

Seeking Safety, Equity, and Justice

Experiences of Non-Black People of Color

Summary

ODVN completed a statewide survey with 588 survivors to deepen our understanding of the experiences of survivors when seeking help from law enforcement, the court system, and social services agencies. Here were some significant findings from respondents who were non-Black people of color.

Significant Findings

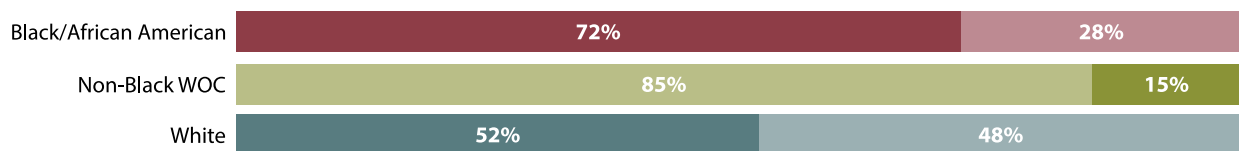
- Of the respondents, 73, or 15%, were non-Black women of color.
- Survivors who were women of color reported positive experiences with officers, who they said were “professional”, “patient”, and made them “feel safe”. However, for non-Black women of color who did not call the police, they cited the most significant barriers as fear of further abuse from their abuser (64%) and fear of violence from the police (38%).
- Of the non-Black women of color that responded, 75% of them had children. Women of color reported 30% more often than white survivors that police officers questioned their children.
- Women of color experienced high rates of being threatened with losing their children at more than double the rate of white women.

77% of **non-Black women of color** felt safe in the **court system**.

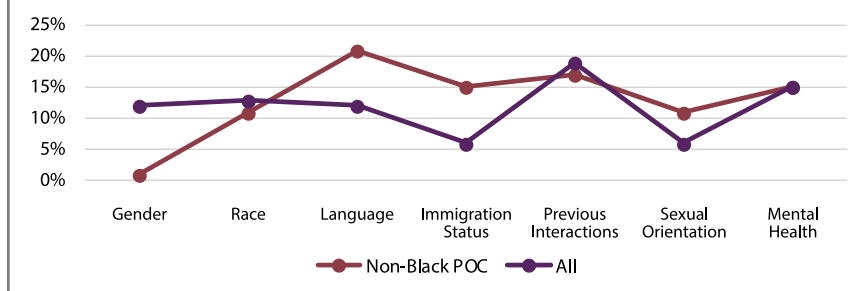
65% felt safe with the **police**.

87% felt safe at a **domestic violence shelter**.

Non-Black WOC and Black/African American women are more likely to call 911/the police in a domestic violence situation than white women



Non-Black women of color reported experiencing negative treatment based on **language** and **immigration status** at an above average rate.



- Women of color with children reported the highest amounts of discrimination based on language and immigration status compared to Black and white women.

Recommendations

- **Advocacy and Police Partnerships**—19% of respondents said they would not have called the police had they known their partner could be arrested. Survivors also called for increased access to advocacy, highlighting the need for law enforcement to work in partnership with advocates to provide survivor-centered responses and increase safety.
- **Ongoing Anti-Bias Training**—Implementing training for every system that responds to domestic violence as a core and ongoing resource could help ensure that Ohio victims perceive our justice system and social services as fair and free from bias.
- **Outreach Strategies**—Reaching and engaging with survivors of color requires staff diversity, building trust, thinking outside the box, building partnerships with their key community leaders, and an internal commitment to continuously address bias.
- **Child Welfare Reform**—Reform is needed so that marginalized communities are not over-represented in the child welfare system Ohio has invested impactful training resources in the Safe and Together CPS model for these cases; however, this model needs to be institutionalized throughout the CPS system.
- **Language Access**—Programs need to develop a full capacity to serve Deaf+ survivors, to fulfill their obligations under the law, and to ensure that Deaf+ survivors have equal access to services by agencies that understand their experiences and culture.