# Untangling the Knots: Counseling for Immigrant Minors

Belen Peredo School of Behavioral Sciences Research Week 2024



## Introduction/Rationale

- Immigrant children experience accumulative stress and trauma (Edirmanasinghe, et al., 2022)
- Children carrying baggage that could break an adult

What impact can psychological counseling have on immigrant minors?

# Methodology

- Qualitative systematic review
- Listening to stories of young immigrants

#### **Stories**

- Will remain anonymous to respect the children's privacy
- Stories result from direct interactions in schools/churches

Common reasons for migration:

- Pursuing job opportunities
- Fleeing from danger

# Psychological Health

- High levels of depression, anxiety, and PTSD that worsened over time (Garcia & Birman, 2022)
- High risk for behavioral problems (Mancini, 2020)

## Provides a Safe Space

• Encourages them to process their trauma (Schapiro, et al., 2022)

#### Conclusion

## References

Edirmanasinghe, N. A., Attia, M., Brant-Rajahn, S., & Staton, A. R. (2022). Working with immigrant children in schools: Applying a multi-tiered approach. Journal of Child and Adolescent Counseling, 8(2), 59–71. https://doi.org/10.1080/23727810.2022.2074771

Garcia, M. F., & Birman, D. (2022). Understanding the Migration Experience of Unaccompanied Youth: A Review of the Literature. American Journal of Orthopsychiatry, 92(1), 79–102. https://doi.org/10.1037/ort0000588

Mancini, M. A. (2020). A pilot study evaluating a school-based, trauma-focused intervention for immigrant and refugee youth. Child & Adolescent Social Work Journal, 37(3), 287–300. https://doi.org/10.1007/s10560-019-00641-8

Schapiro, N. A., Moore, E., Garcia, E., Gomes, E., Stimbra-Mora, M., & Greswold, W. (2022). When silence feels safer: Challenges and successes of delivering a school-based cognitive behavioral intervention to Central American unaccompanied immigrant youth. Psychological Trauma: Theory, Research, Practice, and Policy. <u>https://doi.org/10.1037/tra0001414</u>