



Esperanza United has chosen to use “@” in place of the masculine “o” when referring to people or things that are either gender neutral or both masculine and feminine in make-up. This decision reflects our commitment to gender inclusion and recognizes the important contributions that both men and women make to our communities.

## Prevalence and occurrence of IPV

National statistics about the experience of IPV among women in the United States vary by study and the different methods of data collection. The various strategies used by researchers to collect data (e.g., phone vs. in-person surveys), the specific questions asked (e.g., number of acts of physical violence vs. the context of the violence), and the social/community conditions where the study is conducted (e.g., immigration policies) can all impact the results of the study. For Latinas, the language in which the study is conducted (including the use of variations in the Spanish language) can also affect the results. Below we present some of the most current research published on the prevalence of IPV among Latinas in the United States. It is important to remember, however, that these findings must be considered within the context of the issues outlined above and may be limited in their representations.

- About **1 in 3** Latinas (34.4 %) will experience IPV<sup>1</sup> during her lifetime and **1 in 12** Latinas (8.6%) has experienced IPV in the previous 12 months<sup>[1]</sup>.
- This rate is **approximately the same** as for women from other racial and ethnic communities once socioeconomic status is taken into consideration<sup>[2, 3, 62]</sup>.
- Another study examining IPV among Latinas found that rates of IPV were **lower** for Mexican immigrants (**13.4%**) than for persons of Mexican descent born in the United States (**16.7%**)<sup>[8]</sup>.
- The strength of immigrant groups despite the social and economic challenges they often face has been labeled *the immigrant paradox*<sup>[12]</sup>. There are also differences among Latinas based on their country of origin and level of acculturation; more years in the U.S. predicts poorer health outcomes. A review of 41 research studies found evidence for lower reported IPV among immigrant Latinas compared to US-born Latinas<sup>[7]</sup>.
- In a study of 6,818 female college students, almost half of whom identified as Latina, 31% reported experiencing IPV since enrollment. Correlations were observed between severity of IPV and extent of PTSD, depression, school disengagement, and academic impacts<sup>[68]</sup>.
- In a sample of over 300 pregnant Latinas, IPV during pregnancy was reported at **10%** for physical abuse and **19%** for emotional abuse<sup>[14]</sup>. Increased rates of IPV among young mothers were seen in another study in which **26%** of Latina mothers with

<sup>1</sup> The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) includes physical, sexual, and/or stalking victimization in their estimation of IPV.

preschool-age children reported IPV in their current or most recent relationship <sup>[15]</sup>.

- Research with Latinas living near the Mexico border found that 37.5% had experienced IPV over their lifetimes<sup>[16]</sup>.
- In a national sample<sup>[17]</sup>, 41% of Latina mothers involved in child welfare and whose children remained in the home reported experiencing IPV in their lifetime, 33% of whom had experienced IPV in the last year with 27% reporting severe IPV. US-Born Latina mothers experienced more frequent episodes of violence in the past year when compared to immigrant Latina mothers (5.59 vs. 2.72).
- A long-term study of high school Latino adolescents ages 13-17 found that a history of childhood abuse was the strongest predictor of intimate partner violence for Latina emerging adults as it resulted in higher odds of experiencing sexual IPV victimization among Latina women ages 21-24<sup>[79]</sup>.

IPV often includes economic or financial abuse and sexual and reproductive coercion and can co-occur with other forms of abuse, for example:

- A study of 2,000 Latinas found that **63.1%** of women who identified being victimized in their lifetime (i.e., interpersonal victimization such as stalking, physical assaults, weapon assaults, physical assaults in childhood, threats, sexual assault, attempted sexual assault, etc.) reported having experienced more than one victimization, with an average of **2.56** victimizations<sup>[18]</sup>.
- A national sample of Latinas examining the forms of victimization including physical assault, sexual violence, stalking, threat victimization, and witnessing violence found that **more than half** of the women surveyed (53.6%) reported at least one victimization over a lifetime, and about **two-thirds** (66.2%) of those women had more than one victimization<sup>[19]</sup>.
- Among 362 Latinas seeking family planning services about **half (51%) had experienced IPV and 34% reported reproductive coercion** <sup>[20]</sup>. Other studies have also reported a link between IPV, reproductive coercion<sup>[21]</sup> and unintended pregnancies<sup>[22]</sup> for Latina survivors. In fact one study found that **21% of pregnant Latinas experienced both reproductive coercion and IPV** increasing their risk for an unplanned pregnancy<sup>[21]</sup>.
- Research is beginning to document economic and work-related IPV among Latinas. For Latina survivors, physical and sexual IPV co-occurred with economic abuse<sup>[23]</sup>. Economic control, i.e. when the abuser controls or limits the victims access to resources, was the most common form of economic abuse.