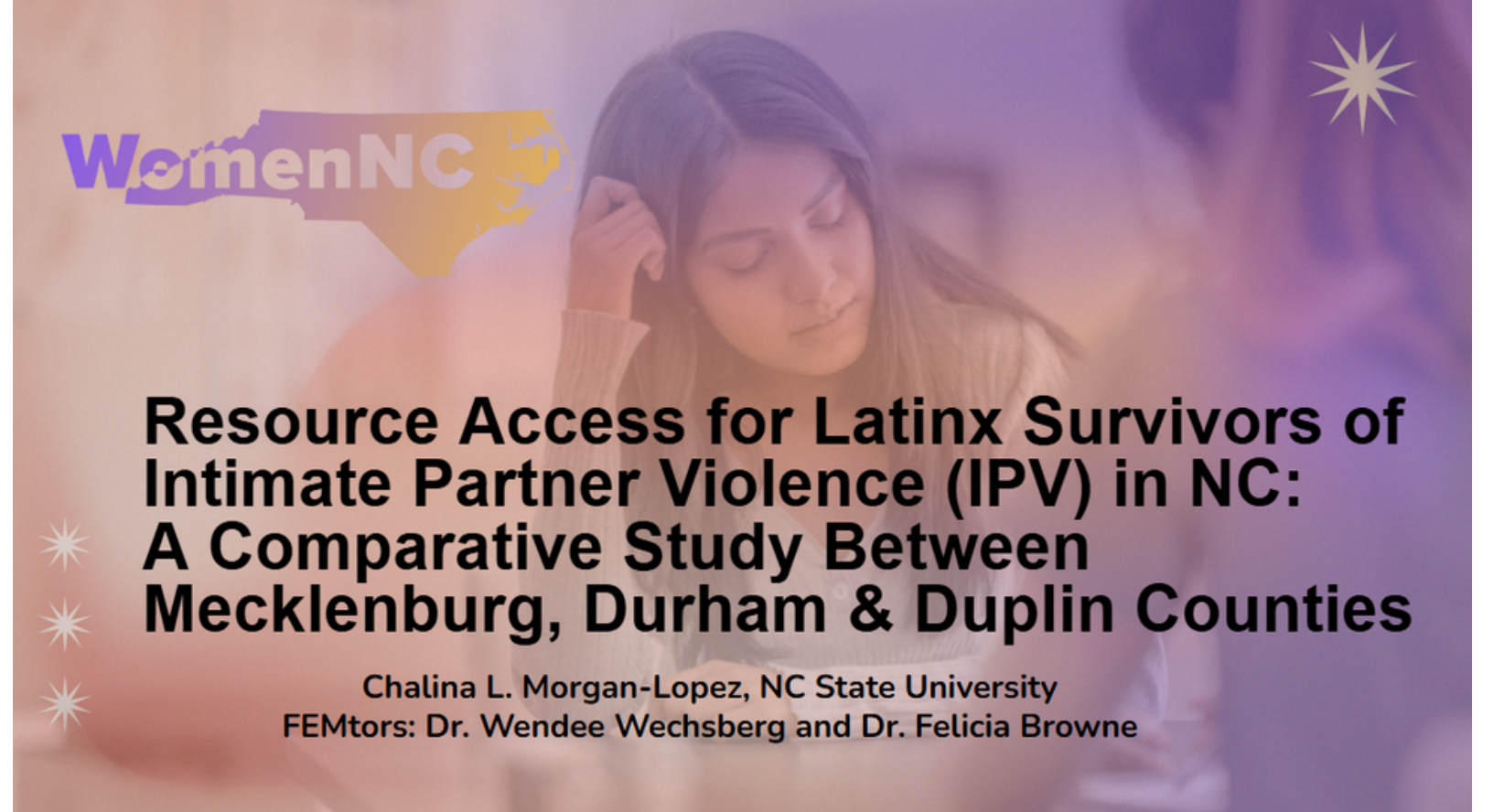




Resource Access for Latinx Survivors of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) in NC: A Comparative Study Between Mecklenburg, Durham & Duplin Counties

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Defining the Issue

What is IPV? The CDC defines IPV as physical violence, sexual violence, stalking, or psychological harm by a current or former partner or spouse

Nationally and in North Carolina, Latinx women are **disproportionately impacted** by IPV, though **less-likely to report** it when compared to their white counterparts.

In the United States¹

1 in 3 Latinx women will experience IPV in their lifetime, while 1 in 12 Latinx women have experienced IPV in the last 12 months.

In North Carolina²

Two-thirds of Latinx female homicide victims were killed by intimate partners in 2020.



Methods

Literature Review



A PRISMA-Informed literature review was conducted to determine reporting trends and resource availability for Latinx survivors of IPV

Search Terms: “intimate partner violence”; Latina OR Latinas; OR Hispanic women; OR immigrant women; United States OR North Carolina; rural OR urban; Mecklenburg County; OR Durham County; OR Duplin County

Databases: Google Scholar, PubMed, JSTOR, PsychINFO

Results: 20 articles met the criteria for inclusion

1. National Domestic Violence Hotline

2. NC Department of Health and Human Services

Service Provider Interviews

15-20 minute interviews were conducted with service providers in Mecklenburg, Durham, and Duplin counties who were identified through an online search

- Approval was obtained through NCSU IRB with informed consent for all participants approved
- Participants included mental health practitioners, lawyers, domestic violence crisis responders, and other organizational staff

Results

Literature review findings suggest that Latinx women often don't report IPV due to:

- Cultural stigma and norms including *familismo* (strong identification with and attachment to family) and *marianismo* (beliefs that prescribe Latina femininity as nurturing, self-sacrificing, virginal, and emotionally strong)
- Linguistic barriers
- Fear of deportation
- Limited access to culturally competent resources

Interview findings further illustrate that:

- Limited English proficiency/lack of bilingual service providers was identified as a concern
- Fear of immigration and customs enforcement (ICE) led to a decrease in help-seeking, therapy appointment attendance, and DV court filings
- Survivors reported mixed experiences with law enforcement
- Organizations have limited service capacity/resources to assist all survivors
- Survivors face economic and transportation barriers
- Relationship dynamics, such as financial dependence on a partner or immigration status, also affect survivors' actions
- Some providers expressed that the proportion of clients served that were Latinx was higher than the Latinx population proportion in their county

Policy Recommendations



1.

Expand linguistically and culturally responsive services



2.

Strengthen protections between IPV services and immigration enforcement



3.

Stabilize funding for legal and mental health service providers especially in rural areas

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