Latinos who are socially engaged present certain traits that support their social-engagement within the community. For example, an active senior is more likely to leave their home on a regular basis, be present at social events, feel a sense of responsibility/accountability to other people, and understand that being active is critical to feeling less depressed. This study provides a detailed account of how an understudied population of low-income older Latinos cultivate and use community resources in order to support themselves in late-life.

IDENTITY INTEGRATION AND MENTAL HEALTH IN OLDER BLACK GAY MEN
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Throughout the course of one’s life, individuals reconcile the identity they have developed with the identity assigned to them by various social forces (e.g., parents, friends, etc.). Research suggests that achievement of synthesizing a self-identity and a social identity leads to a sense of psychosocial well-being. We investigated ideas about identity integration and mental health in older Black males (N=169) aged 50 - 81 years (M = 56.4, SD = 6.4) who participated in the Social Justice Sexuality (SJS) survey of LGBT people of color over a 12-month period in the United States. The survey included questions on five broad themes: racial and sexual identity, family formations and dynamics, spirituality and religion, civic engagement, and mental and physical health. Results show that considering sexual identity as an important identity over racial identity has a negative association with mental health (B = -.27, p<.02) in older Black gay men. However, considering sexual and racial identity to be equally important identities is positively associated with mental health (B = .36, p<.01) in older Black gay men. Further, data reveal that reports of connection to LGBT community/people have a positive association with mental health (B = .36, p<.01) in older Black gay men. We discuss implications of results for mental well-being in older minority men and human development at levels of individual and society.

ASSOCIATIONS BETWEEN BODY MASS INDEX AND COGNITIVE CHANGE IN BLACK OLDER ADULTS
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Despite general negative health effects, elevated body mass index (BMI) can be protective against poor health outcomes, including cognitive decline, in old age. Few studies have examined these longitudinal relationships in Black older adults. The purpose of this study was to examine how baseline BMI and BMI classification group (i.e., underweight, normal, overweight, or obese) variables related to cognitive change in Black participants from the Minority Aging Research Study (N = 718, mean age = 73.6, mean education = 14.8). Mean BMI was 30.3 (SD = 6.6), with 33.1% overweight and 46.4% obese. Participants underwent clinical evaluations, including 19 neuropsychological tests; summary measures for 5 cognitive domains and global cognition were subsequently derived. In mixed effects models adjusted for age, sex, and education, higher BMI was associated with slower decline in global cognition (Est. = 0.002, SE = 0.001; p < .01) and three separate cognitive domains: episodic memory (Est. = 0.002, SE = 0.001; p < .05), semantic memory (Est. = 0.003, SE = 0.006; p < .01), and working memory (Est. = 0.002, SE = 0.001; p < .05). Next, mixed effects models examining BMI classification group and cognitive decline showed the same pattern of findings, along with two additional significant results for perceptual speed (Est = 0.011, SE = 0.003; p < .05) and visuospatial ability (Est = 0.014, SE = 0.005; p < .01). The present findings support the “obesity paradox,” where higher BMI status may offer late-life cognitive benefits. Future research should investigate underlying mechanisms.

LIFE SATISFACTION AMONG MEXICAN ELDERS: FINDINGS FROM THE STUDY ON GLOBAL AGEING AND ADULT HEALTH WAVE 1

Life Satisfaction (LS) is an important component of comprehensive health (WHO, 2015). Factors contributing to LS may vary by societal context. To date, limited literature has examined LS in the Mexican context and considered unique contextual challenges faced by Mexican elders. Guided by the Selective Optimization with Compensation model and Socialemotional Selectivity Theory, we investigated the relationship of high LS with important physical health, mental health, social integration and violence factors using a national probability sample of Mexican elders. We examined 2200 midlife and older adults (aged 50–101 years) from the Mexican arm of the Study on Global Ageing and adult health (SAGE). This survey used a multi-stage, stratified clustered sample design, with household clusters sampled to reflect age, sex, level of wealth/local economic development, and urban/rural status in the Mexico Census. Measures were standardized, well- validated and widely used in world health surveys. Using stepwise logistic regression analysis, our final model revealed Self-Rated Health, Affect, Interpersonal Activities and Perceived Safety, age, income/assets to be significantly associated with high LS. Unlike LS studies in other countries, chronic disease, depression and community integration were not significantly associated with high LS. Results from this study add to the nascent literature on subjective well-being of Mexican elders. Future work should seek to gain a deeper understanding of the complex concept of LS among Mexican elders. Although geriatric social work is not well formed in Mexico, researchers and social work practitioners should collaborate to develop and implement interventions to enhance Mexican elders’ LS.

MILITARY SERVICE AND LIFE SATISFACTION AMONG KOREAN VIETNAM WAR VETERANS
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