

Latino Men & IPV: Research Based Facts

*A Factsheet from the National Latin@ Research Center on Family and Social Change
Rebecca Rodriguez, M.A. & Josephine V. Serrata, Ph.D.*

A close-up portrait of a young Latino man with short dark hair, looking directly at the camera with a neutral expression. He is wearing a dark jacket over a dark t-shirt. The background is dark and out of focus.

Crear cambio
Celebrar nuestras culturas
ALCANZAR
nuestras metas
LIVE FREE
of violence

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Below we present some of the most recent information specific to Latino men and Intimate Partner Violence (IPV). The following evidence is limited to research in community-based samples and heterosexual Latin@s.

Prevalence & Occurrence of IPV

- About 20-25% of Latinas and 7% of Latinos will experience IPV during their lifetime.¹
- In a study of 316 Mexican American males and females, 86% of men reported using psychological aggression towards a romantic partner, 45% of men reported having assaulted their partner in the last year, and 28% of men reported using sexual coercion against their partner.²

Factors That Intersect With the Occurrence of IPV

Knowledge and Attitudes About IPV

Latino men endorse varying levels of awareness of IPV as a problem.

- A qualitative study with Latino males (44% Cuban, 16% US born, 12% Honduras, and 12% from Nicaragua) living in South Florida, perceived IPV among major areas of concern for the Latino community.³
- Men in the above study perceived domestic violence as a problem interrelated with a multitude of issues such as substance abuse, community violence, immigration, poor mental health, low education, negative childhood experiences, traditional gender roles, women's employment, men's unemployment and economic hardships.³
- When Latinos in the rural southeast U.S. were asked to rank top concerns in their communities, males rated IPV as less severe of a problem in their community than Latinas did.⁴
- Latino males were more likely than Latinas to agree that children were unaware of IPV occurring in the home.⁴

Casa de Esperanza has chosen to use “@” in place of the masculine “o” when referring to people or things that are either gender neutral or both masculine and feminine in make-up. This decision reflects our commitment to gender inclusion and recognizes the important contributions that both men and women make to our communities.

Intergenerational Transmission of Violence

A personal experience that can impact whether or not one decides to use violence is a person's own experience with violence.

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- A qualitative study conducted with Latino males living in South Florida identified negative childhood experiences as risk factors for IPV.³
- A national study of 846 Latino heterosexual couples found that among those studied, Mexican men who experienced physical violence from parents as adolescents were at increased risk for assaulting a female partner.⁵

Alcohol and Drug Use

Research findings indicate little evidence for the association between alcohol/drug use and IPV among Latino men.

- A national sample of 387 Latino couples found no relationship between IPV and drinking alcohol.⁶
- A longitudinal study found no association between alcohol and incidences of male-to-female physical violence or female-to-male-physical violence across a 5 year span.⁷
- Participant based evidence indicates that the presence of alcohol or drugs can alter the severity and types of violence inflicted during an IPV incident. Therefore, this issue clearly warrants further research.

Financial Factors

There is some evidence to suggest that contextual factors, such as poverty influence the occurrence and experience of IPV.

- For a national sample of 527 Latino couples, lower household income was related to increases in male to female violence.⁸
- A lack of economic resources was related to increased partner assault for Mexican American men in a national sample of 846 Latino couples.⁵

References

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