Incidence of Domestic Violence Among Hispanics/Latinos

By Madeline Gillette

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sub-group</th>
<th>Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Puerto Ricans</td>
<td>20.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mexican Americans</td>
<td>10.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cubans</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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
References


References, cont.

Immigrant & Refugee Power and Control Wheel. Domestic Abuse Project. Minneapolis, MN.


References, cont.


References, cont.

