Survey Shows Marginalized Survivors Report Barriers When They Seek Help

About two-thirds of domestic violence survivors surveyed reported barriers with their initial contact with law enforcement, professionals, courts, and social service providers, according to a survey conducted the Ohio Domestic Violence Network. However, when survivors were asked about the biggest issue that prevented them from seeking help, significant indicators of bias emerged.

Black/African American women, older women, older gay men, LGBTQ+ and Deaf or Deaf-BIPOC survivors reported the greatest number of barriers. One out of four survivors shared that they felt barriers from the participants they saw that they had difficulty getting help from the police, courts, and social services. And victims who felt their concerns were not taken seriously by the police were more likely to come from marginalized communities.

Ohio’s Newest DV Shelter Opens in Gallia County

More than 100 people attended the opening of Square One in Gallipolis on Feb. 16, Ohio’s newest shelter for domestic violence survivors. Square One is a resource referral center and 16-bed residential program serving Gallia, Jackson and Meigs counties. The shelter currently serves 16-bed residential programs for survivors providing safe and private space for victims, where staff will provide local resources, emergency design, and teach skills to empower survivors toward self-sufficiency.

ODVN Staff Updates

Devon Konrath, 30, a new membership and compliance coordinator. The position administers the Administration Department. Devon is responsible for managing programs, membership information, and service data as well as coordinating and distributing resources.

Kelly Vardell, K.A., a new legal advocate. The role is responsible for evaluating applications and listing referrals with all attorneys and providing legal representation to survivors.

Karen Montgomery is an AmeriCorps member working with ODVN’s Outreach and Family Engagement Program. Last year, Karen served as an AmeriCorps with The Domestic Violence Shelter, Inc. in Mansfield and provided emotional support for children in shelter.

Maggie McCune is an AmeriCorps team. She assists with all of the Americans’ Movement and helps survivors get to work. Know Better. Do Better. Be Better. She is working toward her master’s degree in social work at The Ohio State University.

Felicia Robinson is ODVN’s new Outreach and Marginalized Survivors Project Coordinator. The position administers the outreach across the state, connecting marginalized survivors, and incarcerated and domiciled incarcerated survivors with ODVN’s legal program. They assist with divorce, custody, civil protection order, and immigration cases.

Emily Joyce is an AmeriCorps member who works with ODVN’s Advocacy Program as an Educational Program Specialist. She helps to create educational materials, provide training, and supports the training coordinator.

Trista Bennett-Vinson is an intern working with ODVN’s social work coordinator. Her role includes finding resources, evaluating accommodations, and special projects.

Thank you to our Funders!

The HealthPath Foundation of Ohio awarded ODVN $10,000 over three years to assist with community outreach and provide ongoing technical assistance to domestic violence survivors and their children.

We estimate that at least 43,000 (42%) survivors served last year had substance use issues and we know our local programs are challenged with addressing their complex needs,” said Executive Director Mary O’Dayhart. “The HealthPath grant helps us open up access to care and resources survivors need to be healthy survivors.”

Ohio Domestic Violence Network is grateful to its partners with HealthPath Foundation, Nascre Foundation, and the Ohio Department of Mental Health.

Thank you to the Big Lots Foundation, a $1,000 grant made on behalf of the Big Lots Women’s Initiative Network. The funds will be used for education assistance for domestic violence survivors and their children.