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PSYCHOMETRIC VALIDATION OF A NOVEL MEASURE OF ACCULTURATIVE STRESS DRINKING FOR HEAVY DRINKING LATINXS.

Background: Acculturative stress negatively impacts Latinxs' mental health such as increasing risk for heavy alcohol use. Existing measures assess different cultural groups' experiences with acculturative stress, yet few have focused on the experiences related to immigration of heavy drinking Latinxs and the amount of alcohol consumption that can be attributed to acculturative stress. We hypothesized that using a scale that measures the specific variance in alcohol consumption due to different underlying dimensions of acculturative stress will advance our understanding of the effects that acculturative stress has on alcohol consumptions among Latinxs.

Methods: The present study included responses from 148 heavy drinking Latinx from the Northeastern US who took part in a randomized controlled trial comparing two types of brief alcohol intervention. Participants completed measures at baseline, including: 1) Acculturative Stress (ACS), and 2) Acculturative Stress Drinking (ACSD). The 19-item ACS scale measured stressful experiences and the corresponding ACSD items measured frequency of drinking in response to stressful experiences. Exploratory factor analysis (Stata version 16) was conducted on the Acculturative Stress Scale. Eigenvalues and interpretability were used to determine the number of factors to retain and a promax rotation to estimate the factor loadings. Criterion-related validity (1. concurrent, 2. convergent, 3. predictive, and 4. discriminant validity), reliability, and model fit was evaluated. These ACS factors were used to also create the ACSD factors, which were then correlated with the ACS to assess whether acculturative stress is associated with drinking.

Results: A four-factor solution emerged: 1. Relational stress, 2. Perceived ethnic stress, 3. Attenuated aspirations, and 4. Effects of immigration. Four items were dropped due to cross loading, which resulted in a 15-item Acculturative Stress Scale. The ACS scale had good validity and reliability. The four factors were significantly associated with the ACSD factors.

Discussion: Future research should assess whether acculturative stress drinking predicts greater drinking consequences among heavy drinking Latinxs.