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In this ecological study the authors investigated the effects of poverty on factors both inside and outside the Latino home to identify which factors encourage or mitigate the effects of poverty on antisocial behavior among Latino adolescents. Although adolescents in this study were not tested for mental health problems, the results lend themselves to further examination by children's mental health researchers. Results revealed that peer pressure and neighborhood quality mediated the effect of poverty on antisocial behavior, and high levels of acculturation among Latino mothers was significantly related to a reduction in antisocial behaviors.

Data on Latino youths were taken from the larger National Longitudinal Survey of Youth (NLSY), a nationally representative sample of approximately 9,000 adolescents. Participants for the current study ( $N = 420$ ) were between the ages of 10-14 years, and over half were Mexican American (68%). Puerto Rican and Other Latinos comprised 17% and 15% of the sample, respectively. On average, children had lived in poverty for about one-third of their lives. Antisocial behavior was measured with items from the Behavior Problem Index, and variables of interest included: sociodemographics; mother's acculturation (i.e., English speaking, U.S. resident); poverty; neighborhood quality; school quality; peer pressure; parent-youth conflict and attachment; physical punishment; and the extent to which mothers monitor their children's whereabouts.

A series of multiple regression analyses revealed that boys were likely to have significantly higher antisocial behavior ratings than girls. For all youth, the likelihood of having high rates of this behavior was associated with length of time living in poverty. However positive peer pressure and neighborhood quality mediated the effect of poverty on this behavior. Mother's increased acculturation also significantly reduced ratings of antisocial behavior. Additionally, school quality and neighborhood quality were negatively associated with antisocial behavior. Results further suggest that mother's childbearing age and education did not influence the development of this behavior. Finally, parent-youth conflict was unrelated to antisocial behavior; according to the authors, this finding was unexpected, "given the importance of family and harmonious relationships among many Latinos" (p. 124).