



## The associations between subdimensions of religiosity and illicit substance use among latino sexual minority men



Kalina M. Lamb<sup>a,\*</sup>, John P. Brady<sup>a,b</sup>, Manuel Gonzales IV<sup>a</sup>, Aaron J. Blashill<sup>a,b</sup>

<sup>a</sup> San Diego State University, Department of Psychology, 5500 Campanile Drive, San Diego, CA 92182, USA

<sup>b</sup> San Diego State University, UC San Diego Joint Doctoral Program in Clinical Psychology, San Diego, CA

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Different dimensions of religiosity are associated with substance use differently.
- Private religious activity is associated with increased substance use in this study.
- Latino sexual minority men in this sample had high levels of substance use.

### ARTICLE INFO

#### Keywords:

Substance use  
Religiosity  
Sexual minority  
Latino

### ABSTRACT

**Background:** Latino sexual minority men (SMM) may be a group disproportionately at risk for substance use than heterosexual Latino men and non-Latino SMM. As religiosity may be a culturally relevant factor, the current study aimed to explore the association of three subcomponents of religiosity: organizational religious activity (ORA; i.e., public religious activity), non-organizational religious activity (NORA; i.e., private religious activity), and intrinsic religiosity (IR; i.e., personal commitment to one's religion) in predicting illicit substance use.

**Method:** Participants were 151 Latino SMM recruited from San Diego County ( $M = 24.18$  years of age,  $SD = 3.19$ ), who completed online self-report questionnaires in English or Spanish. Binary outcome variables represented use of illicit substances in the past month vs. no use. Religiosity was assessed using the three subscales (ORA, NORA, and IR) of the Duke University Religion Index (DUREL). Acculturation was controlled for using the Bidimensional Acculturation Scale for Hispanics.

**Results:** ORA was associated with opiates ( $OR = 1.53, p = .04$ ). NORA was associated with cocaine ( $OR = 1.69, p = .01$ ), opiates ( $OR = 1.56, p = .04$ ), amphetamines ( $OR = 1.67, p = .02$ ), and sedatives ( $OR = 2.33, p = .001$ ). IR was associated with amphetamines ( $OR = 1.34, p = .03$ ).

**Conclusion:** NORA is positively associated with multiple illicit substances, and may represent greater internalization of anti-gay religious doctrines compared to other components of religiosity in Latino SMM. An inter-sectional approach addressing religious and sexual minority identity may be useful in substance use treatment for Latino SMM.

### 1. Introduction

Latinos are the fastest growing ethnic group in the United States (Census Bureau, 2010); however, scant research has examined culturally-relevant protective factors for substance use among Latino sexual minority (e.g., gay and bisexual) men. Sexual minority men (SMM) are at an increased risk for substance use in comparison to their heterosexual peers (Centers for Disease Control [CDC], 2016; Kerridge et al., 2017; Plöderl & Tremblay, 2015). Examination of the data collected through the CDC's Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (2015)

found young Latino SMM report the highest lifetime prevalence rates of binge drinking (30.3%), cocaine use (20.5%), methamphetamine use (13.8%), and heroin use (15.6%) compared to Latino and White heterosexual and sexual minority (SM) males. The high rate of substance use among Latino SMM suggests the possibility of unique risk factors in this population (CDC, 2015).

Religiosity may be theoretically important to consider in examining Latino SMM substance use. Religiosity may serve as a protective factor due to many religions' promotion of abstinence from alcohol and other drugs (Rostosky, Danner, & Riggle, 2010). Catholicism may serve as a

\* Corresponding author at: Oregon State University, Reed Lodge, 2950 SW Jefferson Way, Corvallis, OR 97331, USA.

E-mail address: [lambk@oregonstate.edu](mailto:lambk@oregonstate.edu) (K.M. Lamb).

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.addbeh.2018.08.034>

Received 10 July 2018; Received in revised form 22 August 2018; Accepted 28 August 2018

Available online 01 September 2018

0306-4603/ © 2018 Elsevier Ltd. All rights reserved.

buffer to U.S. acculturation in comparison to other religious affiliations, therefore decreasing the probability of substance use among Latinos (Calvillo & Bailey, 2015; Myers et al., 2009; Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration [SAMHSA], 2011). Although 16.3% of U.S. citizens identify as Hispanic or Latino, Latino Americans comprise 32% of Catholics in the U.S. (Census Bureau, 2010; Pew Research Center [PRC], 2014). For heterosexuals, including Latino heterosexuals, religiosity is considered a protective factor for substance use (Drabble, Trocki, & Klinger, 2016; Escobar & Vaughan, 2014; Rostosky et al., 2010; Rostosky, Danner, & Riggle, 2007). Therefore, it would be beneficial to examine religiosity among Latino SMM due to high prevalence among Latinos (82% report being religiously affiliated; PRC, 2014; Rostosky et al., 2010). However, it is also possible religiosity may exacerbate substance use in SMM due to religious doctrines condemning same-sex relationships (Hequembourg & Dearing, 2013; PRC, 2014; Rostosky et al., 2007). One study found when comparing Latino and Black lesbian, gay, and bisexual (LGB) individuals with White LGB individuals, the Latino group had the highest levels of internalized homophobia, mediated by their increased exposure to non-affirming religious settings (Barnes & Meyer, 2012). Qualitative research of Latino sexual and gender minority men raised as Catholics also indicates many Latino men may experience conflict due to their religious and sexual or gender identities in adolescence (García, Gray-Stanley, & Ramirez-Valles, 2008). Thus, the association between religiosity and substance use among SMM remains unclear.

The effect of religiosity on substance use/SUDs in SMM may be dependent on the dimension used to measure religiosity (Drabble et al., 2016; Rostosky et al., 2007; Rostosky et al., 2010). Religiosity is a multidimensional construct with factors interacting with health outcomes differentially depending on what aspects are analyzed, such as frequency of religious attendance, private religious practice, and intrinsic/extrinsic religious motivation (Escobar & Vaughan, 2014; Hall, Meador, & Koenig, 2008). When religiosity was measured using a tripartite model as a composite of religious attendance, importance of religion, and other religious activities, religiosity was not protective against binge drinking, marijuana use, and cigarette smoking, but was protective for heavy episodic drinking (HED) among both heterosexual and gay men (Rostosky et al., 2007; Rostosky et al., 2010). However, results from a previous study of religiosity in a sample of young Black men who have sex with men (an ethnic group for which religiosity also tends to be a salient construct) found various dimensions of spirituality were associated with outcomes of substance use and HIV in various ways (Carrico et al., 2017). Due to these mixed results, religiosity should likely not be treated as a uniform construct when examining its effects on substance use among Latino SMM.

### 1.1. The Current Study

The current study seeks to build upon existing literature by measuring separate dimensions of religiosity versus a single construct. When analyzing common measures of religiosity, Hall et al. (2008) suggest the complex nature of religiosity requires the use of measures analyzing specific dimensions; measures analyzing religiosity void of a specific context should be abandoned. The Duke University Religion Index (DUREL) is frequently used for its brevity (5 items) and its ability to assess three major dimensions of religiosity: organizational religious activity (ORA; e.g., attending church or a service), non-organizational religious activity (NORA; e.g., praying by oneself, meditation, study of religious scripture), and intrinsic religiosity (IR; i.e., subjective religiosity; Koenig, Meador, & Parkerson, 1997; Koenig & Büssing, 2010). The current study will use the three dimensions of the DUREL to examine how religiosity may predict substance use among Latino SMM. It is hypothesized ORA and NORA would be associated with increased substance use, as both of these subdimensions of religiosity imply an involvement with one's religious doctrine and community. The IR dimension is hypothesized to be associated with decreased substance use,

as IR is similar to religious importance, and a previous study found this to be a protective factor in alcohol use among SM women (Drabble et al., 2016).

## 2. Material and Methods

### 2.1. Participants and procedures

Participants were 151 Latino SM men recruited from San Diego County, between the ages of 18–29 ( $M = 24.18$  years of age,  $SD = 3.19$ ). Participants were recruited through paid advertisements on several hook-up sites, such as Grindr, and Squirr.org. Additionally, participants who participated in past research and expressed interest in future studies were emailed links to the survey. Surveys took approximately 30 minutes and were available in both English and Spanish. The Spanish version of the survey included some measures previously validated in Spanish (e.g., the Bidimensional Acculturation Scale). Measures that did not have Spanish versions previously developed were translated by a Spanish speaking professor in Puerto Rico with some assistance from an undergraduate research assistant where the study was conducted (e.g., demographic information). The measures translated by the study team were then pilot tested among two Latino SMM who met eligibility criteria for the study to ensure the linguistic and cultural appropriateness of the measure for Spanish-speaking Latino SMM. Participants were included in the study if they met the following criteria as indicated based on responses to items assessing eligibility: (a) ages 18–29, (b) identifies as both Latino/Hispanic and male, (c) identifies as either a Spanish or English speaker, (d) lives in San Diego County, (e) identifies as a gay/bisexual male or reported same sex attraction, and (f) self-reports HIV-uninfected status. Participants consented to participate and all procedures were approved by the university's Institutional Review Board. Individuals who met criteria for the study and completed the questionnaire received a \$10 Amazon gift card upon completion.

### 2.2. Measures

#### 2.2.1. Religiosity

Religiosity was assessed using the three subscales of the Duke University Religion Index: organizational religious activity (ORA; i.e., public religious activity), non-organizational activity (NORA; i.e., private religious activity), and intrinsic religiosity (IR; i.e., degree of personal commitment to one's religion; DUREL, Koenig & Büssing, 2010). The DUREL reflects consensus in the field that religiosity is a multidimensional construct consisting of several domains encompassing one's religious experience (Hall et al., 2008). ORA was assessed with the item: "How often do you attend church or other religious meetings?". Responses ranged from 1 = *Never* to 6 = *More than once/week*. NORA was assessed with the item: "How often do you spend time in private religious activities, such as prayer, meditation or Bible study?". Responses ranged from 1 = *Rarely or never* to 6 = *More than once a day*. IR was assessed using the three items: "In my life, I experience the presence of the Divine (i.e., God)", "My religious beliefs are what really lie behind my whole approach to life", and "I try hard to carry my religion over into all other dealings in life". Responses were measured on a 5-Point Likert scale (e.g., 1 = *Definitely not true* and 5 = *Definitely true to me*). The three IR items were summed to create a scale score, possible scores ranged from 3 to 15. This scale has shown to be valid, reliable, and reflects the multidimensional nature of the construct of religiosity (Koenig & Büssing, 2010). The internal consistency for the IR subscale was adequate ( $\alpha = 0.73$ ).

#### 2.2.2. Illicit substance use

Illicit substance use was assessed using the following items: "Please select the answer that most accurately describes your drug use in the past month" for marijuana (Marijuana, Hash, Cannabis); cocaine;

Download English Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/en/article/10153325>

Download Persian Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/article/10153325>

[Daneshyari.com](https://daneshyari.com)