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► [The role of ethnic matching between patient and provider on the effectiveness of brief alcohol interventions with Hispanics.](#)

Field C.A., Caetano R. [Request reprint](#)

Alcoholism: Clinical and Experimental Research: 2010, 34(2), p. 262–271.

At a US emergency department, a brief conversation about the pros and cons of their risky drinking and offers of support for any efforts to reduce harm led to extra reductions in the drinking of Hispanic patients which were greatest when they were matched to a Hispanic and Spanish-speaking counsellor.

Original abstract *Background* Evaluating the effectiveness of treatments such as brief alcohol interventions among Hispanics is essential to effectively addressing their treatment needs. Clinicians of the same ethnicity as the client may be more likely to understand the culture-specific values, norms, and attitudes and, therefore, the intervention may be more effective. Thus, in cases in which Hispanic patients were provided an intervention by a Hispanic clinician, improved drinking outcomes were expected.

Methods Patients were recruited from an urban Level 1 Trauma centre following screening for an alcohol-related injury or alcohol problems. 537 Hispanics were randomly assigned to brief intervention or treatment as usual. Hierarchical linear modelling was used to determine the effects of ethnic match on drinking outcomes, including volume per week, maximum amount, and frequency of five or more drinks per occasion. Analyses controlled for level of acculturation and immigration status.

Results For Hispanics who received brief motivational intervention, an ethnic match between patient and provider resulted in a significant reduction in drinking outcomes at the 12-month follow-up. In addition, there was a tendency for ethnic match to be most beneficial to foreign-born Hispanics and less acculturated Hispanics.

Conclusions As hypothesised, an ethnic match between patient and provider significantly enhanced the effectiveness of brief intervention among Hispanics. Ethnic concordance

between patient and provider may have impacted the effectiveness of the intervention through several mechanisms including **cultural scripts**, ethnic-specific perceptions pertaining to substance abuse, and ethnic-specific preferred channels of communication.

For other reports on this trial see these Findings entries: [Ethnic differences in drinking outcomes following a brief alcohol intervention in the trauma care setting](#); [The effectiveness of brief intervention among injured patients with alcohol dependence: who benefits from brief interventions?](#).

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