

Incidence of Domestic Violence Among Hispanics/Latinos

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Incidence compared to the general population in the U.S.


- One report found similar levels of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) as non-Hispanics, but higher levels of marital rape (National Violence Against Women Survey, July 2000).
- According to Strauss and Smith (1990), Hispanics have a significantly higher rate of severe violence than do non-Hispanic Whites.
- Another study reported that African American women report the highest rates of victimization, followed by Hispanic (Frias & Angel 2005).





Hispanic sub-groups

- Incidence of domestic violence may vary within sub-groups of Hispanics.
 - According to one study, Mexican origin women reported higher rates of domestic violence than other Hispanic sub-groups (Frias & Angel 2005).
- This is contrasted with the study on the following slide.



Hispanics in the US

- One study found the following rates by sub-group:
 - Source: Kaufmann Kantor et al, 1994

Puerto Ricans	20.4%
Mexican Americans	10.5%
Cubans	2.5%

Acculturation

- Acculturation refers to the process of adapting to another culture and usually refers to taking on traits of the new culture such as language, religion, values, holidays, and other customs.
- Over time, the values of Hispanic immigrants come to be similar to those of the dominant U.S. culture
 - Changes in gender roles
 - Decline in *familismo*




Impact of Acculturation

- Women who are U.S. citizens report higher rates of violence than those who are not U.S. citizens.
- Women who report moderate or severe violence have higher English proficiency scores than those who report no violence.
- Those immigrant women who arrived before the age of 15 are at a higher risk of partner violence.
 - Those who immigrate early may witness more violence between their parents who themselves must adjust to a new and stressful environment.



All of the above information is from Frias & Angel (2005).






Impact of Acculturation

- In general, acculturation does not necessarily appear to lead to lower rates of abuse:
 - Mexican and Puerto Rican men were more likely to abuse their wives if they were born in the US (Kaufman Kantor, Jasinski, & Aldarondo, 1994)
 - Latinos living in the US who are highly acculturated or not acculturated have higher rates of both husband and wife abuse than do medium-acculturated Latinos (Caetano, Schafer, Clark, Cunradi, & Raspberry, 2000)

What conclusions can we draw from these statistics?

- Difficult to interpret due to contradictory results
- Differences are seen:
 - Between sub-groups
 - Based on level of acculturation



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