



Facts & Stats:

Domestic Violence in Asian, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Homes

Mieko Yoshihama, Ph.D. and Chic Dabby

Asian & Pacific Islander Institute on Domestic Violence | APIA Health Forum

September 2009





CONTENTS

1. Extent of the Problem
2. Domestic Violence Prevalence in Specific Communities
3. Types of Abuse
4. Attitudes toward Domestic Violence
5. Help-Seeking Attitudes and Experiences
6. Service Utilization
7. Health and Mental Health Consequences
8. Exposure to Family Violence in Childhood
9. Domestic Violence Related Homicides

INTRODUCTION

The Asian & Pacific Islander Institute on Domestic Violence reviewed both published and unpublished literature to compile *Facts & Stats: Domestic Violence in Asian, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Homes*. The study methodology, the uniform presentation of results in the precise terms used by the researchers, and where necessary, the authors' clarifying comments serve to contextualize the data. Clearly, domestic violence occurs in all populations regardless of race, ethnicity, culture, class, faith, immigration status, age, education, gender identity, or sexual orientation; as do the socio-cultural, linguistic, economic and political barriers that influence help-seeking. Hence, the magnitude of the problem may be considerably greater than available data indicate. *Facts & Stats* raises awareness about the experiences of Asian, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander battered women; counters denial about the problem; emphasizes the need for socio-culturally effective prevention and intervention; and serves to guide future research and inform public policy.

1. EXTENT OF THE PROBLEM

A review of the literature points to high prevalence of domestic violence rates in Asian homes. In a compilation by the API Institute on Domestic Violence of community-based studies:

- ◆ 41–61% of respondents reported experiencing intimate, physical and/or sexual, violence during their lifetime.¹

In a telephone survey of a nationally representative sample of 8,000 women and 8,000 men from various ethnic backgrounds in the U.S., conducted from November 1995 to May 1996:²

- ◆ 12.8% of Asian and Pacific Islander women reported experiencing physical assault by an intimate partner at least once during their lifetime, and 3.8% reported experiencing attempted or completed rape by an intimate partner. The rate of physical assault was lower than rates 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%). The low rate for Asian and Pacific Islander women may be attributable to under-reporting.

The 2005 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) survey (annual, state-based random-digit-dialed telephone survey of the non-institutionalized U.S. civilian population aged 18 and older) assessed physical or sexual violence by a current or former intimate partner in 16 states and 2 territories:³

- ◆ The proportion of Asian women who reported having ever experienced at least one type of physical or sexual violence by a current or former intimate partner (threatened, attempted, or completed physical violence or unwanted sex) was 9.7%, the lowest rate

¹ This range is based on studies of women's experiences of domestic violence conducted among different Asian ethnic groups in the U.S. 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; July 2000.

³ Black MC, Breiding MJ. Adverse health conditions and health risk behaviors associated with intimate partner violence—United States, 2005. *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*. 2008; 57:113-118.

of all racial/ethnic groups compared to 26.8% white, non-Hispanics; 20.5% Hispanics; 29.2% blacks; 43.1% multiracial people; 39.0% American Indian/Alaska Natives; and 29.6% other races.

- ◆ The rate for Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander women was not reported due to a small number of cases, which made the estimate unstable.

The National Asian Women’s Health Organization (NAWHO) conducted telephone interviews with a random sample of 336 Asian American women aged 18–34 residing in the San Francisco and Los Angeles areas (NAWHO Study, hereinafter):⁴

- ◆ 19% of the respondents reported having experienced “pressure to have sex without their consent by an intimate partner” since age 18, and of these 44% (or 8% of the total sample) reported experiencing completed rape; 16% of the completed rape cases were perpetrated by the woman’s intimate partner.
- ◆ 12% reported that an intimate partner “had hurt or had attempted to hurt them by means of hitting, kicking, slapping, shoving, object throwing, or threatening their lives with weapons.”
- ◆ 14% reported that “[someone] had ever repeatedly followed or spied on them, had appeared at unexpected locations, had stood outside their home, school, or place of work.” [*Note: These behaviors are consistent with stalking.*]

⁴ National Asian Women’s Health Organization. *Silence, Not an Option!* San Francisco, CA: Author; 2002.

2. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PREVALENCE IN SPECIFIC COMMUNITIES

Cambodian

In a study conducted by the Asian Task Force Against Domestic Violence in Boston, which used self-administered questionnaires at ethnic fairs and community events (Asian Task Force Study, hereinafter):⁵

- ◆ 47% of Cambodians surveyed said they knew “a woman who has been shoved, pushed, slapped, hit, kicked, or has suffered other injuries by her partner.”
- ◆ 44% said they knew of “a woman whose partner insults or humiliates her regularly.”

Chinese

In a random telephone survey of 262 Chinese people (133 men and 129 women) in Los Angeles County (Yick Study, hereinafter):⁶

- ◆ 18.1% of respondents (both women and men) reported experiencing “minor physical violence” by a spouse or intimate partner within their lifetime, and 8.0% of respondents reported “severe physical violence” during their lifetime. *[Note: ‘Minor-severe’ categories were based on the researcher’s classification criteria.]*
- ◆ 6.8% of respondents (both women and men) reported experiencing “minor physical violence” and 1.6% reported experiencing “severe physical violence” by a spouse or intimate partner during the past year.
- ◆ More acculturated respondents (as assessed by the researchers) were twice as likely to report partner violence. *[Note: The study’s author states, “It is possible that traditional cultural values serve as a protective buffer against stressors engendered by immigration” (p. 263). However, higher rates among more acculturated respondents may be due to their increased willingness to report abuse.]*

⁵ 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.

⁶ Yick AG. Predictors of physical spousal/intimate violence in Chinese American families. *Journal of Family Violence*. 2000; 15:249-267.

Filipina

In a survey of undocumented women conducted by the Immigrant Women's Task Force of the Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights and Services based in San Francisco:⁷

- ◆ 20% of 54 Filipina women reported having experienced some form of domestic violence, including physical, emotional, or sexual abuse, either in their country of origin or in the United States.

In a paper-and-pencil questionnaire survey of a purposive sample of Filipino college students:⁸

- ◆ 31.4% of female respondents reported that they had experienced "physical violence since they started dating such as being hit, pushed, grabbed, etc." by an intimate partner.

Hawaiians & Other Populations in Hawai'i

The studies below reported data on people in Hawai'i in general, a large proportion of whom are of Asian, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander descent.

In March 1992, a random sample of 502 women in Kauai participated in an anonymous telephone survey of women's needs, which included questions about domestic violence.⁹

- ◆ 14% reported having experienced domestic violence. The rate for Caucasians was 15%, Filipino 11%, Hawaiian 21%, Japanese 5%, and other/mixed race 16%.
- ◆ 34% (one third) of the respondents stated that they personally knew of an "abused person."

⁷ Hoagland C, Rosen K. *Dreams Lost, Dreams Found: Undocumented Women in the Land of Opportunity*. San Francisco, CA: Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights and Services, Immigrant Women's Task Force; Spring 1990.

⁸ Agbayani-Siewert P, Flanagan AY. Filipino American dating violence: Definitions, contextual justifications, and experiences of dating violence. *Journal of Human Behavior in the Social Environment*. 2001; 3:115-133.

⁹ Kauai Committee on the Status of Women; *Women's Needs Assessment Survey*. Lihue, HI: Author; 1992. Cited in Hawaii State Commission on Status of Women; *Domestic Violence Report*. Honolulu, HI: Author; 1993.

A cross-sectional written survey was conducted in 1992 with 332 women recruited from eight major shopping centers in O'ahu about their help-seeking behaviors related to abuse and other women's health issues.¹⁰ The respondents included 91 Caucasian women, 38 Filipino, 59 Hawaiian, 69 Japanese, and 62 other.

- ◆ 14.8% reported having experienced physical abuse, 13.0%, sexual assault, and 25.7%, emotional abuse. [*Note: This study did not specify if perpetrators were intimates or not.*]

In a study conducted at a rural Oahu obstetrics-gynecology clinic in 1996:¹¹

- ◆ 18% (11 of 60 women patients) indicated that they had been "slapped, punched, kicked, or otherwise physically hurt by an intimate partner" at least once.

In a study of 25 mothers and 25 children [*Note: The researchers do not provide the proportion of respondents who were Asians, Native Hawaiians or Pacific Islanders*] recruited from domestic violence programs in Hawaii (Chemtob et al. Study, hereinafter):¹²

- ◆ 56% of the women were subjected to verbal abuse daily, 24% weekly and 12% monthly. A large majority, 72%, assessed the intensity of verbal abuse as "extreme," while 20% considered it "severe."
- ◆ 32% of the women reported experiencing physical abuse weekly, 28% monthly, and 20% bi-monthly. For a great majority, 80%, the intensity of physical abuse was judged "extreme."

¹⁰ Goebert DA. *Factors Influencing Help-Seeking Behaviors for Abuse and Other Women's Health Issues in Hawaii*. Unpublished doctoral dissertation, University of Hawai'i; 2000.

¹¹ Kubany E, McKenzie W, Haynes S, Owens J. *Routine clinical use of a protocol for trauma history: PTSD screening in an ob-gyn medical practice*. 1996. Unpublished raw data. Cited in Kubany ES, McKenzie WF, Owens JA, Leisen MB, Kaplan AS, Pavich E. PTSD among women survivors of domestic violence in Hawaii. *Hawaii Medical Journal*. 1996; 55:164-165.

¹² Chemtob CM, Carlson JG, Perrone P. *Domestic Violence in Hawaii: Impact on Mothers and Their Children*. Honolulu, HI: State of Hawai'i Department of the Attorney General; 2000.

Japanese

In a face-to-face interview study in 1995 of a random sample of 211 Japanese immigrant women and Japanese-American women in Los Angeles County (Yoshihama Study, hereinafter):

- ◆ 61.1% reported having ever experienced some form of physical, emotional, or sexual partner violence that they considered abusive, including culturally demeaning practices such as overturning a dining table or throwing liquid at a woman, at some time prior to the interview.¹³
- ◆ 51.7% reported having experienced physical violence, and 29.9%, sexual violence during their lifetime.¹⁴
- ◆ 57.4% of women are estimated to experience a partner's physical violence by age 49 when the probability that some women who have not been victimized at the time of the interview may be abused at a later date is accounted for; and similarly 35.2% are estimated to experience sexual violence by age 49.¹⁵
- ◆ No significant generational differences across the first, second, third and fourth generations were found in the age-adjusted risk of experiencing intimate physical, sexual or emotional violence.¹⁶

Korean

In a 1993 study of 256 Korean men from randomly selected Korean households in Chicago and in Queens, NY:¹⁷

- ◆ 18.0% of the male respondents reported committing at least one of the following acts of physical violence within the past year: throwing something, pushing, grabbing, shoving, or slapping their wife.

¹³ Yoshihama M. Domestic violence against women of Japanese descent in Los Angeles: Two methods of estimating prevalence. *Violence Against Women*. 1999; 5:869-897.

¹⁴ Yoshihama M, Gillespie B. Age adjustment and recall bias in the analysis of domestic violence data: Methodological improvement through the application of survival analysis methods. *Journal of Family Violence*. 2002; 17:199-221.

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ Yoshihama M, Horrocks J. Posttraumatic stress symptoms and victimization among Japanese American women. *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology*. 2002; 70:205-215.

¹⁷ Kim JY, Sung K. Conjugal violence in Korean American families: A residue of cultural transition. *Journal of Family Violence*. 2000; 15:331-345.

- ◆ 6.3% of the male respondents committed what the researcher classified as “severe violence” (kicking, biting, hitting with a fist, threatening with a gun or knife, shooting, or stabbing) in the past year.
- ◆ 33% of “male-dominated relationships” experienced at least one incident of domestic violence during the year, whereas 12% of “egalitarian” relationships did. [*Note: Researchers classified couples into four types of relationships – egalitarian, divided power, male-dominated, and female-dominated— based on the respondents’ answers about how the couple made decisions.*]
- ◆ Nearly 39% of husbands who were categorized as experiencing “high stress” perpetrated domestic violence during the past year, whereas one out of 66 husbands categorized as experiencing “low stress” did so. [*Note: This correlation does not necessarily mean that stress causes or leads to domestic violence. Women and non-abusive men are also exposed to high stress and do not resort to domestic violence.*]

In a questionnaire survey (in the Korean language) of a convenience sample of 136 Korean women in Austin and Dallas, Texas: ¹⁸

- ◆ 29.4% reported experiencing physical violence at the hands of intimate partners during the past year.
- ◆ 25.0% reported sustaining injuries due to a partner’s violence during the previous year.

In a survey of a convenience sample of 214 Korean women and 121 Korean men in the San Francisco Bay Area conducted in 2000 by Shimtuh, a project serving Korean women in crisis (Shimtuh Study, hereinafter):¹⁹

- ◆ 41.9% of the respondents said they knew of a Korean woman “who has been slapped, hit, kicked, or suffered any physical injury by her husband or boyfriend.”

¹⁸ Lee E. Domestic violence and risk factors among Korean immigrant women in the United States. *Journal of Family Violence*. 2007; 22:141-149.

¹⁹ Shimtuh (Korean Domestic Violence Program). *Korean American Community of the Bay Area Domestic Violence Needs Assessment Report*. Oakland, CA: Author; 2000.

- ◆ 50.2% of the respondents knew of a Korean woman “whose husband or boyfriend insults or humiliates her regularly.”

A 1986 study involving face-to-face interviews of a convenience sample of 150 Korean women living in Chicago found that:²⁰

- ◆ 60.0% reported having experienced physical abuse by an intimate partner at some time in their lives.
- ◆ 22.0% reported sexual violence by an intimate partner at some time in their lives.

South Asian²¹

In a study of 160 South Asian women (who were married or in a heterosexual relationship), recruited through community outreach methods such as flyers, snowball sampling, and referrals in Greater Boston:²²

- ◆ 40.8% reported ever experiencing “physical or sexual abuse by their current male partners”; 36.9% reported some form of intimate partner violence in the past year.
- ◆ 30.4% reported having experienced partners’ physical abuse, and 18.8%, sexual abuse; 65.2% of the women reporting physical abuse also reported sexual abuse.
- ◆ 15.8% reported injury or the need for medical services as a consequence of a partner’s violence.
- ◆ No significant difference was found in the report of domestic violence between arranged marriages and non-arranged marriages. [*Note: Arranged marriages refer to the practice of parents selecting a spouse for their adult child.*]

In a study of a convenience sample of 208 South Asian women recruited through community outreach in the Greater Boston area:²³

²⁰ Song-Kim YI. Battered Korean women in urban United States. In: Furuto SM, Renuka B, Chung DK, Murase K, Ross-Sheriff F, Eds. *Social Work Practice with Asian Americans*. Newbury Park, CA: Sage; 1992:213-226.

²¹ Refers to those who trace their origins to the countries or diasporas of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Pakistan or Sri Lanka.

²² Raj A, Silverman J. Intimate partner violence amongst South Asian women in Greater Boston. *Journal of the American Medical Women’s Association*. 2002; 57:111-114.

- ◆ 21.2% reported having ever experienced physical and/or sexual abuse at the hands of their intimate partner; 14.9% reported such experience during the previous year.

Vietnamese

In a paper-and-pencil questionnaire survey of 200 Vietnamese men who were recruited from Vietnamese churches, temples, and social and civic organizations in the Dallas/Fort Worth area:²⁴

- ◆ 31.0% reported having perpetrated at least one physically abusive act during the previous year.
- ◆ Men who were younger, with less education, or reported “attitudes that supported use of partner abuse in certain situations” were more likely to report the past-year physical abuse perpetration. However, neither alcohol consumption frequencies nor alcoholism levels (as measured by the Michigan Alcohol Screening Test, MAST) were associated with the likelihood of physical abuse perpetration.

In a study of 30 Vietnamese women recruited from a civic association that serves Vietnamese women in Boston (Tran Study, hereinafter):²⁵

- ◆ 47% reported having experienced physical violence by intimate partners at some time in their lifetime, and 30% reported having experienced physical violence by intimate partners in the past year.

²³ Hurwitz EJH, Gupta J, Liu R, Silverman JG, Raj A. Intimate partner violence associated with poor health outcomes in U.S. South Asian women. *Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health*. 2006; 8:251-261.

²⁴ Nguyen TD, Yoshioka M. Alcoholism level differences between Vietnamese batterers and non-batterers. *Journal of Family Violence*. 2007; 21:401-406.

²⁵ Tran CG; Domestic violence among Vietnamese refugee women: Prevalence, abuse characteristics, psychiatric symptoms, and psychosocial factors. Unpublished doctoral dissertation, Boston University, Boston, MA; 1997.

3. TYPES OF ABUSE

Physical, Psychological and Sexual Abuse

Project AWARE (Asian Women Advocating Respect and Empowerment) in Washington, DC was an anonymous survey in 2000–2001 to examine the experiences of abuse, service needs, and barriers to service among Asian women (Project AWARE Study, hereinafter).²⁶ Using a snowball method, a convenience sample of 178 Asian women was recruited:

- ◆ 81.1% of the women reported experiencing at least one form of intimate partner violence (categorized by the researchers as domination/controlling/psychological, physical, and/or sexual abuse) in the past year.
- ◆ 66.9% experienced some form of domination/controlling/psychological abuse at least “occasionally”; and 47.9% experienced it at least “frequently” in the past year.
- ◆ 31.9% experienced physical or sexual abuse at least “occasionally” during the past year.
- ◆ Of the 23 women who reported not having experienced intimate partner violence themselves, more than half (64%) said they knew of an Asian friend who had experienced intimate partner violence; 9% reported that their mothers had experienced intimate partner violence, and 11%, their sisters.

Abuse by In-Laws

- ◆ Among the 169 South Asian respondents who were married at the time of the survey, 5.7% reported having experienced emotional abuse by in-laws. The proportion of women who reported emotional abuse by in-laws was significantly higher among those reporting partners’ violence in their current relationship (15.4%) than those who did not report such violence.²⁷
- ◆ In a telephone interview survey of a random sample of Gujarati adults aged 18-64, 6.6% of female respondents reported that in-laws had called them names.²⁸

²⁶ McDonnell KA, Abdulla SE. *Project AWARE: Research Project*. Washington, DC: Asian/Pacific Islander Domestic Violence Resource Project; 2001.

²⁷ Raj A, Livramento KN, Santana CM, Gupta J, Silverman JG. Victims of intimate partner violence more likely to report abuse from in-laws. *Violence Against Women*. 2006;12:936-949.

²⁸ Yoshihama M. The Shanti Project, Baseline Community-Wide Survey. Unpublished raw data.

- ◆ 28.5% of the Project AWARE Study participants knew of a woman who was being abused by her in-laws.²⁹

Socio-Cultural Manifestations of Abuse

The Yoshihama Study of women of Japanese descent in Los Angeles used a measure that included questions pertaining to socio-culturally rooted manifestations of domestic violence found in studies in Japan.

- ◆ Women of Japanese descent in the U.S. experienced several socio-culturally rooted forms of violence such as, throwing liquid, overturning a dining table, and forced sexual intercourse despite women's concerns about other people nearby.^{30, 31}
- ◆ The use of a more socio-culturally inclusive measure resulted in an 18% increase in the reported rate of physical violence (52%), compared to the rate obtained using the Conflict Tactics Scale (CTS), a widely used measure (34%). This finding underscores the importance of paying attention to the variations in manifestations of domestic violence.³²

4. ATTITUDES TOWARD DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

The Asian Task Force Study found that:³³

- ◆ Older Chinese respondents were more tolerant of the use of force and more likely to justify a husband's use of violence against his wife. Immigration status and level of education were not associated with the likelihood of justifying a husband's use of violence against his wife.

²⁹ McDonnell KA, Abdulla SE. *Project AWARE: Research Project*. Washington, DC: Asian/Pacific Islander Domestic Violence Resource Project; 2001.

³⁰ Yoshihama M. Domestic violence against women of Japanese descent in Los Angeles: Two methods of estimating prevalence. *Violence Against Women*. 1999; 5:869-897.

³¹ Yoshihama M. Immigrants-in-context framework: Understanding the interactive influence of socio-cultural contexts. *Evaluation and Program Planning*. 2001; 24:307-318.

³² Ibid.

³³ 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.

- ◆ The average score for all respondents on male privilege was 8.5 out of 24; for Vietnamese respondents it was 12.0 out of 24 (the highest score amongst the different ethnic groups in the study). *[Note: The higher the score, the more an individual believes in male privilege. The average score of 8.5 is a low score indicating that overall, respondents do not believe that a husband has the right to discipline his wife, can expect to have sex with his wife whenever he wants it, is the ruler of his home, or that some wives deserve beatings.]*

In the 1995 Yoshihama Study, a population-based study of a random sample of 211 women of Japanese descent living in Los Angeles:

- ◆ 71% of the respondents who had experienced partner violence reported that their Japanese background influenced their experiences with their partner's violence. They identified the following aspects of their Japanese background as having influenced the way they responded to their partners' violence: conflict avoidance, the value of endurance, acceptance of male domination, the value of collective family welfare, and an aversion to seeking help.³⁴

Among Chinese women and men aged 50 and older born outside the U.S. (a subset of the Yick Study of 262 Chinese women and men in the Greater Los Angeles area):³⁵

- ◆ A substantial minority stated that a husband's violence toward his wife is justified "when the husband catches the wife for having an affair" (41.2% of women and 46.5% of men) and "when the husband finds the wife flirting with someone else" (38.2% of women and 48.8% of men).
- ◆ A significantly larger proportion of men than women believed that a husband's use of physical violence is justified "if the wife always nagged" (2.9% of women and 16.3% of men), "if the husband finds the wife drunk" (5.9% of women and 11.6% of men) and "if the wife is unwilling to have sex" (0% of women and 14.0% of men).

³⁴ Yoshihama M. Reinterpreting strength and safety in socio-cultural context: Dynamics of domestic violence and experiences of women of Japanese descent. *Children and Youth Services Review*. 2000; 22:207-227.

³⁵ Shibusawa T, Yick AG. Experiences and perceptions of intimate partner violence among older Chinese immigrants. *Journal of Elder Abuse & Neglect*. 2007; 19:1-17.

- ◆ A significantly larger proportion of women than men stated that a husband's physical violence toward his wife is justified "when the wife screamed hysterically" (94.1% women and 74.4% of men).
- ◆ In general, men and older adults who were "less acculturated" (as defined by the researchers) were more likely to believe that a husband's use of physical violence toward his wife is justified.

A telephone survey of a random sample of Vietnamese adults (246 women and 194 men) in four locations in the U.S. (Orange County, CA; Houston, TX; Boston, MA; and Lansing, MI) found:³⁶

- ◆ While the majority of the respondents considered intimate partner violence a problem in the Vietnamese community, only 40% perceived it as "serious or very serious".
- ◆ On a 5-point scale ranging from 1 = disagree in all situations, to 5 = agree in all situations, the respondents indicated high agreement with statements such as, "Intimate violence should be stopped" (mean score 4.72); "Government should intervene" (mean score 4.50); and "Perpetrators should have mandatory treatment" (mean score 4.43).
- ◆ Relatively lower agreement was found for statements such as, "Perpetrators should be jailed" (mean score 3.30) and "Perpetrators should be prosecuted" (mean score 3.74).

In the NAWHO Study of 336 Asian American women aged 18-34:³⁷

- ◆ Although most respondents (94%) agreed that rape is a serious problem in our society today, 18% believed that "rape does not happen between two people who are in a relationship."

³⁶ Bui HN. Perceptions of intimate violence and attitudes toward interventions: The role of acculturation. *Journal of Ethnicity in Criminal Justice*. 2005; 3:1-27.

³⁷ National Asian Women's Health Organization. *Silence, Not an Option!* San Francisco, CA: Author; 2002.

5. HELP-SEEKING ATTITUDES AND EXPERIENCES

In the Project AWARE Study:³⁸

- ◆ 44.8% of the Asian women surveyed reported that they or other Asian women they knew to have been abused did “nothing” to protect themselves from abusive events; 32.1% said they “kept quiet.” The report’s authors noted that “Doing nothing can serve as a strategy of resistance in an attempt [to] avoid or lessen abuse.”
- ◆ 34.3% sought help from their family, and 32.1% from friends. Only 15.7% reported having called the police, and 9.0% actually obtained help from an agency.
- ◆ 78.0% (the majority of women) who confided in someone about their experience of abuse felt better afterwards, but 35.4% indicated that they felt ashamed.

The Asian Task Force Study found considerable variations in attitudes toward help-seeking and preferred interventions among the ethnic groups studied:³⁹

- ◆ 29% of Korean respondents said a woman who is being abused should not tell anyone about the abuse, whereas 22% of Cambodian, 18% of Chinese, 5% of South Asian, and 9% of Vietnamese did.
- ◆ 82% of South Asian respondents indicated that a battered woman should turn to a friend for help, whereas 44% of Cambodian, 37% of Chinese, 41% of Korean, and 29% of Vietnamese respondents agreed with this statement.
- ◆ 74% of South Asian respondents supported a battered woman calling the police for help, whereas 47% of Cambodian, 52% of Chinese, 27% of Korean, and 49% of Vietnamese respondents did.

³⁸ McDonnell KA, Abdulla SE. *Project AWARE: Research Project*. Washington, DC: Asian/Pacific Islander Domestic Violence Resource Project; 2001.

³⁹ 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 the Yoshihama Study of Japanese immigrant and Japanese American women:⁴⁰

- ◆ U.S.-born respondents, compared to their Japan-born counterparts, were more likely to seek help from friends (82.8% vs. 43.3%); to confront their partners (86% vs. 68%); and to find these methods more effective.
- ◆ Japan-born respondents were more likely to minimize the seriousness of the situation as a strategy to cope with abuse (90.0%) than U.S.-born respondents (57.6%); and rated this strategy as more helpful than did the U.S.-born respondents (3.1 vs. 2.3 on a 4-point scale).
- ◆ Although only 19.4% of women used counseling, those who used counseling reported a high rate of satisfaction with it (3.3 on a 4 point scale).
- ◆ A significantly larger proportion of U.S.-born (23.2%) than Japan-born (6.7%) women who had experienced partner violence used counseling; however, the rating of satisfaction with counselors was not significantly different between the U.S.-born (3.3) and the Japan-born (4.0).

In the Tran Study of Vietnamese women:⁴¹

- ◆ Only 16% of the respondents reported having gone to facilities for treatment of injuries caused by the abuse.
- ◆ 71% reported having confided in others about the abuse; 26% confided in family members, 28% to friends, and 43% confided to staff in service agencies.

The Raj and Silverman Study of 160 South Asian women found that:⁴²

- ◆ 11.3% of respondents reporting intimate partner violence indicated receiving counseling support services for domestic abuse.

⁴⁰ Yoshihama M. Battered women's coping strategies and psychological distress: Differences by immigration status. *American Journal of Community Psychology*. 2002; 30:429-452.

⁴¹ Tran CG; *Domestic violence among Vietnamese refugee women: Prevalence, abuse characteristics, psychiatric symptoms, and psychosocial factors*. Unpublished doctoral dissertation, Boston University, Boston, MA; 1997.

⁴² Raj A, Silverman J. Intimate partner violence amongst South Asian women in Greater Boston. *Journal of the American Medical Women's Association*. 2002; 57:111-114.

- ◆ Only 3.1% of the abused women in the study had ever obtained a restraining order against an abusive partner. This rate is substantially lower than that reported in a study of women (of any race/ethnicity) in Massachusetts, in which over one third of women who reported intimate partner violence in the past 5 years had obtained a restraining order.

In a study of 62 battered women (20 African American, 22 Hispanic, and 20 South Asian) who had accessed domestic violence services:⁴³

- ◆ South Asian women were more likely to seek help from family members than African American or Hispanic women. The difference was notable in the proportion of women who disclosed the violence to their father (40.0% of South Asian, compared to 11.1% of African American and 8.7% of Hispanic) or their brother (55.0% of South Asian, compared to 16.7% of African American and 21.7% of Hispanic).
- ◆ Following disclosure, South Asian women were significantly more likely to be advised by family members “to stay in the marriage” than other groups of women.

Immigration and refugee resettlement are often associated with a disruption in the social support network and a sense of isolation.

- ◆ Over 90% of Vietnamese women interviewed in the Tran Study had 0–2 people as sources of support.⁴⁴
- ◆ In the Yoshihama Study in Los Angeles, first-generation Japanese respondents (those who were born in Japan and immigrated to the U.S. after age 13) had the smallest number of individuals who provided social support, and were the least satisfied with the available social support of the four generations of respondents interviewed in this study.⁴⁵

⁴³ Yoshioka MR, Gilbert L, El-Bassel N, Baig-Amin M. Social support and disclosure of abuse: Comparing South Asian, African American, and Hispanic battered women. *Journal of Family Violence*. 2003; 18:171-180.

⁴⁴ Tran CG; *Domestic violence among Vietnamese refugee women: Prevalence, abuse characteristics, psychiatric symptoms, and psychosocial factors*. Unpublished doctoral dissertation, Boston University, Boston, MA; 1997.

⁴⁵ Yoshihama M. Battered women's coping strategies and psychological distress: Differences by immigration status. *American Journal of Community Psychology*. 2002; 30:429-452.

- ◆ Of the 3 groups studied, African American, Hispanic and South Asian, South Asian women had the fewest family members residing in the local area or in the U.S. compared to the other groups.⁴⁶

In the Chemtob et al. Study in Hawaii:⁴⁷

- ◆ Of the reasons given by the mothers for remaining in the abusive relationship, those that received the highest ranking (as placed in four main categories) included the need for shelter (40% of “basic needs” category), providing a father for the children (72% of “maternal needs”), companionship (44% of “relationship needs”), and being seen as a failure by one’s parents (24% of “social needs related to parents”).

6. SERVICE UTILIZATION

Service Utilization Data from Community Based Organizations⁴⁸

- ◆ **Apna Ghar, Inc.:** Chicago, IL, 2007:⁴⁹
 - 10,234 hours of direct service offered to 254 adult women and 33 children survivors of domestic violence
 - Of the 254 adult women and 33 children:
 - 45 women and 26 children received shelter
 - 200 women received legal advocacy
 - 154 women received in-person counseling
 - 1,057 crisis line calls received

⁴⁶ Yoshioka MR, Gilbert L, El-Bassel N, Baig-Amin M. Social support and disclosure of abuse: Comparing South Asian, African American, and Hispanic battered women. *Journal of Family Violence*. 2003; 18:171-180.

⁴⁷ Chemtob CM, Carlson JG, Perrone P. *Domestic Violence in Hawaii: Impact on Mothers and Their Children*. Honolulu, HI: State of Hawai'i Department of the Attorney General; 2000.

⁴⁸ The service utilization data is presented exactly as the information sources stated it; for the specified calendar year, unless stated otherwise.

⁴⁹ Email communication to Chic Dabby, Director, API Institute from Neha Gill, Supervising Legal Advocate, Apna Ghar, Inc.; October 17, 2008.

- ◆ **Asian Task Force Against Domestic Violence:** Boston, MA, 2007:⁵⁰
 - 4,668 multilingual hotline and advocacy calls received
 - 362 clients served through community based services
 - 93 clients received emergency shelter and shelter annex services

- ◆ **Asian Women's Shelter:** San Francisco, CA, FY 2007 – 2008:⁵¹
 - 28 women and 18 children served
 - 300 hotline calls received
 - 177 women and 88 children turned away due to lack of shelter space and service availability

- ◆ **Asian Women United of Minnesota (AWUM):** Minneapolis, MN, 2007:⁵²
 - 53 (of 212) women and 65 (of 174) children who received shelter services were Asian
 - 303 (of 2,088) women and 123 (of 123) children who received services through the Community Advocacy Program were Asian

- ◆ **Daya, Inc.:** Houston, TX:⁵³
 - 2007
 - 197 victims of domestic violence served, of whom 159 were new
 - 3,308 client calls received, compared to 320 in 2004
 - 2008
 - 4,221 client calls received

⁵⁰ Asian Task Force Against Domestic Violence. *Annual Report 2007*.

⁵¹ Email communication to Yanin Senachai, API Institute from Huong Le, Asian Women's Shelter: November 3, 2008.

⁵² Asian Women United of Minnesota. *AWUM Annual Report 2007*.

⁵³ Daya, Inc. *Statistics on Domestic Violence*. <http://www.dayahouston.org/statistics.php> (Retrieved 8-14-2009)

- ◆ **Domestic Violence Action Center: Honolulu, HI:**⁵⁴ [*Note: Ethnic breakdown unavailable*]
 - 2000 – 2008:
 - 163,800 callers contacted the agency
 - 3,486 requests for legal representation received
 - 2,990 cases opened
 - 2,453 cases closed
 - 4,933 court appearances made by agency attorneys
 - 12,558 hours worked for document preparation and in court proceedings
 - 3,438 children in the families were served
 - 14,633 accompaniments made with clients to agencies, appointments, or court
 - 22,219 safety plans completed
 - 17,332 risk assessments conducted
 - Since 2002:
 - 24,902 students, educators, and service providers have been trained through Teen Alert program
 - 129 public and 29 private schools statewide have been visited by teen program staff

- ◆ **Freedom, Inc.: Dane County, WI, 2006:**⁵⁵
 - 702 individuals utilized domestic violence and sexual assault services, including support groups, advocacy, and case management. The county's Southeast Asian population numbers 7,000 – 8,000, hence 10% sought domestic violence related services.

⁵⁴ Email communication to Chic Dabby, Director, API Institute from Sharon Tachibana, Contracts and Grants Management Assistant, Domestic Violence Action Center: October 22, 2008.

⁵⁵ Email communication to Chic Dabby from Kabzuag Vaj, Director, Freedom, Inc.: April 6, 2007.

- ◆ **Hmong American Friendship Association, Inc.:** Milwaukee, WI, 2003:⁵⁶
 - 68 victims of abuse; 59 legal clients; 803 individual hotline callers; and 116 clan leaders, community members, and professionals were served by the Family Strengthening Project

- ◆ **Korean Women's Association:** Tacoma, WA, 2007:⁵⁷
 - 219 domestic violence clients were served
 - 13,665 shelter meals provided
 - 4,555 shelter bed nights provided

- ◆ **Manavi:** New Brunswick, NJ:⁵⁸
 - In a 10 month period, January – October 2007, legal services were provided as follows:
 - 43 women were provided free forty-minute consultations with family and immigration law attorneys
 - 59 women received attorney consultation through the agency's staff
 - 80 women were given attorney referrals
 - 90 hours of court accompaniment recorded

- ◆ **My Sister's House:** Sacramento, CA, July 2006 – June 2007:⁵⁹
 - 32 Asian and Pacific Islander women and children fleeing abuse were provided 2,006 nights of shelter, utilities, food, and case management services

⁵⁶ Hmong American Friendship Association, Inc. *Improving the Quality of Life for Asian Families*. Annual Report, 2003. www.hmongamer.org/Annual%20Reports/Annual%20Report%20-%202003.pdf (Retrieved 8-14-2009)

⁵⁷ Korean Women's Association. *Korean Women's Association: In the Community*. Winter 2008 Newsletter.

⁵⁸ Manavi. *Manavi Journal: Annual Publication 2007*.

⁵⁹ My Sister's House. *My Sister's House Annual Report: 2006-2007*. <http://www.my-sisters-house.org/AnnualReport2006-2007.pdf> (Retrieved 8-14-2009)

- ◆ **New York Asian Women’s Center:** New York, NY, 2005 – 2006.⁶⁰
 - 57 shelter beds per night offered through 3 emergency shelters, serving approximately 80 families or 160 individuals annually
 - Approximately 400 women received services including counseling, advocacy and interpretation, housing assistance, support groups, entitlement assistance, and educational/employment counseling and assistance
 - 821 individual counseling sessions were provided to 113 children

- ◆ **Saheli for Asian Families:** Austin, TX, 2004.⁶¹
 - 367 messages received on hotline
 - 73 Asian clients received domestic violence services including one-time counseling and resource referral, and ongoing advocacy

- ◆ **Sakhi for South Asian Women:** New York, NY, 2007.⁶²
 - 727 calls and emails were received of which 664 were domestic violence-related

- ◆ **Women Helping Women:** Maui, HI, July 2007 – June 2008.⁶³
 - 295 new and unduplicated adults and children received domestic violence-related emergency shelter services
 - 2,291 crisis calls received on the hotline
 - 8,830 information and referral (I&R) calls received on the hotline

⁶⁰ New York Asian Women’s Center. *Celebrating 25 Years of Empowering Women and Children to Live Free of Violence in 2007*. Annual Report, 2005 – 2006. http://www.nyawc.org/news-pdfs/NYAWC_Annual%20Report.pdf (Retrieved 8-14-2009)

⁶¹ SAHELI for Asian Families. *2004 Fact Sheet*. http://www.saheli-austin.org/Documents/SAHELI_factsheet_2004.pdf (Retrieved 8-14-2009)

⁶² Sakhi for South Asian Women. *Domestic Violence Program Statistics: January 1 through December 31, 2007*. <http://www.sakhi.org/learn/sakhistats.php#osevenstats> (Retrieved 8-14-2009)

⁶³ Email communication to Chic Dabby, Director, API Institute from Jimmy Dadian, Administrative Services Manager, Women Helping Women; October 16, 2008.

Statewide Service Utilization Data

- ◆ Iowa, July 2006 – July 2007:⁶⁴
 - 183 Asian women and 20 Hawaiian/Pacific Islanders served by domestic violence and sexual assault providers

- ◆ Wisconsin Family Strengthening Project, 2007:⁶⁵
 - 1,673 women, 627 children, and 56 men of Southeast Asian (predominantly Hmong) victims of domestic abuse served
 - Over 900 calls were received on the Statewide Bilingual Hmong-English Hotline

7. HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH CONSEQUENCES

In the Chemtob et al. Study:⁶⁶

- ◆ 46% of mothers and 42% of children were diagnosed with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) based on the Posttraumatic Diagnostic Scale.
- ◆ Mothers with PTSD had elevated depressive and dissociative symptoms. However, there was no significant association between the likelihood of PTSD in the mothers and likelihood in children.

⁶⁴ Monsoon. *Asian Women and Violence in Iowa, July '06 to July '07: Attorney General Crimes Victims Assistance Division Statistics*. <http://muawi.org/pages/page.php?pageid=20> (Retrieved 8-14-2009)

⁶⁵ Email communication to Chic Dabby from Sharon Lewandowski, Wisconsin Department of Children and Families: October 22, 2008.

⁶⁶ Chemtob CM, Carlson JG, Perrone P. *Domestic Violence in Hawaii: Impact on Mothers and Their Children*. Honolulu, HI: State of Hawai'i Department of the Attorney General; 2000.

In a study of a convenience sample of 208 South Asian women recruited through community outreach in the Greater Boston area, women who reported intimate partner violence were more likely than those without such violence to:

- ◆ Indicate that they had experienced “poor physical health in 7 or more of the last 30 days” (19.5% vs. 6.7%), “depression [in] 7 or more of the last 30 days” (31.8% vs. 10.2%), “anxiety [in] 7 or more of the last 30 days” (34.1% vs. 20.1%), and “suicidal ideation during the last year” (15.9% vs. 2.5%).⁶⁷
- ◆ Report “discolored vaginal discharge in the past year” (36.4% vs. 17.8%), “burning during urination in the past year” (44.2% vs. 20.4%), and “unwanted pregnancy ever” (23.3% vs. 7.4%).⁶⁸

In the Yoshihama Study of Japanese women in Los Angeles:

- ◆ 36.4% of women who experienced partner violence were estimated to develop PTSD by age 49 (the maximum age of the respondents)⁶⁹ based on a modified National Women’s Study PTSD Module.⁷⁰
- ◆ Compared to those who had not experienced partner violence, the probability of developing PTSD was almost two to three times higher for those who had experienced partner violence.⁷¹
- ◆ The severity of partners’ emotional violence was associated with the level of current psychological distress.⁷²

⁶⁷ Hurwitz EJH, Gupta J, Liu R, Silverman JG, Raj A. Intimate partner violence associated with poor health outcomes in U.S. South Asian women. *Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health*. 2006; 8:251-261.

⁶⁸ Raj A, Liu R, McCleary-Sills J, Silverman JG. South Asian victims of intimate partner violence more likely than non-victims to report sexual health concerns. *Journal of Immigrant Health*. 2005; 7:85-91.

⁶⁹ This adjusted estimate is probably still an underestimate of lifetime PTSD, as women over the age of 49 may develop PTSD, but were not represented in the sample.

⁷⁰ Yoshihama M, Horrocks J. The relationship between intimate partner violence and PTSD: An application of the Cox regression with time-varying covariates. *Journal of Traumatic Stress*. 2003; 16:371-380.

⁷¹ Ibid.

⁷² Yoshihama M. Model minority demystified: Emotional costs of multiple victimizations in the lives of women of Japanese descent. *Journal of Human Behavior in the Social Environment*. 2001; 3:201-224.

In the Yick Study of Chinese men and women:⁷³

- ◆ Those who experienced verbal and physical aggression by a spouse/intimate partner in the last 12 months were more likely to experience depressive symptoms.
- ◆ Those who perpetrated physical aggression were more likely to experience somatic symptoms.

In the Project AWARE Study:⁷⁴

- ◆ Respondents reported that they or women they knew had experienced a wide range of “psychological injuries,” including: feeling helpless (65.2%), lowered self-esteem (62.1%), depressed (59.1%), ashamed (57.6%), hopeless (49.2%), anxious (46.2%), and suicidal (17.4%).

Long-term effects of intimate partner violence were documented in several studies:

- ◆ The participants in the Chemtob et al. Study in Hawaii had been out of the abusive relationship on average more than two years; however, a significant minority (46% of mothers and 42% children) were suffering from PTSD at the time of the study.⁷⁵
- ◆ Yoshihama and Horrocks found that even women who had experienced an intimate partner’s physical and/or emotional violence more than one year ago reported experiencing a larger number of post-traumatic symptoms than those without a history of partner violence.⁷⁶
- ◆ Similarly, there was no significant association between the timing of experiencing domestic violence and the probability of developing PTSD; suggesting no evidence that the effects of domestic violence decrease over time.⁷⁷

⁷³ Yick AG, Shibusawa T, Agbayani-Siewert P. Partner violence, depression, and practice implications with families of Chinese descent. *Journal of Cultural Diversity*. 2003; 10:96-104.

⁷⁴ McDonnell KA, Abdulla SE. *Project AWARE: Research Project*. Washington, DC: Asian/Pacific Islander Domestic Violence Resource Project; 2001.

⁷⁵ Chemtob CM, Carlson JG, Perrone P. *Domestic Violence in Hawaii: Impact on Mothers and Their Children*. Honolulu, HI: State of Hawaii Department of the Attorney General; 2000.

⁷⁶ Yoshihama M, Horrocks J. Posttraumatic stress symptoms and victimization among Japanese American women. *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology*. 2002; 70:205-215.

⁷⁷ Yoshihama M, Horrocks J. The relationship between intimate partner violence and PTSD: An application of the Cox regression with time-varying covariates. *Journal of Traumatic Stress*. 2003; 16:371-380.

Emotional abuse, i.e., non-physical violence by a partner also has a significant negative effect on women's mental health:

- ◆ In the Yoshihama Study in Los Angeles, women of Japanese descent who experienced emotional violence in the absence of physical violence also reported a significantly higher number of avoidance symptoms and somewhat elevated re-experiencing symptom counts.⁷⁸ *[Note: Conventionally, post-traumatic stress disorder includes re-experiencing, avoidance/numbing, and arousal symptoms.]*
- ◆ The Tran Study of Vietnamese women found that the severity of verbal abuse was significantly associated with PTSD, depression, and anxiety symptoms, and that the duration of verbal abuse was associated with PTSD, depression, and somatic symptoms.⁷⁹

Studies have documented what is referred to as a 'dose-response type' of relationship between the severity of violence ('dose') and symptom intensity, i.e., worse health outcomes ('response').

- ◆ The Tran Study of Vietnamese women in Boston found that both the severity and duration of partner violence were significantly associated with levels of post-traumatic stress and depression symptoms.⁸⁰
- ◆ The Yoshihama Study of Japanese women in Los Angeles found that women who had experienced injuries and/or feared for their life reported significantly higher symptoms of post-traumatic stress, especially re-experiencing and avoidance/numbing symptoms, than those with no experience of domestic violence in their lifetime.⁸¹

⁷⁸ Yoshihama M, Horrocks J. Posttraumatic stress symptoms and victimization among Japanese American women. *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology*. 2002; 70:205-215.

⁷⁹ Tran CG; *Domestic violence among Vietnamese refugee women: Prevalence, abuse characteristics, psychiatric symptoms, and psychosocial factors*. Unpublished doctoral dissertation, Boston University, Boston, MA; 1997.

⁸⁰ Ibid.

⁸¹ Yoshihama M, Horrocks J. Posttraumatic stress symptoms and victimization among Japanese American women. *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology*. 2002; 70:205-215.

8. EXPOSURE TO FAMILY VIOLENCE IN CHILDHOOD

In the Asian Task Force Study:⁸²

- ◆ 69% of the overall respondents reported being hit regularly as children. The proportion of respondents who were hit regularly by their parents as children varied slightly across ethnic groups: Cambodian (70%), Chinese (61%), Koreans (80%), South Asians (79%), and Vietnamese (72%).
- ◆ The proportion of respondents who reported having witnessed their fathers regularly hit their mothers was 28% for Cambodians, 18% for Chinese, 30% for Koreans, 8% for South Asians, and 27% for Vietnamese.

In the Yoshihama Study of Japanese immigrants and Japanese American women in Los Angeles:

- ◆ 13.3% of the respondents reported having experienced physical abuse during childhood.⁸³
- ◆ 36.4% of the first generation respondents (those born in Japan and immigrated to the U.S. after age 13), and 13.2% of the 1.5 (those born in Japan and immigrated to the U.S. before age 13), 2nd, 3rd and 4th (U.S. born) generation respondents reported that their father had abused their mother.⁸⁴

In the Shimtuh Study in the San Francisco Bay Area:⁸⁵

- ◆ 33% of the respondents (women and men) reported their fathers hitting their mothers at least once.

⁸² 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.

⁸³ Yoshihama M, Horrocks J. Posttraumatic stress symptoms and victimization among Japanese American women. *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology*. 2002; 70:205-215.

⁸⁴ Yoshihama M. Model minority demystified: Emotional costs of multiple victimizations in the lives of women of Japanese descent. *Journal of Human Behavior in the Social Environment*. 2001; 3:201-224.

⁸⁵ Shimtuh (Korean Domestic Violence Program). *Korean American Community of the Bay Area Domestic Violence Needs Assessment Report*. Oakland, CA: Author; 2000.

In the Chemtob et al. Study in Hawaii:⁸⁶

- ◆ 91% of mothers reported that their children had witnessed their father's violence against their mother (i.e., domestic violence by the father); 56% of the mothers stated that their children had attempted to intervene.
- ◆ 72% of the mothers reported that their children had been physically abused; and 12%, sexually abused.
- ◆ 80% of the children witnessed domestic violence at least monthly, with 40% witnessing it on a daily basis. In addition, 80% of the mothers considered the level of distress in their children to be "extreme."
- ◆ A majority of children were reported to have suffered abuse. Over half of the mothers, 56%, rated the level of abuse against their children as "extreme." 12% of the children were subjected to physical abuse daily, 8% weekly, and 28% monthly.

9. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RELATED HOMICIDES

In a report on domestic violence related homicides in Asian families based on newspaper clippings and information from advocates for a six-year period from 2000–2005, the Asian & Pacific Islander Institute on Domestic Violence analyzed 160 cases.⁸⁷

- ◆ **Types of Homicides and Fatalities:**
 - Of a total of 160 domestic violence related homicide cases:
 - 72% (115) were intimate partner homicide cases
 - 16% (25) were non-intimate family killing cases, i.e. child killings, extended family killings, matricide and parricide cases

⁸⁶ Chemtob CM, Carlson JG, Perrone P. *Domestic Violence in Hawaii: Impact on Mothers and Their Children*. Honolulu, HI: State of Hawai'i Department of the Attorney General; 2000.

⁸⁷ Dabby C, Patel H, Poore G. *Homicides, Domestic Violence and Asian Families*. San Francisco, CA: Asian & Pacific Islander Institute on Domestic Violence | APIA Health Forum; 2009.

- 12% (20) were collateral, competitor, contract, familicide and honor killing cases
- 160 homicide cases resulted in 226 fatalities:
 - 184 adults and children were killed
 - 42 perpetrators committed suicide after killing their victims
- ◆ **Victims**
 - 78% of victims were women and girls, 20% were men and boys, 2% were unknown.
 - 68% (125) of victims were intimate partners: 70% were current partners (78 women, 10 men); 30% were estranged or ex-partners (33 women, 4 men).
 - 32% (59) of victims were non-intimate family members: 22 were children; 12 were in-laws; 10 were parents; 15 were others.
 - 64% of victims were killed in their homes.
 - 62% of victims were stabbed or shot to death.
- ◆ **Children**
 - 22 child fatalities represent the second largest group (after women intimate partners) of homicide victims.
 - Children were the primary victims (13 out of 20 individuals) of familicides.
 - 160 non-fatal child victims included those who survived attempted homicides, were seriously injured in attacks, were eye or ear witnesses to homicides and/or suicides, and/or discovered bodies; thus implying extensive physical and psychological harms.
- ◆ **Perpetrators**
 - 83% of perpetrators were men, 14% were women, 3% were unknown.
 - 7 out of a total of 10 men who killed children also killed the children's mothers; whereas 1 out of the total of 4 women who killed her children killed her partner.
 - 70% of killers used guns to commit suicide.

In a review of comparative data:

- ◆ 23% of 67 domestic violence-related deaths from 2001 – 2005 in California’s Alameda County were Asian and Pacific Islander.⁸⁸
- ◆ 31% (16 out of 51 cases) of domestic violence homicides from 1993 – 1997 in California’s Santa Clara County were Asian,⁸⁹ although Asians comprised only 17.5% of the county’s population.
- ◆ 7 intimate homicides were reported in 2000 in Hawai’i.⁹⁰ Five of the women killed were of Filipina descent,⁹¹ a disproportionately high rate given that Filipinos represent 12.3% of the total population of Hawai’i.⁹²

⁸⁸ Alameda County Public Health Department. *Domestic Violence in Alameda County: A Fact Sheet*. Oakland, CA: Author; (n.d.)

⁸⁹ Santa Clara County Death Review Sub-Committee of the Domestic Violence Council, *Death Review Committee Final Report*. San Jose, CA: Author; 1997.

⁹⁰ Hawai’i State Coalition Against Domestic Violence. *Domestic Violence Deaths in Hawai’i, 2000*. Honolulu, HI: Author; 2001.

⁹¹ Email communication to Chic Dabby, API Institute from Jennifer Rose, J.D. Domestic Violence Action Center (formerly Domestic Violence Clearinghouse and Legal Hotline), Honolulu, HI. April 3, 2002.

⁹² Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism. *The State of Hawai’i Data Book 2000*. Honolulu, HI: Author; 2000.

The viewpoints contained in this publication are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not represent the official views or policies of the Department of Health and Human Services and do not in any way constitute an endorsement by DHHS.

Asian & Pacific Islander Institute on Domestic Violence

Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum

Authors: Mieko Yoshihama, Ph.D. and Chic Dabby

Design: Amy Sonnie

September 2009



**ASIAN & PACIFIC ISLANDER INSTITUTE ON DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE | APIA HEALTH FORUM**

450 Sutter Street Suite 600 San Francisco CA 94108

Tel: 415-568-3315 • Fax: 415-954-9999

Web: www.apiahf.org/apidvinstitute

Email: apidvinstitute@apiahf.org