

LAMHA QUALITATIVE INTERVIEW PARENT INTERVIEW

Introduction

Hi, my name is _____ and I work for the LAMHA project. Thank you for agreeing to participate in this interview. You have already completed a survey and know that we are interested in the Latino community and their experiences and beliefs. For this reason, we are doing the LAMHA project. Now we want to talk a bit more with you about your beliefs and the behavior of adolescents.

There are two parts to the interview, one about the behavior of youth and the other about religion. In the first part, I am going to read you several situations involving adolescents. After each, I'll ask you a series of questions about the situation and the adolescent involved. I'll be asking the same questions about each situation. The second part is about your beliefs and religion.

Like before, you can refuse to answer any question at any time. If I ask something or talk about something you don't want to talk about, tell me and we will move on to the next question.

I am going to record our conversation because I don't want to take many notes while we are talking. In this way, I can concentrate on what you are saying. If you want me to turn the recorder off for any reason, tell me.

No one will listen to the recordings except the investigators and their team. When we transcribe the recordings, we will not use your name or information about you. In other words, there is no one who will know who you are, but a lot of people will hear what you have to say. Nothing that you say can be linked to you.

We ask people to choose a pseudonym or false name that we can use during the interview. We will write this name on the cassette. In this way, your name will not be linked to the information that you give us.

Do you have any questions?

What name do you want to use?

Pseudonym: _____ *[Write pseudonym here]*

Is it okay for me to turn on the recorder now? *[Obtain verbal consent]*

The recorder is on. *[Read statement after recorder has been turned on]*

Okay, let's begin.

Reminder to the interviewer: *If parents are reluctant to open up or you believe they have more to say about a question, use open-ended prompts such as, “Please tell me more about that.” If parents ask you for your opinion about a particular child, either mirror their perceptions or say something like, “I’m an interviewer for the project. What really matters is not what I think but what you think.”*

Mirroring their perceptions might look like this:

If a parent said, “I think this kid really needs help. Don’t you?” You could say, “I would think so. Tell me more about what you think.” I would only do this if the parent had expressed an opinion but seems to need validation from the interviewer.

But suppose the parent says, “I don’t know what to think about this. I’ve never known a kid like this.” The interviewer should then say something along the lines of “I’m not sure either. There are no right answers we just want to know what you think. Then, repeat the question. i.e. “So, what would you call this type of behavior?”

Part 1 Instructions: *Read the first scenario listed below. After reading the scenario, ask questions 1-10. Then, read the second scenario and repeat the questions. Continue until you have discussed each scenario with the respondent.*

Interview Questions

1. What do you think has caused the behavior?
2. What do you call this type of behavior?
3. Why do you think it started when it did?
4. If this were [(you) your son or daughter], how worried would you be about this behavior?
5. What would scare you the most about this behavior?
6. What would you do to try and stop it?
7. If that didn’t change anything what would you try next?
8. If you were living in Mexico where would you go for help with this problem?
What would the people there do to help?
9. Are there people you would go to here for help if you/ your child were behaving like this? How do think these people would help?
10. Do you think the helpers in your home country or in this country would be most effective?

Situations

1. For the last month, Alicia, a 15 year old girl, has had trouble sleeping. She wakes up at 3 a.m. most mornings and cannot get back to sleep. She's becoming more argumentative with her parents and stays in her room whenever she's home. She has recently quit her after school activities saying that she finds them "boring." In fact, she doesn't seem to enjoy much of anything. She used to enjoy doing her friends' hair and talked about owning her own shop after high school. But her friends have not come over lately and she shrugs when her mother tries to talk with her about her plans for the future.

2. Diego is a 12 year old boy who has always been very neat. Recently, he has had trouble completing his homework because he says he must start over whenever he makes a mistake. His room is quite organized for his age. He keeps shirts, socks, pants, and shoes organized by color. He became very upset with his sister when she did not put his clothes away according to his system. His mother noticed that his hands were red and chafed. When she asked him about it, he told her he was washing his hands many times every day in order to "keep the germs from getting out of control." Instead of playing soccer with his friends, Diego now wants to accompany his mother to church on at least a daily basis. He told her he needs to keep praying or terrible things might happen to his family.

3. Enrique is a 16 year old boy who was present at a neighborhood fight about six months ago. The fight ended in a fatal stabbing. After the incident, the family's priest asked Enrique how he was doing. He said, "Fine, those guys weren't after me" and changed the subject. Recently, his little brother complained at the breakfast table that Enrique kept waking him up at night with his "screaming." Enrique said he'd had a few bad dreams lately. He's also been late for supper because he is taking a much longer route home from school. This route avoids the entrance to the apartment complex where the fight took place. His mother has become worried about him because she found a knife in his school back pack.

4. Pablo is a 14 year old boy who is always in trouble. He has a terrible temper and is constantly fighting with his brothers, teachers, and kids in the neighborhood. His parents will ask him to do simple tasks around the house and he ignores them. Whenever he is late for school or curfew, he says it is someone else's fault that he is late. He's started hanging around with a group of boys that everyone considers "trouble."

5. Esteban is a 16 year old boy who recently was arrested for breaking into a neighbor's home where he had stolen money and electronics. Because of robberies in the neighborhood, the police searched his room and found other stolen goods and the bones of small animals. He explained to the police that he liked dog fighting and described in detail how he enjoyed watching one dog attack and kill another. The bones in his rooms are "souvenirs" from the dog fights. He's had numerous problems at school through the years but his teachers usually give him a second chance because he convinces him that he will change his ways.

6. Daniella is a 17 year old girl whose aunt died two months ago. This aunt lived with the family and she and Daniella were close. Since the death, Daniella has had trouble sleeping, poor appetite, and has been very sad. Her mother has found Daniella talking aloud when no one else is with her. When asked, she says she is talking with her aunt. She's still involved with family and friends and is making plans for her upcoming graduation. She is tired a lot and often seems to be day dreaming or not able to concentrate on the tasks in front of her.

Part 2 Instructions: After you have completed Part 1, read the statement below and ask the following questions.

Thank you very much for sharing your views on how to help adolescents with these types of behaviors. For some people religion is an important part of their lives and their beliefs. For others, it is not important at all. So, I'd also like to learn a little more about your religious views.

1. Do you consider yourself a religious person?
2. In what religion were you raised? What religion are you now?
3. IF CHANGED RELIGIONS OR JUST BECAME RELIGIOUS: What made you change religions/become religious?
4. How often do you pray? Do you have an altar at home?
5. Have you ever heard of people who can heal through the use of spirits or saints?
6. Do you believe people can heal through the use of spirits or saints?
7. Have you ever consulted a person who heals this way, such as an espiritista, curandero, or santero?
 - a. IF YES: Has treatment helped?
8. Are you currently consulting someone who heals this way?
9. Have you or your family consulted a religious leader about your health problems?
a healer?
10. Does your religion have any beliefs which might affect your treatment of any health problems (e.g. taking some medicines)?