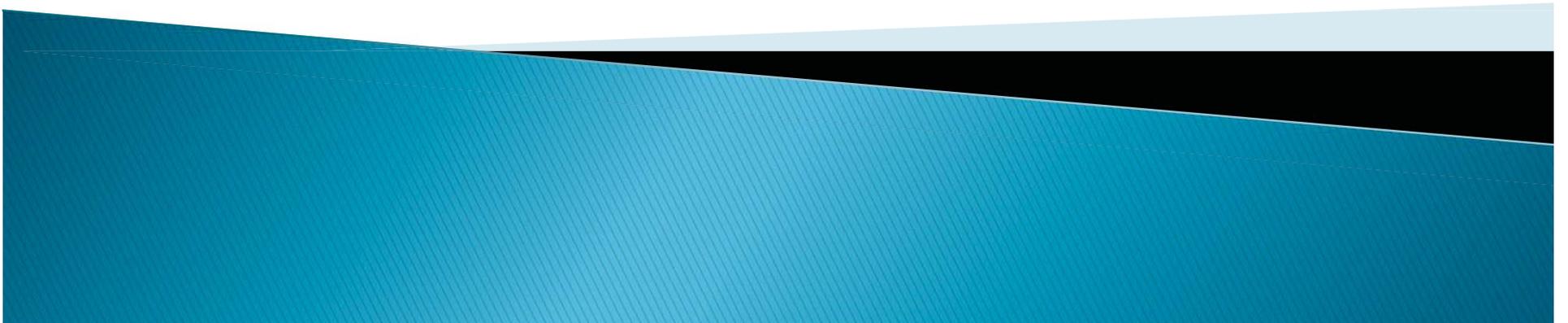


Needs of Latino Sexual Assault Survivors in Rural Areas

Elizabeth Balcarcel



Needs of Rural Latino Survivors

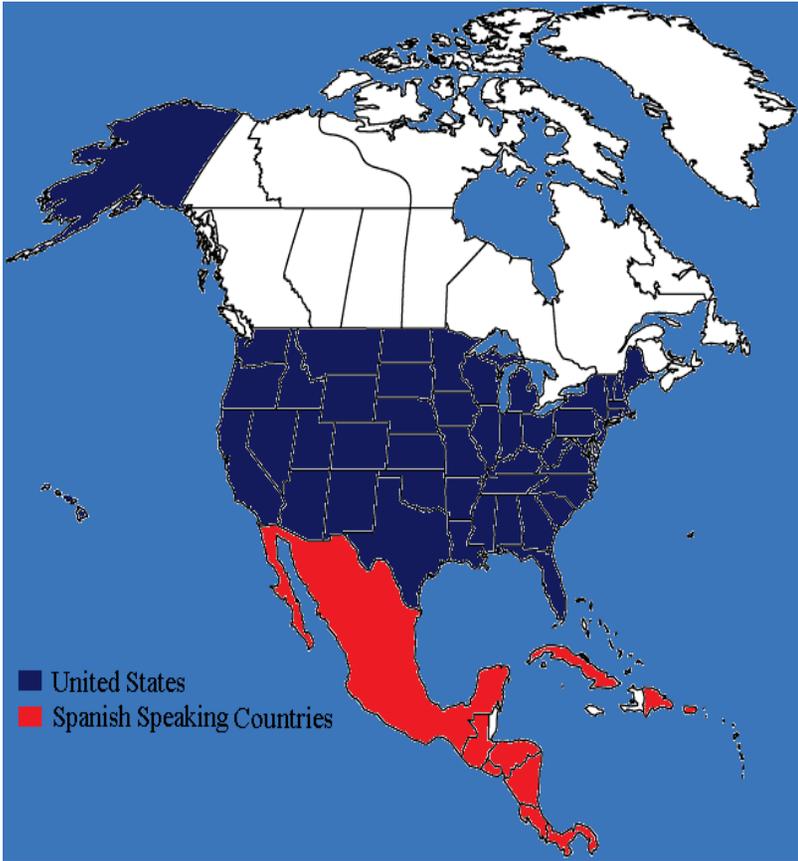
- ▶ Understand the changing demographics of rural communities
- ▶ Understand the barriers Latino survivors face in reaching services
- ▶ Learn new strategies for reaching out Latino survivors of sexual violence



Latino Community – Who Are They?

- ▶ Multicultural community that includes people native from:





- ▶ What is important to consider when you reaching out to Rural Latino survivors?



Diversity Among the Latino Community

▶ Culture



▶ Language



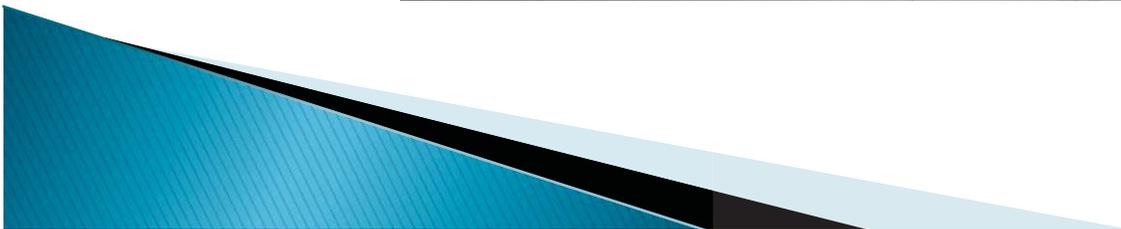
▶ Religion



▶ Ethnic Origin



Why do Latinos come to the U.S.?



Priorities for Latinos in the U.S.

- ▶ Family
- ▶ Work
- ▶ Religion
- ▶ Traditions
- ▶ Integration in to the society
- ▶ Improve their current status

Needs for Latinos in the U.S.

- ▶ Immigration status
- ▶ Access to health care services and orientation
- ▶ Financial counseling and orientation
- ▶ Housing and utilities
- ▶ Education

▶ What services does your community have for Latino survivors?



Barriers that Latinos face to Access Services

Language barriers



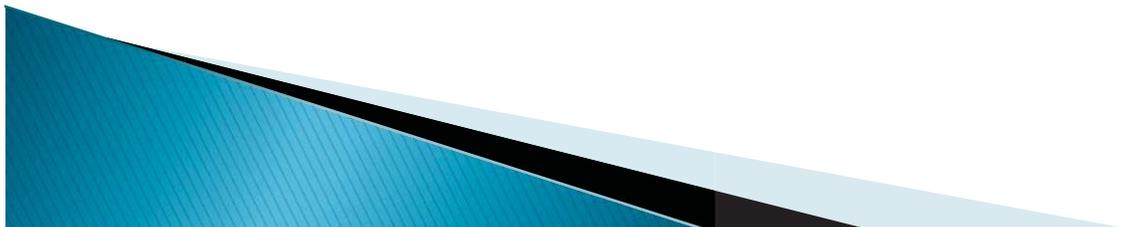
Fear and misconception concerning the police and the U.S. legal system



Barriers that Latinos face to Access Services

Fear of deportation

Cultural Issues



Barriers that Latinos face to Access Services

- ▶ Religious concerns
- ▶ Fears about experiencing racism from justice system personnel and service providers
- ▶ Economic barriers



Rural Barriers that Latinos face to Access Services

- ▶ Confidentiality
- ▶ Transportation
- ▶ Lack of Resources and Service Providers
- ▶ Working Conditions



Barriers for those working with the Latino Community

- ▶ Language Barriers
- ▶ Cultural Competency
- ▶ Expectations



Barriers for those working with the Latino Community

- ▶ Awareness about issues in the Latino Community
- ▶ Finding the Community and Survivors



Working to Eliminate Barriers

▶ Language

- Make sure that staffing patterns reflect the demographics of the population being served.
- Agencies should include specific description of the bilingual services offered by the organization.
- Establish criteria for measuring an agency's level of bilingual services.
- Earmark certain funds for second-language materials, interpreters, bilingual staff, etc.

Source: Latina Alliance Against Sexual Aggression



Working to Eliminate Barriers

▶ Language

- All program staff, substitutes, and volunteers should receive training in victim's language rights and in how to advocate for those rights.
- All program staff, substitutes, and volunteers should be trained in how to work with an interpreter.
- Recruit and train volunteers from the Latino Community.

Source: Latina Alliance Against Sexual Aggression



Working to Eliminate our Barriers

▶ Cultural Competency

- To be culturally competent does not mean you are an authority in the values and belief of every culture.
- It means that you hold a deep respect for cultural differences and are eager to learn, and are willing to accept that there are many ways of viewing the world.

Source: Okokon O. Udo, PhD



Do not be discouraged

- ▶ Reaching the Latino community takes time and consistency



▶ How do you make your agency welcoming and safe?



- ▶ What will you do in the next month to reach out to Latino survivors?



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- ▶ Program MUJER in south Florida
<http://mujerfla.org/>
- ▶ Arte Sana in Texas
www.artesana.com
- ▶ National Latina Network Casa de Esperanza
www.asista.org

