

# Dating/Hookup Abuse and Campus Sexual Assault among Asian and Pacific Islander Youth

February 2020

## 1. A Note on Terminology

Today's youth are increasingly using informal terms to describe their romantic or sexual relationships. Just like the relationships they represent, these terms can be fluid or lack discreet definitions. Common ones include:

- ◆ Hooking up
- ◆ Dating
- ◆ Friends with benefits
- ◆ Seeing each other
- ◆ Situationship
- ◆ Just talking

These labels do not necessarily imply that a relationship is exclusive or sexually intimate, and sometimes, adolescents prefer to avoid labels altogether and use "friend" instead. Regardless, abuse can happen in any relationship, no matter the label.

In presenting the studies below, we use the terms selected by study authors.

## 2. Middle School and High School Students

The Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), which monitors health risk behaviors among public high school and middle school students in Hawai'i, found in 2015 and 2017 that:

- ◆ 21.6% of Japanese, 20.1% of "other Pacific Islander", and 15.7% of Filipino *middle schoolers* had been physically abused by someone they were dating or going out with in the past 12 months.
- ◆ 10.5% of Filipino, 8.0% of "other Pacific Islander", 7.9% of "other Asian" and 5.4% of Japanese *high schoolers* had been physically abused by someone they were dating or going out with in the past 12 months.
- ◆ 15.3% of Filipino, 10.3% of "other Pacific Islander," and 7.7% of Japanese *high schoolers* had been forced to do sexual things by someone they were dating or going out with in the past 12<sup>th</sup> months.

Authors of the study use "other Pacific Islander" to include non Filipino or Native Hawaiian students Pacific Islanders, and "other Asian" to include non Japanese or Filipino Asians

Youth Risk Behavior Survey data for the years 2015 and 2017. Data retrieved January 2020 from the *Build Your Own Report* tool available at [http://ibis.hhdw.org/ibisph-view/query/selection/yrbs/\\_YRBSSelection.html](http://ibis.hhdw.org/ibisph-view/query/selection/yrbs/_YRBSSelection.html)

Note: Unless specified, the studies did not indicate whether the abuse occurred in a same-sex or opposite-sex relationship

Given that the majority of school surveys are conducted in English, it is likely that rates of violence affecting youth with limited English proficiency or who are considered ELL (English Language Learners)--[estimated to comprise 10% of the K-12 student population](#)--is not reported. Due to language barriers, youth with limited English Proficiency experiencing abuse face additional challenges when wanting to access counseling or resources.

In a survey of 623 students from two O'ahu high schools (27% Native Hawaiian, 7% Samoan or other Pacific Islander, 45% Filipino, 10% non-Filipino Asian, and 11% other):

- ◆ 52.5% of boys and 63.9% of girls reported experiencing emotional abuse from a partner, including being insulted with put-downs (reported by 25.0% of boys, 28.0% of girls).
- ◆ 35.4% of boys and 24.9% of girls reported experiencing some form of physical abuse from a partner, including:
  - Having something thrown at them (reported by 23.4% of boys, 14.9% of girls).
  - Being pushed, shoved, or shaken (reported by 18.1% of boys, 14.9% of girls).
  - Being slapped or having hair pulled (reported by 21.4% of boys, 11.9% of girls).
- ◆ 11.6% of boys and 25.7% of girls reported experiencing some form of sexual abuse from a partner, including:
  - Being touched sexually without consent (reported by 9.6% of boys, 22.1% of girls).
  - Being forced to have sex without consent (reported by 3.7% of boys, 12.1% of girls).
- ◆ 60.3% of boys and 69.7% of girls reported experiencing some form of monitoring from a partner, including:
  - Having partner keep track of where they were and who they were with (reported by 41.9% of boys, 53.9% of girls).
  - Having cell calls or texts checked (reported by 40.7% of boys, 51.3% of girls).

Baker CK & Helm S. Prevalence of Intimate Partner Violence Victimization and Perpetration Among Youth in Hawai'i. *Hawaii Medical Journal*. 2011; 70(5): 92-96.

### 3. College Students

In an online survey of 181,752 undergraduate, graduate, and professional students across 33 American universities on campus sexual assault and misconduct:

- ◆ Among Asians, 5.9% of women, 1.1% of men, and 8.8% of TGQN\* students reported experiencing penetration or sexual touching without voluntary agreement.
- ◆ Among Native Hawaiians or Other Pacific Islanders (NHOPI), 9.8% of women reported experiencing penetration or sexual touching without voluntary agreement (rates of victimization for NHOPI men and TGQN students not reported).
- ◆ 28.9% of Asian and 39.9% of NHOPI students reported experiencing harassment.
- ◆ 6.7% of Asian and 9.3% of NHOPI students reported experiencing intimate partner violence.
- ◆ 3.7% of Asian and 2.6% of NHOPI students reported experiencing stalking.

\* Report authors use "TGQN" to refer to students who listed their gender identity as: transgender woman, transgender man, nonbinary/genderqueer, gender questioning, or gender not listed.

Cantor D, Fisher B, Chibnall S, Harps S, & Townsend R. Report on the AAU Campus Climate Survey on Sexual Assault and Misconduct. Rockville, MA: Prepared by Westat for The Association of American Universities; 2019.

Of 119 female Hmong-American college students in California's Central Valley who responded to an online survey:

- ◆ 33% had experienced some form of violence or abusive behavior from their romantic partner.
- ◆ 13% had been hit, punched or kicked; 14% had something thrown at them that destroyed property; 3% had been choked; and 3% had been repeatedly beaten using objects.
- ◆ 24% had been yelled at or called names, 7% had their financial resources controlled, 18% had their partner check up on emails/phone calls, 15% were isolated from friends and family, and 12% were coerced or attempted to be coerced into sexual contact without consent.

Takahashi Y & Lee S. Culture in transition: Awareness and appropriate response to domestic violence among Hmong American college students. *Journal of Ethnicity in Criminal Justice*. 2018; 16(2): 156-176.

#### 4. Lifecourse Abuse: First Experiences with Intimate Partner Violence

A study on lifecourse experiences of intimate partner violence and help-seeking which assessed experiences of IPV among 56 Indian and Pakistani, and 87 Filipina domestic violence survivors aged 18-60 recruited via various community outreach methods in the San Francisco Bay Area found that:

- ◆ 11.5% of Filipina and 12.5% of Indian/Pakistani domestic violence survivors had experienced intimate partner physical violence by age 16.
- ◆ 10.3% of Filipina and 12.5% of Indian/Pakistani domestic violence survivors had experienced intimate partner sexual violence by age 16.
- ◆ 10.3% of Filipina and 7.1% of Indian/Pakistani domestic violence survivors had experienced stalking from an intimate partner by age 16.

Yoshihama M, Bybee D, Dabby C, Blazeovski J. Lifecourse Experiences of Intimate Partner Violence and Helpseeking among Filipina, Indian, and Pakistani Women: Implications for Justice System Responses. Washington, DC: National Institute of Justice; 2010.

#### 5. Help-Seeking

Of 194 male and female Hmong-American college students in California's Central Valley who responded to an online survey:

- ◆ 66% knew of support groups or other recovery services, 58% knew of a local emergency shelter, 52% were aware of available Hmong resources, 45% were aware of victim advocate services in the criminal justice system, and 39% were aware of couples counseling services.
- ◆ When asked what they felt was the most appropriate Hmong community response to domestic violence, respondents most commonly preferred enhancing the Hmong clan system to be more supportive of women's decision to leave abusive relationships (30%),

followed by preventative education (24%), couples counseling (20%), criminal justice intervention (15%), and enhancing services for victims and offenders (12%).

- ◆ In the open-ended comments section, which gathered 83 total comments, 20 respondents mentioned the need for shelters where survivors and their children could stay away from their abuser without any stigma.

Takahashi Y & Lee S. Culture in transition: Awareness and appropriate response to domestic violence among Hmong American college students. *Journal of Ethnicity in Criminal Justice*. 2018; 16(2): 156-176.

## 6. Resources

### National Hotlines

**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), or text LOVEIS to 22522

**Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN) Hotline:** Free, confidential support and local resources available 24/7

- ◆ Livechat at [www.hotline.rainn.org/online](http://www.hotline.rainn.org/online) 800-656-4673

### Resources for Youth

**Break the Cycle:** inspires and supports young people to build healthy relationships

**National Queer Asian Pacific Islander Alliance (NOAPIA):** a network of LGBT AAPI organizations

**That's Not Cool:** For healthy relationships, online and off

### Directories

- ◆ Directory of Domestic and Gender Violence Programs Serving Asians and Pacific Islanders | [Asian Pacific Institute on Gender-Based Violence](#) | [PDF and online database](#)

### Asian Pacific Institute on Gender-Based Violence

For questions, information, publications, training requests and technical assistance:

[www.api-gbv.org](http://www.api-gbv.org) | 415-568-3315 | [info@api-gbv.org](mailto:info@api-gbv.org)



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