

TITLE: Health and Mental Health Disparities among Latino-Americans and Asian Americans in the First National Database: Implications for Policy and Practice

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PROJECT ABSTRACT:

Latino-Americans and Asian Americans constitute a multi-ethnic subpopulation with varied ancestries from the vast land of Latin America and Asia. There is ample research demonstrating the disparities these minority populations face with respect to mental health in the United States (US). This study is a collaborative research effort between William E. Hefley, PhD, the Pitt Center of Latin American Studies, and the RAND Cooperation, and Amy L. Ai, PhD, College of Social Work, Florida State University, as well as other researchers in sociology and public health. There are tremendous socio-economic, genetic, cultural and environmental variations in the three major subgroups of Latino-Americans (Cuban, Mexican, and Puerto Rican Americans) in the NLAAS. Similarly, considerable cultural and ethnic differences exist among the three major subgroups of Asian-Americans (Chinese, Filipino, and Vietnamese) in this national sample. However, there is a dearth of analyses in the current publications concerning subgroup-related variations and pathways to their different patterns in mental health as well as in service seeking, using the advanced statistical modeling, as we proposed. We employ data from the first national representative sample on National Latino and Asian Americans Study (NLAAS). The NLAAS is the first national population-based mental health study of Latino and Asian Americans, which has only recently made available to the public. The questionnaire was available in six languages: English, Spanish, Cantonese, Mandarin, Tagalog, and Vietnamese. The NLAAS was designed in coordination with, and a part of the Collaborative Psychiatric Epidemiology Studies (CPES) which includes NLAAS, the National Survey of American Life, and the National Comorbidity Survey Replication. The present study presents opportunity to address gaps in the literature on the mental health disparities for the above subgroups using this valuable dataset, so as to inform future research, policy, and practice.

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None
