Predictors of Substance Use among Hispanic Men residing along the U.S. – Mexico Border

Elias Provencio-Vasquez, PhD, NP, FAAN
School of Nursing, The University of Texas at El Paso, USA

Joseph P. De Santis, PhD, ARNP, ACRN
School of Nursing & Health Studies, University of Miami, USA
Background

- Hispanic men in the United States experience a variety of health disparities
- Substance use and mental health
  - higher rates of substance use & depression in some Hispanic groups
- Few studies have focused on Hispanic men in the U.S. – Mexico border region
Previous research

• Similar studies of other Hispanic groups
• Sexual orientation/identity and substance use
• Acculturation and substance use
• Depression and substance use
• Other factors
  – Self-esteem; social and contextual factors
Purpose of the study

- Determine predictors of substance abuse among Hispanic men ($N = 103$) in a U.S. – Mexico border community
Methods

• Approved by IRB
• Cross-sectional descriptive study
  – 103 Hispanic/Latino men 18-55 years of age
  – Recruited from large Federally Qualified Health Center & local community center
• Individual, in-person structured interview
  – Informed consent
  – 60-90 minutes; English or Spanish
Measures

- Demographic
- Bidimensional Acculturation Scale
  - (Marin & Gamba, 1996)
- Center for Epidemiologic Studies Depression Scale
  - (Radloff, 1977)
- Rosenberg Self-Esteem Scale
  - (Rosenberg, 1965; 1989)
- Substance Abuse Behaviors Questionnaire
  - (Kelly at al., 1994)
Participant Characteristics

- 71% born in the United States; 26% born in Mexico
- Average age 34.5 (SD = 14.90)
- Average education 13.4 years (SD = 3.23)
- 45% had total family income less than $999/month
- 70% had no health insurance of any type
- 49% heterosexual; 51% gay/bisexual
- 38% reported being HIV-infected
### Key Variables

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Mean (SD)</th>
<th>Range</th>
<th>Reliability in this sample</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Substance abuse (drunk or high or both past 3 months)</td>
<td>66% yes (60% drunk) (26% high)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acculturation (U.S.)</td>
<td>38.89 (8.82)</td>
<td>14-48</td>
<td>α = .95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acculturation (Hispanic)</td>
<td>34.95 (8.49)</td>
<td>12-48</td>
<td>α = .93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depression</td>
<td>13.84 (10.31)</td>
<td>0-45</td>
<td>α = .87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self-Esteem</td>
<td>21.11 (5.07)</td>
<td>3-30</td>
<td>α = .87</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Predictors of Substance Use

- **Age** \((Wald \chi^2 = 6.54, \ p = 0.01)\)
- **U.S. acculturation** \((Wald \chi^2 = 5.94, \ p = 0.02)\)
- **Older participants** were slightly less likely to report being drunk or high in the past 3 months
  - \((AOR = 0.95, \ 95\% \ CI = 0.91, \ 0.99)\)
- Participants reporting **higher acculturation to mainstream U.S. culture** were slightly more likely to report being drunk or high in the past 3 months
  - \((AOR = 1.09, \ 95\% \ CI = 1.01, \ 1.17)\)
Implications

• Differences among Hispanic groups
  – Results inconsistent with past research
    • Depression not related to substance abuse
    • Acculturation was related
      – US acculturation was significant

• Importance of local data
  – Responding to local needs
  – Integrating mental health and
    substance use services
Thank you!!

Research  •  Training  •  Dissemination
References


