COMMUNITY DATA SPOTLIGHT
ASIAN PACIFIC INSTITUTE ON GENDER-BIASED VIOLENCE

By Grace Huang, Director of Policy for API-GBV

TOPICS Gender, Violence, Mental Health, Poverty

ABOUT

The Asian Pacific Institute on Gender-Based Violence (API-GBV) is a culturally specific national resource center on domestic violence, sexual violence, trafficking and other forms of gender-based violence in Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities. API-GBV envisions a world free of gender-based violence with equal opportunities for members of all communities to thrive. API-GBV works with community based, culturally specific organizations that assist Asian, Asian American, Pacific Islander, and Middle Eastern survivors of domestic and sexual violence and human trafficking. API-GBV collaborates with these organizations in disruption of gender-based violence, which causes physical, sexual, emotional, spiritual and economic harm within AAPI communities throughout the U.S. and its territories.

DATA NEEDS

API-GBV and its community partners recognize an acute need for detailed ethnicity-specific data on the prevalence of domestic violence and sexual assault. Community-based organizations require detailed ethnicity-specific data to make a compelling case for specialized, culturally specific services. This data is especially important for Southeast Asian, Pacific Islander, and Middle Eastern communities. API-GBV publishes original research that speaks to the experiences of AAPI communities with gender-based violence.

API-GBV currently relies on data from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS) and the Bureau of Justice Statistics' National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS). Both of these national surveys suffer from small statistical sample sizes and lack ethnicity-specific data. The NISVS must provide disaggregated data about AAPI communities to inform culturally aligned interventions and language supports. The CDC and state health departments conducting Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) surveys must recognize the critical importance of culturally specific approaches in responding to domestic violence and sexual assault. **The Department of Health and Human Services and the Bureau of Justice Statistics must prioritize disaggregated data in the NISVS, NCVS and BRFSS.**

While some states have state-specific violent victimization data, national data and data for Pacific Islanders living in the US Territories (disaggregated from data for the mainland United States) are urgent data gaps that need to be addressed. Some states and localities have focused surveys on specific geographies and populations, but it is inconsistent and sporadic. The lack of detailed data impedes efforts to make a case for culturally and linguistically relevant services, interventions and prevention activities.

Two community advocates reuniting in person at the 2024 API-GBV National Summit: Growing From Our Roots in San Francisco, CA (Photo: Joyce Xi)

Reggie Meredith Fitiao, executive director of Folauga o le Tatau Malaga Aganu'u Fa'asamoa teaching community, advocates during her breakout session, "Nurturing Relational Space to End Violence Through Pasifika Arts, Language & Culture," at the 2024 API-GBV National Summit: Growing From Our Roots in San Francisco, CA (Photo: Joyce Xi)

Recent data from UC San Diego's California's Violence Experiences Survey, as well as data about victimization collected in smaller studies about specific ethnicities, show higher rates of victimization within certain ethnic subgroups. For instance, within South Asian communities, there is a particularly high incidence of domestic violence and in 2023, data showed that 55% of domestic violence-related deaths in these communities were caused by firearms. This highlights an urgent need for more granular gun ownership data, both locally and nationally, to understand the intersection between gun violence and domestic violence. There is a need for language-specific outreach, greater investment in organizations serving those ethnic groups, and increased training about certain topics, such as immigration remedies for victims in certain locations. Broad-based data must be available at the federal, state and local levels in order to monitor trends and intervene early. Disaggregated data must be compiled to elucidate the prevalence rates of domestic violence, sexual assault and other types of gender-based violence that confronts specific Asian American, Pacific Islander and Middle Eastern communities. To better understand survivors' help-seeking behaviors, **API-GBV needs data on languages spoken, poverty levels, levels of housing and homelessness, physical health and mental health conditions, and disability statuses *for survivors of gender-based violence***.

https://www.api-gbv.org/resources/lifetime-spiral-gender-violence/ spiral graphic

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