

Culture and Disparities in Breast Cancer Screening

Monica Hodges
Loma Linda University
Department of Psychology
mhodges@pacificclinics.org

Brenda Navarrete
Loma Linda University
Department of Psychology
bnavarrete07g@llu.edu

Carlos Garberoglio
Loma Linda University
Department of Psychology
cgarberoglio@som.llu.edu

Hector Betancourt
Loma Linda University
Department of Psychology
hbetancourt@llu.edu

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Introduction

Ethnic disparities in breast cancer diagnosis, mortality rates, and screening behaviors exist among various ethnic groups in the United States

Data from the 2003 California Health Interview Survey, including women from San Bernardino and Riverside Counties

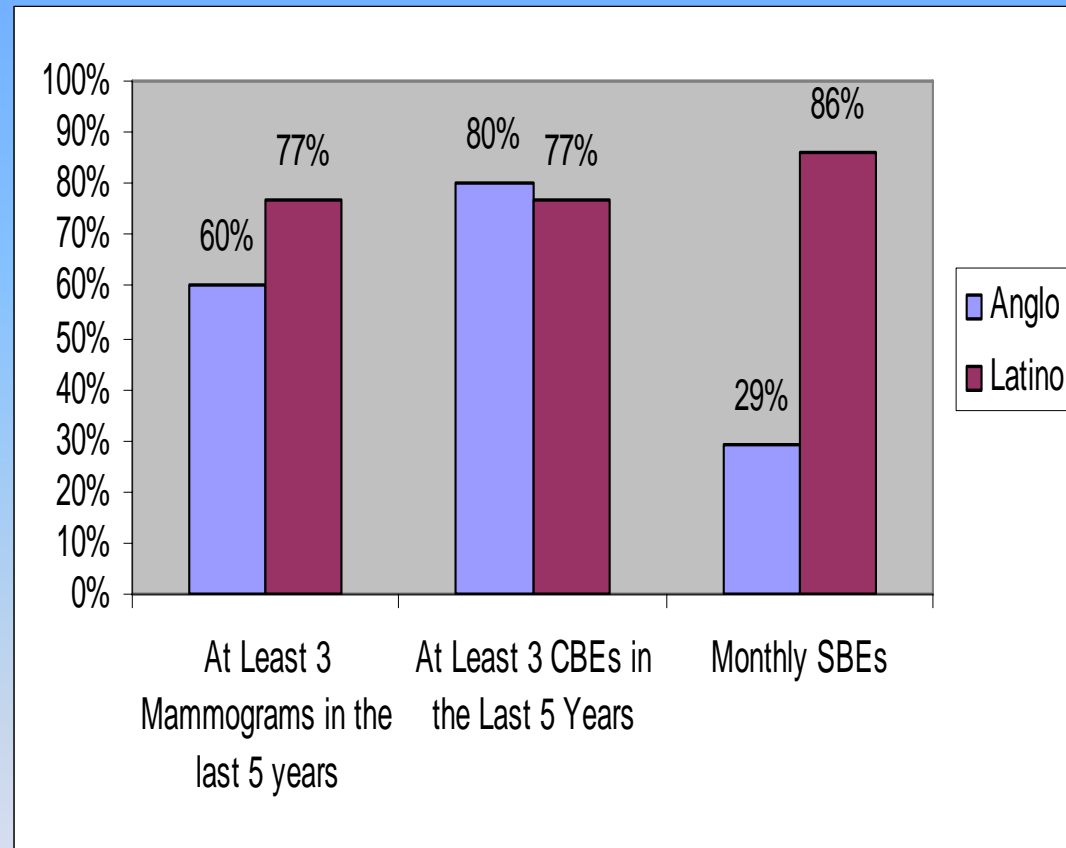
- ◆ Mammogram in last 2 years: Anglo 81%, Latino 68%
- ◆ CBE in the last year: Anglo 71%, Latino 57%

Although disparities have been identified among various ethnic and SES groups, little is known about the *cultural* factors that may be responsible for such disparities

The investigation of specific aspects of culture, such as values, beliefs, norms, and expectations relevant to breast cancer screening may account for within as well as between group variations in health outcome

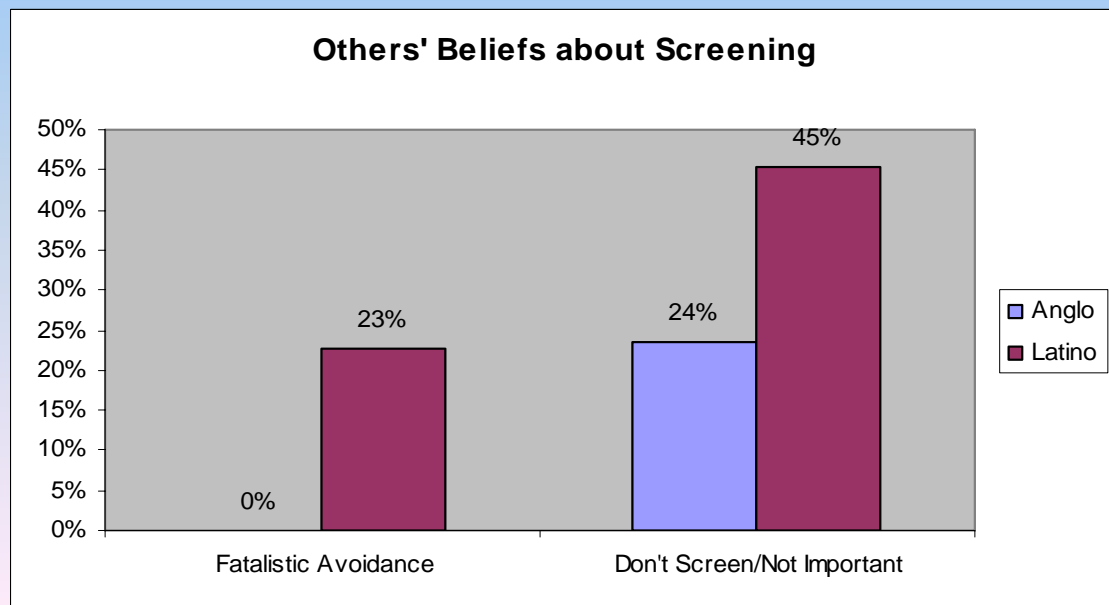
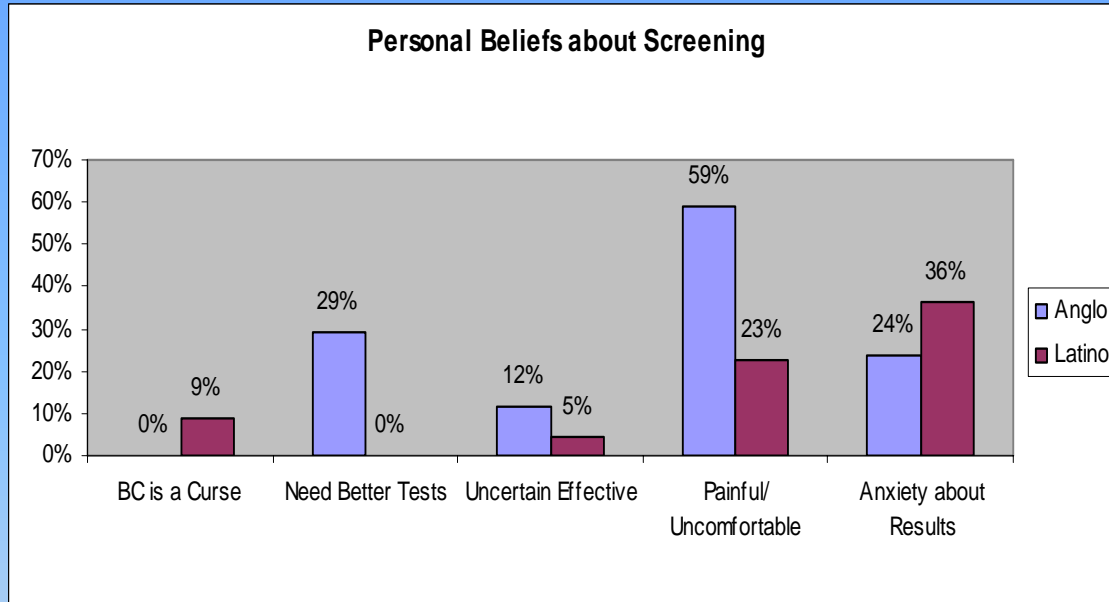
Demographics & Rates of Screening

	Anglo N = 17	Latino N = 22
Age	49	47
Education	15	11
Income		
\$0 – 15	12%	13%
\$15-25	18%	32%
\$25-39	29%	36%
\$40-59	6%	9%
\$60- >	24%	9%
Latino Sub-Populations Originally From		
Mexico		82%
Puerto Rico		5%
Central America/Caribbean		5%
Cuba		5%
Other		5%



- Participants reported similar rates of Mammograms and CBEs
- Significantly more Latinos reported performing regular monthly SBEs

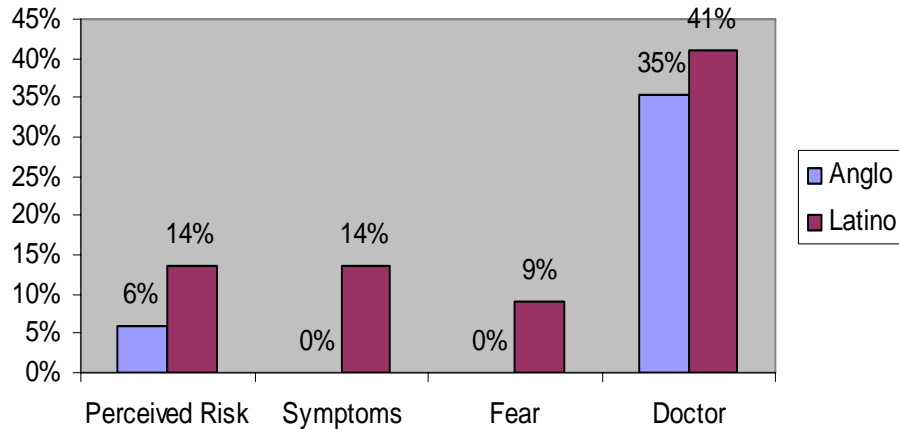
Patterns of Thinking and Feeling about Screening for Breast Cancer



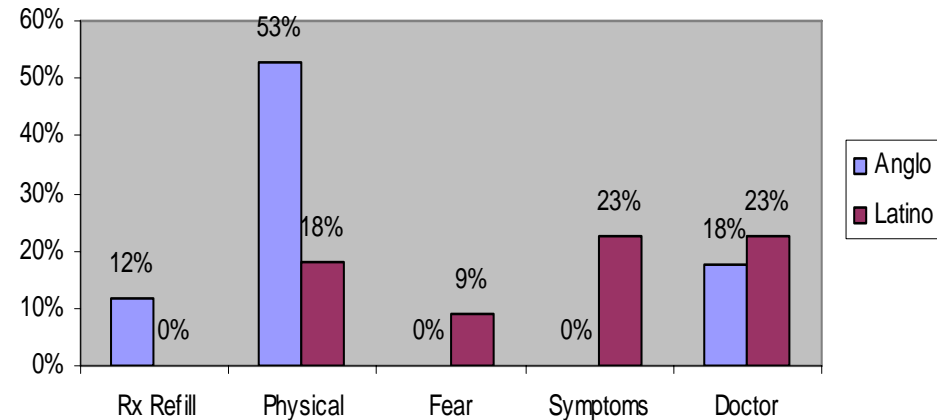
- Anglo women are more likely to report that screening is a painful or uncomfortable procedure
- Latino women are more likely to report anxiety about the screening test results
- Latino women are more likely to report that their friends and family believe that screening is not important and therefore they do not feel the need to screen for breast cancer
- Latino women are more likely to report that their friends and family are fatalistic about breast cancer

Reasons for Screening for Breast Cancer

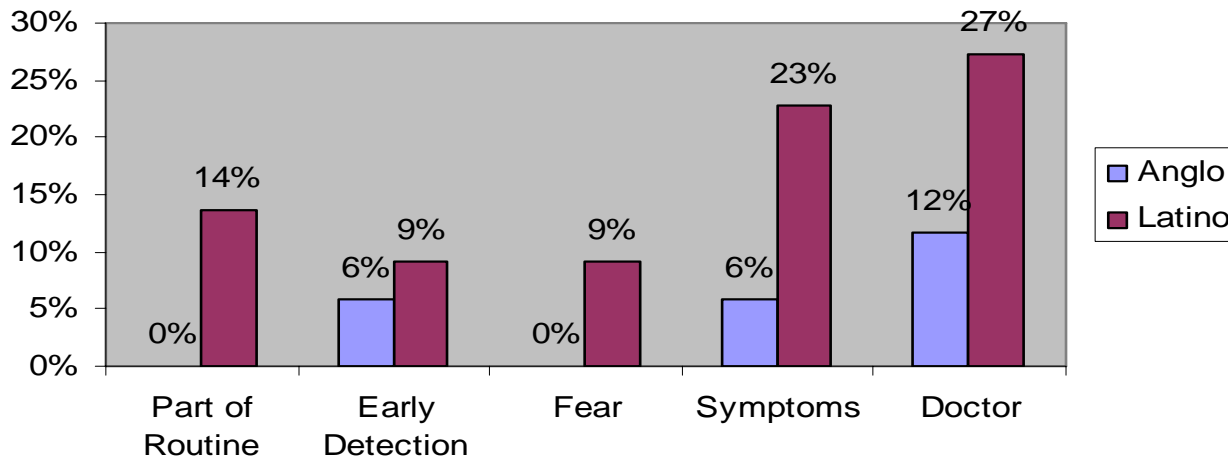
Do you think there is anything that causes women to have Mammograms?



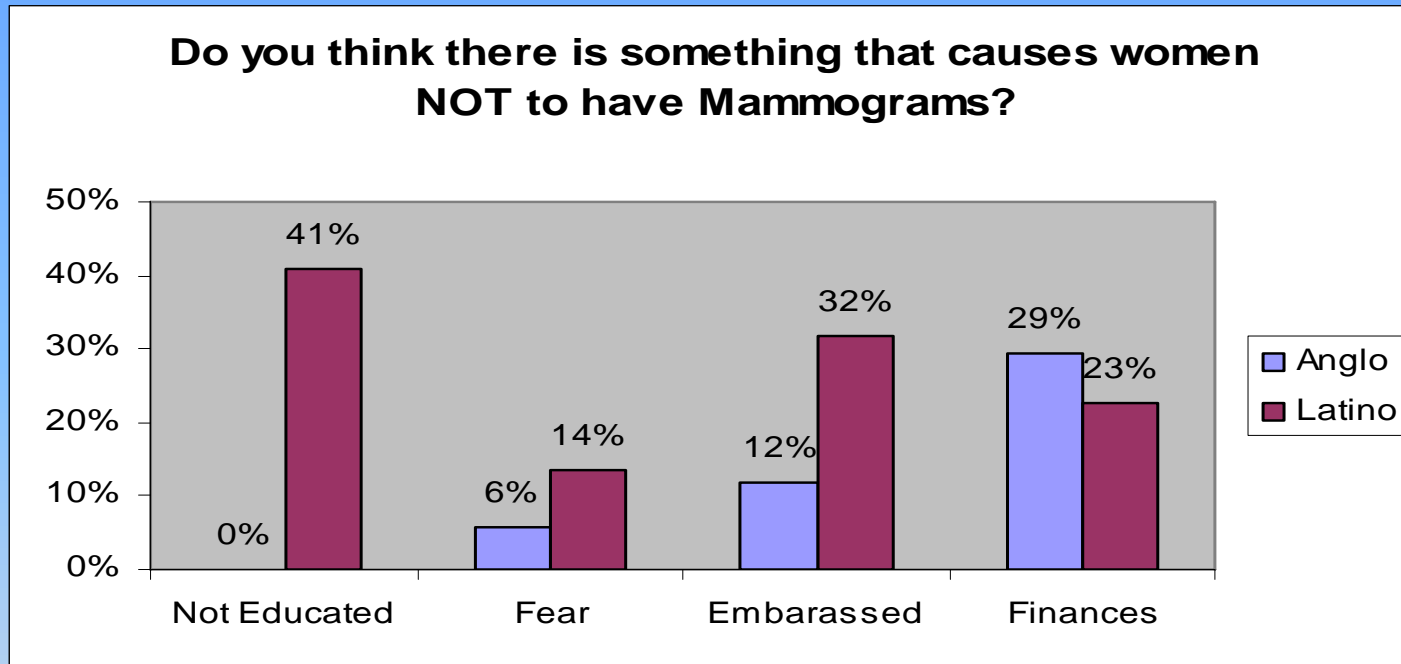
Do you think there is anything that causes women to have CBEs?



Do you think there is anything that causes women to do SBEs?

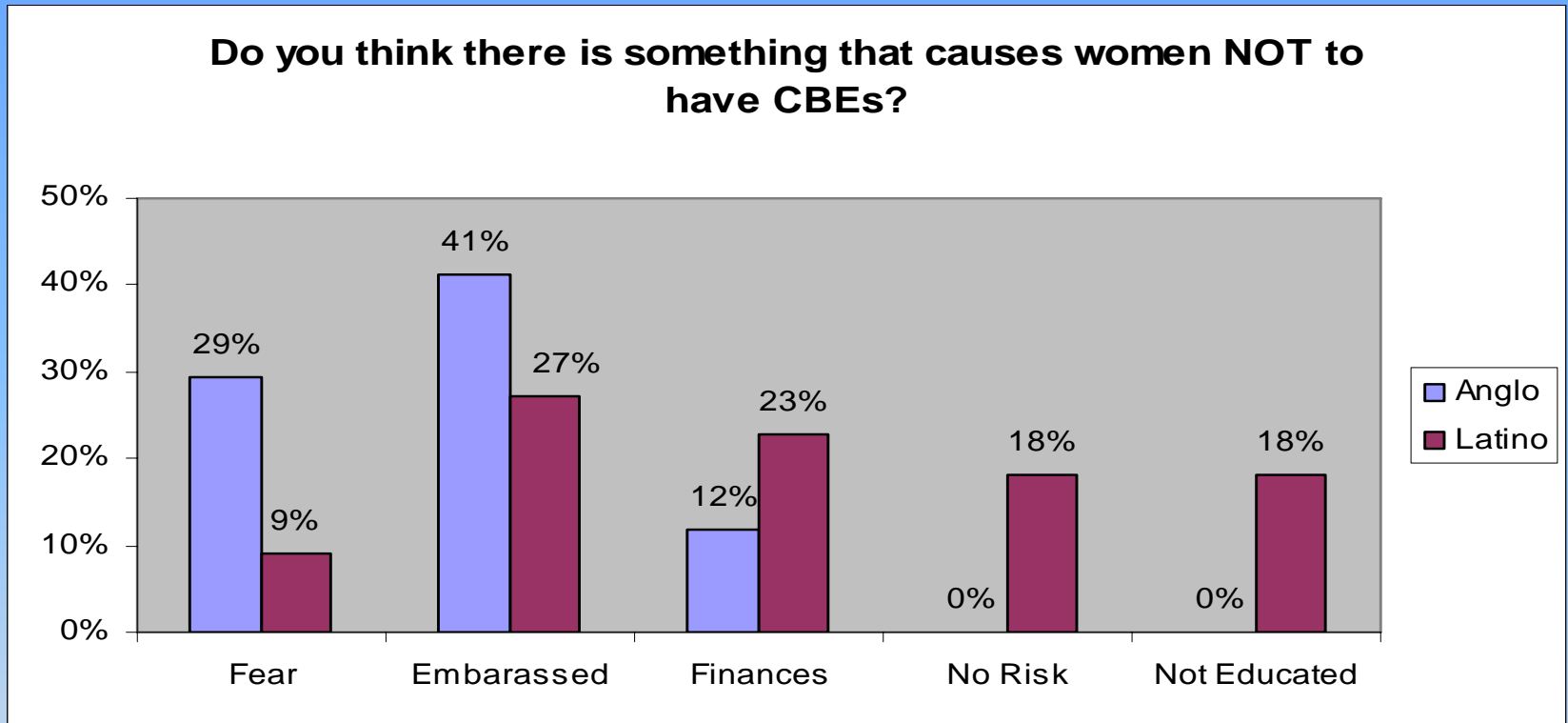


Reasons for NOT having Mammograms



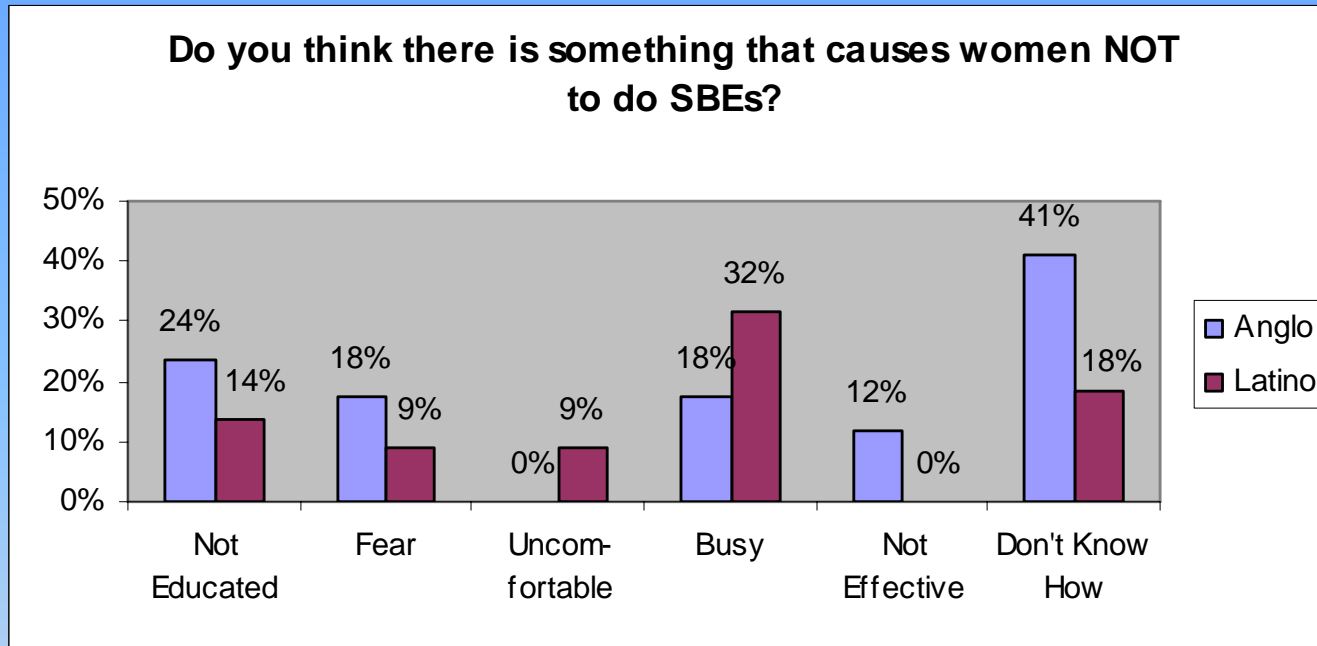
- Latinos and Anglos reported Embarrassment, Fear, and Finances as reasons for not having a mammogram
- #1 reason reported by Anglos was Finances
- #1 reason reported by Latinos was Lack of Education
 - Only Latinos reported Lack of Education as a reason

Reasons for NOT having CBEs



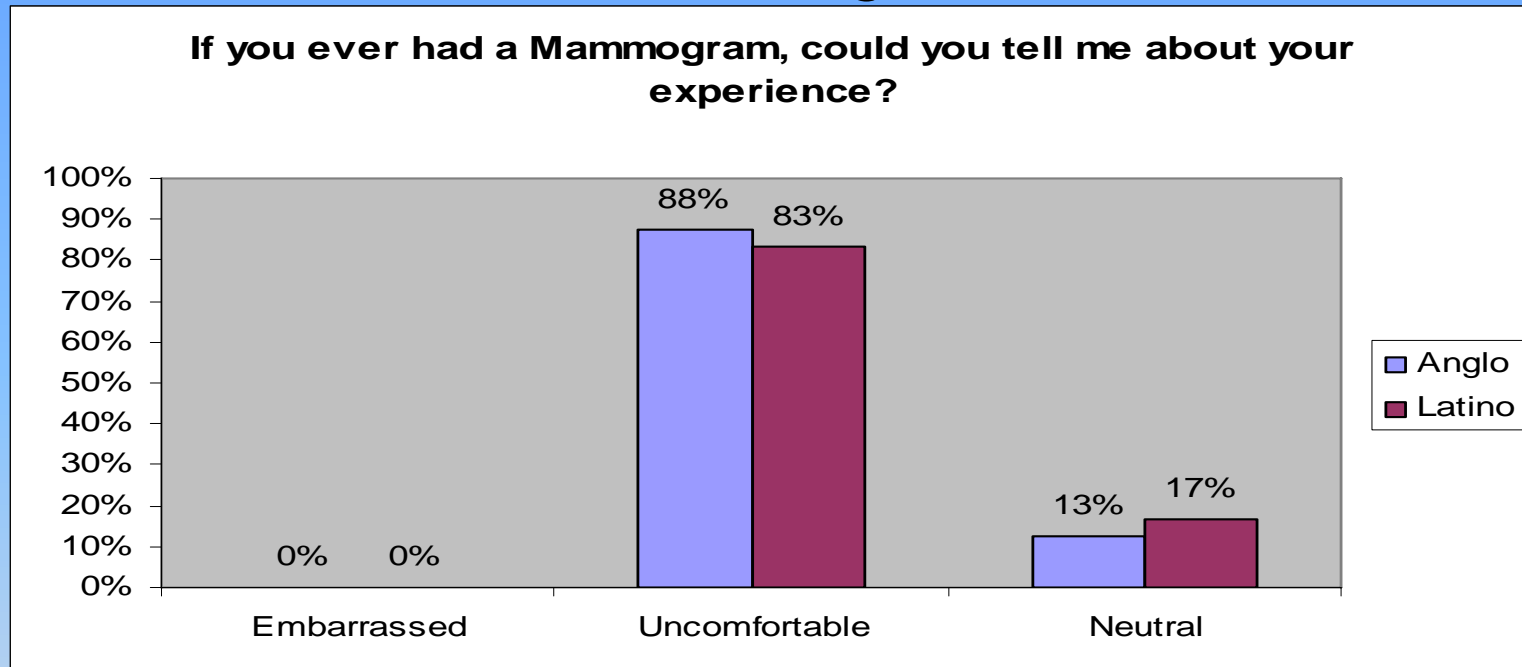
- Embarrassment was reported by Anglos and Latinos as the primary reason women do not have CBEs
- Finances were reported more often by Latinos
- Fear was reported more often by Anglos
- Only Latinos reported lack of Education and No Perceived Risk as obstacles to having CBEs

Reasons for NOT doing Regular SBEs



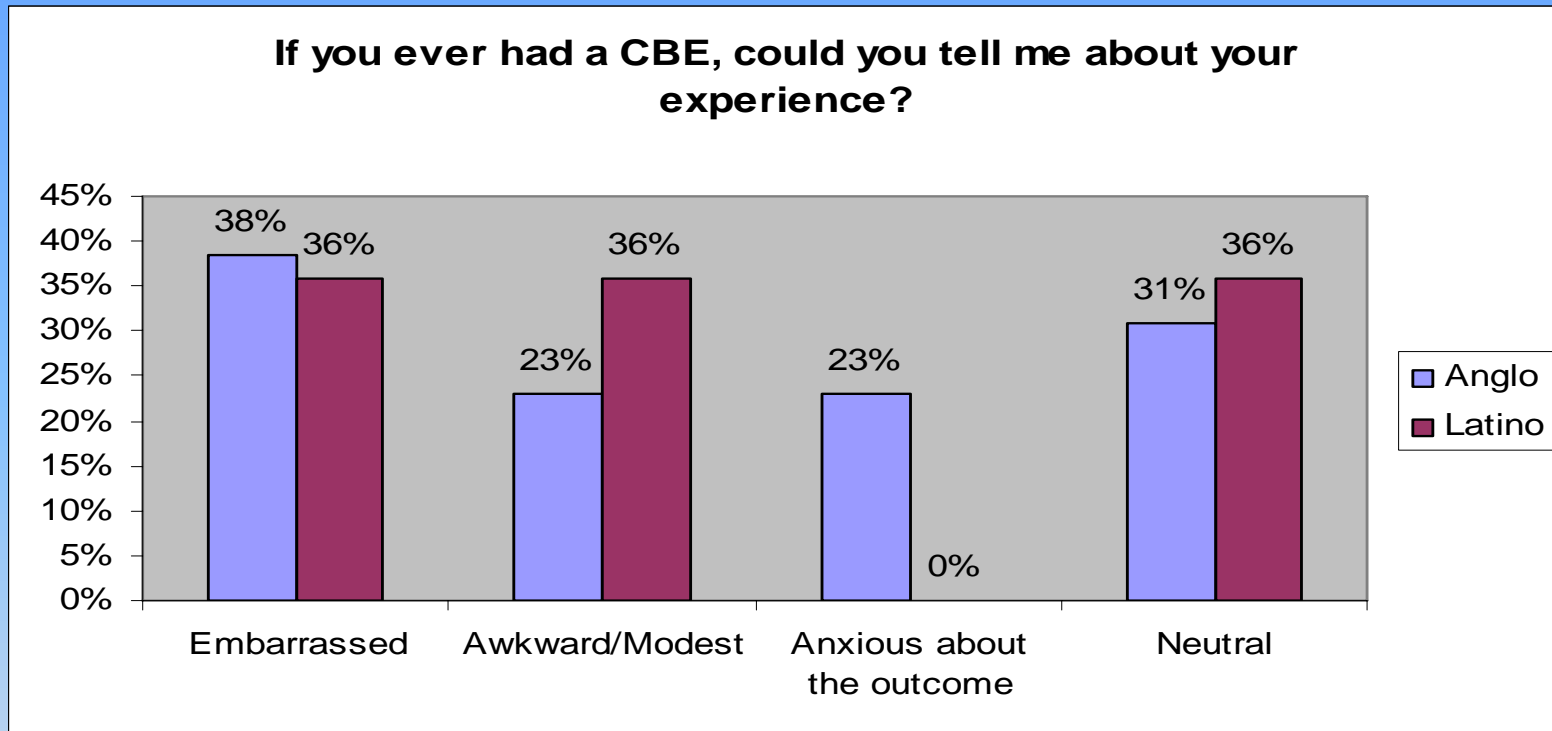
- Anglos and Latinos reported Not Knowing How to do SBEs and Being Too Busy as obstacles to SBE
- #1 reason for Anglos was Don't Know How
- #1 reason for Latinos was Too Busy
- Anglos reported Fear and Not Educated more often as obstacles
- Only Latinos reported that SBEs are Uncomfortable
- Only Anglos reported that SBEs are Not Effective

Perceptions of Actual Screening Experience: Mammogram



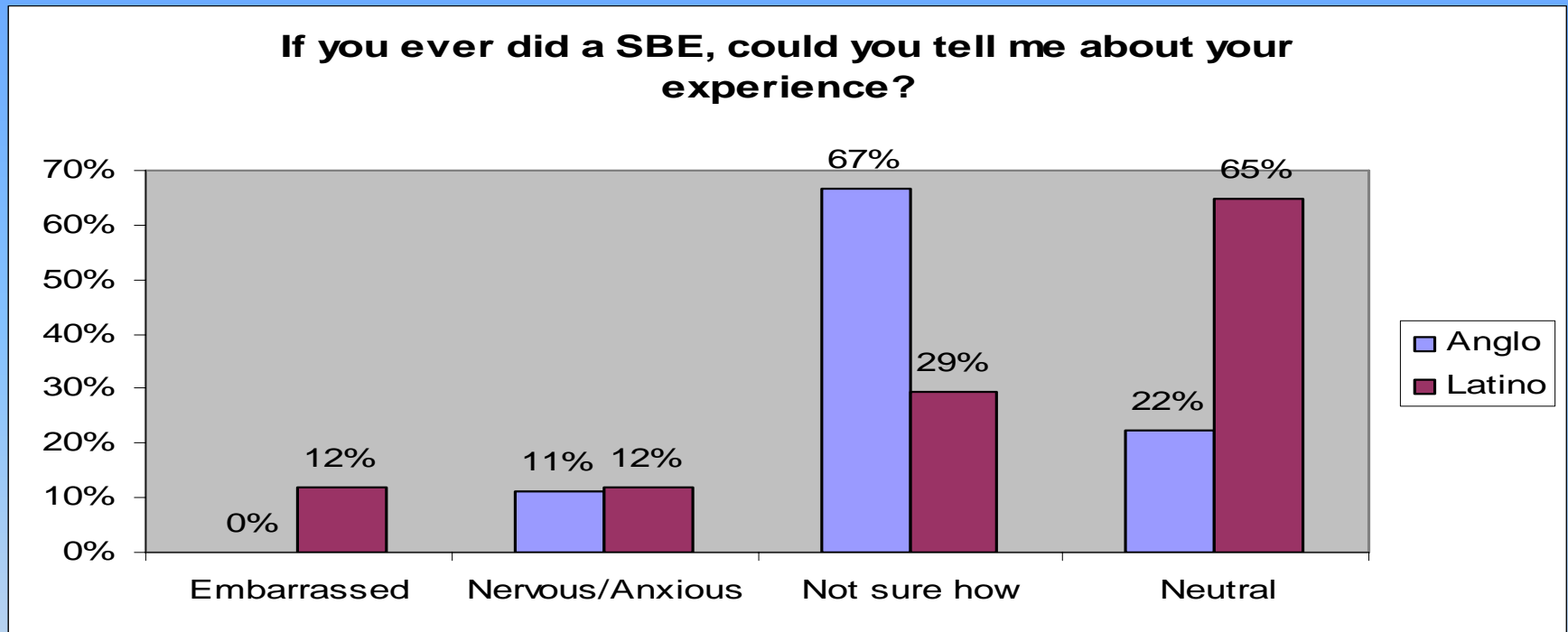
- Although embarrassment was reported by both Latinos and Anglos as reasons why women don't have mammograms, of the participants who have had a mammogram, none reported Feelings of Embarrassment.
- Both groups reported high rates of experiencing Uncomfortable (e.g., pain, hurts, cold, hard, unpleasant)
- Similar rates of reporting a Neutral experience (e.g. "Fine, Okay, No big deal")

Perceptions of Actual Screening Experience: CBE



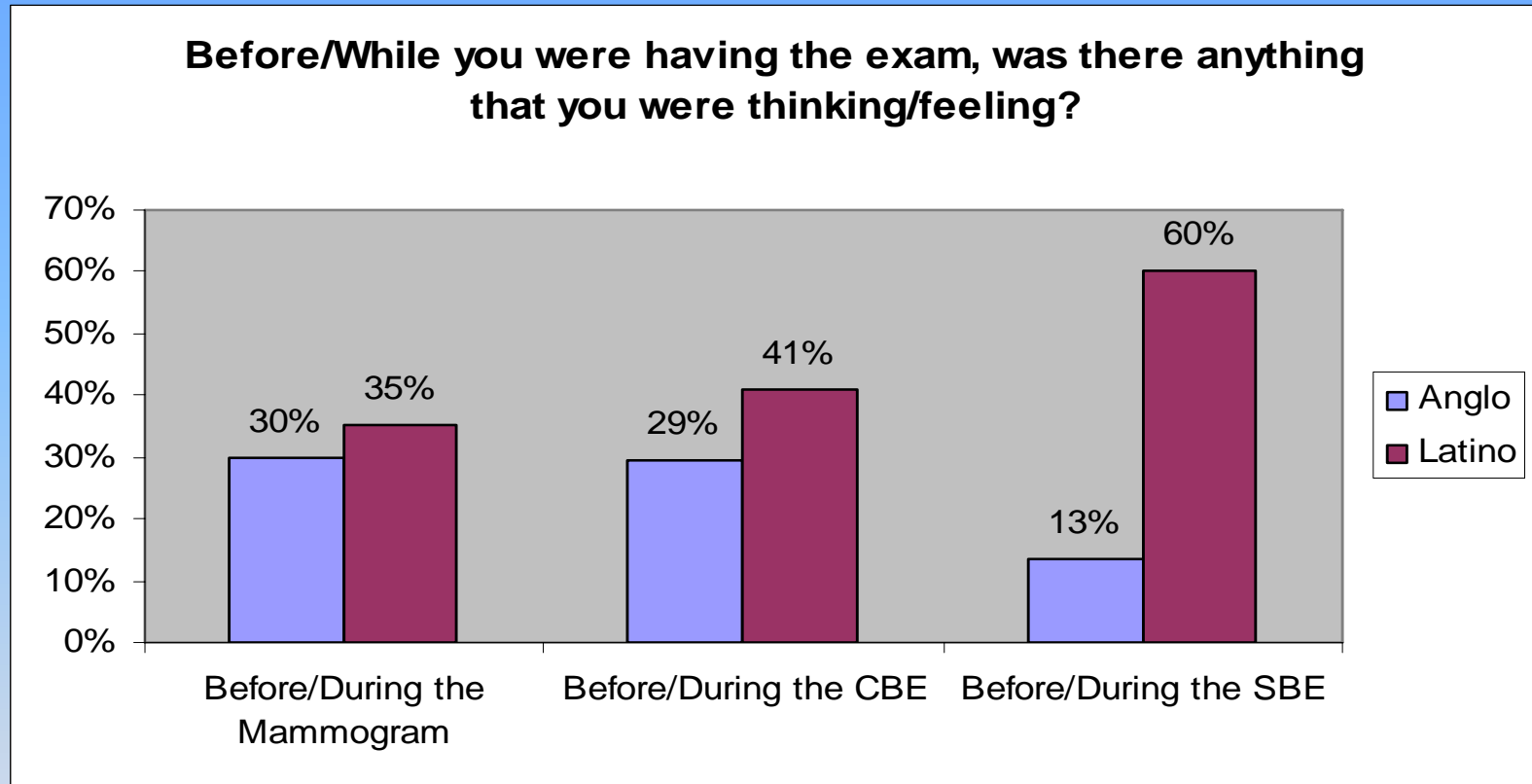
- Consistent with reports of Embarrassment as the primary reason women don't have CBEs, Latinos and Anglos reported Feeling Embarrassed
- Embarrassment was the most commonly reported experience by Anglos
- Additionally, both groups reported feeling Awkward or Modest, and Latinos reported this more often
- Only Anglos reported feeling Anxious about what the doctor might find during CBE

Perceptions of Actual Screening Experience: SBE



- Only Latinos reported experiencing Embarrassment while performing a SBE
- Both Anglos and Latinos reported feelings of Nervousness or Anxiety
- Anglos were more likely than Latinos to report that they were Not Sure if they were performing the SBE correctly
- Neutral thoughts about the SBE was the #1 reported experience for Latinos

Reports of Fear of Outcome Before and During Actual Screening



- Latinos reported more often experiencing Fear that something might be wrong before and/or during Mammogram, CBE, and SBE
- Fear was reported more often before/during SBE for Latinos



CULTURE GENERAL FINDINGS

- Personal Beliefs about Screening
 - Anxiety about results
- Reasons for
 - **Mammogram:** Dr. recommendations, Risk
 - **CBE:** Dr. recommendations
 - **SBE:** Early Detection

 - **No Mammogram:** Finances
 - **No CBE:** Finances
 - **No SBE:** Uneducated, Fear
- Perceptions of actual screening experiences
 - **Mammogram:** Uncomfortable, Fear
 - **CBE:** Embarrassed, Awkward/Modest, Fear



Culture Specific Findings

Culture: Specific to Latinos

- **Personal Beliefs about Screening**
 - Breast Cancer is a Curse
- **Others' Beliefs about Screening**
 - Fatalistic Avoidance
 - Family & Friends don't think screening is important/Don't screen
- **Reasons for**
 - **Mammogram:** Symptoms
 - **CBE:** Symptoms
 - **SBE:** Symptoms, Dr. recommendations
 - **No Mammogram:** Not educated
 - **No CBE:** Not Educated , No perceived risk
 - **No SBE:** Uncomfortable
- **Perceptions of**
 - **SBE:** Neutral, Fear of Outcome

Culture: Specific to Anglos

- **Beliefs about Screening**
 - Need Better Tests
 - Painful/Uncomfortable
- **Reasons for**
 - **CBE:** Physical, Prescription Refill
 - **No SBE:** Not effective, Don't know how
- **Perceptions of**
 - **CBE:** Anxious about outcome
 - **SBE:** Don't know how