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Culture, language and gendered violence in southern Nevada

Kelly Campbell-Kiser
University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Kathleen J. Bergquist
University of Nevada, Las Vegas

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Nevada is increasingly becoming culturally ethnically and linguistically diverse with approximately 25.1% of Nevadans estimated in 2006 to 2008 by the U.S. Census Bureau to be non-white, 27.3% speaking a language other than English at home, (compared to 19.6% nationally), ad 24.9% of Hispanic or Latino origin (compared to 15.1% nationally).

Service providers nationally struggle with providing culturally and linguistically relevant services to meet the needs of shifting demographics. Southern Nevada similarly struggles with decreasing resources and increasing needs in all sectors, to include service provisions for women who are at-risk of gendered violence. Linguistic and cultural barriers have been found to further compound education, outreach, and service provision. The three most commonly spoken languages in the Las Vegas area are English, Spanish, and Tagalog (Filipino dialect) which speaks to the fast growing Spanish-speaking and Asian communities that are contributing to the diversity of Southern Nevada.

Research Methods:

Data will be collected through a multi-prolonged research approach of surveying, focus groups, and in-person interviews with key informants, agency personnel, customers/clients, and placed within the context of current best practices. Key informants are asked to participate in interviews to share their perspectives on domestic violence in their respective communities and to assist the research team to organize focus groups so that we may get a better sense communities’ perspectives on domestic violence and the availability of resources available to victims. We will also ask key informants and community members to share and participate in an anonymous and/or confidential survey.

The objectives of this project are:

• To identify the needs and concerns of communities for whom English is a second language with regard to gendered violence
• To identify service providers’ current ability to respond to the needs of victims of gendered violence for whom English is a second language with regard to gendered violence
• To increase the ability of providers to provide culturally and linguistically relevant education, outreach and services

Funding Source: Lindy Institute Fellowship Program

Community Partners:
Shade Tree Shelter
Safenest Shelter
Safehouse Shelter
Rape Crisis Center

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