

# Critical factors in addressing elder abuse in Asian American and Pacific Islander communities

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**THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA**  
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# Session Objectives

- To increase understandings about EM (elder mistreatment) issues in AAPI communities
- To identify critical factors in preventing and addressing EM among AAPI elders
- To develop culturally sensitive services

# Overview of Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI)



# National Asian Pacific Center on Aging

## *Our Mission*

NAPCA's mission is to preserve and promote the dignity, well-being, and quality of life of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs) as they age.

## *Our Vision*

A society in which all AAPIs age with dignity and well-being.

## *Our Goals*

- To advocate on behalf of the AAPI aging community at the local, state, and national levels.
- To educate AAPI seniors and the general public on the unique needs of the AAPI aging community.
- To empower AAPI seniors and the aging network to meet the increasing challenges facing the AAPI aging community.

# Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders

- A person with origins in any of the peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, Indian subcontinent or Pacific Islands.
- The most diverse group of any other minority group.
  - Over 30 countries and speak over 100 languages.



Boundary representation is not necessarily authoritative

# Growth of Asian Population

- The fastest rate of growth compared to other race groups.
- 9.7% of increase for the U.S. total population
- Asian Alone population
  - 43% increase from 2000 (10.2 M.) to 2010 (14.7 M.)
  - 4.8% of share among total population

(U.S. Census Bureau, 2012)

# Growth of 55+ AAPI

- As in other racial groups, older population increased significantly within AAPI communities
- The Growth of 55+ from 2000 to 2010
  - Asian American: 85%
  - Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander: 67%
  - Black American: 41%
  - Hispanic American: 74%
  - Non-Hispanic White American: 26%

(U.S. Census data on 2000 and 2010)

# Geographic Distribution Among the AAPI Population

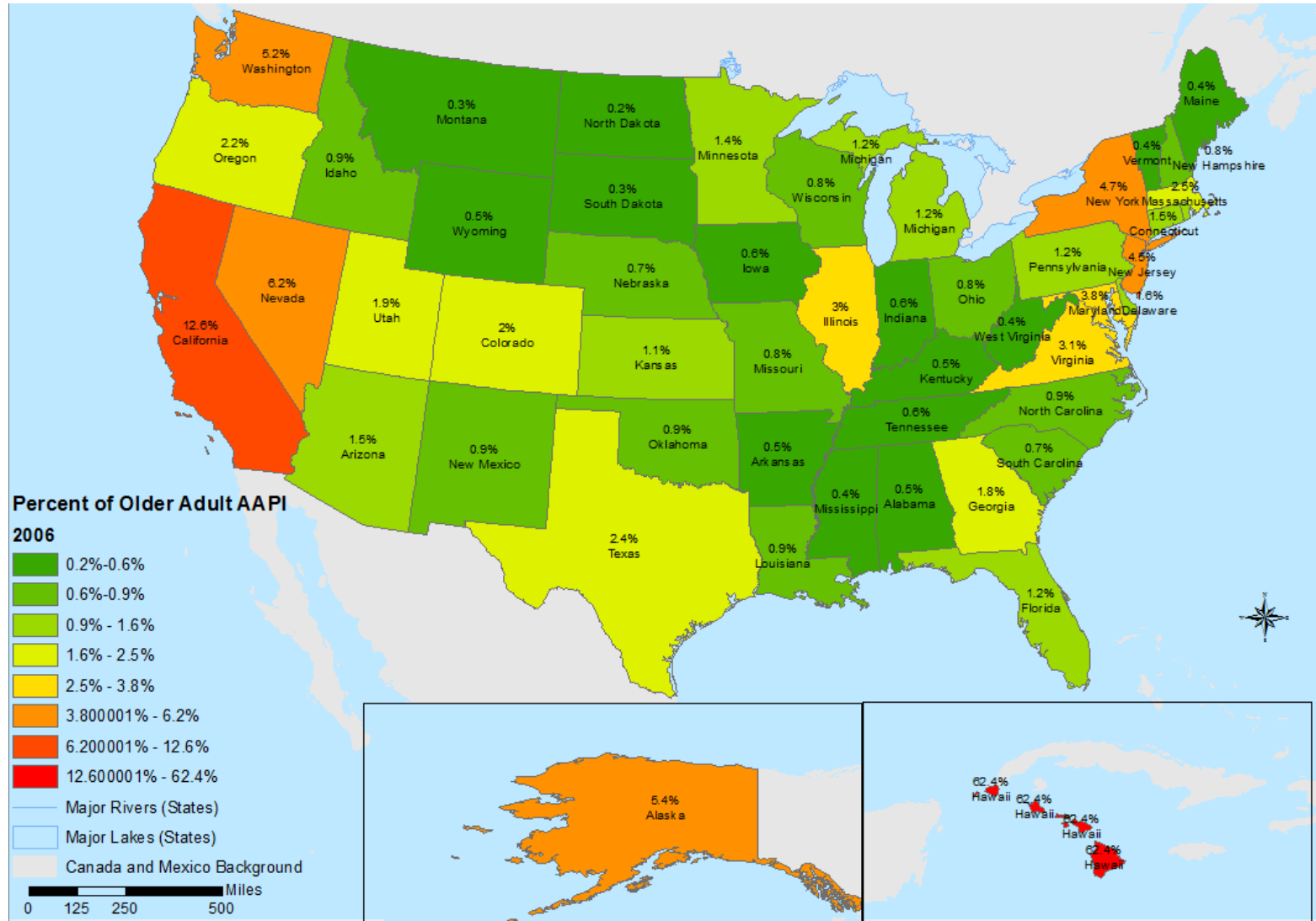
Total Population	
California	5.3 Mil
New York	1.5 Mil
Texas	1.1 Mil
New Jersey	.78 Mil
Hawaii	.67 Mil
Illinois	.63 Mil
Washington	.56 Mil
Florida	.50 Mil
Virginia	.48 Mil
Massachusetts	.38 Mil

Percent	
Hawaii	48.0%
California	13.9%
New Jersey	8.8%
Nevada	8.1%
Washington	8.1%
New York	7.8%
Alaska	6.7%
Virginia	5.9%
Maryland	5.9%
Massachusetts	5.8%

(United States Census, 2016. Retrieved from <http://factfinder.census.gov/>)

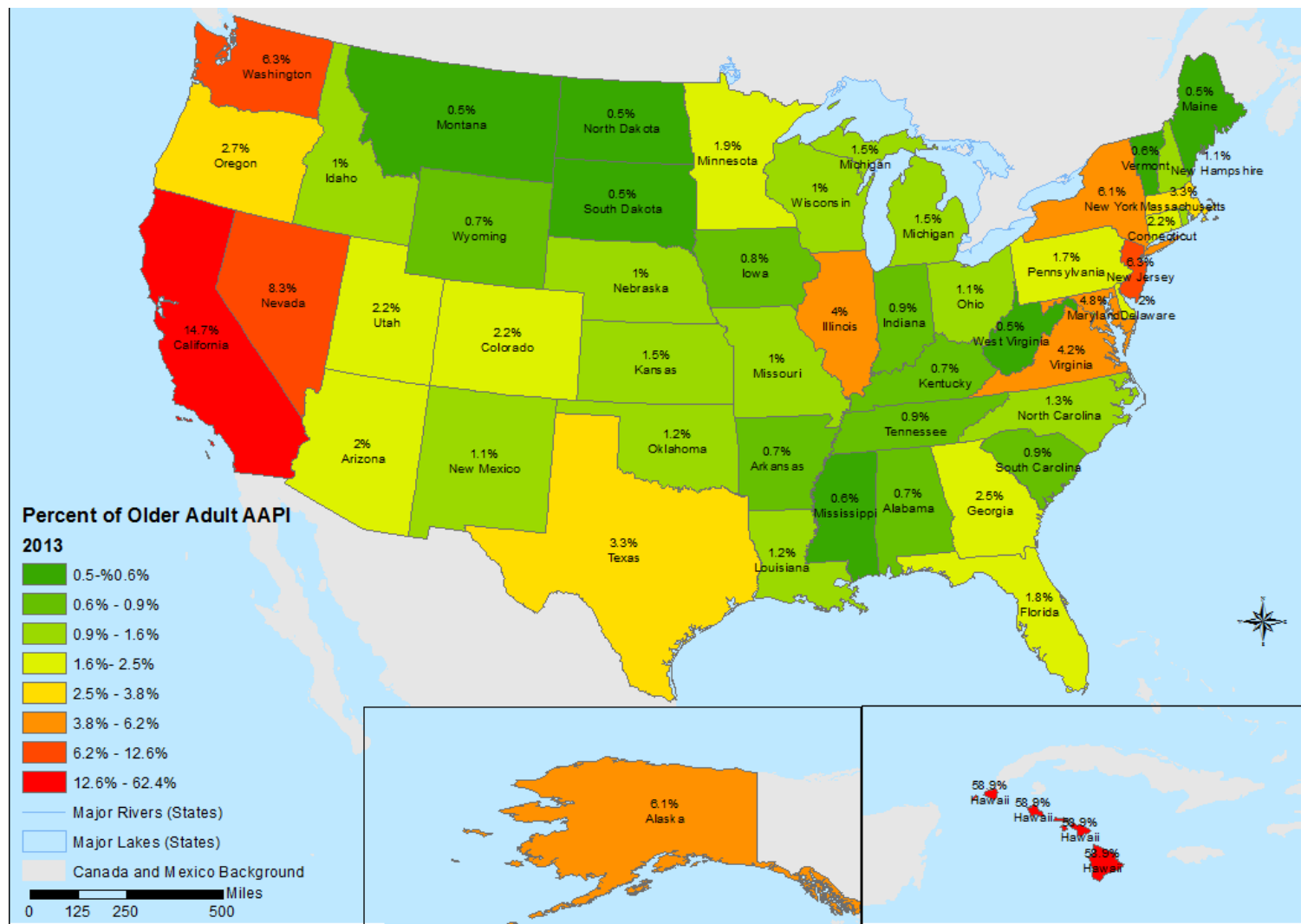


# AAPI Population Density of 60+ (2006)



Adapted from "Profile of State OAA Programs", by the Administration for Community Living, *Aging Integrated Databases*. Retrieved from <http://www.agid.acl.gov/StateProfiles/Profile/Pre/?id=41&topic=1&years=2006,2013>

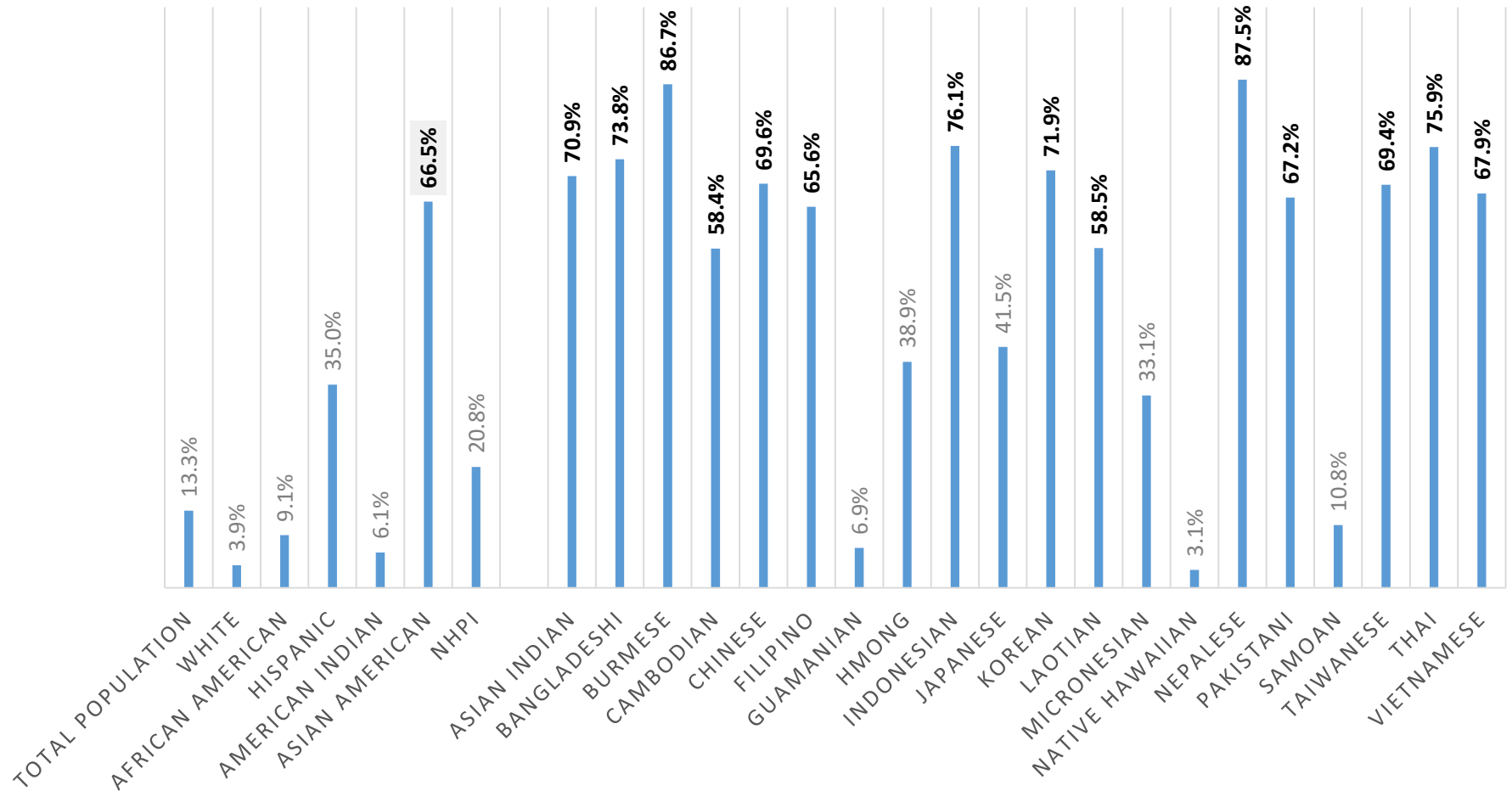
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# Immigration – Foreign Born Percentages



(United States Census, 2016. Retrieved from <http://factfinder.census.gov/>)

# Immigration status among AAPI older adults

- As of 2010, over 37 millions foreign-born residents live in the U.S., 13% of total population
- 81% of AAPI seniors (65+) are foreign-born, compared to 12% of seniors in general
- About 75% of AAPI seniors immigrated to the U.S. after the 1970s, compared to 46% of seniors in general

# Reasons of increasing older immigrants

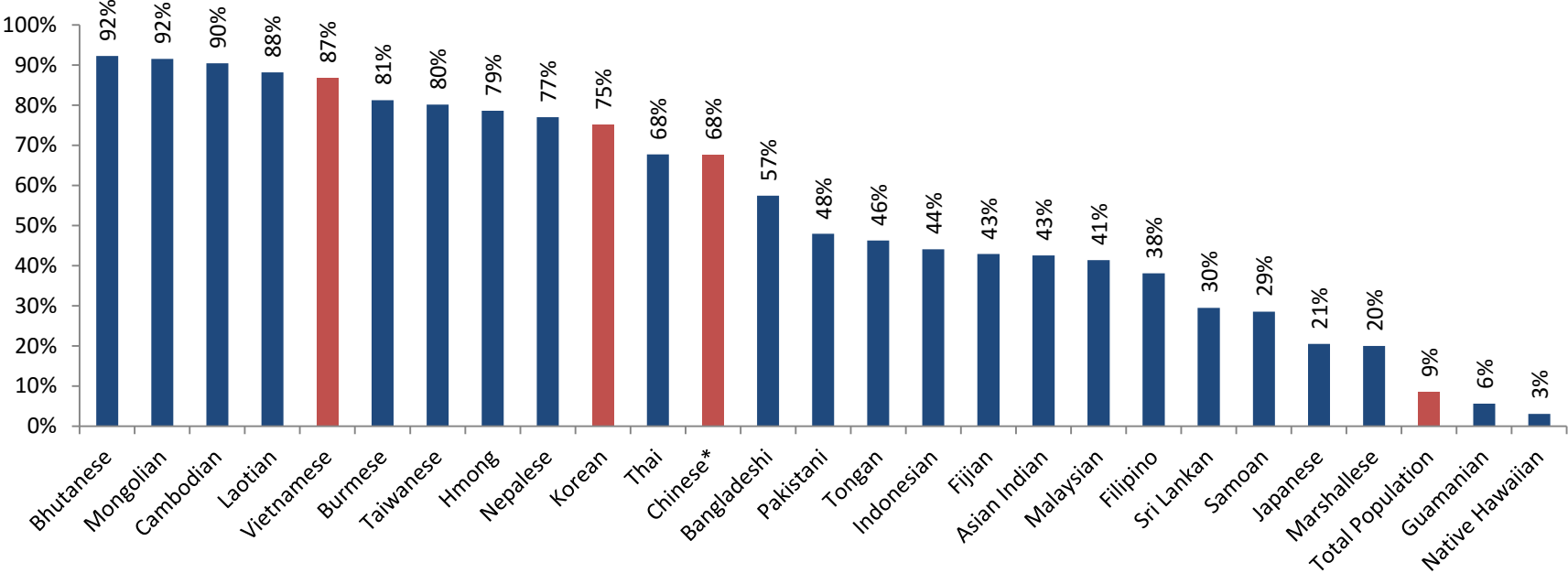
- Immigrants, who entered to the U.S. in their early age, become aged
- Older immigrants have entered the U.S. by the support from their children and relatives for the family union in their later life

# Unique aspects of the AAPI population

- AAPI groups are all different in terms of language, culture, historical background, and religion.
- FAMILY, AGE, & GENDER are important values in Asian culture.
- Many AAPI seniors are dependent to their children.
- Most Asians prefer indirect communication and believe it is more polite.
- Most Asians believe that humbleness is virtue.

# Limited English proficiency is a major barrier to information and assistance

Percent of AAPI Population who are Limited English Proficient, 55 years and older



\*Except Taiwanese  
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-2012 ACS 3-year Summary Estimates

- They are living in their community, not Asian community. For example, Chinese community, Korean community, Indian community, etc.
- Some of Asian ethnic communities are religion based.



# Factors that make the differences among different ethnic groups

- Home countries and regions
- Primary language
- Cultural background

# Elder Abuse in AAPI community

- According to NAPCA's need assessment among community-based organizations (CBOs)
  - Respondents answered that elder abuse is one of top 10 priority issues for AAPI elders
  - About 32% of respondents addressed the elder issue is not being addressed in AAPI community

(Source: NAPCA Brief,

Identifying the Needs of AAPI Elder-Serving Organizations, <http://napca.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/cbo-survey-FINAL.pdf>)

# Review of Past Research Findings on AAPI Elder Mistreatment

# Elder Mistreatment Prevalence (General Population)

Study	Sample size	Ethnicity/Race	Types of EM (Percentage)	Study site
Burnes et al (2015)	4,156	White (72.3%) African American (18.2%) Hispanic (6.0%) Other (2.6%)	Emotional (1.9%) Physical (1.8%) Neglect (10.8%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NYC (population-based)</li> <li>• In the past year</li> </ul>
Laumann, Leitsch, & Waite (2008)	3,005	White (80.7%) African American (10.0%) Latino (6.8%)	Verbal (9%) Financial (3.5%) Physical (0.2%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National sample</li> <li>• In the past year</li> </ul>
Amstadter et al. (2011)	902	White (77%) Black (17.3%) American Indian (1.9%)	Emotional (12.9%) Financial (6.6%) Potential neglect (5.4%) Physical (2.1%) Sexual (0.3%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• South Carolina</li> <li>• Since age of 60</li> </ul>
DeLiema, Gassoumis, Homeier, & Wilber (2012)	200	Latino	At least one type of abuse (40%) Financial exploitation (16.7%) Psychological abuse (10.7%) Neglect by caregiver (11.7%) Physical abuse (10.7%) Sexual abuse (9%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Los Angeles, CA</li> <li>• In the last 12 months</li> </ul>

# Elder Mistreatment in AAPI Cultural Lens

- **Unique cultural values and norms that may interfere with EM experiences and help-seeking preferences/behaviors.**

- Interdependence within family system (Le, 1997)
- Losing-face, shame on themselves and the family (Dong et al., 2011; Lee & Eaton, 2009)
- Filial piety (Tam & Neysmith, 2006)

- **Cultural perceptions of EM**

- *Disrespect* is a unique type of EM not observed in western standards of EM (Tam & Neysmith, 2006)
- Psychological mistreatment is considered as a more serious problem than other types of EM such as physical mistreatment (Dong et al., 2011)

# Help-Seeking Behaviors

- AAPI older adults were less aware of EM hotline and APS; and the contact information of APS when compared to Whites (Moon & Evans-Campbell, 1999)
- AAPI older adults preferred informal help if they encountered EM (Dong et al., 2011; Lee & Eaton, 2009; Lee & Shin, 2010)
- Even when AAPI older adults acknowledge EM, they might not seek help when their adult child or a family member is involved in EM (Lee & Eaton, 2009)

AAPI older adults'  
knowledge & perceptions on APS:  
Findings and insights from our study\*

**\*Funding Acknowledgement:** The research is funded by the University Northern Iowa (UNI) 2012-13 Capacity Building Grant; UNI 2013 College of Behavioral and Social Sciences Project Grant; and UNI 2013 Summer Fellowship.

# Overview of our AAPI Study

- **Purpose:**

- Explore experiences and perceptions of EM
- Explore awareness of APS and EM help-seeking behaviors

- **Study site:**

- Community based social service agencies in Southern California
- Close collaboration with National Asian Pacific Center on Aging (NAPCA)

- **Data collection method:**

- Anonymous 70 face-to-face interviews, which were based on questionnaires, were conducted in March-June 2013.



# Demographic Information (N=70)

	Mean (SD) or %
Age	65.7 (7.07)
Gender	
Male	35.7
Female	64.3
Ethnicity	
Chinese	2.9
Korean	64.3
Filipino	24.3
Taiwanese	4.3
Others	4.3
Level of Education	
Less than High School	5.7
High School	11.4
2-year College	10.0
4-year College	51.4
Graduate School	11.4
Others	11.4



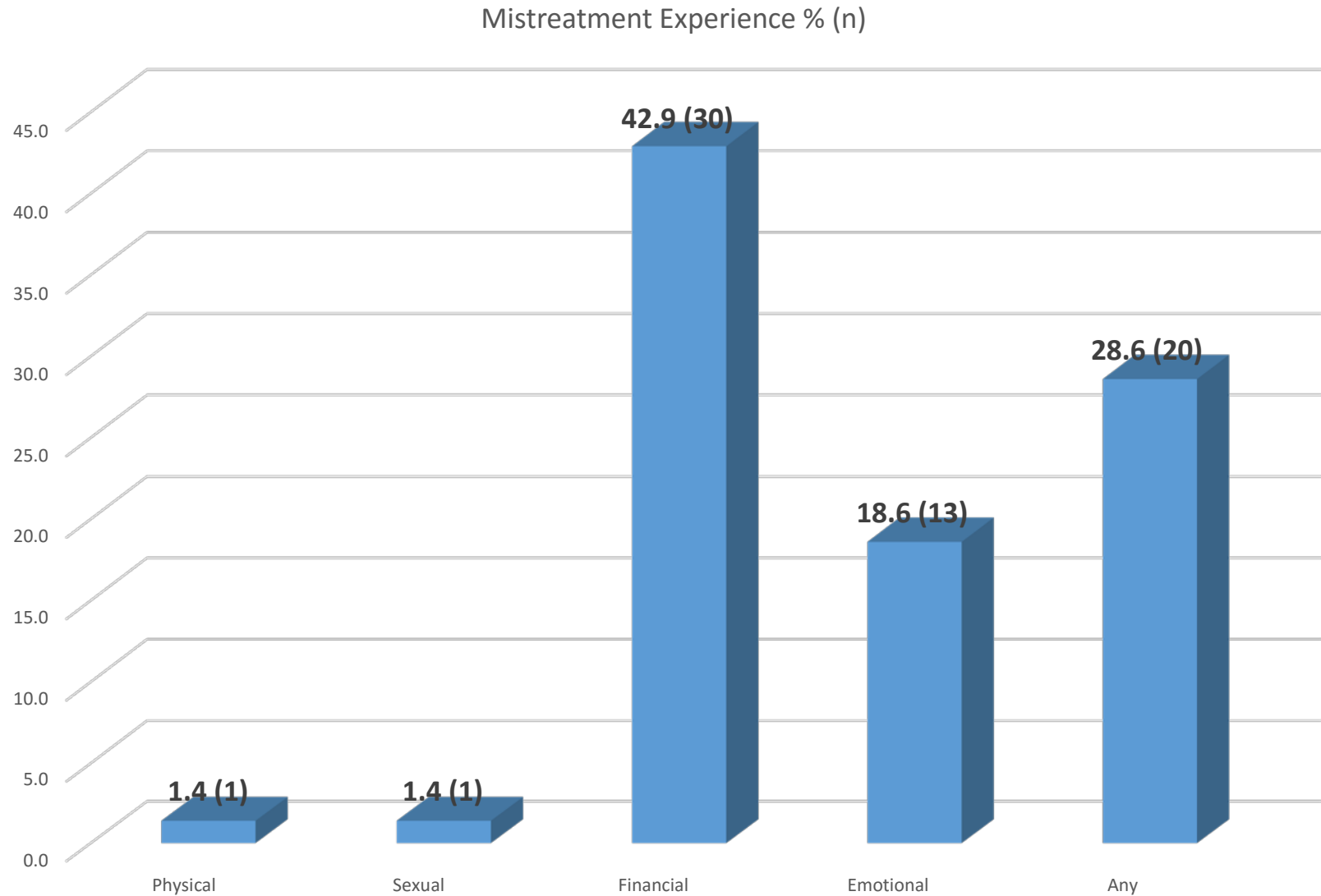
# Acculturation

	Mean (SD) or %
Length of stay in U.S. (years)	21.2 (12.7)
Proficiency in English	
Proficient in Speaking	44.2
Proficient in Reading	52.8
Proficient in Writing	41.4

# Community involvement

	Mean (SD) or %
Work Status	
Full-time	5.7
Part-time	82.9
Hourly	1.4
Unemployed	10.0
Religion	
None	8.6
Protestant	54.3
Catholic	28.6
Buddhist	7.1
Islamic	1.4
Community Volunteer in the Past 6 Months	
Yes	71.4
No	28.6

# Maltreatment Experience



# Perceptions about Elder Mistreatment

Hypothetical Situation	Agree	Disagree
My spouse or adult child disrespecting on my opinions is a type of elder mistreatment	22 (31.4%)	29 (41.4%)
My spouse or adult child ignoring my needs is a type of elder mistreatment	26 (37.1%)	22 (31.4%)
My spouse or adult child, or any other family member <b>frequently telling me about sending me to a nursing home facility against my will</b> is a type of emotional mistreatment	53 (75.7%)	6 (8.6%)
<b>My adult child yelling at me</b> is a type of elder mistreatment	48 (68.6%)	9 (12.9%)
<b>My adult child not paying me back after borrowing money from me</b> is a type of elder mistreatment	25 (35.7%)	29 (41.4%)
My spouse or adult child (including daughter- or son-in-law) <b>accessing my financial account(s) without my permission</b> is a type of financial mistreatment	55 (78.6%)	7 (10.0%)

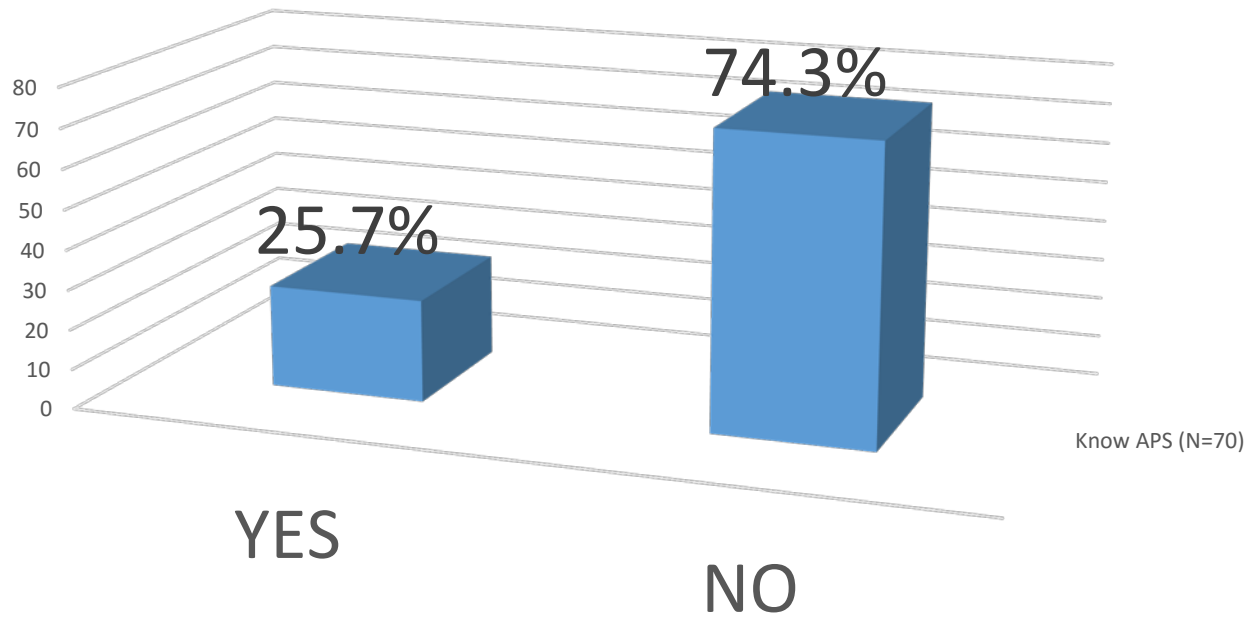
Awareness of APS  
&  
Help-seeking behaviors

What percentage of the AAPI adults in the study do you think were aware of ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES?

# Awareness of APS

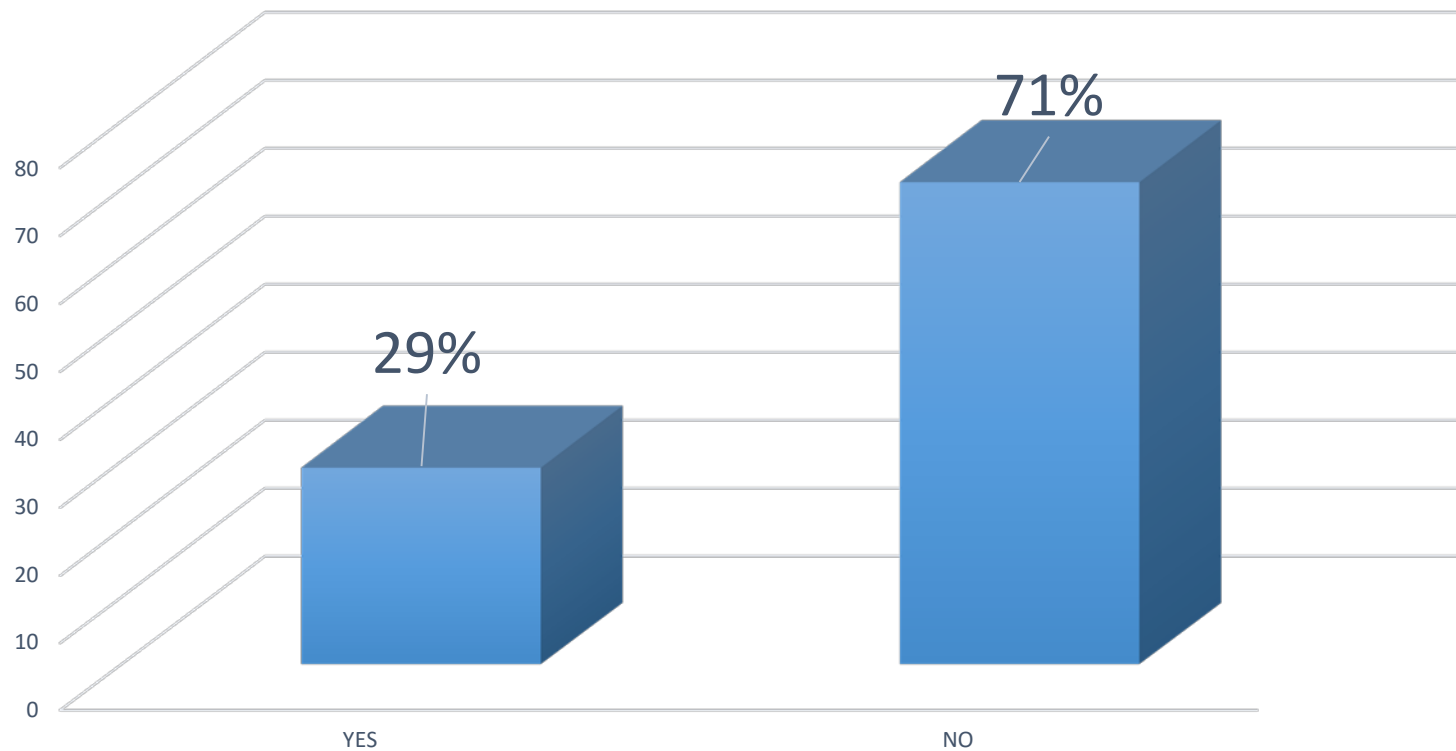
“Have ever heard about the Adult Protective Services”

Know APS (N=70)



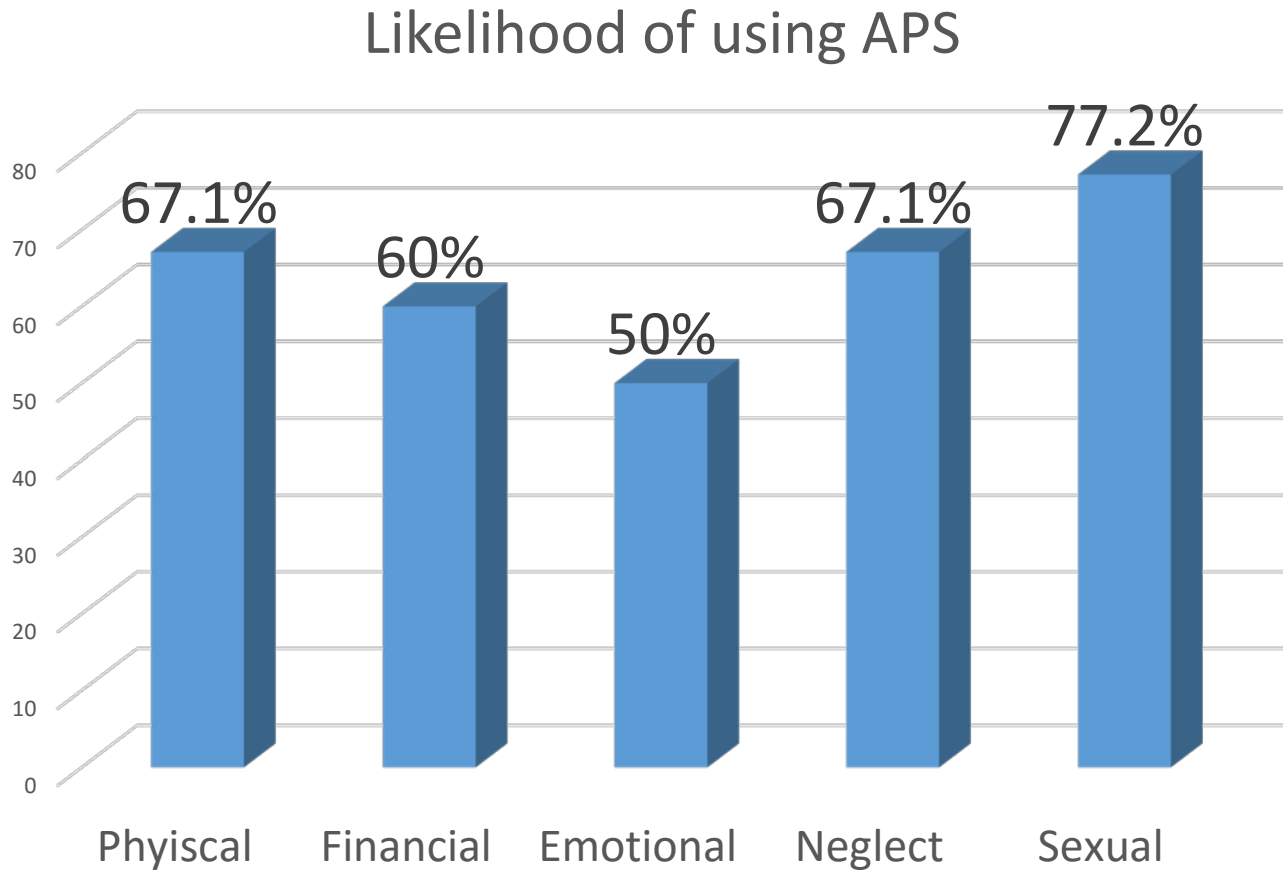
# Awareness of APS (65 years old or older)

## Know APS (N=31)



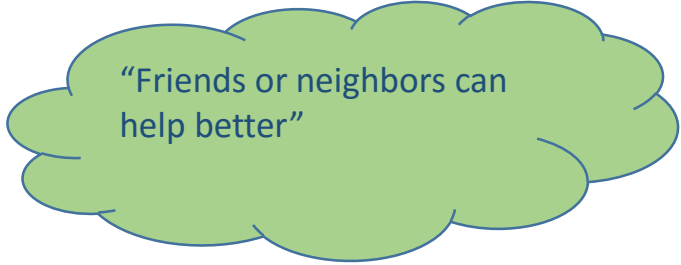


# Help-Seeking through APS (N=70)

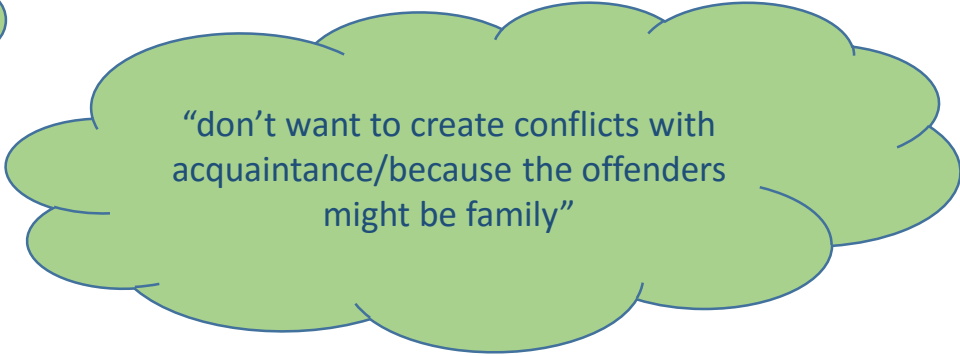


# Why not Seeking APS Services?

- Prefer private source of help ( $n=9$ )
- Elder mistreatment is a family matter ( $n=5$ )
- Feeling uncomfortable in reporting private problems to the third party ( $n=5$ )
- English language barriers ( $n=1$ )
- Prefer relying on religion ( $n=2$ )
- Don't think APS will understand my culture ( $n=1$ )



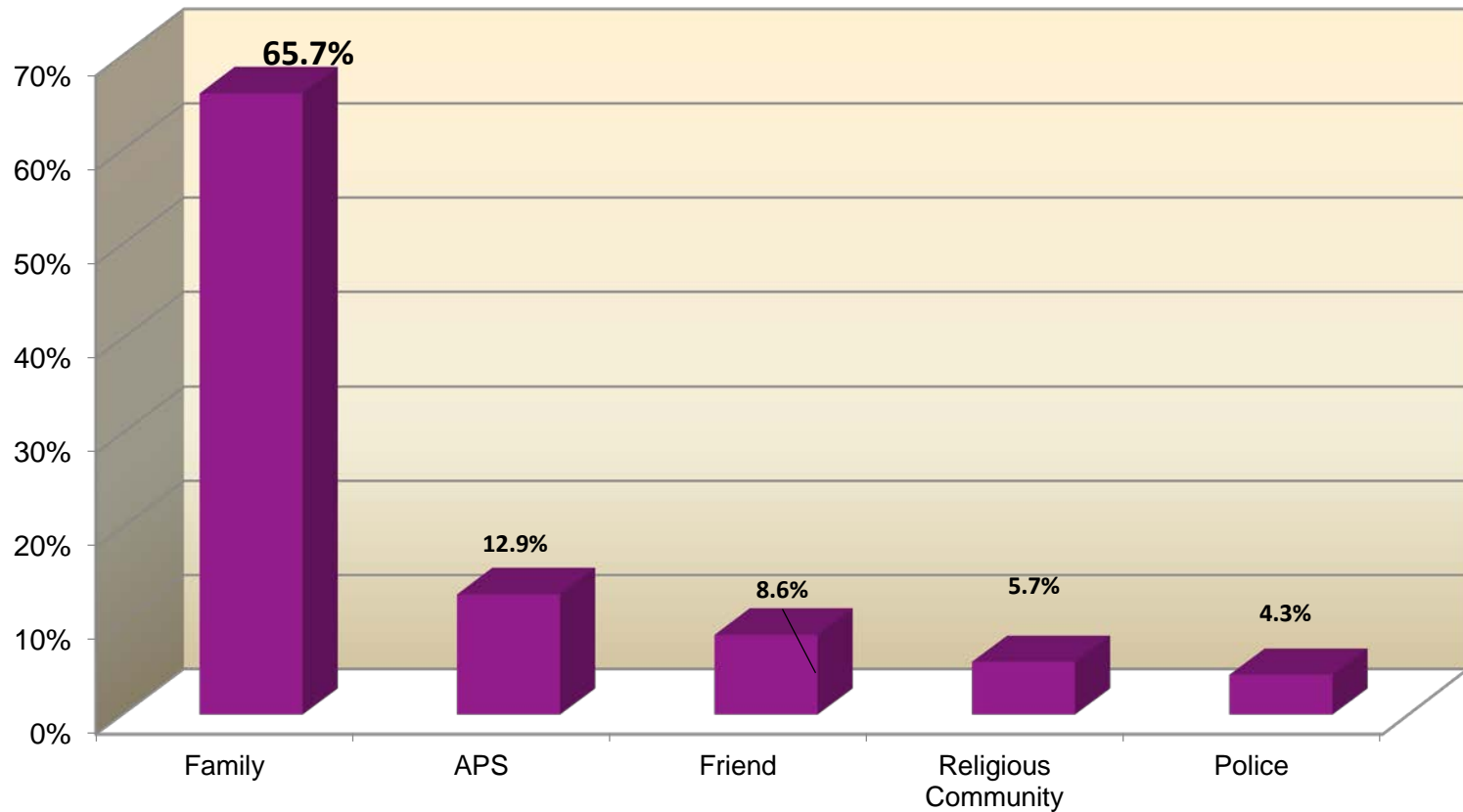
"Friends or neighbors can help better"



"don't want to create conflicts with acquaintance/because the offenders might be family"

# Help-Seeking Behaviors

- To Whom are they likely to turn for help with elder mistreatment?



# Implications

- Need to increase the awareness of APS in AAPI community
- Education on APS and elder mistreatment, especially, for those whose age qualifies for APS is imperative to empower AAPI older adults.
- Increase AAPI older adults' accessibility to APS services
  - Closer collaboration between AAPI community and APS
  - Culturally sensitive & accessible approach