

# THE ROLE OF ETHNICITY-RELATED VARIABLES IN THE DEVELOPMENT AND TREATMENT OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE IN HISPANICS



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## **% White**

**1.1**

**4.6**

**11.6**

**5.3**

**8.6**

**29.4**

**24.4**

**15.0**

## **Total U.S. Population**

**Under 1 year**

**1 to 4 year**

**5 to 13 years**

**14 to 17 years**

**18 to 24 years**

**25 to 44 years**

**45 to 64 years**

**65 years & over**

## **% Hispanic**

**2.2**

**8.3**

**17.5**

**6.9**

**13.4**

**33.0**

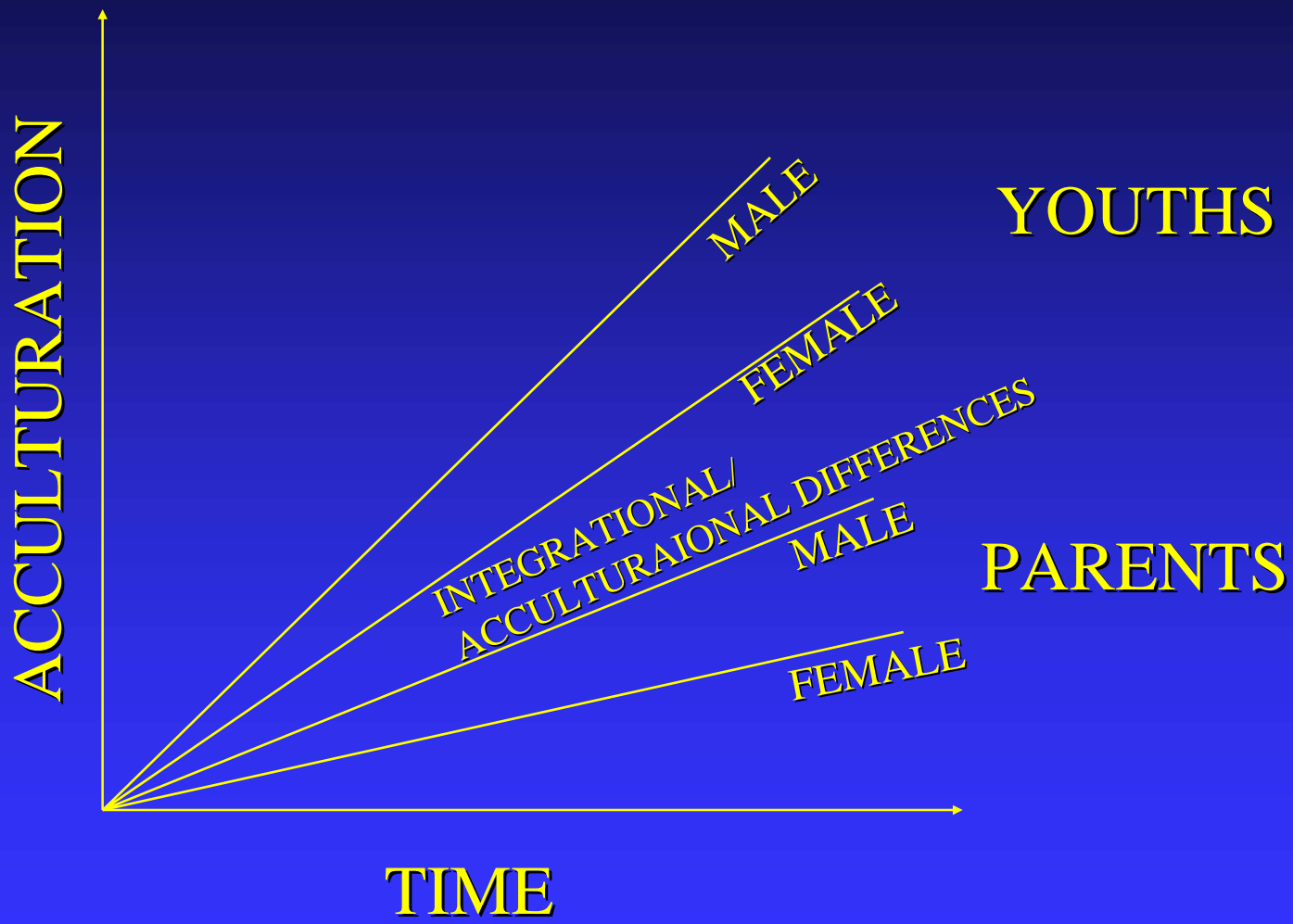
**13.7**

**4.9**

Studies have consistently found significant positive relationships between years in the U.S. and/or acculturation and drug use and other behavior problems (Junger & Polder, 1992; Oetting & Beauvais, 1991; Santisteban, 2003; Vega, 2004).

**Acculturation is not just an individual issue.**

**Differences between family members can interfere with the family's ability to resolve conflicts.**



Parents classified as "high Hispanic" reported higher effective discipline practices ( $t(115)=3.004$   $p=.003$ ), more involvement with their children ( $t(115)=2.49$   $p=.014$ ), and less avoidance of discipline ( $t(115)=-3.02$   $p=.003$ ).

Adolescents reported that parents with higher Hispanicism were more involved ( $t(115)=2.61$   $p=.010$ ), used a greater degree of behavioral control ( $t(115)=2.61$   $p=.010$ ), and more monitoring ( $t(115)=2.49$   $p=.014$ ).

## Immigration related parent-child separations and attachment disruptions.

Parents and children immigrating separately can create powerful disruptions in important family processes (attachment/bonding, parental monitoring and disciplining) that have been directly linked to the development and maintenance of behavior problems.

# Immigration Related Parent-Adolescent Separations

Cases Reporting Separations: 19%

Length :  $\bar{x}$  = 46 months

Age of Separation:  $x$  = 8 Years (1-14)

|       |              |       |
|-------|--------------|-------|
| From: | Mother       | = 43% |
|       | Father       | = 36% |
|       | Both Parents | = 21% |

Family Bonding can protect against the adverse influence of delinquent peers.

Acculturation and immigration-related stressors can disrupt family bonding and conflict resolution and create increased risk for substance abuse and other problems.

**The promise of working with entire families is that these issues (e.g., acculturation differences, acculturation impacts on symptoms, immigration stressors) can be addressed.**

**Working with families requires that  
you pay special attention to  
engagement strategies**

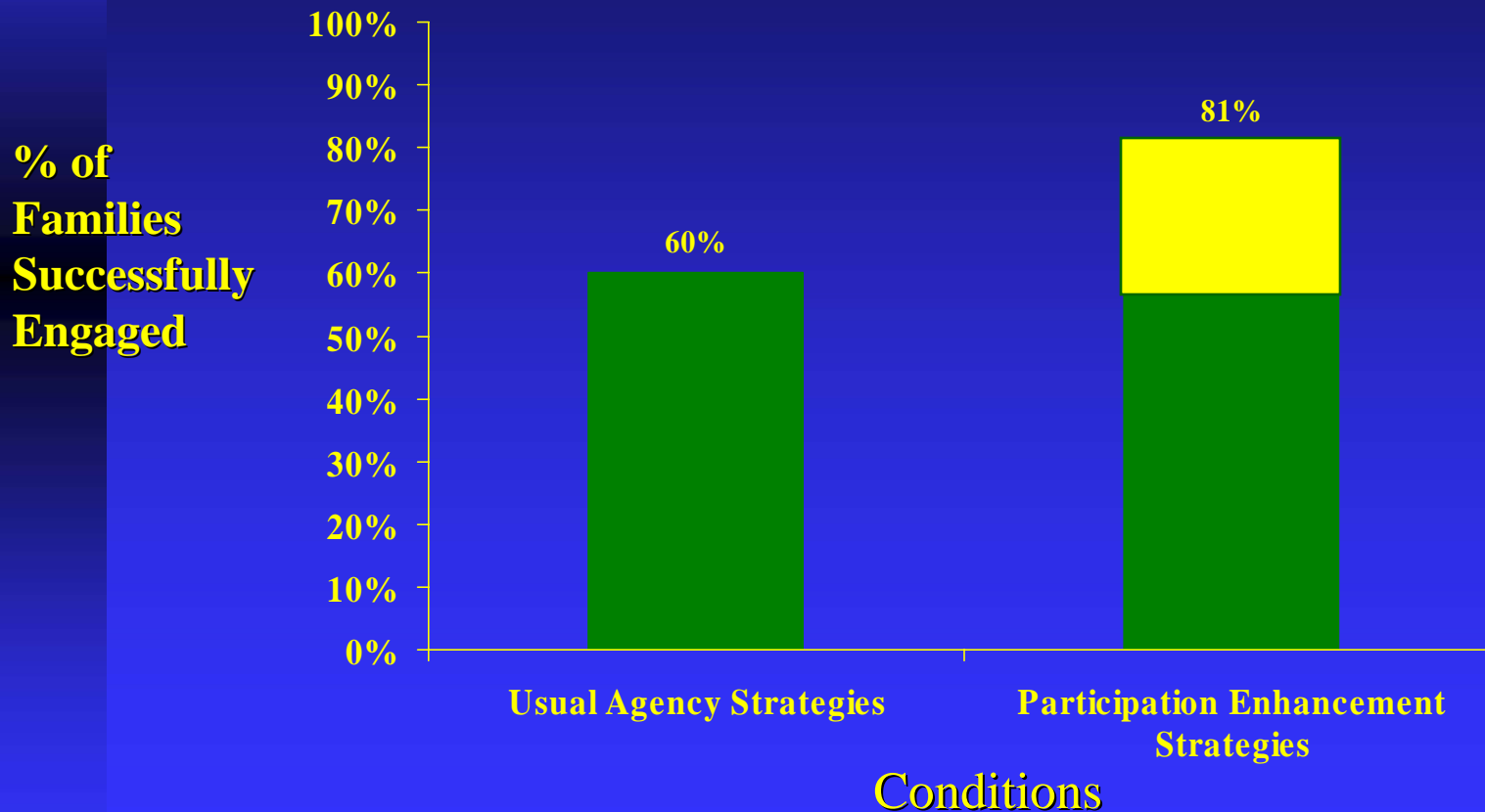
**Programs must:**

- 1) appear attractive and relevant, and**
- 2) address clinical aspects that hinder engagement.**

**Ethnicity-specific programs were found to be better than mainstream programs in:**

- 1) Client return rates**
- 2) Length of treatment**

# The Results of These Studies Were Dramatic - The Specialized Participation Enhancement Strategies Were Far Superior to the Commonly Used Strategies for Bringing in Families



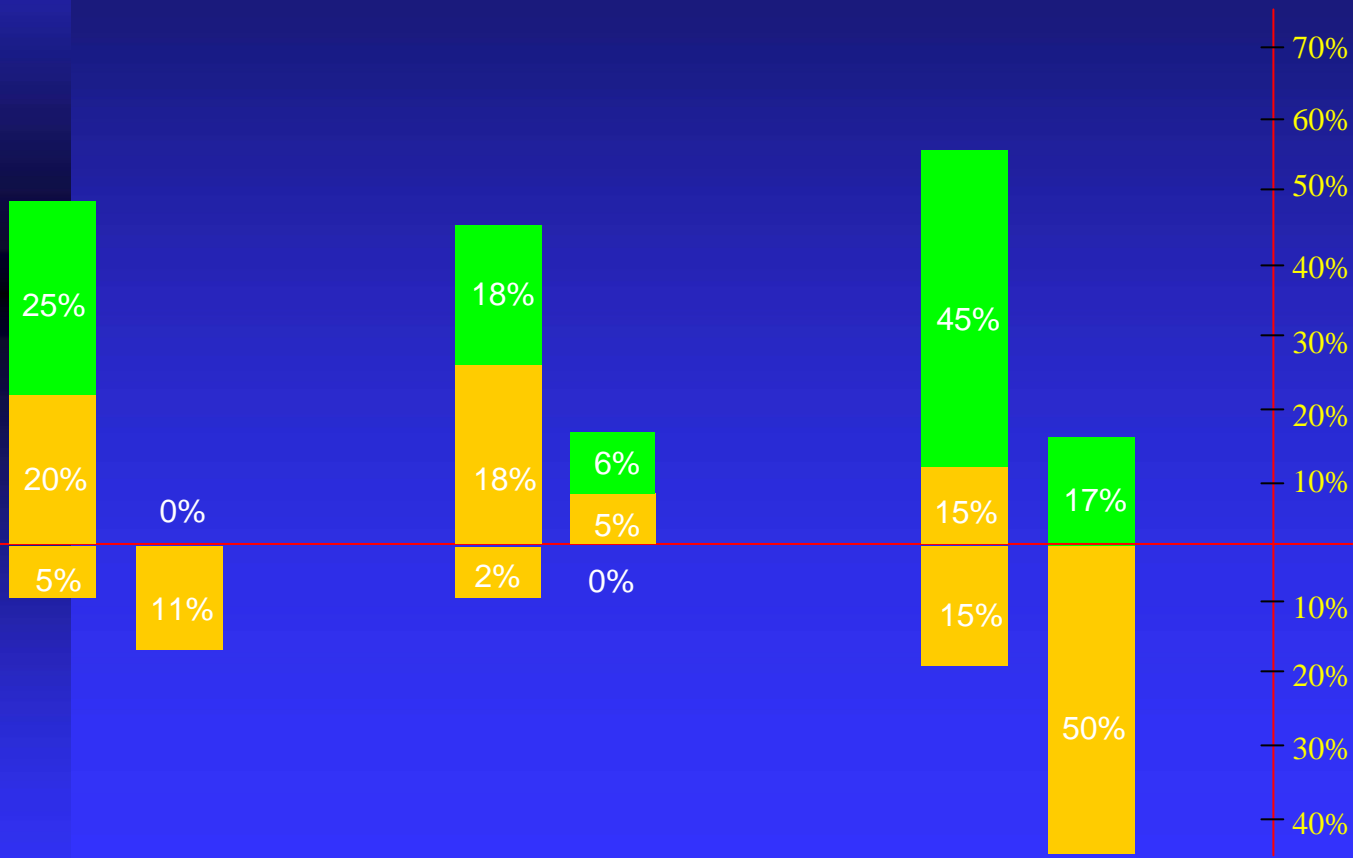
Santisteban, Szapocznik, Perez-Vidal, Kurtines, Murray & LaPerriere, 1996

Reliable Change Within the Clinical Range  
 Reliable Change Plus Movement into Normal Range

*BSFT GC*

*BSFT GC*

*BSFT GC*



Reliable Improvement  
 Reliable Deterioration

CONDUCT DISORDER

SOCIALIZED AGGRESSION

MARIJUANA USE

# Conclusions

- \* Acculturation has a predictable effect on rates of substance abuse and co-occurring disorders.
- \* Specialized engagement strategies can be very effective.
- \* Treatment for Hispanics must learn to address immigration and acculturation-related factors -- family treatments can be particularly effective.