

# **Trauma Exposure Reported By Women Recently Deported from the U.S. to Mexico**

**Christian Villanueva, BSN Student**

**Ruth Ann Belknap, RN, PhD**

**Robert Topp, RN, PhD**

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RONALD E. MCNAIR  
POST-BACCALAUREATE  
ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM



# Background

- **~200,000 individuals deported from the U.S. to Mexico in 2012**
- **Kino Border Initiative (KBI), a bi-national effort to provide humanitarian assistance to recently deported Mexican citizens from the U.S**
- **Project focused on women in Nogales Mexico at Casa Nazaret, a shelter for women and children**



# Background

- **Little research exists about the experience of border crossing and deportation or the effects of detention prior to deportation**
- **Entrance and deportation from the U.S. is traumatic, women, are subject to extortion, kidnapping, rape and murder.**
- **Trauma results in high levels of stress, and a variety of mental and physical health problems.**



# Purpose

- Purpose is to quantitatively describe the life history of trauma exposure of women recently deported from the U.S. to Mexico.



# Research Question

- **What are the components of life trauma exposure among women who have been deported from the U.S. to Mexico?**



# Method

- **Descriptive quantitative data collected through in-person interviews.**
- **Quantitative data analyzed using SPSS.**



# Instrument

- **Life Stressor Checklist Revised, Spanish version (LSC-RS)**
- **LSC-RS designed specifically for use with Spanish speaking women**
- **Developed to specifically, measure life-time exposure to trauma in women.**
- **30 item index that captured trauma associated with deportation and a life history of trauma.**



# Demographics

Variable	N	Range	Mean (SD)
Participant Age (years)	25	18 – 49	31.80 (8.46)
Education (years)	25	0 – 16	7.96 (4.26)
Time in US (years)	25	0 – 23	4.00 (6.30)
# of Crossings	25	0 – 4	2.00 (1.08)
Age of Children (years)		1 – 30	13.20 (7.53)





# Demographics

Location of Children	Frequency	%
No children	7	29.2
US	2	8.3
México	10	<b>41.7</b>
Both US and Mexico	4	16.7
Honduras	1	4.2



# Demographics

Plans	Frequency	%
Try to Cross	6	24.0
Return Home	11	44.0
Return to Mexico, but not home	3	12.0
Unsure	5	20.0



# #1 Most Reported Trauma

Ranked Responses	Average
<b>#1 Have you ever had serious economic problems? (Q 9.)</b>	Yes 25 (100%)
<b>How many times has this happened? (9.1)</b>	Few, several, 7 (29.2%) Some, many, 6 (25%) Always, 11 (45.8%) Missing, 1
<b>How old were you when this happen (9a)</b>	22.26, $\pm 8.11$
<b>When did this situation end? (9b)</b>	29.48 $\pm 10.13$
<b>How much has this affected your life in the past year? (9e)</b>	Not at all-- 1 (4.3%) Some-- 5 (21.7%) Extremely—17 (73.9%) Missing-- 2



# #2 Most Reported Trauma

**#2 Have you ever had a serious physical or mental problem? (Q10)**

**17 (70.8%)**

**How many times has this happened?  
(10.1)**

1, 2—11 (78.6%)

3, 4—2 (14.3%)

Many—1 (7.1%)

Missing—11

**How old were you when this happened?  
(10a)**

23.33 ± 11.06

**What age were you when this situation ended? (10b)**

26.71 ± 11.89

**At the time of the event, did you feel intense fear, horror, and helplessness?  
(10d)**

**Yes—11 (78.6%)**

No—3 (21.4%)

Missing—11

**How much has this affected your life in the past year? (10e)**

Not at all—1 (6.7%)

2—3 (20%)

Some—6 (40%)

4—2 (13.3%)

Extremely—3 (20%)

Missing—10



# Top 3 to 8 traumas reported

- **#3 Has any member of your nuclear family been to jail?**
  - Yes- 15 (60%)
- **#4 Have you ever been emotionally abused?**
  - Yes- 15 (62.5%)
- **#5 Has any one close to you died (not including suddenly or unexpectedly)?**
  - Yes- 15 (62.5%)



# Top 3 to 8 traumas reported cont.

- **#6 Have you ever been in prison?**
  - Yes- 13 (52%)
- **#7 Have you ever been separated or divorced?**
  - Yes- 13 (59.1%)
- **# 8 Before the age of 16, did you ever witness violence between members of your family?**
  - Yes- 13 (52%)



# 4 Questions of Interest

Questions	Yes	No
25) Before the age of 16, did someone ever touch you or force you to touch them sexually with force or threats of hurting you if you did not comply?	10 (43.5%)	13 (56.5%)
23) After the age of 16, were you physically abused or attacked by someone you know?	8 (33.3%)	16 (66.7%)
27) Before the age of 16, did you ever have sex with someone because you were forced to or threatened with being harmed if you didn't?	5 (22.7%)	17 (77.3%)
22) Before the age of 16, were you physically abused or attacked by someone you know?	4 (17.4%)	19 (82.6%)



# Challenges/Strengths

- **Women's native language is Spanish**
- **Need to translate participant responses from Spanish to English**
- **Paraphrased Spanish literature, from researchers in Mexico, to English**
- **Ability to converse and collect data in women's first language is a strength.**





# Limitations

- **Small convenience sample**
- **Data collected at only one deportation cite**
- **Data only from women who stayed at Casa Nazaret**
- **This is a small percentage of all women deported through Nogales.**



# Discussion

- This study is one of the first to focus on the trauma/violence of women recently deported to Mexico.
- Number of immigrants being deported has reached all-time highs
  - **1.5M deported during Obama's 1<sup>st</sup> term in office**
  - **~400,000 deportees each year.**
- Future studies:
  - Describe the abuse/violence women experience during border crossing and deportation procedures.
  - Assess health implications resulting from abuse/violence women experience during border crossing and deportation procedures



# Conclusion

- **Every women interviewed reported facing severe economic hardship, potentially leading to their migration from Mexico to the U.S.**
- **Findings also highlight a need for policy makers to address steps in new immigration laws that focus on decreasing deportation-related trauma.**
- **Study indicates that women deported from U.S. to Mexico face many obstacles in maintaining good health and safety during deportation.**



# Next Steps

- **Qualitative data simultaneously collected to be analyzed to ‘triangulate’ quantitative data.**
- **Explore publishing in U.S. and Mexico**
- **Presenting at Midwest Nursing Research Society (MNRS) in Spring**
- **Contemplate Graduate School to continue research on trauma/violence against immigrant particularly women**





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