Exploring Experiences of Family Violence Among Asian Women in Connecticut

In July CCADV released its newest report, *Asian Community Work Groups: Exploring Experiences of Family Violence Among Asian Women in Connecticut*. Led by CCADV’s Director of Diversity and Accessibility, Wendy Mota Kasongo, research and community meetings occurred over a year to assess Connecticut’s Asian community and measure the need for culturally relevant domestic violence services. Smith College professors, Dr. Marianne Yoshioka and Dr. Janet Chang, consulted on the project. The report’s findings and recommendations will assist CCADV and its 18 member organizations in further developing culture specific programming and interventions for Asian survivors and their families.

Connecticut’s Asian population is one of the fastest growing in the state – increasing from 95,368 in 2000 to 157,088 in 2010, an over 60% increase – and nearly one third of the Asian/Pacific American population identifies as Limited English Proficient (LEP). The rates of domestic violence among Asian immigrant communities in the United States are quite varied across existing studies; however, among South Asian families, the range has been reported to be from 20-40% and estimates for Chinese families are between 18-24%. Meeting the specific needs of this population in a way that is both relevant and effective is an essential aspect of our work.

Research indicates that there are unique factors that impact help seeking for domestic violence by Asian women. According to Dr. Yoshioka, Asian cultures are founded on both patriarchal and collectivist values that shape perceptions of a husband’s role and rights with and over his wife and the woman’s sense of responsibility toward her family. The strong collectivist nature of Asian cultures gives rise to a powerful stigma against having family “troubles” known publically. This led to a key finding that Asian women in particular prefer informal assistance from family members and trusted members of the community over more formal venues, such as the local domestic violence organization. As such, participants in the community meetings felt that it would be effective to cultivate informal support systems for Asian women in locations to which they might have to travel during their day, such as English-as-a-Second-Language classes, grocery stores, healthcare providers, etc.

*Continued on page 2...*
Another key finding revealed that defining domestic violence in traditional Western ways, or even using the term “domestic violence”, was not useful when helping Asian survivors. Traditionally, domestic violence is conceptualized as abuse between a male and female in an interpersonal relationship. However, discussion and case reviews at the community meetings revealed that abuse in Asian families could involve extended family members (e.g., abuse at the hands of the mother-in-law or the daughter-in-law). Victims may minimize what is happening to them or feel that the conflict is something they must endure. This demonstrates the complexity of social relationships in Asian cultures that do not reflect traditional households in the US. Greater outreach and education is needed to increase Asian women’s understanding of their experience with domestic violence.

Providing culturally relevant services to Asian women and their families in Connecticut is a vital goal for CCADV. It is also a complex process that must address the ethnic, cultural, and linguistic diversity of Asian cultures and experiences in Connecticut. Through this process we learned that successful interventions for Asian survivors will look different from how we typically structure domestic violence services for other populations. Willingness to approach service provision for Asian survivors in a new way will be crucial to the next steps.

Click here to read the full report. Contact Wendy with questions.

LISTEN
Listen to CCADV’s Wendy Mota Kasongo discuss the Asian Community Report on WNPR’s Where We Live.

 CONNECTICUT CITIES & TOWNS WITH ASIAN POPULATIONS >2,000
(According to the 2010 census; retrieved from CT Dept. of Public Health http://www.ct.gov/dph/cwp/view.asp?a=3132&q=488832)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>% of City/Town Population</th>
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<tr>
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<td></td>
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<td>Tolland County</td>
<td>Mansfield</td>
<td>2,227</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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(% represents total % of city/town population)
Strengthening Policies and Procedures to Assess the Safety of the Family

Recent data has demonstrated that a large number of children in Connecticut who are exposed to family and intimate partner violence (IPV) between their caregivers. For instance, Connecticut’s Judicial Branch reports that approximately 25% of the cases that come before them each year since 2012 have involved a child physically present during a family violence arrest. Connecticut’s Department of Children and Families provides support and interventions to approximately 2,000 families annually with substantiated family violence. And CCADV’s member organizations house an average of 1,200 children in shelter each year with their abused caregiver, with 59% of those children housed in 2015 under the age of 5. There is a clear need to ensure strong service provision across systems that appropriately meets the needs of families with children exposed to intimate partner violence.

CCADV has continued to partner with The Child Witness to Violence Project out of Boston Medical Center, a national leader in developing training and policies for meeting the needs of children exposed to violence. In June, project founder Betsy McAlister Groves trained CCADV member organization Child and Family Advocates on trauma-informed approaches to working with children who have witnessed IPV. She also discussed challenges and considerations that come with the delicate balance present not only for domestic violence advocates, but other system stakeholders as well, between supporting and protecting the victim and her or his children with the requirements of being a mandated reporter.

McAlister Groves stressed that not every circumstance involving domestic violence merits intervention by the child protection system. Often, the caretaker is overwhelmed by the complexity of the home conditions, and is unable to take action. Filing in these circumstances can inadvertently penalize the caretaker for a perceived inability to keep the children safe. Frequently, the fearful environment created by a perpetrator undermines the ability of the caretaker, and the caretaker’s family and friends, to intervene to protect the children. She recommended that prior to filing a report the mandated reporter should assess:

- Child’s current functioning
- Changes in the child’s behavior
- Changes in child’s functioning as a result of offender’s actions

Next steps in these efforts include building a framework for domestic violence advocates when a DCF call must be made, ensuring that advocate have clear guidelines to help assess the safety of the family unit. CCADV aims to have this policy in place by fall 2016 as we begin working collaboratively with DCF to educate advocates and caseworkers on this important topic.

CCADV Training Institute

Don’t miss out on these exciting opportunities through CCADV’s Training Institute! Click on the titles below for a description and registration information. And be sure to check out the newly released Fall 2016 catalog!

Community Welcome

Entrenamiento de Entrenadores: Violencia Domestica, Salud Mental y Trauma en Familias Latinas
September 23 | 10:00am - 3:00pm | CCADV

Trauma Informed Recommendations for Working with Children Exposed to Domestic Violence
October 6 | 9:30am - 1:00pm | CCADV

Law Enforcement

Mental Health First Aid for Law Enforcement
September 20 | 8:30am - 4:30pm | CCADV
Law Enforcement Only

Lethality Assessment Program: Train-the-Trainer
October 5 | 9:30am - 4:00pm | CCADV
Members, Law Enforcement Only

Members Only

New Staff & Volunteer Orientation
Aug. 29 - Sept. 1 | 9:30am - 4:00pm | CCADV

Day of Advocacy Staples
September 22 | 9:30am - 4:00pm | CCADV

The Intersection of Brain Injury & Domestic Violence
September 27 | 10:00am - 12:00pm | CCADV
CCADV CEO Presents at National Homelessness Conference

Earlier this month, CCADV CEO, Karen Jarmoc, was invited to present at the National Conference on Ending Homelessness in Washington, DC. Sponsored by the National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH), the conference brings together housing and homeless service leaders from across the country to discuss the challenges and opportunities facing individuals experiencing homelessness.

Karen presented during the conference session titled, Improving Your Homeless Service System: Coordinating with Domestic Violence Providers. This session focused on the critical need to protect the privacy and safety of domestic violence survivors as part of the housing and homeless system’s Coordinated Entry (CE). In a coordinated system, each system entry point (“front door”) uses the same assessment tool and makes decisions on which programs to refer families based on a comprehensive understanding of each program’s specific requirements, target population, and available beds and services. By centralizing intake and program admissions decisions, a coordinated entry process makes it more likely that families will be served by the right intervention more quickly.

Unfortunately coordinated access networks across the country have struggled to develop CE polices that balance CE program and funding requirements (e.g., entering a client’s name and identifying information into a national and/or state housing registry) with the safety concerns and federally-mandated privacy protections for victims of domestic violence. Karen presented Connecticut’s proposed new system that will allow housing and homeless providers to work in conjunction with domestic violence providers to confidentially include victims in the housing registry thereby giving those victims access to appropriate housing resources in priority order. A lethality screen will be conducted by the domestic violence provider to capture high risk priorities. The proposed system was developed in partnership with CT Coalition to End Homelessness (CCEH) and the CT Dept. of Housing, along with feedback from member organizations, including Safe Futures, and is anticipated to go live this fall following staff training.

Serving as a potential model for other states, the NAEH national conference provided an exciting opportunity to highlight the leadership demonstrated by CCADV, CCEH and the CT Dept. of Housing in developing this innovative collaboration to better serve victims of domestic violence.

Advocating for Federal Policy Changes

CCADV’s CEO, Karen Jarmoc, works to effect policy at a federal level in an effort to improve circumstances for victims here in Connecticut. As a member of the National Network to End Domestic Violence Public Policy Committee, Karen travels to Washington, DC to work on federal issues impacting victims. Over the past few months Karen has met with several members of Connecticut’s federal delegation to advocate for continued and increased funding for transitional housing services for victims of domestic violence, a critical form of housing that allows victims to safely move on from shelter living. Advocacy efforts have also focused on other forms of federal funding for victim services, including the Violence Against Women Act and Family Violence Prevention and Services Act, as well as a greater release of funds through the Victims of Crime Act, a non-taxpayer fund generated from court fines and penalties.

Meeting with US Senator Chris Murphy

Meeting with US Representative Joe Courtney (center) and Suzanne Placentini (left) of the US Dept. of Housing and Urban Development, along with Lisa Tepper Bates, CT Coalition to End Homelessness and Cathy Zeiner, Safe Futures (right)
Member Spotlight On...
Using ETO to Leverage Increased Foundation Support

By Margaret Rosa, Associate Director

Many relate to the struggle of collecting information required for grants. We pull it together when we need it and move on to the next one. After several crisis moments where it took countless hours to dig up the required information, I thought there must be a better way. While I’m sure not everyone will agree, the answer for Safe Haven was ETO.

It is hard to deny the power of ETO. Data collected in ETO is verified and true. Data in ETO is superior to past collection methods and superior to data of nonprofits without ETO. If your staff inputs bare minimum data, you still have all the proof you need to support your organization.

In fiscal year FY16 we wrote 20 grant applications, this was down from the 28 to 35 grant applications completed in past years. However, using ETO as a baseline for proving our worth, we received more foundation money in FY16 than any year prior. We received about $50,000 in FY15 and over $65,000 in FY16, a 30% increase in just one year.

We do not have a grant writer or large team of administrators - the Executive Director and Associate Director do 90% of the grants and development work. The additional 10% is directed toward our kind and supportive staff who help with thank you letters. That’s why it was critical for us to develop a more sustainable method for this work. Utilizing ETO can cut down on the time spent searching for data. By reframing our foundation requests solely to support programs that we can verify through ETO, we cut down on the time spent looking for data that is not collected on a continuous basis.

We also don’t have to spend time answering questions regarding data, evaluation or verification of data from funders. Foundations reported that knowing our data is backed up and can be accessed at any time provides a security blanket that their boards appreciate (everyone has to report to someone).

A concern you might have is explaining that data collected in ETO shows a decrease in clients and services from years past. We have not found this to be a problem with getting support. Simply explaining how data is captured differently through ETO then with previous collection systems is all that is needed. Reframe the decrease as a baseline representation of services. For example, instead of recording each of the 3-10 phone calls you might make on behalf of a single client in one day, you now record those calls as one quality service.

Three of the private foundations that provided us more money than years past told us that they have been rethinking who they give money to as available funds decrease. The foundations explained they want proof organizations are doing what they say. The foundations want to know how your work is making a difference. They explained that they wanted proof organizations were doing what they said they were and felt ETO provided a guarantee that over 3,500 people received over 25,000 recorded quality services with their funding. The numbers we now provide are cross checked, verified and unduplicated.

When you are given the space to explain what happens at your organization and the opportunity to describe how your services make an impact, take it. The little details that we take for granted such as the number of organizations we come into contact with on a daily basis for the benefit of our clients are impressive to foundations. Foundations can't wait to support good quality work and jump at the chance when you can back up your stories with quality facts.

The utilization of ETO software also provides a promise to foundations of what Safe Haven wants and hopes to accomplish - it sends the message that we care about continuous quality improvement. We explain the process of our collection of anonymous feedback and the outcome collection method in ETO that is in development to help us capture our outcome data. Progress towards stated outcomes is critical for foundations, but can be very difficult to collect especially for crisis services. Funders were very supportive when we discussed our challenges and our solutions. For many it has also helped that we work with a Coalition to ensure our data, outcomes and practices are continuously being recorded, counted and measured against best practices around the state as well as the nation.

Explaining to funders that our organization has been entering real data that is backed up by the best technology available for nonprofits speaks for itself. ETO provides an easy way to prove your work. People want to help you; they just want to know that they are helping the right organization. Every foundation that I spoke with about our data collection in ETO provided money for our services. Remember, your work is unique, worthwhile and difficult not to support.
Studies have shown that when victims access support services of domestic violence organizations their safety is enhanced - saving their lives and reducing future re-assaults. Research by domestic violence expert, Dr. Jacquelyn C. Campbell, has demonstrated that victims of domestic violence who used domestic violence services were almost never the victim of murder or attempted murder. To effectively respond to the diverse needs of victims of family violence and given the evolving dangerousness and increased risk associated with family violence, victim safety and the safety of their children depends on their access to specially trained family violence victim advocates in the courts and adult advocates at local domestic violence organizations.

The FVVA program is critical to improving criminal court decision-making by placing priority on the safety needs of the victim, reducing identified gaps in services for victims and ensuring that the victim’s voice remains central to the criminal justice process. FVVAs also work to reduce the risk of future violence by assessing danger and the victim’s basic needs, all while working with the victim to coordinate access to other needed local and state resources. This connection is vital as research demonstrates that victims of domestic violence are more likely to fully participate in the criminal justice process if their basic needs are met.

In addition to the work being done in the criminal court system, funds from the grant will provide the opportunity to hire new full- and part-time FVVAs to cover the majority of the state’s civil/family courts. Similar to the FVVA’s working in criminal court, the civil FVVA’s (C-FVVA) primary responsibility is victim safety. They will work with victims to secure protections that are not offered through the criminal court, explaining various civil court options and limitations, including the restraining order. C-FVVAs will also work with victims whose abuser is currently being supervised by the Judicial Branch Domestic Violence Probation Unit, which supervises high risk cases. The C-FVVA will collaborate with the unit and support the victim to ensure they understand their rights under the law, explain probation’s role and the supervision process, connect the victim with the assigned probation officer so that they can participate in the process and ensure that their safety needs are met.

Grant funds will also enhance the work being done by Adult Advocates who provide crisis intervention and counseling, while identifying and assessing risk factors for ongoing violence. Adult advocates offer support and education groups designed to address isolation and provide the opportunity to build self-esteem, parenting skills and healthy coping mechanisms for dealing with the impact of trauma. Victims are provided personal advocacy in the areas of employment, education, public assistance, financial planning and shelter/housing, as well as assistance in applying for victim compensation.

Coordination of the work done by FVVAs and Adult Advocates will be supported through the grant by allowing each member organization to provide supervision services that ensure quality assistance, staff oversight and support, reporting and compliance. Each coordinator will focus on staff skill and capacity building, supervision, victim follow-up planning, and the development of policies and procedures necessary to maintain a seamless system that effectively responds to the needs of victims.

Increased Grant Funds Enhance Victim Safety During the Court Process

CCADV recently received increased grant funds from the Connecticut Judicial Branch Office of Victim Services to enhance the work of the Coalition’s Family Violence Victim Advocates (FVVA) and Adult Advocates. The increased funding, which was made available to states through the federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), will also allow CCADV to hire an additional Director of Legal Advocacy to assist with coordination of civil court services and advocacy, and facilitate CCADV’s Domestic Violence Fatality Review Committee.

RESEARCH HAS DEMONSTRATED THAT VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE WHO USED DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SERVICES WERE ALMOST NEVER THE VICTIM OF MURDER OR ATTEMPTED MURDER.
Governor Malloy Signs TRO Bill Into Law

On June 10th, Governor Malloy signed into law Public Act 16-34, An Act Protecting Victims of Domestic Violence. As you know, this measure removes firearms from respondents of temporary restraining orders upon notice and significantly strengthens processes for serving restraining orders. Below are a few photos from the bill signing; additional photos can be found on the Governor’s flickr account. Click HERE to read CCADV’s 2016 Legislative Session Summary, which includes details about provisions of Public Act 16-34.

REACHING VICTIMS INVOLVED IN THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM

- ~20,000 family violence arrests
- ~1/3 of criminal cases involve family violence
- ~9,000 restraining order applications
Over 800 Health Professionals Trained During First Year of Project

Last quarter we reported on some of the first year successes of CCADV’s new Health Professional Outreach Project (HPO). We are now proud to be able to present the project’s full FY16 Analysis. Funded by the CT Department of Social Services, the HPO project is designed to provide training and technical assistance related to intimate partner violence to healthcare providers across Connecticut’s health system. In the first year of the grant (July 2015 - June 2016), CCADV trained 805 health professionals over a series of 42 presentations, including 14 in hospital settings.

The report demonstrates that trainings were heavily attended by social workers, registered nurses, and allied health workers, the majority of whom reported working within the mental health field. Thirty-five percent (35%) of health providers attending trainings regularly diagnosed or assessed for intimate partner violence among patients. Over 72% of attendees either did not have a protocol to address intimate partner violence within their practice or were unaware of the elements included in their practice’s protocol. This reinforces the need for health providers to have sufficient protocols in place and that regular training and review of those protocols is provided to staff.

Another key focus of the project is to provide an opportunity for each of our 18 member organizations to continue strengthening the existing relationships they have with local health professionals in their communities. Many organizations have demonstrated strong ties that have significantly increased victim access to services. In one notable collaboration, the local domestic violence organization worked with the hospital to provide case management activities related to a patient discharge.

As the project moves into its second year it will continue to increase marketing of training and technical assistance to women’s health programs, hospital maternity and obstetric departments, pediatric practices and emergency departments. The project will seek to collaborate with community health centers and school-based health centers, as well as focus outreach efforts students within the health industry and their educational institutions. All project training and technical assistance is funded by the Connecticut Department of Social Services and provided to health professionals free of cost.

Please contact Director of Health Professional Outreach, Jillian Gilchrest, with questions or to schedule a training.
Former CCADV Board Chair to Host Art Show to Benefit Interval House

Former CCADV Board Chair, Sandy Aldieri, has organized a charity art show with the CT Professional Photographers Association:

**Freedom from Domestic Violence Charity Fundraising Art Show**
Opening Reception - Thursday, August 25, 2016
6:30 - 8:30pm
The Golden Thread Gallery
West Hartford

Art pieces will be available for purchase. As the event is being held in West Hartford, event proceeds will benefit Interval House.
### MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

**The Umbrella Center for Domestic Violence Services**  
Ansonia       New Haven  
(203) 736-9944       (203) 789-8104  
www.bhcare.org

**Women’s Center of Greater Danbury**  
Danbury  
(203) 731-5206  
www.wcogd.org

**The Network**  
Enfield  
(860) 763-4542  
www.thenetworkct.org

**Interval House**  
Hartford  
(860) 527-0550  
www.intervalhousect.org

**New Horizons**  
Middletown  
(860) 347-3044  
www.newhorizonsdv.com

**Safe Futures**  
New London  
(860) 701-6000  
www.safefuturesct.org

**Women’s Support Services**  
Sharon  
(860) 364-1900  
www.wssdv.org

**Safe Haven**  
Waterbury  
(203) 575-0036  
www.safehavengw.org

**The Center for Family Justice**  
Bridgeport  
(203) 384-9559  
www.centerforfamilyjustice.org

**Domestic Violence Program/United Services, Inc.**  
Dayville       Willimantic  
(860) 774-8648      (860) 456-9476  
www.unitedservicesct.org

**Domestic Abuse Service/Greenwich YWCA**  
Greenwich  
(203) 622-0003  
www.ywcagreenwich.org

**Chrysalis Domestic Violence Services**  
Meriden  
(203) 238-1501  
www.mwchrysalis.org

**Prudence Crandall Center**  
New Britain  
(860) 225-6357  
www.prudencecrandall.org

**Domestic Violence Crisis Center**  
Norwalk       Stamford  
(203) 852-1980      (203) 588-9096  
www.dvccct.org

**Susan B. Anthony Project**  
Torrington  
(860) 482-7133  
www.sbaproject.org

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CCADV is the state’s leading voice for victims of domestic violence and those agencies that serve them.