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Latinos' Health Perceptions: A Cross-Cultural Analysis

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Latinos’ Health Perceptions: A Cross-Cultural Analysis

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MORRIS
Health Perceptions

Causes for breast cancer from U.S. physicians
1. Family history
2. Age
3. First child after age of 30 years

Causes for breast cancer from Mexicans
1. Blows to the breast
2. Lack of medical care
3. Smoking

(Chavez, Hubbell, McMullin, Martinez, & Mishra, 1995)
Outline

• Health perceptions
• Study questions and hypotheses
• Andersen health care utilization model
• Cultural consensus model
• Methodology
• Results
• Discussion
Health Perceptions

• Types of culture:
  – Individualistic: individual benefits
    • Ex. United States, Canada, U.K.
  – Collectivistic: group-focused
    • Latin America, Africa

• Illness behavior:
  – the manner in which a person monitors their body, interprets their symptoms, and their reactions to those symptoms

(Cheng & Lee, 1988; Triandis, 1995)
Study Questions & Hypotheses

• Question 1:
  – What influences health care utilization?

• Hypothesis 1:
  – Utilization is going to be dependent upon health insurance status and health needs.

• Question 2:
  – Does culture influence illness behaviors?

• Hypothesis 2:
  – The decision if they need health care is dependent on their cultural socialization on illness behaviors.
Andersen Health Care Utilization Model

Environment
- Health care system
- External environment

Population Characteristics
- Needs
- Predisposing
- Enabling resources

Illness Behavior

(Andersen, 1995; Sherrill, et al., 2005)
Cultural Consensus Model

Cultural knowledge or consensus view

Individual knowledge

Individual sharing information

Culture is shared

(Romney, Batchelder, & Weller, 1987; Berns & Kashyap, 2001)
Participants

- Women only (n=40)
- White (n=21)
  - Age: 34 years old
  - Regional Fitness Center
- Latina (n=19)
  - Age: 32 years old
  - n=12 live in Morris, n=7 live in metro area of Twin Cities
  - n=4 participants took the study in Spanish
Methodology

• Free-listing
  – “List behaviors that you do when you start to feel ill.”

• Ranking activity
  – 8 behaviors
  – “Change your diet.” “Ignore it.” “Go see a doctor.”

• Questionnaire & demographics
  – General health questionnaire
Results-Andersen Model

• Environment
  – Having health insurance and receiving a physical exam
    • $r = 0.385 \quad p = 0.014$
  – Having health insurance and ethnicity
    • White(M=0.00) Latina(M=0.42)
      $t(38)=2.16, \quad p=0.037$

• Population Characteristics
  – Health Needs and ethnicity
    • White(M=8.97) Latina(M=13.19)
      $t(38)=2.29, \quad p=0.027$

• Illness Behavior
  – Not using healthcare and ethnicity
    • White(M=0.33) Latina(M=0.95)
      $t(38)=3.69, \quad p=0.001$
Results-Cultural Consensus

• Free-listing
  – 3 categories of behaviors
    • Social, mental, and physical
      – Social: good communication skills, no isolation, good relationships
      – Mental: emotionally stable, happy, smile
      – Physical: good diet, regular exercise, sleeping
Results - Cultural Consensus

- Describe what it means to be healthy
  - Social White (M=0.71), Latina (M=1.53)
    \[ t(38)=3.16, p=0.003 \]

- List healthy behaviors
  - Social White (M=0.62), Latina (M=1.26)
    \[ t(38)=2.26, p=0.029 \]

- Resources
  - Professional White (M=1.57), Latina (M=0.89)
    \[ t(38)=3.20, p=0.003 \]
  - Family and friends White (M=1.38), Latina (M=2.21)
    \[ t(38)=2.12, p=0.041 \]
Results—Cultural Consensus

White
1. Change your diet.
1. Seek over the counter medication.
2. Call a relative for support/advice.
4. Go to the doctor or clinic.
5. Ignore it.
6. Drink herbal tea.
6. Pray/look towards your faith.
8. Call a nurse or hospital line.

Latina
1. Ignore it.
1. Call a relative for support/advice.
2. Pray/look towards your faith.
3. Change your diet.
5. Drink herbal tea.
7. Go to the doctor or clinic.
8. Call a nurse or hospital line.
8. Seek over the counter medication.
## Results - Cultural Consensus

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>White</th>
<th>Latina</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>1. Change your diet.</td>
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</tr>
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</table>
Discussion

• Latinas have a lack of health insurance and a greater health need, yet are less likely to seek out health care.

• White women are more likely to seek out assistance from professionals and are more likely to use health care facilities.

• Latinas are more likely to seek out assistance from people close to them and focus on social wellbeing.
Future Directions

• Different sample population
  – Focus on sub-groups
    • Chicanas, Latin American, Mexicans, Immigrants

• Comparison on different cultural groups
  – Compare against another collectivist culture

• Focus on a different, more specific behavior
Conclusions

• Environmental and personal characteristics are great predictors of illness behaviors.
• Illness behaviors are partly dependent upon our cultural upbringing.
• Bridging the knowledge gap between health care providers and cultural minorities can increase overall health care for everyone.
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References


Questions