



# Asian American Research Center on Health

## Abstract

**Title:** [Trauma Affecting Asian-Pacific Islanders in the San Francisco Bay Area.](#)

**Authors:**

**Author Information:**

1. Chinatown Community Development Center, San Francisco, CA 94111, USA. [polliebith@gmail.com](mailto:polliebith@gmail.com).
2. Asian Community Mental Health Services, Oakland, CA 94607 USA. [nagiachowdhury@gmail.com](mailto:nagiachowdhury@gmail.com).
3. Centre for Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics (CCEB), School of Medicine and Public Health, The University of Newcastle, Callaghan 2308, Australia. [charulata.jindal@newcastle.edu.au](mailto:charulata.jindal@newcastle.edu.au).
4. Centre for Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics (CCEB), School of Medicine and Public Health, The University of Newcastle, Callaghan 2308, Australia. [jimmy.efird@stanfordalumni.org](mailto:jimmy.efird@stanfordalumni.org).
5. Center for Health Disparities (CHD), Brody School of Medicine, East Carolina University, Greenville, NC 27834, USA. [jimmy.efird@stanfordalumni.org](mailto:jimmy.efird@stanfordalumni.org).

**Publication:** [Int J Environ Res Public Health](#). 2017 Sep 12;14(9). pii: E1053.  
doi: 10.3390/ijerph14091053.

**Abstract:**

Trauma is a transgenerational process that overwhelms the community and the ability of family members to cope with life stressors. An anthropologist trained in ethnographic methods observed three focus groups from a non-profit agency providing trauma and mental health services to Asian Americans living in the San Francisco Bay Area of United States. Supplemental information also was collected from staff interviews and notes. Many of the clients were immigrants, refugees, or adult children of these groups. This report consisted of authentic observations and rich qualitative information to characterize the impact of trauma on refugees and immigrants. Observations suggest that collective trauma, direct or indirect, can impede the success and survivability of a population, even after many generations.