


**Latino/Hispanic Culture:
History & Intervention**

Encuentro Latino
National Institute on Family Violence

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**Over the years, Latina/Hispanic women
have made history by setting many
examples of inspiring courage, pride
and strength.**

HISTORIA / HISTORY
Latinos- A Diverse Group

- Built new traditions as a result of immigration
- Diverse group of persons with various cultural and national origins
- Fastest growing ethnic group in the United States
- Populations are increasing in cities that have no experience with this cultural group


Whitaker 2007



Hispanics by Country of Origin

- Mexican 68%
- Central & South American 15%
- Puerto Rican 9%
- Cuban 4%
- Other Latinos 4%


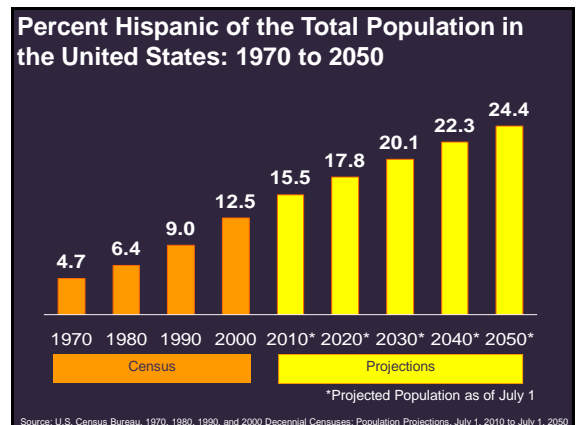
Source U.S. Census Bureau, Current Populations Survey, March 2000
Puerto Rico not included



U.S. Population Projections for
2050

- White (not Hispanic) 50.1%
- Hispanic (any race) 24.4%
- Black 14.6%
- Alaskan/Pacific Islander 8%
- American Indian 1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Top Five States by Hispanic Population Size: 2006

Rank	State	Population Size
1	California	13,074,158
2	Texas	8,385,139
3	Florida	3,846,499
4	New York	3,139,456
5	Illinois	1,886,633

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates July 1, 2000 to July 1, 2006



7

Top Five States by Hispanic Growth Rate: 2000 to 2006

Rank	State	Growth Rate (percent)
1	Arkansas	60.9
2	Georgia	59.4
3	South Carolina	57.4
4	Tennessee	55.5
5	North Carolina	54.9

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates July 1, 2000 to July 1, 2006



8

Hispanic Population by Region: 2006

Rank	Region	Population Size
1	West	18,864,823
2	South	15,376,215
3	Northeast	6,102,314
4	Midwest	3,977,886

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates July 1, 2006



9

Diversity within Hispanic/ Latino Populations

Cultural values can vary based on:

- Country of origin
- Religious beliefs
- Social class
- Education
- Family dynamics

Providers should be knowledgeable of cultural values and their impact on services, including:

- Gender roles
- Views on seeking help
- Family importance



Cultural Values and Barriers

CULTURAL VALUES

- The male gender role of machismo
- Family preservation
- An emphasis on obtaining help from the church
- Family non-interference
- Religion

BARRIERS

- Language
- Recruiting professional bilingual staff
- Intervention models that have been typically developed for a predominantly non-Hispanic/Latino population
- Legal status



The FAMILY is the center of Hispanic/Latino culture



Do You Speak SPANISH?

Language Barriers:

- Victims calling the crisis line who only speak Spanish
- Some may be illiterate; sometimes in their own language

BEHAVIORS THAT CAN INDICATE LITERACY BARRIERS:

- Often brings family members (mostly children) when getting services
- Often pays someone to fill out and read forms
- Appears quiet or uninterested
- Appears to give excuses when unable to read or write



Spanish Monolingual Emphasis

- Hiring Bilingual Staff
- Interpreters
- Limited English Proficiency Plan



Key Characteristics of Successful Interventions

- Integrated approaches vs. single approach
- Linguistically and culturally congruent services
- Develop alliances with culturally specific service organizations



STRESSORS

- Oppression and Discrimination in Employment and Service Access
- Acculturation
- Family Issues



Finding Help and Safety

The following is a list of where Latina victims flee to feel safe or when seeking help before finding a Domestic Violence Shelter:

- Church
- Literacy and tutoring programs
- Head Start centers
- Children's school
- Community centers
- WIC programs
- Health clinics
- Refugee centers
- Migrant & seasonal farm worker centers
- Housing project / residential centers
- Friends or family (if in the same city)



Perceptions Related to Immigration Status

Latinos could:

- Perceive themselves as ineligible for public services
- Be unaware of their legal rights
- Lack awareness of social support/community services
- Fear deportation
- Fear the loss of custody of their children



Federal Programs & Limited English Proficiency (LEP)

- * Agencies and recipients of federal funds MUST ensure meaningful access for LEP persons
- * Implementation of Title VI Civil Rights Act of 1964
- * Presidential Executive Order- Aug.11, 2000
- * DOJ and HHS Office of Civil Rights Policy Guidance in Federal Register



JOSEFINA (Mi Perspectiva como LATINA)

"Mi experiencia en La Casa (un albergue para mujeres maltratadas) fue una oportunidad inmensa. Yo fui allí escapando una pesadilla y recibí mucha ayuda por parte de todas. Eso fue el principio del CAMBIO DE MI VIDA."

Josefina (My Perspective as a Latina)

"My experience in La Casa (a domestic violence shelter) was an immense opportunity. I went there escaping a nightmare and I received a lot of help from everyone. This was the beginning of my life changing."

For safety and confidentiality reasons the name of survivor has been changed.



Josefina ahora es trabajadora de un albergue de mujeres maltratadas en Colorado

"Cuando se me ocupó primeramente fue para traducir a una familia Latina ahora son diez familias y cuatro nuevas que estoy ayudando. Los entrenamientos y educación ayudan, pero haber sido víctima, hablar el idioma, entender la cultura y valores de una víctima Latina es sumamente importante. Pues nosotras las Latinas en realidad mayoría del tiempo no queremos dejar a nuestra pareja....Pero lo que queremos es que cambien. Ya que LA FAMILIA es el núcleo que nos une a nosotros los LATINOS..."

(Translation on next page)



- Translation from previous page:

Josefina is now a worker in a shelter for battered women in Colorado.

"The first thing I was involved with was to translate for a Latino family. Now it's 10 families and 4 new ones that I am helping now. The trainings help, but having been a victim, I know it is extremely important to speak the language and understand the culture and values of Latina victims. We Latinas in reality most of the time we don't want to leave our partner . . . what we want is that he will change. The family is what unites us as Latinos."



References

- Whitaker DJ, Reese LE, editors Preventing Intimate Partner Violence and Sexual Violence in Racial/Ethnic Minority Communities: CDC's Demonstration Projects. Atlanta (GA) Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control; 2007.



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