HIV & Domestic Violence Among Latin@s

What Is HIV?

HIV is a sexually transmitted infection. It can also be spread by contact with infected blood, from mother to child during pregnancy, childbirth, or breastfeeding. It can take years before HIV weakens the immune system to the point that a person develops AIDS. There’s no cure for HIV/AIDS, but there are medications that can dramatically slow disease progression.

Unprotected sex, the presence of other sexually transmitted diseases, and sharing needles can increase the risk of getting HIV.

What Is Domestic Violence?

Domestic Violence is a pattern of behaviors to exert, maintain, or regain power and control over an intimate partner and/or relatives, including parents living in the home and loved ones overseas. Tactics of control can consist of physical and sexual violence, threats and intimidation, emotional abuse and economic deprivation. Domestic violence can happen to anyone of any race, ethnicity, age, sex, gender, or religion.

HIV: Human Immunodeficiency Virus.
AIDS: Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
www.nationallatinonetwork.org
HIV AMONG LATIN@S

In 2010...

1/5

Latin@s accounted for one-fifth (21%) of all new HIV diagnoses in the United States, despite making up 16% of the total US population.

Latin@s in the United States contract HIV over three times the rate as non-Latin@s (27.5 vs 8.7 per 100,000 population).

Complications from AIDS were the sixth leading cause of death among Latin@s aged 25-34 in the United States and the eighth leading cause of death among Latin@s aged 35-54.

There has been an increase in HIV diagnoses among Latina women. One reason that has been cited is Latino men who have sex with men and women but who do not identify as gay or disclose their sexual activities.

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DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AMONG LATIN@S

At least 1 in 3 Latinas may experience domestic violence in their lifetimes.

Latinas are more likely to reach out to family and friends for support; this is especially true for immigrant Latina survivors.

Due to many barriers, including the immigration political climate, about half of Latinas who experience abuse never report it to authorities.

How does a diagnosis of HIV relate to domestic violence in Latin@ communities?

A

Women who are HIV positive may experience more frequent and severe abuse than women who are HIV negative.

B

Immigrant HIV-positive Latin@s are less likely to access services such as testing, counseling, and treatment. In addition, language barriers play a role in people seeking help.
A person’s positive HIV status can be used as a tool to exert power and control by an abusive partner. The partner exerting control interferes with the other person’s medication and treatment or threatens to tell others about the partner’s HIV status.

A person diagnosed with HIV often has other concerns. Having no or low income, not speaking English, being distanced from family members and friends, being undocumented, or lacking the means (i.e. transportation) or ability (physical or otherwise) are other realities that can impact a person seeking support.

How does being a domestic violence victim increase the risk of contracting HIV?

**Negotiating**

**Fear**

Fear of violence can prevent people from negotiating safer sex, which leaves them vulnerable to higher risk of contracting HIV.

**Risk**

3X More Likely...

One study showed that women who experienced domestic violence were three times more likely to be diagnosed with HIV.

**Prevalence**

12%

According to a study, 12% of HIV infections among women in romantic relationships are due to domestic violence.
The Promotora model, community members who serve as bridges to health care providers, has proved to be effective on HIV prevention with Latin@s.

The National Domestic Violence HOTLINE

If you or someone you know is experiencing domestic violence, please contact the National Domestic Violence Hotline.

1-800 - 799 - 7233

ABOUT THE "@": The National Latin@ Network 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 makeup (Latin@s). This decision reflects our commitment to gender inclusion and recognizes the important contributions that both men and women make to our communities.

The National Latin@ Network has pulled data from a number of sources cited below. The numbers include reported cases and thus depict a picture that is, albeit accurate, limited in scope and not entirely representative of the diversity that exists within the Latin@ communities.

Sources:

http://nationallatinonetwork.org/learn-more/facts-and-statistics


http://www.latinoaids.org/docs/latinas_and_hiv.pdf

http://observatoriovihycarceles.org/es/vih-y-trata-de-personas.raw?task=download&fid=190

http://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/hiv-aids/basics.definition/con-20013732