Citation

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Review question

Do experiences of ethnoracial trauma produce psychological distress in Latinx immigrants to the United States?

Searches

Search dates thus far are April 25 2019, August 21 2019, and November 11 2019. Databases to be searched are PsycINFO, PubMed, MEDLINE, and EBSCO's Psychology and Behavioral Sciences Collection. Studies must have taken place between 2000 and 2020 (the present) and/or contain data from after 2000. Studies must also be in English and/or Spanish. We have been active in seeking unpublished studies that are produced during searches.

Search strategy

https://www.crd.york.ac.uk/PROSPEROFILES/139337_STRATEGY_20190827.pdf

Types of study to be included

Intervention, assessment, treatment, psychoeducational, developmental, commentary, and measurement equivalence studies are not included. Quantitative studies measuring an immigrant's mental health woes will be included assuming they have the proper population, are not qualitative, include the aforementioned intervention(s), and meet other criteria.

Condition or domain being studied

Acculturative stress, stress*, trauma, depression, anxiety, psychological distress, post-traumatic stress as experienced by adult Latinx immigrants to the United States

Participants/population

Latinx immigrants to the United States, in the United States, ages 18 and older, of any gender identity, including indigenous populations, from countries in Mexico, Latin America, Central America, and South America. Participants must have been born in a country in Latin, Central, or South America, and immigrated to the US as adults.

Intervention(s), exposure(s)

Ethnoracial trauma, racism, oppression, trauma, political violence, exposure to war/genocide/ongoing violence, discrimination based on identity (ie: race, ethnicity, language, citizenship)

Comparator(s)/control

Latinx immigrants to the US who have been exposed to the above interventions, but do not report significant psychological distress as measured quantitatively by known and valid psychological scales and questionnaires.

Context

Studies from 2000-2020 are being considered. Studies must be quantitative or quasi-experimental, original research that focus on measuring the experiences of Latinx immigrants as they travel to the United States, as well as what they face and experience upon arrival and begin to acculturate to their new milieu.

Main outcome(s)

The connection between Latinx immigrant's experiences of discrimination and enduring psychological distress. This will be measured by results of studies that identify significant relationships between experiences of discrimination related to one's racial and/or ethnic identity and experiencing any of a number of psychological symptoms such as post-traumatic stress, anxiety, depression, or alcoholism.

Measures of effect

An odds ratio of the relationship between experiencing ethnoracial trauma and clinically significant psychological distress will be calculated in order to quantify the main outcome.

Additional outcome(s)

Future articles on the impact of psychological distress caused by ethnoracial trauma; suggestions for counselors and therapists working with this population on how to best approach treatment

Measures of effect

Odds ratios will be used to speak to the interventions on and outcomes of Latinx immigrants to the US who experience or have not experienced significant psychological distress.

Data extraction (selection and coding)

Two coders will pull study name, abstract, type, population, population average age, average time in US, citizenship status if available, country of origin, geographic location in US, recruitment of participants, how study was conducted, type of discrimination studied, types of psychological distress reported, definition of psychological distress per study, how mental health is assessed, statistical methods and findings, overall findings. Rayyan QCRI and Google Forms are being used to record decisions and report data from each study. These results will be exported to an Excel sheet and used to view and resolve disagreements; each coder is blinded from seeing the decisions of the other until all articles have been scanned and coded. Each individual will work on their own, and the first author will make the final decision on disagreements regarding inclusion or exclusion of articles.

Risk of bias (quality) assessment

Two reviewers will code articles and decide whether to include or exclude them. Their reasons regarding their decisions will also be collected, and analyzed using Krippendorf's alpha. Both reviewers will reach a consensus on all articles to be included in the review. Critical appraisal tools from the Joanna Briggs Institute will be utilized in order to assess each article for bias/quality using the criteria appropriate for the given article.

Strategy for data synthesis

The specific data to be synthesized includes mental health diagnosis rates where applicable, rates of experiencing discrimination upon arrival in the US, levels of acculturation, mental health incidence rates after having lived in the US, and incidence rates of trauma in Latinx immigrants to the US. Data will be analyzed jointly using odds ratios that compare different experiences of discrimination. A fixed-effects meta-analysis of data will also be used, as we seek to find the relationship between psychological distress and the Latinx immigrant experience.

Analysis of subgroups or subsets

Average years in the US, gender, type of psychological distress, and type of ethnoracial trauma will be examined. Existing research highlights the immigrant paradox, or the perceived strength and health of immigrants despite barriers they face because those who are sicker or lack financial resources may not be able to immigrate at all, making the population of immigrants seemingly exceptional. We anticipate differences in both distress experienced and trauma incurred due to differences in country of origin and exposure as well. Gender identity is important in many Latinx cultures due to strict values and beliefs surrounding gender roles, expectations, traits, and behaviors and should be considered as well given this cultural aspect. All of these are participant characteristics that will be pulled apart using meta-regression, to learn more about how the aforementioned factors moderate the relationship between ethnoracial trauma and psychological distress in Latinx immigrants to the US.

Contact details for further information

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Organisational affiliation of the review
Texas A&M University

Review team members and their organisational affiliations
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Type and method of review
Systematic review

Anticipated or actual start date
04 April 2019

Anticipated completion date
02 May 2020

Funding sources/sponsors
No funding sources or sponsors to report at this time.

Conflicts of interest

Language
English

Country
United States of America

Stage of review
Review Ongoing

Subject index terms status
Subject indexing assigned by CRD

Subject index terms
Emigrants and Immigrants; Humans; Mental Health; United States

Date of registration in PROSPERO
28 April 2020

Date of first submission
17 June 2019

Stage of review at time of this submission

Stage	Started	Completed
Preliminary searches	Yes	No
Piloting of the study selection process	Yes	No
Formal screening of search results against eligibility criteria	Yes	No
Data extraction	No	No
Risk of bias (quality) assessment	No	No
Data analysis	No	No

The record owner confirms that the information they have supplied for this submission is accurate and complete and they understand that deliberate provision of inaccurate information or omission of data may be construed as scientific misconduct.

The record owner confirms that they will update the status of the review when it is completed and will add publication details in due course.

Versions

28 April 2020