



The Relationship between Acculturation Factors and Maternal Resiliency among Latina Women

**Findings from the 2007 Los Angeles Mommy and Baby Survey
(LAMBS)**

Fathima Wakeel, PHDc, MPH, Luu Doan, MPH, , Eunice Muthengi MSW, Angie Denisse Otiniano MPH, Michael Lu MD, MPH, Erin Rains, Yvonne Lau MPH, RD, Chandra Higgins MPH, Giannina Donatoni PhD, MPH, Marian Eldahaby, Margaret Chao PhD, MPH, Cynthia Harding MPH, Karen Coller PhD, MPH, Diana Ramos MD, Cathleen Bemis

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Overview



- Background and significance
- Research Questions
- Results
- Discussion
- Strengths
- Limitations
- Implications



Background and Significance

- Higher rates of preterm births among Latinas
- Acculturation associated with negative health and pregnancy outcomes for minorities
- Acculturation often operationalized as nativity, primary language spoken at home, and length of residence in a given country



Background and Significance (cont)

- Maternal resiliency is proposed protect against negative birth outcomes (i.e. LBW and PTB).
- To date, maternal resiliency has not been adequately conceptualized, measured, or even examined in the literature.
- Further research is needed to determine the correlations between acculturation and maternal resiliency factors among Latinas.



Research Question

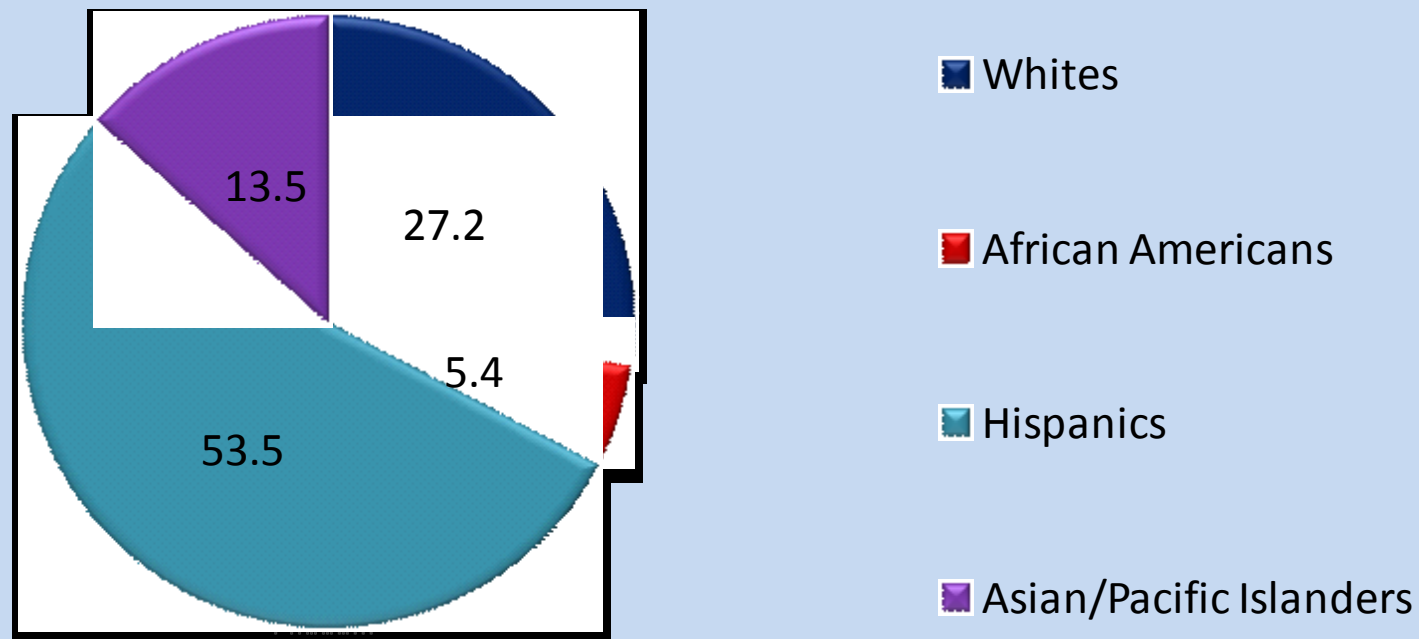
What is the relationship between acculturation and maternal resiliency factors among Latinas in Los Angeles County?



Methods: Sample Description

- N in analysis = 563 Latinas

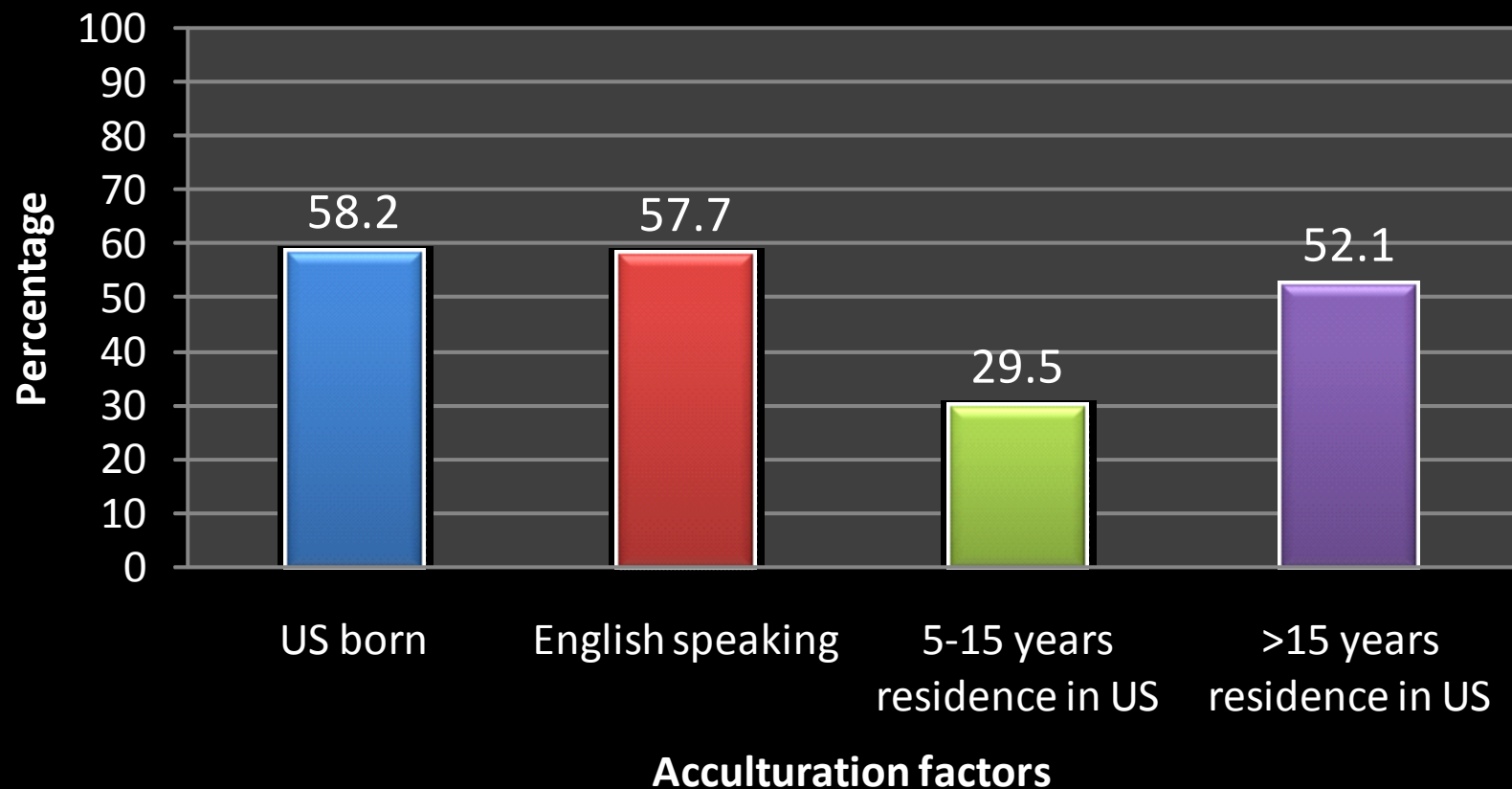
Race/ethnic distribution of LAMB study respondents



Methods: Sample Description (cont)



LAMB Latinas by acculturation factors



Methods: Variable Description

- Maternal resiliency was operationalized as a construct consisting of personal, social and spiritual resources.
- Personal resources: self-esteem, mastery
- Social resources: partner support, social network support, and neighborhood support
- Spiritual resources: spirituality

Methods: Variable description (cont)



- Maternal resiliency is proposed to consist of components existing on multiple ecological pathways.

Exosystem (community)

NEIGHBORHOOD
SUPPORT

Mesosystem (interpersonal)

PARTNER
SUPPORT

SOCIAL
NETWORK
SUPPORT

SPIRITUALITY

Microsystem (Individual)

SELF ESTEEM

MASTERY

SPIRITUALITY



Methods – Variable Description (cont)

PERSONAL RESOURCES

- **Self-esteem** (Rosenberg scale):
 - I feel that I'm a person of worth, at least on an equal plane with others.
 - I am able to do things as well as most other people.
 - On the whole, I am satisfied with myself.
- **Mastery** (Pearlin scale):
 - I have little control over the things that happen to me.*
 - There is really no way I can solve some of the problems I have. *
 - Sometimes I feel I am being pushed around in life.*
 - I can do just about anything I really set my mind to do.



Methods – Variable Description (cont)

SOCIAL RESOURCES

- **Partner relational support** (Fragile Families Study) – Partner....
 - Was fair and willing to compromise when you had a disagreement.
 - Showed affection or love for you.
 - Encouraged or helped you to do things that were important to you.
- **Partner emotional and instrumental support** (Fragile Families Study): Partner....
 - Gave you money or bought things for you?
 - Helped you in other ways, such as taking you to the doctor or helping with chores?
 - Gave you emotional support in labor?
 - Visited you and the baby at the hospital after the delivery?
 - Wanted to put his name on the baby's birth certificate as the father?
 - Said he wanted to help you raise your child in the coming years?



Methods – Variable Description (cont)

SOCIAL RESOURCES (cont)

- **Social network support** (Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System) – How often do you get these kinds of support?
 - Someone to loan me \$50
 - Someone to help me if I were sick and needed to be in bed.
 - Someone to take me to the clinic or doctor if I needed a ride
 - Someone to give me a place to live
 - Someone to help me with household chores
 - Someone to talk to about my problems

Methods: Variable Description (cont)



SOCIAL RESOURCES (cont)

- **Neighborhood social cohesion and trust** (Project on Human Development in Chicago Neighborhoods) – People in the neighborhood...
 - Are willing to help their neighbors.
 - This is a close-knit neighborhood.
 - Can be trusted.
 - Generally don't get along with each other.
 - Do not share the same values.
- **Neighborhood reciprocal exchange** (PHDCN) – How often do your neighbors...
 - Do favors for each other?
 - Ask each other advice about personal things such as child rearing or job openings?
 - Have parties or other get-togethers where other people in the neighborhood are invited?
 - Visit in each other's homes or on the street?
 - Watch over each other's property?

Methods: Variable Description (cont)



SPIRITUAL RESOURCES

- **Spirituality** (LAMB team) –
 - How much was your religion involved in understanding or dealing with stressful situations during your last pregnancy?

Methods: Variable Description (cont)



Acculturation factors :

- Nativity – US born vs. foreign born
- Primary language spoken at home – English-speaking vs. non-English speaking
- Length of residence in US – Short term (<5 yrs)
long term (5-15 years) and very long-term (>15 yrs)

Methods: Data Analysis

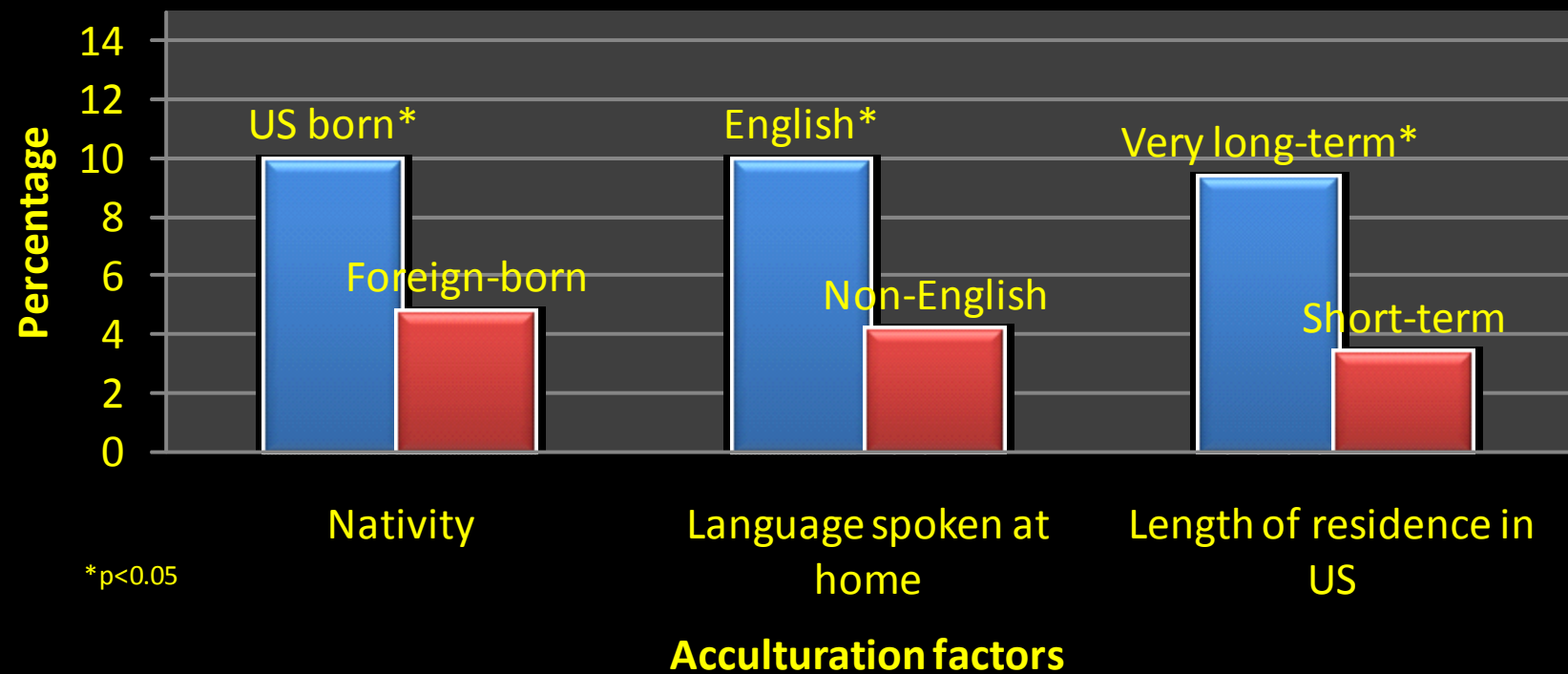


- Pearson's chi square test used to determine if:
 - Maternal resiliency among Latinas varied by level of acculturation.
- Maternal resiliency variables were dichotomized as “higher” and “lower” resiliency:
 - responses of 1 and 2 = lower resiliency
 - responses of 3,4 and 5 = higher resiliency (responses of “3” removed if “neutral”)

Results – Partner Support and Acculturation



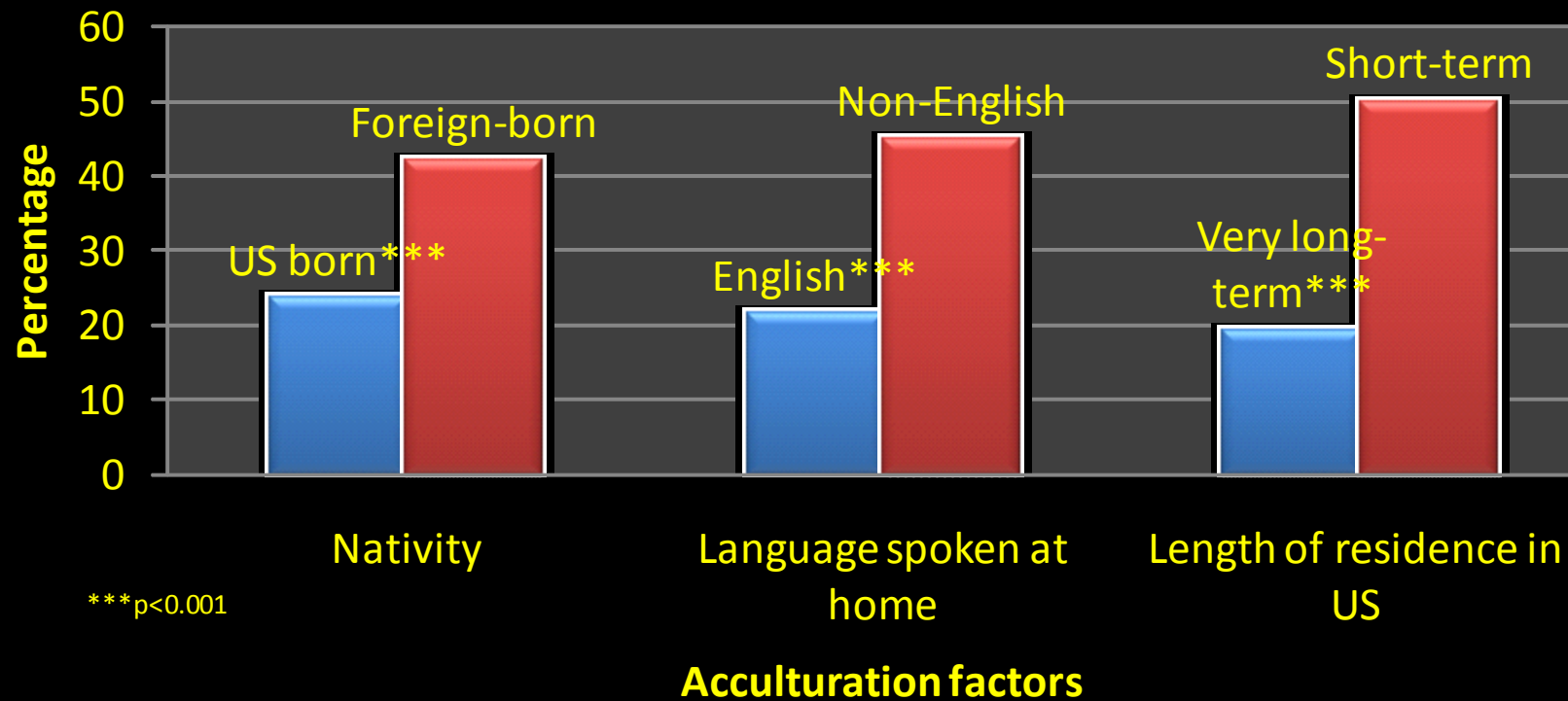
Low partner relational support by acculturation



Results – Social Network Support and Acculturation



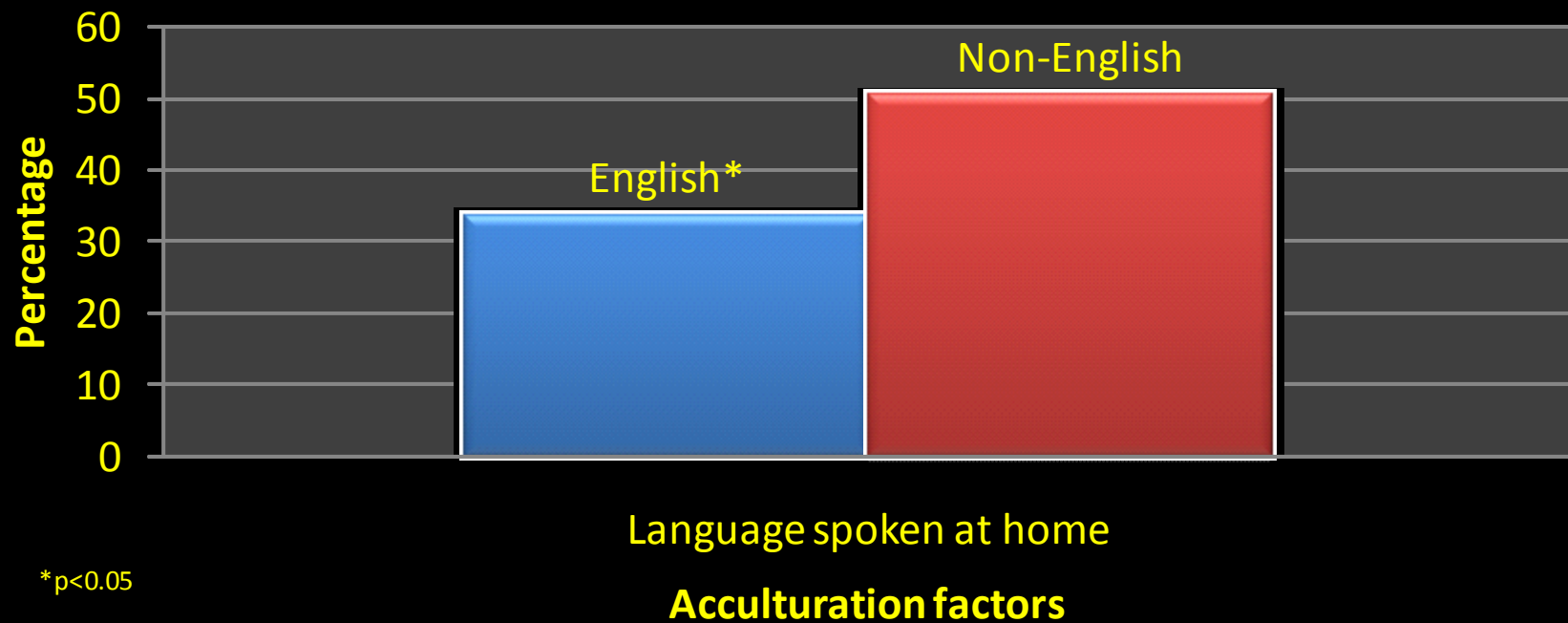
Low social network support by acculturation



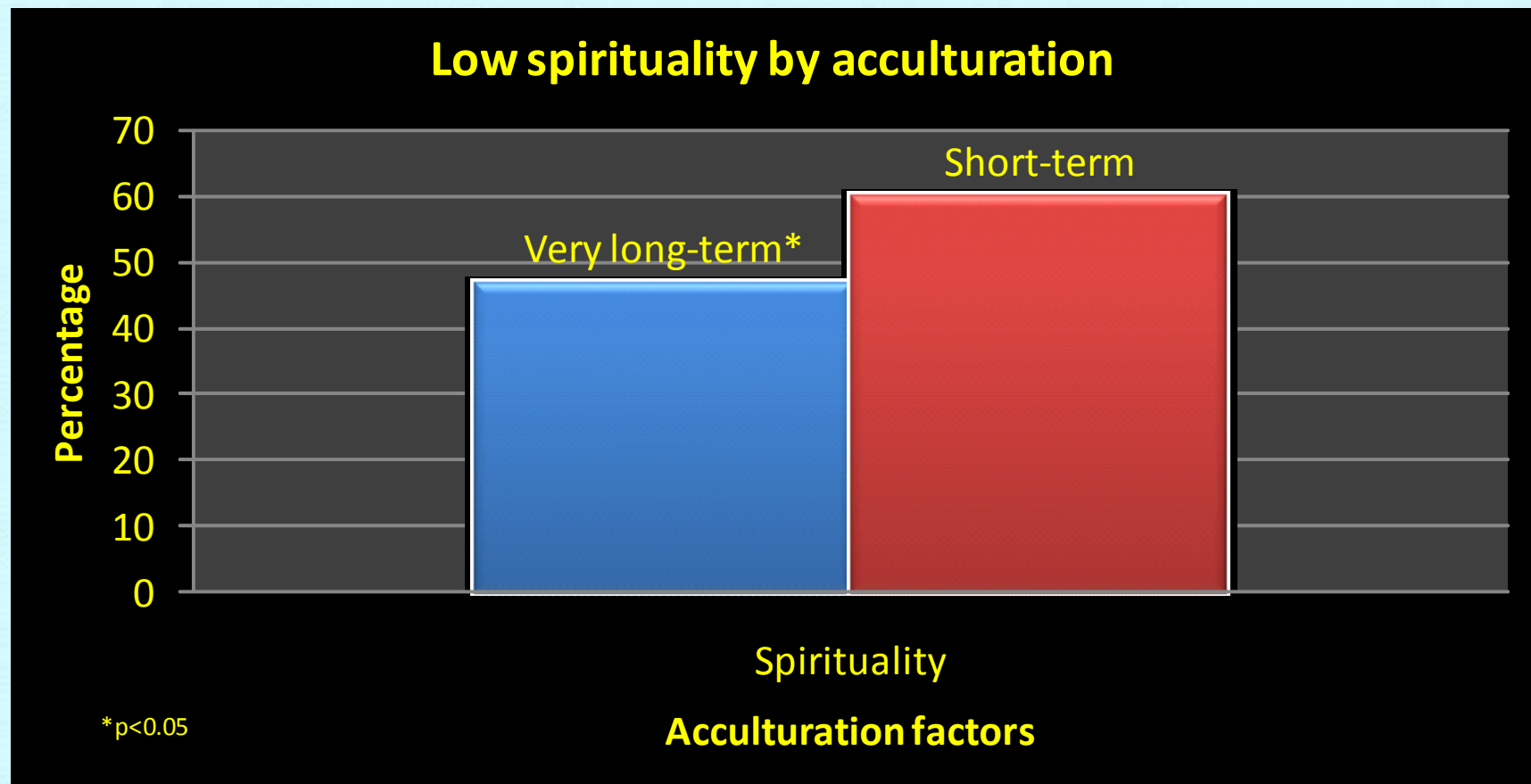
Results – Neighborhood support and acculturation



Low neighborhood social cohesion and trust by acculturation



Results - Spirituality and Acculturation



Results – Summary



- Latinas who spoke only English at home, were born in the US, and lived in the US for >15 years reported:
 - LOWER partner support scores (unadjusted OR=1.69-4.35, $p<0.05$).
 - HIGHER social network support (unadjusted ORs= 2.35-4.18, $p<0.001$).
- English speakers had higher neighborhood social cohesion & trust scores (unadjusted OR=2.01, $p<0.05$).
- Length of residence in the US was positively correlated with higher spirituality scores (unadjusted OR=1.70-1.89, $p<0.05$).

Discussion



- Greater acculturation among Latinas was associated with lower partner support and higher social network support in sample.
- Results regarding partner support may be due to the trend that women who are more acculturated are less likely to be married.
- Findings regarding social network support may be attributed to the likelihood of more acculturated women possessing the resources and time in the US to develop viable social networks.

Strengths



- To our knowledge, this is the first study to examine the relationship between maternal resiliency and acculturation factors.
- Contributes to the field by highlighting complexity of maternal resiliency.
- LAMB sample contains a large Latina population that is likely to be representative of Latina population in LA county.

Limitations - Analysis



- Maternal resiliency variables were dichotomized in analysis; decreases accuracy.
- Analysis did not tap into diversity within Hispanic ethnicities.
- Acculturation and maternal resiliency measures confined to available information in LAMB instrument (i.e. only 1 item to measure spirituality)
- Measures of acculturation are unidimensional; assumes that acculturation is a unidimensional process
- Analysis did not control for the role of SES

Implications



Our findings warrant:

- Further research to explore intricacies in complex relationships between acculturation factors and maternal resiliency components
- Interventions to increase partner support among highly acculturated Latinas and social capital among less acculturated Latinas
- Future research to account for potential differences among various Hispanic ethnicities.

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University of California, Los Angeles

Michael Lu, Luu Doan, Eunice Muthengi, Angie Denisse Otiniano, Erin Rains

Further Information

- For further information, please visit www.LALamb.org
- Contact information
Munsifa8@hotmail.com



Citations



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