Introduction

Latinos are the largest ethnic minority group in the United States (U.S. Census Bureau, 2014).

- Over 17% of the U.S. population
- By 2050, Latino youth projected to be 29% of the U.S. population

Purpose: to examine the impact of Latino parents’ ethnic identity on stressors and life satisfaction, and to see if these issues impact Latino parental expectations for their children’s life outcomes.

Review of Literature

Parents and Ethnic Identity
- Racial and ethnic identities are a sense of belonging to a group and learning about one’s group. Important to an individual’s well-being and positive self-attitude.
- Growing ethnic identity exploration significantly predicts higher self-esteem

Stressors
- Nebraska Latinos are three times more likely to live in poverty (Zhang, 2014)
- Stressful working conditions, lack of familiarity with school systems, and limited English proficiency

Life Satisfaction
- Latinos report less life satisfaction
- Employment has positive association with life satisfaction
- Parents’ hope for children’s future is important for their own life satisfaction

Methods

Participants
- 50 self-identified Latino parents
- M age = 34 years
- 37% Female

Materials and Procedures
- Survey: MEIM, Years in US, K6, LS, Stressors, and Expectations for Children
- Single data collection- Individually interviewed
  - Interview for 20 minutes

Results

Overall, the sample held a strong sense of ethnic identity, p = .98

No gender difference in psychological dysfunction
- All scored low, p = .95
- Parent with more years in U.S. had lower LS
  - $\beta = -.32, F(1, 34) = 3.92, p = .056$
- Higher stress levels indicated lower LS
  - $\beta = -.24, F(1, 48) = 2.85, p = .09$

Parents with longer time in the U.S. had more negative expectations for children (see Table 1)

Female parents expected children to attend college and not experiment with drugs (see Table 2)

Table 1: Years in the U.S. and Expectations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expectations</th>
<th>Years in U.S.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Low</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alcohol</td>
<td>1.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Too Much Alcohol</td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2: Parents’ Expectations about Drugs and School

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Expectations</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Male</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attended School</td>
<td>6.97</td>
<td>6.46</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drugs</td>
<td>5.62</td>
<td>6.76</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Discussion

- The results indicated these parents were ethnically identified and scored low on psychological dysfunction
- We did find those who have been in U.S. longer and are male have lowered expectations for their children
- There was a trend for people who have been in the U.S. longer to have more stressors
- In general, on an open ended question, parents additional worries focused on schooling and drug involvement

Future Research

- Plan to continue gathering data
- Plan to examine how issues of coping might influence children’s stress levels and children’s expectations for future
- How rural versus urban Latinos might differ in their aspirations for their children

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