LEISURE PATTERNS AMONG HISPANIC AMERICANS

- Understand underlying values characteristic of Hispanic culture
- Understand how these values find expression in Hispanics' use of outdoor recreation areas

What does Hispanic mean?

- Hispanics are united by a common language (Spanish). However, most U.S. born Hispanics use English as their primary language.
- Many Hispanics think of themselves as neither Hispanic nor Latino. Many prefer to be identified by their country of origin.
- Hispanic-Americans are heterogeneous in terms of family structures, religious beliefs, and leisure interests.

Major Hispanic Groups (U.S.)

- Mexico: 38.5%
- Other: 12.3%
- South America: 6.3%
- Central America: 4.6%
- Dominican Republic: 3.3%
- Cuba: 3.0%
- Puerto Rico: 2.4%

Major Hispanic Groups (Texas)

- Mexico: 76.5%
- Other: 12.5%
- Cuba: 6.4%
- Puerto Rico: 1.0%

Proportion of ethnic/racial groups in U.S. and Texas (2000)

- Anglos: 32.1%
- Blacks: 11.5%
- Hispanics: 11.5%
- Others: 12.3%
Projected racial/ethnic composition of Texas

Hispanic presence in Texas Cities
- Laredo 94%
- Brownsville 91%
- McAllen 80%
- El Paso 77%
- San Antonio 50%
- Houston 37%
- Dallas 36%

Contrasting Cultural Values
- European/American
- Hispanic/Indigenous
- Human/nature duality
- Less separation
- Individualism
- Collectivist
- Private property
- Communal property

Emphasis on the family
- Familial obligations: perceived obligation to provide material and emotional support to extended family.
- Perceived support from the family: perception that other family members are reliable providers and will help solve problems.
- Family as referents: feeling that close physical and psychological contact should be maintained with nuclear and extended family members.

Pattern of selective acculturation—Hispanic-Americans' involvement in outdoor recreation is influenced by values associated with family unity
- Compared to Anglos, Hispanics are more likely to
  - Visit in the company of family groups
  - Visit in larger groups
  - De-emphasize privacy and quiet
Recreation Style Differences
(Chicago Parks Study)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Average Size</th>
<th>Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>Individual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>3.8</td>
<td>Individual/peers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>5.7</td>
<td>Family</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Recreation Style Differences
(Lincoln National Forest, NM)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Size</th>
<th># adults</th>
<th># kids</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anglo-Americans</td>
<td>6.9</td>
<td>4.7</td>
<td>2.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mexican/Americans</td>
<td>12.8</td>
<td>7.6</td>
<td>5.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Forest Service campsite capacity=10.

Comparison of Important Setting Attributes (Rankings)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mexican-Americans</th>
<th>Anglo-Americans</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Toilets</td>
<td>1. Quiet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Camping space</td>
<td>2. Privacy, water (tie)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Water availability</td>
<td>3. Space between sites</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Fire rings.</td>
<td>4. Camping space</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Fire wood, parking space, quiet (tie)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Social setting preferences: “nearness to others”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Mexican-Americans</th>
<th>Anglo-Americans</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>far away</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>few others</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>near others</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>don't care</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Management Implications

- Anglo ideas of “outdoor recreation” may not generalize across groups.
- Site planning and design should be diverse to meet different user needs.
- Managers should not ignore cultural differences, and should recognize “intra-ethnic diversity.”