



## Victimization Among the Latinx Population: The Facts

Cristal N. Hernandez, M.A.

### Who is the Latinx Population?

Latinx is the term used to encompass Latino/Latina/Hispanic identifying individuals in an inclusive manner. The Latinx population is a diverse one, comprised of over 20 different origin groups from countries like Mexico, El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala, and Colombia.[1,2] The Latinx population varies across cultural factors such as language use, immigrant status, and acculturation, all of which influence victimization experiences and subsequent help-seeking behaviors.[2,3] The Latinx population in the United States has become the second-fastest growing racial/ethnic group and although the Latinx community may experience a wide range of victimization types, they are increasingly facing discriminatory and bias motivated incidents, including hate crimes.[3]

### Have you Heard? [2,3]

- Among the Latinx population, interpersonal victimization rates generally range from 30% to 60%.
- Compared to the general public, the Latinx community has recently experienced disproportionate increases in bias motivated incidents, rising 39% between 2016 and 2018.
- Latinx survivors are more likely to seek help and support from friends and family than from formal sources or institutions, like police and medical providers.
- Latinx populations have low reporting rates for victimization experiences, but immigrant Latinx survivors are even less likely to report their victimizations than non-immigrant survivors.

### Barriers to Help-Seeking [3,4]

General lack of awareness or knowledge about services, as well as the lack of mental health and medical providers available to the Latinx community are major barriers to seeking help. General distrust of formal institutions, lack of documentation or fear of deportation, and language barriers or limited English proficiency are also commonly cited as reasons why Latinx survivors do not seek help. Cultural values and ties, and related factors like religion and familialism, have also been reported as barriers to seeking help that are specific to Latinx populations.

### How to Support Latinx Survivors [2,3]

- Recognize the diversity that exists within the Latinx population and avoid making assumptions or generalizations about members of the Latinx community.
- Increase the number of community-based agencies serving Latinx populations and improve the quality of victim-centered services being offered by becoming attentive to the cultural perspectives of Latinx individuals.
- Raise awareness of services by disseminating information within the Latinx community in multiple languages and formats and making resources easily available and accessible.

### Resources

#### 9-1-1

#### Texas

- Texas Association Against Sexual Assault -- 512-474-7190  
<https://taasa.org/product-category/spanish/>
- Tejano Center for Community Concerns -- 713-640-3700  
<https://www.tejanocenter.org/Page/1317>
- Hope Clinic -- 713-773-0803  
<https://www.hopechc.org/>

#### National

- National Center for Cultural Competence--  
<https://nccc.georgetown.edu/>
- ASISTA -- 860-758-0733  
<https://asistahelp.org/>
- UNIDOS US -- 202-785-1670  
<https://unidosus.org/>

#### References

- [1]Pew Research Center. (2022). *Key facts about U.S. Latinos for National Hispanic Heritage Month*. Pew Research Center. <https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2022/09/23/key-facts-about-u-s-latinos-for-national-hispanic-heritage-month/>
- [2]National Institute of Justice (NIJ). (2022). Experiences of Victimization Among Latinos: Studies Confirm Significant Victim Mental Health Impact and Mistrust of Authorities. NIJ. <https://nij.ojp.gov/topics/articles/experiences-victimization-among-latinos-studies-confirm-significant-victim-mental>
- [3]Lockwood, S., Farrell, A., Cuevas, C. A., & Robles, J. (2022). Bias crime and victimization among Latinx adults: Formal and informal help seeking. *Journal of interpersonal violence, 37*(23-24), NP22600-NP22626.
- [4]Rizo, C. F., & Macy, R. J. (2011). Help seeking and barriers of Hispanic partner violence survivors: A systematic review of the literature. *Aggression and Violent Behavior, 16*(3), 250-264.

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## Resources

- Texas Abuse Hotline (suspicions of abuse, neglect, and exploitation of children, adults with disabilities, or people 65 +) <https://www.txabusehotline.org/Login/>  
800-252-5400
- Texas Council on Family Violence <https://tcfv.org/survivor-resources/>
- Texas Association Against Sexual Assault <https://taasa.org/get-help/>
- National Domestic Violence Hotline 800-799-7233
- National Sexual Assault Hotline 800-656-4673
- National Human Trafficking Hotline 888-373-7888
- Aging and Disability Resource Center 855-937-2372
- Victim Connect Resource Center 855-484-2846
- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline 988