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Examining the Link Between Acculturation and Reproductive Autonomy Among Oregon Latinas: Work in progress

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Title

Examining the Link Between Acculturation and Reproductive Autonomy Among Oregon Latinas: Work in progress

Background

Reproductive autonomy is defined as the power a woman has over matters such as pregnancy, childbearing, and contraceptive use and is essential to human rights. Acculturation, or how much of the values, practices, and norms of a host culture an immigrant has adopted, may influence reproductive autonomy. The purpose of this study is to test whether acculturation is associated with reproductive autonomy among Oregon Latinas. We hypothesize that highly acculturated women will report more reproductive autonomy compared to bicultural and low acculturation groups.

Methods

This is a cross sectional study in collaboration with the General Consulate of Mexico. We developed a 25-item survey that includes validated acculturation and reproductive autonomy scales, as well as sociodemographic information. We will be recruiting Latina women ages 15-49 at the Mexican Consulate. We anticipate data collection the summer of 2021. We will use descriptive and multivariable statistics to describe our sample and test the association of acculturation and reproductive autonomy scores.

Results

The study results will be disseminated with the Consulate of Mexico and other local partners to inform them about the concepts of reproductive autonomy and acculturation, and to inform outreach efforts to the Latino(a) community.

Public Health Significance

Understanding whether there is a link between acculturation and reproductive autonomy in Oregon Latinas could help target education and reproductive health and related social services (such as interpersonal violence) services to those who need them most and help support Latinas to achieve their reproductive goals and enhance human rights.