



Fact Sheet: Domestic Violence in Korean Communities

July 2012

1. Demographics

- ◆ According to the 2010 U.S. Census, there are 1,706,822 single-race, multi-race and multi-ethnic Koreans of which 1,423,784 are single-race.¹
- ◆ According to the Census Bureau's 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, of the 1,104,243 Korean speakers in the U.S., 42.9% (474,125) speak English 'very well' and 57.1% (630,118) speak 'less than very well'.

2. Statistics

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

- ◆ 60% reported experiencing physical abuse by an intimate partner sometime in their lives.
- ◆ 36.7% reported sexual violence by an intimate partner sometime in their lives.

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: Sage Sourcebooks for the Human Services Series*. Vol. 20. Newbury Park, CA: Sage. 1992; 213-226.

In a study of 256 Korean men from randomly selected Korean households in Chicago and in Queens (which then had the largest Korean population on the East Coast) in 1993:

- ◆ 18% of the 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.
- ◆ 6.3% of the men committed what the researcher classified as "severe violence": kicking, biting, hitting with a fist, threatening with a gun or knife, shooting, and stabbing.
- ◆ 33% of "male-dominated relationships" experienced at least one incident of domestic violence during the year, whereas only 12% of "egalitarian" relationships did.
[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 makes decisions.]

¹ This represents a 38.9% increase (+478,395) in the number of single-race, multi-race and multi-ethnic Korean and a 32.2% increase (+346,912) of single-race Korean from 2000 to 2010.

- ◆ 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. *[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.]*

Kim JY, Sung K. Conjugal violence in Korean American families: A residue of the cultural tradition. *Journal of Family Violence*. 2000; 15(4): 331-345.

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:

- ◆ 69% of the overall respondents and 80% of Korean respondents reported being hit regularly as children.
- ◆ 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 respondents did.
- ◆ 41% of Korean respondents indicated that a battered woman should turn to a friend for help, whereas 82% of South Asian, 44% of Cambodian, 37% of Chinese, and 29% of Vietnamese respondents agreed with this statement.
- ◆ 27% of Korean respondents supported a battered woman calling the police for help, whereas 74% of South Asian, 47% of Cambodian, 52% of Chinese, and 49% of Vietnamese respondents did.

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

- ◆ 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.

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

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:

- ◆ 15 of 158 (9.5%) victims with known ethnicities were Korean.
- ◆ 11 of 122 (8.2%) perpetrators with known ethnicities were Korean.

Dabby C, Patel H, Poore G. Shattered Lives: Homicides, Domestic Violence and Asian Families. Oakland, CA: Pacific Institute on Gender-Based Violence; 2009.

3. Selected Translated Materials

- ◆ **Domestic Violence Safety Plan and Tips for You and Your Family**
American Bar Association Commission on Domestic Violence, Chicago, IL
Website: new.abanet.org/domesticviolence/Pages/default.aspx
Email: askaba@abanet.org, Tel: 800.285.2221
Weblink: www.abanet.org/tips/publicservice/DVKorean.pdf
- ◆ **English/Korean Legal Glossary**
State of Washington Courts, Olympia, WA
Website: www.courts.wa.gov/programs_orgs/pos_interpret, Tel: 360.753.3365
Weblink: www.courts.wa.gov/programs_orgs/pos_interpret/content/glossary/Glossary%20of%20Legal%20Terms%20-%20English-Korean.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
- ◆ **Safety Plan for Abused Immigrants**
Hawai'i Immigrant Justice Center, Honolulu, HI
Website: www.hijcenter.org, Tel: 808.536.8826
Weblink: the.honoluluadvertiser.com/specials/crossingtheline/pdfs/D5Korean.pdf

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.

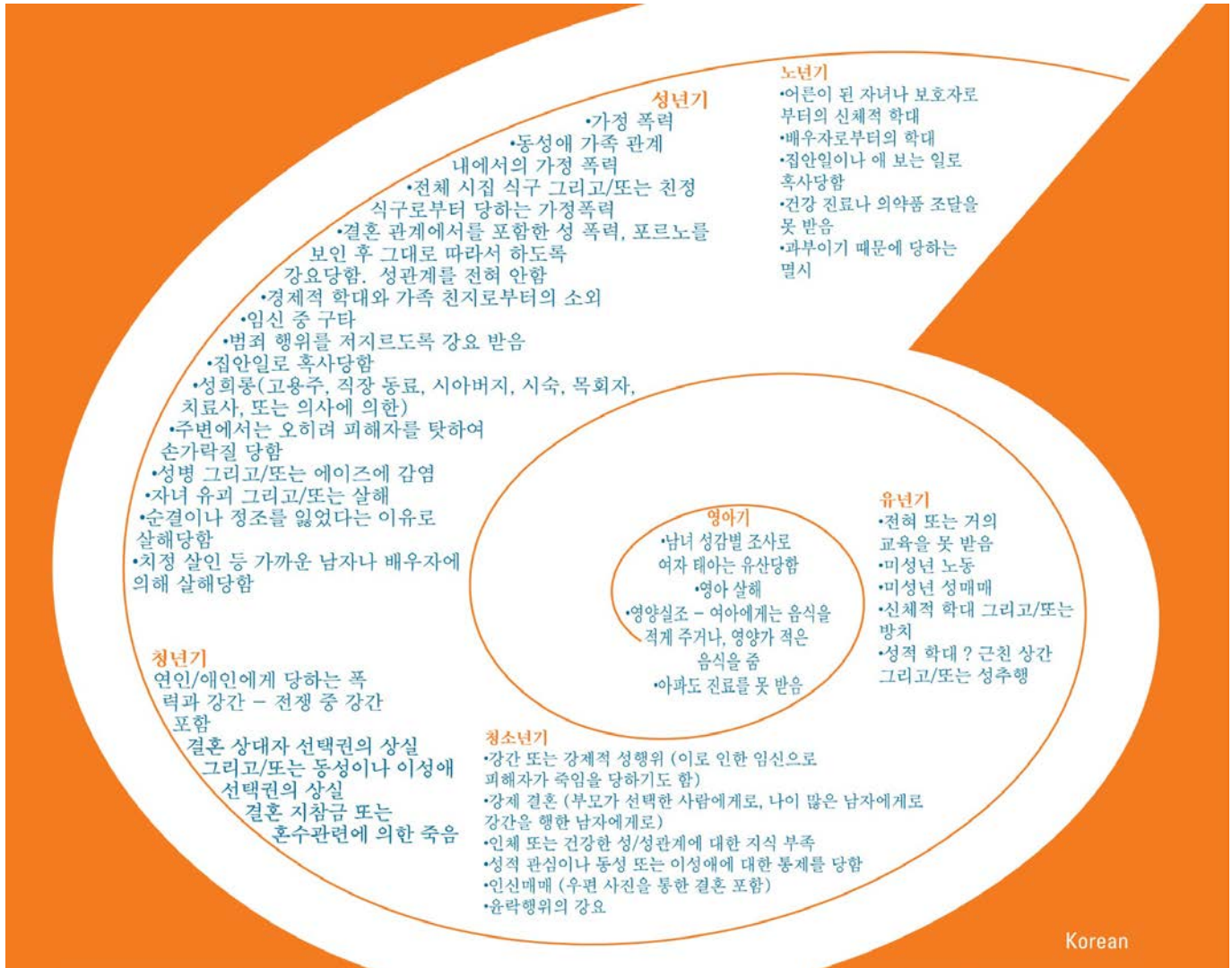
In addition to physical, sexual, economic and emotional abuses; violence is about living in a climate of fear, shame, coercive control, and devaluation. It is often experienced in the context of additional oppressions based on race, ethnicity, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, type of labor performed, 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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Korean

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