



Examining the Relationship Between Ethnic Identity, Peer Susceptibility, and Peer Group Norms on Adolescents' Behaviors

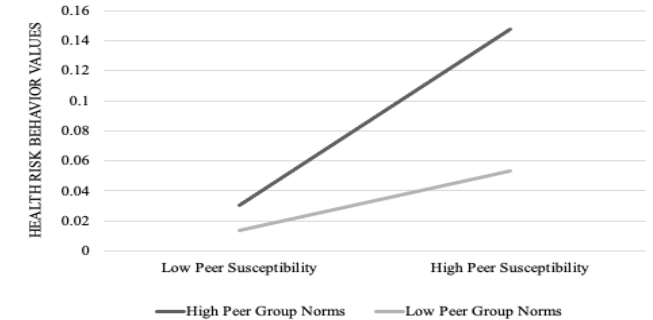
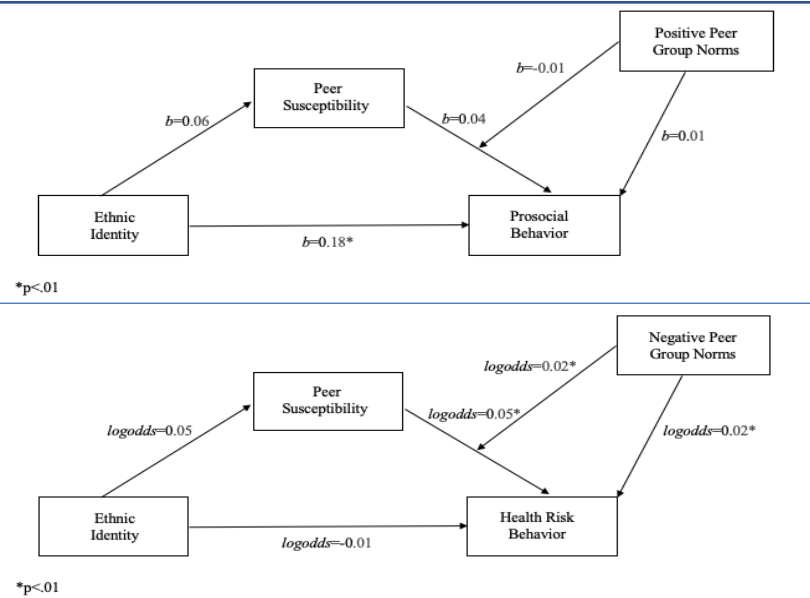
Glorimel Rodriguez

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Introduction

- Ethnic identity refers to one's sense of belonging to an ethnic group (Wills et al., 2007). The extent to which an adolescent is susceptible to their peer group's behaviors is connected to their own sense of self (Butelo, 2017), and thus may be related to their ethnic identity.
- For susceptible youth, adolescents may display more negative or positive norms depending on their group's behaviors (Güroğlu & Crone, 2017).
- Negative norms may confer greater risk for antisocial behavior and positive norms may promote prosocial behaviors.
- Hypotheses:** Strong ethnic identity will lead to higher peer susceptibility, which in turn will lead to increased prosocial or antisocial behavior. Engaging in prosocial or antisocial behavior will depend on peer group norms-negative norms may result in antisocial behavior and positive norms may result in prosocial behaviors.

Results



Conclusion

- Peer susceptibility predicted antisocial behavior, especially at high levels of negative peer group norms
- Positive peer group norms did not moderate the negative effects of peer susceptibility.
- Ethnic identity predicts prosocial but not antisocial behavior.
- Taken altogether, efforts to reduce antisocial behaviors in adolescents should focus on reducing negative peer group norms rather than increasing positive peer group norms. Preventative efforts should also focus on strengthening an individual's ethnic identity in order to further promote prosocial behavior.
- Future studies should examine other mechanisms that help explain the link between ethnic identity and prosocial behavior and further investigate processes that explain why peer susceptibility has a significant effect on antisocial behaviors

Method

Procedure

- Participants completed questionnaires in a school setting

Data Analysis Plan

- Used moderated-mediation model to analyze relationships between primary variables using SPSS process macro (Hayes, 2013).

Sample

- N=470 (51.3% female)
- Age= 10-14 years (M=12.3)
- Race: 44.8% Hispanic/Latino, 31% African American/Black, 14.9% multi-racial, 6.5% White, 1.7% American Indian/Alaskan Native, 1.1% other

Measures:

- Multigroup Ethnic Identity measure (Phinney & Ong, 2007)
- Resistance to Peer Influence measure (Steinberg & Monahan, 2007)
- Peer Group Norm questionnaire (Marshall-Denton, Veronneau, & Dishion, 2016)
- Prosocial Tendency Motivation (Carlo et al., 2010)
- Past month risk behavior via Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance Survey (CDC, 1998)