



## **ACCESS Community Health & Research Center- Domestic Violence Prevention Survey Assessment Outcomes**

### **Introduction:**

ACCESS Community Health & Research Center, the Domestic Violence Prevention Program began an online Domestic Violence Survey of the community in July 2012. This survey assesses the community's perception on bullying, gender roles and awareness of the Domestic Violence within the community and covers areas such as verbal, physical, sexual, emotional and other forms of abuse within spouse/partner relationships. The purpose of the survey was to assess the degree of and knowledge about Domestic Violence within the community. We also wanted to determine awareness of the resources available to help overcome and prevent the occurrence of Domestic Violence.

### **Methods:**

The data was gathered via SurveyGizmo and data was analyzed by graduate students from Wayne State University. The link was sent out to the Coalition, schools personnel, students to the community at large, and posted on our Facebook page.

### **Findings:**

#### *Demographics*

To date, there have been 174 survey participants, mainly college and university students. The age of respondents ranged from 14-55 years of age with 75% of participants between 19 and 29 years old. Of the 174 survey participants, 123 (70.7%) were female and 51 (29.3%) were male. Ethnically, 9.9% of participants are African-American, 45.6% are Arab, 10.5% are Asian, 4.7% Chaldean, 6.4% Hispanic, 1.2% Native American/Alaska Native, 25.1% are White, 3.5% Pacific Islander and 2.9% selected "other". In the religion category, 0.6% are Buddhists, 34.7% Christian, 3.5% Hindu, 0.6% Jewish, 45.9% Muslim, 5.9% selected "other" and 8.8% selected that they had no religion. 38.4% were born in the U.S. and 62.6% were not. When asked what county they resided in, 33.9% were from Macomb County, 61.3% from Wayne and 4.8% selected "other". 74% of the survey takers stated that they were single and have never been married, 4.8% stated they were divorced, 18.5% were married, 0.6% were separated, 11.2% were widowed and 1.2% of participants selected "other". Of the participants, 46.5% were recently in a relationship while 53.5% were not. 20.4% of the participants stated they have children, while 79.6% did not have children. When it came to their highest level of education achieved, 1.2% selected Primary, elementary school; 36.5% selected high school/GED; 18.8% selected a 2 year college degree; 35.9% stated they had a bachelor's degree and 7.6% selected Graduate School.

We further wanted to analyze the community's awareness on the issues of domestic violence. 85% of the participants believed that laws do exist to protect people from the use of domestic violence by their spouse/partner, and 82% believed that laws exist to protect people from domestic violence by their ex-spouse or ex-partner. 22% strongly agreed and 68% agreed

that there is domestic violence in the Arab and Chaldean community and 17% believed that domestic violence is “very common” in the Arabic and Chaldean community and 63% believed it was “common”.

As can be seen in the table below, there are some striking differences between the attitudes and beliefs of males and females regarding gender equity and responses to violence. These are areas that should be addressed if we are to change social norms around violence and equality.

Question	Agree/strongly agree		Strongly Agree	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
Both boys and girls should clean up after a meal	90%	93%	50%	71%
A boy bullied at school should just hit the other child	43%	7.3%		
A girl bullied at school she should just hit the other child	28%	5.6%		
If a boy is hit by another child he should just hit back	55%	23%		
If a girl is hit by another child she should just hit back	49%	18%		
If a child is hit at school, he/she should first go tell a teacher	78%	92%		

Participants were asked about their beliefs and knowledge about what constitutes domestic violence. What was striking, was that although women are less likely than men to say violence is acceptable, they are slightly more likely to think that their religion or culture says it is acceptable.

Question	Agree/strongly agree	
	Males	Females
It is ok for a person to hit their spouse or partner	11.8%	0.8%
it is ok for a person to have sex with their spouse/partner even if they say no	13.5%	0.8%
my religion allows/accepts the use of physical force to control a spouse or partner	7.8%	8.8%
My culture allows/accepts the use of physical force to control a spouse or partner	17.6%	18.4%
it is ok to use physical punishment to discipline a child	53.8%	24.8%

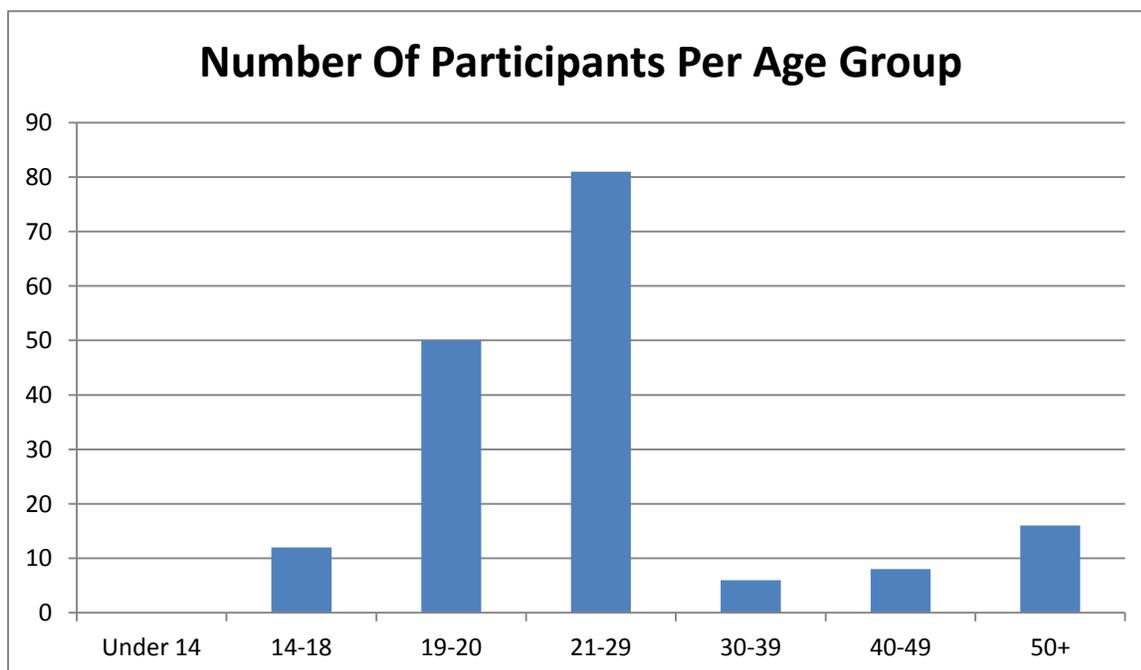
We then asked our participants to check all the items that they thought are examples of domestic violence. While there are fewer differences than we expected between men and women, on whole, women were more likely to recognize the forms of domestic violence.

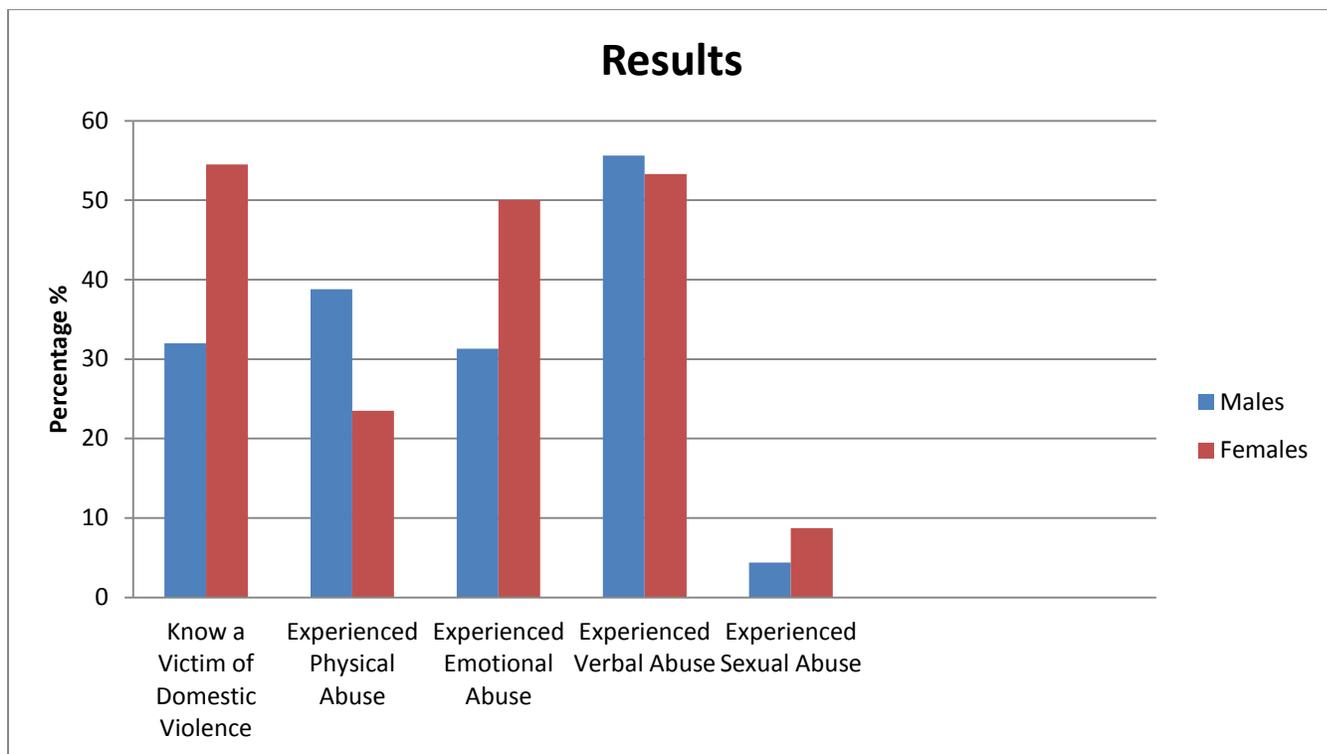
	% of Males	% of Females
Damaging a spouse's, partner's or ex-spouse's property	70.6%	79.2%
Isolating a spouse/partner/ex-partner from friends or family	86.3%	82.4%
Following, spying on, or showing up at a spouse's/partner's/ex-partner's job or school	68.6%	74.4%
Listening to a spouse's/partner's/ex-partner's phone calls	62.7%	63.2%

Constantly accusing a spouse/partner/ex-partner of having affairs when it's not true	72.5%	71.2%
Constantly putting down or calling a spouse/partner/ex-partner bad or negative names	80.4%	91.2%
Not allowing a spouse or partner any control over family money	60.8%	72.8%
Not allowing a spouse or partner to make any decisions about their own life	80.4%	82.4%
Preventing a spouse or partner from getting or keeping a job	70.6%	74.4%
Hurting pets to get at their spouse/partner/ex-partner	80.4%	88.8%
Shoving or slapping a spouse/partner/ex-partner	80.4%	97.6%

For recommendations in the future, 31.6% said they would send them to religious leaders, 52% said they would send them to seek help from family members, 55% said they would recommend the police, 30% would recommend to seek a friend, 22.8% would recommend a lawyer, 35% would recommend a health professional, 26% would recommend ACCESS, 16% selected other, and 6% stated they would not know where to send them. 28% of participants stated they have experienced physical abuse, 45% claimed they have experienced emotional abuse, 54% have experienced verbal abuse and 7.5% have experienced sexual abuse. 44% stated they did not have a partner or spouse, and for those who did have, over 9% have a partner who is very jealous or tries to control their life, 6% have a partner that tries to isolate them from their family or friends. 10.5% say they have a partner who says insulting things or threaten them. Over 5% stated that they are afraid their partner might hurt them or their family if they disagree with them. Over 8% have stated their spouse/partner has physically hurt them.

When asked about their employment, 8% stated they were not working, 68% are working, and 44% are students. 62.5% have said that they have a say in how their household income is spent, and of those who make their own income, 11.5% of them do not have a say in how their earnings are spent. When asked where they would seek help if they were a victim of domestic violence, 32% stated they would seek help from religious leaders, 56% would seek help from family members, 54% from friends, 65% from police, 27% from lawyer, 30% would seek help from access, 36% would go to a health professional, and 6% selected "other".





### Conclusions and Recommendations:

According to the results, the public is aware of the problem of domestic violence within the Arab/Chaldean community that we are facing. 89.4% agree or strongly agree that this problem exists and 80% believe that this issue is very common or common. Moreover, 48% of those surveyed know of someone who has been a victim of domestic violence, and of them, 15.5% stated that they did not recommend the victim that they seek help. However, there are some clear gender differences regarding some of the underlying causes of domestic violence, such as gender equity and responses to violence. It would be no surprise if the beliefs about acceptable responses to violence extended to beliefs about what an individual regards as transgressions of their rights within a relationship.

### *For more information, please contact:*

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