

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 womenⁱ report experiencing physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner during their lifetime.ⁱⁱ The prevalence of intimate partner violence in AAPI communities is generally consistent with prevalence rates in other communities.ⁱⁱⁱ
- 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.^{iv}

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.^v
- 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.^{vi}
- 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.^{xiii}

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.^{vii}
- 61% of mass shootings occurred entirely in the home.^{viii}
- 72% of children and teens killed in mass shootings died in an incident connected to domestic violence.^{ix}

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.^x
- 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.^{xi}
- 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.^{xii}

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- ⁱ United Nations Women: Ending Violence against Women and Girls (2013)
- ⁱⁱ [API-GBV: Facts & Stats Report: Domestic Violence in Asian & Pacific Islander Homes \(Updated & Expanded, 2020\)](#)
- ⁱⁱⁱ [WHO: Violence against Women Prevalence Estimates, 2018 \(2021\)](#) and [CDC: The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey 2016/2017 \(2021\)](#)
- ^{iv} [API-GBV: Directory of Domestic & Gender Violence Programs Serving Asians and Pacific Islanders \(2020\)](#)
- ^v [API-GBV: Shattered Lives: Homicide, Domestic Violence, and Asian Families \(2010\)](#)
- ^{vi} Petrosky E et al. Racial and ethnic differences in homicides of adult women and the role of intimate partner violence – United States, 2003-2014. *MMWR Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*. 2017;66(28):741-746.
- ^{vii} [Bloomberg: Deadliest Mass Shootings are Often Preceded by Violence at Home \(2020\)](#)
- ^{viii} [Everytown: Mass Shootings in America \(2021\)](#)
- ^{ix} [Everytown: Mass Shootings in America \(2021\)](#)
- ^x Alegria et al. Considering context, place and culture: The National Latino and Asian American Study. *International Journal of Methods in Psychiatric Response*. 2004;13(4):208-20.
- ^{xi} [Asian Mental Health Collective: Why Asian Mental Health?](#)
- ^{xii} [Mental Health America Blog: As AAPIs, We Need Therapists Who Look Like Us \(2021\)](#)
- ^{xiii} [Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence: Gun Violence in Asian and Pacific Islander Communities](#)

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