

Intimate partner homicide and Latinas



Scope of the issue

- An analysis of homicide data from eighteen states using the National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS) showed that 61% of adult Hispanic/Latina homicide victims were killed by an intimate partner, compared to 44% of non-Hispanic women (Petrosky et al., 2017)
- In a review of state-level fatality reports between 2016-2021, Latin@ communities experienced inequitable burden of partner homicide (Esperanza United, 2023)



Individual and relationship-level risk factors

- In analysis of data from the NVDRS, younger age, recent conflict/jealousy, separation, divorce, and/or custody conflict were risk factors for intimate partner homicide (IPH) among Latin@ victims (Petrosky et al., 2017; Stansfield et al., 2021)
- Among partners who use violence, warning signs include verbal or digital homicide threats, threats with a weapon, escalating violence, and/or stalking (Esperanza United, 2023)



Culturally responsive prevention Acknowledge histories of complex trauma

- Acknowledge that Latina survivors in the United States are more likely to have histories of multiple forms of community and domestic violence
- Acknowledge that migrant Latina survivors bring unique histories of discrimination both in the United States and their country of origin and may experience threats and control from partners based on immigrant status
- Acknowledge that Latina survivors will have a range of trauma responses. A silent, subdued disposition or difficulty discussing experiences of violence have been noted by advocates and survivors as a signal for concern



Culturally responsive prevention

Grow protective community factors

- Grow a sense of community support. For groups marginalized by more than one identity, such as Transgender and Indigenous Latina survivors, mutual support groups can help create safe spaces for individuals with similar experiences and culture
- Plan for safety. Engaging trusted family and friends, as well as formal sources of support, can help survivors take steps to protect themselves and their loved ones
- Acknowledge the importance of being a parent. Children can be a motivating factor for exploring safety strategies
- For those individuals for whom spirituality or religious beliefs are important, incorporating beliefs into advocacy practice can support well-being

(Esperanza United, 2023b; Sabri et al., 2018)



Culturally responsive prevention

Advocate for system and community change

- State policies such as restricting gun ownership and mandatory arrests for partner or domestic violence are linked to lower rates of IPH in Latin@-specific research (Stansfield et al., 2021)
- Develop organizational language access plans and host trainings on intimate partner violence and IPH prevention
- Apply and advocate for increased funding for culturally specific services and cash assistance for survivors

Sources:

Esperanza United. (2023a). *A fatality review of Latin@ intimate partner homicides in the United States*

Esperanza United. (2023b). *Domestic Violence Homicide Prevention in Latin@ Communities: Testimonials from Latin@ survivors and advocates*

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Stansfield, R., Mancik, A., Parker, K. F., & Delacruz, M. (2021). County variation in intimate partner homicide: A comparison of Hispanic and non-Hispanic victims. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 36(17/18), NP9819-NP9838. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0886260519861657>

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