Introduction

LATINX SUICIDE & ALCOHOL USE

- Suicide is the second leading cause of death for adolescents and emerging adults ages 15-24. This differs by gender and ethnicity.1
- Non-Latino White, African American, and Latino adolescents have shown different rates of suicide attempts (6.3%, 8.8%, 11.3%, respectively) and suicidal ideation (16.2%, 14.5%, 18.9%, respectively).2
- Latino adolescents reportedly have the highest rates for drug and alcohol use.3
- In 2012, 21.2% of Latino adolescents reported alcohol use in the past 30 years, in 2014 that rose to 22.7%.3
- Latino adolescents are two times more likely to report alcohol use than non-Latino adolescents.3
- Intensity of alcohol use among male, Latino, teenagers, may be influenced by bicultural stress through deterioration through cultural norms.4

BICULTURAL STRESS

- Bicultural stress is the stress an individual feels when experiencing a move from one culture to another. This can be experienced through differing language practices and differing values.5
- Both immigrant and U.S. born adolescents of Mexican descent reported high bicultural stress and associated depressive symptoms.6
- Bicultural stress has been shown to be related to risk behaviors (i.e., drinking, smoking, drug use, and violence).7
- Familial conflict has been suggested to occur when older and younger generations experiencing differing level of acculturation.8

COPIING

- Coping is defined as the process in which a stressful relationship warrants a response to alleviate pressure and turmoil an individual deals with.9
- Research suggests that people display voluntary and involuntary responses when using coping skills.10
- When using primary and secondary coping styles, research suggests lower levels of internalizing and externalizing symptoms.11
- However when using disengagement and involuntary coping styles, the research suggests higher levels of symptoms.12

GAPS IN THE LITERATURE

- There are few studies that assess how coping skills moderate adolescent suicidal ideation, alcohol consumption, and bicultural stress for Latinx.

Purpose & Hypothesises

PURPOSE

- The present study seeks to expand previous literature by examining protective factors for the relationship between bicultural stress, suicidal ideation, and alcohol use for Latinx youth.
- Additionally, results were compared by developmental level (i.e., high school participants and college participants) to determine if these associations vary by developmental group.

HYPOTHESIS

- H1: Bicultural stress will be positively related to suicidal ideation and alcohol use.
- H2: Primary and secondary engaged coping styles will be negatively related to suicidal ideation and alcohol use.
- H3: Disengaged coping will be positively related to suicidal ideation and alcohol use.
- H4: Primary and secondary engaged coping styles will protect against the relationship between bicultural stress, suicidal ideation, and alcohol use.

DIRECT EFFECTS

- H1: Partially Supported
- English Competency Pressures was positively related to suicidal ideation.
- Spanish Competency Pressures was positively related to alcohol use.
- H2: Partially Supported
- Primary Engaged Coping was negatively related to alcohol use.
- H3: Partially Supported
- Disengaged coping was positively related to alcohol use.

MODERATION EFFECTS

- H4: Partially Supported

Results

Methods

PARTICIPANTS

- 722 Mexican descent adolescents and emerging adults
- Ages: 14-25 years
- Gender: 65.9% girls/women; 34.1% boys/men
- Generation: 92.8% born in the U.S.

INSTRUMENTS

- Multidimensional Acculturative Stress Inventory
  (α = 80-94).5
- The Coping and Responses to Stress Questionnaire
  (α = .84-.86).10
- The Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test
  (α = .90).11
- Suicidal Ideation (single item)

PROCEDURE

- Online questionnaire took 30-45 minutes to complete.
- College Sample: Participants were given course credit for participation.
- High School Sample: Participants were entered into a drawing for theater gift cards for participation.

Conclusions

COPING ON BICULTURAL STRESS

- Primary engaged coping styles moderated the relationship between bicultural stress, alcohol use and suicidal ideation.
- Secondary engaged coping styles moderated the relationship between bicultural stress and suicidal ideation.
- More engaged types of coping (e.g., problem solving, emotion regulation, acceptance, and cognitive restructuring) can protect against the harmful effects of experiencing bicultural stress for Latinx youth.
- Prevention and intervention efforts may facilitate and strengthen engaged forms of coping for Latinx youth experiencing cultural stressors, such as bicultural stress or discrimination.

References


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