WOMEN FAMILIES
MIGRATION AND ACCESS
TO PRIMARY CARE

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PURPOSE

• TO UNDERSTAND THE ROLE OF AGENCY IN ACCESS TO PRIMARY CARE BY IMMIGRANT WOMEN
BACKGROUND

• AGENCY DEFINED AS THE ABILITY TO MAKE AND CARRY OUT DECISIONS FOR ONESELF, INCLUDING HAVING THE KNOWLEDGE AND ABILITY TO DO SO
DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH

• BROADLY DEFINED INCLUDE HEALTH CARE SERVICES BUT ALSO CULTURE, GENDER, IMMIGRATION (Thurston and Vissandjee, 2005)

• HEALTH VS WELL-BEING; STATIC VERSUS DYNAMIC
PAST RESEARCH

• PUBLIC HEALTH IN MONTREAL, CANADA (Vissandjee et al.)
• CLINICAL ENCOUNTERS WITH PHYSICIANS
• MENTAL HEALTH (DMS DX)
• RESILIENCE AND APPROPRIATE RESPONSE (Paola et al. 2006)
• FAMILY AS UNIT OF ANALYSIS (Meadows, Thurston and Melton 2000)
PRIMARY CARE ...

- NOT JUST FAMILY PHYSICIANS (INTERNISTS, PEDIATRICIANS)
- A RANGE OF HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS
- NOT SINGLE ENTRY SYSTEM
- NEED MAY VARY OVER TIME THROUGH MIGRATION TRAJECTORY
IMMIGRANT WOMEN’S HEALTH CONCERNS – AND ACCESS

- HOLISTIC HEALTH
- SPIRITUAL NEEDS
- SURVIVAL EMPLOYMENT
- GENDER ROLES
- FUNCTION IMPERATIVE
- COMMUNICATION INTEGRAL NOT SEX (AND GENDER)
AGENCY AND PRIMARY CARE ACCESS

- KNOWLEDGE THROUGH COMMUNICATION
- SHARING AND RECIPROCITY
- SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES
DISCUSSION

• DIFFERENCES REAL OR ARTEFACT?

• AGENCY CONFOUNDED BY COMMUNICATION
DISCUSSION

• AGENCY, IMMIGRANT WOMEN, FAMILIES AND ACCESS TO PRIMARY CARE

• ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS