

National AgrAbility Project

Mental Health and Transnational Migration

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Transnational Migration

Immigrants Admitted from Top Countries of Birth: 1990-2000

Category of Admission	1990	2000
Mexico*	4,298,000	9,659,000
China, People's Republic*	921,000	1,448,000
Philippines*	913,000	1,429,000
India*	450,000	1,305,000
Cuba*	737,000	920,000
Vietnam*	543,000	819,000
El Salvador*	465,000	869,000
Korea	568,000	757,000
Dominican Republic*	348,000	653,000
Canada	745,000	713,000
Germany	712,000	636,000
Soviet Union*	334,000	624,000
United Kingdom	640,000	605,000

* Change from 1990 to 2000 is statistically significant

Adapted from US Census, 2002

Trends in Transnational Migration

Foreign-Born Population in the U.S.: 1850-1930, 1960-1990, 2004

Year	Total ¹	Region of birth reported					
		Europe	Asia	Africa	Oceania	Latin America	North America
2004	34,244,000	4,661,000	8,685,000	n.a	n.a	18,314,000	n.a.
1990	19,767,316	4,350,403	4,979,037	363,819	104,145	8,407,837	753,917
1980	14,079,906	5,149,572	2,539,777	199,723	77,577	4,372,487	853,427
1970	9,619,302	5,740,891	824,887	80,143	41,258	1,803,970	812,421
1960	9,738,091	7,256,311	490,996	35,355	34,730	908,309	952,500
1930	14,204,149	11,784,010	275,665	18,326	17,343	791,840	1,310,369
1920	13,920,692	11,916,048	237,950	16,126	14,626	588,843	1,138,174
1910	13,515,886	11,810,115	191,484	3,992	11,450	279,514	1,209,717
1900	10,341,276	8,881,548	120,248	2,538	8,820	137,458	1,179,922
1890	9,249,547	8,030,347	113,383	2,207	9,353	107,307	980,938
1880	6,679,943	5,751,823	107,630	2,204	6,859	90,073	717,286
1870	5,567,229	4,941,049	64,565	2,657	4,028	57,871	493,467
1860	4,138,697	3,807,062	36,796	526	2,140	38,315	249,970
1850	2,244,602	2,031,867	1,135	551	588	20,773	147,711

1. The sum of the regions for a particular year will not equal the total. Totals include significant numbers of immigrants for whom no region of birth was reported.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, February 22nd, 2005.

Source: <http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0778579.html>

Transnational Migration: What's the lesson?

- Any systematic attempt to examine worldwide immigration dynamics has to look at the U.S. experience – and Latinos are at the center of that experience.
- Any systematic attempt to examine the Latino population of the U.S. has to have immigration at the center. In 2005, approximately 40 percent of all Latinos were foreign-born.
- Any systematic attempt to examine the U.S., has to focus on Latinos; any systematic attempt to focus on Latin America has to focus on U.S. Latinos.

Unique Features of Latino Immigration

- Sustained immigration throughout 20th century.
- Major impact of Latino immigration on the demography and the economy of the US.
- **Mexican prominence** in U.S. foreign-born population--12 million Mexican-born people:
 - 25% of the total U.S. Latino population of close to 50 million
 - 30% of the foreign-born U.S. population
 - 10% of the Mexican-born population on both sides of the Mexico-US border

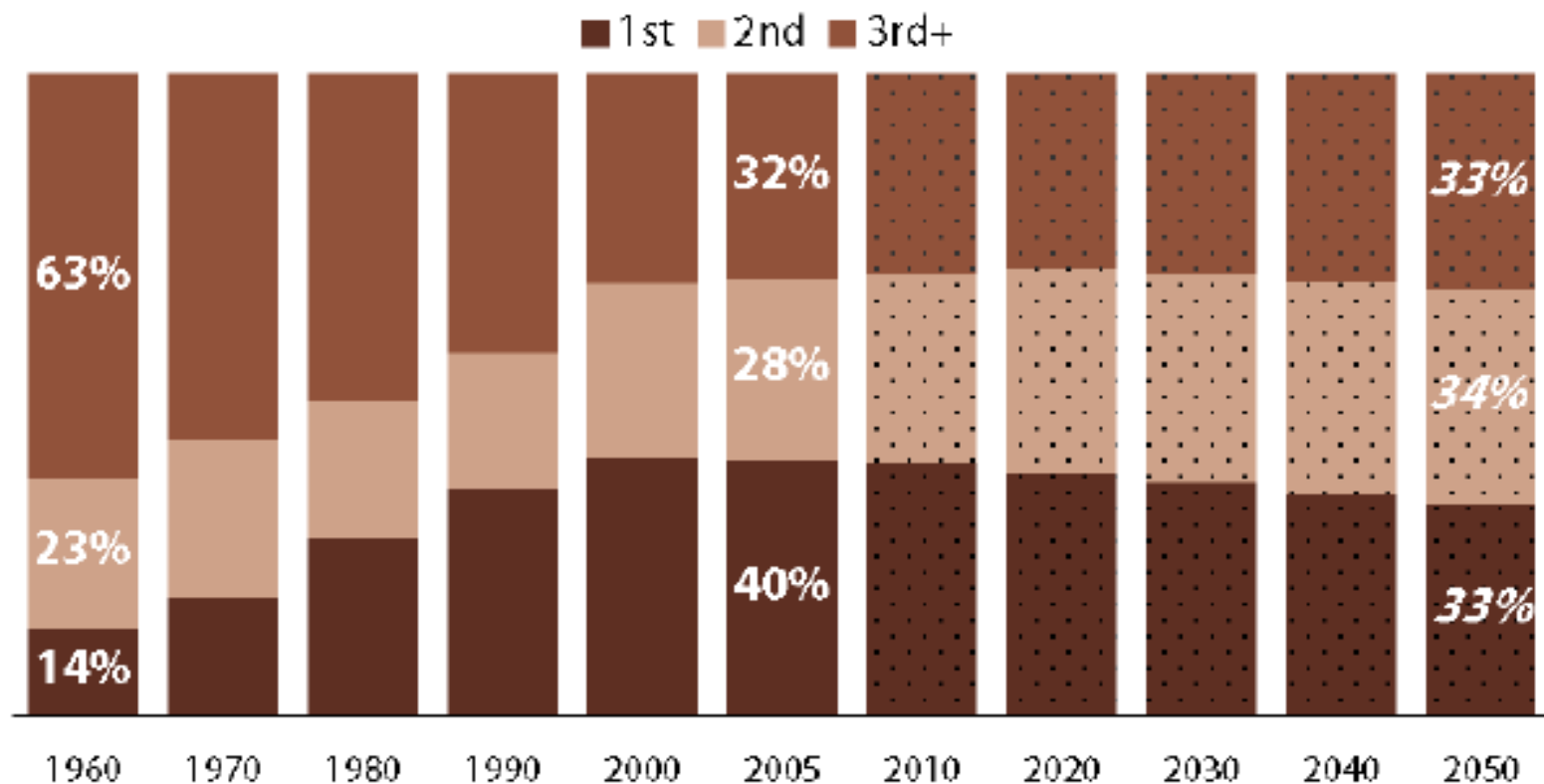
Latino Population Trends

- 75% of the U.S. Latino population are immigrants or children of immigrants.
- 47.5% are foreign born.
- 78% speak Spanish at home.
- The U.S. Latino GDP at \$600 billion dollars is now larger than the GDP of Spain and Mexico. By 2010 it will reach a trillion dollars.
- Most of Latino population growth results from birth not immigration.

Looking at the Crystal Ball

Figure 13

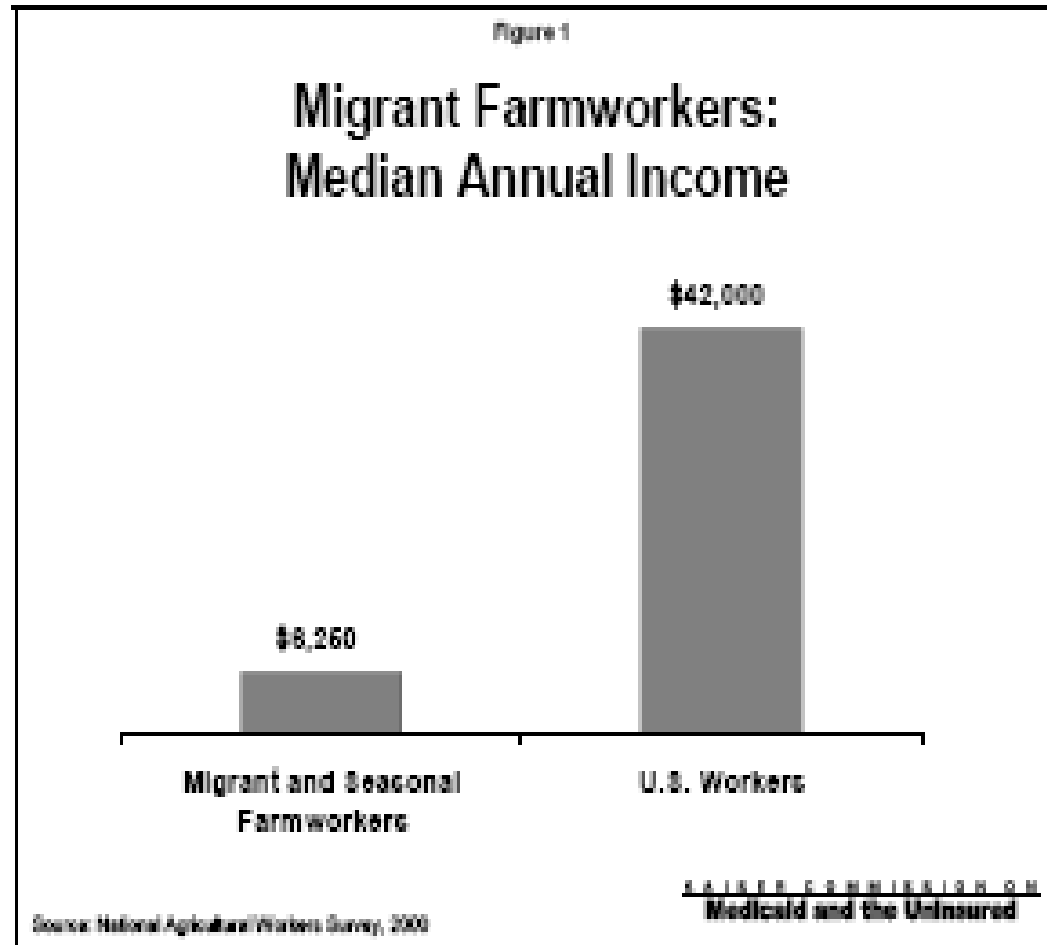
Hispanic Population by Generation, Actual and Projected:
1960–2050
(% in each generation)



Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker Populations

- Three million workers earn their living through migrant and seasonal farm labor, traveling the nation to support an agricultural industry.
- 96% migrant and seasonal farmworkers are foreign-born.
- 70% permanently reside in the United States.
- They travel frequently between states for their employment.
- They face significant language barriers—about 9 in 10 say they read and speak little or no English.
- They are predominantly male (88%), over half are married (52%), and over four in ten have children (44%).

Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker Populations



- In 2000, only 20% of migrant and seasonal farmworkers reported using any healthcare services in the preceding two years.

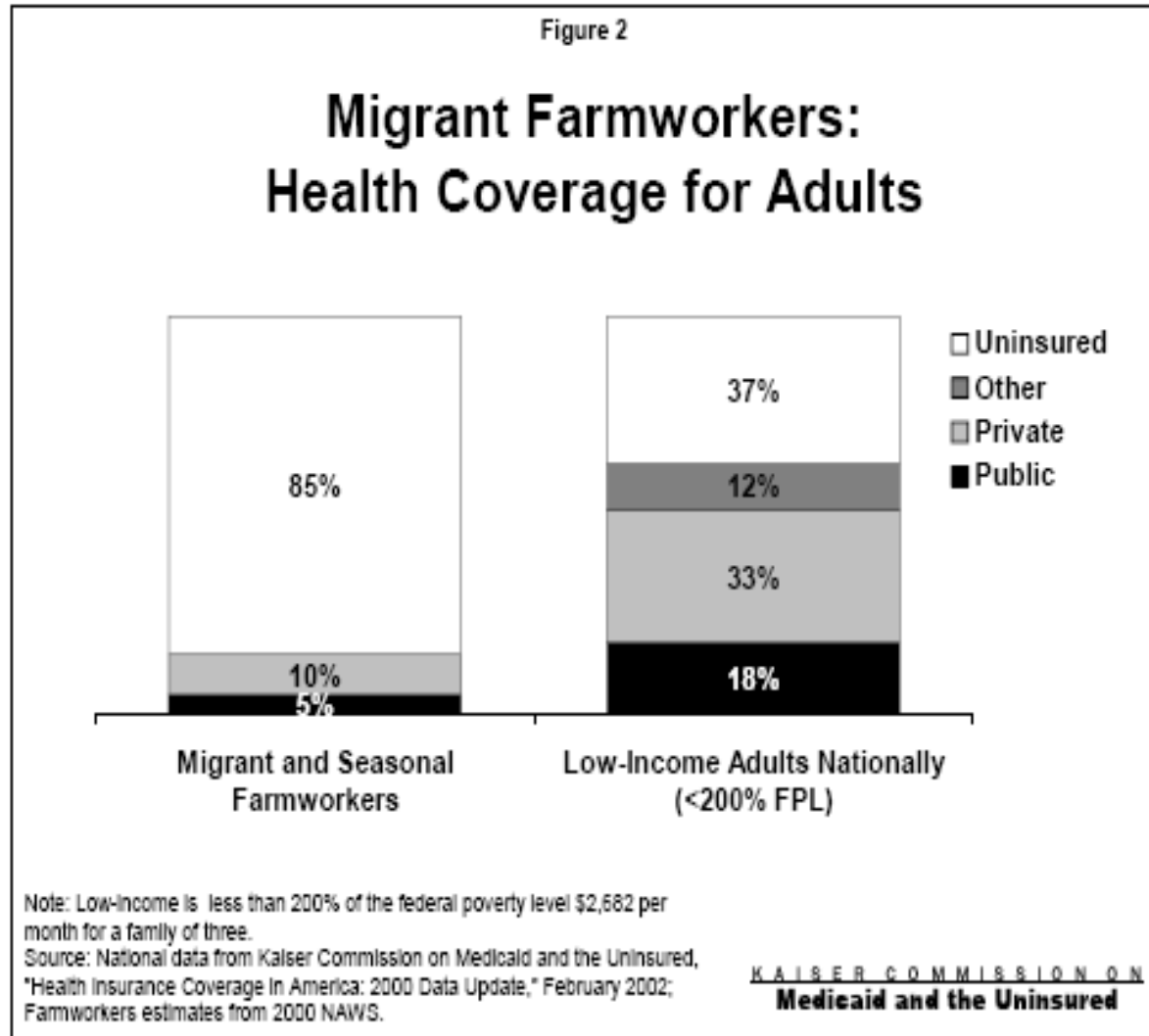
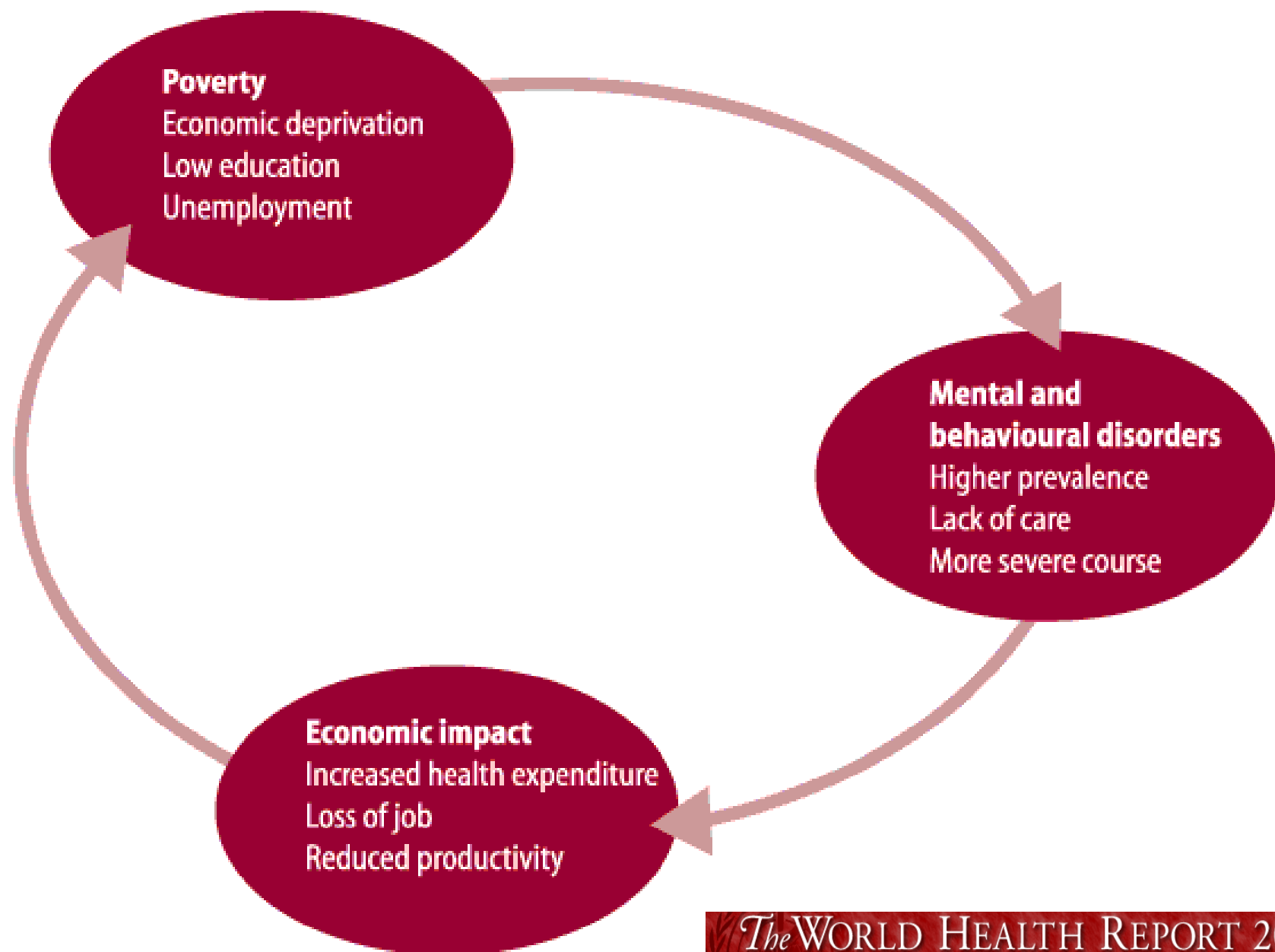


Figure 1.4 The vicious cycle of poverty and mental disorders



Relevance of Mental Disorders

Mental disorders:

- Are among **the most prevalent** classes of chronic diseases in the general population.
- **Co-exist** within themselves, with substance use disorders, and with many medical conditions.
- Typically have **much earlier ages of onset** than other chronic diseases.

Relevance of Mental Disorders

Mental disorders:

- Only **a minority** with mental health needs **receive treatment** in the preceding year.
- Are among **the most disabling** of all chronic diseases.

THE GLOBAL BURDEN OF DISEASE

Among the top ten main causes of disability,
five are mental disorders:

- major depression
- schizophrenia
- bipolar disorders
- alcohol use
- obsessive-compulsive disorders

All five mental disorders appear by age 24!

MAPSS

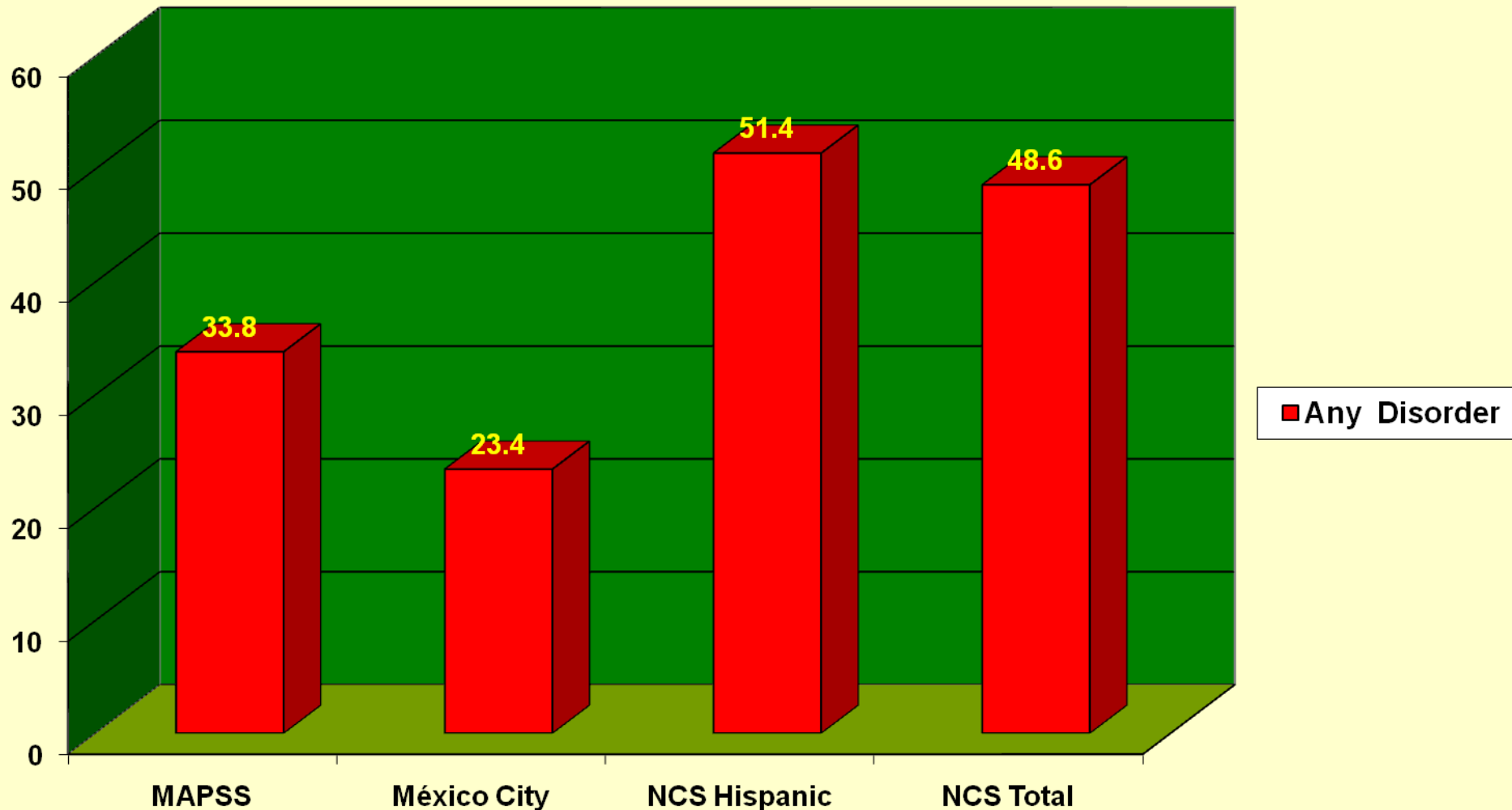
Mexican American Prevalence and Services Survey (MAPSS)

NIMH: 1RO1 MH51192-01

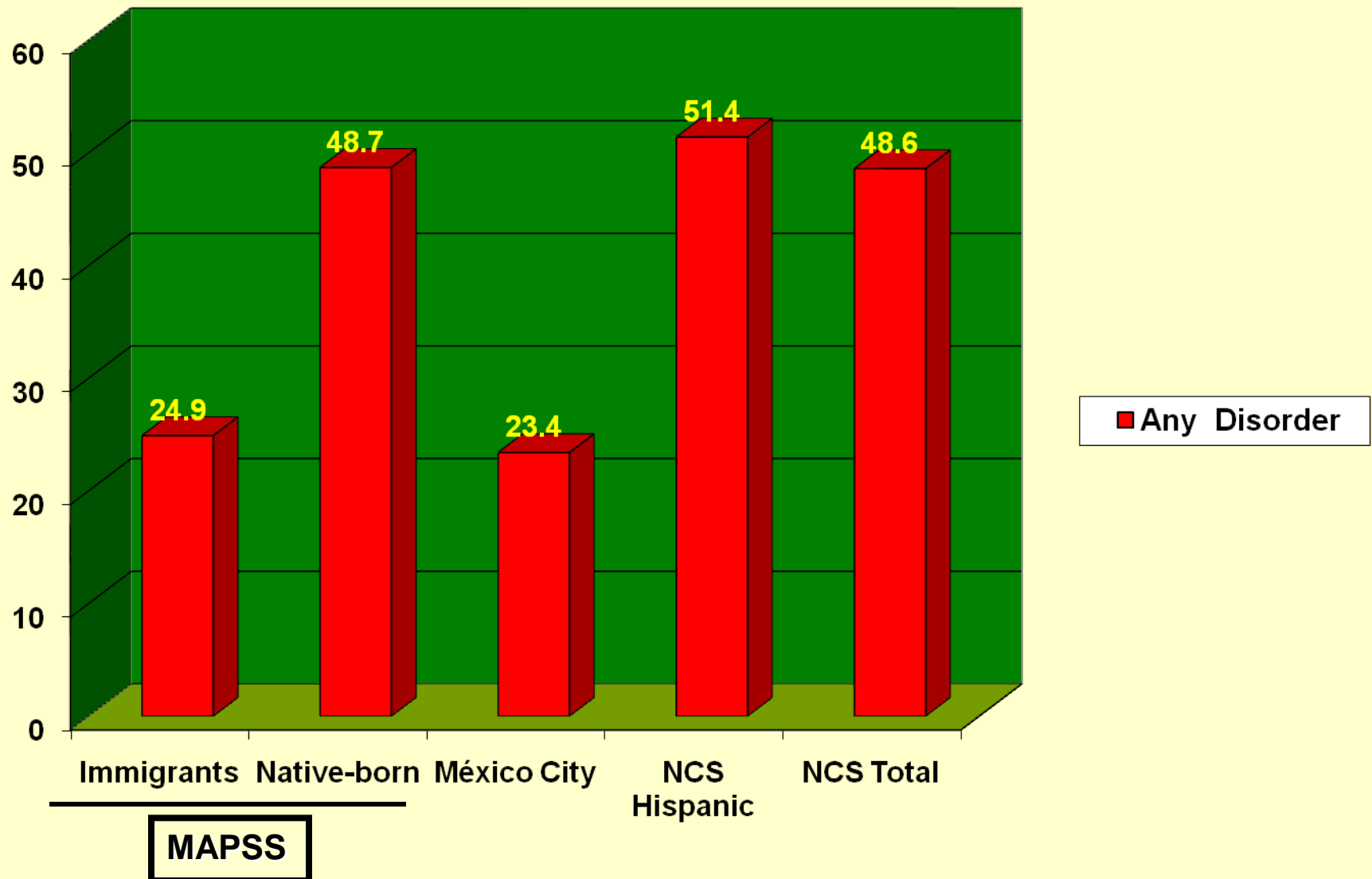
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Lifetime Prevalence of CIDI Disorders in MAPSS, Mexico City, and NCS

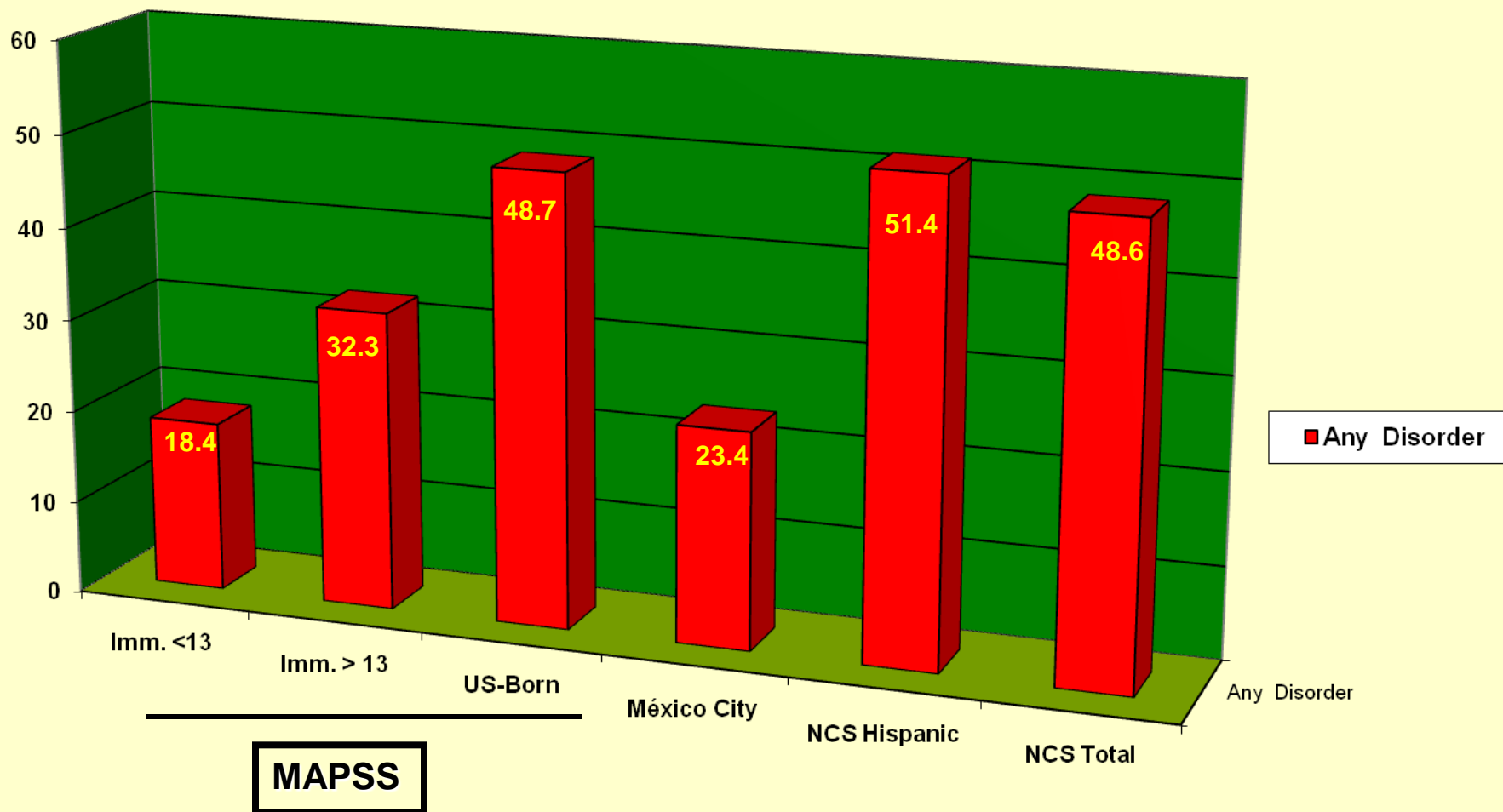


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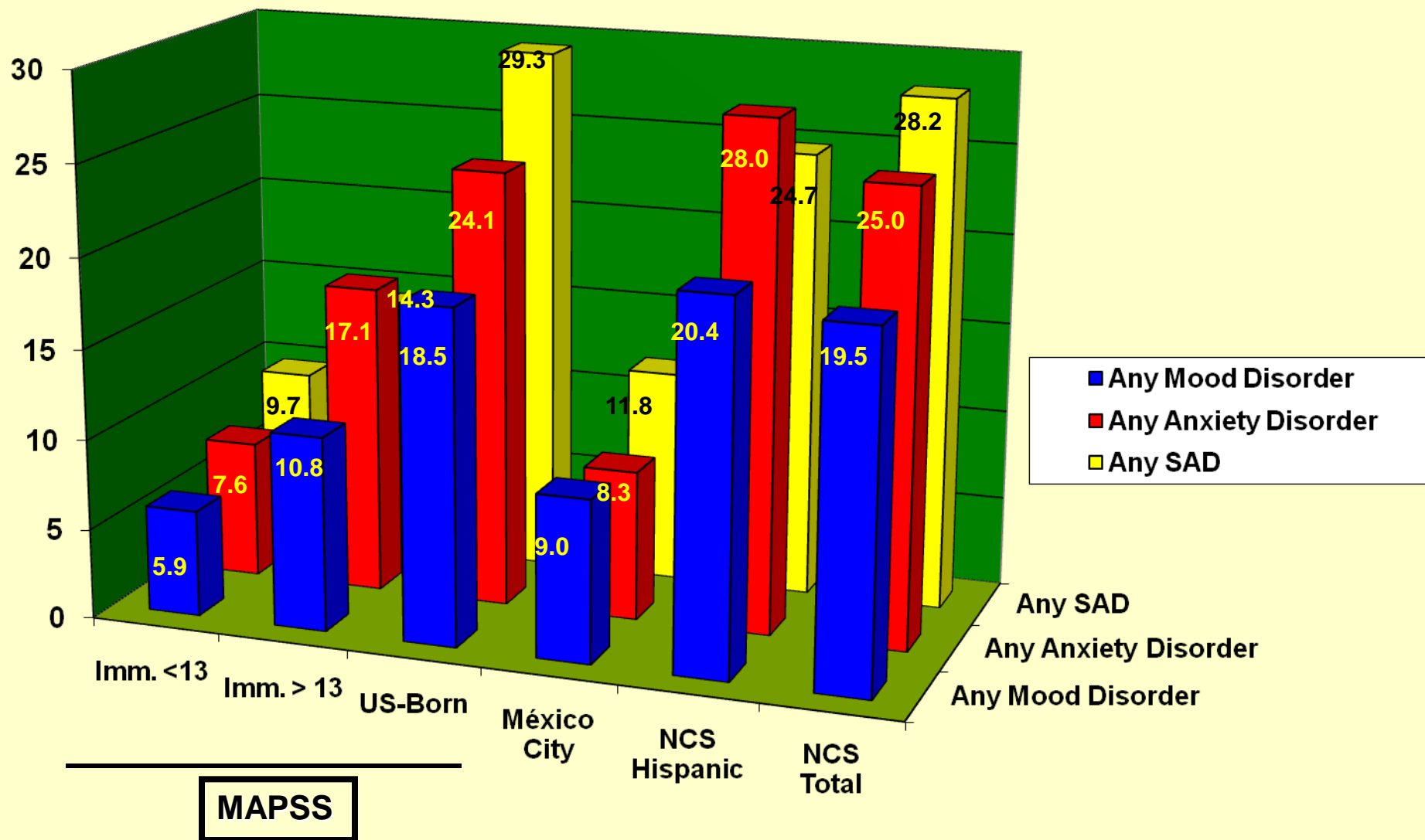
Lifetime Prevalence of CIDI Disorders in MAPSS, Mexico City, and NCS

MAPSS



Lifetime Prevalence of CIDI Disorders in MAPSS, México City, and NCS

MAPSS



NLAAS Lifetime Prevalence of Psychiatric Disorders*

- **For lifetime disorder:**

Whites: 43.2%

Latinos: 29.7%

- **Differences by Latino sub-ethnic group:**

Puerto Ricans: 37.4%

Mexicans: 29.5%

Cubans: 28.2%

Other Latinos: 27.0%

- **Differences by Latinos and nativity:**

US-born: 37.1%

Immigrants: 24.9%.

NLAAS Lifetime Prevalence of MDE and Substance Abuse for Latinos by Immigrant Status*

		White	Latino	PR	Cuban	Mexican	Other Latino
MDE	US-Born	26.9	18.6	20.2	17.9	19.2	16.2
	Immigrant	17.5	13.4	17.6	18.5	11.8	14.1
Sub. Use	US-Born	26.4	20.4	15.9	20.9	21.4	20.4
	Immigrant	13.6	7.0	11.1	6.4	7.0	5.7

* Adjusted for age, sex, education & income

Source: Alegria et al., 2008; Cook, 2009



Beyond Nativity

- Past studies are not consistent regarding risk of psychopathology for U.S. Latinos by nativity
- Possibly due to differences across immigrants in:
 - age of arrival to the U.S.
 - length of residence in the U.S.
 - birth-cohort differences
- Current studies are looking at **age of arrival, time in the U.S.**, and **cohort effects** on the risk of onset of psychiatric disorders

MAPSS

RATES OF SERVICE UTILIZATION

- 37.5% of **U.S. born** received care
- 15.4% of **immigrants** received care
- 9% of **migrant agricultural** workers received care

Lack of Engagement in Behavioral Healthcare

- Latinos are more likely than Non-Hispanic Whites to terminate treatment prematurely, with as many as 60–75% of Latinos dropping out after just one session.
- Only 57.1% of respondents in treatment in the NLAAS say they completed the treatment.
- Mode number of visits is 1 and median is 3 to both psychiatrists and psychologists.

The Good News

- Latinos, despite low income and many risk factors, are a very healthy population
- Many Latino immigrants come to the US with better health status than would be expected given their SES
- Cultural norms are protective health factors
- Latinos have very durable, transnational, family and social networks, and use these for meeting instrumental and emotional needs very effectively
- Healthy habits seem to contribute to good health outcomes.
- Need to reinforce these behaviors (*la cultura cura*).