

# Center for Health Literacy Promotion

## Research Summary

### Developing Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Health Education Materials

#### Project Description

This project pilot tested methods to evaluate the suitability of health education materials adapted from English source documents to serve non-English learners. We worked directly with monolingual Spanish speakers to adapt pregnancy health information ([Beginnings Pregnancy Guide](#)) to serve Spanish-speaking women in the United States. The project aimed to ensure that women of diverse cultures and varied literacy skills have access to essential prenatal care information according to practice guidelines for the United States and Canada, via a tested process for verifying the suitability of translated and tailored information. Specifically, the aim was to increase access to key messages linked to positive birth outcomes. This project produced culturally and linguistically appropriate learning materials for Spanish-speakers and guidelines for adapting English health education materials to serve the needs of diverse populations.

**Principal Investigator:** Virginia Gonzales, PhD

**Project Director** Sandra A Smith, PhD, MPH

**Funder:** Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

**Funding Dates:** 1998-1999

**For more information** [Sandra Smith](#)

#### Key Findings

Reader verification interviews combined with cloze testing with modified scoring is an effective method to evaluate and improve the suitability of health education content, language and materials.

#### Publications

Smith, Sandra A. & Gonzales, Virginia (2005). Developing Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Health Education Materials. *Studies in Communication Sciences* 5 (2); 111-128

[Read the whole article.](#)

Smith, SA & Gonzales, V. (Sept 2000). All Health Plans Need CLAMs. *HealthPlan* 41(5), pp. 45-48.

Last updated 3.9.12