

Prevalence and Occurrence of Intimate Partner Violence

Facts on Intimate Partner Violence Among Latin@s

National statistics about the experience of IPV among women in the United States and throughout represent estimates that may vary by different methods of data collection. The various strategies used by researchers to collect data (e.g., phone vs. in-person surveys), the specific questions asked (e.g., number of acts of physical violence vs. the context of the violence), and the social/community conditions where the study is conducted (e.g., new immigration laws) all impact the results of the study. For Latin@s, the language in which the study is conducted (including the use of variations in the Spanish language) can also affect the results. Below we present some of the most recent prevalence information published on Latin@ populations. It is important to remember, however, that these findings must be considered within the context of the issues outlined above and may be limited in their representations.

- Approximately **1 in 3 (29.7% to 37.1%)** of Hispanic/Latino women have experienced physical violence by an intimate partner in their life time and **1 in 12 (8.1 %)** of Hispanic/Latina women experienced this violence in the previous 12 months.^{12,13}
- This rate is **approximately the same** as for women from other racial/ethnic groups. In fact, a recent study found no significant difference across racial groups once socioeconomic status was taken into consideration.⁴
- Reported rates of IPV were **lower** for Mexican immigrants (**13.4%**) than for persons of Mexican descent born in the United States (**16.7%**).¹
- These differences are consistent with other studies examining physical and mental health outcomes,³¹ school achievement,²⁹ and substance abuse.¹⁸ This surprising strength of immigrant groups despite the social and economic challenges they often face, has been labeled the immigrant paradox.³³ There are also differences among Latin@s based on their country of origin and level of acculturation; more years in the U.S. predicts poorer health outcomes. The apparent protective nature of being an immigrant is the subject of several current studies.^{29,31}
- Immigrant women (including Latinas) who are married are **more likely** to experience IPV than unmarried women.⁶
- A study that included 2,000 Latinas found **63.1%** of women who identified being victimized in their lifetime (i.e., interpersonal victimization such as, stalking, physical assaults, weapon assaults, physical assaults in childhood, threats, sexual assault, attempted sexual assault, etc). reported having experienced more than one victimization, with an average of **2.56** victimizations.⁵
- In a sample of over 300 pregnant Latinas, IPV during pregnancy was reported at **10%** for physical abuse and **19%** for emotional abuse.¹⁴
- Research is beginning to document work related IPV among Latin@s. One study reported abusive strategies such as, on the job surveillance, on the job harrassment, and work disruption tactics. However, they also found strategies that were unique in a Latino sample, such as denying access to driver's license, lying about childcare arrangements, and sending the partner to their country of origin temporarily.¹³