

Background

- Cervical cancer is the most common HPV-associated cancer among Hispanic women.
- In Hidalgo County, women experience higher incidence and mortality from cervical cancer compared to the state and nation.
- Prevention of cervical cancer is possible using the HPV vaccine, which is recommended for males ages 11-21 and females ages 11-26.
- Uptake of the HPV vaccine remains low for Hispanics adolescents and young adults in Texas.
- The Immunization Partnership designed an Immunization Champion (IC) program to train clinic staff in implementing evidenced based practices for improving vaccine update in clinics.
- To improve vaccine uptake, the **Entre Familia (EF)** program adapted the IC model to create an HPV-specific IC program for promotoras to implement in four clinics serving Hidalgo county.

Methods

Who were the promotoras?

- Three promotoras employed through the Texas A&M Colonias Program
- Certified, bilingual, and with previous research project experience

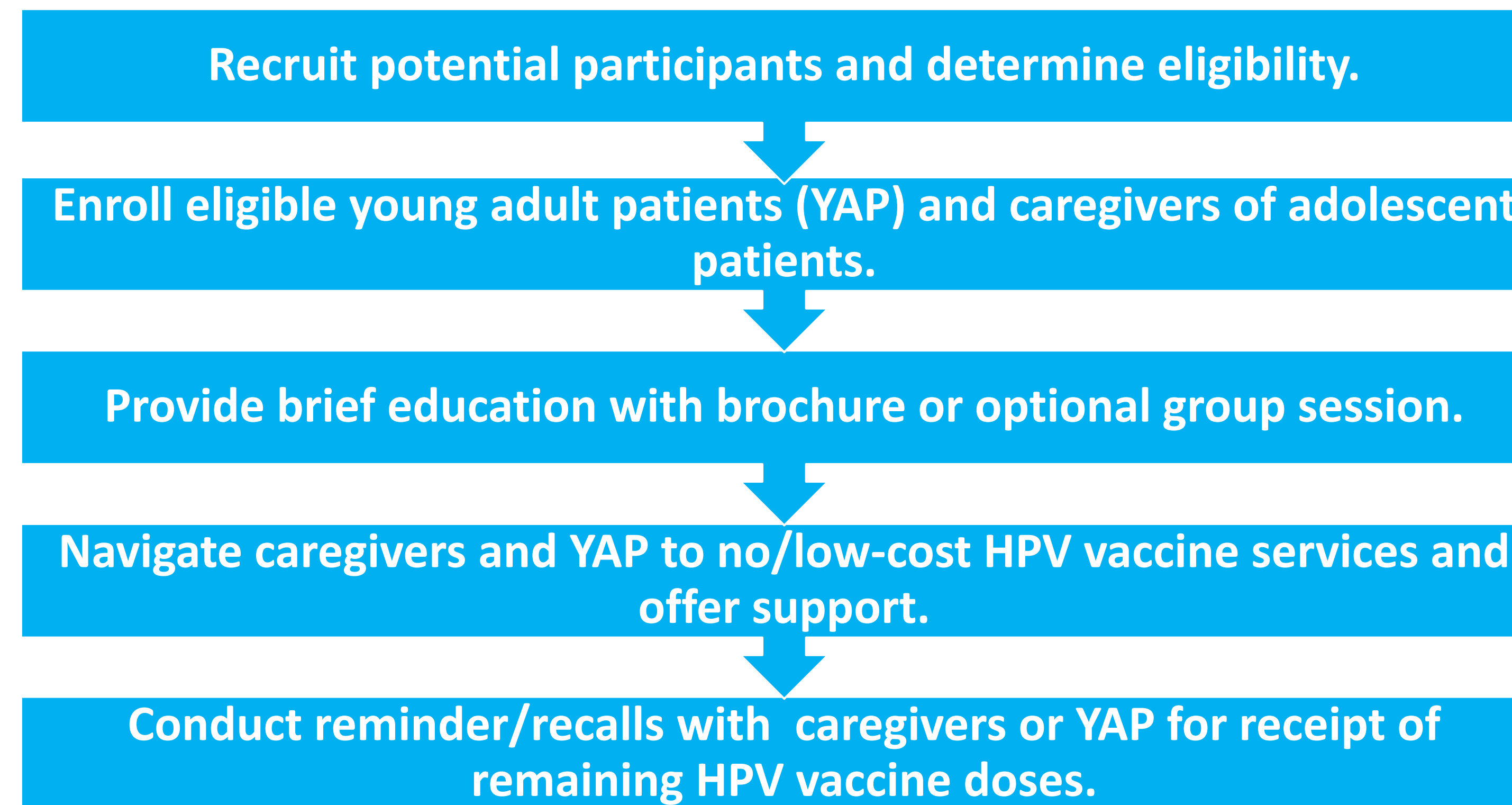
What did they do?

- Two promotoras conducted clinic in-reach with Nuestra Clínica del Valle patients and another community outreach with residents
- All received IC training to conduct education and reminder/recalls to patients
- IC trainings consisted of three sessions, for a total of 4 hours.



Program Design

Flow diagram of Promotoras Responsibilities



Immunization Champion Training Manual

Three sessions covering:

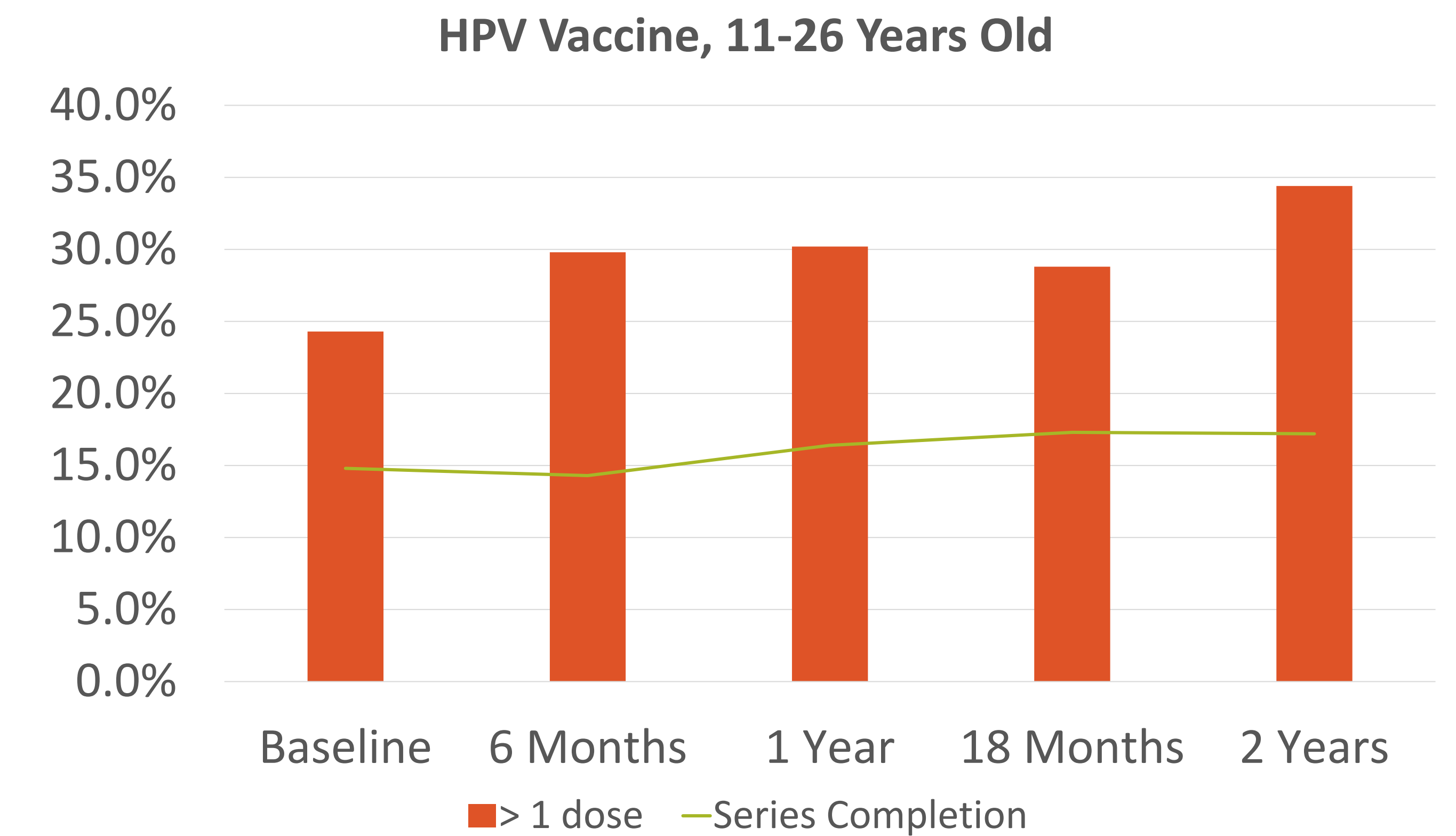
- Immunization 101,
- Utilizing evidenced-based interventions to improve immunization rates in clinical settings, and
- Improving access and reducing missed opportunities



Example EF Brochure (English/Spanish)



Results



- Through the first two years of the program, initiation of HPV vaccine rose from 24.3% to 34.4% in adolescents and young adults. Series completion rose from 14.8% to 17.2% (Table 1).
- Missed opportunities were reduced to zero (data not shown).
- Results are presented below in Table 1.

Table 1. HPV Vaccine Rates, 11-26 Year Olds

| | Baseline | 6 Mos. | 1 Year | 18 Mos. | 2 Years |
|--------------------------|----------|--------|--------|---------|---------|
| > 1 Dose | 24.3% | 29.8% | 30.2% | 28.8% | 34.4% |
| Series Completion | 14.8% | 14.3% | 16.4% | 17.3% | 17.2% |

Conclusion

- These findings indicate that clinic efforts to improve their internal systems have proven effective.
- Using promotoras as an “Immunization Champion” within the clinic had a direct positive impact on vaccination rates.
- The IC Training empowered and motivated promotoras to conduct immunizations outreach efforts and turn missed opportunities into vaccination visits.
- Long-term, the EF program has the potential to reduce cervical cancer incidence and mortality among Hispanic women in Hidalgo County.