

Working Group on Violence Against Asian Women and Children

November 30, 2016

Minnesota Department of Health (MDH)
Department of Public Safety (DPS)
Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS)
Council on Asian Pacific Minnesotans (CAPM)
Rainbow Research, Inc.

Welcome

- Sara Chute, Minnesota Department of Health, Center for Health Equity, Office of Minority & Multi-Cultural Health
- Claudia R. Waring, Chair of Working Group, Executive Director of Asian Women United of Minnesota

What is Our Charge?

Working Group Duties

Subd. 3. **Duties.** (a) The working group must study the nature, scope, and prevalence of violence against Asian women and children in Minnesota, including domestic violence, trafficking, international abusive marriage, stalking, sexual assault, and other violence.

(b) The working group may:

1. Evaluate the adequacy and effectiveness of existing support programs;
2. Conduct a needs assessment of culturally and linguistically appropriate programs and interventions;
3. Identify barriers in delivering services to Asian women and children;
4. Identify promising prevention and intervention strategies in addressing violence against Asian women and children; and
5. Propose mechanisms to collect and monitor data on violence against Asian women and children.

Source: 2015 Minnesota Statute, Chapter 71, Article 8, Section 58.

Research Questions and Methods

Research Questions

- Prevalence and Scope—*How big of a problem is this? For whom? How does this compare to other ethnic groups in Minnesota? How does Minnesota compare nationally?*
- Nature—*In what ways is violence against Asian women unique, e.g., Asian cultural norms, abusive international marriages?*
- Programs and Services—*To what extent are culturally relevant programs available and utilized? What are the barriers to use?*

Methods

QUANTITATIVE (to date: 389 surveys completed)

- Statewide random sample of Asian women 18 years of age and older (~158)
- Metro area convenience sample (~231)

QUALITATIVE

- Focus groups with 57 women (2 Hmong; 2 Indian; 1 Vietnamese; 1 Karen; 2 multi-ethnic [Nepali, Karen, Hmong, Burmese, Indian, Chinese])
- Key informant interviews with 23

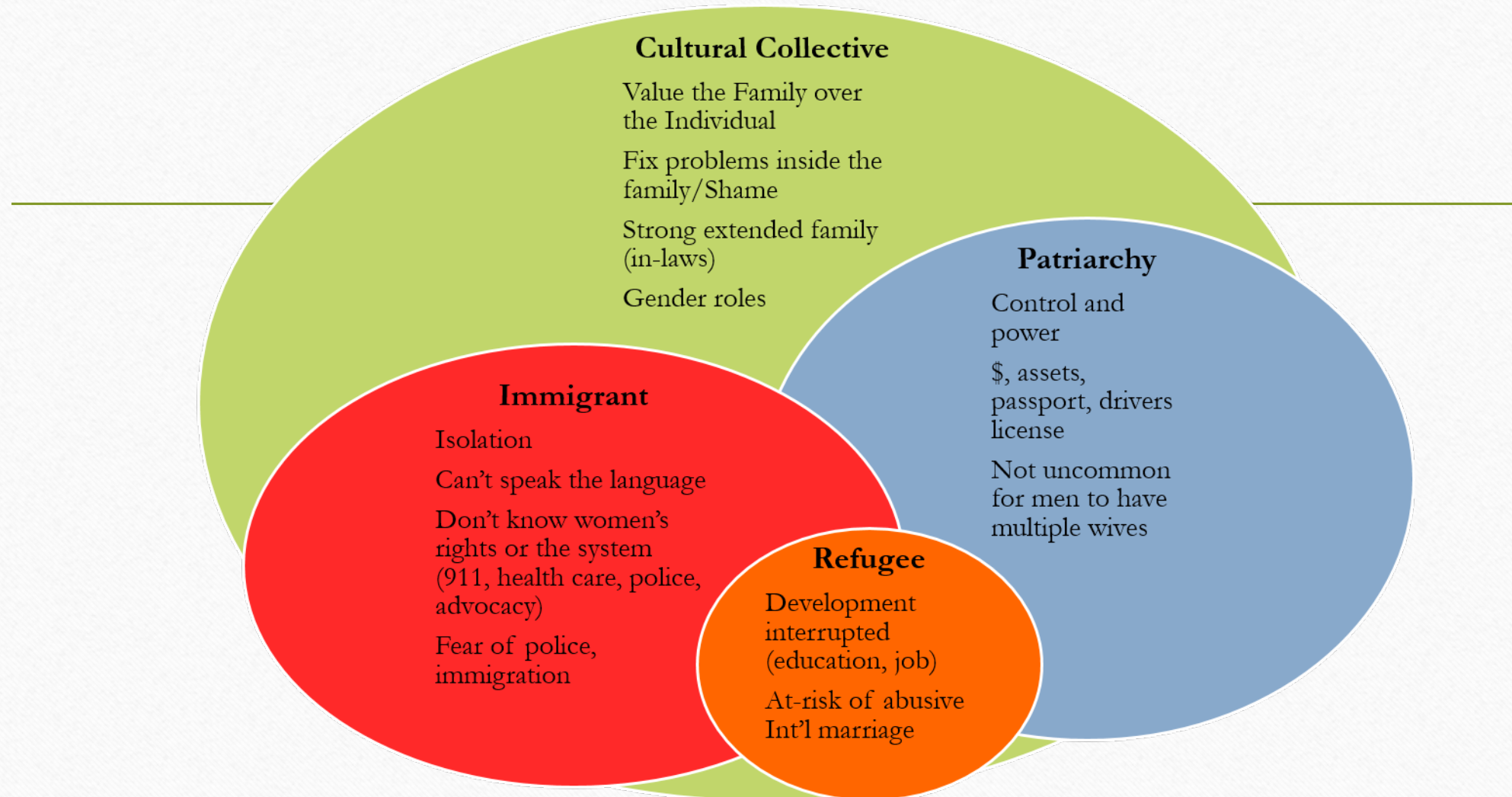
Remaining process

- Continue to receive surveys, analyze data
- W.G. review Monday, December 12 through Wednesday, December 21, 2016
- Revise report December 22-27
- Final review December 28-29
- Final report December 30, 2016

What do we know?

Nature of Violence against Asian Women and Children

MULTIPLE CONTEXTS FOR ASIAN WOMEN IN MINNESOTA



Results from the Minnesota Student Survey

Minnesota Student Survey

- Asian girls were more likely than White girls to have been physically attacked by their parent(s) (17% vs. 10.8%), and their parents were more likely than White parents to have physical altercations (10.3% vs. 6.9%).
- Asian girls were less likely to have been sexually molested by a non-family member (4.0% vs. 5.5%).
- There was no racial difference between verbal abuse by parents (15%) nor sexual molestation by a family member (3%).

Results from College Surveys

Boynton College Health Survey

Minnesota Post-Secondary Student Data

College Health Survey

- Selected Adverse Childhood Events (ACEs)
 - Asian students nearly 2x more likely to grow up in a home in which there was physical violence between the parents (~20% vs. ~10%).
 - Asian students were more likely to have been physically assaulted (slapped, punched, kicked, beat up) by a parent than white students (~24% vs. ~13%).
 - Both female and male Asian were more likely to be touched sexually by an adult than white students (~6%).
- **CONCLUSION:** These data provide proxy data that Asian families face more violence than potentially reported by victims or assailants alone.

College Health Survey

- Asian females less likely than other race women to have been sexually assaulted in the past year (3.4% vs. 1.7%).
- No statistical differences between other race women with regards to having been touched (5%), slapped (4%) or verbally put down (9%) in the last year.
- Over the course of their lifetime, Asian women were significantly less likely to have been raped (10%), touched (18%), slapped (10%) or verbally put down (16%).
- **CONCLUSION:** Evidence that Asian women who make it to college are less likely to experience multiple forms of violence.

College Health Survey

- Among those who were raped or touched against their will, Asian women were as likely to have told someone about it compared to other race women (66% vs. 60%); among those who were hit or verbally put down, the same was true (56% vs. 59%).
- The most common individuals to disclose to were family & friends.
- **CONCLUSION:** Asians were just as likely to tell someone about their experience.

American Association of Universities Sexual Misconduct Survey

Results for the University of Minnesota

University of Minnesota – AAU

- Harassment
- Stalking
- Intimate Partner Violence
- Sexual Assault
- Opinions and Actions

University of Minnesota – AAU

- Harassment
 - Asian women were significantly less likely to experience all types of harassment.
 - Among the women who were harassed, they were significantly less likely to report to the University police, Student Conduct Office, or to the University health center.
 - Among the women who were harassed, they were significantly more likely to report to a friend (but not faculty), stated that the event(s) did not occur at school, & didn't know where to go for assistance or reporting.
- **CONCLUSION:** Asian women are uniformly less aware of reporting and assistance services compared to their female counterparts; harassment may more often occur out of school for Asian women.

University of Minnesota – AAU

- Stalking
 - Of the three different types of stalking, Asian women were more likely to have experienced unwanted waiting (13% vs. 9%).
 - Asian women were less likely to know where to go to report stalking. Reasons for not reporting were uniformly negative and included: not being believed, not serious enough, not getting the offender in trouble, emotionally difficult, & that nothing would be done.
 - All Asian women who reported stalking told a friend of the experience, and more told a family member compared to women of other races.
- **CONCLUSION:** There were numerous reasons for not reporting stalking to school or local authorities, but all told a friend.

University of Minnesota – AAU

- Intimate Partner Violence

- Asian women were less likely to report having been controlled by a partner (6.8% vs. 8.6%) or have been threatened with harm (of the perp, themselves or a loved one) than other women (2.7% vs. 6.1%). In addition, there was no difference in the prevalence of a partner using physical force against her (4%).
- Asians who did experience IPV reported more commonly that they did not know where to go, and a myriad of negative consequences of reporting.
- **CONCLUSION:** There may be relatively low rates of IPV against Asian women in college. Improved education about resources is necessary, and future research into protective factors to explain this is warranted.

University of Minnesota – AAU

- Sexual Assault
 - No racial difference in forced rape (5.6% for Asian females).
 - Higher rate of attempted rape (5.7% vs. 4.2%)
 - Lower rate of other sexual assaults.
- **CONCLUSION:** Aside from attempted rape, there is no evidence that Asian females are at higher risk of sexual assault than other women on campus.

University of Minnesota – AAU

- Opinions
 - Asian women respond negatively to the role of authorities citing lack of victim support and protection, and unlikelihood of a fair investigation.
 - Campus officials were thought not to address the factors leading to sexual misconduct.
- **CONCLUSION:** There are a myriad of reasons that Asian women believe that reporting to University authorities may not be beneficial. The role of education about services should be evaluated.

University of Minnesota – AAU

- Actions
 - When Asian females saw or heard sexual violence occurring **50% did nothing**, which is similar to what other women reported.
 - Asian women were **slightly more likely** to take action when witnessing a drunken encounter than other women (38.7% vs. 32.1%).
 - Asian women were **less likely** than other women to take action when they witnessed a suspected assault (67% vs. 77%).
- **CONCLUSION:** Bystander education should be evaluated for the Asian community.

New Prevalence Study

New Prevalence Study

- There were 389 returned surveys for Asian women
 - Most common ethnicities were Hmong (85), Indian (82), Vietnamese (75), Japanese (39), Chinese (38), Laotian (27). There were no Karen women*.
 - 77% of the women immigrated to the U.S., with an average of 26.5 yrs in the U.S., 94% are current U.S. citizens.
 - Average age of the women was 48 years (median 48 years). Median household income was \$50,000 – \$74,999.
 - 60% of the women had a college education or higher (mix of U.S. and international schools). 14.6% had a less than a high school degree or no education.
 - Over 91% self-identified as heterosexual; 4 women were trans-women. 51% have a spouse.

Marriage

- Average age at first marriage for women was 24 years (range: 3 yrs – 62 yrs).
- 35% of all marriages (not necessarily the current marriage) were traditional or arranged. 6.7% of those marriages were forced.
- 21.6% of all marriages involved a financial or other type of commodity exchange (e.g., dowry). Rarely does there remain a request from the groom's family for continued goods.
- Few women had a husband who had another wife (n=13, 5%).

Multiple Wives

- Only 13 women reported that their spouse had other wives. Of these women, 31% (n=4) reported that each of the following things occurred at the hands of another wife:
 - Physical violence
 - Verbal abuse
 - Control over money and paperwork
 - Control over physical movement and communications

Stalking

- Rates of stalking – both within the year and previously – were fairly low.
- Most common was unwanted phone calls/messages (8% within year), followed closely by unwanted written materials (letters, emails, texts; 5.9%), posted offensive information on internet (3%).
- **CONCLUSION:** Not much evidence to support that stalking is highly prevalent in this group of women.

Adverse Childhood Violent Experiences

- 26.7% report that parents “beat each other up”.
- 24.9% report that parent(s) hit them.
- 32.9% report that they were verbally “put down” by their parent(s).
- **CONCLUSION:** Rates higher than the other surveys of younger Asian Americans, which were found to be significantly higher (e.g. parental physical violence) than white counterparts.

Childhood Sexual Victimization

- 8.1% touched sexually by an adult.
- 5.3% were made to touch an adult sexually.
- 3.1% were forced to have sex.
- **CONCLUSION:** The rates of sexual touching are slightly less than reports of current college-aged Asian women, but the rate of forced sex is similar.

Means of Control

- 3.5% of women reported having their identification withheld from them.
- Virtually no one reported that they recently, or ever, had anyone threaten violence to take away their children or official papers.
 - Within the last year, no one category had more than 2 women report it (e.g., other wives and spouse's children).
 - Over their lifetime, no one category had more than 4 women report it (e.g., other wives and spouse's grandparents).

Intimate Partner Violence

- The three most common forms of IPV in the past 12 months were: Being insulted (5.7%); restricted from financial decisions (3.9%); and physically assaulted (2.9%).
- The three most common forms of IPV 12+ months ago were: Being insulted (6.4%); kept from family/friends (5.5%); physically assaulted (5.4%).

Reporting to the Police

- 68 women reported having experienced violence that allowed them to answer this question about reporting to police.
- Only 7 of 68 (10.3%) reported their most recent episode to the police.
- Of the women who did not report to the police, 53 provided a reason. The frequency of the 10 options were: Not that bad (40%), Shame (30%), family matter (28%), against culture (23%), worried about money/children/housing (19%), make it worse (17%), don't want partner arrested (17%), don't trust police (15%), don't know where to go (13%), my fault (9%).

Who Did They Go To?

- The 3 most common types of individuals from whom the woman sought support were: her mother/sister (53%); friends (41%); and other family members of hers (18%).
- While hypothesized, women tended not to go to the family of the perpetrator (any family member of his, 6%; his mother, 5%).
- Reasons for not telling a friend/family member: Not serious (33%), against culture (27%), shame (22%), dealt within family (20%), worried about money/housing/children (18%).

Types of Information for Women

- More than half of the women endorsed that providing moral support and information on how to keep safe would be beneficial.
- All other types of information were endorsed by ~30% of the women, these included: legal, financial, medical help, resources for children, housing and reporting to the police.

Knowledge of Services

- Nearly 60% of women knew where to find support or services for women experiencing violence.
- While 46% of women felt they did not wish to learn more about services for women experiencing violence.
- 76% recommended that the internet be used to provide information and services for women; 48% believed that informing friends would be beneficial; whereas 38% believed that providing information to cultural leaders and medical professionals would be useful.

Opinions about Violence

- 6.5% of women endorsed that there are times when a woman should be beaten (evenly split between 'maybe' and 'yes').
- When reporting about men in their community, 46% believed that those men never hit their wives; 40% believe that a few hit their wives; 10% believed that half of the men hit their wives; and 4% all or most of them hit their wives.
- If a man hit his wife, 62% of women believed that other men would disapprove; 13% believed that men would approve; and 26% would not have an opinion.

Recommendations

- Review list of key informant recommendations (handout)
- In groups of 2-3:
 - Most compelling or surprising findings or recommendations
 - Confusing findings or recommendations
 - List of recommendations for the report
- Share back small group discussion
- List and combine recommendations
- Vote if needed

Dissemination of Findings

- Report dissemination
- Community Conversation?
 - When?
 - Process?
 - What next?

Closing

- Review next steps
- Closing reflections