

Executive Summary

This study explores risk and protective factors in five Asian American communities: Cambodian, Chinese, Korean, North Indian Hindu, and Pakistani Muslim. These factors include cultural traditions, norms, attitudes and beliefs, particularly around gender roles, intergenerational family dynamics, intimate relationships, and approaches to child-rearing.

Eight organizations, including Asian Pacific Policy & Planning Council (A3PCON), Asian Pacific Counseling & Treatment Centers (APCTC), Center for the Pacific Asian Family (CPAF), Korean American Family Services (KFAM), Koreatown Youth & Community Center (KYCC), Pacific Asian Counseling Services (PACS), South Asian Network (SAN), and Special Service for Groups – Research & Evaluation (SSG R&E), partnered together to conduct this collaborative research project.

The specific goals of this study were 1) *to provide insight into cultural dynamics surrounding intimate relationships and healthy relationships in Los Angeles County Asian American communities, and 2) to develop recommendations for how to approach the multi-layered issue of domestic violence within Asian American communities*, recognizing that this requires parallel approaches at different levels across different stakeholder groups to craft a complex solution for a complicated problem.

This study involved 23 semi-structured focus groups (163 total participants) to gather the perspectives of youth/young adults, parents, community leaders, and service providers in six different languages across the five communities.

This study suggests that the intergenerational immigrant experience has destabilized traditional family ecologies and has introduced stressful dynamics. This family disharmony manifests in risk factors for life course and developmental problems, and potentially negative behavioral outcomes. In some cases, new strengthening ecologies are forming. As families navigate and negotiate multiple cultural frameworks, some families have begun to draw from multiple sources to develop new understandings around gender equity, empathy, and healthy relationships and seek to pass these understandings on to their children.

This study produced findings unique to each community as well as important cross community findings. Key themes include:

- The centrality of the immigrant experience in the intergenerational framework
- The process of relationship learning
- The distinction between culture and cultural communities, specifically in the US
- The distinction between family and community as unit of cultural practice and analysis
- Male dominance and gender equity
- The role of marriage
- Saving face
- Norms around parental modeling versus direct communication
- Broad interest among participants to continue working on these issues

Finally, this study provides insight into effective culturally humble two-generation solutions to prevent domestic violence, including the following recommended strategies:

- 1) Promote more open discussion about intimate relationships and domestic violence
- 2) Develop trainings and social groups to build DV prevention skills for parents and families
- 3) Educate, recruit, and organize community leaders to adapt traditional norms to promote gender equity

Ultimately, this study has helped the collaborative to define a vision, articulate goals, and craft recommendations for the long-term effort to create, test, and implement a culturally attuned Asian American targeted intergenerational life course framework. This effort includes a forthcoming pilot test of a violence prevention curriculum to be conducted with a cohort of parents and youth of five Asian American communities.