



Love without Borders

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Research Question

How does a person's undocumented status affect their intimate relationships?



Introduction

Around 10.5 million undocumented immigrants are living in the United States. Many never talk about how their personal/intimate relationships, for example are destroyed or they are afraid to even enter a relationship, because there is a stereotype that makes people think immigrants take advantage of US citizens to get their greencard.



Methods of Inquiry

- Peer reviewed journals.
- Support websites, such as Ask Angy.
- Phone interviews
- News reports

ASK
Angy?



Results

- ABUSE RATES AMONG IMMIGRANT WOMEN ARE AS HIGH AS 49.8%
- Many undocumented immigrants, mostly women, tend to be afraid to report their abusers, because they know there's a chance of them being deported.

Results

- For example, Irvin Gonzalez, a transgender woman was detained by ICE at a Texas Courthouse in 2017, after being granted a protective order against her ex-boyfriend. The El Paso Times explained that the ICE officers acted on a tip from the boyfriend and alleged abuser. Gonzalez is an example of why women drop their charges or don't report their abusers.

ABUSE
BLACKMAIL



- I interviewed by FaceTime a 20-year-old woman who's an asylum seeker, currently living in Texas. Two years ago, she was in what she described as a "TOXIC AND EMOTIONALLY ABUSIVE RELATIONSHIP." To this day, it is hard for her to talk about her past. While in the video call, she refused to look at me in the eyes every time she remembered something that was painful. She was not very detailed about her experience. I believed these were signs of psychological trauma. Also, she never sought help, because her parents told her that she could be deported.

Angy Paola
Rivera



- Angy Paola Rivera is one of the first advocates for Latinos and undocumented immigrants. She talks about all of the enigmas of what undocumented immigrants go through everyday. She not only talks about immigration status, but helps them cope with their traumas.

- Angy is not only an advocate, but she's also a survivor from domestic violence from her mother's ex-boyfriend. She was 19 years old when she finally became a US citizen. Sadly, what gave her the opportunity to get her citizenship was her victim/survivor status.



Conclusion

When I started my research, I was not surprised to find that undocumented immigrants have a hard time with their education and jobs, but what surprised was that they also have problems with their love lives. Many studies have shown people hide their immigration status because of the fear of rejection from their partners and because they are afraid of being deported.

As a psychology major, I would like to see future studies about how undocumented immigrants are being treated, not only by society but by the government as well.

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