

Violence Towards Migrants

Patricia Martínez Lanz, María Doménica Ravelo Ladrón de Guevara, Daniela Ayari Moreno Landeta,
María Fernanda Gen Lortia, Ixchel Aditi González Gutierrez, Elsa Paulina Alanis Cázares
Universidad Anáhuac México, Mexico City, Mexico

The present study was transversal, exploratory, descriptive, and correlational in order to determine factors related to the migration of the subjects, such as levels of domestic violence, substance consumption, and sociodemographic factors before their transfer, as well as violence during their trip. The total sample was composed of 266 migrants, accommodated in two Mexican shelters. Four scales were used to evaluate sociodemographic factors, domestic violence, substance abuse (drugs and alcohol), and violence during the migratory path. For the factors of domestic violence, violence during migratory path, and substance abuse, Likert type scales were used. According to these results, the hypotheses can be verified, inferring that the factors of domestic violence, lack of money or insecurity in the country of the migrant's origin have as consequence the transfer to other countries. It was also verified that subjects that migrate suffer of some kind of violence.

Keywords: migration, domestic violence, migratory violence, addictions, migrant's sociodemographic factors

The rates of violence in México have been increasing in different areas, affecting the violated subjects, their family, and the mexican society.

The kind of violence migrants suffer in the route they made from their country of origin to the shelter, has been manifested and reported in diverse massive means of communication, but to our knowledge, few studies have been made about this subject.

Furthermore, the present investigation attempts to respond to a series of risk factors related to this phenomenon by analyzing a representative sample of migrants who came to the shelter seeking for help during their transfer.

As for the limits of this research, it has to be considered that the instrument was applied only to a sample of migrants arriving in Oaxaca and the results cannot be generalizable. Also the instrument was self-applicable and anonymous, which limits the sample to those who can read and write. Finally, in terms of alcohol and substance consumption, it must be considered that given the circumstances of life and the vulnerable situation the migrants face, they may prefer to hide the actual information regarding their consumption.

Patricia Martínez Lanz, Ph.D., Member of the Mexican Academy of Sciences, Mexican Society of Psychology, American Psychological Association, European Health Psychology Society and International Association of Cross-cultural Psychology, Director and Coordinator of the Interdisciplinary Research Center at Universidad Anahuac México, Mexico City, Mexico.

María Doménica Ravelo Ladrón de Guevara, Student, Department of Psychology, Universidad Anáhuac México, Mexico City, Mexico.

Daniela Ayari Moreno Landeta, Student, Department of Psychology, Universidad Anáhuac México, Mexico City, Mexico.

María Fernanda Gen Lortia, Student, Department of Psychology, Universidad Anáhuac México, Mexico City, Mexico.

Ixchel Aditi González Gutierrez, Student, Department of Psychology, Universidad Anáhuac México, Mexico City, Mexico.

Elsa Paulina Alanis Cázares, Research Assistant of the Interdisciplinary Research Center at Universidad Anáhuac México, Mexico City, Mexico.

Critical findings	Implications
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The present study confirms the presence of high levels of violence during the migrants transfer. • Risk factors such as domestic violence, lack of money and insecurity in the migrant's country of origin, had as consequence the transfer to other countries. • Domestic violence is certainly a risk factor for suffering other types of violence. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The results of this research can serve as a development tool for the intervention strategies used in the shelters it can also serve as an element of analysis for the creation and modification of policies and strategies in the field of human rights.

Background

The World Health Organization (2002) defines violence as the intentional use of force or physical power in fact or as a threat against oneself, another person, group or community, which causes or is likely to cause injuries, death, psychological damage, developmental disorders or deprivation of any kind, being one of the main causes of death in the world among people between 15 and 44 years old, of which 14% of the population that dies are men and 7% are women. The same source divides violence into four categories:

1. *Self-inflicted violence*, in which suicide attempts or self-harm are attempted.
2. *Interpersonal violence*, which includes all types of family violence (couple, children, and the elderly) and directs towards other people without the need for kinship.
3. *Collective violence*, which includes social, political, and economic violence.
4. *Sexual violence*, which includes any comment, insinuation or sexual act that is not desired and is carried out without the consent of the person.

In this same sense, Espinar (2006) defines violence as the intentional use of physical force against others for the purpose of hurting, abusing, stealing, humiliating, dominating, insulting, torturing, destroying, or causing death. This author also defines three forms of violence:

- *Direct violence*, which can be observed and carried out through physical and/or verbal aggression.
- *Structural violence*, which can be difficult to identify as it occurs through exploitation, discrimination, marginalization, and social injustice.
- *Cultural violence*, which is carried out by attacking the cultural traits and collective identities of a community or group. It includes all those arguments, attitudes, and ideas that promote and justify direct and structural violence.

Apart from these forms of aggression, the National Institute of Women describes the following types:

- *Gender violence*, which is based on dominating and discriminating an individual by its gender, existing an inequality and hierarchy between the feminine and the masculine. It may be physical, sexual, verbal, psychological and/or include deprivation of a person's freedom.
- *Physical violence*, which includes any bodily action that has the purpose of physically damaging an individual such as pushing, shoving, kicking, shaking, etc.
- *Economic violence*, in which an individual abuses the power and control he/she has through money management.

The use of violence is one of many ancillary and non-exclusive means of expressing political and social discontent. As for the degree of violence, its possible rise or fall, rather than being stable variants in the great ideologies of a movement, is closely related to the behavior of institutional authorities and their level and type of response to the demands generated.

Other experts talk about the existence of two types of violence: the subjective and the objective. In this regard, the philosopher Slavoj Žižek (2009) points out that:

Subjective and objective violence cannot be perceived from the same point of view, because the first one can be experienced in contrast to a zero-level background of violence; Is seen as a disturbance of the normal state. However, objective violence is precisely the violence inherent in this “normal” state. Objective violence is invisible since it sustains zero-level normality against what we perceive as subjectively violent. Systemic violence is, therefore, like the famous dark matter of physics, the counterpart of a visible (in excess of) subjective violence. It may be invisible, but it must be taken into account if one wants to clarify what would otherwise appear to be “irrational” explosions of subjective violence. (pp. 243-256)

On the other hand, any individual who chooses to leave his or her place of origin in order to move to another one, be it a community, a state, or a country, for a temporary or permanent period of time, it is known as a migrant (Guzmán, 2005). In 2008, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) defines international migrants as people who move from one country of habitual residence to another, with migration being understood as the movement of persons who cross a certain geographical boundary, which is generally a political-administrative division to seek better living conditions (Guzmán, 2005).

Migration is an event that arose because man had to seek new lands for food and protection; to survive, so it can be inferred that human beings are migrants by nature (Osorio, 2014). The greatest volume of migration began in the 16th century with the expansion of Europe to the New World, but in the last two centuries, migration has increased due to the globalization of economic activity and labor; it is thanks to communication and transport that people have a greater chance of movement (Martínez Lanz, 2011).

Individuals tend to migrate for a variety of reasons, including political, economic, social, cultural, personal, or the desire to meet family members living in another region (Quintana & Salgado, 2015); this is why over the last 100 years, millions of people have left their country of origin in search of better life opportunities, especially when there are times of war, genocide, or some impossibility of economic growth (Osorio, 2014).

According to Guzmán (2005), migrants by their characteristics can be classified as temporary migrant workers (they go to work to another country for a certain period of time), irregular migrants (they migrate illegally without having documents), and refugees (who move from their place of origin because they are at risk). These peculiarities are due to different types of migration:

1. Temporary, circular, or transitory migration occurs when an individual moves from one place to another maintaining his/her residence in his/her place of origin and only makes changes of residence for a certain period of time depending on his/her interests and needs.

2. Permanent migration occurs when the individual changes permanently to a place different from its place of origin.

3. Internal migration occurs when the migrant changes residence within the same country of origin; from one state to another.

4. International migration is the one in which the persons move from their place of origin to another country, crossing the border boundaries. Such limits may be illegally traded because of the lack of economic opportunities or inequalities within the country of origin. It is estimated that 3% of the world population carries out this type of migration. Although this number seems to be small over the last few years, it has increased (Figueroa, Pérez, & Godínez, 2015).

Most of the individuals migrate to central countries, mainly to global cities in which economic decisions, financial activities, and specialized services of international companies as well as innovative companies are concentrated (Figueroa, Pérez, & Godínez, 2015).

Speaking of the migration between the Mexican Republic and the United States of America, it is observed that it has a great weight within the migratory flows from the decade of the seventies, increasing until the XX century and arriving at a radical increase of 50% in recent years (Figueroa, Pérez, & Godínez, 2015).

It has been observed that people cannot always migrate with their families, although the family is almost always part of their motivation; a young migrant may move with the intention of sending money home to help their own, while others do so for their born or unborn children to have more educational and social opportunities than they would have in their country; in other cases, people migrate for the purpose of family reunification.

P. Martínez Lanz (2011) states that the impact of migration on the family is very important, with involved factors such as gender and the role of the migrant within the family. Acceptance or rejection in the new country of residence indicates the success of acculturation involving personal and family restructuring. When this is not achieved in a positive way, there are high risk factors for the mental health of the individual, as well as problems of addictions and violence among migrant families.

As already mentioned, a preponderant problem in the marginalized groups of migrants refers to family stability, in terms of separation and dysfunctionality (Martínez Lanz, 2011). According to Torrealba (1989), the impact of migration on the structure and functioning of the family is relevant in economic and social terms; the capacity for adaptation, as well as their union, through the development of new family activities, will be determined by the work, level of income and by the particular characteristics of the receiving society.

Method

The present investigation is a non-experimental, cross-sectional, exploratory, descriptive, and correlational study.

Participants

The population was composed of a representative aleatory sample of 266 migrants, between the ages of 15 and 62 years old of both genders, from two different shelters in Oaxaca, México. All of the participants were selected in a non-probabilistic way.

Instrument

A specific self-applying and anonymous questionnaire was designed for this population study. It was composed of four areas: sociodemographic information and three scales: domestic violence, migratory path violence, and substance abuse (drugs and alcohol). In order to obtain the validity construct, a factor analysis with octagonal rotation was carried out, which included the reagents with factorial loads greater than or equal to 0.40. To obtain the reliability of the instrument, the statistical analysis of Cronbach's Alpha was performed, obtaining 0.831.

Results

Regarding the sociodemographic data obtained from the migrants (N = 266), it was found that (Table 1):

Most of the population were young people between 12 and 22 years old (52%), although the age of the migrants varies between 12 and 60 years.

In terms of education, 32% of the population went to elementary school but didn't conclude it, 32% did conclude elementary school, 24% went to middle school, and only 10% went to high school and college.

Table 1

Sociodemographic Characteristics of the Population

Characteristics		Percentage
Sex	Feminine	24%
	Masculine	76%
Age	12-22 years	52%
	23-30 years	24%
	31-40 years	16%
	41 years or more	8%
Scholarship	Incomplete Elementary School	32%
	Elementary School	32%
	Middle School	24%
	High School	10%
	College	2%
Marital Status	Single	54%
	Divorced/Separated	20%
	Married/Consensual union	26%
Income	\$69.99 USD or less	15%
	\$70.12-\$154.68 USD	31%
	\$154.68-\$257.80 USD	39%
	\$257.80 USD or more	16%
Shelter	Shelter 1	23%
	Shelter 2	77%

In terms of marital status, the majority of the migrants leaving their country of origin were single (54%), followed by married or consensual union (26%) and finally separated or divorced (20%).

The shelter with the largest influx of migrants is Shelter 2 with 77% of the total population, followed by Shelter 1 with 23%.

The majority of the evaluated population has as its final destination the United States (58%), followed by Mexico (25%).

In terms of work activity, 16% of the migrants began their work lives when they were less than eight years old and 78% between nine and 19 years old. Only 6% of the migrants have never had a job. More than half of the migrants worked as technicians, or artisans (57%) in their country of origin; 29% were salesmen, clerks, merchants, or independents; 14% worked at home or were professionals.

Regarding the above, the majority of the migrants (39%) had a monthly income of \$154.68 to \$257.80 USD followed by 31% of the population who earned from \$70.12 to \$154.68 USD per month.

The person who provided the greatest amount of economic income to the household was the migrant in 46% of the cases; in 32% it was the father or the mother of the subject; 10% of the cases it was the couple or wife and 12% other member of the family.

Most of the subjects do not have any children (55%), while 33% have one to three children and the minority (12%) have four or more children.

According to the information, 34% of the population reported living with their parents before their transfer, 15% lived with their partner and children, 18% only with their partner or only with their children, 10% lived by themselves and the rest, lived with friends or other relatives.

The main problem of migrant families was in most of the cases economic (61%), verbal or physical aggression (18%), relationship problems (partner) and addictions (17%), and 4% of respondents reported that they did not had any family problem. As for the main source of the problems, the migrants reported that they were the problem (26%), their partners (23%), and 17% reported the father and/or mother.

Most subjects came from Central America (86%): 35% from Honduras, 22% from El Salvador, and 10% from Guatemala and 19% came from other countries in the same geographic region such as Belize, Colombia, Nicaragua, Panamá and Costa Rica; 8% of the migrants came from Caribbean countries and 6% come from South America.

Regarding the clinical scales applied, it was found that 35% of the surveyed population had high levels of previous domestic violence, 30% of them severe levels of violence and 37% low levels of domestic violence (Figure 1).

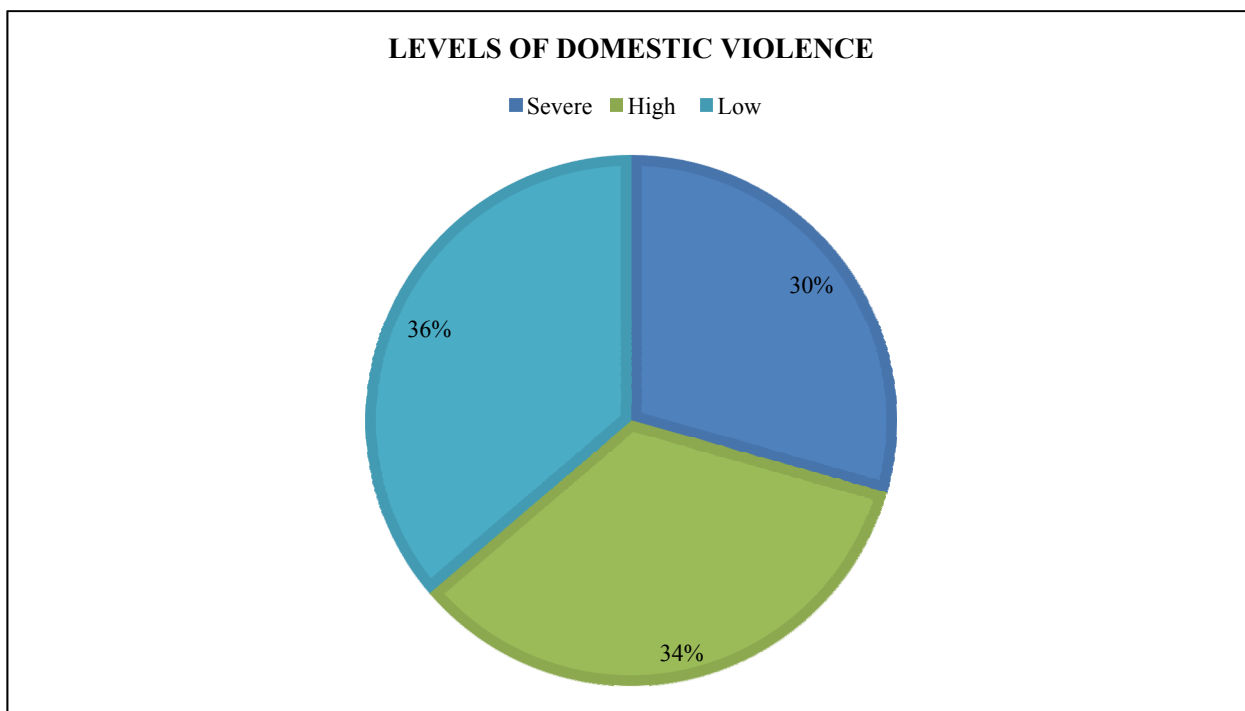


Figure 1. Levels of domestic violence.

In terms of alcohol and substance consumption, it must be considered that given the circumstances of life and the vulnerable situation they face, migrants may prefer to hide the actual information regarding their consumption. Keeping this in mind, according to the results in alcohol consumption, 79% of the participants reported low intake, 15% a high intake, and 7% severe intake (Figure 2).

Regarding substance abuse, 21% of the subjects had low intake, 38% high intake, and 42% severe intake (Figure 3).

From all of the subjects that reported drug consumption during their lifetime (before their journey), most of them reported an experimental type of use, which means they have consumed the specific drug(s) from one to three times (Table 2).



Figure 2. Levels of alcohol consumption.

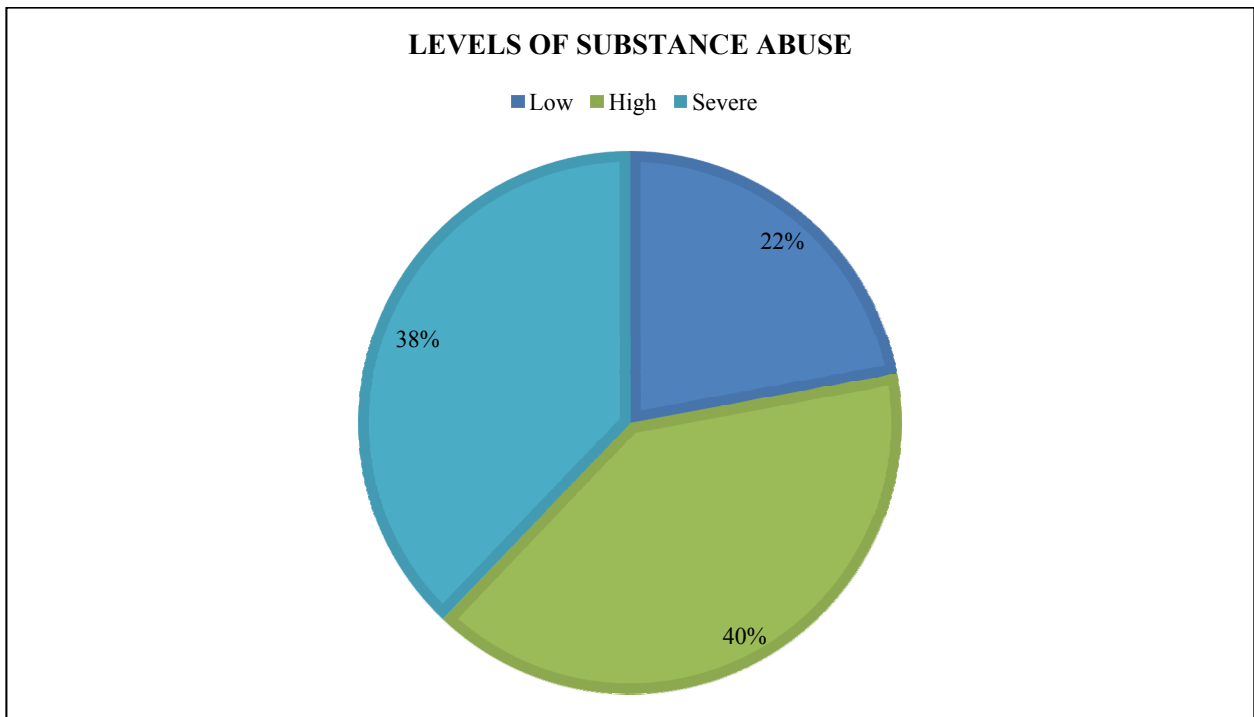


Figure 3. Levels of substance abuse.

Table 2

Characteristics of Substance Abuse by Type of Use

Drug	Experimental	Habitual	Addictive
Analgesics	81%	10%	8%
Tranquilizers	89%	7%	4%
Sedatives	91%	4%	5%
Amphetamines	88%	5%	8%
Inhalable	85%	4%	11%
Cannabis	85%	8%	8%
Hallucinogens	91%	7%	2%
Cocaine	93%	3%	4%
Heroin	99%	1%	0%

From the total of participants who reported suffering violence during their transfer, 65% suffered high levels of violence in their migratory path, 16% suffered severe levels of violence, and 19% suffered low levels of violence (Figure 4).

Using the cross-tab analysis (Chi squared), the following correlations were obtained with statistically significant differences:

In Shelter 1, high level of domestic violence predominated in 66% of the cases; in Shelter 2, severe domestic violence was reported to a greater extent (46%); in Shelter 3, a high level of domestic violence prevailed in 63% of the subjects and finally in Shelter 4, a low level in 43% of the cases (Sig. $p = 0.000$).

In terms of levels of alcohol consumption in Shelters 1, 3, and 4, the majority of the population had a low consumption (54%, 63%, and 97% respectively); in Shelter 2, a high consumption rate was found in 54% of cases (Sig. $p = 0.000$).

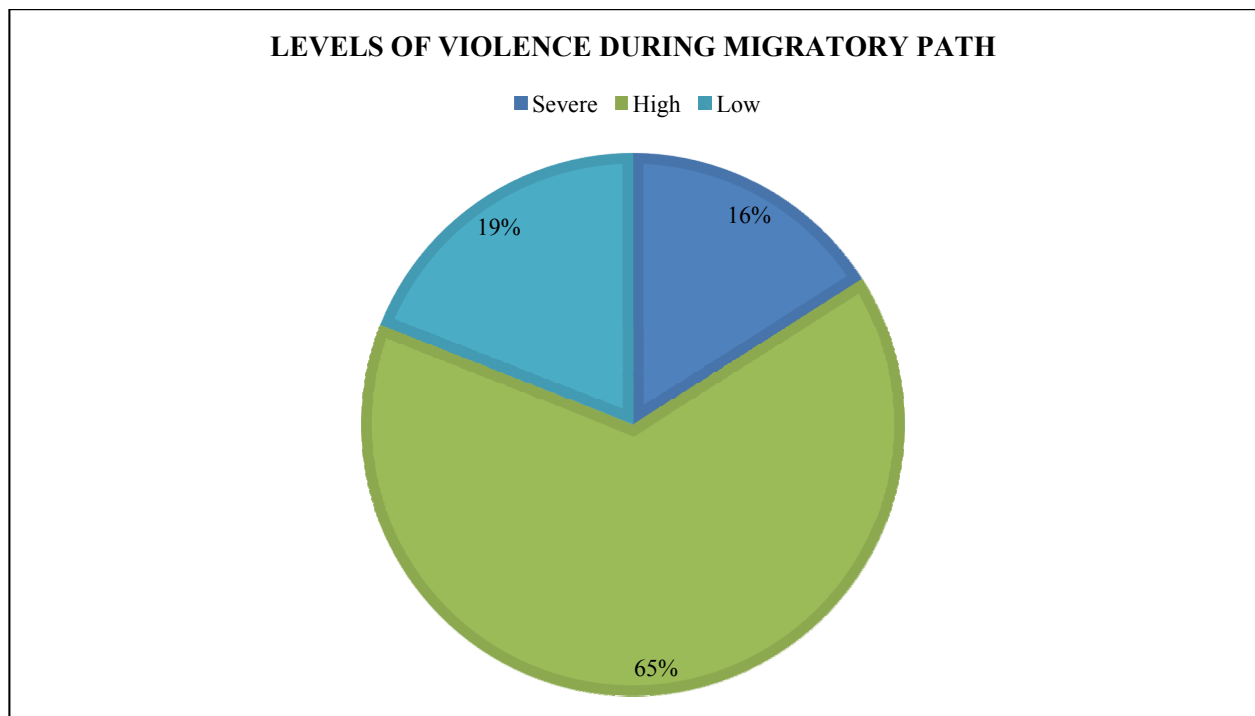


Figure 4. Levels of violence during migratory path.

According to the analysis between the levels of violence in the transfer according to the destination, it was found, that all of the migrants suffered from high levels of violence during their transfer. Subjects who planned to reach Canada and Spain suffered from the greatest levels of high violence in 85% and 81% of the cases; those who wished to remain in the United States and Mexico reported high levels of violence in 65% and 55% of the cases. The subjects who suffered from greater levels of severe violence are the ones who planned to reach Spain (19%) and the United States (18%) (Sig. $p = 0.002$).

The correlation between the country of destination and alcohol consumption indicates that migrants that wished to reach Mexico are those with the greatest alcohol consumption at a low level (85%) followed by the ones going to the United States (73%), Spain (67%), and Canada (62%). In the case of migrants wishing to remain in the United States and Spain, a high level of alcohol consumption prevailed in 22% of the cases on each country of destination. Finally, those who wished to arrive in Canada report the greatest level of severe alcohol consumption (27%) (Sig. $p = 0.000$).

By crossing the corresponding information between the levels of domestic violence and family problems (Sig. $p = 0.032$), the results showed that economic difficulties were the main problem in all levels of domestic violence (65% low, 55% high, 60% severe); aggression and couple problems generated 21% and 18%, (respectively) of high domestic violence.

Between levels of alcohol consumption according to family problems (Sig. $p = 0.000$), respondents, whose main conflict was aggression, reported high and severe levels of alcohol consumption (39% and 11%), followed by the ones who reported relationship problems who presented high levels of alcohol consumption in 30% of the cases. Most individuals reported low levels of alcohol consumption in all of the family problems.

When analyzing both types of violence (domestic violence and violence during the transfer) defined for the purpose of this work, results showed that in all levels of domestic violence, high levels of violence during the transfer prevailed in most of the cases. It was found that in low levels of domestic violence there were also low levels of violence during the transfer in 21% of the cases, in high levels of domestic violence, high levels of violence during the transfer were also found in 71% of the cases. Finally, in severe levels of domestic violence, severe levels of violence during the transfer were found in 20% of the cases (Figure 5). In this case, a correlation between the two variables was found (Sig. $p = 0.513$).

In order to analyze the relationships between the variables of domestic violence levels and levels of violence along the way, and to describe the relationships between the categories of each variable, correspondence analysis were carried out. Using the levels of symptoms reported by the subjects. Figure 6 shows that the variables are clearly grouped by levels, indicating that domestic violence and violence along the way are directly related. In this analysis, it was found that the Chi square was 2.874, the correlation of 0.029 (Sig. $p = 0.098$) and in the dimensions, the first one had a low level with inertia of 0.12 and the second one, a high level with inertia of 0.002, which indicates a high degree of correspondence between the singular value for dimension 1, which is more than twice that the value of dimension two and its inertia is five times greater, which suggests that the two scales are highly correlated (Table 3).

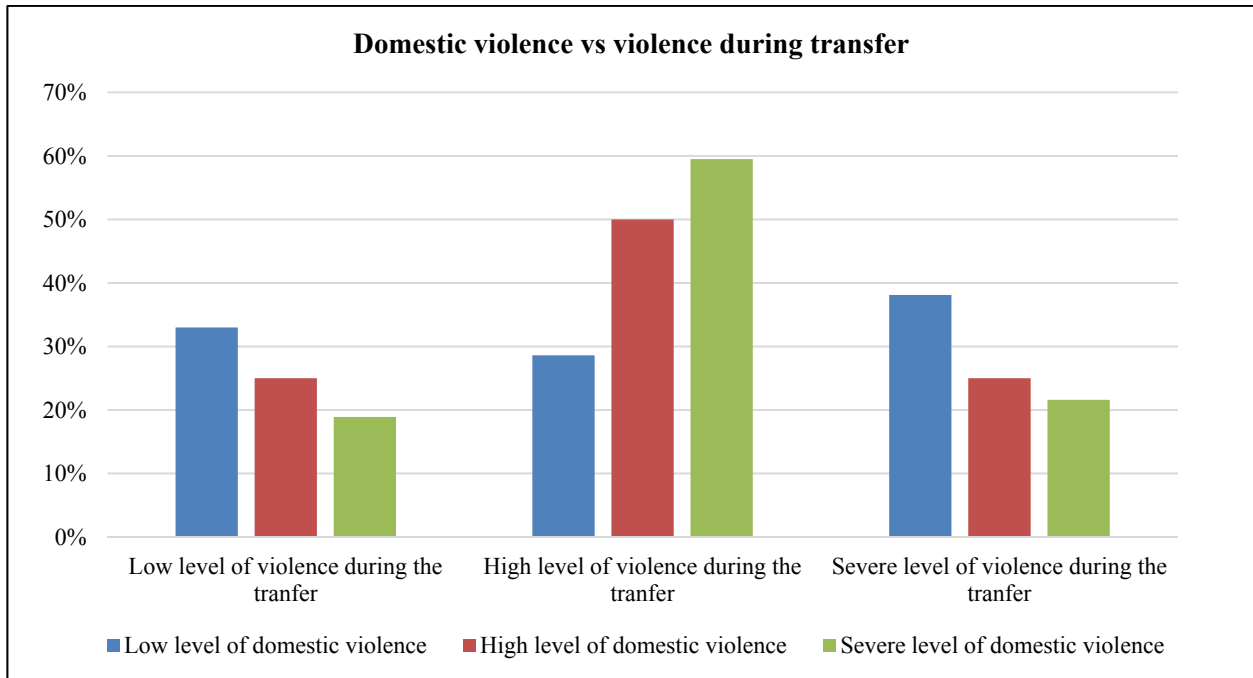


Figure 5. Level of domestic violence and levels of violence during the transfer.

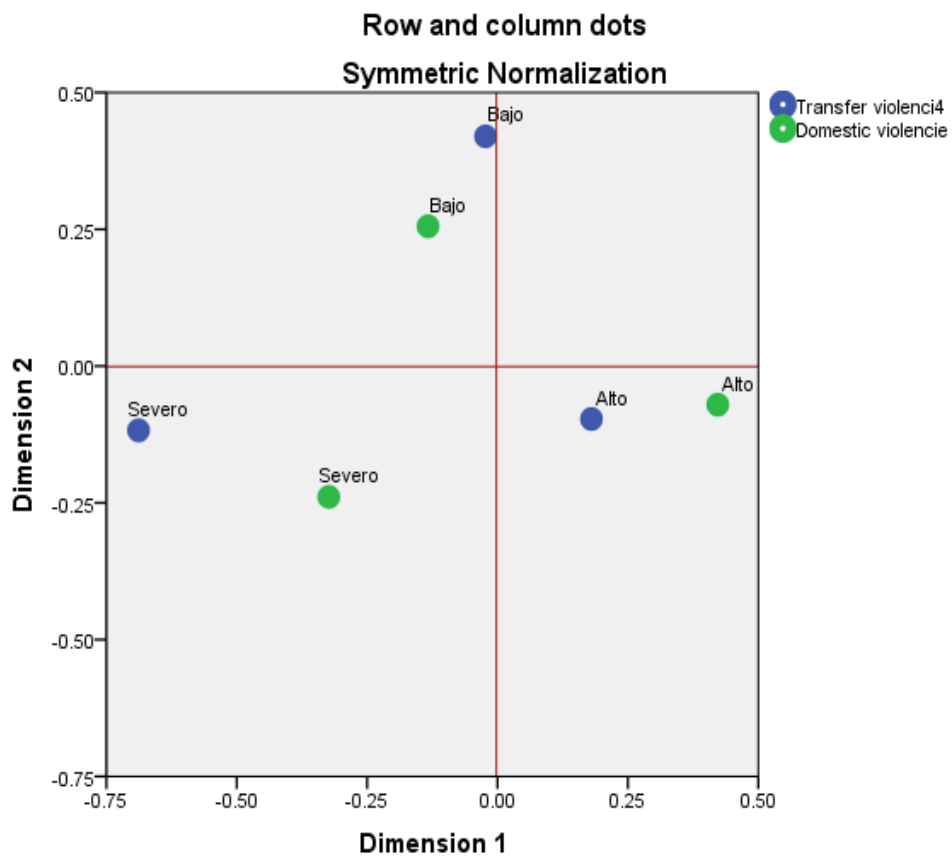


Figure 6. Correspondence analysis.

Table 3

Resume Correspondence Analysis

Dimension	Singular value	Inertia	Chi square	Significance	Inertia ratio		Unique value of reliability	
					Accounted for	Accumulated	Standard deviation	Correlation
1	0.098	0.010			0.842	0.842	0.060	0.029
2	0.042	0.002			0.158	1.000	0.063	
Total		0.011	2.874	0.579 ^a	1.000	1.000		

Note. a. 4 degrees of freedom.

Discussion and Conclusion

According to the obtained results, it is observed that the prevalences in the migrant population are male adolescents between 12 and 22 years old, single and without descendants. These indices are attributed to the labor market and its segmentation by sex or the differentiated impacts of the migratory policies on men and women, as well as the role of women and men in the families' social reproduction strategies (Herrera, 2012).

Only 32% of the surveyed population completed basic education, 39% have a monthly income between \$154.68 and \$257.80 USD dollars, which explains that the reason for the transfer is due to the desire for a better salary and better life situation. Given that in their countries of origin, people perceive the work pay as insufficient or unsatisfactory, economic difficulties are underpinned as the main family problem.

As it has been established, violence suffered along migrant's journey is an extremely influential factor that prevents the subjects from fulfilling their objectives. In this sense, the present study confirms the presence of some type of violence during the transfer of the individuals from their country of origin to their country of destination; the majority of the migrants suffer from high levels of violence during their transfer. Finally, it was found that subjects who suffer from greater levels of severe violence are the ones who plan to reach Spain and the United States of America.

The association between domestic violence and violence during the journey is so serious that a prediction of the degree of risk of violence during the transfer can be made depending on the degree of domestic violence.

The hypotheses were confirmed, that risk factors such as domestic violence, lack of money and insecurity in the migrant's country of origin, had as consequence the transfer to other countries. It was also determined that domestic violence is certainly a risk factor for suffering other types of violence.

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