

# Differences in Hispanic/Latino Parents' Interactions with their Alcohol Using Adolescents

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## Significance

- Young Hispanic/Latino adolescents report more use of alcohol and other drugs (AOD) than their non-Hispanic/Latino counterparts (Schwartz et al., 2014; Johnston et al., 2014).
- Recent studies have indicated that involvement of parents in their adolescents' lives and strong parental monitoring plays an important role in preventing AOD use during early adolescence (Marsiglia et al., 2012; Tobler & Komro, 2010).
- Research has identified acculturation as a risk factor for AOD use among Hispanic/Latino adolescents given its potential to erode strong family ties and traditions (Carlton & Skeer, 2015).
- This study examines the role acculturation plays in Hispanic/Latinos' parenting behaviors and interactions among a sample of adolescents at risk for engaging in AOD use.

## Methodology

- A sample of 39 Hispanic/Latino parent-adolescent dyads was recruited from multiple community sites in Rhode Island.
- The majority of the adolescents were male (62%) with an average age of 14.44 years.
- 77% of the adolescents were born in the United States, 69% of their parents were born abroad: Puerto Rico (30.8%), Dominican Republic (28.2%), El Salvador (5.1%), Colombia (2.6%), and Guatemala (2.6%).
- Parent and adolescent interactions were videotaped and observed during Family Assessment Tasks (FAsTasks). The Family Assessment Task Coder Impressions (Dishion et al., 2008) was used to code each of the observations.
- The Marin Short Acculturation Scale for Hispanics (Marin et al., 1987) was used to assess parents' acculturation level.
- To classify parents as more or less acculturated, median split scores were computed and correlated with parent's language preference,  $F(1, 33) = 22.91, p < .001$ .
- Based on this scale, 49% of parents were classified as high acculturated and 51%, as low acculturated.

## Results

Family Assessment Tasks (Dishion et al., 1996)		
Description of Task	FAsTask Variables	Behaviors Coded
<b>Family Monitoring And Listening Task</b> Teen talks about a time spent without supervision. Parent(s) listens and seeks additional information about the situation teen presented.	Parental Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parent seems to be monitoring what teen is doing and where and with whom the teen spends time.</li> <li>• Rules that facilitate parents' monitoring were indicated.</li> <li>• Parent indicated involvement in teen's activities.</li> <li>• Parent seems to know about the teen's friendships</li> </ul>
	Parent Listening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parent listens to the teen.</li> <li>• Parent effectively gathers info about teen's activities.</li> <li>• Parent controlled his/her reactions to allow the teen to talk.</li> </ul>
<b>Problem Solving</b> Family discusses a "hot" family problem and tries to come up with at least one solution.	Family Problem Solving	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Problem was clearly specified .</li> <li>• Problem was stated in a neutral or positive tone.</li> <li>• Alternative solutions were discussed by the family.</li> <li>• Solution that was acceptable to the family was selected.</li> <li>• Family is likely to follow the solution they all agreed on .</li> </ul>
	Parent Problem Solving Teen Problem Solving*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Family offered solutions in a positive tone.</li> <li>• Family proposed clear and specific solutions.</li> <li>• Suggestions are constructive.</li> <li>• Family is actively involved in problem solving.</li> <li>• Family members seemed flexible/open to new solutions.</li> <li>• Parent considers and includes teen's interests/concerns.*</li> </ul>
<b>Substance Use Communication</b> Parents and teens discuss their beliefs about using tobacco, alcohol, marijuana, and other drugs. Parents also discuss their substance-related expectations for their teens.	Substance Use Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parent communicates expectations against substance use.</li> <li>• Parent provide a strong rationale for not using substances.</li> <li>• Parent suggest strategies for remaining abstinent.</li> <li>• Parent talks about his/her own substance use in a way that gives mixed messages.</li> </ul>

- Differences in parents' acculturation levels and parent-adolescent interactions during FAsTasks were examined using multivariate analysis of variance (MANOVA),  $F(7, 20) = 2.48, p < .05$ ; Wilk's  $\lambda = 0.535$ .

Multivariate Analysis of Variance (MANOVA) for Acculturation Level and FAsTask							
FAsTasks	Low Acculturation		High Acculturation		df	F	p
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD			
Family Monitoring	6.00	1.21	5.86	1.44	1,26	.06	.80
Parent Monitoring	5.15	1.45	5.24	1.59	1,26	.02	.89
Parent Listening	6.50	1.38	6.70	1.02	1,26	.23	.64
<b>Family Problem Solving</b>	4.53	1.15	5.83	.80	1,26	12.06	<b>.002**</b>
<b>Parent Problem Solving</b>	5.10	1.80	6.24	1.10	1,26	4.84	<b>.03*</b>
<b>Teen Problem Solving</b>	3.10	1.52	4.83	1.70	1,26	7.12	<b>.01*</b>
Substance Use Communication	4.65	1.60	5.05	1.33	1,26	0.48	.50

## Conclusions

- Results demonstrated significant differences in the family problem solving tasks, such that parents with higher acculturation level demonstrated parenting interactions that were more egalitarian (authoritative) compared to the interactions of parents with lower levels of acculturation (authoritarian).
- These differences in parenting shed light on the role of acculturation as a possible moderator of Hispanic/Latino parent-adolescent interactions and adolescents' AOD behavior.
- Overall, these findings suggest the benefit of addressing parents' acculturation levels when designing and implementing AOD use interventions for Hispanic/Latino adolescents.

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