



*La Familia:* The  
Characteristics of  
Low-income  
Hispanic Children  
and Families



February 11, 2015

#HispanicFamilies

# Welcome

**Moderator:** Alicia Torres

**Opening Remarks:**

Ann Rivera

**Presentation:**

Michael López

Lina Guzman

**Discussants:**

Rick Noriega

Charisse Johnson

**Question and Answer**



# Presenters



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# Presenters

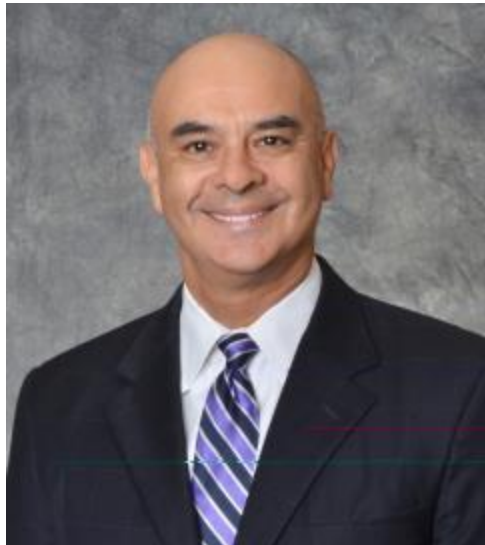


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# Disclaimer



The views expressed in this presentation do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, the Administration for Children and Families, or the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

# Opening Remarks from Administration for Children and Families



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Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation  
Administration for Children and Families  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

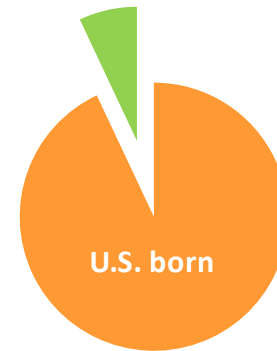


# Why is a Research Center On Hispanic Children and Families Needed?

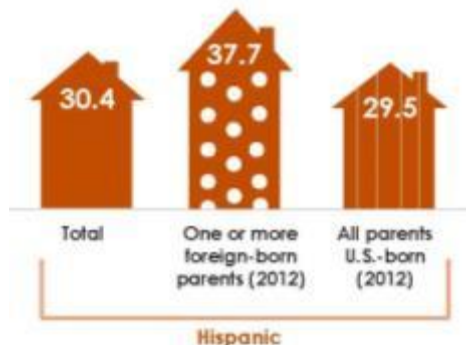
**1 in 4 of all U.S. children  
are Hispanic**



**Over 90% of Hispanic children  
were born in the U.S.**



**Roughly 1 in 3 of Hispanic children  
live in poverty**



**1 in 2 Hispanic children have a  
foreign-born parent**





# Mission



Conduct research and provide research-based information to inform ACF programs and policies supporting Hispanic children and families around the Center's three priority areas:

- Healthy marriage and responsible fatherhood
- Poverty and self-sufficiency
- Early care and education



# Objectives



**The Center has three primary objectives:**

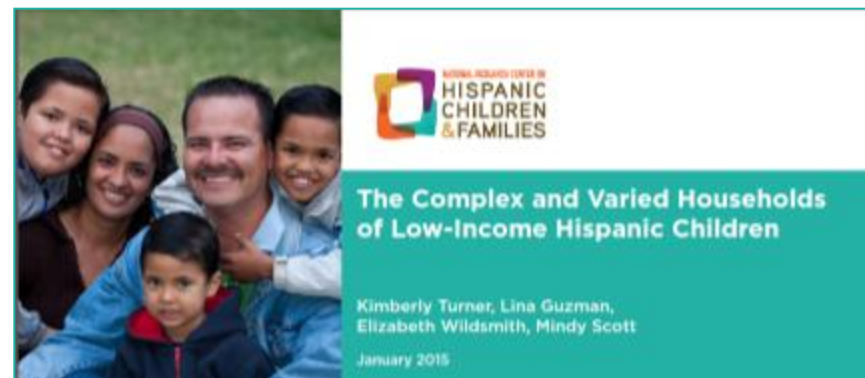


- 1. Research**
- 2. Build Capacity**
- 3. Communication and Dissemination**

# Building the Knowledge Base on the Characteristics and Experiences of Low-Income Hispanic Children & Families

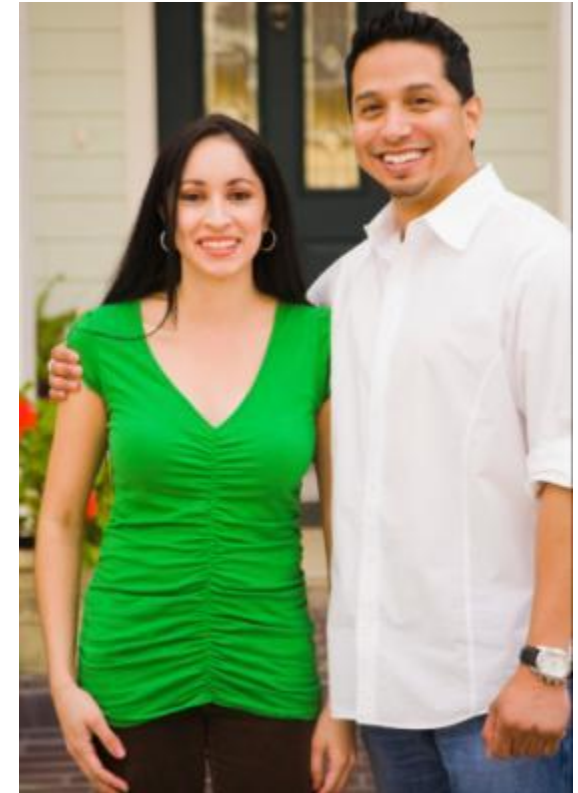
## Findings from:

- Family Structure and Family Formation among Low-Income Hispanics in the U.S.
- The Complex and Varied Households of Low-Income Hispanic Children



# Motivation

- Families are changing
  - Changes have not impacted all racial/ethnic groups the same way
  - Critical to understand the changes in family life for Hispanics
- Families vs. Households
- Both linked to child well-being
  - Can provide support, yet also stretch limited resources
  - Can impact program eligibility
- Understanding low-income Hispanic families and households offers critical knowledge to stakeholders



# Research Aims & Approach



## ADULT Perspective

- Aim 1: Describe the relationship and childbearing histories of low-income Hispanic men and women using the NSFG.

## CHILD Perspective

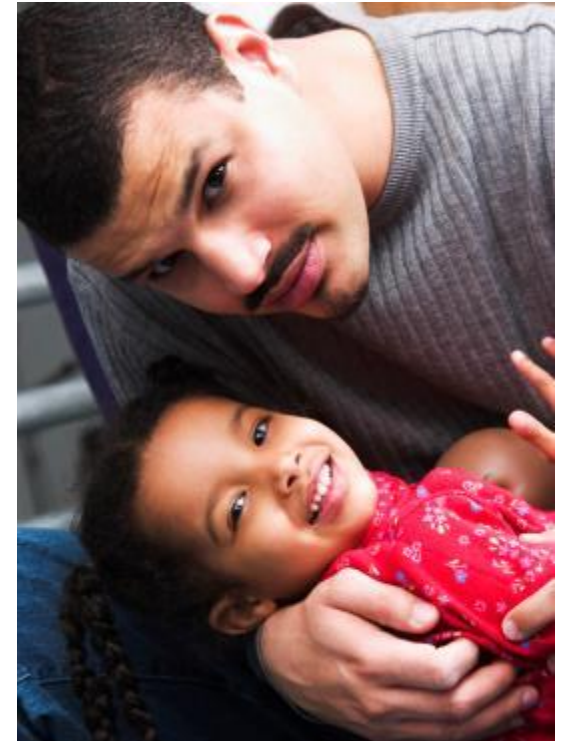
- Aim 2: Describe household characteristics of low-income Hispanic children – family structure, household size, crowdedness, and adult employment using the ACS.

Nativity and racial-ethnic comparisons are tested

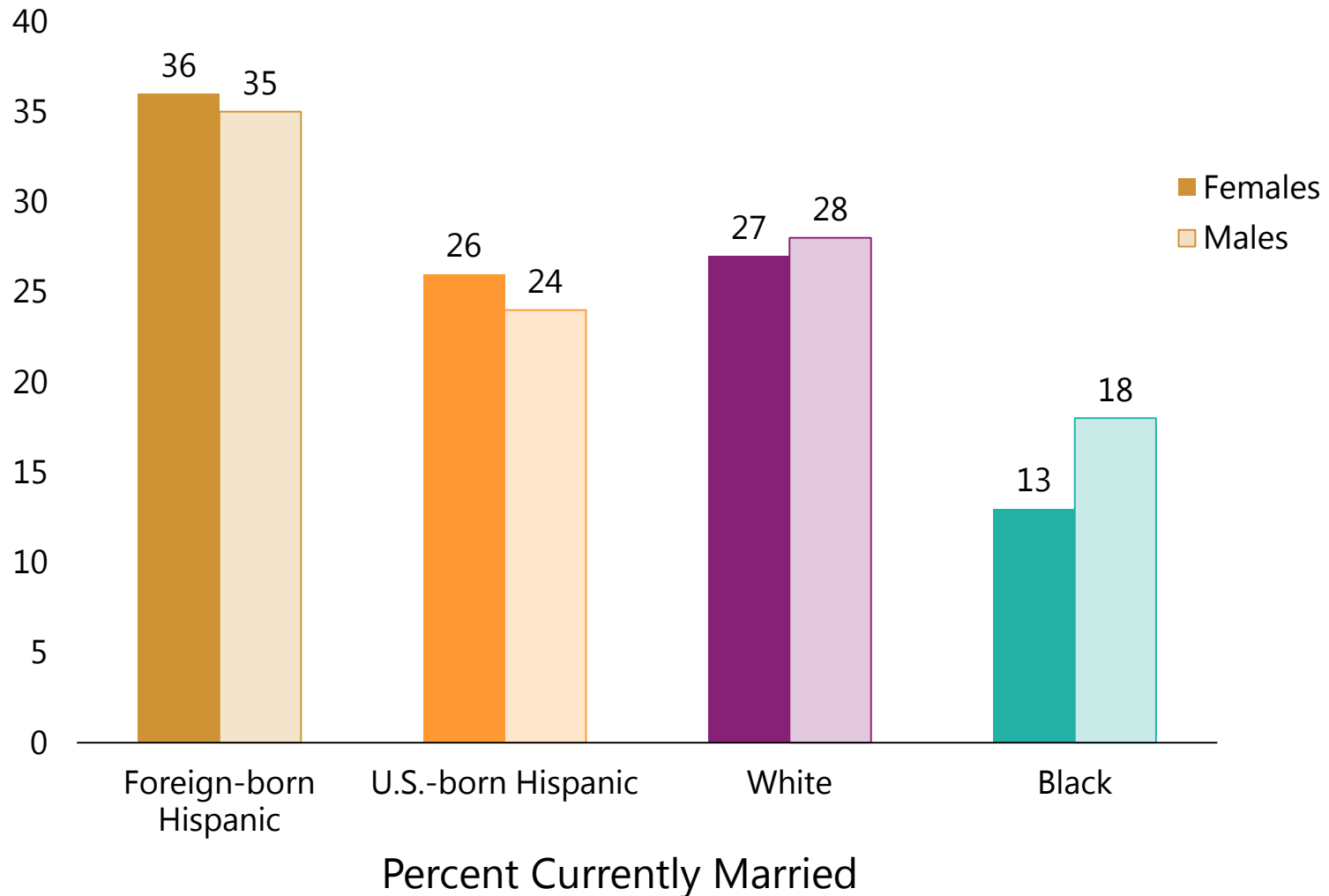


# The families of low-income Hispanic adults

- Low-income Hispanic women begin families early:
  - They marry and have children young
- Low-income Hispanic men tend to form families somewhat later than Hispanic women
  - With one important exception
- Childbearing often takes place within the context of two-parent families
- Nativity often matters

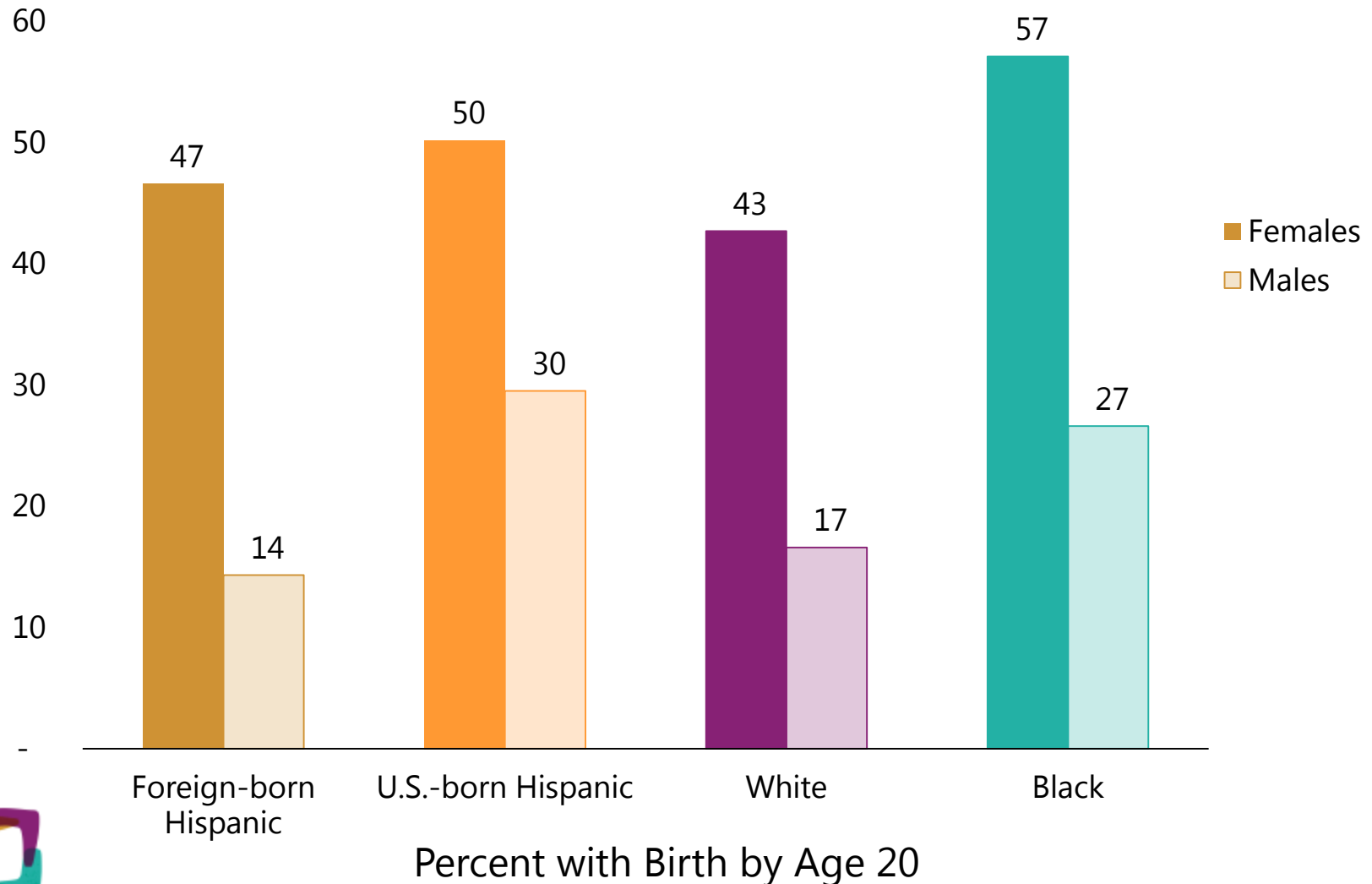


# Low-income, foreign-born Hispanics are more likely to be married than any other group

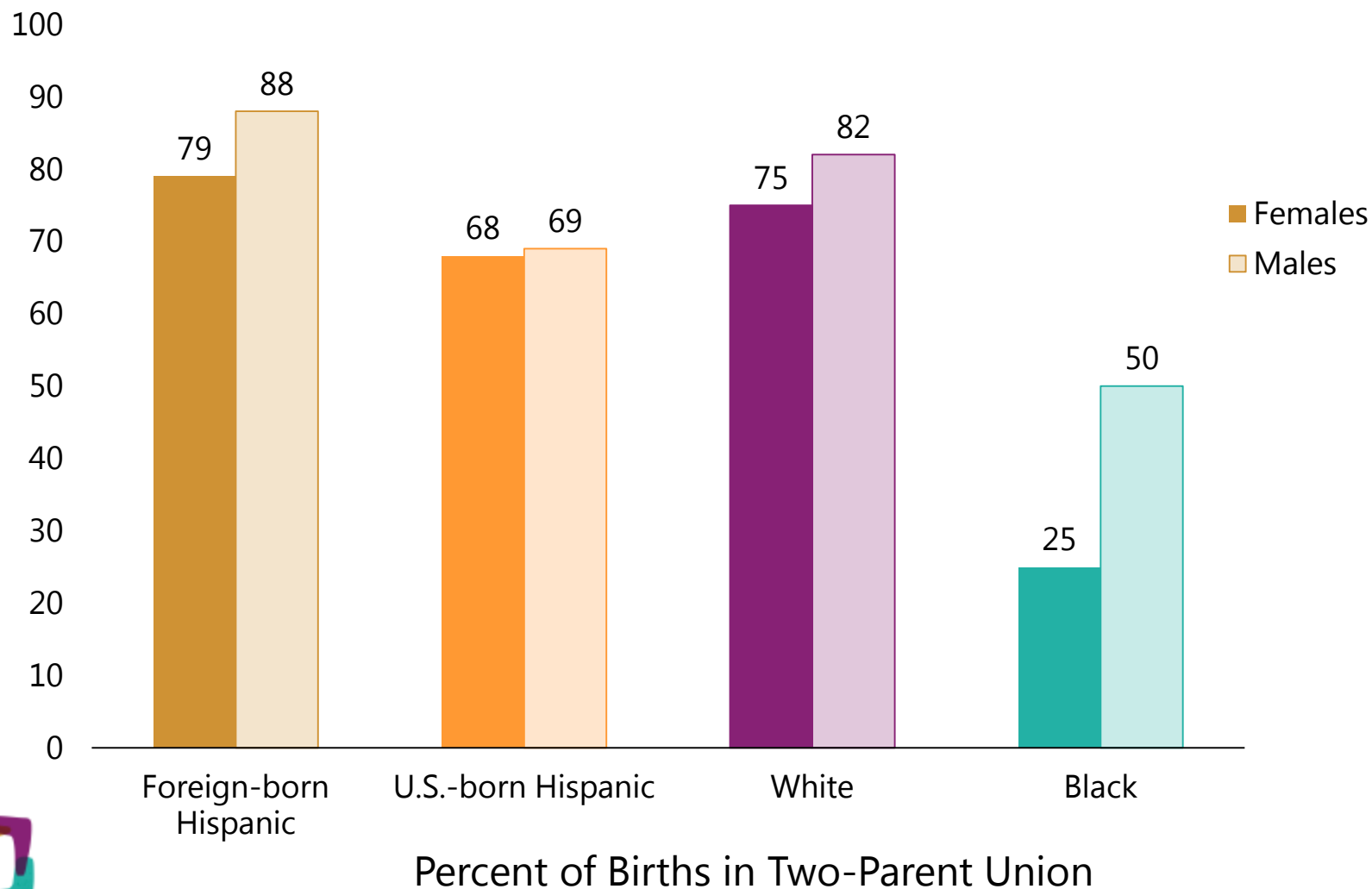




# Roughly half of low-income Hispanic women have had a birth by age 20



# Most births to low-income Hispanic men and women occur in a two-parent union



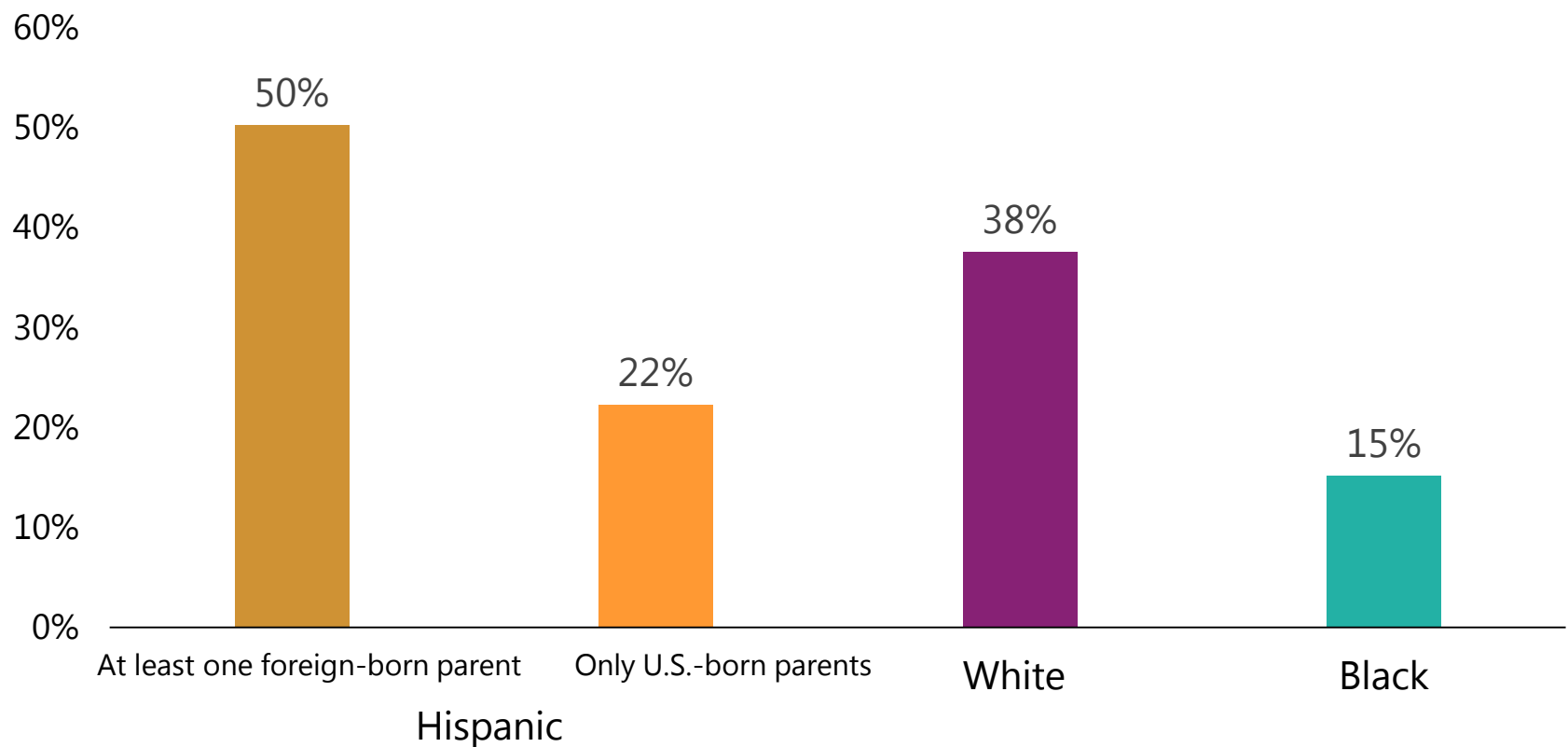
# Households of low-income Hispanic children



- Characteristics of households offer potential advantages and disadvantages
  - Again, nativity matters
- Among those with foreign-born parents:
  - Greater levels of married, two-parent households; resident fathers; and adult employment relative to their peers
  - High incidence of crowded housing
- Among those with U.S.-born parents:
  - Levels of single-parent and non-resident father households are approaching that of black peers
  - Adult employment is relatively high



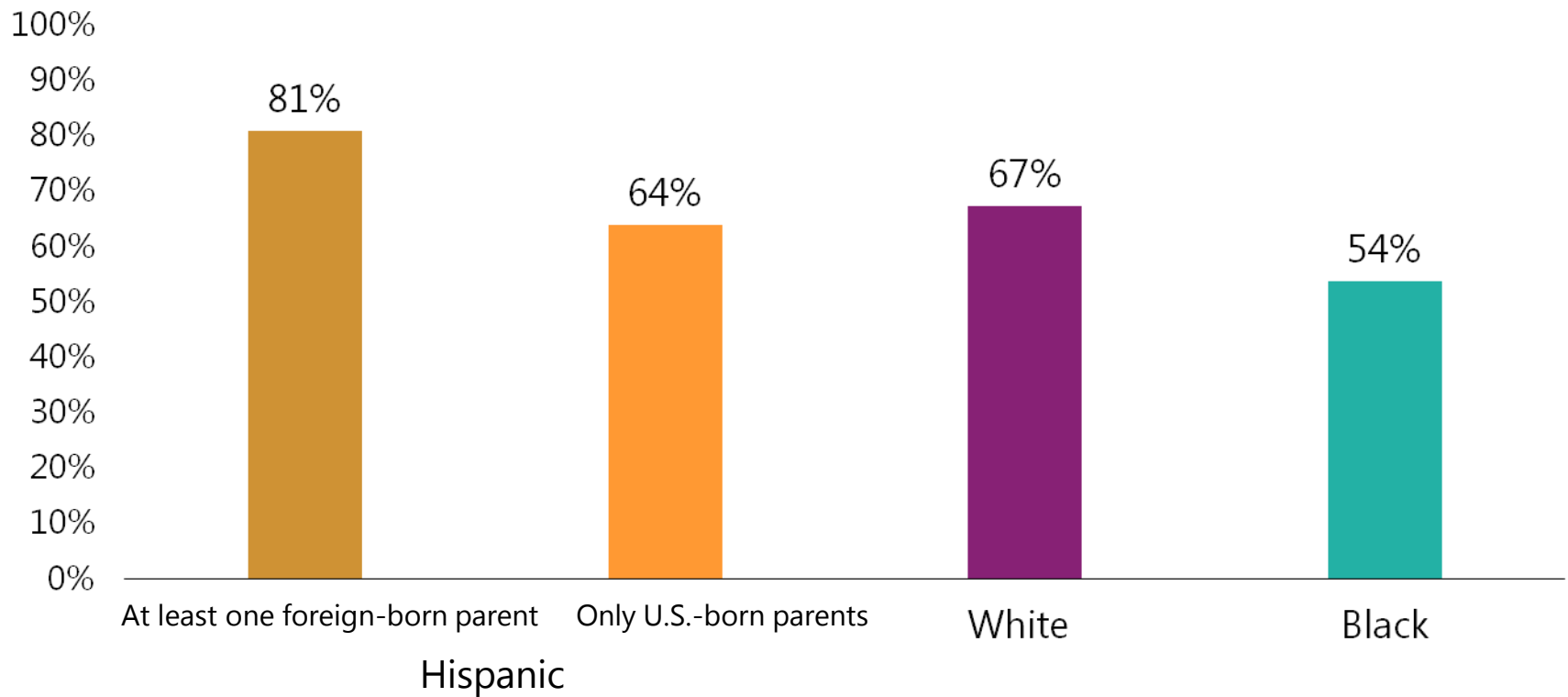
# Half of low-income Hispanic children with a foreign-born parent live with their biological fathers



Percent of Children Living with Fathers



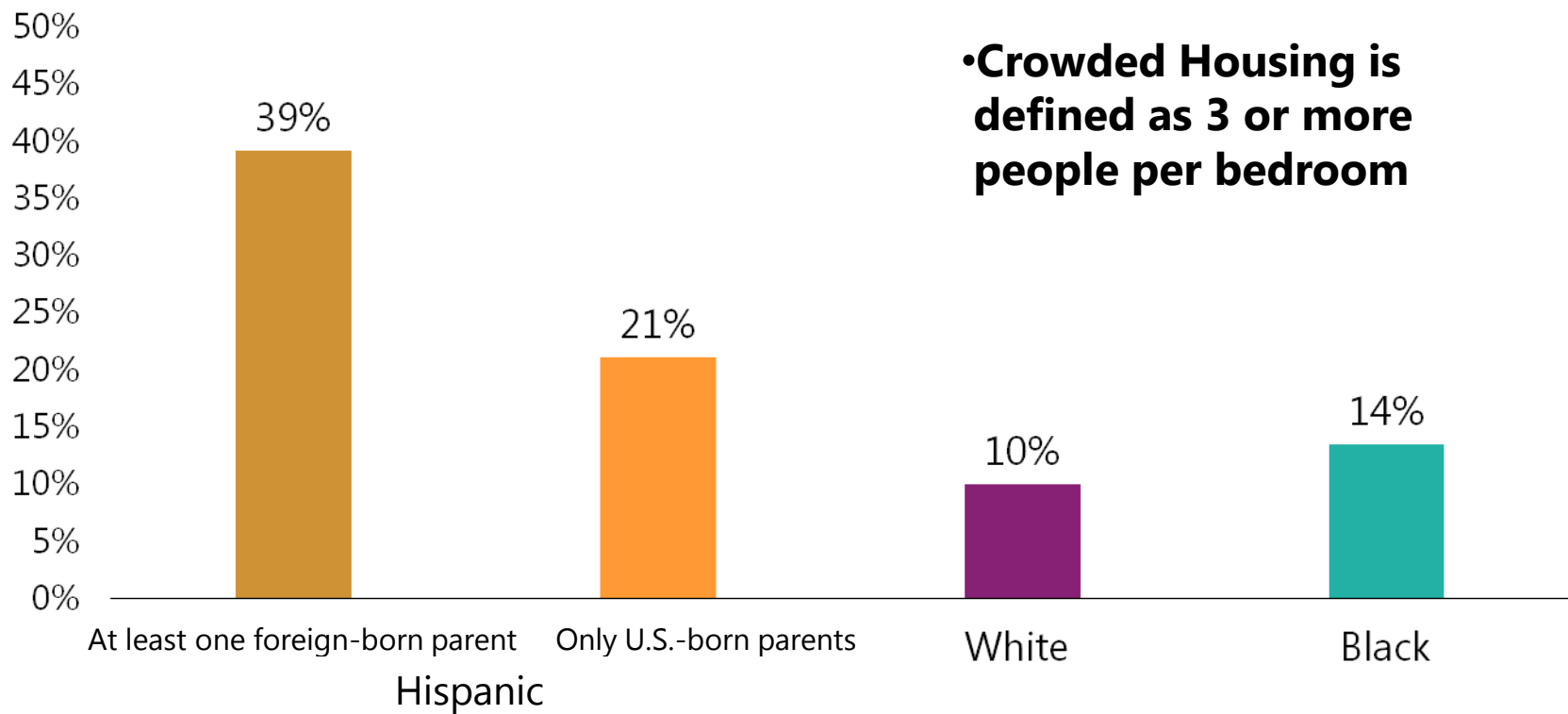
# Majority of low-income Hispanic children live with an employed adult



Percent of Children Living with Employed Adult



# Low-income Hispanic children have a higher incidence of crowded housing than their white and black peers



Percent of Children in Crowded Housing



# Summary of findings: Family Formation



- Low-income Hispanic women have children quite early.
- Low-income Hispanic men start families later.
- However, nativity matters.
- The vast majority of low-income Hispanics have children in married or cohabiting households.





# Summary of Findings: Household Characteristics



- Nativity matters
- Household characteristics of low-income Hispanic children offer both advantages and disadvantages
  - Advantages are especially prominent among those with foreign-born parent
- Relatively high levels of adult employment among low-income Hispanic children, irrespective of parents nativity status

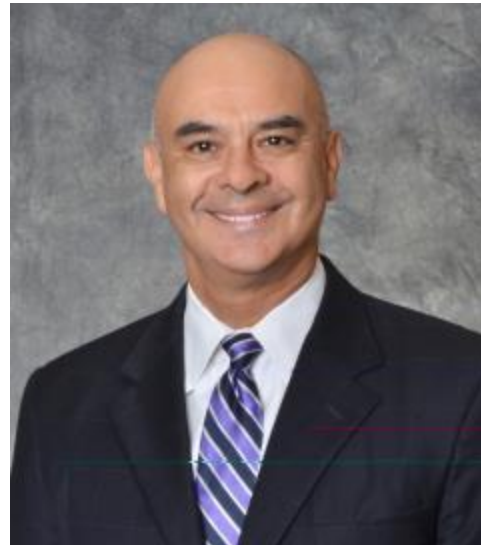


# Implications

- Hispanics make up 1 in 4 of all children
- That most low-income Hispanic children are born into two-parent families and have fathers present has important implications
- Pay attention to family formation behaviors of men
- Are there costs to the high levels of engagement in the labor market?



# Remarks from Rick Noriega



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# Remarks from Charisse Johnson



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# Temporary Assistance to Need Families (TANF)

The Office of Family Assistance (OFA) administers the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program which helps families foster healthy and economically secure households and communities for the well being and long-term success of children and families. TANF grants are issued to States, Territories, and Tribes to implement programs that best serve their distinct communities.

The four major purposes of TANF are:

- (1) assisting needy families so that children can be cared for in their own homes;
- (2) reducing the dependency of needy parents by promoting job preparation, work and marriage;
- (3) preventing out-of-wedlock pregnancies; and
- (4) encouraging the formation and maintenance of two-parent families.





## **The Claims Resolution Act of 2010 (CRA):**

- Healthy Marriage grants- \$75 million in grants
- Responsible Fatherhood- \$75 million in grants

## **Through discretionary grants to communities--ACF funds a network of 121 grantees in 47 states to provide:**

- comprehensive healthy relationship and marriage education services
- responsible parenting, and job and career advancement activities to advance economic stability and improve the overall well-being of children and their parents.



# Healthy Marriage Program Goals

The Healthy Marriage initiative is part of ACF's strategy to enhance child well-being.

- Provide comprehensive healthy relationship and marriage education services and support.
- Promote healthy marriage, sustain marriage, and positive relationships.
- Provide job and career advancement activities to promote economic stability and overall improved family well-being.

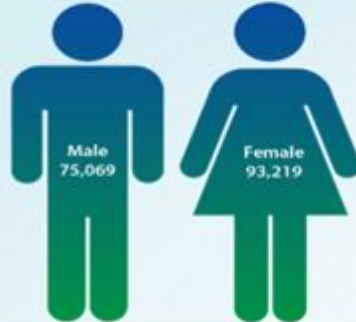




# Healthy Marriage Participant Profile\*

April 2012 - September 2013

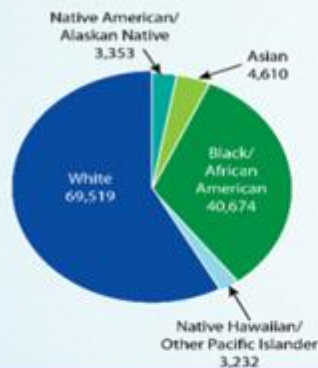
Participants by Gender



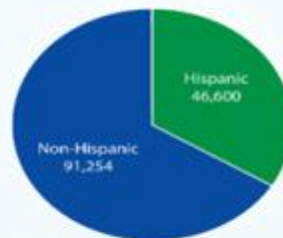
Participants by Age



Participants by Race



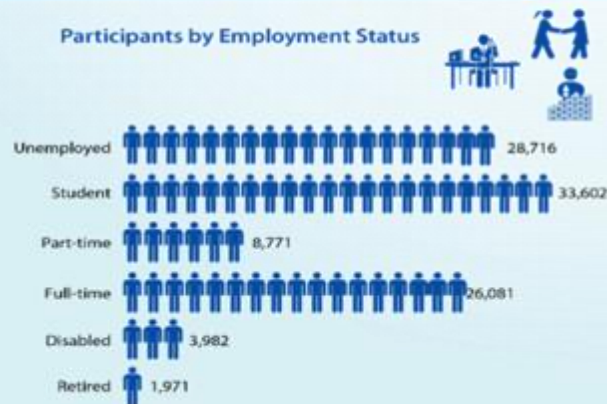
Participants by Ethnicity



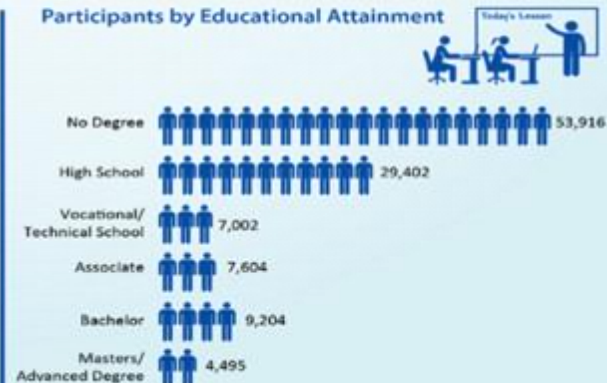
Participants by Marital Status



Participants by Employment Status



Participants by Educational Attainment



\*The demographic data is collected at enrollment. The data is self-reported hence some participants may not have responded to all the demographic questions.

# Responsible Fatherhood Program Goals

- Help fathers improve their relationship with their spouses, significant others, and/or the mothers of their children.
- Help fathers become better parents.
- Provide job training to help fathers contribute to the financial well-being of their children.
- Provide healthy marriage, responsible parenting, and economic stability activities for formerly incarcerated parents and their families.



# Responsible Fatherhood Participant Profile\*

April 2012 - September 2013

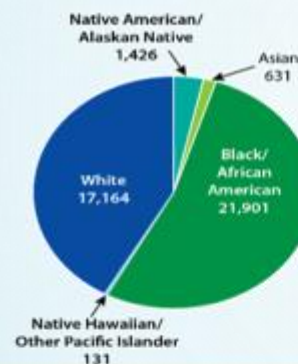
Participants by Sex



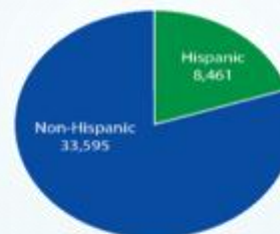
Participants by Age



Participants by Race



Participants by Ethnicity



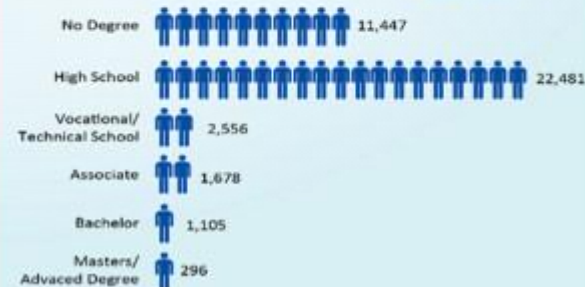
Participants by Marital Status



Participants by Employment Status



Participants by Educational Attainment



\*The demographic data is collected at enrollment. The data is self-reported hence some participants may not have responded to all the demographic questions.

# Understanding Family Structure and Formation Implications for OFA

## **Grantees**

How do we meet the service needs of low-income Hispanic families?

## **Family Structure**

How do larger family structures impact service delivery?

## **Foreign Born vs. US Born**

How do attitudes, beliefs and practices guide service delivery?

## **Employed Individuals**

How do programs support career paths which lead to higher wages and skill-based employment opportunities?

## **First child by twenty**

How do grantees ensure that their curricula and programs are developmentally appropriate for younger mothers?

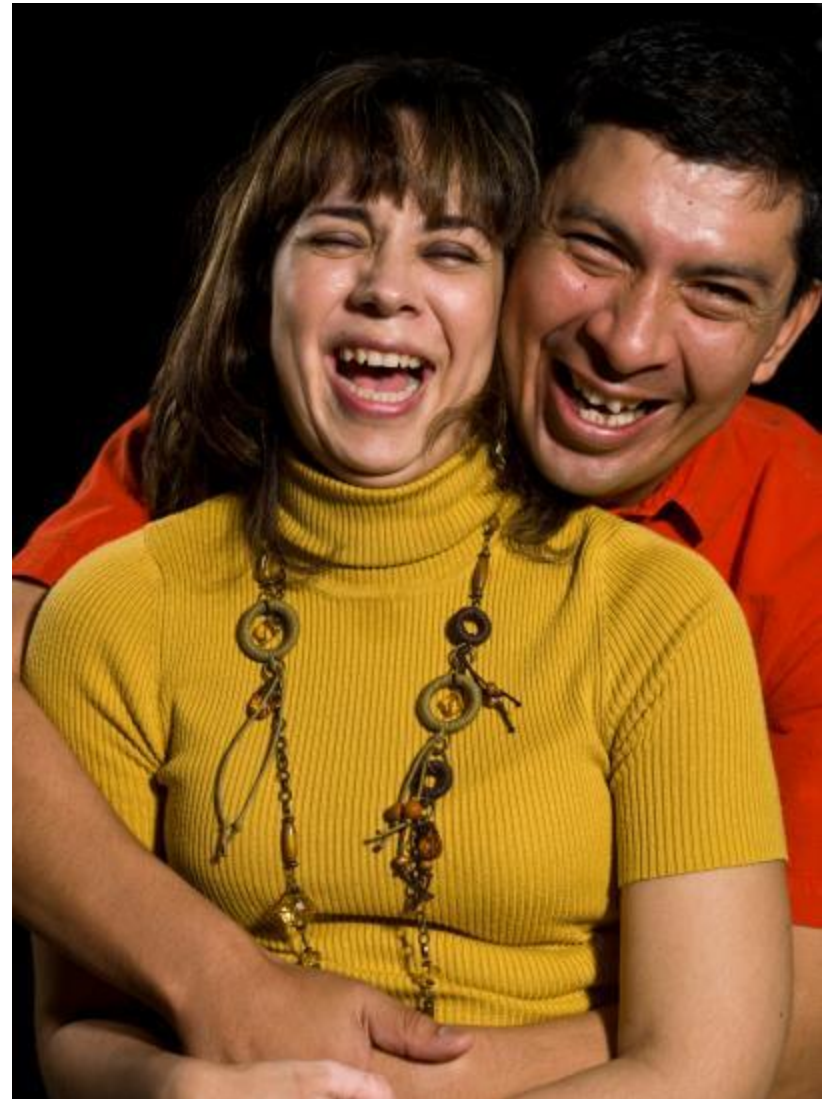




# Understanding Family Structure and Formation

## Implications for Grantees

- Program Design
- Curriculum Selection
- Staffing
- Staff Training
- Recruitment and outreach
- Language



# Understanding Family Structure and Formation Implications for OFA

## OFA- HMRF Discretionary Grants

**Disseminate** the briefs within the HMRF grantee community

**Integrate** what was learned into annual meetings, roundtables, webinars, etc. to engage grantees in discussions regarding culturally responsive services to low-income Hispanic families

**Monitor** and highlight best practice models to share across grantees

**Identify** success stories



# Questions and Answers





# Thanks to our Funders!



ADMINISTRATION FOR  
**CHILDREN & FAMILIES**

**OPRE**

# Thank you!



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National Research  
Center on Hispanic  
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