

Family Conflict & Latina/o Youth Depressive Symptoms, Hopelessness, Suicidality, & Life Satisfaction: An Examination of Gender Role Values

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Introduction

BACKGROUND

- Research over the past several years has identified Latina/o adolescents as having the highest prevalence of suicidality compared to other ethnic/racial groups.
- Hispanic youth reported the highest prevalence of seriously considering attempting suicide (18.95%) compared to their white (16.2%) and black (14.5%) peers (CDC, 2013).
- Family conflict is a noted stressor related to worse mental health outcomes. It has been suggested that gender role values may moderate this relationship (Vega, 2015).
- Holding traditional gender role values may have a risk or protective effect on mental health. The experience of distress due to family conflict may differ depending on what values one holds in regards to both gender and family (Cupito et al., 2015; Piña-Watson et al., 2013).

LATINA/O GENDER ROLE VALUES

Latina Women

- Marianismo** – Multidimensional traditional values of woman in the Latina/o culture. It includes the following dimensions which are not dependent upon one another.
 - Family Pillar
 - Spiritual Pillar
 - Virtuous & Chaste
 - Self-Silencing
 - Subordinate to Others

Latino Men

- Machismo** – One of the dimensions of Latino male gender role values. It includes beliefs such as the for physical dominance, aggression, sexual virility, and subjugation of women.
- Caballerismo** – One of the dimensions of Latino male gender role values. It includes values such as the need to be chivalrous, emotionally expressive, and nurturing.

LITERATURE GAPS

- Much of the existing research focuses on girls. Very few studies include boys, especially for suicidality.
- Takes an open multi-dimensional approach to Latina/o gender role values
- Highlights a specific minority, Mexican descent youth, within Latina/o ethnic group samples

Aim of Study

The present study aims to understand the role of family conflict and traditional Latina/o gender role values on the mental health and well-being of Latina/o adolescents. Specifically, the research question we explore is “Do certain dimensions of traditional Latina/o male and female gender role values put a youth at risk, or protect them, for the negative consequences of family conflict on depression, hopelessness, suicidality, and life satisfaction?”

Methods

PARTICIPANTS

- 524 Mexican American Adolescents
- Ages:** 14-20 years (M = 16.23, SD = 1.10)
- Gender:** 46.9% boys, 53.1% girls
- Generation:** Majority 2nd generation (40.7%)

INSTRUMENTS

- Marianismo** (Marianismo Beliefs Scale-Adolescent; Piña-Watson et al., 2014)
- Machismo and Caballerismo** (Machismo Measure; Arciniega et al., 2008)
- Family Conflict** (Parent Conflict Likelihood Scale; Lee et al., 2000)
- Depressive Symptoms** (Center for Epidemiological Studies Depression Scale-20; Radloff, 1977)
- Hopelessness** (Hopelessness Scale for Children; Kazdin et al., 1986)
- Suicidality** (Three items asking about ideation, plans, and attempts in the last 12 months in yes/no response form)
- Life Satisfaction** (Brief Multidimensional Students' Life Satisfaction Scale; Seligson et al., 2003)

PROCEDURE

- Incentives given (gift card drawings)
- Paper-and-pencil self-report questionnaire.
- 30 minutes to complete

Data Analysis Plan

SEPARATE MODELS FOR BOYS & GIRLS

- 3 hierarchical linear regressions were performed for the continuous mental health outcome variables (depressive symptoms, hopelessness, life satisfaction)
- 3 hierarchical logistic regressions were performed for the dichotomous outcomes variables (suicidal ideation, plans, and attempts)
- 3 steps per analysis: Step 1: Family Conflict; Step 2: Gender Role Values; Step 3: Interaction Terms

Results

SIGNIFICANT REGRESSION COEFFICIENTS

Girls

(from 3rd step of regressions)

Mental Health Outcomes	Significant Regression Weights
Depressive Symptoms	Family Conflict ($\beta = .21^{***}$)
Hopelessness	Family Conflict ($\beta = .15^*$)
Life Satisfaction	Family Conflict ($\beta = -.23^{***}$) Marianismo-Spiritual Pillar ($\beta = -.15^*$) Family Conflict x Marianismo-Family Pillar ($\beta = .16^*$) Family Conflict x Marianismo-Virtuous & Chaste ($\beta = -.20^{**}$)
Suicidal Ideation	Marianismo-Virtuous & Chaste (Exp(B) = .49 ^{**}) Marianismo-Self-Silencing (Exp(B) = 1.95 [*]) Family Conflict x Marianismo-Family Pillar (Exp(B) = .46 [*]) Family Conflict x Marianismo-Spiritual Pillar (Exp(B) = 1.72 [*])
Suicide Plan	Marianismo-Virtuous & Chaste (Exp(B) = .36 ^{***}) Family Conflict x Marianismo-Spiritual Pillar (Exp(B) = 2.40 ^{**})
Suicide Attempt	Marianismo-Virtuous & Chaste (Exp(B) = .35 ^{***}) Family Conflict x Marianismo-Family Pillar (Exp(B) = .29 [*])

Boys

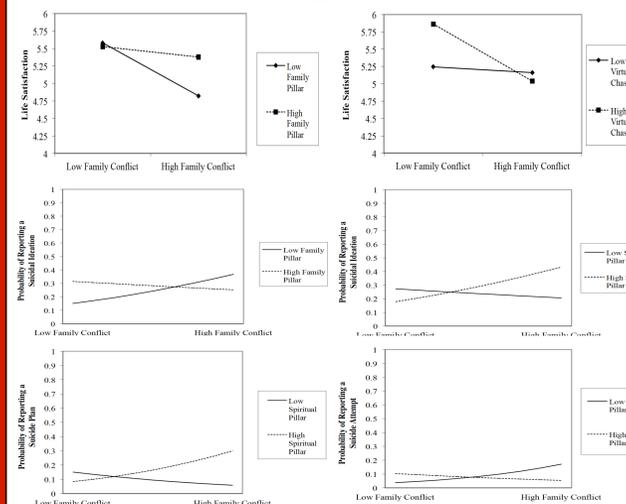
(from 3rd step of regressions)

Mental Health Outcomes	Significant Regression Weights
Depressive Symptoms	Family Conflict ($\beta = .30^{***}$) Machismo ($\beta = -.13^*$) Caballerismo ($\beta = -.15^*$)
Hopelessness	Family Conflict ($\beta = .16^*$) Caballerismo ($\beta = -.23^{***}$)
Life Satisfaction	Family Conflict ($\beta = -.16^*$) Caballerismo ($\beta = .21^{**}$)
Suicidal Ideation	Family Conflict (Exp(B) = 1.81 [*])
Suicide Plan	Family Conflict x Caballerismo (Exp(B) = 4.61 [*])
Suicide Attempt	Family Conflict x Caballerismo (Exp(B) = 7.63 [*])

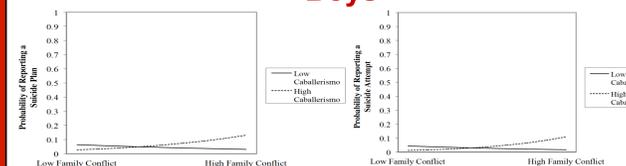
Note: Grey Rows = Hierarchical Linear Regressions; White Rows = Hierarchical Logistic Regressions; * p < .05, ** p < .01, *** p < .001.

INTERACTION EFFECTS

Girls



Boys



Conclusions

Family conflict continues to have a negative impact on mental health and well-being for Latina/o youth. For both boys and girls, gender role value dimensions have a differential impact on various mental health outcomes.

Girls

- Higher **virtuous & chaste** values decrease probability of reporting suicidal ideation, plans and attempts; however, in the context of high family conflict, higher levels of virtuous & chaste values puts one at risk for a greater negative impact on life satisfaction.
- Higher **family pillar** values are protective against the negative impact of higher family conflict on life satisfaction. Lower family pillar values puts one at risk of an increased probability of reporting suicidal ideation and attempts when family conflict is high.
- Higher **spiritual pillar** beliefs are related to higher levels of life satisfaction. However, when a girl is in a high family conflict context, being high on spiritual pillar values puts her at risk by increasing the probability of reporting suicidal ideation and plans.
- Higher levels of **self-silencing** values are related to a higher probability of reporting suicidal ideation.
- No relationships were found for the **subordinate** value.

Boys

- Higher levels of **caballerismo** is related to higher reporting of life satisfaction and lower reporting of depressive symptoms and hopelessness. Additionally, higher caballerismo puts boys at risk of a higher probability of reporting suicide plans and attempts when family conflict is high.
- Higher levels of **machismo** is related to an increase of depressive symptoms. It was not related to any other outcome, nor was it found to be a risk or protective factor in the context of family conflict.

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