

## INTRODUCTION

- Latinos experience disparate negative consequences from substance use disorders, including intimate partner violence, incarceration, homelessness, and medical ailments.
- Substance abuse health disparities are on the rise among Latina women, partly because the risk and protective processes determining these health risk behaviors among adult Latinas remain relatively unknown.
- Non-medical use of prescription drugs is defined as the use of medications without a prescription, self-medicating beyond the prescribed dosage, or use of medications for recreational purposes (SAMHSA, 2009).
- Among Latinos non-medical prescription sedative use (hereafter NPSU) has been reported to be more common among adults who reported abuse of other drugs (Becker, Fiellin, & Desai, 2007).
- Few studies have examined differences in prevalence rates of NPSU by ethnic minorities across age groups by gender.
- Latinos represent the largest and fastest growing minority in the U.S. (Bernstein & Edwards, 2008); better understanding of their drug use/abuse is a critical public health concern.

## AIMS

- Identify correlates of non-medical prescription sedative, tranquilizer, and hypnotics use among a community based sample of adult Latina mother-daughter dyads.
- Given the importance of mother-daughter relationship and its correlation with substance abuse among young women (Valdez, Mikow, & Cepeda, 2006; Schinke, Fang, & Cole, 2009), the current study examined correlations between NPSU among adult Latina mothers and daughters.
- Examine changes in NPSU from baseline to five year follow-up assessment.

## METHODS

### Sample

The present study utilized a convenience sample of 240 substance using and non-using adult Latina participants enrolled in an ongoing longitudinal study of intergenerational transmission of drug abuse and HIV/AIDS risk behaviors in South Florida.

### Measures

- **Demographics:** age, education, personal income level, and time in the U.S., among others.
- **Spanish Language Proficiency:** Assessed using *Spanish Language Proficiency* scale (Félix-Ortiz et al., 1994).  $\alpha = .90$  (mothers) and  $.91$  (daughters).
- **Health Insurance Status:** Participants were asked a single question to determine health insurance status 12 months prior to assessment
- **Perceived Health Status:** A single question (*How would you rate your health status? 5 = Excellent, 4 = Very Good, 3 = Good, 2 = Fair, 1 = Poor*) was used to assess perceived health status at assessment.
- **Wellness:** Sum of 7 items measuring behaviors a participant engages in to maintain her wellbeing.
- **Alcohol Use Frequency:** The *Health and Daily Living Form* (Billings, Cronkite, & Moos, 1984) was used to assess alcohol frequency 12 months prior to assessment.
- **Non-medical Prescription Sedative Use and Illicit Drug Use:** The *Drug Use Frequency* measure (O'Farrell, Fals-Stewart, & Murphy, 2003) was used to assess frequency of nonmedical use of sedatives as well as illicit drug use during the 12 months prior to assessment. Both variables were recoded dichotomously (*1=used drugs in past 12 months; 0= did not use drugs in past 12 months*).

### Analysis

Logistic regression analysis adjusting for repeated measure (generalized estimating equation model) was used to assess associations with non-medical prescription sedative use. Adjusted odds ratios and their 95% confidence intervals were obtained.

## RESULTS

TABLE 1: Descriptive Statistics

Variable	Mean (SD) or % Baseline	Mean (SD) or % Follow-Up
Age (in years)	39.29	45.03
Household income <sup>a</sup>	5.71(3.26)	6.06(3.32)
Education level <sup>b</sup>	3.48 (2.30)	4.15(2.50)
Spanish language proficiency	9.57(2.31)	9.74(2.34)
Percentage of time in U.S.	58%	64%
Health insurance status	<b>Yes=57.3%</b> <b>No=42.7%</b>	<b>Yes=58.3%</b> <b>No=41.7%</b>
Perceived health status <sup>c</sup>	3.32 (1.13)	2.57 (1.01)
Wellness <sup>d</sup>	27.11 (6.25)	28.30 (7.68)
Alcohol use frequency- 12 months prior <sup>e</sup>	2.32 (1.15)	2.30 (1.37)
Illicit drug use-12 months prior	<b>Yes=28.2%</b> <b>No=71.8%</b>	<b>Yes=16%</b> <b>No=84%</b>
Non-medical prescription sedative use-12 months prior	<b>Yes=26.2%</b> <b>No=73.8%</b>	<b>Yes=8.4%</b> <b>No=91.6%</b>

Note. <sup>a</sup>1 = \$0 to 4999, 2 = \$5000 to 9999, 3 = \$10000 to 14999, 4 = \$15000 to 19999, 5 = \$20000 to 24999, 6 = \$25000 to 29999, 7 = \$30,000 to 34,999, 8 = \$35,000 to 39,999, 9 = \$40,000 to 49,999, 10 = \$45,000 to 49,999, 11 = \$50,000 or more.; <sup>b</sup>1 = less than high school, 2 = high school diploma or equivalent, 3 = post high school training, 4 = bachelor's degree, 5 = graduate degree; <sup>c</sup> 5 = Excellent, 4 = Very Good, 3 = Good, 2 = Fair, 1 = Poor; <sup>d</sup> 1=never, 2=rarely, 3=occasionally, 4=frequently, 5=always; <sup>e</sup> 1= never, 2=several times, 3=about once per month, 4=several times per month; 5=1 to 2 days per week, 6=3 to 4 days per week, 7=5 to 6 days per week; 8=everyday.

TABLE 2: Correlates of Non-medical Prescription Sedative Use Among Adult Latina Women

Variable	Odds ratio	95% CI	p-value
Baseline vs. 5 Year Follow up	0.25	(0.15,0.43)	$p < .0001$
Age	1.02	(1.00,1.04)	$p = 0.02$
Illicit drug use	4.38	(2.32, 8.26)	$p < .0001$
Wellness	0.96	(0.92, 1.00)	$p = 0.03$

## DISCUSSION

- Study findings suggest that as women age and their wellness behaviors decrease, risk for NPSU may increase.
- There was an overall decrease in the sedative use from baseline to five year follow-up, however women that used illicit drugs were 4 times more likely to engage in NPSU.
- No significant correlations were found between mother and daughter in NPSU outcome.
- Study implications suggest that because the majority of prescription drug abusers obtain drugs from a family member (ONDCP, 2011), community education programs targeting proper management, storage, and disposal of sedatives may be implemented in communities with high rates of abuse.
- Implications for health practitioners include screening women who are poly-substance users that may not be screened for NPSU. This is especially important because women's NPSU during their reproductive years may also have serious negative health consequences for their offspring.

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