

GAMBLING AND THE HISPANIC/LATINE POPULATIONS: STRATEGIES FOR WORKING WITH INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Training Sponsor: Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services Problem Gambling Services Program.

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Training originally developed for EDC Massachusetts Center of Excellence on Problem Gambling Prevention



Objectives

- 1 Review of the Hispanic/Latine populations in the US, MA and CT
- 2 Review types of gambling available in Hispanic/Latine communities
- 3 Define Structural Determinants of Health and their impacts on Hispanic/Latine populations, prevention strategies and engagement opportunities
- 4 Outline common cultural elements, cultural characteristics and values of Hispanic/Latine individuals and their families and 3-4 strategies to incorporate into programming planning and delivery; and
- 5 Identify available resources for Hispanic/Latine populations, including additional training and further workforce development opportunities.



HISPANIC/LATINE DEMOGRAPHICS

U.S., Mass and Hampden County Data

US Latinx/e Population

The Hispanic pop grew from 50.5 million in 2010 to 63.6 million in 2022.

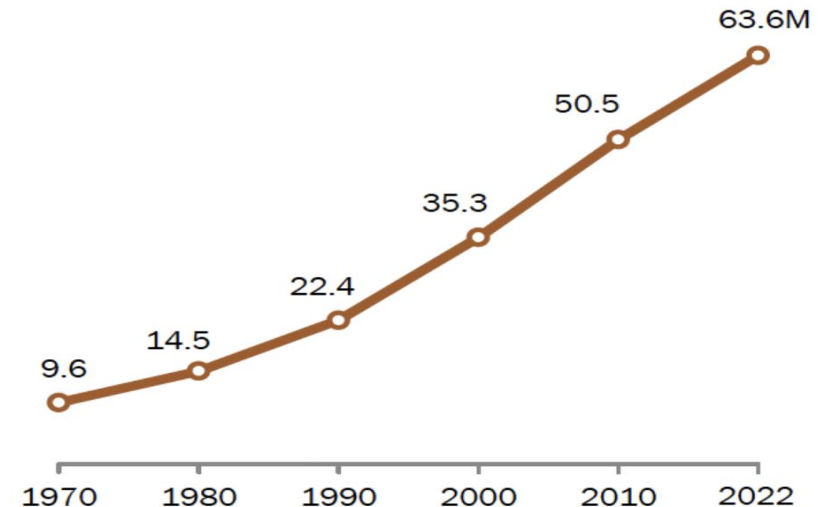
1 of 5 people in the U.S. identify as Hispanic/Latine

More than half (**53%**) of the **U.S. pop.** growth from 2010 - 2022 came from growth in the Hispanic population.

Source: PEW Research Center

U.S. Hispanic population reached more than 63 million in 2022

U.S. Hispanic population, in millions



Note: Population totals are as of July 1, 2022, and as of April 1 for 1970-2010. Hispanics are of any race.

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of 1970-1980 estimates based on decennial censuses (see 2008 report, "U.S. Population Projections: 2005-2050"); additional analysis of 1990-2010 PL94-171 census data and the 2022 American Community Survey (U.S. Census Bureau).

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

QUESTION

Of the Hispanic/Latine population in CT, what ethnic group is the greatest % of the population?

- A)Colombian
- B)Dominican
- C)Puerto Rican
- D)Mexican



Taking a closer look:



- **58.9%** of those of Hispanic or Latino origin in the **United States** were of **Mexican** origin
 - **9.3 percent** were *Puerto Rican*
 - **3.8 %** *Cuban*
 - **3.9 %** *Salvadoran*
 - **3.8 %** *Dominican*
 - **3.0 %** *Guatemalan*.
 - **2.3 %** *Colombian*

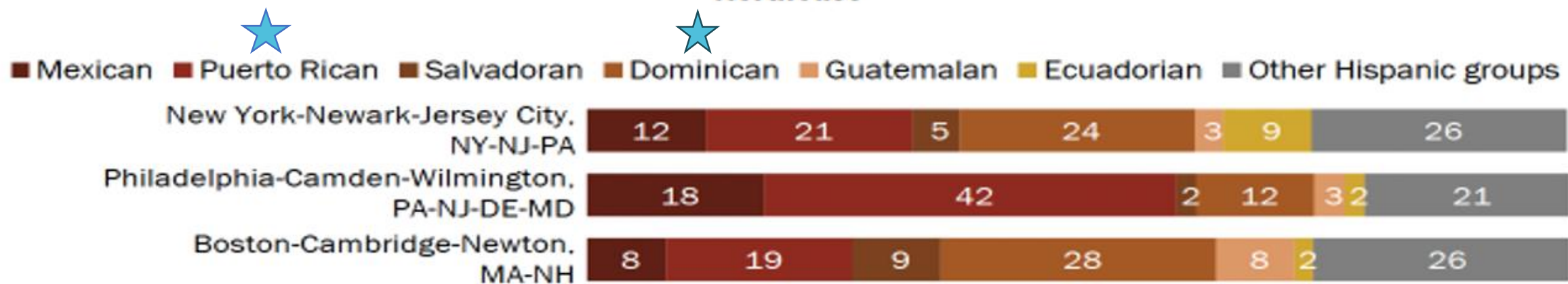
The remainder consisted of some other *Central American, South American* or other *Hispanic/Latino* origin.



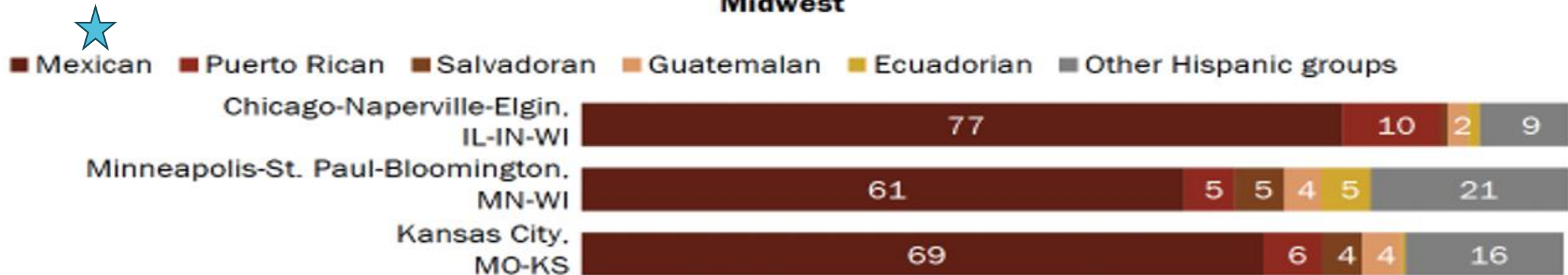
U.S. Latino populations are more diverse in Northeastern metro areas than in others

% of Hispanics in U.S. metropolitan areas in 2022 who were of ____ origin, by region

Northeast



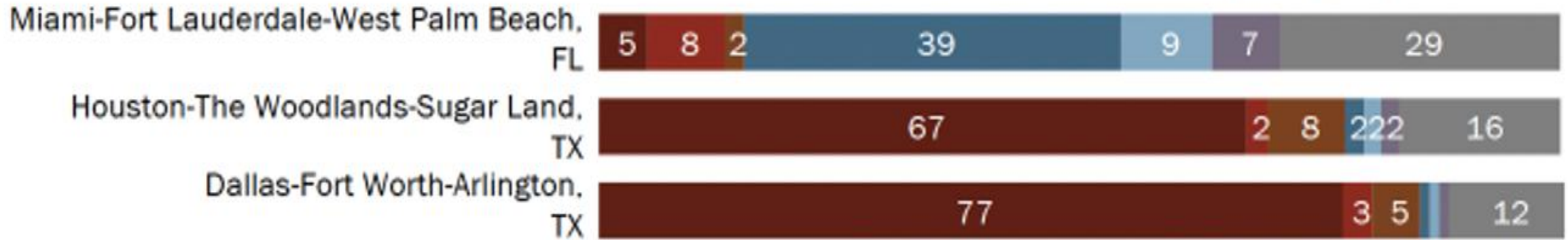
Midwest



South



■ Mexican
 ■ Puerto Rican
 ■ Salvadoran
 ■ Cuban
 ■ Colombian
 ■ Venezuelan
 ■ Other Hispanic groups



West



■ Mexican
 ■ Salvadoran
 ■ Guatemalan
 ■ Other Hispanic groups



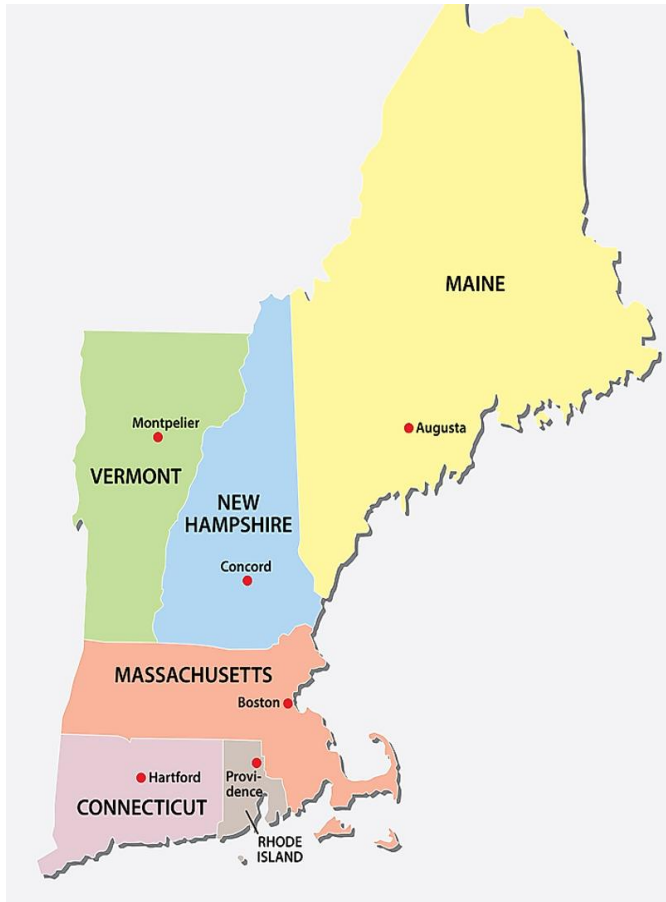
Question

Of the New England states, which state has the highest % of the Hispanic/Latine population?

- A) Rhode Island
- B) Connecticut
- C) New Hampshire
- D) Massachusetts



New England Hispanic or Latino Population



Connecticut's Hispanic/Latine pop grew by **30%** from 2010 to 2020—faster than the national increase of 23% during the same period..

Massachusetts:
13.1%



Connecticut:
18.2



Rhode Island:
17.6%

New Hampshire:
4.6%



Vermont:
2.3%



Maine:
2.1%

Top ten Latino subpopulations in Massachusetts by origin:

Puerto Ricans 32.5%	Dominicans 19.6%	Brazilians 11.2 %	Salvadoran 7.5%
Mexicans 5.1%	Guatemalans 5.0%	Colombians 3.4%	Ecuadorians 2.0%
Hondurans 1.9%	Peruvian 1.3%	Cubans 0.3%	Venezuelans 0.1%

Top ten Latino subpopulations in CT by origin:

Puerto Ricans 45.3%	Dominicans 10.6%	Mexicans 9.4%	Colombians 5.3%
Ecuadorian 5.1%	Guatemalans 4.3%	Peruvian 3.1%	Cuban 2.6%
Salvadoran 2.2%	Honduran 1.6%	Argentinean 0.8% 0.8%	Venezuelan 0.8%



Benefits of Having a robust Hispanic/Latine Population

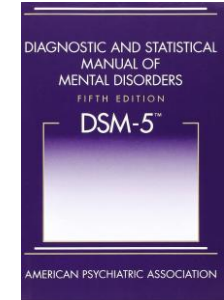
- ❖ **Youthful Demographic & Workforce Sustainability:**
 - ❖ The growth trend is expected to persist.
 - ❖ In Mass *28.9% of Latinos are under 18, while 21.8% of Whites are 65 or older. This results strong engagement in the workforce across essential industries
 - ❖ This trend also ensures a steady pipeline of future workers, caregivers, and civic leaders—critical for long-term sustainability in education, healthcare, and public service sectors.
- ❖ **Influence:** Voting power has influenced inclusive governance and cultural responsive systems.
 - ❖ The consumer power drives demand for goods, services, and culturally relevant products.
 - ❖ Latine-owned business are among the fastest growing across the country.
- ❖ **Workforce and Community Diversity:** Encourages intentional strategies to address equity, community engagement. cultural enrichment and social cohesion.
 - ❖ Community-based organizations led by Latine professionals often pioneer trauma-informed, family-centered, and equity-driven approaches.

Group Conversation



- “How do cultural values, family dynamics, or financial stress influence the way people in your community view gambling—as entertainment, opportunity, or risk?”

What is Gambling?



Webster Dictionary Definition: The practice or activity of betting: the practice of **risking money** or other **stakes** in **a game or bet**.



Massachusetts Office of Problem Gambling Services: Gambling is **risking** something valuable on an event that is determined at least in part **by chance**. The gambler hopes she or he will “win” and gain something of value.



CT Clearinghouse-Gambling Disorder: Problem gambling includes behavior patterns of gambling that **compromise, disrupt, or damage** personal, family, or employment pursuits.

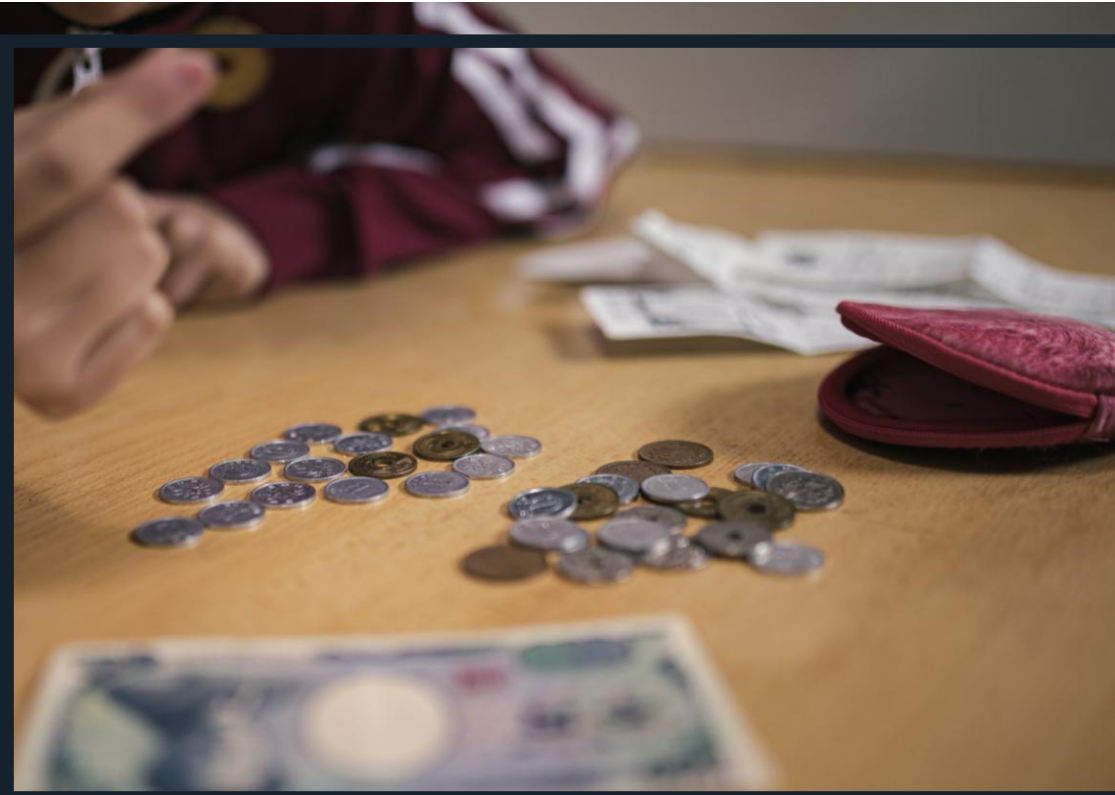


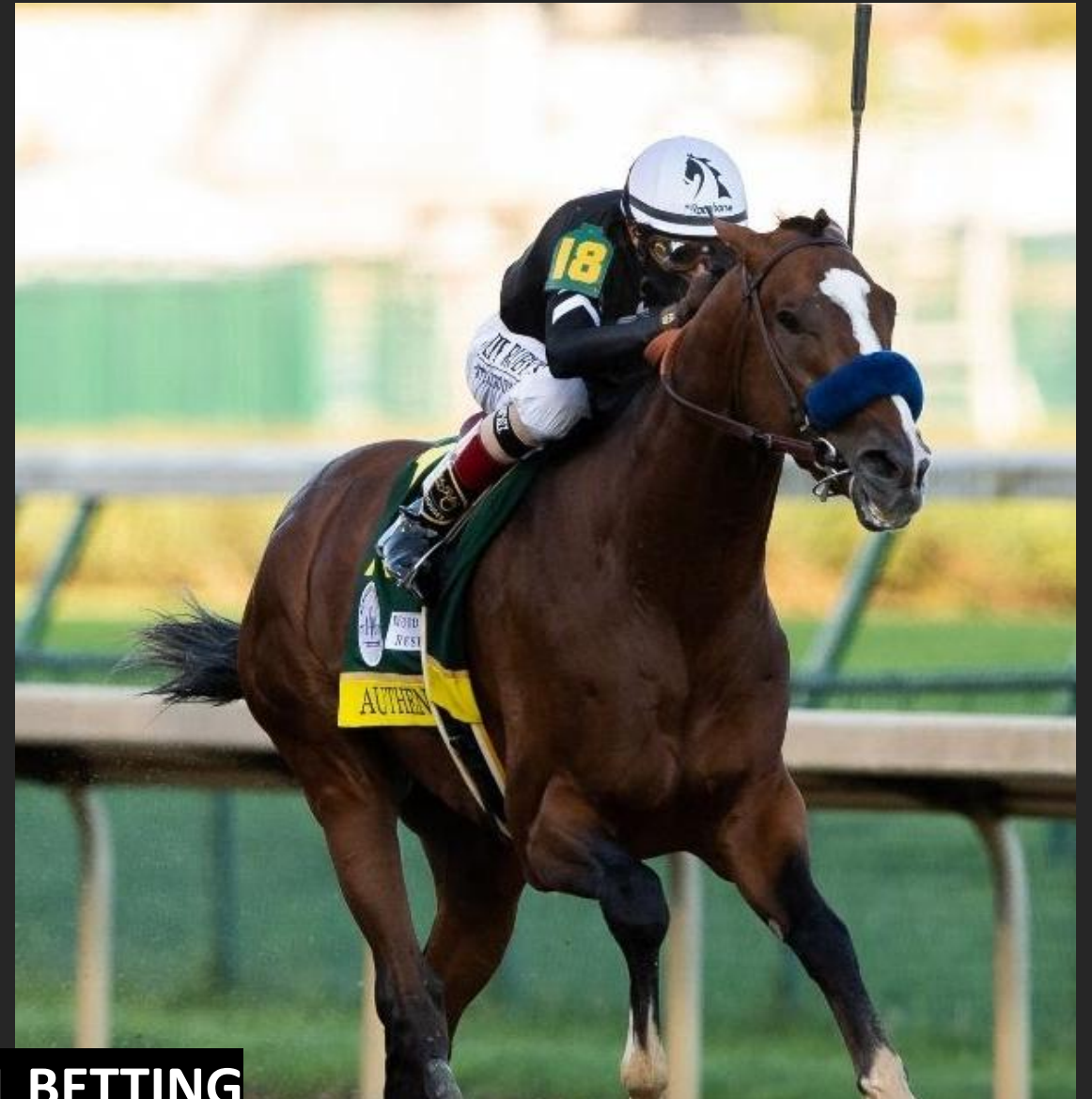
Gambling Disorder: A behavioral addiction in the (DSM-5). It's the only non-substance-related disorder included in the “Substance-Related and Addictive Disorders” category.

Problem Gambling Awareness

- ❑ About **85%** of U.S. adults have gambled at least once in their lives: **60%** within the past year.
- ❑ Some form of legalized gambling is available in **48 states** plus the District of Columbia.
 - ❑ The two states without legalized gambling are Hawaii and Utah.
- ❑ **2.5 million** U.S adults (**1%**) are estimated to meet criteria for a severe gambling problem in a given year.
 - ❑ An estimated 5 to 8 million Americans—roughly *2–3% of the population*—***experience mild to moderate gambling problems***. While they may not meet the full diagnostic criteria for gambling disorder, they exhibit one or more symptoms and face negative consequences related to their gambling behavior.
- ❑ Most adults who choose to gamble are able to do so responsibly.
- ❑ Still, certain subgroups are disproportionately vulnerable to problem gambling—particularly BIPOC who often face compounded risks(systemic inequities, economic stressors, and limited access to culturally responsive support among others).
- ❑ These communities often experience higher exposure to gambling marketing, greater financial pressure, and more barriers to seeking help, making targeted prevention and outreach essential.

COMMON TYPES OF GAMBLING





CULTURAL BETTING

Cock Fights & Horse Racing



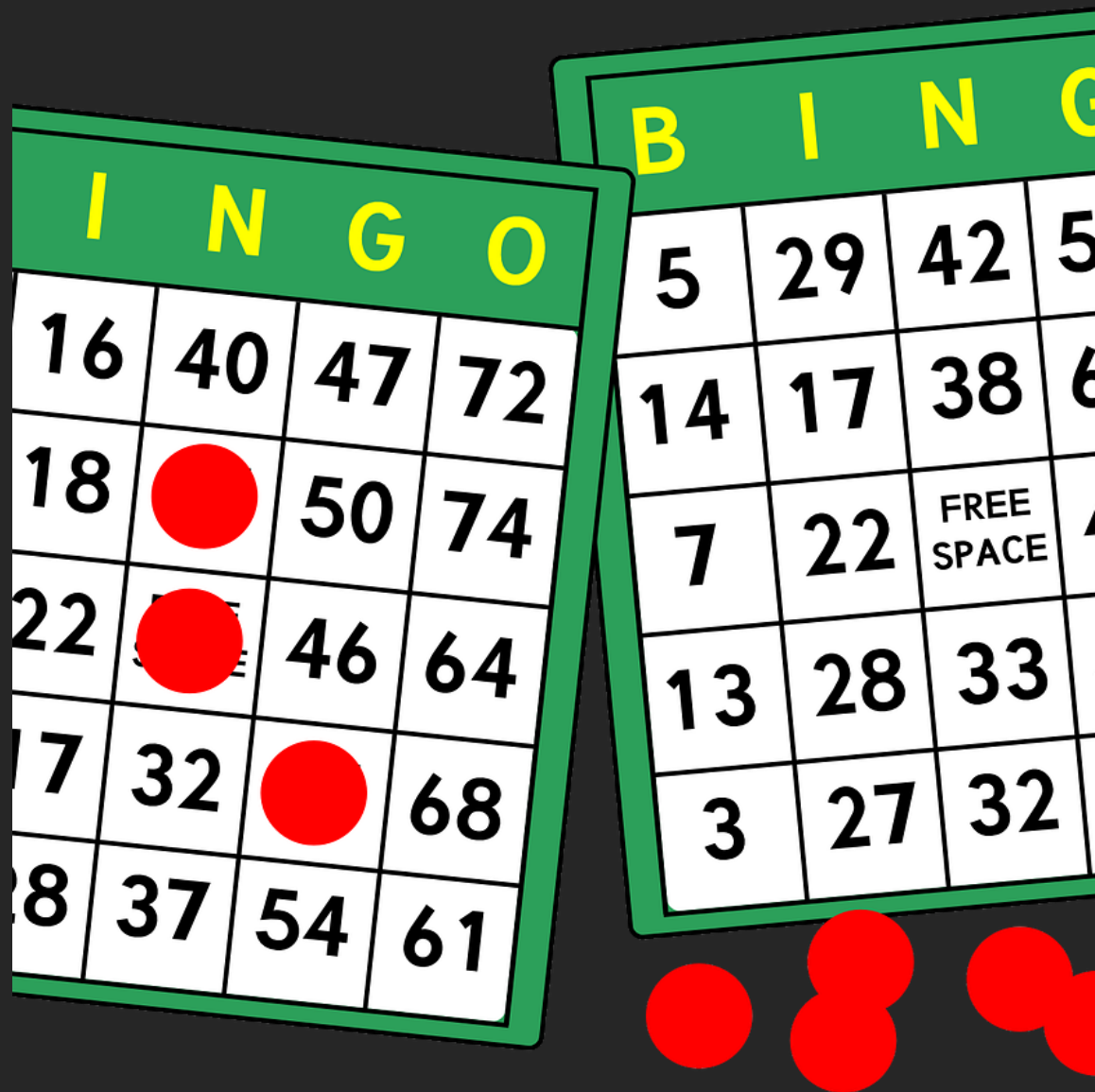
INFORMAL GAMBLING:

Includes CARD, DICE & Betting Pools in social/family gatherings.



LOTTERY & SCRATCH TICKETS

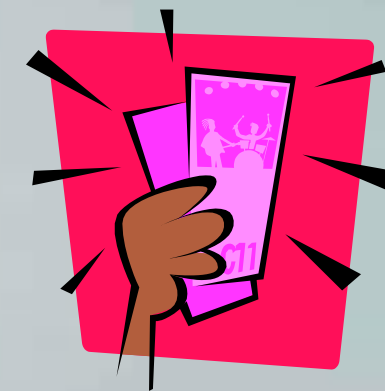
Grocery store slot machines, lotto, and scratch tickets-urban communities



Bingo and Casino Gambling-Access in CT and MASS



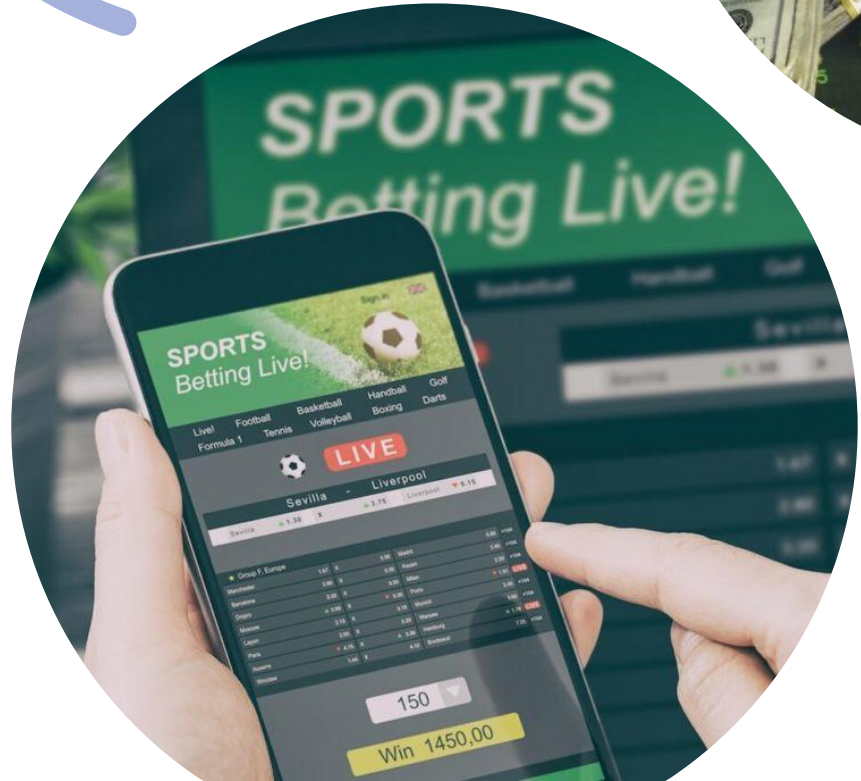
Raffles & Fundraising



SPORTS BETTING & ONLINE GAMING

- ✓ Retail sports betting
- ✓ Mobile and online sports betting
- ✓ Popular Apps: DraftKings, FanDuel, Caesars, Daily Fantasy Sports

This type of gambling is popular among young Latine men; with soccer, football and boxing as major motivators.



Low Risk to Gambling



Recreation only.
Not for **WIN**.

Understanding with
time, all who gamble
LOOSE.

Engage in gambling
SOCIALLY.
w/family/friends,
never alone.

Gambling is **TIME**
LIMITED.

Have a Plan:
Predetermined
\$AMOUNT to
play/lose

Understand that
information does not
make you a **BETTER**
gambler.

High Risk Factors for Problem Gambling

Child of a gambler or
a PARENT with SUD or
MH history

Belief that STRATEGY
is the key to winning

BIG WIN at an early
age

Belief you need to
keep playing
to REGAIN what was
lost

High Stakes
betting/BORROWING
to play or bet

Co-morbidity:
Presence of other
SUD's; MH conditions



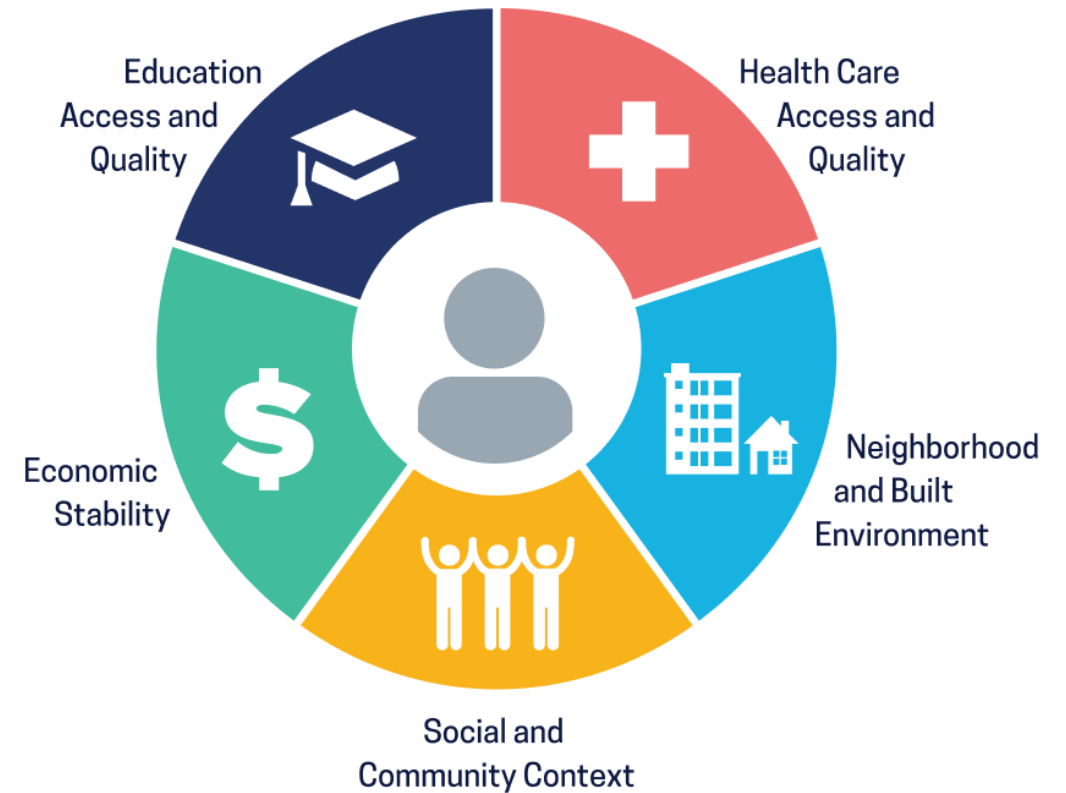
STRUCTURAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH

SDOH, Prevention Strategies and Engagement Opportunities

WHAT ARE SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH?

(SDOH) ARE THE **CONDITIONS** IN THE **ENVIRONMENTS** WHERE PEOPLE ARE BORN, LIVE, LEARN, WORK, PLAY, WORSHIP, AND AGE THAT AFFECT A WIDE RANGE OF **HEALTH, FUNCTIONING, AND QUALITY-OF-LIFE** OUTCOMES AND RISKS.

Social Determinants of Health



Social Determinants of Health
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 Healthy People 2030

Taking a closer look: Hispanic/Latine SDOH in MA

Median Wage:

32, 648 compared to
58,705 for Non- Latino
Whites

Homeownership:

31.1% compared to
71.3 Non-Latino
Whites

Uninsurance Rate:

5.6% for Latinos
compared to 1.6 for
Non-Latino Whites

Poverty

1 in 4 Latinx
households in MA live
below the poverty line

Education:

Highest % with less
than HSD

Food Insecurity:

1 in 4 are food
insecure

Important Core Values

Colectivo

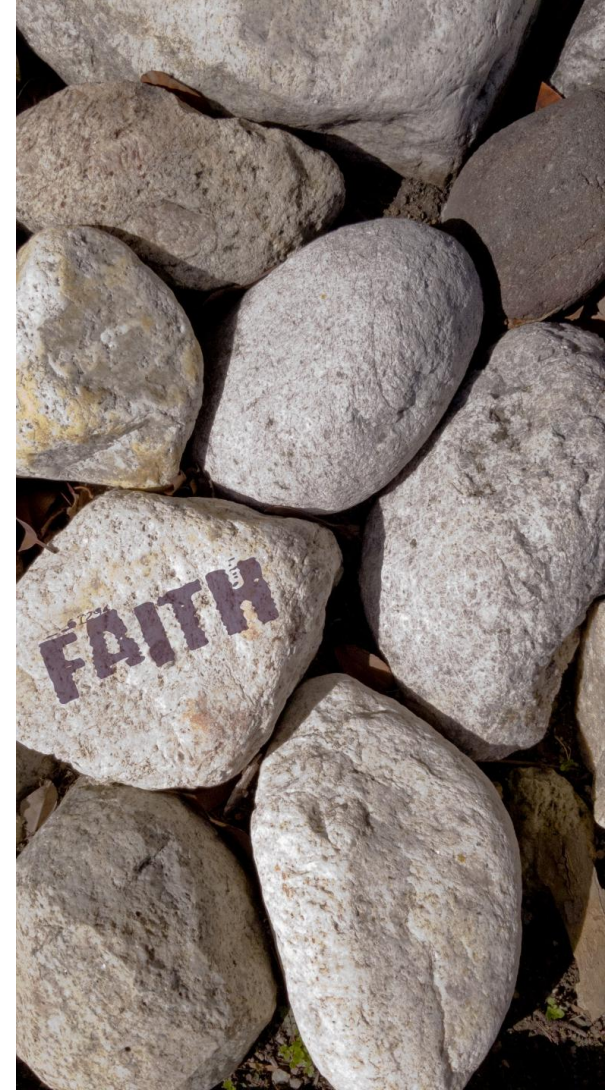
Importance of
community and
others

Respeto

(Respect): Can
impact agreement
despite lack of
understanding

RESILENCIA

*Resiliency (Shared
experience and
cultural strength)



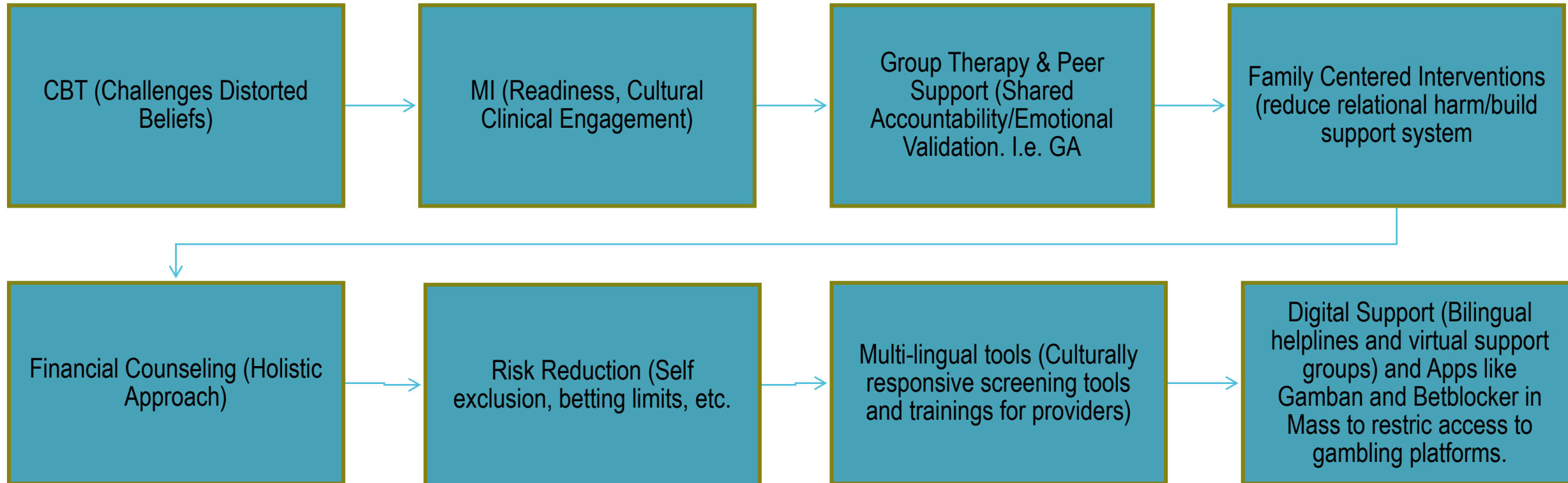
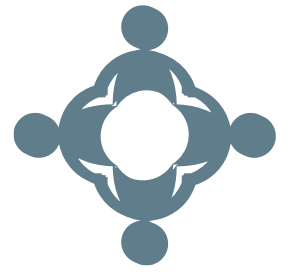
Important cultural constructs in Hispanic/Latine Communities

Concept	Description	Implications for Practice
Familismo	Emphasis on loyalty, unity, and responsibility to family—both nuclear and extended	Engage families in decision-making; frame services as supporting collective well-being
Personalismo	Value placed on warm, respectful, and personal relationships	Build trust through genuine connection; avoid overly formal or distant interactions
Simpatia	Preference for harmony, kindness, and avoiding conflict	Use gentle, affirming communication; be mindful of tone when discussing sensitive topics
Machismo	Traditional view of male strength, protection, and authority	Address gender roles with nuance; promote healthy masculinity and shared responsibility
Marianismo	Idealization of female self-sacrifice, purity, and nurturing roles	Support women’s empowerment while honoring caregiving roles; avoid reinforcing stereotypes

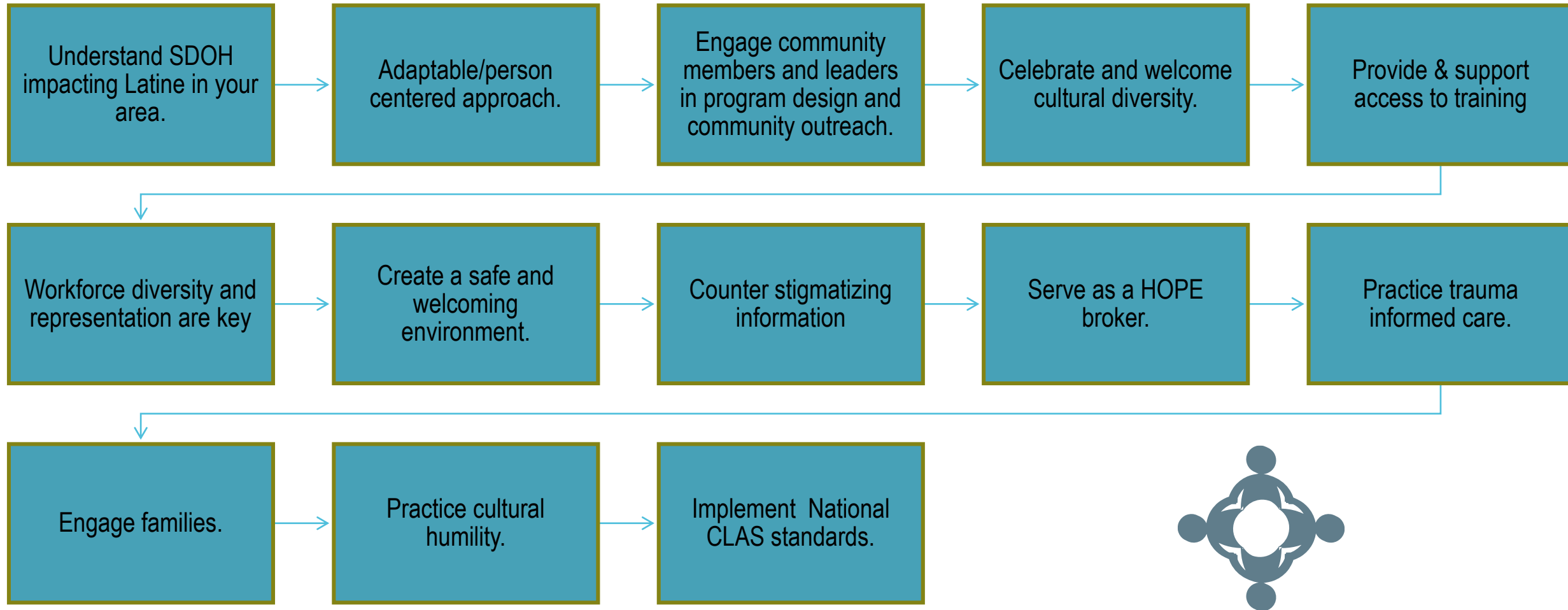


STRATEGIES FOR ENGAGEMENT

Effective Interventions for individuals experiencing problem gambling:



Strategies for engaging the Hispanic/Latine Community: There is no one size fits all.



Important Resources

Mass Resources:

- [New England ATTC](#)
- <https://careersofsubstance.org/>
- [Massachusetts Center of Excellence on Problem Gambling Prevention](#)
- MA Technical Assistance Center for Problem Gambling Treatment: m-tac.org
- [Mass Council on Gaming and Health](#)
- [Massachusetts-Ambassador-Project](#)

CT Resources:

- [CT PGS - Home Page](#)
- [CT Clearinghouse | A Wheeler Clinic Program | Plainville, CT](#)
- [CONNECTICUT COUNCIL – ON PROBLEM GAMBLING](#)
- [Gambling Awareness Connecticut](#)
- [Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services](#)

THANK YOU

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