

Public Abstract

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Title:RELIGIOSITY, COPING, AND PSYCHOLOGICAL WELL-BEING AMONG LDS POLYNESIANS IN THE U.S.

There is currently a paucity of literature and research on South Pacific Islanders, also known as Polynesians. Little is known about this understudied ethnic minority group residing in the mainland U.S., more specifically in the Midwest. Many Polynesians who belong to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (LDS) have relocated from their homelands to the mainland U.S. because of strong religious beliefs. The research on LDS Polynesians is a necessity to better understand the way in which these underrepresented persons cope with psychological issues in everyday life through religious and collectivistic values. This study examined religiosity, collectivistic coping, and psychological well-being among 94 LDS Polynesians residing in the Midwest. As hypothesized, highly religious LDS Polynesians were more likely to have a healthy psychological well-being and are also likely to use collectivistic coping styles. Family support and religion-spirituality coping styles were also significantly correlated with a positive psychological well-being. However, these collectivistic coping styles did not mediate the relationship between LDS Polynesians's religious commitment and psychological well-being. Implications are discussed in terms of religiosity, culture, coping, and psychological well-being.

Keywords: religiosity, coping, psychological well-being and distress, Polynesians