



DV Organizations Serving Muslim Women: Preliminary Results of a 2009 Quantitative Survey

This quantitative survey is part of a larger study exploring the role Islam plays in the lives of Muslim women who have been victims of domestic violence. In this quantitative segment, directors of 8 domestic violence organizations around the U.S. serving significant numbers of Muslim women completed online surveys regarding the services they provide for Muslim women, the demographics of the Muslim women they serve, their outreach programs, and the role of Muslim communities in their area. Each director also participated in a one hour qualitative phone interview with principle investigator Maha Alkhateeb to explore the role of Islam in the personal, familial, and communal lives of Muslim women victims and survivors. Once transcription and data analysis of the qualitative interviews has been completed, the results will be integrated with the quantitative data and published. Following are excerpts of data gathered from the quantitative survey.

Total Muslim Women Served Annually

- 1,962 total
- 218 on average per organization

Date Organizations Established

- 1987-2007
- 1997 average

Islamic programming

- 55% have Islamic programming (Muslim vs secular)
- 22% require mandatory participation

Length of Services

- 19 months on average for each woman
- Some as few as 2-3 months, others 3-4 years

Age of Survivors

- Average Age: 32
- As young as 18, and into 70s

Education

- 33% < HS
- 25% HS
- 23% BA
- 7% Grad

Ethnic/Racial Backgrounds

- Racial Ethnic: Primarily South Asian, Middle Eastern & African-American
- 85% Immigrant (65% limited English)
- 15% Indigenous

English Fluency

- 63% Speak Very Limited English

Marital Status

- 88% Women Married at Time Seeking Services

Mental Health

- 60% Experiencing Mental Health Issues at Time Seeking Services,
- Primarily Situational Depression

Types of Abuse Experienced

- 82% Emotional/Verbal
- 65% Financial
- 49% Spiritual
- 74% Physical
- 30% Sexual (Underreported)

Responses to Abuse

- 69% Remain
- 31% Leave

Abuser Remarriage

- 92% of Abusers Remarried Without Rehabilitation

Extended Family Support (Verbal or Tangible)

- 19% While Experiencing Abuse
- 17% While Seeking Services from DV Organizations
- 23% After Leaving Abusive Situation

Area Mosques

- 35 Mosques on Average in Each Area
- 12% Connected Directly or Indirectly to DV Organizations/Services

Trained Imams

- 6% of the Imams Completed Training in Domestic Violence