

South Asians In North America: An Annotated And Selected Bibliography

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The Potential Impact of Violent Victimization on Somatic Symptoms Among Asian American Adolescents: A National Longitudinal Study

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This study explored the mental health repercussions among Asian American adolescents following experiences of violent victimization. Utilizing a subsample of Asian American adolescents from Waves I and II of the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health (Add Health), this study examined the relationship between violent victimization and somatic symptoms one year later, as well as moderators of this relationship. Results from a hierarchical multiple regression analysis showed that emotional bonds with fathers were negatively related to somatic symptoms. In addition, instrumental bonds with mothers weakened the link between violent victimization and somatic symptoms. The practical implications of these results for addressing the psychosocial needs of Asian American adolescents were discussed.

Keywords: Asian American, adolescents, acculturation, victimization, somatic symptoms

Asian Americans are frequently stereotyped as the "model minority," a group of high achieving, academically and financially successful people (Kao, 1995; Leong & Okazaki, 2009; Oyserman & Sakamoto, 1997). Unfortunately, this stereotype overshadows the challenges that many Asian American adolescents incur. Several studies have shown that Asian American adolescents experience more race-related discrimination than peers of other ethnicities (Fisher, Wallace, & Fenton, 2000; Greene, Way, & Pahl, 2006; Rosenbloom & Way, 2004). Peguero (2009) found that first and second generation Asian American youth were more likely than Latino youth to be threatened, bullied, or have had someone use physical violence against them in school. Hishinuma et al. (2005) found that among a sample of over 5,000 Asian/Pacific Islander adolescents in Hawaii, 3.33% of them reported being victimized sometime in the past six months, 6.97% re-

ported that a family member had been victimized in the previous six months, and 10.75% reported that they had a friend who had been victimized in that time frame. Among 80 Southeast Asian American adolescents residing in a metropolitan area in Colorado, Ho (2008) found that 43.7% reported being victimized through violent means such as being beaten up, shot, or sexually assaulted at least once during their life. More information is needed about the mental health repercussions of Asian American adolescents' experiences of victimization. Therefore, the purpose of this study was to examine the impact of Asian American adolescents' experiences of violent victimization on somatic symptoms, as well as possible protective and risk factors that moderate this relationship.

Victimization

The term "victimization" is used to refer to a broad spectrum of experiences with varying degrees of severity. It can refer to being the recipient of minor verbal or physical harassment, such as peer harassment or social exclusion (Elias & Zins, 2003), or violent experiences, such as being beaten up, shot, or stabbed (Guterman, Hahn, & Cameron, 2002; Ho 2008). Regardless of the type, research has repeatedly demonstrated the detrimental psycho-

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