Session #5: Strategies and considerations in addressing domestic violence and child abuse during a pandemic

Wednesday May 6th, 2020, 1:00-2:30 PM ET
¿Do you want to participate in the session?

**Chat:** General questions, general comments, individual introductions

**Q&A:** ONLY questions for PANELISTS
Spanish and English Session

**Bottom Zoom Menu:**

- Switch between the Original Language (Spanish/English) and the translation - Every time that the presenter language changes
- "Mute original audio"
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Puerto Rico COVID-19

Total Casos Únicos
1,968

Pruebas de Casos Positivos

- Serológicas: 962
- Moleculares: 1,006

Nota: Hay 10 casos fuera de Puerto Rico y 117 casos con región no disponibles al momento.

Casos por Municipios

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Municipio</th>
<th>Casos</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>San Juan</td>
<td>Total: 294</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bayamón</td>
<td>Total: 109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guaynabo</td>
<td>Total: 107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carolina</td>
<td>Total: 88</td>
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<tr>
<td>Caguas</td>
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</table>

Total Muertes por COVID-19
99

Última Actualización: 6 de mayo de 2020, 6:00 AM

Source: https://bioseguridad.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/3bfb64c9a91944bc8c41edd8ff27e6df/
Summary Session #4 – Abril 29th

“Supporting education continuity (K-12) in a context of limited resources”

Elba Aponte, PR Teachers Association
Enid Reyes, Puerto Rico Education Foundation
Carlos Rodríguez & Katherine Miranda, Flamboyan Foundation
Current situation:

- March 13th – First curfew in PR & school closings
- There has been a falling behind and a lack of continuity in the public schools of Puerto Rico. There has been no strategic plan since the Department
- PRDE decides to move to pass all students from their grade and close the school year early.

Challenges:

- There has been a lack of access to internet, lack of access to computers, and lack of parental support
- There has been no continuity of services for children with special needs
- There has been emotional deterioration of teachers and parents – that is why the decision to close the school year early is the right one
- Passing all students discredits the teacher's moral authority to demand effort from their students – there was worry regarding this decision
- There was a consideration for students who did not have the means to continue their education
Response Proposals:
- **Deliver internet equipment** to teachers and students
- **Reinstate** special education therapies in the summer
- **Create remedial courses** for small groups
- **Previous grade tutoring** for all subjects upon return to class
- **Design online educational modules** for all units and subjects
- **Create educational capsules** of essential subjects and offer announcements periodically
- **Educational Camps**
- **Start first three weeks** with reviews of the previous grade
TAKE-AWAYS SESSION #4
Enid Reyes, PR Education Foundation

Early academic closure – means falling behind in skills
- Disparities between municipalities due to late start of the school year in February, March or schools that could not reopen
- Lack of skills can affect the period of adjustment to the school routine

What will happen in the summer?
- 20,000-25,000 computers and tablets will be sent in June, including the license of textbooks on computers
- PRDE is considering summer classes
- There must be a strategic plan to address the gaps identified in the evaluations upon return
- Remedial courses should be given to students who are falling behind – create partnerships organizations external to PRDE for tutoring
- Reconsider the academic load of the teachers who will have different levels to respond to

Accessibility and availability of services
- Open forums like YouTube and Zoom should be considered
- Network access is limited in some geographic locations
- New teaching opportunities for teachers given the lag behind
What steps will be taken to return to school?

- Improvement in school facilities
- Social-emotional reinforcement plan, remedial modules, interactive forums for parents and students, teacher training, program design for planning schools for continuity of online education

PREF – Path to the GOAL:

- The greatest challenge is academic performance – PREF made a diagnosis of the challenges to improve teaching practices – Pilot in Bayamón
- Virtual Notebook Initiative – 65% student participation
  - Online educational resources for parents, teachers, students
Challenges/Recommendations

• **Student health and safety:** Ensuring student food & Creating policies and practices to prevent contagion in schools

• **Ensure continuous learning:** Access to distance education and special education & respond to academic lags and have contingency plans

• **Teacher professional development:** Training to provide distance education and intervention for lags

• **Teacher and student mental health:** Remote services for vulnerable students & support to respond to trauma

**Literacy in grades K-3**

• Students with reading difficulties are **4X more likely to drop out of school**
  
  • Study with the Department of Statistics PR 2011-2015
    
    • 85% of K-3 students live in poverty, 25% are chronically absent
    
    • 12% of 1st graders are held back and 40% of 3rd graders do not achieve reading proficiency
There have been *many disruptions in the last 3 years* – Maria (2017), school closings (2018-19), earthquakes and COVID-19 (2019-20) – for the youngest K-3rd graders, this has serious implications

In general, *academic progress is lost* during the summer, and low-income students are the most impacted

**Priorities for K-3 Teaching**

- Provide opportunities for the continuity of education including *alternative means to the internet*
- **Assess reading levels** when schools reopen and prioritize core curriculum areas and core skills
- **Comprehensive** professional development for teachers
- **Ensure health of students and families** including food security – *You can't learn hungry*
• Food security
  • Family First Coronavirus Response Act gives districts flexibility to distribute food.
  • **Almost 300,000 students** receive food at school and need to continue receiving it
  • The People's Social Taskforce has asked to reopen dining rooms

• **Limitations of current response:**
  • Donations that have been made so far **only cover** the equivalent of 10 days of food since March 30th
  • Today, non-profit organizations are **held responsible**
  • **Lack of clarity in communication** with families on how to receive food
SESSION 5
Strategies and considerations for addressing domestic violence and child abuse

Alina Potts
Research Scientist
@Global Women’s Institute, George Washington University

Jodie Roure
Associate Professor @John Jay College of Criminal Justice
Director of the Domestic Violence in Puerto Rico Project

Gilda F. Rodríguez Díaz
Director of Clinical Training @Carlos Albizu University – San Juan Campus
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<td>Mitigating the Impacts of COVID-19 on Children in Puerto Rico: what individuals &amp; organizations can do</td>
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<td>Session 4</td>
<td>Supporting educational continuity (K-12) in limited resource context</td>
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<td>Strategies and considerations in addressing domestic violence and child abuse during a pandemic</td>
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<td>The mental health impacts of the pandemic on children, youth and families in a post-disaster environment</td>
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Thank you very much!

Please send your comments and suggestions to afs2163@cumc.columbia.edu
RESOURCES COVID-19 & CHILDREN

- Resilient Children/Resilient Communities Initiative Website: https://ncdp.columbia.edu/microsite-page/resilient-children-resilient-communities/rcrc-home/
- Instituto del Desarrollo de la Juventud (IDJ) Website: http://juventudpr.org/
  - Informe "Los Efectos del Huracán María en la Niñez en Puerto Rico": http://juventudpr.org/sobre-nosotros/biblioteca/?libroid=93277
  - Informe "Un futuro de pobreza infantil en Puerto Rico: cuánto nos cuesta y qué podemos hacer": https://www.cuantonoscuesta.com/
- RCRC Toolbox: https://rcrctoolbox.org/
- Puerto Rico Children and Youth Taskforce (PRCYTF) Website: https://www.prcytaskforce.org/
- Fact Sheet First Focus: Help Children During the Coronavirus Pandemic: https://firstfocus.org/blog/fact-sheet-coronavirus