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### **MEASURING IMMIGRANT LATINO YOUTH FEAR OF DEPORTATION AND HOPE**

#### Background

A growing literature has established the relationship between hope and fear of deportation with adolescent substance abuse. Standard measures for these predictors have not been validated with immigrant Latino youth. This is a particular concern for at least three reasons: (a) psychometric properties may not hold across cultures due to cultural differences in personal values and meaning ascribed to behaviors, (b) demographers estimate that 88% of US population growth over the next five decades will be due to immigrants and their descendants, and (c) compared to other ethnicities Latino youth have elevated rates of substance use. The success of research and programs to reduce health disparities depends on establishing the psychometric properties of measures used in the prevention of Latino adolescent substance use.

#### Methods

We test the widely-used hope measure in prevention research: Snyder's Children's Hope Scale (CHS) and a new promising scale to measure fear of deportation: Fear of Deportation Scale (FDS) using a sample of 136 1st and 2nd generation Latino 7th grade students, of which 50% were male, 67% were born in U.S., and 26% took the survey in Spanish. We examine internal consistency, gender and time invariance (two-week interval), and predictive validity for each measure.

#### Results

Internal consistencies are: .70 (Fear of Deportation) and .85 (Hope Scale). Hope is time invariant but gender variant. Factor analyses indicate good fit with all factor loadings  $>.7$ , insignificant chi-squared values, and good fit indices (RMSEA=.00, CFI of 1.00, and SRMR<.02). Correlations of hope and fear of deportation with a dichotomous measure of any substance use (use vs. no use) indicates strong predictive validity: hope ( $r=-.35$ ,  $p<.01$ ) and fear of deportation ( $r=.28$ ,  $p<.05$ ).

#### Conclusion

Snyder's Children's Hope scale can be used longitudinally with Latino immigrant youth. However, caution should be used when comparing latent means of hope across gender. The elimination of some items on the fear of deportation scale will increase the model fit and contribute to a more parsimonious measure. More research is needed on fear of deportation.