MENTAL HEALTH, FOSTER CARE, ADOPTIONS, AND LGBTQ+ RESEARCH

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EMQ FamiliesFirst

Outcomes & Evaluations Department

EMQ FamiliesFirst takes a state-of-the-art approach to children and adolescents with complex behavioral health challenges and helps them recover from trauma such as abuse, severe neglect, addiction, and poverty. Our results for youth are on average 10 percentage points higher than state or national averages on metrics such as living at home, staying in school and remaining out of trouble.
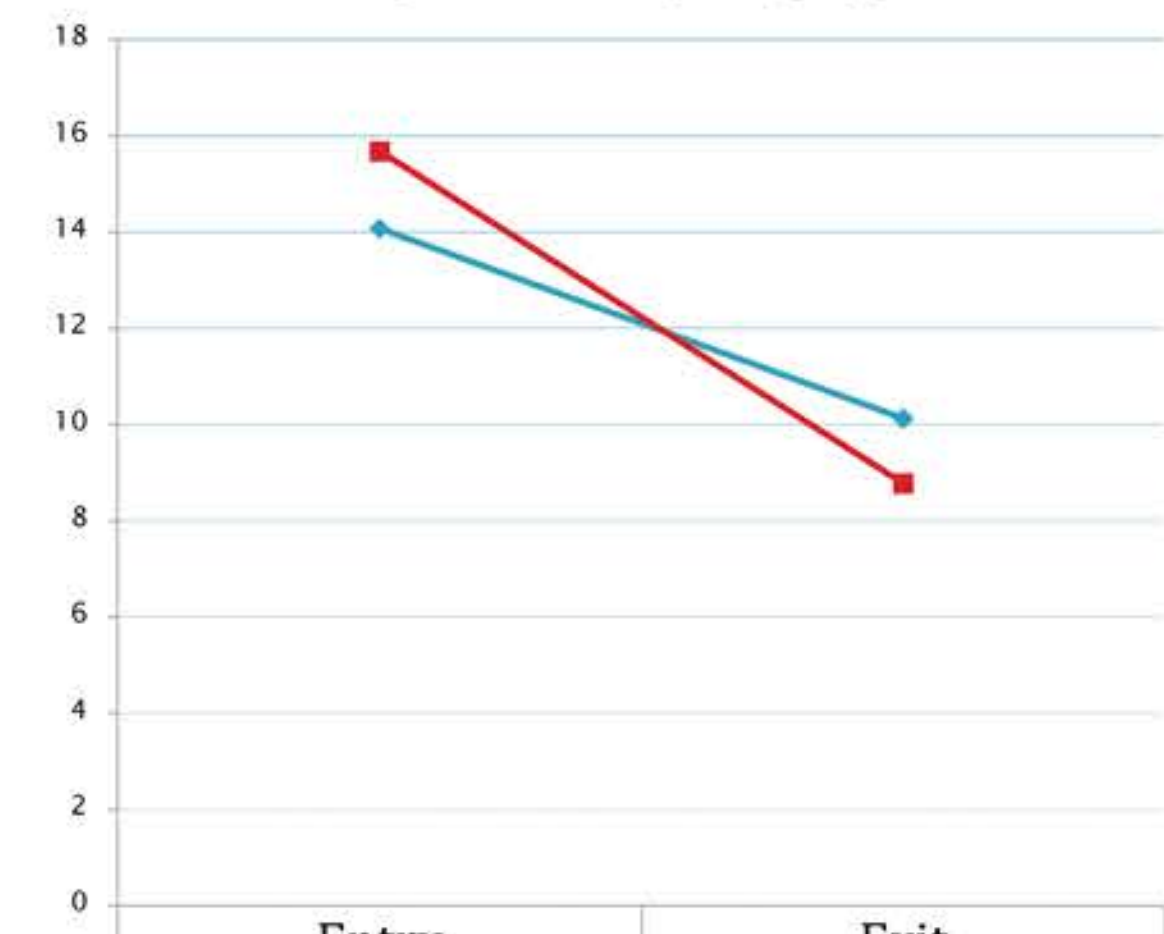
FY15 AGENCY WIDE OUTCOMES

DISCHARGE OUTCOMES

92% In-Home   91% In-School   95% Out of Trouble

BETTER
51% Planned Discharge

WRAPAROUND MONTHS POST-DISCHARGE STUDY

79% In-Home   82% In School   85% Out of Trouble

Program Evaluation

Graph 1: CANS scores at Entry and Exit by Language

	Entry	Exit
English-speaking	14.07	10.12
Spanish-speaking	15.68	8.77

Table 1. Mean WFI Combined Total Fidelity Scores

Ethnicity	M	SD	N
African American	82.52%	9.13%	112
Hispanic/Latino	84.67%	7.72%	296
Caucasian	82.62%	11.08%	153
Total	83.68%	9.08%	561

Table 2. Mean WFI Facilitator Fidelity Scores

Ethnicity	M	SD	N
African American	86.15%	8.55%	140
Hispanic/Latino	87.60%	7.19%	386
Caucasian	85.68%	12.41%	184
Total	86.82%	9.11%	710

Table 3. Mean WFI Youth Fidelity Scores

Ethnicity	M	SD	N
African American	76.06%	13.93%	58
Hispanic/Latino	80.48%	12.89%	165
Caucasian	79.98%	12.66%	77
Total	79.30%	13.16%	300

Wraparound Retrospective:
An Analysis of Outcome Variance between Cultural Groups

As a mental health services provider, we strive to provide culturally reflective service. The majority of youth and families served are Hispanic youth.

This project seeks to answer the questions:
1) With the collectivist nature of wraparound, should outcome disparities be expected between collective vs. individualistic cultures?"
2) To what extent can these Wraparound outcome disparities be associated with collectivist (Hispanic) vs. individualistic (Mainstream U.S. Culture) cultures?

Measures Used:
Child and Adolescent Needs And Strengths Assessment (CANS), Wraparound Fidelity Index 4.0 (WFI 4.0)

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Initial Findings:
•CANS: The interaction of language X time for Total CANS Scores suggested that youth who speak different languages showed different patterns of change between program entry and exit in dysfunctional behavior as measured by the CANS total score ($F_{(1, 920)} = 8.203$, $p < .005$, partial eta2 = .009 (see Graph 1)
•CANS: Although both groups of clients showed significant change between program entry and exit, the Spanish-speaking clients exhibited a more dramatic decrease in dysfunctional behavior than the English-speaking clients.
•WFI 4.0: There is a significant main effect of ethnicity, such that the Combined Total Fidelity score at six months was significantly different than Combined Total Fidelity score, Facilitator Fidelity Scores, and Youth Fidelity Scores by ethnicity.
(See Table 1; $F_{(2, 558)} = 3.771$, $p < .05$) (See Table 2; $F_{(2, 707)} = 3.263$, $p < .05$) (See Table 3; $F_{(2, 279)} = 3.852$, $p < .05$).
•African American families seem to fall between Caucasian and Hispanic families on both measures, but are not significantly distinct from either comparison group. This may be due to African American families sharing cultural components with both collectivist and individualistic cultures (Collectivist components: financial interdependence, social homogeneity; Individualistic components: Complex Society).

Bibliography:
[1] Kitayama, S. and H.R. Markus. (1991). Culture and the Self: Implications for Cognition, Emotion, and Motivation. Psychological Review, 98(2):224-253.
[2] Kitayama, S. and H.R. Markus. (2010). A Cycle of Mutual Constitution. Perspectives on Psychological Science, 5(4):420-430.
[3] Triandis, H. C. (1994). Culture and Social Behavior. New York: McGraw Hill.
[4] Triandis, H. C. (1996). The Psychological Measurement of Cultural Syndromes. American Psychologist, 51(4)407-415.
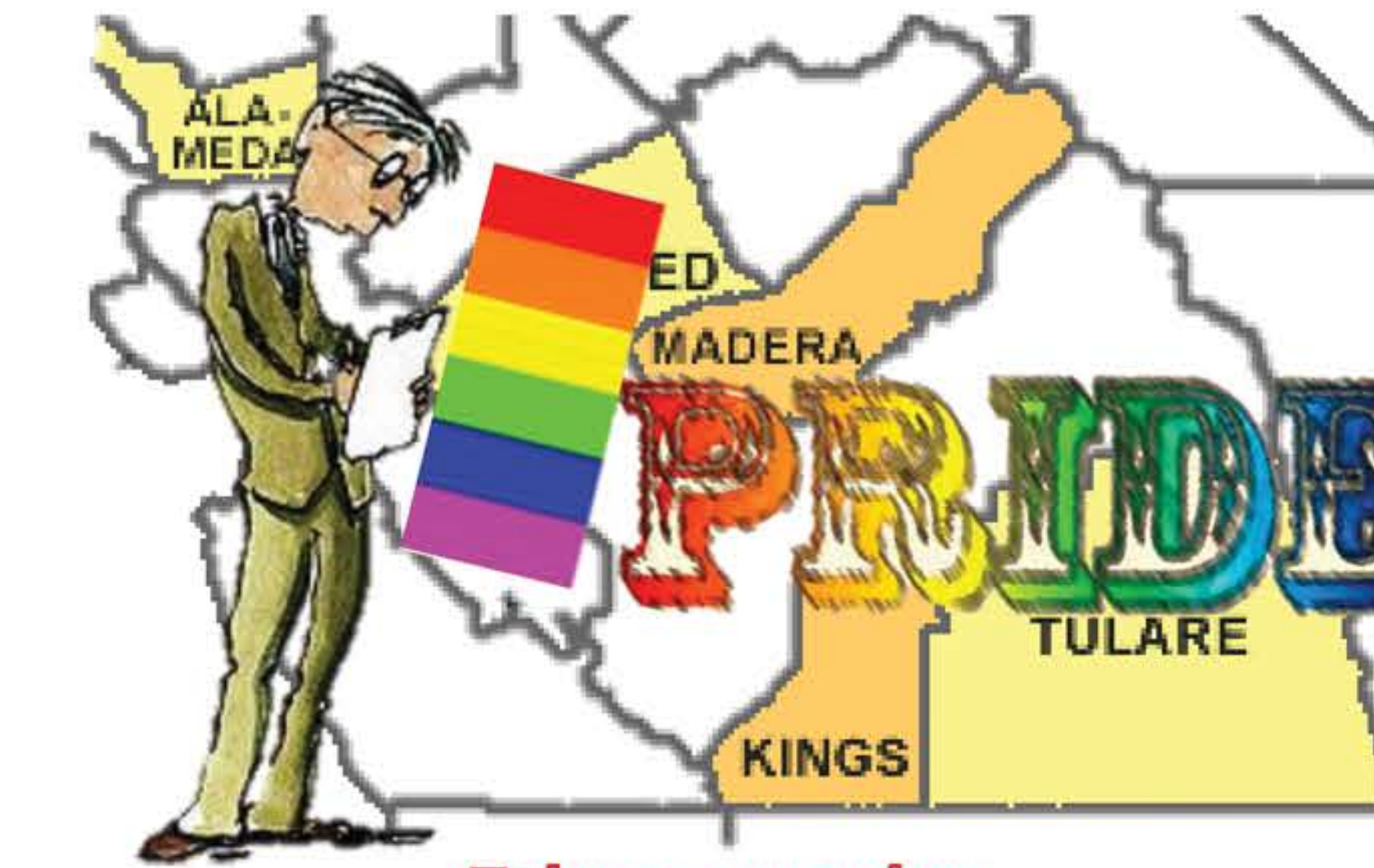[5] Triandis, H. C. and E. M. Suh (2002). Cultural Influences on Personality. Annu. Rev. Psychol., 53(1):133-160.

QUANTITATIVE METHODS
QUALITATIVE METHODS

NORTH TEXAS

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA SANTA CRUZ

Politics, Culture & Identity (PCI) Laboratory

THE CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY CLIMATES (C3) PROJECT

Ethnography
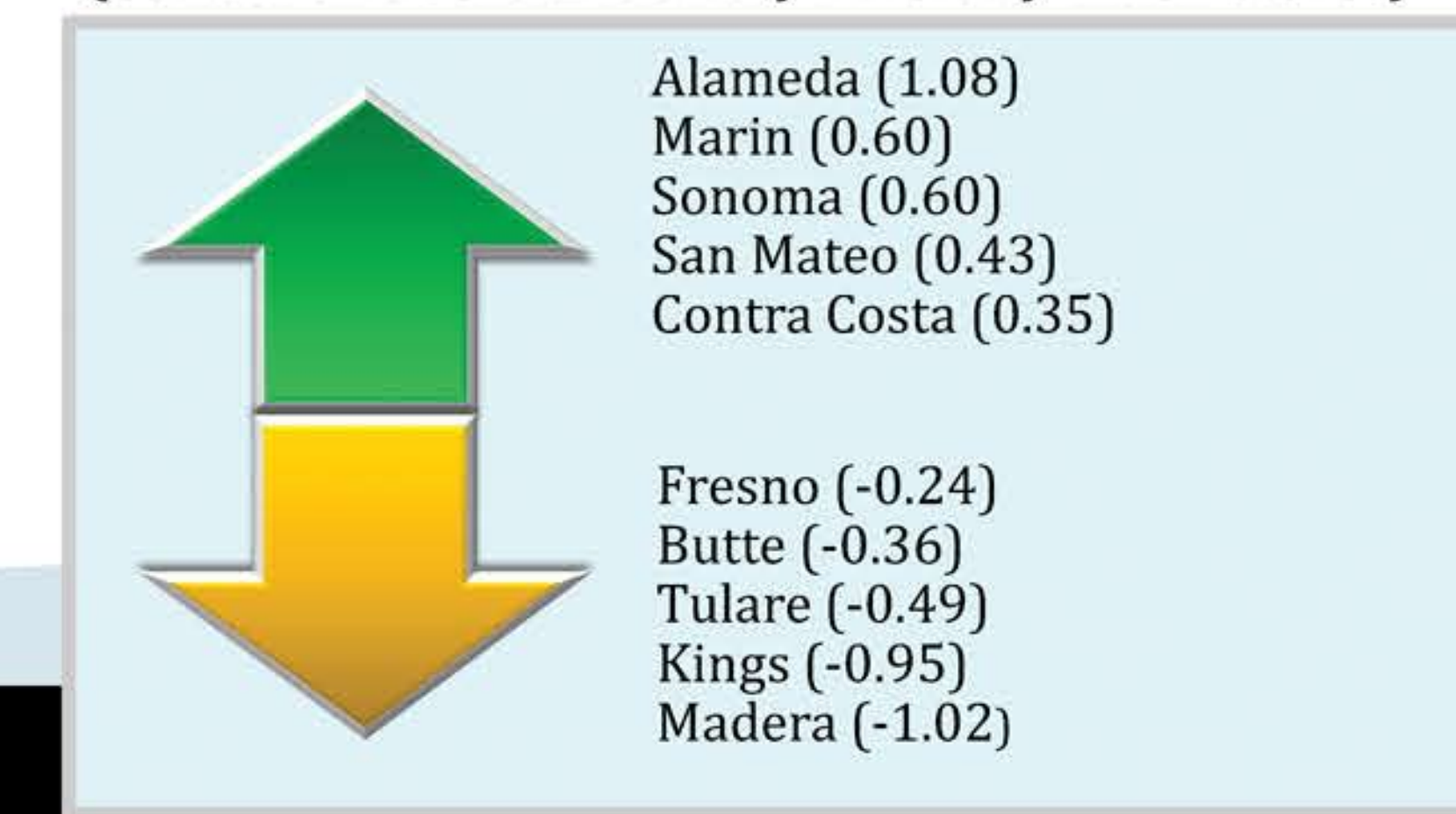
The C3 Project is a three-phase study investigating how a community's ethos towards gender and sexual identity diversity impacts the mental health of its LGBTQ youth in our comparative research region: Bay Area, Central Valley.

Theoretical Basis:
• Ecological Systems Theory (Bronfenbrenner, 1979)
• Minority Stress Theory (Meyer, 2003)

Phase 1
• Remote collection of county and municipal level data from 10 counties randomly selected from two California regions
• Systematic assessment of positive community climate indicators across the counties.
• Modeled on a study conducted in southern Illinois (Oswald et al., 2010), we developed eight indicators of positive community climate for sexual and gender identity diversity.
• The Gender and Sexual Identity Diversity (GSID) Index, which ranges in value from -1 (extremely negative) to +1 (extremely positive). The calculation of this statistic was based on the Oswald et al. study in Illinois.

Phase 2
1. Observations and field notes collected from key spaces, centers, and organizations in each county
2. Semi-structured individual interviews with adult LGBTQ leaders in each county
3. Semi-structured group interviews with high school LGBTQ youth leaders in each county.

Phase 3 will consist of survey data collection from LGBTQ youth in our comparative research regions.

Figure 1.

County-Level Indicators of Community Climate (e.g. percentage of public high schools with a GSA, number of same sex headed households.)

Community Gatekeepers (e.g. a volunteer at local LGBTQ center, Members of LGBTQ rights groups)

LGBTQ Youth (e.g. experiences with local LGBTQ community, perception of social support and stigma)

Figure 2: Summary of Phase 1 Findings
(Gender and Sexual Identity Diversity Index Scores).

Alameda (1.08)
Marin (0.60)
Sonoma (0.60)
San Mateo (0.43)
Contra Costa (0.35)

Fresno (-0.24)
Butte (-0.36)
Tulare (-0.49)
Kings (-0.95)
Madera (-1.02)

Research Team:

PCI Lab Director & Principle Investigator: Assoc. Professor P. Hammack, Ph.D., M.A., B.A.

PCI Lab Research Coordinator & Project Facilitator: D. Pletta, B.S., B.A.

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Field Researcher Assistant (Central Valley): J. Atwood, B.A.