

Barriers to Reporting or Disclosing Violence and Seeking Help for Immigrant and Refugee Women

- Fear of loss of children (e.g. apprehension, deportation, divorce).
- Discrimination and racism within service delivery system.
- Limited knowledge about laws and rights & domestic violence services.
- Geographic, social, and cultural isolation
- Fear of deportation due to precarious immigration status.
- Social stigma related to disclosure of domestic violence.
- Language barriers and lack of culturally and linguistically appropriate services that are easy to access.
- Economic exclusion due to lack of recognition of credentials.
- Lack of coordinated services.
- Lack of accessible shelters (e.g. physical barriers; inadequate provision of spiritual, cultural, or religious needs).
- Lack of access to attendant care and sign language interpretation for women who are living with disabilities or for Deaf women.
- Collectivist cultural beliefs that support keeping the family together and not disclosing "private" matters.