



Fact Sheet: Domestic Violence in Muslim Communities

June 2011

1. Demographics

- ◆ Muslims constitute 0.8% (2,454,000) of the U.S. adult population.¹
- ◆ 65% of U.S. Muslims are foreign-born; 27% of them emigrated from South and Central Asia, including Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, and Afghanistan.²
- ◆ 35% of Muslims in the U.S. self-identify as African American, the largest racial group within the community.³
- ◆ 18%, nearly one in five Muslim Americans, self-identify as Asian.³

¹ Pew Research Center Forum on Religion and Public Life. *Mapping the Global Muslim Population: A Report on the Size and Distribution of the World's Muslim Population*. Washington, DC: Author; 2009. <http://pewforum.org/Muslim/Mapping-the-Global-Muslim-Population.aspx> (Retrieved 1-10-11)

² Pew Research Center. *Muslim Americans: Middle Class and Mostly Mainstream*. Washington, DC: Author; 2007. <http://pewresearch.org/assets/pdf/muslim-americans.pdf> (Retrieved 1-10-11)

³ Gallup Center for Muslim Studies. *Muslim Americans: A National Portrait, An in-depth analysis of America's most diverse religious community*. Washington, DC: Author; 2009. <http://www.abudhabigallupcenter.com/File/144332/AmericanMuslimReport.pdf> (Retrieved 1-10-11)

2. Statistics

All the data in this section is re-printed, with permission, from *Research* by Peaceful Families Project: www.peacefulfamilies.org/Abuse_Statistics.pdf

- ◆ **Prevalence:** A survey of 63 Muslim leaders showed that 10% of Muslims experienced physical abuse in their homes.

Alkhateeb, Sharifa. "Ending domestic violence in Muslim families." *Journal of Religion and Abuse* 1.44 (1999): 49-59.

- ◆ **Prevalence:** A study of 23 Muslim married female immigrants from Bangladesh residing in Houston, Texas revealed a 10% prevalence rate of spousal abuse.

Rianon, Nahid J., and Shelton, A. J. "Perception of spousal abuse expressed by married Bangladeshi immigrant women in Houston, Texas, U.S.A". *Journal of Immigrant Health* 5.1 (2003): 37-44.

- ◆ **Attitudes:** A study of 162 women and 40 men was conducted in 202 Arab-American homes (98% of whom were Muslim). Interviewees approved of a man slapping his wife under the following conditions: 34% of women and 33% of men if she insults him when they are at home alone, 17% of women and 43% of men if she insults him in public, and 59% of both women and men if she hits him first in an argument.

Kulwicki, Anahid D., and Miller, June. "Domestic violence in the Arab American population: Transforming environmental conditions through community education." *Issues in Mental Health Nursing* 20 (1999): 199-215.

- ◆ **Experiences:** Quantitative and qualitative interviews conducted with the executive directors of 9 domestic violence organizations serving significant numbers of Muslim women found that of the 1,962 total Muslim women served annually, the average age was 32 years, and 85% were of immigrant background. The women experienced various forms of domestic violence including 82% emotional or verbal abuse, 65% financial abuse, 49% spiritual abuse, 74% physical abuse, and 30% sexual abuse.

Alkhateeb, Maha. "DV Organizations Serving Muslim Women: Preliminary Results of a 2009 Quantitative Survey." Peaceful Families Project. 2009. www.peacefulfamilies.org/DVOrgsSurvey.pdf

- ◆ **Shelter Residents:** A study of 57 closed-case files from an American Muslim women's shelter revealed that 37% had experienced multiple types of abuse, 23% experienced physical abuse, and 12% experienced emotional abuse.

Abdullah, Keilani. "A peaceful ideal, violent realities: A study on Muslim female domestic violence survivors." In: Maha B. Alkhateeb and Salma Elkadi Abugideiri (Eds.) *Change from within: Diverse perspectives on domestic violence in Muslim communities*. Great Falls, VA: Peaceful Families Project, 2007. 69-89.

- ◆ **Therapy Patients:** In a study of 190 Muslims seeking mental health counseling in Northern Virginia, 41% experienced domestic violence in the form of verbal, emotional, physical, and sexual abuse. Victims were 71% adult females, 12% adult males, and 16% children. 60% of all clients experienced verbal or psychological abuse in their lifetime, 50% physical abuse, 14% sexual abuse, and 3% reported having a relative killed.

Abugideiri, Salma Elkadi. "Domestic violence among Muslims seeking mental health counseling." *Change from within: Diverse perspectives on domestic violence in Muslim communities*. Eds. Maha B. Alkhateeb and Salma Elkadi Abugideiri. Great Falls, VA: Peaceful Families Project, 2007. 91-115.

- ◆ **Role of Imams:** A study of 22 mosques in New York found that 96% of the participants perceived the imam as a counselor, and 74% had sought counseling from imams for safety issues.

Abu-Ras, Wahiba, Gheith, Ali and F. Cournos. "Religion and imams role in mental health promotion: A study at 22 mosques in New York City Muslim community." *Journal of Muslim Mental Health* 3.2 (2008): 157-78.

3. Selected Translated Materials

- ◆ **Creating a Safety Plan Arabic**
The Peel Committee Against Woman Abuse, Mississauga, Ontario, Canada
Website: www.pcawa.org, Email: pcawa@pcawa.org, Tel: 905.282.9792
Weblink: www.pcawa.org/Files/Arabic%20Safety%20Plan-Revised%202005.pdf
- ◆ **Earth Words: Domestic Violence Information in over 80 Languages**
Website: www.hotpeachpages.net/lang/index.html
- ◆ **Legal Glossaries Arabic, Bangla, Hindi, Urdu**
Superior Court of California, County of Sacramento, California
Website: www.saccourt.ca.gov, Tel: 916.874.6867
Weblink: www.saccourt.ca.gov/general/legal-glossaries/legal-glossaries.aspx

- ◆ **Lifetime Spiral of Gender Violence Farsi | Persian**
Asian & Pacific Islander Institute on Domestic Violence, San Francisco, CA
Website: www.apiidv.org, Email: info@apiidv.org, Tel: 415.568.3315
Weblink (English): www.apiidv.org/lifetimespiral
Weblink (Farsi): www.apiidv.org/lifetimespiralfarsi
- ◆ **You Have a Right to Be Free from Violence in Your Home: Questions and Answers for Immigrant and Refugee Women Arabic**
Family Violence Prevention Fund, San Francisco, CA
Website: www.endabuse.org, Email: info@endabuse.org, Tel: 415.252.8900
Weblink: endabuse.org/userfiles/file/ImmigrantWomen/arabic.pdf

For a complete list of translated materials in Arabic, Bangla, Hindi and Urdu, visit www.apiidv.org.

4. Other Resources

24-Hour Hotline: National Domestic Violence Hotline

1-800-799-SAFE (7233)

www.thehotline.org

For crisis intervention, safety planning, information about domestic violence, and referrals to local service providers. Assistance available in over 100 languages through interpreter services.

Domestic Violence in Muslim Communities | Asian & Pacific Islander Institute on Domestic Violence

www.apiidv.org/violence/muslimwomen.php

Webpage with resources on domestic violence against Muslim immigrants living in the U.S.

Kismet

www.kismetwtg.com

An online resource guide for Pakistani parents arranging bi-continental marriages (available in English and Urdu).

Muslim Advocacy Network Against Domestic Violence (MANADV)

A collaboration between Peaceful Families Project and the Asian & Pacific Islander Institute on Domestic Violence

703.474.6870

www.manadv.org

info@manadv.org

For technical assistance, community outreach, training, and research to strengthen culturally appropriate advocacy; encourage dialogue and collaboration; develop models and analyses; and disseminate resources in addressing domestic violence in Muslim communities.

Peaceful Families Project

703.474.6870

www.peacefulfamilies.org

info@peacefulfamilies.org

For training and technical assistance on domestic violence among Muslim families and developing culturally sensitive programs to better serve Muslim communities.

Publications

- ◆ **Change From Within: Diverse Perspectives on Domestic Violence in Muslim Communities (2007)**
Edited by Maha B. Alkhateeb and Salma Elkadi Abugideiri. Peaceful Families Project.
www.peacefulfamilies.org/publications.html
- ◆ **Muslim Marriage Contract in American Courts (2000)**
By Azizah Y. al-Hibri.
Lecture at Minaret of Freedom Banquet, May 20, 2000.
www.minaret.org/azizah.htm
- ◆ **An Islamic Perspective on Domestic Violence (2000)**
By Azizah Y. al-Hibri.
Fordham International Law Journal, Issue 27, pg. 195-224.
www.apiidv.org/islamicperspectiveDV
- ◆ **Muslim Power and Control Wheel**
Peaceful Families Project, Great Falls, VA
Website: www.peacefulfamilies.org, Email: info@peacefulfamilies.org, Tel: 703.474.6870
Weblink: www.peacefulfamilies.org/dvwheel.html
- ◆ **Muslim Women's Rights in the Global Village: Challenges and Opportunities (1999)**
By Azizah Y. al-Hibri.
Journal of Law and Religion, 15, 37-66.
www.apiidv.org/muslimwomensrights

Bibliographies

- ◆ **Bibliography on Gender, Domestic Violence & Muslim Women**
Asian & Pacific Islander Institute on Domestic Violence
www.apiidv.org/muslimbiblio
- ◆ **Bibliography on Muslim Women and Domestic Violence: Three Key Topics**
Asian & Pacific Islander Institute on Domestic Violence
www.apiidv.org/muslimbiliokeytopics

Directories

- ◆ **National Directory**
Directory of Domestic Violence Programs Serving Muslim Communities, Asian & Pacific Islander Institute on Domestic Violence, www.apiidv.org/muslimdirectory
- ◆ **International Directories**
Americans Overseas Domestic Violence Crisis Center, www.866uswomen.org

Hot Peach Pages, International Directory of Domestic Violence Agencies, www.hotpeachpages.net

Asian & Pacific Islander Institute on Domestic Violence

For questions, information, publications and technical assistance, contact the Asian & Pacific Islander Institute on Domestic Violence at 415-568-3315, info@apiidv.org, www.apiidv.org.