

Knowing a Deportee is Detrimental for Latina/o Health

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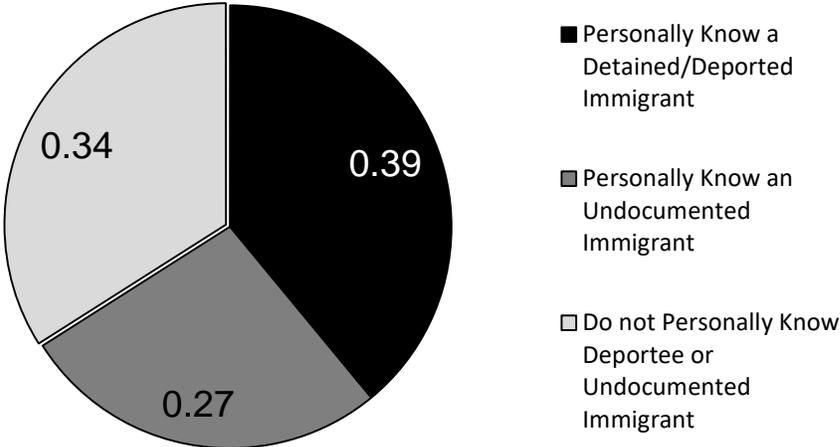
Latinos' connections to immigrants: how knowing a deportee impacts Latino health

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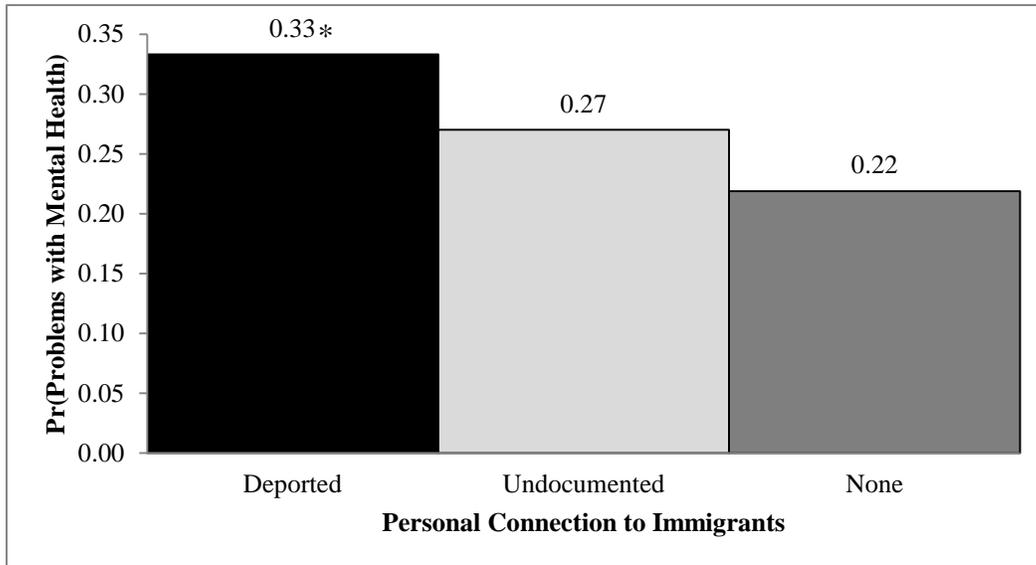
The first half of President Trump's administration has seen an increase in immigration raids and detainment of immigrants with no criminal backgrounds. This anti-immigrant sentiment is creating stress for immigrants and spilling over to non-immigrant Latinos, ultimately leading to negative health outcomes. In our [paper](#) recently published in the *Journal Of Ethnic And Migration Studies* we examine how personally knowing someone who has been deported can negatively impact Latina/o mental health. Using nationally representative data from the Latino National Health and Immigration Survey (LNHIS, n=1,493) funded by the [RWJF Center for Health Policy](#) at the University of New Mexico and implemented by [Latino Decisions](#), we examine the relationship between Latino's personal connections to immigrants and their mental health. Our findings show that 39 percent of Latinos personally know someone that has been detained/or deported. We also find that 34 percent of Latinos interviewed personally know an undocumented immigrant and 27 percent do not know either. Given the length of time immigrants are now living in the U.S. without a pathway to citizenship, we can only expect this trend to increase and have detrimental impacts on Latina/o mental health.

Figure 1: Latinos Personal Connection to Immigrants



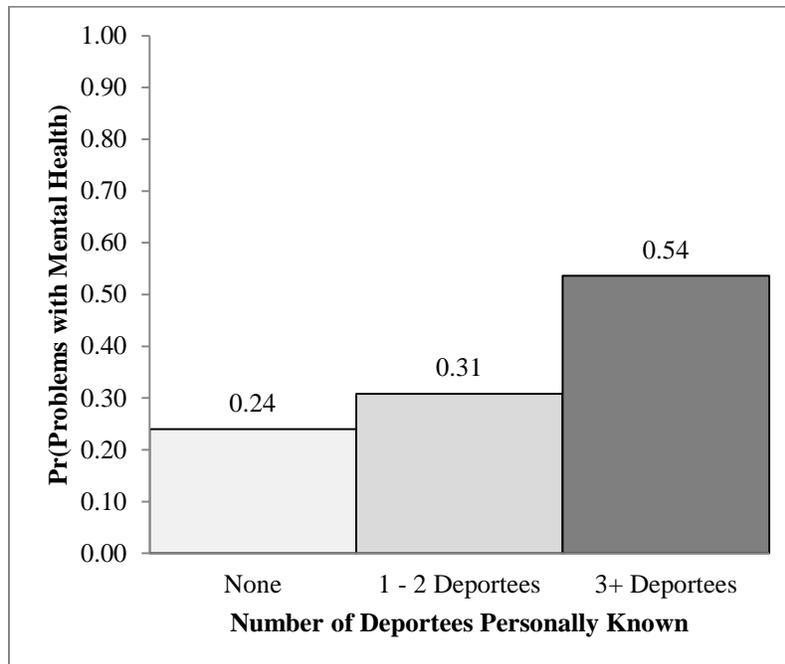
Our work shows that personally having a connection to either a deported or undocumented immigrant is affecting Latino health more broadly, not just Latino immigrants who are the targets of federal and state immigrant policies. Our findings suggest that the probability of reporting problems with mental health is 33 percent if a respondent personally knows someone who has been deported. In other words, Latinos who personally know someone who has been detained or deported are 1.9 times more likely to report having problems with mental health in the past 12 months compared to Latinos who do not personally know someone that has been deported, even after controlling for numerous covariates that are associated with mental health.

Figure 2: Adjusted Predicted Probabilities of Logistic Regression Model of Latinos Personal Connections to Immigrants on Intent to Seek Help for Mental Health Problems: 2015 RWJF/Latino Decisions Latino National Health and Immigration Survey (n=1,294).



We also find that the number of deportees a Latino knows personally increases the probability of reporting poor mental health increases. In fact, if respondents personally know 1-2 deportees as opposed to not knowing any deportees the likelihood of needing help for emotional or mental health problems such as feeling anxious, sad, or nervous increases by a factor of 1.5. In other words, probability of reporting problems with mental health is 31 percent if a respondent personally knows 1-2 deportees and increases to 54 percent if they personally know 3 or more deportees. This provides strong evidence that there is a cumulative effect, where stronger connections with the deported population, reflected in multiple relationships, yield more harmful effects.

Figure 3: Adjusted Predicted Probabilities of Logistic Regression Model of the Number of Deportees Known on Intent to Seek Help for Mental Health Problems, 2015 RWJF/Latino Decisions Latino National Health and Immigration Survey (n=1,295).



The United States is undergoing a nearly unprecedented period of heightened immigrant policy activity that has a marked punitive and anti-Hispanic undertone. Latinos are acutely aware of these laws, with the majority of respondents in this survey indicating that the laws in their state are unfavorable to immigrants. Our research findings suggest that personally knowing a deportee is leading to poor mental health outcomes. As the new administration targets immigrants, it is vital that we create policies that promote health and wellness among all communities. Currently, it is estimated that ¼ US born Latino children have at least one parent who is non-citizen. Our recommendation is for state and local policy-makers to create innovative and welcoming policies that promote health and educational training and not pass policies that disrupt American families.

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