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## **PEDIATRIC PSYCHOLOGICAL STRESS MEASURE: EVIDENCE FOR USE IN A LATINO SAMPLE**

### Background

Adolescent alcohol, tobacco, and other drug (ATOD) use is a major public health concern, with rates for Latino middle school youth higher than other ethnic groups. One well-established precursor of adolescent ATOD use is psychosocial stress. Among Latino immigrant youth, stress related to migration is associated with ATOD use and other negative health outcomes, even after accounting for indicators of socio-economic status. Nearly 75% of Latino immigrant youth report living in constant fear of either being deported or having someone they know deported, and the effects of this stress can have sequelae affecting health well into adulthood. Although the NIH Toolbox recommends using the PROMIS Pediatric Psychological Stress Measure (PPSM) for use in NIH funded projects, the PPSM has not been validated for use with Latino immigrant youth. This is of particular concern since demographic estimates suggest that 88% of the U.S. population growth over the next five decades will be due to immigrants and their descendants, of which Latinos will be the vast majority. Having validated measures of stress for Latino immigrant youth is, therefore, vital to prevention efforts focused on reducing health disparities.

### Methods

This study examines the 8-item and 4-item PPSM factor structure, internal consistency, gender and time invariance, and predictive validity on a sample of 1st and 2nd generation 7th grade Latino immigrant youth (N=136) residing in the U.S., of whom 50% were male, 67% were born in U.S., and 26% took the survey in Spanish. The two time points for tests of invariance spanned two weeks.

### Results

The 4-item PPSM fit the data well ( $\chi^2 (2) = 1.98, p > .05$ , RMSEA of .00, CFI of 1.00, and SRMR of .01) and did not have correlated residuals as was observed in the 8-item PPSM. Cronbach's alpha (.93), and test-retest reliability (.70) were strong. Tests of time and gender invariance showed strong invariance. Finally, tests of associations between the 4-item PPSM and measures of anxiety ( $r = .38, p < .01$ ) and alcohol consumption ( $r = .27, p < .01$ ) provided adequate evidence for the predictive validity of the PPSM. Results from IRT analyses will also be presented.

### Conclusions

Psychometric properties of both the 4- and 8-item PPSM were very good when used with Latino immigrant adolescents. However, compared to the 8-item PPSM the 4-item measure showed a slightly better fit with the data, equal residual variances across time and gender, and is more parsimonious.