



Meeting: 17th Annual Meeting of the Society for Prevention Research

Tracking Id: 202138

Alternate Ids:

Name	Id
Printed Program Id	0282

Abstract Type: Individual Paper Presentation

Status: Accept - Individual Paper

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Title: Ethnicity, Gender, and Attitudes toward Violence: A Study by the Asian/Pacific Islander Youth Violence Prevention Center (APIYVPC)

Text:

Youth violence is a multifaceted public health issue that spans geographic, ethnic and socioeconomic lines. Risk and protective factors of interpersonal youth violence have been extensively studied with Caucasian, Hispanic and African American populations, but less so with Asians and Pacific Islanders (APIs). In Hawai'i groups such as Native Hawaiians, Samoans and Filipinos are overrepresented in the state's Juvenile Justice System. Additional information is needed about the risk and protective factors for these groups, as no single intervention will address youth violence for all ethnic groups. Within ethnicities, males and females also form different attitudes toward violence. In response to this need for information, the Asian/Pacific Islander Youth Violence Prevention Center (APIYVPC, Cooperative Agreement funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) conducts quantitative and qualitative research with youth in Hawai'i. The mission of the Asian/Pacific Islander Youth Violence Prevention Center (APIYVPC) is to reduce and prevent interpersonal youth violence for Asian/Pacific Islanders by developing an effective, comprehensive, public-health, and culturally competent model for one API community to serve as a national prototype. This presentation will present detailed findings from one cross-sectional survey study involving two high schools on O'ahu, one with a large Native Hawaiian population, and the other with large Filipino and Samoan populations. In total, 881 students were surveyed. Several scales measured students' attitude towards violence in relation to both peer and familiar influences, including questions such as, "If my friends are fighting, I have to back them up by getting involved in the fight" and "My parents/family feel it is ok for me to fight if I win." Students' responses to these attitude questions were analyzed against self-reported ethnicities, using the Statistical Analysis System (SAS). Samoan and Hawaiian students tended to endorse these items more than the other ethnic groups (Caucasian, Filipino, and Japanese). Interaction effects suggested that the differences within some of the ethnic groups were greater than others. Also males were more likely to strongly agree with these items than females, across groups. This presentation will report detailed survey findings, in addition to both scientific and practical applications. Disaggregation of responses by ethnicity and gender has the potential to better inform program design and implementation, as well as policy making in youth violence prevention nationwide.

Theme Groups: 1 Key social relationships

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