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

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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 communities with heightened fear of and risk for deportation. A mixed-methods approach combined psychological measures with individual case studies of lived migration experiences.

RESULTS
TABLE 1 – PARENTS’ WELL-BEING DESCRIPTIVE STATISTICS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Mean</th>
<th>Standard Deviation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PSI-Parental Distress</td>
<td>44.38</td>
<td>10.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSI-Parent-Child Dysfunction Interaction</td>
<td>46.67</td>
<td>7.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSI-Difficult Child</td>
<td>33.96</td>
<td>7.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSI-Total Parental Stress</td>
<td>128.81</td>
<td>31.91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KPD-Psychological Distress</td>
<td>19.89</td>
<td>8.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PCL-5-Total</td>
<td>34.96</td>
<td>14.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BRS-Resiliency</td>
<td>3.01</td>
<td>0.75</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 resilience.

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.