

# Substance Use Disorders in the Latino Population

## 4-Part Learning Series

### *Module 1:*

Alcohol Use Disorder Screening and Treatment

Presented By

Haner Hernandez, PhD, CPS, CADCII, LADCI

## Acknowledgment

Presented in 2023 by the National Hispanic and Latino Addiction Technology Transfer Center (ATTC) Network, National Latino Behavioral Health Association (NLBHA) P.O. Box 1360, Pena Blanca, NM 87041.

<https://attcnetwork.org/centers/national-hispanic-and-latino-attc/home>

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At the time of this publication, Miriam E. Delphin-Rittmon, Ph.D, served as Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the Administrator of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

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This work is supported by grants 5H79T1081174-04 from the Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

Presented 2023



The use of affirming language inspires hope and advances recovery.

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**LANGUAGE MATTERS.**

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**Words have power.**

**PEOPLE FIRST.**

The ATTC Network uses affirming language to promote the promises of recovery by advancing evidence-based and culturally informed practices.



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**Fredrick Sandoval, MPA**  
Executive Director  
NLBHA

# NLBHA's Mission

The Mission and Goal of The National Latino Behavioral Health Association is to influence national behavioral health policy, eliminate disparities in funding and access to services and improve the quality of services and treatment outcomes for Latino populations.



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# NLBHA's Objectives

NLBHA's Objective is to provide national leadership on mental health and substance abuse concerns of the Latino community. NLBHA's Policy Priorities are:

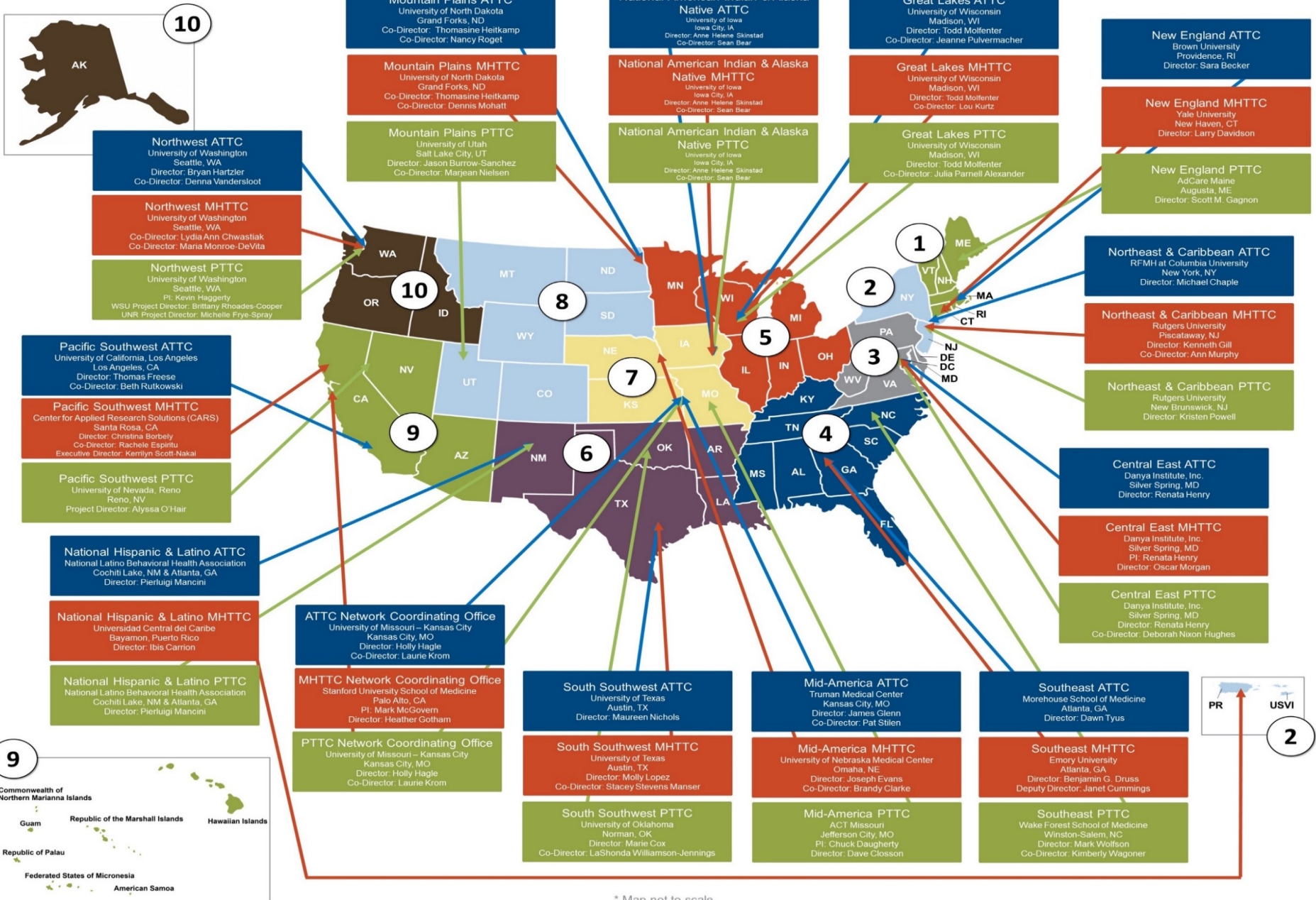
1. Targeted Capacity Expansion of Mental Health Services for Latinos
2. Latino Behavioral Health Evidenced-Based Practices
3. Legislation to increase the number of Counselors/Therapists/Other Behavioral Health Practitioners
4. Funding for Co-Occurring Disorders of Alcohol and Substance Abuse
5. Opioid Crisis in the Latino Community
6. Suicide Prevention



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\* Map not to scale.



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# National Hispanic and Latino ATTC Mission

The mission of the National Hispanic and Latino Addiction Technology Transfer Center is to provide high-quality training and technical assistance to improve the capacity of the workforce serving Hispanic and Latino communities in behavioral health, treatment, and recovery. We disseminate and support the implementation of evidence-based and promising practices to enhance service delivery, promote the growth of a diverse, culturally competent workforce, and bridge access to quality behavioral health services. We are committed to increasing health equity and access to effective culturally and linguistically grounded approaches.



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## Today's Presenter



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# Course Outline



Module 1. Alcohol and SUD Screening and Treatment



Module 2. Tobacco and SUD Screening and Treatment



Module 3. Opioids and SUD Screening and Treatment



Module 4. Stimulants and SUD Screening and Treatment



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# Module 1 Overview

- Introduction to SUD in the Latino Population
- Alcohol Use in the Latino Population
- Screening and Treatment of AUD in Latino Populations



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## Introduction- Substance Use Disorders (SUD) among the Latino population living in the United States

The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders 5 (DSM-5) defines SUD as a constellation of behaviors involved in compulsive drug seeking including impaired control of substance use, impaired social interactions with others because of substance use, risky drug use (e.g., substance use in hazardous settings), and pharmacological changes (e.g., experiencing withdrawal symptoms).



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# The factors determining SUD and addiction are multifactorial

## Public Health

In the U.S., the pattern of use changes according to the geographical area. While available across the US, methamphetamine availability is higher in the western and midwestern regions of the US. **More than 70 percent** of local law enforcement agencies from the Pacific and West Central regions of the US report methamphetamine as the greatest drug threat in their area.



## Epidemiological

Epidemiological patterns where in addition to the geographical differences, legal, ethnic, cultural, and socioeconomic factors **influence the development and progression of SUD and addiction.**

The Latino/Latinx\* (people of Latin American origin or descent\*) population living in the U.S. have been, like all ethnic groups, affected by the SUD health crisis.



## Substances

SUD is a global public health issue with significant socioeconomic implications in the communities affected. The prevalence of SUD is expected to continue increasing. **The most misused substances include alcohol, nicotine, marijuana, cocaine, and opioids.**



Artigiani et al., 2018



## Rates of illicit drug use

**Historically, overall rates of illicit drug use in the Latino population have been lower than those of Whites and Blacks.**

A closer examination of substance misuse prevalence within segments of the Latino population yields findings that differ regarding a variety of indicators, including country of origin, immigration status, gender, and age.

**For example,** studies have long demonstrated that substance use rates are generally higher for the U.S.-born Latino population than for immigrants and that these differences may manifest differently in ethnic sub-groups.





[Image from freestock](#)

## Question to consider

Do you believe people with substance use disorder should have the option to be treated while incarcerated?

*The substantial prison population in the United States is strongly connected to drug-related offenses. While the exact rates of inmates with substance use disorders (SUDs) is difficult to measure, some research shows that an estimated 65% percent of the United States prison population has an active SUD.*







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# Alcohol Use Disorder (AUD)



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# Gender and age differences

## Binge Drinking

The 2014 NSDUH showed that rates of previous 30-day binge and heavy drinking were highest among American Indian/Alaska Natives and lowest among Asian Americans.

## Prevalence

The prevalence of lifetime AUD has been reported to be also highest among American Indian/Alaska Natives, lowest among Asian Americans/Pacific Islanders, and was approximately 10% higher for Whites than for Blacks and Hispanics

SAMSHA, 2015  
Dawson et al., 2015  
Grant et al, 2015



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# Latino population and AUD

- Latinos from different national origins have shown differences in the pattern of alcohol use.
- Mexican Americans had the highest prevalence of alcohol dependence, volume of consumption, and youngest age at first drink compared to Puerto Ricans, Cuban Americans, and Central/South Americans.
- The odds of alcohol dependence were nearly 4 times greater among Hispanics with major depressive disorder (MDD) compared to Hispanics who did not meet the criteria for MDD.

Jetelina et al 2016



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# Acculturation on AUD

## Research findings on Latinos and AUD

Puerto Ricans, Cuban Americans, Mexican Americans, and South/Central Americans have not shown an association between acculturation and volume of drinking, binge drinking, or drinking 12 or more drinks in a single day among men.

Acculturation stress, however, was associated with drinking **12 or more drinks in a day** among men

Among women, high acculturation was associated with a higher volume of drinking, and it also impacted the overall group rate, increasing the likelihood of binge drinking.

Vaeth et al 2012; Caetano et al 2006  
Vaeth et al 2009; Caetano et al 2008





# Alcohol use in the last 12 months among Latinos

## Heterogeneity

Hispanic national group heterogeneity is also reflected in rates of **alcohol use in the last 12 months**, varying from 1.8% (Cuban Americans) to 5.6% (Mexican Americans) among men, and from 0.2% (South/Central Americans) to 1.1% (Cuban Americans) among women.

## Alcohol Misuse

Twelve-month rates for alcohol misuse among men vary from 5.3% (Cuban Americans) to 15.3% (Puerto Ricans). Among women, the rates range from 0.8% (South/Central Americans) to 6.4% (Puerto Ricans).





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# Females and males metabolize alcohol differently



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Chartier et al.2013  
McHugh et al.2017



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# Females and alcohol

§Alcohol use in pregnancy poses specific risks to a developing fetus and is linked with adverse perinatal outcomes, which are likely more common than previously reported. (Half of all pregnancies in the United States are unintended)

§A fetus may be exposed to alcohol in utero at important times in embryologic development even before a woman knows that she is pregnant

§Alcohol use during pregnancy is a leading, preventable cause of birth defects and developmental disabilities in the United States, with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS) being one of the most severe outcomes

§Other adverse health effects associated with alcohol use in pregnancy include miscarriage, preterm labor, intrauterine growth restriction, and stillbirth, which all add morbidity to any potential underlying disability

§Alcohol use in reproductive-aged women, and in pregnancy more specifically, remains a public health priority in the United States and abroad

Caetano and colleagues (2006)  
Morris et al. 2008; Tenkku et al. 2009).  
Russo et al. 2004  
CDC 2002



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# Etiology of alcohol use disorders: Sociocultural factors

- Alcohol is the most misused substance worldwide
  - Highest consumption in France, Spain, and Italy, where consumption is widely accepted
- Men consume more alcohol than women, but differences vary by country
  - Israel
    - Men drank 3x as much as women
  - Netherlands
    - Men drank 1.5x as much as women
- Availability
  - Usage is higher when alcohol and drugs are easily available
    - In 2003, drug use among youths who had been approached by drug dealers was 35 percent, compared to just under 7 percent among youths who had not been approached







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# Etiology of alcohol use disorders: Sociocultural factors

- Family factors
  - Parental alcohol use
  - Marital discord, psychiatric or legal problems in the family linked to substance use
  - Lack of emotional support from parents increases use of cigarettes, marijuana, and alcohol
  - Lack of parental monitoring linked to higher drug usage



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# Etiology of alcohol use disorders: Sociocultural factors

- Social network
  - *Social influence or social selection?*
  - Research evidence for both
    - Having peers who drink influences drinking behavior (*social influence*) but individuals also choose friends with drinking patterns similar to their own (*social selection*)
- Advertising and media
  - Countries that ban ads have 16% less consumption than those that don't





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# Screening and Treatment of AUD in Latino Populations



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# AUD screening tools

ALCOHOL USE DISORDERS IDENTIFICATION TEST (AUDIT)

SCREENING AND BEHAVIORAL COUNSELING INTERVENTIONS

ADULT SUBSTANCE USE SURVEY (ASUS)

TWEAK





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# CAGE screening technique

- The **CAGE**, a very brief **screening technique**, is probably the most widely used and promoted for the detection of **alcohol problems** in the United States.
- It's a series of four questions that doctors can use to check for signs of possible alcohol dependency, and it is one of the screening tools most consistently used among medical professionals to identify individuals likely to have substance use disorders.
- The patient is asked if he or she has ever had to **cut down** his or her use of alcohol or drugs or been **annoyed** by criticism of alcohol or drug use: **(cut-annoyed-guilty-eye)**. The **CAGE** is a simple screening **questionnaire** to identify potential problems with alcohol. Two "yes" responses are considered positive for males; one "yes" is considered positive for females.



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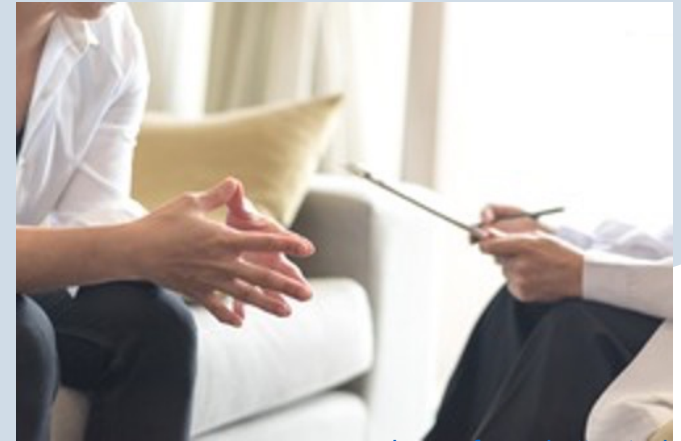
# U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-Approved Medications for alcohol addiction treatment

## Alcohol dependence

Disulfiram (Antabuse®), Acamprosate (Campral®)

Naltrexone (ReVia®, Vivitrol®)

Bupropion (Wellbutrin®, Zyban®)



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**Naltrexone** is a medication approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to treat both **alcohol use disorder (AUD)** and **opioid use disorder (OUD)**.

Naltrexone is a morphine derivative that acts as a **competitive antagonist at opioid receptors  $\mu$ ,  $\delta$  and  $\kappa$** . Naltrexone can either displace opioid agonists from binding at these receptors or prevent opioid binding. Blockade of opioid receptors by naltrexone is a competitive phenomenon and results in the elimination of the euphoric effect of opioids.





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# First Module Summary

## Here is what we learned

### 1.) Knowledge reminder

The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders 5 (DSM-5) defines SUD as a constellation of behaviors involved in compulsive drug seeking including impaired control of substance use, impaired social interactions with others because of substance use, risky drug use (e.g., substance use in hazardous settings), and pharmacological changes (e.g., experiencing withdrawal symptoms).

### 2.) Knowledge reminder

The prevalence of SUD is expected to continue increasing. The most misused substances include alcohol, nicotine, marijuana, cocaine, and opioids.

### 3.) Knowledge reminder

The CAGE is a very brief screening technique. It is probably the most widely used and promoted for the detection of alcohol problems in the United States.



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**Substance Use Disorders  
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4-Part Learning Series  
Module 2:  
Tobacco and SUD  
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