

# Masculinity's Role and Contribution to Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) Impacting Latino Men's Overall Health Equity

Eckles, L., Denkinger, O., Smith, E., Thompson, B., Wick, N., Daniel-Ulloa, J. PHD, MPH  
College of Public Health, University of Iowa



## BACKGROUND

- A higher incidence of intimate partner violence in Latino couples has been noted in comparison to non-Hispanic whites and non-Hispanic blacks. The current discussion of Latino masculinity often perpetuates negative stereotypes portraying Latino men as violent and aggressive
- Latinos have been found to be more susceptible to the consequences of IPV, such as poor mental health outcomes, in comparison to other ethnicities
- Machismo is a cultural concept most commonly associated with ideals of dominance and virility in Latino males, and is likely associated with intimate partner violence (IPV)

## PURPOSE

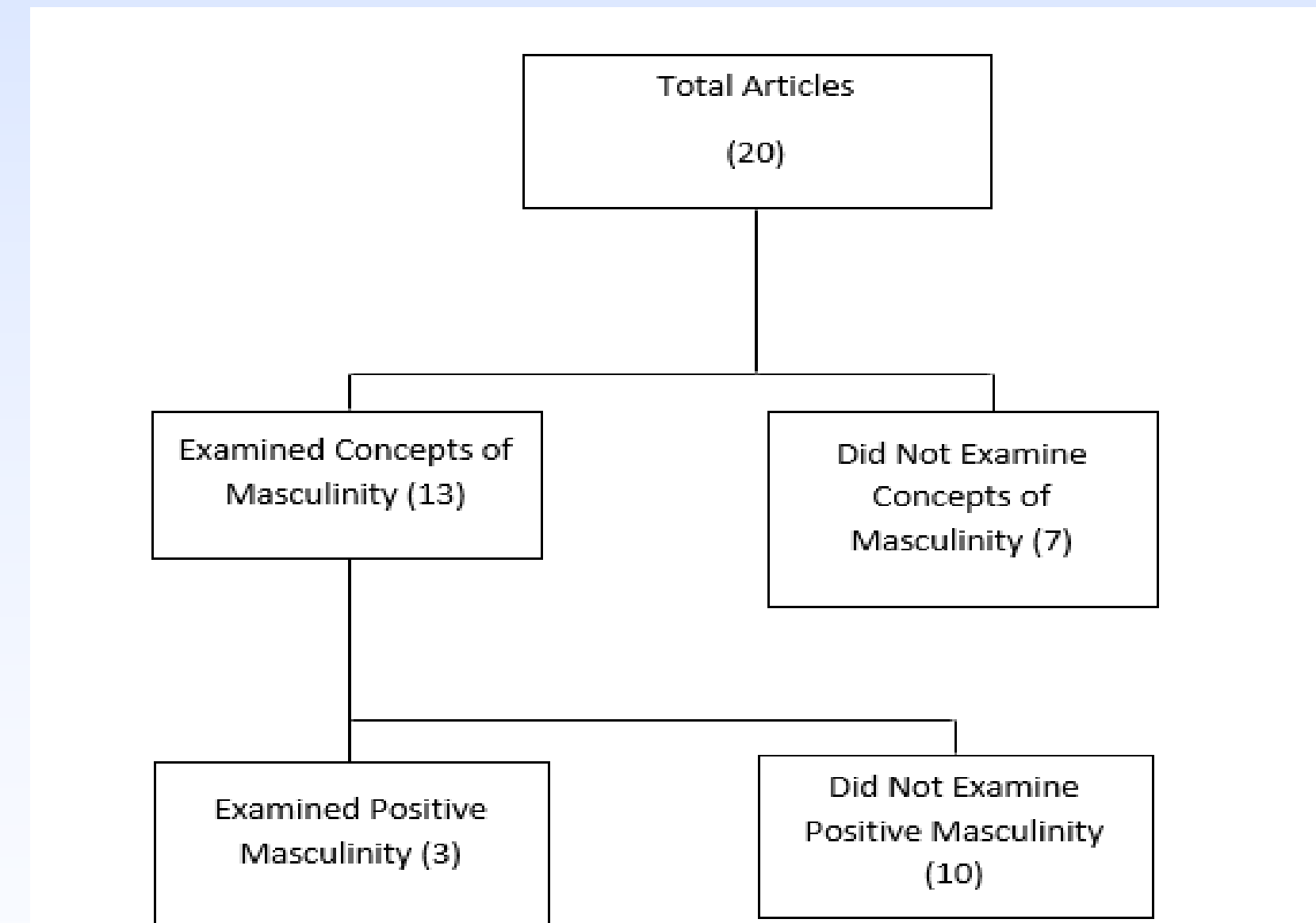
- To develop a better understanding of how academic work discusses intimate partner violence in Latino couples
- To review articles that focus on masculinity's role in decreasing or increasing the odds of being involved in IPV among Latino men

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

### Methods

- This literature review was a sub-set of a parent systematic literature review on Latino men's health.
- This review was conducted through the analysis of two search engines, PsycINFO and CINHALL.
- Only academic work with title references to intimate partner violence or domestic violence were kept after the initial first wave was completed.
- Only articles that included the words Intimate Partner Violence (IPV), domestic violence, domestic abuse, or domestic assault in their title or abstract were included in the reviewed literature.
- Articles that fit the inclusion criteria were evaluated on whether they included a described health behavior relationship between a risk factor and IPV, separately discussed men, consisted of at least 75% Latinos, were peer reviewed science, and were not surveillance studies.
- Both heterosexual and homosexual couples were included in this study; however, results for the two groups were reported separately.
- Both immigrant and domestic-born Hispanic Americans were included, but reported separately.
- Table 1 lists the articles, with their authors and journals, that fit the criteria.

## EMERGING RESULTS



Author	Title	Positive or Negative Portrayal of Masculinity	Latino-specific measures of masculinity	Sexuality of participants	Nationality of participants
Cho, H., D. Velez-Ortiz and J. R. Parra-Cardona	Prevalence of Intimate Partner Violence and Associated Risk Factors Among Latinos/as: An Exploratory Study With Three Latino Subpopulations	Negative	"Traditional gender roles"	Heterosexual	Cuba, Mexico, Puerto Rico
Cummings, A. M., R. M. Gonzalez-Guarda and M. F. Sandoval	Intimate Partner Violence Among Hispanics: A Review of the Literature	Positive and negative	Negative: "Traditional gender roles," Machismo; positive: "respect for mother," "strong family ties"	Heterosexual	United States
Caetano, R., S. Ramisetty-Mikler, P. A. Caetano Vaeth and T. R. Harris	Acculturation stress, drinking, and intimate partner violence among Hispanic couples in the U.S	No masculinity concepts	No masculinity concepts	Heterosexual	United States
Cunradi, C. B.	Intimate partner violence among hispanic men and women: the role of drinking, neighborhood disorder, and acculturation-related factors	No masculinity concepts	No masculinity concepts	Heterosexual	Includes immigrants
J. P. De Santis, R. Gonzalez-Guarda, E. Provencio-Vasquez and D. A. Deleon	The Tangled Branches (Las Ramas Enredadas): Sexual risk, substance abuse, and intimate partner violence among Hispanic men who have sex with men	Negative	Machismo	Homosexual	Cuba, Puerto Rico, Honduras, Nicaragua, Colombia, Costa Rica, Peru, Chile
Duke, M. R. and C. B. Cunradi	Measuring intimate partner violence among male and female farmworkers in San Diego County, Ca	No masculinity concepts	No masculinity concepts	Heterosexual	United States, Mexico
Ferguson, C. J.	Love Is a Battlefield: Risk Factors and Gender Disparities for Domestic Violence among Mexican Americans	No masculinity concepts	No masculinity concepts	Heterosexual	Mexico
Gonzalez-Guarda, R. M., A. M. Cummings, M. Becerra, M. C. Fernandez and I. Mesa	Needs and Preferences for the Prevention of Intimate Partner Violence Among Hispanics: A Community's Perspective	Positive and negative	Negative: "traditional gender roles," Machismo; Positive: "respect for mothers"	Heterosexual and homosexual	Includes immigrants
Gonzalez-Guarda, R. M., J. P. De Santis and E. P. Vasquez	Sexual Orientation and Demographic, Cultural, and Psychological Factors Associated with the Perpetration and Victimization of Intimate Partner Violence among Hispanic Men	Negative	Machismo	Homosexual	United States, other
Gonzalez-Guarda, R. M., J. Ortega, E. P. Vasquez and J. De Santis	La mancha negra: substance abuse, violence, and sexual risks among Hispanic males	Positive and negative	Negative: "traditional gender roles," machismo; Positive: caballerismo	Heterosexual	United States, Cuba, Honduras, Nicaragua
Hancock, T. and K. Siu	A culturally sensitive intervention with domestically violent Latino immigrant men	Negative	Machismo	Heterosexual	Mexico
Harvey, S. M., L. J. Beckman and S. T. Bird	Feeling powerful in heterosexual relationships: cultural beliefs among couples of Mexican origin	Negative	"Traditional gender roles," machismo	Heterosexual	United States, Mexico, other
Kim-Godwin, Y., M. Maume and J. Fox	Depression, Stress, and Intimate Partner Violence Among Latino Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers in Rural Southeastern North Carolina	No masculinity concepts	No masculinity concepts	Heterosexual	Mexico, Cuba, other
Kim-Godwin, Y. S. and J. A. Fox	Gender differences in intimate partner violence and alcohol use among Latino-migrant and seasonal farmworkers in rural southeastern North Carolina	Negative	Machismo	Heterosexual	Mexico
Klevens, J., G. Shelley, C. Clavel-Arcas, D. Barney, C. Tobar, E. S. Duran, R. Barajas-Mazaheri and J. Esparza	Latinos' perspectives and experiences with intimate partner violence	Negative	Machismo	Heterosexual	United States, Mexico, El Salvador, Honduras, Costa Rica, Panama, Colombia, Peru, Argentina
Kugel, C., C. Retzlaff, S. Hopfer, D. Lawson, E. Daley, C. Drewes and S. Freedman	Familias con Voz: community survey results from an Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) Prevention Project with migrant workers	Negative	Machismo	Heterosexual	United States, includes immigrants
Lewis, M. J., B. West, L. Bautista, A. M. Greenberg and I. Done-Perez	Perceptions of service providers and community members on intimate partner violence within a Latino community	Negative	Traditional gender roles, Machismo	Heterosexual	Puerto Rico or Dominican, Other
Moracco, K. E., A. Hilton, K. G. Hodges and P. Y. Frasier	Knowledge and attitudes about intimate partner violence among immigrant Latinos in rural North Carolina	Negative	Traditional gender roles, Machismo	Heterosexual	Mexico, Central America, South America
Saez-Betacourt, A., B. T. Lam and T. Nguyen	The meaning of being incarcerated on a domestic violence charge and its impact on self and family among Latino immigrant batterers	Negative	Traditional gender roles, Machismo	Heterosexual	Mexico, Guatemala

## RESULTS

- The search on CINHALL with the search terms resulted in 4,342 articles.
- Of these 4,342 articles, 19 fit the inclusion criteria.
- Of the 19 total articles, 13 described masculinity as a risk factor for perpetrating IPV.
- 12 of the 13 articles which described masculinity as a risk factor for IPV cited machismo; 8 cited traditional gender roles; 7 articles cited both machismo and traditional gender roles as negative aspects of masculinity.
- 3 articles discussed "positive" aspects of masculinity—strong family ties, respect for mothers, and caballerismo—as protective factors against IPV.
- One article commented on both positive and negative aspects of masculinity.
- 5 of the 19 total articles included no analysis of gender roles.
- 17 of the 19 total articles included information on immigrant populations.
- 13 of the 15 articles that analyzed gender roles also reported immigration status.
- Of the 19 total articles, 16 included exclusively heterosexual couples, 2 included exclusively same-sex couples, and 1 article included both heterosexual and same-sex couples. No articles which met inclusion criteria addressed other types of LGBTQ relationships.
- The search on PsycINFO with the search terms resulted in 468 articles.
- Of these 468 articles, 2 fit the inclusion criteria; both of these were also captured in the CINHALL search.

## DISCUSSION

- Of the large body of articles reviewed, few focused on intimate partner violence among Latino men. There is a gap in current academic work on this topic that needs to be addressed.
- Even fewer articles discussed IPV among same sex Latino couples, showing yet another gap involving the literature surrounding IPV in the Latino population.
- 13 of the 19 articles discussed the role of masculinity in IPV, but only 3 included commentary on the positive aspects of masculinity.
- Results gathered from this review prove there are current gaps in literature on IPV and the current conversation surrounding Latino men and masculinity tends to be negative.

## CONCLUSIONS

- Lack of knowledge on protective factors that gender roles produce will significantly impede the cessation of IPV in Latino populations.
- Future research should include how psychosocial constructs like machismo, marianismo, acculturation, etc. impact Latino men's behaviors involving IPV as well as studies that focus specifically on beneficial psychosocial constructs in Latino men's health.
- Limitations to this literature review include only using health behavior research from health search engines like PsycINFO and CINHALL; other limitations include the lack of studies including Latino men as a focus.
- Further reliable research needs to be gathered on social determinants that negatively impact Latino men's health in order to create health equity.
- Involvement of community based interventions will be important to collecting future data on Latino gender roles as well as providing culturally sensitive information and following up with participants after data collection.