

# RESPONSIBILITY AND BELONGING: EXPLORING ADOLESCENT LATINO MALE SOCCER SOCIAL GROUP IDENTITY

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## INTRODUCTION

### Unique moment in time for North Carolina demographics

- Fast growing Latin American immigrant population<sup>1</sup>
- Role of public schools in immigrant lives<sup>2</sup>
- Middle school time for developing decision-making skills<sup>3</sup>
- Social group identity and navigating identity hierarchy<sup>4</sup>

Occupational therapists are qualified to address the needs of Latino adolescents as they navigate social group occupations and identities; yet, to date, there is limited evidence.

### Research Aim:

Explores how the social group occupation of playing on a school soccer team influences Latino adolescent identity.

## METHODS

**Design:** Grounded-theory qualitative research

**Participants:** Four members of a rural middle school soccer team who identified as Latino and male

**Data Collection:** March 2017

- Principal, County Chief Academic Officer, parent, and individual permissions granted
- 60 minute focus group

**Data Analysis:** Thematic analysis



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## RESULTS

### THEME ONE: RESPONSIBILITY

#### HOME

*"...every time I play soccer I do it for my mom and dad who didn't have the chance to play."*

#### ACADEMIC

*"You don't really want a bad grade."*

### THEME TWO: BELONGING

#### SOCIAL

*"When the season starts for soccer, people always...talk to you about if you did a cool move...some people are like 'I like your game' and stuff. It's just attention you get."*

#### CULTURAL

*"I mostly spoke Spanish instead of English to confuse the opposite team."*

## CONCLUSIONS

### Discussion:

- Playing on a school soccer team informed the individual students' sense of responsibility as it related to academics and honoring their families.
- The social group occupation of playing on this particular school soccer team fostered a sense of cultural and social belonging for the players.

### Implications for OS/OT:

- Presents an understanding of how Latino adolescent identity and school sports come together and reveals what is lost when an adolescent can no longer participate in a valued social group occupation.

### Future research:

- Sample size, geographic location, study more group occupations as they relate to Latino adolescent identity.

## REFERENCES

- <sup>1</sup>Quercia, R.G., & Johnson, J.H. (2015). The state of Latino housing in North Carolina. Accessed April 2017 from University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Center for Community Capital.
- <sup>2</sup>Gill, H. (2010). The Latino migration experience in North Carolina: new roots in the Old North State. University of North Carolina Press.
- <sup>3</sup>Yabiku, S., Kulis, S., Marsiglia, F.F., Lewin, B., Nieri, T., & Hussaini, S. (2007). Neighborhood effects on the efficacy of a program to prevent youth alcohol use. Substance use & misuse, 42(1), 65-87.
- <sup>4</sup>Merolla, D.M., Serpe, R.T., Stryker, S., & Schultz, P.W. (2012). Structural precursors to identity processes: The role of proximate social structures. Social Psychology Quarterly, 75 (2), 149-172.