Fact Sheet:
Violence against Asian and Pacific Islander Women

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Domestic Violence

- 41 – 61% of Asian women report experiencing physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner during their lifetime.[1] This is higher than the rates in a national study reported by Whites (21.3%), African Americans (26.3%), Hispanics of any race (21.2%), people of mixed race (27.0%), and American Indians and Alaskan Natives (30.7%), and Asians and Pacific Islanders (12.8%).[2]

[1] The low end of the range is from a study by A. Raj and J. Silverman, Intimate partner violence against South-Asian women in Greater Boston *Journal of the American Medical Women's Association*. 2002; 57(2): 111-114. The high end of the range is from a study by M. Yoshihama, Domestic violence against women of Japanese descent in Los Angeles: Two methods of estimating prevalence. *Violence Against Women*. 1999; 5(8):869-897.

[2] Tjaden P, Thoennes N. *Extent, Nature, and Consequences of Intimate Partner Violence: Research Report.* Washington, DC: National Institute of Justice and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; 2000.

- 81% of women reported experiencing at least one form of intimate partner violence (domination/ controlling/psychological, physical, and/or sexual abuse) in the past year.
- 28.5% of Asian women report knowing a woman who had experienced abuse by her in-laws. In some Asian families, male and female in-laws exert physical, sexual and psychological abuse.

McDonnell KA, Abdulla SE. *Project AWARE: Research Project.* Washington, DC: Asian/Pacific Islander Domestic Violence Resource Project; 2001.

Domestic Violence Related Homicide

- In a six-year period, 160 cases in API families resulted in 226 fatalities, of which 72% were adult homicide victims, 10% were child homicide victims, and 18% were suicide deaths.
- 68% of victims were intimate partners (current, estranged, or ex-partners), of which 111 were women and 14 were men.
- 83% of homicide perpetrators were men, 14% were women, 3% unknown.
- Children were the second largest group of victims, and the parents of wives and girlfriends were the third largest group.

Dabby C, Patel H, Poore G. *Shattered Lives: Homicides, Domestic Violence and Asian Families.* San Francisco, CA: Asian & Pacific Islander Institute on Domestic Violence; 2009.

Sexual Violence

- 56% of Filipinas and 64% of Indian and Pakistani women had experienced sexual violence by an intimate in a study interviewing 143 women.

Yoshihama M, Bybee D, Dabby C, Blazevski J. *Lifecourse Experiences of Intimate Partner Violence and Help-Seeking among Filipino, Indian and Pakistani Women: Implications for Justice System Responses.* Washington, DC: National Institute of Justice; 2011.

Stalking

- 68% of Filipinas and 50% of Indian and Pakistani women reported being stalked by an intimate partner.

Yoshihama M, Bybee D, Dabby C, Blazevski J. *Lifecourse Experiences of Intimate Partner Violence and Help-Seeking among Filipino, Indian and Pakistani Women: Implications for Justice System Responses.* Washington, DC: National Institute of Justice; 2011.

Trafficking

- 5,200 – 7,800 Asians and Pacific Islanders comprise the largest group of people trafficked into the U.S., out of an estimated total of 14,500-17,500 individuals trafficked in 2004.

U.S. Department of Justice. *Assessment of U.S. Government Activities to Combat Trafficking in Persons*. Washington, DC: Author; 2004.

Children's Exposure to Family Violence

- 70% of Cambodians, 61% of Chinese, 80% of Koreans, 79% of South Asians, and 72% of Vietnamese men and women reported being hit regularly as children.
- 28% of Cambodians, 18% of Chinese, 30% of Koreans, 8% of South Asians, and 27% of Vietnamese witnessed their fathers regularly hit their mothers.

Yoshioka M, Dang Q. *Asian Family Violence Report: A Study of the Cambodian, Chinese, Korean, South Asian, and Vietnamese Communities in Massachusetts.* Boston, MA: Asian Task Force Against Domestic Violence; 2000.

- In a review of 160 Asian homicide cases, 22 children were killed. Of the 63 non-fatal child victims for whom information was available, 60 were on site when the homicides occurred, survived an attempted homicide, were eye or ear witnesses to a maternal homicide, or discovered the bodies.

Dabby C, Patel H, Poore G. *Shattered Lives: Homicides, Domestic Violence and Asian Families.* San Francisco, CA: Asian & Pacific Islander Institute on Domestic Violence; 2009.

- Research shows that children who witness domestic violence show more anxiety, low self esteem, depression, anger and temperament problems than their peers. They are at greater risk for abuse and neglect as children and to become abusers themselves as adults.

Family Violence Prevention Fund. *Fact Sheet: The Effects of Domestic Violence on Children*. San Francisco, CA: Author; (n.d.).

About the Asian & Pacific Islander Institute on Domestic Violence

The Asian & Pacific Islander Institute on Domestic Violence is a national resource center and clearinghouse on gender violence in Asian, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander communities. It serves a national network of community-based-organizations; advocates and professionals in legal, health, mental health, and social services; government agencies; state coalitions; national domestic and sexual violence organizations; and activists from communities and social justice organizations working to eliminate violence against women. Its goals are to strengthen advocacy, promote community organizing, and influence systems change. It identifies and addresses critical issues, provides technical assistance and training, conducts research, and engages in policy advocacy.

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