

PARTNER ABUSE AMONG LATINOS

PSYCHOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF MALE ABUSERS

**Presented to the California Psychological Association
Pasadena, California 4/8/2005
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LATINO DEMOGRAPHICS

Current Latino population 36 million

Mexican descent 21 million
(60%)

Bureau of the Census 2001

LATINO POPULATION OF SAN DIEGO COUNTY

Current	28%
Projected for 2020	33%

LATINO POPULATION OF CALIFORNIA

Current	30%+
Projected for 2020	39%

U.S. Department of the Census, 2001

LATINO OFFENDER SURVEY RESULTS I

- **89% of the men in Spanish domestic violence groups in San Diego are of Mexican origin.**
- **65% were age 35 or younger.**
- **49% of respondents had an 8th grade education or less.**
- **45% of the men had witnessed domestic violence in their family of origin.**

LATINO OFFENDER SURVEY RESULTS II

- **51% of respondents reported being physically abused by their parents.**
- **70% of respondents had incomes below the poverty line.**
- **44% reported being intoxicated during the domestic violence incident.**
- **57% of the men's children were either present in the room or in the house at the time of the domestic violence incident.**

PARTICIPANTS' EXPERIENCE OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

- Normalization of Violence
- Traditional Gender Roles, especially *Machismo*
- Psychological Dysfunction Related To Early Trauma
- Maladaptive Coping Skills (e.g., alcoholism, poor communication skills, poor anger management)
- Environmental Stressors, e.g., acculturation, financial stress

TYOLOGY OF BATTERERS

- 1. Generally Violent/Antisocial**
- 2. Family Only**
- 3. Dysphoric/Borderline**
- 4. Low Level Antisocial**

Holtzworth-Munroe et al. 2000

MAJOR RISK FACTORS

- **History of Childhood Violence**
- **Low Income/Low Academic Achievement**
- **Use and Abuse of Alcohol**

OTHER RISK FACTORS

- **Insecure or Avoidant Attachment**
- **Lower age (<30)**
- **Low Self-esteem**
- **Low levels of Marital Satisfaction**
- **Generalized Aggression**
- **Patriarchal Gender Roles (in severely abusive sample only)**

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- **What behaviors, experiences, and cultural beliefs of Latino men are correlated to partner abuse?**
- **How do violent Latino men perceive themselves and their experience differently from non-violent Latino men?**
- **Do the same correlates or risk factors that have been found to apply to the US population apply to this population?**

AREAS OF INVESTIGATION

- **Demographics**
- **Alcohol and Drug Abuse**
- **History of Family Violence**
- **Symptoms of Trauma**
- **Level of Marital Satisfaction**
- **Attachment Style**
- **Gender Roles**
- **Self-Esteem**

RESEARCH GROUPS

1. **Treatment group, < 27 weeks (36)**
2. **Treatment group, 27 – 52 weeks (15)**
3. **Control group (27)**

CONTROL GROUP - DEMOGRAPHICS

- **Male**
- **Mexican or Latino Origin**
- **Spanish-speaking**
- **Between 20 and 50 years of age**
- **Completed between 6th and 12th grade**
- **In a heterosexual relationship, currently or within past 12 months**
- **No history of partner abuse**

MEASURES USED I

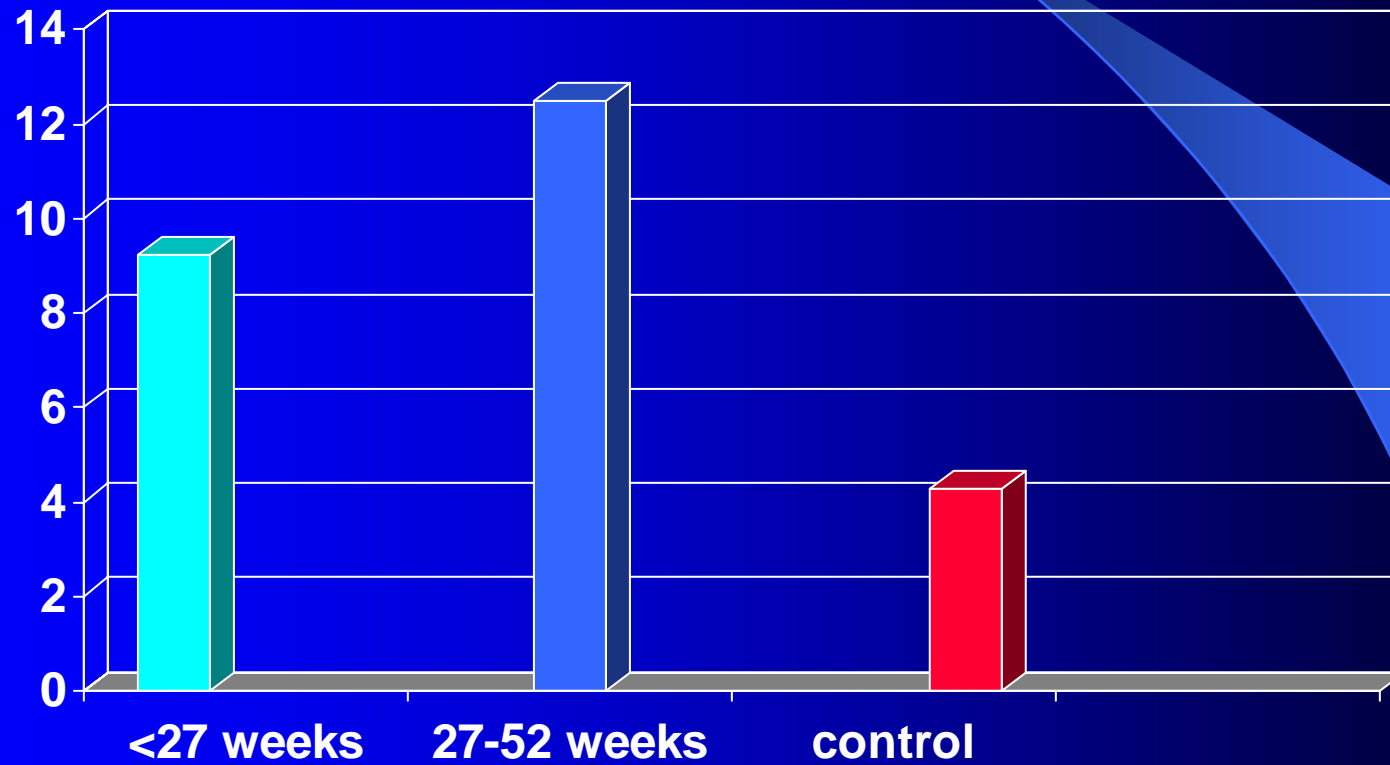
- **Demographic Questionnaire**
- **Michigan Alcoholism Screening Test**
- **Drug Abuse Screening Test**
- **Family of Origin Violence, Mother and Father**
 - **Non-violent Discipline**
 - **Psychological Aggression**
 - **Physical Abuse, Minor**
 - **Physical Abuse, Severe**
 - **Neglect**
 - **Injury**

MEASURES USED II

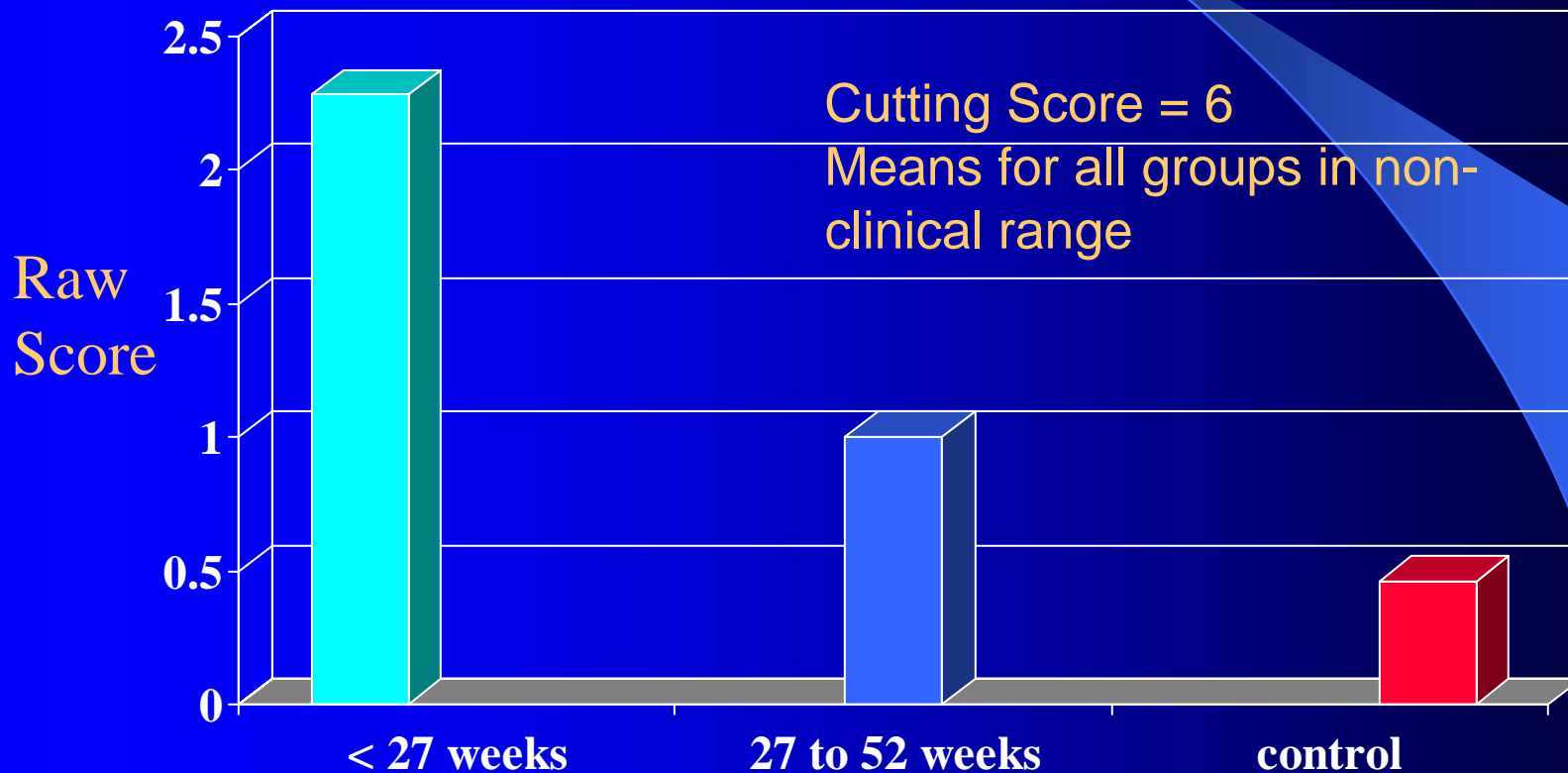
- **LosAngeles Symptom Checklist**
- **Coopersmith Self-Esteem Inventory**
- **Marital Adjustment Test**
- **Family Roles Scale, 2004, UNAM**
- **Attachment Styles Scale, 2001, UNAM**
 - **Insecure**
 - **Avoidant**
 - **Secure**

ALCOHOL ABUSE

MAST/ $p < .005$

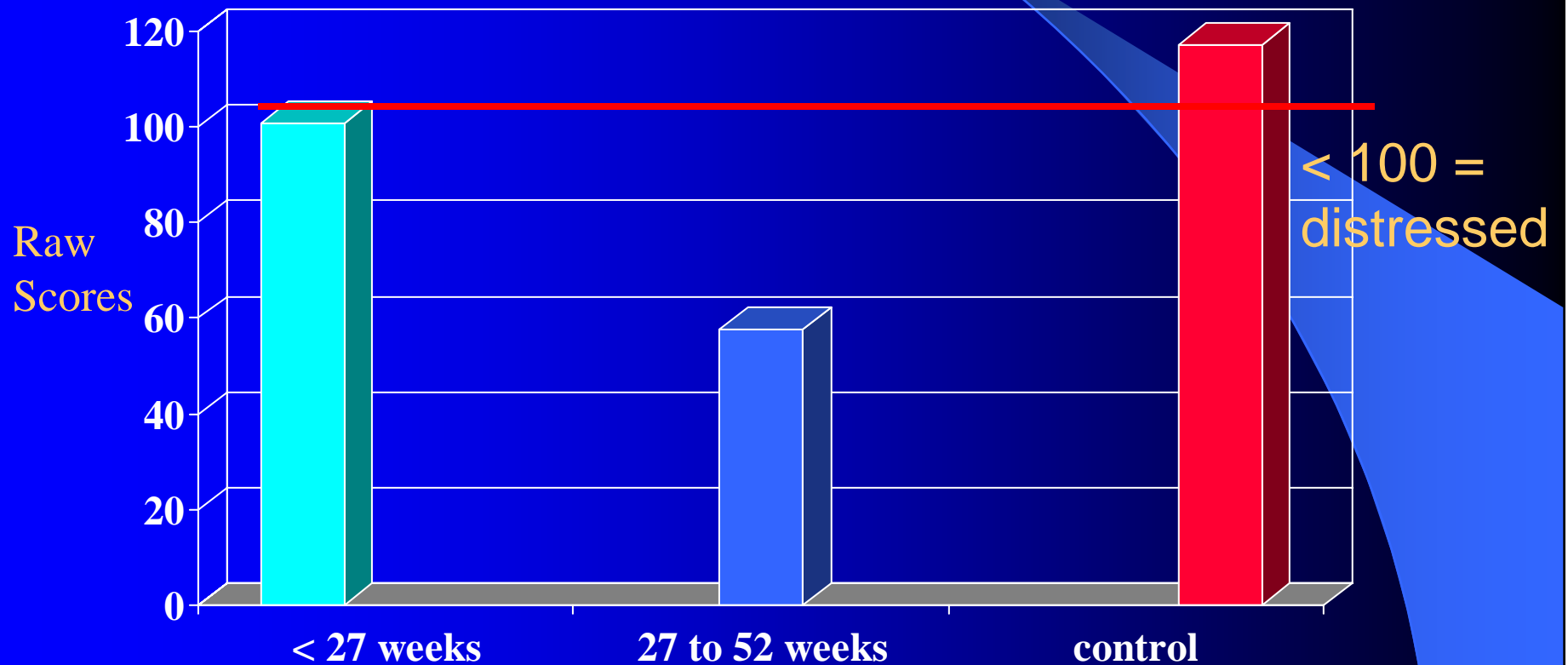


DRUG ABUSE DAST/ $p = .01$



MARITAL SATISFACTION

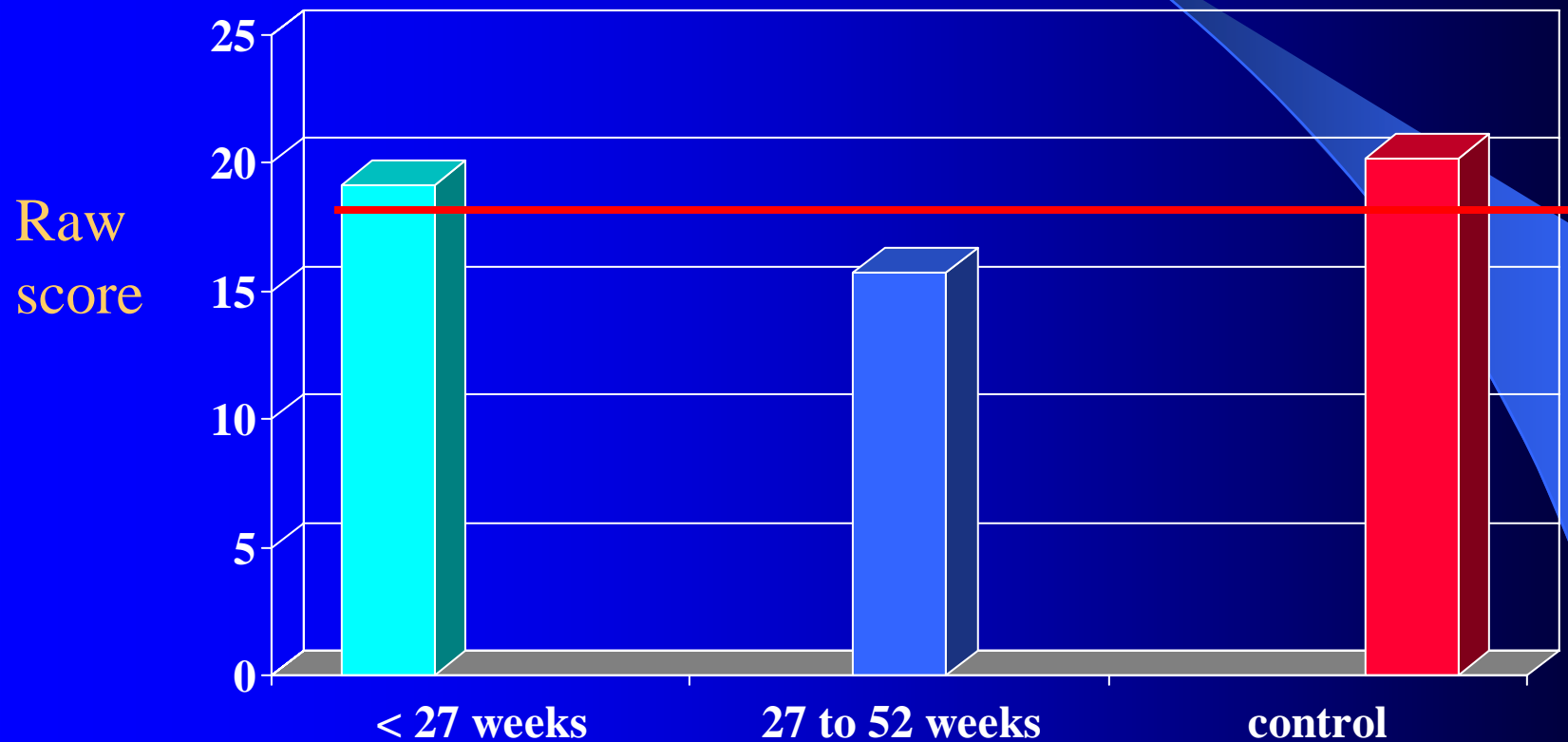
PAM, $P < .001$



SELF ESTEEM/ IAEC

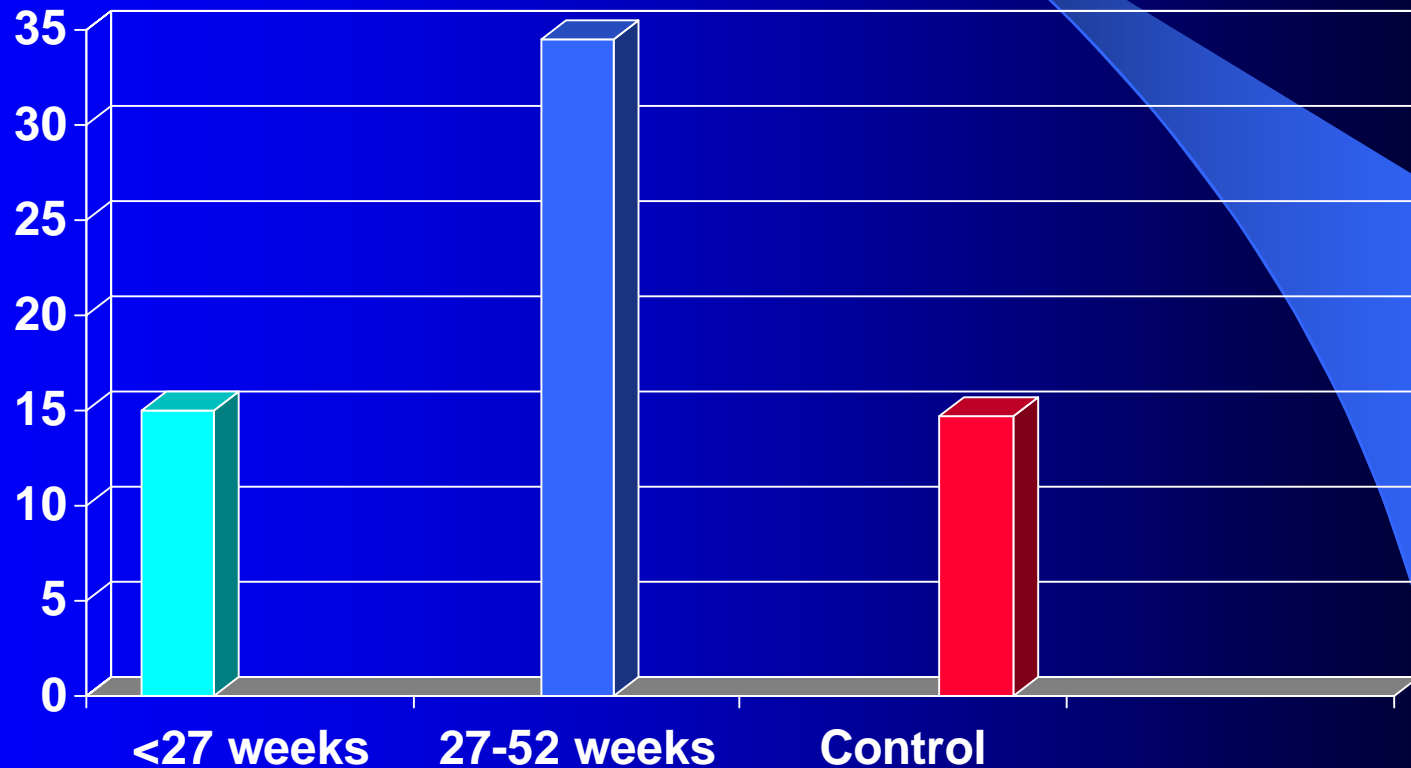
$p < .05$

➤ 17.55
Higher
self-esteem

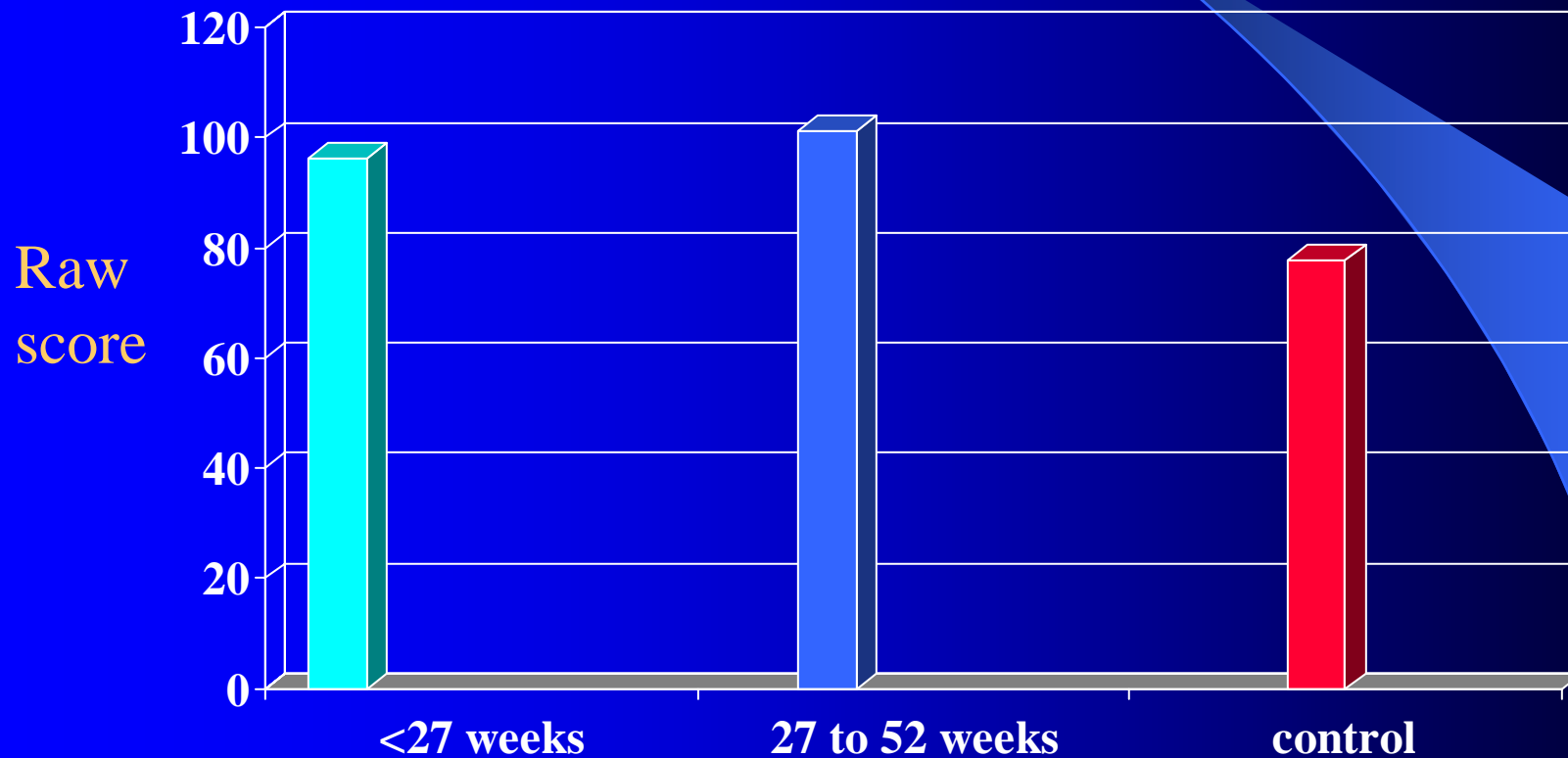


LOS ANGELES SYMPTOM CHECKLIST (TRAUMA SX)

$p = .01$

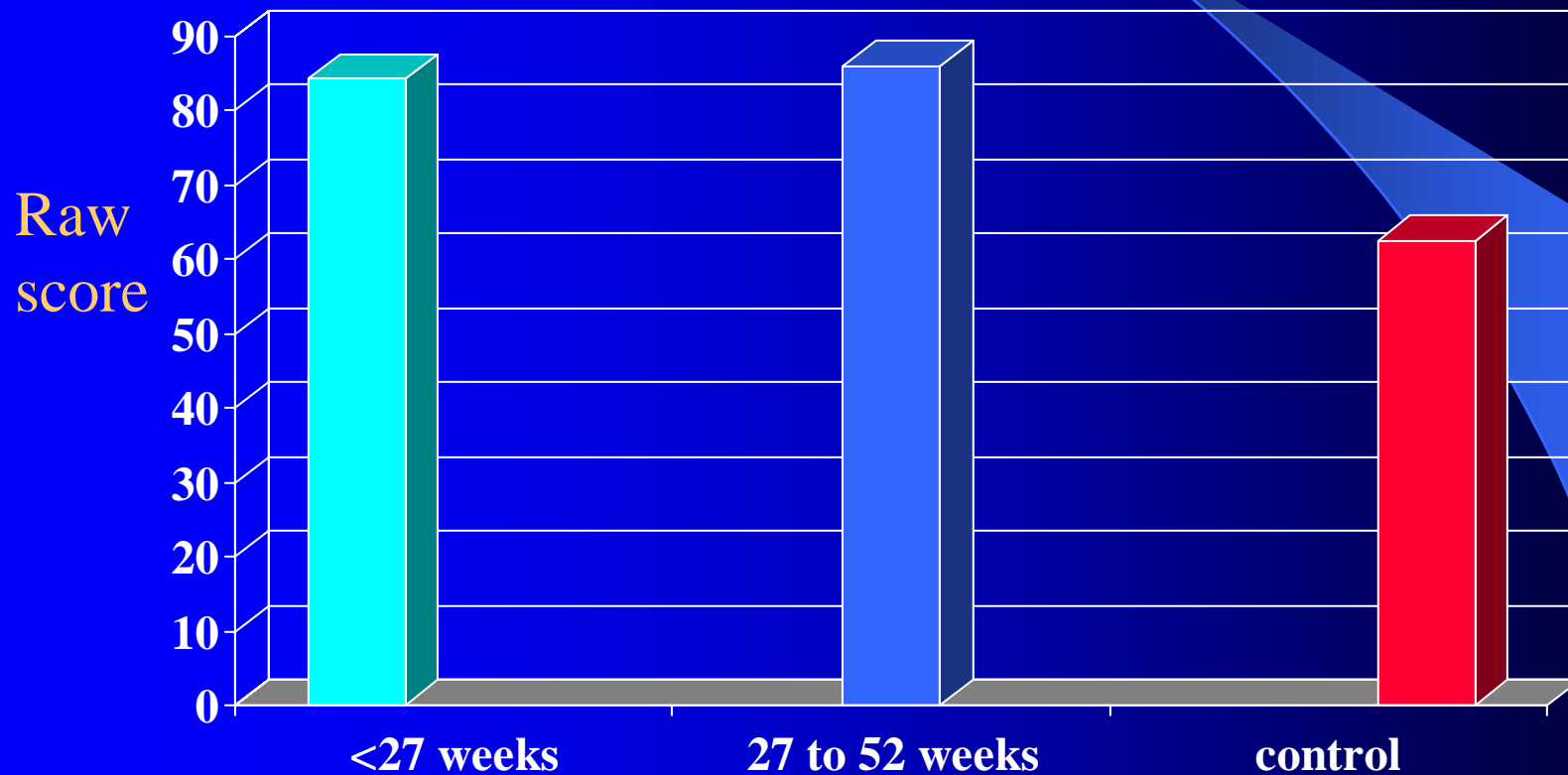


INSECURE ATTACHMENT/ EDA $p = .004$



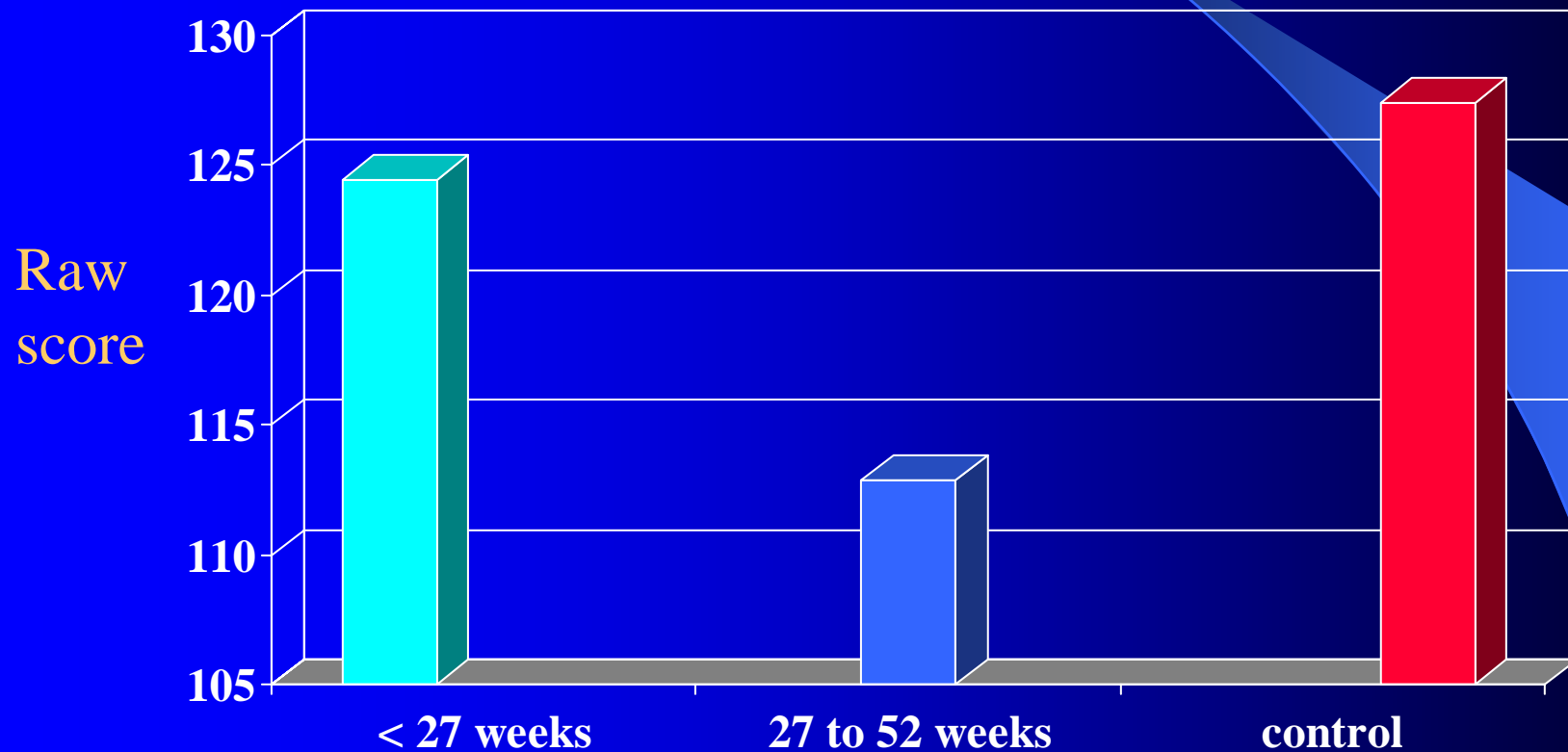
FEARFUL ATTACHMENT/ EDA

$p < .001$



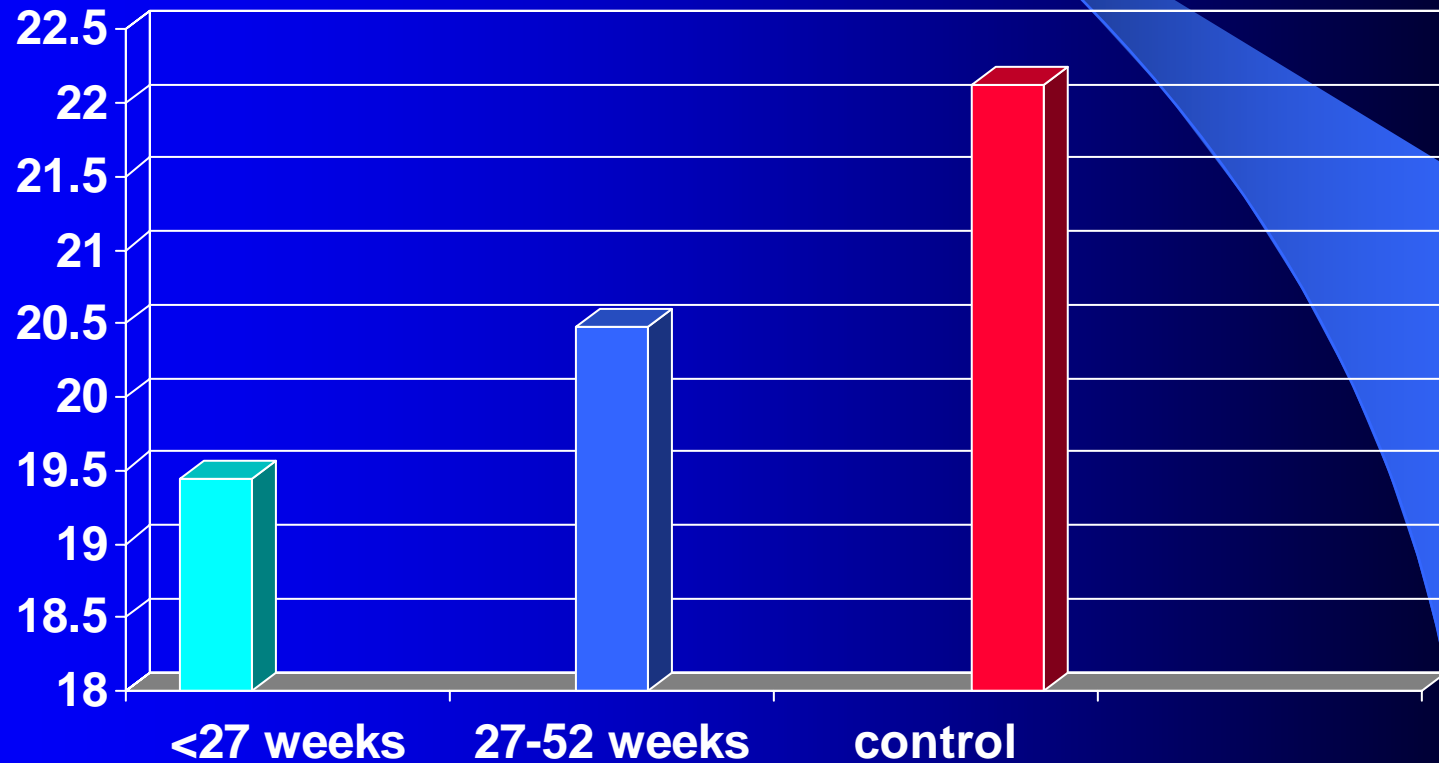
SECURE ATTACHMENT/ EDA

$p < .05$



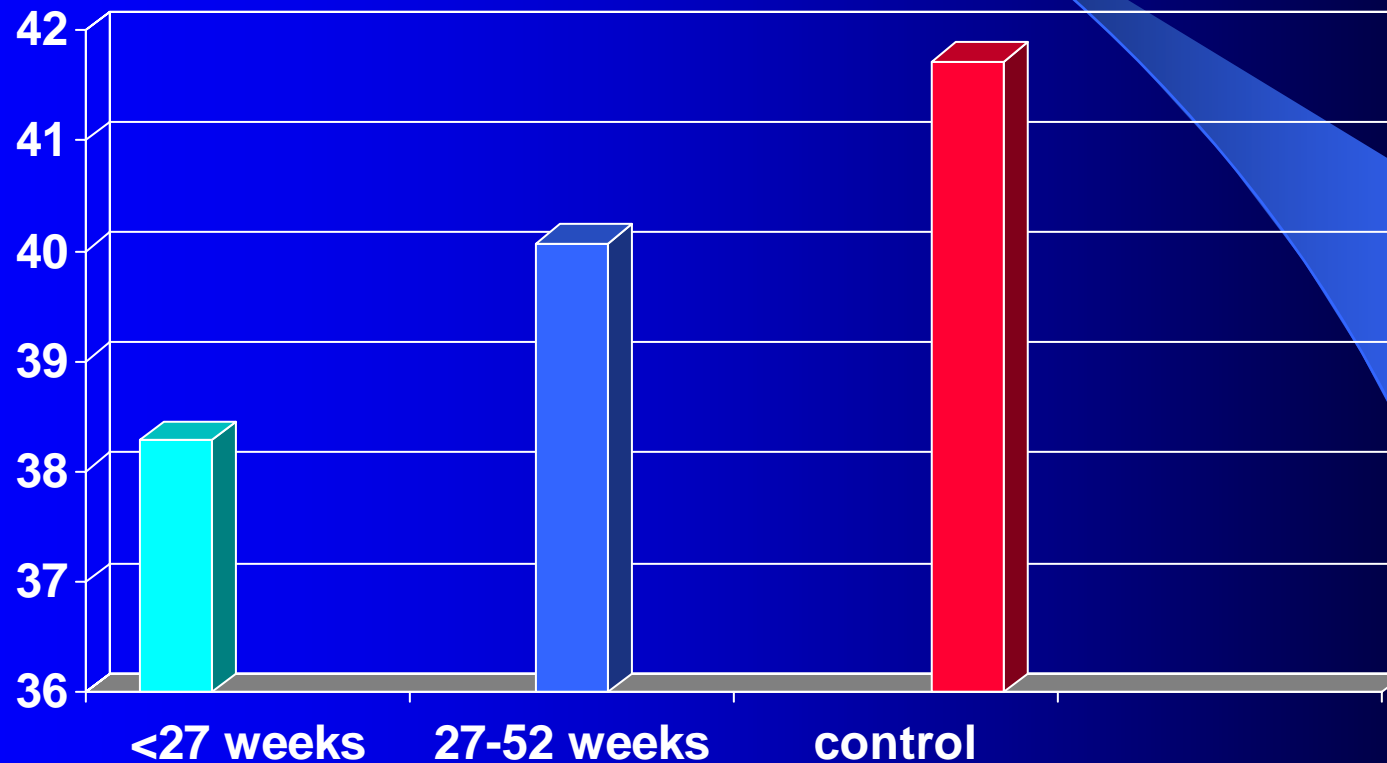
FAMILY GENDER ROLES: FOSTERING VALUES & UNITY

$p < .05$

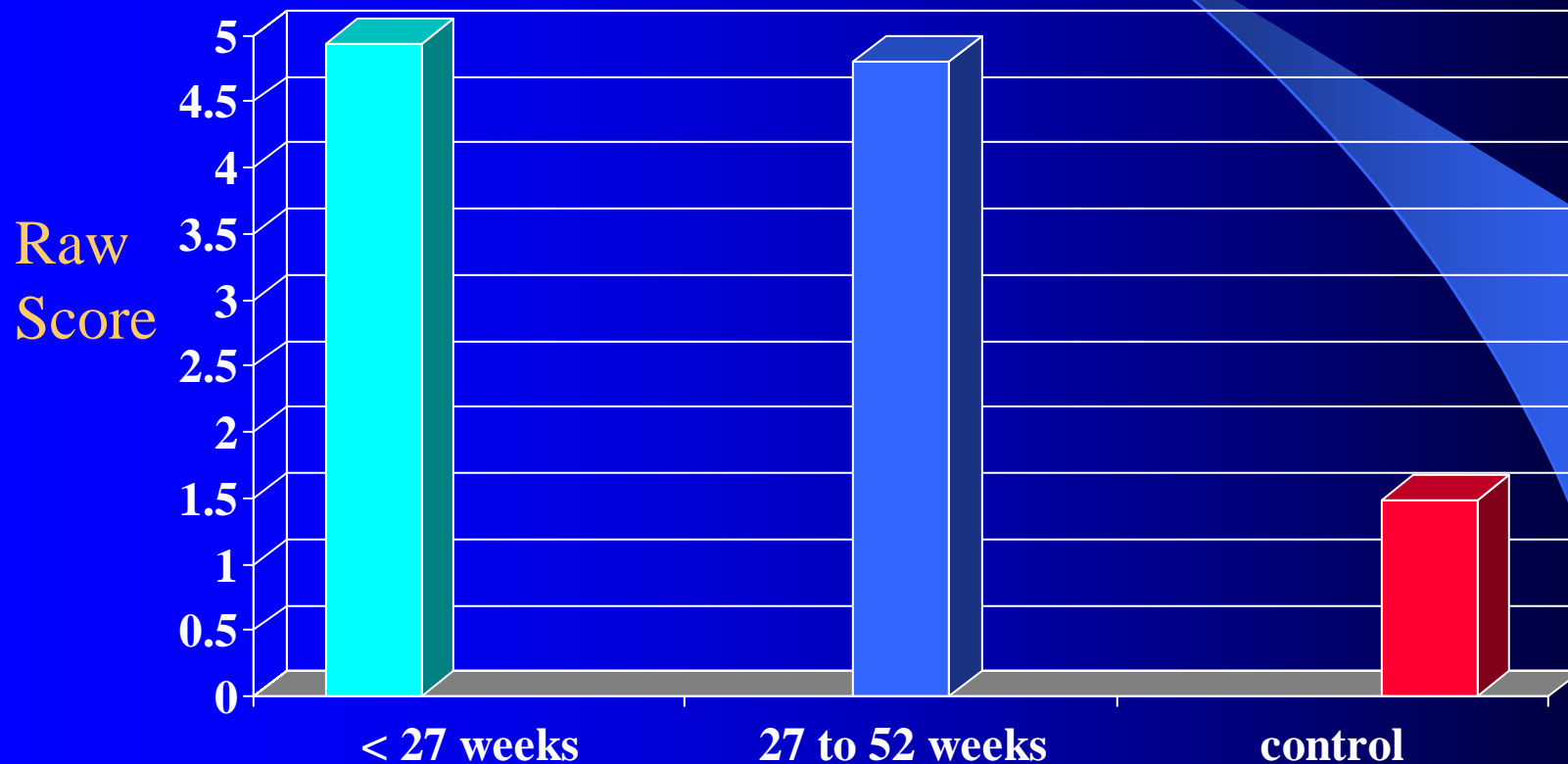


FAMILY GENDER ROLES: DOMINANCE IN THE FAMILY

ns/ $p = .07$

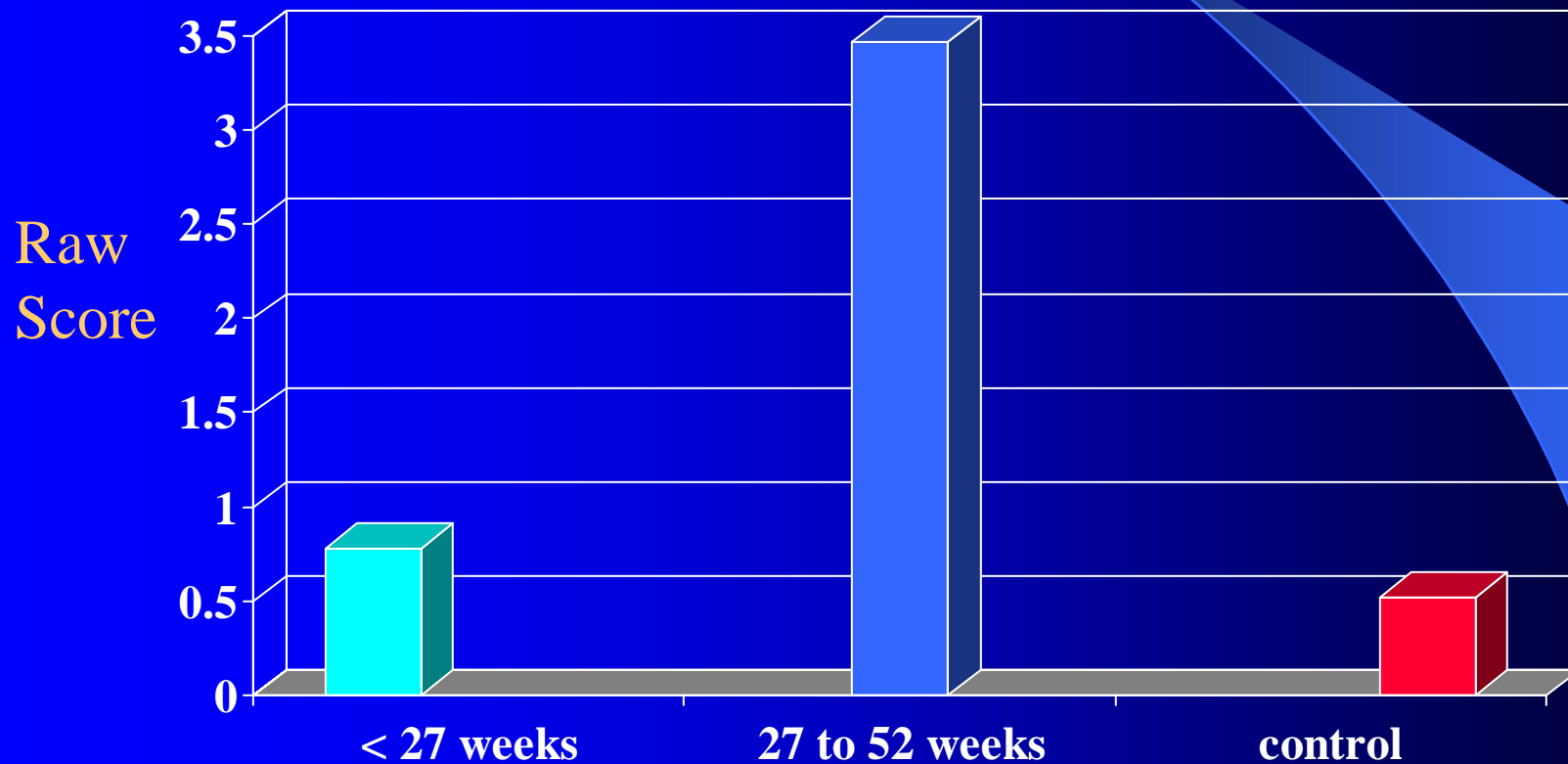


PSYCHOLOGICAL AGGRESSION BY MOTHER/ VFO/ $p = .01$



INJURY BY FATHER/ VFO

$p = .01$



DISCUSSION – ALCOHOL ABUSE

- **39% of “< 6 months” treatment group + for alcohol abuse**
- **60% of “> 6 months” treatment group + for alcohol abuse**
- **Both treatment groups in clinical range**
- **Differences in motivation, insight, legal & marital consequences, attrition rate?**

DISCUSSION – ALCOHOL ABUSE II

- **Older men more likely to be drinking at time of arrest.**
- **Alcohol abuse correlated to drug abuse.**
- **Alcohol problems correlated to history of Neglect by Father (.01)**
- **Alcohol abuse not correlated to marital satisfaction or trauma sx.**

DISCUSSION – DRUG ABUSE

- **No group in clinical range**
- **Early treatment group more likely to use drugs than later group**
- **Difficulty of locating non-violent, drug-abusing control group participants**

DISCUSSION – MARITAL SATISFACTION

- **Expected higher satisfaction for control group.**
- **Unexpected higher satisfaction for early treatment group.**
- **Early treatment group: less insight & experience, more optimistic, or consequences have not yet fully developed.**
- **Later treatment group: have already gone through separation, or lost custody or visitation rights - may have given up.**

SELF-ESTEEM

- Self-esteem significantly lower (.05) in later treatment group.
- Controls and early group above mean for Mexican population.
- Low self-esteem correlated to insecure and fearful attachment styles.
- Higher self-esteem correlated to secure attachment.

DISCUSSION – TRAUMA SYMPTOMS

- **Some theories of etiology hypothesize that > symptoms of trauma are correlated to > alcohol abuse.**
- **Men in treatment > 6 months had > symptoms of trauma & > alcohol abuse .**
- **Trauma symptoms correlated to Injury, Psychological Aggression, Physical Abuse, and Neglect by Father, not Mother.**

DISCUSSION – ATTACHMENT STYLE

- **Attachment style describes individual's “working model” of relationship.**
- **Control group significantly more securely attached.**
- **Treatment groups more likely to have insecure (anxious-ambivalent) or fearful (anxious-avoidant) attachment style.**
- **Expect more jealousy, fear of abandonment, and dependency in relationships**

DISCUSSION – ATTACHMENT STYLE II

- Insecure attachment correlated to low self-esteem, Injury by Father, and Psychological Aggression by Father.
- Avoidant attachment correlated to low self-esteem and Injury by Father.
- Secure attachment correlated to higher self-esteem.
- Attachment not correlated to gender roles.

DISCUSSION – FAMILY GENDER ROLES

- No significant differences in gender roles among groups, except in Fostering Values and Unity, with controls higher.

DISCUSSION – FAMILY GENDER ROLES II

- *Expressiveness to Partner* factor: Almost Always.
- *Dominance in Relationship*: Sometimes
- *Maternal Attention*: Sometimes
- *Dominance in the Family*: Almost Always
- *Fostering Values and Unity*: Almost Always
- *Domestic Tasks*: Sometimes

DISCUSSION – VIOLENCE IN FAMILY OF ORIGIN

- Treatment groups experienced more Psychological Abuse from Mother (.01) than control group.
- Psychological Aggression from Mother was correlated to Physical Abuse from both Mother and Father.
- Neglect by Mother correlated to Injury by Mother.

DISCUSSION – VIOLENCE IN FAMILY OF ORIGIN II

- **Treatment groups experienced more Injury by Father than control group.**
- **Later treatment group scores on Psychological Abuse by Father more than twice as high as other groups.**
- **Psychological Abuse by Father correlated to Physical Abuse, Injury, and Neglect.**
- **Corresponds to research on abuse, shaming, and insecure attachment in formation of batterers.**

IMPLICATIONS

- **Treatment:** Therapeutic relationship, awareness of alcohol abuse, attachment issues, “how-to”s of marital satisfaction. Referrals to individual treatment.
- **Public Education:** Reporting violence, healing trauma, healthy parenting styles, alcohol and violence, prevention initiatives.
- **Policy:** Funding for further research.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- **Transborder Institute, University of San Diego, for provision of research grant**
- **Office for Community Service Learning, USD**
- **Nicole Taylor, Ph.D.**
- **Research assistants, USD**
- **Participating agencies, San Diego**
- **Research participants, San Diego**

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