

Introduction

Transnational Family Separation

- Approximately 47% of the U.S immigrant population is comprised of individuals born in Latin American countries (Sibley & Brabeck, 2017).
- Amongst this group, transnational family separation is an alarmingly common experience (Galvan et al., 2022).
- Transnational family separation occurs when individuals who immigrate to a new country become separated from family in their country of origin (Galvan et al., 2022).
- While transnational family separation is not unique to the Hispanic immigrant population, the experiences of those within this group often lead to family separation and limit access to reunification.

Transnational Family Separation & Mental Health

- Theorists have long maintained that early disruption of the caregiver-child bond can lead to mental disturbance (Olin & Mednick, 1996).
- Psychotic disorders are presumed to be associated with early disruptions of bonding (Charuvastra & Cloitre, 2008), but this has not been well examined amongst Hispanic individuals who experienced family separation during childhood

Hispanic individuals who were separated from at least one of their parents for 6 months or longer before the age of 18 demonstrated significantly higher scores on the Prodromal Questionnaire- Brief.

Methodology

Participants N=695

- Hispanic adults recruited utilizing online recruitment methods, including MTurk, Qualtrics, and SONA

Procedures

- Participants completed a demographic questionnaire in which they were asked to report their childhood experiences regarding family separation, and whether or not they experienced transnational separation from one or more parent before the age of 18.
- They were then asked to specify which parent (their mother, father, or both) they were separated from.
- Participants were then asked to complete the PQ-B as part of an online study.

Analyses

- Independent sample t-test in order to compare the means of the PQ-B scores of the two groups (those who experienced family separation and those who did not).
- One-way ANOVA in order to compare the mean scores of the PQB-B between the four groups (those never separated from their parents', those separated from their mothers, those separated from their fathers, and those separated from both parents').

Figure 1. Associations between Family Separation & PQ-B Scores

Family Separation Experience	N=	Mean PQ-B Score	Standard Deviation	Standard Error
Separated	291	12.33	8.11	.48
Never Separated	404	6.04	6.79	.33

PQ-B Mean Differences

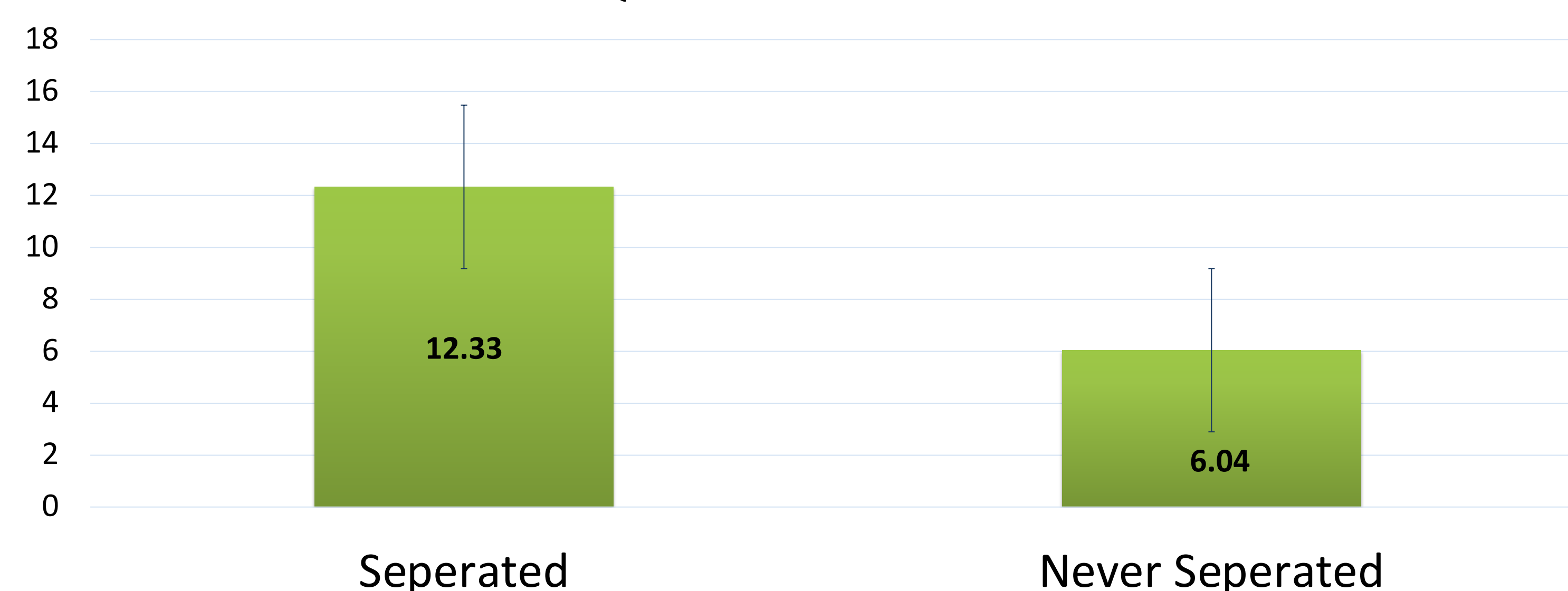
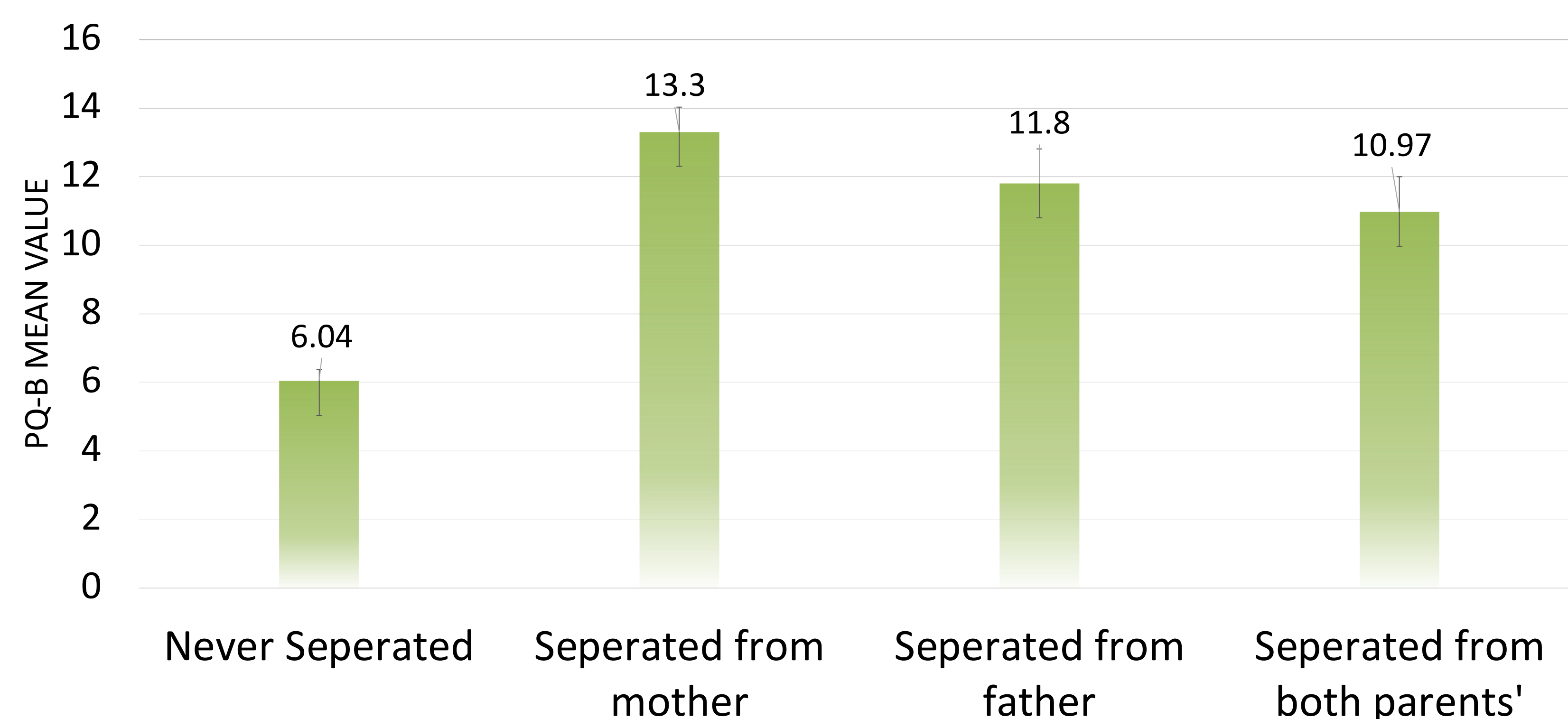


Figure 2. Associations Between Gender of Parent & PQ-B Scores



Key Findings

- Hispanic individuals who were separated from at least one of their parents for 6 months or longer before the age of 18 demonstrated significantly higher scores on the Prodromal Questionnaire- Brief
- Those who experienced separation from their mother displayed the highest psychosis risk scores when compared to those who did not experience family separation
- Those separated from both parents displayed the smallest difference between the groups who experienced separation when compared to those who never experienced family separation.

Conclusions & Future Research

- Although limited by the cross-sectional nature of the study, these results suggest that family separation may lead to increased risk for psychosis.
- Future research on the risk of psychosis in Hispanic individuals separated from their parents' during childhood, and the explanatory factors for this association, are required.