

A Qualitative Analysis of the Relationship Between the Perceptions and Experiences of Gender-based Violence (GBV) and Age, Gender, and Country of Origin in the Latine Population in Langley Park, Maryland

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INTRODUCTION

The Latine population in the United States reached 62.1 million in 2020, which accounts for 19 percent of all Americans and makes it the nation's second largest racial or ethnic group.¹ In Langley Park, Maryland, 81.5 percent of the community is Latine.² Studies show that IPV rates among immigrants can range from 30-60 percent.³ The purpose of this study is to analyze interviews focusing on GBV perceptions and experiences of the Latine population in Langley Park, Maryland comparing responses by 1) gender, 2) age, and 3) country of origin differences.

METHODS

The focal population of this analysis includes adults from Latin America residing in Langley Park, Maryland ages 18-57. A total of 24 interviews were double coded for this analysis utilizing the analytical software Dedoose.

FINDINGS

Research has highlighted the interplay between GBV, gender roles, and the challenges stemming from immigration that contribute to sociocultural norms. The interviews revealed that gender roles and traditional cultural values were identified as predictors of GBV among Latine populations and opinions differed by gender and age, but did not tend to differ when comparing origin country.

Examples of Themes Stratified by Question

Interviewees indicated they believed GBV stems from substance use, poverty, machismo, and infidelity.

Fear, lack of trust, and lack of awareness of services were listed as barriers to reporting GBV.

BY AGE:

- GBV norms were found to be more accepted in Latine culture by interviewees above the age of 35, while those younger than 35 were more outspoken and blamed 'vices.'

BY ORIGIN COUNTRY:

- Guatemalan interviewees believed marrying for economic/legal reasons was common, and possibly led to more violence.

BY GENDER:

- The ingrained cultural attitude of machismo, where men are expected to be dominant, was cited as an enabling determinant of domestic violence against women.
- Multiple quotes directly link infidelity by both men and women as a trigger for increased violence in relationships. The idea that bringing a mistress or former partner into an existing relationship can lead to higher levels of abuse.

BY GENDER:

- Fear prevented women reporting cases of GBV against men, while shame prevented men reporting cases of GBV against women.
- Both men and women experienced lack of trust in the legal system leading to a fear of reporting GBV. In addition, lack of awareness of resources and help for both men and women presented as a barrier in the majority of interviews.

BY ORIGIN COUNTRY:

- Interviewees from both El Salvador and Guatemala reported the fear of being deported as a common barrier to seeking help from abuse.

BY AGE:

- Older interviewees, especially males, took longer to seek out help for GBV than younger interviewees.

IMPLICATIONS

This study is unique in analyzing the perceived risk factors of GBV through qualitative methods and examining these factors by age, gender, and country of origin. Findings from this study encourage program planners to create interventions that are focused on 1) shifting attitudes towards GBV that are tailored by age and gender, rather than only providing a mechanism for reporting GBV, 2) utilizing diverse channels to raise awareness about GBV resources, and 3) providing wraparound services for factors influencing GBV such as immigration and economic resources. Importantly, though these interviews are dated, violence continues to persist in Langley Park. It is imperative to recognize the current climate and continue to prioritize GBV programs in this locale.

REFERENCES

1. 2020 Census Statistics Highlight Local Population Changes and Nation's Racial and Ethnic Diversity
2. Langley Park, MD | Data USA
3. Intimate Partner Violence Prevention and Intervention Group-Format Programs for Immigrant Latinas: a Systematic Review