Cancer Fatalism in Latino/as: Relationship to Sociodemographics

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\textbf{Methods}

- Data from 5 San Diego area studies
- Participants were:
  - Hispanic/Latino
  - United States residents
  - ≥ 21 years old
  - proficient in English or Spanish
- Data analysis:
  - descriptive statistics
  - linear regression model evaluated sociodemographic factors as predictors of cancer fatalism

\textbf{Measures}

- Perceived Health Literacy
  - score range: 1 - 5
- MacArthur Scale of Subjective Social Status
  - score range: 4 - 20
- Duke University Religion Index
  - score range: 1 - 6
- Brief Acculturation Scale for Hispanics
  - score range: 0 - 15

\textbf{Predictors of PFI Scores}

\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|}
\hline
\textbf{Predictor} & \textbf{AIC} = 7606.5 & \textbf{p} \\
\hline
Intercept & 4.60 & < 2.0 x 10\textsuperscript{-16} \\
Age & 0.02 & 0.008 \\
\hline
\end{tabular}

\textbf{Results}

- Average cancer fatalism was low in the study sample.
- Higher fatalism was found among individuals who:
  - were older, less educated, less health literate
  - preferred English
- There were no other significant predictors of fatalism.

\textbf{Sample Characteristics (N = 1858)}

\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|}
\hline
\textbf{Gender} & \textbf{n} & \textbf{%} \\
\hline
Male & 654 & 35.2 \\
Female & 1204 & 64.8 \\
\hline
\end{tabular}

\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|}
\hline
\textbf{Education Level} & \textbf{n} & \textbf{%} \\
\hline
< High school diploma & 648 & 34.9 \\
High school diploma or equivalent & 316 & 17.0 \\
Vocational/trade school or associate degree & 249 & 13.4 \\
Some college, no degree & 332 & 17.9 \\
≥ Bachelor’s degree & 282 & 15.2 \\
Don’t know & 3 & 0.1 \\
missing & 28 & 1.5 \\
\hline
\end{tabular}

\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|}
\hline
\textbf{Language Preference} & \textbf{n} & \textbf{%} \\
\hline
English & 920 & 49.5 \\
Spanish & 938 & 50.1 \\
\hline
\end{tabular}

\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|}
\hline
\textbf{Age} & \textbf{M} & \textbf{SD} \\
\hline
years (range: 25 - 89) & 47.5 & 13.7 \\
\hline
\end{tabular}

\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|}
\hline
\textbf{Perceived Health Literacy} & \textbf{n} & \textbf{%} \\
\hline
Needs help reading hospital materials & 2.1 & 1.2 \\
Confident filling out medical forms & 2.0 & 1.0 \\
\hline
\end{tabular}

\textbf{References}

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\textbf{Decision}

- The observed low cancer fatalism was consistent with that reported by a published study of Latinas.
- The sample was mostly representative of the national Latino/a population.
- Notably, women were over-represented.
- Higher education level was strongly associated with lower fatalism.
- Future study should explore the relationship among sociodemographic factors, cancer fatalism, and cancer screening behavior.