



Fact Sheet: Domestic Violence in Vietnamese Communities

July 2012

1. Demographics

- ◆ According to the 2010 U.S. Census, there are 1,737,433 single-race, multi-race and multi-ethnic Vietnamese of which 1,548,449 are single-race.¹
- ◆ According to the Census Bureau's 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, of the 1,292,672 Vietnamese speakers in the U.S., 39.9% (516,077) speak English 'very well' and 60.1% (776,595) speak 'less than very well'.

2. Statistics

In a study of 30 Vietnamese women recruited from a civic association that serves Vietnamese women in Boston:

- ◆ 47% reported having experienced physical violence by intimate partners at some time in their lifetime, and 30% reported having experienced physical violence by intimate partners in the past year.
- ◆ Only 16% of the respondents reported having gone to facilities for treatment of injuries caused by the abuse.
- ◆ 71% reported having confided in others about the abuse; 26% confided in family members, 28% to friends, and 43% confided to staff in service agencies.
- ◆ Over 90% of Vietnamese women interviewed had 0–2 people as sources of support.

Tran CG; Domestic violence among Vietnamese refugee women: Prevalence, abuse characteristics, psychiatric symptoms, and psychosocial factors. Unpublished doctoral dissertation, Boston University, Boston, MA; 1997.

In a study conducted by the Asian Task Force Against Domestic Violence in Boston, which used self-administered questionnaires at ethnic fairs and community events:

- ◆ 69% of the overall respondents and 72% of Vietnamese respondents reported being hit regularly as children.
- ◆ 9% of Vietnamese 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, and 5% of South Asian respondents did.

¹ This represents a 42.0% increase (+513,697) in the number of single-race, multi-race and multi-ethnic Vietnamese and a 37.9% increase (+425,921) of single-race Vietnamese from 2000 to 2010.

- ◆ 29% of Vietnamese 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 37% of Chinese respondents agreed with this statement.
- ◆ 49% of Vietnamese respondents supported a battered woman calling the police for help, whereas 74% of South Asian, 47% of Cambodian, 52% of Chinese, and 27% of Korean respondents did.
- ◆ The average score for Vietnamese respondents on male privilege was 12.0 out of 24 (the highest score amongst the different ethnic groups in the study); for all respondents it was 8.5 out of 24. *[Note: The higher the score, the more an individual believes in male privilege. The average score of 8.5 is a low score indicating that overall, respondents do not believe that a husband has the right to discipline his wife, can expect to have sex with his wife whenever he wants it, is the ruler of his home, or that some wives deserve beatings.]*

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.

A telephone survey of a random sample of Vietnamese adults (246 women and 194 men) in four U.S. locations (Orange County, CA; Houston, TX; Boston, MA; and Lansing, MI) found:

- ◆ While the majority of the respondents considered intimate partner violence a problem in the Vietnamese community, only 40% perceived it as “serious or very serious.”
- ◆ On a 5-point scale ranging from 1 = disagree in all situations, to 5 = agree in all situations, the respondents indicated high agreement with statements such as, “Intimate violence should be stopped”; “Government should intervene”; and “Perpetrators should have mandatory treatment”.
- ◆ Relatively lower agreement was found for statements such as, “Perpetrators should be jailed” and “Perpetrators should be prosecuted”.

Bui HN. Perceptions of intimate violence and attitudes toward interventions: The role of acculturation. *Journal of Ethnicity in Criminal Justice*. 2005; 3: 1-27.

In a paper-and-pencil questionnaire survey of 200 Vietnamese men who were recruited from Vietnamese churches, temples, and social and civic organizations in the Dallas/Fort Worth area:

- ◆ 31% reported having perpetrated at least one physically abusive act during the previous year.
- ◆ Men who were younger, with less education, or reported “attitudes that supported use of partner abuse in certain situations” were more likely to report the past-year physical abuse perpetration. However, neither alcohol consumption frequencies nor alcoholism levels (as measured by the Michigan Alcohol Screening Test, MAST) were associated with the likelihood of physical abuse perpetration.

Nguyen TD, Yoshioka M. Alcoholism level differences between Vietnamese batterers and non-batterers. *Journal of Family Violence*. 2007; 21: 401-406.

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:

- ◆ 14 of 158 (8.9%) victims with known ethnicities were Vietnamese.
- ◆ 9 of 122 (7.4%) perpetrators with known ethnicities were Vietnamese.

Dabby C, Patel H, Poore G. Shattered Lives: Homicides, Domestic Violence and Asian Families. Oakland, CA: Asian Pacific Institute on Gender-Based 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/Vietnamese%20Safety%20Plan-Revised%202005.pdf
- ◆ **English/Vietnamese Legal Glossary**
Superior Court of California, County of Sacramento, CA
Website: www.saccourt.ca.gov, Tel: 916.874.6867
Weblink: www.saccourt.ca.gov/general/legal-glossaries/docs/vietnamese-legal-glossary.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/D4vietnamese.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.

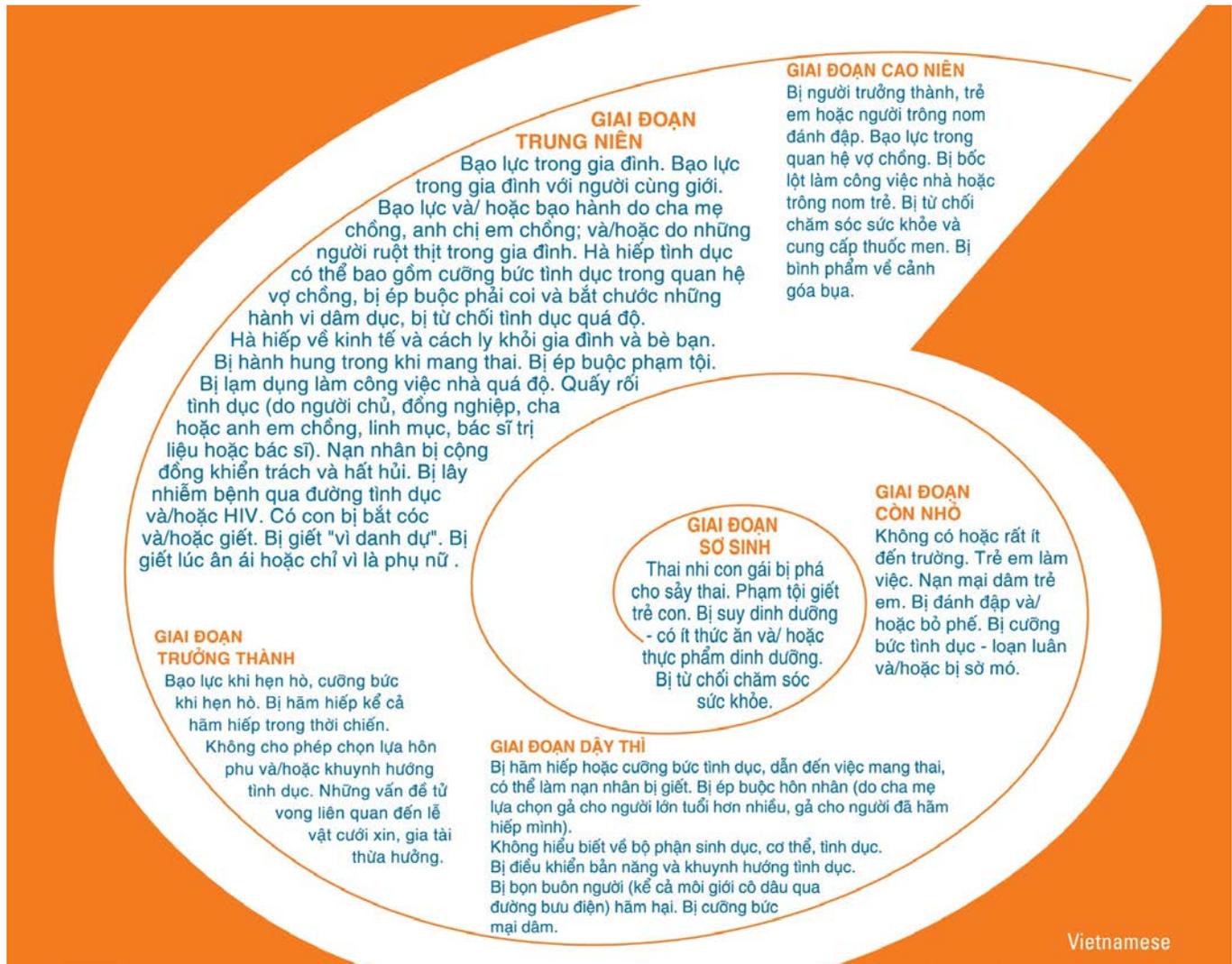
In addition to physical, sexual, economic and emotional abuses; violence is about living in a climate of fear, shame, coercive control, and devaluation. It is often experienced in the context of additional oppressions based on race, ethnicity, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, type of labor performed, 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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NẠN BẠO HÀNH NGƯỜI ĐÀN BÀ PHẢI HỨNG CHỊU TRONG CUỘC ĐỜI MÌNH

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Vietnamese

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