

**STDs, HIV & PROBLEM DRINKING  
IN LATINO MIGRANT DAY LABORERS:  
TEST OF A MODEL OF  
STRUCTURAL VULNERABILITY**

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# Dr. Kurt Organista

Kurt C. Organista, Ph.D., is Professor, School of Social Welfare, University of California, Berkeley, where his focus is on Latino psychosocial and health problems. He teaches courses on stress and coping, psychopathology, race/ethnic relations, and social work practice with Latino populations. He conducts research in the area of HIV prevention with Latino migrant laborers, is editor of *HIV Prevention with Latinos: Theory, research and practice* published in 2012 by Oxford University Press, and author of *Solving Latino psychosocial and health problems: Theory, practice, and populations* published in 2007 by John Wiley & Sons, Inc. He serves on the senior editorial board of the *American Journal of Community Psychology*, and on the editorial boards of the *Hispanic Journal of the Behavioral Sciences*, and the *Journal of Ethnic and Cultural Diversity in Social Work*. From 2004-08 Organista was appointed to the Office of AIDS Research Advisory Council at the National Institutes of Health, and from 2010 to 2015 he was PI of a federal R01 grant from the NIAAA to develop and test a structural environmental model of alcohol-related HIV risk in Latino migrant day laborers in the San Francisco Bay Area. Organista is a Trustee of the Latino Community Foundation, and former trustee of the San Francisco Foundation (2008 to 2018).

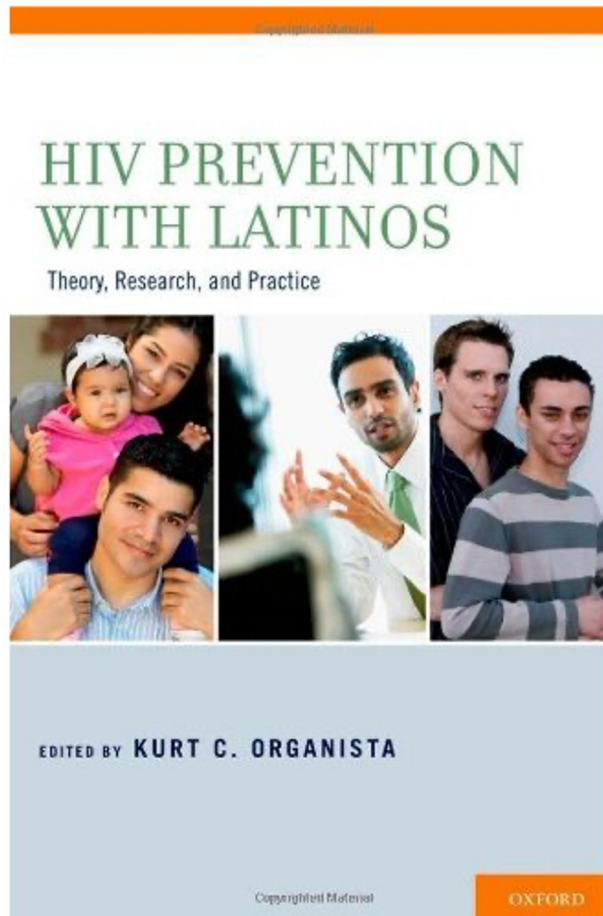


# Learning Objectives

At the completion of this presentation, participants will be able to:

- Conceptualize sexual risk from a structural vulnerability framework
- Identify structural environmental risk and protective factors in Latino migrant day laborer experience
- Describe a set of structural prevention interventions and their implications for health behaviors

# HIV Prevention with Latinos



# Latino Migrant Day Labor Qualitative ERS (N=51 In-depth Interviews)



Photo by Associated Press/AP

My goal is to have a family, a lady, 2 children and a little home, and a job where you work 5 days a week. To have love with your partner.

— *Augustín*

*45 year old Salvadoran;  
8 years in US*



I miss my family but must work in the United States to support them. That is the contradiction.

— *Juanito*  
*34 year old Mexican*  
*2 years in U.S.*



I have not seen my wife and children in 10 years. I have not worked in many days. I have not sent them any money.





My desperation is that I must stay in the U.S. longer to make money...but if I stay too long I will loose my family...

— *Lazaro,*  
*43 year old Salvadoran;*  
*8 years in U.S.*



# Validated Desesperación Scale

## (Frustration & Dissatisfaction Subscales)

En la desesperación puede ser que se siente uno solo, deprimido y triste y lleva el momento en que uno caiga.

[In a state of desperation, one can feel alone, depressed and sad and therein lies the moment when one falls].

Ahora, tengo algunas preguntas sobre sus sentimientos	Now I have some questions that have to do with your feelings
1. ¿Con qué frecuencia se siente frustrado por la falta de progreso en su vida? <input type="checkbox"/> Todo el tiempo <input type="checkbox"/> La mayoría del tiempo <input type="checkbox"/> Algunas veces <input type="checkbox"/> Pocas veces <input type="checkbox"/> Nunca	1. How often do you feel frustrated about the lack of progress in your life? <input type="checkbox"/> 4=All the time <input type="checkbox"/> 3=Most of the time <input type="checkbox"/> 2=Some times <input type="checkbox"/> 1=A few times <input type="checkbox"/> 0=Never
2. ¿Con qué frecuencia se siente satisfecho con el progreso en su vida? <input type="checkbox"/> Todo el tiempo <input type="checkbox"/> La mayoría del tiempo <input type="checkbox"/> Algunas veces <input type="checkbox"/> Pocas veces <input type="checkbox"/> Nunca	2. How often do you feel satisfied with the progress in your life? <input type="checkbox"/> 4=All the time <input type="checkbox"/> 3=Most of the time <input type="checkbox"/> 2=Some times <input type="checkbox"/> 1=A few times <input type="checkbox"/> 0=Never
3. ¿Con qué frecuencia se siente inundado (abrumado) con los obstáculos en su camino? <input type="checkbox"/> Todo el tiempo <input type="checkbox"/> La mayoría del tiempo <input type="checkbox"/> Algunas veces <input type="checkbox"/> Pocas veces <input type="checkbox"/> Nunca	3. How often do you feel overwhelmed by the obstacles in your path? <input type="checkbox"/> 4=All the time <input type="checkbox"/> 3=Most of the time <input type="checkbox"/> 2=Some times <input type="checkbox"/> 1=A few times <input type="checkbox"/> 0=Never
4. ¿Con qué frecuencia se siente enojado por no ganar el dinero que necesita? <input type="checkbox"/> Todo el tiempo <input type="checkbox"/> La mayoría del tiempo <input type="checkbox"/> Algunas veces <input type="checkbox"/> Pocas veces <input type="checkbox"/> Nunca	4. How often do you feel angry about not earning the money that you need? <input type="checkbox"/> 4=All the time <input type="checkbox"/> 3=Most of the time <input type="checkbox"/> 2=Some times <input type="checkbox"/> 1=A few times <input type="checkbox"/> 0=Never
5. ¿Con qué frecuencia se siente seguro sobre las metas en su vida? <input type="checkbox"/> Todo el tiempo <input type="checkbox"/> La mayoría del tiempo <input type="checkbox"/> Algunas veces <input type="checkbox"/> Pocas veces <input type="checkbox"/> Nunca	5. How often do you feel confident about the goals in your life? <input type="checkbox"/> 4=All the time <input type="checkbox"/> 3=Most of the time <input type="checkbox"/> 2=Some times <input type="checkbox"/> 1=A few times <input type="checkbox"/> 0=Never

Organista, K.C., Arreola, S. G., & Neilands, T. B. (2016). *La desesperación* in Latino migrant day laborers and its role in alcohol and substance-related sexual risk. *Social Science and Medicine --Population Health*, 2, 32-42.

I told my girlfriend that I was going to the U.S. for 1-2 years to make money for us. I told her to wait for me....



.....but after 2 years she left me for another man.

—*Luis*

*27 year old Mexican*

*6 years in U.S.*



Drinking ruins your health, your family and your work. No one will give a job anymore.  
—*Alejandro, 25 year old Nicaraguan, 10 years in U.S.*



Worby, Organista et al. (2014). Problem drinking in Latino migrant day laborers under conditions of structural vulnerability. *Journal of Health Care in the Poor and Underserved*, 25(3), 1291-1307.

Two months ago I had unprotected sex...no condoms.

I was drinking with friends from Mexico and we got drunk.  
We decided to go looking for a girl...



...and we found a girl on the street. We talked to her, got her into the car, and yes gave her money. We did not have condoms.....no protection.

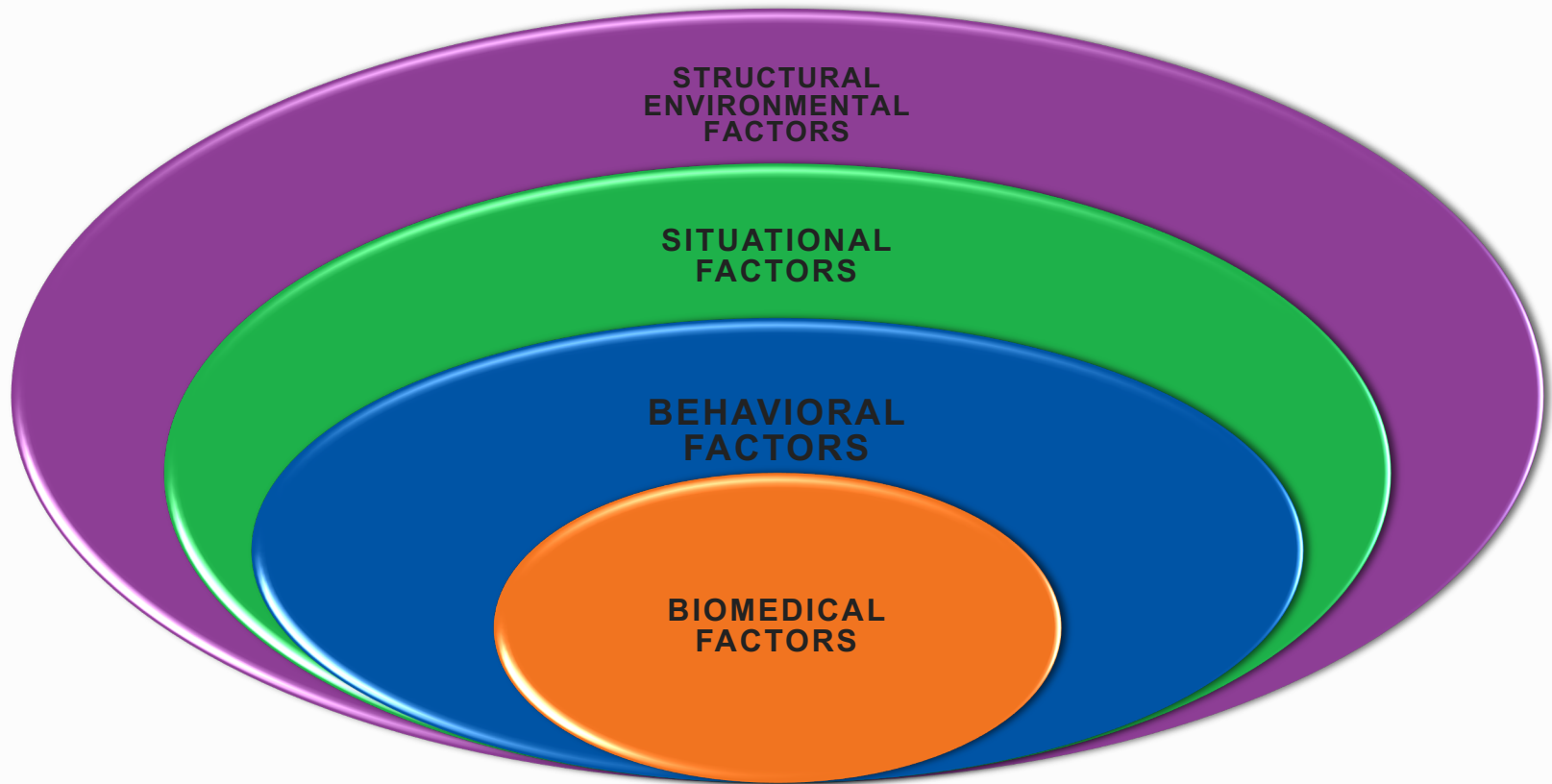
— *Ricky*

*25 year old Mexican*

*3 years in U.S.*

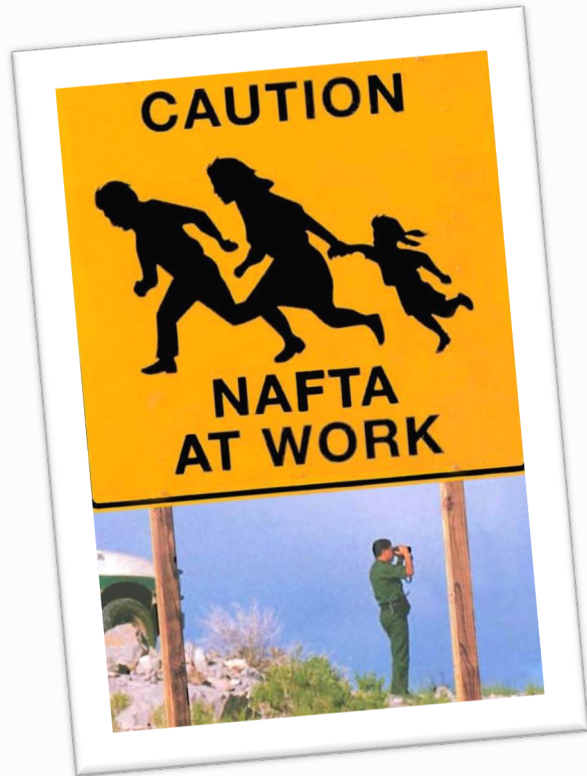


# Multiple Levels of Vulnerability Related to Problem Drinking and Sexual Risk

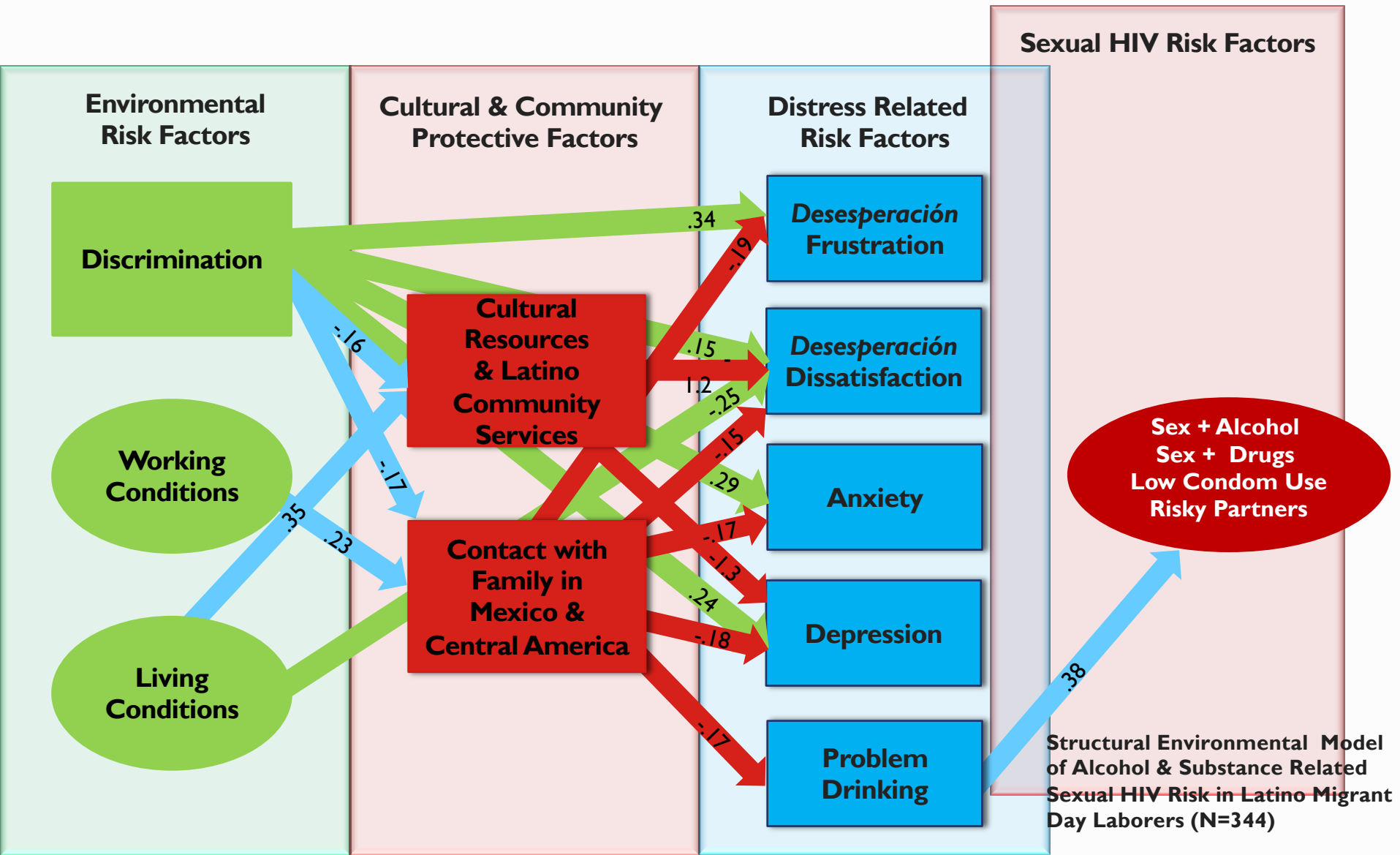




# Structural Factors Related to Undocumented Migration



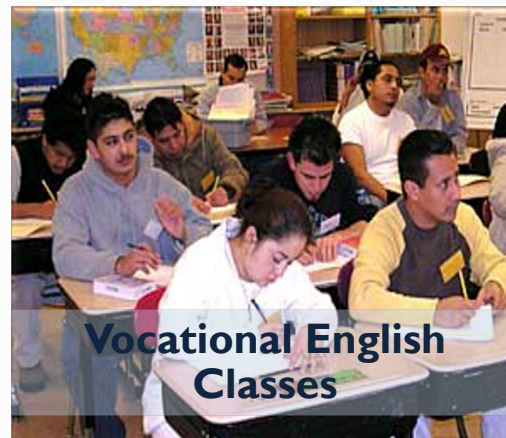
Massey, D. (2008). Caution: NAFTA at Work. Miller-McCune, April/May, 30-37.



# Structural Environmental Interventions to Prevent Problem Drinking and Sexual Risk



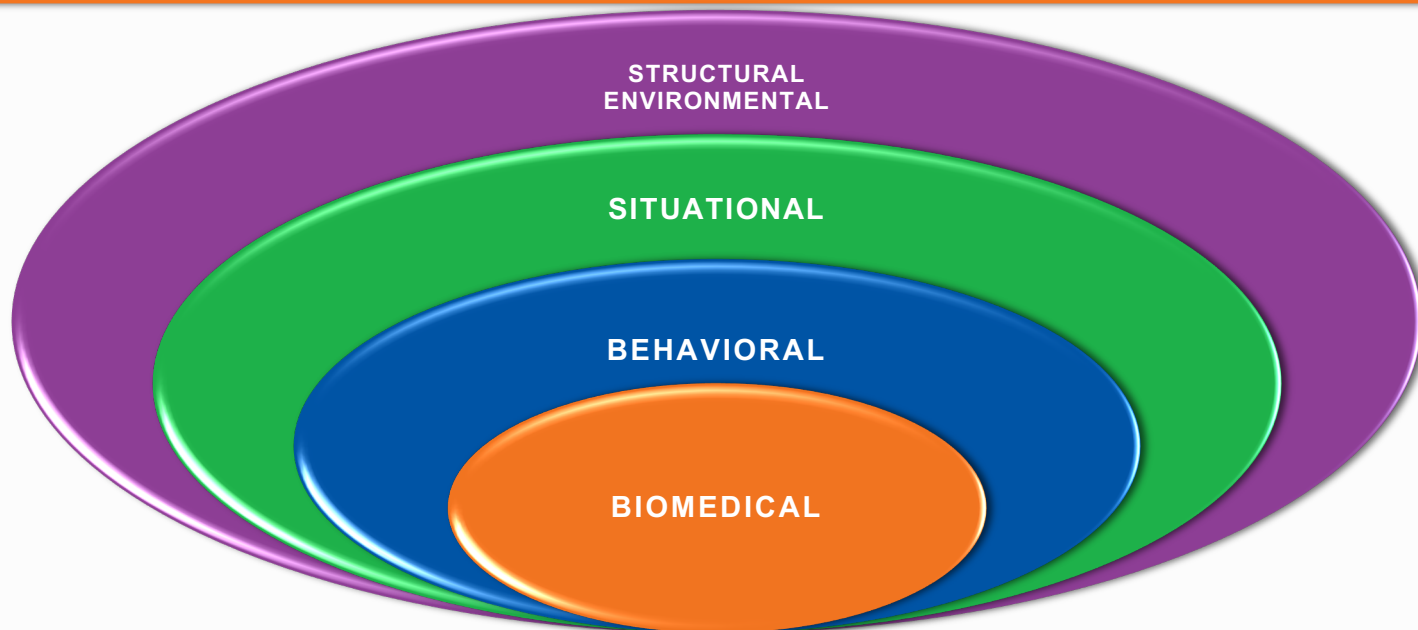
# Structural Environmental Interventions to Prevent Problem Drinking & HIV Risk



# In Conclusion

**Structural Environmental interventions needed to mitigate structural vulnerability to health risks**

**Comprehensive prevention & intervention**



**YES, CHALLENGING...PERO SI SE PUEDE!**

# Question & Answer Period

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