

ACCULTURATION, ALCOHOL EXPECTANCIES, AND ALCOHOL USE
AMONG MEXICAN-AMERICAN ADOLESCENTS

A Dissertation

by

CLAUDIA GRACIELA FLATO

Submitted to the Office of Graduate Studies of
Texas A&M University
in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

December 2009

Major Subject: Psychology

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Approved by:

Chair of Committee,	Antonio Cepeda-Benito
Committee Members,	Leslie C. Morey
	Brian D. Doss
	Jorge E. Gonzalez
Head of Department,	Leslie C. Morey

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ABSTRACT

Acculturation, Alcohol Expectancies and Alcohol Use

Among Mexican-American Adolescents. (December 2009)

Claudia Graciela Flato, B.A., University of Texas at San Antonio;

M.S., Texas A&M University

Chair of Advisory Committee: Dr. Antonio Cepeda-Benito

The current study was designed to examine the influence of cultural orientation on alcohol involvement among Mexican-American adolescents. This study assessed whether cultural orientation predicted positive and negative alcohol expectancies for the effects of drinking one to two drinks or bingeing; and whether alcohol-use expectancies mediated the effects of acculturation on drinking practices. The participants were 300 Mexican-American high school students ($M = 16.5$, $SD = 1.15$; 178 female and 122 male) from a city along the Texas/Mexico border who were mostly self-identified as 2nd generation Mexican-Americans. The students completed the questionnaires regarding alcohol involvement, acculturation, and alcohol expectancies. Significant findings in the current study indicated a higher orientation to Mexican culture predicted higher levels of alcohol involvement for boys; whereas, a higher orientation to U.S. culture predicted higher alcohol involvement for girls. Also, identification with Mexican culture for girls predicted negative alcohol expectancies for low and high quantities of alcohol use.

