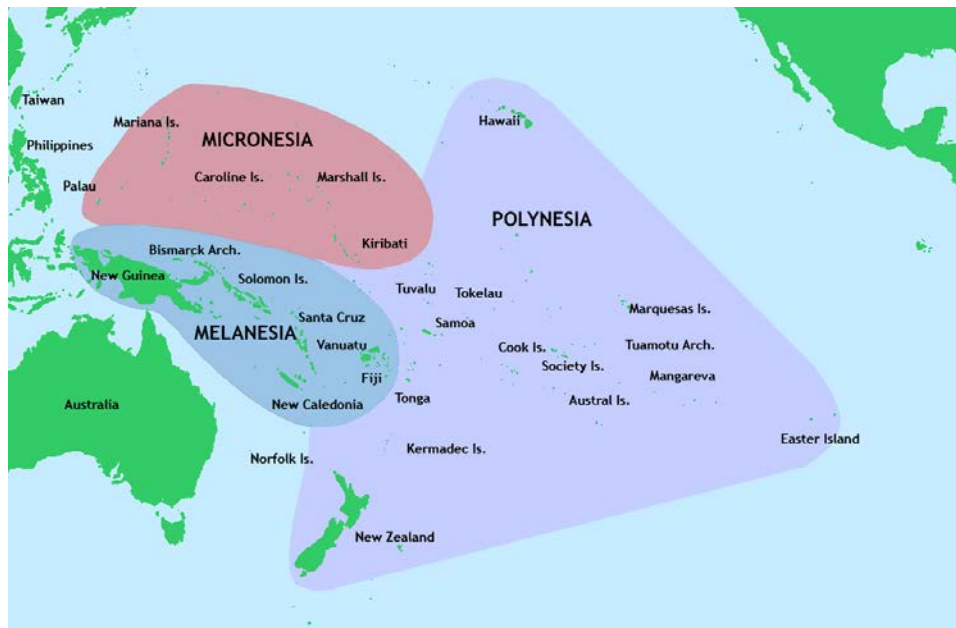


## 1. Pacific Islander Identities

The Pacific Islands consists of 14 sovereign states and 11 collectives. They can be classified by three ethnogeographic groupings: Melanesia, Micronesia, and Polynesia. The Philippines and Indonesia are generally not considered part of the Pacific Islands, although they fall into larger regional classifications such as Australasia, Oceania, or the South Pacific.



Vaka M. *Voyages of the Ancestors: The Discovery and Settlement of the Pacific* (Eds. Howe KR & Bateman D). University of Michigan. 2008.

The U.S. Census Bureau groups Pacific Islanders with Native Hawaiians as 'Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander' (NHOPI). In the U.S., NHOPI ethnicities include Carolinian, Chamorro, Chuukese, Fijian, Guamanian, Hawaiian, Kosraean, Marshallese, Native Hawaiian, Niuean, Palauan, Papua New Guinean, Pohnpeian, Samoan, Tokelauan, Tongan, and Yapese.

The Pacific Islands are home to tremendous ethnic, linguistic, and cultural diversity, though information on the region frequently suffers from a lack of disaggregated data.

## 2. United States Demographics

According to the U.S. Census Bureau's 2015 American Community Survey, there are 1,262,434 multi-race, multi-ethnic, and single-race Native Hawaiians and Other Pacific Islanders (NHOPI) in the U.S.:

- ◆ 783,326 Polynesians include 70% (549,858) Native Hawaiians, 23% (182,968) Samoans, and 8% (62,458) Tongans.\*
- ◆ 207,128 Micronesians include 63% (130,476) Guamanians or Chamorros, 13% (26,856) Marshallese, and 4% (8,957) Palauans.\*
- ◆ 43,211 Melanesians include 97% (42,110) Fijians.\*

- ◆ NHOPI make up less than 1% of the total U.S. population, though they are one of the fastest growing U.S. populations, having increased 30% since 2010.

\* Does not add up to total due to individuals reporting multiple identities. For example, an individual who reported being Samoan and Tongan is counted once in each category, but he/she is only counted once in the broader Polynesian category.

U.S. Census Bureau 2015 American Community Survey, 5-year estimates. Retrieved February 2018.

Pacific Islanders are generally proficient in English. Limited English proficiency (LEP) rates are as follows: 3% among Native Hawaiians, 8% among Guamanians or Chamorros, 12% among 'other Polynesians,' 16% among Samoans, 21% among Melanesians, 22% among Tongans, and 40% among 'other Micronesians.' (In comparison, 36% of Asian Americans have limited English proficiency on average).

Ramakrishnan K & Ahmad F. Language Diversity and English Proficiency: State of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders Series. Washington, DC: Center for American Progress. 2014.

### 3. Global Statistics

UN Women estimates that 60-80% of women and girls in the Pacific Islands will experience physical and/or sexual violence in their lifetimes, although the rates vary across states, territories, and cultures.

UN Women. Ending Violence Against Women and Girls: Evidence, Data and Knowledge in Pacific Island Countries, 2nd Edition. Suva, Fiji: Author. 2011.

Based on a range of studies on violence against women in the Pacific Islands:

- ◆ Rates of having ever experienced physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner among ever-partnered women range from 25% (in Palau) to 68% (in Kiribati).
- ◆ Among all women, the rate of having experienced physical violence by a non-partner since age 15 range from 11% (in Kiribati) to 68% (in Tonga).
- ◆ Among all women, the rate of having experienced sexual violence by a non-partner since age 15 ranges from 6% (in Tonga) to 47% (in Nauru)

UN Population Fund, Asia and the Pacific Regional Office. Women Who Experience Intimate Partner Violence, 2000-2017: UNFPA Asia and the Pacific Region. Bangkok, Thailand: Author. 2017.

A multi-country study on men's violence in Asia and the Pacific collected data from several sites in the region, including the Autonomous Region of Bougainville in Papua New Guinea, where male and female respondents between 18-49 years old were surveyed.

- ◆ Of all surveyed men (741 ever-partnered men and 123 never-partnered men), 62% had ever perpetrated *any* rape (including partner and non-partner rape, gang rape, and rape of other men).
- ◆ Of all men who had ever perpetrated rape, 64% first perpetrated rape when younger than 20, and 23% first perpetrated rape when younger than 15.
- ◆ Of all men who had ever perpetrated rape, 35% were not arrested or jailed as a consequence.

Out of 741 ever-partnered men and 792 ever-partnered women:

- ◆ 80% of male respondents reported ever perpetrating physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence, 62% reported ever perpetrating physical partner violence, and 59% reported ever perpetrating partner rape.
- ◆ 68% of female respondents reported ever experiencing at least one act of physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner, 52% reported ever experiencing physical violence, and 58% reported ever experiencing partner rape.

- ◆ 83% of male respondents reported ever perpetrating at least one emotionally abusive act (including insults, belittlement/humiliation, intimidation, threats of harm, and hurting others/damaging things). 69% of female respondents reported ever experiencing one of these abuses.
- ◆ 57% of male respondents reported ever perpetrating an economically abusive act against a female intimate partner (including prohibiting partner from working, taking partners' earnings, forcing partner out of the house, and withholding earnings from partner). 55% of female respondents reported ever experiencing one of these abuses.

Fulu E, et al. *Why Do Some Men Use Violence Against Women and How Can We Prevent It? Quantitative Findings from the United Nations Multi-Country Study on Men and Violence in Asia and the Pacific*. Bangkok, Thailand: UNDP, UNFPA, UN Women and UNV. 2013.

According to a literature review and interviews with individuals in the Niuean government, law enforcement, and civil society:

- ◆ Interviews with police suggest that interpersonal violence is more common than non-partner violence in Niue.
- ◆ In Niue's "isolated and close-knit community," confidentiality is a major obstacle to help-seeking, with shame and victim blaming often silencing survivors.

Thomas E. *Assessing Gender-Based Violence in Niue*. Auckland, New Zealand: International Center for Advocates Against Discrimination. 2017.

## 4. Domestic Violence

According to unpublished raw data from the Guam Police Department, in 2006 there were 1,035 cases of family violence in Guam involving 1,172 victims. Of these:

- ◆ 77% of victims were female, and in 51% of cases, victims did not live with the perpetrator.
- ◆ 82% of cases involved threats or use of violence, 21% involved sexual assault, and 9% involved stalking or harassment.
- ◆ 14% of victims required medical attention.

University of Guam. Unpublished raw data from the Guam Police Department (2006). Retrieved February 2018 from <http://www.uog.edu/schools-and-colleges/college-of-liberal-arts-and-social-sciences/vawpp/domestic-and-dating-violence>

According to interviews of Native Hawaiian, Filipino, and Pacific Islander women between 21-64 years old who had experienced IPV and were served by participating Community Health Centers in Hawai'i:

- ◆ Responses from Chuukese and Samoan participants indicated that there are "protective factors" whereby families, clans, and other community members maintain a "stable environment" through mediating disputes and other efforts.
- ◆ All 22 Chuukese respondents indicated that "women's responsibility in a relationship is to 'keep the peace.' There is shame associated with IPV becoming known...Women do have the choice to stay, take a break or to leave, but women are expected to be strong and resilient in family and marital life."
- ◆ Chuukese respondents indicated "if families are involved in the selection of a spouse it gives them permission to intervene when IPV occurs...the husband and his family are accountable on all behaviors directed towards the wife."

- ◆ All 11 Samoan respondents indicated that Samoan women are “ashamed of being abused and think that people might blame them.”

Magnussen L, et al. Responding to the Needs of Culturally Diverse Women Who Experience Intimate Partner Violence. *Hawai'i Medical Journal*. 2011; 70(1): 9-15.

In a study of 25 mothers and 25 children\* recruited from domestic violence programs in Hawai'i:

- ◆ 56% of the women were subjected to verbal abuse daily, 24% weekly and 12% monthly. 72% assessed the intensity of verbal abuse as “extreme,” while 20% considered it “severe.”
- ◆ 32% of the women reported experiencing physical abuse weekly, 28% monthly, and 20% bimonthly. For 80%, the intensity of physical abuse was judged “extreme.”

\* Researchers did not provide the proportion of respondents who were Asians, Native Hawaiians or Pacific Islanders

Chemtob CM, Carlson JG, & Perrone P. Domestic Violence in Hawai'i: Impact on Mothers and Their Children. Honolulu, HI: State of Hawai'i Department of the Attorney General. 2000.

According to a 2016 community needs assessment of Pacific Islanders in Utah:

- ◆ 87% of respondents believed that violence is an issue in the community.
- ◆ 81% of respondents knew at least one person in their community that needs help with an issue related to violence. Most respondents knew of 3-5 people.
- ◆ When ranking issues that needed the most attention, respondents ranked domestic violence second (60%) after substance abuse (74%).
- ◆ Participants felt that the most needed services to prevent violence were support groups for victims, abuser, family and friends (67%); and outreach workers who help clients find services (18%).

Pacific Island Knowledge to Action Resources (PIK2AR). Utah Pacific Islander Community Assessment Quick Facts – 2016. Kearns, UT: Author. 2017.

According to a report on Pacific Islanders published by the Utah Department of Health, Office of Health Disparities, which conducted telephone interviews of 605 Pacific Islander adults living in Utah:

- ◆ 41% (34% of females and 48% of males) reported having experienced verbal abuse as children.
- ◆ 37% (30% of females and 43% of males) reported having experienced physical abuse as children.
- ◆ 31% (26% of females and 37% of males) reported having witnessed domestic violence as children.
- ◆ 9% (10% of females and 8% of males) reported having experienced sexual abuse as children.

Utah Department of Health Office of Health Disparities. Utah Pacific Islanders. Salt Lake City, UT: Author. 2011.

## 5. Sexual Violence

According to the annual report of the Office of the Attorney General of Guam, 996 misdemeanor and 797 felony crimes were prosecuted in 2015. Of these:

- ◆ 24 cases involved ‘criminal sexual conduct.’

Office of the Attorney General of Guam. 2015 Annual Report. Tamuning, Guam: Author. 2015.

The police department of Guam reported that in Fiscal Year 2013, there were 6,352 reported and 2,739 charged criminal offenses in Guam. Of these:

- ◆ There were 84 reported and 65 charged rape cases.
- ◆ There were 101 reported and 51 charged sex offenses.
- ◆ There were 59 reported and 29 charged 'offenses against the family and children.'

Guam Police Department. A Citizen-Centric Report for Guam Police Department, Fiscal Year 2016. Tiyan, Guam: Author. 2013.

In Guam, between January and August 2009, according to unpublished raw data from the Guam Police Department:

- ◆ 57 females were 'forcibly raped.'
- ◆ 86 females were victims of attempted rape.

University of Guam. Unpublished raw data from the Guam Police Department (2010). Retrieved February 2018 from <http://www.uog.edu/schools-and-colleges/college-of-liberal-arts-and-social-sciences/vawpp/sexual-assault>

From 2006 to 2007, data was collected from the Hawai'i Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, a computer-assisted random-digit landline telephone survey on health risk behaviors, preventative health practices, and health care access. The survey population was civilian, non-institutionalized adult (18+) residents of Hawai'i who had landlines and who spoke English. Data taken from 1,745 Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander (NHOPI) respondents showed that:

- ◆ 2% of NHOPI reported having been the victim of "any unwanted sexual experience" in the previous 12 months. This was a higher prevalence than that reported by both Asian Americans (0.8%) and Whites (0.7%) in the survey.
- ◆ 9% of NHOPI reported having ever been the victim of "any unwanted sexual experience." This was a higher prevalence than that reported by Asian Americans (4%) but lower than that reported by Whites (12%) in the survey.
- ◆ NHOPI most frequently identified perpetrators to be non-relatives/acquaintances (24%).
- ◆ NHOPI were more likely to report that the perpetrator was a relative (14%) than Whites (12%) and Asian Americans (7%) in the survey.

Crisanti A, Freuh BC, Gundaya D, Salvail F, and Triffleman E. Ethnoracial Disparities in Sexual Assault among Asian-Americans and Native Hawaiians/Other Pacific Islanders. *Journal of Clinical Psychiatry*. 2011; 72(6): 820-826.

## 6. Trafficking

According to the Department of State 2016 Report on Trafficking in persons:

- ◆ The Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) is a source country for labor and sex trafficking. FSM women are recruited into the U.S. with promises of well-paying jobs and forced into prostitution or domestic labor upon arrival. Sex trafficking victims do not often seek help due to "fear of embarrassment in FSM's insular communities."
- ◆ The Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) is a source country for sex trafficking of women and children into countries including the U.S.

U.S. Department of State. Trafficking in Persons Report 2016. Washington, DC: Author. 2017.

## 7. Help-Seeking

On September 14, 2016, 5 out of 5 identified domestic violence programs in Guam participated in Domestic Violence Counts, an annual one-day census of domestic violence services conducted by the National Network to End Domestic Violence. In an unduplicated count of adults and children seeking domestic violence services, Guam agencies reported:<sup>\*</sup>

- ◆ 44 victims were served during the 24-hour period. Of those, 37 domestic violence victims were provided emergency shelter or transitional housing, and 7 adults and children received non-residential assistance and services, including counseling, legal advocacy, and children's support groups.
- ◆ Local and state hotline staff answered 13 calls to domestic violence hotlines during the 24-hour period.

\* Victims, callers, and training participants were not identified by ethnicity or race.

National Network to End Domestic Violence. Domestic Violence Counts: 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Census Report: Guam Summary. Washington, DC: Author. 2016.

### Statewide Service Utilization Data

- ◆ In Indiana, between July 2011 and June 2012, approximately 38 Asian and 12 Pacific Islander adult domestic violence survivors were served in emergency shelters.<sup>a</sup>
- ◆ In Nebraska, between October 2010 and September 2011, 161 Asian and 36 NHOPI survivors were served in programs funded by HHS and Nebraska Department of HHS.<sup>b</sup>
- ◆ In New Jersey in 2010, approximately 33 Asian and 3 NHOPI survivors were sheltered, and approximately 214 Asian and 27 NHOPI survivors received non-residential services.<sup>c</sup>
- ◆ In Oregon, between January and December 2011, 23 NHOPI adult survivors were sheltered, and 198 NHOPI people were served. Of the 198 NHOPI served, 176 adults and teens were domestic violence survivors, 24 adult and teens were sexual assault survivors, and 7 adults and teens were stalking survivors.<sup>d</sup>
- ◆ In Oregon, between January and December 2014, NHOPI survivors made up 0.8% of all people served by sexual and domestic violence programs. NHOPI survivors represented 0.7% of sexual assault victims served, 0.8% of domestic violence victims served, 0.3% of stalking survivors served, and 0.9% of domestic violence victims in shelters (duplicated counts).<sup>e</sup> According to U.S. Census data, NHOPI made up 0.4% of Oregon's population in 2014.

<sup>a</sup> Indiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence. Indiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence Program Statistics July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012. Indianapolis, IN: Author. 2013.

<sup>b</sup> Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. Performance Progress Report. Lincoln, NE: Author. 2013.

<sup>c</sup> New Jersey Coalition for Battered Women. NJCBW Statistical Summary – 2010. Elizabeth, NJ: Author. 2013.

<sup>d</sup> DHS Child Welfare Programs. Striving to Meet the Need: Summary of Services Provided by Sexual and Domestic Violence Programs in Oregon – January through December 2011. Salem, OR: Author. 2012.

<sup>e</sup> DHS Child Welfare Programs. Striving to Meet the Need: Summary of Services Provided by Sexual and Domestic Violence Programs in Oregon – January through December 2014. Salem, OR: Author. 2015.

## 8. Resources

### Pacific Islander Identities, Demographics, and Violence Against Women in the Pacific

[AAPIdata.com](#): Data and infographics on NHOPI

[Asian Pacific Institute on Gender-Based Violence](#)

Asian/Pacific Islander Domestic Violence Resource Project: [Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault in the Pacific Islander Community \(2017\)](#)

International Center for Advocates Against Discrimination: [Assessing Gender-based Violence in Niue \(2017\)](#)

UN Women: [Ending Violence Against Women and Girls – Evidence, Data and Knowledge in Pacific Island Countries \(2011\)](#)

U.S. Census Brief: [The Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander Population: 2010](#)

### Translated Materials

Materials on domestic violence in over 110 languages are available from [Hot Peach Pages](#).

[Fijian](#) | [Marshallese](#) | [Maori](#) | [Samoan](#) | [Tokelauan](#) | [Tongan](#)

### National Domestic Violence Hotline

For crisis intervention, safety planning, information about domestic violence and referrals to local service providers. Assistance available in English and other languages through interpreter services.

Livechat at [www.thehotline.org](http://www.thehotline.org)

1-800-799-SAFE (7233) (toll-free)

### Love is Respect

Offers crisis counseling and support to victims of domestic and sexual violence.

Livechat at [www.loveisrespect.org](http://www.loveisrespect.org)

1-866-331-9474 (toll-free)

Text LOVEIS to 22522 (message & data rates may apply)

### Directories

- ◆ [Directory of Domestic and Gender Violence Programs Serving Asians and Pacific Islanders | Asian Pacific Institute on Gender-Based Violence | PDF and online database](#)
  - [Agencies in Hawai'i & U.S. Jurisdictions](#)
- ◆ [Americans Overseas Domestic Violence Crisis Center](#), International Domestic Violence Response
- ◆ [Hot Peach Pages](#), International Directory of Domestic Violence Agencies.

**Asian Pacific Institute on Gender-Based Violence**

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