

# Latinos and Sexual Assault



- As of 2013, the U.S. Census Bureau identified 9% of the Maryland population as Hispanic or Latino. However, in Montgomery county 18.3% of the population is Hispanic or Latino, and in Prince George's county 16.2% of the population is; 2/3 of the Hispanic or Latino people living in Maryland live in these counties.
- 13.6% of Hispanic women were raped and 35.6% of Hispanic women experienced sexual violence other than rape during their lifetimes.  
*Matthew J. Breiding, "Prevalence and Characteristics of Sexual Violence, Stalking, and Intimate Partner Violence Victimization — National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey, United States, 2011", 2011.*
- The following information is from "The Sexual Assault Among Latinas Survey," by Carlos A. Cuevas, Ph.D. and Chiara Sabina, Ph.D. in 2010
  - One in six Latina women experience sexual victimization in their lifetime.
  - Almost 90% of Latina survivors of sexual violence have experienced more than one form of violence, including physical violence, threats, stalking or witnessing violence.
  - Most Latina survivors, including those victimized as children, know their perpetrators.
  - Only 20% of Latina survivors seek formal support, such as medical, legal or counseling assistance.
- While some Latinas are recent immigrants who face unique challenges, an increasing proportion of Hispanic Americans are not first generation immigrants. It is therefore important not to assume Latina sexual violence issues are necessarily immigration-related.  
*Zarate, "The Anti-Rape Movement Without Latinas?," 2006; Suro & Passel, "The Rise of the Second Generation: Changing Patterns in Hispanic Population Growth," 2003.*
- Latina women are less likely to report sexual violence and seek help than non-Latinas.  
*Sabina et al, "Help-Seeking in a National Sample of Victimized Latino Women," 2011.*
- People with a more stable legal status are more likely to seek formal services after a sexual assault.  
*Dutton et al, "Characteristics of Help-seeking Behaviors, Resources, and Service Needs of Battered Immigrant Latinas: Legal and Policy Implications," 2000.*
- In Latino communities, girls and women who seek help from formal services after an assault may be perceived as overly assertive and "Americanized," and subsequently ostracized. As a result, seeking assistance from a rape crisis center or other organization may be particularly challenging for Latinas.  
*Llamanos y hablemos & Alisa Klein, "Working with Survivors in Latino Communities"*
- Latino adolescents in particular are underrepresented in service access and delivery.  
*Gaytan & Goode, "Latinas and Sexual Assault," 2013.*