

Child Brides & Forced Marriage in America

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Mother Child Research Team
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TWO GLOBAL MODELS



What are the LONG-TERM Outcomes

*Abuse? Danger? Safety?
Woman Functioning?
Child Functioning?*

(most studies end at 24 months)



8-Year Prospective, Naturalistic, 2-Group Comparative Design

150 Shelter Women

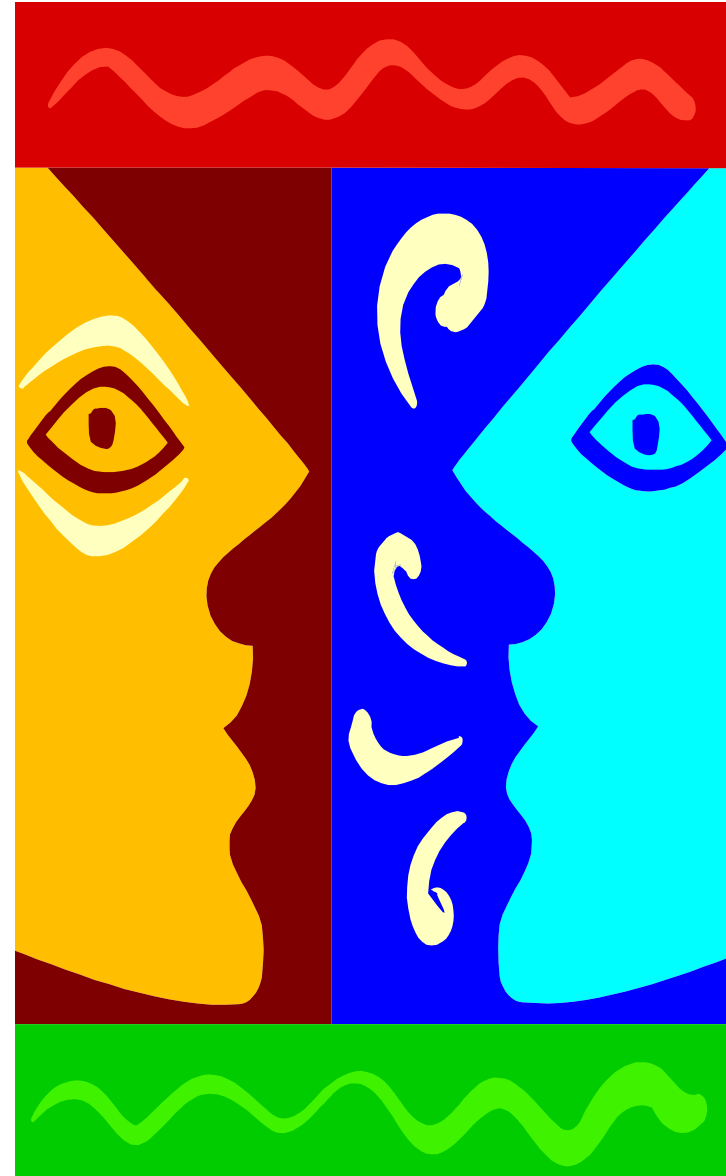


150 Justice Women



METHODS

**Face-To-Face
Interview Every 4-
Mos for 7 years =
21 Interviews
\$70 each visit
At 6 years,
93 % retained**



21 METRICS

Severity of Violence Against Women
Danger for Murder Assessment Scale
PTSD & Depression Inventory
Community Agency Use & Difficulty
Safety Behaviors, Fertility Control
Child & Adult Behavior Functioning
Koci Marginalization Index, Empowerment
General Self Efficacy, Problem Solving Scale
Chronic Pain Scale, General Health
Social Support Index, Food Security
Employment & Schooling & Poverty Index
Adverse Childhood Events

DEMOGRAPHICS

AGE - EDUCATION - RACE & ETHNICITY - MARITAL STATUS



30.7

PARTICIPANTS
AVERAGE
AGE

64%



PARTICIPANTS
BORN IN
THE U.S.

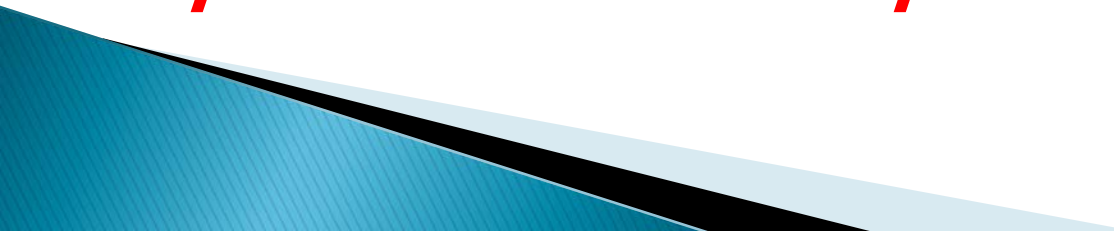


61%

PARTICIPANTS ALSO
INDICATED THEY WERE
SPANISH OR HISPANIC

6% OF PARTICIPANTS COMPLETED 4 OR MORE YEARS OF COLLEGE

Outcomes

- ▶ *Two thirds of the women report no symptoms of PTSD, depression, anxiety, danger for femicide, re-abuse, or poor functioning outcomes 2 years, 4 years, and 6 years out.*
 - ▶ *One third of the women & children report sustained poor outcomes.*
- 

Predicting Sustained Problems

Rapid Assessment Tools





FAST

FIRST ASSESSMENT
SCREENING TOOLS

START

SETTINGS

**Stopping Violence
Against Women
FAST**

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Does Forced Marriage Occur in US?

- ▶ A forced marriage happens without the full and free consent of one or both parties. Forced marriage is a marriage that is **THREATENED**.
- ▶ Forced marriage includes psychological manipulation, emotional blackmail, deception, and physical threats or violence, kidnapping, and death threats.



Questions Asked to 277 Women

- ▶ **Did anyone ever try to force you to marry? If yes**
- ▶ What type of force was used:
 - ▶ *Emotional threats* (parent/man threatens self-harm)
 - ▶ *Isolation* (cannot leave home)
 - ▶ *Social isolation* (outcast to family)
 - ▶ *Economic threats* (stop money)
 - ▶ *Threats of physical abuse*
 - ▶ *Actual Physical abuse*
 - ▶ *Sexual abuse*
 - ▶ *Death threats*



RESULTS

- ▶ 17% of the 277 women (1 in 6 women) report a forced marriage attempt
- ▶ 45% of the women reported the forced marriage attempt before the age of 18 with threats of abandonment and economic deprivation from parents if the girl did not marry.



RESULTS

- 23% report death threats
- 43% report marriage to the person,
- 60% report a pregnancy
- All women who report a forced marriage attempt also report more sexual abuse compared to women not reporting an attempt.



CONCLUSIONS

The frequent occurrence of 1 of 6 women reporting partner violence also reporting a forced marriage attempt, indicates routine assessment for forced marriage attempt as part of comprehensive care for women reporting intimate partner violence.

