The Relationship between Acculturation Factors and Maternal Resiliency among Latina Women

Findings from the 2007 Los Angeles Mommy and Baby Survey (LAMBS)


Centers for Disease Control : Maternal and Child Health Epidemiology Conference
December 11, 2008
Overview

- Background and significance
- Research Questions
- Results
- Discussion
- Strengths
- Limitations
- Implications
Background and Significance

- Higher rates of preterm births among Latinas
- Acculturation associated with negative health and pregnancy outcomes for minorities
- Acculturation often operationalized as nativity, primary language spoken at home, and length of residence in a given country
Maternal resiliency is proposed to protect against negative birth outcomes (i.e. LBW and PTB).

To date, maternal resiliency has not been adequately conceptualized, measured, or even examined in the literature.

Further research is needed to determine the correlations between acculturation and maternal resiliency factors among Latinas.
Research Question

What is the relationship between acculturation and maternal resiliency factors among Latinas in Los Angeles County?
Methods: Sample Description

- N in analysis = 563 Latinas

Race/ethnic distribution of LAMB study respondents:
- Whites: 53.5%
- African Americans: 27.2%
- Hispanics: 13.5%
- Asian/Pacific Islanders: 5.4%
Methods: Sample Description (cont)

LAMB Latinas by acculturation factors

US born: 58.2%
English speaking: 57.7%
5-15 years residence in US: 29.5%
>15 years residence in US: 52.1%
Methods: Variable Description

- Maternal resiliency was operationalized as a construct consisting of personal, social and spiritual resources.

- **Personal resources**: self-esteem, mastery
- **Social resources**: partner support, social network support, and neighborhood support
- **Spiritual resources**: spirituality
• Maternal resiliency is proposed to consist of components existing on multiple ecological pathways.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exosystem (community)</th>
<th>Mesosystem (interpersonal)</th>
<th>Microsystem (Individual)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NEIGHBORHOOD SUPPORT</td>
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<td>SOCIAL NETWORK SUPPORT</td>
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<td>SPIRITUALITY</td>
<td>SPIRITUALITY</td>
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</table>
Methods – Variable Description (cont)

PERSONAL RESOURCES

• **Self-esteem** (Rosenberg scale):
  - I feel that I’m a person of worth, at least on an equal plane with others.
  - I am able to do things as well as most other people.
  - On the whole, I am satisfied with myself.

• **Mastery** (Pearlin scale):
  - I have little control over the things that happen to me. *
  - There is really no way I can solve some of the problems I have. *
  - Sometimes I feel I am being pushed around in life. *
  - I can do just about anything I really set my mind to do.
Methods – Variable Description (cont)

SOCIAL RESOURCES

- **Partner relational support** (Fragile Families Study) – Partner....
  - Was fair and willing to compromise when you had a disagreement.
  - Showed affection or love for you.
  - Encouraged or helped you to do things that were important to you.

- **Partner emotional and instrumental support** (Fragile Families Study): Partner....
  - Gave you money or bought things for you?
  - Helped you in other ways, such as taking you to the doctor or helping with chores?
  - Gave you emotional support in labor?
  - Visited you and the baby at the hospital after the delivery?
  - Wanted to put his name on the baby’s birth certificate as the father?
  - Said he wanted to help you raise your child in the coming years?
Methods – Variable Description (cont)

SOCIAL RESOURCES (cont)

- **Social network support** (Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System) – How often do you get these kinds of support?
  - Someone to loan me $50
  - Someone to help me if I were sick and needed to be in bed.
  - Someone to take me to the clinic or doctor if I needed a ride
  - Someone to give me a place to live
  - Someone to help me with household chores
  - Someone to talk to about my problems
Methods: Variable Description (cont)

SOCIAL RESOURCES (cont)

- **Neighborhood social cohesion and trust** (Project on Human Development in Chicago Neighborhoods) – People in the neighborhood...
  - Are willing to help their neighbors.
  - This is a close-knit neighborhood.
  - Can be trusted.
  - Generally don’t get along with each other.
  - Do not share the same values.

- **Neighborhood reciprocal exchange** (PHDCN) – How often do your neighbors...
  - Do favors for each other?
  - Ask each other advice about personal things such as child rearing or job openings?
  - Have parties or other get-togethers where other people in the neighborhood are invited?
  - Visit in each other’s homes or on the street?
  - Watch over each other’s property?
Methods: Variable Description (cont)

SPIRITUAL RESOURCES

- **Spirituality** (LAMB team) –
  - How much was your religion involved in understanding or dealing with stressful situations during your last pregnancy?
Methods: Variable Description (cont)

Acculturation factors:
- Nativity – US born vs. foreign born
- Primary language spoken at home – English-speaking vs. non-English speaking
- Length of residence in US – Short term (<5 yrs) long term (5-15 years) and very long-term (>15 yrs)
Methods: Data Analysis

• Pearson’s chi square test used to determine if:
  - Maternal resiliency among Latinas varied by level of acculturation.

• Maternal resiliency variables were dichotomized as “higher” and ‘lower” resiliency:
  - responses of 1 and 2 = lower resiliency
  - responses of 3,4 and 5 = higher resiliency (responses of “3” removed if “neutral” )
Results – Partner Support and Acculturation

Low partner relational support by acculturation

- **US born***
- **English***
- **Very long-term***

**Nativity**: Foreign-born

**Language spoken at home**: Non-English

**Length of residence in US**: Short-term

* *p<0.05

Acculturation factors

Percentage
Results – Social Network Support and Acculturation

Low social network support by acculturation

- US born
- Foreign-born
- Non-English
- Short-term
- Very long-term

Nativity
Language spoken at home
Length of residence in US

Acculturation factors

Percentage

***p<0.001
Results – Neighborhood support and acculturation

Low neighborhood social cohesion and trust by acculturation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>English*</th>
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Language spoken at home

Acculturation factors

*p<0.05
Results - Spirituality and Acculturation

Low spirituality by acculturation

Spirituality

Acculturation factors

* p<0.05
Results – Summary

- Latinas who spoke only English at home, were born in the US, and lived in the US for >15 years reported:
  - LOWER partner support scores (unadjusted OR=1.69-4.35, p<0.05).
  - HIGHER social network support (unadjusted ORs= 2.35-4.18, p<0.001).

- English speakers had higher neighborhood social cohesion & trust scores (unadjusted OR=2.01, p<0.05).

- Length of residence in the US was positively correlated with higher spirituality scores (unadjusted OR=1.70-1.89, p<0.05).
Discussion

- Greater acculturation among Latinas was associated with lower partner support and higher social network support in sample.

- Results regarding partner support may be due to the trend that women who are more acculturated are less likely to be married.

- Findings regarding social network support may be attributed to the likelihood of more acculturated women possessing the resources and time in the US to develop viable social networks.
Strengths

- To our knowledge, this is the first study to examine the relationship between maternal resiliency and acculturation factors.

- Contributes to the field by highlighting complexity of maternal resiliency.

- LAMB sample contains a large Latina population that is likely to be representative of Latina population in LA county.
Limitations - Analysis

- Maternal resiliency variables were dichotomized in analysis; decreases accuracy.

- Analysis did not tap into diversity within Hispanic ethnicities.

- Acculturation and maternal resiliency measures confined to available information in LAMB instrument (i.e. only 1 item to measure spirituality)

- Measures of acculturation are unidimensional; assumes that acculturation is a unidimensional process

- Analysis did not control for the role of SES
Implications

Our findings warrant:

- Further research to explore intricacies in complex relationships between acculturation factors and maternal resiliency components

- Interventions to increase partner support among highly acculturated Latinas and social capital among less acculturated Latinas

- Future research to account for potential differences among various Hispanic ethnicities.
Acknowledgements

Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
Margaret Chao, Cynthia Harding, Gina Donnatoni, Yvonne Lau, Chandra Higgins, Marian Eldahaby, Karen Coller

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