OBJECTIVE(S): The objective of this project is to develop a culturally and linguistically appropriate mental health assessment instrument designed to assess outcome of treatment for Spanish-speaking mental health and substance abuse service recipients. Specific aims are to: adapt and translate the revised Behavior and Symptom Identification Scale (BASIS-R) instrument into Spanish, identify symptom and functioning domains and items that are culturally relevant to Spanish-speaking Latinos but are not included in the English version of the instrument, field test the translation, and assess data quality, factor structure, reliability, validity, differential item functioning and sensitivity to change for the Spanish instrument.

METHODS: The best established methods were used to develop a preliminary translation of the instrument. To assess content and semantic equivalence we conducted focus groups and cognitive interviews. Analysis of the results were used to further refine the translation for field testing. A field test of the instrument will enroll a total sample of 600 Latinos: 100 inpatients and 100 outpatients receiving treatment at each of three participating sites in Boston, Puerto Rico and Fresno. To assess criterion and conceptual equivalence, field test data will be used to assess reliability and validity of the instrument using concepts from both Classical Test Theory (CTT) and Item Response Theory (IRT).

FINDINGS: Four focus groups with a total of 36 subjects were conducted among Spanish-speakers from Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic and Mexico. Input from the focus groups was analyzed and results were used to modify the instrument for cognitive testing. The modified instrument was tested in cognitive interviews with 45 Spanish speakers from three regions. Further refinements were made to the instrument for field testing. We are currently field testing the instrument among 600 Spanish speakers receiving inpatient or outpatient mental health services in Puerto Rico, Fresno or Boston. Field test assessments have been completed on approximately 75 subjects to date.

CLINICAL RELEVANCE: Completion of this project will yield a culturally and linguistically appropriate, reliable and valid mental health outcome assessment instrument for Spanish-speaking recipients of mental health services, that can be used in assessment of mental health and substance abuse treatment outcomes.

PUBLICATIONS: None at this time.