

Latino Children and Families in Oregon: Challenges and Promise

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Formative Studies

- Latino Youth Survey
 - Community and youth directed school survey project
 - Mentoring component
 - Instruments designed by students
 - Data analyses and presentation conducted by youth
 - N = 563 Latino and non-Latino youth and parents
- Latino Youth and Family Empowerment (LYFE-I)
 - Three-year intervention development and feasibility study (NIDA R21)
 - N = 73 families (two parents and focal middle-schooler)
 - Articulation of intervention adaptation model

Formative Studies (cont.)

- Adolescent Latino Acculturation Study (ALAS)
 - 5-year prospective longitudinal study (NIDA R01)
 - N = 225 recently immigrated Latino families
 - Captures data across 14 years of time in residency cross-sectionally and follows individual families for three years
 - Multiple methods and agents (including family observations)
- LYFE-II
 - Randomized efficacy trial with longitudinal follow-up (NIDA R01)
 - Five waves of assessment with two year follow-up
 - N = 240 families (mixed family structure types)
 - Blocked by adolescent nativity

Context matters...

in understanding impact of
system-level challenges

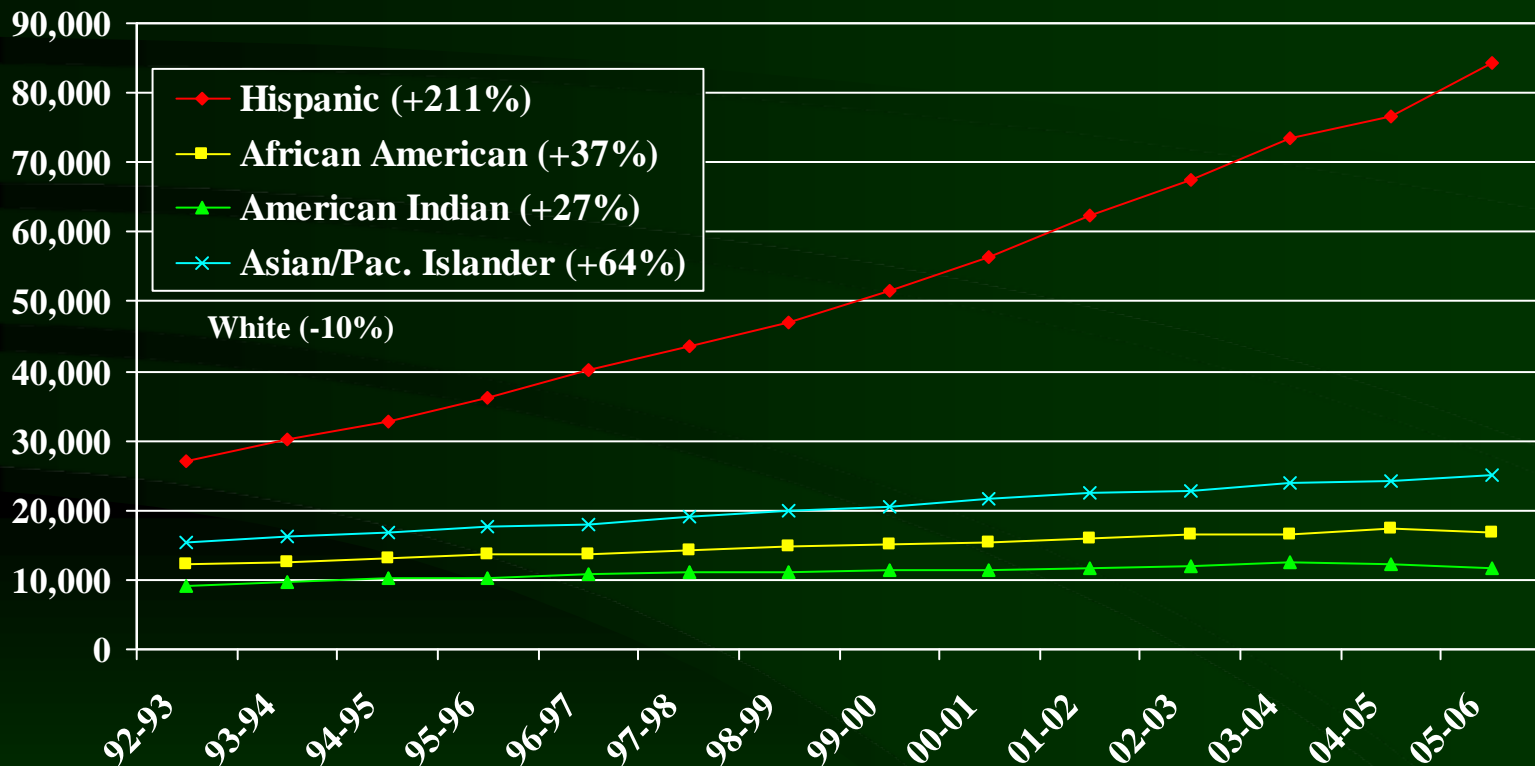
Context of Immigration

- Heterogeneity of immigration experiences
 - Reason for immigration
 - Length of stay expectations
- Legal status is complex
- Regional effects and segmented assimilation
- National political environment

National Perspective

- 47 million Latinos in U.S. (15.5% of population)
- 55% of adult population estimated to be citizens (higher for youth)
- Of estimated 45% of non-citizen adults, 45% are legal residents
- 53% of all Latinos worry that they, a family member, or close friend could be deported

Oregon Public School Minority Enrollment



Source: Oregon Report Card 2005-2006: An Annual Report to the Oregon Legislature on Oregon Public Schools. Oregon Department of Education.

Sociodemographic Features of Latino Families in Oregon

- 80-95% of adults are recent immigrants
- Average age of 29 years when adults arrived in U.S.
- 16% arrive in U.S. alone
- 95% of adults are monolingual Spanish speaking
- 95% trace family roots to Mexico
- At least 55% of youth born in the U.S.
- Most youth are bilingual

Socioeconomic Context

- Large percapita yearly income disparity (\$5973 vs. \$13,527)
- 63% of families send money home
- 70% of adults have education of eighth grade or less
- 76% receive no financial assistance
- 64% come to U.S. for better opportunities
- 61% also indicate work as major reason for immigration

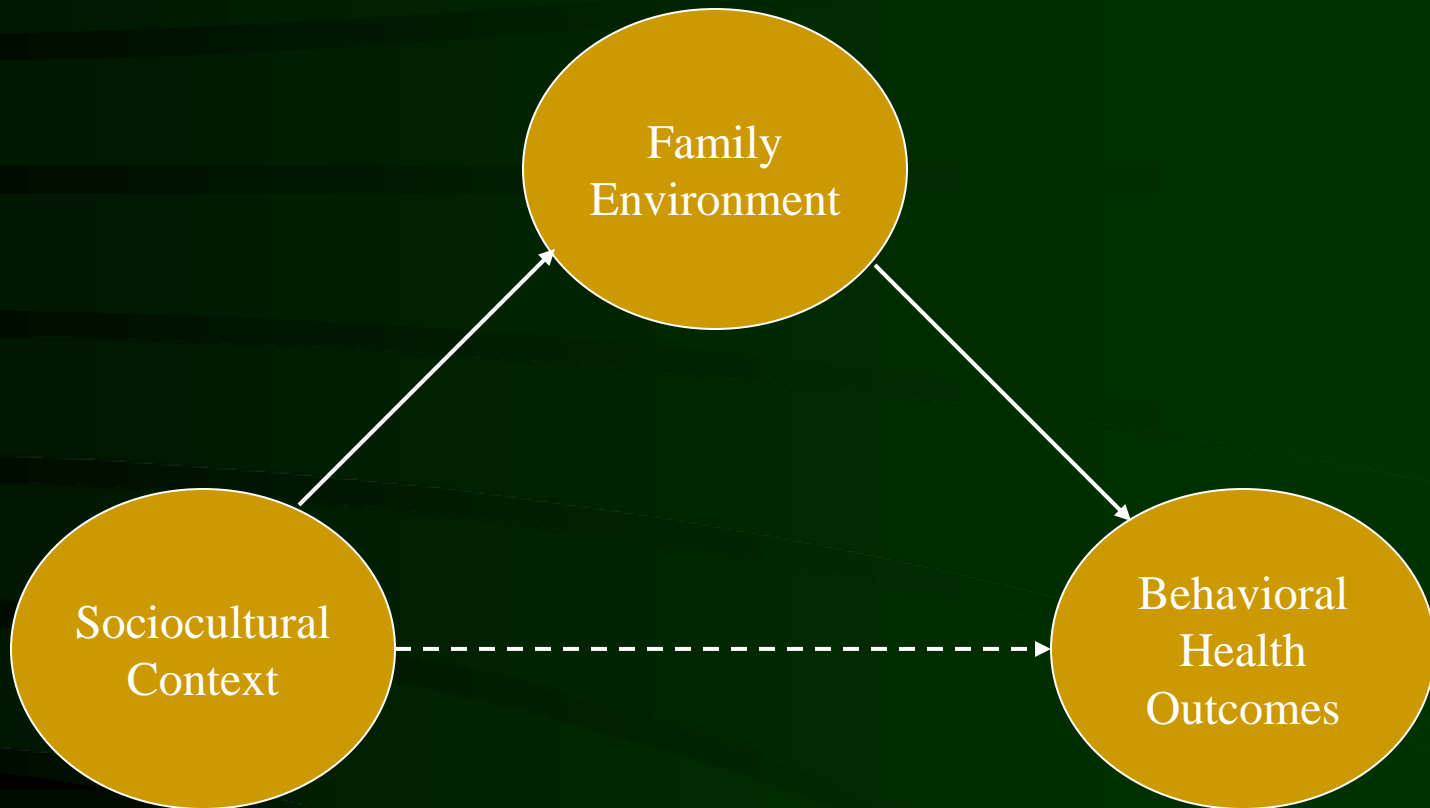
Results of Rapid Growth

- Social, health, education, and political systems are unprepared leading to discrimination and access problems
- Latino youth at greater risk for:
 - Substance use, delinquency, depression, and suicidality (especially U.S. born and highly acculturated youth)
 - Juvenile justice system involvement
 - School dropout

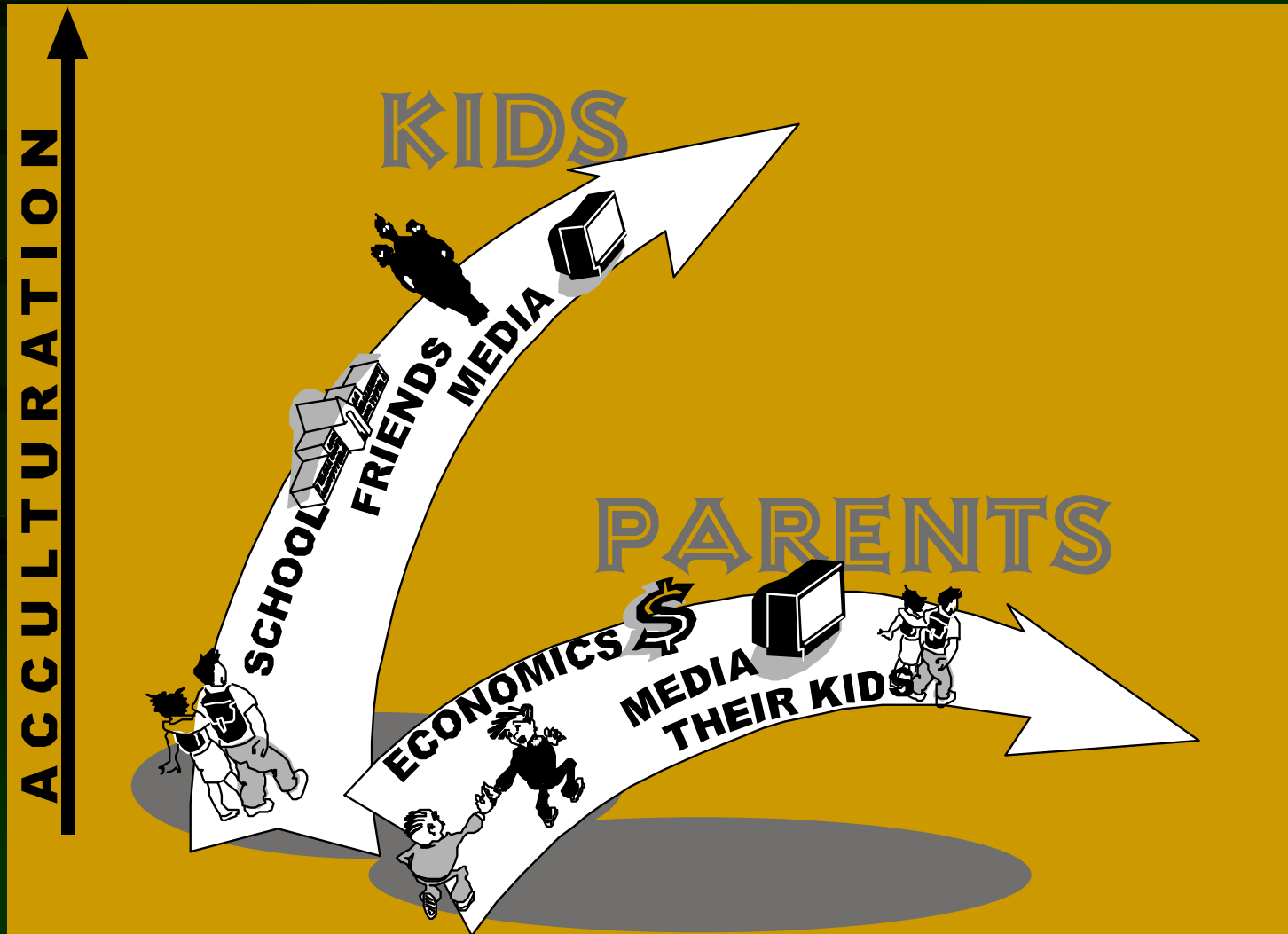
Sociocultural
Context



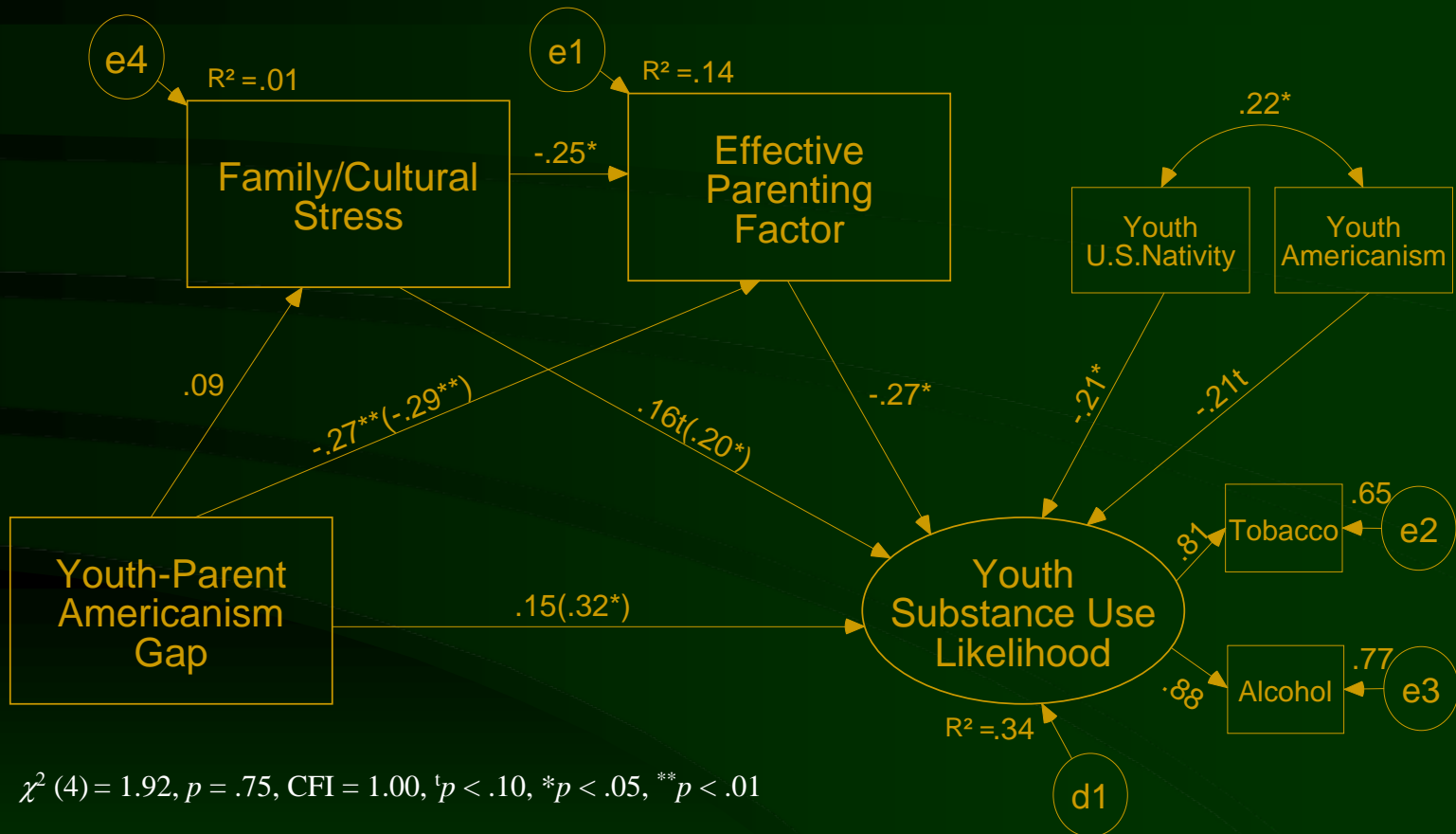
Behavioral
Health
Outcomes



Acculturation Gap

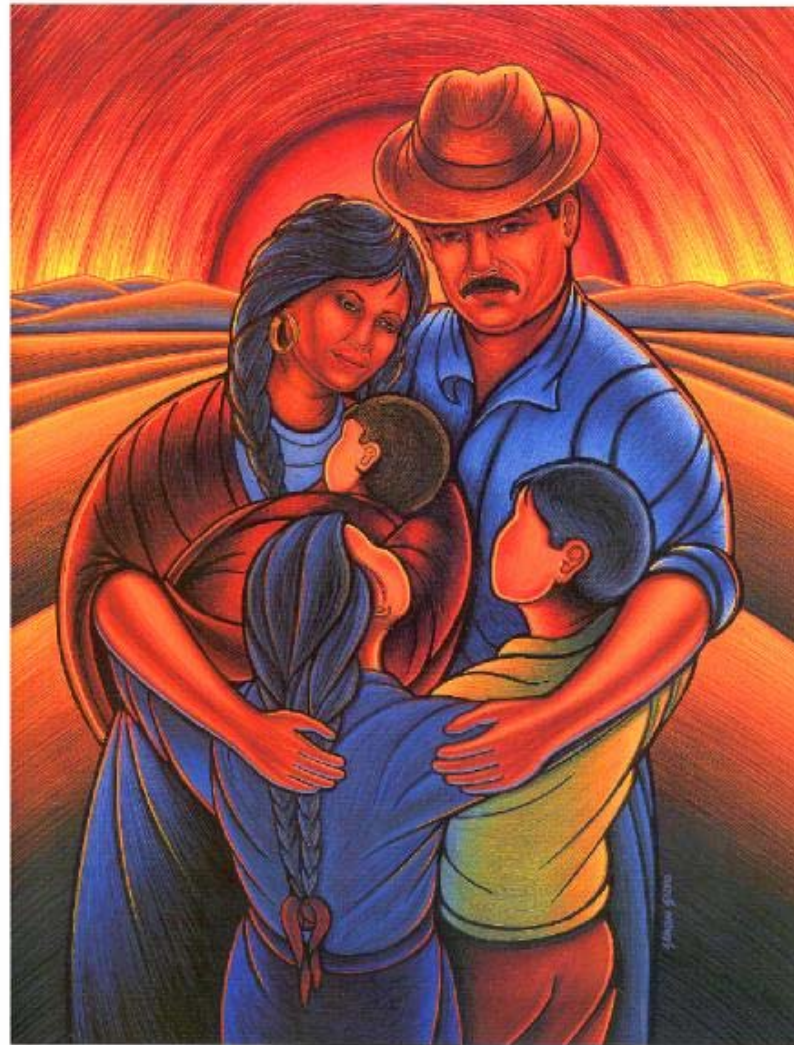


Differential Acculturation Predicting Substance Use



$\chi^2(4) = 1.92, p = .75, CFI = 1.00, \dagger p < .10, *p < .05, **p < .01$

NUESTRAS FAMILIAS ANDANDO ENTRE CULTURAS



"Familia" Gouache, 17" x 30", Simón Silva, © 1995

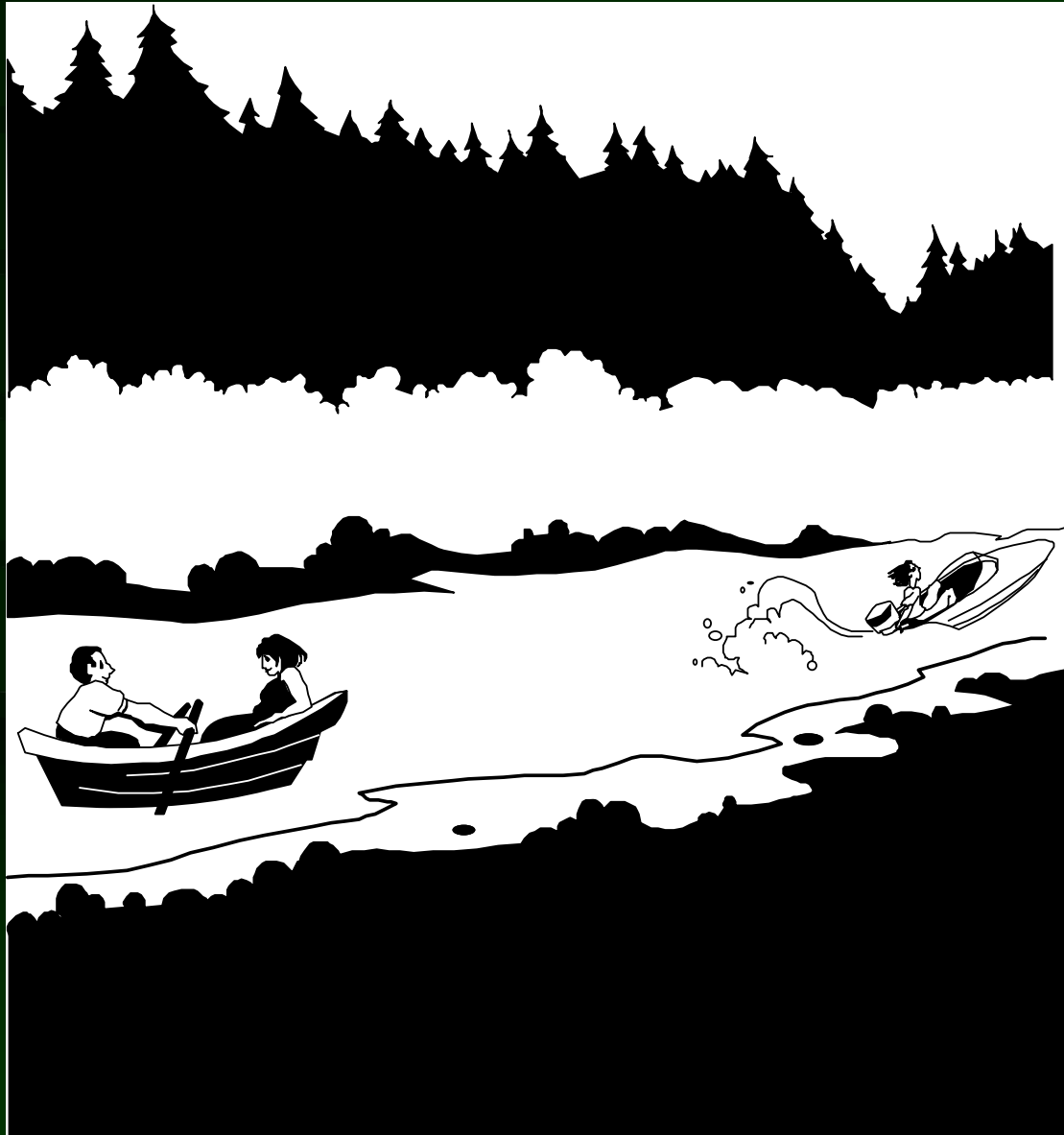
Intervention Curriculum

- Latino Roots, Values, and Strengths
- Latino Parent and Spouse Roles
- Effective Family Communication
- Family Problem Solving
- Coping with Acculturation Stress and Conflict
- Giving Good Directions
- Skill Encouragement
- Discipline and Limit Setting
- Monitoring and Supervision
- Promoting School Success
- Dealing with Structural Barriers
- Planning for the Future

Intervention Foundations

- Family empowerment
- Therapist as “entrenador”
- Focus on practicing skills in session
- Family tailoring through trial and error
- Home practice
- Social support

Bridging Cultures



LYFE Intervention Outcomes

- Intervention related improvements in parenting practices:
 - General Parenting, $F(1,51) = 3.53^*$
 - Skill Encouragement, $F(1,51) = 3.83^*$
 - Overall Effective Parenting, $F(1,51) = 2.79^*$
- Intervention related improvements in youngster outcomes:
 - Aggression, $F(1,50) = 5.40^*$
 - Externalizing, $F(1,50) = 5.30^*$
 - Likelihood of smoking, $F(1,50) = 2.85^*$
 - Likelihood of marijuana and other drug use, $F(1,50) = 2.04^t$
- 3-way interactions with nativity status:
 - Appropriate Discipline, $F(1,51) = 5.04^*$
 - Skill Encouragement, $F(1,51) = 3.64^*$
 - Depression, $F(1,50) = 8.32^{**}$