Trauma associated with gang membership in Latina youths: A juvenile detention sample

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Pacific University

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Trauma associated with gang membership in Latina youths: A juvenile detention sample

Abstract
Building on recent quantitative studies, the present study was an examination of the potential relationship between and among complex trauma, acculturation and gang membership in a sample of Latina adolescents. A total of 17 incarcerated, self-identified Latina youth ages 14-24 participated in the present study. The author set out to address a gap in the social science literature regarding the associations between exposure to traumatic life experiences, juvenile delinquency and gang membership. Identifying risk factors for gang involvement may subsequently inform mental health professionals working with at-risk and gang-involved Latina youth. It was hypothesized that a history of trauma would be significantly associated with higher scores of self-reported gang involvement among Latina adolescents. While the initial hypothesis was not supported, interesting findings emerged in the domains of acculturation and childhood maltreatment.

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TRAIUMA ASSOCIATED WITH GANG MEMBERSHIP IN LATINA YOUTHS:
A JUVENILE DETENTION SAMPLE

A DISSERTATION
SUBMITTED TO THE FACULTY
OF
SCHOOL OF PROFESSIONAL PSYCHOLOGY
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BY
AINARA ECHANOVE
IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE
REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE
OF
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June 14, 2013

APPROVED BY THE COMMITTEE:
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Abstract

Building on recent quantitative studies, the present study was an examination of the potential relationship between and among complex trauma, acculturation and gang membership in a sample of Latina adolescents. A total of 17 incarcerated, self-identified Latina youth ages 14-24 participated in the present study. The author set out to address a gap in the social science literature regarding the associations between exposure to traumatic life experiences, juvenile delinquency and gang membership. Identifying risk factors for gang involvement may subsequently inform mental health professionals working with at-risk and gang-involved Latina youth. It was hypothesized that a history of trauma would be significantly associated with higher scores of self-reported gang involvement among Latina adolescents. While the initial hypothesis was not supported, interesting findings emerged in the domains of acculturation and childhood maltreatment.

Keywords: Trauma, maltreatment, gang membership, acculturation, Latina
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Many thanks to Oregon Youth Authority and staff at Oak Creek Correctional Facility for their collaborative efforts and patience over the past two years. Their commitment to the community and to the lives of many young adults ultimately helped materialize this project.

Importantly, I am eternally grateful to the young Latina women whose courageous voices are reflected in the pages that follow. Their stories fundamentally informed my personal and professional growth in inspiring ways. I wish them all promising futures wherein their worth is acknowledged and opportunities for growth, belonging and joy are endless.

Most of all, I thank my amazing Basque family who inspires me to stay true to my roots and to aim for the stars. Their support, patience and faith never cease to humble and motivate me. And to my parents, Pilar and Angel, who teach me strength and resilience beyond imaginable limits- thank you for loving and believing in me!
Introduction

In a recent survey, the National Youth Gang Center (NYGC; 2012) reported that nearly half (46%) of all documented gang members in the United States are of Hispanic or Latino/a origin. Across 3,330 nation-wide jurisdictions, larger cities (85%), urban counties (50%), smaller cities (30%), and rural counties (14%) all reported gang problems in 2011 (NYGC, 2012). Further, the Oregon Department of Justice (2006) indicated there are 118 documented gangs and approximately 3,000 documented gang members in Oregon. Contrasting previous trends, the composition of Latino/a gangs currently extends beyond poorly educated and low socio-economic members and spans a variety of community and institutional settings.

Street gangs have had a longstanding presence in Western civilization and are still widely associated with street crime, organized criminal activity and drug trafficking. Upon external migration of European ethnic groups, the earliest U.S. gangs inhabited the Northeast and Midwest between 1783 and 1920 (Howell & Moore, 2010). By the 1950’s and 1960’s, the arrival of Latino and Black immigrants expanded prior waves of gang activity in the U.S. Immigrants from Mexico, Central America and South America populated Western cities and eventually Northeastern and Midwestern regions. At this time, ethnic solidarity altered the ethnic composition of gangs. Experiences of diffuse urban poverty and marginalization prompted efforts toward cultural preservation in adult and youth immigrants settling in Western and Southwestern regions (Howell & Moore, 2010).

Currently, the presence of Western Latino gangs is thought to be sustained and perpetuated by deportation trends, racial disintegration, and ethnic, social, and cultural identification (Howell & Moore, 2010; United States Agency for International Development, 2006). In 1996, passage of the Illegal Immigrant Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act
TRUAMA ASSOCIATED WITH GANG MEMBERSHIP

(IIRIRA) incited gang growth in the United Stated, Mexico and Central America and stimulated transnationalization of gangs across various Western and Southern borders (Ribando Seelke, 2011). In 2006, fieldworkers contracted by the United States Agency for International Development examined the transnational nature of gangs and provided country of origin base rate estimates for gang membership in the United Stated (38,000), El Salvador (10,500), Honduras (36,000), Nicaragua (2,200), Guatemala (14,000), Southern Mexico (3,000), and Northern Mexico (17,000). Deportation of immigrants with criminal convictions in the early 2000’s expanded and strengthened connections between the U.S. and Central American gang members (Ribando Seelke, 2011).

Gang membership has often been considered synonymous with delinquency, as violence is central to gang culture, reinforced and sensationalized in mainstream society and popular media. Since the 1950’s, youth delinquency has been established as a characteristic component of gang membership (Parker, Negola, Haapanen, Miranda, & Asencio, 2008). As a result, most psychological research addressing youth gang involvement has focused largely on criminality, delinquency and the social consequences of gang activity (Lafontaine, Acoose, & Schissel, 2009).

Increased interest in assessing predisposing factors to gang involvement is emergent. Recently, discussions concerning the association between youth delinquency and childhood trauma have grown more common in the social sciences (Crimmins, Cleary, Brownstein, Spunt, & Warley, 2000; Maschi, Bradley, & Morgen, 2008; Paton, Crouch, & Camic, 2009). Contemporary theoretical explanations have suggested that behavioral and academic problems during early stages of development (i.e., childhood aggression, delinquency, peer rejection, and poor school performance) may be risk factors for youth gang involvement (Howell & Egley,
In addition to trauma as a purported risk factor to gang membership, some researchers have examined the effect of varying acculturation levels (Lopez & O’Donnell Brummett, 2003).

Despite emerging trends, there is a paucity of research concerning the influence of trauma and acculturation levels as risk factors for gang involvement, particularly among Latina adolescents (Petersen & Valdez, 2005). In particular, few studies have been conducted on the psychological consequences of long-term exposure to developmental and relational traumatic experiences among Latino/a youth as a precursor to gang affiliation and membership.

In the following review, characteristics of Latino/a gangs will be addressed and attention will be drawn to existing research documenting links to longstanding trauma, acculturation, delinquency, and gang membership in youth populations of various racial and ethnic backgrounds. In this discussion, the need for additional data on the associations between traumatic life events and gang membership among Latina youth will be highlighted.
Literature Review

Latinos/as and Gang Membership

Developing effective intervention and prevention programs must be informed by a general understanding of the characteristics that comprise Latino/a gangs. Within social and political domains, several terms are designated to refer to people of Hispanic/Latino/a origin. This classification serves as a broad categorization of a large ethnic population. However, Latinos are a heterogeneous group representing many subcultures. Such groups include individuals of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Dominican, Central American, South American, and Spaniard descent, and of other Hispanic/Latino/a origin (Arreola, 2004). The term “Latino/a” will be used throughout the following sections when referring to youth who fall under the broader, general Hispanic/Latino/a category.

Several characteristics define both Latino/a subcultures and Latino/a gang membership, with some important qualitative differences between the two groups. Nonetheless, cultural values and beliefs associated with a particular gang are often reflective of the ethnic and racial composition of the gang members. In other words, broad cultural values, beliefs and symbols (e.g., familismo, personalismo, respeto, fatalismo, spiritualismo, sabiduria, simpatia, marianismo, machismo) of particular Latino/a subcultures are also reflected in societal, communal and familial functions that define Latino/a gangs.

Determining a definition of “gang” and “gang member” is problematic, as gangs vary in their structure (traditional versus specialty), geographic region, their presence in the U.S., and the ethnic and racial characteristics of their members. Arriving at a commonly accepted definition is also a value-laden endeavor riddled with inconsistencies among policy-makers, politicians, law enforcement officials, and other youth-serving professionals (Lafontaine et al., 2009). A
generally accepted definition of a gang includes the following characteristics: A group with three
or more members who: (a) are linked by an identity; (b) share a name, colors and symbols; (c)
are recognized as a gang by themselves and other gangs; (d) encompass a degree of permanence
and organization; and (e) agree to the commission of criminal acts (Lafontaine, et al., 2009;
NYGC, 2012; Parker et al., 2008).

Another central characteristic of gang composition is the young age at which members
become gang-involved. Gang members typically range in age from 12-24 years, with the
average gang member entering at age 13 (Huff, 1998; Spergel, 1995). In 2011, law enforcement
agencies in 3,000 jurisdictions reported that juveniles (under 18) comprise two out of every five
gang members, with the highest percentage residing in smaller cities (48%) and rural areas
(58.9%; NYGC, 2012).

Researchers have expanded on sociopolitical conceptions regarding the definitional
aspects of gang phenomenon, gang involvement and the realities of social marginalization.
Upon qualitatively analyzing gang phenomenon, Lafontaine et al. (2009) suggest, “gang
members are individuals who struggle to be safe and secure and to belong in a society that
continually isolates and marginalizes” (p. 45). Broadly speaking, gangs act as a surrogate
family, forming around common goals, norms and rituals. Gangs also provide the promise of
protection, respect, power, enjoyment, camaraderie, and money that serve important social
functions for both gangs and their members (Howell, 2010; Lopez & O’Donnell Brummett,
2003; Parker et al., 2008).

Consistent features among Hispanic or Latino/a gangs include culturally relevant values
and beliefs, distinctive identifiers (i.e., dress, monikers, graffiti, tattoos), codes of silence,
vviolence toward rival gangs, and obstinacy toward authority figures (Lopez & O’Donnell
Brummett, 2003; NYGC, 2012; Parker et al., 2008). Descriptively, these and the aforementioned defining characteristics will serve to identify gang membership among Latino/a youth throughout the following sections and study.

Beyond cultural characteristics of youth gang members, gender considerations are becoming increasingly more common. In the past decade, the general consensus in the social sciences has been that males are increasingly more violent than females, a view frequently attributed to differences in the socialization processes between genders (Deschene & Esbensen, 1999). However, ethnographic researchers suggest that female gang members in the U.S. are increasing in rates of juvenile delinquency and are assuming gang roles and activities traditionally associated with male gang members (Gover, Jennings, & Tewksbury, 2009). In 2011, nearly half of U.S. gangs in smaller cities, suburban counties and rural areas were reported to have female gang members (NYGC, 2012). In a 11-city purposive sample, Esbensen, Brick, Melde, Tusinski, and Taylor (2008) revealed almost equal proportions of male (8.8%) and female (7.8%) adolescent self-reporting gang membership. Through an examination of risk and protective factors, researchers have found that female gang membership is an increasingly important issue among Latina female youth (Snethen, 2010).

Researchers also suggest that female gang members are often used as sex objects by members of male-dominated gangs, and that the risk of inter-gang victimization is often shaped by gender roles (Gover et al., 2009). Becoming gang involved is therefore associated with more negative effects for young women such as greater drug use and fear of violence and injury (Dukes & Stein, 2003). Although female gang members commit a variety of offenses, almost one third agree that selling drugs, drinking alcohol, providing sex, and carrying weapons are the major activities in which a female gang member is most likely to engage (Wang, 2000).
Research findings are relatively mixed as to the degree of aggression shown towards females who wish to leave their gangs. However, in one notable study, researchers found that 39% of female gang members were beaten, 35% were killed and 6% were sexually assaulted when they attempted to exit their gang (Variale, 2008).

Despite the associated risks, gang involvement may serve as an escape from stressful living conditions. For many girls, gang membership appears to provide a sense of power, agency and respect for girls who live in environments with high rates of violence perpetrated against women (Kontos, Brotherton, & Barrios, 2003). In communities affected and disempowered by violence and economic disadvantage, gang membership therefore offers opportunities for interpersonal connection, shared experience, social and economic support, protection, cultural pride and identity, and survival (Pyrooz, Fox, & Decker, 2010).

*Acculturation*

While there are a number of definitions of acculturation within the social science literature, Marin, Sabogal, VanOss Marin, Otero-Sabogal, and Perez-Stable (1987) described the process of acculturation as the “cultural learning” of norms, values, attitudes, and behavioral patterns upon exposure to the new host culture. As a multidimensional construct, psychological acculturation and acculturative stress has shown to be compounded by significant differences between country of origin and the host culture among Latino children and families (Dettlaff & Rycraft, 2006).

Several qualitative studies link the process of acculturation to Latino/a gang membership. Lopez and O’Donnell Brummett (2003) suggested that self-identified gang members were more likely to identify with Mexican identity when compared to non-gang members. Miller, Barnes, and Hartley (2009) found that Hispanic youth who were slow to
assimilate and experienced ethnic marginalization were at an increased risk for gang membership. In contrast, increased levels of ethnic identity have been linked to less delinquency even when trauma symptoms were present (Bruce & Waelde, 2008). Therefore, it may prove beneficial to delineate the effects of trauma, ethnic identity and level of acculturation on delinquency or gang involvement.

The aforementioned findings have important implications for communities, law enforcement agencies, and for practitioners and researchers across social service and mental health disciplines (Parker et al., 2008). The following section will serve to address the current understanding of the relationship between traumatic stress and delinquency, a core component of gang membership.

**Trauma and Delinquency**

Researchers have been increasingly interested in exploring links between adolescent reports of childhood maltreatment, trauma symptoms and delinquency. Gangs and delinquency have morphed into synonymous terms and researchers have found delinquency to be a major component of the gang lifestyle (Parker et al., 2008). Such delinquent behavior has shown to be more prevalent among youth who endorse a history of adverse life events (Crimmins et al., 2000). It has been suggested that continued marginalization of minority juveniles, limited opportunities for upward mobility and poor community economics often encourage youth who perceive unfairness in social institutions to resort to other means, such as gang involvement, to meet their basic needs (Sule, 2005).

Trauma-informed, systemic, and social justice perspectives may aid in conceptualizing the gang involvement of young Latinas in the U.S. Ongoing exposure to maltreatment in family, community, juvenile justice, and school domains (e.g., physical or emotional abuse, substance
use, community violence, delinquent peers, bullying) has been implicated in the development of future violent behavior among various ethnic minority children and adolescents (Hawkins et al., 2000). Among community samples, researchers consistently demonstrate that exposure to trauma is related to increased delinquent behavior among sampled adolescents (Maschi et al., 2008).

Contrasting traditional frameworks for understanding trauma, the term complex trauma accounts for the “immediate and long-term consequences of children’s exposure to maltreatment and other traumatic experiences” in several core domains of functioning (e.g., attachment, biology, affect regulation, dissociation, behavioral control, cognition, and self-concept; Cook et al., 2005, p. 390). Complex trauma has also been described as a multifaceted response to long-term problems beginning in early childhood and adolescence, from which personal and interpersonal difficulties may persist. Environmental factors such as poverty, sexual abuse, physical abuse, neglect, community violence, food insecurity, immigration policies, family separations, witnessing domestic violence, and war may be experienced as traumatic and have harmful enduring sequels (Cook et al., 2005). Latino/as in the U.S. currently experience disproportionate levels of poverty and community violence, and often reside in deprived areas that limit opportunities for economic and social advancement. Furthermore, immigrant parents experience negative life conditions in the U.S., such as trauma, heavy work demands and acculturation stressors that ultimately limit their ability to be physically present, parent effectively or form strong parent-child attachments.

The associations between trauma and gang involvement among minority youth have been largely overlooked in past decades. Abuse and neglect are two examples of behavioral patterns transmitted intergenerationally, which may be perpetuated as a means of survival, reactionary to
particular circumstances, or the result of limited knowledge of harmful social and personal consequences (Leifer & Smith, 1990). It has been suggested that chronic exposure to abuse and family violence strongly correlates with interruptions in emotional regulation, maladaptive perceptions of safety, and increased risk for delinquent behaviors and gang membership (Crimmins et al., 2000). Mental health outcome studies among youth offenders suggested that youth involved in criminal justice systems reported increased rates of violence, poverty and historical abuse (Greenwald, 2002).

Among community samples, exposure to trauma has been associated with increased delinquent behavior among ethnic and racial minority youth (Maschi et al., 2008). Gover et al. (2009) examined victimization patterns between Latino/a male and female gang members and revealed that similar proportions of both female (28.2%) and males (24.5%) reported sexual assault during their lifetime. According to Paton et al. (2009) inner-city youth reporting chronic exposure to adverse life events (i.e., parental deprivation, poverty, violence) tend to report maladaptive coping skills, poor emotional, cognitive, and behavioral outcomes, and indifference to their psychological and emotional wellbeing.

Summary

From these findings, it appears that there are associations between exposure to traumatic experiences, juvenile delinquency and gang membership. Though this topic has received increased attention within the social sciences, additional research is warranted to secure a better understanding of the risk factors that lead to Latina youth gang membership. The current study was intended to address this gap in the social science literature and subsequently inform mental health professionals when working with at-risk and gang-involved Latina youth. The findings may motivate practitioners to advocate for systemic and institutional change, support culturally
responsive mental health treatment, and inform public policies specific to gang-related issues in a more holistic manner (Bender, 2010).

**Hypothesis**

The present study was an examination of the potential relationship between complex trauma and gang membership in a sample Latina adolescents. Within this research, it was hypothesized that a history of maltreatment would be significantly associated with higher scores of self-reported gang involvement among Latina adolescents, as measured by the Childhood Trauma Questionnaire (CTQ) and the Gang Membership Inventory (GMI), respectively (Bernstein et al., 1994; Pillen, Hoewing-Roberson, & Renee, 1992). Additionally, the relationships between level of acculturation, assessed using the Short Acculturation Scale for Hispanic Youth (SASH-Y), trauma, and gang membership were also explored.
Method

Gangs of various ethnic minorities represent a hidden population with low visibility due to stigmatization and illegal behaviors. As a result, gang members are difficult to locate and secure as research participants. This relative invisibility allows gangs to develop and grow in strength, power and numbers (Crimmins et al., 2000; Lafontaine et al., 2009). It also presents a practical challenge to addressing one of the basic goals of the current research: identifying risk factors for gang membership. Thus, to examine the relationship between exposure to traumatic life experiences and gang membership, this study employed a sample of incarcerated Latina adolescents.

Participants

In total, 19 participants completed the surveys. However, there was evidence that two participant responses were significantly different from the rest of the sample. One participant omitted various responses, rendering their survey invalid. A second participant appeared to underreport traumatic events, as detected by the Minimization/Denial scale of the Childhood Trauma Questionnaire. Therefore, responses for these two participants were removed from any analyses. Of the total 17 remaining participants, the age range was 14 to 24 with a mean age of 17.53 (SD = 2.27). Not all participants indicated their geographic region on the demographics questionnaire. This may have resulted from confusion regarding the nature of the question, as participants who did not specify living in a “city” or “rural” area answered “?” , “yes”, “no”, or “both”. All participants reported being of Latino/a/Hispanic origin. Not all participants specified their ethnicity, but those who did identified as being either Mexican (92%) or El Salvadorian (8%). Each participant indicated they were born in the U.S., with 56 percent identifying as first generation, 25 percent as second generation, and 19 percent as third
Regarding gang affiliation, 47 percent of participants indicated they were members of a gang currently or were so within the past year. Finally, 67 percent of participants reported living in a city and 33 percent endorsed living in a rural area. Only one participant elected to complete the study measures in Spanish.

**Procedure**

As the provision of services to adolescent gang members is often mandated through Juvenile Court orders (Kearney, 1998; Paton et al., 2009), this study utilized a purposive sampling strategy where self-report information was obtained from participants recruited (and currently housed in) the Oak Creek Correctional Facility in Albany, Oregon. Latina females were initially identified according to criteria relevant to the research question. Inclusion criteria included: (a) Self-identified Latina ethnicity, (b) ages between 12 and 24 years, (c) Spanish or English fluency, and (d) self-reported gang involvement. In light of the study inclusion criteria, participant identification and recruitment was made by the program director at the detention center.

**Data Collection Method**

Quantitative data was obtained through the surveys presented. Based on individual participant preference, the study measures were administered in either English or Spanish. The principal investigator administered all survey materials (including securing of informed consent).

During data collection, each participant was assigned a unique identification number that linked responses on informed consent and child assent documents (See Appendix A), demographics questionnaire, and all other study measures. There were no means to associate signed consent forms with data obtained; extreme care was taken to protect the identity of each participant. Data collected was treated as confidential and interviews took place in a private
Measures

Demographic Questionnaire (See Appendix C). A brief questionnaire developed by the author of the present study was administered to study participants in either Spanish or English. The purpose of the questionnaire was to assess participant age, gang affiliation or membership, ethnic self-identification, formal education completed, geographic region, country of origin, age of arrival in the United States, generation, and length of residence in the United States.

Complex Trauma (See Appendix D). Complex trauma was measured in either Spanish or English through use of the Childhood Trauma Questionnaire (CTQ; Bernstein et al., 1994). The CTQ is a 28-item self-report inventory comprised of five subscales used in the assessment of a history of abuse (emotional, physical and sexual) and neglect (emotional and physical) in children and adolescents age 12 and above. Each subscale contains five items; three additional items are used to determine minimization or denial of abuse and neglect. For each question, respondents were asked to indicate the occurrence of abuse or neglect on a 5-point Likert-type scale with endpoints ranging from “never true” to “very often true”. Bernstein et al. (1994) reported that a principle-components analysis indicated good to excellent internal consistency (Cronbach’s alpha ranging from 0.79 to 0.94) for each of the five factors (physical abuse, emotional abuse, emotional neglect, sexual abuse, and physical neglect). Good test-retest
reliability (intraclass correlation = 0.88), temporal stability, and convergent validity with the Childhood Trauma Interview were also indicated. The measure was determined to exhibit adequate reliability and validity.

**Gang Membership** (See Appendix E). Gang membership was measured in either Spanish or English through use of the Gang Membership Inventory (GMI; Pillen et al., 1992). The GMI is a 15-item self-report measure used in the assessment of involvement in gang activities ranging from marginal (“Was there gang activity in your neighborhood?”) to serious activities (“Did you sell drugs for a gang?”). For each activity, respondents were asked to indicate (“yes/no”) if they had engaged in the activity in the past year. Pillen et al. (1992) reported the results of a principle components analysis wherein three factors together accounted for 50% of the total variance. The three factors consisted of items related to fighting, peripheral or minor gang involvement and gang membership. A subsequent item analysis yielded a coefficient alpha of .83 and the measure was determined to exhibit adequate validity. Questions created by the authors of the GMI additional to those in the measure (i.e., “I felt close to my family”) were also used to assess family and gang closeness on a three-point scale (e.g., “almost always, sometimes, almost never”).

**Acculturation** (See Appendix F). Acculturation was measured in either English or Spanish through use of the Short Acculturation Scale for Hispanic Youth (SASH-Y; Barona & Miller, 1994). The SASH-Y is a 12-item self-report measure used to identify Hispanic youth acculturation level (i.e., high, moderate, or low). For questions regarding language use, participants were asked to respond to a 5-point Likert scale with endpoints ranging from “only Spanish” to “only English”. For questions regarding social and ethnic relations, participants were asked to respond to a 5-point Likert scale with endpoints ranging from “all Hispanic” to
“all non-Hispanic”. Barona and Miller (1994) reported the results of an exploratory factor analysis wherein three factors (extrafamilial language use, familial language use and ethnic social relations) accounted for 72.5% of the total variance. Analyses indicated excellent internal consistency (α = .94) and split-half reliability (.96), and the measure was determined to exhibit adequate reliability and validity.
Results

Data Analysis

The obtained data set was screened and outliers were identified by use of descriptive statistics, where participant responses beyond the bounds of possible responses (e.g., evidence that subject responses were significantly different from the rest of the sample) at either end of the data set were considered unusual or extreme values. As previously stated, two outliers were identified visually by inspecting the raw data and were removed from the data set.

Data analysis consisted primarily of correlation analysis. Appropriate correlation analysis, however, is subject to a number of assumptions regarding the nature of the data. Prior to conducting this analysis, the distribution of data for each variable was examined to determine possible violations of the assumptions of normality and homoscedacity. Normality of the distribution of each variable was determined through the production of normality plots (with associated tests of normality) and examination of variance in the residual plot was conducted to determine appropriate homoscedacity (i.e., homogeneity of variance). Both assumptions were violated and an equivalent nonparametric analysis was employed. Specifically, the Spearman Rho was used to determine the relationship between study variables without the corresponding parametric assumptions (see Table 1).

Gang Membership

Gang membership correlated positively with gang closeness ($\rho(16) = .69, p < .01$), indicating that participants who reported gang involvement also endorsed feeling close to members of their gang. Age, however, was negatively correlated with both gang membership ($\rho(16) = -.66, p < .01$) and gang closeness ($\rho(16) = -.58, p < .05$), indicating that younger
participants endorsed higher levels of gang affiliation or involvement and reported feeling closer with their fellow gang members.

*Family Closeness*

Family closeness was negatively correlated with emotional neglect \( (\rho(16) = -0.52, p < 0.05) \), emotional abuse \( (\rho(16) = 0.55, p < 0.05) \), and physical neglect \( (\rho(16) = -0.52, p < 0.05) \), suggesting that higher levels of physical and emotional neglect and emotional abuse were associated with lower levels of family closeness.

*Acculturation*

Acculturation and childhood physical abuse were negatively correlated \( (\rho(16) = -0.61, p < 0.01) \), suggesting that lower levels of acculturation were associated with higher rates of physical abuse. Acculturation also correlated negatively with childhood sexual abuse \( (\rho(16) = -0.56, p < 0.05) \), indicating that participants who reported lower levels of acculturation also endorsed higher levels of sexual abuse.

*Trauma*

Significant positive correlations were found between childhood emotional abuse and emotional neglect \( (\rho(16) = 0.86, p < 0.01) \), and between emotional and physical abuse \( (\rho(16) = 0.66, p < 0.01) \), suggesting that participants who endorsed higher levels of emotional abuse reported higher levels of emotional neglect and physical abuse. Childhood emotional neglect correlated positively with physical abuse \( (\rho(16) = 0.57, p < 0.05) \) and physical neglect \( (\rho(16) = 0.53, p < 0.05) \), indicating higher levels of emotional neglect were associated with higher levels of physical abuse and neglect. A positive correlation was also found between childhood sexual abuse and age \( (\rho(16) = 0.53, p < 0.05) \), suggesting that older participants were more likely to endorse higher levels of sexual abuse.
There were no significant differences between gang membership and childhood emotional abuse, physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional neglect, physical neglect, family closeness, or acculturation. Additionally, there were no notable differences between family closeness and age, childhood physical abuse, or sexual abuse. Gang closeness did not correlate with childhood emotional, physical, or sexual abuse. There were no differences between acculturation and age, childhood emotional abuse, emotional neglect, physical neglect, gang membership, family closeness, or gang closeness. Childhood sexual abuse did not correlate with emotional abuse, physical abuse, or emotional neglect. Age did not correlate with childhood emotional abuse, physical abuse, emotional abuse, or physical neglect. Finally, there were no significant differences between childhood physical neglect and sexual, emotional, or physical abuse.
Table 1

*Spearman Correlations Among the Study Variables (N = 17)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
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<th>7</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Age</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>.46</td>
<td>.07</td>
<td>.53*</td>
<td>.14</td>
<td>.02</td>
<td>-.66**</td>
<td>-.05</td>
<td>-.58*</td>
<td>-.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Emotional Abuse</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-.66**</td>
<td>.46</td>
<td>.86**</td>
<td>.44</td>
<td>-.21</td>
<td>-.55*</td>
<td>-.41</td>
<td>-.45</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Physical Abuse</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>.41</td>
<td>.57*</td>
<td>.45</td>
<td>.21</td>
<td>-.43</td>
<td>-.05</td>
<td>-.61**</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Sexual Abuse</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>.22</td>
<td>.25</td>
<td>.08</td>
<td>-.30</td>
<td>.03</td>
<td>-.56*</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Emotional Neglect</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>.53*</td>
<td>.05</td>
<td>-.52*</td>
<td>-.16</td>
<td>-.38</td>
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<td>6. Physical Neglect</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>.23</td>
<td>-.52*</td>
<td>-.19</td>
<td>-.24</td>
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<tr>
<td>7. Gang Membership</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-.10</td>
<td>.69**</td>
<td>-.35</td>
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<tr>
<td>8. Family Closeness</td>
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<tr>
<td>9. Gang Closeness</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-.08</td>
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<tr>
<td>10. Acculturation</td>
<td>-</td>
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*Note. *p < .05. **p < .01*
Discussion

The purpose of the present study was to examine the relationship between complex trauma, gang membership and acculturation in a sample of Latina adolescents. It was hypothesized that a history of trauma would be significantly associated with higher scores of self-reported gang involvement. In the following section, results are discussed and conclusions drawn. Subsequently, limitations and recommendations for future research are provided.

Gang Membership

Gang membership is a complex area of research that requires thoughtful sociopolitical and psychological consideration. In accordance with previous findings, gang membership was significantly associated with gang closeness, which assessed for gang unity, support, loyalty, and protection. As other researchers have suggested, being gang involved or affiliated serves important social and emotional functions for girls by providing avenues for connection, agency, empowerment, social and economic support, and survival (Kontos et al., 2003; Pyrooz et al., 2010). This finding is similar to research conducted with male gang members, suggesting a shared experience across the two genders (Howell, 2010; Lopez & O'Donnell Brummett, 2003; Parker et al., 2008).

As expected, younger Latina females were more likely to endorse gang involvement and closeness, which supports the notion that the social, protective, or economic components of gang membership may strongly appeal to susceptible, minority youth (Howell, 2010; Huff, 1998; Spergel, 1995).

While family closeness was not associated with gang membership or gang closeness, lower levels of reported family unity significantly correlated with higher levels of childhood emotional abuse and emotional and physical neglect. For these youth, primary caregivers may have
perpetrated or failed to guard against such adverse events, therefore compromising the youth’s sense of family closeness, support, loyalty, and protection. Cook et al. (2005) emphasized that a child’s sense of emotional and physical safety is fostered through emotionally supportive caregiver attachments, which are critical to promoting other developmental capacities. Further, Higgins and McCabe (2000) found that multiple forms of childhood maltreatment were associated with negative aspects of family functioning (e.g., low family cohesion, low adaptability), which also correlated with subsequent trauma symptomology. In general, the absence of perceived family safety increases a youth’s risk of developing behavioral problems and engaging in delinquent acts (Crimmins et al., 2000).

In contrast to previous findings (Crimmins et al., 2000; Gover et al., 2009; Greenwald, 2002; Hawkins et al., 2000; Maschi et al., 2008; Paton et al., 2009), family closeness and historical trauma (e.g., emotional abuse, emotional neglect, physical abuse, physical neglect, sexual abuse) did not correlate with gang membership. From sociopolitical and contemporary complex trauma perspectives, various explanations are possible. First, the absence of a comprehensive complex trauma measure prevented the author’s assessment of chronic exposure to other life events or concerns (e.g., poverty, community violence, discrimination, marginalization, mental health problems, substance use, antisocial behavior, peer influence) often associated with gang involvement and delinquent behavior (Crimmins et al., 2000; Hawkins et al., 2000; Howell, 2010; Howell & Egley, 2005; Maschi et al., 2008; Paton et al., 2009; Sule, 2005). Further, trauma associated with other types of delinquent behavior outside of gang membership was not assessed in present study.

Second, though nearly half of participants reported gang involvement in the past year, the researcher did not explicitly assess whether or not a history of trauma gave rise to gang
membership or if being gang affiliated exposed one to traumatic experiences. A third consideration points to possible gender differences in the way that females respond to historical trauma. All participants reported having experienced physical or sexual abuse in some form, yet not all youth endorsed gang involvement. It is possible that youth in this study engaged in other illegal or delinquent acts (e.g., prostitution, identity theft, robbery) not associated with gang membership, which ultimately resulted in their incarceration. Fourth, the author was unable to ascertain whether participants were forthcoming about their gang involvement.

**Acculturation**

Latinos/as may experience varying forms of psychological and behavioral stress upon entering the U.S., which has been linked to gang membership (Miller et al., 2009). However, such stressors did not correlate with increased levels of gang membership in the present study. In contrast, lower levels of acculturation were associated with higher rates of childhood physical abuse and sexual abuse among Latina youth. While the correlational nature of this study limits a thorough understanding regarding the relationship between these variables, a number of explanations are possible.

First, the Latino youth in this study may have experienced maltreatment within community settings. While the generational characteristics of participants who indicated lower levels of acculturation is unknown, Latino/a immigrants experience disproportionate levels of poverty and community violence in the U.S. Regardless of their generational status (e.g., first, second or third), acculturation and acculturative stress can be thought of as a lifelong process (Partida, 1996).

Second, it is possible that acculturative stress may have resulted in increased family tension and power assertion. Dettlaff and Rycraft (2006) noted that Latino immigrant families
experience a multitude of challenges (e.g., changes in social and community supports),
exacerbated by fear of deportation, unemployment, and poverty. They also suggested that
Latino/a children acculturate at a quicker rate than their parents, which may compromise family
closeness and parental sense of control (Dettlaff & Rycraft, 2006). Differential acculturation
between Mexican parents and their middle school children has been associated with family stress
and less effective parenting practices (Martinez, Jr., 2006). Other researchers have found that
Latino families with lower levels of acculturation demonstrated looser boundaries, less
commitment and perceived limited emotional support among their family members (Miranda,
Estrada, & Firpo-Jimenez, 2000). As a result, increased tensions between parents and their
children may have resulted in efforts toward conflict resolution that manifested in the form of
abuse or power assertion.

While increased family tensions resulting from acculturative stress is one possible
explanation, in general, it is worth noting that Latino/a parents demonstrate lower levels
aggression towards their children than do parents of other ethnic minority groups (Taylor,
Guterman, Lee, & Rathouz, 2009). Further, perceived family support and Mexican orientation is
a significant predictor of life satisfaction in Mexican-American youth (Edwards & Lopez, 2006).

Within this study, there were no notable associations between acculturation and age,
childhood emotional abuse, emotional neglect, physical neglect, gang membership, family
closeness, or gang closeness. Therefore, it may prove beneficial for future researchers to further
delineate the effects of trauma, ethnic identity and level of acculturation on delinquency or gang
involvement.
Trauma

Trauma theory and research has spanned decades of psychiatric, psychological and sociological literature. In the present study, contemporary trauma frameworks informed by systemic and social justice perspectives were used for conceptualizing the gang involvement of Latina youth. However, the measure used (e.g., the CTQ) only assessed for five types of childhood maltreatment. The author’s initial hypothesis was not supported by the resulting findings (e.g., that there would be significant differences between gang membership and maltreatment subtypes). Nonetheless, unexpected correlations between maltreatment subtypes resulted, which warrant further attention and exploration.

In the present study, participants who endorsed childhood emotional abuse also reported higher levels of childhood emotional neglect and physical abuse. Additionally, emotional neglect was associated with higher levels of physical abuse and physical neglect. Researchers working to understand the overall impact and outcomes of the various childhood maltreatment subtypes have produced varying results. The results in this study corroborate their findings, suggesting that childhood emotional and physical maltreatment tend to co-occur (Arata, Langhinrichsen-Rohling, Bowers, & O’Brien, 2007; Clemmons, Walsh, DiLillo & Messman-Moore, 2007; Dong et al., 2004; Herrenkohl & Herrenkohl, 2009). As a result, youth who experience multiple types of maltreatment express increased levels of trauma symptomotology (Arata et al., 2007; Clemmons et al., 2007).

In general, while the perpetrators of the reported abuse in the current sample is unknown, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (2012) reported that, in 2008, childhood maltreatment perpetrators were often parents (80%) or other relatives (6.5%). Leifer and Smith (1990) suggested that abuse and neglect may be perpetuated as a means of survival, reactionary
to particular circumstances, or the result of limited knowledge regarding the harmful social and personal consequences.

In contrast to the aforementioned findings, other maltreatment subtypes did not correlate in the present study. Specifically, childhood physical neglect did not correlate with sexual, emotional, or physical abuse. The lack of relationship between neglect and abuse, however, is not surprising in that some researchers have suggested that maltreatment types among adolescent youth are independent of each other and should therefore be examined separately (Kinard, 2001; Petrenko, Friend, Garrido, Taussig, & Culhane, 2012).

The results of the present study warrant a more in-depth understanding regarding potential relationships between maltreatment subtypes to more accurately assess the influence of cumulative exposures and subsequent impact on diverse youth populations. Herrenkohl and Herrenkohl (2009) emphasize the importance of understanding the relationship, or lack thereof, between the types of abuse and neglect for the purposes of developing accurate theory, instruments and treatment interventions. For example, in clinical settings, it may be beneficial to inquire about other forms of maltreatment among youth who endorse one form of historical abuse. This is particularly important since experiencing childhood abuse and neglect has been shown to have a substantial impact on the future criminal behavior of diverse youth (Crimmins et al., 2000; English, Widom & Brandford, 2004; Gover et al., 2009; Hawkins et al., 2000; Leifer & Smith, 1990; Maschi et al., 2008; Paton et al., 2009).

With regard to age and trauma subtypes, age did not correlate with other forms of childhood abuse or neglect, suggesting that these forms of maltreatment were reported in the current sample irrespective of age. Worth noting, however, is that older participants were more likely to indicate elevated levels of childhood sexual abuse. Among the current sample of Latina
youth, this finding may suggest that sexual abuse was more likely to occur during formative childhood and adolescent years or was more often self-reported among older individuals. The presence of historical sexual abuse has other implications as well. It has been suggested that victims of sexual and physical abuse are more likely to experience overt behavioral problems (Arata et al., 2007; Petrenko et al., 2012). Thus, while childhood sexual abuse may not have led these youth to become gang-involved, it may have headed other problematic behaviors, resulting in their current incarceration.

Summary

While the author's initial hypothesis was not supported, some interesting associations emerged among the study variables. The quantitative findings have important implications for practitioners and researchers across social service and mental health disciplines. In general, the gang-involved Latina adolescents in this sample were younger and reported feeling close to their fellow members. This finding corroborated previous research results on the perceived sociocultural benefits of gang membership. While acculturation did not correlate with gang membership, lower acculturated Latinas endorsed higher rates of physical and sexual abuse. This prompted consideration regarding the sociopolitical factors that may give rise to family tension among lower acculturated individuals. Finally, youth in this sample endorsed co-occurring types of maltreatment and indicated lower levels of family closeness. This finding has important treatment implications, as youth who endorse multiple forms of maltreatment tend to express increased trauma symptomology. As mental health professionals prepare to work with this population, it is imperative that incarcerated Latina youth be assessed and conceptualized in terms of their unique sociocultural backgrounds, trauma histories, acculturation level, family
dynamics, and means of survival. These aspects of human experience appear interrelated and may ultimately influence development and behavior.

Limitations

The current study had some notable limitations. The potential for a small sample size (fewer than 20 participants) was likely given the unique qualifications for inclusion. This limitation substantiated nonparametric correlation analyses rather than a parametric evaluation. Second, the lack of ability to determine causation was an essential consideration, as the study was correlational in nature. This limited the ability to determine if being in a gang exposed one to maltreatment, or if adverse events prompted future gang involvement. Third, the proposed study was limited in that it was only an examination of a single ethnicity and gender, thus potentially limiting larger generalizability. Fourth, the type of trauma assessed was limited to five types maltreatment, thus excluding analysis of other risk factors for delinquency and gang involvement (e.g., mental health issues, poverty, community violence, discrimination, socioeconomic status, peer influence). Finally, there was not a Spanish version of the demographics, GMI or CTQ questionnaires, indicating a need for translation and back translation of the measures for use in this study. While this was not necessarily a methodological limitation, it inhibited the author’s ability to compare sample data to established norms.

Recommendations

One avenue for further investigation may be to examine the trajectory between acculturation, trauma and delinquency within a larger Latina sample with more comprehensive complex trauma measures. Further, clarifying the relationship between maltreatment subtypes warrants further attention, which may lead to a more precise understanding. In general, the need
for more data regarding the experience of Latina youth is necessary, as correctional risk assessments still rely heavily on measures established with male norms.
References


Delinquency Prevention.


Appendices

Appendix A

Informed Consent

1. Study Title

Trauma Associated with Gang Membership in Latina Youths: A Juvenile Detention Sample

2. Study Personnel

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Telephone</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ainara Echanove, M.A.</td>
<td>Graduate Student Investigator</td>
<td>Pacific University</td>
<td>School of Professional Psychology</td>
<td><a href="mailto:echa1048@pacificu.edu">echa1048@pacificu.edu</a></td>
<td>(503) 352-7319</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shawn Davis, Ph.D.</td>
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<td>Pacific University</td>
<td>School of Professional Psychology</td>
<td><a href="mailto:davissh@pacificu.edu">davissh@pacificu.edu</a></td>
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<td>Adrian Sanchez, M.A.</td>
<td>Graduate Student Research Assistant</td>
<td>Pacific University</td>
<td>School of Professional Psychology</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sanc8218@pacificu.edu">sanc8218@pacificu.edu</a></td>
<td>(503) 352-7319</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. Study Invitation, Purpose, Location, and Dates

We are seeking permission to allow your ward to participate in a research study on the potential relationship between complex trauma and gang membership in Latina adolescents. This project has been approved by the Pacific University IRB and will be completed by the Summer of 2012. This study will take place at the juvenile detention center wherein your ward is housed.

4. Participant Characteristics and Exclusionary Criteria

Individuals who are eligible for participation in the study will have the following characteristics: (a) Self-identified Latina ethnicity, (b) aged between 12 and 17 years, (c) Spanish or English fluency, and (d) self-reported gang involvement.

Potential participants will be excluded from the proposed study if they do not meet any of the previously mentioned eligibility criteria.

5. Study Materials and Procedures
Approximately 40 individuals will participate in this research study. During this study, participating individuals will be asked a series of questions regarding their gang involvement, traumatic life events, and level of acculturation. It is expected that it will take no more than 30 minutes to complete all study measures.

6. Risks, Risk Reduction Steps and Clinical Alternatives

a. Unknown Risks:

This study poses no unknown risk to participants.

b. Anticipated Risks and Strategies to Minimize/Avoid:

There is a chance that some participants may be upset by the nature of the questions asked. Study participants may discontinue at any time, for any reason, with no consequences of any kind. In the case of apparent emotional distress the researcher will terminate data collection.

c. Advantageous Clinical Alternatives:

This study does not involve clinical trials.

7. Adverse Event Handling and Reporting Plan

If an adverse event does occur, participation will end and the detention center staff will be contacted immediately. The researcher will notify the Pacific University IRB within 24 hours of knowledge that an adverse reaction has occurred. In the case of such an event, the researcher will terminate study data collection until the situation is resolved.

8. Direct Benefits and/or Payment to Participants

a. Benefit(s):

This study is non-beneficial.

b. Payment(s) or Reward(s):

Study participants will not be paid for their participation.

9. Promise of Privacy

Extreme care will be taken to protect the identity of each participant. Data collected will be confidential. Study results for any single individual will not be made available to the center staff. If requested, the center will be provided a report wherein study data is de-identified upon study completion. If child abuse is known or strongly suspected, study investigators are required
to notify the appropriate authorities. If the participant is believed to be a threat to herself or others, the investigator will notify the appropriate authorities.

10. Medical Care and Compensation In the Event of Accidental Injury

During your ward’s participation in this project it is important to understand that she is not a Pacific University clinic patient or client, nor will be receiving medical, physical, or mental care as a result of participation in this study. If she is injured during participation in this study and it is not due to negligence by Pacific University, the researchers, or any organization associated with the research, you should not expect to receive compensation or medical care from Pacific University, the researchers, or any organization associated with the study.

11. Voluntary Nature of the Study

Your decision whether or not to allow participation will not affect your current or future relations with Pacific University. If you decide to permit participation, your ward is free to not answer any question or withdraw at any time without prejudice or negative consequences. If you choose to withdraw permission after your ward begins the study all data collected to that point will be destroyed and will not be used in any study analyses.

12. Contacts and Questions

The researcher(s) will be happy to answer any questions you may have at any time during the course of the study. If you are not satisfied with the answers you receive, please call Pacific University’s Institutional Review Board, at (503) 352-1478 to discuss your questions or concerns further. If you become injured in some way and feel it is related to your participation in this study, please contact the investigators and/or the IRB office. All concerns and questions will be kept in confidence.

13. Statement of Consent

Yes  No

☐  ☐ I am the legal guardian of ________________________________
    (participant name)

☐  ☐ I have read and understand the description of her participation duties and all questions have been answered to my satisfaction.

☐  ☐ I grant permission for her to participate in this study

☐  ☐ I understand that the investigators will also obtain her independent assent before further activity

☐  ☐ I understand that I may withdraw this permission and that my ward may withdraw assent at any time without consequence

☐  ☐ I have been offered a copy of this form to keep for my records.
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Investigator’s Signature</td>
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Appendix B

Child Assent

1. Study Title

Trauma Associated with Gang Membership in Latina Youths: A Juvenile Detention Sample

2. Study Personnel

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Institution:

- Pacific University
- Pacific University
- Pacific University

Program:

- School of Professional Psychology
- School of Professional Psychology
- School of Professional Psychology

3. What this Study is About:

In this research study we’re looking at life experiences and how they relate to gang membership.

4. Why you Qualify:

You were selected for this study because you are between 12 and 17 years old, you are Latina, and you might have had some experience with gangs.

5. What will be Done:

During this study, we’ll be asking you a number of questions about life experiences that you might have had, questions about gang involvement, and some questions about you and your family (e.g., your country of origin, what languages you and your family speak).

6. Benefits and Risks:
There aren’t any direct benefits to you, but your responses will help social scientists understand the life events and particular needs of Latina youth. There aren’t any expected risks for your participation, but some of the questions might be a bit sensitive in nature.

7. Participation is Voluntary:

Your participation is completely voluntary and you can choose to not answer any questions that you don’t feel comfortable answering. You can stop at any time. If you decide to stop, we won’t use any of the information that you have already given us.

8. Statement of Assent:

All of my questions have been answered and I agree to participate in this study. I understand that I may withdraw at any time, for any reason, without consequence.

Participant’s Signature       Date

Researcher’s Signature       Date
Asentimiento del Niño

1. Título del estudio de investigación

Trauma asociado con la pertenencia a pandillas en jóvenes Latinas: Una muestra de menores en un centro de detención

2. Personal del establecimiento de investigación

<table>
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<tr>
<td>Ainara Echanove, M.A.</td>
<td>Investigadora Principal</td>
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<td>Escuela de psicológica profesional</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shawn Davis, Ph.D.</td>
<td>Supervisor de Facultad</td>
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<td>Escuela de psicológica profesional</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adrian Sanchez, M.A.</td>
<td>Asistente de Investigación</td>
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3. De que se trata el estudio?

En este estudio estamos interesados en cómo se relacionan experiencias de la vida con la participación en pandillas.

4. ¿Por qué usted califica?

Usted fue seleccionada para este estudio porque tiene entre 12 y 17 años de edad, es Latina, y porque podría haber tenido alguna experiencia con las pandillas.

5. Qué se hará en el estudio:

Durante este estudio, le haremos una serie de preguntas sobre experiencias de vida que usted pudo (podría?) haber tenido, preguntas sobre su participación en pandillas, y algunas preguntas sobre usted y su familia (por ejemplo, su país de origen, idiomas en las que comunican usted y su familia).

6. Los beneficios y riesgos:
No hay beneficios directos para usted como participante, pero sus respuestas ayudarán a los científicos sociales entender mejor las experiencias y necesidades de la juventud Latina. No hay riesgos previstos relacionados con su participación en este estudio, pero algunas de las preguntas podrán resultar un poco delicadas.

7. Participación es voluntario:

Su participación es totalmente voluntaria y usted puede optar por no contestar a cualquier pregunta que le haga sentir incomoda/o. Usted retirarse del estudio en cualquier momento. Si usted decide retirarse, dejaremos de usar cualquier información que usted nos haya dado.

8. Declaración de asentimiento:

Todas mis preguntas han sido contestadas y estoy de acuerdo en participar en este estudio. me comprometo a participar en este estudio. Entiendo que puedo retirarme del estudio en cualquier momento y por cualquier motivo, sin consecuencias.

______________________________ __________________
Firma del Participante          Fecha

______________________________ __________________
Firma del Investigador          Fecha
Appendix C

Demographics Questionnaire

Please respond to each of the following:

Do you consider yourself Latina/Hispanic? ____ Yes ____ No

Are you now, or have you ever been a member of a gang? ____ Yes ____ No

(If the answer to either of the questions above is “No”, participation will be ended)

How old are you? _______

What was the last grade of school you were able to complete? _______________

Do you live in the city or in a rural area? ______________

Were you born in the United States? ____ Yes ____ No

If not, how old were you when you first came to the United States? _______

What country did you come from? _________________________

How long have you lived in the United States? _______

Before you came to the United States, did you live in a city or in a rural area? _______

Was your mother born in the United States? ____ Yes ____ No

If not, where is she from? _______________________

Was your father born in the United States? ____ Yes ____ No

If not, where is he from? _______________________

Was your paternal grandmother born in the United States? ____ Yes ____ No

If not, where is she from? _______________________

Was your paternal grandfather born in the United States? ____ Yes ____ No
If not, where is he from? ______________________

Was your maternal grandmother born in the United States? ____ Yes  ____ No

If not, where is she from? ______________________

Was your maternal grandfather born in the United States? ____ Yes  ____ No

If not, where is he from? ______________________
Cuestionario Demográfico

Por favor, responda los siguientes preguntas:

¿Se considera usted Latina/Hispana? ____ Sí   ____ No

¿Es usted ahora, o ha sido alguna vez, miembro de una pandilla? ____ Sí   ____ No

(Si su respuesta a las preguntas anteriores es "No", por favor no continúe con el cuestionario)

¿Cuántos años tiene? ______

¿Cuál fue el último grado de la escuela que usted pudo completar? ______________

¿Vive usted en la ciudad o en una zona rural? _____________

¿Nació en los Estados Unidos? ____ Sí   ____ No

Si no, ¿qué edad tenías cuando llego por primera vez a los Estados Unidos? ______

¿De que país viene? ________________

¿Por cuánto tiempo ha vivido usted en los Estados Unidos?________

Antes de venir a los Estados Unidos, ¿vivía usted en una ciudad o en una zona
rural? ____________

¿Nació su madre en los Estados Unidos? ____ Sí ____ No

Si no, ¿de que país el ella? ________________

¿ Nació su padre en los Estados Unidos? ____ Sí ____ No

Si no, ¿de que país es él? ________________

¿Nació su abuela paterna en los Estados Unidos? ____ Sí ____ No

Si no, ¿de que país es ella? ________________

¿Nació su abuelo paterna en los Estados Unidos? ____ Sí ____ No
Si no, ¿de que país es él? _____________________

¿Nació su abuela materna en los Estados Unidos? ___ Sí ____ No

Si no, ¿de que país es ella? _____________________

¿Nació su abuelo materna en los Estados Unidos? ____ Sí ____ No

Si no, ¿de que país es él?_______________________
Appendix D

**Childhood Trauma Questionnaire (CTQ)**  
*(Bernstein, et al, 1994)*

These questions ask about some of your experiences growing up as a child and a teenage. Although these questions are of a personal nature, please try to answer as honestly as you can. For each question, put a mark in the box under the response that best describes how you feel. For example:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Never True</th>
<th>Rarely True</th>
<th>Sometimes True</th>
<th>Often True</th>
<th>Very Often True</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

When I was growing up…

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I didn’t have enough to eat.</th>
<th>Never True</th>
<th>Rarely True</th>
<th>Sometimes True</th>
<th>Often True</th>
<th>Very Often True</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I knew that there was someone to take care of me and protect me.</th>
<th>Never True</th>
<th>Rarely True</th>
<th>Sometimes True</th>
<th>Often True</th>
<th>Very Often True</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>People in my family called me things like “stupid”, “lazy”, or “ugly.”</th>
<th>Never True</th>
<th>Rarely True</th>
<th>Sometimes True</th>
<th>Often True</th>
<th>Very Often True</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>My parents were too drunk or high to take care of the family.</th>
<th>Never True</th>
<th>Rarely True</th>
<th>Sometimes True</th>
<th>Often True</th>
<th>Very Often True</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>There was someone in my family who helped me feel that I was important or special.</th>
<th>Never True</th>
<th>Rarely True</th>
<th>Sometimes True</th>
<th>Often True</th>
<th>Very Often True</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I had to wear dirty clothes.</th>
<th>Never True</th>
<th>Rarely True</th>
<th>Sometimes True</th>
<th>Often True</th>
<th>Very Often True</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I felt loved.</th>
<th>Never True</th>
<th>Rarely True</th>
<th>Sometimes True</th>
<th>Often True</th>
<th>Very Often True</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I thought that my parents wished I had never been born.</th>
<th>Never True</th>
<th>Rarely True</th>
<th>Sometimes True</th>
<th>Often True</th>
<th>Very Often True</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I got hit so hard by someone in my family that I had to see a doctor or go to the hospital.</th>
<th>Never True</th>
<th>Rarely True</th>
<th>Sometimes True</th>
<th>Often True</th>
<th>Very Often True</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>There was nothing I wanted to change about my family.</th>
<th>Never True</th>
<th>Rarely True</th>
<th>Sometimes True</th>
<th>Often True</th>
<th>Very Often True</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>People in my family hit me so hard that it left me with bruises or marks.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I was punished with a belt, a board, a cord, or some other hard object.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People in my family looked out for each other.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People in my family said hurtful or insulting things to me.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I believe that I was physically abused.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I had the perfect childhood.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I got hit or beaten so badly that it was noticed by someone like a teacher, neighbor, or doctor.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I felt that someone in my family hated me.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People in my family felt close to each other.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Someone tried to touch me in a sexual way, or tried to make me touch them.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Someone threatened to hurt me or tell lies about me unless I did something sexual with them.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I had the best family in the world.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Someone tried to make me do sexual things or watch sexual things.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Someone molested me.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I believe that I was emotionally abused.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There was someone to take me to the doctor if I needed it.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I believe that I was sexually abused.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My family was a source of strength and support.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Cuestionario sobre trauma infantil (Childhood Trauma Questionnaire; CTQ)  
(Bernstein, et al, 1994)

Estas preguntas son acerca de algunas de sus experiencias como un niño/a y un adolescente. Aunque estas preguntas se tratan de información personal, por favor trate de responder lo más honestamente que pueda. Para cada pregunta, marque la casilla debajo de la respuesta que mejor describe cómo se siente.

Por ejemplo:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nunca Verdadero</th>
<th>Casi Nunca Verdadero</th>
<th>A Veces Verdadero</th>
<th>A Menudo Verdadero</th>
<th>Muy Verdadero</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Cuando que yo crecía…

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nunca Verdadero</th>
<th>Casi Nunca Verdadero</th>
<th>A Veces Verdadero</th>
<th>A Menudo Verdadero</th>
<th>Muy Verdadero</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- No tenía suficiente para comer.
- Yo sabía que había alguien quien cuidaba de mí y me protegería.
- Personas de mi familia me llamaban cosas como "estúpido/a", "perezoso/a", o "feo/a".
- Mis padres estuvieron demasiado borrachos o drogados para cuidar de la familia.
- Hubo alguien en mi familia quien me ayudó a sentirme que yo era importante o especial.
- Tuve que llevar ropa sucia.
- Me sentí querido/a.
- Pensé que mis padres deseaban que no hubiera nacido.
- Alguien de mi familia me golpeó tan fuerte que tuve que ver a un médico o ir al hospital.
- No había nada que quisiera cambiar en mi familia.
- Personas de mi familia me golpearon tan fuerte que me dejaron
con moretones o marcas.

- Fui castigado/a con un cinturón, una tabla, un cable, o algún otro objeto duro.
- La gente de mi familia estaban pendiente por el uno al otro.
- La gente de mi familia me decían cosas dolorosas o insultantes.
- Yo creo que fui abusado/a físicamente.
- Yo tuve una infancia perfecta.
- Me golpearon de tal manera que fue observado por alguien como un maestro/a, un vecino/a, o un médico.
- Yo sentí que alguien de mi familia me odiaba.
- Personas de mi familia se sentían cerca uno al otro.
- Alguien trató de tocarme de una manera sexual, o trataron de hacerme tocarlos.
- Alguien me amenazó con lastimar o mentir sobre mí, a menos que hiciera algo sexual con ellos.
- Tuve la mejor familia del mundo.
- Alguien trató de obligarme a hacer cosas sexuales o ver cosas sexuales.
- Alguien me acoso sexualmente.
- Creo que fui abusado/a emocionalmente.
- Hubo alguien que me llevaba al médico si lo necesitaba.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Creo que fui abusado/a sexualmente.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mi familia era una fuente de fortaleza y apoyo.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
We are interested in how much you and your friends are affected by gangs. By gangs, we mean any street club that carries a name, wears colors, and represents. Please check one box for each question.

### In the last year:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Was there gang activity in your neighborhood?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Were you approached by a gang member to join a gang?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Were you beaten up by a gang member because you didn’t want to join a gang?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Did any of your friends join a gang?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Did anyone in your household join a gang?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Were you a member of a gang?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Did you wear gang colors on purpose?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Did you make gang hand signs on purpose?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Did you take part in a fight representing a gang?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Did you spray paint gang signs on a wall?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Did you deliver drugs for a gang?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Did you carry a weapon to protect yourself?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Did you hurt a gang member in a fight?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Did you sell drugs for a gang?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Did you become a leader of a gang?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Family Closeness Scale

**In the last year:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Almost Always</th>
<th>Sometimes</th>
<th>Almost Never</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I felt close to my family.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My family offered me help when I was in a bad situation.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I asked family members for help.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I felt I could be myself around family members.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I felt it was important to go along with family members.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Gang Closeness Scale

**In the last year:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Almost Always</th>
<th>Sometimes</th>
<th>Almost Never</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I felt close to gang members.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gang members offered me help when I was in a bad situation.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I asked gang members for help.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I felt I could be myself around gang members.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I felt it was important to go along with gang members.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Cuestionario sobre membresía relacionada con pandillas (Gang Membership Inventory; GMI)  
(Pillen & Hoewing-Roberson, 1992)

Estamos interesados in cuanto usted y sus amigos son afectados por pandillas. Por las pandillas, nos referimos a cualquier grupo de la calle que están unidos por una identidad, que comparten un nombre, colores y símbolos, son reconocidos como una pandilla por sí mismos y por otras pandillas. Por favor marque un cuadro para cada pregunta.

En el último año:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sí</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hubo actividades de pandillas en su vecindario/barrio?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>¿Fue enfrentada/o por un miembro de una pandilla para unirse a una pandilla?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fue golpeada/o por un miembro de una pandilla porque no quiso unirse a una pandilla?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>¿Se ha unido alguno de sus amigos/os a una pandilla?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>¿Se ha unido alguien en su hogar o familia a una pandilla?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>¿Fue usted miembro de una pandilla?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>¿Llevó usted colores relacionados con una pandilla a propósito?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>¿Hizo usted señas de mano relacionadas con una pandilla a propósito?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>¿Participó usted en una lucha representando a una pandilla?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>¿Roció con pintura de árseelo (spray) signos de una pandilla en una pared?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>¿Entrego alguna vez drogas para una pandilla?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>¿Llevó usted un arma para protegerse?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>¿Daño a un miembro de una pandilla en una lucha/pelea?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>¿Vendió drogas para una pandilla?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>¿Se hizo un líder de una pandilla?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Escala sobre la cercanía de la familia

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>En el último año:</th>
<th>Casi siempre</th>
<th>A veces</th>
<th>Casi nunca</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Me sentí cerca a mi familia.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mi familia me ofreció ayuda cuando yo estaba en una mala situación.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Le pedí ayuda a miembros de mi familia.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sentí que podía ser mi misma/o con miembros de mi familia.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sentí que era importante acceder o seguir la corriente con miembros de mi familia.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Escala sobre la cercanía de la pandilla

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>En el último año:</th>
<th>Casi siempre</th>
<th>A veces</th>
<th>Casi nunca</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Me sentí cerca a miembros de una pandilla.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miembros de una pandilla me ofrecieron ayuda cuando yo estaba en una mala situación.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Le pedí ayuda a miembros de una pandilla.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sentí que podía ser mi misma/o con miembros de una pandilla.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sentí que era importante acceder o seguir la corriente con miembros de una pandilla.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Appendix F

**Short Acculturation Scale for Hispanic Youth (SASH-Y)**
*(Barona & Miller, 1994)*

Indicate for each of the following, the option that best answers the question for you. For the last three questions, non-Hispanic means African American, White, American Indian, Asian American, or any other person who is not Hispanic. Please answer every question.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Only Spanish</th>
<th>Spanish Better than English</th>
<th>Both Equally</th>
<th>English Better than Spanish</th>
<th>Only English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What language(s) do you read and speak?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What language(s) do your parents speak to you in?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What language(s) do you usually speak at home?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In which language(s) do you usually think?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What language(s) do you usually speak with your friends?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>In what language(s) are the TV programs you usually watch?</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>In what language(s) are the radio programs you usually listen to?</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>In what language(s) are the movies, TV, and radio programs you want to watch or listen?</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>In what language(s) do your parents speak with their parents?</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>All Hispanic</th>
<th>More Hispanic than Non-Hispanic</th>
<th>Both Equally</th>
<th>More Non-Hispanic than Hispanic</th>
<th>All Non-Hispanic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Your close friends are:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>You like going to parties at which the people are:</td>
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<tr>
<td>The people you visit or who visit you are:</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Escala corta de la aculturación para la juventud Hispánica (SASH-Y en Español)
(Barona & Miller, 1994)

Indique para cada uno de los siguientes, la opción que mejor responde a la pregunta para usted. Por favor, conteste todas las preguntas.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>¿Por lo general, en que idioma(s) lee y habla usted?</th>
<th>Solo Español</th>
<th>Mejor Español que Ingles</th>
<th>Ambos por igual</th>
<th>Mejor Ingles que Español</th>
<th>Solo Ingles</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>¿En qué idioma(s) le hablan sus padres?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>¿Por lo general, en que idioma(s) habla en su casa?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>¿Por lo general, en que idioma(s) piensa?</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>¿Por lo general, en qué idioma(s) habla con sus amigos(as)?</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>¿Por lo general, en qué idioma(s) son los programas de televisión que usted ve?</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>¿Por lo general, en qué idioma(s) son los programas de radio que usted escucha?</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>¿Por lo general, en que idioma(s) prefiere oír y ver películas, y programas de radio y televisión?</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>¿En que idioma(s) hablan su padres con sus abuelos?</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sus amigos y amigas mas cercanos son:</th>
<th>Solo Latinos</th>
<th>Mas Latinos que Americanos</th>
<th>Casi mitad y mitad</th>
<th>Mas Americanos que Latinos</th>
<th>Solo Americanos</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Usted prefiere ir a reuniones sociales/fiestas en las cuales las personas son:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Las personas que usted visita o que le visitan son:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>