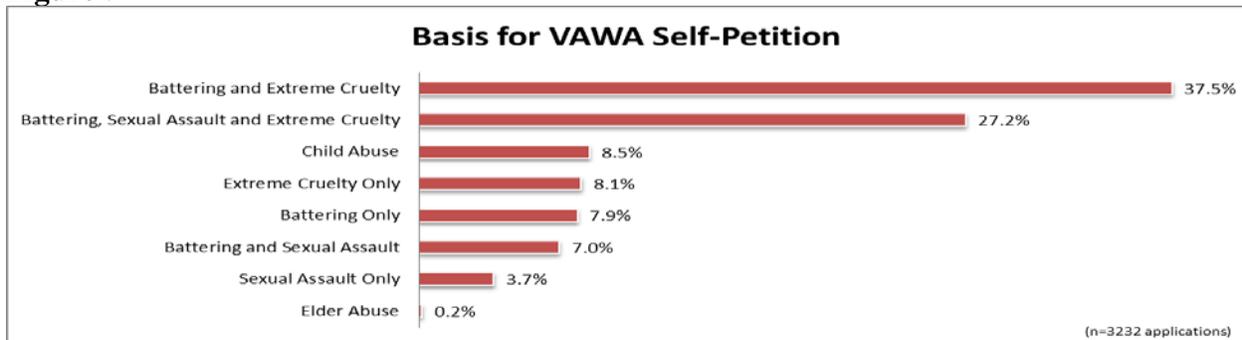


VAWA Self-Petitioning Research Data¹
Excerpts (February 12, 2014)

Profile of VAWA Self-Petitioners

Most VAWA self-petitioners who apply for relief suffer from multiple forms of abuse. Agencies responding to the survey reported that their clients' VAWA self-petitions were based upon either a combination of battering *and* extreme cruelty, or a combination of battering, sexual assault *and* extreme cruelty. These two groups combined constituted 64.7% (n=2090) of total self-petitions.

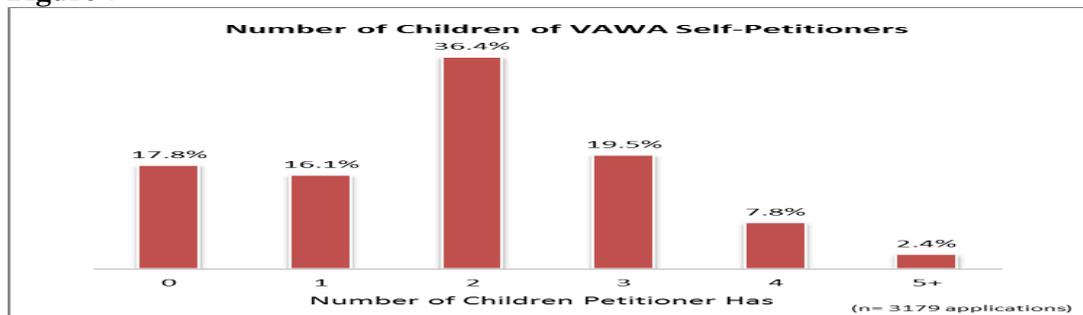
Figure 5



VAWA Self-petitioners' Children

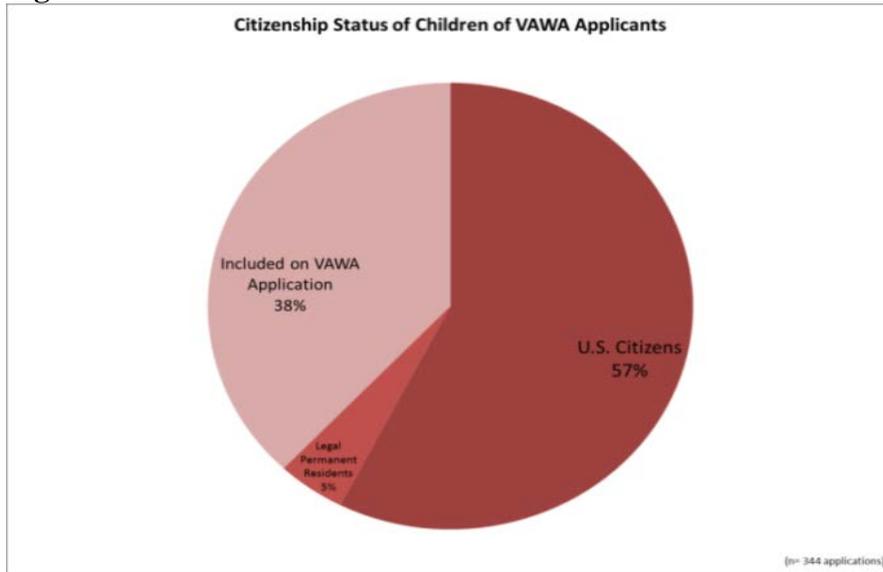
The VAWA remedies provide important protections for children living in immigrant families. The vast majority of VAWA self-petitioners (82.2%, n=2614) included one or more children in their applications.

Figure 7



¹ Krisztina E. Szabo, David Stauffer, Benish Anver, and Leslye E. Orloff, *Early Access to Work Authorization For VAWA Self-Petitioners and U Visa Applicants* (February 12, 2014) Available at http://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/pubs/final_report-on-early-access-to-ead_02-12/

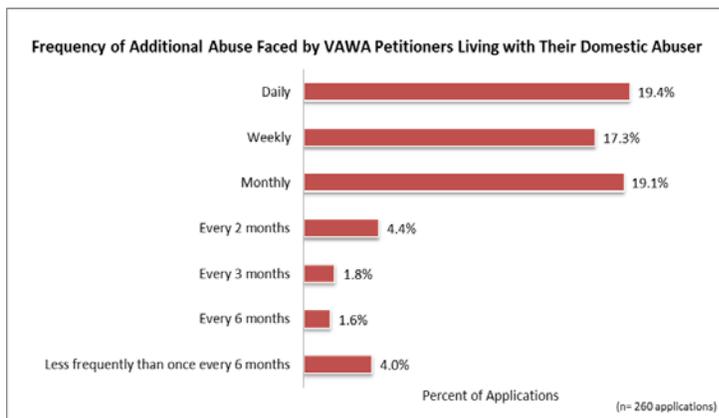
Figure 9



Frequency of Ongoing Abuse by Perpetrator While Awaiting Work Authorization

Over half (55.8%) of VAWA self-petitioners who live with their domestic abuser report abuse at least once a month.

Figure 21



Interaction with the Justice System

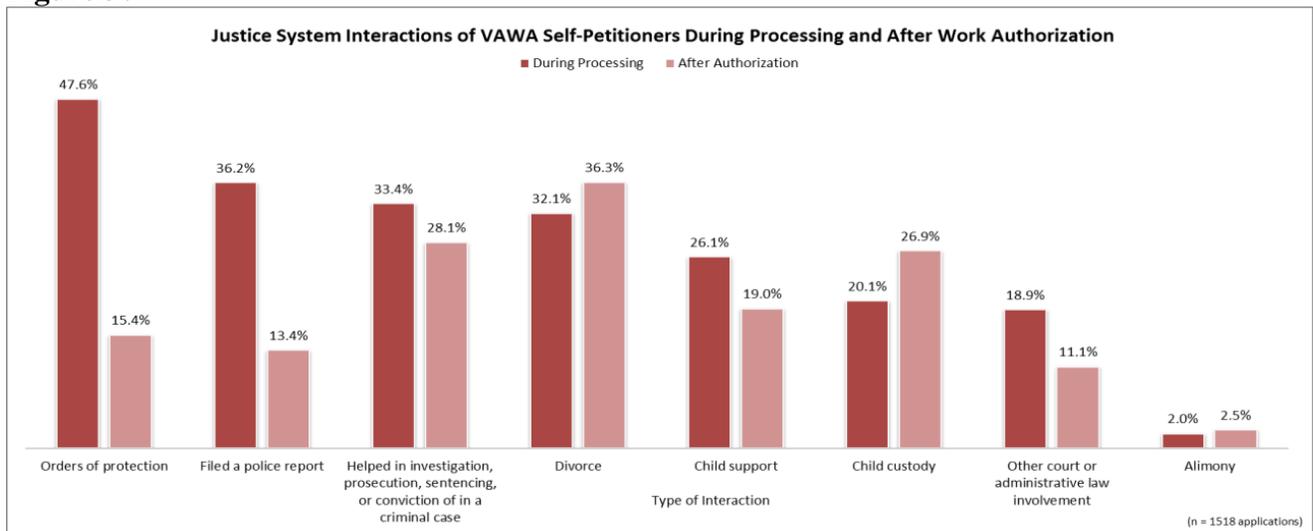
Despite the fact that significant numbers of VAWA self-petitioners continue living with their abusers and working for abusive employers during the pendency of their applications, VAWA self-petitioners have high rates of justice system participation.

VAWA self-petitioners participation in the criminal justice system: One important finding of the survey was that, while VAWA self-petitioners are not required to interact with the

criminal justice system as a pre-requisite to obtain immigration relief,² they are filing police reports at a significant rate of 36.2% (n= 643).

VAWA Self-petitioners seeking help from family courts: Almost half of VAWA self-petitioners (47.6%, n=723) seek protection orders after filing their immigration case and while their cases are pending. Another 15.4% (n=234) wait to file for protection orders until after their work authorization is granted. Despite VAWA self-petitioners’ willingness to get protection orders, their willingness to seek child custody and child support until after their case is adjudicated may be due in part to the fact that so many stay with their abusers until they receive work authorization through their immigration case. While awaiting work authorization, only 20.1% (n=305) of VAWA self-petitioners file cases in family court seeking child custody and 26.1% (n=396) seek child support. After adjudication, the rate of VAWA self-petitioners seeking child custody rises by 25.3% to 26.9% and divorce increases by 11.5% to 36.3%. However, with work authorization bringing options for economic independence VAWA self-petitioners seeing child support drops from 26.1% to 19%.

Figure 30



² This is because VAWA self-petitioners are immigrants who have a path to lawful immigration status based on their family relationship to a citizen or lawful permanent resident. Immigrants abused by their U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident family members who could have filed an immigration case on the immigrant family member’s behalf are eligible to VAWA self-petition.