CENTER *for*
VICTIM RESEARCH

The Impact of Culturally Relevant Programs

The Center for Victim Research (CVR) Library's annotated bibliographies collect and summarize research about difficult-to-search topics in victim research — your shovel to start uncovering buried knowledge!

With increasing racial and ethnic diversity in the United States, mainstream victim services have the opportunity to expand victim-centered practices to address the needs of survivors from specific cultural communities. Cultural competency represents the ability of an organization or program to integrate accessible resources that will meet the needs of the dynamic sociocultural identities of historically marginalized populations. This annotated bibliography gathers research on the impact of culturally relevant programs for survivors of violence.

Searches were conducted in English in the CVR Library collection, Google Scholar, and the National Criminal Justice Reference Service. Most papers were published between 2007 and 2019, and this bibliography includes systematic literature reviews, journal articles, and program evaluations. Topics include intimate partner violence, sexual assault, gender-based violence, adverse childhood experiences, and elder abuse; other interpersonal crimes are not included. Articles are sorted first by barriers to service and the needs of specific populations, followed by reports of culturally specific program evaluations. The articles in this bibliography focus mostly on direct victim assistance like housing, counseling, peer support, skill building, and healthcare. Research about law enforcement, courts, and legal services are not covered in this bibliography. Contact the **CVR Research Librarian** for assistance locating full text or additional articles.

INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE, SEXUAL ASSAULT, GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Publications that discuss multiple cultures are listed below, sorted by published date. Subsections focus on research with Latinx, Asian-Pacific American, African American, Indigenous, and Religious/Spiritual communities and on evaluations of culturally specific interventions.

Envisioning Future Directions: Conversations With Leaders in Domestic and Sexual Assault Advocacy, Policy, Service, and Research by Jacquelyn White et al. (Violence Against Women, 2019, vol. 25, no. 1, 105-127)

> This article provides insight into the future of domestic violence and sexual assault victim services and how leaders in the field believe it should progress. The key recommendation regarding cultural competency is the incorporation of victim input in program development and evaluation. The authors emphasize the importance of recognizing the diverse identities of marginalized victims, and encourage the development of adaptable victim services and training strategies. See page 108 for a model of implementation of culturally appropriate services and responses.
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> *For more details on how to involve communities in every step of the research process, see* **Participatory Action Research in Practice: A Case Study in Addressing Domestic Violence in Nine Cultural Communities** by Marianne Sullivan et al. (Journal of Interpersonal Violence, 2005, vol. 20, no. 8, 977-995)

Exploring the Needs and Lived Experiences of Racial and Ethnic Minority Domestic Violence Survivors Through Community-Based Participatory Research: A Systematic Review by Maya Ragavan et al. (Trauma, Violence, & Abuse, 2018, 1-18)

> This systematic review summarizes studies that have used a community-based participatory research approach, which establishes collaborative relationships between researchers and individuals within the community. The article includes information on the relationship between racial/ethnic minority cultures and their needs from domestic violence victim services.

Culturally Specific Interventions for Female Survivors of Gender-Based Violence by Jennifer O' Brian and Rebecca Macy. (Aggression and Violent Behavior, 2016, vol. 31, 48-60)

> This article highlights that different cultures perpetuate unequal gender norms, which can influence the development of gender-based violence. This systematic review includes existing literature on culturally specific interventions for female survivors, such as including community member advice, using traditional healers, training service providers, and increasing a victim's sense of empowerment. Cultures discussed in this review include Alaskan Native/American Indian populations, Hispanic and African American populations, and Asian populations.

Health Disparities and Violence Against Women: Why and How Cultural and Societal Influences Matter by Tricia Bent-Goodley (Trauma, Violence, & Abuse, 2007, vol. 8, no. 2, 90-104)

> This article provides insight on how culture-specific factors influence the health of intimate partner violence (IPV) survivors. The research review covers internal, institutional, and systemic barriers to service and help-seeking by women of color who have experienced IPV, such as stigmatization, poverty, lack of physician training, and inadequate screening tools.

Needs Assessment and Gaps Analysis

Several states identified gaps in knowledge and services for meeting the needs of historically marginalized populations in their needs assessment reports:

- **California**
- **Maine**
- **Maryland**
- **Nevada**
- **Rhode Island**

CULTURALLY SPECIFIC NEEDS OF INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE, SEXUAL ASSAULT, OR GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE SURVIVORS

Finding a Way: Innovative Housing Solutions of Latin@ Survivors of Domestic Violence and Successful Practices of Culturally Specific Community-Based Organizations by Martha Hernadez-Martinez et al. (National Latin@ Network, 2018, 1-20)

> This report discusses a collaboration between community advocates who work with survivors and researchers to develop culturally relevant suggestions for future programs and policies. By focusing on the specific barriers that Latinx survivors face when accessing services, such as cultural stigma, language barriers, and immigration status, this report was able to identify the unique resource needs for safe housing of Latinx survivors.
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> *For information about the cultural influences on the mental health of Latina survivors, see:* **"Guardarse Las Cosas Adentro" (Keeping Things Inside): Latina Violence Survivors' Perceptions of Depression** by Christina Nicolaidis et al. (Journal of General Internal Medicine, 2011, vol. 26, no. 10, 1131-1137)

[**Understanding Intimate Partner Violence in the Asian Communities in America: A Systematic Review**](#) by Chunrye Kim and Margaret Schmuhl. (Trauma, Violence, & Abuse, 2018, 9 pgs)

This systematic review addresses existing literature to examine the current state of knowledge on intimate partner violence in Asian American communities. This article analyzed 57 empirically based journal articles about the direct experiences of Intimate Partner Violence survivors, theoretical frameworks, demographics of study participants, and policy recommendations such as education and community outreach. The findings show that the majority of studies are focused on the statistical relationship between intimate partner violence and predictive variables, as well as predictors of physical and emotional/psychological abuse. The majority of studies also recommended the development of community-based intervention programs for Asian survivors.

For further reading, see also:
[**Defining an Effective Response To DVSA In American Samoa by American Samoa Alliance Against Domestic & Sexual Violence.**](#) (Asian Pacific Institute on Gender-Based Violence, 2019, 54 pgs)

[**Cultural Barriers to Help-Seeking Among Taiwanese Female Victims of Dating Violence**](#) by April Chiung-Tao Shen. (Journal of Interpersonal Violence, 2011, vol. 26, no. 7, 1343-1365)

[**Identifying the Needs of American Indian Women Who Sought Shelter: A Practitioner-Researcher Partnership**](#) by Kathleen Fox et al. (Journal of Family Violence, 2018, vol. 33, no. 4, 251-256)

This article addresses the gaps in knowledge and services for female American Indian survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking. The article identified specific needs of survivors such as safety-planning services, legal help, and reconnecting with the tribal community. Service providers discussed successful personalized services such as increasing a survivors' resilience and providing shelter, social support, and mental health counseling.

For more information regarding the needs of indigenous people, see:
[**Honoring Resilience Narratives: Protective Factors Among Indigenous Women Experiencing Intimate Partner Violence**](#) by Catherine Burnette and Timothy Hefflinger. (The Journal of Baccalaureate Social Work, 2016, vol. 21, no. 1, 63-78)

[**Removing Roadblocks – Recommendations for Direct Service Providers to Build More Victim-Centric Services for Muslim Survivors of Sexual Assault**](#) by Amina Syed et al. (HEART Women & Girls and Muslim American Women's Policy Forum, 2017, 39 pgs)

Two organizations led by Muslim women conducted a quantitative study to fill the gap in research about Muslim survivors of sexual assault. This paper highlights the most frequent types of assistance requested by Muslim survivors and barriers to service such as lack of accessibility and community support, general stigma and specific cultural taboos about discussing sexual violence, and misunderstandings of religion. The report also discusses differences in race, ethnicity, and religion.

CVR Library Search Strategy

Below are similar or related keywords for:

- **Culturally Relevant:** cultural respect, culturally sensitive, culturally specific, culturally tailored, culturally responsive, multicultural, values

- **Minorities:** historically marginalized populations, diverse populations

- **Community-based Participatory Research:** people-based inquiry, community-engaged, researcher-practitioner partnerships

- **Interventions:** programs, policies, services

Login to **VictimResearch.org** and view an **example** of how to combine search terms to create a database search string.

Shattering Silence: Exploring Barriers to Disclosure for African American Sexual Assault Survivors by Shaquita Tillman. (Trauma, Violence, & Abuse, 2010, vol. 11, no. 2, 59-70)

> This literature review exposes the existing gaps in research regarding the disclosure, help-seeking, and reporting of sexual assault by female African American survivors. The authors discuss several culture-specific barriers to disclosure experienced by female African American survivors, such as self-blame, revictimization by service systems, and racism. Recommendations are provided for the integration of culturally informed interventions into victim service programs, such as routine screening and improved staff training.
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> *For further information on existing literature, see:*
> **Intimate Partner Violence Against African American women: An Examination of the Socio-Cultural Context** by Casey Taft et al. (Aggression and Violent Behavior, 2009, vol. 14, no. 1, 50-58)

A Metasynthesis of Qualitative Findings on the Role of Spirituality and Religiosity Among Culturally Diverse Domestic Violence Survivor by Alice Yick. (Qualitative Health Research, 2009, vol. 18, no. 9, 1289-1306)

> This study synthesizes existing literature findings on female victims of domestic violence that turn to spiritual or religious beliefs and practices as coping mechanisms. The synthesis includes practice implications for service providers, such as encouraging the assessment of the role that spirituality and religiosity may play in a survivor's life and increasing collaboration with religious/spiritual institutions to develop culturally competent practices.
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> *For further information on Muslim and Christian Arab women survivors of domestic violence, see:*
> **Cultural Beliefs and Service Utilization by Battered Arab Immigrant Women** by Wahiba Abu-Ras (Violence Against Women, 2007, vol. 13, no. 10, 1002-1028)

EVALUATIONS OF CULTURALLY SPECIFIC INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE/ SEXUAL ASSAULT/GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE PROGRAMS

Well-Being of Latina Survivors of Intimate Partner Violence and Sexual Assault Receiving Trauma-Informed and Culturally-Specific Services by Josephine Serrata et al. (Journal of Family Violence, 2019, 1-12)

> This article studies the effects of integrating trauma-informed practices and culturally-specific practices for Latina survivors of intimate partner violence and sexual assault. For example, programs used Latinx healing metaphors and employment of Latinx staff in combination with recovery of a survivor's sense of control. Findings indicate that combining culturally-specific and trauma-informed practices produce positive outcomes for Latina survivors, increasing self-efficacy, empowerment, and emotional well-being.

The weWomen and ourCircle Randomized Controlled Trial Protocol: A Web-Based Intervention for Immigrant, Refugee and Indigenous Women with Intimate Partner Violence Experiences by Sabri Bushra et al. (Contemporary Clinical Trials, 2019, vol. 76, 79-84)

> This article provides information on two culturally-adapted risk assessment and safety planning interventions for immigrant and indigenous women who are at risk of intimate partner violence. Researchers developed the tailored interventions through input from focus group and interview data collected from victim service practitioners, Native American survivors, and immigrant and refugee survivors from Asia, Africa, Central America, and Caribbean regions. Through online data collection, the intervention assessed the danger of intimate partner violence for each woman regarding levels of mistreatment, symptoms of trauma and depression, and changes in empowerment.

Creating Safe Spaces: A Community Health Worker-Academic Partnered Approach to Addressing Intimate Partner Violence by Ashley Wennerstrom et al. (Ethnicity and Disease, 2018, vol. 28, no. 2, 317-324)

This article describes the development of a collaboration between researchers and the community in the development of outreach and culturally competent prevention projects targeted at female non-Hispanic Black survivors of intimate partner violence. The community-researcher collaboration included writing a funding proposal and developing an advisory board and a community coalition. Goals of this project focused on serving all members of the community with increased sensitivity towards the needs of historically marginalized populations, while maintaining flexibility to meet the dynamic needs of the community.

A to Z Advocacy Model: Asians and Pacific Islanders Build an Inventory of Evidence-Informed Practices by Chic Dabby (Asian Pacific Institute on Gender-Based Violence, 2017, 56 pgs)

This report introduces the A to Z Advocacy Model, an evidence-based tool for evaluating culturally-specific interventions and understanding how program practices meet the needs of Asian and Pacific Islander survivors of domestic violence. The advocacy model was developed with survivor input through the use of surveys with victim advocates and domestic violence service providers. The model addresses several principles for program development, including the combination of diverse marginalized identities, language accessibility, survivor-centered advocacy, and evidence-informed practices.

For further information, see:
Lifecourse Experiences of Intimate Partner Violence and Help-Seeking among Filipina, Indian, and Pakistani Women: Implications for Justice System Responses by Mieko Yoshihama et. al. (Asian Pacific Institute on Gender-Based Violence, 2010, 122 pgs) Improving Services to African American Survivors of IPV: From the Voices of Recipients of Culturally Specific Services by Tameka Gillum (Violence Against Women, 2009, vol. 15, no. 1, 57-80)

Improving Services to African American Survivors of IPV: From the Voices of Recipients of Culturally Specific Services by Tameka Gillum (Violence Against Women, 2009, vol. 15, no. 1, 57-80)

The purpose of this article was to study whether or not culturally appropriate interventions were more successful than mainstream interventions for African American survivors of intimate partner violence (IPV). Analysis of interview results showed that survivors found culturally specific interventions, such as a welcoming environment for African Americans and support for leaving an abusive relationship, to be a positive experience.

For further reading on culturally specific counseling interventions with African American women, see:
Suicidal, Abused African American Women's Response to a Culturally Informed Intervention by Nadine Kaslow et al. (Journal of Counseling and Clinical Psychology, 2010, vol. 78, no. 4, 449-458)

A Network Model for Providing Culturally Competent Services for Intimate Partner Violence and Sexual Violence by Daniel Whitaker et al. (Violence Against Women, 2007, vol. 13, no. 2, 190-209)

This article describes the development and implementation of the Collaborative for Abuse Prevention in Racial and Ethnic Communities program, which had the goal to provide culturally competent services to Latinx survivors of intimate partner and sexual violence. Several procedural changes emerged from this project, including language proficiency of staff, home visits, and greater collaboration between programs.

For additional reading on community-based participatory research with Latinx survivors, see:
Proyecto Interconexiones: A Pilot Test of a Community-Based Depression Care Program for Latina Violence Survivors by Christina Nicolaidis et al. (Progress in Community Health Partnerships: Research, Education, and Action, 2013, vol. 7, no. 4, 395-401)

Needs and Preferences for the Prevention of Intimate Partner Violence among Hispanics: A Community's Perspective by Rosa Maria Gonzalez-Guarda et al. (Journal of Primary Prevention, 2013, vol. 34, no. 4, 221-235)

ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES

Publications are sorted by publication date and include articles identifying cultural needs and evaluations of culturally specifi interventions.

SPIRIT: Supporting, Protection, Integration, and Resources in Tribes A Research-to Practice Fellowship Project by Dr. Holly Scheib and Po Chen. (Center for Victim Research, 2018, 8 pgs)

> This is the final report for the Supporting Protection, Integration, and Resources in Tribes (SPIRIT) fellowship project. This project aimed to bridge the gap between researchers and tribal communities using culturally sensitive strategies to develop trust with the Taos Pueblo community and gather data to gain insight on the wellbeing of victimized tribal children. Their findings contribute to interventions targeting child abuse and neglect within tribal communities. SPIRIT's culturally competent data collection techniques could be adapted for use with other American Indian/Alaskan Native communities.
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> *See also:* **Tell Us About it, Episode 9: Defining a Well Child in Taos Pueblo with SPIRIT** by Dr. Holly Scheib and Po Chen. (Center for Victim Research, 2019, 25:43)
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> *For more information on culturally relevant interventions for American Indian and Alaskan Native children, see:* **Adapting Evidence-Based Treatments for Use with American Indian and Native Alaskan Children and Youth** by Delores Subia Bigfoot and Janie Braden. (Focal Point: Research and Training Center on Family Support and Children's Mental Health, 2007, vol. 21, no. 1, 19-22)

Insights from Survivors and Latino Professional Counselors Providing Interventions to Latino Children Affected by Domestic Violence: Implications for Culturally Responsive Interventions and Professional Training by Estela Melgoza. (National Louis University, 2017, 107 pgs)

> This dissertation provides information regarding "Caritas de Ezperanza", a culturally relevant intervention for Latinx children who have experienced domestic violence. The evaluation found that the program increased children's feelings of self-efficacy and decreased negative attitudes. Interviews revealed that parents believed the inclusion of Latinx values in an intervention is important, and counselors believed positive first impressions were critical for continued engagement in therapy.
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> *For further reading on program tailored for Latinx children, see:* **Youth & Parent-Focused Prevention Strategies: Evaluation of a Personal Safety Program with Latino Preschoolers** by Maureen Kenny (Journal of Child Sexual Abuse, 2012, vol. 21, no. 4, 368-385)

Is a Structured, Manualized, Evidence-Based Treatment Protocol Culturally Competent and Equivalently Effective Among American Indian Parents in Child Welfare? by Mark Chaffin et al. (Child Maltreatment, 2012, vol. 17, no. 3, 242-252)

> This study evaluates the success of the manualized "SafeCare" home-based model in reducing child welfare recidivism among American Indian families. Results show that through culturally competent behavioral skill training, SafeCare reduced child maltreatment recidivism. The program's strengths could be implemented into future child maltreatment interventions.

Provider Cultural Competency, Client Satisfaction, and Engagement in Home-Based Programs to Treat Child Abuse and Neglect by Amy Damashek et al. (Child Maltreatment, 2011, vol. 17, no. 1, 56-66)

> This article conducted a comparative analysis between two home-based programs aimed at providing child abuse and neglect interventions. The results indicate that the treatment program with greater cultural competency had higher satisfaction rates, was more effective in goal accomplishment, and had increased rates of client engagement. The authors support the implementation of cultural competency into home-based programs and treatment to improve engagement.

Cultural Issues in Disclosures of Child Sexual Abuse by Lisa Aronson Fontes and Carol Plummer. (Journal of Child Sexual Abuse, 2010, vol. 19, no. 5, 491-518)

> This article emphasizes the influence of cultural norms on disclosure, help-seeking, and reporting of child sexual abuse. Cultural values and influences such as shame, virginity, gender status, and honor are discussed as affecting the probability of disclosure by a child throughout several cultures in the United States and abroad. The authors provide guidelines towards culturally relevant best practices when dealing with the issue of child sexual abuse.

ELDER ABUSE

Publications are sorted by publication date and include articles identifying cultural needs and evaluations of culturally specific interventions.

Elder Mistreatment in South Asian Communities: A Review of the Literature by Ashfaque Ahmed Talpur et al. (Journal of Adult Protection, 2018, vol. 20, no. 5, 193-206)

> This literature review summarizes existing knowledge on the topic of elder abuse in South Asian communities. The article aids in identifying current gaps in research and includes information regarding risk factors for older adults in South Asian communities, as well as cultural values that influence the response to elder mistreatment.
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> *For additional research on elder abuse in East Asian and South Asian communities, see:*
> **Developing a Comprehensive Understanding of Elder Abuse Prevention in Immigrant Communities: A Comparative Mixed Methods Study Protocol** by Sepali Guruge et al. (BMJ Open, 2019, vol. 9, no. 1, 1-6)

Multicultural Voices: Attitudes of Older Adults in the United States about Elder Mistreatment by Susan Enguidanos et al. (Ageing & Society, 2014, vol. 34, no. 5, 877-903)

> This article includes the findings from five different racial/ethnic focus groups regarding cultural perceptions of elder mistreatment, such as Latinx respondents indicating lack of respect as a key factor for abuse. Findings also showed strong concerns regarding placement in nursing homes among African American respondents. Other themes included individual impairment, reporting, and education regarding elder abuse.

Elder Abuse and Neglect in African American Families: Informing Practice Based on Ecological and Cultural Frameworks by Sheena Horsford et al. (Journal of Elder Abuse & Neglect, 2011, vol. 23, no. 1, 75-88)

> This article introduces a culturally-informed model, based on social and cultural environment influences, to identify the risk and protective factors associated with elder abuse and neglect within African American families. The model focuses on culture-specific analysis of factors including African American family values such as loyalty, spirituality, and community support. Additional factors such as distrust of formal victim services, racial disparities, and limited access to culturally relevant services are included to explain elder abuse and neglect.

> For more information regarding elder mistreatment among African American families, see: **Mistreatment of African American Elders** (National Center on Elder Abuse, 2016, 4 pgs)

Drawing on Wisdom From the Past: An Elder Abuse Intervention With Tribal Communities by Patricia Holkup et. al. (Gerontologist, 2007, vol. 47, no. 2, 248-254)

> This article provides information about the application of a culturally relevant intervention program targeting elder abuse based on an intervention model developed by the Maori tribal community. The Family Care Conference (FCC) intervention incorporates the tribal elders, family, and community to overcome the barriers in service that neglect traditional Native American values. The article includes information on the six-stage process of the FCC intervention for further insight.

Toolkits/Programmatic Resources

- **Asian/Pacific Islander Domestic Violence Resource Project:** toolkit for culturally specific, collaborative, community-based interventions.

- **Black Women's Blueprint:** training on culturally competency and resources (viewing and discussion guide on addressing sexual violence in Black communities)

- National Center on Domestic Violence, Trauma, and Mental Health: **Tools for Transformation: Becoming Accessible, Culturally Responsive, and Trauma-Informed Organizations**

- **National Latin@ Network/Casa de Esperanza:** special collection based around "the framework and philosophy of Casa de Esperanza as a foundation to its trauma-informed work…culturally specific resources and tools that address domestic violence within the Latin@ context related to policy, research and service provision".

- National Sexual Violence Resource Center: **Developing Culturally Responsive Approaches to Serving Diverse Populations: A Resource Guide for Community-Based Organizations**.

- **Women of Color Network:** toolkits and research papers based on research with anti-violence advocates

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