

"Progress is impossible without change, and those who cannot change their minds cannot change anything."

- George Bernard Shaw

Key Needs Assessment: Methodology and Findings

As part of the needs assessment, it was important to review the "soil" of the state. Reinventing the wheel was not an activity in the process. Instead, ascertaining existing data and resources was the first step to the assessment process.

KEY NEEDS ASSESSMENT: METHODOLOGY AND FINDINGS

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SURVEY METHODOLOGY

Throughout the state, many organizations and professionals completed data gathering exercises as part of the development of agencies, program support and modifications, and grant narratives. Data and findings are included in the current analysis from the following resources:

- a) Oklahoma City Family Justice Center Strategic Planning Report prepared by the Family Justice Center Alliance (a program of Alliance for HOPE International), January 2016. Over 120 Planning Team participants, representing input (tribal and non-tribal) from survivors, providers, education, faith-based community, law enforcement, prosecution, judiciary and other members of the justice system
- b) Protective Order Process Survey, 2016 – 303 respondents provided 13,468 pieces of data
- c) Sexual Assault Survivor Focus Groups, 2013 – 50 participants
- d) Oklahoma District Attorneys Council, Office for Victims of Crime – Victim Compensation Formula Grant Program, Annual Performance Measures Report October 1, 2015-September 30, 2016
- e) Oklahoma Justice Reform Task Force: Victim/Survivor/Advocate Roundtables Summary Report and Priorities, December 2016

In addition to utilizing existing resources, the needs assessment included new data gathering instruments and processes. New data was gathered using the following instruments and methods:

- a) Statewide Threshold of Transformation Survey - 586 Respondents Provided 34,291 Pieces of Data
- b) Oklahoma Statewide Strategic Planning Key Stakeholder Survey - Three Tribal Justice Respondents Provided 65 Pieces of Data
- c) One-on-One and Small Group Interviews - 41 Participants Provided 1,146 Pieces of Data
- d) Focus Groups - Five Sessions included 28 Participants, Provided 140 Pieces of Data, 296 Seeds, and over 100 Descriptors
- e) Partners for Change Data Gathering - 40+ Participants Provided 188 Pieces of Data, Approximately 100 Seeds, and 188 Descriptors

During Phase II of the statewide needs assessment, a robust survey, Threshold of Transformation: Vision for Victim Safety Survey, was distributed to hundreds of people in Oklahoma to gather information regarding victim services and needs. Throughout this survey, the term sexual assault included both assaults committed by offenders who are strangers to the victim/survivor and assaults committed by offenders who are known to, related by blood or marriage to, or in a dating relationship with the victim/survivor. The term domestic violence/dating violence applied to any pattern of coercive behavior that is used by one person to gain power and control over a current or former intimate partner or dating partner. Stalking is defined as engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to fear for his or her safety or the safety of others, or suffer substantial emotional distress.

The survey was developed using the HIPAA-compliant version of Survey Monkey to insure anonymity; however, respondents still needed to feel a sense of trust in the people distributing it. As such, distribution channels were carefully reviewed by ICI professionals before support was requested. Several partners were selected to distribute the survey link to their email lists. The primary distribution methods for surveys included: attending coalition meetings and requesting participants to distribute; phone calls to service agencies; one-on-one requests for survey distribution made during all interviews, small groups, and focus groups; and reaching out to personal contacts. Additionally, the following email distribution lists were utilized to disburse the survey: Oklahoma Association of Chiefs of Police, OAG, DAC, OCADVSA, NAAV, OBA, multiple county bar associations, and County Health Improvement Organizations. Ultimately, the responses represented a good cross-section of Oklahoma’s urban and rural residents, victims/survivors and nonvictims/survivors, members of the justice system and other occupations, and members

of the community without a direct connection to the IPV community.

For trending and analysis purposes, the survey respondents were categorized into four primary groupings based on their self-reported alignment with various categories.



Victim

Survivor of interpersonal violence, victim/survivor of interpersonal violence, and family member of victim/survivor of IPV



Provider

IPV service provider, first responder, SANE, victim advocate with district attorney’s office, volunteer involved with IPV service provider



Justice

Member of judiciary, district attorney/assistant district attorney, government (federal, tribal, state, county, city), law enforcement, attorney (not DA/ADA), volunteer involved in justice system

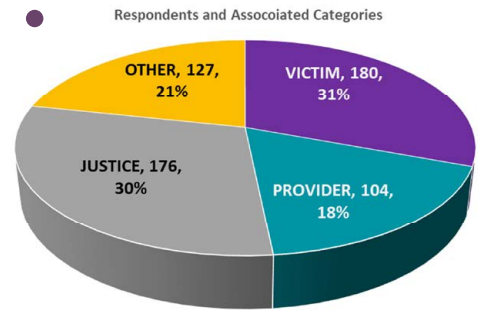


Other

Business, educator, faith-based leader, media, medical professional, non-profits (not including IPV services), other community member

DEMOGRAPHIC FINDINGS

The pie chart shows the size of the primary analysis groups in relation to the total respondents.



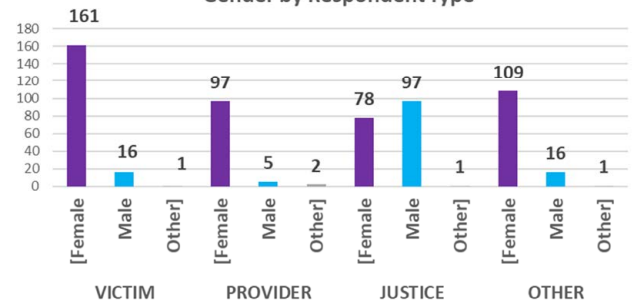
The distribution between the four analysis categories was very balanced. Reaching one-hundred eighty (180) people self-reporting as victims, survivors, and families of victims and survivors was very beneficial to adding depth to the data and insuring the victims' voices were heard.

Demographics Findings

The genders of the respondents is depicted in the following chart. As is not unusual in open surveys, more females responded than males.



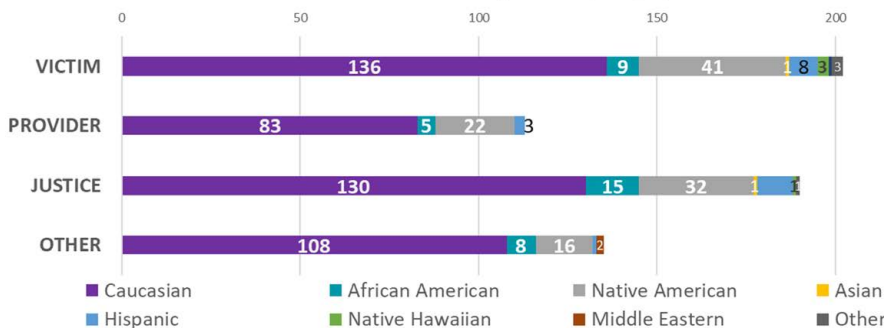
Gender by Respondent Type



Although more women completed the survey than men, both genders were adequately distributed between the survey analysis categories with anticipated spikes occurring for female victims and male justice respondents.

This chart presents the ethnicity of each of the groups of respondents. In all groups, Caucasian is the most represented ethnicity, followed by American Indian and African American.

Ethnicities of Respondents by Category



Percent Of American Indian In Each Category, Caucasian In Each Category

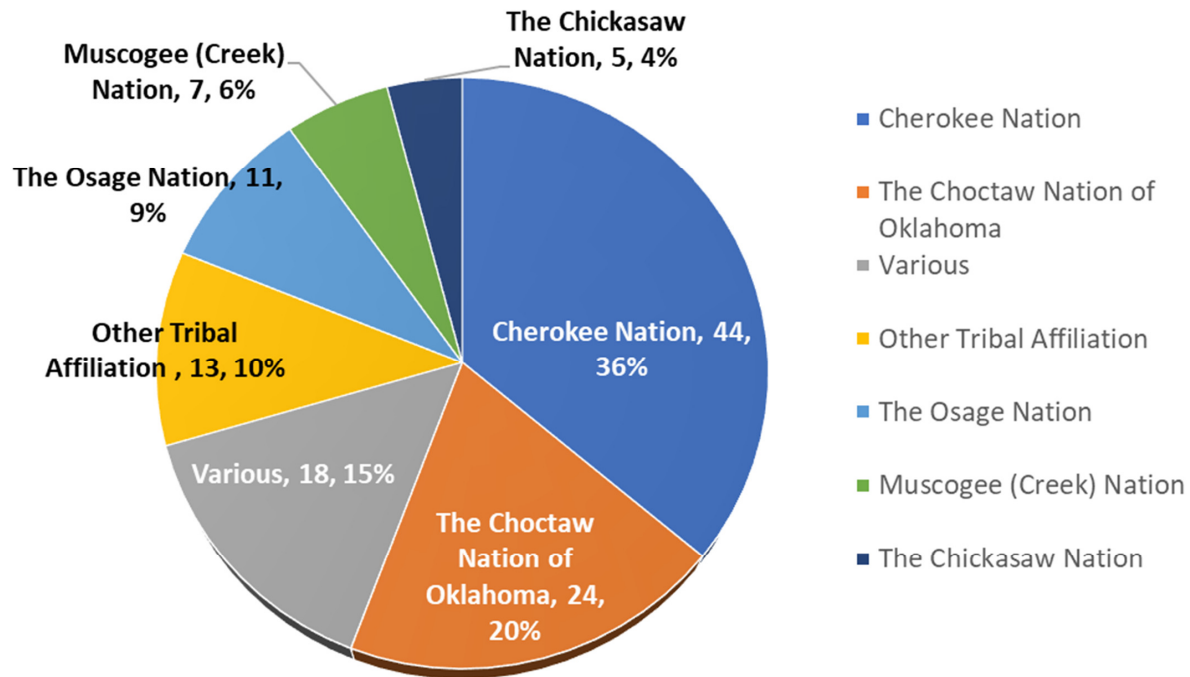
According to the most current census data, the survey response pool fairly mirrors Oklahoma's demographics.

Oklahoma Population Estimates for 2016	%
White	74.60%
American Indian or Alaskan Native	9.20%
Black or African-American	7.80%
Hispanic	10.30%
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	0.20%
Some other race	N/A
Asian	2.20%
Middle Eastern	N/A

<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/OK>

CATEGORY	Caucasian	African American	American Indian	Asian	Hispanic	Native Hawaiian	North African	Middle Eastern	Other Race
VICTIM	136	9	41	1	8	3	0	0	3
PROVIDER	83	5	22	0	3	0	0	0	0
JUSTICE	130	15	32	1	10	1	0	0	1
OTHER	108	8	16	0	1	0	0	2	0
TOTAL	457	37	111	2	22	4	0	2	4
PERCENT	71.5%	5.8%	17.4%	0.3%	3.4%	0.6%	0.0%	0.3%	0.6%

Of the respondents self-reporting as American Indian, the Cherokee Nation is most represented (36%) followed by the Choctaw Nation (20%) and the Osage Nation (9%). The “various” category is made up of tribes selected by only one or two respondents.

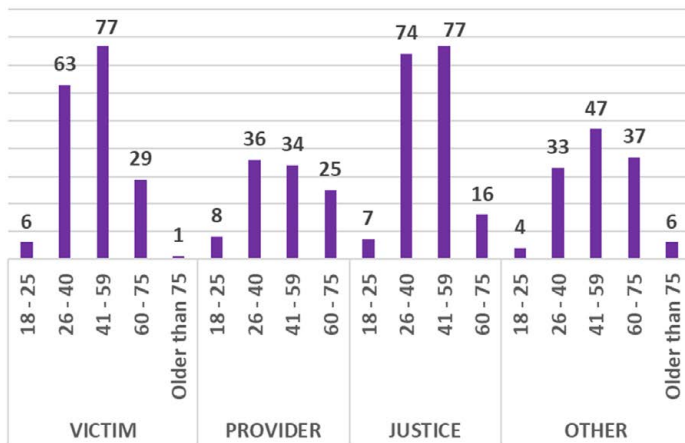


Tribes Represented by All Categories of Respondents

TRIBAL NAME	TRIBES REPRESENTED BY RESPONDENT CATEGORIES				
	VICTIM	PROVIDER	JUSTICE	OTHER	TOTAL
Absentee-Shawnee Tribe of Indians	1		1		2
Apache Tribe of Oklahoma			1		1
Caddo Nation of Oklahoma			1		1
Cherokee Nation	17	11	9	7	44
Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes			1		1
Comanche Nation		1			1
Delaware Nation			1		1
Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma	1				1
Kiowa Indian Tribe of Oklahoma	1		1		2
Muscogee (Creek) Nation]	3		4		7
Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma	1	1			2
Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma				2	2
Ponca Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma			1		1
Quapaw Tribe of Indians	1				1
Seneca-Cayuga Nation		1			1
The Chickasaw Nation	1		4		5
The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma	8	3	9	4	24
The Osage Nation	5	1	2	3	11
Tonkawa Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma			1		1
Other Tribal Affiliation	5	3	4	1	13
TOTAL	44	21	40	17	122

Additional demographic information gathered from the respondents included age, highest education level attained, and whether they reside in a rural or urban setting.

Age by Respondent Type

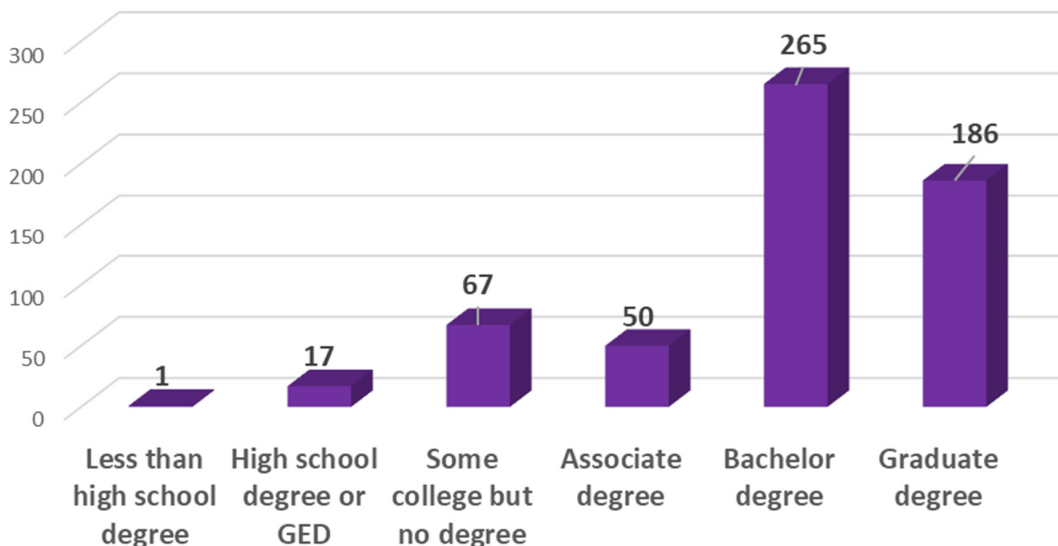


The data reflects a standard bell curve for age distribution.

AGE	Number of Respondents	% of Respondents
18 - 25	25	4.2%
26 - 40	208	35.3%
41 - 59	235	39.9%
60 - 75	107	18.2%
Older than 75	7	1.2%
Prefer not to answer	7	1.2%

The total respondent pool was highly educated. Only one (1) respondent had not achieved a high school diploma and seventeen (17) more had not attended college. The remaining respondents all had attended college with five-hundred and one (501) achieving an associate, bachelor, or graduate degree.

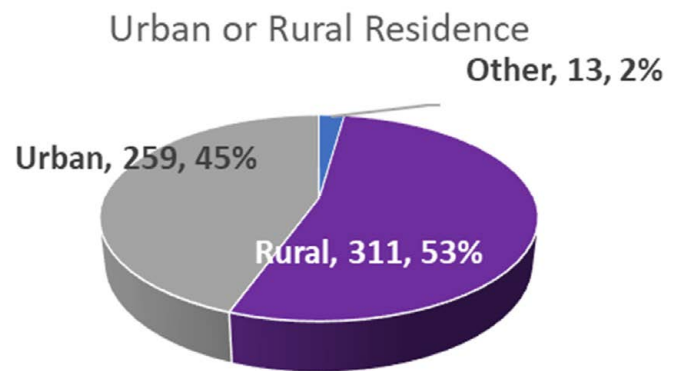
Total Response Pool: Highest Education Level Attained



The respondent pool for this survey included thirteen (13) respondents who listed themselves as a resident in an “Other” location. Historically, “Other” is linked to living in one area and working in another. The wording of the question was intended to avoid this issue, but unfortunately it leaves the data unclear as to where the thirteen (13) respondents live. The other respondents were well distributed between “Urban” and “Rural”. Fifty-four percent (54%) of the remaining respondents selected a rural residence and forty-five percent (45%) reported an urban residence.

In Oklahoma, a common perception exists that many gaps and challenges are tied to whether a victim resides in an urban or rural area. To determine if the urban/rural designation was required to carry-through all the analysis of victim responses, a comparison was completed based on victim residency.

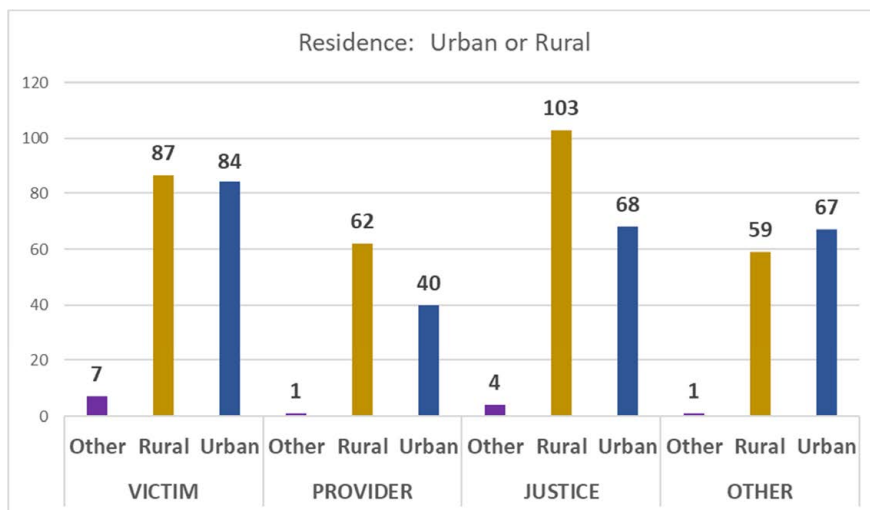
The data indicates an equal number of urban and rural victims in our response pool. Based on this outcome, the rural/urban distinction is not provided in all subsequent aggregation and reporting. Comparing the census data for Oklahoma to our response pool, our data reflects a slightly higher percentage of rural respondents; however, the difference is insignificant.



Total	Rural				Urban			
State's Total Population	Rural Population	Percent Rural Population	Rural Area in Sq Miles	Percent of Total Area that is Rural	Urban Population	Percent Urban Population	Urban Area in Sq Miles	Percent of Total Area that is Urban
3,751,351	1,266,322	33.76	67,288	98.10	2,485,029	66.24	1,307	1.90

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2010 Census of Population.

<http://www.census.gov/geo/www/ua/2010urbanruralclass.html>

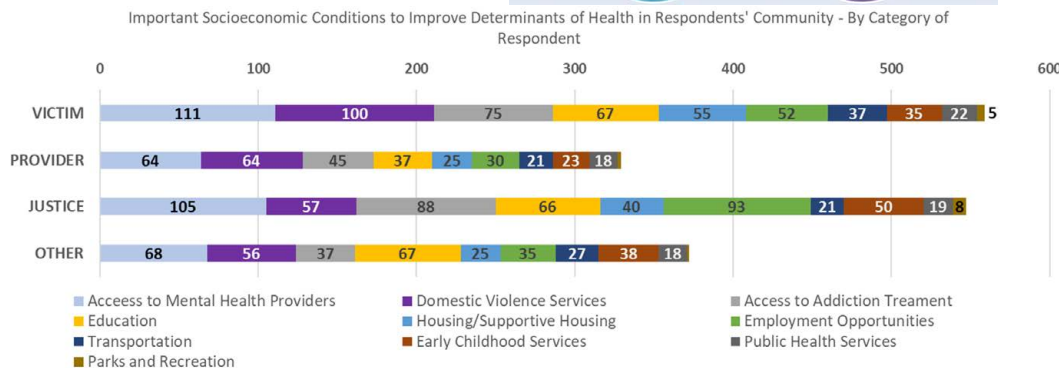


ALL RESPONDENTS

SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH

When surveying a potentially diverse population, gathering baseline information about "common ground" is often helpful when beginning an analysis of responses.

Social determinants of health are the structural determinates/conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work, and age. They include factors such as socioeconomic status, education, physical environment, employment and social support networks, as well as access to health care. All respondents were asked to select the three most important issues they believe need to be addressed to improve social determinants of health in their communities.



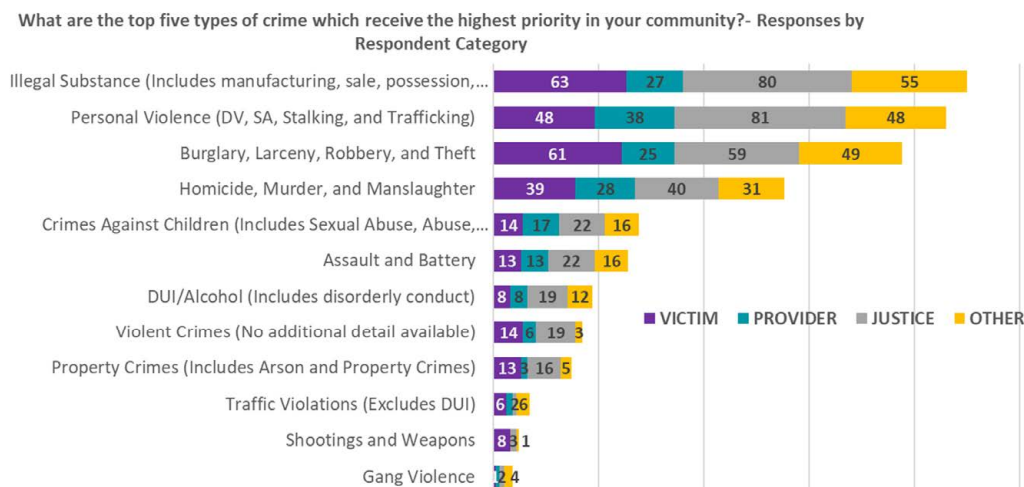
According to an article in the July 2017 JAMA Internal Medicine, geographic disparities in life expectancy among US counties are large and increasing. These disparities can be explained by a combination of socioeconomic and race/ethnicity factors, behavioral and metabolic risk factors, and health care factors. Policy action targeting these risk factors may aid in reversing the trend of increasing disparities. [See <https://media.jamanetwork.com/news-item/geographic-disparities-life-expectancy-among-u-s-counties/>]

The survey data reveals, victims and providers view domestic violence services as one of their top two issues. For the justice sector, domestic violence falls to fifth in their rankings. For other respondents, domestic violence services is in third position behind access to mental health providers and education.

Access to mental health providers is the top issue for all respondents.

PERCEPTIONS REGARDING CRIMES IN THE COMMUNITY

SURVEYS PART 1



Other crimes were available for respondents to select; however, the response rates were too low to include in the results. Service providers and the members of the justice category both reported "Personal Violence" as the highest priority in their communities. Victims and others ranked "Personal Violence" as the third highest priority in their communities.

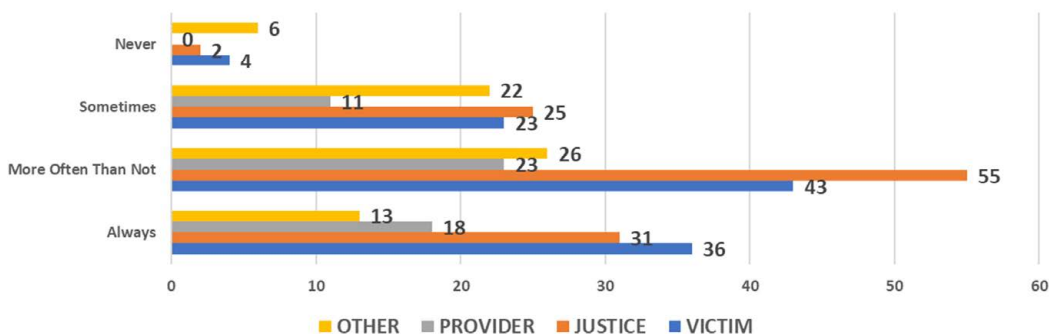
PERCEPTION OF SAFETY FACTORS

General Perceptions of Safety Factors

All respondents were asked general questions about various safety factors in their communities including protective orders and the dynamics of IPV.

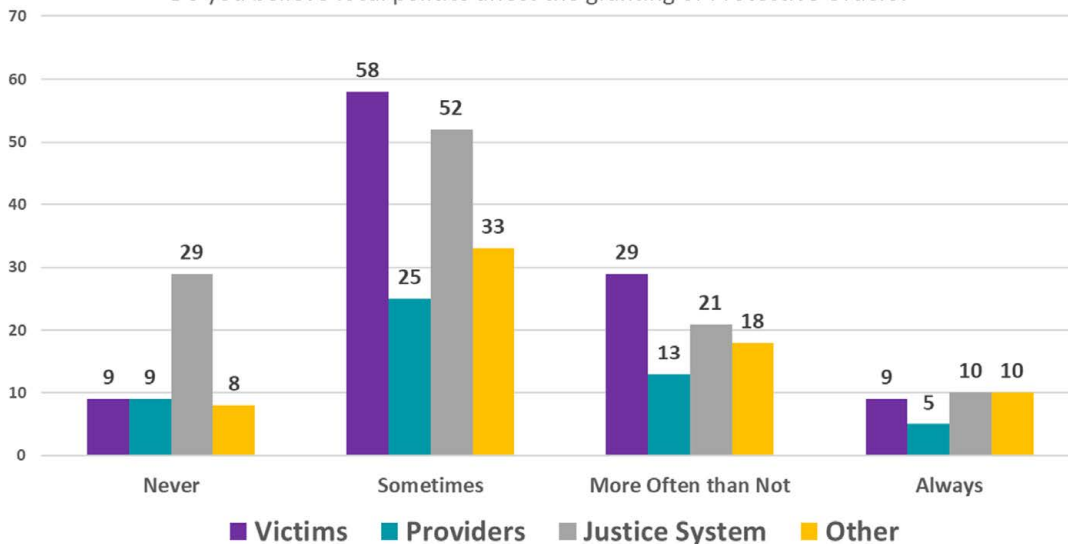
Based on the responses, all people participating in the survey, regardless of their analysis group, at least have some understanding of the protective order process in their communities.

Do you feel you have a thorough understanding of the protective order process within your community?

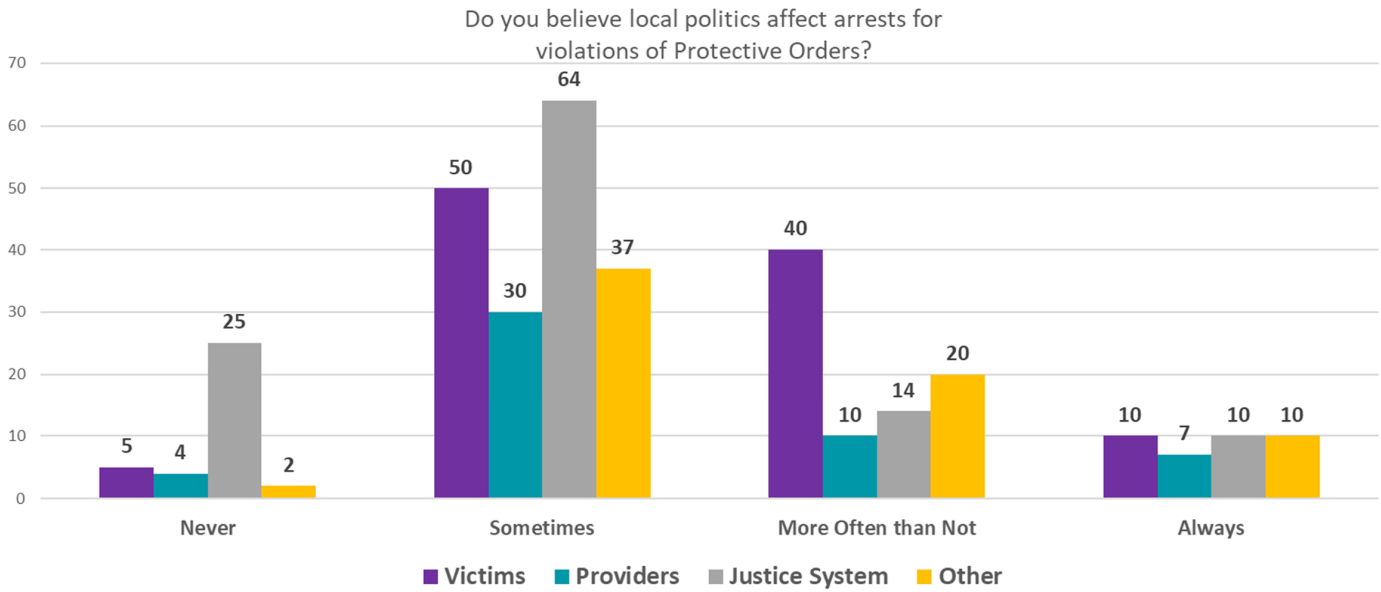


All respondents believe local politics has at least a minor impact on granting of protective orders. The justice system respondents are the only respondents who strongly stated (29 out of 112) that local politics never impact the granting of protective orders.

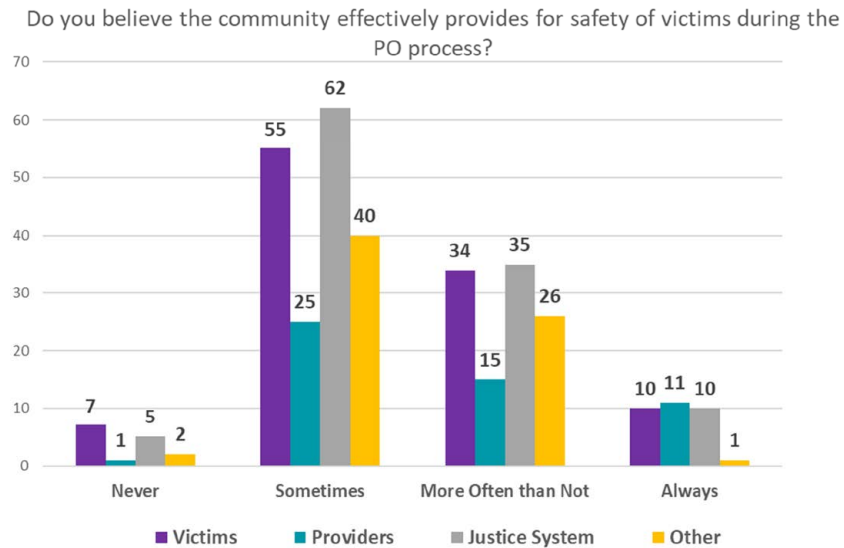
Do you believe local politics affect the granting of Protective Orders?



Responses from the justice system sector reveal more faith than the other sectors that local politics do not affect arrests for protective order violations; however, the victims responding to the survey strongly disagree. One hundred victim respondents indicate they believe local politics affect arrests. Providers and others believe local politics sometimes-to-always affect arrests.



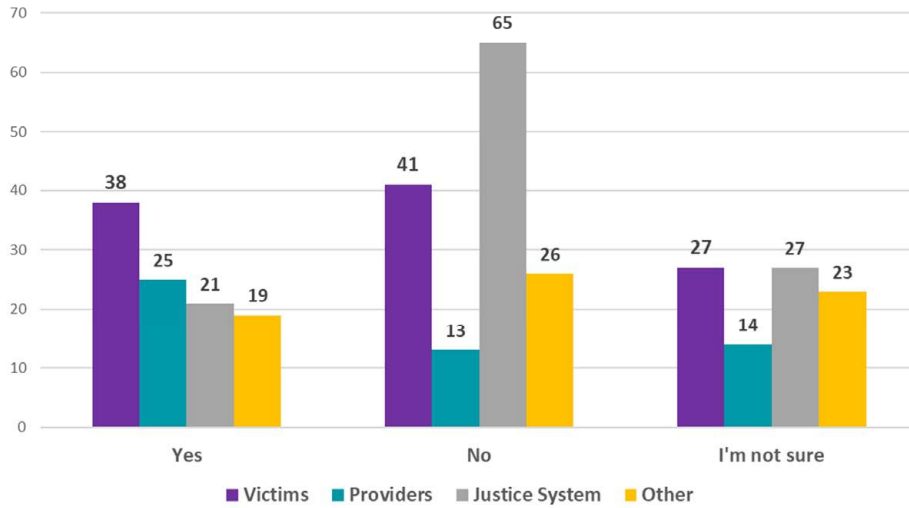
Most respondents believe the community sometimes or more often than not protects victims during the protective order process.



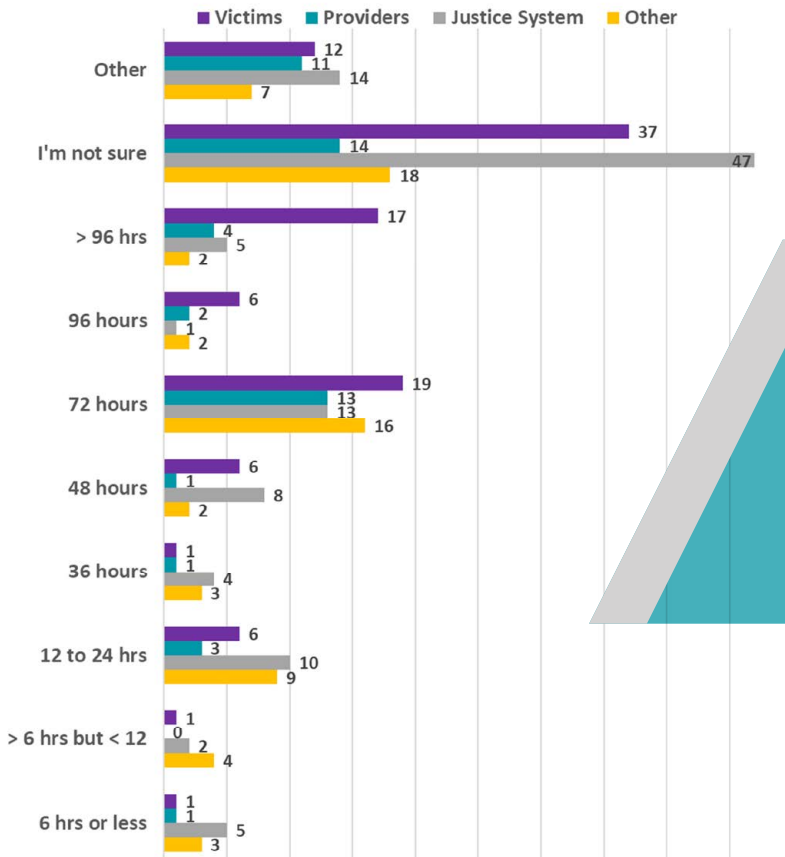


Jane Doe reporting or anonymous reporting for victims of sexual assault allows a victim to decide whether or not to report the crime. The data shows justice representatives do not understand the process. Awareness efforts and training would help providers, justice professionals, and members of the community better understand the process. NOTE: In Oklahoma, it has been reported that many law enforcement officers and prosecutors refer to “non-reporting SANE kits” as opposed to Jane Doe or anonymous reporting.

Do you feel you have a good understanding of anonymous reporting procedures in your community?



How long does a victim have before it is "too late" to do a SANE exam?



“THE HOSPITAL STAFF TOLD ME I HAD TO REPORT.”

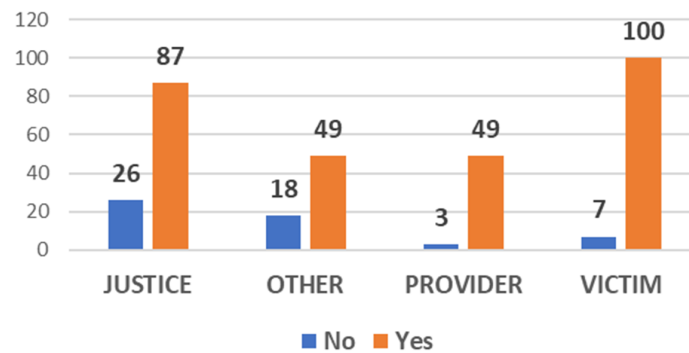
- SEXUAL ASSAULT SURVIVOR

One of the biggest challenges surrounding interpersonal violence is understanding the complexities of trauma and healing. However, the overwhelming majority of respondents report understanding the dynamics of IPV.

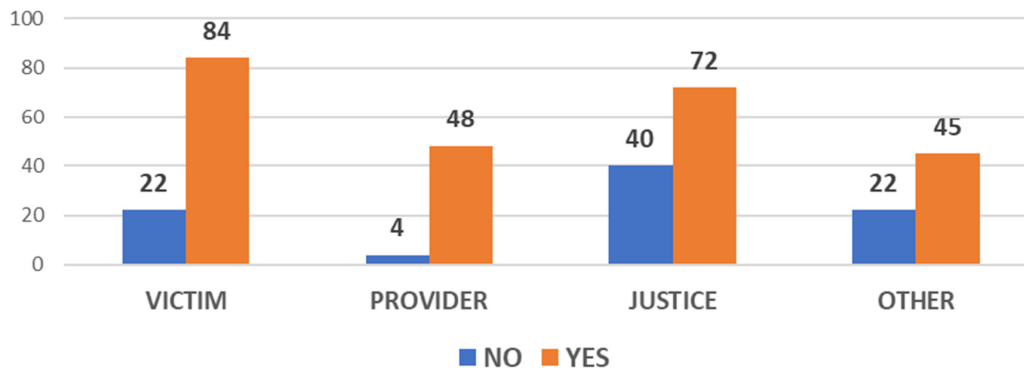


Oftentimes when people want to assist victims, they do not know what resources are available. Of the victims and providers surveyed, almost all of them report knowing what resources are available within their community. The data reflects more justice system and other respondents are split about 50/50 between knowing and not knowing about the resources. It should be noted that the distribution of the survey was primarily implemented through existing contacts within the IPV field in one manner or another.

Do you feel you have a thorough understanding of the dynamics of interpersonal violence?



Do you feel you have a thorough understanding of the resources available within your community for victims of interpersonal violence?



VICTIM RESPONSES



Primary Analysis Group: Victims

Additional questions were included in the survey based on the self-reported category of each respondent. For victims, several questions were included to gather perceptions of their safety, security, and stability.

RELATIONSHIP TO PERPETRATOR	# OF VICTIMS	%
Spouse	47	29%
Other Family Member	30	18%
Dating	27	17%
Significant Other	24	15%
Other	15	9%
Stranger	10	6%
Son or Daughter	5	3%
Unknown	3	2%
Co-worker	1	1%
Neighbor	1	1%



Four relationship types account for the majority of the reported perpetrators: Other Family Members, Spouses, Dating Partners, and Significant Others.

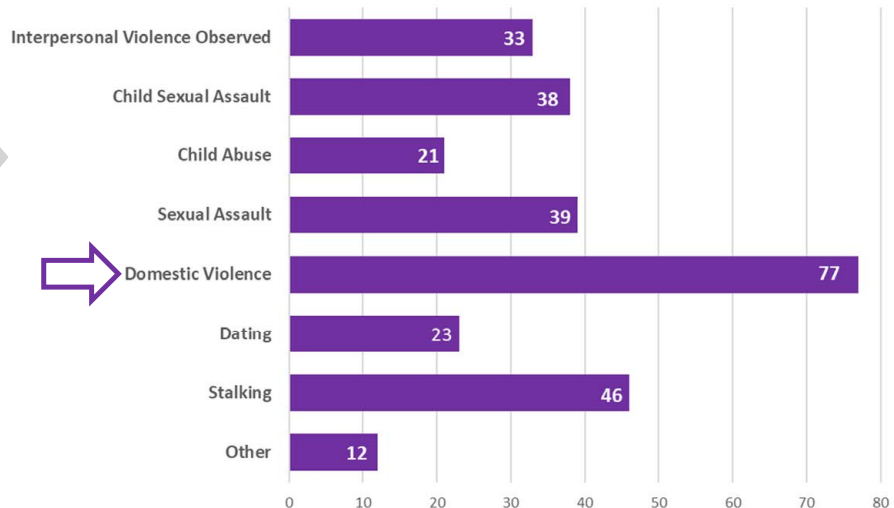
MANY SURVIVORS REPORT EXPERIENCING INTERGENERATIONAL VIOLENCE AND BEING VICTIMIZED ON MULTIPLE OCCASIONS.

According to David Finkelhor, Ph.D., Director, Crimes Against Children Research Center, University of New Hampshire, "polyvictimization refers to the experience of multiple victimizations of different kinds, such as sexual abuse, physical abuse, bullying and exposure to family violence, not just multiple episodes of the same kind of victimization." [See <http://polyvictimization.org/> retrieved 11 December 2017]

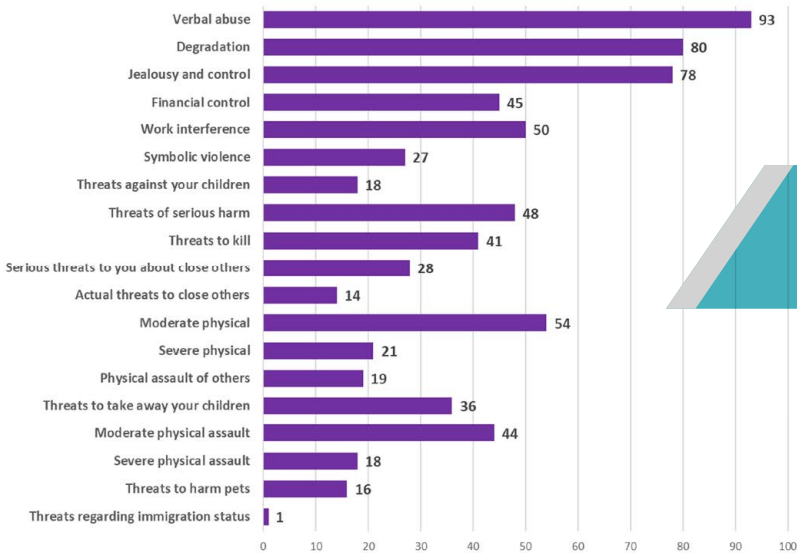
VICTIMS REPORTED DOMESTIC VIOLENCE NEARLY TWICE AS MUCH AS ALL OTHER FORMS OF IPV



Which forms of interpersonal violence have you experienced?



Please check all of the following abuse tactics used against you by the perpetrator.



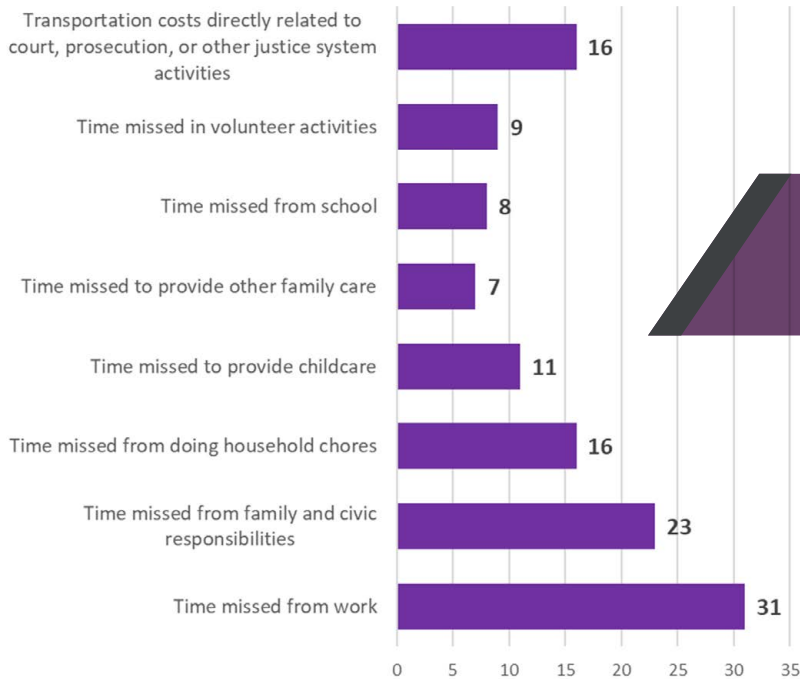
WHAT DID YOUR ABUSER DO TO YOU?

Victims reported verbal abuse, degradation, and jealousy and control are the most often occurring abuse tactics.

“DISTRICT ATTORNEYS NEED TO PURSUE CASES EVEN IF THEY AREN’T SURE THEY CAN WIN.”

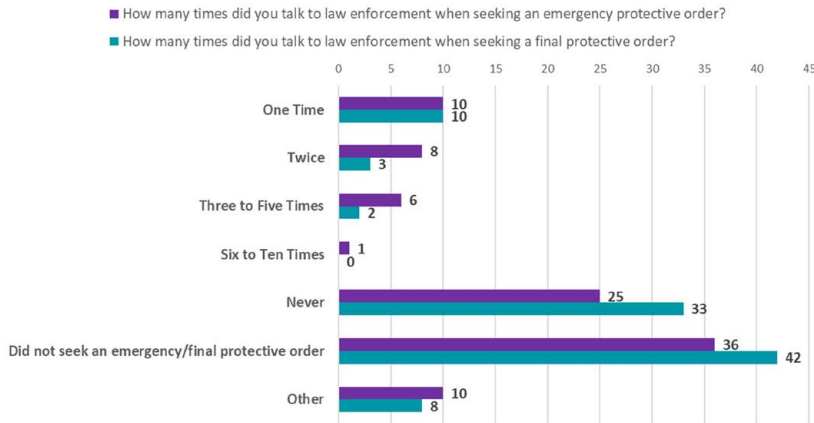
- ASSAULT VICTIM

Please check all experiences you had resulting from the interpersonal violence which prompted you to seek a protective order.



WHY REPORT?

Victims reported a plethora of experiences as the impetus for seeking a protective order.



TO WHOM DID YOU TALK? LAW ENFORCEMENT? DISTRICT ATTORNEYS?



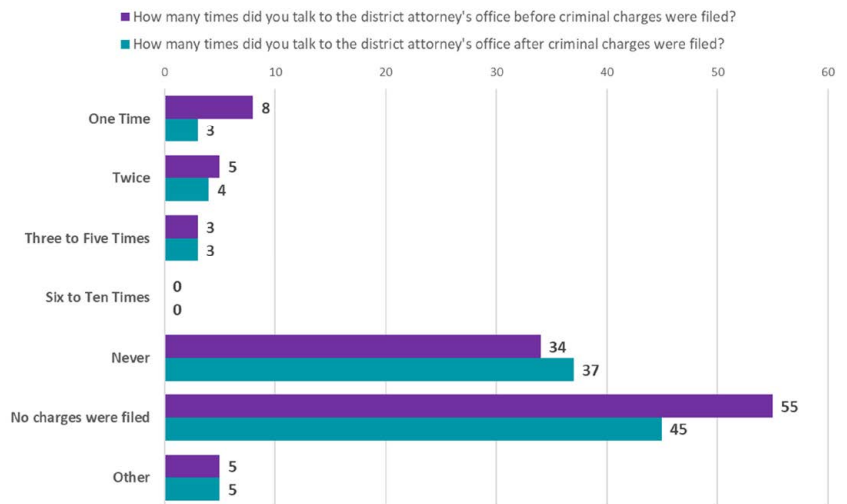
Victims rarely spoke with law enforcement more than once when seeking emergency and final protective orders.



The majority of victims reported not speaking to the district attorney's office more than five times before and after criminal charges were filed.

Seventy-one (71) victims never spoke to the district attorney before or after criminal charges were filed.

One hundred (100) victim respondents reported that no criminal charges were filed



More victims utilized mental health counseling as a result of IPV than any other service.

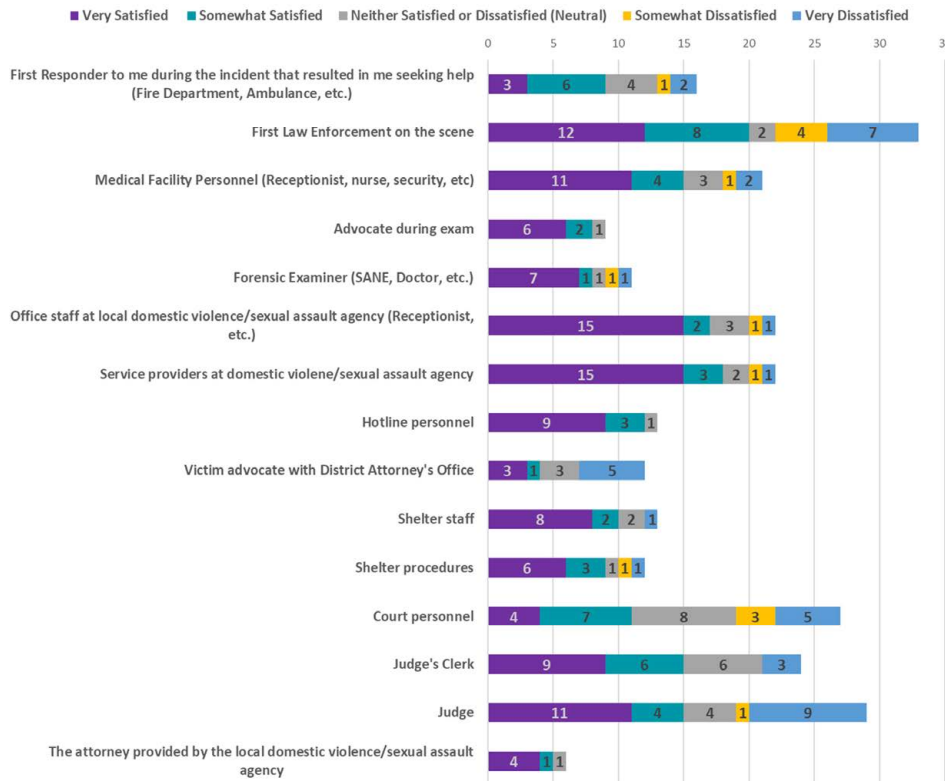


Services Used By Victims	#
Mental health counseling	29
A victim advocate	18
Legal services performed by private attorneys	15
Doctor	14
Crisis line	10
Protective order assistance	10
Marriage counseling	9
Psychiatry	8
Emergency room visits	7
Nights stayed in a domestic violence shelter or homeless shelter	7
Pastoral counseling	6
In-person crisis counselor	6
Domestic violence support groups	6
Group therapy for mental health or substance abuse	5
Contacted my local agency directly without using a hotline	4
Urgent treatment care	3
Contacted the National Domestic Violence Hotline (1.800.799.SAFE) or www.TheHotline.Org	3
Legal services performed by legal aid attorneys	2
Sexual assault support groups	2
Dentist	1
Ambulance	1
Physical therapy	1
Residential substance abuse treatment	1
Legal services performed by an attorney at the domestic violence service provider's Office	1
None of the victims reported using the hospital or contacting StrongHearts Native Hotline	

Please rate your satisfaction level with each of the following.



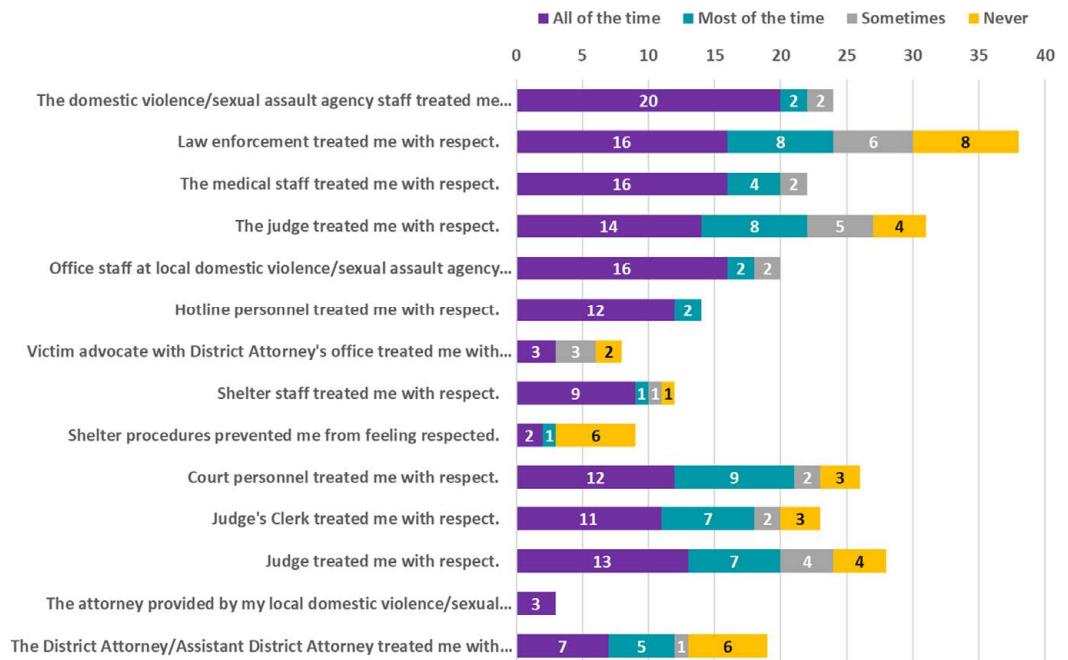
SATISFACTION AND RESPECT



Thirty-eight (38) victims were very dissatisfied with the professionals they encountered following their IPV incident. The lowest satisfaction ratings assigned by victims were attributed to: 1) first law enforcement officers on the scene; 2) the judge; and 3) court personnel.



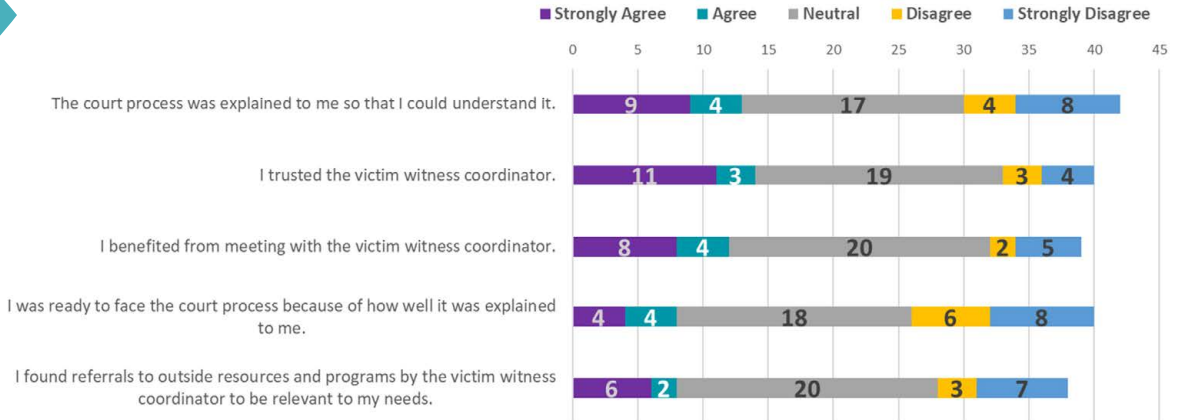
Please describe your perceptions of the frequency and appropriate level of respect paid to you during your interactions.



Thirty-seven (37) victims never felt respected by a combination of law enforcement, the judge, victim witness coordinator, shelter staff and procedures, court personnel, and the DA/ADA

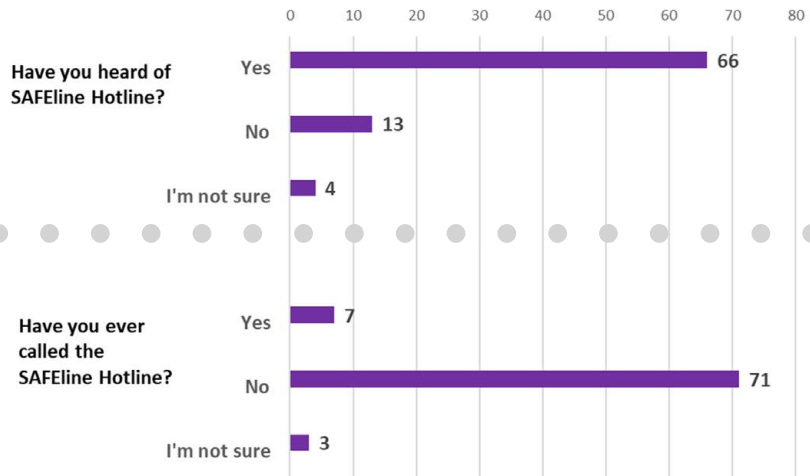


Each District Attorney's office employs victim witness coordinators and advocates who assist victims. For example, these individuals assist in completing the victim's compensation process.

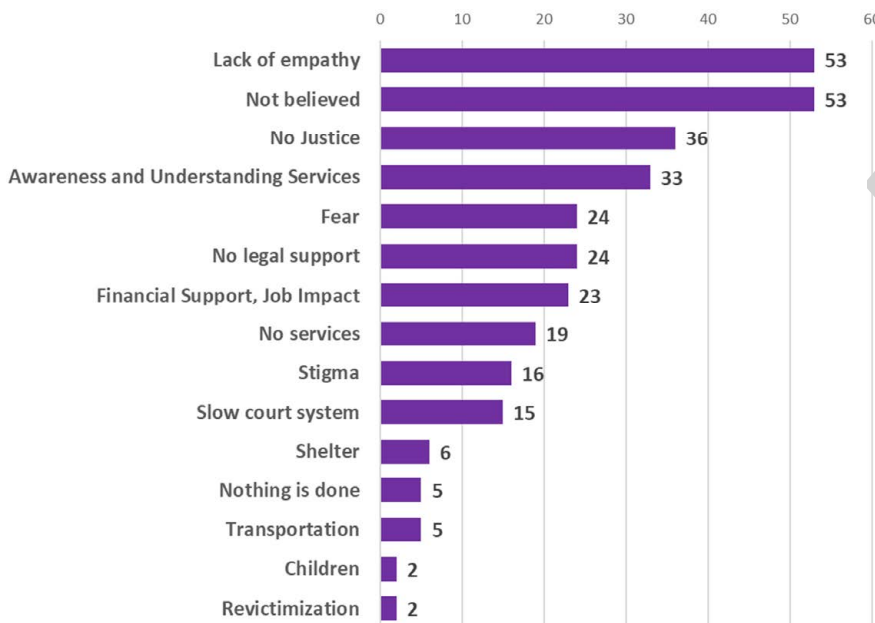


OKLAHOMA SAFELINE 1-800-522-SAFE (7233)

Eighty percent (80%) of victims reported knowing about the SAFELINE; however, only eight percent (8%) called the violence hotline.



Issues and Problems Identified by Victims Regarding Court System and Services



Based on their experiences, victims were asked to indicate issues and problems they encountered with the court system. Lack of empathy and the feeling they were not believed tied as the top issues experienced by the victims. The third highest problem identified by the victims was No Justice.

PROVIDER RESPONSES

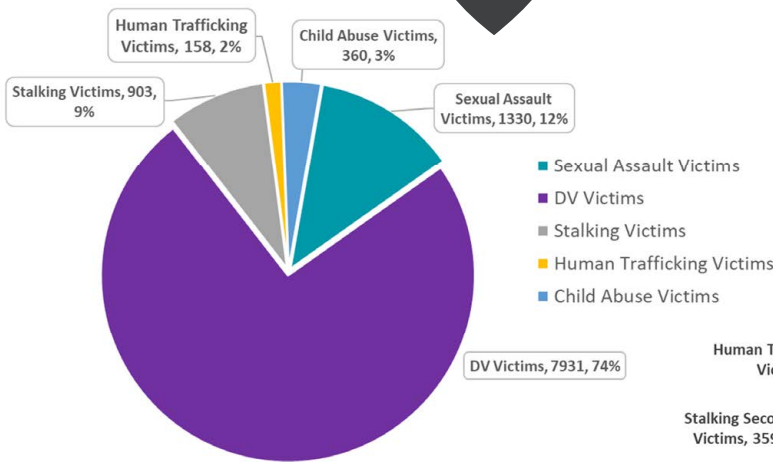


Primary Analysis Group: Providers

Additional questions were included in the survey based on the self-reported category of each respondent. For providers, several questions were included regarding the number of victims served, services offered, trainings held and attended, and perceptions of safety, security, and stability processes. The provider respondent pool represents twenty-one (21) agencies.



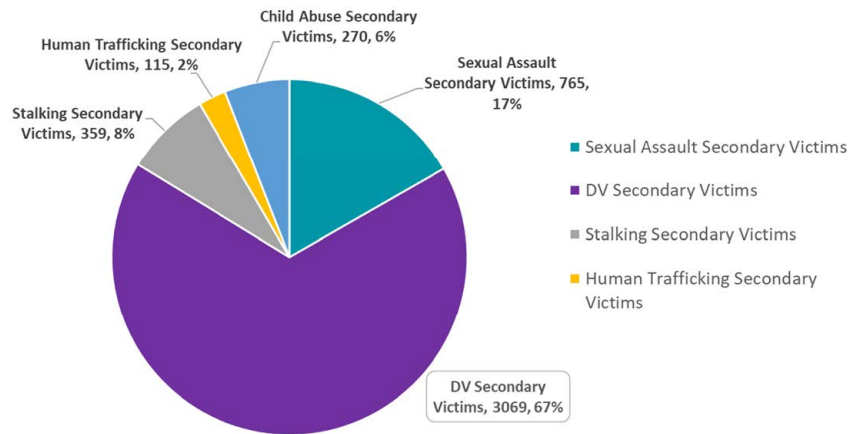
Seventy-four percent (74%) of victims served reported domestic violence.



Provider: Number of Primary Victims Served

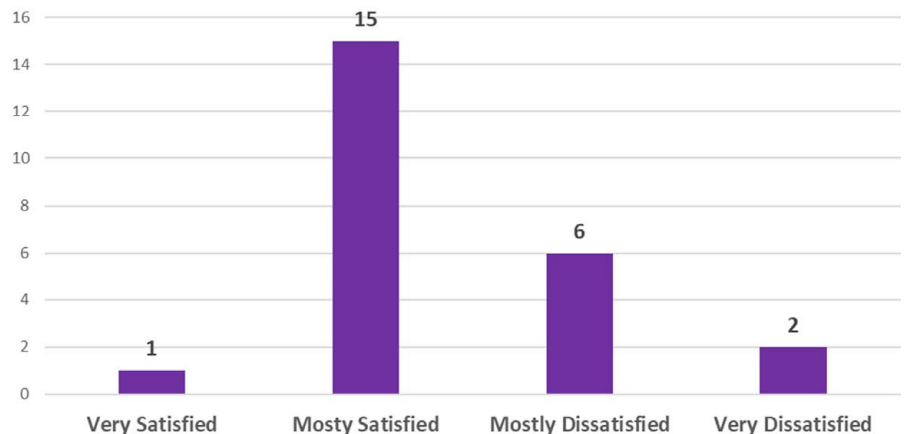
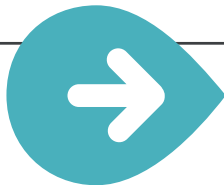


Providers reported secondary victims were impacted by all forms of IPV; however, the overwhelming majority were impacted by domestic violence.



Provider: Number of Secondary Victims Served

Service providers reported being Mostly Satisfied with the level of services their organizations currently provide.



Provider: Current Service Satisfaction

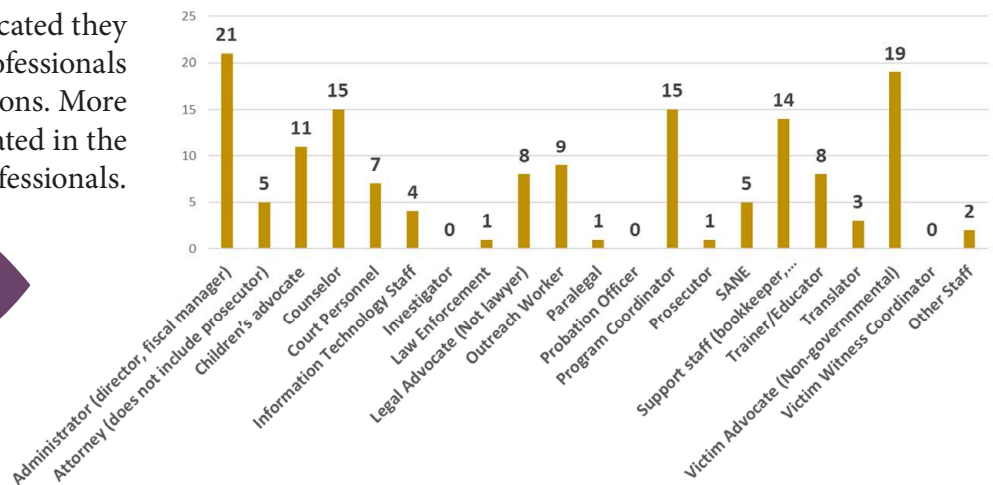
Providers report 20.1% of their agency's time is spent on youth awareness activities. Providers also report 20.2% of their agency's time is spent on adult awareness activities.

PERCENT OF TIME SPENT ON AWARENESS ACTIVITIES BY AGENCY	
ADULT AWARENESS ACTIVITIES	YOUTH AWARENESS ACTIVITIES
20.2	20.1

Provider respondents indicated they employ a variety of professionals in their organizations. More administrators participated in the survey than other agency professionals.



NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS BY PROFESSIONAL TITLES WITHIN AGENCY



Although a variety of professionals are represented as attendees at agency trainings, other survey question responses indicate more trainings are still needed.



Who attended trainings offered by your agency?	
DHS	18
BIP Staff	17
Educators	17
Mental Health Professionals Attended Training	17
Faith Based Staff	16
Non-tribal Law Enforcement	16
Health Professionals	14
Non-tribal Court Personnel	13
Attorneys and Law Students	12
Child Care Workers	12
Child Advocates	12
Multidisciplinary Team Members	12
DOC Personnel	11
Tribal Court Personnel	7
Government Staff	6
Tribal Law Enforcement	6
Advocacy Groups	5
Legal Services	5
Interpreters	3
Military Command Staff	3
Immigration Staff (Nongovernmental)	2

“PLEASE EDUCATE THE COMMUNITY! I DID NOT UNDERSTAND THE ISSUES UNTIL I WAS ASSAULTED.”

- ASSAULT VICTIM

Most service providers report attending trainings held by OCADVSA and the OAG; the number of providers attending a NAAV training is very low.

Attended an OCADVSA Training	Attended an OAG Training	Attended a DAC Training	Attended a NAAV Training	Attended a Local Provider Training
104	104	22	8	16

WHY DID YOU NOT SERVE EVERYONE?

ONE SURVIVOR'S REQUEST

“We need a means to share real stories and not just theories. Tell them about GI issues, nightmares, men who date us or try to date us, thoughts of or attempts at suicide, PTSD, losing our jobs, and losing our family and children.”

- ASSAULT SURVIVOR

Providers reported reasons they were unable to provide services to victims.

8	Victim's Mental Health Issues
7	Lack of Child Care
7	Victim's Substance Abuse Issues
5	Language Barriers
5	Capacity Being Reached
5	Limited Resources
3	Victim's Disabilities
2	Statutory Requirements
1	Conflict of Interest
1	Hours of Operation

NUMBER OF AGENCIES PROVIDING SPECIFIC SERVICES	SPECIFIC SERVICES
12	Transportation
8	Civil Legal Advocacy and Court Accompaniment
7	Childcare
6	Child Advocacy
5	Support Group Counseling
4	Crisis Intervention
4	Specific Services for Male Victims
2	Hospital, Clinic, or Other Medical Response
1	Criminal Justice Advocacy and Court Accompaniment
1	Forensic Exams
1	Relocation
1	Safe Exchange Programs
1	Victim/Survivor Advocacy
None of the service providers reported providing Civil Legal Assistance, Language Services, Referrals to Federal or State Prosecution, Transitional Housing, Victim-Witness Notification and Youth Services.	

Although agencies are to serve all victims, the ethnicities of victims being served seems to be predominately Caucasian. The data reflects the need to incorporate new methods of inclusion into services and shelters. Based upon the reported ethnicities of victims, the provider respondent pool appears to be primarily, if not completely, comprised of non-tribal agencies.



UNDERSERVED VICTIMS

- One agency reported having a victim present with a hearing impairment.
- Four agencies reported victims presenting with disabilities.
- One agency reported having a victim present with limited English proficiency.
- No agencies reported victims presenting as immigrants.
- Three agencies reported rural resident victims.
- One agency reported a victim presented as LGBTQ.
- One agency reported male victims.
- One agency reported American Indian victims.
- Six agencies reported Asian victims.
- Two agencies reported African American victims.
- Four agencies reported Hispanic victims.
- No agencies reported Native Hawaiian victims.
- Eight agencies reported Caucasian victims.
- No agencies reported North African victims.
- No agencies reported Middle Eastern victims.

AGENCY POLICIES

- No agencies reported having policies addressing child sexual assault, substance abuse, or mental health issues
- One agency reported having a policy regarding services for the underserved
- Three agencies reported Confidentiality Policies
- One agency reported having a policy regarding mandatory training requirements
- No agencies reported having policies regarding Jane Doe reporting, board and staff diversity, crime victim compensation, going to ER with victims, preventing retraumatization, documentation requirements, free forensic exams, or mandatory training for SA advocates
- Two agencies reported having a policy on routine screenings and referrals



AGENCY MARKETING

- Three agencies have billboards.
- Three agencies have videos.
- Twenty-two agencies have brochures.
- Four agencies have manuals.
- Seven agencies have newsletters.
- Seven agencies have posters.
- Seven agencies have Public Service Announcements.
- Sixteen agencies have websites.
- Twenty-one agencies have Facebook accounts.
- Eight agencies have social media (other than Facebook).

AGENCY DATA TRACKING PROCESSES

Agency Data Tracking Process	
14	Protective Orders
7	Case Management
6	Use Evaluation/Outcome Measures
5	Court Orders and Compliance
5	Court Docket
5	Stalking and Harassment Protective Orders
5	Survivor/Victim Notifications
5	Protective Order Violations
4	Arrests and Charges
4	Victim Services
3	Prosecutions
3	Recidivism
3	Sentencing
2	Child Protection Service Involvement
2	Convictions
2	Incidents
2	Warrants
1	Bail and Bond Amounts
1	Probation Violations

HOW ARE WE DOING ACROSS THE STATE?

100% of domestic violence service providers report consistent court systems will improve perpetrator accountability.

93% of domestic violence service providers report domestic violence cases are not handled in a timely manner.

93% of domestic violence service providers report Coordinated Community Response Teams improve victim safety.

FACTOR	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	N/A	Some Level of Agreement	Some Level of Disagreement
Victim witness coordinators assist in the court process	8	8	5	0	0	1	16	0
Having a victim witness coordinator assists with collaboration	6	8	4	0	1	1	14	1
Having one judge for all actions is a positive	12	8	0	0	1	1	20	1
Having all services available in one location is a benefit for victims	6	9	6	0	1	0	15	1
Victim witness coordinators assist with access to courts	1	5	10	0	0	1	6	0
DV is handled in an timely manner	0	1	7	0	7	0	1	7
Victim witness coordinator is approachable with questions	8	12	2	0	0	1	20	0
A CCRT improves victim safety	9	6	5	0	1	2	15	1
A CCRT improves perpetrator accountability	6	6	7	0	2	1	12	2
A SART improves victim safety	8	9	4	0	0	1	17	0
A SART improves perpetrator accountability	6	5	7	0	1	1	11	1
A DVRT improves victim safety	5	8	4	0	0	4	13	0
A DVRT improves perpetrator accountability	2	8	6	0	1	4	10	1
The level of communication between partners is adequate.	3	7	7	0	0	1	10	0
Perpetrator accountability can be improved with consistent court systems	16	6	2	0	0	0	22	0
If victims understand the legal system, they are more likely to participate in treatment.	5	6	8	0	0	0	11	0

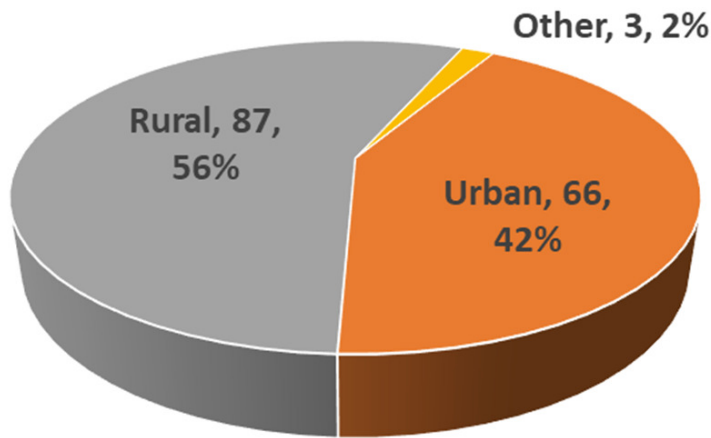
LAW ENFORCEMENT RESPONSES

Law Enforcement: Unique Perspectives

Although the primary groupings are essential to the overall survey analysis process, due to the high response rate by law enforcement, specialized reports are available without adversely affecting confidentiality. One-hundred fifty-six (156) respondents identified as law enforcement. It is worth noting, that if the respondent also self-identified as a victim or survivor, the majority of their answers were aggregated in the victim analysis grouping.



Law Enforcement Residences

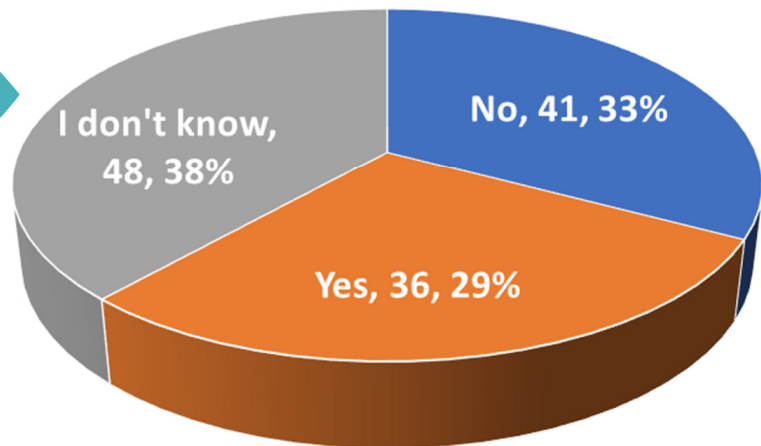


Law enforcement residences are fairly well balanced between rural and urban.



Does your jurisdiction have tribal-state cross-deputization agreements?

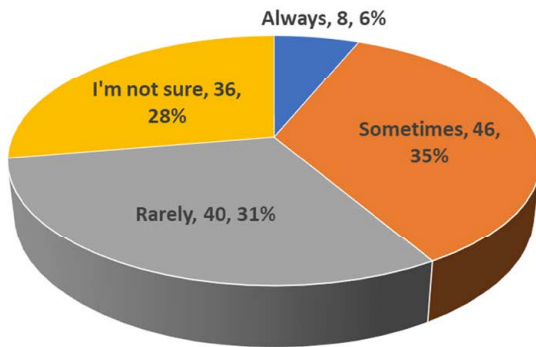
Cross-deputization agreements are often utilized by law enforcement who are near or share geographic boundaries between tribal and non-tribal land.





Jurisdictional challenges may occur based on location of crime, ethnicity of parties, federal lands, tribal lands, state lands, county lands, and municipalities within a close proximity. The data shows forty-one percent (41%) of the law enforcement officers have experienced jurisdictional challenges in responding to domestic violence and sexual assault cases.

How often do crimes of domestic violence or sexual assault result in jurisdictional challenges?

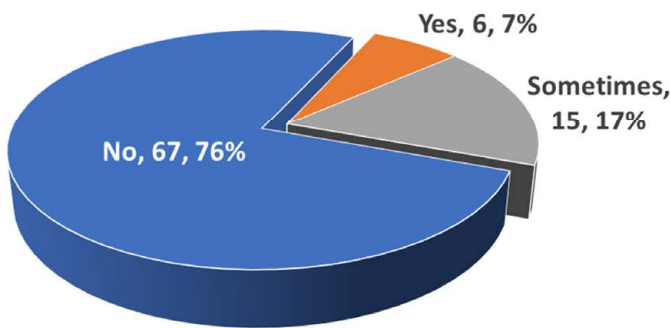


Law enforcement officers are welcome to attend several trainings in Oklahoma. Oftentimes, attendance is limited by time and work constraints.

Trainings Attended by Sponsor/Host

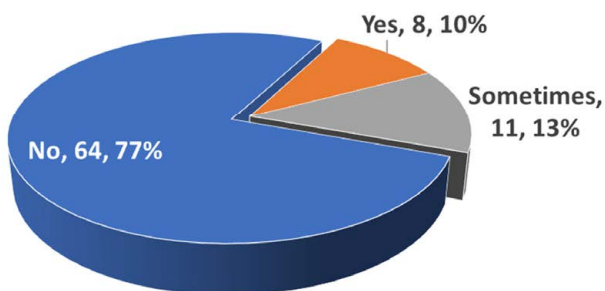
Attended an OCADVSA Training	Attended an OAG Training	Attended a DAC Training	Attended a NAAV Training	Attended a Local Provider Training	Partners for Change Conference
35	29	35	6	43	19

When you have used the DVL-S for FR, did the victim request you to call the local provider?



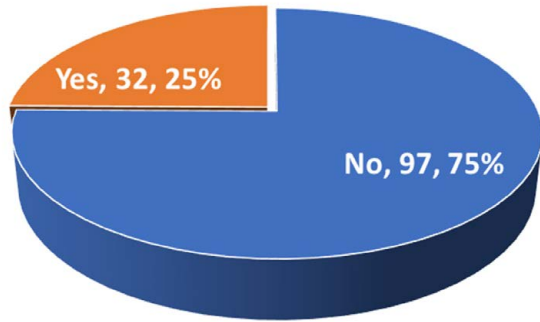
The Domestic Violence Lethality-Screening (DVL-S for First Responders) is a tool utilized by law enforcement when responding to scenes where domestic violence may be present. As the data reflects, less than a quarter of victims requested law enforcement call a local provider. The complexities of trauma experienced by victims is a contributing factor to the low request rate.

When you have used the DVL-S for FR, did the local provider send an advocate to the scene?



Over three-quarters of the time a DVL-S for FR was completed, an advocate was not dispatched to the scene.

Are you aware of the Child Welfare Domestic Violence Manual?

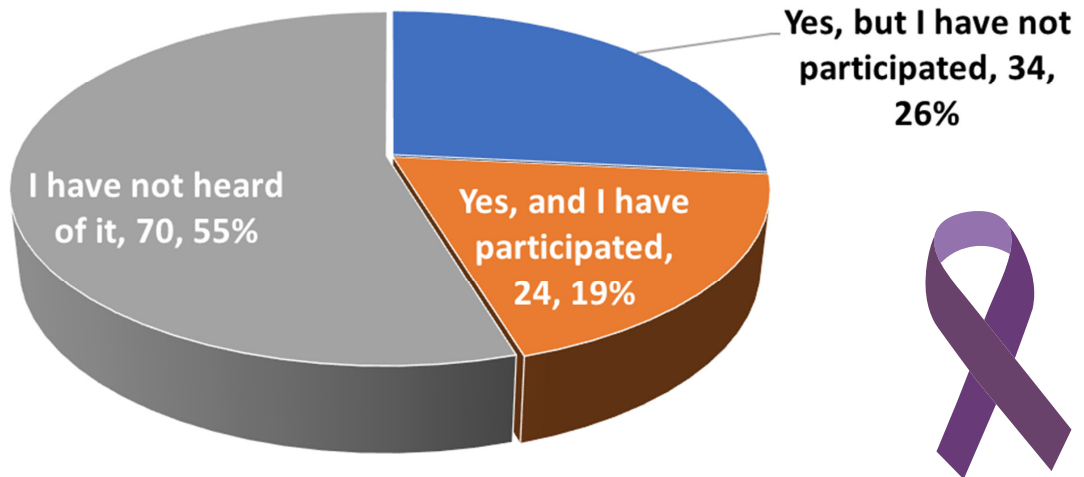


The Child Welfare Domestic Violence Manual is a Department of Human Services desk reference guide for use by Oklahoma Child Welfare professionals. Twenty-five percent (25%) of responding law enforcement knew about the manual. Anecdotal responses indicate law enforcement professionals who are co-located with DHS employees, such as in Family Justice Centers, have an increased likelihood of knowing that the manual exists to protect the interest of children.



Although the exact history of the purple ribbon is difficult to pinpoint across the country, families and friends of victims have adopted the purple ribbon to remember and honor their loved ones who have lost their lives at the hands of a person they once loved and trusted. Shelters and local victim services programs use the purple ribbon to raise awareness about the crime of domestic violence in their communities. Forty-five percent (45%) of law enforcement respondents knew about the campaign with nineteen percent (19%) of respondents actually participating in the event. <https://nrcdv.org/dvam/traditional-campaign-events-ideas>

Have you heard of the "Purple Ribbon" Campaign? If so, have you participated in a campaign?



THRESHOLD OF TRANSFORMATION: VISION FOR VICTIM SAFETY FOCUS GROUPS AND INTERVIEWS

During 2017, as part of the statewide needs assessment, several interviews, small group discussions, focus groups, and a data gathering process during the Partners for Change Conference provided many additional pieces of data. Some of the groups were too small to insure confidentiality, so the following results are an aggregate of responses gathered throughout the varied methods.

Integrated Concepts conducted in excess of forty (40) one-on-one and small group interviews with a gender breakdown of approximately seventy-five percent (75%) female and twenty-five (25%) male. Both tribal and non-tribal providers participated in this process. To insure confidentiality, the interviewees were categorized into one of the survey analysis groups based on their primary profession: Providers and Justice. The interviewees were well distributed between urban and rural service areas.

All people interviewed shared a passion for victim services. They also had a deep knowledge of services available and how the "system" works in Oklahoma. Some participants represented OCADVSA member agencies and others were not members of the coalition.

Several insights were shared during the interview process. Thoughts and perceptions shared by more than half of the interviewees are contained in the consensus findings. However, other insights, suggestions, and comments have influenced and impacted many parts of the strategic plan.

Additional data was gathered during the 2017 Partners for Change Conference from participants who attended ICI's Threshold of Transformation: Safety, Security, Stability breakout session and from participants who visited the Threshold of Transformation information booth.

METHODOLOGY



MIRROR EXERCISE

During the focus groups which were conducted as part of the Needs Assessment, each participant was guided through the following exercise. The reader is invited to participate in the exercise.

THE TWO PRIMARY QUESTIONS TO ASK:

ONE

Do we base our perceptions on Fear or Ignorance?

TWO

Do we base our perceptions on Love and Wisdom?



As you look into your eyes in the mirror, begin to silently say some good and encouraging things about yourself, tell yourself how strong you've been and will continue to be, tell yourself how happy you are about what you've already achieved and what you will achieve in the future.

Still looking in your eyes in the mirror, silently tell yourself "I am amazing, I am good enough, I am a beautiful and wonderful person."

End by saying to yourself

"I Love You"

Now answer the question:

Who are you?

Now answer the question:

Why are you here?

And lastly:

Do you feel uncomfortable doing this exercise? Why?

During the process of reading through the Threshold of Transformation: Vision for Victim Safety and implementation of the recommendations, there will probably be times you feel uncomfortable, angry, confused, or bored; keep in mind the "guests" you serve often feel these same emotions. If we are to heal the systemic issues which decrease victim safety, security, and stability, we must confront and transform these thoughts.

DISCOMFORT CANNOT STOP PROGRESS



Faithfulness.

Symbolize good health or things that are good for you.

Self-regulation.

Controlling an unruly nature.

Extending good wishes for joy and abundance to those you care about.

Portends prosperity.

Emblem of the triune nature of humankind (body-mind-soul), because the tree bears flowers, leaves, and fruit simultaneously.

WHY ORANGES?

We have chosen the orange to symbolize how each of our individual thoughts (seeds) plus how and where those “seeds” are planted, nurtured, or transformed will determine the “harvest” of services we obtain. The following properties of the orange can also symbolize victim services and those who provide the services:

Properties and symbolism of the orange. . .	Lead us to ask these questions related to Vision for Victim Safety . . .
The energy and fragrance of the orange is always cleansing.	Are our services cleansing the effects of victimization?
Orange blossoms are most abundant in the Spring; about 2% produce fruit. The flowers are usually so abundant that even this small percentage is enough to ensure a good crop.	Do we value the fact that a small percentage of the population can bring abundance to our work?
Orange trees are long lived; they can last as many as 100 years if cared for properly.	Do we value the fact that attention to the needs of our organizations can ensure sustainability?
The orange symbolizes good health or things that are good for you.	Are our organizations good for the providers and for the individuals we serve?
The orange is emblematic of the triune nature of humankind (body-mind-soul), because the tree bears flowers, leaves, and fruit simultaneously.	Do our services address the body-mind-soul of all involved; do we understand we are human and cannot be divided into “parts”?
Oranges portend prosperity.	Do our services aid in bringing prosperity to the communities we serve?
Oranges extend good wishes for joy and abundance to those you care about.	Do the environments in which we work extend good wishes to all who enter our doors?
Oranges control an unruly nature.	Do our services “react” to the chaos that is interpersonal violence or do our services “respond” to the underlying needs of those we serve?
Oranges are symbolic of self-regulation.	Are we responding from fear or ignorance or from love and wisdom?
Oranges are symbolic faithfulness.	Are we thorough in the performance of our duty to those we serve? Our colleagues? Our communities?

ASIAN CITRUS PSYLLID AND HUANGLONGBING



A tiny insect no bigger than a grain of rice may go unnoticed on citrus trees, but it can have devastating consequences if not stopped. The Asian citrus psyllid feeds on citrus leaves and stems, and can infect citrus trees with bacteria that causes a serious plant disease called Huanglongbing, also known as HLB or citrus greening disease.

The best way to protect citrus trees from HLB is to stop the Asian citrus psyllid. Once a tree is infected with HLB, it will die. Diseased trees need to be removed in order to protect other citrus trees on the property, neighbors' trees and the community's citrus. [See <http://californiacitrusthreat.org/pest-disease> retrieved on 8 July 2017]

For us, a tiny thought no bigger than a grain of rice may go unnoticed; however, that tiny thought could have devastating consequences for Oklahoma victim services if not stopped.

If we allow these tiny thoughts to go unchecked, we can become a "bug" within our "orange grove," the Oklahoma Victim Service System.

WHO

Who are the "bugs" in your community?

HOW

How can we transform the "bugs" into champions?

INVITE

Invite them into being part of the solution.



Peacefulness
 Love
 Healthiness
Joy
 Forgiveness
Compassion
Happiness
 Ease
Freedom
 Stability
 Wisdom
 Hope
 Understanding
 Enlightenment

THOUGHTS AS SEEDS

All of our thoughts can be classified in three categories: Wholesome, Indeterminant, or Unwholesome. As you read through the Threshold of Transformation: Vision for Victim Safety Strategic Plan, you are invited to be aware of your thoughts and ask yourself the following questions:

- What are my perceptions of these "seeds" (thoughts)?
- Is this perception formed from love and wisdom?

IS THIS A WHOLESOME THOUGHT WHICH SHOULD BE NOURISHED?

RECOGNIZE

Can I recognize which thoughts are wholesome?

HABITS

How can I cultivate, celebrate, and grow wholesome (positive) habits?

EMBRACE

Can we embrace the wholesome thoughts?

IS THIS AN INDETERMINANT THOUGHT WHICH COULD GO EITHER WAY? CAN I RECOGNIZE WHICH THOUGHTS COULD GO EITHER WAY?

Examples:

- Compassion without healthy boundaries can lead to enabling, i.e. perpetuating the problems
- Righteous anger can move us out of fear into action and wisdom

Arrogance
 Difficulties
 Discrimination
 Anxiety
 Ignorance
 Suffering
 Hostility
Fear
 Sorrow
Sadness
Anger
 Craving
Delusion
 Unhappiness

**CAN WE RECOGNIZE
THAT EVERYONE HAS
BOTH WHOLESOME AND
UNWHOLESOME THOUGHTS?**



WHAT

IS THIS AN
UNWHOLESOME
THOUGHT WHICH CAN
BE TRANSFORMED?

RECOGNIZE

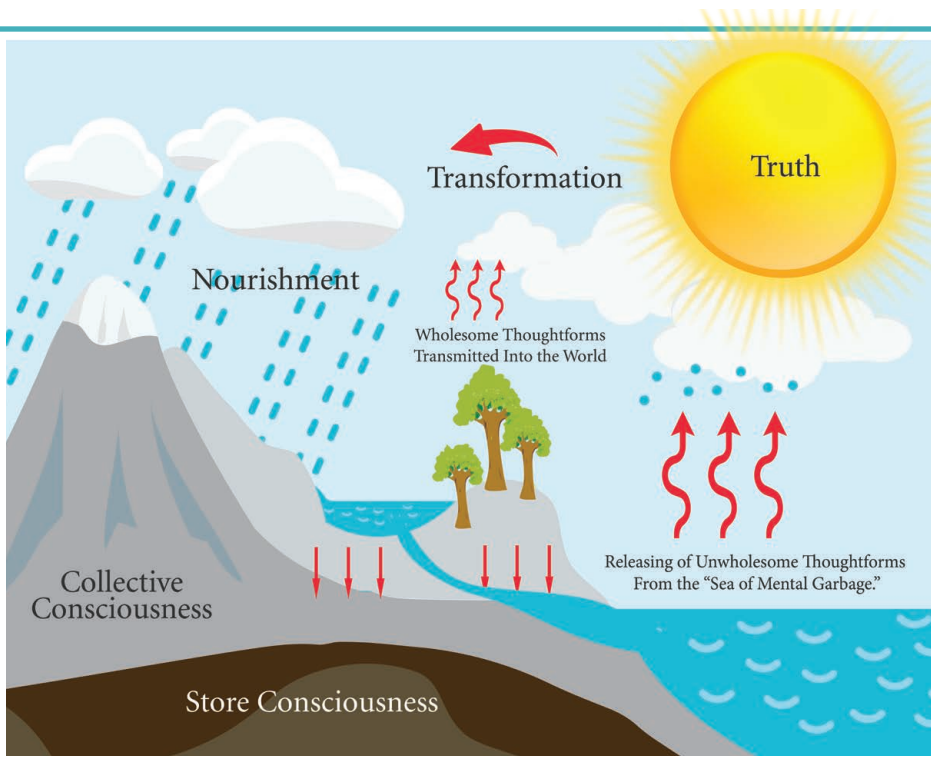
CAN WE
RECOGNIZE
WHICH ONES ARE
UNWHOLESOME?

ORIGIN

IS THIS PERCEPTION
FORMED FROM
FEAR AND
IGNORANCE?

HOW

HOW CAN I
RECOGNIZE, EMBRACE,
AND TRANSFORM
UNWHOLESOME
(NEGATIVE) HABITS?



PLANTING THE SEEDS

As we continue to survey the "soil" in which our current victim service system is planted, we will benefit from understanding the "soil" from which our own thoughts have originated. Our consciousness consists of:



As we each examine our role in the victim services system, we honor those who have come before and the foundation they created and “deposited” into our store consciousness. We recognize that these “deposits” have created the current environment, i.e. the collective consciousness in which we now work. We know we can expose any of the “unwholesome” thoughts and manifestations to the light, to the “truth” of what is so that they may be released and transformed into wholesome parts of a safe, secure, stable environment for all. We can nurture all “wholesome” thoughts and manifestations with the “truth” of what is so that they may flourish and strengthen the foundation of the safe, secure, stable environment we all wish to create.

INDIVIDUAL INTERVIEWS SCRIPT

A standard interview script was used for one-on-one and small group sessions. During each session, interviewees were allowed to veer off topic if necessary for clarity or if a topic needed to be shared.

- Please provide general demographic information: Gender, Profession, Title, Certifications
- How aware are you about the services available to victims of interpersonal violence in your community?
- How aware are you about the services available to victims of interpersonal violence in Oklahoma?
- What are five words you would use to describe the current state of victim services in Oklahoma?
- What are five words you would use to describe the state of victim services in Oklahoma after the strategic plan is implemented?
- If someone asked you to describe who pays for the services, what would your response be?
- If we lived near utopia, where we still have victims, what are three promises you would make every victim?
- Do you know of any practices, procedures, or "services" that need to be eliminated or modified? Please describe them.
- Please describe the key "players" you believe should be "at the table" when providing services to victims.

The questions below were adapted from the OVW Fiscal Year 2017 Research and Evaluation Solicitation.

- What has been the impact of VAWA-funded interventions on victims who are: people of color, immigrants, refugees, male, deaf or hard of hearing, lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender

(LGBT); people with disabilities; elderly; members of cultural, linguistic, and/or religious minority groups; incarcerated or formerly incarcerated; and/or living in poverty?

- Research on the intersection of firearms and domestic violence including the examination of: a) enforcement of firearm surrender and seizure laws related to domestic violence and its relationship to domestic violence injury and homicide; b) enforcement of domestic violence protection orders requiring surrender of firearms; c) relationship between issuance of protective, restraining, custody, and/or visitation orders and firearm purchases; and d) return of weapons surrendered under a domestic violence protection order and its relationship to subsequent domestic violence injury and homicide. Are defendants required to surrender their firearms?
- What culturally-specific victim services do you provide and how are they different from your mainstream services?
- Descriptive research describes the reasons some sexual assault victims choose not to report to law enforcement—or choose anonymous or other alternative reporting options—when seeking a medical forensic exam, and factors influencing a later decision to report and/or engage with the criminal justice system after obtaining a medical forensic exam. Why do you believe victims do not report?
- How effective is law enforcement in trauma-informed interviewing practices?
- Do your examiners follow the National Protocol for Sexual Assault Medical Forensic Examinations – Adult/Adolescent?
- Do you know about the Identifying and Preventing Gender Bias in Law Enforcement Response to Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence?
- Please describe what delivery methods are most effective for trainings for you.

- If you have a coordinated community response effort underway, how do you evaluate your progress?
- How do you use the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board Report?
- What do you want to see in the state's strategic plan?
- Describe your perceptions of the OCADVSA.
- Describe your perceptions of the OAG Victim Service Unit.
- Describe your perceptions of the DAC.
- What else do you want us to know?

FINDINGS

INDIVIDUAL INTERVIEWS

Everyone contacted during the needs assessment was asked to provide five words describing current victim services and five words describing victim services after the strategic plan is implemented. Participants provided 236 negative, 36 neutral, and 92 positive descriptors, of current victim services. The top ranking negative descriptor was: **UNDERFUNDED**. The next four highest ranked negative descriptors were: **limited, confusing, over-extended, and outdated**. The top ranking descriptor provided by participants for victim services after strategic plan implementation was: **COLLABORATIVE**. The next five highest ranked descriptors were: **abundant/robust, justice, safe, hopeful, and informed**. For a complete listing of descriptors, both before and after strategic plan implementation, see the Appendix.

Phase I
Initial Data Gathering
and Planning Sessions

Phase II
HIPAA-Compliant
Survey Creation,
Distribution, Results,
and Feedback


Phase III
“Individual” Interviews,
Results, and Feedback

Phase IV
Draft Needs
Assessment, Five-
Year Strategic Plan
(including high-level
implementation plan),
and follow-up meetings

Phase V
Finalize and Submit
Plan and Secure
Approval of Plan

Phase VI
Implementation of
Statewide Five-Year
Strategic Plan

Promises We Wish We Could Make	
Justice	29
Wrap-around Services	20
Safety	16
Financial Support	12
Housing	12
Sustainability	10
Empathy	6
Safe Kids	5
Belief	4
Happiness	4
Hope	4
Mental Health Care	4
Break the cycle of violence	4
Trauma-informed response	4
Education	3
Long-term Care	3
Eliminate Failure to Protect	2
Financial Assistance	2
Understanding	2
Autonomy	2
Common sense	1
Community Support	1
Freedom	1
Healthcare	1
Legal Aid	1
Love	1
Prevention	1
Respect	1
Services	1
Stay in your own home	1
Transportation	1
Collaboration and Trust between Partners	1
Grand Total	129

 **Utopia.** During all sessions, each participant was asked "if we lived in a world as near to utopia as possible, where we still have victims, what three promises would you like to make to every victim?" All focus groups and individual interviewees promise responses are aggregated in the "Promises We Wish We Could Make" table to ensure anonymity.

PROVIDER COMMENTS

- Finances are very tight. It is imperative that the funds are allocated correctly. To improve victim services, members of the legal community and judiciary need training and positive changes.
- The judiciary must have training to better understand the complex dynamics of IPV. Family Safety/Justice centers seem to be a strong mechanism for providing services. All victims would benefit from additional legal services.
- Key players required to provide safety, stability, and sustainability for victims are: DV Providers, Law Enforcement, Prosecutors, Medical Professionals, Tribal Providers, DHS, HUD, Legal Aid, Probation and Parole, Sexual Assault Providers, Court Personnel, and Community Partners.
- Key leadership required to effectuate positive change: Attorney General, OCADVSA, Chiefs of Police Association, District Attorney's Council, Administrator of the Courts, Tribal Liaisons, DHS, HIS, ICW, and the Secretary of State.
- Services are not being adequately provided for victims with disabilities, or who are members of tribes, or who are from the LGBTQ+ community.
- The court system favors perpetrators and re-victimizes victims.
- Victims are fearful and distrustful of the "system." Victims will not seek support out of fear and distrust.

- The victim's compensation process requires victims to report and participate. The Jane Doe/Anonymous reporting procedure does not align with victim's compensation process.
- Law enforcement is not necessarily using trauma-informed interviewing techniques. Some officers are very aware of the principles but do not choose to use the techniques. A few officers are very good at trauma-informed interviewing procedures.
- Review CLEET policies regarding IPV training classes and requirements.
- There currently are no evaluation mechanisms for coordinated community efforts. (CCRT/SART/DVRT)
- The Fatality Review Board report may not have much impact. Several providers only use it for grants and training purposes rather than for strategies and protocols.
- Providers want to see strong leadership in the service delivery system. Leadership training is needed for key players. Providers also want to see clearer lines of accountability.
- State awareness initiatives need a common message.
- More victims seem to be presenting with mental health and substance use disorders.
- Providers are suspicious of new rules being imposed without them having a positive impact on victims.
- Stakeholders must be provided the opportunity to buy-in to the strategic plan. Stakeholders are statewide. The strategic plan must be well communicated.
- Providers want to see actual goals, objectives, and benchmarks in the strategic plan. They want the plan to be implemented with a real focus on actions. **Providers do not want the strategic plan to sit on a shelf.**
- We need to truly collaborate with tribal communities.

- The words to describe the current victim services in Oklahoma are not positive. The words to describe victim services in Oklahoma after the strategic plan is implemented are very positive, encouraging, and strong.

JUSTICE COMMENTS

- More training for the judiciary is required. There is significant frustration with DHS, the judiciary, and the procedures for victims. Interviewees have a feeling that victims are not treated with respect. Procedures were criticized including the PO process, shelters, and follow-up services for victims.
- There are no services to eliminate. More community organizations should have a follow-up person like a navigator or case manager. Custody of a child with a non-married parent and paternity are challenges.
- DHS appears to be a non-performer. The state needs leadership that is educated and understands the issues. Too often, the same people are always involved rather than hearing from the "masses." Victims do not understand the services and processes. Victims are often not understood.
- Attention needs to be paid to the family unit.
- Leadership needs leadership training. Change must begin with leadership.
- Small populations are not served. There is discrimination based on race, incarceration history, sexual orientation, immigration status, religion, gender, and poverty.
- Firearms are not confiscated when the law dictates they should be removed. Often, perpetrators are allowed to keep their guns for "hunting" or because there is not a procedure for their removal.
- The attempts to be culturally sensitive are usually not successful.
- Services need to be available to all victims.

- Victims believe they will not be believed or that coming forward will not make a difference. Victims also fear their abuser, not knowing what will happen, stigma, the hassle, the potential cost, embarrassment, shame, and that the system will allow the perpetrator to walk.
- About half of law enforcement try to use trauma-informed interviewing techniques. Other officers have no interest in the process.
- Coordinated community teams are effective but are not evaluated.
- The Fatality Review Board report is helpful for grant writing.
- Most service providers are passionate but are under-funded. More face-to-face training is needed. Providers do what needs to be done. There are administrative issues across providers.
- An innovative training plan is encouraged.
- More victims are presenting with mental health and substance use disorders.
- Cultural differences are challenging- not many tribal people seek help.
- Some general criticism of advocates- need more training and volunteers are not knowledgeable of all the issues of victims (i.e. mental health and substance use disorder)
- DHS is a constant criticism.
- Shelters need help in understanding rules and how best to serve victims.
- Male victims need shelters.
- All victims need to receive respect and services.



Two questions were posed of participants to determine how to positively impact victim services.

- What qualities do you want to nourish?
- What qualities do you want to transform?

INTERVIEW CONSENSUS FINDINGS

- Change is needed. The strategic plan needs to affect real positive change. It should not just be lip service.
- Leadership needs to be strong and make the hard decisions and changes.
- Additional training is needed, especially for law enforcement and especially for members of the judiciary.
- People are frustrated with local politics and the good 'ol boy system.
- Lethality screening is a positive.
- Jurisdictional issues are a problem and the system favors perpetrators.

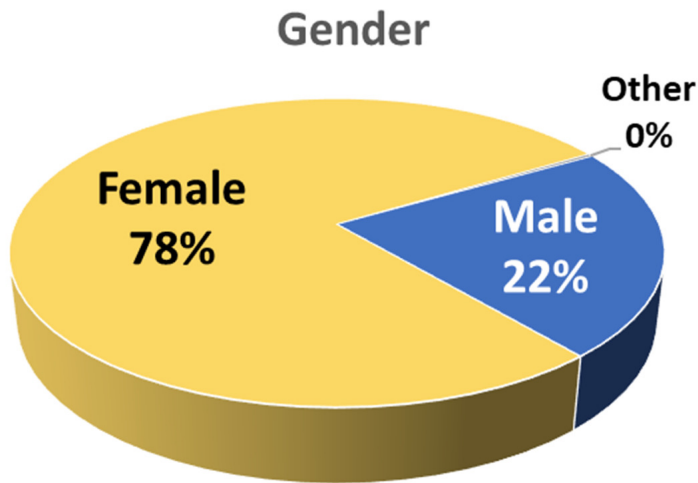
The participants provided 149 qualities to nourish and 147 qualities to transform. These qualities appear in the following wordles.

A “wordle” or “word cloud” is a method of displaying a generated image of words or responses. The image displays words in larger fonts based on higher response frequencies. Smaller fonts are used for words with lower response frequencies.

OAG-VSU PROTECTIVE ORDER PROJECT

During 2015, the Oklahoma Attorney General’s office requested a survey be developed, distributed, and the findings be delivered during the Partners for Change Conference regarding protective order perceptions in Oklahoma. Integrated Concepts contracted with the OAG to perform the data gathering and presentation. ICI developed a HIPAA-compliant survey and distributed the protective order survey throughout Oklahoma. A final report of the findings was outside the scope of the initial project; however, the protective order survey results are included as part of the Threshold for Transformation: Vision for Victim Safety Strategic Plan. [See Appendix for survey.]

PARTNERS FOR CHANGE: PROTECTIVE ORDER PROCESS SURVEY- DEMOGRAPHICS



Three-hundred three (303) people provided their perceptions regarding the protective order process in Oklahoma.

One individual selected “Other” as his/her gender, while seventy-eight percent (78%) of respondents identified as female.

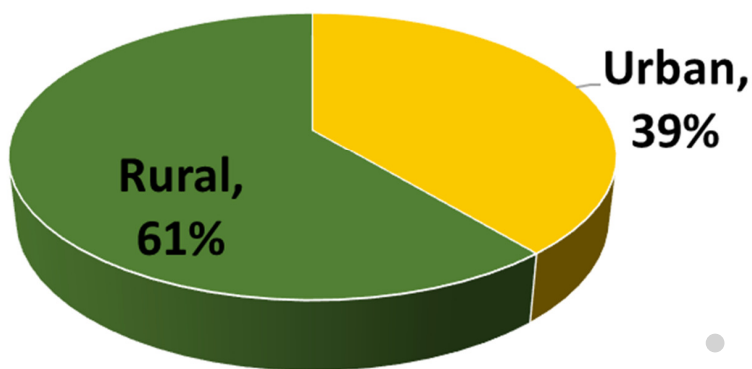
Seventy-five percent (75%) of the respondents were between twenty-six (26) and fifty-nine (59) years of age.

Age Range	Number	Percent
Younger than 18	0	0.0%
18 - 25	11	3.7%
26 - 40	112	37.3%
41 - 59	113	37.7%
60 - 75	63	21.0%
Older than 75	0	0.0%
Prefer not to answer	1	0.3%

Highest Level of Education	Number	Percent
Less than high school degree	1	0.3%
High school degree/ GED	19	6.4%
Some college but no degree	56	18.8%
Associate degree	27	9.1%
Bachelor degree	96	32.2%
Graduate degree	99	33.2%

Less than seven percent (7%) of the respondents had not attended post-secondary school. Seventy-five percent (75%) had attained at least an associate's degree.

Urban or Rural Residency



Sixty-one percent (61%) of respondents self-reported as being rural residents

Ethnicity	Percent	Number
White	78.7%	233
Black or African-American	3.4%	10
American Indian or Alaskan Native	20.3%	60
Hispanic	3.4%	10
Some other race	1.0%	3
Asian	0.3%	1
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	0.0%	0

The respondent pool mirrored the ethnic distribution of the state. Twenty percent (20%) of respondents were American Indian or Alaska Natives. This is higher than census data percentages. Having multiple ethnicities often sheds light on diverse gaps, barriers, and challenges.

Sixty-six (66) respondents self-reported being a victim or survivor of IPV with thirty-eight (38) people reporting a familial relationship to a victim or survivor of IPV; therefore, over one hundred (100) respondents report having a personal connection to the complex trauma of IPV. Seventy-seven (77) respondents reported being a member of the community without a direct connection to IPV services and systems.

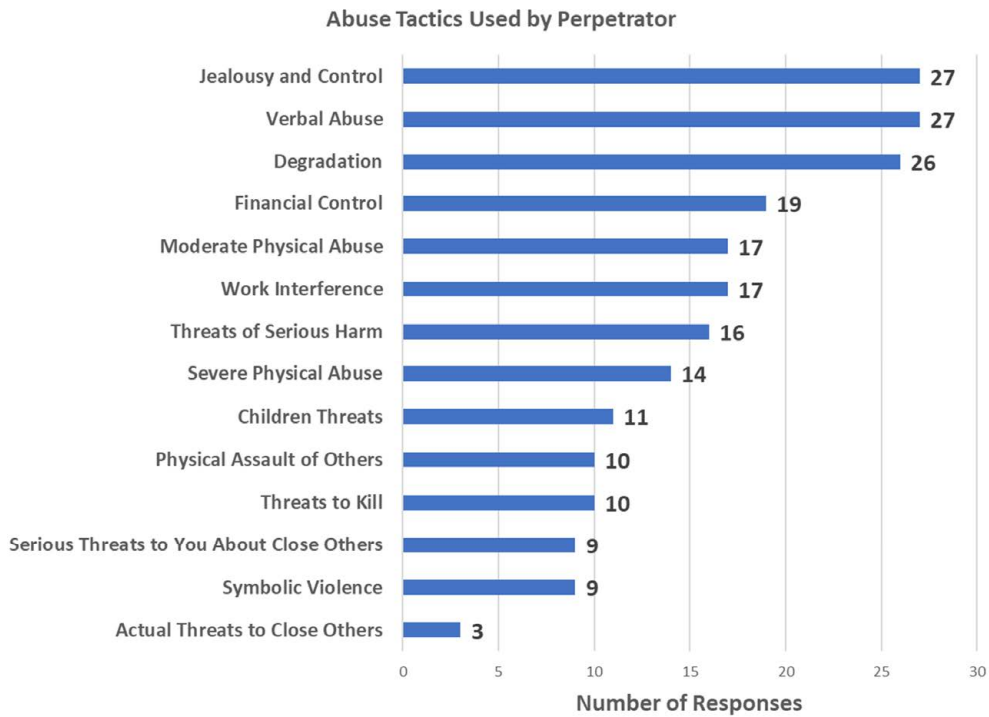
Respondent Classification	# of Respondents
IPV Service Provider	99
Other community member	77
Law Enforcement	73
Victim/Survivor of Interpersonal Violence	66
Family member of a victim/survivor of IPV	38
Attorney (Not DA/ADA)	22
District Attorney/Assistant District Attorney	18
SANE	16
Volunteer involved with IPV service provider	12
Volunteer involved with justice system	10
Member of the Judiciary	7

PARTNERS FOR CHANGE: PROTECTIVE ORDER PROCESS SURVEY-VICTIM RESPONSES

Victim Perceptions

As in the statewide needs assessment, the victims were also asked in the protective order survey about abuse tactics used by their abuser. Victims were able to select as many tactics as were applicable to their situations. Verbal abuse and jealousy and control were the two most frequently used tactics.

On the Partners For Change: Protective Order Process Survey, physical abuse was delineated between abusing others, moderate physical harm, and severe physical harm. Moderate and severe are subjective decisions which may change between victims. Nearly all respondents reported some level of physical assault or abuse.



In addition to domestic violence, the survey also asked victims to describe stalking behavior by their perpetrator. Sixty-six percent (66%) of the victims reported their abuser utilized stalking tactics.

Throughout your relationship with this partner, did he ever frighten you on more than one occasion because he repeatedly followed you, watched you, phoned you, wrote letters, notes, texts or email messages, communicated with you in other ways such as through another person, or engaged in other harassing acts that seemed obsessive or made you afraid for your safety (e.g., stalked you)?		
Yes	66%	19
No	17%	5
Other	17%	5

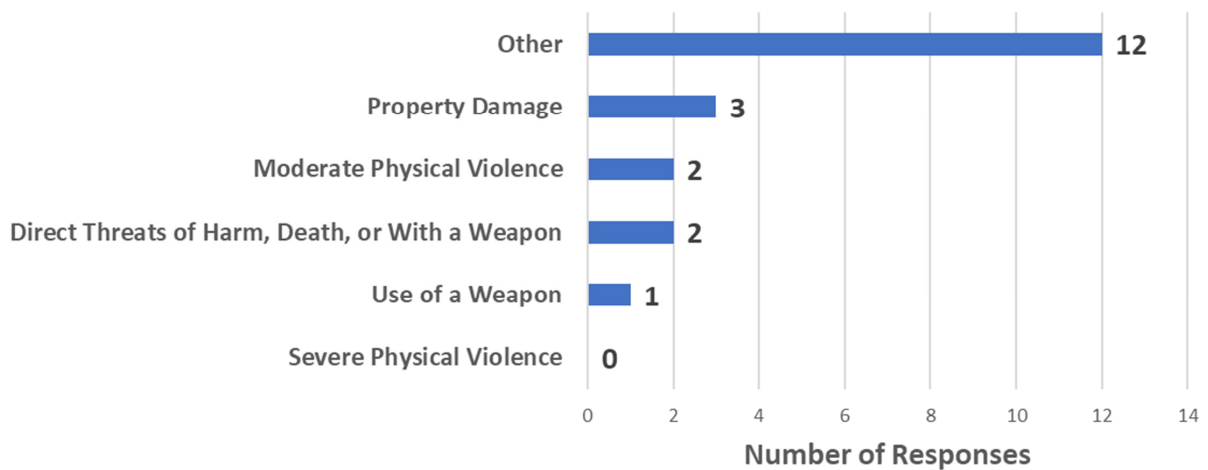
The following table describes the duration for final protective orders issued to the victims in the respondent pool. It is worth noting that thirty-five percent (35%) of the victims were not issued final protective orders.

DURATION OF FINAL PO	PERCENT	#
3 Months or Less	4%	1
4 to 6 Months	4%	1
One Year	8%	2
Two Years	0%	0
Three Years	12%	3
Four Years	0%	0
Five Years	8%	2
More than Five Years but Less Than Forever	4%	1
Forever (Lifetime)	8%	2
Other	19%	5



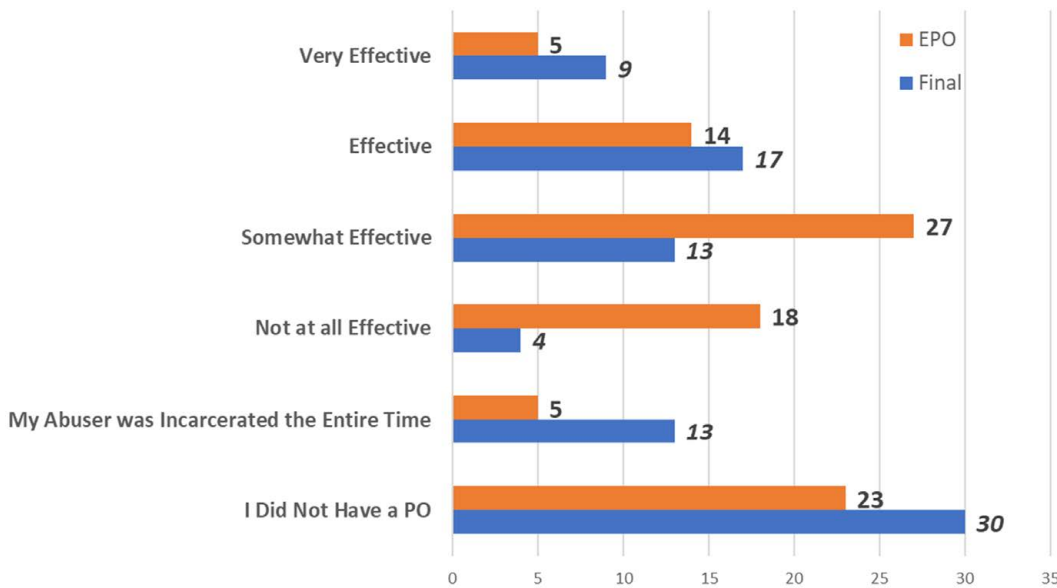
Twenty (20) final protective order violations were identified within the survey results.

How did your perpetrator violate your final protective order?



FINAL PROTECTIVE ORDERS MADE VICTIMS FEEL SAFER THAN EMERGENCY PROTECTIVE ORDERS.

How effective do you think the Emergency Protective Order or the Final Protective Order was for you?



5 victims reported not having an Emergency Protective Order and 7 victims reported not having a Final Protective Order

How many times did you talk to law enforcement when seeking a . . . ?	Emergency PO		Final PO	
	PERCENT	#	PERCENT	#
Never	17.4%	4	59.1%	13
One Time	30.4%	7	4.5%	1
Twice	26.1%	6	9.1%	2
Three to Five Times	17.4%	4	9.1%	2
Six to Ten Times	0.0%	0	0.0%	0
More than Ten Times	0.0%	0	0.0%	0
Other	8.7%	2	18.2%	4

In the Threshold of Transformation: Strategic Vision for Victim Safety Survey, many victims reported having little contact with law enforcement. However, in the Partners For Change: Protective Order Process Survey, more victims reported contact with law enforcement than victims reporting no contact with law enforcement. Thirteen of twenty-two (13 of 22) victims reported no contact with law enforcement while seeking a final protective order.

Of greatest concern regarding victim contact with district attorneys is that fourteen (14) times when charges were filed, the victim never talked to the DA.

Number of times you talked to DA ...?	Before Charges Filed		After Charges Filed	
	PERCENT	#	PERCENT	#
Never	54.2%	13	60.9%	14
One Time	16.7%	4	4.3%	1
Twice	0.0%	0	0.0%	0
Three to Five Times	8.3%	2	13.0%	3
Six to Ten Times	0.0%	0	4.3%	1
More than Ten Times	0.0%	0	0.0%	0
Other	20.8%	5	17.4%	4

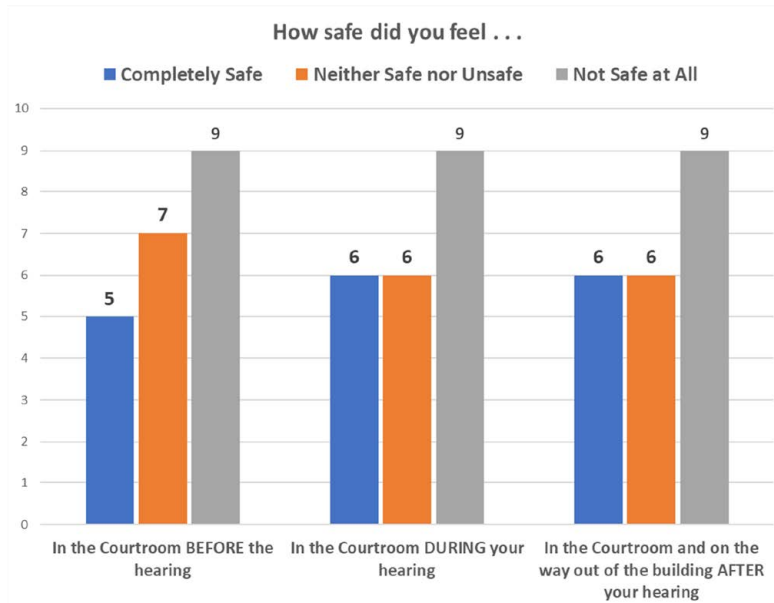
Answer Choices	Were criminal charges filed for violation of your protective order?		Were contempt of court charges filed for violation of your protective order?	
	PERCENT	#	PERCENT	#
Yes	16.0%	4	4.3%	1
No	52.0%	13	52.2%	12

Respondents indicate only five (5) instances where violations of protective orders resulted in contempt (1) or criminal (4) charges.



VICTIMS REPORT DEFENDANTS ARE NOT AFRAID OF LAW ENFORCEMENT'S RESPONSE OR VICTIMS REPORTING SO THEY VIOLATE PROTECTIVE ORDERS.

Twenty-one (21) victim respondents shared their perceptions regarding courtroom safety. Nine (9) victims reported not feeling safe at all—before, during, or after their hearings.

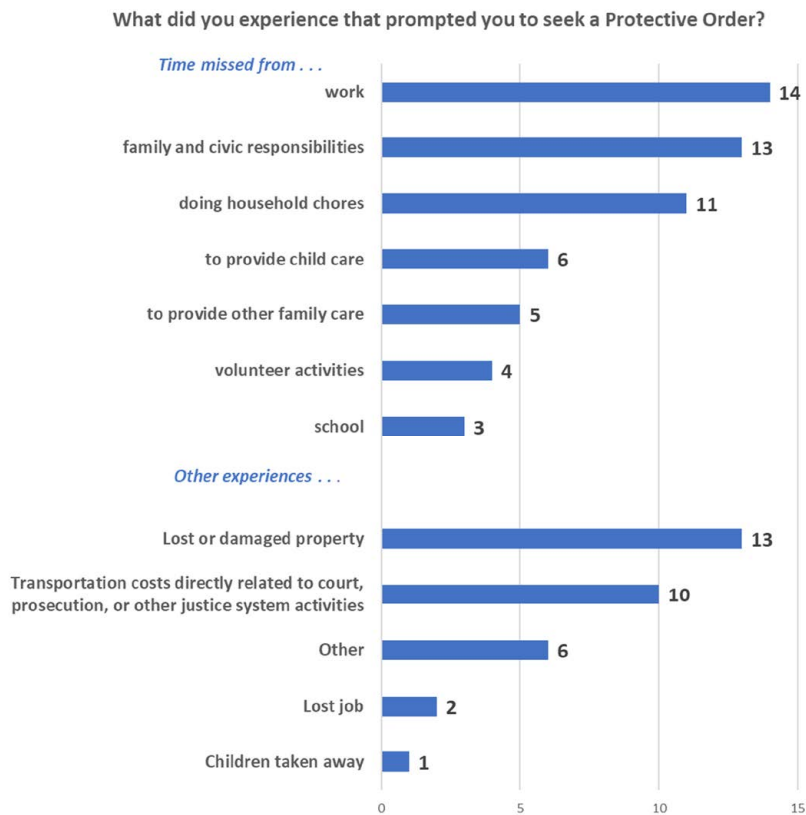


Did you or your abuser have an attorney for your hearing?



More defendants had attorneys during protective order hearings than victims.

Victims missing work, missing time with family and civic responsibilities, and lost or damaged property all played a factor in prompting victims to seek a protective order.



Incidents of IPV result in a complex set of victim needs. The data gleaned from both surveys conducted for this report indicates mental health counseling is the number one service utilized by IPV victims.

SERVICES USED BY VICTIMS AS A RESULT OF THEIR IPV INCIDENT	
Mental Health Counseling	10
Doctor	8
Emergency Room Visits	7
Pastoral Counseling	7
Legal Services Performed by Private Attorneys	6
Other	6
Marriage Counseling	5
A Victim Advocate	5
Crisis Line	5
Legal Services Performed by Legal Aid Attorneys	2
Legal Services Performed by an Attorney at the DV Service Provider's Office	2

SERVICES USED BY VICTIMS AS A RESULT OF THEIR IPV INCIDENT	
Dentist	1
Hospital Use	1
Ambulance	1
Psychiatry	1
Group Therapy for Mental Health or Substance Abuse	1
In-person Crisis Counselor	1
Nights Stayed in a DV Shelter or Homeless Shelter	1
Urgent Treatment Care	0
Physical Therapy	0
Residential Substance Abuse Treatment	0



<p>Fourteen (14) victims reported when their protective order was granted, the level of abuse they had been suffering was reduced or eliminated.</p>	<p>Twelve (12) victims reported their quality of life improved after the protective order was granted.</p>	<p>Sixteen (16) victims believe the benefits of the protective order process outweighed the costs.</p>
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PROBLEMS IDENTIFIED BY RESPONDENTS FOR VICTIMS DURING CRIMINAL PROSECUTION

- Not enough attorneys
- District Attorneys not pursuing evidence based prosecution
- Failure to keep victim informed about progress of the case
- Local politics
- Length of time involved with criminal prosecution process

An effective civil protection order system reflects the diversity of the community and responds to the specific needs, strengths, and circumstances of the litigants.

Culture is central to how victims organize their experience. It influences what victims define as a problem; how they address problems; the remedies they seek; and how they view interventions. A system that is responsive to victims' diverse needs and cultural context addresses issues such as rural concerns, same-sex partnership challenges, language barriers, and concerns related to physical or mental ability levels. Every professional has biases and beliefs that influence his or her relationship and communication with others. Professionals can better help victims by identifying these biases and beliefs, understanding the role of culture, and remaining sensitive to the uniqueness of each victim's experience. When the response accounts for culture and diversity, barriers can be identified, relevant and effective protection can be provided, and safety can be enhanced.

THE VICTIM AND PROVIDER PERCEPTIONS REGARDING JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS. . .

. . .WHEN FAMILIES AND CHILDREN ARE INVOLVED:

- Judges continue the Victim Protective Order (VPO) over and over again in family court, never issuing a final judgment but leaving victims afraid it will be dropped.
- Judge ordering "parties shall attend co-parenting through divorce class" together despite allegations of domestic abuse.
- Judge ordered the children back with the DV perpetrator because being in a home was a better environment than being in a DV shelter. The woman even had been represented by counsel at the protective order hearing and this is rare to have representation.
- Some Judges feel both parents are offending parents if the children witnessed (were in the home) domestic violence. They do not understand the protective actions of the victim.
- Judges ordering pick-up orders for children already in shelter based on failure to protect when the mother was living with abuser. They fail to consider the mother has left the abuser and that she and the children are finally in a safe environment.
- The judge orders marital counseling rather than granting a VPO.
- Victim had a VPO. The judge ordered that she, her Legal Aid attorney, the batterer, and his attorney go and discuss visitation. In this meeting, the Legal Aid attorney advised the victim to drop the VPO so that they could exchange the child for visitation. Judge agreed with this and the VPO was dismissed.
- One judge won't keep a PO open unless the victim files for a divorce, even when there

are no children between the parties or when children are not on the PO.

- One judge should have granted a default PPO because the defendant was served and did not show up for the hearing, but continued the EPO because the plaintiff had filed a divorce the day before and the judge wanted to combine the matters. There were no children between the parties.
- Judges seem to have a lack of understanding regarding the Office of Attorney General certified programs and what services they can provide for victims and their children.
- It appears they do not understand lethality, safety needs of victims or the effects of domestic violence upon children.
- The Child Welfare Manual is a great resource, but, the judges seem to not have heard of it.

...AND THE LAW:

- Our judges are not well informed on domestic violence, or they just don't understand all the laws in regard to protective orders.
- Assessing court costs to a plaintiff at the emergency hearing of a protective order.
- Judge assessing costs against a victim in a PO actions in violation of 21 O.S. 644 (L.)
- Judges do not understand Full, Faith and Credit in relation to VPO. One victim was told her protective order would not be valid in another state.
- Judicial continuances of 6 months or a year are the current standard practice protective orders. Weapons are only addressed if the incident involved a firearm or threat of firearm.
- One judge won't take guns or let the "gun" box be checked on the PO unless the crime involved a gun.
- Judge Orders mutual protective orders in violation of 22 O.S. 60.4 (J.2.)

- Some judges refuse to allow the advocate to be in the courtroom with the victim despite the statute allowing the same.
- An attitude that victims are responsible for enforcing VPOs.
- Stand-in Judges in VPO docket, often do not allow victims adequate opportunity to present information. Cases are often dismissed, continued, or denied. Continued cases further traumatize the victim. Stand-in judges should be prepared to hear a case, apply the Oklahoma statutes, and make decisions. Continuing cases requires additional hearings and increases the risk to victims by allowing the perp to have the opportunity to further harm/threaten/harass the victim.
- All judges need to understand "Power and Control" and how it is exercised by perpetrators during hearings.

...AND SAFETY:

- Though there are clear violations of PO's that happen in court, violations often witnessed or brought to the attention of the sheriff, have never been documented by the judge, sheriff, or anyone else as a VPO violation. Defendants feel comfortable going into a VPO setting and continue to harass victims by glares, actually speaking to them, or worse, sitting right next to them in order to intimidate them. This is not documented by court or law enforcement, even if the victim brought it to their attention or they see it first-hand.
- There is no protection in the courtroom as far as separate sides of the courtroom which allows defendants easy access to victims. The perpetrator's family also has free access to the victim, both in the courtroom and outside of it when she leaves. Deputies routinely show up right at court time. In some instances, they arrive after court has started, leaving victims and perpetrators in the courtroom together. Frequently the deputies are chatting with the bailiff or clerk instead of securing the courtroom. The courtrooms are not safe.

...ON BARRIERS AND BURDENS:

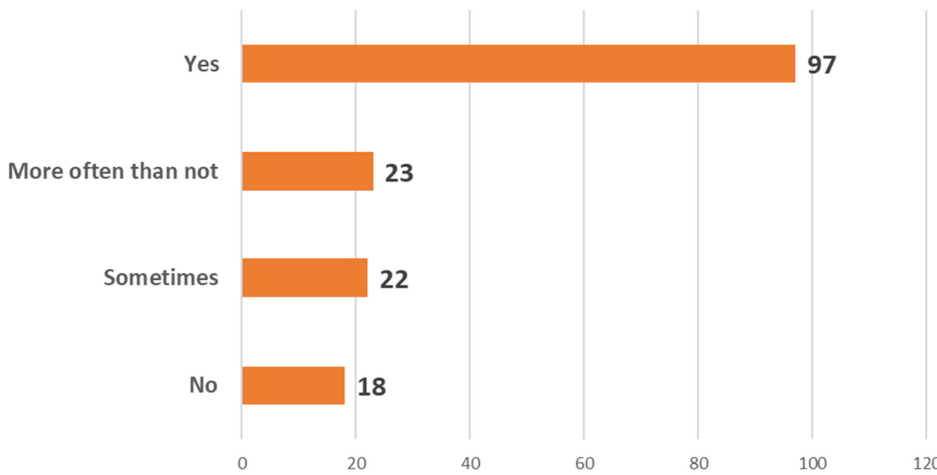
- Judge on the protective order docket refuses to grant the permanent PO in favor of extending the Emergency PO for several months – essentially to provide for a cooling off period and later dismisses the PO.
- Some judges provide perpetrators a “one slap rule” or would deny the permanent order if it might interfere with the perpetrator’s employment.
- Continuing emergency VPO's for 6 months then dismissing the VPO if no further problems occur. Judge places an additional burden upon the victim to come back if there is another problem.
- Judge issues a court minute that orders both the victim and batterer, to stay away from each other rather than granting a VPO.
- Judge allowing Protective Order defendants extra time/a continuance in order to obtain an attorney, but not allowing the plaintiffs extra time to do the same.
- Judge not listening or viewing Petitioner’s Protective Order evidence (including witnesses) in order to get through a case more quickly.
- Judge will continue protective orders if there is a criminal case pending. An example from one Court had this happen even when the defendant and his attorney were not present.
- Serving the perpetrator is often VERY challenging. An example from one Court has the Plaintiff returning to Court every three weeks for the last six months.

BARRIERS IDENTIFIED BY RESPONDENTS INCLUDE:

- Could not find courthouse
- Didn’t know how POs worked
- No money for attorney
- Counselors suggesting that I just “work it out”
- Scared of losing kids
- Couldn’t get him served
- Missing too much work for court dates
- Lack of parking and transportation
- The clerk in the courthouse
- The judge’s clerk
- No crisis center
- Paperwork is confusing
- Getting judge to believe me
- Perpetrator fighting me for custody
- Judge consolidated PO with divorce proceedings
- Judges having a “bad” day
- Distance to travel to court
- Scared of the court process
- Lack of services to assist in leaving the abusive relationship
- Difficulty articulating abuse on petition
- It’s “just a piece of paper”
- Lack of knowledge about the process
- Judges do not understand the DV dynamic

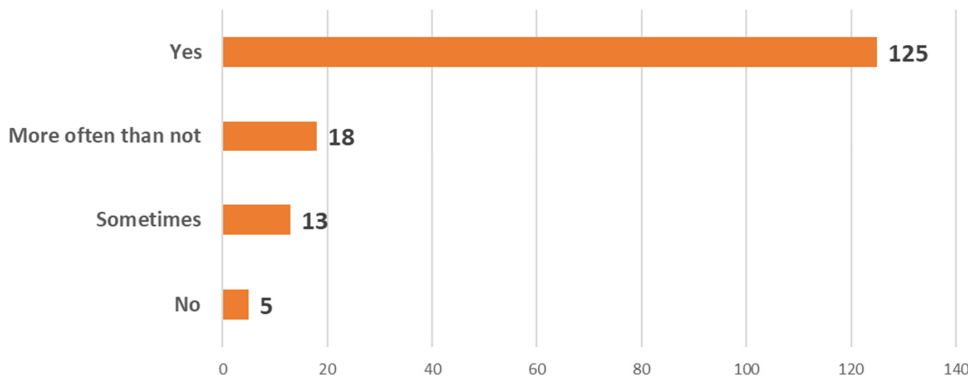
PARTNERS FOR CHANGE: PROTECTIVE ORDER PROCESS SURVEY: ALL RESPONDENT PERCEPTIONS

Do you feel you have a thorough understanding of the Protective Order process within your community?



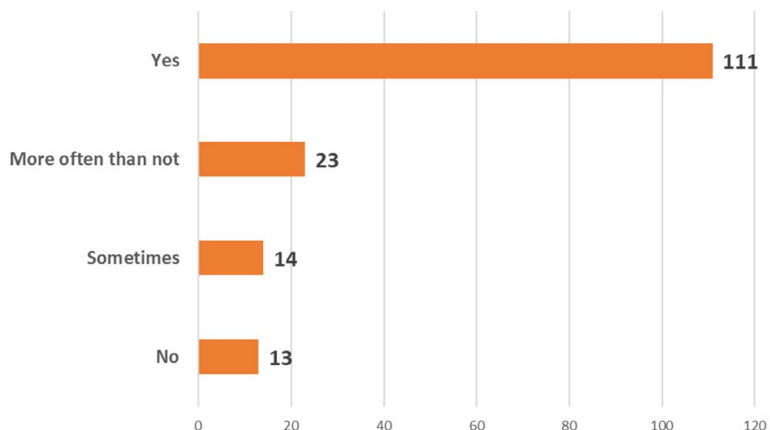
To confirm the knowledge level of the respondent pool, a baseline question was included to obtain their level of understanding of the protective order process within their communities. Only eleven percent (11%) of respondents reported no understanding of the PO process. All other respondents had at least some understanding if not always understanding the process. Also, only three percent (3%) of respondents reported not understanding IPV dynamics.

Do you feel you have a thorough understanding of the dynamics of interpersonal violence?

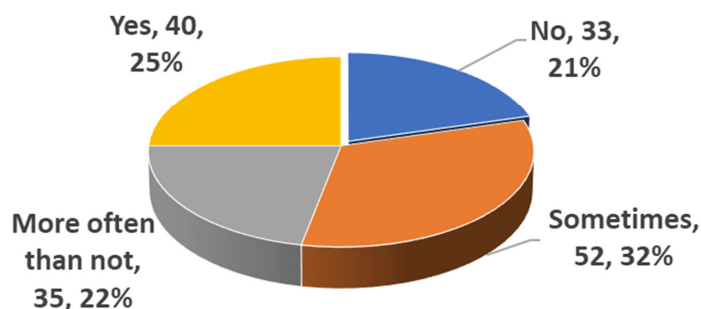


Eight percent (8%) of respondents indicate they do not know about community resources available for victims of IPV

Do you feel you have a thorough understanding of the resources available within your community for victims of IPV?

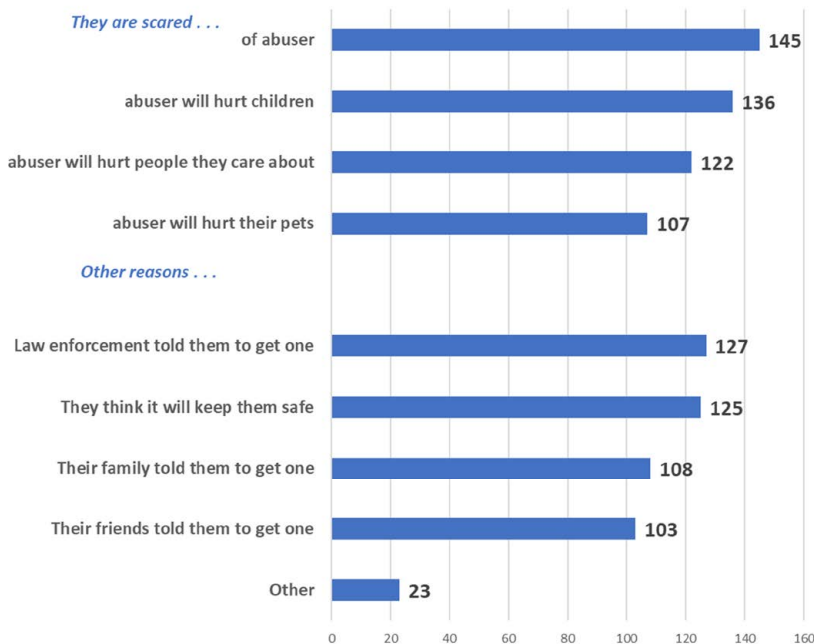


Do you feel your community provides for the safety of victims during the protective order process?



Twenty-one percent (21%) of the total respondent pool indicated their communities do not provide safety for victims during the protective order process.

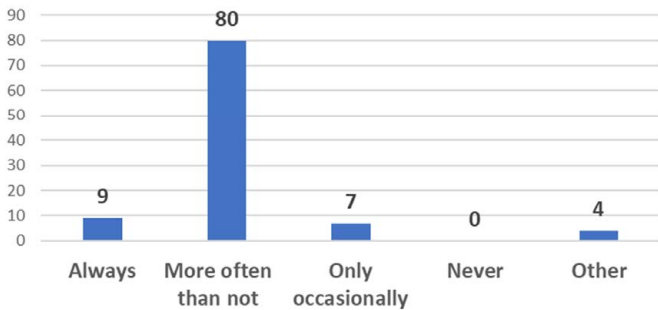
Why do you think victims obtain Protective Orders?



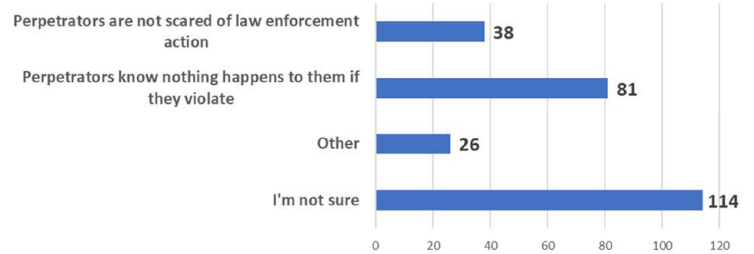
All respondents were asked why they believe victims seek protective orders. The vast majority believe “safety” of some kind is the main reason victims seek protection.

Most respondents reported defendants are not “scared” of the consequences for violating a protective order.

How frequently do you think victims experience violations of Protective Orders?

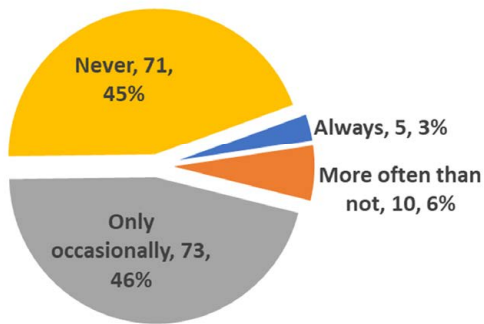


Why do you think perpetrators violate Protective Orders?

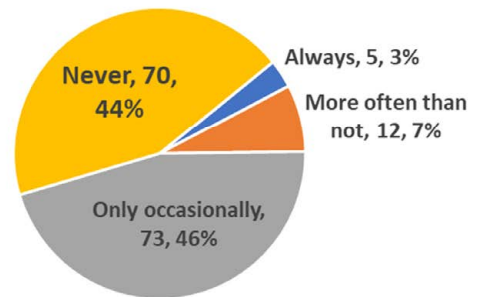


The respondent pool reported victims are being charged fees with their emergency and final protective orders.

Are victims charged fees associated with Final Protective Orders?

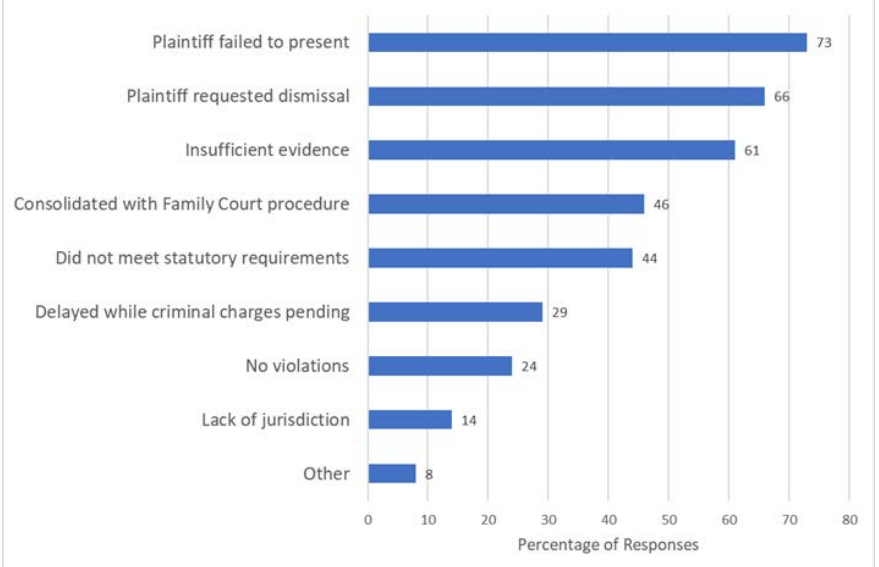


Are victims charged fees associated with Emergency Protective Orders?



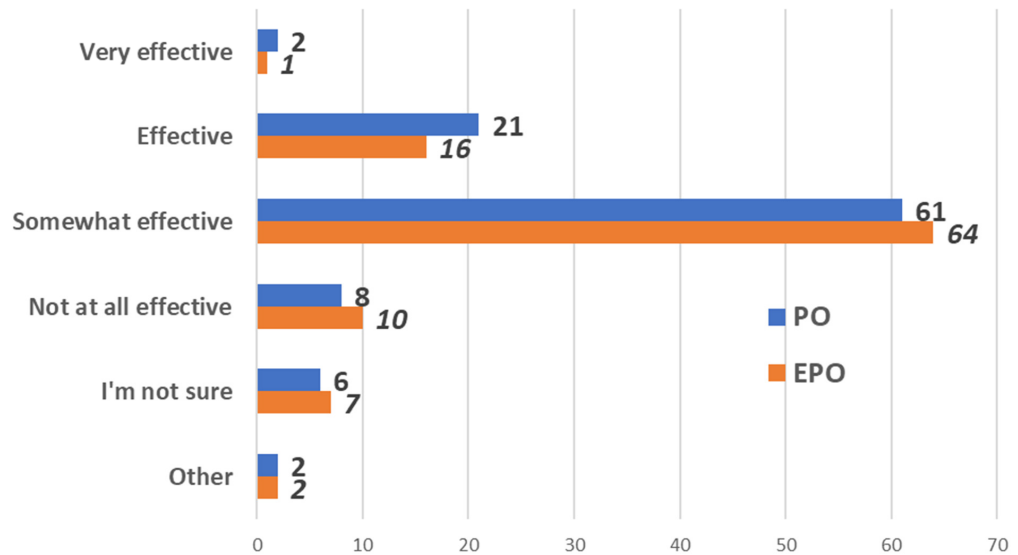
When asked why judges do not grant protective orders, the factors most reported revolved around plaintiff behavior: plaintiff failed to present or plaintiff requested dismissal. The third most reported reason for judges not granting protective orders was insufficient evidence.

Common reasons a judge does not grant a Final Protective Order



Ten percent (10%) of all respondents report believing victims within their community view emergency protective orders as Not At All Effective.

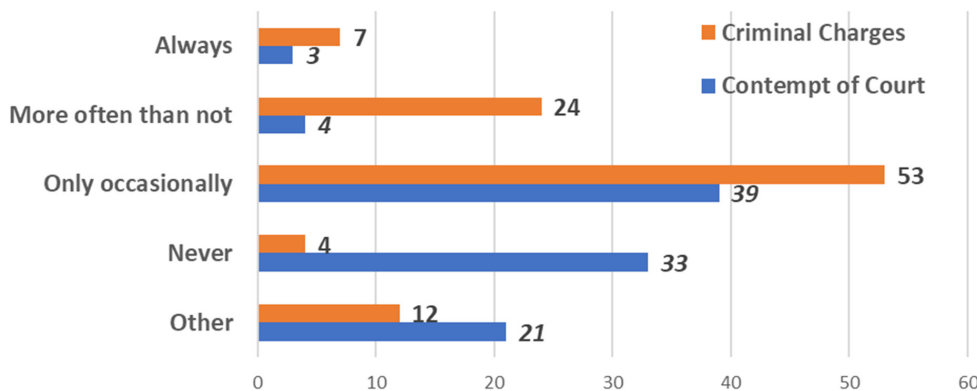
How effective do you think victims in your community believe Protective Orders are for them?



Eight percent (8%) of all respondents report believing victims within their community view final protective orders as Not At All Effective.

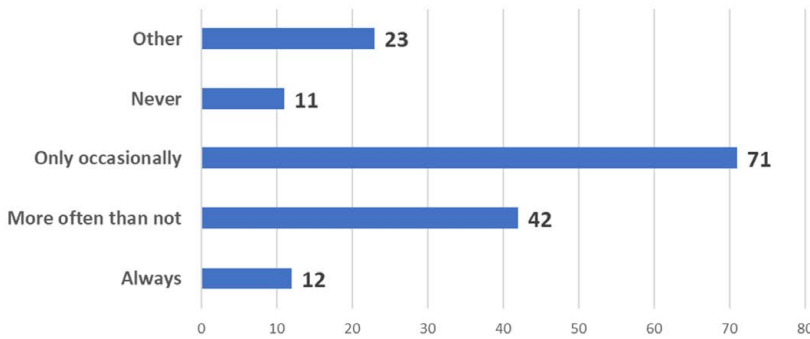
Four point four percent (4.4%) of the total respondent pool reported criminal charges are NEVER filed for violations of protective orders.

Are criminal charges or contempt of court charges normally filed for violations of Protective Orders in your community?



Thirty-three percent (33%) of the total respondent pool reported contempt charges are NEVER filed for violations of protective orders.

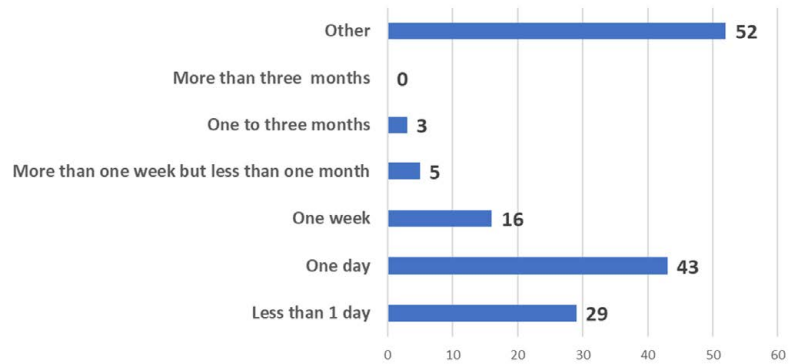
Are Protective Order violators normally arrested in your community?



Seven percent (7%) of the total respondent pool reported protective order violators are NEVER arrested.

Forty-seven percent (47%) of the total respondent pool noted individuals arrested for protective order violations are released in one day or less.

For Protective Order violators who are arrested, how many days do they normally spend in jail?



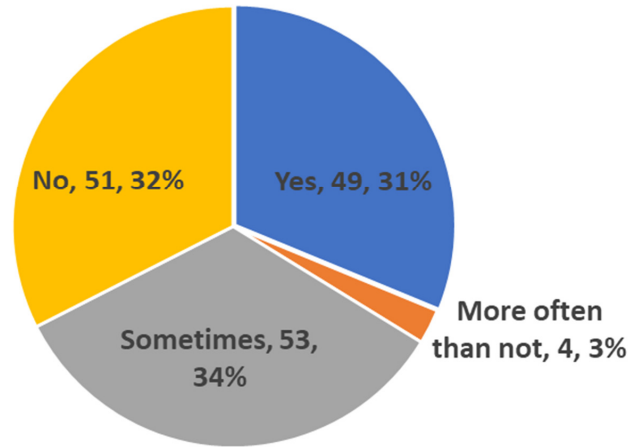
Why don't perpetrators violate protective orders in your community?

Perpetrators are scared of law enforcement action	41.8%	66
I'm not sure	32.9%	52
Perpetrators move away	24.7%	39
Perpetrators are in jail	41.8%	66
Perpetrators are scared of victim's family	7.6%	12
Perpetrators always violate POs in our community	5.7%	9
Other	13.9%	22

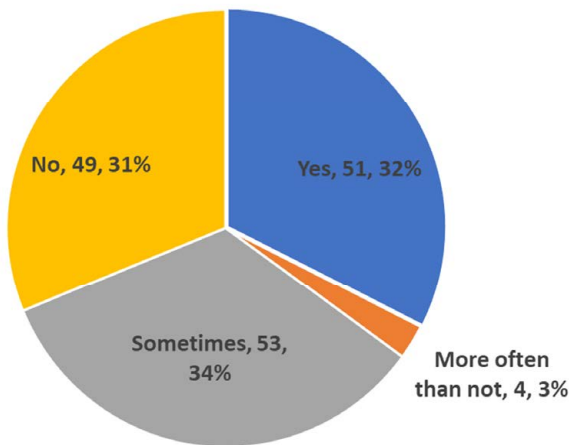
Five point seven percent (5.7%) of the total respondent pool believe perpetrators ALWAYS violate protective orders.

Thirty-three percent (33%) of respondents believe local politics do not influence the granting of protective orders in their community. Over thirty percent (30%) believe local politics ALWAYS influence rulings.

Do you think local politics influence the issuance of Protective Orders in your community?

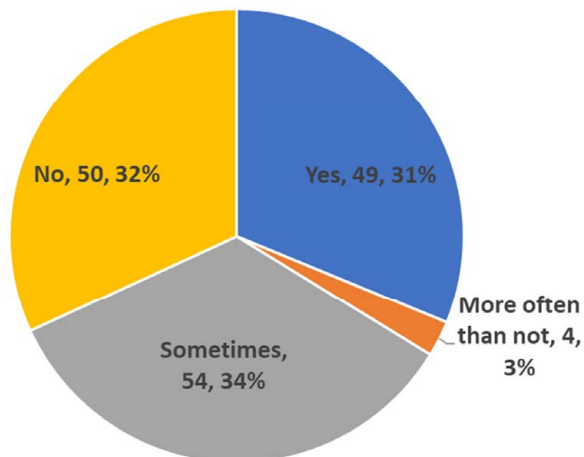


Do you think local politics influence arrest of perpetrators who violate Protective Orders in your community?



About sixty-nine percent (69%) of the respondents believe local politics affect the arrest rate and the filing of charges for protective order violations.

Do you think local politics influence charges being filed for violation of Protective Orders in your community?



PARTNERS FOR CHANGE: PROTECTIVE ORDER PROCESS - CREATING A GOLDEN CHAIN OF SAFETY-IMPROVING PROTECTIVE ORDER PRACTICE



THE CENTRAL PURPOSE OF THE CIVIL PROTECTION ORDER SYSTEM IS TO PROTECT INDIVIDUALS FROM HARM.

As part of the protective order evaluation, a presentation was made at the Partners For Change Conference. (Protective Order Process: Creating a Golden Chain of Safety-Improving Protective Order Practice.) This section of the needs assessment summarizes the recommendations made during the presentation. All recommendations were adapted from

"Civil Protection Orders: A Guide for Improving Practice," published by the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges in 2010.

Broadly, a civil protection order is "any injunction, restraining order, or any other order" issued by a civil court for the purpose of preventing violence.

Victim safety requires an ongoing assessment of risk, orders that prioritize the safety of victims and children, and reliable enforcement of those orders.

What can we, as professionals, do to encourage victims to seek protection through the system? We must instill confidence that the system will issue, serve, and enforce protection orders that deter violence or threats of violence.

Outcomes

Carefully craft protection order

Does the order address security in:

- Social settings
- Economic issues
- Psychological issues
- Emotional issues

Are services available and known to the victim to support her in addressing these issues?

Protection Orders – Prompt Service & Enforcement

- Perpetrators emboldened when protective orders are not consistently enforced
- Victims receive a false sense of security and risk of harm actually increases
- Professionals who are aware of barriers can develop ways to remove barriers to enforcement

Impact on Child Custody and Protection

- Children are central in the decision to stay in or leave an abusive relationship
- Professionals must act to protect children as well as victims throughout the protection order process

Victim Confidentiality

- Perpetrator may use information obtained through the protection order process to abuse the victim
- Establish procedures at every level to protect victim information and limit the collection of identifying data

An effective protective order system is designed to ensure that each victim can choose how and when to access the system, what relief to request, and when to exit the system.

In this petitioner-driven process, professionals promote victim autonomy by deferring to the victim's decision-making process.

Victim Needs

You must listen and hear the victim even if her choice is not what you would choose.

- Listen to EACH victim and ensure her needs inform the process
- Present EACH victim with options and individualized information
- Allow EACH victim to choose her best course of action
- Keep the lines of communication and assistance open

Appropriate Protective Order

- No single response is appropriate for all victims
- Educate victims (and other professionals) about the strengths and weaknesses of each potential remedy
- Support each victim in obtaining the relief she needs
- Empower victims to work toward achieving desired outcomes

Relocation

- Breaking free and living free from domestic violence requires legally and financially complicated relocation
- Aid victims by providing them with information and support needed to make choices which take into consideration the challenges and benefits of relocation

Policies that Punish Undermine the System

- Victims are discouraged from seeking help by policies that limit the number of orders she may request or create barriers for reapplication
- Victims know better than anyone else about their safety needs
- Remove all policies that penalize victims for “violations” of protection orders

An accessible system welcomes the victim, facilitates her participation, and enables her to obtain those services she needs and to which she is entitled. By contrast, barriers and gaps in services expose the victim to further risk of abuse. The rule of law in a democratic society is defined by a justice system that is available and receptive to all members of the public; accessibility is a hallmark of the civil protection order process. An open and usable process engages victims and structures the mechanisms of obtaining, modifying, or terminating a civil protection order in a way that enhances victim safety and promotes efficiency. Professionals can open up the process by demystifying it, removing systemic barriers, and reducing the elements that complicate seeking protection.

Policies and Procedures

- Access barriers may change over time
- System response is improved by reviewing policies and protocols on a regular basis, at a minimum annually
- Address identified barriers and communicate changes to staff immediately

Physical, Attitudinal, and Language Barriers

- Systems have cultures
- Physical impediments, attitudes of exclusion, and language barriers
- Engage in system evaluations like:
 - process walk-throughs
 - **court watches**
 - ethnographic reviews (Ethnography, simply stated, is the study of people in their own environment through the use of methods such as participant observation and face-to-face interviewing)

Streamlined Service and Enforcement Procedures

- Serve and enforce orders in a timely and efficient manner
- Provide a full text state protection order registry or database
- Participate in the National Crime Information Center Protection Order File Database

For victims of domestic violence, seeking help through the protection order process means putting their safety in the hands of the professionals who serve as stewards of their profession and of the system

as a whole. When the system and professionals within it operate with a high degree of competence, victims are more likely to receive the safety and support needed. The ethical obligations of each profession establish a minimum degree of competence. Yet, each professional has the potential to work beyond that minimum standard and act as a catalyst for promoting an expansive model of justice.

Victims put their trust in the civil protection order system, and when the system fails to provide reliable issuance and enforcement of protection orders, it exposes victims to risk and uncertainty. Violence is likely to continue or increase where enforcement is unpredictable and unreliable. Professionals need to be confident that their interdependent efforts will lead to predictable outcomes because protection orders reduce violence only if they are routinely recognized and enforced. Reliability enhances the integrity and credibility of the system.

Be a Knowledgeable Resource

- Discuss professional responsibilities and limitations within the system
- Define scope of appropriate response particular to each victim's situation
- Be honest about the system's limits and alternatives to provide effective and comprehensive assistance

UNDERSTANDING VICTIMIZATION DOES NOT REQUIRE ONE'S WIFE, DAUGHTER, SISTER, OR MOTHER TO BE A VICTIM. ALL THAT IS REQUIRED IS AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE GOLDEN RULE.

Expand Expertise

Members of the justice and provider communities need to understand the protective order process and the most up-to-date best practices possible. These professionals should receive

- On-going training in:
 - dynamics of domestic violence
 - firearms restrictions
 - full faith and credit
 - other issues related to protection order issuance and enforcement
- Obtain specialized knowledge in a broad range of subjects
- Keep current with new and emerging practices and strategies

Technology – Tool and Weapon

- Understand how technology can simplify and increase the efficacy of issuing, serving, and enforcing protection orders
- Understand how perpetrators can use technology as a tool of power and control
- Support victim in guarding against misuse of technology

Specific Strategies for Protective Orders

- Standardized policies increase consistency, predictability, accountability, plus safe and effective interventions
- We use policies and protocols as vehicles for building the skills and culture necessary for collaborative work and improving outcomes for victims
- Working together, within and across disciplines, we assure the system, as a whole, maintains responsibility for victim safety and system reliability
- Interlocking or integrated protocols improve victim safety
- Victims must have safety offered by a protective order regardless of jurisdiction

Foreign Protective Orders

- Dependable enforcement is central to victim safety and perpetrator accountability
- The protection order is a commitment on behalf of the system to support and protect
- Improve the enforceability and portability by developing clear full faith and credit policies

Data, Data, Data

- Maintain comprehensive and readily accessible data about qualifying orders, including emergency and ex parte orders
- Ready access to information for a variety of enforcement purposes makes enforcement easier
- Databases are pivotal in providing foreign jurisdictions access
- Strive for round-the-clock access to critical data

A victim needs and deserves to have confidence that everyone in the civil protection order system is working together to keep her safe. By working in concert with one another, professionals in the system provide victims a response that is unified, cohesive, reliable, and interactive. When professionals work in concert toward shared goals, the system is more accountable and communities are better able to support and assist victims. Collaborative efforts are also more likely to generate improvements to the civil protection order process through comprehensive system change.

Cross-system Dialogue

- Understand one another's roles and mandates
- Establish and rely on coordinated protocols
- Work together for a more seamless and consistent protection order process
- Create and institutionalize opportunities for collaboration among state, tribal, federal, and military organizations and agencies

Co-Creation, Co-Evolution

- Barriers to issuance, service, and enforcement change over time
- Create written policies and collaborative relationships that allow for:
 - regular review
 - continual evaluation
 - ongoing development
- Communicate changes in partnership, roles, and responsibilities immediately

A common understanding of the dynamics of domestic violence and dangers involved in the protection order system allows service providers to explore problem-solving opportunities together.

Just Response for Victims

- Victims are often involved in a number of systems simultaneously
- Collaborative efforts between systems can have a positive impact on the victim's broad safety needs
- Collaboration
 - improves a victim's well-being
 - forwards the goal of enhancing victim safety and autonomy

Eliminate Impediments and Bias

- Appropriate responses are informed by a victim's individual situation
- We must learn to recognize and reject pre-existing beliefs and biases
- Focus on understanding the information provided within the context at hand
- Engage with each victim in a culturally sensitive manner

Explore System Beliefs and Limitations

- Examine the culture of the institutions for which we work
- Examine our own cultural history
- Promote culture and diversity in hiring, promotion, and other internal policies
- These choices make important statements of inclusion
- Create a welcoming environment for victims and the larger community

Diverse Organizational Relationships

- Work with members of diverse community groups
- Develop support and communication to promote safety and accountability and to build zero tolerance for violence
- Seek feedback from members of diverse community groups regarding their experiences and suggestions for improvement

Learn and Assess

- Seek additional education on culture and how culture and diversity shape victims' experiences and impact their decision-making
- Work with experts to assess the challenges diverse individuals or groups may face resulting from physical, social, cultural, or economic barriers
- Work with those in the community who may be aware of women in danger. These individuals may include: neighbors, healthcare professionals, faith-based leaders, union members, pharmacists, employers, beauty salon owners, fitness center staff, junior league members, fraternal organization members, school teachers, and daycare providers.

A victim is more likely to receive effective and appropriate help when the community surrounds her with the support and services she needs to be safe and secure. The more a community is aware of the violence within it and strives to coordinate its protective response, the more victims and the community, as a whole, are protected from violence. Community support aids and empowers professionals in their issuance and enforcement of orders. Protection orders are more effective when communities are engaged and committed to keeping victims safe. Professionals can develop more proactive safety measures when working in conjunction with the community, including working to create a community intolerant of violence.

Holistic, Non-crisis-driven Involvement

- Explore models of sustainability
- Investigate opportunities for evidence-based community models
- Connect with local and national community to identify
 - needs
 - strengths
 - resources and funding opportunities

Media

- Promote accurate and sensitive coverage of domestic violence cases
- Correspond with current state of research and knowledge
- Remember messages will ultimately reach victims and perpetrators and may influence victims' responses to, and perpetrators' uses of, violence

Open Dialogues

- Participate in community dialogues, like town hall meetings and coordinated community response teams
- Develop community buy-in for promoting safety
- Highlight local issues related to protective orders and risk factors in the community

Public Health Issue

- Domestic violence threatens the safety and well-being of all family members
- Our professional response to domestic violence should be informed by the actual scope of danger that it poses

Adapted from "Civil Protection Orders: A Guide for Improving Practice", published by the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges in 2010.



I am a link in a golden chain of safety that stretches around the world.
I must keep my link bright and strong.
I will be kind and gentle to every victim, and protect all who seek protection.
I will think pure and beautiful thoughts, say pure and beautiful words, and do pure and beautiful deeds, knowing that on what I do now depends my happiness and misery.
May every link in the golden chain of safety become bright and strong and may we all attain perfect peace and safety.

- Adapted from a Buddhist prayer

From Integrated Concepts' 29 September 2016 Partners for Change Conference presentation, Creating a Golden Chain of Safety-Improving Protective Order Practice