



Fact Sheet: Domestic Violence in Chinese Communities

July 2012

1. Demographics

- ◆ According to the 2010 U.S. Census, there are 3,794,673 single-race, multi-race and multi-ethnic Chinese of which 3,137,061 are single-race.¹
- ◆ According to the 2010 U.S. Census, there are 230,382 single-race, multi-race and multi-ethnic Taiwanese of which 196,691 are single-race.²
- ◆ According to the Census Bureau's 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, of the 2,656,309 Chinese speakers in the U.S., 45.1% (1,196,876) speak English 'very well' and 54.9% (1,459,433) speak 'less than very well'.

2. Statistics

In a telephone survey of 31 randomly selected Chinese individuals (15 women and 16 men) in the San Gabriel Valley in Los Angeles County:

- ◆ Respondents (men and women) overall did not agree with the use of domestic violence as an effective means of solving problems.
- ◆ Respondents tended to agree that physical and sexual aggression (e.g., slapping, pushing, throwing objects, and insisting a spouse have sex) was an indicator of violence between spouses. However, they were less likely to consider psychological aggression or financial abuse as indicators of violence between spouses.
- ◆ Respondents were more likely to implicate individual factors (e.g., inability to control one's temper, inability to talk to one's spouse) and environmental factors (e.g., job pressure, acculturative stress, alcohol) as the causes of domestic violence; than structural factors (e.g., women working outside the home, breakdown of traditional family roles) and cultural factors (e.g., women's lower status in Chinese culture, belief that men are the heads of households).

Yick AG, Agbayani-Siewert P. Perceptions of domestic violence in a Chinese American community. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*. 1997; 12(6): 832-846.

¹ This represents a 38.8% increase (+ 1,059,832) in the number of single-race, multi-race and multi-ethnic Chinese and a 35.5% increase (+ 822,524) of single-race Chinese from 2000 to 2010.

² This represents a 59.1% increase (+ 85,587) in the number of single-race, multi-race and multi-ethnic Taiwanese and a 66.6% increase (+ 78,643) of single-race Taiwanese from 2000 to 2010.

A study of Asian individuals through self-administered questionnaires at ethnic fairs and community events in Boston found:

- ◆ 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 the husband's use of violence against his wife.
- ◆ 69% of the overall respondents and 61% of Chinese respondents reported being hit regularly as children.
- ◆ 18% of Chinese respondents said a woman who is being abused should not tell anyone about the abuse, whereas 29% of Korean, 22% of Cambodian, 18% of Chinese, 5% of South Asian, and 9% of Vietnamese respondents did.
- ◆ 37% of Chinese respondents indicated that a battered woman should turn to a friend for help, whereas 82% of South Asian, 44% of Cambodian, 41% of Korean, and 29% of Vietnamese respondents agreed with this statement.
- ◆ 52% of Chinese respondents supported a battered woman calling the police for help, whereas 74% of South Asian, 47% of Cambodian, 27% of Korean, and 49% of Vietnamese respondents did.
- ◆ 18% of Chinese respondents reported having 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, 2000. Boston, MA: Asian Task Force Against Domestic Violence.

In a random telephone survey of 262 Chinese men and women in Los Angeles county:

- ◆ 18.1% of respondents reported experiencing "minor physical violence" by a spouse or intimate partner within their lifetime, and 8% of respondents reported "severe physical violence" experienced during their lifetime. ["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 have been victims of severe physical violence. [Although the author states "It is possible that traditional cultural values serve as a protective buffer against stressors engendered by immigration" (p. 263), higher rates among more acculturated respondents may be due to their increased likelihood to report abuse.]
- ◆ 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.

Yick AG. Predictors of physical spousal/intimate violence in Chinese American families. *Journal of Family Violence*. 2000; 15(3): 249-267.

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

- ◆ 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).
- ◆ 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.

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 report on 160 U.S. domestic violence related homicides in Asian families based on newspaper clippings and information from advocates for a six-year period from 2000–2005 found:

- ◆ 19 of 158 (12.0%) victims with known ethnicities were Chinese.
- ◆ 14 of 122 (11.5%) perpetrators with known ethnicities were Chinese.

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.

3. Selected Translated Materials

Creating a Safety Plan

The Peel Committee Against Woman Abuse, Mississauga, Ontario, Canada Website: www.pcawa.org, Email: pcawa@pcawa.org, Tel: 905.282.9792
Weblink: www.pcawa.org/Files/Chinese-Safety%20Plan-Revised%202005.pdf

English/Chinese Legal Glossary

Minnesota Judicial Center, St. Paul, MN
Website: www.courts.state.mn.us, Tel: 651.297.7650
Weblink: www.mncourts.gov/documents/O/Public/Interpreter_Program/Chinese_Glossary_Simplified_Characters.pdf

Lifetime Spiral of Gender Violence

Asian Pacific Institute on Gender-Based Violence, Oakland, CA
Website: www.api-gbv.org, Email: info@api-gbv.org, Tel: 415.568.3315

Power & Control Wheel

Asian Pacific Institute on Gender-Based Violence, Oakland, CA Website: www.api-gbv.org, Email: info@api-gbv.org, Tel: 415.568.3315

4. Other Resources

National Domestic Violence Hotline

For crisis intervention, safety planning, information about domestic violence and referrals to local service providers, contact 1-800-799-SAFE (7233) or TTY 1-800-787-3224. Assistance available in English and Spanish, as well as other languages through interpreter services.

Directories

- ◆ **International Directories**

Americans Overseas Domestic Violence Crisis Center, www.866uswomen.org

Hot Peach Pages, International Directory of Domestic Violence Agencies, www.hotpeachpages.net

- ◆ **National Directory**

Directory of Domestic Violence Programs Serving Asians & Pacific Islanders, Asian Pacific Institute on Gender-Based Violence, api-gbv.org

Asian Pacific Institute on Gender-Based Violence

For questions, information, publications and technical assistance, contact the Asian Pacific Institute on Gender-Based Violence at 415-568-3315, info@api-gbv.org, www.api-gbv.org



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Lifetime Spiral of Gender Violence



Translated versions of the Lifetime Spiral in Chinese, Farsi, Korean, Punjabi, Tagalog and Vietnamese available at api-gbv.org. January 2002. Revised 2010.

From the aborting of female fetuses to intimate homicide, girls and women may encounter numerous oppressions during infancy, childhood, adolescence, adulthood, and as elders. Some of these are confined to one stage in the lifecycle, some continue into subsequent stages.

The Lifetime Spiral reveals patterns of victimization by enumerating the types of violence, vulnerabilities, and harms women and girls face. It also implicitly shows the presence of different abusers located over the lifecourse. A grandmother may withhold nutritious food for a baby girl, a brother may perpetrate incest, a priest may molest a teen girl, a father may insist on a forced marriage, a college student may date rape a classmate, a co-worker may engage in sexual harassment, a husband may batter during pregnancy, a brother- or sister-in-law may stalk, an ex-boyfriend may kill, a community may ostracize homosexuals, a family may silence or shame.

In addition to physical, sexual, economic and emotional abuses; violence is about living in a climate of fear, shame, coercive control, and devaluation. It is often experienced in the context of additional oppressions based on race, ethnicity, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, type of labor performed, level of education, class position, disability, and immigration or refugee status. Raising awareness about the historical nature of gender violence confronts victim-blaming, informs advocacy, and empowers survivors.



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婦女一生中經歷的各種虐待

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