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### **IMPACT OF PRE-MIGRATION ASSETS AND PRE-MIGRATION TRAUMA ON ACCULTURATIVE STRESS AMONG RECENTLY IMMIGRATED LATINX YOUNG ADULTS**

**BACKGROUND:** In addition to acculturating to the U.S. context, many Latinx immigrants must also deal with trauma experienced in their home countries. Previous research has found associations between pre-migration trauma and negative mental health outcomes among Latinx immigrants. Conversely, family cohesion and social support have been implicated as factors that support positive mental health outcomes. Few studies have assessed the relationships pre-migration trauma and pre-migration protective factors on immigrant mental health. The current study aims to identify pre-migration assets as well as pre-migration risk factors that impact acculturative stress among recent Latinx immigrants (RLI).

**METHOD:** The current study utilizes baseline data from an on-going longitudinal study following 540 RLI between the ages of 18-34 during their initial 3 years in the U.S. Simple main effects of the predictor variables on acculturative stress were estimated using hierarchical multiple regression (HMR). Predictor variables were grouped and entered into the HMR model as follows: (1) demographic variables the first block, (2) family cohesion and social support and (3) pre-migration trauma. Analyses were also conducted to test the moderating effects of family cohesion and social support on the relationship between pre-migration trauma and acculturative stress.

**RESULTS:** Results showed that 20% of the variance of acculturative stress was explained by the predictor variables entered into the HMR model. The first predictor block included demographic variables and explained 12.9% of the variability in acculturative stress,  $R^2 = 12.9$ ,  $F(7, 518) = 10.96$ ,  $p < .001$ . The second block added family cohesion and social support to the HMR model and showed an  $R^2$  change of 4.1%,  $R^2 = 0.041$ ,  $F(9, 516) = 11.74$ ,  $p < .001$ . The third block added pre-migration trauma to the HMR model and showed an  $R^2$  change of 2.9%,  $R^2 = 0.029$ ,  $F(10, 515) = 12.80$ ,  $p < .001$ . Further, neither social support nor family cohesion showed significant interactions with pre-migration trauma in relation to acculturative stress.

**CONCLUSION:** Study findings suggest that pre-migration resources such as family cohesion and social support may serve to ameliorate post-immigration acculturative stress among RLI, while pre-migration trauma, may serve to exacerbate acculturative stress. Results can inform interventions that target pre-migration vulnerability factors and protective factors that impact acculturative stress among RLI.