



**NATIONAL LATINX**  
PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

January 20  
**2021**

# **COVID-19 Needs Assessment on U.S. Latinx Communities Interim Report to the National Urban League**

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National Latinx Psychological Association [NLPA] Phase I Research Team:

1. Lead Principal Investigator (P.I.): Cristalis Capielo Rosario, Ph.D. (Arizona State University)
2. Project Manager: Fiorella L. Carlos Chavez, Ph.D. (University of Missouri – Columbia)
3. NLPA Liaison to the Alliance: Yolanda Evie Garcia, Ph.D. (Northern Arizona University)
4. Lucas Torres, Ph.D. (Marquette University)
5. Delida Sanchez, Ph.D. (The University of Texas at Austin)
6. Alison Cerezo, Ph.D. (University of California, Santa Barbara)
7. German A. Cadenas, Ph.D. (Lehigh University)

### **Recommended citation format for this publication:**

Capielo Rosario, C., Carlos Chavez, F. L., García, Y. E., Torres, L., Sanchez, D., Cerezo, A., Cadenas, G. A. (2021). COVID-19 Needs Assessment on U.S. Latinx Communities. Interim Report. National Latinx Psychological Association. National Urban League.

## **Introduction**

A COVID-19 Latinx study consists of two phases. Phase I is comprised of a community needs assessment that provides a snapshot of the impact and disparities associated with COVID-19. Phase II will begin the fall of 2021 and will consist of more in-depth information gained from interviews and additional data collection.

The National Latinx Psychological Association (NLPA) is pleased to submit its Interim Phase I Report on *COVID-19 Needs Assessment on U.S. Latinx Communities*. This research is part of a larger study being conducted by the National Alliance of Psychological Associations for the Advancement of Racial and Ethnic Equity (the Alliance) to understand the effects and associated disparities of the COVID-19 pandemic on communities of color in the United States. For Phase I, NLPA has included subgroups of Latinx adults in the United States, not limited to caregivers, essential workers, immigrants, and members of the LGBTQ+ community. We have focused on the assessment of the following areas: work and employment, education, home life, social activities, economic issues, emotional health and well-being, physical health problems, physical distancing and quarantine, infection history, positive changes, household food insecurity, substance use, caregiving stress, family life stress, activism engagement, social justice views, discrimination, and social support. In addition, we also added an assessment for Latinx youth minors, focusing on the following areas: Academics and education, personal and family experiences since the COVID-19 pandemic, financial challenges, housing and rent, psychological well-being, discrimination, personal health behaviors, alcohol use, coping mechanisms, and food security.

## **Background and Objectives**

The COVID-19 Latinx study consists of two phases. Phase I is comprised of a community needs assessment that provides a snapshot of the impact and disparities associated with COVID-19. This includes potential disparate outcomes related to health, mental health, employment, education, housing, and food insecurity. With needs assessment data in hand, stakeholders can delineate priority areas and a roadmap for improvements by defining strategies to make positive and sustainable changes to protect and support economic and health recovery of Latinx communities living in the United States during and after the pandemic. Using a national sample of Latino/a youth ( $N = 1,000$ ) and adults ( $N = 3,000$ ) living in the United States, the needs assessment will address the following questions:

1. **How is COVID-19 affecting the health and mental health of Latinx communities?**
2. **Has it exacerbated existing health problems?**
3. **How has COVID-19 impacted the economic status of these communities?**

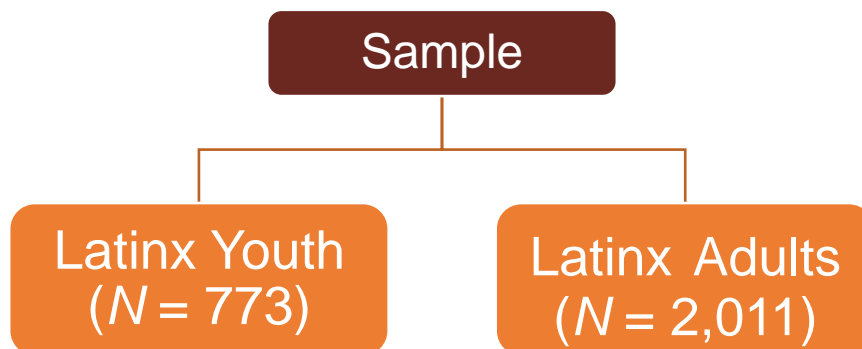
## Progress to Date

NLPA and the National Urban League's memorandum of agreement was ratified on September 21, 2020. Our research team's Phase I project manager began to work with NLPA's Treasurer and Acting Secretary of Finance, Dr. Eduardo Morales, to begin the respective transfer of funds to NLPA and consequently to each Principal Investigator (P.I.)'s academic institution. Starting October 2020, the lead P.I., Dr. Cristalis Capielo Rosario, contacted Mr. Brad Schramm, a Qualtrics XM [<https://www.qualtrics.com/>] representative for a prospectus on online data collection for Phase I of our project via Qualtrics<sup>XM</sup> Panels online survey distribution. Here is a brief timeline of the survey distribution:

- Quantitative Assessment Creation: June to September 2020
- Quantitative Assessment Revision: October 2020
- Online Quantitative Assessment Creation via Qualtrics: November 2020
- Testing and Quantitative Assessment Quality Control: November 26 to December 3, 2020
- Online Quantitative Assessment Qualtrics Internal Control: December 4 – 21, 2020
- Final Quantitative Assessment online launch: December 22, 2020
- Preliminary Data Collection Delivery (survey is ongoing): January 11, 2021
- NLPA Preliminary Report Submission Date: February 14, 2021
- Final Data Collection Delivery Date: January 25, 2021
- NLPA Final Report Submission Date: April 15, 2021

## Methodology

**Sample:** For the preliminary report, the survey has yielded responses from  $N = 2,011$  adults, and  $N = 733$  adolescents. By the date that the survey closes, January 25, 2021, we anticipate a total of  $N = 3,000$  adults (older than 18 years old) and  $N = 1,000$  (aged 13 to 17) respondents who identify themselves as Latino/a/x.



### Participant recruitment:

- All participants were recruited using Qualtrics Panel. Panel participants were recruited from various sources, including website intercept recruitment, member referrals, targeted email lists, gaming sites, customer loyalty web portals, permission-based networks, and social media, etc.

- To invite participants, Qualtrics sent an email invitation to the survey. Researchers do not have access to participant emails or contact information at any point of the study.
- Participants were contacted only one time. At that time, participants completed the survey.
- To recruit youth participants (13-17 years of age), Qualtrics targeted the parents/guardians of potential minor participants and presented a consent form to them. At that point, they passed the survey on to the minor. Minor participants were asked for ascent (i.e., agree to participate in study, OR do not agree to participate in study).
- The researchers did not have direct contact with the participants and the online survey was anonymous.

## Procedure

**Consent Process.** After a brief study description, participants were asked to read the informed consent form. To consent, participants were asked to press “continue” on the online survey. All study forms, including the consent form were available in English. Given the pressing need to conduct the COVID-19 needs assessment, we did not include Spanish translation protocols. A sample of Spanish speakers will be included during Phase II of the study.

- Study questionnaires were available via Qualtrics
- All participants received a brief description of the project and gave consent if they decided to participate in study.

## Administration of Survey

Participants who consented or whose guardians consented to participation in the survey, were directed to the survey. Adults were directed to the adult version of the survey and minors (after parental consent) were directed to the youth survey.

Adults responded to general information regarding demographics and COVID-19 impact on health and food security, followed by the opportunity to participate in one or more additional measures if the participants indicated that they were immigrants, LGBTQ+, or caregivers.

Total duration of participation was approximately 25 minutes for both adults and minor participants for the demographics and COVID-19 impact plus an additional 5 minutes for each additional category survey (immigrant, LGBTQ+, or caregiver).



## Privacy and Confidentiality

- The Lead P.I. received IRB approval to conduct study.
- An anonymous Qualtrics link to the study was created in order to ensure anonymity. Because Qualtrics Panel was used, researchers did not have access to participant contact information (e.g., name, phone number, email)
- De-identified data will be stored for 7 years after the end of recruitment.
- Participants’ information will remain anonymous.

- The NLPA investigators of this study and appointed student research assistants will have access to the de-identified data.
- Data will be stored in Qualtrics, a secure cloud-based service at Arizona State University

### **Plan of Analysis**

- First data will be reviewed for accuracy and redundancy. Participants who fail to respond to the validity questions will be removed from the sample. Similarly, duplicate participation (same participant responding more than once to the survey) will be removed from the data set.
- Upon cleaning the data, researchers will run measures of centrality and distribution to determine the composition of the sample (e.g., percentage of female responders).
- Researchers will then review the accuracy (i.e., validity and reliability) of the measures (e.g., EPII, PHQ-4) used in the survey with the proposed sample.
- Finally, the researcher will run a wide range of statistics to determine the level and the relationship between different assessment variables (e.g., COVID-19 related stress, food insecurity) in the aggregate data and subgroups (e.g., caregivers, youth, immigrants, LGBTQ+).

### **Latinx Adults**

- Characteristics of Latinx adults by gender, immigration status, age, and ethnicity
- Profile of psychological well-being by gender
- Coping mechanisms and strategies
- Profile of caregiving stress under the COVID-19 pandemic
- Profile of immigrant workers/individual/caregivers/LGBTQ+
- Profile of essential workers
- Profiles of economic stressors among Latinx adults by state
- General levels of household food security and food insecurity

### **Latinx Youth**

- Characteristics of Latinx youth by gender, age, and ethnicity
- Profile of psychological well-being by gender and age group
- Profile of educational access and performance during COVID-19 pandemic
- Profiles of household financial stressors
- General levels of food security and food insecurity among Latinx youth

### **Budget**

**Personnel.** The investigators have bilingual (Spanish-English) graduate research student assistants that are providing administrative support and literature review search during spring 2021.

### **Expected Outcomes**

- NLPA Preliminary Report with preliminary analysis of sample and assessment variables (e.g., COVID-19 related stress) with initial recommendations on February 15, 2021.
- NLPA Final Report with complete data analysis and recommendations on April 15, 2021.