Key Words: Spousal abuse, Mexican immigration, Cultural differences


Topic: Spousal Abuse in Mexican Immigrant Couples

- Research has shown that wife’s who have been abused have developed mental & physical problems while the children have shown to develop distress and subsequent social and behavioral problems (Hancock 32).
- Wife may be threaten with physical abuse or the threat of physical abuse, and may also suffer repeated psychological abuse, sexual assault, or deprivation, intimidation” (Hancock 32).
- The injuries these women sustain could disrupt the ability for them to meet the responsibilities they have in the home and workplace. This adds more of a strain on their home life which in turn could lead to instability and disorganization. Usually these problems usually need a range of physical & mental health, and social services to help deal with the aftermath of the violence (Hancock 32).
- Social workers provide the majority of services to abused women (Hancock 33).
- The stress that builds up with migration increases the risk of domestic abuse in a usually lower abuse rated Group then there U.S. Born counterparts (Hancock 33).
• Two of the first big problems social workers encounter are cultural and language barriers, also the fact that rural communities and small towns often have limited resources to address all the needs of these immigrant population (Hancock 33).

• In a national survey conducted in Mexico, reported rates of abuse were similar to those for women in Canada and the United States with 19% responding yes to the question “has your husband ever hit you?” Of this number, 6.4% reported being hit frequently and almost 13% reported only being hit a few times at most (Oropesa, quoted in Hancock 34).

• It was reported that the specific forms of abuse Mexican women face are. Marital rape, male control of sexuality and reproduction, accusations of sexual inadequacy, also being criticized for their looks, for their mothering, their sexual modesty and being denied the recognition of women as persons. Also another form of abuse used to retain control of wives is the threat of one’s children being taking away (Hancock 34).

• Other research indicates that Mexican immigrant women tend to accept more severe abuse for longer periods of time than Anglo women (Torres, quoted in Hancock 34).

• It seems that major risk factor for wife abuse is the use and abuse of alcohol and substances by husbands. Research indicates that 45% of abuse is from men who drink, and is 8-19 times more likely to occur on day that they drink (Hancock 35).

• Husbands that refuse to stop inflicting injury of an escalating and life-threatening nature need to be brought to the attention of authorities and the wives need to be removed from these abusive husbands (Hancock 40).
• “It has been suggested that risk management teams, as opposed to individual clinicians, are more effective at addressing these kinds of ethical issues when making decisions about the most appropriate treatment strategies for abusers and their families” (Kroner, quoted in Hancock 40).

Assessment:

The strength of Tina Hancock’s article is that it has a lot of information about abuse in Mexican immigrant families. It mentions how it’s hard for them to talk about it because in their culture they don’t want to be seen as a bad wife, and mother. The language and culture barriers the social serves people have to get around are also talked about. As well as some of the ways the government is trying to help these women out with programs and getting them away from their abusive relationships. They even go into the patterns of abuse, the types of abuse, and the cause. So you know what to look out for.

Now the only weakness I can see with this article it feels like she is quoting other people more than using her own words. But other than that this was a good article to read to learn more about the abuse that Mexican Immigrant women are going through and the things that are being done to help them.