)	3.74	(.45)
I can name some behaviors that are to relationship violence.	3.40	(.60)	3.60	(.68)
I know that the chemical high o hormones can lead to making po relationship decisions.	3.11	(.46)	3.58	(.61)
I know specific characteristics t for in a person to increase my cl of developing a healthy, long-te relationship.	3.21	(.54)	3.74	(.45)
I can notice signs of anger in my before it grows.	3.05	(.39)	3.55	(.51)
I know some positive ways to co my anger.	3.20	(.41)	3.55	(.51)

Pretest/Posttest Change

Participants rated their level of agreement using a 4 point Likert scale on 20 items designed to measure knowledge and attitudinal changes from before to after the workshop. Scores improved on all 20 measures; those measures demonstrating statistically significant change ($p < .05$) are see **in bold.**

Active Adults: Pretest-Posttest Score Change

Measure	Pretest		Posttest	
	Mean	(sd)	Mean	(sd)
I believe healthy relationships requir strong commitment from both partn	3.74	(.50)	3.79	(.43)
I can use good speaking and listenin to improve communication.	3.57	(.59)	3.58	(.56)
I have skills to solve disagreeme a respectful way.	3.24	(.62)	3.52	(.60)
I can name some benefits of hav healthy marriage.	3.28	(.64)	3.55	(.55)
I can name some predictors of h marriages.	3.06	(.72)	3.30	(.55)
It is important to know that the trait partner are reliable before I marry a have children.	3.47	(.57)	3.53	(.57)
I can name some of my persona strengths.	3.17	(.64)	3.37	(.52)
I have the skills necessary to build h relationships.	3.26	(.66)	3.38	(.59)
I know how to make a budget.	3.02	(.77)	3.31	(.61)
I can respectfully discuss money matters if/when I am in an intir relationship.	2.83	(.91)	3.11	(.80)
I believe living on a budget is essential to creating a healthy marriage.	3.27	(.67)	3.48	(.60)
I understand the legal responsibilitie being a parent including the possibil having to pay child support until the 18.	3.51	(.63)	3.60	(.54)
If I have a baby with someone, state will hold me responsible fo caring for that child.	3.43	(.76)	3.59	(.63)
If I have a baby with someone, state has the right to take mone from me to support that child.	3.30	(.83)	3.49	(.06)
I can define verbal, physical, an emotional abuse.	3.47	(.62)	3.58	(.58)
I can name some behaviors that related to relationship violence.	3.41	(.64)	3.51	(.61)
I know that the chemical high o hormones can lead to making po relationship decisions.	3.14	(.74)	3.54	(.64)

I know specific characteristics t for in a person to increase my cl of developing a healthy, long-te relationship.	3.29	(.60)	3.48 (.56)
I can notice signs of anger in myself it grows.	3.28	(.63)	3.38 (.63)
I know some positive ways to c my anger.	3.16	(.65)	3.34 (.60)

Summary

The Baylor University School of Social Work research team is pleased to provide this six month, year four report on the HARP Cameron County Health Marriage Demonstration Project. The report reflects positive accomplishments for both outputs and outcomes.

Based on the data provided above the project is meeting the benchmarks identified in the grant. The project staff in Brownsville has in the first six months of the current project year held 31 workshops.

Demographic data on participants clearly indicates that the project is providing marriage education to the identified targets of the project. Participants are overwhelmingly Hispanic/Latino (over 90%) and most prefer to communicate in Spanish. This is even true of the young adults who have participated ARYA workshops, who are frequently the first generation born in the U.S. A significant proportion of participants did not graduate from high school and have incomes under $20, 000 per year. Although this population is usually thought to be hard to reach for marriage education, our data suggest that when programs are offered in the preferred language and in a culturally sensitive manner, not only will the Hispanic population participate, but gain new knowledge and skills for creating healthy marriages. Our finding counter the general held idea that Hispanic men will not participate in workshops on marriage. Our data clearly show that Hispanic men are concerned about marriage, will accompany their wives to marriage education programs and that they grow from the experience.

Programs should not only increase couple participants knowledge of healthy marriages and the skills needed for strong relationships but should also result in attitudinal and behavioral changes. To measure both kinds of changes the team gathered pre and post test data that measures both acquisition of new knowledge and attitudinal and behavioral relationship change. The latter is based on change in marital satisfaction, communication, conflict resolution, commitment to present relationship, and negative interaction. Data from couple programs strongly suggest that programs are providing marriage education that is building skills (communication, conflict resolution, reduced negative interaction) and increasing overall marital satisfaction. In all of the workshops except one, all five objectives changed in an expected direction at a statistically significant level.

For the most part participants are acquiring the knowledge they are expected to learn in the workshops and report high levels of participant satisfaction. In some case (ARYA and Active Adults) participants are not reporting change in knowledge on certain items. This may indicate that modifications are needed at either the presentation or assessment level. The first step will be for the project team to determine if the content reflected in these items is actually being consistently taught by facilitators.

This report is based on data gathered from complete survey forms. In some cases significant proportions of surveys are removed from final analysis for lack of

completeness. While sometime unavoidable, the project team and research team will discuss options for addressing this issue.