Parenting Among Latino Immigrant Families
A Systematic Review of Risk and Resilience

By M. Angela Nievar, Andrea Romero, Molly S. Tucker, Matthew Rodriguez, Jennifer Comacho, & J. Roberto Reyes
Introduction

• **Immigration is on the rise**
  • 53% of all foreign-born residents are from Latin America
  • Latino immigrants to the U.S. are mostly Mexican (61%)

• **How do Latino immigrants parent their kids?**
  • No systematic research reviews exist
  • Our research fills this gap
  • Meta-analysis reveals researchers’ perceptions over time
Latino Immigrant Paradox

• **Immigrants Are Likely More Resilient**
  • Better health
  • Educational achievement
  • Hope for the future

• **Latinos Are Likely More Prosocial**
  • Familism: importance of family
  • Family ties offset stresses of immigration
Latino Parenting Practices

• **Immigrants Use A New Parenting Style**
  • High warmth
  • High expectations

• **Latino Fathers Prove Vital**
  • Financial support
  • Emotional support
  • Discipline
Historical & Individual Changes

- **Latino Parents Are Now Dual Incomes**
  - Gender role expectations have adapted

- **Latino Family Members Differ In Acculturation**
  - Latina mothers approximate American mothers
  - Immigrant children adapt quicker than parents
Research Methods

• Systematically reviewed literature
  • PsychInfo, SocIndex, Families and Society, and ERIC
  • Keywords: Parenting, Latinos, Immigration, etc.

• Articles were coded
  • Of 368 articles, 30 were identified for coding
  • Coding included mention of Latino subgroups and qualitative methods for synthesizing risk and protective factors
results

• Description of Data
• Demographics of participants (n = 29,817)
• 80% or more married
• Mostly urban
• Low-income (less than $30,000 per year)
• Low education (less than 40% graduated from high school)
• Latina mothers in later studies were more educated ($r = .46, p = .02$)
Interpretation

Increased Mention of Subgroups (t = 2.12; p = .04)
Risk and Protective Factors

• No significant relation between number of risks ($r = .04, ns$) or protective factors ($r = -.03, ns$) and the publication year

• Most frequent protective factors: familism ($n = 10$), warmth ($n = 8$), supportive parenting ($n = 4$), and high expectations for children ($n = 4$)

• Most frequent risk factors: poverty or limited resources ($n = 11$), negative parenting ($n = 9$), lack of English language fluency ($n = 5$), and discrimination ($n = 5$), lack of school readiness or poor school performance ($n = 5$), and acculturation gap ($n = 4$)
Lack of English fluency discussed as a risk factor more in recent years ($t = 2.12; p = .04$)
Poverty discussed more often in recent years
\((t = 1.88; p = .07)\)
What next?

• Application
  • We need more research regarding border and immigration stress and hostile context of reception
  • We need research regarding the role national cultural characteristics and immigration policies may have in the social adaptation process
Conclusion

• **Latino Immigrants Are Heterogeneous**
  • Recent research acknowledges language fluency, cultural and socioeconomic variations
  • Latinos communicate warmth and affection while maintaining high standards

• **Familism Proves Vital To Acculturation**
  • Emphasis on family helps children adjust
  • Development of bicultural skills helps explain the Latino paradox