

TITLE: Examining the link between acculturation and reproductive autonomy among Oregon Latinas

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STUDENT SUBMISSION: Yes

TOPIC/TARGET AUDIENCE: Researchers, Community workers, and Program Developers

ABSTRACT: Background: Reproductive autonomy is power over matters such as pregnancy and contraceptive use. Acculturation may influence reproductive autonomy. Purpose: The purpose of this study is to test whether low acculturation is associated with lower reproductive autonomy. Methods: We developed a 26-item survey that includes validated language-based acculturation scale and reproductive autonomy (range 1-4) scale with 3 subdomains, and sociodemographic information. We recruited Latinas ages 15-49 at the Mexican Consulate. We classified respondents in acculturation categories according to published scoring. We calculated median and interquartile range (IQR) reproductive autonomy scores used descriptive and bivariate statistics to test the association of acculturation and reproductive autonomy. Results: To date we have recruited 177 (out of 500) participants; data collection will be complete by September. Overall, 63% of respondents fell into the low, 53% bicultural, and 4% high acculturation groups. Reproductive autonomy overall was 3.4 (IQR 3.1-3.6); subdomain scores varied (decision-making 2.5 [IQR 2.3-2.8]; freedom from coercion 4.0 [IQR 3.6-4.0]; communication 3.8 [IQR 3.0-4.0]). Overall, women with low acculturation had lower, and bicultural women higher, median reproductive autonomy scores ($p=0.001$). Conclusions: Low language-based acculturation is negatively associated with reproductive autonomy; Our results can be used to target education and services to support Latinas to achieve their reproductive goals.

OBJECTIVE(S): Describe the concepts of reproductive autonomy and acculturation Understand the association between reproductive autonomy levels and acculturation in Oregon Latinas. Discuss the importance in understanding acculturation and outreach to elevate reproductive autonomy among Oregon Latinas
