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## Immigration Policies on Adolescent Trauma among Mixed-Status Latinx Families: A Systematic Review

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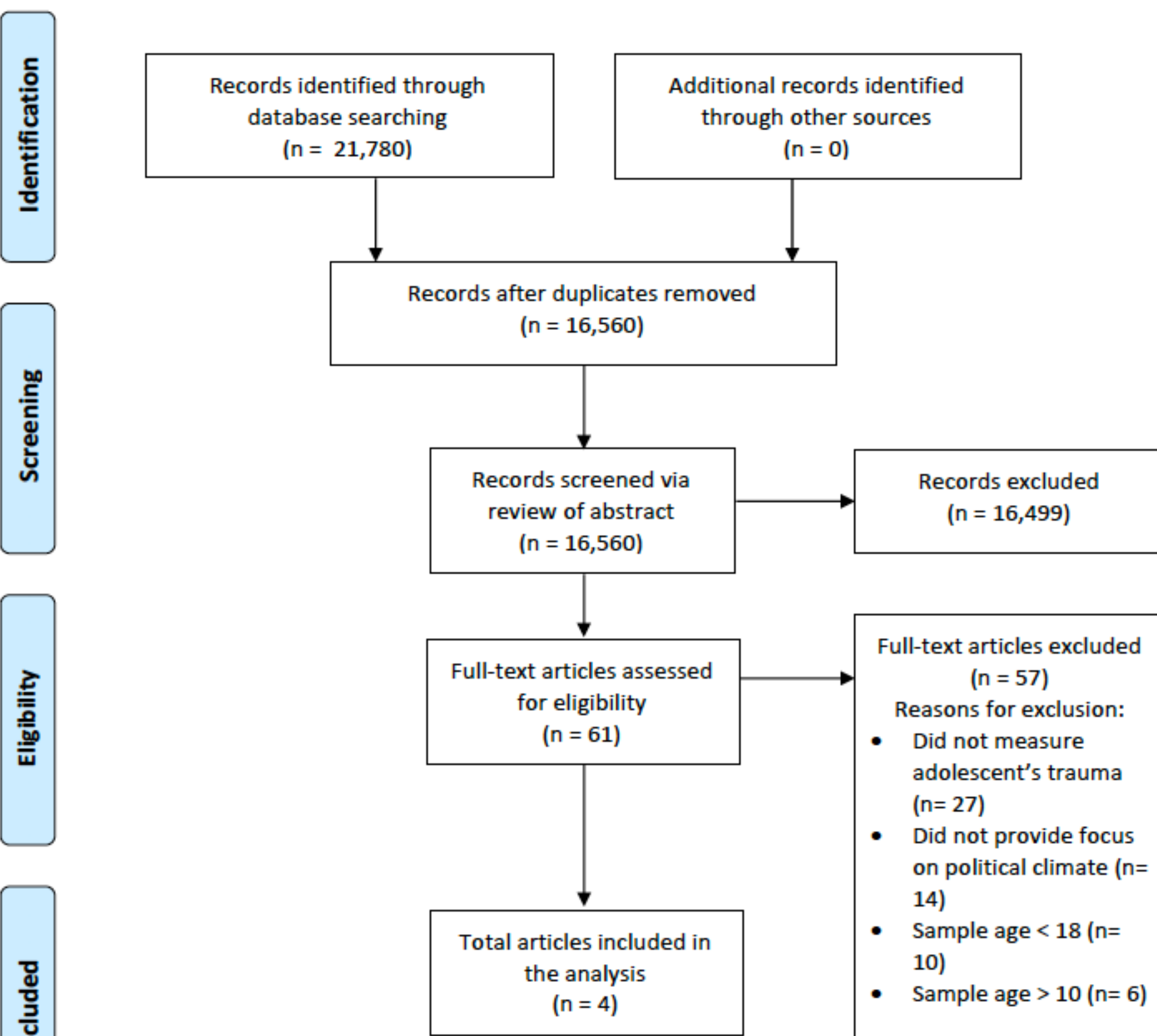
## Background

In recent years, immigration policies have exacerbated Latinx immigrants' health-related vulnerabilities and threatened the health and well-being of children and youth in mixed-status families.<sup>1-4</sup> Accordingly, the relationship between immigration status, immigration policies, and health has become an important public health issue in the United States (U.S.), necessitating long-term attention to immigration policies and their impacts.<sup>4-5</sup>

- ❖ Since the last presidential election in November 2016, uncertainty in the Latinx community has escalated, and a series of Executive Orders early in the presidency substantiated concerns<sup>6-7</sup>
- ❖ Researchers, providers and advocates must prioritize the potential of all children and youth, including those seeking safe haven and hoping for better lives, to lead healthy lives and to ultimately achieve their fullest potential.

The purpose of this review was to systematically review the extant literature linking immigration-related policy and experiences of trauma in Latinx youth. Although previous reviews have been completed within this population, specific reviews on Latinx youth are scant.<sup>8</sup> This review also offers an evaluation of the quality of the available research and offers suggestions for the next steps in advancing this area of work.

## Search Strategy & Criteria



Note: PRISMA flow diagram of the paper selection process

## Study Characteristics and Quality

STUDY	TOOL	ITEMS RESPONDED WITH "YES"	ITEMS RESPONDED WITH "NO"	DETAILS OF ITEMS RESPONDED WITH "NO"
De Arellano et al., 2018 <sup>9</sup>	JBI	1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9	2	❖ Participants recruited through a sample of convenience
Perreira & Ornelas, 2013 <sup>10</sup>	JBI	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9		
Archuleta & Lakhwani, 2016 <sup>11</sup>	JBI	1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9	2	❖ Participants were not recruited through random sampling
Becker Herbst et al., 2018 <sup>12</sup>	CASP	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10	7	❖ Ethical issues were considered in some areas of the text but not all ❖ No statement of institutional review board/ethical board approval for study

Note: JBI = JBI Critical Appraisal Checklist for Studies Reporting Prevalence Data; CASP = CASP Qualitative Checklist

### STUDY CHARACTERISTICS

- ❖ Combined  $n = 749$  ( $Mage = 14.48$ , range: 12-16 years), & were based in the Southeastern U.S.
- ❖ Three studies collected data from the adolescents<sup>9,11,12</sup> and one<sup>10</sup> study collected data from both the adolescent and primary caregiver
- ❖ Two studies used structured surveys & psychological measures of trauma,<sup>10,11</sup> one study used structured interviews<sup>9</sup>, & the last one used written narrative.<sup>12</sup>
- ❖ Two studies used thematic analysis<sup>9,12</sup> & the other two used statistical modeling: Logit models<sup>10</sup> & hierarchical regression models.<sup>11</sup>



### STUDY QUALITY

- ❖ All the studies reported the sample size and provided a description of the sample.
- ❖ There were no issues across the studies that used the JBI in respect to the sample appropriately addressing the target population, the data analysis being conducted with enough coverage, valid methodology used, appropriate measurement and statistical analysis, and management of missing data (JBI items 1, 3-9).
- ❖ There were no issues across the study that used the CASP in respect of providing a clear statement of aims, using appropriate qualitative or prevalence methodology, using a research design suitable for the research aims, providing a clear statement of findings, and performing value-adding research (CASP items 1-6, 8-10).
- ❖ There were some methodological issues (item 2 on the JBI and item 7 on the CASP) relating to ambiguous or unsuitable recruitment strategy, and adequately considering ethical issues.

## Synthesis

Four major themes emerged as being relevant to Latinx youth's experiences with trauma within the context of immigrant policy and the political climate:

- ❖ **This is an understudied topic**, especially within the context of developmental trajectories. The need for more research grows increasingly as the population of Latinxs in the U.S. steadily climbs.
- ❖ **Migration as trauma** provides support for a type of trauma that is unique to this population and often not well understood.
- ❖ **Risk for other internalizing disorders** such as anxiety and depression are extremely prevalent in this community.
- ❖ And the **need to be culturally competent** and overall understanding of this community can help reduce barriers to care.

## Discussion

### LIMITATIONS

- ❖ Lack of relevant literature suggests an incredible gap, especially within a topic that is in increasing need for support and information
- ❖ Of the articles, one was published in 2013, during the 44th administration, and the rest were published within the last three years (during the 45th administration) which does not offer a clear enough picture of the differences and shifts between Presidential administrations
- ❖ All four samples were collected from the Southeastern region of the U.S., and this makes for a more homogenous population, which does not generalize to the Latinx population within the U.S.

### FUTURE RESEARCH

- ❖ Should include efforts to understand the interplay between social determinants of health and health status of Latinx youth as well as the unique ethnic groups and special populations within this diverse population.
- ❖ The examination of the effects of enforcement policies must go beyond undocumented persons themselves and capture the effects on U.S.-citizen family members, especially youth, 8-9 and on those in liminal legal statuses such as DACA, TPS, or asylum seekers.
- ❖ Adopting an intersectional and longitudinal research agenda can help guide future work on immigration enforcement policy and health.

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