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Domestic Violence in Asians - Perception is Not Always Reality

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Domestic Violence is a subject that is not often discussed in Asian Communities. Asian Victims often do not report to authorities because of concerns that such actions will bring dishonor to the family. In a 1991-1992 study by the San Francisco District Attorney Office, 64% of women died at the hands of their partners. Although the number of domestic violence cases in which a woman was murdered had gone down in the past years, in 1998, 60% of the homicide victims are Asians (Chinese 20%).

A domestic violence opinion survey was conducted by the St. Mary's Hospital Asian Physician Committee and Asian Program in the health fair at the 1999 Cherry Blossom Festival. Three hundred and eighty-three people who came to the health fair responded to the survey. Forty-seven percent of the answer classified themselves as Asian. Only 4.4% of the answer indicated domestic violence occurred most often in Asian Communities. The three leading causes of domestic violence are alcohol abuse, financial problems and drug abuse. Forty point four percent of the answer indicated that they know someone affected by domestic violence.

The result of this survey shows that education on domestic violence is needed for the public and especially in Asian communities.