Breakout Session: A Deeper Dive on ACEs and Family Resilience for Latinx and Native Populations

March 12th, 2020
Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention Grantee Meeting

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Quinton Smith, MSW
UNC School of Social Work
Our Goal for Today:
Create a space to have a conversation, guided by evidence, about how race and racism intersects with ACEs, family resilience, and health.
Keep in Mind

1. Group averages vs. individual experiences

2. Evidence-based practice must include: evidence, clinical expertise, and client preferences

3. Confronting racism and oppression can be challenging personally and professionally
• Provide best available evidence regarding ACE exposure for children who are Latinx* and American Indian or Alaska Native (AI/AN)**

• Examine the theories and historical context relating to resilience among Latinx and AI/AN families

*We use the term Latinx as a gender-neutral term as an alternative to Latino/a for individuals with Latin American origin or ancestry. The National Survey of Children’s Health uses the term “Hispanic”

**We use the AI/AN to refer individuals who belong to indigenous groups for their origin or ancestry. This is the term used in the National Survey of Children’s Health
“Latinx” and “American Indian/Alaska Native” groups are not monolithic, contain numerous subgroups and cultures

Major shifts in the overall race/ethnic demographics of children in the United States

Particularly large increases in Latinx population

No overall large expected change in American Indian/Alaska Native population, continued marginalization

Demographic shifts reflect children at risk for maltreatment and child welfare-involved population
Number of people of each age by race/ethnicity, 2018

- **White**: 58 yrs
- **Most common age in 2018 among whites**

Source: Pew Research Center
US Census Bureau population estimates as of July 2018
Where are American Indian/Alaska Native and Latinx Populations Geographically Located?
America’s Racial Kaleidoscope: Counties where minorities are overrepresented, 2010

Source: 2010 U.S. census.
What do we know about child maltreatment rates among American Indian/Alaska Native and Latinx children?
Child Maltreatment Data (NCANDS National Data)

Total Number of Victims by Race/Ethnicity

- **White**: 450,000 in 2001, 300,000 in 2018
- **Hispanic**: 150,000 in 2001, 100,000 in 2018
- **African-American**: 225,000 in 2001, 150,000 in 2018
- **AI/AN**: 25,000 in 2001, 25,000 in 2018
What do we know about ACE exposure among American Indian/Alaska Native and Latinx children?
NSCH ACEs by Child Age

% with at least 1 ACE

Child Age (years)

Hispanic  AI/AN  Total
NSCH ACEs by Type

- Hispanic:
  - Income: 24.0%
  - Divorce: 25.3%
  - Jail: 7.2%
  - IPV: 5.3%
  - MH: 4.3%
  - Drug: 5.9%

- AI/AN:
  - Income: 33.9%
  - Divorce: 35.5%
  - Jail: 21.3%
  - IPV: 15.6%
  - MH: 9.2%
  - Drug: 11.4%
  - Disc: 10.0%
NSCH Resilience – When your family faces problems....

- Talk About
- Work Together
- Strengths
- Hopeful

Hispanic

- Talk About: 55%
- Work Together: 55%
- Strengths: 55%
- Hopeful: 40%

AI/AN

- Talk About: 50%
- Work Together: 45%
- Strengths: 50%
- Hopeful: 40%
Lack of Representation of American Indian/Alaska Native in ACEs Research

**Adverse Childhood Experiences and the Risk of Premature Mortality**

David W. Brown, DSc, MScPH, MSc, Robert F. Anda, MD, MSc, Henning Tiemeier, PhD, Vincent J. Felitti, MD, Valerie J. Edwards, PhD, Janet B. Croft, PhD, Wayne H. Giles, MD, MSc

**Prevalence of Adverse Childhood Experiences From the 2011-2014 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System in 23 States**

Melissa T. Merrick, PhD; Derek C. Ford, PhD; Katie A. Ports, PhD; Angie S. Guinn, MPH

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race/ethnicity</th>
<th>Count</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>12,683</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>767</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>1,875</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>1,218</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>365</td>
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<table>
<thead>
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<th>Count</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>73,343</td>
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<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>3,939</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>3,357</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multiracial</td>
<td>1,757</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>3,972</td>
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What do we know about the experiences and culture of American Indian/Alaska Native and Latinx families related to risk and resilience?
Some Questions We’ll Explore

• How do we bring the disparities in ACE exposure among Latinx and AI/AN families into greater sociocultural context?

• Are there any models that might explain how these families experience the stress associated with ACEs and life through a contextually aware lens?

• How might these families exercise resilience to deal with ACE-related disparities?
Systemic Racism Negatively Effects Latinx & AI/AN People Too

- Education
- Employment
- Wealth
- Physical Health
- Mental Health
- Housing
- & more...
Racism Against Latinx People

WE SERVE WHITE'S only
NO SPANISH or MEXICANS
Transgenerational Transmission of Historical Trauma

Kirmayer, Gone, & Moses, 2014
Expanding Our Idea of ACEs

• Original Kaiser/CDC study was inadequate for historically marginalized communities.
  – Mostly White, college-educated, middle-income respondents

• The Philadelphia Study (Anda & Felitti, 1998)
  – Done FOR CDC/Kaiser
  – N = 1784 diverse adults
  – Advocated for an expanded set of ACEs that included more community-level and culturally-based elements
  – Witnessing violence, ethnic-racial discrimination, adverse/unsafe neighborhood experiences, being bullied, and living in foster care
  – Almost 40% of the responded experienced 4 or more of these expanded ACEs
Building Community Resilience Pair of ACEs Tree

The Pair of ACEs

Adverse Childhood Experiences

- Maternal Depression
- Physical & Emotional Neglect
- Emotional & Sexual Abuse
- Divorce
- Substance Abuse
- Mental Illness
- Domestic Violence
- Incarceration
- Homelessness

Adverse Community Environments

- Poverty
- Violence
- Discrimination
- Community Disruption
- Lack of Opportunity, Economic Mobility & Social Capital
- Poor Housing Quality & Affordability

acculturation

noun

assimilation to a different culture, typically the dominant one.
"the process of acculturation may impact both social and psychological well-being"
The Family Stress Model - Original

Conger et al; 2010; Early Intervention Foundation, n.d.
The Family Stress Model – Current Usage for Latinx Families

Acculturation Stressors (i.e., discrimination, neighborhood risk, etc.)

- Economic pressure
- Parent psychological distress
- Interparental conflict
- Parenting problems
- Child and adolescent problems

Risk or protective factors

Conger et al; 2010; Early Intervention Foundation, n.d.; Lorenzo-Blanco et al., 2016
“Indigenist” Stress-Coping Model

Figure 1. Indigenist stress-coping model

Walters, Simoni, & Evans-Campbell, 2002
What makes a sturdy tree?
### Original and Expanded Family Resilience Theory as Applied to Acculturation Gaps

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Process</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Family belief systems</td>
<td>a. Making meaning of adversity</td>
<td>Normalize/contextualize adversity; view as meaningful/ manageable; seek explanations</td>
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<td></td>
<td>b. Positive outlook</td>
<td>Hope and optimism; encouragement</td>
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<td>d. Open-mindedness</td>
<td>Being open to cultural differences</td>
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<td>e. Family first</td>
<td>Prizing family above any querulous gaps</td>
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<td>f. Acceptance</td>
<td>Cognitively tolerating reality of differences</td>
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<td>2. Family organizational patterns</td>
<td>a. Flexibility</td>
<td>Open to change; authoritative leadership</td>
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<td>b. Connectedness</td>
<td>Mutual support, collaboration, &amp; commitment; respect for individual needs and differences</td>
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<td>c. Social/economic resources</td>
<td>Social networks; mentors; financial security</td>
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<td>d. Selective member involvement</td>
<td>Involving only the family members for whom the gap is causing tension to navigate the gap</td>
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<td>e. Mediators</td>
<td>Using impartial members to navigate gap</td>
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<td></td>
<td>f. Understanding &amp; respecting limits</td>
<td>Refraining from practices that go against other family members’ underlying cultural values</td>
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<td>3. Family communication and effective problem solving processes</td>
<td>a. Clear, congruent messages</td>
<td>Clear, consistent words/actions; clarify ambiguity</td>
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<td></td>
<td>b. Open emotional expression</td>
<td>Share full range of feelings with family; mutual empathy and tolerance</td>
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<td></td>
<td>c. Collaborative problem-solving</td>
<td>Creative brainstorming; shared decisions/conflict resolution; goals focus/proactive stance</td>
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<td></td>
<td>d. Discussion</td>
<td>Engaging in multisided conversation about gaps</td>
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<td>e. Humor</td>
<td>Jokes to avoid arguments or share expectations</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>f. Empathy</td>
<td>Awareness of the strain gaps can cause others Avoiding or minimizing potential for gaps</td>
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Buckingham & Brodsky, 2015
The Protective Rainbow – AI/AN Families

- Ethos & Values
- Religion & Spirituality
- Language
- Extended Family
- Responses from Culture
- Sense of Humor
- Moving Forward to the Seventh Generation
A COMMON ELEMENT OF FAMILIAL RESILIENCE ACROSS BLACK, LATINX, AND AMERICAN INDIAN/ALASKAN NATIVES?
A COMMON ELEMENT OF FAMILIAL RESILIENCE ACROSS BLACK, LATINX, AND AMERICAN INDIAN/ALASKAN NATIVES?

CULTURE & IDENTITY!
FOR MORE BOUNTIFUL FRUIT*

*VS UNFED TREES