

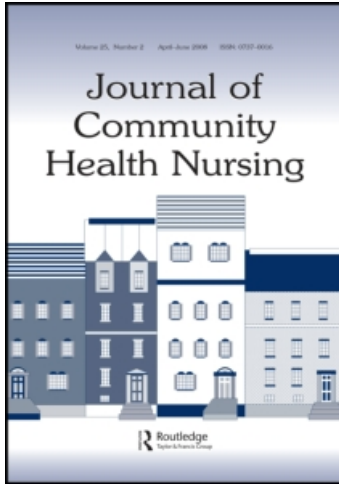
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Gender Differences in Intimate Partner Violence and Alcohol Use Among Latino-Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers in Rural Southeastern North Carolina

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The purpose of this study was to assess intimate partner violence (IPV) and alcohol use among Latino migrant and seasonal farmworkers. The 291 Latino participants were interviewed in Spanish at migrant camps and residences in 3 counties located in southeastern North Carolina. The findings of this study indicate significant gender differences in IPV and alcohol use among the Latino population in the southeastern United States. The findings also indicate that there is a serious problem of IPV and alcohol use among Latinos in the southeastern United States, suggesting the need for routine screening in primary care settings.

Intimate partner violence (IPV) among rural migrant and seasonal farm workers is an issue with several implications. Latinos (Hispanics) are the fastest growing minority group in the United States, totaling 14.8% of the US population, and comprise the largest minority group in the United States (US Census Bureau, 2008). The Latino population of North Carolina has grown more rapidly than in any other state in the country (North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services [NC DHHS], 2006). North Carolina is predominately rural and the southeastern corridor is a magnet for undocumented agricultural workers who provide cheap labor.

Previous research findings indicated high rates of IPV among Latinos in the United States, ranging from 17% to 55%, with great variability among Latinos of different origin (Caetano, Ramisetty-Mikler, Caetano-Vaeth, & Harris, 2007; Denham et al., 2007; Moreno, 2007; Murdaugh, Hunt, Sowel, & Santana, 2004). Data by ethnicity indicated from the study by Caetano and colleagues (Caetano, Field et al., 2005), IPV rates among men were 23% for Blacks, 17% for Latinos, and 12% for Whites; IPV rates among women were 30% for Blacks, 21% for Latinos, and 16% for Whites. Although great variability of prevalence of IPV exists in the United States, it was reported that Latinos in the rural United States may experience higher prevalence of IPV.

Latinos are at risk for increased incidence of IPV, often associated with alcohol use in both males and females. However, little is known about IPV among Latina women in the southeastern United States (Denham et al., 2007; Klevens et al., 2007; Murdaugh et al., 2004). Most research on IPV and alcohol has been limited to the Latino male population, which resulted in a lack of study

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on gender differences. The purpose of this study was to assess the associations between IPV and alcohol use among Latino migrant and seasonal farm workers in southeastern rural North Carolina. In addition, the study aimed to examine gender differences in IPV and alcohol use. Although IPV affects all ethnic groups, most research on IPV has been limited to Caucasians. More specifically, the literature rarely discusses low income and racial/ethnic minorities who live in rural settings.

LITERATURE REVIEW

IPV describes physical or sexual assault, or both. There are four types of IPV, including: physical violence, sexual violence, threats of physical or sexual violence, and psychological/emotional violence (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2009). Reports of how rates of IPV among Latina women compare to non-Latina women in the United States have been conflicting. However, the majority of research has consistently found that Latinos, in aggregate, experience higher rates of IPV than non-Latino Caucasians (Caetano, Ramisetty-Mikler, & Field, 2005; Lipsky, Caetano, Field, & Bazargan, 2005; McFarlane, Groff, O'Brien, & Watson, 2005; Tjaden & Thoennes, 2000). Latina women's experiences with abuse and violence become culturally normative and common and are transmitted in the socialization process, resulting in more serious consequences (Mahoney, Williams, & West, 2001). Latina women are more likely to be harmed in an intimate relationship because of cultural beliefs, such as machismo, and environmental factors, including migratory lifestyle, low income, and poor working and living conditions (Denham et al., 2007).

Heavy alcohol use among Latino farm workers is believed to be common, but it remains poorly documented (Grzywacz, Quandt, Isom, & Arcury, 2007). Heavy alcohol consumption increases risk of violence. Field, Caetano, and Nelson (2004) reported that alcohol was used as an excuse for misbehavior. According to Van Hightower, Gorton, and DeMoss (2000), men were six times as likely to abuse their female partners if the man abused drugs or alcohol. Similarly, Caetano and colleagues reported that Latino couples had an eight times greater risk of male-to-female violence when both partners had drinking problems (Caetano, Cunradi, Clark, & Schafer, 2000).

Caetano and colleagues (2007) discussed the association of acculturation with risky and/or aggressive behaviors, such as increased drinking, drug use, alcohol problems, and domestic violence. Latino belief in men's domination (machismo) relies mostly on their role of sole economic and material providers in their home. Changes resulting from acculturation and new economic demands may be interpreted by them as a threat to their sense of manhood. Ingram (2007) found that rates of IPV among Latinos increased the longer they lived in the United States. Gender disparities resulting from acculturation, or increased adoption of American values and norms, can lead to higher levels of stress in the Hispanic immigrant family. This can lead to an increased rate of IPV (Adames & Campbell, 2005; Klevens, 2007; Mattson & Ruiz, 2005).

According to Humphreys and Campbell (2004), the less educated, poorer man is more likely to have increased machismo and violent characteristics. In addition to decreased education and income, the patriarchal cultures view the wife as subservient (Humphreys & Campbell, 2004). In these cultures, the wife is expected to take care of the household responsibilities, including taking care of her husband. If these responsibilities are viewed by the husband as being performed poorly or reluctantly, it becomes "a symbol of rebellion against his control" (Humphreys & Campbell,

2004, p. 45) and can lead to abuse. According to Caetano and colleagues (2007), an increased chance of IPV occurs if the woman is high in acculturation, but the man is low in acculturation but high in stress. Denham and colleagues (2007) reported English-speaking Latinas experience IPV at about twice the rate of Spanish-speaking Latinas.

METHODS

This study surveyed 291 Latino-migrant and seasonal farm workers in rural Southeastern North Carolina. The purpose of this study was to assess IPV and alcohol use by gender, and examine the relationships between IPV and alcohol use among Latino farm workers. The research questions included:

1. Are there differences in the perceptions of IPV between male and female Latino participants?
2. Are there differences of IPV tendency between male and female Latino participants?
3. Are there differences of alcohol use between male and female Latino participants?
4. What are the relationships between (a) IPV and alcohol use, (b) IPV perceptions and IPV; and (c) IPV perception and alcohol use?

Procedure

The Latino participants were interviewed in Spanish about demographic characteristics, IPV perception and IPV, and alcohol use. Face-to-face interview methods, with either one respondent or several respondents, were utilized to collect the data during the postagricultural season (September to November of 2007). Following approval from the university Institutional Review Board, three bilingual interviewers, who were native Spanish speakers, interviewed migrant and seasonal farm workers. Interviewers completed a training session that covered issues of confidentiality, recruitment, and questionnaire administration. The two interviewers from the Rural Health Center visited migrant camps/houses for data collection. In addition, a bilingual registered nurse visited a local health department and interviewed potential female participants during the clinical waiting period. The interviewer also visited Hispanic churches in the community to interview potential female participants. Participants were given a small Wal-Mart gift card at the end of the interview.

Instruments

HITS (Hurt, Insult, Threaten, and Scream) and CAGE/4M (Cut down drinking, Annoyed, Guilty, and Eye-opener) scales were used to assess for the IPV and alcohol use. In addition, we assessed IPV perceptions and demographic characteristics using the following questionnaires.

Demographic questionnaire. The demographic questions included: gender, age, ethnic identification, religion, migrant status, immigration status, length of stay in the United States, marital status, current family status, social support, and educational level.

Perceptions of IPV. Perceptions of IPV were assessed using the tool developed by the Coalition for Family Peace (Moracco, Hilton, Hodges, & Frasier, 2005). The tool includes 12 questions and uses a 4-point Likert-type scale to indicate perceived seriousness of various problems,

and level of agreement with statements about IPV. Respondents were asked a series of questions that gauged their perceptions about the tolerance and causes of IPV (1 = *strongly disagree*; 2 = *disagree*; 3 = *agree*; and 4 = *strongly agree*). Respondents were also asked to rate the seriousness of IPV in their community (1 = *not at all*; 2 = *not very serious*; 3 = *serious*; and 4 = *very serious*; Morocco et al., 2005).

HITS scale. A brief instrument, HITS, was used to assess IPV tendency (Punukollu, 2003). The scale includes four questions about being hurt, insulted, threatened with harm, and screamed at by a partner in the past year. Respondents were asked to answer each question using a 5-point scale from *never* (1) to *frequently* (5). The total HITS score can range from 4 to 20. The scale has been validated in the family practice setting in a study that compared 160 family practice patients whose abuse status was unknown with 99 self-identified victims of abuse (Punukollu, 2003). Sherin, Sinacore, Li, Zitter, and Shakil (1998) reported that Cronbach's alphas was .80 for the English HITS.

The cut-off score for the Spanish HITS is half of the cut-off score for English HITS to account for cultural differences (Chen, Rovi, Vega, Jacobs, & Johnson, 2005). Although 10.5 is a cut-off score in the English version (Sherin et al., 1998), Chen and his colleagues (2005) reported that a cut-off score of 5.5 in the Spanish version appeared to maximize the sum of sensitivity and specificity, which correctly discriminate 100% of the victims and 86% of the nonvictims (Chen et al., 2005). Patients who have an English HITS score greater than 10.5, or 5.5 in a Spanish HITS, are identified as victims of domestic violence (Chen et al., 2005). Cronbach's alpha for the Spanish version was reported as .71 (Chen et al., 2005), and Cronbach's alpha for our study was .81.

CAGE/4M. Alcohol dependence was measured using the CAGE, a short screening instrument widely used in clinical settings, to identify alcohol abuse and dependence as defined by the DSM-IV. It consists of four straightforward *yes* (1 pt) or *no* (0 pt) questions, which form the basis of the acronym (cut down drinking, annoyed, guilty, and eye-opener).

The Spanish translation is known as 4M, and it has been found to be a valid tool in Latino populations in the United States (Cherpitel, 1999; Saitz, Lepore, Sullivan, Amaro, & Samet, 1999). It was reported that a CAGE/4M score of 1 or more was 92% sensitive and 74% specific for a lifetime diagnosis of alcohol abuse or dependency (Saitz et al., 1999).

Analysis

Descriptive statistics were utilized to analyze the demographic characteristics of participants and to assess alcohol use and IPV status. Bivariate statistics (*t*-tests, χ^2 tests, and Pearson correlations) were used to examine the relationships with IPV tendency, alcohol use, and perceptions of IPV. *P*-value less than .05 (2-sided) was defined as statistically significant. The Statistical Package for the Social Sciences Version 15 was used to analyze quantitative data.

RESULTS

Demographic Characteristics

The 291 participants were overwhelmingly of Mexican descent (93.8%), and Catholic religious beliefs (69.9%); 73.1% were first-generation immigrants, with an average length of stay in the

United States of 6.6 years (range 0–49 years). A large proportion of participants were living together with some family members (34.2%) or living together with all family members (39.9%). This may be due to the fact that 41.8% of the participants identified themselves as seasonal farm workers, rather than migrant farm workers, and 58.2% were married. The mean age of the participants was 31.5 (range 16–68 years), with an average seventh grade education (range 0–17 years). Unlike other studies whose participants have been predominately single men, 46.7% of the participants in this study were women. A large number (73.2%) denied having a support system available, but among those who identified a social support system, friends ($n = 37$, 16.5%) and family ($n = 20$, 8.9%) were the most common. Compared to the male participants, the women identified less in the way of an available support system ($p = .000$, $df = 1$)

Research Question 1: Perceptions of Intimate Partner Violence

As shown in Table 1, on a 4-point scale of *strongly disagree* (1) to *strongly agree* (4), the use of alcohol and/or drugs was perceived as a cause of IPV ($M = 3.19$); specifically, women ($M = 3.37$)

TABLE 1
Perceptions of Intimate Partner Violence Among Latino Migrant and Season Farm Workers

Items	Total Mean	Group Mean		t-Test p-Value
		Men (n = 153)	Women (n = 135)	
Cause of intimate partner violence ^a				
Most violent incidents between couples are caused by alcohol and/or drugs.	3.19	3.03	3.37	.001
Women could avoid being beaten if they changed their behavior.	2.55	2.62	2.46	NS ^c
When a woman in a couple is violent toward a man, it is often his fault because he provoked it.	2.53	2.58	2.47	NS
When a man in a couple is violent toward a woman, it is often her fault because she provoked it.	2.37	2.43	2.31	NS
Perceptions of intimate partner violence				
Children who see or hear violence at home may experience problems in school and later in life.	3.61	3.70	3.50	.001
It is wrong for a man to hit his wife or girl friend, even if he is angry.	3.4	3.25	3.56	.002
It is wrong for a woman to hit her husband or boy friend, even if she is angry.	3.31	3.14	3.50	.001
Seriousness in the Latino community ^b	2.84	2.90	2.78	NS
Children, especially young ones, often are not aware when one of their parents is violent toward the other one.	2.27	2.38	2.15	.005
Tolerance of intimate partner violence				
It's OK for a man to decide whether or not his wife or girl friend can work.	2.14	2.16	2.12	NS
It's OK for a man to decide who his wife or girl friend can see and where she can go.	2.1	2.15	2.05	NS
It's God's will for couples to stay together, even if the husband is violent toward the wife	1.57	1.70	1.44	.05

Notes. t-Tests were used. ^a1 = Strongly disagree; 2 = Disagree; 3 = Agree; & Strongly Disagree. ^b1 = Not at all; 2 = Not very serious; 3 = Serious; & 4 = Very serious. ^cNS = nonsignificant.

perceived the alcohol and/or drug use as a more significant problem causing IPV than men ($M = 3.19$; $p = .001$). However, both men and women had neutral positions for the following three questions: (a) It is often his fault because he provoked it when a woman in a couple is violent toward a man ($M = 2.53$); (b) it is often her fault because she provoked it when a man in a couple is violent toward a woman ($M = 2.37$); and (c) women could avoid being beaten if they changed their behavior ($M = 2.55$).

Generally, the respondents considered IPV as a serious problem ($M = 2.84$) using a scale from *not at all* (1) to *very serious* (4). Both men and women strongly agreed, on a scale of *strongly disagree* (1) to *strongly agree* (4), that it is wrong for a man to hit his wife or girlfriend, even if he is angry ($M = 3.4$) and it is wrong for a woman to hit her husband or boyfriend, even if she is angry ($M = 3.31$). However, there were gender differences in their perceptions about hitting their partners. Women were more likely to agree that hitting partners is wrong ($p = .002$ and $p = .001$, respectively).

Men and women strongly agree that children who see or hear violence at home may experience problems in school and later in life ($M = 3.61$), and men were more likely to agree with this statement ($p = .001$).

Overall, both men and women disagree that a male partner should decide whether or not his wife or girlfriend can work ($M = 2.14$) and that the man should decide who his wife or girlfriend can see and where she can go ($M = 2.1$). Even if the husband is violent toward the wife, men and women did not agree that it is God's will for couples to stay together ($M = 1.57$); however, women were more likely to accept this belief than men ($p = .05$; see Table 1).

Research Question 2: IPV Between Latino and Latina Participants

IPV was assessed using the 4 item-HITS scale. Participants were asked to respond to four questions about being hurt, insulted, threatened with harm, and screamed at by a partner in the past year. As shown in Table 2, there were significant differences between the male and female participants, in all 4 items of H (hurt, $p = .008$), I (insult, $p = .006$), T (threaten, $p = .000$), and S (scream, $p = .001$) and in the total scale of HITS ($p = .001$). The mean of female respondents was 5.33, close to the cut-off score of 5.5 Spanish HITS, which is identified as victim of domestic violence. Non-physical violence (insult or scream) seemed to be more commonly experienced than physical violence. Approximately three-quarters of the women (76.3%, $n = 51$), and 32.2% ($n = 49$) of the men

TABLE 2
Intimate Partner Violence Tendency (HITS) Among Latino Migrant
and Season Farm Workers ($N = 289$)

<i>Over the Past 12 Months, How Often Did Your Partner:</i>				
	<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>	<i>T</i>	<i>P</i>
Physically hurt you	1.10	1.17	-1.33	.008
Insult or talk down to you	1.37	1.51	-1.51	.006
Threaten you with harm	1.08	1.15	-1.36	.008
Scream or curse at you	1.21	1.50	-3.22	.000
	4.76	5.33	-2.37	.001

Notes. t -Tests were used. HITS = Hurt, Insult, Threaten, Scream Scale.

had experienced some type of violence (mean score of 5 or greater of the total HITS score) in the past year. Almost one-quarter of women (23.7%, $n = 32$) had a score of 5.5 or above, yet 17.8% ($n = 27$) of the men had a score of 5.5 or above. Among the risk groups (scoring 5.5 or above of the total HITS score), the mean score of women was 9.03, and 7.44 for men ($p = .015$). Approximately one in 10 women reported experiencing serious violence (9.6%), but only three male participants (2%) reported serious violence (score of 9 or above on the total HITS score).

Research Question 3: Alcohol Use Between Latino and Latina Participants

Alcohol abuse was assessed using the 4 item-CAGE/4M scale. As found in Table 3, there were remarkable differences between men and women in all four of the items, and in total score of CAGE/4M. Although the mean score of the total CAGE/4M was 1.63 among men, the female mean was .23. Considering that a CAGE/4 M score of 1 or more was 92% sensitive for lifetime alcohol abuse, alcohol use is a common problem among the male respondents, but female respondents did not show alcohol abuse.

Research Question 4: Relationships Among IPV, Alcohol, and IPV Perception

IPV and alcohol use. The HITS was used to assess IPV and the CAGE/4M to assess alcohol use. Pearson correlation analyses confirmed that there was a very strong positive relationship between the total score of IPV (HITS) and alcohol use (CAGE/4M; $r = .92, p = .006$). The respondents who had the higher IPV tendency were more likely to drink alcohol, indicating a strong association between alcohol use and IPV.

TABLE 3
Alcohol Abuse (CAGE) Among Latino Migrant and Season Farm Workers ($N = 289$)

	<i>Number of Respondents</i>		<i>p-Value</i>
	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>	
Have you ever felt you should cut down your drinking?			
Yes	79	13	.000
No	74	120	
Have people annoyed you by criticizing your drinking?			
Yes	39	8	.000
No	114	125	
Have you ever felt bad or guilty about your drinking?			
Yes	86	7	.000
No	67	126	
Have you ever had a drink first thing in the morning to steady your nerves or get rid of hangover (eye-opener)?			
Yes	47	3	.000
No	105	130	
Total score	1.63	.23	.000

Notes. M = men, W = women. χ^2 were used for each item and *t*-test was used for the total scale.

IPV and IPV perceptions. The HITS was used to assess IPV and perceptions of IPV were assessed using the 12 item tool developed by the Coalition for Family Peace (Moracco et al., 2005). Correlational analyses revealed small yet significant associations between total score of HITS and several of the IPV perception items. Although the respondents (both men and women) believed that it is wrong to hit partners even if they are angry, they were unlikely to show low HITS score ($p = .03$ and $p = .04$ respectively). In the case of those couples who believe that it is God's will for couples to stay together, even if the husband is violent toward the wife, they were more likely to manifest IPV ($p = .05$). The findings indicated the correlation between the belief system and IPV.

Alcohol use and IPV perceptions. The CAGE/4M was used to assess IPV and perceptions of IPV were assessed using the 12 items previously reported. Although the respondents (both men and women) perceived alcohol and/or drug use as causes of problems in the community, they were less likely to be involved in drinking behavior ($p = .000$). In addition, several variables of IPV perception were associated with an increase in drinking behaviors. They were likely engaged in drinking behavior if they blamed their partners for causing violence ($p = .02$ & $p = .004$ respectively). These findings also indicated the correlation between the belief system and IPV tendency.

DISCUSSIONS

The findings in this study suggest that IPV and alcohol use by men are serious problems among Latinos in the southeastern United States. Approximately three-quarters of the women in this study had experienced some type of violence (mean score of 5 or greater) in the past year, and approximately one in ten reported experiencing serious violence (9.6%). In addition, approximately one-quarter (23.7%) of female and 17.8% of male participants had a score of 5.5 or above on HITS, which accurately identifies 100% of the victims of domestic violence. These findings confirm the results of previous research. For example, Denham and colleagues (2007) reported that adult life-time prevalence of IPV among Latinas was 19.5%. In addition, this study reported the same prevalence rate as Murdaugh and colleagues (2004), whose study of Latinos in the southeastern rural United States reported that almost three-quarters of the study women had experienced physical violence in the past year.

The findings of the study also indicate that alcohol use is common among the Latino men. The mean score of CAGE/4M (alcohol use) among men is 1.63. This finding suggests that the majority of the Latino men are at risk of a lifetime diagnosis of alcohol abuse or dependency. The Latina women in the study also perceived alcohol and drug use as a cause of most violence, recognizing the drinking problem among Latino men. This finding may imply that drinking behavior is embedded within the concept of Latino machismo and Latino culture.

The findings of this study indicate significant gender differences in IPV and alcohol use among the Latino population in the southeastern United States. Violence and alcohol use may be acceptable in their culture as a means of dealing with stress and frustration. Cultural dynamics involving gender roles, acculturation, acculturation stress, and environmental factors have been used to explain the prevalent IPV and alcohol use among the Latino culture (Caetano, Field et al., 2005; Klevens, 2007). Machismo and male domination are components that are pervasive in the social fabric of Latino culture and are perpetuated from generation to generation (Padilla & Villalobos, 2007; Perilla, Bakeman, & Norris, 1994). The machismo role in Latino culture affects male con-

trol of the female partner, which influences, as well as perpetuates, partner violence (Klevens, 2007; Mattson & Ruiz, 2005; Moracco et al., 2005; Moreno, 2007).

Gender roles and norms, as well as power differentials, influence the perceived power of the female in the relationship (Moreno, 2007). In addition to the machismo, the *marionismo*, a term commonly associated with the Hispanic/Latino women's role, requires the submissiveness and obedience of the female (Moreno, 2007). These culturally embedded roles create an environment where partner abuse is acceptable to both the male and female. The objectification of women along with rigid sex role differentiation in the Latino culture produces a ripe environment for spousal abuse (Mattson & Ruiz, 2005). A man who believes in strong macho values will often consider it his right to beat his wife. Alcohol and intoxication can be disinhibiting and a convenient excuse for abusing a woman that is more acceptable when under its influence. Moreover, Latinos in the United States live disproportionately in poverty and have lower educational levels than non-Latinos, both identified by Guzman (2001) as risk factors for IPV. Appreciation of the Latino culture and their living conditions are important for understanding violence and alcohol use in this population.

LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

The limitations of this study include the use of a convenience sample and the use of a self-report method. Due to the use of a cross-sectional design, no inferences can be drawn about the causal relationships between the variables. In addition, the measures used in the study did not provide a comprehensive view of the IPV experience. Although the study findings suggest remarkable gender differences in all variables of IPV perceptions, IPV tendency, and alcohol use, assessing sexual abuse and acculturation status could provide valuable insights to understanding the nature of IPV within this population. For example, measuring more detailed IPV indicators is recommended for future research. Also, cultural dimensions should be explored to find relationships among the variables of IPV and alcohol use.

IMPLICATIONS

This research has significant implications for health care providers working with the Latino population. IPV is common among this population and every effort should be made to assess for IPV and be alert to indicators of abuse. The strong correlation found between alcohol use and increased incidence of IPV should alert the community health nurse of the need to routinely screen for IPV and alcohol use in this population. Pediatric and prenatal visits seem especially opportune times to screen women for IPV. Additionally, Latina women should be screened for IPV at all health care and emergency department visits. In cases of abuse, or potential abuse, community health nurses should intervene to prevent subsequent harm. This requires community health nurses to be aware of professional and public resources, including those locally available to which victims can be referred such as safe houses or shelters, counseling services, victim advocates, legal services, and local and national hotlines. Special care should be taken to refer Latina women to resources that have interpreters and to those aware of their unique challenges. Names and contact information for hotlines and shelters (in English and Spanish) should be placed in ladies restrooms, churches, community centers, and locally

where Latinas may congregate. Latina women, as should all women who are victims or potential victims of IPV, require help to develop a plan defining under what circumstances they would leave the situation and how.

Community health nurses working with this population need to appreciate the risk factors that may lead to, or signal, IPV and implement culturally appropriate educational programs. Development of anger and or stress management programs offered to migrant and seasonal farm workers at or near their work place will improve access and may help to reduce high alcohol use and IPV.

The findings of the study suggest the need for mobilizing a support system and education for the Latino population. A large proportion (73.2%) in the study denied having a support system available. Although the majority of female participants experienced IPV, they also perceived less support systems available, compared to their male counterparts. Social isolation places one at risk for IPV and makes accessing resources more difficult. Assessment of social support systems should routinely be a part of all health care or social work visits, especially important for Latinas who may feel isolated in this country.

The main factor influencing Latinas' decisions about seeking help or leaving or staying with their abuser seems to be the welfare of their children (Lipsky, Caetano, Field, & Larkin, 2006). Safe houses accommodating children, and possibly pets, may offer a more realistic option for Latinas to leave an abusive situation.

The findings in this study indicate that IPV perceptions and tendency, as well as alcohol use, significantly differ between men and women. Additionally, the study found a relationship between belief system, IPV tendency, and drinking behavior. Educational programs for men and women that address what constitutes abuse are critical. Gender specific interventions need to be implemented. Efforts to change the perception of IPV should also be included in any educational program.

In summary, screening for IPV and alcohol use among the Latino population may help identify those at high risk for harm. Programs educating men and women about IPV should be community based. Transportation has been identified as a roadblock to seeking help. Therefore, screening and education programs on alcohol abuse and IPV need to be available at the migrant camps or in neighboring communities with transportation and interpreters provided.

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