Latinos in the United States

Latinos or Hispanics - people of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American culture or origin regardless of race - are the nation's largest ethnic minority and account for 17% of the total US population.

Of those, Puerto Ricans are the second largest group, accounting for 9.2% of the Latino or Hispanic population.

(United States Census Bureau, 2011)

Elder Mistreatment Among Latin@s

Among Latin@s, elder mistreatment is less likely than with other groups to report physical or verbal abuse. The most common types of abuse experienced are listed in the chart to the right (Anetzberger et al., 2010).

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Puerto Rican Culture, Attitudes, and Beliefs

Puerto Rican elders are knowledgeable concerning what constitutes situations of abuse, mistreatment, and neglect (Irizarry-Irizarry, 2005).

Puerto Ricans tend to have strong family associations (Sanchez-Ayendez, 1988).

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Tips for Working with Latin@ Individuals and Families

The utilization of promotores - advocates that act on behalf of an elder adult - is a culturally informed method of intervention to provide services and resources (often in a community-based setting).

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Latin@s may under-report abuse due to:

- feelings of verguenza (shame) and stigma
- fear of retaliation
- fear of being ignored
- fear of being placed in an institution
- cultural beliefs about finances

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Sources


density (Moon, 2000)

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Culture, along with factors such as English proficiency, fear of authorities, and living arrangements impact how elders perceive mistreatment, their knowledge of support services, and if they report or seek help for maltreatment.

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Most Puerto Ricans said they would contact authorities if an elderly person was mistreated by a family member (Anetzberger et al., 2010).

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Due to the limited number of studies of elder mistreatment in the Latino population as well as study design variations, it is not possible to estimate an exact prevalence rate of elder mistreatment (Anetzberger et al., 2000).
Latin@s in the United States

Latin@s or Hispanics - people of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American culture or origin regardless of race - are the nation's largest ethnic minority and account for 17% of the total US population. Of those, Puerto Ricans are the second largest group, accounting for 9.2% of the Latino or Hispanic population.

(U.S. Census Bureau, 2011)

Intentional acts that cause harm or create a serious risk of harm (whether or not harm is intended) to a vulnerable older adult by a caregiver or other person who stands in a relationship of trust to that elder (Bonnie & Wallace, 2003).

Elder Abuse:

- Psychological abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Physical abuse
- Neglect
- Financial exploitation

Among Latin@s

Latin@ elders are less likely than white counterparts to report physical or verbal abuse. The most common types of abuse experienced are listed in the chart above (DeLiema et al., 2014).

Puerto Rican Culture, Attitudes, and Beliefs

Puerto Ricans have strong family associations and beliefs, especially concerning what constitutes situations of abuse, mistreatment, and neglect (Irizarry-Irizarry, 2005).

Puerto Ricans choose psychological neglect as the worst thing a family member can do to an elderly person (Anetzberger et al., 1996).

Puerto Ricans tend to have strong family associations (Sanchez-Ayendez, 1988).

Most Puerto Ricans said they would contact authorities if an elderly person was mistreated by a family member (Anetzberger et al., 1996).

Latin@s may under-report abuse due to:

- feelings of vergüenza (shame) and stigma
- fear of retaliation
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- cultural beliefs about finances

TIPS FOR WORKING WITH LATIN@ INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES

The utilization of promoters - advocates that act on behalf of an elderly adult - is a culturally informed method of intervention to provide services and resources (often in a community-based setting).

Make no assumptions: the elder is the expert on their own culture and beliefs. Explore the cultural context of elder mistreatment (e.g. how much of their resources do they share and how they feel about it).

Culture, along with factors such as English proficiency, fear of authorities, and living arrangements impact how elders perceive mistreatment, their knowledge of support services, and if they report or seek help for mistreatment.

Due to the limited number of studies on elder mistreatment in the Latin@ population as well as study design variations, it is difficult to estimate an exact prevalence rate of elder mistreatment (Rawn et al., 2000).

Make no assumptions: the elder is the expert on their own culture and beliefs. Explore the cultural context of elder mistreatment (e.g. how much of their resources do they share and how they feel about it).

Culture, along with factors such as English proficiency, fear of authorities, and living arrangements impact how elders perceive mistreatment, their knowledge of support services, and if they report or seek help for mistreatment.