

Valparaiso University ValpoScholar

Symposium on Undergraduate Research and
Creative Expression (SOURCE)

Office of Sponsored and Undergraduate Research

Spring 4-24-2013

Beyond the Volcanoes: A Community Partnership for Health in Rural Nicaragua

Paige Snyder
Valparaiso University

Catherine Wingstrom
Valparaiso University

Carly Crave
Valparaiso University, carly.crave@valpo.edu

Claire Simonpietri
Valparaiso University

Christina Lundy
Valparaiso University

See next page for additional authors

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholar.valpo.edu/cus>

Recommended Citation

Snyder, Paige; Wingstrom, Catherine; Crave, Carly; Simonpietri, Claire; Lundy, Christina; and Cory, Amy, "Beyond the Volcanoes: A Community Partnership for Health in Rural Nicaragua" (2013). *Symposium on Undergraduate Research and Creative Expression (SOURCE)*. 221.

<https://scholar.valpo.edu/cus/221>

This Oral Presentation is brought to you for free and open access by the Office of Sponsored and Undergraduate Research at ValpoScholar. It has been accepted for inclusion in Symposium on Undergraduate Research and Creative Expression (SOURCE) by an authorized administrator of ValpoScholar. For more information, please contact a ValpoScholar staff member at scholar@valpo.edu.

Authors

Paige Snyder, Catherine Wingstrom, Carly Crave, Claire Simonpietri, Christina Lundy, and Amy Cory

Beyond the Volcanoes: A Community Partnership for Health in Rural Nicaragua

Paige Snyder, Catherine Wingstrom, Carly Crave, Claire Simonpietri, Christina Lundy

Departmental Affiliation: Nursing
College of Nursing

Background: Health inequities related to gender, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, and geography exist in rural Nicaragua. The purpose of this ongoing project is to improve health equity in rural Nicaragua through social transformation using community-based participatory action research. Bronfenbrenner's ecological model of human development, school health, and primary health care theories provided the framework for this research. **Methods:** Community-based participatory action research involves six phases: partnership, assessment, planning, implementation, evaluation, and dissemination. In the evaluation phase, the goal was to use the data obtained during the assessment, planning, and implementation phases to evaluate the cookstove intervention in its ability to reach the community's health-related goals. Pre- and post-test surveys were used to assess indoor air pollution including: kitchen layout, stove type, fuel usage, and women and children's health. **Results:** Forty-eight community members participated in the cookstove evaluation. Pre-test surveys indicated that the community members used open fire stoves in closed kitchen spaces with wood being the primary fuel source. Women reported suffering from headaches, eye irritation, and chronic coughing. One year following the implementation phase, post-test surveys indicated a sustainable, significant improvement in women's health ($p=.05$) but no significant change in the amount of wood used for cooking. **Conclusion:** Results from the cookstove evaluation were used by community members to guide the re-engineering of the cookstoves' firebox to decrease wood consumption and improve deforestation. Partnership in community health research provides a mechanism to engage community members in social justice through working toward a common goal – sustainable health for all.

Information about the Authors:

Paige Snyder and Catherine Wingstrom are senior BSN students and have been members of the community-based participatory action research team for the past three years. They have each traveled to Nicaragua multiple times throughout their undergraduate career to conduct research. Carly Crave, Claire Simonpietri, and Christina Lundy are junior BSN students and have been involved in the research project since 2012. They have also traveled to Nicaragua to conduct research in the past year. The students became interested in community-based participatory action research after learning about the project from Dr. Amy Cory, the faculty advisor, and through traveling to Nicaragua on the College of Nursing spring break trip. Paige, Catherine, Carly, Claire, and Christina all hope to continue working in partnership with the community in Nicaragua and the research team following their graduation.

Faculty Sponsors: Dr. Amy Cory

Student Contact: carly.crave@valpo.edu