

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

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## Background

- Project focused on women in Nogales Mexico at Casa Nazaret, shelter for women and children.
  - Goal : document, women's traumatic experiences, strengths, and resources.
- Kino Border Initiative is a bi-national effort to provide assistance to recently deported Mexican citizens.
- ~ 200,000 individuals deported from U.S. to Mexico in 2012.
- 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.

## Purpose/Research Question

- Purpose** is to quantitatively describe the life history of trauma exposure of women recently deported from the U.S. to Mexico.
- What are the components of life trauma exposure among women who have been deported from the U.S. to Mexico?



## Method/Instrument

- Descriptive quantitative data through in-person interviews.
- Life Stressor Checklist Revised, Spanish version (LSC-RS), measure of life-time exposure to trauma in women.
  - 30 item index captured trauma associated with deportation and a life history of trauma.
- Data analyzed using SPSS.

## Top 8 Reported Traumas

Ranked Questions	Frequency (%)
<b>#1 Have you ever had serious economic problems?</b>	Yes- 25 ( <b>100%</b> )
<i>How many times has this happened?</i>	Few, several- 7 (29.2%) Some, many,-6 (25%) Always- 11 ( <b>45.8%</b> )
<i>How much has this affected your life in the past year?</i>	Not at all- 1 (4.3%) Some- 5 (21.7%) Extremely-17 ( <b>73.9%</b> )
<b>#2 Have you ever had a serious physical or mental problem?</b>	Yes- 17 ( <b>70.8%</b> )
<i>How many times has this happened?</i>	"1, 2"- 11 ( <b>78.6%</b> ) "3, 4"- 2 (14.3%) Many- 1 (7.1%)
<i>At the time of the event, did you feel intense fear, horror, and helplessness?</i>	Yes- 11 ( <b>78.6%</b> )
<i>How much has this affected your life in the past year?</i>	Not at all- 1 (6.7%) "2, 3"- (20%) Some- 6 ( <b>40%</b> ) "4"- 2 (13.3%) Extremely- 3 (20%)
<b>#3 Has any member of your nuclear family been to jail?</b>	Yes- 15 ( <b>60%</b> )
<i>How many times has this happened?</i>	"1"- 9 ( <b>64.3%</b> ) "2"- 4 (28.6%) "4"- 1 (7.1%)
<i>How much has this affected your life in the past year?</i>	Not at all- 2 (15.4%) Some- 3 (23.1%) "4"- 1 (7.7%) Extremely- 7 ( <b>53.8%</b> )
<b>#4 Have you ever been emotionally abused?</b>	Yes- 15 ( <b>62.5%</b> )
<i>How many times has this happened?</i>	Few, several- 6 ( <b>42.9%</b> ) Some- 4 (28.6%) Always- 4 (28.6%)
<i>At the time of the event, did you feel intense fear, horror, and helplessness?</i>	Yes- 12 ( <b>85.7%</b> ) No- 2 (14.3%)
<i>How much has this affected your life in the past year?</i>	Not at all- 2 (14.3%) "2"- 1 (7.1%) Some- 2 (14.3%) Extremely- 9 ( <b>64.3%</b> )

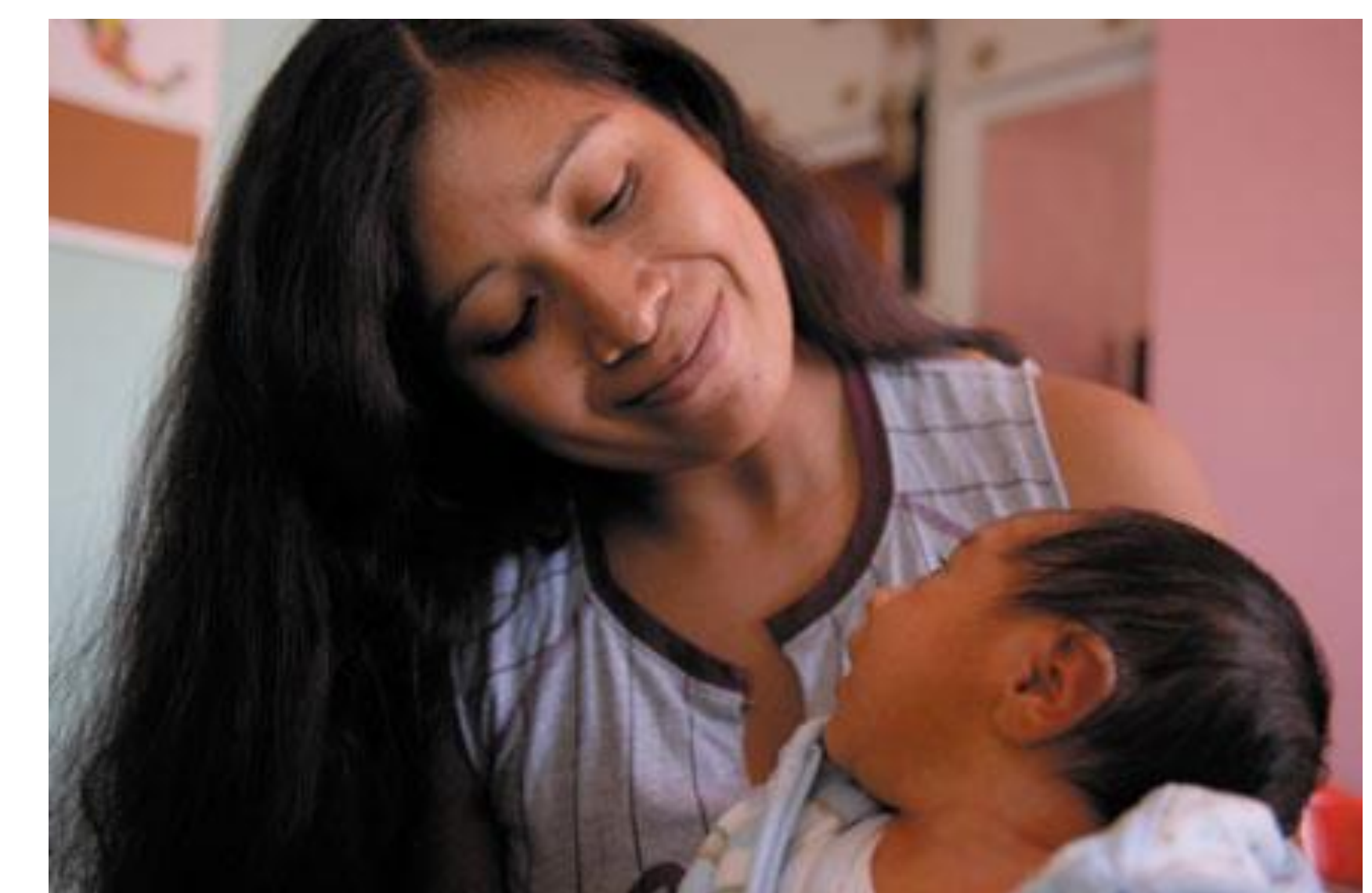
Ranked Questions	Frequency (%)
<b>#5 Has any one close to you died (not including suddenly or unexpectedly)?</b>	Yes- 15 ( <b>62.5%</b> )
<i>How many times has this happened?</i>	"1"- 9 ( <b>60%</b> ) "2"- 4 (26.7%) "3"- 2 (13.3%)
<i>At the time of the event, did you feel intense fear, horror, and helplessness?</i>	Yes- 9 ( <b>64.3%</b> ) No- 5 (35.7%)
<i>How much has this affected your life in the past year?</i>	Not at all- 1 (6.7%) Some- 4 (26.7%) "4"- 1 (6.7%) Extremely- 9 ( <b>60%</b> )
<b>#6 Have you ever been in prison?</b>	Yes- 13 ( <b>52%</b> )
<i>How many times has this happened?</i>	"1"- 8 ( <b>61.5%</b> ) "2"- 3 (23.1%) "3"- 2 (15.4%)
<i>How much has this affected your life in the past year?</i>	Some- 3 (25%) Extremely- 9 ( <b>75%</b> )
<b>#7 Have you ever been separated or divorced?</b>	Yes- 13 ( <b>59.1%</b> )
<i>How many times has this happened?</i>	"1"- 12 ( <b>100%</b> )
<i>How much has this affected your life in the past year?</i>	"2"- 1 (9.1%) Some- 2 (18.2%) Extremely- 8 ( <b>72.7%</b> )
<b>#8 Before the age of 16, did you ever witness violence between members of your family?</b>	Yes- 13 ( <b>52%</b> )
<i>How many times has this happened?</i>	Regularly- 3 (23.1%) Many- 8 ( <b>61.5%</b> ) Always- 2 (15.4%)
<i>At the time of the event, did you feel intense fear, horror, and helplessness?</i>	Yes- 11 ( <b>91.7%</b> ) No- 1 (8.3%)
<i>How much has this affected your life in the past year?</i>	Not at all- 3 (25%) "2"- 1 (8.3%) Some- 4 ( <b>33.3%</b> ) "4"- 1 (8.3%) Extremely- 3 (25%)

## 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)

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

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



## Discussion/Conclusion

- This study is one of the first to focus on the trauma of women recently deported to Mexico.
- Women deported from U.S. to Mexico face many obstacles in maintaining good health and safety during deportation.
  - Also exposed to abuse/violence during border crossings and deportation procedures.
- Majority of women reported facing severe economic hardship, potentially initiating their migration to the U.S.
- Policy makers need to address steps in immigration laws that focus on decreasing deportation-related trauma.
- Future studies needed to assess health implications from deportation.
  - Research limited by need to translate/paraphrase from Spanish both reviewed literature and participant responses.

