Introduction

- 78% of Latino children experience at least one adverse childhood experience (ACE) and 28% suffer 4 or more ACEs.¹
- Affectionless control parenting is associated with childhood trauma.²
- Poor paternal bonding has been linked to psychosis.³
- Maternal control is associated with childhood anxiety in Latin American and Mexican children.⁴

Objectives

To explore the relationship between childhood maltreatment and parental bonding amongst adult Mexican American and Mexican nationals attending primary care and mental health clinics on both sides of the California-Mexico border.

Methods and Analysis

- Surveyed 516 patients at primary care and mental health clinics along the CA-Mexico border using:
  - Childhood Trauma Questionnaire (CTQ)
  - Parental Bonding Instrument (PBI)
- Primary outcome = dichotomous history of any moderate/severe maltreatment
- Independent variable: parental bonding quadrant
- Statistical analyses included Chi-square tests and multivariable logistic regression.

Results

Parental bonding quadrant was associated with history of emotional, physical, and sexual abuse and emotional and physical neglect.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parental Bonding Quadrant</th>
<th>Moderate/Severe Maltreatment (n=242)</th>
<th>Absent/Mild Maltreatment (n=175)</th>
<th>AOR vs. Optimal Parenting (95% CI)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Affectionate Constraint</td>
<td>47 (19%)</td>
<td>77 (44%)</td>
<td>2.06 (0.92-4.66)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Affectionless Control</td>
<td>159 (66%)</td>
<td>49 (28%)</td>
<td>10.90 (4.96-23.96)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Optimal Parenting</td>
<td>12 (5%)</td>
<td>35 (20%)</td>
<td>Reference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neglectful Parenting</td>
<td>24 (10%)</td>
<td>14 (8%)</td>
<td>6.57 (4.22-17.82)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Parental and maternal affectionless control were associated with a 10.90-fold and 8.94-fold higher odds of moderate-to-severe childhood maltreatment compared to optimal parenting, respectively.

Maternal and paternal bonding are associated with childhood maltreatment history.

Conclusions/Further Study

- Suboptimal parenting near the California-Mexico border is associated with childhood maltreatment.
- Of parenting styles, affectionless control parenting has the strongest association with childhood maltreatment and may put children at risk for poor mental health.
- Neglectful parenting is also associated with higher risk of maltreatment.
- Parenting interventions in the border region aimed at increasing optimal parenting and decreasing affectionless control should be investigated.

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References