Title: Intimate Partner Violence in Mexican-American Women Aging with Mobility Impairments: A Secondary Data Analysis of Cross-Language Research

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Introduction: Violence against women is a major global human rights issue affecting over 33% of women in the US. The way in which non-English speaking women have overcome past experiences with intimate partner violence (IPV) has received little attention in the literature. Using a Salutogenic Model of health, Spanish speaking Mexican-American women with mobility impairments may offer unique ways of overcoming multiple adversities. The aim of this qualitative descriptive study was to explore the manifestations of strength within the IPV stories of Spanish-speaking Mexican-American women aging with mobility impairments.

Method: A secondary data analysis of IPV events, gleaned from 26 audiotaped interviews from seven Spanish-speaking Mexican-American women with mobility impairments, constituted the sample. A certified translator was used to translate Spanish to English data. The content analysis of data in Spanish and English was guided by Antonovsky’s Salutogenic Theory. Trustworthiness was ensured by investigators meeting monthly over a year to compare findings.

Results: The women ranged in age from 55-75 and the majority was born in Mexico. Five of the seven women described multiple forms of abuse including IPV and childhood abuse. Five analytic categories were identified: Abuse from early on shapes sense of coherence; “Violencia tan cruel”…Threats to sense of coherence in intimate partner relationships; Personal choices for “Salutogenesis” in context of IPV; A quest for peace; and Strength amidst struggle.

Discussion: These aging women were removed from previous abusive situations but memories of IPV remained. Their life stories, which were often filled with sadness and turmoil, also manifested strength and perseverance to maintain health. Holistic, culturally sensitive programs may provide avenues for women to reflect on their stories, affirm their strengths, foster healing, and contribute to a more peaceful life trajectory. Further research of IPV in aging ethnic minorities is warranted.

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