

Stronger, Safer Communities: Building the Case for Domestic Violence Prevention

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API-GBV

Inspired by these more general [prevention talking points](#) developed by the [Prevention Institute](#), here are some ways to talk about prevention of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and teen dating violence in Asian, Asian American, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander (AANHPI) and Middle Eastern and North African (MENA) communities. Examples of [domestic violence prevention programs](#) can be found on the Safety page of the Prevention Institute, including [collaboratives to end violence](#). In addition to bringing survivor stories to your local, state, and national representatives, it can be helpful to give context to how prevention programs contribute to thriving communities.

Community prevention is evidence-based

At the local, state, and national levels, sharing advocate's stories from the ground builds evidence about the impacts of prevention.¹ When transportation, financial stability, childcare, and housing needs are met, survivors and their communities feel safer and healthier. For a more in-depth look at local impact of community-based prevention efforts, see API-GBV's 2025 report, [Building Prevention Together: Lessons from Advocates on Ending Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault in AANHPI and MENA Communities](#).

The public supports prevention

Almost all 72 organizations serving AANHPI and MENA survivors surveyed in [API-GBV's 2025 Needs Assessment](#) surveyed implement some form of prevention programming.² For more information, see the full report. Community organizations addressing DV typically are locally known and respected, receiving awards or public recognition for their programs and initiatives.³ Collaborations with other organizations, social services, and state agencies and coalitions can expand an organization's reach and level of trust within a local area.

Prevention benefits the local economy and businesses

Often, community-based organizations provide for basic needs in addition to prevention efforts, which requires strong local ties and relationships. Awareness events and prevention initiatives bring in local artists, vendors, and catering services. When prevention

¹ Leemis, R. W., Friar, N., S Khatiwada, Chen, M. S., & Basile, K. C. (2022, January 1). *The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey Report on Intimate Partner Violence: 2016/2017 Report on Intimate Partner Violence Acknowledgment Background and Definition*. <https://doi.org/10.13140/RG.2.2.36747.46883>

² Reddy, S. M., & Grajo, K. (2025). Needs Assessment Report: Insights from Community-Based Organizations Serving AANHPI and MENA Survivors. *Asian Pacific Institute on Gender-Based Violence*. <https://api-gbv.org/resources/2025-needs-assessment-report/>

initiatives are developed for and by communities, there is more buy-in and integration of local networks.

Prevention and policy

Service providers who do prevention work have key insights into the importance of prevention that have impacts on the local, state, and national levels. One organization secured free transit cards locally so that survivors could attend medical, legal counsel, and therapy appointments.³

Prevention saves lives and money

As of 2017, a survivor’s lifetime cost of rape is \$122,461 per survivor. This includes the cost of medical care, criminal justice costs, and lost work productivity.⁴ Programs can utilize existing resources (such as collaborating with local Title IX offices on college campuses), or get creative (starting a podcast or social media pledges and campaigns), for example. There is a need for ongoing and flexible funding streams to sustain prevention work.

Asian Pacific Institute on Gender-Based Violence

For questions, information, publications, training requests, and technical assistance related to domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and/or stalking in Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) and Middle Eastern and North African (MENA) communities, visit www.api-gbv.org or email info@api-gbv.org

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³ Reddy, S. M. (2025). *Building Prevention Together: Lessons from Advocates on Ending Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault in AANHPI and MENA Communities*. Asian Pacific Institute on Gender-Based Violence. <https://api-gbv.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/Building-Prevention-Together-Report-Branded.pdf>

⁴ Peterson, C., DeGue, S., Florence, C., & Lokey, C. N. (2017). Lifetime Economic Burden of Rape Among U.S. Adults. *American journal of preventive medicine*, 52(6), 691–701. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.amepre.2016.11.014>.