

**TITLE:** Perceived Medical Mistrust among Young Adult Latinos in Rural Oregon: Influence of Cultural and Structural Factors

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**STUDENT SUBMISSION:** No

**TOPIC/TARGET AUDIENCE:** Public health professionals working with diverse racial/ethnic communities, health care providers, policy makers, researchers

**ABSTRACT:** Although previous studies have examined the impact of medical mistrust on the health of diverse populations including Latinos, limited research has explored cultural and structural factors that contribute to medical mistrust. This study examined the associations between cultural and structural factors and perceived medical mistrust among a sample of young adult Latinos.

Data are from in-person structured interviews with 499 Latinos living in rural Oregon and included perceptions of medical mistrust, acculturation, machismo, familismo, perceived everyday discrimination, and sociodemographic variables. Using multivariable models, we investigated the association between cultural and structural factors and medical mistrust, adjusting for sociodemographic variables. We found that everyday discrimination and traditional machismo beliefs (e.g., aggressiveness, hypermasculinity, chauvinism) were associated with medical mistrust. Latinos living in relatively new minority/immigrant settlement areas (such as rural Oregon) may be more vulnerable to experiencing discrimination, which, in turn, may erode trust in health care providers. Moreover, strategies like a strong ethnic identity, including the endorsement of machismo beliefs, may serve as protective factors for Latinos confronted by racial/ethnic discrimination. Culturally responsive, socio-cultural and societal interventions are warranted to tackle and eliminate the pervasive and ripple effects that racial/ethnic discrimination has on the health of Latinos and other minority populations.

**OBJECTIVE(S):** Describe cultural and structural influences of medical mistrust among rural young-adult Latinos

Discuss the implications of these findings in the context of Latino health care in rural communities in Oregon.

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