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Legal Status Effects on Parent-Child Relationships and Parent Well-Being

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INTRODUCTION & AIMS

Structural factors such as anti-immigrant policies and poverty, and the inequities and discriminatory practices that accompany the anti-immigrant climate in the United States have harmful effects on Latino mental health and wellbeing. Additionally, this immigration climate strains parents' well-being, parenting practices, and the home environment



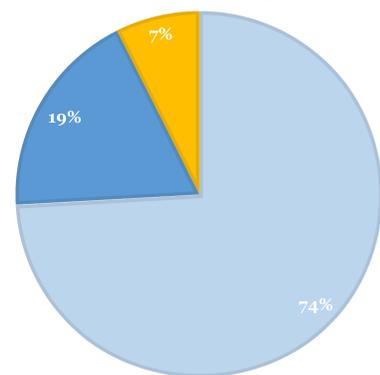
This research examined the resilience characteristics of Latino families in a pilot study of family well-being among Latino communities with heightened fear of and risk for deportation.

A mixed-methods approach combined psychological measures with individual case studies of lived migration experiences.

PARTICIPANTS

CAREGIVER DOCUMENTATION STATUS

■ Undocumented ■ Liminal legal ■ Documented

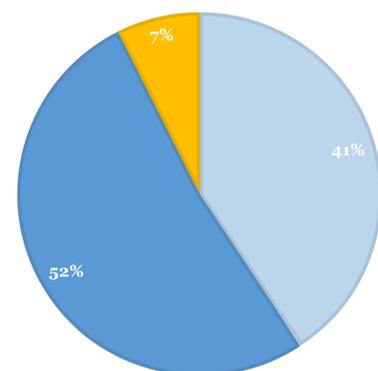


- Age range: 18-55 year's old ($M = 37.48$, $SD = 8.81$)

- Parent/Caregiver gender: 59% Maternal

FAMILY DOCUMENTATION STATUS

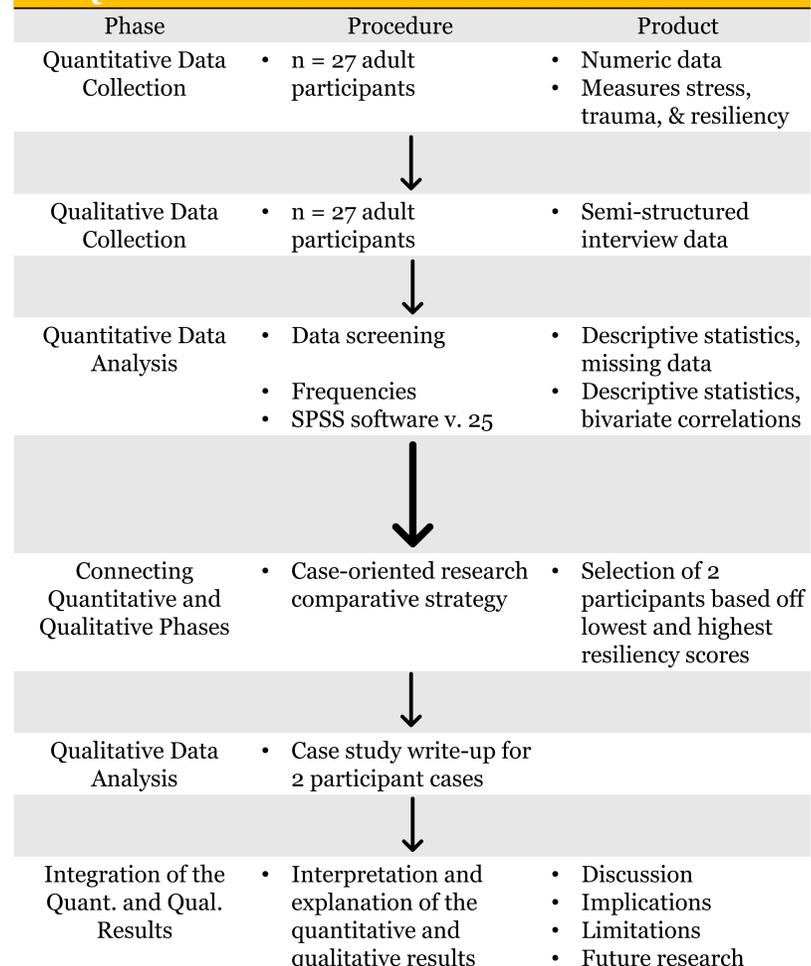
■ Undocumented ■ Mixed ■ Documented



- Language:
 - 52% Portuguese-speaking
 - 48% Spanish-speaking
- Countries:
 - Brazil, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Ecuador, Honduras

METHOD

FIGURE 1 – VISUAL MODEL FOR MIXED-METHOD, SEQUENTIAL EXPLANATORY DESIGN PROCEDURE



RESULTS

TABLE 1 – PARENTS' WELL-BEING DESCRIPTIVE STATISTICS

	Mean	Standard Deviation
PSI-Parental Distress	44.38	10.14
PSI-Parent-Child Dysfunction Interaction	46.67	7.06
PSI-Difficult Child	33.96	7.22
PSI-Total Parental Stress	128.81	31.91
KPD-Psychological Distress	19.89	8.68
PCL-5-Total	34.96	14.96
BRS-Resiliency	3.01	0.75

On average, the sample experienced: Normal to high amounts of parenting-related stress, Low levels of emotional distress, Moderate to severe symptoms of PTSD, Average levels of resiliency

RESULTS

TABLE 2 – SIGNIFICANT CORRELATIONS

Variable 1	Pearson's r	Variable 2
Participant legal status	-0.49*	Parental distress
Participant legal status	0.41*	Psychological distress
Psychological distress	0.49*	PTSD Symptoms

Note: * $p < .05$



Lowest Resiliency Highest Resiliency

Seño

Overall psychological distress = "Likely to have a severe mental disorder"

- "with how many issues I have had with working or holding a job with my injuries, I wouldn't be able to stay here in my own. There just wouldn't be anything for me to do."

Overall PTSD symptoms = "Severe symptoms of PTSD"

- "from what you see on the news they [ICE] are just so aggressive and mean and they just take you by surprise and I know my kids aren't here but the idea of having to explain that experience to them or to my husband is scary."

Overall parenting stress = "Normal stress"

- "It worries me a lot. I feel desperate because... you have to do something if you're not working, you just have to do something. And that's why I worry, I'm not doing anything, and I worry more because I have children and I am responsible for them. Especially my oldest who is studying in school right now."

Don

Overall psychological distress = "Likely to be well"

- "we all should be treated like human beings, not just because you have documents and you don't have documents. It's not that someone is worth more or worth less... They are always telling us that we're bad for being undocumented... we have to be humble. That would be the best thing for Hispanics."

Overall PTSD symptoms = "No to minimum symptoms of PTSD"

- "even if I was deported, at least I would end up with my family again and I wouldn't worry about what they would do without me."

Overall parenting stress = "Normal stress"; Parent distress = "High"; Parent-child dysfunction = "Clinically significant"

- "it's that emotion in the family, in the home, that's the most important thing and it's also the first thing you lose with your family when you're here and they're over there."

DISCUSSION

Although the trauma experienced by many immigrant-origin parents in the study was markedly high, resilience was found and expressed through social support, community resources, and connection to one's cultural identity.

- Integrating quant. & qual. data provides a better look into the experiences of migration. Mixed-methods approaches capture both the quantifiable and qualitative lived experiences of participants.
- Future research on the relationships of immigrant parents and their children must collect more comprehensive, detailed, and longitudinal data
- Limitations include focusing on parent self-report data.