

# Abuse among Latin@ elders

## Latin@s in the United States

(U.S. Census Bureau, 2021)



**73,380,000** people age 60 or older in the U.S. in 2019.

**23%** increase between 2010 and 2020, in the Hispanic population.

**51.1%** of the total U.S. population growth between 2010 and 2020 came from the Hispanic population.

## Risk and protective factors

for elder abuse among Latin@s

Social support within families and communities is a protective factor in preventing elder abuse among Latin@ older adults (Vilar-Compte & Gaitán-Rossi, 2018).

In research with immigrant Latin@ adults, older adults more acculturated to US culture were more at risk for experiencing elder abuse (DeLiema, et al., 2012).

Thus, strong Latin@ cultural ties in community may be protective for immigrant Latin@ adults at risk for elder abuse.

For more information scan here



## What is elder abuse?

Any action that causes harm or distress to an older person. Elder abuse occurs within the context of trusting familial or care-taking relationships and can include neglect as well as threats or the actual use of physical, sexual, emotional, verbal, psychological, or financial abuse.

## Scope of the issue

Research done with a sample of 200 immigrant Latin@ older adults living in Los Angeles (DeLiema et al., 2012) found:

**40.4%** of Latin@ elders experienced some form of abuse and/or neglect within the previous year.

**25%** of Latin@ elders reported psychological abuse.

**16.7%** of Latin@ elders reported financial exploitation.

**11.7%** of Latin@ elders were neglected by their caregivers.

**10%** of Latin@ elders reported physical assault.

**9%** of Latin@ elders reported sexual abuse.

In a sample of 1,089 Mexican adults aged 60 and older with long-term disability, 32.1% had experienced elder abuse.

**2.5%** sexual abuse

**7.0%** physical abuse

**11.9%** financial exploitation

**28.1%** psychological abuse

In a large, population-based study of 4,156 community-dwelling, cognitively intact older adult Latin@s were at greater risk for experiencing emotional abuse than other ethnic groups. (Burnes, Pillemer, & Lachs, 2017)

## References

- Burnes, D., Pillemer, K., & Lachs, M. S. (2017). Elder Abuse Severity: A Critical but Understudied Dimension of Victimization for Clinicians and Researchers. *The Gerontologist*, gnv688. <https://doi.org/10.1093/geront/gnv688>
- DeLiema, M., Gassoumis, Z. D., Homeier, D. C., & Wilber, K. H. (2012). Determining prevalence and correlates of elder abuse using promotores: low-income immigrant Latinos report high rates of abuse and neglect. *Journal of the American Geriatrics Society*, 60(7), 1333–1339. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1532-5415.2012.04025.x>
- Giraldo-Rodríguez, L., Rosas-Carrasco, O., & Mino-León, D. (2015). Abuse in Mexican older adults with long-term disability: National prevalence and associated factors. *Journal of the American Geriatrics Society*, 63(8), 1594–1600. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jgs.13552>
- Mayor's Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence (ENDGBV). (n.d.). Introduction to domestic violence and gender based violence - ENDGBV. NYC End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence. <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/ocdv/services/introduction-to-domestic-violence-and-gender-based-violence.page>
- Office for Victims of Crimes. (2020, September). Elder abuse victimization: What we know from research- and practice- based evidence. Center for Victim Research: Elder Abuse. [https://ncvc.dspacedirect.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11990/2163/CVR%20Synthesis\\_Elder%20Abuse\\_Synthesis.pdf](https://ncvc.dspacedirect.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11990/2163/CVR%20Synthesis_Elder%20Abuse_Synthesis.pdf)
- U.S. Census Bureau. (2021, October 15). 2020 census illuminates racial and ethnic composition of the country. *Census.Gov*. <https://www.census.gov/library/stories/2021/08/improved-race-ethnicity-measures-reveal-united-states-population-much-more-multiracial.html>
- Vilar-Compte, M., & Gaitán-Rossi, P. (2018). Syndemics of severity and frequency of elder abuse: A cross-sectional study in Mexican older females. *Frontiers in Psychiatry*, 9. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsy.2018.00599>

Funding for this project was made possible through the Administration on Children, Youth, Families, Family and Youth Services Bureau, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (Grant number: 90EV0525). Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

