

Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (LEND) Program
Westchester Institute for Human Development
University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities
And
New York Medical College

University of Puerto Rico
Medical School Campus
Graduate School of Public Health
Institute on Developmental Disabilities
Team Project Abstract
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Title: Levels of Empowerment in the Access and Use of Health Services of Parents and Caregivers of Children with Developmental Disabilities

Authors: Lilybeth González-Viera, MS; María O. Correa, BSW; Annie Alonso-Amador, MSW, Psy.D.; Mario H. Rodríguez, Ph.D., MPH

Background: The Family Empowerment Scale (FES) (2000), was validated last year in a research conducted by Karla Davila & Erica Rexach, with an Alpha of .75. They found that 52.6% of the parents that provided orientation about services to other families present a high level of empowerment. According to the Census Bureau in 2010 the percentage of the population with disabilities in Puerto Rico was 19.7%. Empowerment is a process of internal [is the person's sense or belief in her/his ability to make decisions and to solve her/his own problems] and external change [the ability to act and to implement the practical knowledge, the information and the skills acquired in the course of the process] (Parsons, 1988).

Results: The sample (N=43) for this study was selected by availability in an IDEA Parent Learning Center, a island-wide CBO. To analyze the results we used the Statistical Program Social Science (SPSS). According with the results the sample has a $\bar{x} = 152.36/\sigma = 15.02$ of levels of empowerment. One of the objectives of this study was to know if the empowerment has something to do with the access and use of health services, and it's seems is not *use*: $r = -.057/\rho = .759$ & *access*: $r = -.061/\rho = .745$. If we compared this results with this one's (use and access to health services) *use*: $\bar{x} = 15.08/\sigma = 22.28$ & *access*: $\bar{x} = 9.23/\sigma = 15.20$ will notice that for an highly empowered population it's an average result. Also this sample demonstrated that there is no relation between the levels of empowerment and family composition ($r = -.102/\rho = .567$) as the literature said. Finally the Cronbach's Alpha of the Family Empowerment Scale (FES) was $\alpha = 93.0\%$.

Conclusion: The sample (N=44) does not represent the general population with DD or related disabilities. The participants show to be highly empowered. Participants were recruited from the Island-wide IDEA Parent Training Center. According with the results participants use and access health services according with their child's diagnostic and needs.