

Parenting among Latino Immigrant Families: A Systematic Review of Risk and Resilience

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Background

- This systematic review examines papers (N=79) on Latino immigrant families with goals to study factors leading to risk and resilience over time.
- The present study asks: (1) What are the major risk and protective factors affecting Latino immigrant families? (2) Has the context of parenting changed over time for Latino immigrant families?

Methods

- PsychInfo, SocIndex, Families and Society, and Eric by subject terms: parenting or child rearing or caregiving or parenthood or parenting styles; Latinos or Hispanics or Chicanos or Latinas or Mexican; immigrant or immigration.
- Snowball sampling to locate articles from previous literature and reference lists of journals (Lipsey & Wilson, 2001).
- Limited qualitative articles, articles older than 1980, program evaluations, and articles focused on health and public health issues.

Analysis

- Methods from meta-analysis to code articles, focused on risk and protective factors affecting parenting and child outcomes.
- Coding conventions included article characteristics, participant characteristics; Only evaluated Latino immigrant population data.
- First author double coded 85% of the articles, and selected research team members provided a mixture of insider-outsider perspective to double code 42 articles with first author; Inter-rater reliability was 88.2%.

Measures

Risk and protective factors- occurring in more than 10% of the articles were converted to bivariate codes;
Research characteristics- searching presence of subgroups of Latinos; Demographics

Results

- Demographics of participants (n=88,322) included marital status, place of residence, income, and maternal education.
- Majority of Latinos immigrant in the articles were married or partnered (mode 80%), with median for income and education were low (<\$30,000 and <than 40% high school graduates)

	Factors	Frequency
Protective	Cohesive family	26
	Family support	21
	Warmth	13
	Less acculturation	13
	Parental monitoring	12
	Avoidance of punishment	9
	High expectation	8
	Father support	8
Risk	Low income	29
	Lack of English fluency	16
	Low involvement	15
	Family conflict	13
	Low parent education	12
	Neighborhood risk	11
	Acculturation gap	9
	Low child education	9
	Discrimination	4

Changes in parenting over time:

- Significant relation between year of study and maternal education ($t=2.1$, $df=55$, $p=.04$, $d=.56$); Income was unrelated to the amount of mother's education.
- Controlling parenting appears to be framed as a deficit on Latino parenting, but an asset in other research.
- Mixed findings on acculturation as risk. Acculturation gap, acculturation stress, limited English skills, isolation, language brokering and discrimination reviewed as risks, and at the same time low acculturation cited as protective factor (suggested by Latino paradox).

Discussion

- Risk and resilience factors from the past 33 years demonstrate the importance of family cohesion and familism among Latino immigrant families.
- Recent articles (<10 yrs) were more likely to discuss income and language fluency as risk factors, acknowledging the diversity among Latino families in terms of socioeconomic status and English language use.
- Higher average maternal may reflect a demographic trend.
- The most often examined protective factors included family cohesiveness or familism, warmth or affection, supportive or responsive parenting, and high expectations of children.
- The most often examined risk factors were poverty, negative parenting, lack of English fluency, discrimination, lack of school readiness, and acculturation gap. Interestingly, parental control and controlling parenting were at times used to represent risk or protective factors.

Conclusion & Implications

- Emerging body of research became more sophisticated in identifying and addressing the needs of specific Latino subgroups.
- Lack of group specificity among early studies speaks to an evolution among Latino immigrant families, and not just a deficit in the study of Latino families.
- Advances in multi-dimensional measures of acculturation should facilitate a better understanding of adaptation among immigrant families, and contribute to clearer understanding of "gaps" in the acculturation process.
- Using migration as the central lens in research will ensure that broad social elements (e.g. poverty, discrimination, and government policies) shape family and child outcomes.

