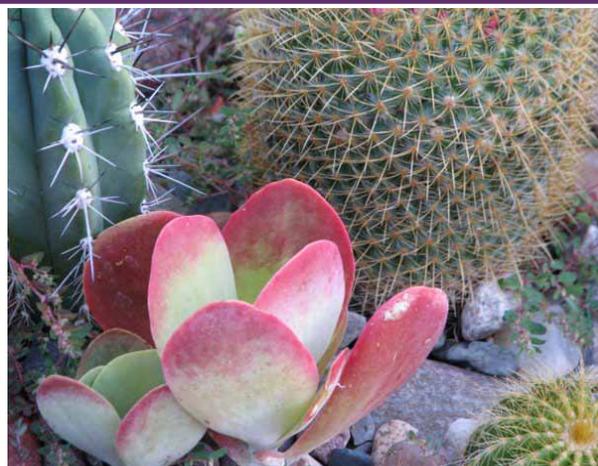


Encuentro Latino

National Institute on Family Violence

¡Bienvenidos!

Over the last year, Encuentro Latino has emerged as one of the Department of Health and Human Service's newest culturally-specific institutes. As an institute for HHS one of our main responsibilities is to increase the capacity of domestic violence organizations to serve Hispanic and Latino clients on a nationwide basis. In the last year, our efforts have been dedicated towards getting to know communities and programs throughout the country, preparing teleconferences and trainings to share with advocates who are eager for easy to access training, as well as reaching out to women who have experienced violence in an effort to let their wisdom and experiences guide our work.



We look forward to our second year as an Institute. We envision this year as a time when we will take the experiences of the last year and build upon them. Those of you have met Pat Acosta will see the "Cuete" in action this year as she travels to provide technical assistance visits. Some of you saw highlights of Encuentro Latino's Advisory Board's work at our conference in November. We are excited about their continued participation in our work.

Our continued efforts stem from believing that the most effective way to serve Latinos is by building their existing strengths and fostering their self-sufficiency. To do so is to have culturally competent and appropriate services to meet the needs of the growing Latino population in our country and to meet the distinct needs of Latinas who experience domestic violence. We are committed to this end.

Gina Orona-Ruiz,
Director of Training and Technical Assistance

Advisory Board

Ronald Angel, UT Austin, Sociology
Salvador Balcorta, Centro de Salud Familiar La Fe
Cynthia Bejarano, NMSU, Criminal Justice
Veronica Carmona, Colonias Development Council
Ivan de la Rosa, NMSU, Social Work
Dolores Diaz, Diocese of Las Cruces
Roberto Castro, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México
Ernesto Escoto, OSU Student Life Counseling and Consultation Services
Sonia Frias, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México

Sandra Herrera, Namaste
Claudia Medina, Enlace Comunitario
Benjamin Jacquez, So. Area Health Education Center
Sonia Parras Konrad, Asista
Josefina Rios, Peace Corps/Paraguay
Ketty Santos, New Church Ministries
Sylvia Sapien, La Clinica de Familia
Dario Silva, NMSU EAP
Gloria Terry, Texas Council on Family Violence

Hispanic or Latino: Contextual Differences

We are frequently asked what the difference is between the words *Hispanic* and *Latino*. In practice the terms are often used synonymously, however, there are some differences. Although there are disagreements as to the meaning of each term, in general, *Hispanic* is believed to refer to those whose cultural and ethnic heritage derives from Spanish-speaking countries. This includes Spain and the Spanish-speaking countries of the Caribbean and Central and South America, but excludes Brazil and Portugal. Because the term *Hispanic* suggests Spanish speakers, it also excludes speakers of indigenous languages which are present in almost all Latin American countries. For U.S. government purposes, *Hispanic* is the officially used term for reporting demographic information gathered by the census (www.census.gov).



Latino, on the other hand, is used by some to refer to those who have roots in Latin American countries, typically Mexico, Central America, and South America. Because *Latino* is believed to have derived from the Spanish word “*latinoamericano*” (“Latin American” in English), it is typically not used to refer to people of Spain. On the other hand, some use *Latino* in a broader sense to refer to any of the Latin countries, which include Italy, Spain, and Portugal.

Latino and *Hispanic* are not the only terms used to refer to this complex ethnic grouping. For example, Mexican Americans may also consider themselves *Chicano*, a term which is a source of pride and closely associated with the political organizing movements of the 1960s.



Immigrants from other countries will often give their geographic point of origin when asked to self-identify. For example, immigrants from Nicaragua typically will consider themselves “Nicaraguan” and do not identify with either the terms *Latino* or *Hispanic*.

For those that prefer the name *Latino*, they cite the history of the word *Hispanic* as being a government-created term and believe that *Latino* is more grassroots and empowerment based than *Hispanic*. For this reason, at Encuentro Latino we have chosen to use *Latino*, with the exception of when we are discussing census data.

Meet Dolores Diaz, Advisory Board Member

Dolores Diaz is employed with Roman Catholic Diocese and has been there for 17 years as a Librarian with a certification from the New Mexico State Library. Dolores is a survivor of domestic violence, which led her to leave her job and return to her home to Las Cruces. She is deeply involved in the community on various levels, including a Task Force for Domestic Violence and a Religious Task Force on Domestic Violence based out of the Diocese. Dolores is also an advocate on the Child Abuse and the Domestic Violence Committees for Las Cruces, New Mexico.

In 2003, Dolores was nominated for the New Mexico Woman of the Year award as a result of her lifelong commitment in serving the community. Furthermore, she was nominated into the Women's Hall of Fame in the state of New Mexico. Being the only non-degreed woman receiving these two awards, she has found this to be proof that no matter what a woman's background is comprised of, she can still be someone and achieve something of significance that is special. Dolores has served as a board member of La Casa, a domestic violence agency. With her personal experiences and religious background she is a valuable resource to Encuentro Latino.



Dolores Diaz
Advisory Board Member

Current Research

Dr. Martha Roditti, along with Dr. Pamela Schultz, Dr. Ivan de la Rosa, and Madeline Gillette, conducted research that explored the capacity for resiliency in survivors of domestic violence and the nature of their social networks. An article detailing the results of this research has been accepted for publication in *Families in Society: The Journal of Contemporary Social Services*.

The research showed that women who were resilient had fewer difficulties with depression and anxiety, and that survivors with larger support networks were more resilient. Also, much of the women's social support networks were made up of service providers such as shelter staff. Of note is that women who were more acculturated had lower resilience scores and higher levels of depression and anxiety.



Dr. Martha Roditti, Madeline Gillette & Dr. Ivan de la Rosa

Encuentro Latino Conference

On November 3rd & 4th, 2009, Encuentro Latino held its first national conference in Las Cruces, New Mexico. The conference highlighted current research and promising practices in regards to Latinos and domestic violence.

The conference featured experts on Latinos and domestic violence; including local, national and international professionals. Topics for breakout sessions varied from rural outreach and prevention to human trafficking and legal remedies for immigrant victims of domestic violence. Plenary topics addressed assessing readiness to serve Latino clients, policy advocacy, vicarious trauma, and acculturation.

On November 2nd, Encuentro Latino offered pre-conference activities participating in the Día de los Muertos celebration in Old Mesilla.

Encuentro Latino also provided special luncheons during the conference that featured Latino cuisine. Entertainment was provided by local Mariachis who brought the musical flare of Latino culture to the attendees of the conference.

Encuentro Latino also hosted a symposium on religion and domestic violence. At this event, leaders from various religions answered questions regarding domestic violence and how their respective religious institutions responded to this social problem. Also featured was a poster competition where university students presented current research and information on Latinos and domestic violence.

Approximately 150 people attended the conference. Attendees came from 16 states, Mexico, and as far away as Paraguay, South America. Both Spanish language and sign language interpretation were offered.

Thanks to Our Co-Sponsors:

Southern Area Health Education Center
Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence
Domestic Violence Resource Network
TWGI Marketing
Dona Ana Pest Control

The conference was very well-received by participants. Many said they look forward to attending our next conference in Spring 2011. We would like to thank all who participated!

Select conference
handouts are available
at www.latinodv.org



Encuentro Latino is funded by the U.S.
Department of Health and Human Services.

Staff Contact Information:

Gina Orona-Ruiz,
Director of Training and Tech. Assistance
575-526-2819
gruiz@latinodv.org

Pat Acosta, Lead Trainer
888-743-7545
pacosta@latinodv.org

Vanessa Berens, Assistant Trainer
888-743-7545
vberens@latinodv.org

Madeline Gillette, Project Coordinator
575-646-6010
madeline@latinodv.org

Martha Roditti, Principal Investigator
575-646-7903
mroditti@latinodv.org

Encuentro Latino is a member of the
Domestic Violence Resource Network.

Upcoming Teleconferences:

- ◆ **January 29, 2010**
Assessing Readiness to Serve Latinas
- ◆ **February 12, 2010**
Alternative Healing Practices to Treat Trauma
- ◆ **February 26, 2010**
Family and Social Support in Domestic Violence
- ◆ **March 12, 2010**
Human Trafficking
- ◆ **March 26, 2010**
“Un Encuentro”

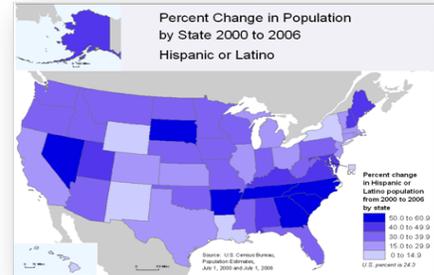
Register at latinodv.org

**Contact us at mail@latinodv.org
to be added to our email list!**

Question: What do Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Delaware, Georgia, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, New Hampshire, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Nevada, North Carolina, Utah, and Virginia all have in common?

Answer: Together they make up the 16 states with the fastest growing Hispanic populations.

All of these states had Hispanic population growth rates over 40% from 2000 to 2006. Also of note is that at 176%, Luzerne County, PA had the highest growth rate of all counties.



Because of their fast growing Hispanic populations, Encuentro has targeted these 16 states for intensive training and technical assistance to build their capacity to work with Latinos experiencing domestic violence.

The above information is from U.S. Census Bureau's publication "Hispanics in the U.S."

We are now on Facebook!!

To view our page or become a fan, search for Encuentro Latino National Institute on Family Violence.

Encuentro Latino
National Institute on Family Violence
MSC 3SW
New Mexico State University
PO Box 30001
Las Cruces, NM 88003



Encuentro Latino is a collaborative project between the NMSU School of Social Work and La Casa, Inc.