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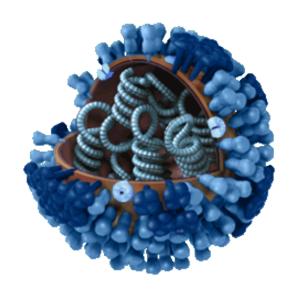
Structural Equation Modeling of Male/Female Handwashing Behaviors During The A (H1N1) Pandemic Influenza in 2009-2010*

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Content

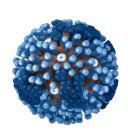
- A (H1N1) Pandemic Influenza (Swine Flu) 2009/2010 and Disease Control
- Theoretical Model: Health Action Process Approach (HAPA-model)
- Study Hypotheses
- Method
 - Procedure and Participants
 - Analyses
- Measures
- Results
 - Structural Equation Modeling
- Discussion



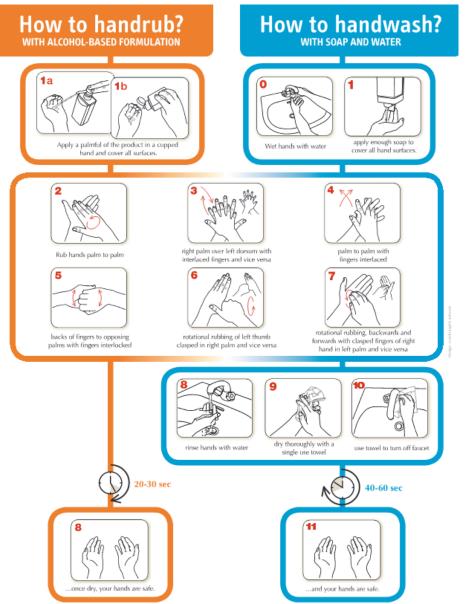
A (H1N1) Pandemic Influenza (Swine Flu) 2009/2010 and Disease Control

- The 11th of June 2009 the WHO declared the "swine flu" pandemic in phase six.
- In July 2009, more than 160 countries confirmed more than 170,000 cases of A(H1N1).
- Education on hand hygiene (health behavior), the use of protective masks, and the recognition of risk factors (risk perception) and symptoms identification (knowledge) were, among others, fundamental measures in coping with the threats of "swine flu" and seasonal influenza.

Boyce and Pittet (2002)
 assure that good hand hygiene practices and
 adherence to handwashing
 recommendations at home,
 at work and in health care
 settings are secure
 practices to prevent
 acquisition of multiple
 forms of bacteria and
 viruses.







Social cognitive Research Questions

 What motivated Costa Ricans to adopt and maintain the WHO handwashing protocol during the pandemic?

Specifically, what motivated people for:

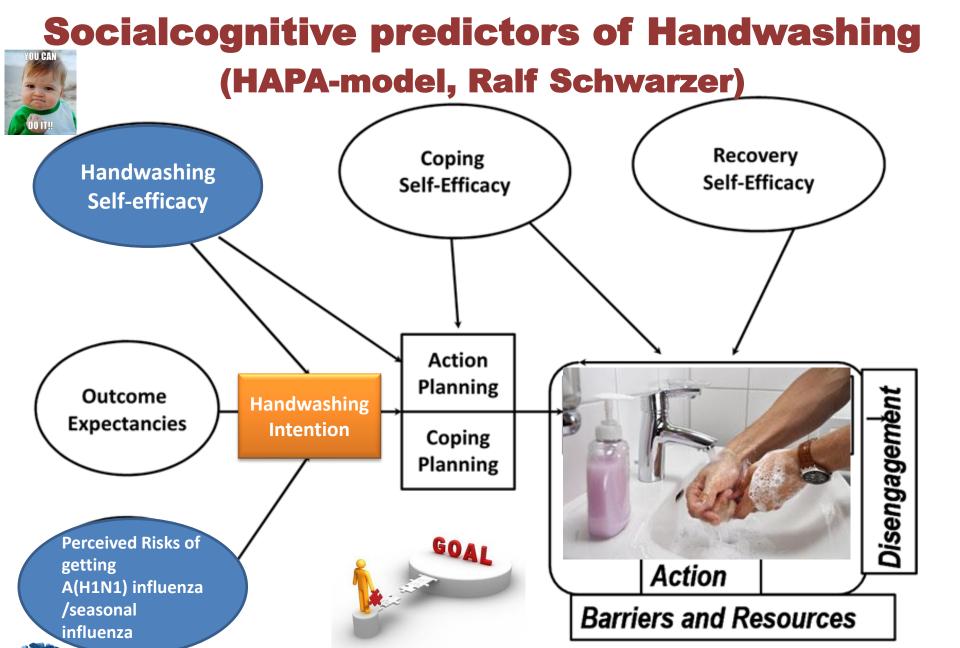
- handwashing after having contact with others?
- handwashing after having used the bathroom?
- handwashing before eating?
- handwashing after touching objects contaminated by sick persons?



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Study Hypotheses for Handwashing Behaviors during AH1N1 Wave1/2 (2009-2010)

- General Hypothesis: It was expected that perceived risk of getting swine flu/common influenza and handwashing self-efficacy would predict an increase in handwashing intentions, and consequently the adoption/maintenance of handwashing behaviors during the pandemic.
- Gender/cultural-related hypothesis: It was expected that males and females would show a different pattern of causal relations in the adoption/maintenance of handwashing behaviors. This hypothesis was based on cultural and gender differences assumptions for Costa Ricans.
- Long-term effect hypothesis: It was expected that perceived risk of getting swine flu/common influenza, handwashing self efficacy, and handwashing intentions during the first wave of the pandemic (2009) would account for variance in handwashing behaviors during the second wave of the pandemic swine flu (2010).



Method



Participants & Data Collection

Costa Rican random sample

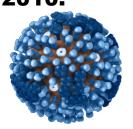
Time 1, n = **428** (65% females, 35% males; M_{age} = 33 years);

Time 2, *n* = 97 (random subsample)

Data Collection

E-Research tool: UNIPARK

T1: November 2009; T2: June 2010.



Measures & Analyses

- Preintentional motivation process
 - Risk Perception (6 items, 1-7, α = .80)
 - How likely is it that an average person of your sex and age will get A (H1N1) influenza virus this year?
 - Handwashing self-efficacy beliefs (4 items, 1-6, α = .85)
 - I am sure I can always wash my hands before eating.
- · Mediator
 - Handwashing Intentions (4 items, 1 to 7, α = .73)
 - I intend to wash my hands before eating
- · Postintentional volition process
 - Handwashing behavior (4 items, 1-7, α = .71)
 - I wash my hands before eating
- Analyses
- STRUCTURAL EQUATION MODELING (LISREL)
 - MULTIGROUP APPROACH
 - LONGITUDINAL APPROACH

Figure 2. LISREL path diagram of female's relationships between predictors and criterion at T1 (n = 196).

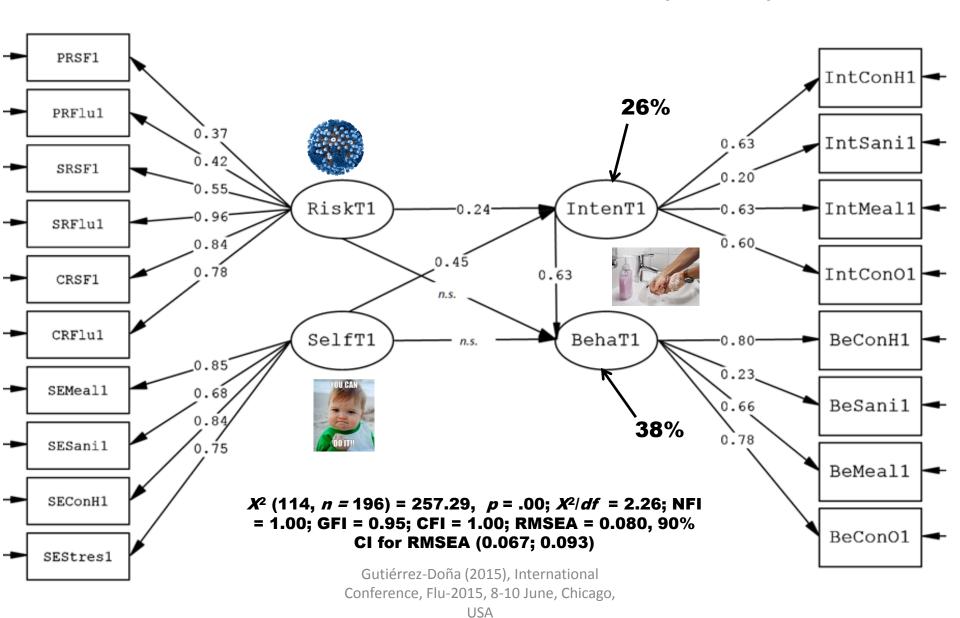
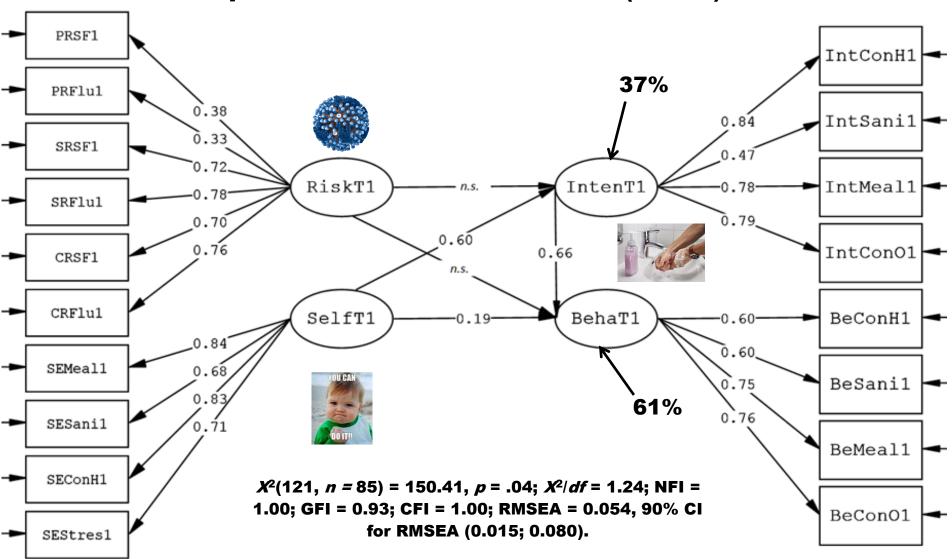
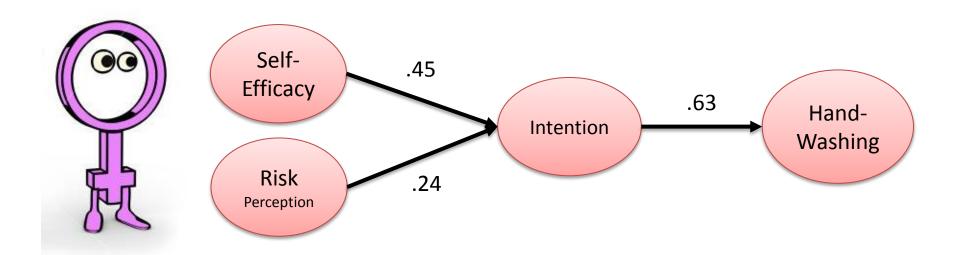


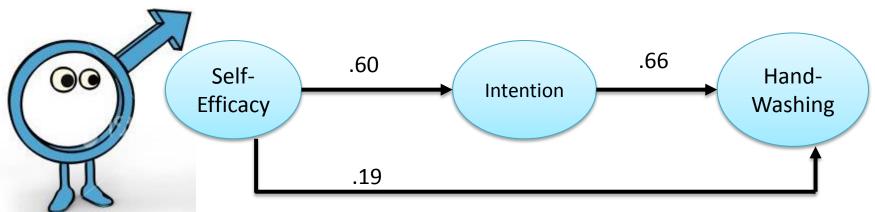
Figure 3. LISREL path diagram of male's relationships between predictors and criterion at T1 (n = 85).



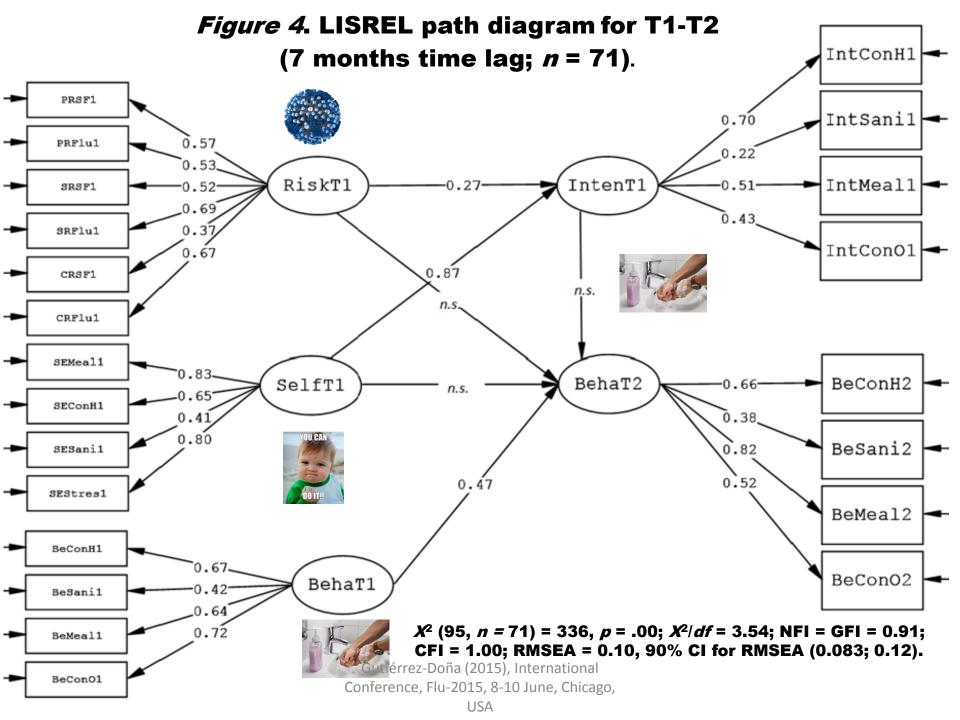
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Comprehensive Model of Handwashing Behaviors for the Prevention of Influenza in Costa Rica

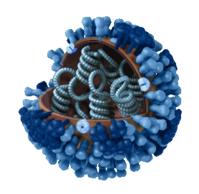




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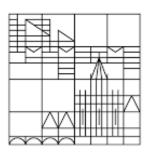
- Costa Rican males ignored their own risks of getting A (H1N1)/seasonal influenza. It appears that they basically trusted their own capabilities to protect themselves against the virus by handwashing, irrespective of the level of risk.
- It is still unclear whether male participants did not trust risk information or whether they just simply perceived themselves as invulnerable.

- It seems that Costa Rican females did not adopt the handwashing behavior without previously having developed an intention to wash their hands.
- How do gender differences help us in educating people to adopt/maintain good handwashing habits?

Acknowledgements

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