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Friendship and Loneliness of Spanish and United States Adolescents

Cristina Muniz

Illinois Wesleyan University

Doran French, Faculty Advisor

Illinois Wesleyan University

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Poster Presentation P58

**FRIENDSHIP AND LONELINESS OF SPANISH AND
UNITED STATES ADOLESCENTS**

Cristina Muniz and Doran French*
Psychology Department, Illinois Wesleyan University

Features of friendship quality across cultures were assessed using the Friendship Quality Questionnaire with seventh grade students from Spain and the US. Multiple issues regarding social support from various agents were also examined using the Networks of Relationships Inventory. Relationships between friendship and social support, and loneliness were studied. Adolescents in both countries who had low social support from friends, reported higher more loneliness. Levels of social support from mothers, fathers, and siblings had no effect. Spanish scored higher in most of friendship scales and social support provided by friends. Gender differences arose only for US, with females scoring higher in intimacy, conflict, companionship, affection, and instrumental aid with regard to their friendships. No difference was found between the countries in loneliness. These results support the suggestion that relationships with friends become particularly salient. The importance of friends as agents of social support are apparent both in the US and Spain.