Gun Violence and Domestic Violence (DV) in the AAPI Community

This Fact Sheet is a collection of statistics on the intersection of domestic violence, homicide, and mass shootings in the AAPI community in the U.S. While these three issues may have vastly different impacts, we recognize that they all stem from the same roots and are ultimate manifestations of power and control tactics. There is a strong connection between guns and mass violence, as well as the most extreme forms of gender-based violence in the U.S. – including femicide and intimate partner violence.

DV in the AAPI Community

- 16-55% of Asian women and up to 68% of PI women report experiencing physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner during their lifetime. The prevalence of intimate partner violence in AAPI communities is generally consistent with prevalence rates in other communities.
- Culturally relevant and linguistically accessible programs serving AAPI victims are critical for victims to get help in their own languages and in ways that address their unique needs.

DV Related Homicide

- Of 160 homicide cases in Asian families, 72% were intimate partner homicides or intimate partner homicide-suicides. 78% of victims were women and girls.
- 58% of homicides of AAPI adult women were related to intimate partner violence. In 81% of these cases, the perpetrator or suspect was a current intimate partner.
- Around 650 AAPIs are killed in acts of gun violence every year. The majority (59%) are suicides. 37% are homicides. Within AAPIs, Pacific Islanders, South Asians, and Southeast Asians experienced gun violence at much higher rates than East Asians.

Mass Shootings

A mass shooting is defined by several sources as an incident where four or more people are injured or killed by a firearm.

- In the U.S., 60% of mass shooting events between 2014 and 2019 were either DV attacks or committed by someone with a history of DV.
- 61% of mass shootings occurred entirely in the home.
- 72% of children and teens killed in mass shootings died in an incident connected to domestic violence.

Mental Health

- Although Asian Americans have a 17.3% chance of developing a psychiatric disorder, they were three times less likely to seek mental health services than White Americans.
- The stigma around mental illness, acculturation issues, and other cultural factors discourage AAPIs who are struggling with mental health issues from seeking counseling or resources, or disclosing their experiences.
- The scarcity of AAPI providers is also an issue, with many AAPIs reporting that non-AAPI providers generalized or did not fully understand the issues or contexts.
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