

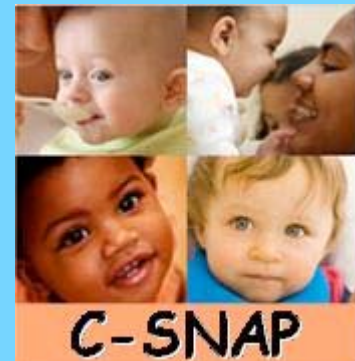
Food Security, Poverty, and Disparities in Child Health in Latino Families

John T. Cook, PhD, MAEd

Boston Medical Center

Center for Elimination of Health Disparities in Latinos

January 23, 2009



Children's Sentinel Nutrition Assessment Program (C-SNAP)

- A research center made up of a national network of pediatric clinicians and public health specialists for research on the effects of U.S. social policy on young, low-income children's health and nutrition. Research sites are located in:
 - **Little Rock, AR, Boston, MA, Baltimore, MD, Minneapolis, MN, Philadelphia, PA (Active)**
 - **Los Angeles, CA, Washington, D.C. (Inactive)**
 - **www.c-snap.org**



C-SNAP Scientists/Collaborators/Colleagues

- **Deborah A. Frank, MD (Boston)**
- **Maureen Black, PhD (Baltimore)**
- **John Cook, PhD (Boston)**
- **Mariana Chilton, PhD (Philadelphia)**
- **Carol Berkowitz, MD (Los Angeles)**
- **Patrick Casey, MD, MPH (Little Rock)**
- **Diana Cutts, MD (Minneapolis)**
- **Alan Meyers, MD, MPH (Boston)**
- **Nieves Zaldivar, MD (Washington, DC)**
- **Stephanie Ettinger de Cuba, MPH (Boston)**
- **Nicole Neault, MPH (Boston)**
- **Suzette Levenson, MPH, EdM (Boston)**
- **Timothy Heeren, PhD (Boston)**
- **Danielle Appugliese, MPH (Boston)**
- **Zhaoyan Yang, MS (Boston)**
- **Sharon Coleman, MS, MPH (Boston)**



SUPPORTED BY

Major funding: W.K. Kellogg
Foundation

Additional funding:

- Abell Foundation
- Anonymous Donor
- Candle Foundation
- Annie E. Casey Foundation
- Claneil Foundation
- Endurance Fund
- EOS Foundation
- Gold Foundation
- Gryphon Fund
- Hartford Foundation for
Public Giving
- Massachusetts Vitamin
Litigation Settlement Funds
- MAZON: A Jewish Response
to Hunger
- Minneapolis Foundation
- Daniel Pitino Foundation
- Project Bread: The Walk for
Hunger
- Sandpipers Foundation
- M&H Schaffer Foundation
- Sue Schiro & Peter Manus
- Anthony Spinazzola
Foundation
- Thomas Wilson Sanitarium for
Children of Baltimore

Presentation Overview

- Household Poverty & Food Insecurity
- Associations Between Food Security and Poverty, and Child Health and Development
- Factors Affecting Child Health
- Policy Issues and Recommendations



What is Food Security?

Way of Looking at Adequacy of Food Resources

- Conceptual Definition: “Food security—access by all people at all times to enough food for an active, healthy life—is one of several conditions necessary for a population to be healthy and well nourished.” (*Household Food Security in the United States, 2005 / ERR-29 Economic Research Service/USDA*)
- Measured using the 18-item US Food Security Scale (USDA/NCHS), scored and scaled in the usual manner
- C-SNAP research uses two food security variables:
 - A two-category household food security variable – household food secure versus household food insecure, and
 - A two-category child food security variable – child food secure versus child food insecure

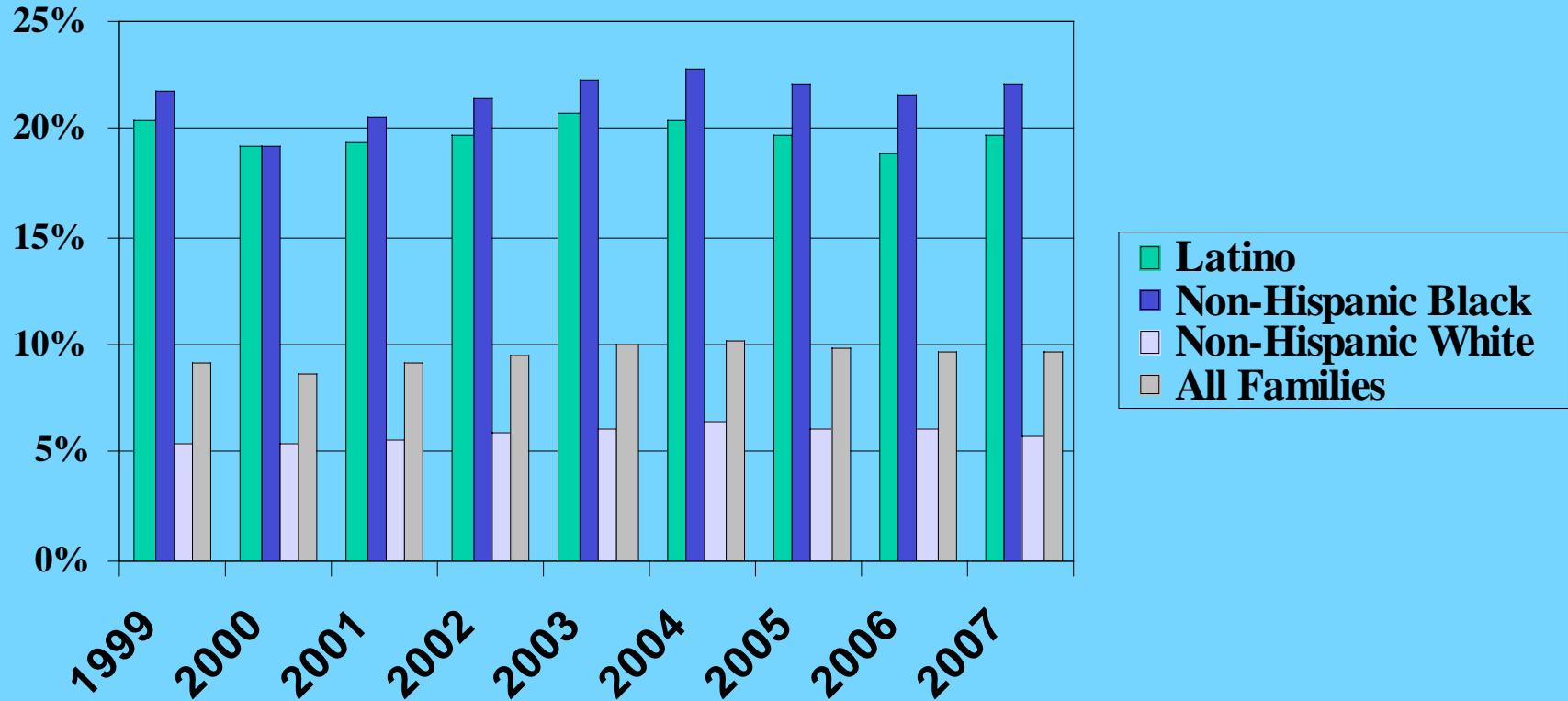
What we Have Learned About Ways Food Insecurity and Hunger are Bad for Children

1. Brain architecture/cognitive development harmed, in the perinatal period and early life, (0-3 yrs)
2. School-readiness harmed (0-5 yrs),
3. Learning, academic performance and educational attainment harmed (6-17 yrs)
4. Physical, mental, and social development, growth and health harmed (0-17 yrs)
5. Psychosocial, behavior and mental health, harmed (6-17 yrs)
6. Child health related quality of life; perceived functionality, efficacy and “happiness/satisfaction,” reduced (6-17 yrs)
7. Some, not yet clear associations with obesity (0-17 yrs)

What Influences Food Security?

1. Food insecurity and hunger in the US are mainly a result of insufficient household resources, low income or poverty,
 - Poverty is structurally built-into the U.S. economy.
 - But food insecurity is not the same as poverty.
2. Poverty in the US is caused mainly by a lack of sufficient jobs that pay living wages, and disparities in access to work supports and other safety-net programs.
 - U.S. economy is in recession; 11.1 million unemployed
 - Unemployment rates: 7.2%; 9.2% L, 11.9% B, 6.6% W
3. Costs are becoming more critical, in unfamiliar ways.
 - Energy – Crude oil prices are very unstable
 - Food – Prices of basic necessities are increasing worldwide
 - Housing – Crises in U.S. housing & financial markets

Proportion of U.S. Families with Incomes Below Poverty By Race/Ethnicity, 1999-2007*



*Includes households with and without children.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, various years.

Poverty Thresholds by Family Size and Number of Children Under Age 18 Years, 2007

Three persons.	16,218	16,689	16,705						
Four persons	21,386	21,736	21,027	21,100					
Five persons	25,791	26,166	25,364	24,744	24,366				
Six persons	29,664	29,782	29,168	28,579	27,705	27,187			
Seven persons	34,132	34,345	33,610	33,098	32,144	31,031	29,810		
Eight persons	38,174	38,511	37,818	37,210	36,348	35,255	34,116	33,827	
Nine persons or more	45,921	46,143	45,529	45,014	44,168	43,004	41,952	41,691	40,085

The Economic Self-sufficiency Measure Project

How much income is actually needed?

- Diana Pearce and *Wider Opportunities for Women*
- Estimates of economic self-sufficiency income levels for most states and counties within states
- Economic self-sufficiency income levels fall between 200% and 300% of the poverty thresholds (\$21,027 for family of 4 with 2 kids in 2007)

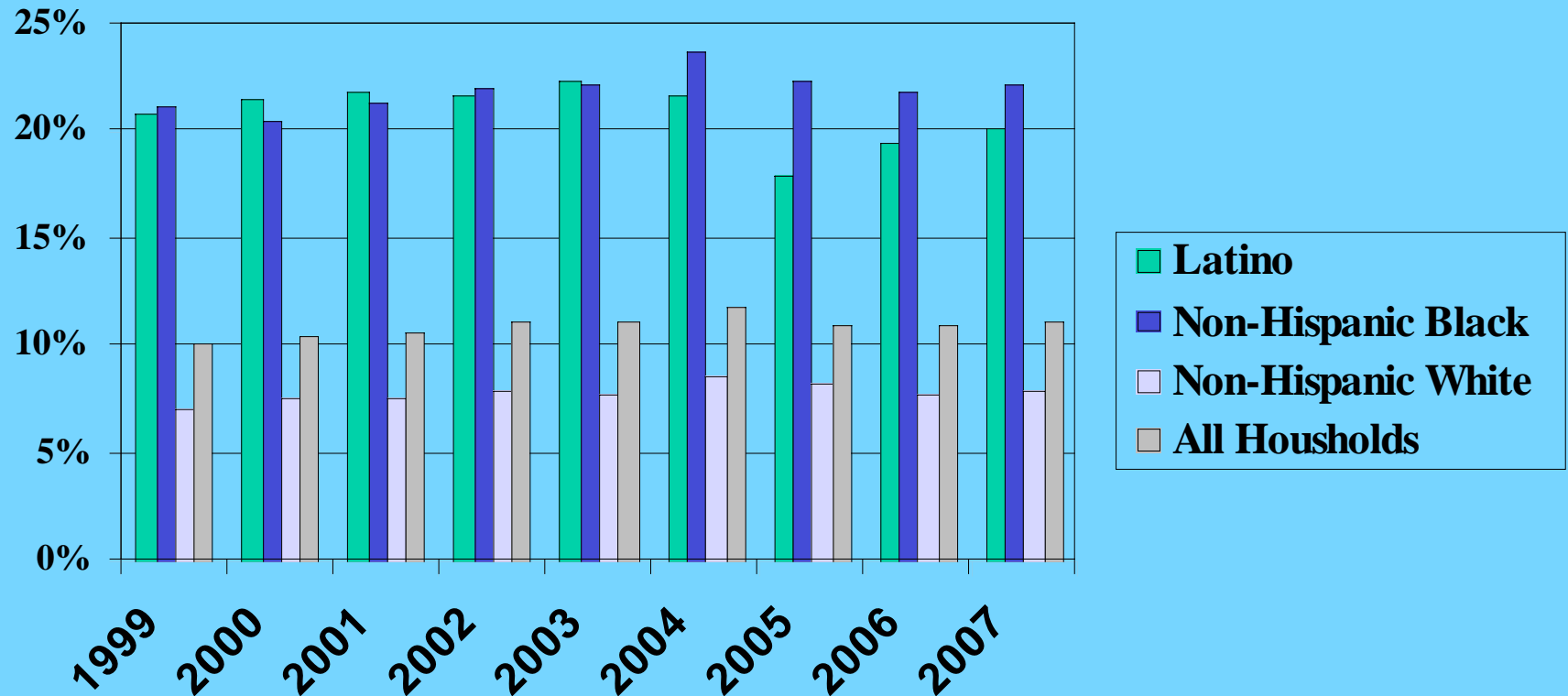
Number and Percent in Poverty by Race/Ethnicity, 2007

	All in Poverty	
	Number	Percent
All People		
Latino	9,890,000	21.5%
Black*	9,237,000	24.5%
N/H White	16,032,000	8.2%
All Children < 18 Years		
Latino	4,482,000	28.6%
Black*	3,904,000	34.5%
N/H White	4,255,000	10.1%

*May include Hispanic and Non-Hispanic Blacks

Source: DeNavas-Walt C, Proctor BD, Smith J. Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2007. Census Bureau, August 2008. Also Detailed Tables.

Proportion of U.S. Households that are Food Insecure, By Race/Ethnicity: 1999-2007*



*Includes households with and without children.

Source: USDA\ERS Food Security in the U.S., various years.

Prevalence of Food Insecurity by Race/Ethnicity, All People and All Children, 2007

	Total Food Insecure	
	Number	Percent
All People		
Latino	9,835,000	22.3%
Black	7,911,000	22.0%
White	16,663,000	8.4%
All Children < 18 years		
Latino	3,852,000	26.7%
Black	2,775,000	26.1%
White	5,251,000	11.9%

Source: Nord M, Andrews M, Carlson S. Household Food Security in the U.S., 2007

C-SNAP's Research Findings

On

Associations Between Food Security and
Health In Latino Families and Children



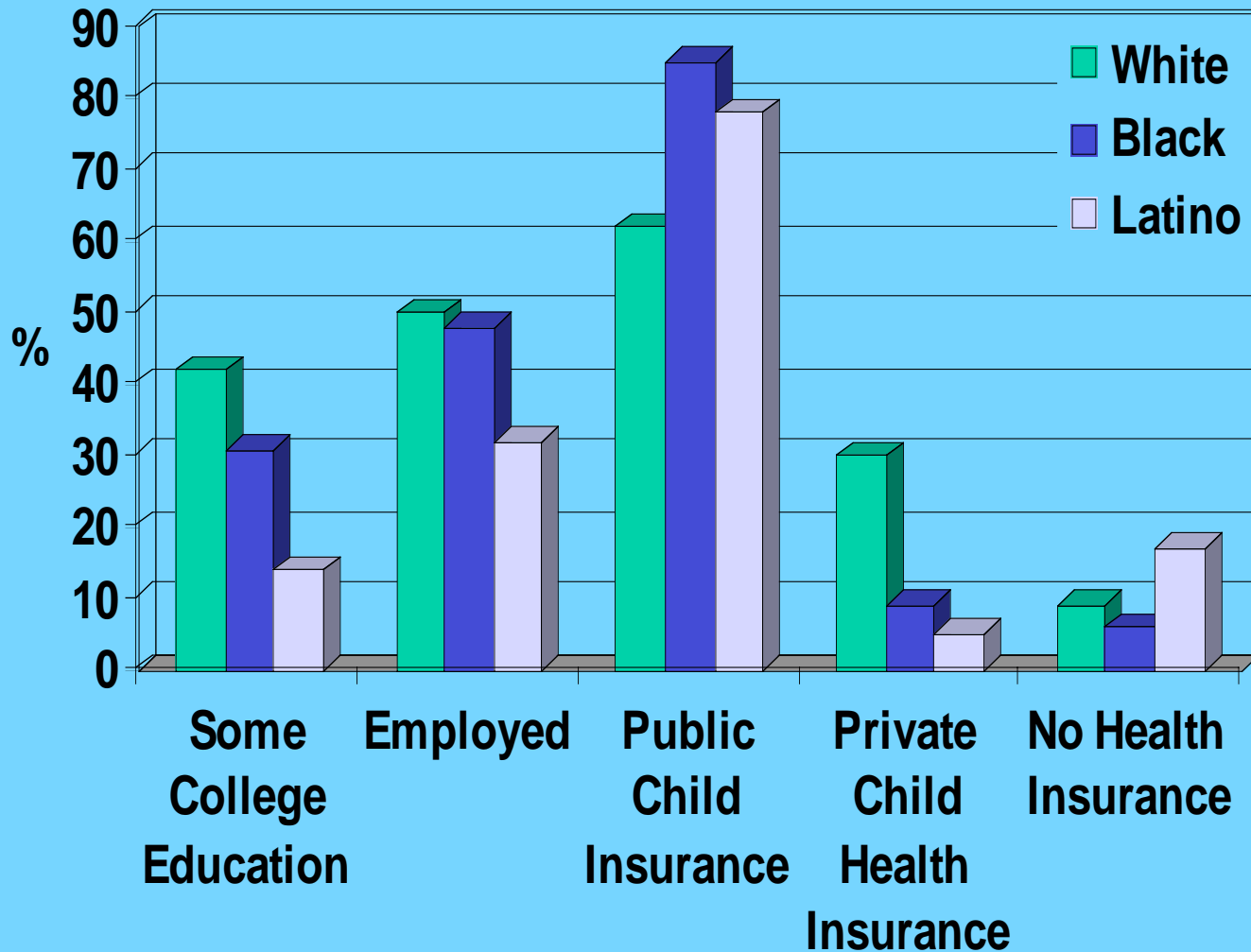
Description of Adult Caregivers in the C-SNAP Dataset

Site Location	All	US-born	Total Immigrants	Latinos	Latino Immigrants
Baltimore	3,843	3,722	121	39	17
Boston*	7,998	4,802	3,196	2,036	967
Little Rock*	5,960	5,791	169	192	86
<i>Los Angeles</i>	<i>1,854</i>	<i>636</i>	<i>1,218</i>	<i>1,449</i>	<i>1,129</i>
Minneapolis*	7,058	2,911	4,147	3,098	2,868
<i>DC</i>	<i>731</i>	<i>37</i>	<i>694</i>	<i>711</i>	<i>677</i>
Philadelphia	2,350	2,190	160	1,108	96
Totals (%)	29,794	20,089 (67.4%)	9,705 (32.6%)	8,633 (29.0%)	5,840 (19.9%)

Source: C-SNAP dataset. Some numbers may not sum exactly to totals due to rounding.

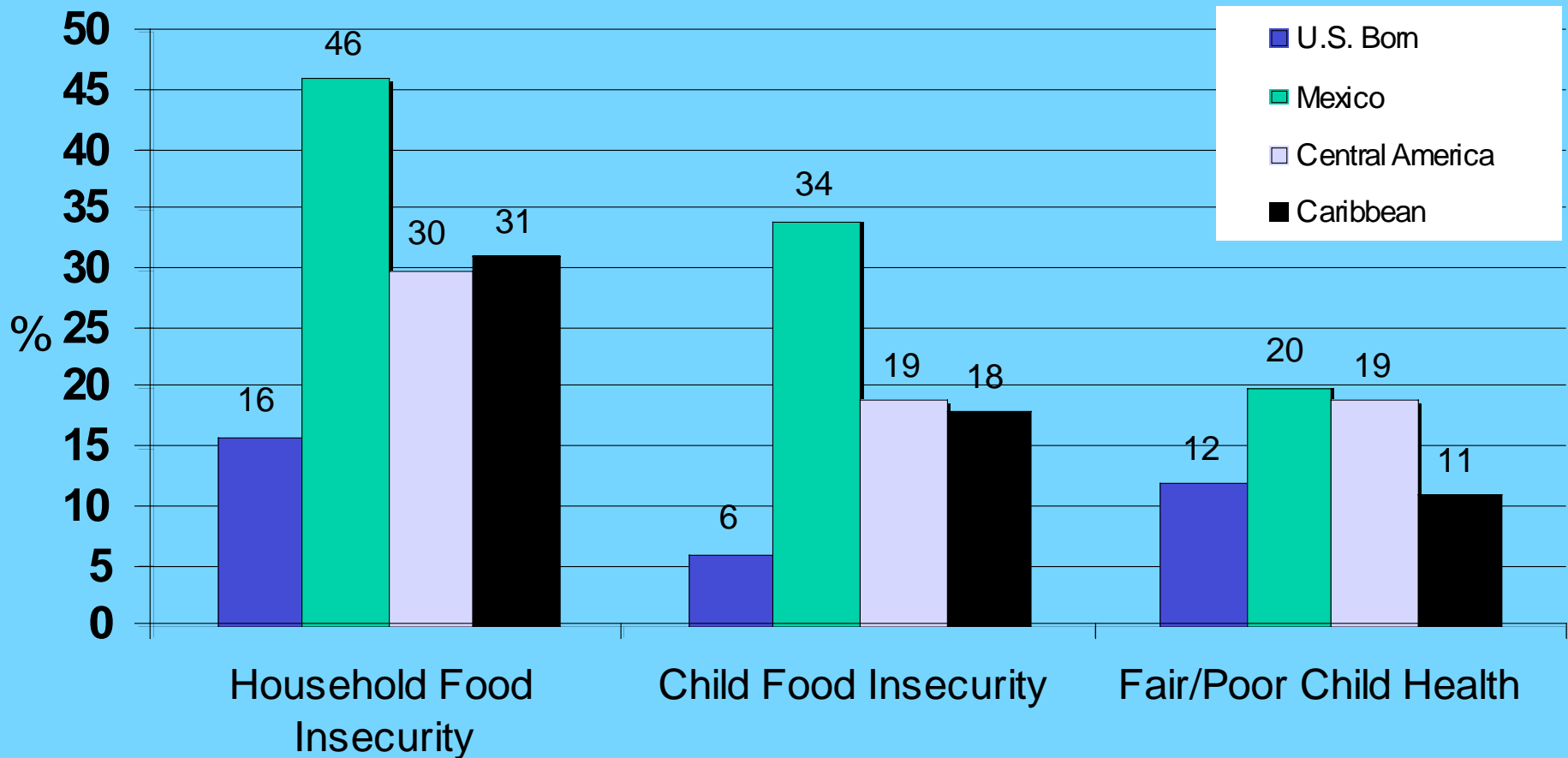
* Interviews occur in Emergency Departments.

Differences in Selected Caregiver Characteristics by Race/Ethnicity*

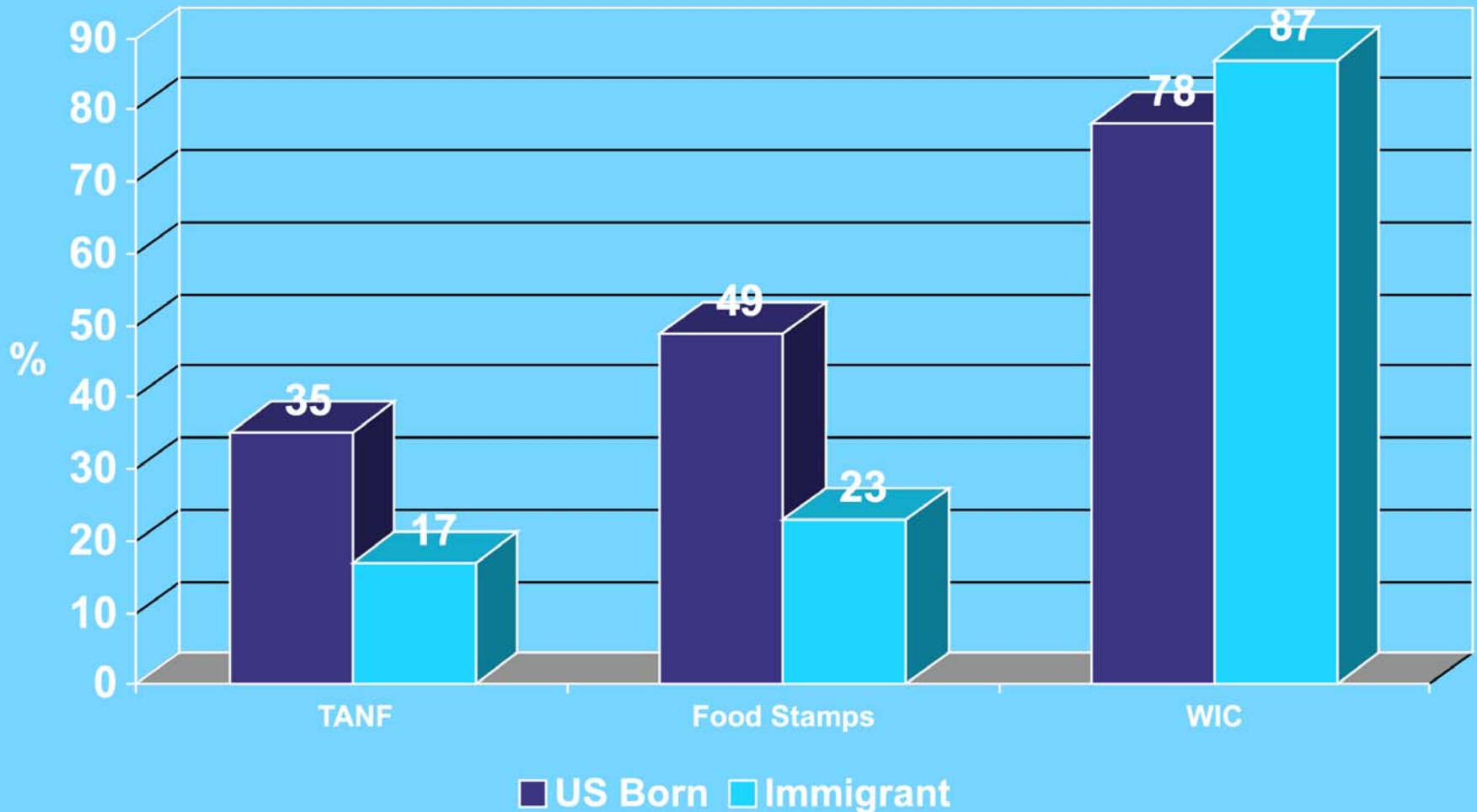


* In total C-SNAP Sample

Unadjusted Outcomes by Caregiver's Country Of Birth, Selected Subgroups

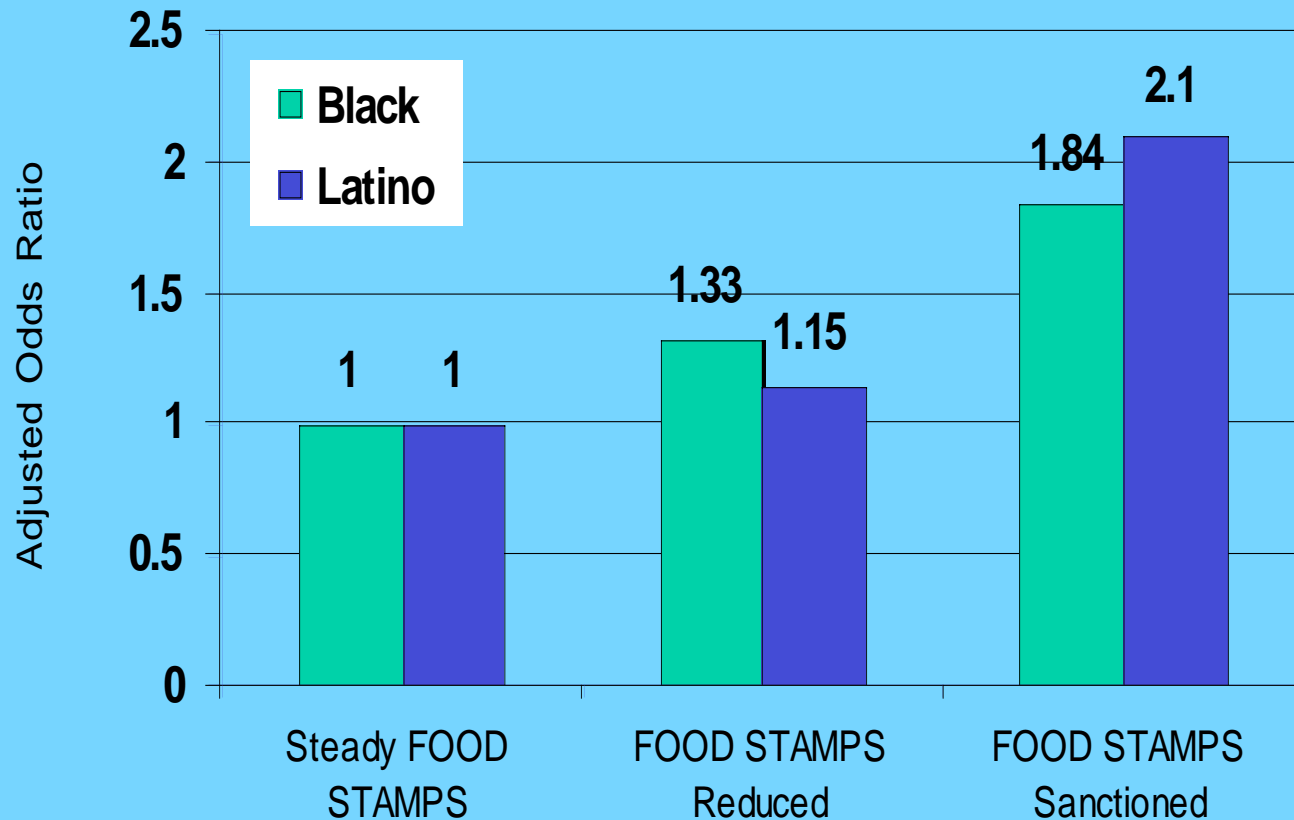


Proportion of C-SNAP Mothers Receiving Public Assistance



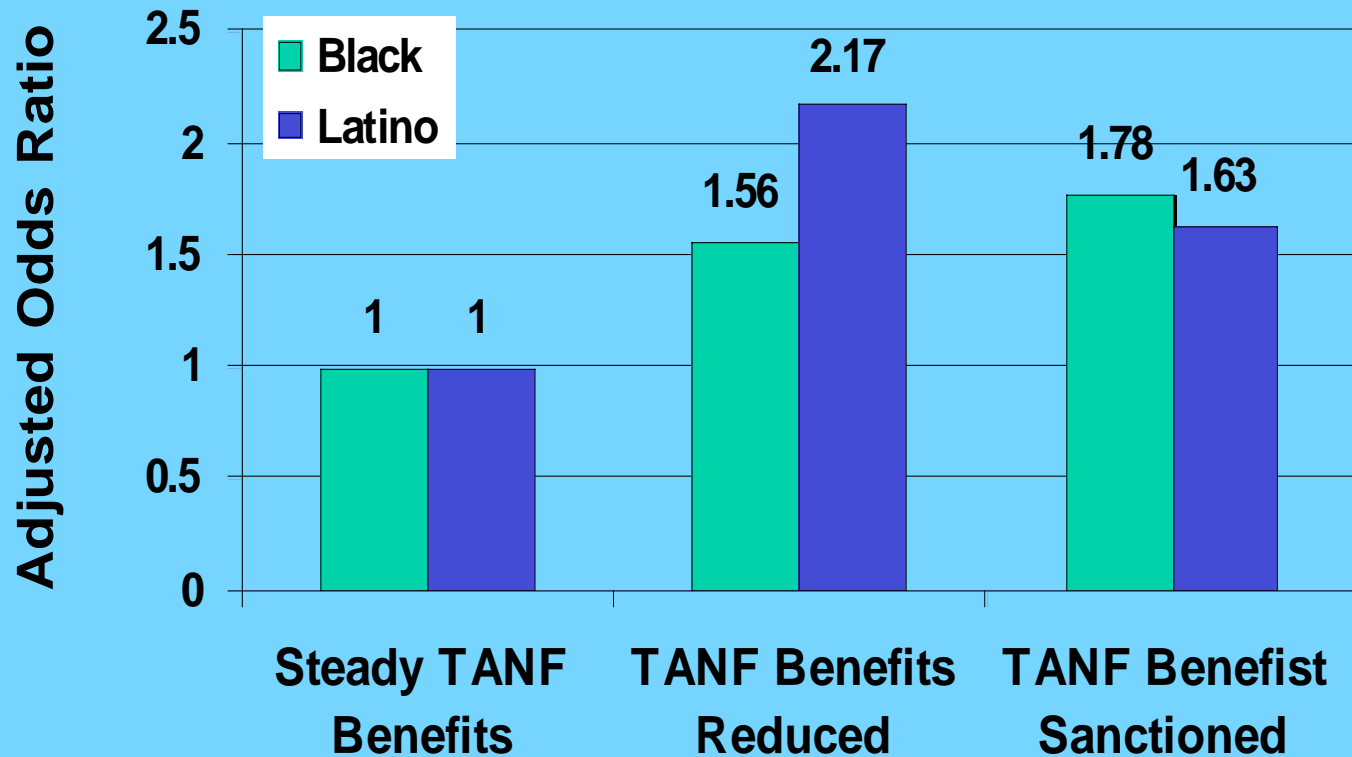
* All differences p value < .0001

FOOD STAMP Sanctions & Food Insecurity in Children < 3 yrs Old



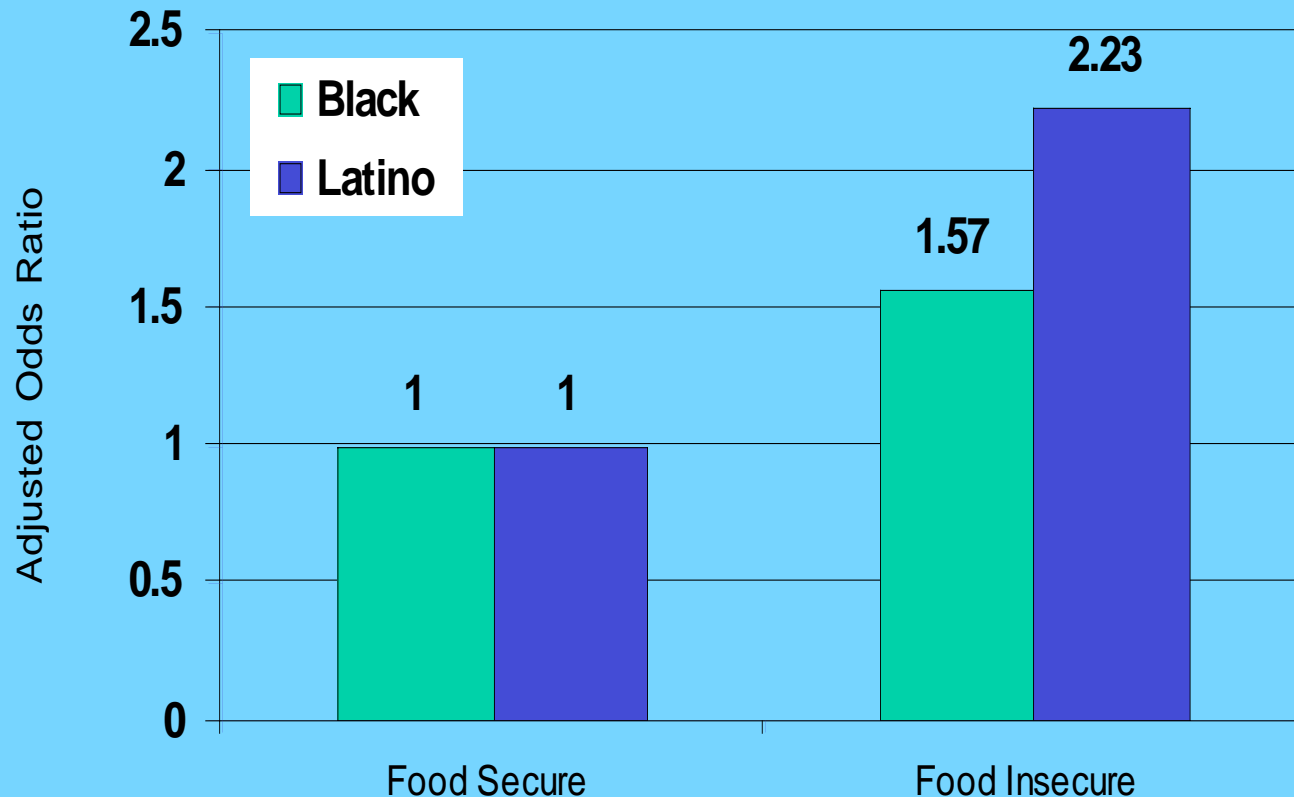
Odds of Household Food Insecurity

TANF Sanctions & Food Insecurity



Odds of Household Food Insecurity

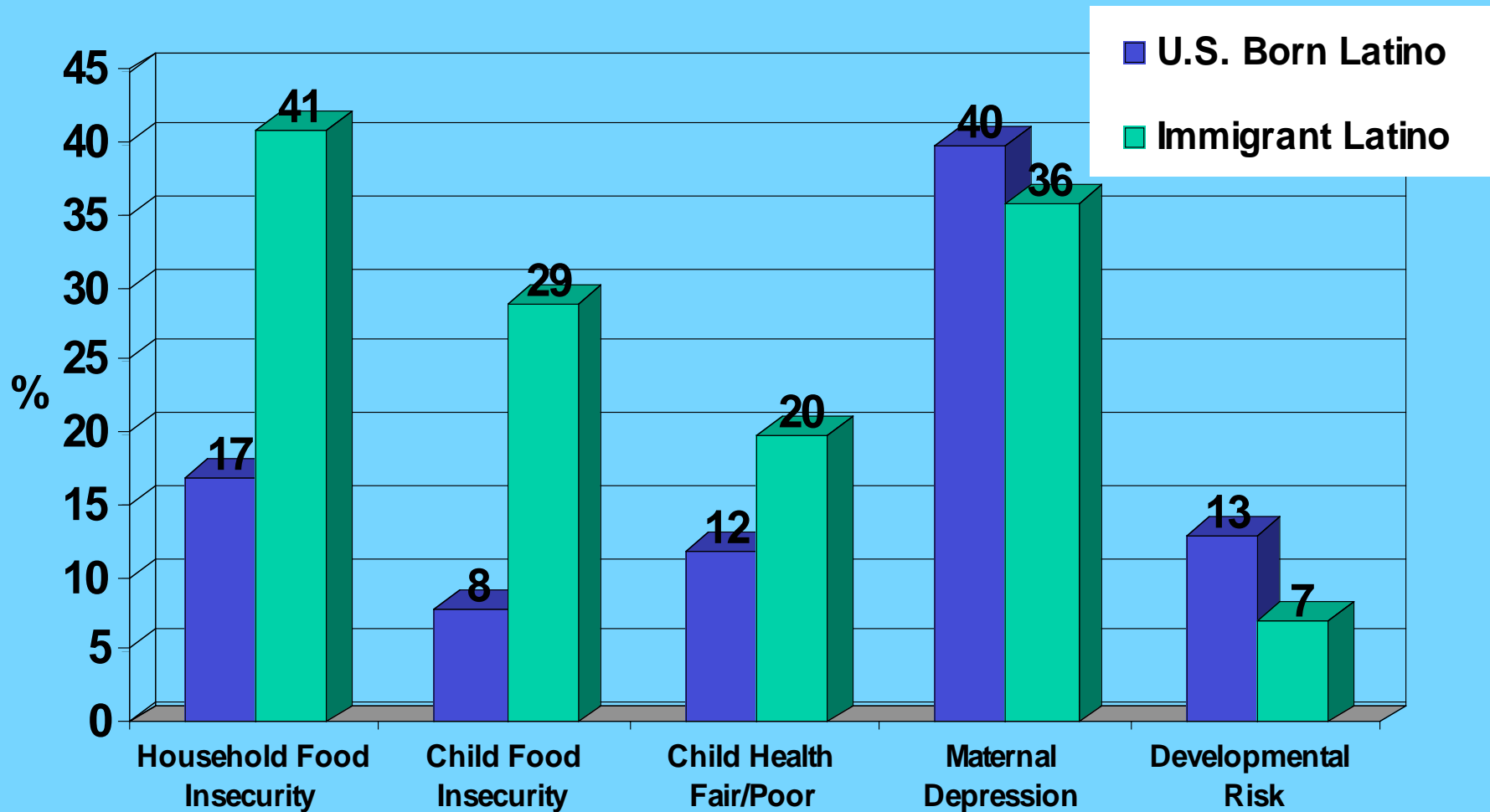
Household Food Insecurity & PEDS Developmental Concerns



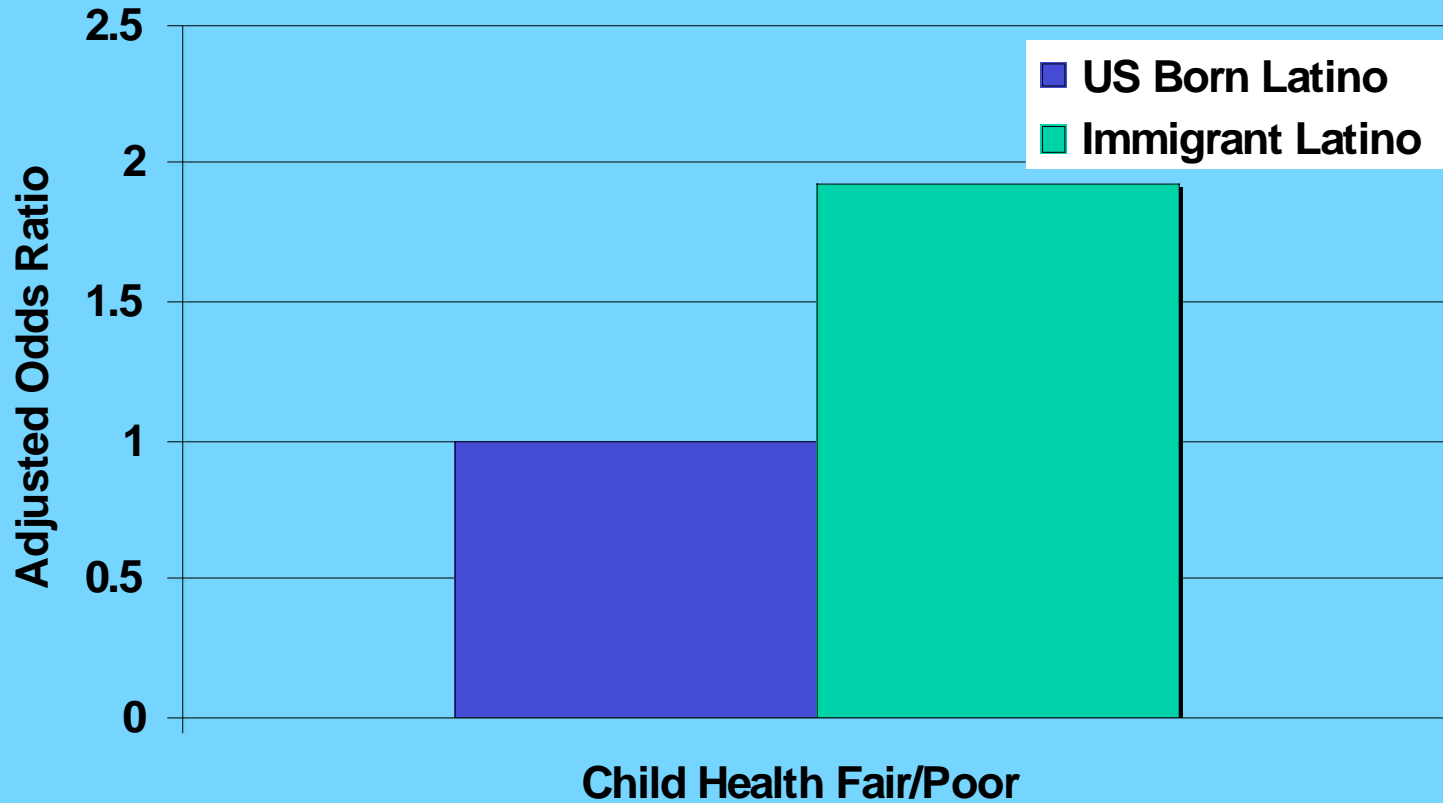
Parents' Report of Developmental Concerns

C-SNAP, May 2006

U.S. Born Latino *versus* Immigrant Latino, Unadjusted



Latinos: Child Health



AOR	1.93
95% CI	1.54, 2.43

p < 0.0001

Findings from C-SNAP Research Related to Latino Children, 2002-2008

Description of C-SNAP Study	Main Study Results
<p>A study of Mexican immigrant families in Minneapolis, MN,</p>	<p>After adjusting for other covariates, immigrant Latino children had:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">•Higher prevalence of food insecurity (53.1% vs 15.6%), and•Higher prevalence of hunger (5.8% versus 0.5%) than U.S.-born non-Latino children.
<p>(Kersey, Geppert & Cutts, 2007)</p>	

Findings from C-SNAP Research Related to Latino Children, 2002-2008

Description of C-SNAP Study	Main Study Results
<p>A study of breastfeeding and health outcomes among citizen children of immigrant mothers,</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪83% of infants of immigrants initiated breastfeeding.▪36% of immigrant households were food insecure.▪Compared to non-breastfed infants, breastfed infants:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• were less likely to be reported in “fair/poor” health,•were less likely to have a history of hospitalization, and•had greater Weight/age and height/age, but not higher prevalence of overweight.
<p>(Neault, Frank, Merewood, et al., 2007)</p>	

Findings from C-SNAP Research Related to Latino Children, 2002-2008

Description of C-SNAP Study	Main Study Results
<p>A study of C-SNAP children under age 12 months eligible to receive WIC,</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Those eligible but not receiving WIC were 56% more likely to be at risk for growth problems,▪ Compared to Latino children receiving WIC, those eligible but not receiving WIC benefits were significantly more likely be underweight and substandard height.
<p>(Black, Cutts, Frank, et al., 2004)</p>	

Findings from C-SNAP Research Related to Latino Children, 2002-2008

Description of C-SNAP Study	Main Study Results
<p>A study of C-SNAP children in low-income renter households eligible for housing support,</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Children in eligible families not receiving housing support were 33% more likely to be underweight,▪ Compared to Latino children in eligible families receiving housing support, those in families eligible but not receiving support were 99% more likely to be substandard height for age.
<p>(Meyers, Cutts, Frank, et al., 2005)</p>	

Findings from C-SNAP Research Related to Latino Children, 2002-2008

Description of C-SNAP Study	Main Study Results
<p>A study of all C-SNAP children in households eligible for LIHEAP benefits (all race/ethnicity groups combined),</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Children in families eligible for LIHEAP but not receiving benefits had significantly lower weight for age,▪ Compared to children in eligible families receiving LIHEAP, those eligible but not receiving LIHEAP support were 29% more likely to be at risk for growth problems.
<p>(Frank, Neault, Skalicky et al., 2006)</p>	

Greatest Threats to Child Food Security & Health

- Unstable costs of energy
 - Energy market dynamics; demand exceeds supply
 - Energy prices and food prices on upward trends
- Global climate change
 - Food production, access to safe water, extreme weather events, infectious disease, coastal flooding
- Global market failures
 - Housing, commodity, financial market crises & the dollar
- Disparities/discrimination in:
 - Labor markets, health care and social policies
 - Mobility restrictions, immigration, refugee movement
 - Guarantees of basic rights and liberties

Important Policy Pressure Points

- Child Nutrition Act Reauthorization, in 2009
- Immigration Policy as if People Mattered
- Energy Policy as if People Mattered
- Unemployment Insurance Extension
- Health Care Policy as if People Mattered
- LIHEAP Funding (State and National)
- Annual Budget Battles
- Election reform, reduce influence of \$\$ on government
- Build Partnerships and Coalitions (WITT vs GIA)
- The Farm Bill – A Partial Success this time
 - Food Stamp Program improved, but needs additional changes
 - Corporate food production subsidies a lost opportunity
 - Energy (ethanol, inputs, transport, etc.), a disaster
- Support a well-funded and complete census!

THANK YOU
FOR YOUR ATTENTION

