

Annotated Bibliography

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The publications included in this bibliography examine the impact of sexual violence on Latin@ communities, the experiences of Latinas, the impact of immigrant status on seeking support from community agencies and systems, cultural norms that impact reporting or disclosing abuse, and strategies for creating affirming and more effective system responses.

- I. Sexual violence and Latin@ communities
- II. Immigration & immigration status
- III. Cultural considerations

I. SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND LATIN@ COMMUNITIES

Arroyo, J. A., Simpson, T. L., & Aragon, A. S. (1997). Childhood sexual abuse among Hispanic and non-Hispanic White college women. *Hispanic Journal of Behavioral Sciences*, 19, 57-68. doi:10.1177/07399863970191004

In a study of 221 undergraduates, 70 who identified as Hispanic and 151 who identified as Non-Hispanic White, researchers examined

behaviors related to seeking support and assistance for child sexual abuse (CSA). The study found 10% of Hispanic participants sought counseling compared to 24% of the Non-Hispanic White participants. Survivors who identified as Hispanic were more likely than survivors who identified as Non-Hispanic White to report the abuse was perpetrated by extended family members.

Black, M. C., Basile, K. C., Breiding, M. J., Smith, S. G., Walters, M. L., Merrick, M. T., ... & Stevens, M. R. (2011). *The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS): 2010 summary report*. Retrieved from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/nisvs_report2010-a.pdf

The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS) is an ongoing, nationally representative random digit dial (RDD) telephone survey that collects information about experiences of sexual violence, stalking, and intimate partner violence among non-institutionalized English and/or Spanish-speaking women and men aged 18 or older in the United States. Results released in 2010

revealed 1 in 7 Hispanic women (14.6%) in the United States have experienced rape at some point in their lives, and over one-quarter of Hispanic men (26.2%) reported sexual violence other than rape in their lifetimes.

Cuevas, C., & Sabina, C. (2010). *Final report: Sexual Assault Among Latinas (SALAS) Study* (Document No. 230445). Retrieved from the National Criminal Justice Reference Service: <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/230445.pdf>

This study – a national sample of 2,000 Latinas living in high-density Latino neighborhoods – found that 17% of respondents reported some form of sexual victimization. Almost 88% of these respondents reported another form of victimization as well, either physical, threatened, stalking, or witness to violence. Childhood victimization most often occurred with physical abuse (47%), while trauma in adulthood was most commonly linked with threats of violence (56%). The study also looked at experiences with accessing help and support services. Informal forms of help (e.g. friends and family) were accessed more often (60%) than formal help such as medical care or counseling (21%).

Tjaden, P., & Thoennes, N. (2000). *Full report of the prevalence, incidence, and consequences of violence against women* (NCJ 183781). Retrieved from the National Criminal Justice Reference Service: <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/183781.pdf>

The National Institute of Justice and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention jointly sponsored, through a grant to the Center for Policy Research, a national survey that was conducted from November 1995 to May 1996. The National Violence Against Women (NVAW) Survey sampled both women and men in regards to lifetime experiences of violent victimization. Results from the survey revealed that women who identified as Hispanic were less likely to report rape than women who identified as Non-Hispanic.

II. IMMIGRATION AND IMMIGRANT STATUS

Cacavas, S.H. (1992). *Violence against undocumented women. Hastings Women's Law Journal*, (3/1), 83-37.

This transcript from a speech made by Sandra Henriquez Cacavas outlines some of the struggles and realities for undocumented women experiencing violence. There is a consistent and oppressive fear of being reported to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (formerly Immigration and Naturalization Services) or being deported. These women are often seen by abusers or perpetrators as having less social power or as being helpless. There is also a deep concern on behalf of advocates for this group on retraumatization when undocumented women report violence and move through various systems.

Vellos, D. (1997). *Immigrant Latina domestic workers and sexual harassment. Journal of Gender & the Law*, 5, 407-432. Retrieved from American University: <http://www.wcl.american.edu/journal/genderlaw/05/vellos.pdf>

This article is broken into multiple sections examining the experiences of undocumented domestic workers: connections between race, class, and labor; U.S. immigration law; sexual and economic exploitation of undocumented workers; and case law on the above. The author states, "Undocumented domestics make employment decisions which reflect their concerns about immigrant status language ability, sexism, racism, poverty, family, and other factors that shape their lives" (p. 420).

Waugh, I. M. (2010). *Examining the sexual harassment experiences of Mexican immigrant farmworking women. Violence Against Women*, 16, 237-261. doi:10.1177/1077801209360857

From questionnaires circulated to 150 Mexican immigrant farm working women in California, researchers found that 80% reported experiencing some form of sexual harassment. Dynamics of the harassment included family or social relationships

at work and the majority of supervisory positions being held by men, who often targeted women living in poverty or in subordinate roles. Responses to harassment and coercion included confronting the perpetrator, ignoring the harassment, telling others (such as friends or family members), and quitting.

III. CULTURAL CONSIDERATIONS & ACCULTURATION

Bryant-Davis, T., Chung, H., & Tillman, S. (2009). From the margins to the center: Ethnic minority women and the mental health effects of sexual assault. *Trauma, Violence, & Abuse, 10*, 330-357. doi:10.1177/1524838009339755

This review of literature and practice recommendations focuses on how racism and sexism interconnect in women of color who are survivors of sexual assault. The authors looked at experiences of African American, Asian American, Latina, and Native American female survivors of sexual assault. The authors found that women of color who experience sexual assault also experience multiple forms of violence and oppression. Intergenerational trauma, racism, sexism, and economic inequality are daily stressors that impact reactions to and effects of a traumatic event.

Cortina, L. M. (2004). Hispanic perspectives on sexual harassment and social support. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin, 30*, 570-584. doi:10.1177/0146167203262854

Findings from a community sample of 249 Hispanic American women explore experiences of sexual harassment and social support. Sixty eight percent of women surveyed reporting experiencing sexual harassment. Survey results found that harassment severity and perpetrator power were related to reaching out for help from family, friends, and/or local support organizations. Women reported receiving more positive and supportive reactions by friends and family, than by organizations.

Fontes, L. A. (1993). Disclosures of sexual abuse by Puerto Rican children: Oppression and cultural barriers. *Journal of Child Sexual Abuse, (2/1)*, 21-35. doi:10.1300/J070v02n01_02

Interviews with therapists who have worked with Puerto Rican children experiencing abuse and Puerto Rican adult women survivors of child sexual abuse revealed a number of insights about disclosure and cultural considerations. Discrimination by teachers and other adults outside the Latin@ community was a factor in not disclosing abuse, as well as lack of early detection and prevention by those adults. Systematic also played a role, such as lack of bilingual services and helpers and fear of deportation or reporting of immigration status. Latin@ cultural norms around child obedience and family privacy reinforced silence among adult and child survivors.

Jimenez, J. A., & Abreu, J. M. (2003). Race and sex effects on attitudinal perceptions of acquaintance rape. *Journal of Counseling Psychology, 50*, 252-256. doi:10.1037/0022-0167.50.2.252

Authors interviewed 165 Latin@ and 171 European American undergraduates in California regarding four scenarios depicting acquaintance sexual assault: one with a same-race European American couple, one with a Latin@ couple, one with a Latina woman and European American man, and another with a European American woman and Latino man. Results found European American to exhibit more positive attitude towards survivors than Latinas. When breaking down survivors by ethnicity, however, European American women participants were most likely to feel great empathy to the European American female victim in the scenario. Conversely, Latinas held stronger rape myth acceptance and has slightly less positive attitudes towards the victims in the scenarios than European American female participants.

ENDNOTES

¹The @ symbol is used to represent that feminine (Latina) and masculine (Latino) versions of words in order to promote a more inclusive approach to language.

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