



Social capital and periodontal disease in Hispanic adults: results from the Hispanic Community Health Study/Study of Latinos



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BACKGROUND

- Periodontal disease is a chronic inflammatory disease that results in destruction of connective tissue and alveolar bone leading to tooth loss.
- Prevalence of moderate-severe periodontal disease is high among US Hispanics (65% NHANES).
- These differences are not explained by traditional risk factors or acculturation.
- Social support is associated with positive health outcomes in many diseases.
- There is limited understanding of the effect of social support on oral diseases; research hindered by varied definitions and measurements.

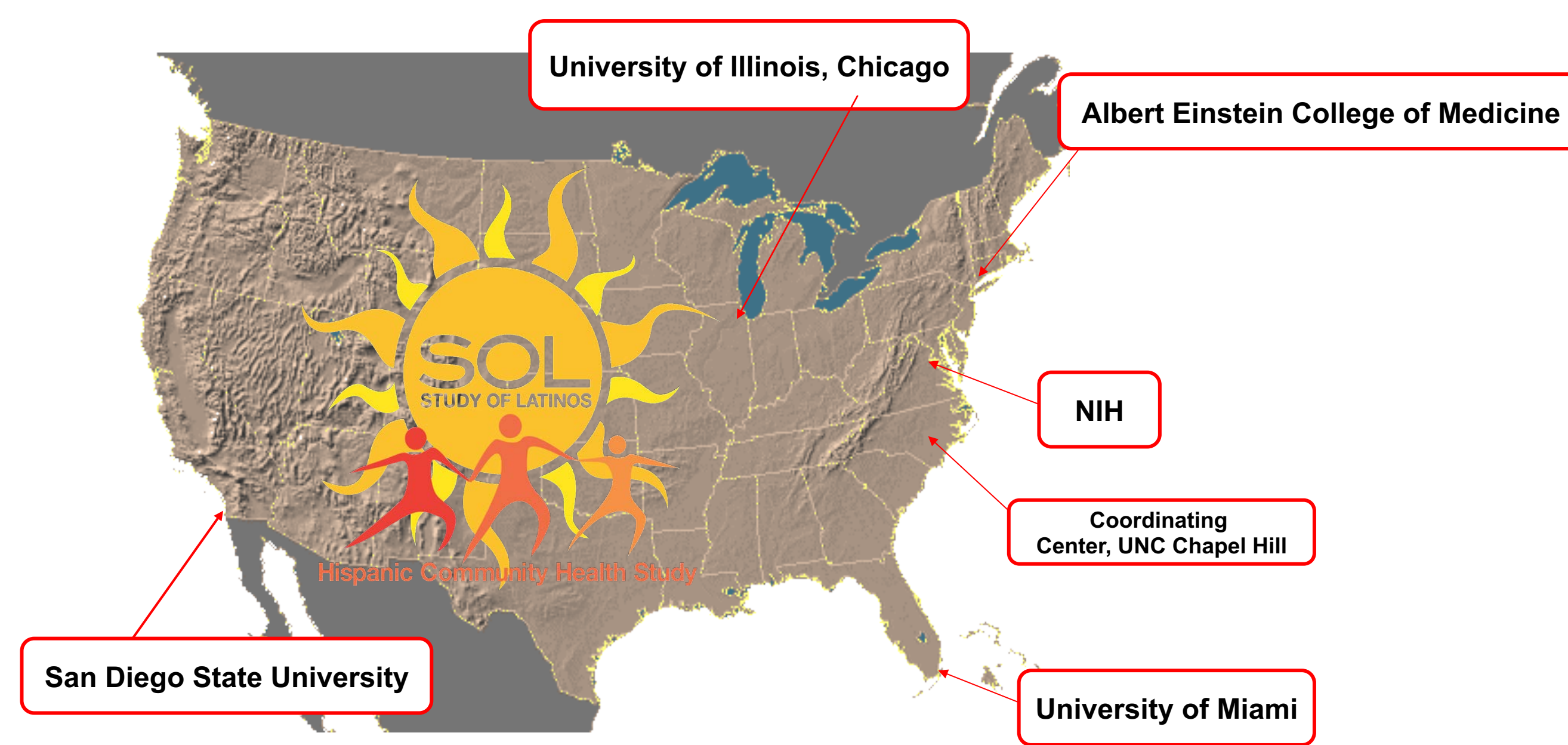
OBJECTIVES

To examine the association of social capital with periodontal disease severity among Hispanic/Latino adults in the Hispanic Community Health Study/Study of Latinos (HCHS/SOL).

HYPOTHESES

- H1.** Greater social capital is associated with lower prevalence of periodontal disease.
- H2.** The association between social capital and periodontal disease will be stronger among foreign-born than native-born Hispanics.

Field Centers and Coordinating Center



METHODS

We analyzed data obtained from 3,994 men and women aged 18-74 in the HCHS/SOL Sociocultural Ancillary Study. From 2008-2011, dentists assessed periodontitis status with a full-mouth periodontal examination. Periodontitis was classified using standardized case definitions. Multivariable logistic regression estimated odds of moderate-severe periodontitis associated with two measures of social capital: structural support (**Social Network Index**) and functional support (**Interpersonal Support Evaluation List**). Effect modification by nativity status was explored.



RESULTS

17% lower odds of moderate-severe periodontal disease for each additional role in the social network, adjusted for all covariates.

Moderate/severe vs. none/mild periodontal disease		
US-born, N=707	OR (95% CI)	p-value
SNI	0.83 (0.72, 0.96)	0.01
ISEL	1.02 (0.98, 1.07)	0.32
Not US-born, N=3,287	OR (95% CI)	p-value
SNI	1.01 (0.94, 1.06)	0.89
ISEL	0.99 (0.97, 1.01)	0.29

*Adjusted for gender, age, acculturation, education, annual income, duration from last dental visit, health insurance, cigarette smoking status, diabetes

CONCLUSIONS

Greater structural social support was associated with a **lower prevalence of moderate-severe periodontitis in US-born Hispanics/Latinos.**

These findings suggest that US-born Hispanics/Latinos with less social support represent a vulnerable segment of the population at high-risk for periodontal disease.

IMPLICATIONS

- Future research is needed to:
- Understand the behavioral and cultural factors moderating the relationship between social capital and periodontal disease in Hispanics/Latinos
 - Guide development of effective intervention and prevention programs

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The research described was supported by the NIH/National Center for Advancing Translational Science (NCATS) Einstein-Montefiore CTSA Grant Number UL1TR002556.

Thanks to the staff and participants of HCHS/SOL for their important contributions.