

2007 NICHD-NCES Early Childhood Longitudinal Study, Birth Cohort (ECLS-B) Conference

Session 1b - May 8, 2007

•Barrueco et al. - *Predicting early developmental patterns among Latino infants and their families in the United States*

•Duarte et al. - *Maternal depression and overweight in early childhood: Examining key mechanisms and racial/Ethnic disparities*

Discussant

Adam Winsler, George Mason University

General Accolades

- This is important stuff to explore (depression, obesity, literacy, parenting, early developmental outcomes, ethnicity/culture)
- It is great to have folks doing secondary data analysis
- Large samples are helpful
- This is well written and well presented work
- Such multi-disciplinarity is great to see
- Thanks to NCES, NICHD, NIH, IES, DOE, DHHS, OBSSR + for making this happen

General Suggestions/Issues

1) Need to move away from global pan-ethnic terms

- Explore meaningful sub group differences
- Establish equivalence before discussing as homogenous group
- Already know there are important acculturation or country of origin differences found in ECLS-B (Cabrera et al. 2006, Fuller et al., today)

2) To weight or not to weight?

- And what does this weighting really mean?

3) Statistical vs. practical significance

- Effect size, % variance accounted for...
- Marginally significant findings not relevant with $n > 1000$

General Comments (Cont.)

4) Controlling for too many things?

- Religiosity, reading, story telling, singing, number of people in home, ways of talking with children, parenting behavior - these are all parts of culture

5) Be clear on the main differences/issues/problems/messages (It's OK to have issues to work on [or not] - we all have them)

- Latino and Native American infants are heavier
- Latinos don't read and story tell to young children as much
- Blacks and Native Americans are more depressed
- Breastfeeding is good for both weight and depression
- Reading to kids is good and folks need to do it more
- Low income folks are heavier and more depressed

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- Sociocultural approach?
- Are all variables tossed in at the same time for the multiple regressions?
- Additional description of significant ethnicity interactions would be good
- Language of assessment for child assessments?

Duarte et al. - *Maternal depression and overweight in early childhood: Examining key mechanisms and racial/Ethnic disparities*

- Just because maternal depression and infant weight hasn't been studied doesn't necessarily mean we should - more elaboration on rationale needed
- Should national norms for weight ever be changed? (Implications of using old percentile scores)
- It is OK if depression is not related to infant weight
- Would be good to explore interactions with ethnicity
- (Closing thought - When did overweight become a noun?)