



A fatality review of Latin@ intimate partner homicides in the United States

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Contents

Executive summary	4
Introduction	5
IPH in Latin@ communities: A summary of current research knowledge	6
IPH risk and contextual factors	6
Immigrant status	7
Gun access and policies	7
Multi-state fatality review	9
Background	9
Challenges	9
Method	9
Findings	10
Fatality review processes	10
Findings	11
New York	11
Florida	12
California	13
Connecticut	13
Summary of findings across four states	14
Table 1. Ethnic group representation out of total state population	15
Table 2. Latin@ intimate partner fatalities reported in four states, 2016-2020	15
Table 3. Illustrative Latin@ intimate partner homicide cases from 2016-2022.....	17
Conclusion	21
References	22

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



Acknowledgements

Esperanza United recognizes the individuals who lost their lives because of intimate partner homicide captured within this report. We extend our heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of those that have been lost and assert our commitment to address intimate partner violence and homicide through culturally specific advocacy. The authors also acknowledge the contributions of current and past staff members of the domestic violence homicide prevention initiative at Esperanza United, including Nancy Nava, Martha Hernandez, and Leo Martinez. Thank you to Lumarie Orozco and Rosie Hildalgo for supporting the conceptualization and planning of this project, and to Annika Gifford, Paula Gomez-Stordy, and Vivian Huelgo for ongoing project support and review of preliminary drafts.

Content warning

This report includes descriptions of interpersonal violence, including intimate partner abuse and homicide. Details and circumstances surrounding intimate partner homicides are included in text and tables.

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Executive summary

Intimate partner homicide (IPH), the killing of a spouse or romantic partner, remains a pressing and understudied social issue within Latin@ communities in the United States. To date, being a woman, firearm availability, divorce, and younger age are all documented risk factors for IPH deaths within the Latin@ community. This report provides an overview of findings from a multi-state review of IPH reporting and Latin@ IPH fatalities. We included fatality reports from 2015-2021 from 39 states in the current review. Key findings from the review of reporting processes included a need for consistent reporting of IPH by ethnicity, a lack of data outside of the contiguous U.S. (e.g., Puerto Rico and Alaska), and a need for enhanced documentation of IPH among LGBTQ+ Latin@ community members, including Trans Latina victims. Due to the lack of fatality reporting by ethnicity, only four states met criteria for inclusion in this review of Latin@ fatalities: California, Connecticut, Florida, and New York. Key findings from the review of Latin@ fatalities include:

- Number of actual deaths were higher among Latin@ individuals vs. non-Hispanic white individuals in 13/15 reports
- Across all 15 reports, Latin@s experienced inequitable burden of partner homicide given state population statistics

These findings are consistent with data from the National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS) that shows that 61% of adult Latina/Hispanic homicide victims were killed due to intimate partner violence (IPV), compared to 44% of non-Hispanic women that were homicide victims (Petrosky, 2017).



Introduction

Intimate partner homicide (IPH) refers to the killing of a spouse or romantic partner and is a social issue affecting diverse communities worldwide. In the United States, risk for IPH victimization is highest among women and other gender minority groups (Petrosky et al., 2017). Gender identity intersects with other dimensions of identity, such as ethnicity, nationality, and immigration status to form unique risk and protective factors for intimate partner violence (IPV) and IPH. Together, culture and gender reflect unique risks and opportunities for prevention efforts with Latin@ communities, particularly as ethnicity has been tied to differences in IPV help-seeking behavior and health outcomes among Latin@ women (Rodriguez et al., 2019).

According to the U.S. Census, the Latin@ population grew from 50.5 million (16.3% of the U.S. population) in 2010 to 62.1 million (18.7%) in 2020 and represents more than half of the total population growth (U.S. Census Bureau, 2021). Examining IPH among Latina women (including Transgender Latin@ women) is complicated by the fact that Latin@ adults represent diverse cultures of origin and live in a range of distinct sociopolitical climates. To help address gaps in current knowledge of IPH in Latin@ communities, the goals of this report are to:

- Summarize the recent peer-reviewed literature and national reports on IPH in Latin@ communities
- Analyze state-level fatality review processes for practices that support the identification of racial, ethnic, and other IPH disparities
- Conduct a multi-state fatality review of IPH among Latin@ individuals



IPH in Latin@ communities: A summary of current research knowledge

The National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS) provides a national snapshot of incidents surrounding violent deaths across the United States. This state-based reporting system consolidates data from law enforcement reports, coroner/medical examiners reports, toxicology, and death certificates (CDC and Prevention, 2021). **In an analysis covering 18 states, Petrosky and colleagues (2017) found that 61% of adult Latina/Hispanic homicide victims were killed because of IPV, compared to 44% of non-Hispanic women that were homicide victims.**

In another study, Azziz-Baumgartner and colleagues (2010) partnered with the Injury Surveillance Program at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, who in turn identified IPV-related deaths reported in a local newspaper from 1993-2007. Race, ethnicity, and country of birth were confirmed by referencing news media and death certificates from the Massachusetts Registry of Vital Records and Statistics. Of the 239 women's deaths, 36% were Latina women, killed by a male intimate partner. **Latinas on average were victimized at a younger age compared to non-Hispanic U.S.-born women and immigrant women (Azziz-Baumgartner et al., 2010).**

Most recently, Stansfield and colleagues (2021) analyzed IPH case data from NVDRS and other data sources to gain insight about structural and individual-level contexts that affect Latin@ cases of IPH. Few studies consider macro-level factors, such as rurality or state policies, in addition to individual-level circumstances that might contribute to violence between partners. This study compared groups by ethnicity, race, and country of birth (U.S.-born versus non-U.S. born). **Analysis focused on Hispanic fatalities identified licensed firearm dealer availability and divorce were associated with IPH (Stansfield, 2021).**

Although economic hardship and recent immigration are frequently cited as risks in the broader IPH literature, they were not significant predictors of IPH in the Hispanic sample of the study conducted by Stansfield and colleagues (2021). The lack of significant findings regarding economic hardship may be suggestive of strengths within Latin@ communities, who during the COVID-19 pandemic have been disproportionately affected by economic stressors (Poulson et al., 2020).

IPH risk and contextual factors

A shortage of reports or original research examining IPH among Latin@s limits current knowledge of culturally specific risk and

protective factors. As a result, best available research must be drawn from the broader literature on IPV, as well as research on IPH fatalities within larger groups that include Latina subpopulations, such as immigrant women. Factors particularly relevant to the U.S. Latin@ population are gender, immigration status, and gun access (e.g., Stansfield et al., 2021).

Immigrant status

Women, and particularly foreign-born individuals, are at increased risk of experiencing IPV and IPH (Sabri et al., 2018; Azziz-Baumgartner et al., 2010). Immigrant and refugee Latin@ women experience unique forms of abuse and barriers to service that may contribute to this increased likelihood of homicide (Rodriguez et al., 2019). Barriers to help-seeking for immigrant Latin@ women include lack of language access, discrimination, and previous experiences of trauma in home countries or through the immigration process.

Transgender Latinas experience IPV at alarming rates and gender-motivated and partner homicides may not always be captured in fatality reviews (Guadalupe-Diaz & West, 2020). What is clear is that Transgender Latinas experience inequitable burden of known risk factors for IPH, including economic stress, harassment, and stalking (Esperanza, 2022; Guadalupe-Diaz & West, 2020). Overall, more Latin@-specific research is needed to explore IPH risk among Latinas living at the intersection of multiple marginalized identities.

Gun access and policies

Gun access has been previously tied to IPH risk. In general, research suggests Latin@ communities have worse outcomes following gun violence and are at particular risk in youth and young adulthood (Lo et al., 2015). There are federal laws that prohibit firearm possession among individuals convicted of an IPV-related felony. While states have their own policies about surrendering guns already in procession, the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) restricts individuals with permanent restraining orders from firearm possession (Díez et al., 2017). VAWA also prohibits abusers from crossing state lines to commit acts of domestic violence. A study conducted a secondary analysis of state-level data from 1991-2015 examining rates of IPH among states with differing levels of firearm restriction laws for individuals with IPV-related restraining orders. Díez and colleagues found that compared to states without surrender laws, states with local laws that both barred individuals with IPV related restraining orders and required firearm relinquishment had 14% lower gun-related IPH rates compared to states without these laws (Díez et al., 2017).

Moreover, there is evidence that more restrictive state firearm policies (particularly laws that prohibit possession and require firearm relinquishment for individuals with a history of IPV) have the potential to protect IPV survivors from firearm related injuries and death (Willie et al., 2021; Kivisto et al., 2019; Díez et al., 2017).



Multi-state fatality review

Background

Fatality review processes support the identification of deaths, both homicide and suicide, caused by IPV. According to the National Domestic Violence Fatality Review Initiative (2021), these processes “can be formal or informal, relatively superficial, offering basic demographic details of victims and perpetrators, or very detailed.” The main goals of fatality review processes are to prevent future incidents of IPH and promote accountability of persons that use violence and of systems that interact with families and individuals at risk.

Supported by the Office of Violence Against Women, the Domestic Violence Homicide Prevention Initiative used a fatality review process to explore IPHs among Latin@ adults in the United States. We completed the present review through a university-community partnership that included contributions from community psychology/forensics students and advocates from Esperanza United.

Challenges

For the Latin@ population in the U.S., there are several challenges for conducting multi-state reviews of IPH. While gender is routinely reported in state-level fatality reporting, ethnicity data is frequently not. This limits current understanding of the scope of IPH among ethnic-minority women. Gender-based violence advocates have addressed this limitation by conducting secondary analysis of fatality data. For instance, the Asian Pacific Institute on Gender Based Violence reviewed data from 23 states, selecting cases based on surnames (Dabby et al., 2010). For Latina women, however, surnames may be misleading because many languages share similar Indo-European roots such as the Filipino, Italian, and Portuguese. Latin@s across the U.S. and Latin America also reflect indigenous communities and languages, including but not limited to Mam, K’iche’, Kekchi, Maya, Quechua, Mixtec, Zapotec, Triqui, and Nahuatl (TRAC Immigration, 2021). Some reports only report data in aggregate and/or do not include names or narratives. Another recent national report addressed differences in IPH rates between white and Black communities but acknowledged the difficulty in tracking Latin@ ethnicity on a national scale due to flaws in reporting data collection (Violence Policy Center, 2021).

Method

Reports and webpages from states coalitions of domestic violence or sexual violence, state or county fatality review boards, departments of health, domestic violence enhanced response teams and other Domestic Violence Resource Network members

were included in an initial review of Fatality Review processes with a focus on 1) inclusion of ethnicity/race and 2) gender identity at the intersection of ethnicity/race. The current review included reports from 2016-2021, where available.

After an initial review of states with fatality data, we selected eight states representing a range of geographic areas of the U.S. to include in the multi-state review: California, Connecticut, Florida, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New York, Oregon, and Texas. In reports published between 2016-2021, Latin@ fatalities were included in four states: New York, Florida, California, Connecticut. Where provided, we reviewed narratives for information that could be used to determine ethnicity. We also conducted media searches to provide illustrative cases and context. Media sources included newspaper articles, social media, obituaries, and GoFundMe or memorial websites created by friends and family of the deceased. We included Census data, information on gun policies and gun violence advocacy, and COVID-19-related reports on IPV to provide context and deepen interpretations of state-level data. Sources can be found in the References section.

Findings

Fatality review processes

Consistent with recent calls for standardization of fatality review processes (Websdale et al., 2019), our screening of reports from a total of 39 states revealed little consistency of reporting practices across fatality reviews. As part of the current review, we identified the following limitations with regards to culturally specific fatality review processes:

- Challenges in verifying Latin@ ethnicity among victims. Some reports provided names, whereas others only reported summary statistics or anonymized data without reporting intersections of ethnicity and gender
- Lack of data outside of the contiguous United States. National resources did not have updated information about Puerto Rico and Alaska
- Lack of documentation of IPH among LGBTQ+ Latin@, including Transgender Latina victims. Some states (such as Texas) reported same-sex partner killings separately
- Older reports are specific to femicide and violence against women, excluding cases of male and nonbinary victims of IPH. The number of male gay, bisexual, and queer victims of IPH are likely underestimated in current data

We are highlighting strong reporting processes by states included in this review below (regardless of whether they met the target date range for the search):

- Visualizing data that map counties where IPH occurred, including borough illustrations in New York City, and a map depicting where LGBTQ individuals died of IPH in Washington State (New York City Domestic Violence Fatality Review Committee, 2020; Fawcett, 2016)
- Providing information about family context for victim advocacy, legal services resources, and any surviving children of victims (New York City Domestic Violence Fatality Review Committee, 2020; Fawcett, 2016)
- Releasing a special report that documented immigrant and refugee victims (Washington State Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team & Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence, 2011)
- Detailing individual-level data regarding personal circumstances, names, images, and stories, though ethnicity and race were not explicitly tracked (Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women, 2017)
- Providing intersectional identities, including race/ethnicity, gender and sexual minority identity, immigration status, as well as narratives from survivors (National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs, 2017)

Findings

The violence that occurred in each of the four states of New York, Florida, California, and Connecticut is informed by demographic makeup, sociopolitical context, and history of Latin@ communities within each state. Table 1 includes the breakdown of race/ethnicity of six states reviewed using data from the 2020 Census. It is important to note that the Census uses the term “Hispanic” rather than “Latin@”.

New York

New York state encompasses a range of communities both rural and urban, but most of the fatality data from this state comes from New York City. Over half of New York state’s population identifies as non-Hispanic white, and about one fifth of the population identifies as Hispanic/Latin@. New York City is the most populous city in the United States. Latin@ communities in New York are diverse and include one of the largest Puerto Rican populations in the contiguous United States. Overall, there were 149 fatalities between 2016-2020 included across all city fatality review reports, and 301 in two state reports.¹ In New York City, the total number of IPH deaths each year ranged from 26-38 between 2016-2020. Latin@ deaths represented between 23% and 46% of all IPH deaths in the state. We reviewed seven reports for New York State, with two covering the state as a whole and five New York City specific.

New York City's Domestic Violence Fatality Review Committee reported a 17% increase in call volume to the NYC Domestic Violence Hotline from the 2020-2021 year compared to the numbers of calls in 2019-2020.

First time usage of New York City Family Justice Centers also increased by 35.8% compared to the previous year; more clients accessed these services for the first time amidst the pandemic.

Finally, visits to the NYC HOPE website more than doubled to 119,900 during March 16, 2020 - March 15, 2021, compared to 32,725 in the previous year, marking a 267% increase in visits (New York City Domestic Violence Fatality Review Committee, 2021). The neighborhoods most affected by COVID-19 also were affected by the highest number of IPH cases (New York City Domestic Violence Fatality Review Committee, 2021). These neighborhoods faced disproportionately more health and socioeconomic disparities (New York City Domestic Violence Fatality Review Committee, 2021; Taskforce on Racial Inclusion and Equity, n.d.).

New York has firearm relinquishment requirements upon conviction of any firearm-prohibiting crimes, including domestic violence offenses (Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence, 2021). Regarding firearm prohibition for ex parte orders, gun restrictions apply if the "respondent has a prior conviction of a violent felony; has previously willfully failed to obey a prior order of protection, and the failure involved the infliction of physical injury, the use or threatened use of a deadly weapon, or behavior constituting any violent felony offense; or has a prior conviction of stalking in the first, second, third or fourth degree" (Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence, 2022).

Florida

According to the 2020 Census, Florida's population numbers 21.5 million. While most Florida residents identify as non-Hispanic white, Hispanic/Latin@s are the second largest ethnic group, representing a little more than a quarter of Floridians (America Counts, 2021). Miami-Dade County and Broward County are examples of prominently Cuban, Colombian, and Venezuelan Latin@ communities. From 2016-2020, a total of 89 IPH deaths were reported across three reports. Of those cases, Latin@ deaths constituted 24-40% of the total IPH cases.

In the state of Florida, individuals subject to restraining orders are prohibited from owning a firearm after notice and a hearing. Florida also prohibits subjects of all stalking protective orders, including ex parte orders, from purchasing or possessing firearm Fla. Stat. §§ 790.23, 790.233, 790.235, 790.065, 394.463(2)(d). (Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence, 2021).

California

California is home to the largest population in the United States, at 39.51 million people (Census, 2020). While less than half of the population in California identifies as non-Hispanic white, this state has the largest Latin@ population among the states included in this review (America Counts, 2021). We included two fatality reports in this review, spanning the years 2016-2018. A total of 13 fatalities were reported in those years with an average of 6.5 deaths per year.

California prohibits firearm possession after notice and hearings and upon ex parte orders and has a firearm relinquishment requirement as part of domestic violence gun restriction policy (Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence, 2021). In California, individuals convicted of stalking misdemeanors are prohibited from firearm purchase or possession (Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence, 2021). California also is one of few states that “prohibits subjects of all stalking protective orders, including ex parte orders, from purchasing or possessing firearms” according to Cal. Penal Code §§ 29805, 646.9 and Cal. Penal Code § 646.91(c)(4)(B) (Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence, 2021).

Connecticut

Connecticut has a range of rural (3%), urban (81%), and mixed urban/suburban settings. About two thirds of the population in Connecticut identifies as non-Hispanic white. Connecticut has seen a marked increase in the Hispanic/Latin@ population, despite a decrease in the population over the last decade (America Counts, 2022). Additionally, 8.3% identify as some other race alone, while 9.2% identify as two or more race (America Counts, 2022). See Table for the race and ethnicity data from the 2020 census. With a population of 122,549, Hartford holds the largest Latin@ population (44.69%) in Connecticut, followed by New Britain (42.7%), Bridgeport (42%), Waterbury (36.65%), and New London (33.51%) (America Counts, 2022). The two reports included in this review reported a total of 55 homicides between 2016-2019, and an average of 14 intimate partner homicides since 2000. Of those IPH fatalities, Latin@s made up 24-27% of fatalities.

Connecticut has the most stringent requirements limiting gun possession among those with a history of domestic violence-related offenses. A statute following the general possession and relinquishment 2016 laws requires anyone who “becomes ineligible because of the issuance of a domestic violence protective order must sell any firearm or ammunition in his or her possession only to a federally licensed firearms dealer or surrender them to the Commissioner through a local police department, within 24 hours of notice of the protective order,” in accordance with Connecticut General Statute Sec. 29-36k, § 29-36k(b) (Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence, 2021). Like in California, individuals convicted of stalking misdemeanors in Connecticut are also prohibited from firearm purchase or possession, according to Conn. Gen. Stat. § 53a-217, 53a-181d (Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence, 2022).

Summary of findings across four states

In total, we reviewed fifteen state or city reports that include fatalities between 2015-2021. Table 2 shows all fatality reports included in this review, whether they include city or county data, the year or time span of each report, the total number of deaths by IPH, the percentage of that total that were Latin@ victims, and select illustrative cases. Across the 15 reports that covered IPH data from the last five years, the percent of Latin@s IPH deaths ranged from 12.5% to 60%, compared to Non-Hispanic white deaths, which ranged from 0-40% of deaths reported, though number of deaths varied from report to report.

Table 3 includes cases of Latin@ deaths from across the U.S. from years 2018 to 2022. To gather narratives, we googled the names of deceased (taken from the reports) or circumstances such as date of death when names were not available. For our search terms, we included dates, names, “domestic violence,” and “homicide,” both in Spanish and English news sources. We included illustrative cases with confirmed Latin@ ethnicity, where we took cases from Spanish media or when news articles or family members within the articles stated that the victim was Latin@. See note in Table 3 on which cases were caused by gun violence.

Table 1. Ethnic group representation out of total state population

	Hispanic/ Latin@	Non- Hispanic white	Black or African American	American Indian and Alaska Native	Asian	Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander
California	39.4%	41.2%	5.7%	1.6%	15.4%	.4%
Connecticut	17.3%	66.9%	10.8%	.4%	4.8%	<1%
Florida	26.5%	57.7%	15.1%	.4%	3%	.1%
New York	19.5%	55.2%	14.8%	.7%	9.6%	.1%

Source: United States Census (2020)

Table 2. Latin@ intimate partner fatalities reported in four states, 2016-2020

	% Latin@	Years of review	Total IPH fatalities	%(n) of total fatalities - Latin@	%(n) of total fatalities - white
New York City Domestic Violence Fatality Review Committee: 2017 Annual Report*	27% of NYC	2016- 2017	38 deaths	36.8% (14)	10.5% (4)
New York City Domestic Violence Fatality Review Committee: 2018 Annual Report*	27% of NYC	2017- 2018	26 deaths	42.3% (11)	15.4% (4)
New York City Domestic Violence Fatality Review Committee: 2019 Annual Report*	27% of NYC	2018- 2019	30 deaths	43.3% (13)	10.0% (3)
New York City Domestic Violence Fatality Review Committee: 2020 Annual Report*	27% of NYC	2019- 2020	27 deaths	44.4% (12)	11.1% (3)
New York City Domestic Violence Fatality Review Committee: 2021 Annual Report*	27% of NYC	2020- 2021	29 deaths	41.4% (12)	17.2% (5)

	% Latin@	Years of review	Total IPH fatalities	%(n) of total fatalities - Latin@	%(n) of total fatalities - white
New York State Domestic Violence Fatality Review	19.5%	2015-2019	326 deaths	23% (76)	37% (121)
New York City Fatality Review Committee 2018*	27% of NYC	2017	26 deaths	42.4 (11)	15.4 (4)
Criminal Justice Research Report: Domestic Homicide in New York State 2019	19.5%	2019-2020	65 deaths	20% (13)	36.9% (24)
Florida Faces of Fatality Report of the Attorney General's Statewide Domestic Violence Review Team 2017	26.5%	2016-2017	29 deaths	39.3% (11)	29% (8)
Florida Faces of Fatality Report of the Attorney General's Statewide Domestic Violence Review Team 2018	26.5%	2017-2018	31 deaths	23% (7)	42% (13)
Florida Faces of Fatality Report of the Attorney General's Statewide Domestic Violence Review Team 2019	26.5%	2019-2020	30 deaths	40% (16)	67% (20)
California Santa Clara County 2016*	25.5% of Santa Clara County	2016-2017	5 deaths	60% (3)	0% (0)
California Santa Clara County 2017*	25.5% of Santa Clara County	2017-2018	8 deaths	12.5% (1) **37.5% (3)	37.5% (3)
Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence 2017 - 2018	17.3%	2016-2017	22 deaths	27% (6)	31.8% (7)
Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence 2018-2019	17.3%	2018-2019	33 deaths	24% (8)	54.5% (18)

* Indicates city-level and county-level data only

**Includes IPV-related decedents such as children, third party, suicide, and fatality caused by law-enforcement

Table 3. Illustrative Latin@ intimate partner homicide cases from 2016-2022

State	Year	Illustrative case	Linked source
New York	2020	Natasha Colon (38 years old) was found unconscious with her throat slit inside her NYC apartment. Colon's live-in boyfriend, Milton Bolton (39 years old), was charged with her murder. Neighbors remark that they often saw and heard the couple fight and urged Colon to leave Bolton. Bolton plead not guilty at his arraignment. A motive or description of what led up to the argument remains to be released.	NY Daily News
Florida+	2022	Angelina Rodriguez (45 years old) was fatally shot on her birthday by her boyfriend, Julio Espirit in their shared apartment. Espirit also shot Rodriguez's 14-year-old son and himself; both were rushed to Jackson Memorial Hospital's Ryder Trauma Center. She is survived by her son, who was stabilized after the incident. Angelina's family described her as a hard worker and a good person.	WSVN Maimi-Dade
California	2022	Karina Castro, 27 and mother to two young daughters, was beheaded by her ex-partner, José Rafael Solano Landaeta in San Mateo County, CA. Eyewitnesses called the police upon seeing the sword attack in the street outside of Castro's San Carlos condo on Magnolia Avenue and Laurel Street. Castro was identified by her father and sisters.	KDTV San Francisco (Univision)
Connecticut	2017	Nidia Gonzales was killed on February 24, 2017, by the father of her daughter, Oscar Hernandez. Hernandez abducted and fatally stabbed Nidia in Bridgeport. Gonzales's family prepared for her burial in her native Llano Grande, Guatemala. According to her family, her undocumented status, fear of threat of deportation, and protecting her child were reasons for staying in relationship with the perpetrator.	CT Post

State	Year	Illustrative case	Linked source
Texas+	2022	Karla Castillo, 33 years old, was fatally shot in her Dallas apartment by her estranged 44-year-old husband, Jorge Saldenos Escobar Flores. Flores shot Castillo's 14-year-old daughter and himself. Jose Amador, brother of Castillo, says that she is to be buried in Honduras where their mother resides.	KDFW Texas
Washington State+	2021	Rikkey Outumuro, also known by her stage name Tru Starlet, was a 39-year-old Latina Transgender woman and performer. Outumuro was fatally shot in Centralia, Washington, on the night of Oct. 30 or the morning of Oct. 31, 2021, by her 28-year-old boyfriend. Her boyfriend shot her at least five times and left her body on their sofa, next to their six-year-old son. The killer is in jail without bail, charged with first degree murder and other charges. He has a history of gun violations. Their son is with Rikkey's family.	Pgh Lesbain Correspondent, Pittsburg
Arizona	2018	Sandra Enriquez (43 years old) and her daughter Isabelle (15 years old) were found by police in a bathtub after Enriquez's son escaped the home and ran to a neighbor's home. He told police his father killed his mother and sister. Hernando Enriquez was arraigned and pleaded not guilty but admitted to attacking his wife and daughter with a knife.	People
Missouri	2018	Sabrina Nicole Herrera, 19, was found dead in the trunk of a car in August after her concerned family traced her cell phone to the vehicle using the app, "Find My Friends." Troy Larue Parker confessed and was sentenced to 45 years in prison after pleading guilty to murdering his high school sweetheart and leaving her body in the trunk of her car in a Fort Bend neighborhood.	Chron, Fort Bend

State	Year	Illustrative case	Linked source
California	2018	The body of Samantha Quintanar Lopez, 31, was found in her home hidden under blankets with a bag covering her head while conducting a wellness check. Her husband, Victor Lopez, tried to flee through a window but was detained by officers. Quintanar Lopez was killed by her husband Victor Lopez, who was found guilty of murder in the first degree.	Samantha Quintanar Lopez
California	2022	Rachel Castillo, 25, was found dead in the remote location of Antelope Valley. Zarba Ali, her ex-husband, was accused and arrested of killing her. Details of the case are still pending but there is speculation of the use of a firearm or knife. The investigation continues and Ali is arrested and detained without bail.	Rachel Castillo
New York	2016	Nadia Saavedra, 34, was killed by her partner Alejandro Uribe after she separated from him. After their separation, he continued to stalk her until one day he waited outside of her apartment for her to come out. He then forced her back in and stabbed her 13 times then proceeded to stab himself.	NY Times (Español)
New York	2022	Amadiz Pena, 45, a Dominican resident of the Bronx, was found in her apartment with a stab wound in her chest. Paramedics declared her dead when she was found. She was killed by her ex-husband Jose Raul Santos, 40, who later turned himself in to authorities. Santos was arrested and charged with murder.	NY 1, Spectrum Noticias
New York	2022	Lanilda Nuez, 79, Dominican, was killed by her 68-year-old husband, Gerardo Balbuena. She was found unconscious in her bedroom with multiple stab wounds in her torso and taken to the hospital but later died there. Balbuena was arrested and charged with murder and possession of a weapon; knives were found at the apartment.	Telemundo, Nueva York

State	Year	Illustrative case	Linked source
New York	2022	Arianna Reyes-Gomez, 31, Dominicana, was killed by her ex-partner Argenis de Jesus Baez, by multiple stab wounds. She was found in her apartment in the early morning by NYPD. They report she had called 911 for help after a heated argument. Argenis later turned himself in to authorities.	Univision, Nueva York
Florida	2022	Claudia Valdivia of Cuban descent was in her 20's when she died. Valdivia's body was found after a call was made for a wellness check. The body was found in the house, and it is presumed this was a domestic violence incident. Her partner is the main suspect, but he is presumed to be on the run.	Asere
Florida	2022	Zuleyka Lopez, her 15-year-old child, and her mother were all killed by Lopez's partner. The family was found dead by gunshot wounds in their home, including the perpetrator who is believed to have killed everyone and finally shot himself. A week before, Lopez had called the police saying she was concerned by her husband's recent gun purchase, but nothing came of it.	Telemundo, Orlando
Connecticut	2021	Alessia Mesquita, 28, was found dead after a domestic dispute with her then boyfriend Rashod Newton, 27. As she was exiting her boyfriend's vehicle, he shot her and then fled with Mesquita's one-year-old child in the back seat. Newton was later found along with the child, who was not injured. He was arrested and charged with murder.	Telemundo, Nuevo Inglaterra

+ Indicates firearm as cause of death



Conclusion

Of all outcomes tied to the global issue of IPV, IPH is among the most damaging and final, leaving lasting social and emotional tolls on families and communities. Esperanza United's review of scholarly research in the last 15 years and state fatality reviews show Latin@ communities are disproportionately affected by IPH. Results of a multi-state review show that overall, Latinas in particular die by IPV at a disparate rate when compared to other ethnic groups and population statistics. More research is needed with immigrant Latin@ women and other marginalized subpopulations, including Transgender and Indigenous Latinas, to better understand individual, family, and community-level factors.

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