

Introduction

It is estimated that approximately 1 in 3 women experience partner violence at some point in their life (WHO, 2017). The prevalence and type of partner violence that Albanian women may experience in the US is unknown but previous research may suggest that they may have similar experiences of the physical and emotional proponents of domestic violence.

Background

Domestic violence is an extremely taboo topic in the Albanian community. Consequently, women are often left in unsafe situations, without allies or adequate resources to overcome terrible situations. Whether they are immigrants from Albania living in this country or born in the United States, many Albanian women have been raised in patriarchal cultures where their voices have been silenced by a tradition of powerful male authority figures in the family structure. Messages of shame are often organized around gender and the role of shame in Albanian families is ubiquitous, helping to perpetuate inequities for women. Entrenched cultural mores are often passed on to younger generations of women where the cycle of male dominance and female submission persists.

Research Question

1. What types of intimate partner violence is reported the most amongst Albanian women residing in US?
2. Is a victim/survivor's educational attainment related to the levels of domestic violence they may experience?

Methodology

This is a mixed methods study. We primarily use survey research design and utilize the CCB measure which is a Checklist of Controlling Behaviors an 84-item domestic violence assessment instrument that can be used to address multiple levels of violence and coercive control in violent relationships. We use participatory action research (PAR) methods and community based participatory research (CBPR) model to engage the community. The community members from various women organizations/groups reviewed the CCB measure between October-December 2020 and added additional items that are relevant to the Albanian culture and traditions. The last part of the survey asks participants to tell us anything else "is there anything else you would like to share with us?" This part is qualitative and narratives are usually very important to generate theory relevant to our cultural norms and traditions.

Sample & Data Collection

The sample (n=500) consists of Albanian women 18 years or older residing in the US. Qualtrics software will be used to collect data in the form of 20-30 minute survey.

Hypothesis & Projected Outcomes

Although the study is in its preliminary stages (to be launched April/May2021), we hypothesize:

- Domestic violence amongst Albanian-American women is at a lower rate than native Albanian women
- Domestic violence is more prevalent amongst women without a higher education degree than those with a higher education degree
- Emotional and psychological abuse amongst Albanian-American women is prevalent at a higher rate than expected.

Conclusion

Post study findings we plan to present the data to the community organizations and groups and help them develop a post study action plan to include but not limited educational and awareness domestic violence materials.

References

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