

Priscila Gámez Hernández, Liliana Rojo, & Norma Perez-Brena

BACKGROUND & PURPOSE

- Parental involvement encompasses engaging in caregiving, providing warmth, and literacy activities⁵.
- Parental involvement benefits children's overall well-being^{1,2,4}, including in Latinx families¹⁴.
- Scholars have theorized which factors lead to involvement among Latinx adult parents such as biology, culture and family³. Nonetheless, there remains a gap in assessing if these factors are also predictive of involvement in adolescent parents.
- In adult parents, personal distress (e.g. depression, stress, worry) has been associated with less involvement^{8,9,10}.
- Considering the relation between personal distress and involvement, this may be salient to observe as adolescents are vulnerable to adverse mental health¹².
- Familism, emphasizing family connectedness¹¹, may moderate the link between worry and involvement, as family support has shown to be a moderator for adults' parenting practices¹⁷.
- For adult parents, much work has supported that parental self-efficacy moderates the link between personal distress factors and aspects of involvement^{7,16,19}.

CURRENT STUDY

This study aims to address the gaps in literature by examining the relation between worry and involvement and the potential moderating role of familism and self-agency in Latinx adolescent parents.

We hypothesize that less worry will predict more involvement, and that this relationship will be stronger with higher familism values and higher self-agency.



Familism and Parental Self-Agency Do Not Moderate the Link Between Worry and Parental Involvement for Latinx Adolescent Parents

Table 2. Summary of Hierarchical Regression Analyses of Variables Predicting Latinx Adolescent Parents' Parental Involvement (N = 242).

	Model 1			Model 2		
	b	SE	β	b	SE	β
Intercept	3.66***	.05	-	3.66***	.05	-
Age	.03	.02	.09	.03	.02	.08
Gender	-.50***	.09	-.44	-.49***	.09	-.43
Nativity	-.00	.06	-.00	-.01	.06	-.01
Relationship Status	-.00	.04	-.00	.00	.04	.00
Worry	-.02	.03	-.03	-.02	.03	-.04
Familism	.04	.06	.05	.05	.06	.06
Parental Self-Agency	.26***	.08	.28	.26*	.08	.28
Worry X Familism	-	-	-	.04	.04	.05
Worry X Parental Self-Agency	-	-	-	.03	.09	.04
R-Squared	.29			.29		

*p < .01, ***p < .001

RESULTS: Hierarchical regression analyses were conducted on Mplus to assess the moderating role of familism and parental self-agency in the relationship between worry and parental involvement. The main effect model including worry, familism, and parental self-agency showed worry and familism were not significantly linked to involvement, while parental self-agency was (Model 1). The moderating effects model for familism and parental self-agency showed that familism was not significantly linked to involvement, while parental self-agency was (Model 2).

DISCUSSION

In line with previous work with adult parents^{18,4}, greater parental self-agency is linked to higher involvement and being a father is linked to lower involvement. This may be explained by adolescent parents' living arrangements, as most children reside with mothers, preventing fathers' involvement.

- Future work should address the barriers towards involvement that adolescent fathers encounter to identify ways to support them.

Contrary to our hypothesis, familism values and parental self-agency did not moderate the relationship between worry and parental involvement. This may be due to our sample mostly being U.S.-born mothers and thus, the upholding of familism values may vary.

Additionally, adolescent parents may be experiencing states of worry that may not require disengaging from parenting practices.

Our study can provide interventions and adolescent parents and their families with knowledge regarding the crucial role parental characteristics play in increasing involvement and the importance of further fostering such attributes to promote positive child development.

STRENGTHS & LIMITATIONS

Study strengths include a focus on cultural impacts and the impacts of under researched factors of personal distress such as worry on adolescent parents.

Limitations include less father reports, compared to mothers, and a sample that represents a single region within the U.S..

METHODS

PARTICIPANTS AND PROCEDURES

Data were collected from a larger longitudinal study examining the socio-cultural strengths of adolescent parents. 242 parenting adolescents, recruited through parenting education programs from Central Texas high schools, completed an online Qualtrics survey, provided in English and Spanish.

- Age: M = 17.00, SD = 1.40
- 73% mothers
- 70% U.S.-born
- 68% in a romantic relationship

MEASURES

All measures are mean scores, and higher endorsement indicates more agreement/ higher presence of a construct (See table below).

Parental Involvement (Cabrera et al., 2009): 11-items, 4-point Likert scale (1 = never to 4 = often), α = .88.

Familism (Knight et al., 2011): 27-items, 5-point Likert scale (1 = strongly disagree to 5 = strongly agree), α = .95.

Worry (Meyer et al., 1990): 7-items, 5-point Likert scale (1 = not at all to 5 = very much), α = .96.

Parental Self-Agency (Dumka et al., 1996): 8-items, 5-point Likert scale (1 = never to 5 = always), α = .62.

Demographic Characteristics: Participants reported their age (continuous), gender (0 = girl, 1 = boy), nativity (0 = immigrant, 1 = U.S.-Born), relationship status (0 = not in a relationship, 1 = in a relationship).

Table 1. Descriptive Statistics for all Study Variables.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1. Age	-							
2. Gender	.25	-						
3. Nativity	-.26	-.01	-					
4. Relationship Status	.05	.23	.02	-				
5. Worry	-.02	-.03	.06	-.13	-			
6. Parental Involvement	.00	-.44	-.08	-.05	-.11	-		
7. Familism	-.05	-.02	-.16	-.01	.06	.08	-	
8. Parental Self-Agency	.11	-.07	-.11	.14	-.29	.34	.14	-
Means (SD)	17.00 (1.40)	.27 (.44)	.70 (.46)	.68 (.47)	2.25 (1.13)	3.53 (.51)	4.01 (.59)	3.75 (.55)

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References:

