

# "Salud America"! Developing a National Latino Childhood Obesity Research Agenda

Ramirez et al. (2011)

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## **For which topic were research priorities identified?**

childhood obesity

## **In which location was the research priority setting conducted?**

North America - USA

## **Why was it conducted at all?**

U.S. childhood obesity has reached epidemic proportions, with one third of children overweight or obese. Latino children have some of the highest obesity rates, a concern because they are part of the youngest and fastest-growing U.S. minority group. Unfortunately, scarce research data on Latinos hinders the development and implementation of evidence-based, culturally appropriate childhood obesity interventions. In response, the Salud America! network conducted a national Delphi survey among researchers and stakeholders to identify research priorities to address Latino childhood obesity and compare differences by occupation and race or ethnicity.

## **What was the objective?**

to identify research priorities to address Latino childhood obesity and compare differences by occupation and race or ethnicity

## **What was the outcome?**

a ranking list of 25 research topics

## **How long did the research prioritization take?**

May 2008 - July 2008

## **Which methods were used to identify research priorities?**

Delphi

## **How were the priorities for research identified exactly?**

Step 1: literature review: five main research areas associated with childhood obesity intervention research were identified, advisory committee reviewed these five main research areas and suggested 45 initial specific research priorities. Step 2: Delphi round 1: 45 research priorities categorized under five main research areas, participants asked to rate the importance of each research priority, 22 new priorities suggested. Step 3: Delphi round 2: participants asked to re-rate 67 priorities based on group mean ratings. Step 4: Delphi round 3: list of top 5 priorities, participants asked to rank the top five priorities and to rank the five main research areas

## **Which stakeholders took part?**

Researchers, policymakers, community leaders, other Latino childhood obesity stakeholders. 313 participants overall: academics or researchers (about 33%), health educators or educators (15.3%), administrators or managers and clinicians (11.8%), public health workers (11.2%). Delphi round 1: 177 participants. Delphi round 2: 103 participants. Delphi round 3: 193 participants.

## **How were stakeholders recruited?**

Potential survey participants were identified using convenience and snowball sampling methods that included: members of the Salud America! network; recommendations from the Salud America! National Advisory Committee (NAC); and individuals who already had expressed interest in participating. In addition, various program communication materials, such as a website, e-newsletters, and e-alerts also were used to invite potential participants.

## **Were stakeholders actively involved or did they just participate?**

Stakeholders were mere participants of the research prioritization process; they were not actively involved in the process.