



Asian CARES Report

"Living here, feeling so isolated
and far from home"

Unpacking the Root Causes of Problem Gambling
in the Asian Community

A presentation for:

The Massachusetts
Gaming Commission

December 2, 2021



CMAA សមាគមជំនួយ
CAMBODIAN MUTUAL ASSISTANCE ASSOCIATION OF GREATER LOWELL, INC.

Tufts | **CTSI** Tufts Clinical and
Translational Science Institute

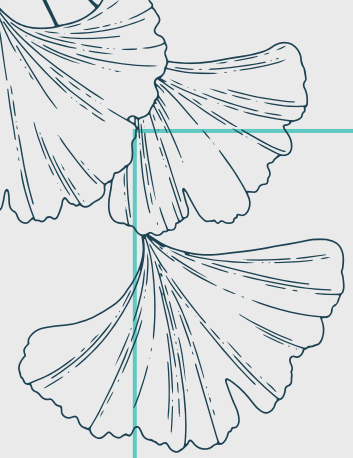


**Boston Chinatown
Neighborhood Center**
波士頓華埠社區中心

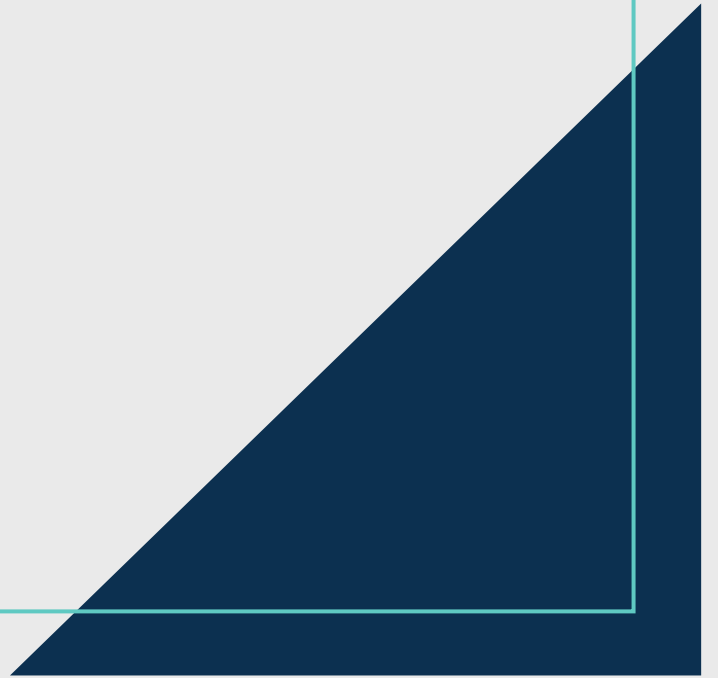
Asian CARES



ASIAN TASK FORCE
Against Domestic Violence



A Voice From the Interviews



Highlights

Fieldworkers: 18

Interviews: 40

Languages: Khmer, Chinese (Mandarin and Cantonese), Korean, Vietnamese

Interviewee Demographics:

93% of interviewees were immigrants

50% had high school diploma or less

66% identified as medium English proficiency or less

52% worked in the service industry

Highlights continued: Themes

Root Causes

- Gambling to earn money – cycle of poverty
- Cultural loss due to immigration
- Social isolation
- Gambling to relieve stress
- Escaping reality

Community Level Impacts

- Financial stress
- Deteriorating family life and damage to parent-child relationships
- Impact on elderly
- Domestic violence
- Impacts on mental health
- Death
- Challenges with discussing problem gambling

Role of casino buses and advertising

Recommendations

Fund and invest in ethnic-based Community Based Organizations (CBOs) to develop culturally and linguistically appropriate services for gambling prevention and intervention.

Develop new innovative reimbursement models for Community Based Organizations (CBOs) doing gambling intervention work beyond the traditional clinical model.

Invest in spaces of belonging

Expand the definition and use of “mitigation funds” to develop creative workforce development programs geared towards immigrants.

Equity audit for casinos focused on responsible gambling and advertising towards the Asian community.

Develop a steering committee of key community leaders such as partnering with Asian Pacific Islanders Civic Action Network (APIs-CAN) to address the root causes of problem gambling, particularly workforce development, healthy family functioning, behavioral health, and child support.



Questions