The majority of respondents were between **25 and 34**.

- 65+ 10
- 55-64 25
- 45-54 35
- 35-44 55
- 25-34 150
- 18-24 10
- Under 18 20

**54% of respondents were White women**

**31% of respondents were Black/African American women**

**15% were non-Black women of color**

**60% of respondents called 911 for their current DV situation.** The rest reached out to family and friends, stayed in the situation, or fled.

**Overall, 85% had police involved in either their current or previous DV incidents**

Based on the response of 911 dispatchers, **84% of respondents would call again**.

**55% knew Ohio was a preferred arrest state.**

**81% would still call if they knew Ohio was a preferred arrest state.**

**13% respondents identify as part of the LGBTQ+ community**

Results were based on responses from 505 domestic violence survivors who were asked about their experiences with law enforcement, the court system and child protective services. The survey was conducted between May and August of 2021. This resource was produced under grant 2019-WF-VA4-V8192 and 2018-JG-E01-V6553 awarded by the Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services.
The biggest barrier that would prevent WHITE survivors from calling the police in the future is further harm from their abuser followed by fear of arrest and fear their children will be taken.

The biggest barrier that would prevent BLACK/AFRICAN AMERICAN survivors from calling the police in the future is further harm from their abuser followed by fear their children will be taken and fear of violence from the police.

78% of the respondents had children.

20% of domestic violence survivors said someone threatened to take their children away after they sought help. Most often the threat came from:
- Child protective services
- The child’s other parent
- Respondent’s partner

Non-Black WOC and Black/African American women are more likely to call 911/the police in a domestic violence situation than White women.
Women of color (including Black/African American women) with children are more likely to call police in a DV situation, and 75% of WOC with children said they called the police in their most recent DV situation.

Women with children were divided on whether they should include their children in their CPO, and 47% felt adding their children would increase the risk of violence toward themselves.

WOC (including Black/African American women) with children believed that the racial and gender identities of the first responders were very important or somewhat important to their children’s feeling of safety.

Women of color (including Black/African American women) with children reported higher amounts of discrimination toward their children based on gender, race, language, and immigration status than white women with children.
Most LGBTQ+ respondents were White

White respondents said fear of not being believed, being wrongfully arrested, and distrust of the system would keep them from contacting the police. Black and other POC respondents said fear of bodily harm kept them from calling the police.

Magistrates/Judges were up to 2x more likely to criticize LGBTQ+ individuals for pursuing protection orders.

Black/African American female members of the LGBTQ+ Community reported they were more likely to face discrimination from the police based on race, gender, and sexual orientation than any other racial group.

14% of all respondents who pursued a protection order were criticized for it by an advocate, prosecutor or judge/magistrate.

All the Native American LGBTQ+ individuals reported being criticized for pursuing a protection order.
Generally, **White women** reported experiencing negative treatment by the police based on different identity markers at a below average rate.

![Graph showing treatment by the police based on different identity markers for different groups.]

**Black/African American women** reported experiencing negative treatment from the police based on race and gender at an above average rate.

![Graph showing treatment by the police based on race and gender for different groups.]

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

![Graph showing treatment by the police based on language and immigration status for different groups.]

Survivors felt safer in a DV shelter than they did in the court system or with the police.

- **Court System:**
  - Very safe: 76%
  - Somewhat safe: 13%
  - Somewhat unsafe: 12%
  - Very unsafe: 8%

- **Police:**
  - Very safe: 74%
  - Somewhat safe: 13%
  - Somewhat unsafe: 36%
  - Very unsafe: 8%

- **DV Shelter:**
  - Very safe: 87%
  - Somewhat safe: 33%
  - Somewhat unsafe: 38%
  - Very unsafe: 51%

76% of **Black/African American** respondents felt safe in the **court system**
74% felt safe with the **police**
87% felt safe at a **Domestic Violence shelter**

77% of **Non-Black WOC** respondents felt safe in the **court system**
65% felt safe with the **police**
87% felt safe at a **Domestic Violence shelter**

76% of **White** respondents felt safe in the **court system**
77% felt safe with the **police**
85% felt safe at a **Domestic Violence shelter**

**The biggest fear** keeping all demographic groups from accessing available resources was fear of **further abuse from their abuser.**

**Being blamed or not believed** was commonly reported at every stage of a survivors recovery and restoration. Survivors reported fear of this as a **barrier to accessing services.**

**Black/African American** respondents' secondary fear in accessing aid was fear of **no one could/would help them,** or they would be **discriminated against by different agencies.** For many, this fear was **based on previous experience.**

**Safety, protection & empathy** were the most common themes respondents mentioned for changes needed in DV response systems. When people reported good experiences they **felt listened to & cared about.**