

Embarazadas y Maltratadas: Domestic Violence Among Latinas

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ABSTRACT

Abuse directed at women by male partners has become recognized as a major health problem. Certain characteristics in the Latino culture have been thought to influence the occurrence of violence in the family. The prevalence of domestic violence from data collected in three sites (rural U.S., urban U.S., and Mexico) in a sample of 450 Latinas is presented. Cultural factors enabling abuse and factors discouraging abuse, as identified by focus group participants, will be shared. The association between domestic abuse, acculturation level, and self-esteem will also be described. Prevention and treatment approaches will be discussed.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Ester Ruiz Rodriguez is originally from Texas and now resides in Arizona. She was raised as part of a farmworker family of 12 children. At present, she is an assistant professor in the College of Nursing at Arizona State University, where she teaches counseling skills to graduate psychiatric nurse practitioner students. Her research agenda has two trajectories: (1) mental and physical health issues in Latino groups and (2) ethnic identity and world view. Current research projects include: ethnic identity and world view in separation and adjustment, domestic violence in pregnant Latinas, and the strength and limitations of Mexican families. She has presented internationally, nationally, and locally. A great believer in community service, she is frequently asked to consult on local racial/ethnic health issues. She also provides psychological services to traditionally disenfranchised groups such as migrant farmworkers and monolingual Spanish speakers.