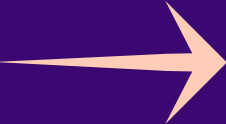





Multicultural Advocacy:
**Building relationships
and working together
for a common goal**

Norma Mendoza
Multicultural Program Director
Cherokee Family Violence Center



Why is it important to provide culturally competent services to battered multicultural and immigrant victims?



Why is it important to create a positive and cooperative working relationship between agencies and authorities, in order to improve the services available to multicultural and immigrant victims of domestic violence?

Immigrant

- Any person who lives temporarily or permanently in a country where he or she was not born, and has acquired some significant social ties to this country

Migration and Integration - some basic concepts United Nations

- Any person who chooses to move not because of a direct threat of persecution or death, but mainly to improve their lives by finding work, or in some cases for education, family reunion, or other reasons.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Population Statistics

2

0

1

4



Source: Migration Policy Institute tabulations of data from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS) and Decennial Census.

UNITED STATES

US born

276,465,262

Foreign born

42,391,794

Latino origin

US born

35,918,559

Latino origin

Foreign born

19,360,893



13.3%

Foreign born

GEORGIA

| Place of Birth | Foreign born | % |
|---|--------------|-------|
| Africa | 90,002 | 9.0% |
| Asia | 279,292 | 28.1% |
| Europe | 89,068 | 9.0% |
| Latin America <i>(South America, Central America, Mexico and the Caribbean)</i> | 511,557 | 51.4% |
| Northern America <i>(Canada, Bermuda, Greenland and St. Pierre and Miquelon)</i> | 20,269 | 2.0% |
| Oceania | 4,463 | 0.4% |



US born
9,102,692

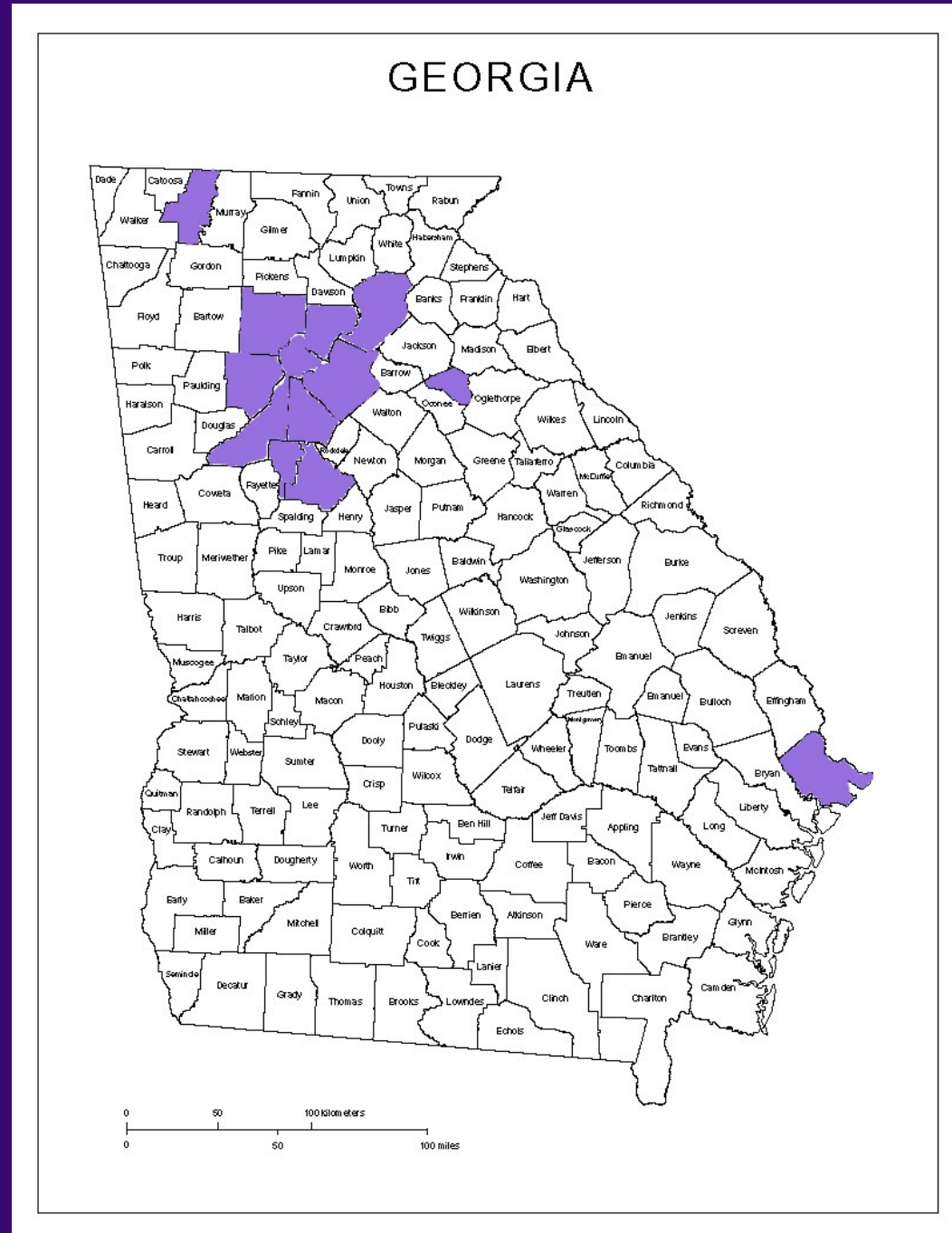
Foreign Born
994,651

Foreign born

9.9%

*Top counties in Georgia
where immigrant populations
are concentrated*

| | |
|-----------|---------|
| Gwinnett | 206,800 |
| Fulton | 121,400 |
| Dekalb | 115,400 |
| Cobb | 107,900 |
| Clayton | 39,800 |
| Hall | 29,300 |
| Forsyth | 26,900 |
| Cherokee | 19,400 |
| Whitfield | 19,000 |
| Chatham | 18,100 |
| Henry | 14,700 |
| Clarke | 12,000 |



*Immigrant
Women
Demographic*
GEORGIA



- ➔ 49.8% of the Foreign born population is female
- ➔ Approximately 170,000 foreign born women are undocumented
- ➔ Approximately 48.0% of the Foreign born population either don't speak English well or not at all



Can you identify some barriers faced by immigrant women when they want to leave an abusive relationship or seek for help?



*Immigrant victims
experience different
behaviors of
abuse in addition
to the usual
obstacles of
leaving an
abusive
relationship*

Coercion and Threats

- To call to immigration authorities and get her deported.
- That abuser won't file immigration papers to legalize her immigration status.
- To withdraw the petition he filed to legalize her immigration status.
- That he will have someone harm her family members in her home country.
- To remove her children from the United States.
- To report her children to the immigration authorities.
- To have her deported and he will get the custody of their children and keep them with him in the U S
- Convincing her that if she seeks help from the courts or the police, the U. S. legal system will give him custody of the children.

Emotional Abuse

- Lying about the services that police and immigration authorities provide to incite fear of them
- Lying about her immigration status.
- Calling her racist names.
- Preventing her from visiting sick or dying relatives in her country of origin.

Economical Abuse

- Forcing her to work “illegally” when she does not have a work permit.
- Threatening to report her to immigration authorities if she works “under the table”
- Not letting her get job training or schooling.
- Taking away the money that she sends to her family back home .
- Forcing her to sign papers in English that she does not understand -- court papers, IRS forms, immigration papers.

Intimidation and Isolation

- Hiding or destroying important papers (i.e. passport, ID cards, health care cards, etc.)
- Destroying the only property that she brought with her from her home country.
- Being the only person through whom she can communicate in English.
- Not allowing her to learn English.
- Not allowing her to meet with people who speak her language or who are from her community, culture, or country.

Immigrant victim's barriers & challenges working with immigrant victims

- Fear of deportation
- Lack of knowledge of US laws
- Lack of knowledge of legal rights
- Lack of knowledge of resources available for victims
- Limited English Proficiency (LEP)
- Do not trust police or prosecutors will help them
- Lack of reporting and cooperating with the police

HOW TO PROVIDE SERVICES?

Safety

Legal Advocacy

Language

Immigration status

Cultural needs

Transportation

LGBTQ

Employment

Custody issues

Religious needs

Housing

Child care

Medical services

Illiterate person



“Cultural context and lens shape the type of support, advocacy, and service that a Latina seeks as well as the choices that she makes. These cultural realities must, therefore, influence how domestic violence advocates work with, support, and advocate for battered Latinas; develop new initiatives; and work within Latino communities.”

(www.casadeesperanza.org March, 2012)



Create more accessible services

*Increase cultural competency
of established programs*

*Provide language access to individuals
who are Limited English Proficient (LEP)*

*Provide new services addressing the experiences specific from
particular marginalized and underserved communities*





Have linguistically appropriate materials





Call for emergency interpretation

Georgia
Spanish
Statewide
Domestic
Violence
Hotline

Aunque parezca que eres la única viviendo
una situación difícil...

No
estás
sola



LLAMA 1-800-334-2836
LÍNEA DE EMERGENCIA
EN ESPAÑOL

Benefits of language and interpretation for Law Enforcement and Prosecutors

- Correctly identify the victim and perpetrator
- Facilitate the LEP person to follow law enforcement directions
- More convictions, and lesser chances that a conviction would be overturned
- Cases would not be dismissed
- Perpetrators would not be prosecuted on a lesser charge
- Improve the integrity and quality of the investigation
- Less “inconsistent” statements
- Break institutional barriers

Positive and co-operative working relationship between agencies and authorities

- Know your community and the composition of the population
- Look for organizations that work with linguistic, racial and cultural minority populations near your county.
- Look for bilingual and bi-cultural professionals who work with organizations and government agencies
- Create partnership with your allies and develop a plan for expanding your services to diverse communities
- Create a network of “allies” who can help you to serve better your immigrant victim’s clients
- Look for “attorneys or immigration non-profit agencies” make them your allies and develop a plan for collaboration in serving battered immigrant victims and assisting them with immigration resources

Positive and co-operative working relationship between agencies and authorities

- Participate in Multi-disciplinary and Multicultural meetings
- Reach out for resources available in the language of the community you want to target
- Train your staff about cultural competency
- Develop community outreach, awareness and social media
- Hire bilingual and bi cultural advocates
- Get bilingual and bi cultural volunteers and interns
- Apply for culturally specific grants





Cherokee Family Violence Center Multicultural Program

In 2003, CFVC created a Multicultural Program to assist domestic violence immigrant victims in Cherokee County, with a particular emphasis within the Latino/Hispanic community

Since 2005 CFVC has served 433 immigrant clients from 65 different countries of origin

In 2015 the Multicultural Program served a total of 45 new immigrant clients and in 2016 until August served 43 new clients from 15 countries

1 quadrilingual Senior Manager, 1 quadrilingual Program Director, 3 bilingual advocates, 6 bilingual advocates for the Spanish Statewide Hotline





Multicultural Program Services & Activities

- Case Management & Advocacy Services
- Emergency Shelter
- Spanish Language Support Group
- Spanish Language Crisis Line
- Transitional Housing Program
- Immigration services/BIA Partial Accreditation
- Intimate Partner Violence training in Spanish
- Participation on Multi-Disciplinary Teams
- Outreach and awareness activities
- Monthly Multicultural Program e-newsletter
- Participation on meetings with Multi-Disciplinary agencies gather to share resources in Spanish for Hispanic Community
- Legal Advocacy
- Leadership Program
- Spanish Facebook Page

THE NO MÁS STUDY:

Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault in the Latin@ Community Commissioned by the Avon Foundation for Women for Casa de Esperanza: National Latin@ Network and NO MORE

LATIN@S BELIEVE FEAR IS A MAJOR BARRIER TO SEEKING HELP
AND FEAR OF DEPORTATION IS THE TOP REASON LATIN@
VICTIMS MAY NOT COME FORWARD

- 41% of Latin@s believe the primary reason Latin@ victims may not come forward is fear of deportation
- 39% of Latin@s say the primary reason Latin@ victims may not come forward is fear of more violence for themselves and their family
- 39% of Latin@s say the primary reason Latin@ victims may not come forward is fear of children being taken away

JUNTOS PODEMOS ACABAR CON LA VIOLENCIA DOMESTICA



**NO
MÁS
MIEDO**

Avon Speak Out Against Domestic Violence Program in 2016 provided funding to Caminar Latino in partnership with Cherokee Family Violence Center to provide outreach to Latino victims of domestic violence through social media

#NoMasMiedo or #NoMoreFear

Domestic violence services to Latino's survivors and their families

Increase statewide awareness

Unique bilingual resources

Support and resources to address the violence

Survivor's rights as victims of crime

Social media campaign, printed material and outreach



No
Más
Miedo





Statewide Spanish Domestic Violence Hotline

1-800-33 HAVEN



CFVC seeks to ensure that Latino victims of Domestic Violence and Stalking in Georgia have access to linguistically and culturally competent services.

- dynamics of DV
- lethality assessment
- crisis intervention techniques
- crime victims rights
- legal advocacy procedures
- domestic violence laws
- shelter and community resources
- immigration issues concerning victims of DV

Emergency Interpretation Services

- Between DV Victim and Law Enforcement
- Between DV Victim and DV Program
- Between DV Victim and DV Shelter staff
- Between DV Victim and DFCS on an emergency situation

Thank you

Contact information:

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Visit our websites & Follow us:

<http://cfvc.org/>

<http://nomasmiedo.org/>



<https://www.facebook.com/CFVCmulticultural/>



<https://www.instagram.com/cfvcinfo/>



<https://twitter.com/CFVCinfo>